



Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Advisory Committee

Thursday, 21st April, 2016 at 2.00 pm in Bleasdale Parish Hall, Bleasdale, Preston, PR3 1UY

Agenda

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- **10.00am - Arrival (tea & coffee available at the parish hall)**
- **10.15am - Depart on minibus for project visits in local area**
- **12.45pm - Return to parish hall.**
- **12.45pm-1pm Presentation from Tony Jackson, Volunteer Ranger from Wyre Coast and Countryside Service.**
- **1.00pm - Lunch**
- **2.00pm - AONB Joint Advisory Committee meeting**
- **4.00pm - Finish (approx.)**

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

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 26 January 2016 (Pages 1 - 6) (Copy attached).

4. Matters Arising

5. Budget 2015/16 Update (Pages 7 - 10)

6. AONB Partner Updates

7. Delivering the AONB Management Plan. (Pages 11 - 62)

(a) AONB Unit Activity Report

Including presentation on headline achievements over the last six months.

(b) AONB Unit Business Plan 2016/17

8. Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership Update (Pages 63 - 64)

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. Date of Next Meeting

The Committee is requested to consider the following provisional dates for future meetings:

Thursday 13 October 2016 in Preston (venue tbc)
Thursday 20 April 2017 in Craven (venue tbc)

Mike Neville
Democratic Services

Lancashire County Council
County Hall
Preston



Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Advisory Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 26th January, 2016 at 10.00 am in Ellel Village Hall, Main Road, Galgate, Lancaster, LA2 0LQ

Present:

Chair

Committee Members

County Councillor Albert Atkinson
County Councillor Mrs Susie Charles
Alderman Roger W Brooks, Wyre Borough Council
Councillor Jane Parkinson, Lancaster City Council
Councillor John Browne, Preston City Council
Councillor James Starkie, Pendle Borough Council
Michael Helm, LALC
Councillor Colin Price, Yorkshire Local Councils Association
Helen Dix, Environment Agency
David Kelly, Ramblers Association
Councillor Ian Thompson, Craven District Council

Officers

Elliott Lorimer, Forest of Bowland AONB Unit
Martin Putsey, Preston City Council
Alison Boden, Wyre Borough Council
David Porter

Apologies

County Councillor Kevin Ellard
County Councillor Richard Welch, North Yorkshire County Council
Graham Jones, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
Mr Andrew Taylor, Bowland Land Managers Forum
Jeremy Duckworth, The Moorland Association
David Hewitt, Ribble Valley Borough Council
Dave Oyston, United Utilities plc
Jackie Flynn

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies for Absence

County Councillor Albert Atkinson welcomed all to the meeting.

Apologies for absence were noted as above.

Harvey Hamilton-Thorpe, Project Manager for Ribble Life Together was introduced and he presented the attached powerpoint to the Committee, prior to the commencement of the meeting proper.

Following a question and answer session at the end, Harvey was thanked for his presentation.

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

None declared.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 October 2015

The minutes were agreed as accurate following the addition of Cllr John Browne's apologies that were not recorded previously.

David Porter, Lancaster City Council

An update was given regarding the results of the consultation on Lancashire City Council's planning document entitled 'People, Homes and Jobs' outlining potential sites for future development in the district. 800 representations were made, with a significant number of these relating to proposals affecting Dolphinhholme and Bolton-le-Sands. The City Council is briefing its' members at the Planning, Policy and Liaison Group on 27 January 2016 on the next part of the plan for the Summer.

Elliott Lorimer stated that a response outlining the two significant development sites proposed that could affect the AONB had been sent, highlighting some concerns about the likely impact on the landscape.

Michael Helm had visited Dolphinhholme recently with regards the recent flooding.

Networks 4 Nectar

Elliott outlined that the LEF application to support 'Wildflowers for the Meadows' a further phase of project work to support hay meadow restoration by growing specific species to enhance nectar patches and meadows had been successful and will run from April 2016 to the end of March 2017. There will be a different focus looking at community involvement on meadow sites and propagating certain species of plants which have been difficult to restore to sites using methods such as spreading green hay or seed sowing.

A match-funding issue has arisen with the Coronation Meadows project (BIFFA) and work is currently on-going to replace this funding to ensure this project can go ahead in March 2016.

Hen Harriers in the Forest of Bowland

The Hen Harrier Joint Action Plan has received Government approval and was launched on 14 January 2016 with all partners signing up to it, including the RSPB following minor changes to the plan. This can now move forward at a local level following the six point plan as follows:

- Monitoring of hen harrier populations in England and UK
- Diversionary feeding
- Work with Raptor Persecution Priority Delivery Group to analyse monitoring information and develop intelligence picture
- Nest and winter roost protection
- Southern re-introduction
- Trialling a brood management scheme

Michael Helm queried as to whether trans-location was being looked at, and Elliott replied that it was, and was covered by the 5th action of the plan. However, the FoB (and other Protected Landscapes) had expressed a view that the conservation and protection of hen harriers in Northern England still remained the priority.

Cllr Starkie reminded the Committee about the plan to replace and refurbish AONB boundary signs with the hen harrier logo. He expressed concern about the slow progress that is being made with regards to replacing a sign near Roughlee, though he did add that Dave Padley had been trying to progress the issue with LCC Highways. Elliott also explained that an audit of the condition of the existing signs was being made and that the number of signs had now been identified for refurbishment and a local craftperson (contact supplied by Cllr Starkie) had been contracted to carry out this work.

4. AONB Revenue Budget 2016/17

Elliott presented the report on the Revenue Budget for 2016/2017 and the AONB 'Project' provision and Sustainable Development Fund as attached to the agenda.

The formal grant offer from Defra had just been received and it was better than expected and will protect National AONBs and National Parks funding for the next four years and includes an annual inflationary increase. Therefore at Appendix 'A' the Defra funding for 2016/17 which was budgeted at £208,143 has increased by £3,580 to £211,723. Elliott will now look at the additional funding received and where it should be apportioned within the Partnership budget and will report back to the Committee with this information in April.

It was noted that by not cutting Defra funds, it proves that the current minister is very supportive of the good work the AONB partnerships carry out nationally. The National Association for AONBs (that FoB subscribe to) have been instrumental in negotiating this favourable grant settlement with Defra.

With regards the AONB Sustainable Development Fund the proposal is to cease the Fund at the end of this financial year. The reasoning behind this is that there are other AONB projects with greater need for match-funding support and which can also offer greater added value and benefits (eg Pendle Hill LPS, Wildflowers for the Meadows).

Resolved: that the Committee agreed to:

- i) Approve the 2016/17 Revenue Budget with the increased funding of £3,580 from Defra as set out in the report
- ii) Subject to the approval of (i) above, to request the funding authorities to make appropriate provision in their revenue budgets
- iii) Agree the closure of the AONB Sustainable Development Fund from April 2016

5. Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership

An update on the progress and implications for AONB Unit staffing delivery were detailed in the attachment circulated with the agenda and Elliott spoke further to the paper.

Resolved: the Committee agreed to note the progress report and offer comments on the development of the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership

6. Urgent Business

Elliott gave a brief staffing update within the wider AONB team and support staff and informed the Committee that as of 31 March 2016, Tarja Wilson will leave Lancashire County Council on VR. He stated that she will be sorely missed by her colleagues and local communities that she has worked with during her time at LCC. Tarja will be saying goodbye at a "leaving do" on 23 March 2016.

A number of the Committee wished to record their best wishes to Tarja for the future and it was echoed by them that they will miss her terribly.

Cllr Browne requested that the Chair, CC Atkinson write on their behalf to Tarja detailing the lovely comments made about her. CC Charles seconded this.

Resolved: CC Atkinson, to write a letter to Tarja.

Also the National Association for AONB have a long service recognition award and Elliott has nominated both Tarja and Dave Padley for this award. Dave is going to be undertaking some of Tarja's post following her departure.

Nick Osbourne will be leaving the Authority as well at the end of March 2016.

Finally, Congratulations were expressed to Hetty Byrne who recently got engaged.

