



Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Advisory Committee

Thursday, 22nd October, 2020 at 2.00 pm in Zoom Virtual Meeting - Zoom

Agenda

- 1. Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair**
- 2. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies for Absence**
- 3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests**
Members are asked to consider any Pecuniary Interests they may have to disclose to the meeting in relation to matters under consideration on the Agenda.
- 4. Constitution, Membership and Terms of Reference** (Pages 1 - 4)

The Joint Advisory Committee is asked to approve the attached constitution, membership and terms of reference for 2020/2021.
- 5. Minutes of the Meeting held on 31 October 2019** (Pages 5 - 12)
The Committee is asked to approve the minutes of the meetings held on 31 October 2019.
- 6. Partner Updates** (Verbal Report)
- 7. Revised Estimates 2019/20 and Revenue Budget 2020/21** (Pages 13 - 18)
- 8. Landscapes Review Report - Update** (Pages 19 - 20)
- 9. AONB Tree, Woodland and Forestry Strategy** (Verbal Report)
- 10. AONB Unit Activity Report (April - Oct 2020)** (Pages 21 - 28)
- 11. Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership - Update** (Pages 29 - 70)

12. Plotting the road to recovery - Post COVID-19 priorities for the AONB

(Verbal Report)

13. Urgent Business

An item of Urgent Business may only be considered under this heading where, by reason of special circumstances to be recorded in the minutes, the Chairman of the meeting is of the opinion that the item should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency. Wherever possible, the Chief Executive should be given advance warning of any Members' intention to raise a matter under this heading.

14. Date of Next Meeting

The proposed dates and provisional locations of the Committee meetings (COVID-19 permitting) to be held in 2021 are:

- Thursday, 22 April 2021 in Craven, venue tbc
- Thursday, 21 October 2021 in Ribble Valley, venue tbc

Samantha Gorton
Democratic Services

Lancashire County Council
County Hall
Preston

Constitution, Membership and Terms of Reference of the Advisory Committee 2020/21

Issue for Consideration

The Constitution, Membership and Terms of Reference of the Advisory Committee for 2020/21.

Information

It is reported for the information of the Committee that the Constituent Authorities of the Advisory Committee have informed the Secretary of their representatives appointed to serve for the year 2020/21.

The Constitution and Membership of the Advisory Committee is, therefore, as follows:-

Lancashire County Council

County Councillor A Atkinson
County Councillor S Charles
County Councillor S Turner

North Yorkshire County Council

County Councillor R Welch

Craven District Council

Councillor S Handley

Lancaster City Council

Councillor J Parkinson

Wyre Borough Council

Councillor J Ibison

Ribble Valley Borough Council

Councillor Mrs R Elms

Preston City Council

Councillor J Browne

Pendle Borough Council

Councillor B Newman

Lancashire Association of Local Councils

Ms C Kynch

Yorkshire Local Councils Association

Mr C Price

United Utilities

Mr M Upton

Environment Agency

Ms L Cheslett-Davey

Natural England

Ms S Critchley

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)

Mr Robin Horner

Bowland Land Managers' Forum

Mr A Taylor

Ramblers Association

Mr D Kelly

Champion Bowland

Mr M Pugh

Friends of Bowland

Ms M Pilkington

Moorland Association

Vacant

The Committee and its constituent bodies are responsible for the implementation of the AONB Management Plan.

The role of the Committee and its Terms of Reference, is as follows:-

The Joint Advisory Committee supports and encourages an active partnership between all of the agencies involved and co-ordinates management over the whole of the AONB. The aim is to:

- promote the AONB at national, county and local level,
- ensure that the landscape of the AONB is conserved and enhanced appropriately through the implementation of the AONB Management Plan,
- work to assist the social and economic well-being of the AONB commensurate with the conservation of its special qualities,
- provide a forum for the exchange of information and ideas,
- consider any issues likely to affect the area adversely and agree appropriate action,
- make recommendations for new initiatives

A range of organisations with interests in the AONB is eligible for membership. Members include local authorities and the key organisations and interests, including representatives of local people, whose involvement will assist in implementing the Management Plan.

Membership is kept under review and is at the discretion of the local authorities. Ideally there should be between 10 and 20 members and, where it is not practicable to include all of the represented interests, regular consultation mechanisms should be established.

Brief for the Joint Advisory Committee:

- co-ordinate the preparation and implementation of strategic plans for the AONB, including the preparation of the statutory Management Plan
- advise local authorities preparing structure plans, local plans or other plans covering all or part of the AONB, to ensure that policies and practices (including those for development control) are co-ordinated and consistent with the statement of commitment and AONB Management Plan
- advise local authorities and other agencies on the level of resources required for effective AONB management
- lobby to influence organisations that are not members of the JAC in the delivery of their services and programmes in order to benefit Bowland communities, businesses and the environment
- advise on, and co-ordinate the actions of the constituent organisations to achieve the objectives of the AONB and, in particular, ensure that the

statement of commitment and Management Plan are implemented and reviewed. This includes:

- receiving monitoring reports from the partners on progress and achievements in implementing the Management Plan, reviewing the Management Plan every five years and producing an annual report,
- agreeing an annual work programme for the AONB to be delivered by the partners and the AONB Staff Unit,
- carrying out special studies of key issues, as they arise, for example by setting up working parties or conducting research
- advising the appropriate local planning authority about any developments within or adjacent to the AONB that are likely to affect significantly the landscape character and natural beauty of the area
- acting as forum for the discussion of major issues affecting the and natural beauty of the landscape and AONB in general
- promoting other action that is necessary to further the objectives of the AONB designation



Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Advisory Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 31st October, 2019 at 2.00 pm in The Environment Room, Bowland Visitor Centre, Beacon Fell Country Park PR3 2EW

Present:

Chair

County Councillor Albert Atkinson, Lancashire County Council

Committee Members

County Councillor Shaun Turner, Lancashire County Council
Councillor Kevin Frea, Lancaster City Council
Councillor John Browne, Preston City Council
Councillor John Ibison, Wyre Council
Colin Price, Yorkshire Local Councils Association
Katherine Tonge, Natural England
Robin Horner, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Andrew Taylor, Bowland Land Managers Forum
Mike Pugh, Champion Bowland
David Kelly, Ramblers Association
Chris Kynch, Lancashire Association of Local Councils (Parish Councils)

Officers

Alison Boden, Wyre Borough Council
Elliott Lorimer, Forest of Bowland AONB Unit
Richard Camp, Lancaster City Council
Alex Shutt, Ribble Valley Borough Council
John Macholl, Ribble Valley Borough Council
Sandra Silk, Forest of Bowland AONB Unit
Hugh Clear Hill, North Yorks County Council
Sam Gorton, Legal and Democratic Services, LCC
Sarah Robinson, Forest of Bowland AONB Unit,
Robin Gray, Forest of Bowland AONB Unit,
Sarah Dornan, Forest of Bowland AONB Unit,

Apologies

County Councillor Susie Charles, Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Richard Welch, North Yorkshire County Council
Councillor Mrs Rosemary Elms, Ribble Valley Borough Council
Matthew Upton, United Utilities
Marilyn Pilkington, Friends of Bowland
Andrew Laycock, Craven District Council
Christina Marginson, Preston City Council

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies for Absence

All were welcomed to the meeting, introductions made and apologies presented on behalf of the Committee members and officers as detailed previously.

Update from United Utilities on Haweswater Aqueduct

Jemma Parkinson, John Taylor, Chris Tighe and Anna Smith from United Utilities gave an update on progress since the last meeting they attended of the Joint Advisory Committee in April 2019 on the project to replace six tunnel sections of the Haweswater Aqueduct.

Work that had been carried out so far were ecology surveys of which 19km had been surveyed and 5km remained. Results were awaited on the surveys.

United Utilities had spoken at length to local communities at a very early stage with whom it affected, as well as local agencies, land owners and issued press releases, so all were well informed before any further ground investigation or survey works commenced.

An Environment Impact Assessment scoping request had recently been submitted to the relevant local authorities. The first phase of public consultations would commence in Spring 2020. It is anticipated that a planning application will be submitted in January 2021, with construction hopefully beginning in 2023. Further detailed information would be made available over the next 12 months.

The next stage was the main environment impact stage and consultation on traffic surveys were being discussed with Lancashire County Council and Highways England.

The Committee were informed that if they had any further questions, please email Elliott Lorimer elliott.lorimer@lancashire.gov.uk whom would forward to United Utilities colleagues.

2. Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair

Resolved: County Councillor Albert Atkinson and County Councillor Mrs Susie Charles were appointed Chair and Vice-Chair respectively for the 2019/2020 Municipal Year

3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

There were no disclosures of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests.

4. Constitution, Membership and Terms of Reference

Elliott Lorimer, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Manager presented the item and informed the Committee that there were no substantive changes, just some minor changes to the Committee membership of individuals.

Resolved: The Committee approved the Constitution, Membership and Terms of Reference for 2019/2020.

5. Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 April 2019

Resolved: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 18 April 2019 were agreed as a correct record.

6. Partner Updates

Alison Boden, Wyre Borough Council reported that the Rangers Service were getting involved in raising suicide awareness with families and young people across Wyre Borough. There was a guided walk taking place "Hope Walk" on 17 November 2019, which was not a fund raising walk, but was to share positive messages for those involved and beyond.

Festival Bowland events in Wyre had once again received excellent attendance.

A team of volunteers had worked with local farmers, carrying out practical works on the upper section of the River Wyre, including construction of leaky dams to reduce erosion, increase biodiversity and 'slow the flow'. There was still a lot more work to be done over the next 2/3 years on these sections of the River Wyre.

Dates for the 2020 walking festival coincides with the new May Bank Holiday, which falls on Friday 8 May 2020.

Hugh Clear Hill from North Yorkshire County Council, informed the Committee of the North Yorkshire Rural Commission which operates completely independently and sets its own agenda and topics. Over the next eight months commissioners would consider a broad range of subjects and evidence before forming recommendations for the county to consider. The first meeting takes place on 18 December 2019 and anybody can contribute. For further information, please see link to website <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/north-yorkshire-rural-commission>.

Robin Horner, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) gave an update on the reorganisation currently underway and also that in this review the Forest of Bowland remains as one of the RSPBs priority landscapes. This has helped secure additional staff resources to help deliver the AONB Management Plan. Robin was due to meet with Elliott Lorimer to discuss further. Additionally, Robin reported that in 2019, there had been five successful pairs of hen harriers in Bowland, fledging 22 chicks. Monitoring work was continuing to take place with RSPB staff and volunteers.

7. Revised Estimates 2019/20 and Revenue Budget 2020/2021

Elliott Lorimer, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Manager, presented the report on the revised estimates 2019/20 and revenue budget 2020/21.

a) Revised Estimates 2019/20

The Revised Estimates took account of the changes in comparison (see Appendix A, column 3 tabled at the meeting) with the Original Estimates in column 2. The principal revision related to an estimated reduction in salary costs due to maternity leave for the Sustainable Tourism Officer from July 2019.

The net effect of any changes allowed an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty 'Projects' programme totalling £73,210 to be delivered in 2019/20.

Since the last reporting in April 2019, the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Unit had been successful in obtaining £805,386 in additional funding to support delivery of projects within the area.

b) Revenue Budget 2020/21

The attention of the Committee was drawn to the gross expenditure, income, net expenditure and additional resources of the Revenue Budget 2020/21 as detailed in the report.

Details of the funding settlement from Defra were still awaited.

Resolved: That the Committee:

- i) Noted the 2019/20 Revised Estimates
- ii) Approved the 2020/21 Revenue Budget as set out in the report.
- iii) Subject to approval of (ii) above, requested the funding authorities to make appropriate provision in their Revenue Budgets for 2020/21.

8. Landscapes Review (Glover) Report

Elliott Lorimer, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Manager updated the Committee on the Landscapes Review Report which included the panel's final report which was published by Defra on 21 September 2019. The implications of the 27 proposals contained in the report were discussed as detailed at Appendix 2 in the agenda pack, on what the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty was already delivering. Headlines from the report were also highlighted to the Committee.

At the time of writing the report for the Committee, the Government had not officially responded to the report or commented on the proposals it contained.

9. Management Plan Review

Elliott Lorimer, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Manager reported that Management Plan Review had been approved and adopted by all Councils. A copy of the plan would be published on the website and printed copies would be available for the Joint Advisory Committee. The review was now complete.

10. AONB Unit Activity Report

Elliott Lorimer, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Manager explained about the 'Pendle Peat Pie', which featured on the front slide of the presentation. The idea was developed by Kerri Morrison, the artist in residence employed as part of the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership 'Gatherings'. The pie has been used to explain about the importance of peatland and its associated habitats. The pie was served at the Clitheroe Food Festival in August 2019.

The Traditional Boundaries programme has seen four training days held on drystone walling during the summer with around 60 participants taking part and 18 metres of wall restored.

The Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty team has been working alongside the Pennine Peat LIFE project, which has commenced peatland restoration work on two sites on United Utilities land above Langden Brook.

The Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Unit has also been managing peatland restoration works supported by Defra Peatland Fund on two sites on the Tarnbrook Fells in Abbeystead Estate. Planning and preparation is now complete and contractors have visited the site in the last couple of weeks.

Sarah Robinson from the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Unit reported the plight of curlews within the UK and the recent development of a project to help this species recover and eventually increase in number. The project is currently at a point deciding on three discrete areas within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty to act as curlew conservation hotspots in a project bid to go forward to the Esmée Foundation and National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Lancashire Environmental Fund continued to support the Bowland Haytime project which achieve 15 hectares of field-scale hay meadow restoration during the summer.

Robin Gray from the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty had been developing a Tree, Woodland and Forestry Strategy for the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. He has been working with the Forestry Commission, estates and other Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty partners on the development of this strategy. Lancaster City Council were keen to get involved with this and Robin was planning to represent the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty at a seminar being held by the Council to outline the strategy for interested individuals and volunteers.

As part of the Undergrounding for Visual Amenity Programme, two overhead lines (near Dunsop Bridge and Brennand) had now been buried and nearing completion with only the remaining poles and lines to be removed.

Sarah Dornan, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Countryside Access Officer gave an update on volunteer management of 'Promote Routes'. The Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Unit had recruited 12 new volunteers and helped maintain more than 40 routes. The Promoted Routes had also recently been added to the View Ranger app. This is a user friendly app for users to access route descriptions and maps and was easily updateable.

Elliott Lorimer updated on the Forest of Bowland Defra Environmental Land Management System test, which was investigating methodologies for the implementation of Government proposals to base future agricultural support payments on the principle of 'public money providing public goods'.

Festival Bowland events programme held 90 events, with over 1500 people in attendance from February 2019 to October 2019. £600 was raised from donations by event attendees which would go back in to the local charity, Champion Bowland to support small-scale community projects.

Goosnargh Gin worked with the Bowland Haytime project to produce a Haytime gin, with a donation for each bottle sold going towards supporting environmental education for children on hay meadows.

The National Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty helped co-ordinate a National Moment to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the National Parks and Countryside Act. It took place at Arnside Knott on 21 September 2019, where Simon Armitage, UK Poet Laureate read a new poem, [Fugitives](#), which was written especially for the event.

