



Accord

National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are England's most beautiful and cherished landscapes. They are rightly regarded as a treasured natural resource and are internationally recognised for their special qualities. These dynamic, living landscapes underpin the economy and the health and wellbeing of society and are part of the nation's natural capital which helps provide clean water, store carbon, and provides a rich home for wildlife. This Accord builds on and strengthens the significant joint working and collaboration that exists at national and local level and embodies our working together to optimise investment benefits from all sectors.

We celebrate the distinctiveness of our Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks; acknowledging their differences; and recognise the strength that comes from a varied family. We believe that together they comprise our finest landscapes and share much in common. Our joint work, therefore, should be focused, pragmatic and solutions-orientated.

Together, we

- Believe that investment in our finest landscapes is critical to ensure the continued viability and effectiveness of both Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks.
- Have experienced the effects of significant reductions in income and believe further reductions present a significant risk to our landscapes.
- Commit to celebrate (through a joint publication) the value and relevance of our finest landscapes to society.
- Agree that our priority is to co-operate and collaborate on areas of joint interest and aspiration, securing funding from a range of partners to do so.
- Agree to co-operate and collaborate on securing funds from new and different sources, including other government departments; rather than debate the allocation of a smaller amount of grant from Defra.
- Share an intention to work together to provide a platform on which to build on the wide public support for England's most beautiful and cherished landscapes.
- Confirm our intent to work together to retain the expertise and skills sets within our finest landscapes.
- Agree to work together to raise awareness amongst the Department of Health, Public Health England and the wider sector of how our finest landscapes contribute to health and well-being.
- Agree to maintain regular contact at officer level and hold an annual meeting of NPE / NAAONB Chairs to ensure momentum is maintained.