

Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Advisory Committee

Thursday, 23rd April, 2015 at Overwyresdale Parish Hall, Strait Lane, Abbeystead, LA2 9BQ

Schedule of events

10am	Arrival (tea & coffee available at the parish hall)
10.30am	Depart on minibus for project visits in local area
12.30pm	Return to parish hall to meet Neil Kilgour, Grosvenor Estates
1pm	Lunch
2pm	AONB Joint Advisory Committee meeting
4pm approx.	Finish

Agenda

No. Item

- 1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies**
Presentation from Martin Charlesworth on the work of the 'Friends of Bowland'
- 2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests**
Members are asked to consider any Pecuniary Interests they may have to disclose to the meeting in relation to matters under consideration on the Agenda.
- 3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 October 2014** (Pages 1 - 6)
Minutes attached.
- 4. Matters Arising**
- 5. Budget 2015/16 update** (Pages 7 - 10)
Report attached.
- 6. AONB Partner Updates**
- 7. Delivering the AONB Management Plan**
 - (a) AONB Unit report - presentation on headline achievements over the last six months** (Pages 11 - 18)
Report attached.

(b) AONB Unit Business Plan 2015/16 (Pages 19 - 56)
Report attached.

8. Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership Scheme Update (Pages 57 - 60)
Report attached.

9. 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.

10. Provisional Dates of Next Committee Meetings

Members are asked to consider the following provisional dates for future meetings of the Committee:

- Thursday 16 October 2015 (Pendle)
- Thursday 21 April 2016 (Wyre)

I Young
Director of Governance,
Finance and Public Services

County Hall
Preston



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, LAPTIC

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 19th 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 10th 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 50th 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 50th 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 21st 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. An 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 50th Anniversary celebrations. Various events have been arranged throughout the Forest of Bowland to celebrate the 50th 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 50th 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 9th October 2014 (Ribbles Valley venue TBC) and Thursday 23rd April 2015 (Lancaster District venue TBC).

Stuart Benson
Principal Executive Support Officer

Lancashire County Council
County Hall
Preston

Agenda Item 5

Forest Of Bowland AONB Joint Advisory Committee AONB Budget 2015/16 update (Appendix A refers)

Issue for consideration

This report presents the revised and updated budget for 2015/16.

Budget update 2015/16

The revised and updated budget at Appendix 'A' (column 5) takes accounts for the increase in salary costs due to local government pay increase agreed during 2014 for FY2015/16.

This allows £97,022 for the annual programme of projects to deliver the AONB Management Plan, including the Sustainable Development Fund. SDF total pot will be £15,000.

It remains important to emphasise that 'projects funding' will continue to be used as match-funding to attract additional income to the AONB Partnership to better deliver the AONB Management Plan.

Decision to be taken

The Committee is asked to note the revised AONB budget for 2015/16.

APPENDIX 'A' AONB Budget

	Estimated 2014/15 (Out-turn Prices)	Revised 2014/15 (Out-turn Prices)	Estimated 2015/16 (Out-turn Prices)	Revised 2015/16 (Out-turn Prices)
(1)	(2) £	(3) £	(4) £	(5) £
<u>Expenditure</u>				
<u>Core Costs</u>				
Salary, N.I. and Superannuation	172,932	162,513	156,523	159,612
Out-based premises	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Travel and subsistence	8,900	8,900	8,900	8,900
Central, Departmental & Tech. Support	60,800	60,800	54,470	55,545
Core Activities	17,800	17,800	17,800	17,800
Sub total of Core Costs	280,432	270,013	257,693	261,857
<u>Non Core Costs</u>				
Projects (including SDF)	83,711	94,130	100,120	97,022
Sub total of Non Core Costs	83,711	94,130	100,120	97,022
Total Expenditure	364,143	364,143	357,813	358,813
<u>Income</u>				
Defra Grant	208,143	208,143	208,143	208,143
<u>Contributions</u>				
United Utilities	6,800	6,800	6,800	6,800
Other Project Contributions	0	0	0	0
<u>County Councils</u>				
Lancashire	40,800	40,800	40,800	40,800
North Yorkshire	6,800	6,800	6,800	6,800
<u>District Councils</u>				
Craven	6,800	6,800	6,800	6,800
Lancaster	6,800	6,800	6,800	6,800
Pendle	6,800	6,800	6,800	6,800
Preston	6,800	6,800	6,800	6,800
Ribble Valley	6,800	6,800	6,800	6,800
Wyre	6,800	6,800	6,800	6,800
Total Income	303,343	303,343	303,343	303,343
Contrib to support costs (LCC in kind)	60,800	60,800	54,470	55,545
	364,143	364,143	357,813	358,813



AONB Report to JAC: April 2015



FOREST OF BOWLAND

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

An outstanding landscape of natural and cultural heritage

Bowland Hay Time and Networks for Nectar

The N4N project is now delivering more by supporting community groups and smaller projects. In Lancaster District we are working with the Lancaster Beekeepers, creating nectar strips on community spaces along the Lune Millennium Park and in Caton and Hornby villages; in Clitheroe we are supporting the Ribblesdale Rotary in their schools project 'Wildflowers into the Meadows', helping five schools grow plug plants to plant out into one of our restoration sites at Gisburn Forest; in Hurst Green and Dolphinholme we are supporting the church wardens in improving management of the church grounds; in Chipping we are supporting Chipping in Bloom further develop their wildlife areas in the village; and at Beacon Fell Country Park we are working with the ranger to restore areas of grassland to meadow, and grow on plug plants with Krishen, our placement student from last year.

During the winter months we have been preparing for our summer season of restoration, management, advice provision and public events. On Thursday 16th April we are hosting a Networks for Nectar event at the Stirk House Hotel, where interested landowners, businesses and community groups will be able to hear more about the project, and the importance of bees, visit the hotel gardens and hear about the work they have undertaken to support pollinators and other wildlife.

For further information contact sarah.robinson@lancashire.gov.uk or visit www.forestofbowland.com/haytimeproject

Biodiversity

Since the completion of the Pennine Peat LIFE bid (still awaiting news), we have been working on developing and delivering species recovery plans for key species in the AONB area. Plans are under way for globeflower, juniper and greater butterfly orchid, and are being discussed for black grouse. We have also been working on the datasets for priority habitats within the Pendle area, with a view to surveying the woodland sites this spring and summer.

For further information on these projects, please contact sarah.robinson@lancashire.gov.uk or elliott.lorimer@lancashire.gov.uk

Traditional Boundaries

Hedge laying: Winter 2014-2015

Once again hedge laying training sessions have been well supported with more than 32 members of the local community including volunteers, contractors and farmers attending. These have been held at the Crook O' Lune - Lancaster, Keasden - Craven and Bleasdale - Wyre. All participants use the Lancashire & Westmorland Style with expert guidance provided by local trainers.

The highlight of the season was the Bowland hedge laying competition held at Lane Side Farm, West Bradford on 7th March.

The hedge laying was organised and funded by the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and Lancashire County Council.

There was a total of 104 hedge laying training days for Winter 2014/2015.

For further information contact dave.padley@lancashire.gov.uk or tarja.wilson@lancashire.gov.uk

Hedge planting with Ribblesdale Students

8 students from Ribblesdale High School spent 6 days during February-March planting over 300 metres of hedgerow on Saddle End Farm – quite an achievement! These skills are credited to the on-going NVQ qualifications in Countryside Management and Animal Care that they are taking.

Access Improvements

Garstang/River Wyre access for all path

Works have been completed on the riverside footpath between Wyre Lane and Broom Hill on the east side of the River Wyre at Garstang. This is now a surfaced path with gates suitable for use by the majority of footpath users. Garstang Millennium Green Committee engaged Proffitts CIC to project manage the scheme, and the project has been funded by Lancashire Environment Fund (LEF), Wyre Borough Council and Lancashire County Council.

Bilsborrow canal towpath ramp access

Work has been completed on a new ramp access between the canal and the A6 at Green Man Bridge adjacent to Barton Grange. Myerscough & Bilsborrow Parish Council have been working over the past 2 years with the Canal & Rivers Trust with support from Wyre Borough Council and Lancashire County Council to improve the canal towpath between Bilsborrow and Barton Grange Garden Centre/Marina. The whole length has been surfaced with associated edging maintenance.

