



## **Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Advisory Committee**

**Thursday, 22nd April, 2021 at 2.00 pm in Zoom Virtual Meeting - Zoom**

### **Agenda**

- 1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies for Absence**
- 2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests**  
Members are asked to consider any Pecuniary Interests they may have to disclose to the meeting in relation to matters under consideration on the Agenda.
- 3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 22 October 2022** (Pages 1 - 14)  
The Committee is asked to consider approving the minutes of the meetings held on 22 October 2020.
- 4. Partner Updates** (Verbal Report)  
(Open to all)
- 5. Visitor Management During COVID19** (Verbal Report)  
(Presentation by Sarah Dornan, AONB and Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership Countryside Access Officer)
- 6. AONB Partnership Budget** (Pages 15 - 18)
- 7. AONB Unit Activity Report (Oct 2020 - April 2021)** (Pages 19 - 30)
- 8. Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership**
- 9. Farming in Protected Landscapes** (Pages 31 - 32)
- 10. NAAONB Art in the Landscape Strategy** (Pages 33 - 36)

**11. Urgent Business**

An item of Urgent Business may only be considered under this heading where, by reason of special circumstances to be recorded in the minutes, the Chairman of the meeting is of the opinion that the item should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency. Wherever possible, the Chief Executive should be given advance warning of any Members' intention to raise a matter under this heading.

**12. Date of Next Meeting**

The proposed dates and provisional locations of the Committee meetings (COVID-19 permitting) to be held in 2021 are:

21 October 2021 in Craven, venue tbc

21 April 2021 in Ribble Valley, venue tbc

Samantha Gorton  
Democratic Services

Lancashire County Council  
County Hall  
Preston



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## **Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Advisory Committee**

### **Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 22nd October, 2020 at 2.00 pm in Zoom Virtual Meeting - Zoom**

#### **Present:**

#### **Chair**

County Councillor Albert Atkinson, Lancashire County Council

#### **Committee Members**

County Councillor Susie Charles, Lancashire County Council  
County Councillor Shaun Turner, Lancashire County Council  
Councillor John Browne, Preston City Council  
Councillor Joyce Pritchard, Lancaster City Council  
Matthew Upton, United Utilities  
Mike Pugh, Champion Bowland  
David Kelly, Ramblers Association  
Chris Kynch, Lancashire Association of Local Councils (Parish Councils)  
Ginny Hinton, Natural England

#### **Officers**

Alison Boden, Wyre Borough Council  
Richard Camp, Lancaster City Council  
Elliott Lorimer, Forest of Bowland AONB Unit  
Alex Shutt, Ribble Valley Borough Council  
Sandra Silk, Forest of Bowland AONB Unit  
Hugh Clear Hill, North Yorkshire County Council  
Christina Marginson, Preston City Council  
Sam Gorton, Legal and Democratic Services, LCC  
Sarah Robinson, Forest of Bowland AONB Unit

#### **Apologies**

County Councillor Richard Welch, North Yorkshire County Council  
Councillor Mrs Rosemary Elms, Ribble Valley Borough Council  
Marilyn Pilkington, Friends of Bowland  
David Hewitt, Ribble Valley Borough Council

Andrew Laycock, Craven District Council  
Robin Gray, Lancashire County Council

## **1. Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair**

**Resolved:** County Councillor Albert Atkinson and County Councillor Mrs Susie Charles were appointed Chair and Vice-Chair respectively for the 2020/2021 Municipal Year.

## **2. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies for Absence**

All were welcomed to the meeting, introductions made, and apologies presented on behalf of the Committee members and officers as detailed previously.

## **3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests**

There were no disclosures of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests.

## **4. Constitution, Membership and Terms of Reference**

Elliott Lorimer, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Manager, Lancashire County Council, informed the Committee that membership for Lancaster City Council should be Councillor J Pritchard not Councillor J Parkinson and that this would be amended accordingly.

A request was made to Elliott Lorimer to contact the Moorland Association to identify representation for this Committee.

The Committee was also informed that a request had been made from Barry Tyrer, who was a volunteer, with regards to possibly have a member with archaeological interests on the membership. As detailed in the Management Plan, it is recommended that the membership is regularly reviewed to ensure the right representation is appointed to the Committee.

**Resolved:**

- i) The Committee approved the Constitution, Membership and Terms of Reference for 2020/2021 following the amendment as detailed.
- ii) That Elliott Lorimer, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Manager contact Barry Tyrer and the Moorland Association with regards to representation, as well as reviewing the membership as a whole to ensure the right representation is on the Committee.

## **5. Minutes of the Meeting held on 31 October 2019**

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 31 October 2019 were agreed as a correct record.

In terms of the Haweswater Aqueduct project, Elliott Lorimer, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Manager, Lancashire County Council, provided the Committee with an update following a meeting that had taken place with colleagues from United Utilities and from the Consultants, Jacobs, who are working on the project.

The Committee noted that some consultations mentioned at previous meetings did go ahead, however, some were curtailed due to the current COVID-19 pandemic as they were due to take place in Spring. Since then, there have been over 6,000 responses to an online consultation. Elliott Lorimer, along with a Senior Landscape Architect and Senior Ecologist from Lancashire County Council have been consulting with Jacobs and United Utilities on pre-applications prior to submission of the planning applications for proposals, and discussions have focussed mainly on the compounds for the launch and reception sites and also surplus materials from the tunnelling work. Currently the preferred option for the removal of surplus materials is to look at whether there is some restoration remediation that can take place at Waddington Fell Quarry, rather than being moved through to the A59.

Planning applications are expected to be submitted to Ribble Valley Borough Council and Lancaster City Council for sections of the tunnel, alongside an application to Lancashire County Council in relation to the amendments for agreements for restoration and remediation at the quarry.

Matt Upton, United Utilities had been in contact with the Project Team prior to this meeting and agreed to circulate a presentation giving further details of the updates below of where the project was up to:

- i) Face to face exhibitions took place in March
- ii) A virtual exhibition is online at [www.harppconsultation.co.uk](http://www.harppconsultation.co.uk)
- iii) Ongoing meetings with stakeholders will continue around the planning elements.
- iv) From a design development perspective, there has been some refinement. Originally there was seven shafts proposed in the AONB, which has now been reduced to four.
- v) The construction access routes are also being defined.
- vi) There is also further field survey work ongoing which will ultimately inform the Environment Impact Assessment and subsequent grounds inspection works.
- vii) Opportunities in Bowland to benefit from bio-diversity net gain.
- viii) Hodder Water Treatment Works project started in Spring and the main construction work is due to complete in 2022, with reinstatement following in 2023.

It was confirmed that there is some spoil from Wray and there is an intention to look at that and potentially put some of that spoil close to the reception site near Lower Houses Barn.

