



Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Advisory Committee

Thursday, 20th April, 2023 at 2.00 pm in Bleasdale Parish Hall, off Bleasdale Lane, Preston PR3 1UZ

Programme

10.30am	Meet at Bleasdale Parish Hall for refreshments
11.15am	Farm walk – visiting Lower Fairsnape FiPL project
12.45pm	Lunch at Bleasdale Parish Hall
2.00pm	AONB JAC Meeting

Agenda

- 1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies for Absence**
- 2. 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.
- 3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 20 October 2022** (Pages 1 - 10)
- 4. Partner Updates**
- 5. Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme**
- 6. AONB Partnership Budget 2023/2024** (Pages 11 - 14)
- 7. AONB Unit Activity Report (Oct 2022 - April 2023)** (To Be Tabled)
- 8. Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership** (Pages 15 - 28)
- 9. Three Counties: Lune Valley** (Pages 29 - 38)

10. 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.

11. Date of Next Meeting

19 October 2023 in Pendle, venue to be confirmed.
18 April 2024 in Preston district, venue to be confirmed.

Samantha Gorton
Democratic Services

Lancashire County Council
County Hall
Preston



Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Advisory Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 20 October 2022 at 2.00pm in Over Wyresdale Parish Hall, Strait Lane, Abbeystead, Lancaster, LA2 9BQ

Present:

Chair

County Councillor Matthew Maxwell-Scott, Lancashire County Council

Committee Members

Councillor Rosemary Elms, Ribble Valley Borough Council
Councillor John Ibison, Wyre Council
Colin Price, Yorkshire Local Councils Association
Helen Dix, Environment Agency
Andrew Taylor, Bowland Land Managers Forum
Mike Pugh, Champion Bowland
Sonja Ludwig, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
James Cooper, Natural England
Chris Kynch, Lancashire Association of Local Councils (Parish Councils) (Virtual)

Officers

Alison Boden, Wyre Borough Council (Virtual)
Hugh Clear Hill, North Yorkshire County Council
Elliott Lorimer, Forest of Bowland AONB Unit, Lancashire County Council
Hetty Byrne, Forest of Bowland AONB Unit, Lancashire County Council
Sandra Silk, Forest of Bowland AONB Unit, Lancashire County Council
Sam Gorton, Democratic Services, Lancashire County Council

Observers

Jan Arger, Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE), North Yorkshire

Apologies

County Councillor Shaun Turner, Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Ged Mirfin, Lancashire County Council
Councillor Joyce Pritchard, Lancaster City Council
Cllr Anna Hindle, Preston City Council
Neil Kilgour, Moorland Association

David Hewitt, Ribble Valley Borough Council
Lucy Henwood, Preston City Council
Richard Camp, Lancaster City Council
Andrew Laycock, Craven District 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.

The following new members were welcomed:

- Councillor Anna Hindle, Preston City Council
- County Councillor Simon Myers, North Yorkshire County Council
- Councillor Keith Martin, Lancashire Association of Local Councils (LALC)
- Sonja Ludwig, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)

Alternatives for the meeting were:

- Jan Arger for Fran Evans, Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE), North Yorkshire
- Hugh Clear-Hill for Liz Small, North Yorkshire County Council
- James Cooper for Ginny Hinton/Sam Critchley, Natural England
- Chris Kynch for Councillor Keith Martin, Lancashire Association of Local Councils (LALC)

2. Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair

Resolved: County Councillor Shaun Turner and County Councillor Matthew Maxwell-Scott were appointed Chair and Vice-Chair respectively for the 2022/2023 Municipal Year.

In the absence of the Chair, the Deputy Chair took the meeting.

3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

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

4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 April 2022

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 21 April 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

Elliott Lorimer, Forest of Bowland AONB, Lancashire County Council gave an update on the Haweswater Aqueduct Resilience Programme (HARP) following the presentation that the Committee received at the meeting on 21 April 2022. Previous comments submitted by the AONB identified incomplete information particularly in relation to protected species and some additional survey work was required from the specialist ecology advisor's perspective. They felt that planning authorities could have been open to judicial review if

they had not completed it. United Utilities had now completed this survey work over the summer and the local planning authorities are now in receipt of that information.

The Committee noted that two meetings had also taken place with United Utilities on ecology at the end of July and the other on landscape in mid-August. United Utilities helped to clarify a number of issues around the information that they had supplied previously and explained about the approach to procurement of a contractor to design and build the schemes.

Supplementary environmental information was submitted by the applicant to both Lancaster City Council and Ribble Valley Borough Council and should they agree to give consent for the works, there will be a series of strict planning condition known as "Grampian conditions" on landscape and ecology which will have to be met before any work can take place. Those conditions will include consultation with the AONB on these, as the information is brought to the local planning authorities to satisfy them.

The Committee noted that there were currently no dates set for when the local authorities would be taking the decisions to committee (one application in Lancaster District to the south of Wray and two planning applications in Ribble Valley for two sections, Bowland and Marl Hill).

A further meeting with United Utilities had also taken place to discuss the potential for voluntary landscape compensation scheme and the Committee were informed that United Utilities were working on this as part of a wider Social and Community Investment Fund

Resolved: That the Committee noted the update provided.

5. Constitution, Membership and Terms of Reference

Elliott Lorimer, Forest of Bowland AONB Unit, Lancashire County Council presented the constitution, membership and terms of reference to the Committee indicating that there had been some changes to the membership only.

With regards to North Yorkshire County Council becoming a Unitary Authority in 2023, this would affect membership and it was noted that discussions were taking place with the other two AONBs for when this happens.

Resolved: That the Committee approved the constitution, membership and terms of reference for 2022/23.

6. Brief Partner Updates

Environment Agency (EA)

Helen Dix, Environment Agency (EA) informed the Committee that throughout the summer they had been focussed on managing low flows and drought conditions. Stocks Reservoir was at a capacity level of less than 14%, and work has been carried out with United Utilities to manage the impacts that creates to river catchments downstream and on the ecology. The Committee noted that at the start of this week, the drought status had returned to "business as usual", however there were still a few reservoirs that were still very low and continue to be monitored. The Committee were asked that if they knew of

anybody experiencing environmental impacts of low flow or stranded fish to report them to the Environment Agency as this will inform how they react to dry weather in the future and what mitigation measures can be taken alongside United Utilities.

There has also been other work alongside United Utilities and the River Ribble Trust on the Langden Brook sub-catchment on sediment and gravel re-introduction. Work is continuing to overcome legislative and bureaucratic barriers to moving the sediment and gravels downstream of the intakes so that they can naturally journey downstream.

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)

Sonja Ludwig, RSPB Species and Habitats Officer provided an update on the following areas:

Support for breeding waders on farmland

The year commenced with finishing the Green Recovery Challenge Fund for improving habitat for breeding curlew through rush management and wet feature creation. Work continues to try and help protect breeding waders, especially those on intensive silage ground. Funding from DEFRA to help compensate farmers for mitigation measures is proving difficult, however, this is being investigated with other possibilities.

Support and advice have been provided to the AONB and the Ribble Rivers Trust with support for putting fields into Countryside Stewardship (CS) wader options, as well as provided management advice across Bowland for farmers to improve habitat for breeding waders on their land.

It is possible an application will be made to the AONB Farming in Protected Landscape (FiPL) for a mixture of equipment including trail cameras, nest protection kits and infrared cameras that will help to continue the RSPBs work supporting farmers and waders.

