

# High Speed Rail in the Chilterns

The Chilterns Long Tunnel:

Evidence of Ms Kath Daly  
Acting Chief Officer  
Chilterns Conservation Board



# Chilterns Conservation Board

Established by Parliament in 2004 to reinforce national aspirations for the Chilterns AONB.

8 members appointed directly by the Secretary of State appoints to represent the national interest.



# What is our request of the Select Committee?

That a continuous tunnel be provided under the Chilterns AONB



Why should the AONB be protected?



# The AONB matters to people



*Restoring the R. Misbourne – volunteers, Little Missenden, 2014*  
A1190 (5)

# How many people live in and around the AONB?

- 37,000 households in the AONB
- 500,000 people live within 2km of the AONB
- Over 1m people live within 5km of the AONB

*Source: 2001 census*





The AONB provides green space for millions of people

**The AONB receives 55 million visits a year  
*‘for the purpose of enjoying quiet recreation’***

**Tourism South East 2007**



***View across  
Misbourne  
Valley from  
Ridgeway  
National Trail***





# Nationally Protected Landscapes

*'By preserving and developing the beautiful parts of our countryside we are seeking to promote happiness for ordinary men and women.....*

*This is not just a Bill. It is a people's charter – a people's charter for the open air, for the hikers and the ramblers, for everyone who loves to get out into the open air and enjoy the countryside.'*

(Lewis Silkin, introducing the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, March 1949.)

# Does the Proposed Scheme conserve and enhance the AONB?

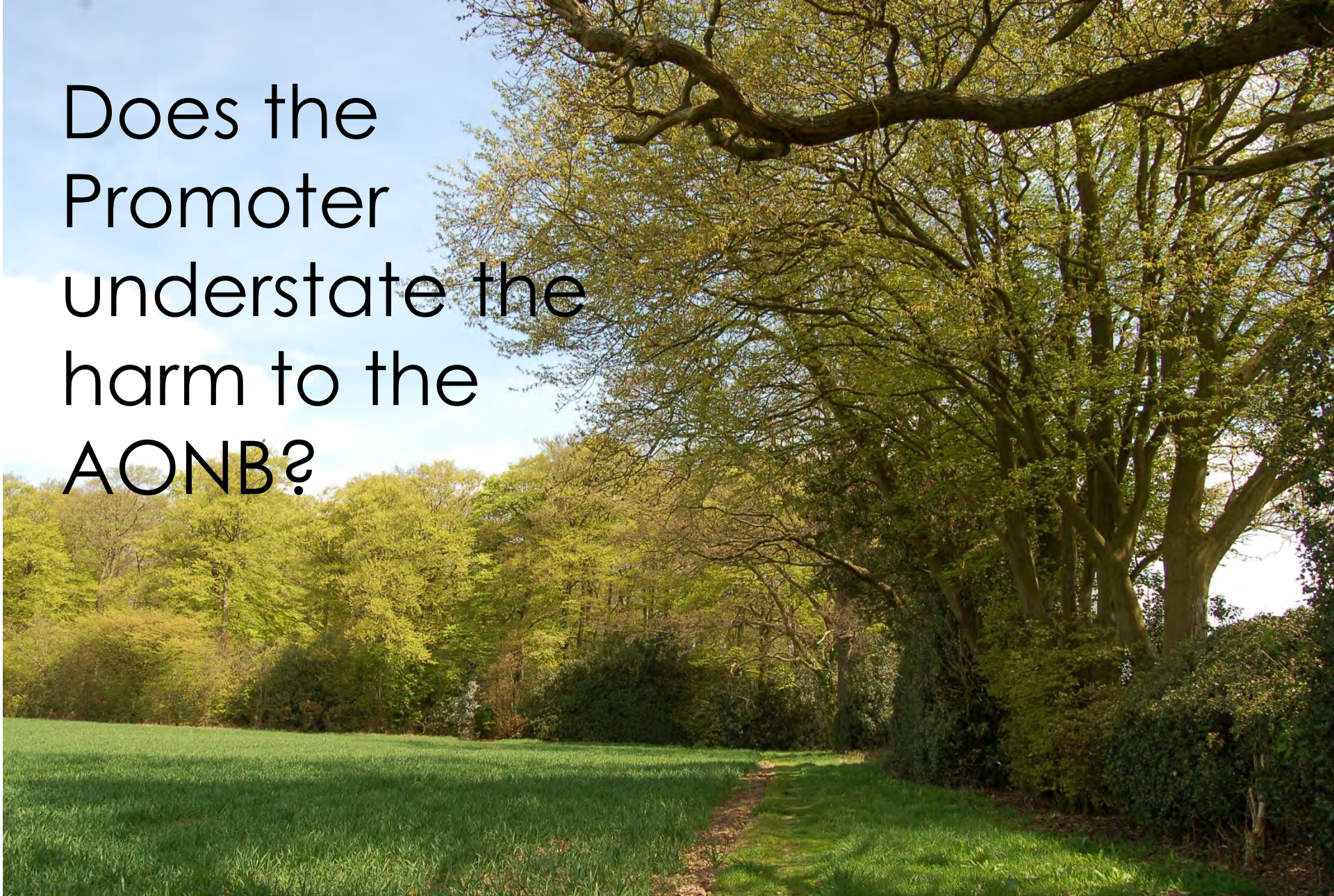


*Bowood Lane, within construction footprint*

# Duty of regard (s 85 CRow Act 2000)

- Section 85 of the CRow Act includes the following general duty on public bodies:
- **s85** - *(1) In exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect, land in an area of outstanding natural beauty, a relevant authority ( incl. a Minister of the Crown) shall have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area of outstanding natural beauty.*

Does the  
Promoter  
understate the  
harm to the  
AONB?



