

Appendix 1 - DELIVERY ACTION PLAN Year 1 Progress (AONB Unit only)

This section sets out a series of actions for each of the strategic themes and priorities described earlier in this Plan. Due to the significant changes expected in national policy, the timescale for these actions covers the two years 2022 and 2023. It is intended that the Actions Table will be reviewed and updated during this period.

| Theme and priority | Action | Lead bodies | Priority | Progress 03/23 (AONB Unit only) |
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| Priority A. The management of land for nature in the AONB | | | | |
| A.1. Work with and support individual farmers and landowners to develop appropriate action for nature on their land, supporting them through the Government's Agricultural Transition. | A.1.1. Ensure the Farming in Protected Landscape programme for the Malvern Hills AONB is used to support nature and the delivery of this Plan | MHAONB | High | All FiPL applications checked for compliance with NRP. 5 woodland management plans |
| | A.1.2. Continue to hold/build on demonstration and training events on farms and estates to promote beneficial land management and promote uptake. | MHAONB and AONB Partners including MHT | High | 2 AONB landowner group training events this year (one postponed due to weather) |
| | A.1.3. Identify and promote suitable Local Nature Recovery Scheme actions , working with LNRS convenors. | MHAONB with Local Nature Partnerships | Medium | No progress |
| | A.1.4. Promote and support the development of high value sustainably produced products from the land. | AONB Partners | Ongoing | No progress |
| A.2. Work with farmers and landowners at a large scale across the AONB and its setting to strength core areas and networks for nature | A.2.1. Continue and build on cluster group working with farmers and landowners across the AONB following the end of current funding for the Farm Facilitation Groups in March 2022. | MHAONB | Medium | Former FF Group merged with a northern group to form one AONB gp. 44 members own +6000 ha. |
| | A.2.2. Investigate with Defra and local partners the potential for a Landscape Recovery Scheme project to strengthen nature connectivity within the AONB. | MHAONB Partners | Low | No progress |
| | A.2.3. Explore opportunities for coordinated land management initiatives that could benefit key habitats at the landscape scale, e.g. establishment of a Deer Management Group. | MHAONB Partners | Medium | Deer mgt event in November 2022 proposed a Deer Mgt Gp for AONB. Little interest. |

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| Priority B. Connections between people and nature in the AONB | | | | |
| B.1. Connect and join up activities on the ground for nature | B.1.1. Research the need for and explore the opportunities to develop and promote an online resource for local organisations and community groups to post information about their own activities assisting nature in the AONB. This could include a directory of contacts, events and services offered by groups interested in nature in the AONB and its surrounds. | MHAONB | High | No progress |
| | B.1.2. Explore a one-day celebration event for local organisation and groups to showcase their activities and aspirations for nature, seeking to generate longer term networking and coordination between interested individuals, businesses, and communities. | MHAONB | High | No progress |
| B.2. Partnership working for a unified approach for nature recovery | B.2.1. Convene a meeting of appropriate authorities and organisations to plan for coordinated delivery of related policies and programmes including Biodiversity Net Gain and other private sector investment, woodland establishment, ELM schemes, catchment/water activities and related initiatives. | WCC | High | |
| | B.2.2. With Partners, agree focal points and local lead organisation responsibility for different issues related to nature. | MHAONB | Medium | Initial meeting with EA and NE exploring citizen science. |
| | B.2.3 Support the work of local citizen science/volunteer groups which can support nature recovery in the AONB and surrounding areas | | | Mtg arranged with partners on crayfish conservation. Support to COG, U3A, Geovols etc. |

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| Priority C. The importance of the AONB in the regional nature network | | | | |
| C.1. Recognise the importance of the AONB as a core area for nature of regional significance. | C.1.1. Engage with Natural England and the NRN network in the West Midlands to raise awareness for and promote the importance of core high value habitats (woodland, unimproved grassland, orchards, etc.) in the Malvern Hills AONB. | MHAONB | High | No progress |
| | C.1.2. Use the preparation of the Local Nature Recovery Strategies in the three counties to advance knowledge of, and enhance, regional connectivity between the AONB and other regionally important areas. The Strategies must address cross-border priorities and opportunities. | Local Nature Partnerships (Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Gloucestershire) | High | AONB Unit involved in Worc LNRS preparation, and represented in similar work in Hfds. Early stages. |
| | C.1.3. Coordinate and work closely with other organisations who promote a regional approach to biodiversity (such as Buglife's B lines projects) to identify how the AONB can become a hub for these existing projects, amplifying the impact of these projects. | AONB Partners | Medium | Attended meeting with West Midlands Crayfish Partnership. |
| C.2. Promote, with partners including other projected landscapes, the strengthening of connections to other regionally important areas. | C.2.1. Work with other protected landscape bodies (Cotswolds and Wye Valley AONBs and Brecon Beacons NP) and authorities in other high nature value areas (Wyre Forest and Forest of Dean) to identify how they can work together to promote the connections between their areas. | Protected Landscape Bodies (AONBs and NP) | Medium | |
| | C.2.2. Take forward the Severn Treescapes initiative , creating a 60 miles N-S corridor across the 3 counties, from the Lower Wye Valley to the Wyre Forest. | Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust (with Herefordshire and Worcestershire WTs) | Medium | Initial meeting btw ST and MHAONB organised. |
| | C.2.3. Explore with Natural England what practical information on climate change adaptation plan could be made available in the AONB and surrounding areas. If appropriate, commission new work to better understand the pressures and opportunities of climate change for nature and the AONB's special qualities more widely. | MHAONB | Medium | Work programme for 23/24. |

