

# The State of the Cotswolds 2017

Indicators of Change for the Cotswolds  
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



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February 2017

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Cover photograph; Adonis Blue *Polyommatus bellargus*. A species spreading across the Cotswolds assisted by a warming climate (picture; Simon Smith).

## Introduction

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The geography of the Cotswolds varies considerably according to who you are talking to, ask any estate agent! For the purpose of this report the Cotswolds is taken to mean the area of the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). This presents a challenge as much data is collected by the areas covered by local authorities or the old government regions.

The publication of this report follows the publication of the first State of the Cotswolds report in 2014. The timing of the publication of the first report was fortunate as 2012 was the first year when Natural England published a comprehensive set of government data cut to the boundaries of protected landscapes. The Board also commissioned the cutting of some of the 2011 census data to the AONB boundary in 2012 (the next census will take place in 2021). The production of both the 2014 report and this update would not have been possible without this cutting of data to the AONB boundary.

Natural England has continued to produce data cut to protected landscape boundaries though not to the same extent as the original data release, for example the cutting of DEFRA agricultural survey data was not repeated. Current agri-environmental data is incomplete as Natural England have provided detailed cut data for the Environmental Stewardship scheme but not the new Countryside Stewardship (CS) scheme. They did provide overall data on CS when requested and intend to add full CS data to the 2017 data release.

Where new data is available this report updates the original and shows trends over time. In 2015 the Board engaged Cumulus Consultants to produce an updated report on the 'Farming, Forestry and the Equestrian Sector in the Cotswolds AONB'. Some data from that report, mainly dating from 2013 has been used to update this report.

This is a good time to refresh our baseline data as work has started on the development of the next AONB Management Plan. It is also an important time to assess the impact of agri-environmental schemes following the introduction of the New Countryside Stewardship Scheme and further changes following the UK's coming withdrawal from the Common Agricultural Policy.

The sequence of indicators in this report follows the Cotswolds AONB Management Plan 2013-18. Where indicators are taken from the plan they are labelled (MP). Additional indicators that are useful in describing the state of the Cotswolds have also been included. The identification, selection and researching of additional indicators along with the sourcing of historical or updated data is a potentially endless task. The point comes where the line has to be drawn and the report moves on to publication.

The monitoring indicators in the Management Plan are written so as to demonstrate change over time. Where comparable historic data has been sourced this has been illustrated within this report. Where comparable historic data has not been found a contemporary snapshot has been included in order to establish a baseline for monitoring future change.

Every attempt has been made to present the data and it's analysis as clearly and comprehensively as possible, however this report is unashamedly technical in nature valuing content over presentation.

# Conserving and Enhancing

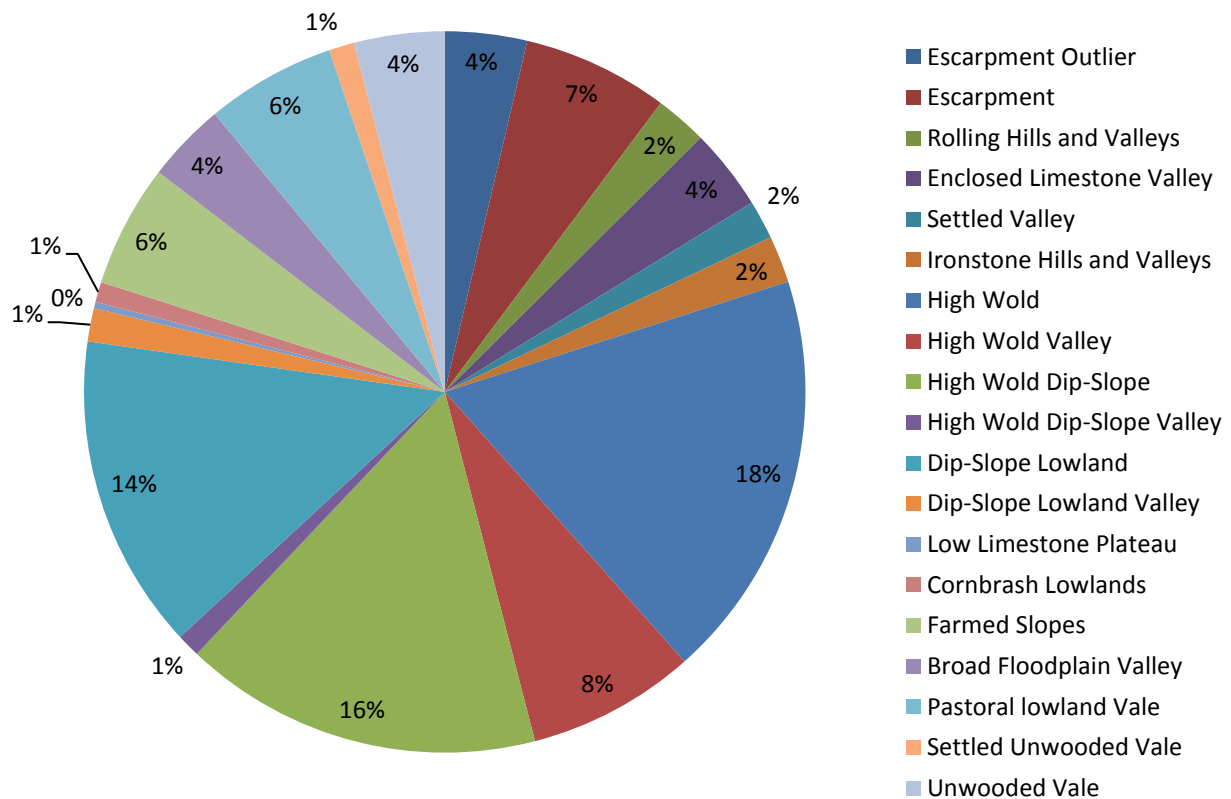
## Landscape

### Indicator 1 (MP): Changes to landscape character identified through fixed point photography

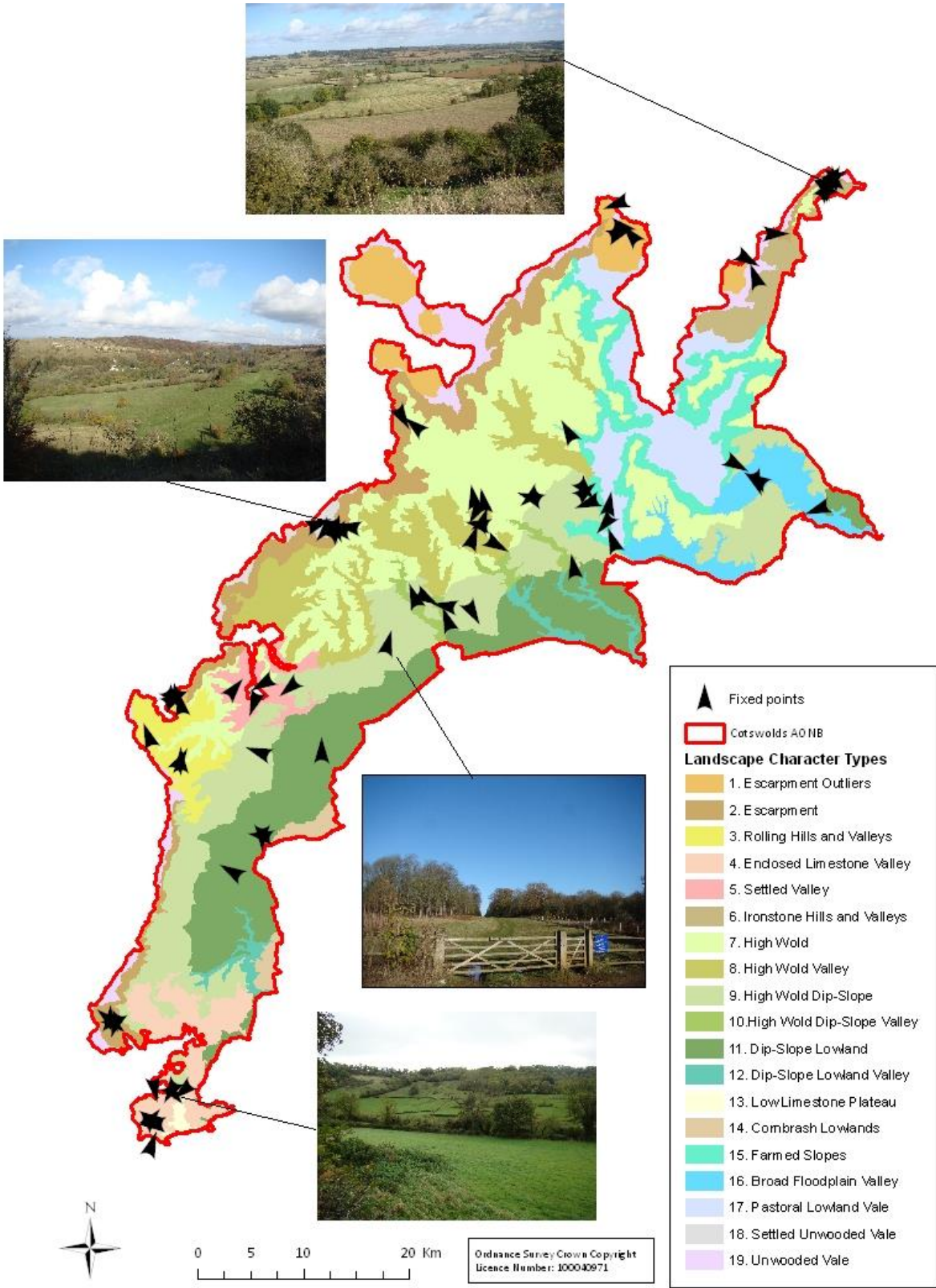
The landscape character assessment of the Cotswolds AONB published in 2004 identified 19 landscape character types. Detailed landscape strategy and guidelines for these landscape character types were subsequently adopted between 2007 and 2008. These landscape strategy and guidelines identified the key features for each landscape character type and also listed the potential indicators for monitoring landscape change. Throughout 2011 a series of photographs were taken with viewpoints selected to capture both the key features and where visible in the landscape the indicators for monitoring landscape change. The map below the pie graph illustrates these viewpoints plotted against the Cotswolds landscape character assessment. These photographs represent a baseline and it is hoped that repeat surveys at a minimum of 5 year intervals will illustrate trends in landscape change over the medium to long term.

The pie graph helps to describe the importance of each of the landscape types in terms of their area.

Landscape character types by % of AONB



# Landscape character types with examples of fixed point photography



## Rural Land Management

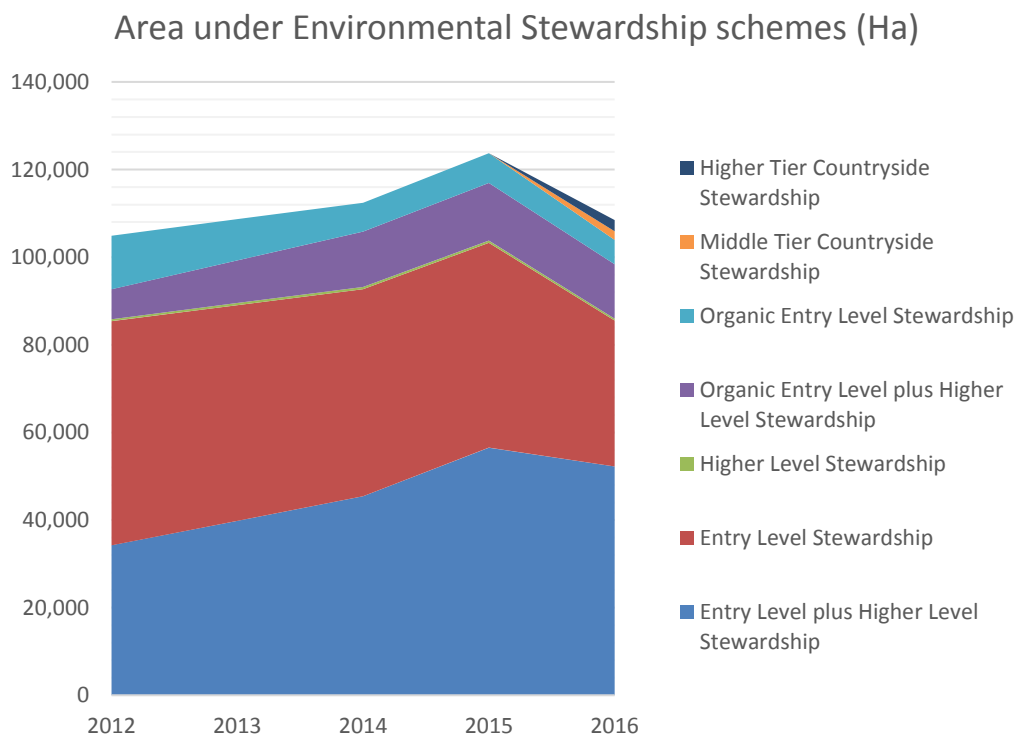
## Indicator 2 (MP): Change in % of land managed under agri-environmental schemes

Agri-env schemes (AES) are voluntary schemes which give an annual payment to farmers and landowners to ensure they manage their land in an environmentally sensitive way. To date these have been delivered through the European Union’s Common Agriculture Policy. Data is presented for the Environmental Stewardship Schemes which ran up to 2015. It has two levels: Entry level (rewards straight forward environmental management) and Higher level (rewards positive intervention and much higher standards of environmental management).

A new AES called Countryside Stewardship (CS) was introduced in June 2015 with agreements starting on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2016. Detailed data is not currently available for CS but Natural England have provided overall data. Cotswolds AONB has 4,500 ha in 70 live CS agreements (2,500 ha Higher Tier, 2,000 ha Middle Tier) as at December 2016. This helps to judge how much of the drop in area under Environmental Stewardship it is making up for. Natural England intend to include Countryside Stewardship within their national programme of data provision to protected landscapes from the 2017 data release.

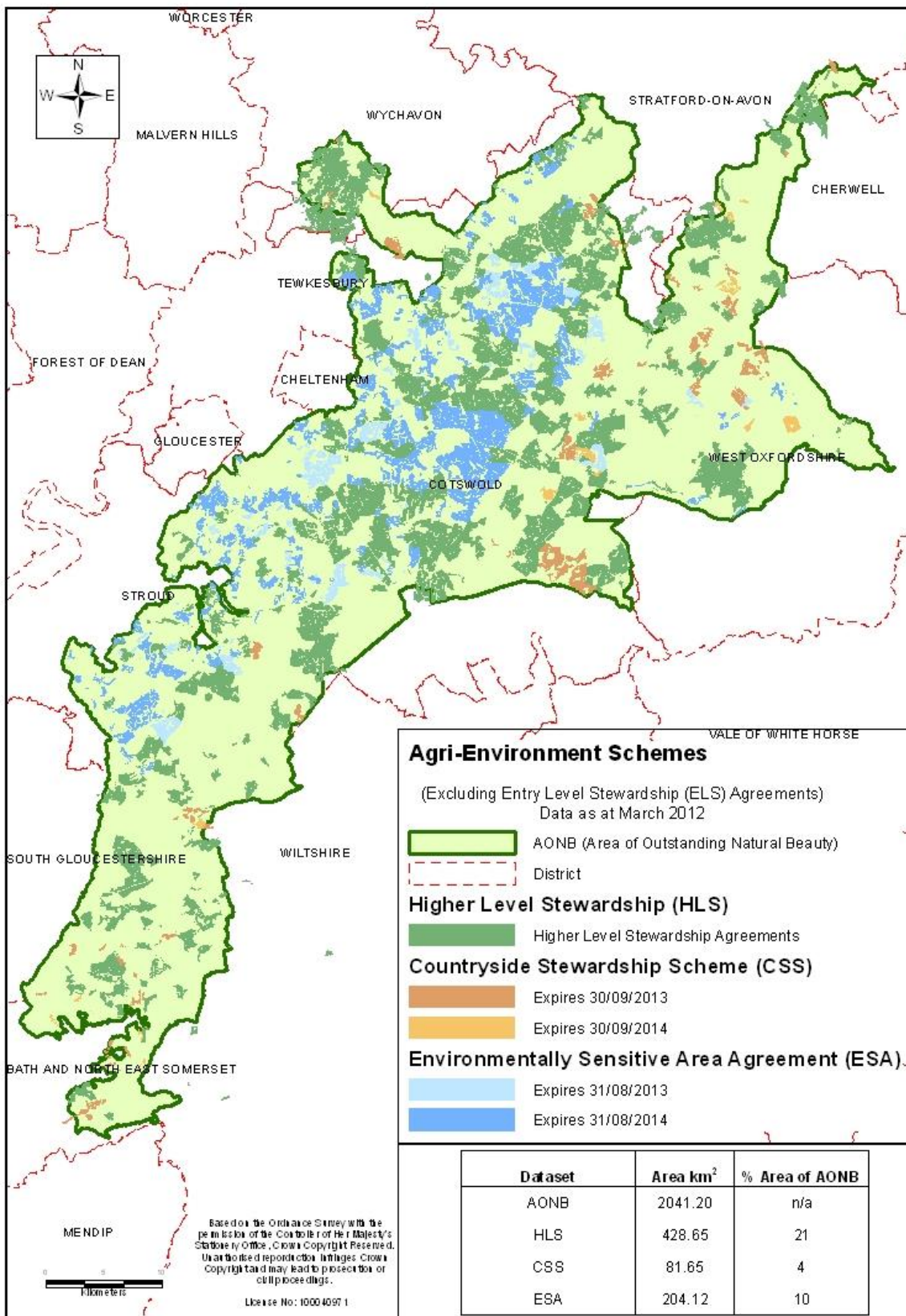
The design and scale of environmental land management schemes outside of the Common Agricultural Policy is currently uncertain which makes this an important time to publish data as it will form a baseline on which to monitor the impact of both the New Countryside Stewardship scheme and future changes.

As at the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 the area under agri-environment schemes in the Cotswolds AONB was 204,109 ha. This represents 61% of the AONB and 80% of the estimated Utilisable Agricultural Area. Natural England have been unable to provide this data for 2016 as a result of the ‘churn’ caused by expiring schemes not being archived in a timely manner leading to double counting.



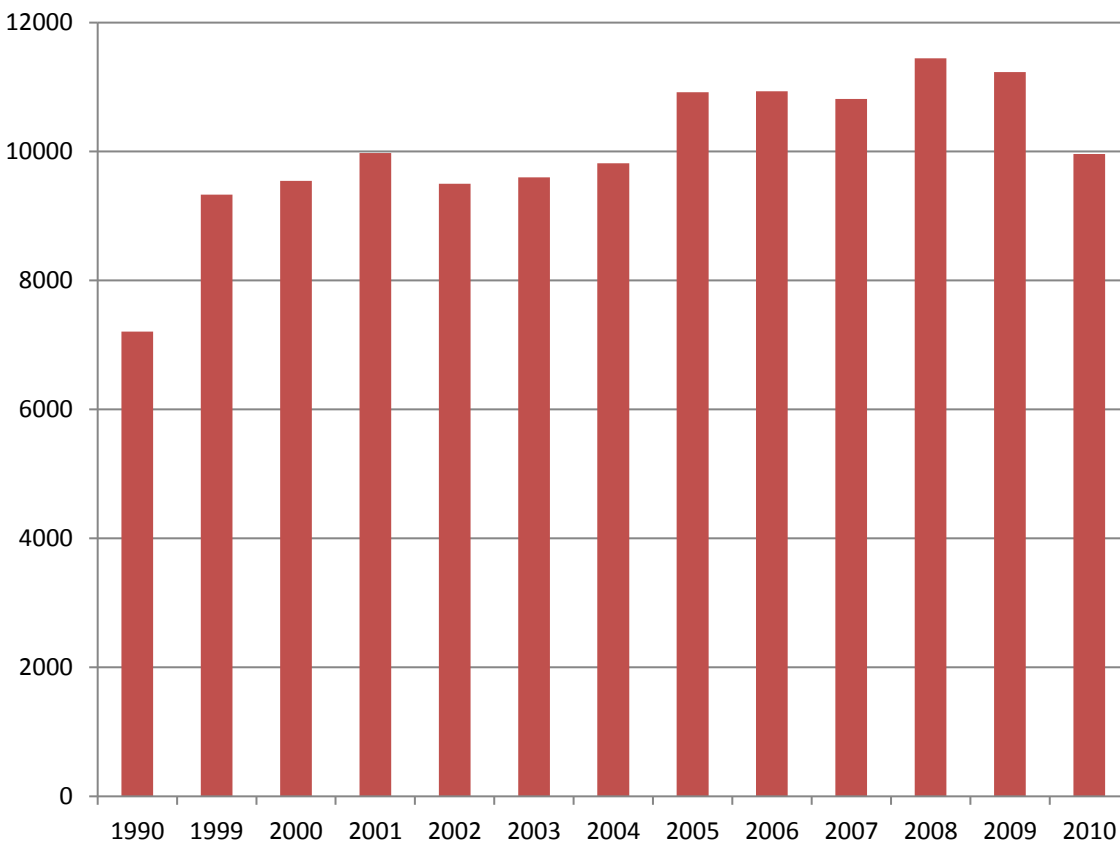
2013 data was not available so it has been recorded as a midpoint between 2012 & 2014