## **6. Partner Updates**

### **Wyre Borough Council**

Alison Boden, Wyre Borough Council provided an update on the planned programme for Festival Bowland, conservation activity and access works. The Star Gazing event was very successful with over 30 people attending in February. Following the commencement of lockdown, events had to be postponed including the Garstang Walking Festival. From August, all activities that have been run are following the rule of six people, including the health walks. These walks have been welcomed, particularly with those people who feel isolated. Volunteering also had to stop due to COVID-19 and was able to restart it mid-July (again to the rule of six) and work continued with the River Wyre Catchment Partnership on flood management.

Work is also continuing on access improvements on the Wyre Way Upper Catchment and redoing the way marking. It was noted that all contacts with the Rangers and Countryside Services are booked in and registered for Track and Trace and everything is fully planned in advance.

The Ranger Service has also carried out a food hub delivery service and continues to provide this service throughout the Borough including Scorton and Bleasdale and volunteers also helped provide this service as well. Signs and notices were also erected in response to the guidance given by Government and the Service responded to people's non-compliance and members of the public's concerns.

The biggest impact has been the Staycation which has had an increase on visitors to the sites and litter has caused issues and has been removed by staff, volunteers and the Local Authorities as well as other issues, ie fires and people getting lost.

Planning work continues for activities going forward into 2021/2022 in whatever format that may be due to the ongoing pandemic and understanding the limitations and learning from each other about good practice. A huge thank you was noted to the Forest of Bowland Team for their Zoom sessions and delivering great activities.

### **North Yorkshire County Council**

Hugh Clear Hill from North Yorkshire County Council updated the Committee on the Local Government Reorganisation that was taking place in North Yorkshire and that the formal invitation had now been issued by the Secretary of State to the Local Authorities to put forward proposals for a change to Unitary status. There are two models, the County Council's preferred model is the single unitary and the districts are proposing an East/West split. The change could potentially be in place in April 2022. It was noted that the White Paper had been delayed.

### **RSPB**

Jeremy Sutton from RSPB gave an update on Hen Harriers in Bowland. There were eight nests in Bowland this year, seven on the United Utilities Estate and one on the Duchy Estate. Five of the nests in Bowland were successful and produced only six chicks, which possibly was due to the inclement weather at the end of May/early June. A grant application had been submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a Green Recovery Grant for capital works for Curlew in Bowland. If successful it will be a joint project working with the Rivers Trust and the AONB to try and deliver this for Curlew, where farmers and landowners are not in existing Defra schemes.

### **United Utilities**

Matt Upton, United Utilities, gave an update on the Water Industry National Environment Programme (WINEP) and is currently working through the programme for this year and up to 2025 on the scheme. It involves a number of objectives including blanket bog restoration work, vegetation management framework and prioritising restoration projects. There are a number of farms on the United Utilities Estate that will be identified to

undertake investigations and field surveys which will be carried out before the end of March 2021.

At Fell Wood, Barley, United Utilities need to look at felling the wood and plans need to be drawn up to carry this out. Access and surveys are currently underway to support planning and this is an early indicator of the intentions to fell the wood and look at recreational areas to be put in place as well as replace a large area with native planting and improving biodiversity. Work will continue with stakeholders and the AONB to support those plans.

There has also been a marked increase in anti-social activities over the last six months and particularly throughout the lockdown period, and an increase in vandalism, fly tipping, littering and fires. It was noted however, that things had started to quieten now.

Work is continuing on the Pennine Peat Life Project and a lot of good work has been carried out, however, it has been hampered quite significantly by poor weather and COVID-19, albeit good progress has been made. Materials have been flown in over the summer via helicopter. The latest update from the Project Officer is that they are now a third of the way across the site putting in stone, timber and peat dams primarily and also reprofiling a lot of the gullies and hag edges. There is still quite a significant amount of work to be done as well as a large part already having been completed.

## **Lancaster City Council**

Richard Camp, Lancaster City Council informed the Committee that the Lancaster City Local Plan had undertaken a partial review in terms of climate change of the adopted plan and consultation is underway currently, finishing on 20 November 2020 and there may be plans/policies that overlap the AONB. A Green Infrastructure Strategy is also being developed and looking at how that links into biodiversity net gain and nature recovery networks.

## **7. Revised Estimates 2020/21 and Revenue Budget 2021/2022**

Elliott Lorimer, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Manager, presented the report as set out in the agenda papers, on the revised estimates 2020/2021 and revenue budget 2021/2022.

### **a) Revised Estimates 2020/2021**

The Revised Estimates took account of the changes in comparison (see Appendix A, column 3) with the Original Estimates in column 2. The principal revision related to an estimated reduction in travel and subsistence costs for the AONB Unit staff due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The net effect of this change allowed an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty 'Projects' programme totalling £68,879 to be delivered in 2021/2022.

In addition, it is anticipated that the AONB Unit will be in receipt of £720,000 in additional funding as detailed in the report, to support delivery of the AONB Management Plan.

## **b) Revenue Budget 2021/2022**

Details of the costs associated with the Partnership's projects and management service in 2021/2022, including estimated pay and price levels were also detailed in the report attached to the agenda.

It is assumed that the Defra grant for 2020/2021 will continue to be a single grant offer to be used in ways which the AONB Partnership considers will deliver the best performance in terms of achieving delivery of the Management Plan, without significant restrictions placed on the percentage of grant to each area of supported activity. Details of the Defra funding was expected before the end of 2020.

The Committee were drawn to the summary contained within the report on:

- i) Expenditure
- ii) Income
- iii) Additional Resources

**Resolved:** That the Committee:

- i) Noted the 2020/2021 Revised Estimates
- ii) Approved the 2021/2022 Revenue Budget as set out in the report.
- iii) Subject to approval of (ii) above, requested the funding authorities to make appropriate provision in their Revenue Budgets for 2021/2022.

## **8. Landscapes Review Report - Update**

Elliott Lorimer, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Manager, Lancashire County Council, updated the Committee on the progress on the implementation proposals outlined in the Landscapes Review Report attached to the agenda.

The Committee noted that the Government had not formally responded to the report or commented on the proposals it contained. It is clear that the COVID-19 pandemic has heavily impacted Government business since March 2020 and the response has been delayed. It was now expected before the end of 2020.

Notwithstanding the delay, AONB Partnerships and the National Park Authorities have been working closely over the last six months with the Defra, Natural England and other stakeholders to identify how the report's proposals could begin to be implemented. Further details of this can be found in the report, alongside the progress update on other areas of work that has been carried out.

Ginny Hinton from Natural England updated the Board in terms of activity that has been going on in the background from Natural England on the Glover Review. A lot of the focus is bringing together the protected landscapes work with the new nature recovery networks area of activity under a Government policy paper which was produced on 21 October 2020 on nature recovery networks.

**Resolved:** That the AONB Joint Advisory Committee noted the update report.



## 9. AONB Tree, Woodland and Forestry Strategy

Elliott Lorimer, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Manager provided an update on behalf of Robin Gray, Planning and Environment, Lancashire County Council on work he has been carrying out on the Trees, Woodland and Forestry Strategy. The National Forest Inventory indicates that an area of 67km<sup>2</sup> (approximately 8% of the AONB) is woodland largely fragmented except for the Forestry England estates at Knots Wood, Gisburn and the Dunsop valley and privately owned woodland on Grindleton Fell and Longridge Fell, which are predominantly conifer plantations. Sections of the strategy will cover the following:

- Woodland and nature recovery.
- Woodland and carbon.
- Woodland and landscape.
- Woodland and water.
- Woodland and cultural heritage.
- Sustainable woodland management.

