



Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Advisory Committee

Thursday, 31st October, 2019 at 2.00 pm in The Environment Room, Bowland Visitor Centre, Beacon Fell Country Park PR3 2EW

Schedule of Events

10.30am	Arrival and refreshments at Bowland Visitor Centre
11.00am	Depart for walk round Beacon Fell Country Park
12.15pm	Return to visitor centre
12.20pm	Short induction for new AONB Joint Advisory Committee members (Though all are welcome!)
1.00pm	Lunch
2.00pm	AONB JAC Meeting
4.00pm approx	Finish

Agenda

Presentation from United Utilities on Haweswater Aqueduct Resilience Programme

- 1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies for Absence**
- 2. Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair**
- 3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests**
Members are asked to consider any Pecuniary Interests they may have to disclose to the meeting in relation to matters under consideration on the Agenda.
- 4. Constitution, Membership and Terms of Reference** (Pages 1 - 4)
The Joint Advisory Committee is asked to approve the attached constitution, membership and terms of reference for 2019/2020.
- 5. Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 April 2019** (Pages 5 - 10)
The Committee is asked to consider approving minutes of the meetings held on 18 April 2019.

6. Partner Updates

7. Revised Estimates 2019/20 and Revenue Budget 2020/2021 (Pages 11 - 16)

8. Landscapes Review (Glover) Report (Pages 17 - 24)

9. Management Plan Review (Verbal Report)

10. AONB Unit Activity Report (To Be Tabled)

11. Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership (To Be Tabled)

12. Urgent Business

An item of Urgent Business may only be considered under this heading where, by reason of special circumstances to be recorded in the minutes, the Chairman of the meeting is of the opinion that the item should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency. Wherever possible, the Chief Executive should be given advance warning of any Members' intention to raise a matter under this heading.

13. Date of Next Meeting

The proposed dates and locations of the meetings to be held in 2020 are:

Thursday, 23 April 2020 in Craven, venue tbc

Thursday, 22 October 2020 in Ribble Valley, venue tbc

Samantha Gorton
Democratic Services

Lancashire County Council
County Hall
Preston

Constitution, Membership and Terms of Reference of the Advisory Committee 2019/20

Issue for Consideration

The Constitution, Membership and Terms of Reference of the Advisory Committee for 2019/20.

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 2019/20. The Constitution and Membership of the Advisory Committee for 2019/20 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 S Handley

Lancaster City Council

Councillor K Frea

Wyre Borough Council

Councillor J Ibison

Ribble Valley Borough Council

Councillor Mrs R Elms

Preston City Council

Councillor J Browne

Pendle Borough Council

Councillor B Newman

Lancashire Association of Local Councils

Ms C Kynch

Yorkshire Local Councils Association

Mr C Price

United Utilities

Mr M Upton

Environment Agency

Ms L Cheslett-Davey

Natural England

Mr M Burke

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)

Mr Robin Horner

Bowland Land Managers' Forum

Mr A Taylor

Ramblers Association

Mr D Kelly

Champion Bowland

Mr M Pugh

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, county 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 landscape character of the AONB
- promoting other action that is necessary to further the objectives of the AONB designation



Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Advisory Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 18th April, 2019 at 2.00 pm in Calder Vale Social Club Building, Calder Vale Country Club, Vale Terrace, Calder Vale, Preston PR3 1SH

Present

Chair

Elliott Lorimer, Forest of Bowland AONB Unit, Lancashire County Council

Committee Members

Councillor Ian Thompson, Craven District Council
Councillor Mrs Rosemary Elms, Ribble Valley Borough Council
Councillor John Browne, Preston City Council
Councillor John Ibison, Wyre Borough Council
Matthew Upton, United Utilities
Mr Andrew Taylor, Bowland Land Managers Forum
David Kelly, Ramblers Association
Chris Kynch, Lancashire Association of Local Councils (Parish Councils)

Officers

Alison Boden, Wyre Council
Hetty Byrne, Forest of Bowland AONB Unit
David Porter, Lancaster City Council
Sandra Silk, Forest of Bowland AONB Unit
Sam Gorton, Legal and Democratic Services, LCC
Graham Nuttall, Wyre Ranger Service
Lucy Brookfield, Wyre Rivers Trust

