

NAAONB Activity Report 2018-19 April - October 2018

Strategic Objective	Action	Key milestones and deadlines	Narrative Q1	Narrative Q2	
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 Governance of the NAAONB. 2) Development and delivery of staff Professional and Personal Development programme "Taking the Lead" that will lead to greater 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.		Permission given. Future Landscapes Project Assistant Recruited, National Policy Officer Recruited. Contract to review charity awarded and consultants started work. Requests for Quotations invited for Taking the Lead programme. Quotations invited for an Evaluation Contract.	●
<i>To develop an understanding of AONBs and the issue they face</i>	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	Key metrics agreed May 2018	A set of headline metrics developed with Lead Officers. For agreement with Defra and NE at Performance Metrics Working Group.	The Performance Metrics agreed with Defra were presented to a fringe meeting the Landscapes for Life Conference and agreed in principle. Since NAAONB has attended a meeting at Defra to discuss metrics being developed for 25 YEP.....	●

Strategic Objective	Action	Key milestones and deadlines	Narrative Q1	Narrative Q2	
<i>To develop an understanding of AONBs and the issue they face</i>	Website development and information management	Case studies of exemplary work collated and presented on website May 2018	Case studies requested and uploaded under KPI themes as received. See www.landscapesforlife.org.uk/about-aonbs/aonb-work/	Case studies added to feed into Review of England's Designated Landscapes. Integration of website and collaboration platform being considered	●
<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	WordPress training undergone by JS and AC in April 2018. Website development underway.		●
<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		Call for information from AONB Family made	●
<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		Close working with civil servants on post Brexit agri environment, landscape management and planning, and nature recovery.	●

Strategic Objective	Action	Key milestones and deadlines	Narrative Q1	Narrative Q2	
<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.	Draft NPPF Consultation authored by CCB Planning Officer, John Mills with assistance from other Planning Officers, Howard Davies and Jill Smith. Submitted 10th May. See http://www.landscapesforlife.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/NAAONB-Response-to-MHCLG-Consultation-on-the-NPPF-Review.pdf Supported Wildlife and Countryside Link's response to Defra's Health and Harmony consultation.	NPPF and ELMs responses. Intense activity around the review of AONBs and NPs in England with multiple touchpoints designed to support a positive review of AONBs. Continued close engagement with Julian Glover and his team. Input to high level discussions on planning, net gain, and the agriculture bill, with briefings provided to AONB Lead Officers as appropriate.	●
<i>To support policies for conserving and enhancing natural beauty</i>	Explore options with Defra around an AONB offer for place-based agri-environment delivery post-Brexit	Iterative development complete – final offer submitted to Minister April 2018	Continued discussion with Defra on desired form and timing of offer. Revised timetable for submission to coincide with June Tripartite meeting	NAAONB represented on Defra's Test and Trials sub-group. Regular reporting to the AONB Family	●
<i>To support policies for conserving and enhancing natural beauty</i>	Provide guidance on management plan content to AONB partnerships in England to reflect changed need associated with agri-environment delivery	Presentation at regional meetings x3 June 2018	Emerging needs discussed with AONB staff at LO meeting. Action yet to be programed.	Timing has triggered a refocus on presenting existing information in a more accessible way through updating website and collaboration platform	●

Strategic Objective	Action	Key milestones and deadlines	Narrative Q1	Narrative Q2	
<i>To develop an understanding of AONBs and the issue they face</i>	Produce an Advocacy Strategy for England and Wales	Strategy in place October 2018		Advocacy Strategy for England's Review of Designated Landscapes produced and tested with LOs on 27th September.	●
<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		Communication Action Plan framework relating to above strategy produced and tested with LOs on 27th September	●
<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	Ongoing.	Landscapes for Life Conference 2018, Outstanding Week, ELMs offer, Acknowledgement of 1st reading of Agriculture Bill, Briefing for 2nd reading of Agriculture Bill, NAAONB Annual Report	●
<i>To secure and manage and resources</i>	Keep under review the Defra/NE/NAAONB tripartite agreement	Review actions Annually	Close working relations with the Defra team continue. Formal meeting held June	Tripartite meeting with Defra, Natural England and National Parks England to consider 25 YEP delivery and metrics.	●
<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	Regular engagement with NRW CEO, ET and Board. NRW CEO invited to speak at #L4L2018		●
<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			●

Strategic Objective	Action	Key milestones and deadlines	Narrative Q1	Narrative Q2	
<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	Recent Conference Call informed partners that NE are planning to wind up the MEOPL programme.		●
<i>To support policies for conserving and enhancing natural beauty</i>	Evaluate and review/refresh national accords with other bodies	The Wildlife Trusts Biennially			●
<i>To support policies for conserving and enhancing natural beauty</i>	Evaluate and review/refresh national accords with other bodies	National Parks England Biennially			●
<i>To support policies for conserving and enhancing natural beauty</i>	Evaluate and review/refresh national accords with other bodies	The Woodland Trust Biennially			●
<i>To support policies for conserving and enhancing natural beauty</i>	Evaluate and review/refresh national accords with other bodies	English Heritage Biennially			●
<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>	Evaluate and review/refresh national accords with other bodies	The Landscape Institute Biennially	MoU signed with the LI. Launch event took place in Bangor 16th April		●

