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Dear Nick Johannsen,

Consultation comments to Draft Kent Downs AONB Management Plan and supporting documents

Thank you for your consultation on the Draft Kent Downs AONB Management Plan and supporting documents, requiring Natural England's participation in the formal public consultation of the draft management plan and its supporting documents.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body established under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. Natural England's purpose, as outlined in the Act, is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development. The observations in this plan represent the formal views of Natural England in discharging its duties under S90.

Meeting the statutory requirements of Part IV CRoW Act 2000

Natural England considers that the plan meets the statutory requirement. That the constituent local authorities for the Kent Downs AONB and wider project area have, by acting jointly, produced a plan that formulates their policy for their AONB, and for the carrying out of their functions in relation to it.

Following the guidance for AONB Management Plans (CA23 and CA221)

In its current form, Natural England considers that the Plan has broadly followed the guidance contained in CA23 and CA221 and therefore represents a comprehensive strategy for the management of the AONB.

General comments

Natural England have previously sent comments in our letter dated 10th January 2020. It is extremely pleasing to see that these have clearly been carefully considered and that the majority have been accepted and incorporated.

In conclusion, Natural England recognises that the production of this final draft fully represents the success of the partnership and its work in the Kent Downs, and particularly the work of the staff unit. We congratulate and recognise the considerable work that has gone into this review.

We look forward to receiving copies of your published plan and to working with you and the AONB partnership during its implementation, review and monitoring stages.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if there are any points you wish to discuss further.

Yours sincerely

Amy Croombs
Sustainable Development – Sussex and Kent

