

# Management Plan

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# Management Plan

## Foreword

‘the Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000 placed a statutory duty on local authorities to prepare a plan for AONBs in their areas’

### Foreword

As Chairman of the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Joint Advisory Committee (JAC), I am pleased to introduce this Management Plan for the Forest of Bowland AONB. The Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000 placed a statutory duty on local authorities to prepare a plan for AONBs in their areas. In addition the CRoW Act also places a duty on public bodies and others, to have regard to the special purposes of the AONB designation.

The Forest of Bowland AONB management planning process has aimed to be as inclusive and efficient as possible whilst fulfilling the statutory obligation. The AONB partnership of 60 organisations as well as individual stakeholders have guided the production of the Management Plan. A smaller Partnership Management Group consisting of the relevant local authorities and the Countryside Agency was created specifically to guide the process of producing the management plan and to assure that all views received consideration.

The previous non-statutory management plan ‘The Action Plan 2000-2010’ was subject to public consultation before publication in 1999. Therefore, given the success of the previous document in guiding the management of the AONB and the desire expressed by the local community for continued project delivery rather than further detailed strategic policy consultation, it was decided to take advantage of the option afforded by the CRoW Act 2000 to review the previous non-statutory document rather than start afresh.

This management plan describes the special qualities of the AONB, which contribute to the national significance of the landscape. It identifies the major trends and opportunities for the area and presents a vision for the Forest of Bowland AONB in 2014, the 50th Anniversary of its formal designation. The document provides a policy framework and identifies a five year programme of actions (April 2004 – March 2009) to help guide the work of the AONB partnership organisations towards achieving the purpose of this plan – to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the Forest of Bowland landscape.

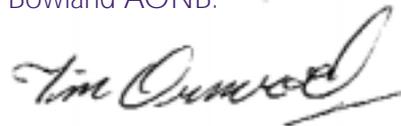
# Management Plan

## Foreword

‘it is as much for those individuals, who live, work and enjoy the AONB as for local authorities, statutory agencies and voluntary organisations who comprise the AONB partnership’

The document itself is a strategy document by and for the AONB partnership, but it has been written to reach the largest audience possible. It is as much for those individuals, who live, work and enjoy the AONB as for local authorities, statutory agencies and voluntary organisations who comprise the AONB partnership. On behalf of the Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) I would like to thank all those organisations and individuals who have contributed to the production of this management plan. Together we will report to all stakeholders the progress made to implement the programme of actions and achieve the vision for the Forest of Bowland AONB.

I therefore welcome the opportunity to recommend this Management Plan to all stakeholders involved in conserving and enhancing the landscape of the Forest of Bowland AONB.



*County Councillor Tim Ormrod  
~ Joint Advisory Committee Chairman*

# Management Plan

Part A ~ Strategy  
Section One ~ Setting the Scene

Map 1 The Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



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# Management Plan

## Part A ~ Strategy Section One ~ Setting the Scene

‘the Forest of Bowland AONB is situated in North West England covering 803 square kilometres of rural land in the counties of Lancashire (730 sq.km.) and Yorkshire’

In 1964, the Forest of Bowland was formally confirmed by Government as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The area was designated as a landscape of national significance due to a variety of factors: the grandeur and isolation of the upland core, the steep escarpments of the Moorland Hills, the undulating lowlands, the visual contrasts between each element of the overall landscape, the serenity and tranquillity of the area, the distinctive pattern of settlements, the wildlife of the area and the landscape's historic and cultural associations.

The Forest of Bowland AONB is situated in North West England covering 803 square kilometres of rural land in the counties of Lancashire (730 sq.km.) and Yorkshire (73 sq.km.) (see Map 1). The area is 32 kilometres in diameter and is bounded to the north and south by the Rivers Lune and Ribble respectively. To the west is the Fylde plain and the eastern side of the AONB boundary matches the Yorkshire Dales National Park for a short distance and Ribblesdale bounds the rest. On its south-eastern edge, Pendle Hill forms a discrete topographic outlier geologically linked to the main upland block of the AONB but separated from the main area by the valley of the River Ribble. The Forest of Bowland AONB is an area of national and international significance because of its unspoiled and richly diverse landscapes and wildlife.

The AONB is bereft of large settlements and has an estimated total population of approximately 16000<sup>1</sup>. The village of Dunsop Bridge within the Forest of Bowland AONB is said to be the nearest village to the centre of the British Isles<sup>2</sup>. The area includes parts of six district/city council areas: Lancaster, Pendle, Ribble Valley, Wyre, Craven and Preston. The urban centres of Preston, Lancaster, Blackburn and Burnley are in close proximity to the AONB, meaning over one million people are within a 30-minute journey of the area. Furthermore, the AONB is within a 90-minute journey of the major conurbations of Liverpool, Manchester and Leeds.

An area defined as an AONB is a precious landscape whose distinctive character and natural beauty are so outstanding that it is in the nation's interest to safeguard them. There are currently, in the year 2003, forty-one AONBs constituting 15% or 20,000 square kilometres of England and Wales.

‘the Forest of Bowland AONB is an area of national and international significance because of its unspoiled and richly diverse landscapes and wildlife’

<sup>1</sup> Based on ONS Census 2001 data  
<sup>2</sup> If based on the grid reference that includes the 401 islands around the coast. It's SD 64188.3 56541.43, which puts it at Whitendale Hanging Stones on the hills seven kilometres north of Dunsop Bridge  
([http://www.bbc.co.uk/lancashire/the\\_knowledge/2002/09/16/britain.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/lancashire/the_knowledge/2002/09/16/britain.shtml))

# Management Plan

## Part A ~ Strategy Section One ~ Setting the Scene

‘an area defined as an AONB is a precious landscape whose distinctive character and natural beauty are so outstanding that it is in the nation’s interest to safeguard them’

The Countryside Agency, the organisation responsible for designation of AONBs, currently identifies the following objectives for AONBs<sup>3</sup>:

- The primary purpose of AONB designation is to conserve and enhance natural beauty;
- In pursuing the primary objective of designation account should be taken of the needs of agriculture, forestry, other rural industries and of the economic and social needs of local communities. Particular regard should be paid to promoting sustainable forms of social and economic development that in themselves conserve and enhance the environment;
- Recreation will not be an objective of designation but the demand for recreation should be met so far as this is consistent with the conservation of natural beauty and the needs of agriculture, forestry and other uses<sup>4</sup>.

AONBs were originally designated using the same Act of Parliament as National Parks: National Parks and Access to the Countryside (1949) Act. One of the key differences between AONBs and National Parks is that AONBs do not have an authoritative body specific to the area with planning and development control functions as well as other executive powers. Another key difference between AONBs and National

Parks is the divergence in purpose of designation, which is focussed predominantly on natural beauty conservation and enhancement whereas National Parks have a broader remit:

Purposes of National Parks as set out in the Environment Act (1995):

- Conserve and enhance natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of National Parks
- Promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the National Parks by the public

In pursuing the statutory purposes, National Park Authorities have a duty to:

- Seek to foster the economic and social well-being of local communities within the National Park by working closely with the agencies and local authorities responsible for these matters, but without incurring significant expenditure.

<sup>3</sup> CA24 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty – A guide for AONB partnership members

<sup>4</sup> Conservation Boards established via the mechanism of the CROW Act 2000 will have the additional purpose of increasing the understanding and enjoyment by the public of the special qualities of the AONB. Although not a conservation board The Forest of Bowland Joint Advisory Committee decided that it would adopt and seek to work towards this additional purpose.

# Management Plan

## Part A ~ Strategy Section One ~ Setting the Scene

‘the ‘natural beauty’  
that is protected by  
AONB designation, is  
more than the ‘look’  
of the landscape of  
AONBs’

The ‘natural beauty’ that is protected by AONB designation, is more than the ‘look’ of the landscape of AONBs. The Countryside Agency guidance CA23 “Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plans – A Guide” offers the following definition:

“‘Natural Beauty’ is not just an aesthetic concept, and ‘Landscape’ means more than just ‘scenery’. The statutory definition of ‘Natural Beauty’ includes flora, fauna and geological and physiographic features. The natural beauty of AONBs is partly due to nature, and is partly the product of many centuries of human modification of ‘natural’ features. Landscape encompasses everything – ‘natural’ and human – that makes an area distinctive: geology, climate, soil, plants, animals, communities, archaeology, buildings, the people who live in it, past and present, and perceptions of those who visit it.”

The incorporation of human influence within the definition is important; as all AONB landscapes are the result of human activity. Therefore, it is important to recognise the importance of human activity within the confines of the definition, so that communities can be sustained and the stewardship of the land that contributed to the ‘natural beauty’ of the area can continue.

The definition of Natural Beauty is not temporally specific. Areas designated due to their ‘natural beauty’ will probably change in terms of activities and processes undertaken within the area. The purposes of AONB designation reflect this process of change; encouraging activities that conserve and enhance the special qualities of the area and minimise activities that present a threat to the special character.

### The AONB Partnership

The majority of land in AONBs is privately owned and used for agricultural purposes although the use of AONBs for leisure and tourism is increasing in importance. Landowners and farmers are to a large extent unrestricted in how they decide to use the land with the notable exception of land designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), as most of the Bowland Fells are affording legal protection of the wildlife and geological features on that land. Therefore, the co-operation of those involved in agriculture, recreational industries and development is vital to the management of AONBs. Most AONB management planning needs to be done by encouragement through effective partnership working and not enforcement.

# Management Plan

## Part A ~ Strategy Section One ~ Setting the Scene

'a Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) is the advisory body for the Forest of Bowland AONB that provides regular liaison between the range of organisations and interests in the AONB'

The governmentally endorsed management planning procedure where multiple local authorities and other interests are involved is the formation of an AONB Joint Advisory Committee. A Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) is the advisory body for the Forest of Bowland AONB that provides regular liaison between the range of organisations and interests in the AONB. The JAC was constituted in 1986 and the current membership comprises the following organisations:

- Lancashire County Council
- North Yorkshire County Council
- Craven District Council
- Lancaster City Council
- Pendle Borough Council
- Preston City Council
- Ribble Valley Borough Council
- Wyre Borough Council

- Lancashire Association of Parish and Town Councils
- Yorkshire Local Councils Association
- The Countryside Agency
- United Utilities plc
- Environment Agency
- English Nature
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
- Forest of Bowland Landowning and Farming Advisory Group
- North West Federation for Sport Recreation and Conservation
- The Ramblers Association
- Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs
- North West Development Agency

# Management Plan

## Part A ~ Strategy Section One ~ Setting the Scene

‘the Forest of  
Bowland AONB  
benefits from  
dedicated staff  
resources’

The Bowland Joint Advisory Committee partnership exists to:

- Protect, conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the Forest of Bowland AONB.
- Promote the sustainable social and economic development of the area, particularly where such activity conserves and enhances the environment.
- Encourage enjoyment of the area where it is consistent with the first two objectives.

The Forest of Bowland AONB benefits from dedicated staff resources to co-ordinate and deliver AONB policies and proposals:

- The AONB Officer provides the co-ordination and management of the partnership, develops and oversees strategic projects and plays a key role in fund raising and awareness raising.
- The Assistant AONB Officer progresses key strategic projects outlined within the Action Plan.
- The Publicity and Information Officer promotes awareness of the AONB and AONB partnership, driving forward a strong image and profile.

- Three Lancashire Countryside Service Officers operate in the area, two of which are dedicated almost entirely to the AONB and the third covers a significant area of the AONB along with areas outside. The Countryside Officers are involved in a broad range of service delivery and project development, provide an advisory service, attract funding and provide key links with farmers and landowners in the area. Wyre Borough Council also operate a Countryside Service with Countryside Rangers involved in a range of project development and service delivery throughout Wyre Borough, including the Forest of Bowland AONB. Other AONB partner organisations also provide a delivery service for agreed actions e.g. English Nature, The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester & North Merseyside, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Local landowners and farmers, United Utilities, Foresters, users working with landowners and the local community maintain land and buildings.
- Parish Lengthsmen operate within the AONB parishes of: Caton, Hornby, Sabden, Goldshaw Booth, Wiswell, Pendleton, Roughlee Booth, Bolton-by-Bowland & Gisburn Forest, West Bradford and Sawley. The Parish Lengthsmen carry out small scale environmental improvement and maintenance tasks on behalf of and working with the local community.

# Management Plan

## Part A ~ Strategy Section One ~ Setting the Scene

‘a strong volunteer  
ranger service  
operates in the  
AONB’

‘the role of the Forest  
of Bowland AONB  
management plan is  
to provide positive  
and pro-active  
management’

- A strong, full time and volunteer ranger service operates in the AONB, focussing primarily on access and visitor management in the AONB's honeypots and access areas.

A Partnership Management Group (PMG) of officers from the key funding partners (the local authorities and the Countryside Agency) meets regularly with the AONB Unit and provides the JAC with support. The PMG considers budget and policy issues, as well as monitoring the allocation of grants from the AONB Project Fund. An Officers' Technical Committee comprising a wider group of officers from AONB partner organisations (statutory and non-statutory) meets, normally one month ahead of the JAC, to consider items for presentation to the subsequent JAC meeting. The Officers' Technical Committee purpose is to provide technical and professional advice and assistance to the JAC in fulfilling its obligations.

### **The AONB Management Plan**

As a nationally important landscape, The Forest of Bowland AONB experiences a variety of management pressures on its landscape such as changing demands on agricultural land, a variety of environmental factors, telecommunication and energy infrastructure, tourism facilities and the need to develop a sustainable diversification of the rural economy.

The Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan seeks to provide a strategic context within which the problems and opportunities that these pressures present are addressed and guided in a way that safeguards the national importance of the landscape.

The role of the Forest of Bowland AONB management plan is to provide positive and pro-active management; highlighting the special qualities of the designated area, the importance of the relevant landscape features and identifying those features which are vulnerable to change. Sustainable Development is the prominent theme within the AONB Management plan, in line with the government's Sustainable Development Strategy. The plan outlines an integrated vision for future development of the AONB based on the highest level of shared aspirations for the AONB, taking into account relevant international, national, regional and local policy objectives and presents policies (subsequently policies are referred to as 'objectives') specific to the AONB that will enable this vision to be pursued effectively and allocates responsibility for certain objectives to relevant partners in the plan. The management plan also details the process by which progress towards these targets will be assessed. All Management Plan policies will have regard to the context of the AONB concerning the surrounding geographical area.

# Management Plan

## Part A ~ Strategy Section One ~ Setting the Scene

‘in exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect, land in an area of outstanding natural beauty, a relevant authority shall have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area of outstanding natural beauty’

The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act (1949) facilitated planning protection of AONBs and gave local authorities conservation powers. However, there were no statutory duties placed on local authorities or other public bodies. The Forest of Bowland first published a statement of intent in 1985 to guide the work of the subsequently formed JAC and to be used as an informal aid to the planning and management of the Forest of Bowland AONB. The first management plan for the AONB was published in 1995. The Action Plan 2000-2010 was published in 1999 and succeeded the 1995 Management Plan in guiding the work of the JAC.

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CRoW) (2000) imposes upon the relevant planning authorities the statutory requirement to publish an AONB management plan that formulates policies for undertaking the management of the whole AONB and for carrying out functions relating to the entire area.

The CRoW Act (2000) Section 84 Subsection (4) states: ‘A local planning authority whose area consists of or includes the whole or any part of an area of outstanding natural beauty has power, subject to subsections (5) and (6), to take all such action as appears to them expedient for the accomplishment of the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area of outstanding natural beauty or so much of it as is included in their area’.

Section 85 Subsection (1) of the CRoW Act (2000) states that any Minister of the Crown, public bodies - a county council, county borough council, district council, parish council or community council, statutory undertakers or person holding public office should:

*‘In exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect, land in an area of outstanding natural beauty, a relevant authority shall have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area of outstanding natural beauty’.*

# Management Plan

## Part A ~ Strategy Section One ~ Setting the Scene

‘there are numerous plans and strategies that impact on the Forest of Bowland landscape, economy and community’

Section 89 Subsection (2) of the CRoW Act:  
*‘Subject to subsection (3), the relevant local authority in respect of an area of outstanding natural beauty shall, before the end of the period of three years beginning with whichever is the later of-’*

- a) the commencement of this section, or*
- b) the date on which the area is designated as an area of outstanding natural beauty*

*prepare and publish a plan which formulates their policy for the management of the area of outstanding natural beauty and for the carrying out of their functions in relation to it.*

Section 89 Subsection (5) of the CRoW Act:  
*‘A conservation board or relevant local authority may, instead of preparing a plan under subsection (1) or (2);-*

- a) review any plan for the management of the area of outstanding natural beauty which has been prepared before the commencement of this section-*
  - i) by a local authority, or*
  - ii) by a joint committee established by two or more local authorities, and*

- (b) adopt the plan as reviewed as their area of outstanding natural beauty management plan, and*
- (c) publish it under subsection (1) or (2) within the time required by that subsection.*

The option provided by Section 89 Subsection (5) of the CRoW Act was invoked by the Forest of Bowland JAC. The constituent local authorities for the Forest of Bowland agreed that the Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) would co-ordinate the review of the existing non-statutory Management Plan on their behalf. A schedule of consultees and their comments are included in Appendices 1 and 2. The inclusion/exclusion overarching rationale for comments on the various aspects of the management plan was a balance between the inspirational and pragmatism, agreed by all AONB partnership members. All the local authorities will have adopted the plan independently by 1 April 2004. The plan will be reviewed within five years of the date of publication and after the first review at intervals of no more than five years.

There are numerous plans and strategies that impact on the Forest of Bowland landscape, economy and community (see Appendix 3). These plans and strategies are formulated at a variety of levels: Nationally (e.g. Planning Policy Guidance Notes); Regionally (e.g. North West Regional Assembly Action for Sustainability framework); County (e.g. Structure Plans) and Local (e.g. District-wide Community Strategies). The Forest of Bowland management plan will consider all relevant policies and seek to integrate them within the management planning procedure where appropriate.

# Management Plan

## Part A ~ Strategy Section One ~ Setting the Scene

‘the important focus  
of the AONB  
Management Plan is  
the primary purpose  
to conserve and  
enhance the natural  
beauty of the Forest  
of Bowland’

In terms of development control, the Forest of Bowland AONB lies within areas covered by: Lancaster City Council, Pendle Borough Council, Ribble Valley Borough Council, Wyre Borough Council, Craven District Council and Preston City Council, who are responsible for local planning matters. The area is covered by Lancashire and North Yorkshire County Councils, who have responsibility for county-wide strategic planning issues, as well as minerals and waste planning. The formal plans that guide the day-to-day planning decisions taken by these Councils can be seen at the respective local council offices.

New development within the AONB that has a materially adverse impact can only proceed where it is demonstrated that it satisfies a national need. There is an expectation of restoration and aftercare should such uses cease. All development is expected to conform to a very high standard of design, local distinctiveness and whenever possible should be seeking to conserve and enhance the AONBs natural beauty.

The important focus of the AONB Management Plan and what will differentiate it from these other plans and strategies, is the primary purpose to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the Forest of Bowland. The Plan recognises however that this can only be achieved by having a regard to all the other plans and strategies.

The Management Plan is intended to complement these various strategies and plans, influencing their content and in turn helping to support and realise their policies for action within the context of the Forest of Bowland AONB as a whole.

### Environmental Context

#### **Description**

The Landscape Character Assessment for Lancashire, including the North Yorkshire area of the Forest of Bowland, identified the following landscape character areas within the Forest of Bowland AONB: Moorland Plateaux, Moorland Hills, Moorland Fringe, Undulating Lowland Farmland, Rolling Upland Farmland, Wooded Rural Valleys, Valley Floodplains Drumlin Field and Farmed Ridges.

# Management Plan

## Part A ~ Strategy

### Section One ~ Setting the Scene

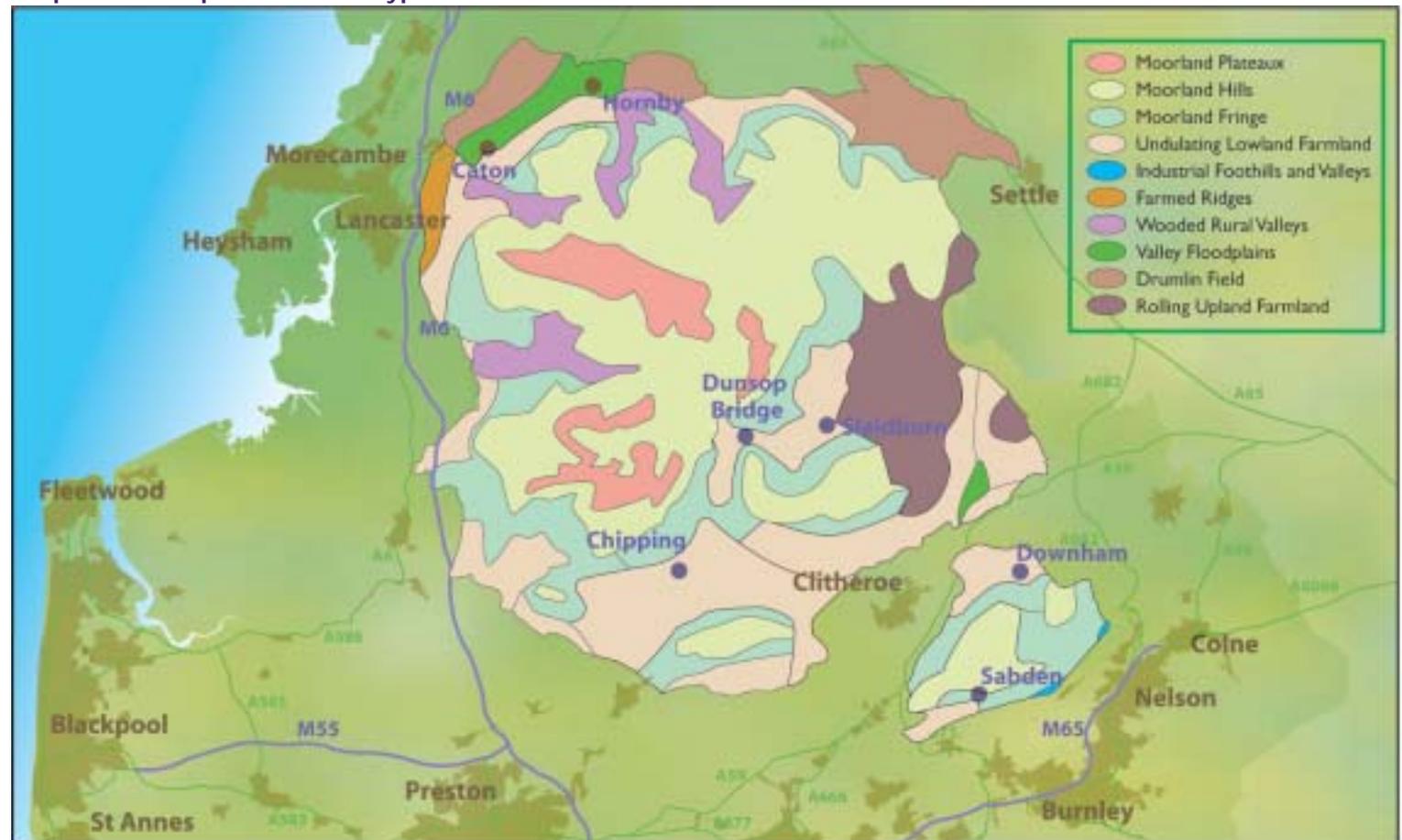
‘the colours of this landscape are generally muted, except for late summer and autumn when heather moorland provides expanses of colour’

The Moorland Plateaux, a large central upland core of exposed gritstone fells dominates the Forest of Bowland AONB landscape, offering uninterrupted views of the surrounding landscape. Rocks from the Carboniferous period (360-300 million years old) dominate the geology of the area. The harder more durable rock type of Millstone Grit comprises most of the Moorland Plateaux. This area represents the most remote and exposed landscape type in the area and is characterised by a gently-rolling platform. Trees are generally absent, landcover is predominantly blanket bog, some rock strata outcrops occur and a vegetation cover of moorland heath and grasses is typical. The colours of this landscape are generally muted, except for late summer and autumn when heather moorland provides expanses of colour. This Moorland Plateaux landscape is surrounded by the gentler Moorland Hills covered by vast tracts of heather-covered peat moorland, blanket bog and acid grassland. The upland areas of the fells comprise Millstone Grit whilst the lower undulating areas of Moorland Hills have been created by erosion of relatively softer rock types: shales and sandstone, to form a landscape comprising low scarps, valleys and cloughs which radiate from the moorland peaks.

# Management Plan

Part A ~ Strategy  
Section One ~ Setting the Scene

Map 2 Landscape Character Types within the Forest of Bowland AONB



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# Management Plan

## Part A ~ Strategy

### Section One ~ Setting the Scene

‘small, isolated hamlets and farmsteads provide focal points in this landscape’

These landscape features provide dramatic quality to this Moorland Hills landscape and are steeply incised and drained by fast flowing streams. Repeated glaciations of the whole AONB area during the Quaternary period (2 million years ago to the present day) have produced the smoothed, rounded outline of the fells. Tree cover is more prevalent with several broadleaved and coniferous woodland blocks, which in areas are geometric and unsympathetic to the landscape. Small, isolated hamlets and farmsteads provide focal points in this landscape, surrounded by a network of stone walls, which represent the upper limit for enclosure. However, most of the Moorland Hills lie above the upper limit of enclosure. Colours are generally muted but the moorland vegetation does create striking seasonal contrasts. The Trough of Bowland pass bisects this central upland core; to the north an east-west ridge of plateaux/moorland rises to the area's highest point at Wards Stone 560m above ordnance datum. To the south of the Trough of Bowland pass, the fell landscape rises to a summit of 510m at Fair Snape Fell. Also, included within the AONB designation is Pendle Hill, a distinctive outlier, south of Clitheroe rising to a summit of 557m above ordnance datum. Pendle Hill is a dramatic isolated hill shape, which appears like a huge dark upturned boat or whale's back.

The Moorland Fringe is a transitional landscape between the Moorland Hills and the lower level farmland. They generally occur above the 200m contour line throughout Bowland and are characterised by a rolling landscape of marginal pastures divided by stone walls of limestone or gritstone depending on the area's underlying geology. The predominant land use of the Moorland Fringe is sheep grazing and pastures have often been improved from semi-natural acidic, neutral or wet grassland. There is sparse tree cover and where it exists it is normally associated with farmsteads. Gorse is common along roadsides. Isolated stone farmsteads, workers cottages and sparse linear settlements are prominent landscape features. The landscape is one of greater diversity of landform, colour and texture. Parts of the Moorland Fringe have been influenced by its proximity to centres of population and industry in the industrial foothills and valleys fringing the south side of Pendle Hill and the Lancashire plain to the west of the Bowland Fells. Reservoirs are a feature of these areas, some with Victorian stone detailing and associated conifer plantations.

Between the Moorland Fringes and Valley Floodplains lies the Undulating Lowland Farmland landscape. This lowland landscape is transversed by deeply incised, wooded cloughs and gorges. Hedgerows predominant over drystone walls within a wider tapestry of copses, farm woodlands and

# Management Plan

## Part A ~ Strategy Section One ~ Setting the Scene

‘the landscape also contains picturesque village settlements’

hedgerow trees. The landscape also contains picturesque village settlements and out with these clustered settlements a high density of farms and scattered cottages, linked by a network of minor roads. The outcropping of limestone strata creates distinctive landscape features called ‘reef knolls’, often crowned by stands of beech, which are characteristic of this landscape in the south part of the AONB, particularly the Hodder valley. Coniferous plantations are prominent in the landscape of the upper Hodder valley.

The Rolling Upland farmland landscape east of Slaidburn contains the significant coniferous plantations of Gisburn Forest, which are associated with the catchment area of Stocks Reservoir, by far the largest body of water within the AONB. This is a soft, rolling pastoral landscape with large scale pastures, winding narrow roads and a continuous network of dry stone walls. Moorland grasses cover the higher summits and there are stunted hawthorns and gorse on roadsides and the steeper hillsides. Rocky limestone knolls, which often support stands of beech are important features, which provide reference points in the rolling landform. Scattered stone farmsteads with tightly grouped buildings are the dominant settlement type.

Deeply incised and heavily-wooded rural valleys radiate out north-westwards from the central upland core of the Forest of Bowland. The dramatic valley profiles have been formed by the erosive action of fast flowing rivers cascading through rocky gorges and channels. The secluded, humid environments of the Rural Wooded Valleys are a stark contrast to the open moorland and support for a wide variety of flora and fauna. Ancient woodland is interspersed with conifer plantations on steep valley sides. Small settlements are clustered at river crossings and stone mills and bridges are testament to historic use of the fast-flowing channels for power. The majority of farmed land occurs above the level of the wooded valley sides; pastures are sheep grazed and the land divided by gritstone walls. A few pastures and meadows survive within the valleys and a network of minor, winding roads dip in and out of the valleys. Gravel extraction in the Wyre valley has produced a unique mosaic of open water and woodland, which, although picturesque, is alien to the natural landscape of the area.

# Management Plan

## Part A ~ Strategy Section One ~ Setting the Scene

‘the floodplains remain predominantly unpopulated and most settlements are on the edge of the floodplain landscape’

The Valley Floodplain landscapes of the River Lune on the northern edge of the AONB and the River Ribble between the southern edge of the main AONB area and the Pendle Hill outlier are pastoral landscapes characterised by the meandering course of the river, eroded bluffs and terraces. The edges of the floodplain are frequently defined by steep wooded banks. The valley floors, which contain glacial deposits of sand and gravel, are subject to periodic flooding, and the rich alluvial drift deposits support fertile grazing for cattle and sheep. Large field sizes predominant on the floodplain and boundaries are defined by post and wire fencing, hedgerows and stone walls. The floodplains remain predominantly unpopulated and most settlements are on the edge of the floodplain landscape, often marking important crossing points where impressive stone bridges cross the river.

To the north and east of the Lune Valley lies the Drumlin Field landscape. The rolling drumlins are regular green hillocks between 100 and 200m high with steep sides and broad rounded tops. Pasture predominates and fields are bounded by clipped hedges, or more often, stone walls, which accentuate the relief of the hills. Rivers and streams wind through the drumlins, draining the field. Small mixed woodlands and

woodlands associated with the designed landscapes of country houses are features. Settlement is dispersed with scattered stone farmsteads and hamlets in sheltered sites on the mid-slopes of the drumlins. The river Lune cuts a dramatic gorge through the hills at Crook O’Lune near Caton.

To the south-west of Crook O’Lune, the Langthwaite ridge, part of the Farmed Ridges landscape types extends into the AONB. The prominent, rounded ridge supports pasture and mixed woodland, including those associated with Quernmore park and the large block of Knots wood. The ridge separates the AONB from the city of Lancaster and allows dramatic views of the Lune valley.

### Designations

The nature conservation value of the Forest of Bowland AONB is illustrated by the designation of significant parts of the area as Special Protection Area (SPA) or Special Area of Conservation<sup>5</sup> (SAC) (see Map 2). The moorland habitat is a major breeding ground for upland birds and the major part of the Bowland Fells is designated a SPA under the European Birds Directive. Calf Hill and Cragg Woods between Quernmore and Crossgill as well as Myttons, Bell Sykes and

<sup>5</sup> At time of management plan production, SAC was still a candidate site (cSaC)

# Management Plan

## Part A ~ Strategy Section One ~ Setting the Scene

‘the moorland habitat  
is a major breeding  
ground for upland  
birds and the major  
part of the Bowland  
Fells is designated a  
SPA under the  
European Birds  
Directive’

Langcliff Cross Meadows surrounding Slaidburn are all Special Areas of Conservation (cSAC). European sites (Special Areas for Conservation & Special Protection Areas) are in addition designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) under UK legislation. Thirteen per cent of the Forest of Bowland AONB is designated as SSSIs; the majority of this designation is centred upon the Bowland Fells (see Map 3). These SSSI sites form part of a series of nationally designated areas that represents the range and diversity of the best remaining habitats and geological features across Great Britain.

# Management Plan

Part A ~ Strategy  
Section One ~ Setting the Scene

Map 3 Sites of Special Scientific Interest within the Forest of Bowland AONB



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# Management Plan

Part A ~ Strategy  
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Map 4 Special Protection Area and Special Areas of Conservation within the Forest of Bowland AONB



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# Management Plan

## Part A ~ Strategy Section One ~ Setting the Scene

‘farming and game management dominating the land use of the Forest of Bowland’

‘climate change poses threats to rural land, such as increased flooding or summer droughts, which could impact heavily on the landscape processes of the AONB’

The Forest of Bowland is an English Nature Natural Area although its boundary is not quite the same as the AONB. The Natural Area designation is not an official designation but an area of countryside identified by its unique combination of physical attributes, wildlife, land use and culture. In addition, there are 456 wildlife sites covering around 10% of the AONB, which form part of a national network of non-statutory sites. In the Lancashire part of the AONB they are titled Biological Heritage Sites whilst in the Yorkshire part of the AONB they are known as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation.

### Major Trends and Issues

With farming and game management dominating the land use of the Forest of Bowland, including the sites of European Nature conservation significance, the close relationship between agriculture/game management and the environment must remain and be enhanced where possible. Farming and game management plays a major part in maintaining/developing the AONB's landscape and continued environmentally aware stewardship should remain, viewing the special qualities of the area as an asset rather than a constraint to development.

Climate change poses threats to rural land, such as increased flooding or summer droughts, which could impact heavily on the landscape processes of the AONB. Furthermore, the continued need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions is likely to result in future in the more widespread use of renewable energy sources e.g. biofuel crops, wood fuel from sustainable plantations, wind turbines, solar energy and various forms of waste recycling. A significant wind farm already exists within the AONB at Caton Moor overlooking the Lune Valley and further similar or larger-scale developments might be more difficult to design and locate sensitively.

The continuation of the good work of United Utilities and the Environment Agency concerning integrated management of the water catchments within the AONB is vital for the maintenance and enhancement of the natural resources and landscape of the AONB.

It is important to maintain, enhance and increase appropriately the wooded cover of the AONB as it is a significant element of the area's natural beauty. The AONB includes some large areas of pure conifer plantations which are half a century in age and less economic due to cheaper foreign timber imports. Forestry Commission policy and grant incentives now put the

# Management Plan

## Part A ~ Strategy Section One ~ Setting the Scene

‘throughout the Forest of Bowland AONB, the landscape as it appears today is the product of human activity’

emphasis on delivering multiple management objectives, including landscape, nature conservation, public access and amenity benefits, with timber production just one of a number of woodland management aims.

There are increasing efforts to protect significant environmental resources such as biodiversity in the face of continued pressures on rural landscapes. For example, the development of national and county-wide Biodiversity Action Plans seeks to improve nature conservation management across the whole countryside.

### Cultural Context

#### **The Landscape Evolution of the Forest of Bowland AONB**

Throughout the Forest of Bowland AONB, the landscape as it appears today is the product of human activity. Everything from the pattern of fields to the distribution of farms and villages has been shaped by people, in some cases stretching back over a few generations, in others over hundreds and even thousands of years.