Alderman Roger Brooks brought to the table an article by the Director of External Affairs on land mass in England, Northern Ireland and Wales and that the National Trust are monitoring the effect of local planning authorities. He asked as to whether Local Planning Officers had been made aware of this and Elliott confirmed they had.

Please see attached link to the full report <http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/news/protecting-englands-special-countryside>.

7. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday, 21 April 2016 in Bleasdale Parish Hall, Wyre. Project visits meet at 9.45am, lunch at 1.00pm and JAC meeting at 2.00pm.

Samantha Gorton
Democratic Services

Lancashire County Council
County Hall
Preston

FOREST OF BOWLAND AONB JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

AONB Budget 2016/17 update (Appendix A refers)

Issue for consideration

This report presents the revised and updated budget for 2016/17

Budget update 2015/16

The revised and updated budget at Appendix 'A' (column 4) takes account of the protected AONB funding settlement agreed by Defra in January 2016.

This allows £96,412 for an annual programme of projects to help deliver the AONB Management Plan.

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

Decision to be taken

The Committee is asked to note the revised AONB budget for 2016/17

AONB Partnership Budget 2016/17

	Revised 2015/16 (Out-turn Prices)	Estimated 2016/17 (Out-turn Prices)	Revised 2016/17 (Out-turn Prices)
(1)	(2) £	(3) £	(4) £
<u>Expenditure</u>			
<u>Core Costs</u>			
Salary, N.I. and Superannuation	159,358	161,811	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	56,310	56,310
Core Activities	17,800	17,800	19,800
Sub total of Core Costs	261,603	264,821	266,821
<u>Project Costs</u>			
Projects (to deliver AONB Management Plan)	97,285	94,832	96,412
Sub total of Project Costs	97,285	94,832	96,412
Total Expenditure	358,888	359,653	363,233
<u>Income</u>			
Defra Grant	208,143	208,143	211,723
<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	306,923
Contrib. to support costs (LCC in-kind)	55,545	56,310	56,310
	358,888	359,653	363,233

*Subject to agreement with NYCC PRoW to support project delivery in Craven area of the AONB

FOREST OF BOWLAND AONB JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Delivering the AONB Management Plan

Issue for consideration

The report and appendices summarise progress made towards delivery of the AONB Management Plan, alongside the draft AONB Unit Business Plan for the coming year:

a) AONB Unit Activity Report, October 2015 – April 2016
(Appendix B refers)

This report is a summary of some key AONB projects and activity delivered by the AONB Unit since October 2015. It should be noted that this report is in a new format, drawn directly from the on-line, interactive AONB Management Plan. It is hoped that this will improve efficiency for report-writing and importantly will assist in monitoring the delivery of the Management Plan.

b) Draft AONB Unit Business Plan 2016/17
(Appendix C refers)

An annual review of the AONB Unit business plan is now complete and a draft of the plan is appended.

Decision to be taken

The Committee is asked to:

1. note the reports and offer comments on AONB Unit activity report
2. approve the AONB Unit business plan for 2016/17

Team Activity Report: October 2015 to April 2016

7a Appendix B

To view the online interactive management plan, from which this report is drawn visit <http://forestofbowland.com/action-plan>

Activity title	Action	Start date	End date	Description	Expected outcomes of activity
Pendle Hill LPS	Action 1.6B	Sat, 31 Oct 2015	Sat, 31 Oct 2015	Stage 1 pass achieved October 2015 Development phase is due to run for 18 months 2016-17	Key outcome will be a stage 2 application and submission of the Landscape Character Action Plan
Northern Upland Chain Farmer Panel	Action 2.1B	Sun, 1 Nov 2015	Thu, 31 Mar 2016	Northern Upland Chain (NUC) Local Nature Partnership has initiated the development of a 'Farmer Panel' to represent the interests of upland farmers in the Pennine at national and regional level. Feasibility work (including local meetings with farmers in Bowland) has taken place since November 2015, co-ordinated by John Waldon from the South West Uplands Federation.	Creation of NUC 'Farmer Panel' in spring/summer 2016. Up to 3 farmers from the Forest of Bowland will be nominated by peers/AONB partners to represent the area on the NUC Farmer Panel
Planning web page	Action 1.7B	Tue, 8 Dec 2015	Tue, 8 Dec 2015	Planning and Development web page added http://forestofbowland.com/Planning-and-Development-AONB	
Social Media Training	Action 2.4A	Wed, 9 Dec 2015	Wed, 9 Dec 2015	A Social Media Workshop was also organised for BEx members held at the Tithe Barn, Browsholme Hall on 30th September and was attended by 10 businesses.	
Business specific routes	Action 2.4K	Wed, 9 Dec 2015	Wed, 9 Dec 2015	Developed 3 routes that James' Places businesses can link with - Shireburn Arms and Waddington Arms - making use of existing promoted routes.	
Food related businesses	Action 2.4D	Wed, 9 Dec 2015	Wed, 9 Dec 2015	During 2015 we have recruited 4 food-related businesses to Bowland Experience network: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chipping Farm Shop Wild Boar Park Bowland Outdoor Reared Pork Bowland Chocolates 	
Know your AONB workshop	Action 2.3A	Wed, 9 Dec 2015	Wed, 9 Dec 2015	Workshop designed and delivered to 10 BEx members during 2015.	
E-bulletin and Business Bulletin	Action 4.4B	Wed, 9 Dec 2015	Wed, 9 Dec 2015	E-bulletin distributed quarterly and Bowland Experience bulletin sent out to members every two weeks.	
Interactive Management Plan	Action 4.3B	Wed, 9 Dec 2015	Wed, 9 Dec 2015	Launched the new plan and also held a training workshop in October, run by Countryside, to enable partners to learn how to add their activities and updates.	
Publications	Action 3.4B	Wed, 9 Dec 2015	Wed, 9 Dec 2015	During 2015 we produced the Discovery Guide & Festival events programme, and re-printed Bowland by Bike, Teashops leaflet and Gisburn Bike trails leaflet, along with some electric bike	

				network business cards. BEx businesses supported the production of some of these publications including the Discovery Guide, Teashops and Bike Trails Leaflet and this amounted to £3265.00	
AONB website	Action 3.4A	Wed, 9 Dec 2015	Wed, 9 Dec 2015	New website launched in February 2015. Now optimised for mobile devices, and included an upgrade to Drupal 5.	
Sustainable Tourism Forum	Action 2.2I	Wed, 9 Dec 2015	Wed, 9 Dec 2015	The Sustainable Tourism Forum was held on 10th November, 2015 at the Assheton Arms and was attended by 30 BEx members and partners.	
European Charter	Action 2.2H	Wed, 9 Dec 2015	Wed, 9 Dec 2015	After consultation with BEx and JAC members it was decided that the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism would not be renewed in 2015. However, the principles would still apply and sustainable tourism projects and support for BEx would continue.	
Green Business accreditation	Action 2.2E	Wed, 9 Dec 2015	Wed, 9 Dec 2015	Currently 19 businesses are accredited through the scheme. During 2015 6 businesses have undertaken or have been supported through Green Tourism accreditation including: New accreditations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Riverside Caravan Park, Bentham • Dale House Camping Barn, Gisburn Forest Existing accreditations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bowland Wild Boar Park • Dalesbridge • Cobden Farm • Parkfoot Holiday Homes 	
Updates to online database	Action 2.2B	Wed, 9 Dec 2015	Wed, 9 Dec 2015	Business support have undertaken an audit of both the local producers' database and rural skills database - removing redundant entries and adding new businesses.	
Peat restoration at Brown Syke, Abbeystead	Action 1.3D	Mon, 4 Jan 2016	Mon, 4 Jan 2016	Following the restoration works in 2014, a summer drought resulted in the seeded areas burning off, returning the area to bare peat. In Autumn 2015, EA suggested they could fund further work to rectify this, with additional heather seed, nurse seed, lime and fert being applied in a contract let for Jan - March 2016.	Re-establishment of ground cover over the 40 ha enclosure, with a return to a more typical natural vegetation over time
Festival Bowland programme	Action 3.6A	Mon, 4 Jan 2016	Mon, 4 Jan 2016	Events programme for 2016 now compiled and included as insert within Discover Bowland 2016 guide.	
Pendle Hill - Countryside Stewardship Facilitation Fund Application	Action 2.1F	Mon, 4 Jan 2016	Thu, 17 Mar 2016	The AONB Partnership submitted an application to Natural England's Countryside Stewardship Facilitation Fund in March	Funding application decision expected in late spring/early summer

