Winter 2023

Seek NE Board approval of a draft Order with regard to amending the boundary of an existing AONB and proceeding to a formal period of Notice.

Early 2024

Plan and proceed with the formal period of notice. This provides a formal opportunity for statutory and public comment.

Mid 2024

Analyse representations received during the formal Notice period, potentially amend technical assessments and proposal, followed by seeking approval from Natural England's Board for the making and submitting of an Order to the Secretary of State (Defra) to vary the boundary of the Surrey Hills AONB.

By Winter 2023

Review responses to the statutory consultation.

If the proposal is changed to include additional land as a result of representations made at the formal statutory and public consultation, a further period of statutory consultation is required on the changes.

If changes made to include additional land:

If no changes made:

Early 2024

Prepare for and conduct a further statutory and public consultation on proposed additional changes to the proposed boundary variation.

Spring 2024

Analyse responses to the second round of consultation, potentially amend technical assessments and proposals, followed by seeking approval from Natural England's Board for the making and submitting of an Order to the Secretary of State (Defra) to vary the boundary of the Surrey Hills AONB.

Mid 2024

Plan and proceed with the formal period of notice. This provides a formal opportunity for statutory and public comment.

Late 2024

Analyse representations received during the formal Notice period, potentially amend technical assessments and proposal, followed by seeking approval from Natural England's Board for the making and submitting of an Order to the Secretary of State (Defra) to vary the boundary of the Surrey Hills AONB.

It is not possible to say how long the Secretary of State's decision will take following submission or whether a Public Inquiry will be called.