

**Analysis of relevant Policies, Plans and
Programmes**

**Strategic Environmental Assessment of the
review of the Chilterns Area of Outstanding
Natural Beauty Management Plan 2014-19**

**Scoping Report
Final Plan
April 2014**

Document	Key Objectives and Topics covered relevant to the Management Plan	Key Targets & Indicators relevant to the Management Plan	Implications for the Management Plan/ SEA
International			
<p>Commitments arising from the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), Rio de Janeiro 1992 (Agenda 21)</p>	<p>A comprehensive plan of action adopted by more than 178 governments. Agenda 21 underlines the growing awareness of the need to adopt a balanced and integrated approach to environment and development issues.</p>	<p>Contains a broad range of qualitative objectives relating to sustainable development. Includes requirements for countries to adopt integrated strategies to ensure compliance with legislation relating to sustainable development, to promote the use of renewable energy systems and to build public environmental awareness.</p>	<p>The AONB Management Plan must reflect contributions towards achieving the goal of sustainable development</p>
<p>The Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Adopted December 1997)</p>	<p>The Protocol entered into force in February 2005. Developed countries that have ratified the Protocol are committed to reducing their emissions of <u>greenhouse gasses</u>.</p>	<p>The UK was committed to cutting its emissions by 12.5% of the 1990 levels by the 2008-2012 period.</p>	
<p>Commitments arising from the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, 2002</p>	<p>Many of the Summit's commitments and outcomes relate to international efforts to tackle global development issues such as poverty and hunger, however others are commitments to modifying behaviour and actions in each nation. Some of the key issues are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater resource efficiency; • Support business innovation and take-up of best practice in technology and management; • Waste reduction and producer responsibility; • Sustainable consumer consumption and procurement; • Create a level playing field for renewable energy and energy efficiency; • New technology development; 		<p>Management Plan must reflect contributions towards achieving the goal of sustainable development.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low-carbon programmes • Significantly reduce rate of biodiversity loss by 2010 		
<p>Commitments arising from Rio +20 2012 – the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, which led to the publication of ‘The Future We Want’</p>	<p>Many of the Conference’s outcomes relate to the renewal and reaffirmation of previous commitments. Some of the key issues are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renewal of the commitment to sustainable development and promotion of an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable future; • Commitment to freeing humanity from poverty and hunger; • Promotion of integrated and sustainable management of natural resources; • Facilitation of ecosystem conservation, regeneration and restoration, and • Recognition that people are at the centre of sustainable development. 		<p>Management Plan must reflect contributions towards achieving the goal of sustainable development.</p>
<p>Convention on Biodiversity (1993) http://www.cbd.int/convention/</p>	<p>The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) entered into force on 29 December 1993. It has 3 main objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The conservation of biological diversity • The sustainable use of the components of biological diversity • The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources 		<p>The AONB Management Plan will need to include policies which will contribute to the revised global targets known as the Aichi targets. http://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/</p>
European			
<p>EU Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (92/43/EEC)</p>	<p>Directive seeks to conserve natural habitats. Conservation of natural habitats requires member states to identify special areas of conservation and to maintain, where necessary</p>	<p>No indicators or targets</p>	<p>Aston Rowant, Chilterns Beechwoods and Hartslock Woods designated Special Areas of Conservation within the AONB. Include</p>

