

**HOWARDIAN HILLS  
AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY  
JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
8 APRIL 2021**

**AONB BUSINESS PLAN AND ACTION PROGRAMME 2021/22**

**1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To agree details of proposed activity to implement the AONB Management Plan during 2021/22.

**2.0 SUMMARY**

2.1 The AONB Management Plan contains a detailed Action Programme that lists each Objective and Action and identifies a suggested lead agency and partner organisations for implementation. This Report details work proposed for 2021/22.

2.2 Key activities for this year are:

- Completing the transition to a new AONB Manager, following Paul Jackson's retirement in the autumn.
- Developing and implementing the first year of the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme, once full details of its operation are available from Defra.
- Responding to and starting to implement any changes announced by Defra in relation to changing to a National Landscapes Service model of delivery.

**3.0 NATURAL CAPITAL & ECOSYSTEM SERVICES**

3.1 Principal activities for the year include:

- Participating in and contributing to national and local initiatives to evaluate and deliver natural capital improvements.
- Completing a 'nature recovery map' as part of the AONB Network's delivery of the Colchester Declaration, to show where land management changes could help with biodiversity recovery and climate change adaptation. This will also provide a useful resource for AONB land managers and advisers as we move towards the Environmental Land Management system of payments.
- Inputting to the design of the Environmental Land Management system, both locally and via the NAAONB.

**4.0 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT**

4.1 The proposed budget for landscape and biodiversity works is £30,000, although there would also be further additional funds available from Reserves if necessary. It is unclear at present how much money might be available from the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme and what impact this will have on budget allocations. Projects to be funded include:

- Hedge restoration schemes (subject to integration with grants available under Countryside Stewardship or Farming in Protected Landscapes).

- Continuing control of Himalayan balsam along Wath Beck and the River Derwent SSSI, as well as at Jeffry Bog, Pretty Wood and Mugdale & Barker Woods SINCs. This is a particularly suitable task for the AONB Volunteers and we hope that Covid-19 restrictions will permit them to do the works this year.
- Scrub management works on various sites.
- A financial contribution to the third year of delivery of the Ryevitalise project.
- Continuing in the partnership concentrating on turtle doves, and launching a new Farmland Birds project if NLHF funding is confirmed.

#### 4.2 Other activities for the year include:

- Inputting to the on-going design of the Environmental Land Management scheme, both locally and via the NAAONB.
- Supporting the turtle doves survey work being carried out in the AONB in spring and summer 2021.
- Checking that the Special Interest Road Verges dataset has been uploaded to the National Street Gazetteer.
- Continuing our programmes of Exmoor pony grazing, SINC management and Special Interest Road Verge management.
- Visiting some of the new Local Geological Sites, to assess their current condition and any management work needed.
- Supporting village and community wildlife projects.
- Carrying out targeted control of Himalayan balsam, rhododendron and bracken on various SINC and other sites.
- Continuing our participation in the River Derwent and particularly River Rye partnerships.
- Continuing to participate in the North Yorkshire & York Local Nature Partnership (LNP).
- Responding to planning applications potentially affecting important wildlife sites, as appropriate.

## 5.0 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

### 5.1 The proposed budget for works to conserve and enhance historic environment features is currently £13,000, although there would also be further additional funds available from Reserves if necessary. Potential projects to be funded include:

- Carrying out management works on Scheduled Monuments. Although the Monument Management Scheme financially supported by Historic England has ended, continuation works are needed on a number of sites to ensure that progress to date is not lost.
- Continuing our programme of village name sign and traditional direction sign restoration.

### 5.2 Other activities for the year include:

- Re-visiting lime kiln sites at Brandsby, Hildenley and Nunnington to assess their current condition and any management work needed.
- Visiting Priority Sites at Castle Howard and Hildenley to assess their current condition and any management work needed.
- Inputting to the on-going design of the Environmental Land Management scheme, both locally and via the NAAONB.
- Promoting the Countryside Stewardship Scheme to farmers and land managers and identifying new opportunities and methods for assisting them with conservation works.

- Responding to planning applications potentially affecting important heritage sites, as appropriate.

## **6.0 LOCAL COMMUNITIES**

- 6.1 The budget for small-scale works in local villages is included within the £20,000 earmarked for projects supporting Sustainable Development and the Rural Economy. Potential projects to be funded include:
- Continuation of a Development Officer at Community First Yorkshire.
  - Replacement windows for Nunnington village hall.
- 6.2 Other activities for the year include:
- Continued liaison with the principal organisations involved in community work in the AONB, via the regular Community Development Officers' meetings.
  - Liaison and assistance to communities with post-Covid and other community projects.
  - Continued involvement with the Helmsley Mobile Rural Watch initiative.

## **7.0 AGRICULTURE**

- 7.1 The proposed budget for landscape and biodiversity works is £30,000, although there would also be further additional funds available from Reserves if necessary. It is unclear at present how much money might be available from the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme and what impact this will have on budget allocations. See paragraph 4.1 above for current project ideas.
- 7.2 Other activities for the year include:
- Inputting to the on-going design of the Environmental Land Management scheme, both locally and via the NAAONB.
  - Continuing dialogue with the North York Moors National Park Authority on potential joint working opportunities, e.g. Farmer Clusters, Environmental Land Management scheme design & delivery, etc.
  - Promoting the Ryevitalise and (if approved) Birds on the Edge National Lottery Heritage Fund projects to farmers and land managers, to encourage participation.
  - Continuing development and delivery of mechanisms to collect and re-use/recycle plastic tree protection products.
  - Responding to consultations and requests for advice, as appropriate.

## **8.0 FORESTRY AND WOODLAND**

- 8.1 Principal activities for the year include:
- Promoting the Ryevitalise National Lottery Heritage Fund project to woodland owners and managers, to encourage participation.
  - Inputting to the on-going design of the Environmental Land Management scheme, both locally and via the NAAONB.
  - Monitoring the incidence of Chalara Ash Dieback Disease and other plant health issues.
  - Continuing participation in the North York Moors Native Woodland Partnership.
  - Continuing to provide advice and, where appropriate, financial assistance to woodland managers.
  - Responding to consultations and requests for advice, as appropriate.