Apologies

County Councillor Albert Atkinson, Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Mrs Susie Charles, Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Shaun Turner, Lancashire County Council
Councillor Jane Parkinson, Lancaster City Council
Councillor James Starkie, Pendle Borough Council
Colin Price, Yorkshire Local Councils Association

Helen Dix, Environment Agency
Rosemary Budd, Natural England
Blanaid Denman, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
David Hewitt, Ribble Valley Borough Council
Cathy Hopley, Forest of Bowland AONB Unit
Neil Kilgour, Grosvenor Estate
Andrew Laycock, Craven District Council
Liz Small, North Yorkshire County Council
Sarah Robinson, Forest of Bowland AONB Unit

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

In the absence of the Chair (who was unable to attend to unforeseen circumstances) and Deputy Chair, Elliott Lorimer, AONB Manager, Lancashire County Council, chaired the meeting.

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

2. Presentation from United Utilities on Haweswater Aqueduct

Jemma Parkinson and James Cullen from United Utilities gave a presentation to the Committee on 'Keeping the North West Flowing' which includes the replacement of sections of the Haweswater Aqueduct.

Previous repair work that had been carried out in 2016 had rectified some issues with the tunnel lining however the quality of the concrete used when the tunnels were first constructed meant that there remained a risk to water quality and disruption of supplies if further improvements were not made.

United Utilities confirmed that work could not take place inside the existing tunnels. Technology does not exist to repair the issue, and that is why United Utilities were having to replace the tunnels.

United Utilities will be carrying out investigation work during Summer 2019 as it prepares to embark on a project to replace six tunnel sections of the Haweswater Aqueduct. This will involve geological and ecological surveys. Two sections of the Forest of Bowland AONB would be affected at Bowland Fells (south of Wray) and Marl Hill, Waddington and Newton (Ribble Valley). Refurbishment work was also planned at Hodder Treatment Works as well and this scheme was likely to occur earlier than expected. Further information on this was requested to be brought to a future meeting.

Timescales for the investigation work was that it is likely to last for around two weeks in each location and water supplies would be unaffected during the investigation.

The stretch of the tunnel due to be replaced at Marl Hill runs for four miles and the section beneath the Bowland Fells extends for 11 miles.

Following the investigation work, formal public engagement was likely to take place between 2020 and 2022, with the project itself beginning the following year and continuing until 2028.

Concern was raised with regards security lighting and plant equipment on-site of the project and United Utilities confirmed that talks were already taking place with landowners and that they would ensure that security lighting at night was kept to a minimum.

Discussions were also taking place with Natural England and leaflets explaining the investigations work had been shared with Landowners. It was also requested that these leaflets be shared with Parish Councils in the affected areas also.

The Committee requested that it be kept up to date with the works which would help with queries they may receive from the public.

- Resolved:**
- i) That further information be brought to a future meeting on the planned work scheduled for Hodder Treatment Works.
 - ii) That the Committee be kept informed on the progress of the investigation and planning works at the Haweswater Aqueduct affecting the Forest of Bowland AONB.

3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

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

4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 1 March 2019

- Resolved:** That the Minutes of the meeting held on 1 March 2019 were agreed as a correct record.

5. Matters Arising

Elliott Lorimer, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Manager, updated the Committee that following approval at the last Joint Advisory Committee meeting on 1 March 2019, the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan was now in the process of being adopted within District Councils as well as the two County Councils. Timings for adoption would be impacted due to the local elections and possibly the European elections. Elliott expected that Defra would be understanding of these slight delays in adoption of the AONB Management Plan by local authorities.

6. Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partner Updates

Matt Upton, United Utilities, updated the Committee on work that had been ongoing in partnership with the RSPB. It was looking to be a promising year with hen harriers peregrines and other birds of prey having been seen returning to United Utilities' Bowland estate.

Repairs had been carried out on Salter Fell Track and some further work was proposed. Comments were raised with regards the filling of the track when it was not a public road and only accessible by motorbikes and that United Utilities should let people know who keyholders were in case of emergencies.

Resolved: That Matt Upton, United Utilities would look into the possibilities of keyholder details being shared.

Matt also reported that there was lots of planning taking place around wildfire prevention following last year's heatwave and moorland fires and people were proactively involved alongside the Fire Service.

Nicky Nook had been very busy and Matt was looking for connections between United Utilities and the Council. There were some useful contacts and these needed to be shared.

