Appendix 20: Dockenfield Hills

Please refer to Figure 29b

Additional responses from second (2024) statutory consultation are given in blue.

Overview

Question C1: Does the Dockenfield Hills Extension Area have Sufficient Natural Beauty to be Designated as AONB?

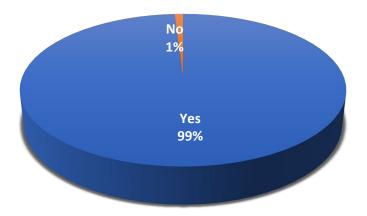
Natural Beauty	Responses
Yes	103
No	1
Not sure	0

Of the 104 respondents, 103 respondents (99%) felt that the Dockenfield Hills extension area has sufficient natural beauty to be designated as AONB.

Only 1 respondent answered no, this respondent answered no to this question for all Extension Areas.

Arguments setting out the desirability of designating this land focused around protecting the area from inappropriate development and the benefits that could flow from joining the Surrey Hills AONB and South Downs National Park, especially in relation to nature recovery. These issues are addressed in Appendix 2.

Dockenfield Hills - Sufficient natural beauty to be designated



Question C5: Do you agree with the proposed boundary for the Dockenfield Low Weald Extension Area?

Boundary	Responses
Yes	34
Yes, but I wish to	64
suggest an alternative	01
No	2
Not sure	4

Of the 104 respondents who answered question C5, 34 respondents (33%) agreed with the proposed boundary for the Dockenfield Hills extension area and 2 respondents (2%) did not.

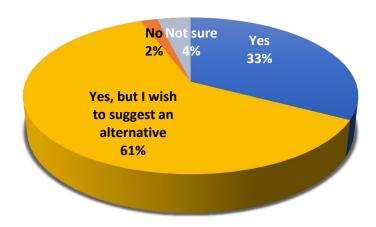
64 respondents (61%) agreed but wished to suggest an alternative boundary for the Extension Area and many provided supporting evidence. The majority of these responses focused on the southern boundary of the proposed extension – many of the responses were identical.

The additional areas of land that respondents wish to see included within the proposed extension are:

- Extension of boundary to include land south of Old Lane
- Larger extension into East Hampshire as far as Broxhead Common
- Extension to include Shortfield Common
- Small extension to include a narrow strip between South Downs National Park and Boundary Road.

There are no requested exclusions.

Dockenfield Hills - Agreement with the proposed boundary



During the second (2024) statutory consultation, responses were received regarding Addition 23: Land south of Old Lane and Addition 24: Land at Shortfield Common. Natural England has reviewed these responses and provided further commentary in blue below.

Natural Bea	Natural Beauty		
<u>Theme</u>	Representations	Natural England Commentary	
The proposed extension meets the Natural Beauty Criterion	The majority of respondents agreed that the proposed extension met the Natural Beauty Criterion. Examples of views and evidence relating to the natural beauty of the area include: ANON-VUXE-WS1W-T (Waverley Borough Council) 'Waverley also broadly supports the specific areas within Waverley proposed for inclusion in the AONB. The Council agrees with the accompanying assessment that the quality of the proposed areas is of sufficient natural beauty to be included in the AONB.' ANON-VUXE-WE6A-U 'I would like to highlight that the Dockenfield Hills area includes an area of undulating pastoral farmland as well as areas of ancient woodland, a high concentration of mature hedgerow, as well as trees and veteran trees associated with former parkland at Frensham Heights. The special qualities of this landscape relate to its tranquil and rural backwater ambience — the rural villages of Dockenfield and Spreakley lie within it as do various vernacular farmhouses and oast houses connected by a network of small rural lanes. This is reinforced by the established character of ancient woods, the pattern of well managed hedgerows and majestic oaks, and rural winding lanes which impart an established character. In this landscape and higher ridges afford long distance views. It's a first rate area and an A-grade landscape. It deserves to be preserved.' ANON-VUXE-WMS9-R 'My land is covered with ancient oaks, undulating pastures, steep fields, hedges, streams, pond and	Commentary Natural England agrees that land within the proposed Extension Area meets the natural beauty criterion for designation as AONB and that additional evidence provided by respondents supports the findings of the Natural Beauty Assessment. Natural England has also taken account of detailed responses requesting changes to the boundary and proposes some amendments. These are set out below.	

Natural E		
<u>heme</u>	Representations	Natural England Commentary
	buzzards, red kites, barn owls, numerous burtterflies,	
	deer, badger fox and grass snakes and adders and as	
	one of only 3 farms left in Frensham needs the urgent	
	protection of an AONB fields have oaks, longstanding	
	meadow pastures, and ancient hedges, often used for	
	horses but increasingly being targeted for development.	
	This is hugely concerning as this beautiful landscape	
	countryside, its trees, flowers and quiet are immensley important to peoples happiness and well being, horse	
	riding, people walking and cycling prove it,but if	
	piecemeal grabbing of fields and buildings development	
	by owners who very often do not live locally, is allowed to	
	continue without the AONB protection, this rich diverse	
	and much loved landscape will rapidly disappear, with its	
	wild life insects, birds and mammals. It is an anomaly that	
	the small gap between the existing AONB and the South Downs National Park exists and if this still wild	
	countryside is to survive it urgently needs the protection	
	of the Surrey Hills AONB.'	
	ANON-VUXE-W5YD-H	
	'the delightful wooded areas and the valley'	
	ANON-VUXE-WEUM-6	
	'Far reaching views of unending countryside, consisting	
	of farmland, medium scale arable fields and smaller,	
	irregular fields in pasture, ancient hedgerows, majestic	
	oaks and occasional woodland blocks. An appealing pattern of land cover which can be appreciated from	
	footpaths and lanes, particularly on high ground. The	
	strong undulating landform provides a sense of scale.	
	Access is still limited to footpaths across large parts of	
	this areas, giving a sense of remoteness. A peaceful	
	landscape with bird song contributes to the tranquility.'	