## **9.0 DEVELOPMENT & THE RURAL ECONOMY**

### 9.1 Principal activities for the year include:

- Monitoring and inputting as necessary to national policy consultations received by the NAAONB.
- Responding to consultations received from the Local Planning Authorities and other bodies on development proposals. The amount of work arising from planning consultations is impossible to predict, as our input is entirely reactive, but this is an important area of work and is a high priority.
- Inputting to the development of the next Ryedale Local Plan Strategy, as applicable.
- Inputting to the continuing development of the North Yorkshire Minerals & Waste Joint Plan, as applicable.
- Continuing liaison with Northern Powergrid on overhead electricity cable undergrounding, to ensure continued sustained progress during the RII0-ED1 period. Schemes have been submitted to use any surplus ED1 money regionally, and the design of the ED2 projects is being progressed.
- Continuing to take opportunities to support jobs, skills and sustainable economic growth locally, as part of LEP and other initiatives as applicable.

## **10.0 ROADS, TRANSPORT AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT**

### 10.1 Principal activities for the year include:

- Responding to consultations received from the Local Highway Authority on works within the carriageway that might have biodiversity, historic environment or landscape implications.
- Checking that the Special Interest Road Verges and traditional direction signs datasets have been uploaded to the National Street Gazetteer.
- Progressing the restoration of one traditional direction sign.

## **11.0 RECREATION, ACCESS AND TOURISM**

11.1 The budget for recreation and access works is included within the £20,000 earmarked for projects supporting Sustainable Development and the Rural Economy.

### 11.2 Principal activities for the year include:

- Providing advice and assistance as appropriate as Covid-19 restrictions ease and visitors return to the AONB.
- Continuing work with Autism Plus at Gilling, to enable trainees to interact with the natural environment in the horticulture and wildlife areas of the site. Also exploring options for Autism Plus students to work off-site with AONB/National Park Volunteers and other groups.
- Continued delivery of a joint project with the NYCC Countryside Access Service to carry out co-ordinated path furniture repairs.
- Re-engaging with the Public Rights of Way route creation/diversion package proposed for Castle Howard, to identify individual elements that might potentially be funded fully by NYCC/AONB. Routes at Slingsby Quarry and on the Centenary Way at Wath Wood are likely to be high priorities.
- Continuing to maintain selected informal car parking areas, control litter at 'hot-spots' and report fly-tipping incidents.

## **12.0 AWARENESS & PROMOTION**

12.1 The budget for awareness and promotion work is included within the £20,000 earmarked for projects supporting Sustainable Development and the Rural Economy.

12.2 Principal activities for the year include:

- Ensuring that the gateway signs are maintained and that outlets are supplied with copies of our leaflets when requested.
- Publishing our 2020/21 Annual Report and AONB News 2021.
- Maintaining our website and distributing information/ promoting the AONB via Twitter. Ryedale Show 2021 has also been cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic
- Holding at least 2 Family Activity days, using mechanisms for delivery that maintain standards but minimise the input required from AONB Unit staff.
- Helping to deliver education and art-based activities within the AONB as part of the Ryevitalise Project.

## **13.0 IMPLEMENTATION**

13.1 Principal initiatives this year include:

- Participating in work needed to promote the importance of AONB management and ensure the continuation/maximisation of grant support from Defra, in particular via the Glover Review of Protected Landscapes.
- Participating via the NAAONB in work to develop new models for agricultural, conservation and rural support post-Brexit.
- Delivering the first year of the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme, when details are announced.
- Continuing our participation in the River Derwent and particularly River Rye partnerships. Also contributing to the partnerships concentrating on turtle doves and cornfield flowers.
- Utilising Reserves appropriately, to supplement the annual projects budget and maintain an AONB Unit resource commensurate with future work priorities and income.
- Continuing participation in the North York Moors Native Woodland Partnership.
- Using volunteers to help deliver AONB Management Plan Objectives wherever possible and appropriate.
- Keeping delivery mechanisms under review and making changes/improvements where applicable.
- Part-time AONB Officer post to be contracted for 12 hours/week in 2021/22.
- Ensuring a smooth transition to a new AONB Manager, following Paul Jackson's retirement.

## **14.0 MONITORING**

14.1 Principal activities for the year include:

- Scoping new Natural England methodologies on favourable conservation status to assess the condition of non-designated biodiversity Priority Sites.
- Using the NAAONB/Defra Key Performance Indicators to record work completed by the AONB Team.

## **15.0 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR AONBs**

15.1 Principal activities for the year include:

- Continuing to represent the conservation interests of the Howardian Hills AONB in relation to national initiatives and consultation responses, and participating in peer-to-peer learning projects, sharing of information, etc.
- Attending seminars, Northern Group meetings, AONB technical events, etc.

## **16.0 RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Targets for 2021/22, as contained in the Action Programme, be approved.

## HOWARDIAN HILLS AONB ACTION PROGRAMME

2021/22

OBJECTIVE (Summarised)	SPECIFIC TARGET 21/22	APRIL - JUNE	JULY - SEPT	OCT - DEC	JAN - MAR	ACHIEVEMENTS 21/22
<p><b>NCES1 The AONB's natural capital assets and their relative roles/significance in the provision of ecosystem services</b></p> <p>NCES1.1 Monitor and engage in development of the natural capital approach, both nationally and within the AONB.</p> <p>NCES1.2 Develop/adopt condition assessment techniques to gain a better understanding of the quality of the AONB's natural capital assets.</p> <p>NCES1.3 Produce a matrix of generic types of 'project' plotted against the natural capital assets and ecosystem services that the AONB provides.</p> <p>NCES1.4 Produce an 'opportunity map' to illustrate how the Howardian Hills AONB landscape might become more resilient to future challenges.</p>	<p># Participate and contribute to initiatives initiated by the NAAONB, the LEP and LNP.</p> <p># Evaluate the various mechanisms developed by NE, to assess suitability for HHAONB circumstances.</p> <p># Produce the matrix.</p> <p># Complete production of a 'nature recovery map' as part of the AONB Network's delivery of the Colchester Declaration.</p>					