The landscape is therefore made up of numerous features (e.g. monuments and buildings) and broad patterns (e.g. settlement and field), which together make it distinctive – it is the sum of its parts. These also give it ‘time-depth’ – rarely will an area be made up of features that only date to one period in time, instead it comprises a jumble of past activities that overlie each other, in some cases truncating and erasing surface remains, so that only isolated aspects of sites and former uses survive. Logically therefore the more recent the land use, the better its preservation in the landscape is likely to be.

By looking at features that were established in the post-medieval period it is evident that much from this period survives in the landscape today. Across Bowland there are many fine examples of the stone buildings that were built to replace timber houses between the 16th and 18th centuries. Typically the vernacular style includes characteristic stone mullions, lintels and datestones. Those wastes and commons that hadn’t already been divided were enclosed in the 17th and 18th centuries, in some cases by Act of Parliament and fields arranged in a regular pattern with isolated field barns are a reminder of these times.

# Management Plan

## Part A ~ Strategy Section One ~ Setting the Scene

‘there are many sites  
that survive as  
isolated reminders of  
the medieval  
heritage of the  
Bowland AONB’

Industry also played an important role in shaping the landscape – two examples of this activity being the disused quarries that are located throughout Bowland, and the numerous limekilns, which were used to make mortar as well as quick lime to fertilise poor soils. Mills are also a common feature from this period and this includes cotton-spinning mills such as those at Oakenclough and Caton.

By the end of the medieval period the foundations of the modern landscape had been laid – field and settlement patterns were established, with dispersed farmsteads across much of the upland area and nucleation occurring in the more fertile and hospitable valleys; commons, waste and woodland were all comprehensively managed. Importantly, it was during the medieval period that Forests were established across the AONB. Today, the Forest of Bowland is a name that has been given to the AONB but in the Middle Ages, just a portion of the Bowland Fells was actually part of the designated Royal Forest of Bowland. There were four other Royal Forests within the modern boundaries of the AONB, all belonging to the earldom of Lancaster – Bleasdale to the west, which included the Forest of Bowland after 1311, Quernmore, Wyresdale and Pendle. There was also a chase belonging to Hornby Castle, located in the Roeburn and Hindburn valleys in the north.

Forests were places for the hunting of deer, not for trees as the name might suggest and the designation of much of the area as Forest had a controlling impact upon the landscape, restricting development and prohibiting change. The desire of the King to hunt prevented landowners from clearing and extending cultivated areas, planting hedgerows to deter deer from eating crops and creating/expanding settlements.

Officially Forest Law was not revoked until 1507. However, Forests were costly to administer and maintain and in the later medieval period a move towards enclosed deer parks began, these being smaller and more manageable. Deer parks have left their mark upon the modern Forest of Bowland AONB landscape. In some areas the deep bank and ditch of the park pale that once surrounded a park survives, but more commonly place names including ‘park’ and ‘laund’ – meaning a clearing where deer grazed – indicate their former locations. There are many sites that survive as isolated reminders of the medieval heritage of the Bowland AONB, for example the motte and bailey castles in the Lune Valley. Other sites of interest include the Cistercian monastery of Sawley, numerous medieval churches, moated sites such as those of Easington and Bolton Peel.

# Management Plan

## Part A ~ Strategy Section One ~ Setting the Scene

‘the placename  
Bowland is derived  
from Bu - the Old  
Norse word for cattle’

*<sup>6</sup> In 2000, the Historic Landscape Characterisation of Lancashire was completed for Lancashire, Craven and Sefton. This English Heritage sponsored initiative provides an overview of the historic time-depth within the modern landscape. It has divided the area into character types based upon common attributes and features. For each character type there is a detailed description and breakdown of typical morphological features and archeological sites that would usually occur (see report – J Ede with J Darlington, 2002 Lancashire Historic Landscape Characterisation Programme)*

Known sites and monuments that have been ascribed an early medieval date are few but activity from this period is documented in the landscape in the form of the placename record, which identifies the lasting Anglo-Saxon and Norse influence. For example, the placename Bowland is in fact derived from Bu - the Old Norse word for cattle and there are many other examples in the landscape including the Norse thwaite as in Hawthornthwaite, which indicates where a clearance was undertaken for arable land. Some settlements in Bowland are likely to have been in existence at this time, for example the Domesday record reveals that Grindleton was head of a large early medieval estate.

During the Roman period (79 - 410 AD) the most enduring change to take place in the Bowland landscape was the construction of the Roman road network. Two are known to cross the AONB. One runs north from Manchester to the Fort at Ribchester, then on to Over Burrow Fort in the Lune Valley before continuing on to Carlisle. The limited development that has occurred in the upland moor has allowed much of the route to survive undamaged for the past 2000 years, while one section visible from Jeffrey Hill has become fossilised in the field boundary pattern.

The second road runs from Kirkham in west Lancashire to York via Ribchester, passing to the north of Downham as it crosses through the AONB. As for the early medieval period there are few known Roman monuments; they include kilns that were discovered at Quernmore, and a milestone found near Caton.

Traces of prehistoric activity survive in the form of a small number of monuments including the cairn on Parlick Pike and the nearby Bleasdale Circle all attest to human presence at these times but the overall understanding of prehistoric Bowland is limited – for example, there are no known settlement sites. However, prehistoric people have left a lasting impression upon the wider landscape, in particular assisting the formation of the upland moor through clearance and cultivation, which is discussed further below.

This is a very brief summary of the AONB's past, it would be impossible to mention every aspect of the development of this area and there is still much that is not fully understood. One method that has been devised to enhance understanding and to enable a coherent overview of the historic landscape and its development is called Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC). By dividing the landscape into a series of character types according to the dominant features and attributes of the landscape, HLC helps to explain why the landscape of the Forest of Bowland AONB looks how it does today<sup>6</sup>.

# Management Plan

## Part A ~ Strategy Section One ~ Setting the Scene

### **Historic Landscape Character**

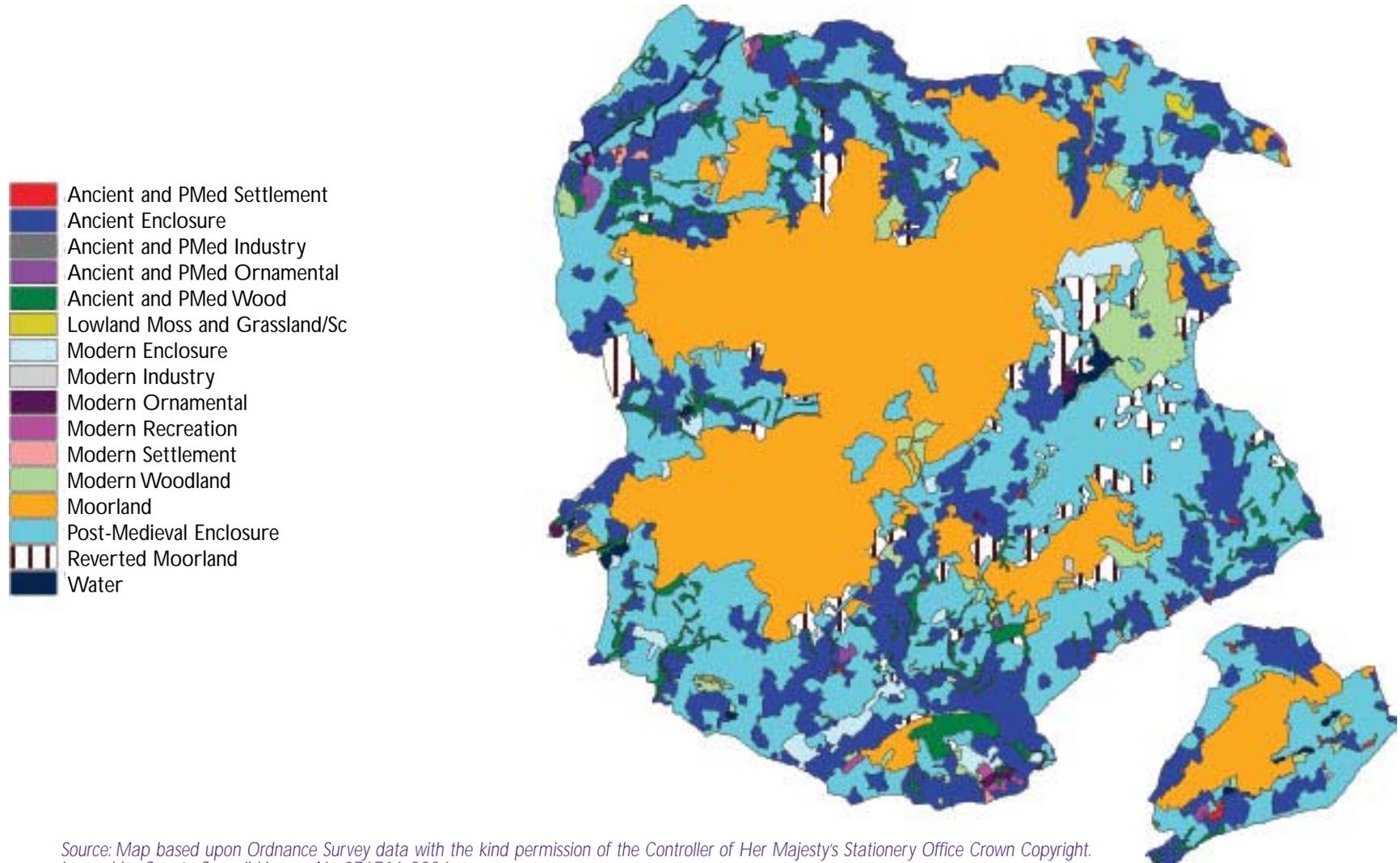
Through the HLC process the Forest of Bowland AONB has been divided into sixteen character types that include – open and enclosed land, woodland, settlement, recreation, ornamental landscapes, industry and major water bodies (see Illustration 1 and Table 1). This is a broad-brush exercise, for example it doesn't cover every stream and tributary, nor does it include every building and clump of trees. Instead it reveals the overall historic character of the landscape, which in Bowland is as follows:

One of the dominant historic landscape character types in the AONB is the upland moor. For many, a popular view of the Forest of Bowland, is the exposed upland fells and the upland moor does in fact constitute a significant proportion of the total area of the AONB (272 square kilometres).

# Management Plan

## Part A ~ Strategy Section One ~ Setting the Scene

Illustration 1: The Historic Landscape Characterisation of the Forest of Bowland AONB



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# Management Plan

## Part A ~ Strategy Section One ~ Setting the Scene

‘one of the dominant historic landscape character types in the AONB is the upland moor’

**Table 1 – Historic Landscape Characterisation of the Forest of Bowland AONB**

Character Types	%
<b>Rough Land:</b>	
Moorland	33.7
Reverted Moorland	3.43
Lowland Moss and Grassland	0.1
<b>Enclosed Land:</b>	
Ancient Enclosure (pre 1600 AD)	19.3
Post Medieval Enclosure (c1600 – c1850)	33.8
Modern Enclosure (post c1850)	1.62
<b>Woodland:</b>	
Ancient and Post Medieval Woodland (pre c1850)	3.34
Modern Woodland (post c 1850)	3.11
<b>Settlement:</b>	
Ancient and Post Medieval Settlement (pre c1850)t	0.23
Modern Settlement (post c1850)	0.15
<b>Recreation:</b>	
Modern Recreation (post c1850)	0.15
<b>Ornamental:</b>	
Ancient and Post Medieval Ornamental (pre c1850)	0.26
Modern Ornamental (post c1850)	0.19
<b>Industry:</b>	
Ancient Post Medieval Industry (pre c1850)	0.03
Modern Industry (post c 1850)	0.09
<b>Water:</b>	<b>0.5</b>

The topography of the upland moor is the result of glaciation; the Trough of Bowland is in fact a glacial melt channel. While there is little material evidence of prehistoric activity on the fells beyond finds and funerary monuments, actions dating back to the Bronze Age had a profound impact upon the landscape. The fact that the fell tops are treeless expanses covered in peat is due to a combination of climatic deterioration and the extensive clearance of trees that took place in the Bronze Age (c 2000 BC) to make way for arable cultivation. The poor soil of the Fells has never recovered and the extent of peat cover that developed at this time is known to have been similar to that of today.

Subsequently the vast expanses of moorland, which appear to be wild and natural, are and have been historically, the subject of intensive management regimes, designed to sustain grazing livestock and game birds such as grouse. These are far from being recent developments. Shooting can be traced back several centuries and accordingly the moor is dotted with traces of this activity in the form of shooting butts and huts some of which are of antiquity. While the use of this area for grazing and small-scale cultivation, can be traced back to the prehistoric period hence, the early clearances made in the Bronze Age.

# Management Plan

## Part A ~ Strategy Section One ~ Setting the Scene

‘vaccaries utilised the special topography of their locations. They tended to be isolated and tucked away in steep-sided valleys that would ensure a good water supply and shelter’

By the Iron Age the Bowland landscape was farmed and managed, with cereal cultivation on the higher levels as well as pastoral activities.

During the medieval period the upland fells were utilised for hunting as part of the Royal System of Forests and subsequently by the vaccaries. The pastoral economy had been important in this area for some time, as shown by the place name Bowland or cattle-land as it translates from Old Norse. Vaccaries were large, open tracts of land created by major feudal landowners to graze livestock. They were not common all over England, but are particular to Lancashire and other northern counties, presumably adapting to regional political and geographical situations.

Vaccaries utilised the special topography of their locations. They tended to be isolated and tucked away in steep-sided valleys that would ensure a good water supply and shelter from the worst weather. A moor wall separated the unenclosed common grazing on the fell-tops from the rest of the vaccary, and within this wall were droveways (driftways or stock funnels) that could be used to bring the cattle down from the upland pasture and these distinctive features

sometimes survive within existing boundaries. Numerous vaccaries are known to have existed throughout the area including Sabden Fold on Pendle, and Marshaw near the Trough.

Other features associated with the upland moor include shelter walls (bields), animal pounds, shielings, pack-horse routes, wayside crosses. There have been phases of enclosure on the moor and drystone walls are important features in this character type. Often they delineate areas that were improved during periods of post medieval expansion into the moor. In some cases the landscape has reverted back to moorland but the boundaries remain.

Lowland Moss and Grassland character type accounts for a very small portion of the AONB (0.1%). In fact it refers to just one surviving area of lowland moss at Austwick Moss near Lawkland that has been steadily reduced in size through drainage and enclosure. Historically this character type covered a much greater portion of the AONB and would have served a variety of important functions such as common grazing and rights of turbarry (peat cutting for fuel).

# Management Plan

## Part A ~ Strategy Section One ~ Setting the Scene

‘enclosed land  
comprises the  
greatest proportion of  
the Forest of  
Bowland AONB’

Enclosed land comprises the greatest proportion of the Forest of Bowland AONB, with 442 square kilometres or 55% of the total area. This is divided into three broad phases ancient (pre 1600 AD), post-medieval (1600-1850) and modern (post 1850). Typical features that are associated with ancient enclosed landscape character type are irregularly shaped fields with distinctive boundary types, a predominantly dispersed settlement pattern and a distinctive network of roads and trackways that connect them. Where common fields were enclosed as groups of strips, there is a clear pattern of s-shaped (aratra) boundaries in the landscape. A particularly good example of this exists near Aughton and north of Wray in the Lune Valley. Post-Medieval enclosure fields are typically of a regular shape and layout. They are associated with stone field barns, stonewalls or quickset hedges, farms and trackways. Examples of such fields can be identified on the Claughton and Caton Moors, as well as in the Bleasdale area and in the vicinity of Sabden Fold. Modern Enclosure, most of which is former Ancient and Post-Medieval enclosure that has been re-organised so that the character of the landscape has been lost, is only a very small portion of the total AONB landscape.

Gisburn Forest, is the largest conifer woodland in Lancashire, planting of which began in 1949 and continued into the 1960s, represents most of the modern woodland landscape. Within Gisburn Forest time-depth exists in the form of prehistoric burial mounds, as well as farmsteads and barns, field boundaries, trackways and limekilns that are reminders of the more recent past. Most woodland is carefully managed and has been since at least the medieval period. Formal planting, coppicing, pollarding, and cutting of woodland have controlled the location and extent of woodland across the AONB. Therefore, ancient woodland has tended to survive in steep sided gulleys or on slopes in streams and river valleys because there is no pressure for alternative uses in these inaccessible locations. These are the edges to which woodland has been pushed and allowed to stay. Associated with this landscape type are such features as ditch and bank boundaries, saw pits, evidence for charcoal production and where woodland has been planted in recent times, as Gisburn shows, there is a very high chance that traces of earlier land uses and activities will survive.

# Management Plan

## Part A ~ Strategy Section One ~ Setting the Scene

‘much of the AONB has been under the influence of a small number of estates’

The HLC also identifies towns and villages - both as Ancient and Post Medieval Settlement (that which was in existence by c1850) and Modern Settlement (post c1850). Settlement is clearly not a foremost character type, as this is very much a rural area. The settlement pattern is predominantly dispersed, with some nucleation in the Lune and Hodder Valleys. There are many villages in the AONB that have long and interesting histories such Chipping which was valued at three ploughlands at Domesday (1086). A number of churches, associated with many of these early settlements were founded in the medieval period eg Chipping, Bolton-by-Bowland and Hornby. The vernacular architecture of Bowland is distinctive and there are many splendid examples of post-medieval stone built houses still surviving. The built environment of much of Bowland survives in good condition and this is particularly evident in the estate villages of Downham and Slaidburn where the collective character of the villages has been maintained.

While most settlement has undergone expansion in recent centuries, Calder Vale is an example of a settlement that was only developed in the 19th century, following the successful establishment of the four storey Vale spinning mill, nineteen workers houses and a mill managers house.

This is one of the few surviving examples in the AONB of industry and its legacy in the landscape. Of course not all settlements have endured – including the deserted settlement of Hawthornthwaite, and the submerged Dalehead, which is now beneath Stocks Reservoir. Modern recreation, which has appeared in the landscape after about 1850, accounts for just 0.15% of the total AONB landscape, this character type includes the Crook o’Lune caravan park, and Stonyhurst golf course and playing fields.

Following the break up of the Royal Forests, much of the AONB has been under the influence of a small number of estates, which as for the estate villages has had an impact upon the nature and extent of development that has been allowed to take place. Associated with these estates are many grand halls and houses throughout the AONB. These examples of splendid local architecture often have ornamental landscapes associated with them, for example the park at Browsholme, the deer park at Hornby Castle, plus Leagram Park at Leagram Hall, and Quernmore Park at Old Park Hall. Such landscapes are referred to as Ancient and Post-Medieval Ornamental types, while examples of Modern Ornamental landscapes (post c1850) are located at North Park, east of Lancaster and at Stonyhurst College.

# Management Plan

## Part A ~ Strategy

### Section One ~ Setting the Scene

‘the historic landscape of the Forest of Bowland AONB is rich and varied’

‘a dynamic landscape that has undergone numerous changes’

In terms of landscape character both ancient/post medieval industry e.g. predominantly disused quarries and modern industry e.g. quarries on Waddington Fell, the windfarm on Caton Moor and the claypits/brick works on Claughton Moor comprise a very small total of the AONB area. Today there are very few industrial sites still operating in the Bowland AONB. With the advent of coal power and large-scale production, the era of small-scale industry came to an end and focus shifted to South Lancashire and the mill towns that developed there.

Water bodies are a common characteristic of the AONB. In the late 19th century the use of the Forest of Bowland and Pendle Hill as a supply of water for the towns of Lancashire began. Of the reservoirs that exist throughout this area the most prominent is that of Stock's, which was constructed between 1922 and 1932, and measures over three kilometres in length. Various structures associated with the water industry are located in the AONB including notable Victorian constructions such as the waterworks at Langden Valley and at the Abbeystead Reservoir.

The historic landscape of the Forest of Bowland AONB is rich and varied, comprising amongst others, features that date back as far as prehistory and settlement and field patterns that can be traced back to the medieval period. This is a dynamic landscape that has undergone numerous changes – from the clearance of woodland for cultivation and pastoral grazing in prehistory to the introduction of Royal Forests in the medieval period.

#### Major Trends and Issues

Certain archeological sites and historic buildings are afforded statutory protection e.g. Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Listed Buildings. These designations cover a small number of the known archeological sites and buildings. Other sites and buildings may not merit national designation but are important to both the county as a whole and to the local distinctiveness of the Forest of Bowland. Works which affect them need to be carefully considered and may require specialist recording to be undertaken.

Upon many of the AONB's estates, very little systematic survey work has been undertaken and it is likely that there are many more archeological sites of all types to be recorded.

# Management Plan

## Part A ~ Strategy Section One ~ Setting the Scene

‘the presence of a local resident population is an important consideration’

‘the well-preserved historic settlements and farmsteads of Bowland contribute a great deal to the sense of place and local distinctiveness’

A programme of study and recording is urgently needed and the most important sites protected as far as is possible. Preservation of the remains in situ for their archeological, historical and landscape value needs to be balanced against the costs and dangers and some sites may need to be recorded and then made safe.

Prehistoric tools and implements have been found across the whole of the Forest of Bowland, but known settlement sites are relatively rare. This is partially a result of the extensive heather and peat coverage on the higher land (where sites are less visible) and the improvement of the lower fields (which has removed or obscured surface remains). Where disturbance has been more limited, extensive remains have been found on the middle and lower moorland slopes and the wide spread of early settlement can be appreciated. Management plans and development proposals need to take both the known sites and the potential for hidden sites into account.

The well-preserved historic settlements and farmsteads of Bowland contribute a great deal to the sense of place and local distinctiveness and it is important that they are maintained with appropriate (preferably local) materials and techniques. It is also important that new building and conversion of existing

buildings within the area reflect the area's locally distinctive characteristics and that appropriate records are made prior to major works. The exploitation of abandoned and ruined structures and walls for building materials needs to be carefully considered.

### Economic Context

#### **Economic and Demographic Description**

The presence of a local resident population is an important consideration concerning the landscape designation of the AONB. The lack of specific demographic information solely calculated for the Forest of Bowland AONB boundary does present a problem. The majority of data presented for the Forest of Bowland concerning demographics and social economic activity was calculated via information for specific Office of National Statistics (ONS) 2001 Census output areas that are totally or predominantly within the AONB boundary, from this point on the ONS data will be referred to as the “Bowland Census”. It is recognised that this approach does not allow the presentation of a precise demographic and social economic representation of the AONB. However, this methodology provides the most feasible objective overview of the AONB.

# Management Plan

## Part A ~ Strategy Section One ~ Setting the Scene

‘the overall population within the exact AONB boundary is estimated to be 16000’

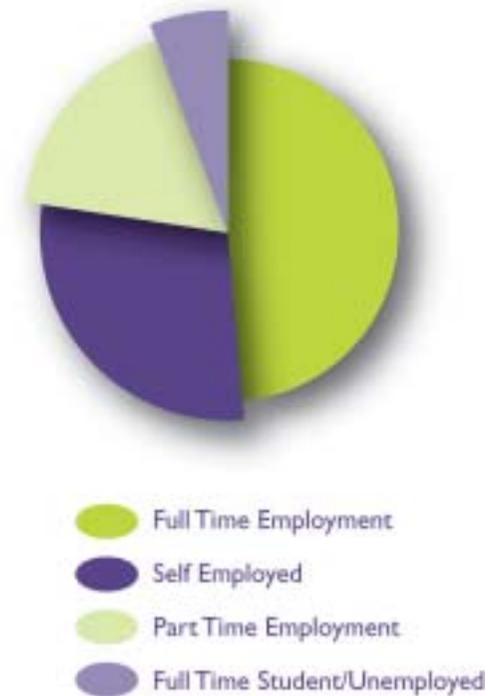
The overall population within the exact AONB boundary is estimated to be 16000. The majority of the population of the area are situated in settlements around the edge of the designated area; the upland core is sparsely populated. The significant settlements within the area are: Caton-with-Littledale (approximate population – 3000) and Chipping (approximate population – 1000).

Of all the people aged 16-74 in the Bowland Census area, 8434 (70%) described themselves as economically active and 3627 (30%) as economically inactive. Of those economically active 48.6% were full-time employees, 28.8% were self-employed, 16.9% were part-time employees and Unemployed and full-time students totalled 5.7% (see Chart 1).<sup>7</sup>

Unemployment statistics for Rural Lancashire reveal a lower claimant count in the rural areas of Lancashire, 1.25% against the County average of 3.9%. Also, rural Lancashire displays a lower rate of business formation compared to urban districts and the County average<sup>8</sup>.

<sup>7</sup> At the time of finalising the management plan text information relating to Lancashire Urban Areas was not available to facilitate a comparison.  
<sup>8</sup> Lancashire Rural Recovery Action Plan 2002.

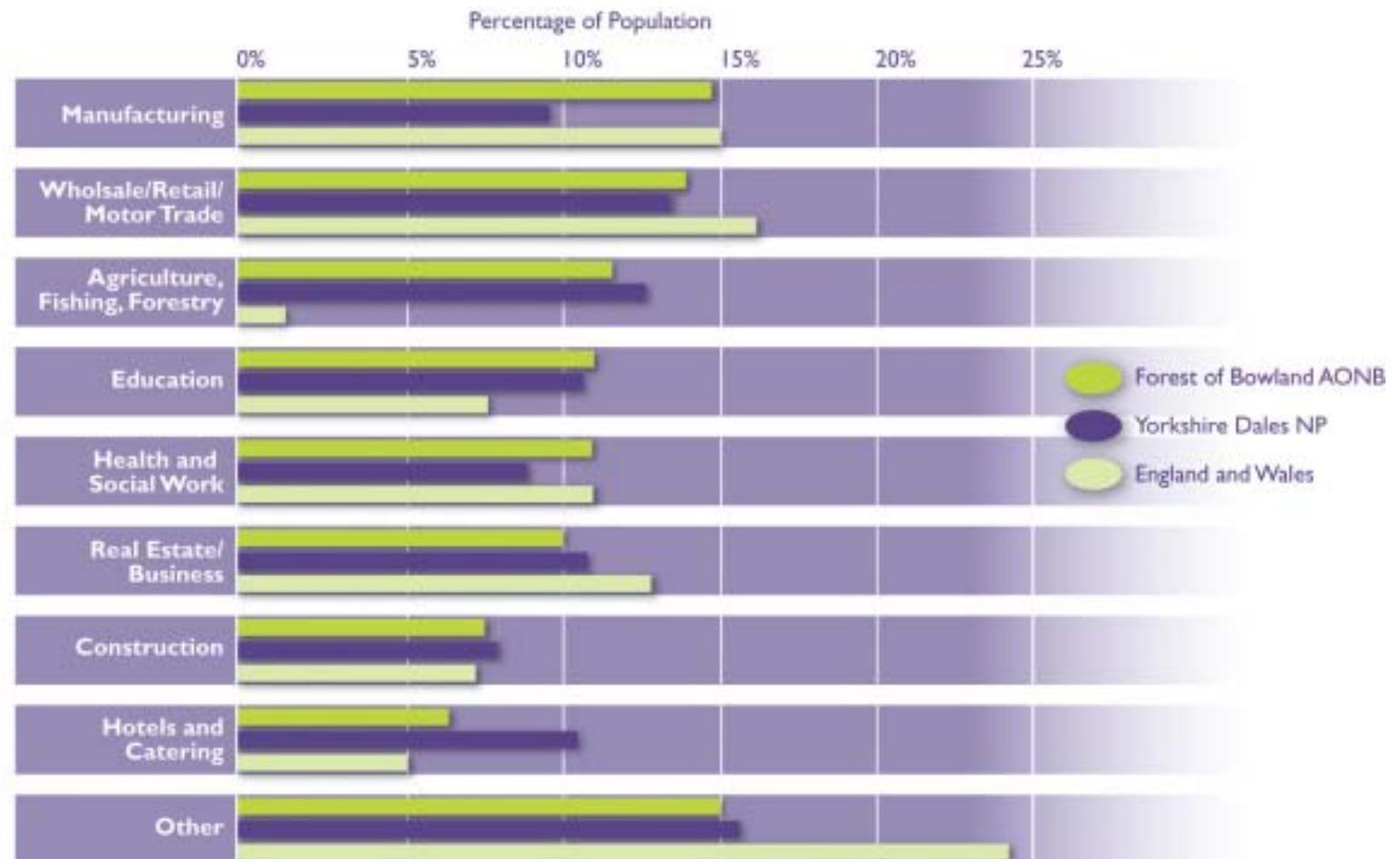
**Chart 1: Economically Active by Activity**



# Management Plan

## Part A ~ Strategy Section One ~ Setting the Scene

Chart 2: Industry of Employment ~ all people (2001)



The industry of employment Bowland Census data was compared to Census 2001 data for the Yorkshire Dales National Park and England & Wales to facilitate comparative analysis. The Yorkshire Dales National Park was chosen due to its status as a protected area and its proximity to the Forest of Bowland.

# Management Plan

## Part A ~ Strategy Section One ~ Setting the Scene

<sup>9</sup> The index is based on calculations involving monthly mortgage payments for an average (mean) priced house and median monthly household incomes. It uses Land Registry house price data combined with CACI Paycheck household income data. Household income data replaces the average earnings data in order to reflect the fact that many households have more than one earner. Using this revised index, as the index figure rises, house purchase becomes progressively less affordable. An index figure of more than three indicates that the average household is unable to afford the mortgage for an average house.

<sup>10</sup> Table 2 uses a proxy household income, which is calculated by reducing household income within each district and unitary authority to 60% of the district level median. The index does not measure the proportion of households within each district that are on less than 60% of the median income.

The predominant sector of employment within the Bowland Census area for people aged between 16-74 was manufacturing 14.3%, wholesale & retail trade; repair of motor vehicles 13.9%, agriculture; hunting; forestry 11.5%, education 11.1%, health and social work 10.9%, Real estate; renting and business activities 9.9%, construction 7.2%, hotels and catering 6.4% and Other totalled 14.8% (see Chart 2). The employment profile of the Forest of Bowland AONB compared to the Yorkshire Dales National Park is broadly similar, the two main relative differences between these protected areas concern the Forest of Bowland's higher levels of employment in manufacturing (14.3% compared to 9.1%) and lower levels of employment in hotels and catering (6.4% compared to 10.6%). The two main divergences between the Forest of Bowland and the figures for England and Wales was the higher levels of employment in agriculture, fishing and forestry for the Forest of Bowland (11.5% compared to 1.5%) and the lower levels of employment in 'other' categories such as financial intermediation and transport (14.8% compared to 23.5%).

The average price of housing sales in the County palatine rural areas was £99,222 for 2001. However, there are substantial differences between house prices within rural wards in Lancashire. The North West Region as a whole is lowest on the index of incomes against mortgage costs<sup>9</sup> within England (see Table 1), this perhaps masks the difficulty in the Forest of Bowland AONB for certain social groups to obtain a mortgage and purchase an 'average' property. Even with the North West region possessing the lowest overall index score for England, a index score of 3.54 this still indicates that the average household will not be able to afford an average house.

**Table 1: Index of incomes against mortgage costs, 2001 and 2002**

	Rural		Urban	
	2001	2002	2001	2002
England	4.33	4.94	4.14	4.66
North West England	3.17	3.54	2.89	3.08

Source: "The state of the countryside" (2003), compiled using CACI Ltd (2002) with H.M. Land Registry (2001) & CACI Ltd (2003) with H.M. Land Registry (2002).

# Management Plan

## Part A ~ Strategy Section One ~ Setting the Scene

‘the dominant agricultural land use in the Forest of Bowland AONB is grassland and rough grazing. Sheep and beef farming predominate in the uplands whilst dairying is the major land use in the valleys’

The housing affordability issue facing those on lower incomes is shown in Table 2, which was calculated in a similar manner to Table 1, except that average income is replaced by an income proxy of 60% of the median household income, and house prices that are an average of prices in the lower quartile for the district. Therefore, Table 210 shows the position of a low-income household seeking to buy a modest house on standard mortgage terms. Once more it highlights the limited potential of a low-income household to buy a modest house in Forest of Bowland AONB.

**Table 2: Index of incomes against mortgage costs using an income proxy of 60% of the median with lower quartile house prices, 2001.**

	Rural	Urban
England	4.14	4.07
North West England	2.85	2.55

Source: "The State of the countryside" (2003), compiled using CACI Ltd (2002) with H.M. Land Registry.

### Agricultural Description

The dominant agricultural land use in the Forest of Bowland AONB is grassland and rough grazing. Sheep and beef farming predominate in the uplands whilst dairying is the major land use in the valleys. Land use for crops and fallow, farm woodland and other uses including set aside, total a very minor percentage of the overall land use figures. The Forest of Bowland area is classified as an upland farming area, even the lower lying farms around the moorland fringe are classified as upland farms largely due to the climate and soil type even though they appear to be in a lowland situation.

Soil type is a key determinant of agricultural activity. On the higher ground, above 190m, the combination of heavy rainfall, low temperatures and poor drainage has led to the formation of extensive areas of raw peat (blanket bog), infilling hollows and producing a smooth undulating land surface. Deep accumulations of peat up to 4 metres deep have been formed on all of the high plateaux but in some places have been severely eroded. These soils have a very limited value for agriculture and are mainly suitable for extensive rough grazing at best.

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## Part A ~ Strategy Section One ~ Setting the Scene

‘agriculture has seen fluctuations concerning the overall number of holdings with the AONB, whilst the size of the remaining holdings has become marginally larger, in line with national trends’

Associated with the peat deposits are stagnopodzol soils, which occur on the undulating slopes and hills of the main upland block, Pendle Hill and Longridge Fell. These soils have also developed in cold, wet conditions and are characterised by wet, peaty material on the surface and a thin ironpan, which prevents mixing between organic and mineral soils. These soils are therefore very acid, coarse and loamy and suitable only for rough grazing where unimproved by fertilisers or lime. Improvement is possible however and traditionally this poorer land has been converted to better grazing in more prosperous times and allowed to revert under harsher economic conditions to more semi-natural acid grassland. Forestry is possible if deep ploughing to break up the iron pan precedes planting.

Around the edges of the upland block stagnohumic-gley soils have developed which also have an acid, organic surface layer overlying clayey or sandy, clay loam, but do not have an iron pan. They still present limitations on use however, and are inherently wet, providing poor grazing land in the absence of drainage and improvement by lime and fertiliser.

Much of the remainder of the AONB is covered by stagnogley soils, based on medium to fine-textured, slightly calcareous till (boulder clay). These soils are typical of flat or gently sloping ground below 300m and are poorly drained with negligible run-off and slow percolation. Much of this land is under permanent grassland but some of the better land on these soils is fertile in-by-e, essential for the economic viability of farming and suitable for limited cultivation.

Land in the valleys of the Lune, Ribble and Hodder are associated with brown earth or alluvial gley soils, which provide good mixed farming land and soils suitable for the development of deciduous woodland. Land use is limited within much of the floodplain areas however by soil-wetness, seasonal flooding and fluctuating ground-water levels and, in some place, the narrowness of the floodplain, which makes these areas unsuitable for sustained arable cropping.

Agriculture has seen fluctuations concerning the overall number of holdings with the AONB, whilst the size of the remaining holdings has become marginally larger, in line with national trends. The total agricultural area was 64,646 hectares in 2002 according to the DEFRA census. The land ownership pattern of the AONB shows that, rented land is the slightly more predominant land tenure.

