

| <b>AONB Unit Work Programme</b><br><i>AONB Management Plan 2015-2020</i><br><i>Strategic Objectives</i>   |   | <b>Outcomes</b>   |
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| <b>AONB Management Plan</b><br><i>WV-L1</i><br><i>WV-P3</i>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Publicise and distribute Wye Valley AONB Management Plan 2015-2020</li> <li>Monitor use of Plan in Planning Applications, Public Inquiries etc</li> <li>Commence 2020-2025 Plan Review process: Initial consultations &amp; 1st Draft of Plan</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AONB Management Plan 2015-2020 available on AONB website <a href="http://www.wyevalleyaonb.org.uk/index.php/about-us/management-and-guidance/management-plan-2015-2020/">http://www.wyevalleyaonb.org.uk/index.php/about-us/management-and-guidance/management-plan-2015-2020/</a></li> <li>AONB Management Plan referred to in planning application responses and reports.</li> <li>Local Authorities confirmed delegation of Management Plan to AONB Partnership.</li> <li>AONBM convened Review workshop with LA Planning, Landscape and Biodiversity officers.</li> <li>JAC endorsed a 'light touch plus' review &amp; Management Plan Review programme.</li> <li>AONBM attended NRW updates on NRW Area Statements</li> </ul> |
| <b>AONB Partnership events</b><br><i>WV-P1</i><br><i>WV-P6</i><br><i>WV-P7</i>                            | <p>For JAC members, AONB Ward members, representatives from partner organisations and local Town/Parish/Community Councils</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organise AONB Partnership Seminar on key issue</li> <li>Organise AONB Partnership Annual Study Tour of key sites &amp;/or issues</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AONB Unit Annual Report presented to JAC in July. Relevant JAC agenda items prepared by Technical Officers Working Party (TOWP) and AONB Manager</li> <li>29 attendees of the JAC Partnership tour September 2018, visiting the Herefordshire part of the AONB north of Ross-on-Wye.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Planning, Development Control and Strategic Policy</b><br><i>WV-D1</i><br><i>WV-D2</i><br><i>WV-D3</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Renew annual contract for AONB Strategy &amp; Development Advisor to support AONB Unit with planning advice.</li> <li>Comment on relevant Planning Applications and strategic planning documents</li> <li>Annually monitor and review development trends and the approach taken by planning authorities to issues that affect the AONB</li> <li>Engage in debate and consultation on national strategy in liaison with NAAONB</li> <li>Deliver CPD &amp; training for LA Planning staff &amp; members</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contract renewed with Worcestershire County Council (WCC) Planning Department, shared with Malvern Hills AONB Partnership.</li> <li>AONBM provided comments on 4 significant planning applications in Monmouthshire part of the AONB, 4 in Herefordshire and 2 in Gloucestershire and has commented on 4 Neighbourhood Development Plans.</li> <li>AONBM &amp; FAO monitor and review development trends that affect the AONB.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>AONB Farming Awards</b><br><i>WV-L5</i><br><i>WV-F1</i>  | <p>Promote &amp; publicise 11th Awards for farmers, landowners and land managers that make an outstanding contribution to conserving &amp;/or enhancing the features, special qualities and natural beauty of the Wye Valley AONB.</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6 farms nominated for 2018 AONB Farming Awards. 4 Farms shortlisted. Award presented at the Monmouthshire Show.</li> <li>Award won by Balingham Court Farm, Herefordshire. Farm visited as part of the annual AONB Study Tour.</li> </ul>  |

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| WV-F5<br>WV-C2<br>WV-E2   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek sponsorship for the AONB Farming Awards from local businesses etc.</li> <li>• Site visits of all farm entries for short-listing</li> <li>• Judging</li> <li>• Present the prizes at the Monmouthshire Show</li> <li>• Involve winner in Open Farm Sunday event.</li> </ul>   |   |
| <b>Habitat Conservation</b><br>WV-L2<br>WV-L4<br>WV-F4  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organise monthly volunteer task days</li> <li>• Continue Phase 1 and priority BAP habitat surveys</li> <li>• Convene &amp; service Woodland Management Group and emerging projects</li> <li>• Support species rich grassland initiatives including Herefordshire Meadows Network, Monmouthshire Meadows Group and Parish Grassland Project.</li> <li>• Develop non-native invasive weed control programme</li> <li>• Liaise over national roadside verge initiatives with local authorities and Highways Agency</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One outing per month of AONB volunteers, average attendance 8. Varied tasks, drystone walling, scything, work in Highbury Wood NNR, collaboration with Gwent Wildlife Trust volunteers and Monmouthshire Meadows volunteers.