

Media Release

For immediate release

AONB Charity welcomes launch of Defra 25-year environmental plan

Today saw the Prime Minister, Theresa May, launch the long-awaited Defra 25-year environmental plan. The plan forms the culmination of over 2 years of close work and consultation with environmental bodies, including the National Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (NAAONB).

NAAONB Chairman, Philip Hygate, said

“The National Association for AONBs welcomes the 25 -year plan and sees it as an opportunity for AONB Partnerships and Conservation Boards to work even more collaboratively with Government to provide rich and diverse landscapes that conserve and enhance the UK’s wildlife.

Using their powers to convene, AONB Partnerships and Conservation Boards have long engaged with and supported anyone who cares about our landscapes.

We recognise that maintaining vibrant, healthy and diverse local communities is essential to the future of AONBs and we will continue to work to improve the connection between people and nature. Part of this work is recognising that, as dynamic, living landscapes, AONBs are important for the UK’s economy, so we will strengthen our relationships with landowners, farmers and other businesses to ensure a robust and sustainable local economy after Brexit.

We are confident that Management Plans, consulted on locally, and produced by the AONB Partnerships/Conservation Boards, provide the tools and opportunities to deliver the Government’s plans.

We believe that, together, we can achieve the Secretary of State’s ambition to halt the deterioration of our environment and restore and enhance the UK’s outstanding natural beauty.”

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Notes

1. The National Association for AONBs (NAAONB) is a charity that provides a strong collective voice for the UK’s 46 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs). Its objectives are to promote the conservation and enhancement of AONBs, advance the education, understanding and appreciation by the public of AONBs, and promote the efficiency and effectiveness of those promoting or representing AONBs, other Protected Areas and those areas for which designation might be pursued. It does this by taking a

collaborative and partnership based approach to working with our membership and other organisations at a national level to achieve shared goals. For more information see Web: www.landscapesforlife.org.uk Twitter: @naaonb @AONBFamily

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