Farming in Protected Landscape (FiPL) – Trial of a 'Gull Proof' sheep feeder

A successful bid has been submitted to the Bowland AONB for a Farming in Protected Landscape (FiPL) funded project to test an alternative way of feeding sheep, with the aim to prevent lesser black-backed gulls from stealing sheep feed and thus reduce conflict with farmers. These feeders appeared to have had good success in restricting food availability to gulls, with the final report in preparation, however this was only a small trial project and further research is needed at a larger scale (including looking at potential benefits to breeding waders in these fields).

Breeding wader surveys

Breeding wader surveys have been conducted on 67 farms across Bowland, 20 more than last year. This was also the second year of curlew productivity surveys on 15 farms. The Clapham cluster group was set up this spring with 12 farmers and 18 volunteers. This community has been conducting more detailed surveys to understand the reasons for curlew decline in Clapham and provide support and advice to the farmers on ways to increase curlew breeding success on their farm.

Bird of prey monitoring

Upland breeding raptors were monitored on the United Utilities estate in partnership with United Utilities and their shooting and farming tenants. This year was the most successful breeding season for hen harriers in three decades with 13 breeding females, 11 successful nests and 39 young fledged. Work is continuing on improving communication and cooperation with the private estates, who also hosted three successful hen harrier nests this year. Together, the Bowland AONB held a third of all successful hen harrier nests in England and is still of national importance for this species. For the first time in over 10 years, the Bowland Fells Special Protection Area (SPA) exceeded the minimum number of breeding hen harriers it was designated for (12 pairs).

Wyre Borough Council

Alison Boden had submitted the following report which had been circulated to members of the Committee prior to the meeting:

Garstang Walking Festival 2022 and 2023

In 2022 the Friends of Garstang Walking Festival and Wyre Council held its first full nine-day festival since the COVID restrictions were eased. 42 walks were planned, and many were fully booked with over 400 attendances during this year's festival. Many of the walks took place in Garstang and the Forest of Bowland. 80% of the activities were led by volunteers with support from Wyre Coast and the Countryside team and partner organisations. Dates for the 2023 Festival were confirmed as – Saturday 6 May to Sunday 14 May.

Wyre Green Infrastructure Strategy and Audit

The initial stages of the audit of Wyre's Green Infrastructure are taking place coordinated by the planning team at Wyre. Contractors will be undertaking site assessments this year. The audit will contribute to the development of the Wyre Green Infrastructure Strategy along with other evidence gathering.

Bleasdale Farming in Protected Landscape (FiPL) project

Working with a local farmer and contractors and the Forest of Bowland Farming in Protected Landscape (FiPL) team, the Wyre Coast and Countryside Team are supporting a project to help improve the biodiversity of a farm in Bleasdale and improve public access for people to experience the wildlife and landscape of the AONB. The aim is to create a wildlife trail which connects in with the public rights of way network. The trail is near a local parish hall and will also be enjoyed by visitors taking part in the Garstang Walking Festival. Volunteers will be helping to widen gates, improve way marking and the surfacing of the route in difficult sections along the trail.

Countryside management

The Wyre Coast and Countryside Service have worked with partners to look after the Holme Wood concessionary path and public right of ways in Grizedale Valley. Similar repair/replace old gates has taken place on routes that link into the Garstang Millennium

Green and a well-being walk from Garstang. The Volunteers repaired the shelter and viewpoint on Harrisend Fell and undertook management of the invasive non-native species Himalayan Balsam at Brock Valley and other locations. The staff and volunteers have undertaken weekly litter and engagement patrols at Brock Valley, Nicky Nook and Delph Quarry locations as well as along popular footpaths in the Bowland areas of Wyre.

Resolved: The Committee noted the updates from partners.

7. AONB Management Plan Review

Elliott Lorimer, Forest of Bowland AONB Unit, Lancashire County Council provided an update on the planned review of the current Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan (2019-2024) which had been circulated with the agenda pack.

The Committee were informed that owing to several ongoing policy developments arising from the Government's response to the Landscapes Review (or Glover Review) the responsible Defra Minister has offered AONB Partnerships the opportunity to delay the review by up to one year. A letter from Lord Benyon, Defra Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State was appended to the report in the agenda pack setting out that it was acceptable and would adhere to legislation. Therefore, the current plan would have a light touch review, which would be a statement that says a review has been carried out and the AONB are comfortable that the plan as it stands continues for another year. Elliott Lorimer Forest of Bowland AONB Unit, Lancashire County Council informed the Committee that he would be contacting the different local authorities to ask for their agreement to adopt the plan as is for another year.

The Committee noted that there was nothing at risk by delaying this for another year and that a scoping report for the commencement of the review would next be presented to the Joint Advisory Committee in October 2023.

A query arose with regards to the timescale for a review of Access Land and it was agreed that Elliott Lorimer, Forest of Bowland AONB Unit, Lancashire County Council would contact Sam Critchley, Natural England regarding this on behalf of the Committee.

Resolved: That the Committee:

- i) Noted the report and offered comments.
- ii) Approved the proposed recommendation from the AONB Manager to delay the review by 12 months and to produce a revised AONB Management plan by 1 April 2025.
- iii) Requested that the AONB Manager on behalf of the Committee contact Sam Critchley, Natural England with regards to timescales for the review of the Access to Land Plan.

8. Statement of Commitment from AONB Chairs on Climate Action

Elliott Lorimer, Forest of Bowland AONB Unit, Lancashire County Council provided some background on the Statement of Commitment from AONB Chairs on Climate Action During 2021 which throughout 2021, a subset of AONB staff from across the country, with the support from the National Association for AONBs, had come together to develop and implement a collaborative climate change action programme. This included a production

of a Climate Action Framework and Toolkit to help AONB Partnerships to plan for and implement climate change adaptation and mitigate actions. In addition, the collaborative programme had developed a Statement of Commitment from AONB Chairs on Climate Action which was appended to the report in the agenda pack and where further details can be found which includes the five workstreams as follows:

- i) Agriculture
- ii) Nature-based Solutions
- iii) Building Design and Planning
- iv) Renewable Energy
- v) Sustainable Tourism and Transport

A Statement of Commitment from AONB Chairs was also produced, which commit the AONB Partnership to develop a Climate Action Plan during 2022/23. The AONB has previously published a Climate Change Adaptation Plan in 2011 and many of the issues and concerns remain and can be carried over into a new Climate Change Planie getting some of the key habitats as resilient to climate change as possible and looking at the rights of way network and how that is affected by increased and intense rainfall. However, some additional work will be required to ensure climate change mitigation is Included in the plan.

The Committee noted that there was also ongoing work on a National Landscape Partnership which would be a partnership between National Parks, AONBS and National Trails and it was commented that this would be a great opportunity to work with Local Authority climate change officers and show how the AONB can contribute to Local Authority climate change action plans.

Resolved: That the Committee:

- i) Noted the Statement and offered comments.
- ii) Approved the formal adoption of the Statement.

9. Revised Estimates 2022/23 and Revenue Budget 2023/24

Elliott Lorimer, Forest of Bowland AONB Unit, Lancashire County Council, presented the report as set out in the agenda papers, on the revised estimates 2022/2023.