The Northern Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty Group visited the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, visiting projects and activities on and around Pendle Hill. Over 30 people came together from six other Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and shared best practice and learning.

Robin Gray has also been carrying out a refresh of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Fundraising Strategy. This strategy will be brought to a future Joint Advisory Committee meeting for consideration by the Committee.

11. Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership

Elliott Lorimer, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Manager tabled the attached Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership quarterly progress report from April-June 2019. It was noted that there was fantastic work being done which could be seen from the report. Any further questions, please contact Elliott Lorimer, email Elliott.lorimer@lancashire.gov.uk.

12. Urgent Business

There were no matters of urgent business received.

13. Date of Next Meeting

The Committee noted that the next meetings would be held on:

Thursday, 23 April 2020 in Craven – venue to be confirmed (now cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions).

Thursday, 22 October 2020 in Ribble Valley – venue to be confirmed.

Samantha Gorton
Democratic Services

Lancashire County Council
County Hall
Preston

Revised Estimates 2020/21 and Revenue Budget 2021/22 (Appendix A refers)

Issue for consideration

- a) Revised Estimates 2020/21
- b) Revenue Budget 2021/22

Background

The budget provision for the Forest of Bowland AONB Joint Advisory Committee is funded by eight constituent local authority partners and grant from Defra, which is also enhanced by an additional contribution from United Utilities.

A core team is established from this budget provision, to assist in the delivery of the statutory AONB Management Plan on behalf of the Joint Advisory Committee and the local authorities.

a. Revised Estimates 2019/20

The costs of the Partnership are managed as part of the Lancashire County Council's 'Devolved Financial Management' scheme. Since Committee approval of the 2020/21 estimates in October 2019 and support for the contributions requested from funding partners, it is understood the full requested contributions will be met.

Defra advised that the grant offer for 2020/21 was £225,957

The contributions advised by the constituent local authorities for 2020/21 are as follows: -

	£
Craven District Council	6,800
Lancaster City Council	6,800
Pendle Borough Council	6,800
Preston Borough Council	6,800
Ribble Valley Borough Council	6,800
Wyre Borough Council	6,800
Lancashire County Council	40,800
North Yorkshire County Council	5,340

The revised estimates take account of any changes (see Appendix A, Column 3) in comparison with the Original Estimates in Column 2. The principal revision relates to an anticipated reduction in travel and subsistence costs for the AONB Unit staff due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The net effect of this change allows an AONB 'Projects' programme totalling £68,879 to be delivered in 2020/21.

In addition, it is anticipated the AONB Unit will be in receipt of £720,700 in additional funding (as detailed below) to support delivery of the AONB Management Plan:

Programme / Project	£	Organisation(s)
Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership	506,500	National Lottery Heritage Fund Lancashire Environmental Fund
Pendle Hill Farmers Network	24,000	Countryside Stewardship Facilitation Fund
NAAONB 'Farming for the Nation' Environmental Land Management System Test	60,700	Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)
Northern England Peat Project, Lee and Dunkershaw Fell	67,000	Defra Peatland Fund
Tarnbrook Fells Peatland Restoration	60,500	Defra Nature for Climate Fund
AONB Discovery Guide	2,000	Business adverts taken by local tourism businesses in AONB Discovery Guide
Total	£720,700	

b. Revenue Budget 2021/22

This section sets out in Appendix 'A' column 4, the costs associated with the Partnership's projects and management service in 2021/22, including estimated pay and price levels.

Provision reflects the core team, operational budgets for core activities and projects:

- AONB Manager (1 FTE)
- Development and Funding Officer (1 FTE)
- Projects Officer (1 FTE)
- Sustainable Tourism Officer (0.9 FTE)
- Countryside Access Officer (0.5FTE)
- Farming and Wildlife Officer (0.4FTE)

Estimated total Partnership income from contributions has been included in the budget for 2021/22, based on estimated contributions from funding authorities, equivalent to maintaining the requested contribution for the previous year (£6,800). In addition, this estimate is also based on a continuation of a contribution from United Utilities, matching the level requested district/borough councils.

Income in respect of grant support from Defra towards core costs and projects costs has been included based on maintaining the existing funding settlement for 2020/21, which includes a small inflationary increase.

It is also assumed that the Defra grant for 2020/21 will continue to be a single grant offer to be used in ways which the AONB Partnership considers will deliver the best

performance in terms of achieving delivery of the Management Plan, without significant restrictions placed on the percentage of grant to each area of supported activity.

Therefore, the level of provision for 'Projects' is based on the resources available to the Partnership after providing for the staffing of the AONB Unit at the existing office base, plus related core activities costs.

The attention of the Committee is drawn to the following summary:

1. Expenditure

It is proposed that total cash expenditure will be £399,469 in 2021/22. The total expenditure results from providing for the effect of increased pay and prices, staff increments (where applicable), employer's national insurance and superannuation contributions, host authority support costs and reflecting a level of provision for 'Projects'.

2. Income

Defra grant for 2021/22 towards core costs and projects costs is estimated at £229,130 (based on an inflationary increase on grant offer for 2020/21).

The estimated contribution from each district/borough councils is equivalent to maintaining the requested contribution for the previous year (£6,800).

A contribution of £6,800 from United Utilities has also been included, on the basis that the company will maintain a level of contribution equivalent to that of the district/borough councils.

3. Additional Resources

It should also be noted that, as has become customary, resources from other external funding bodies for projects in AONB will be sought during 2020/21, which are over and above the Partnership budget provision and this will continue into 2021/22.

Furthermore, the AONB Unit contributes to the generation of additional schemes and projects in liaison with partner organisations operating in the area e.g. local authority countryside services, Rivers Trusts, the Wildlife Trusts and others.

Decision Required

The Committee is requested to:

- i) note the 2020/21 Revised Estimates
- ii) approve the proposed 2021/22 Revenue Budget as set out in the report
- iii) subject to the approval of (ii) above, to request the funding authorities to make appropriate provision in their revenue budgets for FY2021/22

APPENDIX 'A'
AONB Partnership Budget

	Estimated 2020/21 (Out-turn Prices)	Revised 2020/21 (Out-turn Prices)	Estimated 2021/22 (Out-turn Prices)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
£	£	£	£
<u>Expenditure</u>			
<u>Partnership Costs</u>			
Salary, N.I. and Superannuation	208,018	208,018	220,113
Out-based premises	20,000	20,000	20,000
Travel and subsistence	9,000	3,000	7,000
Central, Departmental & Tech. Support	72,390	72,390	76,599
Core Activities	19,800	19,800	19,800
 Sub total of Partnership Costs	 329,208	 323,208	 343,512
<u>Project Costs</u>			
Projects (Management Plan delivery)	62,879	68,879	55,957
 Sub total of Project Costs	 62,879	 68,879	 55,957
Total Expenditure	392,087	392,087	399,469
<u>Income</u>			
 Defra Grant	 225,957	 225,957	 229,130
<u>Contributions</u>			
United Utilities	6,800	6,800	6,800
 <u>County Councils</u>			
Lancashire	40,800	40,800	40,800
North Yorkshire	5,340	5,340	5,340
 <u>District Councils</u>			
Craven	6,800	6,800	6,800
Lancaster	6,800	6,800	6,800
Pendle	6,800	6,800	6,800
Preston	6,800	6,800	6,800
Ribble Valley	6,800	6,800	6,800
Wyre	6,800	6,800	6,800
Total Income	319,697	319,697	322,870
 Contrib. to support costs (LCC in-kind)	 72,390	 72,390	 76,599
	392,087	392,087	399,469

The Landscapes Review Report - update

Issue for consideration

Progress update on the implementation of proposals outlined in the Landscapes Review Report

Background

The report for the Government's Landscapes Review (also known as the Glover Review) was published by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) on 21 September 2019.

Headlines from the report were:

- AONBs and National Parks are priceless assets: *'They really are England's soul and we should care for them as much'*
- But *'though there's much that is good, we should not be satisfied with what we have at the moment. It falls far short of what can be achieved and what the people of our country want'*
- The report's 27 proposals focus on what needs to be done to improve things. They include:
 - Setting up a National Landscapes Service comprising a small Defra-based team with responsibility for improving and monitoring progress by protected landscape teams, increasing collaboration and sharing best practice
 - Recruiting 1000 National Landscape Rangers to widen and diversify visitor demographics and improve the visitor experience
 - Amending and expanding the statutory purposes of AONBs and National Parks to include responsibility for nature recovery, recreation, health and well-being and to foster the social and economic wellbeing of local communities
 - Strengthening the role of AONBs in the planning process by making them a statutory consultee of planning authorities
 - Re-branding AONBs as 'National Landscapes'
 - A new financial model. 'More money, more secure and more enterprising'. Included the proposal to double the funding allocated to AONB Partnerships

Progress Update

To date, the Government has not formally responded to the report or commented on the proposals it contains. Clearly the COVID19 pandemic has heavily impacted government business since March and this response has been delayed. It is now expected before the end of this year.

This delay notwithstanding, AONB Partnerships and the National Park Authorities have been working closely over the last six months with the Defra, Natural England and other stakeholders to identify how the report's proposals can begin to be implemented:

1. Participation by selected AONB lead officers in the Defra Contact Steering Group, helping gather information on current delivery which contributes to the review proposals.

2. National Association for AONBs (NAAONB) participation in high level discussions with Defra, Natural England and National Parks England regarding the form and function of a 'National Landscape Service'.
3. Colchester Declaration Steering Group has led the development and support for AONB Partnerships to begin drawing up Nature Recovery Plans. The Group helped secure funds from Natural England to support this work. Finally, they also led the development and submission of a bid to the Government's Green Recovery Challenge Fund.
4. AONB involvement in the Environmental Land Management System tests has resulted in detailed discussions with Defra about how AONB Partnerships/Unit could be involved in establishing local system priorities and scheme delivery.
5. Art in the Landscape – NAAONB (with the support of the Arts Council and AONB Partnerships) commissioned work to increase the capacity amongst AONBs to embed the arts within their work as means to wider engagement.
6. 'Wider Engagement' workshop organised by the NAAONB to discuss how AONB Partnerships can help to widen and improve access to AONBs to more diverse range of people (e.g. BAME, people with disabilities, young people).
7. In terms of resourcing AONB Partnerships to deliver the review proposals, the NAAONB pulled together a costed prospectus of activity to assist Defra in preparation for the forthcoming Government Comprehensive Spending Review later in 2020. This outlined the ambition and, crucially, the resources that are likely to be required.

Decision Required

The Committee is requested to:

- i) note the update report and offer comments

AONB Team Report to JAC April 2020 – October 2020

An outstanding landscape of natural and cultural heritage

Peatland Restoration

The areas of the Bowland fells where our peat restoration work is taking place is also home to a range of breeding bird species, including sky lark, meadow pipits, curlew, snipe, lesser black backed gulls, merlin, peregrines and hen harriers. In order to prevent disturbance to these and any other nesting birds, peat restoration work only happens outside of the breeding season, and so during the summer months, no work happens on the ground.

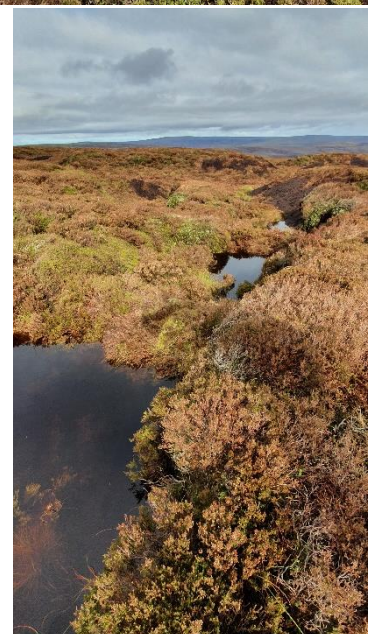
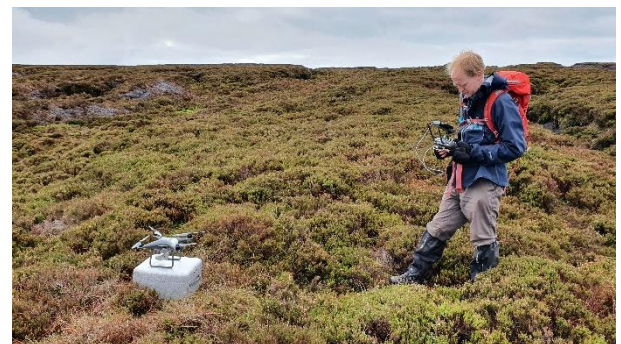
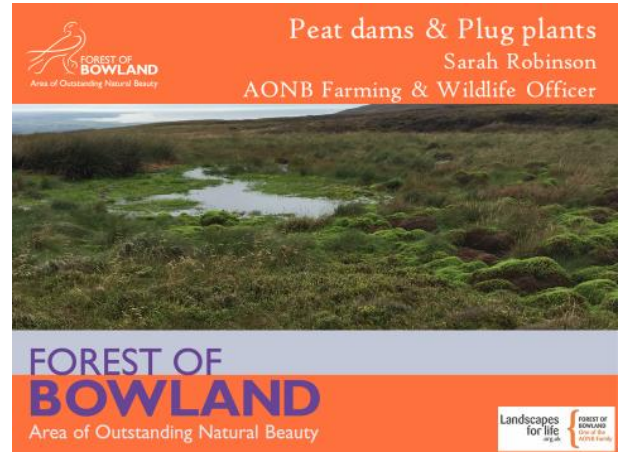
However, we have been busy getting ready for this coming restoration season, letting the contracts for the final year of works to be completed as part of the Defra funded Northern England Peat Project. These are now ready to go, with local contractors Hanafin's and Terra Firma set up to start the work later in 2020. This is the final year of the project, which by the time this final year of work is completed, will have invested nearly £560,000 into peat restoration in the AONB, helping to restore nearly 200 hectares of moorland and preventing further carbon losses from the peat of around 400 tonnes of CO₂ per year (in the UK each person is responsible for around 10 tonnes CO₂/year) as well as enabling the blanket bog vegetation to start to store carbon as peat at a rate of around 3.5 tonnes/ha/year. So our 200 ha will start to lock up 700 tonnes of CO₂/year in the future, once the restoration work is completed.

We are also hopeful that in addition to this project, we will be able to work on two other areas within the Bowland Fells with funding coming from Defra via the EA, helping to support restoration begun in previous years. Peat restoration is an iterative process, and this funding will be vital in enabling the condition of degraded areas to continue to improve.

The Covid-19 restrictions over the summer meant that many of our Festival Bowland events moved onto Zoom, and the peat restoration story was no exception, with a really interesting and well attended session in July.

Finally, members of the team have also been assisting Yorkshire Peat Partnership with the delivery of the Pennine Peat LIFE project restoration works on Hareden Fell and Langden Head, part of United Utilities estate. The project is funded by EU LIFE+ programme, United Utilities and the Environment Agency.

