



Annual General Meeting Saturday 9th October 2021



Programme for Today

10.30am	AGM
11.45am	Talk by Cllr Ben Knight, Wonersh Environmental Advisory Group
12.30pm	Lunch
2.00pm	Guided Tour of Wonersh



- 1) Apologies for Absence
- 2) To approve the minutes of the AGM held on 9 February 2021
- 3) Chairman's Report for the period from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021



**Chairman's Annual Report
April 2019 - November 2020
Gordon Jackson**



Setting the Scene

The Glover Review of Designated Landscapes

In May 2018 the government asked for an independent review into whether the protections for National Parks and AONBs are still fit for purpose. In particular, what might be done better, what changes will help and whether the definitions and systems in place are still valid.

A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment



The Glover Review of Designated Landscapes

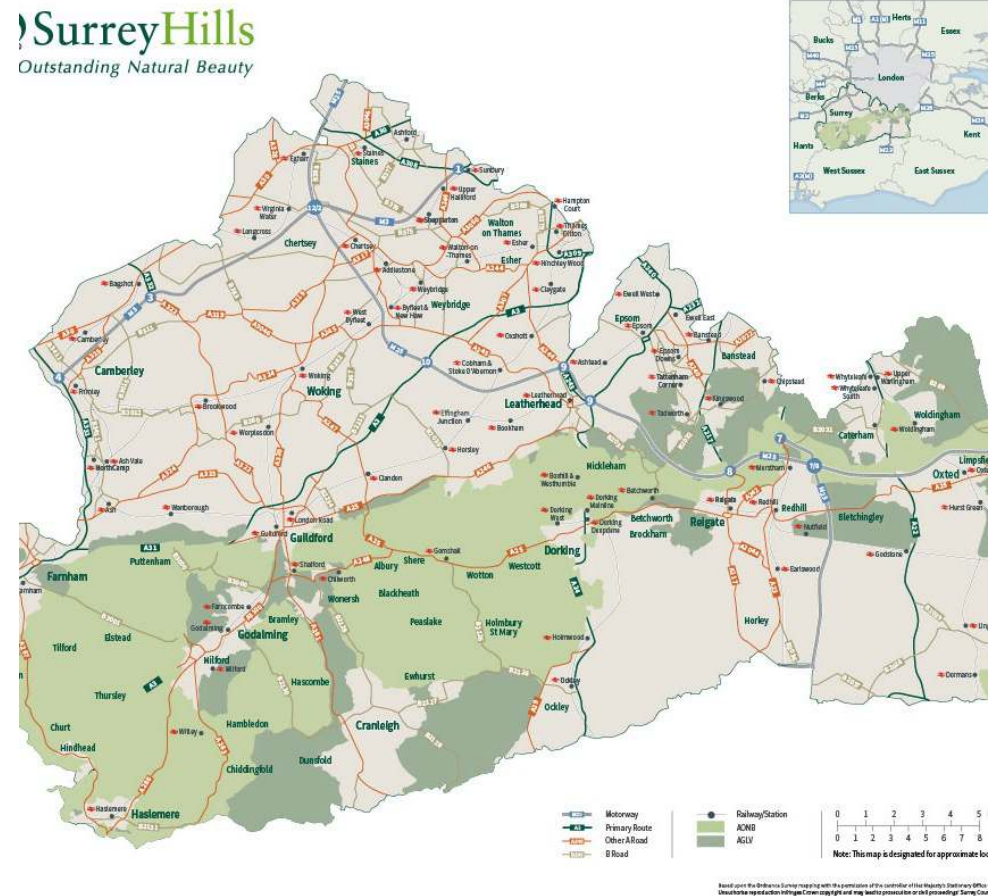
The review's final report was published on 21 September 2019. It was led by Julian Glover. The Government's response is still awaited.

- Landscapes Alive for Nature and Beauty
- Landscapes for Everyone
- Living in Landscapes
- More Special Places
- New Ways of Working



AONB Boundary Review

- The review to extend the boundary of the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty was officially confirmed on 24 June 2021.
- The review is being conducted by Natural England who will make a recommendation to DEFRA
- A professional firm appointed by Natural England will assist with the consultation and evidence gathering process
- The final decision rests with the Secretary of State, who **MAY** order a public enquiry



How does Natural England make its decision?

There are three broad questions:

Does the landscape have sufficient natural beauty to be considered outstanding?

Is it desirable for the purpose set out above, to designate this landscape as AONB?

