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

Thursday, 16th October, 2014 at 2.00 pm in Dunsop Bridge Village Hall

### Agenda

#### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

<b>10am</b>	<b>Meet at AONB Office for tea/coffee</b> Office directions are <a href="#">here</a>
10.20am	Depart for Langden Intake (Sharing cars)
11.15am	Return to Village Hall Car Park
11.30am	Visit Thorneyholme Primary School
11.45am	Depart for short walk round Dunsop Bridge on roads/well-made paths
12.45pm	Return to Village Hall for lunch
<b>2pm</b>	<b>JAC meeting commences</b>

For those coming for lunch and meeting the address for the village hall is:

Dunsop Bridge Village Hall  
Trough Road  
Dunsop Bridge  
Clitheroe  
Lancashire  
BB7 3BG

**1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies for Absence**

**2. Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair**

The Forest of Bowland AONB Joint Advisory Committee are asked to appoint a Chair and Vice Chair for the municipal year 2014/15.

**3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests**

Members are asked to consider any Pecuniary Interests they may have to disclose to the meeting in relation to matters under consideration on the Agenda.

4. **Constitution, Membership and Terms of Reference** (Pages 1 - 4)
5. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 24 April 2014** (Pages 5 - 10)
6. **AONB Partner Updates**
7. **Proposal for appointment to the Joint Advisory Committee** (Pages 11 - 12)
8. **Revised Estimates 2014/15 and Revenue Budget 2015/16** (Pages 13 - 18)
9. **AONB Team Report** (Pages 19 - 28)
10. **Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership Scheme** (Pages 29 - 34)
11. **Pennine Peat LIFE** (Pages 35 - 38)
12. **Northern Update Chain Local Nature Partnership** (Pages 39 - 40)
13. **Any Other Business**  
Verbal Updates
  - European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas
  - LEADER Local Action Groups
  - Dunsop and Gisburn Forest Plans consultations
14. **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.
15. **Date of Next Meeting**  
The date of the next meeting will be held on Thursday 23 April 2015 – Lancaster District (venue to be confirmed)

Stuart Benson  
Principal Executive Support Officer

# Agenda Item 4

## **Membership and Terms of Reference of the Advisory Committee 2014/15**

### **Issue for Consideration**

The Constitution, Membership and Terms of Reference of the Advisory Committee for 2014/15.

### **Information**

It is reported for the information of the Committee that the Constituent Authorities of the Advisory Committee have informed the Secretary of their representatives appointed to serve on the Committee for the year 2014/15. The Constitution and Membership of the Advisory Committee for 2014/15 is, therefore, as follows:-

#### **Lancashire County Council**

County Councillor A Atkinson  
County Councillor S Charles  
County Councillor K Ellard

#### **North Yorkshire County Council**

County Councillor R Welch

#### **Craven District Council**

Councillor L Barrington

#### **Lancaster City Council**

Councillor R Sherlock

#### **Wyre Borough Council**

Councillor R Brooks

#### **Ribble Valley Borough Council**

Councillor Mrs R Elms

#### **Preston City Council**

Councillor J Browne

#### **Pendle Borough Council**

Councillor J Starkie

**Lancashire Association of Parish and Town Councils**

Mr M Helm

**Yorkshire Local Councils Association**

Councillor C Price

**United Utilities**

Mr J Lloyd

**Environment Agency**

Ms H Dix

**Natural England**

Mr N Clark

**Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)**

Mr G Jones

**Forest of Bowland Landowning and Farming Advisory Group**

Mr A Taylor

Mr T Binns

**Ramblers Association**

Mr D Kelly

**Bowland Tourism Environment Fund**

Mr J Collinson

**Bowland Experience Limited**

Mr J Beavan

**Friends of Bowland**

Mr G Morries



The Committee and its constituent bodies are responsible for the implementation of the AONB Management Plan. The role of the Committee and its Terms of Reference, is as follows:-

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

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

A range of organisations with interests in the AONB is eligible for membership. Members include local authorities and the key organisations and interests, including representatives of local people, whose involvement will assist in implementing the Management Plan. Membership is kept under review and is at the discretion of the local authorities. Ideally there should be between 10 and 20 members and, where it is not practicable to include all of the represented interests, regular consultation mechanisms should be established.

Brief for the Joint Advisory Committee:

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

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

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



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

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 24th April, 2014 at 1.30 pm in Bentham Town Hall**

### **Present:**

#### **Chair**

County Councillor Albert Atkinson

#### **Committee Members**

County Councillor Mrs Susie Charles

County Councillor Kevin Ellard

Councillor Lin Barrington, Craven District Council

Councillor Roger W Brooks, Wyre Borough Council

Councillor Mrs Rosemary Elms, Ribble Valley Borough Council

Michael Helm, LAPT C

David Kelly, Ramblers Association

Graham Jones, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) (for early part of meeting)

Geoff Morries, Friends of Bowland

Councillor Colin Price, Yorkshire Local Councils Association

Councillor Roger Sherlock, Lancaster City Council

Councillor James Starkie, Pendle Borough Council

Mr Andrew Taylor, Bowland Land Managers Forum

#### **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

David Padley, Lancashire County Council

Stephen Murphy, Natural England

Jude Lane, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)

Sandra Silk, Forest of Bowland AONB Unit

Tarja Wilson, Forest of Bowland AONB Unit

Graham Megson, North Yorkshire County Council

Alison Boden, Wyre Borough Council

## **Apologies**

Councillor John Browne, Preston City Council  
Helen Dix, Environment Agency  
James Lloyd, United Utilities plc  
County Councillor Richard Welch, North Yorkshire County Council  
Janet Sharp, Champion Bowland  
Barrie Tyrer, Bowland Experience Limited  
Martin Putsey, Preston City Council

### **1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies for Absence**

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

Apologies for absence were noted as above.

It was reported to the Committee the sad news that former Committee member Robert Harrison had passed away. The Committee asked that their condolences be passed on to Mr Harrison's family.

The meeting began with an introduction to Bentham from the Chair of Bentham Town Council, Thomas Marshall, who briefly outlined the significance of Bentham (Higher and Lower) to the Forest of Bowland and surrounding areas.

### **Hen Harriers**

Stephen Murphy from Natural England gave a presentation on Hen Harriers. Stephen firstly talked about the history of Hen Harriers and explained that the species was lost from mainland Britain at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Following the second World War the species was re-colonised into Britain, particularly in Northern England in the 1960's, up to 25 pairs of Hen Harriers were in Britain in the 1970's and 1980's.

A Hen Harriers recovery project was started in 2002, with the population down 22% in recent years. There was a severe decline in numbers in 2009. It is thought that human persecution is responsible for some of the decline.

Efforts are being made to encourage Hen Harriers to breed in England, and specifically the Forest of Bowland, with a lot of the land within the Forest of Bowland having to potential to home a lot more pairs of Hen Harriers.

Work is being done by northern Protected Landscapes Group, RSPB and Local Raptor Study Groups to assist with increasing the population of Hen Harriers. A Northern England Raptors Forum has developed a Breeding Season Response Protocol to ensure all key stakeholders can respond quickly and effectively.

Jude Lane (RSBP) also explained that, presently, there are a pair of Hen Harriers in the area and their nest is under 24hr surveillance / protection, it is hoped that they will be able to successfully breed.

The Committee noted the presentation and thanked Stephen and Jude for attending and providing such a detailed update regarding the Hen Harriers population.

## **2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests**

None

## **3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 10 February 2014**

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2014 be approved as an accurate record.

## **4. Matters arising**

None

## **5. Budget 2014/15 update**

Nick Osborne, Forest of Bowland AONB, provided a brief update on the 2014/15 Budget. It was noted that there are no changes to the Budget, but that the offer made from DEFRA of £208,143 which was reported to the previous Committee meeting had now been accepted.

