

Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Draft Management Plan

Consultation Questionnaire

The Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Unit are seeking your views on the Kent Downs AONB Draft Management Plan 2020 – 2025. Kent County Council (KCC) is hosting this consultation on their behalf.

What information do you need before completing the questionnaire?

We recommend that you read the **Draft Management Plan** (or sections relevant to your interests) and accompanying **Draft Landscape Character Assessment** (or sections relevant to your interests) before filling in this questionnaire. The Environment Report and Sustainability Assessment and Equality Impact Assessment are also available. All consultation material is available on KCC's website kent.gov.uk/kentdownsaonb or in hard copy on request.

We recognise that the AONB Management Plan and accompanying Landscape Character Assessment are broad in the subjects and geography they cover so please do not feel obliged to answer all of the questions. We welcome your response to any or all of the matters they cover.

The Draft Plan was prepared before the Covid-19 pandemic and it will be vital we consider how the Management Plan responds to the crisis. This questionnaire provides an opportunity for you to tell us any key considerations you feel we should take into account.

This questionnaire can be completed on our website. Alternatively, you can fill in this Word version and return it via email to mail@kentdowns.org.uk or by post to Kent Downs AONB Unit, West Barn, Penstock Hall Farm, Canterbury Road, East Brabourne, Ashford, Kent TN25 5LL.

Please ensure your response reaches us by midnight 7th September 2020.

Alternative Formats: If you need this questionnaire or any of the consultation documents in an alternative format, please email alternativeformats@kent.gov.uk or call 03000 421553 (text relay service number: 18001 03000 421553). This number goes to an answering machine which is monitored during office hours.

Privacy: Kent County Council collects and processes personal information in order to provide a range of public services. Kent County Council respects the privacy of individuals and endeavours to ensure personal information is collected fairly, lawfully, and in compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation and the Data Protection Act 2018.

Section 1 – About You

Q1. Are you responding on behalf of ...?

Please select the option from the list below that most closely represents how you will be responding to this consultation.

Select **one** option only.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Yourself as an individual |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Yourself in your professional capacity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | A representative of a local community group or residents' association |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | On behalf of a Parish / Town / Borough / District Council in an official capacity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | A Parish / District / County Councillor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | An educational establishment, such as a school or college |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | On behalf of a business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | On behalf of a charity, voluntary or community sector organisation (VCS) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Other |

If 'Other', please specify:

Q1a. If you are responding in your professional capacity, please tell us what it is:

Q1b. If you are responding on behalf of an organisation (community group, resident association, council, educational establishment, business or any other organisation), please tell us the name of the organisation here:

Swale Borough Council

Q2. Please tell us the first five characters of your postcode:

Please do not reveal your whole postcode. We use this to help us to analyse our data. It will not be used to identify who you are.

ME10 3

Section 2 – Kent Downs AONB Draft Management Plan

The Draft Management Plan is formed of 12 sections. You can provide feedback on all or as many of the sections as you like. If you would rather not provide feedback on any section, just move on to the next set of questions.

1. The Kent Downs AONB [Page 4](#)
2. The Management of the Kent Downs AONB [Page 7](#)
3. Sustainable Development [Page 9](#)
4. Landform and Landscape Character [Page 13](#)
5. Biodiversity [Page 16](#)
6. Farmed Landscape [Page 19](#)
7. Woodlands and Trees [Page 22](#)
8. Historic and Cultural Heritage [Page 25](#)
9. Heritage Coast [Page 28](#)
10. Geology and Natural Resources [Page 31](#)
11. Quality of Life and Vibrant Communities [Page 34](#)
12. Access, Enjoyment and Understanding [Page 37](#)

1. The Kent Downs AONB

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

The overarching ten-year vision for the Kent Downs AONB included in the Draft Management Plan 2020-25 is as follows:

“In 2030... the qualities and distinctive features of the Kent Downs AONB, the dramatic south-facing scarp, secluded dry valleys, network of tiny lanes, isolated farmsteads, churches and oasts, orchards, dramatic cliffs, the ancient woodlands and delicate chalk grassland along with the ancient, remote and tranquil qualities, are valued, secured and strengthened.

“The Kent Downs has become a landscape where rapid change supports the AONB’s distinctive features. Responses to development pressures and climate change have enhanced landscape character and what is valued by people about the landscape. The Kent Downs landscape is recognised and valued, enjoyed and cherished and its future conservation and enhancement is a certainty.

“Strong, assertive leadership from the AONB partnership along with positive partnerships with key organisations, local people and land managers act together with wider publics to conserve, enhance, enjoy and promote a nationally and internationally recognised and valued landscape.”

Q3. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the vision for the Kent Downs AONB in 2030

See page 3. Select **one** option only.

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
✓					

Q3a. Please provide any comments on the vision here:

General comments – The Council welcomes the opportunity to comment on the consultation draft of the Kent Downs AONB Management Plan and acknowledges the wide-ranging engagement that has been undertaken in the preparation of the draft Management Plan.

Overall, the Council considers that the approach taken and changes made to be acceptable and will ensure that the Management Plan continues to ensure that the special qualities of the area are protected.