Mapping work has been done on identifying where woodland creation may be possible, and this is in conjunction with colleagues in Nidderdale in the Yorkshire Dales, North Pennines and Northumberland on the constraints mapping. This is still largely dependant on landowners bringing forward sites for woodland planting.

The Committee were shown the English National Park Authorities definition of "Right Tree in the Right Place" which was:

- In English National Parks, when identifying or assessing the suitability of sites for tree planting/restocking and considering the appropriateness of species to be planted, the nature of their planting and their ongoing management needs, there is a presumption in favour of schemes that will conserve and/or enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Park in question, as expressed in the relevant National Park Management Plan.
- There is similarly a presumption against schemes that overall do harm to the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of National Parks as expressed in their respective National Park Management Plans.
- In meeting these requirements, schemes that also provide for public access and thereby provide opportunities for the public to understand and enjoy the special qualities of the National Parks are likely to be seen more favourably.
- In assessing the wider effects of any planting scheme, the potential social and economic benefits to the local community will also be taken into consideration, but this will not override the presumptions identified above since these benefits have already been factored into the Management Plans.

An example of what the AONB Unit working on identifying where woodland creation is possible was outlined, namely the Quermore and Conder Valley. Proposals were put forward to the National Grid's Landscape Enhancement Initiative of which the outcome is still awaited in terms of approval of funding. In addition, for Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership there are a number of new woodlands that will be created as part of that

landscape partnership scheme and some that have already been created or planted in partnership with the River Ribble Trust.

There are a series of principles for encouraging the creation of woodland schemes which are:

- Clough Woodland: opportunities for new woodland.
- Encourage protection and management of farm-scale woodland.
- Trees outside woodland: returning and conserving our 'landmark trees'.
- Ancient replanted woodland is restored to a semi-natural state.
- Encouraging field copses and new farm woodland.
- Productive woodlands: managing existing woodland to UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS).
- Promote continuous cover forestry where appropriate particularly on sites with high landscape value.

The Committee noted that Government had published a draft Tree Strategy in the summer and the strategy that has been produced locally reflects it and will be published shortly.

The Committee were informed that Wyre Council have an ambition to plant significant numbers of trees as part of its Climate Change Strategy and they are working with Wyre Rivers Trust via the Lancashire Woodlands Connect campaign.

**Resolved:** That the Committee noted the update.

## **10. AONB Unit Activity Report (April - Oct 2020)**

Sandra Silk, AONB Unit, Lancashire County Council outlined the AONB Team Report to the Committee for April 2020 to October 2020 that was detailed in the agenda pack. Further details on the following areas can be found in the report:

### **An outstanding landscape of natural and cultural heritage**

- Peatland Restoration.
- Bowland Hay Time.
- Farming and Wildlife Advice.
- Green Recovery Challenge Fund.
- 'High Nature Value Farming in the Northern Upland AONBs' – A Defra Environmental Land Management Test.
- Undergrounding for Visual Amenity Programme (RIIO-EDI).

### **Resilient and Sustainable Rural Communities**

- Discover Bowland website.
- Sense of Place Toolkit.
- Dark Sky Friendly Business Workshop.
- Planning and Development.

## **A Strong Connexion between People and the Landscape**

- Champion Bowland.
- Festival Bowland goes Virtual.
- Days to Remember.
- Promoted Route Volunteers.
- Promoted Route and Countryside Access.
- Parish Lengthsman.
- Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership Scheme.
- National Association for AONBs.
- COVID-19.

**Resolved:** That the Committee noted the update.

### **11. Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership - Update**

Elliott Lorimer, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Manger, Lancashire County Council presented the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership Quarterly Progress reports April – June 2020 (Quarter 1) and July-September (Quarter 2), which was attached in detail to the agenda and circulated prior to the meeting.

It was noted that the work of the Partnership had been significantly impacted by COVID-19. Fortunately, they have managed to adapt and create online events including the John Muir awards online for families, albeit on a smaller scale.

Key activities that has been able to continue throughout the pandemic has been:

- Peatland restoration and footpath works in partnership with the River Ribble Trust above Mearley Clough.
- Completion of the concessionary bridleway between Chatburn and Downham.
- The information centre in Downham village has been refurbished.

Discussions have taken place with the Heritage Fund since the start of COVID19 restrictions update them on where projects are up to and to discuss a potential extension of the programme beyond March 2022. A detailed proposal will be worked up in spring 2021.

Sarah Robinson, AONB Unit, Lancashire County Council updated the Committee on the farming and wildlife projects within the Pendle Hill Project and following the flooding and storms in February 2020, damage was discovered to the peat dams and the revegetation work on bare peat as part of the Summit project. The dams had been washed out and the brash had been completely washed away. An application was made to the contingency fund for £20,000, which was successful and in response to that event and projections that those type of events are going to become more common place, techniques are being changed and more timber dams, coir logs and geo textile are being used to slow water flow and stabilise the peat.

Sarah also reported on the delivery of the Bowland Haytime project to deliver hay meadow restoration. 15 hectares in all were restored using green hay, harvested seed, plug plants and purchased seed.

Sarah also provided further updates on various other projects that she had delivered as part of the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership including:

- A waxcap survey at Worsaw Hill.
- Carried out training for the Friends Group at Clarion House on scythes and kits were provided.
- Boundary project – another wall commences in March 2021 and 5 lengths of hedges (over 1km) due to be restored in the winter season.
- The Farmers Network have met three times via Zoom and discussing farm carbon.

The Committee were asked to note that County Councillor Eddie Pope had been appointed as Lancashire County Council's Mental Health Champion and has a £10,000 grant available. For further information please contact County Councillor Eddie Pope, Mental Health Champion, email [eddie.pope@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:eddie.pope@lancashire.gov.uk).

**Resolved:** That the Committee noted the update.

## **12. Plotting the road to recovery - Post COVID-19 priorities for the AONB**

Elliott Lorimer, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Manager, Lancashire County Council gave a presentation on "Plotting the Road to Recovery".

Elliott detailed to the Committee, what had changed:

- Public awareness and the desire to take action locally on climate change and biodiversity emergencies which are becoming more evident and the AONB will be focusing on this area of work.
- COVID-19 has brought to the fore the importance of health and wellbeing and access to the outdoors and delivering projects online.
- Nationally and locally, communities, economies and public services have been severely impacted by COVID-19 and support have been given to those businesses.

The Committee noted that the Agriculture Bill and the Environment Bill are being passed through Government and will have a significant effect on how the AONBs are managed and the environmental regulation is delivered as the years progress.

The strategic context is as follows and is likely to have a significant effect on the AONB in the short and long term:

- AONB Management Plan 2019-2024.
- The Landscapes (Glover) Review Report.
- Nature Recovery Network.
- The Government's 25 year Environment Plan.
- Environment Bill.
- Agriculture Bill.
- Planning White Paper and 'Project Speed'.
- Green Recovery.

