

## AONB TEAM REPORT TO JAC: October 2017 to April 2018

(Generated from Interactive Management Plan on 12/04/2018)

Activity title	Action	Description	Other Partners
Landscape Planning update	Action 1.7A	The Principal Officer has reviewed 53 planning applications between October 2017 and April 2018 and provided comments on behalf of the Forest of Bowland AONB Partnership to the local planning authority for 9 of these applications.	
New UVA Scheme - Holden to Wycongill	Action 1.7H	A new scheme is currently in feasibility/development stage with ENWL to underground sections of low and higher voltage lines between the village of Holden and Wycongill Farm, above Bolton-by-Bowland. This scheme will replace the two schemes previously aborted due to issues with landowner permissions.	ENWL
Pendle Hill Farmers Network	Action 2.1F	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 area. The group will identify and address local training / skills gaps to help deliver better outcomes for biodiversity and landscape from existing and new agri-environment schemes. 21 farmers/land managers (covering over 2200ha.) within the Pendle Hill LP area signed up to be involved in this group. Natural England confirmed the bid was successful in December 2017. The project will support 1 day/week dedicated time from PHLP Farming and Wildlife Officer and 1 day/week PHLP Business Support Officer to develop the network, provide group support and training events/workshops.	
Hedge Laying 2017/18 Season	Action 1.1C	<p>During the 2017/18 season nine hedge laying sessions took place involving 38 people with a total of 424m of hedge laid between four sites:</p> <p>Crook O'Lune, Lancaster - 91m</p> <p>Fell View Campsite, Scorton - 136m</p> <p>Higher Gills Farm, Rimington - 115m</p> <p>Lane Side Farm, West Bradford - 82m</p> <p>Encouragingly, the sessions attracted a mix of regular volunteers alongside some new faces. Some people traveled a considerable distance to attend the days, which reflects the value these sessions are given.</p> <p>The weather was particularly snowy/wet during the early part of 2018, which resulted in a number of sessions being cancelled and re-scheduled.</p>	

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		Poor weather also led to the cancellation of this year's Bowland Hedge Laying Competition, which is organised by the Lancashire and Westmorland Hedge Laying Association.	
Bowland Fells SSSI peatland restoration	Action 1.3A	Work has continued on Brown Syke South and Hawthornthwaite during the 2017-8 winter season - blocking rills and gullies, reprofiling hags, revegetating bare peat. Film of work produced. Work funded by AONB, Grosvenor estate, EA & Defra.	Grosvenor Estate
Hawthornthwaite	Action 1.3D	Additional re-profiling and re-wetting followed by reseeded on area already fenced out on Hawthornthwaite, Abbeystead.	Grosvenor estate
Brown Syke South	Action 1.3D	Contractors returned to complete work detailed above and to extend the work within the fenced off area at Brown Syke South. Further areas re-wetted and re-profiled, with heather brash and seeding. Some work still to do - will be completed after the shooting season in Oct 2018.	
Green Tourism Accreditation	Action 2.2E	Ribble Valley Holiday Homes and Wigglesworth House achieved a gold green tourism award in December 2017  Peaks and Pods glamping had an accreditation visit at the beginning of April 2018 - we look forward to hearing how they got on.	
New destination promotion	Action 2.4I	A new leaflet (March 2018) and Discover Bowland Itinerary (Jan 2018) have been produced promoting Gisburn Forest and Stocks as a tourism destination.  See actions: 2.4G and 3.4C (part of Discovery Guide)	
BEx update	Action 2.2C	Since October 2017:  6 new Bowland Experience members - The Old Woodshed, Moss Wood Caravan Site, Open Road Open Skies, Marl Barn, The Shippon & Peaks and Pods. Due to Champion Bowland changing its governance arrangements and reconstituting as a Charitable Incorporate Organisation, Bowland Experience Ltd was closed as a company at the end of 2017, but the network still remains with the same aims. There are currently 138 members.	
Tramper at Gisburn Forest Hub	Action 2.4G	The Champion Bowland Tramper is now located at Gisburn Forest Hub and is available to hire from the cafe. There is a five mile easy access trail from the cafe with a link route to Stocks Reservoir to enjoy the wonderful scenery along the Birch Hills Trail. The Tramper was launched in February 2018 alongside the Discovery Guide and Festival Events programme.  The Tramper at Gisburn Forest can be booked in advance by contacting the Hub café on 01200 446387 or by emailing gisburncafe@outlook.com - the staff at the cafe will be able to carry out an induction for those new to the Tramper.	