The report outlined that the core budget provision for the Forest of Bowland AONB Joint Advisory Committee was funded by eight constituent Local Authority partners, and a grant from Defra, which is also enhanced by an additional contribution from United Utilities.

The Defra AONB funding settlement for 2022/2023 was £259,075.25.

The revised estimates take account of any changes in comparison with the original estimates which are detailed in Appendix A of the report in the agenda pack.

The Committee also noted the Revenue Budget 2023/2024 which sets out the costs in Appendix A associated with the Partnership's projects and management service in 2023/2024 including estimated pay and prices.

It was agreed that when the AONB Manager writes to the eight Local Authority Partners, they include what the inflation figure would have been should this have been applied in order to stress the real terms cut that it still represents.

Resolved: That the Committee:

- i) Noted the 2022/2023 Revised Estimates.
- ii) Approved the proposed 2023/2024 Revenue Budget as set out in the report.
- iii) Subject to approval of Resolution (ii), requested the funding authorities to make appropriate provision in their revenue budgets for 2023/2024.
- iv) Agreed that the inflation figure should be included in the correspondence sent to the eight Local Authority partners.

10. AONB Unit Activity Report (April-October 2022)

Elliott Lorimer, Forest of Bowland AONB Unit, Lancashire County Council presented the AONB Team Report that had been tabled at the meeting and was appended to these minutes.

The Committee were requested to contact officers as detailed in the report, if they had any questions/comments, requests for more information outside of the meeting.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

11. Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership

Hetty Byrne, Forest of Bowland AONB Unit, Lancashire County Council outlined the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership report April-June 2022, Year 5 Quarter 1 which had been appended to the agenda for information. Members had also received at the meeting a copy of the Pendle Hill Story Map which had recently been developed.

The following short video was also shown at the meeting:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fCR5ospEPY8>.

The Board were reminded that the project was coming to an end and the AONB Manager commented that it had been a great experience for the team to have been involved with all the different organisations and the different ways the team have worked (particularly during the pandemic). The project has also changed the way they work and the way they do community engagement, which has been reflected in that fact that a bid has been put together to the Heritage Fund to enable similar community engagement work to be carried out with other communities in and around the AONB.

Any further questions, Committee members were asked to contact officers as detailed in the report.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

12. Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) Programme

Elliott Lorimer, Forest of Bowland AONB Unit, Lancashire County Council referred the Committee to Item 10 AONB Unit Activity Report where there was an update on the Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme.

Since the circulation of the report there had been a further update subject to the Local Assessment Panel's approval who were meeting w/c 24 October 2022, that if all applications were approved, 94% of the funding would be allocated.

The Committee were asked to appoint to the positions of Chair and Vice Chair for the Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) Local Assessment Panel 2022/2023 and the following proposals to continue in their roles were:

Chairman – Colin Price, Yorkshire Local Councils Association (proposed by County Councillor Maxwell Scott, Lancashire County Council and seconded by Councillor John Ibison, Wyre Council)

Vice Chair – Andrew Taylor, Bowland Land Managers Forum (proposed by County Councillor Maxwell Scott, Lancashire County Council and seconded by Councillor John Ibison, Wyre Council)

Resolved: That the Committee appointed to the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair for the Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) Local Assessment Panel 2022/2023.

13. Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business received.

14. Date of Next Meeting

20 April 2023 in Wyre, venue to be confirmed.

19 October 2023 in Pendle, venue to be confirmed.

Samantha Gorton
Democratic Services

Lancashire County Council
County Hall
Preston

FOREST OF BOWLAND AONB JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

AONB Partnership Budget FY2023/24

(Appendix 'A' refers)

This brief report presents the updated AONB Partnership budget for FY2023/2024 (Appendix A, column 3), which takes account of Defra's AONB grant funding settlement, confirmation of which was received in March 2023.

The Defra AONB funding settlement for FY2022/23 is £259,075, which represents a 'flat cash' rollover settlement of that received for FY2022/23).

The Committee will note a minor adjustment to 'Salaries, NI & Superannuation' following consultation with County Council Finance team on staff cost forecasts. It should be noted that local government pay awards for FY2023/24 have yet to be agreed and this is likely to further increase these costs. This will be reported at the Committee meeting in October 2023.

When AONB Unit staffing, out-based premises and partnership costs are taken into account, the remaining funds allow for an annual 'Projects' programme to the value of £72,610 to assist in delivery of the AONB Management Plan. Wherever possible, the AONB Unit will seek to use this 'Projects' programme allocation to lever in additional external funding (e.g. National Lottery Heritage Fund, Peatland Restoration Grant Scheme, private sector and landowner contributions) to deliver more. Additional funding secured will be reported at the Committee meeting in October 2023.

Decision Required

The Committee is requested to:

- i) note the FY2023/24 revised estimates and offer comments

Appendix A

AONB Partnership Budget

	Estimated 2023/24 (Out-turn Prices)	Revised 2023/24 (Out-turn Prices)
(1)	(2)	(3)
	£	£
<u>Expenditure</u>		
<u>Partnership Costs</u>		
Salaries, N.I. and Superannuation	226,218	227,205
Out-based Premises	24,000	24,000
Travel and Subsistence	5,000	5,000
Central, Departmental & Tech. Support	78,270	78,613
Comms, Events, Subscriptions	24,000	24,000
Sub-total of Partnership Costs	357,488	358,818
<u>Project Costs</u>		
Projects (Management Plan delivery)	73,597	72,610
Sub-total of Project Costs	73,597	72,610
Total Expenditure	431,085	431,428
<u>Income</u>		
Defra Grant	259,075	259,075
<u>Contributions</u>		
<u>United Utilities</u>		
United Utilities	6,800	6,800
<u>County Councils</u>		
Lancashire	40,800	40,800
North Yorkshire	5,340	5,340
<u>District Councils</u>		
Craven	6,800	6,800
Lancaster	6,800	6,800
Pendle	6,800	6,800
Preston	6,800	6,800
Ribble Valley	6,800	6,800
Wyre	6,800	6,800
Total Income	352,815	352,815
Contrib. to support costs (Lancashire County Council in-kind)	78,270	78,613
	431,085	431,428



PENDLE HILL
LANDSCAPE
PARTNERSHIP



INTRODUCTION

The Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership was a 4 year programme funded by National Lottery Heritage Fund and hosted by the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The partnership included the Dry Stone Walling Association, Mid Pennine Arts, In-Situ, and Ribble Rivers Trust and delivered 15 projects during 2018-22, to a cash value of over £2.6 million

www.pendlehillproject.com



mpa



in-situ

FINAL EVALUATION SUMMARY

This document is a summary of the achievements and key findings delivered through the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership Scheme and a shortened version of the full evaluation. The emphasis of this document is on demonstrating the impact delivered through the Scheme that meets the outputs and outcomes on behalf of the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the main funder of the Scheme. Further detail and information about any of the achievements can be found in the accompanying final evaluation report. A copy of the full evaluation can be downloaded from www.pendlehillproject.com

Simon Lees

Countryside Training Partnership

www.countrysidepartnership.co.uk



SUMMARY: PENDLE HILL LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP KEY FINDINGS

An exemplar of partners working together to improve the natural and cultural heritage of Pendle Hill that can demonstrate achievements that are bigger, better and more joined up.

