

TECHNICAL OFFICERS'
WORKING PARTY REPORT

WYE VALLEY AONB
JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
2nd July 2018

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR AONBs

Purpose

To update members on recent work of the National Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (NAAONB) including the forthcoming Landscapes for Life Conference and Bowland Award.

FOR INFORMATION

Key Issues

- The National Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (NAAONB) has been meeting with DEFRA to discuss the role AONBs play in delivering the DEFRA agenda.
- The theme and dates for the national AONB 'Landscapes for Life' Conference is "Shaping the Long View" on 24th - 26th July in Canterbury.
- Two representatives from the AONB Partnership are attending the AONB Landscapes for Life Conference and the Wye Valley River Festival is submitted for the Bowland Award.

Reasons

The NAAONB champions the 46 AONBs in England, Wales and Northern Ireland as nationally protected landscapes cared for by locally accountable partnerships that promote and support effective long term management to keep these nationally designated landscapes special. The NAAONB is a Charity with its interest focused on AONBs, but flexible enough to extend that interest to active engagement with National Parks and other areas not yet designated. The NAAONB Board and core team work closely with DEFRA and Welsh Government to harness the collective experience, enthusiasm and goodwill of the AONB Family. They bring the AONB Family together as a cohesive entity providing leadership and strategic direction, celebrating the unique identity of the individual members and AONBs, and working with others to achieve shared objectives.

Implications

Landscapes for Life Conference 24th -26th July, Canterbury

The annual National AONB 'Landscapes for Life' Conference (L4L2018) will take place in at the University of Kent, Canterbury from 24th -26th July in association with the Kent Downs AONB. With a theme of "Shaping the Long View", keynote speakers include Merrick Denton-Thompson, President of the Landscape Institute, Julian Glover, Chair of the Review of Designated Landscapes in England and Emeritus Professor Allan Buckwell, Senior Fellow at the IEEP. Andrew Blake, AONB Manager will also give a presentation on the Review of Designated Landscapes in Wales. There will be much informed, enthused and energised delegate participation and discussion about Defra's 25 YEP, the Review of Designated Landscapes and what the UK's landscapes might look like after Brexit. Sarah Sawyer, AONB Community Links Officer, will also attend the conference. The conference is an excellent opportunity to meet and network with fellow landscape professionals from across the UK.

The Bowland Award, a bronze sculpture of a hen harrier, is awarded annually for the best project, best practice or outstanding contribution to the wellbeing of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The Wye Valley River Festival has been entered for the Award.

AONB Family Post Brexit Agri-Environment Offer

The NAAONB has collated proposals from the AONB Partnerships and Conservation Boards via Basecamp for a post Brexit agri-environment offer for Defra. The final document summarised the principles that the AONB Family network have all agreed and an appendix of proposed trials/pilots.

All Wales Conservation Delivery

The NAAONB is leading on a programme to establish how Welsh Designated Landscapes can help deliver on the challenges highlighted in the State of Nature Resources Report, the emerging Area Statements, WTW's Conservation Strategy, and commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity. The aim of the programme is to maximise the collaboration within and between designated landscapes in a coherent, integrated and collaborative way, such that the impacts is amplified beyond that which would be possible by working at a single designated landscape level. The project will operate across the whole of Wales, focussing on the AONBs and National Parks, but where appropriate working beyond designated landscape boundaries.

HLF Resilience Fund

The NAAONB application to the HLF Resilience Fund was submitted on Friday 30th March. The bid is to build on the Future Landscape work – building resilience and securing assets. There are two prime elements to the bid: improving sustainability/governance of NAAONB And Personal/professional development for up to 40 AONB staff. The NAAONB expect a decision from HLF shortly.

Diary Dates

Outstanding Week - 15th-23rd September – Nationwide

Chairmen's Conference and NAAONB AGM - 29th November - London

Background

The National Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (NAAONB) is the charity (Number 1,158,871) and trusted voice for the AONB Family. It works to ensure that the natural beauty of all the 46 AONBs in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, is understood and supported at all levels. NAAONB Newsletter is available to sign up for by clicking on <http://www.landscapesforlife.org.uk/our-news/newsletter/>

The NAAONB Core Messages are:-

- People are passionate about Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and care deeply about their future.
- Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are some of the most outstanding, beautiful and cherished landscapes in Britain. They need to be cared for, now and in the future.
- Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are dynamic, living landscapes that underpin the economy and the health and wellbeing of society.
- Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are vibrant landscapes, which offer a wealth of opportunities for everyone to enjoy them and help look after them.
- Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are designated as special landscapes which provide a range of benefits for people and wildlife.