



FOREST OF **BOWLAND**

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



Cover photograph - Langden
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Walking in Bowland
© Natural England/ Charlie Hedley

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Chairperson's View



The Forest of Bowland is a name that continues to be a puzzle when people discover that the area is mainly open fells and farmland. The puzzle is solved by reference to 'Royal Forest' and the strictly enforced 'forest law' introduced by the Norman Kings and this path of discovery opens a wealth of both historical fact and fictional tales to enjoy.

Protection by law in more recent times has a more benign and democratic purpose than the Duke of Normandy had in mind post 1066! The tag of 'AONB' - Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty - designates the Forest of Bowland's importance to the nation as unspoiled countryside to be conserved and enhanced and all local authorities and public bodies are required by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 to, as the quaint phrase goes, 'have regard' to the need to conserve and enhance it, in all their decision making.

The Bowland Festival showcases the heritage of Bowland – its fantastic variety of wildlife and local culture and has become a major celebration each June enjoyed by people from all over the country.

Sustaining the environment has gone to the top of all of our agendas and the partners in the Forest of Bowland are all taking steps to make changes. Early in 2007 Lancashire County Council launched its Climate Change Campaign "Our Lancashire – Our World" to invest more resources to help reduce our carbon footprint. United Utilities working closely with RSPB and in collaboration with Bowland partners are demonstrating how changing land management practices can bring a host of benefits including carbon fixing.

Our Forest of Bowland Sustainable Development Fund has proved a most effective mechanism to help communities and businesses deliver an exciting and varied range of renewable energy schemes. Read about all these and more in this report and on the website www.forestofbowland.com

I do hope you find this report useful and enjoyable.

County Councillor Jean Yates

Chairperson of the Forest of Bowland AONB
Joint Advisory Committee

AONB Officer's View

We can look back on last year as having been particularly successful for the AONB partnership - achieving more activity 'on the ground' and developing our relationships with communities and businesses in the Bowland area. The Annual Report shows how we are working with landowners and farmers, community groups, small businesses, parish councils and village hall committees, who are proud of where they live and want to look after it. Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is a national designation and the Forest of Bowland AONB is protected for the nation. It is also of international importance. We want visitors to respect as well as enjoy its special qualities and encourage them through the Bowland Tourism Environment Fund to pay a little back towards the care of the environment as well as supporting the local economy through purchasing local products and services.

I was fortunate enough to be a visitor on a short holiday in Portugal recently and came across a roadside advertising hoarding with a large poster showing a picture of vegetables and other food on a tabletop with a message in Portuguese, also thoughtfully translated into English, that proclaimed 'Preserve the Patrimony' - a puzzle I'm sure to 99% or more of English speaking visitors. Similar language is often used in many countries concerned with protecting their most outstanding landscapes with special emphasis on traditional land management practices and local cultures - hence the reference to 'patrimony' or 'birthright', which usually, especially on mainland Europe leads quickly on to considerations of local food production and tasty local dishes! Often the underlying message is that it's worth paying more to protect local diversity - part of the richness of life.

You can read about many activities and projects in the pages of this Annual Report that are about 'preserving the patrimony' whether in relation to food and drink; events and activities that celebrate the wildlife, landscapes and culture of Bowland; projects restoring local wildlife habitat; schemes fostering a productive relationship between business activity and the environment; and opportunities and facilities for visitors to understand as well as enjoy this special landscape.

Perhaps we can also reflect that for a small operating budget and team of hard working and dedicated staff we are achieving a great deal because of the enthusiasm and support of local folk in Bowland - our many partners. The local authorities have special responsibility for the well being of AONBs and underpin the Joint Advisory Committee and the Management Plan. In terms of delivery of our programmes Lancashire Countryside Service plays a very large part in close co-operation with colleagues in Wyre Coast & Countryside Service, the district councils and North Yorkshire County. You can also read about a special initiative with funding from the North West

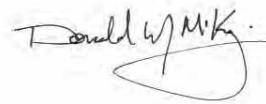
Development Agency, Lancashire and Blackpool Tourist Board and Lancashire County Developments Ltd that has enabled us to move forward rapidly in delivering the Strategy for Sustainable Tourism in the AONB and its immediate surroundings.

I would also like to record, on behalf of the partnership, our special thanks to the dedicated individuals who volunteer their time and efforts to help conserve the special local qualities of the Area, study its history, its local features or wildlife and share their extensive knowledge with others.

It's not all unbridled good news though and the new government agency for the countryside - Natural England set up last October (2006) had its budgets cut again and again prior to inauguration and is now having to make difficult decisions in terms of how it meets its extensive remit for the countryside including our AONBs. For our part we shall continue to seek to work closely with government agencies such as Natural England and endeavour to show value for money and relevance to ordinary people's lives and well being - an example being the increasingly popular Bowland Festival.

We will also need to remind ourselves that much of the Forest of Bowland's special character comes from man's stewardship of the land. That will always mean that we need a viable rural economy to underpin our beautiful landscape and need to balance protecting the landscape with allowing business growth and adaptation to modern markets. We need to balance preservation with encouraging economic growth and adaptation in those instances where high standards can be achieved appropriate to the well being of the landscape and its special qualities. Thankfully we have some fine examples - new ventures as well as long established - that show how it can be done, balancing good environmental care with running viable businesses.

So perhaps we should also say 'Preserve the Patrimony' - of our wonderfully diverse Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.



Don McKay

Forest of Bowland
AONB Officer



Delivering the Forest of Bowland AONB Sustainable Tourism Strategy

2006 was a busy year for our sustainable tourism project. In March we appointed three new members of staff to work specifically on delivering the high priorities identified in our Sustainable Tourism Strategy Action Plan.

Based in the Lancashire Rural Futures offices, Clitheroe, the team consists of Hetty Byrne (information officer), Mike Pugh (business development officer) and Martin Charlesworth (community projects officer). Funding comes from the North West Regional Development Agency, Lancashire and Blackpool Tourist Board and Lancashire County Developments Ltd.

Our work focuses on the following areas.

Creating new routes

Lancashire County Council countryside officers are delivering our high priorities here, continuing to develop the North Lancashire Bridleway, completing the loop from Dunsop Bridge west and north to Lancaster, and making the link to the Pennine Bridleway through Gisburn and Settle. Some work on the ground has been completed at Grizedale Valley and Scorton, and further links will be made in 2007. Tarja Wilson, countryside officer for north and west Bowland, has also been working on improving routes for tramper (all-terrain electric wheelchair) use in the Scorton area.

Supporting sustainable tourism businesses

We have provided funding for five sustainable tourism businesses, including Cycle Bowland (a cycling holiday business), a geocaching project, accommodation at Bleasdale Cottages and Halls Arms pub, and restaurant developments at Pye Nanny Nursery. We have also run several training events for businesses based around our Sense of Place project and as an introduction to green tourism – a major project for 2007.

The new Forest of Bowland AONB sustainable tourism network was launched at a well-attended event in January 2007 to support businesses and encourage good sustainable tourism practice in Bowland.

Improved information for visitors

Our website www.forestofbowland.com has improved considerably this year, both for visitors to the area and other users. We have added simple, black and white walking maps, which include a description of the walk and other points of interest. There are now over 20 walks to download from the site, and more are planned for 2007, including cycle, horse and tramper routes.

We have also made sure our news and events guide is kept up to date, and included online booking for recent training events and conferences. Other new publications have included four village leaflets covering businesses and visitor services in Slaidburn, Wray, Chatburn and Hornby.



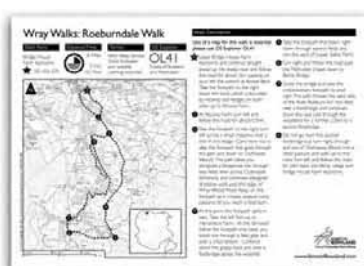
Sustainable tourism event
© Lancashire County Council
Grizedale
© Tarja Wilson
Cycle Bowland
© Colin Clifford

Natural & Cultural Heritage

Support for local products

Local products are an important part of sustainable tourism. They enable people to continue living and working in the area and maintain our beautiful landscape for visitors to enjoy. Buying local is also a direct way for visitors to support the local economy.

