

AONB TEAM REPORT TO JAC: 18th April 2019
(Generated from Interactive Management Plan on 16/04/2019)

Activity title	Action	Description
1. An outstanding landscape of natural and cultural heritage		
2018/19 Season Training	Action 1.1C	The 2018/19 hedge laying season in the wider AONB achieved 516m of hedge laid by 27 people over 10 days. Locations included Rimington, West Bradford, Whitewell, Scorton and Tosside. Many thanks to participants, trainers and landowners for all their contributions this year.
Pendle Hill LP traditional boundaries	Action 1.1C	The Dry Stone Walling Association lead on the boundaries project in the Pendle Hill LP scheme and area. They have now employed a part time co-ordinator, Sue Manson, to work alongside the LP Graduate Trainee (Jessica Tearle). Together they are working with farmers from the Pendle Hill farmer's network to identify boundaries in need of restoration or which can be utilised as training walls or hedges, for the planned 3 year programme. They will also be supporting farms who wish to apply for capital boundary grants under the Countryside Stewardship scheme. Two days of hedge laying training have been held at Twiston, where 59m of hedge was restored by volunteers; and on March 2nd the Annual Bowland Hedge laying Competition was held as part of the Lancs & Westmorland Grand prix, at Cockshotts farm in Sabden.
Landscape Enhancement Initiative	Action 1.1D	The Forest of Bowland AONB has submitted an expression of interest to National Grid for restoring traditional boundaries and plant woodland near Quernmore and within the Conder Valley. The scheme with 17+ landowners would have a value of £ 250 K +. If successful the project would start in January 2020 for three years.
Biodiversity Action Group meeting February 2019	Action 1.2A	The group met in February in order to look at the different ecosystem services that are provided by the natural capital of the AONB.
Ecosystem Service Approach Toolkit	Action 1.2B	The Forest of Bowland AONB has been supported by Bowfell Consulting funded by Natural England to ensure that the Management Plan Review embeds the Ecosystem Service Approach into future work of the AONB. Key to this was a partnership approach with the AONB organising a meeting with partners to ensure a common understanding and approach.
What's A Hill Worth	Action 1.2C	As part of the Pendle Hill LP the project 'What's a Hill Worth' will carry out 3 pieces of research and activity from 2019 to 2021. These will be commissioned and carried out by research consultants and funded by Heritage Fund and the AONB. 1. An assessment of the natural capital and ecosystem services of the LP area

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		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. 3 farm scale assessments of natural capital, leading to the creation of a land management plan; plus an economic assessment of the farm leading to a business plan w 3. ich includes natural capital/ecosystem services 4. A piece of research into the health & wellbeing benefits of the LP landscape, including the social capital return on investment allied to this
Ribble Rivers Trust - Water Environment Grant	Action 1.2E	The RRT application to WEG was successful and peat restoration above Mearley is now being planned. A different solution will be needed for the access improvements as this part of the bid was not successful. RRT have employed a project manager for the WEG and site visits with the Pendle Team are planned for April 2019.
Bowland Fell SSSI peat restoration activity	Action 1.3A	<p>Peat restoration activity this season (2018-9) has been centred on two major funded partnership projects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pennine PeatLife - a major project across the Pennines within the LP area which is being managed by the Yorkshire Peat Partnership and so has a YPP project officer (Chris Miller) in post covering the three Bowland sites - two on UU and one on Bleasdale. Restoration work has been going ahead on Bleasdale this season. 2. Northern Peatland Project - another bid put in across the north of England but this time including lowland peat as well as upland peat and including sites on the Abbeystead Estate at Mallowdale, Brown Syke South, Hare Syke and Dunkenshaw. This season restoration work has been ongoing at Mallowdale, Brown Syke South and Hare Syke. The funding has come from Defra with match from AONB & Grosvenor.
Esmee Fairburn Lancashire Wildlife Trust	Action 1.3E	A bid (previously reported) by Lancashire Wildlife Trust to secure support for an evolving peatland programme in Lancashire has been successful.
Hay Time Rescue Project	Action 1.4B	<p>This project aims to identify a minimum of 3 threatened hay meadow species; collect & propagate seed to bolster species numbers in their historic locations through plug planting.</p> <p>Working with LERN and Lancashire Botany Group on historic records of floral species, and previously identified declining species; 5 potential species were identified: globe flower, melancholy thistle, bird's eye primrose, saw wort, and dyers' greenweed.</p> <p>The seed has been collected and propagated by volunteers with a view to planting plug plants out by September 2019.</p>
Curlew project	Action 1.4C	Work has continued to develop the LNP Curlew project, with a 'heat map' of curlew records being produced. This highlighted the lack of data in the upland

