



**Mendip Hills AONB Partnership Committee**  
**Draft Minutes of the meeting at Westbury-sub-Mendip Village Hall**  
**21<sup>st</sup> November 2019**

**Present:**

**Partnership Committee**

Cllr Nigel Taylor (Chair)  
Di Sheppard  
Jim Hardcastle  
Tom Lane  
Richard Frost  
David Julian  
Rachel Thompson MBE  
Julie Cooper  
Pippa Rayner  
Cllr Karin Haverson  
Cllr Elizabeth Scott  
Cllr Mike Adams  
Cllr David Wood

Somerset County Council  
Bath & North East Somerset Council Officer  
AONB Manager  
Natural England  
Mendip Society  
CPRE  
The Trails Trust  
Sedgemoor District Council Officer  
Somerset Wildlife Trust  
North Somerset Council  
Sedgemoor District Council  
North Somerset Parish Councils Representative  
Bath & North East Somerset

**Other attendees**

Kelly Davies  
Mick Fletcher  
Cat Lodge  
Jo Lewis  
Anne Halpin  
Simon Clarke  
Cindy Carter  
Tim Haselden  
Lauren Holt  
Sarah Catling

AONB Volunteer Ranger  
AONB Volunteer Ranger  
Senior Archaeologist, North Somerset Council  
Natural England  
Somerset Wildlife Trust  
Somerset Wildlife Trust  
AONB Landscape Planning Officer  
AONB Project Development Officer  
AONB Ranger Volunteer Coordinator  
AONB Support & Communications Officer

**Apologies**

Chris Lewis  
Ian Clemmett  
Joe McSorley  
Cllr Edric Hobbs  
Cllr Roger Dollins  
Cllr James Tonkin  
Steve Dury  
John Flannigan  
Rachel Tadman  
Andy Wear

CPRE  
National Trust  
Avon Wildlife Trust  
Mendip District Council  
Somerset Parish Councils Representative  
North Somerset Council  
Somerset County Council Officer  
North Somerset Council Officer  
Mendip District Council Officer  
National Farmers Union

## Summary of Actions

| Item | Item                      | Notes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Action |
|------|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| 1    | Declaration of Interest   | No declarations.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |        |
| 2    | Notes of Previous Meeting | <p>Apologies as stated.</p> <p>Key action from previous minutes; to invite Richard Penny from Natural England to update on the new farm payment system, given the current situation and with RP leaving this was changed to invite reps from the Somerset Wildlife Trust.</p> <p>Amendment to Item 9 - RT was 'invited to join the partnership'.</p> <p>Update on Item 9 - RT was congratulated for successfully submitting a Green Infrastructure Trial proposal to the Environmental Land Management Tests and Trials team. This is now through the first stage of Phase 2 of the programme and the area is being used as a trial for the new payment scheme.</p> <p>No other matters arising.</p> <p>Accepted as a true and accurate record.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | SC     |
| 3    | Partnership Updates       | <p><u>DW B&amp;NES</u> – A key focus currently on 100,000 tree planting target over the next 3½ years.</p> <p><u>DS B&amp;NES</u> – Chew Valley Recreational Trail has been simplified into 3 phases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phase 1 - existing multi use part along B3114 between Bickfield Lane and north entrance to Woodford Lodge.</li> <li>• Phase 2 - new route from Woodford Lodge around Hollowbrook Lane, all off road. Planning permission granted June 2019. Grant application to Defra Rural Growth Programme has been complicated due to the need to undertake engineering consultation for works on the dam. If successful work will commence 2020.</li> <li>• Phase 3 - walking trail linking existing footpaths and PROW to complete the circumnavigation of the lake.</li> </ul> <p>Route plan attached, see appendix 1.</p> <p><u>KH North Somerset</u> – Motion passed to increase biodiversity and identify sites for 50,000 trees to be planted. 20% of verges to be managed differently and less frequently.</p> <p><u>JC Sedgemoor District Council</u> – SDC have declared a climate emergency. Work continues to promote health and wellbeing, getting people involved in activities to reduce loneliness and isolation and making the link between improving the environment and improving wellbeing.</p> <p><u>MA North Somerset Parish Rep</u> – Much of today's discussion can be applied at parish level. MA would like to invite SWT to look at what is being done as well as what</p> |        |

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|  |  | <p>more can be done on land identified and currently managed in Blagdon.</p> <p><u>TL Natural England</u> – SWT message reflects the recent work at NE and joins together work being done by WENP and Buglife approach.</p> <p>Local work continues on the Countryside Stewardship and High Level Stewardship; Agri-environment schemes. 3 new higher tier countryside stewardship agreements in the Mendip Hills area were roll overs from previous schemes. It's proved difficult to get them to take on board more than what was already being done. Funding is available from Defra and NE to incentivise the support and management of species and habitats, creating and linking habitats, changing the way that arable farming is being done and trying to reduce the inputs and water quality in the area. Even with incentives in place encouraging take up has been difficult. Ongoing engagement and communication are needed to help people understand why it's important. Work on other Agri-environment schemes have seen an extension to those already delivering. There has also been wider input on net gain discussions, planning policy frameworks, coast path to Brean.</p> <p>Team changes Richard Penny is leaving.</p> <p>Ash dieback is becoming a major concern and will be hugely significant for the Mendip Hills. NE involved heavily due to designated sites and are seeing more consultations on safety issues. Need to ensure partners work together to try and establish a strategic way to deal with this issue.</p> <p>JH highlighted one of the high impact sites in Burrington Combe has work set to start on 9 December to fell trees up to 30m from the road, this will have a huge visual impact.</p> <p>TL thanked the partnership and introduced Jo Lewis, Team Leader for Severn, Avon &amp; Mendip who will be the NE representative on the partnership moving forward.</p> <p>NT thanked TL on behalf of the Partnership for his contribution.</p> <p><u>DJ CPRE</u> – New planner has been recruited since the last meeting. Currently 2 trustees down and are looking for replacements particularly with agricultural, farming and countryside experience.</p> <p>Chris Lewis will stand down as Chair in October 2020.</p> <p>AGM in October discussed brownfield first, use of brownfield before less appropriate sites and attracted 60 attendees.</p> <p>New branding has been launched with focus now on 'CPRE, the countryside charity'.</p> <p>A leaflet entitled 'Our countryside: a manifesto for the next government' has just been produced. Details are on the <a href="#">CPRE website</a>.</p> <p>Current community projects include signposting and litter picking.</p> |  |
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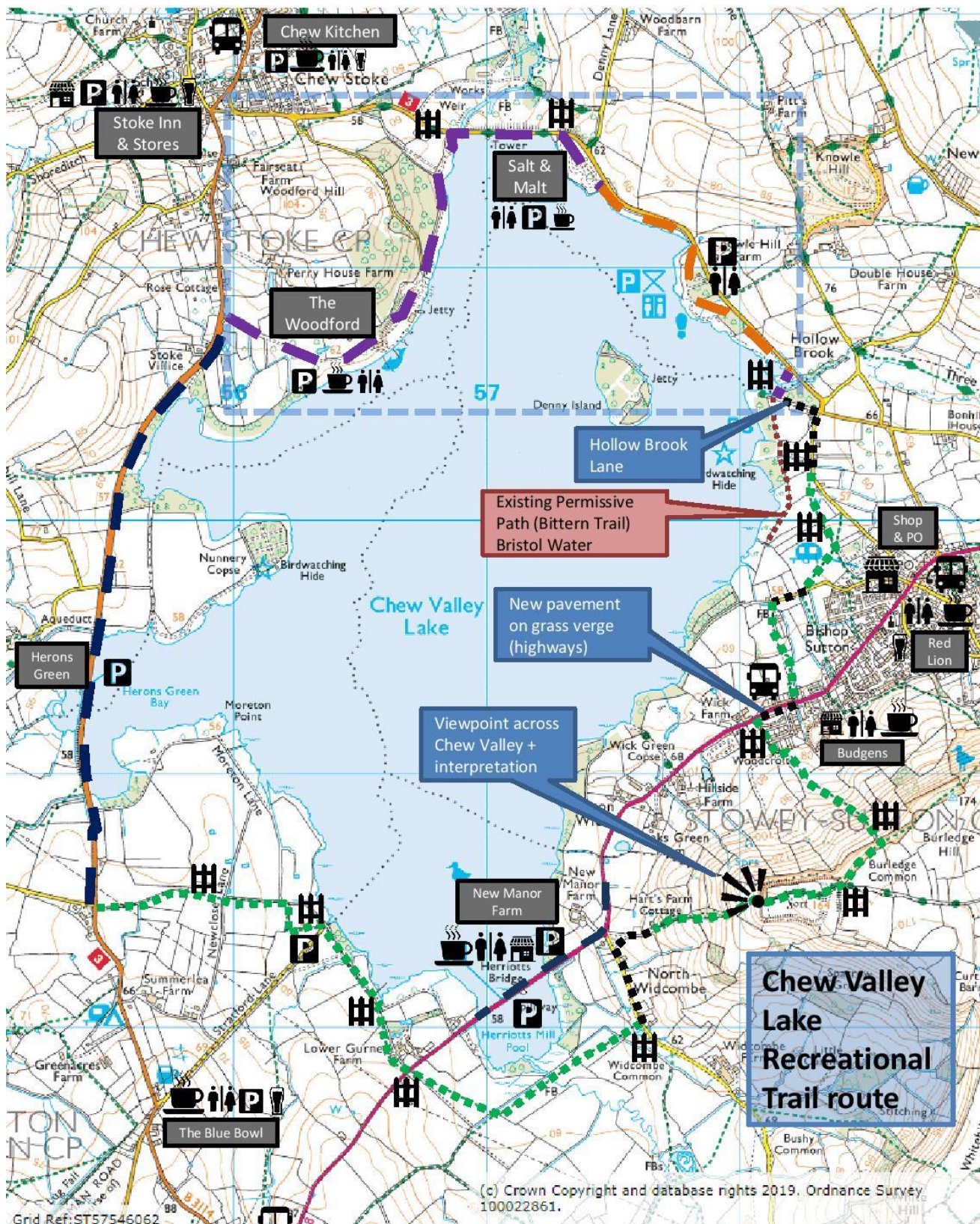
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|  |  | <p>On 1 December Mendip Local Plan is 5 years old and the housing allocation will change. Losing the 5-year land supply will have an impact on the granting of planning permission.</p> <p><u>RT The Trails Trust</u> – The Trails Trust is a 20-year-old charity that looks at connecting roads and rights of way with new connections to enable people to travel around the landscape in a green sustainable way. It has become increasingly difficult to travel around the AONB due to busier roads and an increase in traffic. This has had an impact on people travelling around safely and wildlife connections. Poorer connections result in people using cars, this was the impetus for approaching Defra to consider a test to look at creating more multi user safer access.</p> <p>The Defra trial will test landowner opinions on what would bring them into a scheme. 50 landowners will be approached from a starting point of not being interested to establish the rewards they would expect to encourage them into an access scheme.</p> <p><u>PR SWT</u> – Facilitation Fund currently on hold pending Ellie Higginson's return from maternity leave in April. Mendip Wildlife Links funded by s106, work continues offering detailed advice to landowners on what is important and where to target restoration work as well as in communities on what they can do wherever they can. Making Space for Butterflies project has received additional funding from aggregate industries through their Local Partnerships Fund. This has enabled habitats and restoration works in Cheddar Wood.</p> <p>Ash dieback is affecting all SWT reserves. Extensive tree safety work planned in Black Rock NR. This will involve the removal of all ash trees along 800m on the roadside and most of the ash along the bridleway from Black Rock gate to the West Mendip Way. Long Wood will be closed for a time whilst ash is removed. Important to communicate why this is being done and that it is outside our control. SWT will keep the partnership informed on the closure of Long Wood as there are implications for cave access on that site.</p> <p>RT highlighted that it is not just ash proving a problem, sycamore is a danger to horses.</p> <p>It was proposed that a longer discussion needs to take place around ash dieback at the next partnership meeting in March.</p> <p><u>RF The Mendip Society</u> – MS continues to grow. New approach planned for 2020 to become more proactive. Continuing to support the current programme over the next couple of years including Mendip Rocks! and Offest. The Society is looking to appoint a project manager to provide expertise.</p> <p>Current projects include, heritage site at Decoy City with work due to begin in 2020.</p> | JH |
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|   |                                                               | <p>Tree Planting with advice from the Woodland Trust on where best to plant.</p> <p>Volunteers continue with litter picking.</p> <p>The current Grant giving programme being stepped up.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |    |
| 4 | <b>Vice-Chair and Parish Council Representative Elections</b> | <p>Elections will also include the Chair. Paperwork will be circulated shortly. Current Terms of Reference state that either the Chair or Vice-Chair must be from one of the Local Authorities ie. one of the Partnership funders.</p> <p>The Parish Council elections will be carried out by the respective Somerset and Avon Local Council Authority.</p> <p>There are 3 Parish Reps covering B&amp;NES, Somerset and North Somerset.</p> <p>Nominations will be invited shortly, and the Partnership will be voting on the Chair and Vice-Chair at the next meeting in March.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | JH |
| 5 | <b>Paper A - Glover Designated Landscape Review</b>           | <p>Glover Review was released 6 weeks ago with the work being done by AONBs reported favourably. Key discussions happening at a National level include:</p> <p>‘Protected landscapes aren’t protected’, a lot of what goes on in AONBs is outside our control, eg farm subsidies, development, pollution and climate change. Despite this there is an expectation that we continue to look after the landscape.</p> <p>A proposed new purpose, currently; to conserve and enhance natural beauty, suggested; Recover, conserve and enhance natural beauty, biodiversity and natural capital, and cultural heritage. The new purpose doesn’t change what we do instead it recognises what we do currently.</p> <p>The review contains 27 proposals, a panel convened last week around the Campaign for National Parks and there is a similar one taking place next week for AONBs. The panel advised that Defra and Government must not cherry pick.</p> <p>Main implications for the AONB Partnership include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statutory consultee status.</li> <li>• New financial model strengthened with new purpose, powers and resources, and renamed to National Landscapes.</li> <li>• Duty to deliver Nature Recovery Networks</li> <li>• Board of 9-12; funders and ‘passion, skills and experience’</li> <li>• A partnership; a broader forum ‘those who have a stake and fundamental to achieving outcomes’</li> </ul> <p>In reference to the proposal on renaming to National Landscapes MA suggested dropping ‘Hills’ and adopting ‘Mendip National Landscapes’.</p> <p>Current funding model for AONBs; 75% from Defra with 25% matched from Local Authorities, enabling the Unit to draw down the full Defra grant. JH highlighted that if the 25% gets smaller this in turn reduces the 75%. AONBs are optimistic there will be an increase in funding, however, the current 75/25 split would not be appropriate as Local Authorities will be unable to increase their contribution. It is hoped therefore, that any funding model rolled out to AONBs will be in line with the current arrangement for</p> |    |

