

NAAONB Activity Report 2019-20









Strategic Objective	Action	Key milestones and deadlines	Narrative 1, June 2019	
<i>To develop an understanding of AONBs and the issue they face</i>	Instigate regular meetings with Ministers, Cabinet Secretaries, and civil servants to highlight the value of the AONB designation, AONB partnerships and Conservation Boards to society	See advocacy action plans As required	Early discussions with NPE, who have invited the NAAONB to co-host a parliamentary reception in the autumn	●
<i>To support policies for conserving and enhancing natural beauty</i>	Respond to government consultations, drawing on the evidence and experience of the NAAONB and across the AONB Family	Consultation responses agreed, submitted and uploaded to L4L website as required.	A response to the Government's consultation on Conservation Covenants was prepared and submitted on 21 March 2019. In response to a request from Defra, the NAAONB provided a summary from the AONB network of instances where the need to meet local housing requirements set by housing needs assessments is being successfully invoked as "exceptional circumstances" to enable major development within the designated landscape. An AONB response to the Nature Recovery Network is in preparation. The lessons learned from the Arnside and Silverdale AONB Development Plan Document (DPD) are being captured and written up for sharing with the rest of the AONB Network.	●
	Devise a resourcing strategy for the NAAONB	Agree strategy October 2018		●
<i>To secure and manage and resources</i>	Foster relationships with other trusts and funding bodies to explore shared agendas	High level meetings with CEOs/trustees/chairs Annually		●
<i>All</i>	Trustee recruitment	July annually		●

<p><i>To develop an understanding of AONBs and the issue they face</i></p>	<p>Work with the AONB Family and Defra to develop a set of performance metrics linked to the AONB purpose(s) and the 25 Year Environment Plan</p>	<p>Key metrics agreed May 2018</p>	<p>A final suite of metrics for the AONB Network has been agreed. An Excel spreadsheet has been created for each AONB to record progress against each metric, capable of being automatically collated to provide returns for the AONB network. Figures for financial year 2018-19 are now being collated to report to Defra in October 2019. An additional metric to measure "natural beauty" is also in preparation and discussion with Defra. AONBs' evidence needs are currently being assessed to inform the preparation of an Evidence Strategy for the network.</p>	<p>●</p>
<p><i>To develop an understanding of AONBs and the issue they face</i></p>	<p>Website development and information management</p>	<p>Case studies of exemplary work collated and presented on website May 2018</p>		<p>●</p>
<p><i>To support policies for conserving and enhancing natural beauty</i></p>	<p>Explore options with Defra around an AONB offer for place-based agri-environment delivery post-Brexit</p>	<p>Iterative development complete – final offer submitted to Minister April 2018</p>	<p>We have attended further workshops with Defra ELMs Tests and Trials Teams, and provided further information about our offer. We are still awaiting confirmation from Defra that the funding and contractual arrangements are in place to begin the Tests and Trials.</p>	<p>●</p>
<p><i>To develop an understanding of AONBs and the issue they face</i></p>	<p>Produce an Advocacy Strategy for England and Wales</p>	<p>Strategy in place October 2018</p>	<p>Interviews for a Wales Development Manager took place on the 30th May. This post is fundamental to developing a strategy and the appointment represents a step change in Wales. The post holder will work closely with AONB staff to scope an advocacy strategy for Wales</p>	<p>●</p>