Natural B	Natural Beauty	
Theme	Representations	Natural England Commentary
	ANON-VUXE-W5UG-G 'It is a stunning area of undulating hills, peaceful lightly inhabited small valleys, and small traditional lanes with beautiful hedges planted with historic oaks. It contains a huge diversity of plants and animals that give enormous pleasure to the people who live here and to the people who visit this area. It is a beautiful and peaceful unspoiled traditional landscape.'	
	ANON-VUXE-WE5K-4 'The landscape of Dockenfield Hills is ancient and largely unchanged since then with rolling hills, copses, veteran trees, ancient hedgerows and rolling agricultural fields. The village, with its Art deco Church, nestling in a tranquil valley surrounded by the rolling Dockenfield Hills creates a magical rural setting. Please consider the age and heritage of the landscape; its wonderful Oast houses; the Art deco Church, built in 1910 by William Curtis Green; and that the famous illustrator Pauline Baynes took inspiration for many of her illustrations (such as those for famous works by Tolkien and C.S. Lewis), from the landscape of Dockenfield and Alice Holt. It would not be any kind of exaggeration to state that Dockenfield Hills and Alice Holt were Middle Earth and Narnia in the eyes of the artist and immortalised as such in her illustrations.'	
	ANON-VUXE-WEVM-7 'The area is rolling Greensand Hills with mature hedges, veteran trees, an ancient agrarian meadow landscape and a picturesque village, dating back to the Doomsday Book of 1087.	

Natural B	Natural Beauty	
<u>Theme</u>	Representations	Natural England Commentary
	Dockenfield Hills bridges two existing protected areas namely Alice Holt Forest, part of the South Downs National Park, which is an internationally designated dark skies reserve and the Surrey Hills AONB.	
	The quality and beauty of the landscape is consistent over the whole wider area. It makes perfect sense to consolidate an area of wider protection.	
	There are a number of areas of ancient woodland and ancient flower meadow within the Dockenfield Hills. There is also the unique Bealeswood Common which has achieved Green Flag Status, in part due to its incredible biodiversity which will be further protected as it is in the proposed Dockenfield Hills area. Frensham Heights school with its stunning parkland, formerly part of the Frensham Hill estate contains many veteran trees. The river Wey has two tributaries that run through the proposed area providing biodiversity and wildlife links directly between Alice Holt and Frensham Pond.	
	Dockenfield Hills with its agrarian heritage, oast houses, ironstone and brick cottages, ancient woodland, ancient meadow, rivers and quaint villages represents the very image of rolling English countryside.	
	The heritage of buildings in the area. Buildings such as the distinctive Oast houses that are scattered across the countryside and The Church of the Good Shepherd in Dockenfield village, the lovely Art deco building designed and built by William Curtis Green, (whose other works	

Natural B	Natural Beauty	
<u>Theme</u>	Representations	Natural England Commentary
	include the Dorchester Hotel and Wolseley House),	
	deserve a protected landscape in which to reside.	
	Pauline Baynes the famous illustrator, took her inspiration from the beautiful Dockenfield Hills and Alice Holt forest when she drew her images of Middle Earth and Narnia for books by Tolkien and C.S.Lewis. She donated a beautiful stained glass window to The Good Shepherd.'	
	ANON-VUXE-WERD-T	
	'The area includes beautiful woodlands, ancient trees (particularly veteran oaks), ridges with fine views, meandering rivers, small settlements and farms with vernacular architecture and winding lanes with deep banks. It still retains a deeply rural feeling of an undulating landscape of hills, valleys, woods, rivers and fields. The area includes many ancient footpaths and tracks through views and landscapes which are still very little affected by the modern world. It meets the criteria by virtue of its scenic beauty, which is specifically representative of the still quite deeply rural and hidden landscape of the Surrey Hills, its area of traditional farming and its abundant wildlife, such as badgers, barn owls and even the presence of otters on the Wey.'	
	ANON-VUXE-WEWF-1 'This area is incredibly beautiful full of undulating hills and valleys, peaceful and full of wildlife.'	
	ANON-VUXE-WEK6-5 'The landscape offers views of outstanding natural beauty. The patchwork of strongly undulating farmland, a mix of small and larger fields, narrow lanes, large mature	

Natural E		
Theme	Representations	Natural England Commentary
	trees, well managed hedgerows, ancient woodland,	
	streams and ponds, give an attractive pattern of land	
	cover which can be appreciated from footpaths and lanes and provides a sense of scale and sense of place in parts	
	of the area. There are outstanding views across the area	
	from the high ground. Small narrow lanes with many wild	
	flower verges contribute to the beauty of the area. It is a	
	much loved landscape by villagers and those from further	
	afield.	
	The area is relatively unpopulated and access is limited,	
	giving a sense of remoteness. Many unmanaged	
	rewilding pastures contribute as do ancient and	
	broadleaved woodland and natural hedgerows and small	
	narrow lanes e.g. Woodhill Lane, Broomfields Lane, Summer Hill Lane, West End Lane and Old Lane. To the	
	west the area is bordered by some 2000 acres of Alice	
	Holt Forest, an ancient historic woodland, contributing to	
	the feeling of wildness. It is intrinsically quiet and	
	relatively unpopulated. The area has a rich natural and	
	cultural heritage and wildlife diversity. The area has a	
	long history of occupation and farming, including hop	
	growing. Roman occupation and major clay kiln area	
	centred in adjacent Alice Holt Forest with an old tile clay	
	pit by Boundary Road and a tile kiln near Hatch pond. A	
	Saxon bank occurs at the western edge of Dockenfield.	
	Many fine examples of traditional buildings (farms, barns,	
	cottages, oast houses) constructed of locally sourced	
	materials such as Bargate Sandstone can be seen.	
	Some listed buildings illustrate the area's cultural heritage	
	and its links with the past, together with some non-	
	designated heritage buildings: - Hall's Place, Broomfields,	