Nicky Nook Fell, Nr Scorton-path improvements

The second phase of path improvements on the main footpath over Nicky Nook Fell between Snow Hill/Higher Lane junction and the SE side have been completed using a technique that creates a sub-soil path using natural materials on site. This brings the total length to 1.3km of sub soil path with associated drainage works and includes the creation of two stone pitched crossings points for quad bikes.

There are several tourism businesses in this popular area linked by the network of routes suitable for walking, cycling, horse riding and Trampers, several of which are promoted on www.forestofbowland.com

Promoted routes monitoring & maintenance

The volunteers' valued support continues in helping us to monitor promoted routes across the AONB and carry out minor maintenance and waymarking whilst out and about. Additional follow up maintenance has also been carried out on stiles, gates, boardwalks and signposts using local contractors.

For further information contact tarja.wilson@lancashire.gov.uk

Resilient and sustainable rural communities

Champion Bowland & Bowland Experience

The new agreement between Champion Bowland (CB), Bowland Experience Ltd (BEx) and the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust - book-keeping and day-to-day administration of banking and correspondence for both companies - is working well. The AONB team in Dunsop Bridge remains the point of contact with both CB and BEx in their respective fields of work in the Forest of Bowland. Cathy Hopley is the link with Champion Bowland on the Small Grant scheme and SDF and Hetty Byrne continues to work with Bowland Experience members on their various tourism development projects.

For further information contact cathy.hopley@lancashire.gov.uk or hetty.byrne@lancashire.gov.uk

Bowland Scrapbook

The Scrapbook publication was a great success and rounded off a great little project for 2014. Just under £1000 was raised through sales of the book, and the Trustees were so pleased with this that they have funded a re-print to go on sale primarily through the Museum of Lancashire to coincide with the exhibition. Copies will also be available at points of sale throughout the AONB for a donation of just £5, so get your copy quick!

Contact the AONB office if you would like a copy 01200 448000.

Sustainable Development Fund

The 2014 fund was all spent up with 8 projects receiving a total of just over £19,000. Schemes this year included invasive species monitoring and removal in both the Wyre and Lune river catchments; a new biomass store at Thorneyholme school and insulation improvements at Pendleton village hall. More details of these and all the schemes we have supported over the years can be found on the website <http://forestofbowland.com/SDF-Projects-201415>

The 2015 fund will soon be open for business.

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

A strong connection between people and the landscape

Bowland Revealed

A joint project between Lancashire Arts Development, the Forest of Bowland AONB and Ribble Valley borough council, Bowland Revealed has been awarded £62,000 grant funding from Arts Council England via their Grants for the Arts strand. The programme began in May last year and will run until the end of December 2015.

The Bowland Revealed project received some positive press coverage during its first phase and was very fortunate to be picked up by BBC TV's Countryfile programme, which featured the Landmarks artworks on the episode broadcast on 30th November 2014. Broadcasting Audience Research Board figures estimate that this particular episode had an audience of 6.81 million – a fantastic boost for the project and a great showcase for the artists and the Forest of Bowland AONB. Originally intended to be on public view for a seven week period (from 20th September to 9th November), the interest shown by the BBC also resulted in the Landmarks having an extended run to the end of December.

The project also received wide coverage on-line and via social media. The Forest of Bowland AONB website received 2,917 page views (2,225 unique) for the Bowland Revealed project to the end of January 2015; whilst Mid Pennine Arts' web pages for the project received 1,917 page views (1,503 unique). MPA's figures show that e-bulletins, on-line invitations, blog posts, Tweets, Facebook posts and the online project leaflet resulted in over 4,400 active engagements via views, "likes", shares or comments. The six community art workshops which took place during autumn 2014 attracted 60 participants in total.

During 2015 the Bowland Revealed programme will focus on the Explore & Engage strand, which aims to encourage involvement by communities around the periphery of the AONB – particularly in those areas which are shown traditionally to have low arts engagement.

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

Festival Bowland

This year's programme will run from February through to December and is offering over 90 events in and around the AONB.

Once again, events have been made possible thanks to landowners, local experts, businesses and countryside staff including Wyre Borough Council, Lancashire County Council, RSPB and Lancashire Wildlife Trust.

During late spring and early summer why not look out for the Whimbrel Roost Watch on 29th April, Rathmell Heritage Ramble on 10th May, Map and Compass training on 30th May, an Evening Bat Walk on 5th June and a Ribble Valley Ramble on 26th June?

For details of all this year's events see the full programme within our new Discovery Guide or download it from the AONB website at <http://forestofbowland.com/files/uploads/pdfs/FesiGuide15LoRes.pdf>

For more details contact sandra.silk@lancashire.gov.uk

Dark Sky Discovery Sites

The Forest of Bowland is a stargazer's paradise - one of England's darkest areas making it a great destination both by day and night! During March we organised two workshops, attended by 20 Bowland Experience businesses – 'Star Tips for Profit', helping tourism businesses to gear up to provide an unforgettable dark sky experience for customers. The workshops, held at Wyreside Lakes Fishery and Stirk House Hotel, were delivered by local astronomer Robert Ince who has also helped the Northumberland International Dark Sky Park develop their offering and was the resident astronomer at the Scottish Dark Sky Observatory for its early phases. Working with Robert, the Forest of Bowland is currently applying for Dark Sky Discovery Site status for a number of sites across the AONB, so visitors can view the skies at their best! Visit <http://forestofbowland.com/Star-Gazing>

We'll keep you posted as things develop over the next few months!

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

Museum of Lancashire – Forest of Bowland AONB 50th Anniversary Exhibition

This year we are very pleased to be working with Lancashire County Museum Service to hold an exhibition at the Museum of Lancashire.

The exhibition will help to extend the AONB's 50th anniversary celebrations and will run from 9th May until 26th July at the Stanley Street venue in Preston. Featuring key Forest of Bowland information, details from the Bowland Scrapbook, fantastic images and a variety of interactive activities for children, the exhibition has something for the whole family and will be a great opportunity to reach a new audience.

In addition, on Bank Holiday Monday (25th May), there will also be free, drop-in art workshops delivered as part of the Bowland Revealed Explore & Engage project.

There will be a launch evening on Thursday 14th May, 4.30pm to 6.30pm – JAC members are very welcome to attend.

To find out more about the exhibition or to book a place at the launch contact sandra.silk@lancashire.gov.uk

Website & Leaflets

January saw the launch of a mobile friendly version of the website with some simplifications to design. Statistics showed that increasing numbers of visitors were accessing the website via smart phones, tablets and other mobile devices and the old site, created several years ago now, just wasn't customised for these various platforms. The new site is much fresher looking, with easier navigation and more images; feedback to date has been very positive and new interactivity via 'photo of week' has proved very popular. Have a look at www.forestofbowland.com

Discover Bowland 2015 was launched in February and includes a wealth of information to tempt people out into this beautiful area. The full-colour A4 guide, which is available on-line and from local tourist information centres and selected venues, includes everything from walking routes and recipes to award winning green tourism businesses. And this year, for the first time, the new discovery guide features the Festival Bowland annual events calendar. Bowland Experience members supported the guide through business advertising, making the project viable.

Local businesses, tourism representatives and event providers joined AONB staff at a special celebratory launch of the guide held at Gibbon Bridge Hotel near Chipping on 11th February.

Due to demand we have also recently re-printed the Bowland by Bike Leaflet and the Gisburn Forest Bike Trails leaflet, supported again by Bowland Experience business contributions and the Forestry Commission.

Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership

A separate update on the latest developments of the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership is included in the JAC meeting papers.

If you'd like to get involved, or just keep in touch with our plans, please contact cathy.hopley@lancashire.gov.uk

A dynamic and effective AONB partnership

Northern Upland Chain Local Nature Partnership (NUCLNP)

The Principal AONB Officer, AONB JAC Chair CC Atkinson and committee member Michael Helm attended the Northern Upland Chain Local Nature Partnership board and forum meeting on Thursday 12th March 2015 in Greta Bridge, County Durham.

The Principal AONB Officer presented to the board on recent work of the AONB Partnership and outlined where there were likely synergies between the Partnership and NUCLNP.