				2016 to support the development of a farmer facilitation group in the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership area. The group will identify and address local training / skills gaps to help deliver better outcomes for biodiversity and landscape from existing and new agri-environment schemes. 18 farmers/land managers (covering almost 2200ha.) within the Pendle Hill LP area signed up to be involved in this group should the application be successful.	
Update position of SSSI condition status for the AONB	Action 1.3A	Wed, 6 Jan 2016	Wed, 6 Jan 2016	<p>The AONB contains 21 SSSIs covering a total of 16,382ha. As of [date] Natural England* have calculated for us that x% are in favourable condition; x% are in unfavourable recovering condition; x% are in unfavourable no change condition and x% are in unfavourable declining condition.</p> <p><i>*Awaiting latest figures from NE</i></p> <p>Unfavourable no change - New Ings Meadow, Bolton by Bowland (low frequency of indicator species and high grass:herb ratio)</p> <p>Unfavourable declining - units 5, 6, 15, 50 of Bowland Fells (low numbers of breeding black backed gulls)</p> <p>Unfavourable declining - Clear Beck Meadow, Wray (low frequency of indicator species, increase in grass:herb ratio, himalayan balsam infestation, increase in rush cover)</p>	Clear route to target delivery
Local species recovery plans	Action 1.4B	Wed, 6 Jan 2016	Wed, 6 Jan 2016	<p>Plans have been produced for Greater Butterfly orchid, Globeflower and Juniper.</p> <p>All three plans are underway.</p>	Stabilise populations of these species, with expansions into suitable receptor sites if appropriate.
Advice for agri-env scheme agreements on meadow restoration	Action 2.1A	Wed, 6 Jan 2016	Wed, 6 Jan 2016	Advice has been given to potential applicants, NE colleagues and agreement holders on the suitability of sites for meadow restoration, the methods of restoration in practice and the ways of demonstrating success. Numbers are not precise as advice ranges from phone calls through to repeat farm visits, but is in the region of 4-8/yr.	Ensure as many potential meadow restoration schemes with a good chance of success as possible are undertaken.
Countryside Stewardship targeting	Action 2.1F	Wed, 6 Jan 2016	Wed, 6 Jan 2016	CS targeting was completed during 2014-5, using nation-wide data sets rather than local ones. The AONB unit input to the consultation and discussions and offered use of local datasets, but only national sets were used. The mid-tier developed differently, and it was in the Facilitation Funded catchment groups which in the end were most locally focussed. The AONB is a partner in the Loud catchment group (see 1.2E).	CS targeting to develop landscape specific options

BARS2 reporting	Action 4.3C	Wed, 6 Jan 2016	Wed, 6 Jan 2016	BARS2 reporting is completed at regular intervals to detail the peatland restoration and hay meadow restoration work completed by the team which does not utilise any NE funding.	Ensure work undertaken by the AONB partnership contributes to the completion of Bio2020 targets and is recognised as such.
N4N community engagement projects	Action 2.3B	Wed, 6 Jan 2016	Wed, 6 Jan 2016	Supported 'Wildflowers into the meadows' project in which 5 schools visited meadows, grew plug plants and planted them out. Supported Lancaster Beekeepers Community Pollinator Patch Planters project, funding the seed, plug plants and bulbs for 3 nectar patches at the Crook O Lune. Supported 'Chipping in Bloom' group at their meadow garden, giving advice as the area developed, and funding seed and plug plant additions.	Enthuse local groups to produce and manage nectar patches for pollinators
Leagram Tree Shelters	Action 2.3G	Fri, 29 Jan 2016	Fri, 29 Jan 2016	Tarja Wilson worked with the Friends to build bespoke tree shelters at Leagram Mill Farm during winter 2015.	
Slaidburn Archive On-line	Action 2.3D	Fri, 29 Jan 2016	Fri, 29 Jan 2016	Dec 2015/Jan 2106 - Featured a web banner article about Slaidburn Archive's new website and the work of the team there.	
Lord of Bowland 5th Annual Lecture	Action 3.6E	Fri, 29 Jan 2016	Fri, 29 Jan 2016	Supported Lord of Bowland in staging his 5th annual lecture in October 2015 where composer, Christopher Gibbs, talked about the inspiration behind, and played excerpts from, his Forest of Bowland Suite.	
Family-friendly web content	Action 3.4A	Fri, 29 Jan 2016	Fri, 29 Jan 2016	Family Fun page updated and new, on-line, downloadable resources developed and added.	Aim is to increase family audience and to help existing family visitors discover more about the AONB.
Family-friendly web content	Action 3.4D	Mon, 1 Feb 2016	Mon, 1 Feb 2016	Countryside Code info and link added to family-friendly web pages.	
'Upland Management' seminar	Action 2.1I	Mon, 1 Feb 2016	Tue, 1 Mar 2016	Discussions held with Natural England Area Manager regarding seminar for land managers in Bowland	
Promoted Routes Review	Action 3.1A	Mon, 1 Feb 2016	Mon, 1 Feb 2016	Reviewed current web download walk routes: - removed a number which were either surplus, duplicated or which related to Bowland Rambler Bus which no longer runs - temporarily removed a number of routes until access/path surface issues can be resolved - from May 2016 will promote routes seasonally, either as winter or summer walks, keeping particularly wet routes for summer promotion - progressing work done by Cathy Hopley with Community Rail Partnership to develop four walking/cycling routes from stations in the Craven area.	

Ribble Valley pilot	Action 1.3I	Tue, 2 Feb 2016	Tue, 2 Feb 2016	The pilot scheme of marking Special Interest verges within RVBC area is continuing, most recently with the road markings being replaced with orange topped posts. Work has started to extend the pilot into the Lancaster City council area, but progress is slow. The Pendle LPS may offer a new opportunity.	
Pendle Hill landscape partnership	Action 3.1E	Thu, 3 Mar 2016	Thu, 3 Mar 2016	Identifying and restoring/maintaining strategic routes on Pendle Hill is a specific project in the successful LP scheme During the development phase a Visitor Management Plan will assess visitor patterns and identify priority routes requiring investment - whether to repair erosion or to encourage access to under-used areas. Funds will be sought to match HLF investment - hopefully from the Pendle Hill Fund and LEADER	Improved strategic routes in the Pendle Hill area, reducing over use of existing paths and encouraging the use of 'gateway sites'
LCA Photographic Monitoring Project 2015	Action 1.1B	Thu, 3 Mar 2016	Thu, 3 Mar 2016	This project was undertaken by Jon Hickling as a volunteer. Working to a brief Jon took photographs of a selected number of LCAs from identified and easily accessible viewpoints. These are mapped and catalogued, and can therefore be revisited in the future in order to assess any changes to landscape condition. A selection of the photographs will be published on line	Baseline data for future comparison as part of the State of the AONB Report
Pendle Hill Advisory Group	Action 3.3A	Thu, 3 Mar 2016	Thu, 3 Mar 2016	Meeting held in March 2016, involving landowners, local authorities, commons graziers group	
Pendle Hill landscape partnership	Action 2.1G	Thu, 3 Mar 2016	Thu, 3 Mar 2016	An apprenticeship scheme has been included in the successful bid for funds from HLF, this would provide placements for 20 young people to train as apprentices during the lifetime of the scheme During the development phase we will identify a suitable college to administer support and qualifications, a training co-ordinator to manage the project, and a number of employers wishing to take on apprentices	20 apprentices to 'graduate' as part of the programme by 2021
Update, March 2016	Action 2.3I	Fri, 4 Mar 2016	Fri, 4 Mar 2016	The Sustainable Development Fund has continued to be a successful and innovative fund through 2014 and 2015. Funds are now held by Champion Bowland and administered via YDMT under a joint working agreement with the AONB. This enables a more flexible approach for applicants as funds do not have to be drawn down by a financial year end, or allocated in haste in order to commit grants. The SDF panel have approved 8 grants in 2014 totalling over £19,000 and 5 grants in 2015 totalling £16,000 In January 2016 the JAC made the decision to close the grant	Effective support for SDF grant scheme and applicants

