

Forest of Bowland AONB Unit Activity Report
November 2016 – April 2017

Appendix B

Activity title	Action	Start date	End date	Description	Other Partners
Hedgelaying Training and Competition	Action 1.1C	Tue, 1 Nov 2016	Fri, 31 Mar 2017	<p>During 2016/17, a total of 18 hedgelaying training days were delivered at Scorton, West Bradford, Tosside, Rimington with a total of 577 training hours received by trainees.</p> <p>In addition, the annual Forest of Bowland AONB Hedgelaying Competition took place at Laneside Farm, West Bradford. The competition is run as part of the Lancashire and Westmorland Hedgelaying Grand Prix and attracted 28 competitors.</p>	Lancashire and Westmorland Hedgelaying Association
Landmark Trees	Action 1.1F	Thu, 3 Nov 2016	Sun, 3 Dec 2017	A pilot 'visitor-giving' project to support the replacement of landmark or 'veteran' trees is currently under development with Downham Estate and local businesses.	Downham Estate, Champion Bowland
Brown Syke South - Peatland Restoraton	Action 1.3D	Thu, 3 Nov 2016	Tue, 3 Oct 2017	<p>The AONB Unit has continued to manage peatland restoration activity on Abbeystead Estate during 2016/17.</p> <p>The Environment Agency was able to offer the Forest of Bowland AONB funding to manage additional restoration works on a site to the south of previous works completed at Brown Syke in 2014 and 2016. This work was contracted in late December 2016 and commenced in February 2017. Initial gully re-profiling work has been carried out up to 31st March 2017, with the contractors scheduled to return in late summer/early autumn to complete the works.</p>	Abbeystead Estate, Environment Agency, Natural England
Wyre Catchment - Natural Flood Management Planning	Action 1.2E	Thu, 3 Nov 2016	Sun, 3 Dec 2017	<p>The AONB has been working with the Wyre Catchment partners to develop potential 'Natural Flood Management' projects within the Wyre catchment.</p> <p>The Wyre Rivers Trust (with the AONB Unit as a partner) made</p>	Environment Agency, Wyre Rivers Trust, Wyre Waters Catchment Partnership, Abbeystead Estate

Activity title	Action	Start date	End date	Description	Other Partners
				an application to Natural England's Natural Flood Management Facilitation Fund in January 2017. In addition, the Environment Agency is leading research to model the impact of NFM measures in the Wyre catchment (including peatland restoration, woodland, hedgerow and wetland creation) to help plan future agency investment to help slow and reduce peak flow.	
National Association for AONBs 2016/17	Action 4.4E	Fri, 4 Nov 2016	Fri, 31 Mar 2017	<p>The AONB Partnership has been represented or involved in a number of NAAONB activities and events during 2016/17:</p> <p>NAAONB Annual 'Landscapes for Life' Conference in Shropshire, July 2016</p> <p>NAAONB Chairs Conference and AGM in London, November 2016</p> <p>NAAONB Communication Officers meeting in Birmingham, December 2016</p> <p>NAAONB Lead Officers meeting in Birmingham, February 2017</p> <p>Northern AONB Group meeting in May 2016 was hosted by the AONB unit. The meeting was based at the Stirk House Hotel (with meeting facilities kindly provided free of charge) and included presentations on a variety of projects and activities and also two project site visits to Gisburn Forest and Bolton by Bowland.</p>	NAAONB
Liaison with AONB Partners 2016/17	Action 4.1D	Fri, 4 Nov 2016	Fri, 31 Mar 2017	Three AONB Joint Advisory committee meetings were held in 2016/17 (January, April and November). Quarterly AONB Funders group meetings involving all the local authorities were held.	

