

TECHNICAL OFFICERS'
WORKING PARTY REPORT

WYE VALLEY AONB
JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
6th November 2017

NAAONB UPDATE

Purpose

To advise members of activity through the National Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (NAAONB)

and

To suggest any questions to be asked on behalf of the Wye Valley AONB Partnership at the NAAONB Chairman's Conference.

FOR INFORMATION

Key Issues

- The National Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (NAAONB) Chairman's Conference and AGM is on 23rd November 2017 and will be attended by the AONB Manager.
- The NAAONB gave Oral Evidence to the House of Lords Select Committee on the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act.
- Outstanding Week was 6th - 24th September 2017 with over 90 events held nationally.
- A joint publication and declaration has been signed with Europe's Nature Parks entitled 'Living Landscapes'

NAAONB Chairman's Conference

The Landscapes for Life Chairmen's Conference which will take place on Thursday 23rd November 2017 in London. This year's Chairmen's Conference builds on the work from last year, focusing on 'Brexit and Landscape'. In brief, last year, received presentations from

- Lord Gardiner MP, Under Secretary of State for Environment, Defra
- Professor Dieter Helm – the implications of Brexit on British Agricultural Policy
- Dr Victoria Jenkins – the implications of Brexit on Environmental Law
- Vince Holyoak, Historic England – the implications of Brexit on legislation affecting the historic environment

Discussions followed in-the-round over what the UK's Designated Landscape organisations had to offer post Brexit. This resulted in a longlist of 11 ideas which were subsequently shared with participants via a SurveyMonkey poll to create the following shortlist of 4:

- The Designated Landscapes will work together to propose a new type of agri-environment support that delivers Ecosystems Services and Natural Capital through approaches that have been tailored for local conditions.
- Post Brexit upland/marginal farming will be very challenging. In those Designation Landscapes where this is an issue they will promote support for High Nature Value Farming (HNVF).

- Designated Landscapes will prepare case studies from their areas that demonstrate exemplary approaches to agri-environmental support that could be adopted in a post Brexit world and the NAAONB will collate and publish them on its web platform.
- The Designated Landscapes, through the National Parks farming working group, will develop a statement on agricultural policy.

This year's programme will review what has been achieved over the past year and investigate how these and any new ideas can be taken forward.

Lord Gardiner will be keynote speaker again, along with other guest speakers, talking about the implications of Brexit on environmental legislation, UK agriculture post CAP and legislation affecting the environment. The one day conference will look at the UK's Designated Landscape Family's work as dynamic living landscapes that underpin the economy and the health and wellbeing of society. It will provide a timely and valuable opportunity to take Post Brexit thinking forward together as a Designated Landscape Family.

There will be a short Q&A after the Minister's address. Therefore please advise whether there are any questions that should be asked on behalf of the Wye Valley AONB Partnership.

House of Lords Select Committee

The NAAONB gave 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. The NAAONB will also be providing written evidence that will build upon on some of the points made in the Oral Evidence at the Committee and provide evidence to address questions that were raised by members of the Committee.

Outstanding Week: 16th - 24th September 2017

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 and their work. Using key messages, the difference the AONB Family makes were highlighted and the messages backed up with project case studies from the AONB Family. This social media and online promotion helps show the value and relevance of our AONBs to a wider audience than usual and enables people to appreciate and understand how 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 provides information about Europe's Regional Nature Parks and is the result of the first comprehensive study on these protected landscapes. 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.