</li> <li>• Himalayan Balsam and Japanese Knotweed control included in Lower Wye Valley NFM &amp; GI project. Proposals to be developed through 2019.</li> <li>• One outing per month of AONB vols, varied tasks, drystone walling, scything, work in NNNR Highbury wood, collaboration with GWT vols and Monmouthshire Meadows vols.</li> <li>• Innovative Riverbank stabilisation work undertaken in partnership with Ross-on-Wye Town Council and Ross Anglers.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Landscape scale conservation</b><br>WV-L1<br>WV-L2<br>WV-B3<br>WV-P3<br>WV-P4                        | Develop and support partnership projects that deliver landscape scale conservation activity and initiatives within and adjoining the AONB. Target areas include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Little Doward &amp; South Herefordshire with Herefordshire Wildlife Trust &amp; others</li> <li>• Woolhope Dome and area north of Foy &amp; Sellack</li> <li>• National Grid Visual Improvement Programme (VIP) for area between Ross &amp; Goodrich</li> <li>• Usk to Wye initiatives including Long Forest</li> <li>• Angidy &amp; Lower Wye Valley Catchments Green Infrastructure and Natural Flood Management</li> <li>• ‘Trees outside Woodlands’ projects with veteran trees, riverine trees and orchards</li> <li>• Wye Catchment Partnership</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DO sits on newly created Gloucestershire LNP Naturally Healthy and Nature Recovery subgroups. 1 Naturally healthy group meeting attended.</li> <li>• Lower Wye Catchment NFM &amp; GI project: 10 Farm Plans prepared in collaboration with Wye &amp; Usk Foundation. Contact made with Farming Connect in relation to the opportunities for collaborative events.</li> <li>• Water Environment Grant (WEG) application submitted for English part of Wye Catchment with Herefordshire Wildlife Trust and Wye &amp; Usk Foundation – will include a farm advisor for AONB and one for adjacent Garron &amp; Gamber sub-catchment.</li> <li>• AONBM hosted meeting with Infrastructure / Bridge engineers from Gloucestershire &amp; Monmouthshire County Councils and Herefordshire Council /Balfour Beatty to progress solutions for Lydbrook, Redbrook &amp; Wireworks bridges.</li> </ul> |

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| <b>Deer Management</b><br>WV-B2<br>WV-B4<br>WV-W4<br>WV-W3  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Convene &amp; service Deer Management Groups and Deer Monitoring Project</li> <li>• Coordinate deer surveys in the Woolhope Dome and Lower Wye Valley</li> <li>• Assist co-ordination of collaborative deer cull through the Deer Management Groups</li> <li>• Review and implement as appropriate the recommendations of the venison marketing feasibility study</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding secured through Natural England to deliver training events linked to the 2017 'Feasibility Study Investigating the Production, Marketing and Sale of local Wild Venison in the Lower Wye Valley and southeast Monmouthshire'.</li> <li>• Deer surveys and Deer Management Groups disbanded due to fall off in returns and lack of resources to service groups.</li> <li>• Deer Initiative co-ordinated collaborative culls in Lower Wye Valley and Woolhope Dome</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Monitoring</b><br>WV-L4<br>WV-B5<br>WV-H2<br>WV-S3<br>WV-P8  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing updating of the AONB GIS and State of the AONB data, including habitats and species, heritage, tourism and recreation etc.</li> <li>• Support evaluation of Drystone walls</li> <li>• Monitor and review implementation of the AONB Management Plan Action Plan</li> <li>• Support NAAONB in development of AONB Key Performance Indicators with DEFRA</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data gathering consultation with Herefordshire a Great Place</li> <li>• AONB Fixed Point photography monitoring established</li> <li>• AONBM contributed to debate with NAAONB on AONB Metrics.</li> <li>• Data collation for AONB Management Plan &amp; State of the AONB Report ongoing</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Sustainable Development Fund (SDF)</b><br>WV-L1<br>WV-B3<br>WV-C1                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collate SDF project applications for the SDF Assessment Panel</li> <li>• Service SDF Assessment Panel for allocating funds</li> <li>• Review SDF application processes and Assessment Panel</li> <li>• Complete establishment of AONB Fund with Herefordshire Community Foundation</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11 projects full spend £55,000</li> <li>• Grants promoted networks, social media, web, exhibitions</li> <li>• £218,881 levered in in cash</li> <li>• New members recruited to Assessment Panel &amp; introduction of updated WG guidance</li> <li>• WG officer summer tour of projects</li> <li>• AONBM met with chairman &amp; lead officer of Herefordshire Community Foundation to progress agreement and establishment of AONB Fund.