	landscape features of importance to wildlife and flora.		appropriate AONB Management Plan policies. Also identify nearby SACs and ensure no adverse impacts from Plan
EU Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC) as amended in Directive 2009/147/EC (2009)	Provides a framework for the conservation of wild birds in Europe. Identifies 181 endangered species and sub-species for which the Member States are required to designate Special Protection Areas.	Target Actions include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of protected areas • Upkeep and management • Re-establishment of destroyed biotopes; 	No Special Protection Areas in or near the AONB.
EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)	Establishes a framework for the protection of inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevents further deterioration and protects and enhances the status of aquatic ecosystems and, with regard to their water needs, terrestrial ecosystems and wetlands directly depending on the aquatic ecosystems; • Promotes sustainable water use based on a long-term protection of available water resources; • Aims at enhanced protection and improvement of the aquatic environment, inter alia, through specific measures for the progressive reduction of discharges, emissions and losses of priority substances and the cessation or phasing-out of discharges, emissions and losses of the priority hazardous substances; • Ensures the progressive reduction of pollution of groundwater and prevents its further pollution, and 	The WFD requires member states to attain at least good status in all water bodies by 2015 or where this is not possible by 2027. ‘Good status’ comprises both chemical and ecological water quality. Heavily modified water bodies will be required to reach ‘good ecological potential’ rather than ‘good ecological status.’	The Management Plan should consider how the water environment, can be protected and enhanced and how the WFD targets can be attained. This will come about through promoting sustainable water use and reducing abstraction as well as facilitating long term improvements in water quality including the protection of groundwater.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributes to mitigating the effects of floods and droughts. 		
<p>European Floods Directive (2007/60/EC) (2007)</p>	<p>This Directive requires Member States to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • assess if all water courses and coast lines are at risk from flooding; • map the flood extent and assets and humans at risk in these areas; • take adequate and coordinated measures to reduce this flood risk, and • allow the public to access this information and to have a say in the planning process. <p>The Directive's aim is to reduce and manage the risks that floods pose to human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity. The Directive requires Member States to identify the river basins and associated coastal areas at risk of flooding and for such zones they would then need to draw up flood risk maps by 2013 and establish flood risk management plans focused on prevention, protection and preparedness by 2015.</p> <p>The Directive shall be carried out in coordination with the Water Framework Directive, notably by flood risk management plans and river basin management plans being coordinated.</p>		<p>The Management Plan should consider how the water environment, can be protected and enhanced and how the Floods Directive's aims and requirements can be attained. This will come about through highlighting flooding issues where appropriate.</p>
<p>The Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC) (2008) http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/framework_directive.htm</p>	<p>Along with subsequent Directives, this Directive aims to create an integrated approach to waste management in order to reduce waste production. It requires all necessary measures to be</p>		<p>The AONB Management Plan should reflect the need to reduce the overall amount of waste produced within the area as well as</p>

	taken to ensure that waste is recovered or disposed of without harming human health.		the need to sustainably dispose of waste that is produced. Member states shall take the necessary measures designed to achieve the following targets: by 2020 the preparing for reuse and the recycling of waste materials such as at least paper, metal, plastic and glass from households and possibly from other origins as far as these waste streams are similar to waste from households, shall be increased to a minimum of overall 50% by weight.
The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive (2001/42/EC)	Aims to identify and mitigate significant environment effects arising from certain plans and programmes. Emphasis is placed on integrating environmental sustainability considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes.		The Directive requires that an SEA be carried out on the AONB Management Plan and an Environment Report produced
The Environmental Noise Directive (2002/49/EC)	Provides a strategic approach to controlling environmental noise. It requires Strategic Noise Maps to be drawn up along major roads, major railways and major airports. Action plans also have to be prepared to manage noise issues.	The first round of UK action plans were due in 2008 (Noise Action Plan for Luton for 2010 to 2015 adopted January 2012).	Noise action plans should be considered as part of the Management Plan. Future expansion of Luton airport and Heathrow airports, changes to air traffic control procedures and entry/exit routes, and major roads may provide cause for concern.
EC Directive 2003/4/EC on	The objectives of this Directive are:		The Conservation Board is

<p>public access to environmental information</p>	<p>(a) to guarantee the right of access to environmental information held by or for public authorities and to set out the basic terms and conditions of, and practical arrangements for, its exercise; and (b) to ensure that, as a matter of course, environmental information is progressively made available and disseminated to the public in order to achieve the widest possible systematic availability and dissemination to the public of environmental information. To this end the use, in particular, of computer telecommunication and/or electronic technology, where available, shall be promoted.</p>		<p>required to ensure that all environmental information relating to the Management Plan is disseminated and made available to the general public '<i>to the widest extent possible</i>'.</p>
<p>EC Directive 2003/35/EC providing for public participation in respect of the drawing up of certain plans and programmes relating to the environment.</p>	<p>The objective of this Directive is to contribute to the implementation of the obligations arising under the Århus Convention, in particular by: (a) providing for public participation in respect of the drawing up of certain plans and programmes relating to the environment; (b) improving the public participation and providing for provisions on access to justice within Council Directives 85/337/EEC and 96/61/EC</p>		<p>Process of preparing the review should encourage community participation</p>
<p>2020 European Biodiversity Strategy (2011) http://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/biodiversity</p>	<p>On 4th May 2011 the European Commission adopted a new strategy to halt the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the EU by 2020. There are six main targets, and 20 actions to help Europe reach its goal. Biodiversity loss is an enormous challenge in the EU, with around one in four species currently threatened</p>		<p>The AONB Management Plan will need to include policies which will contribute to the revised EU targets.</p>