**Indicator 3 (MP): Change in % of woodland on farms**

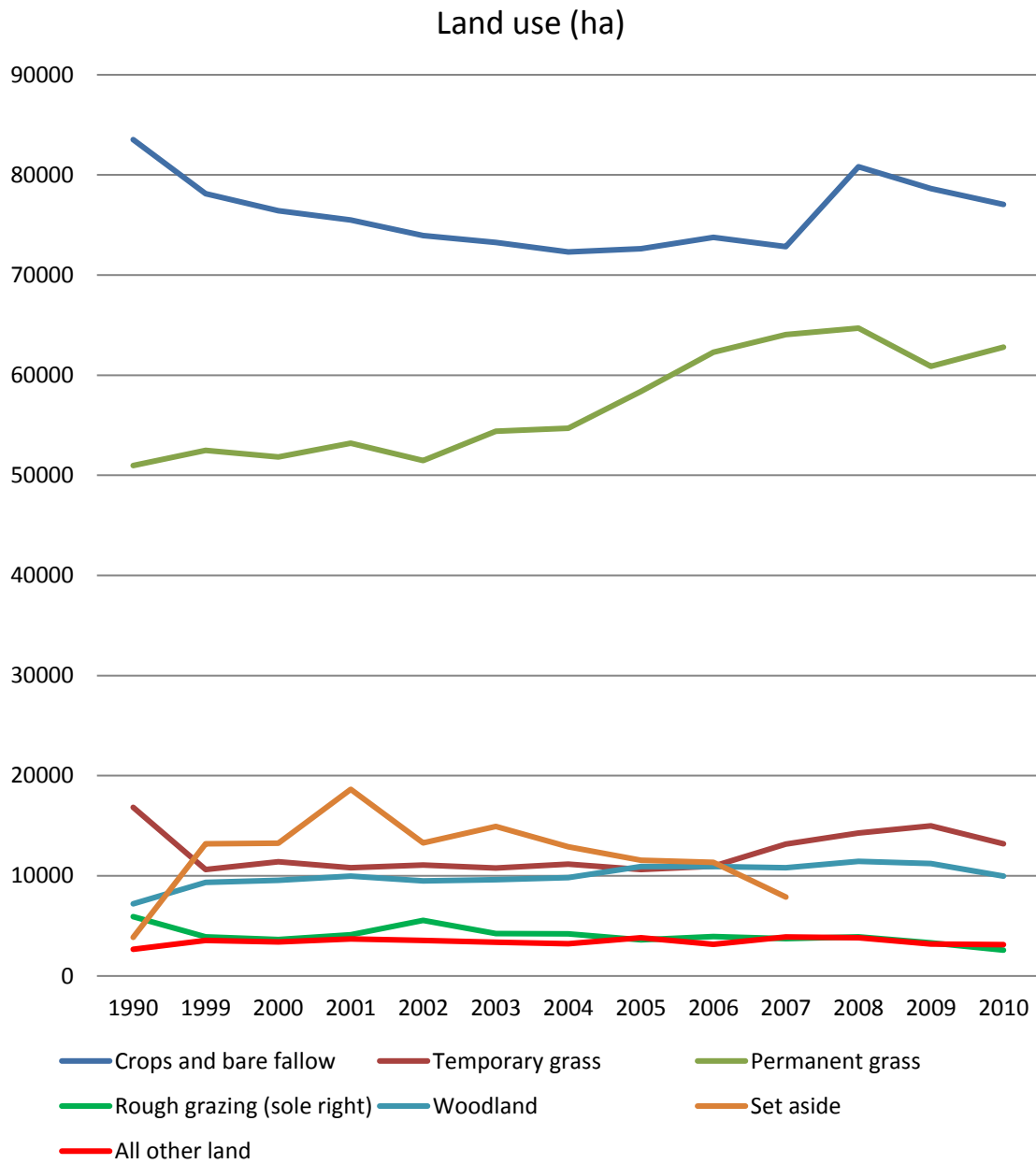
**Area of farm woodland (ha)**



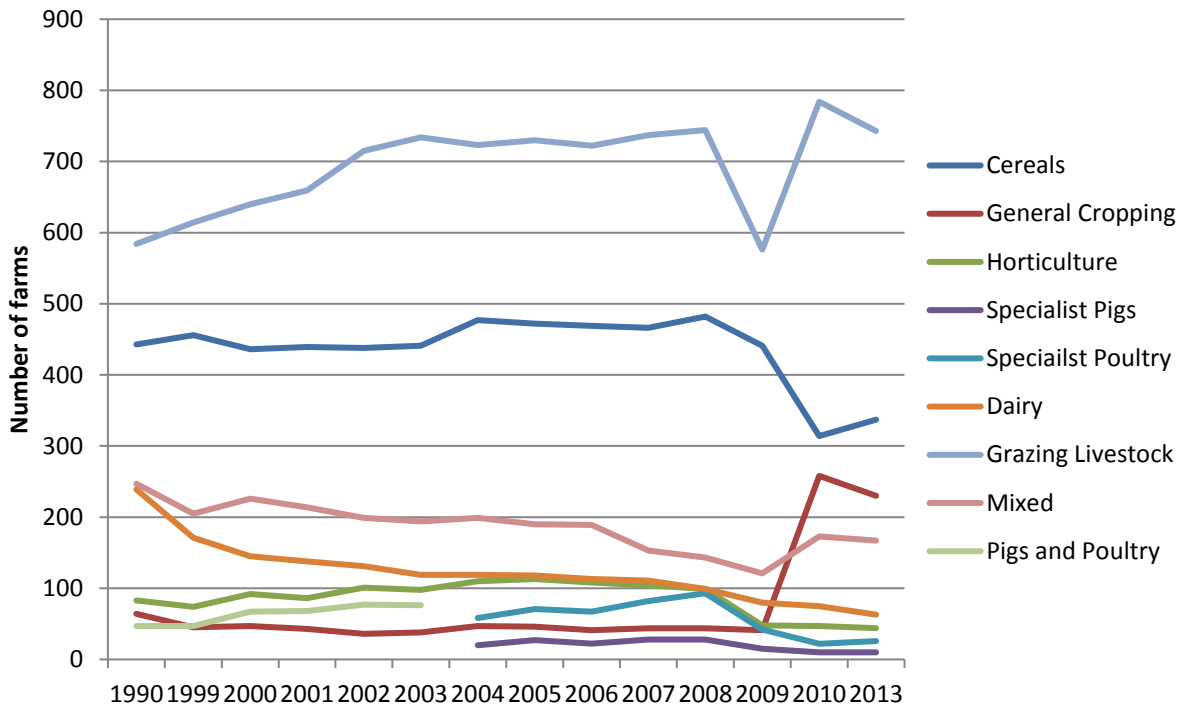
The decline in farm woodland starting in 2008 does not correspond with the Board’s experience on the ground. Variation in recording is suspected.

Source: Defra agricultural survey. Please note the gap in data between 1990 and 1999

**Indicator 4: (MP) Changes in farmland type (permanent pasture/rough grazing/arable land, etc.)**

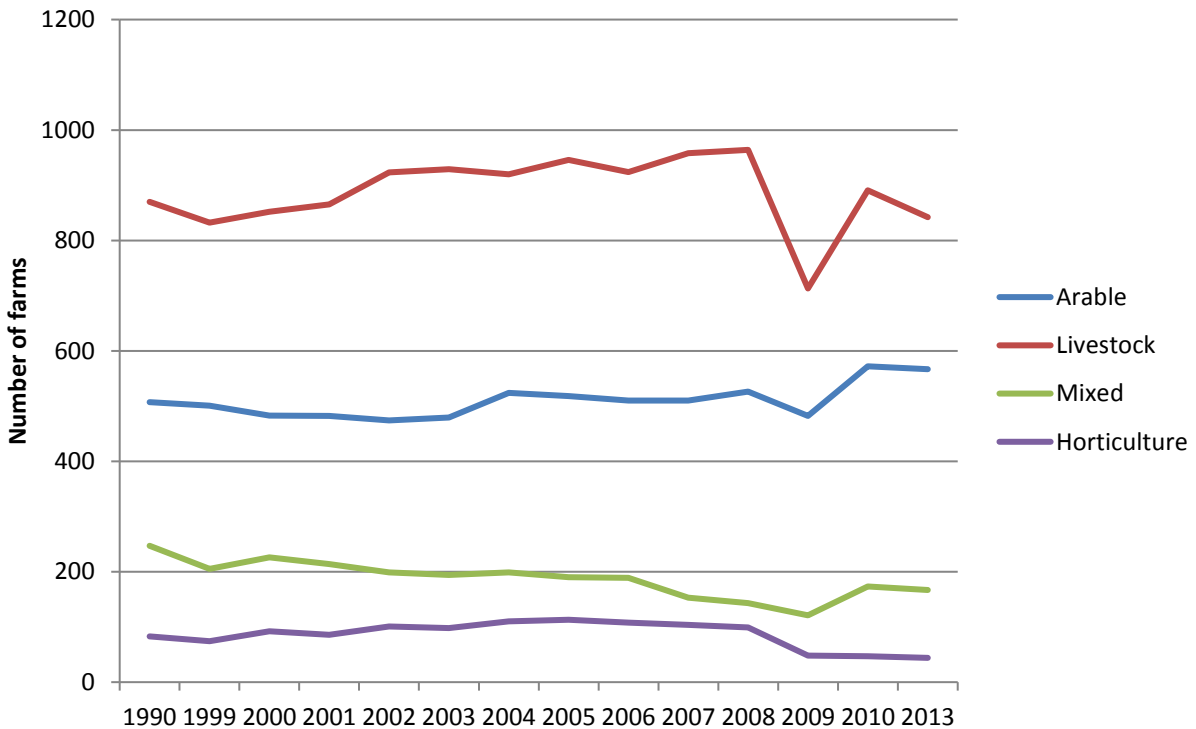


## Farm types within the AONB (1990-2013)



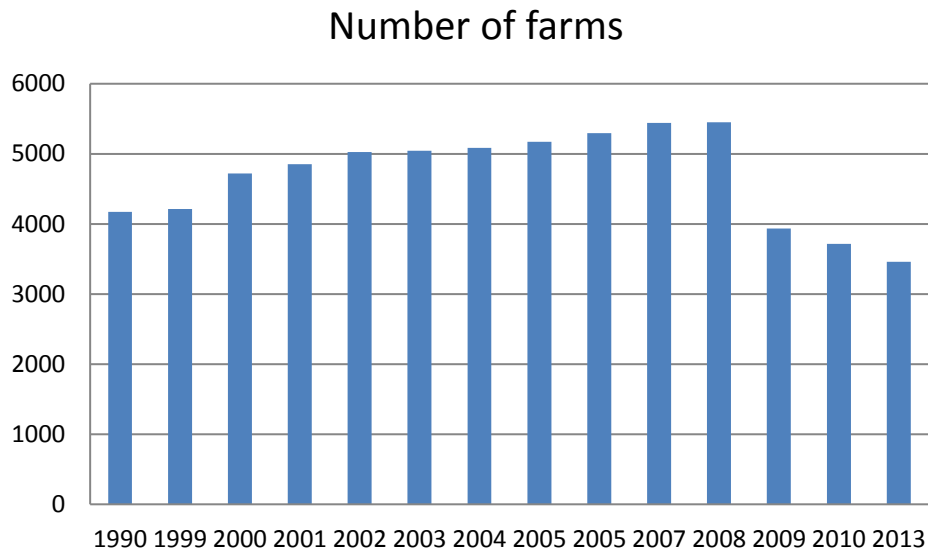
Although recorded separately general cropping and cereals can be combined to give a figure for arable farms and the same can be done for livestock based farms. The bar graph below presents this combined data. Please note the gaps in data between 1990 and 1999 and 2010 & 2013.

## Farm types within the AONB (1990-2013)

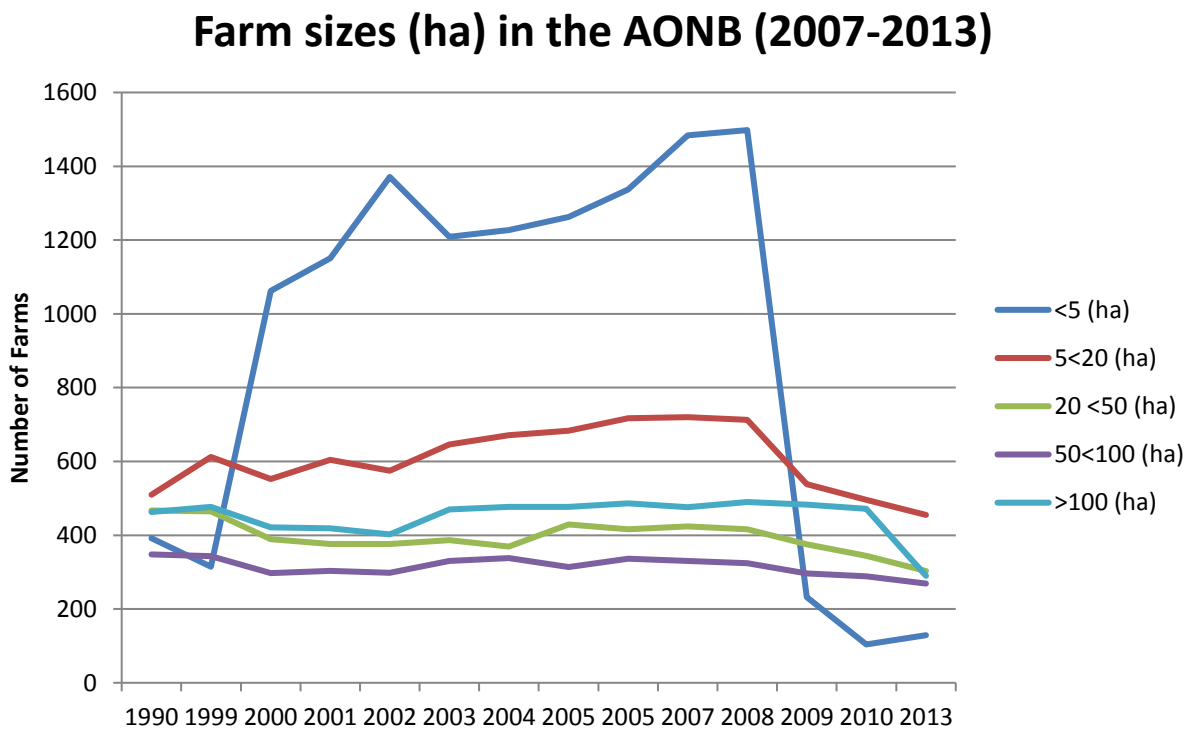


Source: Defra agricultural survey. Please note the gaps in data between 1990 and 1999 and 2010 & 2013.

**Indicator 5: (MP) Changes in farm numbers and sizes**



The overall decline in farm numbers is explained by a process of consolidation as is illustrated by looking at the number of farms of different sizes. Please note the gap in data between 1990 and 1999.

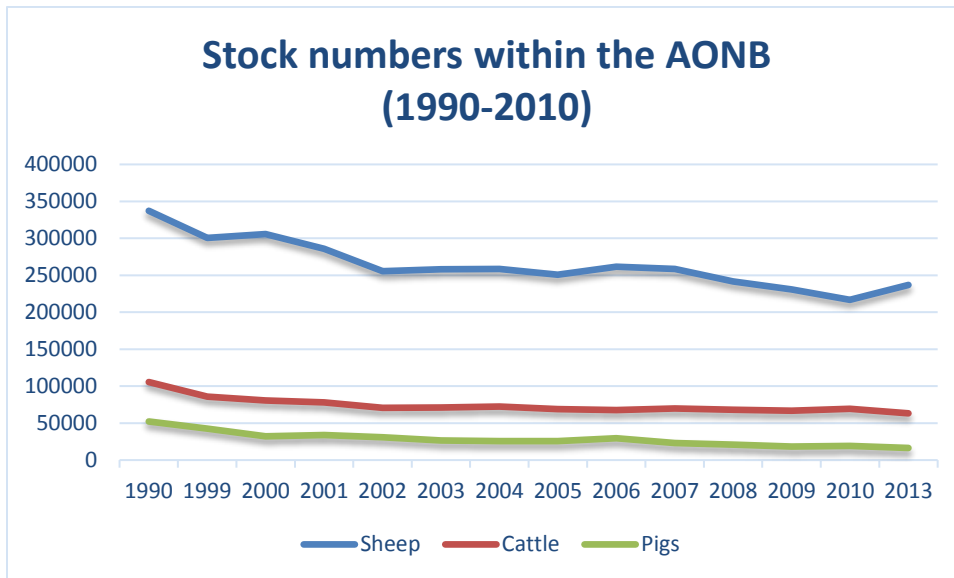


The Cotswolds AONB farming study 2003, states that during 1990-2002, there was an increase in the number of farms in the Cotswolds, although this was largely explained by the increase in smallholdings. It also noted significant reductions in the number of dairy farms that were greater in AONB than the south west as a whole (p3). Subsequent data shows a reduction in all sizes of holding with the reduction in the number of farms being greater the smaller the size indicating an on-going process of consolidation.

Source: Defra agricultural survey. Please note the gap in data between 1990 and 1999.

**Indicator 6: (MP) Changes in stock numbers**

The Cotswolds AONB farming study 2003 stated that there had been an overall decline in stock numbers, which was due to falling profitability of livestock related enterprises. This was mainly due to the outbreak of foot and mouth disease. This long term decline has continued in subsequent years. Poultry data was not available for 2007



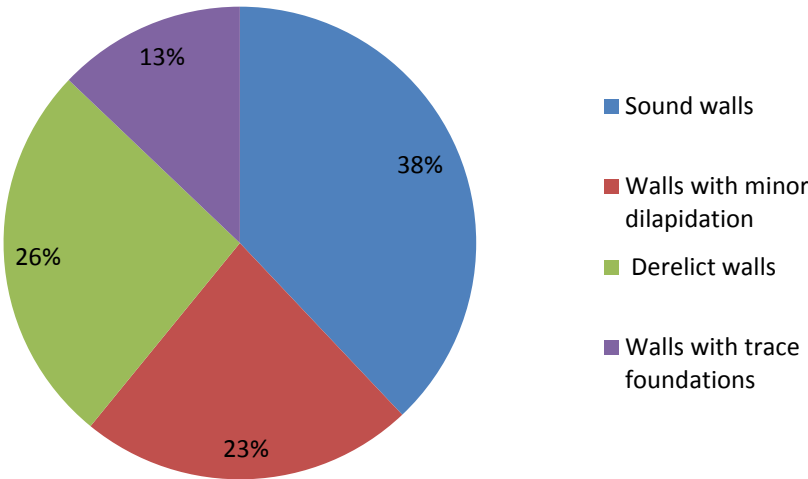
Source: Defra agricultural survey. Please note the gap in data between 1990 and 1999 and 2010 and 2013.

**Indicator 7: Change in the number of horses in the AONB**

Data on the number of horses is collected on local authority boundary areas so AONB specific figures are difficult to determine. The leaflet “The keeping of horses and ponies in the Cotswolds AONB” published by the Board on 15 November 2011 states that; “within the Cotswolds AONB there are around 18,000 horses...” This figure is an estimate based on a review of the county data and discussion with the British Horse Society. The report ‘Farming, Forestry and the Equestrian Sector in the Cotswolds AONB (produced by Cumulus Consultants for the Cotswolds Conservation Board in 2015) gives an estimated figure of 16,800.

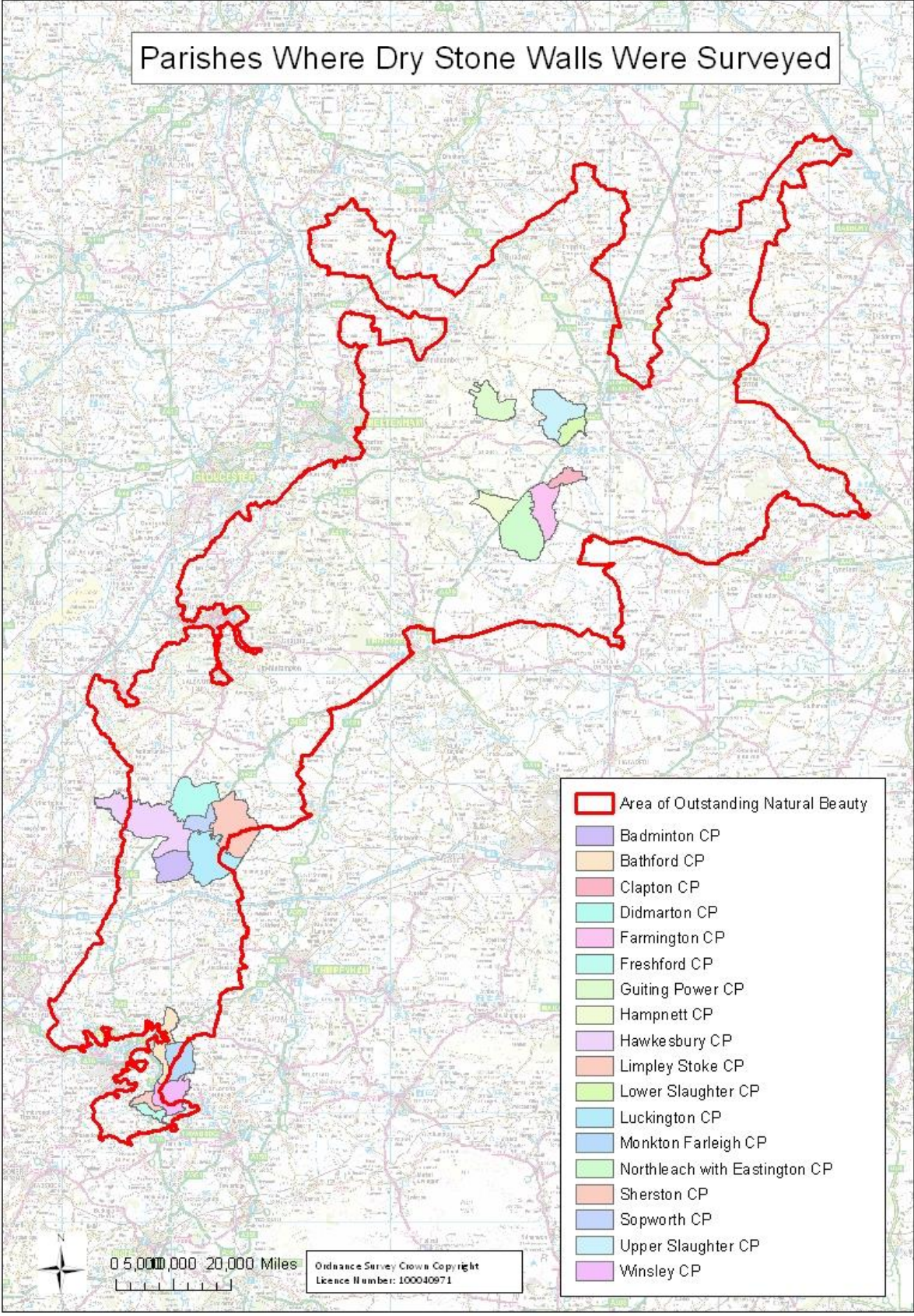
**Indicator 8: Condition and extent of dry stone walls.**

Condition of dry stone walls



Source: Survey of dry stone walls undertaken for the Caring for the Cotswolds project 2004.