Resolved: That Alison Boden, Wyre Borough Council and Matt Upton, United Utilities, would discuss the sharing of useful contacts.

Alison Boden, Wyre Borough Council reported on work that the River Wyre Partnership had been doing on the river works to protect the river embankment and that they were currently working on an Integrated Catchment Draft Plan. Defra and the Environment Agency were developing an Integrated Catchment Management Plan and were working with Wyre Borough Council and United Utilities on this.

Elliott Lorimer, AONB Manager reported that elements of the Integrated Catchment Plan were reflected in the AONB Management Plan.

Alison also informed the Committee that various volunteer days, public events and the walking festival had boosted visitor economy, health and wellbeing and raised awareness of the environment.

Councillor Ian Thompson reported that within the Craven area, there was currently a trial being carried out with North Yorkshire Countryside Access Service now having the authority to carry out any minor repair works to footpaths and if it was found to be anything other than a minor repair, then to report it to the landowner to correct and then Craven District Council would go back to inspect the work carried out by the Landowner.

Resolved: That Elliott Lorimer, AONB Manager would pass this information on to Sarah Dornan to make her aware of the trial being carried out by Craven District Council.

David Porter, Lancaster City Council, informed the Committee that the Arnside and Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Development Plan had been adopted by South Lakeland District Council at a meeting on 28 March 2019. It came into effect from that date and forms part of the South Lakeland District Council Development Plan. It was brought to the attention of the Committee to highlight how this approach maybe replicated in other Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. A copy of the plan can be found [here](#).

David also reported that as part of the Glover Review of Designated Landscapes, Julian Glover who was leading the review had visited the Arnside and Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty the previous week.

7. AONB Budget Update

Elliott Lorimer, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Manager, presented the revised and updated budget for 2019/20 which took into account the AONB funding settlement agreed by Defra in January 2019. Minor adjustments had been made to salaries and on-costs to reflect the local authority pay increase for 2019/20.

The budget allowed £61,971 for an annual programme of projects to help deliver the AONB Management Plan. It was important to re-emphasise that the "projects" funding would continue to be used as match-funding to attract additional matched funding to the Partnership to help deliver the Management Plan.

Resolved: That the Committee noted the revised AONB budget for 2019/20.

8. Delivering the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan

a) Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Unit Activity Report

Hetty Byrne, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Sustainable Tourism Officer, presented the Team Report to the Joint Advisory Committee which is attached to these minutes. Activities reported on were from when the Committee last met in October 2018 to 16 April 2019.

With regards promoting the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty it was raised by the Committee whether more signage was needed on major roads ie A59. This could be a development opportunity to work with partners and look at funding this together.

Resolved: That Elliott Lorimer would look into opportunities involving partners on how to further promote the Forest of Bowland AONB.

b) Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Unit Business Plan 2019/20

Elliott Lorimer, AONB Manager reported that Business Plan was being revised to work alongside the Management Plan so they complimented each other. Once the Business Plan was complete, a draft copy would be circulated to the Committee for comment.

Resolved: That Elliott Lorimer, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Manager would circulate the draft Business Plan 2019/20 to the Committee when it was available.

9. Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership Update

Hetty Byrne, AONB Sustainable Tourism Officer gave an update on the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership. Year 1 of activity was now complete and most of the 14 projects were now up and running and making a positive impact on the landscape and heritage. Further details of activities carried out in Year 1 and highlights for year 2 can be found at www.pendlehillproject.com.

10. Urgent Business

Champion Bowland

The Chair had recently received a letter from Champion Bowland inviting the Area of Outstanding Beauty to become a member of Charitable Bowland. The membership would convey no voting rights nor require any financial subscription.

Resolved: That the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Advisory Committee agreed to become a member of Charitable Bowland.

11. Provisional Dates of Next Committee Meetings

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

Thursday, 31 October 2019 (Preston venue tbc)

Thursday, 23 April 2020 (Craven venue tbc)

Samantha Gorton
Democratic Services

Lancashire County Council
County Hall
Preston

Revised Estimates 2019/20 and Revenue Budget 2020/21

(Appendix A refers)

Issue for consideration

- a) Revised Estimates 2019/20
- b) Revenue Budget 2020/21

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.

a. Revised Estimates 2019/20

The costs of the Partnership are managed as part of the Lancashire County Council's 'Devolved Financial Management' scheme. Since Committee approval of the 2019/20 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 2019/20 was £222,837

The contributions advised by the constituent local authorities for 2019/20 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 maternity leave for the Sustainable Tourism Officer from July 2019.

