



Friends
of
Quantock

*The independent amenity
society for the Quantock
Hills in Somerset.
Protecting the hills since 1949.*

*President: Lady Gass
Charity No 1154378*

Manifesto for the Quantocks

We hope that you will endorse the following four action points and that after the Election you will help by calling upon the Government to issue further guidance to reinforce the principles upon which the AONBs were created and by which they must be managed:

1. To acknowledge the importance of the Quantock Hills AONB with its wonderful scenery, open heather moorland and important wildlife habitats as a:
 - vital resource for the health, wellbeing and recreation for the people of Taunton and Bridgwater and the surrounding area,
 - major attraction for visitors from further afield and a direct contribution to the regional economy.
2. To ensure that public funding of the AONB:
 - is adequate not only to prepare but also to implement the Management Plan, which is the statutory duty laid upon local authorities,
 - is prepared in a more coordinated manner to maintain a proper balance between the various contributors; and to ensure that it is not prejudiced by the unilateral action of one funding authority which can seriously prejudice the overall budget,
 - is done in a way that enables the AONB to benefit from sources of outside funding.
3. To make sure that the protection afforded to AONBs is properly understood and enforced in all planning and infrastructure decisions and that all public bodies use their duty to consider how decisions will affect the AONB, to ensure the proper protection of the area in all they do.
4. To make sure that all involved with the AONB whether government ministers, councillors or officers appreciate the special nature of the AONB and how sensitive this landscape is to change, whether it be physical, administrative or financial.

Alan Hughes
Chairman