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|   |                                                     | National Parks; 100% funding from Defra to cover core costs and the opportunity to apply for further project funding with a 75/25 split with Local Authorities.<br>Paper noted.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                         |
| 6 | <b>Paper B – NAAONB Update</b>                      | This update reinforced the findings of the Glover review. The AONB Unit attended this year's conference on a fact-finding mission with a view to Somerset hosting the conference in 2021.<br>National Moment took place on 21 September with all AONBs coming together at 2pm to create hearts in the landscape to mark the 70 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the legislation that led to the creation of National Parks and AONBs.<br>Paper noted.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                         |
| 7 | <b>Paper C – Event Licencing Coordination</b>       | The number of events taking place in the Mendip Hills is a growing concern, in particularly cycling events. Discussion was invited not on how we stop them from taking place but on how we coordinate them.<br>RT highlighted that event organisers hire village halls as food stops, many using Priddy. Parish councils could report back on bookings. RT to investigate.<br>JH requested that Local Authority Officers and Councillors advise who the Events Licencing Officers are for each authority.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>RT</b><br><b>LA Off/ Councillors</b> |
| 8 | <b>Paper D – OSG Report</b>                         | TL presented the report main points to note:<br>Staffing: Lauren Holt started as the Unit's Ranger Volunteer Coordinator in July and is settling in well.<br>The Support & Communication role has increased to full time until 31 March 2020 as an investment in future income generation.<br>Current 4-year financial agreement has now come to an end, awaiting advice from Defra moving forward.<br>Change to current OSG meeting format, 2 will now be held at Charterhouse before Partnership meeting's in March and November with 2 dates held in reserve for the AONB manager to visit each local authority officer at least once a year.<br>Report noted.                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                         |
| 9 | <b>AONB Update. Paper E – Activity Plan 2019/20</b> | Two Young Rangers travelled to Estonia as part of the Europarcs Camp in the summer.<br>AONB volunteers came 1 <sup>st</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> in the Ploughing Match walling competition.<br>Deer Leap and Blackmoor have now been signed over and the AONB Unit is managing both sites on a day to day basis.<br>The Unit continues to work with groups with learning difficulties, unemployed and people with higher risk of mental health difficulties as part of the Nature and Wellbeing project and work continues with SWT on the Nature and Wellbeing funding bid to the National Lottery Community Fund, now through round 1 and requiring match funding.<br>Counting on Mendip is the visitor counter project supported by Kelly Davies, Volunteer Ranger. Looking to install new counters at 12 locations and utilise other data sources. |                                         |

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|    |                                                   | <p>The walkover surveys on the River Chew Headwaters project were completed by BART in Apr/May. BART are now engaging landowners and developing recommendations and plans to improve water quality. Further work includes nature reserve management, mapping data on species, habitats, LWS/LGS. As a Partnership work will start soon on the Nature Recovery Plan for the AONB this needs to be completed by July 2020.</p> <p>Volunteer hours continue to increase, and the Unit has successfully recruited 10 new Volunteer Rangers, taking total of Volunteer Rangers to 34.</p> <p>Many thanks to The Mendip Society for their sponsorship of the new Young Ranger kit. The 2019 cohort started in September and will be with us for the next 2 years. The programme is centred around the John Muir award, the Mendip Hills special qualities and the core delivery plan. Planning focus over the last 6 months has been on planning applications.</p> <p>CC spent a day at UWE with future planners. This resulted in a work placement with the AONB Unit focussing on QGIS.</p> <p>LVIA training due to take place in December.</p> <p>£12k will be awarded from the Mendip Hills Fund this year, 10 applications have been submitted with a total value £24k.</p> <p>The AONB special qualities continue to guide comms, through ongoing monthly blogs and social media content.</p> |  |
| 10 | <b>Paper F – Activity Plan and Budget 2020/21</b> | <p>JH highlighted that both the activity plan and budget are a best guess at this stage in the absence of funding advice from Defra.</p> <p>Project work will continue in the reserves, Chew Valley catchment area. However, raising awareness may change considerably if the recommendations from the Glover review are implemented.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |  |
| 11 | <b>Volunteer of the Year Award</b>                | <p>Malcolm Parsons is this year's volunteer of the year. Malcolm will always go above and beyond and was very supportive and welcoming when Lauren first started which made her introduction to the job much easier. He will always take the lead in preparing guided walks and helps and supports new volunteers. Malcolm will be presented with the award at the next practical task on Wednesday.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |  |
| 12 | <b>AOB</b>                                        | <p>RT – Suggested we need to do more to bring in the Landowners to the Partnership.</p> <p>DS – The discussion around right tree, right place should go further ie. right tree, right place, in the landscape. JH highlighted that in the AONB this is the northern slopes and the wooded coombes.</p> <p>NT thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions which will be expected at future meetings.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |  |
| 13 | <b>Date of Next Meeting</b>                       | 19 <sup>th</sup> March 2020                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |  |

## Appendix 1



**Phase 1** -Existing built trail

**Phase 2** Trail granted planning 2011

**Phase 2** Multi-use Trail granted planning 2019

Northern section grant application

**Phase 3** Walking Trail

Public rights of way

On road path/pavements

| Mendip Hills AONB Partnership Committee |                                           |          |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|----------|
| Committee meeting date:                 | 21 <sup>st</sup> November 2019            | Paper: A |
| Title:                                  | Designated Landscapes Review Summary      |          |
| Presented by:                           | Jim Hardcastle, Mendip Hills AONB Manager |          |
| To be noted.                            |                                           |          |

## 1.0 Background

1.1 In the summer of 2018 the Glover Review began gathering evidence for the Designated Landscapes Review, which the government commissioned in response to the 25 Year Environment Plan.

1.2 Since then members of the panel of six have been to every English National Park and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) as well as to National Parks in Scotland and unprotected landscapes for which people have hopes, from the canal sides of Digbeth in Birmingham to the moors above Halifax.

1.3 The recommendations have now been published. *"We need to reignite the fire and vision which brought this system into being in 1949. We need our finest landscapes to be places of natural beauty which look up and outwards to the nation they serve. In essence, we've asked not 'what do national landscapes need?', but 'what does the nation need from them today?'"*

1.4 In summary the key recommendations for AONBs are;

*"We also think what are now AONBs should be strengthened, with increased funding, governance reform, new shared purposes with National Parks, and a greater voice on development. We think the current cumbersome title 'AONB' should be replaced. Our suggestion is that they should be called **National Landscapes**."*

- A strengthened place for national landscapes in the planning system with AONBs given statutory consultee status, encouragement to develop local plans and changes to the National Planning Policy Framework
- A stronger mission to connect all people with our national landscapes, supported and held to account by the new National Landscapes Service
- AONBs strengthened with new purposes, powers and resources, renamed as National Landscapes
- A new purpose; Recover, conserve and enhance natural beauty, biodiversity and natural capital, and cultural heritage.
- A new financial model – more money, more secure, more enterprising
- National landscapes should form the backbone of Nature Recovery Networks – joining things up within and beyond their boundaries

- A ranger service in all our national landscapes, part of a national family
- National landscapes supported to become leaders in sustainable tourism

1.5 'Proposal 26; Reformed governance to inspire and secure ambition in our national landscapes and better reflect society'. To achieve this proposal the review proposes that a smaller board of 9-12 individuals be created and selected for their 'passion, skills and experience' that works alongside a partnership group comprising 'the voices of those who have a stake in the national landscape and who are fundamental to achieving outcomes'.

1.6 The review also proposes for the board and partnership that 'Every effort should be made to achieve diversity'.

1.7 The assertion that there is a clear case for increased funding for AONBs comes across strongly in the report and we remain positive that we will receive a better financial settlement with Defra. AONB Partnerships were only given their limited powers in the year 2000, fifty-one years after the act that brought them into existence. Over this time AONB Partnerships and their teams have acquired the energy, skills, ambition and strong relationships needed to deliver. The fact remains though that the review has been delivered to government in the midst of many competing priorities and political turbulence.

1.8 The full review can be downloaded from:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/designated-landscapes-national-parks-and-aonbs-2018-review>

| Mendip Hills AONB Partnership Committee |                                               |          |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|----------|
| Committee meeting date:                 | 21 <sup>st</sup> November 2019                | Paper: B |
| Title:                                  | National Association for AONB (NAAONB) Update |          |
| Presented by:                           | Jim Hardcastle, Mendip Hills AONB Manager     |          |
| To be noted.                            |                                               |          |

## **1.0 Glover Review**

- 1.1 The final report was published in September to coincide with Landscapes for Life week, receiving additional coverage (see below) because of this coordinated approach.
- 1.2 The National Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty welcomed the findings of the Designated Landscapes Review. They are pleased that the Review team have recognised the value of the AONB designation and the hard work that AONB staff and members carry out to conserve and enhance these special areas. They are also heartened that the Review team recognise that, given adequate resources, there is so much more they can deliver for nature and society. They particularly welcome the recommendation that government provides the resources and policy framework to support local Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty teams to do this.
- 1.3 Please see Paper A for a discussion summary of the review's implications for AONBs.

