

TECHNICAL OFFICERS'  
WORKING PARTY REPORT

WYE VALLEY AONB  
JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
6<sup>th</sup> March 2017

## **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR AONBs**

### ***Purpose***

To update members on recent and proposed activity of the National Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (NAAONB).

FOR INFORMATION

### ***Key Issues***

- Andrew Blake, AONB Manager, represented the JAC in November 2016 at the National Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (NAAONB) Annual General Meeting and the National Parks & AONB Chairmen's Conference, in London.
- The main topic for discussion at the Chairmen's Conference was the implication of Brexit for Protected Landscapes.
- The NAAONB Strategic Plan 2016-2020 is published
- The 2016 Annual Report for the AONB Family is published and includes 3 case studies from the Wye Valley AONB.
- The AONB Manager also attended the AONB Lead Officers' meeting in Birmingham in February.
- The dates for the next national AONB 'Landscapes for Life' Conference are 18<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> July 2017 in Winchester.
- Outstanding Week 2017 is scheduled for 16<sup>th</sup> -24<sup>th</sup> September.

### ***Reasons***

The NAAONB is the charity that 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 Trustees 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***

#### **National Parks & AONB Chairmen's Conference**

The Landscapes for Life Chairmen's meeting attracted over 60 Chairmen and Lead Officers from the UK's Designated Landscapes. Under discussion was Landscape post Brexit with three keynote speakers: Professor Dieter Helm, Dr Vince Holyoak & Dr Victoria Jenkins. They spoke respectively about the implications of Brexit; on British Agricultural Policy; legislation affecting the historic environment; on environmental law.

In the afternoon discussion opened to the floor and some of the key issues that have been highlighted as the UK proceeds towards Brexit were discussed. Participants then identified 11 key themes that could be progressed by the Designated Landscapes individually and collectively over the coming months to address these key issues. The NAAONB team undertook to distil these themes into short proposals. These were discussed further, along with other things, at the AONB Lead Officers' meeting in Birmingham in February.

#### Strategic Plan 2016-2020

The NAAONB Strategic Plan 2016-2020 is available to view at:-

<http://www.landscapesforlife.org.uk/images/Strategic-Plan-2016-2020.pdf>

#### Annual Report

The 2016 Annual Report for the AONB Family is available from the link below. The document includes 3 case studies from the Wye Valley AONB:

Landscapes for Nature - Wye Valley AONB LEMUR+ Phase 1 Habitat Survey (page 4)

Landscapes for People - Wye Valley AONB mindSCAPE (page 6)

Landscapes for Culture - Wye Valley AONB St James Church, Lancaut (page 9)

<http://www.landscapesforlife.org.uk/images/Annual-Report-2016-FINAL.pdf>

#### AGM

The agenda and papers are available from the link below

<http://www.landscapesforlife.org.uk/images/NAAONB-AGM-Papers-Nov2016.pdf>

#### Landscapes for Life Conference 18<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup> July 2017

The annual National AONB 'Landscapes for Life' Conference (L4L2017) will take place in Winchester. Delegates will learn about experiences and results of change through engagement with external organisations - public, third sector and corporate and share ideas on the most efficient and effective methods of change with the intention of inspiring and leading our Partnerships to make the changes necessary to provide a robust and sustainable future for our outstanding landscapes.

#### Outstanding Week

The AONB Family's inaugural 'Outstanding Week', coordinated by the NAAONB took place September 2015. This was repeated in 2016 and plans are already underway for Outstanding Week 2017. Outstanding Week is a programme of events to help people enjoy and be inspired by the UK's AONBs. Activities and events in virtually all the AONBs are highlighted through a national campaign that promotes the value and relevance of AONBs to both the UK's economy, and the nation's health and wellbeing. For more information see [www.landscapesforlifeevents.org.uk](http://www.landscapesforlifeevents.org.uk)

#### ***Background***

The National Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (NAAONB) is the charity (Number 1158871) 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.