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Wye Valley River Festival</b><br>WV-A1<br>WV-W5<br>WV-C2   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver 'Woods &amp; Trees' theme Festival 5<sup>th</sup> May – 20<sup>th</sup> May 2018 with funding from SDF, England &amp; Wales Arts Council, Forestry Commission, Foresters' Forest, Environment Agency and other contributors &amp; sponsors.</li> <li>• Manage and maintain <a href="http://www.wyevalleyriverfestival.org.uk">www.wyevalleyriverfestival.org.uk</a> website.</li> <li>• Complete all claims and evaluations</li> <li>• Carry out review of 3 Festivals to date and future prospects</li> <li>• Prepare tenders for subsequent Festivals</li> </ul> | <p>The Wye Valley River Festival 2018 attracted 32,500 visits to 30 events at 25 different venues, 2 world premieres were performed on the first day of the Festival.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 27 meetings with community/partners to facilitate Festival delivered</li> <li>• Feedback Rated 'good' or 'very good':<br/>                     98% for the 'overall visitor experience'<br/>                     92% for the 'Quality of the art work programmed'<br/>                     70% "Learnt more about the Wye Valley Landscape",<br/>                     70% "Been inspired to visit the countryside more" and</li> </ul> |

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|   |   | <p>65% “Learnt more about woods and trees” which was the theme of the Festival.<br/>Full evaluation report available</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CLO attended Great outdoors conference for arts in Wales to network and build partnerships.</li> <li>• CLO speaker at Inside Out conference Dorset</li> <li>• WVRF awarded Bowland Award at NAAONB’s conference</li> <li>• Governance, finance, demographics study in progress</li> <li>• 2020 theme selected and R&amp;D to commence 31/01/19</li> </ul>  |
| <b>MindSCAPE – Foresters’ Forest</b><br>HLF funding 2018 - 2022<br>WV-W5<br>WV-C2<br>WV-P9              | <p>HLF initiative enabling people living with dementia to reconnect with the landscape, through arts and creative environmental activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manage project and submit reports &amp; claims</li> <li>• Supervise contractor organising regular creative sessions, workshops and social activities at appropriate sites for participants.</li> <li>• Develop opportunities to expand project into other areas</li> </ul>                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BIG Lottery funded mindSCAPE project completed and fully claimed in September 2018. All outcomes achieved.</li> <li>• Fortnightly activities continue to run through Arts Council Funding (project now lead by Artspace Cinderford – AONB a project partner).</li> <li>• 10 mindSCAPE sessions delivered in Care Homes through Foresters Forest funded project.</li> <li>• Community and Care Home Resource Guide produced and distributed.</li> <li>• Annual mindSCAPE report published and project evaluation commissioned and produced.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Youth Rangers – Foresters’ Forest</b><br>WV-F4<br>WV-C2<br>WV-P6                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue structured programme of activity for 4<sup>th</sup> Cohort of young people (14-16 year olds) that will increase their skill set in landscape and heritage conservation and management.</li> <li>• Develop next phase of scheme to continue opportunities of engaging young people in conservation and heritage</li> </ul>   | <p>10 outings<br/>           5 promotional events in school<br/>           1 radio interview<br/>           1 press release<br/>           Social media promotion<br/>           4 volunteers support this activity plus CLO &amp; numerous partners</p>   |
| <b>Website and social media</b><br>WV-C2<br>WV-A1   | <p>Update and manage websites and social networking sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://www.wyevalleyaonb.org.uk">www.wyevalleyaonb.org.uk</a> (including <a href="http://www.overlookingthewye.org.uk">www.overlookingthewye.org.uk</a>)</li> <li>• <a href="http://www.wyevalleywalk.org">www.wyevalleywalk.org</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://www.wyevalleyriverfestival.org.uk">www.wyevalleyriverfestival.org.uk</a></li> <li>• Facebook and Twitter.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Google rating of ‘Wye Valley AONB’ remains at 4.7 (out of 5) from over 4,000 reviews.</li> <li>• Website refurbishment continued off-line.</li> </ul>   |

