



---

## Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Advisory Committee

Wednesday, 23rd January, 2013 at 2.00 pm in Grindleton Pavilion, Sawley Road, Grindleton BB7 4QS

### Agenda

1. **Apologies for Absence**
2. **Disclosure of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**

Members are asked to consider any Pecuniary and Non-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 2 October 2012** (Pages 1 - 6)

To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 2 October 2012.
4. **Introduction and outline of Management Plan review methodology** (Pages 7 - 12)

(Elliott Lorimer - 30 minutes - including opportunities for questions)

Report attached.
5. **Workshop**

(45 minutes)

Covering 4 strategic priorities for the plan:

  1. **An outstanding landscape of natural and cultural heritage**
  2. **Resilient and sustainable communities**
  3. **A strong connection between people and the landscape**
  4. **A dynamic and effective AONB partnership**

**6. Short plenary session**

An opportunity to view others contributions and discuss any issues with AONB unit staff.

**7. 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.

**8. Date of Next Meeting**

The next scheduled meeting of the Forest of Bowland AONB Joint Advisory Committee will be held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2013, venue to be confirmed.

**Meeting close - approximately 3.45pm**

A Milroy  
Principal Executive Support Officer

Lancashire County Council  
County Hall  
Preston



---

## **Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Advisory Committee**

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 2nd October, 2012 at 2.00 pm in Claughton Memorial Hall, Stubbins Lane, Claughton-on-Brock, PR3 0QH**

### **Present:**

#### **Chair**

County Councillor Albert Atkinson, Lancashire County Council

#### **Committee Members**

County Councillor Mrs Susie Charles, Lancashire County Council  
Councillor Lin Barrington, Craven District Council  
Councillor Roger W Brooks, Wyre Borough Council  
Councillor John Browne, Preston City Council  
Helen Dix, Environment Agency  
Michael Helm, LAPT  
David Kelly, Ramblers Association  
Councillor Colin Price, Yorkshire Local Councils Association  
County Councillor David Smith, Lancashire County Council  
Councillor James Starkie, Pendle Borough Council  
Mr Andrew Taylor, Bowland Landowners and Farmers Group

#### **Officers**

Hetty Byrne, Forest of Bowland AONB Unit  
Cathy Hopley, Forest of Bowland AONB Unit  
Elliott Lorimer, Forest of Bowland AONB Unit  
Nick Osborne, Forest of Bowland AONB Unit  
Mike Pugh, Forest of Bowland AONB Unit  
Sandra Silk, Forest of Bowland AONB Unit  
Tarja Wilson, Lancashire County Council  
Vaughan Jones, Pendle Borough Council  
Martin Putsey, Preston City Council  
Alison Boden, Wyre Borough Council  
Greg Robinson, Wyre Borough Council

#### **Others in attendance**

Councillor Peter Gibson, Leader of Wyre Borough Council

## **Apologies**

Neil Clark, Natural England  
Jonty Collinson, Bowland Tourism Environment Fund  
County Councillor Richard Welch, North Yorkshire County Council  
Graham Megson, North Yorkshire County Council  
David Hewitt, Ribble Valley Borough Council  
Dave Oyston, United Utilities plc  
Tom Pridmore, Ribble Valley Borough Council

## **Presentation - Jack Spees, Trust Director for Ribble Rivers Trust**

Jack Spees, Trust Director for Ribble Rivers Trust opened the Committee meeting by giving a presentation on the work of the Ribble Valley Trust and that the main purpose of the Trust is to "see rivers in the best condition they can be".

Jack explained that various projects are being undertaken including:

- Addressing the problems associated with diffuse pollution of watercourses.
- Restoring aspects of the Ribble rivers, including various habitat scheme projects (in areas including Barrow Brook, Hodder Bank and Easington Brook).
- Invasive Species Control.
- Sustaining development (including teaching children in classrooms about Trout, undertaking Otter and Water Vole surveys and an angling passport scheme).
- Ribble Life – the purpose of Ribble Life is to create a healthy water environment that will bring economic and social benefits for all.

**Resolved:** Committee members welcomed the presentation and commended the work being done by the Ribble Rivers Trust to improve the environment of the Ribble rivers.

### **1. Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair**

Nominations were received prior to the meeting for County Councillor Albert Atkinson to be appointed as Chair and for County Councillor Susie Charles to be appointed as Vice-Chair for the 2012/13 municipal year. No further nominations were received at the meeting and upon being put to the Committee, the Committee resolved to appoint County Councillor Albert Atkinson as Chair and County Councillor Susie Charles as Vice Chair for the 2012/13 municipal year.

County Councillor Albert Atkinson assumed the role of Chair from this point forward.

### **2. Welcome, introductions and Apologies for Absence**

County Councillor Albert Atkinson welcomed all to the Committee meeting, round table introductions were made.