Natural E	Natural Beauty	
<u>Theme</u>	Representations	Natural England Commentary
	Broomfields Cottage, West End House, Walnut Tree Cottage, Pitthanger, Spreakley House. The area has connections with Harold Faulkner, John Harding, Randolph Caldecott and Lord Baden-Powell. It borders the historic Alice Holt Forest, part of the South Downs National Park.'	
	ANON-VUXE-W5AZ-F 'The area is home to a diverse number of bird species, plants and trees. Beautiful to walk in. In all seasons the area is full of natural beauty.'	
	ANON-VUXE-W5BD-T 'I have lived in Dockenfield for 22 years and support the points made in the consultation report.'	
	ANON-VUXE-WEAF-B 'The area showcases a variety of breathtaking landscapes, such as rolling hills, winding rivers and stunning heathland. The combination of these features creates a visually striking and diverse environment. The area supports a diverse range of flora and fauna, including rare or endangered species. The presence of diverse habitats, such as ancient woodlands, wetlands, meadows, or heathlands, contributes to the area's natural beauty and ecological importance.'	
	ANON-VUXE-W5XG-K 'The Dockenfield Hills area is a tranquil haven with ancient trees, mature hedgerows and mixed land use reflecting the presence of both sand (for example the flood plain by Pitt Farm) and Gault Clay (in which oak	

Natural Bea	Natural Beauty		
<u>Theme</u>	Representations	Natural England Commentary	
	trees grow very well). Dockenfield Hills used to be a major hop growing area, with a number of oast houses (including the unusual square oast houses typical of the area) and wild hops still growing in the hedges. The views south from the ridge between Dockenfield and Spreakley are breathtaking, taking in the mixture of heathland, forestry and farmland sweeping up to the Devil's Punchbowl. The range of birdlife in the area is extremely broad, combining varieties of birds from woodland (such as nut hatches and woodpeckers from the nearby Alice Holt [Forest]), pasture and heathland (such as nightjars). The open pasture in this area supports a very significant population of Barn Owls. It is often remarked upon how little man made lighting there is in the area, with excellent Dark Skies.' ANON-VUXE-W53F-D 'The area is unspoilt with lovely views over open fields		
	and a feeling of tranquillity. It has a timeless quality about it.'		
The proposed extension does not meet the Natural Beauty Criterion	ANON-VUXE-W5T8-Z considered the area did not meet the Natural Beauty Criterion. No justification was given.	Commentary Natural England disagrees that the land identified for designation does not meet the Natural Beauty Criterion for the reasons set out in the Natural Beauty Assessment Report.	

Boundary	Boundary		
<u>Theme</u>	Representations	Natural England Commentary	
General agreement with proposed boundary	A significant number of respondents agreed with the proposed boundary simply answering 'yes' on the survey form, while some provided reasons for their view. Examples include:	Commentary Natural England notes the support for the proposed boundary and has provided a detailed commentary to the issues raised by other respondents which can be found below.	
	ANON-VUXE-WEK6-5 'I strongly support the designation of this area, and strongly support the proposed northern boundary to include the grounds of Frensham Heights, Hawthorn Farm and Lickfolds farm.'		
	ANON-VUXE-WEQ9-E is in support of a minor extension of the southern boundary as set out below but also stated: 'I would be happy to stick with Old Lane as the Southern Boundary if it helps to avoid confusion or additional administration.'		
	ANON-VUXE-W53F-D 'I believe that it covers the area in need of protection.'		
	ANON-VUXE-WEAS-R 'The boundaries which now appears to follow paths and hedge lines seems to make sense, compared with the previous suggestion of following the county boundary.'		

Boundary		
Theme	Representations	Natural England Commentary
<u>ineme</u>	Kepresentations	Natural England Commentary
Requests for Ac	Iditional Areas	
Extend	A number of respondents expressed concerns	Commentary
boundary to	that the natural beauty assessment did not	
include the	include land south of Old Lane but nevertheless	Natural England acknowledges that the photograph used on the Consultation Report was
cultural site of	used a photograph of the excluded landscape on	taken from Old Lane and that, whilst the lane itself was included within the proposed
Great Holt and extend to the	the cover of the Boundary Report.	extension, the land to the south of Old Lane, as shown in the photograph, was not.
County	Responses supporting the inclusion of land south	The Natural Beauty Assessment Report included the land south of Old Lane in the
Boundary	of Old Lane include:	proposed Candidate Area for designation noting its scenic qualities and the continuation
•		of the qualities of the landscape to the south (page 193 and Figure 11.14).
	ANON-VUXE-W5M7-R, ANON-VUXE-WE5K-4,	
	ANON-VUXE-W5W1-V, ANON-VUXE-W5AZ-F,	The Boundary Consideration Report noted:
	ANON-VUXE-WEGV-1, ANON-VUXE-WSQZ-W,	
	ANON-VUXE-W5UG-G, ANON-VUXE-WE5K-4,	'In defining the boundary to the south, consideration was given to the inclusion of land
	ANON-VUXE-WEVM-7, ANON-VUXE-WEWF-1	south of Old Lane. Whilst land beyond the County boundary and into Hampshire has
	·	many similar qualities, there are also influences from Frith End Quarry and equestrian
	Identical submissions include:	uses at Gum Hill and the land south of Old Lane was considered to be transitional.
	ANON-VUXE-WEET-W, ANON-VUXE-W5BN-4,	Consideration was given to the use of the County Boundary as the proposed boundary to
	ANON-VUXE-WERE-U, ANON-VUXE-WERJ-2,	the extension area, however this was found to not follow a clear feature on the ground, in
	ANON-VUXE-WESJ-1, ANON-VUXE-WEZ2-G,	part because it followed the River Wey, the course of which had changed over time, but
	ANON-VUXE-WEZF-4, ANON-VUXE-W5MJ-B,	also due to field boundary loss. The proposed boundary was therefore pulled northwards
	ANON-VUXE-WE7T-F, ANON-VUXE-WE7U-G,	to Old Road, which forms a clear line on the ground within the transition.'
	ANON-VUXE-W5MN-F, ANON-VUXE-W5UT-W,	
	ANON-VUXE-WEAK-G, ANON-VUXE-W5X1-W,	Therefore, the land south of Old Road has been excluded, simply to identify a suitable line
	ANON-VUXE-W5X9-5, ANON-VUXE-WEK4-3,	on the ground given that the County Boundary was not considered suitable.
	ANON-VUXE-WEK5-4, ANON-VUXE-W593-Z,	
	ANON-VUXE-WE1A-P, ANON-VUXE-WE7J-5	Submissions received following the Statutory Consultation have highlighted the qualities
	,	of the landscape which continue south of Old Lane. Natural England acknowledges the
	Reasons given for extending the boundary further	vernacular architecture of Great Holt, the rural character of the lanes and attractive
	south include:	composition of land uses and topography (albeit partly contributed by land within East
		Hampshire). Natural England agrees that there is an alternative boundary (albeit more
	Natural Beauty:	convoluted) which could be defined which includes qualifying land south of Old Road, and
		does not adopt the County Boundary where it does not follow a clear line on the ground.