# Parishes Where Dry Stone Walls Were Surveyed





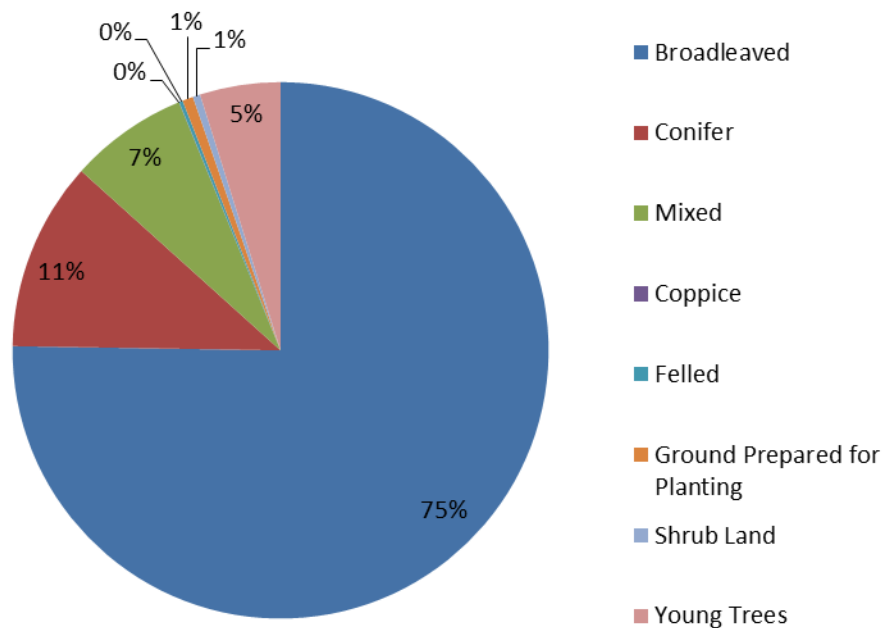
### Indicator 9 (MP): Change in the % of AONB which is woodland

Ancient broadleaved woodland is recognised as one of the special qualities of the Cotswolds AONB in the AONB Management Plan and it features strongly within the landscape character assessment and the accompanying landscape strategy and guidelines.

The area of woodland has increased by 375 ha or 0.2% of the AONB between March 2012 & March 2016

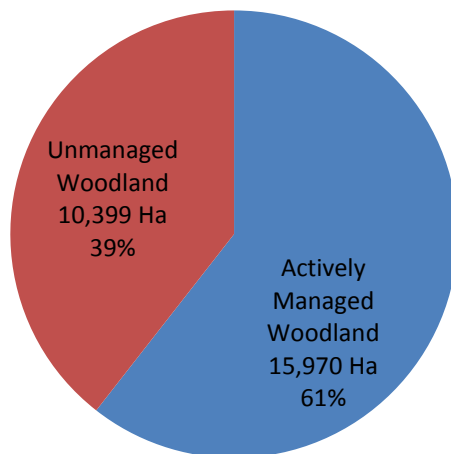
Area of woodland in the Cotswolds AONB as at 31 March 2016	26,369 ha (25,994 ha 31 March 2012)
% of the Cotswolds AONB which is woodland as at 31 March 2016	12.9% (12.7% 31 March 2012)

#### Woodland types in the Cotswolds



**Indicator 10 (MP): Change in % of woodland under management for public benefit**

**Proportion of actively managed woodland in the Cotswolds AONB 2016**



The comparable figures for 2012 show 10,746 Ha (41%) of unmanaged woodland and 15,544 Ha (59%) of managed woodland giving an increase in managed woodland of 426 Ha (2%)

The area of 'managed woodland' is calculated in the same way as the Forestry Commission's 'Managed Woodland Headline Performance Indicator'. The statistics therefore include all woodland supported by a range of incentives offered by the Forestry Commission, or with a felling licence or is part of Public Forest Estate Land owned and/or managed by the FC. It is acknowledged that there are other areas of woodland that could be considered as 'managed' as well.

Source: © Forestry Commission copyright [2016].

**Indicator 11 (MP): Change in % woodland under EWGS (England Woodland Grant Scheme) & Indicator 12 (MP): % Eligible national inventory of woodland and trees stock in the Cotswolds AONB covered by a WGS management agreement**

The England Woodland Grant Scheme (EWGS) administered by the Forestry Commission had three elements: Woodland Creation Grant (WCG), Additional Contributions (AC) and Farmed Woodland Payments (FWP).

Cotswolds AONB English Woodland Grant Scheme agreements live between 2005-2011	6,271 Ha (24% of woodland area)
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EWGS has been integrated within the New Environmental Stewardship Scheme and as at March 2016 there have been 83 agreements covering 480 Ha.

Source: © Forestry Commission copyright [2016].

**Indicator 13 (MP): % of ancient woodland sites covered by a Woodland Grant Scheme agreement**

Ancient woodland in the AONB covers 6,050 Ha with an additional 3,162 Ha of plantation on ancient woodland sites (PAWS) together they cover 9,211 Ha (5% of the AONB area)

Source: © Forestry Commission copyright [2016].

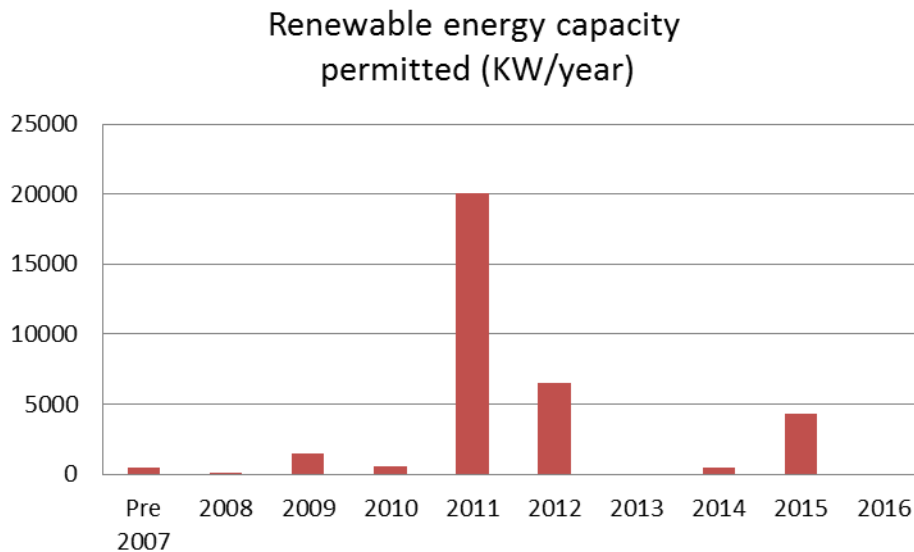
Cotswolds AONB English Woodland Grant Scheme agreements with ancient woodland live between 2005-2011	4,170 ha (45% of Ancient woodland within the AONB)
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Source: © Forestry Commission copyright [2012].

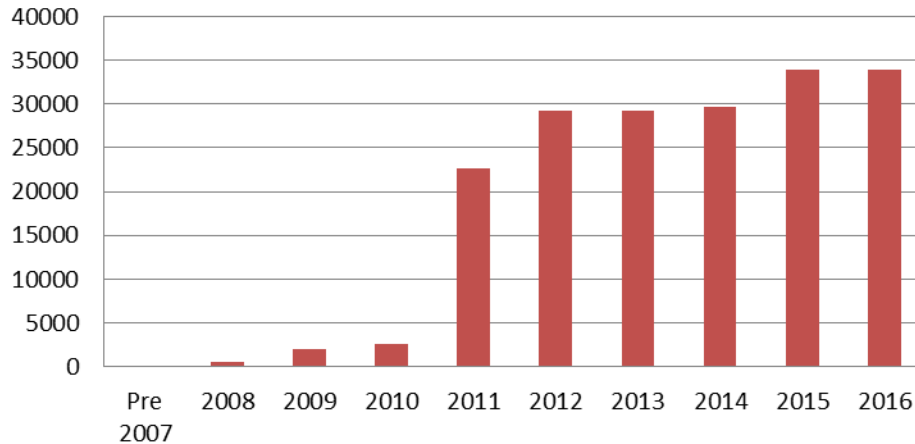
**Natural Resource and Services**

**Indicator 14 (MP): Increase in renewable energy capacity permitted/constructed**

“Over 15MW of renewable energy generation capacity, supported by the Board, approved by local planning authorities” (Significant Achievements 2008-13 in the 2013-2018 Cotswolds AONB Management Plan). Renewable energy is defined in government policy as ‘those energy flows that occur naturally and repeatedly in the environment, from the wind, the fall of water, the movement of oceans, from the sun and from biomass’ (Renewable energy in the Cotswolds AONB - a report for the CCB, SWEA 2006). Increasing the amount of energy from renewable and low carbon technologies will help ensure the UK has a secure energy supply, reduce greenhouse gas emissions to slow down climate change and stimulate investment in new jobs and businesses. (Planning practice guidance for renewable and low carbon energy DCLG 2013)



### Renewable energy capacity permitted cumulative total (KW/year)



Data was obtained from monitoring planning applications known to the Board and a request sent to local authority planning departments in January 2017. It includes schemes from within the setting of the AONB. The post 2011 reduction reflects the introduction of permitted development rights for small householder schemes (no planning application is required so the data is not captured). Construction data is not yet available.

#### **Indicator 15 (MP): Increase in the number and area of soil management plans**

Soil management plans are voluntary and provide points towards entry level or organic entry level stewardship points targets.

16 environmental stewardship agreements covering 165ha with soil management measures were in place in 2012.

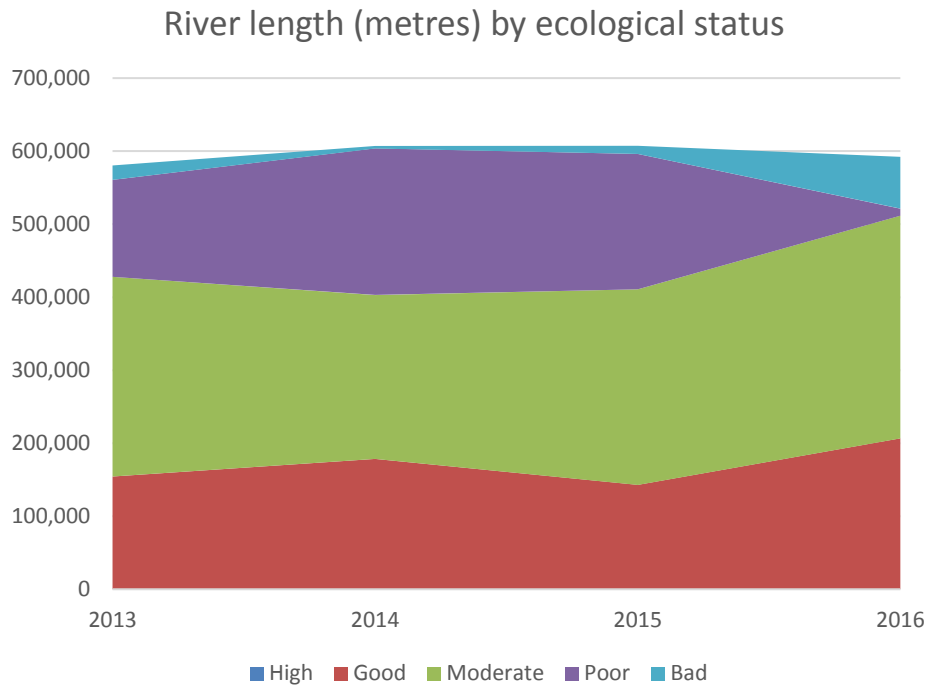
Source: Natural England, 2012

#### **Indicator 16 (MP): Change in % of water bodies achieving “good” ecological status.**

The water in the AONB is mainly fed by flow from deep in the limestone aquifers. The Environment Agency has been establishing projects within the AONB to improve the ecological condition of the rivers. Catchment Management Plans (CMP) provide the actions needed to achieve good ecological condition.

Water Framework Directive data for 2016 gives the figure of 206,715 metres of monitored river lengths as being in good ecological condition which is 35% of the total monitored length of 592,319 metres. This figure has more meaning when set in the context of the numbers for the other conditions.

A comparison with 2013 before shows a decrease in the poor status class and an increase in all other classes.



The Water Framework Directive data also covers the ecological status of lakes. It records 3 lakes in the Cotswolds covering 1,193ha all of which were reported to be in moderate condition in 2016. In 2013 two were reported as in good condition and 1 in moderate.

Ecological status is defined by how far the river or lake is from a condition where no human interference can be identified. The details are outlined in Annex 5 of the Water Framework Directive.

Source; Natural England Protected Landscape data – originally sourced from Environment Agency data of the previous year.

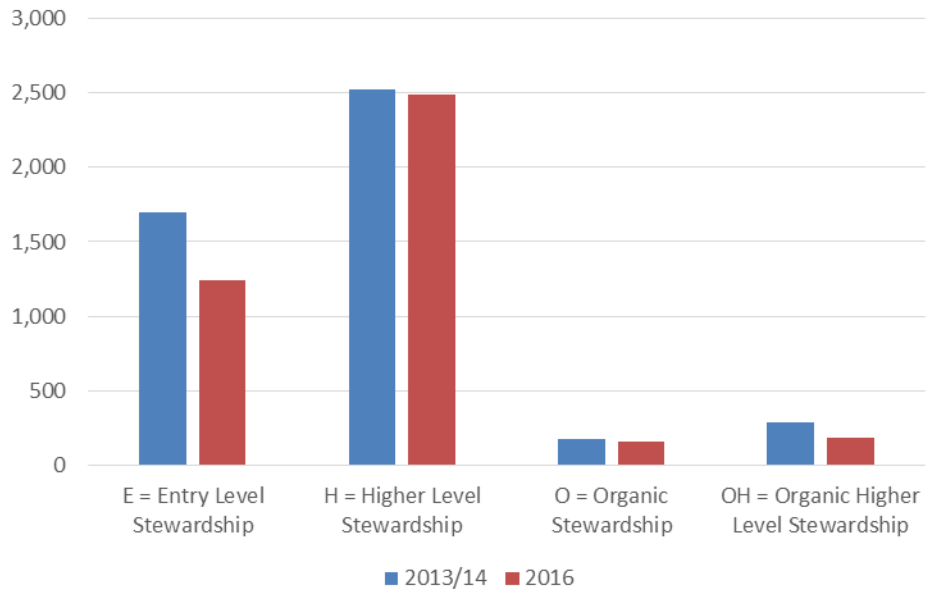
## Historic Environment

### Indicator 17 (MP): Change in area of land under agri-environmental schemes for the management and protection of archaeological features

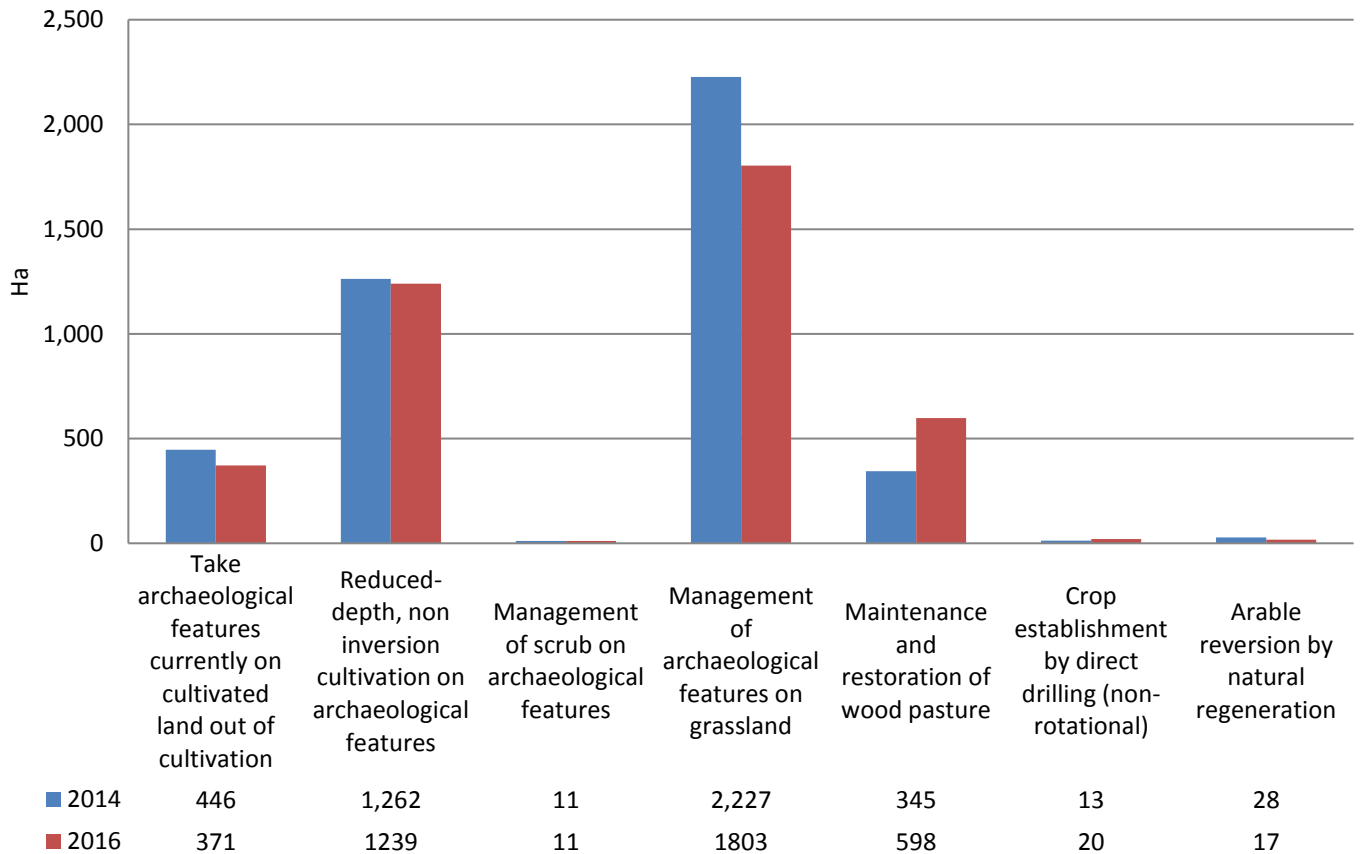
Data cut to protected landscape boundaries is available for the Environmental Stewardship scheme. The new agri-environment scheme called Countryside Stewardship, introduced in June 2015 also contains options for the management and protection of archaeological features. Data cut to protected landscape boundaries is not currently available for Countryside Stewardship but it has been requested.

A total of 4,066 ha were under Environmental Stewardship options aimed at the protection of archaeological features in 2016 (4,685 in 2014).

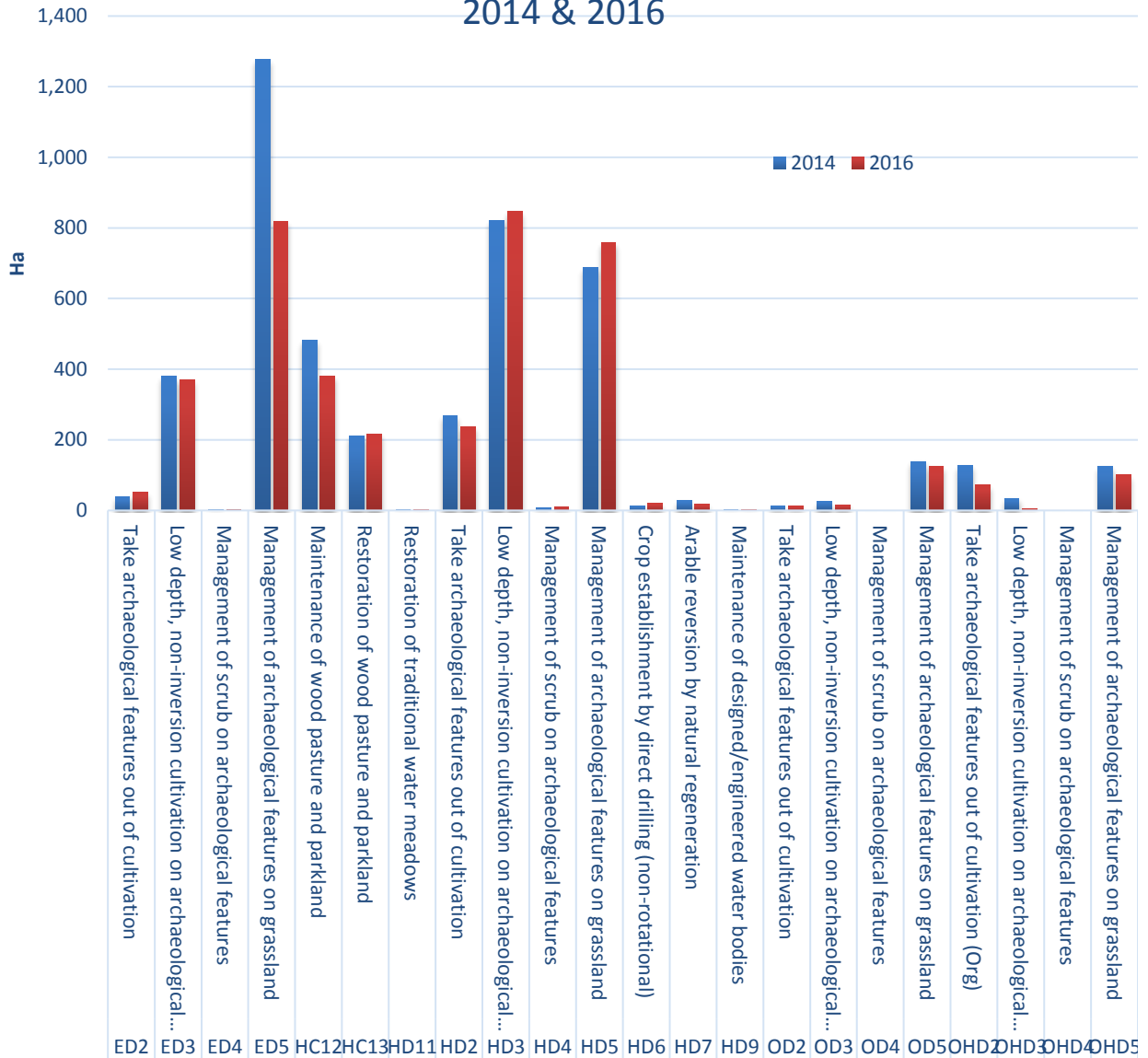
### Area under Environmental Stewardship archaeology options by scheme



