

AONB UNIT REPORT TO JAC: APRIL TO OCTOBER 2017

(generated from Interactive Management Plan on 19/10/17)

Activity title	Action	Description	Other Partners
Upskilling Lancashire - bid to European Social Fund	Action 2.1G	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. Notification was received July 2017 that the outline application was successful, with the partnership invited to submit a full application by the 21st September 2017. Subject to the success of the 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 successful the project is now likely to start in January 2018 ending 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. As the delivery partner Myerscough College are partnering with FOB AONB on the development of these, and will assess SME interest in developing a broader apprenticeship offering including Arborist, Horticulture and Landscape Operative, Conservator, Countryside worker, Environmental Manager, Ecologist, Forest Operative.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -UCLan -Myerscough College -Burnley College -Burnley Council -Preston College -University of Cumbria -Edge Hill University -Small to Medium-sized Enterprise (SMEs)
Caton Gala	Action 3.6B	FOB AONB representatives in partnership with Lune Valley Bee Keepers attended Caton Gala on the 10th June 2017 to promote Networks for Nectar and Pollinator Verges projects in the Caton and Hornby area, providing educational messages about the importance of Bees and pollinators and how people can help to provide better habits within their own gardens. Some local people put forward sites for potential future projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lune Valley Bee Keepers -Organising Committee Caton Gala
LEADER and European Social Fund applications	Action 4.2D	<p>The AONB successfully secured just over £62,000 from the North Lancashire and Bowland Local Action Group to support the Pendle Hill Summit project (as part of the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership).</p> <p>The AONB is also a project partner in a £-multimillion bid to the European Social Fund to support the development of apprenticeships with employers in rural Lancashire.</p>	
UVA 2016 - 2017	Action 1.7H	The UVA scheme for a 3km stretch of overhead line between Crimpton and Ing Barn (on the Cow Ark to Newton road) is scheduled to commence in spring 2017.	-Electricity Northwest

			Limited
Undergrounding for Visual Amenity Programme 2017/18	Action 1.7H	<p>The UVA Scheme to underground 3km of overhead lines between Cow Ark and Newton is largely complete. The redundant poles will be removed during autumn 2018.</p> <p>Two schemes in development at Twiston and Bleasdale will not now be able to go ahead due to wayleaves issues with landowners. These schemes have now been removed from the UVA programme and replaced with schemes drawn from a reserve list or where new schemes are identified.</p>	- Electricity Northwest Limited
Landscape Planning Update	Action 1.7A	<p>During the first two quarters of 2017, the Principal Officer has been commented on and attended a number of meetings relating to the following plans affecting the AONB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Various Lancaster City Council Local Plan consultations, including Strategic Policies and Land Allocations DPD, Development Management DPD and the Sustainable Settlement Review Draft Methodology - Bolton-by-Bowland and Gisburn Forest Neighbourhood Plan - Caton with Littedale Neighbourhood Plan - Wray with Botton Neighbourhood Plan <p>In addition, the Principal Officer has reviewed 81 planning applications between April and October and provided comments on behalf of the AONB to the local planning authority for 15 of these.</p>	
Restoring Black Grouse to the Bowland Fells	Action 2.1D	<p>During Spring 2017, the Bowland Land Managers Forum contracted the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust to gather information for- and submit a licence application to Natural England for translocation of black grouse from the species core areas of Northern England to sites in the Forest of Bowland AONB. However any plans by landowners to carry out translocations are on hold, due to another poor breeding season in 2017 and to also hold further discussions on the project objective with local and national partners.</p>	
Pendle Hill Access Projects	Action 3.1E	<p>The 'Access for All' and 'Pendle Summit' projects of the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership include creation and improvement of various strategic routes on and around Pendle Hill, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improvements to the Pendleside cart track and the north and south footpath approaches to the summit 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Downham to Chatburn concessionary bridleway - Spring Wood link footpath - Heys Lane byway improvements, near Barley - Pendle Sculpture Trail link footpath - Hookcliffe to Pendle Summit concessionary footpath 	
2017 Discovery Guide Launch	Action 3.4C	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.	-Bowland Experience -Tourism Officers
2017 grants	Action 2.3I	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.	
Pendle Hill LP PEN Pilot project	Action 3.6C	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.	
Pendle Hill LPS Development work	Action 1.6B	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.	
Phase 1 survey of Pendle Hill LP area	Action 1.3B	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 sq) 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, analysis, and an action plan recommending priority sites to improve management. Full details available on request	
Hedgelaying training in Pendle Hill area	Action 1.1C	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.	
Bleasdale Circle Interpretation	Action 2.3B	Supported Bleasdale Parish Hall with £150 towards refurbishment of Bleasdale Circle interpretation panel frame. (Spring 2017)	
Bowland Explorer - Summer 2017	Action 3.6D	<p>The Forest of Bowland AONB has been working with Bentham Community Rail Partnership and the Dales & Bowland CIC to promote a summer Sunday/Bank Holiday bus service between Bentham and Clitheroe, linking with rail services in both these towns. The bus starts and finishes in Lancaster, providing a service between Lancaster and Bentham when there is no scheduled train service.</p> <p>As well as providing a local public transport service across the heart of Bowland, linking with rail services from Manchester and Leeds also allows visitors from these urban areas to access the AONB, opening up walking opportunities and the chance to support local tourism businesses.</p> <p>The service has been promoted in the press, on the partners' websites and regularly via social media and will be reviewed in October.</p>	<p>-Dales and Bowland CIC Bentham -Community Rail Partnership</p>
PEN pilot project completed	Action 3.6C	<p>The Pendle Hill People Enjoying Nature pilot has completed and the evaluation is now available.</p> <p>The pilot proved to be a great success and work will be continued and improved as part of the LP delivery phase 2018-22.</p>	
The Music of the Forest	Action 3.6E	June 15th 2017 saw the premiere of a new choral work written by William, 16th Lord of Bowland, and set to music by acclaimed Lakeland composer, Christopher Gibbs. Exploring the history and landscape of the Forest of Bowland, the piece was performed by the Renaissance Singers of Blackburn Cathedral under the baton of Samuel Hudson.	