The Draft Management Plan identifies special components, characteristics and qualities of the Kent Downs AONB.

- Dramatic landform and views; a distinctive landscape character
- Biodiversity-rich habitats
- Farmed landscape
- Woodland and trees
- A rich legacy of historic and cultural heritage
- The Heritage Coasts
- Geology and natural resources
- Tranquillity and remoteness

Q4. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we have identified what makes the area distinctive and special to you?

*Select **one** option only.*

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
✓					

Q4a. If you have answered ‘tend to disagree’ or ‘strongly disagree’, please tell us why here:

The Draft Management Plan also identifies the social and economic components which are key to the future conservation and enhancement of the Kent Down AONB. See page 6.

- Vibrant communities
- Access, enjoyment and understanding

Q5. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we have identified the key social and economic components?

Select **one** option only.

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
✓					

Q5a. If you have answered 'tend to disagree' or 'strongly disagree', please tell us why here:

2. The Management of the Kent Downs AONB

Our vision for the management of the Kent Downs AONB is as follows:

“In 2030... the Kent Downs AONB is widely recognised and greatly valued. It is a landscape cherished and held in the highest esteem by those who visit, live and work there and nearby and by those who influence its future. Residents and visitors know where the AONB is and they understand its character and qualities and support the purposes of its designation. The Kent Downs AONB partnership is acknowledged, supported, funded and equipped to be the main and an influential and effective advocate and champion for the AONB. A diverse range of individuals and organisations are delivering positive action on the ground and are collaboratively engaged in the partnership and management planning. The AONB partnership is engaging and open about the conservation and management of the AONB.”

Q6. To what extent do you agree or disagree with our vision for the management of the Kent Downs AONB?

See pages 9 – 18. *Select **one** option only.*

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
✓					

Q6a. Please provide any comments on our vision for the management of the Kent Downs AONB here:

The vision is supported.

Q7. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we have identified the right aims for the management of the Kent Downs AONB?

See page 20. *Select **one** option only.*

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
✓					

Q7a. If you have answered ‘tend to disagree’ or ‘strongly disagree’, please tell us why here:

Q8. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we have identified the right principles for management of the Kent Downs AONB?

See page 20. *Select **one** option only.*

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
✓					

Q8a. If you have answered ‘tend to disagree’ or ‘strongly disagree’, please tell us why here:

3. Sustainable Development

Our vision for sustainable development is as follows:

“In 2030 ... the principles of sustainable development are at the heart of the management of the Kent Downs. Change reinforces and enhances the characteristics, qualities and distinctiveness of the Kent Downs and benefits its communities and economy. While the surrounding urban areas have expanded considerably, innovative management techniques and policy approaches successfully address the pressure and opportunities presented by growth to the landscapes of the AONB.

“The impacts of climate change are being felt but the mitigation and adaptive responses taken are landscape led, effective and carefully chosen to enhance the characteristics, qualities and distinctiveness of the landscape rather than detracting from them. The natural capital and ecosystems service provision of the Kent Downs has been enhanced. Important areas of tranquillity have been identified, protected and expanded and provide ‘oases of calm’.”

Q9. To what extent do you agree or disagree with our vision for sustainable development?

See pages 23 – 26. *Select one option only.*

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
✓					

Q9a. Please provide any comments on our vision for sustainable development here:

Under section 3.1.3 reference is made (in the second paragraph) to the 2018 Kent Growth and Infrastructure Framework (GIF). However, the figures in the GIF for the planned delivery of housing and jobs were based on forecasts in Local Plans as of September 2017. Since then housing/employment requirements have changed as Local Plans have progressed and, for the avoidance of doubt, it should be recognised that the GIF only represents a snapshot in time.

Q10. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we have identified the right guiding themes for sustainable development?

See pages 26 – 28. *Select one option only.*

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
✓					

Q10a. If you have answered ‘tend to disagree’ or ‘strongly disagree’, please tell us why here:

In the section on ‘Green Infrastructure Provision’ at the top of page 29, reference is made to Planning Policy Statements 1 and 12. These were replaced by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in 2012. The latest version of the NPPF (2019) makes several references to Green Infrastructure and the Management Plan should be amended to reflect this.

Q11. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we have identified the right recurrent themes for sustainable development?

See pages 29 - 31. *Select one option only.*

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
✓					

Q11a. If you have answered ‘tend to disagree’ or ‘strongly disagree’, please tell us why here:

In Section 3.3 (Tranquillity and Remoteness) there is reference to the 2003 CPRE Dark Skies report. CPRE published an updated Dark Skies report from in 2016 and consideration should be given to referencing that as the more recent report.

In Section 3.3 (Mitigation) the final paragraph states:
'Given the anticipated pace and scope of growth it is increasingly likely that impacts on the AONB may not be mitigated satisfactorily. In these circumstances the AONB Partnership will seek substantive compensatory payments to enable enhancement of the landscape elsewhere'

It is unclear on what basis or how the AONB Partnership would seek 'substantive compensatory payments' and this should be clarified.

Notwithstanding the above, it is noted that Principle SD11 refers to 'compensatory measures' rather than 'compensatory payments': it would be helpful for there to be consistency in the terminology used.