Demonstrating success ~ delivering an integrated programme of project activity

For the last fifteen years, the Countryside Training Partnership has been lucky enough to work with over 30 different Landscape Partnerships at different stages of development and delivery throughout the United Kingdom. From the observations, discussions and assessment of the information presented within this evaluation, the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership Scheme demonstrates one of the best, if not the best, examples of a group of partners working together in a holistic, interdependent way to deliver a programme of activity that can truly demonstrate, “the whole scheme being greater than the sum of the individual parts.”

There have been a number of different elements that have contributed to this conclusion. The mid-term review identified the following key successes:

- **The wonderful Landscape Partnership team** ~ the energy, enthusiasm and dynamism of the team that takes a very inclusive approach and turns challenges into opportunities.

“The enthusiasm of the team has created a spiders web of interest, already we have found out more than we thought we would”
- **Integrated activity with partners working closely together** ~ the Interaction across the programme and between the projects is a notable feature of the PHLP giving a holistic approach to project delivery, with an impressive range of partners including key landowners who are committed to the Scheme.

- **Extensive participation and engagement** ~ that draws together people from both sides of the hill and reaches diverse local communities, including areas of high deprivation.
- **A creative approach** collecting a rich source of materials and local stories ~ A unique feature of PHLP is the creative approach to project delivery that has been adopted by the team and partners that has been a catalyst for the collection of a varied source of materials and stories that have helped introduce more people to the landscape.

Further conversations and strengths identified through the final evaluation included:

- **A partnership that created the right culture** ~ Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership was a genuine community of partners that wanted to work collaboratively, that was flexible enough and willing to respond to ambiguity and change as this arose. Project activity was not separated into different silos but allowed to merge between the different theme areas. This strength was helped by a thorough development phase and the identification of the “Threads theme” facilitated through the Gatherings and Interpretation activity that helped bring everything together. The leadership provided by the programme

team and in particular the dedicated and creative approach of the Scheme Manager should be acknowledged in helping to achieve the many programme successes.

- **Focussing on a clear landscape feature** ~ The Landscape Partnership was able to use Pendle Hill and all of its heritage assets to deliver an integrated programme that helped to bring the many different elements together. Building activity around an outlier location of the Forest of BowlandAONB and the administrative split between Pendle Borough Council and Ribble Valley Borough Council helped give a focus to this unique and special landscape area. The size of the Landscape Partnership at 124 km2 helped deliver an “intensity of impact” across the whole Scheme area.
- **Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership branding** ~ The Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership Scheme was helped through the development of a strong brand and identity that helped to capture the geography of the landscape area, beginning to connect the two sides of the hill and promoting the different projects being delivered by the partnership. Having a set of branding guidelines should be seen as an essential requirement for all future landscape scale and partnership type activity.

A VERY SUCCESSFUL SCHEME THAT MET AND EXCEEDED INTENDED OUTPUTS

The information collected and presented within the evaluation demonstrates that the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership has been successful in delivering significant natural and cultural heritage improvements within the programme area.

The intended outputs have been achieved for all the areas of activity that have been reviewed with any variations agreed and incorporated into a revised programme of delivery.

Selected highlights of the outputs achieved by the scheme as a whole are:

- **For landscape restoration** ~ the improvements to 8.3 km of traditional boundaries, exceeding original intentions by nearly 40% with conservation and nature recovery activity over 53 hectares to help improve the threatened and declining peatland and woodland landscape.
- **For local engagement and participation** ~ the considerable number of people outputs and goals achieved through the participation, training and volunteer programmes. The delivery of a creative awareness and engagement programme at a community level has been the most effective and impressive part of the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership as demonstrated by the 28,673 people participating in the 920 different events and learning activities throughout the scheme, the delivery of 159 training and skills workshops benefitting 922 participants, along with recruiting and engaging volunteers to contribute 2,060 days or 10 full time working years.



Pendle Hill Story Map ~ October 2022

THE IMPORTANCE OF PROJECT CLOSURE REPORTS

Project completion reports have been produced for each project and provided much of the quantitative and qualitative information contained within the final evaluation document. The templates have been a successful model to complete the project management cycle and proved to be a helpful way of capturing impact to leave a further legacy in terms of recording individual project achievements. Significant outcomes have

been delivered particularly in relation to impacts on people and communities through increasing awareness and engagement with the local natural and cultural heritage. It is recommended that by the end of the Landscape Partnership Scheme, all the closure reports are uploaded onto the project website to help tell the story of what has been delivered as well as creating an additional digital legacy.

MANY LESSONS LEARNED

The project completion reports contain a rich source of lessons learned, with signposts and evidence to help support future project activity and funding applications. Information collected from these reports highlighted the many different complex elements of successful project management and delivery and included:

- Being realistic with resources and timetable
- Managing risk and uncertainty with a flexible approach to project management
- Having a clear project scope and relevant permissions
- Communication
- Partnership working to build relationships and support local communities
- Changing external policy environment
- Working from a dedicated location
- The impact of the coronavirus pandemic

GATHERING UP AND APPRECIATING WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED

The Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership has not been afraid to celebrate success with a variety of events held throughout the duration of the Scheme. The Final Gathering event in October 2022, brought together participating artists, conservationists, academics, community leaders and many others who have been involved in the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership, to celebrate all that has been achieved over the past four and a half years. This sharing of best practice experience and networking between partners is another exemplar that should be applied to other larger scale partnership funded programmes.

The evaluation report has built on the Final Gathering and attempts to bring together and present the achievement and impact of all project activities in

one place. It is recommended that time is taken by staff within the Forest of Bowland AONB and project partners to reflect and appreciate what has actually been achieved looking at the scheme as a whole, the lessons learnt, evaluation observations and how these can be applied to the development of further partnership projects.

Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership Scheme funded by the National Lottery's Heritage Fund (NLHF) has delivered a creative range of heritage activity over 4¹/₂ years between April 2018 and October 2022. The project delivery period has been extended by 9 months from the intended finish due to the many restrictions faced by society from the coronavirus pandemic from March 2020 onwards.



From information collected throughout the project period and presented in this evaluation the Pendle Landscape Partnership has delivered and can celebrate the following key achievements:

- 15 projects delivering a £2.5 million programme within the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership area
- 28,673 participants engaged through 920 activities, talks, walks and events
- 3,360 school children involved in education and learning activity
- 2,060 days or 10 full working years from 1,185 volunteers
- 922 people benefitting from 159 training and skills workshops
- Engaging with 141 local businesses, 97 community groups and 57 schools
- Creation of 123 new interpretation features and digital products created to increase understanding and awareness
- 57 artists' commissions to enhance connectivity between projects and raise awareness of the heritage of Pendle Hill
- 53 ha of biodiversity and landscape areas have been enhanced and maintained with 8.3 km of traditional boundaries restored
- 42 technical reports and plans to support the strategic development of natural and cultural heritage within the area
- 31 farms supported for agri-environment funding to improve the natural heritage and biodiversity of the landscape
- Opportunities for 27 trainees to gain experience and move on to further employment within the natural and cultural heritage sector
- 27 new concessionary routes or themed walks created to improve enjoyment and wellbeing
- 9½ km of footpath and access and routes improved and maintained connecting local communities in the area



SUMMARY: DELIVERING AGAINST NATIONAL LOTTERY HERITAGE FUND OUTCOMES

The headline numbers plus individual project outputs and outcomes compiled through the evaluation have been summarised and collated to demonstrate delivery against the nine NLHF programme outcomes.