**Resolved:** The Committee noted the verbal update regarding the Budget for 2014/15 and that the offer from DEFRA had been accepted.

## **6. AONB partner updates**

A number of AONB Partners provided verbal updates regarding activities taking place in the Forest of Bowland. A Walking Festival was planned in the Wyre. An Outdoor Activities brochure was also being produced for the year. It was also reported that Wyre Council are working in partnership with the Environment Agency to set up a Wyre River Catchment Partnership called 'Wyre Waters'.

It was also reported that in North Yorkshire the Craven Local Biodiversity Steering Group is winding down, it will move into the North Yorkshire and York Local Nature Partnership.

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

### **AONB Report – Presentation on headline achievements over the last six months**

Sandra Silk, Forest of Bowland AONB, outlined all the projects as set out in the report (circulated). This included Bowland Hay Time Project, Network for Nectar, Wolf Fell Peat Resoration and Public Access Improvements, Priority Peat and EU Life Bid, Undergrounding for Visual Amenity Programme, Bowland Revealed, the AONB 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary arts programme, Champion Bowland, Bowland Experience, Sustainable Tourism, Sustainable Development Fund, Stony Fold Farm Educational and Trumper Access, Festival Bowland 2014, Forest of Bowland AONB 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Launch, Real Ale Guide to Bowland, A Leap in the Park, Garstang / River Wyre Access for All Path and Monitoring promoted routes across Bowland.

The Committee were pleased to note the number of projects taking place, and thanked all who have contributed to the success of the projects.

The AONB Unit Business Plan for 2014 – 2017 was also circulated to the Committee which provided an update on activity progress since the last meeting of the Committee.

**Resolved:** That the update on headline achievements in the last six months

## **8. AONB Management Plan Review**

### **AONB Unit Management Plan 2014/19**

Elliott Lorimer, Forest of Bowland AONB, briefly explained that following approval of the final draft Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan 2014/19 at the February 2014 Committee meeting, that the Plan had been approved by Natural England on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2014. The final designed version of the Plan had now been completed and had been uploaded to the AONB website. At the time of preparing the update for the Committee, three partner local authorities (Lancaster City Council, North Yorkshire County Council and Preston City Council) have formally adopted the Plan.

It was reported that the remaining local authorities plan to consider the Plan for adoption during April / early May 2014. Once notification is received from these partners of this adoption, the Plan will then be formally submitted to the Under-secretary of State for Defra with responsibility for AONBs Lord de Mauley.

David Kelly, Ramblers Association, asked if some stronger wording regarding footpath restoration on blanket bog moorland could be picked up in the next version of the Plan. It was agreed that this section would be reviewed and if necessary updated.

**Resolved:** The Committee noted the update regarding the publication of the AONB Unit Management Plan for 2014/19.

## **9. Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership Scheme update**

Cathy Hopley, Forest of Bowland AONB, provided an update on the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership Scheme bid to Heritage Lottery Fund. It was reported that a number of discussions have been held with a variety of groups and organisations, a steering group has been set up and an advisory appointed to support the bid development process. Meetings have also been held with Lancashire County Council's Outdoor Education Centre at Whitehough near Barley to discuss how we might work together to find some accommodation for an eventual project team. Discussions are continuing with potential match funding opportunities, particularly RDPE/LEADER funds and Natural England's new agri-environment scheme which will both be launched early in 2015.

The next steps are to continue to gather evidence of needs and issues, but also to begin to pull together project ideas which will begin to build up a programme of activity. To this a number of consultation events will be held in the Pendle Hill area during June 2014 to which Committee members will receive an invitation. A initial draft project proposal will be presented for consideration at the next JAC meeting in October 2014.

**Resolved:** That the update regarding the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership Scheme – Heritage Lottery Fund bid be noted.

**10. AONB 50th Anniversary update**

Elliott Lorimer, Forest of Bowland AONB, provided an update on the AONB's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations. Various events have been arranged throughout the Forest of Bowland to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, this began with the launch event and will continue with various events, including picnic days, gala dinner, Champion Bowland events, attendance at agricultural shows and other events. Members of the Committee were encouraged to attend events and promote them as appropriate.

**Resolved:** That the update regarding the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the AONB be noted.

**11. Urgent Business**

None

**12. Dates of Next Meetings**

It was noted that the next meetings will be held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2014 (Ribble Valley venue TBC) and Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2015 (Lancaster District venue TBC).

Stuart Benson  
Principal Executive Support Officer

Lancashire County Council  
County Hall  
Preston





## **Proposal for appointment to the Joint Advisory Committee**

- i. representative from the Moorland Association

## **Background**

### **The Moorland Association**

The MA is a member's organisation for the owners and managers of moorland in England and Wales representing over 1 million acres of uplands. It has representatives on the executive committees for both Nidderdale and North Pennines AONB.

The object of the Association is:

*To encourage the conservation of heather moorland in England and Wales (the “**Moors**”) for the lasting benefit of all persons entitled to enjoy it by conserving and encouraging the Red Grouse and its habitat and by promoting the conservation and enhancement of the ecology and natural beauty of heather moorland and the proper standards of livestock husbandry and by promoting public awareness of the importance of the Moors and their impact on the economy of their locality.*

Within the Forest of Bowland AONB, the Moorland Association membership covers over 26,000 ha; roughly one third of the designated area and almost all of the area above the moorland line. Members include a wide range from small syndicate shoots to large corporate land owners such as United Utilities who collectively are custodians of almost all of the acreage of the Bowland Fells SSSI and SPA.

### **Current key issues for the Association**

The Moorland Association is well aware of the importance of hen harriers in both a national context and also locally for the Forest of Bowland AONB Partnership. It is committed to hosting more hen harriers on more grouse moors in a sustainable way and is working with Defra and partners to finalise a Joint Recovery Plan. The Moorland Association condemns all wildlife crime and illegal activity.

The Moorland Association is also committed to improving the functioning of deep peat across its landholding. Over 90% of all upland peatland restoration in England to date has been on moors with management for red grouse. The MA is working at a national level with Defra, Natural England, protected landscapes and other organisations to investigate how land managers can help to speed up the restoration process whilst balancing outcomes for grouse and sheep.

### **Decision required**

The Committee is requested to:

- i. consider this proposal and if minded, approve the appointment of a nominated representative from the Moorland Association to the Joint Advisory Committee



# Agenda Item 8

## Revised Estimates 2014/15 and Revenue Budget 2015/16 and 2016/17 (Appendix A refers)

### Issue for consideration

- a) Revised Estimates 2014/15
- b) Revenue Budget 2015/16 and 2016/17

### Background

The budget provision for the Forest of Bowland AONB Joint Advisory Committee is funded by eight constituent local authority partners and grant from Defra and is enhanced by additional contributions from partner organizations, e.g. United Utilities. A core team is established from this budget provision, to assist in the delivery of the statutory AONB Management Plan on behalf of the Joint Advisory Committee and the local authorities. The AONB Unit is now working to a 3-year business plan (2014 - 2017), on which partners are consulted to ensure it reflects local priorities for the AONB.

#### a. Revised Estimates 2014/15

The costs of the Partnership are managed as part of the Lancashire County Council's Environment Directorate's Devolved Financial Management scheme. Since the Joint Advisory Committee in October 2013 approved the 2014/15 estimates and sought support for the contributions requested from funding partners, the full requested contributions have been met.

The contributions advised by the constituent local authorities for 2014/15 were as follows: -

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

Defra advised in December 2013, that the grant offer for 2014/15 was £208,143.

The net effect of these changes allows projects programme (including Sustainable Development Fund) totalling £94,130 to be delivered in 2014/15.