The net effect of any changes allows an AONB 'Projects' programme totalling £73,210 to be delivered in 2019/20.

In addition, the AONB Unit will be in receipt of the following additional funding to support delivery of projects within the area:

Programme / Project	£	Organisation(s)
Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership	529,684	Heritage Lottery Fund
Pendle Hill Farmers Network	16,702	Countryside Stewardship Facilitation Fund
NAAONB 'Farming for the Nation' Environmental Land Management System Test	75,500	Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Northern England Peat Project – Hare Syke East and West	160,000	Defra Peatland Fund
Bowland Haytime	20,000	Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust (Joint project with YDMT)
AONB Discovery Guide	3,500	Business adverts taken by local tourism businesses in AONB Discovery Guide
Total	805,386	

b. Revenue Budget 2020/21

This section sets out in Appendix 'A' column 4, the costs associated with the Partnership's projects and management service in 2020/21, including estimated pay and price levels.

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

- AONB Manager (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)

Estimated 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, this estimate 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 maintenance of existing funding settlement, which includes a small inflationary increase on 2019/20 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

significant 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. Expenditure

It is proposed that total expenditure will be £393,680 in 2019/20. 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 2020/21 towards core costs and projects costs of £226,670 is based on an inflationary increase on grant offer for 2019/20.

The estimated contributions from local 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. 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 2019/20, 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 proposed 2020/21 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 for FY2020/21

APPENDIX 'A'
AONB Partnership Budget

	Estimated 2019/20 (Out-turn Prices)	Revised 2019/20 (Out-turn Prices)
(1)	(2)	(3)
£	£	£
<u>Expenditure</u>		
<u>Core Costs</u>		
Salary, N.I. and Superannuation	205,905	205,906
Out-based premises	20,000	20,000
Travel and subsistence	8,900	8,900
Central, Departmental & Tech. Support	71,655	71,655
Core Activities	19,800	19,800
Sub total of Core Costs	326,260	326,260
<u>Non Core Costs</u>		
Projects (Management Plan delivery)	61,972	61,971
Sub- total of Non Core Costs	61,972	61,971
Total Expenditure	388,232	388,232
<u>Income</u>		
Defra Grant	222,837	222,837
<u>Contributions</u>		
United Utilities	6,800	6,800
<u>County Councils</u>		
Lancashire	40,800	40,800
North Yorkshire	5,340	5,340
<u>District Councils</u>		
Craven	6,800	6,800
Lancaster	6,800	6,800
Pendle	6,800	6,800
Preston	6,800	6,800
Ribble Valley	6,800	6,800
Wyre	6,800	6,800
Sub-total of Income	316,577	316,577
Contrib. to support costs (LCC in-kind)	71,655	71,655
Total Income	388,232	388,232

The Landscapes Review Report

What are the implications for Forest of Bowland AONB?

The Government announced its intention to carry out a review of AONBs and National Parks in its 25 Year Plan for the Environment published in January 2018. A review panel led by Julian Glover comprising Lord Cameron of Dillington, Jim Dixon, Sarah Mukherjee, Dame Fiona Reynolds and Jake Fiennes began its work in autumn 2018. The panel's objectives were to review:

- the existing statutory purposes for National Parks and AONBs and how effectively they are being met
- the alignment of these purposes with the goals set out in the 25 Year Plan for the Environment
- the case for extension or creation of new designated areas
- how to improve individual and collective governance of National Parks and AONBs, and how that governance interacts with other national assets
- the financing of National Parks and AONBs
- how to enhance the environment and biodiversity in existing designations
- how to build on the existing eight-point plan for National Parks and to connect more people with the natural environment from all sections of society and improve health and wellbeing
- how well National Parks and AONBs support communities

The panel's final report was published by Defra on 21 September 2019. The implications of the 27 proposals contained in the report are discussed at Appendix 2. Headlines from the report are:

- AONBs and National Parks are priceless assets: *'They really are England's soul and we should care for them as much'*
- But *'though there's much that is good, we should not be satisfied with what we have at the moment. It falls far short of what can be achieved and what the people of our country want'*
- The report's 27 proposals focus on what needs to be done to improve things. They include:
 - Setting up a National Landscapes Service comprising a small Defra-based team with responsibility for improving and monitoring progress by protected landscape teams, increasing collaboration and sharing best practice
 - Recruiting 1000 National Landscape Rangers to diversify visitor demographics and improve visitor experience
 - Amending and expanding the statutory purposes of AONBs and National Parks to include responsibility for nature recovery, recreation, health and wellbeing and to foster the social and economic wellbeing of local communities
 - Strengthening the role of AONBs in the planning process by making them a statutory consultee of planning authorities
 - Re-branding AONBs as 'National Landscapes'
 - A new financial model. 'More money, more secure, more enterprising'

At the time of writing, the Government has not officially responded to the report or commented on the proposals it contains.

Appendix 2

Proposals in the Landscapes Review Report

Comments

<p>Proposal 1:</p> <p>National landscapes should have a renewed mission to recover and enhance nature, and be supported and held to account for delivery by a new National Landscapes Service</p>	<p>This is consistent with the AONB's work on habitat restoration (e.g blanket bog and upland hay meadows) species recovery work. The AONB's work with land managers has also resulted in significant benefits for nature. But progress towards rebuilding fragmented ecological networks and declining wildlife populations will require changes to legislation including revised agricultural policy and a statutory mechanism to ensure that the impact of land-use change on natural capital (including wildlife habitats) is properly accounted for. Substantial additional resources will also be needed.</p> <p>The report notes that responsibility for AONB and National Parks has been shuffled between a succession of Government agencies and departments in recent decades and each change has been accompanied by a reduction in staff and funding to support them. The proposal for a new National Landscapes Service is to be broadly welcomed but it will require an appropriate level of resources</p>
<p>Proposal 2:</p> <p>The state of nature and natural capital in our national landscapes should be regularly and robustly assessed, informing the priorities for action</p>	<p>Recording and quantifying changes in natural capital assets such as peat, woodland, soils and wildlife is an essential task but datasets used to identify national trends (e.g. State of Nature reports) are of limited usefulness in planning local interventions. The AONB has recently commissioned work to establish some local datasets on the natural capital of the area.</p>

<p>Proposal 3:</p> <p>Strengthened Management Plans should set clear priorities and actions for nature recovery including, but not limited to, wilder areas and the responding to climate change (notably tree planting and peatland restoration). Their implementation must be backed up by stronger status in law</p>	<p>Forest of Bowland's Management Plan already contains commitments to state of the AONB reporting, involvement in the development of the Nature Recovery Network and a new trees, woodland and forestry strategy. Stronger legal status for the Plan would be welcome.</p>
<p>Proposal 4:</p> <p>National landscapes should form the backbone of Nature Recovery Networks – joining things up within and beyond their boundaries</p>	<p>See Proposal 3</p>
<p>Proposal 5:</p> <p>A central place for national landscapes in new Environmental Land Management Schemes</p>	<p>The new Environmental Land Management System post 2025 will be a critical factor in the viability of Forest of Bowland's farm businesses and the AONB will be launching a pilot project involving Bowland's land managers in conjunction with Defra later in the year. It is hoped that this will give local land managers the opportunity to influence the development of ELMS</p>
<p>Proposal 6:</p> <p>A strengthened place for national landscapes in the planning system with AONBs given statutory consultee status, encouragement to develop local plans and changes to the National Planning Policy Framework</p>	<p>The AONB already has working relationships with local planning authorities. Statutory consultee would strengthen these relationships, but could also increase the expectation from LPAs for the AONB Unit to respond to all planning applications affecting the AONB. This outcome would require additional resources (e.g. planning officer role within the Unit) for the AONB to meet these demands.</p>
<p>Proposal 7:</p> <p>A stronger mission to connect all people with our National Landscapes</p>	<p>The AONB has been working to connect a more diverse range of people with our landscape with via the delivery of projects such 'Gatherings', 'People Enjoying Nature' and 'Pendle Radicals' as part of the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership. This is a time limited initiative and therefore future delivery of this type of activity would require the AONB to secure additional resources</p>

