



Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Advisory Committee

Thursday, 15th October, 2015, Barley Village Hall, Cross Lane, Barley, BB12 9JU

Schedule of Events

11.30am	Meet at Barley Village Hall for tea/coffee
12 noon	Induction session for new and recently joined members (invitation open to any Member though)
1pm	Lunch (at picnic site)
2pm	Meeting
4pm approx.	Finish

Agenda

- 1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies for Absence**
Before the meeting commences proper, a presentation will be made by Dr Sarah Robinson on the 'Networks for Nectar' Project
- 2. Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair**
- 3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests**
Members are asked to consider any Pecuniary Interests they may have to disclose to the meeting in relation to matters under consideration on the Agenda.
- 4. Constitution, Membership and Terms of Reference** (Pages 1 - 4)
The Joint Advisory Committee is asked to approve the attached constitution, membership and terms of reference for 2015/16.
- 5. Minutes of the Meetings held on 23 April 2015 and 16 October 2014** (Pages 5 - 16)
The Committee is asked to consider approving the minutes of the meetings held on 23 April 2015 and 16 October 2014.

6. **AONB Partner Updates**
7. **Revised Estimates 2015/16 and Revenue Budget 2016/17** (Pages 17 - 22)
8. **AONB Team Report** (Pages 23 - 32)
9. **Planning and Development and the Forest of Bowland AONB** (Pages 33 - 44)
10. **Hen Harriers in the Forest of Bowland**
Verbal Update
11. **Any Other Business**
12. **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.
13. **Date of Meetings in 2016**
The dates and locations of the meetings to be held in 2016 are Thursday 21 April in Wyre District and Thursday 13 October, in Preston District.

Sharon Montgomerie
Democratic Services Support Officer

Lancashire County Council
County Hall
Preston

Membership and Terms of Reference of the Advisory Committee 2015/16

Issue for Consideration

The Constitution, Membership and Terms of Reference of the Advisory Committee for 2015/16.

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 2015/16. The Constitution and Membership of the Advisory Committee for 2015/16 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 I Thompson

Lancaster City Council

Councillor J Parkinson

Wyre Borough Council

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 Local Councils

Mr M Helm

Yorkshire Local Councils Association

Councillor C Price

United Utilities

Mr N Kidd

Environment Agency

Ms H Dix

Natural England

Mr R Hymas

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)

Mr G Jones

Bowland Land Managers' Forum

Mr A Taylor

Mr T Binns

Ramblers Association

Mr D Kelly

Champion Bowland

Mr J Collinson

Bowland Experience Limited

Mr J Beavan

Friends of Bowland

Mr G Morries

Moorland Association

Mr J Duckworth

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



Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Advisory Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 16th October, 2014 at 2.00 pm in Dunsop Bridge Village Hall

Present:

Chair

County Councillor Albert Atkinson, Lancashire County Council

Committee Members

County Councillor Mrs Susie Charles, Lancashire County Council
Councillor Lin Barrington, Craven District Council
Roger W Brooks, Wyre Borough Council
Councillor Mrs Rosemary Elms, Ribble Valley Borough Council
Councillor James Starkie, Pendle Borough Council
Michael Helm, Lancashire Association of Local Councils
Councillor Colin Price, Yorkshire Local Councils Association
Mr Andrew Taylor, Bowland Land Managers Forum
David Kelly, Ramblers Association
Janet Sharp, Champion Bowland
Barrie Tyrer, Bowland Experience Limited

Officers

Roy Hymas, Natural England
Hetty Byrne, Forest of Bowland AONB Unit
Cathy Hopley, Forest of Bowland AONB Unit
Elliott Lorimer, Forest of Bowland AONB Unit
Nick Osborne, Forest of Bowland AONB Unit
Mike Pugh, Forest of Bowland AONB Unit
Greg Robinson, Wyre Borough Council
Mike Williams, Pendle Borough Council
Phil Johnson, Ribble Valley Borough Council
David Porter
Sarah Robinson

Apologies

County Councillor Kevin Ellard, Lancashire County Council
Councillor John Browne, Preston City Council
Helen Dix, Environment Agency
Geoff Morries, Friends of Bowland
Martin Putsey, Preston City Council
Dave Oyston, United Utilities plc
Alison Boden, Wyre Borough Council
Anne-Marie Harrison, Lancaster City Council

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies for Absence

Cathy Hopley welcomed everyone to the meeting and to a recently refurbished Dunsop Bridge Village Hall.

2. Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair

Resolved:-

County Councillor Albert Atkinson and County Councillor Mrs Susie Charles were appointed Chair and Vice-Chair respectively for the 2014/15 Municipal Year.

3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

None declared.

4. Constitution, Membership and Terms of Reference

Resolved: The Committee approved the Consitution, Membership and Terms of Reference for 2014/15, and noted that Mr R Hymas had replaced Mr N Clark from Natural England.

5. Minutes of the Meeting held on 24 April 2014

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting held on 24 April 2014 were agreed as an accurate record, subject to a minor amendment in relation to attendance:

Barrie Tyrer had been incorrectly recorded as having given apologies when he was in attendance.

6. AONB Partner Updates

It was reported that Craven Local Plan had been published for consultation purposes and members of the Joint Advisory Committee were invited to respond on an individual basis.

Resolved:- That the update be noted.

7. Proposal for appointment to the Joint Advisory Committee

The Joint Advisory Committee was informed that the Moorland Association was a membership organisation for the owners and managers of moorland in England and Wales representing over 1

million acres of uplands, with representatives on the executive committees for both Nidderdale and North Pennines AONB.

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. As a result, it was therefore considered appropriate to approve the appointment of a nominated representative from the Moorland Association to the Joint Advisory Committee

Resolved:- That a nominated representative from the Moorland Association be appointed to the Joint Advisory Committee.

8. Revised Estimates 2014/15 and Revenue Budget 2015/16

Nick Osborne presented a report on Revised Estimates 2014/15 and Revenue Budget 2015/16 and 2016/17. He reported that Lancashire County Council was able to continue its cash contribution for 2015/16 but the position could change in future years as a result of the financial pressures being faced.

Mike Pugh had recently taken voluntary redundancy and would be a significant loss to the Joint Advisory Committee. As a result of the slightly reduced salary costs, additional funding was available for project funds.

Resolved:- That,

- i) the 2014/15 Revised Estimates be noted.
- ii) the 2015/16 Revenue Budget as set out in the report be approved,
- iii) funding authorities be requested to make appropriate provision in their revenue budgets, and
- iv) Mike Pugh be thanked for his contributions to the work of the Joint Advisory Committee.

9. AONB Team Report

The Committee received the AONB Unit Report which provided updates on a whole range of issues and projects, as detailed in the full report presented.

Resolved:- That the report be noted.

10. Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership Scheme

Cathy Hopley presented an update on the proposal to conserve the heritage assets of the Pendle Hill landscape through the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership Scheme. It is intended to bring together the two sides and two communities to celebrate its value to both sides of the hill.

A number of themed proposals were proposed making up a total bid of £2.24m of which an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund will be made (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.

A draft timeline was presented and further details would be presented to the next meeting of the Joint Advisory Committee in April 2015.

Resolved:- That the report be noted.

11. Pennine Peat LIFE

Elliott Lorimer presented a report on a bid which could bring in approximately £1.2m worth of funding to Lancashire for the protection of peatland in the Forest of Bowland.

Several partnerships involved in planning, managing and delivering peatland restoration projects across the north of England, including the North Pennines AONB and Yorkshire Peat Partnership have come together 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, six restoration sites have been identified 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.

It was likely that the Forest of Bowland AONB would 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 would 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.

Resolved:- That the report be noted.

12. Northern Upland Chain Local Nature Partnership

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

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. As a result the potential for Forest of Bowland to join the Northern Upland Chain LNP was tentatively explored and further discussions were planned in November.

Resolved:- That approval be given for the Principal AONB Officer to pursue this matter further.

13. Any Other Business

Members were informed that it was time for the Joint Advisory Committee consider re-applying for the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas.

The Forest of Bowland AONB had enjoyed fantastic benefits including the Green Tourism Forum and a much increased profile. However, the costs of re-applying were now considered to be prohibitive and on balance, officers did not believe the Charter was worth the significant effort and resource.

Elliott Lorimer reported that the Forestry Commission had published its Dunsop and Gisburn Forest Plans for the purposes of consultation.