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## Part A ~ Strategy Section One ~ Setting the Scene

However, over the previous decade, rented land suffered a 7% decrease in overall terms whilst owned land increased by the same percentage (see Table 3).

**Table 3 – Land Tenure (Main Holdings Only)**

Land Tenure (ha)	1990	1995	2002
Owned Land	26,808 (41.5%)	30,194 (46%)	31,326 (48.5%)
Rented Land	37,798 (58.5%)	35,333 (54%)	33,320 (51.5%)
<b>Total Agricultural Area</b>	<b>64,606</b>	<b>65,527</b>	<b>64,646</b>

Source: DEFRA, June Agricultural Census 2002

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## Part A ~ Strategy Section One ~ Setting the Scene

Livestock numbers within the AONB have broadly followed the previous decade's national trends; the main outcome being a downward trend across all enterprise types (see Table 4).

The significant drop found in the 2002 figures could be directly attributed to the Foot and Mouth outbreak in 2001, as several farms may still not have re-stocked at the time of the census.

**Table 4 – Livestock Numbers (Main Holdings Only)**

	1990	1995	2000	2002
Dairy Herd	19219	18574 (-3.4%)	15759 (-18%)	14459 (-25%)
Beef Herd	5982	6925 (+15.8%)	7013 (+17.2%)	5674 (-5%)
Breeding Herd Replacements	13771	13026 (-5.4%)	12648 (-8.2%)	11204 (-18.6%)
Other Cattle > 1 year	6110	6336 (+3.7%)	6330 (+3.6%)	5915 (-3.2%)
Calves < 1 Year	17259	163309 (-5.4%)	15389 (-10.8%)	12816 (-25.7%)
Total Cattle and Calves	62341	61191 (-1.8%)	57139 (-8.3%)	50068 (-19.7%)
Breeding Ewes	165841	175754 (+6%)	172279(+3.9%)	145343(-12.4%)
Lambs under 1 year	201560	202976 (+0.6%)	201745 (+0.09%)	159344(-20.9%)
Other Sheep	10838	7941 (-26.7%)	8688 (-19.8%)	5981 (-44.8%)
Total Sheep and Lambs	378239	386671 (+2.2%)	382712 (+1.2%)	310666(-17.9%)
Total Pigs	6986	4385 (-37.2%)	4483 (-35.8%)	2426 (-65.3%)

Source: DEFRA, June Agricultural Census 2002

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‘the Forest of Bowland does not have an extensive principal road network’

All categories of agricultural employment within the AONB: casual, part and full-time, declined during the previous decade. The total agricultural workforce of the AONB decreased between 1990 – 2002 (see Table 5). These trends are slightly less than the reduction experienced in this sector within England and Lancashire over the period of 1990 to 2002, when the workforce declined by 14.7% and 16% respectively.

**Table 5 – Agricultural Employment in the Forest of Bowland AONB**

	1990	1995	2002
Full time workers	1566	1485	1529
Part time workers	176	182	119
Casual	183	164	103
<b>Total Agricultural Workforce</b>	<b>1916</b>	<b>1831</b>	<b>1685 (-12%)</b>

Source: DEFRA, Agricultural Census 2002

The average farm size within the AONB of 76.35 hectares is larger than the average for Lancashire of 40.8 hectares. However, AONB farms employ less labour per holding: 1.9 compared with 2.6 for Lancashire as a whole. This is likely to be a result of the less intensive nature of farming within the uplands of the AONB. Furthermore, it is probable that here there is less scope for further reductions in full-time employment due to many of the holdings within the AONB

already being one-person operations. Regardless of the reduction, agriculture is still a significant employer with the AONB, with almost 1685 jobs in 2002<sup>11</sup>. However, considering the multiplier effect of agriculture with the wider economy, it is estimated that there could be a further 2.2 jobs, in upstream and downstream industries dependent on agriculture within the AONB.

### Transport Description

The Forest of Bowland does not have an extensive principal road network, the central upland fells are characterised by a lack of roads, the Trough of Bowland route, Bowland Knotts/Keasden Road and the Cross O’Greet/Lythe Fell route being exceptions, whilst some of the Bowland fringes and river valleys are characterised by a myriad of B standard and minor roads. The M6 motorway corridor lies to the west of the AONB except for a small overlap in the Scorton area, the AONB boundary being drawn before the Motorway was constructed. Rural households in the United Kingdom have a significantly higher percentage of car ownership than their urban compatriots and figures for settlements within the Forest of Bowland concur with these national figures<sup>12</sup>. The transport mode used most often is private transport, predominantly the car, to provide mobility and accessibility to and within the Forest of Bowland.

<sup>11</sup> The Agricultural employment sectors for the DEFRA Census 2002 and ONS Census 2001 are not directly comparable groups.

<sup>12</sup> JMP/TFL Consultants (2002). *Quiet Lanes and Greenways Study Report*. JMP: Leeds

# Management Plan

## Part A ~ Strategy Section One ~ Setting the Scene

‘the Forest of Bowland is a popular visitor destination for the surrounding Lancashire urban settlements’

The majority of public transport provision to and within the AONB is subsidised through the County Councils revenue support for rural bus services routes. These provide most of the alternative motorised forms of transportation within the AONB. Scheduled public transport services are limited in schedule with waiting times of hours between services and only serve certain settlements in the area. In addition, to subsidised routes there are several prominent challenge-funded scheduled and demand responsive public transport initiatives which service the Forest of Bowland AONB as well as community transport initiatives. In terms of overall modal share, motorised public transport services provide a small minority of all journeys undertaken in the area both by residents and visitors.

The AONB is surrounded by proximal rail networks but service frequencies are every one-two hours. A railway line crosses the northern edge of the AONB incorporating the stations at Wennington and Clapham. The line continues around the eastern edge of the area serving settlements such as Giggleswick and Long Preston and on to the Clitheroe Interchange, which provides links to the West Coast mainline station of Preston and Lancaster that are located close to the western margin of the AONB.

### Recreation and Tourism Description

The Forest of Bowland is a popular visitor destination for the surrounding Lancashire urban settlements albeit that the area attracts much fewer visitor numbers than the proximal Lake District and Yorkshire Dales National Parks, which have to promote opportunities for enjoyment whereas AONBs do not. However, the AONB still provides an important recreational resource for the nearby settlements and the East Lancashire mill towns. However, this relatively ‘undiscovered’ character appeals to the majority of local people and visitors who value the area so highly. The vast majority of these visitors reach the area by private modes of motorised transport and are predominantly day visitors. The accommodation stock of the AONB is relatively small compared to areas surrounding the Forest of Bowland. Therefore, the capacity for long-stay visitors is currently under-developed but this does present an attractive avenue for sustainable tourism development in the future.

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## Part A ~ Strategy Section One ~ Setting the Scene

‘the Beacon Fell Country Park, which incorporates the Bowland visitor Centre, remains the major tourist attraction in the AONB’

There are specific areas of the AONB, which during public holidays and at weekends experience large numbers of day visitors. The Beacon Fell Country Park, which incorporates the Bowland Visitor Centre, remains the major tourist attraction in the AONB, attracting 262,000 visitors during 2002/03. Gisburn Forest, a Forestry Commission plantation, also provides a significant recreational resource for walkers, cyclists and horseriders by permit within the AONB. There are also other major car park and picnic sites in and close to the Forest of Bowland: Springwood near Whalley, the Crook of Lune including a cycleway to Lancaster along the disused railway, at the former gravel workings at Scorton and at Bull Beck in the Lune valley, which provide gateways to the AONB. Other heavily visited sites include moorland and hilltop viewpoints like Harrisend Fell, Jeffery Hill on Longridge Fell and the Nick of Pendle and the famous moorland route through the Trough of Bowland as well as many picturesque villages such as Chipping, Slaidburn, Barley, Hornby and Downham.

Many distinct forms of recreational activity are undertaken within the area but the dominant activity within the AONB is walking. Currently over four thousand acres of the Bowland Fells are open to the public by agreement between Lancashire County Council and private landowners.

In addition there is an acceptance of public access on the United Utilities estate and an extensive network of footpaths and bridleways traverse much of the AONB, although rights of way are largely absent from the central upland fells and the Lune Valley is an area with a low density of rights of way. The CRoW Act (2000) received Royal Assent on the 30th November 2000. The Act amongst other provisions creates a new statutory right of access to common land, open country or in the case of Bowland the moor and heathland, whilst conserving the rural environment. The precise details of ‘open country’ are expected to be finalised and fully effective by autumn 2004 for the North-West of England but it will create a right of access to most of the central upland fells. Both Lancashire County Council and North Yorkshire County Council have established a Local Access Forum as required by the CRoW Act (2000). These forums consider all access issues and advise on ways of improving and enhancing public access to the countryside. Both County Councils are also required to produce a Rights of Way improvement plan to enhance public access.

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## Part A ~ Strategy Section One ~ Setting the Scene

‘the Forest of  
Bowland  
incorporates sections  
of the Lancashire  
Cycle Way and the  
National Cycle  
Network’

Extensive areas of moorland within the Forest of Bowland AONB are managed specifically for grouse shooting. There are stretches of watercourse with private and public rights for fishing and Stocks reservoir offers fishing facilities. The demand for shooting and fishing on sporting estates has steadily increased since the 1950's. The Bowland Forest Gliding Club operates from their present fifty-six acre site near Chipping. The Forest of Bowland incorporates sections of the Lancashire Cycle Way and the National Cycle Network. Furthermore, a series of on and off-road cycle routes within the area are identified via a variety of designations offering the cyclist a combined route network in excess of 100 miles. In addition, the scheduled implementation of the Quiet Lanes and Greenways initiative within the AONB, will provide a further recreation and access resource, promoting safe and shared use of the highway routes by motorised traffic, cyclists, horseriders and walkers.

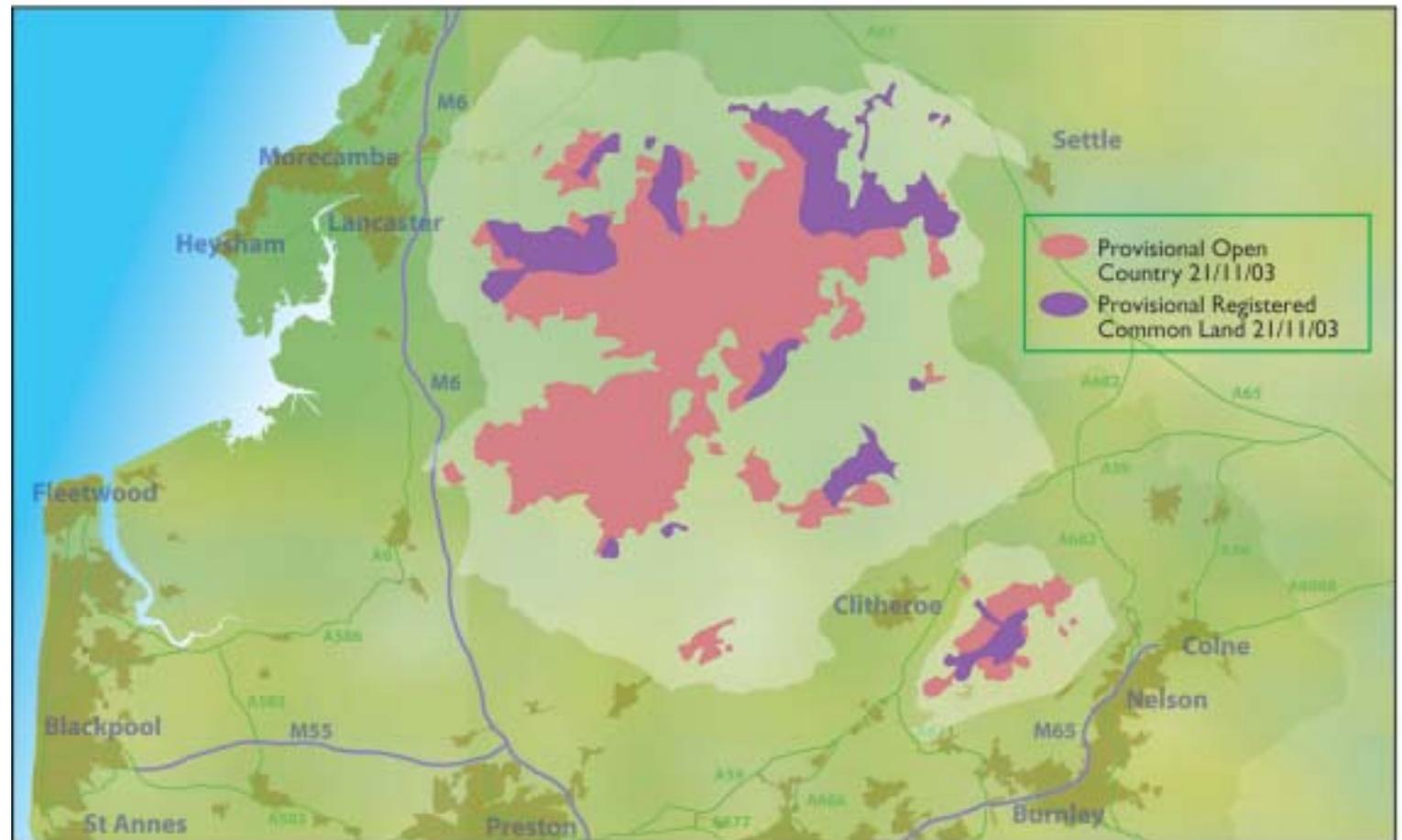
### **Open Country**

Under the CRoW Act 2000 large areas of The Bowland Fells have been mapped as open country (mountain, moor, heath and down) bestowing new rights of access on foot, following commencement of such rights (see map 5).

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Part A ~ Strategy  
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Map 5 Draft Map of Open Access and Registered Common Land within the Forest of Bowland AONB



# Management Plan

## Part A ~ Strategy Section One ~ Setting the Scene

‘whereas, in the past this workforce would have lived and worked in the area, the high cost of housing no longer permits this spatial arrangement’

‘the Forest of Bowland economy is predominantly a low wage economy’

### Major Trends and Issues

The employment figures for Rural Lancashire and North West figures are thought to conceal higher levels of inactivity among rural communities, individuals who would undertake training and enter the labour market if conditions were right. For example, employment that was locally-based with an acceptable level of pay and of a reasonable quality. Employment in Lancashire rural areas is also heavily reliant on urban-based employment, with high levels of out-commuting. The Forest of Bowland economy is predominantly a low wage economy with major employers being in low value manufacturing and tourism, sectors heavily influenced by seasonality and providing low wages. This lack of appropriate jobs available to those in the rural labour market is further compounded by a lack of entrepreneurial activity. Stimulating appropriate entrepreneurial activity within the AONB could provide households involved in managing the landscape, a sector subject to falling income levels, with a significant secondary income and maintain their presence within the process of landscape management.

The impact of rising house prices could have an impact on the landscape of the AONB. The landscape relies on a workforce to manage it and retain the area in the condition that led to its designation as an AONB. Whereas, in the past this workforce would have lived and worked in the area, the high cost of housing no longer permits this spatial arrangement due to the relatively low-wage jobs involved in managing the land. There is anecdotal evidence that the increase in urban commuters wishing to live a rural idyll has increased house prices within most rural areas. Therefore, the land management workforce has had to relocate to more affordable accommodation outside the AONB and then consider whether to continue commuting back to work within the AONB or gain employment outside. This could lead to land management skills needed to retain the area's natural beauty being lost or the need for effective public transport services to access work in the AONB.

The recent farming and food crises have had a large economic impact on rural areas. However, perhaps the most significant will be the reform of the European Union (EU) Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). A key element of the Common

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## Part A ~ Strategy Section One ~ Setting the Scene

‘a significant element of the economic vitality of rural communities is sustainable recreation and tourism’

Agricultural Policy (CAP) reform aims to make agriculture more market-orientated, simpler and less trade distorting. A single payment scheme will be introduced for EU farmers, independent (‘decoupled’) from production, with limited ‘coupled’ elements maintained where Member States consider this necessary to avoid abandonment of production. Also, the single payment scheme will be linked to the respect for environmental, food safety, animal and plant health and animal welfare standards, as well as to the requirement to keep all farmland in good agricultural and environmental condition (‘cross-compliance’). Another element of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is the strengthening of rural development policy via the shift of more EU monies to new measures to promote the environmental, quality and animal welfare, and to help farmers to meet new EU standards leading to a reduction in direct payments (‘modulation’) for bigger farms. These changes to the CAP could introduce significant changes to land management within the AONB.

A significant element of the economic vitality of rural communities is sustainable recreation and tourism and continued growth is forecast for this sector of the economy. The increase in significance of leisure and tourism to the rural economy could exacerbate existing or create new conflicts between users and residents e.g. the significant motor-vehicle related conflicts at specific sites such as the Trough of Bowland. However, the aim of the management plan is to anticipate potential conflicts such as those which may arise from access to open country and proactively address any potential conflicts and seek to resolve them before they occur.

The predominance of day visitors to the AONB and the relatively limited facilities for longer-stay visitors does highlight the need for further sustainable tourism initiatives which retain a greater percentage of visitor spending within the whole AONB economy and are compatible with conserving and enhancing the area’s natural beauty. One of the specific consequences of planning for sustainable tourism might be the need to continue progress towards better cross-modal integration (public transport, walking and cycling) within the AONB in order that it offers a realistic mode choice for those non-car users or an alternative modal choice to the car.

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## Part A ~ Strategy Section One ~ Setting the Scene

‘the majority of villages within the AONB have some form of service provision e.g. post office, shop or pub’

The majority of villages within the AONB have some form of service provision e.g. post office, shop or pub. Many of these are under pressure in the present economic climate and loss of such services would be a significant issue because of their current relative scarcity. Furthermore, this long-standing decline of service provision for villages and concentration in higher order settlements, now threatens many market towns. There is widespread recognition of the need to protect market towns as services centres for the surrounding rural hinterland and for innovation in service provision.

The lack of a significant road network and tight historical control through the structure and local development plans has led to light development pressure within the Forest of Bowland AONB. However, recent small-scale rural diversification schemes are now experiencing problems and frustrations concerning current tight planning controls when their diversification project will potentially produce increases in traffic at the site.

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## Part A ~ Strategy Section Two ~ Achieving the Vision

### Statement of Significance

The national significance of the Forest of Bowland landscape is a combination of the large imposing upland core of the Bowland Fells along with the smaller, subtler landscapes within the area, which produce a unique juxtaposition of remoteness and intimacy. The Forest of Bowland AONB is a blend of landscape characters: moorland, undulating lowland and rolling upland farmland, wooded rural valleys, valley floodplains and drumlin fields. It is the visual contrast between these landscape characters, the serenity and tranquillity of the area, the distinctive pattern of settlements, the wildlife of the area and the landscape's historic and cultural associations that provides the Forest of Bowland AONB with the landscape worthy of national designation.

### The Vision for 2014

The policies in the AONB Management Plan need to be guided by a long-term goal. The AONB partnership has based the management plan on a vision of how the AONB should look in ten years time, the 50th Anniversary of the Forest of Bowland's formal confirmation as an AONB.

This ten-year time frame for the management plan attempts to strike a balance between not being constrained by present-day problems and not losing the focus which has enabled the AONB partnership to be successful in conserving the Forest of Bowland's natural beauty. The vision for all stakeholders to work towards is:

**The Forest of Bowland retains its sense of local distinctiveness, notably the large-scale open moorland character of the Bowland Fells, traditional buildings and settlement patterns of villages, hamlets and farmsteads. Natural and cultural resources are sympathetically managed and contribute to a sustainable and vibrant local economy. The management of the Forest of Bowland AONB has improved the quality of the landscape for all stakeholders.**

The overall vision is given more depth by being broken down into four themes:

- 1 Natural and Cultural Environment
- 2 Social Equity and Economic Opportunity
- 3 Enjoyment of the AONB
- 4 Co-ordination and Management of the AONB Partnership

# Management Plan

## Part A ~ Strategy Section Two ~ Achieving the Vision

### Natural and Cultural Environment

#### Aim

The Natural Beauty of the Forest of Bowland AONB is conserved and enhanced.

#### Vision

The natural and cultural heritage of the Forest of Bowland is conserved and enhanced. The large-scale open moorland character of the Bowland Fells and the exposed character of steep scarps, crags and rock scree have been retained. Enclosed hay meadows still have a small to medium scale pattern and hedgerows species are native broadleaves. The fragmentation of existing woodland has been reduced through enhancement and restoration. Ancient semi-natural woodland and valleys and cloughs retain their wooded character. The rural character of the fringes and river courses are unspoilt. Traditional buildings and settlement patterns of villages, hamlets and farmsteads have been retained. Existing areas of Heather moorland character and blanket bog have been regenerated and new areas of moorland vegetation have been created. The pastoral character has been conserved by the extension of existing and creation of new species-rich grasslands. Coniferous woodland has and is still undergoing a

gradual transition to sensitively designed mixed species woodland. Important boundary features such as traditional stone enclosure walls, ditches and important hedgerows remain and these traditional features have started to progressively replace stock-proof fencing. The character of the local highway network has been retained. Overall, the area retains its sense of local distinctiveness, peace and tranquillity.

#### AONB Wide

##### Key Characteristics:

- Grandeur and isolation of the upland core
- Open expanses of moorland
- Cultural landscape of upland farming
- Historic landscape management as royal hunting forest and more recently as sporting estates
- Rural landscape of dry stone-wall enclosed pastures, stone built farms and villages
- Wooded pastoral scenery and parkland
- Steep scraps, deeply incised cloughs and wooded valleys
- Broad river valleys
- Contrasting gritstone/limestone geology

# Management Plan

## Part A ~ Strategy Section Two ~ Achieving the Vision

### Key Objectives

- A1. Support the conservation, appropriate restoration and re-establishment of the semi-natural habitat resources of the AONB especially those UK BAP habitats found in the Forest of Bowland to a significant degree:
- Moorland and mire
    - Blanket bog
    - Upland Heath
    - Species-rich/diverse Acid Grassland
    - Springs and Flushes
  - Species-rich Grassland
    - Wader pasture
    - Swamps and tall herb fan
    - Upland Hay Meadow
    - Lowland Meadow
    - (Lowland and Upland) Calcareous grassland
  - Semi-natural woodland
    - Upland oak
    - Upland mixed ash
    - Wet woodlands
    - Ancient or species-rich hedgerows
- Rivers
- A2. Support the delivery of the species targets contained within the UK, Lancashire and North Yorkshire Biodiversity Action Plans that can be significantly achieved within the Forest of Bowland and are compatible to the purposes of the AONB's designation.
- A3. Support initiatives that reverse habitat fragmentation and species isolation in line with the landscape guidelines within the Landscape Character Assessment
- A4. Support the conservation, appropriate restoration and re-establishment of archeological, geological and historic landscape sites/features
- A5. Support the conservation, appropriate restoration and re-establishment of traditional buildings and settlements
- A6. Support the conservation, appropriate restoration and re-establishment of the historic settlement pattern of small scattered villages, dispersed hamlets and farmsteads connected by narrow country lanes

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## Part A ~ Strategy Section Two ~ Achieving the Vision

- A7. Support the conservation, appropriate restoration and re-establishment of the existing boundary features, including traditional stone enclosure walls, ditches and important hedgerows as well as encourage the planting of native hedgerows and drystone wall building in preference to stock-proof fencing. Where replacement of these existing boundary features is necessary with fencing, it should be sited and designed sympathetically.
- A8. Support the maintenance and enhancement of the characteristic network of narrow country lanes, maintaining walls, banks, hedgerows, trees, quality and biodiversity of species-rich herb and grassland verge communities as well as traditional metal railings. Where highway authorities propose works they should have regard to the AONB purpose of conserving and enhancing natural beauty.
- A9. Support initiatives that seek to enhance the character of country lanes by discouraging and removing tipped rubbish, rebuilding of stone walls, planting of hedgerows and trees where appropriate, resurfacing of parking areas and lay-bys in local stone and sympathetic treatment of signs and other roadside features

- A10. Encourage the maintenance of the character of footpaths and tracks using erosion and access control management practices, grassland restoration and/or surfacing using local materials where appropriate as well as traditional low key signage

### **Moorland Landscapes**

#### **Key Characteristics:**

- Large scale exposed open moorland with a sense of remoteness and grandeur
- Moorland vegetation of heath species, rushes, grasses and blanket bog
- Steep scraps with distinctive smooth profile
- Deeply incised cloughs and valleys
- Extensive views over fringe farmland and valleys
- Tree cover limited to remnant clough woodland and occasional conifer blocks
- Built elements limited to stone walls and fences, minor roads, shooting butts and shelters

# Management Plan

## Part A ~ Strategy Section Two ~ Achieving the Vision

### Key Objectives

- M1. Encourage the maintenance and restoration of the mosaic of semi-natural habitat and characteristic species, avoiding drainage of moorland blanket bog, wet flushes and wet/damp acid grassland as well as renewal of blanket bog through re-wetting
- M2. Promote restoration and regeneration of heather and bilberry as well as encouraging initiatives that seek to reduce erosion, except where such action would outweigh related landscape and wildlife benefits
- M3. Encourage retention of the sense of remoteness and large scale open moorland character
- M4. Encourage avoidance of fencing in open, highly visible locations, except where its short-term benefits outweigh related landscape or wildlife loss
- M5. Encourage avoidance of tree planting in highly visible locations or areas whose character, as defined by the Landscape Character assessment, is open.
- M6. Promote maintenance and where appropriate enhancement of steep scarps, crags and rock screes as landscape features
- M7. Promote maintenance of existing gritstone walls where still functional as well as repair and rebuilding of damaged walls in preference to replacement with fencing. Where fencing is essential, it should be sympathetically designed and sited
- M8. Encourage the enhancement of clough woodlands by stock-proofing to prevent grazing and allow natural regeneration, thinning to remove non-native and invasive species and re-stocking with appropriate native species
- M9. Promote the use of gritstone and turf for surfacing, shelters and shooting butts in preference to other materials
- M10. Encourage the return of semi-improved rough pasture and grass moorland to dwarf shrub moorland or upland heather communities where appropriate
- M11. Encourage appropriate levels and cycles of stocking on moorland landscapes to maintain and restore the mosaic of semi-natural habitats and characteristic species
- M12. Support maintenance and management of distinctive and historic landscape features and archeological sites, including prehistoric cairns and earthwork sites, moorland trackways, industrial and quarry remains
- M13. Encourage good upland heath burning practice
- M14. Promote careful management/control of bracken
- M15. Support initiatives, which seek to increase awareness of the fire risk, presented by moorland during high-risk conditions and seek to reduce the threat of moorland fires

# Management Plan

## Part A ~ Strategy Section Two ~ Achieving the Vision

### Fringe Farmland Landscapes

#### Key Characteristics:

- Enclosed, small to medium scale undulating pastoral farmland
- Quiet, managed rural character with views to exposed moorland
- Steep wooded valleys and cloughs
- Settlement of scattered farms and dispersed hamlets with occasional villages
- Buildings predominantly stone built
- Presence of gritstone/limestone walls reflecting underlying geology
- Extensive hedgerow and hedgerow tree cover defining field pattern
- Parkland and estate landscapes associated with small country houses
- Complex system of narrow lanes with occasional wide historic drove roads

#### Key Objectives

- F1. Support the conservation of the unspoilt rural character of fringe farmland landscape
- F2. Encourage maintenance of the existing extent of species-rich grassland (limestone grassland, northern hay meadows and lowland meadows including pastures) and where appropriate promote increases in extent as well as management for hay production in preference to silage
- F3. Promote the return of semi-improved grasslands to species-diverse grassland communities by appropriate techniques
- F4. Encourage conservation and enhancement of wader pastures below the enclosure wall for the benefit of wading birds
- F5. Encourage management of permanent pasture to maximise its ecological value by avoidance of ploughing, re-seeding, artificial fertiliser, drainage and other potentially damaging farm operations as well as encouraging appropriate stocking levels and land use cycles

# Management Plan

## Part A ~ Strategy Section Two ~ Achieving the Vision

- F6. Encourage enhancement of existing buildings and farmsteads by repair and maintenance using local gritstone and limestone as appropriate, as well as removal of rubbish and derelict machinery
- F7. Encourage maintenance of gritstone walls and associated banks and ditches with gritstone in areas where it is the predominant underlying rock type
- F8. Encourage maintenance of limestone walls and associated banks and ditches with limestone in areas where it is the predominant underlying rock type
- F9. Encourage the management of hedgerows and associated bank and ditches for wildlife benefit, allowing hedgerow trees to persist and enhance hedgerows by replanting and gapping up of degraded hedgelines with appropriate species
- F10. Encourage the continuation of the pattern of enclosed fields by promotion of maintenance and enhancement of hedgerows and associated ditches and replacement planting on historic or new lines where this complements the shape and scale of the field pattern
- F11. Encourage maintenance of areas of 'parkland' landscape associated with historic country houses and estate lands by continuing the characteristic style of management of hedgerows and trees and replanting with open grown, well-spaced specimen trees and in copses including some non-native species

- F12. Encourage maintenance of distinctive and historic landscape features and archeological sites, including lime kilns, waystones, sheepfolds, stone troughs, gate stoops, marl pits, earthworks, parish boundary features and field ponds by repair and/or management
- F13. Promote the enhancement of the wooded pastoral character by planting of small-scale new woodlands where they are well related to topography, existing woodlands and hedgerows, and do not damage other important semi-natural habitats

### **Woodland Landscapes**

#### **Key Characteristics:**

- Deeply incised cloughs with broadleaved woodland
- Intimate scale and sense of seclusion with a lack of obvious human influence
- Contrast between open and closed canopy and variety of ground flora, texture and seasonal colour in broadleaved and mixed woodland
- Clough woodlands with fast-flowing becks and rivers with rocky channels
- Woodland and tree cover broken up by rough pasture and meadow
- Dense, even-aged stands of coniferous blocks with a uniformity of texture and colour

# Management Plan

## Part A ~ Strategy Section Two ~ Achieving the Vision

### Key Objectives

- W1. Encourage management of native woodland, which retains the habitat and associated species resource by maintaining the shrub layer; a mixed age structure of trees as well as the contrast between closed canopy and open glade woodland
- W2. Encourage the maintenance of existing woodland boundary walls, banks and hedges, giving priority to those important for stock control or those that are of landscape value
- W3. Encourage the maintenance of distinctive woodland features such as woodland banks and ditches, saw pits, charcoal burning sites and veteran trees by management
- W4. Encourage the enhancement of the character of native broadleaved woodland by stock-proofing to prevent grazing and allow natural regeneration, thinning to remove non-native and invasive species as well as re-stocking with appropriate native species where natural regeneration does not occur
- W5. Encourage the enhancement of the character of mixed plantations by maintaining a balance between conifers and native broadleaves, and management practices which promote a mixed age structure and variety of habitats alongside timber production
- W6. Encourage initiatives, which seek to revert coniferous plantations to moorland where they occur in otherwise open moorland or are insensitively sited or designed
- W7. Encourage the enhancement of coniferous plantations by gradual change to mixed woodland where they are well related to topography and existing native woodland, by gradual thinning and felling of conifers, natural regeneration and planting of broadleaves
- W8. Support initiatives which seek to conserve, restore and re-establish native woodland in appropriate locations, particularly as extensions to existing and fragmented woodland within cloughs and river valleys as well as adjacent to farm buildings where shelterbelts and copses are traditionally part of the landscape with due regard to existing conservation interest

# Management Plan

## Part A ~ Strategy Section Two ~ Achieving the Vision

### Open River and Reservoir Landscapes

#### Key Characteristics:

- Open flat to undulating river valleys with broad meandering river
- Tranquil pastoral character with a lack of habitation
- Expanse of open water of river/reservoir with associated wetland birds
- Open riverside pasture on flood plain with woodland on valley sides
- Occasional hedgerows and trees, riverbank trees and scrub
- Wet and flooded pastures particularly in winter
- Dam structures, stone walls and buildings associated with reservoirs

#### Key Objectives

RR1. Encourage the enhancement of the river landscape by returning straightened sections, re-graded banks, shingle beds, eroding river cliffs and unsympathetic engineered features to a more natural shape, encouraging marginal vegetation, characteristic species and allowing flooding where appropriate

- RR2. Encourage the maintenance of river bank vegetation such as occasional trees, scrub and marginal vegetation by management including stock exclusion/reduction, regeneration and replanting, where there is no conflict with wildlife interest
- RR3. Encourage the management of species-rich grasslands and other communities along river margins and extend these management practices to whole fields
- RR4. Recommend, where feasible, the avoidance of the construction of walls, buildings, roads and the division of fields by fencing, on the flood plain to maintain its flat, open and generally unsettled character
- RR5. Encourage the maintenance and conservation management of existing reservoirs, lodges, historic bridges, water mills and their associated historic features
- RR6. Encourage the enhancement of reservoirs by appropriate planting of native trees and shrubs on banks, sympathetic grading of lake margins as well as encouragement and planting of marginal vegetation, where there is no conflict with wildlife value

# Management Plan

## Part A ~ Strategy Section Two ~ Achieving the Vision

- RR7. Encourage the maintenance and enhancement of open river and reservoir habitats, including associated ponds for wildlife value
- RR8. Encourage the management and enhancement of river spawning habitats
- RR9. Encourage the provision of quiet stretches of river banks as otter refuges
- RR10. Encourage eradication of invasive non-native species along river corridors

### Social Equity and Economic Opportunity

#### Aim

Social equity and economic opportunity that conserves and enhances the natural beauty of the Forest of Bowland AONB.

#### Vision

Sustainable socio-economic development conserves and enhances the natural beauty of the AONB. The dynamic relationship between the well being of the natural and cultural resources, economic activity in the AONB and resident communities will have been retained resulting in integration and balance between these elements. The local community has access to services, which seek to meet local needs and contribute towards the statutory designation of the area.

Planning and development meets the needs of the local community and the area's landscape. Water, energy and telecommunication infrastructure have reduced in impact on the landscape along with other major sources of visual intrusion, noise and light pollution. Economic opportunity actively contributes to the conservation and enhancement of the area's natural beauty. Tourism activity within the Forest of Bowland recognises and seeks to conserve the area's natural and cultural heritage. Environmentally sensitive farming practices are undertaken within the area and there is no large-scale land abandonment. All these factors contribute to a sustainable and vibrant local economy.

#### Key Objectives

##### Capacity Building

- CI. Encourage, support and promote initiatives, agencies and organisations involved with the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty as well as the development of prosperous and inclusive communities and in particular:

# Management Plan

## Part A ~ Strategy Section Two ~ Achieving the Vision

- C2. Take other strategies into account which satisfactorily address purposes of the AONB when planning AONB activities: County and District LA21 strategies, Community strategies, Countryside strategies, Local Strategic partnerships, Local Transport Plans, Market Town Actions Plans, Water Framework Directives and Parish Plans
- C3. Help projects, which enable local communities to enjoy and celebrate their local environment, promoting local character and heritage
- C4. Encourage development of village based environmental improvement projects (parish and community initiatives)
- C5. Encourage all community stakeholders to work together and become involved in decision making and actions to enhance the environment, economy and social well-being through such initiatives as parish plans and village design statements.

