

Team Activity Report: October 2015 to April 2016

7a Appendix B

To view the online interactive management plan, from which this report is drawn visit <http://forestofbowland.com/action-plan>

Activity title	Action	Start date	End date	Description	Expected outcomes of activity
Pendle Hill LPS	Action 1.6B	Sat, 31 Oct 2015	Sat, 31 Oct 2015	Stage 1 pass achieved October 2015 Development phase is due to run for 18 months 2016-17	Key outcome will be a stage 2 application and submission of the Landscape Character Action Plan
Northern Upland Chain Farmer Panel	Action 2.1B	Sun, 1 Nov 2015	Thu, 31 Mar 2016	Northern Upland Chain (NUC) Local Nature Partnership has initiated the development of a 'Farmer Panel' to represent the interests of upland farmers in the Pennine at national and regional level. Feasibility work (including local meetings with farmers in Bowland) has taken place since November 2015, co-ordinated by John Waldon from the South West Uplands Federation.	Creation of NUC 'Farmer Panel' in spring/summer 2016. Up to 3 farmers from the Forest of Bowland will be nominated by peers/AONB partners to represent the area on the NUC Farmer Panel
Planning web page	Action 1.7B	Tue, 8 Dec 2015	Tue, 8 Dec 2015	Planning and Development web page added http://forestofbowland.com/Planning-and-Development-AONB	
Social Media Training	Action 2.4A	Wed, 9 Dec 2015	Wed, 9 Dec 2015	A Social Media Workshop was also organised for BEx members held at the Tithe Barn, Browsholme Hall on 30th September and was attended by 10 businesses.	
Business specific routes	Action 2.4K	Wed, 9 Dec 2015	Wed, 9 Dec 2015	Developed 3 routes that James' Places businesses can link with - Shireburn Arms and Waddington Arms - making use of existing promoted routes.	
Food related businesses	Action 2.4D	Wed, 9 Dec 2015	Wed, 9 Dec 2015	During 2015 we have recruited 4 food-related businesses to Bowland Experience network: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chipping Farm Shop • Wild Boar Park • Bowland Outdoor Reared Pork • Bowland Chocolates 	
Know your AONB workshop	Action 2.3A	Wed, 9 Dec 2015	Wed, 9 Dec 2015	Workshop designed and delivered to 10 BEx members during 2015.	
E-bulletin and Business Bulletin	Action 4.4B	Wed, 9 Dec 2015	Wed, 9 Dec 2015	E-bulletin distributed quarterly and Bowland Experience bulletin sent out to members every two weeks.	
Interactive Management Plan	Action 4.3B	Wed, 9 Dec 2015	Wed, 9 Dec 2015	Launched the new plan and also held a training workshop in October, run by Countryside, to enable partners to learn how to add their activities and updates.	
Publications	Action 3.4B	Wed, 9 Dec 2015	Wed, 9 Dec 2015	During 2015 we produced the Discovery Guide & Festival events programme, and re-printed Bowland by Bike, Teashops leaflet and Gisburn Bike trails leaflet, along with some electric bike	