This year we have compiled an online directory of local producers in Bowland, and have also published A Taste of Bowland – a local food directory for the AONB. Both of these resources will encourage visitors to buy local. We have also run two events, one for arts and crafts, the other for food, bringing together producers, or artists, and buyers (craft shops, galleries, pubs, hotels and restaurants) to develop a local supply chain within Bowland. We have also supported Bowland Outdoor Reared Pork with a capital grant to help expand their business.



Nigel Haworth of Northcote Manor's Lancashire Hotpot
© Nigel Haworth/Northcote Manor
Community planting
© Martin Charlesworth
Tosside wall
© Martin Charlesworth

For more information contact **Cathy Hopley** on 01200 426433, alternatively e-mail her at cathy.hopley@env.lancsc.gov.uk



Bowland's Biodiversity Conference

The Forest of Bowland AONB Annual Conference was held at the newly refurbished Hornby Village Institute in July with the theme of Bowland's Biodiversity.

Delegates were invited to celebrate the biodiversity of the AONB and to look at examples of how the AONB partnership is taking action for biodiversity.

Delegates learnt more about the conservation of the hen harriers in England and in the Forest of Bowland in an entertaining presentation from guest speaker Stephen Murphy from Natural England and Roy Taylor from the RSPB demonstrated the importance of preserving the internationally important blanket bog habitats in Bowland for conservation, water quality and storing carbon.

A delicious local lunch was served and delegates were able to taste locally produced meats, cheeses and beverages.

A range of excursions to local sites important for biodiversity were enjoyed by all.



Female hen harrier

© Richard Saunders/Natural England

Bowland landscape

© Natural England/Charlie Hedley

Delegates at conference

© Forest of Bowland AONB

Natural & Cultural Heritage

Natural England

Since the introduction of the Countryside Stewardship Scheme in 1991, agri-environment schemes have been one of the most important ways of helping farmers and landowners in the Forest of Bowland to improve the landscape and environment. In 2006 to 2007, agri-environment schemes have continued to provide a very significant amount of grant.

A new organisation started in October 2006 when Natural England was formed from most of the Countryside Agency, English Nature, and the Rural Development Service part of Defra. This has been a major change in coordinating government policy and grant aid for nature conservation, rural policy and protection of the natural and historic environment.

There are currently four main agri-environment schemes in the Forest of Bowland AONB. These are the Countryside Stewardship Scheme, the Wildlife Enhancement Scheme, Entry Level Stewardship and Higher Level Stewardship.

The area currently under the Countryside Stewardship Scheme (CSS) management agreement includes nearly 15,500 hectares of moorland, over 1,900 hectares of pasture, and about 350 hectares of upland hay meadow. Thousands of metres of wall and hedge have been restored through CSS grants and this work continues. More than 95% of the Bowland Fells site of special scientific interest is under CSS and Wildlife Enhancement Scheme management to maintain or improve the condition of upland habitats.

Entry Level Stewardship (ELS) was introduced in 2005 to reward farmers for keeping environmental features on their land in good condition. The scheme is easy to join, with the aim of encouraging most farmers and land managers to carry out basic environmental management tasks in exchange for a modest payment across their whole farm. So far over 200 farmers and land managers have signed up to the scheme in the Bowland AONB area, covering almost 15,000 hectares of land. Farmers with ELS agreements have committed themselves to maintaining approximately 325,000 metres of hedges and 460,000 metres of walling. Other features in the AONB protected through ELS include almost 1,400 hectares of archaeological landscapes and about 4,250 hectares of grassland.

Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) is a complementary scheme offering higher payments for more complex land management. Farmers may be offered HLS agreements following a rigorous survey of their land, consultation with historic and landscape experts and detailed advice from Natural England. Agreements will pay to restore and manage the highly valued features of the AONB, including heather fells, flower-rich meadows and traditional farm buildings. The HLS schemes in Bowland cover more than 2,000 hectares of moorland, about 400 hectares of species rich grasslands, and more than 200 hectares of upland pasture that provides a habitat for breeding curlew and lapwing.

Recent agreements between Defra and the European Union have secured extra rural development funds for 2007 to 2013. This means that Natural England can continue to support good management of the highly valued landscapes of the AONB.



Pasture under Countryside Stewardship Scheme
© Natural England/Charlie Hedley

For more information contact Natural England at
The Annexe, Barton Hall, Barton, Preston PR3 5RZ
phone 01772 865224 or visit www.naturalengland.org.uk

Natural England Hen Harrier Recovery Project

The hen harrier is one of England's most spectacular birds of prey and it is an unforgettable sight to watch this bird floating effortlessly over low ground in search of prey. Unfortunately, the opportunity to see the hen harrier on its moorland breeding haunts has become all too rare in recent years. Natural England is committed to restoring the English population and runs the Hen Harrier Recovery Project that aims to:

- Monitor the remaining hen harrier population in England and its breeding success;

- Identify the factors that are currently restricting hen harrier numbers;

- Raise the profile of the conservation of hen harriers in England and secure public interest in protecting their future.

The original project has subsequently been developed and it will not only continue the detailed programme of monitoring, but will also seek ways to increase the population of hen harriers that are compatible with grouse moor management.

Hen harrier chicks fledged in Bowland have been radiotagged and tracked providing important information informing the conservation of this species.

Please report any sightings of tagged hen harriers to Natural England on 07973 911 594.



Female hen harrier in flight
© Richard Saunders/Natural England

RSPB Birds of Bowland Project

Raptors on Bowland's United Utilities Estate

The Forest of Bowland AONB is a nationally important area for breeding raptors. The RSPB staff and volunteers in partnership with United Utilities (UU) monitor the raptors throughout the breeding season.

In 2006, the AONB was host to approximately 50% of all hen harrier nests in England. Hen harriers nested in ten places on the UU estate, with five of the nests producing seventeen chicks. There was one other successful nest on the Abbeystead Estate which produced four young.

Peregrine falcons also had a successful year on the UU estate in 2006, with six successful nests out of seven producing thirteen chicks. Merlin had a disappointing year, with only four confirmed nests compared to eight the previous year. Short-eared owls also had a poor breeding season, with just one nest discovered.

As well as monitoring the raptors, the RSPB worked with UU and Natural England to run a series of guided walks throughout the year. This gave the public the opportunity to see these special birds and other interesting wildlife. There were 'skydancing' safaris in March and April, birds of prey safaris in May, and summer moorland safaris in July. The walks were as popular as ever, helping to bring people closer to wildlife, promote the AONB and boost the local economy.

To see these magnificent birds in such stunning countryside is a fantastic experience which few will forget.

Bowland Wader Project

The wader project, working closely with Lancashire Rural Futures, has continued to secure Higher Level Stewardship Scheme agreements for Bowland farmers with breeding waders on their land, from the Sabden Valley in the south through Newton and Slaidburn to Roeburndale in the north.

Valuable wet pasture land still supports healthy populations of breeding lapwing, redshank, snipe and curlew. Stewardship agreements ensure that everything is being done to help maintain and increase the populations of these declining birds. Ditch edges have been re-profiled and wader scrapes created, all to provide valuable feeding areas for waders and their chicks. Pastures dominated by rush have been cleared and grazing sheep and cattle will maintain swards that are far more attractive to wading birds and grazing animals alike.

For more details about the hen harrier recovery project please contact Natural England's **Richard Saunders** at richard.saunders@naturalengland.org.uk or visit www.naturalengland.org.uk

For more details about the RSPB Birds of Bowland project please contact Peter Wilson on 01200 466425 or email pete.wilson@rspb.org.uk

Natural & Cultural Heritage

The Lapwing Recovery Project conducted surveys on 60 farms spread across Bowland. Surveys are undertaken by RSPB staff, staff from partner organisations and volunteers. We recruited several new volunteers and this vital support is always much appreciated! The Recovery Project is a trial management project and will test the effectiveness of agri-environment scheme options for delivering ideal habitat for breeding Lapwings. The five year corpus of data will feed back into agri-environment schemes to ensure that our 'tewits' will continue to be a long term component of the Bowland landscape.