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| <b>Public Relations &amp; Outreach</b><br>WV-C2<br>WV-E4<br>WV-A1                                       | Promote the AONB through <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>regular on-line editions of the AONB newsletter, 'Picturesque' to provide information and interpretation to increase subscribers' awareness and appreciation of the AONB</li> <li>Guided walks, events, children's activities and countryside craft /rural skills courses in and around the AONB</li> <li>Give talks/presentations to local groups</li> <li>Regular press releases and magazine articles / advertorial</li> <li>Stands at the Monmouthshire Show, Herefordshire Country Fair and other relevant shows.</li> <li>Local exhibitions and other local appropriate / prestigious events.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DO gave conservation career talk to 2 year groups in Ashfield Park Primary School.</li> <li>AONBM gave talks to 5 community groups and presentations at 6 seminars &amp; conferences.</li> <li>CLO 6 guided walks/talks variety groups / walking Festivals/Refugees event INeed in Monmouth</li> <li>AONB stand at Monmouthshire Show and Open Farm Sunday at Pentwyn Nature Reserve.</li> <li>Press release put out for launch of Farming Awards, and announcement of winner.</li> <li>Wye Valley AONB Map &amp; Guide distributed regionally through 'Pear Communications'</li> <li>Lower Wye Catchments project Officer gave talk to Gwent Wildlife Trust Local Wildlife Sites events day about the project and Natural Flood Management.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Undergrounding</b><br>WV-U2<br>WV-P4   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue working with Western Power to identify power-lines within the AONB suitable for undergrounding</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development Officer has attended 6 Powerline undergrounding meetings (3 Wales, 3 England).</li> <li>2 Undergrounding schemes in South Wales completed, undergrounding 2km of powerlines. 3 additional schemes approved for undergrounding by steering groups. Further 2 schemes in development.</li> <li>DO attended WPD stakeholder event.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Wye Valley Walk</b><br>WV-S1<br>WV-S2<br>WV-R1<br>WV-P5  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support Wye Valley Walk Partnership</li> <li>Monitor counters along Walk</li> <li>Manage route promotion, website and Passport scheme</li> <li>Facilitate future options for Lydbrook &amp; Redbrook Bridge (in combination with campaign for Tintern Wireworks Bridge)</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Counter data collated; usage of the Wye Valley Walk (WVW) continues to rise.</li> <li>120 requests for WVW info during 2018 &amp; 15 passport certificates issued in 2018</li> <li>Satisfaction levels from feedback maintained.</li> <li>Feedback shows concerns about physical infrastructure (waymarking etc, passport stamping locations vandalized/ broken/ nonexistent and route direction) but overall people love the walk</li> <li>Wye Valley Walk Partnership meets regularly.</li> <li>Increased usage of <a href="http://www.wyevalleywalk.org/">http://www.wyevalleywalk.org/</a></li> </ul>   |

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| <b>Offa's Dyke Collaboratory</b><br><i>WV-H1</i><br><i>WV-H3</i><br><i>WV-P5</i>                                       | Collaborate with opportunities for cross border partnership projects along the corridor of Offa's Dyke, promoting archaeological projects and investigation into landscape significance of the 8 <sup>th</sup> century monument   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AONBM contributed to and provided technical assistance at 3 Offa's Dyke Collaboratory events (Chepstow, Knighton &amp; Oswestry)</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Overlooking the Wye legacy</b><br><i>WV-H1</i><br><i>WV-H3</i><br><i>WV-P5</i>                                      | Continue to develop heritage & Community projects as part of the legacy of the Overlooking the Wye Landscape Partnership Scheme   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lancut &amp; Spital Meend Archaeological Investigations projects progressed with Forest of Dean Buildings Preservation Trust, including open meetings in Chepstow. AONB staff attended the meetings.</li> <li>AONBM liaised with new philanthropic owner of Piercefield Wood and led 2 walks with owner, Woodland Trust and Gwent Wildlife Trust.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Partnerships (local / regional)</b><br><i>WV-R2</i><br><i>WV-P3</i><br><i>WV-P5</i><br><i>WV-P6</i><br><i>WV-P7</i> | Influence & attend partnerships as appropriate; eg: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wye Valley &amp; Forest of Dean Destination Management Partnership</li> <li>Visit Herefordshire Leisure and Recreation Forum.</li> <li>Local Nature Partnership (LNP) in Herefordshire and Gloucestershire</li> <li>Wye Catchment Partnership</li> <li>Wye Navigation Advisory Committee (WyeNAC)</li> <li>Monmouthshire Environment Partnership</li> <li>Herefordshire Wildlife Link</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DO sits on Herefordshire meadows network steering group, helping to direct the work of this facilitation funded group. 3 meetings attended, 5 events also attended.</li> <li>DO organises and facilitates the AONB Woodland Management Projects group which meets twice a year to discuss and develop woodland management opportunities. 1 meeting and 1 group site visit organised.</li> <li>CLO assist with Future Generations education info gathering with fire brigade</li> <li>DO attended 2 Wye Catchment Partnership meetings, and 1 NFM sub group meeting.</li> <li>AONBM attended WyeNAC and contributed to low flow PR task group</li> <li>AONBM attended 3 Lower Wye Internal Drainage District Advisory Group meetings</li> </ul> |
