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

Thursday, 25th October, 2018 at 2.00 pm in Higham Village Hall, Higham Hall Road, Higham BB12 9EU

### Schedule of Events

10am	Arrival and refreshments at Higham Village Hall
10.30am	Depart for project site visit
12.45pm approx	Return to Village Hall
1pm	Lunch
2pm	Meeting
4pm approx	Finish

### Agenda

- 1. Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair**
- 2. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies for Absence**
- 3. Short Films from Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership**
- 4. 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.
- 5. Constitution, Membership and Terms of Reference** (Pages 1 - 4)
- 6. Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 April 2018** (Pages 5 - 12)
- 7. Partner Updates**
- 8. Revised Estimates 2018/19 and Revenue Budget 2019/20** (Pages 13 - 18)
- 9. AONB Unit Business Plan 2018-2021** (Pages 19 - 40)
- 10. AONB Unit Activity Report** (To Be Tabled)

**11. Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership** (To Be Tabled)

**12. Management Plan Review - Progress Report** (Pages 41 - 96)

**13. Review of Designated Landscapes** (Verbal Report)

**14. Any Other Business**

**15. 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.

**16. Date of Next Meeting**

The proposed dates and locations of the meetings to be held in 2019 are:

Thursday, 18 April 2019 in Wyre district, venue to be confirmed

Thursday, 24 October 2019 in Preston district, venue to be confirmed

Samantha Gorton  
Democratic Services

Lancashire County Council  
County Hall  
Preston

# Agenda Item 5

## **Constitution, Membership and Terms of Reference of the Advisory Committee 2018/19**

### **Issue for Consideration**

The Constitution, Membership and Terms of Reference of the Advisory Committee for 2018/19.

### **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 2018/19. The Constitution and Membership of the Advisory Committee for 2018/19 is, therefore, as follows:-

#### **Lancashire County Council**

County Councillor A Atkinson  
County Councillor S Charles  
County Councillor S Turner

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

County Councillor R Welch

#### **Craven District Council**

Councillor I Thompson

#### **Lancaster City Council**

Councillor J Parkinson

#### **Wyre Borough Council**

Councillor V Wilson

#### **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**

Vacant

**Yorkshire Local Councils Association**

Mr C Price

**United Utilities**

Mr M Upton

**Environment Agency**

Ms H Dix

**Natural England**

Ms R Budd

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

Ms B Denman

**Bowland Land Managers' Forum**

Mr A Taylor

**Ramblers Association**

Mr D Kelly

**Champion Bowland**

Mr P Reynolds

**Friends of Bowland**

Ms M Pilkington

**Moorland Association**

Vacant

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

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

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

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

Brief for the Joint Advisory Committee:

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

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



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

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 19th April, 2018 at 2.00 pm in Melling Institute, Hornby Road, Melling, LA6 2RA**

### **Present:**

#### **Chair**

County Councillor Albert Atkinson, Lancashire County Council

#### **Committee Members**

Councillor John Browne, Preston City Council  
County Councillor Mrs Susie Charles, Lancashire County Council  
County Councillor Shaun Turner  
Councillor Mrs Rosemary Elms, Ribble Valley Borough Council  
Councillor Jane Parkinson, Lancaster City Council  
Michael Helm, LALC  
David Kelly, Ramblers Association  
Colin Price, Yorkshire Local Councils Association  
Mr Andrew Taylor, Bowland Land Managers Forum  
Jackie Monk, Environment Agency  
Rosemary Budd, Natural England

#### **Officers**

Alison Boden, Wyre Borough Council  
Hetty Byrne, Forest of Bowland AONB Unit  
Elliott Lorimer, Forest of Bowland AONB Unit  
Sandra Silk, Forest of Bowland AONB Unit  
David Porter, Lancaster City Council  
Alex Shutt, Ribble Valley Borough Council  
Sam Gorton, Legal and Democratic Services, LCC

#### **Apologies**

Councillor Val Wilson, Wyre Borough Council  
Marilyn Pilkington, Friends of Bowland  
James Bray, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)  
Andrew Laycock, Craven District Council

Cathy Hopley, Forest of Bowland AONB Unit  
Liz Small, North Yorkshire County Council  
Tom Wiggans, Preston City Council  
Mike Williams, Pendle Borough Council

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

County Councillor Albert Atkinson welcomed all to the meeting.

Apologies were presented on behalf of the Committee members and officers listed above.

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

There were no disclosures of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests.

### **3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 October 2017**

**Resolved:** That the Minutes of the meeting held on 19 October 2017 were agreed as a correct record following the amendment on page 4, Item 9 AONB Unit Activity Report, first bullet point – change the word 'hectors' to 'hectares'.  
There were no matters arising from them.

### **4. Matters Arising**

There was an issue raised regarding road signs in the Goosnargh area being pushed round to face the wrong way and that a more secure fastening was required to stop this happening.

**Resolved:** That County Councillor Atkinson agreed to speak to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport regarding this issue.

The situation for birds of prey, and in particular the hen harrier, in Bowland was raised. Elliott Lorimer, Lancashire County Council commented that he was aware of the on-going prosecution for case involving persecution of peregrine falcons in Bowland. James Bray, RSPB reported that hen harriers have been sighted in and around Bowland more this spring, however was unable to say anymore on this and the prosecution. He also reported that a pair of peregrines had been seen on Pendle Hill recently.

### **5. Planning Policy in Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)**

David Porter, Lancaster City Council gave a short presentation on the planning policy in the AONB.

There was a proposal in 2013 that Lancaster and South Lakeland Councils develop a Local Plan for Arnsdale and Silverdale AONB.

On 28 February 2018, two councils submitted the final plan and the hearings are planned for June 2018. There would be one joint plan for the AONB and the test will be to see if it succeeds at examination.



For the Arnsdale and Silverdale Local Plan, the City Council had made a call for potential development sites. 130 sites had been put forward for development. A detailed analysis of these sites was made, which particularly considered the impact on the landscape if such a site was to be developed. Of the 130 sites assessed, nine had been put forward for inclusion in the Local Plan.

There were 15 accompanying planning policies for Arnsdale and Silverdale which had been jointly commissioned, assessed and written by both Councils.

Some of these policies could be applicable to the Forest of Bowland.

Work on developing policy statements had been progressed by David and members of the AONB Funders Group, working closely with local planning authorities. These statements could be formally adopted by the JAC at a later stage and made available for local planning authorities to consider when required to review their Local Plans in the future.

**Resolved:** i) That David Porter be thanked for his presentation.  
ii) That David Porter report back at the next meeting on the planning inspectors report following the examination.

## **6. Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partner Updates**

Alison Boden updated the Committee on the Garstang Walking Festival, with many of the events in the Festival having been included in the Discover Bowland brochure. Alison reported that health and wellbeing was a big part of the festival's agenda and it was very important to residents as well as visitors. Training courses had also been undertaken by volunteers on helping to survey and maintain Public Rights of Way.

Wyre Council staff and volunteers had been working with AONB to produce a new interpretation panel for the Brock Valley. Some changes had been required due to significant flooding events affecting some of the routes, making some walking routes impassable.

## **7. Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Budget Update**

Elliott Lorimer presented a report on the revised and updated budget for 2018/19 which took account of the protected AONB funding settlement agreed by Defra in January 2016.

There was a significant increase in salary costs in the revised budget from the position presented in October 2017. This reflected the additional costs of establishing two part-time positions as follows:

- AONB Countryside Access Officer (0.5fte)
- AONB Farming and Wildlife Officer (0.4fte)

The positions had been created to help address the loss of support previously provided to the AONB Partnership by Lancashire County Council Environment and Community Officers who helped to deliver aspects of the AONB Management Plan.

The budget allowed for £69,649 for an annual programme of projects to help deliver the AONB management plan. Elliott emphasised that the 'Projects' budget would continue to be used by the AONB Unit to attract additional external income to supplement the Partnership budget and help to deliver the AONB Management Plan.

The Committee requested that an item for information on the AONB Unit structure be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

Elliott also informed the Committee that the lease for the offices in Dunsop Bridge ends in September 2019 and future accommodation options for all AONB staff (including Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership Team) would be investigated from late 2018.

**Resolved:** i) That the revised AONB budget for 2018/19 be noted  
ii) That there is an item on the next agenda with regards an update on the AONB Unit structure.

## **8. Delivering the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan**

### **a) AONB Management Plan Review**

Elliott Lorimer informed the Committee that the review was ongoing and that a Management Plan Review Group had been established and an online survey was going live from today and would be available for all to offer their views on the AONB and the work of the Partnership. This was the [link](#) to the survey and it was out for consultation until 25 May 2018.

The first working draft of the plan would be in June, then a refined and final draft would be available in September/October when formal consultation would take place for approximately 6-8 weeks and the local authorities would be asked to comment.

**Resolved:** That Elliott Lorimer would keep the Committee updated on the progress of the Management Plan.

### **b) AONB Unit Activity Report**

Sandra Silk gave an update on the activities the AONB Unit had carried out in the last six months and highlighted areas from the report that was attached to the agenda.

- Peat Restoration – Hawthornthwaite was at the top of the catchment between Langden Brook and the Wyre. An area of deep peat which has had additional gully re-profiling and re-wetting followed by re-seeding with grass seed and heather brush. A film about the peat work on Abbeystead Estate had been produced and would be available on the AONB website in the very near future.
- Hedge laying – Nine training sessions were held during the 2017/2018 season involving 38 people. 424 metres of hedge was laid over four sites at Crook O'Lune, Lancaster, Fell View Camp Site, Scorton; Higher Gills Farm Rimington and Lane Side Farm, West Bradford. Next season, they were looking to focus some sessions on young people – especially the Young Farmers group – as encouragement was needed for the hedge layers and trainers of tomorrow.

- Bowland Experience – Bowland Experience Limited closed as a company at the end of 2017 but the Bowland Sustainable Tourism Network would remain active in its place.
- Cluster Business Leaflets reproduced – this was due to popular demand – Gisburn Forest Bike Trails and Teashops and Villages in Bowland. The Gisburn Forest and Stocks leaflet had been updated to include wider visitor information for the businesses that had made contributions to be included in the listings. The Teashops and Villages leaflet now included more village information including history and walking opportunities – encouraging people to stay and explore.
- Training for Bowland Experience Members Autumn/Winter 2017-2018 - Opportunities included two social media workshops run by Salar Media at the Shireburn Arms in October 2017 and Wyreside Lake Fisheries in January 2018. 12 business attended in all. Also a Sense of Place/Know your AONB workshop was held at Holmes Mill in Clitheroe for managers of James' Places business.
- Annual Sustainable Tourism Forum – this was held at Browsholme Hall's Tithe Barn in November 2017. The focus was a celebration of achievements of Bowland Experience and Champion Bowland over the past decade. A link to the film can be found [here](#).
- Discover Bowland – 50 people celebrated the launch of the Discover Bowland 2018 guide hosted at Gisburn Forest Hub in February. The guide included everything from walking routes and wildlife information to features on traditional countryside skills, archaeology and local food. It also highlighted two new Bowland visitor itineraries (Journey to the Centre of the Kingdom and Gisburn Forest and Stocks Adventure) – these were the first in a series of five planned over the next 12 months or so and were to cover the whole AONB. They would provide inspiration for short breaks – what to do and where to stay and eat. Each would have offers and discounts provided by local businesses. Holding the launch at the Hub meant that people had the opportunity to try out the Champion Bowland Trampler, which was now located there and available to hire via the café. The vehicle could be used on a five mile easy access route which linked the Hub with the Birch Hills Trail, Festival Bowland – of the 70+ events in the calendar for the 2017 programme, figures show from 65 of them, there were 1662 attendances over these events. This year three themes had been introduced, running for approximately two weeks each, which sit within the main programme: Springtime Wildlife (late April/early May), Meadow Magic (early July) and Bowland by Night (late September). The idea of the themes was to focus on particular aspects of Bowland and perhaps persuade people to stay in the area during that time.
- Promoted Routes – in preparation for the launch of the Journey to the Centre of the Kingdom, maintenance work had been carried out on several footpaths in and around Dunsop Bridge, including the Hodder Bank Fell circular walk, in anticipation of increased use of the paths which were highlighted in the new feature.
- Bowland Explorer – the minibus service would run again this summer on Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays and will commence on 27 May 2018 and finish at the end of September 2018. Organised by the Bentham Line Community Rail Partnership and the Dales and Bowland CIC, it runs between Bentham and Clitheroe and along its journey it calls at Ingleton, Clapham, Gisburn Forest/Stocks, Slaidburn, Newton and Waddington. The bus connects with rail services in both Bentham and Clitheroe allowing visitors from West Yorkshire and Manchester to travel to Bowland on public transport. It also provides a route into Bowland from

Lancaster on a Sunday morning when no rail service is available. It is also a great opportunity for people to access walking routes and visit Bowland's pubs and cafes without having to use a car.

- Pendle Hill Farmer's Network - The AONB Partnership submitted a funding application to Natural England's Countryside Stewardship Facilitation Fund in November 2017 to support the development of a farmer facilitation group in the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership (PHLP) area. The group would identify and address local training/skills gaps to help deliver better outcomes for biodiversity and landscape from existing and new agri-environment schemes. 21 farmers/land managers within the PHLP area signed up to be involved in this group. Natural England confirmed the bid was successful in December 2017. The project would support one day/week dedicated time from PHLP Farming and Wildlife Officer and one day/week PHLP Business Support Officer to develop the network, provide group support and training events/workshops.

### **c) AONB Unit Business Plan**

Elliott Lorimer reported that this needed updating as soon as possible and would include staffing updates including roles and responsibilities.

- Resolved:**
- i) Elliott Lorimer would circulate as soon as this was available.
  - ii) A staffing update would be given at the next Joint Advisory Committee.

## **9. National Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty Update**

The report circulated with the agenda provided an update on key areas of policy work being progressed by the National Association for AONBs to strengthen and raise the profile of AONB Partnerships at a national level particularly within Government.