### **Access to Services**

- AS1. Encourage maintenance of current transport service levels and where feasible, improvements to the bus and rail systems servicing the AONB which are consistent with the purposes of the AONB
- AS2. Support the current phased implementation of a network of Quiet Lanes and Greenways, offering links to facilities, services and recreation for all stakeholders

- AS3. Encourage the implementation of sympathetically designed traffic management schemes to improve public safety and reduce the impact of traffic upon the character of the AONB
- AS4. Encourage the continuation of existing community led transport initiatives and development of new initiatives if suitable opportunities are identified which are consistent with the AONB designation
- AS5. Encourage improved local community access to public services, supporting projects appropriate to the purposes of the AONB that retain and develop local services and employment opportunities<sup>1</sup>
- AS6. Encourage the relevant authorities to actively consider the training and skills development required by the AONB residential labour market
- AS7. Support services and projects where appropriate to AONB designation which seek to increase access to information communication technology and broadband internet connections
- AS8. Support initiatives where appropriate to AONB designation, which provide services for young people and other isolated sections of the community.

<sup>1</sup> For example, community resource centres and rural workspace projects

# Management Plan

## Part A ~ Strategy Section Two ~ Achieving the Vision

### Planning and Development

- PD1. Encourage, the relevant authorities or organisations, where the opportunity arises, concerning the provision of affordable local needs housing<sup>2</sup> to meet the present and future requirements of the local community members who contribute to the management of the AONB landscape
- PD2. Retain and strengthen the historic and locally distinctive character of rural settlements by encouraging any development within the AONB to respect the local character and distinctiveness through the use of appropriate materials, form, setting and scale
- PD3. Promote awareness and consideration of the setting of the AONB, and views to and from it, when considering development and land use change proposals on sites adjacent to the AONB
- PD4. Resist the loss of employment premises to other uses, including residential, unless retaining the premises in employment use would be more harmful to the AONB than the proposed new use.
- PD5. Information available on the characteristics of local distinctive landscapes and the processes that have created them, to assist anyone who needs to take into account the natural beauty of the AONB in their activities

<sup>2</sup> Affordable Local Needs housing is defined as that which provides accommodation for local people who, by reason of income, are denied entry into the normal housing market.

- PD6. Lobby the relevant agencies to reduce the impact of water, energy, telecommunication and highway infrastructure through sensitive design and siting of structures
- PD7. Support initiatives which seek to minimise the impact of major sources of visual intrusion, noise and light pollution within the AONB
- PD8. Encourage a consistent and coherent framework of planning policy, which recognises the primary purpose of AONB designation, which is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area and applies it consistently across the AONB

### Economic Opportunity

- E1. Adopt a co-ordinated long-term approach to rural development, which accounts for current EU, CAP and Government Agency funding mechanisms and potential future reforms of these mechanisms to ensure that the natural beauty of the AONB is maintained and/or enhanced
- E2. Promote economic opportunity and seek to stimulate sustainable enterprise within the AONB, whilst also encouraging those involved to access relevant training and education that contributes to conservation and enhancement of the environment.

# Management Plan

## Part A ~ Strategy Section Two ~ Achieving the Vision

- E3. Ensure advice is available to rural business on current economic opportunities and funding sources in the area, which are appropriate to the designation of the AONB.
- E4. Support the economic and cultural diversification of Market Towns close to the AONB as an asset for rural employment, people's enjoyment and a supplier of local products

### **Tourism and Recreation**

- TR1. Encourage tourism initiatives to adopt principles of sustainable tourism
- TR2. Encourage partnership networks between tourism operators, land managers, communities and local authorities that benefit to the local economy and environment
- TR3. Promote the use of rural focal points for circular and linear self-guided walks linked to public transport to relevant partners
- TR4. Encourage local communities to understand, accept and engage in sustainable tourism as a valuable part of rural life
- TR5. Support the concentrated marketing of a sustainable tourism 'Bowland' brand

### **Agriculture**

- AG1. Support the evolution of sustainable farming and game management practices, as the principal land use in the AONB, which conserves and enhances natural beauty
- AG2. Support the continued development of co-ordinated agri-environment schemes that conserve and enhance natural beauty
- AG3. Encourage economic diversification schemes to utilise labour and materials from within the AONB to give local social, economic and environmental benefits
- AG4. Encourage farm diversification schemes, which are sympathetic to natural beauty
- AG5. Encourage marketing of local AONB goods produced locally by land management practices that conserve and enhance natural beauty of the AONB

### **Enjoyment of the AONB**

#### **Aim**

Demand for enjoyment of the AONB is met where consistent with conserving and enhancing natural beauty, and particularly where it plays a role in assisting economic and social opportunity.

# Management Plan

## Part A ~ Strategy Section Two ~ Achieving the Vision

### Vision

The Public Rights of Way (PROW) and Access network within the AONB has continued to be developed to standards that conform to the landscape designation of the area and are attuned to people needs. The implementation of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 was consistent across the whole AONB. Quiet enjoyment and recreational activities are integrated with the purposes of AONB designation and continue to be managed appropriately. Transport and traffic management within the area is increasingly sympathetic to the landscape whilst facilitating access and enjoyment to all stakeholders. The local community and visitors have access to clear, accurate and up to date information and interpretation concerning the area, enabling increased recognition and enjoyment of the area's distinctive qualities.

### Key Objectives

#### Access Management

AM1. Encourage further development of existing linkages between urban and rural areas

- AM2. Encourage the proper maintenance of all PROW and that they are well publicised and conform to the standard set by Rights of Way Improvement plans to create a coherent network attuned to peoples needs and meeting national standards
- AM3. Encourage continued development of PROW network to meet the needs of local people and visitors
- AM4. Encourage local communities, farmers, landowners and users to play a greater part in helping to maintain and enhance the local PROW network
- AM5. Encourage and support surveys to monitor levels of usage on the PROW network
- AM6. Support the development of an easily accessible and up to date rights of way information system
- AM7. Encourage use of good design, techniques, local materials and local contractors in rights of way management
- AM8. Encourage and support provision of a wider choice of locations and routes for all-ability access and involve such groups closely with decisions regarding improved access

# Management Plan

## Part A ~ Strategy Section Two ~ Achieving the Vision

- AM9. Support the phased implementation of a network of connecting Quiet Lanes and Greenways
- AM10. Encourage improvement in the currently fragmented nature of the bridleway network
- AM11. Support the Countryside Agency in the implementation of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 legislation, including partnership working with the new local access forums to ensure they recognise and account for the AONB designation purpose and management plan in decision-making
- AM12. Ensure Local Access Forums understand and are able to take into account the purposes and management plan of the AONB in decision-making
- AM13. Encourage the access authorities in Lancashire and North Yorkshire when implementing their responsibilities under the CRoW Act 2000 to be consistent in their treatment of the AONB, regarding the area as one entity
- AM14. JAC will contribute to access management post-CRoW Act

### Recreation

- RE1. Encourage quiet enjoyment of the countryside on foot, horse, cycle or water
- RE2. Promote responsible behaviour by all visitors to the Forest of Bowland.
- RE3. Assist and support the establishment of a monitoring system for visitor numbers in the AONB
- RE4. Facilitate the continuation of established liaison meetings between appropriate bodies (users, landowners, conservation interests)
- RE5. Support initiatives which seek to connect places of interest such as access areas, viewpoints, recreation sites and woodlands as well as managing linkages between such sites
- RE6. Encourage and support recreational management of honey pots, which attract large numbers of visitors
- RE7. Encourage access, irrespective of age, disability and ethnicity to the Forest of Bowland AONB and encourage associated specific facilities to be of high quality and welcoming
- RE8. Address the needs and aspirations of those with mobility impairments and develop provision where appropriate throughout the AONB

# Management Plan

## Part A ~ Strategy Section Two ~ Achieving the Vision

- RE9. Encourage access for all to the AONB, whilst protecting sensitive and remote areas and habitats through the provision of a series of suggested access points and promoted routes
- RE10. Encourage improvements in the network of promoted routes
- RE11. Support the Rights of Way improvement plan process
- RE12. Promote walking generally and specially through Walking for Health initiatives

### Transport

- T1. Encourage the relevant authorities to develop innovative public transport services designed to stimulate demand and provide for all types of user
- T2. Promote those transport services, which provide a good standard of mobility and accessibility without detriment to the environment
- T3. Encourage shared, safe and tranquil use of roads
- T4. Support the phased implementation of Quiet Lanes close to people's homes to provide access for day-to-day utility and recreational use
- T5. Promote guided walks and events linked to the public transport network as well as local facilities and services such as local festivals and agricultural shows

- T6. Support initiatives which seek to manage sympathetically the demand for car parking within the AONB
- T7. Encourage maintenance and improvements to the highway network to recognise the local distinctiveness and character of the AONB
- T8. Encourage traffic regulations that are adapted to suit the needs of the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

### Information/Interpretation

- II1. Promote and interpret aspects of the AONB such as environmental heritage, management, communities and recreational opportunities.
- II2. Encourage all stakeholders issuing publications concerning the AONB to use clear, accurate and standardised information. All publications should carry The Forest of Bowland Logo. In addition, it is highly desirable to also include information explaining the AONB designation, using a standardised format agreed by the partnership.
- II3. Encourage imaginative but accessible use of information communication technology in displaying and disseminating information
- II4. Support the development of an annual programme of guided walks and events, themed to educate concerning open access issues and working with estates and farmers

# Management Plan

## Part A ~ Strategy Section Two ~ Achieving the Vision

### Co-ordination and Management of the AONB Partnership

#### Aim

Continue to develop an active, effective and co-ordinated partnership in the AONB, which conserves and enhances the natural beauty of the area.

#### Vision

The Forest of Bowland AONB review of governance has been effectively implemented. Effective partnership working has contributed to the development and implementation of a sustainable vision for the future management of the Forest of Bowland AONB and the quality of the landscape has been improved for all stakeholders. The management of the area has been made more accessible for all stakeholders.

#### Key Objectives

##### Partnership

- P1. Undertake consultation activities that seek to increase partner involvement and commitment to the AONB
- P2. Demonstrate the added value and political benefits gained through effective partnership working
- P3. Work in close partnership with local people and communities

- P4. Encourage involvement from new partners, including the private sector
- P5. Act as a strategic forum of communication between constituent statutory authorities and other interested parties in all matters relating to the AONB
- P6. Encourage the co-ordinated and sympathetic promotion of the Forest of Bowland as a tourism destination

#### Resources

- R1. Secure long term and flexible finance, particularly revenue monies
- R2. Promote greater use of local resources
- R3. Clearly define the roles and responsibilities of staff and partners
- R4. Disseminate information and specialist advice

#### Promotion

- PR1. Strengthen the profile of the Forest of Bowland AONB and where appropriate undertake image renewal activities
- PR2. Promote the success and achievements of the partnership to local people and visitors

# Management Plan

## Part A ~ Strategy Section Two ~ Achieving the Vision

### Policy Co-ordination

- PO1. Maintain and where feasible enhance the current co-ordinated approach to rural development in the AONB
- PO2. Recognise the interconnectivity of AONB objectives and seek to integrate them into wider policy at local, regional, national and European level

### Implementation

- 11. Ensure that the governance of the AONB is accessible to all stakeholders
- 12. Encourage continuation of the co-ordinated delivery of the Countryside Services operating in Bowland
- 13. Ensure joint ownership, implementation and review of the Management Plan
- 14. Secure and co-ordinate the effective allocation of resources and delivery on the ground
- 15. Build and maintain effective working relationships with the local community, user groups, farmers and landowners as well as all other partners concerning the implementation and service delivery

- 16. Ensure that the general maintenance of projects and schemes delivered conforms to a high standard and that maintenance implications are considered in the early stages of project development
- 17. Develop appropriate monitoring indicators to measure the management plan's effect on the conservation and enhancement of the AONB

# Management Plan

## Part B ~ Implementation

### Financial Planning

This Action Plan will cover the next five year period (2004/05 – 2008/09) to coincide with the new statutory duty to review and publish an AONB Management Plan at least once every five years. It is not intended to be comprehensive or prescriptive. The clear policies of the Management Plan give us scope to identify specific projects that we intend to deliver both as an AONB Partnership and through the work of others. Unforeseen opportunities and difficulties will no doubt occur during the lifetime of the Management Plan, which will in turn influence what we deliver through the Action Plan. A draft Action Plan is presented on the following pages.

Similarly, in terms of financial resources implications a comprehensive and prescriptive financial summary for the next five-year period (2004/05 – 2008/09) is not possible due to unforeseen opportunities and difficulties. However, an estimate of the cost of the actions over the five years is a minimum of £2 million. It is important to highlight that to successfully deliver the aims and move towards the vision of this management plan, a secure supply of funding will be necessary. The memorandum of agreement signed by all AONB partnership local authorities and the Countryside

Agency guarantees local authority funding levels and provides 75% Countryside Agency grant support for core costs associated with the AONB Unit until the end of 2007/08. Nevertheless, there are many other sources of national, regional and local grant aid funding available to the projects detailed within this action plan. A principal role of the AONB unit will be to identify and utilise appropriate sources of additional funding to facilitate delivery of action plan schemes. Whilst, it is envisaged that the large majority of funding for projects on the ground will be sourced and delivered by national grant aid funding, there might be instances where local funding via certain AONB partner organisations e.g. English Nature, Environment Agency, local authorities, Heritage Lottery Fund etc., will be needed to achieve particular Management Plan objectives.

The AONB Unit will play a central role in the co-ordination and implementation of the action plan by all partner organisations and individuals. Therefore, maintaining an adequately staffed 'core' AONB Unit is important in ensuring that this co-ordination of effort takes place and that appropriate partnerships are continued and developed as necessary.

# Management Plan

## Part B ~ Implementation

### AONB Partnership Finances

The 2003/04 revised budget and 2004/5 draft budget for the Forest of Bowland AONB are provided to give an indication of the finances of the AONB partnership. The core funding for the AONB partnership comes from the six district and two county councils whose areas incorporate sections of the Forest of Bowland AONB. Additional funding in the form of grant support from a number of other agencies and organisations, including the Countryside Agency and United Utilities, contributes to the core costs and programme delivery.

The JAC Budget supports an AONB Officer, AONB Assistant Officer and Publicity and Information Officer.

Budget Head	2003/04 Revised Estimate	2004/05 Original Estimate
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Salary, NI Superannuation	73,200	94,000
Support Costs	46,400	59,800
Core Activities	24,600	30,300
Projects	123,450	85,100
<b>Total</b>	<b>267,650</b>	<b>269,200</b>
<b>Income</b>		
<i>Government Grants</i>		
The Countryside Agency	140,700	138,100
<i>Contributions</i>		
United Utilities	6,000	6,000
Other	1,700	0
<i>County Councils</i>		
Lancashire	36,600	37,705
North Yorkshire	6,100	6,285
<i>District Councils</i>		
Craven	3,050	6,285
Lancaster	6,100	6,285
Pendle	6,100	6,285
Preston	6,100	6,285
Ribble Valley	6,100	6,285
Wyre	6,100	6,285
<b>Sub Total ~ Local Authorities</b>	<b>76,250</b>	<b>81,700</b>
Contribution to support costs (in kind)		
Lancashire County Council	43,000	43,400
<b>Total</b>	<b>267,650</b>	<b>269,200</b>

# Management Plan

## Part B ~ Implementation

### Action Plan

#### Theme ~ Natural and Cultural Environment

ID N°	Actions	Target	Proposed Partners with AONB Unit	Timetable	Key Objectives Ref
<b>AONB WIDE</b>					
1	Assess and lobby for appropriate funding under new European and UK (including HLF) funding regimes	Funding identified and secured	CC, JAC, LRF, LWT, EN, EA, AAONB	2004-05 - 2008-09	All
2	Promotion and implementation of key Theme 1 landscape objectives to landowners and managers	100 environmental appraisals carried out on farms (2004-05 - 2008-09)	LRF, RSPB, LWT, LO/F, FWAG	2004-05 - 2008-09	All
3	Promotion and implementation of key Theme 1 landscape objectives to landowners and managers through the relevant Stewardship Schemes	100 stewardship agreements (2004-05 - 2008-09)	CS, CC, DC, LRF, WT, EN, EA, DEFRA, LO/F, RSPB, FWAG, LWT	2004-05 - 2008-09	All
4	Promotion and encouragement of appropriate management arrangements with landowners, farmers and commoners to meet key objectives for all landscape character types	35 Management agreements (2004-05 - 2008-09) subject to funding availability  Funding secured for the management of small conservation sites	CS, CC, DC, EN, WT, DEFRA, LO/F, MTI, NWDA	2004-05 - 2008-09	All
<b>NATURE CONSERVATION</b>					
5	Implement the Lifescapes system to monitor changes in landscape, key habitats and priority species	Environmental change monitored	Contractor; CC, EN, LO/F, WT, RSPB, EA, FWAG	2004-05 - 2008-09	All

# Management Plan

## Part B ~ Implementation

ID N•	Actions	Target	Proposed Partners with AONB Unit	Timetable	Key Objectives Ref
6	Maintain register of wildlife sites. Identify owners/occupiers and prepare site documentation	All wildlife site owners and occupiers contacted and given documentation	CC,WT,EN,LRF	2004-05 - 2008-09	A1,A2
7	Devise and establish an ICT based biological records centre	System established and baseline information collected	CC, DC, WT, EN, RSPB	2005-06	A1,A2
8	Achieve further conservation management/restoration agreements for key BAP habitat and species target sites	10 Key BAP Habitat Sites placed under management /restoration agreement per year	EN, CC, WT, LRF, DEFRA, LO/F, RSPB, WRT, LHG, RCCT, LO/F, EA, Riparian Owners, Commoners, UU	2004-05 - 2008-09	All
9	Develop wild seed and greenhay harvesting project and identify potential species-rich grasslands sites	Links between seed source and users established to demonstrate viability	LRF, CS, WT, EN, Contractor	2004-05 - 2008-09	A1, A3, M2, F2-3, F5 RR3
10	Liase with landowners and Highways authorities to sympathetically manage botanically rich highway verges	Survey, draw up and implement management schedules	CS,CC, DC, LO/F, HA, Contractor	2004-05 - 2008-09	A1, F1-3, F9-10
<b>LANDSCAPE AND HISTORIC FEATURES</b>					
11	Survey of country lanes network identifying condition and management of characteristic features	Survey verges and work programme complete	CC, DC, CA, LO/F	2004-05 - 2008-09	A6, A8-9, F9-10

# Management Plan

## Part B ~ Implementation

ID N•	Actions	Target	Proposed Partners with AONB Unit	Timetable	Key Objectives Ref
12	Identify and collate information on features of the historic landscape  Survey to assess condition of known sites	Resource assessment surveys  Surveys undertaken	CC, DC, EH, LO/F, Contractor	2004-05 - 2008-09  2004-05 - 2008-09	A4-9, M12, F7-11, W2-3, RR5
13	Produce leaflet on conservation of historic features within the AONB, targeted at LO/F with advice on management, funding sources etc.	Information leaflet produced and promoted	CC, DC, LO/F, CS	2005-06	A4, M12, F12
14	Conserve and enhance traditional boundary features	Funding secured A rolling program of annual assessment of traditional boundaries and prioritised targets implemented	CA, Contractor; CS, DC, CC, LO/F, VO, Lengthsman	2004-05 - 2008-09	A1, A7, A9, M7, F7-11, W2
15	Assess the condition of roadside railings and agree and implement a long term management strategy	Railings maintained long term	CS, CC	2004-05 - 2008-09	A8-9
16	Encourage the removal, screening and restoration of sites effected by rubbish and derelict machinery	3 sites improved per year	CS, DC, O/F, CC	2004-05 - 2008-09	A1, F1, F6
17	Small scale landscape/ habitat management on land ineligible for mainstream conservation related grant schemes	Funding Secured. 5ha of habitat managed/ enhanced/ created per year	CS, LO/F	2004-05 - 2008-09	A1, A9, F1-6, W1-4, RR2-3, RR9-10

# Management Plan

## Part B ~ Implementation

ID N°	Actions	Target	Proposed Partners with AONB Unit	Timetable	Key Objectives Ref
<b>WOODLAND</b>					
18	Facilitate the continued development of initiatives which achieve best practice concerning conservation and management of woodland in the AONB	Woodland planting, funding and management advice to 30 owners annually Development of 2 products from local timber annually	FC, LRF, CS, CC, DC, LO/F	2004-05 - 2008-09	A1, A3, M8, W1-8, F13, RR2
<b>SITE SPECIFIC ACTIONS</b>					
19	Formation of working groups to prepare integrated management plans and implement recommendations for the following locations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lune Millennium Park</li> <li>• Beacon Fell/ Brock Valley</li> <li>• Grizedale/Nicky Nook</li> <li>• Pendle Hill</li> <li>• Longridge Fell</li> <li>• Gisburn Forest</li> <li>• Fell Wood/Aitken Wood</li> <li>• Lune Valley Woodland</li> <li>• Trough of Bowland</li> <li>• Cross O'Greet/Lythe Fell</li> <li>• Bowland Knotts/Keasden Road</li> </ul>	Integrated Management Plans produced and proposals identified and implemented	CS, DC, LO/F, UU, EN, WT, RSPB, FE, Com, PC, Contractor	2004-05 2006-07 2006-07 2005-06 2007-08 2004-05 2005-06 2005-06 2005-06 2008-09 2008-09	All

# Management Plan

## Part B ~ Implementation

### Action Plan

#### Theme ~ Social and Economic Opportunity

ID N•	Actions	Target	Proposed Partners with AONB Unit	Timetable	Key Objectives Ref
<b>CAPACITY BUILDING AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY</b>					
20	Encourage appropriate agencies and organisations to resource community capacity and economic development projects within the AONB which conserve and enhance the environment, stimulate community involvement and local pride and facilitate sustainable development. Funding secured, including bid to HLF (2004-05).	Funding secured, including bid to HLF (2004-05).  Communities and businesses supported	CCL, EU, CA, NWDA, LCC, DC, CC, ELP, LO/F, LRF, DMO, BL, RCC, DEFRA, CF,CDA, FC, TEC, Private Sector	2004-05 - 2008-09	CI-5, EI-4
<b>TOURISM AND RECREATION</b>					
21	Assist in the development, support and promotion of sustainable tourism initiatives that are compatible with AONB objectives	Sustainable tourism initiatives developed and implemented	CC, DC, DMO, EN, LWT, LO/F, CLAREN, EP, TEF, EA, WT, Com, Users, Tourism Businesses	2004-05 - 2008-09	TRI-2, TR4
22	Develop in partnership with appropriate agencies a distinctive brand for the Forest of Bowland AONB.	Distinctive Brand Image developed, promoted and assessed	CC, DC, EN, LWT, LO/F, RSPB, NWDA, DMO, LRF, WT, FC, NWRA, GONW, YF, EH, CA, CLAREN, EP	2004-05 - 2008-09	All

# Management Plan

## Part B ~ Implementation

ID N°	Actions	Target	Proposed Partners with AONB Unit	Timetable	Key Objectives Ref
<b>AGRICULTURE</b>					
23	Build upon and extend schemes developed that promote a viable healthy agricultural economy and community, whilst conserving and enhancing the environment.	Appropriate farm diversification schemes developed and implemented	LO/F, LRF, DEFRA, CA, NWDA, EN, FWAG,	2004-05 - 2008-09	AG1-5
<b>ACCESS TO SERVICES</b>					
24	Undertake an access to services needs survey	Needs identified	NWDA, RCC, DEFRA, CDA, FC, TEC, CA, BL,	2004-05	AS4-8
	Support the development of and promote initiatives, which maintain and enhance access to services for local people	Access to services maintained and improved	LRF, Private Sector, CLAREN, MTI	2004-05 - 2008-09	
25	Work with partners and local communities to develop improvements to the transport network, aiming to meet local and visitor needs in a sustainable manner	Access to services enhanced through sustainable transport initiatives	CC, DC, Com, Users, Private Sector, Transport Providers, LO/F, CA, MTI	2004-05 - 2008-09	AS1-5, TI-2, T4-5

# Management Plan

## Part B ~ Implementation

ID N•	Actions	Target	Proposed Partners with AONB Unit	Timetable	Key Objectives Ref
<b>PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT</b>					
26	Encourage relevant stakeholders to undertake housing needs surveys within the AONB.	Housing needs of the AONB are clearly defined.	DC, LO/F, HOA	2006-07	PD1
27	Produce leaflet on planning and development issues within the AONB	Information leaflets produced and promoted	CS, DC, LRF, LO/F, CLAREN, EN	2004-05	PD2-3, PD5
28	Encourage relevant stakeholders to consider other uses of buildings by offering advice and direction to funding sources	Decrease in the number of buildings transferred from economic to residential use	CS, LRF, LO/F, DC, CC	2004-05 - 2008-09	PD4
29	Promote the area's AONB designation and consequent need for reduction in impact of power, water and communications structures	Comments and input from AONB Unit to all relevant consultations	CC, DC, LO/F, Commoners, Statutory Undertakers and Service Providers	2004-05 - 2008-09	PD6
30	Develop a planning protocol for the AONB through consultation with appropriate statutory agencies	Planning protocol developed and implemented	DC, CC, LO/F,	2004-05 - 2008-09	PD2-3, PD8
31	Undertake a survey to identify if there are major sources of visual intrusion, noise and light pollution within the AONB	Any major sources of visual intrusion, noise and light pollution, identified, mapped and tabulated.	DC, CS, LRF, LO/F, Com, CC	2004-05 - 2008-09	PD7

# Management Plan

## Part B ~ Implementation

### Action Plan

#### Theme ~ Enjoyment of the AONB

ID N•	Actions	Target	Proposed Partners with AONB Unit	Timetable	Key Objectives Ref
<b>ACCESS MANAGEMENT</b>					
32	Undertake PROW/Access improvement surveys and implement improvements to facilitate all-ability access	All of AONB surveyed and improvement & maintenance works undertaken	CS, CC, DC, CA, LO/F, Contractor; Lengthsman, Com, Users, FC, Commoners	2004-05 - 2008-09	AM1-4, AM7-10, RE1, RE4
33	Extend the Parish Lengthsman scheme throughout the AONB to undertake maintenance and improvement works	Funding secured and maintained for extension	CC, DC, LO/F, PC	2004-05 - 2008-09	AM1-4, AM7, AM9-10
34	Assist in responding to management implications of land affected by CRoW Act access to open country legislation	Specialist advice given when needed and local access forums supported	CS, DC, CC, CA, EN, RSPB, UU, Com, Users, LO/F	2004-05 - 2008-09	AM11-14, RE1-4, RE6, RE9
35	Identify, develop and implement a number of routes linking the proximal urban centres to the AONB countryside.	Identification of routes linking town and country and improvements implemented	DC, CC, LO/F, Com, AU, CS, CA, ELRP, Contractor	2004-05 - 2008-09	AM2-3, AM9-10, RE1
<b>RECREATION</b>					
36	Develop a long distance circular horse riding route and support associated diversification appropriate to the landscape	Route defined, implemented in phases and promoted	CS, CC, CA, DC's, LRF, LO/F,	2004-05 - 2008-09	AM1-4, AM7, AM9-10, RE1
37	Develop a series of new community based circular walks and associated environmental improvements.	3 community themed walks developed, implemented and promoted every 2 years	CS, DC, Com, LO/F, CC, RSPB	2004-05 - 2008-09	AM1-3, AM7-8, RE1, T5, I13

# Management Plan

## Part B ~ Implementation

ID N•	Actions	Target	Proposed Partners with AONB Unit	Timetable	Key Objectives Ref
38	Co-ordinate and extend the already established guided walks and events programme for Bowland	Guided walks programme co-ordinated, extended in number and linked to public transport where possible	CC, DC, LWT, RSPB, LO/F, CA, Transport providers	2005-06  2004-05 - 2008-09	RE1, RE12, T5, I11, I13,
<b>TRANSPORT</b>					
39	Monitoring of first phase of Quiet Lanes and Greenways network	First Phase of Quiet Lanes and Greenways monitored	CC, CS, DC, CA, Com, Users, transport providers, LO/F	2004-05	AM3, AM5, AM7,-10, RE1, RE5, T2-4
	Phased implementation of subsequent phases	Quiet Lanes and Greenways network extended		2004-05 - 2008-09	
40	Examine the feasibility of establishing traffic demand management initiatives	Feasibility report produced and recommendations implemented where appropriate	CC, DC, Contractor	2004-05 - 2008-09	RE2, RE6, T1-2, T6, T8
41	Agree a road hierarchy for tailoring traffic to the Forest of Bowland AONB road network	Road Hierarchy for AONB developed and implemented	CC, DC, Contractor	2004-05 - 2008-06	RE1-2, T3, T8
42	Support the maintenance of sustainable transport initiatives within the AONB	Continued support of sustainable transport initiatives	CS, CC, DC, CA, Com, Users, transport providers	2004-05 - 2008-09	T1-2, T4-5, AS1-5

# Management Plan

## Part B ~ Implementation

ID N•	Actions	Target	Proposed Partners with AONB Unit	Timetable	Key Objectives Ref
<b>INFORMATION AND INTERPRETATION</b>					
43	Production of characteristic waymarkers by local craft workshops	Waymarkers created and sited	CS, DC, CC, LO/F	2004-05 - 2008-09	III, AM4, AM7
44	Develop arts and culture based projects and events, promoting awareness and understanding of landscape, rural communities and the agricultural economy in the AONB	Events and projects established and participation encouraged	Projects Environment, Com, RSPB, LTP, CC, DC, LRF, LO/F, Artists, CA	2004-05 - 2008-09	III, I13, AM4
45	Deliver information and interpretation on the project work undertaken by the Forest of Bowland AONB partnership at specific sites	Interpretation and information delivered	CS, DC, CC, LO/F	2004-05 - 2008-09	III

# Management Plan

## Part B ~ Implementation

### Action Plan

#### Theme ~ Co-ordination and Management of the AONB Partnership

ID N°	Actions	Target	Proposed Partners with AONB Unit	Timetable	Key Objectives Ref
<b>PUBLIC PROFILE AND IDENTITY OF AONB</b>					
46	Review existing publicity, information and interpretation activities and produce a strategy for the AONB	Publicity, information and interpretation strategy produced for AONB	IA, CS, CC, DC, Users, Com, LO/F, RSPB, WT, EN, CA, LTP	2004-05	PRI -2, R4, III
47	Disseminate information on ongoing project work using all forms of appropriate information communication technology	Information disseminated using appropriate mediums: website, printed updates etc	All partners	2004-05 - 2008-09	P2, P5, R4, PRI -2,
48	Raise awareness of special landscape, wildlife, environment and management of AONB through continued commitment to local events and festivals	Attendance at 50 awareness raising events and festivals each year	CS, IA, RSPB, DC, CC,	2004-05 - 2008-09	P2, P5, R4, PRI -2,
49	Continue to promote work of AONB partnership through the Association for AONBs and Staff Forum	Continued involvement in AONB Association activities as appropriate	CS	2004-05 - 2008-09	PRI -2, PO2,
50	Continue to develop and review AONB website	Website subject to continuing review and development	CC	2004-05 - 2008-09	II3, R4, II
51	Development and production of annual report for the AONB partnership, reviewing the partnership's progress and achievements each year	Annual Report developed (May-July each year) and published (August – September each year)	All partners	2004-05 - 2008-09	P2, P5, R4, PRI-2, II,

# Management Plan

## Part B ~ Implementation

ID N°	Actions	Target	Proposed Partners with AONB Unit	Timetable	Key Objectives Ref
52	General information dissemination enhanced by increased links with local press	Effective information dissemination and increased press coverage of the AONB	IA, DC, CC, CS	2004-05 - 2008-09	P2, R4, PRI-2
53	Organise annual conference to promote AONB partnership	Annual conference undertaken each year in early summer	CS,	2004-05 - 2008-09	P1-3, P5, R4, PRI-2, II, I3
<b>STRUCTURE AND CO-ORDINATION</b>					
54	Define roles and responsibilities of staff and develop a structured training/ development programme geared to AONB requirements	Annual skills audit complete and development programme implemented	CC, CS, JAC	2004-05 - 2008-09	R3, II, I3-4
55	Through Partners ensure that services delivered in the AONB are delivering Best Value	Comprehensive Performance Assessment/ Best Value demonstrated and monitored	CC, DC	2004-05 - 2008-09	P2-5, R2, R4
56	Continue and develop further, close working relationships and regular liaison with all partners	All partners aware of communication networks used by AONB partnership	All partners	2004-05 - 2008-06	PI-5, II-5

# Management Plan

## Part B ~ Implementation

ID N•	Actions	Target	Proposed Partners with AONB Unit	Timetable	Key Objectives Ref
57	Develop baseline data indicators to monitor progress of the management plan (2004-05 – 2008/09)	Indicators devised and monitoring undertaken	All partners	2004-05	All
58	Secure and diversify a long-term funding base for AONB core management and project funding	Long term stable funding secured from existing AONB partners  New funding partners involved	JAC, DC, CC, CA, LO/F, LRF, New partners	2004-05 - 2008-09	PI-4, R1, I4
<b>POLICY INPUT</b>					
59	Promote AONB objectives, comment and input into all local, regional, national and international policy that has implications for the AONB working with the Association for AONBs as appropriate	Comments and input from AONB partners submitted to all relevant consultations	JAC, AAONB	2004-05 - 2008-09	POI-2
60	Monitor and review Management Plan yearly.  Start consultation process for the next Management Plan in 2007-08	Annual Review  Stakeholders consulted and new management plan produced by March 2009	All partners	2004-05 - 2008-09  2007-08 - 2008-09	PI-6, R3 POI-2, I2-7

# Management Plan

## Part B ~ Implementation

ID N•	Actions	Target	Proposed Partners with AONB Unit	Timetable	Key Objectives Ref
<b>IMPLEMENTATION</b>					
61	Devise and undertake annual (12 month) management plan delivery programmes: identifying lead partners and specific targets etc	Annual management plan delivery programmes implemented	All partners	2004-05 - 2008-09	All
62	Photograph before, during and after all project work supported by AONB partnership	Photographic library in both electronic and print formats available to all partners	CS, LO/F, Contractors,	2004-05 - 2008-09	P2, R4, PRI-2,
63	Foster greater community involvement in project work from conception through to implementation and maintenance	Community relationships developed and maintenance implications addressed	CS, Com, DC, CC, Contractors, LO/F,	2004-05 - 2008-09	PI-4, R2, R4, PRI-2, II, 13-5
64	Give specialist advice or effective direction to more appropriate sources of advice	Specialist advice given when requested	CS,		R4

# Management Plan

## Part B ~ Implementation

### Management Plan Consultation Process

The Forest of Bowland AONB management plan review process aimed to be as inclusive and efficient as possible. This management plan has directly evolved from the non-statutory Action Plan 2000-2010 that previously represented the guidance document for the management of the Forest of Bowland AONB, which in itself had directly evolved from the non-statutory 1995 AONB Management Plan. The AONB partnership decided that based on the success of the previous documents in guiding the management process, small-scale revision and updating of the current Action Plan 2000-2010 document, primarily in terms of changes in context and policy where required, was preferable to starting afresh. The Action Plan 2000 – 2010 had been subject to public consultation. Furthermore, following representations from the local community, requesting continued project delivery rather than further detailed strategic policy consultation, the JAC decided that rather than undertaking full public consultation for relatively minor changes in context, the management plan document should be subjected to consultation and discussion amongst a group of local statutory authorities, community organisations and user groups. Therefore, the option to review an existing non-statutory management document provided by Section 89 Subsection (5) of the CRoW Act was invoked.