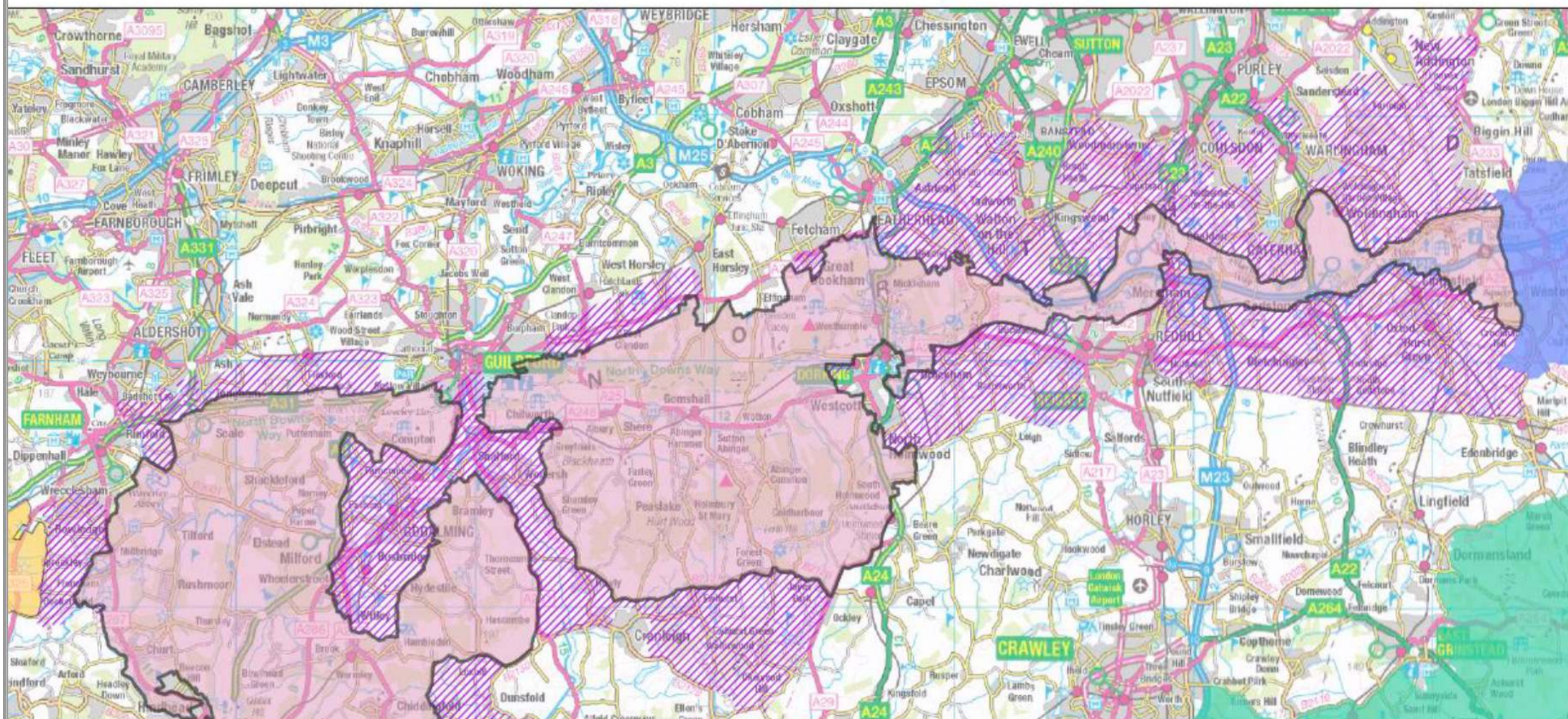
Where should the boundary be drawn?

The current timetable envisages a recommendation to the Secretary of State by August 2023 – no telling how long he will take to make a decision or whether he will order a public enquiry



Possible Area of Search as at August 2021
Surrey Hills AONB Boundary Review

DRAFT



Objectives of the Surrey Hills Management Plan

- Protect and enhance natural beauty
- Promote public understanding and enjoyment
- Promote social and economic well-being



The Surrey Hills Family

- The chairs of the family meet on a regular basis
- We all work together to deliver the Surrey Hills AONB Management Plan





How we work with the Surrey Hills Family

Vision - a thriving rural economy of sustainable and growing local businesses which contribute to environmental sustainability and reflect and enhance the distinct and special nature of the Surrey Hills.