Apologies for absence were noted as above.

### **3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests**

None disclosed.

#### **4. Constitution, Membership and Terms of Reference**

The Constitution, Membership and Terms of Reference were presented to the Committee for the 2012/13 municipal year as circulated prior to the meeting.

**Resolved:** The Committee agreed the Constitution, Membership and Terms of Reference for the 2012/13 municipal year.

#### **5. Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 April 2012**

**Resolved:** The minutes of the Committee meeting held on 18 April 2012 were agreed as an accurate record.

#### **6. Matters Arising**

None

#### **7. Budget and Memorandum of Agreement Update**

Nick Osborne, Forest of Bowland AONB Unit, presented the Budget report (circulated) and explained that the budget provision for the Forest of Bowland AONB Joint Advisory Committee is funded by eight constituent local authority partners and grant from Defra and is enhanced by additional contributions from partner organisations, e.g. United Utilities.

A core team of 4.3 full time equivalent posts 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. The AONB Unit is now working to a 3-year business plan (2011- 2014), on which local authorities are consulted to ensure it reflects local authority priorities for the AONB).

The Committee noted the contributions allocated from each contributing authority and were urged to seek agreement from their own authorities to the contributions.

#### **Resolved:**

The Forest of Bowland AONB Joint Advisory Committee agreed to:

- i) note the 2012/13 Revised Estimates,
- ii) approve the 2013/14 Revenue Budget as set out in the report, and;
- iii) following approval of recommendation (ii) above, requested that the funding authorities make appropriate provision in their revenue budgets.

#### **8. Bowland Haytime Project**

Sarah Robinson, Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, gave a presentation of her work as the Bowland Haytime Project Officer.

Sarah explained that progress has been good in Bowland, despite the rain. On 28<sup>th</sup> July 2012 a Scything Taster day at Stephen Park in Gisburn Forest was organised where Ian Hunter and Tom Branton taught 20 people scything skills including cutting hay and

sharpening scythes. Feedback from the day was really positive. It is planned to follow this event with a winter scything clinic, where Tom will be on hand to get scythes back into working order, and the project also hopes to collect their "Hay Time" stories.

On 11<sup>th</sup> August 2012 a seed collecting event was organised, where 16 volunteers collected seed from Bell Sykes SSSI and its surrounding road verges. Peter Foley was on hand to instruct and demonstrate how to dry, clean, sow and propagate the different species collected. It is intended to meet again to collect seed from the later flowering species, at the request of the volunteers. Volunteers from Comply-Direct travelled over to Bowland to help collect seed for the project, and spent a morning collecting yellow rattle, knapweed and meadowsweet for use on the meadows we are enhancing.

After all the planning of the previous weeks, the transportation of green hay from the donors to the restoration sites began on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2012. The weather held until Wednesday night, and during that time hay was spread onto six restoration meadows totalling 12.7 ha and hand collected seed was spread onto a further three meadows (4 ha) to enhance the species diversity. There were two more sites waiting for another break in the weather, which unfortunately didn't come, and so they will be added to next year's 'to-do' list.

**Resolved:** The Committee noted the presentation.

## **9. AONB Partner Updates**

Vaughan Jones, Pendle Borough Council, gave an update on events within Pendle including the Pendle Sculpture Trail and Pendle Witches.

## **10. Delivering the AONB Management Plan**

Elliott Lorimer, Forest of Bowland AONB Unit, explained that a few changes had been made to the AONB Management Plan from the last meeting and that the latest Management Plan can be access on the Forest of Bowland website from this link: [http://www.forestofbowland.com/cons\\_managementplan](http://www.forestofbowland.com/cons_managementplan)

**Resolved:** The Committee noted the update on the AONB Management Plan and noted that the latest version can be accessed on the Forest of Bowland website.

## **11. Any Other Urgent Business**

None

## **12. Date of Next Meetings**

It was suggested and agreed that the future meetings of the Forest of Bowland AONB Joint Advisory Committee be held on a Wednesday to avoid clashes with other meetings. Therefore the Committee agreed to note that the next two meetings of the Committee are to be held on:

- Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2013 (Pendle - Venue TBC)
- Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2013 (Preston - Venue TBC)

Andy Milroy  
Principal Executive Support Officer

Lancashire County Council  
County Hall  
Preston





## Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

### Outline Methodology for the AONB Management Plan Review 2013-14

#### Introduction

AONB Management Plans are statutory plans whose purpose is to provide a framework document for ensuring delivery of the statutory purpose of AONBs: that of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of their designated landscapes. The Management Plan guides the work of the AONB Partnership. It sets the framework for activity by local authorities, government bodies, partner organisations, landowners, farmers, businesses, communities and visitors.

