

Environmental Report
for the
Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal
of the
Kent Downs
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Management Plan 2020-2025

Appendices

February 2021

Final

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Appendix 1 Scoping Report consultation comments and commentary

November 2019

Question 1. Is the proposed scope of the Environmental Report appropriate to effectively assess the new Kent Downs AONB Management Plan?

Consultee	Consultee response	Commentary
Environment Agency	This is an update of the previous report, which we were content with. The proposed scope should be appropriate to effectively assess the new Management Plan.	Noted.
Historic England	Historic England is a statutory consultation body in relation to the SEA Directive in regard to any matters affecting the historic environment. We are content that the scoping report for North Kent Downs AONB Management Plan adequately covers the issues that may arise in respect of the potential effects of proposed development sites on the historic environment and heritage assets.	Noted.

Question 2. Are the data sources outlined in the environmental baseline appropriate to identify environmental trends?

Question 3. Please add to the list of data sources if you are able to do so.

Consultee	Consultee response	Commentary
Environment Agency	Climate change data is continually being updated. Marine data / marine strategy as required by Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD). Water Company Plans (Southern Water / South East Water / Affinity Water) including Drought Plans.	A revised and refined version of the environmental baseline will be provided within the Environmental Report, taking into account the comments received and also the accessibility of data sources and value in informing the monitoring of the Management Plan and SEA/SA recommendations.

Question 4. Are there any plans and policies that are not included in the Scoping Report that you think should be?

Consultee	Consultee response	Commentary
Environment Agency	<p>Challenges and Choices: Water Framework Directive (River Basin Management Plans). The Environment Agency is launching a consultation in October 2019 seeking views on the challenges our waters face and the choices we all need to make to improve or maintain this precious resource. The responses to this consultation will help shape the future approach to the management of the water environment and be used to update the existing river basin management plans in 2021.</p> <p>At the same time the Environment Agency will be consulting on emerging Flood Risk Management Plans. Co-ordination of these plans should result in a more cohesive, joined up 'systems' approach.</p>	Noted. Document amended to ensure that these developing plans will be taken account of through the life of the Management Plan.
London Borough of Bromley	Bromley Local Plan (2019)	Noted. Document amended.

Question 5. Do you have any queries about the issues that have been raised to be included in the Environmental Report?

Consultee	Consultee response	Commentary
Environment Agency	How do we address the 'unknown unknowns'? Climate change may introduce issues we have not yet thought of, for instance spread of non-native species, introduction of new diseases.	The Environmental Report is not capable of entirely future proofing for the 'unknown unknowns'. The draft Management Plan principles include reference to an 'evidence led' approach to climate change-related adaptations and mitigation, ensuring that 'unknown unknowns' will be taken account of.

Question 6. Are the chosen SEA and SA objectives fit for purpose?

Consultee	Consultee response	Commentary
Environment Agency	Objective E6 could include water quantity as well as quality.	Noted. Objective E6 amended.

Question 7. Any other comments?

Consultee	Consultee response	Commentary
Environment Agency	Pressure to improve telecom connectivity in rural areas may result in taller and / or more masts. Green energy – potential conflicts – eg solar farms / wind farms; even domestic scale generation eg PV.	These issues have been included in the 'Statement of Key Issues' section. The draft Management Plan principles include measures to take account of these issues.

Appendix 2 Review of Other Relevant Plans and Policies

Other plan, programme or policy	Objectives or requirements of the other plan, programme or policy	Relevance to Kent Downs AONB Management Plan
International		
Paris Agreement United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (2015)	<p>The Paris Agreement's central aim is to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by keeping the global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius.</p> <p>Additionally, the agreement aims to strengthen the ability of countries to deal with the impacts of climate change</p>	The AONB Management Plan supports the reduction of CO2 emissions within the AONB and opportunities for climate change adaptations.
Aichi Biodiversity Targets: CBD Strategic Plan 2011-2020 (2010) https://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/	In October 2010, at the 10th Conference of the Parties to the CBD in Nagoya, Japan, the Parties adopted a new 'Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020' along with its 20 'Aichi targets'. The latter set out 20 challenging targets under 5 strategic goals to stimulate " <i>effective and urgent action to halt the loss of biodiversity in order to ensure that by 2020 ecosystems are resilient and continue to provide essential services, thereby securing the planet's variety of life, and contributing to human well-being, and poverty eradication....</i> ".	The AONB Management Plan principles contribute to meeting the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.
The EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 (2011) https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/strategy/index_en.htm	<p>This strategy is aimed at halting the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services.</p> <p>The EU Biodiversity Strategy includes a new vision: "<i>By 2050, European Union biodiversity and the ecosystem services it provides – its natural capital – are protected, valued and appropriately restored for biodiversity's intrinsic value and for their essential contribution to human wellbeing and economic prosperity, and so that catastrophic changes caused by the loss of biodiversity are avoided</i>".</p> <p>Sets out EU strategy for compliance with Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and its global Strategic Plan for biodiversity 2011-2020 (Nagoya 2010), through six mutually supportive and inter-dependent targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conserving and restoring nature • maintaining and enhancing ecosystems and their services • ensuring the sustainability of agriculture, forestry and fisheries • combating invasive alien species <p>addressing the global biodiversity crisis</p>	The AONB Management Plan principles contribute to meeting these targets.

Other plan, programme or policy	Objectives or requirements of the other plan, programme or policy	Relevance to Kent Downs AONB Management Plan
<p>Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC) (2010) https://ec.europa.eu/environment/marine/eu-coast-and-marine-policy/marine-strategy-framework-directive/index_en.htm</p>	<p>Directive came into force on 15th July 2008 and was transposed into UK law via the Marine Strategy Regulations 2010. Aims to achieve Good Environmental Status in Europe's seas by 2020. Key requirements of the Directive are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An assessment of the current state of UK seas by July 2012 2. A set of detailed characteristics of Good Environmental Status means for UK waters, and associated targets and indicators by July 2012 <p>These initial 2 requirements have been completed and form the UK Marine Strategy Part One.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Establishment of a monitoring programme to measure progress toward Good Environmental Status by July 2014 4. Establishment of a programme of measures for achieving Good Environmental Status by 2016 <p>Closely linked with the Water Framework Directive and their application overlaps in estuaries and coast</p>	<p>The AONB Management Plan principles support measures which protect and enhance the coastal and estuarine habitats of the area.</p>
<p>The Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC) (2008) https://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/framework/</p>	<p>This Directive aims to create an integrated approach to waste management in order to reduce waste production. It requires all necessary measures to be taken to ensure that waste is recovered or disposed of without harming human health.</p>	<p>The aims of the Directive are supported in the AONB Management Plan.</p>
<p>European Landscape Convention (binding from 2007) https://www.coe.int/en/web/landscape/home</p>	<p>To promote landscape protection, management and planning and closer cooperation on landscape issues across Europe. Requirements include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i to establish and implement landscape policies aimed at landscape protection, management and planning ii to integrate landscape into regional and town planning policies and in cultural, environmental, agricultural, social and economic policies, as well as in any other policies with possible direct or indirect impact on landscape. <p>Landscapes must be identified, their characteristics analysed together with the forces and pressures affecting them and landscape quality objectives for those landscapes identified after public consultation.</p>	<p>The AONB Management Plan shows how a landscape approach, embracing both natural and cultural influences and the way people perceive them, is essential to the integrated delivery of a healthy natural environment that delivers the ecosystem goods and services that society needs.</p>
<p>EU Seventh Environmental Action Programme (2002-2012) https://ec.europa.eu/environment/action-programme/</p>	<p>Guiding European environment policy until 2020, it identifies three key objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. to protect, conserve and enhance the Union's natural capital 2. to turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green, and competitive low-carbon economy 3. to safeguard the Union's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and wellbeing 	<p>The AONB Management Plan principles contribute to meeting these objectives.</p>

Other plan, programme or policy	Objectives or requirements of the other plan, programme or policy	Relevance to Kent Downs AONB Management Plan
<p>The Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EC) (2001)</p> <p>https://ec.europa.eu/environment/eia/sea-legalcontext.htm</p>	<p>Aims to identify and mitigate significant environment effects arising from certain plans and programmes. Emphasis is placed on integrating environmental sustainability considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes.</p>	<p>The Directive requires that an SEA be carried out on the AONB Management Plan and an Environment Report produced.</p>
<p>Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)</p> <p>https://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/index_en.html</p>	<p>Aims to protect and improve the environmental condition of all waters, including rivers, lakes, groundwater, estuaries and coastal waters to 1 nautical mile. The framework for delivering the directive is through River Basin Management Planning.</p> <p>To achieve the purpose of the Directive of protecting all Water Bodies, Environmental Objectives have been set. These Environmental Objectives are reported for each water body in the River Basin Management Plan (RBMP). The achievement of the Environmental Objectives is dependent upon the current Ecological Status or Ecological Potential of the water body. First cycle of river basin management plans ran 2009-2015. Second cycle now underway. The plans describe in broad terms what measures are planned to integrate the following objectives:</p> <p>General protection of the aquatic ecology Specific protection for unique and valuable habitats, The protection of drinking water resources The protection of bathing water</p>	<p>The AONB Management Plan supports the delivery of the environmental objectives in the Thames and South East River Basin Management Plans, including measures which protect and enhance aquatic ecosystems, protect water resources, reduce pollution of groundwater and mitigate the effects of floods and droughts.</p>
<p>Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (1997)</p> <p>https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-kyoto-protocol/what-is-the-kyoto-protocol/kyoto-protocol-targets-for-the-first-commitment-period</p>	<p>The Protocol entered into force in February 2005. The aims are:</p> <p>To prevent interference with the climate system To allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change. Developed countries that have ratified the Protocol are committed to reducing their emissions of greenhouse gases.</p> <p>The UK has passed legislation to set a legally binding target of net zero emissions by 2050</p>	<p>The AONB Management Plan supports the reduction of CO2 emissions within the AONB and opportunities for climate change adaptations.</p>
<p>The Convention on Biological Diversity (1992) (precursor to Aichi targets)</p> <p>https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/convention-on-biological-diversity-cbd/</p>	<p>The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was adopted at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in June 1992. It has 3 main objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The conservation of biological diversity 2. The sustainable use of the components of biological diversity • 3. The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources 	<p>The AONB Management Plan principles contribute to meeting the CBD Objectives and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.</p>