Resolved:- That the update be noted and the approve that the Joint Advisory Committee does not re-apply for the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas

14. Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

15. Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that 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

Lancashire County Council
County Hall
Preston



Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Advisory Committee

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 23rd April, 2015 at 2.00 pm at
Overwyresdale Village Hall, Abbeystead**

Present:

Chair

County Councillor Albert Atkinson, Lancashire County Council

Committee Members

Councillor Lin Barrington, Craven District Council
Councillor Roger Sherlock, Lancaster City Council
Roger W Brooks
Councillor John Browne, Preston City Council
Councillor James Starkie, Pendle Borough Council
Michael Helm, LALC
Helen Dix, Environment Agency
Mr Andrew Taylor, Bowland Land Managers Forum
David Kelly, Ramblers Association
Jeremy Duckworth, The Moorland Association

Officers

Hetty Byrne, Forest of Bowland AONB Unit
Cathy Hopley, Forest of Bowland AONB Unit
Elliott Lorimer, Forest of Bowland AONB Unit
Sandra Silk, Forest of Bowland AONB Unit
Tarja Wilson, Forest of Bowland AONB Unit
Martin Putsey, Preston City Council
Alison Boden, Wyre Borough Council
David Porter

Apologies

County Councillor Mrs Susie Charles
County Councillor Kevin Ellard
County Councillor Richard Welch, North Yorkshire County Council

Councillor Colin Price, Yorkshire Local Councils Association
Graham Megson, North Yorkshire County Council
Phil Johnson, Ribble Valley Borough Council

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

The Chair, County Councillor Albert Atkinson, welcomed all to the meeting. Round the table introductions were made and Jeremy Duckworth representing the Moorland Association was welcomed to the AONB Committee and the meeting.

Apologies for absence were noted as above.

Martin Charlesworth made a presentation on the work of the 'Friends of Bowland' and took questions from the Committee. He explained that the Friends of Bowland is a voluntary based group whose aim is to conserve and teach about the Bowland Landscape and its wildlife and flora. It was launched in October 2014 and currently has around 60 members. It is grant funded and carries out improvement works in the AONB, having one practical activity event each month.

During the discussion that followed, the issue of the potential for test fracking in AONBs was raised and concerns expressed; Elliott advised that there had been a government policy change in December 2014 which meant there would be a ban on fracking in AONBs and National Parks.

The Committee noted the presentation and thanked Martin for attending and providing an informative account of the work of the Group.

The Committee was advised that Councillor Whaites had sadly passed away; Councillor Whaites was the Craven District Council elected representative for the Settle and Ribblesbanks Ward and had formerly served on the AONB Committee. The Committee express its sadness at the news and agreed that these be recorded in the minutes.

Councillor Roger Brooks, Wyre Borough Council, announced with some regret that he would no longer be the Wyre Member representative for the Forest of Bowland AONB Committee; he had thoroughly enjoyed his time serving the AONB and advised that it had been one of the most enjoyable aspects of his role. The Committee expressed its thanks for the dedication and commitment shown by Councillor Brooks during the years he had served on the Committee. Alison Boden, Wyre Borough Council officer, wished to personally record her thanks, adding that she had appreciated Councillor Brook's great enthusiasm and support over the years.

Elliott Lorimer advised the Committee of changes to officer support in light of the reorganisation of Lancashire County Council (LCC). Note was made of the departure of Stuart Benson, former clerk to the Committee, into a role outside of the Council; the Committee wished to send its thanks and best wishes for the future to Stuart and agreed that these be recorded in the minutes.

Elliott also advised that Nick Osborne, principal officer (LCC countryside service) who had served and supported the work of the AONB and its Joint Advisory Committee for many

years, would be leaving the Council at the end of March 2016. The Committee wished to send it's thanks to Nick for his dedication and support along with its very best wishes for the future and agreed that these be recorded in the minutes.

Elliott advised that Jackie Flynn would be taking over from Nick but was unfortunately unable to make the meeting.

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

None.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 October 2014

The Committee noted that the minutes attached to the agenda were the wrong ones, for which an apology was made by the clerk.

Resolved: That the correct minutes be made available to the Committee and that they be formally considered at the next meeting.

4. Matters Arising

Owing to the oversight made in respect of the minutes, no matters were raised.

5. Budget 2015/16 update

Elliott Lorimer, Forest of Bowland AONB, provided an update report on the revised 2015-16 Budget.

The Committee was asked to note that the accounts as set out at Appendix 'A' take account of the increase in salary costs due to the local government pay increase agreed during 2014 for the financial year 2015/16. This provided for £97,022 for the annual programme of projects to deliver the AONB Management Plan, which included the Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) total of £15,000.

The Committee was further asked to note that projects funding would continue to be used as match funding to attract additional income to the AONB Partnership to better deliver the AONB Management Plan.

Resolved: That the Committee note the revised AONB Budget for 2015/16.

6. AONB Partner Updates

Alison Boden, Wyre Borough Council provided a verbal update to the Committee on activities taking place involving the Forest of Bowland. These included:

Garstang Walking Festival

Alison advised that the Garstang Walking Festival would run from the 9 to 17 May and was being coordinated by the 'Friends of the Garstang Walking Festival'. The Festival helps to

promote the Forest of Bowland and an invitation to attend was extended to the members of the Committee.

River Wye Catchment Project

A project event took place on 22 April. The purpose of the project is to promote and monitor what is on the river and involves the control of invasive species such as Himalayan Balsam and Japanese Knotweed. She advised of another event to take place at Springfield House in Scorton on 6 May as well as Volunteer Work Programme Days which will include spraying at the waterside. Alison emphasised that links were being made with the Forest of Bowland AONB. Taking a strategic approach, and working in partnership across Lancashire, means that there is a good chance of keeping invasive species at bay.

Ribble Life Partnership

This project, which is being partly funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund will deliver a range of projects through partnership and community development, to improve the condition, management and awareness of water environments within the Ribble Catchment for the benefit of all. The project will include work in woodlands, wetland and fish passage projects. The project invests in communities and people living in them by developing their skills through education.

David Kelly, Ramblers Association complimented the clean-up that was taking place on the riverbank between Garstang Millenium Green and Scorton along the existing Right of Way. He reported that prior to the clean-up, it had been muddy all year round and felt that it was a massive improvement.

Resolved: That the Committee note the AONB Partner update.

7. Delivering the AONB Management Plan

7. AONB Unit report - presentation on headline achievements over the last six months

Hetty Byrne, Forest of Bowland AONB, outlined all the projects as set out in the report (circulated). This included Bowland Hay Time Project, Networks for Nectar, Biodiversity projects including the Pennine Peat LIFE bid (news still awaited) and species recovery plans, Traditional Boundaries, Access Improvement Works, Champion Bowland & Bowland Experience, Bowland Scrapbook, Sustainable Development Fund, Bowland Revealed, Festival Bowland, Dark Sky Discovery Sites, Museum of Lancashire Forest of Bowland AONB 50th Anniverary, Northern Upland Chain Local Nature Partnership, Undergrounding for Visual Amenity and the Rural Development Programme for England – LEADER Local Action Groups.

She advised that the new 'mobile friendly' website had been launched in January. The Website was now more interactive and allowed people to upload their photographs of Bowland onto the site, providing the AONB with a great portfolio of pictures. Local

Businesses had also agreed to contribute to meeting the costs of printing promotional leaflets.

She also advised that the Interactive Management Plan had been simplified this year. Elliott Lorimer advised that copies of the Management Plan were available for committee members to take away following the meeting.

Resolved: That the committee note the update on headline achievements over the last six months.

7. AONB Unit Business Plan 2015/16

Elliott Lorimer, Forest of Bowland AONB, presented the report on the AONB Unit Business Plan for 2015/16 (circulated). He referred members to the Plan and asked that if Committee Members had any questions that they emailed him following the meeting and he would respond to their queries individually.

Resolved: That the Committee noted the AONB Unit Business Plan for 2015/16.

8. Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership Scheme Update

Elliott Lorimer, Forest of Bowland AONB, presented the report providing an update on the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership Scheme.

The Project Steering Group (supported by the AONB Unit) was 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

Elliott referred the Committee to summary details of all 15 projects which were set out in the report, which all fall under one of three main themes – Environment, Economy and Everyone.