The function of the AONB Management Plan should not be a static one, it must respond appropriately to new challenges (such as climate change and major land use change) or changing political and regulatory conditions (for example, in EU agricultural and rural development funding or new primary legislation). The Plan's focus, however, remains on the primary purpose of conserving the qualities of the designated area.

The first statutory AONB Management Plan was published in 2004 and was subsequently reviewed and revised after five years as required by the CRoW Act 2000. The Management Plan published in 2009 is now due to be reviewed under the periodic review timetable set out in the Act. This report provides the context for the review and sets out an outline review methodology and proposed timetable for consideration by the AONB Joint Advisory Committee.

#### AONB Management Plan Reviews – a national context

The National Association for AONBs and Defra published an "*Advice note to AONB Partnerships, Conservations Boards and Relevant Authorities on Management Plan Reviews*" in June 2012. The following are key extracts from this advice note:

*The CRoW Act 2000 provides the statutory basis for the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of AONBs, and:*

- *defines the role of the statutory agencies, in particular their responsibilities for the designation of AONBs and as consultees in planning matters;*
- *requires local authorities and Conservation Boards to state their policies for management of their AONBs through preparing and publishing a Management Plan; and*
- *requires all relevant authorities to demonstrate their commitment to AONBs by having regard to AONB purposes in their plans and activities.*

*Specifically, and in relation to Local Authorities Section 89 requires the relevant authority [i.e. the local authority or local authorities jointly], or Conservation Board to "prepare and publish a plan which formulates their policy for the management of the area of outstanding natural beauty and for carrying out their functions in relation to*

*it”, within three years. The plan must be reviewed within five years of its original publication and at similar intervals thereafter.*

*It is important to stress that the designation of an AONB:*

- *gives formal statutory recognition to these nationally important landscapes;*
- *requires special land use planning policies to apply; and*
- *encourages an integrated approach to land management.*

*The bedrock of the plans should be purpose of AONB designation in the context of an individual AONB’s special qualities. There should be a golden thread linking these through to policies and to actions. It is accepted that the purpose of designation needs to be seen in a wider sustainable development context.*

*Existing Management Plans, as ratified by Natural England, are fit for purpose and meet the standards required. We do not intend to produce new guidance or seek to impose a standard national template. Management Plans rightly reflect local circumstances and respect the principles of plan making. Revised Plans will need to address and be relevant to changed context and priorities, but will also contain tried and tested policies which do not need changing.*

*Individual AONB Partnerships and Conservation Boards should decide the extent of a review required. An appropriately “light touch” approach may be taken by some, whilst others may decide a comprehensive review is needed and justified. AONB Partnerships and Conservation Boards will know those areas of their Plans or themes which are constants and do not need re-visiting. They will also have a good idea of the deficiencies and issues to be addressed under the review. Actions will be more readily refreshed in the Management Plan Action Plan / Business Plan, which are more responsive for dealing with transitory or emerging issues.*

*AONB Partnerships should be mindful of the high level collective objectives agreed across the AONB Family and the potential value in communicating a national shared direction, namely:*

- *Conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the UK’s Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, ensuring they can meet the challenges of the future;*
- *Support the economic and social well-being of local communities in ways which contribute to the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty;*
- *Promote public understanding and enjoyment of the nature and culture of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and encourage people to take action for their conservation;*
- *Value, sustain, and promote the benefits that the UK’s Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty provide for society, including clean air and water, food, carbon storage and other services vital to the nation’s health and well-being.*

## Background on the current Management Plan

The CRoW Act 2000 established the requirement for all AONBs in England and Wales to have an up-to-date Management Plan in place, and provided a timetable for the review and updating of plans. The Act also required that the local authorities are responsible for the production of the Plan and are required to establish a long-term Vision for the AONB. The Management Plan provides the policy framework for achieving the Vision. The Vision as set out in the current AONB Management Plan states:

*'The Forest of Bowland retains its sense of local distinctiveness, notably the large-scale open moorland character of the Bowland Fells, traditional buildings and settlement patterns of villages, hamlets and farmsteads. Natural and cultural resources are sympathetically managed and contribute to a sustainable and vibrant local economy. The management of the Forest of Bowland AONB has improved the quality of the landscape for all stakeholders.'*

In implementing the current plan the Partnership agreed four key AONB outcomes as part of a business planning process carried out in 2011:

1. An outstanding landscape of natural and cultural heritage;
2. Resilient and sustainable communities;
3. A strong connection between people and the landscape;
4. A dynamic and effective AONB Partnership.

The AONB Business Plan identifies strategic priorities under each key outcome and actions link directly to the implementation of the Management Plan. It therefore seems a logical step to adopt these four key outcomes as the framework for the Management Plan review, particularly as there is a fairly close fit with the National AONB Family objectives outlined above.

