

NAAONB UPDATE

Purpose

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

FOR INFORMATION

Key Issues

- The national 'Landscapes for Life' Conference 2022 was held at Lancaster University in mid September attended by most of the AONB team.
- AONB Lead Officers have met on-line regularly to debate issues including the forthcoming Government response to the Glover Landscape Review.
- The NAAONB has recruited a new part-time Collaboration and National Partnerships Lead to liaise with DEFRA over development of a Landscapes, Parks & Trails Partnership.
- The NAAONB AGM and national AONBs Chairpersons' will be held on-line on 17th November, with the topic "Green Finance – What is it? What isn't it? And what potential does it hold for AONBs?"

Landscapes for Life Conference July 2022

The NAAONB Conference return to a fully residential event, hosted by northern AONB in Lancaster University. The theme was 'The Nation's Landscapes? Peoples and Places'. Six members of the AONB Unit attended (travelling up in a hired People Carrier with an additional officer from Welsh Government). The conference focused on Engagement, in its widest sense. There was a wide range of speakers challenging AONB partnerships to engage more fully with and embrace more widely the diversity of the British public. Keynote speakers included Natalie Querol, Arts Council England; Amy-Jane Beer, Right to Roam; Anita Kerwin-Nye, YHA; Dr Geeta Ludhra, Brunel University London and The Chilterns AONB; Anjana Khatwa, Trustee, NAAONB; Siôn McGeever, DEFRA and Colin Stocker, Alpkit UK. There was also a variety of field trips and plenty of opportunity to network and meet staff and members from other AONBs across England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The Conference Programme is available here:

<https://landscapesforlife.org.uk/events/landscapes-life-conference/landscapes-life-conference2022>

Lead Officers' Meetings & Glover Review

The NAAONB met on-line regularly with Lead Officers to discuss the Government's response to the Glover Landscape Review, due later this year. The key message from the Glover Review was that Protected Landscapes (AONBs & National Parks) need a renewed mission to fulfil their potential to deliver for people, place and nature and need the best possible purposes, powers, governance, ambition and resources to make that happen. Officers also debated further the opportunities and implications of Glover's "Proposal 24: AONBs strengthened with new purposes, powers and resources, renamed as National Landscapes". It was widely recognised that this should be seen as a package, with a new name being commensurate with new purposes, powers and resources. Consequently the NAAONB has published 'National Landscape: The designation for the 21st Century and beyond – Delivering for Nature, Climate and People' (see <https://landscapesforlife.org.uk/designation/>). This has been presented to the DEFRA Landscapes team to use in conversations with the Secretary of State.

The new part-time NAAONB Collaboration and National Partnerships Lead officer will also be liaising with DEFRA over the Glover proposals to develop a National Landscape Service. This is currently anticipated to be a Landscapes, Parks & Trails Partnership, encompassing AONBs (potentially rebranded as National Landscapes), National Parks and National Trails.

Chairperson's conference & AGM, on-line, 17th Nov.

The NAAONB is organising a Chair-level conference for AONBs and National Parks on 17th November. The title of this year's conference is 'Green Finance – What is it? What isn't it? And what potential does it hold for AONBs?'. The purpose is to create a better shared understanding of what green finance is, the opportunities it could present and look at how best we might go about engaging with green finance, underpinned by sound principles and standards in order to uphold our values. Presenters include DEFRA Green Finance team; Paul Cottington, Head of Conservation Investment, RSPB; Naomi Conway and Emma Davies, Revere; and various Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund (NEIRF) projects. The NAAONB AGM will follow the conference.

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