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<p><b>NCES2 Sustainability and projects that benefit the AONB's natural capital, ecosystem services and Special Qualities</b></p> <p>NCES2.1 Ensure that any Plan, policy or project that could impact on the AONB, whether positively or negatively, is assessed for compliance with the AONB Management Plan.</p> <p>NCES2.2 Use matrix referred to in NCES1.3 above to guide consultation responses and assess projects that receive assistance from the JAC.</p> <p>NCES2.3 Ensure that the post-Brexit environmental land management scheme can be used to conserve and enhance the AONB's natural capital assets and ecosystem services.</p>	<p># On-going.</p> <p>–</p> <p># Input to continuing development of the new scheme, both locally and nationally as appropriate.</p>					
<p><b>NCES3 Climate change trends/scenarios and potential future impacts on the AONB</b></p> <p>NCES3.1 Keep up-to-date with climate change information and scenarios.</p> <p>NCES3.2 Monitor the potential impacts of climate change on the AONB's natural capital and ecosystem services.</p>	<p># On-going.</p> <p># On-going.</p>					
<p><b>NE1 Knowledge of the biodiversity resources of the AONB</b></p> <p>NE1.1 Carry out monitoring surveys on Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs).</p> <p>NE1.2 Carry out detailed surveys of specific Priority Habitats and Priority Species as necessary, to fill identified gaps in knowledge.</p> <p>NE1.3 Encourage farmers, land managers and communities to monitor wildlife and report sightings.</p> <p>NE1.4 Gain a better understanding of the Priority Habitat area and Priority Species populations in the AONB, and their trends.</p>	<p>–</p> <p># Support 2021 survey of Turtle Doves within the AONB.</p> <p># Continue to support development of successor 'Birds on the Edge' NLHF bid.</p> <p>–</p> <p>–</p>	<p>XXXXX</p>	<p>XXXXX</p>			

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<p><b>NE2 Appropriate protection for the best nature conservation sites</b></p> <p>NE2.1 Maintain and regularly update a register of key nature conservation sites.</p> <p>NE2.2 Ensure effective protection (via designation) for the best nature conservation sites.</p> <p>NE2.3 Resist development proposals that may adversely affect key nature conservation sites.</p>	<p># Continue involvement in supporting/developing data management and SINC designation/monitoring systems within North Yorkshire.</p> <p># Check for inclusion of Special Interest Road Verges data on the National Street Gazetteer.</p> <p># Comment as necessary, via JAC consultations.</p>	XXXXX	XXXXX			
<p><b>NE3 Targets for Priority Habitats in the AONB</b></p> <p>NE3.1 Ensure that all the AONB's Natural Environment Priority Sites and Special Interest Road Verges are in 'favourable' or 'recovering' condition.</p> <p>NE3.2 Encourage the buffering and extension of the AONB's Natural Environment Priority Sites.</p> <p>NE3.3 Encourage the restoration of habitats that have declined in interest but still retain significant ecological potential, particularly Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites, rivers and water bodies not in Good Ecological Status and some/parts of the AONB's Natural Environment Priority Sites.</p>	<p># Continue to facilitate conservation management of grassland SINCs and other sites, by grazing or other means.</p> <p># Carry out grassland management works at Stearsby Hagg Grassland.</p> <p># Carry out management works on 45 SIRVs.</p> <p># Encourage via Countryside Stewardship Scheme/Farming in Protected Landscapes involvement and advice to farmers &amp; land managers.</p> <p># Encourage via Countryside Stewardship Scheme/Farming in Protected Landscapes/Ryevitalise involvement and advice to farmers &amp; land managers.</p>	XXXXX  XXXXX	XXXXX	XXXXX  XXXXX	XXXXX  XXXXX  XXXXX	

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NE3.4 Encourage the creation of new habitat where appropriate, in particular the less-intensive management of farmland, to create a wider network of complementary semi-natural habitats. NE3.5 Develop and support the creation of landscape-scale habitat corridors, particularly around the Derwent valley and linking into the NYMNP.	# Encourage via Countryside Stewardship Scheme/Farming in Protected Landscapes/Ryevitalise involvement and advice to farmers & land managers. # Maintain an involvement in the Castle Howard Conservation Steering Group. # Continue involvement in the Yorkshire Derwent Catchment Partnership. # Contribute to delivery of 2021/22 Ryevitalise projects as appropriate.					
<b>NE4 Targets for Priority Species for which the AONB is important</b> NE4.1 Ensure that key sites for specific species are in 'favourable' or 'recovering' condition. NE4.2 Encourage restoration or creation of sites where significant ecological potential exists. NE4.3 Identify local Target Areas and encourage co-ordinated management measures.	# Monitor and/or manage grassland for knapweed broomrape at Amotherby Lane SINC and on Swinton Lane. # Encourage via Countryside Stewardship Scheme/Farming in Protected Landscapes involvement and advice to farmers & land managers. # See NE1.2 – Turtle Doves project. # Continue to support development of successor 'Birds on the Edge' NLHF bid. # Support the emerging farmer cluster in the Coxwold/Gilling valley. # Input to Cornfield Flowers & Yorkshire Farm Flora Project activities. # See NE3.5 – Ryevitalise.	XXXXX			XXXXX	
<b>NE5 Targets for wildlife within villages</b> NE5.1 Raise awareness of wildlife within villages and assist communities with creating, managing and enhancing biodiversity within and adjacent to settlements.	# Assist with delivery of identified habitat enhancement projects, e.g. Kendrew Green at Husthwaite, Autism Plus at Gilling, Crayke village.		XXXXX	XXXXX	XXXXX	
<b>NE6 Invasive non-native species</b> NE6.1 Monitor the location and abundance of invasive non-native species. NE6.2 Carry out targeted partnership action to manage invasive non-native species where appropriate.	# Deliver as part of Ryevitalise Project. # Control Himalayan balsam at Wath Beck, River Derwent SSSI, Pretty Wood, Jeffry Bog and Mugdale & Barker Woods SINC. # See NE3.5 above (River Rye, Himalayan balsam). # Control rhododendron on appropriate sites where biodiversity would be enhanced.	XXXXX	XXXXX		XXXXX	