The Management Plan review process involved consultation within and outwith the existing AONB partnership to achieve the consensus required for this partnership document. The consultation involved several distinct stages. Firstly, the setting up of a Partnership Management Group, the membership was drawn from the relevant local authorities and the Countryside Agency, in late 2002 to initially guide the AONB Unit in the process of reviewing the AONB Management Plan. Secondly, in June 2003 the policy statements in the Action Plan 2000 – 2010 were subjected to a desk-based analysis, subsequently tweaked where necessary and additional objectives created to cover issues, which had grown in prominence since the publication of the Action Plan 2000 – 2010 and within AONB protected landscapes in general. This desk-based document formed the basis for subsequent discussion.

Thirdly, the AONB Officer and/or assistant AONB officer held a series of meetings to discuss the management plan review and the desk-based analysis document with representatives of the relevant local authorities and agencies: Lancashire and North Yorkshire County Councils; Craven District Council, Lancaster City Council, Pendle Borough Council, Preston City Council, Ribble Valley Borough Council and Wyre Borough Council,

# Management Plan

## Part B ~ Implementation

The Countryside Agency and English Nature. Fourthly, postal consultation was undertaken with individual stakeholders who were involved with the AONB partnership.

These four stages of consultation produced three drafts of the policy objectives and one draft of the overall vision. A list of the revised policy statements and a schedule of consultees and their comments are included in Appendices 1 and 2. The inclusion/exclusion overarching rationale for comments on the various aspects of the management plan was a balance between the inspirational and pragmatism, agreed by all AONB partnership members.

The objectives and vision provided the basis for the production of the full text of the management plan. The first draft of the whole management plan was presented to the Forest of Bowland AONB Officers Technical Committee in September 2003; a second draft of the whole management plan was presented to the Forest of Bowland AONB Joint Advisory Committee meeting in October 2003; and a third draft was presented to the Partnership Management Group in November 2003.

After the presentation of each draft to the respective meeting comments were invited from the partnership and received. These comments were then integrated into the next draft of the document, culminating in the final, definitive draft of the management plan text being presented to a special meeting of the Forest of Bowland AONB Joint Advisory Committee in December 2003 and approved.

Altogether, the process of reviewing the Forest of Bowland AONB previous non-statutory management plan document involved 60 organisations as well as individual stakeholders who all made valued contributions to the production of this Management Plan.

# Management Plan

## Part B ~ Implementation

### **Monitoring**

The Forest of Bowland AONB partnership has a duty to monitor the condition of the AONB. The Management Plan is not an end point in itself rather it marks the beginning of another phase in the continuous process of target setting, monitoring and review. Therefore, there is a need to identify appropriate monitoring indicators, in line with the principles outlined by The Countryside Agency in CA23 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plans – A Guide:

Indicators, which measure the quality of aspects of AONBs, should be:

- Expressed in terms that the interested public can understand and relate to.
- Relevant to issues and policies highlighted within the Management Plan.
- Capable of replication to show trends and change over time and permit the identification of baselines or benchmarks.
- Applicable at a range of scales in order that data can be split down to a ward or parish level, and also understood at a county, regional and national level.

- Based on standard procedures wherever possible in order to contribute to national and regional datasets and to enable comparisons, for example with adjacent areas or with other AONBs.
- Complementary to, or integrated with, other indicators, including the government's published 'Quality of Life Counts' and to the Countryside Agency's 'State of the Countryside' reports.

Furthermore, this is also a need to distinguish between performance and condition monitoring indicators. Performance monitoring may take the form of measuring how many AONB awareness-raising events were held but it is also vitally important to undertake where possible condition monitoring making sure the work completed achieves the management plan objectives e.g. awareness-raising events demonstrated to have raised awareness of the AONB. The Action Plan 2004/05 – 2008/09 contains performance indicators as outputs for each action. However, there is still a need for this Management Plan to identify relevant condition indicators for each theme to enable the overall state of the AONB to be periodically analysed.

# Management Plan

## Part B ~ Implementation

This process of developing monitoring indicators will be undertaken in early 2004-05. Consequently, having established this set of Indicators following AONB partner consultation, mechanisms will be put in place to monitor these and report progress on a regular basis. It is proposed to measure Condition Indicators on a five-yearly cycle, linked to Management Plan reviews using data from the nearest available year and to compile Performance Indicators annually.

### **Management Plan Review**

The CRoW Act (2000) requires that AONB Management Plans be reviewed and renewed at intervals not exceeding five years i.e. March 2009. However, the process of reviewing the Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan will not be a discrete phase close to this deadline but a continuous process integrated with the collection of the monitoring indicators and ongoing AONB partnership working. A larger public consultation will be undertaken for the first statutory review of this Management Plan.

A condition of Countryside Agency funding is that the AONB partnership should produce and publish annual reviews of activity and achievements. Therefore, the Forest of Bowland AONB partnership will review and update the Action Plan by continuing the process of issuing Action Plan update leaflets. This annual review will be combined with the interpretation of the medium term five-year action plan into a specific one year programme for implementation in each of the five years covered by the management plan timescale. These annual programmes will specifically identify the role of the AONB Unit e.g. lead, facilitator or support and the lead partners for each action.

# Management Plan

## Glossary

### Glossary

**Countryside Stewardship Scheme (CSS)** – Aims to improve the natural beauty and diversity of the countryside e.g. enhance, restore and recreate targeted landscapes, wildlife habitats, and historic features and improve opportunities for public access. CSS funding is available to farmers and non-farming landowners and managers (including voluntary bodies, local authorities and community groups) where land is covered by target landscapes and habitats.

**Higher Level Schemes (HLS)** – this scheme is based on the CSS scheme and will replace it across England in 2005. It is envisaged that agri-environment schemes can make positive contributions to the sustainable development of rural areas in several ways, for example by:

- Maintaining, restoring and recreating environmental resources and valuable landscapes and habitats
- Underpinning tourism and leisure and thereby contributing to rural quality of life and social well-being and the prosperity of the rural economy
- Boosting rural employment and preserving traditional skills
- Contributing to farm viability
- Restoring the public's perception of farmers and their contribution to local communities

The five main objectives for the higher level schemes are:

- Wildlife conservation
- Protection of the historic environment
- Maintenance and enhancement of landscape quality and character
- Promote public access and understanding
- Resource protection

The two secondary objectives are:

- Flood Management
- Genetic Conservation

The HLS will concentrate on the more complex types of management needed to achieve these objectives, where land managers need advice and support, where agreements need to be tailored to local circumstances and where management needs to be carefully needed.

# Management Plan

## Glossary

**Entry Level Scheme (ELS)** – The Entry Level scheme takes a more simplified approach to supporting the good stewardship of the countryside. The aim of ELS is to encourage a large number of farmers across a wide area of farmland to deliver simple yet effective environmental management. It is envisaged that ELS will be rolled out in 2005. Farmers taking part in ELS will select environmental management options from a wide-ranging list, and these simple options, applied widely, will help to:

- Improve farmland bio-diversity
- Protect historic features
- Maintain landscape character
- Reduce diffuse pollution (e.g. soil erosion and nutrient leaching).

**Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)** – is one of the distributing bodies for revenues raised through the National Lottery. Funding is available for projects that involve:

- Building repairs and conservation work
- Buying items, land or buildings which are important to our heritage
- Making it easier for people to gain access to and enrich their experience in heritage

In addition, the Heritage Lottery Fund supports activities that:

- Are designed to increase learning about our heritage, for people of all ages and backgrounds
- Aim to widen participation especially from people who have not been involved in heritage before, and disadvantaged groups
- Increase popular involvement in recording and conserving heritage
- Involve volunteers and the local community in our heritage.

**Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)** – Sites of Special Scientific Interest represent our best sites for wildlife and geology: more than half, by area, are internationally important. Sites of Special Scientific Interest are notified throughout Great Britain. Notification as a SSSI is primarily a legal mechanism to protect sites that are of particular conservation interest because of the wildlife they support, or because of the geological features that are found there. English Nature is responsible for identifying and protecting sites in England. This is primarily achieved in partnership with SSSI owners and managers.

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## Glossary

**Special Protection Area (SPA)** – The EC Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC) places requirements on all member states concerning the conservation of wild birds. In meeting this requirement certain habitats of certain bird species will be designated as a Special Protection Area. This is an international legal mechanism, which affords protection to the bird species within an area designated as a SPA.

The EU Habitats Directive (Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora), 1992 complements the EU Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds and covers species other than birds.

**Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)** – The EC Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) (Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora) places requirements on all member states to compile a list of areas for the purpose of conserving Europe's rarest flora and fauna species and habitat types. The EU habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) complements the EU Directive (79/409/EEC) and covers species other than birds. Both SACs and SPAs form a European network of sites is designed to conserve rare, endangered or vulnerable habitats, wild animals and plants, both on land and at sea, entitled the Natura 2000 network.

**Sustainable Development** – A holistic definition of sustainable development is meeting the needs of present generations without comprising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The government's strategy defines four objectives for sustainable development at local national and global level:

1. Social progress that recognises the needs of everyone
2. Effective protection of the environment
3. Prudent use of natural resources and
4. Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment

**Woodland Grants Scheme (WGS)** – The scheme aims to encourage the creation of new woodlands, and the good management and regeneration of existing woodlands.

All woodlands and forests can be considered for grants under the Woodland Grant Scheme. However, areas of trees too small or narrow to be thought of as woodland will not be eligible. The funding criteria normally requires the woodlands to be a quarter of a hectare in area and at least fifteen metres wide, but smaller woods may be eligible if the aims of the scheme are met. The grants are paid as part of a contract in which applicants agree to look after the woodlands and do approved work to the reasonable satisfaction of the Forestry Commission.

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## Glossary

**English Woodland Grant Scheme (EWGS)** – The Woodland Grant Scheme (WGS) has been reviewed in the light of Ministerial commitment to re-shape and have amongst other proposals helped shape the EWGS scheme. The component grants of EWGS will have their own objectives and where regions decide to focus the grants to meet the priorities in the Regional Forestry Framework action plans, the objectives will be specified more closely to suit. Nevertheless, there are overarching objectives for EWGS. These are:

- To sustain and increase the public benefits derived from existing woodlands in England
- To invest in the creation of new woodlands in England of a size, type and location that most effectively delivers public benefits

# Management Plan

## Glossary

**AAONB** – Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty

**BL** ~ Business Links

**BST** ~ Bridleways Strategy Team

**CA** ~ Countryside Agency

**CC** ~ County Council(s)<sup>1</sup>

**CDA** ~ Co-operative Development Agency

**CF** ~ Community Futures

**CLAREN** ~ Community Renewables Initiative for Cumbria and Lancashire

**CS** ~ Countryside Service(s)<sup>2</sup>

**Com** ~ Local Community

**DC** ~ District Council(s)<sup>3</sup>

**DEFRA** ~ Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

**DMO** ~ Destination Management Organisation(s)<sup>4</sup>

**EA** ~ Environment Agency

**EH** ~ English Heritage

**ELP** ~ East Lancashire Partnership

**ELRP** ~ East Lancashire Regional Park

**EN** ~ English Nature

**EP** ~ EUROPARC Federation

**EU** ~ European Union

**FC** ~ Forestry Commission

**FE** ~ Forest Enterprise

**FWAG** ~ Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group

**HA** ~ Highways Agency

**HOA** ~ Housing Association(s)

**HLF** ~ Heritage Lottery Fund

**IA** ~ Information Assistants

**JAC** ~ AONB Joint Advisory Committee

**LHG** ~ Lune Habitat Group

**LO/F** ~ Landowners/Farmers

**LRF** ~ Lancashire Rural Futures

**NWDA** ~ North West Development Agency

**NWRA** ~ North West Regional Assembly

**PC** ~ Parish Council(s)

**RCC** ~ Rural Community Council(s)

**RCCT** ~ Ribble Catchment Conservation Trust

**RSPB** ~ Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

**TEC** ~ Training and Enterprise Council(s)

**TEF** ~ Tourism Environment Fund

**Users** ~ User Groups

**UU** ~ United Utilities

**VO** ~ Voluntary Organisations

**WRT** ~ Wyre Rivers Trust

**WT** ~ Wildlife Trust(s)

**YF** ~ Yorkshire Forward

<sup>1</sup> Lancashire County Council and North Yorkshire County Council

<sup>2</sup> Lancashire Countryside Service and Wyre Countryside Service

<sup>3</sup> Craven District Council, Lancaster City Council, Pendle Borough Council, Preston City Council, Ribble Valley Borough Council and Wyre Borough Council

<sup>4</sup> New Tourism Organisations for Lancashire and Yorkshire

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# Management Plan

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### **Appendices Listing**

- 1) Action Plan 2000 ~ 2010 Policy Objectives
- 2) Schedule of Comments of Stakeholder Comments on Action Plan 2000 ~ 2010 Policy Objectives
- 3) Summary of Plans and Strategies relevant to the AONB Management Plan
- 4) Contact List for AONB Partnership

# Management Plan

## Contacts and Information

### Contacts and Information

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# Management Plan

## Appendix 1

### Explanatory Notes

The Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act (2000) placed a statutory responsibility for local authorities to produce and regularly review Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plans; often these statutory responsibilities are discharged through a Joint Advisory Committee (JAC). In AONBs, which existed prior to CRoW, a new plan must be published no later than 1st April 2004. Many AONBs already had in place a non-statutory Management Plan prior to CRoW; the Forest of Bowland AONB was one of these AONBs. However, a 'pre-CRoW' Management Plan should not be adopted purely as a formality. Review should involve the participation of all interested parties, who may well perceive a 'post-CRoW' Management Plan as a more significant document than its predecessor. Once adopted and published, Management Plans must be reviewed at intervals not exceeding five years.

The Forest of Bowland JAC decided that to conform to the requirements of the CRoW Act, the existing Action Plan 2000-2010, which was in part a comprehensive revision of the 1995 Management Plan, was to be reviewed. During June 2003 the objectives were subjected to a desk-based analysis and consequently reviewed and additional objectives created to

cover issues, which had grown in prominence since the Action Plan 2000-2010 and within AONB protected landscapes in general. All members of the JAC and other significant individual stakeholders have been contacted by post for their opinions on the revised and additional objectives. The AONB Officer and/or assistant AONB Officer held meetings to discuss the objectives in detail with representatives of: Lancashire and Yorkshire County Councils; Craven District Council, Lancaster City Council, Wyre Borough Council, Preston City Council, Pendle Borough Council, Ribble Valley Borough Council and The Countryside Agency. Jon Hickling of English Nature submitted detailed written comments due to being on annual leave during this consultation process.

The subsequent schedule contains all the comments received from the members of the AONB partnership on the first draft of the revised and additional objectives for potential inclusion in the 'post-CRoW' Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan. The schedule identifies the respondent to this consultation exercise who proposed the change to the objective. The schedule displays the proposed comments and changes to the objectives in the section order that they were originally presented in the Action Plan 2000-2010. These comments directly informed the policy objectives and context presented in PART A Section 1 and 2 of this management plan.

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Forest of Bowland Statutory Management Plan  
Policy Objectives  
First Draft June 2003

Key:

~~Strikethrough~~ = Objectives for potential deletion

Underlined = Potential new Objectives.

**Highlighted** = objectives that have been subject to change ranging from minor grammatical to major contextual change.

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## Appendix 1

### Theme 1 – Promote Social Equity and Economic Opportunity

#### Aim

*Promote Social Equity and Economic Opportunity, particularly where such activity conserves and enhances the environment.*

Recognition is given to the dynamic relationship between economic activity in the AONB, the resident communities and the well being of the natural and cultural resources. There is a need to seek harmony, integration and balance between these elements. The key objectives and actions under this theme will help to ensure that the social and economic integrity of the AONB is maintained and developed alongside the well being of the natural and cultural environment upon which it is dependent.

The promotion of social equity and economic opportunity is becoming more established feature of AONB management, having previously not been a core management function. The partnership can play an important role in supporting other agencies and organisations taking a lead on social and economic development and play a more pivotal role, particularly where such activity conserves or enhances the environment.

#### Key Objectives

##### Capacity Building

- C1. Encourage, support and promote initiatives, agencies and organisations involved with the development of prosperous and inclusive communities and in particular:
- C2. Support the implementation of County and District LA21 strategies
- C3. Support projects, which help local communities to enjoy and celebrate their local environment, promoting local character and heritage
- C4. Encourage development of village based environmental improvement projects (parish and community initiatives)
- C5. Encourage all community stakeholders to work together and become involved in decision making and actions to enhance the environment

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### Access to Services

- A1. Encourage maintenance of current service levels and where feasible improvements to the bus and rail systems servicing the AONB
- A2. Support the phased implementation of a network of Quiet Lanes and Greenways, offering links to facilities, services and recreation for all stakeholders
- A3. Encourage the implementation of sympathetically designed traffic management schemes to improve public safety and reduce the impact of traffic upon the character of the AONB
- A4. Encourage the continuation of existing community led transport initiatives and development of new initiatives if suitable opportunities are identified
- A5. Encourage improved local community access to public services, supporting projects that retain and develop local services and employment opportunities
- A6. New Housing Sub-section proposed (see below)
- A7. Encourage the relevant authorities to actively consider the training and skills development required by the AONB labour market

- A8. Promote transport services, which provide a good standard of mobility and accessibility for all communities within the AONB, appropriate to their degree of rurality without detriment to the environment

### Housing

- H1. Lobby the relevant local authorities, where the opportunity arises, concerning the provision of affordable housing to meet the present and future needs of the local community
- H2. Support the assessment of need for low cost affordable housing and the provision of appropriate housing to meet need
- H3. Retain and strengthen the historic and locally distinctive character of rural settlements by encouraging any provision of affordable housing within the AONB to respect the local character and distinctiveness through the use of appropriate materials, form, setting and scale

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### Economic Opportunity

- E1. Encourage a co-ordinated long-term approach to rural development, which accounts for current EU, CAP, Countryside Agency and Regional Development Agency funding mechanisms and potential future reforms of these mechanisms
- E2. Promote economic opportunity and seek to stimulate sustainable enterprise within the AONB, whilst also encouraging those involved to access relevant training and education
- E3. Support the advisory service offered by Lancashire Rural Futures to rural business on current economic opportunities and funding sources in the area
- E4. Support investment in Market Towns to provide greater employment diversity for the population of the AONB

### Tourism and Recreation

- TR1. Encourage local sustainable tourism initiatives
- TR2. Encourage partnership networks between tourism operators, land managers, communities and local authorities that will result in benefit to the local economy and environment

- TR3. Support initiatives which seek to increase the potential of the local economy, landscape and environmental quality to benefit from visitors to the AONB
- TR4. Promote the use of villages as focal points for circular and linear self-guided walks linked to public transport to relevant partners
- TR5. Encourage increased integration of the overall AONB tourism industry through mutually agreed links between recreational facilities and service providers such as cycle hire shops, livery stables, accommodation and other local businesses
- TR6. Encourage local communities to understand and accept sustainable tourism as a valuable part of rural life
- TR7. Support the targeted marketing of appropriate tourism and recreation facilities

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### Agriculture

- AG1. Support the role of agriculture as the principal land use in the AONB, promoting a viable and healthy agricultural economy, which achieves the objectives of conserving and enhancing landscape, habitat and wildlife management and in particular:-
- AG2. Encourage the sustainable development of farming
- AG3. Promote the development of co-ordinated agri-environment schemes
- AG4. Encourage economic diversification schemes to utilise labour and materials from within the AONB to give local social, economic and environmental benefits
- AG5. Encourage appropriate farm diversification schemes
- AG6. Encourage appropriate marketing of local AONB goods

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## Appendix 1

### Theme 2 – Natural and Cultural Environment

#### Aim

*Protect, Conserve and Enhance the Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Forest of Bowland AONB*

#### AONB Wide

#### Key Objectives

Encourage and support conservation as well as where appropriate enhancement of:

- A1. the large scale open moorland character of the Bowland Fells
- A2. the exposed character of steep scarps, crags and rock scree
- A3. small to medium scale pattern of enclosed hay meadows
- A4. semi-natural habitat resources of the AONB
- A5. native broadleaved hedgerows
- A6. ancient semi-natural woodland and the wooded character of valleys and cloughs as well as reduce the fragmentation of existing woodland through enhancement and restoration
- A7. the unspoilt rural character of the fringes and river valleys

- A8. natural river courses and flood plains
- A9. archaeological sites and historic landscape features
- A10. traditional buildings and settlements
- A11. the historic settlement pattern of small scattered villages, dispersed hamlets and farmsteads connected by narrow country lanes
- A12. heather moorland character and blanket bog by regeneration of existing and creation of new areas of moorland vegetation
- A13. pastoral character through extension of existing and creation of new species-rich grasslands
- A14. existing boundary features, including traditional stone enclosure walls, ditches and important hedgerows as well as encourage the planting of native hedgerows and drystone wall building in preference to stock-proof fencing. Where fencing is essential it should be sited and designed sympathetically
- A15. Encourage enhancement of coniferous woodland via a gradual transition to mixed woodland and sensitive design
- A16. Collate monitoring information on the environmental and landscape capital of the AONB

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- A17. Raise awareness and understanding of the AONB natural and cultural environment
- A18. Promote increased awareness of the characteristics of local landscapes and the processes that have created them, to assist the maintenance and conservation of local distinctiveness, in development plans, landscape management or enhancement schemes.
- A19. Promote recognition of the distinctive character of the whole Bowland landscape and specific local landscapes with the AONB such as the Forest of Pendle
- A20. Promote guidance to encourage the retention and conservation of local distinctiveness throughout the AONB
- A21. Encourage the relevant agencies to reduce the impact of water, energy production and telecommunication infrastructure through sensitive design and citing of structures
- A22. Support the identification of the major sources of visual intrusion, noise and light pollution and encourage innovative methods to reduce the impact of these sources
- A23. The importance of local distinctiveness and character of the AONB is recognised and should be given due consideration concerning maintenance and improvements to the highway network

## Open River and Reservoir Landscapes

### Key Objectives

- R1. Encourage the enhancement of the river landscape by returning straightened sections, re-graded banks, shingle beds, eroding river cliffs and unsympathetic engineered features to a more natural shape, encouraging marginal vegetation, characteristic species and allowing flooding where appropriate
- R2. Encourage the maintenance of river bank vegetation such as occasional trees, scrub and marginal vegetation by management including stock exclusion/reduction, regeneration and replanting, where there is no conflict with wildlife interest
- R3. Encourage the management of species-rich grasslands and other communities along river margins and extend these management practices to whole fields
- R4. Recommend, where feasible, the avoidance of the construction of walls, buildings, roads and the division of fields by fencing, on the flood plain to maintain its flat, open and generally unsettled character
- R5. Encourage the maintenance and management of existing reservoirs, lodges, historic bridges, water mills and their associated historic features

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- R6. Encourage the enhancement of reservoirs by appropriate planting of native trees and shrubs on banks, sympathetic grading of lake margins as well as encouragement and planting of marginal vegetation, where there is no conflict with wildlife value
- R7. Encourage the maintenance and enhancement of open river and reservoir habitats, including associated ponds for wildlife value
- R8. Encourage the management and enhancement of river spawning habitats

### Moorland Landscapes

#### Key Objectives

- M1. Encourage the maintenance and restoration of the mosaic of semi-natural habitat and characteristic species, avoiding drainage of moorland blanket bog, wet flushes and rushy pastures
- M2. Promote the regeneration of heather and bilberry
- M2a. Encourage initiatives that seek to reduce erosion, except where such action would outweigh related landscape and wildlife benefits
- M3. Encourage retention of the sense of remoteness and large scale open moorland character
- M4. Encourage avoidance of fencing and tree planting in open, highly visible locations, except where its benefits outweigh related landscape and wildlife benefits

- M5. Promote maintenance of steep scarps, crags and rock screens as landscape features
- M6. Promote maintenance of existing gritstone walls where still functional as well as repair and rebuilding of damaged walls in preference to replacement with fencing. Where fencing is essential, it should be sympathetically designed and sited
- M7. Encourage the enhancement of clough woodlands by stock-proofing to prevent grazing and allow natural regeneration, thinning to remove non-native and invasive species and re-stocking with appropriate native species
- M8. Promote the use of gritstone and turf for surfacing, shelters and shooting butts in preference to other materials
- M9. Encourage the return of semi-improved rough pasture and grass moorland to dwarf shrub moorland or upland heather communities
- M10. Encourage appropriate levels and cycles of stocking on moorland landscapes to maintain and restore the mosaic of semi-natural habitats and characteristic species

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- M11. Support maintenance and management of distinctive and historic landscape features and archaeological sites, including prehistoric cairns and earthwork sites, moorland trackways, industrial and quarry remains
- M12. Encourage good moorland burning practice
- M13. Promote careful management/control of bracken
- M14. Support initiatives, which aim to raise the water table in blanket bog and other mossland habitats to facilitate the re-establishment of peat forming mire communities
- M15. Support initiatives, which seek to increase awareness of the fire risk, presented by moorland during high-risk conditions and seek to reduce the threat of moorland fires

### Woodland Landscapes

#### Key Objectives

- W1. Encourage management of native woodland, which retains the habitat and associated species resource by maintaining the shrub layer, a mixed age structure of trees as well as the contrast between closed canopy and open glade woodland

- W2. Encourage the maintenance of existing woodland boundary walls, banks and hedges, giving priority to those important for stock control or those that are of landscape value
- W3. Encourage the maintenance of distinctive woodland features such as woodland banks and ditches, saw pits, charcoal burning sites and veteran trees by management
- W4. Encourage the enhancement of the character of native broadleaved woodland by stock-proofing to prevent grazing and allow natural regeneration, thinning to remove non-native and invasive species as well as re-stocking with appropriate native species where natural regeneration does not occur
- W5. Encourage the enhancement of the character of mixed plantations by maintaining a balance between conifers and native broadleaves, and management practices which promote a mixed age structure and variety of habitats alongside timber production
- W6. Encourage initiatives, which seek to revert coniferous plantations to moorland where they occur in otherwise open moorland or are insensitively sited or designed

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- W7. Encourage the enhancement of coniferous plantations by gradual change to mixed woodland where they are well related to topography and existing native woodland, by gradual thinning and felling of conifers, natural regeneration and planting of broadleaves
- W8. Support initiatives which seek to create new native woodland in appropriate locations, particularly as extensions to existing and fragmented woodland within cloughs and river valleys as well as adjacent to farm buildings where shelterbelts and copses are traditionally part of the landscape

### Fringe Farmland Landscapes

#### Key Objectives

- F1. Support the conservation of the unspoilt rural character of fringe farmland landscape
- F2. Encourage maintenance of the existing extent of species-rich hay meadows and where feasible increases in extent, as well as promote management for hay production in preference to silage
- F3. Encourage maintenance of existing extent of species-rich grassland and where feasible increases in extent

- F4. Promote the return of semi-improved grasslands to species-diverse grassland communities by appropriate techniques

- F5. Encourage conservation and enhancement of rushy pastures below the enclosure wall for the benefit of wading birds

- F6. Encourage management of permanent pasture to maximise its ecological value by avoidance of ploughing, re-seeding, artificial fertiliser, drainage and other potentially damaging farm operations as well as encouraging appropriate stocking levels and land use cycles

- F7. Encourage the use of local stone and appropriate scale, proportion and interrelationship in conversions and new buildings

- F8. Encourage enhancement of existing buildings and farmsteads by repair and maintenance using local gritstone and limestone as appropriate, as well as removal of rubbish and derelict machinery

- F9. Encourage maintenance of gritstone walls and associated banks and ditches with gritstone in areas where it is the predominant underlying rock type

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- F9a. Encourage maintenance of limestone walls with limestone in areas where it is the predominant underlying rock type.
- F10. Encourage the management of hedgerows and associated bank and ditches for wildlife benefit, allowing hedgerow trees to persist and enhance hedgerows by replanting and gapping up of degraded hedgelines with appropriate species
- F11. Encourage the continuation of the pattern of enclosed fields by promotion of maintenance and enhancement of hedgerows and associated ditches and replacement planting on historic or new lines where this complements the shape and scale of the field pattern
- F12. Encourage maintenance of areas of 'parkland' landscape associated with historic country houses and estate lands by continuing the style of management of hedgerows and trees and replanting with open grown, well-spaced specimen trees and in copses including some non-native species
- F13. Support the maintenance and enhancement of the characteristic network of narrow country lanes, maintaining walls, banks, hedgerows, trees, species-rich herb and grassland communities as well as traditional metal railings. Where road improvements are required they should not be inappropriate to the landscape character. Signage and lighting should be to a high design standard
- F14. Support initiatives that seek to enhance the character of country lanes by discouraging and removing tipped rubbish, rebuilding of stone walls, planting of hedgerows and trees where appropriate, resurfacing of parking areas and lay-bys in local stone and sympathetic treatment of signs and other roadside features
- F15. Encourage the maintenance of the character of footpaths and tracks using erosion and access control management practices, grassland restoration and/or surfacing using local materials where appropriate as well as traditional low key signage
- F16. Encourage maintenance of distinctive and historic landscape features and archaeological sites, including lime kilns, waystones, sheepfolds, stone troughs, gate stoops, marl pits, earthworks, parish boundary features and field ponds by repair and/or management
- F17. Promote the enhancement of the wooded pastoral character by planting of small-scale new woodlands where they are well related to topography, existing woodlands and hedgerows, and do not damage other important semi-natural habitats

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## Appendix 1

### Theme 3 – Enjoyment of the AONB

#### Aim

*Encourage enjoyment of the area where it is consistent with conserving and enhancing the environment and particularly where it plays a role in assisting economic and social opportunity.*

#### Key Objectives

##### Public Rights of Way and Access Network

- P1. Recognise the interdependence of urban and rural areas: economically, socially and environmentally, in addition to seeking to develop further existing linkages between urban and rural areas
- P2. Encourage the proper maintenance of all PROW and that they are well publicised and conform to the standard set by Rights of Way Improvement plans to create a coherent network attuned to peoples needs
- P3. Support maintenance of the high standard of PROW so that they continue to conform to the national target over the long-term
- P4. Encourage continued development of PROW network to meet the needs of local people and visitors
- P5. Encourage local communities, farmers and landowners to play a greater part in helping to maintain and enhance the local network
- P6. Encourage and support surveys to monitor levels of usage on the PROW network
- P7. Support the development of an easily accessible and up to date rights of way information system
- P8. Encourage use of good design, techniques, local materials and local contractors in rights of way management
- P9. Encourage and support provision of a wider choice of locations and routes for all-ability access and involve such groups closely with decisions regarding improved access
- P10. Support the phased implementation of a network of connecting Quiet Lanes and Greenways
- P11. Encourage improvement in the currently fragmented nature of the off-road bridleway network
- P12. Support the Countryside Agency in the implementation of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 legislation, including partnership working with the new local access forums
- P13. Support the Local Highways Authorities in Lancashire and Yorkshire, in the implementation of their responsibilities pertaining to the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. Especially concerning the publication of a ROW improvement plan and negotiations regarding access to open country.

# Management Plan

## Appendix 1

### Recreation

- R1. Encourage quiet enjoyment of the countryside on foot, horse or cycle
- R2. Assist and support the establishment of a monitoring system for visitor numbers in the AONB
- R3. Facilitate the continuation of established liaison meetings between appropriate bodies (users, landowners, conservation interests)
- R4. Support initiatives which seek to connect places of interest such as access areas, viewpoints, recreation sites and woodlands as well as managing linkages between such sites
- R5. Encourage and support recreational management of honey pots, which attract large numbers of visitors
- R6. Encourage access, irrespective of age, disability and ethnicity to the Forest of Bowland AONB and encourage associated specific facilities to be of high quality and welcoming
- R7. Address the needs and aspirations of those with mobility impairments and develop provision where appropriate throughout the AONB
- R8. Encourage access for all throughout the AONB, whilst protecting sensitive and remote areas and habitats through the provision of a series of suggested access points and promoted routes

- R9. Encourage improvements in the network of promoted routes
- R10. Support the Rights of Way improvement plan process

### Transport

- T1. Encourage the relevant authorities to develop innovative public transport services designed to stimulate demand and provide for all types of user
- T2. Promote those transport services, which provide a good standard of mobility and accessibility without detriment to the environment
- T3. Encourage shared, safe and tranquil use of roads
- T4. Support the phased implementation of Quiet Lanes close to people's homes to provide access for day-to-day utility and recreational use
- T5. Promote guided walks and events linked to the public transport network as well as local facilities and services
- T6. Encourage the co-operation of car park providers in adjusting signing, pricing, duration of stay and capacity, to support wider traffic management measures
- T7. Support initiatives which seek to manage sympathetically the demand for car parking within the AONB

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### Information/Interpretation

11. Support the integrated promotion of recreational opportunities available with other aspects of the AONB such as environmental heritage, local community and management responsibilities
12. Encourage all stakeholders issuing publications concerning the AONB to use clear, accurate and up to date information, in addition to ensuring that all such information is readily available to the public, using appropriate information technology
13. Encourage imaginative but accessible use of information technology in displaying and disseminating information
14. Support the development of an annual programme of guided walks and events, themed to educate concerning open access issues and working with estates and farmers

# Management Plan

## Appendix 1

### Theme 4 – Co-ordination and Management of the AONB Partnership

#### Aim

*Build on existing strengths and achievements and continue to develop an active, effective and co-ordinated partnership in the AONB*

#### Key Objectives

##### Partnership

- P1. Undertake consultation activities that seek to increase partner involvement and commitment to the AONB
- P2. Demonstrate the added value and political benefits gained through effective partnership working
- P3. Work in close partnership with local people and communities
- P4. Encourage involvement from new partners, including the private sector
- P5. [Redacted]
- P6. Encourage a consistent and coherent framework of planning policy, which recognises the primary purpose of AONB designation, which is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area and applies it consistently across the AONB

#### Resources

- R1. Secure long term and flexible finance, particularly revenue monies
- R2. Promote greater use of local resources
- R3. Clearly define the roles and responsibilities of staff and partners
- R4. Disseminate information and specialist advice

#### Promotion

- PR1. ~~Lobby for statutory responsibilities for AONB management~~
- PR2. Heighten the profile and strengthen the image of the partnership and the AONB.
- PR3. Promote the success and achievements of the JAC to local people and visitors

#### Policy

- PO1. Encourage maintenance and where feasible enhancements to the current co-ordinated approach to rural development in the AONB
- PO2. Recognise the interconnectivity of AONB objectives and seek to integrate them into wider policy at local, regional, national and European level

# Management Plan

## Appendix 1

### Implementation

11. Encourage continuation of the co-ordinated delivery of the Countryside Services operating in Bowland
12. Ensure joint ownership, implementation and review of the Action Plan
13. Secure and co-ordinate the effective allocation of resources and delivery on the ground
14. Build and maintain effective working relationships with the local community, user groups, farmers and landowners as well as all other partners concerning the implementation and service delivery
15. Ensure that the general maintenance of projects and schemes delivered conforms to a high standard and that maintenance implications are considered in the early stages of project development

# Management Plan

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## Appendix 2

### Explanatory Notes

The Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act (2000) placed a statutory responsibility for local authorities to produce and regularly review Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plans; often these statutory responsibilities are discharged through a Joint Advisory Committee (JAC). In AONBs, which existed prior to CRoW, a new plan must be published no later than 1st April 2004. Many AONBs already had in place a non-statutory Management Plan prior to CRoW; the Forest of Bowland AONB was one of these AONBs. However, a 'pre-CRoW' Management Plan should not be adopted purely as a formality. Review should involve the participation of all interested parties, who may well perceive a 'post-CRoW' Management Plan as a more significant document than its predecessor. Once adopted and published, Management Plans must be reviewed at intervals not exceeding five years.