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Agenda 21 (1992) https://www.un.org/esa/dsd/agenda21/	<p>A comprehensive plan of action in all areas of sustainable development adopted by more than 178 governments at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.</p> <p>It contains detailed proposals for action in social and economic areas and for conserving and managing the natural resources that are the basis for life — protecting the atmosphere, oceans and biodiversity; preventing deforestation; and promoting sustainable agriculture.</p>	<p>The AONB Management Plan contributes towards achieving the goal of sustainable development.</p>
EU Habitats Directive (92/42/EU) https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/habitatsdirective/index_en.htm	<p>The main aim is to promote the maintenance of biodiversity by requiring Member States to take measures to maintain or restore natural habitats and wild species at a favourable conservation status, introducing robust protection for those habitats and species of European importance. It requires Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) to be identified which form a network of protected areas called Natura 2000 along with SPAs.</p>	<p>The AONB Management Plan supports protection measures for SACs and encourages their maintenance and protection.</p>
National		
National Planning Policy Framework (2019) https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2	<p>Replacing previous planning policy guidance and statements, the NPPF aims to ensure sustainable development.</p>	<p>The NPPF gives ‘great weight’ to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in AONBs.</p>
A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment (2018)	<p>The Government’s 25 Year Environment Plan, setting out actions that aim to help the natural world regain and retain good health. 25 year goals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clean air 2. Clean and plentiful water 3. Thriving plants and wildlife 4. A reduced risk of harm from environmental hazards such as flooding and drought 5. Using resources from nature more sustainably and efficiently 6. Enhanced beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment <p>In addition, pressures on the environment will be managed by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. mitigating and adapting to climate change 2. Minimising waste 3. Managing exposure to chemicals 4. Enhancing biosecurity 	<p>The AONB Management Plan references the 25 Year Environment Plan and the principles contribute to meeting the objectives.</p>

Other plan, programme or policy	Objectives or requirements of the other plan, programme or policy	Relevance to Kent Downs AONB Management Plan
<p>Our Waste, Our Resources: A Strategy for England (2018) https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/resources-and-waste-strategy-for-england</p>	<p>Strategy setting out how England will preserve material resources by minimising waste, promoting resource efficiency and moving towards a circular economy. The Strategy will contribute to the delivery of five strategic ambitions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To work towards all plastic packaging placed on the market being recyclable, reusable or compostable by 2025; 2. To work towards eliminating food waste to landfill by 2030; 3. To eliminate avoidable plastic waste over the lifetime of the 25 Year Environment Plan; 4. To double resource productivity¹⁶ by 2050; and 5. To eliminate avoidable waste of all kinds by 2050 	<p>The AONB Management Plan supports the ambitions of the strategy</p>
<p>Creating a better place, Our ambition to 2020 (EA) (updated 2018)</p>	<p>3 objectives for 2016 – 2020</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A cleaner, healthier environment which benefits people and the economy 2. A nation better protected against natural threats and hazards, with strong response and recovery capabilities 3. Higher visibility, stronger partnerships and local choices 	<p>The AONB Management Plan principles contribute to these objectives</p>
<p>The National Adaptation Programme and the Third Strategy for Climate Adaptation Reporting, Making the country resilient to a changing climate (2018) https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/727252/national-adaptation-programme-2018.pdf</p>	<p>Report focuses on the key actions that will be taken over the next five years to strengthen UK resilience to climate change. Key actions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • introduce a new Environmental Land Management scheme which will deliver environmental outcomes; • develop and start to implement a Nature Recovery Network, linking habitat restoration and creation to improved access, flood protection and water quality; • incentivise good soil management practices that enhance soil's ability to deliver environmental benefits through future environmental land management schemes; • introduce a sustainable fisheries policy as we leave the Common Fisheries Policy and prepare marine plans that include policies for climate adaptation; • build ecological resilience on land, in our rivers and lakes and at sea; and • protect soils and natural carbon stores. • Manage existing plant and animal diseases and lower the risk of new ones; and • tackle invasive non-native species. 	<p>The AONB Management Plan principles contribute to the delivery of these actions.</p>

Other plan, programme or policy	Objectives or requirements of the other plan, programme or policy	Relevance to Kent Downs AONB Management Plan
UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (2017) https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-climate-change-risk-assessment-2017	The key climate change risks and opportunities that the UK faces. Six priority risk areas identified: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • from flooding and coastal change • to health and well-being from high temperatures • due to water shortages • to natural capital • to food production and trade from pests and diseases and invasive non-native species	The AONB Management Plan identifies climate change risks and opportunities and the principles contribute to adaptation to and mitigation of the impacts of climate change.
The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017) http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2017/1012/contents/made	Regulations provide for the designation and protection of 'European sites', the protection of 'European protected species' Under the Regulations, competent authorities i.e. any Minister, government department, public body, or person holding public office, have a general duty, in the exercise of any of their functions, to have regard to the EC Habitats Directive.	In accordance with the Regulations, an Appropriate Assessment will be carried out on the AONB Management Plan.
Conservation 21, Natural England's Conservation Strategy for the 21st Century (2016) https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/562046/conservation-21.pdf	Strategy is based on three guiding principles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • creating resilient landscapes and seas • putting people at the heart of the environment • growing natural capital 	The AONB Management Plan supports the delivery of this strategy.
National Pollinator Strategy: for bees and other pollinators in England (2014) https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-pollinator-strategy-for-bees-and-other-pollinators-in-england	This is a ten-year strategy to protect pollinating insects which support food production and contribute to biodiversity. Aims to deliver across five key areas: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Supporting pollinators on farmland 2. Supporting pollinators across towns, cities and the countryside 3. Enhancing the response to pest and disease risks 4. Raising awareness of what pollinators need to survive and thrive. 5. Improving evidence on the status of pollinators and the service they provide 	The AONB Management Plan supports the delivery of this strategy and aims to conserve, enhance and improve the resilience of this ecosystem service.
Government Forestry and Woodland Policy Statement (2013) https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/government-forestry-policy-statement	Key objectives; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Protecting the nation's trees, woodlands and forests from increasing threats such as pests, diseases and climate change 2. Improving their resilience to these threats and their contribution to economic growth, people's lives and nature 3. Expanding them to increase further their economic, social and environmental value 	The AONB Management Plan supports the delivery of these objectives, where this is compatible with AONB purpose.

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<p>UK Marine Policy Statement (2011) https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69322/pb3654-marine-policy-statement-110316.pdf</p>	<p>Framework for preparing Marine Plans and taking decisions affecting the marine environment.</p> <p>The MPS supports the formulation of Marine Plans, ensuring that marine resources are used in a sustainable way in line with the high-level marine objectives and will thereby:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote sustainable economic development; • Enable the UK's move towards a low-carbon economy, in order to mitigate the causes of climate change and ocean acidification and adapt to their effects; • Ensure a sustainable marine environment which promotes healthy, functioning marine ecosystems and protects marine habitats, species and our heritage assets; • Contribute to the societal benefits of the marine area, including the sustainable use of marine resources to address local social and economic issues. 	<p>The AONB Management Plan supports a sustainable marine environment through engagement in the Marine Plan making process.</p>
<p>Safeguarding our Soils – A Strategy for England (2011) https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-our-soils-a-strategy-for-england</p>	<p>Sets out the vision that by 2030, all England's soils will be managed sustainably, and degradation threats tackled successfully. Main areas prioritised for tackling degradation threats are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Better protection for agricultural soils 2. Protecting and enhancing stores of soil carbon 3. Building the resilience of soils to a changing climate 4. Preventing soil pollution 5. Effective soil protection during construction and development 6. Dealing with our legacy of contaminated land 	<p>The AONB Management Plan principles contribute to addressing degradation threats.</p>
<p>Localism Act (2011) http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/20/contents</p>	<p>The Localism Act 2011 outlines the key measures that underpin the government's approach to decentralisation. It includes the following provisions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. decentralisation and strengthening local democracy 2. community empowerment 3. neighbourhood planning <p>In addition to Neighbourhood Planning, a process that gives communities the power to influence change within their local area, parishes and local communities can influence change through a variety of mechanisms such as Village Design Statements, and Parish and Town Plans.</p>	<p>Localism is embedded in the AONB Management Plan as one of the secondary purposes of AONB designation is to take account of the economic and social needs of local communities.</p> <p>The AONB Management Plan and its principles provide opportunities for working with and alongside communities.</p>

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Government Tourism Policy (DCMS) (2011) https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tourism-strategy	Sets out Government plans to help tourism achieve its potential as a central part of Britain's growth strategy. Government aims are to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use marketing to attract visitors to the UK; • Increase the proportion of UK residents who holiday in the UK to match those who holiday abroad each year. • Improve the sector's productivity to become one of the top 5 most efficient and competitive visitor economies in the world. 	The AONB Management Plan supports development of sustainable tourism.
Planning and the Historic Environment: Practice Guide (2010)	Guidance on recognising and appropriate means by which to consider heritage assets in the planning system.	The AONB Management Plan addresses the need to protect and enhance the historic environment of the AONB.
UK Geodiversity Action Plan (2009) http://www.ukgap.org.uk/	A framework for enhancing the importance and role of geodiversity across the UK. Targets are set out under six themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Furthering our understanding of geodiversity; • Influencing planning policy, legislation and development design; • Gathering and maintaining geodiversity information; • Conserving and managing our geodiversity; • Inspiring people to value and care for geodiversity; • Sustaining resources for our geodiversity. 	The AONB Management Plan supports the delivery of GAP targets.
Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009)	Seeks to improve management and increase protection of the marine environment and improve recreational access to England's coasts.	The AONB Management Plan supports a sustainable marine and coastal environment by promoting conservation and enhancement of landscape and special characteristics and through engagement in the Marine Plan making process.