Attendees at the Forum meeting were appraised of recent work of the NUCLNP, in particular:

- Establishment of a High Nature Value Farming Group and Report (<http://www.nuclnp.org.uk/themes-and-projects/>) looking at the future of this type of low-intensity, environmentally sensitive farming with the likely decline in agri-environment funding. NUCLNP has asked if the Forest of Bowland AONB Partnership would like to be represented on this group. The AONB Unit will be approaching several farmers involved in this type of farming to ask if they would be willing to act as an AONB representative on this group.
- Valuing the Natural Capital of the NUCLNP area. This research aims to identify mechanisms to help attract more private and public investment in the natural environment. The Principal AONB Officer is currently working with LNP members and Eftec consultants on this research. A report on this work is likely to be complete later in autumn 2015.

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

Undergrounding for Visual Amenity

As part of the Undergrounding for Visual Amenity (UVA) programme, Electricity North West (ENWL) has been working with the Forest of Bowland AONB to identify visually intrusive sections of overhead lines for undergrounding.

Two undergrounding schemes have recently been working towards completion: Deep Clough to Winder in Littledale and Laund Wood to Middle Lees, near Whitwell.

In addition, ENWL have now announced future UVA funding allocations for AONBs and National Parks as part of their new business plan approved by OFGEM in the recent price review (RIIO-ED1). The Forest of Bowland AONB has been allocated approximately £1.8m to fund undergrounding scheme between April 2015 and March 2023.

Rural Development Programme for England – LEADER Local Action Groups

Rural Development Programme for England has now been formally adopted by the European Commission. The Programme document is now available on GOV.UK - www.gov.uk/government/publications/rdpe-programme-document-2014-to-2020.

Defra has now formally announced which LEADER Local Action Groups have been successful and their total allocations for the 2014-2020 Programme. The two LAGs principally covering the Forest of Bowland AONB are as follows:

- North Lancashire and Bowland Local Action Group £1.6m
- Yorkshire Dales Local Action Group £2.2m

The Forest of Bowland AONB will be represented on North Lancashire and Bowland Local Action Group executive by Elliott Lorimer, Principal AONB Officer and on Yorkshire Dales Local Action Group executive by Colin Price of Longbank Farm, Keasden representing the agricultural sector.

More details on Local Action Group funding priorities and calls for projects will follow later in 2015.



FOREST OF BOWLAND

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

AONB Unit
Draft April 2015

AONB Unit Business Plan 2015-2018

Introduction

The Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is one of England's finest landscapes and is internationally important for its heather moorland, blanket bog and rare birds. The special qualities of the area which contribute to its distinctive 'sense of place' can be summarised as:

- Wild open spaces
- A special place for wildlife
- A landscape rich in heritage
- A living landscape
- Delicious local food and drink
- A place to enjoy and keep special

The AONB designation means that the natural beauty of the landscape should not only be conserved and enhanced, but also that recreation and sustainable development should be promoted to help to sustain the landscape and its communities.

The AONB Partnership and Unit

The AONB is managed by a partnership of local councils, utility company, landowners, farmers, voluntary organisations, wildlife groups, recreation groups, and government agencies, who work to protect, conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of this special area.

The Partnership is funded by eight local authorities (Craven District Council, Lancashire County Council, Lancaster City Council, North Yorkshire County Council, Pendle Borough Council, Preston City Council, Ribble Valley Borough Council, Wyre Council), United Utilities and the Department for Environment Farming and Rural Affairs (Defra).

The AONB Unit is the staff team, who are employed on behalf of the AONB Partnership, to prepare and implement the statutory AONB Management Plan. The team comprises five people (4 full-time equivalents), with additional support from the 'Networks of Nectar' Project Officer (funded up to March 2016), two LCC Senior Environmental Project Officers and LCC Ranger Service.

A Plan for the Future

This business plan sets out how the AONB Unit will contribute to the work of the Partnership in achieving the long-term vision for the AONB:

"The Forest of Bowland AONB 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 heritage is sympathetically managed and contributes to a sustainable and vibrant local economy. The management of the AONB has improved the quality of the landscape for all."

The AONB Unit is working towards four key outcomes, in accordance with the AONB Management Plan 2014 - 2019:

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 Business Plan

This plan will guide the work of the AONB Unit from 2015 - 2018. The actions within it link directly to the implementation of the statutory AONB Management Plan and links are shown against each action. It is designed to be a rolling 3-year plan, which is reviewed and updated annually.

The AONB Unit aims to work with the following values at the core of its operation:

- We are knowledgeable and passionate about the AONB - its landscape, biodiversity and culture
- We care about the environment and sustainability
- We work together with others to achieve success
- We value people and are approachable and responsive
- We communicate clearly and effectively

It should also be recognised that this plan relies on the work of other partner organisations, communities and individuals to achieve the successful delivery of the AONB Management Plan and the long-term vision for the area.

Strategic Priorities 2014 - 2017

An outstanding landscape of natural and cultural heritage	Resilient and sustainable rural communities	A strong connection between people and the landscape	A dynamic and effective AONB Partnership
<p>OL1 Provide and seek advice, training and support to promote sustainable land management practices; helping to safeguard the natural and cultural landscape of the AONB.</p> <p>OL2 Continue a strategic programme of restoration and re-establishment of traditional boundaries (e.g. hedgerows, dry stone walls, railing fences); allied to provision of training opportunities to promote skills associated with these traditional boundaries.</p> <p>OL3 Co-ordinate partner activity in conserving and enhancing biodiversity and in developing better understanding and management of ecosystems services with the AONB.</p> <p>OL4 Work with others, in particular local authorities, to establish development management and other policies/strategies, which result in positive outcomes for the landscape quality of the AONB.</p>	<p>SC1 Continue to support and develop local parish lengthsmen schemes within the AONB to assist in the management and maintenance of key community assets.</p> <p>SC2 Support and promote local businesses and products to maintain their viability.</p> <p>SC3 Continue to promote and manage the Sustainable Development Fund; whilst also responding to local community requests for advice on funding, project management and volunteering.</p> <p>SC4 Continue to develop, support and promote local tourism businesses; building on the AONB's reputation as an internationally-recognised destination for sustainable tourism.</p>	<p>PL1 Develop, improve, and promote access and recreational opportunities for a diverse range of people.</p> <p>PL2 Provide high quality information, communications and events to enable people to enjoy and understand the landscape of the AONB and the work of the AONB Partnership.</p> <p>PL3 Support local communities and visitors to conserve, restore, enjoy and learn about the heritage of the AONB, and develop programmes of activity which provide opportunities to engage people with the landscape.</p>	<p>AP1 Work with others to maximise the successful delivery of the AONB Management Plan and effectively monitor progress.</p> <p>AP2 Achieve excellence in the governance and management of the AONB Partnership and Unit, its people and resources; and helping to identify sustainable future funding to support these.</p>

AONB Unit

CH – Cathy Hopley, Development and Funding Officer

EL – Elliott Lorimer, Principal AONB Officer

HB – Hetty Byrne, Sustainable Tourism & Web Development Officer

LCC SM – LCC Service Manager (tbc by 31st March 2015)

SS – Sandra Silk, Projects and Events Officer

Networks for Nectar Project

SR – Sarah Robinson, Project Officer

Lancashire County Council Environmental Projects and Countryside

DP – Dave Padley, Environmental Projects Officer (covering Craven, Pendle and Ribble Valley)

TW – Tarja Wilson, Environmental Projects Officer (covering Lancaster, Preston and Wyre)

AG – Andrew Greenwood, Head Ranger

An outstanding landscape of natural and cultural heritage (OL)