It is also noted that in Principle SD12, which refers to transport and infrastructure schemes and growth areas, reference is made to *'provide environmental compensation through benefits to natural beauty elsewhere in the AONB'*. It is unclear why there is a difference in approach/wording between SD11 and SD12 and there may be a case for the use of similar wording. Alternatively, as there is some cross over in the intention of SD11 and SD12, consideration could be given to combining the two.

Q12. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we have identified the right main issues, opportunities and threats for sustainable development?

See page 31. Select **one** option only.

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
✓					

Q12a. If you have answered 'tend to disagree' or 'strongly disagree', please tell us why here:

Q13. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we have identified the right aims for sustainable development?

See page 32. Select **one** option only.

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
✓					

Q13a. If you have answered ‘tend to disagree’ or ‘strongly disagree’, please tell us why here:

Q14. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we have identified the right principles for sustainable development?

See pages 33. Select **one** option only.

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
✓					

Q14a. If you have answered ‘tend to disagree’ or ‘strongly disagree’, please tell us why here:

4. Landform and Landscape Character

The section is informed by the accompanying **Draft Landscape Character Assessment** which details the identifying characteristics of the landscape of the Kent Downs AONB and makes landscape management recommendations on actions, investments and priorities to conserve and enhance the landscape. **See Section 3 of this questionnaire on page 40 to answer the questions on the Landscape Character Assessment.**

Our vision for landform and landscape character is as follows:

“In 2030... the rich diversity of landscape character and qualities distinctive to the Kent Downs are protected, enhanced and managed to the highest standards in a co-ordinated and continual programme. The special characteristics and qualities of the Kent Downs AONB are widely recognised, valued and strengthened and landscape character informs land and resource management, nature recovery plans, intended net gain and natural capital investments, responses to climate change and development decisions.”

Q15. To what extent do you agree or disagree with our vision for landform and landscape character

See page 36. *Select **one** option only.*

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
✓					

Q15a. Please provide any comments on our vision for landform and landscape character here:

Q16. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we have identified the right landscape character types and areas within the Kent Downs AONB?

See pages 36 - 39. Select **one** option only.

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
✓					

Q16a. If you have answered ‘tend to disagree’ or ‘strongly disagree’, please tell us why here:

Q17. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we have identified the right main issues, opportunities and threats for landform and landscape character?

See page 40. Select **one** option only.

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
✓					

Q17a. If you have answered ‘tend to disagree’ or ‘strongly disagree’, please tell us why here:

Q18. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we have identified the right aims for landform and landscape character?

See page 41. Select **one** option only.

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
✓					

Q18a. If you have answered ‘tend to disagree’ or ‘strongly disagree’, please tell us why here:

Q19. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we have identified the right principles for landform and landscape character?

See pages 41. Select **one** option only.

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
✓					

Q19a. If you have answered ‘tend to disagree’ or ‘strongly disagree’, please tell us why here:

5. Biodiversity

Our vision for biodiversity is as follows:

“By 2030... the distinctive wildlife habitats of the Kent Downs are understood better, enjoyed and celebrated and are in favourable, resilient condition with individual characteristic species flourishing. There is a far-sighted nature recovery plan being implemented for the Kent Downs, which recognises and responds to the substantial changes that will be experienced and is linked to a wider nature recovery network. An approach to intended biodiversity net gain is understood and agreed and is achieving advances in biodiversity and habitats across the Kent Downs. There has been an increase in the extent and quality of key characteristic habitats and abundance of species of the Downs. People, policy and funding regimes recognise, value and support the importance of nature in the Kent Downs.”

Q20. To what extent do you agree or disagree with our vision for biodiversity?

See pages 44 – 47. *Select **one** option only.*

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
✓					

Q20a. Please provide any comments on our vision for biodiversity here:

Q21. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we have identified the right special characteristics and qualities for biodiversity?

See pages 47 - 51. Select **one** option only.

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
✓					

Q21a. If you have answered ‘tend to disagree’ or ‘strongly disagree’, please tell us why here:

Q22. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we have identified the right main issues, opportunities and threats for biodiversity?

See page 52. Select **one** option only.

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
✓					

Q22a. If you have answered ‘tend to disagree’ or ‘strongly disagree’, please tell us why here:

Q23. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we have identified the right aims for biodiversity?

See page 54. Select **one** option only.

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
✓					

Q23a. If you have answered ‘tend to disagree’ or ‘strongly disagree’, please tell us why here:

Q24. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we have identified the right principles for biodiversity?

See page 54. Select **one** option only.

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
✓					

Q24a. If you have answered ‘tend to disagree’ or ‘strongly disagree’, please tell us why here:

6. Farmed Landscape

Our vision for farmed landscape is as follows:

“In 2030... the Kent Downs AONB is a place where agriculture takes and is appreciated for a pivotal role in the conservation of natural beauty and landscape qualities and character as well as wider. Sustainable farming is the predominant land-use of the AONB and the heritage of mixed farming is retained in a contemporary context, supports and enhances landscape character, nature and is an increasingly important part of the Kent Downs contribution to achieving net zero carbon emissions. There is a greater public understanding of the roles of farming and more opportunities to gain carefully managed access to farmed landscape and to understand farming systems. Despite the volatile context, a broad range of crops are sustainably produced and are suited to the increasing extremes of climate, local conditions and market forces as well as the landscape. Naturally diverse permanent grasslands are well managed by grazing and orchards, plats and hop gardens retain an important place in the landscape. The flourishing number of vineyards are managed in a way that conserves the characteristics and qualities of the AONB. The high-quality products of the Kent Downs are commercially successful and high environmental quality is a market advantage.”