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<p>The Invasive Non-Native Species Framework Strategy for Great Britain, (2008) http://www.nonnativespecies.org/index.cfm?sectionid=55</p>	<p>Aims to minimise the risk posed, and reduce the negative impacts caused by invasive non-native species in Great Britain. Key aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To minimise the risk of invasive non-native species entering and becoming established in GB; • To develop effective mechanisms for detection, surveillance, monitoring and responding to any invasive threats posed by non-native species. • To minimise and manage the negative impact of established invasive non-native species in a cost effective manner • To raise awareness of invasive non-native species issues • To ensure that the legislative framework in GB for addressing invasive non-native species issues is coherent, comprehensive, fit for purpose and 'proportionate'. • To encourage a more strategic and coherent research stream to underpin GB invasive non-native species policy and action. • To ensure the GB non-native species mechanism keeps up to date with domestic and international developments 	<p>The AONB Management Plan supports the aims of the strategy and recognises the risk of invasive non-native species.</p>
<p>Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006)</p>	<p>Establishes 'Biodiversity Duty' for all public authorities in the exercise of their functions. Requires the Secretary of State to publish a list of habitats and species of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity (section 41 list)</p>	<p>The Management Plan supports the objectives and requirements.</p>
<p>Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000)</p>	<p>Confirmation of the role of AONBs, statutory production of AONB Management Plans and improved countryside access.</p>	<p>Required under the CROW Act, the AONB Management Plan acts as a guide for the local authorities, statutory agencies and the people who live and work in the area.</p>
<p>Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended) (1981)</p>	<p>Principal legislative mechanism for the protection of wildlife in Great Britain. Protects specific species and Sites of Special Scientific Interest.</p>	<p>The AONB Management Plan highlights the presence of SSSIs and supports their maintenance and protection, along with that of protected species present in the AONB.</p>
<p>Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979)</p>	<p>Concerned with the protection of archaeological sites/ancient monuments in England. The Act enables a schedule to be maintained of nationally important sites. The Schedule lists the buildings and ancient monuments which are protected by law. In order to carry out works to these monuments, the consent of the Secretary of State is required.</p>	<p>The AONB Management Plan acknowledges the presence of Scheduled Monuments within the AONB</p>
<p>Local</p>		

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South East Marine Plan (Consultation draft 2020)	The plan will help to enhance and protect the marine environment and achieve sustainable economic growth, whilst respecting local communities both within and adjacent to the marine plan area.	The KDAONB Management Plan supports the draft plan policies: the most relevant policies relate to landscapes, seascapes and biodiversity.
Transport for South East Transport Strategy (Draft for consultation October 2019)	The strategic goals, aligned to the pillars of sustainability, are: Economy: improve productivity and attract investment to grow our economy and better compete in the global marketplace. Society: improve health, safety, wellbeing, quality of life, and access to opportunities for everyone. Environment: protect and enhance the South East's unique natural and historic environment.	The KDAONB Management Plan supports the sustainability objectives of the strategy.
Kent Environment Strategy (2016) and Implementation Plan	The strategy presents the high-level priorities for Kent in terms of environment and related health and economic outcomes. The delivery of those priorities will be met through the implementation plan and the actions and activities detailed within it, aiming to ensure that Kent's environment is enhanced and protected in its own right as well as for the services it provides for our economy, resilience, health and wellbeing.	The KDAONB Management Plan supports the KES priorities.
Thames River Basin Management Plan (EA) (2015) https://www.gov.uk/government/collect/ions/river-basin-management-plans-2015 Updated plan to be consulted on in 2020.	Prepared under the Water Framework Directive, a strategic plan for the long term management of the Thames river basin, Sets out the: current state of the water environment; pressures affecting the water environment; environmental objectives for protecting and improving the waters; programme of measures, actions needed to achieve the objectives; progress since the 2009 plan	The KDAONB Management Plan recognises and supports the delivery of actions to meet plan objectives, including measures which protect and enhance aquatic ecosystems, protect water resources, reduce pollution of groundwater and mitigate the effects of floods and droughts.
Thames River Basin District Flood Risk Management Plan 2015-21 (EA) (2015) https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/thames-river-basin-district-flood-risk-management-plan Updated plan to be consulted on in 2020	Explains the risk of flooding from rivers, the sea, surface water, groundwater and reservoirs. Sets out how risk management authorities will work with communities to manage flood and coastal risk over the period 2015 – 2021	The KDAONB Management Plan identifies the risk of flooding and supports the objectives of the Flood Risk Management Plan where relevant.

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<p>South East River Basin Management Plan (EA) (2015) https://www.gov.uk/government/collect/ions/river-basin-management-plans-2015</p> <p>Updated plan to be consulted on in 2020.</p>	<p>Strategic plan for the long term management of the South East River Basin. Sets out the: current state of the water environment; pressures affecting the water environment; environmental objectives for protecting and improving the waters; programme of measures, actions needed to achieve the objectives; progress since the 2009 plan.</p>	<p>The KDAONB Management Plan recognises and supports the delivery of actions to meet plan objectives, including measures which protect and enhance aquatic ecosystems, protect water resources, reduce pollution of groundwater and mitigate the effects of floods and droughts.</p>
<p>South East River Basin District Flood Risk Management Plan 2015-21 (EA) (2015) https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/south-east-river-basin-district-flood-risk-management-plan</p> <p>Updated plan to be consulted on in 2020.</p>	<p>Explains the risk of flooding from rivers, the sea, surface water, groundwater and reservoirs. Sets out how risk management authorities will work with communities to manage flood and coastal risk over the period 2015 – 2021.</p>	<p>The KDAONB Management Plan identifies the risk of flooding and supports the objectives of the Flood Risk Management Plan where relevant.</p>

Other plan, programme or policy	Objectives or requirements of the other plan, programme or policy	Relevance to Kent Downs AONB Management Plan
<p>Catchment Flood Management Plans (EA) (2009)</p> <p>Stour https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/293884/Stour_Catchment_Flood_Management_Plan.pdf</p> <p>Medway https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/293890/Medway_Catchment_Flood_Management_Plan.pdf</p> <p>North Kent Rivers: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/293893/North_Kent_rivers_Catchment_Flood_Management_Plan.pdf</p>	<p>CFMPs aim to promote more sustainable approaches to managing flood risk. The policies identified in the CFMP will be delivered through a combination of different approaches and should be used to inform planning and decision making.</p>	<p>The KDAONB Management Plan supports the aims of the CFMPs.</p>
<p>National Character Area profiles (2014)</p>	<p>North Downs (119)</p> <p>Statements of Environmental Opportunity:</p> <p>SEO 1: Manage, conserve and enhance the distinctive rural character and historic environment of the North Downs, including the long-established settlement pattern, ancient routeways and traditional buildings. Protect the tranquillity of the landscape and sensitively manage, promote and celebrate the area's rich cultural and natural heritage, famous landmarks and views for future generations.</p> <p>SEO 2: Protect, enhance and restore active management to the diverse range of woodlands and trees of the North Downs, for their internationally and nationally important habitats and species, cultural heritage and recreational value and to help to deliver climate change mitigation and adaptation. Seek opportunities to establish local markets for timber and biomass to support the active management of local woods, while recognising the contribution to sense of place, sense of history and</p>	<p>The Statements of Environmental Opportunity have been taken into account when developing Management Plan Principles</p>

Other plan, programme or policy	Objectives or requirements of the other plan, programme or policy	Relevance to Kent Downs AONB Management Plan
	<p>tranquillity.</p> <p>SEO 3: Manage and enhance the productive mixed farming landscape of the North Downs and the mosaic of semi-natural habitats including the internationally important chalk grassland. Promote sustainable agricultural practices to benefit soils, water resources, climate regulation, biodiversity, geodiversity and landscape character while maintaining food provision.</p> <p>SEO 4: Plan to deliver integrated, well-managed multi-functional green space in existing and developing urban areas, providing social, economic and environmental benefits and reinforcing landscape character and local distinctiveness, particularly on or alongside the boundaries of the designated landscapes within the North Downs.</p> <p>Additional Opportunities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conserve and enhance important geological sites and exposures of international importance, inland and along the coastline, including the White Cliffs of Dover, in order to maintain and enhance their geodiversity and biodiversity interest, cultural significance and sense of place. 2. Protect the important water resources of the NCA, including the North Downs chalk aquifer, rivers and associated wetlands, to safeguard the quality and quantity of public, private and agricultural water supplies and to bring about benefits for biodiversity, water quality and regulation of flooding. <p>Wealden Greensand (120)</p> <p>Statements of Environmental Opportunity:</p> <p>SEO 1: Protect and manage the nationally recognised and distinctive character of the landscape, conserving and enhancing historic landscape character, tranquillity, sense of place, and the rich historical and geological heritage of the Wealden Greensand. Enhance access provision where appropriate, to maintain public benefit from and enjoyment of the area.</p> <p>SEO 2: Protect, manage and significantly enhance the mosaic and connectivity of semi-natural habitats within the mixed farmed landscape – particularly the internationally important woodland and heathland habitats – for the benefit of biodiversity, pollination, soil and water regulation, landscape character and</p>	