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		<p>parts of the AONB. Records were then obtained by the landowners and managers of these areas to add to the map.</p> <p>It is hoped that this project will develop accessible land management advice to ensure current curlew 'hotspots' are maintained, as well as employ a project officer to oversee the work and help to raise the profile of the curlew with the general public.</p> <p>In the spring of 2018 the Bowland Moorland Group hosted a Curlew Day for local school children at Abbeystead village hall with games, craft activities and a chance to go and see some curlew close by. This will be repeated in 2019.</p>
Pendle Hill LP	Action 1.6B	Year 1 of activity now completed! For further information see the website www.pendlehillproject.com and associated social media
2. Resilient and Sustainable Rural Communities		
Sustainable Tourism Network Update	Action 2.2C	<p>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 called the Forest of Bowland Sustainable Tourism Network.</p> <p>The network now has working group of 7 businesses, meeting informally 2 to 3 times a year to move forward the priorities of the network, and working with the AONB Sustainable Tourism Officer.</p> <p>In recent months there have been the following businesses who have joined the network: Goosnargh Gin, The Calf's Head, Worston, The Cabin, Barley and The Gathering Fields Retreat, Over Wyresdale.</p>
Sustainable Tourism Forum & Discovery Guide Launch	Action 2.2I	<p>A joint event - to launch the Discovery Guide and for the annual forum - was held on 7th February 2019 and Bentham Golf Club and was attended by 40 businesses and volunteers.</p> <p>The Forum was an opportunity provide network members with updates about the Pendle Hill Project, Champion Bowland and apprenticeship opportunities provided by Myerscough College. There was also plenty of opportunity for discussions around pledges and ideas for sustainable tourism initiatives in 2019.</p>
Public events & Presentations	Action 2.3A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Trade stand taken at Hodder Valley Show 2018. ○ Activities and information provided at Clitheroe Food Festival 2018. ○ FoB AONB presentation delivered to members of Lancaster and Morecambe U3A on 1st February 2019.
Traditional Signpost	Action 2.3B	£1000 to support a traditional finger post in Abbeystead.

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Parish Lengthsman Projects	Action 2.3E	During 2018 the AONB contributed funding and staff support to Parish Lengthsman schemes in Pendleside, Newton, Dunsop Bridge and Lawkland.
Beacon Fell : Woodland crafts day	Action 2.3H	Forest of Bowland are putting on woodland craft demonstrations at Beacon Fell Country Park on the 28th April 2019.
Dark Skies Festival	Action 2.4F	<p>The Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty has been officially recognised as having some of the darkest skies in England - celebrated with a week of special events during half-term in February 2019.</p> <p>Running from Saturday 16th until Sunday 24th February the themed week was a sell-out and included guided star gazing and astrophotography with local amateur astronomer, Robert Ince; the chance to book into one of Bentham Golf Club's glamping pods or lodges; wrap up warm and listen to nocturnal tales with storyteller, Sue Allonby and an invitation to step inside Yorkshire Planetarium's mobile dome for night-sky films with the wow factor.</p> <p>Visitors wanting to stay and explore the area for a little longer were encouraged to choose from a number of Dark Sky Friendly businesses - many of them accommodation providers offering information about star gazing in Bowland. The AONB has details on its website at https://forestofbowland.com/Star-Gazing/#businesses</p>
ViewRanger App	Action 2.4H	<p>We have now uploaded the AONB walking routes to the ViewRanger App, where you can plan, navigate, record and share your adventures! The App provides us with a more efficient way of updating routes and gives you access to the most up to date information.</p> <p>ViewRanger offers thousands of downloadable route guides, free worldwide maps, and powerful GPS navigation features. Their mobile app runs on iPhone, iPad, Apple Watch, Kindle Fire, and Android smartphones, tablets, and watches. ViewRanger's GPS navigation works offline anywhere in the world, without phone or data coverage. Simply save maps and route guides to your device before you leave home.</p> <p>If you still prefer the pdf downloads, then follow the links below to print a paper copy. View the new routes at https://www.forestofbowland.com/walking</p>
3. A Strong Connection Between People & the Landscape		
Promoted routes	Action 3.1A	Review of promoted routes continuing and bring transposed to ViewRanger which are now live on the FOB website January 2019
Access Infrastructure Improvement	Action 3.1B	<p>Programme of works developed in conjunction with landowners and LCC Public Rights of Way to improve gates and stiles along prompted routes in the AONB.</p> <p>Routes covered include Chipping and Slaidburn</p>

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Access Land Signage December 2018	Action 3.2B	Primary Access Panels on to CROW land at Abbeystead updated in conjunction with the Grosvenor Estate. 4 replacement panels prepared.
Promoted Route Volunteer Training November 2018	Action 3.2D	Promoted Route volunteer training evening held November 2018. 10 attendees with 2 new volunteers recruited. Included training in how to use View Ranger and use it to plot new routes.
Fire Operation Group Meetings	Action 3.2F	Forest of Bowland Access Officer now regular attends Lancashire Fire Operations Groups meetings to represent AONB providing advice and support to land owners and managers. Meetings attended: December 2018 and April 2019
AONB Website Update	Action 3.4A	In January the content on the AONB website was rationalised. The website contains a wealth of information, but over time it has become overloaded, which has made it difficult to navigate to current and relevant material. Old material has been archived, and the menus and navigation have been simplified to make it easier to locate current project information and updates.
Discover Bowland 2019	Action 3.4C	A brand new guide to the Forest of Bowland was launched in February, packed with information and ideas for exploring this fantastic Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It features walks, short-break itineraries, events, local produce, wildlife, family activities and much more! Local businesses, event organisers and community members celebrated the release of <i>Discover Bowland 2019</i> at Bentham Golf Course on 7th February. The new look guide - which has been re-designed from its original A4 to a journal size, to encourage visitors to pick it up - is available from local Tourist Information Centres and a range of local tourism businesses, or by visiting www.forestofbowland.com
Locator Logos	Action 3.5A	Five new locator logos have been produced: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism Business in the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty • Working in the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty • Happening in the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty • Made in the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty • Located in the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty The primary purpose of the locator logo is to assist local tourism businesses and communities to promote the fact that they operate within, or are allied to, the beautiful landscapes of this nationally protected area.