| <b>Collaboration (Designated Landscapes)</b><br><i>WV-P5</i><br><i>WV-P9</i>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attend National Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (NAAONB) and Europarc seminars &amp; events</li> <li>Work with Welsh Government and Wales Designated Landscapes in taking Future Landscapes Wales Programme forward</li> <li>Work with NAAONB &amp; English AONBs on '21<sup>st</sup> Century Hobhouse Review' of National Parks &amp; AONBs in UK Government's 'A Green Future - 25 Year Environment Plan'.</li> </ul>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AONBM contributed to NAAONB Senior Leaders Group on Future Landscapes - Taking the Lead and Sustainability &amp; Governance Review</li> <li>AONBM &amp; CLO attended &amp; spoke at NAAONB Landscapes for Life Conference.</li> <li>AONBM also contributed to AGM &amp; Chairpersons' Conference and attended AONB Lead Officers' meeting.</li> <li>AONBM co-ordinated JAC Task Group and submitted response to Call for Evidence of Glover 'Review of Designated Landscapes in England'.</li> <li>DO has attended a number of NAAONB events</li> </ul>  |

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|   |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Landscape Enhancement Initiative workshop organised by National Grid</li> <li>○ Delivering more for biodiversity workshop</li> <li>○ 5 Taking the lead workshops + CLO</li> <li>○ Making Local Woods Work event hosted by Dorset AONB</li> <li>● CLO contributed to Glover Review info sharing meeting on volunteering</li> <li>● AONBM hosted Sarah Mukherjee visit &amp; attended Meeting with Julian Glover</li> <li>● The Designated Landscapes in Wales collectively published the Scenic Wales calendar 2019.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Governance</b><br><i>WV-P1</i><br><i>WV-P2</i>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Service and set agendas for JAC, TOWP and Steering Group</li> <li>● Monitor implementation of 'Principles of Good Governance for Designated Landscapes' as outlined in Future Landscapes: Delivering for Wales'.</li> <li>● Prepare grant bids and claims for Natural Resources Wales and Defra, and other funding bodies as required.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 3 full JAC meetings held, 2<sup>nd</sup> July &amp; 5<sup>th</sup> November 2018 &amp; 4<sup>th</sup> March 2019, preceded by TOWP meetings on 6<sup>th</sup> June &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct 2018 &amp; 6<sup>th</sup> Feb 2019,</li> <li>● AONB Annual report presented to JAC in July 2018</li> <li>● AONB Steering Group held on 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct 2018 &amp; 6<sup>th</sup> Feb 2019, with AONB Unit budgets and spend profile presented and scrutinised.</li> <li>● All bids and claims submitted on time.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Funding and resources</b><br><i>WV-P1</i><br><i>WV-P2</i><br><i>WV-P3</i>                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Continue investigating funding and development opportunities.</li> <li>● Investigation into external funding and securing resources for strategic and partnership projects</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 1 funded project developed and funding secured – Lower Wye Valley NFM &amp; GI project. £68,175 of NRW funding secured. Project Officer employed October 2018.</li> <li>● AONBM &amp; DO prepared Water Environment Grant (WEG) bid with Wye &amp; Usk Foundation and Herefordshire Wildlife Trust, to deliver farm advice and floodplain grassland restoration work.</li> <li>● AONBM responded to HLF queries about £1.7M Lydbrook Bridge HLF Heritage Grant bid written &amp; submitted by AONBM on behalf of Gloucestershire County Council &amp; Herefordshire Council.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Work placements</b><br><i>WV-P5</i><br><i>WV-P9</i>  | <p>Support the needs of student placements/group projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Investigate new under-graduate and post-graduate research opportunities</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 1 Work experience opportunity provided for a recent graduate. Topic research carried out for website.</li> <li>● AONB hosted visit from Liverpool University postgraduate planners, looking at mitigation and NFM project work.</li> </ul>  |
|   |  |  |