There are two main parts to the policy:

- i) Statement of commitment
- ii) Proposal to commission a review

### **A Green Future: Our 25 Year Environment Plan for the Future**

The Plan sets out the Government's goals for improving the environment, within a generation, and leaving it in a better state than was found. The plan formed the culmination of over two years work and consultation with environmental bodies, including close work with the National Association for AONB (NAAONB).

The NAAONB were in early discussions with the Department for the Environment and Rural Affairs and Natural England about the proposed review and would be fed back to the AONB Partnerships and Conservation Board as it progressed.

## **Health and Harmony: the future for food, farming and the environment in a Green Brexit**

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) was currently inviting views on the Government's proposals for future agricultural policy. The consultation was the first step towards a new agricultural policy outside of the EU with the intention of securing a "bright future for farming and the environment".

The NAAONB had again been working closely with Defra in the development of these early proposals and in particular the nature of and delivery mechanisms for future Environmental Land Management Schemes outside of the EU. The NAAONB had presented an offer to Defra focused on using our statutory Management Plans as the framework for identifying priorities upon which any future schemes should focus within our individual AONBs.

### **Environmental Land Management Schemes**

The main proposal of 'Health and Harmony' was a new agricultural policy that would be underpinned by payment of public money for the provision of public goods to include environmental enhancement and protection, better animal and plant health, animal welfare, improved public access, rural resilience and productivity.

**Resolved:** That the Committee:

- i) Noted the AAONB update report and offered comments.
- ii) Approved the AONB Principal Officer to continue liaising with and assisting the NAAONB on key policy work, in particular bidding for delivery pilots for the new Environmental Land Management schemes within AONBs.

### **10. Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership Update**

The report as attached to the agenda, provided an update on progress in establishing the Pendle Hill Lancashire Partnership (PHLP) scheme, following the successful Stage 2 application to the Heritage Lottery Fund approved in December 2017.

It was agreed to have a partnership update as a standing item on future agendas of the Committee.

- Resolved:**
- i) That the update report on the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership be noted.
  - ii) That a standing item be added to future agendas of the Committee on Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership updates.

## **11. Urgent Business**

### **25 Year Environment Plan Northern Forest**

Elliott Lorimer reported that he had received a letter from Pendle Borough Council on the Government's 25 year Environment Plan's proposal for a Great Northern Forest and that Lancashire had not been included in the plan. Following discussion with Pendle Borough Council, they were proposing to seek support for the inclusion of the County from Forest of Bowland AONB Partnership.

**Resolved:** That the Committee approved to support Pendle Borough Council should they decide to progress with this proposal. Elliott Lorimer agreed to write to Pendle Borough Council to offer the Committee's support.

### **National Grid Landscape Enhancement Initiative**

This was a £24 million fund managed by National Grid available to AONBs and National Parks affected by large, high voltage overhead powerlines. The fund will consider proposals to improve the condition of the landscape and some AONBs had been successful in gaining funding to support creation and management of hedgerows, dry stone walls and generally enhancing the landscape close to the overhead lines.

**Resolved:** That the Committee agreed for the AONB Unit to progress a potential bid to the National Grid Landscape Enhancement Initiative.

## **12. Date of Next Meeting**

The Committee noted that the next meeting would be held on:

Thursday, 25 October 2018 in Pendle District  
Thursday, 18 April 2019 in Wyre District.

The proposed date of Thursday, 18 April 2019 in Wyre will need to be rescheduled. The Committee will be informed when a new date has been agreed.

Samantha Gorton  
Democratic Services

Lancashire County Council  
County Hall  
Preston

## **Revised Estimates 2018/19 and Revenue Budget 2019/20** (Appendix A refers)

### **Issue for consideration**

- a) Revised Estimates 2018/19
- b) Revenue Budget 2019/20

### **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 an agreed business plan (2018 - 2021), on which Partners are consulted to ensure it reflects local priorities for the AONB.

#### **a. Revised Estimates 2018/19**

The costs of the Partnership are managed as part of the Lancashire County Council's 'Devolved Financial Management' scheme. Since Committee approval of the 2018/19 estimates in October 2018 and support for the contributions requested from funding partners, it is understood the full requested contributions will be met.

Defra advised that the grant offer for 2018/19 was £219,069

The contributions advised by the constituent local authorities for 2018/19 are 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	5,340

The revised estimates take account of any changes (see Appendix A, Column 3) in comparison with the Original Estimates in Column 2. The principal revision relates to an estimated reduction in salary costs due to the vacancy from April to October 2018 for the Development and Funding Officer.

The net effect of any changes allows an AONB 'Projects' programme totalling £89,870 to be delivered in 2018/19.

Since last reported in April 2018, the AONB Unit has been successful in obtaining the following additional funding to support delivery of projects within the area:

<b>Programme / Project</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>Organisation(s)</b>
Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership	598,631	Heritage Lottery Fund LEADER Lancashire Environmental Fund
Pendle Hill Farmers Network	22,500	Countryside Stewardship Facilitation Fund
Northern England Peat Project - peatland habitat restoration for Brown Syke South, Mallowdale and Hare Syke	331,000	Defra Peatland Fund
Bowland Haytime Rescue	24,674	Lancashire Environmental Fund and Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust (Joint bid with YDMT)
AONB Discovery Guide	4,500	Business adverts taken by local tourism businesses
<b>Total</b>	<b>981,305</b>	

## **b. Revenue Budget 2018/19**

### Revenue Budget 2019/20

This section sets out in Appendix 'A' column 4, the costs associated with the Partnership's projects and management service in 2018/19, including estimated pay and price levels.

Provision reflects the core team, operational budgets for core activities and projects:

- Principal AONB Officer (1 FTE)
- Development and Funding Officer (1 FTE)
- Projects Officer (1 FTE)
- Sustainable Tourism Officer (0.9 FTE)
- Countryside Access Officer (0.5FTE)
- Farming and Wildlife Officer (0.4FTE)

Total Partnership income from contributions has been included in the budget for 2019/20, based on estimated contributions from funding authorities, equivalent to maintaining the requested contribution for the previous year (£6,800).

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 a further inflationary increase on 2018/19 grant offer.

It is also assumed that the Defra grant for 2019/20 will continue to be a single grant offer to be used in ways which the AONB Partnership 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 Partnership 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 will be £388,232 in 2018/19. The total expenditure results from providing for the effect of increased pay and prices, staff increments (where applicable), employers national insurance and superannuation contributions, host authority support costs and reflecting a level of provision for 'Projects'.

### **2. Income**

Defra grant for 2019/20 towards core costs and projects costs of £222,837 reflects an inflationary increase on grant offer for 2018/19.

The estimated contributions from funding authorities, equivalent to maintaining the requested contribution for the previous year (£6,800).

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 £316,577 net cost of management services is based on maintaining the level of contributions from the funding authorities requested for 2018/19. It is essential that the funding authorities are notified of the planned AONB Partnership expenditure and requested to make due provision in their own estimates.

### **4. Additional Resources**

It should also be noted that, as has become customary, resources from other external funding bodies for projects in AONB will be sought during 2018/19, which are over and above the Partnership budget provision and this will continue into 2019/20.

Furthermore, the AONB Unit contributes to the generation of additional schemes and projects in liaison with partner organisations operating in the area e.g. local authority countryside services, Rivers Trusts, the Wildlife Trust and others.

### **Decision Required**

The Committee is requested to:

- i) note the 2018/19 Revised Estimates
- ii) approve the 2019/20 Revenue Budget as set out in the report
- iii) subject to the approval of (ii) above, to request the funding authorities to make appropriate provision in their revenue budgets



**APPENDIX 'A'**  
**AONB Partnership Budget**

	<b>Estimated 2018/19 (Out-turn Prices)</b>	<b>Revised 2018/19 (Out-turn Prices)</b>	<b>Estimated 2019/20 (Out-turn Prices)</b>
(1)	(2) £	(3) £	(4) £
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>			
<b><u>Partnership Costs</u></b>			
Salary, N.I. and Superannuation	194,560	174,339	205,905
Out-based premises	20,000	20,000	20,000
Travel and subsistence	8,900	8,900	8,900
Central, Departmental & Tech. Support	67,707	60,670	71,655
Core Activities	19,800	19,800	19,800
Sub total of Partnership Costs	310,967	283,709	326,260
<b><u>Project Costs</u></b>			
Projects (Management Plan delivery)	69,649	89,770	61,972
Sub total of Project Costs	69,649	89,770	61,972
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>380,616</b>	<b>373,479</b>	<b>388,232</b>
<b><u>Income</u></b>			
Defra Grant	219,069	219,069	222,837
<b><u>Contributions</u></b>			
United Utilities	6,800	6,800	6,800
<b><u>County Councils</u></b>			
Lancashire	40,800	40,800	40,800
North Yorkshire*	5,440	5,340	5,340
<b><u>District Councils</u></b>			
Craven	6,800	6,800	6,800
Lancaster	6,800	6,800	6,800
Pendle	6,800	6,800	6,800
Preston	6,800	6,800	6,800
Ribble Valley	6,800	6,800	6,800
Wyre	6,800	6,800	6,800
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>312,909</b>	<b>312,809</b>	<b>316,577</b>
Contrib. to support costs (LCC in-kind)	67,707	60,670	71,655
	<b>380,616</b>	<b>373,479</b>	<b>388,232</b>





# FOREST OF BOWLAND

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

AONB Unit Business Plan  
2018 - 2021

# AONB Unit Business Plan 2018-2021

## 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 nine staff members (8.6FTE), with additional support from Ernest Cook Trust Outdoor Learning Officer (1FTE)

## 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 2018 - 2021. 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 Objectives 2018 - 2021

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><b>OL1</b> 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><b>OL2</b> Continue a 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><b>OL3</b> Co-ordinate partner activity in conserving and enhancing biodiversity and in developing better understanding and management of ecosystems services with the AONB.</p> <p><b>OL4</b> Work with others, in particular the local authorities, to establish development management policies, strategies and delivery, which result in positive outcomes for the landscape quality of the AONB</p>	<p><b>SC1</b> Continue to support and develop local parish lengthsmen schemes within the AONB to assist in the management and maintenance of key community assets.</p> <p><b>SC2</b> Support and promote local businesses and products, which promote conservation and enhancement of the AONB landscape</p> <p><b>SC3</b> Continue to support the management of Champion Bowland Grants Funds; whilst also responding to local community requests for advice and support on funding, project management and volunteering.</p> <p><b>SC4</b> 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><b>PL1</b> Develop, improve, and promote countryside access and recreational opportunities for a diverse range of people.</p> <p><b>PL2</b> 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><b>PL3</b> 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><b>AP1</b> Work with others to maximise the successful delivery of the AONB Management Plan and effectively monitor progress.</p> <p><b>AP2</b> 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>

**Forest of Bowland AONB Unit** (see structure chart overleaf)

### AONB staff

EL – Elliott Lorimer, Principal Officer (FT)

HB – Hetty Byrne, Sustainable Tourism Officer (0.8 FTE)

SS – Sandra Silk, Projects Officer (FT)

RG – Robin Gray, Development and Funding Officer (FT)

SR – Sarah Robinson, Farming and Wildlife Officer (0.4 FTE)

SD- Sarah Dornan, Countryside Access Officer (0.5 FTE)

### Project staff

CH – Cathy Hopley, Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership Programme Manager (FT)

JA – Jayne Ashe, Pendle Hill LP Community Engagement Officer (FT)

SBS – Sarah Brooks-Silcock, Pendle Hill LP Business Support Officer (0.8FTE)

SR – Sarah Robinson, Pendle Hill LP Farming and Wildlife Officer (0.6FTE)

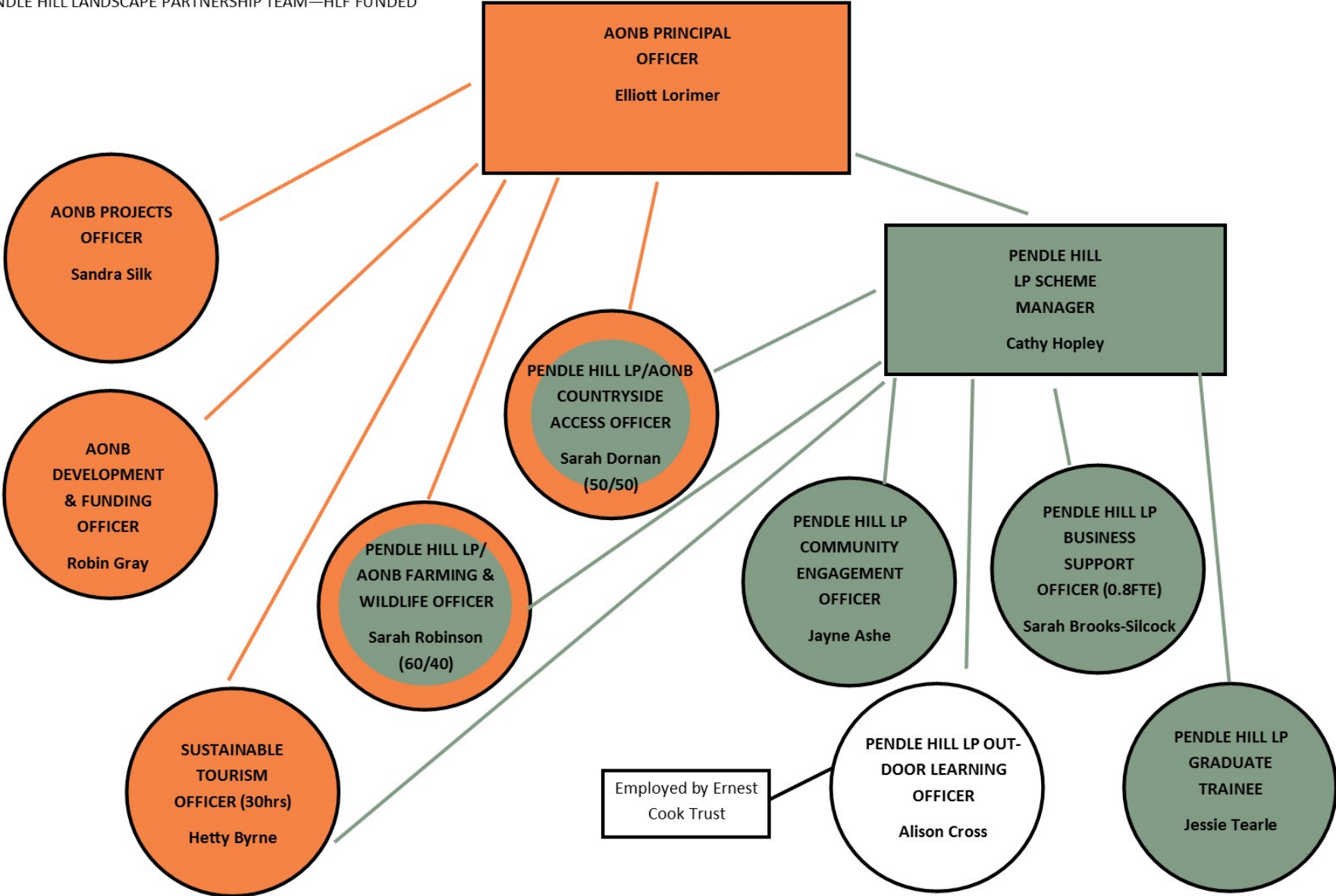
SD – Sarah Dornan, Pendle Hill & AONB Countryside Access Officer (0.5FTE)

