**Annex A: Hewelsfield & Brockweir Neighbourhood Development Plan and the Wye Valley AONB**

The Parish of Hewelsfield & Brockweir falls partially within the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), with the B4228 forming the eastern boundary of the Wye Valley AONB. The AONB boundary can be seen on GoogleMaps.

The primary purpose of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (and National Parks) is to conserve and enhance natural beauty. Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty share equal status with National Parks in terms of scenic beauty and landscape protection.

The rich combination of breath taking views, impressive geology, historic legacies and diverse wildlife in the valley of the River Wye between Hereford and Chepstow led to the designation, in 1971, of the valley and adjoining plateaux and hills as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The Wye Valley AONB covers 92km (58 miles) of the lower reaches of the River Wye totalling an area of 327km² (128 square miles). The Wye Valley AONB is unique among the 46 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and 14 National Parks in England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland in being the only protected landscape to straddle a national boundary; being 64% in England and 36% in Wales.

**Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, Section 85** states:

General duty of public bodies*\*. In exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect, land in an area of outstanding natural beauty, a relevant authority\*\* shall have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area of outstanding natural beauty.* (\* includes [s85 (3)(a)] ‘parish councils’, \*\* includes [s85 (2)(d)] ‘any person holding public office’)

**National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)** states:

NPPF Paragraph 14:

*At the heart of the National Planning Policy Framework is a presumption in favour of sustainable development, which should be seen as a golden thread running through both plan-making and decision-taking.*

*For plan-making this means that:*

*local planning authorities should positively seek opportunities to meet the development needs of their area*

*Local Plans should meet objectively assessed needs, with sufficient flexibility to adapt to rapid change, unless:*

* *any adverse impacts of doing so would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in this Framework taken as a whole*
* *specific policies in this Framework indicate development should be restricted [footnote]*

*[footnote] For example, those policies relating to sites protected under the Birds and Habitats Directives (see paragraph 119) and/or designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest; land designated as Green Belt, Local Green Space, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Heritage Coast or within a National Park (or the Broads Authority); designated heritage assets; and locations at risk of flooding or coastal erosion.*

NPPF Paragraph 115:

*Great weight should be given to conserving landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which have the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty. The conservation of wildlife and cultural heritage are important considerations in all these areas, and should be given great weight in National Parks and the Broads.*

NPPF Paragraph 116*:*

*Planning permission should be refused for major developments in these designated areas except in exceptional circumstances and where it can be demonstrated they are in the public interest. Consideration of such applications should include an assessment of:*

* *the need for the development, including in terms of any national considerations, and the impact of permitting it, or refusing it, upon the local economy*
* *the cost of, and scope for, developing elsewhere outside the designated area, or meeting the need for it in some other way*
* *any detrimental effect on the environment, the landscape and recreational opportunities, and the extent to which that could be moderated*

**National Planning Policy Guidance,** Paragraph: 004 (Reference ID: 8-004-20140306) states:

*Planning policies and decisions should be based on up-to-date information about the natural environment and other characteristics of the area. As part of this, local planning authorities and neighbourhood planning bodies should have regard to management plans for National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, as these documents underpin partnership working and delivery of designation objectives. The management plans highlight the value and special qualities of these designations to society and show communities and partners how their activity contributes to protected landscape purposes.*

*National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty management plans do not form part of the statutory development plan, but may contribute to setting the strategic context for development by providing evidence and principles, which should be taken into account in the local planning authorities’ Local Plans and any neighbourhood plans in these areas.*

**Wye Valley AONB Management Plan 2015-2020**, under Section 89 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, formulates local authority policy and action in relation to the management of the Wye Valley AONB.

The Wye Valley AONB Management Plan, paragraph 4.1.4. states

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) has a “presumption in favour of sustainable development”. However this does not automatically apply in AONBs because (under NPPF paragraph 14 footnote 9) there are other specific policies in the NPPF that indicate that great weight should be given to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the AONB and major development restricted (paragraphs 115 & 116). This does not constitute a favour against sustainable development in AONBs and indeed reinforces that change (i.e. development) will occur in many aspects of life and the environment but that where change does occur it must be managed in a manner which contributes to a better quality of life for current and future generations, without undermining the quality of the natural environment. Therefore sustainable management means a future Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty which continues to justify its designation as a nationally important area of highly valued functioning landscape with distinctive features and Special Qualities, which is also a living, working area, with vibrant communities where people want to live and work and visit and where they will continue to want to do so.