The existing AONB Management Plan includes statements regarding the significance of the landscape designation, the special qualities and important habitats and landscapes, and sets out the vision for the area. These statements will largely be replicated within the proposed Plan, although some amendment of content will be necessary to accurately reflect new changes or challenges facing the AONB.

The current plan outlines six objectives, each with a specific vision of the AONB in 2014. These main themes are set out in Table 1 below, with objectives rationalised to fit under the four key outcomes above. In addition, the table also lists a summary of important changes since 2009:

**Table 1**

<b>2009-2014 Plan Objective</b>	<b>2014 -2019 Key Outcome</b>	<b>Summary of important changes</b>
<b>Natural and Cultural Landscape</b>	<b>1. An outstanding landscape of natural and cultural heritage</b>	Biodiversity 2020: A strategy of England's wildlife and ecosystem services, European Landscape Convention, Flood and Water Management Act 2010, Lawton Review: Making Space for Nature, UK National Ecosystem Assessment, National Planning Policy Framework, Natural Environment White Paper 2011, NE Uplands Policy and Delivery Reviews, EU Water Framework Directive
<b>Enjoyment, Health and Well-being</b>	<b>3. A strong connection between people and the landscape</b>	AONB Sustainable Tourism Strategy, Lawton Review: Making Space for Nature, Local Transport Plans, RoWIPs.
<b>Economy</b>	<b>2. Resilient and sustainable communities</b>	AONB Sustainable Tourism Strategy, Comprehensive Spending Review 2010, Economic situation, EU CAP Reform and Rural Development Regulation, Local Enterprise Partnerships, Rural Economy Growth Review 2011
<b>Community</b>	<b>2. Resilient and sustainable communities</b>	Localism Act 2011, Public Services (Social Value Act 2012, Sustainable Communities Act 2007
<b>Working in Partnership</b>	<b>4. A dynamic and effective AONB Partnership</b>	Comprehensive Spending Review 2010, NAAONB Strategic Plan, Transition from Natural England to Defra funding,

2009-2014 Plan Objective	2014 -2019 Key Outcome	Summary of important changes
		Tripartite agreement between Defra, NE and NAAONB
<b>Responding to Climate Change</b>	<b>Cross-cutting all four key outcomes</b>	AONB Renewable Energy Position Statement 2011, Draft Energy Bill, Energy Act 2011, Feed-In Tariffs, Green Energy (Promotion) Act 2009, Green Deal, Renewable Heat Incentive, North West Coastal Connections Project

#### Review process – next steps

The first stage of the Review process will be to establish a small review working group (ideally officers and JAC members), which will undertake an examination of the current plan and report to the Joint Advisory Committee on the scope and extent of the Review.

In light of the flexibility offered by Defra in its advice on the extent of the review, where issues and actions are well-established and agreed upon by AONB partners, a 'light touch' approach will be adopted. Other sections may require a more in-depth review to reflect policy, regulatory or societal change and the challenging economic conditions.

Once the scope and extent of the review has been agreed by the JAC, the second stage for the working group will be to develop a draft plan, ideally adopting the four key AONB outcomes as its framework.

Table 2 overleaf attempts to summarise a proposed timetable for the Review of the Plan, detailing the various stages. Each of these stages will be open to widespread comment from all interested parties, partly through circulation of review documents, but also using on-line consultation, public consultation events and local information.

**Table 2 – Proposed Review Timetable**

<b>Review Stage</b>	<b>Timetable</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Agree outline Review methodology	29 <sup>th</sup> November 2012	AONB Funders Group
Launch of Management Plan Review	January 2013	Extraordinary AONB JAC meeting
Agree extent of the Review	January 2013	Preliminary consultation with AONB JAC at meeting
Write to the local authorities to agree terms of reference for the preparation of the Review	January 2013	
Issue statutory notice regarding the Review	January 2013	MP Review Working Group
Outline Plan produced	March 2013	MP Review Working Group
Public consultation events	April 2013	
Draft Plan produced	May 2013	
Public on-line consultation on Draft Plan	May – June 2013	
Technical consultation events	June 2013	
Full Draft Plan produced	July 2013	
Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA)	August – September 2013	
Sustainability Appraisal (SA)	August – September 2013	
Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)	September 2013	
Natura 2000 sites Appropriate Assessment (AA)	September 2013	
Public on-line consultation on Full Draft Plan and SEA/AA/SA/EqIA	September – October 2013	
Final Management Plan produced	December 2013	Final version of the Plan
Final Management Plan to Local Authorities for adoption	January 2014	Plan adopted by LAs after confirmation by Defra/NE that plan satisfies statutory requirements
Presentation to Minister/Defra of approved plan	March 2014	Plan forwarded to Defra