AC – Alison Cross, Ernest Cook Trust Outdoor Learning Officer (FT, seconded from ECT to Pendle Hill LP)

JT – Jessie Tearle, Pendle Hill LP Graduate Trainee (FT)



- AONB TEAM—AONB FUNDED
- PENDLE HILL LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP TEAM—HLF FUNDED



## **An outstanding landscape of natural and cultural heritage (OL)**

**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**

We will:	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	AONB MP 2014 – 2019 Objectives	Unit lead and support
OL1.1 Provide advice, guidance and encouragement to land managers on sustainable land management of the AONB landscape	<p>Hold regular liaison meetings with local Natural England team</p> <p>Manage and deliver training and activity for Pendle Hill Farmers Network (CSFF) with at least 6 meetings held</p> <p>Work collaboratively with Northern Upland Chain LNP partners, Defra and NE to develop a proposal for 'tests and trials' of Defra's post-Brexit Environmental Land Management Scheme</p> <p>Provision of management advice and practical management for 3 local wildlife sites in Pendle Hill LP</p>	<p>Hold regular liaison meetings with local Natural England team</p> <p>Manage and deliver training and activity for Pendle Hill Farmers Network (CSFF) with at least 6 meetings held</p>	<p>Hold regular liaison meetings with local Natural England team</p> <p>Team</p> <p>Manage and deliver training and activity for Pendle Hill Farmers Network (CSFF) with at least 6 meetings held</p>	1.1, 1.2, 2.1	<p><b>SR/EL</b></p> <p><b>SR/SBS</b></p> <p><b>EL/SR</b></p> <p><b>SR</b></p>
OL1.2 Liaise with woodland planting and management initiatives to encourage and support appropriate woodland extension, creation and management within the AONB	Respond to Forestry Commission consultations regarding	Respond to Forestry Commission consultations regarding	Respond to Forestry Commission consultations regarding	1.1	<b>EL</b>



<p>OL1.3 Engage with River Catchment Partnerships for Ribble, Wyre and Lune to encourage catchment management for both biodiversity and landscape.</p>	<p>Regular attendance at River Catchment Partnership Board meetings</p> <p>Continue joint project delivery and support for 'Ribble Life Together' Project, particularly development of self-guided river walks and promotion</p> <p>Work jointly with Catchment Partnership to develop and deliver projects under the Environment Agency's Water Environment Grant programme (e.g. Ribble Life for Water, Lune from Top to Bottom and Side to Side)</p>	<p>Regular attendance at River Catchment Partnership Board meetings</p>	<p>Regular attendance at River Catchment Partnership Board meetings</p>	<p>1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4</p>	<p>SS/EL</p> <p>SS/HB/EL</p> <p>SS/EL/SR</p>
<p><b>OL2 Continue a 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</b></p>					
<p>We will:</p>	<p>2018/19</p>	<p>2019/20</p>	<p>2020/21</p>	<p>AONB MP 2014 – 2019 Objectives</p>	<p>Unit lead and support</p>
<p>OL2.1 Provide training opportunities and competitions in hedge-laying and walling (including support for vocational training)</p>	<p>At least 6 training days provided</p> <p>Support for Lancashire and Westmorland</p>	<p>At least 6 training days provided</p> <p>Support for Lancashire and Westmorland</p>	<p>At least 6 training days provided</p> <p>Support for Lancashire and Westmorland</p>	<p>1.1, 1.6, 2.1</p>	<p>SS</p>

## Resilient and sustainable rural communities (SC)

SC1 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:	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	AONB MP 2014 – 2019 Objectives	Unit lead and support
SC1.1 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	<b>SS</b>
	Review scheme monitoring reports provided by Parish Councils/meetings	Review scheme monitoring reports provided by Parish Councils/meetings	Review scheme monitoring reports provided by Parish Councils/meetings		<b>SS</b>
	Periodically hold liaison meetings/site visits with Parish Lengthsman to discuss progress/issues etc.	Periodically hold liaison meetings/site visits with Parish Lengthsman to discuss progress/issues etc.	Periodically hold liaison meetings/site visits with Parish Lengthsman to discuss progress/issues etc.		<b>SD</b>

<b>SC2 Support local businesses and products, which promote conservation and enhancement of the AONB landscape</b>					
We will:	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	AONB MP 2014 – 2019 Objectives	Unit lead and support
SC2.1 Support local tourism 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	<b>HB</b>
	Provide tourism business support for Pendle Hill LP area, (incl. sense of place workshop, Pendlefolk, Pendle Hill Food Foray)	Provide tourism business support for Pendle Hill LP area	Provide tourism business support for Pendle Hill LP area		<b>HB</b>
SC2.2 Continue to provide support for Bowland Experience Network (BEx)	Monthly tourism business bulletin produced and distributed	Monthly tourism business bulletin produced and distributed	Monthly tourism business bulletin produced and distributed	2.2, 2.4	<b>HB</b>
	2 training events for businesses held and evaluated	2 training events for businesses held and evaluated	2 training events for businesses held and evaluated		<b>HB</b>
	Annual networking event held (e.g. Discovery Guide launch)	Annual networking event held (e.g. Discovery Guide launch)	Annual networking event held (e.g. Discovery Guide launch)		<b>HB</b>





<p>SC2.3 Continue to support the development, management and promotion of the Champion Bowland</p>	<p>Work with YDMT and new finance officer to close accounts for 'old' Champion Bowland and establish financial arrangements for 'new' CIO Champion Bowland</p> <p>Provide support and administration for Champion Bowland trustees meetings (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 with YDMT and new finance officer to close accounts for 'old' Champion Bowland and establish financial arrangements for 'new' CIO Champion Bowland</p> <p>Provide support and administration for Champion Bowland trustees meetings (min. 2/year)</p>	<p>Work with YDMT and new finance officer to close accounts for 'old' Champion Bowland and establish financial arrangements for 'new' CIO Champion Bowland</p> <p>Provide support and administration for Champion Bowland trustees meetings (min. 2/year)</p>	<p>2.2, 2.3, 2.4</p>	<p><b>RG/EL</b></p> <p><b>RG</b></p> <p><b>RG</b></p> <p><b>SS</b></p>
<p>SC2.5 Support the continued development of 'Bowland Land Managers Forum'</p>	<p>Forum meeting held at least annually</p> <p>Involve Forum members in the Northern Upland Chain LNP High-Nature Value Farming Group and Northern Hill Farmers Panel</p> <p>Hold Land Managers Forum meeting on the</p>	<p>Forum meeting held at least annually</p> <p>Involve Forum members in the Northern Upland Chain LNP High-Nature Value Farming Group and Northern Hill Farmers Panel</p>	<p>Forum meeting held at least annually</p> <p>Involve Forum members in the Northern Upland Chain LNP High-Nature Value Farming Group and Northern Hill Farmers Panel</p>	<p>2.1, 2.2, 4.2</p>	<p><b>EL</b></p>

## 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:	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	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 stakeholder groups (e.g. Pendle Hill Advisory Group) to address access and recreation issues or concerns	Regular meetings of local stakeholders (e.g. Pendle Hill Advisory Group) to address access and recreation issues or concerns	Regular meetings of local stakeholders (e.g. Pendle Hill Advisory Group) to address access and recreation issues or concerns	3.1, 3.2, 3.3	<b>EL/SD</b>
PL1.2 Carry out regular reviews of existing AONB promoted routes to maintain route condition, furniture, signage etc.	Continue to support volunteer monitoring system for existing AONB promoted routes  Contract works to carry out small-scale improvement and maintenance of promoted routes, where resources allow  1 volunteer training event held	Continue to support volunteer monitoring system for existing AONB promoted routes  Contract works to carry out small-scale improvement and maintenance of promoted routes, where resources allow  1 volunteer training event held	Continue to support volunteer monitoring system for existing AONB promoted routes  Contract works to carry out small-scale improvement and maintenance of promoted routes, where resources allow  1 volunteer training event held	3.1, 3.2, 3.3	<b>SD</b>  <b>SD</b>  <b>SD</b>
PL1.3 Review, rationalise and develop downloadable promoted routes as required	Review and prioritise promoted routes up to 2 times/year (review based on seasonal promotion, route condition, maintenance)	Review and prioritise promoted routes up to 2 times/year (review based on seasonal promotion, route condition, maintenance)	Review and prioritise promoted routes up to 2 times/year (review based on seasonal promotion, route condition, maintenance)	3.1, 3.2, 3.3	<b>SD/HB</b>



PL2.6 Manage and maintain stocks of printed AONB publications (including 'Take One Media' brochure and leaflet distribution service)	Quarterly reviews of Take One Media reports carried out	Quarterly reviews of Take One Media reports carried out	Quarterly reviews of Take One Media reports carried out	3.4, 4.4	<b>SS</b>
PL2.7 Regularly review and update the content of AONB website, in line with AONB Management Plan objectives and actions	Regular reviews and updates of web content completed	Regular reviews and updates of web content completed	Regular reviews and updates of web content completed	1.5A, 1.6D, 1.7B, 3.4, 3.5, 4.4	<b>HB</b>
	Quarterly website user data analysis completed and disseminated	Quarterly website user data analysis completed and disseminated	Quarterly website user data analysis completed and disseminated		<b>HB</b>
PL2.8 Review design of AONB website	Produce micro website for Pendle Hill LP (using existing Forest of Bowland AONB website content management system)		Carry out review/refresh of AONB website design	3.4, 3.5, 4.4	<b>HB</b>
PL2.9 Research good practice in use of digital 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)	Continue to develop use of social media to promote AONB (e.g. Twitter, Facebook)	3.4, 4.4	<b>All</b>
	Develop digital technologies (apps, video content) for use in communications and interpretation to develop a wider audience for AONB projects and activity, in particular the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership	Pilot use of new technologies in communications and interpretation as part of the Pendle Hill LP			<b>HB</b>

## A dynamic and effective AONB partnership (AP)

**AP1 Work with others to maximise the successful delivery of the AONB Management Plan and effectively monitor progress**

We will:	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	AONB MP 2014 – 2019 Objectives	Unit lead and support
AP1.1 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	<b>All</b>
AP1.2 Review the AONB Management Plan, in accordance with national guidance	Draft revised plan complete September 2018  Formal consultation September/October 2018  Final revised plan approved/adopted by local authorities by March 2018	Final revised plan sent to Defra Minister April 2018  Develop AONB Partnership Advocacy Strategy and action plan to help raise awareness of the AONB Management Plan amongst AONB partners and statutory undertakers		4.1, 4.4C	<b>EL</b>
AP1.3 Ensure effective and inclusive consultation is carried out on all major AONB strategies and activity	Statement of Community Involvement produced for AONB Management Plan Review	On-going	On-going	2.3, 4.4	<b>EL</b>
AP1.4 Develop and manage an interactive AONB Unit Business Plan to ensure regular monitoring of Unit delivery	Plan updated quarterly by Unit  Quarterly reports produced	Plan updated quarterly by Unit  Quarterly reports produced	Plan updated quarterly by Unit  Quarterly reports produced	4.1, 4.4	<b>HB/All</b>





**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:	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	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	<b>EL</b>
AP2.2 Review membership of the AONB Joint Advisory Committee for non-statutory organisations and non-funding partners	Undertake review of current JAC membership			4.1	<b>EL</b>
AP2.2 Hold regular meetings and correspondence with AONB funding partners to ensure AONB Partnership and Unit are delivering against partners' key corporate objectives	Regular Partnership Funders Group meetings held  Arrange regular meetings/briefings for local authority officers and members on AONB Partnership activity  Hold AONB conference/seminar	Regular Partnership Funders Group meetings held  Arrange regular meetings/briefings for local authority officers and members on AONB Partnership activity	Regular Partnership Funders Group meetings held  Arrange regular meetings/briefings for local authority officers and members on AONB Partnership activity  Hold AONB conference/seminar	4.1	<b>EL</b>       <b>RG</b>
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	<b>EL</b>
AP2.4 Review fund-raising strategy for the AONB partnership	Review strategy and continue			4.2	<b>RG</b>



## FOREST OF BOWLAND AONB JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### Review of the AONB Management Plan

#### Issue for consideration

This report provides an update on the progress of the review of the AONB Management Plan and outlines the next steps in the process.