***AONB Landscape Management Zones***

Section 6 of the AONB Management Plan provides a description of the key features of the sixteen Landscape Management Zones (LMZ). These are cross-referenced to the Special Qualities [SQ] of the AONB, along with the ecosystem goods and services they provide. The Parish of Hewelsfield & Brockweir falls within two of the Landscape Management Zones: LMZ09 Wye Gorge and LMZ15 Dean Edge Limestone Plateau.

The following is extracted from the AONB Management Plan, Table 2: Wye Valley AONB Landscape Management Zones and Features

| **LMZ ID** | **Landscape Management Zone (LMZ)** | **LCA ref****[NCA no.]** | **Features and link to Special Qualities [SQ]** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| LMZ09 | Wye Gorge  | *HC Character Areas:*Archenfield Forest of Dean*Landscape Types:*Principal Wooded HillsWooded Hills and FarmlandPrincipal Settled Farmlands Forest Smallholdings and DwellingsUnenclosed Commons*Forest of Dean Character Areas:*The Wye Valley - Common Grove to The Slaughter The Wye Valley - Redbrook to Brockweir The Wye Valley - Brockweir to TutshillMonmouthshire Landscape Character Area:The Wye Valley[NCA 105] | * Ancient, semi-natural and mixed broadleaved & coniferous woodland [SQ2, SQ18]
* Ancient and extensive tree cover pattern and skyline [SQ2, SQ18]
* Steeply sloping topography [SQ1]
* Tributaries and cascades [SQ3]
* Dramatic limestone cliffs [SQ9]
* Quartz conglomerate outcrops [SQ8]
* Narrow floodplain pastures on the valley floor [SQ4]
* Hedgerow network often with mature trees [SQ5, SQ18]
* Mixed farming [SQ1]
* Linear settlements bordering valley floor often at bridging points [SQ20]
* Small clusters of historic squatter settlements on valley sides surrounded by intricate pattern of small fields, drystone walls, narrow lanes and small deciduous woodlands [SQ4, SQ5, SQ20, SQ22]
* Predominantly unwooded Coppett Hill Common [SQ26]
* Long panoramic views from high vantage points and medium ‘picturesque’ views from valley floor [SQ11]
* Long history as an important route way and boundary feature, including Offa’s Dyke. [SQ14, SQ15, SQ23]
* Rich heritage of local natural resource transport and exploitation [SQ16, SQ22]
* Ancient meanders preserved as the course of tributary streams [SQ3, SQ10]
* Woodlands and riverine habitats of high ecological and scenic value [SQ2, SQ3, SQ4, SQ5]
* Tintern Abbey [SQ15]
* Cultural association with Wye Tour and Picturesque Movement [SQ11]
* Strong sense of place due to distinctive landform, woodland and river [SQ12, SQ18]
 |
| LMZ15 | Dean Edge Limestone Plateau | *Forest of Dean Character Areas:**Tidenham Chase* *St Briavels Common**[NCA 105]* | * Gently undulating plateau with expansive views [SQ11]
* Strong field pattern of large or moderately sized arable and pasture fields [SQ1]
* Distinctive stone walls and ancient hedgerows [SQ5]
* Dispersed isolated farms which are located at the end of lanes and often associated with modern barn complexes [SQ20]
* Villages sited at the edge of the plateau [SQ20]
* Redundant Limestone quarries located across the landscape [SQ9]
* Small enclosures of semi-natural, unimproved grasslands, winding lanes, small woodlands and 'squatter' cottages on St Briavels Common [SQ4, SQ5, SQ20, SQ22]
* Heathland landscapes at Tidenham Chase [SQ19]
 |

***Special Qualities of the AONB***

The Table below is extracted from the AONB Management Plan, Table 8 ‘Special Qualities of the Wye Valley AONB’ which identifies the Special Qualities of the AONB and their nature, quality, extent and condition and the ecosystem goods and services they provide.

The Features in these 2 LMZs above link to 19 of the 27 Special Qualities [SQ] identified in the AONB Management Plan (SQs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 26).

