

## **MALVERN HILLS AONB JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **10 NOVEMBER 2023**

## **GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS ON LIGHTING AND HORSE RELATED DEVELOPMENT**

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### **Recommendation**

#### **1. The Committee is recommended to:**

- a) **Note the new guidance documents produced by the AONB Partnership.**
- b) **Promote the new guidance (once finalised).**

### **Background**

2. The Malvern Hills AONB Partnership has produced, over many years, a series of guidance documents intended to inform the work of land managers, property owners, developers and decision makers and to promote best practice in the AONB, see: [Built Development Guidance Documents – Malvern Hills AONB](#). This series includes guidance on lighting – designed to protect the night sky over the Malvern Hills AONB - and guidance on keeping horses in the landscape – intended to ensure that this activity has a positive impact on the local environment. AONB guidance is produced to help implement AONB Management Plan policy and so to deliver the Malvern Hills AONB Management Plan which ‘formulates local authority policy for the management of the AONB and for the carrying out of their functions in relation to it’ (Section 89 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act, 2000). Malvern Hills AONB guidance has not been adopted by local authority partners as Supplementary Planning Guidance, probably because it only applies to a small part of each local authority area. However, anecdotally we understand that these guidance documents are used and referred to, including outside of the AONB.

### **Summary**

3. Between 8 June and 4 August 2023 the AONB Team consulted on the following:
4. Lighting guidance – new text which updates and replaces the existing AONB guidance on lighting (produced in October 2019). The revised guidance provides more technical content designed to be of practical use to property owners and decision makers. It seeks to provide clarity on when lighting requires planning permission. Additionally, the guidance refers to ambient lighting environment zones (E- zones) in and around the AONB in which different levels of obtrusive light might be allowed (this is with reference to the Institution of Lighting Professionals guidance on the reduction of obtrusive light (GN01 ILP: 2021).

5. Horse related development guidance – this new guidance refers specifically to horse related development. It spells out when planning permission is needed for keeping horses and for the various forms of development associated with keeping horses. It suggests good practice with regards siting, materials etc. This new guidance forms a companion document to the AONB Partnership’s guidance on keeping horses in the landscape [Rev.Horsepolicydocument.19.07.11.pdf \(malvernhillsaonb.org.uk\)](#) which will be updated to remove references to planning and development and which will focus only on the management of land for horses.
6. Comments received as part of the consultation on the above work and the AONB Team’s responses to them can be viewed at: [Draft Guidance Documents for JAC – Malvern Hills AONB](#). The two documents have been revised in light of the consultation comments received and can be viewed via the same link. NB Work is needed to add images to the equine development guidance. It is anticipated that the two documents will be produced in a new format following the National Landscapes branding.

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