

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