



**Cranborne Chase**  
Area of Outstanding  
Natural Beauty

Cranborne Chase AONB Annual Forum 2021

Wednesday 10 November 10:30-12:30

### **Q&A Session**

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#### Attendees

##### **Chair:**

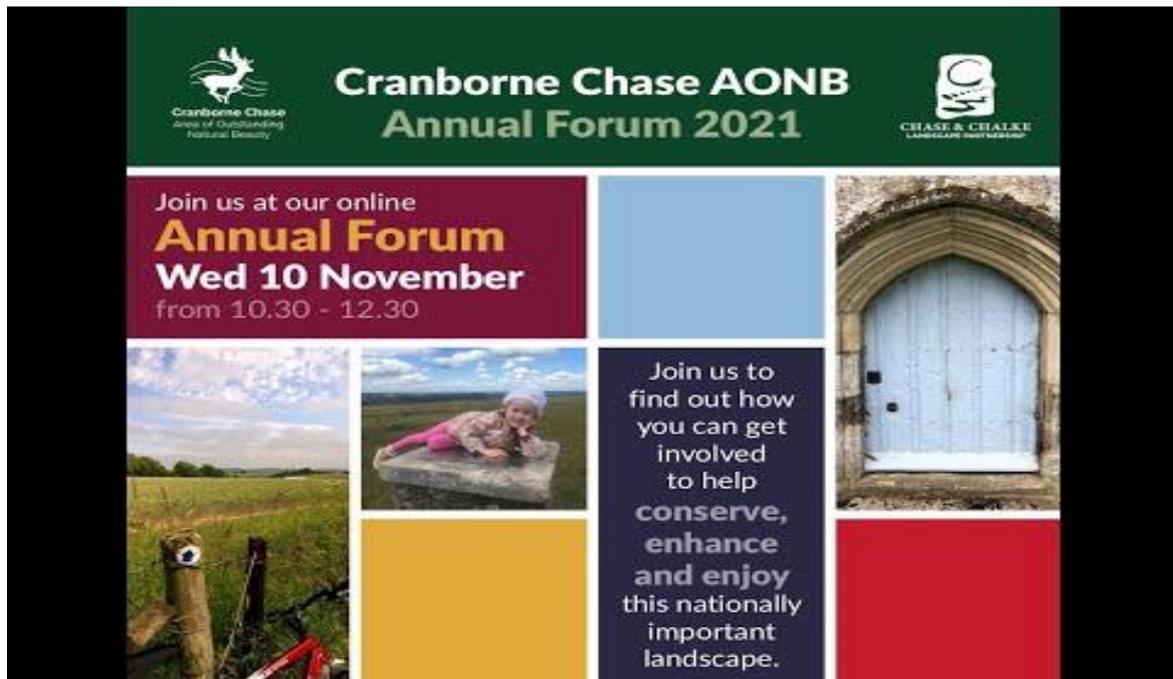
Cllr Bridget Wayman of Wiltshire Council (BW), host Authority for Cranborne Chase AONB

##### **Speakers:**

- John Watkins (JW), Chief Executive, National Association of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty
  - Richard Burden (RB), Principal Landscape Planning Advisor, Cranborne Chase AONB
  - Steve Tonkin (ST), Dark Sky Advisor, Cranborne Chase AONB
  - Jonathan Monteith (JM), Chase & Chalke Landscape Partnership Scheme Manager, Cranborne Chase AONB
  - Tracy Adams (TA), Farm Conservation Advisor, Cranborne Chase AONB
  - Ffinlo Costain (FC), Chief Executive of Farmwel, and founder of the Food & Global Security Network
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#### Questions and Answers

In all cases these answers are summarised, but please refer to the recording of the event which is available on You Tube at [Cranborne Chase AONB - Annual Forum 2021](#)



## Questions to John Watkins, Chief Executive of the National Associations of AONBS

### **Q. What sort of new planning powers are proposed for AONBs?**

A. *At the moment, we're pressing Defra to have a conversation with the Secretary of State responsible for planning which is Michael Gove who implemented the Landscapes Review...there are a range of things from the Statutory Consultee in relation to planning applications through to what that means for the status of the Management Plan, as well as the duty of regard that public bodies and statutory undertakers have with regard to AONBs. We want a clear, statutory role for AONBs in the planning process, we will then need to discuss the pros and cons as there is a difference of view even within the AONBs...*

*To summarise, we're hoping to get a headline agreement that there is a strengthened role for planning with a commitment to work up precisely what the detail is...*

