

Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan 2019-24 Consultation

Cannock Chase AONB Partnership is preparing a management plan for the next five years to help protect Cannock Chase's special qualities and manage the many pressures it faces.

Before it finalises the plan, the Partnership would like to know if people feel it has captured and described what is most special about Cannock Chase AONB, and identified the right actions needed to care for it.

In this consultation we will seek your views on the Partnership's Vision for Cannock Chase up to 2024, the special qualities identified for the AONB and a number of proposed policy commitments designed to help deliver its Vision.

You can access the draft Management Plan and supporting Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Report and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) on the page hosting this questionnaire if you need to refer to them when giving your answers.

Paper copies of the Draft Management Plan and questionnaires are available in Libraries at Stafford, Cannock, Rugeley, Penkridge and Community Libraries at Baswich, Brereton, Cheslyn Hay, Great Wyrley, Heath Hayes, Hednesford, Holmcroft, Rising Brook and Norton Canes.

Thank you in advance for helping to inform how we can best protect, conserve and enhance one of Staffordshire's most important natural assets.

Cannock Chase AONB Partnership is grateful to Staffordshire County Council for hosting this online platform for the consultation on their behalf.

IMPORTANT

Your right to privacy is very important to us and we recognise that, when we collect, use, or store your personal data, you should be able to trust us to act in a responsible manner. Please click on the link below to view our Privacy Notice which tells you what you can expect when we process your data, and what your rights are. This will open in a new window. If you close this window after you have read the content you will return to this survey.

www.staffordshire.gov.uk/yourcouncil/requestandaccessinformation/What-we-do-with-you-personal-information/Privacy-Notice

Are you...?

- Male
- Female
- Prefer to self-describe
- Prefer not to say

Please use this text box if you wish to self-describe:

What is your age?

- Under 16
- 16-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65+

In which local authority area do you live?

- Cannock Chase
- East Staffordshire
- Lichfield
- Newcastle-under-Lyme
- South Staffordshire
- Stafford
- Staffordshire Moorlands
- Stoke-on-Trent
- Tamworth
- Other - please specify below

Other:

Are you responding to this questionnaire as...?

- A member of the public
- A professional involved in the management, conservation or designation of Cannock Chase as an Area of Natural Beauty
- A local authority officer
- A local councillor or Member of Parliament
- A representative of a community group
- The voluntary sector
- A business of commercial enterprise
- Other - please specify below

Other:

The name of your group or organisation :

Your role or job title :

If you would like to receive the results of this consultation please provide your email address :

Please explain why you chose this option :

Inspiring views, both to the elevated plateau of the Chase from surrounding areas (with the Pye Green radio mast providing a well-known landmark), and from the high ground of the Chase across the farmed vales and countryside of the Midlands.

Please explain why you chose this option :

A haven of tranquillity and wildness, compared to the busy towns and roads that surround it, providing popular spaces for informal recreation such as Marquis Drive and Birches Valley, as well as less visited spots for contemplation and watching nature.

Please explain why you chose this option :

An underlying geology of red sandstone containing sand-cemented pebbles that was formed 220 million years ago, over coal measures formed 300 million years ago. This geology has contributed to the economic prosperity of the area, through a long history of coal mining (now finished) and quarrying (which continues).

Please explain why you chose this option :

Extensive areas of lowland heathland and associated habitats, which form one of the largest such areas in England, most of it designated for its European importance.

Please explain why you chose this option :

Wetlands, including the spring-fed mires and wet heaths of the Sherbrook and Oldacre Valleys, which are nationally rare habitats and support characteristic boggy vegetation, amphibians and insects.

Please explain why you chose this option :

Ancient broadleaved woodland and wood pastures such as Brocton Coppice, containing veteran oak trees, woodland flowers, birds, bats and insects.

Please explain why you chose this option :

Wildlife species which are nationally rare and/or strongly associated with the Chase. These include birds such as the nightjar and woodlark, plants such as Cannock Chase berry (a rare hybrid between bilberry and cowberry), insects such as the small pearl-bordered fritillary and bog bushcricket, and the herds of deer which are recognised as the emblem of the Chase.

Please explain why you chose this option :

A rich history, whose layers in the landscape can be experienced first-hand, including at the Iron Age Hill Fort at Castle Ring; the heathland remnants of the Norman hunting chase of Cank Forest; historic houses and parkland; the rich heritage of iron working and coal mining; and military camps and cemeteries from the two World Wars.

Please explain why you chose this option :

Historic parkland and ornamental landscapes, sometimes associated with fine houses and landed estates, such as those at Shugborough, Beaudesert, Teddesley, Wolseley and Hatherton.

Please explain why you chose this option :

Common land, which has an ancient history providing grazing for local farms and smallholdings, including the commons of Cannock Chase, Haywood Warren, Brindley Heath, Penkridge Bank, Shoal Hill and Gentleshaw.

