

**SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK INQUIRY 2007 – TOPIC 5
AONB STATUS OF EXCLUDED LAND**

1. **Basis for Submission.** The Harting Society's charter of 1960 states: The Society's aim is to increase public awareness of the natural and architectural beauty of the Harting Parish so as to safeguard the character of the area.
2. **Assumption.** It is assumed that the proposal to remove the protection currently offered by the AONB status from areas to be excluded from the SDNP will, if approved, impact on the AONB status of those parts of the Parish of Harting which may be excluded from the SDNP.
3. **Statement.** The Harting Society strongly objects to the proposal to remove the designation of AONB from parts of the Parish of Harting.
4. **Rationale.**
 - a. There is no explanation of the thinking behind the proposal to remove AONB status from any AONB land excluded from the SDNP. Are these areas suddenly and inexplicably no longer beautiful? This cannot be the case.
 - b. Application of this proposal to the SDNP would imply that the same principle would invariably also apply to all other AONBs not included in all the other national parks. This is clearly not the case.
5. **Conclusion and Recommendation.** There is no logic, precedent or justification for automatically removing AONB status from areas to be excluded from the SDNP.

Signed: John Sladden, Committee Member for the Environment, Harting Society

Signed: John Stevens, Chairman, Harting Society