## **2.0 National AONB Conference**

- 2.1 The AONB Chair escorted three members of the AONB Unit to the national AONB conference in Colchester in July. The AONB Chair had previously proposed Somerset to host the conference, most likely in 2021, so the Unit went as a factfinding mission to see the scope of the event.
- 2.2 The Colchester Declaration was the key documents that resulted from the conference. This document sees all the AONBs responding to the declared climate and wildlife emergency with key outcomes spread across the next 11 years. To see the Colchester Declaration please visit <https://www.mendiphillsaonb.org.uk/caring-about-the-aonb/the-mendip-hills-aonb-partnership/>

## **3.0 Taking the Lead**

- 3.1 The Taking the Lead programme, funded by the National Lottery, is developing AONB staff to make the sector more resilient. A series of Topic Working Group has been established by these staff. Jim Hardcastle has been on the External Communication group that focussed on Landscape for Life week September 21<sup>st</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>. To generate more press interest in

this the group coordinated a National Moment, at 2pm on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September AONB teams, Partnership members, residents and volunteers came together to form hearts in the landscape. The group pulled together all the video footage and imagery which was turned into a video <https://youtu.be/PKDjTPnDdjU> . The group also commissioned Simon Armitage the poet laureate to write a special poem 'Fugitives' based on our landscapes that formed the soundtrack of the video and promoted alongside it. The Glover Review was published on 21<sup>st</sup> September in a coordinated way that ensured national coverage.

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| Mendip Hills AONB Partnership Committee |                                           |          |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|----------|
| Committee meeting date:                 | 21 <sup>st</sup> November 2019            | Paper: C |
| Title:                                  | Coordinating Event Licensing in the AONB  |          |
| Presented by:                           | Jim Hardcastle, Mendip Hills AONB Manager |          |
| For discussion.                         |                                           |          |

## **1.0 Background**

1.1 On Saturday June 16<sup>th</sup> 2019 three large cycling events went through Blagdon, one lapped three times through the village. There has been an increase in the number of organised cycling events, 'the explosion in the number of sportives in the past decade or so' (Road.CC article 31/7/2019) has taken place across the country but we have no accurate way of knowing how many cycling events take place across the AONB or coordinating the timing of them.

1.2 The hills of the AONB are a clear draw for all sorts of cycling events. Sportives are generally between 50 and 100 miles meaning their routes enter different authority areas. Permits are issued by the relevant authority if the event is to use land owned by the local authority, this excludes the highway. If a permit is issued the onus is on the event organiser to inform other relevant bodies affected by the route but this is not mandatory.

1.3 The AONB Unit regularly receives calls and is spoken to in person concerning the impact of these events on the area, specifically the accumulative impact at weekends and the frequency. The AONB Management Plan is supportive of these events. Objective R2 and R4 state Support the development of tourism that benefits the local economy, conserves and enhances the landscape and improves understanding of the Mendip Hills and Support healthy lifestyles by encouraging more people to use the Mendip Hills for sustainable outdoor activities.

1.4 The AONB Unit has produced a guide for event organisers (<https://www.mendiphillsaonb.org.uk/faqs/>) that encourages them to inform the Unit of the dates, times and route in order that the event may go ahead successfully without clashing with other events and minimises the impact on the environment and community.

## **2.0 Proposal**

2.1 The Partnership is recommended to discuss this issue and suggest ways in which the local authorities and the AONB Unit can coordinate awareness and permissions of these events.

| Mendip Hills AONB Partnership Committee |                                               |          |
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| Committee meeting date:                 | 21 <sup>st</sup> November 2019                | Paper: D |
| Title:                                  | Mendip Hills AONB Officer Support Group (OSG) |          |
| Presented by:                           | Tom Lane, Natural England                     |          |
| To be noted.                            |                                               |          |

## **1.0 The AONB Unit**

1.1 Lauren Holt, the Unit's Ranger Volunteer Coordinator started on 1st July. There are three primary elements to her role; delivering the practical tasks that happen every Wednesday now, coordinating the effort of the Volunteer Rangers and running the Young Ranger programme. Lauren has settled in well, is well liked by the volunteers and bringing a new level of creativity to the role, afforded by the extra hours to this role. Of note is the Mendip Hills AONB Bake Off where Lauren organised the Unit into baking rock cakes for the volunteer rangers to judge.

1.2 The Support & Communication Officers role has been increased to full time hours until the end of the financial year. In this role Sarah Catling has proved essential in generating new income for the Mendip Hills Fund and Mendip Rocks! She is also developing other streams of income such as 'Donr' text giving service. The increase in hours is seen as an investment in future income generation, the extra costs this year are to be met from underspends and unallocated reserves.

## **2.0 Financial Update**

2.1 The current 4-year financial agreement with Defra is in its final year. Although a new agreement between Defra and the host authority (Somerset County Council) the Partnership has yet to be informed what the Defra grant will be next year or for another 4-year period. We are cautiously optimistic that the Glover Review will see a budget increase for AONBs.

2.2 While the local authorities would clearly welcome an increase in the amount from Defra this should form part of a new financial agreement that amends the current 75% from Defra and 25% from the local authorities. An increase in the amount that forms the 75% from Defra would unlikely to be matched by a rise from the local authorities.

## **3.0 Meetings**

3.1 Local authority officers are finding it increasingly difficult to attend the Officer Support Group due to increasing work demands. It has been

agreed that to achieve the necessary OSG administration for preparing Partnership papers and maintaining links to the local authorities that the OSG will meet twice per year prior to the March and November, two other dates will be held in reserve and that the AONB manager shall visit each local authority officer at least once per year.

DRAFT

| Mendip Hills AONB Partnership Committee |                                           |          |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|----------|
| Committee meeting date:                 | 21 <sup>st</sup> November 2019            | Paper: E |
| Title:                                  | AONB Update and Activity Plan 2019/20     |          |
| Presented by:                           | Jim Hardcastle, Mendip Hills AONB Manager |          |
| <b>To be noted.</b><br>The              |                                           |          |



## Mendip Hills AONB Unit – Partnership version 01/11/2019

### Activity Plan 2019-20

#### NAAONB Key Performance Indicators

1. **Landscapes for Wildlife (nature)** Hectares of land enhanced for nature through the work of AONB teams.
2. **Landscapes for People (wellbeing)** Number of people engaged through the work of AONB teams.
3. **Landscapes for Culture (history)** Number of Scheduled Monuments that have been protected through the work of the AONB team.

| 1. Conserve & Enhance           |                                                                                                                                               |      |                             |                    |            |                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                         |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|-----------------------------|--------------------|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Work Area                       | Action                                                                                                                                        | Lead | MGT Plan Obj.               | Delivery Plan ref. | NAAONB KPI | NE Action Plan Area                                            | Progress report                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | RAG (Red, Amber, Green) |
| Blackmoor Reserve and Deer Leap | Coordinate management plans and instigate works that conserve and enhance these sites, based around existing countryside stewardship schemes. | TH   | L1, L2, R1, LM2, P1, P2, P3 | 6.3.1              | 1, 2, 3    | Greener farming; (Resilient landscapes; Building partnerships) | <b>Management Agreement</b> between AONB Unit and SWHT now in place. Updated management Plans to be drafted by end of October'19.<br><br>Tesco Bags of Help funding bid submitted for £4K focussed on improving management at Blackmoor. | <b>Green</b>            |

|            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |    |                        |            |   |                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |              |
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|            | <p>Develop and install signage and boulders.</p> <p>Develop interpretation project plans and work with SWHT to deliver improvements.</p> <p>Develop bids to fund additional works outside the HLF project.</p> <p>JH investigate updating current stewardship agreement for Blackmoor.</p> |    |                        |            |   |                               | <p>Funding provided to SWHT by AONB Unit to install new stock proof fencing – now just at Deer Leap.</p> <p>Visitor count taken place at both sites and 1 x volunteer day on 15/05 at Blackmoor (access and walling).</p> <p><b>Blackmoor:</b></p> <p>Pond edge improvements – SSSI &amp; SM consent in place. Plan is to carry out work in autumn/winter 2019 using soft engineering coir roll solution.</p> <p>Dog poo / ASB campaign to be planned with LH and Volunteer Rangers to coincide with new signage.</p> <p>1 x school session led in August to control bracken. Walling work taken place on adjacent land – restoring 30m wall during 2019 so far.</p> <p>New signage and car park improvements to begin in Nov 19.</p> <p><b>Deer Leap:</b></p> <p>Brief sent to contractors and for re-fencing 705m of the northern boundary of Deer Leap reserve. LH has visited site with SWT to get advice on management. 2 x 'meadow management' volunteer task days held at reserve involving raking up cut grass and topping thistles.</p> |              |
| Mendip Way | Updating re-publishing the Mendip Way book - promoting responsible recreation and balancing with conserving the landscape, through joined-up initiatives.                                                                                                                                  | TH | R1, R2, R3, R4, P1, P2 | 4.1<br>4.2 | 2 | Connecting people with nature | <p>Opportunity for NSC s106 money to improve Uphill starting point.</p> <p>NSC will organise and pay for the design, production of panel and installation of structure, as well as new finger post from road signing The Mendip Way and public footpath.</p> <p>First draft received from NSC, amendments sent back to make this more of an eye-catching interpretation panel.</p> <p>AONB Unit to organise and pay for the oak frame for the panel – using West Mendip Way routed oak posts as the legs.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>Amber</b> |

|                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |    |                        |       |         |                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |              |
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|                    | Access and interpretation enhancements on the Mendip Way.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |    |                        |       |         |                                | <p>Aim to redo Mendip Way guide next financial year.</p> <p>TH met Bishops Palace in Wells (August) and linking in with new Tourism / Chamber of Commerce group in Wells.</p> <p>TH drafting simple signage directing people onto The Mendip Way at key gateways, e.g. King's Wood, Cheddar, Wells (in addition to start/end at Uphill).</p> <p>Cufic Lane sign approved.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |              |
| Limestone Link     | <p>Work with B&amp;NES and North Somerset PROW and Ramblers groups to fund and implement route improvements using data from surveys. Upgrade access furniture (replace stiles with gates or upgrade to high specification 2 step stiles with dog access)</p> <p>Install additional signage (e.g. along road and urban sections not covered by Rights of Way waymarkers)</p> <p>Identify solutions for crossing the twin brooks.</p> <p>Identify solution for permissive section Leaze Lane.</p> | TH | R1, R2, R3, R4, P1, P2 |       | 2       | Connecting people with nature  | <p>Next phase is to identify and programme improvements in the following order:</p> <p>Replace any remaining stiles with gates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Install new waymarker posts on road sections.</li> <li>-Steps or surfacing upgrades where needed.</li> <li>-Focus on Blackdown as Sheila Petherbridge (BANES Council) doesn't want us to improve the route (create steps on steep bank) at Prospect Stile.</li> </ul> <p>Working with Volunteer Ranger, Ian King.</p> <p>Adventure Types, has now walked and run the Limestone Link after being commissioned to promote route by the AONB Unit, articles in Trail Running Magazine and Great Outdoors in Aug/Sep.</p> | <b>Green</b> |
| Burrington Commons | Work with Langford Ct Estate and NE to identify management solutions,                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | JH | L1, BG1,               | 6.3.1 | 1, 2, 3 | Resilient landscapes; (Greener | <p>Bracken control carried out in June across approx. 2ha of the Ham over two work party days. Dealt with comms plan for re-spray of</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>Green</b> |