Boundary		
<u>Theme</u>	<u>Representations</u>	Natural England Commentary
	 Views from Old Lane. Hills bordering the River Wey. Hills enfolding the stretching meadows in a very special relationship. Natural river course (inc. Ox Bow lakes and river cliff) and adjacent pastures and meadows. Beautiful unspoilt valley. Thrilling to come upon the valley as it opens up between the hills. Peaceful, well-managed fields used almost entirely for grazing sheep and cattle. Gently rolling countryside. Fields, mixed woodland and hedgerows. Character is the same as land proposed for inclusion further north. Low population density. Narrow rural lanes which are quiet. Cradle Lane flanked by bluebells in Spring. Few houses or industry. Birdsong. Network of footpaths. Supports considerable wildlife including rare butterflies. Veteran oaks. Country House complex of Great Holt with its gardens and grounds. Great Holt 19th century country house mentioned by Pevsner and reflects arts and crafts style. 	However, Natural England is also aware that some respondents have requested the boundary go further to include land within East Hampshire. This has required additional assessment work to be undertaken in East Hampshire. The results of this assessment will determine the southern extent of the boundary extension in this area. Conclusion Minor addition to extend boundary southwards. The exact boundary line to be determined as part of the additional assessment work undertaken in East Hampshire. (Addition 23 – Refer to Figure 29b)

Boundary		
<u>Theme</u>	Representations	Natural England Commentary
	 Ancient oaks and remnants of parkland fencing are present around the boundary of Great Holt along with a framing grove of Scots pine. The main drive to the property is framed by mature horse-chestnuts. Frith End Quarry and Gum Hill equestrian centre do not intrude. Quarry at Grooms Farm (to be restored by 2024). 	
	Desirability: Links South Downs with Surrey Hills. Important to protect it as a natural entity.	
	Boundary: The proposed alternative boundary uses established hedges and the River Wey as a clear southern boundary to the proposed Dockenfield Hills extension. It allows the inclusion of the valuable area south of Old Lane whilst avoiding sections of the County Boundary which are not identifiable on the ground.	
	'sections of the county boundary that are undefined and the sections that follow the least reliable part of the riveralternative boundary that follows established or ancient, protected hedgerows crossing agricultural land, which by your definition provides a more permanent boundary feature to follow.'	
	Proposed boundary:	

Boundary	Boundary		
Theme	Representations	Natural England Commentary	
	'Starting at the Northeast:		
	The established river course (red dashes on map) as the County Boundary has not varied. At Grid ref 829-396 an alternative stream/field hedge boundary can be followed NNW then WSW [Orange]. This substitutes for the short length of undefined County Boundary at point 'A' between the river and the hedged County Boundary at point 'B'.		
	The field hedge/public ROW 58 then runs SW until it hits the County Boundary at point 'B' and then our proposal follows that boundary hedge (red) WSW until the small copse, where the County Boundary turns NNW. Instead of the County Boundary crossing an open field at point 'C', the proposal follows the northern edge of the copse, then turns SW along a strong hedge, crosses the lane and along a mature hedge with trees. Turns NW along field boundary with mature trees, crosses ROW 57, then follows the Great Holt [western] mature boundary hedge before rejoining the County Boundary hedgerow (red dashes) at point 'D'. Proposed boundary follows it [with boundary oaks] NW then NNE approximately to the Junction of High Thicket Lane and Old Lane – hedged all the way whilst substituting for the short length of undefined County Boundary at point 'E'.		

Boundary		
Theme	Representations	Natural England Commentary
	We suggest this is both a reasonable and practical fully defined boundary to include both the important attractive countryside assets and those within the Great Holt area whilst incorporating the 'hard' County Boundary line where appropriate.'	
Support for proposed Addition 23: Land south of Old Lane	86 respondents agreed with the designation of Addition 23, and some provided a reason for their view. Many respondents reiterated evidence previously provided to justify the designation of the area.	Commentary Natural England acknowledge the reasons given by respondents in support for this addition.
	Some respondents submitted evidence relevant to the wider extension into East Hampshire. These have been discussed in Appendix 23 of the 2025 Consultation Analysis.	Natural England also notes that some respondents have expressed concern regarding qualifying land south of Old Lane not being designated, should the proposed extension into East Hampshire fail. Appendix 20 pages 12 to 13 of the Statutory Consultation Analysis Report sets out Natural England's conclusion regarding land south of Old Lane. This makes it clear that Natural England agrees land south of Old Lane meets the statutory criterion for designation and that an alternative boundary could be drawn which does not adopt the county boundary where it does not follow a clear line on the ground.
	Specific concerns were raised by some respondents regarding the risk of land south of Old Lane not being included if proposed extension into East Hampshire did not proceed.	Furthermore, Natural England's commentary on the proposed East Hampshire extension can be found in Appendix 22. Natural England has concluded that the proposed boundary within East Hampshire is robust. It is unlikely therefore that land south of Old
	For example respondent ANON-PQ5Q-KR8U-H	Lane will remain outside any proposed Surrey Hills extension.
	'I fully agree with the NE re-evaluation of the area in their 2024 report. Land south of Old Road was excluded, SIMPLY because it lacked a suitable defined boundary line on the ground. Dockenfield Parish Council and others proposed an alternative defined line involving ROW and field hedges and NE has accepted including qualifying land south of Old Road, as appropriate. The NE	Conclusion No change.

