

Agreement	Comments	AONB Response
Strongly agree	It's all very well stating, at great length, how significant and wonderful it is - 'the undeveloped rural character, tranquillity and remoteness, dark night skies and panoramic views' - but then failing to protect it is disgraceful !	This plan's policy framework should facilitate good planning
Strongly agree		n/a
Agree	<p>Recommend that a section on rivers, streams and wetlands is included as a significant outstanding feature of Dorset, particularly the chalk streams that require the input of uncontaminated, cooled water from the chalk aquifer. Rivers and hydromorphological features are only given a passing mention in the statement of significance.</p> <p>Given the important and varied nature of the watercourses which flow through the AONB; from the chalk streams in headwaters, the River Frome SSSI and coastal streams of West Dorset.</p> <p>We welcome the inclusion of the estuarine habitats; those threatened by eutrophication in Poole Harbour are some of the most protected biodiversity sites in Dorset.</p> <p>The south shore provides some of the only 'wild' areas close to the conurbation and its significance as a seascape and resulting natural capital should be celebrated. The impact of eutrophication and the algal blooms on enjoyment of this area underlines the importance of addressing nutrient enrichment in the harbours catchment.</p>	Some amendments made
Strongly agree	We suggest that consideration be given to including a definition of 'natural beauty' that makes it clear that wildlife and cultural heritage are integral elements of 'natural beauty' and should therefore be offered the highest levels of protection across the AONB.	At 2.2
	I find rather baffling, and unsatisfactory, the sequence between chapters 6 and 7. Chapter 6 starts (correctly, in my view) with 6.1 Landscape, before moving on to wildlife areas, coastal heritage etc.. But 6.1 does not mention the landscape character assessment, and what it may imply for the actions summarised at paragraph 5.3 : nor does it include a map of landscape areas, parallel to the maps which illustrate the other sections of this chapter. Not until chapter 7 does the full descriptive treatment of landscape appear. Bearing in mind that the central purpose of the AONB is the protection and enhancement of landscape, I believe that there would be strong logic in reversing the order of these chapters. I justify that point further by pointing to the Summary of the Strategic Environmental Assessment, which states that "Through taking a landscape scale, strategic approach to many areas of work, landscape is central to the planning and management of the AONB".	Navigation to be more satisfactorily addressed online
Agree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In its fourth edition, this statement is very highly refined. • However, the section (6.1.1) on Landscape is short, especially compared to the Cultural Landscape (6.4.1) and lacks the connection with "Natural Beauty" dealt with in 6.4.1. • 6.1.1 should deal with Treescape, Skyline and all the other aspects of "Natural Landscape", perhaps with a particular emphasis on trees and hedgerows in their shaping of the landscape and framing of the Built Environment. • 6.3 acknowledges the AONB as a "living textbook". The National Trust use the word "palimpsest" which has the highly relevant connotation of removing the old to make room for the new. Some additions to 6.1 might address the mechanism for balancing conservation / enhancement / restoration / creation. 	Navigation to be more satisfactorily addressed online.
Agree	<p>We would recommend that a section on rivers, streams and wetlands is included, potentially, as an addition to section 6.3.2. It seems surprising that rivers and hydromorphological features are only given a passing mention in the statement of significance, particularly given the important and varied nature of the watercourses which flow through the AONB, from the chalk streams in headwaters, the River Frome SSSI and coastal streams. The lack of reference to the water environment in this section has consequential impacts through the remaining document, particularly in section 9, where a lack of focus on this issue leads to a less cohesive approach to policies which could benefit the water environment.</p> <p>We note the strong targets in place in the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan surrounding clean and plentiful water (including the goal of achieving clean and plentiful water by improving at least three quarters of our waters to be close to their natural state as soon as is practicable) and feel that the AONB Management Plan is another opportunity to reinforce measures to achieve these outcomes.</p>	No changes to be made in this plan. A review of the Special Qualities is to be undertaken in this plan period, following the Glover Review of Designated Landscapes

Strongly agree	<p>In general, there is some repetition between the text in bold and that which follows it, for example in 6.2 some of the internationally protected sites are listed, and these are then repeated in 6.2.1. The 'description of the resource' text in 6.2.1 also re-states what has been said earlier in the section.</p> <p>Within 6.2.1 under 'Biodiversity and natural beauty', habitat loss and fragmentation due to forestry should be mentioned, as should loss due to lack of management as well as agricultural intensification: "For example, some of our most cherished wildlife areas have become degraded over time through habitat loss and fragmentation associated with agricultural intensification, and changes in land management which have led to reduction or loss of grazing, coniferous forestry and increasing development pressures."</p>	Some amendments made
Strongly agree	<p>Within 6.3.2, the voluntary marine reserve status at Kimmeridge is no longer in use, because the area is now designated as Special Area of Conservation for reef habitat, and we hope will have Marine Conservation Zone status soon, including the intertidal area at Kimmeridge. It would therefore be confusing to continue with a voluntary label as well. We suggest that portion of the sentence is rephrased: The subtidal rocky reefs adjacent to the coast between Swanage and Portland have been designated as a Marine SAC and the Purbeck Coast is a recommended Marine Conservation Zone = this includes intertidal habitats from Broad Bench to Kimmeridge."</p>	Amendments made
Strongly agree		n/a
Agree		n/a
Strongly agree		n/a
Agree	Spelling mistake - Godlingtson Heath	Amendments made
Agree		n/a
Strongly agree		n/a
	<p>We welcome the recognition within 6.2 that Dorset AONB contains ancient woodland and Dorset Alder Woods which are of international significance. We would like to see highlighted here that these are unique, irreplaceable landscapes. The length at which ancient woodland takes to develop and evolve (centuries, even millennia), coupled with the vital links it creates between plants, animals and soils accentuate its irreplaceable status. The varied and unique habitats ancient woodland sites provide for many of the UK's most important and threatened fauna and flora species cannot be re-created and cannot afford to be lost. We would suggest specific recognition of the need for restoration of planted ancient woodland sites which can bring swift benefits for biodiversity when properly managed.</p> <p>We would also like to see more specific references to the importance of ancient trees outside woods and veteran trees, which play a vital role in promoting biodiversity and connectivity.</p> <p>As you may be aware, the revised NPPF now gives ancient woodland and ancient and veteran trees the highest possible level of protection in planning law 'exceptional only', putting it on a par with the historic environment. NPPF Para 175 reads as follows: 'When determining planning applications, local planning authorities should apply the following principles: [...]</p> <p>c) Development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons⁵⁸ and a suitable compensation strategy exists;'</p> <p>We would also like to see this NPPF revision referenced in the section on development within the AONB.</p>	No changes to be made in this plan. A review of the Special Qualities is to be undertaken in this plan period, following the Glover Review of Designated Landscapes. NPPF references in this plan are of 172 only; further areas of the plan refer to the breadth of landscape features and characteristics that are protected through the definition of 'landscape and natural beauty'.