A1190 (12)'s Coppice – partly destroyed by the scheme

HOC/10043/0013

Yes -the Chilterns Conservation Board believes so, as does Natural England.

*‘Natural England considers that the significance of the effects on the AONB is understated.’*

(Natural England’s response to the Environmental Statement).



# Natural England's view:

*'Natural England considers that the Proposed Scheme, as currently proposed, would have a long term major adverse effect on natural beauty and the landscape and scenic beauty of the nationally important Chilterns AONB'*

(Natural England's response to the Environmental Statement)



# The Promoter's view:

After mitigation and a 60 year time frame, the Promoter argues that visual effects will be '*no longer significant*' (PRD, para 4, p29)



# Natural England's view:

*'There may be a change in people's perceptions two generations ahead, but the effects upon natural beauty for which the AONB was designated will remain. Natural England therefore advises that further mitigation is required, and to a level appropriate to this nationally important landscape.'*

(Natural England's response to the Environmental Statement)



*‘Areas of the AONB with a high level of tranquillity will not be noticeably affected by the construction..... The sole exception is the localized impact in the vicinity of the hidden fold in the landscape at Wendover Dean.*

*PRD para 29 p 22*



The  
Promoter's  
View

‘The only sections on embankment or on viaduct lie between the Wendover Dean viaduct and the Wendover green tunnel – that is, along the most developed section of this part of the AONB.’

*(Para 3 p18 PRD)*

## The Promoter's View

# Is further mitigation required?

## YES

*'Given our assessment of a major adverse effect upon the natural beauty of the AONB, Natural England recommends that further mitigation is required and that this should be to a level appropriate to this nationally important landscape.'*

Natural England's response to the Environmental  
Statement

# Is further mitigation required?

## YES

The CCB considers it to be at least contrary to the spirit of the 1949 Act and s85 Duty in the CROW (2000) Act to permit a surface railway that harms the landscape where a feasible and realistic alternative exists.



# What is our request of the Select Committee?

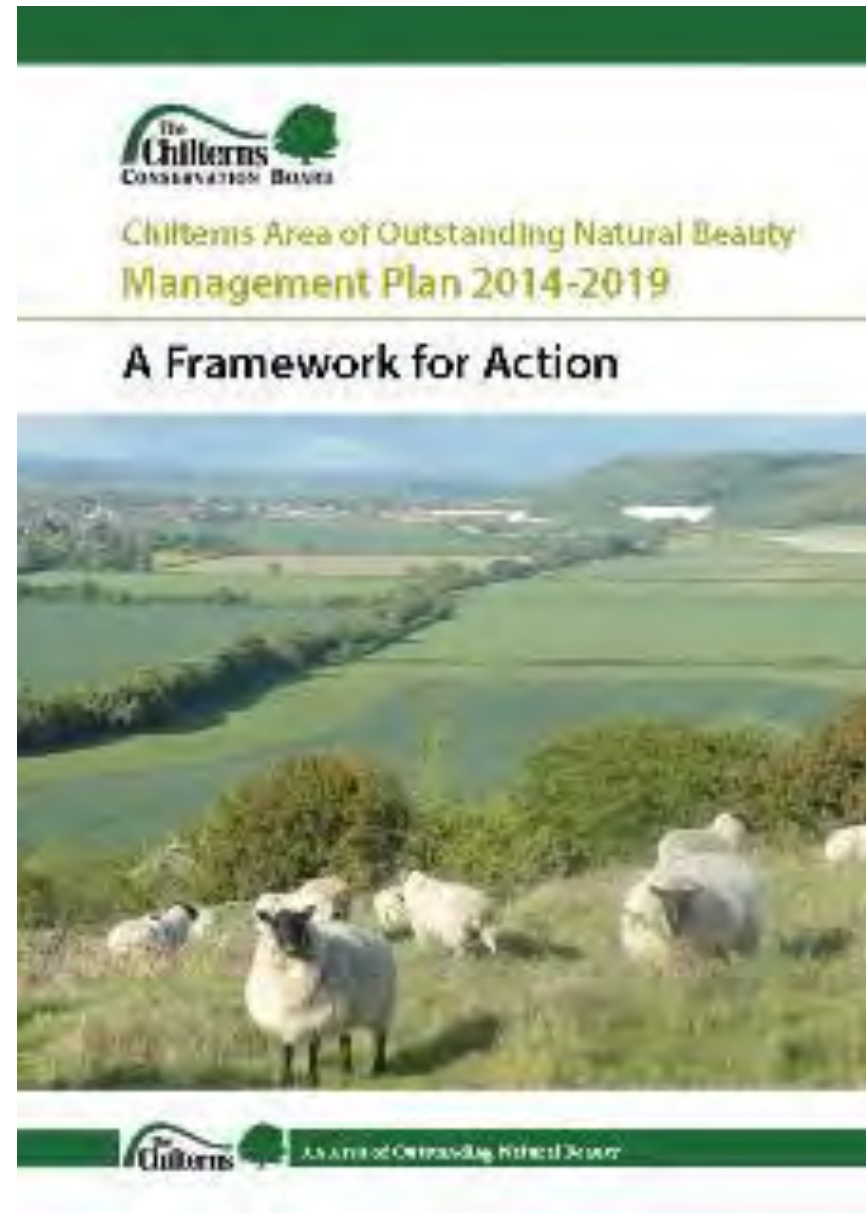
That a continuous tunnel be provided under the AONB.

This is the only effective way to conserve and enhance the AONB.



*‘Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are some of our finest landscapes. They are cherished by residents and visitors alike and allow millions of people from all walks of life to understand and connect with nature.’*

Lord de Mauley,  
foreword to Chilterns AONB  
Management Plan 2014 -  
2019



# The long view



Mishourne Valley from the vicinity of Hunt's Green

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