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<p><b>NE7 Important geodiversity sites and features</b></p> <p>NE7.1 Develop a network of Local Geological Sites (LGS).</p> <p>NE7.2 Ensure that sites identified as LGS are in 'favourable' or 'recovering' condition.</p> <p>NE7.3 Resist development proposals that may adversely affect sites designated as LGS.</p>	<p>–</p> <p># Visit Hildenley Heights Quarry, Hildenley Wood Quarry and Park Quarry to assess condition and need for any management works.</p> <p># Carry out management works to improve the condition of 1 LGS, if appropriate. Priority sites potentially include Hildenley Heights Quarry and Park Quarry.</p> <p># Comment as necessary, via JAC consultations.</p>	<p>XXXXX</p>		<p>XXXXX</p>	<p>XXXXX</p>	
<p><b>NE8 Assistance to farmers and land managers, to help them manage their land sympathetically</b></p> <p>NE8.1 Assist farmers and land managers to enter key sites (particularly the AONB's Natural Environment Priority Sites) and other farmed land into appropriate options in the current Countryside Stewardship scheme.</p> <p>NE8.2 Ensure that the post-Brexit environmental land management scheme can be used to conserve and enhance the AONB's habitats and landscape character.</p> <p>NE8.3 Provide a flexible package of assistance including advice, grant aid, direct works and management agreements, as appropriate, to assist land managers with identifying, conserving, enhancing and increasing understanding and enjoyment of biodiversity and geodiversity features on their land, particularly the AONB's Natural Environment Priority Sites.</p>	<p># Encourage via Countryside Stewardship Scheme/Farming in Protected Landscapes involvement and advice to farmers &amp; land managers.</p> <p># Input to continuing development of the new scheme, both locally and nationally as appropriate.</p> <p># Support suitable projects, as appropriate.</p>					

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<p><b>NE9 Recognition of the Howardian Hills as a priority area for biodiversity</b></p> <p>NE9.1 Participate in the Local Nature Partnership, to identify and develop opportunities for integrated projects that achieve LNP and AONB Management Plan objectives.</p>	<p># Attend Board meetings and continue developing joint initiatives with other partners in the LNP or LEP areas.</p>					
<p><b>HE1 Understanding of the AONB's historic environment and its significance</b></p> <p>HE1.1 Re-assess the archaeology of the AONB to create an up-to-date evidence base, better understand significant sites and inform a research agenda.</p> <p>HE1.2 Consider preparing a Statement of Significance for the AONB.</p> <p>HE1.3 Carry out research projects to address identified gaps in knowledge, including: rural industries, prehistoric burials, patterns of medieval settlement &amp; farming, historic parklands.</p> <p>HE1.4 Carry out regular surveys of built heritage to identify important or distinctive building groups, individual structures, architectural features and Buildings at Risk.</p> <p>HE1.5 Promote the recording of local history and traditions.</p> <p>HE1.6 Encourage information to be recorded in the North Yorkshire Historic Environment Record.</p>	<p>–</p> <p>–</p> <p>–</p> <p>–</p> <p># Deliver as part of Ryevitalise Project.</p> <p># Pass information on 2020/21 projects to NYCC Historic Environment Record Officer.</p>	<p>XXXXX</p>				

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<p><b>HE2 Significance of the AONB's historic environment</b></p> <p>HE2.1 Resist development proposals that would be likely to harm the significance of the AONB's heritage assets.</p> <p>HE2.2 Support appropriate Enabling Development where this would conserve and enhance the AONB's most significant heritage assets.</p> <p>HE2.3 Consider introducing Article 4 Directions for Conservation Areas in the AONB, to preserve historic character and prevent incremental damaging change.</p> <p>HE2.4 Continue the Monument Management Scheme, to consolidate improvements to Scheduled Monument condition and remove Monuments from the Heritage at Risk Register.</p> <p>HE2.5 Prepare conservation/management plans for all designed landscapes.</p> <p>HE2.6 Assist farmers and land managers to enter key archaeological features (particularly the AONB's Historic Environment Priority Sites) and other heritage assets into appropriate options in the current Countryside Stewardship scheme.</p> <p>HE2.7 Ensure that the post-Brexit environmental land management scheme can be used to conserve and enhance the AONB's historic environment features and landscapes.</p>	<p># Comment as necessary, via JAC consultations.</p> <p># Comment as necessary, via JAC consultations.</p> <p>–</p> <p># Carry out bramble, bracken and scrub control on selected SMs, to continue and consolidate work started under the MMS Programme.</p> <p># Carry out scrub management works on 1 SM - moated site at Low Hutton.</p> <p># Report work completed to Historic England, for input to the HAR Register.</p> <p>–</p> <p># Encourage via Countryside Stewardship Scheme/Farming in Protected Landscapes involvement and advice to farmers &amp; land managers.</p> <p># Input to continuing development of the new scheme, both locally and nationally as appropriate.</p>	<p>XXXXX</p>	<p>XXXXX</p>	<p>XXXXX</p> <p>XXXXX</p>	<p>XXXXX</p> <p>XXXXX</p>	

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<p>HE2.8 Provide a flexible package of assistance including advice, grant aid, direct works and management agreements, as appropriate, to assist land managers with identifying, conserving, enhancing and increasing understanding and enjoyment of historic environment features on their land, particularly the AONB's Historic Environment Priority Sites.</p> <p>HE2.9 Monitor developments in the understanding of potential climate change impacts on historic environment features.</p>	<p># Carry out management or repair works on at least 3 Historic Environment Priority Sites or historic features (exc. sites covered by HE2.4 above).</p> <p># Re-visit Limekilns at High Wood (Brandsby), Hildenley Wood and Limekiln Plantation (Nunnington) to assess current condition.</p> <p># Visit boundary banks at Brick Kiln Plantation and Cum Hag Wood; field system at Hildenley to assess current condition.</p> <p># On-going.</p>	<p>XXXXX</p> <p>XXXXX</p> <p>XXXXX</p>	<p>XXXXX</p>	<p>XXXXX</p>	<p>XXXXX</p>	
<p><b>HE3 Non-designated heritage assets and development of management strategies</b></p> <p>HE3.1 Publish criteria and provide assistance to enable local communities to identify the non-designated heritage assets which contribute to the character of their area.</p> <p>HE3.2 Support the development of site-based management strategies to conserve and enhance important non-designated heritage assets identified by local communities.</p>	<p>–</p> <p>–</p>					