For several weeks from late July, helicopters were flying materials from close to the Langden intake up onto the fellside. In September, work commenced on site,



installing stone, timber and peat dams to slow the flow and restore the moorland hydrology and habitat. More recently work has also begun on re-profiling gullies and peat hag edges to stop erosion of the peat soils. The work is anticipated to be complete before Christmas.

For further information email sarah.robinson@lancashire.gov.uk

Bowland Hay Time

After a delayed start to the season we have managed to build on our previous years' work to extend the areas of traditional hay meadows within the AONB.

This summer we have carried out just over 13 hectares of green hay restoration work on three sites. One site is part of our "Late Green Hay" trials in partnership with Plantlife. The hay crop is taken late August or early September to enable transferring some of the later flowering species that often get missed in a July cut, as they are still in flower at that time. Many of the hay meadow flowers don't set seed until August or September. The site was chosen for its close location to our donor Coronation meadow at Bell Sykes Farm in Slaidburn, and also for having a reliable management plan for cutting at a later date in the future.



We have also distributed 10.5kg of brush harvested seed to a further 7 sites to enhance approximately 18 acres, together with ground preparation and management advice. These are sites where they are either too far from our donor meadows, or are only looking to enhance patches within a meadow due to financial or access restrictions. These patches will then spread gradually throughout the meadow, with more seed added in each year as well to help it on the way.

Two community pollinator patches have been created with our help and advice "virtually", and on 10th October we delivered a "Create a Pollinator Patch" online event, which was fully booked.

Seed of 10 wildflower species has been collected to be grown for next years' plug plants, with this years' plugs ready to plant out in October.

For further information email carol.edmondson@lancashire.gov.uk

Farming and Wildlife Advice

Making decisions about the most environmentally friendly way to manage land takes time and discussion and needs to take lots of factors into account. We are very happy to be working with local farmers, landowners and tenants as well as our partner organisations such as Natural England and the Wyre and Ribble Rivers Trusts to help to shape those decisions. This summer we have been involved in eight separate cases, where we have been surveying grasslands in order to add information about their value to wildlife, which can then be used in the management planning process.

The good news is we have found some really fabulous sites which don't seem to have been known about in the past! This includes a site for Bird's Eye primrose, one of the species the Hay Time Rescue project has been concentrating on.

For further information email sarah.robinson@lancashire.gov.uk



Green Recovery Challenge Fund

The Green Recovery Challenge Fund is a short-term competitive fund to kick-start environmental renewal whilst creating and retaining a range of jobs. It is open to environmental charities and their partners to deliver projects in England. The aim of the fund is to support projects that are ready to deliver and focus on nature restoration, nature-based solutions and connecting people with nature, delivering against the goals of the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan (25YEP), whilst helping to sustain and build capacity in the sector. The £40million fund has been developed by DEFRA and its Arm's-Length Bodies, including Natural England, Forestry Commission, Environment Agency and others. The National Lottery Heritage Fund is distributing and monitoring this government money. The Forest of Bowland AONB has contributed to several bids:

- The AONB team contributed to a National Association of AONB bid for nature recovery that would have led to officers appointed in host AONBs. Although unsuccessful it has helped scope a potential wider bid in the future
- A bid championed by Plantlife (the national charity) would lead to support for Bowland Haytime and secure the existing officer post. The bid was successful at Expression of Interest stage and will now work up details for the next stage by 23rd October. The project would secure £ 77,000 towards hay meadow restoration through our partner Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust
- The AONB working with Yorkshire Peat Project submitted a bid for the restoration of the 127 hectare Holme House Fell above Bleasdale.

For further information email robin.gray@lancashire.gov.uk

'High Nature Value Farming in the Northern Upland AONBs' – A Defra Environmental Land Management Test

This Environmental Land Management test involves working collaboratively with farmers and land managers in the co-design of simple 'land management plans', with information and data gathered being fed back to Defra to guide its development of the proposed Environmental Land Management system.

Work on this test (part of the National Association for AONBs, Farming for the Nation) has continued over the last six months, despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

Good progress has been made on developing the land management plans, with Margaret Dickinson, our ELM Test Advisor, having visited all six participating farms in June/July 2020 to carry out an initial 'natural capital' audit of each farm; together with work to gather relevant datasets to help inform the development of land management plans.

In addition, farm business information has been gathered and collated from each farm by Askham Bryan Rural Business Research Unit to be analysed by Nethergill Associates. In September 2020, Chris Clark from Nethergill Associates and Margaret have been meeting with each farmer or farming family to discuss the results of the analysis, in particular the impact on the business of the planned removal of basic payment scheme and transition to the ELM system.

Over the coming months, Margaret will be continuing to work closely with the farmer (and in liaison with Chris Clark) in an iterative process to develop and refine a land management plan, which (we hope!) will help the farm move forward taking a 'high nature value' approach, supported by the new ELM system. It is also hoped that the participating farmers will be able to meet together to discuss their experiences of the test work.

For further information contact elliott.lorimer@lancashire.gov.uk

Undergrounding for Visual Amenity Programme (RIIO-EDI)

The Undergrounding for Visual Amenity Programme delivered jointly by the AONB Unit and Electricity Northwest Limited has continued with planning and delivery work for the removal of overhead lines.

Since April 2020, the underground line from Holden to Wycongill has been laid, but the (now redundant) overhead line has yet to be removed. Works were also due to commence with a scheme at Bleasdale estate during September 2020.

For further information contact elliott.lorimer@lancashire.gov.uk

Resilient and Sustainable Rural Communities

Discover Bowland website

Champion Bowland and the Forest of Bowland unit have supported the development of a new visitor destination website for businesses who are members of the Sustainable Tourism Business Network. During the summer months we put together the website which includes accommodation, outdoor activities, courses and experiences, and the food and drink offer, alongside business listings. We were able to launch 'Discover Bowland' at the end of September, visit: www.discoverbowland.uk

Businesses have been added to the website for free for this year, to support them as they adapt to COVID and also as they look to attracting visitors during 2021. From next summer businesses will be asked for an annual contribution for the ongoing maintenance of the website, and any profits will be donated to Champion Bowland.

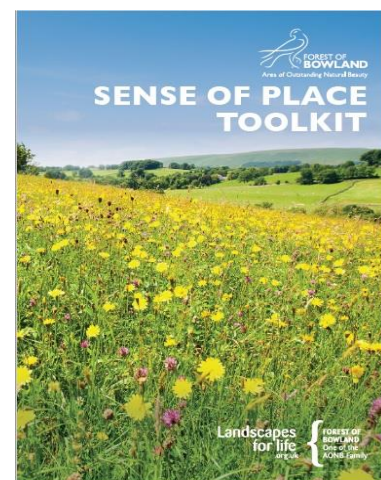
For further information email hetty.byrne@lancashire.gov.uk



Sense of Place Toolkit

It is 15 years since the original Sense of Place toolkit was produced for businesses. Over the years the Toolkit and training has provided businesses with useful resources and information to help them promote the special qualities of Bowland. During the summer months we have re-visited the original research and content and updated it with fresh information and images to support new and existing businesses within the network. This will be supplemented by a series of online resources, including an image library that businesses can make use of for their marketing. A couple of online workshops are planned for November to launch the Toolkit and resources for businesses.

For further information email hetty.byrne@lancashire.gov.uk



Dark Sky Friendly Business Workshop

During May when many businesses were closed, we offered an online workshop for those wanting to gain the Dark Sky Friendly Business accreditation. We ran the workshop with local astronomer Robert Ince, and provided

businesses with similar content and resources to what we would normally deliver in a face to face workshop. 8 participants joined the online session and went on to achieve the informal accreditation.

For further information email hetty.byrne@lancashire.gov.uk



Planning and Development

The AONB Unit has continued to provide landscape planning advice and guidance for local authorities, planning consultants/applicants relating to planning applications, planning policy documents, woodland management plans and felling licence applications.

During the first six months of 2020/21, the AONB Unit has appraised over 60 planning applications and development proposals – these can vary from a brief desk-based appraisals to site visits (involving applicants, developers and local planning authorities) and detailed consultation responses.

A Strong Connection between People & the Landscape

Champion Bowland

The independent charity Champion Bowland CIO has undertaken a strategic review facilitated by an independent consultant, funded by a grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Amongst the recommendations are to:

- Support more projects
- Give more and bigger grants
- Connect and collaborate with more organisations
- Develop and strengthen the relationship with the AONB
 - A Memorandum of Understanding should be drafted and signed between CB and FBAONB Unit.
 - An annual joint action plan should be developed to complement the MoU.
- Involve more people and raise their awareness
- Develop communications
- Increase and diversify funding
 - Focus on a small number of fundraising priority areas
 - Develop visitor giving scheme with the AONB Unit and Sustainable Tourism Business Network
 - Develop more projects with the AONB Unit and secure external funding for their delivery
- Strengthen and improve organisational capacity
- Build trustee capacity
- Develop a strategy

The strategic plan will be developed by trustees for approval at its October meeting.

For further information email robin.gray@lancashire.gov.uk

Festival Bowland Goes Virtual

Given the restrictions around Covid-19 most of the Festival Bowland face to face events scheduled from March onwards were sadly cancelled, or have been postponed.

However, in order that we could continue to engage with people during this difficult period, the Pendle Hill LP and AONB teams have worked together to organise a series of online, "virtual" events.

Delivered via Zoom, the events have ranged from archaeology, bats and black grouse to rewilding, Roman roads and peat restoration. We even managed to move our National Meadows Day and Foodie Foray events online.

Between June and the end of September we jointly ran 17 sessions which attracted almost 600 attendances.

Alongside our online programme we are also building a library of resources, including links to further information and films, for anyone not able to join us on the day <https://www.forestofbowland.com/online-event-links>

These virtual sessions have proved popular and have reached new audiences for us - from across the country. They also make it possible for us to connect with people who wouldn't normally be able to join us face to face; whether that be for health, transport or other reasons. We certainly hope to include online events alongside our more traditional format in future Festival programmes.

For further information email sandra.silk@lancashire.gov.uk



Days to Remember

Following on from our Memory Box collaboration with LCC's Heritage Learning Team late last year, we have now developed a new, online resource.

The Days to Remember project aims to encourage older people and those living with dementia, alongside family members and carers, to enjoy a "virtual" exploration of Bowland.

The web page has everything from tips and resources for making your own Great Outdoors memory box, to puzzles, quizzes and colouring sheets.

Activities include Bowland wildflower "playing cards" which can be downloaded and printed; a series of images from around the AONB, which can be used to make up a photograph album; recordings of the calls of Bowland birds, including the iconic curlew and lapwing, plus ideas for other resources to spark happy memories.

The web page also includes a guided meditation written and narrated by sustainable tourism network member, Helen Leece, of the Gathering Fields Retreat near Abbeystead. Based on the sights and sounds of a Bowland meadow in summer, the twenty minute audio, which includes natural sounds and simple music, is designed to offer gentle relaxation.

Ultimately, we would like to help people experience Bowland in a variety of ways, whether that be through improving signposting and access, so that people have the confidence to explore for themselves, or through offering guided sessions and activities. In the meantime, we hope our online suggestions will help people stay connected to nature.

The Days to Remember web page can be found at <https://www.forestofbowland.com/days-remember>

For further information email sandra.silk@lancashire.gov.uk



Promoted Route Volunteers

Promoted Route Volunteers have been limited in reporting issues on promoted routes due to the ongoing Coronavirus situation, we await approval from the Head of Service for Volunteering to resume. Some route description amendments have been reported by visitors and have been amended but no significant reports of issues have come in.

For further information email sarah.dornan@lancashire.gov.uk

Promoted Route & Countryside Access

Pre-Covid19 only limited reports of issues on promoted routes had been reported, small jobs have been undertaken including way marking, clearance of fallen branches and cutting back of vegetation as well as larger jobs such as replacing the hanging post of part of the east access trail at Dunsop Bridge and replacing some fencing damaged during a storm.



For further information email sarah.dornan@lancashire.gov.uk

Parish Lengthsman

The Coronavirus situation highlights some issues requiring attention because of increased visitor numbers at the end of lockdown such as gates that are not self-closing, these are currently being addressed by the Parish Lengthsman scheme. (Image from Clerkhill)

For further information email sarah.dornan@lancashire.gov.uk



Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership Scheme

To keep up to date with the project work of the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership you can read their summer quarterly e-bulletin and sign-up to their distribution list here: <https://pendlehillproject.com/e-bulletin>



For further information email cathy.hopley@lancashire.gov.uk

National Association for AONBs

The National Association for AONBs has continued to work closely with Defra, Natural England and others on how Government plans to respond to the Landscapes Review report. Recent discussions have focused on the structure and function of a National Landscape Service.



A formal response from Government to the Landscapes Review report is still awaited.

In addition, the NAAONB has continued to help co-ordinate the following collaborative projects and initiatives:

- ['Farming for the Nation'](#) – 14 Environmental Land Management tests across 12 AONBs
- [Colchester Declaration Steering Group](#) – co-ordinating funding bids to Green Recovery Challenge Fund and to Natural England to create a new position within the NAAONB to assist AONBs deliver their commitments on nature recovery set out in the declaration, in particular the creation of AONB Nature Recovery Plans
- ['Art in the Landscape'](#) – a project to develop the capacity across all AONBs to embed the arts within their work
- [Laurel Prize](#) & [Ginkgo Prize](#) – a partnership with poet laureate, Simon Armitage
- Developing the AONB network and its collaborative working (building on 'Taking the Lead')

The annual 'Landscapes for Life' Conference due to be held in Devon was (unsurprisingly) cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

For further information email elliott.lorimer@lancashire.gov.uk

COVID-19

In keeping with the latest Government guidance, the Forest of Bowland AONB team continue to work from home. We have postponed or cancelled volunteering activities and nature and wellbeing group activities and where possible have delivered events online. Face to face activities are under regular review and we have parameters in place to deliver these again, once it is safe to do so. We will be following the latest advice on the situation from [Public Health England](#).

This means we won't be reachable on our main office phone number – however, we are carrying on with business as usual as far as possible and we are all still working remotely. If you have a query, please email or ring individual mobile numbers, and they'll reply or give you a call as soon as they are able. Or use the general Bowland email bowland@lancashire.gov.uk and we'll get back to you as soon as we can.

PENDLE HILL
LANDSCAPE
PARTNERSHIP



Quarterly Progress Report



April – June 2020
Year 3 Quarter 1



TOGETHER FOR OUR LANDMARK



Introduction: Dealing with the Coronavirus Restrictions

Adapting our work

All staff in the LP team and partner organisations are now working from home, with the majority of meetings now being held on-line

All of our face-to-face group community engagement, learning and volunteering activity has stopped

Groundwork contractors have been able to continue carrying out site based work (where safe to do so) and this has enabled us to see the completion of the wall at Pendleside farm and the concessionary bridleway at Downham, together with the majority of the improvement works at Downham information barn.