Boundar	Boundary		
Theme	<u>Representations</u>	Natural England Commentary	
	conclusion in the Appendix 20 report was a 'minor extension' with a new defined southern boundary line accepted. As such this should have been classed as a minor extension coloured purple on the main maps and not part of the second consultation.		
	Only because Wast [East] Hants have put forward a suggested contiguous area further southwards is a really tiny EXTRA piece of land south of Old Lane in Surrey potentially included. If the EH proposal falls I am concerned that the 'minor extension' south of Old Lane might also fall. This should not happen.'		
	ANON-PQ5Q-KRRS-9 'I agree with many of the comments made in response to the first consultation in support of including this area – it is every bit as peaceful and scenically attractive as the land on the other side of Old Lane. The hills, meadows, river, streams, thick hedges and rough pastures covey [convey] a sense of timeless remoteness. This can be well appreciated from the footpath running from Manor Farm towards Mellow Farm, passing the oxbow lakes in the Wey Valley.		
	With reference to the proposed changes to the Dockenfield Hills area (A23 and adjacent area in East Hampshire, also A24), this is a countryside characterised by narrow lanes and limited infrastructure. Any building development that has taken place over the last 25 years or more has almost invariably taken the form of individual,		

Boundary		
<u>Theme</u>	Representations	Natural England Commentary
	usually detached, high value properties. There has not been pressure for larger scale housing developments.	
	Thus enhancing the protection for these areas will safeguard areas of wildlife importance and beautiful landscapes (enjoyed by local people as well as giving access to nature to visitors from surrounding towns, including the expanding town of Bordon) without impinging on the country's need for more housing.'	
Object to proposed Addition 23 and wish to see an alternative boundary	4 respondents disagreed but only two provided a reason and suggested an alternative boundary. Furthermore, 11 respondents wished to comment on the boundary, but 10 provided evidence to support the inclusion of land within East Hampshire and one provided further evidence which simply supported this addition. Comments on the boundary included: ANON-PQ5Q-KRTE-W 'I would like to object to the inclusion of the land to the south of Old Lane. Much of this area is my farm which has been farmed by 3 generations of my family for nearly 80 years. The proposed inclusion will put yet further restrictions/regulations/red tape on my farm which is a grass farm and used for suckler cows and a few sheep. There is already a huge amount of pressure on the viability of the farm and the extra restrictions that will undoubtedly come as part of	Commentary The evaluation of land for designation does not take into account land ownership. It is not unusual for land within a single ownership to be partially within and partially outside a national landscape designation. It is the natural beauty of the landscape which determines if it is proposed for designation or not. The designation of land within a National Landscape does not seek to penalise landowners and on the contrary seek to offer greater support, advice and resources to assist with positive management which furthers the purpose of designation. Appendix 2 page 32 specifically addresses the issues of FiPL. Natural England and the existing Surrey Hills AONB team are aware of the financial pressures on landowners and actively seek additional funding streams and mechanisms to support landowners in effective management. Furthermore, issues relating to further restrictions/regulations/red tape are addressed in Appendix 2 page 34.

Boundary		
Theme	Representations	Natural England Commentary
	the AONB will potentially push the farm to an impossible position to continue as it is. Much of the surrounding area has already converted to equestrian and any more pressure on farming will likely result in our farm having to follow suit into equestrian and away from the traditional farming we currently have.	Respondent ANON-PQ5Q-KRTE-W specifically seeks clarification on why land between the proposed extension and Fresham Common has not been included. The declining quality of this land, as noted by the respondent, was the reason for its exclusion. Natural England Guidance states in para 6.10, fourth bullet that natural beauty is assessed in terms of the current landscape, not some future potential for improvement. However, AONBs/National Landscapes regularly work with landowners in areas adjacent to the designation boundaries where such activity can further the purposes of designation.
	The new proposed boundary also divides some of my fields into AONB area and non AONB designated area which is undoubtedly going to cause further irritation and management issues. I am perplexed why my farm is being penalised for the way we have farmed it to have further regulations yet surrounding areas have not being [been] included even though the land is the same as my farm and some of the surrounding area is SSSI. I also am perplexed why the land between my farm and Frensham Common has not being [been] included. In the report provided by the consultants it has not being included as the land is of lesser quality and in "decline". Surely these are the areas that SHOULD be protected where equestrian use has destroyed the biodiversity that was there. Within the report it states that the purpose of designating land as an AONB is to protect and enhance the natural beauty of the landscape, how is the AONB going to enhance the beauty of my farm? and protect from what? In my opinion the planned designation is more than likely to have the opposite effect due to the extra	Proposed Boundary Natural England does not agree that Old Lane is the preferred boundary, in part because the East Hampshire evaluation has revealed that land south of Old Lane and extending into East Hampshire meets the Natural Beauty Criterion. The use of rivers, hedges and footpaths are all acceptable features on the ground which a boundary can follow. The written description of the boundary in association with digital mapping of the boundary in Mastermap, ensures that ambiguity is minimised. Natural England remains of the view that the proposed boundary reflects the qualities of the landscape and is robust. Conclusion No change.