		<p>Internationally acclaimed trombonist and experimental musician, John Kenny, played the carnyx - an ancient Celtic warhorn. An audience of 65 attended the performance, which was held at Slaidburn Village Hall.</p> <p>The story was covered by local press, radio and BBC North West Tonight and a recording of the performance is now available on the AONB website at http://forestofbowland.com/Bowland-Song-Cycle</p>	
Natural Capital Accounting Seminar	Action 1.2B	<p>AONB Principal Officer attended a training seminar on 'Natural Capital Accounting' held by the Ecosystems Knowledge Network during September 2017.</p> <p>Natural capital accounting is the process of calculating the total stocks and flows of natural resources and services in a given ecosystem or region. Accounting for such goods may occur in physical or monetary terms. It is anticipated that Defra's '25 Year Environment Plan' to be launched in late 2017 will apply a 'natural capital approach' to managing the environment.</p>	
Clitheroe Food Festival	Action 2.3A	Attended CFF in 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 providing AONB information and family-friendly activities.	-Lancashire Museums
Hodder Valley Show	Action 2.3A	Staffed a trade stand at the HVS in 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017	
Volunteer Route Monitors	Action 3.2D	Refresher training session held for volunteer path monitors in August 2016. Recruitment of new volunteers is ongoing.	
Finger post renewal (Spring 2017)	Action 3.1C	Worked in partnership with LCC PROW team to fund cost of upgrading replacement/refurbished roadside waymarkers with wooden finger posts (as opposed to plastic posts) at priority locations within Ribble Valley and Lancaster districts of the AONB. A total of 82 waymarker posts/blades were funded.	-LCC PRoW
Festival Bowland press	Action 4.4B	<p>Press releases produced for:</p> <p>2017: Festival Bowland June Events; FB Summer Events; FB Autumn Events; Lord of Bowland Annual Lecture</p>	
General Press	Action 4.4B	Press releases produced for:	

		2017/18: Bowland Clothing Company Ltd charity range; Bowland Explorer bus service;	
View Ranger	Action 3.1A	<p>HB investigated and set up View Ranger page for FoB AONB promoted routes so that walk information can be updated in-house in a more timely way. Visitors can either use the routes via the View Ranger app or download a printed version.</p> <p>SCS etc will progressively update routes and add them to the View Ranger page.</p>	
Bursary Update (September 2017)	Action 3.6F	<p>The first tranche of Farm Visit Transport Funding (£2000) ran from January 2013 until December 2016. In that period 19 groups benefited from a Fund bursary. In total, 29 visits were made involving 768 adults and children.</p> <p>A further £2000 was added to the Fund budget in December 2016 and, to date, 6 schools, making 10 visits and involving 243 adults and children have been supported with a bursary. The Fund continues.</p>	
SSSI Condition update	Action 1.3A	<p>Protected Landscape data for 2017 from Natural England shows there has been very little change in SSSI condition since 2013.</p> <p>Currently of the 16,382 hectares of SSSI land in the Forest of Bowland AONB just 6.7% are in favourable condition; 78% are in unfavourable but recovering condition; 14% are in unfavourable and declining condition (improved from 18% in 2013).</p>	
HLF Stage 2 application submitted	Action 1.6B	<p>A full application to the Heritage Lottery Fund was submitted on 4th September 2017. This includes a 4-part landscape conservation action plan (LCAP) which includes an assessment of the landscape and its heritage, identification of needs and issues, and 15 fully developed project plans with budgets, timetables and target outputs and outcomes. The full scheme is worth £2.7m with nearly £2m of this coming from HLF.</p> <p>The Regional Committee of HLF will consider this application in December 2017 and we hope to start delivery of the plans in April 2018.</p>	
AONB Calendar 2018	Action 2.3J	The Forest of Bowland 2018 calendar has just gone on sale and really captures the unique sense of place of this beautiful area. Featuring some wonderful, seasonal landscape and wildlife photographs, the calendar can be purchased via the website online shop	<p>-Champion Bowland</p> <p>-Bowland Experience</p>