In addition, to date during this year, the AONB Unit has been successful in obtaining the following additional funding to support delivery of projects within the area:

Project	£	Organisation
AONB 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Awards	2,750	The Duchy of Lancaster, Green Tourism, Grosvenor Estates, United Utilities, Countryside, the Lordship of Bowland and Life for Life Memorial Forests
Bowland Revealed	95,000	Arts Council England, LCC Arts Development Service, Ribble Valley Borough Council
Bowland Scrapbook (jointly with Champion Bowland)	10,000	Heritage Lottery Fund
Networks for Nectar	27,000	Lancashire Environmental Fund

The 2013/14 Revised Estimates take account of any changes (see Agenda Item 8a Column 3) in comparison with the Original Estimates in Column 2.

The principal change relates to the reduction in salary costs, due to the impending retirement of the AONB Business Development Officer from 31<sup>st</sup> October 2014. It is not proposed to seek to recruit a replacement\*.

Therefore, the net effect of this reduction in salary costs is to increase the budget available to support projects which help deliver the AONB Management Plan. Alongside existing commitments, this will allow the AONB Partnership to continue to support the financial and administration requirements for both Champion Bowland and Bowland Experience Ltd and also to contract support for Partnership biodiversity delivery until March 2015.

*\* Please note: the AONB Unit will continue to work closely with Bowland Experience Ltd directors and members on developing sustainable tourism in the area and also with Champion Bowland trustees on the management of the Champion Bowland Small Grants Fund.*

## **b. Revenue Budget 2015/16 and 2016/17**

### Revenue Budget 2015/16

This section sets out in Appendix 'A' column 4, the costs associated with the Committee's projects and management service in 2015/16, including estimated pay and price levels. The estimates are based on slightly reduced level of service agreed by the Committee at the October 2013 meeting.

Provision reflects the new core team of 4 full-time equivalent posts, operational budgets for core activities and projects:

- AONB Manager [0.2FTE]
- Principal AONB Officer [0.8FTE]
- Development and Funding Officer

- Sustainable Tourism and Website Development Officer
- Projects and Events Officer

Total Committee income from contributions has been included in the budget for 2015/16, based on estimated contributions from funding authorities, equivalent to maintaining the requested contribution for 2014/15, with a continuation of the contribution from United Utilities matching the requested district/borough council level of contribution.

Income in respect of grant support from Defra towards core costs, projects costs and sustainable development works has been included on the basis of a 'standstill' budget for 2015/16. Advice from Defra is that the grant for 2015/16 will continue to be a single grant offer to be used in ways which the Joint Advisory Committee considers will deliver the best performance in achieving the aims of the Management Plan, without restrictions placed on the percentage of grant to each area of supported activity.

Thus, the level of provision for projects is based on the resources estimated to be available to the Committee after providing for the staffing of the AONB Unit at Dunsop Bridge, plus related core activities costs, assuming that all partners make the requested contributions.

#### Revenue Budget 2016/17

Whilst confirming their contribution for 2015/16, Defra are not currently in a position to commit resources for 2016/17 or beyond. In the past, in order to offer some stability to AONB Partnerships planning for the medium term, there has been a 4 year commitment supported by a Memoranda of Agreement between the funding partners. Whilst it is not anticipated that there will be any major changes to grant allocations from Defra it is recognised that all partner authorities are dealing with the challenge of managing with reduced resources. It is likely that a new form of agreement will be sought in 2016/17.

Lancashire County Council can confirm that it is able to make its full contribution to the Partnership on 2015/16. However in reviewing its budget allocations, it is evident that as the host authority it is incurring additional costs associated with the employment of the staff in the AONB unit. The full costs of that to the authority are not currently charged to the Partnership. Whatever new funding arrangements are agreed for the partnership in future the County Council will seek to recover the full costs of employing the staff as part of that agreement.

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

#### **1. Gross Expenditure**

It is proposed that total expenditure be £357,813 in 2015/16, which is £6,330 lower than that in 2014/15. This reduction is due to a recalculation (based on the reduced staff costs) of the 'in-kind' contribution from LCC towards costs for central, departmental and technical support.

The total expenditure results from providing for the effect of increased pay and prices, staff increments, employers national insurance and superannuation contributions, along with general price increases, and reflecting a level of provision for projects after taking account of the estimated level of resources being sought from funding partners.

## **2. Income**

Defra grant towards core costs, projects costs and a programme of sustainable development works of £208,143 reflects no reduction on 2014/15 grant funding levels.

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

## **3. Net Expenditure**

The £357,813 net cost of management services is based on maintaining the level of contributions from the funding authorities requested for 2014/15. It is essential that the funding authorities are notified of the approved expenditure and requested to make due provision in their own estimates.

## **4. Additional Resources**

It should be noted that, as normal, resources from local authorities/individuals/other funding bodies for projects in AONB will be sought during 2014/15 (e.g. Lottery Funds, EU and Lancashire Environment Fund), which are over and above the Joint Advisory Committee budget provision and this will continue in 2015/16.

Furthermore, the service contributes to the generation of additional schemes and projects in liaison with services operating in the area such as the various local authority Countryside Services.

## **Decision Required**

The Committee is requested to:

- i) note the 2014/15 Revised Estimates.
- ii) approve the 2015/16 Revenue Budget as set out in the report,
- iii) subject to the approval of (ii) above, to request the funding authorities to make appropriate provision in their revenue budgets

## APPENDIX 'A' AONB Budget

(1)	Estimated 2014/15 (Out-turn Prices)	Revised 2014/15 (Out-turn Prices)	Estimated 2015/16 (Out-turn Prices)
(2)	(3)	(4)	(4)
£	£	£	£
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>			
<b><u>Core Costs</u></b>			
Salary, N.I. and Superannuation	172,932	162,513	156,523
Out-based premises	20,000	20,000	20,000
Travel and subsistence	8,900	8,900	8,900
Central, Departmental & Tech. Support	60,800	60,800	54,470
Core Activities	17,800	17,800	17,800
 Sub total of Core Costs	 280,432	 270,013	 257,693
<b><u>Non Core Costs</u></b>			
 Projects/Information	 83,711	 94,130	 100,120
 Sub total of Non Core Costs	 83,711	 94,130	 100,120
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>364,143</b>	<b>364,143</b>	<b>357,813</b>
<b><u>Income</u></b>			
 Defra Grant	 208,143	 208,143	 208,143
<b><u>Contributions</u></b>			
United Utilities	6,800	6,800	6,800
Other Project Contributions	0	0	0
<b><u>County Councils</u></b>			
Lancashire	40,800	40,800	40,800
North Yorkshire	6,800	6,800	6,800
<b><u>District Councils</u></b>			
Craven	6,800	6,800	6,800
Lancaster	6,800	6,800	6,800
Pendle	6,800	6,800	6,800
Preston	6,800	6,800	6,800
Ribble Valley	6,800	6,800	6,800
Wyre	6,800	6,800	6,800
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>303,343</b>	<b>303,343</b>	<b>303,343</b>
 Contrib to support costs (LCC in kind)	 60,800	 60,800	 54,470
	<b>364,143</b>	<b>364,143</b>	<b>357,813</b>







AONB Report to JAC: October 2014



# FOREST OF BOWLAND

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

## An outstanding landscape of natural and cultural heritage

### Bowland Hay Time and Networks for Nectar

This summer has been a bit different to the previous two, due to changes in funding streams and the first summer of the Networks for Nectar project, which is focusing on small non-farmed sites compared to the Hay Time scheme, which focuses on field scale restoration work.

This summer there have been four field scale restoration schemes, one funded via HLS, and three funded by Biffa Award, as part of the UK wide Coronation Meadows project. These three schemes have been completed using seed from Bell Sykes farm, Lancashire's Coronation Meadow site, harvested using a brush harvester which we have borrowed from Nidderdale AONB.