**Special Qualities of the Wye Valley AONB relevant to Hewelsfield & Brockweir Parish**

| **Special Qualities****[SQ]** | **Recognition** | **Extent** | **Condition****[data / reason]** | **Changes or threats** | **Ecosystem Goods\* & Services†**P: Provisioning, R: Regulating C: Cultural |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | **Overall Landscape** |  |  |  |  |
| 16 Landscape Management Zones (see Table 1) with key feature | Outstanding(see county Landscape Character Assessments and LandMap) | Whole AONB | CQC headline indicator for both JCAs is Maintaining and Enhancing  | Sustainableland management &/or ownership that conserves or enhances key landscape characteristics and features  | P: Food\*, Fibre\*, Fresh water\*, Biofuels\*Genetic resources\*, Timber\*, Species diversity\*, Water\*, Navigation\*, Health products\*, Bioenergy\*, Pharmaceutical products\*R: Climate regulation†, Water quality regulation†, Erosion control†, Air quality regulation†, Pollution control†, Pollination†, Disease and pest control†, Soil quality regulation†, Noise regulation†, Water regulation†, Fire hazard regulation†, Flood regulation†, Local climate regulation†, Wild species diversity\*, Coastal defence†C: Recreation & Tourism\*, Aesthetic values\*, Cultural heritage\*, Spiritual values\*, Education\*, Sense of place\*, Health benefits\*, Employment\* |
| Inappropriate land management may degrade or destroy landscape features; (including neglect, addition of inappropriate features, ongoing loss & decline of elements that define landscape character resulting in increased uniformity and loss of distinctiveness) |
|  | **Biodiversity** |  |  |  |  |
| 2. | Woodlands | Diversity of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW) and Planted Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) including 35 SSSIs and many ancient / veteran trees (see SQ18). Some plantation and other woodland. 50 SMs and 33 Listed Buildings within woodlands. | 25% woodland cover in AONB.6083 ha of Ancient woodland >2ha covers 18.65% of AONB. SSSIs cover 1679 ha. 5% of AONB. Public Forest Estate (PFE) cover 16% of AONB | Varied; much ASNW under managed, some PAWS being restored [in English part of AONB 67% of SSSIs meet NE PSA targets, sites ranging from 0-100%. 93% PFE SSSIs meet PSA targets] | Changes in land management, including neglect of much private small woodland and road & bank side trees | P: Timber\*, Fuelwood\*, Fresh water\*, Species diversity\*R: Climate regulation†, Erosion control†, Flood regulation†, Pollination†, Disease & pest control†, Air & water quality regulation†, Soil quality regulation†, Noise regulation†C: Recreation & Tourism\*, Aesthetic values\*, Cultural heritage\*, Spiritual values\*, Education\*, Employment\*, Sense of place\*, Health benefits\* |
| Ongoing degradation of ancient woodland sites by the continuing existence of conifers and other non-native species, including continued replanting of ASNW with conifers |
| Degradation of features of the historic environment |
| Fragmentation of ancient woodland sites by land use changes |
| Climate change |
| Wye Valley Woodlands SAC | 913.62ha 3% of AONB | Unfavourable to fair; [woodland SAC / SSSI condition; NRW, in English part of AONB 72% of SSSIs meet NE PSA targets, sites ranging from 0-100%;  |  Degradation through neglect |
| Degradation by specific alien &/or expanding species (eg. cherry laurel, Himalayan balsam, deer, grey squirrel) |
| 3. | The river & tributaries  | Main river SAC and SSSI, 6 SMs and 70 Listed Buildings within Flood Zone 3. Nationally important for water based recreation and one of the key reasons why people visit the AONB. Wye voted ‘best river in England & Wales’ 2010 by the Our Rivers Campaign, (run by RSPB, WWF-UK, the Angling Trust and the Salmon and Trout Association) | 58 miles (92km) of main river (1.3% of AONB) and a similar length of tributaries and streams2,790 ha of Flood Zone 3 floodplain | Of 11 SAC features 5 are in unfavourable condition, 36% of SSSI meets NE PSA target [condition of salmon & white clawed crayfish unfavourable, sediment levels & diffuse pollution of concern] (NE, NRW), Water quality is good, although river & many streamssuffering from some pollution. | Degradation of natural processes, including constraints on flooding | P: Food\*, Water\*, Fibre\*, Navigation\*, Bioenergy\*, Health products\*R: Climate regulation†, Water regulation†, Water quality regulation†, Fire hazard regulation†C: Recreation & Tourism\*, Aesthetic values\*, Cultural heritage\*, Spiritual values\*, Education\*, Employment\*, Health benefits\* |
| Land use impacts may degrade or destroy features e.g. loss of riverside grassland, siltation from poor soil management, loss of historic environment features, engineering for recreational interests etc. |
