

Review of the Shropshire Hills AONB Management Plan for 2019-2024

October 2017



What the AONB is about

Special places matter to us. They give us a sense of belonging, calm, security and wellbeing.

The Shropshire Hills have evolved through the interaction of people and nature over a long time to produce a character and quality which we value.

The landscape contributes greatly to the economy and to our health and culture. Food production needs soils and water, while our hills and woods help to manage flood risk. Nature and beautiful landscapes are good for our mental wellbeing and quality of life, provide a sense of identity, and attract business investment.

Safeguarding the positive interaction between people and nature is vital to protecting and sustaining the area and its value.

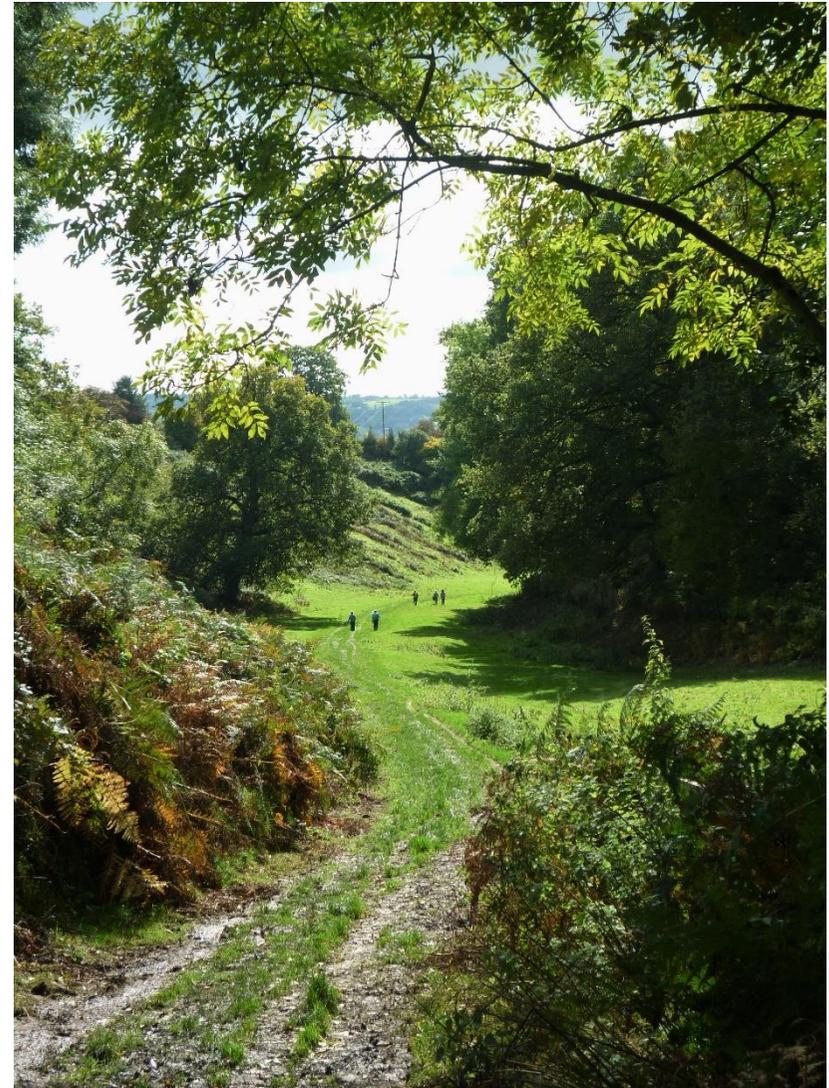
What do you think?

What do you most value about the Shropshire Hills?

What is changing, for better or worse?

What needs to be done, and how can we work together to do it?

We need your help to understand what makes the Shropshire Hills special to you and what you can do. The new AONB Management Plan will set out priorities to build support for the landscape over the next five years. We will be putting on a range of events and activities to seek people's views. The more people we involve, the more successful the Plan will be.



Legal requirements

The primary legal purpose of AONBs is conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area.

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 created a statutory responsibility for local authorities and Conservation Boards to produce AONB Management Plans and then to review these every five years. Our two relevant local authorities, Shropshire Council and Telford & Wrekin Council, 'act jointly' in preparation of the Plan through the Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership.

What the Plan is

It is a plan for the AONB as an area, not for any one organisation.

The 2019-24 AONB Management Plan will be the fourth statutory Plan, and will therefore build on the sound foundations of earlier Plans. Many issues affecting the AONB are ongoing, and while the Review process will lead to a new Plan, this will develop the previous ones. It will take account of new trends, but not approach the situation as a start from scratch. We will also set out and celebrate what has been achieved over the past five years.

Who is it for?

The Plan seeks to influence those whose actions have an effect on the AONB, including policy and decision makers, land managers and local businesses, and organisations acting locally.

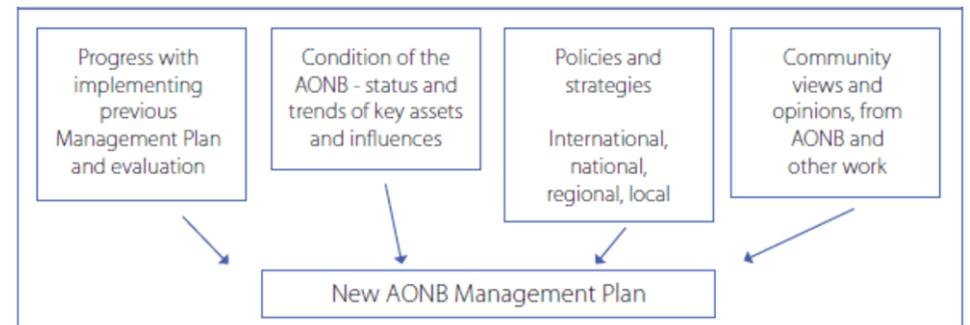
The Plan is the definitive document to support the statutory designation of the AONB, which:

- gives formal recognition to the nationally important landscape,
- requires special land use planning policies to apply, and
- encourages an integrated approach to land management.

What is the process?

Leading the process of reviewing the Management Plan and overseeing its implementation are the main functions of the AONB Partnership. The broad membership of the Partnership includes most of the relevant stakeholders, but we want to reach further to involve others with an interest in the area.

A number of sources from grassroots to strategic level will inform review of the Management Plan, as shown below:



An updated 'State of the AONB' report will be produced, and partners and the wider public engaged. These sources will guide which sections of the Plan need most changing, and relevant people will be brought together to work on this.

An open public consultation period on a full draft new document will take place during 2018, leading to the processes of formal approval of the new Plan by the spring of 2019.

Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership

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