The Committee were informed that the future priorities for the AONB were detailed as follows:

- Nature recovery at a landscape-scale:
  - AONB Nature Recovery Plan.
  - Peatland habitat restoration.
  - Species-rich grassland habitat restoration and enhancement.
  - Woodland regeneration creation and management.
  - Riparian (or river) habitat restoration, including wetland creation.
  - Making space in the landscape for natural processes to take the lead.
  - National and local species recovery plans.
  - Species re-introductions.
  
- A green recovery for communities and the local economy.:
  - Advice and support for land management sector as agricultural support moves to the "public money for public goods" Environmental Land Management System.
  - Support and promotion for local visitor economy via the Bowland Sustainable Tourism Network and 'Discover Bowland' website.
  - Apprenticeships and job creation, particularly within environmental, land management, heritage and creative sectors.
  - Volunteering opportunities to work in the AONB via Countryside Services, Friends Groups, Rivers Trusts and Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership.
  - Collaborative working with Champion Bowland CIO to raise funds to support community-based projects.
  - Managing sustainable (and low carbon?) growth within designated landscape.
  - Landscape-sensitive super/hyper fast broadband and mobile.
  
- Landscapes for everyone:
  - Outdoor learning for children, young people and families.
  - Widening access to nature and landscape to a more diverse range of people.
  - Improving people's health and wellbeing through engagement with nature and the landscape.
  - Online face-to-face events activities and training.

Both local and national partnerships offer opportunities to secure resources and support for delivery of the AONB Management Plan.

At a national level:

- National Association for AONBs and National Parks England.
- Northern Upland Chain Local Nature Partnership.
- 'Great North Bog'.
- 'Magnificent Meadows'.

At a local level:

- Champion Bowland.
- Farmer and land management groups.
- Local Authorities.
- River Catchment Partnerships (Rivers Trusts).
- The Wildlife Trusts.
- Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust.
- RSPB.

The following were how delivery of the AONB Management Plan could be resourced:

- Defra AONB Grant Settlement 2021/22 and future CSR.
- Nature for Climate Fund.
- Nature Recovery Fund.
- Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund.
- United Utilities AMP7.
- Private sector investment in 'natural capital'.
- Environmental Land Management System.
- National Lottery Heritage Fund.
- Shared Prosperity Funds.
- Charitable Trusts.

The next steps are:

- AONB Unit Delivery Plans.
- Liaise with AONB Partners re: future plans and priorities.
- Bring revised AONB Partnership Fund Raising Strategy to the Committee in April 2021.

The Committee were asked to send any comments, ideas, thoughts following the presentation to Elliott Lorimer, email [Elliott.lorimer@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:Elliott.lorimer@lancashire.gov.uk).

A request was made that Elliott Lorimer speak outside the meeting with Alison Boden, Wyre Council and Matthew Upton, United Utilities on the plans for the future and continuing to work in partnership.

- Resolved:**
- i) That the revised AONB Partnership Fund Raising Strategy be provided to the Committee in April 2021.
  - ii) That the Committee noted the update.

### **13. Urgent Business**

There were no matters of urgent business received.

**14. Date of Next Meeting**

The Committee noted that the next meetings would be held on:

Thursday, 22 April 2021 format to be confirmed.

Thursday, 21 October 2021 format to be confirmed.

Samantha Gorton  
Democratic Services

Lancashire County Council  
County Hall  
Preston





## **FOREST OF BOWLAND AONB JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **AONB Partnership Budget Update**

(Appendix A refers)

This brief report presents the updated AONB Partnership budget for 2021/2022 (Appendix A, column 3), which takes account of the AONB grant funding settlement communicated by Defra in early April 2021.

The Defra AONB funding settlement for 2021/22 is £225,997, which represents a 'flat cash rollover' of the budget settlement for 2020/21. It should be noted, this does not include an inflationary increase that has been the case over the previous three-year settlement.

Finally, it is worth highlighting that this updated budget will allow for an annual 'Projects' programme to the value of £54,784 to help deliver the AONB Management Plan. Wherever possible, the AONB Unit will seek to apply this 'Projects' funding as 'match' to attract and secure additional external funding (e.g. National Lottery Heritage Fund or Lancashire Environmental Fund).

### **Decision Required**

The Committee is requested to:

Note the 2021/22 revised estimates and offer comments.



**APPENDIX 'A'**  
**AONB Partnership Budget**

	<b>Estimated 2021/22 (Out-turn Prices)</b>	<b>Revised 2021/22 (Out-turn Prices)</b>
(1)	(2)	(3)
	£	£
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>		
<b><u>Core Costs</u></b>		
Salary, N.I. and Superannuation	220,113	220,113
Out-based premises	20,000	20,000
Travel and subsistence	7,000	5,000
Central, Departmental & Tech. Support	76,599	76,599
Core Activities	19,800	19,800
Sub total of Core Costs	343,512	343,512
<b><u>Non Core Costs</u></b>		
Projects (Management Plan delivery)	55,957	54,784
Sub- total of Non Core Costs	55,957	54,784
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>399,469</b>	<b>396,296</b>
<b><u>Income</u></b>		
Defra Grant	229,130	225,957
<b><u>Contributions</u></b>		
United Utilities	6,800	6,800
<b><u>County Councils</u></b>		
Lancashire	40,800	40,800
North Yorkshire	5,340	5,340
<b><u>District Councils</u></b>		
Craven	6,800	6,800
Lancaster	6,800	6,800
Pendle	6,800	6,800
Preston	6,800	6,800
Ribble Valley	6,800	6,800
Wyre	6,800	6,800
<b>Sub-total of Income</b>	<b>319,697</b>	<b>319,697</b>
Lancashire County Council (in-kind contrib. to support costs)	76,599	76,599
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>399,469</b>	<b>396,296</b>



## AONB Team Report to JAC October 2020 – April 2021

### An outstanding landscape of natural and cultural heritage

#### Peatland Restoration

#### Celebrating 10 years of partnership work which has resulted in peat restoration equivalent to the size of 1000 football pitches

£2.5 million has been spent on peat restoration in Bowland since 2010 and thanks to partnership work between local landowners, regional partners, national agencies, volunteers and funders this investment has resulted in 755 hectares of blanket bog restoration during the past decade.

Over the decades, peatlands have been damaged through a number of factors including atmospheric pollution, drainage, wild fires, grazing, trampling and the effects of climate. Work carried out in Bowland aims initially to stabilise the peat to prevent further loss and then to restore it to the point where it can begin to capture carbon once again.

No two peat sites are the same, which means that restoration techniques vary from place to place across the AONB, but three main principals apply – control peat erosion, manage hydrology and re-instate vegetation cover. This specialist work involves expert contractors who access the fells between September and March in order to avoid disturbance to nesting birds and other wildlife.

To date work has been carried out on 18 fells covering land within each of the AONB's three main river catchments of the Lune, Ribble and Wyre.

