

NAAONB UPDATE

Purpose

To advise members of activity through the National Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (NAAONB), including the Wye Valley AONB being a co-host of the National AONB Conference in Bath in September.

Recommendation

That the JAC

- A. welcomes the opportunity to co-host the National AONB Conference on 5th-7th September 2023 and provide a fieldtrip to the Wye Valley AONB
- B. encourages AONB partners to attend the AONB Conference at Bath University
- C. supports the AONB staff development programme in Wales

Key Issues

- The National AONB Conference will be on 5th - 7th September 2023, with the focus on 'Investing in Landscape'
- The Conference will be held at Bath University with field trips to the co-hosting AONBs of Cotswolds, Cranborne Chase, Mendip Hills, North Wessex Downs, Quantock Hills and Wye Valley.
- The NAAONB is organising a staff development programme in the AONBs in Wales.

Landscapes for Life Conference 2023

The 2023 Conference will be hosted by 6 AONBs surrounding the venue at Bath University. The co-hosting AONBs are the Cotswolds, Cranborne Chase, Mendip Hills, North Wessex Downs, Quantock Hills and Wye Valley. The theme of the conference is 'Investing in Landscape' which will look at the impact and opportunity of committing time, money and creativity to conserving and enhancing outstanding landscapes. The programme is being prepared and will be available through the NAAONB website here:

<https://landscapesforlife.org.uk/events/landscapes-life-conference/landscapes-life-conference2023>

The AONB Unit is arranging a fieldtrip for the conference to the lower Wye Valley for 6th September. Further details will follow in due course.

It is hope that there will be good representation from AONB partners at the conference in Bath.

AONB staff development programme in Wales

The NAAONB has commissioned some staff development work for the AONB teams in Wales. This will involve preparing Lumina Spark portraits for staff in the 5 AONB team. Each portrait is accompanied by a mentored 'walk-through' designed to help the participant understand what the portrait is saying about them and their work styles. There will be a subsequent coaching session using the Lumina Spark portraits or look at ways colleagues work together in the AONB team. Finally there will a Wales wide workshop for AONB staff to develop shared understanding of critical issues and collaborative behaviours to enable better joint working. There is also the opportunity for each of the AONB lead officers to have a one to one coaching session with an Executive coach under the Institute of Leadership and Management (ILM7) to provide valuable personal development.

Background

The NAAONB is a charity that provides a strong collective voice for the UK's AONBs. It works on behalf of its membership, fostering collaboration and collective action between the 300 staff of the AONB Family, the 700 elected members that support the AONB partnerships and the many partners with whom the NAAONB does business at the local and national levels. For more information see: www.landscapesforlife.org.uk