|                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                         |    |                                    |       |    |                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |              |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|------------------------------------|-------|----|----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
|                       | create and instigate the existing management plan. Produce proposal for LCE to financially support Ranger.                                                                                              |    | BG2, LM2                           |       |    | farming; Building partnerships)                          | bracken in August. Assisted with appointment of cotoneaster control contractors. Liaising between NSC Highways and landowner to ensure coordination of highways and tree works. Secured £1500 in funding to clear swallets out. Temporary signage put up in woodland to try to stop unofficial coppicing and cutting of trees in sensitive area for protected dormice – linking with PTES. Looking at installing road signage at either at of the Combe.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |              |
| Chew Valley Catchment | Work with Natural Processes to improve water quality and reduce flood risk (NFM) by assessing watercourses and adjacent land use and tackle failures under Water Framework Directive (i.e. Chew Valley) | TH | N1, N2, N3, L1, LM1, LM2, BG3, BG6 | 5.2.2 | 1  | Greener farming; (Building partnerships)                 | Scoping project led by Bristol Avon Rivers Trust delivering landowner engagement and feasibility work completed and report produced identifying most important sites for action. Support gained from Bristol Water to fund second phase of catchment project. £2K of funding from AONB Unit between August 2019 and March 2020 will be matched with £3K from Bristol Water. This will enable BART to further investigate issues identified in the scoping assessment and start engaging with landowners, and draw up solutions at selected sites with feed back in a recommendations report, along with next steps. AONB Unit has also joined a wider Mendip Lakes Partnership approach with Natural England. The BART Phase II project and this wider partnership working should help to lever in more funding to deliver improvements on the ground working with farmers to reduce sediment and phosphate levels in the watercourse and improve water quality for people and wildlife. | <b>Green</b> |
| Visitor Counters      | Instigate a programme of regularly downloading visitor counter data, fund and install new counters,                                                                                                     | TH | P3                                 | 4.2.3 | NA | (Connecting people with nature; Sustainable development; | 'The Big Visitor Count' took place on Sat 4 <sup>th</sup> May with the no. of visits counted at 16 locations across the AONB during 4 hours. Total number of visits recorded = 2,589. Ensure priority counters are serviced and working and look at other tools (e.g. Strava,                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>Amber</b> |

|                    | seek data from other sources.                       |      |              |                    |            | Building partnerships)          | ORVal and partner car parking and visitor counter data).<br>Land Management Working Group set up for 9 <sup>th</sup> September'19 which will discuss, amongst other agenda items, sharing partner visitor counter/car parking data with the AONB Unit. Site visit arranged with Linetop for November'19 and work underway to identify priority counters to re-install and other datasets to use. Research volunteer role profile also created for Kelly and all counters now visited / collected up and tested (4 out of 15 still work). Plan to focus on 10 key sites for new counters. |                         |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|------|--------------|--------------------|------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 2. Raise Awareness |                                                     |      |              |                    |            |                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                         |
| Work Area          | Action                                              | Lead | MGT Plan Obj | Delivery Plan ref. | NAAONB KPI | NE Action Plan Area             | Progress report                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | RAG (Red, Amber, Green) |
| Special Qualities  | Monthly blog and social media focussing on each SQ. | SC   | L3           | 1.1                | 2          | Connecting people with nature   | Planned & being monitored via links to SQ page on website.<br>Jan – 96<br>Feb – 125<br>Mar – 202<br>April – 104<br>May – 163<br>Jun – 131<br>Jul – 107<br>Aug – 115<br>Sep – 104<br>Oct – 89<br><b>Total – 1236</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>Green</b>            |
|                    | Produce and interactive game based on SQ.           | SC   | L3           | 1.1                | 2          | (Connecting people with nature) | Planned & written. Needs designing now. Met with Arien Signs 5/6.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>Amber</b>            |

|                                      |                                                                                                                                                            |         |              |       |     |                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |              |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|--------------|-------|-----|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
|                                      | Rebrand walk guides with SQ theme.                                                                                                                         | SC      | L3           | 4.1.1 |     | Connecting people with nature                          | LH revisiting current routes.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>Red</b>   |
| Mendip Rocks!                        | Work with SESC & Mendip Society to organise a programme of events aimed at family groups and people with geological interests during August and September. | JH      | BG5, BG6, P3 | 8.3.1 | N/A | Connecting people with nature; (Building partnerships) | 25+ events planned 10 Aug-20 Oct<br>Main family events attendance:<br>10 August – It's a Blast, c100<br>21 August – Fossil Funday, c150<br>28 August – Burrington Combe, c100<br>20 October – Explore Ebbor, c284                                                              | <b>Green</b> |
|                                      | Promote the programme to achieve more visitors and more income than 2019.                                                                                  | SC      | BG5, BG6, P3 | 8.3.1 | 2   | Connecting people with nature                          | (1,037 in 2016, 1,100 in 2017, 1250 in 2018). (£1450.53 in 2016 to £1,587 in 2017, £2567.29 in 2018)<br><b>Mendip Rocks Facebook Likes:</b><br>Apr – 235 (+4)<br>May – 235 (0)<br>Jun – 238 (+3)<br>Jul – 348 (+110)<br>Aug – 478 (+130)<br>Sep – 526 (+48)<br>Oct – 542 (+16) | <b>Green</b> |
|                                      | Develop STEM and creative input for 2020, supported via funding bids.                                                                                      | TH / JH | BG5, BG6, P3 | 8.3.1 | N/A | (Connecting people with nature)                        | STEM-related funding streams researched and on Basecamp. Project brief being put together to seek quote for a range of lesson plans for teachers and YRs linked to special qualities.                                                                                          | <b>Red</b>   |
| Top of the Gorge Festival 14-16 June | Represent the AONB Unit on the steering group run by the National Trust and support the publicity of the event                                             | JH      | R2, R4       | 8.3.1 | N/A | (Connecting people with nature; Building partnerships) |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>Green</b> |
|                                      | Organise more local children from more schools to sample rock sports in the gorge on 14 June.                                                              | JH      | R2, R4       | 8.3.1 | 2   | Connecting people with nature                          | 4 schools attended, 5 teams, 61 children. Won by Cheddar First School, trophy presented 4/7.                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>Green</b> |

|                           |                                                                                                                                               |    |                    |     |     |                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |       |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|--------------------|-----|-----|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Mendip Environment Centre | Work with Yeo Valley and other stakeholders to create a 'Mendip Environment Centre' in Burrington Combe.                                      | JH | R2                 | 1.2 | NA  | Connecting people with nature; (Building partnerships) | Work with Yeo Valley to progress their plans.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Green |
| MHAONB Website            | Increase visitor traffic from 38604 Users & 47141 sessions to 42000 Users & 55000 sessions on AONB website.<br>Increase traffic to sub-sites. | SC | L3, H2, R2, N1, P3 | 1.1 | N/A | Connecting people with nature                          | <p><b>Main Website</b><br/> 2018: Users 38,604/Sessions 47,141<br/> Apr – Users 4,069/Sessions 5,180<br/> May – Users 4,484/Sessions 5,720<br/> Jun – Users 3,734/Sessions 4,530<br/> Jul – Users 3,809/Sessions 4,685<br/> Aug – Users 4,430/Sessions 5,597<br/> Sep – Users 3,201/Sessions 4,082<br/> Oct – Users 2,655/Sessions 3,318<br/> <b>Total – Users 26,382/Sessions 33,112</b></p> <p><b>Black Down</b><br/> 2018: Users 1,555/Sessions 1,671<br/> Apr – Users 40/Sessions 42<br/> May – Users 102/Sessions 114<br/> Jun – Users 52/Sessions 58<br/> Jul – Users 60/Sessions 72<br/> Aug – Users 47/Sessions 53<br/> Sep – Users 71/Sessions 79<br/> Oct – Users 59/Sessions 72<br/> <b>Total – Users 431/Sessions 490</b></p> <p><b>Learning Zone</b><br/> 2018: Users 2,231/Sessions 2,291<br/> Apr – Users 43/Sessions 44<br/> May – Users 187/Sessions 192<br/> Jun – Users 154/Sessions 161<br/> Jul – Users 145/Sessions 152<br/> Aug – Users 103/Sessions 109<br/> Sep – Users 78/Sessions 80<br/> Oct – Users 166/Sessions 174<br/> <b>Total – Users 876/Sessions 912</b></p> | Amber |

|              |                                       |     |                    |     |     |                               |                                                                                                                                                                        |              |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|-----|--------------------|-----|-----|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Social media | Achieve 3000 followers on Twitter     | ALL | L3, H2, R2, N1, P3 | 1.1 | N/A | Connecting people with nature | 2018 – 2,636<br>Apr – 2,667 (+31)<br>May – 2,692 (+25)<br>Jun – 2,718 (+26)<br>Jul – 2,747 (+29)<br>Aug – 2,771 (+24)<br>Sep – 2,786 (+15)<br>Oct – 2,812 (+26)        | <b>Amber</b> |
|              | Achieve 2500 likes on Facebook        | ALL | L3, H2, R2, N1, P3 | 1.1 | N/A | Connecting people with nature | 2018 – 2,186<br>Apr – 2,278 (+92)<br>May – 2,338 (+60)<br>Jun – 2,390 (+52)<br>Jul – 2,421 (+31)<br>Aug – 2,463 (+42)<br>Sep – 2,499 (+36)<br>Oct – 2,534 (+35)        | <b>Green</b> |
|              | Achieve 7000 views on YouTube channel | ALL | L3, H2, R2, N1, P3 | 1.1 | N/A | Connecting people with nature | 2018 – 5,562<br>Apr – 5,826 (+264)<br>May – 6,097 (+271)<br>Jun – 6,402 (+305)<br>Jul – 6,570 (+168)<br>Aug – 6,821 (+251)<br>Sep – 6,925 (+104)<br>Oct – 7,063 (+138) | <b>Green</b> |
|              | Achieve 1200 followers on Instagram   | ALL | L3, H2, R2, N1, P3 | 1.1 | N/A | Connecting people with nature | 2018 – 905<br>Apr – 967 (+62)<br>May – 1,042 (+75)<br>Jun – 1,081 (+39)<br>Jul – 1,124 (+43)<br>Aug – 1,161 (+37)<br>Sep – 1,181 (+20)<br>Oct – 1,227 (+46)            | <b>Green</b> |

| Enewsletters                | Distribute a minimum of 24 newsletters (12 to the public list, 12 to the Partnership list)          | JH     | L3, H2, R2, N1, P3 | 1.1                | 2          | Connecting people with nature                    | Apr – 2 /Partnership – 0<br>May – 3/Partnership – 2<br>Jun – 1/Partnership – 1/Volunteers - 1<br>Jul – 0/Partnership – 3/Volunteers – 2<br>Aug – 2/Partnership – 1/Volunteers – 2<br>Sep – 2/Partnership – 1/MHF – 1<br>Oct – 1/Partnership – 1/Volunteers – 1 | <b>Green</b>            |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------------------|--------------------|------------|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
|                             | Achieve 800 on the newsletter database                                                              | ALL    | L3, H2, R2, N1, P3 | 1.1                | N/A        | Connecting people with nature                    | 2018 – 522<br>Apr – 529 (+7)<br>May – 552 (+23)<br>Jun – 634 (+82) <b>Volunteers added</b><br>Jul – 658 (+24)<br>Aug – 685 (+27)<br>Sep – 698 (+13)<br>Oct – 705 (+7)                                                                                          | <b>Amber</b>            |
| Talks & other opportunities | Deliver 7 talks & attend relevant events                                                            | JH, TH | L3, H2, R2, N1, P3 | 1.1                | 2          | Connecting people with nature                    | Blagdon PC – 24/4/19<br>RUH Nurses Alumni – 23/9/19 27<br>Blagdon Environment Group 1/10/19 30<br>RGS 6/11/19<br>CPRE SM Trg – 29/11/19<br>Mendip Farm Womens Grp – 14/11/19<br>Clevedon Civic Soc – 14/11/19<br>[Somerset Geology Group meeting – 30/09/19]   | <b>Green</b>            |
| <b>3. Planning</b>          |                                                                                                     |        |                    |                    |            |                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                         |
| Work Area                   | Action                                                                                              | Lead   | MGT Plan Obj       | Delivery Plan ref. | NAAONB KPI | NE Action Plan Area                              | Progress report                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | RAG (Red, Amber, Green) |
| Planning liaison            | Liaison with LPAs and other consultees on development management and policy (strategies and plans). | CC     | D1, D4             | 1.1                | N/A        | Sustainable development; (Building partnerships) | 77 planning applications, 9 policy consultations                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                         |
|                             | Two newsletters to planning managers (DM &                                                          | CC     | D1, D4             | 1.1                | N/A        | (Sustainable development; connecting             | 1 issued in July.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>Amber</b>            |