Certain project activities will have delivered against more than one outcome and not all the evaluation information has been used, but overall the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership can demonstrate a balance of delivery against NLHF outcomes as follows >>

1. HERITAGE WILL BE BETTER MANAGED

For the whole scheme:

- 31 farms supported for agri-environment funding to improve the natural heritage and biodiversity of the landscape

Selected individual project impacts include:

Wild about Pendle Hill ~ 17 Management Plans produced

Pendle WINNS ~ 15ha of woodland managed



“ Being a part of the PHLP has enabled Ribble Rivers Trust to develop a structured and effective woodland delivery process. Being part of a multi-year delivery programme has supported a multi-year pipeline of woodland activity and helped the Trust to become more efficient.”

2. HERITAGE WILL BE IN BETTER CONDITION

For the whole scheme:

- 53 ha of biodiversity and landscape areas have been enhanced and maintained with 8.3 km of traditional boundaries restored
- 22 habitat and wildlife sites managed or restored
- 16 cultural heritage sites or features restored or enhanced

Selected individual project impacts include:

- **Pendle WINNS** ~ 20ha of woodland planted
- **Pendle Hill Summit** ~ 18 hectares of peatland have been restored and will retain the carbon contained within that area far more effectively now.
- **The Gatherings** ~ Visitors to the hill helping contribute to the Peat reseeding. An unexpected chance for people to contribute to improving the environment, a simple gesture, collectively making a big difference.



3. HERITAGE WILL BE IDENTIFIED AND RECORDED

For the whole scheme:

- 446 volunteers were trained in research and recording skills

Selected individual project impacts include:

- **What's a Hill Worth** ~ The natural capital and ecosystem services mapping has enabled a new and effective way of ensuring heritage is better recorded. The Pen Farm research being the first that identified and valued natural assets and services at a farm scale and fed into the national debate on the Future of Farming post Brexit.
- **Wild About Pendle Hill** ~ When we started this recording project (at Spring Wood) in May 2021 there were 26 observations with a total of 25 species recorded. Currently there are 696 observations of 269 species.
- **Pendle Radicals** ~ The accumulated body of work has made a significant contribution to this outcome. It is reflected in every dimension of the project, from new site interpretation to the project website and other online platforms, the themed walks programme, the podcast series and much more.
- **Community Archaeology** ~ There is a better understanding locally with information submitted for the official Historic Environment Record. More is known about the construction of the Roman Road linking Ribchester to Elslack; and some questions were answered with the excavations at Malkin Tower and Portfield ancient monument



4. PEOPLE WILL HAVE DEVELOPED SKILLS

For the whole scheme:

- 922 people benefitting from 159 training and skills workshops

Selected individual project impacts include:

- **Traditional boundaries** ~ 22 people achieving nationally recognised qualifications in dry stone walling after completing an intensive 10 day training course. Some of these participants are now enjoying dry stone walling as a new career

“Trainees and volunteers have commented on how participating in traditional boundary crafts has increased their wellbeing”

- **Trainees** ~ have supplemented the PHLP delivery team substantially and proved to be incredibly effective. Leanne has gone on to work for Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, and Calum has been taken on by In-Situ as a full time member of the team.
- **Working Out of the Ordinary** ~ Ten short films and information booklet to show young people in the Pendle Hill area a range of lesser-known exciting careers, and the idea that ‘working out of the ordinary’ is possible without leaving the local area.



“Whenever a young person in a careers interview mentions that they might like a career involving working outdoors, your resource is my go to choice for helping to inspire and give insight into local opportunities.”

5. PEOPLE WILL HAVE VOLUNTEERED TIME

For the whole scheme:

- 2,060 days or 10 full working years from 1,185 volunteers

Selected individual project impacts include:

- **Community Archaeology** ~ People volunteered to carry out their own projects through two local groups, the Ribble Valley and Pendle Heritage Archaeology Groups, after being involved in the Community Archaeology training and excavations. The Ribble Valley group was set up as a direct result of local volunteers having engaged with this project.
- **Volunteering and Learning** ~ Regular volunteers have since joined other local wildlife groups and conservation volunteer sessions, passing on their skills and knowledge to new people. Volunteers commented on how they discovered green spaces they had never seen and gained access to lesser-known habitats and wild places.

“Volunteering is all about sharing and it makes you feel good, know that you are playing a little part in keeping this history alive. It’s more than just the projects that we are on, it’s about connecting and for all our mental health as well.”



6. PEOPLE WILL HAVE LEARNT ABOUT HERITAGE

For the whole scheme:

- 28,673 participants engaged through 920 activities, talks, walks and events

“What an amazing exhibition... Fantastic setting in Helmshore Mill and textiles work that sparks conversation and thought.”

- 3,360 school children involved in education and learning activity

Selected individual project impacts include:

- **Volunteering and Learning** ~ The school programme was a partnership between The Ernest Cook Trust and Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership, offering free opportunities to develop Outdoor Learning in schools. Schools were selected to be engaged either at school grounds or local green spaces or within the Pendle Hill landscape. The themes ranged from tree planting to local history. Other Outdoor Learning opportunities grew from PHLP projects, from the Pendle Radicals Textile Banners with year 10 textile GCSE students to a farm trip with the Country Trust.



“Through our involvement with the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership we have committed to Nature Friendly Schools that means every child has at least ½ day of outdoor learning each week.”



7. FOR COMMUNITIES, THE LOCAL AREA WILL BE BETTER TO WORK, LIVE OR VISIT

For the whole scheme:

- 27 new concessionary routes or themed walks created to improve enjoyment and wellbeing
- 9½ km of footpath and access and routes improved and maintained connecting local communities in the area

Selected individual project impacts include:

- **Access for All** ~ An extra 3½ km of access routes, including a new concessionary agreement for tramper use at Sabden, Churn Clough Reservoir. 19 new outdoor active routes being made available on the Forest of Bowland website to download and follow, giving visitors to the area a much wider choice of both easy and harder routes to follow

- **Volunteering and Learning** ~ The John Muir Family Discovery Award. Working over the six weeks of the summer holidays during the 2020 pandemic, 60 families actively signed up to the weekly newsletter, and 20 families completed the 25 hours award. Feedback from families included comments about how much the whole family had learnt through the content provided and activities encouraged; to how it offered 'real life learning' after home schooling.
- **The Gatherings** ~ programme integrated arts practice into various PHLP project strands such as; Archaeology, Interpretation, High Nature Value, Radicals, Traditional Boundaries, Woodlands, and the Pendle Hill Summit project. Underlying the programme was community engagement and increasing awareness and access to the Pendle Hill Landscape through a creative practice that illuminated the project strands in different ways.
- **72 Seasons** ~ has helped people feel better, and has been proved to work with a range of people - even during a pandemic. At its heart, it is a way to get back in touch with nature that feels enjoyable to take part in and almost incidentally has many health and wellbeing benefits and encouraged people to be more active. Seekers felt more connection to each other and to nature itself.
- **People Enjoying Nature** ~ We saw individuals grow in confidence, interest in their surroundings, personal fitness, and social connections as a result of their being part of PEN. The group bonds well and we often saw people supporting each other, both during the sessions and in between times.