#### Review Progress

1. Letters received confirming agreement from all partner local authorities for the AONB Partnership to carry out the review.
2. Statutory notice of the AONB Partnership's intention to carry out the review was sent to Natural England
3. The Review Working Group has met three times (January, June and September 2018) to help guide and advise the AONB Principal Officer on the review process.
4. An online survey was carried out in April and May 2018. Almost 300 responses were received from the individuals and organisations. A summary report on these has been produced and published on the AONB website.
5. A Scoping Report has been prepared for a Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Management Plan and has been sent to the statutory agencies for comment (Natural England, Environment Agency, Historic England)
6. A Consultation Draft is nearing completion (see Appendix)

#### Next steps

- Complete draft revised Management Plan, Environmental Report and Habitat Regulations Assessment for the Plan by late November 2018
- Formal consultation on draft revised Management Plan launched, 8 weeks from late November 2018 to mid-January 2019
- Consultation on the Environmental Report (SEA) to run in parallel with Plan consultation
- 'Open Office' week to be held in Dunsop Bridge and Clitheroe offices during the consultation period (dates to be confirmed) for members of the public to discuss the plan with AONB staff
- Final revised Management Plan tabled for special Joint Advisory Committee meeting in late February 2019 (date to be confirmed)
- Final revised Management Plan forwarded to partner local authorities for approval/adoption by end March 2019

#### Decision to be taken

The committee is asked to:

- i. note the report and offer comments
- ii. approve the AONB Principal Officer to complete the consultation draft based on the version presented to the committee and commence formal consultation in late November 2018



# Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan 2019 – 2024

**(Consultation Draft)**

**Prepared by the Forest of Bowland AONB Partnership, October 2018**

# CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

TBC

County Councillor Albert Atkinson

Chairman of the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Advisory Committee

## MINISTERIAL FOREWORD

I am fortunate that England's Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are part of my Ministerial responsibilities. Whether it be rolling hills, sweeping coastline or a tranquil village, spending time in an AONB can stir the heart and lift the spirit.

This is a pivotal moment for all AONBs. The Government has set its ambition in the 25 Year Environment Plan which states clearly the importance of natural beauty as part of our green future, while AONBs retain the highest status of protection for landscape through national planning policy. Leaving the EU brings with it an opportunity to develop a better system for supporting our farmers and land managers, who play such a vital role as stewards of the landscape. And the Review of National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty led by Julian Glover - the first of its kind for generations - will make recommendations to make sure our designated landscapes can flourish in the years ahead.

In my visits to AONBs around the country, I have been struck by the passion of many people - farmers, volunteers, and hard-working staff - for the beautiful places they live and work. In this spirit I am delighted to welcome publication of this Statutory Management Plan for the Forest of Bowland AONB. It is significant that this plan will be delivered in partnership by those who value the Forest of Bowland AONB. I would like to thank all those involved in preparation of this document, and wish you the best of success in bringing it to fruition.

Lord Gardiner  
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

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# INTRODUCTION

***The Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is one of England's finest landscapes and is internationally important area for its heather moorland, blanket bog and rare upland birds.***

***The AONB is managed by a partnership of local councils, government agencies, landowners, farmers, local businesses and wildlife and recreation interest groups, who work to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of this special landscape. The purpose of the AONB Management Plan is to provide a positive and pro-active management framework for the AONB Partnership; highlighting the special qualities of the designated area, the importance of the relevant landscape features and identifying those features which are vulnerable to change. The Plan also seeks to outline an integrated vision for future of the AONB, based on a high level of shared aspirations for the area, taking into account local, national and international policy.***

The Forest of Bowland AONB is situated in North West England, covering 803 square kilometres of countryside in the counties of Lancashire (730 sq.km) and North Yorkshire (73 sq.km). The area is bounded to the north and south by the Rivers Lune and Ribble respectively. To the west is the Fylde plain, while the eastern side of the AONB boundary matches the Yorkshire Dales National Park for a short distance, with Ribblesdale bordering the remainder. On its south-eastern edge, Pendle Hill (557m) forms a discrete landscape feature, which is geologically linked to the rest of the AONB, but separated from the main area by the Ribble valley. The Rivers Brock, Calder, Conder, Hindburn, Hodder, Loud, Roeburn, Wenning and Wyre all originate in the upland core of the Bowland Fells. The highest point of this upland core being Ward's Stone at 561m (or 1,841ft.), alongside other notable landmarks such as Fairsnape Fell at 510m and Hawthornthwaite Fell at 479m.

The AONB lacks large settlements and has an estimated population of approximately 16,000 people. Its boundaries include parts of six district council areas, namely: Craven, Lancaster, Pendle, Preston, Ribble Valley and Wyre. The urban centres of Preston, Lancaster, Blackburn, Blackpool and Burnley are in close proximity to the AONB, with over one million people living within a 30-minute journey of the area. Furthermore, the AONB is within a 90-minute journey from the major conurbations of Liverpool, Manchester and Leeds.

To discover more about the AONB visit: <https://forestofbowland.com/Understanding>

## What is an AONB?

An Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is a special landscape whose distinctive character and natural beauty are so outstanding that it is in the nation's interest to safeguard them.

The 46 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) in England, Wales and Northern Ireland cover approximately 1/8<sup>th</sup> of the land surface.

The distinctive character and natural beauty of AONBs make them some of the most special and cherished places in England. AONBs are also living, working landscapes that contribute some £16bn every year to the national economy. Although home to less than half a million people (under 2% of England's population), over two thirds of England's population live within half an hour's drive of an AONB and around 150 million people visit English AONBs every year, spending in excess of £2bn.

Together with National Parks, AONBs represent our most outstanding landscapes; unique and irreplaceable national assets, each with such distinctive character and natural beauty that they are recognised internationally as part of the global Protected Areas Family (IUCN Category 5); to be managed in the interest of everyone – local residents, businesses, visitors, and the wider public - and protected for future generations.

## The Legislative Framework for AONBs

AONBs exist within a legal framework which has been progressively strengthened since the first AONBs came into existence after the Second World War.

The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act (1949) first established the AONB designation, provided AONBs with protection under planning law against inappropriate development and gave local authorities permissive powers to take action for '*preserving and enhancing natural beauty*' in them. Since the first AONBs came into existence in the 1950s, the legal framework has been progressively strengthened under the following Government legislation, including the Countryside Act (1968), the Environment Act (1995), the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000) and the Natural Environment and Communities Act (2006).

Perhaps paramount within this legislative framework is the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000). This subsumed and strengthened the AONB provisions of the 1949 Act. It confirmed the purpose and significance of AONBs, clarified the procedure for their designation, and created a firm legislative basis for their designation, protection and management. In particular

- Section 82 reaffirmed the primary purpose of AONBs: to conserve and enhance natural beauty;
- Section 83 established the procedure for designating or revising the boundaries of an AONB, including Natural England's duty to consult with local authorities and to facilitate public engagement;
- Section 84 confirmed the powers of a local authorities to take *'all such action as appears to them expedient'* to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of an AONB, and sets consultation and advice on development planning and on public access on the same basis as National Parks in the 1949 Act;
- Section 85 placed a statutory duty on all 'relevant authorities' to *'have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty'* of AONBs when coming to any decisions or carrying out activities relating to or affecting land within these areas. 'Relevant authorities' include all public bodies (including county, borough, district, parish and community councils, joint planning boards and other statutory committees); statutory undertakers (such as energy and water utilities, licensed telecommunications companies, nationalised companies such as Network Rail and other bodies established under statute responsible for railways, roads and canals); government ministers and civil servants. Activities and developments outside the boundaries of AONBs that have an impact within the designated area are also covered by the 'duty of regard';
- Sections 86 to 88 allows for the establishment in an AONB of a Conservation Board to which the AONB functions of the local authority (including development planning) can be transferred. Conservation Boards have the additional but secondary function of seeking to increase public understanding and enjoyment of the AONB's special qualities. They also have an obligation to *'seek to foster the economic and social well-being of local communities'* in co-operation with local authorities and other public bodies;
- Sections 89 and 90 create a statutory duty on all AONB partnerships (local authorities and Conservation Boards) to prepare a Management Plan *'which formulates their policy for the management of their area of outstanding natural beauty and for the carrying out of their functions in relation to*

*it*, and thereafter to review adopted and published Plans at intervals of not more than five years. Where an AONB involves more than one local authority they are required to do this *‘acting jointly’*;

- Section 92 makes clear that the conservation of natural beauty includes the conservation of *‘flora, fauna and geological and physiographical features.’*

## The International Context

### IUCN Protected Areas

English AONBs are part of the international Protected Area Family. As cultural landscapes, produced through the interaction of humans with nature over time, they have a special significance (together with UK National Parks) as being recognised by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as *‘Category V - Protected Landscapes’*.

Category V Protected Landscapes are defined by IUCN as: *‘A protected area where the interaction of people and nature over time has produced an area of distinct character with significant ecological, biological, cultural and scenic value: and where safeguarding the integrity of this interaction is vital to protecting and sustaining the area and its associated nature conservation and other values.’*

### European Landscape Convention

The European Landscape Convention (ELC) is the first international convention to focus specifically on landscape. Created by the Council of Europe, the convention promotes landscape protection, management and planning, and European co-operation on landscape issues. The ELC came into force in the UK on 1 March 2007. It applies to all landscapes, towns and villages, as well as open countryside, the coast and inland areas, and ordinary or even degraded landscapes, as well as those that are afforded protection.

The ELC defines landscape as: *“an area as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors”* (Council of Europe 2000). It highlights the importance of developing landscape policies dedicated to the protection and management of landscapes and establishing procedures for the general public and other stakeholders to participate in policy creation and implementation.

## Responsibility for AONBs

The formal legal responsibility for both planning and development and for management of AONBs (including the duty to prepare an AONB Management Plan) lies with the local authorities in whose area(s) the AONB exists. In addition, the duty, for all public bodies and statutory undertakers, to 'have regard' places an obligation on a wide range of organisations not just to consider any detrimental impacts of their policies and activities outside as well as within the boundaries of any AONB, but positively to consider how they might benefit the AONBs special qualities.

## What is 'natural beauty'?

'Natural Beauty' is not just an aesthetic concept, and 'Landscape' means more than just 'scenery'. The natural beauty of AONBs is partly due to nature, and is partly the product of many centuries of human modification of 'natural' features. Landscape encompasses everything – 'natural' and human – that makes an area distinctive: geology, climate, soil, plants, animals, communities, archaeology, buildings, the people who live in it, past and present, and perceptions of those who visit it.

Landscapes are a product of constant change, including those designated due to their 'natural beauty'. The purposes of AONB designation reflect this process of change, encouraging activities that conserve and enhance the special qualities of the area and minimising activities that present a threat to the unique character of the landscape.

The term 'natural beauty' first gained currency in a legislative context in a 1907 Act, which gave legal status to the National Trust ('for Places of Historic Interest and Natural Beauty'). It has been the basis for the designation of both AONBs and National Parks since the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949.

Under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, the Government confirmed that AONBs and National Parks are of equal status with regard to landscape quality and that they share the same level of protection. In the same year, the CRoW Act formally stated that natural beauty includes conservation of '*flora, fauna and geological and physiographical features.*'

## WHY IS THE FOREST OF BOWLAND AONB SPECIAL?

The Forest of Bowland was formally designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) by Government on 10<sup>th</sup> February 1964. The area was designated as a landscape of national significance, primarily, due to the following key characteristics:

- The grandeur and isolation of the upland core
- The steep escarpments of the moorland hills
- The undulating lowlands
- The serenity and tranquillity of the area
- The distinctive pattern of settlements
- The wildlife of the area
- The landscape's historic and cultural associations

Natural beauty is at the heart of what makes the Forest of Bowland AONB special: it is the reason the Bowland landscape is designated for its 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 largely unspoilt countryside, combined with a number special qualities that contribute to the area's unique character or 'sense of place'. The special qualities of the Forest of Bowland AONB are numerous and varied, but in general terms they can be summarised as follows:

- An Outstanding Landscape
- 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

Most of these special qualities were identified as part of work undertaken in the mid-2000s exploring 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 and special qualities of the AONB can be understood and communicated among relevant stakeholders, including visitors.

## An Outstanding Landscape

The Forest of Bowland is an outstanding landscape and has been designated as an AONB due to its national significance. The high quality and outstanding natural beauty of the landscape sets the AONB apart from the wider countryside and is the reason for its designation.

The area can be characterised as a complex interplay of many different landscape types, all intrinsic to its overall landscape character; from the dominant, wide open vistas of the high fells to the more subtle, but no less important, lower-lying landscapes such as the pastoral farmland, woodlands, parkland, reservoirs, river valleys and floodplains. The area's distinctive character is determined not simply by the presence of particular natural elements or their rarity value, but also by the way in which they combine to form a mosaic of landscape types and reflect a rich history and cultural heritage.

## Wild Open Spaces

Over one third of the AONB is moorland, making up the wild open spaces and remoteness that are so characteristic of the Forest of Bowland; a truly unique quality of the area and core to the AONB's identity, as well as one of the principal reasons that the Forest of Bowland was designated.

Across much of the AONB the landscape appears largely treeless, yet historically the fells were once cloaked in woodland and through a combination of changes in climate and woodland clearances by Bronze Age farmers they have become largely treeless today. The resulting open views and fells give the impression that this is a wilderness, an untouched natural landscape, but it is in fact the result of many human influences. Today, the predominant land uses for these upland areas are sheep and beef farming enterprises, alongside management of moorland for grouse shooting.

The fells are largely intact and extensive in area, crossed by only a few minor, unfenced roads. The Trough of Bowland is perhaps the most famous, following a narrow valley that once carried melting ice from the glaciers covering the fell tops.

## A Special Place for Wildlife

The Forest of Bowland AONB supports many important habitats and species, which contribute significantly to the area's landscape character and 'sense of place'.