				network business cards. BEx businesses supported the production of some of these publications including the Discovery Guide, Teashops and Bike Trails Leaflet and this amounted to £3265.00	
AONB website	Action 3.4A	Wed, 9 Dec 2015	Wed, 9 Dec 2015	New website launched in February 2015. Now optimised for mobile devices, and included an upgrade to Drupal 5.	
Sustainable Tourism Forum	Action 2.2I	Wed, 9 Dec 2015	Wed, 9 Dec 2015	The Sustainable Tourism Forum was held on 10th November, 2015 at the Assheton Arms and was attended by 30 BEx members and partners.	
European Charter	Action 2.2H	Wed, 9 Dec 2015	Wed, 9 Dec 2015	After consultation with BEx and JAC members it was decided that the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism would not be renewed in 2015. However, the principles would still apply and sustainable tourism projects and support for BEx would continue.	
Green Business accreditation	Action 2.2E	Wed, 9 Dec 2015	Wed, 9 Dec 2015	Currently 19 businesses are accredited through the scheme. During 2015 6 businesses have undertaken or have been supported through Green Tourism accreditation including: New accreditations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Riverside Caravan Park, Bentham • Dale House Camping Barn, Gisburn Forest Existing accreditations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bowland Wild Boar Park • Dalesbridge • Cobden Farm • Parkfoot Holiday Homes 	
Updates to online database	Action 2.2B	Wed, 9 Dec 2015	Wed, 9 Dec 2015	Business support have undertaken an audit of both the local producers' database and rural skills database - removing redundant entries and adding new businesses.	
Peat restoration at Brown Syke, Abbeystead	Action 1.3D	Mon, 4 Jan 2016	Mon, 4 Jan 2016	Following the restoration works in 2014, a summer drought resulted in the seeded areas burning off, returning the area to bare peat. In Autumn 2015, EA suggested they could fund further work to rectify this, with additional heather seed, nurse seed, lime and fert being applied in a contract let for Jan - March 2016.	Re-establishment of ground cover over the 40 ha enclosure, with a return to a more typical natural vegetation over time
Festival Bowland programme	Action 3.6A	Mon, 4 Jan 2016	Mon, 4 Jan 2016	Events programme for 2016 now compiled and included as insert within Discover Bowland 2016 guide.	
Pendle Hill - Countryside Stewardship Facilitation Fund Application	Action 2.1F	Mon, 4 Jan 2016	Thu, 17 Mar 2016	The AONB Partnership submitted an application to Natural England's Countryside Stewardship Facilitation Fund in March	Funding application decision expected in late spring/early summer

				2016 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. 18 farmers/land managers (covering almost 2200ha.) within the Pendle Hill LP area signed up to be involved in this group should the application be successful.	
Update position of SSSI condition status for the AONB	Action 1.3A	Wed, 6 Jan 2016	Wed, 6 Jan 2016	<p>The AONB contains 21 SSSIs covering a total of 16,382ha. As of [date] Natural England* have calculated for us that x% are in favourable condition; x% are in unfavourable recovering condition; x% are in unfavourable no change condition and x% are in unfavourable declining condition.</p> <p><i>*Awaiting latest figures from NE</i></p> <p>Unfavourable no change - New Ings Meadow, Bolton by Bowland (low frequency of indicator species and high grass:herb ratio)</p> <p>Unfavourable declining - units 5, 6, 15, 50 of Bowland Fells (low numbers of breeding black backed gulls)</p> <p>Unfavourable declining - Clear Beck Meadow, Wray (low frequency of indicator species, increase in grass:herb ratio, himalayan balsam infestation, increase in rush cover)</p>	Clear route to target delivery
Local species recovery plans	Action 1.4B	Wed, 6 Jan 2016	Wed, 6 Jan 2016	<p>Plans have been produced for Greater Butterfly orchid, Globeflower and Juniper.</p> <p>All three plans are underway.</p>	Stabilise populations of these species, with expansions into suitable receptor sites if appropriate.
Advice for agri-env scheme agreements on meadow restoration	Action 2.1A	Wed, 6 Jan 2016	Wed, 6 Jan 2016	Advice has been given to potential applicants, NE colleagues and agreement holders on the suitability of sites for meadow restoration, the methods of restoration in practice and the ways of demonstrating success. Numbers are not precise as advice ranges from phone calls through to repeat farm visits, but is in the region of 4-8/yr.	Ensure as many potential meadow restoration schemes with a good chance of success as possible are undertaken.
Countryside Stewardship targeting	Action 2.1F	Wed, 6 Jan 2016	Wed, 6 Jan 2016	CS targeting was completed during 2014-5, using nation-wide data sets rather than local ones. The AONB unit input to the consultation and discussions and offered use of local datasets, but only national sets were used. The mid-tier developed differently, and it was in the Facilitation Funded catchment groups which in the end were most locally focussed. The AONB is a partner in the Loud catchment group (see 1.2E).	CS targeting to develop landscape specific options