|                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |    |           |     |     |                                                          |                                                                                                        |              |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|-----------|-----|-----|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
|                                   | policy) & planning officers.<br>June & January                                                                                                                                                                                       |    |           |     |     | people with<br>nature)                                   |                                                                                                        |              |
|                                   | GIS workspace to support<br>the review of planning<br>matters & applications                                                                                                                                                         | CC | D4        | 5.1 | N/A | Sustainable<br>development                               | Workspace created, GIS work experience<br>student in place for 4 months.                               | <b>Green</b> |
| Landscape<br>Planning<br>Guidance | Development of paid<br>service for Pre-application<br>advice from the AONB Unit<br>in conjunction with Local<br>Planning Authorities.                                                                                                | CC | D1,<br>D4 | 7.1 | N/A | Sustainable<br>development                               | On hold due to planning application demand.                                                            | <b>Red</b>   |
|                                   | Produce updated<br>Landscape Character<br>Assessment guidance.                                                                                                                                                                       | CC | D1,<br>D4 | 7.1 | N/A | Sustainable<br>development                               | On hold due to planning application demand.                                                            | <b>Red</b>   |
|                                   | Sustaining Landscape<br>Character within the<br>Mendip Hills AONB –<br>guidance doc to support<br>planning officers on the<br>landscape character areas<br>& special qualities within<br>those areas and planning<br>considerations. | CC | D1,<br>D4 | 7.1 | N/A | Sustainable<br>development;<br>(Resilient<br>landscapes) | On hold due to planning application demand.                                                            | <b>Red</b>   |
| Applications                      | Update planning protocol<br>to reflect what applications<br>we would want to be<br>consulted on.                                                                                                                                     | CC | D1        | 7.2 | N/A | Sustainable<br>development                               | To be addressed later this year.                                                                       | <b>Red</b>   |
| Regional                          | Liaise with other AONB<br>planners and partner<br>organisations.                                                                                                                                                                     | CC | D1,<br>D4 | N/A | 2   | Building<br>partnerships;<br>(Sustainable<br>development | Ongoing                                                                                                |              |
| Training                          | Develop a training<br>programme for planners on<br>LVIAs in November.                                                                                                                                                                | CC | D4,<br>P2 | 1.1 | 2   | Sustainable<br>development;                              | Training on LVIAs scheduled for 3/12/19,<br>delivered with QHAONB and BHAONB. 24<br>bookings received. | <b>Amber</b> |

|                                 |                                                                                                                                                                      |             |                     |                           |                   | (Building partnerships)         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>4. Involve the Community</b> |                                                                                                                                                                      |             |                     |                           |                   |                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                |
| <b>Work Area</b>                | <b>Action</b>                                                                                                                                                        | <b>Lead</b> | <b>MGT Plan Obj</b> | <b>Delivery Plan ref.</b> | <b>NAAONB KPI</b> | <b>NE Action Plan Area</b>      | <b>Progress report</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>RAG (Red, Amber, Green)</b> |
| Volunteer Rangers               | Implement a development plan to enhance numbers, kit/equipment, communication and involvement in AONB work. Submit funding bids and seek sponsorship to enable this. | TH          | P1, P2              | 8.1                       | 2                 | (Connecting people with nature) | Development Plan drafted. Further kit and tools/PPE have been ordered. Awaiting funding outcome from Tesco Bags of Help. TH working with LH to look into any other volunteer requirements and funding opportunities. Tesco bid application has been paused by Groundwork due to backlog of their applications.                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>Amber</b>                   |
|                                 | Produce and deliver a plan to create the Mendip Shed.                                                                                                                | TH          | P1, P2              | 8.1                       | 2                 | Connecting people with nature   | Mendip Shed has been secured. Details to be finalised before other announcements made.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>Green</b>                   |
|                                 | Produce and deliver a plan to develop the induction process, database and progression                                                                                | JH          | P1, P2              | 8.1                       | 2                 | (Connecting people with nature) | TH and LH met with SCC Volunteer leads to look into moving volunteer database onto Sharepoint. As well as volunteer details, the system should also show their role profiles and highlight the competencies required and when training is due to avoid expiry of certificates, etc. The four core competency training dates have also been set (now five). Induction process and application/agreement forms have also been reviewed and improved with SCC support. H&S / RA process is also being reviewed with SCC. | <b>Green</b>                   |
|                                 | Plan and deliver the rota of site visits, meetings and social gatherings                                                                                             | LH          | P1, P2, R4          | 8.1                       | 2                 | (Connecting people with nature) | Ongoing                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>Green</b>                   |

|                                    |                                                                                               |       |            |            |      |                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |              |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|------------|------------|------|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
|                                    | Create a walks programme, >4 walks, delivered by volunteers.                                  | JH    | P1, P2, R4 | 1.1        | 2    | Connecting people with nature                             | 2 x Easter walks (28 attended)<br>2 x Roman themed walks 24/8/19 (35 attended)<br>1 x WsM U3A (22 attended)<br>1 x Cave Walk (16 booked)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>Green</b> |
| Drystone wall rebuild.             | Identify vulnerable walls from GIS to target and monitor.                                     | TH/LH | P1, P3     | 2.2.1, 3.1 | 1, 3 | Resilient landscapes                                      | GIS layer now up and running and working to identify key locations and plan these into schedule after liaising with landowners and partners.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>Green</b> |
|                                    | Train 10 volunteers via DSWA                                                                  | TH    | P1, P3     | 2.2.1      | 2    | (Connecting people with nature)                           | 19 volunteers trained by DSWA in May and June on 2 x 2 day training courses.<br>7 volunteers entered Mendip Ploughing Match walling competition securing 1 <sup>st</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> place in the walling match.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>Green</b> |
|                                    | Restore 100m drystone wall via 2 x monthly practical tasks.                                   | TH    | P1, P3     | 2.2.1, 3.1 | 1, 3 | Resilient landscapes                                      | c.30m restored so far in 2019 – needs mapping onto GIS.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>Green</b> |
| Produce volunteer procedure policy | Volunteer handbook                                                                            | TH    | P1, P2, P3 | 8.1        | 2    | (Connecting people with nature)                           | Using SCC Volunteer Policies and Guidelines document.<br>Volunteer Role Profiles have been produced for 4 key roles – Volunteer Ranger (updated), Practical Conservation Volunteer, Research & Support Volunteer and a Young Ranger Assistant Volunteer. Also to be produced when required will be an Estates Volunteer role. We are working to align ourselves better with SCC policies and procedures (i.e. Sharepoint, safeguarding and B-Safe) to ensure safe and compliant working practices.<br>Volunteer Handbook has now been fully drafted and sent to the designer to be ready by early November'19. | <b>Amber</b> |
| Practical Task Volunteers          | Maintain a programme of fortnightly tasks focussed around the special qualities. Start weekly | TH/LH | P1, P2, L2 | 2.2, 4.2   | 1, 2 | Connecting people with nature;<br>(Building partnerships) | 2018 = 4063 volunteer hours (includes volunteer rangers, practical tasks and specials)<br>2019 to date, 2921<br>LH now leading weekly practical task sessions with TH supporting.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>Green</b> |

|                          |                                                                                                                                       |     |                             |       |         |                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |              |
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|                          | sessions including weekend tasks.                                                                                                     |     |                             |       |         |                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |              |
| Young Rangers & Advanced | Maintain and promote the 2017-19 Young Ranger programme with activities aimed at creating environmental decision makers of the future | ALL | P1, P2, L2                  | 8.1   | 2       | Connecting people with nature                            | Successful trip to Estonia for International Junior Ranger Camp and press release issued and blog uploaded to AONB website. BBQ and final camp for 2017 cohort delivered successfully on 20/21 July with 11 Young Rangers in attendance. John Muir Award will be applied to once all info in from YRs. New 2019 cohort initial meet and induction completed, including paperwork. Initial schedule of dates now planned for 2019-2021. LH finalising locations and linking this into a strategic programme and curriculum linked to the John Muir Award and AONB special qualities.    | <b>Green</b> |
| Natural Capital          | GIS mapping of people's views, priorities and memories of the landscape.                                                              | TH  | H1, H2, N1, L4, D4, P2, BG4 | 3.2.2 | 2       | Sustainable development; (Connecting people with nature) | Meeting needs re-scheduling with Natural England contact as they postponed. NE invited us to trial and respond to their online GIS programme – TH has provided feedback. It is hoped that we can start using this system on our website once the final version is launched. Nature Recovery Plan needs to be in place by July 2020 as per the Colchester Declaration – meetings being held and data sought with SERC and BRERC and WENP to get data including ecological mapping and NRN maps. Linking development of this in with the Land Management and Biodiversity working group. | <b>Amber</b> |
| Mendip Hills Fund        | Achieve donations of >£15000                                                                                                          | JH  | P2, P3                      | 8.4   | 1, 2, 3 | Connecting people with nature; (Resilient landscapes)    | Donations 1/9/18-31/8/19 - £13,554.34<br>£12,000 available to be awarded Dec 2019                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>Amber</b> |
|                          | Promote the fund regularly via social media and other outlets                                                                         | SC  | P2, P3                      | 8.4   | NA      | Connecting people with nature                            | <b>Facebook likes:</b> 2018 – 220<br>Apr – 227 (+7)<br>May – 227 (0)<br>Jun – 232 (+5)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>Amber</b> |

|                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |    |                    |       |   |                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |              |
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|                    | Achieve 200 likes on Facebook.<br>Create and distribute targeted material to sign up 3 x events and 5 x business supporters.                                                                                                                                                |    |                    |       |   |                                                           | <p>Jul – 234 (+2)<br/>Aug – 240 (+6)<br/>Sep – 246 (+6)<br/>Oct – 251 (+5)</p> <p>Explore wooden collection pots for use at events and shops as an alternative to badge boxes.<br/>New badge boxes to be printed.<br/>School grant recipients targeted for fundraising, JH to attend Chewton Mendip school assembly, date to be set for Autumn term. Banwell School approached, Jo Arnold to confirm.<br/>Cheddar First School to respond.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |              |
|                    | Administer the panel to meet in November and March                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | JH | P2, P3             | 8.4   | 2 | (Building partnerships)                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>Green</b> |
| Nature & Wellbeing | Work with SWT and other partners to develop a bid to support work with groups and individuals with mental health conditions and special educational needs to deliver activities focussed on improving people's health and wellbeing through contact with nature / landscape | TH | P1, P2, L3, R4, N1 | 8.2.2 | 2 | Connecting people with nature;<br>(Building partnerships) | <p>Ongoing. Due to submit in winter although budget and match funding requirements are currently too high and there is potential that our part of the project (c.£80K) may need to be removed – phone meeting with other AONBs scheduled for 16 July. We are still part of the bid and all looking for match funding and ways to reduce costs. TH has made suggestions and is looking into match funding – primarily via National Grid. Various phone meetings have been held with Somerset WT and Blackdown and Quantock AONBs, and another meeting is scheduled to finalise Stage 1 application to the National Lottery Community Fund on 11<sup>th</sup> September. Fed back on Stage 1 draft on 14<sup>th</sup> October to include more of a Mendip focus and proposal has been re-written to include this and the partnership more accurately. Due to submit to the National Lottery before end of October'19 (stage 1).</p> | <b>Amber</b> |