The Bowland fells support rare and endangered species associated with a very rare mosaic of upland habitats. At lower levels the ancient woodlands contain an array of colourful flowers; whilst the few remaining traditionally managed pastures and meadows are an oasis for wildflowers and insects. A myriad of rivers and smaller watercourses provide habitats for salmon, brown and sea trout, as well as birds such as kingfisher, dipper, grey wagtail, common sandpiper and oystercatcher. Otters are also present along several of the rivers in Bowland.

Other attractive features are more unlikely such as roadside verges and more recently formed sites, such as reservoirs and old quarries, providing new refuges for wildlife. Similarly the quarries and rock exposures reveal important geodiversity.

Bowland is in fact an internationally important area for conservation, as nearly one fifth of the AONB is designated as a Special Protection Area under the European Birds Directive. The Forest of Bowland also contains several Special Areas of Conservation and 20% of the land area (across 23 sites) is designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) under UK legislation.

In addition, there are 456 wildlife sites covering around 10% of the AONB, which form part of a national network of non-statutory sites that are recognised for their ecological value. In the Lancashire part of the AONB they are called Biological Heritage Sites (BHS); whilst in the Yorkshire part of the AONB they are known as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC).

This valuable habitat is a big attraction for visitors to the AONB – wildlife enthusiasts visit Bowland just to a glimpse of the hen harrier, the area's iconic bird of prey, which breeds in only a few other places in England. Or to see the wading birds that arrive in spring to nest and rear their young on the open farmland and moors of Bowland, such as lapwing, snipe, curlew and redshank.



## A Landscape Rich in Heritage

In the Forest of Bowland AONB, the past exists very much in the present. It is the subtle interplay between the fascinating physical remains of the past, often sublime landscape patterns, and the mysteries of the essentially unknowable, that gives the AONB's archaeological and historic landscapes their much appreciated and yet often intangible special qualities.

Visually the predominant historic patterns which are readily perceived in the Bowland landscape are medieval in date, demonstrating remarkably strong continuity in landownership, community and management over the centuries. This manifests in present day land uses such as expanses of open moorland or contrasting small stone walled pastures, as well as the distribution and form of settlement, local vernacular and place names. For example, the word 'Bu' (in 'Bolland' or Bowland) is Old Norse for cattle, and 'Pen' in Pendle means hill.

There is evident contrast in the villages in Bowland – some are typical estate villages while others are more haphazard farming settlements or industrial hamlets. The large country estates had a controlling and significant influence over the nature of building and development within the AONB in the past. For example the private estates were responsible for building the distinctive villages of Slaidburn, Downham and Abbeystead, which are valued for their intactness, strong physical form and characteristic vernacular architecture.

There are notable grand halls, parks and houses at Browsholme, Leagram and Quernmore. Remains of motte and bailey castles can be found in the Lune Valley and the ruins of a Cistercian abbey are preserved at Sawley.

Overall, the area holds almost 900 listed buildings and designated heritage assets (818 Listed Buildings, 48 Grade I and II\* Listed Buildings, 20 Scheduled Monuments and one Registered Park and Garden). Collectively these historic and cultural elements of the environment serve to enrich the landscape's scenic quality, meaning and value.

## A Living Landscape

The landscape of the Forest of Bowland has been managed by generations of farmers and landowners. Sheep and beef farming dominate the upland areas, while dairy farming remains a significant land use in the valleys.

In the past some land management practices have caused damage to important wildlife areas and/or landscape features – for example, the draining of moorland and meadows has caused a loss of species; and the fertilising and early harvesting of meadows has reduced the number of wildflowers. Today, however, stronger regulations are in place to help ensure that land management can improve habitats for wildlife, and management of features such as hedgerows and stone walls, rather than causing damage. Some farmers and land managers in Bowland have also become much more environmentally aware over the last 30 years and many are now using agri-environment support schemes to conserve and enhance habitats for wildlife and manage important landscape features on their farms. Some farmers have also adopted more sustainable and efficient farming practices, whilst remaining sympathetic to the environment; particularly through initiatives such as Natural England's Catchment Sensitive Farming.

Extensive areas of moorland are managed specifically for grouse shooting. Management often includes annual heather burning from October to mid-April, which encourages the growth of new young heather shoots as food for the red grouse.

Much of Bowland's upland core also provides water for thousands of homes and businesses in Lancashire and the North West of England. The water utility company, United Utilities owns and manages significant landholdings within the AONB as water catchment land.

Many village communities were once reliant on manufacturing (such as cheese making), as well as local industry associated with lead mining and lime production. Nowadays, however, communities rely on a greater diversity of activities, in particular employment within the tourism industry.

## Delicious Local Food and Drink

Delicious local food and drink is a special quality of the Forest of Bowland AONB - not only because it supports the economy, but also because it is an important factor in the area's unique sense of place. The traditional farming methods have helped to shape the AONB's landscape over time, including areas of rough grazing and open moorland, patterns of pastoral fields enclosed by distinctive dry stone-walls and hedgerows, farmsteads, barns and working villages. The complexity of this landscape provides for a wide variety of farm production systems. This complexity is reflected in the local food offer.

As you would expect in a sheep and beef farming area, you can find delicious local lamb and beef, as well as pork and even wild boar. The area also offers classic and modern varieties of Lancashire cheeses, milk and ice cream and supports several organic farms and market gardens. There are also several farmers' markets around Bowland where you can meet the producers and taste and buy their local produce. By supporting those farmers who choose high nature value farming, whilst continuing to produce food, the AONB aims to help protect the Bowland landscape for this and future generations.

## A Place to Enjoy and Keep Special

The purpose of AONB designation is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area, whilst having regard to the social and economic needs of the landowners, farmers and communities. The AONB also has a responsibility to meet the demands for recreation and tourism, but only if this is consistent with protecting the natural beauty of the area. It is for this reason that the AONB Partnership has promoted the concept of sustainable tourism within the Forest of Bowland: tourism that is dependent upon the area's environment, and which seeks to conserve and enhance that environment, not detract from it.

The AONB is a popular visitor destination for the surrounding urban settlements of Lancashire, Greater Manchester, Merseyside and West Yorkshire. Its relatively 'undiscovered' character is highly valued and generates loyalty amongst local people, day visitors and increasingly staying visitors. It is the combination of open moorland, and the ever-changing geography along the lower lying river valleys that not only gives the area its very own character, but also makes it a great destination for walkers, cyclists and wildlife enthusiasts. Although walking is the main activity pursued within the area, there are many opportunities to enjoy other activities such as mountain biking, horse riding, fishing, canoeing, gliding and paragliding.

Over recent years, the AONB Partnership has led the way in helping to develop sustainable tourism that takes account of its current and future economic, social and environmental impacts.

## THE AONB PARTNERSHIP

*Much of the land in the Forest of Bowland AONB is privately owned and primarily used for farming, game shooting and water supply. Nevertheless, the use of the area for recreation and tourism has become increasingly important over recent decades. The co-operation of those involved in land management, tourism and development management is therefore vital to the successful management of the AONB.*

### Joint Advisory Committee (JAC)

Delivery of the AONB Management Plan is encouraged through effective partnership working, rather than through enforcement. Since it was constituted in 1986, the Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) has been responsible for strategic liaison and decision-making between the wide range of partner organisations and interests within the AONB.

The AONB JAC objectives are to:

- Protect, conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the Forest of Bowland AONB
- Promote the sustainable social and economic development of the area, particularly where such activity conserves and enhances the environment
- Encourage enjoyment of the area where it is consistent with the first two objectives

The current JAC membership comprises the following organisations:

- Lancashire County Council
- North Yorkshire County Council
- Craven District Council
- Lancaster City Council
- Pendle Borough Council

- Preston City Council
- Ribble Valley Borough Council
- Wyre Council
- Lancashire Association of Local Councils (*representing Parish Councils*)
- Yorkshire Local Councils Association (*representing Parish Councils*)
- Natural England
- United Utilities plc
- Environment Agency
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
- Ramblers Association
- Moorland Association
- Bowland Land Managers Forum
- Bowland Experience Network (*A sustainable tourism business network for the AONB*)
- Champion Bowland (*A registered charity, supporting the aims and objectives of the AONB*)
- Friends of Bowland (*'Friends' group to support volunteering in the AONB*)

## AONB Unit

The Forest of Bowland AONB benefits from dedicated staff, who are responsible for co-ordinating and delivering many AONB projects and activities which make a significant contribution to the delivery of the AONB Management Plan. This dedicated staff team is known collectively as the AONB Unit. The responsibility of the AONB Unit includes:

- Coordination and management of the AONB Partnership and the review of the AONB Management Plan
- Develop and manage key project and activities to support delivery of the AONB Management Plan
- Raise funds to support the delivery of the AONB Management Plan

- Raise awareness about the importance of the AONB
- Working closely with local communities and businesses to increase involvement in the work of the AONB Partnership

The AONB Unit produces a rolling three-year business plan (agreed by the AONB Joint Advisory Committee) with detailed objectives and actions to guide the Unit's day-to-day activities.

## Partnership Funders Group (PFG)

A Partnership Funders Group (PFG) primarily comprises officers from the key funding partners (local authorities, United Utilities, Natural England and the Environment Agency), which meets quarterly to help guide the work of the AONB Unit. The PFG considers key Partnership policy and budget issues, and also provides technical and professional advice and assistance to the JAC in fulfilling its obligations.

## Other Partnership support

The AONB also benefits from other, additional personnel who work in support of the AONB Partnership. These include:

- Staff and volunteer rangers from both Lancashire Countryside Service and Wyre Coast and Countryside Service working in the AONB. These services focus primarily on access and visitor management in the AONB's gateways, country parks and other "honeypot" sites
- Parish Lengthsman Schemes (supported by the AONB Partnership) operate within the parishes of Barley-w-Wheatley Booth, Blacko, Bolton-by-Bowland and Gisburn Forest, Downham, Goldshaw Booth, Higham-w-West Close Booth, Lawkland, Newton-in-Bowland, Pendleton, Roughlee Booth, Sabden, Sawley and Wiswell. The parish lengthsman carry out small-scale environmental improvement and maintenance tasks on behalf of, and working with, the local community
- Other key AONB partner organisations involved in the delivery of Management Plan actions including Natural England; the Environment Agency; United Utilities; the Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester & North Merseyside; RSPB; Rivers Trusts, landowners and farmers; tourism businesses; community and voluntary groups and parish councils

## AONB Partnership Successes and Achievements (2014 – 2019)

Below are just some of the AONB Partnership's successes and achievements during the previous plan period from 2014 to 2019. These have been achieved through close partnership working between the AONB Unit, partner organisations, businesses and community groups:

TBC

## DEVELOPMENT OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

### The purpose of the plan

As a nationally important landscape, the Forest of Bowland AONB experiences a variety of management pressures on its landscape, such as changing demands on agricultural land, telecommunication and energy infrastructure, tourism facilities and the need to develop a sustainable rural economy. The Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan seeks to provide a strategic context within which the problems and opportunities that these pressures present are addressed and guided in a way that safeguards the national importance of this special landscape.

The purpose of the Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan is to provide a positive and pro-active management framework; highlighting the special qualities of the designated area, the importance of the relevant landscape features and identifying those features which are vulnerable to change.

The Management Plan outlines an integrated vision for future development of the AONB, based on a high level of shared aspirations for the area, taking into account relevant international, national, regional and local policies. It presents objectives specific to the AONB that will enable this vision to be pursued effectively and allocates responsibility for each objective and related actions to relevant partners.

All Management Plan objectives also have regard to the external context of the AONB - that is to say objectives are not solely 'inward looking' and wherever possible aim to take account of the relevant landscapes, communities and key issues outside of the AONB boundary.

### How the current plan was produced

The first Management Plan for the AONB was published in 1995 and the first statutory plan was published in 2004. The revised plan (2019 -2024) was published in March 2019 and succeeds the previous plans to guide the work of the AONB Joint Advisory Committee. The current Management Plan is the product of a series of targeted consultation exercises, together with a literature review.



## Consultation

Whilst the Management Plan has been reviewed at a time of more limited resources, the AONB Partnership remains committed to offering community involvement and stakeholder engagement in the Review process.

Consultation during the Review process has been carried out both online (via public survey, emails, press releases and social media) and through face-to-face meetings with key AONB partners. Formal consultation on the draft Revised Plan was also complemented with drop-in sessions open to the public to come and speak with the AONB Unit regarding the draft Plan. Summary reports have been produced and published, documenting responses and comments received during the various stages of consultation during the Review process.

## Literature review

The current Management Plan incorporates the results of a literature review of relevant plans, strategies and policies, and has sought to integrate these where appropriate. The literature review and subsequent review of the Management Plan was undertaken by the AONB Principal Officer. See Appendix 1 for a list of documents included in the literature review.

The important focus of the AONB Management Plan - and what differentiates it from these other plans and strategies - is its purpose of namely to conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the Forest of Bowland. However, the AONB Partnership recognises that this can only be achieved by complementing other partners' plans and strategies within the context of the AONB as a whole.

## POLICY CONTEXT FOR THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

### The Government's 25 Year Environment Plan

In January 2018, the Government published 'A Green Future: Our 25 Year Environment Plan for the Future'. The Plan sets out the Government's goals for improving the environment, within a generation, and leaving it in a better state than we found it. The Plan forms the culmination of over two years of work and consultation with environmental bodies, including close work with AONB Partnerships via the National Association for AONBs.