- Surrey Hills Wood Fair
- Artisan fair at Denbies
- Surrey Hills Champions Programme





KEY FEATURES

- £25 annual fee
- £10 is paid to Society to carry out community projects e.g. tree and hedgerow planting and supporting young people to benefit from the healing power of nature
- Exclusive offers and experiences from Surrey Trade Mark Businesses
- Invitation to Champion's Events





Heathland Arts Trail

The House of Invisible Hands – Walter
Bailey

Radius – James Tunnard





Transforming Lives and Habitats in the Surrey Hills

- Delighted to have a new Surrey Hills Society Volunteer Co-Ordinator – Christa Emmett
- 2 years funding through the Trust Fund, the Community Foundation for Surrey and the AONB Board





Christa's Role

- Working with local charities and other community groups to facilitate voluntary conservation activity in the Surrey Hills
- Providing advice and support to parish councils and community groups in the SHAONB to take practical action to implement and maintain conservation projects
- Supporting the Society with fundraising; and
- Ensuring effective communication and coordination of programmes with partners eg Surrey Wildlife Trust



2020-21
A truly extraordinary year!



Despite the Pandemic

- 28 Events (54 last year)
- A further 34 events since the year end
- 504 memberships, of which 213 are family memberships (so at least two people)





Despite the Pandemic

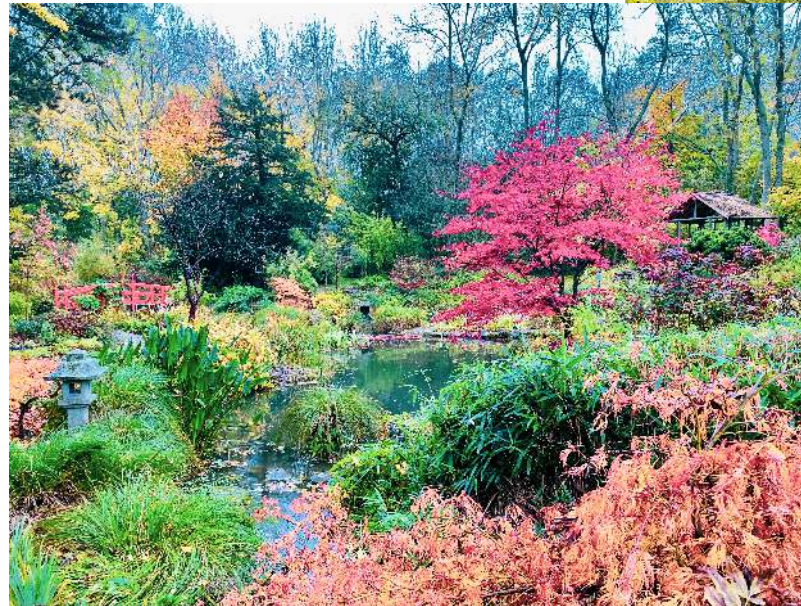
Four new Rail to Ramble Walks in association with the Southeast Communities Rail Partnership and the AONB Team



Despite the Pandemic

We were able to do some guided walks but limited to groups of 6:

- Pamela Holt
- Gatton



Our walks

- 1st Sunday of the month walks from August 2020
- Best attended – Shamley Green immediately after lockdown
- 16 Walks in y/e March 2020 (11 for Walkfest)