| Invasive alien species  |
| Diffuse Pollution, including the leaching of chemicals from agricultural land |
| Point source pollution, including increased development overfilling old drainage and sewerage systems |
| Changes through climate change and altered seasonal rainfall. |
| Spread of disease, such as *Phytophora* infection of riparian alders |
| 4. | Species-rich grassland, including small field pattern of un/semi-improved grassland, often bounded by drystone walls or old hedges | Very few SSSIs, 133 CLWSTarget area for HLS | 4.4% of AONB inc 250 ha Hewelsfield & St Briavels Common | Prone to neglect [Hewelsfield & St Briavels Common Parish Grassland survey] | Continuing degradation through neglect and/or Change in ownership &/or land management (including overgrazing or incorporation into ‘garden’) | P: Food\*, Biofuels\*, Fresh water\*, Genetic resources\*, Species diversity\*R: Climate regulation†, Air & water quality regulation †, Pollution control†, Pollination†, Erosion control†, Soil quality regulation†, Disease and pest control†, Wild species diversity\*C: Recreation & Tourism\*, Aesthetic values\*, Cultural heritage\*, Spiritual values\*, Education\*, Employment\*, Sense of place\*, Health benefits\* |
| Development of land for housing |
| 5. | Boundary habitat diversity & connectivity, e.g. between grassland & woodland, farmland & heathland, tidal river & ASNW, hedges &/or drystone walls, lanes, banks, verges and fields & woods | Varied, locally or regionally important as landscape &/or habitat, heritage &/or socio-economic feature | Throughout AONB | Varied | Damage and degradation through change in ownership &/or land management, including removal, inappropriate activity, road widening  | P: Food\*, Fibre\*, Fresh water\*, Biofuels\*Genetic resources\*, Timber\*, Species diversity\*, Health products\*, Pharmaceutical products\*R: Climate regulation†, Water quality regulation†, Erosion control†, Air quality regulation†, Pollution control†, Pollination†, Disease and pest control†, Soil quality regulation†, Noise regulation†, Water regulation†, Fire hazard regulation†, Flood regulation†, Local climate regulation†, Wild species diversity\*, Coastal defence†C: Recreation & Tourism\*, Aesthetic values\*, Cultural heritage\*, Spiritual values\*, Education\*, Sense of place\*, Health benefits\*, Employment\* |
|  | **Geological** |  |  |  |  |
| 8. | Quartz Conglomerate outcropping between Lower and Upper Old Red Sandstone  | Good, (Quartz Conglomerate overlain by Tintern Sandstone) | Prominent seams between Tintern and Ross | Good Outcrops, eg Coppett Hill & Doward | Traditionally used locally in millstones and in drystone walls, limited modern use  | P: Genetic resources\*R: Climate regulation†, Air & water quality regulation †, Erosion control†, Soil quality regulation†, Disease and pest control†C: Recreation & Tourism\*, Aesthetic values\*, Cultural heritage\*, Spiritual values\*, Education\*, Employment\*, Sense of place\* |
| 9. | Carboniferous Limestone | Good (overlain by Carboniferous Coal Measures) | Underlies about 25% of AONB south of Ross | Good Outcrops, especially cliffs and quarries | Quarrying; two working quarries in, and one bordering, AONB | P: Food\*, Fibre\*, Biofuels\*, Fresh water\*, Genetic resources\*R: Climate regulation†, Air & water quality regulation †, Pollution control†, Pollination†, Erosion control†, Soil quality regulation†, Disease and pest control†C: Recreation & Tourism\*, Aesthetic values\*, Cultural heritage\*, Spiritual values\*, Education\*, Employment\*, Sense of place\*, Health benefits\* |
| Loss of working small quarries |
|  |
| 10. | Riverine geomorphology | Good, incised meanders & superimposed drainage globally important examples for educational purposes | Along length of river | Good | Natural processes, including flooding and movement of meanders | P: Food\*, Water\*, Navigation\*R: Climate regulation†, Water regulation†, Water quality regulation†, Fire hazard regulation†C: Recreation & Tourism\*, Aesthetic values\*, Cultural heritage\*, Spiritual values\*, Education\*, Employment\*, Health benefits\* |
| Invasive alien species  |
| Land use impacts may degrade or destroy features e.g. siltation, engineering for recreational interests or flood defence  |
|  | **Visual and Sensory** |  |  |  |  |
| 11. | Picturesque, extensive & dramatic views. | 72 viewpoints identified. 20 included in Overlooking the Wye Landscape Partnership Scheme including 4 SMs at Piercefield. | Throughout AONB but majority overlooking the Wye | Varied; some spectacular, some overgrown, some inaccessible, health & safety poor at some [Assessment of Historic & Picturesque Viewpoints in AONB, 2001]. Overlooking the Wye Landscape Partnership Scheme conserved &/or enhanced 12. | Changes in ownership &/or land management may degrade or block both physical access to viewpoints and/or the view window  | P: Genetic resources\*, Timber\*, Species diversity\*R: Erosion control†, Wild species diversity\*C: Recreation & Tourism\*, Aesthetic values\*, Cultural heritage\*, Spiritual values\*, Education\*, Sense of place\* |