There was another board meeting due to take place on 12 May and it was expected that the draft bid would be made available for the Board to approve.

HLF were due to visit the AONB over the summer, with any decisions on the bid being expected in late October /early November.

Elliott advised that an update would be provided at the next meeting.

Resolved: That the Committee notes the report.

9. Urgent Business

None.

10. Provisional Dates of Next Committee Meetings

The Committee noted that the next two meetings would be held on Thursday 15 October 2015 in Pendle and Thursday 21 April 2016 in Wyre.

Sharon Montgomerie
Democratic Services

Lancashire County Council
County Hall
Preston

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

Issue for consideration

- a) Revised Estimates 2015/16
- b) Revenue Budget 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, which is also enhanced by additional and contribution from United Utilities.

A core team is established from this budget provision, to assist in the delivery of the statutory AONB Management Plan on behalf of the Joint Advisory Committee and the local authorities. The AONB Unit continues to work to a 3-year business plan (2015 - 2018), 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 Devolved Financial Management scheme. Since the Joint Advisory Committee in October 2014 approved the 2015/16 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 2015/16 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 January 2015, that the grant offer for 2015/16 was £208,143.

The net effect of any changes allows projects programme (including Sustainable Development Fund) totalling £97,285 to be delivered in 2015/16.

In addition, since last reported in October 2014, the AONB Unit has been successful in obtaining the following additional funding to support delivery of projects within the area:

Project	£	Organisation
Lancashire Peat Partnership (LPP) facilitation and support	3,000	Environment Agency
Peatland habitat restoration and support for LPP, incl. Pennine Peat LIFE funding bid re-submission	30,000	Environment Agency

AONB Discovery Guide	2,890	Business adverts taken by members of Bowland Experience Ltd.
Bowland by Bike Leaflet	340	LCC Sustainable Transport

The 2015/16 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 a slight reduction in estimated salary costs (advised by LCC Finance team). Therefore, the net effect of this reduction in salary costs is to slightly increase the budget available to support projects to help deliver the AONB Management Plan.

b. Revenue Budget 2016/17 and beyond

Revenue Budget 2016/17

This section sets out in Appendix 'A' column 4, the costs associated with the Committee's projects and management service in 2016/17, including estimated pay and price levels.

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

- Environment and Community Project Service Manager [0.2FTE]
- Principal AONB Officer [0.8FTE]
- Development and Funding Officer
- Sustainable Tourism Officer
- Community Projects and Events Officer

Total Committee income from contributions has been included in the budget for 2016/17 based on estimated contributions from funding authorities, equivalent to maintaining the requested contribution for 2015/16. In addition, it is also based on a continuation of a contribution from United Utilities, matching the level requested district/borough councils.

Income in respect of grant support from Defra towards core costs and projects costs has been included on the basis of an estimated reduction of 5.4% of 2015/16 grant offer. This % estimate is based on previous annual reductions of Defra grant from 2010/11 up to 2014/15. A formal grant offer from Defra is expected before Christmas following the Government's announcement of the Comprehensive Spending Review planned for 25th November 2015.

Given the uncertainty this poses, it is proposed that the Committee meets in January 2015 to consider again the Revenue Budget 2016/17.

It is also assumed that the Defra grant for 2016/17 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 terms of achieving delivery of the Management Plan, without restrictions placed on the percentage of grant to each area of supported activity.

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

The attention of the Committee is drawn to the following:

1. Gross Expenditure

It is proposed that total expenditure be £348,443 in 2016/17, which is £10,475 lower than that in 2015/16. The total expenditure results from providing for the effect of increased pay and prices, staff increments, employers national insurance and superannuation contributions, host authority support costs and reflecting a level of provision for 'Projects'..

2. Income

Defra grant towards core costs and projects costs of £196,903 reflects an estimated reduction of 5.4% on 2015/16 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 £292,103 net cost of management services is based on maintaining the level of contributions from the funding authorities requested for 2015/16. 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 also be noted that, as normal, resources from other funding bodies for projects in AONB will be sought during 2015/16 (e.g. Lottery Funds, European Union, Government Agencies, Lancashire Environment Fund), which are over and above the Joint Advisory Committee budget provision and this will continue into 2016/17.

Furthermore, the AONB Unit contributes to the generation of additional schemes and projects in liaison with organisations operating in the area e.g. local authority countryside services or rivers trusts.

Decision Required

The Committee is requested to:

- i) note the 2015/16 Revised Estimates
- ii) approve the 2016/17 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
- iv) agree to hold a special 'budget' Committee meeting in January 2015 (date to be confirmed) to review 2016/17 Revenue Budget, following confirmation of the Defra AONB grant offer

APPENDIX 'A'
AONB Partnership Budget

	Estimated 2015/16 (Out-turn Prices)	Revised 2015/16 (Out-turn Prices)	Estimated 2016/17 (Out-turn Prices)
(1)	(2) £	(3) £	(4) £
<u>Expenditure</u>			
<u>Core Costs</u>			
Salary, N.I. and Superannuation	159,612	159,358	161,811
Out-based premises	20,000	20,000	20,000
Travel and subsistence	8,900	8,900	8,900
Central, Departmental & Tech. Support	55,545	55,545	56,310
Core Activities	17,800	17,800	17,800
Sub total of Core Costs	261,857	261,603	264,821
<u>Non Core Costs</u>			
Projects (Management Plan delivery)	97,031	97,285	83,592
Sub total of Non Core Costs	97,031	97,285	83,592
Total Expenditure	358,888	358,888	348,413
<u>Income</u>			
Defra Grant	208,143	208,143	*196,903
<u>Contributions</u>			
United Utilities	6,800	6,800	6,800
<u>County Councils</u>			
Lancashire	40,800	40,800	40,800
North Yorkshire	6,800	6,800	6,800
<u>District Councils</u>			
Craven	6,800	6,800	6,800
Lancaster	6,800	6,800	6,800
Pendle	6,800	6,800	6,800
Preston	6,800	6,800	6,800
Ribble Valley	6,800	6,800	6,800
Wyre	6,800	6,800	6,800
Total Income	303,343	303,343	292,103
Contrib. to support costs (LCC in-kind)	55,545	55,545	56,310
	358,888	357,813	348,413

*5.4% reduction based on previous annual reduction of Defra grant from 2010/11 up to 2014/15



AONB Report to JAC: October 2015



FOREST OF BOWLAND

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

An outstanding landscape of natural and cultural heritage

Bowland Hay Time and Networks for Nectar

Presentation and verbal update.

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

Lancaster Beekeepers Pollinator Patches

Lancaster Beekeepers continue to enthusiastically involve local volunteers from the Lune Valley including Community Payback and Littledale Hall to develop and manage a network of small new pollinator sites. The display of flowering plants this season has been stunning and the areas have been buzzing with insect life. This is been supported by Lancashire Environmental Projects and the Forest of Bowland AONB Networks 4 Nectar project.

For more information click on **Press Releases** at <http://www.lancaster-beekeepers.org.uk/>

<http://forestofbowland.com/Networks-4-Nectar-N4N>

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

Drystone Shelters South Bowland Fells

With the support of a local master craftsman, drystone walling volunteers have built two new shelter features and built up their skills along the way. Over five days, 11 volunteers walked up and down the fell daily to build a new shelter next to Paddy's Pole on Fairsnape Fell. This substantial shelter now provides a cosy spot to have a snack irrespective of which direction the wind and rain are coming from. The volunteers and master craftsman were certainly fitter after the week!

At the base of Parlick Fell near Fell Foot, a new shelter-art feature has been created in the shape of the top of a Shepherd's Crook. This will also act as a background for new interpretation-guidance for recreational users using the Bowland Fells.

Beauty Stones

24 stones with the word beauty written in 24 different languages were created as part of the Bowland Revealed project celebrating 50 years of the Forest of Bowland AONB in 2014. These stones are now being sited in drystone wall features across the AONB. So far there are 4 in situ on Fairsnape Fell, Parlick and Beacon Fell.

Watch this space as we complete these installations.

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

Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership

Our application for just over £2 million to the Heritage Lottery Fund's Landscape Partnership Scheme was submitted in late May. We have had further discussions with the North West office of HLF since, and had an appraisal visit from three members of their staff plus an external assessor in August. We are now eagerly awaiting news of the bid which will be decided upon by the HLF Board in London on 27th October.....watch this space!