Q25. To what extent do you agree or disagree with our vision for farmed landscape?

See pages 57 – 61. *Select **one** option only.*

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
✓					

Q25a. Please provide any comments regarding our vision for farmed landscape here:

Q26. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we have identified the right special characteristics and qualities for farmed landscape?

See page 66. Select **one** option only.

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
✓					

Q26a. If you have answered ‘tend to disagree’ or ‘strongly disagree’, please tell us why here:

Q27. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we have identified the right main issues, opportunities and threats for farmed landscape?

See page 67. Select **one** option only.

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
✓					

Q27a. If you have answered ‘tend to disagree’ or ‘strongly disagree’, please tell us why here:

Q28. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we have identified the right aims for farmed landscape?

See page 68. Select **one** option only.

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
✓					

Q28a. If you have answered ‘tend to disagree’ or ‘strongly disagree’, please tell us why here:

Q29. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we have identified the right principles for farmed landscape?

See page 69. Select **one** option only.

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
✓					

Q29a. If you have answered ‘tend to disagree’ or ‘strongly disagree’, please tell us why here:

Principle FL7 – whilst recognising the negative impact changes in agriculture have had on the visual amenities of the AONB and to biodiversity, such as polytunnels and the widescale destruction of hedgerows, there may be some leisure uses that are more beneficial to the AONB and this needs greater consideration. For example, communities buying agricultural fields and turning them into wildlife areas, wildlife watching huts and other non-intrusive structures should be supported.

There also appears to be some conflict between the wording of FL7 and VC7, which supports sustainable leisure uses in the AONB. Whilst recognising the issues highlighted, it is suggested that the wording of FL7 in the current Management Plan should be retained.

7. Woodlands and Trees

Our vision for woodlands and trees is as follows:

“In 2030... the characteristic Kent Downs network of woodland and trees is greater in extent and is conserved and enhanced for its landscape, wildlife and historic value. Sustainably managed woodlands and trees are resilient to stressors such as pests, disease, visitor pressure and climate change, they provide inherent mitigation and adaptation to that change. Buoyant markets for woodland products support the productive, sustainable management of trees and woodlands; high quality multi-functional management provides well-used places for leisure and recreation, health and wellbeing and are rich in characteristic wildlife.”

Q30. To what extent do you agree or disagree with our vision for woodland and trees?

See pages 72 – 77. Select **one** option only.

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
✓					

Q30a. Please provide any comments on the vision for woodland and trees here:

Q31. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we have identified the right special characteristics and qualities for woodlands and trees?

See page 77. Select **one** option only.

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
✓					

Q31a. If you have answered ‘tend to disagree’ or ‘strongly disagree’, please tell us why here:

Q32. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we have identified the right main issues, opportunities and threats for woodlands and trees?

See page 78. Select **one** option only.

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
✓					

Q32a. If you have answered ‘tend to disagree’ or ‘strongly disagree’, please tell us why here:

Q33. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we have identified the right aims that support the sustainable management of woodlands and trees?

See page 79. Select **one** option only.

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
✓					

Q33a. If you have answered ‘tend to disagree’ or ‘strongly disagree’, please tell us why here:

Q34. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we have identified the right principles that support the sustainable management of woodlands and trees?

See page 80. Select **one** option only.

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
✓					

Q34a. If you have answered ‘tend to disagree’ or ‘strongly disagree’, please tell us why here:

8. Historic and Cultural Heritage

Our vision for historic and cultural heritage is as follows:

“In 2034... the rich heritage of historic landscape, buildings, settlements and sites that characterise the Kent Downs’ historic and cultural fabric are maintained in favourable condition and are enhanced to reflect their local character and significance. The environmental performance of historic buildings is enhanced in a way that is sensitive to their character. They are understood and cherished by local people and visitors alike for their intrinsic value and for their important contribution to quality of life and rural economy. Vibrant and exciting artistic and cultural interpretation and celebration of the Kent Downs is supported and strong partnerships for the arts and cultural development in the Downs is in place and delivering extraordinary, contemporary work enjoyed by and inspiring wide and diverse publics.”

Q35. To what extent do you agree or disagree with our vision for historic and cultural heritage?

See page 83. *Select **one** option only.*

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
✓					

Q35a. Please provide any comments on the vision for historic and cultural heritage here:

For consistency, the end date for the vision should be changed to 2030.

Q36. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we have identified the right special characteristics and qualities for historic and cultural heritage?

See pages 83 - 89. Select **one** option only.

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
✓					

Q36a. If you have answered ‘tend to disagree’ or ‘strongly disagree’, please tell us why here:

Q37. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we have identified the right main issues, opportunities and threats for historic and cultural heritage?

See page 89. Select **one** option only.