The rest of the restoration schemes, thirteen in total, have been under the Networks for Nectar (N4N) project, where we have been supplying seed and providing management advice to private owners and local businesses wanting to produce nectar sites and small meadows for invertebrates.

There have been a whole variety of events, including: a bioblitz for Hurst Green St John's Eco-congregation; a meadow walk for the Lancaster Bee Keepers at Bell Sykes; a day long meadow event in Slaidburn as part of Festival Bowland; a picnic with meadow activities at the restored meadow in Gisburn Forest; an open day at the Bell Sykes Coronation Meadows; a two day mowing course also held at Bell Sykes with Steve Tomlin (the scythe tutor) and a local artist capturing the scything in pastels; a field trip to the Rathmell meadows as part of the national AONB Conference; advice to Bolton-by-Bowland parish council on their parish plan; support for our Edge Hill PhD student looking at SSSI meadows in Bowland; support to our Edge Hill MSc student who is looking at spider diversity in restored meadows in Bowland; scything groups at Melling Village Green and Hurst Green St John's churchyard; filming for Lancashire Environmental Fund, one of our main funders, as part of their Annual Report and most recently hosting a visit from Biffa Awards to see how their money has been used.

In addition to supporting the two students from Edge Hill in their individual work, we also hosted the MSc course for a day's field trip during which they collected vegetation data for the site. In July we hosted a week's placement for a UCLAN MSc student studying environmental management, who is also registered blind. He interviewed local farmers for his project, helped with seed collection and propagation and also attended the scythe training course.

Work has also been ongoing revisiting the restoration schemes completed in 2012 and 2013, as well as visiting potential sites for next year, in partnership with the local HLS team, who now look to the project to provide recommendations on site suitability for restoration. This has already resulted in a list of seven farms with field scale restoration forming part of their HLS agreements.

A current project is organising a week's field trip for a group of 11 practitioners from Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania, who are part of the EU funded LIFE Viva Grass project, and will be visiting Bowland, the Dales and Cumbria.

For further information contact [sarah.robinson@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.robinson@lancashire.gov.uk) or visit [www.forestofbowland.com/haytimeproject](http://www.forestofbowland.com/haytimeproject)

### Pennine Peat LIFE

The AONB Unit has worked closely with the 'Pennine Peat Partnership' over the last few months on the development of a bid to European Union LIFE+ Fund, to support a £multi-million peatland restoration programme called 'Pennine Peat LIFE', stretching from Bowland to the Scottish border.

Peatland, or 'blanket bog' as the habitat is known in the uplands, is of international importance for its biodiversity and carbon storage. The Forest of Bowland's landscape and conservation designations are based on the importance of these upland environments and the species they support. Whilst peatlands only cover 3% of the world's land area, they contain nearly 30% of all carbon stored on land.

If the funding bid is successful, the AONB will be working alongside the Environment Agency and United Utilities to deliver restoration work (estimated at almost £1.5m) at six sites within the Bowland Fells. A restoration officer will also be employed by the programme to work closely with landowners, farmers and contractors to ensure smooth delivery. A decision from the European Commission is expected in February/March 2015.

For further information on this programme, please contact [sarah.robinson@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.robinson@lancashire.gov.uk) or [elliott.lorimer@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:elliott.lorimer@lancashire.gov.uk)

## State of the AONB Report

Did you know that the Forest of Bowland has 1195 twitter followers, that 100% of our registered geological sites are in favourable condition, and that 45% of our settlements have access to basic services? These, and many more amazing facts are now available in our first 'State of the AONB' report [www.forestofbowland.com/stateofaonb](http://www.forestofbowland.com/stateofaonb)

Produced to mark the Forest of Bowland's 50th anniversary as an AONB, this report has identified a number of indicators and statistics which describe the area's 'health' in terms of landscape, communities, accessibility and partnership working.

The information will help us to provide useful and current evidence for funding bids. Our aim is to re visit these statistics in future years to assess trends and changes so that our management plan activities can continue to conserve and enhance important aspects of the area's outstanding natural beauty.

For further information contact [cathy.hopley@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:cathy.hopley@lancashire.gov.uk)

## Nicky Nook Access Improvements

Nicky Nook fell and the Grizedale Valley area is becoming increasingly popular with walkers, cyclists, horse-riders and Trumper users. Partly due to the opening up of the Apple Store Café at Wyresdale Park and the expansion of Fell View Caravan Park. This second phase of access improvements has extended the subsoil path with associated drainage works by a further 400metres taking the path up and over the summit.

For further information contact [tarja.wilson@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:tarja.wilson@lancashire.gov.uk)

## Resilient and sustainable rural communities

### Champion Bowland & Bowland Experience

**Champion Bowland** (CB) and **Bowland Experience Ltd** (BEx) will have a new way of providing their office services back-up from 1st November. They have reached an agreement (with the support of the AONB) with Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust to do their book-keeping and day-to-day administration of banking and correspondence for both companies.

YDMT is in many ways similar to CB/BEx, but has been going longer (since 1997) and become much larger both in terms of staffing and funds managed. It is experienced in charitable work and fund raising across a wide range of activities. Despite the name, it is actually located in Clapham in the Forest of Bowland AONB!

We already have a good working partnership with YDMT who manage the Bowland Hay Time and Networks for Nectar projects funded in part by LEF (Lancashire Environment Fund).

The AONB team in Dunsop Bridge will remain the point of contact with both CB and BEx in their respective fields of work in the Forest of Bowland. Cathy Hopley will be the link with Champion Bowland on the Small Grant scheme and SDF and Hetty Byrne will continue to work with Bowland Experience members on their various tourism development projects.

For further information contact [mike.pugh@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:mike.pugh@lancashire.gov.uk)

### 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Raffle

A very big thank you to all those businesses that have sold raffle tickets and donated prizes to raise funds for Champion Bowland, during this 50th Anniversary year. Sales have gone really well so far, but there's still opportunity for you to buy tickets at a £1 each. For a full list of prizes go to [www.championbowland.org.uk/gala-raffle.html](http://www.championbowland.org.uk/gala-raffle.html) or to buy tickets contact the AONB office on 01200 448000.

The raffle will be drawn at the Gala Dinner on 1st November and a list of winners will be posted on the Champion Bowland website.

### Bowland Scrapbook

Champion Bowland's Anniversary project, the Bowland Scrapbook, has had a great summer, with the project researcher Sue Holden getting out to talk to hundreds of people at country shows, cafés, WI meetings, history groups and two farmers' suppers laid on specially at Wray and Chipping. People have generously shared photographs, documents and memories about their lives in rural Bowland since the AONB was designated in 1964.

Sue has also recruited 5 volunteers who have been helping her to do background research at libraries and archives, copying newspaper stories and photographs. She has also featured in the Rural Life supplement and on BBC Radio Lancashire!

The Scrapbook publication is now being put together by our designers at Osprey and the book will be given away to all Gala dinner ticket holders on 1st November, and afterwards to all contributors. Any surplus copies will be available for a small donation to Champion Bowland via local shops and the AONB offices.

The project, which is funded by Heritage Lottery Fund and the AONB, is hoping to continue with collecting material, recording conversations, and uploading archive material to the History Pin website where 'bowlandscrapbook' has a channel.