The Plan refers specifically to AONBs in Chapter 2 under 'Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes', in which it states:

*"...the creation of designated landscapes – which also include Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty AONBs – has been among the outstanding environmental achievements of the past 100 years. They provide a patchwork of stunning, and protected, landscapes. In England, a quarter of our landscape is designated in this way, around 10% as National Parks and 15% as AONBs. We will make sure they continue to be conserved and enhanced, while recognising that they are living landscapes that support rural communities."*

Under Section 2 'Conserving and enhancing natural beauty', the Plan also states that:

*"Over the next 25 years we want to make sure they [AONBs and National Parks] are not only conserved but enhanced. Many of the policies set out in the rest of the Plan will contribute to making all areas more beautiful..."*

Furthermore, the Plan then outlines two specific actions the Government wishes to undertake in relation to AONBs and National Parks, firstly to commission a '21<sup>st</sup> Century Hobhouse' Review of AONBs and National Parks and secondly, to work with and AONB Partnerships and Conservation Boards and National Park Authorities to deliver environmental enhancement, including through demonstrator projects, and engaging with communities through their statutory management plans.

The UK's National Parks and AONBs were created by an Act of Parliament in 1949, following the government's 1947 Hobhouse Report, which remains the basis for most protected landscape designation in England today. Now, 70 years on, the Government has commissioned a review for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The Review considers coverage of designations, how designated areas deliver their responsibilities, how designated areas are financed, and whether there is scope for expansion. It will also consider opportunities to enhance the environment in existing designations, and expand on the existing plans to connect more people with the natural environment.

Various other actions outlined in the Plan to improve the environment and people's connection with nature are also particularly relevant to AONBs, which include: designing and delivering a new Environmental Land Management Scheme; expanding the use of natural flood management solutions; developing a 'Nature Recovery Network' and connecting people with the environment to improve health and well-being. The objectives and actions outlined in the Management Plan will aim to contribute towards the delivery of these actions.

## Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services

Natural capital assets are the elements of the natural world from which flow a series of services or benefits to society. For example, woodland, species rich grassland, wetlands, peatland and other soils are all aspects of natural capital, whilst carbon storage, clean air and water and opportunities for recreation are some of the ecosystem services which flow from them. These services are also influenced by financial and social capital, but at their root is the natural capital that makes their delivery possible.

The special qualities and natural capital assets of the Forest of Bowland AONB landscape provide a wide range of ecosystem services:

- AONB farmers produce predominantly extensive beef and sheep on the fells with more intensive beef, sheep and dairy farming within the valleys and lowland fringes. Hill farming systems concentrate on the production of suckler beef and store lambs. In addition, the western fringes of the AONB also support a number of other enterprises including pig, poultry and horticulture.
- Timber is produced from forestry operations and woodfuel and wood products through small-scale woodland management.
- Upland river catchments of the AONB provide water for thousands of homes and businesses in Lancashire and the North West of England. The sustainable management of catchment land by the water utility company helps to improve water quality; reducing the need for more costly 'end-of-pipe' water treatment.

- Healthy, functioning blanket bog on the tops of the fells acts as a carbon store and work to restore and re-wet areas of blanket bog will help boost carbon sequestration. In addition, these blanket bogs are also important in helping to mitigate downstream flood risk for communities, both inside and out of the AONB.
- The extensive rights of way network and access land areas within the AONB, offering access to important wildlife sites and places of historical interest, provides excellent recreational opportunities and supports the health and well-being of both residents and visitors.
- Other benefits provided by the AONB landscape include the dispersal and cycling of nutrients, pollination and, with the appropriate technology in the correct location, a source of renewable energy (such as micro-hydro, small-scale wind, solar and biomass). It is also a source of clean air, tranquillity and freedom from noise and light pollution.

Some products like timber have a known financial value, but in other cases, such as the role of bees in pollinating crops or the storage of carbon in woodland and wetlands, we are only just beginning to fully understand their role and value to society and the economy. A better understanding of the natural capital assets and wide range of public benefits provided by the special landscape such as the AONB; and also their value both in monetary and non-monetary terms, can help us design and plan appropriate management activity to ensure that our natural resources and systems are more effectively supported in the future.

Many of the objectives within the Management Plan will influence the management of land and ecosystems in the AONB, and ensure that effective management is helping to sustain and improve the range and quality of ecosystem services that are provided. An brief analysis of natural capital and ecosystem services provided by the AONB landscape can be found in Appendix 2 to the Plan.

## 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 high standard of design, to be in keeping with local distinctiveness and seek to conserve and enhance the AONB's natural beauty.

AONBs enjoy the same levels of protection in planning terms as those of UK National Parks. Responsibility for planning policy and decision-making in AONBs lies with the relevant local authority (whereas in National Parks it lies with the Park Authority). This means that whilst AONB Management Plans themselves do not form part of any local development plan, they are, nevertheless, vitally important documents in the planning system. They are the

basis for identifying those aspects of the AONB which are critical in contributing to its natural beauty and potentially influential in the development of planning policy and a 'material consideration' in the determination of individual planning applications and appeals.

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

## National Planning Policy Framework

In 2018, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government published a revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which sets out the Government's current planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. The Framework states that:

*'The purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. At a very high level, the objective of sustainable development can be summarised as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.'* and

*'...at the heart of the Framework is a presumption in favour of sustainable development*

The Framework goes on to outline how this can be achieved, within the context of the planning system, through the application of three objectives, namely economic, social and environmental:

*Achieving sustainable development means that the planning system has three overarching objectives, which are interdependent and need to be pursued in mutually supportive ways (so that opportunities can be taken to secure net gains across each of the different objectives):*

*a) an economic objective – to help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right types is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity; and by identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure;*

*b) a social objective – to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering a well-designed and safe built environment, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural well-being; and*

*c) an environmental objective – to contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, helping to improve biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.*

The Framework confirms that local planning authorities should set out the strategic priorities for their areas within Local Plans and accordingly deliver the conservation and enhancement of the natural environment, including landscape. It also provides specific planning guidance for development planning and decision-making in relation to AONBs, under Paragraph 172:

*'Great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which have the highest status of protection in relation to these issues. The conservation and enhancement of wildlife and cultural heritage are also important considerations in these areas, and should be given great weight in National Parks and the Broads. The scale and extent of development within these designated areas should be limited.'*

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 development, the Framework goes to state that:

*'Planning permission should be refused for major development other than in exceptional circumstances, and where it can be demonstrated that the development is in the public interest. Consideration of such applications should include an assessment of:*

*a) the need for the development, including in terms of any national considerations, and the impact of permitting it, or refusing it, upon the local economy;*

*b) the cost of, and scope for, developing outside the designated area, or meeting the need for it in some other way; and*

*c) any detrimental effect on the environment, the landscape and recreational opportunities, and the extent to which that could be moderated.'*

The Framework also confirms that allocations of land for development should prefer land of lesser environmental value (counting the AONB as high value), that local planning authorities should set evidence and criteria based policies against which proposals for any development on or affecting

landscape areas will be judged (development affecting AONBs includes impact on their setting) and that planning should contribute to conserving and enhancing the natural environment.

## Landscape Characterisation

Landscape character is defined as “a distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements in the landscape that makes one landscape different from another, rather than better or worse” (Landscape Character Network). Put simply, landscape character is that which makes an area unique or different from neighbouring areas (in much the same way as we use the word “character” to describe differences between people).

National Character Areas (NCAs) divide England into 159 distinct natural areas. Each is defined by a unique combination of landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity and cultural and economic activity. Their boundaries follow natural lines in the landscape rather than administrative boundaries, making them a good decision making framework for the natural environment. The AONB is largely contained within two NCAs, 'Bowland Fringe and Pendle Hill' (NCA 33) and 'Bowland Fells' (NCA 34). A small area of Pendle Hill also falls within 'Lancashire Valleys' (NCA35). For more useful information on National Character Areas, including Area Profiles and Statements of Environmental Opportunity visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-character-area-profiles-data-for-local-decision-making/national-character-area-profiles>

In addition national landscape character assessment, a number of local landscape character studies have been undertaken to better understand and describe the character of the Forest of Bowland landscape. The most recent and comprehensive of these is the Forest of Bowland AONB Landscape Character Assessment:

## Forest of Bowland AONB Landscape Character Assessment

In 2009, the AONB commissioned a detailed landscape character assessment of the AONB. The overall study consists of two principal sections dealing with landscape classification and managing landscape change respectively. In general, the key characteristics of the AONB landscape, as identified by this landscape character assessment, are as follows:

- Grandeur and isolation of the upland core
- Open expanses of moorland

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- Cultural landscape of upland farming
- Historic landscape management as royal hunting forest and more recently as sporting estates
- Rural landscape of dry stone-wall enclosed pastures, stone built farms and villages
- Wooded pastoral scenery and parkland
- Steep scarps, deeply incised cloughs and wooded valleys
- Broad river valleys
- Contrasting gritstone/limestone geology

The landscape character assessment also provides analysis on the landscape sensitivity and its capacity to accommodate change, alongside guidelines for planners, developers, land managers and others on managing landscape change, within each of the landscape character types of the AONB. A copy of the AONB Landscape Character Assessment (2009) is available at: <https://forestofbowland.com/Landscape-Character-Assessment>



# A VISION FOR THE FOREST OF BOWLAND AONB

## Vision Statement

The objectives and actions of the AONB Management Plan should be guided by a long-term goal, or vision. The previous Management Plan set out a vision of how the AONB should ideally look into the future. A broadly similar vision has been carried forward to the revised Plan, as the aspirations it describes still reflect well the AONB partners' values and interests.

**The vision for all partners to work towards is that:**

***The Forest of Bowland AONB retains its sense of local distinctiveness, notably the large-scale open moorland character of the Bowland Fells, undulating lowland farmland, traditional buildings and settlement patterns of villages, hamlets and farmsteads. Natural and cultural heritage is sympathetically managed and supports a sustainable and vibrant local economy. The management of the AONB has improved the quality and enjoyment of the landscape for all.***

# DELIVERING THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

## Introduction

The following three themes provide a framework for the delivery plan section of the Management Plan, helping the Partnership achieve successful implementation of the Plan, and ultimately the vision for the AONB:

1. An Outstanding Landscape of Natural and Cultural Heritage
2. Resilient and Sustainable Communities
3. A Strong Connection between People and the Landscape

The delivery plan outlines information on:

- Key issues and forces for change affecting the AONB
- AONB Partnership 'ways of working'
- AONB Partnership objectives and actions to be deliver the AONB Management Plan 2019 - 2024

### Key issues and forces for change

The key issues affecting the AONB are driven by a number of factors including the profound implications of climate change, development pressure, the pursuit of economic growth, demands for recreation and changes in modern agriculture and the broader economy. These key issues or 'forces for change' are likely to continue to affect the AONB throughout the next plan period. Sections detailing these precede each themed set of objectives and actions. It should be emphasised that they do not discuss these issues at length, but seek to provide an overview and a context within which the Plan will need to operate.

Please note: key issues have been identified as part of the literature review and through consultation. While all of the issues listed have potential to impact on the AONB, not all of those listed are the responsibility of the AONB Partnership – i.e. they may be beyond the scope of the AONB’s purpose of designation.

### **'Ways of working'**

The concept of collaboration and working together with others to achieve success underscores all AONB Partnership work. Most AONB Management Plan delivery needs to be done by encouragement through effective partnership working and not enforcement. Under each outcome, AONB 'ways of working' are detailed; outlining how the AONB Partnership and Unit aims to carry out its day-to-day work, particularly where these tasks do not readily produce SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Time-bound) objectives or actions.

### **Objectives**

The following delivery plan details AONB Partnership objectives and actions to be delivered during the Plan period and allocates responsibility for these to a lead partner (emboldened) and other key partners, with details of targets and timescales for each action. The AONB Joint Advisory Committee, Partnership Funders Group and AONB Unit will seek to prioritise future partnership delivery through regular meetings and the annual business planning process.

All Management Plan objectives have regard to the setting of the AONB; that is to say objectives are not solely 'inward looking' and wherever possible aim to take account of the relevant landscapes, communities and key issues outside of the AONB boundary.

# 1. An Outstanding Landscape of Natural and Cultural Heritage

- **The landscape is conserved and enhanced, whilst ensuring essential development takes place**
- **More and bigger areas of habitat are connected and better managed, with key species conserved**
- **Built and other cultural heritage assets are better understood, conserved and managed**
- **The natural capital of the AONB and the public goods derived from these assets are better understood and valued**

## Key Issues

- International conventions and obligations such as the European Landscape Convention, the Convention on Biodiversity and Climate Change Agreements
- New agricultural policy and support (e.g. 'public money for public goods'), as a result of the UK's exit from the European Union
- New environmental policy and regulatory structures, as a result of the UK's exit from the European Union
- Government ambitions to improve the environment, expressed in 'A Green Future: Our 25 Year Environment Plan for the Future'
- Increased awareness and recognition of the value of natural capital and the associated ecosystem services that flow from these assets, such as carbon storage and sequestration, water quality, flood alleviation, recreation and people's health and well-being
- Continued persecution and disturbance affecting birds of prey populations
- Limited breeding success of the Hen harrier within the Bowland Fells Special Protection Area
- Continued declines in key species within UK and Ireland (e.g. Curlew)
- Invasive alien species damaging ecosystems (e.g. Signal crayfish in rivers; Himalayan balsam threatening bluebell woodland)
- Lack of woodland management affecting biodiversity, particularly semi-natural clough woodland
- Woodland cover still below national average, with continued low levels of new woodland creation
- Small, fragmented patches of habitat are vulnerable to loss of biodiversity due isolation and climate changes
- Roadside verge management regimes adversely affecting verges with special biodiversity interest
- Agricultural specialisation, intensification and farm amalgamation is resulting in a loss of semi-natural habitats and cultural features