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

Resilient and sustainable rural communities

Champion Bowland

We have been re-vamping the Champion Bowland website (www.championbowland.org.uk) to make our messages clearer. We have also set up a facility so that people can donate to the charity via a text service, which we hope to transfer to all AONB publicity and download maps (text CBOW15 followed by the amount you want to text, e.g. CBOW15 £5, to 70070). We are also currently setting up a system to enable people to make donations to Champion Bowland on-line, which will also incorporate the facility to use Gift Aid. Both these systems are free in that they do not incur any charges to Champion Bowland or to the donors.

The Bowland Scrapbook, part of our Golden Anniversary activity last year, has been reprinted by Champion Bowland and copies are available for a £5 donation from various outlets in the AONB, we will be promoting this more in the run-up to Christmas as it makes an ideal gift! See where you can get hold of copies at:

<http://www.championbowland.org.uk/index.php/bowland-scrapbook>

Champion Bowland has awarded four new grants since the Spring:

Bowland Forest High parish council were given £500 towards a shelter to be built on Dunsop Bridge village green, this will commemorate the Queen's Jubilee and provide a handy shelter for walkers, picnickers and bus users.

Friends of Bentham Station were awarded £750 towards their 'Day in the Life' photography project on 29th July – which recorded life in the town as seen through the eyes of its residents and visitors. The resulting photos will be used to create a new mural at the station and a travelling exhibition.

More 'Friends', this time at **Beacon Fell country park**, were given £630 to pay for two volunteers to attend a 'learn to scythe' course, and to purchase their own scythes and rakes in order that they can develop and manage a small wildflower meadow at Beacon Fell, where they will educate and inspire visitors about our wonderful wildflower resource.

The '**Church Goes Wild**' project run at **St Johns, Hurst Green** was given £175.00 to purchase a moth trap and ID guides to enable them to run moth trapping events.

Champion Bowland is keen to support other small scale projects in the AONB which benefit the environment, local communities and visitors. So if you need up to £750 to get your project off the ground contact admin@championbowland.org.uk

Bowland Experience

Since April, seven new businesses have become members of Bowland Experience. Other activities:

- We recently developed a 'Know your AONB' workshop - designed for new members to the network to inform them of the special qualities of the AONB and the opportunities for visitors
- A Social Media Workshop was organised for members held at the Tithe Barn, Browsholme Hall on 30th September. The workshop was attended by 10 businesses
- Very well done to Cobden Farm B&B, Sabden who were recently re-accredited by Green Tourism, they maintained their Gold Award on the new Version V criteria
- Business cards promoting the Electric Bike Network have been produced and distributed to increase awareness of the opportunities and the Teashops Leaflet was re-printed with contributions from Bowland Experience members
- BEx have been exploring ideas for potential collaboration projects through EAFRD (European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development) funding. A proposal is being developed for a local produce/holiday hamper initiative to benefit a number of tourism businesses including food producers and retailers across the AONB. We are awaiting for the call for projects under this funding strand before submitting an application.

The Bowland Experience AGM and Sustainable Tourism Forum are being held on 10th November: 4 to 5pm – AGM and 5 to 8pm – Forum, at the Assheton Arms, Downham. JAC members and partners are warmly invited to these meetings and further information will be made available soon.

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

Sustainable Development Fund

The 2015 Sustainable Development Fund was allocated by one panel meeting this year as we had a good level of interest from applicants. The £17000 available was mostly allocated and the remainder is earmarked for a project still in development. Successful projects awarded grants were as follows:

Bolton by Bowland village hall received a grant of £4408 to carry out insulation works to improve energy efficiency. This is part of a hall refurbishment project which will make the hall more attractive and cost-efficient to run, and so will generate more income to resource the hall into the future.

Burton in Lonsdale sports pavilion was given £2000 for a renewable energy heat sink as part of a new-build scheme. The committee are currently fundraising to purchase solar thermal and PV equipment to heat the building, and the heat sinks will enable them to store and re-use the excess heat generated.

Ribble Rivers Trust are organising two training courses in 'Pinpointing Diffuse Water Pollution' this autumn. They were awarded £2000 to support 5 Bowland-based farm advisors to attend the course free of charge. This is part of the Ribble Rivers Trust drive to improve river water quality as part of their new Catchment Management Plan.

The Deer Initiative received a grant of £3450 towards deer survey work, to assess the numbers and impact of deer in the AONB. They will also raise awareness of the need for deer management in Bowland via public meetings, school talks, food fairs and workshops for volunteers.

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

A strong connection between people and the landscape

Bowland Revealed

Mid Pennine Arts are managing the Explore & Engage element of the Bowland Revealed arts project and summer 2015 has seen the birth of the Bowland Explorers: an intrepid crew of pith-helmeted adventurers who have pitched their tent at various locations in order to encourage like-minded folk to discover the wonders of the AONB. To date, the Explorers have visited Cloudspotting in Gisburn Forest, Burnley Canal Festival and Blackburn Heritage Festival and are set to make an appearance at Lytham Hall in Wyre for the Hopeful & Glorious art and craft fair in November.

Alongside the Bowland Explorer's Club, In Situ have been working with Brierfield-based group, Mums Together, who have visited Gisburn Forest, Downham, Clitheroe Castle and Dunsop Bridge to enjoy picnics and walks and to gather inspiration for creative projects back at base.

Writer, storyteller and film maker, Steve Fairclough (in the guise of an anthropologist) has been journeying around Bowland, interviewing the people he meets on his travels and blogging about his observations.

Huckleberry Films are documenting various parts of the programme, which is due to close with a culminating celebration delivered by family arts organisation, Wild Rumpus.

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

Festival Bowland

It's been another busy year for Festival Bowland event leaders and, although this year's programme is now drawing to a close, there is still chance to enjoy some fresh air and exercise on walks with Wyre Council and the Friends of Garstang Walking Festival, hands on practical tasks with Lancashire Countryside Rangers and spooky happenings with the Friends of Beacon Fell amongst others.

Beacon Fell's family activities were popular once again, with over 100 people joining both the Easter Trail and summer Gruffalo days. Coronation Meadow walks were well attended, as were the star gazing events, archaeological dig tour and visits to Claughton Hall estate. Training in practical navigation and hedge laying had good booking numbers, as did Lancashire Wildlife Trusts Birds Before Breakfast and Wyre Council/RSPB's Whimbrel Roost Watch.

The Spread Eagle's Ribble Valley Rambles, combining a local guided walk followed by a meal at the pub, were popular again this year.

We're now planning for Festival Bowland 2016 and welcome ideas for new events which celebrate the birds, wildlife, landscape and culture of the Forest of Bowland AONB. Email sandra.silk@lancashire.gov.uk with ideas or if you would like to be added to our events mailing list.

Raising the Profile of the AONB

Local events and festivals are a great opportunity for the team to go along and promote the work and opportunities of the AONB. During the summer the team attended several events including: Clitheroe Food Festival, Hodder Valley Show, Scorton Game Fair and Tour of Britain, reaching new audiences and liaising with old friends and colleagues. The team also held a Dunsop Teas fundraiser in May generating funds for Champion Bowland – thanks for everyone's support and for those who baked cakes!

Dark Sky Discovery Sites

Over the summer months we've been working with local astronomer and physicist Robert Ince to identify a number of sites across Bowland that offer the best opportunities for star gazing, and that would be suitable for Dark Sky Discovery Site accreditation. The accreditation is administered by the Royal Observatory in Edinburgh, and the application process involves gaining support from the land owner and local authority. Robert Ince's expertise has helped in assessing the darkest skies and providing quality images that are submitted as part of the application. So far four sites have been submitted for accreditation: Beacon Fell, Gisburn Forest Hub, Crook O'Lune and Slaidburn. There are a few more potential sites that will also be put forward in the autumn, so we'll keep you posted as things develop.

The dark skies have already captured people's imagination and both events, organised at Beacon Fell recently have been fully booked. We are looking forward to providing more events next year as part of the Festival Bowland programme.

For further information visit <http://forestofbowland.com/Star-Gazing> or contact hetty.byrne@lancashire.gov.uk

A dynamic and effective AONB partnership

Annual Report 2014/15 Now Available

The latest Forest of Bowland AONB Annual Report is now available. From biodiversity action, pollution reduction measures and undergrounding electricity cables to enhanced community facilities, business support and access improvements, 2014/15 was another busy year for the AONB and its partners.