|                                                                 |                                                                                         |      |              |                    |             |                                                      | <p>TH also drafted proposal to submit to funders to work with local provider Osprey Outdoors on this larger project, or a smaller stand-alone project, and we are awaiting their comments and added data/evidence to support funding bids.</p> <p>All current and potential future nature and wellbeing projects have been listed on Basecamp for clarity and to ensure we are not committing to too much without funding coming in to support. New activities in the autumn will be linking up with Young Carers from Wells and a new baby carrying service in Cheddar. Work with the Discovery Group and Greenhill Care Home is ongoing with 4 bird and bug boxes produced for their grounds.</p> <p>One 'memory walk' session has also been run for the Heads Up group - 15 people with dementia from Wells. Dates set for a Baby Carrying Walk and a Young Carers session – to be led by Lauren and Kristen/Tim.</p> |                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|--------------|--------------------|-------------|------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>5. Partnership, Management, Regional &amp; National Work</b> |                                                                                         |      |              |                    |             |                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                         |
| Work Area                                                       | Action                                                                                  | Lead | MGT Plan Obj | Delivery Plan ref. | NAAON B KPI | NE Action Plan Area                                  | Progress report                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | RAG (Red, Amber, Green) |
| Partnership                                                     | Administer 2 x meetings per year minimum.                                               | JH   | ALL          | N/A                | N/A         | Connecting people with nature; Building partnerships | On track.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>Amber</b>            |
| OSG                                                             | Administer 4 x meetings per year minimum                                                | JH   | ALL          | N/A                | N/A         | Building partnerships                                | LA officers over burdened and unable to attend on a regular basis.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>Red</b>              |
| Regional representation                                         | Actively participate in regional and Somerset wide environmental partnerships that will | ALL  | ALL          | N/A                | N/A         | Building partnerships                                | Somerset LNP re-established, West of England LNP engaged with.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>Amber</b>            |

|                         |                                                                            |     |     |     |     |                       |                                                                                                                                           |              |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
|                         | benefit the Mendip Hills and protected landscapes                          |     |     |     |     |                       |                                                                                                                                           |              |
| National representation | Attend NAAONB meetings, contribute to responses, forums and communications | ALL | ALL | N/A | N/A | Building partnerships | National conference attended. JH part of External Comms Topic Working Group focussing on Landscape for Life week and the National Moment. | <b>Green</b> |
| AONB Unit               | Create activity plan for Unit and individuals                              | ALL | ALL | N/A | N/A | Building partnerships |                                                                                                                                           |              |

#### Management Plan Review – Objectives/Policies

##### **Landscape Quality Objectives:**

L1 Promote appropriate management to ensure that the distinctive Mendip Hills AONB landscape is maintained and enhanced

L2 Provide opportunities to acquire and develop skills required to care for and promote the landscape and its special qualities.

L3 Increase awareness and appreciation of the purposes of designation and the special qualities of the AONB

L4 Increase awareness of the benefits of supporting local products and services that help conserve and enhance the landscape.

##### **Biodiversity and Geodiversity Objectives:**

BG1 Ensure that there is no net loss of characteristic habitats and species.

BG2 Promote a landscape scale approach to the conservation and expansion of coherent and resilient ecological networks within and adjoining the AONB.

BG3 Increase monitoring and awareness of the biodiversity resource of the Mendip Hills AONB so that it is sufficiently understood to continue to guide the successful conservation of the characteristic habitats and species.

BG4 Promote a holistic approach to implementing AONB Management Plan objectives, National Character Area Statements of Opportunity and a locally designated Nature Improvement Area's objectives

BG5 Recognise and celebrate geological sites and features of the Mendip Hills AONB to ensure the successful conservation both of the geology and wildlife habitat they provide.

BG6 Increase awareness of the Mendip Hills geology, particularly cave systems in relation to the importance they play in water management and water supply.

##### **Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage objectives;**

H1 Improve the recording, interpretation and understanding of all aspects of the AONBs historic environment to ensure local communities and visitors enjoy a rich experience of the sense of place.

H2 Increase awareness and communicate the significance of the high quality historic environment of the Mendip Hills AONB

H3 Promote appropriate management of sites, structures and landscapes designated for their international, national, regional or local importance in the historic environment to ensure no further loss of heritage assets.

**Recreation, Access and Tourism objectives:**

R1 Maintain, improve and promote public access and quiet recreational activities with measures to ensure access for all in accordance with the purposes of AONB designation.

R2 Support the development of tourism and day visits that benefits the local economy, conserves and enhances the landscape and improves understanding of the Mendip Hills.

R3 Develop and promote more sustainable methods of travel to and around the AONB for enjoyment and recreation.

R4 Support healthy lifestyles by encouraging more people to use the Mendip Hills for sustainable outdoor activities.

**Natural Resources objectives:**

N1 Recognise and promote the benefits and relevance of the AONB as a valuable source of ecosystem services, economic and health benefits.

N2 Promote conservation of water resources and enhance their quality taking measures to reduce low flows and flooding by appropriate management and use.

N3 Promote sustainable management of soils in accordance with best practice to minimise erosion and water pollution and maximise resilience to drought.

**Land Management objectives:**

LMI Support sustainable farming to ensure it remains as the principle land use and contributes to maintaining the special qualities of the AONB.

LM2 Support and promote rural land management that conserves and enhances natural resources, including biodiversity, landscape character the historic environment and aids public awareness and enjoyment of the Mendip Hills AONB.

LM3 Promote a sustainable woodland economy that enhances the Mendip Hills AONB woodlands and wider landscape with targeted woodland management and creation in appropriate locations supporting wood fuel and local community opportunities.

LM4 Influence the use, restoration and after use of all quarries to minimise the impact on the landscape and to be compatible with the purposes of designation.

**Development and Transport Objectives:**

D1 Working with the local planning authorities, ensure that development in the AONB and its setting is of a nature, scale, location and design that meets community need without compromising the special qualities of the Mendip Hills AONB.

D2 Working with the local highways authorities, ensure that the special qualities of the AONB are fully respected in the planning, design, provision and management of all types of transport and associated infrastructure.

D3 Encourage reduction in Carbon emissions within the AONB through reducing energy consumption, applying energy conservation measures, encouraging more sustainable patterns of development, and utilising renewable energy generation technologies that are of an appropriate type and scale for their siting.

D4 Ensure issues of importance for the management of the AONB landscape are fully reflected in strategies and plans produced by other agencies and local communities.

**Participation objectives:**

P1 Increase the opportunities for volunteering and the range of people participating, to benefit the environment, peoples health and well being and local communities in and around the AONB.

P2 Encourage the involvement of local people and the wider community in the management of the AONB

P3 Promote the Mendip Hills as an educational resource for all ages and encourage sharing of research and learning tools.

| Mendip Hills AONB Partnership Committee |                                           |          |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|----------|
| Committee meeting date:                 | 21 <sup>st</sup> November 2019            | Paper: F |
| Title:                                  | Activity Plan and Budget 2020/21          |          |
| Presented by:                           | Jim Hardcastle, Mendip Hills AONB Manager |          |
| To be approved.<br>The                  |                                           |          |



## Mendip Hills AONB Unit

### Activity Plan 2020-21

#### NAAONB Key Performance Indicators

4. **Landscapes for Wildlife (nature)** Hectares of land enhanced for nature through the work of AONB teams.
5. **Landscapes for People (wellbeing)** Number of people engaged through the work of AONB teams.
6. **Landscapes for Culture (history)** Number of Scheduled Monuments that have been protected through the work of the AONB team.

| 6. Conserve & Enhance           |                                                                                                                                               |      |                             |                    |            |                                                                |                 |                         |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|-----------------------------|--------------------|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Work Area                       | Action                                                                                                                                        | Lead | MGT Plan Obj.               | Delivery Plan ref. | NAAONB KPI | NE Action Plan Area                                            | Progress report | RAG (Red, Amber, Green) |
| Blackmoor Reserve and Deer Leap | Coordinate management plans and instigate works that conserve and enhance these sites, based around existing countryside stewardship schemes. | TH   | L1, L2, R1, LM2, P1, P2, P3 | 6.3.1              | 1, 2, 3    | Greener farming; (Resilient landscapes; Building partnerships) |                 |                         |

|                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |    |                                       |            |         |                                                                      |  |  |
|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|---------------------------------------|------------|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|
|                    | Develop interpretation project plans and work with SWHT to deliver improvements.<br>Develop bids to fund additional works outside the HLF project.                                                                         |    |                                       |            |         |                                                                      |  |  |
| Mendip Way         | Updating re-publishing the Mendip Way book - promoting responsible recreation and balancing with conserving the landscape, through joined-up initiatives.<br><br>Access and interpretation enhancements on the Mendip Way. | TH | R1,<br>R2,<br>R3,<br>R4,<br>P1,<br>P2 | 4.1<br>4.2 | 2       | Connecting people with nature                                        |  |  |
| Limestone Link     | Improve signage at start/end                                                                                                                                                                                               | TH | R1,<br>R2,<br>R3,<br>R4,<br>P1,<br>P2 |            | 2       | Connecting people with nature                                        |  |  |
| Burrington Commons | Work with Langford Ct Estate and NE to identify management solutions, create and instigate the existing management plan.                                                                                                   | JH | L1,<br>BG1,<br>BG2,<br>LM2            | 6.3.1      | 1, 2, 3 | Resilient landscapes;<br>(Greener farming;<br>Building partnerships) |  |  |

| Chew Valley Catchment     | Work with natural processes to improve water quality and reduce flood risk (NFM) by assessing watercourses and adjacent land use and tackle failures under Water Framework Directive (i.e. Chew Valley) | TH   | N1, N2, N3, L1, LM1, LM2, BG3, BG6 | 5.2.2              | 1          | Greener farming; (Building partnerships)                                        |                                                                                                      |                         |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|------------------------------------|--------------------|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Counting on Mendip        | Instigate a programme of regularly downloading visitor counter data, fund and install new counters, seek data from other sources.                                                                       | TH   | P3                                 | 4.2.3              | NA         | (Connecting people with nature; Sustainable development; Building partnerships) |                                                                                                      |                         |
| <b>7. Raise Awareness</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                         |      |                                    |                    |            |                                                                                 |                                                                                                      |                         |
| Work Area                 | Action                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Lead | MGT Plan Obj                       | Delivery Plan ref. | NAAONB KPI | NE Action Plan Area                                                             | Progress report                                                                                      | RAG (Red, Amber, Green) |
| Special Qualities         | Rebrand walk guides with SQ theme.                                                                                                                                                                      | SC   | L3                                 | 4.1.1              |            | Connecting people with nature                                                   |                                                                                                      |                         |
| Mendip Rocks!             | Work with SESC & Mendip Society to organise a programme of events aimed at family groups and people with geological interests during August and September.                                              | JH   | BG5, BG6, P3                       | 8.3.1              | N/A        | Connecting people with nature; (Building partnerships)                          |                                                                                                      |                         |
|                           | Promote the programme to achieve more visitors and more income than 2019.                                                                                                                               | SC   | BG5, BG6, P3                       | 8.3.1              | 2          | Connecting people with nature                                                   | (1,037 in 2016, 1,100 in 2017, 1250 in 2018). (£1450.53 in 2016 to £1,587 in 2017, £2567.29 in 2018) |                         |