| Inappropriate land management may degrade or destroy the landscape viewed from a viewpoint including large single structures |
| 12. | Overall sense of tranquillity, sense of remoteness and naturalness / wildness | Varied | Much of AONB | Poor to good, with localised disturbance from heavy traffic and individual vehicles and military aircraft [CPRE & CCW maps] | Changes in land management including new or expanding development and intensification of use (i.e. inappropriate tourism and recreation or increasing road or air traffic) | C: Recreation & Tourism\*, Aesthetic values\*, Cultural heritage\*, Spiritual values\*, Education\*, Sense of place\* |
| Change driven by new standards and legislation e.g. street lighting, highway construction may lead to loss of tranquillity and sense of remoteness |
|  | **Historic Environment** |  |  |  |  |
| 14. | Roman and early Medieval sites including Offa’s Dyke | Romano-British settlements and industry, Offa’s Dyke early medieval boundary of unique cultural and historical importance | Throughout AONB, Offa’s Dyke on eastern crest of Lower Wye Valley  | Varied, Offa’s Dykevery well preserved in some places but 4 sections of Dyke on English Heritage’s Register of Heritage at Risk | Inappropriate land management may degrade or destroy archaeological features  | P: Food\*, Fibre\*, Genetic resources\*, Timber\*, Species diversity\*R: Erosion control†, Wild species diversity\*C: Recreation & Tourism\*, Aesthetic values\*, Cultural heritage\*, Spiritual values\*, Education\*, Sense of place\* |
| visitor access, Offa’s Dyke Path National Trail erosion |
| 15. | Medieval Defensive and Ecclesiastical sites and associated landscapes  | Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest in Cadw Register of Historic Landscapes.Goodrich & Chepstow Castles and Tintern Abbey in state ownership. | Lower Wye Valleyfrom Ross to Chepstow | Fair to good 6 churches on English Heritage’s Register of Heritage at Risk | Changes in the visiting regime and increases in popularity of various sites. | P: Genetic resources\*, Species diversity\*R: Erosion control†, Wild species diversity\*C: Recreation & Tourism\*, Aesthetic values\*, Cultural heritage\*, Spiritual values\*, Education\*, Employment\*, Sense of place\* |
| Inappropriate land management may degrade or destroy archaeological features |
| 16. | Post-medieval industrial sites and associated landscapes | Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest in Cadw Register of Historic Landscapes | Throughout AONB.  | Some sites under management, others suffering from neglect | Inappropriate land management may degrade or destroy archaeological features | P: Genetic resources\*, Species diversity\*R: Erosion control†, Wild species diversity\*C: Recreation & Tourism\*, Aesthetic values\*, Cultural heritage\*, Spiritual values\*, Education\*, Sense of place\* |
| Changes in the visiting regime and increases in popularity of various sites. |
| 18. | Ancient trees  | Significant numbers of ancient pollards and mature trees in hedges, woods and parkland 2,347 in total (av 7/km2) | Throughout AONB | Poor  | Neglect or inappropriate management may damage or destroy trees | P: Timber\*, Fuelwood\*, Species diversity\*R: Climate regulation†, Erosion control†, Flood regulation†, Disease & pest control†, Air & water quality regulation†, Soil quality regulation†, Noise regulation†C: Recreation & Tourism\*, Aesthetic values\*, Cultural heritage\*, Spiritual values\*, Education\*, Employment\*, Sense of place\*, Health benefits\* |
| 19. | Historic / registered parks and gardens | 10 registered parks and gardens; Sufton Court, Hill Court, The Kymin, Troy House, High Glanau, The Argoed, Wyndcliffe Court, Piercefield, Itton Court, Mounton House, plus 48 of local significance in AONB | Through-out AONB | Fair to goodnone on EH ‘risk register’ | Inappropriate land management may degrade or destroy historic features (including the degradation of identified designed landscape) | P: Food\*, Fibre\*, Fresh water\*, Biofuels\*Genetic resources\*, Timber\*, Species diversity\*, Water\*, Health products\*, Bioenergy\*R: Climate regulation†, Water quality regulation†, Erosion control†, Air quality regulation†, Pollution control†, Pollination†, Disease and pest control†, Soil quality regulation†, Noise regulation†, Water regulation†, Fire hazard regulation†, Flood regulation†, Local climate regulation†, Wild species diversity\*, Coastal defence†C: Recreation & Tourism\*, Aesthetic values\*, Cultural heritage\*, Spiritual values\*, Education\*, Sense of place\*, Health benefits\*, Employment\* |