#### Moorland restoration continues with funding from the Environment Agency and Defra

In 2018, the Northern England Peatland Project received around £8mill of funding from Defra's climate change fund via a large collaborative bid with the other protected landscapes within the Northern Upland Chain Local Natural

**10 YEARS PEATLAND RESTORATION 2010-2020**

**FOREST OF BOWLAND**  
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

**BOWLAND'S PEATLAND RESTORATION HAS PROVIDED MANY BENEFITS**

**755ha RESTORED**

**18 FELS BEING RESTORED**

**£2.5 MILLION INVESTMENT**

**IMPROVED WATER QUALITY:**

- Reduced levels of peat suspended & dissolved in the water avoiding costly treatments and use of chemicals

**ENHANCED BIODIVERSITY:**

- Benefits upland waders including curlew & snipe
- Wonderful plants thrive such as insect-eating sundew, sphagnum, bog rosemary & cloudberries

**FLOOD MANAGEMENT:**

- Restored hydrology and peatland vegetation slows the flow of rainfall helping prevent flooding in Bowland's villages

**IMPROVED ACCESS & SAFETY:**

- 3km of flag & subsoil paths developed across previously more inaccessible areas

**Peatlands cover just 3% of the world's surface yet hold nearly 30% of the soil carbon**

**COMBATING CLIMATE CHANGE:**

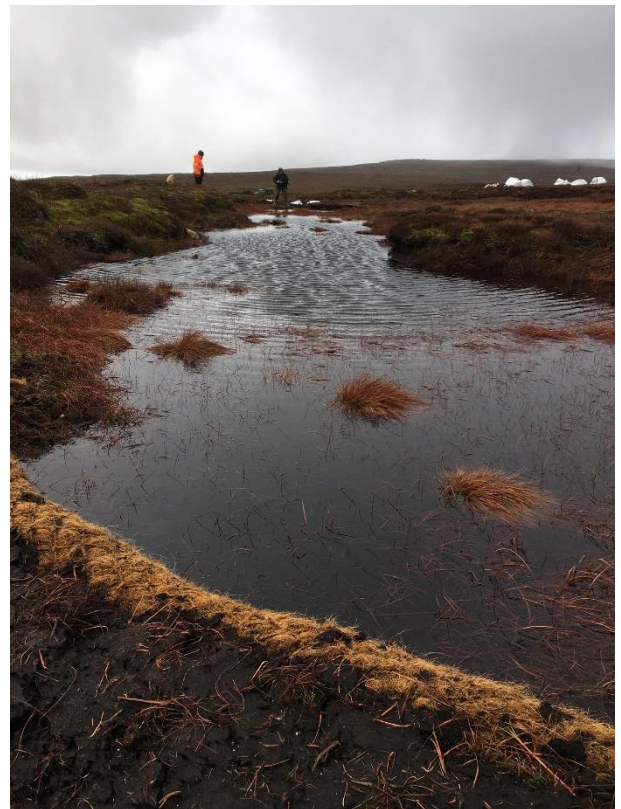
- Carbon storage & carbon abatement - peatland restoration helps to lock in the carbon stored in the peat, preventing further losses to the atmosphere.

Partnership and Cumbria. Within the AONB we received £560K to work on five sites within the Bowland Fells SSSI. This season saw peatland restoration work undertaken on the final one of these sites, in the last year of the project.

Lee Fell lies between Grit Fell and Ward Stone and was selected for this project as it has areas of eroding gullies and pans of bare peat, as well as areas where some of the characteristic plant and moss species we would like to see are missing, most probably due to the peat drying out. The restoration programme for the site included the repair of eroding gully edges, rewetting of the peat using timber dams, peat dams and coir logs and then revegetation of the bare peat with moorland seed and moss rich brash cut from close by.



The weather worked in our favour for once, after the snow had retreated the hard frosts allowed the tracked machinery to travel across the site without leaving a trace, allowing the cut brash to be moved onto site without the need for costly helicopter lifts. All the planned work was completed within the time allowed, as well as some additional works which we were able to commission – for example some additional timber and stone dams across the site.



In early 2020, the Environment Agency approached us to ask if we had any 'spade-ready' peat restoration projects, as they were expecting some funding to come through with a short turn around. We were able to put together a list of seven, from which we selected two which went forward and were successfully funded, in partnership with the Lancashire Wildlife Trust. Both these sites are up on Tarnbrook in Abbeystead and are sites where peat restoration is already underway. This additional funding has enabled us to continue that restoration work, adding in another dressing of moorland seed, covering bare peat with geo-textile matting to prevent peat loss and installing timber dams and coir logs to reduce water flow off the fell in high rainfall events.

Working with two different contractors on three sites at the same time was a challenge, but regular visits on site helped a lot, and also enabled us to post footage of the works and their progress on social media on a weekly basis. We made 16 short films in all, between January and March. The Facebook posts had a reach of 21,019 and engagement of 2,309 people (which includes reactions, comments, shares).

**For further information email [sarah.robinson@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.robinson@lancashire.gov.uk)**

## Bowland Hay Time

Following the successful Plantlife bid to the Green Recovery Challenge Fund, and our partnership with Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, Bowland Hay Time will be delivered through the 2021 – 2022 *Meadow Makers Project*. The countrywide project aims to restore over 500 hectares of species-rich grassland on 100+ sites and will include a nationwide engagement programme connecting 7000 people in local and wider communities to grassland heritage, improving their experiences and wellbeing.

Our part in this project is to carry out 25 hectares of meadow restoration work at 11 sites in the Forest of Bowland area. Using a combination of "green hay" and brush harvested seed from our donor meadows, the meadow restoration work in the Forest of Bowland continues into its tenth year.



The Project also provides funding for a trainee "Meadow Maker", a 6-month traineeship with Plantlife working with our project officer, aimed at encouraging young people into conservation work.

We will also be running meadow related events, both on site and online, over the course of the project, raising awareness of the work we do in the meadows and why it is so important.

**For further information email [carol.edmondson@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:carol.edmondson@lancashire.gov.uk)**

## Farming and Wildlife Advice

**Pendle Hill Farmer Network completes third year of work - online**

This has been the final year of the Pendle Hill Farmer network, and since the start of the pandemic, all our activity has been via Zoom. As in previous years we have held a series of monthly talks and workshops, but this year we have not been able to meet us as we normally would.



We have covered a variety of topics:

- Help and advice in putting applications together to join the Countryside Stewardship scheme
- Integrated Parasite Management – how to reduce costs and environmental impacts by reducing use of wormer vedmeds
- Carbon – how to produce carbon audits for the farm as a whole and how to reduce carbon outputs and costs
- Soils – what to look for in a healthy soil and how to maintain soil health
- Post Brexit farming support – market reports, tariff predictions and what the new post CAP support will look like, how to manage the loss of BPS from the business
- Public goods – results of the 'What's a Hill Worth' research project

We have missed our brews, farm walks and chats, but hope those will be back soon.

The group was due to disband this March, but we have been offered the opportunity to apply for an underspend extension, and we await the outcome of that, and in the meantime we have started planning events for April and May.