OLI Provide and seek advice, training and support to promote sustainable land management practices; helping to safeguard the natural and cultural landscape of the AONB					
We will:	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	AONB MP 2014 – 2019 Objectives	Staff lead(s)
OLI.1 Provide advice, guidance and encouragement to land managers on sustainable land management of the AONB landscape	On-going Regular meetings with local NE Land Management Team Ensure AONB Partnership involvement in delivery of new Countryside Stewardship	On-going Regular meetings with local NE Land Management Team	On-going Regular meetings with local NE Land Management Team	1.1, 1.2, 2.1	DP/TW CH/SR/TW/ DP/EL
OLI.2 Liaise with woodland planting and management initiatives to encourage and support appropriate woodland extension, creation and management within the AONB landscape	On-going Respond to FC consultations regarding felling licences, woodland management	On-going Respond to FC consultations regarding felling licences, woodland management	On-going Respond to FC consultations regarding felling licences, woodland management	1.1	EL

	plans and woodland grant applications Develop plan for managing landscape change due to loss of woodland or veteran trees due to tree health issues (eg C. Fraxinea)	plans and woodland grant applications	plans and woodland grant applications		
OL1.3 Develop design guidance notes for riverside and moorland fencing	Draft guidance notes developed	Guidance notes published		1.1	DP/EL
OL1.4 Engage with newly established River Catchment Partnerships for Ribble, Wyre and Lune to encourage sensitive management of riverbank habitats for biodiversity and landscape.	Regular attendance at RCP meetings	Regular attendance at RCP meetings	Regular attendance at RCP meetings	1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4	EL/TW/CH/DP
OL2 Continue a strategic programme of restoration and re-establishment of traditional boundaries (e.g. hedgerows, dry-stone walls, railing fences); allied to provision of training opportunities to promote traditional rural skills					
We will:	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	AONB MP 2014 – 2019 Objectives	Staff lead(s)
OL2.1 Deliver an annual programme of traditional boundaries projects	At least 3 projects delivered Develop fund-raising	At least 3 projects delivered	At least 3 projects delivered	1.1, 1.6, 2.1	DP/TW/CH

	plan for traditional boundaries programme (likely inclusion in HLF Landscape Partnership Scheme)				
OL2.2 Provide training opportunities and competitions in hedge-laying and walling (including schools and vocational training)	2 training courses provided 1 event held	2 training courses provided 1 event held	2 training courses provided 1 event held	1.1, 1.6, 2.1	DP/TW
OL3 Co-ordinate partner activity in conserving and enhancing biodiversity and in developing and better understanding and management of ecosystem services within the AONB					
We will:	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	AONB MP 2014 – 2019 Objectives	Staff lead(s)
OL3.1 Hold regular meeting of the AONB Biodiversity Working Group to support the delivery of Biodiversity 2020 'outcomes'.	At least 4 meetings held Annual Delivery Plan developed At least 2 local species recovery plans developed	At least 4 meetings held Annual Delivery Plan reviewed At least 2 local species recovery plans developed	At least 4 meetings held Annual Delivery Plan reviewed	1.2, 1.3, 1.4	CH/SR

	<p>Continue surveying for additional priority habitat to help develop opportunity mapping for restoration and creation</p> <p>Review ecosystems approach self-assessment</p> <p>Develop 'ecosystem services' research as part of Pendle Hill LPS bid</p>	<p>Continue surveying for additional priority habitat to help develop opportunity mapping for restoration</p> <p>Review ecosystems approach self-assessment</p>	<p>Review ecosystems approach self-assessment</p>		<p>EL</p> <p>EL</p>
<p>OL3.2 Utilise the AONB Peatland Restoration Plan to identify and secure funding for priority peatland and blanket bog restoration works in the AONB.</p>	<p>Attend Lancashire & Pennine Peat Partnership meetings</p> <p>Commence delivery of the Pennine Peat LIFE project activity in the AONB and wider Lancashire (subject to funding being secured)</p>	<p>Attend Lancashire & Pennine Peat Partnership meetings</p> <p>Commence delivery of the Pennine Peat LIFE project activity in the AONB and wider Lancashire (subject to funding being secured)</p>	<p>Attend Lancashire & Pennine Peat Partnership meetings</p> <p>Commence delivery of the Pennine Peat LIFE project activity in the AONB and wider Lancashire (subject to funding being secured)</p>	<p>1.2, 1.3, 2.1</p>	<p>SR/CH/TW</p>

	Continue photographic and vegetation survey monitoring programme at Bleasdale Restoration Project involving local volunteers	Continue photographic and vegetation survey monitoring programme at Bleasdale Restoration Project involving local volunteers	Continue photographic and vegetation survey monitoring programme at Bleasdale Restoration Project involving local volunteers		
OL3.3 Encourage the restoration of areas of exposed and eroded peat and the conservation and restoration of blanket bog and mosaic of moorland dwarf shrub species, as part of Countryside Stewardship	Regular meetings with NE Countryside Stewardship advisors and landowners	Regular meetings with NE Countryside Stewardship advisors and landowners	Regular meetings with NE Countryside Stewardship advisors and landowners	1.2, 1.3, 2.1	DP/TW
OL3.4 Encourage good practice in upland heather burning and alternatives; helping to develop a fire prevention strategy and fire plans for the area	Hold regular AONB-wide fire operations group meetings and exercises Hold Upland Management Seminar, including good practice information on burning	Hold regular AONB-wide fire operations group meetings and exercises	Hold regular AONB-wide fire operations group meetings and exercises	2.1, 3.2	LCC SM/AG/DP/TW
OL3.5 Delivery of 'Networks for Nectar Project' (up to end March 2016) to help conserve and enhance species-rich grassland within the AONB	Carry out monitoring of 'Haytime Project' sites	Commence new species-rich grassland restoration project (subject to funding		1.3, 2.3	SR/CH

	<p>Continue work with farmers, landowners and community groups to develop species-rich grassland small sites projects</p> <p>Conserve, restore and create 10ha of species-rich grassland</p> <p>Hold 5 community engagement events</p> <p>Develop advice and guidance for species-rich grassland management for small sites</p> <p>Submit funding bids to continue and AONB species-rich grassland restoration project</p>	<p>being secured)</p>			
<p>OL3.6 Support Bowland Land Managers Forum to develop</p>	<p>Develop funding bids</p>	<p>Delivery of projects</p>		<p>1.4, 2.1</p>	<p>EL</p>

collaborative land management project	to North Lancashire and Bowland LAG for land economy/land management projects Research the feasibility of pilot predator control areas to help ground-nesting birds, in particular near wader 'hotspots'	commences (subject funding being secured)			EL/SR
OL3.7 Develop proposals for AONB woodland project to involve woodland owners/managers and communities in improving and increasing woodland management, supporting traditional skills and development of local woodfuel economy	Hold AONB woodland management seminar for woodland owners and community groups			1.2, 1.3	TW/DP/EL
OL3.8 Support local actions to provide suitable conditions to re-establish hen harrier as a breeding species in the AONB, in line with the government's emerging national species recovery plan	Work with partners to develop local actions with partners to support the conservation of hen harriers in the AONB Active participation in the 'Northern England Protected Landscapes			1.4	EL

	Hen Harrier Group' meetings and field visits				
OL4 Work with others, in particular the local authorities, to establish development management and other policies/strategies, which result in positive outcomes for the landscape quality of the AONB					
We will:	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	AONB MP 2014 – 2019 Objectives	Staff lead(s)
OL4.1 Provide appropriate advice, support and formal responses to development proposals and consultations on policies/strategies that will affect the AONB and its setting (in particular planning applications, local plan consultations and other local, sub-national and national strategies)	Appropriate responses provided	Appropriate responses provided	Appropriate responses provided	1.1, 1.7	EL
OL4.2 Continue working with Electricity Northwest to deliver a programme of projects to underground overhead power lines in the AONB	At least 2 UVA projects delivered	At least 2 UVA projects delivered	At least 2 UVA projects delivered	1.1, 1.7	EL/DP/TW
OL 4.3 Develop AONB design guides (based on the Landscape Character Assessment) to ensure development is in keeping with and conserves or enhances landscape character (i.e. in terms of appropriate materials, form, setting, scale etc)	Guiding principles and position statement Partner consultation held	AONB draft design guide published for consultation Awareness- raising event(s) held	AONB draft design guide published	1.1, 1.7	EL
OL4.4 Liaise with local authority planning officers on relevant AONB planning concerns (landscape character, wind energy,	Planning and development seminar			1.1, 1.2, 1.7	EL

tourism business development, energy efficiency in older buildings)	held				
OL4.5 Develop a 'Dark Skies' position statement to address issues of appropriate lighting within the AONB	<p>Research other Dark Sky Park/Reserve position statements</p> <p>Position statement drafted</p>				EL

Resilient and sustainable rural communities (SC)