Other plan, programme or policy	Objectives or requirements of the other plan, programme or policy	Relevance to Kent Downs AONB Management Plan
	<p>enhanced adaptation to climate change.</p> <p>SEO 3: Manage and significantly enhance the quality of the characteristic wetland and water environment of the Greensand. This will contribute to sustainable flood risk management, will benefit the regulation of water quality and water availability, as well as enhancing the sense of place, biodiversity, recreation and wetland habitat adaptation to climate change.</p> <p>SEO 4: Plan to deliver a network of integrated, well managed green spaces in existing and developing urban areas, providing social, economic and environmental benefits, and reinforcing landscape character and local distinctiveness – particularly on or alongside the boundaries of the designated landscapes within the Wealden Greensand.</p> <p>Romney Marshes (123) Statements of Environmental Opportunity:</p> <p>SEO 1: Maintain and enhance the distinctive character of the remote, open, low-lying Romney Marshes landscape, including the wealth of heritage assets and the settlement character; recognise the value they provide in contributing to the understanding of the landscape and its history, local distinctiveness and sense of place; and promote knowledge and understanding of these important resources for their recreation, health and socio-economic benefits.</p> <p>SEO 2: Maintain and enhance the coastal environment, including the internationally important shingle foreland at Dungeness, taking account of the dynamic nature of the coastal systems and future impacts of climate change, including flood risk management, while providing access, recreation and tourism opportunities that are sensitive to the character, habitats and species of the coastal zone.</p> <p>SEO 3: Manage and enhance the distinctive agricultural landscape to secure viable and sustainable farming, while protecting heritage assets, managing soils and water resources and supporting the diversity of species that are dependent on this area. Enhance biodiversity through improved connectivity of semi-natural habitats and by creating ecological networks that are resilient to environmental change.</p> <p>SEO 4: Protect the important water resources, including the Denge gravel aquifer, the River Rother, Brede Valley and the extensive ditch network with its associated</p>	

Other plan, programme or policy	Objectives or requirements of the other plan, programme or policy	Relevance to Kent Downs AONB Management Plan
	<p>wetlands; and manage the resources to bring about benefits for biodiversity, water quality and regulation of flooding, while safeguarding the quality and quantity of water supplies and utilising the open water network for appropriate access and recreational opportunities</p> <p>Additional opportunity:</p> <p>1. Appropriately manage opportunities for access, outdoor recreation, education and tourism that are compatible with the special wildlife and geomorphological interests of the NCA and improve the health, wellbeing and enjoyment of the Romney Marshes for locals and visitors, raising awareness of the important contribution that the landscape and its services can bring to the local economy.</p>	
Kent Biodiversity Strategy (draft consultation 2019)	The Kent Biodiversity Strategy sets out the contribution the county of Kent, and the Kent Nature Partnership, can make to the Government's ambition to leave the environment in a better state than we found it and the aspirations set out in its 25 Year Environment Plan "A Green Future".	The KDAONB Management Plan supports the protection and enhancement of biodiversity within the AONB.
Parish/neighbourhood plans: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wye (adopted) • Lenham (emerging) • Charing (emerging) • Boughton Aluph with Eastwell (emerging) • Bridge (emerging) • Vigo (emerging) 	Under the Localism Act 2011, local communities can prepare neighbourhood plans to establish general planning policies for the development and use of land in a neighbourhood.	The KDAONB Management Plan promotes engagement with and between communities, helping them to identify local issues and develop innovative solutions, whilst conserving and enhancing the special qualities of the local natural and built environment.
Local Authority Local Plan / Local Development Frameworks		

Other plan, programme or policy	Objectives or requirements of the other plan, programme or policy	Relevance to Kent Downs AONB Management Plan
<p>*Ashford Borough Council – Local Plan (2019)</p>	<p>Strategic plan setting out development allocations and policies. Policy ENV3b – Landscape Character and Design in the AONBs <i>The Council shall have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the Kent Downs and High Weald AONBs. Major development proposals within the AONBs will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances and where it is demonstrated they are in the public interest. All proposals within or affecting the setting of AONBs will also only be permitted under the following circumstances:</i> <i>The location, form, scale, materials and design would conserve and where appropriate enhance or restore the character of the landscape.</i> <i>The development would enhance the special qualities, distinctive character and tranquillity of the AONB.</i> <i>The development has regard to the relevant AONB management plan and any associated guidance.</i> <i>The development demonstrates particular regard to those characteristics outlined in Policy ENV3a, proportionate to the high landscape significance of the AONB.</i></p>	<p>The Local Plan is applicable within the AONB.</p>
<p>*Bromley Council – Local Plan (2019)</p>	<p>Strategic plan setting out development allocations and policies. Policy 76 “<i>The Council will protect, conserve and enhance the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and its setting, from development considered to have a detrimental impact on the landscape of the area</i>”</p>	<p>The Local Plan is applicable within the AONB.</p>

Other plan, programme or policy	Objectives or requirements of the other plan, programme or policy	Relevance to Kent Downs AONB Management Plan
<p>*Canterbury City Council – Canterbury District Local Plan (2017)</p>	<p>Strategic plan setting out development allocations and policies. Policy LB1 Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty <i>High priority will be given to conservation and enhancement of natural beauty in the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and planning decisions should have regard to its setting. Major developments and proposals which conflict with the objective to conserve and enhance the AONB, or that endanger tranquillity, will not be permitted except in exceptional circumstances where it is demonstrated to be in the public interest, the need is shown and any detrimental effect is moderated or mitigated. In considering proposals for development within the AONB, the emphasis should be on proposals that are sustainably and appropriately located and designed to enhance the character of the AONB. The City Council will grant proposals which support the economy and social well being of the AONB and its communities, including affordable housing schemes, provided that they do not conflict with the aim of conserving and enhancing natural beauty by addressing location, scale, form, high quality design, materials and mitigation and have regard to the advice set out in the Kent Downs AONB Management Plan, and its supporting guidance. Proposals will be encouraged where they facilitate the delivery of the statutory Kent Downs AONB Management Plan and are desirable for the understanding and enjoyment of the area.</i></p>	<p>The Local Plan is applicable within the AONB.</p>
<p>*Dover District Council – Core Strategy (2010)</p> <p>New Plan in progress</p>	<p>Strategic plan setting out development allocations and policies. Development Management Policy DM16: “Landscape Character. <i>Development that would harm the character of the landscape, as identified through the process of landscape character assessment will only be permitted if:</i> <i>i. It is in accordance with allocations made in Development Plan Documents and incorporates any necessary avoidance and mitigation measures; or</i> <i>ii. It can be sited to avoid or reduce the harm and/or incorporate design measures to mitigate the impacts to an acceptable level.”</i></p>	<p>The Core Strategy is applicable within the AONB.</p>

* Main development plan documents listed

Other plan, programme or policy	Objectives or requirements of the other plan, programme or policy	Relevance to Kent Downs AONB Management Plan
<p>* Folkestone & Hythe District Council – Core Strategy (2013)</p>	<p>Strategic plan setting out development allocations and policies. Policy SS1 District Spatial Strategy</p> <p>...</p> <p><i>The future spatial priority for new development in the North Downs area is on accommodating development outside of the AONB and without material impact on its setting; consolidating Hawkinge's growth; and sensitively meeting the needs of communities within the AONB at better-served settlements.</i></p> <p>Policy CSD4 Green Infrastructure of Natural Networks, Open Spaces and Recreation</p> <p>...</p> <p><i>e. Planning decisions will have close regard to the need for conservation and enhancement of natural beauty in the AONB and its setting, which will take priority over other planning considerations. Elsewhere development must not jeopardise the protection and enhancement of the distinctive and diverse local landscapes in Shepway (especially where these support the setting of the AONB), and must reflect the need for attractive and high-quality open spaces throughout the district.</i></p>	<p>The Core Strategy is applicable within the AONB.</p>
<p>*Gravesham Borough Council – Local Plan Core Strategy (2014)</p>	<p>Strategic plan setting out development allocations and policies. Policy CS12: Green Infrastructure</p> <p>...</p> <p><i>5.7.26 The overall landscape character and valued landscapes will be conserved, restored and enhanced. The greatest weight will be given to the conservation and enhancement of the landscape and natural beauty of the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and its setting. Proposals will take account of the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan, the Gravesham Landscape Character Assessment, and the Cluster Studies where relevant.</i></p>	<p>The Local Plan Core Strategy is applicable within the AONB.</p>

Other plan, programme or policy	Objectives or requirements of the other plan, programme or policy	Relevance to Kent Downs AONB Management Plan
<p>*Kent County Council – Minerals and Waste Local Plan (2016)</p>	<p>Strategic plans for mineral provision and waste management, including development management policies for evaluation of mineral and waste planning applications, and strategic site provision for minerals and waste management facilities. Policy DM2 ... <i>2.1 Designated Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)(107) have the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty. Regard must be had to the purpose of the designation when exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect land, in an AONB. For the purposes of this policy, such functions include the determination of planning applications and the allocation of sites in a development plan.</i></p> <p><i>Planning permission for major minerals and waste development in a designated AONB will be refused except in exceptional circumstances and where it can be demonstrated that it is in public interest. In relation to other minerals or waste proposals in an AONB, great weight will be given to conserving its landscape and scenic beauty. Proposals outside, but within the setting of an AONB will be considered having regard to the effect on the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the AONB.</i></p> <p><i>Consideration of such applications will assess;</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a. the need for the development, including in terms of any national considerations and the impact of granting, or refusing, the proposal upon the local economy</i> <i>b. the cost of, and scope for developing elsewhere outside the designated area, or meeting the need in some other way</i> <i>c. any detrimental impact on the environment, the landscape and recreational opportunities, and the extent to which the impact could be moderated taking account of the relevant AONB Management Plan.</i> <p><i>Sites put forward for allocation for minerals or waste development in the Minerals Site Plan or the Waste Sites Plan will be considered having regard to the above tests. Those that appear to the Minerals and Waste Planning Authority to be unlikely to meet the relevant test(s) will not be allocated.</i></p> <p>Specific provision regarding AONB in: Policy CSM4 - Medway Cement Works, Holborough; Policy CSW6 (built waste management facilities)</p>	<p>The Local Plan is applicable within the AONB.</p>