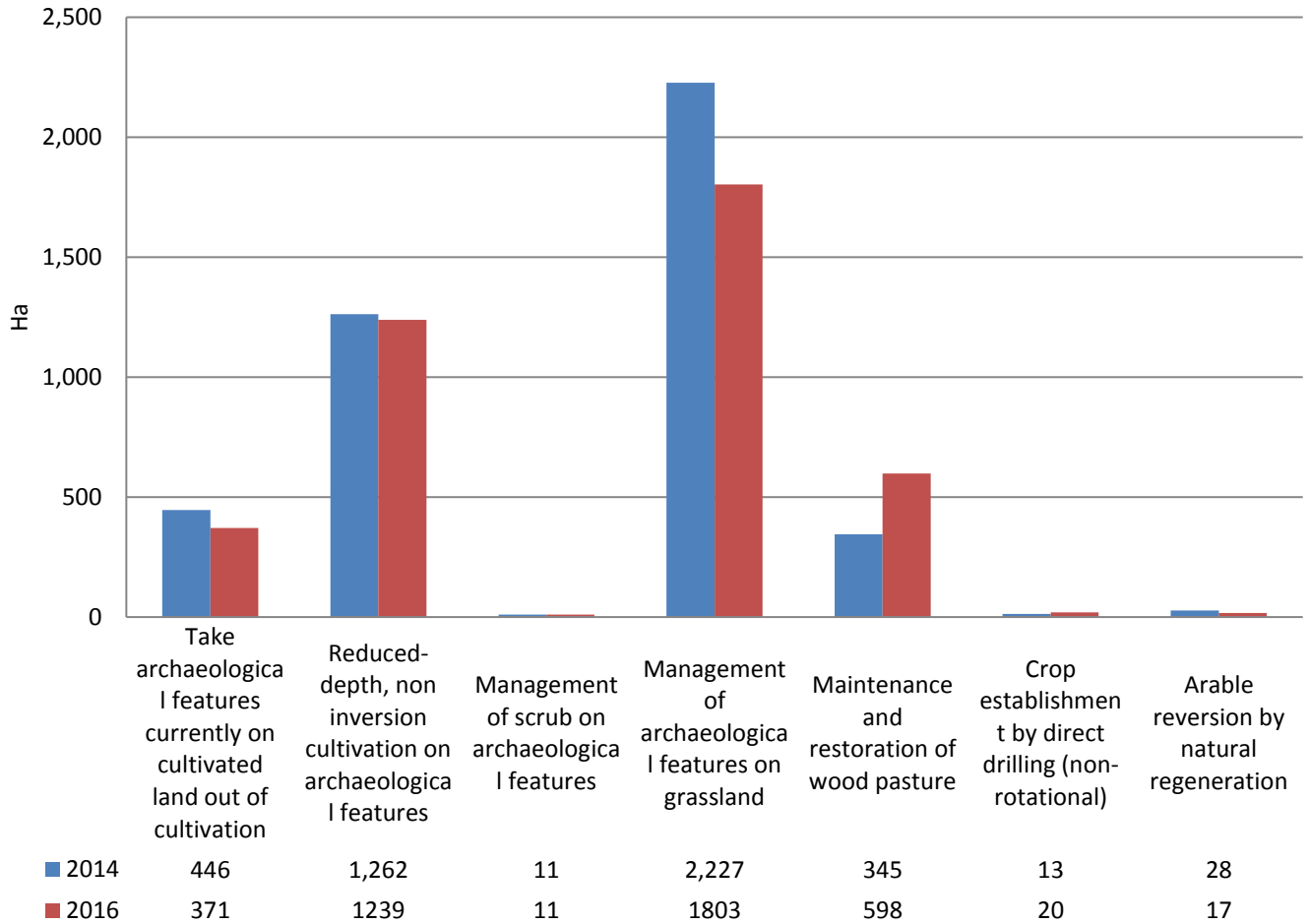
### Archaeological options across all stewardship schemes



## Environmental stewardship archaeology options by area 2014 & 2016



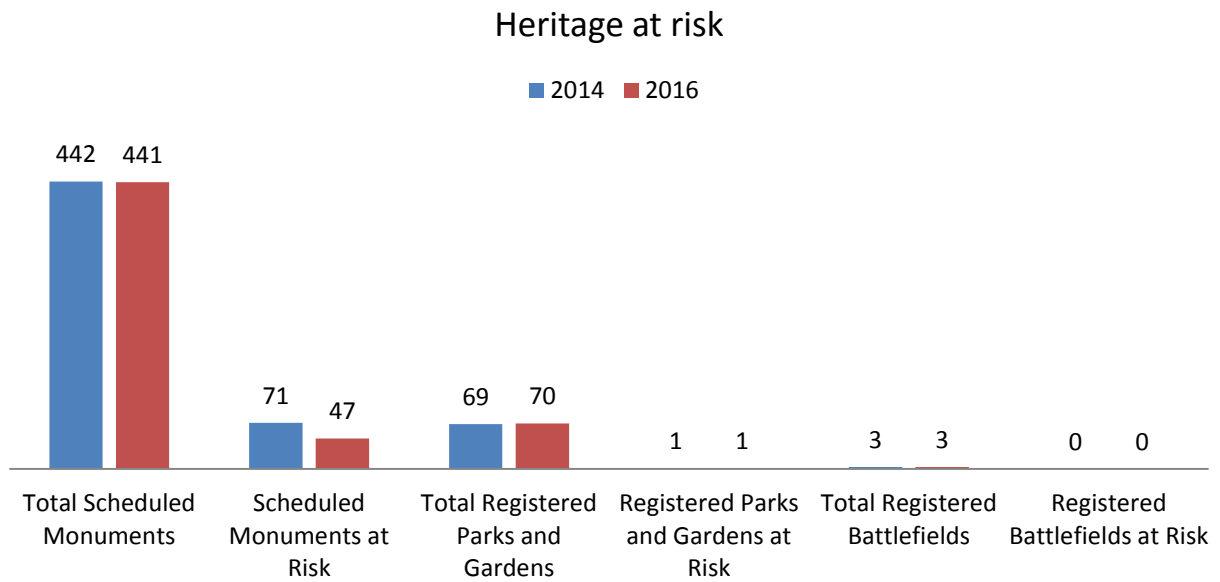
## Archaeological options across all stewardship schemes



Source; Natural England 31 March 2016

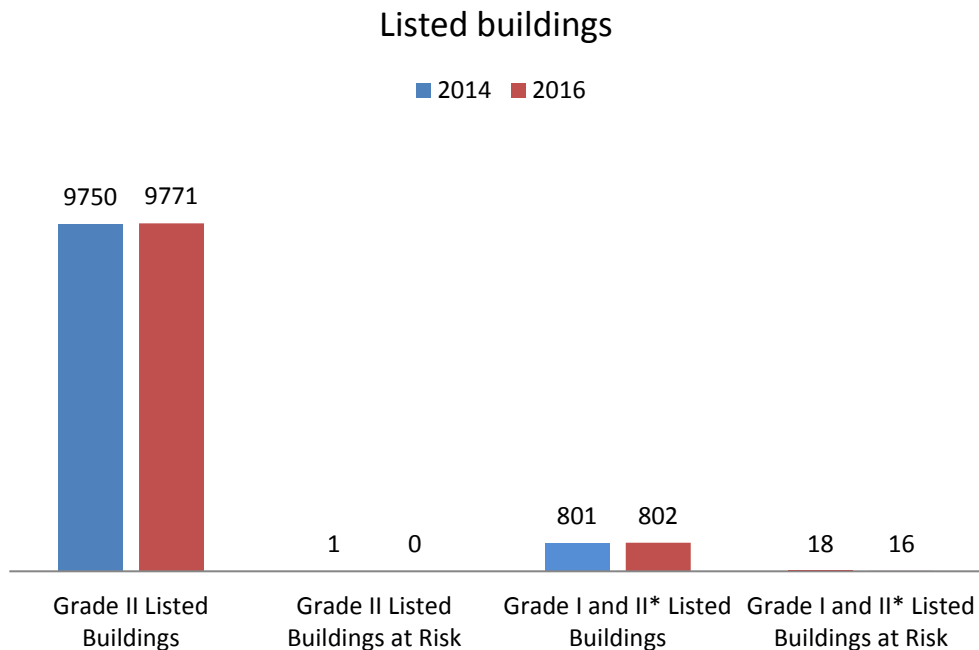


**Indicator 18 (MP): Change in % of heritage assets at risk**



**Indicator 19 (MP): Change in number of listed buildings within the AONB**

Listed buildings are important historic buildings which have been selected for designation by the government’s advisor (English Heritage) There are three grades, grade I, grade II\* or grade II.



Source: English Heritage

**Indicator 20 (MP): Change in number of local authorities with historic environment records available online**

Local authority responsible for holding HER data	HER available online
Wiltshire	Yes (was no in 2014)
Gloucestershire	No
South Gloucestershire	Yes
Oxfordshire	Yes
Warwickshire County Council	Yes (was no in 2014)
BANES	Yes (via national heritage gateway)

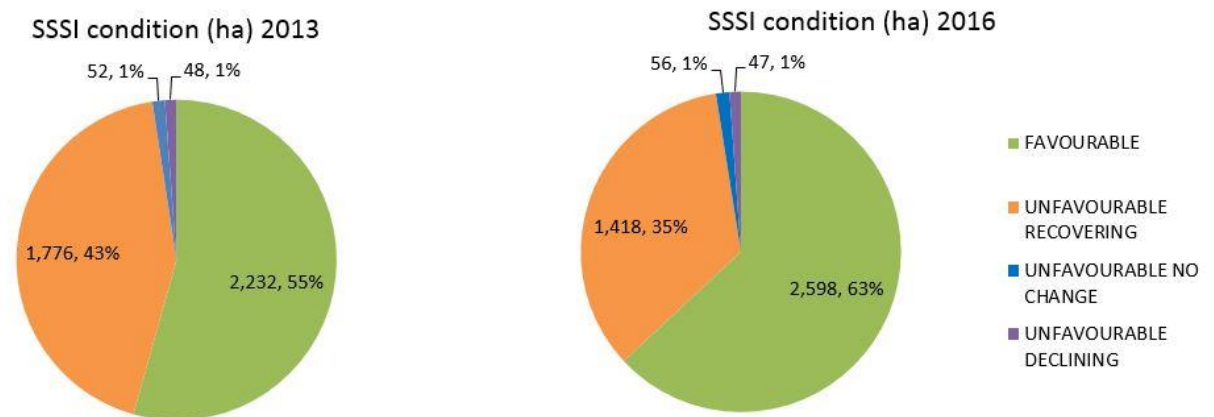
Not all of the 15 local authorities that coincide with the Cotswolds AONB hold historic environment records data as this data is generally held by county or unitary authorities.

Source: January 2017- On line search through local authority websites

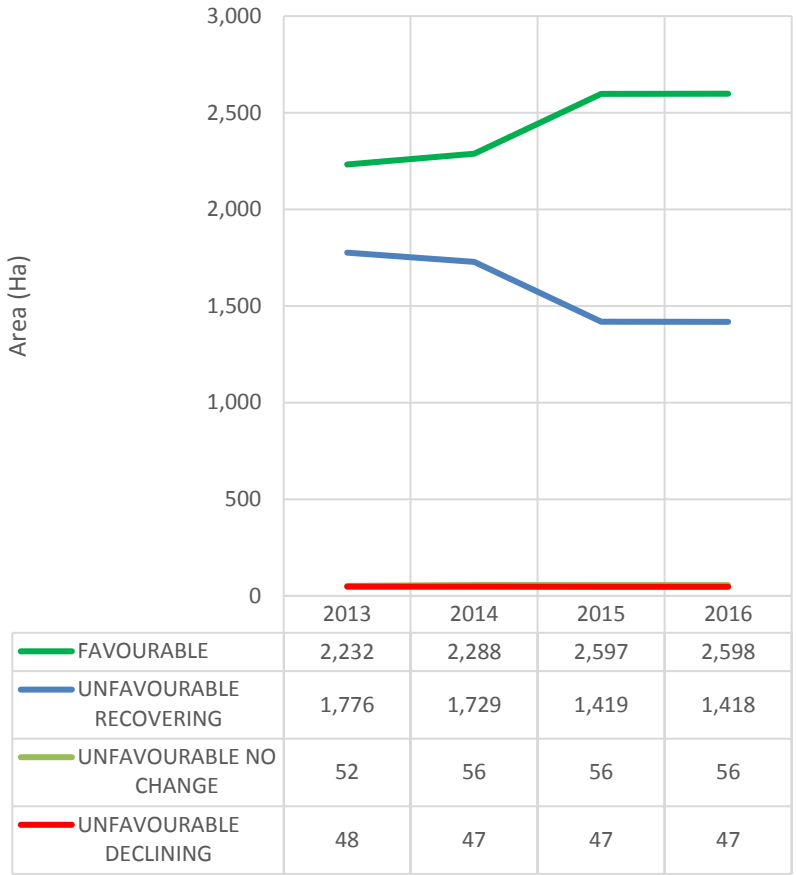
**Biodiversity**

**Indicator 21 (MP): Change in % by area of Sites of Special Scientific Interest in “favourable” condition and Indicator 22 (MP): Change in % by area of Sites of Special Scientific Interest in “unfavourable recovering” “unfavourable no change” and “unfavourable declining” condition**

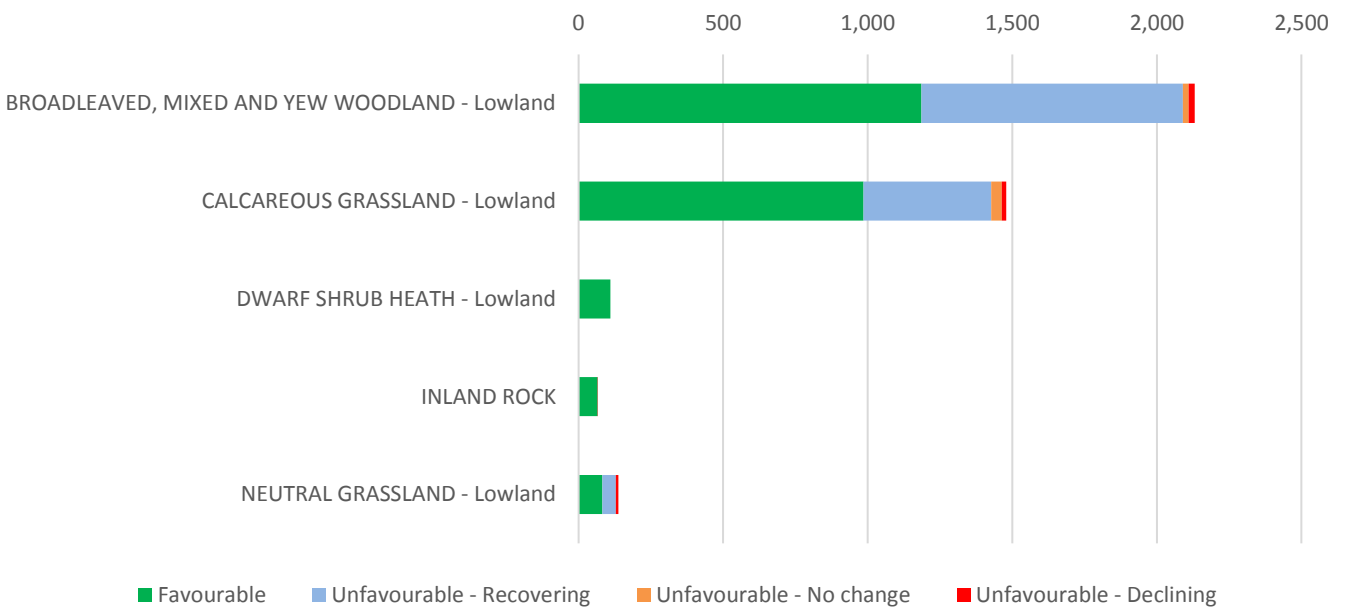
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI’s) are a suite of sites representing the best wildlife and geological features nationally. They are designated by Natural England.



### Change in SSSI Condition



### SSSI condition by Broad Habitats (Ha) 2016



Source: Natural England

Favourable condition means that the site is being conserved in an adequate way; although there is always scope for improvement on these sites (Natural England, SSSI glossary). The pie charts shows a large % of SSSI's in the AONB as 'unfavourable recovering' this means that although the SSSI is not yet fully conserved with the correct management, it should be classed as favourable conditions in the near future, as long as the recovery work is sustained (Source: Natural England, SSSI glossary).

**Indicator 23 (MP): Change in % of area of priority habitats which are managed under agri-environment schemes**

Section 41 Habitats\* with a significant presence in the Cotswolds as agreed by the Cotswolds Ecological Networks Forum summer 2013

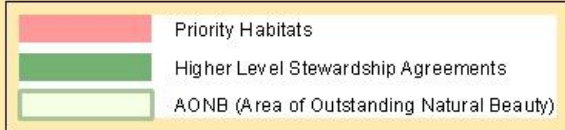
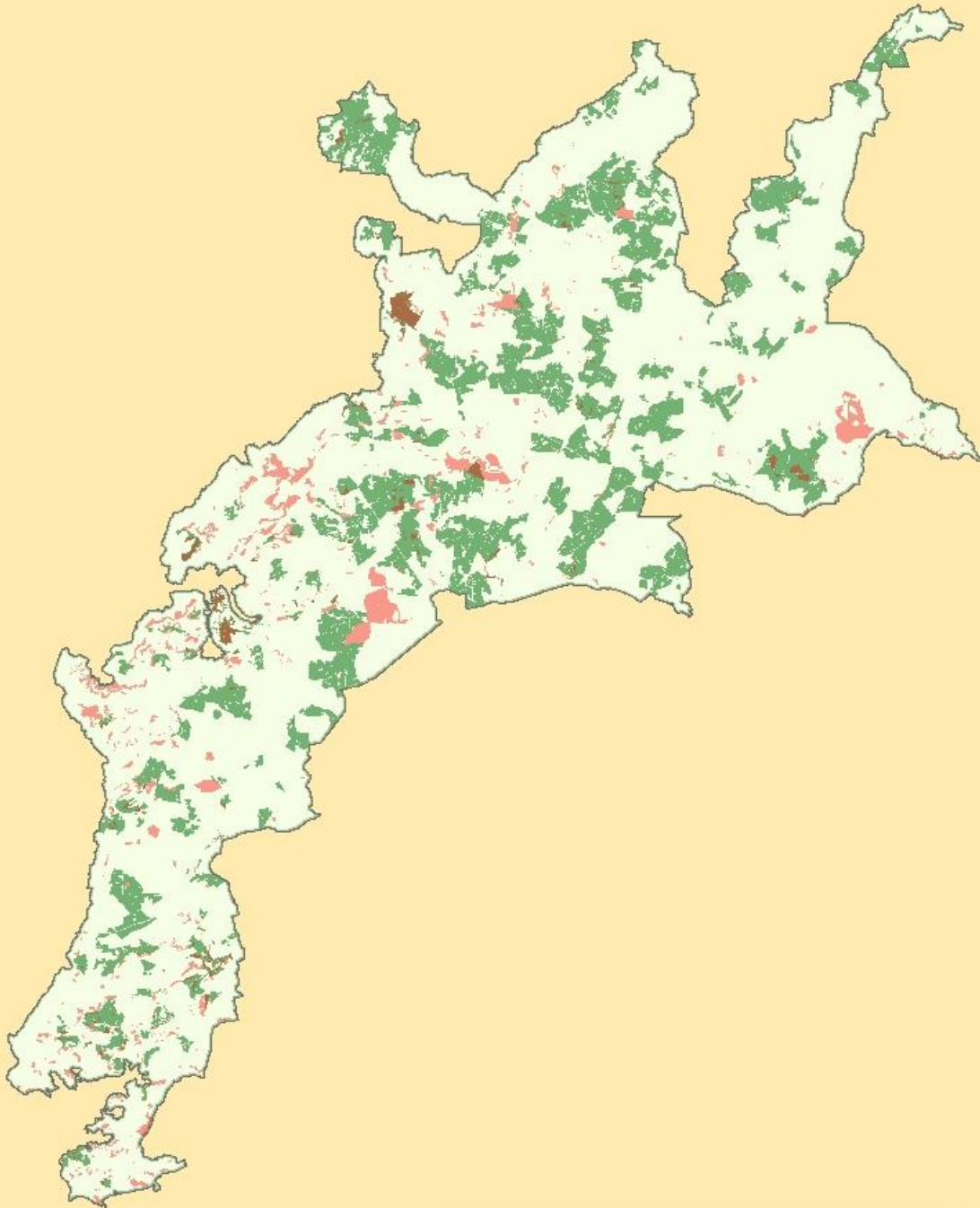
Broad habitat	Habitat name
Arable and horticulture	Arable field margins
Arable and horticulture	Traditional orchards
Boundary	Hedgerows
Freshwater	Eutrophic standing waters
Freshwater	Ponds
Freshwater	Rivers
Grassland	Lowland calcareous grassland
Grassland	Lowland meadows
Inland rock	Inland rock outcrop and scree habitats
Inland rock	Open mosaic habitats on previously developed land
Wetland	Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh
Woodland	Lowland beech and yew woodland
Woodland	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland
Woodland	Wet woodland
Woodland	Wood-pasture and parkland

\*Habitats of Principal Importance in England – Listed in section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006

In practice there are three primary priority habitats in the Cotswolds which cover a measurable area of land: lowland calcareous grassland, lowland beech and yew woodland and lowland mixed deciduous woodland. The map below illustrates the overlap between these habitats and Higher Level Stewardship in March 2012. Although some woodland was included in earlier Higher Level Stewardship schemes, most woodland management is largely supported through the England Woodland Grant Scheme and reported on elsewhere in this report.

