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AONB Family Update - October 2017

House of Lords Select Committee Oral Evidence The NAAONB will be giving Oral Evidence to the House of Lords Select Committee on the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 on 10th October. Earlier in the year the [Committee called for Written Evidence](#) on [natural environment, rural communities and biodiversity](#). If your AONB Partnership/CB submitted evidence then, please share it on [Lead Officers' Forum](#) so it can be included in our oral submission in October.

AONB Family Annual Report The NAAONB is collating both quantitative and qualitative evidence for an Annual Report which will demonstrate the value of the AONB Family's work. A call for this information was made on [Lead Officers' Forum](#) and the deadline for submission is 30th September.



Outstanding Week 16-24th September 2017

Outstanding Week The AONB Family came together, for the third year running, to organise a week long programme of events to help people enjoy and be inspired by the UK's Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Over 90 events were run during the 10 days with the NAAONB leading on the promotion of these with a dedicated page on the website. Both @AONBFamily and @NAAONB were active on Twitter to demonstrate the value and relevance of the AONB Partnerships/CBs and their work. Using key messages, we highlighted the difference the AONB Family makes and backed up our messages with the project case studies that form the AONB Family evidence base on the new [website](#).

Thank you to Defra and Welsh Government for their online promotion of the value and relevance and everyone else who got involved in Outstanding Week. With your support we were able to show how our AONBs are **Landscapes for Life** in very many different ways.

Living Landscapes – a joint publication with Europe’s Nature Parks The NAAONB has collaborated with almost 900 European Nature, Regional, and Landscape Parks to produce a book entitled [Living Landscapes](#) to demonstrate how protected landscapes are models for the sustainable development of rural areas. The book was launched at the first European Summit of Regional Nature Parks where a [declaration](#) was signed by the NAAONB and 20 other organisations who represent the European Parks. More information on the launch can be see [here](#). Members can see the presentations from the summit [here](#).



Brexit and collaboration within WCL As part of WCL (Wildlife and Countryside Link), the NAAONB is working with a large number of environmental organisations to secure a sustainable future for the UK’s landscapes post Brexit. In order to get our messages heard, we are collaborating with [GreenerUK](#) who are being effective at lobbying parliamentarians (see [briefings for MPS](#)). WCL are also working behind the scenes to get [amendments](#) to the Repeal Bill.

Defra’s 25-year Plan The NAAONB has learned that current thinking is that the 25 year plan

- will likely be **predominately England focused** with an international dimension. It will seek to avoid stepping on the toes of the Devolved Administrations,
- will probably be a mixture of the earlier ‘draft’ and some new material from Michael Gove – which **may** include some bigger ticket announcements, and
- it may be published in November as Defra is working to a very tight timescale



Evidence based value for money The NAAONB celebrates collaborative work across the AONB Family. This week, we are pleased to highlight the work being done by the North Devon AONB Partnership. The [Coastal Creatures](#) project focusses on the coastal wildlife of the North Devon AONB, making it accessible to residents, visitors and experts through a wide range of citizen science activities. The project was a nominee for the [Bowland Award](#) at this year’s [Landscapes for Life Conference](#).

Dates for your diary

- NAAONB Board meeting - Thursday 12th October
- Chairmen’s Conference and AGM - Thursday 23rd November
- Communications Officers Meeting - Wednesday 6th December

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

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