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
✓					

Q37a. If you have answered ‘tend to disagree’ or ‘strongly disagree’, please tell us why here:

Q38. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we have identified the right aims for historic and cultural heritage?

See page 90. Select **one** option only.

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
✓					

Q38a. If you have answered ‘tend to disagree’ or ‘strongly disagree’, please tell us why here:

Q39. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we have identified the right principles for historical and cultural heritage?

See page 90. Select **one** option only.

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
✓					

Q39a. If you have answered ‘tend to disagree’ or ‘strongly disagree’, please tell us why here:

9. Heritage Coast

Our vision for the Heritage Coast is as follows:

“In 2030... the special place that the White Cliffs of Dover have in the hearts and minds of millions of people is justified by the reality experienced on the ground. Collaborative effort continues to transform the management of the coasts which meets the needs of the landscape, natural and historic environment and communities, while supporting the sustainable regeneration of the coastal economy including the coastal towns.”

Q40. To what extent do you agree or disagree with our vision for the heritage coast?

See pages 93 – 97. *Select **one** option only.*

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
✓					

Q40a. Please provide any comments on the vision for the heritage coast here:

Q41. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we have identified the right special characteristics and qualities for the heritage coast?

See page 97. Select **one** option only.

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
✓					

Q41a. If you have answered ‘tend to disagree’ or ‘strongly disagree’, please tell us why here:

Q42. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we have identified the right main issues, opportunities and threats for the heritage coast?

See page 98. Select **one** option only.

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
✓					

Q42a. If you have answered ‘tend to disagree’ or ‘strongly disagree’, please tell us why here:

Q43. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we have identified the right aims for the heritage coast?

See page 99. Select **one** option only.

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
✓					

Q43a. If you have answered ‘tend to disagree’ or ‘strongly disagree’, please tell us why here:

Q44. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we have identified the right principles for the heritage coast?

See page 99. Select **one** option only.

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
✓					

Q44a. If you have answered ‘tend to disagree’ or ‘strongly disagree’, please tell us why here:

10. Geology and Natural Resources

Our vision for geology and natural resources is as follows:

“In 2030... great care is taken to conserve and manage the natural resources of the Kent Downs particularly soil, air, ground and river water. New and innovative ways to both reduce resource use and enhance the existing natural capital have been adopted which support landscape character and qualities, the economy and communities. The need to conserve and enhance natural beauty means mineral resource mining occurs away from the AONB, except in exceptional circumstances, and worked out quarry sites have been restored to enhance local landscape character.”

Q45. To what extent do you agree or disagree with our vision for geology and natural resources?

See pages 102 – 105. *Select **one** option only.*

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
✓					

Q45a. Please provide any comments on the vision for geology and natural resources here:

Q46. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we have identified the right special characteristics and qualities for geology and natural resources?

See page 105 - 106. *Select **one** option only.*

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
✓					

Q46a. If you have answered ‘tend to disagree’ or ‘strongly disagree’, please tell us why here:

Q47. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we have identified the right main issues, opportunities and threats for geology and natural resources?

See pages 107 - 108. *Select **one** option only.*

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
✓					

Q47a. If you have answered ‘tend to disagree’ or ‘strongly disagree’, please tell us why here:

Q48. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we have identified the right aims for geology and natural resources?

See page 108. Select **one** option only.

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
✓					

Q48a. If you have answered ‘tend to disagree’ or ‘strongly disagree’, please tell us why here:

Q49. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we have identified the right principles for geology and natural resources?

See page 108. Select **one** option only.

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
✓					

Q49a. If you have answered ‘tend to disagree’ or ‘strongly disagree’, please tell us why here:

11. Quality of Life and Vibrant Communities

Our vision for quality of life and vibrant communities is as follows:

“In 2030... a diversity of people and communities are central to the conservation, enhancement and enjoyment of the Kent Downs; they value this special place and feel welcome to enjoy, experience and benefit from the AONB. People and communities have a strong, positive influence over change through being engaged and active participants. Communities’ work and voluntary activity marries social and economic well-being with landscape conservation and enhancement. Individuals and organisations choose to buy goods and services that in themselves benefit the Kent Downs landscape and economy.

“The health and well-being benefits of contact with nature and beauty have become central to the purposes and management of the landscape and the Kent Downs partnership.”

Q50. To what extent do you agree or disagree with our vision for quality of life and vibrant communities?

See pages 111 – 116. *Select **one** option only.*

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
✓					

Q50a. Please provide any comments on the vision for quality of life and vibrant communities here:

Q51. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we have identified the right main issues, opportunities and threats for quality of life and vibrant communities?

See page 116 - 118. *Select **one** option only.*

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
✓					

Q51a. If you have answered ‘tend to disagree’ or ‘strongly disagree’, please tell us why here:

In Section 11.2 (Vibrant Communities) on page 114 reference is made to the ‘expected exit from the EU’ (4th paragraph). This should be updated to reflect the current position.

Q52. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we have identified the right aims for quality of life and vibrant communities?

See page 118. *Select **one** option only.*

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
✓					

Q52a. If you have answered ‘tend to disagree’ or ‘strongly disagree’, please tell us why here:

Q53. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we have identified the right principles for quality of life and vibrant communities?

