

Response ID ANON-WMVF-C529-3

Submitted to Government response to the Landscapes Review
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About you

1 Do you want your responses to be confidential?

No

If yes, please give your reason::

2 What is your name?

Name:
Geoff Johnson

3 What is your email address?

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4 Where are you located?

South East

5 Which of the following do you identify yourself as?

Local authority

If other, please identify below::

A stronger mission for nature recovery

6 Should a strengthened first purpose of protected landscapes follow the proposals set out in Chapter 2?

Yes

Please give reasons for your answer: :

Support the general designation given to NPs and AONBs as it enhances the status of AONBs and acknowledges their importance
Also targets need to be set and progress needs to be monitored on climate and nature related issues

7 Which other priorities should be reflected in a strengthened first purpose e.g. climate, cultural heritage?

Please give us your views:

Climate change is important There is insufficient attention given to climate change in the Govt's response

Agricultural transition

8 Do you support any of the following options as we develop the role of protected landscapes in the new environmental land management schemes? Tick all that apply.

Designing the environmental land management schemes in a way that works for all farmers and land managers, including the specific circumstances for those in protected landscapes, recognising that farmers in these areas are well-placed to deliver on our environmental priorities., Using Local Nature Recovery Strategies to identify projects or habitats within protected landscapes. , Monitoring the effectiveness and uptake of the new environmental land management schemes in protected landscapes. Using this to inform whether further interventions are needed to ensure we are on track for wider nature recovery ambitions., Creating a clear role for protected landscape organisations in the preparation of Local Nature Recovery Strategies. Our recent LNRS consultation specifically asks for views on the role of different organisations in the preparation of LNRSs, including protected landscapes., Building on FiPL, empowering protected landscapes to support decision-making and delivery against agreed priorities, including through dedicated project coordinators and advisers.

9 Do you have any views or supporting evidence you would like to input as we develop the role of protected landscapes in the new environmental land management schemes?

Please give us your views:

No

A stronger mission for connecting people and places

10 Should AONBs have a second purpose relating to connecting people and places, equivalent to that of National Parks?

Yes

Please give reasons for your answer: :

Too many people are unaware of the areas within easy reach by road/public transport although some e.g. Chichester Harbour, are specialist /small areas. The number and spread of AONBs in England ensures that they are accessible to all but are often overlooked by visitors in favour of more popular attractions. Their qualities need to be publicized more widely

11 Should a strengthened second purpose of protected landscapes follow the proposals set out in Chapter 3 to improve connections to all parts of society with our protected landscapes?

Yes

Please give reasons for your answer: :

Exactly the same principles should apply to AONBs as they do to NPs

12 Are there any other priorities that should be reflected in a strengthened second purpose?

Please give us your views:

no

Managing visitor pressures

13 Do you support any of the following options to grant National Park Authorities and the Broads Authority greater enforcement powers to manage visitor pressures? Tick all that apply.

Issue Fixed Penalty Notices for byelaw infringements, Make Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs), Issue Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) to control the amount and type of traffic on roads

Please give reasons for your answer: :

Although it is understood that this was not part of the Glover Review Report it is nevertheless a relevant issue locally in and around the Seven Sisters Park and Beachy Head due to the problems arising during the Covid lockdown which have continued. The main problems are indiscriminate parking blocking emergency vehicles, joy riders and a need to designate a particular area as 'full' and to have the power to close it off to visitors during peak holiday times. This in turn highlights the need for sustainable transport initiatives to cut down the number of cars descending on a site e.g. Birling Gap. Somehow the authorities need to make it more convenient and less expensive to opt for public transport over the car in these situations

14 Should we give National Park Authorities and the Broads Authority and local highway authorities additional powers to restrict recreational motor vehicle use on unsealed routes?

Yes

Please give reasons for your answer: :

As above. Local routes to Seven Sisters and Beachy Head have become choked, particularly at bank holiday weekends. This detracts from the beauty and attraction of the Park in these areas.

15 For which reasons should National Park Authorities, the Broads Authority and local authorities exercise this power? (select all that apply)

Environmental protection, Prevention of damage, Nuisance, Amenity

Other (please state):

Access for emergency vehicles

16 Should we legislate to restrict the use of motor vehicles on unsealed unclassified roads for recreational use, subject to appropriate exemptions?

Yes – in National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty only

Please give reasons for your answer::

Because these are the areas which attract most visitors and have most to protect

17 What exemptions do you think would be required to protect the rights and enjoyment of other users e.g., residents, businesses etc?

Please give us your views:

Parking permits perhaps?

The role of AONB teams in planning

18 What roles should AONBs teams play in the plan-making process to achieve better outcomes?

Please give us your views:

Obviously need to have an input to Local Plans as more than just another Consultee

19 Should AONB teams be made statutory consultees for development management?

Yes

Please give reasons for your answer::

Its all part of giving AONBs the status they've long deserved . There's no doubt that they've been 'overshadowed' by NPs with less resources and less publicity

20 If yes, what type of planning applications should AONB teams be consulted on?

AONB teams should formally agree with local planning authorities which planning applications should be consulted on.

Other (please state):

Local governance

21 Which of the following measures would you support to improve local governance? Tick all that apply.

Improved training and materials, Greater flexibility over the proportion of national, parish and local appointments, Merit-based criteria for local authority appointments

Other (please state):

Possibly, in the South Downs NP, area boards from each of the 3 counties covered reporting to a smaller 'umbrella' board

Please give reasons for your answer: :

The South Downs is an unwieldy area covering 13 DCs and large part of 3 counties. It also has a far larger population than other NPs. It does not lend itself to a smaller single board. There would be a democratic deficit. Added to this there is no uniformity across the area in the way in which applications are dealt with. The main problem which needs resolving locally is to ensure that residents in the eastern end of the NP by a planning authority and officers based 60 miles or so away. That is a further 'democratic deficit' which has to be balanced

A clearer role for public bodies

22 Should statutory duties be strengthened so that they are given greater weight when exercising public functions?

Unsure

Please give reasons for your answer: :

23 Should statutory duties be made clearer with regards to the role of public bodies in preparing and implementing management plans?

Unsure

Please give reasons for your answer: :

General power of competence

24 Should National Parks Authorities and the Broads Authority have a general power of competence?

Yes

Please give reasons for your answer: :

They should have greater authority over their own finances and more power to require other LPAs to have greater regard to NP Local Plans when drawing up their own LPs

Overall

25 If you have any further comments on any of the proposals in this document, please include them here.

Please give us your views:

Comments are mostly on the Govt's response. It was disappointing that although many of the initiatives referred to in the Review were welcomed, e.g Spending a night under dark skies, there were no proposals by the Govt for additional funding to cover them Similarly Glover's suggestion of a unified approach to Affordable Housing in NPs through a National Parks Housing Assn was ignored in the Govt's response.

There is also a clear need for greater diversity in the make up of NP Boards.

Finally a significant part of the Review is taken up by references to Climate Change and Cultural Heritage. These issues are largely overlooked in the Govt's response.