

## **The history of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs)**

The primary purpose of an AONB designation is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

In pursuing this primary purpose of the designation, account should be taken of the needs of agriculture, forestry and other rural industries and of the economic and social needs of local communities. Particular regard should be paid to promoting sustainable forms of social and economic development that in themselves conserve and enhance the environment.

Recreation is not an objective of designation, but the demand for recreation should be met insofar as this is consistent with the conservation of natural beauty and the needs of agriculture, forestry and other uses.

An AONB is a statutory designation. The legal framework for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty is provided by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

The Act confirms that the purpose of designating AONBs is the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of the area of outstanding natural beauty. It gives the Countryside Council for Wales a duty to provide general advice on development matters in AONBs and a requirement that they be consulted in connection with development plans and access agreements. It requires that a management plan be produced for each AONB.

This is the responsibility of local authorities, which must act jointly with local and national stakeholders to produce the plan. Once adopted and published, the management plan must be revised at intervals not exceeding five years.

Section 85 of the CROW Act places a statutory duty on relevant authorities to have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the AONB when exercising or performing any functions affecting land in the AONB. ("Relevant authorities" are any public bodies including local and statutory authorities, parish councils and statutory regulators).

The Anglesey AONB is part of the national "family" of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty; there are 46 in total, which together cover 20,000 square kilometres (12,400 miles) - 15.6% of the land area - of England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

## **The National Association of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty**

The AONBs collaborate through their membership of the National Association of AONBs (NAAONB). The website can be found at [www.aonb.org.uk](http://www.aonb.org.uk)

The Association was formed in December 1998 and has established itself as the national voice of AONBs in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. It is a company limited by guarantee, with an executive committee elected by its member organisations.