Other plan, programme or policy	Objectives or requirements of the other plan, programme or policy	Relevance to Kent Downs AONB Management Plan
<p>*Maidstone Borough Council – Local Plan (2017)</p>	<p>Strategic plan setting out development allocations and policies. Policy SP 17 The Countryside</p> <p>...</p> <p><i>3. Great weight should be given to the conservation and enhancement of the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.</i></p> <p><i>4. Proposals should not have a significant adverse impact on the settings of the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty or the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.</i></p> <p>...</p> <p><i>Account should be taken of the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan and the Maidstone Borough Landscape Character Guidelines Supplementary Planning Document.</i></p>	<p>The Local Plan is applicable within the AONB.</p>
<p>*Medway Council – Local Plan – saved policies (2003) Updated plan emerging</p>	<p>Strategic plan setting out development allocations and policies. Saved Policy BNE32:</p> <p><i>“Development within the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, as defined on the proposals map, will only be permitted when it conserves the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area.</i></p> <p><i>Major development will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances and will be considered against the following criteria:-</i></p> <p><i>(i) The national need;</i></p> <p><i>(ii) Impact on the local economy,</i></p> <p><i>(iii) The cost and availability of alternative sites or other means of meeting the need,</i></p> <p><i>(iv) Any detrimental impact on the environment or landscape,</i></p> <p><i>(v) The environmental standard of the proposed construction or restoration.”</i></p>	<p>The Local Plan is applicable within the AONB.</p>

♦ Main development plan documents listed

Other plan, programme or policy	Objectives or requirements of the other plan, programme or policy	Relevance to Kent Downs AONB Management Plan
<p>♦Sevenoaks District Council – Core Strategy (2011)</p>	<p>Strategic plan setting out development allocations and policies. Core Strategy Policy LO8: “...<i>The countryside will be conserved and the distinctive features that contribute to the special character of its landscape and its biodiversity will be protected and enhanced where possible. The distinctive character of the Kent Downs and High Weald Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and their settings will be conserved and enhanced. ...Development that supports the maintenance and diversification of the rural economy, including development for agriculture, forestry, small scale business development and rural tourism projects, and the vitality of local communities will be supported provided it is compatible with policies for protecting the Green Belt, the Kent Downs and High Weald Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty conserves and enhances the value and character of the District’s woodland and the landscape character of other rural parts of the District and that it takes account of infrastructure requirements.</i>”</p>	<p>The Core Strategy is applicable within the AONB.</p>
<p>*Swale Borough Council – Local Plan (2017)</p>	<p>Strategic plan setting out development allocations and policies. Policy ST 7 The Faversham area and Kent Downs strategy ... <i>Development proposals will, as appropriate:</i> ... <i>5. Provide appropriate employment opportunities within the rural area, especially where creating supply or production links with Faversham or supporting the character of the AONB and its economy;</i> ... <i>12. Ensure the landscape qualities and distinctive features of the Kent Downs AONB remain valued, secure and strengthened, alongside the local landscape designations within and around the North Kent Marshes, The Blean and North Downs. Improve the condition and quality of landscapes in the area, especially those in poor condition and ensure that development is appropriate to landscape character and quality, especially within areas with low or moderate capacity to accommodate change...</i></p> <p>Policy DM 24 Conserving and enhancing valued landscapes ... <i>1. The Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is a nationally</i></p>	<p>The Local Plan is applicable within the AONB.</p>

♦ Main development plan documents listed

Other plan, programme or policy	Objectives or requirements of the other plan, programme or policy	Relevance to Kent Downs AONB Management Plan
	<p><i>designated site and as such permission for major developments should be refused unless exceptional circumstances prevail as defined by national planning policy. Planning permission for any proposal within the AONB will only be granted subject to it:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. conserving and enhancing the special qualities and distinctive character of the AONB in accordance with national planning policy;</i> <i>2. furthering the delivery of the AONB's Management Plan, having regard to its supporting guidance documents;</i> <i>3. minimising the impact of individual proposals and their cumulative effect on the AONB and its setting, mitigating any detrimental effects, including, where appropriate, improving any damaged landscapes relating to the proposal; and 4. being appropriate to the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the area or being desirable for the understanding and enjoyment of the area.</i> <p>Policy DM 30 Enabling development for landscape and biodiversity enhancement <i>Exceptionally, enabling development will be permitted for proposals that contravene planning policies for the protection of the countryside, when it is:</i></p> <p>...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>4. In the Kent Downs AONB, and is in accordance with its Management Plan and guidance;</i> 	
<p>♦Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council – Core Strategy (2007) Updated plan emerging</p>	<p>Strategic plan setting out development allocations and policies. Core Strategy Policy CP7: <i>“Development will not be proposed in the LDF, or otherwise permitted, which would be detrimental to the natural beauty and quiet enjoyment of the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, including their landscape, wildlife and geological interest, other than in the exceptional circumstances of:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>(a) major development that is demonstrably in the national interest and where there are no alternative sites available or the need cannot be met in any other way; or</i> <i>(b) any other development that is essential to meet local social or economic needs. Any such development must have regard to local distinctiveness and landscape character, and use sympathetic materials and appropriate design.”</i> 	<p>The Core Strategy is applicable within the AONB.</p>

♦ Main development plan documents listed

Appendix 3 Environmental Baseline

Special characteristics and qualities	Link to environmental and sustainability objective(s)	Relevant information and/or data to inform the current condition of the AONB	Potential data sources
Sustainable Development (Overarching Theme)	E1, E2, E3, E4, E5, E6, E7, E8, E9, E10, S1, S2, S3, S4, S5, S6, S7, S8, S9.	Number and spatial distribution of planning applications in AONB	Planning portal
		Number and spatial distribution of planning applications commented on by KDAONB Unit	KDAONB Unit
		Number and spatial distribution of planning applications objected to by KDAONB Unit	KDAONB Unit
		LPA awareness, recognition and understanding of KDAONB Management Plan and ancillary guidance	KDAONB Unit
		Number and types of departures from local plan	
Landform and landscape character	E1, E2, E4, E5, E6, E7, E8, E9, E10, S1, S2, S5, S7, S8, S9.	5 yearly fixed-point photography monitoring of key views and viewsheds	KDAONB Unit
		Kent Downs landscape character area review	KDAONB Unit, local authority partnership. New/updated Landscape Character Assessment to be published and consulted on at the same time as the Management Plan
		Uptake of environmental stewardship options that contribute to good condition of landscape and/or landscape character	Natural England
		Environmental stewardship scheme uptake, management options and delivery outcomes	Natural England
		Expert opinion debates	Kent based experts contribute the key current issues through a structured round table debate
Biodiversity	E1, E2, E4, E5, E6, E7, E10, S2, S5, S6, S7, S8, S9.	Biodiversity Action Plan habitat data – extent, changes.	Natural England, Kent Nature Partnership, Kent Habitat Survey (1994, 2003, 2012)
		The area of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) in favourable or recovering condition	Natural England

Special characteristics and qualities	Link to environmental and sustainability objective(s)	Relevant information and/or data to inform the current condition of the AONB	Potential data sources
		Local Wildlife Sites	Kent Nature Partnership, Kent Wildlife Trust
		Other habitat data	Kent Habitat Survey (1994, 2003, 2012)
		Species data (particularly BAP species) – presence, distribution and trends	Kent & Medway Biological Records Centre, specific species recording groups
		Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment	Natural England
Farmed landscape	E1, E2, E5, E6, E7, E8, E9, E10, S1, S2, S6, S7, S8, S9.	Average annual values of agri-environment agreements	Natural England
		The uptake of 6 themed groups of ES options that contribute to conserving and enhancing landscape character.	Natural England (Protected landscape data – most recent available update 2017)
		The area managed under agri-environment agreements (CSS, ESA, ES)	Natural England
		Farm holdings – number and mean size	Defra – 2016/17. Next update expected for 2020
		Area of land in registered agricultural use	Defra – 2016/17. Next update expected for 2020
		Agricultural land use (Land cover change) / dominant farming types	Defra – 2016/17. Next update expected for 2020
		Levels of polytunnel use / area under glass or plastic	KD AONB – update using aerial photographs
		Woodlands and trees	E1, E2, E4, E5, E7, E8, E9, E10, S1, S2, S4, S5, S6, S7, S8, S9.
Area of woodland in management for public benefit	Forestry Commission (grant scheme take-up)		
Ancient Woodland cover	Natural England		
Historic and cultural heritage	E8, E9, E10, S1, S2, S7, S8, S9	Number of heritage assets, including the number of listed buildings (including grade II listed) and structural	Historic England