So, if you still have stories to share with us, please contact [bowlandscrapbook@gmail.com](mailto:bowlandscrapbook@gmail.com)

## Sustainable Tourism Forum

Tourism businesses and partners came together for the AONB's Annual Sustainable Tourism Forum on Tuesday 14th October at the Castle Inn, Hornby. The annual forum is a fantastic opportunity for tourism partners to get together and to share ideas and good practice. The meeting generated plenty of discussion and also included the following:

- Business best practice case studies
- Update on Pendle Landscape Partnership Bid
- Training opportunities workshop led by consultant Ruth Holroyd
- Opportunities for collaborative projects through RDPE funding
- A tour of the Castle Inn

For further information contact [hetty.byrne@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:hetty.byrne@lancashire.gov.uk)

## Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership

You may have already heard that the AONB Unit is developing a major funding bid to be made to the Heritage Lottery Fund's Landscape Partnership Scheme in May 2015. The £2m bid is focussed on the Pendle Hill area, including the AONB 'outlier' and surrounding countryside lying between the Pendle and Ribble Valley districts.

The bid aims to tackle threats to the area's heritage – be it natural, built or cultural – and as such we expect it to include projects which celebrate the area's political and religious pioneers, restore dry stone walls and improve wildlife areas, and conserve and interpret important buildings and archaeological remains. The project will seek to work with nearby urban communities as well as rural residents and visitors to this popular area, and there will be plenty of opportunities for people to get involved in learning activities and volunteering.

If you'd like to get involved in planning this programme, or keep in touch with our plans, please contact [cathy.hopley@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:cathy.hopley@lancashire.gov.uk)

## Sustainable Development Fund

The AONB's grant scheme is still open to applications and the next closing date for submissions is Monday 20th October, so if you have a project in mind, please contact Cathy Hopley [cathy.hopley@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:cathy.hopley@lancashire.gov.uk) on 01200 448000 to discuss it. Guidance and application forms are available from [www.forestofbowland.com/cons\\_devfund](http://www.forestofbowland.com/cons_devfund) where you can also view examples of past projects.

## Parish Lengthsman

The parish lengthsman schemes continue to run effectively across several parishes. There have been some minor changes to parishes involved. The parishes help to deliver Public Rights of Way (PRoW) improvements on behalf of the parishes for Lancashire County Council.

For further information contact [tarja.wilson@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:tarja.wilson@lancashire.gov.uk) or [david.padley@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:david.padley@lancashire.gov.uk)

## Anniversary Awards Shortlist

The chance to read through the nominations for our 50th Anniversary Awards has been wonderful, and very heartening. Given the range and quality of the applications, choosing the nominees to go forward for judging was a very



difficult process. However, we were delighted to have such a strong shortlist reflecting the commitment of all those who work hard to keep the Forest of Bowland so special.

The winners in each of the seven awards categories will be announced at a gala event at Clough Bottom, Bashall Eaves, on 1st November. The shortlisted nominations in six of the categories are shown below. The seventh category has been organised and judged by the Lancashire Best Kept Village Competition.

- **Biodiversity Award:** Gavin Thomas, Jennifer Newton, Brennand and Whitendale Focus Group
- **Farming for Conservation Award:** New Laith Farm, Bell Sykes Farm, Cobble Hey Farm, Backsbottom Farm
- **Traditional Boundaries Award:** Reuben Parsons, Geoff Whitley, Downham Estate
- **Sustainable Tourism Award:** Stirk House Hotel, Cobble Hey Farm, Browsholme Hall
- **Vibrant Community Award:** Slaidburn Village Archive, Clitheroe Youth Forum, St. James' Church Community Archaeology Project
- **Outstanding Contribution:** Muriel Lord, Jean Fone, John Hickling, Philip Lord

Many thanks to all those who submitted nominations. Thanks too to our judges, Lucy Baron, Sue Robinson, Tim Mitcham, Thomas Bowring, Peter Gibson and Dr Harold Goodwin for sharing their time and experience with us.

## A strong connection between people and the landscape

### Bowland Revealed

Late September was a busy time for the Bowland Revealed creative arts project. Saturday 27th saw the first of a series of free community workshops, one in each of Bowland's six districts. Led by professional artists, the workshops (which each run from 10am to 4pm) offer people the chance to try out a range of media and will finish in late November. The programme got off to a great start with a stone carving workshop at Garstang Academy taught by Lucy Cortese. Places on the workshops are limited and need to be booked in advance, so don't miss the opportunity to try something new! Forthcoming sessions are:

- **Lancaster:** Environmental Art & Design with Philippe Handford, 4th October, Green Close Studios, Melling
- **Craven:** Photography with Veronica Caperon, 18th October, Eldroth Church
- **Ribble Valley:** Textiles with Priscilla Jones, 25th October, Slaidburn Village Hall
- **Preston:** Drawing with Pat Ellacott, 22nd November, Beacon Fell Visitor Centre
- **Pendle:** Ceramics with Julie Miles, 29th November, Higherford Mill, Barrowford

A very enjoyable launch of the Landmarks artworks took place on Sunday 28th September, with almost 50 people joining the artists Halima Cassell, Philippe Handford, Geraldine Pilgrim and Salina Somalya, to view their finished work. Landmarks are a series of temporary artworks site in, and inspired by, the Forest of Bowland landscape. Gisburn Forest Hub, Langden Intake (Trough Road), Beacon Fell Country Park and Jeffrey Hill (Longridge Fell) are each hosting a piece until Sunday 9th November.

View the Landmarks leaflet - [www.forestofbowland.com/files/uploads/pdfs/bowland\\_revealed\\_-\\_landmarks\\_leaflet.pdf](http://www.forestofbowland.com/files/uploads/pdfs/bowland_revealed_-_landmarks_leaflet.pdf)

For further information contact [sandra.silk@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:sandra.silk@lancashire.gov.uk)

### Festival Bowland

Wyre Borough ran a successful Trumper Trek on Tarnbrook Fell, with great support from LCC rangers and project officers and also from Grosvenor Estate. Lancashire Wildlife Trust's bug hunt at Whalley Abbey was very well attended once again, whilst 30 people stepped up to Waddow Hall's exciting "Challenge 50" event.

Passengers on board "Rosie", the 1946 Leyland Tiger coach, had a packed day touring Craven and the northern part of the AONB on September's Bowland Heritage Tour. Visits to Long Preston Deeps, Giggleswick Chapel, Eldroth Church, Clear Beck Garden, Pioneer Projects and the Folly were much enjoyed.

Clear skies and a very mild night offered perfect conditions for the Star Turns! stargazing evening at the end of September. A fascinating presentation, followed by an outdoor session at Jubilee Tower car park, was the perfect introduction to the autumn night sky.

We're almost at the end of this year's programme but there's still chance to catch the Lord of Bowland's 4th Annual Lecture, this year taking place in Newton on 7th October, a leg stretch courtesy of the Garstang Health Walk on 25th October and some practical conservation work with the rangers at Spring Wood, Whalley on 29th of this month. For details and booking information see the online Festival Bowland events programme

[www.forestofbowland.com/festivalevents](http://www.forestofbowland.com/festivalevents)

For more details contact [sandra.silk@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:sandra.silk@lancashire.gov.uk)

## Beautiful Bowland in Pictures

Our 50th Anniversary photo celebration, A Journey through Bowland, has recently launched at the Folly, in Settle. Keen photographers have been out in Bowland with their cameras and we have received some fantastic entries, all of which are available on our website [www.forestofbowland.com/50years/photogallery/grid](http://www.forestofbowland.com/50years/photogallery/grid) 50 photographs have been chosen for the exhibition and we're delighted that such a wonderful venue as the Folly is hosting the work.

Images have been taken by both professional and amateur photographers and range from classic landscape and wildlife photographs, to well known buildings - plus the odd quirky picture!  
The exhibition will run until Sunday 2nd November. Opening times and admission information for the Folly can be found on their website at [www.ncbpt.org.uk/folly](http://www.ncbpt.org.uk/folly)

## Anniversary Gala Dinner

Tickets are selling fast for the 50th Anniversary Gala Dinner and there are only a few remaining, so if you want to secure your place(s), please book online now! [www.forestofbowland.com/galatickets](http://www.forestofbowland.com/galatickets) Tickets are £35 per person.