				scheme and to re direct funds to the AONB Projects budget in order to deliver clear objectives of the Management Plan. Support will continue to be offered to groups wanting to undertake sustainable activity, and signposting will be offered to alternative grant schemes.	
Update March 2016	Action 4.2A	Fri, 4 Mar 2016	Fri, 4 Mar 2016	<p>A key proposal of the Strategy was to prepare a major bid for funds from HLF's Landscape Partnership Scheme, and a successful first stage pass has now been secured. If this passes stage 2 in Autumn 2018 then £3m of funds will be secured for activity in the Pendle Hill LP area.</p> <p>In addition, the relationship between the AONB and Champion Bowland, as a charity arm which is available to draw down funds not accessible to public bodies, has been formalised and tested. A working agreement between the two organisations exists and is reviewed annually. In 2014/15 Champion Bowland was awarded a £10,000 HLF grant to create an Anniversary Scrapbook for the AONB's 50th anniversary, after several failed attempts from the AONB Unit - illustrating how the charity can be more effective in this role.</p>	Increased income generation
Pendle Hill LP scheme	Action 3.6C	Fri, 4 Mar 2016	Fri, 4 Mar 2016	<p>Within the proposed LP scheme an Outreach project has been identified for delivery 2018-21. This will focus on breaking down barriers for new audiences to access and enjoy the area, as well as providing opportunity to evaluate the health and wellbeing benefits of such a scheme. Based on the successful People and the Dales scheme the outreach project includes funds for facilitators/sessional workers, plus transport and other costs. Funds will come from HLF and we will apply for match funds from AONB, public health/NHS and charitable trusts etc.</p>	An increased number and diversity of visitors from neighbouring communities
Update March 2015	Action 4.2E	Fri, 4 Mar 2016	Fri, 4 Mar 2016	<p>Champion Bowland continues to administer a small grants scheme where applications are administered by the AONB team and finances by YDMT under a service contract. Trustees appraise and approve all grant applications.</p> <p>The Champion Bowland website has been improved and updated to promote the grant scheme and also to encourage public donations to the fund via text (Just Giving) and on line (BT My Donate) both of which are administered free of charge and also provide facilities to take Gift Aid donations</p>	<p>Improved working arrangements between AONB and CB</p> <p>Increased awareness of the small grants scheme and opportunity for visitor-giving</p>
Four Lane Ends Signpost	Action 2.3B	Tue, 15 Mar 2016	Tue, 15 Mar 2016	Supported local resident with information related to potential refurbishment of traditional signpost at Four Lane Ends, Grindleton.	
Routes from businesses	Action 2.4H	Fri, 18 Mar	Fri, 18	Worked with James' Places to establish route options from two of	

		2016	Mar 2016	their Inns - Waddington Arms and Shireburn Arms - linking them with existing promoted routes in Waddington and Hurst Green.	
Facebook business to business page	Action 2.4B	Fri, 18 Mar 2016	Fri, 18 Mar 2016	Created a business to business closed Facebook group to enable members to more easily exchange ideas, share events and ask questions of each other.	
BEx support	Action 2.2C	Fri, 18 Mar 2016	Fri, 18 Mar 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During 2015 recruited 13 new businesses to the Bowland Experience Network Provide regular information and support via bi-monthly business bulletin, highlighting opportunities and updating on news and events in the AONB February 2015 set up a visitor facing Bowland Experience Facebook page to promote the opportunities for the businesses in the network https://www.facebook.com/bowlandexperience/ and also a closed group for members to share ideas and good practice 	
Green Traveller Guide	Action 3.5F	Fri, 18 Mar 2016	Fri, 18 Mar 2016	Green traveller guide updated as new businesses get involved. Recently added Dale House Camping Barn.	
Development of walks and interpretation at rail stations	Action 3.4E	Fri, 18 Mar 2016	Fri, 18 Mar 2016	<p>The AONB are working with Northern Rail and the Bentham Line Community Rail Partnership to put together interpretation boards from rail stations at Giggleswick, Clapham, Bentham & Wennington. The boards will include information about the walking and cycling opportunities in the area, as well as general information about Bowland. We are also going to include information about tourism businesses on the boards and have offered this advertising space to Bowland Experience members.</p> <p>Boards and new walks to be launched in May 2016</p>	
Festival Bowland press	Action 4.4B	Tue, 5 Apr 2016	Tue, 5 Apr 2016	<p>Press releases produced for:</p> <p>2014: Learn to Scythe; Spring events; Celebrating Summer in Bowland</p> <p>2015: Star Gazing event; Archaeology Walk; Family-friendly Summer; New Laund Trumper Days; Rathmell Heritage Ramble; Scything & Coronation Meadows; Summer in Wyre; Claughton Hall Estate Walk; Lord of Bowland 5th Annual Lecture; Lord of Bowland YFC Lecture (on behalf of Lord of Bowland)</p> <p>2016: Easter events</p>	

General Press	Action 4.4B	Tue, 5 Apr 2016	Tue, 5 Apr 2016	<p>Press releases produced for:</p> <p>2014/15: Bowland Scrapbook launch; GTBS accreditations; Discovery and Festival Bowland guide launch; SDF launch</p> <p>2015/16: Museum of Lancashire Exhibition; Rate My View; Bowland Scrapbook; SDF launch; Dark Sky Discovery Sites; Discover/Festival Bowland 2016 launch; Family-friendly Bowland; Outstanding Week 2015; NAAONB/NPE Accord (on behalf of NAAONB); 2016 Hedge Laying Competition</p>	
Landscape Capacity Study for Cumulative Impact of Wind Energy Development	Action 1.7F	Thu, 7 Apr 2016	Thu, 7 Apr 2016	Funding no longer available to support this study	
Review of LPA local plan policies re: AONBs	Action 1.7A	Thu, 17 Sep 2015	Thu, 7 Apr 2016	<p>David Porter from Lancaster City Council has carried out an audit of local planning authority local plan policies pertinent to the AONB, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Landscape - Natural Environment - Rural Development <p>Discussions have taken place within the AONB Funders Group (involving local authority planning policy-makers) on the potential to work towards a harmonisation of these relevant policies as and when LPAs review their respective local plan. It is important to emphasise, this would not be something the AONB Partnership would look to impose on any LPA.</p>	Development of AONB Partnership template policy wording (covering the three policy areas identified) which would be made available to be used as a guidance document by LPAs when reviewing their respective local plan
Ribble Life Together	Action 1.2E	Thu, 7 Apr 2016	Thu, 7 Apr 2016	<p>'Ribble Life Together' is a Ribble Life Catchment Partnership project run by Ribble Rivers trust which commenced in 2015. It is an ambitious project that brings together all members of the Ribble's Catchment Based Approach Partnership. The project seeks to develop and then deliver a range of activities that will significantly improve the Ribble Catchment for people and wildlife.</p> <p>The project hopes to achieve the following objectives;</p> <p>Improved water quality: reduced diffuse pollution sources including faecal matter to improve coastal bathing waters.</p> <p>Improved biodiversity: increased riverine & other habitats, connectivity and re-naturalisation.</p>	

