

## Section 5

# Integration of cross-cutting themes with Management Plan policies

1. A number of important themes, which will have a significant influence on the management of the AONB over the next five years, cut across all the chapters of the Plan. They are:
  - climate change
  - social inclusion
  - health and well-being
  - lifelong learning
2. Climate change and its likely impacts on the Chilterns have already been covered in detail in the previous Section. Social inclusion, health and well-being and lifelong learning are also issues being given priority at a national level.
3. The wealth of natural and cultural resources available in the Chilterns offers great potential to address these issues, and this is reflected in the policies that have been formulated for this Plan. Table 2 shows which policies address each of the cross-cutting themes.

**Table 2. Matrix of cross-cutting themes and Management Plan policies**

Chapters	Cross-cutting Themes			
	Climate Change	Social Inclusion	Health and Well-being	Lifelong Learning
Landscape	L9, L10, L11	L7	L7, L8, L9	L2
Biodiversity	NC8, NC10	NC4	NC4	NC4, NC7
Historic Environment	HE9	HE4, HE6, HE8	HE6, HE8	HE6, HE8
Development	D2, D10, D11, D15	D8, D9	D7	D3
Water Environment	WE9	WE10, WE11	WE10, WE11	WE4, WE9, WE11
Farming and Forestry	FF2, FF3	FF3	FF3	FF7
Understanding and Enjoyment	UE11	UE1, UE4, UE5, UE13, UE14, UE15	UE2, UE7, UE10, UE12, UE16	UE9, UE14
Social and Economic Well-being	SE2, SE3, SE4, SE10	SE1, SE2	SE8	SE9, SE10



*The Grand Union Canal near Tring*

# Section 6

## Implementation and monitoring

---

### Implementation

1. This plan sets out an ambitious vision for the Chilterns which could be realised by the application of the policies proposed by the Chilterns Conservation Board and many others, especially those able to manage and influence land use change and development. Many actions are proposed and they too will require the direction of resources from many organisations, businesses and individuals as they are beyond the direct resources available to the Conservation Board.
2. The Board will contribute by directing its own resources including Board members, staff, expertise and funds. It will provide leadership in its role as a champion for the AONB. There are many others with skills and resources and the Board will endeavour to co-ordinate their activity and encourage collaboration.
3. The owners and managers of land and the communities of the Chilterns are the most important players in conserving and enhancing natural beauty. There is a long history of local people caring for the Chilterns who volunteer in large numbers often with organisations such as The Chiltern Society, the National Trust and wildlife trusts. The Conservation Board is also fortunate to be able to call on many skilled and enthusiastic volunteers to help with its work and, in particular, to work with the public.
4. There are many other public bodies which aim to care for the environment, several of which have considerable resources and legal powers. The Board

aims to work with them all and to seek their support for the aims of this Plan for the Chilterns. Many of these bodies are subject to the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 Section 4 which states:

General duty of public bodies etc.

85. - (1) In exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect, land in an area of outstanding natural beauty, a relevant authority shall have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area of outstanding natural beauty.

(2) The following are relevant authorities for the purposes of this section-

- (a) any Minister of the Crown,
- (b) any public body,
- (c) any statutory undertaker,
- (d) any person holding public office.

(3) In subsection (2)-  
'public body' includes

- (a) a county council, county borough council, district council, parish council or community council;
- (b) a joint planning board within the meaning of section 2 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990;
- (c) a joint committee appointed under section 102(1)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972;

'public office' means-

- (a) an office under Her Majesty;

- (b) an office created or continued in existence by a public general Act; or
  - (c) an office the remuneration in respect of which is paid out of money provided by Parliament.
5. The availability of several significant grant schemes provides considerable incentives for environmentally-sensitive management. They include the Environmental Stewardship Scheme managed by Natural England, the England Woodland Grant Scheme offered by the Forestry Commission and the LEADER Programme for the Chilterns which will support rural development projects from 2008 to 2013.

All three funds are supported by the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) which is provided with funding by the EU and UK government.

6. This Plan is specific to the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It is a requirement of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 that it is produced and published by the Conservation Board. There are many other plans which are a statutory responsibility on a wide range of organisations. It is important that they are consistent insofar as they also support the aims of this Plan. Such plans include Local Development Frameworks produced by local planning authorities, Local Transport Plans produced by highway authorities and Community Plans produced by Local Strategic Partnerships.