**For further information email [sarah.robinson@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.robinson@lancashire.gov.uk)**

## Green Recovery Challenge Fund

The Government launched the £ 40M Green Recovery Challenge Fund in September. 600 plus applications were received of which 68 were successful including three that will deliver in the Forest of Bowland AONB. These are: Magnificent Meadows (submitted by a partnership co-ordinated by Plantlife) and Holme House Fell Peatland Restoration (submitted by the AONB on behalf of the Yorkshire Peat Partnership and the Forest of Bowland AONB). The AONB team submitted an application towards restoration of 17.3 hectares of blanket bog.

**For further information email [robin.gray@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:robin.gray@lancashire.gov.uk)**

## 'High Nature Value Farming in the Northern Upland AONBs' – A Defra Environmental Land Management Test



Work on this Environment Land Management Test continues with the six participating farms in the AONB. Draft land management plans have been developed in close consultation with each farmer with support from consultants Margaret Dickinson and Nethergill Associates. The land management plans consider how each farm business may be able to benefit from future support payment that are likely to be offer via the components of the Environmental Land Management system, whilst also looking at ways to maximise profitability. This project will complete and report back to Defra in late April/early May 2021.

**For further information contact [elliott.lorimer@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:elliott.lorimer@lancashire.gov.uk)**

# Resilient and Sustainable Rural Communities

## Discover Bowland Guide

The Discover Bowland guide was produced ready for the start of 2021; for now we have held off promoting it, but as restrictions ease, we hope the guide will be provide a positive welcome back to the area. The guide is partially funded by continuing support from the members of the Sustainable Tourism Network who advertise within it.

As well as offering practical advice and information on making the most of their holidays and short breaks in Bowland, the Discover Guide also tells the stories of how several local businesses reinvented themselves during last year's lockdown.

These positive 'lockdown diaries' include:

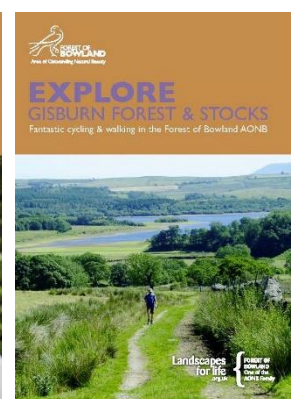
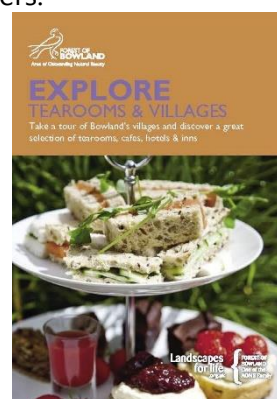
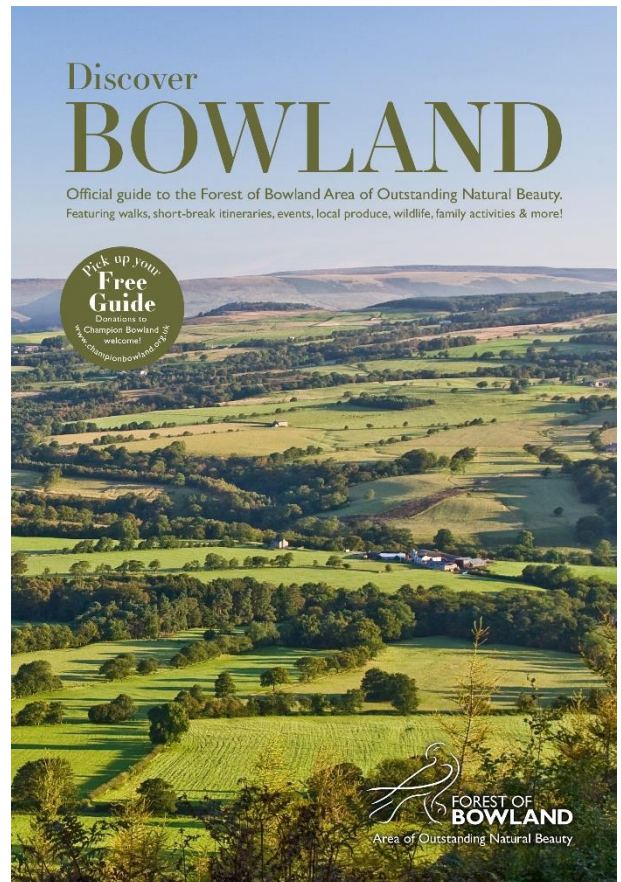
- Courtyard Dairy, which pivoted to online tastings and nationwide delivery to replace some of the business lost during the closure of the hospitality industry
- Slaidburn Central Stores, which became a community groceries hub and essential lifeline for outlying communities
- Bowland e-bikes, which accelerated its growth plans as demand for eco-friendly electric bikes rocketed as lockdown lifted

The 112-page guide also includes a series of five detailed short break itineraries and useful information on accommodation, hospitality, events and outdoor activity providers.

If you would like to receive a copy please email Hetty Byrne with your postal address or you can view it online here: <https://www.forestofbowland.com/discover-bowland-guide-2021>

We have also updated and re-printed the popular Gisburn Forest Bikes Trails leaflet and Tearooms and Villages leaflet.

**For further information email**  
[hetty.byrne@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:hetty.byrne@lancashire.gov.uk)



## Sustainable Tourism Network

We carried out our annual forum and informal launch of the Discover Bowland guide via an online event attended by 38 businesses on 15<sup>th</sup> February. It was a great opportunity to re-connect and the businesses appreciated the opportunity of being in the virtual company of other businesses. The forum included lockdown reflections from 3 of our business network members and we were pleased to welcome two external speakers: Susan Briggs from the Tourism Network presenting about 'Marketing to Bounce Back' and Sarah Lynas a mind and business self-belief coach.



For further information email [hetty.byrne@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:hetty.byrne@lancashire.gov.uk)

## A Strong Connection between People & the Landscape

### Champion Bowland

Champion Bowland were awarded a grant of £ 10,000 in April 2020 to produce a business plan and secure advice on fundraising and increase the profile of Champion Bowland through communications. The business plan was carried out by Jenny Wain Associates with Mark Sutcliffe of Salar Media appointed to produce and implement a communications plan for Champion Bowland. Discussions have taken place with the AONB about funding access, hay meadows and landmark trees.

For further information email [robin.gray@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:robin.gray@lancashire.gov.uk)

### Festival Bowland

Our Festival Bowland events programme had been exclusively online so far this year and continues to attract encouraging numbers of participants. Our Bowland Dark Skies week during February half-term saw 320 plus attendances over the eight events, which ranged from astronomy to wildlife and family sessions to photography.

Events featuring local heritage are proving popular and support from local and regional history groups is helping us to promote these more widely.

Going forward, the programme includes both virtual events – which we hope to make a permanent feature – and face to face sessions, but the latter will be dependent on any coronavirus restrictions in place at the time. Decisions on whether to go ahead with each event will be taken as they approach.