I've not been out in to the countryside with my husband for 6 years (since my surgery) but this has opened up my world."



Lots of participants told me how they have learnt a lot about nature, landscape and heritage and how they enjoy passing this information onto their family and friends.



- **72 Seasons** ~ Deepening participation and engagement with completion of 1,154 surveys about health and well-being and a known reduction of 579 GP visits, saving £17,370 from the NHS on this measure.
- **Interpretation** ~ has improved awareness and promotion of different parts of the Pendle Hill programme area helping to spread impact and activity away from known honeypot sites.
- **The Digital Gatherings** ~ a programme of online community conversations during COVID 19 enabled people to connect through times of extreme isolation. This included supporting local freelancers with paid work and exploring new ways of working during social distancing.
- **Discover Pendle Hill** ~ Through the Sense of Place work tourism businesses are more engaged with the natural and cultural heritage of the area. This activity is more integrated in their marketing and communications and these messages are being transposed to a wider visitor- facing audience.
- **Pendle Hill Fund** ~ 21 grants given and in total 65 groups were supported, with £90K of grants. Over £60K of match funding was levered in addition making a total investment of £150K in local community areas.



8. FOR COMMUNITIES, NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS WILL BE REDUCED

Selected individual project impacts include:

The Gatherings ~ One of the greatest achievements and stand-out projects has been the tangible impact of the work to raise awareness of peatland and contribute directly to its restoration and protection locally within the community.

“The Pendle Peat Pie is a culinary collaboration created to promote awareness of the value of peat and peat restoration on Pendle Hill, opening up a dialogue about cultural traditions and the landscape. It has been highlighted on national television at COP26 and made available on sale through a local eatery.”



Wild About Pendle ~ The Pendle Meadow project has brought 12 meadows into better management with additional plant species established, leading to improved outcomes for nature, climate and engagement with the farmers involved.

The Pendle Hill Farmer Network brought 31 farmers into engagement with the scheme and inspired many individuals to enter stewardship schemes or to undertake wildlife enhancement and access work.

“Absolutely 100% positive experience of being a member of the network, thank you Sarah.”

Pendle Hill Summit ~ The paths and peat are more resilient to people and to the extreme weather conditions the hill experiences, increasingly due to climate change.



9. FOR COMMUNITIES, MORE PEOPLE AND A WIDER RANGE OF PEOPLE WILL HAVE ENGAGED WITH HERITAGE

Selected individual project impacts include:

- **Volunteering and Learning** ~ Little Saplings was a valuable part of peoples' routine in getting outdoors. Mapping of attendee postcodes against the Indices of Multiple Deprivation showed that we worked across the local community range, including under-served families. 11% of attendees came from areas identified as being in the top 10% for deprivation in the UK.
- **The Gatherings** ~ Working with young people through The Summit has supported young people in confidence building and developing creative skills. The community and friendship created through the project encouraged young people from different areas to connect and learn from one another. Over half of the young people we worked with had never visited Pendle Hill, something which we supported several times during our work with the group.
- **72 seasons** ~ working with a group of South Asian women and led by a facilitator from within the same community, we partnered with the DEEN Centre, a local grassroots organisation in Brierfield Brierfield. Many of the women commented on how the project empowered and enabled them to tell their stories and develop their appreciation for the local landscape.
- **Access for All** ~ Pendle Hill became a real draw for people during the lockdowns and visitor numbers spiked around each lockdown. The access work we have done has made the landscape more resilient to these visitor numbers as well as opening up opportunities to a more diverse audience.

“The main benefit to people directly can be seen through the participation on social media. A new and wider audience has engaged with the posts plus events and numbers involved all exceeding those first envisaged.”



PENDLE HILL
LANDSCAPE
PARTNERSHIP



FOREST OF BOWLAND AONB JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Three Counties: Lune Valley

Background

At the Committee meeting held in October 2022, a brief outline was presented of the proposed landscape heritage programme, titled 'Three Counties: Lune Valley', focused on the middle and lower reaches of the Lune catchment.

Since then, the AONB Unit has been working closely with other principal project partners (Yorkshire Dale National Park, Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust and Sustrans) to further develop project ideas for inclusion in a Stage 1 funding bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund. This work has included two workshop sessions to develop project ideas with principal project partners and wider local organisations and individuals interested in the landscape, nature and heritage of the area. The accompanying summary outlines the scope, scale and geography of the proposed programme.

Implications for the AONB Partnership

The Heritage Fund Stage 1 bid is planned for submission by Yorkshire Dales Millennium in early August 2023. Should the bid be successful, there would be an expectation that the AONB Partnership (as a principal project partner) commits up to £10k in matched funds towards the Development Phase from early 2024 onwards.

It is anticipated that such a commitment could be accommodated within the annual AONB 'Projects' programme available to the AONB Partnership.

Decision Required

The Committee is requested to:

- i) note the report and offer comments
- ii) offer approval (if acceptable) for the AONB Manager to work with project partners to jointly submit a Stage 1 bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund by early August 2023

Three Counties: Lune Valley



Introduction

For several years, Sustrans has been exploring the provision of new traffic-free, multi-user paths to significantly extend a well-used, off-road section of the National Cycle Network from Lancaster along much of the Lune Valley.

In 2019, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA) began to explore the idea of a landscape-scale, heritage-based programme for the Lune Valley area around the western boundary of the National Park.

In 2021, the Forest of Bowland AONB (FoBAONB) independently began to explore a similar proposal for the lower reaches of the Lune that lie within and along the AONB's northern boundary. The AONB approached Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust (YDMT) to see whether it would be interested in becoming involved.

Prior to that contact, YDMT had been aware of YDNPA's and Sustrans' proposals, and the three strands are being brought together with the aim to develop an area-based, rural scheme focussed on part of the River Lune catchment within Cumbria, Lancashire and North Yorkshire, that helps to improve the area for people, heritage and nature.

Discussions between the four organisations and potential partners has led to the formation of a steering group to develop the proposal.

In April 2022 we launched an online survey and held three community drop-in events to provide genuine opportunities for residents and visitors to share their thoughts and suggestions on the proposed scheme at an early stage in its development. There were over 240 detailed submissions and overwhelming support. This input will also help to inform the scheme boundary.

A NLHF expression of interest was submitted in early July 2022 and we have been invited to submit a 1st Stage application by August 2023.

It is clear that there is a strong desire and willingness to work in partnership to achieve shared and complementary objectives, and strong public support and interest.

For further information please contact Don Gamble (Programmes Manager, YDMT) on don.gamble@ydmtd.org

The River Lune

Its name possibly derives from the Celtic word *lano* meaning "full" or from an alternative word meaning "good" or "health giving".

At a length of over 105km, it is one of the longest rivers in the north west of England and is a key element of the variety of landscapes it runs through – fells, moors, crags, valleys, pastures, floodplains and estuary. The river and its tributaries drain an area of 1223 sq kms.

The Lune rises on Ravenstonedale Common on the northern slopes of the Howgills in Cumbria, and then flows west to Tebay. Here it turns southwards along the western slopes of the Howgills before the valley opens out as it flows towards the historic market town of Kirkby Lonsdale. From there it continues south west through the lowland countryside of North Lancashire towards its confluence with the Irish Sea west of Lancaster.