Activity title	Action	Start date	End date	Description	Other Partners
Annual Forum 2016	Action 2.2I	Fri, 25 Nov 2016	Fri, 25 Nov 2016	The annual sustainable tourism forum and Bowland Experience AGM was held on 23rd November at the Spread Eagle, Sawley and was well attended. It included discussion about Bowland branded products, dark skies and future opportunities for the network.	Sustainable Tourism Forum members
Pendle Hill Advisory Group	Action 3.3A	Thu, 8 Dec 2016	Thu, 8 Dec 2016	Meeting held in December 2016, involving landowners, local authorities, commons graziers group. A presentation was given by the consultants, Fourth Street & Heritage Naturally on a draft Pendle Hill Visitor Management Plan. Group members were able to offer comments on the final draft before completion. The Plan will help inform the development of access and visitor management projects in the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership.	Pendle Hill Advisory Group members
Pendle Hill Traditional Boundaries	Action 1.1D	Sun, 1 Jan 2017	Fri, 1 Sep 2017	The Pendle Hill Traditional Boundaries Survey was completed in March 2017. The Dry Stone Walling Association (based in Crooklands) has agreed to be a lead partner on a Pendle Hill Traditional Boundaries Project to work with farmers, land managers and hedgelaying & walling contractors to restore and create traditional boundaries in priority areas identified in the survey. The project will also offer training opportunities for individuals to learn these traditional rural skills.	Dry Stone Walling Association, Lancashire and Westmorland Hedgelaying Association
University of Manchester Planning Research	Action 1.7A	Sun, 1 Jan 2017	Thu, 31 Aug 2017	<p>A group of students from University of Manchester are carrying research to:</p> <p>Research the different approaches taken by AONBs in England to address this issue of harmonisation of planning policies across LPAs within an AONB</p> <p>Using the Forest of Bowland AONB as a case study, suggest a range of potential approaches or policy instruments to assist the</p>	University of Manchester, Lancaster City Council, Local Planning Authorities

Activity title	Action	Start date	End date	Description	Other Partners
				Forest of Bowland AONB Partnership in addressing this issue.	
Plantlife Roadside Verges Project	Action 1.3I	Sun, 1 Jan 2017	Fri, 31 Mar 2017	The AONB Biodiversity lead is working with Plantlife and the National Association for AONBs to develop a national project to help conserve and enhance roadside verges of significant botanical interest. A bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund is planned for later in 2017.	Plantlife, NAAONB
What's a Hill Worth	Action 1.2C	Sun, 1 Jan 2017	Fri, 1 Sep 2017	As part of the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership, Lancaster Environment Centre at Lancaster University have been engaged to support and lead the development of an ecosystem services research PhD to investigate the value of the Pendle Hill in terms of health and well-being for local and neighbouring communities.	Lancaster Environment Centre, Lancashire Wildlife Trust
North Yorkshire County Council consultation on PRoW Prioritisation Strategy	Action 3.2A	Sat, 7 Jan 2017	Wed, 1 Mar 2017	The AONB Unit provided a response to the NYCC consultation on PRoW prioritisation strategy to inform future management and maintenance of PRoW in North Yorkshire.	North Yorkshire County Council
Biodiversity Working Group - Pendle Hill	Action 1.2A	Wed, 1 Feb 2017	Wed, 1 Mar 2017	The Biodiversity Working Group met in February 2017 to view the results of the Pendle Hill Phase 1 Habitat and Traditional Boundaries Survey information and develop natural heritage project ideas for the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership area.	
Curlew Species Recovery	Action 1.4C	Wed, 1 Mar 2017	Sat, 31 Mar 2018	As a partner of the Northern Upland Chain Local Nature Partnership, the AONB unit attended a meeting in March 2017 to discuss future actions to address the serious decline in the UK curlew population. This work will seek to complement the research and campaigning already instigated by both RSPB and the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust and will include advocacy within Government departments and agencies, land management demonstration workshops, events and work	Nidderdale AONB, North Pennines AONB, Northumberland National Park, Yorkshire Dales National Park, RSPB, GWCT, Moorland Association

Activity title	Action	Start date	End date	Description	Other Partners
				with tourism businesses in AONBs and National Parks to raise awareness of the plight of curlews to visitors.	
Upskilling Lancashire Project	Action 2.1G	Tue, 7 Mar 2017	Tue, 7 Mar 2017	A European funding bid application for skills for growth was submitted on the 10th March 17 by a strategic partnership of Universities, Colleges and Forest of Bowland AONB. The Upskilling Lancashire project aspires to increase the competitive and productive capability of SMEs and microbusinesses across the Lancashire Local Enterprise Partnership area. Subject to the success of the outline application and invitation to full application, the project seeks to support businesses to identify, design, develop and implement work-force education and training programmes linked to the strategic needs of businesses. If funding bid is successful the project will start Oct 2017 and end September 2020. In support of Forest of Bowland agricultural industry this will see the project developing new Apprenticeship standards related to rural skills and heritage.	University of Central Lancashire; Burnley College; Burnley Council; Preston's College; University of Cumbria; Edge Hill University; Myerscough College
Bees Needs and Pollinator Project	Action 1.3F	Mon, 27 Mar 2017	Sat, 31 Mar 2018	A successful funding application was submitted to DEFRA for Local Nature Partnership Pollinator projects in February 2017. The Bees Needs and Pollinator Project will pilot an approach to assist large scale landowners within the Northern Upland Chain LNP to support the five strategic aims of the National Pollinator Strategy and call to action message of 'Bees Needs: Food and a Home'. It will focus on two large scale estates within the Forest of Bowland AONB to develop a methodology for surveying pollinator habitats, including sustainable action plan development with landowners, and evaluation to enable shared learning with other similar estates and in the Northern Upland Chain LNP and other LNPs. There are four key milestones for delivery during April 17 - March 18. The Project Lead is the Hay Time Project Officer.	Land Agent, Grosvenor Estate, Abbeystead; Head of Rural Estate, Duchy of Lancaster, Whitewell Estate; Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust (Representing 'Landscapes for Wild Pollinators partnership' with Natural England, the Duchy of Lancaster and GWCT); Biodiversity Lead North Pennines AONB/North Upland Chain; Northern Upland Chain LNP Partners & Forum.
Undergrounding for Visual	Action	Sat, 1 Apr	Sat, 30 Sep	The UVA scheme for a 3km stretch of overhead line between	Electricity Northwest Limited