				<p>Reduced flood risk: using natural processes aid in reducing flood risk.</p> <p>Recreation: improved access and information for people to access rivers and streams.</p> <p>Education: increase awareness, engagement and understanding of riverine heritage.</p> <p>Social: provide training, volunteering and other opportunities for all to become involved in improving and celebrating their river heritage.</p> <p>Economic: increased use of the catchment for tourism & recreation, as well as working with local businesses.</p> <p>Climate change: increase carbon sequestration and shading of streams.</p> <p>Partnerships: demonstrate how aligning partner's activities can lead to a range of multiple benefits.</p> <p>The Principal AONB Officer has been regularly attending the Partnership Board which oversees the management and delivery of the project. Other AONB team members have also been involved in advising the project team in the development of walking routes within the catchment and on interpretation/community engagement.</p>	
Natural England 'Ecosystem Approach' Self-Assessment	Action 1.2B	Thu, 7 Apr 2016	Thu, 7 Apr 2016	<p>An initial self-assessment of the AONB Partnership was carried out by the Principal AONB Officer (in consultation with the other members of the AONB unit) during April 2016.</p> <p>‘Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England’s wildlife and ecosystem services’ (Defra, 2011) includes ‘Outcome 1C: By 2020, at least 17% of land and inland water, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, conserved through effective, integrated and joined up approaches to safeguard biodiversity and ecosystem services including through management of our existing systems of protected areas and the establishment of nature improvement areas’.</p> <p>The self-assessment provides a tool to support partnerships and learn from the progress made in deploying ‘integrated and joined</p>	<p>It is expected that such large scale partnerships will seek to progress towards meeting the Outcome by 2020 (and as soon as reasonably practical). Once the partnership has ‘met’ the criteria, the area of the partnership will contribute to the 17%.</p> <p>A re-assessment maybe carried out within the next two years to ascertain progress in areas identified for improvement.</p>

				<p>up approaches' that deliver for both biodiversity and multiple ecosystem services, thereby adding value over and above other outcomes in Biodiversity 2020.</p> <p>The results of the assessment identified that the AONB Partnership is generally delivering an integrated and joined up approach to managing ecosystem services provided by the AONB. There are a number of areas for improvement, particularly in data-gathering and valuing for 'cultural services' such as health and well-being</p>	
Pendle Hill LPS	Action 1.6B	Thu, 7 Apr 2016	Thu, 7 Apr 2016	<p>Permission to start granted by the Heritage Lottery Fund in February 2016.</p> <p>Cathy Hopley has been seconded from AONB unit to Pendle Hill LP Development Officer position, commencing this new role on 1st April 2016.</p>	

FOREST OF BOWLAND

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

**AONB Unit Business Plan
DRAFT April 2016**

AONB Unit Business Plan 2016-2019

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 rural 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, Food 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 AONB Unit comprises four people (4 FTE) and two project staff (1.6FTE), with additional support from Lancashire County Council Senior Environmental Project Officer.

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 2016 - 2019. 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, culture and heritage
- 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 2016 - 2019

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 lengthsman 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 manage the AONB Sustainable Development Fund and Champion Bowland Small Grants Fund; whilst also responding to local community requests for advice and support 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

EL – Elliott Lorimer, Principal AONB Officer

HB – Hetty Byrne, Sustainable Tourism Officer

SS – Sandra Silk, Projects and Events Officer

DFO – Vacant, to be recruited March/April 2016 – Development and Funding Officer (up to 18-month temporary cover)

Project staff

CH – Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership Development Officer (up to 18-month secondment)

SR – Sarah Robinson, 'Wildflowers in the Meadows' Project Officer

Lancashire County Council Countryside and Environmental and Community Projects

DP – Dave Padley, Environmental Projects Officer

TB – Tim Blythe, Countryside and AONB Service Manager

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:	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	AONB MP 2014 – 2019 Objectives	Unit lead and support
OLI.1 Provide advice, guidance and encouragement to land managers on sustainable land management of the AONB landscape	On-going	On-going	On-going	1.1, 1.2, 2.1	DP/SR/EL
	Hold regular CS liaison meetings with local NE Land Management Advisors	Hold regular CS liaison meetings with local NE Land Management Advisors	Hold regular CS liaison meetings with local NE Land Management Advisors		SR/EL/DP
	Countryside Stewardship Facilitation Group for Pendle Hill LPS area established (subject to successful application to NE CSFFund) Assist development of NUCLNP Result-based Agri-environment				SR/CH/EL SR/EL

	Payments Scheme pilot				
OLI.2 Liaise with woodland planting and management initiatives to encourage and support appropriate woodland extension, creation and management within the AONB landscape	<p>On-going</p> <p>Respond to FC consultations regarding felling licences, woodland management plans and woodland grant applications</p> <p>Develop visitor-giving initiative with BEx businesses to support future replacement of 'landscape' or 'veteran' trees lost due to age/tree disease</p>	<p>On-going</p> <p>Respond to FC consultations regarding felling licences, woodland management plans and woodland grant applications</p>	<p>On-going</p> <p>Respond to FC consultations regarding felling licences, woodland management plans and woodland grant applications</p>	I.1	<p>EL</p> <p>SS/HB</p>
OLI.3 Develop design guidance notes for riverside and moorland fencing	Draft guidance notes developed	Guidance notes published		I.1	EL/DP
OLI.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 River Catchment Partnership meetings	Regular attendance at River Catchment Partnership meetings	Regular attendance at River Catchment Partnership meetings	I.1, I.2, I.3, I.4	EL/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:	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	AONB MP 2014 – 2019 Objectives	Unit lead and support
OL2.1 Deliver an annual programme of traditional boundaries projects	At least 2 projects delivered	At least 2 projects delivered	At least 2 projects delivered	1.1, 1.6, 2.1	DP
OL2.2 Provide training opportunities and competitions in hedge-laying and walling (including schools and vocational training)	4 training days provided 1 event held	4 training days provided 1 event held	4 training days provided 1 event held	1.1, 1.6, 2.1	DP/SS
OL3 Co-ordinate partner activity in conserving and enhancing biodiversity and in developing a better understanding and management of ecosystem services within the AONB					
We will:	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	AONB MP 2014 – 2019 Objectives	Unit lead and support
OL3.1 Hold regular meeting of the AONB Biodiversity Working Group to support the delivery of Biodiversity 2020 'outcomes' (Refer to Annual Delivery Plan for further details)	2 meetings held per year Annual Delivery Plan reviewed	2 meetings held per year Annual Delivery Plan reviewed	2 meetings held per year Annual Delivery Plan reviewed	1.2, 1.3, 1.4	SR/DFO

	<p>At least 2 local species recovery plans developed</p> <p>Delivery of established local species recovery plans (juniper, globeflower and greater butterfly orchid)</p> <p>Continue surveying for additional priority habitats to help restoration and creation projects</p> <p>Complete ecosystems approach self-assessment (BD2020 Outcome 1C)</p> <p>Develop summary outlining Bowland's peatland, woodland and grassland investment</p>	<p>At least 2 local species recovery plans developed</p> <p>Continue surveying for additional priority habitats to help restoration and creation projects</p>	<p>Review ecosystems approach self-assessment (BD2020 Outcome 1C)</p>		<p>EL</p> <p>EL/SR</p>
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	opportunities to accompany NUCLNP Natural Capital Investment Plans				
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>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>Continue photographic and vegetation survey monitoring programme at restoration project sites involving local volunteers</p>	<p>Attend Lancashire & Pennine Peat Partnership meetings</p> <p>Continue delivery of the Pennine Peat LIFE project activity in the AONB and wider Lancashire (subject to funding being secured)</p> <p>Continue photographic and vegetation survey monitoring programme at restoration project sites involving local volunteers</p>	<p>Attend Lancashire & Pennine Peat Partnership meetings</p> <p>Continue delivery of the Pennine Peat LIFE project activity in the AONB and wider Lancashire (subject to funding being secured)</p> <p>Continue photographic and vegetation survey monitoring programme at restoration project sites involving local volunteers</p>	1.2, 1.3, 2.1	DP/EL
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	Hold regular meetings with local NE Land Management Advisors	Hold regular meetings with local NE Land Management Advisors	Hold regular meetings with local NE Land Management Advisors	1.2, 1.3, 2.1	SR/DP

Countryside Stewardship					
OL3.4 Encourage good practice in upland heather burning and alternatives; helping to develop a fire prevention strategy and fire plans for the area	Chair regular AONB-wide fire operations group meetings and exercises	Chair regular AONB-wide fire operations group meetings and exercises	Chair regular AONB-wide fire operations group meetings and exercises	2.1, 3.2	EL
OL3.5 Delivery of 'Wildflowers for the Meadows' (up to end March 2017) to help conserve and enhance species-rich grassland within the AONB <i>(Refer to 'Wildflowers for the Meadows' Project Plan for further details)</i>	Continue work with community groups to develop sustainable restoration projects for species-rich grassland and small sites Continue with 'field-scale' meadow restoration Carry out monitoring of project restoration sites Conserve, restore and create 10ha of species-rich grassland			1.3, 2.3	SR/DFO