The valley of the Lune has three parts. The northern part between its source and Tebay is called Lunesdale. Below this is the spectacular Lune Gorge through which both the M6 motorway and the West Coast Main Railway Line run. Below the gorge, the valley broadens out into Lonsdale.

Nearly three quarters of the length of the river is within designated landscapes (two National Parks and two AONBs).

Compared to many rivers in the region, the Lune is relatively undeveloped and this enables it to support a wide range of wildlife. There are many designations for specific species and habitats, making it of regional, national and international importance.

For centuries, it has provided inspiration for artists and writers. When the art critic and philanthropist John Ruskin first saw the Lune Valley, he declared, "I do not know in all my country, still less France or Italy, a place more naturally divine or a more priceless possession of the true Holy Land..." The artist J M W Turner celebrated the Crook o' Lune, a renowned beauty spot, and the site impressed poet Thomas Gray so much that he described it as having "every feature which constitutes a perfect landscape."

The opportunities and benefits of the area's natural, built and cultural heritage, and the threats to that heritage, undoubtedly provide a strong basis for an area-based scheme.



National Lottery funding

The National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) provides funding for projects that connect people and communities to the national, regional and local heritage of the UK. It has three grant programmes for heritage with varying levels of funding; the programme that provides grants of £250,000 to £5million includes support for area-based schemes. This essentially replaces the Landscape Partnership funding programme (YDNPA, FoB AONB and YDMT are key partners in current and past schemes). Below are the key points about NLHF's outcomes that schemes need to achieve, what area-based schemes are, the application process, etc (sources: <https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/funding/good-practice-guidance/area-based-schemes-guidance>; <https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/funding/outcomes>; <https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/funding/national-lottery-grants-heritage-250k-5m>)

NLHF outcomes

Heritage projects, including area-based schemes, must help NLHF to achieve its nine outcomes:

- A wider range of people will be involved in heritage (a mandatory outcome)
- The funded organisation will be more resilient
- People will have greater wellbeing
- People will have developed skills
- The local area will be a better place to live, work or visit
- The local economy will be boosted
- Heritage will be in better condition
- Heritage will be identified and better explained
- People will have learnt about heritage, leading to change in ideas and actions

It is also expected that projects build long-term environmental sustainability and inclusion into their plans.

The number of outcomes achieved will depend on what we want to deliver and should be proportionate to the size of grant requested or the specific focus of our project. Area-based schemes will need to achieve several outcomes, but we need to be realistic and focus on the key needs of the area and outline these under the outcomes that best capture this.

Area-based schemes

An area-based scheme needs to show how it will take a holistic and balanced approach to support the environmental, social and economic enhancement of a defined area of historic or landscape value by conserving, repairing and enhancing its distinct character for the benefit of local residents, workers and visitors.

NLHF define an area of historic or landscape value as a geography with a clear boundary that has built and/or natural features and a distinct character that is recognised either formally or informally. This includes an area of landscape with natural, archaeology, built and cultural heritage features that give it a unique character and sense of place.

A scheme should be in line with wider strategies for regeneration or biodiversity improvement, and it should stimulate further activity and have a lasting legacy.

Schemes should be led by partnerships of local, regional and national interests.

Partnership funding must cover at least 5% of the project costs for grants up to £1million and at least 10% for grants of £1million or more. Partnership funding can be made up of cash, non-cash contributions and volunteer time. For projects that involve capital work, the value of increased future costs of management and maintenance for up to five years after practical completion can also be included.

The benefits of taking an area-based approach

- It can be an effective way of using heritage to help transform a local area socially and economically for the benefit of people and communities.
- It can help halt and reverse the decline of historic landscapes by creating attractive, vibrant and interesting places where people will want to live, work, visit and invest.
- It can help halt and reverse the decline of natural and biodiversity heritage on a landscape scale in a way that could align with the European Landscape Convention.
- It is an opportunity to look beyond individual projects to take an integrated, holistic and strategic approach to improving all aspects of an area of historic and/or landscape value. The overall benefits should be more than the combined benefits of the individual projects within the scheme.
- Area-based schemes must demonstrate clear and robust links to wider strategies, for example, regeneration, biodiversity, and skills, so that improvements achieved are more likely to be embedded in the local area and sustained into the future.
- The diversity of heritage in a local area and the need to deliver a range of benefits to a variety of stakeholders requires and reinforces the need for effective partnership working.
- It encourages a broader understanding of the dynamic relationship between natural heritage, the built environment, people and communities, local institutions and local businesses, leading to a deeper understanding of the issues affecting a place and how these can be overcome.
- By achieving consensus among different owners of heritage, that heritage can help unlock the social and economic potential of an area; it is an opportunity to draw in investment from a wide range of sources including private individuals and commercial organisations.
- Schemes can seek to achieve social and economic transformation of the local area through improvement in the wellbeing of local people, and an increase in jobs, business activity, tourism and the visitor offer.

What an area-based scheme should include

An area-based scheme is made up of a balanced portfolio of integrated projects, including:

Physical works to repair and enhance the historic area, such as:

- carrying out structural and external repairs and reinstating elements of architectural detail to historic buildings
- conserving other historical structures and removing inappropriate structures, for example within a landscape
- work to bring vacant buildings back into use or encouraging the re-use of vacant space above shops
- works to enable “meanwhile” or “pop-up uses” of currently unused spaces
- restoring or enhancing habitats found in the area

- improvements to the public realm by conserving, restoring or reinstating heritage features
- re-introducing traditional land management techniques
- conserving and interpreting archaeology and geology
- protecting and enhancing water supplies and drainage
- felling trees, clearing shrub and restoring priority habitats
- re-routing or re-locating statutory services that are detrimental to the landscape (where this is a small part of the scheme)
- improving access for all, including people with disabilities
- improving public facilities such as toilets, seating or picnic areas
- improving the long-term management of the landscape and its future sustainability

Activities to help people engage with the heritage, such as:

- providing training in traditional nature or building conservation skills for contractors and trainees
- bringing the community together to explore their heritage through, for example, open days, exhibitions and tours
- demonstrations of good maintenance techniques for property owners
- recording, assessing and investigating what makes the area's character unique
- activities and interpretation to increase the range of audiences
- creating new formal and informal learning opportunities
- providing people with skills and training that contribute to the area's conservation and long-term management

Work to help develop and run a project, such as:

