

The board's purposes

The Cotswolds Conservation Board has two purposes:

- to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)
- to increase the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the AONB.

In carrying out its twin purposes the board seeks to foster the economic and social well-being of its communities.

Size and structure of the board

The board is made up of 37 Members; 15 local authority nominees, eight parish council nominees and 15 Secretary of State nominees.

The full board appoints from its membership an Executive Committee of 12 members – five drawn from the local authority nominees, five from the Secretary of State nominees and two from the parish council nominees. The board elects its own chairperson and vice chairperson.

Drafting of the Establishment Order

The Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000 provided for the establishment of Conservation Boards. The AONB measures within the CROW Act came into force with effect from 1 April 2001.

June 2001 – The Cotswolds AONB Partnership appointed Land Use Consultants (LUC) to review the option of establishing a Conservation Board for the Cotswolds AONB. LUC identified the advantages and disadvantages of a Conservation Board and recommended a proposed size and structure for the board proposal.

November 2001 to February 2002 – The Cotswolds AONB Partnership consulted all member organisations of the partnership on the option of establishing a Cotswolds Conservation Board. June 2002 – the partnership appointed LUC to develop proposals for the content of any Conservation Board Establishment Order, with a particular focus on the duties and functions of the board.

Cotswolds Conservation Board

Cotswolds Discovery Centre at The Old Prison, Fosse Way, Northleach, Gloucestershire GL54 3JH

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November 2002 to February 2003 – The Cotswolds AONB Partnership consulted all member organisations of the partnership on the draft content of the Establishment Order.

March to May 2003 – The Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) informally consulted the 17 Local Authorities, all parish councils, the Countryside Agency, Local Government Association, English Nature, The National Trust and the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England on the proposed content of the Establishment Order.

January to March 2004 – Defra formally consulted the 17 local authorities on the draft Establishment Order

June 2004 – Defra formally consulted the 17 local authorities on final amendments to the Draft Establishment Order

June 2004 – Draft Establishment Order laid before Parliament by Ben Bradshaw MP, the former Defra Minister for Nature Conservation and Fisheries.

Consideration of the Draft Establishment Order by Parliament

- Draft Order laid before Parliament on 16 June 2004
- Draft Order discussed by a Standing Committee of the House of Commons on 1 July 2004
- Draft Order discussed on the floor of the House of Lords on 2 July 2004
- Draft Order discussed on the floor of the House of Commons on 6 July 2004
- Order made or signed on 8 July 2004
- Order came into force on 22 July 2004

The Conservation Board's Establishment Day – Tuesday 14 December 2004

The Establishment Day is the day that the board received its duties and functions as provided for by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. All board members were appointed in time for Establishment Day. The Establishment Day was also the day on which the board was formally launched.

The Conservation Board's Operative Day - Tuesday 1 February 2005

The Operative Day is the day that the board received its powers as provided for by the Establishment Order i.e. the powers held concurrently with/shared with the local authorities.

Publications

- Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, The Stationery Office, December 2000
- Explanatory Notes, Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, Chapter 37, The Stationery Office, 2001
- Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions (DETR) Circular 04/2001, Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, The Stationery Office, 2001
- Review of the Option of a Conservation Board for the Cotswolds AONB, Cotswolds AONB Partnership, November 2001
- Advice Notes on Establishing a Conservation Board for the Cotswolds AONB, Cotswolds AONB Partnership, December 2001
- Proposals for the Cotswolds AONB Conservation Board Establishment Order, Cotswolds AONB Partnership, November 2002
- Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Advantages of Creating a Cotswolds Conservation Board, Cotswolds AONB Partnership, February 2004
- The Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (Establishment of Conservation Board) Order 2004, (Statutory Instrument 2004 No 1777) The Stationery Office, June 2004.

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