	<p>Hold 7 community engagement events</p> <p>Develop best practice advice and guidance with NUC LNP for species-rich grassland restoration and management</p> <p>Submit funding bids to continue and AONB species-rich grassland restoration project in 2017/18 and beyond</p>	Continue species-rich grassland restoration project (subject to funding being secured)			
OL3.6 Support Bowland Land Managers Forum to develop collaborative land management project	<p>Carry out further feasibility and IUCN assessment for restoration of Black grouse to Bowland Fells</p> <p>Subject to feasibility report, submit funding bids to support Black grouse translocation</p>	Delivery of project commences (subject to funding being secured)		1.4, 2.1	<p>EL</p> <p>EL/DFO</p>

	project				
OL3.7 Develop proposals for AONB woodland project to involve woodland owners/managers and communities in improving and increasing woodland management, supporting traditional skills such as coppicing	Hold AONB conference/seminar for landowners, farmers and community groups on opportunities for improving woodland management			1.2, 1.3	DFO/SR
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 Hen Harrier Joint Action Plan	<p>Work with Natural England and local partners to develop local actions to support the implementation of the Joint Hen Harrier Action Plan</p> <p>Active participation in the 'Northern England Protected Landscapes Hen Harrier Group' meetings to annually agree and implement (where necessary) response protocols for</p>	<p>Work with Natural England and local partners to develop local actions to support the implementation of the Joint Hen Harrier Action Plan</p> <p>Active participation in the 'Northern England Protected Landscapes Hen Harrier Group' meetings to annually agree and implement (where necessary) response protocols</p>	<p>Work with Natural England and local partners to develop local actions to support the implementation of the Joint Hen Harrier Action Plan</p> <p>Active participation in the 'Northern England Protected Landscapes Hen Harrier Group' meetings to annually agree and implement (where necessary) response protocols for</p>	1.4	EL

	breeding HH in England	for breeding HH in England	breeding HH in England		
OL3.8 Work with Northern Upland Chain Local Nature Partnership (and other LNPs where appropriate) to develop LNP-wide initiatives to conserve and enhance biodiversity and management of the area's natural capital	<p>Regularly attend NUC LNP board meetings and annual forum</p> <p>Active involvement of AONB unit and local farmers in NUCLNP High Nature Value Farming Group</p> <p>Chair and lead the work of the NUCLNP Hay Meadows Group</p>	<p>Regularly attend NUC LNP board meetings and annual forum</p> <p>Active involvement of AONB unit and local farmers in NUCLNP High Nature Value Farming Group</p>	<p>Regularly attend NUC LNP board meetings and annual forum</p> <p>Active involvement of AONB unit and local farmers in NUCLNP High Nature Value Farming Group</p>		<p>EL</p> <p>SR</p> <p>EL</p>
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:	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	AONB MP 2014 – 2019 Objectives	Unit lead and support
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	Appropriate responses provided	Appropriate responses provided	Appropriate responses provided	1.1, 1.7	EL

other local, sub-national and national strategies)					
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	DFO/EL
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, tourism business development, energy efficiency in older buildings)	Planning and development seminar held			1.1, 1.2, 1.7	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:	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	AONB MP 2014 – 2019 Objectives	Unit lead and support
SCI.1 Support Parish Councils to continue to fund and manage existing lengthsman schemes	AONB grant offer made to Parish Councils/Meetings	AONB grant offer made to Parish Councils/Meetings	AONB grant offer made to Parish Councils/Meetings	2.3, 4.2	DP/SS
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	SS

SC2 Support and promote local businesses and products to maintain their viability					
We will:	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	AONB MP 2014 – 2019 Objectives	Unit lead and support
SC2.1 Support local businesses, via provision of advice, signposting, funding opportunities (e.g. LEADER), training, networking opportunities and events	One-to-one business advice / support provided	One-to-one business advice / support provided	One-to-one business advice / support provided	2.2, 2.3, 2.4	HB/EL
SC2.2 Continue to provide support for Bowland Experience Ltd. (BEx)	<p>BEx board meetings held (min. 2/year)</p> <p>Work alongside YDMT to provide secretariat for BEx board</p> <p>Regular tourism business bulletin produced and distributed</p> <p>2 BEx training events held and evaluated</p> <p>Develop a network of</p>	<p>BEx board meetings held (min. 2/year)</p> <p>Work alongside YDMT to provide secretariat for BEx board</p> <p>Regular tourism business bulletin produced and distributed</p> <p>2 BEx training events held and evaluated</p>	<p>BEx board meetings held (min. 2/year)</p> <p>Work alongside YDMT to provide secretariat for BEx board</p> <p>Regular tourism business bulletin produced and distributed</p> <p>2 BEx training events held and evaluated</p>	2.2, 2.4	HB

	BEx businesses willing to offer advice/guidance on best practice in sustainable tourism				
SC2.3 Continue to support the development, management and promotion of the Champion Bowland	<p>Work alongside YDMT to provide secretariat for Champion Bowland board of trustees</p> <p>Champion Bowland trustees meetings held (min. 2/year)</p> <p>Manage and administer Champion Bowland Small Grants Fund</p> <p>Delivery of AONB 'Farm Visit Transport Fund' through Champion Bowland</p>	<p>Work alongside YDMT to provide secretariat for Champion Bowland board of trustees</p> <p>Champion Bowland trustees meetings held (min. 2/year)</p>	<p>Work alongside YDMT to provide secretariat for Champion Bowland board of trustees</p> <p>Champion Bowland trustees meetings held (min. 2/year)</p>	2.2, 2.3, 2.4	<p>DFO/HB</p> <p>DFO/SS</p> <p>SS</p>
SC2.5 Support the continued development of 'Bowland Land Managers Forum'	Regular forum meetings held	Regular forum meetings held	Regular forum meetings held	2.1, 2.2, 4.2	EL

	<p>Hold 'Upland Management' seminar for wider land management sector in AONB</p> <p>Involve Forum members in the Northern Upland Chain LNP High-Nature Value Farming Group and LEADER LAGs</p>	<p>Involve Forum members in the Northern Upland Chain LNP High-Nature Value Farming Group and LEADER LAGs</p>	<p>Involve Forum members in the Northern Upland Chain LNP High-Nature Value Farming Group and LEADER LAGs</p>		
SC2.6 Develop and support apprenticeship schemes in countryside management, heritage and traditional rural skills	<p>Liaise and support YDMT 'Green Futures' Apprenticeship Scheme</p> <p>Develop apprenticeships scheme as part of PHLP Development Phase</p>		<p>Deliver apprenticeships scheme as part of PHLP Development Phase</p>		<p>EL</p> <p>CH</p>

SC3 Continue to manage the Sustainable Development Fund and Champion Bowland Small Grants Fund; whilst also responding to local community requests for advice and support on funding, project management and volunteering					
We will:	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	AONB MP 2014 – 2019 Objectives	Unit lead and support
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.	Funded projects completed and monitoring information returned, as required SDF Annual Report produced			2.2, 4.2	CH/DFO
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 co-ordinate and deliver a programme of awareness-raising activities (where resource allow) to promote work of the AONB within local communities e.g. talks,	10 community groups advised/supported Continue to co-ordinate and deliver a programme of awareness-raising activities (where resource allow) to promote work of the AONB within local communities e.g. talks,	10 community groups advised/supported Continue to co-ordinate and deliver a programme of awareness-raising activities (where resource allow) to promote work of the AONB within local communities e.g. talks,	2.3	DFO/SS/SR HB/All

	attendance at shows and events	attendance at shows and events	attendance at shows and events		
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:	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	AONB MP 2014 – 2019 Objectives	Unit lead and support
SC4.1 Promote the strong 'brand identity' for AONB visitors, working closely with tourism organisations, visitor information centres, businesses and gateway towns	<p>Sense of Place themes and branding used in variety of formats (e.g. website, exhibition panels, pop-up banners)</p> <p>Continue collaboration with Marketing Lancashire, Welcome to Yorkshire and district tourism partners to effectively promote AONB as a sustainable tourism destination</p>	<p>Sense of Place themes and branding used in variety of formats (e.g. website, exhibition panels, pop-up banners)</p> <p>Continue collaboration with Marketing Lancashire, Welcome to Yorkshire and district tourism partners to effectively promote AONB as a sustainable tourism destination</p>	<p>Sense of Place themes and branding used in variety of formats (e.g. website, exhibition panels, pop-up banners)</p> <p>Continue collaboration with Marketing Lancashire, Welcome to Yorkshire and district tourism partners to effectively promote AONB as a sustainable tourism destination</p>	3.4, 3.5	<p>HB/CH</p> <p>HB</p>
SC4.2 Support sustainable tourism projects in the AONB	At least 1 sustainable tourism projects	At least 1 sustainable tourism projects	At least 1 sustainable tourism projects	2.2, 2.4, 3.4C	HB