Some community activity has been delivered on-line and will continue in this format for the next few months –for example we have held Pendle hill farmer network and Sense of Place training webinars (image below); Festival Bowland style talks and activity (bat talk, virtual meadows day, storytelling films, virtual Clarion Sunday bike ride) and the planned Digital Gatherings will take place in August



Our planned John Muir Award for families is going ahead as an online version in July, providing inspiration and support for families wanting to get outdoors during the summer holidays



Since 1st June the LP team have been able to carry out site visits to check on contractors, survey habitats and to meet partners to discuss site based activity

Some one-to-one and small group sessions re-started in late June as part of our People Enjoying Nature project, as lockdown has been lifted and guidelines have permitted small group gatherings to take place

We are actively researching, and planning for, how and when our volunteering and learning activity can re-start and what additional risk assessments and procedures will need to be put in place. Our aim is to start as soon as we can work safely and have confirmed insurance cover from the county council; and we also want to ensure that the adaptations to work safely do not render the activity ineffective (in terms of staff and resources) or by making the session unattractive to participants.

Supporting communities

We produced a number of on line notices and requests to the public accessing the landscape during the early lockdown, and relating to new guidance as the restrictions have been lifted – eg 'stay at home' 'exercise locally' 'keep your distance and take litter home'

We were involved in a number of discussions and the creation of a poster for Pendleside villages, in partnership with the parish councils, encouraging good visitor behaviour



...and we created a new Countryside Code poster for the LP encouraging visitors to 'Respect, Protect, Enjoy'

We have set up a 'parish footpath repair fund' within the Pendle Hill Fund which will enable parishes to identify repairs and call upon the parish lengthsman to carry these out quickly and effectively

We will look to purchase extra hand tools and PPE to enable our volunteers to work more safely when they return

The Environment

Restoring Traditional Boundaries

The third phase of the **hedging restoration** work has gone out to tender and prices have been returned from contractors. These will be assessed and the contracts will be awarded in August, in time for work to take place in the Autumn and Winter. We plan to manage just over 1800m of hedgerow restoration on five holdings this year.

The second length of **wall** at Pendleside Farm has now been completed and signed off – a total of 98m² was restored at a cost to the project of £4100 with a contribution of £1250 from the farmer.



The next commissioned wall restoration- 392 m² at Meadow Bank farm - is due to begin in August. The banners brought to go along highly visible stretches of restoration – the wall at Pendleside and the hedge at Smithies Bridge - have now been put in place.



The **dry stone walling competition** planned for May 2020 had to be cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions, but this will be re-scheduled for next year. All of the walling training for summer 2020 has also had to be postponed.

All the contract activity has been greatly helped by having Ian Hart contracted to work on the project checking progress and drawing up specifications and undertaking tender assessment, pre-start and progress meetings, and signing off completed work.

Preliminary meetings have taken place with the Environment Agency in relation to a forthcoming flood alleviation scheme around Padiham in the SW corner of the LP area. If successful, we are hoping that this scheme will offer the opportunity for additional traditional boundary restoration to be added to the project as part of EA's contribution to biodiversity net gain. Work within the development phase of the LP identified boundaries whose restoration would hold positive benefits for natural flood management (NFM) as well as to landscape and biodiversity. We will use this work to prioritise suitable restoration sites within the scope of the Padiham scheme. If successful we will be notified of funds (up to £25,000) in summer 2021, and the work would be delivered in Q3 and Q4 of 2021/2.

Restoring Wildlife and Priority Habitats

Three of the four planned summer **public events** for Wild about Pendle were cancelled in April, and the fourth is still planned for September ('Waxcaps discovery walk') if restrictions allow.

Similarly habitat surveys, community recording and habitat management works at Clarion House wildlife discovery site have been postponed; and activity at Barley woodlands and Worsaw Hill is delayed. However, we are in discussion with the landowner and tenant at Worsaw about a new agri-environment scheme application which will support good management of the grassland into the future.



Meadow surveying at the foot of Pendle, and the increasing diversity now found at Cockshotts

We have been working on a **meadow restoration** project at Cockshotts Farm in Sabden since the summer of 2018. Since then we have made two seed additions as well as planting plug plants in early 2019. The meadow is progressing well, and will be re-surveyed in Q2.

During Q1 Sarah has been making use of our Pendle Hill Farmer Network contacts to identify more meadows which are suitable for enhancement work. These are meadows that already have a moderate level of plant species diversity and are already managed with a late cut. The field survey began in June and will run until the middle of July. Once complete, an assessment will be made of which species we can add into each meadow, and this work will take place at the end of the summer, with seed being added to specific sites by farmers, staff and volunteers if possible.

Sarah has also been working with Dom to identify **Biological Heritage Sites** (of county importance) on Pendle Hill Farmer Network farms and on sites owned by United Utilities. This has resulted in a short list of BHS sites where we already have good relations with the farmers/owners and this will be developed later this year with site visits and discussions around management actions which will improve and conserve the wildlife at these sites.

There are 13 BHS sites within/partly within the network farms, and they range in size from small grassland sites of just over a hectare, through complex mosaic sites along rivers and streams crossing several farms, to Pendle Hill BHS itself, which includes grazing land owned or rented by four of our farmer members.

At Mearley Moor, we continued to advise Ribble Rivers Trust on the **peat restoration works**, which we hope will resume and complete in September.

Sarah has also recently carried out a number of visits to assess damage to the peatland restoration works on the Summit and has drawn up a 'peat resilience plan' which has been submitted for contingency funding totalling £20,000. This will allow us to repair and replace 'blown' peat dams, installed two years ago but overwhelmed by the February storm,s with more resilient timber dams. We will also look to add more lime, seed and fertiliser to areas of bare peat that did not take well in 2018; and cover freshly eroded gully slopes with geo-jute or heather brash to encourage regrowth of vegetation which will stabilise the slopes and contain the peat loss.



Successful revegetation of the 'peat edge' on the summit (Summer 2020), and a 'blown' dam in the gullied area

Creating and Managing Woodlands

This has been a difficult quarter for **management of INNS**, given that we have had to postpone volunteer events this summer. In the mean time we have been focussing our efforts on social media to encourage followers to conduct their own INNS control when out and about on their walks. We hope to restart volunteer days soon and have a number of management and INNS control activities lined up.

Our work on **woodlands** has not been so disrupted because the tree planting work had already been largely completed for this year.

We have now completed fencing works at Twiston, where we still have to complete water supply works, but the contractor has commenced this final element of the project. This will complete the Twiston Beck site.

We are currently identifying new woodlands for the winter planting season. We have a contract signed with Hollins Farm in Rimington and are due to visit Laneside and Schofield Farms in mid-July to identify and hopefully secure sites there.

Due to some of the difficulties faced by having to suspend INNS work this summer and in gaining landowner permission for new woodlands, the Pendle WINNS project has been extended into year 4 to ensure that all targets and planned expenditure will be met. This is with no net increase in project costs, and only a slight redistribution of capital to staffing costs (c£5000).

The Economy

Enhancing Visitor Gateways and key routes to Access Heritage

The **Downham to Chatburn Bridleway** is now finished and complete with all conditions discharged from the planning application. Not a bad effort when staff have been working from home and contractors have had to work in a different way with the challenges of limited materials. Good job we have forward thinking contractors who were well prepared before lock down.



The completed bridleway, showing the newly planted hedge and seat for walkers and riders

Working from home has given us time to review and reflect on the project: routes that have been thought about have been more thoroughly investigated ready for exploration when lockdown was lifted. We now have a full walking description for a new Promoted Route around Gisburn, but again Covid_19 has had a little influence as land owners are reluctant to have walkers wandering unannounced through farm yards.

One of the great challenges has been that at first a lot of temporary signage appeared telling people they could not use footpaths: which is an untruth. Working with LCC PROW we have been able to keep up to date information about any obstructions or misleading signage appearing, and to advise landowners, and walkers, on what that can legally do in these strange and challenging times.

Cycling routes are now to be included in a separate section of the PHLP website along with some new countryside code signage. It seems that Covid_19 has brought a different type of visitor to the countryside and the new signage is aimed at helping local communities who are trying to welcome those who aren't sure what to expect when they venture out.

Planning for **Heys Lane** is coming on, with the contract awarded to Conservefor and subsequent site visits held to plan for construction to begin in August. Landowners have met the contractors and have agreed machinery storage and material drop off which will be a great help. The Parish Council have been informed

of the appointment of the contractor and have been liaising with local residents to keep them informed of the plans. Unfortunately local opposition to these proposals has developed, and at the time of writing this report (mid-July) we have agreed to suspend operations for now in order to carry out further consultation with residents and users.

Planning for **Spring Wood Information Centre** building improvements has progressed with some further alterations to the building plans taking place since March. LCC design and construction team are now carrying out an audit of the building which means that they are involving themselves in the project and therefore the building's longevity. At time of writing, instructions are being issued to architects Sunderland Peacock to submit the planning application for the improvement work, which we hope to secure by September.

The Lancashire Environment Fund has acknowledged receipt of a grant application from PHLP however there is no current date for appraisal of applications and therefore no decision date. It is hoped that this will be established in the coming weeks to tie in the planning approval.

Construction in **Downham Information Centre** has been completed, including installation of bike racks and maintenance station. Information boards are in place and all that remains is for the installation of the community glass fronted notice board. COVID19 might have had an impact on many things but thankfully plans for Downham have not been affected and are now being enjoyed by the emerging visitors on a voyage of new discovery.



A visitor admires the new interpretation and bench, and the extra window with bike pump and maintenance kit

Work on the path at **Mearley Moor** was stopped at the start of the pandemic. We hope that it will be finished in September when the contractors can get back onto the hill after the bird nesting season.

Offering Apprenticeships

We now have two apprentices in post, and a further two in the pipeline to start employment in the next few weeks at Pendle Heritage Centre. This, combined with our plans to recruit graduate trainees to both Ribble Rivers Trust and In-Situ this autumn, will mean the project will be supporting 13 young people through placements and apprenticeships in the heritage sector, exceeding our target of 10. The project will not meet its match funding target, however we hope to cover this with increased match funds brought into other projects. Once all the trainees are in post we plan to run a few team days to share ideas, undertake training and to develop some collaborative activity.

Sense of Place and Sustainable Tourism

The Sense of Place Toolkit has now been produced and printed for use by tourism businesses along with accompanying online resources and image gallery.

<https://pendlehillproject.com/sense-place-toolkit>

Two online workshops were delivered to businesses. They were delivered by the AONB sustainable tourism officer and the consultant who produced the content for Sense of Place. The workshops each ran for 1.5 hours and included a combination of presentation and discussion. The workshop was timely as it was delivered before many hospitality businesses began to open post COVID-19, and provided them with some useful information and resources to support them as they re-established themselves.

Workshop 1 – attended by 4 businesses and Workshop 2 – attended by 5 businesses.



Sense of Place training webinar – in 2020 lockdown 'zoom style'

Commissioning Research into the value the landscape offers to the economy and community services

The **72 Seasons health and wellbeing** project continues to thrive and has been a great success during lockdown with many participants reporting their increased interest and connections to nature benefitting their wellbeing.



Whilst the lockdown restrictions have meant we have been unable to attract as many new participants or specific mental health issue groups to engage as we had hoped, we have been looking at how we could extend the project next Spring with one or two target groups, for example BAME residents or young people.



Facebook post from a 72Seasons contributor – typical of the kind of information the group shares and enjoys

The **farm-scale natural capital** project consultants have produced their interim report, and draft reports to the three farms involved in the study. They hope to have a final report drafted in August and to present their findings to the Northern Real Farming conference and our own Farmer Network in September.

Everyone

Running a Community Grant Scheme

Originally, the Year 3 application window for Pendle Hill Fund was due to open in April, but this was postponed due to Covid 19. The application window is now set to open on 3rd August for 6 weeks. There has been interest from a few potential applicants, but we expect the application rate to be lower than usual. If that is the case, there is scope to hold a second application window early in 2021 (again depending on the situation at the time).

Existing projects have suffered some delays due to the pandemic:

- PHF1_001 -Higham Interpretation Panel (Year 1) – this project is now finished, and the interpretation board has been installed. The Parish Council plan to do more of an opening and press when it is safer to do so.
- PHF2_002 – Kids Away 2020 (Rotary Club) – activity week has been postponed from summer 2020, possibly considering October half term week 2020.
- PHF2_003 – Traditional Boundary Training (Clitheroe Young Farmers) – most of the activity already complete, but presentation night has been postponed.
- PHF2_004 – Rimington Oral Heritage (Rimington Institute) – able to continue with website developments through phone call tuition, however all face to face interviews have been postponed.
- PHF2_005 – Martholme Greenway – most of work has already been carried out, but the rest has been delayed.
- PHF2_006 – Fingerpost renovation (Roughlee PC) – renovation work has started
- PHF2_009 – Access and pond renovation work (Friends of Spring Wood) – practical works nearly complete but currently discussing potential changes with some plans.



Fingerpost at Pendleton before and after renovation work, supported by the Pendle Hill Fund

We have also ring fenced £6000 from the Pendle Hill Fund specifically for improvement and repairs to PROW furniture. This has been identified due to the recent increase in footfall locally, and some routes

being walked far more than they ever have before. The money will be spent as fairly as possible geographically, but it will also be used to help spread the footfall of walkers across the Pendle Hill LP area. The funds will be managed via the Pendle Lengthsman scheme, and work will be carried out by the lengthsman (even for those parishes who aren't in the lengthsman scheme). Parish Councils have been asked to develop a list of potential works by 1st September. This list will then be looked at by members of the PHLP team and the lengthsman co-ordinator, and decisions will be made about where the money will be spent. If this is a success and more monies needed, then this will be considered at a later date.

Providing Supported Activity Sessions for people dealing with mental health issues and social isolation

PEN sessions were supposed to restart at the beginning of April, however due to the Covid 19 situation, sessions were cancelled for the foreseeable future. Nick Alderson, part of the NHS CPET team who we partner with on this project, was redeployed from end of March to end of May. This created early problems with attempts to contact any participants because Nick holds that contact information. So earlier on, time was spent planning and developing resources for a potential restart and future PEN sessions.

We started up with 3 online PEN sessions from 2pm – 3pm on Thursday 4th, 11th and 18th June. These sessions were virtually attended by 4 – 6 regular PEN participants. It wasn't something which we advertised, and some of our regular participants weren't able to access due to lack of internet or online skills. However, for those that did attend, plus Jayne, it was a great way to catch up with each other, have some discussions and share photos of local wildlife, creative projects or art sketches. Lots of the discussion did focus on local nature and the wider countryside, as well as current issues.

We decided that w/b 22nd, 29th June and 6th July would focus on meeting participants 1 to 1 or in small groups (no more than 4 including staff) for walks local to where participants live. This provided the PEN participant a chance to catch up with someone that they haven't seen for a while, and to have a conversation with someone different (other than family/friends who they may have been living with/looking after). Many participants have continued to get out walking locally throughout lockdown, however for those that haven't we were able to offer them the support to go on a short local walk.



Walking near Foulridge: a new view of Pendle

Over these 3 weeks, Jayne was involved in 7 different walks or visits to meet current PEN participants. These walks were all 1 – 2 hours long, with social distancing observed throughout. Some visits involved just 1 other

person, whereas others involved 2 or 3. Jayne travelled to the local towns, close to where participants live to remove any need to use public transport. This also meant that participants were happy to take her for a walk, and show her the area which they live in, which was really great for Jayne and also a great success to see some individuals very proud of where they live and confident to lead a walk.