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<p><b>LC1 Retention of village services and implementation of projects</b></p> <p>LC1.1 Make representations to Government on relevant national rural issues, via the NAAONB.</p> <p>LC1.2 Resist policy or development proposals that may adversely affect key village services.</p> <p>LC1.3 Work as appropriate with partner organisations to develop innovative projects for delivering services to local communities.</p> <p>LC1.4 Support communities in developing beneficial projects, e.g. via new or reviewed Parish Plans.</p> <p>LC1.5 Implement projects that support the character, sustainability, economy or sense of community of villages.</p>	<p># As necessary, via input to NAAONB consultations.</p> <p># Comment as necessary, via JAC consultations.</p> <p># Continue to liaise with Development Officers in other organisations, and participate in new initiatives as appropriate.</p> <p># Continue involvement in community energy use reduction/sustainability projects, working with RDC/CFY/NYCC.</p> <p># Support CFY/District Council/Stronger Communities initiatives, as appropriate.</p> <p># Support the Rural Watch Scheme that covers the AONB.</p>					
<p><b>LC2 Voluntary and community engagement with the local natural and historic environment of the AONB</b></p> <p>LC2.1 Work with communities, local groups, businesses and land managers to encourage partnership action for identifying, monitoring, managing, raising awareness of, accessing and enjoying the natural and historic environment.</p>	<p># Support the ongoing wildlife-focused project in Crayke.</p> <p># Support delivery of the Ryevitalise Education, Paradise Initiative and Citizen Science projects, as appropriate.</p> <p># Provide advice to at least one school grounds habitat improvement or outdoor learning area project.</p>					

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<p><b>AG1 Government support mechanisms that promote sustainable farm and rural business development</b></p> <p>AG1.1 Assist farmers and land managers to enter key sites (particularly the AONB's Natural and Historic Environment Priority Sites) and other farmed land into appropriate options in the current Countryside Stewardship scheme.</p> <p>AG1.2 Make representations to Government, either individually and/or via the NAAONB, to ensure that a far-sighted and integrated rural support mechanism and environmental land management scheme emerges from the Brexit process.</p> <p>AG1.3 Make representations to ensure that the Howardian Hills AONB remains a priority area for funding from Government agencies.</p> <p>AG1.4 Consider bidding for a Pilot of the new environmental land management scheme to run in the AONB, possibly in partnership with the North York Moors National Park.</p>	<p># Encourage via Countryside Stewardship Scheme/Farming in Protected Landscapes involvement and advice to farmers &amp; land managers.</p> <p># Participate via the NAAONB in work to develop the new mechanisms for land management and rural business support.</p> <p># Ensure that the AONB is included as a Target Area within any relevant new/updated strategies/Schemes.</p> <p># Continue dialogue with the North York Moors National Park Authority on potential joint working opportunities, e.g. Farmer Clusters, Environmental Land Management scheme design &amp; delivery, etc.</p>					
<p><b>AG2 Advice and appropriate assistance</b></p> <p>AG2.1 Provide specialist advice and 'sign-posting' on conservation grants and countryside management within the AONB.</p> <p>AG2.2 Provide a flexible package of assistance including advice, grant aid, direct works and management agreements, as appropriate, to assist land managers with identifying, conserving, enhancing and increasing understanding and enjoyment of landscape features on their land.</p>	<p># Provide advice to farmers &amp; land managers, as appropriate.</p> <p># Subject to a successful application to NLHF, promote the 'Birds on the Edge' grant scheme and Officer advice.</p> <p># Assist as appropriate with promotion of the Ryevitalise grants programme.</p> <p># Assist 3 landscape conservation projects with AONB funding.</p> <p># Continue development and delivery of mechanisms to collect and re-use/recycle plastic tree protection products.</p>					

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<b>AG3 Design and siting of new farm buildings and infrastructure</b> AG3.1 Support the construction of new farm buildings and infrastructure where these follow the principles set out in the AONB New Farm Buildings & Infrastructure Design Guidance.	# Comment as necessary, via JAC consultations.					
<b>FW1 Woodland felling, management and creation proposals</b> FW1.1 Ensure that all proposals take account of the Special Qualities of the AONB. FW1.2 Use consultation procedures to ensure that all proposals are in accordance with Management Plan Objectives.	# Comment as necessary, via the FC Public Register. # Comment as necessary, via the FC Public Register.					
<b>FW2 Multi-objective approach to woodland management</b> FW2.1 Encourage owners and managers to prepare FC-approved Woodland Management Plans for their woodlands.	-					
<b>FW3 Incidence and impacts of pests and diseases</b> FW3.1 Keep up-to-date with information on invasive woodland pests and diseases, in particular H. fraxineus, P. ramorum and muntjac deer. FW3.2 Encourage vigilance and reporting of suspected sightings. FW3.3 Deliver appropriate mitigation strategies to manage the impacts of pests and diseases.	# Monitor Chalara Ash Dieback and P. ramorum disease situations and respond as necessary. - -					
<b>FW4 Trees and shrubs of climate-appropriate provenance when planting or restocking</b> FW4.1 Promote the incorporation of natural regeneration of appropriate native tree and shrub species into restocking plans. FW4.2 Promote the use of climate-appropriate provenance nursery plants when restocking. FW4.3 Encourage local forest nurseries to make adequate quantities of local provenance material available.	# Promote as appropriate, via the FC Public Register. # Promote as appropriate, via the FC Public Register. -					

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<b>FW5 New areas of woodland</b> FW5.1 Use consultation procedures to advise on the siting and design of new areas of woodland, within the guidance provided by the Landscape Management & Priority Sites section of the AONB Management Plan.	# Comment as necessary, via the FC Public Register.					
<b>FW6 Local and regional markets for timber and woodland products</b> FW6.1 Encourage the use of timber from the AONB in local industries, e.g. furniture making, traditional building restoration, etc.	-					
<b>FW7 Grant and advice mechanisms that achieve AONB Management Plan objectives for woodland management and creation</b> FW7.1 Assist owners and managers to enter their woodlands into appropriate options in the current Countryside Stewardship scheme. FW7.2 Ensure that the post-Brexit environmental land management scheme can be used to assist with priority woodland management work within the AONB. FW7.3 Provide a flexible package of assistance including advice, grant aid, direct works and management agreements, as appropriate, to assist land managers with identifying, conserving, enhancing and increasing understanding and enjoyment of landscape features on their land. FW7.4 Support the continuation of the Native Woodland Project.	# Encourage via Countryside Stewardship Scheme/Farming in Protected Landscapes involvement and advice to farmers & land managers.  # Input to continuing development of the new scheme, both locally and nationally as appropriate.  -  # Continue attendance at Partnership meetings.					