BARS2 reporting	Action 4.3C	Wed, 6 Jan 2016	Wed, 6 Jan 2016	BARS2 reporting is completed at regular intervals to detail the peatland restoration and hay meadow restoration work completed by the team which does not utilise any NE funding.	Ensure work undertaken by the AONB partnership contributes to the completion of Bio2020 targets and is recognised as such.
N4N community engagement projects	Action 2.3B	Wed, 6 Jan 2016	Wed, 6 Jan 2016	Supported 'Wildflowers into the meadows' project in which 5 schools visited meadows, grew plug plants and planted them out. Supported Lancaster Beekeepers Community Pollinator Patch Planters project, funding the seed, plug plants and bulbs for 3 nectar patches at the Crook O Lune. Supported 'Chipping in Bloom' group at their meadow garden, giving advice as the area developed, and funding seed and plug plant additions.	Enthuse local groups to produce and manage nectar patches for pollinators
Leagram Tree Shelters	Action 2.3G	Fri, 29 Jan 2016	Fri, 29 Jan 2016	Tarja Wilson worked with the Friends to build bespoke tree shelters at Leagram Mill Farm during winter 2015.	
Slaidburn Archive On-line	Action 2.3D	Fri, 29 Jan 2016	Fri, 29 Jan 2016	Dec 2015/Jan 2106 - Featured a web banner article about Slaidburn Archive's new website and the work of the team there.	
Lord of Bowland 5th Annual Lecture	Action 3.6E	Fri, 29 Jan 2016	Fri, 29 Jan 2016	Supported Lord of Bowland in staging his 5th annual lecture in October 2015 where composer, Christopher Gibbs, talked about the inspiration behind, and played excerpts from, his Forest of Bowland Suite.	
Family-friendly web content	Action 3.4A	Fri, 29 Jan 2016	Fri, 29 Jan 2016	Family Fun page updated and new, on-line, downloadable resources developed and added.	Aim is to increase family audience and to help existing family visitors discover more about the AONB.
Family-friendly web content	Action 3.4D	Mon, 1 Feb 2016	Mon, 1 Feb 2016	Countryside Code info and link added to family-friendly web pages.	
'Upland Management' seminar	Action 2.1I	Mon, 1 Feb 2016	Tue, 1 Mar 2016	Discussions held with Natural England Area Manager regarding seminar for land managers in Bowland	
Promoted Routes Review	Action 3.1A	Mon, 1 Feb 2016	Mon, 1 Feb 2016	Reviewed current web download walk routes: - removed a number which were either surplus, duplicated or which related to Bowland Rambler Bus which no longer runs - temporarily removed a number of routes until access/path surface issues can be resolved - from May 2016 will promote routes seasonally, either as winter or summer walks, keeping particularly wet routes for summer promotion - progressing work done by Cathy Hopley with Community Rail Partnership to develop four walking/cycling routes from stations in the Craven area.	