	with extinction and 88% of fish stocks over-exploited or significantly depleted.		
EU Thematic Strategy for Soil Protection (September 2006)	The Soil Thematic Strategy is seeking to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - establish common principles for the protection and sustainable use of soils; - prevent threats to soils, and mitigate the affects of those threats; - preserve soil functions within the context of sustainable use; and - restore degraded and contaminated soils to approved levels of functionality. 		
European Landscape Convention (ratified by UK Government 21.11.06)	A convention aimed at raising awareness and the protection, management and planning of all landscapes. Specifically asks state signatories to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - recognise landscape in law; - establish and implement policies aimed at landscape protection, management and planning; - improve public participation in matters concerning landscape; - integrate landscape into regional and town planning policies, and in cultural, environmental, agricultural, social and economic policies; - promote awareness raising, training and education across government (local and national) and in society at large; - assess landscapes, and to define landscape quality objectives; - set up a national landscape award: to be given to local or regional authorities or an NGO which 		Management Plan will provide opportunities for public involvement in landscape matters. Should facilitate integration of landscape considerations into Local Plans etc. Consideration should be given to setting local landscape quality objectives. Possibility of entering Management Plan in any national landscape competition that might be arranged might be borne in mind.

	introduced exemplary and long-lasting policies or measures to protect, manage and plan landscapes.		
National			
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-3614	Principal legislative mechanism for the protection of wildlife in Great Britain. Requires any land that is identified as being of special interest by reason of any of its flora, fauna, geological or physiographical features to be classified as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and afforded certain protection against damaging measures.		There are 3 NNRs and 64 SSSIs in the Chilterns AONB including ancient woodlands and unimproved chalk grasslands. Some Chilterns plants are so rare that they already have specific legal protection under this Act. The Management Plan must recognise their statutory importance and strive to ensure they are adequately protected.
Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (the CRoW Act) http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2000/20000037.htm	The CRoW Act underlines the importance of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and introduces a statutory duty for all AONB local authorities to prepare and publish AONB Management Plans. Establishes purpose of designation as: “conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area”. Places duty on relevant Authorities to have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the AONB. Makes new provision for public access to the countryside. Gives additional protection to SSSIs. Highway authorities must prepare and keep under review Rights of Way Improvement Plans		The AONB Management Plan is a requirement under Part 4 of the CRoW Act 2000 and will be reviewed in accordance with the requirements of Section 89(5) of the CRoW Act 2000, for adoption in spring 2014.
Commons Act 2006	First major legislation on Common		There are 191 Registered

	land for over 40 years, repealing the 1965 Commons Registration Act. Includes Commons Registration, Management and Works on Commons. Will modernize registration and allow limited re-opening of the registers; will enable the establishment of statutory Commons Councils with powers to manage grazing in a more sustainable manner; and will clarify and streamline the consents process. Regulations are still being drafted, so the full impact cannot yet be assessed.		Commons in the Chilterns AONB and the Management Plan should encourage awareness of the provisions of the 2006 Commons Act to put in place more sustainable management on commons in the AONB
Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/contents	Section 40 states that every public body must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity.	No targets	Requirement for all local authorities and public bodies to have regard to biodiversity should help the implementation of the Management Plan.
Flood and Water Management Act 2010 http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/29/contents	Flood risk management arrangements are to be put in place. The responsibility for these lies principally with others (county councils and unitary authorities who are the lead local flood authorities). Encouragement is given for sustainable drainage. Implications may arise from the imposition of temporary bans on water use.	No targets	Elements of the water environment within the AONB should be properly protected. The SEA and Management Plan should be mindful of the local flood risk strategies.
Climate Change Act 2008 Department for Energy and Climate Change http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/27/contents	Makes provision for the development and promotion of a sustainable energy policy. Energy efficiency measures identified in any other areas should be highlighted and promoted.		Energy efficiency measures need to be integrated into any new housing development designated within the Chilterns AONB. The Government has a statutory aim to cut

			emissions by at least 34% by 2020 and 80% by 2050 – below the 1990 baseline.
<p>Traffic Management Act 2004 http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/18/contents</p>	<p>Intended to provide the basis for better conditions for all road users through the proactive management of the national and local road network. Part 2 of the act places a duty on local authorities to keep traffic flowing.</p>		<p>The needs of all road users should be addressed. The promotion of safe and viable alternatives to car travel will assist in reducing congestion, fossil fuel consumption, greenhouse gas emissions and pollution within the AONB.</p>
<p>Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (HM Government 2004)</p>	<p>Introduced a new Development Plan system, with statutory Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks replacing Structure and Local Plans (subsequently changed through amendments and repealing of Regional Strategies). Introduced a duty on local planning authorities to exercise their functions with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development.</p>		
<p>Localism Act 2011 Department for Communities and Local Government http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/20/contents</p>	<p>The Localism Act includes a number of important provisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • decentralisation and strengthening local democracy • changes to Non-Domestic Rates • community empowerment • a radical overhaul of the planning system including the introduction of neighbourhood planning • changes to social housing policies 		<p>The attractiveness of the area and its proximity to London have historically increased house prices and this has affected the affordability, particularly for local people. Any communities developed within the region of the AONB should be sustainable, well-designed, high quality and attractive places in which people will positively choose to live</p>