Looking forward, PEN won't be able to be delivered as usual for a while. The Little Green Bus Company is not yet back up and running, and even when it does there will be a certain element of social distancing in place, so groups numbers will be reduced. Many PEN participants use public transport, rather than private vehicles and so many of the usual activity sites are currently out of the question. So from early August we hope to be able to offer more of a structured schedule, with a meeting point in a central place in each of the towns. Numbers will be monitored and not exceed the limit in the government guidance, and social distancing measures will be used throughout. Activity will mainly include short walks, with some other activity potential in local parks (where tools/equipment/resources do not have to be shared).

Setting up a more structured schedule will also hopefully mean we can advertise wider again to more people in the surrounding area e.g. in a 2 week period we may have 1 session meeting in Burnley, 1 session meeting in Nelson, 1 session meeting in Colne, 1 session meeting in Clitheroe.

Creatively Engaging People in our Radical History

In response to the coronavirus pandemic, MPA's team have been working reduced hours from home. Some planned public events were cancelled or postponed, including two separate projects intended to focus attention on Clarion House. Work on the Radicals Trail site interpretation has also been held up.

However, below this still surface, much work has continued throughout, on virtual activity and/or working towards future outcomes.

For the **Radicals Trail**, although we have not been able to fabricate or install the site interpretation panels, we have meanwhile been working on the supporting website, which is looking very good. This is now almost ready for public launch, but we will hold it back until we can use it to encourage visitors to explore the six sites and surrounding areas. Design work continues on further supporting materials - an education pack and digital downloads.

Radicals volunteers have been working on developing a suite of themed walks to link in to the Trail, and this group have had a particularly productive quarter. With Pendle Walking Festival now called off, our walks volunteers are working towards an autumn launch event for their first featured walk, the Two Toms, celebrating Tom Criddle Stephenson and the Rev TA Leonard. Contributor Nick Burton will also explore this subject matter, of democratised access to the countryside, in a webinar talk for the Pendle Hill online events series, planned for August.

Jennifer Reid's Lancashire Dialect Reading Group, **inspired by Paul Graney**, has been converted into an online group. Jennifer is circulating monthly packages of study materials to the dozen participants.

Although frustrated in our aspirations to support and promote **Clarion House**, currently closed, (a weekend residency by Rosie's Plaques on Tour, and the historic Clarion Sunday event were both called off for this year) we were able to launch a digital project by artist Alan Ward with the Clarion cycling community across the north of England. On the day of the cancelled event, Alan circulated a fly-through film of a 40 mile cycle ride to Clarion House. <https://vimeo.com/427702191> This kicked off a data-driven project that will culminate on Clarion Sunday next June, with an estimated 100 plus two-wheeled participants.

Banner Culture publication – we are currently preparing content for assembly by our designer during August and September. Book printing is scheduled for early October, so we plan a launch event, distanced or virtual, in late October or early November, to mark the anniversary of the exhibition and the Textile Biennial.

Two short films are close to completion, one with our borough councils from Tracy Chevalier's trek over the hill last year '**In the Footsteps of George Fox**'. The other documents the punk project **Sick of Being Normal**, and will be launched via an online 'watch party' in the near future.

We had the opportunity in June to contribute to Super Slow Way's digital publication, and to focus in particular on Pendle Radicals:

http://peopleplacetimespace.superslowway.org.uk/project/a-view-from-up-there?fbclid=IwARld_TjP6FGdBH8eUvePGfkcncfyM00tpiYZlieT9LyvSNjEUKdB4ISxfGU

New blog posts this quarter from Nick Burton, Boff Whalley and Alan Ward:

<https://pendleradicals.wordpress.com/2020/04/08/songbook/>

<https://pendleradicals.wordpress.com/2020/04/21/pendle-punk/>

<https://pendleradicals.wordpress.com/2020/06/16/clarion-sunday/>

Delivering Community Archaeology sessions and related training

All Community Archaeology training sessions and volunteering projects have been postponed for the foreseeable future. Our Community Archaeology Co-ordinator from NAA Rebecca Cadbury-Simmons was also furloughed from mid-May (although we do still have contact with NAA if we need it).

We have been having more conversation with **Pendle Archaeology Group** around future projects, and we issued a joint press release in late June. This has already had positive feedback and new volunteers have made contact with us and that group.

Current project planning is focused around **Roman Roads** research in the area, as well as a **community test pit project**. Hopefully the roman roads research work can begin this autumn/winter with non-invasive walk over surveys, and the test pit project will be planned for next spring/summer.

Early on in lockdown we were able to offer research ideas and resources to the Community Archaeology mailing list, and in line with restarting volunteering, we will look as to when we can restart some element of Community Archaeology volunteering.

Over the past 3 months we have been able to look into further research of the topics we are hoping to cover with the community projects. This has included looking at plans for an excavation at **Portfield camp**. Because of the current situation we have decided that it would be better for ourselves and for UCLan if this activity could take place in spring/summer 2022 (provided we are offered the proposed extension to the PHLP).

Threads

Supporting Volunteering and Learning opportunities across the scheme

Get into Volunteering sessions have not been able to go ahead recently, however, links have been made with a local women's group – Women's Vision Collective. Plans have been put in place for this group to start some GiV sessions hopefully before the end of the summer.

Volunteering has not been able to take place at all this quarter, however we have been working together with the AONB team to develop plans and documents for a potential restart of volunteering, and have taken advice from other AONBs and the Visitor Safety Group.

We are now developing and sending out a restart survey to all our volunteers. Questions on this survey have attempted to gauge how many volunteers are ready to return to volunteering under new ways of working, and if not when they would like to return. This will hopefully give us a better idea of the numbers that will be interested to restart, and plan accordingly. Initial reactions show a 75% level of support to re-start.

We have developed new COVID 19 Risk Assessments for practical activities and walks, and have been involved in providing more information to LCC regarding our regular volunteers so that a corporate decision can be made on whether we allow clinically vulnerable or/and clinically extremely vulnerable individuals (and those in bubble with) return to volunteering if they wish.

Both **Family Nature Events and Little Saplings** have been suspended this quarter. Research and planning into which activities would be suitable and safe for a potential restart in August has been developed, plus we are identifying the additional resources which might need to be purchased to comply with the new guidelines and allow social distancing to take place. Online resources have also been shared to keep families busy at home: <https://www.forestofbowland.com/family-fun-covid-19>

For the last few weeks we have been preparing to put our planned **John Muir Discovery Award** challenge on line. Initially aimed at 'hard-to-reach' families we decided to open it up to all local families and we have had over 60 registrations for the award so far for the 2020 summer holiday period.

All sessions with **schools** have been cancelled. The Outdoor Learning Officer, with support through ECT, has made the decision now not to work with schools until September. Schools were informed and some sessions have been moved to September and October, pending guidance and feasibility nearer the time. Three schools are currently booking for sessions in the autumn term and revised lesson plans, RA and procedures are being created for them.

Lesson plans, resources and 'how to' guides have been updated and developed for primary school trips taking place within 2020. All of these will eventually sit on the PHLP website.

Secondary school lesson plans are in development stage, but this work is currently paused due to the consultation on proposed changes to the assessment of GCSEs, AS and A levels in 2021 and the possible removal of fieldwork as a requirement for some exams.

The Outdoor Learning Officer has been producing videos and 'how to' guides for Action for Conservation's WildWEB project, in a volunteer role. This new project has been developed to maintain the WildED aims, but shared digitally across the UK. As Alison, our Outdoor Learning Officer is employed by Ernest Cook Trust they furloughed her along with many other staff, but only for 3 weeks during May, and she is now back in full time work with us. Alison has also been contributing to a number of ECT strategic and policy documents whilst most of their education team have been unable to deliver practical sessions.

With a lack of face-to-face events happening across the PHLP and wider AONB, the Community Engagement Officer and AONB Project Officer have been working together to create a schedule of online events. Currently we have held 4 events, with the help of other staff and external partners, via Zoom. The events aim to cover a range of Bowland and Pendle based topics. So far they have been focused on archaeology, bats, woodlands and National Meadows Day.

Online events have worked really well in this way, and whilst we can't see our audience face-to-face and get out on site it has actually attracted larger audiences than similar 'real life' events would have normally. These events have generated some great feedback.

Feedback from National Meadows day on line:

Dean Dean : thankyou so much for the answers and videos Et Al been fantastic

11:56:19 From Philippa Stewart : thank you all for a really informative and well run session

11:56:26 From jenny : Thank you so much that was fascinating.

11:56:28 From rachellocke : Thank you :)

11:56:29 From Steve Tomlin Crafts : thanks everyone. i really enjoyed this and thought it worked brilliantly

11:56:35 From rob.foster : That was a great morning, thanks ever so much!

11:56:36 From Philippa Stewart : please keep online sessions going

11:56:41 From Chloé Henri : Thank you so much !

11:56:41 From FIona FIinch : many thanks ...inspiring!

11:56:49 From iPhone : thank you so informative

11:57:49 From Sheila Donnelly : Thank you to all very enjoyable.

Holding the Gatherings and annual events to engage new audiences

We have endeavored to continue to develop our programmes as much as possible during this time and prepare for the future as outlined below.

During this quarter we have continued to develop **The Summit** (formerly Young Radicals) project. This has included:

- Posting a call out for artist applications for the project, for which we received 25 applications, our highest number of applications for artist opportunities to date.
- Shortlisting 5 applicants for interview, which we have postponed until Mid-September

Quarterly Report

- Continuing to hold weekly sessions for young people through our 'Yes, And' programme (from which we hope to recruit young people for The Summit project). Unfortunately we have struggled to maintain engagement running the sessions online and after mid-June have now postponed our 'Yes, And' program.
- Unfortunately, due to the situation with Covid 19, our application for an ACE Awards for All grant was rejected.

Zoya who co-ordinates the Summit project has been furloughed by In-Situ for June-August. In-Situ, as a National Portfolio Organisation supported by ACE, has had its grant extended for a full 12 months from April 2022 in order to deal with the disruption caused by the pandemic and lockdown.

In this quarter we have continued conversations with Kerry Morrison as part of her **Deep Peat residency**. The Peat Pie had been due to launch across local eateries in June however due to the ongoing pandemic and closure of eateries we have had to postpone the project. We have maintained our relationship with local pie producer *Piemezzanine* who we hope will still be able to produce the pies once the lockdown restrictions have been lifted. During this quarter Kerry has developed a series of responsive critical writing pieces which we are sharing across our digital platforms.

<https://www.in-situ.org.uk/post/eat-your-greens> <https://www.in-situ.org.uk/post/p-eat-pie-and-queen-of-puds>

We have had to postpone Isabella Martin's artist residency for the '**Traditional Boundaries**' strand due to the current pandemic and her being in Copenhagen. We have remained in contact with Isabella and will continue to assess the situation as global travel and our ability to hold public activity develops. In the meantime Isabella will take part in our Digital Gathering, presenting her work and enabling collective research and learning.

We have finalised our job description for a **graduate trainee**, however we have chosen to postpone putting out a call for applications in this quarter. Our current plans are to put a call out for applications in August, with the hope to interview candidates in person at The Garage in September.

We have successfully moved some of In-Situ's programmes on-line and some of these activities have been able to be linked to the PHLP programme through **Talking Society** exploring, physical and mental Health and access to the environment, here are links to youtube to see the two conversations:

<https://www.facebook.com/insitupendle/videos/695068501306439/>

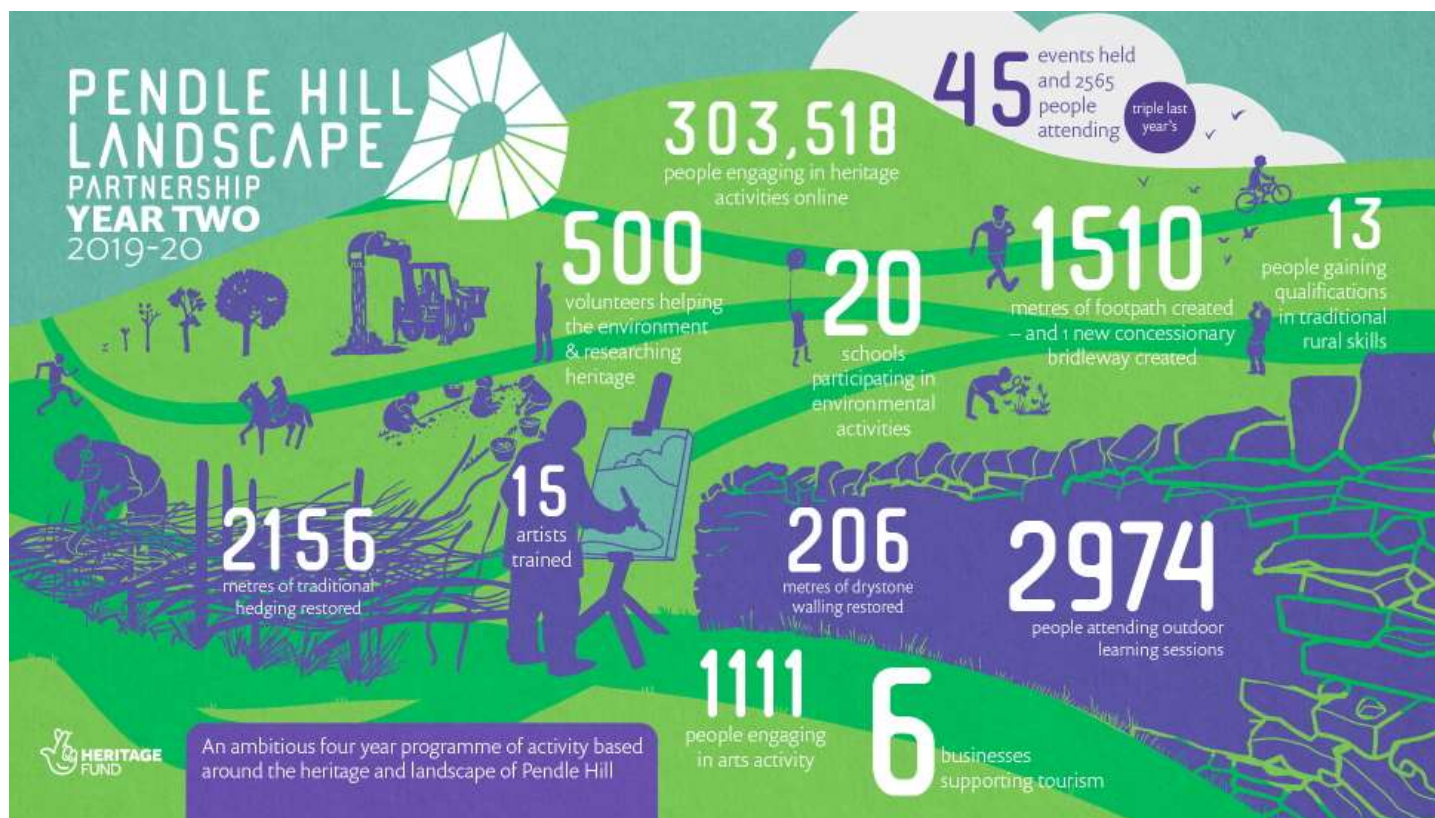
<https://www.facebook.com/insitupendle/videos/581371162377978/>

Co-ordinating Interpretation and Publicity

The majority of interpretation panels have now been installed in the information centre in Downham (see Access report and photos above)

We have produced an online infographic and an outputs map to highlight the achievements of the Scheme for Year 2. The Outputs map now provides useful information about developments across all projects by location for both years, and will continue to be developed in years 3 and 4.

https://pendlehillproject.com/pendle-map?field_projects_value=All&field_year_select_value=2



We have produced some outdoor signage to highlight the Countryside Code messages in a visually appealing format, including some COVID-19 social distancing messages. Smaller versions of the posters were also produced to share via social media.

