

**Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership**  
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## Press Release

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### Proposed Power Plant at Brockton, Lydbury North

The Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership will base a decision on whether it supports the proposed power plant at Brockton on the findings of a detailed feasibility study which is to be prepared.

The AONB Partnership has offered a grant from its Sustainable Development Fund to Shropshire Highland Services towards the feasibility study, on the basis of the potential benefits of the project, especially in developing biomass energy and use of farm waste.

The feasibility study will examine the potential benefits of the proposed plant, including in relation to the AONB's primary purpose, to conserve and enhance natural beauty. The study will also need to assess the environmental and social impacts of the plant, including emissions and waste products, amenity aspects including noise, smell and visual, impacts on flora, fauna, soil, landscape, etc., and associated impacts such as traffic and transport.

One area of uncertainty which the feasibility study should particularly aim to address is the potentially very different impacts the proposed plant could have, depending on the mix of fuels used. The implications and perceptions of using natural materials as fuel are likely to be very different to using municipal refuse. Only when this information is all available and can be evaluated will the AONB Partnership be able to decide whether it supports the proposal.

**ENDS**

**Editors Notes:**

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The Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is one of 41 AONBs in England & Wales. This designation is recognition of the national value of the area's landscape, and brings duties on local authorities to conserve and enhance its natural beauty.

The management of the AONB is guided by a statutory Management Plan produced by the Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership which comprises 5 local authorities, 31 other organisations and independent community members. The AONB staff team are funded by the Countryside Agency and the local authorities, and work with others to implement the AONB Management Plan. Shropshire County Council manages the AONB Office.

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