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<p><b>DRE1 New development</b></p> <p>DRE1.1 Ensure that all relevant Plans, Strategies and Policies recognise, protect and, where appropriate, enhance the Special Qualities of the AONB and its setting.</p> <p>DRE1.2 Maintain effective consultation arrangements between the Local Planning Authorities and the Joint Advisory Committee.</p>	<p># Monitor all new Policies and Strategies, submitting comments individually or via the NAAONB as appropriate, to ensure that the national significance of the AONB is safeguarded.</p> <p># Input to the Ryedale Local Plan Strategy process as applicable.</p> <p># Input to the North Yorkshire Minerals &amp; Waste Joint Plan as applicable.</p> <p># Maintain relationships and respond to JAC consultations as necessary and within specified time frames.</p>					
<p><b>DRE2 Standards in design of new development and the management of existing buildings/features</b></p> <p>DRE2.1 Ensure consistent high-quality rural design standards covering the whole AONB, including building design, materials and green infrastructure.</p> <p>DRE2.2 Encourage communities to prepare Village Design Statements, to guide the design of future development.</p> <p>DRE2.3 Provide guidance on sustainable building restoration techniques, including energy conservation measures.</p> <p>DRE2.4 Consider undertaking appraisals to enable the designation of new Conservation Areas and the enhancement of existing ones.</p>	<p>–</p> <p>–</p> <p>–</p> <p>–</p>					

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<p><b>DRE3 Mitigation of intrusive features</b></p> <p>DRE3.1 Encourage local enhancement works to mitigate the impact of existing visually intrusive developments.</p> <p>DRE3.2 Continue liaison arrangements with Northern Powergrid, to prioritise and implement the undergrounding of electricity cables in prominent locations.</p> <p>DRE3.3 Encourage Openreach to underground telephone cables in prominent locations, primarily in conjunction with electricity cable undergrounding.</p> <p>DRE3.4 Resist developments that increase the impact of light or noise pollution on the AONB or its setting.</p>	<p>–</p> <p># Continue to attend Liaison Group meetings.</p> <p># Encourage delivery of additional scheme in the Howardian Hills if spare funding becomes available – Yearsley.</p> <p># Continue to liaise with BT Openreach over burying cables.</p> <p># Comment as necessary, via JAC consultations.</p>		XXXXX		XXXXX	
<p><b>DRE4 Minerals-working proposals</b></p> <p>DRE4.1 Resist any minerals exploration or production proposals which are not compatible with AONB Purposes of Designation or Management Plan Objectives.</p> <p>DRE4.2 Support appropriate proposals for small-scale quarrying of stone for local uses and to assist with repairs to heritage assets.</p> <p>DRE4.3 Safeguard/obtain supplies of suitable local stone for drystone wall restoration.</p>	<p># Comment as necessary, via JAC consultations.</p> <p># Comment as necessary, via JAC consultations.</p> <p>–</p>					
<p><b>DRE5 Renewable energy installations</b></p> <p>DRE5.1 Provide advice and guidance on the type of renewable energy technologies and installations likely to be appropriate in the AONB.</p> <p>DRE5.2 Support appropriate proposals that follow the 'Four Rights' – Technology, Scale, Place and Design.</p> <p>DRE5.3 Promote the benefits of appropriate renewable energy developments and demonstrate examples of 'best practice' projects.</p>	<p># Provide advice and guidance, as required.</p> <p># Comment as necessary, via JAC consultations.</p> <p>–</p>					

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<p><b>DRE6 Rural business, local employment, training &amp; skills and farm diversification activities</b></p> <p>DRE6.1 Promote the provision of accessible ICT, business and rural skills advice, training, courses, demonstrations, etc.</p> <p>DRE6.2 Encourage businesses to develop appropriate new enterprises within or close to the AONB.</p> <p>DRE6.3 Maintain a positive approach to planning control for appropriate farm diversification and rural employment projects.</p> <p>DRE6.4 Support appropriate proposals to re-use traditional and modern farm buildings, where their historic and wildlife value can be safeguarded or the AONB landscape enhanced.</p> <p>DRE6.5 Support appropriate proposals for developing new workspace within the AONB.</p>	<p># Continue to promote via other partnerships, as applicable.</p> <p># Continue involvement in tourism development initiatives.</p> <p># Comment as necessary, via JAC consultations.</p> <p># Comment as necessary, via JAC consultations.</p> <p># Comment as necessary, via JAC consultations.</p>					
<p><b>DRE7 Modern telecommunications infrastructure</b></p> <p>DRE7.1 Support the provision of high-speed broadband and mobile phone infrastructure that does not have adverse impacts on the Special Qualities of the AONB.</p>	<p># Comment as necessary, via JAC consultations.</p>					
<p><b>DRE8 Provision of local needs/ affordable housing</b></p> <p>DRE8.1 Maintain up-to-date information on housing needs within the AONB.</p> <p>DRE8.2 Promote the potential benefits of local needs housing to AONB farmers, landowners and local communities.</p>	<p>–</p> <p>–</p>					