Please explain why you chose this option :

Local communities and interest groups who cherish and help care for the Chase and its designated status.

Please explain why you chose this option :

An extensive network of well-maintained rides and paths through woodland and heathland providing opportunities for stimulating exercise and exploration.



Please explain why you chose this option :

Is there anything else that you feel should be included as a 'special quality' that will help to strengthen Cannock Chase's designation as an Area of Natural Beauty (AONB)?

A vision is a description of what an organisation would like to achieve or accomplish in the future. It is intended to serve as a guide for what action will be taken.

The Vision for Cannock Chase AONB included in the draft management plan 2019-24 is as follows:

By 2039, the landscapes, habitats and heritage of Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty will be in good condition through positive management, with standards and facilities befitting their national and international importance. There will be high levels of connectivity between the AONB and its surrounds through its landscapes, habitats, heritage and cultural landscapes and communities. The natural benefits of the AONB will have a positive impact on those who experience and enjoy the Chase whether from local communities or further afield and these communities will in turn care for, feel pride in and celebrate the AONB.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this vision for Cannock Chase as an Area of Natural Beauty?

- Completely agree
- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree / disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Completely disagree
- Don't know

Please explain why you chose this option :

Please enter any further comments you would like to make about the Vision here.

Policy commitments

The Vision is supported by policy commitments in five key areas. These are:

- Landscape character and planning
- Wildlife and nature
- Historic environment and culture
- Experience and enjoyment
- Communities and business

We would now like to ask you how far you agree or disagree with these policy commitments and for any suggestions you have on actions that might be needed to support their delivery.

Landscape character and planning

The proposed plan identifies 9 policy commitments to underpin landscape character and planning for Cannock Chase. For each of these please indicate how far you agree or disagree with these policy commitments.

Policy commitment

Complete ly agree Strongly agree Agree Neither agree / disagree Disagree Strongly disagree Complete ly disagree Don't know

Policy LCP1: Development proposals within the AONB should: be of high quality design and environmental standards, respect local distinctiveness, be complementary in form and scale with their surroundings, take opportunities to enhance their setting, minimise their carbon footprint and negative impacts on the local environment.



Please explain why you chose this option :

Policy LCP2: The impact of traffic travelling through the Chase on its tranquillity and other special qualities should be reduced where possible by encouraging alternative routes and by reducing speed, noise and air pollution.



Please explain why you chose this option :

Policy LCP3: Opportunities will be taken to enhance the contribution that woodland makes to the character of the AONB



Please explain why you chose this option :

Policy LCP4: Pasture and arable farming has shaped, and helps maintain, the landscape in parts of the Chase. This is called the Agri-environment. Any measures impacting on the Agri-environment should be aligned to deliver the outcomes and objectives of this Plan.



Please explain why you chose this option :

Policy LCP 5: Advice and practical guidance should be made available to new landowners and those planning changes of use of their land, such as the of keeping horses, to conserve and enhance the Chase's special qualities.



Please explain why you chose this option :

Policy LCP6: The quality, location and usage of recreation infrastructure maintained by all major landowners in the Chase should be consistent and appropriate to landscape character.



Please explain why you chose this option :

Policy LCP7: Development that detracts from landscape character or impacts on the natural beauty of the Chase, by obscuring or intruding on public views into and out of the AONB, should be resisted.

Please explain why you chose this option :

Policy LCP8: In the immediate vicinity of the AONB, the character of the public realm (e.g. landscaping around roads and buildings, public lighting and signage) should be designed and maintained so that it reinforces and complements the landscape character and quality of the Chase and provides a welcoming experience for those entering the AONB.

Please explain why you chose this option :

Policy LCP9: Opportunities should be promoted to enhance the character and quality, of the countryside and public open spaces surrounding the AONB so as to reduce its isolation and create strong visual and aesthetic links with surrounding landscapes.

Please explain why you chose this option :

Do you have any other suggestions that should inform our approach to landscape character and planning for Cannock Chase?

The proposed plan identifies 8 policy commitments to improve conditions for wildlife and nature in and around the AONB . For each of these please indicate how far you agree or disagree with these policy commitments.

Policy commitment

Complete
ly agree Strongly
agree Agree Neither
agree /
disagree Disagree Strongly
disagree Complete
ly
disagree Don't
know

Policy WN1: The international significance of the Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation (SAC), and the fragility and needs of its biodiversity, should be fully taken into account in all forms of public policy and private practice that will affect the condition of the SAC.

Please explain why you chose this option :

Policy WN2: The preferred form of management for most areas of heathland and associated habitats (potentially including wood pasture) should be grazing by livestock. Steps will be taken to build consensus and introduce the necessary sensitive infrastructure to enable this to happen gradually.

