

**MALVERN HILLS AONB JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**7 April 2017****INFORMATION ITEMS**

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**Management Plan ref.  
(abridged)**

**LP2 Restore distinctive  
landscapes and  
landscape features that  
have been significantly  
degraded.**

**Project**Orchard planting

The second batch of fruit trees needed to restock the traditional orchard at the Three Counties Showground was planted out in late November 2016. This work is now complete.

Innovation Fund – Orchard Planting

Natural England, through its Innovation Fund, has provided grants to plant one new orchard on an old orchard site, and to help restock four other orchards with traditional orchard trees. The project expenditure of c.£3,000, together with some core funds, has seen 65 trees planted and guarded.

Route to the Hills

The AONB Unit sits on the board and has also been actively involved in the project management group of this £482,000 project run by Malvern Hills District Council. It aims to provide a route from Gt Malvern Station to Rose Bank Gardens in Malvern and thus onto the hills. Along the route there will be various installations to tell of the glories of Malvern. After a long run-up, some of the information boards have been installed along the route. Meanwhile, the community programme is gathering pace, with a community play to be held in the summer of 2017. It should be emphasised that the project is so much more than a few sign posts on the route. For more details, see <http://www.routetothehills.co.uk/>

Landscape Grants

The expenditure of c. £3,450 this year has contributed to the laying of 150m of hedgerow, planting 22 standard fruit trees in orchards on 2 sites, assistance with a woodland plan for 50 acres of unmanaged woodland and supplying water to assist with grazing on a special wildlife site.

Landscape condition monitoring

A report documenting 10 years of landscape change has now been completed.

**LP5 Undertake surveys  
and research to better**

Making Space for Nature

The Working Group established to progress this work has

**understand and monitor the condition, and rate of change, of landscape character**

**BP3 – Enhance the wildlife value of the countryside and achieve greater connectivity between key habitats within the AONB and between the AONB and the countryside beyond**

**FP1 – Encourage the take-up of grant options and management practices that benefit the distinctive natural and historic environment of the AONB.**

**CO2 – Develop an enhanced sense of ownership...among local communities...through opportunities for involvement in**

met. Creation of a draft vision/management plan for the northern project area has been completed. A bid for funding to the HLF Our Heritage programme has been completed and submitted.

Three Counties Traditional Orchard Project  
Progress since November 2016 includes:

200 PTES<sup>1</sup> grant-funded traditional orchard trees have been planted out by volunteers at TCTOP project orchards and another 300 rare local variety trees have been grafted, grown on and planted across the Three Counties. 40 orchards are now being restored.

17 orchard champions have completed their training and carried out over 500 hours of voluntary work, restoring and promoting traditional orchards. 15 new orchard champions have completed their introductory weekend.

A bid to extend the project by four months is being considered by Worcestershire County Council.

More information on the project is available at:  
[www.tctop.org.uk](http://www.tctop.org.uk)

Highways Verges Management Pilot Project

The AONB Unit has been liaising closely with staff in Worcestershire Highways to ensure that this pilot project commences in 2017. Discussions have taken place with representatives from 4 Parish Councils in the Worcestershire part of the AONB and in-principle support has been expressed by them all.

Landowner Event

An event where landowners local to the northern part of the AONB can meet with advisers from a range of different bodies has been arranged for 29<sup>th</sup> March 2017. Thanks are due to partner bodies who have helped to publicise and promote this event.

Neighbourhood Development Plans

Progress has been made with the development of a number of NDPs in the area. Notably, financial and human resource support has been provided to Malvern Wells Parish Council who have now commenced work on a Landscape Assessment which will underpin their NDP.

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<sup>1</sup> PTES = Peoples Trust for Endangered Species

## consultation activities

**BDO1 The distinctive character and natural beauty of the AONB will be fully reflected in planning policy and guidance.**

**BDP8 Support the recycling, re-use and limited extraction of small quantities of locally distinctive building materials, such as Malvern stone, where this is needed to help retain local distinctiveness in the built environment.**

**TRP1 Highway management and design should be in accordance with the AONB Guidance on Highway Design etc.**

### Development Management

The Unit has commented on a number of planning applications, including working with MHDC and Severn Trent to ensure that the new reservoir being developed off the Cowleigh Road in north Malvern will have a low impact when seen from End Hill.

### Stonebank

One of Malvern's signature building stones is the rock of the hills. Aware that much of this was going to landfill when buildings or walls were knocked down, and that stone-wallers often couldn't find stone to repair the structures; the AONB unit has rented a space on which to store stone until it's needed. The site is now operational and has, at the last count, had over 70 tonnes of stone through it. Anyone with unwanted Malvern stone should contact David Armitage.

### Worcestershire Minerals Plan

The AONB Unit responded to the latest stage of consultation on this document.

### Worcestershire Local Transport Plan (4)

The AONB Unit responded to the latest stage of consultation on this document.

## Recommendation

**Members of the JAC are requested to note this information report and contact the AONB Unit if they wish to be involved in any consultations or to receive further information on any of these agenda items.**

## Contact Points

### County Council Contact Points

County Council: 01905 763763

Worcestershire Hub: 01905 765765

Email: [worcestershirehub@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:worcestershirehub@worcestershire.gov.uk)

Specific Contact Points for this report

Paul Esrich, Manager, Malvern Hills AONB Partnership

Tel: 01684 560616

Email: [pesrich@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:pesrich@worcestershire.gov.uk)

Website: [www.malvernhillsaonb.org.uk](http://www.malvernhillsaonb.org.uk)