	<p>delivered, (including 'business cluster' projects)</p> <p>Ensure AONB businesses involvement in RDPE/LEADER LAGs (potential applicants & project ideas)</p> <p>Re-issue AONB Discovery Guide 2017. Review and reprint if funding permits and tourism businesses support</p> <p>Develop promotions, publicity and interpretation at rail stations with Northern Rail and Community Rail Partnerships</p>	<p>delivered, (including 'business cluster' projects)</p> <p>Ensure AONB businesses involvement in RDPE/LEADER LAGs (potential applicants & project ideas)</p> <p>Re-issue AONB Discovery Guide 2018. Review and reprint if funding permits and tourism businesses support</p>	<p>delivered, (including 'business cluster' projects)</p> <p>Ensure AONB businesses involvement in RDPE/LEADER LAGs (potential applicants & project ideas)</p> <p>Re-issue AONB Discovery Guide 2019. Review and reprint if funding permits and tourism businesses support</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)	<p>Work with Marketing Lancashire to gather visitor survey data, as part of Lancashire's Destination Management Plan</p> <p>Review of tourism business monitoring research to focus more on AONB data needs and carry out initial survey research</p>	If agreed, continue tourism business monitoring research on tourism business 'health-check' and 'importance of AONB' data	<p>Work with Marketing Lancashire to gather visitor survey data, as part of Lancashire's Destination Management Plan</p> <p>If agreed, continue tourism business monitoring research on tourism business 'health-check' and 'importance of AONB' data</p>	2.2, 2.4	HB
SC4.5 Promote and share good practice of the AONB, as a Protected Landscape leading the development of sustainable tourism in UK and Europe	Continue to work with NAAONB, other Protected Landscapes & Visit England to develop sustainable tourism collaboration amongst AONBs			2.2, 2.4, 4.4	HB

SC4.6 Continue to promote local produce and farming	<p>Manage, review and update local produce database</p> <p>AONB attendance at at least 2 agri. shows/ local produce events per year</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>	2.1, 2.2	HB
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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:	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	AONB MP 2014 – 2019 Objectives	Unit lead and support
PL1.1 Work in partnership with key stakeholders to manage, maintain, and improve access in the wider countryside of the AONB;	Regular meetings of local stakeholders (e.g. Pendle Hill Advisory Group, Stocks and Gisburn Forest) to consider access and recreation issues	Regular meetings of local stakeholders (e.g. Pendle Hill Advisory Group, Stocks and Gisburn Forest) to consider access and recreation issues	Regular meetings of local stakeholders (e.g. Pendle Hill Advisory Group, Stocks and Gisburn Forest) to consider access and recreation issues	3.1, 3.2, 3.3	EL/DP/CH
PL1.2 Carry out regular reviews of existing AONB promoted routes	Continue to support volunteer monitoring system for existing AONB promoted routes Review and prioritise promoted routes up to 4 times/year (review based on seasonal promotion, route condition,	Continue to support volunteer monitoring system for existing AONB promoted routes Review and prioritise promoted routes up to 4 times/year (review based on seasonal promotion, route condition,	Continue to support volunteer monitoring system for existing AONB promoted routes Review and prioritise promoted routes up to 4 times/year (review based on seasonal promotion, route condition,	3.1, 3.2, 3.3	SS/DP

	maintenance)	maintenance)	maintenance)		
PLI.3 Review, rationalise and develop downloadable promoted routes as required	Review, rationalise and create new downloadable promoted route cards where required	Review, rationalise and create new downloadable promoted route cards where required	Review, rationalise and create new downloadable promoted route cards where required	3.1, 3.2, 3.3	HB/SS/DP
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	If commence improvement work for first sections of Gisburn Forest to Settle link route		3.1, 3.2	DP/EL
PLI.5 Develop 'tramper' access projects	1 project/route maintained, improved or created	1 project/route maintained, improved or created	1 project/route maintained, improved or created	3.1, 3.2, 3.3	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	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:	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	AONB MP 2014 – 2019 Objectives	Unit lead and support
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</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</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</p> <p>Annual review and evaluation of aims and content of FB completed and acted upon</p>	3.4, 3.5	SS
PL2.2 Publicise Festival Bowland programme	FB brochure produced	FB brochure produced	FB brochure produced	3.4, 3.6	SS

	Monthly FB events posters produced and distributed	Monthly FB events posters produced and distributed	Monthly FB events posters produced and distributed		
	6 press releases/year produced to promote FB events	6 press releases/year produced to promote FB events	6 press releases/year produced to promote FB events		
	Update Google calendar and LOIS database with FB events	Update Google calendar and LOIS database with FB events	Update Google calendar and LOIS database with FB events		
PL2.3 Support and promote external events and tourism businesses that help to deliver AONB objectives	Maintain LOIS database for partner-led events and accommodation listings on Marketing Lancashire's AONB destination guide	Maintain LOIS database for partner-led events and accommodation listings on Marketing Lancashire's AONB destination guide	Maintain LOIS database for partner-led events and accommodation listings on Marketing Lancashire's AONB destination guide	3.4, 3.6	HB/SS
PL2.4 Management and implementation of the Forest of Bowland AONB communications, branding and graphic standards	Maintain branding guidelines for partnership organisations and businesses, where required	Carry out review and update branding guidelines for partnership organisations and businesses	Maintain and update branding guidelines for partnership organisations and businesses, where required	3.4, 3.5, 4.4	HB

	Develop Communications Strategy and Action Plan for Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership	Use PHLP Communications Strategy template to review overall AONB Communications Strategy			HB
PL2.5 Refurbish or replace AONB boundary signs at key visitor 'gateways' to the AONB	2 boundary signs refurbished or replaced (if funding allows)	2 boundary signs refurbished or replaced (if funding allows)	2 boundary signs refurbished or replaced (if funding allows)	2.3, 3.5	DP
PL2.6 Manage and maintain stocks of printed AONB publications (including 'Take One Media' brochure and leaflet distribution service)	Review current printed publications and update/rationalise as appropriate Regular review of Take One Media reports	Review current printed publications and update/rationalise as appropriate Regular review of Take One Media reports	Review current printed publications and update/rationalise as appropriate Regular review of Take One Media reports	3.4, 4.4	SS/HB
PL2.7 Regularly review and update the content of AONB website, in line with AONB Management Plan objectives and actions	Periodic review and update of web content completed Website data analysis completed and disseminated	Periodic review and update of web content completed Website data analysis completed and disseminated	Periodic review and update of web content completed Website data analysis completed and disseminated	1.5A, 1.6D, 1.7B, 3.4, 3.5, 4.4	HB HB