Strategic Objective	Action	Key milestones and deadlines	Narrative Q1	Narrative Q2	
<i>To secure and manage and resources</i>	Evaluate and review/refresh national accords with other bodies	University of Winchester Biennially	Lecture to Geography Undergraduates on AONB issues.		●
<i>To secure and manage and resources</i>	High level meetings with government departments on achieving shared objectives	See advocacy action plans Reported Annually	Regular meetings with Defra, NE, Welsh Government and NRW	Meeting with Secretariat to the Glover Review to discuss AONB Advocacy.	●
<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, CEO of CPRE. 3 further meetings scheduled.		●
<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	Meeting held with Crispin Truman, CEO of CPRE. 3 further meetings scheduled.		●
<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>	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	Meeting held on landscape policy issues with the LI on 16 April	Close working continues with the LI. NAAONB and LI managed reciprocal support at national conferences	●
<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	Working with WCL to help them represent the Landscape, Access and Connecting with People interests more effectively.	AONB copy produced for LINK use in responses and briefings. Contribution to	●

Strategic Objective	Action	Key milestones and deadlines	Narrative Q1	Narrative Q2	
To support policies for conserving and enhancing natural beauty	Support to individual members on technical, policy, and advocacy matters. Determined by the membership, as and when required	As required	Technical advice provided to internal and external partners on definitions and interpretations related to the AONB purpose.		●
<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	SEEPL - April 2018 - RC Northern Group - May 2018 - JS	Northern Group Meeting - Oct 2018	●
<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 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	Due to urgency of GDPR Basecamp review postponed, now planned to commence in June 2018	Meeting planned for September 2018 with web-developer offering to design a bespoke replacement.	●
<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	Basecamp GDPR notices posted to Basecamp. Planning of internal practices for new users is underway and NAAONB staff to be trained.	Small improvements made to make Basecamp GDPR compliant. Basecamp 2 trialled and found to be unsuitable. Recent positive meeting with web-developer requires follow up.	●

Strategic Objective	Action	Key milestones and deadlines	Narrative Q1	Narrative Q2	
<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	Basecamp review planned to commence in June 2018	Small improvements have been made to make Basecamp GDPR compliant. Work ongoing to find a suitable replacement forum. Ongoing discussions with web designer	●
<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	Landscapes for Life Conference 2018 (#L4L2018) launched in mid-May. Further information can be found in agenda paper.	Complete. See www.landscapesforlife.org.uk/ventreport_category/conference-2018/	●
<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	Venue booked for 29/11/2018	Chairmen's Conference programme designed, and speakers invited. See agenda item for more info.	●
<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 Officers' meeting to discuss AONB Family response to Review of Designated Landscapes - Sept 2018	●
<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	Working with University of Winchester and Plymouth on "Significant Spaces" bid to the Research Councils.		●

Strategic Objective	Action	Key milestones and deadlines	Narrative Q1	Narrative Q2	
<i>To secure and manage and resources</i>	Refresh Corporate Relationship programme	Clear productive relationships developed with two strategic corporate partners May 2020	Ongoing work with Nearly Wild Exploration to produce an online tool to promote what AONBs have to offer to the "unsure and reticent" traveller for launch at #L4L2018 and Countryfile Live.	www.nearlywild.org launched. Presentation by Steve Evison, Nearly Wild at L4L2018. NAAONB staff team attendance at Countryfile Live, Blenheim Palace to help promote.	●
<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>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	Chair level bilateral held with NPE 20th April		●
<i>To support policies for conserving and enhancing natural beauty</i>	Participate in Welsh Members' seminar	1 x seminar Annually			●
<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	NRW grant application declined. WG funding secured to progress some of this work through National Parks Wales.		●
<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	NRW grant application declined. WG funding secured to progress this element of work through National Parks Wales.	Workshop held with AONBs, NPs, WTs and NRW to develop a programme nature conservation delivery across Wales.	●

Strategic Objective	Action	Key milestones and deadlines	Narrative Q1	Narrative Q2	
<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	NRW grant application declined. This area of work will not now go ahead.		●
<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	NRW grant application declined. This element of work will not go ahead unless resourced. Fact finding trip to 2 PNRs in France undertaken with funding provided by the Cambrian Mountains Initiative and NRW. Purpose of trip was to investigate the applicability of the PNR concept to currently undesignated landscapes in the UK.		●
	Devise a resourcing strategy for the NAAONB	Agree strategy October 2018		Facilitated meeting held with trustees on 5th September	●
<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	Bid to HLF submitted end of March with a decision due end of May.	Considered premature to advance this in isolation. The HLF supported work 'Building Resilience and Securing Assets' will set the framework for this work	●
<i>To secure and manage and resources</i>	Proactive national funding bids to charitable trust to build	Develop 2 x bids July 2018 and Jan 2019	Bid to HLF see above. Research into other potential funding programmes undertaken.	Considered premature to advance this in isolation. The HLF supported work 'Building Resilience and Securing Assets'	●

Strategic Objective	Action	Key milestones and deadlines	Narrative Q1	Narrative Q2	
	further resilience within the NAAONB and AONB Family			will set the framework for this work	
<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		Considered premature to advance this in isolation. The HLF supported work 'Building Resilience and Securing Assets' will set the framework for this work	●
<i>To secure and manage and resources</i>	Maintain high level relationships with the Heritage Lottery Fund	Input to strategic planning Annually			●
<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>	Organise and support Board meetings	X 4 annually		On-going	●
<i>All</i>	Organise and support AGM	Nov annually	Venue booked for 29/11/2018	Venue booked for 29/11/2018	●
<i>All</i>	Trustee induction and training	April annually		This area of work is on hold until the governance review has reported	●
<i>All</i>	Trustee recruitment	July annually			●
<i>All</i>	Training and development programme for staff agreed	April annually			●

Strategic Objective	Action	Key milestones and deadlines	Narrative Q1	Narrative Q2	
<i>All</i>	Maintain internal IT and communications systems	Ongoing	No reported IT issues	No reported IT issues	●
<i>All</i>	Ensure the NAAONB remains compliant with H&S and business legislation	Ongoing	Rolling support to NAAONB provided through Peninsula Business Safe	Rolling support to NAAONB provided through Peninsula Business Safe	●