			and work.
<p>Secure and Sustainable Buildings Act 2004 http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts/2004/20040022.htm</p>	<p>Affords powers to address the sustainability of buildings. The Act ensures sustainability standards are incorporated into renovation work and seeks to improve crime resistance measures that are built into buildings.</p>		<p>Renovation work specified within the Management Plan should reflect the need to create sustainable and secure buildings. Sustainable use of local materials for renovation should be highlighted and promoted.</p>
<p>The Housing Act 2004 http://www.opsi.gov.uk/ACTS/acts2004/20040034.htm</p>	<p>A significant piece of legislation that is designed to create a better and fairer housing market. Measures are included to improve the condition of properties, police landlords and change tenancy laws to tackle anti-social behaviour.</p>		<p>There is a limited supply of affordable housing in the Chilterns, and resistance to development. The Management Plan should seek to ensure that all existing and planned social housing is of the highest standard.</p>
<p>Forestry Acts 1967 (as amended) & 1979</p>	<p>Provide the legal basis for the management of the Public Forest Estate, the control of tree felling and the provision of grants in connection with the use and management of land for forestry purposes</p>		
<p>Natural Environment White Paper The Natural Choice: Securing the value of nature Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (2011)</p>	<p>The Natural Environment White paper is a statement outlining the Government's vision for the natural environment over the next 50 years, together with proposals for practical action to deliver that ambition. Alongside the White Paper the Government published its response to the Lawton Review: Making Space for Nature. The Lawton Review concluded that there is compelling evidence that England's collection of wildlife sites are generally too small and too isolated, leading to declines in</p>	<p>The White Paper sets out ambitions around 4 themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protecting and improving our natural environment • Growing a green economy • Reconnecting people and nature • International and EU leadership 	<p>Landscape scale conservation action and reconnecting people with nature should be key considerations of the AONB Management Plan.</p>

	many of England’s characteristic species, and an ecological network which is unable to respond effectively to new pressures such as climate change.		
Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England’s wildlife and ecosystem services (2011) http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/2011/08/19/pb13583-biodiversity-strategy-2020/	Biodiversity strategy for England building on the Natural Environment White Paper and providing an overview of approach to implementing international and EU commitments. It sets out the strategic direction for biodiversity policy for the next decade on land (including rivers and lakes) and at sea.	Sets out 4 priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • more integrated large-scale approach to conservation on land and at sea • putting people at the heart of biodiversity policy • reducing environmental pressures • improving our knowledge 	Contributing to the delivery of Biodiversity 2020 policy should be integral to the AONB Management Plan.
Securing Biodiversity Natural England (2008)	This guide explains a new framework which has been developed to enhance the recovery of priority habitats and species in England (published under section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006), thereby contributing to the delivery of the England Biodiversity Strategy. The framework has been developed and endorsed by the England Biodiversity Group and wider partnership. It is the starting point for a more integrated approach to biodiversity conservation in England, building on the strengths of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) process and improving those areas where insufficient progress was being made.		The AONB Management Plan should include consideration of the objectives and actions set out in the guidance.
Mainstreaming Sustainable Development Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	Outlines the Government’s strategy that enables the UK to work towards the goal of achieving sustainable development.		Sustainability principles should be integral to the AONB Management Plan and should form the basis for the SEA objectives.