- Diffuse and point-source pollution of watercourses from both agricultural and non-agricultural sources
- Intensive fertiliser use and diffuse pollution continues in some areas leading to loss of biodiversity both on and off agricultural land (e.g. roadside verges), as well as affecting water quality
- Potential change to cropping patterns and types of crops, in response to climate change, altering the character of the landscape
- Potential for more hot, dry summers leading to reduced ground water and drying out of moorland habitats, which can increase fire risk and release carbon into the atmosphere
- Potential for more intense rainfall events causing flooding within- and downstream of the AONB
- Changes to the planning system, following the publication of the revised National Planning Policy Framework e.g. more major development proposals in the AONB
- Pressure for new development and building conversion in open, exposed landscape, which can be visually intrusive
- Potential development of unconventional gas exploitation (i.e. hydraulic fracturing or 'fracking') infrastructure within the AONB
- Small-scale cumulative development (e.g. building extensions, residential boundary treatment, roadside concrete curbing and signage) resulting in erosion of integrity and quality
- Development, traffic and lighting beyond the boundary of the area increasingly intruding on the AONB setting
- Lack of awareness of geodiversity value of the AONB
- Loss of traditional skills reducing the ability to effectively manage the traditional landscape features and buildings of the AONB

## 'Ways of Working'

### Landscape

- Provide advice and guidance on planning and landscape-related matters for local planning authorities, highway authorities, government agencies, developers and communities (based on 'guidelines for managing landscape change' within the Forest of Bowland AONB Landscape Character Assessment [2009]) to uphold the statutory duty for AONBs of 'conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the landscape'.
- Contribute to and influence development plan documents (DPDs) of responsible local planning authorities
- Influence relevant planning and development policies and strategies at local, county and national level to uphold the statutory duty for AONBs of 'conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the landscape'

- Promote sustainable land management practices to help conserve and enhance the AONB landscape (based on 'guidelines for managing landscape change' within the Forest of Bowland AONB Landscape Character Assessment [2009])
- Participate in a range of fora and networks to represent AONB landscape interests

#### Habitats and Species

- Encourage habitat creation and the buffering of existing habitats in line with 25 Year Environment Plan objectives (and appropriate to landscape character), aiming to create more, bigger and more connected habitats
- Commitment to applying 'Natural Capital and Ecosystems Approach' to management of the AONB landscape
- Collaborate with Natural England, Environment Agency, Forestry Commission and other national, sub-regional and local environmental organisations and interests through a range of fora, to co-ordinate actions for the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity within the AONB
- Promote, encourage and facilitate 'High Nature Value' farming through provision of advice and guidance to land managers -on new Environmental Land Management Schemes, post-Brexit
- Maintain regular communications with Defra and Natural England I regarding development of the new Environment Land Management Schemes

## **An Outstanding Landscape of Natural and Cultural Heritage - Management Plan Objectives**

### **1.1 Landscape**

Apply the guiding principles of the European Landscape Convention and use the landscape characterisation as a tool for an integrated approach to managing landscape change which conserves and enhances natural beauty

### **1.2 Habitats and Species**

Conserve, enhance and restore the AONB's characteristic mosaic of habitats and improve their connectivity, take targeted action to conserve key species and improve understanding of the biodiversity of the AONB.

### **1.3 Historic Environment**

Support the conservation, restoration and management of the historic environment and wider cultural landscape.

### **1.4 Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services**

Seek to better understand the value of the natural capital assets of the AONB and the public goods derived from these assets; to help guide future policy and decision making for management of the landscape.

## 2 Resilient and Sustainable Communities

- **The farmed landscape delivers more for nature, farmers, and the public**
- **The local economy benefits from the promotion and development of sustainable tourism in the AONB**
- **The AONB is not disadvantaged due to its rurality, in particular access to services and utilities, business support, training and skills**
- **Local communities and businesses are supported to become involved in activities and projects to conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the AONB**

### Key Issues

- New trade agreements, agricultural policy and support for farmers due to the UK leaving the EU, creating uncertainty and increased pressures on livestock farming.
- Centralisation of processing facilities has reduced the ability of producers to supply local markets
- Potential impact on the rural economy of the UK leaving the EU, including uncertainty around future of rural development funding from Government
- Increasing competition from other countryside destinations and need to retain high percentage of tourism market share
- Lack of public transport and reliance on the private car
- Loss of services in rural settlements due to economies of scale, changes in Government policy and reduced funding for public services, and changing purchasing habits leading to reduction in rural sustainability and negative impacts on those without a car
- Limited access to full time jobs locally
- Lack of affordable housing for people working in the AONB
- Roll-out of superfast broadband is patchy and has still not reached the more remote areas of the AONB
- Reduced opportunities for rural businesses to capitalise on latest information and communication technology (ICT) due to inconsistent broadband coverage
- Increased risk and frequency of flooding in lowland areas/river valleys where most settlements are situated



- Ageing farm workforce with fewer younger farmers to replace those that are retiring. This can lead to: i) fewer people to look after the land; ii) conversion of farm units into small gentrified hamlets; iii) increased commuting into neighbouring towns, resulting in more traffic on minor roads
- Ageing population in general, leading to fewer young families and younger people living in the AONB, this in turn could result in a loss of skills, knowledge and engagement with the AONB landscape

## **AONB 'Ways of Working'**

### Farming and Land Management

- Work closely with AONB landowners, managers and farmers (via farmer networks and groups) to liaise with- and involve the land management sector in AONB projects and activity
- Work closely with AONB and owners, managers and farmers to ensure effective communications with the AONB and government agencies relating to land management decisions affecting the area
- AONB partners and government agencies to engage, consult and respond to the reasonable concerns of land owners, managers and farmers prior to making decisions which affect their interests, rights and responsibilities

### Sustainable Tourism

- Provide one-to-one support and advice on sustainable tourism for businesses in and around the AONB
- Actively recruit and support sustainable tourism partners, Bowland Experience and green tourism accredited businesses
- Encourage businesses and partners to support and promote AONB publications and leaflets
- Collaborate with Marketing Lancashire, Welcome to Yorkshire and local authority tourism officers to promote the AONB as a sustainable tourism destination
- Ensure consistent use of AONB and Pendle Hill LP branding on website, print, communications, mobile apps and social media

### Local Economy and Rural Services

- Support the retention of services (e.g. health centres, post offices, schools, shops, public transport, public toilets and car parking) within local communities of the AONB and resist developments which would result in their loss

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- Support housing and workspace proposals within the area, where the development meets local housing, employment and business needs and where it will also conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the AONB landscape
- Support landscape-sensitive delivery of super-fast broadband and mobile telecommunication networks throughout the AONB
- Review and remain up-to-date with current rural growth and development funding mechanisms
- Promote local businesses, products and services

### Community Engagement and Volunteering

- Work with local communities throughout the AONB
- Ensure local communities are fully informed, consulted and involved with regard to AONB planning and activities, wherever possible seeking to include a diverse range of people (e.g. age, ethnicity, ability and interests)
- Support communities in identifying and celebrating their local distinctiveness
- Continue to work alongside Champion Bowland, as a local registered charity with an aim to support the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of the AONB
- Incorporate volunteering into the delivery of AONB projects, wherever possible.
- Seek to remove barriers to participation when developing AONB projects and activities
- Seek to make participation of new audiences sustainable in the long term wherever possible, particularly those who might be considered "hard to reach"

## **Resilient and Sustainable Communities - Management Plan Objectives**

### **2.1 Farming and Land Management**

Encourage, promote and support farming and land management practices that help to conserve and enhance natural beauty.

### **2.2 Sustainable Tourism**

Develop, co-ordinate and promote sustainable tourism activity within and close to the AONB.

### **2.3 Local Economy and Rural Services**

Promote and support rural services and the socio-economic development of the area, particularly where such activity helps to conserve and enhance natural beauty.

### **2.4 Community Engagement and Volunteering**

Work with local communities and businesses to become more involved in activities and projects to conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the AONB.

### 3 A Strong Connection between People and the Landscape

- **Access to the countryside is maintained and improved for more- and a wider range of people**
- **Visitor information and interpretation engages a wide audience and supports the visitor economy**
- **More and a wider range of people benefit from opportunities to learn about the natural and cultural heritage of the AONB and the work of those who look after it**
- **The natural and cultural heritage of the AONB provides opportunities to improve people's health and well-being**

#### Key Issues

- Pressure on popular 'honeypot' destinations resulting in erosion and potential loss of habitat, tranquillity, damage to archaeological sites and diminished visitor experience
- Management and maintenance of Public Rights of Way (and AONB 'Promoted Routes') when public services remain under significant budgetary pressure
- Existing bridleway network remains fragmented
- Use of rights of way both legally and illegally by motorcycles and 4x4 vehicles causes conflict with other recreational users and local communities
- Rising visitor numbers increasing the use of private cars to popular visitor sites, thus detracting from the visitor experience
- Increased incidence of inconsiderate, road-side parking, particularly at and adjacent to popular visitor sites
- Localised problems of litter and fly-tipping
- Increased risk and frequency of moorland fires in upland areas
- Lower public awareness and understanding of the AONB designation (in comparison to National Parks)
- Increased demand for organised recreational events within the AONB (including through SSSI land) which have the potential to damage habitats or disturb wildlife
- Increased awareness of the benefits accessing the natural environment to improve people's health and well-being

- Low participation in AONB and Festival Bowland events by younger people, low-income families and BAME communities
- Managing the competing demand for both traditional print media and on-line, digital media when creating interpretation and publicity

## **AONB 'Ways of Working'**

### Countryside Access

- Promote countryside access opportunities for all, seeking to meet the needs of all users wherever possible
- Consider the landscape impacts of access improvements, particularly on moorland and fells
- Consider opportunities to facilitate discussions with landowners about dedication of land for public access, where appropriate
- Promote and encourage the use of high quality materials for PRow 'furniture' that are in keeping with the local landscape (e.g. wooden footpath signs), wherever possible
- Continue to work closely with Natural England, Local Access Forums and landowners in relation to management of access land, particularly to assist with any planned review of Access Land maps

### Visitor Management, Information and Interpretation

- Promote attractions away from 'honeypot' sites in order to attract visitors to less visited parts of the AONB
- Continue to work closely with local authority countryside services to help maintain effective management of countryside sites (e.g. country parks, picnic sites, car parks and lay-bys) in the AONB
- Encourage sustainable development and management of new visitor destinations in the AONB (e.g. Stephen Park in Gisburn Forest)
- Continue to produce AONB printed and online publicity, where necessary and as resources allow
- Continue to work with and support tourism businesses to promote the area's recreational, wildlife and cultural heritage offer in a sustainable way
- Maintain the AONB website as the hub for visitor information and for AONB Partnership resources
- Make regular use of social media to communicate with AONB partners, visitors and communities

## **A Strong Connection between People and the Landscape – Management Plan Objectives**

### **3.1 Countryside Access**

Maintain and improve access to the countryside in a sustainable way for a diverse range of people and that promotes responsible, safe and quiet enjoyment.

### **3.2 Visitor Management, Information and Interpretation**

Provide high quality visitor facilities, information, events and activities to enable people to enjoy, understand and celebrate the AONB's special qualities in a sustainable way.

### **3.3 Learning**

Provide opportunities for active learning by connecting people with nature, culture and the landscape

### **3.4 Health and Well-being**

Provide opportunities for people to improve their health and wellbeing by connecting with nature, culture and the landscape

# APPENDIX 1 - LITERATURE REVIEW

<b>Directive, plan, strategy</b>
<b>INTERNATIONAL</b>
Agenda 21 (1992)
Convention on Biodiversity (1993)
The Paris Agreement on Climate Change (2016)
Convention on Biodiversity, Aichi Targets (2010)
UNESCO World Heritage Convention (1972)
<b>EUROPEAN</b>
European Landscape Convention (2000, with UK adoption 2007)
The Birds Directive (79/409/EEC), (1979)
The Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), (1992)
Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020, European Commission, 2011
The Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)
The Waste Framework Directive, (2008/98/EC)
The Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EC)
EC Directive 2003/4/EC on public access to environmental information, (2003)
The European Convention on the Protection of Archaeological Heritage (Valetta Convention)
The Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada Convention)
The Renewable Energy Directive (2009/28/EC)
<b>NATIONAL</b>
Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended), (1981)
Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CRoW), (2000)
Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006)
Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended)
Sustainable Energy Act (2003)
Secure and Sustainable Buildings Act (2004)
Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act, (1979)

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Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Area) Act, (1990)
Climate Change Act (2008)
Localism Act (2011)
Growth and Infrastructure Act (2013)
Water Act (2014)
Energy Act (2016)
Neighbourhood Planning Act (2017)
‘The Natural Choice’, the Natural Environment White Paper (Defra, 2012)
A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment (HM Government 2018)
Water for Life, the Water White Paper (Defra, 2011)
Local Transport White Paper 2011
Revised National Planning Policy Framework (MHCLG 2018)
The Agriculture Bill (2018)
Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England’s wildlife and ecosystem services (Defra 2011)
Natural England Designations Strategy, July 2012
The Great Britain Invasive Non Native Species Strategy, Defra, Scottish & Welsh Governments (2015)
Natural Capital Committee's State of Natural Capital Report (2017)
State of the Nature Report (2016)
UK Geodiversity Action Plan (2009)
Historic England Corporate Plan 2018 -2021
Conservation Principle, Policy and Guidance, English Heritage (2008)
The UK Industrial Strategy (2016)
UK Renewable Energy Strategy (2009)
Securing the Future – Delivering the UK Sustainable Development Strategy (Defra, 2011)
Safeguarding our Soils – A Strategy for England (Defra 2011)
Draft Clean Air Strategy (HM Government 2018)
Government Forestry and Woodlands Policy Statement (Forestry Commission 2013)
A Tourism Action Plan (DCMS 2016)
Public Health England Strategic Plan (2016)
A Sporting Future – A New Strategy for a Sporting Nation (DCMS 2015)