Existing voluntary management agreements on a number of sites are working well. An area of Waddington Fell that was previously dominated by rush is now being managed for its breeding waders. Since clearance of rush and creation of a number of scrapes, lapwing have returned to breed on the site and amongst other wildlife, Black Darter dragonflies have colonised.

Alston Wetland, a former reservoir near Longridge managed in partnership with United Utilities, continues to attract breeding and wintering waders. At the time of writing, 12 pairs of lapwing, three pairs of redshank and 2 pairs of little ringed plover are nesting and the site was providing refuge for as many as 120 snipe and 6 jack snipe during the winter.

After four years of Wader Project led habitat management work at Chipping Moss, the site is now looking better than ever! Careful management of the grazing regime has helped control rushes and maintain an open sward encouraging more and more waders to the site. Blocking of ditches and creation of a new area of open water and mud has attracted over 400 curlew, 70 whimbrel and record numbers of breeding lapwing. The site came second in the National Lapwing Champion Award this year. Other wildlife including brown hares, dragon and damselflies continue to flourish too and the botanical interest of the site is increasing in diversity.

Media work to highlight the efforts of the project and its supporting organisations Lancashire Rural Futures, Ribble Valley Borough Council, United Utilities, Natural England, Lancashire County Council and the AONB ensures that we maintain a high profile for Bowland's waders and wildlife. National attention was focused on the area following coverage in national broadsheets and a feature on Radio 4's Farming Today programme. Giving people the chance to see this work for themselves and enjoy Bowland's wildlife remains as important as ever as interest in RSPB and Bowland Festival walks and events continues to grow.



Lapwing chick
Herefords on Chipping Moss
Alston
Volunteers
© RSPB

For more information on the Bowland Wader Project or advice on how to improve your land for breeding waders contact **Gavin Thomas** or **Anne Heslop** on 01200 426433 or e-mail gavin.thomas@rspb.org.uk.

United Utilities Bowland Estate

The thousands of hectares of heather moorland on the United Utilities Bowland Estate support a wide variety of breeding birds including whinchat, wheatear, ring ouzel, curlew and merlin. They are also the most important area in England for breeding hen harriers.

Unfortunately, these moors are at risk. With our rapidly warming climate and hotter, drier summers, the risk of a catastrophic fire sweeping across our moors and destroying everything in its path is very real. During the winter of 2006 to 2007, United Utilities contractors worked hard cutting firebreaks through the areas of heather most at risk on the estate. If there is a fire, these firebreaks will be invaluable in allowing firefighters to reach it and bring it under control.

Stocks Reservoir, towards the east of the Forest of Bowland, is the largest inland body of water in Lancashire. The reservoir is most important for birds over-wintering in this country, as well as for breeding lapwing, red shank, curlew and oystercatcher in the spring. There has been a bird hide on the east bank of the reservoir for several years, but visitors in 2007 will be delighted to find a second hide, which provides an even better view of the nature reserve at the northern end of the reservoir.

The Stocks circular walk provides a route around the reservoir through a historic landscape with quiet woodlands, rolling farmland, open moor and the River Hodder. It also offers some of the best views of the reservoir along the way. Over the winter of 2006 to 2007 United Utilities and Lancashire County Council have been busy on this popular route. There is now a footbridge over the Hodder, where the old stepping stones had been the cause of many a wet foot. And there's a new footpath through the biodiversity target habitat of wet woodland to the south of School Lane car park, allowing you to enjoy the woodland away from the narrow road. Over the coming year there are also plans to improve the section of path through Copped Hill Pasture on the western side of the reservoir; and to provide a path to the Horace Cook Hide which is suitable for a wider range of users.

The Sustainable Catchment Management Programme (SCaMP) run by United Utilities in partnership with the RSPB aims to make sure that all Sites of Special Scientific Interest on the estate are recovering or favourable by 2010. It also aims to improve other habitats for biodiversity and to make sure that the water coming off the estate is clean and safe for United Utilities' customers.

We can only improve the estate for biodiversity with the help and support of our farming tenants. Over the last year, seven of our tenants on the Bowland Estate have applied for Natural England's new Environmental Stewardship Higher Level Scheme. Three tenants have now signed Ten year agreements with Natural England that will secure

them annual payments in exchange for managing their farms to benefit the environment. Another four tenants expect to enter similar agreements from May 2007.

One of the most important aims of the SCaMP farm plans is to create large areas of new native upland oak woodland. This is being achieved with the support of the Forestry Commission's England Woodland Grant Scheme. To date five tenants have signed up to plant areas of new woodland on their farms and, over the past winter, 30 hectares (36,472 trees) have been planted on the estate. This is in addition to the 85 hectares planted during the previous year at Whitendale Farm.



SCaMP woodland planting
Cutting firebreaks
New access in Gisburn Forest
Bird hide
© Nigel Pilling/United Utilities

For more information about United Utilities work in Bowland please contact **Ian Grindy** on 01200 445540 or ian.grindy@uuplc.co.uk

Natural & Cultural Heritage

Wyre Coast and Countryside Service

Wyre Borough Council's Coast and Countryside Service works with partners, agencies, local communities, volunteers and students to carefully manage the natural and cultural resources along part of the western edge of the Forest of Bowland.

The Coast and Countryside Team is supported by a team of volunteers who take on several roles within the AONB, making an important contribution to delivering the AONB management plan.

They help to patrol and manage key visitor sites such as Brock Valley and picnic site, Nicky Nook and Grizedale Valley, Delph Quarry, Harris End Fell Road and Scorton Millennium Way. During 2006/07, there were 409 volunteer patrols of these sites. They lead guided walks as part of the annual Wyre Guided Walks and Activities Programme, the Garstang Walking Festival and the Bowland Festival. These walks promote the beauty and diversity of the AONB, and help to explain to people the management issues and character of Bowland. They carry out many of the practical tasks in Bowland, including tree and hedge planting, drystone walling, hedgelaying, building stiles and seats, and putting up signposts. Volunteers also check 19 routes in Bowland twice a year to make sure the routes are safe, passable and correctly marked. This adds up to 96 miles of public rights of way in the western part of Bowland.

One of the larger volunteer projects involved improving Brock picnic site. This included laying 15 metres of hedge, putting in extra seating and new information boards, improving the paths and replacing picnic tables.

Countryside officers and volunteer countryside rangers made 1,272 site visits and patrols at key visitor sites, where they provided help to 13,616 visitors and local people. As part of this process, they also removed 159 bags of litter.

Garstang Walking Festival took place over the weekend of 12th to 14th May 2006. Opened by Granada television's Fred Talbot, the festival included 39 walks and activities, 50% of which took place within the AONB. The festival brings together local businesses, groups and societies with our countryside, tourism and arts teams to celebrate springtime in north west Lancashire and the Forest of Bowland.

Wyre Coast and Countryside Service continues to contribute to the Bowland Festival, sitting on the steering group and organising a variety of walks and events during the festival week. Events ranged from a 'Traditional boundaries' walk around Bleasdale to look at traditional ways of managing hedgerows and drystone walls, to a 'River, hill and valley' ramble in the Bowland foothills, a 'Roman

circular' heritage themed walk, and the annual drystone walling competition. The walling competition, held in association with the Mid-Lancs DryStone Walling Association and Cobble Hey Gardens, attracted competitors from as far as East Lancashire and Cumbria. There was also a workshop for complete beginners which attracted 9 people.

Wyre Coast and Countryside Service continues to work on traditional boundary projects. Two longterm drystone walling projects have been completed at Lower Fairsnape Farm, Bleasdale and at Nicky Nook, Nether Wyresdale. An overgrown hedge of 50 metres has been laid at Calder Vale, and 75 metres of similarly neglected hedgerow have been laid at Slean End, at the western end of Grizedale Valley.