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<p><b>RTT1 Solutions to traffic routing issues in and around the AONB</b></p> <p>RTT1.1 Support appropriate proposals for full-movement interchange arrangements at the A64/B1257 junction.</p> <p>RTT1.2 Monitor freight movement issues in the AONB, to identify any patterns in HGV usage.</p> <p>RTT1.3 Encourage measures to address any issues raised during freight monitoring.</p>	<p># Monitor associated development proposals and input as necessary.</p> <p>–</p> <p>–</p>					
<p><b>RTT2 Traffic and driver behaviour issues</b></p> <p>RTT2.1 In line with the Road Safety Partnership speed management protocol, carry out speed-checks in identified locations to investigate reported issues.</p> <p>RTT2.2 Support local events that examine and address traffic and driver behaviour issues, in identified problem locations.</p>	<p># Monitor information provided via traffic speed surveys carried out in AONB villages.</p> <p>–</p>				XXXXX	
<p><b>RTT3 Sustainable modes of transport</b></p> <p>RTT3.1 Identify transport service, infrastructure and accessibility improvements.</p> <p>RTT3.2 Develop and implement identified measures as appropriate.</p> <p>RTT3.3 Promote the availability of alternative transport services in AONB literature, in local villages and at visitor attractions.</p> <p>RTT3.4 Ensure that implementation of the Local Transport Plan 4 for North Yorkshire contributes to the implementation of AONB Management Plan Objectives, where appropriate.</p>	<p>–</p> <p>–</p> <p>–</p> <p>–</p>					

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<p><b>RTT4 Rural character of the road network</b></p> <p>RTT4.1 Continue liaison arrangements between the Joint Advisory Committee and local highway authority (and its agents) for all proposals in the AONB.</p> <p>RTT4.2 Promote the usage of the Howardian Hills Area Profile by relevant teams within the local highway authority.</p> <p>RTT4.3 Identify examples of road sign clutter and seek improvements.</p> <p>RTT4.4 Ensure that the specific locations of historic roadside furniture are recorded on the NYCC Highway Asset Management System.</p> <p>RTT4.5 Ensure that traditional direction signs, mileposts and other historic structures within and adjacent to the highway are appropriately maintained and managed.</p>	<p># Maintain, and comment as necessary via JAC consultations.</p> <p># Check for inclusion of Special Interest Road Verges data on the National Street Gazetteer.</p> <p>–</p> <p># Check for inclusion of traditional direction signs on the National Street Gazetteer</p> <p># Progress restoration of 1 traditional direction sign (Oulston).</p>	<p>XXXXX</p> <p>XXXXX</p> <p>XXXXX</p> <p>XXXXX</p>	<p>XXXXX</p> <p>XXXXX</p> <p>XXXXX</p> <p>XXXXX</p>			
<p><b>RTT5 A64 Trunk Road</b></p> <p>RTT5.1 Ensure that improvements to the A64 (to enhance road safety, accessibility and journey-time reliability) have regard to the Purposes of Designation and Special Qualities of the AONB.</p> <p>RTT5.2 Monitor future proposals and provide comments to Highways England, North Yorkshire County Council and Ryedale District Council.</p>	<p># Comment as necessary via JAC consultations.</p> <p># Respond as necessary, should any new studies be proposed.</p>					
<p><b>RAT1 Sustainable recreational activities</b></p> <p>RAT1.1 Use planning policies to support appropriate recreational business developments.</p> <p>RAT1.2 Monitor the levels and sustainability of recreational activities within the AONB.</p>	<p># Comment as necessary, via JAC consultations.</p> <p>–</p>					

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<b>RAT2 Promotion of the attractions and Special Qualities of the AONB</b> RAT2.1 Work with local partner organisations to promote sustainable tourism and recreational activities in the Howardian Hills. RAT2.2 Develop and implement initiatives to encourage Under-Represented Groups to enjoy the AONB.	# Continue input to joint initiatives with partner organisations. # Comment as necessary, via JAC consultations. # Continue work with Autism Plus, to promote joint conservation tasks with other local groups.					
<b>RAT3 Condition and network of Public Rights of Way</b> RAT3.1 Ensure that path furniture in the AONB is appropriately maintained and improved. RAT3.2 Liaise with local landowners to quickly rectify identified path condition problems, including seasonal overgrowth and ploughing/cropping. RAT3.3 Implement path improvements, particularly via management measures such as ride-widening and the use of alternative routes. RAT3.4 Ensure the correct identification of all Public Rights of Way routes in the AONB on the Definitive Map by 2026. RAT3.5 Bring 'missing routes' and 'route status inconsistencies' to the attention of the local highway authority and lobby for action.	# Continue to address reported issues. # Continue project with NYCC to repair and upgrade path furniture. # Bring individual and seasonal cutting issues to the attention of NYCC PROW staff, as necessary. # Promote as appropriate, via JAC consultations. – –	XXXXX	XXXXX			
RAT3.6 Support appropriate Public Rights of Way diversion, creation and extinguishment orders/agreements in response to particular local issues or to improve the local network. RAT3.7 Encourage the creation of new access routes/areas where the Public Rights of Way network is less developed.	# Assess the package of rationalisations proposed for the Castle Howard Estate and identify ones that could be publicly funded. # Progress identified individual schemes, potentially at Slingsby & Hovingham. –	XXXXX	XXXXX  XXXXX	XXXXX	XXXXX	

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<p><b>RAT4 Recreational management measures</b></p> <p>RAT4.1 Carry out small-scale management works as necessary, particularly on sites used for car parking and at the AONB's Recreation Priority Sites.</p> <p>RAT4.2 Use planning and other policy controls to discourage unsustainable recreational use of the Derwent valley.</p> <p>RAT4.3 Support low-key countryside management works to improve recreation management on Forestry Commission land.</p> <p>RAT4.4 Encourage the development/use of designated village parking areas and toilet facilities by recreational visitors.</p> <p>RAT4.5 Monitor the levels of litter and fly-tipping within the AONB and take action as appropriate.</p>	<p># Continue grass cutting regime at Badger Bank.</p> <p># Monitor and manage overhanging trees at Bell Bottom Wood, Coneysthorpe, to maximise space available.</p> <p># Ensure Kirkham Priory car park is appropriately maintained.</p> <p># Provide advice and assistance as appropriate as Covid-19 restrictions ease and visitors return to the AONB.</p> <p># Comment as necessary, via JAC consultations.</p> <p>–</p> <p>–</p> <p># Continue programme of litter clearance at car parks throughout the AONB.</p> <p># Report fly-tipping incidents to the District Councils, as necessary.</p>	<p>XXXXX</p> <p>XXXXX</p> <p>XXXXX</p> <p>XXXXX</p> <p></p> <p></p> <p>XXXXX</p>	<p>XXXXX</p> <p>XXXXX</p> <p></p> <p>XXXXX</p> <p></p> <p>XXXXX</p>	<p>XXXXX</p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p>XXXXX</p>		
<p><b>RAT5 Routes for different user groups and provide self-guided information</b></p> <p>RAT5.1 Identify appropriate routes, linked to public transport where possible.</p> <p>RAT5.2 Publish guide leaflets and information in a variety of formats as appropriate, to encourage usage.</p>	<p>–</p> <p>–</p>					