We are developing a new '**Explore**' page for the LP website which will house all the resources we are creating during the programme including toolkits, learning materials, digital downloads of walking and cycling routes and creative work. We are also developing plans to create a **Hidden Heritage** interpretation project to replace the digital app we had intended to produce. This will consist of small plaques on sites where heritage is less visible or signage is too obtrusive, linking to a webpage of further information which may include film or audio clips, mapping, images, text and data. Initial sites we are researching include Fox's Well, the archaeology found at Downham bridleway, and the Wildlife Discovery sites.

Staffing and Programme Management

It's been a difficult few months with all the team working individually at home. We meet up on zoom once a week and one or two members have met up outdoors to check sites and contractors. Everyone has adapted really well and as you can see we have remained productive.

We have hosted Simon Lees of Countryside Training to carry out a mid term review of the partnership and he has provided us with a glowing report, both of our delivery and our practice. There are a few recommendations which we need to put in place, and our next big challenge is to look at our legacy. The report can be seen here: <https://pendlehillproject.com/reports-and-downloads>

We have had a number of meetings with National Lottery Heritage Fund and they are also happy with our response to the pandemic and the impact it has had on normal delivery. They are happy to receive a request from us for a 6 month extension of the programme to make up for lost time, although no extra funding can be provided. We will produce this report for the next LP Board in September.



Quarterly Progress Report

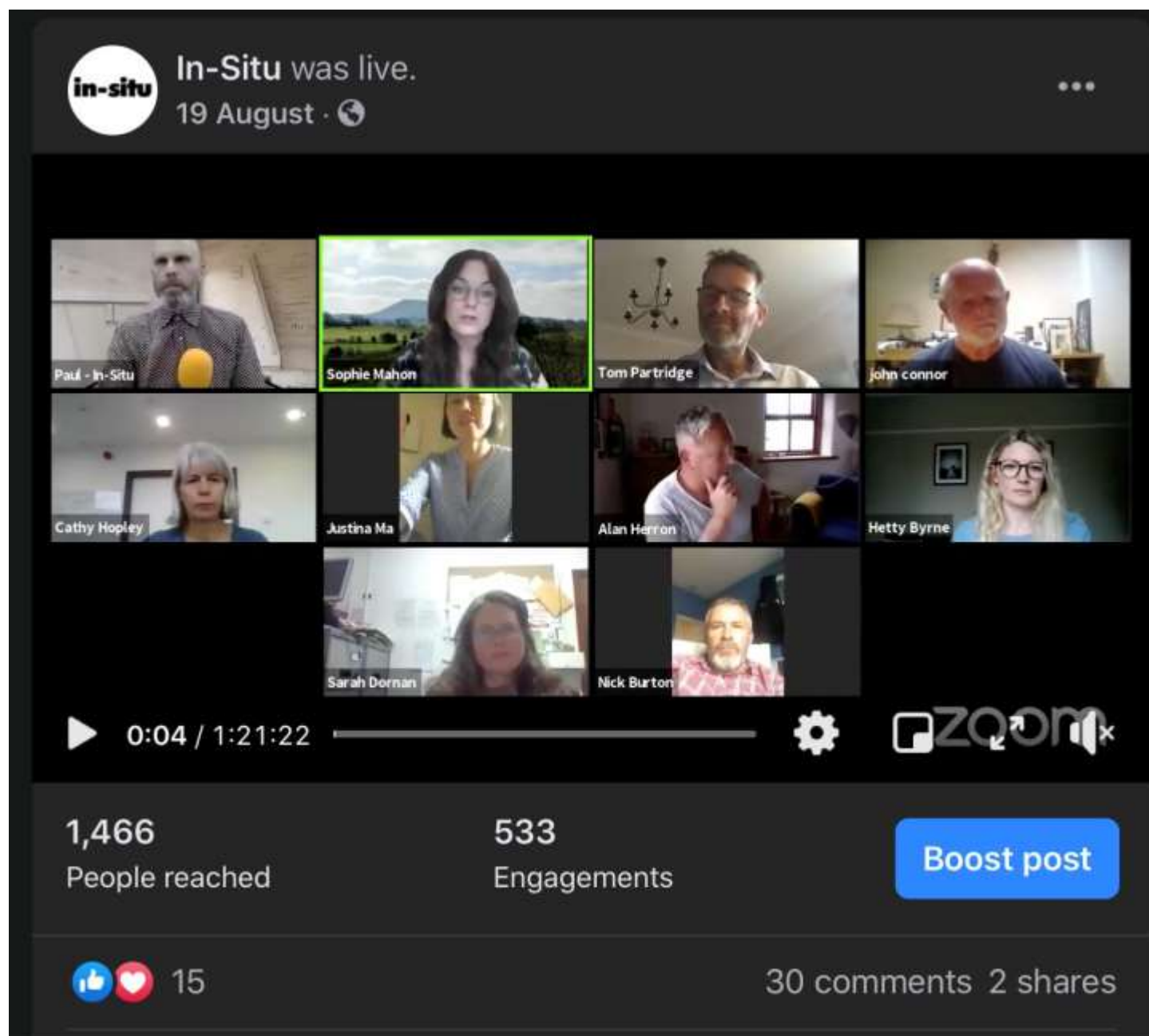


A Family enjoying the on-line John Muir Trust Discover Award Challenge run this summer

July – September 2020
Year 3 Quarter 2

Summary

Once again our report on progress is sadly full of phrases such as 'due to current restrictions' and 'socially distanced meetings' as the Coronavirus pandemic continues to affect our work. We have all found this period particularly frustrating as we have seen the easing of lockdown and then the return of local restrictions, firstly to Pendle borough and then to the whole of Lancashire. However, despite this most of the project leads and LP team have continued working, mostly from home and also out and about in the landscape area, and some of our volunteers have been active, but not the main Pendle Hill team. We have all been discovering new ways of working and finding creative solutions to the issues: several planned public events went on line and our John Muir Award summer programme also went 'virtual'. We have held outdoor team meetings and meetings with partners and the public; 1 to 1 support sessions with participants; and any number of site visits and maintenance jobs have continued.



Screenshot from zoomed 'Digital Gathering 2'

The Environment

Restoring Traditional Boundaries

This quarter tenders for five **hedgerow restoration** schemes (Tranche 3 of the hedging in the project) were returned from the contractors. These were assessed and the contracts were awarded for a total of 2074m of hedging on five farms totalling around £30,000 of spend. This makes tranche 3 the biggest round so far, work is due to start in November at Hathaway Fold, Lower Gazegill, Mountain, Sabden and Schofield farms, and also at Laneside farm where hedge planting work was deferred from last year. All work will aim to complete by March 2021.

The next commissioned **wall restoration** - 392 m² at Meadow Bank farm - was due to begin in Q2, however, this has been delayed until 2022. Instead, the wall that was due to be restored at Little Mearley Hall in 2022 will now begin early in June 2021.

The **dry stone walling competition** had to be cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions, but this will be re-scheduled. Similarly the 10 day dry stone walling training course and the two day hedge-laying course have also been postponed. It is also likely that the hedgelaying competition next March will be cancelled.

Preliminary GIS based work has been undertaken within the area identified for the Padiham flood alleviation scheme as potential activity to be undertaken for biodiversity net gain. Farms within the catchment have been identified and those with priority hedges prioritised, as well as those farms within the Farmer Network. As the Environment Agency flood management scheme has not been signed off yet, further prioritisation of hedging work within this area will take place in Q3 when we hope to know the scale of the budget available under the scheme, which we hope to be able to utilise in the hedging season of Q3 and Q4 of 2021-2.

All the above activity has been greatly helped by having Ian Hart contracted to work on the project checking progress, checking specifications and undertaking pre-start and progress meetings, and signing off completed work. In July the project was covered as a feature article in the Clitheroe Advertiser and other local papers.



The hedgerow at Lower Gazegill farm selected for restoration, before the work begins

Restoring Wildlife and Priority Habitats

A plant species and habitat mapping and survey was undertaken at **Clarion House wildlife discovery site** the beginning of September. This will be written up during Q3 and supplemented with further survey during Q4 and the beginning of yr4, hopefully with volunteer input at that time.

In September members of the Clarion House Friends group undertook the meadow management on the site – cutting and clearing the meadow area. It is really fantastic to work with such an enthusiastic, proactive and capable group. Members of the PHLP team have been to help out as well, raking up and adding more meadow seed to the restoration site.



Colin from the Clarion Friends group, 'peening' his scythe ready for action

A survey of the meadow area at **Barley wildlife discovery site** has been undertaken, in order to see how the site is progressing and to decide what further work is needed. The site was mown and raked in September as in previous years, and seed added according to results of the July plant survey. The survey showed that whilst there had been good establishment of some species, yellow rattle was present at a very low frequency, and so brush harvested seed rich in this species has been added.

At **Worsaw Hill discovery site** a public waxcap hunt has been postponed to Autumn 2021, and plans are in place to carry out further scrub control this winter – by staff and/or volunteers.

The new **Pendle Meadows** project developed during Q1 has been progressing well. Ten meadows have been selected for restoration and enhancement work. The sites are:

- Cockshotts Meadow
- Clarion House meadow
- Barley Discovery site meadow
- Gannel House meadow
- Spring Wood meadow

- Lower Gazegill (four meadows)
- Pendle Heritage Centre meadow

The sites have all been surveyed and specific seed mixes selected for each site. All the sites were cut and cleared within Q2 and some have already had their seed added. The rest of the seeding work will be completed within Q3, once the seed order has arrived.

In the development phase we identified a number of county **sites of ecological importance** (BHSs) which were in need of management. We are now aiming to work with the individual farmers or landowners to deliver this. This might be by providing survey results and input to the development of forthcoming agri-environment applications, giving advice on habitat management, or providing practical help (such as scrub control on Worsaw Hill) with our Pendle Hill volunteers. In Q2 the two United Utility owned sites were surveyed, and discussions about management going forward are underway.

Creating and Managing Woodlands

We have spent the last quarter preparing woodlands for this winter's and next year's planting season, and continuing INNS work where COVID restrictions have allowed.

We have 3 **Woodland sites** lined up for this winter; Schofield Farm, Hollins Farm and Cockshotts Farm. The Schofield and Hollins woodlands have been designed to reduce significant soil erosion and at the site at Cockshotts we will exclude stock and reduce faecal inputs to the watercourse. The fencing works are out for tender for Cockshotts and Hollins, and the site at Schofield will be fenced by the farmer in time for planting season.



Land adjacent to a woodland at Cockshotts farm, Sabden, where new woodland will be created later this year.

Rob, our **INNS** co-ordinator, returned from furlough in July and since then we have been monitoring the feasibility of organising volunteer days. We have been limiting numbers to between 4 and 8 depending on restrictions at the time. We have been able to continue Balsam removal across our INNS sites and continued with some woodland management in Badger Plantation

Restoring Footpaths and Repairing Peatland on the Summit

Work this quarter has centred on the 'Summit Revisited' climate resilience work. £20,000 of contingency budget has been released to the project and work is now underway. The contractors are Settle-based Conservefor, who worked on the original Summit peat project in 2018.

We have been able to fund additional **timber dams** to further reduce flow rates in the five large gullies running parallel on either side of the flag path; **coir logs** to slow the sheet flow over the bare peat on the summit; cutting and spreading of moss rich **heather brash** on the same summit area to cover the bare peat and protect the additional seed to be spread; and a layer of **geo-textile** to cover the sides of the large re-profiled gullies where the brash put down in 2018 was carried away by the flood water in February of 2020.



New timber dams installed in the narrow gullies and new coir logs in place on the summit: both will slow the flow



Geo-textile laid to protect the gully side, ready for seeding & brash; revegetation on site 2 years after the original work

The work began in early September and will be completed by the end of March 2021. The delay is because timber and geo-textile supplies have been interrupted by Covid-19, and so the contractors have now come off site and await the delivery of materials to complete the work.

Monitoring of the bare peat areas where the brash was not affected by the February 2020 storms shows really good colonisation by mosses and heather, and the plug plants planted both by the contractors in 2018 and by volunteers in early 2019 have established really well.



The Economy

Enhancing Visitor Gateways and key routes to Access Heritage

As mentioned in the last report construction work at **Heys Lane** was put on hold due to a public petition opposing the works. This has been a difficult and challenging time for all of us involved and some hard decisions had to be made. Despite support from neighbouring Roughlee parish council, a meeting held with Barley Parish Council and residents outlining the technical specification of works was met with a pre-prepared statement on behalf of the Barley parish council stating that they felt they could not support a project that attracted more visitors to the village.

Following NLHF support the PHLP Board decided to put the proposals on hold for 12 months allow for Barley residents to consider the project further, using the Parish Council to convey information between Residents and PHLP. The main funder for the works LEF is happy to wait or to transfer their grant to another similar project providing Trumper and all ability access. The decision has also been made to defer production of any further visitor interpretation at Barley village, due to local opposition and sensitivities; although we will honour our offer of support for car park improvements once a contractor can be procured by the parish council

Following this decision both the Project Officer and Graduate Trainee have been in touch with Rights of Way Officers and Parish Councils in other parts of the LP to research potential alternative projects. A shortlist is being compiled including one with good potential, and landowner discussions are about to begin to establish the feasibility of these.

At **Spring Wood** a Planning Application for change of use of the visitor building to allow food sales has been submitted with a decision to be made imminently. LCC Assets Team are now engaging in discussion to progress the management of the build project, hopefully due to start in the New Year.

7 new low-level short **circular routes** are being developed and five have now been uploaded to the View Ranger App as new promoted routes. These will link in with 7 longer routes to be developed as alternative routes to the Summit of Pendle Hill, in order to take pressure off some of the well-used visitor destinations.