Wyre Countryside Officers have also worked with Lancashire County Council and Forest of Bowland AONB on the Wyresdale Wheels for All and Calder Vale walks projects detailed elsewhere in this report.

A small project took place at Cobble Hey Farm and Gardens, involving 25 pupils from a horticulture class at Garstang High School, 4 national diploma students from Myerscough College, as well as volunteers from Wyre Coast and Countryside Service. On a bitterly cold January afternoon, which saw sunshine, heavy rain and even hail, the participants were all involved in planting 150 metres of new hedgerow on the farm.



Caldervale circular walk
Launch of Garstang Walking Festival 2006
Cobble Hey intergenerational hedge planting
Installing new seat benches at Brock
Wyre Dry-stone Walling Competition 2006
Fred Talbot at Garstang Walking Festival 2006
© Wyre Borough Council

For more information please contact Wyre Borough Council's
Alison Boden on 01253 887220 or email her at
aboden@wyrebc.gov.uk.

Traditional boundaries

As part of the Forest of Bowland AONB traditional boundaries programme surveys have been completed for the parishes of Barnacre-with-Bonds, Waddington, Downham and Twiston. Priority boundaries continue to be restored through a combination of environmental stewardship and direct delivery in the hands of the Forest of Bowland AONB, local contractors, tenants and volunteers. A range of project work has been undertaken on traditional boundaries including the planting, the laying and fencing of hedgerows, and some walling restoration projects and habitat management work to safeguard wall structures in the target areas.

During 2006 to 2007 the AONB has supported 1000 metres of hedgerow restoration in Nether Wyresdale and Wray-with-Botton, and 450 metres of drystone walling in Bleasdale and Nether Wyresdale.

In the Pendle area 75 metres of roadside wall was rebuilt at Ridge Lane, Roughlee, 50 metres of wall was rebuilt at Noggarth Top, Roughlee and 70 metres of wall was rebuilt alongside Heys Lane, Barley

In East Bowland 400 metres of new fencing and hedgerow planting was carried out at Lingthwaite Farm, Eldroth. At Long Bank Farm, Keasden 200 metres of hedgerow and 50 metres of walling was restored. At Lords Farm, Bolton by Bowland, 1300 metres of new fencing, ditch restoration, hedge bank restoration and hedgerow planting was carried out. In Slaidburn, Lawkland and Austwick parishes, clearance was undertaken on road verges to remove trees and self-sown saplings interfering with traditional boundaries, safeguarding 2500 metres of dry stone wall. In Gisburn Forest 70 metres of roadside wall restored in prominent location close to Dalehead Church.

Bowland Hedgelaying Competition 2007

This year the 13th Annual Forest of Bowland Hedgelaying competition took place in March at Greenhead Farm, Sawley. This Grand Prix event was run in partnership with Lancashire and Westmorland Hedging Association.

A total of 41 competitors and 2 trainees took part in the day with a total length of over 450 metres of hedge laid in the traditional Lancashire and Westmorland style.

The equivalent of 43 training days were delivered prior to the event through BTCV holidays and events for local people.



Local contractor walling at Harrisend Fell
© Tarja Wilson/Lancashire County Council
Hedgelaying Competition 2007
© Lancashire County Council

For more information on Traditional Boundaries Restoration
Projects contact **Lucy Barron** on 01772 534134
or e-mail her at lucy.barron@env.lancsc.gov.uk

Natural & Cultural Heritage

Reshaping Woodlands on Beacon Fell

As part of the ongoing forestry work programme at Beacon Fell Country Park we organised a logging demonstration in August which involved removing an area of Sitka spruce by horse.

The three-quarter of an acre area of spruce was part of a much larger plantation dating from 1953. We decided to cut down the trees as they had formed an evergreen screen blocking views from the summit of the fell to the east. The trees were also spilling over onto open moorland, many had fallen during high winds and many others were dead or damaged by the great spruce bark beetle.

The decision to cut down the trees was therefore a relatively easy one to make. And, as Forestry Commission regulations required us to plant more trees in other areas to compensate for the felling, we took the opportunity to create a new woodland area down the hill at Spade Meadow. This new planting area fits in with the landscape analysis drawn up as part of the Beacon Fell Management Plan in terms of desired locations for expanding woodland cover.

Oak, ash, alder, birch and hazel saplings were planted in partnership with the Lancashire Woodlands Project. Several voluntary groups took part in the work, including the Kutchi Women's Group, a member of the Lancashire BME (black and minority ethnic) Pact.

The new woodland covers approximately one and a half acres, plus further areas left open for footpaths and to allow for a natural woodland edge joining onto the meadow

Parish Lengthsman Scheme

The Parish Lengthsman Scheme now covers the majority of parishes in Bowland and provides an invaluable local service highly valued by local communities.

The scheme, highly praised by participating parishes, is part funded by parish councils, district councils, Lancashire Countryside Service and the AONB, and enables local communities to take action to improve their environment by working closely with their lengthsman.

Lengthsmen carry out a whole range of practical tasks including walling, rights of ways repairs and village maintenance works, helping to keep Bowland's villages and surrounding countryside looking good, developing local pride and giving a good impression to visitors.



Charlie Parker and his Dales cob, Gilly, are no strangers to the fell, having entertained and enlightened the public at forestry open days since 1992.

© Lancashire County Council

Parish Lengthsman at work

© Lancashire County Council

For more information please contact **David Brackley** on 01772 533905 or email him at david.brackley@env.lancscc.gov.uk

Lancashire Rural Futures

This has been a busy year for Lancashire Rural Futures (LRF), working on many fronts in Bowland. Business advisers have continued their valuable role supporting farmers who are diversifying and helping other rural businesses. Advisers have also applied for valuable stopgap funding from the Lancashire Rural Action Plan in the form of a Rural Development Grant.

Opportunities for those interested in renewable energy sources are being explored, together with associated supply chains. Woodchip boilers, groundsource heat pumps and smallscale wind turbines have already gained planning permission and grants in the Bowland area.

Bowland tourism has benefited from our latest applications to the Farm Tourism Initiative and Lancashire Rural Tourism Initiative.

We have worked with the Leader Plus Scheme to develop international links – for example, a group from Latvia visited rural businesses in Bowland and the Hodder Valley Show.

The Environmental Team continues to work with the AONB and the RSPB. This has generated valuable advice on revising management agreements and keeping landscape and access issues in focus when dealing with new clients.

Over the past 12 months, 9 entry level agreements, 9 higher level agreements and 7 English Woodland Grant Scheme agreements have been negotiated in the AONB. Progress has been made in the Craven District, in particular in the Keasden Valley, where we hope to bring Keasden Moor into Higher Level Stewardship next year.

Forestry Commission and ELWOOD grants for new native broadleaf woodland continue to be in high demand. Successful schemes in Bowland have delivered 120 hectares of new trees planted in the last 12 months.

The RSPB staff seconded to us are extremely busy counting a surge in lapwing and other bird numbers. They are putting this trend down to early favourable conditions compared to the excessive wet of April 2006.

We have also provided staff and advice to help with SCAMP (Sustainable Catchment Management Plan) projects in association with the RSPB and United Utilities.

The Leader Plus Programme, ably led by Andy Pickard, has delivered European grants for environmental capital and marketing schemes across Bowland. This has been a popular and successful scheme, helping many businesses and sectors by allocating limited resources wisely – particularly for marketing and promoting local produce. There was also a very successful event for local food producers to 'meet the buyer' at Samlesbury Hall.

LRF hosted the AONB Sustainable Tourism Team. Tourism is an important and under-developed market in Bowland, but its continual growth needs to be promoted in a way which does not damage the countryside, hence our support for the AONB sustainable tourism strategy.

We will continue to provide comprehensive help and advice for business and environmental projects in Bowland – from developing ideas to planning, grant applications and ongoing marketing support.

