

Update on national policy and guidance



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NPPF

Para. 11 and fn 6 disapplies requirement for (a) strategic policies to provide for objectively assessed need where the application of other NPPF policies protecting areas of particular importance (inc. NPs/AONB – see fn 6) provides strong reasons for restricting scale, type & distribution of development; and (b) disapplication of tilted balance where protection of such areas provides a clear reason for refusal 172.

Para. 172:-

- attaches great weight to conserving/enhancing landscape/scenic beauty of NPs/AONBs. Enhancement of wildlife/cultural heritage also given great weight in NPs and an important consideration in AONBs
- Limits scale/extent of development and presumes “major” development should be refused other than in exceptional circumstances and where development is in the public interest
- Major development should assess need, alternatives and impacts of permitting (or refusing) on local economy

NP Circular

- English National Parks and the Broads: UK Government Vision and Circular 2010
- Extant and referred to in NPPG
- Applies only to NPs
- Vision to 2030 but has not been reviewed as it was intended to be within 5 years of publication

Glover Review

- Landscapes Review (Final Report) (Sept. 2019)
- 27 proposals for reform of NPs, Broads and AONBs with emphasis on restoration of nature, broadening access and new designated landscapes incl. some existing AONBs becoming NPs.
- Proposal 6 - A strengthened place for national landscapes in the planning system with AONBs given statutory consultee status, encouragement to develop local plans and changes to the National Planning Policy Framework

Planning for the Future & Environment Bill

- August 2020 White Paper
- AONB and (presumably NPs) to be Protected Areas but no mention of protection zones around NPs/AONBs to protect such areas from development outside their boundaries.
- Environment Bill - includes requirement for preparation of local nature recovery strategies.

Thank you for listening

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