

APPENDIX 2 – Key Changes to AONB Management Plans

Kent Downs AONB

The Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan has been strengthened through the following changes:

- Addition of a new section on Heritage Coast – reflecting how much people value the White Cliffs coastline and the desire to designate the Dover Strait a World Heritage Site. Policies associated with heritage coasts focus upon coastal erosions, coastal town regeneration, positive management for habitats along the coast and improved access. All of these are currently supported by KCC.
- Biodiversity
 - **BD2** – Local, regional and national biodiversity targets and spatial priorities for habitats and species distinctive to the Kent Downs will be supported; a Kent Downs response to Biodiversity 2020 targets will be pursued.
- Farmed Landscape
 - **FL10** – A collaborative, ‘cluster farm’ approach to achieving the farming and landscape objectives of the AONB will be pursued.
- Woodlands & Trees
 - **WT7** – Activities and developments causing damage to woodlands, such as disease, illegal and harmful recreation, an expanding deer population, poorly managed use for game rearing and development associated with wood lotting, will be resisted and/or opposed and positive, strategic management interventions pursued.
- Geology & Natural Resources
 - **GNR6** – a strategic collaborative approach will be taken to the management of water resources in the Kent Downs AONB to secure a more resilient supply, achieve good ecological status and the conservation and enhancement of the landscape.
- Sustainable Development
 - **SDT4** – A collaborative approach will be pursued to secure the provision of appropriate ecosystem services and green infrastructure, which supports the landscape character of the Kent Downs, for the benefit of the community and economy.
 - **SDT10** – A strategic, evidence-led approach to both the adaptation to and mitigation of the impacts of climate change on the character, qualities and ecosystem services of the Kent Downs will be pursued.

High Weald AONB

The High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan has been strengthened through the following changes:

- Geology, Landform, Water Systems and Climate
 - **G1**: New targets focus upon an ecosystem services approach to water management and an AONB-wide assessment to identify potential to use naturally functioning rivers and floodplains to reduce flood risk.
 - **G2**: A new target included recognising sandstone as a resource for crafts and heritage conservation.
- Settlement

- **S1:** Biodiversity initiatives associated with rural communities.
- **S2:** Additional targets relating to planning decisions and strategies taking account of the High Weald's unique settlement pattern.
- **Routeways**
 - **R1 & R2:** Additional targets which focus upon community-led, and partnership initiatives and understanding.
- **Woodland**
 - **W1:** Importance of woodland network identified in targets.
 - **W2:** Targets covering pests and disease understanding in the Weald and improved planning decisions around sensitive woodland sites.
 - **W4:** Targets for specific skills training and the need for a partnership approach to tackle affordable housing and yard spaces for active forestry workers in the Weald and better deer management.
- **Field & Heath**
 - **FH1:** Targets relating to creating more support for graziers and small-scale businesses/infrastructure and collaborative farming projects.
 - **FH2:** Target relating to hedgerow recording and support for management.
 - **FH3:** New targets relating to connectivity and Green Infrastructure (GI) related targets. Improved conservation management training.
- **Understanding & Enjoyment**
 - **UE1:** Improved communication of the AONB and continued focus on primary education through the High Weald Heroes scheme.
 - **UE2:** More focused land management advice and training for residents and landowners.
 - **UE5:** Targets reflecting the need for improved consultation with public, understanding how people value the landscape.