

Welcome to Surrey Hills

Look at the map and find where you live. Are you in or near the AONB?

Look out for our Sculptures across the Surrey Hills

AONB - Did you know?



This is the SURREY HILLS Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty – or AONB for short. Look at the map to see just how big an area this is – from Farnham in the west, through Guildford, Dorking and Reigate to Oxted in the east.

The Surrey Hills AONB is over 60 years old! – it was set up in 1958. Because of the beauty of the hills and all the trees and wildlife, it is now protected.

Lots of work is done to keep all the wildlife and trees and plants happily living here too. It was the first AONB to be set up in southern England and is now one of 46 AONBs in the UK.

AONBs are very similar to national parks. Find out about other AONB's in other parts of the country at www.landscapesforlife.org.uk/about-aonbs/visit-aonbs. Perhaps you could visit if you go on holiday in another part of the UK?

1 Did you know Reigate Heath Windmill was converted into a chapel in 1862 and is the only windmill in the world used as a place of worship.

4 Did you know that Godalming was the first town in the world to have electric public street lighting in 1881?

6 Did you know Major Peter Labelliere (1726-1800), a rather eccentric man from Dorking is buried upside down on the top of Box Hill! He thought the world was topsy-turvy and wanted to be the right way up!

3 Did you know Leith Hill Tower is the highest point in South-East England?

5 Did you know Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, author of the Sherlock Holmes novels, lived at a house called Undershaw in Hindhead and wrote his novel 'The Hound of the Baskervilles' while living there?

2 Did you know there was once a Gunpowder factory in the village of Chilworth?



What is an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty?

As described officially for those of you who like to know the proper words! An Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is an area of countryside that is deemed to be of such high landscape value and national importance that it warrants special protection.

