

Geoff Pratt Report – 7 February 2022

National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty

On the 15th January the Government published its response to the Julian Glover Review on national landscapes. The work that the Government, through Natural England, will take forward is going to contribute to a commitment to protect 30% of the land by 2030 and boost biodiversity as well as designating more areas of the country for their natural beauty. An opportunity to create a new chapter for our National Parks and AONB's to become known as Protected Landscapes.

Since protected landscapes were first established in 1949 our society and the challenges it faces has changed due to climate change, biodiversity loss and increasing public health issues such as mental health and obesity. Natural England has set out an ambitious new landscape designation programme which includes considering the creation of two new ANOBs in the Yorkshire Wolds and Cheshire Sandstone Ridge and extensions to the Surrey Hills and Chilterns ANOBs

I will continue to press the East Devon AONB Partnership officers to persuade Natural England to extend the East Devon AONB (which includes parts of Tipton St John) to include that part of the River Otter Valley extending from Tipton St John to include Ottery St Mary and the villages and hamlets of West Hill, Alfington, Metcombe, Fluxton, Wiggaton and Cadhay together with the glorious countryside and river setting all of which should have been included in the original East Devon AONB when it was established in 1963 "

At present under the Neighbourhood Plan Policy NP4 offers some protection to the land to the south and west of Ottery St. Mary where proposals for development of land outside the built up area boundary, as identified on the Proposals Map Settlement Containment in Appendix 1 will not be supported.