<p>(2011) http://sd.defra.gov.uk/document/s/mainstreaming-sustainable-development.pdf</p>			<p>Government strategy expands on the traditional view of sustainable development which embraces environment, society and economy equally and implies a duty to respond to pressing scientific and environmental concerns. The AONB Management Plan should reflect this.</p>
<p>The Water White Paper – Water for Life Department for the Environment , Food and Rural Affairs (2011)</p>	<p>Outlines the Government’s vision for future water management in which the water sector is resilient, in which water companies are more efficient and customer focused, and in which water is valued as the precious and finite resource it is.</p>	<p>Identifies a number of strategies aimed at restoring supply/demand balance Secure sustainable and resilient water resources Protecting our rivers Planning and building for the future Developing a customer focused water industry</p>	
<p>Thames River Basin Management Planning (2nd Cycle) and ‘Water for life – Thames River Basin Management Plan’ (2009) Environment Agency</p>	<p>RBMPs provide the mechanism for delivery of the Water Framework Directive objectives in England and Wales. The Thames RBMP includes all Chilterns’ water resources</p>	<p>2nd Thames RBMP (2015-2021) is currently in development.</p>	<p>It is important for the Management Plan to be recognized within the Thames RBMP as a key document in delivery of WFD. Management Plan policies and actions should be aligned, where possible with WFD objectives.</p>
<p>The UK Climate Change Programme Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (2006)</p>	<p>The UK Government has identified climate change as the most serious environmental problem in the world today and one that will inevitably become more serious in the short to medium term. The programme outlines Government policies to address the issue of climate change</p>	<p>Reiterates the targets set in the 2000 Climate Change Programme to reduce carbon dioxide emissions to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20% below 1990 levels by 2010; • 60% below 1990 levels by 2050. 	<p>It is imperative that the Management Plan directly addresses the issue of climate change, acknowledges the increased likelihood of flooding and other extreme weather events and</p>

	at a national and international level.		identifies ways that greenhouse gas emissions can be reduced. Climate change may prove to have a significant effect on biodiversity in the longer-term with new species expanding into warmer climates and existing habitats changing in response to warmer summers and milder winters.
<p>Climate Change Risk Assessment DEFRA (2012) https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-climate-change-risk-assessment-government-report</p>	<p>This report outlines the UK Government's views on the main issues raised in the Climate Change Risk Assessment Evidence Report, highlights actions already in place to manage the risks identified, and outlines UK Government plans for the future. The Evidence Report sets out the main risks and opportunities for the UK over the coming years.</p>		<p>It is vital that the Management Plan addresses the issue of climate change, acknowledges the increased likelihood of flooding and other extreme weather events and identifies ways that greenhouse gas emissions can be reduced. Climate change may prove to have a significant effect on biodiversity in the longer-term with new species expanding into warmer climates and existing habitats changing in response to warmer summers and milder winters.</p>
<p>Local Transport White Paper Department for Transport (2011) http://www2.dft.gov.uk/pgr/regional/sustainabletransport/</p>	<p>The Local Transport White Paper sets out the Government's vision for a sustainable local transport system that supports the economy and reduces carbon emissions. It explains how the</p>		<p>The AONB Management Plan needs to reflect the Government's commitment to reducing people's dependence on cars and to</p>

	Government is placing localism at the heart of the transport agenda, taking measures to empower local authorities when it comes to tackling these issues in their areas.		develop an efficient transport system. Public transport links within the AONB should be considered and reviewed.
State of the Countryside report 2010 Commission for Rural Communities (2010)	This document is an overview of the trends in environment, economy and social issues encountered in England's Countryside.		Any key issues should be addressed in the Management Plan.
Healthy lives, healthy people White Paper Department for Health (2011) http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/PublicHealth/Healthyliveshealthypeople/index.htm	Sets out the key principles for supporting the public to make better and more informed choices with regard to their health.		Proposals outlined in the Management Plan that affect the environment, social networks, socio-economic circumstances and local facilities all impact upon the health of local people.
The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. (2007) http://archive.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/air/airquality/strategy/documents/air-qualitystrategy-vol2.pdf	Aims to improve and protect ambient air quality in the UK by setting national objectives for major air pollutants. The Strategy involves the production of Local Air Quality Strategies at a local level and the designation of Air Quality Management Areas where objectives are not being adequately met.		The AONB Management Plan should seek to ensure that air pollution identified around conurbation areas is managed and where required, steps are taken to alleviate air quality problems. Relevant Local Transport Plans by the surrounding local authorities should be considered. The strategy identifies explicit targets for eight pollutants to protect human health and targets for two pollutants to protect vegetation and ecosystems.
Meeting the Energy Challenge: A White Paper on Energy	Sets out the Government's international and domestic energy strategy to respond to changing	Government's four energy policy goals are: • to put ourselves on a path to cutting	Management Plan should promote the development and utilisation of renewable