### **Q. How will the 'new look' AONBs differ from National Parks in the future?**

A. *We want to look at what is fit for purpose for AONBs. The board structure within the National Parks for example is potentially not the route we would want to go down especially in regard to the amount of resource it takes up. We would still want to retain what is still the dynamic nature of AONBs and their willingness and ability to work in partnership and to leverage that much power to convene within an area rather than being quite a large organisation in themselves...perhaps look towards the IUCN green listed structure and design from there towards this is what a new look AONB would be like. Instead of thinking how we want to be like a National Park, it's*

*more how we want this to look and thinking how we could design it in such a way so it's fit for purpose for an AONB.*

## Questions to Richard Burden, Principal Landscape & Planning Advisor at Cranborne Chase AONB

**Q. Ref. the planning protocols which Richard mentioned, I firmly believe that AONBs should be consulted on ALL applications. Something as innocuous as a 'track across a field' can have much deeper (literally) consequences and an assessment by professionals as to whether the proposal 'conserves or enhances' is crucial to avoid degradation of the quality of the AONB.**

*A. The Planning Protocol does commit the Local Planning Authorities to send us their weekly lists of applications and, time permitting, we look through them for those that haven't already been sent to us by case officers. If AONBs become Statutory Consultees then all applications will be sent to them (us); there is obviously a staff resourcing issue but that status would, hopefully, help ensure the innocuous applications don't get overlooked and planning officers do have all relevant matters drawn to their attention.*

**Q. There was mention by Richard in his presentation about mobile phone masts, however with increasing interest seeking the generation of sustainable energy, what role and reaction to the sighting of wind turbines in the AONB might this present?**

*A. The AONB Management Plan comments on this and associated issues:*

**13.16.** *There is continuing pressure to erect wind turbines and telecommunication masts in the AONB or its setting. These are very tall or substantial structures. They can detract from scenic beauty within the AONB and impair significant views to or from it. Similarly, extensive farm scale photo-voltaic arrays reduce the area of productive farmland. These types of developments can introduce a sense of 'industrialisation' into an otherwise unspoilt or tranquil landscape. They are frequently visually intrusive and fail to harmonise with the scale and character of the area. The AONB Partnership has produced a Position Statement on Renewable Energy, and one on Field Scale PVs.*

**Policy PT2** addresses the formulation and implementation of planning policies 'to ensure they take full account of the local distinctiveness, character, and quality of the AONB and its setting.'

**Policy PT15** relates to development complementing the special qualities of this AONB:

*'Local Planning Authority partners ensure that where new development is permitted, it complements the special qualities of the AONB and takes full account of the area's setting and context through the consideration of appropriate Landscape Character Assessments and sensitivity and design studies.'*

**Policy PT16** specifically addresses the conundrum of sustainability whilst conserving and enhancing natural beauty:

*‘Support renewable energy generation by technologies that integrate with the landscape character, are neither visually intrusive to the AONB or its setting, nor impair significant views to or from it, are not harmful to wildlife, and are of an appropriate scale to their location and siting.’*

And **Policy PT17** seeks to deal with existing eyesores:

*‘Seek to remove or mitigate visually intrusive features, including overhead wires, pylons, and masts.’*

### Questions for Steve Tonkin, Dark Sky Advisor at Cranborne Chase AONB

**Q. Presumably the introduction of LED street lighting by Wiltshire Council has been beneficial in casting the light downwards and preserving dark skies.**

*A. In many cases the new LED streetlighting is an improvement. The Axia 3 lights they are using are fully shielded and can have a baffle added to prevent back-spill (light shining behind the post), all of which is a good thing. The majority that are being installed have a correlated colour temperature (CCT) of 3000K, which is also welcome.*

*Unfortunately, some have a CCT of 4000K, which scatters more and is worse for wildlife and human health. There have also been complaints that their local new lighting is too bright; this is a common problem (the "some light good, more light better" fallacy).*

*I hope that helps. If you (or anyone else) want more info, please email me [stevetonkin@cranbornechase.org.uk](mailto:stevetonkin@cranbornechase.org.uk)*

### Questions for Ffinlo Costain, Chief Executive of Farmwel and founder of the Food & Global Security Network

[Please go to 1:30:00 on the recording available on You Tube to hear the full Q&A session. The detail below is just an edited summary: [Cranborne Chase AONB - Annual Forum 2021](#)]