The area of these habitats in Higher Level Stewardship was 2,208 Ha 23% of the total habitat area of 9,638 Ha

## Priority Habitats and Higher Level Stewardship (March 2012)



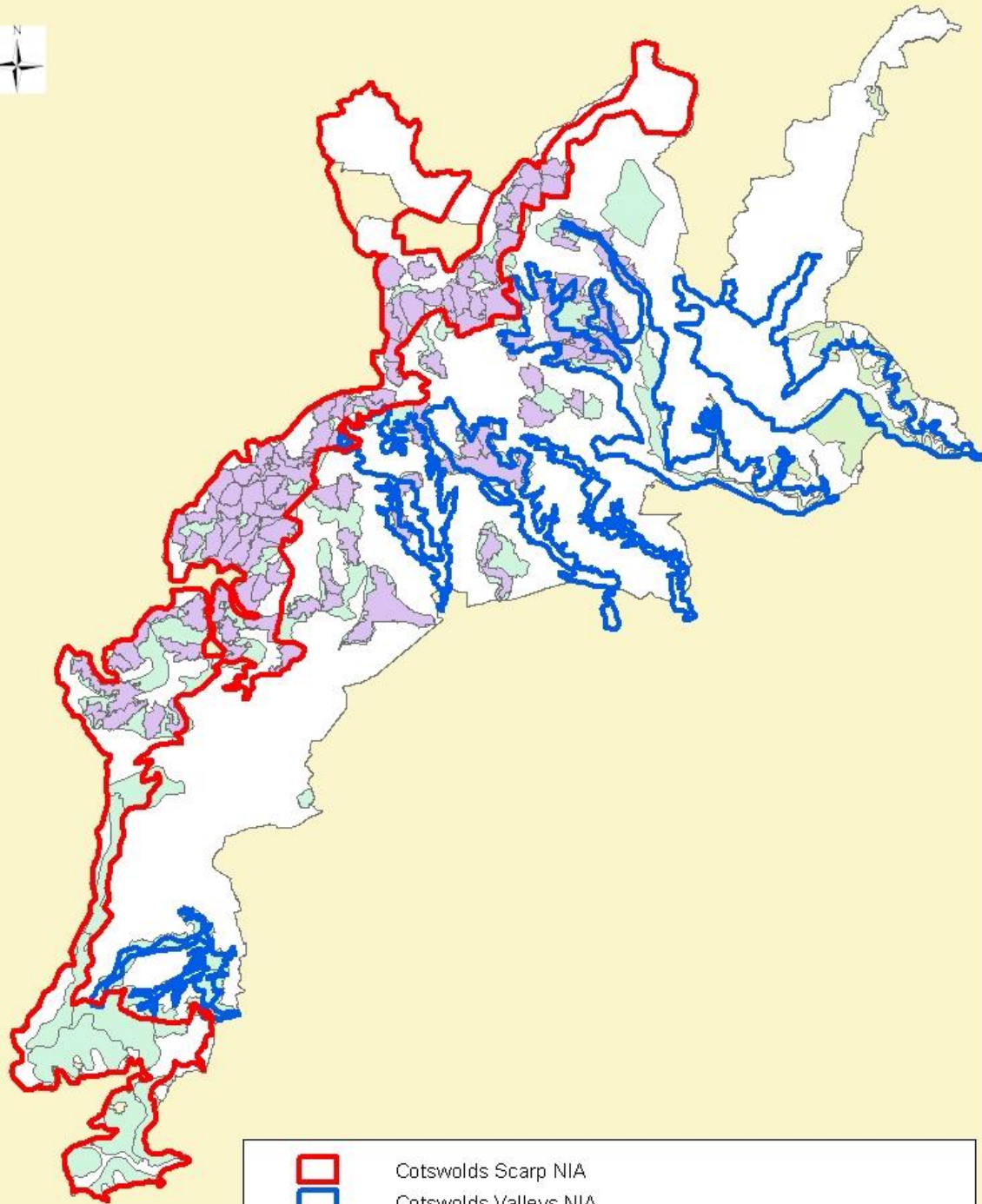
#### **Indicator 24 (MP): Change in % of AONB included in “Strategic Nature Areas”**

The South west Nature Map launched in 2006 identified Strategic Nature Areas; areas with the greatest potential for restoring habitats. In Gloucestershire a revised set of Strategic Nature Areas was published in 2008. In Oxfordshire a similar exercise led to the creation of Conservation Target Areas and in Worcestershire, Priority Areas. The Natural Environment White Paper published in June 2011 promoted the creation of Nature Improvement Areas (NIAs) which has allowed for a consistent approach across the whole AONB. In the Cotswolds two NIAs have been identified drawing on the South West Nature Map’s Strategic Nature Areas or in Oxfordshire, Conservation Target Areas. Local expertise, wildlife site designations, habitat data and the Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment were also used.

The Cotswolds Scarp NIA is 59,513 Ha (29% of the AONB) and the Valleys NIA is 63,669 Ha (31% of the AONB). Together the two NIA’s cover 123,182 Ha (60% of the AONB)

The Strategic Nature Areas within the AONB cover 29,621 Ha (14%) although these only cover the part of the AONB within the old South west region.

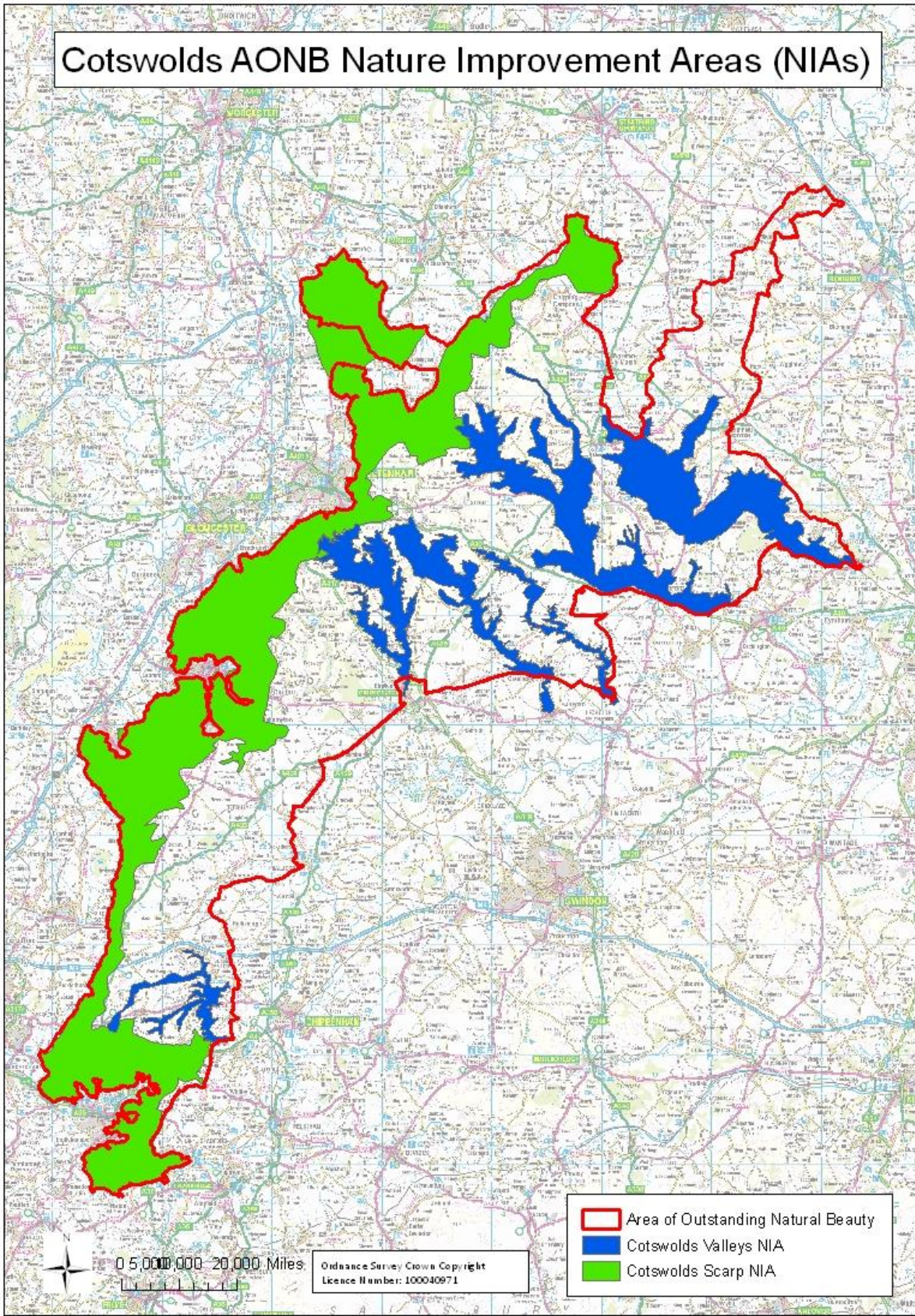
Cotswolds Nature Improvement Areas  
Match with Strategic Nature Areas (SW Nature Map) & Conservation Target Areas (Oxfordshire)



-  Cotswolds Scarp NIA
-  Cotswolds Valleys NIA
-  Conservation Target Areas for Oxfordshire March 2006\_region
-  Strategic Nature Areas SW Nature Map 2007 Revision
-  Strategic Nature Areas SW Nature Map 2005

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# Cotswolds AONB Nature Improvement Areas (NIAs)





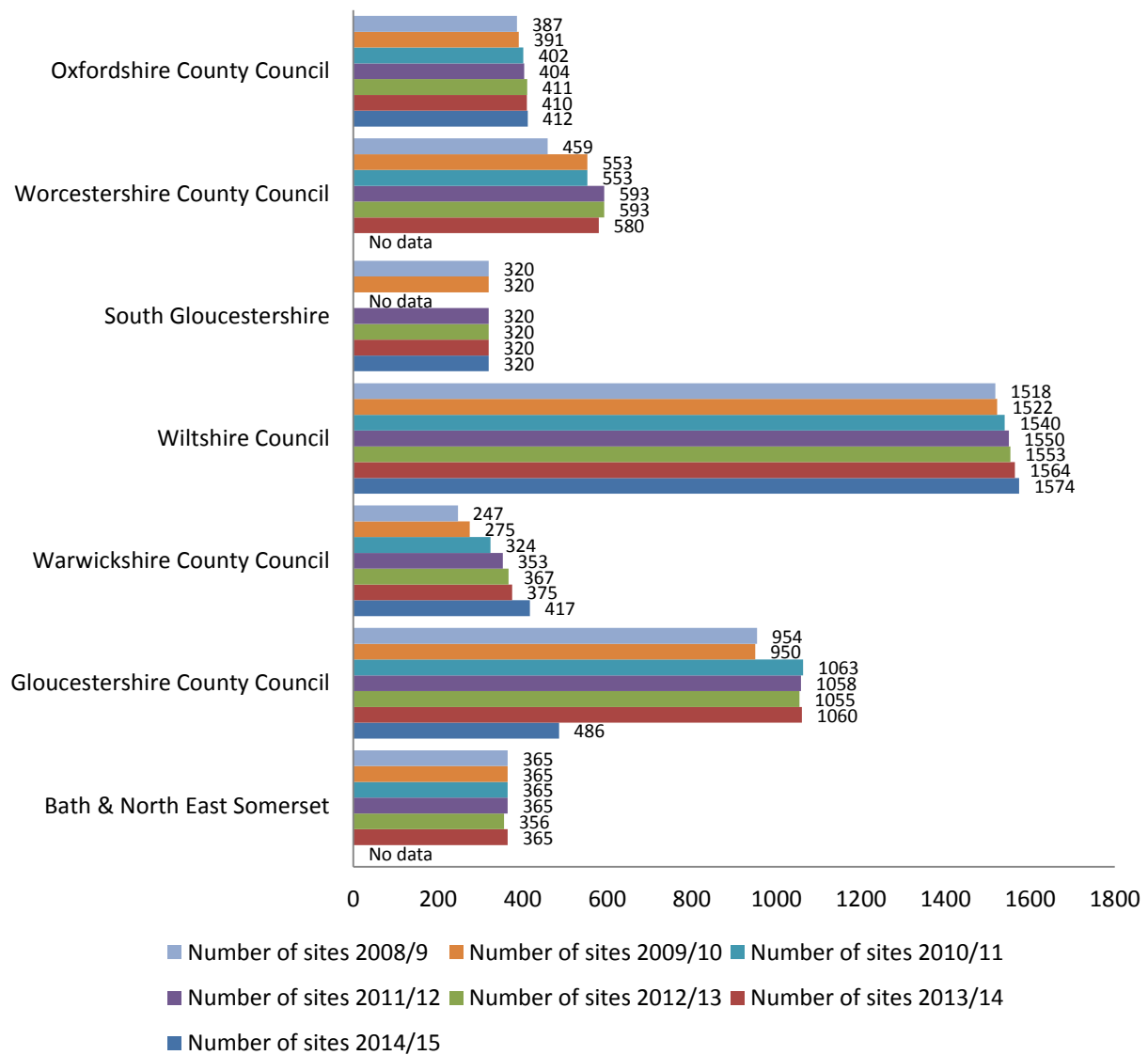
**Indicator 25 (MP): Change in % of Local Nature Sites in favourable condition**

Local Wildlife Sites represent the vast bulk of sites important for wildlife, normally all of the known ancient habitats as well as other areas of interest. They are designated locally, usually by a local authority or Local Wildlife Site Partnership which includes the local authority. They can be called different things in different areas but Local Wildlife Site is becoming the nationally recognised term. Local Wildlife Site status does not represent a statutory designation although they can be recognised in local plans.

Local authorities are required to report on the management of local wildlife sites under the Government’s single data request (formerly National Indicator 197) and although this may not translate exactly to condition it is the only data widely available.

This data is publically available by local authority area but difficult to cut to the AONB boundary.

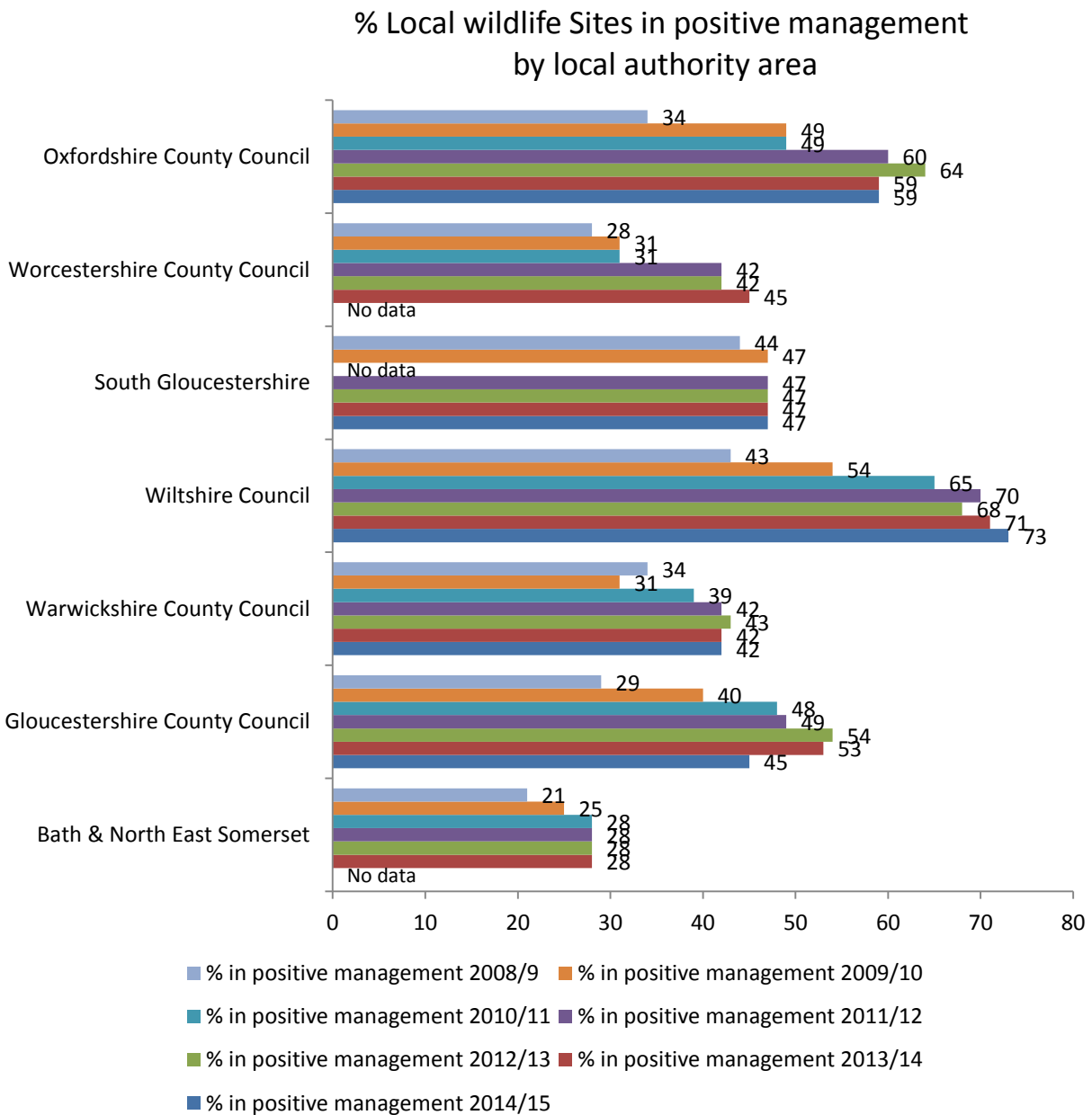
**Number of Local Wildlife Sites by local authority area**



The definition of 'in positive management' is; Local Sites where positive conservation management is being or has been implemented in the prior 5 years

Source: Defra November 2012.

This data covers the period following the introduction of its compulsory recording by local authorities. The overall increase in both the number of Local Wildlife Sites and the % of sites in positive management is more likely to reflect an increase in recording effort rather than an improvement of habitat management and restoration on the ground.



### Indicator 26 (MP) Change in % of degraded ecosystems

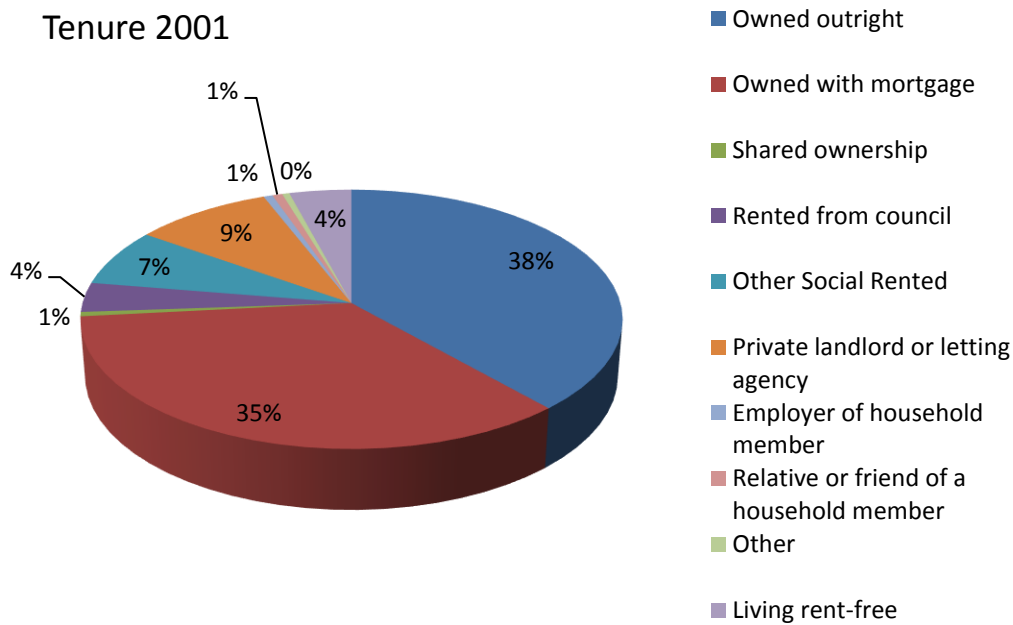
There is currently no data available to support this indicator

## Development and Transport

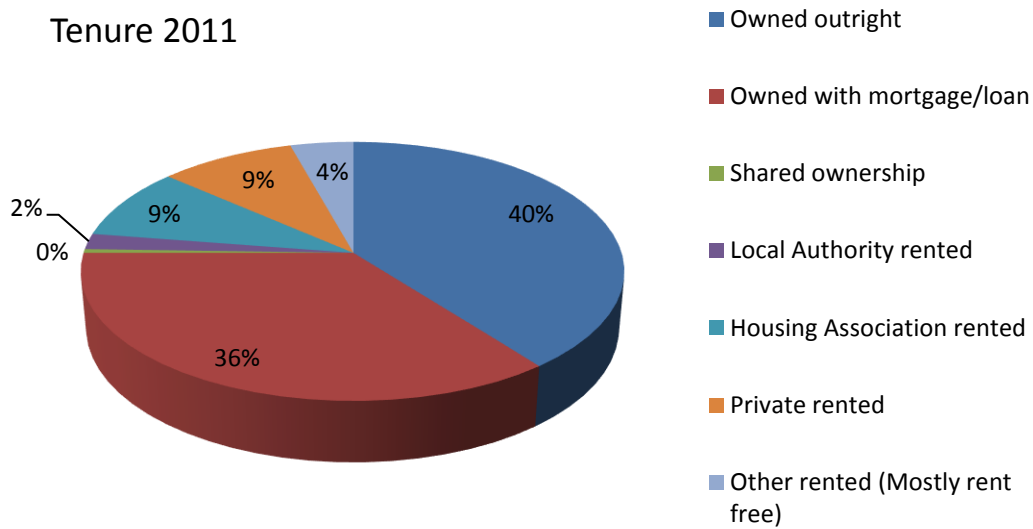
### Indicator 27 (MP): Number of affordable homes constructed per year

This is a new indicator introduced in the new management plan. The Board will contact local authorities asking them for the data to develop a new dataset. Census data however, provides an insight into the extent of social housing.

### Indicator 28: Household tenure within the AONB



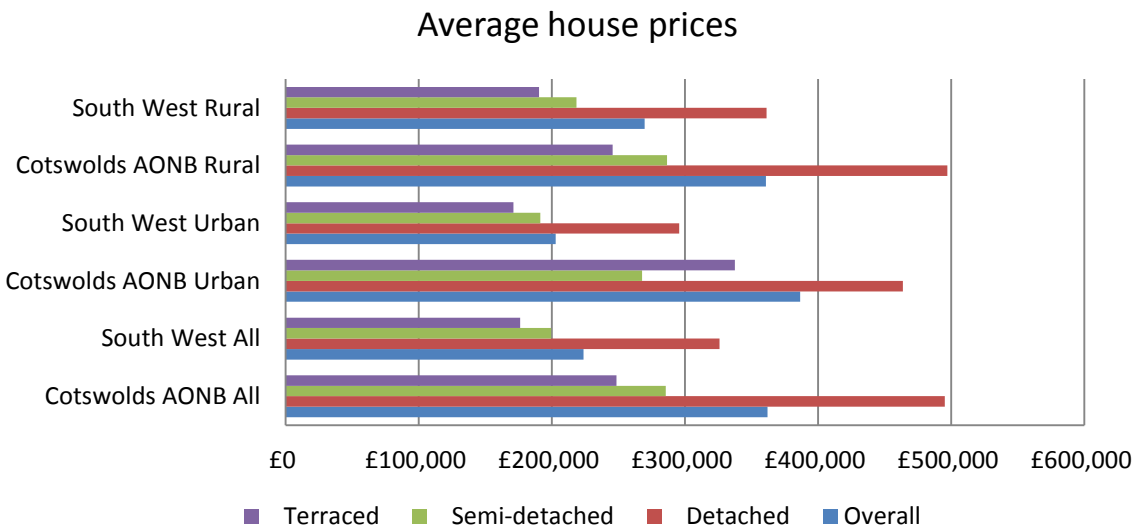
## Tenure 2011



There has been no change in the overall supply of social housing but there has been a move from local authority to housing association social housing within the context of a static tenure picture overall.

