



Advice and Guidance for Relevant Authorities and those in Public Office



**Cranborne
Chase
National
Landscape**

Your duties in the National Landscape under Section 85
Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 as amended by
Section 245 Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023

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DUTY on Relevant Authorities and those in Public Office:

Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 has been amended by Section 245 of the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023.

It states that, in exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect, land in a National Landscape, a relevant authority must seek to further the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the National Landscape, designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. 'Relevant Authorities' is a wide-ranging term and examples can be found on the back of this leaflet.



EXPECTATIONS of Relevant Authorities and those in Public Office:

Relevant authorities must be able to demonstrate that they have fulfilled this duty for each decision or action. They must be able to show clearly how they have considered the purposes of National Landscapes in their decision making, and should consider whether they could usefully refer to the outcomes of the duty in their annual reports.

Relevant authorities may wish to consider issuing their own statement on how they will seek to further the purposes of the designated area.

Compliance with the duty will be monitored by the National Landscape Team on behalf of the National Landscape Partnership. The Partnership Board will bring any significant contraventions to the attention of Natural England, who will report significant cases to the relevant DEFRA Minister.

The duties are overarching and do need to be explicitly considered by relevant authorities in carrying out any of their functions. They are intended to ensure that the purposes for which National Landscapes have been designated are recognised as essential considerations in reaching decisions or undertaking activities that impact on them.

The Purpose of a National Landscape, a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, is to:
'Conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the Area.'

What is 'Natural Beauty?'

The beauty of a National Landscape combines the landform, geology, plants, animals and landscape features including the rich history of human settlement over the centuries.

National Landscapes are cultural, living, landscapes by virtue of the species and habitats within them and because their special qualities can only be maintained by continuing human activity.

The natural beauty of a National Landscape is seen as a blend of the rich natural and cultural heritage, including visual and functional aspects.



How can we help you fulfil your responsibility?

Contact us for advice or an informal chat at:

Phone: 01725 517417 Email: info@cranbornechase.org.uk

Or visit: cranbornechase.org.uk

If you would like to know more about the National Landscape Partnership and what it does, we can organise bespoke training or information sessions. Get in touch to find out more.

The following organisations are examples of some of the Relevant Authorities operating within Cranborne Chase National Landscape:

This list is not intended to be exhaustive.

- Historic England
- Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)
- Drinking Water Inspectorate
- Natural England
- Environment Agency
- Defence Estates
- Health and Primary Care Trusts
- The Emergency Services
- National Highways
- Forestry Commission
- Health and Safety Executive
- Highway Authorities
- Wessex Water
- Bournemouth & West Hampshire Water
- The Civil Aviation Authority
- Compton Abbas Airfield
- Bath Wilts & North Dorset Gliding Club
- Scottish and Southern Electric Network
- E.ON
- British Gas
- BT
- Unitary, County, District, Town, Parish Councils and all Councillors
- The Crown Estate
- Network Rail
- Passenger Transport Authority
- Ministry of Defence
- EE
- O2
- Vodafone
- All Government Departments, Members of Parliament and Ministers of the Crown



All public and statutory bodies are covered by the Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000 and Section 85 (A1).

Further details can be found at: Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (legislation.gov.uk) or www.naturalengland.org.uk



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