

04/02/2026

Our ref: RTG_NP_CAR Launch_ST



By email

Natural
England,
Lateral,
8 City Walk,
Leeds,
LS11 9AT

Commencement of Notice Period and Publication of Consultation Response Analysis Report for the proposed Yorkshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

Dear Stakeholder,

Natural England has today announced two important milestones relating to the proposal to designate a new Yorkshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). They are:

- The publication today of the Consultation Response Analysis Report which sets out Natural England's analysis of the responses and evidence received during the Statutory and Public Consultation.
- That Natural England has today given notice of its proposal to make an Order designating land as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and has commenced a statutory Notice Period enabling anyone to view the proposals and make representations, if they wish, in relation to that proposal. The Notice Period will close at **midnight on 6th March 2026**.

Further details in relation to these two milestones are provided below.

Consultation Response Analysis Report following the statutory and public consultation

Natural England have considered all of the responses and evidence received during the Statutory and Public Consultation (held October 2024 – January 2025) and have revisited some areas for consideration on site. A detailed Consultation Response Analysis Report has been produced, which can be viewed online at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/yorkshire-wolds-area-of-outstanding-natural-beauty-proposed-designation>.

251 consultation responses were received in response to the consultation. There was a significant majority of respondents in favour of designating the proposed Inland and Coastal Areas, though some voiced concerns, principally related to matters of desirability of designation.

Of the respondents who answered Question B1 on the consultation questionnaire, 'Do you think the proposed areas (Coastal and Inland Areas) should be designated as AONB?':

- 78% answered 'Yes, I agree' for the Inland Area
- 85% answered 'Yes, I agree' for the Coastal Area

Formal responses were received from the statutory authorities: East Riding of Yorkshire Council; North Yorkshire Council; Hull and East Yorkshire Combined Authority; and, York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority. Their responses indicated a broad level of support for the proposed areas for designation and a desire to see land designated.

Many respondents supplied additional evidence in support of their views, and Natural England considered whether this evidence necessitated changes to any of the proposals and especially to proposed boundaries. It was concluded that the boundary should be adjusted in three locations in order to exclude small areas of previously proposed land; at Londesborough Avenue and near to Speeton. No additional land is proposed for designation as a result of the consultation, meaning a second round of consultation is not required.

Natural England remains of the view that there is a clear weight of evidence that the proposed Inland and Coastal Areas meet the criterion of outstanding natural beauty required for AONB designation and that, where minor boundary refinements are required, they are appropriate. Together these areas form 'an area of land' of outstanding natural beauty as required by the legislation. Natural England considers that the designation of these qualifying areas is desirable and that the boundaries of the Inland and Coastal Areas are sufficiently robust and appropriate.

Notice Period 4th February 2026 to 6th March 2026.

The Notice Period fulfils the statutory requirement for Natural England to publish notice of their intention to make an Order to designate land as an AONB, and the effect of that Order. It also provides an opportunity for stakeholders and the public to view the final proposals and make representations to Natural England, objecting to, supportive of, or proposing amendments to the Order. This follows the formal statutory and public consultation which took place from 8th October 2024 to 13th January 2025. Information on how to submit a representation is set out below.

If appropriate, we would be grateful if you could disseminate the news of these project milestones to relevant interested parties.

Making a representation during the Notice Period

The notice gives details of:

- How to make representations in relation to the draft Order
- Locations where you may examine hard copies of the draft Order and draft Designation Maps can be viewed
- How to view and/or download copies of the draft Order and draft Designation Maps online

Please see the 'Further information' section below which sets out where to access all information referred to.

It is crucial that all representations are sent directly to Natural England as it is only Natural England that can legally consider and respond to representations. Representations can be submitted via:

Email to YorksWoldsDesignationProject@naturalengland.org.uk

Letter addressed to:

Yorkshire Wolds AONB
PO Box 351
HOLMFIRTH
HD9 9GA

Representations must be received by **midnight on 6th March 2026**.

In the event of query, please call 0300 060 3900

Further information

The Consultation Response Analysis Report, Notice, draft Order and draft Designation Maps can be viewed online at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/yorkshire-wolds-area-of-outstanding-natural-beauty-proposed-designation>

All of the technical assessments (Natural Beauty, Desirability and Boundary) and a summary of the Consultation Response Analysis Report along with information concerning the remaining steps of this project can be viewed and downloaded via the project consultation website.

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/ne-landscape-heritage-and-geodiversity-team/yorkshire-wolds-designation/>

Printed copies of the Notice, maps and technical assessments, including a summary of how these assessments have changed in response to the consultation, are also available to view at a small number of offices and local libraries, the locations of which are advertised on the Notice :

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/yorkshire-wolds-area-of-outstanding-natural-beauty-proposed-designation>

Note: AONBs were rebranded as National Landscapes in November 2023. Legally however, Natural England can only designate as an AONB. To avoid confusion, all documentation and materials refer to AONB throughout. If the proposed area were to be designated as an AONB, it would become known as the Yorkshire Wolds National Landscape.

Natural England would like to thank everyone who has participated in the previous public consultations and acknowledge the significant involvement and investment from stakeholders and communities.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P.A. Duncan'.

Paul Duncan
Deputy Director,
Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire Team,
Natural England