The Forest of Bowland JAC decided that to conform to the requirements of the CRoW Act, the existing Action Plan 2000-2010, which was in part a comprehensive revision of the 1995 Management Plan, was to be reviewed. During June 2003 the objectives were subjected to a desk-based analysis and consequently 'tweaked' and additional objectives created to cover issues, which had grown in prominence since the Action Plan 2000-2010 and within AONB protected

landscapes in general (see Appendix 1). All members of the JAC and other significant individual stakeholders have been contacted by post for their opinions on the revised and additional objectives. The AONB Officer and/or assistant AONB Officer held meetings to discuss the objectives in detail with representatives of: Lancashire and Yorkshire County Councils; Craven District Council, Lancaster City Council, Wyre Borough Council, Preston City Council, Pendle Borough Council, Ribble Valley Borough Council and The Countryside Agency. Jon Hickling of English Nature submitted detailed written comments due to being on annual leave during this consultation process.

The subsequent schedule contains all the comments received from the members of the AONB partnership on the first draft of the revised and additional objectives for potential inclusion in the 'post-CRoW' Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan. The schedule identifies the respondent to this consultation exercise who proposed the change to the objective. The schedule displays the proposed comments and changes to the objectives in the section order that they were originally presented in the Action Plan 2000-2010. These comments directly informed the policy objectives and context presented in PART A Section 1 and 2 of this management plan.

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## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
General Comments	The Countryside Agency	<p>What is the vision for Forest of Bowland (FoB)? What is the plan trying to achieve? Vision needs to be specific to FoB not general that it could be applied to any protected landscape. Much easier then to offer comments on Objectives because can then consider them in terms of how, if the objectives are achieved will this move the FoB towards it vision.</p> <p>Objectives broad statement but must fit purpose of the plan which is an AONB m plan not a rural regeneration plan for FoB. Must have a linkage to purposes of the AONB and be capable of delivery.</p> <p>Assume next stage is to identify the tasks/targets/who to deliver these objectives ie action plan then monitoring to measure delivery and how far achieved the vision</p> <p>Remember whose plan is it? Prepared by the partnership, which represents all interests/stakeholders in FoB so for anyone who has an interest or stake in the AONB, providers, users, dwellers, workers, visitors etc. Not merely for implementation by the JAC/Unit.</p> <p>Remember objectives will remain for 5 years, whereas action plan will be annual and annual monitoring should show progress in achieving each objective</p>	Accepted

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## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
General Comments	The Countryside Agency	I know this is how the current action plan is ordered but given this is an AONB m plan and an AONB is a landscape designation it seems very strange to start with this theme. I feel the primary purpose should come first i.e. whatever FOB perceives natural beauty to be, natural and cultural heritage.	Accepted
General Comments	Country Landowners Association	Generally pleased with the draft objectives.	Opinion noted
General Comments	Northwest Development Agency	Pleased to see that the objectives have good synergies with the significant objectives of Rural Renaissance, the Region's Rural Recovery Plan, including new objectives on rural transport and affordable housing.	Opinion noted
General Comments	The North West Federation for Sport Recreation and Conservation	Regarding the management plan, would it not be worthwhile considering having as one of the objectives "A Strategy for Environmentally Sensitive Recreations"?  We are all aware that sport and recreation generates income, and such a strategy to promote acceptable recreation within the area would give rise to economic benefits for the whole of the Bowland area. I realise that this means extra work but it may be worth pursuing and producing a document, ie a small document, as a subsidiary to the main Bowland Plan.	Opinion noted but not possible within limited 2003/04 management plan timescale.

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## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
General Comments	English Nature (Peterborough Head Office)	With reference to the comments received thus far English Nature would generally endorse the approach which <u>links the policies back to conserving natural beauty and providing opportunities for quiet enjoyment and sustainable development.</u> We agree that the review of the plan needs to put the conservation of natural beauty up front as this is the raison d'être of the Management Plan. Links with the local economy and development are good but the objectives are often <u>open to interpretation</u> where local development for its own sake would have been <u>acceptable</u> even though it might have been <u>damaging</u> to natural beauty. There is no doubt that the essential special qualities of the area can be an asset rather than being seen as a <u>constraint</u> on development. For this reason we think that environmental and economic development assistance has been shown to be compatible, not least over the past ten years.	Accepted – opinion noted and covered in text

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## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
General Comments	English Nature (Peterborough Head Office)	<p>There is some discussion about the phrasing objectives / policies which is not absolutely clear from the comments. There would appear to be some confusion about the terminology used within the Plan – We read the “Key Objectives” in many instances as, Policies.</p> <p>CA23 (table 2 p21) states that policies are “Decisions about what the partners have agreed to do and how they intend to do it”. The dictionary definition that best suits is “a course of action”.</p> <p>If the objectives are objectives, then where are the policies? Comment from the CA suggests that the objectives should be turned into true objectives – i.e. a desired endpoint rather than being action-focussed. We would therefore opt for turning the existing <u>Aims</u> into <u>Objectives</u> and keeping them as <u>overarching</u> themes as far as possible. This might however be difficult since there are only 4 Aims / Objectives. The key objectives might easily migrate to policies and these as they stand should be wide enough and sufficient in number to be proactive as regards courses of action, although many of them would be useful in a defensive stance against a development.</p>	Accepted – however the Policies will remain named as ‘Key Objectives’ as this review is an adoption of a previous non-statutory management plan. The first time ‘key objectives’ are mentioned within the text they will be highlighted as the ‘policies’ of the management plan.

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## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
General Comments	English Nature (Peterborough Head Office)	A positive attitude to land management needs to be taken so that we can diversify the local economy and in this regard there is much to be gained from planning for a wider range of goods and services (natural resources a good start) which are provided by the area e.g. as a water catchment – both the supply of water and regulation of river flows thus reducing downstream flooding	Accepted – see Environmental Context Issues and Constraints
General Comments	English Nature (Peterborough Head Office)	The importance of the area for grouse shooting however does not come across very well – such areas are very often of European Nature conservation significance, are also a significant part of the local economy and in the future the moors themselves will be far more available for recreational access as “open country”. We feel that significance of all these factors did not really come through in the policy objectives.	Accepted – see Environment Context
General Comments	English Nature (Peterborough Head Office)	Vision – This should be looking forward at least for a period of 20 years if the guidance in CA23 is followed. At present it would appear as though the vision is linked to 2014?	Opinion noted – but CA23 is only guidance and our pragmatic rationale is outlined in the text and accepted by the Countryside Agency (see page 42).

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## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
General Comments	English Nature (Peterborough Head Office)	<p>Within the introduction, there is a need to re-iterate the <u>definition of natural beauty</u>; similarly the role of <u>CROW Act, especially S89 and S85</u> whilst CA23 needs to be set out for clarity and as useful additional information.</p> <p>Section 114 of the 1949 Act gives the following definition of <b>natural beauty</b>:</p> <p><b>“References in this Act to the preservation, or conservation of the natural beauty of an area shall be construed as including references to the preservation or, as the case may be, the conservation of its flora, fauna and geological or physiographical features”.</b></p> <p>CA24 on AONBs – suggests that the AONB remit is wider and includes cultural heritage see page 6 paragraph 2.</p> <p>The definition is open to interpretation these days but the plan needs to be clear as to what definition it is using – in this plan it is wider than the 1949 definition and includes cultural heritage. This is a good approach but should be specifically justified in the introduction.</p>	Accepted – definition of natural beauty included in Part A Section (1) and referenced directly within the text, in addition to bibliography to CA23.

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## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
General Comments	English Nature (Peterborough Head Office)	To comply with CA23 there needs to be a clear indication of the <u>consultation process</u> and the evolution of the Plan, not least in the review to meet CRoW requirements. This needs to be clear within the section on <u>Monitoring</u> in order to meet CA23.	Accepted –
General Comments	English Nature (Peterborough Head Office)	The development of indicators may well be required to see how the plan progress in <u>delivery of natural beauty (quiet enjoyment)</u> can be monitored. In addition <u>monitoring of the action plan</u> will be needed.	Accepted – policy objective included to develop monitoring indicators during management plan timescale of 5 years.
Theme 1 - Aim	The Countryside Agency	Should it be “Promote social equity and economic” opportunities that in themselves “conserve and enhance the natural beauty”? socio-economic activities must be linked to primary purposes of designation. Is this right phrasing for aim? Sustainable forms of social and economic development that in themselves conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the AONB are developed ???????	Accepted

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## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
Theme 1 – aim paragraph	The Countryside Agency	<p data-bbox="1151 453 1899 1011">Given landscape designation feel that the first sentence should be turned round with natural and cultural resources first Recognition is given to the dynamic relationship between economic activity in the AONB, the resident communities and the well being of the natural and cultural resources. There is a need to seek harmony, integration and balance between these elements. The key objectives and actions under this theme will help to ensure that the well being of the natural and cultural environment is not adversely affected, and preferably enhanced by any form of sustainable social and economic development. dependent on this asset. <del>Social and economic integrity of the AONB is maintained and developed alongside the well being of the natural and cultural environment upon which it is dependent.</del></p> <p data-bbox="1151 1059 1899 1439">The promotion of social equity and economic opportunity is becoming more established feature of AONB management, having previously not been a core management function. What does this mean? It is not a core function now? The partnership can play an important role in supporting other agencies and organisations taking a lead on social and economic development and play a more pivotal role, particularly where such activity conserves or enhances the environment. Not sure this sentence is necessary here</p>	Accepted

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## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
Theme 1 – aim	Craven District Council	Reword: 'Promote Social Equity and Economic Opportunity, where it is consistent with conservation and enhancement of the environment'.	Accepted
Theme 1	English Nature	English Nature very supportive of measures that predicate the integration of delivery mechanisms that support the well being of local farming communities that also deliver good management of the local landscape Bowland while being supportive of the co-ordination of agri-environment schemes and other monetary resources to fund/landscape/wildlife/habitat/enhancement/ maintenance project as a follow on from the Bowland Initiative project. Perhaps one could mention support for the HLF bid on Hidden Bowland to deliver some of the actions/objectives here or elsewhere with the revised management plan. Accepted – mentioned in the draft Action Plan	Accepted

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## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
Theme 1	The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester & North Merseyside	<p>We suggest that "Promote" be removed from the title, as the adjective belongs properly in the Aim, below.</p> <p>We welcome the increased emphasis on and recognition of the importance of the integration of economic social and environmental activity in the delivery of the conservation of natural beauty in the Forest of Bowland AONB. The economic role of agri-environment schemes, in particular, seems set to increase as the new "Entry Level" and "Higher Tier" schemes come into effect in 2004.</p> <p>This section will, however, need to address the mutual integration of this AONB Management Plan with the overarching Community Plans for Lancashire, North Yorkshire, Craven District, Lancaster City, Pendle Borough, Preston City, Ribble Valley Borough, and Wyre Borough that the respective local authorities are required to produce under the terms of the Local Government Act 2000. ODPM has also indicated that Biodiversity Action Plans are required to be integrated into these plans.</p> <p>The Water Framework Directive is being piloted in England in the Ribble Catchment. The AONB Management Plan will need to be integrated with that process, which is catchment wide and aims to integrate environmental, social and economic considerations. EA (NW Region) is leading on the process. Integration with catchment management for the Lune and Wyre systems will also be relevant in the AONB.</p>	Accepted

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## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
C1	The Countryside Agency	Not related to AONB designation purpose	Accepted – objective amended
C2	The Countryside Agency	Suggest Purposes of AONB satisfactorily addressed in County and District LA21 strategies, Local Strategic Partnerships, North Lancashire Rural Transport Partnership, Market Town Action Plans for Clitheroe, Garstang, Barnoldswick and Bentham, and Parish Plan .	Accepted
C2	Craven District Council & North Yorkshire County Council	Need recognition of heritage and countryside strategies and any other strategies prepared by partners e.g. community strategies. Management plan link with all these other strategies.	Accepted
C2	Ribble Valley Borough Council	Potential to include community strategies in this objective	Accepted
C2	CLAREN (Community Renewables Initiative Cumbria and Lancashire)	CLAREN aims to assist in county and district sustainability, promoting renewable energy at a community level.	No action required

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## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
C3	The Countryside Agency	'Local communities to be able to enjoy and celebrate their local environment, promoting local character and heritage'.	Rejected - Aspirational statements addressed within main and theme vision statements
C3-5	CLAREN (Community Renewables Initiative Cumbria and Lancashire)	CLAREN works to encourage community driven initiatives/support of renewable energy schemes that are community ownership orientated.	No action required
C4	The Countryside Agency	'All community stakeholders have the capacity, knowledge, and support to develop and implement initiatives affecting the environment'.	Accepted - Aspirational statements addressed within main and theme vision statements

# Management Plan

## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
C4	Preston City Council	Support for this as it ties in with planning reforms, bottom-up procedures, parish plans etc	No action required
C5	Wyre Borough Council	Make mention of such things as village design statements, parish plans	Accepted
C5	The Countryside Agency	All community stakeholders have the opportunity to be involved in decision making affecting the environment and actions to enhance the environment	Accepted - Inspirational statements addressed within main and theme vision statements
C5	Ribble Valley Borough Council	Could 'economy and social well-being:' be added onto the end of this sentence. This would better reflect the aim of this theme as at present most/all of the key objectives under capacity building seem very focussed on the environment. This would then take into account the work many of us are trying to do around encouraging community audits/parish plans, etc	Accepted
A1	The Countryside Agency	What does this mean? Which current service levels? What levels? Why and what improvements are wanted that affect the landscape? Bus and rail services in area X encourage visitors to that area reducing visitor numbers in area Y which is causing a detrimental effect on the landscape	Accepted – specific reference made to transport

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## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
A2	The Countryside Agency	'A network of Quiet Lanes and Greenways provide links to facilities, services and recreation for all stakeholders'.	Accepted - Inspirational statements addressed within main and theme vision statements
A2	Michael Helm, British Horse Society	Support for Quiet Lanes and Greenways initiative	No action required
A3	The Countryside Agency	All traffic management schemes sympathetically designed to reduce the impact of traffic on the character of the AONB	Accepted - Inspirational statements addressed within main and theme vision statements
A4	The Countryside Agency	Can't see any link to conserving and enhancing the environment – delete ?	
A5	Wyre Borough Council	Insert 'where appropriate' before 'that retain and develop'	Accepted

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## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
A5	The Countryside Agency	Can't see any link to conserving and enhancing the environment – does it mean: Training opportunities in land management skills to conserve and enhance the landscape and environment Information/network available within AONB for employers/potential employees to seek workers/employment with/in land management skills to conserve and enhance the landscape and environment - not quite right but the giste	
A6	Preston City Council	Happy with new objectives on housing	No action required
A7	Wyre Borough Council	Make clear what labour market of AONB, people who live in area or those who work in the area.	Accepted
A7	The Countryside Agency	No link to purpose of AONB – see suggestion above	
A8	The Countryside Agency	No link to purpose of designation, suggestion, Public transport services offer access for all irrespective of an individual's mobility, giving everyone the opportunity to enjoy the AONB	Objective deleted

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## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
Access to Services	Wyre Borough Council	Insert objective concerning information communication technology (ICT)	Accepted
Access to Services	Lancaster County Council	Make mention of North West Development Agency rural broadband initiative	Accepted – Reference to NWDA in Action Plan
Access to Services	Wyre Borough Council	Insert objective concerning services for young people, plus those other isolated sections of the population.	Accepted
Access to Services	CLAREN (Cumbria and Lancashire Renewable Energy Network)	Project Aim To support the establishment of small-scale renewable energy developments within the community	N/A
Access to Services	East Lancashire Partnership	Mention Community Resources Centres in Access to Services section. Centres being developed in Slaidburn, Hornby, Abbeystead and Barley within AONB.	Accepted
Access to Services	East Lancashire Partnership	Mention ICT/Broadband in Access to Services section.	Accepted

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## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
Access to Services	English Nature (Peterborough Head Office)	CLAREN comment – Many AONB plans try to “balance” the local community needs for, say, wind turbines with national landscape importance. This is a <u>difficult and grey area</u> . The policy needs to <u>reflect this dichotomy of local benefit causing damage to national assets</u> . Developments that meet local needs might be acceptable following rigorous scrutiny even though they might be a damaging in terms of national designation. The wording should be re-phrased and we would suggest the addition of a rider along the lines of “ <i>where the special qualities / natural beauty / landscape character of the AONB would be protected / not damaged</i> ”.	Accepted

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## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
Housing	Pendle Borough Council (Draft Forest of Bowland SPG)	<p>The AONB is not suitable for major housing developments. However, policy must allow for housing to meet the needs of local people.</p> <p>The construction of new dwellings in the AONB is unacceptable unless necessary for agricultural or forestry workers, individual dwellings to meet a local need, low cost housing to serve the community or the replacement of an existing dwelling, where the replacement is of similar size to that which it replaces and can be accommodated on the original site. The siting of caravans or mobile homes will not be permitted for use as a permanent dwelling within the AONB.</p> <p>Where new housing development is proposed this should comprise single dwellings. Any proposal must be accompanied by a housing needs statement<sup>1</sup>. Development on a more substantial scale will only be permitted where it is to meet a community's needs for low cost housing. Such development may be promoted by a housing association or similar body and will be subject to a planning obligation or condition to restrict occupancy to those in need of affordable housing<sup>2</sup> in the locality.</p>	Accepted – informed planning and development objectives

<sup>1</sup> The Housing need statement should explain the circumstances regarding the need for a new dwelling. A valid 'need' will be for someone who has lived in the AONB area for 3 or more years or works within the AONB area and who cannot find suitable accommodation. This would be appropriate where there are no vacant properties of the required size/type or where existing dwellings are too expensive.

<sup>2</sup> Affordable housing is defined as that which provides accommodation for local people who, by reason of income, are denied entry into the normal housing market.

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## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
Housing	Pendle Borough Council (Draft Forest of Bowland SPG) (Cont)	<p>The siting of new housing in the AONB is of upmost importance. Most new dwellings should be located within an existing settlement; Barley, Newchurch, Spenbrook, Roughlee and Crow Trees.</p> <p>The guidelines of PPG3 should be followed and development is only acceptable on previously developed plots or infill sites. Exception will be made for agricultural or forestry workers dwellings where there is a proven need for the dwelling to be located close to the business. Sites immediately adjoining the settlement will be considered for affordable housing, where it can be demonstrated that no suitable site or combination of sites exist within the settlement boundary. New house building should avoid areas at risk of flooding.</p> <p>Development should have special regard to the surrounding buildings and should not compromise the village character. The scale and design of existing buildings should be respected. Details of appropriate design are included in a subsequent section.</p>	

# Management Plan

## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
Housing	Ribble Valley Borough Council	The term 'Affordable' concerning housing may have negative connotations, RVBC meet with difficulties concerning 'affordable housing' better if they called 'local needs'.	Accepted
Housing	The Ramblers Association	Whilst sympathetic to providing affordable housing, it would be useful also to add a comment for completeness, that the landscape character also needs to be considered.	Accepted
Housing	CLAREN (Community Renewables Initiative Cumbria and Lancashire)	Renewable energy is most economically installed in new build properties. Therefore, new, affordable community housing would be ideal for the inclusion of small scale renewable energy. A case study of community energy installation is the Chipping and Downham community heating scheme which is in feasibility study at the moment. For further details contact CLAREN.	Accepted
H1	Wyre Borough Council	Replace 'lobby' with 'encourage', remove the word 'local' and add 'or organisations' so that it reads 'relevant authorities or organisations'	Accepted
H1	Craven District Council	Remove the word 'local' so that it reads relevant authorities	Accepted

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## Appendix 1

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
H1	The Countryside Agency	How does this link to purposes of designation? suggestion Those with responsibility for the provision of affordable housing in the AONB are fully informed of the needs of those involved in activities that contribute to the management of the landscape of the AONB – suggest need a needs survey in action plan	Accepted
H1-2	Wyre Borough Council	Definition needed for the term ‘affordable housing’	Accepted
H1-2	Lancaster City Council	Definition needed for the term ‘affordable housing’	Accepted
H1-3	Wyre Borough Council	Potential for addition of Planning & Development section instead of narrow focus on housing	Accepted
H2	The Countryside Agency	How does this link to purposes of designation? Suggestion: Demand for low cost affordable housing by those involved in activities that contribute to management of the landscape of the AONB is met. Any new housing provision is appropriately designed to fit in with the character of the AONB. – suggest need design statement in action plan in additional condition opposite	Accepted

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## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
Economic Opportunity	Wyre Borough Council	Mention the promotion of barns for use with co-operative working with craft and skills, activities which keep employment in the countryside.	Accepted
Economic Opportunity	Pendle Borough Council (Draft Forest of Bowland SPG)	<p>6.3 Employment</p> <p>Few employment opportunities exist in the AONB outside of agriculture and Newchurch Mill. Tourism is developing and, in particular, Pendle Hill draws many visitors. The primary objective of the AONB is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty. Employment opportunities must not compromise this objective, although the social and economic well-being of local people must be considered. In particular, it is important to maintain services within these rural areas.</p> <p>The AONB area is currently afforded an Objective 2 status, which allows access to European funds for employment initiatives. In particular Pendleside currently benefits from the Leader+ initiative which aims to create a self reliant rural community by developing a sustainable rural economy which will provide quality of life improvements.</p>	Accepted – informed planning and development objectives

# Management Plan

## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
Economic Opportunity (Cont)	Pendle Borough Council (Draft Forest of Bowland SPG) (Cont)	<p>To avoid damaging the quality environment of the AONB, development for employment uses will normally only be permitted within a defined settlement. Extension or alteration of existing premises within a settlement will be allowed, providing they respect the character of the local area. Home based working will be encouraged and permission granted where there is limited harm to the environment.</p> <p>Employment in the open countryside will be confined to agriculture and forestry, or those businesses which can re-use redundant agricultural buildings, where suitable access and services can be provided without harm to the environment. The creation of a new access road would be considered harmful.</p> <p>Agriculture is an important element in the shaping of the AONB landscape. The farming industry has been changing with new processes and machinery. Some new development in the countryside will be necessary to enable farmers to farm effectively and respond to changing circumstances.</p>	

# Management Plan

## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
Economic Opportunity (Cont)	Pendle Borough Council (Draft Forest of Bowland SPG) (Cont)	<p>Agricultural buildings may be permitted in the AONB where an existing traditional building cannot be re-used, or where there is no building available in the immediate vicinity. New agricultural buildings must follow the stringent design guidelines in Policy E1 and must be in accordance with the design guidance in this SPG. Modern agricultural buildings should be dismantled when no longer required. The siting of a new agricultural building should not detract significantly from the natural beauty of the AONB. Indeed Policy E1 of the Local Plan states that new agricultural buildings should be located adjacent to existing farm buildings, avoiding skyline locations. They should be built into slopes, rather than across them.</p> <p>The loss of employment premises to other uses, including residential, will be resisted, unless retaining the premises in employment use would be more harmful to the AONB than the proposed new use. Where the premises are obsolete and inappropriate for employment use, conversion will be considered only in areas where the building adjoins an existing settlement<sup>3</sup>. Isolated farm buildings are not suitable for conversion other than to provide small scale storage or workshop use and where no significant alterations to the building are necessary. Conversion of agricultural buildings to dwellings is not appropriate in the AONB, unless the building immediately adjoins an existing settlement<sup>4</sup>.</p>	

<sup>3</sup> If a building adjoins an existing settlement, the nearest wall of the building must be within 0 - 150m from the nearest boundary of that settlement.

<sup>4</sup> If a building immediately adjoins a settlement, the nearest wall of the building must be within 0 - 50m from the nearest boundary of that settlement.

# Management Plan

## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
Economic Opportunity	Pendle Borough Council (Forest of Bowland SPG)	<p>6.4 Farm Diversification and Tourism</p> <p>Farmers are increasingly seeking to diversify their activities in an attempt to ensure the continued viability of the farm and to supplement their incomes. It is the management of land through farming that has helped shape the AONB, farm diversification can lead to the fragmentation of farming units and damage the natural environment. However, this is not to say that all farm diversification will be discouraged. Indeed there are some uses which can be compatible with the objectives of the AONB. Providing visitor accommodation, small farm shops or recreational facilities can help encourage tourists to the area, whilst educational facilities can help teach of the important qualities of the AONB.</p> <p>The conversion of traditional farm buildings to form ancillary shops, short-stay visitor accommodation, recreation or educational facilities will be permitted provided the proposed use is small scale and would form part of an economically viable farm business, they are located close to remaining farm buildings, traffic generated would not be excessive and visitor car parking can be provided without causing irreparable damage to the environment. The erection of new buildings to house some form of farm diversification will only be considered where the proposed building adjoins an existing settlement. Conversion of isolated buildings for some form of diversification is not appropriate.</p> <p>New touring caravan or tent sites and static holiday caravan sites will not be permitted in the AONB.</p>	Accepted – informed planning and development objectives

# Management Plan

## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
Economic Opportunity	East Lancashire Partnership	Rural Workspace Development project. Hope that this is providing employment for local people so that they don't have to travel too far. Conversion of spare/room garage typically for graphic designers etc. Conversion of farm buildings in disrepair or that are no longer suitable for original use. New unit construction tends to be larger than for just one end user and situated closer to market towns.	Accepted
Economic Opportunity	The Ramblers' Association	Strictly speaking our understanding is that the Bowland AONB does not actually contain any 'market towns'. We are aware of some market towns close to the AONB, but not actually within the AONB. The statement would probably be better if it was reworded, perhaps mentioning the issues of 'rural employment'.	Accepted
E1	The Countryside Agency	How link to AONB purpose? Rural development to be regarded as a long term development and a coordinated approach adopted by all providers ( ? ) to ensure quality of AONB maintained and or enhanced ?????????	Accepted
E1-3	CLAREN (Community Renewables Initiative Cumbria and Lancashire)	CLAREN aims to support local access to funding streams for renewable energy projects. We also offer to run and support training opportunities in this area. Being closely associated with Lancashire Rural Futures (we receive in-kind support from them) we aim to assist local businesses who require information on funding opportunities relating to renewable energy.	No action required

# Management Plan

## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
E2	The Countryside Agency	Link to purpose? Promote and seek to stimulate sustainable enterprise that contributes to conservation and enhancement of the environment.	Accepted
E2	Ribble Valley Borough Council	Keen to emphasise that economic opportunity not just about agricultural diversification but diversification of the rural economy. Perhaps get this emphasis into E2.	Accepted
E3	The Countryside Agency	Why support? Should it be more, ensure advisory service offered by Lancashire Rural Futures understands objectives of AONB and takes into account when providing advice	Accepted – objective changed
E3	Ribble Valley Borough Council	Good to see mention of Lancashire Rural Futures	No action required
E4	Wyre Borough Council	Strengthen market town aspect, too much of a specific concentration on employment within existing objective	Accepted
E4	Lancaster County Council	Expand objective on market towns	Accepted
E4	North Yorkshire County Council	Are there any market towns in the AONB? How would you meet this objective perhaps by stressing them as gateway locations to the AONB.	Accepted

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## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
E4	The Countryside Agency	Link to purpose? What about, market town action plans for Clitheroe, Garstang, Barnoldswick, Bentham, check any others near FoB see Anne to help re words recognise FoB as an asset for people's enjoyment and as an area which supplies local products. le thus strengthening the sense of place of the AONB building links between land managers and members of the local community, People living and visiting market towns of .....have good links to the AONB in terms of information and transport.	Accepted
E4	Ribble Valley Borough Council	Expand objective, too specific on employment, incorporate cultural and economic diversification	Accepted
E4	English Nature (Peterborough Head Office)	Needs to make explicit the role of market towns within the AONB and also the interdependency between them. It is possible that much more work needs to be done to understand the links between the town and country, and in particular how the flow of resources moves between the two rather than trying to artificially demarcate them.	Accepted
Tourism and Recreation	Wyre Borough Council	Potential for using management plan concerning holistic promotion of 'Bowland' brand	Accepted – objective added

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## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
Tourism and Recreation	Lancaster City Council	Need for an integrated Bowland marketing initiative,	Accepted – objective added
TR1	Wyre Borough Council	Replace 'local' with 'appropriate'	Accepted
TR1	The Countryside Agency	Would it be stronger to say, Only sustainable tourism initiatives encouraged in the AONB What about Sustainable travel initiatives for visitors developed, especially those that reduce dependence on the private motor vehicle What about Stakeholders and visitors understand what is meant by sustainable tourism and the impact this activity can have on the quality of the landscape, environment and visitor experience, (to encourage appropriate behaviour.)	Accepted - Aspirational statements addressed within main and theme vision statements
TR2	Wyre Borough Council	Delete words 'will result in'.	Accepted
TR2	The Countryside Agency	Tourism operators, land managers, communities and local authorities to work in partnership so there is a coordinated approach to rural tourism in the AONB safeguarding the environment and maximising retention of income in the local economy. ...How can AONB land management benefit from tourism? How get that income back into appropriate land management?	Accepted - Aspirational statements addressed within main and theme vision statements

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## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
TR2	The Ramblers' Association	Would propose that the second statement is reworded as follows 'Support the targeted encouragement of appropriate tourism and quiet informal recreational facilities'.	Rejected – does not fit with Tourism Environment Fund actions.
TR3	Lancashire Countryside Service	Reword "Increase the potential for the local economy and the quality of the environment and landscape to benefit from visitors to the AONB"	Accepted
TR3	The Countryside Agency	Meaning? Combine with TR1?	Accepted
TR4	Wyre Borough Council	Replace 'villages' with 'rural focal points'	Accepted
TR4	English Nature (Peterborough Head Office)	We are not sure that "rural focal point" is well understood by many as a stand alone term, whereas "village" is.	Accepted – however continue to use rural focal point as it encompasses smaller settlements such as hamlets and there are few true villages within Bowland. Explanation will be added to glossary of terms.

