



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Report

AGENDA ITEM 7

Date: 2nd November 2011

Title: Project update and Chilterns State of the Environment report

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Annette will give an update on recent access projects within the AONB, including results from the Chiltern's Cycleway user survey and 'Access for All' initiatives.

When the Chilterns Conservation Board published a new management plan for the AONB in 2008 it undertook to produce annually a report on the environmental condition of the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. This has taken place since 2009. A broad range of indicators has been established to monitor changes in landscape and biodiversity, historic environment, understanding and enjoyment. Advice is sought from the Forum on issues and challenges in the future, which will inform the access elements of the Chiltern's State of the Environment report.

Whilst some indicators are easily quantified, such as area of land with statutory or voluntary open access, or number of health walks participants, it is harder to gauge quality of access and to identify access trends and issues for the future. This is often gleaned anecdotally by speaking to people involved with countryside access.

Recommendation: Members to consider observations and suggestions on the key access trends and issues in the Chilterns.