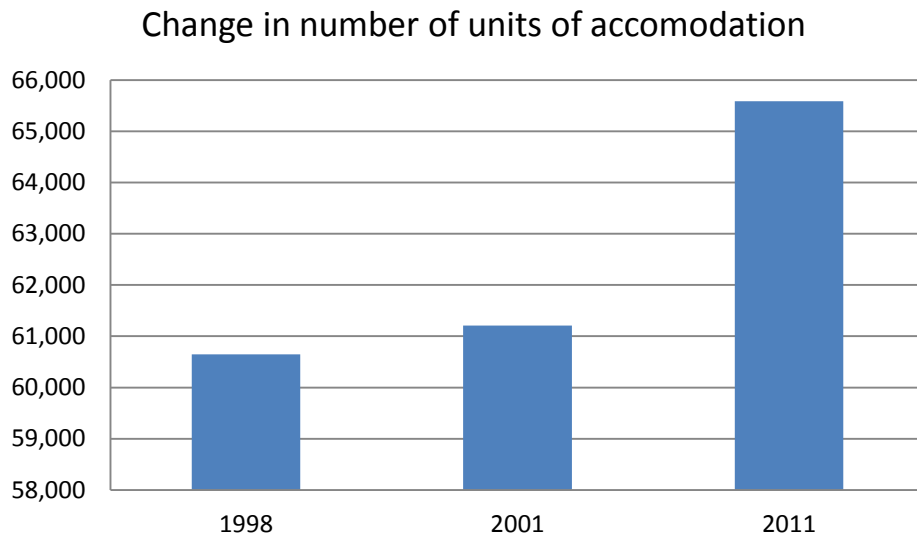
Source; Census

## Indicator 29: Change in house prices within the AONB



Source: (Land Registry, 2011)

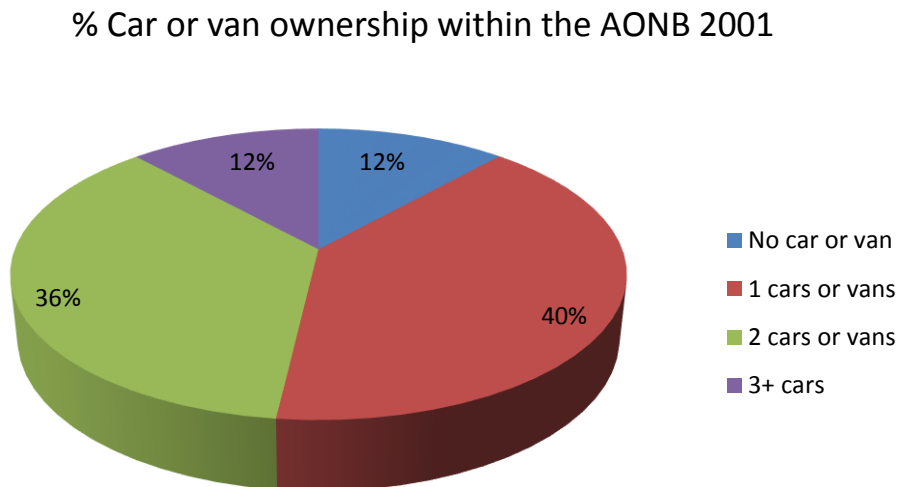
**Indicator 30: Change in number of units of accommodation**



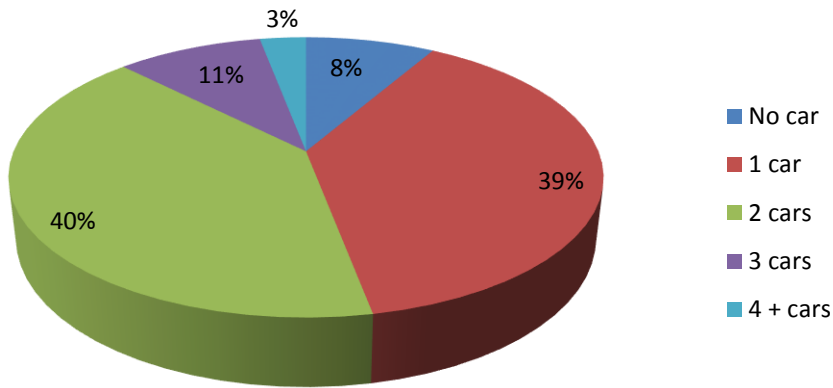
Source: Land use change indicators for protected areas  
1998-2003 (Natural England 2007) – inc. 1,873 dwellings new build  
2001-2011 (Defra 2013) – inc. 2,178 dwellings new build

Note: The two published surveys overlap 2001-2003

**Indicator 31: Change in % car ownership within the AONB**



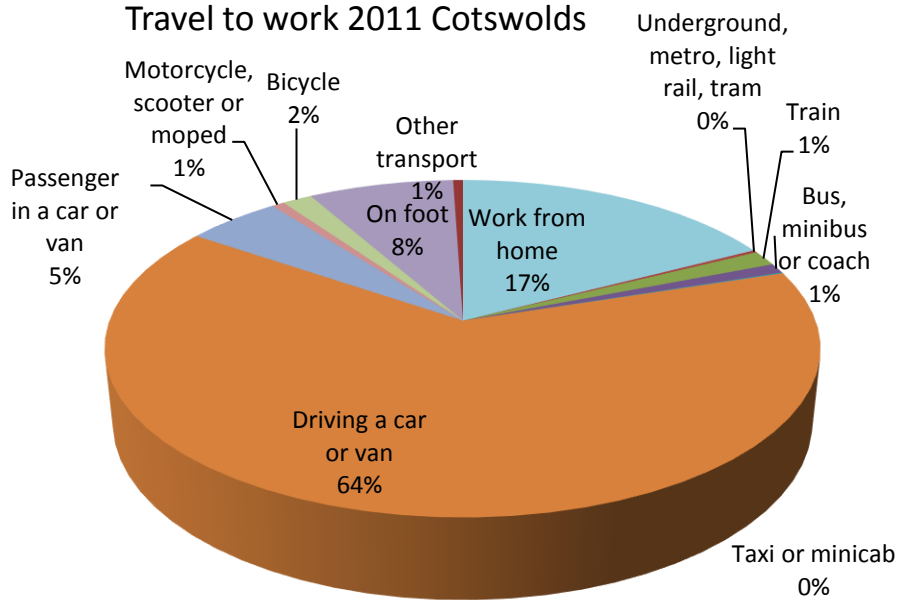
### % Car ownership within the AONB 2011



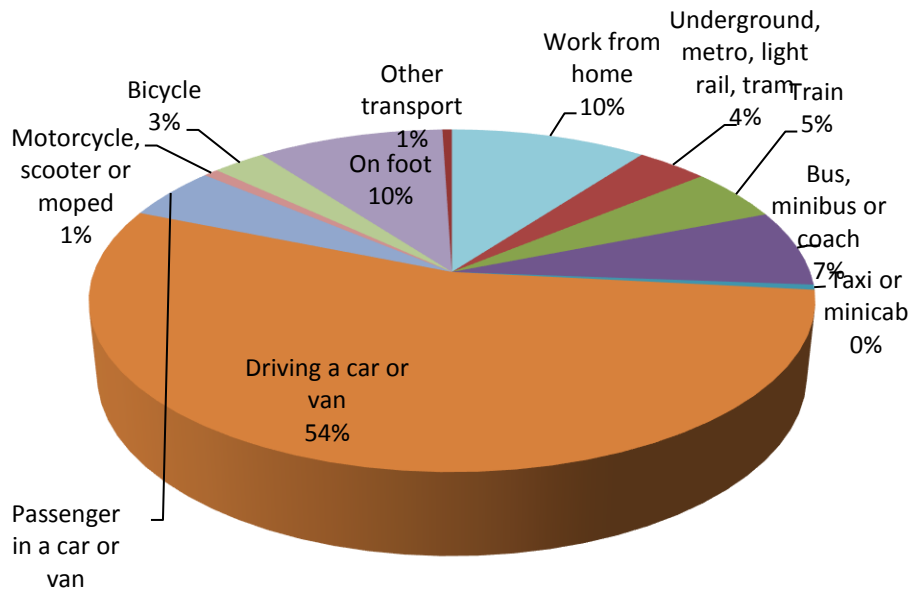
All the categories with more than one car have increased whereas the number of households with no cars has dropped by a third, which is not surprising considering the increasing need to use a car to access services in rural areas.

**Data Source:** Census 2001 & 2011

### Indicator 32: Change in mode of travel to work



## Travel to work 2011 England and Wales



Source: Census 2012

The comparatively high level of car or van use and low use of public transport reflects the rural character of the area. The comparatively high proportion of people working from home underlines the importance of infrastructure projects such as broadband in helping reduce car use.

**Indicator 33 (MP): Change in % of adopted Local Plans, Mineral Local Plans and Waste Local Plans with reference to AONB Management Plan in policy or supporting text**

Local Authority	Adopted Local Plan reference to MP	Date of Adoption	Adopted Mineral Plan reference to MP	Date of Adoption	Adopted Waste Plan reference to MP	Date of Adoption
<b>Bath and North East Somerset (unitary)</b>	Yes in supporting text	2014	Yes supporting text in Local Plan which incorporates minerals policies.	2014	No - not in Joint Waste Core Strategy for the West of England	2011
<b>Cheltenham Borough</b>	Yes in supporting text	2006	N/A		N/A	
<b>Cherwell District</b>	No	1996	N/A		N/A	
<b>Cotswold District</b>	No	2006	N/A		N/A	
<b>Gloucestershire County</b>	N/A		No	2003	Yes - policy	2012
<b>Oxfordshire County</b>	N/A		No	1996	No	1996
			A new Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan is in preparation and Part 1 of this plan, the Core Strategy, is currently being examined (January 2017). It is hoped the Core Strategy will be adopted later this year. It includes reference to AONB Management Plans in both policy and supporting text.			
<b>South Gloucestershire (Unitary)</b>	Yes in core strategy supporting text. The Policies, Sites and Places Plan, (currently at Examination) includes reference to the Management Plan within the landscape	2013	Yes supporting text in Local Plan which incorporates minerals policies.	2014	No - not in Joint Waste Core Strategy for the West of England	2011



	policies' supporting text.					
<b>Stratford on Avon District</b>	No	2006	N/A		N/A	
<b>Stroud District</b>	Yes in supporting text	2005	N/A		N/A	
<b>Tewkesbury Borough</b>	No	2006	N/A		N/A	
<b>Warwickshire County</b>	N/A		Yes in the 'justification' wording of the policy	2013	No – though updating and currently out for consultation (January 2017)	1995
<b>West Oxfordshire District</b>	Yes in supporting text	2011 (& draft 2031)	N/A		N/A	
<b>Wiltshire Council (Unitary)</b>	Yes in supporting text	2011	Yes - policy	2009	Yes - policy	2009
<b>Worcestershire County</b>	N/A		No – Yes in new plan due for adoption in 18/19 – in the landscape policy	1997	Yes -policy	2012
<b>Wychavon District</b>	Yes in supporting text	2006	N/A		N/A	

Source: Cotswolds Conservation Board, review of adopted plans September 2014 and request to planning officers January 2017

**Indicator 34 (MP): Availability and scope of design guidance**

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Design Guidance Topic</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Statutory</b>	<b>Web page</b>
<b>Bath and North East Somerset (unitary)</b>	Archaeology in Bath and North East Somerset Supplementary Planning Guidance	2004	Yes	<a href="http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/arch-in-banes-brochure.pdf">http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/arch-in-banes-brochure.pdf</a>
	City of Bath World Heritage Site Setting Supplementary Planning Document	2013	No	<a href="http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/sitedocuments/Environment/Landscape/WHS/whs_spd_low_res.pdf">http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/sitedocuments/Environment/Landscape/WHS/whs_spd_low_res.pdf</a>
	Existing Dwellings in the Green Belt Supplementary Planning Document	2008	No	<a href="http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/sitedocuments/Planning-and-Building-Control/Planning-Policy/SPDs/ExistingDwellingsintheGreenBeltSPD.pdf">http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/sitedocuments/Planning-and-Building-Control/Planning-Policy/SPDs/ExistingDwellingsintheGreenBeltSPD.pdf</a>
	Cherishing Outdoor Places – a Landscape Strategy for Bath	1994	No	<a href="http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/sitedocuments/Planning-and-Building-Control/Planning-Policy/SPDs/cherishing_outdoor_places.pdf">http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/sitedocuments/Planning-and-Building-Control/Planning-Policy/SPDs/cherishing_outdoor_places.pdf</a>
	Guidance for planting and establishing hedges	Undated	No	<a href="http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/guidance_for_planting_hedges.pdf">http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/guidance_for_planting_hedges.pdf</a>
<b>Cheltenham Borough</b>	Practical advice and guidance on how best to care for historic buildings (Series of 6)	Undated	No	<a href="http://www.cheltenham.gov.uk/site/scripts/documents_info.php?categoryID=200023&amp;documentID=752">http://www.cheltenham.gov.uk/site/scripts/documents_info.php?categoryID=200023&amp;documentID=752</a>
<b>Cherwell District</b>	Building in harmony with the environment	1998	Yes	<a href="http://www.cherwell.gov.uk/media/pdf/4/6/pdf2126640217089382071.pdf">http://www.cherwell.gov.uk/media/pdf/4/6/pdf2126640217089382071.pdf</a>
	Countryside design summary	1998	Yes	<a href="http://www.cherwell.gov.uk/media/pdf/9/6/pdf7950272683328088347.pdf">http://www.cherwell.gov.uk/media/pdf/9/6/pdf7950272683328088347.pdf</a>
	Design and layout of employment sites - A guide	1996	Yes	<a href="http://www.cherwell.gov.uk/media/pdf/5/m/Design_and_Layout_of_Employment_Sites_(1996).pdf">http://www.cherwell.gov.uk/media/pdf/5/m/Design_and_Layout_of_Employment_Sites_(1996).pdf</a>

	Planning advice for farmers on siting and design of farm buildings	Undated	Yes	<a href="http://www.cherwell.gov.uk/media/pdf/c/a/Planning_advice_for_farmers_siting_and_design_of_farm_buildings.pdf">http://www.cherwell.gov.uk/media/pdf/c/a/Planning_advice_for_farmers_siting_and_design_of_farm_buildings.pdf</a>
	Design Guide for the Conversion of farm buildings	2002	No	<a href="http://www.cherwell.gov.uk/media/pdf/5/6/pdf2411146501461467027.pdf">http://www.cherwell.gov.uk/media/pdf/5/6/pdf2411146501461467027.pdf</a>
	Home extensions and alterations design guide for householder planning applications	2007	No	<a href="http://www.cherwell.gov.uk/media/pdf/a/6/pdf7172881245554001834.pdf">http://www.cherwell.gov.uk/media/pdf/a/6/pdf7172881245554001834.pdf</a>
	Planning guidance on the residential amenity impacts of wind turbine development	2007	No	<a href="http://www.cherwell.gov.uk/media/pdf/b/7/Wind_Turbine_Guidance.pdf">http://www.cherwell.gov.uk/media/pdf/b/7/Wind_Turbine_Guidance.pdf</a>
<b>Cotswold District</b>	Cotswold Design Code	2000	Yes	<a href="http://www.cotswold.gov.uk/cotswold-design-guidance/cotswold-design-guide/">http://www.cotswold.gov.uk/cotswold-design-guidance/cotswold-design-guide/</a>
	Traditional Dormer Windows	2013	No	<a href="http://www.cotswold.gov.uk/residents/planning-building/cotswold-design-guidance/historic-building-features/">http://www.cotswold.gov.uk/residents/planning-building/cotswold-design-guidance/historic-building-features/</a>
	Traditional Casement Windows	2013	No	
	Porches	2001	No	
	Traditional Chimneys	1999	No	
	Cotswold stone Slate Roofing	2000	No	
	A guide to the Conversion of Historic Farm Buildings to Employment Use	1998	No	
	Green and Living Roofs	Undated	No	
<b>Gloucestershire County</b>	None			

<b>Oxfordshire County</b>	Archaeological Planning Guidance	2013	No	<a href="http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/archaeological-planning-guidance">http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/archaeological-planning-guidance</a>
<b>South Gloucestershire (Unitary)</b>	Design Checklist SPD	2006	Yes	<a href="http://www.southglos.gov.uk/Documents/PTE070705.pdf">http://www.southglos.gov.uk/Documents/PTE070705.pdf</a>
<b>Stratford on Avon District</b>	Stratford On Avon District Design Guide	2000	Yes	<a href="https://www.stratford.gov.uk/files/seealsodocs/12944/SDC0425APR01.pdf">https://www.stratford.gov.uk/files/seealsodocs/12944/SDC0425APR01.pdf</a>
<b>Stroud District</b>	Residential Design Guide	2000	Yes	<a href="http://www.stroud.gov.uk/info/plan_strat/Introduction.pdf">http://www.stroud.gov.uk/info/plan_strat/Introduction.pdf</a>
<b>Tewkesbury Borough</b>	Historic Building Guidance leaflets published with Cotswold District – see above	2001	No	<a href="http://tewkesbury.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=1685">http://tewkesbury.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=1685</a>
<b>Warwickshire County</b>	None			
<b>West Oxfordshire District</b>	West Oxfordshire Design Guide	2016	Yes	<a href="http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/residents/planning-building/historic-buildings-conservation-areas/design-advice/">http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/residents/planning-building/historic-buildings-conservation-areas/design-advice/</a>
<b>Wiltshire Council (Unitary)</b>	Householder Design Guide	Undated	No	<a href="http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planning-householders-design-guide-final.pdf">http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planning-householders-design-guide-final.pdf</a>
<b>Worcestershire County</b>	None			
<b>Wychavon District</b>	Residential Design Guide	2010	Yes	<a href="http://www.wychavon.gov.uk/cms/PDF/Residential%20Design%20Guide%20SPD.pdf">http://www.wychavon.gov.uk/cms/PDF/Residential%20Design%20Guide%20SPD.pdf</a>

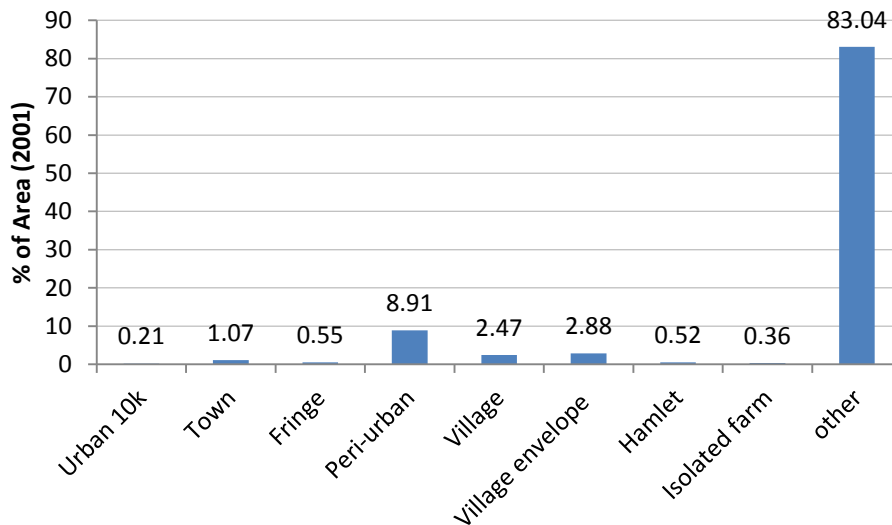
Source: Cotswolds Conservation Board, review of local authority websites (October 2013, Cotswold District November 2014) and request to planning officers January 2017

**Indicator 35 (MP): Change in % of settlements with Parish Plans, Neighbourhood Plans or Village Design Schemes (statements)**

<b>Parish Plans</b>	<b>Village Design Statement</b>	<b>Neighbourhood Plans</b>
Coates	Winchcombe	Chipping Norton
Stow on the Wold	Barton on the Heath	
Willesley	Brailes	
Chalford	Cherington	
Leonard Stanley	Little Compton	
Minchinhampton	Long Compton	
Painswick		
Bisley		
Gotherington		
Radway		
Ilmington		

Source: Cotswolds Conservation Board requests to local authorities 2006 & 2017

**Indicator 36: Change in the breakdown of settlement types by % of AONB area**



Urban areas have a population over a 10,000 threshold.

Towns are larger settlements below the 10,000 threshold with a distinct profile.

Fringe areas are identified by marked changes in density at the limit of settlements.

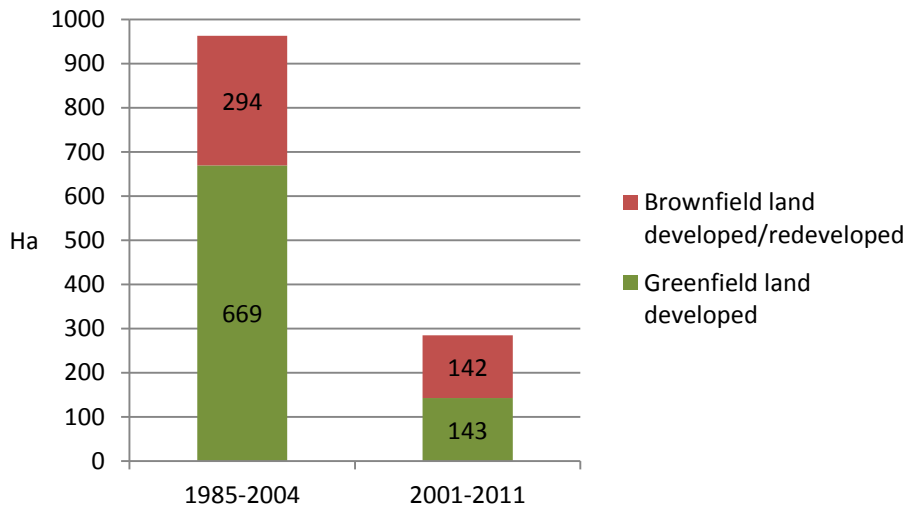
Periurban areas refer to broad tracts of higher density around the limits of major urban centres.

The other category refers to dispersed settlement in isolated dwellings.

More detail on the methodology and a user guide for the settlement definitions are available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/2011-rural-urban-classification>.