<i>To develop an understanding of AONBs and the issue they face</i>	Produce and lead on the delivery of communication action plans for England and Wales	Action plans in place October 2018	A Communications Call-off contract has been let to deliver Communication work between June and March 2020	●
<i>To develop an understanding of AONBs and the issue they face</i>	Lead on the delivery of an AONB communications action plan, linked to the advocacy plans for England and Wales	Ongoing	A Communications Call-off contract has been let to deliver Communication work between June and March 2020	●
<i>To improve the way in which AONB Partnerships, Conservation Boards, and the NAAONB work together</i>	Improve Basecamp and its use	Make recommendations for improvement May 2018	Work on new forum to replace Basecamp underway, testing is yet to begin as it was delayed by the update of the website but testing should start soon.	●
<i>To secure and manage and resources</i>	Proactive national funding bids to charitable trust to build further resilience within the NAAONB and AONB Family	Scope opportunities June 2018		●
<i>To secure and manage and resources</i>	Proactive national funding bids to charitable trust to build further resilience within the NAAONB and AONB Family	Develop 2 x bids July 2018 and Jan 2019		●
<i>To secure and manage and resources</i>	Proactive national funding bids to charitable trust to build further resilience within the NAAONB and AONB Family	Applications submitted Aug 2018 and Feb 2019		●
<i>To secure and manage and resources</i>	Maintain high level relationships with the Heritage Lottery Fund	Input to strategic planning Annually		●
<i>All</i>	Trustee induction and training	April annually		●
<i>All</i>	Training and development programme for staff agreed	April annually		●
<i>To support policies for conserving and enhancing natural beauty</i>	Provide guidance on management plan content to AONB partnerships in England to reflect change need associated with agri-environment delivery	Presentation at regional meetings x3 June 2018	The contract (with Natural England funding) to provide support to AONBs to embed the ecosystem approach into management plans has concluded. All supporting materials and expert advice (provided through recorded webinars etc) are to be made permanently available on the collaboration platform.	●

<i>To improve the way in which AONB Partnerships, Conservation Boards, and the NAAONB work together</i>	Provide input on behalf of the AONB Family to the Future Landscapes Wales programme	Regular input to meetings As required	Funding provided by Welsh Government for a Wales Development Manager for AONBs in Wales (employed by the NAAONB). This pivotal role will support this area of work and help deliver on the outcomes of the FLW programme and Valued and Resilient	●
<i>To support policies for conserving and enhancing natural beauty</i>	Provide input on behalf of the AONB Family to the Future Landscapes Wales programme	Explore options around a designated landscape offer for place-based agri-environment delivery post-Brexit October 2018	Funding provided by Welsh Government for a Wales Development Manager for AONBs in Wales (employed by the NAAONB). This pivotal role will support this area of work and help deliver on the outcomes of the FLW programme and Valued and Resilient	●
<i>To support policies for conserving and enhancing natural beauty</i>	Provide input on behalf of the AONB Family to the Future Landscapes Wales programme	Provide guidance on management plan content to AONB partnerships in Wales to reflect changed need associated with the above December 2018	Funding provided by Welsh Government for a Wales Development Manager for AONBs in Wales (employed by the NAAONB). This pivotal role will support this area of work and help deliver on the outcomes of the FLW programme and Valued and Resilient	●
<i>To support policies for conserving and enhancing natural beauty</i>	Provide input on behalf of the AONB Family to the Future Landscapes Wales programme	Develop the principle of a hub approach to working beyond boundaries- test and document this in one non-designated landscape December 2019	Funding provided by Welsh Government for a Wales Development Manager for AONBs in Wales (employed by the NAAONB). This pivotal role will support this area of work and help deliver on the outcomes of the FLW programme and Valued and Resilient	●
<i>To improve the way in which AONB Partnerships, Conservation Boards, and the NAAONB work together</i>	Improve Basecamp and its use	Implement recommendations July 2018	Work on new forum to replace Basecamp underway, testing is yet to begin as it was delayed by the update of the website but testing should start soon.	●
<i>To secure and manage and resources</i>	Build on existing dialogue and continue to grow trust and support by liaison/direct contact with national bodies. Represent the AONB Family in discussions around the Framework for Monitoring Environmental Outcomes in Protected Landscapes (FMEOPL)	Provide input on behalf of the AONB Family to Natural England's landscape advisory group Biannually	We are inputting to a report commissioned by Natural England summarising trends in MEOPL data for AONBs over the five year period 2013-18.	●