SCI Continue to support and develop local parish lengthsman schemes within the AONB to assist in the management and maintenance of key community assets					
We will:	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	AONB MP 2014 – 2019 Objectives	Staff lead(s)
SCI.1 Support Parish Councils to continue to fund and manage existing lengthsman schemes	<p>AONB grant offer made to Parish Councils/Meetings</p> <p>Review funding with Parish Councils to manage potential reduction in AONB contributions</p>	AONB grant offer made to Parish Councils/Meetings	AONB grant offer made to Parish Councils/Meetings	2.3, 4.2	TW/DP
SCI.2 Work with Parish Councils to develop best practice (e.g. record-keeping) to help demonstrate best value	Scheme monitoring information received from Parish Councils/Meetings	Scheme monitoring information received from Parish Councils/Meetings	Scheme monitoring information received from Parish Councils/Meetings	2.3	TW/DP

SC2 Support and promote local businesses and products to maintain their viability					
We will:	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	AONB MP 2014 – 2019 Objectives	Staff lead(s)
SC2.1 Support local businesses, via provision of advice, signposting, funding opportunities (e.g. RDPE/LEADER), training, networking opportunities and events	One-to-one business advice provided 2 training events provided and evaluated	One-to-one business advice provided 2 training events provided and evaluated	One-to-one business advice provided 2 training events provided and evaluated	2.2, 2.3, 2.4	HB
SC2.2 Continue to provide support for Bowland Experience Ltd. (BEx)	BEx board meetings held (min. 2/year) Secretariat provided for BEx Regular tourism business bulletin produced and distributed 2 BEx training events held	BEx board meetings held (min. 2/year) Secretariat provided for BEx Regular tourism business bulletin produced and distributed 2 BEx training events held	BEx board meetings held (min. 2/year) Secretariat provided for BEx Regular tourism business bulletin produced and distributed 2 BEx training events held	2.2, 2.4	HB/EL
SC2.3 Continue to support the development, management and	Secretariat for	Secretariat for	Secretariat for	2.2, 2.3, 2.4	CH

<p>promotion of the Champion Bowland</p>	<p>Champion Bowland provided</p> <p>Champion Bowland trustees meetings held (min. 2/year)</p> <p>Work with trustees to review Champion Bowland grant-giving (alongside AONB SDF) to maximise effectiveness and value</p> <p>Delivery of AONB 'Farm Visit Transport Fund' through Champion Bowland</p> <p>Continue to develop 'visitor-giving' schemes for AONB</p>	<p>Champion Bowland provided</p> <p>Champion Bowland trustees meetings held (min. 2/year)</p> <p>Continue to develop 'visitor-giving' schemes for AONB</p>	<p>Champion Bowland provided</p> <p>Champion Bowland trustees meetings held (min. 2/year)</p> <p>Continue to develop 'visitor-giving' schemes for AONB</p>		<p>CH</p> <p>SS/CH</p> <p>HB</p>
<p>SC2.5 Support the continued development of 'Bowland Land Managers Forum'</p>	<p>Regular Forum meetings held</p> <p>Involve Forum members in relevant</p>	<p>Regular forum meetings held</p> <p>Involve Forum members in relevant</p>	<p>Regular forum meetings held</p> <p>Involve Forum members in relevant</p>	<p>2.1, 2.2, 4.2</p>	<p>EL</p>

	RDPE/LEADER LAGs and roll-out of new Countryside Stewardship	RDPE/LEADER LAGs and roll-out of new Countryside Stewardship	RDPE/LEADER LAGs and roll-out of new Countryside Stewardship		
SC3 Continue to promote and manage the Sustainable Development Fund; whilst also responding to local community requests for advice on funding, project management and volunteering					
We will:	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	AONB MP 2014 – 2019 Objectives	Staff lead(s)
SC3.1 Manage the Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) to support appropriate, small-scale projects within the AONB, aiming to increase 'match-funding' from external sources; whilst seeking to promote the fund and individual projects and good practice.	<p>Implement any recommendations following review of management arrangements for SDF through Champion Bowland</p> <p>SDF panel meetings held</p> <p>Funded projects complete and return monitoring information, as required</p>	<p>SDF panel meetings held</p> <p>Funded projects complete and return monitoring information, as required</p>	<p>SDF panel meetings held</p> <p>Funded projects complete and return monitoring information, as required</p>	2.2, 4.2	CH

	SDF Annual Report produced	SDF Annual Report produced	SDF Annual Report produced		
SC3.2 Provide support to communities seeking project development and funding advice and assistance (e.g. projects to improve provision of rural services, renewable energy projects and local community events)	10 community groups advised/supported Continue to deliver a programme of awareness-raising activities to promote work of the AONB within local communities (e.g. talks, attendance at shows and events)	10 community groups advised/supported Continue to deliver a programme of awareness-raising activities to promote work of the AONB within local communities (e.g. talks, attendance at shows and events)	10 community groups advised/supported Continue to deliver a programme of awareness-raising activities to promote work of the AONB within local communities (e.g. talks, attendance at shows and events)	2.2	SS/CH HB/SS
SC4 Continue to develop, support and promote local tourism businesses; building on the AONB's reputation as an internationally-recognised destination for sustainable tourism					
We will:	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	AONB MP 2014 – 2019 Objectives	Staff lead(s)
SC4.1 Promote the strong 'brand identity' for AONB visitors, working closely with tourism organisations, visitor information centres, businesses and gateway towns	Sense of Place themes and branding used in variety of formats (e.g. website, exhibition panels, pop-up	Sense of Place themes and branding used in variety of formats (e.g. website, exhibition panels, pop-up	Sense of Place themes and branding used in variety of formats (e.g. website, exhibition panels, pop-up	3.4, 3.5	HB

	<p>banners)</p> <p>Review and update 'Sense of Place' digital toolkit</p> <p>Continue collaboration with Marketing Lancashire, Visit Yorkshire and district tourism partners to effectively promote AONB as a sustainable tourism destination</p>	<p>banners)</p> <p>Continue collaboration with Marketing Lancashire, Visit Yorkshire and district tourism partners to effectively promote AONB as a sustainable tourism destination</p>	<p>banners)</p> <p>Continue collaboration with Marketing Lancashire, Visit Yorkshire and district tourism partners to effectively promote AONB as a sustainable tourism destination</p>		
<p>SC4.2 Support sustainable tourism projects and continue to support GTBS with tourism businesses in the AONB</p>	<p>4 sustainable tourism projects delivered, (including 'business cluster' projects)</p> <p>Ensure AONB businesses involvement in RDPE/LEADER LAGs (potential applicants & project ideas)</p>	<p>3 sustainable tourism projects delivered, (including 'business cluster' projects)</p> <p>Ensure AONB businesses involvement in RDPE/LEADER LAGs (potential applicants & project ideas)</p>	<p>3 sustainable tourism projects delivered, (including 'business cluster' projects)</p> <p>Ensure AONB businesses involvement in RDPE/LEADER LAGs (potential applicants & project ideas)</p>	<p>2.2, 2.4, 3.4C</p>	<p>HB</p>

	<p>Re-issue AONB Discovery Guide 2015. Review and reprint if agreed with businesses</p> <p>Investigate AONB-related ticketing promotions and publicity Northern Rail and Community Rail Partnerships (e.g. Leeds to Morecambe line)</p> <p>4 GTBS business supported within AONB and 2km buffer</p>				
SC4.3 Continue to support and develop sustainable tourism, including support for Sustainable Tourism Forum	ST Forum held	ST Forum held	ST Forum held	2.2, 2.4	HB
SC4.4 Carry out evaluation and monitoring of visitor and tourism enterprise information, in particular visitor pressure, patterns and future markets (including occupancy and satisfaction data)	Implement new approach to AONB visitor survey, if carried forward.		Implement new approach to AONB visitor survey, if continued.	2.2, 2.4	HB

	<p>Continue tourism business monitoring research on tourism business 'health-check' data</p> <p>Review tourism business monitoring research</p>	<p>If agreed, continue tourism business monitoring research on tourism business 'health-check' data.</p>			
SC4.5 Deliver familiarisation visits and study tours for tourism businesses and organisations	One familiarisation visit held	One familiarisation visit held	One familiarisation visit held	2.2, 2.4	HB
SC4.6 Promote and share good practice of the AONB, as a lead partnership in supporting sustainable tourism within Europe's protected areas	Continue to work with NAAONB & Visit England to develop sustainable tourism collaboration amongst AONBs			2.2, 2.4, 4.4	HB

