



January 2017

Sharing and learning from partners' publications Natural England's [Chief Scientist's First Report](#) has been published. The Report is divided into 5 sections: monitoring the natural world, including the development of new monitoring methods; practical solutions that have been developed that make a difference on the ground; New approaches showing innovation in the development of science and evidence and the use of new technologies; sharing Natural England's science and evidence with others; and capability and leadership in science and evidence.

Sharing and learning from partners publications The Environmental Audit Committee has published its report on [The Future of the Natural Environment after the EU Referendum](#) Issues covered include the future of funding for biodiversity and agri-environment schemes, the likely changes in the devolved administration, and the role that managed rewilding can play in conservation and restoration.

Leading on environmental change The two above publications give the NAAONB a sound basis for a positive discussion with government specifically in relation to landscape as the spatial framework for assessing, monitoring and delivering environmental change when we meet with Lord Gardiner.

Leading on health and wellbeing It is pleasing to read in [Welsh Government News](#) that one of our key messages, "**AONBs are dynamic, living landscapes that underpin the economy and the health and wellbeing of society**" has been backed up by an independent new report which states that walkers on the Welsh coast spent £84.7m in 2014 (the most recent year for data) which supported 1,000 jobs. On release of the report, Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Lesley Griffiths said "It is no exaggeration to say that Wales has some of the most stunning coastline in the UK. It is extremely encouraging to hear that so many people are taking advantage of the opportunities provided by our coast. By maximising the opportunities for tourism and recreation, we are providing the Welsh economy with a welcome boost and, in turn, helping people improve their health and wellbeing".



Leading on liaison with CPRE [Howard Davies](#) met CPRE to discuss how housing impacts on England's AONBs and agreed to jointly commission independent research. The development stage of the project will investigate how national policies, such as the five-year land supply policy, interacts with policies at the local level, such as a local plan. It will focus on all English AONBs and analyse housing development both pre and post NPPF, to consider both national and local policy context. The NAAONB will coordinate crowd funding for this, if you would like to contribute please contact [Jill](#).

Leading on Landscape post Brexit At the December 2016 meeting of the Chairmen and Lead Officers of the UK's Designated Landscapes, the afternoon session identified key issues which the NAAONB will be working on. The key issues have been prioritised by those who attended the meeting via an online survey. These will be addressed by our Trustees at their March meeting. NAAONB members can read meeting notes [here](#).

Leading on value for money and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) AONB Lead Officers will gather in February to review the work of the AONB Family over the past year. In particular we will look at the KPIs agreed last year and how they have been used to show the value of our work, discuss collaborative communications work and how we will address Management Plan Review. This year's KPIs measured both quantitative and qualitative evidence of the value of the AONB Family's collective work. The information collated this year was reported as an [Annual Review](#) launched at the NAAONB AGM. Case studies demonstrating the value of the work of the AONB Family can be found [here](#).

Leading on Change through Communication AONB Communications Officers have set up a subgroup to develop an action plan to take forward the key messages resulting from deliberations at their recent meeting. The subgroup will initially be chaired by Nigel McDonald, Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership. Please contact [Nigel](#) if you would like to be part of this. NAAONB members can read notes of the full communications meeting [here](#).

Leading on Change through Conference Landscapes for Life Conference 2017 - 18-20th July 2017 in Winchester. Delegates will learn about experiences and results of change through engagement with external organisations - public, third sector and corporate and share ideas on the most efficient and effective methods of change with the intention of inspiring and leading our Partnerships to make the changes necessary to provide a robust and sustainable future for our outstanding landscapes. Reports from previous L4L conferences can be found [here](#).

Sharing, Learning and Inspiring Basecamp Guidance has been updated and can be found [here](#) by members. This includes a current list of all areas available on Basecamp and advice on how to manage the email alerts to your inbox. If there are areas that you would like to be added to or if you are not a member and would like to benefit from the fount of knowledge to be found on the site, please contact [Amber](#), our membership manager.

Sharing, Learning and Inspiring National Grid launched its [Visual Improvement Provision project](#), a major initiative to reduce the visual impact of National Grid's existing transmission lines in Protected Landscapes across England and Wales at the [Landscapes for Life Conference 2014](#). On Monday

6th February at 2pm they will be running a [webinar](#) entitled “Reducing the visual impacts of major Infrastructure in the protected landscapes of England and Wales” to give an update on what has happened in the interim and what is now on offer. Information will include details on their Landscape Enhancement Initiative ([LEI](#)) which is available to those AONBs and National Parks who weren’t selected for the main VIP project.

Sharing Learning Inspiring A project that will help the AONB Family and Plantlife achieve better road verge management across the AONB landscapes is being developed. A small working group has been formed and now needs the wider input of the AONB Family. We would be very grateful, therefore, if you could complete [this survey](#) by 26th January. If you have any questions please contact Plantlife’s [Gabriella Keaney](#).

Sharing and inspiring while learning to go WILD! [Arnside and Silverdale AONB Partnership](#) are preparing to launch a project to get more families and children enjoying the outdoors. The scope of the [WILD! project](#) will depend on securing grants, but in order to ensure that the project covers as wide a remit as possible, they’d be grateful if you could spend a few minutes completing [their survey](#).

Leading on footpath conservation [The Friends of the North Pennines](#), a charity whose members care deeply about the North Pennines AONB, run the [Donate-a-Gate scheme](#). This scheme replaces old stiles and other access points with new gates which can include plaques commemorating the life of someone special or a memorable event. Gates have already been placed in some areas of the AONB but the scheme will now focus on a 70-mile stretch of the Pennine Way between Tan Hill and Greenhead. More information [here](#).

Sharing Learning Phase 1 of the [Cornwall AONB's Natural Capital project](#) is nearing completion and a report will be launched at a free event at New County Hall in Truro on 26th January 2017, 10.30 am. Please email [Karen](#) to book your place.

Sharing, Learning and Inspiring A number of AONB Partnerships and [The Woodland Trust](#) are preparing to launch a project to capture images of ash-defined landscapes before our landscapes have been changed out of all recognition because of [Ash Dieback](#). The project will take the form of a monograph about the Ash in Britain which will be a complete overview of the botanical, environmental, historical and cultural significance of the ash, The images will be captured by the well-known author and photographer [Archie Miles](#). If you would like to contribute to the project, contact [Nick](#).

Inspiring Grant bid success [Coast Care](#), an initiative that will recruit and train an army of volunteers to look after the North Northumberland Coastal area, has been awarded a grant of £522,600 by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). Coast Care is a partnership initiative bringing the [Northumberland Coast AONB Partnership](#), [Northumberland Wildlife Trust](#) and [Seahouses Development Trust](#) together to oversee the project.

Job Vacancies x 2 East Devon AONB Partnership [Communications Officer](#). Suffolk Coast & Heaths and Dedham Vale AONB Partnerships [Project Officer](#).

If you want to contribute to a future edition of **Leading, Sharing, Learning, Inspiring** please send your article/snippet/link to [Jill](#).