Ribble Valley pilot	Action 1.3I	Tue, 2 Feb 2016	Tue, 2 Feb 2016	The pilot scheme of marking Special Interest verges within RVBC area is continuing, most recently with the road markings being replaced with orange topped posts. Work has started to extend the pilot into the Lancaster City council area, but progress is slow. The Pendle LPS may offer a new opportunity.	
Pendle Hill landscape partnership	Action 3.1E	Thu, 3 Mar 2016	Thu, 3 Mar 2016	Identifying and restoring/maintaining strategic routes on Pendle Hill is a specific project in the successful LP scheme During the development phase a Visitor Management Plan will assess visitor patterns and identify priority routes requiring investment - whether to repair erosion or to encourage access to under-used areas. Funds will be sought to match HLF investment - hopefully from the Pendle Hill Fund and LEADER	Improved strategic routes in the Pendle Hill area, reducing over use of existing paths and encouraging the use of 'gateway sites'
LCA Photographic Monitoring Project 2015	Action 1.1B	Thu, 3 Mar 2016	Thu, 3 Mar 2016	This project was undertaken by Jon Hickling as a volunteer. Working to a brief Jon took photographs of a selected number of LCAs from identified and easily accessible viewpoints. These are mapped and catalogued, and can therefore be revisited in the future in order to assess any changes to landscape condition. A selection of the photographs will be published on line	Baseline data for future comparison as part of the State of the AONB Report
Pendle Hill Advisory Group	Action 3.3A	Thu, 3 Mar 2016	Thu, 3 Mar 2016	Meeting held in March 2016, involving landowners, local authorities, commons graziers group	
Pendle Hill landscape partnership	Action 2.1G	Thu, 3 Mar 2016	Thu, 3 Mar 2016	An apprenticeship scheme has been included in the successful bid for funds from HLF, this would provide placements for 20 young people to train as apprentices during the lifetime of the scheme During the development phase we will identify a suitable college to administer support and qualifications, a training co-ordinator to manage the project, and a number of employers wishing to take on apprentices	20 apprentices to 'graduate' as part of the programme by 2021
Update, March 2016	Action 2.3I	Fri, 4 Mar 2016	Fri, 4 Mar 2016	The Sustainable Development Fund has continued to be a successful and innovative fund through 2014 and 2015. Funds are now held by Champion Bowland and administered via YDMT under a joint working agreement with the AONB. This enables a more flexible approach for applicants as funds do not have to be drawn down by a financial year end, or allocated in haste in order to commit grants. The SDF panel have approved 8 grants in 2014 totalling over £19,000 and 5 grants in 2015 totalling £16,000 In January 2016 the JAC made the decision to close the grant	Effective support for SDF grant scheme and applicants

				<p>scheme and to re direct funds to the AONB Projects budget in order to deliver clear objectives of the Management Plan. Support will continue to be offered to groups wanting to undertake sustainable activity, and signposting will be offered to alternative grant schemes.</p>	
Update March 2016	Action 4.2A	Fri, 4 Mar 2016	Fri, 4 Mar 2016	<p>A key proposal of the Strategy was to prepare a major bid for funds from HLF's Landscape Partnership Scheme, and a successful first stage pass has now been secured. If this passes stage 2 in Autumn 2018 then £3m of funds will be secured for activity in the Pendle Hill LP area.</p> <p>In addition, the relationship between the AONB and Champion Bowland, as a charity arm which is available to draw down funds not accessible to public bodies, has been formalised and tested. A working agreement between the two organisations exists and is reviewed annually. In 2014/15 Champion Bowland was awarded a £10,000 HLF grant to create an Anniversary Scrapbook for the AONB's 50th anniversary, after several failed attempts from the AONB Unit - illustrating how the charity can be more effective in this role.</p>	Increased income generation
Pendle Hill LP scheme	Action 3.6C	Fri, 4 Mar 2016	Fri, 4 Mar 2016	<p>Within the proposed LP scheme an Outreach project has been identified for delivery 2018-21. This will focus on breaking down barriers for new audiences to access and enjoy the area, as well as providing opportunity to evaluate the health and wellbeing benefits of such a scheme. Based on the successful People and the Dales scheme the outreach project includes funds for facilitators/sessional workers, plus transport and other costs. Funds will come from HLF and we will apply for match funds from AONB, public health/NHS and charitable trusts etc.</p>	An increased number and diversity of visitors from neighbouring communities
Update March 2015	Action 4.2E	Fri, 4 Mar 2016	Fri, 4 Mar 2016	<p>Champion Bowland continues to administer a small grants scheme where applications are administered by the AONB team and finances by YDMT under a service contract. Trustees appraise and approve all grant applications.</p> <p>The Champion Bowland website has been improved and updated to promote the grant scheme and also to encourage public donations to the fund via text (Just Giving) and on line (BT My Donate) both of which are administered free of charge and also provide facilities to take Gift Aid donations</p>	<p>Improved working arrangements between AONB and CB</p> <p>Increased awareness of the small grants scheme and opportunity for visitor-giving</p>
Four Lane Ends Signpost	Action 2.3B	Tue, 15 Mar 2016	Tue, 15 Mar 2016	Supported local resident with information related to potential refurbishment of traditional signpost at Four Lane Ends, Grindleton.	
Routes from businesses	Action 2.4H	Fri, 18 Mar	Fri, 18	Worked with James' Places to establish route options from two of	