	Develop web content and resources on geodiversity and historic environment	Develop web content and resources on geodiversity and historic environment			SS/DFO
PL2.8 Review design of AONB website	Update in line with current projects/activities	Carry out review/refresh of AONB website design	Update in line with current projects/activities	3.4, 3.5, 4.4	HB
PL2.9 Research good practice in use of emerging technology to help interpret and promote the AONB	Continue to develop use of social media to promote AONB (e.g. Twitter, Facebook)	Continue to develop use of social media to promote AONB (e.g. Twitter, Facebook) Research new technologies for use in communications and interpretation to develop a wider audience for AONB projects and activity (e.g. PHLP)	Continue to develop use of social media to promote AONB (e.g. Twitter, Facebook) Develop new technologies for use in communications and interpretation to develop a wider audience for AONB projects and activity (e.g. PHLP)	3.4, 4.4	HB/SS CH/HB
PL2.10 Source and promote newsworthy stories that promote the AONB and work of the partnership	Quarterly e-bulletin produced and promoted	Quarterly e-bulletin produced and promoted	Quarterly e-bulletin produced and promoted	3.4, 4.4	HB

	Contacts maintained within local, regional and national media	Contacts maintained within local, regional and national media	Contacts maintained within local, regional and national media		SS
	At least 10 AONB press releases per year produced	At least 10 AONB press releases per year produced	At least 10 AONB press releases per year produced		SS
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:	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	AONB MP 2014 – 2019 Objectives	Unit lead and support
PL3.1 Support the development of the 'Friends of Bowland', to co-ordinate and support volunteers for the AONB	Where appropriate, attend 'Friends' committee meetings as liaison with AONB Unit/Partnership	Where appropriate, attend 'Friends' committee meetings as liaison with AONB Unit/Partnership	Where appropriate, attend 'Friends' committee meetings as liaison with AONB Unit/Partnership	2.3	SS/EL
	Assist 'Friends' in development of events/activities programmes	Assist 'Friends' in development of events/activities programmes	Assist 'Friends' in development of events/activities programmes		SS
	Develop at least one joint project/event	Develop at least one joint project/event	Develop at least one joint project/event		SS

	with 'Friends'	with 'Friends'	with 'Friends'		SS
	Work with Friends and LCC Volunteer Ranger Service and other volunteer groups to develop an AONB volunteering strategy/plan				
PL3.2 Develop the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership scheme, working towards HLF LPS Stage 2 Award and Delivery Phase <i>(Refer to Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership Project Plans for further details)</i>	Commence Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership scheme development phase Appoint PHLP Development Officer and Graduate Trainee Complete contracts for research and consultancy support Complete arts-based community consultation and audience development	Draft joint-working agreement and get signed by all required partners Complete PHLP Landscape Conservation Action Plan Year 1 Delivery Phase match-funding secured Submit Pendle Hill LPS Stage 2 application	Commence Delivery Phase of Pendle Hill LPS (subject to Stage 2 pass)	1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 1.6, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 3.1, 3.3, 3.5	CH/EL/HB/DP

	activities				
PL3.3 Continue development of community outreach activities to encourage new audiences that traditionally do not know about or visit the AONB	Develop community outreach activities as part of PHLP Development Phase	Develop community outreach activities as part of PHLP Development Phase	Deliver community outreach activities as part of PHLP Development Phase	3.6	CH
PL3.4 Produce on-line resources for use by schools and investigate feasibility to support group visits to AONB farms with educational access and other suitable sites	<p>Review uptake of online educational resources and improve/amend as appropriate</p> <p>Deliver a series of supported group visits to AONB educational access and other suitable sites</p>	Review uptake of online educational resources and improve/amend as appropriate	<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</p>	3.4, 3.6, 4.4	<p>SS</p> <p>SS</p> <p>CH</p>

			Pendle Hill LPS Development Phase		
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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:	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	AONB MP 2014 – 2019 Objectives	Unit lead and support
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	Continue to liaise with local authorities, utility company and other government agencies to raise awareness of AONB Management Plan and its delivery	Develop Partnership Advocacy Plan (in conjunction with review of AONB 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	4.1, 4.4C	EL

API.3 Ensure effective and inclusive consultation is carried out on all major AONB strategies and activity	On-going	On-going	On-going	2.3, 4.4	EL
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
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	DFO
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 and projects in the AONB in partnership with local authority countryside and environmental projects teams	LCC E&C Projects and Countryside staff attend/invited to AONB team meetings, where appropriate Periodic meetings held with local authority and United Utilities countryside staff	LCC E&C Projects and Countryside staff attend/invited to AONB team meetings, where appropriate Periodic meetings held with local authority and United Utilities countryside staff	LCC E&C Projects and Countryside staff attend/invited to AONB team meetings, where appropriate Periodic meetings held with local authority and United Utilities countryside staff	4.1, 4.4	EL/TB
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:	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	AONB MP 2014 – 2019 Objectives	Unit lead and support
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			4.1	EL

	partners completed				
	Investigate potential for JAC members to act as portfolio-holders and AONB champions				
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>Hold AONB conference/seminar</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> <p>Hold AONB conference/seminar</p>	4.1	<p>EL</p> <p>DFO/SR</p>
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 Understanding (MoU) is in place for AONB partners	Consider options for new Partnership memorandum of understanding for 2016/17 and beyond New MoU signed by all partners	New MoU signed by all partners		4.1, 4.4	EL/TB
AP2.5 Develop a fund-raising strategy for the AONB partnership		Review strategy and continue implementation, as appropriate		4.2	DFO
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	EL/TB
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	EL/TB
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 Implement AONB Unit environmental policy and action plan	Review AONB Unit Environmental Policy, with new actions and targets set Carbon reduction targets achieved (including move to new premises)	Review AONB Unit Environmental Policy, with new actions and targets set Carbon reduction targets achieved (including move to new premises)	Review AONB Unit Environmental Policy, with new actions and targets set Carbon reduction targets achieved (including move to new premises)	4.1	DFO
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Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership

Update April 2016

Milestones

On 31st October 2015 the Forest of Bowland AONB was informed that the application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership scheme had been successful. This releases £156,400 of grant aid for an 18 month Development Phase, which we will match with £59,750 of cash and support in kind.

On 1st April 2016 the AONB seconded Cathy Hopley to the post of Development Officer for the Pendle Hill LP scheme, with the aim of submitting a stage 2 application to HLF in September 2017

Objectives of the Development Phase

The key objectives are to:

- Appoint a Development Officer
- Review the landscape character assessment for the project area
- Undertake consultation and 'Gathering' events
- Develop the scheme and individual project proposals under the headings of Environment, Economy and Everyone
- Raise match funding for at least year 1 of the Delivery Phase (due to start April 2018)
- Develop and produce a Landscape Conservation Action Plan (LCAP) and stage 2 application to HLF

Progress to date

As the project was delayed in starting, a number of 'development stage commissions' were lined up to start and preliminary discussions have been held with a number of partners:

Start-up meeting held with HLF officers and the 'mentor' appointed by them to support us: Alison Millward

£15,000 grant secured from Arts Council England to support the 'Pendle Hill Gatherings' arts development programme for 2016

Application submitted to Natural England for £104,000 for a 'Pendle Famers Network' under the Countryside Stewardship Facilitation Fund, this would be a five year project running from 2016 with 3 years in the Delivery Phase. We should hear back on this in June/July

Web page set up www.forestofbowland.com/Opportunities and utilised to advertise contracts so that we are openly procuring services

Facebook page set up for 'Pendle Hill HLF Project' – please visit and 'like' us! This will be the main communication channel for early news on the project

In-Situ arts have been appointed to manage the arts development activity – this involves managing three artistic commissions which will gather information to help build our 'Pendle Hill Story Map' and the Audience Development Plan; they will also support local artists' professional development, draw up artists' briefs, and submit applications for match funding for the Delivery Phase.

Rigby Jerram has been appointed as the contractor to carry out a habitat and boundaries survey of the LP area. This is a crucial piece of work as it will record the condition of traditional boundaries (walls, hedgerows and railings) and identify lengths and clusters most in need of restoration. The habitat survey will assess the entire 120 sq km of land and identify sites which can be conserved, restored and extended for wildlife.

Robin Gray has been appointed as the contractor to carry out and review the Landscape Character Assessment of the LP area, and to adjust or confirm the boundaries proposed in our application.

Initial meetings and discussions have been held with partners including: Burnley College, RSPB, Pendle Tourism, Lancashire LEADER programme, Natural England, County Council, East Lancashire community re-start service, and the Dry Stone Walling Association.