Please explain why you chose this option :

Policy WN3: A coordinated approach across landholdings will be taken to monitor and manage populations of key species living in the Chase.

Please explain why you chose this option :

Policy WN4: The incidence, spread and impacts of invasive plant and animal species in the AONB must be better understood, and where information is available, it should be used to inform land management decisions.

Please explain why you chose this option :

Policy WN5: Investigate and address factors impacting on water habitats, such as valley mires (marsh) and wetlands to bring them into favourable condition.

Please explain why you chose this option :

Policy WN6: Explore and develop opportunities to restore heathland from forestry plantation in the Chase.

Please explain why you chose this option :

Policy WN7: The AONB Partnership will actively support opportunities to build connected networks of wildlife sites extending beyond the AONB, as a means of enhancing the resilience and viability of wildlife populations currently concentrated in the Chase.

Please explain why you chose this option :

Policy WN8: The AONB Partnership will take a leading role in supporting and facilitating practical delivery of biodiversity net gain, through the identification of suitable areas of new habitat that enhance the resilience and recovery of wildlife living in the AONB.



Please explain why you chose this option :

Do you have any other suggestions that should inform our approach to wildlife and nature for Cannock Chase?

The proposed plan identifies 3 policy commitments to conserve the Chase’s heritage assets and connect communities with the Chase’s history and culture. For each of these please indicate how far you agree, disagree or neither that these should be priority commitments for the management plan.

Policy commitment

Complete ly agree Strongly agree Agree Neither agree / disagree Disagree Strongly disagree Complete ly disagree Don't know

Policy HC1: Improve the understanding of the significance and condition of heritage assets within the AONB.

Please explain why you chose this option :

Policy HC2: Work with landowners, managers, decision makers and local communities to positively manage the historic environment to ensure its successful conservation and enhancement.

Please explain why you chose this option :

Policy HC3: Engage and inspire local communities and visitors to enjoy and appreciate the AONB’s historic environment through education, interpretation and events.

Please explain why you chose this option :

Do you have any other suggestions that should inform our approach to historic environment and culture for Cannock Chase?

Please explain why you chose this option :

Policy EE4: High qualities of visitor infrastructure and provision, using best practice environmental design standards, should be adopted throughout the AONB, including a common approach to branding and interpretation.

Please explain why you chose this option :

Policy EE5: Increase awareness and encourage visitors to play a positive role in conserving and enhancing the AONB and to be 'good environmental ambassadors.'

Please explain why you chose this option :

Policy EE6: The use of alternative means of transport by visitors to the Chase should be explored and actively promoted.

Please explain why you chose this option :

Policy EE7: Communication with the public about the AONB, activities and events should be consistent, coordinated and streamlined.

Please explain why you chose this option :

Do you have any other suggestions that should inform our approach to experience and enjoyment for Cannock Chase?

The proposed plan identifies 4 policy commitments to develop natural benefits for communities and support for businesses aligned with protection and enhancement of the special qualities of the Chase. For each of these please indicate how far you agree, disagree or neither that these should be priority commitments for the management plan.

Policy commitment

Complete
ly agree

Strongly
agree

Agree

Neither
agree /
disagree

Disagree

Strongly
disagree

Complete
ly
disagree

Don't
know

Policy CB1: Ways should be developed to ensure that the natural benefits that the AONB delivers are fully taken advantage of by local communities and help meet the needs of those communities whilst conserving and enhancing the special qualities of the AONB.

Please explain why you chose this option :

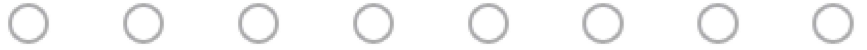
Policy CB2: Efforts should be made to fully engage stakeholders, businesses, community and other interested groups with the work going on in the AONB, helping them to shape and influence it.

Please explain why you chose this option :

Policy CB3: Coordinate volunteer activities throughout the AONB and draw on the skills developed by different organisations; Increase involvement by local communities and businesses in activities that support the special qualities of the AONB.

Please explain why you chose this option :

Policy CB4: Local businesses should be encouraged and supported to develop high quality products and services, and growth and innovation, that support the special qualities and the AONB brand.



Please explain why you chose this option :

Do you have any other suggestions that should inform our approach to communities and business for Cannock Chase?

Overall, how far do you agree or disagree that the Vision and Policy Commitments in the draft Management Plan set out the right approach for the conservation and enhancement of Cannock Chase as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) up to 2024?

- Completely agree
- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree / disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Completely disagree
- Don't know

Please explain why you chose this option:

Please enter any further comments you would like to make about the proposed Management Plan or Cannock Chase as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) here:

If you have any comments on the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Report or Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Report please give these here:

Thank you for your completing this questionnaire.

Please return to:

Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Consultation, c/o Staffordshire County Council, Staffordshire Place 2, Tipping Street, Stafford, ST16 2DH.