<b>LOCAL</b>
Craven District Council Local Plan (adopted 1999)
Craven Local Plan (Submission Draft, 2018)
Lancaster District Local Plan (adopted 2004)
Lancaster District Core Strategy (adopted 2008)
Replacement Pendle Local Plan 2001 – 2016 (adopted 2001)
Pendle Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy (adopted 2015)
Preston Local Plan 2012 – 2026 (adopted 2015)
Central Lancashire Core Strategy for Preston, South Ribble and Chorley (adopted 2012)
Central Lancashire Rural Development Supplementary Planning Document (adopted 2012)
Central Lancashire Design Supplementary Planning Document (adopted 2012)
Ribble Valley Districtwide Local Plan (adopted 1998)
Ribble Valley Core Strategy (adopted 2014)
Wyre Local Plan (Submission Draft 2018)
Joint Lancashire Minerals and Waste Development Framework (2009)
Joint Minerals and Waste Plan for North Yorkshire, North York Moors National Park and City of York (Submission Draft, 2017)
A Landscape Strategy for Lancashire, Lancashire County Council Environment Directorate, 2000
Bowland Fringe and Pendle Hill National Character Area 33 Profile (2012)
Bowland Fells National Character Area 34 Profile (2012)
Lancashire GAP 2010, GeoLancashire
Lancashire Historic Landscape Characterisation Programme (2000)
Planning guidance for renewable energy – Lancashire (2011)
Lancashire Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2015 - 2025
North Yorkshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2015 - 2025
Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Strategy (Lancashire County Council/NHS)
Lancashire Visitor Economy Strategy and Destination Management Plan 2016 - 2020
Welcome to Yorkshire, Our five year strategy for the Yorkshire Brand 2012 - 2017
Lancashire's Strategic Economic Plan 2015 -2025
York, North Yorkshire and the East Riding Strategic Economic Plan 2015 - 2021
North West River Basin Management Plan 2015

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North West River Basin District Flood Risk Management Plan 2015 - 2021
Lune & Wyre catchment abstraction management strategy (2013)
Ribble, Douglas & Crossens catchment abstraction management strategy (2013)
Local Transport Plan 2011- 2021 - A Strategy for Lancashire
North Yorkshire Local Transport Plan, 2016 - 2045
Lune Catchment Flood Management Plan, Summary Report December 2009
Ribble Catchment Flood Management Plan, Summary Report December 2009
Wyre Catchment Flood Management Plan, Summary Report December 2009
Lancashire Climate Change Strategy 2009-2020,

## APPENDIX 2 – ECOSYSTEM SERVICES IN THE FOREST OF BOWLAND AONB

*Ecosystem Services are the benefits which the environment provides to society. In the Forest of Bowland the obvious benefits are the natural resources such as food, fuel and water; however there are many others too, see the table below. The aim behind identifying ecosystem services is to attempt to attach a value to these services provided by the landscape, in order to assess its importance to society. Services are divided into four categories:*

**Provisioning Services:** natural resources provided by the landscape, for example via farming and forestry: food, wood, water and fuel are included

**Regulating Services:** systems within the landscape which regulate the wider environment, for example via the water cycle and pollination: these include clean air and water, fertile and stable soils and climate regulation

**Cultural Services:** non-material opportunities created by the landscape to enable people to enjoy and benefit from the environment: these include recreation, a sense of place and heritage, tranquillity, education and tourism

**Supporting Services:** these are the basic services which make up the infrastructure of the environment, the wildlife and habitats, geodiversity, soil development, and water and nutrient cycling

ECOSYSTEM SERVICES IN THE FOREST OF BOWLAND AONB	
Provisioning Services	RELEVANT MP OBJECTIVES
<p><b>Food:</b> farmers produce predominantly extensive beef and sheep on the fells with more intensive beef, sheep and dairy farming within the valleys and lowland fringes. Hill farming systems concentrate on the production of suckler beef and store lambs. In addition, the western fringes of the AONB also support a number of other enterprises including pig, poultry and horticulture. Locally produced meat and dairy products contribute to the area's economy and this also contributes to the attraction of tourists to the area. The area also produces game (red grouse, pheasant and partridge) and is a rich fishing ground (notably for salmon and trout) on both still-waters and on the rivers</p>	1.4, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3

<b>Water:</b> Bowland is a water gathering area and United Utilities own a large proportion of the fells, extracting water from the headwaters of the main rivers (Ribble, Wyre and Lune) and via key reservoirs at Stocks, Barley and Barnacre. The area traditionally supplied large parts of East Lancashire, Blackpool and Fylde with drinking water and water for industry, plus topping up Lancaster Canal	1.1, 1.2, 1.4, 2.1
<b>Timber:</b> there are a number of coniferous plantations in the AONB which are managed sustainably for timber production, notably at Gisburn Forest. There are also good opportunities for increased extraction of timber from broadleaved woodlands: providing fuel and timber for local use	1.1, 1.2, 1.4, 2.1
<b>Energy:</b> the AONB offers a significant resource for the production of renewable energy generation, particularly wind, small-scale solar and hydro, woodfuel and biomass	1.1, 1.4, 2.1
<b>Rock and minerals:</b> Historically, the AONB has seen lime extraction industries up until late 19 <sup>th</sup> century and lead mining operations also in the 19 <sup>th</sup> century. Today, there are a number of active quarries within the AONB providing various stone, aggregate and clay brick products	1.1, 1.4, 2.1, 2.3
<b>Supporting Services</b>	
<b>Wildlife habitats and species:</b> The AONB contains over 16,000 ha of nationally important Sites of Special Scientific Interest (23 sites, covering 13% of the AONB), much of it being blanket bog and heather moorland, covering the high fells – but also notable upland hay meadows and ancient woodlands. The complex mosaic of habitats including grasslands, woodland, hedgerows and moor provide a rich ecological network. The area is important for breeding birds especially raptors including hen harrier, peregrine and merlin; and waders such as lapwing, curlew, redshank and snipe. This international importance for birds is recognised by the designation of the Bowland Fells (approx.16,000 ha) as a Special Protection Area (SPA). In addition, numerous rivers and watercourses provide habitats for salmon, brown and sea trout, as well as birds such as kingfisher, dipper, grey wagtail, common sandpiper and oystercatcher. Otters are also present along rivers on the northern side of the Bowland Fells. This biodiversity is vital to sustaining the ecosystems and to providing an attractive natural environment for people to enjoy	1.1, 1.2, 1.4, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 3.3, 3.4
<b>Geodiversity:</b> underlying limestones, gritstones and shales create the AONB's basic landforms. These were modified by glaciations and the resulting wide river valleys, meltwater troughs and moraines add to the area's character. River erosion and deposition also create important features such as fans and channel erosion; and a number of quarries exist for small and large scale extraction of building stone and aggregates, and for cement production. There are both nationally and locally important sites designated for their geological importance within the AONB	1.1, 1.4, 2.1, 2.2, 3.3, 3.4
<b>Nutrient cycling:</b> plants and animals are responsible for cycling and re-cycling nutrients within natural systems, e.g. for breaking down of decayed matter and for enabling natural fertilisers to enrich the farmland. If inputs are increased artificially to this system then it can be thrown off balance and result in over enriched soils and eutrophication of water bodies	1.2, 1.4, 2.1
<b>Cultural Services</b>	
<b>Sense of place:</b> the Forest of Bowland AONB has a distinctive sense of place drawn from its contrasting and complementary landscapes: with a mixture of pastures, parkland and hedgerows in the lowlands and large expanses of moorland used for sheep grazing and grouse shooting on the higher fells. Settlements are small and dotted around the foothills, river valleys are often steep and wooded. This distinctive character lends a feeling of 'a step back in time' to the area and adds to its attraction for visitors	1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 3.1
<b>Heritage:</b> the area holds almost 900 listed buildings and designated heritage assets (818 Listed Buildings, 48 Grade I and II* Listed Buildings, 20 Scheduled Monuments and one Registered Park and Garden), ranging from Bronze Age and Roman through medieval and Tudor. The area's distinctive dry stone walls reflect the parliamentary enclosure acts of the 18 <sup>th</sup> and 19 <sup>th</sup> centuries, and the former hunting Forests date from Norman times. Village and farm	1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 2.1

settlements illustrate the influence of Norse invaders right through to small scale 18 <sup>th</sup> and 19 <sup>th</sup> century industries. The area's history adds to its tourism and education offer	
<b>Tranquillity:</b> whilst over 99% of the Bowland Fells can be classed as undisturbed, this falls to 76% in the fringe area due to the impact of traffic noise in the M6/A6 corridor and along other main roads and around the larger settlements outside the AONB boundaries. The Bowland Fells also offer some of the darkest skies in England with low levels of pollution. Tranquillity and 'dark skies' can add to the tourism offer of the area as well as to residents' health and well being.	1.1, 2.2, 2.3, 3.1, 3.2
<b>Recreation:</b> the Forest of Bowland has an excellent network of public rights of way and over 25,000 ha of open access land. This attracts a large number of walkers and increasing participation by horse riders and cyclists, both on and off-road. There are also good opportunities for less mobile country-lovers with a network of tramper trails; and for birdwatchers, anglers and shooting parties. The area's food and drink offer is of a very high quality and attractive pubs and teashops provide a clear link between locally produced food and drink and the visiting public. Beacon Fell country park is managed by Lancashire County Council and attracts nearly 100,000 visitors a year	2.1, 2.2, 2.4, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4
<b>Tourism:</b> The AONB was awarded the European Charter for sustainable tourism in protected areas in both 2005 and 2010 and as such it co-ordinates and encourages tourism businesses in the area to trade in a sustainable and sympathetic manner, promoting the AONB as a 'green tourism' destination. The landscape and natural beauty of the area, together with its wildlife and history, is seen as the key draw for visitors: and therefore contributes directly to the local economy	1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 3.1, 3.2
<b>Knowledge and education:</b> The AONB partnership offers a large number of opportunities for both formal and informal education – including school visits to farms, arts workshops and performances, bird watching safari's, field studies for students; and opportunities for volunteering in traditional countryside skills. In 2013 the Festival Bowland programme offered over 120 events and attracted in excess of 1300 participants	2.1, 2.4, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4
<b>Health &amp; wellbeing:</b> Visits to the countryside provide excellent opportunities for gentle walking and relaxing days out. These can contribute to individual's health and wellbeing, at a minimal cost	2.3, 3.4
<b>Regulating Services</b>	
<b>Regulating climate change:</b> carbon dioxide is absorbed by farmland and woodland and perhaps most importantly by blanket bog. Restoring blanket bog and eroding peat so that it can become an active carbon store is a vital contribution to mitigating against climate change. Adapting to climate change can also be achieved through the AONB environment, especially when considering flood management (see below)	1.1, 1.2, 1.4, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3
<b>Regulating soil erosion:</b> the risk of soil erosion in the AONB is high; due to the high peat content, steep slopes and high rainfall of the area. Increasing drought may also lead to soil erosion. Improving vegetation cover, reducing over grazing, and controlling burning and recreational pressures can all help to reduce soil erosion in a sustainable manner	1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 3.1, 3.2
<b>Regulating soil quality:</b> soil compaction and loss of organic matter can be reduced if soil is managed sustainably by reducing stock and human pressure; and by reducing the impact of flash flooding	1.1, 1.2, 1.4, 2.1
<b>Regulating water quality:</b> reducing water colouration by managing the uplands in a sustainable manner has already shown, via the United Utilities SCaMP programme in Bowland, that land management can have economic benefits. Likewise water quality can be improved using natural processes, such as filtering and decomposition. Water quality tends to be good in the headwaters of the AONB, often falling to moderate further downstream	1.1, 1.2, 1.4, 2.1

**Flood control:** re-wetting of the moorlands to store carbon also helps the blanket bog habitat to retain heavy rain downpours and to reduce flash flooding, run off, erosion and the flooding of downstream communities, particularly larger urban populations outside the AONB.. Additional works such as enabling floodplains to absorb high river levels and floodwater (as at Long Preston on the Ribble), can also help to reduce flood risk in downstream areas

1.1, 1.2, 1.4, 2.1

## APPENDIX 3 - LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

### TO BE UPDATED

BD Working Group	AONB Biodiversity Working Group
BD2020	Biodiversity 2020: A Strategy for England's Wildlife and Ecosystem Services
BEx	Bowland Experience Limited
BHS	Biological Heritage Site
BLMF	Bowland Land Managers Forum
CIC	Community Interest Company
CPRE	Campaign for the Protection of Rural England
CRoW	Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000
CSF	Catchment Sensitive Farming
Defra (or DEFRA)	Department for Environment Farming and Rural Affairs
DPCR-05	(Electricity) Distribution Price Control Round 5
DPD	Development Plan Document
EA	Environment Agency
ENWL	Electricity North West Limited
EU	European Union
EUROPARC	Europarc Federation for Europe's Protected Areas
FOG	Fire Operations Group
GTBS	Green Tourism Business Scheme
HLC	Historic Landscape Characterisation
HLS	Higher Level Stewardship
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
JAC	AONB Joint Advisory Committee
LAF	Local Access Forum
LCC	Lancashire County Council

## Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan 2019 - 2024 (Consultation Draft)

LCC E&C Projects	Lancashire County Council Environment and Community Projects Team
LEADER	Liaison Entre Actions de Développement de l'Économie Rurale (or Links Between Activities Developing the Rural Economy)
LEP	Local Enterprise Partnership
LERN	Lancashire Environmental Records Centre
LNP	Local Nature Partnership
LPA	Local Planning Authority
LWT	The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Greater Manchester and North Merseyside
NAAONB	National Association for AONBs
NE	Natural England
NELMS	New Environmental Land Management Scheme
NERC	Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006
NEYEDC	North and East Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NYCC	North Yorkshire County Council
Ofgem	Office of Gas and Electricity Markets
PFG	AONB Partnership Funders Group
PRoW	Public Rights of Way
RDPE	Rural Development Programme England
RIIO-ED1	Revenue = Incentive + Innovations + Outputs Electricity Distribution Round 1
RoWIP	Rights of Way Improvement Plan
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
RVBC	Ribble Valley Borough Council
SDF	Sustainable Development Fund
SINC	Site of Interest for Nature Conservation
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
TIC	Tourist Information Centre
UCLAN	University of Central Lancashire
UVA	Undergrounding for Visual Amenity
YDMT	Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust



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