Special characteristics and qualities	Link to environmental and sustainability objective(s)	Relevant information and/or data to inform the current condition of the AONB	Potential data sources
		scheduled monuments, scheduled monuments, registered parks and gardens, registered battlefields.	
		% of heritage assets that are 'at risk', including buildings at risk (excluding grade II listed), monuments, registered parks and gardens, registered battlefields, conservation areas and places of worship.	Historic England
Geology and natural resources	E1, E2, E4, E5, E6, E7, E9, E10, S2, S3, S7, S8, S9	River water quality and flow	Environment Agency (Water Framework Directive)
		Existing mineral workings permitted or allocated mineral workings which might detract from the special character and qualities	Kent County Council, AONB Unit
		Water pollution incidents	Environment Agency
		Number of geological SSSI unit features, and % in favourable or recovering condition	Natural England
		Water abstraction levels/licences	Environment Agency
		Flooding incidents	Environment Agency, Defra
		% of the protected landscape that is relatively tranquil for its area	Natural England, CPRE tranquillity study (updated by recent project in partnership with Winchester University and Keane State University)
Vibrant communities (Quality of Life)	E1, E2, E3, E4, E8, E9, E10, S1, S2, S4, S5, S6, S7, S8, S9	Number of parish plans/parish design statements produced	Action with Communities in Rural Kent, Kent Association of Parish Councils, consultations received by KD AONB
		Residential population – size, income, demographics	Census (2011 data), local authorities
Access, enjoyment and understanding (Quality of Life)	E1, E2, E3, E4, E8, E9, E10, S1, S2, S4, S5, S6, S7, S8, S9.	Area of open access land and permissive access (ES)	Natural England
		Public awareness and understanding of AONB	KDAONB Unit, local authority partnership

Special characteristics and qualities	Link to environmental and sustainability objective(s)	Relevant information and/or data to inform the current condition of the AONB	Potential data sources
		Visitor numbers	Visit Kent – not yet achieved but possible with recent EU funded programme (Experience) – data for honey pot sites eg NT and KCC Country Parks (parking fee returns as surrogate)
		Number of bed nights in Our Land properties	Our Land
		Number of volunteers engaged in CMP activities	Countryside Management Partnerships

Appendix 4 Statement of Key Issues

KDAONB Special characteristics and qualities	Key environmental issues and potential impacts
Sustainable development (overarching theme)	Changes in the context in which the management, conservation and enhancement of the AONB is conducted leads to uncertainty
	Poorly located or designed development, leisure uses, intensive agricultural and forestry practices, pressure from traffic and significant levels of urban growth and development leads to cumulative loss of landscape features, tranquillity and character and suburbanisation.
	Urgent, evidence-based mitigation and adaptation responses to the expected impacts of climate change should be implemented
	Increasing numbers of day visitors leads to pressure on the characteristics and qualities of the AONB and on popular countryside routes, sites and areas.
	Lack of rural public transport availability leading to increased personal car use.
Landform and landscape character	Development resulting in loss of and damage to the quality of views in and out of the AONB.
	Tree growth and vegetation resulting in loss of the quality of views in and out of the AONB
	Development, infrastructure, urbanisation and recreational pressure leading to degradation of the setting and urban fringe impacts in some Kent Downs landscape character areas.
	Illegal activities, particularly fly-tipping, abandoned cars and illegal off-road vehicles leading to the erosion of natural beauty and special character.
Biodiversity	Management / lack of management resulting in degradation of habitats and loss of species.
	Climate change and extreme weather events (and adaptation/mitigation responses) resulting in risks to Kent Downs biodiversity.
	Poor returns from managing semi-natural grassland and other habitats that are small, inaccessible or on unprotected sites leads to degradation/loss of important habitats
	Lack of accessible, well-managed nature conservation sites near to urban areas leads to disconnection from the natural environment and general lack of awareness and understanding of biodiversity resource and value of Kent Downs amongst the public.
	Lack of sustainable economic drivers leads to uncertainty over continued management of key habitat products in the AONB.
Farmed landscape	Farming practices leading to reduction in habitat and species diversity and reduction in traditional land management, loss of field boundaries and a reduction in landscape quality.
	Changes in landholdings and land management practice as a result of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Loss or amalgamation of medium-sized mixed farms and growth of large units ii) Establishment of small farming units/residential or leisure owners where experience and continuity of land management not guaranteed.

KDAONB Special characteristics and qualities	Key environmental issues and potential impacts
	<p>Uncertainty and limited funding for agri-environment schemes leading to diminished incentives for the management of biodiversity, heritage and landscape features.</p> <p>Conflict/trade-off between seeking a viable, resilient and competitive farming industry and the need for sensitive environmental management in the AONB.</p> <p>Changes to the character and landscape setting of former farmhouses, estate cottages and farm buildings as a result of rationalisation of the farming system e.g. selling off accommodation from the farmland estate</p> <p>Detracting impact of farm diversification and development activities (e.g. increased equine facilities, alternative crops, non-agricultural enterprises) on the characteristics, qualities and rural economy of the Kent Downs</p> <p>Need for secure irrigation supply as a result of increase in extreme climate events</p> <p>Loss of skilled livestock graziers resulting in decline in farmland area and grazing livestock industries -mismanaged land and reduction in grassland habitats.</p> <p>Increased use of polytunnels resulting in deterioration of landscape character.</p> <p>Farming practices leading to reduction in habitat and species diversity and reduction in traditional land management, loss of field boundaries and a reduction in landscape quality.</p>
Woodland and trees	<p>Infrastructure, building developments and intensive agriculture leading to loss and degradation of woodland and woodland edge habitats.</p> <p>Mismanaged game bird shoots resulting in loss of biodiversity and landscape value of woodlands.</p> <p>Climate change (and adaptation/mitigation responses) resulting in changes to biodiversity.</p> <p>Increase in commercial conifer plantations resulting in decrease in woodland and species diversity, and reduced landscape quality.</p> <p>Presence of invasive species/pests/diseases leads to biodiversity loss.</p> <p>Woodland management operations overlook historic features in woodlands</p> <p>Increasing, unmanaged deer populations resulting in a reduction in woodland quality.</p> <p>Mismanagement/lack of management leading to loss of landscape character and biodiversity.</p> <p>Loss of biodiversity as a result of increased recreation and access to sensitive woodlands</p> <p>Infrastructure, building developments and intensive agriculture leading to loss and degradation of woodland and woodland edge habitats.</p>

KDAONB Special characteristics and qualities	Key environmental issues and potential impacts
Historic and cultural heritage	Unchecked use of non-sensitive farming methods (e.g. deep ploughing, arable conversion or deep rooting crops) on sites with buried archaeological remains results in damage or loss of heritage assets.
	Development of or in proximity to historic buildings and areas without appropriate consideration of impacts resulting in damage to these features and/or their settings.
	Dearth and loss of skills and local sustainably sourced materials for historic building conservation results in loss of traditional management approaches important to landscape character and qualities.
Heritage Coasts	Cultivation and coastal erosion reduces extent of cliff top chalk grassland.
	High visitor pressure at key sites leads to degradation of habitats and reduction in tranquillity.
	Reduction in quality of marine environment as a result of diffuse pollution from agriculture.
	Marine litter and air pollution detract from the character and qualities of the Heritage Coasts
Geology and natural resources	Poor habitat management, development, landfill and dumping resulting in the loss and degradation of geological sites and features
	Mineral extraction and resulting environmental impacts
	Production of 'open' crops (e.g. maize) resulting in soil erosion.
	Point source (e.g. sewerage systems and fish farms) and agricultural source diffuse pollution leading to polluted rivers and streams, nutrient enrichment and elevated levels of silt and pesticides.
	Water over-abstraction and increased water demand leads to installation of new water infrastructure in or affecting the landscape
	Transport and agriculture lead to air pollution
Vibrant communities	Lack of recognition of rural poverty and social exclusion within rural communities leading to increased levels of deprivation.
	Decline and loss of rural commercial services leading to a reduction in community cohesion.
	Increasing housing and rental prices leading to a lack of affordable housing and gentrification of areas,
	Decline in farming and forestry employment and a skills gap in these sectors leads to a spiral of decline
	Leisure and tourism activities leading to a reduction in landscape quality and degradation of host communities.
Access, enjoyment and understanding	Increased day visitor numbers puts pressure on the special characteristics and qualities
	Differing requirements between public rights of way users (e.g. horse riders, cyclists, motorbikes and walkers) leading to conflicts.
	Illegal activities (e.g. fly-tipping, dumping, path obstruction) leads to conflicts with rightful PRoW users.

KDAONB Special characteristics and qualities	Key environmental issues and potential impacts
	Reduced funding for management of the PROW network resulting in diminished service quality for users.
	Increases in horse riding and off-road cycling puts pressure on rights of way, farmland and wildlife sites
	Increased traffic levels leads to a reduction in opportunities for quiet countryside recreation.

