

Natural England

Enquiries to: [REDACTED]
Direct line: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
My reference: AONB
Your reference:
Date: 3rd December 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

2nd consultation - Surrey Hills National Landscape (AONB) - Boundary Variation Project

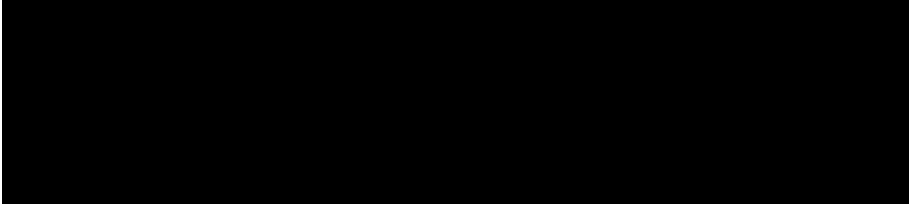
Thank you for inviting East Hampshire District Council (EHDC) to formally respond to the second statutory consultation on the Surrey Hills National Landscape (AONB) - Boundary Variation Project. We originally provided comments to the first consultation in May 2023, expressing concerns about a lack of consultation when seeking potential study areas for further assessment, especially beyond the administrative boundary of Hampshire and Surrey, which contradicted Natural England's guidance. This resulted in locations with the potential to meet the requirements of an AONB being overlooked.

In particular, we highlighted an area of land within East Hampshire in close proximity to the Surrey Hills National Landscape for inclusion and consideration, namely areas around Ludshott, Bramshott and Broxhead Commons; the southwest valley side of Whitmoor Vale and the Slea and Wey Valleys and Hills. This resulted in Natural England presenting additional land in the Surrey Hills and this has been reflected in the analysis tables and accompanying figures, namely the '2024 East Hampshire Evaluation Report' and associated '2024 East Hampshire Figures'. Most of our recommended areas were successful for inclusion, but not Broxhead Common. However, we support the reasoning set out in the evaluation report for its exclusion within the boundary revision.

We support that the areas with potential to meet the requirements of an AONB in East Hampshire have now been evaluated and endorse the findings that have resulted in further extensions to the proposed Surrey Hills AONB.

As requested and for your records, and in line with EHDC's constitution, this response has been formally signed off by our Portfolio Holder for Regulation and Enforcement. Please see attached Delegated decision report for reference.

Yours faithfully



Cllr A Glass
Portfolio Holder for Regulation and Enforcement

Enc. Copy of the Report which records the decision taken by Portfolio Holder