See page 118. Select **one** option only.

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
✓					

Q53a. If you have answered ‘tend to disagree’ or ‘strongly disagree’, please tell us why here:

Principle VC3 – it is noted that the Action Plan for the current Management Plan includes an action to work with Local Planning Authorities to provide an explanation for this principle. The Management Plan and/or Action Plan should continue to support local authorities in having more positive policies towards the provision of affordable housing in the AONB beyond reliance on the Rural Exceptions Policies.

Principle VC4 – whilst the intent of this principle is supported, there is a severe lack of any policy approach that would halt, let alone reverse, the current decline in such rural service provision. A pro-active approach is needed to try and secure rural shopping provision. Perhaps a partnership with a body like the National Trust to open local shops is urgently needed.

12. Access, Enjoyment and Understanding

Our vision for access, enjoyment and understanding is as follows:

“In 2030... the Kent Downs AONB is a place of natural beauty with opportunity and access for all people; they feel welcome to participate in quiet recreation for health, relaxation, enjoyment and for cultural and artistic expression.

“Improved management ensures that the Public Rights of Way and much of the highway network is safe, quiet and convenient for walkers, cyclists and horse riders and public transport is an attractive option to reach and enjoy the landscape. Maintenance of the Public Rights of Way and highway network is sympathetic to biodiversity and landscape character.

“The Kent Downs AONB is recognised, valued and celebrated by residents, visitors and by those who simply delight in the fact that it is there.”

Q54. To what extent do you agree or disagree with our vision for access, enjoyment and understanding?

See pages 121 – 128. *Select **one** option only.*

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
✓					

Q54a. Please provide any comments on the vision for access, enjoyment and understanding here:

Q55. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we have identified the right main issues, opportunities and threats for access, enjoyment and understanding?

See page 128. Select **one** option only.

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
✓					

Q55a. If you have answered ‘tend to disagree’ or ‘strongly disagree’, please tell us why here:

Q56. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we have identified the right aims for access, enjoyment and understanding?

See page 130. Select **one** option only.

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
✓					

Q56a. If you have answered ‘tend to disagree’ or ‘strongly disagree’, please tell us why here:

Q57. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we have identified the right principles for access, enjoyment and understanding?

See page 130. Select **one** option only.

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
✓					

Q57a. If you have answered ‘tend to disagree’ or ‘strongly disagree’, please tell us why here:

Principle AEU11 – there is nothing in the Management Plan that recognises or seeks to tackle the decline in rural bus provision, let alone consider measures that could improve it. The Management Plan and/or Action Plan should be clearer on the ‘new and improved’ measures required to be taken to deliver on this statement.

Section 3 – Draft Landscape Character Assessment

The Draft Landscape Character Assessment (which is made up of 13 individual documents) outlines the identifying characteristics of the landscape of the Kent Downs AONB and makes landscape management recommendations on actions, investments and priorities to conserve and enhance the landscape. These recommendations inform the Draft Management Plan.

Q58. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the landscape management recommendations in the draft Landscape Character Assessment?

Select **one** option in each row.

Chalk Downs	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
LCA 1A West Kent Downs						
LCA 1B Mid Kent Downs						
LCA 1C East Kent Downs						

Chalk Scarps and Vales	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
LCA 2A Kemsing Scarp and Vale						
LCA 2B Hollingbourne Scarp and Vale						
LCA 2C Postling Scarp and Vale						

Chalk Cliffs and Coast	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
LCA 3A White Cliffs Coast						

Select **one** option in each row.

River Valleys	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
LCA 4A Darent Valley						
LCA 4B Medway Valley						
LCA 4C Stour Valley						

Greensand	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
LCA 5A Sevenoaks Greensand Ridge						
LCA 5B Lympne Greensand Escarpment						

Low Weald	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
LCA 6C Low Weald Eden Valley						

Q58a. Please provide any comments on the landscape management recommendations here: *Please be as specific as is possible in your answers and provide evidence if appropriate.*

No comments.

Section 4 – Supporting Assessments

Q59. We have completed an Environment Report and Sustainability Assessment on the Draft Management Plan.

If you have any comments on this assessment, please provide them here:

The Environment Report and Sustainability Assessment is available at kent.gov.uk/kentdownsaonb or in hard copy on request.

The Council is satisfied that the Environment Report has appropriately considered the social, economic and environment issues relevant to the Kent Downs AONB.

To help ensure that we are meeting our obligations under the Equality Act 2010 we have undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIAs) for the draft Management Plan.

An EqIA is a tool to assess the impact any proposals would have on the protected characteristics: age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, race, religion, and carer's responsibilities. The EqIA is available at kent.gov.uk/kentdownsaonb or in hard copy on request.

Q60. We welcome your views on our equality analysis and if you think there is anything else we should consider relating to equality and diversity. Please provide any comments here:

No comments.

Section 5 – Additional Information

Q61. The Draft Management Plan was prepared before the Covid-19 pandemic. It will be important to consider how the Management Plan should respond to the crisis. Please provide any key considerations you think we should take into account here:

If your comments directly relate to a specific section of the Draft Management Plan, please include the name of the section with your comment.