Case study – Lower Fairsnape Farm

Mr and Mrs Gardner diversified from dairy farming and moved their farm into 80% environmental schemes five years ago. These schemes, funded with help from the RSPB and AONB Sustainable Development Fund include bird hides, fishing ponds, scrapes for wading birds and rushland management. The farm attracts tourists and visitors and supporting the economy of the Forest of Bowland AONB.

To build a future for themselves on the farm, with help from Lancashire Rural Futures, Mr and Mrs Gardner secured planning permission to convert their redundant agricultural buildings into accommodation and a recreation room for visitors. They also made sure that the farm used renewable energy schemes, installing sun pipes, a water bore hole and two woodpellet boilers. These measures provide lighting, water and heating for three accommodation units and a recreation and meeting room on site.

The AONB Sustainable Tourism Project, North West Farm Tourism Initiative, Lancashire Rural Tourism Initiative, Leader Plus and bio-energy grants were all used to help fund the project.

Natural & Cultural Heritage



Case Study – Plantation Farm, Chaigley

One of the first Higher Level Stewardship applications was on behalf of Alan and Sheila Kay at Plantation Farm, Chaigley. The Kays' farm is just over 80 hectares, including wetter land that supports breeding pairs of lapwing, curlew and snipe, as well as an amazing range of species-rich grassland and seminatural woodland alongside the River Hodder.

The Higher Level Stewardship agreement means that the wet grassland is managed without fertilisers and grazed with cattle to produce a fairly short and quite open sward in spring. This encourages the wading birds to nest. Throughout late spring and summer, grazing levels are kept low to reduce the risk of nests being trampled and to allow some tussocks to develop providing cover for the birds. At the end of the nesting season, the cattle eat off the years' growth, which helps prevent rushes spreading too far.

Much of the grassland is designated as a Biological Heritage Site. Managing without fertiliser and using cattle to eat off the year's growth means that a greater diversity of flowers and grasses thrives. Betony, common spotted orchid, devil's bit scabious, ragged robin and sneezewort are just some of the species that thrive here.

A new route allows walkers to pass through higher woodland and to look down on the wild flowers and riverside woodland, as well as skirting the fields being managed for wading birds. Alan Kay said he found Lancashire Rural Futures 'very helpful: they put a lot of work into the project and did a fantastic job.'

Plantation Farm, Chaigley
© Margaret O'Kane

For more information please contact **John Wellbank**
on 01200 426433 or email him at john@lancashireruralfutures.co.uk



Forest of Bowland AONB Sustainable Development Fund

This year our Sustainable Development Fund has provided over £85,000 of funding to 14 projects. These projects included:

- a renewable energy event run by CLAREN;
- a woodchip boiler at Slaidburn Village Hall;
- the new Slaidburn and Newton parish lengthsman;
- fencing for the Upper Wenning biodiversity project;
- the RSPB Birds of Bowland project;
- a graduate placement at Lancashire Wildlife Trust's Aughton Woods Nature Reserve;
- the Wray Community Orchard;
- the Bowland Broadleaves native tree nursery;
- the Growing with Grace biodiesel van;
- a woodchip heating system at Lower Gill Farm Holidays;
- the Bleasdale Parish Hall wind turbine;
- IGNITE wood-fuel training for professionals;
- the Looking Well in Bowland arts projects in Bentham; and
- the Bike to Bowland project run by Lancaster University.

This year we have been particularly pleased to support developments in wood fuel in Bowland. Following interest expressed last year, and the CLAREN event in April, we worked closely with Lancashire County Council's Woodlands project to organise a one-day conference, All Fired Up, at Capernwray. This gave delegates a chance to see a largescale woodchip heating system installed by the owners at Capernwray Hall, and to find out how different scales of project were using wood fuel to heat their buildings. We are keen to see a local market develop in woodfuel heating. This would stimulate local demand for wood for chipping, which in turn would encourage better management of our neglected woodlands and provide local employment.

In January 2007 we also supported an accredited training course, IGNITE, delivered by Rural Development Initiatives. The course provided training for professionals in how to install and use woodfuel heating systems. We hope this may encourage development of a co-operative supply network in Bowland in the future.

Ignite Capernwray Hall Fuel Store
 Ignite Capernwray Hall Boiler
 Wood fuel boiler at Slaidburn village hall, prior to installation
 © Forest of Bowland AONB

Social Equity & Economic Opportunity



Aughton Woods
 © Lancashire Wildlife Trust
 Lapwing chicks
 © RSPB
 Sycamore thinning in Lawson's Wood
 Agreeing fencing lines with Forest of Bowland Staff
 Organic vegetable display
 Growing with Grace van
 © Forest of Bowland AONB

For more information about the Sustainable Development Fund
 contact **Cathy Hopley** on 01200 426433 or email her at
cathy.hopley@env.lancscc.gov.uk.



Community Resource Centres

The Forest of Bowland AONB now has a thriving network of up to date Community Resource Centres providing wonderful facilities for the communities of Bowland. Here is an update from two of them.

Slaidburn Village Hall

Slaidburn Village Hall has been designed to meet the needs of the community for many years to come. It has been built to a much higher standard than is normally associated with village halls due to the generosity and requirements of the charity which provided most of the funds for the building.

The architects, Austin-Smith Lord, have designed a remarkable building with imagination and flair. They have shown how difficulties can become benefits. For example, the shape of the building has been determined by land issues, producing an interesting curved wall usually associated with agricultural buildings. The floor level had to be raised from street level to reduce the risk of flooding, and this has greatly improved the views across the village green. As a planning condition, the facade onto Chapel Street has been maintained to look like the former chapel and adjoining house. This has allowed the architect to use the original window openings to good effect from the inside. And so it goes on.

For the last 70 years, the facades have always looked rather stark. But early photographs and other records show that they were whitewashed until the depression in the mid 1920s. The render has now been replaced with a modern, selfcoloured lime render, so the facades now look as they would have done in their prime.

Two major considerations in planning the building have been concern for the environment and the need to keep future maintenance costs as low as possible. The hall has a woodchip boiler and underfloor heating system thanks to the Forest of Bowland Sustainable Development Fund. There are low energy lights, the building is super insulated and oak is the timber of choice throughout.

Hornby Institute – A Success Story

A full year has flown by since Hornby Institute CRC re-opened its doors following a £1.3 million extension and refurbishment. To receive promises of funding, to see paper plans turn into solid walls and windows, to see builders and electricians, decorators and carpet layers finally complete their work was all hugely exciting and gratifying. The culmination, a grand triumphant opening on May 18th 2006.

Twelve months on – what now? Down to earth with a bump? Well yes, in a sense. We had quickly to face the realities of making the place function – advertise it, market it – satisfy and please our user clients, but also make the place pay its way. So have we succeeded?

The praises still flow from our customers, old and new – they love the place. The income revenue has been raised by five times on the pre-closing figure but is almost matched by our expenditure figure, which inevitably includes a multitude of new items, from curtains to crockery, from projectors to pianos, by way of sound equipment and gymnasium equipment. We now hold conferences and can serve serious food. We can hold wedding ceremonies and provide the banquet. We have weekly ballroom dancing sessions and a busy fitness room. We have an IT suite and a well-used drop-in centre. What went on before continues and expands - adult education classes, concerts, drama, and musical events with clubs and societies meeting to supply every need.

We have appointed a full-time manager and a part-time bar and catering manager but continue to rely upon a small army of volunteer helpers. We are busy and getting busier and are enormously grateful for the many sources of help and advice, not least from the Forest of Bowland AONB.

So have we succeeded? Well, it is early days still, but the answer must be a resounding YES.

Social Equity & Economic Opportunity

WELCOME

Head off the tourist track and explore the hidden treasures of Lancashire's countryside. Discover the hidden gems of the county and experience the beauty of the Lancashire countryside.

Take an extraordinary drive up the coast through the stunning scenery of the Forest of Bowland. Enjoy the views and the fresh air of the coast.

Discover the hidden gems of the Lancashire countryside. Explore the beauty of the county and experience the beauty of the Lancashire countryside.



