



**Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural  
Beauty  
Management Plan  
2014 - 2019**

**Equality Impact Assessment  
April 2014**

The Chilterns Conservation Board  
The Lodge  
90 Station Road  
Chinnor  
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## **CHILTERNES AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY MANAGEMENT PLAN 2014-2019 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

### **Introduction**

The general equality duty that is set out in the Equality Act 2010 requires public authorities, in the exercise of their functions, to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

*The general equality duty does not specify how public authorities should analyse the effect of their existing and new policies and practices on equality, but doing so is an important part of complying with the general equality duty. It is up to each organisation to choose the most effective approach for them<sup>1</sup>.*

**The Chilterns Conservation Board has followed the assessment process as used by Cornwall County Council in assessing the impact of the Cornwall AONB Management Plan 2011-16 regarding the issues identified in the Act.**

### **Chilterns AONB Management Plan 2014-2019 Equality Impact Assessment**

**Public Body:** Chilterns Conservation Board

**Officer responsible for Assessment:** Colin White, Planning Officer

**Date of Assessment:** 4<sup>th</sup> December 2014

**Name of policy being assessed:** Chilterns AONB Management Plan 2014-2019

**Internet link to policy:** <http://www.chilternsaonb.org/conservation-board/management-plan.html>

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<sup>1</sup> Equality analysis Standard template for Department for Health Staff (2010)

### **Other associated Policies:**

The Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Chilterns AONB Management Plan 2014-2019 and the Habitats Regulations (Appropriate) Assessment of the Chilterns AONB Management Plan 2014-2019.

### **Aims, objectives and outcomes of Plan:**

The purposes of the Chilterns AONB Management Plan 2014-2019 are to:

- highlight the special qualities and the enduring significance of the AONB and the importance of its different features;
- present an integrated vision for the future of the AONB as a whole, in the light of national, regional and local priorities;
- set out agreed policies incorporating specific objectives which will help secure that vision;
- identify what needs to be done, in order to achieve these outcomes, and
- state how the condition of the AONB and the effectiveness of its management will be monitored.

### **Who is intended to benefit?**

The Management Plan is intended to be a shared strategy that will be of interest to the communities, parishes, residents, businesses, landowners and farmers, agencies, authorities, utilities, organisations and amenity groups operating within, or with an interest in, the AONB.

### **What factors could contribute to or detract from the outcomes?**

The full engagement of all partner organisations, bodies and individuals will undoubtedly contribute to actions being fulfilled and to successful outcomes.

### **Who are the main stakeholders?**

Public bodies, local communities, local businesses and visitors and tourists.

### **Who implements the Plan?**

The Chilterns Conservation Board and officers supported by organisations identified in the Engagement Plan.

### **Who is responsible for devising the Plan?**

The Chilterns Conservation Board.

### **Equality Impact Assessment – relevant extracts.**

The Chilterns AONB Management Plan 2014-2019 has been examined for relevant extracts that may seek to demonstrate impacts (positive or negative) in connection with the following topics: racial equality; gender equality; disability equality; sexual orientation equality; age equality and religion and beliefs equality.

For each topic the relevant extracts are very similar so they are not repeated.

#### ***Biodiversity broad aims:***

- *Encourage more people to develop a greater understanding of and involvement in wildlife conservation.*

***Policy B6:*** *More local communities and volunteers should be encouraged to become actively involved in wildlife recording and conservation in the Chilterns.*

#### ***Water environment broad aims:***

- *Increase public awareness and enjoyment of the water environment.*
- *Increase local community involvement in caring for the water environment.*

***Policy WE13:*** *The involvement of local communities in the conservation and enhancement of the water environment should be increased.*

***Policy WE14:*** *Greater public enjoyment of the water environment of the AONB should be encouraged and sustainable access to it promoted.*

#### ***Historic environment broad aims:***

- *The historic environment of the AONB is conserved and enhanced for the benefit of current and future generations.*
- *The public have a greater appreciation, understanding and enjoyment of the historic environment of the AONB.*
- *The public have good access to the historic environment.*

***Policy HE6:*** *There should be a high level of public understanding and enjoyment of the historic environment.*

***Policy HE8:*** *Local communities should be involved in the conservation and interpretation of the historic environment.*

***Policy HE9:*** *The cultural heritage of the Chilterns should be celebrated and promoted to attract visitors and support the tourism economy.*

***Policy D5:*** *Appropriate development (especially affordable housing) should be encouraged, particularly on previously developed land, if it will improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of the area whilst having regard to the special qualities of the AONB.*

### **Understanding and enjoyment broad aims:**

- *High quality and enjoyable recreation and access opportunities should be available to all;*
- *Good health and a sense of well-being should be encouraged by promoting activities based on the sustainable enjoyment of the countryside;*
- *Every resident and visitor should be aware of, and enjoy responsibly, the Chilterns' special qualities, and*
- *More people are interested in and involved with countryside activities and stewardship.*

**Policy UE2:** *There should be a co-ordinated approach to the delivery of countryside access and services across the Chilterns.*

**Policy UE3:** *The use of public rights of way should be promoted and routes improved by covering gaps in the network.*

**Policy UE4:** *People should be encouraged to make the most of the countryside on their doorstep.*

**Policy UE5:** *Access links between town and country for walkers, cyclists and other recreational users should be strengthened.*

**Policy UE8:** *The accessibility of the countryside for all users should be enhanced and, in particular, special needs should be addressed, whilst taking care to conserve environmental character.*

**Policy UE12:** *The health and other benefits of visiting the countryside and taking part in low impact activities should be promoted.*

### **Social and economic well-being broad aims:**

- *Local people are involved in caring for the local environment.*

**Policy SE1:** *The provision and use of public transport by people who live and work in the Chilterns and who visit it should be promoted.*

**Policy SE7:** *The health and well-being benefits of enjoying the countryside and through volunteering should be promoted.*

### **Details of other potential impacts:**

It is intended that the Management Plan will allow greater local community involvement in planning, protecting and enhancing the local landscape. The Board expects this to have a positive effect on community cohesion.

**If a differential impact has been identified, how significant is the impact in terms of its nature and the number of people likely to be affected?**

The positive impact is likely to be low to start with but may increase as a result of national legislation. This Management Plan has a five year life. By the end of the implementation period a quite significant number may have had opportunities improved.

**Actions identified by assessment**

No negative equality impacts have been identified, only the possibility of some positive ones to two particular sections of the community (the disabled and the elderly) over the life of the Plan.

**No actions are therefore identified.**

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