		<p>www.forestofbowland.com/Forest-Bowland-AONB-Shop</p> <p>The 2017 raised over £700 for Champion Bowland to support a range of fantastic local environmental and community projects.</p>	
ViewRanger Walking App	Action 2.4J	<p>We are currently in the process of migrating our walking routes to the nationally recognised ViewRanger App and web-based walking resource. This free platform enables the AONB to provide access to our routes in a more efficient way:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It means that updates on the information related to the routes can be updated more easily and quickly • Access to the routes via business websites is much more succinct, and it means that any new updates will be reflected directly to their websites • The technology is more up to date and provides a resource for those who use mobile devices as well as those who still prefer a paper download 	
New informal BEx network meetings	Action 2.4B	<p>A new informal style of meeting has been set up to encourage businesses to meet more regularly, to share ideas and network informally. The meetings last 2 hours and are hosted by different members and include an introduction/overview from the host business. It's a great opportunity to share information more regularly without a formal agenda.</p>	-Bowland Experience
Short Break Itineraries	Action 2.4A	<p>We are currently developing 5 short break itineraries linked with Bowland Experience members. The itineraries are thematic and cover 5 geographical areas of the AONB to encourage visitors to have a short-break and stay and explore in the AONB. The itineraries highlight the sustainable tourism opportunities, and the businesses are providing offers to encourage uptake. The itineraries will be launched in November 2017 at the Forum, and they will be promoted by the BEx network via social media.</p>	-Bowland Experience
New photography	Action 3.5C	<p>We have recently had new photography through the work of Salar Media and Mark Sutcliffe, who has helped in developing content and images for the 2017 Discovery Guide. Mark is currently working on content for the 2018 guide with accompanying images.</p> <p>We've also received a large number of images via the photo sharing gallery on the website. Visitors are able to upload and share their photos with the opportunity for them to be</p>	

		<p>included in the 2018 AONB Charity Calendar. These will provide us with a useful stock of images for projects and interpretation.</p> <p>Also, thanks to Graham Cooper, we now have a large stock of Pendle Hill photos, which he voluntarily shared with the AONB to support the Pendle LP bid submission. These will also be very useful next year!</p>	
New web content	Action 3.4A	We regularly update the website with new content. We had a wealth of content and imagery from the 2017 Discovery Guide, so we've been adding this and promoting it via social media. It has included popular content on the 'Faces of Bowland' and new web pages showcasing the 'The Music of the Forest', commissioned by William Bowland.	
Bowland Experience Network	Action 2.2C	<p>Since April 2017, there has been the following activity amongst the network:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 new members • 2 breakfast club meetings established with 8-10 businesses attending each at Dale House Camping Barn and Bentham Golf Club, to share ideas and good practice • 7 businesses attended the 'Star Tips for Profit' workshop on 26th September run by astronomer Robert Ince, to enable members to become 'Dark Sky Friendly' businesses linked the AONB's Dark Sky Discovery Sites • The Bowland Clothing Company has set up a new AONB clothing range, with 60% of profit from sales being donated to Champion Bowland 	
Green Accreditation	Action 2.2E	<p>Three businesses within the BEx network recently requested support for Green Tourism accreditation, and are currently in the process of working through the criteria and applying for accreditation. These are: Spread Eagle, Sawley; Wigglesworth House & Cottages; Ribble Valley Holiday Homes - we look forward to hearing how they progress.</p> <p>A press release dated 28/09/17 from Marketing Lancashire also announced that Bowland Experience Network Member Browsholme Hall had once again been shortlisted for the 2018 Sustainable Tourism Award. They have held this award for the last two years, so we wish them well at the awards event in November.</p>	<p>-Bowland Experience -Green Business</p>