Ref: StatCon2-LD



Natural England Seacole Building 2 Marsham Street London SW1P 4DF

Dear Stakeholder,

## Surrey Hills National Landscape (AONB) Boundary Variation Project

We are writing to inform you that Natural England has today launched a second round of statutory and public consultation on our proposal to extend the boundary of the Surrey Hills National (AONB). The consultation will run for 12 weeks from the 17<sup>th</sup> September 2024 to midnight on the 10<sup>th</sup> December 2024.

Last year, Natural England held a statutory and public consultation into its proposals to extend the Surry Hills National Landscape (AONB). This ran between 7th March and 13th June 2023. We received over 1500 responses to the consultation. These have been analysed and the findings of the consultation are presented in our Consultation Analysis Report, published in July 2024. The analysis of the 2023 consultation has led to some changes to the proposed extension areas, including some

significant additions (in particular within East Hampshire) and some minor deletions, and for this reason, we are now undertaking a second round of statutory and public consultation on these changes made to the proposed extension areas.

We would like to hear your views about these changes to the extension proposal.

A formal response to this consultation can be made either by completing the on-line response form <u>here</u> (consult.defra.gov.uk/ne-landscape-heritage-and-geodiversity-team/surrey-hills-boundary-variation-2nd-consultation). Or you can request a hard copy of the consultation pack by contacting the project team (see contact details below).

The on-line consultation platform contains all the documents related to the boundary variation project including our analysis of last year's consultation and the detailed technical assessments that we have undertaken. To view a map showing an overview of the proposed changes to the boundary, please refer to Figure 12b. Hard copies of the reports and maps will be available shortly at various Local Authority Offices and Libraries across the Surrey Hills and proposed extension areas and we will list the addresses and contact arrangements for these locations on the consultation website. In the meantime, please contact us to discuss arranging to view a physical copy of any of the documents related to the project.

We aim to reach as many stakeholders as possible and have arranged the following 'drop-in' events for anyone who would like to discuss these proposals directly with an officer from Natural England;

Webinar 1 - 18th September, 14.00. Link to Eventbrite booking page: <u>https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/surrey-hills-national-landscape-aonb-boundary-variation-webinar-</u> <u>1-tickets-1007492706807</u>

Webinar 2 - 19th September, 19.00. Link to Eventbrite booking page: <u>https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/surrey-hills-national-landscape-aonb-boundary-variation-webinar-</u> <u>2-tickets-1007498353697</u>

Webinar 3 - 24th September, 10.00. Link to Eventbrite booking page:

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/surrey-hills-national-landscape-aonb-boundary-variation-webinar-3-tickets-1007499647567

Face to face all day drop-in event 1 – Details to follow shortly

Face to face all day drop-in event 2 – Details to follow shortly

Full details are available on the consultation website: consult.defra.gov.uk/ne-landscape-heritageand-geodiversity-team/surrey-hills-boundary-variation-2nd-consultation

Alternatively, you can contact one of the officers dealing with the project by using the contact details below.

- Emailing the project mailbox at <u>surreyhillsaonbboundaryreview@naturalengland.org.uk;</u> or,
- Telephoning the Enquiries Lines at 0300 060 3900.
- Writing to us at: Meg Johannessen, Natural England, Seacole Building, 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF

Please note that the deadline for responses to the consultation is by midnight on the 10th December 2024.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

The Natural England Surrey Hills Boundary Review Team

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