<p>Proposal 8:</p> <p>A night under the stars in a national landscape for every child</p>	<p>A welcome and eye-catching objective, but potentially an organisational challenge: there are 8.74 million in the current generation of school-aged children in the UK.</p>
<p>Proposal 9:</p> <p>New long-term programmes to increase the ethnic diversity landscapes, supported and held to account by the new National Landscapes Service</p>	<p>See Proposal 7</p>
<p>Proposal 10:</p> <p>Landscapes that cater for and improve the nation's health and wellbeing</p>	<p>There is evidence that high quality landscapes increase the widely accepted benefits of nature-based therapies and the AONB is already delivering the PEN project and 'What's A Hill Worth' research on these health and wellbeing benefits. Again, any similar activities in future would require the AONB to secure additional resources.</p>
<p>Proposal 11:</p> <p>Expanding volunteering in our national landscapes</p>	<p>The AONB already benefits from volunteers but much more can and should be done to harness these contributions.</p>
<p>Proposal 12:</p> <p>Better information and signs to guide visitors</p>	<p>Better information for visitors is important. Information and interpretation boards and waymarkers have a part to play, but maintenance and replacement can be challenging. Digital information via social media and websites etc. will remain a priority</p>
<p>Proposal 13:</p> <p>A ranger service in all our national landscapes, part of a national family</p>	<p>Funding for extra staff would be welcome, but clearer definition of their role must be defined by the needs of each AONB or National Park.</p>
<p>Proposal 14:</p> <p>National landscapes supported to become leaders in sustainable tourism</p>	<p>The AONB remains committed to support and developing sustainable tourism within and close to the area.</p>

<p>Proposal 15:</p> <p>Joining up with others to make the most of what we have and bringing National Trails into the national landscapes family</p>	<p>There are no National Trails in the AONB, but there remains opportunities to develop strategic links with Pennine Bridleway, which passes close to the eastern boundary of the AONB</p>
<p>Proposal 16:</p> <p>Consider expanding open access rights in national landscapes</p>	<p>Over 30% of the AONB is already designated as open access land. Opportunities for expanding the area or the types of users of open access land could prove challenging. Maintaining and improving the rights of way network is arguably a higher priority.</p>
<p>Proposal 17:</p> <p>National landscapes working for vibrant communities. There is a need to better understand the challenges and develop solutions where possible based on successful work elsewhere</p>	<p>The AONB Management Plan expresses the Partnership's support to retain 'resilient and sustainable communities within the AONB' and outlines actions to contribute towards this objective.</p>
<p>Proposal 18:</p> <p>A new National Landscapes Housing Association to build affordable homes</p>	<p>This is a welcome proposal.</p>
<p>Proposal 19:</p> <p>A new approach to coordinating public transport piloted in the Lake District, and new, more sustainable ways of accessing national landscapes</p>	<p>This is a welcome proposal, but will require the co-operation of all authorities responsible for public transport.</p>
<p>Proposal 20:</p> <p>New designated landscapes and a new National Forest</p>	<p>These proposals are not particularly relevant to AONBs.</p>
<p>Proposal 21:</p> <p>Welcoming new landscape approaches in cities and the coast, and a city park competition</p>	<p>Whilst not directly relevant to Forest of Bowland, this proposal may offer the opportunity to create better connections with large urban conurbations.</p>
<p>Proposal 22:</p> <p>A better designations process</p>	<p>This is a welcome proposal.</p>

Proposal 23: Stronger purposes in law for our national landscapes	This is a welcome proposal.
Proposal 24: AONBs strengthened with new purposes, powers and resources, renamed as 'National Landscapes'	New purposes and powers are welcome subject to the detail and adequate resourcing. The name change could be beneficial, helping to raise the profile of AONB landscapes. However, the report also uses 'National Landscapes' as generic term that encompasses both AONBs and National Parks.
Proposal 25: A new National Landscapes Service bringing our 44 national landscapes together to achieve more than the sum of their parts	A National Landscape Service which helps to raise profile within Government and help foster collaboration and cooperation is to be welcomed.
Proposal 26: Reformed governance to inspire and secure ambition in our national landscapes and better reflect society	This is a welcome proposal, but as proposed could potentially reduce the number of local authority representatives, who provide key links and accountability within local communities
Proposal 27: A new financial model – more money, more secure, more enterprising	This is critical. Most if not all of the other 26 proposals in the report are predicated on increased resources

