

Responding on behalf of an organisation

Please tick the heading(s) that best describe your organisation.

Parish or Town Council

Other (please specify):

— Response submitted by Buckland Parish Council

## Diversity Monitoring

Please tell us your age group:

The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA) defines a person as disabled if they have a physical or mental impairment, which has a substantial or long term (ie. has lasted or is expected to last at least 12 months) adverse effect on the person's ability to carry out normal day to day activities. Do you consider yourself disabled as defined by the DDA?

Not Answered

Please tell us which ethnic group you are:

Not Answered

Please tell us your gender:

Not Answered

Note: These categories are based on those used by the Office of National Statistics.

## Overall Comments

Do you think the proposed areas should be designated as part of the Surrey Hills AONB?

Areas - Wey Valley, Farnham:

I don't feel able to comment

Areas - Hog's Back:

I don't feel able to comment

Areas - Binscombe Hills:

I don't feel able to comment

Areas - Enton Hills:

I don't feel able to comment

Areas - Wey Valley, Farley Hill:

I don't feel able to comment

Areas - Cranleigh Waters:

I don't feel able to comment

Areas - Hatchlands and East Clandon:

I don't feel able to comment

Areas - Headley Hills:

I don't feel able to comment

Areas - Chipstead Valleys:

I don't feel able to comment

Areas - Happy Valley:

I don't feel able to comment

Areas - Caterham Woods:

I don't feel able to comment

Areas - Woldingham Valleys:

I don't feel able to comment

Areas - Limpsfield:

I don't feel able to comment

Areas - Godstone Hills:

I don't feel able to comment

Areas - Betchworth Hills and Mole Valley:

Yes, but I wish to comment on the boundary

Areas - Ockley Low Weald:

I don't feel able to comment

Areas - Dunsfold Low Weald:

I don't feel able to comment

Areas - Dockensfield Hills:

I don't feel able to comment

Areas - Minor boundary refinements:

I don't feel able to comment

## Comments on individual areas

What is the name of the Proposed Extension Area you would like to comment about?

Proposed Areas:

Betchworth Hills and River Mole

## Comments on Betchworth Hills and Mole Valley

Does this area have sufficient natural beauty to be designated as AONB?

Yes

Please give a reason for your views::

The Parish Council supports the assessment of the land being put forward for inclusion within the extended boundaries of the Surrey Hills AONB and agrees with the views expressed by Natural England with respect to natural beauty. The Parish Council has long believed that more of the parish merited inclusion within the AONB and was pleased to see residents submitting their views and photographs in response to the call for evidence undertaken late 2021/early 2022. The Parish Council is grateful to Natural England for introducing this early stage call for evidence which has provided reassurance to our community that Natural England values their input.

Is there any other important information that we should include in our assessment of this area's natural beauty?

Yes

If Yes, please give further details::

Please consider seasonality. The "winter" timing of the call for evidence did limit the scope of the photographic evidence. A large proportion of the local community enjoy the natural beauty of the changing seasons in Buckland and several commented that had they realised the call would be made would have collated seasonal photographs ready to submit.

Is it desirable to designate this area as AONB due to its natural beauty?

Yes

Please give a reason for your views::

The Parish Council believes it is in the interests of the parish, as a whole, to be included within the AONB and, looking at the communities within the currently defined AONB believes Buckland's natural beauty compares favourably against the criteria and when compared to many other communities already within the AONB.

Is there any other important information that we should include in our assessment of the desirability of designating this area?

Yes

If Yes, please give further details::

Buckland Estate has made it clear that sand extraction within the village has ended and efforts are now focused on securing the long term future of the Estate. Management consistent with the AONB objectives continues on former mineral working sites and the one site still managed by an operator will shortly enter aftercare and be handed back to the Estate.

The status of this land, in accordance with National Planning Policy, has remained green belt and the planning permission granted for the mineral extraction set conditions requiring a full restoration. Consequently the parish council asks Natural England to revisit the assessment of these areas as it is

} Buckland Parish Council chose to comment on EA11, the area within which you find Buckland.

Council's view that the former Tapwood Quarry is desirable as adjoining land and it would be more consistent to include it alongside Park Lake.

Do you agree with the proposed boundary of this extension?

I wish to suggest an alternative boundary

Please give a reason for your views::

The Parish Council agrees that all the areas proposed for inclusion should be within the proposed boundary of the extension.

Consistent with the query raised in the previous question relating to desirability the Parish Council asks Natural England to check whether the decision to exclude any of the land not currently proposed for inclusion has been influenced by a SCC designation of current or potential mineral working zone.

Buckland Estate has made it clear sand extraction has come to an end and the parish council understands the transfer into aftercare of Tapwood (a site SCC currently categorises operational as it is still under the management of the operator whilst undergoing restoration) is expected soon.

The parish council respectfully suggests Natural England does not give any weight to such SCC designation as may have been advised by SCC when Natural England makes its final assessment of land in Buckland for possible inclusion. The parish council believes it would be more consistent for such areas to be included.

In light of the oft quoted benefits of operating a business within the AONB and the fact that most businesses located in settlements with the current boundaries are included within the AONB it does appear a little harsh to be specifically excluding Buckland's small businesses (e.g. Buckland Nurseries and The Pheasant).

If Natural England does decide to redraw the boundaries to include additional land immediately to the north and/or south of these businesses Council asks for consideration to being given to including these small businesses.

Upload information / maps about your alternative Boundary here:

File upload:

No file uploaded

Do you wish to comment on any of the other Proposed Extension Areas?

No

## Additional Information

Additional Information:

Additional Information::

Document upload:

No file uploaded

Additional Information::

Document upload:

No file uploaded