|                           |                                                                                                                |         |                    |       |     |                                                        |  |  |
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|                           |                                                                                                                |         |                    |       |     |                                                        |  |  |
|                           | Develop STEM and creative input for 2020, supported via funding bids.                                          | TH / JH | BG5, BG6, P3       | 8.3.1 | N/A | (Connecting people with nature)                        |  |  |
| Top of the Gorge Festival | Represent the AONB Unit on the steering group run by the National Trust and support the publicity of the event | JH      | R2, R4             | 8.3.1 | N/A | (Connecting people with nature; Building partnerships) |  |  |
|                           | Organise more local children from more schools to sample rock sports in the gorge.                             | JH      | R2, R4             | 8.3.1 | 2   | Connecting people with nature                          |  |  |
| Mendip Environment Centre | Work with Yeo Valley and other stakeholders to create a 'Mendip Environment Centre' in Burrington Combe.       | JH      | R2                 | 1.2   | NA  | Connecting people with nature; (Building partnerships) |  |  |
| MHAONB Website            | Increase visitor traffic TO 45000 Users & 60000 sessions on AONB website. Increase traffic to sub-sites.       | SC      | L3, H2, R2, N1, P3 | 1.1   | N/A | Connecting people with nature                          |  |  |
| Social media              | Achieve 3000 followers on Twitter                                                                              | ALL     | L3, H2, R2, N1, P3 | 1.1   | N/A | Connecting people with nature                          |  |  |

|                             |                                                                                            |           |                                |     |     |                               |  |  |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|-----|-----|-------------------------------|--|--|
|                             | Achieve 3000 likes on Facebook                                                             | ALL       | L3,<br>H2,<br>R2,<br>N1,<br>P3 | 1.1 | N/A | Connecting people with nature |  |  |
|                             | Achieve 9000 views on YouTube channel                                                      | ALL       | L3,<br>H2,<br>R2,<br>N1,<br>P3 | 1.1 | N/A | Connecting people with nature |  |  |
|                             | Achieve 1600 followers on Instagram                                                        | ALL       | L3,<br>H2,<br>R2,<br>N1,<br>P3 | 1.1 | N/A | Connecting people with nature |  |  |
| Enewsletters                | Distribute a minimum of 24 newsletters (12 to the public list, 12 to the Partnership list) | JH        | L3,<br>H2,<br>R2,<br>N1,<br>P3 | 1.1 | 2   | Connecting people with nature |  |  |
|                             | Achieve 1000 on the newsletter database                                                    | ALL       | L3,<br>H2,<br>R2,<br>N1,<br>P3 | 1.1 | N/A | Connecting people with nature |  |  |
| Talks & other opportunities | Deliver 7 talks & attend relevant events                                                   | JH,<br>TH | L3,<br>H2,<br>R2,<br>N1,<br>P3 | 1.1 | 2   | Connecting people with nature |  |  |

## 8. Planning

| Work Area                   | Action                                                                                                                                                              | Lead | MGT Plan Obj | Delivery Plan ref. | NAAONB KPI | NE Action Plan Area                                      | Progress report | RAG (Red, Amber, Green) |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|--------------|--------------------|------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Planning liaison            | Liaison with LPAs and other consultees on development management and policy (strategies and plans).                                                                 | CC   | D1, D4       | 1.1                | N/A        | Sustainable development; (Building partnerships)         |                 |                         |
|                             | Two newsletters to planning managers (DM & policy) & planning officers. June & January                                                                              | CC   | D1, D4       | 1.1                | N/A        | (Sustainable development; connecting people with nature) |                 |                         |
|                             | GIS workspace to support the review of planning matters & applications                                                                                              | CC   | D4           | 5.1                | N/A        | Sustainable development                                  |                 |                         |
| Landscape Planning Guidance | Development of paid service for Pre-application advice from the AONB Unit in conjunction with Local Planning Authorities.                                           | CC   | D1, D4       | 7.1                | N/A        | Sustainable development                                  |                 |                         |
|                             | Produce updated Landscape Character Assessment guidance.                                                                                                            | CC   | D1, D4       | 7.1                | N/A        | Sustainable development                                  |                 |                         |
|                             | Sustaining Landscape Character within the Mendip Hills AONB – guidance doc to support planning officers on the landscape character areas & special qualities within | CC   | D1, D4       | 7.1                | N/A        | Sustainable development; (Resilient landscapes)          |                 |                         |

|                                 | those areas and planning considerations.                                                                                |      |              |                    |            |                                                  |                 |                         |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|--------------|--------------------|------------|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Applications                    | Update planning protocol to reflect what applications we would want to be consulted on.                                 | CC   | D1           | 7.2                | N/A        | Sustainable development                          |                 |                         |
| Regional                        | Liaise with other AONB planners and partner organisations.                                                              | CC   | D1, D4       | N/A                | 2          | Building partnerships; (Sustainable development) |                 |                         |
| Training                        | Develop a training programme for planners on LVIAs in November.                                                         | CC   | D4, P2       | 1.1                | 2          | Sustainable development; (Building partnerships) |                 |                         |
| <b>9. Involve the Community</b> |                                                                                                                         |      |              |                    |            |                                                  |                 |                         |
| Work Area                       | Action                                                                                                                  | Lead | MGT Plan Obj | Delivery Plan ref. | NAAONB KPI | NE Action Plan Area                              | Progress report | RAG (Red, Amber, Green) |
| Volunteer Rangers               | Submit funding bids and seek sponsorship to support the volunteer rangers.                                              | TH   | P1, P2       | 8.1                | 2          | (Connecting people with nature)                  |                 |                         |
|                                 | Develop the Mendip Shed to create a base for the volunteer rangers and other groups to use with a functioning workshop. | TH   | P1, P2       | 8.1                | 2          | Connecting people with nature                    |                 |                         |
|                                 | Successfully induct a new cohort of volunteer rangers.                                                                  | JH   | P1, P2       | 8.1                | 2          | (Connecting people with nature)                  |                 |                         |
|                                 | Plan and deliver the rota of site visits, meetings and social gatherings                                                | LH   | P1, P2, R4   | 8.1                | 2          | (Connecting people with nature)                  |                 |                         |

|                           |                                                                                                                                       |       |                             |            |         |                                                          |  |  |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-----------------------------|------------|---------|----------------------------------------------------------|--|--|
|                           | Develop the volunteer ranger walks as a tourism product.                                                                              | JH    | P1, P2, R4                  | 1.1        | 2       | Connecting people with nature                            |  |  |
| Drystone wall rebuild.    | Identify vulnerable walls from GIS to target and monitor.                                                                             | TH/LH | P1, P3                      | 2.2.1, 3.1 | 1, 3    | Resilient landscapes                                     |  |  |
|                           | Train 10 volunteers via DSWA                                                                                                          | TH    | P1, P3                      | 2.2.1      | 2       | (Connecting people with nature)                          |  |  |
|                           | Restore 100m drystone wall via 2 x monthly practical tasks.                                                                           | TH    | P1, P3                      | 2.2.1, 3.1 | 1, 3    | Resilient landscapes                                     |  |  |
| Practical Task Volunteers | Maintain a weekly programme of tasks focussed around the special qualities. Start weekend tasks.                                      | TH/LH | P1, P2, L2                  | 2.2, 4.2   | 1, 2    | Connecting people with nature; (Building partnerships)   |  |  |
| Young Rangers & Advanced  | Maintain and promote the 2019-21 Young Ranger programme with activities aimed at creating environmental decision makers of the future | ALL   | P1, P2, L2                  | 8.1        | 2       | Connecting people with nature                            |  |  |
| Natural Capital           | GIS mapping of people's views, priorities and memories of the landscape.                                                              | TH    | H1, H2, N1, L4, D4, P2, BG4 | 3.2.2      | 2       | Sustainable development; (Connecting people with nature) |  |  |
| Mendip Hills Fund         | Achieve donations of >£15000                                                                                                          | JH    | P2, P3                      | 8.4        | 1, 2, 3 | Connecting people with nature; (Resilient landscapes)    |  |  |

|                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |             |                     |                            |                    |                               |                        |                                |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|---------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|
|                                                                  | Promote the fund regularly via social media and other outlets<br>Achieve 300 likes on Facebook.<br>Create and distribute targeted material to sign up 3 x events and 5 x business supporters.                                                                               | SC          | P2, P3              | 8.4                        | NA                 | Connecting people with nature |                        |                                |
|                                                                  | Administer the panel to meet in November and March                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | JH          | P2, P3              | 8.4                        | 2                  | (Building partnerships)       |                        |                                |
|                                                                  | Establish Donr text giving service for the fund and AONB Unit.                                                                                                                                                                                                              | SC          | P2                  | 8.4                        | 2                  | Connecting people with nature |                        |                                |
| Nature & Wellbeing                                               | Work with SWT and other partners to deliver a bid to support work with groups and individuals with mental health conditions and special educational needs to deliver activities focussed on improving people's health and wellbeing through contact with nature / landscape | TH          | P1, P2, L3, R4, N1  | 8.2.2                      | 2                  | (Building partnerships)       |                        |                                |
| <b>10. Partnership, Management, Regional &amp; National Work</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |             |                     |                            |                    |                               |                        |                                |
| <b>Work Area</b>                                                 | <b>Action</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>Lead</b> | <b>MGT Plan Obj</b> | <b>Delive ry Plan ref.</b> | <b>NAAON B KPI</b> | <b>NE Action Plan Area</b>    | <b>Progress report</b> | <b>RAG (Red, Amber, Green)</b> |

|                         |                                                                                                                                           |     |     |     |     |                                                         |  |  |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------------------------------------------------------|--|--|
| Partnership             | Administer 2 x meetings per year minimum.                                                                                                 | JH  | ALL | N/A | N/A | Connecting people with nature;<br>Building partnerships |  |  |
| OSG                     | Administer 4 x meetings per year minimum                                                                                                  | JH  | ALL | N/A | N/A | Building partnerships                                   |  |  |
| Regional representation | Actively participate in regional and Somerset wide environmental partnerships that will benefit the Mendip Hills and protected landscapes | ALL | ALL | N/A | N/A | Building partnerships                                   |  |  |
| National representation | Attend NAAONB meetings, contribute to responses, forums and communications                                                                | ALL | ALL | N/A | N/A | Building partnerships                                   |  |  |
| AONB Unit               | Create activity plan for Unit and individuals                                                                                             | ALL | ALL | N/A | N/A | Building partnerships                                   |  |  |

#### Management Plan Review – Objectives/Policies

##### **Landscape Quality Objectives:**

L1 Promote appropriate management to ensure that the distinctive Mendip Hills AONB landscape is maintained and enhanced

L2 Provide opportunities to acquire and develop skills required to care for and promote the landscape and its special qualities.

L3 Increase awareness and appreciation of the purposes of designation and the special qualities of the AONB

L4 Increase awareness of the benefits of supporting local products and services that help conserve and enhance the landscape.

##### **Biodiversity and Geodiversity Objectives:**

BG1 Ensure that there is no net loss of characteristic habitats and species.

BG2 Promote a landscape scale approach to the conservation and expansion of coherent and resilient ecological networks within and adjoining the AONB.

BG3 Increase monitoring and awareness of the biodiversity resource of the Mendip Hills AONB so that it is sufficiently understood to continue to guide the successful conservation of the characteristic habitats and species.

BG4 Promote a holistic approach to implementing AONB Management Plan objectives, National Character Area Statements of Opportunity and a locally designated Nature Improvement Area's objectives

BG5 Recognise and celebrate geological sites and features of the Mendip Hills AONB to ensure the successful conservation both of the geology and wildlife habitat they provide.

BG6 Increase awareness of the Mendip Hills geology, particularly cave systems in relation to the importance they play in water management and water supply.

**Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage objectives;**

H1 Improve the recording, interpretation and understanding of all aspects of the AONBs historic environment to ensure local communities and visitors enjoy a rich experience of the sense of place.

H2 Increase awareness and communicate the significance of the high quality historic environment of the Mendip Hills AONB

H3 Promote appropriate management of sites, structures and landscapes designated for their international, national, regional or local importance in the historic environment to ensure no further loss of heritage assets.

**Recreation, Access and Tourism objectives:**

R1 Maintain, improve and promote public access and quiet recreational activities with measures to ensure access for all in accordance with the purposes of AONB designation.

R2 Support the development of tourism and day visits that benefits the local economy, conserves and enhances the landscape and improves understanding of the Mendip Hills.

R3 Develop and promote more sustainable methods of travel to and around the AONB for enjoyment and recreation.

