

## Response ID ANON-MW92-FHPK-R

Submitted to **Landscapes Review: Call for Evidence**

Submitted on **2018-12-17 21:43:25**

### About you

#### 1 Are you replying as a member of the public or on behalf of an organisation?

Organisation

#### 2 If you are replying as a member of the public

What is your name?:

If you enter your email address then you will automatically receive an acknowledgement email when you submit your response. We may also use this to contact you further.:

#### 3 If you are replying on behalf of an organisation or organisations

Which organisation(s)?:

Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Natural Environment Partnership

What is your name and position?:

Nicola Thomas, Partnership Manager

If you enter your email address then you will automatically receive an acknowledgement email when you submit your response. We may also use this to contact you further.:

nthomas@buckscc.gov.uk

#### 4 We would like to be able to use extracts from submissions in our final report. If you would not like them, potentially, to be made public, please tell us here.

Yes, I am content for you to use extracts of my response in the final report

#### 5 We have obligations under freedom of information laws and there is more information below. For the purposes of these laws, would you like your response to be confidential?

No

If you have answered yes, please give your reason:

### Before anything else

#### 6 We would love to know what makes National Parks and AONBs special to you

Upload :

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Not Answered

### Part 1 - Opening thoughts

#### 7 What do you think works overall about the present system of National Parks and AONBs in England? Add any points that apply specifically to only National Parks or AONBs

Please write your answer here:

- Partnership working is essential – in conjunction with a range of organisations from different sectors.
- Preserving beauty and encouraging public access are as important now as when the landscapes were first designated. However, important now too is the need to combat other growing challenges - such as climate change, biodiversity loss, increasing development and visitor pressure, social inequalities and the need for sustainable rural communities - alongside protection and enhancement of the landscapes into perpetuity.

Therefore, such designated landscapes could play a stronger role in combating these growing challenges in their areas. For example in:

- delivering the aspirations of the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan, particularly in relation to net environmental gain, net biodiversity gain, taking a natural capital approach and striving towards low carbon living – all relevant to increasing development pressures on protected landscapes;
- targeting more diverse populations in providing access to their landscapes for educational health & wellbeing reasons as well as for recreation;

- promoting leisure and tourism with revenue generation - yet manage visitor pressure appropriately across the landscape;
- encouraging and supporting appropriate but sustainable rural economic growth to create sustainable communities and retain skills and jobs.

**8 What do you think does not work overall about the system and might be changed? Add any points that apply specifically to National Parks or AONBs**

**Please write your answer here:**

- Could expand the close partnership working more formally to cover the health and wellbeing sector (in line with key themes of the Government's 25 YEP), Local Nature Partnerships, the rural economy and landowners and the private sector, such as the LEPs. However, expansion of sectors on Boards would require Board members with appropriate authority, expertise, representation and interests and of a manageable number.
- AONB Management Plans – are a set of guiding principles for advice and persuasion to landowners, decision-makers and influencers, but currently lack the means to implement, as this is reliant on other organisations. This may require a strengthened duty for AONBs in the Sec 85 of the CRoW Act – to a duty to conserve and enhance, rather than to have regard to conserving and enhancing.
- Conservation Boards should be made statutory consultees on relevant planning applications and development plans.
- Resourcing – could be strengthened and focused – e.g. specific and adequate funding for programmes for access, recreation, volunteering and health & wellbeing as well as for nature conservation and biodiversity, protecting and celebrating cultural heritage. Each could include an element to encourage participation by members of the public and other organisations geared towards local circumstances and audiences.
- Post-Brexit – AONBs should play a central role in post-Brexit Environmental Land Management Schemes.

**Part 2 - Views**

**9 What views do you have about the role National Parks and AONBs play in nature conservation and biodiversity?**

**Please write your answer here:**

**Could they do more to enhance our wildlife and support the recovery of our natural habitats?:**

**10 What views do you have about the role National Parks and AONBs play in shaping landscape and beauty, or protecting cultural heritage?**

**Please write your answer here:**

**11 What views do you have about the role National Parks and AONBs play in working with farmers and land managers and how might this change as the current system of farm payments is reformed?**

**Please write your answer here:**

**12 What views do you have about the role National Parks and AONBs play in supporting and managing access and recreation?**

**Please write your answer here:**

**13 What views do you have about the way National Park and AONB authorities affect people who live and work in their areas?**

**Please write your answer here:**

**Are they properly supporting them and what could be done differently?:**

**14 What views do you have on the role National Park and AONB authorities play on housing and transport in their areas?**

**Please write your answer here:**

**Part 3 - Current ways of working**

**15 What views do you have on the way they are governed individually at the moment? Is it effective or does it need to change, if so, how?**

**Please write your answer here:**

**16 What views do you have on whether they work collectively at the moment, for instance to share goals, encourage interest and involvement by the public and other organisations?**

**Please write your answer here:**

**17 What views do you have on their efforts to involve people from all parts of society, to encourage volunteering and improve health and well-being?**

Please write your answer here:

**18 What views do you have on the way they are funded and how this might change?**

Please write your answer here:

**19 What views do you have on the process of designation - which means the way boundaries are defined and changed?**

Please write your answer here:

**20 What views do you have on whether areas should be given new designations? For instance, the creation of new National Parks or AONBs, or new types of designations for marine areas, urban landscapes or those near built-up areas.**

Please write your answer here:

**21 Are there lessons that might be learnt from the way designated landscapes work in other parts of the United Kingdom, or abroad?**

Please write your answer here:

#### **Part 4 - Closing thoughts**

**22 Do you think the terms currently used are the right ones? Would you suggest an alternative title for AONBs, for instance and if so what?**

Please write your answer here:

**23 The review has been asked to consider how designated landscapes work with other designations such as National Trails, Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), National Nature Reserves (NNRs) and Special Protected Areas (SPAs). Do you have any thoughts on how these relationships work and whether they could be improved?**

Please write your answer here:

**24 Do you have any other points you would like to make that are not covered above?**

Please write your answer here:

In terms of what is special about National Parks and AONBs...

As an organisation – some of our partnership's area lies within the Chilterns AONB. This is an area with special qualities, including habitats, landscapes and species that are valued by those who live, work and visit the area. For example, the chalk scarp and hills and wider landscape are a backdrop to a mosaic of woodland, chalk grassland, farmland, chalk streams, commons and parkland, where the landscape itself has led to specific cultural and industrial heritage. The Chilterns also contains areas of priority habitat and several of the NEP area's Biodiversity Opportunity Areas.

The NEP is looking to work with its partners to focus efforts to increase priority habitats in some of these areas as well to work and encourage habitat creation and aim at Lawton principles at a landscape scale – more, bigger, better and more joined up habitats. Our recently-published GI opportunity zones map which builds on our GI Vision and set of Principles that should be followed to achieve it, include zones which cover the Chilterns AONB and the main chalk stream headwaters.