| 20. | Vernacular architecture:FarmsteadsCommoners cottages, Estate houses | Varied – no one dominant style due to varying geology | Through-out AONB, dependant on geology | Varied, dependant on geology & building materials | Inappropriate management may degrade or destroy historic features  | P: Genetic resources\*, Species diversity\*R: Climate regulation†, Water quality regulation†, Erosion control†, Air quality regulation†, Pollution control†, Noise regulation†, Water regulation†, Wild species diversity\*C: Recreation & Tourism\*, Aesthetic values\*, Cultural heritage\*, Spiritual values\*, Education\*, Sense of place\*, Employment\* |
|  | **Access and Recreation** |  |  |  |  |
| 22. | Old tracks: often in sunken ways &/or bounded by drystone walls |  Some in Rights of Way network, some County Road (Highways), some other highways, remainder private. No formal cataloguing and assessment | Through-out AONB | Variable | Degradation of surface and/or boundary features due to changes in levels of usage &/or ownership or management, eg. water erosion, deep rutting and waterlogging, hard surfacing, widening, etc. | P: Genetic resources\*, Species diversity\*R: Water quality regulation†, Erosion control†, Air quality regulation†, Pollution control†, Noise regulation†, Water regulation†, Fire hazard regulation†, Flood regulation†, Local climate regulation†, Wild species diversity\*C: Recreation & Tourism\*, Aesthetic values\*, Cultural heritage\*, Spiritual values\*, Education\*, Sense of place\* |
| Blockage and/or obstruction  |
| Unclear classification and misleading signage |
| Blockage and/or obstruction  |
| 23. | Offa’s Dyke Path  | National Trail | Monmouth to Chepstow (35km) | Premier national walking route | Erosion due to excessive usage leading to damage to Offa’s Dyke earthwork | C: Recreation & Tourism\*, Aesthetic values\*, Cultural heritage\*, Spiritual values\*, Education\*, Sense of place\*, Employment\* |
| Blockage and/or obstruction  |
| 25. | Access land  | Good | Forestry Commission woodland and Woodland Trust holdings eg. Haugh Wood, Chase Wood & lower Wye Valley woods | Good | Changes in legislation or sale removing access rights | P: Food\*, Fibre\*, Fresh water\*, Biofuels\*Genetic resources\*, Timber\*, Species diversity\*, Water\*, R: Climate regulation†, Water quality regulation†, Erosion control†, Air quality regulation†, Pollution control†, Pollination†, Disease and pest control†, Soil quality regulation†, Water regulation†, Fire hazard regulation†, Local climate regulation†, Wild species diversity\*C: Recreation & Tourism\*, Aesthetic values\*, Cultural heritage\*, Spiritual values\*, Education\*, Sense of place\*, Health benefits\*, Employment\* |
| 26.  | Small commons; largest are Coppet Hill, Broadmoor, Staunton Meend, Whitelye, The Hudnalls  | Generally good | 12 scattered through -out AONB (260ha in England) | Generally good | Obstruction to access | P: Food\*, Fibre\*, Fresh water\*, Biofuels\*Genetic resources\*, Species diversity\*, Water\*, Health products\*R: Climate regulation†, Water quality regulation†, Erosion control†, Air quality regulation†, Pollution control†, Pollination†, Disease and pest control†, Soil quality regulation†, Water regulation†, Fire hazard regulation†, Flood regulation†, Local climate regulation†, Wild species diversity\*C: Recreation & Tourism\*, Aesthetic values\*, Cultural heritage\*, Spiritual values\*, Education\*, Sense of place\*, Health benefits\* |
| Lack of, or inappropriate, management |
|  | **Other** |  |  |  |  |
| 27. | Orchards | Traditional orchards mostly cider apples and perry pear also commercial apple standard and bush orchards  | Throughout AONB, dependant on geology and topography. New commercial orchards being planted. | Many traditional orchards redundant or underused. New commercial planting of bush orchards | Lack of, or inappropriate, management practices, may damage or destroy trees, including weather damage or harmful grazing by stock, particularly horses | P: Food\*, Fresh water\*, Biofuels\*, Genetic resources\*, Timber\*, Species diversity\*, Health products\*, Pharmaceutical products\*R: Climate regulation†, Water quality regulation†, Erosion control†, Air quality regulation†, Pollution control†, Pollination†, Disease and pest control†, Soil quality regulation†, Noise regulation†, Water regulation†, Fire hazard regulation†, Flood regulation†, Local climate regulation†, Wild species diversity\*C: Recreation & Tourism\*, Aesthetic values\*, Cultural heritage\*, Spiritual values\*, Education\*, Sense of place\*, Health benefits\*, Employment\* |
| Development of land for housing |

