



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Government response to the Landscapes Review

ADEPT Environment Board

26th January 2022



Background: Landscapes Review

The government asked for an independent review into whether the protections for National Parks and AONBs are still fit for purpose.

The response made 27 wide-ranging recommendations.

Our response was developed in consultation with AONB / NPA teams, ADEPT members, and wider stakeholders.



Chapter 1 – A more coherent national network

Bringing existing national landscapes organisations closer together to collaborate more effectively towards national strategic priorities.

Key proposals include:

- A new national landscapes partnership and strategy
- Reinvigorating Natural England's role as our statutory advisor on England's landscapes
- More consistent statutory purposes across National Parks and AONBs
- Rebranding AONBs 'National Landscapes' to reflect reformed statutory frameworks and resources

Chapter 2 – Nature and Climate

Increasing the role of our protected landscapes in delivering nature-based solutions to the biodiversity and climate crises.

Key proposals include:

- Strengthening the first statutory purpose to more focus on nature recovery
- Monitoring progress towards environmental goals through the Natural Capital and Ecosystem Assessment and outcomes framework
- Developing clear roles for protected landscapes in Environmental Land Management schemes, LNRS and 30 by 30

Chapter 3 – People and Place

Improving access to our protected landscapes for all parts of society and supporting the communities that live and work there.

Key proposals include:

- Strengthening the second statutory purpose to more focus on improved access and public health, and extending to AONBs.
- Expanding the enforcement powers available to National Park to help manage recreational pressures, inc. Green Lanes.
- Statutory consultee status for AONBs in planning
- The national landscapes partnership to coordinate, enhance and expand public awareness and outreach.

Chapter 4 – Supporting local delivery

Strengthening local governance, powers and resourcing to support local teams to deliver more.

Key proposals include:

- A flexible package to reform local governance in NPAs / CBs e.g. reducing board sizes, merit-based selection criteria, removal of strict legal ratio between appointee types
- Updated guidance on AONB partnerships
- Strengthening the duty of regard on public bodies for management plans and updating guidance
- Expanding and accelerating private finance in nature recovery

Implementing our response to the Landscapes Review

- Government [response](#) to the Landscapes Review was published on Saturday 15th January.
- The response is accompanied by a [consultation](#) that will run for 12 weeks until **Saturday 9th April (11:45pm)**.
- Non-legislative change starting in 2022 e.g. national landscapes strategy, national landscapes partnership, guidance etc
- Potential legislative change in 2023-24

Working with local authorities

- Local authorities (especially those hosting AONBs) will be integral to implementing these proposals.
- Minister-led LGA group (local governance focus)
- ADEPT members to input at workshops e.g.
 - Management plans (including LNRs)
 - Changes to purposes and duties
 - Planning
 - Transport / green lanes
 - Local governance
 - Finance
- Early consideration of new burdens