<p>SC4.7 Continue to promote local produce and farming</p>	<p>Manage, review and update local produce database</p> <p>AONB attendance at at least 5 agri. shows/ local produce events</p>	<p>Manage, review and update local produce database</p> <p>Regularly review AONB future involvement in agri. shows/ local produce events</p>	<p>Manage, review and update local produce database</p> <p>Regularly review AONB future involvement in agri. shows/ local produce events</p>	<p>2.1, 2.2</p>	<p>HB</p>
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A strong connection between people and the landscape (PL)

PL1 Develop, improve and promote access and recreational opportunities for a diverse range of people					
We will:	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	AONB MP 2014 – 2019 Objectives	Staff lead(s)
PL1.1 Work in partnership with key stakeholders to maintain and improve access in the wider countryside of the AONB; including support for implementation of PRoW Improvement Plans	Regular meetings of local advisory groups (e.g. Pendle Hill, Upper Hodder) to consider access and recreation issues	Regular meetings of local advisory groups (e.g. Pendle Hill, Upper Hodder) to consider access and recreation issues	Regular meetings of local advisory groups (e.g. Pendle Hill, Upper Hodder) to consider access and recreation issues	3.1, 3.2, 3.3	EL/DP
PL1.2 Carry out a review of existing AONB promoted routes	Continue to support volunteer monitoring system for existing AONB promoted routes Prioritise promoted routes and rotate twice a year (remove and re-instate where appropriate based on download stats)	Continue to support volunteer monitoring system for existing AONB promoted routes Prioritise promoted routes and rotate twice a year (remove and re-instate where appropriate based on download stats)	Continue to support volunteer monitoring system for existing AONB promoted routes Prioritise promoted routes and rotate twice a year (remove and re-instate where appropriate based on download stats)	3.1, 3.2, 3.3	HB/TW/DP

	Annual review of routes completed and acted upon	Annual review of routes completed and acted upon	Annual review of routes completed and acted upon		
PLI.3 Review, rationalise and develop downloadable promoted routes as required	Review and rationalise downloadable promoted route cards 3 new routes cards completed	Review and rationalise downloadable promoted route cards 3 new routes cards completed	Review and rationalise downloadable promoted route cards 3 new routes cards completed	3.1, 3.2, 3.3	TW/DP/HB
PLI.4 Develop strategic bridleway links within the AONB (e.g. Gisburn Forest to Settle, Lune Valley track and North Lancs Bridleway Phase 2 western sections)	Feasibility study for new combined on/off-road route from Gisburn Forest to Settle	Commence construction of first sections of GF to S link route		3.1, 3.2	TW/DP
PLI.5 Develop 'tramper' access projects	1 project/route delivered	1 project/route delivered	1 project/route delivered	3.1, 3.2, 3.3	TW/DP
PLI.6 Investigate opportunities to extend access and habitat improvements on Bowland Fells (e.g. flagged paths, stiles, gates to assist in habitat restoration).	Access and habitat improvement project delivered (subject to funding availability)	Access and habitat improvement project delivered (subject to funding availability)	Access and habitat improvement project delivered (subject to funding availability)	1.3, 3.1, 3.2	TW/DP/SR

PL2 Provide high quality information, communications and events to enable people to enjoy and understand the landscape of the AONB and the work of the AONB partnership					
We will:	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	AONB MP 2014 – 2019 Objectives	Staff lead(s)
PL2.1 Co-ordinate and review Festival Bowland (FB)	<p>Co-ordinate FB Steering Group</p> <p>Evaluation of customer feedback completed (via incentivised postcard scheme)</p> <p>At least 10 FB events organised by AONB Unit/LCC</p> <p>Annual review and evaluation of aims and content of FB completed and acted upon</p>	<p>Co-ordinate FB Steering Group</p> <p>Evaluation of customer feedback completed (via incentivised postcard scheme)</p> <p>At least 10 FB events organised by AONB Unit/LCC</p> <p>Annual review and evaluation of aims and content of FB completed and acted upon</p>	<p>Co-ordinate FB Steering Group</p> <p>Evaluation of customer feedback completed (via incentivised postcard scheme)</p> <p>At least 10 FB events organised by AONB Unit/LCC</p> <p>Annual review and evaluation of aims and content of FB completed and acted upon</p>	3.4, 3.5	SS/TW/SR
PL2.2 Publicise Festival Bowland programme	FB brochure produced	FB brochure produced	FB brochure produced	3.4, 3.6	SS

	<p>Monthly FB events posters produced and distributed</p> <p>10 press releases/year produced to promote FB events</p> <p>Update Google calendar and LOIS database with FB events</p>	<p>Monthly FB events posters produced and distributed</p> <p>10 press releases/year produced to promote FB events</p> <p>Update Google calendar and LOIS database with FB events</p>	<p>Monthly FB events posters produced and distributed</p> <p>10 press releases/year produced to promote FB events</p> <p>Update Google calendar and LOIS database with FB events</p>		
<p>PL2.3 Support and promote external events and tourism businesses that help to deliver AONB objectives</p>	<p>Maintain LOIS database for partner-led events and accommodation listings on Marketing Lancashire's AONB destination guide</p>	<p>Maintain LOIS database for partner-led events and accommodation listings on Marketing Lancashire's AONB destination guide</p>	<p>Maintain LOIS database for partner-led events and accommodation listings on Marketing Lancashire's AONB destination guide</p>	<p>3.4, 3.6</p>	<p>HB/SS</p>
<p>PL2.4 Management and implementation of the Forest of Bowland AONB brand and graphic standards</p>	<p>Review current printed publications and update/rationalise as appropriate</p> <p>Training on branding guidelines for partner</p>	<p>Review current printed publications and update/rationalise as appropriate</p> <p>Training on branding guidelines for partner</p>	<p>Review current printed publications and update/rationalise as appropriate</p>	<p>3.4, 3.5, 4.4</p>	<p>HB/SS</p>

	<p>organisations and businesses, where required</p> <p>Create web-friendly downloadable leaflets when producing new print and add guidelines to graphic standards</p> <p>Implement new AONB Communications Strategy</p>	<p>organisations and businesses, where required</p> <p>Create web-friendly downloadable leaflets when producing new print and add guidelines to graphic standards</p>			
PL2.5 Update and replace AONB boundary signs at key visitor 'gateways' to the AONB	2 boundary signs replaced (if funding allows)	2 boundary signs replaced (if funding allows)		2.3, 3.5	DP
PL2.6 Manage and maintain 'Take One Media' brochure and leaflet distribution service	Periodic review of Take One Media reports carried out	Periodic review of Take One Media reports carried out	Periodic review of Take One Media reports carried out	3.4, 4.4	HB

<p>PL2.7 Regularly review and update the content of AONB website, in line with AONB Management Plan objectives and actions</p>	<p>Periodic review and update of route downloads completed</p> <p>Website data analysis completed and disseminated</p> <p>Develop web content and resources on geodiversity, heritage and planning and development</p>	<p>Periodic review and update of route downloads completed</p> <p>Website data analysis completed and disseminated</p>	<p>Periodic review and update of route downloads completed</p> <p>Website data analysis completed and disseminated</p>	<p>1.5A, 1.6D, 1.7B, 3.4, 3.5, 4.4</p>	<p>HB</p> <p>HB/EL</p>
<p>PL2.8 Review design of AONB website</p>	<p>Update in line with current projects/activities</p>	<p>Update in line with current projects/activities</p>	<p>Review AONB website design</p>	<p>3.4, 3.5, 4.4</p>	<p>HB</p>
<p>PL2.9 Research good practice in use of emerging technology to help interpret and promote the AONB</p>	<p>Continue to develop use of social media to promote AONB (e.g. Twitter, Facebook)</p> <p>Develop 'apps' to help widen audience for AONB generally and for specific project</p>	<p>Continue to develop use of social media to promote AONB (e.g. Twitter, Facebook)</p> <p>Develop 'apps' to help widen audience for AONB generally and for specific project</p>	<p>Continue to develop use of social media to promote AONB (e.g. Twitter, Facebook)</p> <p>Develop 'apps' to help widen audience for AONB generally and for specific project</p>	<p>3.4, 4.4</p>	<p>HB</p>

	information and interpretation, where appropriate	information and interpretation, where appropriate	information and interpretation, where appropriate		
PL2.10 Source and promote newsworthy stories that promote the AONB and work of the partnership	<p>Quarterly e-bulletin produced and promoted</p> <p>Contacts maintained within local, regional and national media</p> <p>6 AONB press releases per year produced</p>	<p>Quarterly e-bulletin produced and promoted</p> <p>Contacts maintained within local, regional and national media</p> <p>6 AONB press releases per year produced</p>	<p>Quarterly e-bulletin produced and promoted</p> <p>Contacts maintained within local, regional and national media</p> <p>6 AONB press releases per year produced</p>	3.4, 4.4	SS/HB
PL3 Support local communities and visitors to conserve, restore, enjoy and learn about the heritage of the AONB; and develop programmes of activity which provide opportunities to engage people with the landscape					
We will:	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	AONB MP 2014 – 2019 Objectives	Staff lead(s)
PL3.1 Support the development of the 'Friends of Bowland', to co-ordinate and support volunteers for the AONB	Where appropriate, AONB representative attend 'Friends' committee meetings as advisor	Where appropriate, AONB representative attend 'Friends' committee meetings as advisor	Where appropriate, AONB representative attend 'Friends' committee meetings as advisor	2.3	CH/EL