Boundary	Boundary	
<u>Theme</u>	Representations	Natural England Commentary
	before with the ever increasing pressures on agriculture the AONB could well see the end of the last active farm in the Parish of Dockenfield.	
	It has also being regularly mentioned by those promoting the AONB that farms within the AONB can access FIPL money, whilst this would help it still realise [relies] on having to purchase expensive equipment before claiming any support payments back - this is reliant on the claimant being in a financial position to start with and with the ever tighter margins and increased costs the FILP [FIPL] opportunity will become a distant option for the farm to utilise.'	
	ANON-PQ5Q-KRR9-F	
	'I wish to register my thoughts on the proposed new boundary south of Old Lane. Using Old Lane as the southern boundary is a better option as it is a permanent feature whereas following the line of the river, hedges or footpaths could be more transitory over time and could lead to ambiguity in the future.'	
Include land further to the south within East Hampshire as far as Broxhead	ANON-VUXE-WEPT-T 'This area not only has the Frensham Great Pond on one boundary but the area as a land parcel contains beautiful open fields, hedgerows and a generally unspoilt feel over most of the open spaces.	Commentary This area includes land within East Hampshire which is the subject of a separate East Hampshire Assessment

Boundary	Boundary		
<u>Theme</u>	Representations	Natural England Commentary	
Common SSSI	The area also contains important parts of the River Slea, and the River Wey, with their important wetland banks and margin areas. This area highlights the varied areas of nature, from Heathland to small wetland, open farmed fields, small woodlands, and open views over heathland, between some of the older hedgerows with all wildlife and insect life that these areas naturally contain.'		
Include Shortfield	ANON-VUXE-W5CA-R and ANON-VUXE-WE6N-8	Commentary	
Common SNCI and land to the west of Shortfield	ANON-VUXE-WEU6-F, ANON-VUXE-WERD-T, ANON-VUXE-WEPT-T	Natural Beauty: The Natural Beauty Assessment Report highlighted that 'to the north there are greater urban fringe influences including increased traffic on busy lanes, which has caused the erosion of the narrow lane verges. Proliferation of equestrian use, including stables, is	
Common	Reasons given include: Natural Beauty:	also especially noticeable along Brookfield [Broomfield] Lane and West End Lane, where there is evidence for the introduction of post and rail fencing and subdivision of former field enclosures' (page 189).	
	 Pasture land grazed by cattle or fallow. Some equine use. Shortfield Common SNCI supports rare acid grassland and plant species. Include the whole of the Shortfield Common SNCI (the northern part of which contains some unusual plants). 	The Boundary Considerations Report stated that 'Shortfield Common is a SNCI on the margins of the proposed extension area. Consideration was given to including it, in its entirety, as a feature on the edge. However, the Common is fragmented by roads, and the northern section is more closely associated with the settlement edge. On balance a simple boundary was defined along West End Lane excluding a small part of the SNCI, but including the majority of the Common within the proposed extension.' (pages 57-58)	
	 Illogical to split the common in two by the boundary. Very attractive fields rising up to a ridge 	Natural England has reviewed this area and agrees that the remainder of the Common which forms part of the SNCI should be included within the proposed boundary, given its nature conservation interest.	
	on the north of Hamlash Lane.Similar to wider Dockenfield area proposed for designation.	Natural England also reviewed the land to the northwest of the settlement between Summerfield Lane/Broomfield Lane and Hamlash Lane. Natural England agrees that the	

Boundary	Boundary		
<u>Theme</u>	Representations	Natural England Commentary	
	 No housing development on this side of Hamlash Lane. Wooden fences which subdivide fields for horse grazing are not necessarily permanent features and do not have significant detrimental effect. Land is integral to the wider proposal. 	public right of way to the north of the hamlet affords memorable views to the southwest across undulating pasture fields and towards distant wooded horizons. Although there are equestrian land uses in the west (between Broomfield Lane and West End Lane, as noted in the Natural Beauty Assessment) these fields sit within rising slopes and land to the northwest which is considered to meet the Natural Beauty Criterion. The equestrian land uses are therefore considered to have a localised effect only.	
	 Included within the Candidate Area. This is a rural area that fits in with the keeping of the rest of the valley. The area also has ancient woodland and mature hedgerows with rural winding lanes that impart the same character as the rest of the Dockenfield Hills extension. Shortfield Common is also the community and cultural centre, both traditionally and 	Natural England also reviewed land to the north of Moons Hill and Fifield Lane, including the wooded slopes around Edgeborough School. These wooded slopes, whilst dramatic, sit within the residential fringes of The Bourne and are separated from wider qualifying land by development along rural lanes, Moor House School and flatter, less distinctive farmland at Kennel Farm. On balance Natural England is of the view that this land has become fragmented and is transitional and that qualifying land lies to the south. An alternative boundary has therefore been sought to bring in land up to the public right of way whilst excluding properties along Moons Hill and Summerfield Lane and the grounds of the More House School to the east.	
	in the present, of the northern valley from Reeds Hatch Farm, Woodhill Farm to Spreakley so should not be split off from	Settlement of Shortfield Common and Millbridge The proposed boundary amendment, noted above, results in the AONB boundary extension coming close to the hamlet of Shortfield Common.	
	the rest of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.	The Natural Beauty Assessment Report recorded that 'Shortfield Common is a common edge settlement which still retains its loose arrangement of properties around the open grassland. Both Spreakley and Shortheath Common have experienced some linear modern housing and gentrification along the rural lanes to the north but nonetheless	
	Desirability: The height of the ridge that Shortfield is on, particularly the western side between Summerfield Lane and West End Lane/Broomfield Lane means that any	contribute to the natural beauty of the area.' It concluded that 'Given the transitional nature of the landscape especially to the north of Shortfield Common, care will need to be taken when defining a boundary in this area and around these settlements.'	
	development in this area will impact the view and	The Assessment also noted that the settlements of Shortfield Common and Millbridge are split by the existing AONB boundary.	