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<p><b>AP1 Awareness and understanding of the AONB designation, its importance and the role and work of the Joint Advisory Committee</b></p> <p>AP1.1 Maintain the existing 'gateway signs' on roads entering the AONB and seek to install signs on the A64.</p> <p>AP1.2 Provide information on the work of the JAC via various publicity mechanisms, as appropriate.</p> <p>AP1.3 Maintain a public profile in the local media and at appropriate local events/shows.</p>	<p># Ensure the AONB 'gateway sign' sites are adequately maintained.</p> <p># Promote installation of 'gateway signs' on the A64 if opportunities arise.</p> <p># Publish 2020/21 Annual Report.</p> <p># Publish AONB News 2021.</p> <p># Continue publicising the AONB and initiatives/projects via Twitter.</p> <p># Ryedale Show – cancelled due to Covid-19.</p>	<p>XXXXX</p> <p>XXXXX</p>	<p>XXXXX</p> <p>XXXXX</p>	<p>XXXXX</p>		
<p><b>AP2 Awareness of the Special Qualities of the AONB</b></p> <p>AP2.1 Publish and distribute information about the AONB and its Special Qualities, for example at popular visitor destinations, in community buildings, in visitor accommodation and on the AONB website.</p> <p>AP2.2 Deliver guided walks, talks and demonstrations as appropriate to explain the Special Qualities of the AONB and promote sustainable management techniques.</p> <p>AP2.3 Continue a programme of activities with local schools, young people and communities.</p>	<p># Ensure that TICs and local accommodation providers, shops, etc have adequate supplies of relevant AONB leaflets.</p> <p># Ensure that the AONB website is running properly and is updated appropriately.</p> <p># Use AONB display at 3 venues/events.</p> <p>–</p> <p># Hold at least 2 family activity sessions (Covid-19 dependent).</p> <p># Assist with delivery of the schools element of the Ryevitalise project, as appropriate.</p>		<p>XXXXX</p>	<p>XXXXX</p>	<p>XXXXX</p>	

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<p><b>IM1 Funding and partnership mechanisms to achieve Management Plan objectives</b></p> <p>IM1.1 Seek appropriate sources of funding and assistance to implement Management Plan Objectives.</p> <p>IM1.2 Continue and expand partnership arrangements with the North York Moors National Park Authority, as appropriate.</p> <p>IM1.3 Involve volunteers wherever possible, to assist with the delivery of appropriate tasks and activities.</p>	<p># Participate via the NAAONB in work to ensure the future of AONB funding, in particular in follow-up to the Glover Review of Protected Landscapes.</p> <p># Participate via the NAAONB in work to help develop the new mechanisms for land management and rural business support.</p> <p># Access additional resources from Defra, County &amp; District Councils, FC, EA, HE, etc for specific identified projects – Farming in Protected Landscapes programme is main objective.</p> <p># Continue involvement in the Yorkshire Derwent Catchment Partnership (See NE3.5).</p> <p># Contribute to delivery of 2021/22 Ryevitalise projects as appropriate (See NE3.5).</p> <p># Continue involvement in tourism development initiatives (See DRE6.2).</p> <p># Utilise Reserves appropriately, to supplement annual projects budget.</p> <p># Keep AONB grant processes and assistance options under review as Government grant incentive schemes evolve, in order to maintain effectiveness and efficiency.</p> <p># Continue dialogue on potential joint working opportunities, e.g. Farmer Clusters, environmental land management scheme design &amp; delivery, Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme, etc.</p> <p># Complete at least 1 project per calendar quarter using volunteers (Covid-19 dependent).</p>	<p>XXXXX</p>	<p>XXXXX</p>	<p>XXXXX</p>	<p>XXXXX</p>	

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<b>IM2 Business model</b> IM2.1 Monitor the business requirements and model of the AONB Partnership and identify improvements as appropriate.  IM2.2 Incorporate suggested improvements into the annual Action Programme and Budget approval processes.	# Ensure a smooth succession process for the AONB Manager post. # Evaluate the current AONB Unit staff structure and Partnership composition/operation, if required, in response to any budget, function or operational business model changes proposed/introduced as part of the Government response to the Glover Review, Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme, AONB Manager succession, etc. # Utilise Reserves appropriately, to supplement annual projects budget and maintain an AONB Unit staff resource commensurate with future work priorities and income. # Prepare annual Business Plan/Action Programme for JAC.	XXXXX	XXXXX  XXXXX	XXXXX	XXXXX          XXXXX	
<b>MN1 Performance of the AONB partnership and AONB unit</b> MN1.1 Report annual progress on achievement of Management Plan Objectives to the JAC, AONB Partnership and public. MN1.2 Monitor the performance of the AONB Partnership using the Defra/NAAONB Key Performance Indicators.	# Report Annual Action Programme achievements to JAC.  # Report data on Key Performance Indicators of JAC and AONB Partnership.		XXXXX	XXXXX	XXXXX	
<b>MN2 Monitor the condition of the AONB</b> MN2.1 Develop a robust mechanism for assessing the Condition of the locally designated and non-designated Priority Sites identified in the Management Plan. MN2.2 Update the data for the AONB Condition Indicators during Management Plan review in 2023. MN2.3 Update the 'State of the AONB' Report during Management Plan review in 2023. MN2.4 Repeat the 'fixed-point photography' monitoring of visual landscape change.	# Test Natural England methodologies on favourable conservation status, to assess the condition of non-designated biodiversity Priority Sites.  -  -  -			XXXXX	XXXXX	

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<b>National Association for AONBs</b> Maintain input into NAAONB Board and Association activities.  Keep up-to-date with knowledge and skills in relation to AONB management.	# Continue to participate in NAAONB initiatives.  # Attend training seminars, Northern Group meetings, Conferences, etc as appropriate.					
<b>AONB Management Plan</b> Review AONB Management Plan.	-					