**Q. What do you think is single biggest thing we as individuals can do to make a positive difference?**

*A. It's extremely difficult because I think the big changes that need to happen are at Government level and corporate level...voting is the first and most important thing, we can try and reduce the amount of driving we do but to change where you get your electricity from...good energy. I think that everyday difference is probably changing your energy supplier and the obvious like recycling and so on...*

**Q. How do YOU define regenerative agriculture?**

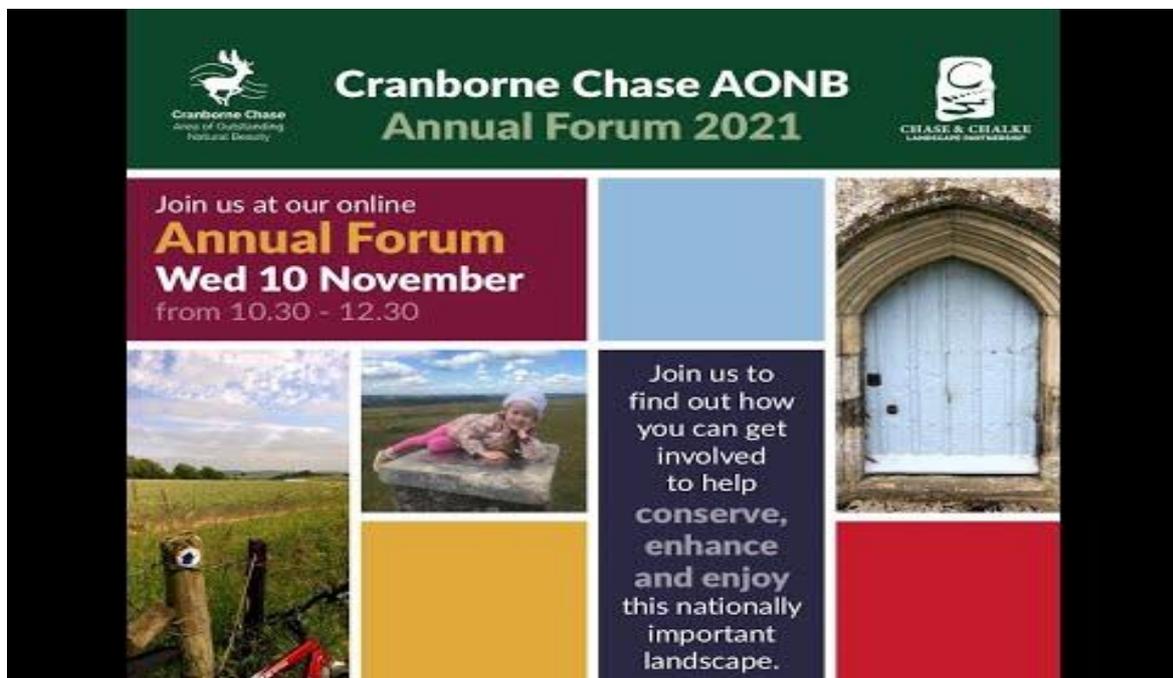
*A. If you can prove a year-on-year improvement, using various metrics and methods, that is regenerative agriculture...the most important thing is to establish a trend.*

*Regenerative food systems are holistic and inclusive. They strengthen the health and vitality of all ecosystem components – communities, people, animals, plants and microbes. Regenerative food production focuses on regeneration of the land, coast and sea. It increases biodiversity, enriches soils, improves watersheds and water quality, and enhances ecosystem services, such as carbon sequestration, food productivity, nutrient cycling and climate resilience.*

**Q. What is the single one thing our farmers can do to positively contribute to improving soil and reducing their impact on climate change?**

*A. Firstly, measuring carbon footprint using GWP\* [see link to a paper that features GWP\*] Demonstrating GWP\*: a means of reporting warming-equivalent emissions that captures the contrasting impacts of short- and long-lived climate pollutants - [IOPscience}].*

Please go to 1:30:00 on the recording available on You Tube to hear the full answer: [Cranborne Chase AONB - Annual Forum 2021](#)



The poster for the Cranborne Chase AONB Annual Forum 2021 features a green header with the event title and logos for Cranborne Chase and Chase & Chalk. Below the header, a maroon box contains the event details: 'Join us at our online Annual Forum Wed 10 November from 10.30 - 12.30'. The main body of the poster is a collage of images: a landscape with a fence, a child on a log in a field, a blue door in a stone archway, and a solid yellow and red background. A dark blue box with white text reads: 'Join us to find out how you can get involved to help conserve, enhance and enjoy this nationally important landscape.'

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