R4 Support healthy lifestyles by encouraging more people to use the Mendip Hills for sustainable outdoor activities.

**Natural Resources objectives:**

N1 Recognise and promote the benefits and relevance of the AONB as a valuable source of ecosystem services, economic and health benefits.

N2 Promote conservation of water resources and enhance their quality taking measures to reduce low flows and flooding by appropriate management and use.

N3 Promote sustainable management of soils in accordance with best practice to minimise erosion and water pollution and maximise resilience to drought.

**Land Management objectives:**

LMI Support sustainable farming to ensure it remains as the principle land use and contributes to maintaining the special qualities of the AONB.

LM2 Support and promote rural land management that conserves and enhances natural resources, including biodiversity, landscape character the historic environment and aids public awareness and enjoyment of the Mendip Hills AONB.

LM3 Promote a sustainable woodland economy that enhances the Mendip Hills AONB woodlands and wider landscape with targeted woodland management and creation in appropriate locations supporting wood fuel and local community opportunities.

LM4 Influence the use, restoration and after use of all quarries to minimise the impact on the landscape and to be compatible with the purposes of designation.

**Development and Transport Objectives:**

D1 Working with the local planning authorities, ensure that development in the AONB and its setting is of a nature, scale, location and design that meets community need without compromising the special qualities of the Mendip Hills AONB.

D2 Working with the local highways authorities, ensure that the special qualities of the AONB are fully respected in the planning, design, provision and management of all types of transport and associated infrastructure.

D3 Encourage reduction in Carbon emissions within the AONB through reducing energy consumption, applying energy conservation measures, encouraging more sustainable patterns of development, and utilising renewable energy generation technologies that are of an appropriate type and scale for their siting.

D4 Ensure issues of importance for the management of the AONB landscape are fully reflected in strategies and plans produced by other agencies and local communities.

**Participation objectives:**

P1 Increase the opportunities for volunteering and the range of people participating, to benefit the environment, peoples health and well being and local communities in and around the AONB.

P2 Encourage the involvement of local people and the wider community in the management of the AONB

P3 Promote the Mendip Hills as an educational resource for all ages and encourage sharing of research and learning tools.

| Budget                                                  |                  | 2019-20             | 2020-21             | 2021-22             |
|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b><u>CORE EXPENDITURE</u></b>                          |                  |                     |                     |                     |
| <b><u>Staff Costs</u></b>                               |                  |                     |                     |                     |
| Manager                                                 |                  |                     |                     |                     |
| Project Development Officer                             |                  |                     |                     |                     |
| Planning Officer                                        |                  |                     |                     |                     |
| Support Officer                                         |                  |                     |                     |                     |
| Volunteer Ranger                                        |                  |                     |                     |                     |
|                                                         | <b>Sub Total</b> | <b>£ 143,929.00</b> | <b>£ 161,791.00</b> | <b>£ 165,026.00</b> |
| Training                                                |                  | £ 500.00            | £ 500.00            | £ 500.00            |
| Car allowances                                          |                  | £ 1,550.00          | £ 1,550.00          | £ 1,550.00          |
| Travel costs                                            |                  | £ 950.00            | £ 950.00            | £ 950.00            |
| Subsistence                                             |                  | £ 250.00            | £ 250.00            | £ 250.00            |
|                                                         | <b>Sub Total</b> | <b>£ 3,250.00</b>   | <b>£ 3,250.00</b>   | <b>£ 3,250.00</b>   |
| <b>Total Staff Costs</b>                                |                  | <b>£ 147,179.00</b> | <b>£ 165,041.00</b> | <b>£ 168,276.00</b> |
| <b><u>Other Core Costs</u></b>                          |                  |                     |                     |                     |
| <b><u>Accommodation, Maintenance &amp; Cleaning</u></b> |                  |                     |                     |                     |
| Charterhouse rental & rates                             |                  | £ 7,780.00          | £ 7,777.00          | £ 7,950.00          |
| Office Cleaning                                         |                  | £ 1,200.00          | £ 1,250.00          | £ 1,250.00          |
| Communication - IT & Phones                             |                  | £ 4,000.00          | £ 3,850.00          | £ 3,900.00          |
| SCC Host fee                                            |                  | £ 8,250.00          | £ 8,415.00          | £ 8,600.00          |
| Insurance                                               |                  | £ 400.00            | £ 500.00            | £ 625.00            |
| Stationery                                              |                  | £ 1,500.00          | £ 1,500.00          | £ 1,500.00          |
| Postage                                                 |                  | £ 100.00            | £ 100.00            | £ 100.00            |
|                                                         | <b>Sub Total</b> | <b>£ 23,230.00</b>  | <b>£ 23,392.00</b>  | <b>£ 23,925.00</b>  |
| <b><u>Activities &amp; Publicity</u></b>                |                  |                     |                     |                     |
| Digital                                                 |                  | £ 1,200.00          | £ 1,300.00          | £ 1,300.00          |
| Photocopying & Printing                                 |                  | £ 900.00            | £ 900.00            | £ 900.00            |
| Vehicle R&M                                             |                  | £ 4,600.00          | £ 4,600.00          | £ 4,700.00          |
| Vehicle fuel /tax/insurance costs                       |                  | £ 1,500.00          | £ 1,550.00          | £ 1,600.00          |
| Volunteer costs                                         |                  | £ 3,500.00          | £ 3,500.00          | £ 3,500.00          |
| Tools & Equipment                                       |                  | £ 650.00            | £ 650.00            | £ 650.00            |
| Clothing & Uniform                                      |                  | £ 600.00            | £ 100.00            | £ 100.00            |
|                                                         | <b>Sub Total</b> | <b>£ 12,950.00</b>  | <b>£ 12,600.00</b>  | <b>£ 12,750.00</b>  |
| <b><u>Partnership running costs</u></b>                 |                  |                     |                     |                     |
| Subscriptions (NAAONB)                                  |                  | £ 2,600.00          | £ 2,650.00          | £ 2,675.00          |
| Officer Meetings                                        |                  | £ 1,300.00          | £ 1,300.00          | £ 1,300.00          |
| Meeting Costs (external)                                |                  | £ 350.00            | £ 450.00            | £ 450.00            |
| Supplies & Services                                     |                  | £ 672.00            | £ 300.00            | £ 300.00            |
|                                                         | <b>Sub Total</b> | <b>£ 4,922.00</b>   | <b>£ 4,700.00</b>   | <b>£ 4,725.00</b>   |

|                               |                     |                     |                     |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Total Other Core Costs</b> | <b>£ 41,102.00</b>  | <b>£ 40,692.00</b>  | <b>£ 41,400.00</b>  |
| <b>Core Expenditure Total</b> | <b>£ 188,281.00</b> | <b>£ 205,733.00</b> | <b>£ 209,676.00</b> |

|                                                                           |                     |                     |                     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>CORE INCOME</b>                                                        |                     |                     |                     |
| DEFRA                                                                     | <b>£ 158,832.00</b> | <b>£ 161,565.00</b> | <b>£ 164,345.00</b> |
| Somerset County Council                                                   | £ 16,150.00         | £ 16,150.00         | £ 16,150.00         |
| Bath and North East Somerset Council                                      | £ 5,000.00          | £ 5,000.00          | £ 5,000.00          |
| Sedgemoor District Council                                                | £ 8,001.00          | £ 8,001.00          | £ 8,001.00          |
| Mendip District Council                                                   | £ 8,017.00          | £ 8,017.00          | £ 8,017.00          |
| North Somerset                                                            | £ 3,000.00          | £ 3,500.00          | £ 3,500.00          |
| <b>Total LA contribution</b>                                              | <b>£ 40,168.00</b>  | <b>£ 40,668.00</b>  | <b>£ 40,668.00</b>  |
| <b>LA contribution required to draw full Defra Grant down Defra Grant</b> | <b>£ 39,708.00</b>  | <b>£ 40,391.25</b>  | <b>£ 41,086.25</b>  |
| <b>Core Income Total</b>                                                  | <b>£ 199,000.00</b> | <b>£ 202,233.00</b> | <b>£ 205,013.00</b> |

|                                         |                    |                    |                    |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Grant Funded Projects</b>            |                    |                    |                    |
| Mendip Rocks                            | £ 2,700.00         | £ 2,500.00         | £ 2,500.00         |
| Young Rangers                           | £ 3,000.00         | £ 2,500.00         | £ 3,000.00         |
| Community Events                        | £ 1,000.00         | £ 1,000.00         | £ 1,000.00         |
| Top of the Gorge                        | £ 2,500.00         | £ 2,500.00         | £ 2,500.00         |
| Natural Flood Management                | £ 1,000.00         |                    |                    |
| Special Qualities Monitoring            | £ 2,000.00         | £ 500.00           | £ 500.00           |
| Regional Trail Development              | £ 4,000.00         | £ 2,000.00         | £ 1,000.00         |
| Volunteer Development                   | £ 3,000.00         | £ 3,700.00         | £ 4,300.00         |
| Destination Development                 | £ 1,500.00         |                    |                    |
| Catchment Improvements                  |                    | £ 1,000.00         |                    |
| Counting on Mendip                      |                    | £ 1,300.00         | £ 1,000.00         |
| Nature Connections (health & wellbeing) |                    | £ 3,000.00         | £ 3,000.00         |
| Visitor Centre                          |                    | £ 5,000.00         | £ 2,500.00         |
| <b>Sub Total</b>                        | <b>£ 20,700.00</b> | <b>£ 25,000.00</b> | <b>£ 21,300.00</b> |
| Mendip Hills Fund                       | £ 1,500.00         | £ 1,500.00         | £ 1,500.00         |
| Mendip Hills Fund Donations             | £ 11,700.00        | £ 13,500.00        | £ 16,500.00        |
| Blackmoor/Deer Leap Management          |                    | £ 5,000.00         | £ 5,000.00         |
| <b>Total Projects</b>                   | <b>£ 33,900.00</b> | <b>£ 45,000.00</b> | <b>£ 44,300.00</b> |

|                     |             |             |             |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Other Income</b> |             |             |             |
| Young Rangers       | £ 1,500.00  |             | £ 2,190.00  |
| SCC Public Health   |             | -           | -           |
| Land Management     | £ 5,000.00  | £ 5,000.00  | £ 5,000.00  |
| Staff               | £ 2,000.00  | £ 3,000.00  | £ 3,500.00  |
| Volunteers          | £ 800.00    | £ 1,200.00  | £ 1,500.00  |
| Grant applications  | £ 10,000.00 | £ 20,000.00 | £ 25,000.00 |
| Sale of Merchandise | £ 500.00    | £ 750.00    | £ 1,000.00  |

|                                         |                    |                    |                    |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Mendip Rocks</i>                     | £ 2,500.00         | £ 2,500.00         | £ 3,000.00         |
| <i>Mendip Hills Fund Fundraising</i>    | £ 11,700.00        | £ 13,500.00        | £ 16,200.00        |
| <i>Mendip Hills Fund Management Fee</i> | £ 1,300.00         | £ 1,500.00         | £ 1,800.00         |
| <b>Other Income Total</b>               | <b>£ 35,300.00</b> | <b>£ 47,450.00</b> | <b>£ 57,390.00</b> |

|                               |                    |                    |                    |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>RIA</b>                    | <b>£ 73,880.00</b> | <b>£ 68,000.00</b> | <b>£ 67,000.00</b> |
| Redundancy                    | £ 8,000.00         | £ 8,000.00         | £ 8,000.00         |
| Vehicle                       | £ 16,000.00        | £ 16,000.00        | £ 16,000.00        |
| Young Rangers                 | £ 2,150.00         |                    |                    |
| Mendip Shed                   |                    | £ 5,000.00         | £ 5,000.00         |
| To cover Core Costs shortfall |                    | £ 3,500.00         | £ 4,663.00         |
| Reserves                      | £ 47,730.00        | £ 35,500.00        | £ 33,337.00        |