		2016	Mar 2016	their Inns - Waddington Arms and Shireburn Arms - linking them with existing promoted routes in Waddington and Hurst Green.	
Facebook business to business page	Action 2.4B	Fri, 18 Mar 2016	Fri, 18 Mar 2016	Created a business to business closed Facebook group to enable members to more easily exchange ideas, share events and ask questions of each other.	
BEx support	Action 2.2C	Fri, 18 Mar 2016	Fri, 18 Mar 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During 2015 recruited 13 new businesses to the Bowland Experience Network Provide regular information and support via bi-monthly business bulletin, highlighting opportunities and updating on news and events in the AONB February 2015 set up a visitor facing Bowland Experience Facebook page to promote the opportunities for the businesses in the network https://www.facebook.com/bowlandexperience/ and also a closed group for members to share ideas and good practice 	
Green Traveller Guide	Action 3.5F	Fri, 18 Mar 2016	Fri, 18 Mar 2016	Green traveller guide updated as new businesses get involved. Recently added Dale House Camping Barn.	
Development of walks and interpretation at rail stations	Action 3.4E	Fri, 18 Mar 2016	Fri, 18 Mar 2016	<p>The AONB are working with Northern Rail and the Bentham Line Community Rail Partnership to put together interpretation boards from rail stations at Giggleswick, Clapham, Bentham & Wennington. The boards will include information about the walking and cycling opportunities in the area, as well as general information about Bowland. We are also going to include information about tourism businesses on the boards and have offered this advertising space to Bowland Experience members.</p> <p>Boards and new walks to be launched in May 2016</p>	
Festival Bowland press	Action 4.4B	Tue, 5 Apr 2016	Tue, 5 Apr 2016	<p>Press releases produced for:</p> <p>2014: Learn to Scythe; Spring events; Celebrating Summer in Bowland</p> <p>2015: Star Gazing event; Archaeology Walk; Family-friendly Summer; New Laund Trumper Days; Rathmell Heritage Ramble; Scything & Coronation Meadows; Summer in Wyre; Claughton Hall Estate Walk; Lord of Bowland 5th Annual Lecture; Lord of Bowland YFC Lecture (on behalf of Lord of Bowland)</p> <p>2016: Easter events</p>	