The report also highlights the projects which helped us to celebrate the AONB's 50th anniversary during 2015, including the Bowland Anniversary Awards, Bowland Scrapbook, Bowland Revealed and Festival 50!

Many thanks to all those who contributed articles and images. The latest report can be viewed on-line at <http://forestofbowland.com/Plans-Strategies-Reports> alternatively, email sandra.silk@lancashire.gov.uk for an electronic or paper copy.

Bowland Land Managers Forum

The Forum met in June and September 2015 to discuss a diverse range of topics from the Countryside Stewardship grant schemes and rural development funding to high nature value farming and bracken control.

In addition, the May meeting saw the return of Phil Warren from the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust to update forum members on the status of Black grouse conservation efforts in Northern England and in particular the potential to restore this species to the Bowland Fells.

Previous feasibility work completed in 2013 had suggested that efforts should remain focused on extending the range southwards in the Yorkshire Dales before considering translocation of birds to any Bowland sites. However, the southern range has now advanced close enough to Bowland to reconsider potential translocations. The AONB Partnership and several landowners have been able to commit funding to support further planning and assessment work which would be required to pave the way for a future Black grouse conservation project led by the Bowland Land Managers Forum.

Farming forum members were also involved in a trip in early August to visit high nature value farming projects in County Clare, Ireland, which is detailed under the section in the report on 'Northern Upland Chain LNP'.

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

Northern Upland Chain Local Nature Partnership (NUCLNP)

The Principal AONB Officer has attended meetings of the NUC LNP Board and 'High-Nature Value' Farming Group in recent months. The two principal areas of development have been:

NUC LNP High Nature Value Farming Group

This group has been working on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the HNV farming report commissioned by NUC LNP to look at the future of this type of low-intensity, environmentally sensitive farming, particularly with the likely decline in agri-environment funding (<http://www.nuclnp.org.uk/themes-and-projects/>).

This work has two principal projects currently in development:

- Piloting a 'Results-based' approach to agri-environment payments (RBAPS) in the NUC LNP area, based on a programme delivered in the Burren, County Clare in Ireland. A bid for EU Environment DG funding has been submitted and if successful will involve the AONB Partnership and Bowland Land Managers Forum
- Establishing a 'Northern Upland Chain Farmer Forum' to raise the profile of hill and upland farming within Government and other strategic organisations (e.g. Local Enterprise Partnerships). Bowland Land Managers Forum members will be consulted shortly for support and ideas on this proposal

Farmers from the Bowland Land Managers Forum have attended recent HNV group meetings and also took part in a visit to County Clare, Ireland in August 2015 to visit the pioneering RBAPs projects in the Burren and Shannon Callows. Officers from the AONB Unit and Ribble Rivers Trust also took part in this visit with a view to potentially establishing a similar scheme in Bowland in the future.

NUC LNP Natural Capital Investment Plan

Natural Capital refers to the stock of resources from the natural world that supports our society. So, woodland, species-rich grassland, wetlands, peatland and other soils are all elements of our natural capital. Our natural capital provides society with food, fuel, clean air, clean water, and opportunities for recreation.

The principal purpose of the plan is to stimulate new investments in natural capital, to help reverse its long-term decline, and sustain the goods and services that nature provides for society, and on which almost every business depends. NUC LNP believes that major new investment in conserving and enhancing our stock of natural capital is not only good for nature but essential for the communities and economy of our area.

Research work has continued over the summer involving the AONB Unit and the plan will be published in October/November 2015.

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

An Outstanding Week in September

During September the UK's AONB Family came together to organise a week-long programme of events to help people enjoy and be inspired by the UK's Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs). Starting on Saturday 19th September and continuing through to Sunday 27th September, the events were listed on www.landscapesforlifeevents.org.uk

Two events were held in Bowland as part of Outstanding week, both of which proved very popular:

Monday 21st September: Dark Sky Discovery Event, Beacon Fell

Sunday 27th September: Wyresdale Park Circular Walk

NAAONB's Jill Smith, explains the purpose behind the week, which will hopefully become an annual celebration:

"Outstanding Week is an opportunity for you to get involved and get out into our AONBs' outstanding landscapes to enjoy country shows, dark sky discovery nights, walking festivals, archaeology walks, wood fairs, foraging and local food festivals, wildlife walks, coastal and marine days, thatching courses, drystone walling competitions, charcoal making, bioblitz, inspiration through art and music and many, many other activities. Events are being organised throughout the country so please join us for an Outstanding Week!"

If you have any events that could be promoted as part of 2016 Outstanding Week please contact

sandra.silk@lancashire.gov.uk

National Association AONBs - Sustainable Tourism Working Group

Hetty attended a NAAONB meeting on Sustainable Tourism in London in May, along with other sustainable tourism officers and lead officers across the AONB family. The meeting was held at the Visit England offices and was attended by Lyndsey Swift - Head of Strategic Partnerships & Engagement at Visit England who informed the group of ways in which the NAAONB could get more involved with Visit England.

The development of a visitor giving scheme for the AONB Family was discussed, and it was felt important to progress the opportunities for this. Hetty and Elliott attended an RDPE lead officer meeting in the spring to talk about the potential for visitor giving as a LEADER funded co-operation project, we will update the partnership as things develop, but the proposal was received well by officers.

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

New AONB and National Park Publication

A new publication was produced in June: 'So much more than the view...'

The purpose of the joint publication was to highlight England's most iconic landscapes and focusing on the social and economic benefit that they bring.

The publication highlights that AONBs and National Parks welcome more than 260 million visitors who spend in excess of £6bn and support thousands of jobs and more than 85,000 businesses.

Chair of the National Association for AONBs, Philip Hygate said:

"AONB Partnerships and Conservation Boards, and National Park Authorities, with their dedicated small teams, make things happen; translating vision and national policy into local action. "Our staff and volunteers work with local communities, businesses and others, supporting skills development, investing in infrastructure and attracting visitors to promote sustainable rural economies that conserve and enhance the natural environment for the benefit of everyone. Together our volunteers put in over half a million days' work each year to help keep these places special and accessible."

See the publication at:

http://www.landscapesforliferesources.org.uk/images/uploads/pdf/So_much_more_than_the_view.pdf

Undergrounding for Visual Amenity

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

Since April 2015, two undergrounding schemes have completed with poles and lines now down at Deep Clough to Winder in Littledale and Laund Wood to Middle Lees, near Whitewell.

Also, the Forest of Bowland AONB has been allocated approximately £1.8m to fund further undergrounding schemes between April 2015 and March 2023. The AONB Unit has begun surveying a number of overhead lines for early inclusion in this new programme period. In addition, a call for potential undergrounding schemes has been made to all the Parish Councils within the AONB. Parish Council have been asked to send in details of any suggested lines for undergrounding by early December.

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

Rural Development Programme for England – LEADER Local Action Groups

The National LEADER Programme was formally launched by Defra on Wednesday 14th October 2015 in London. The Principal AONB Officer attended the launch and associated LEADER Network Conference, as the Chair of the North Lancashire & Bowland LAG

It is currently anticipated that the North Lancashire and Bowland LAG will launch its first calls for applications for LEADER funding in November 2015. These calls will be for projects which can increase agricultural productivity, support micro- and small business and farm diversification. Other LEADER priorities such as boosting rural tourism, support for rural services and heritage activities will follow in 2016.

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

Interactive Management Plan

Design consultants Countryside attended a recent AONB Funders Group meeting to demonstrate the new interactive management plan for the partnership. Along with the team, partners are being encouraged to update progress on the action plan; It is envisaged that these updates can then be used to draw useful reports and summaries to inform the partnership and funders.

If you would like a log-in to be able to update the plan please contact hetty.byrne@lancashire.gov.uk

The new interactive plan can be viewed at: <http://forestofbowland.com/action-plan>

Planning and Development in the Forest of Bowland AONB

The following report outlines two planning and development matters for consideration by the Committee and relate to:

- i. Planning and Development Protocol between Natural England and the AONB Partnership
- ii. Forest of Bowland AONB Obtrusive Lighting Position Statement and Guidance

i) Planning and Development Protocol

Background

The fundamental principle underlying planning and development management in AONBs is that any new development within the AONB that has a materially adverse impact can only proceed where it is demonstrated that it satisfies an over-riding national need. All development is expected to conform to a very high standard of design, to be in keeping with local distinctiveness and should seek to conserve and enhance the AONB's natural beauty.