Boundary	Boundary		
Theme	Representations	Natural England Commentary	
	feel of the whole valley from Reeds Hatch Farm, to Woodhill Farm and on to Spreakley. Including this area within the AONB would ensure more consistent forward planning and decision making, through the focus provided by the statutory duties and power which would apply. The dedicated purpose of the Surrey Hills AONB Management Plan and the assistance that the AONB team can provide in supporting land managers and others, will help to resolve issues affecting the area. Boundary: Two boundary options were put forward. The first proposed a boundary along Hamlash Lane to the crossroads by More House School and then along Moons Hill to meet the existing proposal at the junction of The Long Road and Summerfield Lane. The second favoured a more extensive boundary to include the woods of Frensham Vale, just north of Edgeborough School, (from 'The Long Road/Frensham Heights road junction to Gong Hill').	The Boundary Considerations Report noted 'The boundary excludes the settlements of Rowledge and Shortfield Common as they lie on the margins of the qualifying area, where the landscape shows signs of fragmentation as its transitions.' It also noted that 'the boundary of the existing AONB around the settlement of Millbridge was reviewed, as it currently splits the Conservation Area. However, given the fragmented character of the landscape to the north, and the decision to exclude Shortfield settlement, the existing boundary (which follows the local roads), was considered robust, and no change to the boundary is proposed.' In light of extending the boundary to the western edge of Shortfield Common, the exclusion of the hamlet, and that of Millbridge, was again reviewed and consideration was given to defining a boundary which included the settlements as defined in the Waverley Local Plan. A possible boundary line was defined which followed the settlement boundary, woodland and field boundaries between Hamlash Lane and the A287/existing AONB. Such a boundary would enable the settlements to be included in their entirety whilst continuing to exclude linear development along Hamlash Lane and More House School and grounds to the north. This was a finely balanced decision given that settlements on the edge of qualifying land are generally excluded, but also that settlements should not normally be cut in two by a designation boundary. The extension of the boundary to the north and west of Shortfield Common tipped the balance in favour of including this settlement and that of Millbridge. On balance, Natural England considers it is appropriate to extend the boundary to include the settlement of Shortfield Common and Millbridge. Conclusion Minor addition to include land north of Broomfield Lane, following the rear of properties and the public right of way to the east and including the settlements of Shortfield Common and Millbridge in their entirety. (Addition 24 – Refer to Figure 29b)	

Boundary	Boundary		
<u>Theme</u>	Representations	Natural England Commentary	
Support for proposed Addition 24: Land at	60 respondents agreed with the designation of Addition 24, and some provided a reason for their view as follows:	Commentary Natural England acknowledges the reasons given by respondents in support for this addition.	
Shortfield Common	ANON-PQ5Q-KR3Y-G (Waverley Borough Council) 'Waverley Borough Council broadly supports the specific areas within Waverley that are proposed to be in addition to those areas that were proposed for inclusion in the AONB in the first consultation that ran from March to June 2023.	1 respondent wished to comment on the boundary but did not provide a comment. Conclusion No change.	
	Waverley also agrees that the proposed boundaries for extending the AONB are logical and adhere to the principles for setting an AONB boundary. However, this view is based on a high-level assessment of the proposals and therefore it is appreciated that our local communities will have more detailed knowledge of their areas. As such, where our local communities have some concerns about the details of the boundaries on the ground or that in some cases, feel that additional land should be proposed for inclusion in the AONB, we would urge Natural England to carefully consider their representations.'		
	ANON-PQ5Q-KR8C-Y 'Agree with NE assessment it should be included.'		
	ANON-PQ5Q-KR8U-H		

Boundar	Boundary		
Theme	Representations	Natural England Commentary	
	'I agree with NE that on balance the area of Shortfield Common should be added to the potential AONB designation.'		
	ANON-PQ5Q-KRAX-W 'This area is a continuation of the protected landscape and allows many opportunities for walking, and discovering plant life.'		
	ANON-PQ5Q-KRHN-T 'I agree with the revaluation of this area by Natural England. It links up with the existing AONB in Frensham, and has the same characteristics as the adjoining AONB'		
	ANON-PQ5Q-KRJ2-Z 'We are extremely glad that shortfield common has been included in figure 29 b boundary map. The height of ridge to the west of shortfield common that has now been included helps protect the views of Woodhill valley and the rest of the dockenfield hills that was included in the initial extension proposal. Any degradation of this shortfield common area would have an [a] significant impact due to its height overlooking woodhill valley.		
	Likewise shortfield common is the culture heart of the land included in the original extension that already included the south part but not the north so the village pub on one side of the road would		

Boundar	Boundary		
Theme	Representations	Natural England Commentary	
	not have been in the Surrey Hills [AONB] but the village shop opposite would have been included. Any adverse development on the north of the road would have had a material impact on the areas that would have been included in the Surrey Hills [AONB].		
	Therefore we are extremely pleased this inclusion of shortfield common is put in place and encourage the Dockenfield hills extension and the other Surrey hills boundary extensions to be put in place.'		
	ANON-PQ5Q-KRJZ-8		
	'It is extremely important shortfield common has been included in figure 29 b boundary map so we welcome the inclusion into the wider Dockenfield extension.		
	shortfield common is an important and historic part of the social and culture part of the Dockenfield hills and so the original proposal made no sense splitting shortfield common in two with the northern part potentially could be changed and developed in the future in a different way to the southern part of shortfield common as was proposed to be included in the AONB. Development on the north of the road would have had a material impact on the areas that would have been included in the Surrey Hills.		
	The other important part of including shorfield common is it leads to the ridge that dominates the northern part of the Dockenfield hill extension area. If this had not been included and developed		

Boundary	Boundary		
<u>Theme</u>	<u>Representations</u>	Natural England Commentary	
	this would have visually impacted, not only on the developed area itself but due to it's height across the whole northern part of the Dockenfield hill extension. The inclusion of this now protects the northern dockenfield hill extension and is warmly welcomed.		
	Therefore we are extremely pleased this inclusion of shortfield common is put in place and encourage the Dockenfield hills extension and the other Surrey hills boundary extensions to be put in place.'		
	ANON-PQ5Q-KRRP-6 '1. Natural Beauty		
	2. The proposed boundary make logical sense in terms of natural features'		
	ANON-PQ5Q-KRRS-9 'I am delighted that this area is now proposed for inclusion in the AONB as I was one of the respondents to the first consultation who advocated this. My thinking on the subject has not changed from my original submission.		
	I am also pleased to note that the revised proposal now includes the whole of the Millbridge and Shortfield Common settlements – it does not make sense to split them as they are a coherent and close-knit community. There has been some infilling in recent times, but when one looks at the age profile of local housing, it is clear that this has		