No comments.

Q62. If you have any examples of landscape enhancement, biodiversity, or access improvement projects in your local area, please provide details here:

If you wish to discuss, please contact mail@kentdowns.org.uk

Q63. How did you find out about this consultation?

Select *all that apply*

<input type="checkbox"/>	Received an email from Kent County Council
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Received an email from Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Unit
<input type="checkbox"/>	Received an email from another organisation or contact
<input type="checkbox"/>	From a friend or relative
<input type="checkbox"/>	Newspaper
<input type="checkbox"/>	Social Media (Facebook or Twitter)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Kent.gov.uk website
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other

If other, please specify:

Q64. Finally, do you any other comments to make about our Draft Management Plan?

Given that the audience for the Plan is potentially very wide and needs to be understood by a variety of audiences it may be helpful to include a glossary of main terms.

Kent Downs AONB Citizen's Panel and Newsletter

The Kent Downs AONB is considering establishing a Citizen's Panel. Members would be asked for their feedback on a range of issues to help the AONB better understand residents' views and provide the right information to help people enjoy the landscape.

If you are interested in learning more, please visit <https://bit.ly/3cpYPnq>

Visit our website KentDowns.org.uk and join our email list via <https://bit.ly/2Lq7Bsb> to stay up to date with news and events in the Kent Downs Areas Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Section 6 - More About You

We want to make sure that everyone is treated fairly and equally, and that no one gets left out. That's why we are asking you these questions. We won't share the information you give us with anyone else. We'll use it only to help us make decisions and improve our services.

If you would rather not answer any of these questions, you don't have to.

It is not necessary to answer these questions if you are responding on behalf of an organisation.

Q65. Are you.....? Select *one* option only.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Male
<input type="checkbox"/>	Female
<input type="checkbox"/>	I prefer not to say

Q66. Is your Gender the same as your birth? Select *one* option only

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	I prefer not to say

Q67. Which of these age groups applies to you? Select *one* option only.

<input type="checkbox"/>	0-15	<input type="checkbox"/>	25-34	<input type="checkbox"/>	50-59	<input type="checkbox"/>	65-74	<input type="checkbox"/>	85 + over
<input type="checkbox"/>	16-24	<input type="checkbox"/>	35-49	<input type="checkbox"/>	60-64	<input type="checkbox"/>	75-84	<input type="checkbox"/>	I prefer not to say

Q68. To which of these ethnic groups do you feel you belong?

Select **one** option only.

White English	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mixed White & Black Caribbean	<input type="checkbox"/>
White Scottish	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mixed White & Black African	<input type="checkbox"/>
White Welsh	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mixed White & Asian	<input type="checkbox"/>
White Northern Irish	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mixed Other*	<input type="checkbox"/>
White Irish	<input type="checkbox"/>	Black or Black British Caribbean	<input type="checkbox"/>
White Gypsy/Roma	<input type="checkbox"/>	Black or Black British African	<input type="checkbox"/>
White Irish Traveller	<input type="checkbox"/>	Black or Black British Other*	<input type="checkbox"/>
White Other*	<input type="checkbox"/>	Arab	<input type="checkbox"/>
Asian or Asian British Indian	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chinese	<input type="checkbox"/>
Asian or Asian British Pakistani	<input type="checkbox"/>	I prefer not to say	<input type="checkbox"/>
Asian or Asian British Bangladeshi	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Asian or Asian British Other*	<input type="checkbox"/>		

(Source: 2011 Census)

***Other Ethnic Group - If your ethnic group is not specified on the list, please describe it here**

A Carer is anyone who cares, unpaid, for a friend or family member who due to illness, disability, a mental health problem or an addiction cannot cope without their support. Both children and adults can be carers.

Q69. Are you a Carer? Select **one** option only.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	I prefer not to say

The Equality Act 2010 describes a person as disabled if they have a longstanding physical or mental condition that has lasted, or is likely to last, at least 12 months; and this condition has a substantial adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. People with some conditions (cancer, multiple sclerosis and HIV/AIDS, for example), are considered to be disabled from the point that they are diagnosed.

Q70. Do you consider yourself to be disabled as set out in the Equality Act 2010?

Select **one** option only.

Yes

No

I prefer not to say

Question 70a. If you answered 'Yes' above, please tell us the type of impairment that applies:

*You may have more than one type of impairment, so please tick **all** that apply. If none of these applies to you, please select 'Other', and give brief details of the impairment you have.*

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

Physical impairment

Sensory impairment (hearing, sight or both)

Longstanding illness or health condition, or epilepsy

Mental health condition

Learning disability

I prefer not to say

Other

If you selected Other, please specify:

Q71. Do you regard yourself as belonging to a particular religion or belief?

Select **one** option only.

Yes

No

I prefer not to say

Q71a. If you answered 'Yes' above, which of the following applies to you?

Select **one** option only.

Christian

Buddhist

Hindu

Jewish

Muslim

Sikh

Other

I prefer not to say

If you selected Other, please specify:

Q72. Are you...? Select **one option only.**

Heterosexual/Straight

Bi/Bisexual

Gay woman/Lesbian

Gay man

Other

I prefer not to say

If you selected Other, please specify:

Consultation Privacy Notice

Last Updated: 10 June 2020

Who are we?

