



CHILTERNs
CONSERVATION BOARD

**Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan
2019 – 2024**

**Screening for Habitat Regulations Assessment – Responses
February 2019**



Andrew Smith:
Natural England, Area Manager, London and Thames Valley

Adam Wallace,
Natural England, Strategy and Partnerships Manager,
London and Thames Valley

Sent by email to:
andrew.smith@naturalengland.org.uk
adam.wallace@naturalengland.org.uk

18th October 2018

Dear Andy and Adam,

RE: Chilterns AONB Management Plan Review – screening for Habitat Regulation Assessment

As you know, we will shortly be publishing the draft Chilterns AONB Management Plan 2019 – 2024 for full public consultation.

Under the European Habitats Directive the Conservation Board has to satisfy itself, as the competent authority that, in adopting the plan, there will be no significant adverse effect of the Plan and its policies on internationally recognised sites of nature conservation interest (European sites).

In order to fulfil this requirement, we have carried out a screening exercise to determine whether there is a need to carry out a full Appropriate Assessment. As discussed when we met earlier in the year, we have adopted a similar approach to this exercise as that agreed with Natural England in relation to the previous Management Plan.

The conclusion of the screening process is that an appropriate assessment of the Chilterns AONB Management Plan 2014 – 2019 is unnecessary (see copy of report attached). I would be grateful if you could confirm this approach.

If you have any comments or queries please contact me on 01844 355524 kdaly@chilternsaonb.org

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Daly'.

Kath Daly
Countryside Officer

From: Harries, Sally (NE) <Sally.Harries@naturalengland.org.uk>

Sent: 03 January 2019 16:28

To: Planning <Planning@chilternsaonb.org>

Subject: Chilterns AONB Management plan HRA screening

Dear Lucy

Having reviewed the HRA screening for the Chilterns revised AONB Management Plan, Natural England concurs with the conclusion as set out in section 6.1 namely that "The screening process concludes that an appropriate assessment of the Chilterns AONB Management Plan 2019 -24 is unnecessary as its policies will have no significant adverse effects on European Protected Sites within or in close proximity to the AONB." We recognise the objectives of the Management plan to focus on conserving and enhancing natural beauty and the supporting policies within the plan (eg NP10, NP6). Where policies that may increase recreational disturbance by encouraging visitors (eg EP2, EP6) are proposed, they are caveated by the fact that conservation and enhancement of the natural environment takes priority in any policy conflicts (eg NP12).

Kind regards,

Sally Harries

Sustainable Development
Thames Team

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