



## Latest news from the NAAONB - December 2017



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

**NAAONB meet with Secretary of State** The NAAONB Chairman, Philip Hygate, and CEO, Howard Davies attended the Defra Family reception in early December. During conversation, Michael Gove MP, invited Philip to a one-to-one meeting to replace the one cancelled in October owing to pressures of the SoS's diary. This meeting will now take place in the new year.

**The AONB Family and post-Brexit offer to Defra** The NAAONB has continued its work to keep the AONB Family at the forefront of Defra considerations on agri-environment post Brexit. To date, the NAAONB has produced an AONB Family Offer (July), Updated Offer (October), set up an AONB Family agri-environment Group to inform responses to Defra on their 25-year Plan (October), met with Welsh AONB Lead Officers, NPA Chief Executives and Welsh Government (November), led two Protected Landscape Chairmen's Conferences (Nov 2016 and Nov 2017), met with Gavin Ross, Defra, to discuss an agri-environment scheme (November), led a AONB Communications Meeting (December) and set up a Lead Officer meeting (February 2018) to take forward plans for an agri-environment scheme. Additionally, NAAONB/AONB work for agri-environment post Brexit will be a regular item on the agenda of the 2018 NAAONB Comms monthly dial-in to ensure we advocate and communicate effectively and collaboratively. Details of our collective Brexit work can be found [here](#) by members. If you are not a member, and would like to benefit from membership, see how to become a member at the end of this newsletter.



**Collaborative work with CPRE** In the September e-news, the NAAONB reported on a piece of joint research with CPRE investigating how national policies, such as the five-year land supply policy, interacts with policies at the local level. CPRE launched their Report, [Beauty betrayed: how careless housing development threatens England's AONBs](#) in conjunction with the publication of [An independent review into housing in English AONBs](#) in November. The NAAONB worked with CPRE to ensure that the findings of the independent review were highlighted to targeted audiences. CPRE ran a campaign which included a fundraising Appeal on its website and the NAAONB issued a series of complementary responses to emphasize the value of the

AONB designation and how AONB Partnerships/Conservation Boards should be seen as a help, not a hindrance, to appropriate sustainable development within AONBs.

**And then there was one** A reminder that the NAAONB has brought together its three websites under [www.landscapesforlife.org.uk](http://www.landscapesforlife.org.uk). The new website gives information about the AONB Family and also promotes the value and relevance of its work, using case studies, news of events and activity, collaborative work, consultation responses, publications and images of our outstanding landscapes, to support this promotion. Please add a link to your own website and encourage others to add a link to their websites. If you would like to add any information or have a case study to the website please contact [Jill](#).

**Working with Defra and Natural England to better demonstrate the value of the work of the AONB Family** Richard Clarke, Paul Jackson, Howardian Hills AONB and Chris Woodruff, East Devon AONB, have started work with Defra and NE to develop indicators of performance which will improve the quality of information disseminated by AONB Partnerships and Conservation Boards. This will enable AONB Partnerships and Conservation Boards to better demonstrate the value of the work they are doing and consequently better enable Defra to understand the value-for-money provided by AONBs set in the context of the annual core grant provided by Defra. The Performance Metrics will be closely aligned with Defra's 25-year Plan. The next meeting will take place in February. More information and an area to post comments on the work of this group can be found [here](#).

**AONB Management Plans** The NAAONB has produced a Management Plan Support document to help the review of AONB Management Plans. This support document is for AONB Partnerships and Conservation Boards **and** for all who have an influence over the future of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Its purpose is to highlight any significant changes that have occurred over the period of extant AONB Management Plans to assist in their revision. It also provides standard text that can be used in the Plan. The document can be found in the [Basecamp Library](#). Other useful documents for Management Plan Review are [Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plans: A guide \(CA23\)](#) and [AONB Management Plans: A guide Guidance for the review of AONB Management Plans \(CA221\)](#)

### Dates for your diary

- Lead Officer meeting – 14-15<sup>th</sup> February 2018



- **Outstanding Week** 15-23rd September 2018

**NAAONB Membership** If you would like to become a member of the [NAAONB](#) please click [here](#) for more information.

If you would like to contribute to a future edition of **Leading, Sharing, Learning, Inspiring** please send your article/snippet/link to [Jill](#).