For further information email [sandra.silk@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:sandra.silk@lancashire.gov.uk)

## Social Prescribing

Two members of the team have been accepted onto the *Learning Together* programme organised by the National Academy for Social Prescribing and delivered in this region by the North West Thriving Communities Partnership.

Social prescribing recognises that, to a large degree, people's health and wellbeing is affected by social, economic and environmental factors. It offers a holistic, personalised approach to health, focusing on what matters to an individual and helping them to find practical and emotional support.

The Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise sector (VCFSE) plays a key role in supporting individuals to access wider health and wellbeing services through linking them to local, non-clinical opportunities within the community.

VCSFE groups also directly provide many of these services, which range from exercise groups and art sessions to gardening and money advice, with lots in between. The Pendle Hill LP's PEN project is a great example of social prescribing.

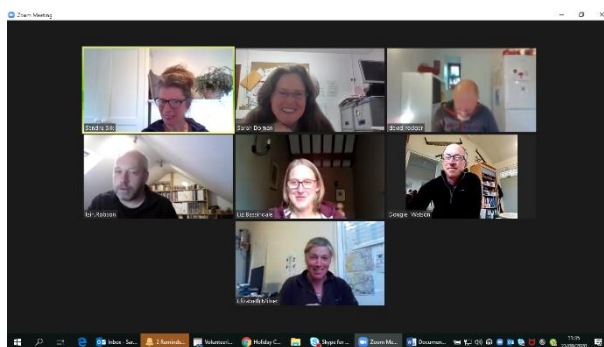
The *Learning Together* programme will help the AONB team to connect with local social prescribing link workers, develop additional social prescribing projects within Bowland, potentially collaborate with other local and regional agencies and ultimately be in a stronger position to access funding for social prescribing activities.

For further information email [sandra.silk@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:sandra.silk@lancashire.gov.uk)



## Promoted Route Volunteers

Digital volunteering meetings have been held with other AONB's which have proved to be not only a great sounding board for ideas on how to negotiate the differing coronavirus guidelines but also a great way to keep in touch with other staff they we would usually see through the year.



Promoted route volunteers have remained on hold but with the easing of coronavirus restrictions we hope to restart this in the next quarter.

**For further information email [sarah.dornan@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.dornan@lancashire.gov.uk)**

## New Countryside Code

A new, refreshed Countryside Code was launched on 1<sup>st</sup> April by Natural England and Natural Resources Wales, coinciding with the 70th anniversary of the creation of the founding booklet.

With more people enjoying the outdoors than ever before, the code has been revised to help people enjoy countryside in a safe and respectful way.

The updated Countryside Code can be viewed here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-countryside-code>

We have also continued to produce and print our version of the code printed on outdoor materials which we've actively disseminated via parish councils, farmers and landowners across the AONB. This has been welcomed along with social media posts around continuing to respect communities, farmers and landowners and following the code while enjoying visits to the area.



## Promoted Route & Countryside Access

Coronavirus sadly does not affect the weather and as such the Access Project was involved in repairs to the bridleway through the Dunsop Valley as part of the easy access trail.

The increase in visitor numbers has not declined and several future projects on some high-pressure sites throughout Bowland have been investigated with one feasibility study commissioned and planning future works.



Working with United Utilities and RSPB, we have installed new way markers to guide walkers away from Hen Harrier nesting sites, leading to further discussions about managing access and visitor pressures in Bowland. Working together in conjunction with the new Lancashire Police Rural Task Force we hope to be able to manage expectations of visitors and land managers alike.

For further information email [sarah.dornan@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.dornan@lancashire.gov.uk)



## Parish Lengthsman

The Parish lengthsman scheme has seen several virtual meetings to revisit the principles of the lengthsman scheme, these have proved really useful as there have been changes in staffing over the years, we hope this will ensure the scheme goes from strength the strength.

For further information email [sarah.dornan@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.dornan@lancashire.gov.uk)

## Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership Scheme

A separate report will be presented about the work of the partnership or if you wish to keep up to date with the project work of the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership you can read their summer quarterly e-bulletin and sign-up to their distribution list here:

<https://pendlehillproject.com/e-bulletin>

For further information email [cathy.hopley@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:cathy.hopley@lancashire.gov.uk)



## National Association for AONBs

The National Association for AONBs have continued to lead a number of collaborative activities between AONBs in England and Wales, primarily facilitated via online meetings and workshops:

- Colchester Declaration on nature recovery



- Diversity and inclusion in AONBs
- Art in the Landscape strategy
- The Agri-environment Advocacy and Information Project

In addition, NAAONB staff have continued to represent AONBs in discussions with Defra regarding the Government's response to the Glover Review and the development of proposals for National Landscapes Service.

## COVID-19

In keeping with the latest Government guidance, the Forest of Bowland AONB team continue to work from home. We are planning to start our volunteering activities and nature and wellbeing group activities once again in the next few weeks with all the necessary parameters in place. We will continue to follow the latest advice on the situation from [Public Health England](#).

This means we won't be reachable on our main office phone number – however, we are carrying on with business as usual as far as possible and we are all still working remotely. If you have a query, please email or ring individual mobile numbers, and they'll reply or give you a call as soon as they are able. Or use the general Bowland email [bowland@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:bowland@lancashire.gov.uk) and we'll get back to you as soon as we can.



## FOREST OF BOWLAND AONB JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### 'Farming in Protected Landscapes'

#### Background

In late 2020, the Government set out more detailed proposals for an agricultural transition from the EU's Common Agricultural Policy towards a new domestic agricultural policy with a new system of support payments.

This plan entitled 'The Path to Sustainable Farming: An Agricultural Transition Plan 2021 to 2024' outlines the eventual removal of Basic Payment Scheme and reform of Agri-Environment Schemes; to be replaced by an all-encompassing 'Environmental Land Management' system. This will seek to reward farmers and land managers for the provision of public goods (e.g. biodiversity, carbon, clean water, flood risk management).

The new policies and support payments are likely to be a significant departure from those of the EU's CAP, to which most farmers are accustomed. It is anticipated that farmers and land managers will need additional advice, support and guidance to assist them in this transition. In recognition of this, the Government outlined a programme entitled 'Farming in Protected Landscapes' offering additional support for farmers and land managers in AONBs and National Parks.

Since late December 2020, a small group of senior officers from several AONBs and National Parks has been working with Defra, the Rural Payments Agency and Natural England to development and agree the detail of this programme.