Can we also take this opportunity to say a big thank you to our sponsors [www.forestofbowland.com/awardsponsors](http://www.forestofbowland.com/awardsponsors) for supporting both the awards and the dinner:

- **Green Tourism** - sponsor of the Sustainable Tourism Award
- **United Utilities** - sponsor of the Biodiversity Award
- **Grosvenor Abbeystead Estate** - sponsor of the Farming for Conservation Award
- **Duchy of Lancaster** - sponsor of the Outstanding Contribution Award
- **Countryside** and **Life for a Life Memorial Forests** - table sponsors.

There are still sponsorship opportunities, so please get in touch if you would like to find out more!  
[hetty.byrne@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:hetty.byrne@lancashire.gov.uk)

## Trampers

Tramper use in the Scorton area by individuals and groups has been busy over the summer including Longridge Carers group and families staying at Barnacre Cottages. Stirk House Hotel has hosted the Tramper on several occasions for use through the grounds and woodlands, which host a wealth of wildlife including barn owls. Use has also started at Boothman Park (Barley) fishing lakes and accommodation who host events for young people and women's groups.

We have also supported the National Trust set up a Tramper-for-hire scheme based at Malham Tarn which was launched over the summer.

For further information contact [tarja.wilson@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:tarja.wilson@lancashire.gov.uk)



## A dynamic and effective AONB partnership

### National Association for AONBs

The AONB Unit has been involved in a number of events, seminars and workshops organised by the National Association for AONBs, including:

- **NAAONB 'Landscapes for Life' Conference, Newton Rigg College in Penrith, 8<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> July 2014**

The AONB Unit organised two, conference field trips to Forest of Bowland and produced case study information for the Conference 'Marketplace'. The conference provided excellent networking opportunities, alongside keynote speeches which included an important statement of support for AONBs from Defra Minister, Lord de Mauley.

- **NAAONB Woodland Social Action Workshop, Arnside and Silverdale AONB, 17<sup>th</sup> July 2014**

The Principal AONB Officer accompanied members of 'Friends of Bowland' to this NAAONB event (funded by Department for Energy and Climate Change) to find out more about nationwide initiatives to better involve communities in woodland management and opportunities to establish woodland social enterprises, such as Silverdale and District Woodbank. The AONB will be hosting a further training event as part of this project in November 2014.

- **NAAONB Sustainable Tourism Working Group, London 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2014**

The Sustainable Tourism Development Officer attended this working group meeting involving several other AONBs, Visit England, Green Traveller and Our Land interested working collaboratively to better promote and develop sustainable tourism within AONBs and National Parks.

### Catchment Partnerships

Defra has overseen the recent establishment of 'Catchment Partnerships' for most of the principal river catchments in England. The Forest of Bowland AONB is covered by three Catchment Partnerships:

- **Living Lune**
- **Ribble Life**
- **Wyre Waters**

A member of the AONB Unit or LCC Environmental Projects team has been attending recent partnership meetings for all three Catchment Partnerships to ensure AONB landscape matters are adequately represented. The Partnerships themselves are at various stages of maturity; ranging from development of a major funding bid to Heritage Lottery Fund to small scale community action projects.

Additionally, the AONB Sustainable Development Fund has supported a Wyre Waters project to which aims to tackle invasive non-native species (INNS) in the upper reaches of the river.



## Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership

### Two sides to the hill, hill, hill

Pendle Hill is an iconic landmark to many Lancastrians, yet it has two very different sides: light and dark, and its summit is a divide between places, people and economic activity. The hill and its surrounds have a very definite landscape character and this is made up of concentric zones of upland plateau, moorland, lowland farmland and parkland; yet its very bedrock creates the differences on the two sides: to the north lie limestone and shales, whilst the summit and southern slopes are of the darker millstone grit and siltstones. This geology has also influenced the way in which the land has been managed and its resources exploited since humans first settled the area.

Pendle Hill acts as a weather vane to many of us, and is a constant backdrop to our lives. Yet different people look to the hill from different sides – from the Ribble Valley side people see lush green fields and hedgerows topped by moorland criss-crossed with dry stone walls and track ways. The land is largely owned by private estates and this side of the hill is generally more wealthy and populated by commuters. From the Pendle side, the hill rears up from the old industrial settlements, with more ethnically mixed and disadvantaged communities living in the towns and a wealthier population in the peripheral suburbs and villages. They tend to see a darker side to the hill, complete with its stories of witches.

The Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership will conserve the heritage assets of this iconic landscape, and it will bring together these two sides and two communities to celebrate its value to both sides of the hill.

### Heritage assets

Pendle Hill has a rich history, having been settled since at least Bronze and Iron Age times, it was explored by the Romans and then taken into hand for medieval farming estates and hunting forest. In more recent times the area was exploited for its mineral resources and was associated with early industrial developments prior to the explosion of activity during the Industrial Revolution in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries in the neighbouring cotton towns.

In between times, Pendle Hill was often a sheltering ground (maybe because of its remote location and inhospitable terrain) for radicals and idealists including George Fox, who had a vision on the hill which led to the founding of the Quaker's Society of Friends; and others like Richard Cobden, Thomas Leonard, and the pioneers of the Clarion, the Independent Labour Party.

Pendle Hill is also an asset to the many walkers, fell runners and cyclists who view the hill as a challenge, a vantage point and an open air gym. Their numbers are swelled by those who come here for picnics and sightseeing, a day out in the countryside and a breath of fresh air. Yet Pendle Hill is also a living landscape, populated by farming families and villagers who can often trace their roots back for many generations. These are the people who built the network of dry stone walls and who gather their sheep off the fell. And the place is also an important sanctuary for wildlife: a stopping off point for passing migrants, a breeding site for waders, and a home to precious meadows and rich woodlands.

### Threats and opportunities

Using the Forest of Bowland's Landscape Character Assessment and a number of consultation events, we have identified five clear threats to the heritage assets of Pendle Hill:

- Loss of landscape features and species diversity
- Erosion, conflict and congestion caused by visitor pressure
- People losing touch with the past
- People losing touch with the landscape
- Reduced finance for recreation, heritage and wildlife conservation

We have then considered what opportunities could be developed, and how these might be delivered as projects:

THREAT	OPPORTUNITY	PROJECT IDEAS
<p><b>1. Loss of landscape features and species diversity:</b> slow degradation and loss of landscape character and features (eg dry stone walls); intensification of farming leading to loss of species diversity and fragmentation of habitats; modernisation and suburbanisation of housing eroding the area's character and sense of place</p>	<p>Restore features (natural and historic)</p> <p>Encourage nature friendly farming</p> <p>Manage the best wildlife sites better and extend them if possible</p> <p>Encourage traditional skills</p> <p>Celebrate a sense of place</p>	<p>DRY STONE WALLS &amp; HEDGEROWS</p> <p>NATURE FRIENDLY FARMING &amp; MANAGING SPECIAL SITES</p> <p>VILLAGE HERITAGE AND LANDSCAPE FUND</p>
<p><b>2. Erosion, conflict and congestion:</b> over concentration of visitors in some villages and on certain routes, leading to path erosion, conflict with farmers and landowners. Over reliance on private cars leading to congestion, erosion and pollution</p>	<p>Disperse visitors and spread benefits to other areas</p> <p>Reduce erosion and damage</p> <p>Interpret and signpost alternative routes</p> <p>Maximise the opportunity of existing 'gateways' and utilise public transport</p> <p>Encourage cycling &amp; walking</p>	<p>IMPROVE ACCESS FOR ALL</p> <p>DEVELOP VISITOR HUBS</p>
<p><b>3. People losing touch with the past:</b> a slow loss of knowledge and understanding about the historical significance of the place and its people caused by changes in education and use of leisure time; local stories are being lost and forgotten; membership of local groups can be limited and narrow</p>	<p>Encourage research, to educate and inspire people</p> <p>provide training and support to develop skills and knowledge</p> <p>make links between local history groups and extend membership with outreach work and new technology</p> <p>Education about local distinctiveness and vernacular buildings</p>	<p>COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY</p> <p>PENDLE RADICALS</p> <p>VILLAGE HOUSE HISTORIES</p> <p>VILLAGE HERITAGE AND LANDSCAPE FUND</p>
<p><b>4. People losing touch with the landscape:</b> lack of traditional skills and knowledge due to changes in education and in farming practice; fewer people inspired by nature so fewer enthusiasts for the future; children and some sectors of urban communities finding it difficult to explore the countryside, leading to low levels of understanding, and low levels of exercise and well being</p>	<p>Provide guidance, inspiration and support to people who do not normally visit</p> <p>provide training and education in recording, conserving and enjoying wildlife and geology</p> <p>provide outreach opportunities to engage with urban residents</p> <p>develop care and a sense of identity for the area</p>	<p>GEO CONSERVATION</p> <p>APPRENTICESHIPS</p> <p>EDUCATION &amp; COMMUNITY OUTREACH &amp; WELLBEING</p> <p>INTERPRETATION &amp; SENSE OF PLACE</p>
<p><b>5. Reduced finance for recreation, heritage and wildlife conservation</b> caused by reductions in central and local government funding</p>	<p>Identify new sustainable sources of income and systems to support community-led activity into the future</p>	<p>DEVELOPING VISITOR GIVING</p> <p>WHAT'S IT WORTH? RESEARCH</p>

## Creating a programme of activity

In order to create a cohesive programme of projects, and in order to manage, finance and integrate this programme we are proposing the following thematic approach:

### Bringing Together the Two Sides

Pendle Hill has its environment, it has economic aspects, and it is a place for everyone.

Each of these elements has two sides – the physically different two sides of the hill, its divided economy, and the variety of people who live, work in and visit the area.

Our proposal is to weave together the two sides of each element with a creative approach, building cohesion, introducing dialogue and creating shared points of view. Each theme will incorporate a 'gathering project' to deliver this.

### Environment

Projects will include:

- Repairing the network of dry stone walls and hedgerows that give the landscape its characteristic appearance
- Surveying and bringing into management our special wildlife sites, and seeking to link these with farmland managed for biodiversity
- Interpreting the area's important geology and the contribution this has made to the area and its economy
- Managing the Pendle Hill Fund to support community-led projects focusing on heritage and landscape
- Gathering projects

Outline costs **£420,000**

### Economy

Projects will include:

- Developing visitor hubs at established 'honeypots' using digital technology and traditional methods to inform people, to reduce pressure on over used sites and to reduce conflicts
- Improving access for all by promoting key routes, dispersing pressure and providing for all abilities
- Creating a visitor-giving scheme for the Pendle Hill Fund
- Research into the value of Pendle Hill's ecosystem services and its contribution to wellbeing
- Gathering projects

Outline costs **£412,000**

### Everyone

Projects will include:

- A series of local history group surveys into village house histories which will create a digital archive
- Community archaeology and heritage placements: investigating the Iron Age fort at Portfield and the secrets of the Hidden Valley and using digital techniques to widen understanding and interest
- Apprenticeships for young people in traditional rural and heritage skills
- A series of linked projects investigating and interpreting the Pendle Radicals: free thinkers and non conformists
- Education and outreach work, introducing new audiences to the area: building understanding and confidence
- Gathering projects

Outline costs **£530,000**

## Making it Happen

The programme will be delivered by a partnership of organisations overseen by a LP Board, and led by a small programme team comprising:

- Programme Manager
- Natural Environment Officer
- Community Heritage Officer
- Administrative Support Officer (part time)

There will also be central costs to cover accommodation (based in the LP area), interpretation materials (largely digital but also some printing and site display panels), evaluation costs and 3% programme contingency.

The team will also be responsible for running an annual Gathering to bring together the 'two sides' and all of the project activity.

Outline costs **£740,000**

In addition, the Development Phase (2016/17) will have a budget of approximately **£140,000** to employ a Development Officer and to carry out a number of consultations and to commission specialist research and surveys to further develop these proposals.

## Programme Leads and Match Funding

The proposals above make a total bid of £2.24m of which we will be asking HLF for approximately 75%. This leaves a challenging £550,000 to be raised by the Landscape Partnership, over the course of four or five years.

Although the programme will be partly delivered by a programme team, we will be encouraging partners to take on the responsibility of leading some of the projects, and bringing the match funds to the table – either from their own resources or from other grant pots.

The programme team will be based together, possibly at LCC's Whitehough Education Centre in Barley, and we will also be seeking partners who are able to offer support and be the employers of the Natural Environment and Community Heritage officers, and also possibly the part time administrative officer.

The AONB Unit is committed to contributing a share of this match fund, approximately £20k a year, via our existing projects budget.

We are also anticipating that the new RDPE programme, focussed on Bowland and North Lancashire, may be able to support both the Development Phase and specific projects in the delivery programme which meet their criteria, most likely for 'Enhancing Natural and Cultural Heritage' and support for rural tourism. We will seek approximately £200,000 in total.

We are hopeful that the new agri-environment scheme, NELMS, will also support activity, possibly via its proposed landscape scale facilitation budget as well as through its land management payments to farmers. And as the programme has a major creative element we will also be seeking support from the Arts Council.

## Governance and Timescale

The existing Pendle Hill Advisory Group has agreed that it will act as a shadow Landscape Partnership Board until the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership Scheme is approved (hopefully November 2015). The existing group will be widened to include other partners and interest groups so that it represents the range of players involved. A Partnership Agreement will be drawn up during the Development Phase (2016/17). The LP Board will oversee delivery of the Programme and it will also report directly to the Forest of Bowland AONB's Joint Advisory Committee.

## PENDLE HILL LPS

### PROJECT DEVELOPMENT TIMELINE

- Summer 2013 –** Scoping work around the Forest of Bowland AONB identified Pendle Hill as the focus for a Landscape Partnership due to its distinctive character, the heritage under threat from particular pressures and issues, and the opportunity to work with nearby urban communities
- Spring 2014 –** work started with the setting up of a steering group with representatives from the AONB Unit, Ribble Valley borough council and Pendle borough council: the Steering Group has met on 4<sup>th</sup> Feb, 24<sup>th</sup> March, 18<sup>th</sup> May, and 9<sup>th</sup> September
- Visits to neighbouring LP schemes in Solway, Nidderdale, and Ingleborough; attendance at Watershed Landscapes LP sharing event
- Simon Lees was engaged as consultant to provide mentoring support for the development of the bid
- Heritage assets identified, landscape threats and opportunities recorded from our landscape character assessment and consultations
- Vision and objectives drafted for a programme proposal
- Groups and partners identified and engaged including Heritage Trust NW, several village history groups, UCLAN, Lancashire County Council (community heritage team and outdoor education centre), Ribble Valley and Pendle district councils, several parish councils, Lancashire Wildlife Trust, RSPB, Ribble Rivers Trust, Environment Agency, Natural England, United Utilities, Downham Estate, Pendle Hill Advisory Group, several tourism businesses, and local artists
- June-Sep 2014 -** 4 Gatherings held: 30 people attended, project proposals drafted
- Artistic consultation run – 6 artists developed work
- Visitor surveys held – 250 people questioned, results analysed
- Proposal submitted to HLF: meeting officers 14<sup>th</sup> October
- Meeting with Pendle Hill Advisory Group held 9<sup>th</sup> September: agreed to become the basis of a shadow partnership board
- Initial scoping work has helped to influence the Forest of Bowland AONB response to Natural England's New Environmental Land Management Scheme and the LDS submission for LEADER proposals which includes reference to a Pendle Hill LPS within the 'Lancashire North and Bowland LAG'

## **FUTURE WORK**

### **Oct – Dec 2014 -**

Initial meeting with HLF development officers

Project descriptions to be developed with partners

Match funds and project leads to be identified

AONB Joint Advisory Committee and LCC support secured

Accountable body to be agreed

Application form to be drafted and consulted on early in New Year

Plans for development phase to be drawn up and costed

### **Jan – May 2015 -**

application and supporting docs to be re drafted ready for submission by the end of May 2015

JAC and shadow partnership board to meet and approve bid



## **Pennine Peat LIFE**

### **Background**

#### Global importance of peatlands

Peatland, or 'blanket bog' as the habitat is known in the uplands, is of international importance for its biodiversity and carbon storage. The Forest of Bowland's landscape and conservation designations are based on the importance of these upland environments and the species they support. Whilst peatlands only cover 3% of the world's land area, they contain nearly 30% of all carbon stored on land.