Kent County Council collects, uses and is responsible for certain personal information about you. When we do so we are regulated under the General Data Protection Regulation which applies across the European Union (including in the United Kingdom) and we are responsible as 'controller' of that personal information for the purposes of those laws. Our Data Protection Officer is Benjamin Watts.

The personal information we collect and use

Information collected by us

In the course of responding to Consultations published by Kent County Council we collect the following personal information when you provide it to us:

- Postcode
- Email address if you want updates on a consultation
- Feedback on the consultation
- Equalities Data - Ethnicity, Religion, Sexuality, Gender Reassignment, Disability or if you are a Carer
- Cookies – we use three types of cookies when you use our website. For more information about the cookies and how they are used please visit <https://kahootz.deskpro.com/kb/articles/kahootz-cookie-information-ci>

We use cookies to remember who you are and a few of your preferences whilst you use the website.

We do not use cookies to collect personally identifiable information about you, track your behaviour or share information with 3rd parties.

Our cookies do not contain any of your personal information and only take up about one-thousandth of the space of a single image from a typical digital camera.

All of the cookies we set are strictly necessary in order for us to provide the online service to you.

You do not need to submit any equalities information if you do not want to. KCC is committed to the principle that all our customers have the right to equality and fairness in the way they are treated and in the services that they receive. Any information you do give will be used to see if there are any differences in views for different groups of people, and to check if services are being delivered in a fair and

reasonable way. No personal information which can identify you, such as your name or address, will be used in producing equality reports. We will follow our Data Protection policies to keep your information secure and confidential. Your equality data will be anonymised before sent to other teams.

How we use your personal information

We use your personal information to inform you of the outcome of the consultation, if you have requested updates.

We may use your postcode to carry out a type of profiling to estimate which one of a number of lifestyle groups you are most likely to fall into. We do this using geodemographic segmentation tools. We do not make any decisions about individual service users based solely on automated processing, including profiling.

How long your personal data will be kept

We will hold your personal information for up to 6 years following the closure of a consultation.

Reasons we can collect and use your personal information

We rely on *'processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest'*

And *'processing is necessary for compliance with a legal obligation to which the controller is subject.'*

The provision of contact details, including name, address or email address is required from you to enable us to respond to your feedback on consultations.

We rely on *processing is necessary for reasons of substantial public interest* as the lawful basis on which we collect and use your special category data for the purpose of equalities monitoring.

Further, the processing is necessary for the purposes of identifying or keeping under review the existence or absence of equality of opportunity or treatment between groups of people with the view to enabling such equality to be promoted or maintained.

You can read KCC's Equality Policy on our website <http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/corporate-policies/equality-and-diversity>

Who we share your personal information with

Kent County Council are hosting this consultation on behalf of the Kent Downs AONB Unit services. We may share your personal data and feedback with the Kent Down AONB Unit who may need to respond to your feedback. In some cases that may include your name and contact details if provided.

We will share personal information with law enforcement or other authorities if required by applicable law.

We use a system to log your feedback, which is provided by a third-party supplier.

Your Rights

Under the GDPR you have a number of rights which you can access free of charge which allow you to:

- Know what we are doing with your information and why we are doing it
- Ask to see what information we hold about you
- Ask us to correct any mistakes in the information we hold about you
- Object to direct marketing
- Make a complaint to the Information Commissioners Office

Depending on our reason for using your information you may also be entitled to:

- Ask us to delete information we hold about you
- Have your information transferred electronically to yourself or to another organisation
- Object to decisions being made that significantly affect you
- Object to how we are using your information
- Stop us using your information in certain ways

We will always seek to comply with your request however we may be required to hold or use your information to comply with legal duties. Please note: your request may delay or prevent us delivering a service to you.

For further information about your rights, including the circumstances in which they apply, see the guidance from the UK Information Commissioners Office (ICO) on individuals' rights under the General Data Protection Regulation.

If you would like to exercise a right, please contact the Information Resilience and Transparency Team at data.protection@kent.gov.uk.

Keeping your personal information secure

We have appropriate security measures in place to prevent personal information from being accidentally lost or used or accessed in an unauthorised way. We limit access to your personal information to those who have a genuine business need to know it. Those processing your information will do so only in an authorised manner and are subject to a duty of confidentiality.

We also have procedures in place to deal with any suspected data security breach. We will notify you and any applicable regulator of a suspected data security breach where we are legally required to do so.

Who to Contact

Please contact the Information Resilience and Transparency Team at data.protection@kent.gov.uk to exercise any of your rights, or if you have a

complaint about why your information has been collected, how it has been used or how long we have kept it for.

You can contact our Data Protection Officer, Benjamin Watts, at dpo@kent.gov.uk. Or write to Data Protection Officer, Kent County Council, Sessions House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ.

The General Data Protection Regulation also gives you right to lodge a complaint with a supervisory authority. The supervisory authority in the UK is the Information Commissioner who may be contacted at <https://ico.org.uk/concerns> or telephone 03031 231113.

For further information visit <https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/about-the-website/privacy-statement>