Boundary		
<u>Theme</u>	Representations	Natural England Commentary
	been an organic process which has taken place over well in excess of 100 years without changing the character of a quiet rural settlement with no street lighting.'	
Object to proposed Addition 24 and wish to comment on	3 respondents disagreed with the designation of Addition 24, but only 1 provided a reason for their view and suggested an alternative boundary (see below).	Commentary Natural England has reviewed the planning permissions (WA/2022/02941, WA/2024/00671 and WA/2024/01394) for the area. The current housing site comprises
the boundary	ANON-PQ5Q-KRJY-7 'Fig 11.14 of the 2023 Consultation shows Proposed Candidate Area E14 which included Shortfield Common and the area north up to Fifield Lane including the site known as Helen	steeply sloping land which defines the upper valley slopes to the River Wey with plannin permission for three dwellings and detached garages on the lower parts of the site. Planning applications WA/2024/02018, WA/2024/02019 and WA/2024/02020 have also been reviewed and it is noted that these comprise certificates of lawful use or development.
	Arkell Centre. Following the 2023 Natural Beauty Assessment the northern boundary of Proposed Candidate Area E14 was revised to omit Shortfield Common and the area to the north as shown on the 2023 Consultation Proposed Extension Map fig 29.	Addition 24 seeks to include qualifying land associated with the settlement of Shortfield and also the remaining part of Millbridge which is partially included within the existing AONB designation. The three dwellings which are currently under construction sit behind Hollowdene Lodge and within a wider plot which is open and defined by mature vegetation between the settlements of Shortfield and Millbridge.
	The 2023 Natural Beauty Assessment page 194 concludes "Given the transitional nature of the landscape especially to the north of Shortfield Common, care will need to be taken when defining a boundary in this area and around these settlements. To the north and immediately adjacent to the fringes of Farnham, (including the neighbourhoods of Rowledge and Boundstone) settlement has been excluded as a result of urban scale and character and location on the	Natural England Guidance (Appendix 4) states that major development with planning permission on the edges of a proposed designation should normally be excluded. However, this development does not constitute major development and is in keeping with adjacent areas which are being brought into the designation i.e. form part of qualifying rural settlement. On this basis, Natural England considers that the proposed boundary is correctly defined in this area and that it would be inconsistent for the boundary to exclude this site whilst bringing into the designation adjoining areas of existing settlement.
	urban scale and character and location on the	Conclusion

Boundar	Boundary		
<u>Theme</u>	Representations	Natural England Commentary	
	edge of qualifying land. It is noted that the southern boundary of these settlements is transitional, comprising small clusters of development and independent schools set within grounds e.g. Frensham Heights and Edgeborough. The settlement boundary is defined within the Farnham Neighbourhood Plan (FNP 10 Map E) and care will be needed when defining a boundary in this area to avoid splitting the settlement."	No change.	
	The 2023 Consultation Report (page 44) also confirms Shortfield Common and the area to the north was considered and then excluded from the 2023 Consultation noting that the landscape here shows signs of fragmentation and is transitional.		
	The report states:		
	"This area was excluded, along with the settlement of Shortfield Common, and the boundary was again defined using local lanes."		
	"The boundary excludes the settlement of Rowledge and Shortfield Common on the margins of the qualifying area, where the landscape shows signs of fragmentation and is transitional."		
	We understand that it is not possible to added [add] AONB status to areas that have received planning permission for development.		
	The 2024 Consultation 2 fig 13a for the proposed extensions to the AONB "Wey Valley, Farnham" has now deleted two sites (D1 and D2) following		

Boundary		
Theme	Representations	Natural England Commentary
	granting of planning permission for housing development since the 2023 Consultation.	
	Since the 2023 consultation, planning permission has been granted for new dwellings and additional buildings on the site known as Helen Arkell Centre which lies on the very edge of proposed extension A24 to the Dockenfield Hills area. The site lies to the west of the A287 between the A287 and Shortfield Common village.	
	WA/2022/02941 granted 15th June 2023 (new dwellings)	
	WA/2024/00671 granted 19th June 2024 (additional garage building)	
	WA/2024/01394 granted 13th September 2024 (additional garage buildings)	
	These works are currently on going and yet to be fully completed.	
	The additional building works further add to the fragmentation and transitional nature of the immediate area to the north of Shortfield Common.	
	In addition, there are current planning applications for further building work on the site that are being considered at present:	
	WA/2024/02018 submitted 17th October 2024	
	WA/2024/02019 submitted 17th October 2024	
	WA/2024/02020 submitted 17th October 2024	

Boundary		
Theme	Representations	Natural England Commentary
	We would respectfully therefore ask that the same treatment is given to the Helen Arkell site to the far east of the proposed extension area A24, on the very edge of the proposed extension and that this site, having received planning permission for housing development, should therefore also be deleted from the proposed boundary extension if proposed extension area A24 of Fig 29b is to be included in the AONB.	
	Excluding this part of A24 will not lead to fragmentation of the AONB as the site lies on the very edge of the proposed extension.	
	We have included an extract from A24 with the Helen Arkell site highlighted in red together with a copy of planning permission WA/2022/02941.'	
Inclusion of small strip of land between South Downs National Park and Boundary Road	ANON-VUXE-WM52-K 'The cross-hatched boundary in the north-west corner of the proposed area for inclusion for AONB status appears to stop at Boundary Road and does not extend to the west of Boundary Road up to the edge of Alice Holt Forest. There was a recent planning application for a Gypsy/Traveler site to the west of Boundary Road and north of its junction with West End Lane which was rejected and it's pleasing to note that that is included in the cross-hatched area for inclusion for AONB status. But my concern is that there remains land north of that up to the first house on the approach to Rowledge, which does not appear to have been included in the proposed cross-hatched designation. To prevent possible development between Boundary Road and Alice	Commentary NE notes that this respondent has referred to the Candidate Area map and not the proposed boundary map in submitting their response. The proposed boundary extension includes a significant part of the area they wish to see included. Conclusion No change.

Boundary		
<u>Theme</u>	Representations	Natural England Commentary
	Holt Forest, it would seem to make sense to	
	include that land within the AONB boundary.'	