A healthy, functioning blanket bog is extremely important in providing various 'ecosystem services' for society, which include:

- potential reductions in downstream flood risk and siltation
- reduction in wildfire risk on moorlands
- improvements in water quality
- reducing carbon loss and promoting sequestration of atmospheric carbon
- biodiversity improvements
- improvements in landscape quality and natural beauty

#### Lancashire Upland Peat Partnership and the AONB

Lancashire Upland Peat Partnership (LUPP) is a steering group of officers from the Environment Agency, Natural England, Forest of Bowland AONB, Pennine Prospects, United Utilities and the Wildlife Trust. The principal aim of the LUPP is to co-ordinate peatland restoration projects within the uplands of Lancashire and its border areas. It is intended that through co-ordination and prioritisation, partners avoid duplication and maximise increasingly limited resources for project delivery.

In 2011, the Forest of Bowland AONB and the Environment Agency jointly commissioned the Wildlife Trust to prepare a 'restoration plan' on behalf of the LUPP. The plan, titled 'Moorland and Fells: Lancashire's Upland Peat Restoration Plan' was published in 2012 and identified several high priority areas for restoration including Forest of Bowland AONB, West Pennine Moors and the South Pennines.

Since the publication of this plan, more detailed work has been carried out during 2013/14 (by S Robinson Consulting on behalf of LUPP) to establish current site conditions, restoration work required and estimated costs in order to have the information available to take advantage of future funding opportunities as these arise. These have been compiled into two 'Priority Peat' reports covering Forest of Bowland and Rossendale.

In addition, during 2013/14 the AONB successfully managed the delivery of a £250,000 moorland restoration project on SSSI land on the Bleasdale Estate in Bowland. This project was jointly funded by the Environment Agency and the AONB, building on a first phase of restoration work on the estate funded by Natural England's Environmental Stewardship during 2012.

## **Pennine Peat LIFE Programme**

LUPP are just one of several partnerships involved in planning, managing and delivering peatland restoration projects across the north of England, including the North Pennines AONB, Northumberland National Park and Yorkshire Peat Partnership.

The above organisations came together during 2013 under the umbrella of a 'Pennine Peat Partnership' with the principal aim of co-ordinating and applying for European Union LIFE+ funding to support a large-scale £multi-million project from the Bowland to the Scottish border. The proposed total value of the programme is approximately £9million. £4million is being sought from EU LIFE+ and match-funding from Yorkshire Water, United Utilities, Environment Agency, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority has been ear-marked.

With the aid of the 'Priority Peat' reports, LUPP have identified six restoration sites in Bowland and one in Rossendale to be included in the funding bid, based on priority and availability of match-funding from the Environment Agency and United Utilities.

**The total value of the restoration work on these seven sites will be almost £1.5 million, with c.£1.2m of this in Forest of Bowland.**

### Programme Management and Contracting

The accountable body for the Pennine Peat LIFE Programme will be the North Pennines AONB Partnership (via host authority Durham County Council). Forest of Bowland AONB has been proposed as the lead programme partner for the Lancashire restoration sites.

The project will appoint a board which will provide overview and scrutiny and will have the accountable body, Durham County Council and other programme partners represented (Forest of Bowland AONB, Yorkshire Dale National Park Authority, United Utilities, Yorkshire Water, Environment Agency). This board could include member representation.

In addition, the project will appoint a technical group to manage, advise and support a project team. This technical group will mainly include officers/practitioners.

A project team will be employed through North Pennines AONB and Yorkshire Wildlife Trust. A restoration officer (employed through YWT) with responsibility for Lancashire restoration sites will be based in the Forest of Bowland AONB office in Dunsop Bridge.

All restoration project work will be contracted via the accountable body.

### Implications for the AONB Partnership

Forest of Bowland AONB will commit £3000 per annum from the existing AONB revenue budget to support the costs of employing a restoration project officer to work on the Lancashire restoration sites.

In addition, limited "in-kind" officer time estimated at 2 - 3 days/month will be contributed from the AONB Unit/Lancashire County Council towards project management, mentoring for the Lancashire-based restoration officer and attendance at project steering group meetings.

### Next steps

The bid will be submitted to the EU in October 2014. If the bid is successful, the project will commence in spring 2015 and be delivered over 5 years.

### **Decision required**

The Committee is requested to:

- i. consider the report and offer comments



## **Northern Upland Chain Local Nature Partnership**

### **Background on Local Nature Partnerships**

Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs) are partnerships of a broad range of local organisations, businesses and people who aim to help bring about improvements in their local natural environment. Setting up LNPs was one of the commitments we made in the Natural Environment White Paper 2011.

LNPs work strategically to help their local area manage the natural environment. They aim to make sure that its value, and the value of the services it provides to the economy and the people who live there, is taken into account in local decisions, for example about planning and development. LNPs are also being encouraged to work at a large scale, which has been termed 'landscape-scale'

### **Shared objectives**

During the recent review of the Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan it became apparent that there were strong synergies between the policy objectives of the Management Plan and those of the Northern Upland Chain (NUC) Local Nature Partnership, particularly in terms of land management, economy and conservation.

The NUC LNP covers a large area of Northern England, including Nidderdale AONB, North Pennines AONB, Northumberland National Park and Yorkshire Dales National Park with representatives from the public, private and voluntary sectors.

NUC LNP objectives include:

- Conservation and restoration of blanket bog
- Conservation and restoration of species-rich grassland
- Working with farmers and landowners to secure positive outcomes for the natural environment and landscape
- Hen harrier conservation
- Investigating potential benefits of biodiversity off-setting for protected landscapes

### **Proposal to join NUC LNP**

At the National Association for AONBs 'Landscapes for Life' Conference held during July 2014, the Principal AONB Officer raised with officers from Nidderdale and the North Pennines AONBs, the potential for Forest of Bowland to join the Northern Upland Chain LNP.

In early September, a board paper was presented by North Pennines AONB Lead Officer to the NUC LNP with the above proposal. The board welcomed this approach and asked officers to arrange a meeting between the various partners to discuss any potential issues relating neighbouring or overlapping LNPs (e.g. Lancashire, North Yorkshire & York).

Since the LNP board meeting, the Principal AONB Officer has had early discussions with representatives from Lancashire and North Yorkshire & York LNPs and no major concerns have been raised. A meeting between NUC LNP Chair and Vice-chair, Principal AONB

Officer and the other LNP representatives has been arranged for 19<sup>th</sup> November 2014 to discuss future working relationships.

**Recommendation:**

The committee is requested to:

- i. consider the report, offer comments and if minded, approve the Principal AONB Officer to pursue this matter further