

We consider the following organisations to be Statutory Bodies operating within the AONB:

English Heritage

Department for Environment,  
Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)

Countryside Agency

Drinking Water Inspectorate

English Nature

Environment Agency

Wessex Regional Flood Defence  
Committee

Avon & Dorset Local Flood Defence  
Committee

Wessex Regional Environmental  
Protection Advisory Committee

Wessex Regional Fisheries Ecology  
& Recreation Advisory Committee

Defence Estates

NHS Estates

The Emergency Services

Highways Agency

Forestry Commission

Government Offices South West

South West of England  
Development Agency

WaterVoice Wessex

RWE Thames Water

Wessex Water

Southern Water

Bournemouth &  
West Hampshire Water

The Civil Aviation Authority

Compton Abbas Airfield

Bath Wilts & N Dorset Gliding Club

National Grid

Southern Electric

Powergen

Transco

The Post Office

County, District and Parish Councils

The Crown Estate

Network Rail

Orange

MMO2

T Mobile

Vodafone

Hutchison 3G

***This list is not intended to be  
exhaustive, as all statutory  
undertakers are covered by CRow  
2000 Section 85.***



## Cranborne Chase & West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

# Guidance and Advice for Statutory Bodies



## The Purpose of an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

All AONBs have the following purpose: *conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.*

## Duty on Relevant Authorities

Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 places a statutory duty on all relevant authorities to have regard to this purpose. It states that, in exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect, land in an AONB, a relevant authority shall have regard to the purpose of the AONB.

## Expectations of Relevant Authorities

We expect relevant authorities to be able to demonstrate that they have fulfilled these duties. They must be able to clearly show how they have considered AONB purposes in their decision making and should consider whether they could usefully make reference to the duties in their annual reports. Relevant authorities will also wish to consider issuing their own statement of how they will take account of the purposes of the designated area.

Demonstrations of compliance with the duties will be monitored by the AONB Partnership Panel. It is expected that each Statutory Body will include a brief assessment of compliance with the relevant duty in their annual reports or similar publication. The Partnership Panel will bring any significant contraventions to the attention of the Countryside Agency, who will in turn report to Defra.

The duties do not override particular considerations which have to be taken into account by relevant authorities in carrying out any function, but they are intended to ensure that the purposes for which these areas have been designated are recognised as an essential consideration in reaching decisions or undertaking activities that impact on them.



## What is "Natural Beauty?"

The natural beauty of the AONB is very much concerned with the landform, geology, plants, animals and landscape features but also includes the rich history of human settlement over the centuries. AONBs are cultural, living landscapes both by virtue of the species and habitats within them but also due to the fact that their special qualities can only be maintained by continuing human activity. The natural beauty of the AONB is seen as a blend of both the rich natural and cultural heritage



## How can we help you fulfil your responsibility?

**Firstly**, we are on the end of the phone or email. You can contact us for advice or an informal chat at:

AONB Office, Castle Street, Cranborne, Dorset, BH21 5PZ

Telephone: 01725-517417

or you can email [info@cranbornechase.org.uk](mailto:info@cranbornechase.org.uk)

Visit our website [www.ccwwdaonb.org.uk](http://www.ccwwdaonb.org.uk)

**Secondly**, if you would like to know more about the AONB and what it does, then we would be delighted to welcome you to a training session tailored to your needs.

**Thirdly**, if you have undertaken a project or programme of work within the AONB, and you would like your efforts recognised, then please tell us about it and we will gather examples of best practice as a resource and inspiration to others.