# Management Plan

## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
TR4	The Countryside Agency	Villages, accessibly by public transport, will be focal points for circular and linear self guided walks.	Rejected – as use of word villages would limit potential in AONB
TR5	The Countryside Agency	Similar to TR 2 but what is link to AONB purpose? What is this one trying to say? Suggest Tourism facilities and activities managed and marketed in ways that relate to the special qualities of the AONB and take into account the character of the local environment.	Accepted – original objective deleted
TR6	Wyre Borough Council	Reword additional objective: 'encourage local communities to understand, accept and engage in sustainable tourism as a valuable part of rural life'.	Accepted – incorporated in new TR4 objective
TR6	The Countryside Agency	What is carrying capacity of AONB re tourism – remember purpose of designation? Areas for quiet enjoyment? Not all will want to get involved in tourism. Local communities understand the contribution sustainable tourism can make to the local economy	Accepted
TR7	The Countryside Agency	Stronger to say, Marketing of appropriate tourism and recreation facilities is targeted to ..... what? Related to carrying capacity of sites? Seasonal variation?	Accepted - Aspirational statements addressed within main and theme vision statements

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## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
Agriculture	Wyre Borough Council	Need to consider game management in addition to agriculture in AG objectives	Accepted
AG1	The Countryside Agency	How would you achieve this objective? Easier to say, support the evolution of sustainable farming practices which conserve and enhance natural beauty and are viable – but still how achieve?	Accepted
AG1	CLAREN (Community Renewables Initiative Cumbria and Lancashire)	Short Rotation Coppice (SRC) (eg – Willow) for use in biomass boilers has been shown to be beneficial to the ecology of the areas in which it is located by increasing the local biodiversity (SRC creates a more developed matrix of age classes in woodlands, thereby encouraging a greater range of animal species, from invertebrates to birds and smaller mammals). Additionally SRC is also viewed as a good woodland management practice.	No action required
AG2	The Countryside Agency	How differ from AG1?	Accepted
AG2	CLAREN (Community Renewables Initiative Cumbria and Lancashire)	CLAREN assists and encourages landowners to establish renewable energy projects, an essential aspect of sustainability.	No action required

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## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
AG3	The Countryside Agency	Meaning? Maximum participants are subscribed to agri-environment schemes. Or is it a lobbying role, and is this an objective for a management plan? Coordinate advice that is available in the AONB on agri-environment schemes that conserve and enhance natural beauty.	Accepted
AG3	CLAREN (Community Renewables Initiative Cumbria and Lancashire)	SRC schemes, as detailed above (AG1) can be a key element of a co-ordinated agri-environment scheme. Biomass markets can be established and fed by an SRC's production, it is beneficial to the local environment and is a different form of crop that farmers can grow.	No action required
AG3	English Nature (Peterborough Head Office)	We strongly agree with the CA's comment – raison d'etre – that support for farming must be based primarily on <u>environment</u> as a major driver, with social / community support as a second priority.	Accepted
AG4	The Countryside Agency	How link to AONB purpose?	Accepted
AG4	CLAREN (Community Renewables Initiative Cumbria and Lancashire)	Through chipping of wood – either waste wood (from woodland thinnings) or SRC, jobs may be created whilst using a material that may otherwise not be used. Additionally, the encouragement of Willow SRCs may also be used to encourage traditional rural skills, such as weaving and fence making.	No action required

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## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
AG5	Wyre Borough Council	Insert 'which are sympathetic to the landscape' at the end of the sentence. .	Accepted
AG5	The Countryside Agency	Link to AONB purpose? County targeting statement for ERDP schemes and decisions on any such applications give appropriate recognition to the Forest of Bowland AONB and its purposes	Accepted
AG5	CLAREN (Community Renewables Initiative Cumbria and Lancashire)	As willow SRC is still a relatively new crop, it can help to diversify the potential outputs of a farm.	No action required
AG5	Preston City Council	shift 'where appropriate' to end of sentence	Accepted
AG5	English Nature (Peterborough Head Office)	Preston CC comment still makes this vague and as a consequence this needs to be made much clearer	Accepted
AG6	The Countryside Agency	Link to AONB purpose? Goods produced locally by land management practices that conserve and enhance natural beauty of the AONB are strongly marketed.	Accepted

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## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
AG6	Preston City Council	shift 'where appropriate' to end of sentence	Rejected – see previous
Theme 2	English Nature	<p>A much welcomed and certainly well covered section. However, the first key objective is a little 'wordy' presently whilst appreciating what this means – perhaps it could be better expressed.</p> <p>Refer to the HLF bid for 'Hidden Bowland' as a mechanism to the forward projects.</p> <p>For all habitat improvements and enhancements one should make use of English Nature GIS based 'Lifescapes' mapping project. We would actively encourage this and perhaps one should refer to this project in the Management Plan? This is particularly important as regards ..... species rich grasslands</p>	Accepted – specific projects referred to within the Action Plan
Theme 2	English Nature	Somewhere one should refer specifically to Key BAP habitat + species targets for the AONB as per Natural Area.	Accepted
Theme 2	Wyre Borough Council	Insert a sentence similar to: "Promote awareness and consideration of the setting of the AONB, and views to and from it, when considering development and land use change proposals on sites adjacent to the AONB".	Accepted – see new objective PD3
Theme 2	Wyre Borough Council	Relate to English Nature Natural Areas, BAP habitat and species targets and RIGS	Accepted

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## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
Theme 2	Wyre Borough Council	Preamble to A1-15 objectives very static ie 'enhance,'art' in this context would be more about creating rather than enhancing/conserving.	Accepted
Theme 2	Wyre Borough Council	Check that objectives, which specifically relate to either limestone or gritstone bedrock areas, do not disadvantage the other corresponding bedrock area.	Accepted
Theme 2	Wyre Borough Council	Good practice management of hedgerows/walls that fits in with the particular style of certain areas of Bowland.	Accepted
Theme 2	Lancaster City Council	Any areas of potential peat extraction, need for an objective on this issue?	Accepted
Theme 2	Lancaster City Council	Potential objective on trapping carbon dioxide back into the bogs through re-wetting.	Accepted
Theme 2	Lancaster City Council	Explore grazing on fringe farmland to keep rough ground in check.	Opinion noted

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## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
Theme 2	The Countryside Agency	Need introductory paragraph should this include AONBs interpretation of natural beauty? Assume from heading your interpretation is that this includes natural and cultural environment. Should there be a new group of objectives for the built landscape encouraging vernacular style, design guides, sustainable methods, local sourcing of materials etc? What about the cultural environment? Should there be separate group of objectives covering this?	Accepted
Theme 2 – Aim	The Countryside Agency	Should aim be, The natural beauty and cultural heritage (or just natural beauty) of the Forest of Bowland AONB is conserved and enhanced	Accepted
Theme 2	North Yorkshire County Council	Objectives very prescriptive, need to perhaps stand back and be more strategic in certain cases	Accepted
Theme 2	English Nature (Peterborough Head Office)	NYCC comment – We agree that there is too much detail in the policy objectives and that much duplication occurs in places especially as far as habitats are concerned.	Accepted – policy objectives revised

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## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
Theme 2	Pendle Borough Council (Forest of Bowland SPG)	<p>6.6 Landscape Enhancement</p> <p>The primary objective of AONB designation is the 'conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty'. The development control principles set out above can help conserve this natural beauty. However, the Borough Council also wish to enhance the AONB.</p> <p>The Forest of Bowland AONB contains designated Open Moorland Areas (Policy E5) and Important Wildlife Sites (Policy E6). It is important to protect these sites and encourage measures which regenerate moorland vegetation and encourage wildlife. Planning permission will not be granted for development proposals which would damage these areas.</p> <p>There are 2 designated Conservation areas within the AONB; Whitehough and Newchurch in Pendle. These are 'areas of special architectural or historic interest the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance'. In these Conservation Areas planning permission will not be granted for the demolition or partial demolition of buildings of townscape value. In addition, any proposed development must pay particular attention to the scale and design of the existing buildings and must be in harmony with those buildings. UPVC windows and doors should be avoided.</p>	Accepted – informed planning and development objectives

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## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
Theme 2 (Cont)	Pendle Borough Council (Forest of Bowland SPG) (Cont)	<p>Within the AONB it is important to retain, repair and preserve hedgerows and areas of drystone walling. These are characteristic of the AONB area and their loss can significantly alter the character of the area. Proposals to introduce new boundaries within the open countryside or along a settlement boundary should compose dry stone walling or native species hedgerows.</p> <p>Woodland planting within the AONB can provide economic benefits as well as wider environmental improvements (reductions in CO2 gases in the atmosphere), however, proposals for new planting within the AONB should include at least 50% Broadleaved or native species. New planting should avoid unnatural regular lines, geometric patterns or shapes and should avoid the Open Moorland Areas and Important Wildlife Sites.</p>	

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## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
Theme 2	The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester & North Merseyside	<p>AONB-Wide</p> <p>We find this section rather “bitty” and flatly structured as currently presented. The structure has resulted in many objectives overlapping. Perhaps the clearest example of this is in the objective A4: “Encourage and support conservation as well as, where appropriate, enhancement of: semi-natural habitat resources of the AONB”. This objective contains within it objectives for those semi-natural habitats also identified separately in A1, A2, A3, A5, A6, A8, A12, A13, A14, &amp; A15. The result is that those objectives are, so-to-speak, “sub-objectives” of A4 but are presented as existing in parallel with them. We suspect that this will lead to confusion, particularly as semi-natural habitats may also be identified as parts of archaeological, architectural and landscape features. A more “pyramidal” structure is probably necessary, with biodiversity, archaeology, architecture, and historic and current landscape objectives established, with sub-objectives beneath those, and internal cross-referencing as necessary. None of the current objectives in this theme makes reference to key species and this omission should also be corrected.</p>	Accepted

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## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
Theme 2 (Cont)	The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester & North Merseyside (Cont)	<p>In Lancashire, the identification of semi-natural habitats (and native species populations) for conservation and enhancement, and the establishment of mechanisms and setting of targets for delivery, are being established through the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP) – see <a href="http://www.ukbap.org.uk">www.ukbap.org.uk</a> - and the Lancashire Biodiversity Action Plan (LaBAP) – see <a href="http://www.lbap.org.uk">www.lbap.org.uk</a>. The production of a North Yorkshire Biodiversity Action Plan (NYBAP) has yet to be commenced, but the LaBAP will serve pro tem as referring to the whole of the Forest of Bowland AONB.</p> <p>We understand, informally, that a new AONB-wide objective (A17) is now proposed under this theme.</p> <p>We would welcome the introduction of such an objective, but other BAP habitats and species would need to be added.</p>	Accepted – reference made to LaBAP and NYBAP

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## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
Theme 2 (Cont)	The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester & North Merseyside (Cont)	<p>In the Forest of Bowland AONB, such species could include Water Vole, Hen Harrier, Merlin, Whinchat, bats (most native species), Great Crested Newt, Adder, Large Heath butterfly, and Freshwater Pearl Mussel. The objective, as proposed, also lacks any reference to, or targets for, herb-rich pasture and meadow. Unfortunately, more time would be needed for us to consult internally and externally on appropriate species, habitats and targets than is available to us before your 5th September deadline. We have just started such a process with English Nature (Cheshire to Lancashire Team). We also understand that United Utilities plc has produced a Biodiversity Action Plan for its own landholdings, which cover a large part of the AONB.</p> <p>We would prefer to see the specific term "BHS" (i.e. "Biological Heritage Site") replaced by the generic term "Wildlife Site". The term "BHS" is applied uniquely to the Wildlife Sites identified under the system developed and operated in administrative Lancashire since the late 1980s. A different term will be in use for Wildlife Sites identified under the system covering Craven District, North Yorkshire. This is a reflection of the separate evolution and development of local Wildlife Site systems around the UK. Generic guidance on the operation of such systems has been commissioned by central Government from English Nature, and may include standardisation of terminology.</p>	Accepted

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## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
Theme 2	Peter Jepson, Specialist Advisor (Ecology) Lancashire County Council	Outlining of all BAP targets within objectives for Forest of Bowland considered slightly too much detail.	Accepted
Theme 2	Peter Jepson, Specialist Advisor (Ecology) Lancashire County Council	Highlighted the policy within the Deposit Draft of the Joint Lancashire Structure Plan:  The North West Regional Planning Guidance in Policy ER5 Biodiversity and Nature Conservation, requires that:  Planning authorities and other agencies in their plans, policies and proposals will afford the strongest levels of protection to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sites with international and national nature conservation designations in the Region, encompassing: Ramsar sites, Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, National Nature Reserves and, Sites of Special Scientific Interest; and</li> <li>• Statutory protected species</li> </ul>	

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## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
Theme 2 (Cont)	Peter Jepson, Specialist Advisor (Ecology) Lancashire County Council (Cont)	<p>Planning authorities and other agencies in their plans, policies and proposals should ensure that the overall nature conservation resource in the North West is protected and enriched through conservation, restoration and re-establishment of key resources by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Affording the highest level of protection and management to those resources which are important and irreplaceable within practical timescales</li> <li>•Ensuring that there is no net loss in the value of other biodiversity resources in the Region</li> <li>•Returning key biodiversity resources to viable levels by promoting the restoration and re-establishment of habitats and species populations in accordance with the targets set out in the UK and Local Biodiversity Action Plans. In identifying areas for habitat restoration and re-establishment, particular attention should be paid to reversing habitat fragmentation and species isolation and ensuring the appropriate management of wildlife corridors that are important for the migration and dispersal of wildlife. In implementing the above, local authorities should set out a coherent and functional ecological framework which identifies priority biodiversity resources, areas of land which have the potential for returning these resources to viable levels and wildlife corridors; and</li> </ul>	Accepted

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## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
Theme 2 (Cont)	Peter Jepson, Specialist Advisor (Ecology) Lancashire County Council (Cont)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Applying the principle of enhancing the quality of life set out in Policy DP2 when considering all new development proposals which will impact on biodiversity.</li> <li>Planning authorities and other agencies in their plans, policies and proposals must take account the Regional Biodiversity Audit, English Nature's Regional Biodiversity Targets, the Local Diversity Action Plan and initiatives related to the implementation of National Biodiversity Action Plans</li> </ul>	Accepted
AONB Wide	Wyre Borough Council	Statement needed on tree planting	Accepted
AONB Wide	The Countryside Agency	A1-15 preamble change to: The following key features of the AONB's natural beauty are conserved and where appropriate enhanced: wording below would need tweaking if followed this suggestion.	Accepted
AONB Wide	Craven District Council & North Yorkshire County Council	Need to manage access post-CROW Act does not jump out from the AONB objectives, 'freedom to roam' needs to be covered. Statement to say JAC will help to manage conflict situations where they arise following the implementation of the CRoW Act.	Accepted

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## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
AONB Wide	Preston City Council	Reword opening preamble	Accepted
AONB Wide	Ribble Valley Borough Council	Delete 'appropriate' from opening preamble.	Accepted
AONB Wide	Ribble Valley Borough Council	Potential to use Bowland and county-wide landscape assessments as a guide for decision-making.	Accepted – reference in Action Plan
A1-15	The Countryside Agency	This list largely seems to form a vision for the AONB	Accepted

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## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
A1-15	English Nature (Peterborough Head Office)	<p>As per general our comment on the amount of detail and duplication in theme 2 – there is also too much detail here. The targets do not need to be individual policies, but clearly there should be several policies linked to the delivery of biodiversity targets. It is possible that these could be brought together as BAP priority habitat targets, as a way of prioritising them. Equally the policies could be linked to agri-environment policies, water catchment or grouse shooting / local economy interests, if these are going to help deliver. The policy objectives A1-A15, seem to provide pointers to spatial qualities of the AONB and may link with a vision, targeting and monitoring requirements.</p> <p>Some key objectives (policies) are also inconsistent and need to be added to as the consultation has revealed ie where they need to be qualified – <u>In particular, the link back to natural beauty / quiet enjoyment needs to be reinforced.</u> The natural and cultural environment policies should lead the way in the ordering of the policies.</p> <p>More consistency is similarly needed between the policies, especially with regard to the natural and cultural theme – A1-A15 are too specific and should be reduced to a few policies which relate to habitats, notably key BAP priority habitats. In this respect there is some overlap within the individual habitat objectives – compare M2 with A1 as one example. The policies either need to be made <u>distinctly different</u> and complementary or they <u>need to be combined.</u></p>	Accepted – objectives A1-A15 revised

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## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
A5	Wyre Borough Council	Add 'characteristic' as some hedgerows in Bleasdale are not native but are appropriate	Accepted
A6	English Nature	English Natures assumes that woodland enhancement covers the better management of existing woodland as well as the planting of new ones? Perhaps one could refer to English Nature's XXXX XXXX native woodlands within the Forest of Bowland or English Nature's Lifescapes project to guide this process (all of which is GIS based).	Accepted – reference in Action Plan
A6	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	Add "with due regard to existing conservation interest"	Accepted
A9	Wyre Borough Council	Addition of 'geological' features to this objective	Accepted
A10	Preston City Council	Encourage appropriate use of those buildings e.g. from planning prospective encourage employment creating uses.	Accepted – see planning and development objectives
A14	Wyre Borough Council	Reword last sentence: 'where replacement of these existing boundary features is necessary with fencing it should be sited and designed sympathetically'.	Accepted

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## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
A16	The Countryside Agency	Suggest object should be, State of environmental and landscape capital of the AONB updated annually – hence action will be to set up baseline and monitoring process	Accepted
A16	CLAREN (Community Renewables Initiative Cumbria and Lancashire)	Using thinnings from woodland management practices and Short Rotation Coppice (SRC) which can both be chipped for biomass systems, a good source of income can be developed.	No action required
A16-A17	English Nature (Peterborough Head Office)	There needs to be specific references to certain data and information which is relevant to the AONB and monitoring – This baseline information really needs to be in place and it is suggested that LCC is well placed to do this following the Lifescape work that has been carried out by Nik Bruce on behalf of English Nature during the past two years.	Accepted – reference to Lifescapes in Action Plan
A17	The Countryside Agency	Suggest: Cultural environment of the AONB defined and reviewed .....(?)..... Suggest: Information on environmental and landscape capital, and cultural environment available to anyone who need to take into account the natural beauty of the AONB in their activities or has an interest in the AONB	Deleted

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## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
A18-23	Pendle Borough Council (Forest of Bowland SPG)	<p>5.3 Local Plan Policy</p> <p>Policy E1 of the Pendle Local Plan (adopted 1999) relates to the AONB. The Policy reads as follows:</p> <p>The Borough Council will seek to safeguard the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Planning permission will not be granted for proposals which are incompatible with the area. Small scale developments will be permitted provided that;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The development is of a high standard, in keeping with the surrounding area;</li> <li>2. New buildings, including dwellings or associated structures are constructed of materials to complement the character and/or appearance of the surroundings. Commercial and agricultural buildings, except dwellings, shall be constructed using matt dark grey, brown or olive coloured walling and roofing materials in keeping with their setting;</li> <li>3. The siting of new buildings should be so that they have minimal visual impact on the landscape. In this respect, applicants shall submit detailed drawings showing existing natural features, existing buildings and structures and show how the proposal relates to these features to provide a comprehensive assessment of the level of integration of new development into the landscape. Where larger buildings are required for agricultural purposes, these should be sited adjacent to existing farm buildings, avoiding skyline locations and be built along or into slopes rather than across them. New buildings that would not integrate well with the existing landscape will be resisted;</li> </ol>	Accepted – informed planning and development objectives

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## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
A18-23 (Cont)	Pendle Borough Council (Forest of Bowland SPG) (Cont)	<p>4. The design of the new building respects the architecture of the existing buildings of quality, in order to reduce the impact of new development and avoid the introduction of urban features. In exceptional circumstances where larger agricultural buildings are required they shall be designed so that wall heights and building lines are varied to give the appearance of a small group rather than one large building;</p> <p>5. The extension of buildings, such as dwellings and agricultural buildings should respect the design and materials of the existing structure;</p> <p>6. Engineering operations, such as the formation of new roads or the installation of plant or machinery, should be sited in less prominent positions. New routes should be kept away from the area but where this is not practicable, roads should be located close to existing buildings and avoid skyline locations. External surfaces of plant housing should be non-reflective so as to limit visual impact in the landscape. Earthworks should be undertaken with great care, so that both during and after engineering operations the visual appearance of the special quality of the area is not harmed. Engineering operations that adversely affect landscape quality will be resisted.</p> <p>Other relevant policies are: E5 Open Moorland Areas, E6 Important Wildlife Sites, E9 Conservation Areas, E11 Conversion of Agricultural Buildings to Dwellings, E19 Walls and Hedges, H5 Low Cost Housing in Rural Areas, H6 Agricultural/Forestry Workers Dwellings, C15 Telecommunications Development and D1 The use of Building Materials.</p>	Accepted – informed planning and development objectives

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## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
A18-23	Pendle Borough Council (Forest of Bowland SPG)	<p>6.1 Scale of development</p> <p>Local Plan policy E1 seeks to safeguard the AONB and states that planning permission will not be granted for proposals deemed incompatible with the area. The Policy allows for small scale development providing that it meets a number of criteria. The Ministerial Statement issued in June 2000 strengthens policy guidance on major development proposals in the AONB.</p> <p>Major development should not take place in the Forest of Bowland AONB except in exceptional circumstances. Any proposed major development must be shown to be in the public interest. Consideration of an application for major development will include an assessment of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The need for the development, in terms of national considerations, and the impact of permitting it or refusing it on the local economy;</li> <li>2. The cost of and scope for developing elsewhere outside the area or meeting the need for it in some other way; and</li> <li>3. Any detrimental effect on the environment and the landscape, and the extent to which that should be moderated.</li> </ol> <p>All major development must be resisted in the AONB unless it is in the national interest and all other options outside the AONB have been fully examined.<sup>5</sup></p>	Accepted – informed planning and development objectives

<sup>5</sup> Major development is defined as development which is in the national interest and/or development which would significantly affect the natural beauty of the landscape. Examples include proposals for large road schemes, energy generating schemes, reservoirs, telecommunication masts, large hotels, large employment sites or large housing developments.

# Management Plan

## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
A18-23 (Cont)	Pendle Borough Council (Forest of Bowland SPG) (Cont)	Small scale development will be permitted provided it meets the criteria set out in Policy E1 of the Pendle Local Plan, and is in accordance with the guidelines set out in this SPG.	
A18-23	Pendle Borough Council	<p>6.5 Design</p> <p>It is of paramount importance that any development in the AONB respects the character of the area and, where possible, seeks to enhance the natural beauty. Good design requires careful consideration of the scale, type and density of the proposal.</p> <p>New buildings should have minimal visual impact on the landscape. Most new buildings should be located within existing settlements and should avoid skyline locations. Development should be small scale to meet local needs. Any application for development should be accompanied by detailed drawings which show the existing buildings and features and how the proposed building will fit within.</p> <p>Extensions to original buildings, whether residential or commercial, should be small scale and should respect the scale and design of the original building. Extensions which are considered disproportionate to the original building will not gain planning permission. Care should be taken with the siting of an extension. These should generally be to the rear of a property, unless backing open countryside, where extension on an alternative elevation may be preferable.</p>	Accepted – informed planning and development objectives

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## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
A18-23 (Cont)	Pendle Borough Council (Cont)	<p>In line with Policy D1 of the Pendle Local Plan, new buildings should be constructed of materials which complement the character or appearance of the surrounds. Stone (new or reclaimed) should be used, unless the proposed building adjoins a building of different materials, then the proposed building should match the surrounds. Roofs should be constructed of natural blue slate or stone slate. Door and window surrounds should match adjacent or adjoining buildings. New buildings should have limited openings.</p> <p>Modern agricultural or commercial buildings should be constructed using matt dark grey, brown or olive coloured walling and roofing materials in keeping with their setting. Developers will be encouraged to consider energy conservation in building techniques, materials and design solutions. Developers will also be encouraged to use sustainable materials, such as timber from managed woodlands products originating locally, thus reducing transport costs.</p>	
A18	The Countryside Agency	<p>Links to/similar but different suggestion above re making information available, possible better to turn above around to, information available on the characteristics.....          .created them, to assist anyone who needs to take into account the natural beauty of the AONB in their activities or has an interest in the AONB — feel don't need to be specific here and make ref to dev plans, landscape management this can come out in action plans</p>	Accepted – see planning and development objectives

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## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
A19	The Countryside Agency	Beginning to feel several of these objective could be merged, feel use of word promote is weak in an objective – what do you want to achieve by promotion is the critical thing, the action is the promotion and monitoring is whether the desire objective, possible the outcome was achieved. Suggest Distinctive landscape character of the Forest of Bowland, and the local landscapes within it are recognised by.. whom? Or is it defined, and recognised by all those who need to take into account the natural beauty of the AONB in their activities?	Accepted – see planning and development objectives
A20	The Countryside Agency	Suggest turn round to, Guidance available on the retention and conservation of local distinctiveness throughout the AONB	Accepted – see planning and development objectives
A21	Wyre Borough Council	Reword: 'encourage the relevant agencies to minimise the detrimental impact of new water, energy production and telecommunication infrastructure developments'.	Accepted – see planning and development objectives
A21	The Countryside Agency	Suggest turn round to, The design and citing of structures relating to water, energy production and telecommunication and highway infrastructure address the special qualities of the AONB and reduce their impact on the area. – seen objective below, could expand this objective to include highway works	Accepted – see planning and development objectives

# Management Plan

## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
A21	Ribble Valley Borough Council	Potential to insert phrase 'and where possible sharing of structures'. Potential with this is that shared structured can often be higher than single use.	Context Accepted – see planning and development objectives
A21	The Ramblers Association	Statement should also include encouraging the transfer of overhead lines and poles to become underground lines. This affects both electricity and telephones.	Context Accepted – see planning and development objectives
A21	English Nature (Peterborough Head Office)	<p>One needs to understand the importance of <u>S85 of CROW</u> and bring this into the policy, since it would be equally applicable to highways works. In this respect such works all too often do not take the need of protected areas into account. One therefore needs to ensure that S85 is set out in the plan to make crystal clear to all concerned.</p> <p>85. – (1) In exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect, land in an area of outstanding natural beauty, a relevant authority shall have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area of outstanding natural beauty.</p>	Accepted

# Management Plan

## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
A22	The Countryside Agency	Suggest turn round to ,The impact of major sources of visual intrusion, noise and light pollution is minimised in the AONB. Then action could be first to identify major sources, then produce some guidance of some sort including innovative methods and good practice.	Accepted - Aspirational statements addressed within main and theme vision statements
A22	Lancashire Rural Futures	Concerned that the current wording of this objective might be used to have a go at established shooting and associated land use. In addition to certain interest groups using it as leverage against forms of economic development within the AONB e.g. developments which require a large amount of vehicle movements.	Concerned noted
A22	The Ramblers' Association	Why does this objective include the word 'innovative'? The use of tried and tested methods should also be allowed to solve issues about noise pollution etc.	Accepted
A23	The Countryside Agency	Suggest turn round to: could link to objective above re water, energy et al.  Need to remember duty on all public bodies to have due regard to natural beauty etc ; perhaps need to ensure there is an objective in this section which provides all the necessary guidance they might want to do this. Touched on it re guidance and design above, perhaps could be brought together in an objective	Accepted – linked to new PD6 objective

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## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
A23	North Yorkshire County Council	Say it more explicitly, sensitive traffic design measures, should this be in transport section in Theme 3.	Accepted – see planning and objectives
R1	The Countryside Agency	Change round such as, Any scheme managing river landscapes is designed and implemented to be pleasing visually and reflect natural characteristics of river landscapes in the AONB. Could action plan include re-engineering inappropriate man made structures?	Accepted - Aspirational statements addressed within main and theme vision statements
R1	Royal Society of the Protection of Birds	I'm a bit confused by this: shingle beds and eroding river "cliffs" are important natural features. This needs re-composing to take this into account.	Accepted – where appropriate added to end of sentence
R2-3	The Countryside Agency	Can R2 and R3 be combined and turned to something like, River landscape corridors and water bodies managed to benefit landscape and wildlife.? Link with R6? Remember AONB landscape designation not wildlife designation	Accepted - Aspirational statements addressed within main and theme vision statements
R4	The Countryside Agency	link to R1?	Opinion noted

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## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
R5	Wyre Borough Council	Insert 'conservation' before 'management'	Accepted -
R5	The Countryside Agency	Should this be, Landscape and historic features associated with (or linked to) water are appropriate maintained and managed?	Accepted - Aspirational statements addressed within main and theme vision statements
R6	The Countryside Agency	link with R3? Remember AONB landscape designation not wildlife	Opinion noted
R7	The Countryside Agency	link with R3?	Opinion noted
R8	The Countryside Agency	how link with AONB purposes? Link with R3?	Opinion noted
Moorland	Wyre Borough Council	Objective needed concerning awareness of new access to open country legislation and monitoring its impact.	Accepted – new objective included in Theme 3

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## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
Moorland	The Ramblers' Association	In the existing document it makes the point in a couple of places to encourage better heather management. Should mention also be given to reducing other vegetation types? In particular concern is being expressed in some places about the spread of bracken.	Rejected – bracken a valuable habitat but only in specific contexts.
M1	English Nature	Promote renewal of blanket bog	Accepted
M1	The Countryside Agency	Turn objective round? See M5 suggestion	Accepted - Aspirational statements addressed within main and theme vision statements
M1	Peter Jepson, Specialist Advisor (Ecology) Lancashire County Council	Rushy Pasture is a misleading term, perhaps rename wader pasture etc.	Accepted – rushy pasture renamed wet/damp pasture
M1	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	I know rushy pasture was an RSPB coined phrase but I feel it is misleading. Perhaps wet/ damp pasture is more appropriate	Accepted – rushy pasture renamed wet/damp pasture

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## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
M2	The Countryside Agency	Should this be, Restore and regenerate heather moorland? Should objective say where high fells or whatever in broad terms, action plan being more specific?	Accepted – reverted to original objective
M2a	The Countryside Agency	Not sure what this is trying to say, feel objective should be more specific	Accepted – reverted to original objective
M3	The Countryside Agency	Turn objective round such as Open moorland managed to retain the sense of remoteness and large scale.	Accepted - Aspirational statements addressed within main and theme vision statements
M4	The Countryside Agency	Should fencing issue be separated from tree planting issue? Turn objective round such as Fencing avoided in open highly visible locations unless deemed essential for improved land management. In such situations use of temporary fencing will be maximised, and any works will be appropriate designed and sited .....or something like this Re inappropriate landscape creation, Landscape enhancement will be in keeping with the landscape character of the area and consolidate the character of the area rather than diversifying and segmenting the area. Or something like this.	Accepted - Aspirational statements addressed within main and theme vision statements

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## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
M4	English Nature (Peterborough Head Office)	<p>We agree with CA comments – This is a difficult area which often sets landscape conservation against nature conservation. The fencing of open ground needs to be carefully considered and the options assessed. In terms of grazing control on moorland it is preferable to have <u>temporary</u> fencing, especially on commons and areas of fell land badly affected by overgrazing, but in the longer term a more <u>sustainable</u> option should be considered ie reductions in grazing pressure through stock reductions.</p> <p>There should be really be clear references to Landscape Character Assessment(s) and derived products.</p>	<p>Accepted</p> <p>Accepted</p>
M5	The Countryside Agency	Should there be one objective about maintenance and management where specific features of moorland landscape identified? And separate objective for key issue features such as restoration of heather moorland, And separate for any feature where enhancement necessary as opposed to maintenance?	Accepted
M6	The Countryside Agency	See M5 and M4	Accepted

# Management Plan

## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
M7	The Countryside Agency	Turn round? Clough woodlands will be enhanced to improve their landscape and consequent wildlife value? Then action might be fencing woodlands in area x, thinning, removing invasive sp, re-stocking etc	Accepted - Aspirational statements addressed within main and theme vision statements
M8	The Countryside Agency	Suggest turn round, Surfacing, shelters and shooting butts will be constructed of gritstone and turf. ?	Accepted - Aspirational statements addressed within main and theme vision statements
M9	The Countryside Agency	Suggest need to link this with restoration of heather moorland M2	
M9	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	Add "where appropriate"	Accepted
M9	English Nature (Peterborough Head Office)	As currently worded seems to be the wrong way around as it condones overgrazing of heather moorland	Accepted – see RSPB comment and addition of where appropriate

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## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
M10	The Countryside Agency	Link to maintenance obj? or is it new, Stocking levels and cycles of stocking...reduced? Changed to? .....to maintain and restore landscape and characteristic species	
M11	The Countryside Agency	Turn round? Historic features, archaeological sites and other distinctive features what is meant by other distinctive?) are maintained and managed.	Accepted - Aspirational statements addressed within main and theme vision statements
M12	The Countryside Agency	Turn round, Any moorland burning is undertaken following good practice/guidance from .....	Accepted - Aspirational statements addressed within main and theme vision statements
M13	The Countryside Agency	Turn round,	Accepted - Aspirational statements addressed within main and theme vision statements

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## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
M14	The Countryside Agency	Suggest turn round, Peat forming more communities will be re-established in ..... Appropriate locations, or in landscape X	Accepted - Aspirational statements addressed within main and theme vision statements
M14	Peter Jepson, Specialist Advisor (Ecology) Lancashire County Moorland Council	Highlighted the potential to make mention of Blanket bog's ability to act as a sink for carbon dioxide as it is much more efficient than carbon dioxide stored in woodland. Accepted Moorland English Nature (Peterborough Head Office) Lancaster / Pendle comment – We agree with their comment but we do not think that “carbon sink” is a term that is fully understood by many.	Accepted – changed to store carbon dioxide
M15	The Countryside Agency	Turn round, Information is available at key locations to inform users, owners and occupiers of the risk of moorland fires and action required to minimise the threat of moorland fires and in the event of a fire.	Accepted - Aspirational statements addressed within main and theme vision statements

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## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
Woodland	The Countryside Agency	Not looked at	
Woodland	CLAREN (Community Renewables Initiative Cumbria and Lancashire)	Sustainable management and harvesting of woodlands can support wood fuel heating projects. It can also be a key to encouraging a woodland's mixed age structure and maintaining woodland clearings by providing a market for the associated thinnings.	No action required
W1-4	English Nature	Refer to GIS based English Nature Lifescapes Mapping Project	Accepted – reference in Action Plan
W8	CLAREN (Community Renewables Initiative Cumbria and Lancashire)	Willow and other fast growing fuel woods can be copped as part of a farmer's production.	No action required
W8	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	Add "with due regard to existing conservation interest"	Accepted
Fringe Farmland	The Countryside Agency	Not looked at	

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## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
F2	English Nature	Inset "pasture" after hay meadows	Accepted
F3	English Nature	Refer to GIS based English Nature Lifescapes Mapping Project	Accepted – reference in Action Plan
F5	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	I know rushy pasture was an RSPB coined phrase but I feel it is misleading. Perhaps wet/ damp pasture is more appropriate. Also, should it be fell wall	Accepted
F9	The Hon R C Assheton TD	Would a more inclusive wording be "Encourage maintenance of dry stone walls with stone appropriate to the area". For instance in some cases on Pendle overlying gritstone has been used for walling as gravity has meant it ending up lying in otherwise limestone areas.	Rejected – keep in place existing specific objectives for gritstone and limestone areas
F13	Wyre Borough Council	Mention quality and biodiversity of verges	Accepted
F13	The Countryside Agency	Does this split into several objectives? Characteristic network of narrow country lanes maintained and enhanced Will need a par about what makes them characteristic Road improvements and furniture/fittings/facilities (what term is used) sensitive to the character of the area and nature of the road, lane concerned Multi-use signs to be used where possible to avoid sign clutter	

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## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
F13	CLAREN (Community Renewables Initiative Cumbria and Lancashire)	The possibility of solar power should be considered for lighting, negating the requirements of attaching to the grid (which can be invasive and costly) and is also sustainable.	No action required
F13-14	North Yorkshire County Council	Important to pick up the issues mentioned in these objectives in other landscapes as well.	Accepted – objectives transferred to AONB wide section
F16	Lancashire Local Access Forum – John Earnshaw	It would, I think, be useful if this could be extended to include a reference to the value of providing interpretative information at many of the features and sites to which it refers.	Accepted – see Theme 3 Information/Interpretation section
Theme 3	English Nature	A well-balanced programme of actions/objectives. However, it would be helpful if all stakeholders could adopt an 'in house' Bowland style for publications/ information relating to Bowland re existing website design details One should refer to the HLF bid/proposal which should be able to deliver + XXXX XXXX of products to boost green tourism/recreation/interpretation/information. A range of media should be used for this.	Accepted – reference made in Action Plan

# Management Plan

## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
Theme 3	Wyre Borough Council	Need for more mention of the CROW Act and it's strategic impact.	Accepted
Theme 3	Lancashire Local Access Forum – Jim Kirwan	<p>I just have a concern that we need to ensure that the management plan has a fundamental objective to ensure that it actually facilitates enjoyment and usage of the AONB by the public, and that it doesn't end up putting unnecessary obstacles in the way. It would, I feel, be retrograde to end up in a situation where people are put off visiting an AONB because "every time we go there, we are faced with a surfeit of closures, diversions and restrictions".</p> <p>My concern is fuelled by a paragraph in the English Nature document from David Slater (sorry, no date or reference on it), which states in paragraph 4: "However, if public access conflicts with nature conservation, and management solutions are not available, then nature conservation interests should prevail". On first reflection, it would seem hard to disagree, but I would expect heaven and earth to be moved so as to find management solutions before it meant exclusion is needed. In terms of being told that "it can't be done", I've been there, done that etc. and on most occasions found that if people are prepared to expend a little more energy, thought and willingness, then a solution usually can be found. In the final analysis, it always comes down to attitude.</p>	<p>Countryside Agency details objectives of AONB as: 'Recreation will not be an objective of designation but the demand for recreation should be met so far as this is consistent with the conservation of natural beauty and the needs of agriculture, forestry and other uses'.</p>

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## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
Theme 3 - Aim	The Countryside Agency	<p>Is the aim more like, meet the demand for enjoyment of the AONB where it is consistent with conserving and enhancing the environment, and particularly where it plays a role in assisting economic and social opportunity.</p> <p>If the aim is encourage, you will never know when you have done so?</p> <p>Suggest need intro paragraph as under other sections outlining what is covered by enjoyment. Needs to include ref to awareness and understanding</p>	Accepted
Theme 3	The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester & North Merseyside	<p>The Wildlife Trust welcomes measures which promote public enjoyment and understanding of wildlife and wild places, subject to the necessary caveat that active public enjoyment does not impact adversely to any significant degree on the biodiversity resource of such places. Implementation of the access provisions in the Countryside &amp; Rights of Way Act 2000 within and around the AONB will need to address measures to secure the integration of these potentially conflicting demands.</p>	Accepted
PROW & Access Network	Wyre Borough Council	<p>Objective to acknowledge the linkage for Public Rights of Way, transport and recreation, an integrated approach.</p>	Accepted

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## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
P1	The Countryside Agency	Not sure what objective can come from first part of sentence – how do this and how know when done? Second part of sentence could become something like, Effective access links to the AONB from urban centres particularly those on the edge but outside the boundary of the AONB	Accepted – objective changed
P2	The Countryside Agency	Turn round, All PROW maintained and well publicised and meet the standards within the Lancashire Right of Way Improvement Plan or whatever it is called.	Accepted - Aspirational statements addressed within main and theme vision statements
P3	Wyre Borough Council	Define 'milestones' in a glossary, along with other terminology used in the management plan.	Accepted – milestones created to national standards
P3	The Countryside Agency	Suggest this could be combined with P2	Opinion noted
P4	The Countryside Agency	Turn round, what does this mean, create new PROW or concessionary access routes to create networks that meet the needs of local people and visitors ?	Rejected - Aspirational statements addressed within main and theme vision statements