Source; Land Use Change Indicators for Protected Areas, report for Defra by the Department of Town and Regional Planning, University of Sheffield. Draft June 2013

**Indicator 37: Change in the area of land within the AONB developed or redeveloped**



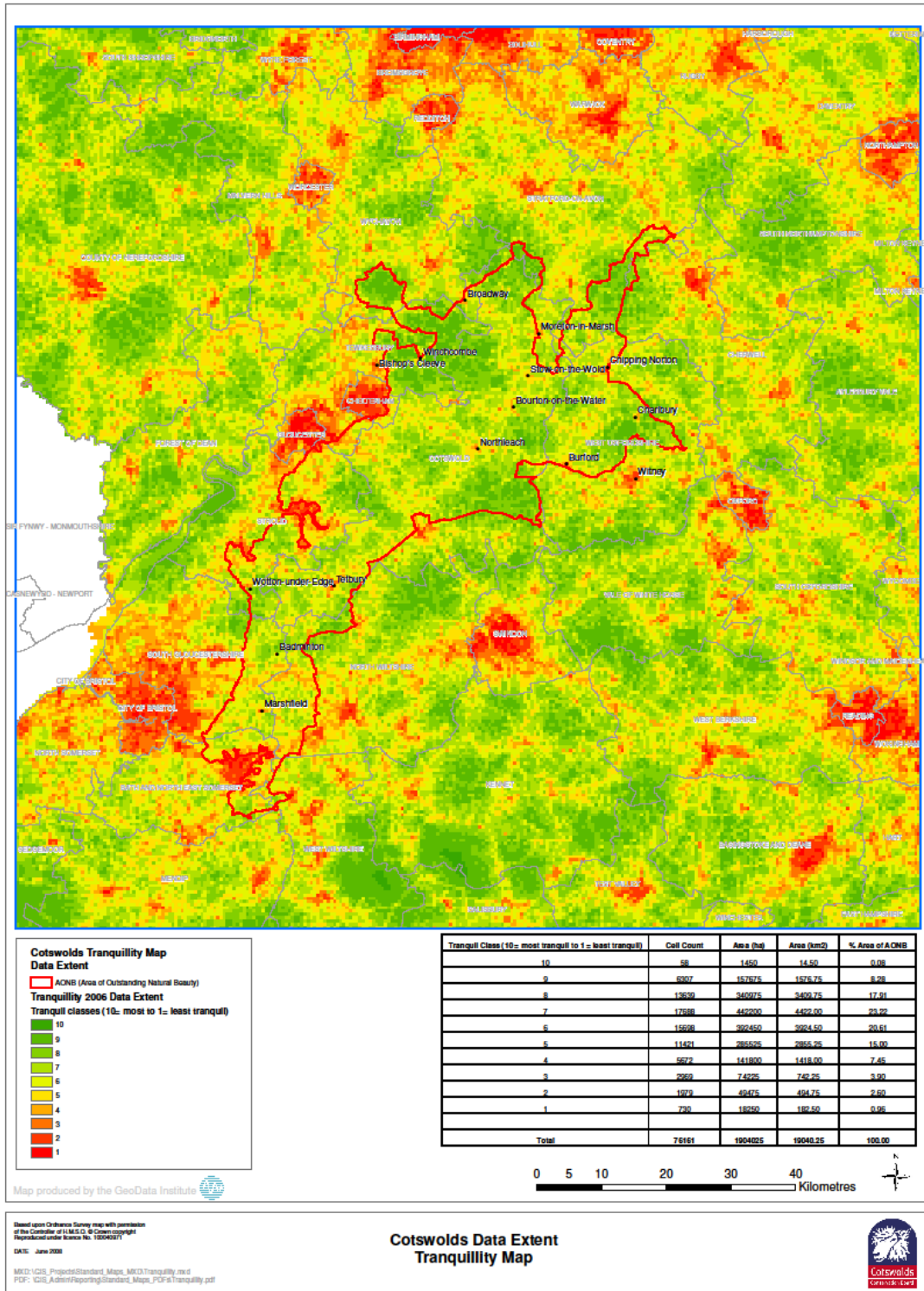
The term 'greenfield' here includes: agriculture, agricultural buildings, defence, forestry and woodland, grassland, mining, natural, outdoor recreation, water and landfill.

Sources;

Land Use Change Indicators for Protected Areas, report for Natural England by the Department of Town and Regional Planning, University of Sheffield. December 2007

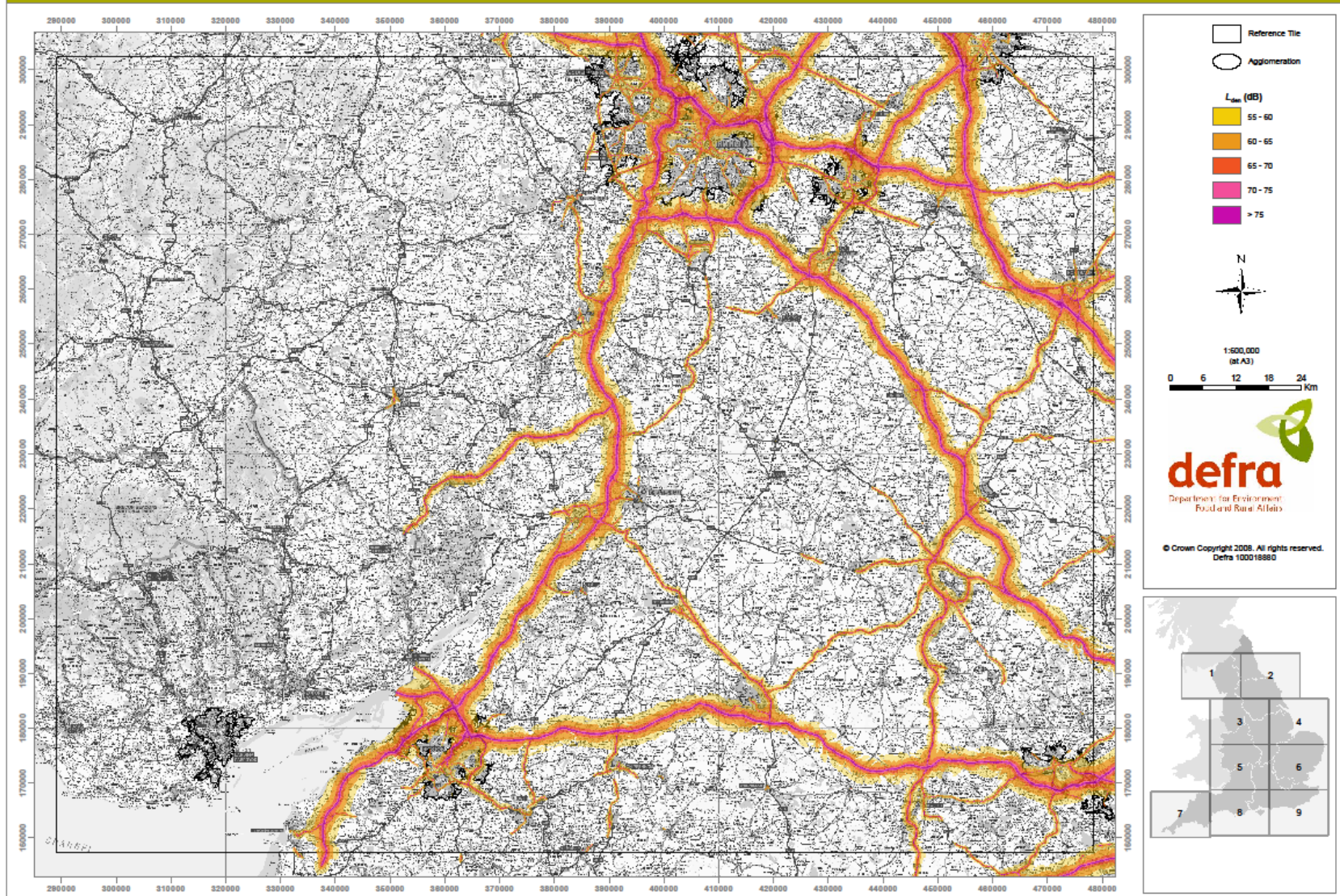
Land Use Change Indicators for Protected Areas, report for Defra by the Department of Town and Regional Planning, University of Sheffield. Draft June 2013

Indicator 38 (MP): Change in % of AONB recorded as “most tranquil”



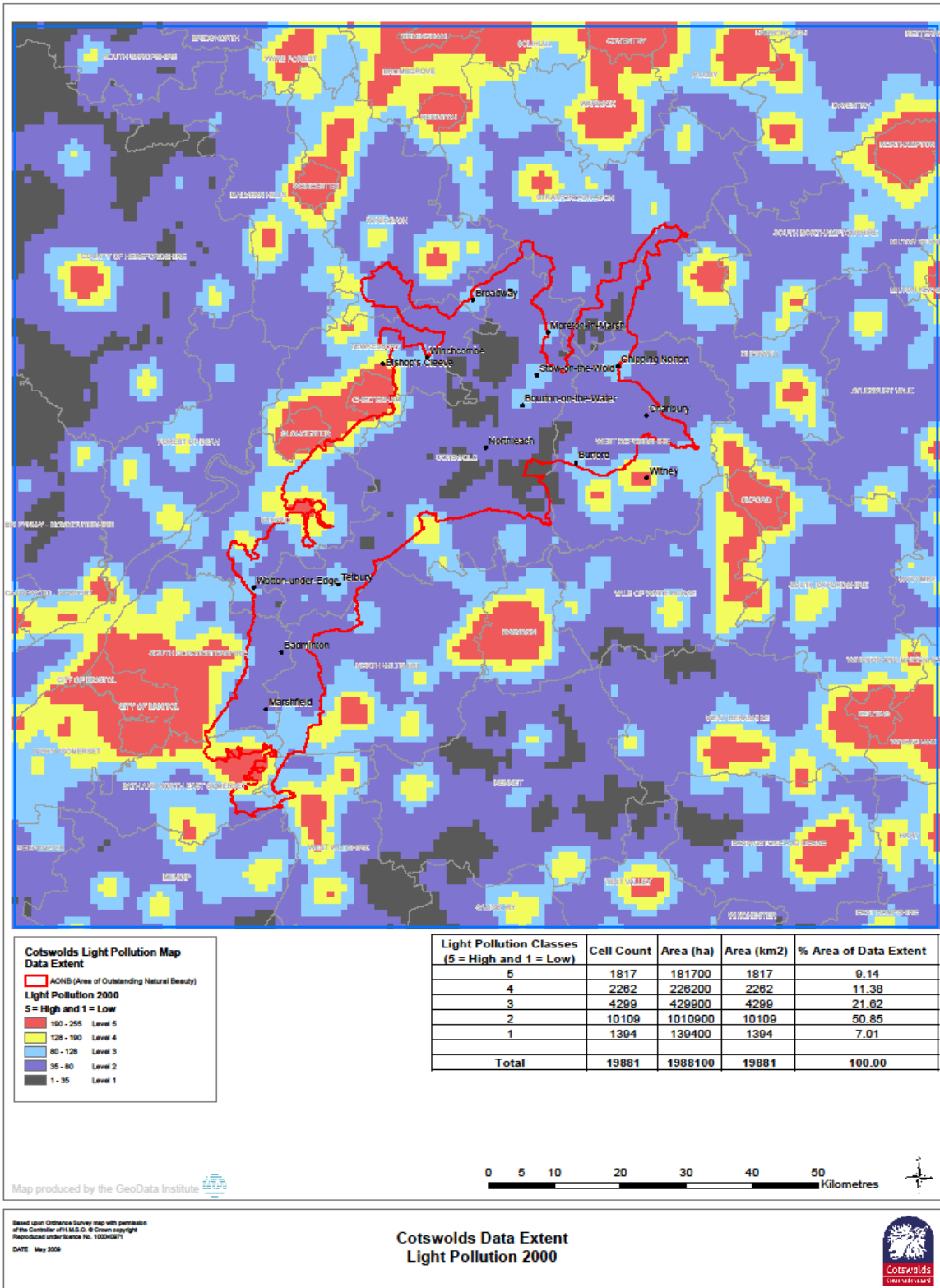
Source; Cotswolds Tranquillity Map (CPRE 2006)

# The Environmental Noise Regulations (England) 2006 - First Round Major Roads, $L_{den}$ - Map No.5

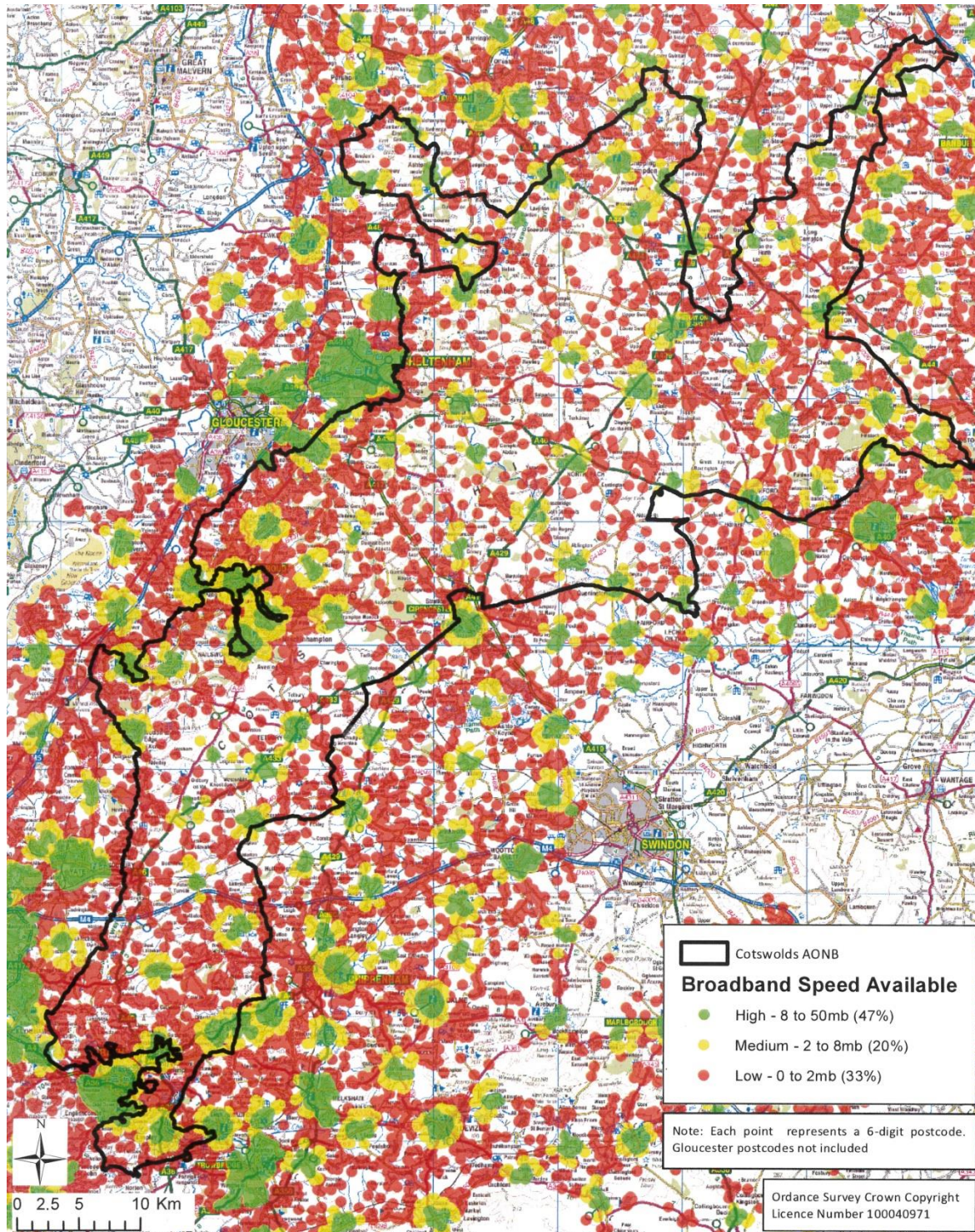




Indicator 39 (MP): Change in % of AONB least affected by light pollution



### Indicator 40: Change in broadband speed availability in and around the AONB



Source; Cotswolds Conservation Board, Position Statement on Telecommunications and the Rural Economy 2011

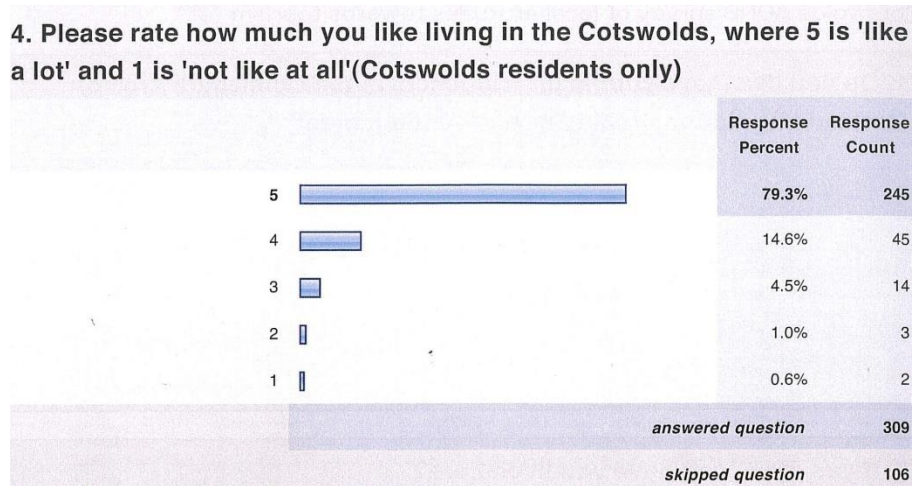
# Understanding and Enjoying

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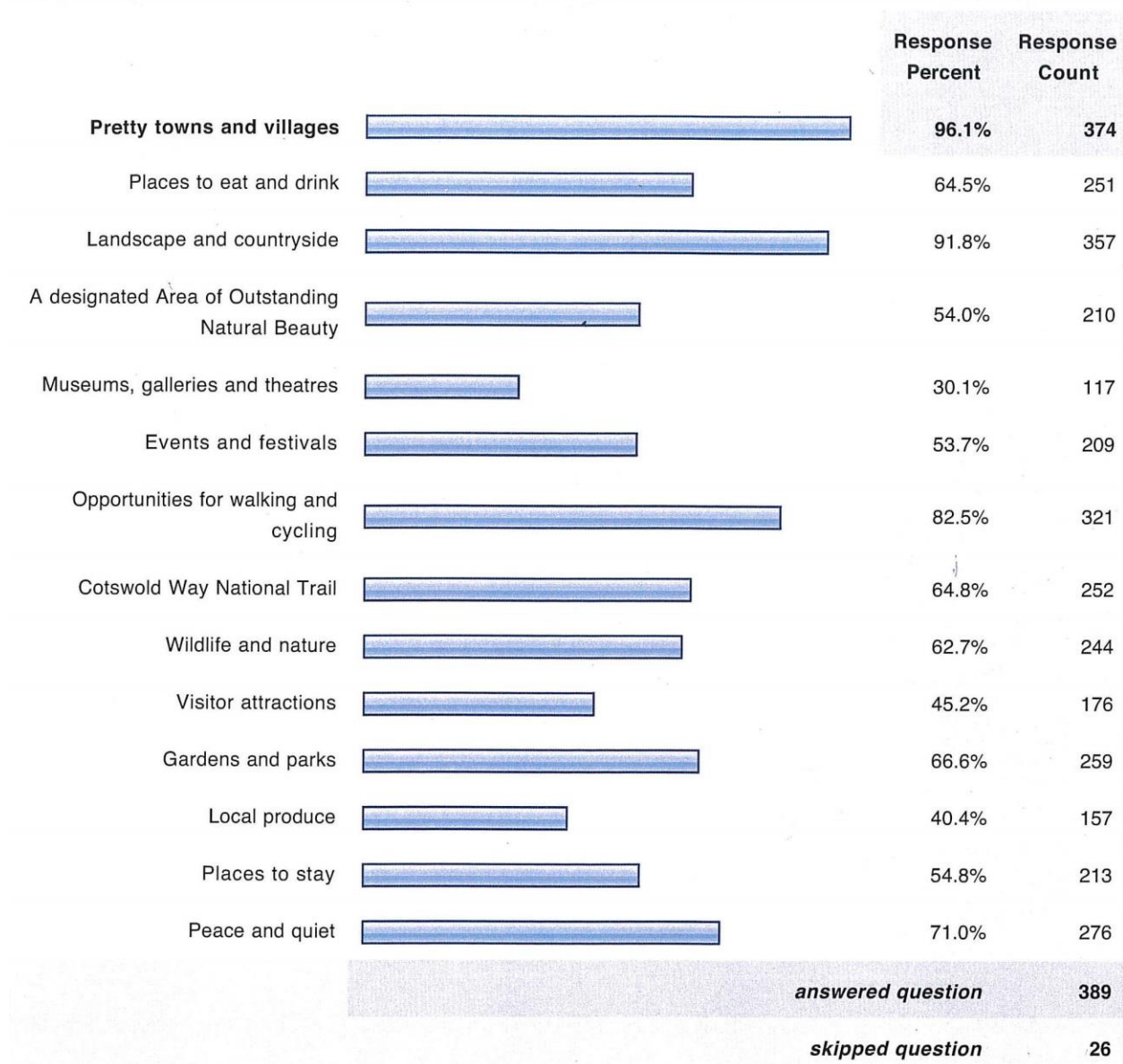
## Awareness and Understanding

**Indicator 41 (MP) Change in respondents “highly valuing” the Cotswold landscape in residents & visitor surveys and also Indicator 39 (MP); Change in satisfaction ratings in surveys of residents and visitors (Listed under exploring and enjoying in the Management Plan)**

This precise question has not been asked in a survey in the Cotswolds however a survey of local attitudes towards tourism undertaken as part of the preparation of Sustainable Tourism Strategy for the Cotswolds (2011 – 2016) asked something similar.



**6. Which of the following features do you think attracts visitors to the Cotswolds? (Tick all that apply)**



In 2013 the Cotswolds Conservation Board undertook an assessment of the economic value of the AONB

The survey asked businesses whether being located in the Cotswolds had any positive effects on the business and the results are presented below.



## Exploring and Enjoying

### Indicator 42 (MP): Total length of Rights of Way

There are 3,013 miles of public rights of way in the Cotswolds AONB (4,849,323m) - Natural England 2010

### Indicator 43 (MP): Total length of National Trails

The Cotswolds has two recognised National Trails. The Cotswold Way is the country's newest National Trail, running between Chipping Campden and Bath. It is 102 miles long. Just under a mile of the Thames Path also runs through the Cotswolds AONB.

National Trail lengths in the Cotswolds AONB (Natural England 2015), Cotswold Way: 164,047m, Thames Path: 746m

### Indicator 44 (MP): % of registered Common Land

The commons act 2006 aims to protect areas of common land in a sustainable manner delivering benefits for farming, public access and biodiversity (DEFRA common land and commons act 2006). Landowners and commoners work together through common councils, with powers to regulate grazing and other agricultural activities.

16.03 km<sup>2</sup> (0.79%) of the AONB is registered common land

Source: DEFRA, database of registered common land in England 2007.