The AONB Management Plan then develops, under the following main themes, the aims and Strategic Objectives:-

7.1.2 Theme 1:Our unique landscape

Conserving and, where necessary, enhancing the natural beauty of *our unique landscape* is the primary theme.This addresses the components of natural beauty: the landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity, historic environment and the cultural heritage. The aim for each component is as follows:-

* to conserve and, where necessary, enhance the natural beautyof the landscape in the Wye Valley AONB, with its natural and cultural features and processes and the Special Qualities and features of the Landscape Management Zones.
* to conserve, and where appropriate enhance, the biodiversity of the AONB
* to conserve and enhance sites that are important for the scientific and general understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of the geodiversity heritage of the AONB.
* to conserve and sympathetically manage the historic environment and cultural heritage of the AONB and promote engagement with and understanding of it.

Additionally the dominant land uses that sustain the landscape need to be considered. The aims for this are:-

* to foster viable farming enterprises that manage the land in ways that conserve and enhance the natural resources and local distinctiveness of the AONB, and
* to ensure woodlands and trees throughout the Wye Valley AONB are managed sustainably in a way that protects and enhances the outstanding ancient woodland character of the area, and provides economic, environmental and social benefits.

7.1.3 Theme 2: Development and Transport

Planning the protection of the AONB through appropriate *development and transport* is the second theme. This addresses the development, infrastructure and protection of the landscape with the aim for each component as follows:-

* Ensure that all development with and impacting on the AONB is compatible with the aims of AONB designation.
* Ensure all minerals development within the AONB is compatible with the aims of AONB designation
* Ensure the most sustainable, effective and efficient use and supply of services and energy within and impacting on the AONB, compatible with the aims of AONB designation
* Ensure transport in the AONB is sustainable and integrated and compatible with the purposes of AONB designation.

The main Development Strategic Objectives are

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **WV-D1** | Ensure a consistent and coherent framework of planning policies relating to the AONB is fully reflected in the statutory land use planning documents and their effectiveness monitored*[see also WV-D4 and WV-P4]* |
| **WV-D2** | Encourage and support high standards of design, materials, energy efficiency, drainage and landscaping in all developments, including Permitted Development, to ensure greater sustainability and that they complement and enhance the local landscape character and distinctiveness including scale and setting and minimise the impact on the natural environment*[see also WV-L3, WV-D4, WV-U1, WV-U3, WV-T2, WV-S4 and WV-P5]* |
| **WV-D3** | Resist inappropriate development which will create a persistent and dominant feature out of keeping with the landscape of the AONB and/or if it damages Special Qualities in the AONB, including through high levels of noise and/or light pollution or any SAC, SPA or Ramsar site or other sites designated as environmentally important*[see also WV-L3, WV-F3, WV-U1, WV-U3, WV-T2* *and WV-S4]* |
| **WV-D4** | Encourage the use of Section 106 or Section 38 Agreements and the Community Infrastructure Levy to provide opportunities for developments to contribute to enhancing or conserving the natural beauty of the AONB*[see also WV-D1, WV-D2 and WV-P4]* |

7.1.4 Theme 3: Vital communities

Safeguarding rural industries and local socio-economic needs that maintain *vital communities* is the third theme. This addresses the vibrancy of the local communities and the viability of local businesses that sustain the landscape features. The aim is:-

* to engender thriving local communities that have a high quality of life with a healthy economy that supports the natural beauty of the area.