ViewRanger walk routes for Sabden and Newchurch village circular walks as shown on the App

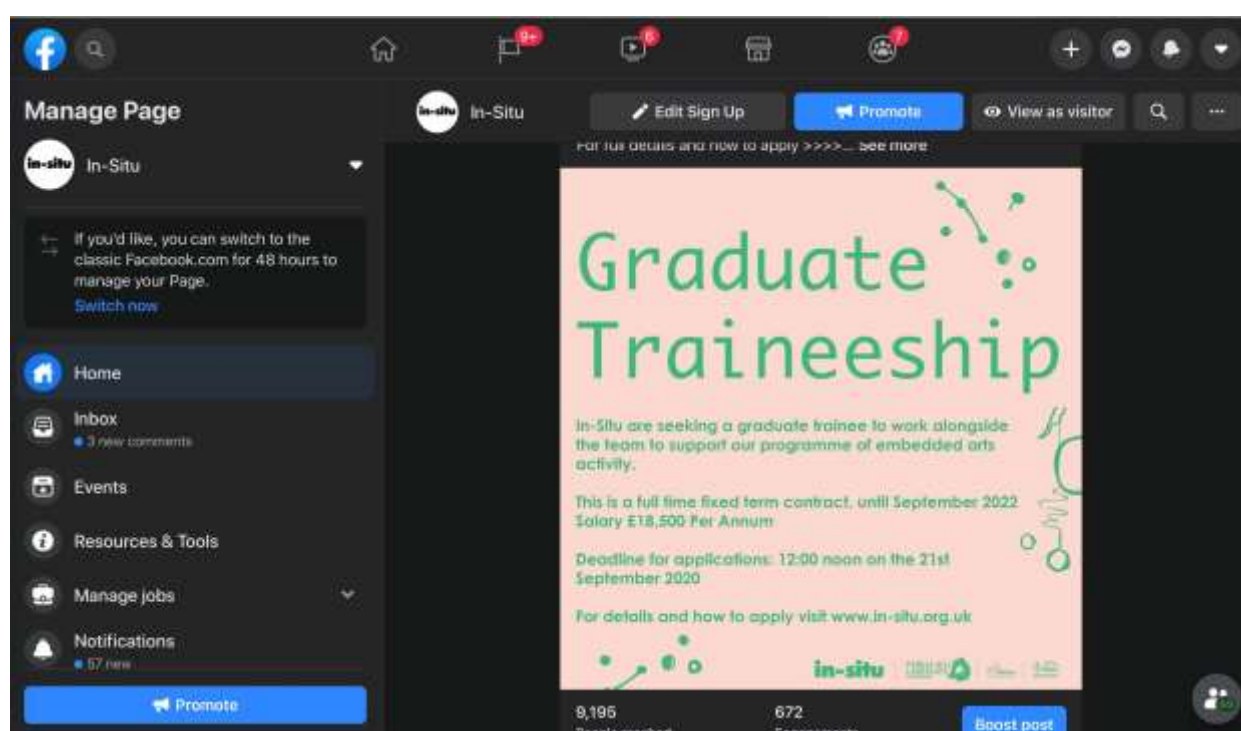
After negotiations with the Landowner and comments from visitors, new signage for the **Downham concessionary bridleway** has been ordered and awaits delivery. There is a slight delay in supply because of a shortage of materials. A dog waste/litter bin has also been arranged to be located near to Greendale View Kitchen on the route, funded by the parish council and maintained by RVBC, this again is after listening to visitor feedback.

Offering Apprenticeships

We have now been able to recruit all the apprentices and trainees, bar the final LP team role (due April 2021).

The Pendle Heritage Centre now has 3 apprentices in post: Emma is a level 3 Horticulture apprentice with Burnley College, working on the grounds and gardens at the Centre in Barrowford and also liaising with the LP team regarding woodlands and meadow management on site. Jenna is based at the Heritage Centre, and during the pandemic also at Higherford Mill, and is taking an level 2 apprenticeship in Business Administration at Nelson & Colne college. Lewis is a level 2 apprentice in Painting & Decorating at Burnley college and will be carrying out heritage building renovation work mostly at PHC but also at other heritage properties managed by the Trust as part of their heritage renovation team.

In-Situ have recruited a graduate trainee, Calum, who starts work in late October as a project management trainee supporting the staff team and visiting artists on The Gatherings strand. Both In-Situ and Ribble Rivers Trust were inundated with applications – over 300 across the two posts – and shortlisting and appointing was very challenging, but we hope to have 2 very able and committed trainees supporting the team. RRT hope to appoint their trainee by the end of October.



Sense of Place and Sustainable Tourism

Two **Foodie Foray events** were delivered for the project by Danielle Kaye, Medical Herbalist. Due to the current COVID restrictions we delivered these as part of our online programme, via Zoom. 20th September: 'A Herbal Medicine Forage' and 22nd September: 'A Seasonal Foraged Feast'. These events built on the Foodie Foray events that were delivered in Years 1 and 2 during September and are a celebration of local, seasonal food in the Pendle Hill and wider Forest of Bowland area. Danielle took us on an online journey, bringing people closer to nature, to learn about some of the edible and medicinal plants growing in the local area.

They were attended by 70 participants and the feedback from the events was all very positive. We filmed some of the demonstration elements of the events so that they could be pre-recorded and played during the event and also for sharing to those who weren't able to attend. The films and resources for both events can be viewed here: <https://www.forestofbowland.com/online-event-links> Feedback from participants:

- This has been fab thank you I'm off foraging ASAP 😊🌿
- Wonderful - thank you. Off to walk the dog and see what I can find!
- Thanks you -can't wait to make some Hedgerow vinegar this week.
- Inspiring:) Many thanks
- That looks so wonderful - I'm going foraging for elderflower berries this afternoon. Thank you so much, this has been so enjoyable. X
- I've loved this foraging session, thank you very much to you all for organising this. I'll be registering on the online course today - after I've been out foraging :)
- Thank you everyone that was fab, really enjoyed this. I feel a foraging walk coming on!
- I walk past elderberries every day. so I look forward to using them
- Thank you. excellent session
- Thank you very much for this, hugely interesting, a Sunday morning very well spent.
- Thank you, very interesting.
- Thank you for this, very enjoyable.
- Brilliant, thank you. Guess what we are doing this afternoon
- Thank you very much great ideas to improve our health
- Great energy, felt like you made it achievable thank you :-)
- Thank you very interesting and worth attending this morning
- Thank you very much



Commissioning Research into the value the landscape offers to the economy and community services

The **72 Seasons project** has continued apace and is now nearing the end of its year long study. Participants have continued to notice and record changes in nature and the effect it is having on their well being. A blog on part 2 of the study, covering the spring months can be read here <https://www.theevaluator.co.uk/72-seasons-the-agreed-18-seasons-of-spring/> Interestingly this covered the Covid lockdown period, here is an excerpt:

We never could have predicted that this project around noticing nature and wellbeing would have such a turbulent year to follow. It almost feels unreal that in 2020 we happened to carry out a year-long nature project that people can take part in from home. As a researcher you cannot get much luckier than measuring wellbeing with a group of people both before and during Covid and hopefully continuing as we come out of Covid.

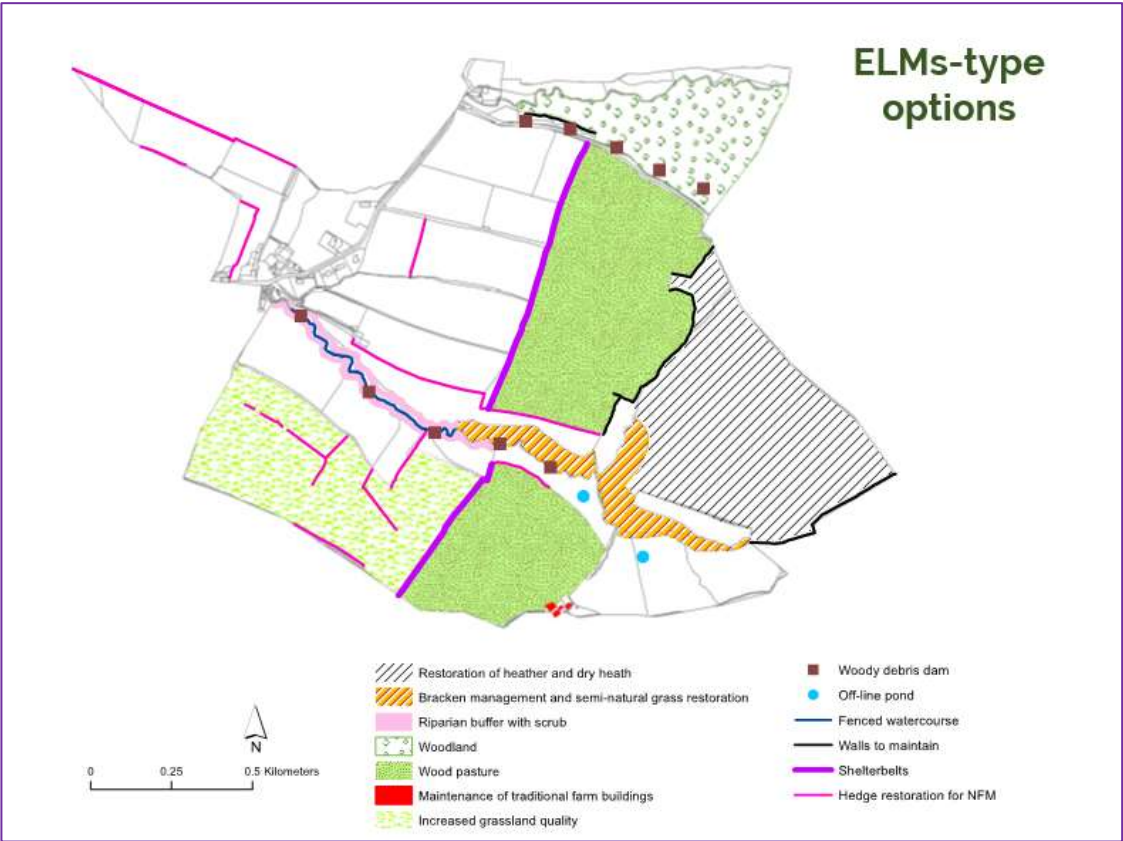
We have measured wellbeing and health in detail during the most impactful year, with dramatic changes in life and huge effects on wellbeing. We have been there, live, measuring away and running the project, mostly just as planned. It is also crucial to note that nature almost feels like the only silver lining of Covid; our rivers cleared up, the skies were free of aeroplanes, and traffic was almost silent. Looking at Spring happening, quite normally, while the whole world around us changed beyond all recognition, was a source of comfort for me and for many others taking part in the project.

"This year with lockdown I somehow feel even more aware of nature and how it is thriving and blossoming without us – almost as if it is benefiting from our absence. Quite humbling."

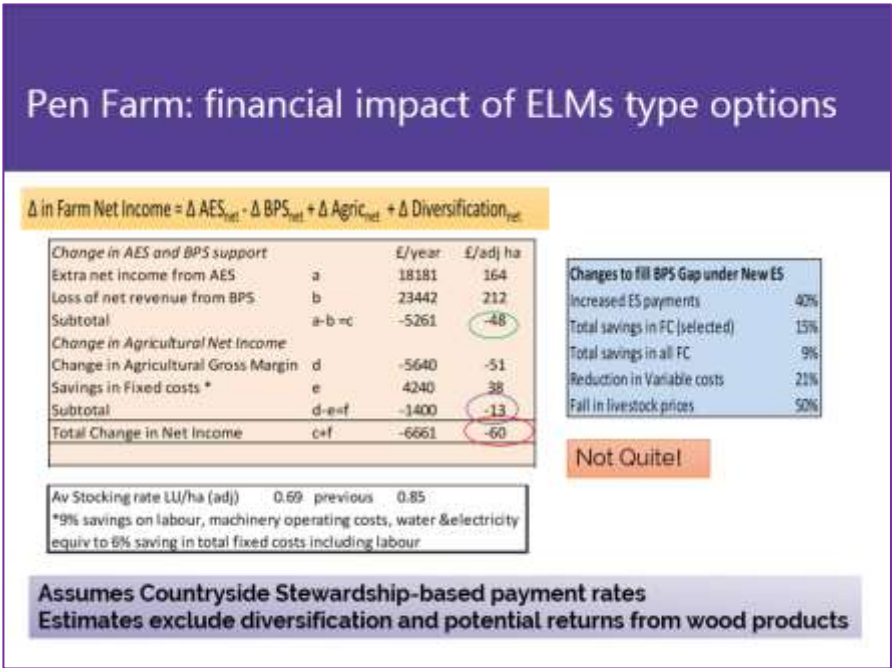
"I don't know if it's what we are going through at the moment but I'm noticing the different trees and how they open up and the different time trees open up... the glorious different green colours in the trees. I've noticed the blossom and spring flowers and been sending photos to my mum as she has missed seeing all the spring flowers while out and about. It makes me realise what we take for granted usually and is opening my eyes to the wonder around the beautiful part of Lancashire I am so fortunate to live in and be able to see while in lockdown."

"Really enjoying taking part. It's particularly good to focus on nature during these weird times."

The **Public Money for Public Goods** research is also nearing completion. Mapping of natural capital and analysis of farm business income for the 3 farms involved has been completed and fed back to them; and the researchers and LP team have been involved in creating a hypothetical or 'imaginary farm' called Pen Farm, to use as a case study in the final report. This showed how a hill farm business on Pendle Hill is heavily reliant on agri-environment and basic payment support to be financially viable. Without these subsidies (forecast to happen in 2-5 years' time) farms in our area will need to make tough decisions about the future of farming, and with that goes the future of our landscape. The researchers identified that if a new system of support is based on current payment levels to carry out environmental land management then farmers will still make a loss: therefore levels of payment on any future system need to be increased for them to incentivise farmers to produce public goods such as planting woodland, developing natural flood management interventions and enabling greater public access. The full report will be published in quarter 3. A summary was presented as part of the Northern Real Farming Conference on 8th October and was well received.



A slide from the conference presentation showing the proposed new land management options for Pen farm



A further slide showing the financial implications of the proposed changes

Everyone

Running a Community Grant Scheme

The Year 3 Pendle Hill Fund application window opened from 3rd August to 14th September. We received 3 applications in this time.

The Grants Panel met virtually to discuss the applications on 28th September. They agreed that all 3 applications were very good, and approved grants for the amounts requested.

All applicants were notified on 28th September that their grant applications were successful and they have now been provided with the relevant paperwork. A total of £25,308 was committed by the panel.

These applications were:

- Calico and Clogs – a heritage trail around Sabden led by Sabden parish council: £8,887
- Rimington Heritage Trail – led by volunteers from the Rimington Recreation Association: £8,421
- Habitat and Woodland Management at Park Hill – led by Heritage Fund North West at the Pendle Heritage Centre: £8,000

All these projects are focused around local heritage (history and natural heritage), engaging with local communities and offering a new opportunity to explore these areas. The Calico and Clogs project aims to involve the local primary school and volunteers from the Pendle Radicals project.

We have also accepted a **small grants** application from Whalley Parish Council, to update 2 benches in the area. These benches will include a plaque about two local High Sheriffs from the Clerk Hill area. This information will also be added to a local website, and will aim to engage local people in this portion of history.

On 28th September, the Grants Panel also accepted requests from each of the Year 2 projects to extend for 12 months, because of the impact of the Global Pandemic. They also accepted requests from the Spring Wood Pond and Access project to change some of their proposed work, from the installation of a dipping platform (deemed to be unsafe) to more access improvements.

Providing Supported Activity Sessions for people dealing with mental health issues and social isolation

Normal PEN sessions have yet to restart.