Appendix 5 Kent Downs AONB Management Plan Principles

Management of the AONB	
MPP1	The Kent Downs AONB Management Plan and its supporting documents, supported by a strong partnership approach, will be pursued as the primary means to develop, co-ordinate and promote the management, conservation and enhancement of the Kent Downs AONB.
MPP2	The Kent Downs AONB is a material consideration in plan making and decision taking, and so local authorities will give a high priority to the AONB Management Plan vision, aims, principles and actions in Local Plans, development management decisions, planning enforcement cases and in taking forward their other relevant functions.
MPP3	The development of strong, diverse working partnerships and landscape scale collaborations to implement the vision, aims and principles of the AONB Management Plan will be pursued.
MPP4	Collaborative working partnerships and initiatives with other National Landscapes and the implementation of the findings of The Landscape Review will be pursued.
MPP5	The involvement and engagement of diverse interest groups in decisions about and affecting the Kent Downs AONB future will be pursued.
MPP6	The preparation and review of the Management Plan, advocacy of its vision, aims and principles and work in partnership to deliver the actions described will be pursued through a properly resourced AONB Unit supported technically and financially by the local authorities.
Sustainable Development	
SD1	Ensure that policies, plans, projects and net gain investments affecting the Kent Downs AONB take a landscape led approach are long term, framed by the Sustainable Development Goals appropriate to the Kent Downs, cross cutting and recurrent themes, the vision, aims and principles of the AONB Management Plan.
SD2	The local character, qualities, distinctiveness and natural resources of the Kent Downs AONB will be conserved and enhanced in the design, scale, siting, landscaping and materials of new development, redevelopment and infrastructure and will be pursued through the application of appropriate design guidance and position statements.
SD3	Ensure that development and changes to land use and land management cumulatively conserve and enhance the character and qualities of the Kent Downs AONB rather than detracting from it.
SD4	A strategic, evidence led approach to both the adaptation to and mitigation of the impacts of climate change on the natural beauty and historic character of the Kent Downs, and its human consequences, will be pursued with an urgent focus on supporting greenhouse gas emission reduction and sequestration through nature based solutions.
SD5	Renewable and sustainable energy initiatives and energy efficiency measures will be pursued where they help to conserve and enhance the natural beauty and landscape character of the AONB and bring environmental, social and economic benefits to local people and ensure proposals conform with the Kent Downs AONB Renewable Energy Position Statement and resisted where they do not..
SD6	Activities to increase understanding of the importance and the extent of tranquillity, remoteness and dark night skies within the Kent Downs will be pursued.
SD7	New projects, proposals and programmes shall conserve and enhance tranquillity and where possible dark night skies.
SD8	Ensure proposals, projects and programmes do not negatively impact on the distinctive landform, landscape character, special characteristics and qualities, the setting and views to and from the AONB.

SD9	The particular historic and locally distinctive character of rural settlements and buildings of the Kent Downs AONB will be maintained and strengthened. The use of sustainably sourced locally-derived materials for restoration and conversion work will be encouraged. New developments will be expected to apply appropriate design guidance and to be complementary to local character in form, siting, scale, contribution to settlement pattern and choice of materials.
SD10	Positive measures to mitigate the negative impact of infrastructure and growth on the natural beauty and amenity of the AONB will be pursued.
SD11	Major development should avoid the Kent Downs AONB in line with NPPF guidance. Where it is decided that other development will take place that will have a negative impact on the landscape character, characteristics and qualities of the Kent Downs AONB or its setting, mitigation and or compensatory measures appropriate to the national importance of the Kent Downs landscape will be identified, pursued, implemented and maintained. The removal or mitigation of identified landscape detractors will be pursued.
SD12	Transport and infrastructure schemes and growth areas are expected to avoid the Kent Downs AONB as far as practicable. Unavoidable developments will be expected to fit unobtrusively into the landscape, respect landscape character, be mitigated by sympathetic landscape, buffering, land bridges and design measures and provide environmental compensation through benefits to natural beauty elsewhere in the AONB.
SD13	A strategic, landscape led approach to green infrastructure and net gain investments is taken to ensure the recovery, conservation and enhancement of the special characteristics and qualities of the Kent Downs AONB and its setting. The Kent Downs AONB takes a key role in accommodating net gain investments derived from growth elsewhere where the intended gain cannot be delivered locally.
SD14	The Kent Downs AONB partnership will support efforts to achieve an economic and societal recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic in a way that supports the vision, aims and principles of the AONB Management Plan.
Landform and Landscape Character	
LLC1	The protection, conservation and enhancement of special characteristics and qualities, natural beauty and landscape character of the Kent Downs AONB will be supported and pursued.
LLC2	The promotion, management, restoration and appropriate creation of viewpoints will be supported.
LLC3	The provision of co-ordinated and high-quality landscape conservation guidance will be pursued, focusing on the special characteristics and qualities, natural beauty and the landscape character of the AONB.
LLC4	The prevention, detection and enforcement action against illegal and overtly damaging activities which detract from landscape character will be pursued.
LLC5	The revised Kent Downs AONB Landscape Character Assessment forms an integral, interconnected, component part of the AONB Management Plan and should be used to inform proposals and land management impacting the AONB.
LLC6	The improved awareness and appreciation of all the special qualities of the AONB landscape and its conservation to people who influence the future of, live, work in or visit the AONB will be pursued.
LLC7	The development of strategic, long-term, landscape action and enhancement plans for areas of the AONB which present the greatest threats or opportunities or where natural capital enhancement, intended net gain, nature recovery, ELM or climate mitigation investments are proposed, will be pursued.
Biodiversity	

BD1	Creation of new habitats, wilding and connecting habitat corridors will be pursued, informed by the Lawton principles, landscape character, the needs for new recreation, the needs for resilience and the threats to existing habitats and species. Delivery will be through collaboration to establish resilient, functional ecological nature recovery networks and high quality green infrastructure.
BD2	Local, regional and national biodiversity targets and spatial priorities for habitats and species distinctive to the Kent Downs will be supported; a role for Kent Downs AONB landscape and partnership in delivering a Nature Recovery Network, the Kent Biodiversity Strategy and Colchester Declaration will be defined and delivered.
BD3	Targeting of advice, grants and agreements to reduce fragmentation and enhance the biodiversity of the Kent Downs will be pursued.
BD4	The collection, promotion and sharing of information on land cover, designated wildlife sites, habitats and species to assist in effective biodiversity and landscape character management and monitoring will be encouraged.
BD5	The protection, conservation, enhancement and extension of Kent Downs priority and distinctive habitats and species will be pursued; the Biodiversity Duty of Regard will be actively promoted.
BD6	The generation of sustainable markets for the products of sensitively managed UK Priority Habitats characteristic to the Kent Downs AONB will be supported.
BD7	The Kent Downs AONB Partnership will be active in seeking to secure the best outcome for the biodiversity of the Kent Downs from the changing national policy framework.
BD8	Generating a greater connection between people and nature will be pursued at the same time as dispersal of visitor pressure from sensitive wildlife sites where the biodiversity interest is at threat.
BD9	The opportunities presented by intended Biodiversity Net Gain and other legislative changes are secured in the Kent Downs in a way that support the vision, aims and principles of the Management Plan. Development permitted in the Kent Downs will secure 20% biodiversity net gain subject to further evidence and testing; any requirement will ultimately be decided and set out individual local authorities' local plans.
Farmed Landscape	
FL1	The AONB will retain the mixed farming character for which it is valued.
FL2	The targeting of public agricultural payments to make a positive, landscape scale contribution to conserving and enhancing the special characteristics, qualities and landscape character of the Kent Downs AONB and supporting ecosystems services and public wellbeing will be pursued using the AONB Management Plan as the strategic framework.
FL3	Farming practices that improve AONB landscape character and qualities, or mitigate damaging impacts, will be supported and pursued through guidance.
FL4	The use of integrated whole farm and farm cluster planning which includes a business planning, landscape, heritage, biodiversity and habitat assessments and supports ecosystems services will be pursued.
FL5	Farm diversification activities will be supported if they help achieve the vision, aims and principles of the AONB Management Plan.
FL6	The production, supply and marketing of AONB produce derived from environmentally sensitive management will be encouraged and supported.
FL7	Proposals for conversion from agricultural land to leisure use and the creation of both agricultural and non-agricultural structures must demonstrate that there will be no individual or cumulative negative impact on the landscape character and qualities of the AONB.
FL8	A collaborative, long term 'cluster farm' approach to achieving the farmed landscape objectives of the AONB will be pursued.

FL9	To meet the green house gas targets for the Kent Downs AONB the adoption of new and modified farming approaches to climate mitigation and adaptation and soil enhancement that produce co-benefits for landscape and biodiversity will be supported where they support the character and qualities of the Kent Downs.
FL10	Activities will be supported that increase wider public understanding of farming and the benefits that the farmed landscape can bring for high quality food production, recreation, well-being, nature conservation, the historic environment, landscape and a buoyant rural economy.
Woodland and Trees	
WT1	The extent of woodland, transitional habitats around woodland and trees outside woodland will be retained, connected and extended.
WT2	A strategic, collaborative approach will be pursued to secure sustainable multipurpose woodland and tree restoration, management and establishment that reduces fragmentation, responds carefully to the impact of pests and diseases and does not risk further pests and diseases, conserves and enhances the special qualities and character of the landscape, the resilience of woodlands and trees and benefits people's enjoyment, health and well-being
WT3	The managed, gradual conversion of plantations on ancient woodland to deciduous woodland will be supported where locally distinct woodland types, tree species and bio-secure local provenance tree stock or natural regeneration are used.
WT4	Training, accreditation and wider understanding of woodland management to woodland owners and workers, local people and visitors will be encouraged and supported.
WT5	The restoration and management of woodland open habitats and spaces, such as rides, glades, and wood pasture, for landscape, biodiversity and archaeology conservation purposes will be supported..
WT6	The identification, protection, management, planned replacement and reintroduction of trees outside woodlands including fine specimen and 'veteran' trees will be pursued. This will include developing a Kent Downs based ash dieback recovery plan as part of wider woodland and tree establishment plan for the AONB.
WT7	Positive and strategic management interventions to overcome damage to woodlands, such as from disease, illegal and harmful recreation, an expanding deer population, poorly managed use for game rearing, livestock and development associated with wood lotting, will be pursued.
WT8	In response to pressures on woodlands and the positive motivations of many new woodland owners, co-ordinated actions and the development and promotion of guidance and support which integrates sound landscape, heritage and biodiversity management will be supported.
WT9	New markets for sustainably produced, appropriately certified woodland products and marketing initiatives will be supported.
WT10	Research to understand the ownership patterns and motivations of woodland owners will be encouraged to support a coordinated, strategic approach to the conservation and enhancement of the woodlands and trees of the Kent Downs.
WT11	The identification and review of the extent of ancient woodlands using up to date methodology will be supported.
Historic and Cultural Heritage	
HCH1	The conservation and enhancement of the historic character and features of the Kent Downs landscape will be pursued and heritage-led sustainable economic activity and tourism encouraged.
HCH2	A wider understanding of the historic, cultural, scientific and artistic importance of the Kent Downs landscape and its historic character, including a review of the Historic Landscape Characterisation of the AONB, will be supported in part to inform the interpretation and management of the AONB.