Within Section 85 of the CROW Act (2000) there is a duty on all relevant authorities to have regard to this purpose in exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect land in, AONBs. Sections 88 & 89 of the Act state that each local authority and Conservation Board shall prepare and publish a Management Plan for their AONB, which should then be reviewed at intervals of no more than 5 years. Management Plans are adopted statutory policy of the local authority.

The AONB Partnership is not a statutory consultee for planning applications or the formulation of Local and Neighbourhood Plans. However, the AONB Unit does provide advice and guidance for local planning authorities on landscape planning matters on behalf of the Partnership, where requested.

Natural England is the statutory consultee for landscape-related planning issues (alongside its broader land use planning remit relating to protection and conservation of the natural environment). The AONB Unit has (up to present) informally liaised with Natural England's Land Use Planning team on these matters.

Draft Protocol

The draft Protocol (Appendix B refers) sets out agreed working arrangements between Natural England and the Forest of Bowland AONB Partnership for responding to consultations about development management and planning policy affecting the AONB in accordance with relevant legislation and paragraphs 115 and 116 of National Planning Policy Framework.

This Protocol is about establishing good working practices and ensuring the scope of comments submitted by both organisations reflects the need to conserve and enhance the special qualities of the AONB. The Protocol is not intended to facilitate joint responses and Natural England and the AONB may offer different advice to local planning authorities.

ii) AONB Obtrusive Lighting Position Statement and Guidance

Background

Over the last century large parts of Britain have rapidly lost access to naturally dark skies. Light in the wrong place, or obtrusive lighting, is one of the major unaddressed sources of pollution in this country and it affects people, wildlife and our landscapes. In 2009, the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution published its report on 'Artificial Light in the Environment' and recommended that those responsible for the management of existing National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the equivalent National Scenic Areas in Scotland seek to eliminate unnecessary outdoor light and to better design and manage that which cannot be eliminated.

In the Forest of Bowland, the relative isolation means that there are areas of land still largely unaffected by light pollution, however where lighting is obtrusive (e.g. on isolated dwellings or within some developments) this can seriously affect the quality of the landscape which was designated partly because of its tranquility and value of its heritage and biodiversity.

Position Statement and Guidance

The Position Statement (Appendix C refers) has been produced in order to clearly set out the position of the AONB Partnership with regards to obtrusive lighting in the Forest of Bowland. It aims to provide guidance to assist the six local planning authorities which operate in the area, and which have a statutory duty to further the purposes of the AONB. It is hoped that this will assist in the determination of planning applications for any development which may include exterior lighting.

The Statement has been drafted in conjunction with the AONB's Guidance on Lighting (Appendix D refers) for residents and businesses, which highlights examples of good practice the AONB has compiled. These additional documents aim to encourage and support a gradual removal of existing obtrusive lighting as this cannot be tackled via the planning process.

Recommendations:

The Committee is requested to:

- i. consider the draft Protocol, offer comments and if minded, approve adoption of the by AONB Partnership.
- ii. consider the draft AONB Obtrusive Lighting Position Statement and Guidance, offer comments and if minded approve adoption of the policy by the AONB Partnership

Protocol between Natural England Cheshire to Lancashire Area Team and the Forest of Bowland AONB Unit for spatial planning matters affecting the Forest of Bowland AONB

Section 1. The purpose of the protocol

The Protocol sets out agreed working arrangements between Natural England and the Forest of Bowland (FoB) AONB for responding to consultations about development management and planning policy affecting the AONB in accordance with relevant legislation and paragraphs 115 and 116 of NPPF. This protocol is about establishing good working practices and ensuring the scope of comments submitted by both organisations reflects the need to protect the special qualities of the AONB (Annex 2). The Protocol is not intended to facilitate joint responses. Natural England and the AONB may offer different advice to local planning authorities.

Section 2. About the signatories

Natural England

Natural England's role is to conserve and enhance the natural environment for its intrinsic value, the wellbeing and enjoyment of people and the economic prosperity that it brings. It is the Government's landscape advisor and the designating authority for AONBs. It is a statutory consultee on draft Local Plans and AONB Management Plans, and a statutory consultee for developments requiring an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and all Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects. It also has a statutory duty to provide advice about non-EIA developments affecting protected landscapes if consulted by the local planning authority. Natural England recognises that the FoB AONB is able to provide the local planning authorities with geographically-specific information linked to policies and objectives from the AONB Management Plan.

Forest of Bowland AONB Partnership

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 area was designated as an AONB in February 1964. Since 1986 it has been managed by a partnership of landowners, farmers, tourism businesses, wildlife groups, recreation groups, local councils and government agencies, who work to protect, conserve and enhance the natural beauty of this special landscape. The AONB Partnership is not a statutory consultee for planning applications or the formulation of Local and Neighbourhood Plans. However, the Unit does provide advice and guidance for local planning authorities on landscape planning matters, where requested.

Section 3. Matters Subject to the Protocol

NOTE:

Planning consultations submitted to Natural England are assessed by a 'Hub' team which uses buffer zones mapped for each AONB, together with criteria and guidance (for example in relation to wind and solar schemes), to identify those development schemes which are likely to pose no or only a low risk to the designated landscape, and those which could have a significant impact and should be forwarded to the relevant Area Team for further consideration. This protocol only covers those planning consultations forwarded to Area Teams.

Development Plan Documents (statutory)

Local/Neighbourhood Plans (and other types of Development Plan Document e.g. Core Strategies, Allocations Plan)

Natural England is a statutory consultee on Local Plans and Neighbourhood Plans. The Area Team will be consulted on all draft local plans and prioritise engagement according to environmental risk and opportunity. Where the local plan area encompasses part of the AONB or its setting, we will consider how the policies and proposals relate to the protected landscape.

The AONB Partnership is not a statutory consultee for the formulation of Local and Neighbourhood Plans. However, the Unit does provide advice and guidance for local communities and planning authorities on landscape planning matters, where requested.

Where either Natural England or the AONB Unit consider that a draft local plan or neighbourhood plan may affect the AONB or its setting we will:

- advise each other if we intend making a substantive response to a consultation.
- discuss or exchange draft copies of substantive comments to check for differences of opinion or emphasis, and seek to resolve any significant differences where possible.
- if Natural England's Area Team does not intend to make a substantive comment, we may nevertheless advise the planning authority to consult the AONB Unit. However, we will agree this before doing so.

Supplementary Planning Documents (non-statutory)

SPDs are non-statutory - they may cover topics such as renewable energy or built design. They inform the preparation of Local Plans and the determining of planning applications.

Where SPDs are proposed that are particularly relevant to the purpose of AONB designation, Natural England and/or the AONB Unit may decide, on the basis of environmental risk or opportunity, to work with local planning authorities to help them prepare planning related guidance which seeks to uphold the purpose of the AONB designation. In such cases, we will advise each other of our intentions.

- The AONB Partnership published an AONB Renewable Energy Position Statement in April 2011 (with various revisions since). The statement sets out the Forest of Bowland AONB Joint Advisory Committee's position with regard to the impacts of siting renewable energy developments, both within and adjacent to the boundaries of the Forest of Bowland AONB. This guidance is intended to assist in the determination of planning applications submitted to the planning departments of local authorities in the AONB partnership.

Development Management consultations

Natural England is normally consulted on all development that is likely to have an impact on the AONB. We are a statutory consultee for EIA developments and NSIPs.

The AONB Unit is normally consulted by local planning authorities on development proposals that may impact on the AONB landscape.

In practice we will:

- liaise on significant and major planning applications affecting the AONB or its setting* that each is consulted on or aware of.
- notify each other in advance of an intention to submit a consultation response, and provide details of the scope of the intended response
- ensure that local issues identified by the AONB are available for consideration by Natural England's Area Team in determining its response
- share environmental and other evidence that forms the basis of planning consultation responses made by the AONB and Natural England's Area Team
- if Natural England's Area Team does not intend to make a substantive comment, we may nevertheless advise the planning authority to consult the AONB Unit. However, we will agree this before doing so.
- exchange draft comments before the consultation deadline to check for differences of opinion or emphasis and seek to resolve any conflicts if possible
- if Natural England knows that a development does not raise any concerns for the AONB Partnership or Board it will usually issue a 'no objection' response.
- if Natural England intends to object to a scheme it will liaise with the AONB Partnership or Board and a Natural England officer or an appointed agent (landscape consultant) will undertake a site visit.
- liaise on any action they propose to take in relation to an appeal

*Those developments potentially giving rise to significant adverse effects on the natural beauty of the AONB landscape and therefore in conflict with the purpose of designation. As a minimum threshold for determining significant/major, we will use the definition of "major development" provided by the Town & Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) England 2010.