Garden Visits

- Caxton House, Reigate
- Vann



Garden Visits

- National Garden Scheme in Wondersh
- Ramster
- Dunsborough Park



Garden Visits

Hannah Peschar
Sculpture Garden



**Our only indoor
visit!**

Sidney Sime
Gallery



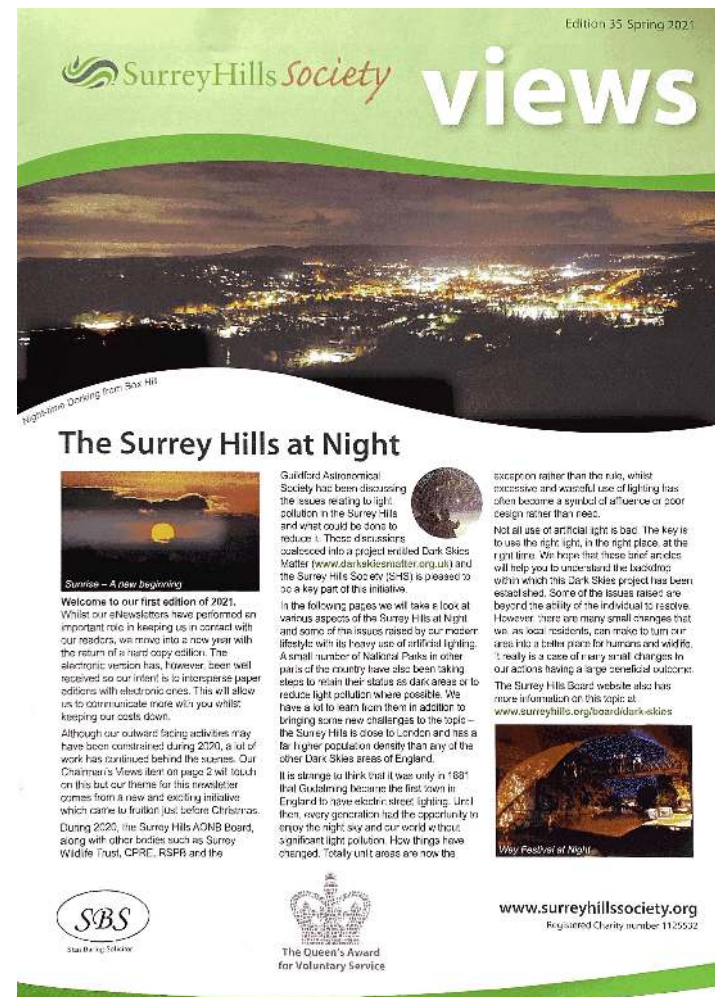
Zoom events

- Michael Cavendish Sleight
Victorian Architecture and
Stained Glass
- Kathy Atherton - Pilgrim
Fathers from Dorking
- 30/40 attendees



Newsletter

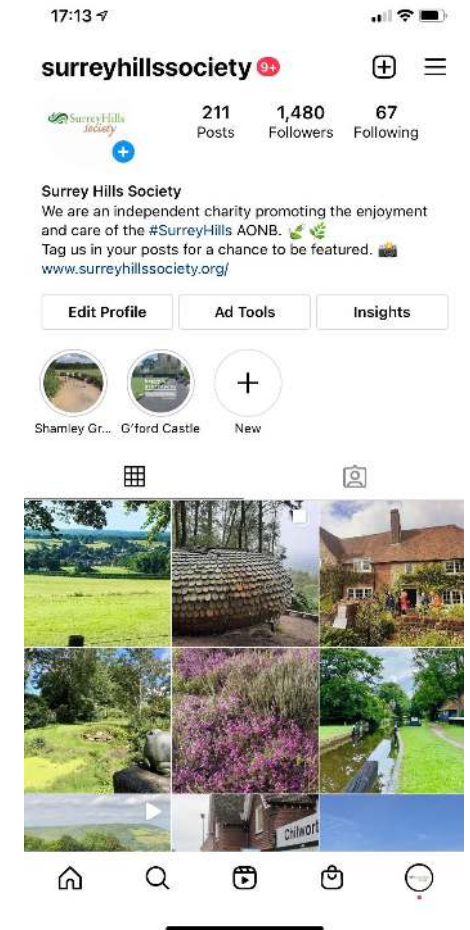
- Now publishing two e-newsletters and 2 paper newsletters each year
- Thank you to our sponsors:
 - Stan Baring Solicitor
 - Bury Hill Estate Management
- Also to Lady Rosemary Prosser for her generous support





Social Media

- Instagram 1480 (1,147)
- Twitter 594 (359)
- Facebook 317(65)





Forthcoming Events

Surrey Hills Symposium at University of
Surrey and online on Wednesday 24th
November at 6:30 pm

Our Climate & Biodiversity Emergency
How can we inspire action?

Fundraising Dinner at the County Club
on Friday 26th November at 7:00 pm



A BIG THANK YOU TO

- Our trustees
- Our committees – finance, newsletter, shows, communications and events
- All our volunteers – events, walks, talks, and shows
- The AONB Team
- Lesley Crofts – our co-ordinator





Questions?



- 4) To receive and consider the Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements for the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021
- 5) To confirm the appointment of the independent financial examiner, David Montgomery from Kingston Smith for 2021/22 and to authorise the Trustees to fix remuneration
- 6) To set the annual membership subscription for 2021/22



7) Appointment of Trustees

- a) To confirm the reappointment of Martin Cantor and Sarah Jane Chimbwandira as Trustees, who are retiring by rotation
- b) To note the reappointment of the Chairman, Gordon Jackson by the Trustees for 2021/22

8) To note the resignation of Neil Maltby as President of the Society and to elect his replacement



Any other business?