General Press	Action 4.4B	Tue, 5 Apr 2016	Tue, 5 Apr 2016	<p>Press releases produced for:</p> <p>2014/15: Bowland Scrapbook launch; GTBS accreditations; Discovery and Festival Bowland guide launch; SDF launch</p> <p>2015/16: Museum of Lancashire Exhibition; Rate My View; Bowland Scrapbook; SDF launch; Dark Sky Discovery Sites; Discover/Festival Bowland 2016 launch; Family-friendly Bowland; Outstanding Week 2015; NAAONB/NPE Accord (on behalf of NAAONB); 2016 Hedge Laying Competition</p>	
Landscape Capacity Study for Cumulative Impact of Wind Energy Development	Action 1.7F	Thu, 7 Apr 2016	Thu, 7 Apr 2016	Funding no longer available to support this study	
Review of LPA local plan policies re: AONBs	Action 1.7A	Thu, 17 Sep 2015	Thu, 7 Apr 2016	<p>David Porter from Lancaster City Council has carried out an audit of local planning authority local plan policies pertinent to the AONB, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Landscape - Natural Environment - Rural Development <p>Discussions have taken place within the AONB Funders Group (involving local authority planning policy-makers) on the potential to work towards a harmonisation of these relevant policies as and when LPAs review their respective local plan. It is important to emphasise, this would not be something the AONB Partnership would look to impose on any LPA.</p>	Development of AONB Partnership template policy wording (covering the three policy areas identified) which would be made available to be used as a guidance document by LPAs when reviewing their respective local plan
Ribble Life Together	Action 1.2E	Thu, 7 Apr 2016	Thu, 7 Apr 2016	<p>'Ribble Life Together' is a Ribble Life Catchment Partnership project run by Ribble Rivers trust which commenced in 2015. It is an ambitious project that brings together all members of the Ribble's Catchment Based Approach Partnership. The project seeks to develop and then deliver a range of activities that will significantly improve the Ribble Catchment for people and wildlife.</p> <p>The project hopes to achieve the following objectives;</p> <p>Improved water quality: reduced diffuse pollution sources including faecal matter to improve coastal bathing waters.</p> <p>Improved biodiversity: increased riverine & other habitats, connectivity and re-naturalisation.</p>	

				<p>Reduced flood risk: using natural processes aid in reducing flood risk.</p> <p>Recreation: improved access and information for people to access rivers and streams.</p> <p>Education: increase awareness, engagement and understanding of riverine heritage.</p> <p>Social: provide training, volunteering and other opportunities for all to become involved in improving and celebrating their river heritage.</p> <p>Economic: increased use of the catchment for tourism & recreation, as well as working with local businesses.</p> <p>Climate change: increase carbon sequestration and shading of streams.</p> <p>Partnerships: demonstrate how aligning partner's activities can lead to a range of multiple benefits.</p> <p>The Principal AONB Officer has been regularly attending the Partnership Board which oversees the management and delivery of the project. Other AONB team members have also been involved in advising the project team in the development of walking routes within the catchment and on interpretation/community engagement.</p>	
Natural England 'Ecosystem Approach' Self-Assessment	Action 1.2B	Thu, 7 Apr 2016	Thu, 7 Apr 2016	<p>An initial self-assessment of the AONB Partnership was carried out by the Principal AONB Officer (in consultation with the other members of the AONB unit) during April 2016.</p> <p>‘Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England’s wildlife and ecosystem services’ (Defra, 2011) includes ‘Outcome 1C: By 2020, at least 17% of land and inland water, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, conserved through effective, integrated and joined up approaches to safeguard biodiversity and ecosystem services including through management of our existing systems of protected areas and the establishment of nature improvement areas’.</p> <p>The self-assessment provides a tool to support partnerships and learn from the progress made in deploying ‘integrated and joined</p>	<p>It is expected that such large scale partnerships will seek to progress towards meeting the Outcome by 2020 (and as soon as reasonably practical). Once the partnership has ‘met’ the criteria, the area of the partnership will contribute to the 17%.</p> <p>A re-assessment maybe carried out within the next two years to ascertain progress in areas identified for improvement.</p>

				<p>up approaches' that deliver for both biodiversity and multiple ecosystem services, thereby adding value over and above other outcomes in Biodiversity 2020.</p> <p>The results of the assessment identified that the AONB Partnership is generally delivering an integrated and joined up approach to managing ecosystem services provided by the AONB. There are a number of areas for improvement, particularly in data-gathering and valuing for 'cultural services' such as health and well-being</p>	
Pendle Hill LPS	Action 1.6B	Thu, 7 Apr 2016	Thu, 7 Apr 2016	<p>Permission to start granted by the Heritage Lottery Fund in February 2016.</p> <p>Cathy Hopley has been seconded from AONB unit to Pendle Hill LP Development Officer position, commencing this new role on 1st April 2016.</p>	