Activity title	Action	Start date	End date	Description	Other Partners
Amenity 2016/17 (continued)	1.7H	2017	2017	Crimpton and Ing Barn (on the Cow Ark to Newton road) is scheduled to commence in spring 2017.	
2017 Discovery Guide Launch	Action 3.4C	Tue, 4 Apr 2017	Tue, 4 Apr 2017	The Discovery Guide was launched at an event held at Holmes Mill, Clitheroe on 2nd February. The launch attracted a large number of partners including BEx members, Champion Bowland Trustees, Festival Bowland organisers and tourism partners. The guide was well supported by members in terms of advertising and the guide has so far been well received.	Sustainable Tourism Forum members, Holmes Mill (Bowland Brewery)
Pendle Hill LP PEN Pilot project	Action 3.6C	Thu, 6 Apr 2017	Thu, 6 Apr 2017	The PEN (People Enjoying Nature) project is being piloted as part of the Pendle Hill LP scheme in summer 2017. Led by Jayne Ashe, assistant development officer for the scheme, and working in partnership with NHS colleagues from East Lancashire, we will run 12 afternoon trips to the LP area for people dealing with mental health and social isolation issues. Funded through the HLF grant clients will have opportunity to build a dry stone wall, try bushcraft activity, geocaching, wildlife surveys etc. The pilot will be fully evaluated and learning fed into the project plan to be delivered 2018-22.	
Hedgelaying training in Pendle Hill area	Action 1.1C	Thu, 6 Apr 2017	Thu, 6 Apr 2017	Two days of hedgelaying training were held at Higher Gills Farm in Rimington in early 2017. Thanks to the Pilkington family and tutors Geoff and Joe a good length of young hedge was laid by 17 eager volunteers.	
Phase 1 Habitat Survey of Pendle Hill LP area	Action 1.3B	Thu, 6 Apr 2017	Thu, 6 Apr 2017	As part of the development stage of the LPS Rigby Jerram was commissioned in 2016 to undertake a phase 1 habitat survey of the entire LP area (120km ²) which includes the Pendle Hill outlier of the AONB. This data is now published (March 2017) and available via LERN and the AONB to partners involved in the scheme. Data includes BHS target notes, GIS mapping,	

Activity title	Action	Start date	End date	Description	Other Partners
				analysis, and an action plan recommending priority sites to improve management. Full details available on request.	
Pendle Hill LPS Development work	Action 1.6B	Thu, 6 Apr 2017	Thu, 6 Apr 2017	The LP is now in development stage and we plan to submit our stage 2 application to HLF in September 2017. To date we have appointed 4 lead partners for projects and intend to appoint 1 or 2 further partners soon. The AONB/LP team will lead the remaining 10 or so projects. We are currently applying for match funds and drafting project plans for individual projects, and also carrying out pilot activity such as establishing the Pendle Hill volunteers and organising a summer PEN scheme - working with people dealing with social isolation and mental health issues.	
AONB Sustainable Development Fund 2017	Action 2.3I	Thu, 6 Apr 2017	Thu, 6 Apr 2017	Although the SDF grant scheme has officially closed, some funds have been unspent or projects have not taken place. In 2017 we have therefore been able to support 2 new grants, to Tosside village hall to install LED lighting, and to Remix Summits Ltd to support the development of a new website called Pendlefolk, which will support the Pendle Hill LP scheme with innovative new IT opportunities and a volunteer editorial board.	AONB SDF Panel