Farming and forestry have already been covered above, but other aspects of the rural economy and rural regeneration also need to be considered. The aim is:-

* to foster viable rural enterprises that derive benefit from and enhance the natural resources and local distinctiveness of the AONB.

Tourism is included under the next theme.

7.1.5 Theme 4: Enjoying the AONB

Promoting and ensuring that the general public are *enjoying the AONB* in sustainable waysis the fourth theme*.* This addresses the enjoyment of the special landscape features by everybody. The aims are that:-

* Sustainable tourism, based upon the natural beauty and local distinctiveness of the AONB, continues to enrich the lives of visitors, operators and employees while contributing positively to the conservation and enhancement of the area.
* People continue to enjoy active recreation in the Wye Valley that does not detract from the natural beauty of the area.

People’s appreciation and understanding of why the area is designated is increased.

For all the Strategic Objectives under each Theme please see the AONB Management Plan

<http://www.wyevalleyaonb.org.uk/index.php/about-us/management-and-guidance/management-plan-2015-2020/>

The AONB Management Plan also contains:-

**12.2 A Charter for Residents and Visitors**

The following baker’s dozen of actions are ways that all residents, visitors and businesses can help to deliver this Management Plan and help to care for this internationally important protected landscape.

12.2.1 **Take pride in the Wye Valley – promote its Special Qualities, Features and places to family, friends and visitors**

*Promoting what you find special about the Wye Valley is the best way of encouraging commitment and action by others to the area.*

12.2.2 **Buy local products and services from farmers and woodland managers who actively manage their land to benefit the environment**

*The landscape and wildlife value of the area’s woodlands, grasslands, heathlands, hedges and field margins are dependent on traditional management. Money invested in products and services that help support this management is money invested in conserving the AONB and its local economy.*

12.2.3 **Get out there and enjoy it**

*Being out and about in such outstandingly natural and beautiful landscapes is good for your health and general well-being, so take full advantage of this asset on your doorstep.*

12.2.4 **Respect other users – follow the Countryside Code**

*Through responsible behaviour we can all use and enjoy the countryside without damaging the enjoyment or livelihoods of others.*

12.2.5 **Slow down for people, horses and wildlife**

*Traffic spoils enjoyment of the Wye Valley for a great many of its residents. Speeding cars kill people, horses and wildlife, and ancient greenways and their rare plants are damaged by inconsiderate driving and parking.*

12.2.6 **Manage your land for wildlife**

*Fields, woodland, paddocks and gardens support valuable and threatened wildlife.* *A few simple measures and sensitive management can enhance their wildlife value for everyone’s benefit.*

12.2.7 **Maintain the rural nature of your property**

*The use of traditional materials and skills, such as drystone walling, helps retain the AONB’s valued rural feel, which is in danger of being gradually eroded through the use of inappropriate and urban materials and features.*

12.2.8 **Help prevent the spread of invasive and harmful plant and animal species**

*Introduced plant, animal and fish species spread rapidly in the Wye Valley countryside, competing with our native wildlife and leading to its loss.*

12.2.9 **Avoid using the car where possible and consider using renewable energy in your home**

*Emissions from non-renewable fossil fuels contribute to climate change and lead to degradation of valuable habitats such as bogs and heathland and the possible gradual loss of wildlife such as primroses and bluebells.*

12.2.10 **Reduce, reuse and recycle, and dispose of all litter responsibly**

*Litter spoils enjoyment of the countryside for the majority of residents and can pose a lethal risk for wildlife. Less rubbish also means less pressure for landfill sites and fewer collection vehicles in the AONB.*

12.2.11 **Use less water**

*Demands for water lead to high levels of water extraction from the Wye. This damages the wildlife in the AONB’s rivers, streams and wetlands, as well as recreational enjoyment of the Wye.*

12.2.12 **Get involved – support local conservation organisations**

*With your financial and practical support, local conservation organisations can take action to care for the area such as monitoring threatened wildlife, undertaking practical conservation tasks and lobbying government.*

12.2.13 **Have a say**

*Your views can influence care of the area – use consultation processes operating at Community/Parish/Town, district, county and AONB level to steer policy and action that affects the area.* *Meanwhile, help report damage to geological, ecological, archaeological and historic features.*

For further information please contact

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