Particular types of development potentially giving rise to significant impacts on the AONB

- Wind energy development
- Other vertical structures (e.g. mobile masts, pylons)

Seeking opportunities for environmental gains consistent with the conservation of the AONB's natural beauty

Natural England and the AONB Unit will, through the planning system, seek opportunities to enhance the natural beauty of the AONB and peoples' understanding of the designated area. This could include:

- working closely together on responses to development proposals that involve biodiversity offsetting
- organising training and awareness events for local planning authority staff aimed at raising awareness and understanding of the importance of protecting and enhancing the AONB through the planning system, including their obligations under S85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

Section 4. How we will work

Principal contacts

The principal contact for the AONB Unit will be Elliott Lorimer, Principal AONB Officer, Kettledrum, 6 Root Hill Estate Yard, Whitewell Rd, Dunsop Bridge, Clitheroe, BB7 3AY. Tel: 01200 448000 or 07775 221208. Email: elliott.lorimer@lancashire.gov.uk

The principal contact for Natural England will be Roy Hymas, Second Floor, Arndale House, the Arndale Centre, Manchester, M4 3AQ. Tel: 07900 608291. Email: roy.hymas@naturalengland.org.uk

Section 5. Reviewing the protocol and the effectiveness of working arrangements

The Protocol will be reviewed at a joint meeting of the principal contacts each February/March.

We will use up to 3 case studies to determine its effectiveness and the need for any changes to be made.

Signatures

I agree to the terms of the Protocol outlined above:

Signature:

Name:

Signed on behalf of the () AONB

Position:

Date:

I agree to the terms of the Protocol outlined above:

Signature:

Name:

Signed on behalf of Natural England

Position:

Date:

Annex 1 - Relevant statutory duties, national planning policy and other government policies

Planning and development in AONBs

The fundamental principle underlying planning and development management in AONBs is that any new development within the AONB that has a materially adverse impact can only proceed where it is demonstrated that it satisfies an over-riding national need. All development is expected to conform to a very high standard of design, to be in keeping with local distinctiveness and should seek to conserve and enhance the AONB's natural beauty.

Within Section 85 of the CRoW Act (2000) there is a duty on all relevant authorities to have regard to this purpose in exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect land in, AONBs. Sections 88 & 89 of the Act state that each local authority and Conservation Board shall prepare and publish a Management Plan for their AONB, which should then be reviewed at intervals of no more than 5 years. Management Plans are adopted statutory policy of the local authority.

The Government has confirmed that the landscape qualities of National Parks and AONBs are equivalent, so the protection given by the land use planning system to natural beauty in both types of area should also be equivalent. The AONB designation is also of international importance, recognised as a Category V Protected Landscape by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

A local planning authority has a duty to have regard to the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty. This is achieved through partnership with AONBs and by reference to their Management Plans as a material consideration.

The AONB Partnership (and Unit) is not a statutory consultee for planning applications or the formulation of Local and Neighbourhood Plans. However, the Unit does provide advice and guidance for local planning authorities on landscape planning matters, where requested. Natural England is the statutory consultee for landscape-related planning issues (alongside its broader land use planning remit for protection and conservation of the natural environment). The AONB Unit liaises with Natural England's Land Use Planning team on these and other related matters.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

The Government's NPPF provides specific planning guidance for development planning and decision-making in relation to AONBs. It confirms that great weight should be given to conserving landscape and scenic beauty, and that AONBs have the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty. AONBs and their management plans are material considerations in planning. The 'great weight test' is significant and it is one of the most stringent legal tests that can be applied under planning law. In specific relation to major development¹, the NPPF states that planning permission should be refused for major developments in AONBs except in exceptional circumstances and where it can be demonstrated they are in the public interest.

¹The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010

Annex 2 – AONB Special Qualities

Why is the AONB Special?

Natural beauty is at the heart of what makes the Forest of Bowland AONB special: it is the reason why the Bowland landscape is designated of national and international importance; and of course, it's also a key factor in attracting visitors. This natural beauty is derived from the area's unspoilt countryside (i.e. a lack of large-scale or intrusive development) combined with a number of other distinctive qualities that contribute to the area's unique character or 'sense of place'. The distinctive qualities of the Forest of Bowland AONB are numerous and varied, though in general terms they can be summarised using the following headings:

- **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**

These headings were developed as part of work undertaken in 2005 to identify and explore the AONB's 'sense of place' - that being the area's unique feel and appearance, or what constitutes the area's identity and makes it different from neighbouring areas. The headings are not intended to be exclusive or exhaustive - rather, they provide a framework by which the distinctive qualities of the AONB can be understood and communicated among relevant stakeholders, including visitors.

More information on the special qualities of the AONB is available on www.forestofbowland.com

Obtrusive Lighting Position Statement

1. Introduction

1.1 Over the last century large parts of Britain have rapidly lost access to naturally dark skies. Light in the wrong place, or obtrusive lighting, is one of the major unaddressed sources of pollution in this country and it affects people, wildlife and our landscapes. In 2009 the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution published its report on Artificial Light in the Environment¹ and recommended that **those responsible for the management of existing National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the equivalent National Scenic Areas in Scotland seek to eliminate unnecessary outdoor light and to better design and manage that which cannot be eliminated.**

1.2 In the Forest of Bowland AONB our relative isolation means that there are areas of land still largely unaffected by light pollution, however where lighting is obtrusive (eg on isolated dwellings or within some developments) this can seriously affect the quality of the landscape which was designated partly because of its tranquility and its value to heritage and biodiversity. In the words of the Royal Commission: *'we believe that access to the natural beauty of the night sky is every bit as important as the preservation of other aspects of natural beauty which society routinely seeks to protect for the enjoyment of its citizens and for posterity.'*

2. Purpose of this Position Statement

2.1 This paper has been produced in order to clearly set out the position of the AONB Partnership with regards to obtrusive lighting in the Forest of Bowland. It aims to provide guidance to assist the six local planning departments which operate in the area, and which have a duty to further the purposes of the AONB. It is hoped that this guidance will assist in the determination of planning applications for any development which may include exterior lighting.

2.2 This Position Statement should be read in conjunction with the AONB's Guidance on Lighting for residents and businesses and with the examples of Good Practice we have compiled. These additional documents aim to encourage and support a gradual removal of existing obtrusive lighting as this cannot be tackled via the planning process.

2.3 This document, plus the Guidance and Good Practice, complements the AONB's work on Dark Sky tourism by providing encouragement and support to partners wanting to lend their support to the initiative.

3. Obtrusive Lighting and Dark Skies

3.1 Most people expect to see some lighting at night as it helps to guide your way and to provide a sense of security. However, light in the wrong place (where it is not intended or wanted), or at the wrong time, is a form of pollution as it spoils the environment. Artificial light creating an impact on health and wellbeing, can be classed as a statutory nuisance².

3.2 The RCEP report mentioned above, identified that obtrusive lighting can affect the migration and feeding behaviour of some birds and the feeding habits of insects and their predators. It can also have an impact on human health and wellbeing through causing sleep disturbance and stress. Importantly, obtrusive lighting can reduce the intensity of dark skies: reducing the opportunity to view constellations, the Milky Way and astronomical events.

