

**Minutes of AONB Management Plan Review Work Group  
Tuesday 29 January 2008 - Upper Conference Room, Seaclose**

**Present:**

Denis Russell	Vice Chairman and Town and Parish Portfolio Holder - Steering Committee (Chair)
Vicky Basford	Historic Environment Portfolio Holder - Steering Committee
Richard Grogan	Nature Conservation Portfolio Holder - Steering Committee
Andy Gordon	Natural England
Julie Danby	Natural England
Councillor Vanessa Churchman	Isle of Wight Council
Councillor John Hobart	Isle of Wight Council
John Brownscombe	AONB Lead Officer
Nicky Rogers	AONB Planning Officer
Fiona Hanna	AONB Communications Officer
Carrie McDowell	AONB Assistant

**1) Welcome**

JB welcomed all attendees for the first meeting of the re-constituted Management Plan Review Work Group.

**2) Purpose and Terms of Reference for Work Group**

A copy of the suggested Terms of Reference were circulated to the meeting, and following the suggested amendment that Habitat Regulations and Strategic Environment Assessment requirements should be included, the meeting agreed to adopt the Terms of Reference as presented, and an amended copy is attached.

**3) Management Plan Review Timetable**

Formal notification of review given to Natural England	November 2007
Management Plan Review Work Group convened	November 2007
Series of Workshops held to assess cope of review	November 2007 - May 2008
Draft Review undertaken	January - April 2008
Series of 'themed' meetings and one to one 'surgeries' held with stakeholders	January - April 2008
Draft sent to Natural England for formal observation	May 2008
Formal comment received and Plan amended	June 2008
Consultation	July - August/September 2008
Consultation promoted at AONB attendance at events	August - September 2008
Reviewed Plan re-drafted in light of consultation	September/October 2008
Final draft/Review taken through Isle of Wight Council adoption process	October/November 2008
Final document published	January/February 2009
Launch of Plan	March 2009
Copy of new Plan sent to Secretary of State	By April 2009

**4) Process to date**

a) Formal notification of Review sent.

- b) Series of workshops to look at the current Plan and assess what, if anything, needs changing.
- c) Two workshops have taken place - Threats and Challenges, Policies and Policy Objectives.
- d) Online survey sent to all Partnership members.
- e) Wealth of guidance available:-
  - Review guidance
  - Habitat Regulations guidance
  - Strategic Environmental Assessment guidance
  - Examples of approaches being taken in other protected landscapes i.e. Cotswolds, Suffolk Heaths and Coast
- f) All recommendations and approaches suggest a 'light touch', as the Plan is likely to be in line with the Aims and Objectives of the Management Plan
- g) Although the organisations and individuals helping us deliver the Plan may have changed the Issues, Objectives and Policies are still likely to be valid - this has been shown by the results of the consultation so far.
- h) The Action Plan will be out of date next year, so it is this that will need a lot of work.

## 5) Legal Requirements

European Union regulations require that the Strategic Environmental Objective (SEA) requires a sustainability appraisal for all spatial plans to comply with the regulations, which should include social and economic effects as well as environment. In addition, the Plan needs to be assessed in relation to its potential effect on European Natura sites under the revised Habitat Regulations. The AONB Unit anticipates that scoping reports will be compiled and sent to the relevant bodies within two weeks, with copies distributed to the Work Group.

Appropriate assessment would consider overarching policies or the delivery of the Plan through actions or both, and guidance says we should consider both. As the Action Plan has yet to be drafted we cannot, at this stage, consider the detailed delivery of the Plan, but could consider the implications of any revised policies and policy objectives. The protection of Natura 2000 sites, as required by the Habitat Regulations, will be implicit within the overarching policies and policy objectives, as guidance states we should not repeat statutory requirements for such sites within our policies. It is likely we will need to be more explicit when considering projects and actions that may have an impact on the sites, even where this is positive in nature.

The regulations and assessment process requires us to identify where there are negative impacts, and any uncertainty in relation to impact on sites through the policies and actions in the Plan. At this stage, it is felt the two areas of uncertainty we may have to consider are: issues in relation to climate change; any potential additional impact caused by increased visitor numbers, which may directly or indirectly be related to AONB promotional activities. We will also be looking at how others have dealt with these issues in their assessment process as best practice. As the Management Plan Review process coincides with the emerging Island Plan formulation, it was felt to be sensible to see where we can work together