For more information www.visitlancashire.com/outdoor



Lancashire & Blackpool Tourist Board

During 2006 to 2007, Lancashire and Blackpool Tourist Board has continued to promote country escapes as a key theme, with the Forest of Bowland as champion for the campaign. The Country Escapes Campaign aims to attract high spending visitors to the countryside for short breaks, through special offers on accommodation, attractions and eating out.

The marketing campaign ran from September 2006 to March 2007 and included direct mail, special offer vouchers, online activity and emailing. The successful Countryside Collection leaflet was updated to include 34 rural attractions, and the 2007 Lancashire Outdoor Guide was distributed at the Ordnance Survey Outdoors Show at the NEC in March. Both leaflets are distributed from Tourist Information Centres.

Lancashire and Blackpool Tourist Board has continued to deliver the Lancashire Rural Tourism Initiative – a three year funding programme supported by the Lancashire Rural Recovery Action Plan. The initiative has provided grant funding to rural tourism businesses, allowing them to identify new products and packages, increase visitor numbers and promote short breaks and longer stays.

The Lancashire Rural Recovery Action Plan is a funding programme to support regeneration and sustainable development of the rural economy across Lancashire. Funding has been secured from the Northwest Regional Development Agency until 2008 for a range of regeneration projects across the county.

Bowland Tourism Environment Fund

Bowland Tourism Environment Fund pin badges and postcards are being hosted by businesses across Bowland after the scheme was relaunched last year to raise money for environmental projects within the AONB.

A lucky winner enjoyed a luxurious short break at the The Gibbon Bridge Hotel after the 2006 promotion. A new promotion to win a night at the Inn at Whitewell has now been launched for the 2007 season.

Members of the public can enter the prize draw by making a donation to the fund. Prize draw postcards with Forest of Bowland pin badges are available at participating visitor attractions and businesses within the AONB.

All donations will directly fund environmental projects within the AONB. Grants of up to £500 are available.

For more information about Lancashire & Blackpool Tourist Board please contact **Suzi Williams** on 01257 226617 or visit www.visitlancashire.com

For more information about Bowland Tourism Environment Fund please contact **Lucy Barron** on 01772 534134 or email her at lucy.barron@env.lancscc.gov.uk

Bowland Festival 2006

Hen harriers were the star attraction at the 2006 Bowland Festival, held to celebrate the wildlife, landscape, heritage and rural life of the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, from 3-11 June.

Hundreds of people from across the UK flocked to the area to see this enigmatic bird – one of the country's rarest breeders – in its moorland habitat, soaring low over the heather hunting for food to feed its chicks.

This was the fourth annual festival, with a large selection of events and guided walks. From brewery tours to badger encounters, participants discovered the area's exceptional birds and wildlife, explored its heritage and sampled its delicious produce. Promoting and supporting sustainable tourism is another important aim for the Bowland Festival. By encouraging contributions to the regional economy through accommodation and local services, agricultural and commercial businesses can thrive whilst conserving and enhancing the environment.



Downham Dendrology
© Lancashire County Council
Wild Flower Walk
© Peter Guy
River Walk
Moorland Safari
© Lancashire County Council

For more information about the Bowland Festival please contact **Susan MacDonald** on 01772 531473 or email her at susan.macdonald@env.lancscc.gov.uk or visit www.bowlandfestival.co.uk



Open Access to Bowland Fells settles in

Walkers have had two years of open access to the Bowland uplands. We were among the first areas to be given access to the fells. The Ramblers' Association, local walking clubs, individual walkers, bird watchers and botanists have enthusiastically welcomed the extra freedom to explore and find new places of beauty within the AONB.

The numbers taking part may not have been as many as expected, but the pleasure enjoyed by these users has been considerable. Numbers are slowly building up as the best routes are discovered and passed on.

Few problems have been reported, mainly because of the number of signs at entry points and the gates through field boundaries which were put in right at the beginning by the rangers. New suggestions for this kind of facility have been welcomed and adopted.

Ranger Services in Bowland

Lancashire Countryside Service Rangers provide a valuable resource in terms of visitor management every year in Bowland. Countryside rangers and voluntary rangers advise and assist visitors to the

countryside, as well as providing events, educational activities and maintaining parks, picnic sites and other facilities. Visitor management work is crucial at popular sites such as the Crook O' Lune and Pendle Hill to promote responsible use of the countryside.

The Bowland Challenge

The Bowland Challenge is a team competition based on hill walking and navigation held entirely within the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The aim of the competition is for teams of 4 to 6 adults to visit as many points from a list of specified grid references as possible within a 10-hour period. Which points they visit and the order they visit them is down to each team. Teams can therefore plan and choose how far they will walk. Each specified grid reference has an associated question with points awarded for each correct answer given. The team with the highest points wins. In 2006 the Bowland Challenge attracted 12 teams of walkers into the Forest of Bowland. Teams travelled from Greater Manchester; Merseyside, North Wales, Yorkshire and Cumbria as well as from within Lancashire to take part in the Bowland Challenge. Proceeds from the event go to support Bowland Pennine Mountain Rescue Team.

Bowland Challenge June 2006
© Bowland Pennine Mountain Rescue

For more information about Access Land visit
www.countrysideaccess.org.uk

For more information about the Bowland Challenge
contact Bowland Pennine Mountain Rescue
or visit www.bowlandchallenge.co.uk

For more information on the Ranger Services in Bowland
please contact **Andrew Greenwood** on 0199561046
or email him on andrew.greenwood@env.lancscc.gov.uk

North Lancashire Bridleway

A research report for phase 2 has been completed. This identifies preferred routes which will complete the loop and provide links to the Pennine Bridleway and to other cycle and bridleway networks within Lancashire.

A new bridleway linking Moorside Road, Brookhouse and Roeburndale Road, Littledale is due to open in Spring 2007. This links up with the bridleway over Claughton Moor which has recently had surface improvements with support from the North Lancashire Bridleway Society. Discussions are underway to promote a local network for horse use based from one or two of the farms in the area. These farms are also looking into providing safe off-road parking for horseboxes.

Work has started on negotiating new bridleway access between Chipping and Scorton. Good progress is been made on the network between Oakencrough and Scorton. Improvements to access have also started on routes between Grizedale Bridge, Harrisend Fell and Scorton. Some of these routes will also be accessible to all-terrain electric wheelchairs, linking directly with the Wyresdale Wheels for All project. Improvements have been carried out to the route below Croasdale Quarry and Wood House Lane.

Wyresdale Wheels for All

In June 2006 a day was held at Beacon Fell to explore the potential for supporting all-terrain electric wheelchairs based in the private sector. The venture was carried out in partnership with Lancashire and Blackpool Tourist Board and Access Lancashire. Since this, a local cluster of businesses between Scorton, Calder Vale and Oakencrough have put together the 'Wyresdale Wheels for All' project in partnership with Wyre Tourism Association, Wyre Countryside Service, the Forest of Bowland AONB and Lancashire Countryside Service.

Following a successful grant bid to the Lancashire Rural Tourism Initiative, an all-terrain electric wheelchair has been bought to be shared between the businesses involved. Work has also started on access improvements to develop several circular routes of different lengths between these businesses.



The Wyre Way

Local contractors who attended stone carving workshops at Bridge House Farm Tearooms in Wray last winter have been commissioned by the Lancaster Ramblers Association to carve several waymarkers along the Wyre Way between Abbeystead, Tarnbrook and Marshaw. The markers will show images of local history and wildlife.

The Forest of Bowland AONB has funded access improvements along the route, including replacing stiles with gates and restoring two stone squeeze stiles at Ouzel Thorn.

Calder Vale Walks

This is a series of eight walks linking Calder Vale village and the businesses of Calderbank Lodge and Cobble Hey Farm and Gardens. Practical improvements and signposting for the route have been completed. Route descriptions and maps are now available as leaflets from the Forest of Bowland website.

The project has been jointly funded by the Forest of Bowland AONB, the Countryside Agency, Green Partnership Awards and the private sector.

