

08/03/23

Our ref: MP2023015

Jeremy Hunt MP
By email only: huntj@parliament.uk



Dear Mr Hunt,

Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Boundary Review.

We wrote to you recently to outline the consultation process for the proposed extension to the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and wanted to update you that Natural England has now launched the consultation which will run for 14 weeks from 7th of March 2023 to the 13th of June 2023.

The consultation is statutory with the following relevant local authorities;

- Surrey County Council
- Croydon Borough Council
- Guildford Borough Council
- Mole Valley District Council
- Reigate & Banstead Borough Council
- Tandridge District Council
- Waverley Borough Council
- Greater London Authority
- Sevenoaks District Council
- East Hampshire District Council
- Kent County Council
- Hampshire County Council

It has also been extended to other stakeholders including relevant national bodies, Parish Councils, AONB Partnership members, local businesses and landowning groups, community organisations, recreational interests and the wider public in the areas covered by the existing AONB and adjacent to the proposed extension.

We are inviting views on whether the proposed extension meets the criterion of natural beauty, whether it should be designated as an extension to the Surrey Hills AONB and, if so, where the boundaries should be drawn.

As part of the statutory and public consultation, all the supporting background documents regarding Natural England's role with regard to the designation of AONBs (including the detailed technical assessments that we have undertaken) are available on the government platform for online consultations (link below).

A formal response to this consultation can be made by completing the on-line response form at:

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/ne-landscape-heritage-and-geodiversity-team/surrey-hills-boundary-variation>.

Paper versions of the consultation form, along with a hard copy of the consultation pack, are also available on request.

I trust that this helps to keep you up to speed with current developments and the process surrounding the consultation. As ever, should you have any queries or require any further information please don't hesitate to contact me.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Allison Potts", on a light blue background.

Allison Potts
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