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## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
P5	The Countryside Agency	Turn round, Local communities, farmers and landowners involved in the maintenance and enhancement of the public access network	Accepted - Aspirational statements addressed within main and theme vision statements
P5	The Hon R C Assheton TD	Add 'Users' to the list of those to be encouraged to play a greater role.	Accepted
P6	The Countryside Agency	Express in terms of consequence of this, PROW network maintenance and development targeted according to monitoring levels of use surveys	Accepted - Aspirational statements addressed within main and theme vision statements
P7	English Nature	Important regarding open access	Opinion noted
P7	The Countryside Agency	Turn round, Information on public access in the AONB easily accessible.	Accepted - Aspirational statements addressed within main and theme vision statements

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## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
P8	The Countryside Agency	Turn round	Accepted - Aspirational statements addressed within main and theme vision statements
P9	The Countryside Agency	Turn round	Accepted - Aspirational statements addressed within main and theme vision statements
P10	The Countryside Agency	Turn round	Accepted - Aspirational statements addressed within main and theme vision statements
P10	Michael Helm, British Horse Society	Of course its off-road – they would not otherwise be bridleways. Is the improvement to be in the form of linking existing bridleways by other bridleways and Quiet Roads, as one would hope? What are the linkages to the cycleways for? Will it improve the route for horseriders or will it be the usual tarmaccadaming the bridleways for cyclists with nothing in return?	Accepted – objective amended

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Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
P11	The Countryside Agency	Expand, turn, Network of off-road bridleway routes available to enable users ...horse-riders x distance/hours, cyclists y distance/hours	Accepted - Aspirational statements addressed within main and theme vision statements
P11	Wyre Borough Council	Encourage linkages between cycleway and bridleway network.	Accepted
P12	The Countryside Agency	Expand, The Lancashire Local access forum and the Yorkshire Local Access Forum?) take AONB designation purposes and the AONB management plan into account when decision making. Members of local access forum (s) understand the purposes of AONB designation and the vision for the AONB	Accepted
P13	The Countryside Agency	Turn round; The access authorities in Lancashire and Yorkshire when implementing their responsibilities under CROW 2000 are consistent in the treatment of the AONB, regarding the area as one entity. The access authorities in Lancashire and Yorkshire take AONB designation purposes and the AONB management plan into account when decision-making.	Accepted

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## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
Recreation	Wyre Borough Council	Quad Bikes etc a potential problem, encourage management and education. Insert an objective like: 'Promote responsible behaviour by all visitors to the countryside'.	Accepted – new objective created
Recreation	North Yorkshire County Council	Potentially need for AONBs to follow National Parks lead and adopt a stance on 4x4 etc	No action required
Recreation	The Ramblers' Association	Propose that an additional statement is added about the desirability of reducing the use of motorised vehicles on quiet lanes. However, not all country roads would be suitable for such treatment, and in these cases the provision of a footpath going approximately parallel to the road concerned would be appreciated. Frequently the route of a walk will involve a section on a country road when linking two paths on the route of a planned walk. Often these roads have less than ideal visibility as a result of bends and walls or hedgerows at the side of the road. It is one of the campaign aims of the Association to seek improvements to the footpath network so that the amount of road walking is reduced.	Rejected – not the aim of the Quiet Lanes project

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## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
Recreation	Ribble Valley Borough Council	Talks about the need to establish a monitoring system for visitor numbers in the AONB. Would it also be useful to have a fairly regular piece of work (every 3-5 years?) that could help to identify demand for certain activities, i.e. what do people actually want to do in the AONB, then we can plan appropriately to provide for this demand if possible?	Accepted – action placed in Action Plan
R1	The Countryside Agency	needs reference to water based recreation, e.g. boating, canoeing, angling, as rivers and reservoirs are recognised landscape features	Accepted
R1	East Lancashire Partnership	ELP trying to promote extreme sports in East Lancashire but want area to be used sensitively.	No action required
R3	CLAREN (Community Renewables Initiative Cumbria and Lancashire)	CLAREN can assist/become involved in the liaison between relevant bodies, especially in relation to renewable energy. CLAREN can also co-ordinate and run talks, seminars and training events for any individuals/groups who may be interested or have concerns about any aspect of renewable energy.	No action required
R6	Wyre Borough Council	Access for all irrespective of age, disability and ethnicity should be a generic aim at the beginning of the document.	Accepted

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## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
R8	The Ramblers' Association	This statement would probably benefit from rewording for 'Encourage access for all' could also be taken to include some forms of access that we would like to see discouraged e.g. four wheel drives. Also instead of the word 'throughout', perhaps a better word would be 'to'.	Accepted – in part
R9	The Ramblers' Association	Would like to see this statement reworded as 'Encourage improvements in the network of public rights of way'. We have doubts about the principle of selecting certain routes to be 'promoted'. It is better than people are encouraged to spread out rather than use existing 'honey pot' locations, or perhaps creating new 'honey pot' sites.	Rejected -
Transport	Preston City Council	Possible duplication with Access to Services section in Theme 1?	No action required
Transport	Rural Policy, Lancashire County Council	Potential for AONB wide road network hierarchy 'Develop a road hierarchy for tailoring traffic to the Forest of Bowland road network' and/or 'Encourage traffic regulations that are adapted to suit the needs of the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty'.	Accepted
T5	Wyre Borough Council	Add to end of the objective: 'such as local festivals and agricultural shows'	Accepted

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Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
Information/ Interpretation	Wyre Borough Council	Split up into two separate categories, need something on tourist/visitor information.	Opinion noted
Information/ Interpretation	Wyre Borough Council	Interpretation network for Bowland to which all partners provide advice and support.	Opinion noted
Information/ Interpretation	Ribble Valley Borough Council	Shared Lancashire Contact Centre being developed by all local authorities, investigate the potential for this to be a message disseminator for the AONB.	Opinion noted
I1	Wyre Borough Council	Reword 'Promote and interpret aspects of the AONB such as environmental heritage, management, communities and recreational opportunities'.	Accepted
I2	The Countryside Agency	add that publications should, where possible explain what the AONB is and carry FoB logo.	Accepted

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Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
I4	Ribble Valley Borough Council	is there also an opportunity to work through existing user groups (NW Ramblers groups, young ramblers groups, cycling/mountain biking groups) to achieve the same objectives and also to raise the profile of the area to encourage them to come to the AONB? (Regular e-newsletters/updates to key contacts?) Does the AONB have its own web-presence to tell potential users what you can do there - downloadable walking routes, cycling routes, tourist trails, etc? I know the various Local Authorities have their own pages but its not co-ordinated if we want to promote the whole AONB as a visitor destination (important to show the full range of things you can do if we are to encourage staying visitors).	Opinion noted
Theme 4	English Nature	The continued delivery of co-ordinated programme is welcomed. This should be supported at all cost! I would however ask that mention is made of all the important role that conservation organisations (RSPB/EN/LWT) play in preserving, advice and information etc and the need for their involvement in all decisions/interpretation and delivery services.	Accepted
Theme 4	The Countryside Agency	Introductory paragraph mentioning CROW, governance review etc if not mentioned elsewhere.	Accepted

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## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
Theme 4	Preston City Council	Idea of annual conference suggested in governance review inserted into one of the grouping of objectives in Theme 4, unsure of which one.	Accepted – annual conference mentioned in Action Plan
Theme 4	Rural Policy, Lancashire County Council	Mention of getting ‘management closer to all stakeholders’	Accepted
Theme 4	The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester & North Merseyside	<p>This section is currently rather vague in its reference to partners other than “local people and communities”. A list of partner organisations would be a useful addition, particularly as these will need to be involved in the delivery of this Plan. We would hope that The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester &amp; North Merseyside, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (NW England Region), the Environment Agency (NW Region), United Utilities plc, the Grosvenor Estate, the Duchy of Lancaster, the Forestry Commission, and English Nature (Cheshire to Lancashire Team) are all included in the envisaged partnership. Existing partnerships, such as the Lancashire Biodiversity Action Partnership, Lancashire Rural Futures and Elwood will also have relevance.</p> <p>Are we correct in presuming that action plans will result from the completed management plan, identifying delivery agents and mechanisms and appropriate locations and targets and that a system of monitoring will be established? If this is so, it should be stated clearly. If it is not, then effective delivery of the plan will be problematic.</p>	No action required – agents are already within the AONB partnership

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## Appendix 2

Theme/Objective Number	Respondent	Proposed Changes/Comments	Accepted or Rejected + Rationale
Partnership	Wyre Borough Council	New objective: 'Encourage the co-ordinated and sympathetic promotion of the Forest of Bowland as a tourism destination'.	Accepted
Partnership	North Yorkshire County Council	Promote consistency across local authorities which will help NYCC where environmental standards might be lower than in Lancashire.	Opinion noted
Partnership	Ribble Valley Borough Council	Possible to insert some wording emphasising that partnership is a more effective way of working demonstrating benefits and stopping duplication of activities.	Accepted
P5	Wyre Borough Council	Insert 'strategic' before 'forum'.	Accepted
P6	Preston City Council	Support as it dovetails with currently proposed changes in the planning legislation	Opinion noted
PR3	The Countryside Agency	replace 'JAC' with 'Partnership'.	Accepted
PO1	Wyre Borough Council	Reword: 'Maintain and where feasible enhance the current co-ordinated approach to rural development in the AONB'.	Accepted
I1	Lancashire Countryside Service	Reword 'Encourage continuation of the co-ordinated delivery of the Countryside Services operating in Bowland'.	Accepted

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### Policy and Strategy Context

#### **Planning Policy Guidance PPG7**

The Countryside – Environmental Quality and Economic and Social Development PPG7 (revised 2000) makes specific reference to AONBs. The first two paragraphs specific to AONBs are shown below. There are two further paragraphs, giving additional guidance for planning authorities on mineral workings and roads, included in PPG7.

“4.7 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) are designated by the same means and under the same legislation as National Parks. The primary objective of designation is conservation of the natural beauty of the landscape. Local authorities should reflect this objective in their structure and local plans and development control. AONBs differ from National Parks in that the promotion of recreation is not an objective of their designation, though these areas should be used to meet the demand for recreation so far as that is consistent with the conservation of natural beauty and the needs of agriculture, forestry and other uses. There are no special statutory arrangements for the administration of AONBs although the Government endorses the practice of

setting up joint advisory committees to bring together local authorities and amenity groups, farming and other interests to encourage a coordinated approach to their management. This will be especially important where AONBs cover the area of several local authorities, who will wish to ensure that their policies are broadly compatible”.

“4.8 In general, policies and development control decisions affecting AONBs should favour conservation of the natural beauty of the landscape. In all cases the environmental effects of new proposals will be a major consideration, though it will also be appropriate to have regard to the economic and well-being of the areas. In relation to major projects, it is the Government's view that, henceforth, the assessment required in paragraph 4.5 of PPG7 in National Parks should also apply to proposals for major development in AONBs. Such proposals should be demonstrated to be in the public interest before being allowed to proceed. Consideration of applications should therefore normally include an assessment of:

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- i. The need for the development, in terms of national considerations, and the impact of permitting it or refusing it on the local economy;
- ii. The cost of and scope for developing elsewhere outside the area or meeting the need for it in some other way;
- iii. Any detrimental effect on the environment and the landscape, and the extent to which that should be moderated".

### Regional Strategies

Action for Sustainability (AfS) is the North West Regional Assembly's Action Plan framework for Sustainable Development. The AfS Integrated Appraisal Toolkit (IAT) has enabled the Forest of Bowland management plan to assess its contribution towards the regional priorities for sustainable development. The Forest of Bowland Management Plan and the AONB partnership objectives will positively contribute to a number of the IAT checklist questions/additional guidance and have some relevance to the reminder. The positive contributions are as follows:

Will the initiative (i.e. Management Plan/AONB partnership)...

- 1 ~ improve the competitiveness and productivity of businesses?
- 2 ~ exploit the growth potential of business sectors?
- 4 ~ deliver urban/rural renaissance?
- 5 ~ secure economic inclusion?
- 7 ~ alleviate poverty?
- 8 ~ reduce the need to travel and develop strategic transport, communication and economic infrastructure?
- 9 ~ develop and market the region's image?
- 11 ~ improve access to good quality, affordable and resource efficient housing?
- 13 ~ involve all stakeholders in decision making?
- 15 ~ develop strong and positive relationships between people from different backgrounds and communities?
- 16 ~ improve access to and use of basic goods, services and amenities?
- 17 ~ protect places, landscapes and buildings of historic, cultural and archaeological value?
- 18 ~ protect and improve local environmental quality
- 19 ~ protect and enhance biodiversity

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The North West Development Agency's North West Regional Rural Recovery Plan aims to support the sustainable development of the region's rural economy. The strategic objectives of the plan are to:

- Broaden the economic base of rural areas through diversification
- Renew and strengthen sustainable recreation and tourism
- Assist in the restructuring of agriculture
- Enhance the competitiveness and capability of primary agriculture
- Strengthen the skills of people living in rural areas
- Develop and promote food and other countryside projects
- Ensure environmental sustainability in rural communities
- Deliver social and community regeneration by retaining rural services, support networks, overcoming property/housing exclusion and supporting community and social enterprises
- Support policy actions aimed at improving rural conditions such as the reform of the common agricultural policy, promotion of agri-environment measures, and review of the England Rural Development Plan, etc.

The North West Regional Planning Guidance in Policy ER5 Biodiversity and Nature Conservation, requires that:

Planning authorities and other agencies in their plans, policies and proposals will afford the strongest levels of protection to:

- Sites with international and national nature conservation designations in the Region, encompassing: Ramsar sites, Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, National Nature Reserves and, Sites of Special Scientific Interest; and
- Statutory protected species

Planning authorities and other agencies in their plans, policies and proposals should ensure that the overall nature conservation resource in the North West is protected and enriched through conservation, restoration and re-establishment of key resources by:

- Affording the highest level of protection and management to those resources which are important and irreplaceable within practical timescales
- Ensuring that there is no net loss in the value of other biodiversity resources in the Region

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- Returning key biodiversity resources to viable levels by promoting the restoration and re-establishment of habitats and species populations in accordance with the targets set out in the UK and Local Biodiversity Action Plans. In identifying areas for habitat restoration and re-establishment, particular attention should be paid to reversing habitat fragmentation and species isolation and ensuring the appropriate management of wildlife corridors that are important for the migration and dispersal of wildlife. In implementing the above, local authorities should set out a coherent and functional ecological framework which identifies priority biodiversity resources, areas of land which have the potential for returning these resources to viable levels and wildlife corridors; and
- Applying the principle of enhancing the quality of life set out in Policy DP2 when considering all new development proposals which will impact on biodiversity.
- Planning authorities and other agencies in their plans, policies and proposals must take account the Regional Biodiversity Audit, English Nature's Regional Biodiversity Targets, the Local Diversity Action Plan and initiatives related to the implementation of National Biodiversity Action Plans

The Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) is the most significant piece of European water legislation for over 20 years and will overhaul the management of the water environment in the UK. The Directive applies to all surface freshwater bodies (including lakes, streams and rivers), groundwaters, estuaries and coastal waters out to one mile from low water.

The Water Framework Directive aims to:

- Prevent further deterioration and protect and enhance the status of aquatic ecosystems and associated wetlands
- Promote sustainable water consumption
- Progressively reduce and phase out discharges, emissions and losses of priority substances and priority hazardous substances
- Progressively reduce the pollution of groundwater
- Contribute to mitigating the effects of floods and droughts.

The Water Framework Directive will seek to achieve this by introducing the concept of River Basin Districts (river catchments or groups of catchments), which will embody the concept of integrated river basin management.

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Management plans and monitoring programmes will be introduced for River Basin Districts along with establishing a Programme of Measures that will set out the actions to achieve the environmental objectives of the Directive. Currently the Mersey Basin Campaign and the Environment Agency is running a pilot river basin project for the Ribble.

Changing the management of the entire water environment will be a long-term process. The overall Directive timetable recognises this and is outlined below.

- 2003 ~ Define river Basin Districts and appoint Competent Authorities (such as the Environment Agency) to carry out the work
- 2004 ~ assess the River Basins
- 2006 ~ start monitoring programmes
- 2007 ~ state issues and objectives for River Basins
- 2008 ~ consult on draft River Basin Management Plans
- 2009 to 2012 ~ enact the plans
- 2013 to 2015 ~ review the plans
- 2015 ~ meet Directive objectives

<sup>1</sup> Joint Lancashire Structure Plan 2001 - 2016: deposit edition, objections still outstanding

<sup>2</sup> North Yorkshire Joint Structure Plan 2001 -2016: pre-Deposit Consultation Draft

## County Strategies

### Structure Plans

Two structure plans affect the Forest of Bowland AONB: 1) the Joint Lancashire Structure Plan<sup>1</sup>, 2) the Joint North Yorkshire Structure Plan<sup>2</sup>. There are differences between structure plans, especially in terms of specific reference to AONBs, but generally both plans have similar policies concerning landscape and character and the status afforded to the Forest of Bowland AONB. Many of the policies outlined within these documents have a bearing on the management plan. However, within each document there are certain policies, or sections of policies, which are explicit to the primary purpose of the Forest of Bowland AONB:

#### 1) Joint Lancashire Structure Plan

**Policy 5** ~ "In the countryside outside villages, building conversions and redevelopment of existing groups of buildings for employment generating uses will be supported in principle. Limited development of new buildings to meet identified local employment needs will be acceptable in principle outside green belt areas"

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**Policy 20** ~ “Development must be appropriate to the landscape character type within which it is situated and contribute to its conservation, enhancement or restoration, or the creation of appropriate new features”.

**Policy 21** ~ “Lancashire’s natural and man-made heritage will be protected from loss or damage according to the hierarchy of designations of international, national, regional, county and local importance. The strongest levels of protection will be afforded to those heritage resources of international and national importance.

Sites, areas and features of heritage importance will be conserved and, in appropriate circumstances, enhanced and re-established taking account of :

- a) Their rarity, vulnerability, antiquity or complexity;
- b) Their contribution to the countrywide network of sites and features, to the character of its location and setting and to national and county biodiversity;
- c) Positive opportunities afforded by development for the conservation, management or enhancement of heritage resources.

Where, in exceptional circumstances, unavoidable loss or damage to a site or feature or its setting is likely as a result of a proposed development, measures of mitigation and compensation will be required to ensure there is no net loss of heritage value. Such measures may include the creation of appropriate new heritage resources, on or off-site”.

**Policy 25** ~ “The development of wind farms and related development will be supported in principle within the preferred areas shown on Map 19 provided that it does not detract from the value of areas and features designated for their landscape interest and is not detrimental to Lancashire’s natural and man-made heritage”.

The preferred areas of search for the location of new wind farms represent those areas with commercially viable wind speeds outside the following locations:

- Adjacent to the Yorkshire Dales National Park.
- Within or adjacent to Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
- Within or adjacent to National and Local Nature Reserves.
- Within or adjacent to Sites of Special Scientific Interest.
- Landscape Character Type 1: Moorland Plateaux

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**Policy 26** ~ “Mineral developments (including extensions to existing sites) will not be located in areas subject to international, national or other statutory protection, other than in exceptional circumstances”.

### 2) North Yorkshire Joint Structure Plan

#### **Policy C1: Built and Natural Environment**

“Development should conserve and, where appropriate, enhance the character and distinctiveness of the built and natural landscape resource and should not undermine the important qualities of an area’s character and distinctiveness”.

Proposals for development should recognise and reflect the national importance of conserving the landscape of the following areas:- ...

- Forest of Bowland AONB; ....

#### **Policy NR1: Minerals**

“Minerals development, including extensions to existing workings, within the National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty should not be permitted unless it can be shown to be in the national interest and that there are no alternative sources of supply from outside these areas”.

#### **Policy NR3: Renewable Energy**

“Renewable energy proposals of more than local significance should not be considered appropriate within or where they would impact adversely on the visual amenities of the National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty or Areas of Heritage Coast. Proposals designed specifically to meet the needs of local communities may be acceptable provided they would not impact adversely on the natural and built environment and local amenity.

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### Local Transport Plans

The Forest of Bowland AONB is within two county Local Transport Plan areas: Lancashire and North Lancashire. The Lancashire Local Transport Plan contains several policies specific to rural transport:

- Encourage public transport operators to set fares that are affordable to those on low incomes (Policy RU01).
- Recognise the importance of maintenance of highways and bridges serving rural communities (Policy RU02).
- Establish partnerships with local communities for rural transport provision (policy RU03).
- Develop schemes to assist walkers, cyclists and equestrians to travel in safety and comfort on rural roads, in particular a network of Quiet Lanes and Greenways (Policy RU04).
- Recognise the special character of the countryside and villages in the design of schemes (Policy RU05).
- Direct HGV movements onto appropriate routes (Policy RU06).
- Consider the options for village bypasses and traffic management schemes to reduce accidents, pollution and disturbance to local communities (Policy RU07).
- Work in partnership with the Countryside Agency and other stakeholders to develop practical and innovative solutions for rural areas (Policy RU08).

The North Yorkshire Local Transport Plan does not have specific policies for rural transport, probably due to the probably rural character of the county, rather several overarching transport objectives:

- To promote social equality by providing genuine choices of travel mode which meet the travel needs of the socially and physically disadvantaged
- To limit traffic growth by reducing the need to travel and developing alternative non-car travel modes
- To provide a safe, efficient and well-maintained highway network as part of an integrated transport strategy
- To minimise the adverse impact of traffic on the environment, particularly with regard to noise and air pollution
- To provide a quality public transport system for as many residents as possible which recognises the importance and impact of tourism in the County
- To reduce the number and severity of casualties arising from road accidents in the County
- To facilitate opportunities for economic regeneration and growth and the sustainable movement of goods

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### A Landscape Strategy for Lancashire

The report included all of the administrative county of Lancashire, including the Blackburn with Darwen unitary authorities and the part of the Craven district of North Yorkshire up to the Yorkshire Dales National Park. Therefore, including the area of the Forest of Bowland AONB within Craven. This area was included to provide detailed assessment of the whole of the Bowland Fells, Bowland Fringe and Pendle Hill and Lancashire Valleys Countryside Character Areas.

This landscape character assessment adopts a holistic approach, which considers the landscapes of Lancashire as a mosaic of different landscape types and character areas, each with particular characteristics and subject to particular forces for change. The assessment provides an understanding of the area's landscape and to form a basis for the landscape strategy and guidelines.

The study as a whole informs the Structure Plan 2001 – 2016 and local plan policies on landscape, as well as supplementary planning guidance. It will also assist local planning officers in development control and will guide and inform project planning and landscape management by the Lancashire Countryside Service.

The landscape character assessment has four main objectives: To outline how the landscape of Lancashire has evolved in terms of physical forces and human influences;

- To classify the landscape into distinct landscape types identifying key characteristics and sensitivities and providing principles to guide landscape change;
- To describe the current appearance of the landscape, classifying it into distinct zones of homogeneous character, summarising the key features of each landscape character area;
- To describe the principal urban landscape types across the County, highlighting their historical development.

The Landscape Character Assessment for Lancashire, including the North Yorkshire area of the Forest of Bowland, identified the following specific character areas within the Forest of Bowland AONB: Moorland Plateaux, Moorland Hills, Moorland fringe, Undulating Lowland Farmland, Wooded Rural Valleys, Valley Floodplains and Rolling Upland Farmland.

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### Biodiversity Action Plans

The Forest of Bowland AONB is covered by the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP) and within two regional Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) areas: Lancashire and North Yorkshire. The broad aims of the BAPs are to:

- Ensure those national targets for habitats and species, as specified in the UK Action Plan, are translated into effective action at the local level;
- Identify targets for species and habitats appropriate to the local area, and reflecting the values of local people;
- Raise the awareness of the need for biodiversity conservation.

### Rights of Way Improvement Plans

Each local highway authority (Forest of Bowland AONB incorporates two: Lancashire and North Yorkshire) is required, by provisions in sections 60 to 62 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, to publish a rights of way improvement plan covering all of their area. These provisions come into force from 21 November 2002. In drawing up the plan, authorities are required to: assess the extent to which local rights of way meet the present and likely future needs of the public; the opportunities provided by local rights of way

(and in particular by footpaths, cycle tracks, bridleways and restricted byways) for exercise and other forms of open-air recreation and the enjoyment of their area; the accessibility of local rights of way to blind or partially sighted persons and others with mobility problems; and such other matters relating to local rights of way as the Secretary of State may direct. Rights of way improvement plans should also include a statement of the action local highway authorities propose to take for the management of local rights of way and for securing an improved network of local rights of way.

The work leading up to the published plan must be conducted to a timetable that enables authorities to have published their improvement plans within five years from the 21 November 2002. Thereafter, local highway authorities are required to make a new assessment and review their plans, and decide whether to amend them, not more than ten years after first publishing their plans, and subsequently at intervals of not more than ten years.

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### Local Strategies

#### Local Plans

The District Local Plans are in various stages of revision. The Lancaster, Wyre, Ribble Valley, Preston and Pendle local plans are compatible with the Joint Lancashire Structure Plan and Craven's local plan is compatible with the North Yorkshire Joint Structure Plan, all contain policy references that seek to protect the natural beauty of the AONB. Pendle Borough Council has published supplementary planning guidance (SPG) for the area of the Forest of Bowland AONB within the borough. The Forest of Bowland management plan does not override local development plans but sections of the plan can be adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance where deemed appropriate.

#### Community Strategies

Local Authorities are under a duty to prepare Community Strategies. These have been introduced to enhance the quality of life of local communities through action to improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of an area and its inhabitants.

A community strategy will have to meet three objectives:

- 1, allow local communities to articulate their aspirations, needs and priorities;

2. co-ordinate the actions of the council, and of the public, voluntary and community, and private sector organisations that operate locally;
3. refocus and shape existing and future activity of those organisations so that they effectively meet community needs and aspirations.

A community strategy must have 4 key components:

1. A long-term vision for the area focussing on the outcomes that are to be achieved;
2. An action plan identifying shorter term priorities and activities that will contribute to the achievement of long-term outcomes;
3. A shared commitment to implement the action plan and proposals for doing so;
4. Arrangements for monitoring the implementation of the action plan, and for periodically reviewing the community strategy.

The Management Plan is intended to complement these various strategies and plans, influencing their content and in turn helping to support and realise their policies for action within the context of the Forest of Bowland AONB as a whole.

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### Joint advisory Committee Members

Organisation	Contact	Aims/Responsibilities in the AONB
LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL PO Box 78, County Hall, Preston, Lancashire, PR1 8XJ	Mr Don McKay	Responsible for long term strategic planning of their county areas including transport, minerals and waste, education and social services. Have teams dealing with ecology, countryside management, enterprise, tourism and archaeology etc.
NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL County Hall, Northallerton, North Yorkshire, DL7 8AD	Mr John Edwards	
CRAVEN DISTRICT COUNCIL PO Box 19, Council Offices, Granville Street, Skipton, BD23 1PS	Mrs Sian Watson	District Authorities are responsible for local land use planning and development control. Through the production of Local Plans a policy framework is established against which planning applications can be judged. Supplementary planning guidance documents can also be produced on significant topics or locations.  The Councils have responsibilities for environmental health and housing. They will often have countryside recreation and other leisure interests, tourism and economic development roles.
LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL Palatine Hall, Dalton Square, Lancaster, LA1 1PW	Mr Jason Kennedy	
PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL Booth Street, Nelson, Lancashire, BB9 7LG	Mr Chris Binney	
PRESTON CITY COUNCIL Lancastria House, 77-79 Lancaster Road, Preston, PR1 2RH	Mr Martin Pudsey	
RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL Church Walk, Clitheroe, Lancashire, BB7 1BA	Mr Michael Kirkby	
WYRE BOROUGH COUNCIL Wyre Civic Centre, Breck Road, Poulton-le-Fylde FY6 7PU	Ms Alison Boden	

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Organisation	Contact	Aims/Responsibilities in the AONB
LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION OF PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS Malston Farm, Hampson-in-Ellel, Lancaster, LA2 0JB	Mr Michael Helm	The National Association of Local Councils is a powerful body, speaking for some 10,000 Parish and Town Councils in England and Community Councils in Wales. NALC is committed to making this primary level of local government more effective, more democratic and better able to take a leadership role in local communities.
YORKSHIRE LOCAL COUNCILS ASSOCIATION	Mr Ian Strong	The National Association of Local Councils is a powerful body, speaking for some 10,000 Parish and Town Councils in England and Community Councils in Wales. NALC is committed to making this primary level of local government more effective, more democratic and better able to take a leadership role in local communities.
THE COUNTRYSIDE AGENCY 7th Floor, Bridgewater House, Whitworth Street, Manchester, M1 6LT	Ms Rosemary Budd	The Countryside Agency is responsible for designating AONBs and advising Government and others on how they should be protected and managed.
UNITED UTILITIES Bowland Estate Office, Stocks Reservoir, Catlow Road, Slaidburn, Clitheroe, BB7 3AO	Mr Ian Grindy	United Utilities is a private company that supplies water to nearly 3 million customers in the North West of England. United Utilities have a large estate within Bowland which provides the catchment for Stocks Reservoir.

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Organisation	Contact	Aims/Responsibilities in the AONB
ENVIRONMENT AGENCY Lutra House, Dodd Way off Seedlee Road, Walton Summit, Bamber Bridge, Preston, PR5 8BX	Mr Steve Whittam	National Agency dealing with the protection of the environment with responsibility for the regulation of air, land and water issues. Deals with flood defence, water resources and quality, waste control and air pollution.
ENGLISH NATURE Northwest Team, Pier House, Wallgate, Wigan, WN3 4NL	Mr Jon Hickling	The Government Agency that champions the conservation of wildlife and geology throughout England. Advises the Government on designation of sites under International conventions and EU Directives (e.g. SPA) and under national acts (e.g. NNR, SSSI). Makes formal observations on AONB Management Plans. Advises and supports Biodiversity Action Plans etc.
ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS C/O United Utilities Estate Office, Stocks Board House, Slaidburn, BB7 3AQ	Ms Lucy Brown	National Charity that works for the conservation of birds and their habitats. They co-ordinate the Birds of Bowland project which involves the whole community working together to celebrate and protect the area's outstanding bird life.
FOREST OF BOWLAND LANDOWNING & FARMING ADVISORY GROUP The Grosvenor Estate, Abbeystead Estate Office, Abbeystead, Lancaster	Mr Rod Banks Esq	A voluntary organisation that represents the interests of landowners and farmers within the Forest of Bowland.

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Organisation	Contact	Aims/Responsibilities in the AONB
NORTH WEST FEDERATION FOR SPORT RECREATION AND CONSERVATION 29 Meadow Way, Edgworth, Turton, Bolton, Lancashire BL7 0DE	Mr Brian Parry	A sports users forum, which represents the Regional Governing Bodies of Sport, Recreation, and Conservation in the North West Region, and local Sports Councils.
THE RAMBLERS ASSOCAITION 4, Buttermere Close, Bamber Bridge, Preston PR5 4RT	Mr David Kelly	The Ramblers' Association is Britain's biggest organisation working for walkers, a registered charity with 139,000 members across England, Scotland and Wales. Aims to look after Britain's footpaths and defend its beautiful countryside.
DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS Sunley Tower, Piccadilly Plaza, Manchester, M1 4BE	Ms Kirsty Williams	Government department responsible for Countryside Stewardship schemes and other control and aid schemes linked to farming.
NORTH WEST DEVELOPMENT AGENCY Gillian Way, Penrith 40 Business Park, Penrith, Cumbria CA11 9BP	Mr Andrew Sproat	The Northwest Development Agency is responsible for the sustainable economic development and regeneration of England's Northwest through the promotion of business competitiveness, efficiency, investment, employment and skills development.

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### AONB Partnership organisations

Organisation	Contact	Aims/Responsibilities in the AONB
LANCASHIRE RURAL FUTURES First Floor, Waterloo Mill, Waterloo Road, Clitheroe, BB7 1LR	Mr John Wellbank	This project's main aim is to deliver sustainable economic and environmental benefits to rural East Lancashire, which includes all of the AONB. The project team is split into business advisors, usually rural practice surveyors, and environmental advisors. The business advisor will discuss diversification projects, undertake all planning negotiations and submissions, and if appropriate source and submit all capital grant applications. At the same time the environmental advisor will undertake a full farm audit and provide an action plan for the applicant. They will undertake work relating to entry of schemes such as Countryside Stewardship and Woodland Grants.
FORESTRY COMMISSION Old Sawmill, Dunsop Bridge, Clitheroe, BB7 3AZ	Mr Mike Ingoldby	The Forestry Commission of Great Britain is the government department responsible for the protection and expansion of Britain's forests and woodlands.
WILDLIFE TRUST FOR LANCASHIRE, MANCHESTER AND NORTH MERSEYSIDE The Barn, Berkeley Drive, Bamber Bridge, Preston PR5 6AU	Ms Anne Selby	Their mission is to work for a region richer in wildlife by the protection and enhancement of species and habitats, both common and rare. To work towards public recognition that a healthy environment rich in wildlife and managed on sustainable principles, is essential for continued human existence

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Organisation	Contact	Aims/Responsibilities in the AONB
BRITISH HORSE SOCIETY Malston Farm, Hampson-in-Ellel, Lancaster, LA2 0JB	Mr Michael Helm	The BHS is one of the UK's largest equestrian charities. It is committed to improving the welfare of horses and ponies, through education and training, and promoting the interests of its membership of horse riders and owners.
COUNTRY LANDOWNERS ASSOCIATION Dalton Hall, Stable Yard, Burton, Carnforth, LA6 1NJ	Ms Sue Harrison	National organisation representing the interests of landowners.
NATIONAL FARMERS UNION Agriculture House, 1 Moss Lane View, Skelmersdale, WN8 9TL	Mr Rodney Bacon	National organisation representing the interests of farmers
LANCASHIRE TOURISM PARTNERSHIP LCDL, First Floor, Robert House, Starkie Street, Preston PR1 3LU	Mr Steve Partington	Lancashire Tourism Partnership seeks to provide long-term, sustainable, social and environmental benefits to Lancashire by developing a strategic framework for the tourism.

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Organisation	Contact	Aims/Responsibilities in the AONB
SPORT ENGLAND Astley House, Quay Street, Manchester, M3 4AE	Mr A Phillips	Sport England provides strategic leadership to sport by providing partners with support, knowledge and expertise
BOWLAND FOREST FOODS Home Farm Office, Abbeystead, Lancaster, LA2 9BQ		A company based in the Forest of Bowland established to promote their own locally branded lamb, pork and beef products.
YORKSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL William House, Skipton Road, Skelton, York, YO30 1XX	Mr David Mitchell	YRCC is an independent voluntary organisation which works to enable communities to improve the quality of life for all people living and working in rural Yorkshire.
COMMUNITY FUTURES 15 Victoria Road, Fulwood, Preston PR2 8PS	Mr Findlay Hodge	Community Futures is the rural community council for Lancashire. We have been supporting communities in the county for over sixty years. Our role, together with our colleagues in the voluntary sector and in partnership with the public and private sectors, is to encourage balanced and sustainable communities.

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Notes