<p>DTI consultation (2007)</p>	<p>circumstances, address the long-term energy challenges faced and deliver four energy policy goals. Structured around the need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • save energy; • develop cleaner energy supplies; and • secure reliable energy supplies at prices set in competitive markets. 	<p>the UK's carbon dioxide emissions by some 60% by about 2050, with real progress by 2020;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to maintain the reliability of energy supplies; • to promote competitive markets in the UK and beyond, helping to raise the rate of sustainable economic growth and to improve our productivity; and • to ensure that every home is adequately and affordably heated. 	<p>energy resources compatible with the purposes of designation</p>
<p>Green Infrastructure Guidance Natural England (2009)</p>	<p>Natural England's Green Infrastructure Guidance articulates a position in relation to green infrastructure planning and delivery, which is increasingly recognised as an essential part of sustainable spatial planning. This is due to the role of green infrastructure as a 'life support system', able to deliver multiple environmental functions, and to play a key part in adapting to and mitigating climate change. This guidance has been produced to support Natural England's frontline staff in their work with local authorities and green infrastructure partnerships.</p>		<p>The AONB Management Plan should address the issue of Green Infrastructure where appropriate.</p>
<p>Game Plan: A Strategy For Delivering Government's Sport and Physical Activity Objectives Social Exclusion Unit, Department of Culture, Media and Sport (2002) http://www.sportdevelopment.org.uk/</p>	<p>Sets the challenge of moving from 30% of the population being regularly active in 1998 (5 times a week, 30 minutes, moderate intensity) to 70% in 2020.</p>		<p>The Management Plan should recognise the benefits of sport and physical activity to society (improved social inclusion, better health) and attempt to increase grassroots participation. The AONB has a good distribution of footpaths and public rights of way,</p>

			outdoor tourism and associated activities should be promoted within the Management Plan.
<p>Waste Policy Review Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (2011) http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/files/pb13540-waste-policy-review110614.pdf</p>	<p>Describes the Government’s vision for managing waste better and decoupling the link between economic growth and increased waste.</p>		<p>The Management Plan must reflect the pressing need to reduce waste to landfill and increase recycling. The region is under pressure to import waste from surrounding urban areas, particularly to fill former quarry areas. Alternative methods of waste handling and minimisation should be given proper consideration to recycle or compost 50% of household waste by 2020.</p>
<p>Agricultural Waste Regulations DEFRA (2006) http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/topics/agwaste.htm</p>	<p>The regulations ensure that all agricultural waste is either recovered or disposed of in manner that protects human health and the environment.</p>		<p>The AONB Management Plan will need to reflect the relevant policies.</p>
<p>UK Forestry Standard Forestry Commission (2011) http://www.forestry.gov.uk/theukforestrystandard</p>	<p>The United Kingdom Forestry Standard (UKFS) is the reference standard for sustainable forest management in the UK. The UKFS, supported by its series of Guidelines, outlines the context for forestry in the UK, sets out the approach of the UK governments to sustainable forest management, defines standards and requirements, and provides a basis for regulation and monitoring – including national and international reporting.</p>		

	<p>By meeting the Requirements of the UKFS, forest and woodland owners, managers and practitioners can demonstrate that forestry operations and activities are both legal and sustainable.</p> <p>The Standard requires that native woodlands are managed to ensure their biodiversity is maintained or enhanced; protecting or extending semi-natural features and paying particular attention to ancient semi-natural woodlands.</p> <p>Ancient semi-natural woodlands (ASNW) are derived from the original forest cover of the British Isles, and have had more or less continuously tree-covered use. They are especially significant for biodiversity, landscape and cultural heritage, and reflect centuries of interactions between human activities and the environment. ASNW in particular are a valuable resource of relatively undisturbed soils, which are likely to be of high biodiversity value.</p>		
<p>A Strategy For England's Trees, Woods and Forests, Defra, June 2007.</p>	<p>Sets out the Government's vision for England's tree and woodland resource, in rural and urban areas, over the next fifty years. Strategy contains many relevant objectives and policies relating to these aims, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve the local environment, the quality of people's lives and their appreciation of trees and woodlands; • To create, expand and maintain a network of sustainably managed trees, woods and forests that are 	<p>Targets and indicators to be developed in Strategy Delivery Plan to be produced by the Forestry Commission and Natural England in partnership with other key organizations.</p>	<p>Management Plan has an important contribution to make to delivering the objectives of the Strategy.</p>

