

The National Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty welcomes the Defra Written Ministerial Statement published earlier today in response to the Landscapes Review 2019, and is delighted that both Defra and Natural England have recognised the unique offer available to the nation through the designation of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Natural England's announcement that it is considering the designation of two new AONBs: Yorkshire Wolds AONB and Cheshire Sandstone Ridge AONB, and to extend two existing AONBs: Surrey Hills AONB and Chilterns AONB, is welcome and we look forward to hearing the outcome of their considerations in due course.

Designating more land for nature could play a crucial role in delivering on the UN Leaders' Pledge for Nature signed by Boris Johnson along with 87 other world leaders in September 2020. This commits these nations to protected 30% of their land for nature by 2030. Defra's Written Ministerial Statement commits to funding supporting nature's recovery and AONBs look forward to developing the Nature Recovery Network alongside Natural England to reverse the declines we have seen in the past decades and create bigger, better and more connected resilient habitats.

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty teams already have strong relationships with their local farmers and landowners. The Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme announced today will enable them to work ever more closely, supporting the people who make these living, working landscapes places for nature regeneration, recreation and spiritual revitalisation as well as healthy, local food production.

"The Farming in Protected Landscapes programme marks a welcome affirmation of the positive relationship between farming and landscape management. Not only will this programme provide important support for farmers in AONBs and National Parks, but it will help further align the ambition of protected landscape staff with the businesses and people whose existence is written into the cultural landscape."

Philip Hygate, Chair, National Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty

The NAAONB is committed to working with all stakeholders to ensure AONBs deliver for the nation in the way the members of the Landscapes Review panel intended.

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**The National Association for
Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty**

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