<i>To develop an understanding of AONBs and the issue they face</i>	Website development and information management	Website technical development planned and implemented July 2018	New version of website launched on 10th May 2019, it is faster, more logically laid-out and has been well received.	●
<i>To support policies for conserving and enhancing natural beauty</i>	Evaluate and review/refresh national accords with other bodies	The Wildlife Trusts Biennially	The Colchester Declaration will act as a platform for reviewing active partnerships with those organisations with which we have an accord	●
<i>To support policies for conserving and enhancing natural beauty</i>	Evaluate and review/refresh national accords with other bodies	The Woodland Trust Biennially	The Colchester Declaration will act as a platform for reviewing active partnerships with those organisations with which we have an accord	●
<i>To support policies for conserving and enhancing natural beauty</i>	Evaluate and review/refresh national accords with other bodies	English Heritage Biennially	Maintaining contact with Historic England and sharing views on the Glover Review.	●
<i>To support policies for conserving and enhancing natural beauty</i>	Evaluate and review/refresh national accords with other bodies	Visit England Biennially		●
<i>To support policies for conserving and enhancing natural beauty</i>	Support to individual members on technical, policy, and advocacy matters. Determined by the membership, as and when required	As required		●
<i>To improve the way in which AONB Partnerships, Conservation Boards, and the NAAONB work together</i>	Improve Basecamp and its use	Assess Basecamp use and efficacy April 2018	Work on new forum to replace Basecamp underway, testing is yet to begin as it was delayed by the update of the website but testing should start soon.	●
<i>To develop an understanding of AONBs and the issue they face</i>	Organise national events to explore issues relating to designated landscapes	Lead Officers' meeting Feb annually	Lead Officer meeting in March	●
<i>To secure and manage and resources</i>	Further develop our relationship with the sustainability unit of NHS England. Develop a joint bid for funding around promoting the value of natural beauty to health and wellbeing	Bid agreed and submitted September 2018		●

<i>To develop an understanding of AONBs and the issue they face</i>	Maintain links with Defra LEP round table	3 x meetings annually Mar annually		
<i>All</i>	Organise and support Board meetings	X 4 annually	Ongoing	
<i>All</i>	Organise and support AGM	Nov annually	Venue booked for 28/11/2019	
<i>All</i>	Maintain internal IT and communications systems	Ongoing	No reported IT issues	
<i>All</i>	Ensure the NAAONB remains compliant with H&S and business legislation	Ongoing		
To secure and manage and resources	Future Landscape Project: Successful application to the HLF's Resilient Heritage for the delivery of two related activities 1) Improving the Sustainability and Governace of the NAAONB. 2) Development and delivery of staff Professional and Personal Development programme "Taking the Lead" that will lead to geater levels of collaborative working leading to the establishment of Topic Working Groups (TWGs).	Permission to start secured, staff recruited contracts let and consultants started working.	All recent changes agreed with HLF - currently submitting Progress Report and 2nd Pymt Rqst. Taking the Lead: TWGs have met twice, work is well under way - very positive engagement from participants. Will be visible at L4L Conference. 1st skills workshop delivered in May. Now developing Virtual Spark to engage with more AONBs and enhance remote collaboration. Sust. & Gov. Review: Trustees workshop held was real success, with Trustees showing great interest in the review. Next step will be for Matthews Associates to submit interim report. Evaluation: Ongoing monitoring forms in place ; Resources 4 Change are working with other 2 consultancies to deliver Evaluation.	
<i>To improve the way in which AONB Partnerships, Conservation Boards, and the NAAONB work together</i>	Support sub-UK groupings of designated landscape staff with national intelligence and insight. Attend meetings in the South West, South, North, and in Wales	4 x meetings Annually	Northern Group meeting attended 14/15 May 2019.	
<i>To improve the way in which AONB Partnerships, Conservation Boards, and the NAAONB work together</i>	Support and advise the national planning sub-group. Attend meetings as and when appropriate	2 x meetings Annually		

