



Tony Juniper CBE
Natural England
County Hall
Spetchley Road
Worcester
WR5 2NP,

19th February 2024

Dear Tony

Surrey Hills National Landscape Extension Project

On behalf of the Surrey Hills National Landscape Board and our communities, I am writing to urge Natural England to conclude swiftly the project to review the boundary of the Surrey Hills National Landscape. Our Board meets on 6th March at which we were expecting to be advised of the final proposed extension areas, following an extended period since the end of the statutory consultation last summer.

We were delighted when the Natural England Board in May 2021 confirmed the Surrey Hills Review and welcomed your commitment to seek a more innovative approach to reflect society's current needs, including the opportunity to engage more people with nature, focused on peri-urban and urban areas. The Surrey Hills National Landscape, being within the London Metropolitan Green Belt, has presented a great opportunity to test this innovative approach.

We credit the Natural England staff and consultants on the evidence gathering which we were delighted to help co-design and support. This part of the project was completed over two years ago now and the statutory public consultation closed on 13th June 2023. At the time, the assessment of responses was to have been completed by end of November 2023. This has still not been presented to the Surrey Hills Board.

A huge amount of work has already undertaken, including by public respondents to the consultation, and expectations are high. The opportunity to review the boundary of a protected landscape does not come around very often, and we urge Natural England to conclude the project as soon as possible. We very much hope to receive an update on progress at our Board meeting on 6th March.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. M. Atkinson'.

Kathy Atkinson
Independent Chair

cc. Surrey Hills National Landscape Board
Local Authority Leaders
Surrey MPs

The Surrey Hills was one of the first landscapes to be designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in 1958. It is now one of 34 AONBs in England having equal landscape status to a National Park. The Surrey Hills AONB stretches across rural Surrey, covering about a quarter of the county.

The Surrey Hills Board was established in 2008 as a Joint Management Committee to develop policies and programmes that:

- Protect and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the Surrey Hills
- Enhance public understanding and enjoyment of the area
- Promote the social and economic well being of the Surrey Hills, particularly in regard to achieving the above objectives.

The Core Members funding the Surrey Hills Board are:

- Guildford Borough Council
- Mole Valley District Council
- National Trust
- Natural England
- Reigate and Banstead Borough Council
- Surrey County Council
- Tandridge District Council
- Waverley Borough Council

The Advisory Members (non funding) are:

- CPRE Surrey
- Country Land and Business Association
- National Farmers Union
- Surrey County Association of Parish and Town Councils
- Surrey Hills Society
- Surrey Wildlife Trust

