

**The Chilterns
Conservation Board**
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PRESS RELEASE

Have your say on keeping the Chilterns special

The Chilterns countryside is valued for its beauty, nature and tranquillity, but what's the best way to care for it? The Chilterns Conservation Board has put together a Plan which sets out what needs to be done to look after the Chilterns, from tiny pollinating insects, to ancient bluebell woods, to the 2000km of footpaths and bridleways for everyone to enjoy.

The Board needs everyone's help to get the Plan right and is giving the public a chance to have their say and ensure that future generations continue to benefit from the special qualities the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty has to offer. You might be concerned about climate change or the loss of hedgerow trees, perhaps it's the impact of housing and infrastructure development or the loss of wildlife due to poor condition of chalk streams. If you have concerns about the area or you have ideas for how best to protect it and use it, we want you to have your say.

The new Plan covers a range of issues from biodiversity and wildlife conservation to looking after the special character of the Chilterns villages, managing access and recreation and helping local businesses to thrive. By law a Plan has to be produced every five years to guide the management of the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. *"The Chilterns is a haven for people and nature in a busy part of the country and we want to care for it, for everyone. for ever,"* says Sue Holden, Chief Officer of the Chilterns Conservation Board. *"The plan is for anyone who cares for this incredible place which is why we want to hear from as many people as possible, even if you only have time to tell us if you agree with the Vision on page 14"*

The Chilterns Management Plan 2019-2024 can be viewed, and comments submitted at:
<https://www.chilternsaonb.org/management-plan-review>

The consultation will close on 31st December 2018.

Once the consultation has closed all responses will be taken into consideration and used to shape the final Management Plan and supporting documentation. The Plan will be published in Spring 2019.

Notes to Editors

1. For further information and images contact Vicki Pearce at the Chilterns Conservation Board on 01844 355521 or ypearce@chilternsaonb.org
2. The Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) was designated in 1965, covers 833 sq kms (326 sq miles) stretching from Goring, in Oxfordshire, to near Hitchin, in Hertfordshire, has a resident population of 80,000 and 1.6 million people live within 8km.
3. The Conservation Board was set up following the passing of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act, 2000, to conserve and enhance the natural beauty and increase awareness and understanding of the Chilterns AONB. The Board, which also aims to foster the social and economic wellbeing of local communities, is supported by local authorities in the area.

For more information about the AONB or the Conservation Board, phone 01844 355500, email: office@chilternsaonb.org, website www.chilternsaonb.org