

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Update

Thanks for your email.

At this stage, we are still negotiating the process with Natural England. Any AONB proposals have to go through an extremely rigorous process, during which designation may, or may not, occur.

As an update, a Management Advisory Group (MAG) has now been established and Senior Landscape Advisers from Natural England are about to meet our Key Partners regarding the proposal for a new Cheshire Sandstone Ridge AONB (early next month).

Engagement with local stakeholders is a key component of Natural England's process to consider an AONB proposal.

This upcoming event will be the starting point for ongoing engagement throughout the process.

Their presentation will include:

- *How the area was selected by Natural England for potential AONB designation
- *Opportunities for engagement in the process
- *Next steps in taking the work forward

In the New Year, other stakeholders will be contacted as we progress the process and clear messaging will be rolled out.

My suggestion, therefore, would be that you keep this as an Agenda Item and just keep asking for updates.

We are a long way off any debate about impacts on local communities, rather we have to initially fulfil varying criteria in line with Natural England's Guidance.

In the meantime, you might wish to look at 'Our Frequently Asked Questions' section on the Sandstone Ridge Website [CLICK HERE](#)

Best wishes
Andrew Hull, Chair

