

Extract from the draft Howardian Hills AONB Management Plan 2019-2024

Vision

The Howardian Hills will continue to be a tranquil and well-managed rural area. It will still be notable for its extensive woodland, rolling agricultural fields, large country houses and designed parklands. The threats to the natural and cultural resources of the AONB will have been mitigated by the adoption of appropriate resilience strategies and these assets will be sympathetically managed within a diverse and prosperous rural economy. Active and resilient communities will have increased opportunities for people of all ages to live and work in the area. Residents and visitors alike will be able to enjoy and appreciate the AONB in an environmentally sustainable way.

Key Vision Aims:

- Farming, forestry and local businesses will be environmentally, socially and economically sustainable, thriving and developing due to the Special Qualities of the AONB and the opportunities they bring.
- All SSSIs will be in Favourable Condition, with the long-standing water quality issues on the River Derwent resolved.
- All conifer plantation areas within Ancient Woodland SINC areas will have been restored, or be in the process of restoration, to resilient native broadleaves.
- All grassland SINC areas will be in sustainable grazing/cutting regimes.
- Areas of Priority Habitats within the AONB will have been expanded, buffered and linked via a more diverse landscape, to form a coherent network of green infrastructure that is resilient to climate change impacts.
- Designated Heritage Assets (Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Registered Parks & Gardens) will be in sustainable management, in the Low/Not at Risk category as defined by Historic England.
- There will be a more diverse mix of housing units/tenures, and more services will be delivered at community level or remotely e.g. via the internet or as yet undeveloped technologies, thereby reducing the need to travel.
- A network of public and community transport links will be in place to cater for the majority of travel needs.
- The need for personal and business road transport will be much reduced, and this will be powered by more sustainable fuels as part of a low-Carbon economy.
- All Rights of Way will be easy to use, with the minimum of barriers to all types of user.
- A wide cross-section of society will enjoy and appreciate the Special Qualities of the AONB, for their intrinsic value and for the physical and mental wellbeing that they provide.