3.3 Light pollution can take on various forms and can originate from different sources:

Form	Source	Effect
Glare	Spotlights, security lamps or headlamps often incorrectly sited or not shielded	Excessive contrast between light and dark in the field of vision
Trespass	Poorly directed exterior lights	Intrusive light affecting neighbouring properties
Scenic intrusion	Clutter or profligacy of lights in a natural environment	Over illumination and distraction, a reduction in the scenic quality and loss of dark skies
Sky glow	Street, traffic and building lights, creating a combination of reflection and refraction of light in the atmosphere	Causes a lack of contrast between a dark and light sky many miles from the source

¹ *Artificial Light in the Environment*, The Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution, 2011

² Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act, 2005

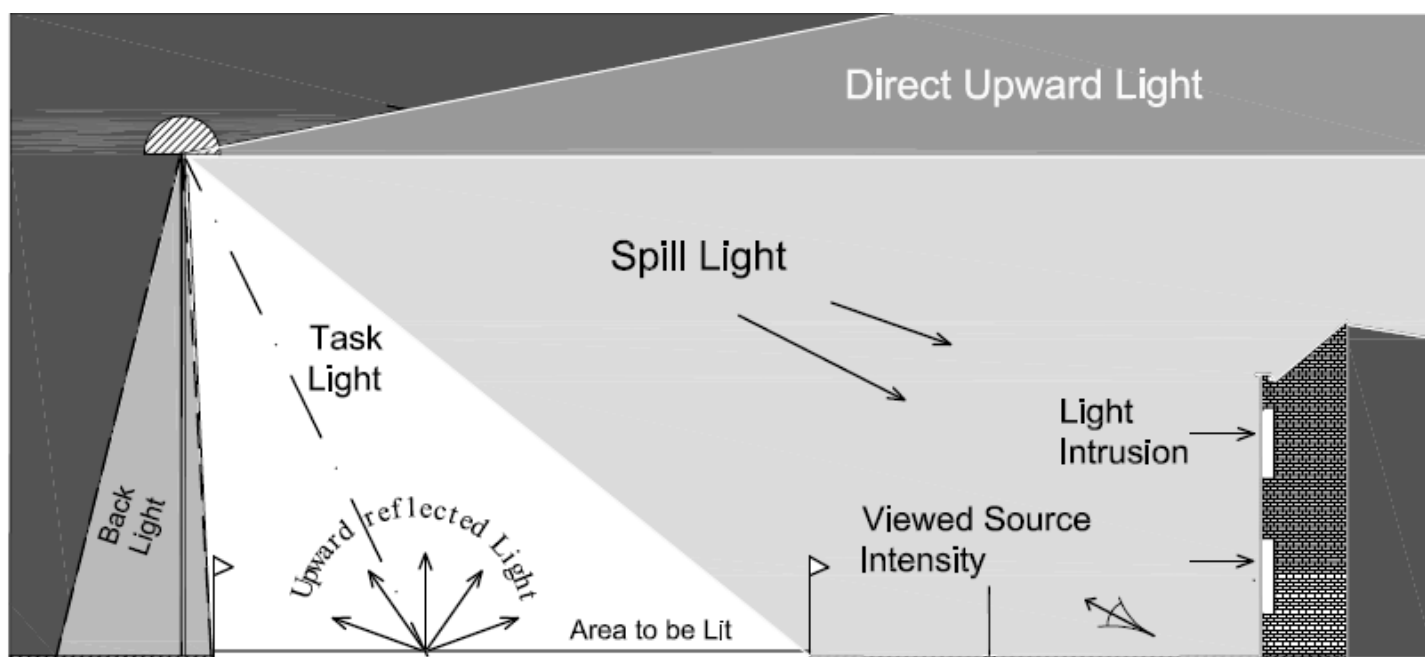


Fig 1: Types of obtrusive light (from ILP Guidance Notes)

4. Reasons for Control

4.1 Guidance produced by the Institution of Lighting Professionals³ identifies five Environmental Zones for local authorities to specify exterior lighting controls in their Development Plans. In this Guidance, zone EI: National Parks and AONBs are categorised as having 'natural surroundings' which should be kept 'intrinsically dark'.

4.2 A reduction in obtrusive external lighting will improve the night time scenic quality of the AONB by maintaining this intrinsic darkness. It will also lessen the impact on wildlife such as birds, invertebrates and plants which can be affected by artificial lighting when it masks seasonal and diurnal patterns. Controlling obtrusive lighting at night will also bring benefits to residents through a reduction in glare and trespass.

4.3 Any reduction of light pollution will also help to maintain and improve the area's dark skies which are becoming a tourism asset: this contributes to the local economy via increased visitor spend in accommodation and eateries, and the increased use of local services.

4.4 Reducing excessive exterior lighting will cut energy costs and saves carbon. In some areas total 'switch offs' of public street lighting, especially on highways and motorways has met with public approval and no increase in crime or accidents. In Lancashire there is no appetite for switching off, however dimming will soon be introduced from dusk til dawn on old street lighting stock whilst low cost LED lamps are introduced to around half of the street lights in the county over the next 3 years (2015-18).

5. Position Statement

5.1 It is considered that exterior lighting proposed as part of any new development, within or affecting the boundaries of the AONB, should be **the minimum required and only appropriate to its purpose, so as to protect the area's natural surroundings and intrinsic darkness.**

5.2 Proposals for exterior lights should follow the AONB Guidance and Good Practice and should be able to demonstrate **that there is not a significantly adverse effect, individually or cumulatively, on: the character of the area; the visibility of the night sky; biodiversity (including bats and light sensitive species); and residents, pedestrians or drivers.**

³ Guidance Notes for the Reduction of Obtrusive Light GN01: 2011, Institution of Lighting Professionals

General AONB and Dark Skies info

Further info about:
OL Position statement
Good practice guide

Contact details

Keeping Bowland in the Dark: Guidance for Residents on Reducing obtrusive light in the AONB

The Forest of Bowland AONB has some of the finest dark skies in the North West.

From our hill tops and riversides you can see the Milky Way and all manner of heavenly bodies. Exterior lights on our homes and businesses can reduce the levels of darkness and obscure the stars from our view.

So in order to maintain these fantastic night time views, and to support our burgeoning 'Dark Sky' tourism it would be helpful if we can all take action to 'Keep Bowland in the Dark'.

DARK SKY PHOTO HERE

- Could you switch off some or all of your exterior lights?
- Could you adapt your exterior lights, by re-siting or modifying them to reduce the obtrusive light?

DID YOU KNOW?

Over £1 billion is wasted every year on inefficient outdoor lights

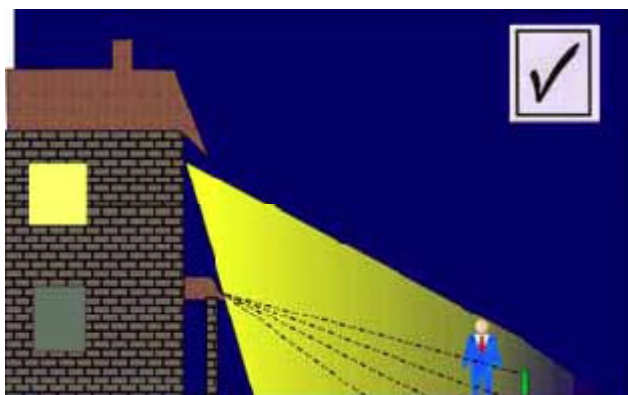
Lighting can actually assist criminals in entering your property if it is incorrectly installed

Switching off lights has been proven to have NO impact on accidents and crime rates

LIGHTS SHOULD SHINE ONLY **WHERE** NEEDED

Exterior lights should be angled downwards, not above the horizontal. Buy 'fully cut-off' styles, or fit them with a shield

Lamps should only light your property, not next door



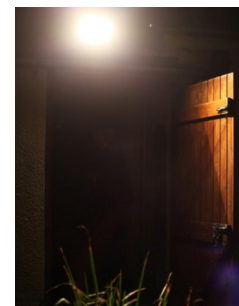
LIGHTS SHOULD SHINE ONLY **WHEN** NEEDED

Try turning them off between midnight and 5am:
save energy too!

Keeping Bowland in the Dark: Guidance for Residents

Farms and isolated dwellings:

- Mount lights below the height of the roof, and direct the light downwards, using shielded bulkheads if necessary: wrongly positioned lights can blind the onlooker and hide the intruder



- 150w bulbs (2000 lumens) are more than adequate for lighting a yard
- Avoid the use of sensors that can be tripped by animals
- If possible position your lights so they are shielded by buildings and are not visible from the surrounding countryside or roads

Housing:

- Consider if your external lighting is required at all
- If it is essential, can you use sensors or timers to limit the times when lights are switched on?
- Keep the amount and style of lights in balance with that of the village as a whole and on adjacent road(s)
- Consider the views from surrounding countryside and avoid a string of lights (eg along driveways) or a line of lights defining the edge of the village
- Direct all your lighting downwards and avoid uplighters on buildings and trees
- 30-50w bulbs are adequate for external lights in most domestic situations