Throughout July we continued with some 1 to 1 individual walks with existing participants. These were well received, however participants (and staff) were keen to try and reintroduce group activity.

In July the PHLP team acquired use of a site at Hollins farm in Downham, courtesy of the Downham Estate. This site contains an indoor room, an old dairy, plus a yard containing a number of raised beds which need a lot of management, but has the potential to be used as a great location for different PHLP groups going forward. It was hoped that PEN participants could bring the beds back into management this year.

We planned for 3 weeks of activity in late August and early September, involving a walk from a different town on Monday afternoon, and a PEN session at the garden site (Hollins) on the Monday. The Little Green Bus Company were happy to restart operations, with their Covid 19 measures in place, from just one pick up point. Attempts to restart activity in this way again didn't quite go as well as we would have hoped. The level of anxiety is still quite high, and in fact many people weren't too keen on getting on a minibus, along with some confusion about what people were and weren't allowed to do. We also did not have a lot of time to advertise these activity weeks because of the constantly changing circumstances.

In early September, with the Little Green Bus Company happy, we planned a 6 week block of activity on Thursday afternoons – trying to resume some as-normal PEN activity as possible. We also planned 6 weeks of a Monday afternoon walk, rotating around the local towns. However, with plans in place to restart Thursday sessions on 1st October, earlier that week the joint decision was made to cancel these sessions yet again, as with increasing restrictions and guidance coming into place in Lancashire in late September, the element of shared transport was considered too much of a risk for the PEN sessions.

Jayne adds, at the time of writing: ' We still aim to go ahead with the Monday walks (in fact the first, with 2 groups of under 6 people each has already run), along with any other 1 to 1 walks that I find suitable. I am also happy to facilitate outdoor gardening sessions at Hollins for those with private transport. Because of the lack of other projects available at the moment, we are conscious that there is a great need for mental health support and provision. If the demand for supported walks or garden sessions increases, I will try and meet that as much as is possible.'

Creatively Engaging People in our Radical History

MPA's team continue to work reduced hours from home. Some planned public events were postponed, notably the Rosie's Plaques national tour, which was due to spend a weekend at Clarion House in July.

Work on the Radicals Trail is now taking visible shape, although in current circumstances every stage is taking longer than anticipated. The fabricators have produced a test piece to demonstrate the look and feel of the engraved stone panels, and to check the viability of their methodology. This looked as good as we hoped, and the first two actual panels are now close to completion. We also conducted further site visits with dummy panels to establish precise positioning at most locations. Design work continues on the final supporting materials.



Mock-ups of the final plaques to be installed at Downham information barn and Fox's Well on Pendle Hill

Work is also progressing on the publication to celebrate the Banner Culture exhibition. Initial design proofs look very exciting, and we are working towards going to print around end of October.

In September we launched the film of the punk project Sick of Being Normal, with a very convivial online event featuring some of the principals on the same evening. The 16 minute film <https://vimeo.com/456176942> has been very well received, and we are delighted to say has received over 700 views to date. We also released an online version of the photozine for the project, featuring newly commissioned photography and interviews with many of the prime movers of that cultural scene <https://online.fliphtml5.com/dsqhf/pgif/#p=1> SOBN kicked off with a music and exhibition event prior to lockdown. It will continue with further live activity when circumstances allow.



Zoom shot of the SOBN launch event

Jennifer Reid's Lancashire Dialect Reading Group, inspired by Paul Graney, continued and concluded with the last three monthly sessions. We will reconnect with the group when we are able to offer them a research trip to the Graney Archive at Manchester Central Library.

Quarterly Report

Radicals volunteers provided material and discussion for the first of the Digital Gatherings in August. Regular volunteer Nick Burton also provided a talk for the Festival Bowland online series, focused on the countryside movement, and pioneer spirits Stephenson and Leonard.

Since lockdown, we continue to keep in touch with Radicals volunteers via the Facebook sharing group, and through regular posts by contributors on the project blog. New blog posts this quarter:

<https://pendleradicals.wordpress.com/2020/07/21/wonder-women-walk/>

<https://pendleradicals.wordpress.com/2020/09/16/what-is-normal/>

<https://pendleradicals.wordpress.com/2020/09/17/still-sobn/>

Delivering Community Archaeology sessions and related training

With limited volunteer or group activity available, the Community Archaeology project has been very quiet over the past few months. NAA are happy to consider a potential extension to the project in 2022. Communication has continued between PHLP and Pendle Archaeology Group.

Threads

Supporting Volunteering and Learning opportunities across the scheme

Planning has continued to re start **volunteering**; we finalised which activities we would be offering to our volunteers, based on what we can safely deliver and what needs to be done within the projects. Approval was received to restart volunteering from LCC head of service in the beginning of September.

However, due to the increasing restrictions and guidance brought into Lancashire in September, a few weeks later this restart was postponed by LCC.

We will continue to plan and put everything in place for when we can safely restart volunteering, although with the current restrictions, we don't envision that they will be very soon.

This recent set back has been incredibly frustrating, however we remain in contact with our volunteers and hope to restart soon.

We were hopeful to restart **Get into Volunteering** sessions, in line with other volunteering Risk Assessments and guidance, however with the second postponement of volunteering, this too has now been postponed.

No face-to-face **informal learning activity** has taken place since the end of March, this includes Little Saplings and school holiday family events. Instead we launched an online **John Muir Family Discover Award** project in July. This was to replace the original John Muir face to face engagement sessions that were planned for April to September, but had been cancelled due to the pandemic. The online John Muir Award was advertised to families living in and around the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership area, through directed emails, via local groups, press releases and through local school contacts.

The engagement project was advertised as a fully inclusive opportunity, for all ages and as a family summer holiday challenge, which would help and encourage families to spend more time outdoors and reconnect to their local landscape. Families were required to register their interest, in order to receive the weekly John Muir challenge newsletters. Six newsletters were sent out as the main communication method and primary means of support (plus an online introductory meeting via zoom). Each Monday newsletter contained a nature/heritage theme, information and activities – encouraging approximately 5 hours of activity per week.

Each week focused on a different theme, including minibeasts and pollinators, wildflowers and hedgerows, birds, local history and archaeology, and finally Pendle Hill at night. Resources can be found here: <https://pendlehillproject.com/john-muir-weekly-challenge-resources> Throughout the project, weekly films were made available to offer simple how-to guides on some of the activities. A closed Facebook group was set up for the participants to allow sharing of ideas. The two project officers were available to contact via phone and email, to allow all participants to ask for help when required.

Overall, 108 families registered for the project online. 60 families signed up to the weekly newsletters. 27 families started the weekly challenges, with 20 families' completing them all, therefore accomplishing the 25 hours required to receive the award certificate. Two celebration events were held online and a final email sent out to all participants showcasing their achievements via a highlights film that was put together with film footage and the families evidence photos they submitted. The film can be viewed here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Go532F3XEdY>

Quarterly Report

Feedback includes "for minibeast and pollinator week we made a bug hotel and spa for them filled it with lots of leaves and twigs we collected on our walk. We found lots of butterflies, we got some pics but they were very fast, but we also took some of bees collecting pollen. This was our favourite week"

Another family said, "We have thoroughly enjoyed every minute of the John Muir Award and would like to thank you all for your support and guidance throughout."

A family who were new to exploring the outdoors stated "Thank you so much for organising this, we have had lots of fun and learnt a lot along the way."



Snips of the short films made for the challenge by Jayne and Alison



Photo submitted by one family participant

Based on the success of the virtually supported John Muir Award, we have now started a fortnightly 'Connecting to Nature' engagement email. This aims to provide information, learning opportunities and activities for families, adults etc. over autumn/winter to encourage people to remain connected to nature and continue accessing the outdoors.

Outdoor learning with schools has also proved very difficult. Alison spent much of the summer attending training and preparing guidance for working with schools in a Covid-secure way in the future. Two sessions

were successfully run with Lomeshaye Junior school in September before a positive test in the class halted the other two planned sessions. Planning and preparation of resources continues and Alison hopes to hold a few more sessions before half term and then to hopefully re-start next Spring.

We also supported a series of on line events with the AONB team, providing learning for all ages. The events have included hay meadows, archaeology, bats, black grouse, rewilding, Roman roads and peat restoration.

Between June and end of September, we jointly ran 17 sessions which attracted almost 600 attendees. These virtual sessions have proved popular and have reached new audiences for us – from across the country. They also make it possible for us to connect with people who wouldn't normally be able to join us face to face; whether that be for health, transport or other reasons.

Holding the Gatherings and annual events to engage new audiences

As a way of connecting to the community during a period of lockdown restrictions, we hosted a season of talks throughout August 2020, our '**Digital Gathering**'. This took place in lieu of our annual face to face gathering which was due to happen in May. The Digital Gathering was a season of open format online conversations exploring our local landscape and communities, alongside intimate in-conversations with artists and specialists working in these areas. This was held entirely on Zoom with people attending from across the area and further afield.

We hosted 4 open community conversations around different themes that go deeper into PHLP and the activity, ideas and challenges behind the programme and those involved. These were:

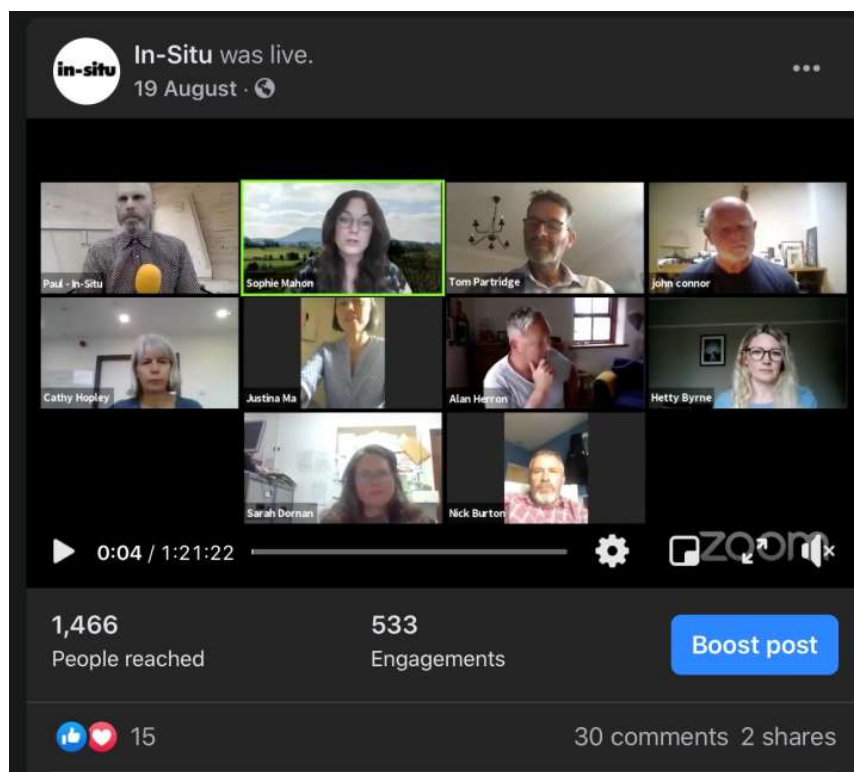
- **Traditions, Stories, and Folklore - 5th Aug**
- **Interventions into the landscape - 12th Aug**
- **Sustainable Tourism and increasing access to the hill for everyone - 19th Aug**
- **The Future of Communities around Pendle Hill - 26th Aug**

The above series of talks were hosted by program coordinator Sophie Mahon and Paul Hartley from the In-Situ team and used an open format style with everyone able to contribute to the discussions equally. The sessions were live-streamed on Facebook and accessible via Facebook afterwards. These conversations were open to all and promoted across on PHLP and In-Situ's social media as well as through community pages and contacts. This included a range of LP project representatives (i.e. Ribble Rivers, Alison, Nick Mid Pennine); artists (working on PHLP projects or from our artists network), farmers and land owners, local councillors, young people from 'both sides of the hill', residents from rural villages and towns, funders, heritage, tourism and business. A film of the events, condensing them into a 5 minute summary is currently being produced and will be made available via our website soon.

We also held two **in-conversation** events with artists and specialists working on collaborative projects, this included:

Deep Peat - In conversation with **Kerry Morrison and Sarah Robinson** (Monday 3rd Aug) gaining insight into the collaborative, interdisciplinary work we do in the program. This event allowed us to make further connections and establish new relationships with relevant organisations working in peat restoration and/or using art practice as a means of raising awareness. This talk was streamed live with people tuning in 'in-person' and connecting via Facebook chats. **Isabella Martin and Linda Clarkson** (Monday 17th Aug) As this is a new project we use this opportunity to introduce our upcoming artist-in-residence Isabella to a local dry stone wall trainer. This hour long interview was hosted by Sophie Mahon and has been recorded. This

footage will function as research for Isabella's residency and will also be edited and made available online along with Sarah and Kerrys interviews. We hope to post both films on the Pendlefolk website.



Zoom shot of the third Digital Gathering

Due to the ongoing challenges brought about by COVID19 we are having to continually rethink how we can engage with people in light of changing restrictions in regards to public gatherings. As such we have put a call out for a series of week-long micro residencies, continuing our embedded, collaborative working approach and supporting artists to navigate these difficult times. These residency will allow us gauge public responses to activity and test out new approaches. Through these '**Testing Ground**' residencies artists will come and spend time in the area, creatively responding to people and place and exploring new ways of sharing and creating work with the local community.

Co-ordinating Interpretation and Publicity

A parish noticeboard is now ready to be installed in the information centre in Downham and the design work for a final interpretation panel for the Ribble River's Trust is near completion, there is still some work to be completed on the refurbishment of the building by Ribble Valley Borough Council, and the launch will take place when COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted further.

As highlighted in the Volunteering and Learning Project, the John Muir award was delivered online during the school holidays. As part of that delivery we put together a series of 11 short films to inspire families to get outdoors and carry out the activities; these films were delivered by the PHLP team's project officers Jayne and Alison working with a media consultancy. A final highlights film was produced as a celebration of the activities that took place as part of the award.

Short films were also produced as part of the annual foodie foray events, on-line. As well as being used as part of the event, the films enabled us to maximise the reach for those that couldn't attend and have been made available via an on-line resources page on the Forest of Bowland website:

<https://www.forestofbowland.com/online-event-links>

We have carried out some checks of the PHLP website to ensure it is accessibility compliant and have implemented some small changes. An accessibility statement has also been produced which is now also available from the website.

Consultant Cath Ford has continue to produce illustrations for the 72 season's project which have been shared via the groups' Facebook page.



The Raspberries Turn Red



Morning Sunshine Lights The Grass

Staffing and Programme Management

As noted at the start of this report, it has been a difficult summer but the team are managing well and despite a series of setbacks, all of them out of our hands, we continue to deliver and innovate.

We still plan to put forward a formal request for a scheme extension, for an additional 6-8 months based on savings made in the programme which would push our scheme end date back from April to October 2022: giving us another 2 years with delivery hopefully returning to 'normal' early in 2021. We have also extended the contract for our trainee, Dom, to give him a further 6 months placement with us until the end of March 2021, as his experience with us has not been quite what we had all hoped.