**Indicator 45 (MP): Change in % of Section 16 CROW Act dedicated land which encourages provision of more publicly accessible green space**

The figure for Section 16 CROW Act dedicated land cut to the AONB boundary is not available, however a couple of similar figures are;

23.8 km<sup>2</sup> (1.17%) of the AONB is “Open Country” land which, in the Cotswolds appears to be wholly or predominantly down (other landscapes apply in other areas)

Source: DEFRA 2007

2,516 Ha (1%) of land in the AONB is “Open Access”

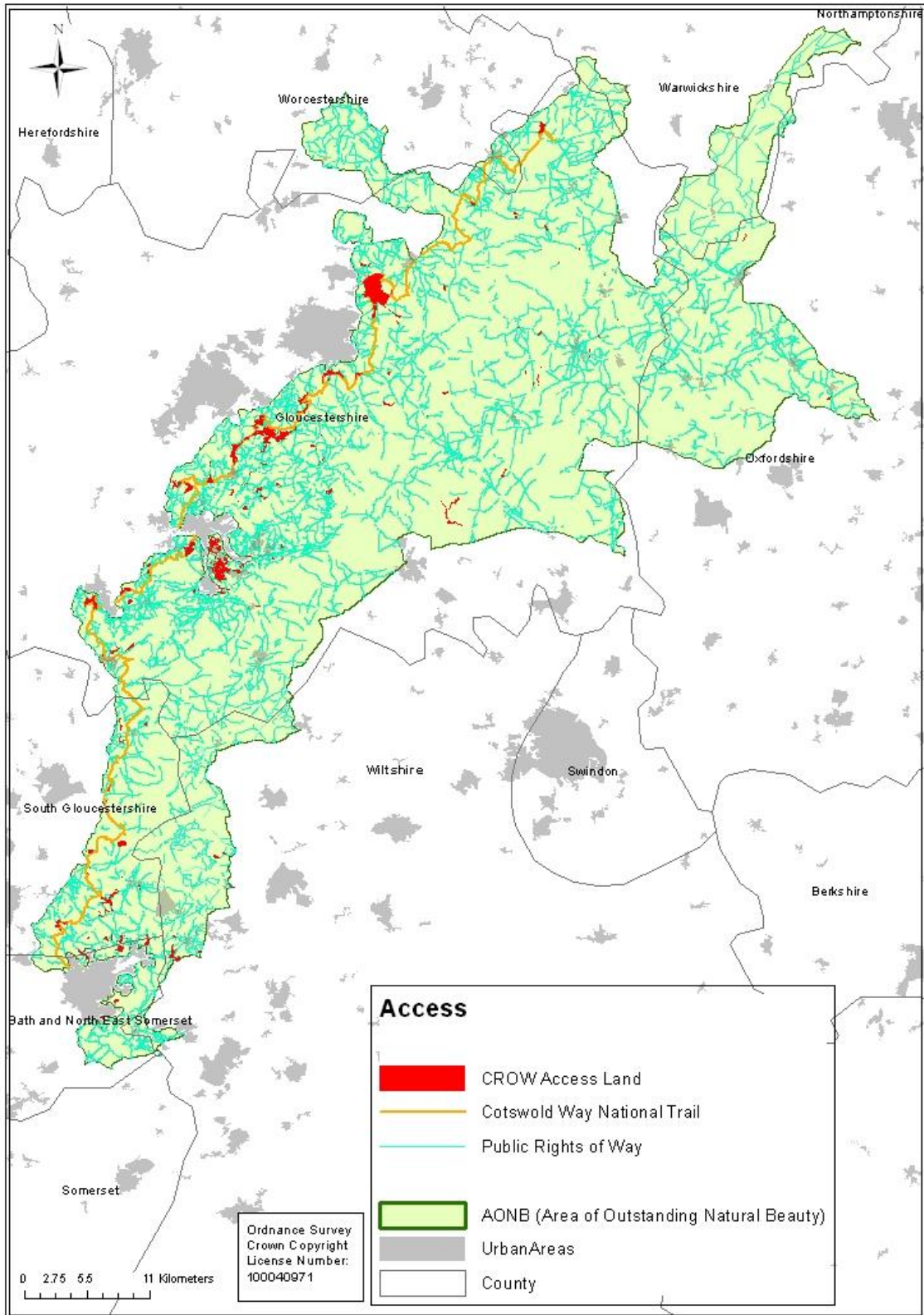
Source; Natural England 2010

**Indicator 46 (MP): Change in % Section 15, CROW ACT land**

Section 15 land is land that has certain rights of access granted prior to CROW Act 2000, and is land open to public through existing statutory rights of access (or by local permission or tradition).

11.2 km<sup>2</sup> (0.55%) of the AONB is section 15 CROW Act land

Source: DEFRA 2007



**Indicator 47 (MP): Change in area of open space brought about by agri-environment schemes**

Area data (source Natural England)

	Total area of AONB (ha)	ES HN2 Permissive Open Access (ha)	CSS 'AA' Open access (ha)	ESA option 'AXS' Access (ha)	Total area of land with permissive open access enabled by ES, CSS & ESA (ha)	% AONB with permissive open access enabled by ES, CSS & ESA
2012	204,109.1	93.5	5.7	10.6	109.8	0.1%
2016	204,109.1	17				

Linear data (source Natural England)

	ES HN3: Permissive footpath access (m)	ES HN4: Permissive bridleway / cycle path access (m)	ES HN6: Upgrading CRoW Act access for cyclists / horses (m)	Total permissive linear access (footpaths, bridleways/cycle paths/) enabled through ES (m)	CSS AF Footpaths (m)	CSS AB Bridleways (m)	Total permissive linear access enabled through CSS	Total length of permissive access enabled by ES & CSS agri-environment schemes <sup>1</sup> (m)
2012	7,648	11,809	-	19,457	1267	813	2080	21,537
2016	6,491	11,745	-	18,236				

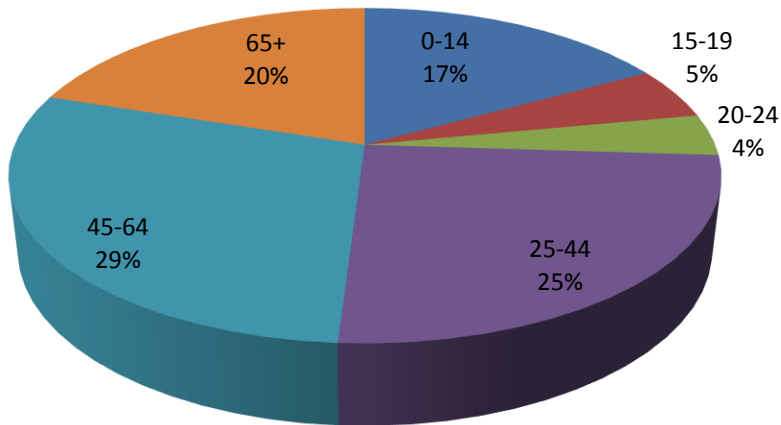


## Health and Wellbeing

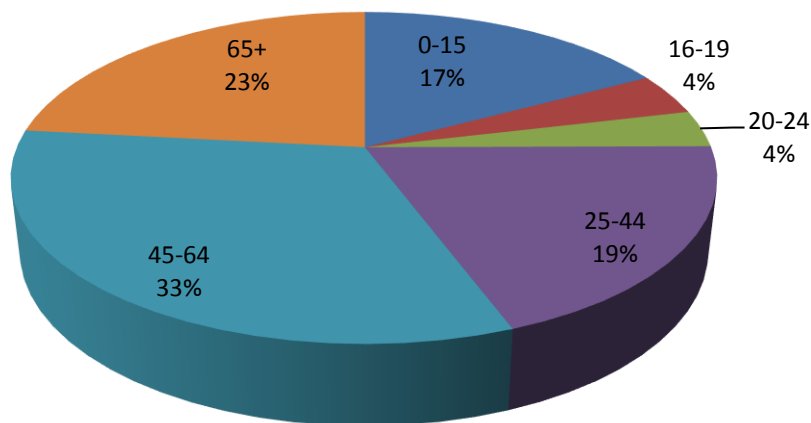
The Management Plan cites NHS health indicators for monitoring this area. This data is not currently available cut to protected landscape boundaries.

### Indicator 48: Total population and demographic structure of the AONB

Age profile 2001



Age profile 2011

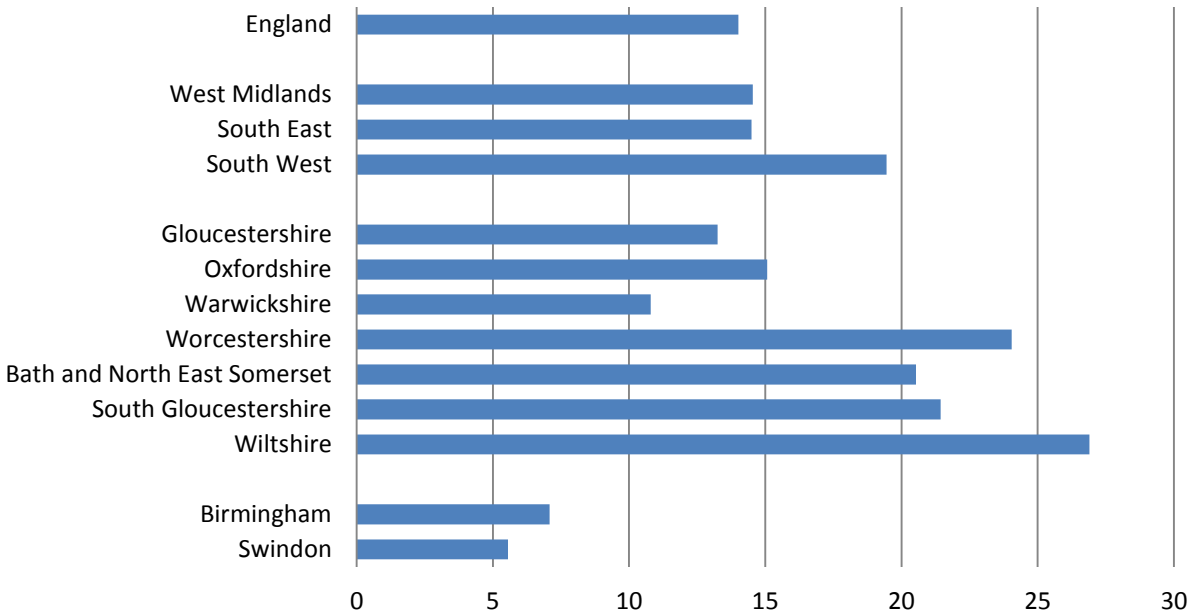


The age profile of the AONB is growing older

Source: Census data

**Indicator 49: Change in the % of people using outdoor places for exercise or health reasons**

**Percentage of people using outdoor places for exercise and health reasons**



This data is an average of the first three years of the Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment (MENE) survey undertaken from March 2009 to February 2012.

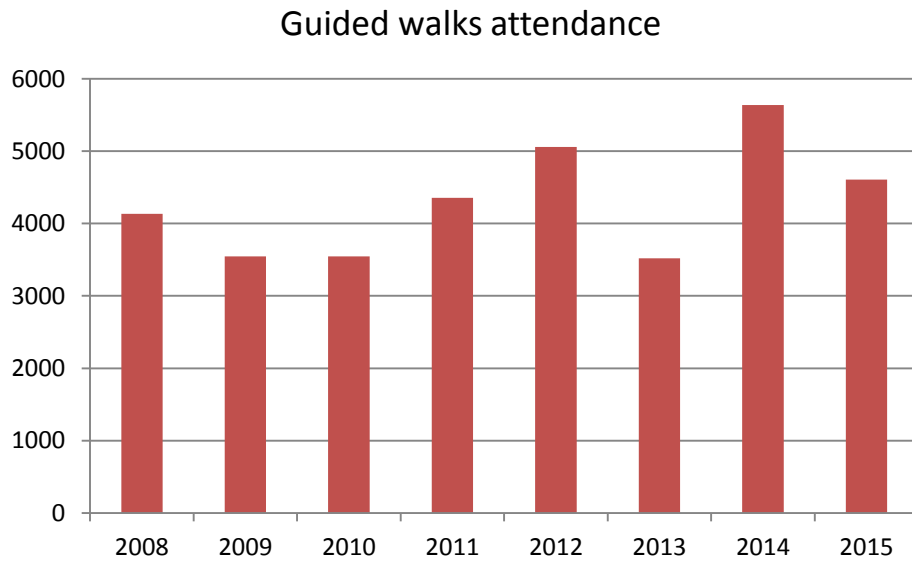
During each interview, respondents are asked to indicate how many visits they have taken to the natural environment in the last seven days. If any visits have been taken in this period, respondents are then asked to provide details of one visit (if more than one has been taken, the visit asked about is randomly selected). The list of “best reasons” for the visit included “for health and exercise”. Interviewees could nominate multiple reasons.

For the purpose of the survey, visits to the natural environment are defined as time spent "out of doors", for example in open spaces in and around towns and cities, including parks, canals and nature areas; the coast and beaches; and the countryside including farmland, woodland, hills and rivers. This could be anything from a few minutes to all day. It may include time spent close to home or workplace, further afield or while on holiday in England. However this does not include routine shopping trips or time spent in own garden

## Participation

### Indicator 50 (MP): Change in numbers attending guided walks programme

The Cotswolds Conservation Board runs an annual guided walks programme put together and delivered by the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens and promoted through the Board's 'Lion' magazine and 'Escape to the Cotswolds' website.



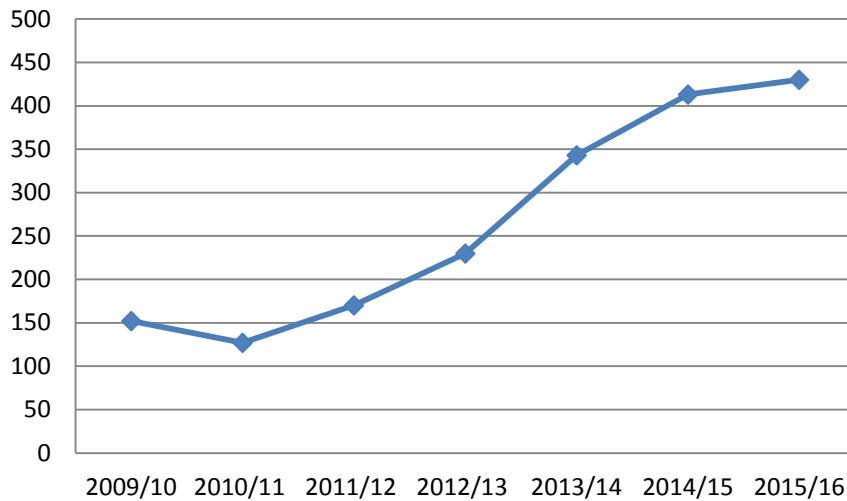
These figures record the number of attendees at each walk. Repeat visits to the programme are counted; consequently this graph does not show the number of individuals participating.

Source: Cotswolds Conservation Board

**Indicator 51 (MP): Change in numbers attending rural skills courses**

The Cotswolds Conservation Board runs an annual rural skills training course programme. Courses include dry stone walling, hedgelaying, charcoal burning, thatching, coppicing and blacksmithing. They are promoted through the Board’s ‘Lion’ magazine and ‘Rural Skills’ website.

Rural skills course attendance

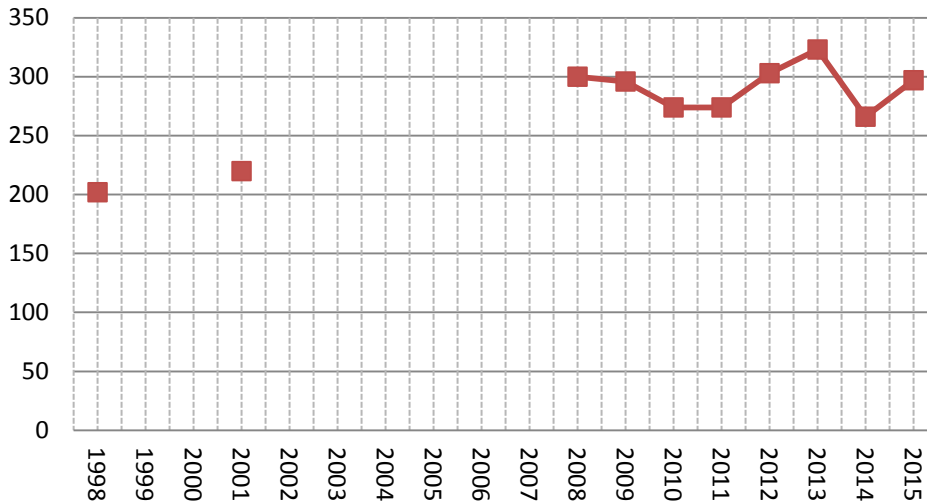


A general pattern in the growth of activity as more and a wider variety of courses are run year on year. The dip in 2010/11 was due to a temporary drop in capacity during a change in personnel.

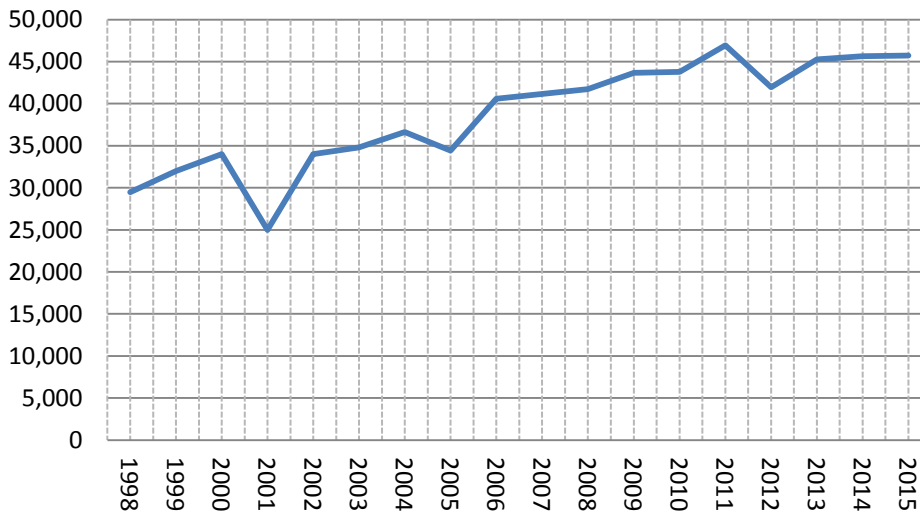
Source: Cotswolds Conservation Board, internal reporting from the Rural Skills Officer

**Indicator 52 (MP): Change in Cotswolds Voluntary Wardens numbers and hours**

**Number of Voluntary Wardens**



**Voluntary Warden hours worked**



The overall pattern is one of increased activity followed by a period of stabilisation. The sharp drop in hours in 2001 was caused by restrictions to access to the countryside due to an outbreak of foot and mouth disease. The second drop in 2012 was due to the weather. Statistics from the Met Office show that 2012 was the second wettest year in the UK national record dating back to 1910, and just a few millimetres short of the record set in 2000.

## Tourism

### Indicator 53 (MP): Change in numbers of visitors aware of the AONB and its special character.

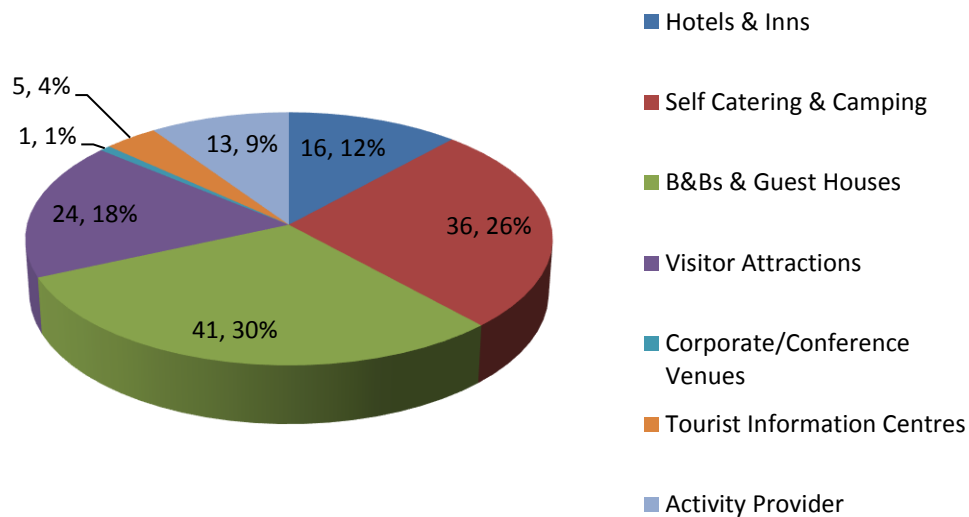
No data is currently available. Data acquisition will be dependent on future visitor surveys

### Indicator 54 (MP): Change in number of businesses signed up to “Our Land” or similar green accreditation scheme

Participating businesses make a ‘promise to Our Land’ in which they describe how they will sustain their environment, support their community, and share their knowledge of the local landscape.

136 businesses were signed up to the “Our Land Scheme” in the Cotswolds on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2014. Government funding for Our Land ceased at the end of 2014 and the project’s web site is no longer available (checked January 2017). This will cease to be used as an indicator in the next Management Plan.

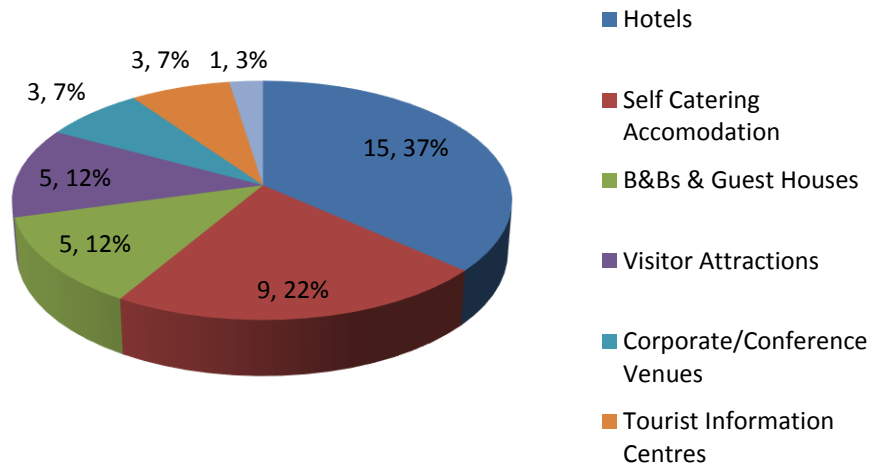
### Businesses participating in Our land



Source: Cotswolds Conservation Board

41 businesses were registered with the Green Tourism Business Scheme on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2014

### Businesses participating in the Green Tourism Business Scheme



Source; Cotswolds Conservation Board

#### Indicator 55 (MP): Change in income generated through visitor giving scheme

Step into the Cotswolds was an element of a green tourism project which ran from 2004 to 2008. Ten businesses in the West Oxfordshire part of the AONB collected over £6,000 through grants and collection boxes. This funded the creation of six, stile free circular walks in the area.

The Board launched the new Cotswolds Visitor Giving Scheme in July 2013. As at January 2017 nineteen companies had joined, although one of these is a booking agency servicing over 200 accommodation providers. The scheme had raised £16,437 and £11,603 had been distributed to projects through 11 grants.

Source: Cotswolds Conservation Board January 2017