Access in Pendle

Further work has been carried out to improve strategic access links in the Pendle area of Bowland and allow a wider range of people to enjoy Bowland's countryside.

Work has continued on improvements to link Clitheroe, one of Bowland's gateway towns with the surrounding AONB and to make it more accessible to people with disabilities and those with young children. Around Clitheroe 50 metres of path was drained and surfaced at Primrose, 4 stiles were replaced with easy access gates and 200 metres of path was drained and surfaced at Bellman and 5 stiles were replaced with easy access gates and drainage and surface works were carried out at High Moor.

Drainage and surface works were carried out to improve the Pendle Way at Rouhglee and Goldshaw Booth to continue to improve this important strategic link.

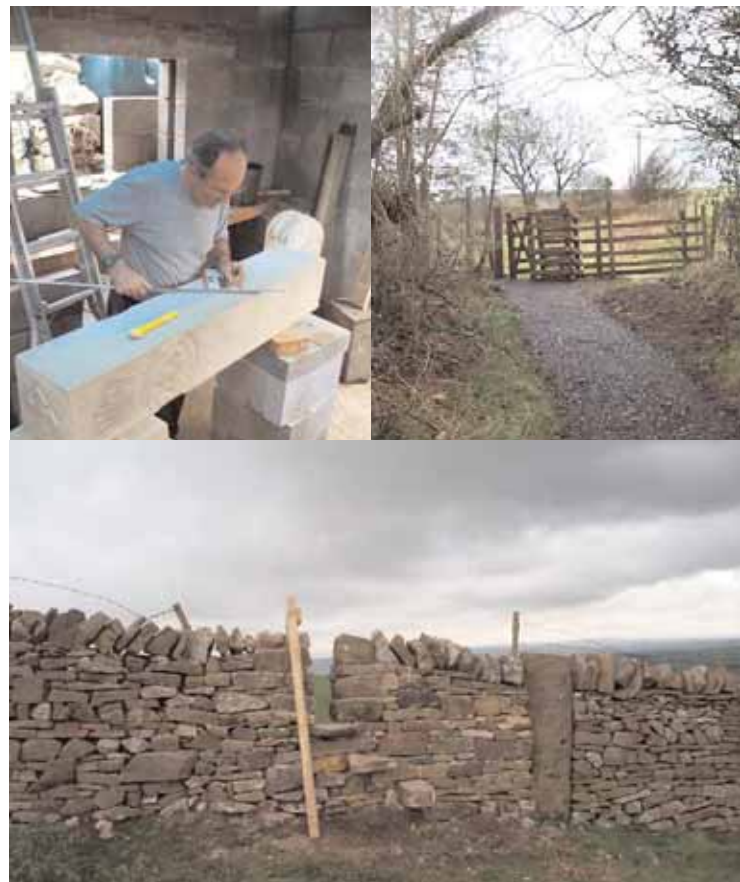
Surfacing work, installation of kissing gates and restoration of traditional stone stiles has improved the popular circular walks networks around Downham and Barley.

Access in East Bowland

The resurfacing, installation of new bridleway gates and ford access has enabled a valuable route to be available for horse access in the Chipping area at Pale Farm.

Initial route identification and survey work has been undertaken to identify linkages out of Gisburn Forest towards Settle. The feasibility of potential routes is being assessed and landowner contact is to commence shortly to assess reactions to the proposals.

Surfacing work, installations of kissing gates have improved popular circular walks networks around Bolton by Bowland, Dunsop Bridge and Newton.



Drawing a hare ready to carve
© Tarja Wilson/Lancashire County Council
Barley kissing gate
Traditional stone stile refurbishment, Downham
© Dave Oyston/Lancashire County Council

For further information about Access projects in Bowland please contact **Lucy Barron** on 01772 534134 or email her at lucy.barron@env.lancsc.gov.uk

Forest of Bowland AONB Branding

Work has continued on the Forest of Bowland brand during 2006/07 resulting in an impressive repertoire of publications and leaflets.

The use of the brand has been integral in the success of the sustainable tourism project work including the sustainable tourism newsletter, 'A Taste of Bowland' local produce guide and various village leaflets.

The Forest of Bowland AONB now has a very strong brand presence and this is reflected in the increasing number of general and media enquiries received and in the growing awareness of the AONB among local communities and visitors.

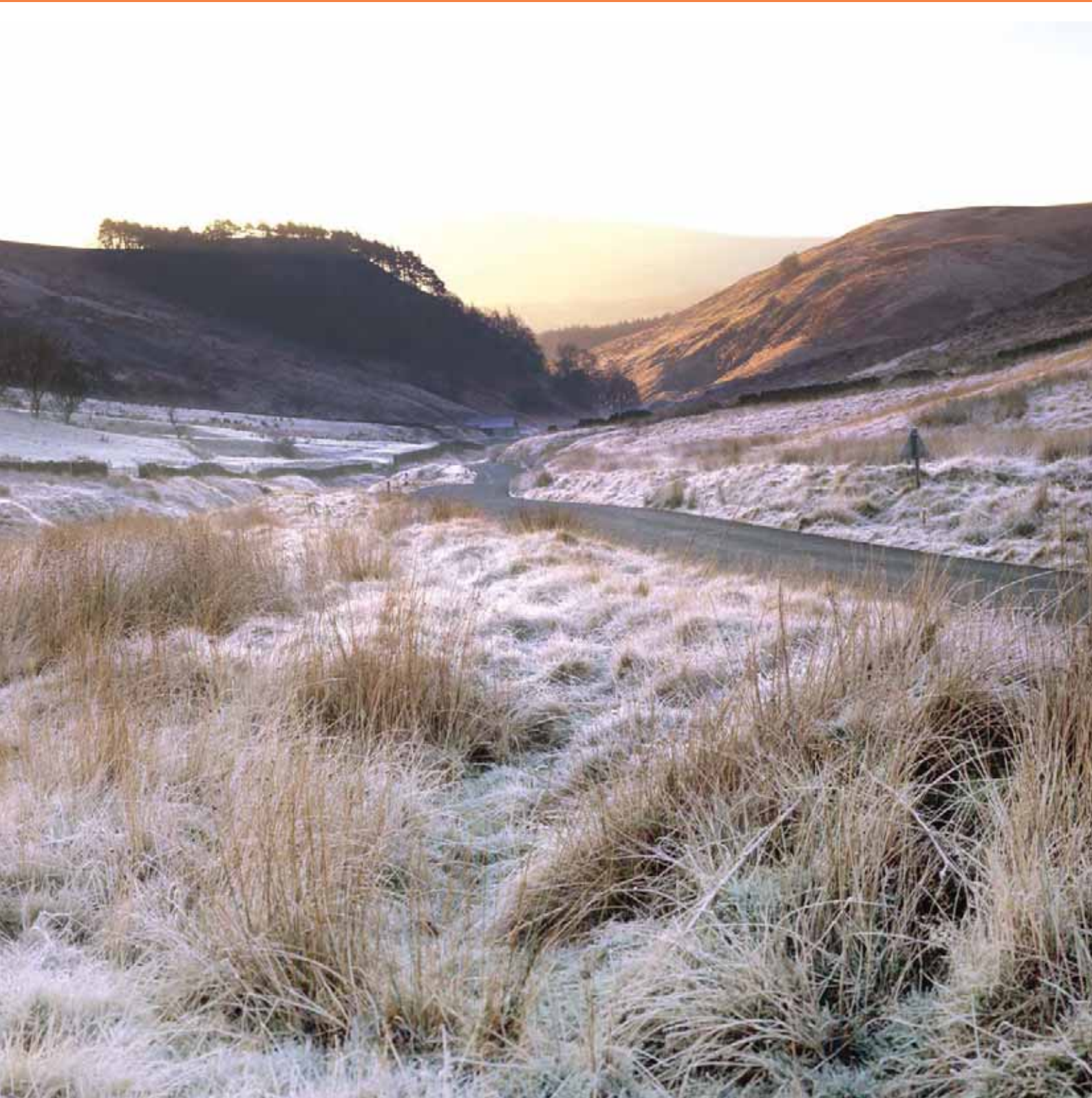
A definitive version of the Forest of Bowland graphic standards has now been produced which will inform our further work.