Defra plan to share full details of the programme imminently, but at present this is what know about the proposals:

- ❖ Three-year funding programme (from April 2021 to March 2024) offering grants to farmers and land managers, comprising two work streams.
  - a. Farm level projects to diversify incomes and prepare for Environmental Land Management and create more green jobs:
    - *Support for farmers for delivering environment/landscape outcomes. Examples might include peat restoration, planting woodland, hay meadow restoration, creation of heathland and scrub, moorland management, enhancement of wetlands, and dry-stone wall repairs*
  - b. Wider infrastructure and projects on farmland to support farmers and rural economies
    - *Infrastructure, such as better access, clearer and simpler signage, dedicated cycling/electric bike access – to attract more diverse groups of visitors (to farm businesses, camping barns, etc.) as well as creating jobs (e.g. expansion of landscape rangers supporting farmers and visitors)*
    - *Strengthened public engagement with landscapes to attract more, and more diverse, visitors, improving mental health outcomes and better disabled access; walking routes to better connect landscapes.*

- ❖ Managed and administered by AONBs and National Parks – this will include resources to employ staff to manage and administer the programme.
- ❖ Particularly focused on Protected Landscapes in the uplands to support farmers and land managers during transition, to improve the natural environment, cultural heritage and access on their land.

### **Implications for the Forest of Bowland AONB Partnership**

Outlined below are some of the key implications for the AONB Partnership and Unit of the proposed 'Farming in Protected Landscapes' Programme:

- Oversight and scrutiny role for the Joint Advisory Committee on programme management
- Recruitment of staff team to manage and administer the programme and support applicants in project development
- Liaison with Lancashire County Council as host authority and accountable body for the AONB Partnership
- Appointment of grant panel (or panels) to make decisions on applications and grant awards
- Promote the programme to all farmers and land managers within the AONB

To facilitate the timely rollout of this programme, the AONB Manager will be required to begin working up a local delivery plan and commence recruitment of staff and grant panel members before the next Committee meeting in October 2021.

### **Decision Required**

The Committee is requested to:

- i) note the report and offer comments
- ii) offer approval for the AONB Manager to commence preparation and planning for the delivery of the programme, when full details are forthcoming from Defra

## FOREST OF BOWLAND AONB JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### Art in the Landscape: connecting people to nature through art and culture

#### Background

A national strategy has been created by the National Association for AONBs (NAAONB) to galvanise action that enables people to experience a deeper connection to the natural beauty of the landscape through the arts.

The Art in The Landscape Strategy was formally adopted at the NAAONB Annual General Meeting in November 2020 and all AONBs are invited to adopt the Strategy and participate in coordinated national and local action resulting from it. The Strategy helps the AONB Network achieve its Colchester Declaration aims around nature recovery, and those of Glover's National Landscape Review around:

- Engaging with a wider and more diverse audience
- Helping people to create deeper connections to nature, place and landscape
- Inspiring pro-environmental behaviour to tackle the conjoined ecological and climate emergency

The Art in the Landscape Strategy helps focus future delivery of art activity, collectively within the AONB family as well as locally. It also shows Arts Council England and other funders that the NAAONB and the AONB Network are committing to broaden and deepen our work with arts and culture in order to better connect people to nature.

#### Relevance to the Forest of Bowland AONB

This aims and objectives of this national strategy are reflected in the Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan as follows:

##### Objective 2.4 Community Engagement and Volunteering

Support local communities and businesses to become more involved in activities and projects to conserve, enhance and celebrate the natural and cultural heritage of the AONB:

- ✓ *Action 2.4D - Deliver and support community engagement through the arts and other creative industries, particularly via Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership, which includes The Gatherings, Pendle Radicals and PendleFolk*

##### Objective 3.3 Discovering and Learning

Provide opportunities to discover and learn about the special qualities of the AONB by connecting people with nature, culture and landscape:

- ✓ *Action 3.3A - Organise, support and promote an annual Festival Bowland programme of AONB and partner-led events for both visitors and local communities*
- ✓ *Action 3.3F - Deliver 'outreach' activities to encourage a more diverse range of people to learn about, engage with and visit the AONB, particularly through Pendle Hill LP projects and activity*

##### Objective 3.4 Health and Wellbeing

Provide opportunities for people to improve their health and wellbeing by connecting with nature, culture and landscape:

- ✓ *Action 3.4B – Deliver projects and activities in the AONB that deliver health and wellbeing outcomes*

## **Strategy**

A summary of the Aims and Recommendations of the Strategy are listed below, the full Strategy can be found [on the NAAONB website](#).

## **Vision and Aims**

People experience a deeper connection to the natural beauty of the landscape through the arts:

1. **To connect** people to nature and the natural beauty of the AONBs – increasing creativity, wellbeing and pro-environmental behaviour.
2. **To challenge** perceptions of access to the landscape in order to diversify engagement.
3. **To broker** new trusted relationships with the arts and cultural sector to co- create new programmes.
4. **To celebrate** the existing creativity in the AONB teams and the local community.
5. **To work with** arts and culture to understand and directly address the climate emergency and nature recovery.
6. **To welcome** provocations and questions in exploring ways that arts can change perceptions.
7. **To inspire** ambition by sharing exemplary projects of all scales.
8. **To capture** the public's imagination through engaging them in creative responses to the landscape.
9. **To raise** the profile of the landscape and the AONBs and the purpose of the AONB teams.
10. **To lever** in resources and relationships at all levels for an ambitious programme.

## **Recommendations**

The strategy recommendations are as follows:

1. **Adopt the National Arts Strategy**  
*The process of developing the Strategy was grounded in the consultation across the network. A nationally and locally endorsed strategy will have strong currency in discussions with external agencies, both national agencies such as government and funders and locally with partners, arts and cultural organisations.*
2. **Deliver a National Creative Projects Programme**  
*Research responses also strongly advocated for national creative projects to be clustered around specific themes, e.g., dark skies, coasts, ceremonial landscapes and hill forts. Crucially the national creative projects need a simple artistic provocation at the centre. Further ideas will be created by inviting experienced artists from diverse backgrounds into the AONBs and allowing their thinking to imagine new possibilities*

- 4. Widen the welcome**  
*The NAAONB and many individual AONBs want to take positive action to set about broadening the reach of the work, which will result in far more people feeling connected to nature and wanting to be proactive in their tendency to nature conservation. Arts and culture are an excellent way to do this.*
- 5. Develop the Governance**  
*There is a relatively low level of membership by representatives from cultural organisations on AONB Management or Stakeholder groups and in partnership working.*
- 6. Advocate continually**  
*Arts and culture should be integrated in delivering conservation and enhancement of natural beauty in the same way that 'outreach' or 'education' currently are.*
- 7. Sustain and expand the National Arts and Culture Steering Group**  
*This current research programme has been guided by a steering group, comprised of representatives from the NAAONB and individual AONBs, bringing a range of viewpoints, regional perspectives and represents differing levels of existing engagement across the membership.*
- 8. Develop an understanding between NAAONB, AONBs and Arts Council England**  
*This funded research process has seen a continuing and developing dialogue at strategic level between NAAONB, AONBs and ACE.*
- 9. Create a Core National Resource**  
*Research and consultation identified the benefit and catalysing impact of a core national resource would have - encouraging, inspiring, supporting and advocating for arts and culture within the sector and beyond.*
- 10. Create a Training and Professional Development Programme**  
*AONBs and their staff have an identified need for specific training and capacity building and continuing professional development programmes in working with the arts.*

## **Decision Required**

The Committee is requested to:

- i) note the report and offer comments
- ii) approve the formal adoption of this national strategy and the participation in national activities and project development by the AONB unit