	<p>resilient to climate change and make a full contribution to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – protecting and enhancing our woodland habitats and associated species – safeguarding, enhancing and celebrating the characteristic elements of rural and urban landscapes and their cultural and historic values – maximising the full range of ecosystem services provided by trees, woods and forests <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure a healthy woodland and forestry sector with viable businesses actively engaged in sustainable management and processing at national, regional, sub-regional and local level 		
<p>Keepers of Time – A Statement of Policy for England’s Ancient and Native Woodlands: Action Plan 2005 Forestry Commission England (2005)</p>	<p>Protect all England’s ancient woods including those under 2ha. Recognises cultural, heritage, archaeological interests in woods. Importance of veteran and ancient trees</p>		
<p>Government Forestry and Woodlands Policy Statement Defra Jan 2013</p>	<p>Incorporates the Government’s response to the Independent Panel on Forestry’s Final Report. Confirms public ownership of Public Forest Estate. Commitment to Open Habitats Policy and Keepers of Time (ancient woods). UK Forestry Standard. Implement Natural Environment White Paper and Biodiversity 2020.</p>		
<p>Woodfuel Strategy for England</p>	<p>A strategy to increase the amount of biomass made available through the woodfuel supply chain.</p>	<p>The aim of the Strategy is to bring an additional two million tonnes (Mt) of wood into the market, annually, by</p>	<p>Management Plan should promote wood fuel production and marketing</p>

<p>Forestry Commission (2007)</p>	<p>Recommends interventions in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Capital investment and support – to accelerate uptake and build a functioning and secure market. •Outreach and facilitation – to link and give confidence to the supply chain. •Awareness raising - to bring more woods into productive and sustainable management by engaging with and advising woodland owners, entrepreneurs and communities. 	<p>2020 saving 400,000 tonnes of carbon every year – the equivalent of 3.6 million barrels of crude oil and enough to supply 250,000 homes with energy.</p>	<p>as potentially important component of sustainable woodland management.</p>
<p>National Planning Policy Framework Department for Communities and Local Government (2012) http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planningsystem/planningpolicy/planningpolicyframework/</p>	<p>The Government has published the National Planning Policy Framework. This is a key part of reforms to make the planning system less complex and more accessible, and to promote sustainable growth. The Framework replaces existing Planning Policy Guidance and Statements.</p>		<p>The AONB Management Plan will need to reflect the revised planning policies.</p>
<p>National Policy Statements for Energy Infrastructure Department of Energy and Climate Change (2011) http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/meeting_energy/consults_planning/nps_en_infra/nps_en_infra.aspx</p>	<p>Set out national policy against which proposals for major energy projects will be assessed and decided upon.</p>		<p>The AONB Management Plan will need to reflect the planning policies.</p>
<p>Regional</p>			
<p>A Living Landscape for the South East Wildlife Trusts 2007</p>	<p>Sets out a vision and maps for an ecological network for the South East with the aim of rebuilding the region’s biodiversity, in a way which will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the ability of the environment to deliver ecosystem services; • Link places where people live to wild places and the wider countryside, 		<p>Management Plan should realize opportunities to contribute to the development of the regional ecological network.</p>

	<p>and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link and extend important wildlife sites and habitats, and buffer wild species against the impacts. 		
<p>Water resources for the future: A strategy for Thames Region</p> <p>Environment Agency 2001</p>	<p>Proposes a flexible and phased strategy, so as to avoid unnecessary investment while retaining the security of water supply and improving the water environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • water is a precious and limited resource. Further improvements to the water environment are necessary in many places. • without further action to manage demand and reduce leakage, new strategic water resources will be needed under some scenarios, by 2015 for the Upper Thames and by 2020 for London; • increased water efficiency and water use minimization should be an important aspect of resource management over the next 25 years. A number of recommendations are included to encourage the efficient use of water in the home, in commercial premises, by industry and by agriculture. 		<p>Management Plan has a role in delivering these objectives through encouraging sustainable use of water and good watercourse management</p>
<p>Drought Plan for the North East Area of Thames Region</p> <p>Environment Agency</p>	<p>Describes how the Environment Agency will plan for and manage drought in the Thames Region's North East Area (that part of the AONB north and east of High Wycombe). It sets out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the area's drought management structure; • the drought monitoring that will be undertaken by the area; • the drought management actions 	<p>Describes actions and triggers during normal conditions, during a potential drought, a drought and following a period of drought</p>	<p>Management Plan should and Delivery Plan should maintain necessary flexibility to address drought conditions</p>

