

# CHELTENHAM borough council

DEPT. OF ARCHITECTURE & PLANNING Borough Architect & Planning Officer: D. Ross, RIBA, FRTP1.  
P.O. Box No 12, Municipal Offices, Promenade, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL50 1PP. Telephone 0242 521333

The Regional Office,  
Countryside Commission,  
S.W. Regional Office,  
Bridge House,  
Sion Place,  
Clifton Down,  
Bristol.  
BS8 4AS

your ref.  
our ref. GL/LW/AP13.3/1  
ask for Miss Lalley  
extension 232

11th February 1988

Dear Sir,

## Cotswold AONB Review

In your copy letter enclosed with your own letter dated 6th October you stated that all outstanding objections would be forwarded to the Secretary of State for his consideration before his confirmation, alteration or rejection of the Variation Order. This letter is to place on record Cheltenham Borough Councils continued objection to the non inclusion of two areas of local landscape protection into the AONB and the removal of part of the Battledown Hill area from the AONB. This matter has been put before our District Development Committee on numerous occasions and they have consistently pressed for these areas to be included. In previous letters I have included copies of Committee reports on this matter which have explained more fully the Borough Councils position.

To summarize the main points in the Borough Councils case:-

1. When the Cheltenham Borough Local Plan was drawn up the whole AONB boundary within the Borough was examined to see if it was still relevant and appropriate. Since that plan was approved in 1986 the landscape has not altered and the criteria used by the Borough Council were not dissimilar from those used by the Countryside Commission. In fact since the plans approval the Areas of Local Landscape Protection have been treated by the Borough Council as if they were within the AONB according to the policies set out in that plan and those adopted by the Cotswolds AONB Joint Advisory Committee.
2. Battledown Hill Policy Area is a unique area of Cheltenham which has many characteristics similar to those of the Cotswolds. It is an important landscaped area which is currently bisected by AONB Boundary. It is an area of rising land visible from many parts of the town, it is a small outlying hill partly joined to the main escarpment. It is unusual in that over the last century many large residential properties have been built however their impact on the landscape is limited. The Cotswolds AONB has a considerable number of settlements which blend well and are an integral part of the countryside, Battledown is such an area. Part of the reviews purpose is to put forward rational and identifiable boundaries,

Continued.....

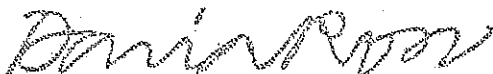
at present part of Battledown Hill is within the AONB and part without. The Borough Council have therefore proposed that all of the Battledown Hill Policy Area be incorporated into the AONB for consistency.

The Local Plan considers that the upper slopes of Battledown Hill are essentially part of the Cotswold escarpment and therefore should be afforded similar protection from development to that afforded the remaining parts of the escarpment by the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

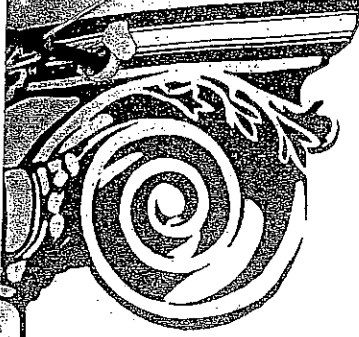
The contour map shows the physical relationship of Battledown Hill to the escarpment, the boundary of the AONB follows approximately the 100m (300 ft.) contour with minor exceptions. At its highest point Battledown Hill is approximately 147 m above sea level. From the south, views from Charlton Kings and Leckhampton Hill reveal that Battledown Hill is a substantial ridge or spur somewhat lower than the main scarp and extending westwards from it. In an appeal against refusal of planning permission in January 1983 concerning a site in the Battledown Hill Policy Area but outside the AONB the DoE Inspector in dismissing the appeal stated that "Battledown Hill is a prominent feature in the fine panorama of the Cotswold escarpment likely to be seen from many vantage points ..... (and) that protective policies would be justified .....".

In conclusion Cheltenham Borough Council submits that those areas to the east of Priors Farm Recreation Ground and to the south of Balcarres Road should be included into the AONB. In addition that all of Battledown Hill Policy Area be included rather than excluded. Cheltenham Borough Council wishes to make representations in the strongest terms for the inclusion of these areas into the Cotswold AONB.

Yours faithfully



Borough Architect and Planning Officer



# CHEL TENHAM borough council

FOLIO 2

COUNTRYSIDE  
COMMISSION  
3 MAR 1986  
C. L. & S. E.

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Ms. S. Marston,  
S.E. Regional Office,  
Countryside Commission,  
30/32 Southampton Street,  
London WC2E 7RA

your ref. CL/MH/AP 13.3/1  
our ref. Miss Lalley  
ask for 232  
extension

25th February, 1986

Dear Madam,

Cotswold AONB Boundary Review

Thank you for your letter dated 12th February.

This Council does have a number of minor modifications to submit for consideration by the Commissioners. Enclosed is a map illustrating in red those areas for inclusion and in blue one small exclusion. Although the alterations may appear to be minor in relation to other submitted changes they are nevertheless important adjacent as they are to the urban edge. Cheltenham does not want to see any further intrusive development on the escarpment face and having closely examined these areas believe they are worthy of inclusion in the A.O.N.B.

Yours faithfully,

Borough Architect and Planning Officer

Johns  
Some History Re  
Boundary Areas  
Cheltenham

9/5

\* see documents packet

Please address all replies to the Borough Architect and Planning Officer.

COTSWOLDS AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY BOUNDARY REVIEW

REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED ON STATUTORY ADVERTISEMENT

County and District Council

1. Cheltenham Borough Council - (D12 and seeks additional areas)
2. Hereford and Worcester County Council - (D2)
3. North Wiltshire District Council - (D20 and seeks additional area)
4. Wychavon District Council - (D1)
5. Stratford upon Avon District Council - (A36)

NB 1. Numbers refer to those in Annex D of the Report describing the proposals and the consultations

2. The numbers in brackets refer to the Commission's proposals.