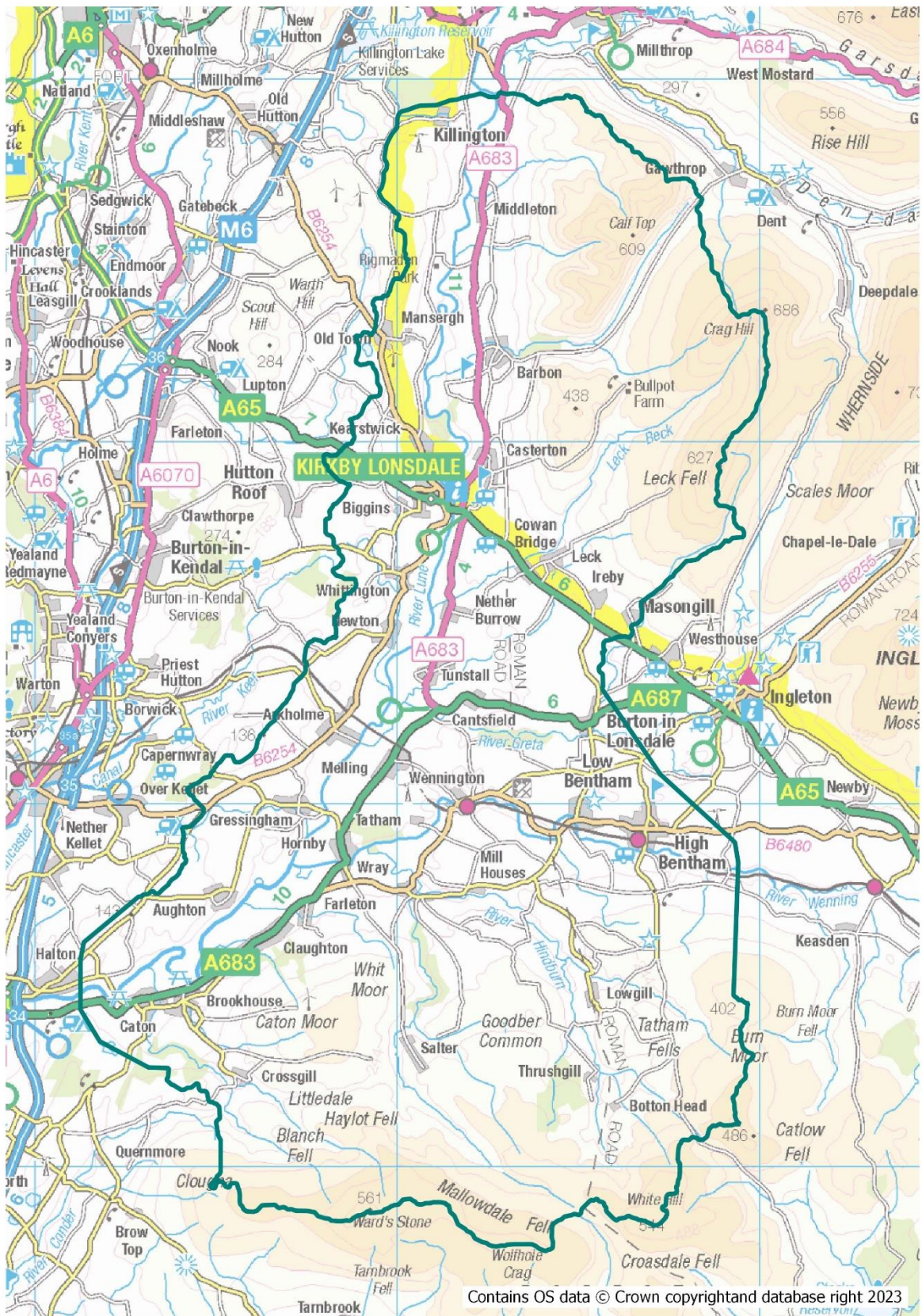
- valuations, professional fees or the costs associated with getting statutory permissions
- research and strategic planning work to safeguard the long-term approach to conservation
- preparing an Area Appraisal and an Area Management Plan
- employing project staff

Identifying the scheme boundary

The boundary should reflect the distinctive character of the area, the physical features on the ground, together with the views and values of local people. It should not be defined by administrative boundaries. While Landscape Partnerships had to focus on geographic areas of between 20 and 200 square kilometres, there are no similar parameters for area-based schemes in the published guidance.

However, guidance does state that schemes that are geographically concentrated to maximise impact (where the scheme boundary is tightly drawn and focused on one or more clusters of heritage in close proximity) have a greater chance of success. We will need to justify the rationale for our chosen boundary, and if it covers a large area this should include how we will ensure the benefits of NLHF funding are not too thinly spread.

Discussions about a possible scheme boundary are on-going but an indicative boundary, largely based on the Lune catchment, is shown overleaf.



Application process

We submitted an Expression of Interest in July 2022 and in early August NLHF invited us to develop a 1st Stage (Development Phase) application, which needs to be submitted within 12 months. An invitation to apply does not guarantee a grant but does indicate that NLHF sees potential in our initial proposals. We have enlisted Carrock Landscapes Ltd to help us prepare the application.

The aim of the Development Phase is to gain a better understanding of the costs, resources, timeline and the needs of our audiences. If the Development Phase application is approved, we have up to two years to develop the 2nd Stage (Delivery Phase) application (which includes producing an Area Action Plan, a document that pulls all of the different aspects of the scheme into a coherent and integrated whole). A Development Phase award does not guarantee that we will receive a Delivery Phase award.

There are quarterly deadlines for Development and Delivery Phase applications, and both stages are competitive.

Given NLHF's application process, partners' experience of developing and successfully running similar schemes, and our desire to develop a strong programme that's been well thought out, that has public support, and which makes best use of public and private funding, our current timetable is:

- Preparation of 1st Stage (Development Phase) application: December 2022 to August 2023 (for a December decision)
- Preparation of 2nd Stage (Delivery Phase) application: Early 2024 to February 2025 (for a June decision)
- Delivery: summer 2025 to summer 2029

Possible projects for a Three Counties: Lune Valley scheme

Projects that have been proposed to date include:

Opportunities for people

- Outreach work with under-represented/disadvantaged communities
- Schools
- Apprenticeships
- Training courses
- Public events
- Community grants

Opportunities for landscape enhancement and nature conservation

- Reuniting the river with its floodplain
- Pearl Mussel conservation
- Hay meadow restoration
- Removing obstructions (weirs)
- Peatland restoration
- Pollinator corridors
- New woodlands and hedges
- Recording cave fauna, especially bats
- Ancient semi-natural woodland managed by Lancashire Wildlife Trust (Aughton Wood)
- Burton and Lawsons Woods

- Swift conservation
- Natural Flood Management
- Undergrounding electricity cables (Casterton to Bull Pot)
- Veteran trees record and succession planting

Opportunities for access and recreation

- Traffic-free route between Bull Beck (near Caton) and Kirkby Lonsdale, and from there to Sedbergh and Ingleton
- Charging points for electric bikes
- Missing links in Rights of Way network and bridge crossings over the River Lune
- Caving (Three Counties Cave System)
- Repair and enhancement of Rights of Way eg erosion on deep peat around Bull Pot
- Increasing riverside access (with agreement of farmers and landowners)
- Hermitage Field (Lancaster City Council)
- Arts and culture
- Crook o' Lune (LCC)
- Enhancement of the River Lune, Ruskin's View, St Mary's Church and Devil's Bridge

Opportunities for heritage and culture

- The Three Men of Gragareth (research, archaeology, conservation)
- Celebration of caving and the Three Counties Cave System
- The story of the area's geomorphology and geology (eg Dent Fault)
- Traditional barns – surveying and restoration
- Routeways through the Ages: from the Romans to the railways
- Landscape archaeology
- Medieval Castles – interpretative project
- Cloughton brickworks and aerial ropeway
- Charcoal hearths in woodland
- Wray Castle
- Aughton Pudding Festival, at which the 'world's largest pudding' is prepared
- The Caton Oak
- Wray floods of 1967
- Wray Scarecrow Festival
- The story of the 'cheese wedge' and county stone
- Extractive industries – community archaeology project
- Oral History around farming community

Public consultation will take place up until the submission of the Delivery Phase application in February 2025 to identify the sites, locations, features and activities that residents and visitors value, and to support the co-creation of the scheme.