

Chilterns Management Plan Proposed Changes Consultation

Have you read the proposed changes to Chapter 1: Introduction?

Yes.

Do you have any feedback relating to the proposed changes in Chapter 1? If yes, please provide the page number given in the P column for reference.

P7 - Suggest delete the proposed sentence "Natural beauty is a subjective characteristic of a landscape and ultimately involves a value judgment in the designation process." because it seems to de-value the designation and is unnecessary, given the useful list of six factors below.

P8 – Re: "However, under new section 90A of the CROW Act, introduced by the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023, the Secretary of State is now empowered to issue regulations requiring all public bodies to contribute to the plan's preparation, implementation and review." - It is unclear at present what this means or, what the implications are. Recommend this paragraph is left out unless these questions can be answered.

P8 Re: "peatland twice the size of Birmingham has been restored, storing millions of tonnes of carbon and helping reduce the risk of flooding." - Chilterns has very little peat. Can a more relevant local example be used?

P9 - The following sentence needs reviewing as it is misleading: "The Board has 27 members, who are independent and do not represent any other organisation". The local authority representatives are appointed by their Local Authority to represent their local authority, so suggest re-work this to read:

"The Board has 27 members, comprising 13 local authority appointed members, six Parish Council elected members, and eight Secretary of State appointed members."

Have you read the proposed changes to Chapter 2: The significance of the Chilterns?

Yes.

Do you have any feedback relating to the proposed changes in Chapter 2? If yes, please provide the page number given in the P column for reference.

P12 – Suggest remove "the perception of" as it reads negatively and is unnecessary.

Have you read the proposed changes to Chapter 3: Priority habitats?

Yes.

Do you have any feedback relating to the proposed changes in Chapter 3?

No.

Have you read the proposed changes to Chapter 4: The future of the Chilterns?

Yes.

Do you have any feedback relating to the proposed changes in Chapter 4?

No.

Have you read the proposed changes to Chapter 5: Nature?

Yes.

Do you have any feedback relating to the proposed changes in Chapter 5? If yes, please provide the page number given in the P column for reference.

P 36 – This sentence needs revision and suggest is amended to “Including keystone species, and species characteristic of the Chilterns.” (removal of: ‘species for which the Chilterns is important, and rare, notable and protected impact species found in the Chilterns, and keystone species.’).

P37 – Re: NO4 - Recommend revision; it is not clear what this strategic objective means? Is the management of habitats that are based on chalk in the Chilterns really an exemplar of best practice? Anticipate there are examples of good practice as well as examples of poor practice. Recommend this objective is re-thought.

P37 - Re: NO6 - Recommend revision; Protection of chalk streams is only part of the issue (this is also a national issue). What they really need in a Chilterns context is active sympathetic and appropriate management. This should be included in the objective.

P38/39 – Re: Text under NP1, NP4 and NP7 - Should this also reference 30x30 - as this will be a strong driver of policy on nature in national landscapes going forward. Recommend revision.

Have you read the proposed changes to Chapter 6: Historic environment?

Yes.

Do you have any feedback relating to the proposed changes in Chapter 6?

No.

Have you read the proposed changes to Chapter 7: Land, woodland and water?

Yes.

Do you have any feedback relating to the proposed changes in Chapter 7?

No.

Have you read the proposed changes to Chapter 8: Enjoyment and understanding?

Yes.

Do you have any feedback relating to the proposed changes in Chapter 8? If yes, please provide the page number given in the P column for reference.

P59 – Should Big Bird Count be Big Garden Bird Watch?

Have you read the proposed changes to Chapter 9: Social and economic wellbeing?

Yes.

Do you have any feedback relating to the proposed changes in Chapter 9?

No.

Have you read the proposed changes to Chapter 10: Planning and development?

Yes.

Do you have any feedback relating to the proposed changes in Chapter 10? If yes, please provide the page number given in the P column for reference.

P71 - Suggest “NPPF: the government’s planning policies for England” instead of “NPPF: the government’s ‘rule-book’ for planning in England”, reflecting that they are not rules. Suggest add to the list ‘We act by’ a bullet point:

- providing input to emerging local development plan policies in local and neighbourhood plans.

Because this aspect is currently missing.

We would also value CCB having a convening role by retaining the wording “We bring together those who make plans and determine planning applications in the Chilterns to encourage...”

P73 - Suggest amend the proposed wording on Article 4 Directions “but this option is difficult and can be costly to implement” and instead express support and advice that CCB could provide.

Have you read the proposed changes to Chapter 11: Implementation and monitoring?

Yes.

Do you have any feedback relating to the proposed changes in Chapter 11?

No.

Do you have any other comments to make about the proposed changes?

In addition to the technical points detailed above, overall, SODC representatives feel this review is comprehensive and has resulted in a refreshed plan which describes the CNL as it is now, and reflects the duties, opportunities and challenges of the CCB for the foreseeable future. Officers also welcome the expansion of ‘what is natural beauty’ section and the associated clarification of Special Qualities.