<i>To develop an understanding of AONBs and the issue they face</i>	Organise national events to explore issues relating to designated landscapes	National Conference July annually	Conference planning proceeding positively. Different approach adopted by NAAONB with a degree of contracting out to local team. Positive feedback on approach.	●
<i>To secure and manage and resources</i>	Refresh Corporate Relationship programme	Clear productive relationships developed with two strategic corporate partners May 2020		●
<i>To secure and manage and resources</i>	Provide an annual report for Defra, based on key metrics, showcasing positive outcomes from AONB Partnership and Conservation Board work	Annual Report produced March annually	Performance metrics for 2018-19 currently in preparation.	●
<i>To secure and manage and resources</i>	Keep under review the Defra/NE/NAAONB tripartite agreement	Review actions Annually		●
<i>To secure and manage and resources</i>	High level meetings with government departments on achieving shared objectives	See advocacy action plans Reported Annually		●
<i>To support policies for conserving and enhancing natural beauty</i>	High level meetings with the Landscape Institute to achieve shared objectives and further develop a learning pathway for landscape professionals	2 x meetings annually with the CEO of the LI As required		●
<i>To develop an understanding of AONBs and the issue they face</i>	Organise national events to explore issues relating to designated landscapes	Chairman's meeting Nov annually		●
<i>To secure and manage and resources</i>	High level meetings with Natural England on achieving shared objectives	Bilateral meeting with Chair and CEO of NE Oct annually		●
<i>To support policies for conserving and enhancing natural beauty</i>	Evaluate and review/refresh national accords with other bodies	The Landscape Institute Biennially	Active relationship developing. Close communications over accreditation pathway and shared membership benefits including CPD opportunities	●
<i>To secure and manage and resources</i>	Evaluate and review/refresh national accords with other bodies	University of Winchester Biennially		●

<i>To support policies for conserving and enhancing natural beauty</i>	High level meetings with CPRE on achieving shared objectives	2 x meetings annually with the CEO of CPRE As required	Meeting held with Crispin Truman on 1st March 2019. Shared insights into strategic priorities and Glover Review	●
<i>To support policies for conserving and enhancing natural beauty</i>	Actively engage with Wildlife and Countryside Link to ensure landscape and supporting data is considered in all areas of policy development	2 x meetings annually Engagement with policy groups as appropriate As required	Watching brief on LINK outputs and briefings, and contributing AONB position where necessary.	●
<i>To support policies for conserving and enhancing natural beauty</i>	Participate in National Park Authorities conference	1 x Conference Biennially		●
<i>To support policies for conserving and enhancing natural beauty</i>	Instigate regular meetings with National Parks England	2 x meetings Annually	Continued dialogue over Glover Review. Further discussions over Nature Recovery and the Colchester Declaration.	●
<i>To support policies for conserving and enhancing natural beauty</i>	Participate in Welsh Members' seminar	1 x seminar Annually		●
<i>To secure and manage and resources</i>	High level meetings with Natural Resources Wales on achieving shared objectives	Bilateral meeting with Chair and CEO of NRW Oct annually		●
<i>To support policies for conserving and enhancing natural beauty</i>	Evaluate and review/refresh national accords with other bodies	National Parks England Biennially	Subject of a formal meeting with NPE on 5th June. Currently under review	●
<i>To support policies for conserving and enhancing natural beauty</i>	High level meetings with CPRW on achieving shared objectives	2 x meetings annually with the CEO of CPRW As required	Renewed relationship with CPRW through Sarah Jones, Policy Officer. Commitment to meet again later in year	●
<i>To support policies for conserving and enhancing natural beauty</i>	High level meetings with CNP on achieving shared objectives	2 x meetings annually with the CEO of CNP As required		●

<i>To support policies for conserving and enhancing natural beauty</i>	Provide input to the emerging Environment Bill.	Spring 2019	Verbal and written input to round table discussions and consultation on scope. Meetings held with IEEMA to agree and pursue areas of joint interest	
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