	<p>that the area drought team may need to take and the triggers for these actions;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how the area deals with drought permit and drought order applications; • the area's drought communications actions, including reporting during a drought. 		
<p>Drought Plan for Thames Region West Area Environment Agency</p>	<p>As above for the Thames Region's West Area (the remainder of the AONB)</p>	<p>Describes actions and triggers during normal conditions, during a potential drought, a drought and following a period of drought</p>	<p>Management Plan should and Delivery Plan should maintain necessary flexibility to address drought conditions</p>
<p>The Colne Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy Consultation Document Environment Agency April 2007</p>	<p>CAMSs are prepared to manage water resources at a local level to balance the needs of abstractors and other water users with those of the water environment. Sets out the proposed abstraction licensing strategy and associated actions</p>	<p>Seeks to improve resource availability status for the Rivers Colne, Ver, Gade, Bulbourne, Chess and Misbourne from "Over-abstracted" in 2007 to "Less Over-Abstracted" in 2009 and 2015</p>	<p>Management Plan should acknowledge water resource status and complement actions proposed in the CAMS</p>
<p>The Thame and South Chilterns Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy Environment Agency April 2007</p>	<p>CAMSs are prepared to manage water resources at a local level to balance the needs of abstractors and other water users with those of the water environment. Sets out the proposed abstraction licensing strategy and associated actions</p>	<p>Comprises 4 Water Resource Management Units, of which 3 effect the AONB. The water resource availability status of WRMU2 (the scarp slope) and WRMU3 (the River Wye system) is 'over-licensed' at low flows. The target for both these WRMUs for 2013 is to maintain the 'over-licensed' status. The strategy for WRMU4 (the southern dip slope) is to maintain the current status of 'no water available' at low flows.</p>	<p>Management Plan should acknowledge water resource status and complement actions proposed in the CAMS</p>
<p>Draft Thames Region Catchment Flood Management Plan</p>	<p>Presents the most sustainable direction for managing fluvial flood risk within the Thames catchment for the</p>	<p>Proposes a Strategic Action Plan which highlights a different approach to</p>	<p>Several actions are identified for undeveloped natural floodplain in the</p>

Environment Agency (2007)	<p>next 50 to 100 years. Sets out 4 key messages for the catchment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood defences cannot be built to protect everything • Climate change will be the major cause of increased flood risk in the future • The flood plain is our most important asset in managing flood risk • Development and urban regeneration provide a crucial opportunity to manage the risk 	<p>some of the work already done, together with the need for some new activities. This can only be achieved through the Agency working together with other organisations.</p>	<p>CFMP which may be relevant to the Management Plan</p>
Local			
Local Biodiversity Action Plans	<p>Biodiversity Action Plans include:</p> <p>Habitat Action Plans for various habitats and Species Action Plans for notable species, some of which are relevant to the AONB.</p>	<p>Each Action Plan will contain objectives, targets and actions plans</p>	<p>Management Plan should assist delivery of relevant BAP targets.</p>
Local Transport Plan 3 publications	<p>LTP3 publications incorporate an overall strategy and vision accompanied by supporting documents which seek the implementation of the overall strategy at a strategic and local level.</p>	<p>LTP3 documents include a range of monitoring indicators and targets.</p>	<p>The Management Plan should complement the relevant LTP3 policies.</p>
Local Minerals and Waste Local Development Frameworks and Local Plan	<p>The Local Development Frameworks and Local Plans set out the policies and proposals for the extraction of minerals and management of waste within the Counties and Unitary Authorities within the AONB, along with reasoned a justification for them.</p>	<p>The Local Development Frameworks and Local Plans include various policies which seek to reduce any detrimental impacts on the special character of the AONB.</p>	<p>The Management Plan should complement the relevant local development framework or local plan policies.</p>
Sustainable Community Strategies	<p>The Strategies include visions, challenges, cross-cutting themes (including the environment) and action plans to deliver the visions.</p>		<p>The Management Plan should help to address relevant challenges.</p>
Local Economic Development Strategies	<p>The Strategies include visions, strategies for dealing with key issues and themes (including the</p>		<p>The Management Plan should help to address relevant issues and</p>

	environment).		themes.
Strategic Flood Risk Assessments and Local Flood Risk Management Strategies	The Strategic Flood Risk Assessments incorporate aims and objectives, consider local sources of flood risk and collate information to inform future flood risk management. The Local Flood Risk Management Strategies incorporate a vision, strategies covering various themes and actions plans to address key issues.		The Management Plan should help to address relevant issues and themes.
Local Plans, Core Strategies and Local Development Documents	The Local Plans, Core Strategies and Local Development Documents set out the policies and proposals for future planning within the Districts and Unitary Authorities within the AONB, along with reasoned a justification for them.	The Local Plans, Core Strategies and Local Development Documents include various policies which seek to reduce any detrimental impacts of development on the special qualities and character of the AONB.	The Management Plan should complement the relevant local planning policies.
Local Rights of Way Improvement Plans	The Local Rights of Way Improvement Plans incorporate visions, strategic contexts, an assessment of the Rights of Way network and its various users and implementation via various thematic actions within a series of aims.		The Management Plan should complement relevant proposals in the RoW Improvement Plans