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		<p>The scheme is part of the Forest of Bowland AONB's Sustainable Tourism Work which aims to work in partnership with a range of visitor related businesses and organisations to encourage sustainable tourism to the area, benefitting rural businesses and the local economy as a whole.</p> <p>The Locator Logos represent the place – they are not a quality mark, and do not represent an endorsement, funding or any other support by the Forest of Bowland AONB. The locator logos were launched at the Sustainable Tourism Forum in February 2019 and so far 8 businesses have now applied to use them.</p>
Take One Media	Action 3.5E	Brochure distribution via Take One Media continues to work well. In 2018, and again in 2019, we also took up the option of a month-long banner advertisement plus day-visits promotion package via the TIC Top-up website.
Festival Bowland 2014-19	Action 3.6A	<p>For the Forest of Bowland AONB management plan period 2014-19, figures from the 303 event records returned show that the Festival Bowland programme attracted 7772 attendances. Thanks go to all those who have organised and delivered events during the past five years, and to members of the steering group; the programme wouldn't be possible without such support.</p> <p>The 2019 Festival programme is now well underway, with almost 90 events plus themed weeks including Dark Skies, All things Spring, Welcome Bowland and a Bowland Foodie Foray.</p>
Coast and Cove DalesBus	Action 3.6D	<p>A new Sunday bus service into the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is being launched this Easter.</p> <p>“Coast and Cove DalesBus 881” will run from Morecambe and Lancaster through the Trough of Bowland to Dunsop Bridge and Slaidburn, before heading north to Settle and Malham in the Yorkshire Dales National Park. The new service will run every Sunday and Bank Holiday from 21st April until 20th October 2019, providing great new opportunities for walkers and sightseeing.</p> <p>The service is run by local company Kirkby Lonsdale Coach Hire on behalf of the Dales & Bowland Community Interest Company. Financial support has been provided by Northern, the Settle Carlisle Railway Development Company, the Friends of the Settle Carlisle Line and the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority.</p>
Farm Visit Transport Fund Update	Action 3.6F	<p>The Farm Visit Transport Fund, supported by Champion Bowland, continues to provide bursaries to schools and groups visiting profiled farms within the Forest of Bowland AONB.</p> <p>The scheme began in 2013 and, to date, has given bursaries to 28 groups making 54 visits involving 1556 people. A review and refresh of the scheme is planned.</p>
4. A Dynamic & Effective AONB Partnership		

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Landmark Trees	Action 4.2E	<p>Many of Bowland's beautiful old trees are nearing the end of their lives, whether that be through old age, storm damage or disease. In order to safeguard the unique character of the Bowland landscape, Champion Bowland and the Forest of Bowland AONB Partnership have recently launched a new initiative - Landmark Trees - to ensure successor trees are ready.</p> <p>Landmark Trees can be found in hedgerows, parkland, farmland or on a village green and may be native or non-native species. Wherever they are, they are important to people as well as to the landscape and provide a living link to the 'forest' of Bowland in the AONB's name.</p> <p>The project is asking local people to nominate prominent trees that are important to them and inviting local businesses to donate the funds to plant their successors. By supporting this scheme, sponsors are making an investment that will pay dividends for decades to come.</p> <p>The project was officially launched in March 2019 when the Assheton Arms (part of the Seafood Pub Company) sponsored the planting of a field maple in Downham village. The land is owned by Downham Estate and the Estate will care for the tree going forward.</p>
Celebrating ten years of Champion Bowland	Action 4.2E	<p>Champion Bowland has recruited three new trustees and relaunched as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. The website has been refreshed and features the launch of our Landmark Trees programme. Several recent applications for funding have been approved. The trustees and the AONB are looking to secure additional resources to appoint a professional fund raiser to support the continuing development of the charity.</p>
Press and Publicity	Action 4.4B	<p>2018/19 - Press releases produced for: Bowland Dark Skies Festival 2018; Bowland's Meadow Magic; Clitheroe Clogs event; Discover Bowland 2019 launch; Springtime wildlife (2018); Lord of Bowland annual lecture 2018; AONB Management Plan review x 2; Bowland springtime events (2019); Coast and Cove DalesBus.</p> <p>External press releases circulated for: Buxton to Borders moorland peat restoration; RSPB hen harrier chicks</p>