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Mobile Friendly Website	Action 2.4J	Due to the changes in technology the AONB website has recently been adapted to have better functionality on mobile devices - mainly in terms of navigation.	
Cluster Business Leaflets Reproduced	Action 2.4G	<p>Two leaflets have been reproduced based on popularity and supported by BEx members:</p> <p>The Gisburn Forest Bike Trails leaflet as been re-produced to incorporate more information about the whole destination of Gisburn Forest and Stocks and includes information about walking, cycling and other opportunities along with business listings. The businesses have made a contribution to Champion Bowland to be listed in the leaflet.</p> <p>The Teashops leaflet has been re-produced to include more information about the villages of Bowland - the history and walking opportunities, to encourage visitors to stay and explore. The teashops businesses have agreed to host collection boxes to be listed in the new leaflet.</p>	
2017 Annual Sustainable Tourism Forum	Action 2.2I	<p>The Annual Sustainable Tourism Forum was held on Tuesday 21st November at the Tithe Barn, Browsholme Hall.</p> <p>At the forum there was a celebration of the achievements of both Bowland Experience and Champion Bowland over the last decade, as well as individual businesses. There was also group discussion, looking ahead to future projects and activity. There is a link to a film at the bottom of this page showing these achievements  <a href="http://forestofbowland.com/Sustainable-Tourism">http://forestofbowland.com/Sustainable-Tourism</a></p> <p>There was an update from Louise Kite, project officer for the LEADER Rural Development Fund and the tourism funding opportunities, and the Bowland Clothing Company brought along a stand to showcase their AONB range. The forum was attended by 20 tourism businesses within the network.</p>	
Training for BEx members Autumn/Winter 2017-2018	Action 2.4C	<p>Two social media workshops were held for BEx members at the Shireburn Arms in October 2017 and Wyreside Lakes Fishery in January 2018, they were run by Salar Media and attended by 12 businesses</p> <p>A Sense of Place/Know Your AONB workshop was held at Holmes Mill in January 2018 for managers of James' Places businesses - 12 staff in total. The workshop enabled staff to gain an understanding of what is special about Bowland and what there is to offer visitors.</p>	
Discover Bowland 2018	Action 3.4C	50 local businesses, event organisers and community members gathered to celebrate the release of <i>Discover Bowland 2018</i> at Gisburn Forest Hub cafe in early February– and got the chance to try out Champion Bowland's four-wheel drive, electric Trampler vehicle at the same time.	

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		<p>With everything from walking routes and wildlife features to traditional countryside skills, archaeology and local food, the 2018 guide is packed with information about the AONB.</p> <p>New for this year are Discover Bowland itineraries - the first in a series of five planned over the next 18 months, the itineraries provide inspiration for short breaks in the area, highlighting suggestions on what to do and where to eat and stay. And thanks to local businesses – all part of Bowland's Sustainable Tourism Network – there are offers and discounts a-plenty.</p> <p>The guide also includes this year's Festival Bowland programme, which lists a host of events between February and October. The new guide is available from local Tourist Information Centres and a range of local businesses, or view it online here:  <a href="https://issuu.com/forestofbowland/docs/fob_discoguide1217lor es">https://issuu.com/forestofbowland/docs/fob_discoguide1217lor es</a></p> <p>Business advertising from BEx members generated over £4,000 of funds to support the production of the guide.</p>	
Parish Lengthsman Projects	Action 2.3E	During 2017/18 the AONB contributed funding towards Parish Lengthsman projects in Pendleside, Lawkland, Newton/Dunsop Bridge and Clapham cum Newby.	Parish Councils and Parish Meetings
River Roeburn: Remembering, Restoring	Action 2.3B	Worked with local farmer, Rod Everett, and the Lune Rivers Trust to organise a half day Natural Flood Management workshop in Hornby on 19th October 2017 for local farmers/landowners as part of the Wray flood 50th anniversary commemorations.	Rod Everett Lune Rivers Trust Environment Agency Abbeystead Estate Natural England
Slaidburn Archive	Action 2.3B	Supported Slaidburn Archive with a £340 contribution to cover the cost of printing a new "transcripts" booklet collated to raise funds for the Archive.	
Garstang Guide Leaders presentation	Action 2.3A	Delivered an AONB Powerpoint presentation to a group of Guide leaders in Garstang on 22nd March 2018.	
Forest of Bowland Annual Report 2016-17	Action 4.4D	<p>The Forest of Bowland AONB 2016-17 Annual Report has been produced and is available on the AONB website at <a href="http://www.forestofbowland.com/Plans-Strategies-Reports">http://www.forestofbowland.com/Plans-Strategies-Reports</a></p> <p>Cover image by Chris Burscough.</p>	Forest of Bowland AONB Partnership Ribble Rivers Trust Wyre Waters Catchment Partnership LEWFA
Farm Visit Tranport Fund	Action 3.6F	Since late September 2017 a further eight groups (covering 12 visits) have been offered FVTF bursaries. To date, seven visits	Champion Bowland

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		involving 216 people have taken place. The remaining visits have either yet to take place or have not yet been claimed.	
Promoted route repairs	Action 3.2C	During spring 2018 maintenance works were carried out to the Hodder Bank Fell Circular route from Dunsop Bridge and also to the concessionary route from Dunsop village to Wood End Farm. Work included one replacement pedestrian gate; one pedestrian gate repair; three stile/fence repairs; one footbridge maintenance and two gate latch fixings.	
Bowland Explorer - Summer 2018	Action 3.6D	<p>The Bowland Explorer summer Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday bus service will run again during summer 2018 - starting on 27th May and continuing until the end of September.</p> <p>Organised by The Bentham Line and Dales &amp; Bowland CIC, the service runs between Bentham and Clitheroe, calling at Ingleton, Clapham, Gisburn Forest, Slaidburn, Newton and Waddington. The bus once again links with train services at both Bentham and Clitheroe, allowing visitors from West Bradford and Manchester to travel to Bowland on public transport. The bus also provides a route into Bowland from Lancaster at a time on Sundays when there is no train service available.</p>	The Bentham Line Dales & Bowland CIC United Utilities Forest of Bowland