The content and some design aspects of the website have been developed. Particularly well-received have been the introduction of downloadable web walks for visitors and comprehensive information about local produce and where to source it.



For more information contact **Susan MacDonald** on 01772 531473 or email her at susan.macdonald@env.lancscc.gov.uk

Co-ordination & Management



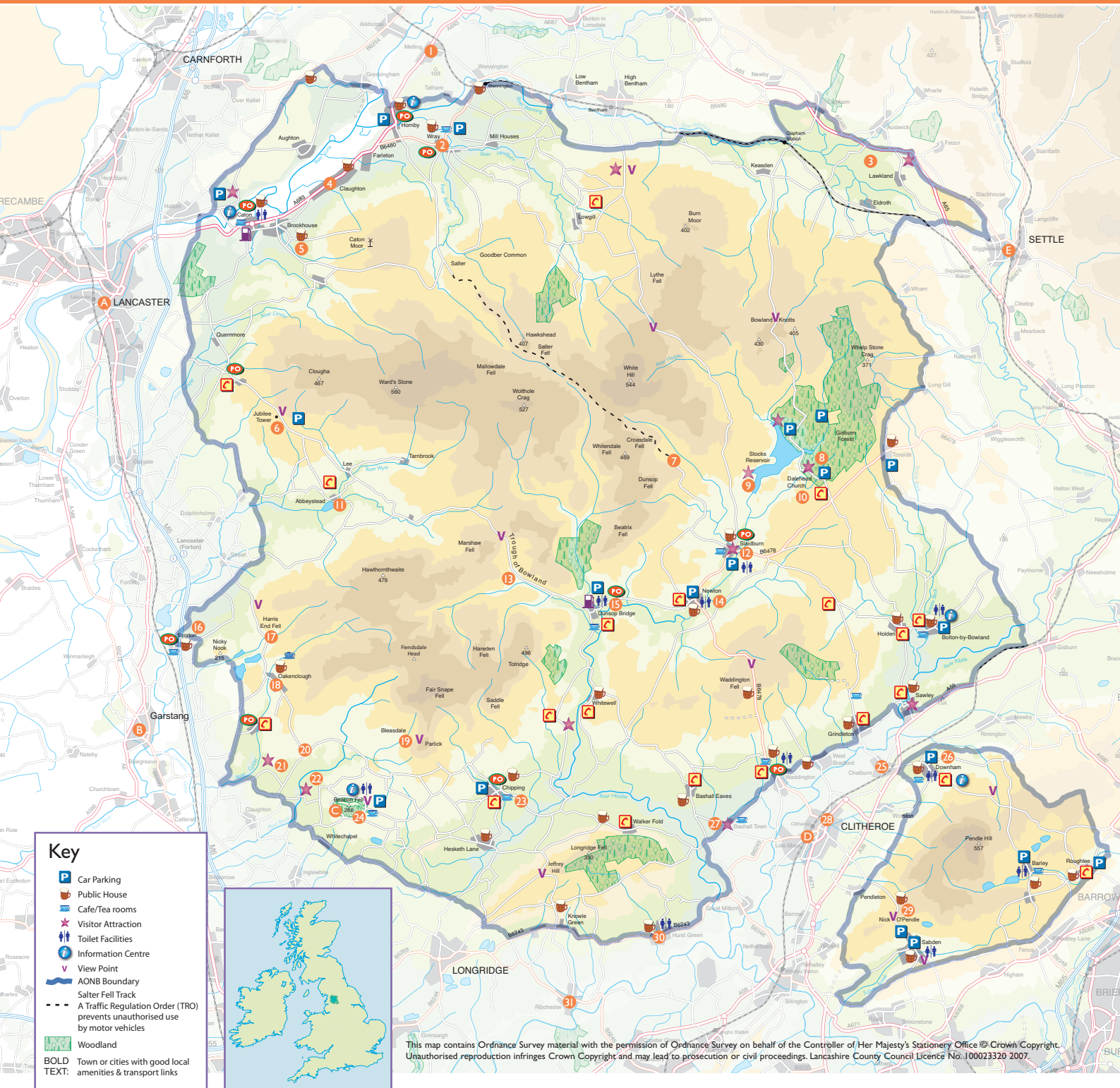
Trough of Bowland in winter
© Charlie Hedley/Natural England

Financial Summary

Forest of Bowland AONB Joint Advisory Committee Budget

	Actual 2006/07 (Out-turn prices) £'s
EXPENDITURE	
Salary, N.I and Superannuation	120,832
Outbased premises costs	0
Travel and subsistence	8,072
Central, departmental and technical support	49,534
Core activities	40,245
Projects/information	232,209
TOTAL COST TO BE RECOVERED	450,892
INCOME	
Government Grants	
Natural England	280,916
Contributions	
United Utilities	6,600
Other Project Contributions	6,343
County Councils	
Lancashire	64,599
North Yorkshire	6,600
District Councils	
Craven	3,300
Lancaster	6,600
Pendle	6,600
Preston	6,600
Ribble Valley	6,600
Wyre	6,600
SUB TOTAL – LOCAL AUTHORITIES	107,499
	401,358
CONTRIBUTION TO SUPPORT COSTS (in kind)	
Lancashire County Council	49,534
	450,892

AONB Area Map



Membership



Lancashire County Council

County Councillor Mrs J E Yates
County Councillor Mrs M Wilson
County Councillor P R Elliott

North Yorkshire County Council

County Councillor D L Ireton

Craven District Council

Councillor M Camacho

Lancaster City Council

Councillor P Quinton

Wyre Borough Council

Councillor R Brooks

Ribble Valley Borough Council

Councillor Mrs R Elms

Preston City Council

Councillor A Gornall

Pendle Borough Council

Councillor I Robinson

Lancashire Association of Parish and Town Councils

Mr M Helm

Yorkshire Local Councils Association

Councillor C Price

Natural England

Mrs S England
Mr S Pasley
Mr J Hickling

United Utilities

Mr I Grindy

Environment Agency (North West Region)

Mr K Ashcroft

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)

Mr A Gouldstone

Forest of Bowland Landowning and Farming Advisory Group

Mr R C Banks

Ramblers Association

Mr D Kelly

The Committee and its constituent bodies are playing the major role in ensuring that the Forest of Bowland Management Plan is implemented. The role of the Committee and its Terms of Reference, is as follows:-

The Joint Advisory Committee supports and encourages an active partnership between all of the agencies involved and co-ordinates management over the whole of the AONB. The aim is to:

- promote the AONB at national, regional and local level,
- ensure that the AONB is conserved and managed effectively,
- work to assist the social and economic well being of the AONB commensurate with the conservation of its special qualities,
- provide a forum for the exchange of information and ideas,
- consider any issues likely to affect the area adversely and agree action,
- make recommendations for new initiatives

Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

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Dave Padley

Bowland East

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Bowland North and West

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United Utilities

Bowland Estate Office

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www.unitedutilities.com

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The Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is a nationally protected landscape and internationally important for its heather moorland, blanket bog and rare birds. The AONB is managed by a partnership of landowners, farmers, voluntary organisations, wildlife groups, recreation groups, local councils and government agencies, who work to protect, conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of this special area.

Lancashire County Council acts as the lead authority for the Forest of Bowland AONB Joint Advisory Committee a partnership comprising: Lancashire county Council, North Yorkshire County Council, Craven District Council, Lancaster City Council, Pendle Borough Council, Preston City Council, Ribble Valley Borough Council, Wyre Borough Council, Lancashire Association of Parish and Town Councils, Yorkshire Local Councils Association, NWDA, DEFRA, Countryside Agency, United Utilities plc, Environment Agency, English Nature, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), Forest of Bowland Landowning and Farmers Advisory Group and the Ramblers Association.