HCH3	In recognition of the emerging national relationship with the Arts Council and arts and cultural regeneration efforts in Kent an arts and cultural strategy for the Kent Downs will be pursued.
HCH4	The preparation and use of best practice guidance, promotion of skill acquisition and sourcing suitable sustainable materials for conserving, enhancing and adapting the historic and cultural environment to climate change will be supported.
HCH5	Opportunities to develop contemporary and innovative artistic, historic, cultural and scientific interpretation and celebration of the landscape and people of the Kent Downs will be pursued.
HCH6	The application of high standards of design sympathetic to cultural heritage within the AONB, identified in guidance including the AONB Landscape Design Handbook, Kent Downs Farmstead Guidance and any relevant Village Design Statements and Neighbourhood Plans, will be pursued
HCH7	The protection, conservation, and enhancement of heritage features under threat will be pursued through policies, projects, training and partnerships.
Heritage Coast	
HC1	Coastal defence policies and approaches will respect the special character and qualities of the Heritage Coasts, allowing, where practicable, a naturally functioning coastline.
HC2	The opportunity to support economic regeneration through the sustainable and integrated management of the Heritage Coasts in accordance with their defined purposes and those of the AONB will be supported.
HC3	Threats to the qualities and character of the Heritage Coast will be resisted and managed.
HC4	A collaborative approach, such as that employed by the WCCP and the Up on the Downs Landscape Partnership, will continue to be pursued to secure the objectives for Heritage Coast strategy and management and address the specific threats and opportunities identified.
HC5	Achieving World Heritage Site status or other appropriate international recognition for the Strait of Dover will be supported.
HC6	The conservation and enhancement of the special characteristics of the Heritage Coasts and Strait of Dover will be pursued through the Marine Plan making process, the development of new Heritage Coast Management Plans and the preparation of Marine Conservation Zone Management Plans.
HC7	The England Coast Path National Trail will be managed in a manner that is sensitive to the landscape character and qualities and in partnership to meet and retain National Trail standards. The conservation and enhancement of the landscape of the corridor of the National Coastal Trail in the Heritage Coasts will be pursued.
HC8	A collaborative strategic approach to manage visitor pressure to benefit the visitor experience, reduce impact, conserve the character and qualities of the area and support sustainable regeneration will be supported.
HC9	New opportunities to secure 'protective ownership' of areas of the Heritage Coasts and partnerships to enhance management with existing private and public owners will be supported.
HC10	The extension of the definition of Heritage Coast / AONB into the marine environment and inclusion of areas currently defined as Heritage Coast within the AONB will be supported.
Geology and Natural Resources	
GNR1	Activities designed to protect, conserve and enhance the important geological exposures of the Kent Downs will be encouraged. To recognise the importance of the geology of the Kent Downs the opportunity to secure Geopark status for the Kent Downs will be explored.
GNR2	Careful management and sensitive restoration of existing minerals and waste sites in or affecting the Kent Downs will be pursued.

GNR3	In the light of potential planning for future mineral supplies a careful approach will be taken to reduce the likely pressure for new minerals sites in or affecting the Kent Downs AONB including promoting re-use and recycling and ensuring the support for the further provision and safeguarding of existing mineral importation wharfs and rail depots to enable alternative sources, from less sensitive areas, to be provided to meet identified needs in Kent.
GNR4	Advice to farmers and land managers which seeks integrated environmental land and natural resource management in the Kent Downs will be encouraged.
GNR5	A strategic collaborative Catchment Based Approach will be taken to the management of the water environment in the Kent Downs AONB to secure a more resilient water supply, achieve good ecological status in the water bodies, use natural solutions to mitigate flooding and the conservation and enhancement of the landscape.
GNR6	Additional water abstraction particularly in the Darent and Great Stour river catchments will be resisted unless it can be demonstrated that there will not be any harmful impacts upon the special character and qualities of the Kent Downs. Support for Water Resource Management Planning which seeks to secure the conservation and enhancement of the Kent Downs AONB landscape will be pursued through collaboration with water companies, authorities and regulators.
GNR7	A collaborative approach will be pursued to secure the provision of appropriate ecosystems services and green infrastructure, which supports the special character and qualities of the Kent Downs, for the benefit of the community and economy, effort will be pursued to secure new Payments for Ecosystems Services (PES) that might benefit the conservation and enhancement of the AONB.
GNR8	Ensure that projects, proposals and plans as well as future public agricultural payments recognise and seek to protect, conserve enhance the extent, quality and functions of the soil.
GNR9	Ensure that landscape management practice, plans and policies seek to enhance the clean air benefits that the Kent Downs AONB offers recipient populations.
Vibrant Communities	
VC1	Community and business initiatives that improve the recognition, engagement in and conservation of the AONB and encourage community life will be pursued.
VC2	Positive and sustainable links between the AONB (landscape, communities and partnership) and nearby communities, particularly from excluded groups and from neighbouring deprived areas will be pursued.
VC3	Initiatives which are in line with existing policies of the Local Planning Authority that increase and improve the supply of affordable housing for (i) those with proven local needs, and (ii) workers whose activities directly contribute to the purposes of the AONB designation, will be supported where it is demonstrated that the proposals are suitably located, of high quality design, limited quantity and scale and are built to the best current environmental standards
VC4	The retention and development of local services, facilities and employment opportunities in order to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the Kent Downs AONB and reduce the need to travel by car and maintain viable rural communities will be supported.
VC5	Skills training and business development assistance will be encouraged where they contribute to the viability of communities and meet the purposes and principles of the AONB designation and partnership.
VC6	The development of sustainable visitor and tourism facilities will be pursued where they enhance people's enjoyment and understanding of the AONB without detracting from its special characteristics and qualities. The AONB partnership will pursue sustainable tourism zone status.
VC7	Tourism and leisure businesses in the AONB will be encouraged to adopt the principles of sustainable tourism and to demonstrate their commitment to sustainability.

VC8	Local communities will be encouraged to prepare and promote Village Design Statements, Parish Plans and Neighbourhood Plans as appropriate to assist in the conservation and enhancement of local distinctiveness as settlements evolve.
VC9	Opportunities to better understand the social and economic profile of the Kent Downs AONB will be pursued.
VC10	Support will be given to groups that encourage volunteering in the Kent Downs, in the event of the recommendations of the Landscapes Review regarding AONBs roles in volunteering being supported by Government an approach with continues to support local groups will be established
VC11	Opportunities to enhance the health and wellbeing of communities and individuals both within and around the AONB will be actively pursued to increase provision and better bring together and coordinate provision of health and wellbeing 'assets' in local settings within the AONB
Access, Enjoyment and Understanding	
AEU1	Co-ordinated investment in making access more diverse and inclusive for recreation, access, education, and health and well-being across the AONB will be pursued.
AEU2	Investment to secure sustainable, high quality, low impact and easy access, multi-user routes safer highways and high-quality public transport options from towns and growth areas to the AONB will be pursued.
AEU3	Investment to secure sustainable, high quality, low impact and easy access, multi-user routes within from towns and growth areas to the AONB will be pursued.
AEU4	The sustainable and enhanced management and promotion of Public Rights of Way, permissive paths and open access sites will be pursued.
AEU5	Mechanisms will be supported to resolve conflicts between rightful users of Public Rights of Way. Where there are irreconcilable conflicts from legal but damaging activities, quiet recreation will be supported above other activities.
AEU6	Robust mechanisms to resist and overcome illegal use and poor maintenance which harm the opportunity to explore and enjoy the AONB will be pursued where design is in accordance with the Landscape Design Handbook.
AEU7	Improvements to the Rights of Way Network to overcome barriers provide and improve countryside access, health and well-being opportunities, including, connecting with NHS social prescribing, enhanced way-marking, signposting and maintenance, new routes and establishment of higher rights which conforms with AONB policies and design guidance, will be pursued. Support for investment in access from the new Environmental Land Management Systems will be pursued.
AEU8	High standards of landscape and recreational management including the management of 'over visiting', provision of accessible visitor facilities, new accessible access opportunities and increased opportunities for learning and health enhancement, artistic and cultural expression through a coordinated strategy and programme of training, community support, events, guided walks, cycle rides and gateway routes and sites will be pursued.
AEU9	Initiatives for children, schools and youth groups which encourage interest in and learning about the AONB and reconnection with nature will be pursued.
AEU10	Support will be given to the North Downs Way and England Coast Path National Trails as the main promoted routes in the Kent Downs, the establishment of a North Downs Way multiuser route will be supported
AEU11	A reduction in the need to travel by car will be supported through new and improved measures to provide integrated, attractive and affordable public transport and through promoting and supporting safe active travel to and within the Kent Downs. New business, community and other initiatives in support of the vision, aims and policies of the Management Plan will seek to relate to existing public transport and active travel links.

AEU12	Sustainable solutions to problems of rural traffic will be supported, particularly in rural settlements or where there is a conflict with landscape quality or walkers, cyclists and horse riders.
AEU13	A strategic approach to the use of road signage, furniture, design and maintenance that conserves and enhances the local character and distinctiveness and encourages non-motorised access will be pursued through the adoption and implementation of the AONB Rural Streets and Lanes Design Handbook.
AEU14	Proposals which detract from the amenity and enjoyment of users of the Public Rights of Way network will be resisted.