



## **5. Policy Framework**

# 5. Policy Framework - Introduction

## 5.1 Introducing the Policy Framework

5.1.1 In the previous chapters the qualities and features that make the AONB special were introduced. These were then set into a spatial context through the description of landscape character. From these descriptions, it becomes clear that landscape is complex and its management needs to encompass many different areas of activity.



Landscape management encompasses many activities.

### What is Landscape?

5.1.2 Landscape is often considered to be “just scenery” and yet it is the quality of the Dorset AONB landscape that underpins the area’s tourist industry, land use activity and quality of life.

5.1.3 Landscape is about the relationship between people and place, a product of the interaction of man with the natural environment over time. It encompasses aesthetic, historical, ecological, economic and cultural components.



### Managing the AONB - Linking People and Place

5.1.4 In order to manage the Dorset AONB and safeguard its special qualities into the future, a firm understanding of the pressures and impacts is

required. Since people and place are inextricably linked, this Management Plan addresses a wide range of issues. For ease of reference and to assist with linking them to wider policies and strategies, they are explored in themes.

5.1.5 They include aspects linked to the natural beauty and heritage of the AONB, such as its landscape, wildlife, history and geology, and to the activities that impact upon it, such as farming, forestry, tourism, recreation and the management of natural resources and waste.



Community activities are an integral part of AONB Management.

5.1.6 Within these sections is the policy framework for the AONB. The policy aims and objectives within this framework will guide activity in the AONB over the next five years (2004-2009). The framework seeks to identify the main issues and pressures on the AONB, the areas of current activity and how we might manage and enhance the area for the future.

### A Sustainable Approach

5.1.7 This policy framework is underpinned by the principles of sustainable development. Sustainability has been defined as the management of change to meet equitably the needs of present generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The Government’s ‘Sustainable Development Strategy’ defines four objectives for sustainable development at a local, national and global level:

- Social progress that recognises the needs of everyone.
  - Effective protection of the environment.
  - Prudent use of natural resources.
  - Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment.
- The AONB should provide a test bed of innovative policy for wider rural areas.

5.1.8 The framework identifies the key action areas within each theme. The delivery of these broad actions is further explored in chapter 6 and in the Action Plan in appendix 2.