	<p>Assist 'Friends' in development of events/activities programmes</p> <p>Develop at least one joint project/event with 'Friends'</p>	<p>Assist 'Friends' in development of events/activities programmes</p> <p>Develop at least one joint project/event with 'Friends'</p>	<p>Assist 'Friends' in development of events/activities programmes</p> <p>Develop at least one joint project/event with 'Friends'</p>		
<p>PL3.2 Identify funds and partners to help deliver AONB-wide programmes of activity to research, conserve, enhance and interpret the landscape heritage of the AONB</p>	<p>Prioritise and develop Heritage Lottery Fund bids to support and deliver landscape heritage projects, inc. Landscape Partnership Scheme (LPS)</p> <p>Submit Stage 1 bid to HLF LPS for Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership</p> <p>Commence Pendle Hill LPS development phase (subject to Stage 1 approval)</p>	<p>Submit Pendle Hill LPS Stage 2 submission</p>	<p>Commence delivery of Pendle Hill LPS</p>	<p>1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 1.6, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 3.1, 3.3, 3.5</p>	<p>CH/EL/SS/ HB/SR</p>

PL3.3 Produce on-line resources for use by schools and other groups for AONB educational farm visits	<p>Review uptake of online educational resources and improve/amend as appropriate</p> <p>Develop work to be carried out with schools for fieldwork and outdoor education for 14-18 year olds in Pendle Hill LPS</p>	Review uptake of online educational resources and improve/amend as appropriate	Review uptake of online educational resources and improve/amend as appropriate	3.4, 3.6, 4.4	SS/CH
PL3.4 Continue development of community outreach activities to encourage new audiences that traditionally do not know about or visit the AONB	<p>Develop 'Bowland Outreach' project, part of YDMT bid to Big Lottery 'Our Environment, Our Future' grant scheme</p> <p>Funding secured for further roll-out of community outreach activities</p>	Deliver community outreach activities through OEOF Project and Pendle Hill LPS Development Phase		3.6	SS/EL/CH
PL3.5 Continue to support Year 2 delivery of 'Bowland Revealed' arts development programme	Project completed and full grant claimed				SS

	Steering group meetings held				
	Support provided to Project Manager				

A dynamic and effective AONB partnership (AP)

API Work with others to maximise the successful delivery of the AONB Management Plan and effectively monitor progress					
We will:	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	AONB MP 2014 – 2019 Objectives	Staff lead(s)
API.1 Participate in a range of fora and networks to represent AONB interests (e.g. Local Nature Partnerships, Local Enterprise Partnerships, RDPE/LEADER LAGs)	On-going	On-going	On-going	4.1, 4.4	All
API.2 Review the AONB Management Plan, in accordance with national guidance	Develop Partnership Advocacy Plan (to site alongside the Communications Strategy) Continue to liaise with local authorities, utility company and other government agencies to raise awareness of AONB Management Plan and its delivery	Continue to liaise with local authorities, utility company and other government agencies to raise awareness of AONB Management Plan and its delivery	Continue to liaise with local authorities, utility company and other government agencies to raise awareness of AONB Management Plan and its delivery	4.1, 4.4C	EL
API.3 Ensure effective and inclusive consultation is carried out	On-going	On-going	On-going	2.3, 4.4	EL

on all major AONB strategies and activity					
API.4 Manage and promote the interactive management plan (IMP) to ensure regular monitoring of partnership delivery of actions	IMP regularly updated by Unit and partners	IMP regularly updated by Unit and partners	IMP regularly updated by Unit and partners	4.1, 4.4	HB/EL/CH
API.5 Produce a clear and concise AONB Annual Report	Annual Report produced	Annual Report produced	Annual Report produced	2.2, 3.4, 4.4	SS
API.6 Produce quarterly progress reports on business plan delivery	Quarterly reports produced	Quarterly reports produced	Quarterly reports produced	4.4	EL
API.7 Develop a 'State of the AONB' Report to monitor and evaluate landscape change within the AONB, monitor delivery of the AONB Partnership outcomes and provide a sound evidence base for future project development and funding bids			Produce 'State of the AONB Report' update	4.3	CH
API.8 Work with, and support National Association for AONBs (NAAONB) and other protected areas to share best practice and strengthen the status of AONBs locally and nationally	NAAONB and Northern Group events attended Responses made to NAAONB information and consultation requests, where appropriate	NAAONB and Northern Group events attended Responses made to NAAONB information and consultation requests, where appropriate	NAAONB and Northern Group events attended Responses made to NAAONB information and consultation requests, where appropriate	4.4	All
API.9 Support and maintain co-ordinated delivery of services	LCC E&C Projects staff	LCC E&C Projects staff	LCC E&C Projects staff	4.1, 4.4	EL/LCC SM

and projects in the AONB in partnership with local authority countryside and environmental projects teams	attend AONB team meetings, where appropriate Periodic meetings held with local authority and United Utilities countryside staff	attend AONB team meetings, where appropriate Periodic meetings held with local authority and United Utilities countryside staff	attend AONB team meetings, where appropriate Periodic meetings held with local authority and United Utilities countryside staff		
AP2 Achieve excellence in the governance and management of the AONB Partnership and Unit, its people and resources; and helping to identify sustainable future funding to support these.					
We will:	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	AONB MP 2014 – 2019 Objectives	Staff lead(s)
AP2.1 Ensure effective and productive functioning of AONB Joint Advisory Committee and its working groups, with agreed terms of reference	2 JAC meetings, 3 to 4 partnership funders group and regular working group meetings held	2 JAC meetings, 3 to 4 partnership funders group and regular working group meetings held	2 JAC meetings, 3 to 4 partnership funders group and regular working group meetings held	4.1	EL
AP2.2 Review membership of the AONB Joint Advisory Committee for non-statutory organisations and non-funding partners	Review of current JAC membership for non-statutory organisations and non-funding partners completed			4.1	CH/EL

	<p>Develop induction information for new JAC members</p> <p>Investigate potential for JAC members to act as portfolio-holders and AONB champions</p>				
AP2.2 Hold regular meetings and correspondence with AONB funding partners to ensure AONB Partnership and Unit are delivering against partners' key corporate objectives	<p>Regular Partnership Funders Group meetings held</p> <p>Arrange regular meetings/briefings for local authority officers and members on AONB Partnership activity</p>	<p>Regular Partnership Funders Group meetings held</p> <p>Arrange regular meetings/briefings for local authority officers and members on AONB Partnership activity</p>	<p>Regular Partnership Funders Group meetings held</p> <p>Arrange regular meetings/briefings for local authority officers and members on AONB Partnership activity</p>	4.1	EL
AP2.3 Continue to support and liaise with NAAONB (as part of the tri-partite agreement with Defra and Natural England) to lobby for retention of secure, long-term funding arrangements for AONBs	NAAONB meetings, seminars and conferences attended, where appropriate	NAAONB meetings, seminars and conferences attended, where appropriate	NAAONB meetings, seminars and conferences attended, where appropriate	4.4	EL
AP2.4 Ensure that 'Memorandum of Agreement' (MoA) is in	Consider options for new Partnership MoA	New MoA signed by all		4.1, 4.4	LCC SM/EL