### Business Plan

7. The Conservation Board publishes an annual business plan with budget and work programme. All its activities are directed to delivering the aims of this Plan and to encouraging others to do so. The Board's resources are largely derived



*Lacey Green windmill*

- from Natural England and the local authorities in which the AONB lies.
8. The Board aims to attract additional funding for special projects, many of which are outlined in this Plan as actions. There is considerable competition for funds from, for example, sponsors, the Lottery and the EU, and it is difficult to predict from one year to the next how successful those bids will be.
  9. The Conservation Board realises fully the value of skilled and hard working volunteers and will be helping to develop the volunteering resource in the Chilterns. The value of this support is hard to estimate and often does not appear in financial statements but it is worth tens, even hundreds, of thousands of pounds every year.
  10. The Board intends to produce rolling three year plans in future to enable it to plan more effective work programmes in the long term. From 2008 onwards Natural England has notified the Board of its intention to provide a more secure grant over three years during which time, however, the value of the grant aid will decline. If the same level of activity is to be maintained new sources of funding will have to be found.
  11. The overriding aim of this plan and the Conservation Board is to conserve, and where possible enhance, the natural beauty of the Chilterns. It also aims to enhance the levels of understanding and enjoyment of its special qualities. Monitoring the effectiveness of the plan with its aims, policies and actions requires a baseline on the condition of the Chilterns against which progress can be monitored.
  12. No such baseline exists for the special attributes of the Chilterns. There is considerable information available for some attributes, but not always specific to the Chilterns. A particular challenge during the period of this plan is to produce a meaningful baseline to enable the regular publication of a State of the Chilterns Environment Report. To reach that stage will require considerable co-operation and assistance from organisations set up to gather environmental data, notably DEFRA, Natural England, the Forestry Commission and the Environment Agency. Local authorities and wildlife trusts also have much useful information.
  13. Ideally for each key attribute of the Chilterns an indicator can be identified and information gathered on a regular basis to enable its condition to be assessed. Where that exists it has been included in this plan. Where it does not a proxy indicator has been selected. This range of indicators on the state of the environment will be complemented by indicators showing the progress of implementing actions in the Management Plan. They are designed to achieve the aims for the AONB and if properly implemented should enhance the condition and enjoyment of the Chilterns.

## Monitoring

## Proposed headline condition indicators

### Landscape and Biodiversity

- Length of hedge in good condition using DEFRA condition criteria
- Area of calcareous grassland in positive conservation management
- Number of agreements and area of land covered by the Environmental Stewardship Scheme

- Area of woodland covered by England Woodland Grant Scheme agreements
- Area of land managed for equestrian purposes (as defined by Chilterns Conservation Board land use survey) - this is an indicator of poor quality
- Area of SSSIs in favourable condition
- Percentage of Local Sites and commons in positive conservation management
- Quality of water in rivers
- Livestock numbers
- Length of main river unaffected by low flows
- Water vole population and numbers of rivers and canals with water voles
- Countryside Quality Counts status (maintained or enhanced)

## Social and Economic

- Number of visitor attractions which have published information on access by public transport
- Number of businesses registered with the Green Tourism Business Scheme

## Understanding and Enjoyment

- Area of land with statutory or voluntary Open Access
- Visitor satisfaction on rights of way and use of the countryside (Local Authority Citizens Panels)

## Development

- Percentage of planning applications approved in line with Conservation Board comments
- Length of overhead power lines put underground

## Historic Environment

- Listed buildings (grade I/II\*): Total number/Number at Risk
- Registered Historic Parks: Total number/Number at Risk
- Scheduled Ancient Monuments: Total number/Number at Risk
- Conservation Areas: Total number/Number with Appraisal reviewed within last 5 years (information would need to be obtained from conservation officers)

14. The condition of some attributes may be based on samples rather than a complete survey or assessment due to resource and timing limitations. The Board will also use other information which may be published from time to time where this helps assess the overall condition of the environment of the Chilterns.

15. In 2009 the Board will publish a State of the Environment Report, based on the most up to date information, in which appropriate targets will be set to be achieved by 2013 to coincide with the period covered by this plan. The selection of targets will be agreed between the Board and its partners.



*Bradenham Valley*

# Abbreviations

---

<b>AONB</b>	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	<b>ESS</b>	Environmental Stewardship Scheme
<b>BAP</b>	Biodiversity Action Plan	<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>BMERC</b>	Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Environmental Records Centre	<b>HLS</b>	Higher Level Stewardship
<b>BTCV</b>	British Trust for Conservation Volunteers	<b>LiDAR</b>	Light Detection and Ranging
<b>CAP</b>	Common Agricultural Policy	<b>LNR</b>	Local Nature Reserve
<b>CCB</b>	Chilterns Conservation Board	<b>LWS</b>	Local Wildlife Site
<b>CRoW</b>	Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000	<b>NAAONB</b>	National Association for AONBs
<b>Defra</b>	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	<b>NATS</b>	National Air Traffic Service
<b>EGWS</b>	English Woodland Grant Scheme	<b>NNR</b>	National Nature Reserve
<b>ELS</b>	Entry Level Stewardship	<b>PAWS</b>	Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites
		<b>SAC</b>	Special Area of Conservation
		<b>SSSI</b>	Site of Special Scientific Interest



*Walkers on the Pegsdon Hills*