

Fact Sheet Three

The Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership



The purpose of the partnership was to work together to conserve and enhance the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

Background

The partnership was:

- launched on 14 July 1999
- President - The Lord Plumb DL FRAGS
- Chairman - Niel Curwen
- Vice Chairs Councillor Deryck Nash - 1999 to 2000 and Councillor Sue Hope - 2001 to 2004
- Honorary Vice Presidents - John Workman OBE and Councillor John Hannis.

Aims

The partnership's aims were:

- to conserve and enhance the Cotswolds AONB
- to promote sustainable development and appropriate quiet enjoyment
- to enable provision to be made for recreation where it was consistent with the conservation of natural beauty and the needs of agriculture, forestry and other uses
- to promote public and political awareness and support for the Cotswolds AONB
- to enhance the relevance of the Cotswolds AONB to all who live and work in and around, or visit, the area.

Members of the partnership

There were 34 member organisations of the partnership:

- 17 local authorities
- 17 non-governmental organisations.

Key achievements 1999 - 2004

Included:

- The Cotswold Lion newspaper
- Annual Hedgelaying and Drystone Walling Competitions

- 'Explore the Cotswolds by Public Transport' guide and area timetables
- 'Caring for the Cotswolds' project and £ 1.4m from the Heritage Lottery Fund
- preparation of a new Cotswolds AONB Management Plan on behalf of the 17 local authorities
- development of the Cotswolds Conservation Board
- almost 170,000 hours of work by the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens and other volunteers
- a wide range of reports including Accommodation Levy Scheme, Landscape Character Assessment, Local Distinctiveness and Farming Study
- working with farmers - providing information and advice
- developing a website
- 'Eat the View' national pilot area for the Countryside Agency
- Cotswold sheepwash surveys and restoration
- Annual Forums, Ministerial, Government departmental visits, reception held at Westminster and Annual Briefing events
- wide range of walks lead by the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens
- publishing self-guided walk booklets, along with cycling guides from Kingham and Kemble train stations.

Members of the partnership

- Bath & North East Somerset Council
- BTCV
- Cheltenham Borough Council
- Cherwell District Council
- Cotswold District Council
- Campaign for the Protection of Rural England, CPRE
- Country Land & Business Association, CLA
- Countryside Agency
- English Nature
- Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group, FWAG
- Forestry Commission
- Friends of Leckhampton Hill & Charlton Kings Common
- Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils
- Gloucestershire County Council
- Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust
- Heart of England Tourist Board
- National Farmers Union, NFU
- The National Trust
- North Wiltshire District Council
- Oxfordshire County Council

Cotswolds Conservation Board

Fosse Way, Northleach, Gloucestershire GL54 3JH, Tel: 01451 862000, Fax: 01451 862001.

www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk

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- Painswick Beacon Conservation Group
- Royal Agricultural College
- South Gloucestershire Council
- Sport England (South West)
- Stratford-on-Avon District Council
- Stroud District Council
- Tewkesbury Borough Council
- Warwickshire County Council
- West Oxfordshire District Council
- West Wiltshire District Council
- Wiltshire County Council
- The Woodland Trust
- Worcestershire County Council
- Wychavon District Council.

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