place for AONB partners	for 2016/17 and beyond	partners			
AP2.5 Develop a fund-raising strategy for the AONB partnership	Review strategy and continue implementation, as appropriate			4.2	CH
AP2.6 Aim for excellence in management of the AONB Unit	Productive fortnightly team meetings, 1-to-1 meetings, employee PDRs and team building activities carried out	Productive fortnightly team meetings, 1-to-1 meetings, employee PDRs and team building activities carried out	Productive fortnightly team meetings, 1-to-1 meetings, employee PDRs and team building activities carried out	4.1	LCC SM/EL
AP2.7 Provide structured training opportunities to AONB Unit and representatives	Staff training identified and attended	Staff training identified and attended	Staff training identified and attended	4.1	LCC SM/EL
AP2.8 Annually review and update three-year AONB Unit business plan	Annual review and update completed	Annual review and update completed	Annual review and update completed	4.1	EL
AP2.9 Promote good practice in project management (incorporating best value, monitoring and evaluation, sustainability and involving volunteers)	Staff training identified and attended.	Staff training identified and attended.	Staff training identified and attended.	4.1	LCC SM/EL
AP2.10 Implement AONB Unit environmental policy and action plan	Review AONB Unit Environmental Policy,	Review AONB Unit Environmental Policy,	Review AONB Unit Environmental Policy,	4.1	CH

	with new actions and targets set Carbon reduction targets achieved (including move to new premises)	with new actions and targets set Carbon reduction targets achieved (including move to new premises)	with new actions and targets set Carbon reduction targets achieved (including move to new premises)		
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FOREST OF BOWLAND AONB JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership

Progress update

The Project Steering Group (supported by the AONB Unit) is in the final stages of putting together the Stage 1 application to the Heritage Lottery Fund Landscape Partnership Scheme and plan to submit this before 1st June 2015.

Recent milestones in the scheme's development include:

- Agreement from Lancashire County Council to act as lead applicant and accountable body for Stage 1 application
- Presentation of the bid to Lancashire County Councillors 'Bitesize Briefing' at County Hall
- First meeting held of the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership Board
- Chair of the Partnership Board appointed – Ralph Assheton, Downham Estate and Bowland Bio-energy

The scheme is currently estimated to cost £2.4m and £1.8m grant will be requested from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The remaining £600,000 will be raised from partners, including: the AONB Partnership, Defra's Countryside Stewardship grants, RDPE/LEADER funding, landfill tax funds, local businesses/private sector and others

Summary details of all 15 projects are listed below for information:

Project 1: Pendle Gatherings

Our Gathering projects will consist of a series of arts commissions based around the proposed projects listed below. Each will aim to engage new audiences and build cohesion by creating performances, illustrated interpretation, interactive activity and inspiring art works that will leave a legacy for the entire programme. We will also organise annual gatherings to bring projects and participants together to celebrate and review activity.

Environment Theme

Aim: to restore historic landscape features and species diversity

Project 2: Traditional Boundaries

We will restore over 5km of dry stone walls and hedgerows in order to maintain these key landscape features in locally distinctive styles and to allow wildlife to flourish. The project will include opportunities for volunteering and training in traditional countryside skills.

Project 3: Strengthening Ecological Networks

Working with landowners, farmers and volunteers we will bring at least 10 important wildlife sites back into good condition and management. We will also assess the wildlife value of the LP area, and seek to restore, connect and create our four priority habitats at greatest risk from climate and agricultural changes: woodland, species-rich grassland, wet grassland and blanket bog.

Project 4: Pendle Hill Rocks

Four year-long projects will explore the important relationship between Pendle Hill's underlying geology to the area's landscape, building materials, habitats and wildlife, and the economic resource that fuelled the nearby industrial revolution. Exciting digital interpretation and new school resources will inspire a new generation of geologists.

Project 5: Pendle Hill Community Heritage Fund

We will develop a locally managed small grant scheme for landscape and heritage projects, to be identified and delivered by the community. Working with local tourism operators we will develop a 'visitor giving' scheme to contribute to the Fund. This will enable both large and small businesses to offer sponsorship or to collect donations that will sustain the Fund into the future.

Economy Theme

Aims: to reduce erosion, conflict and congestion caused by visitors; to seek innovative ways to create sustainable solutions for tourism, recreation, heritage and wildlife conservation; and to support the rural economy

Project 6: Improving Access for All

We will upgrade at least 5km of footpaths and seek to disperse walkers by promoting a series of more sustainable routes from four identified visitor hubs. The four hubs are existing sites at Downham, Barley, Spring Wood and Nick of Pendle that are currently owned and operated by parish, district and county councils. These will be improved and upgraded and interpretation will be provided; support will be provided to enable one hub to become a community-managed asset.

Project 7: Countryside Trainees

This scheme will provide apprenticeships for 20 young people in partnership with a local college. Training in countryside management, farming skills, visitor access, forestry etc will be delivered by the college in partnership with private sector partners. An annual heritage placement will be offered by University of Central Lancashire (UCLAN)

Project 8: Sense of Place

During the development stage creative consultation and activity will create the Pendle Hill Story Map which will capture information, images and stories

about the LP area. This evolving and interactive resource will then be utilised to support the development of visitor information, business training and support, and training for local 'ambassadors' who promote and interpret the LP area to visitors.

Project 9: What's a hill worth?

We will commission research into the value of the area's ecosystem services, in particular the value that outdoor activity, volunteering and exercise can contribute to health, wellbeing and community cohesion. This research will focus on the impact of our education and outreach work and will contribute to the evaluation of the LP programme.

Everyone Theme

Aim: to re-connect people with the landscape and their past

Project 10: Pendle Radicals

Reflecting the area's importance to religious non-conformists such as the Quakers, Wesleyans and Methodists; and to political radicals including the Chartists, Free Traders and Trades Unionists; we will support research and interpretation led by local volunteers and groups, and organise walks and talks around some of the people and places that made this such a distinctive and radical place.

Project 11: Around the Houses

Four village history groups including an 'urban village', will work with Lancashire County Council's community heritage team to research a series of house histories in each locality. The project will include training in research skills, visits to libraries and archives, village open days and the creation of digital archives. It will offer residents and contractors the opportunity to learn traditional building and restoration skills in order to retain and strengthen local vernacular styles.

Project 12: Community Archaeology

Working with volunteers from at least two local history groups and Pendle Heritage Centre we plan to carry out topographical surveys at Portfield hill fort and a number of other archaeological features currently being identified in Sabden's 'Hidden Valley'. Targeted geophysical surveys and excavations will be undertaken with the support of professional archaeologists; and open days and community events will assist with interpretation and engagement with wider audiences.

Project 13: Education, Training and Outreach

We will bring at least 20 urban school and college groups to visit and learn about the Pendle Hill area's natural and cultural heritage. We will also manage a community outreach programme: working with up to 1000 people from

disadvantaged and hard to reach groups from 'priority neighbourhoods' in Pennine Lancashire, and arranging transport and activities for them into the Pendle area which will enable them to re-connect with their landscape. We will co-ordinate an integrated programme of events, training and volunteering opportunities for all 12 projects.

Project 14: Interpretation

Interpretation of the LP scheme will integrate all project activity together, helping to tell the story of Pendle Hill. The project will develop a communications plan and a marketing brand for the LP scheme based on the Sense of Place approach. Creativity and arts engagement from the Gathering projects will feature strongly alongside digital interpretation and social media to help with the promotion of the LP programme and taking us into the 2020s.

Project 15: Evaluation

This project will provide a framework for all delivery partners to monitor the activity and outputs of the above projects. It will also lead on the mid-term and end of programme evaluation by measuring the impact of activity, in terms of outcomes generated.

Next steps

Outline below are the next steps in preparation for application submission and if the bid is successful the early stages of the scheme development phase:

Milestone	Date
Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership Board Meeting to approve final bid	12 th May 2015
Submission of Stage 1 application to HLF	28 th May 2015
HLF visit to Pendle Hill	July/August 2015
Decision from HLF on Stage 1 application	Late October / early November 2015
Agree HLF Development Grant and appoint Development Officer	November – December 2015
Development Phase	January 2015 – June 2016

Decision to be taken

The Committee is asked to note the report and offer comments.