



FOREST OF **BOWLAND**

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

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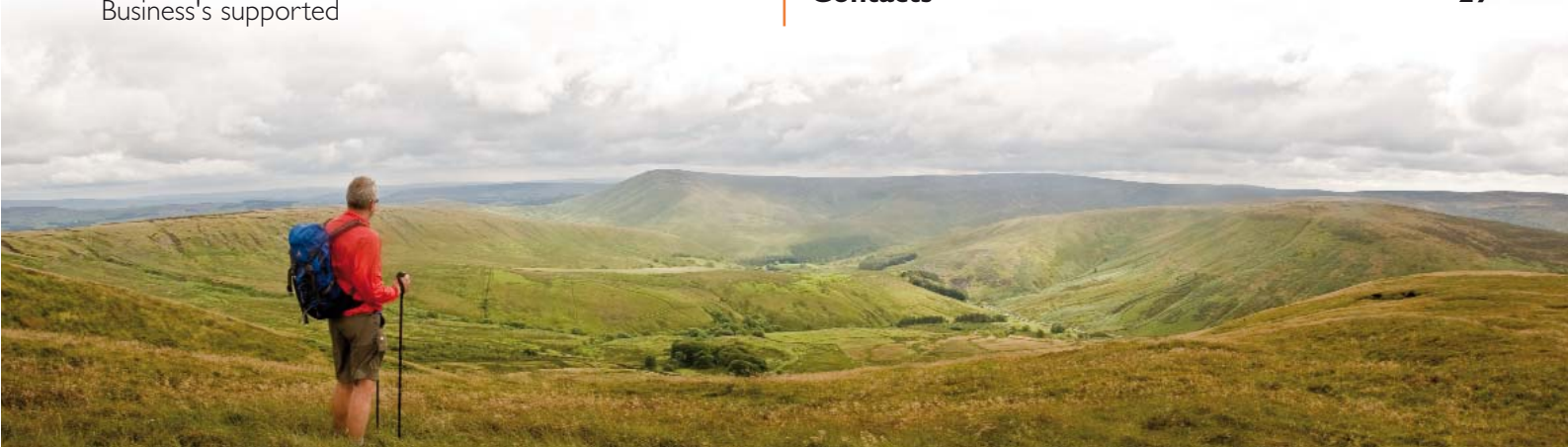
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Cover Image - small skipper butterfly on Knapweed
© Graham Cooper www.forestofbowlandimages.com

The view from Whins Brow
© Graham Cooper www.forestofbowlandimages.com

Chairperson's View



Our farmers and landowners shape the landscape and we need a buoyant land management sector in Bowland confident in its ability to adapt and prosper to keep sons and daughters on the land. In the same context I want to mention two long standing champions of farmers and landowners in Bowland and to personally thank them for their long service to the Joint Advisory Committee and the Officers working groups - so a big thank you to Rod Banks, recently retired Manager of the Abbeystead Estate whose canny advice will be missed by all. Also this is an opportunity to thank Henry Bainbridge, long time 'advocate' for upland farmers who, although he has retired from active farming, is still very much active in Bowland and helping on officers working groups and long may he be so. Looking to the future we will always welcome new interest and support from the farming and landowning community.

Locally produced food is getting more popular again for reasons of freshness and taste but also a desire by people to support their local farmers and food producers and reduce food miles. The attractive 'Taste of Bowland' brochure and the Leader Plus funded 'Cheesy Trails' with downloadable material on the Bowland website are one way of promoting local produce. Please check them out if you haven't already done so.

The 'Sustainable Bowland' two year project reached its conclusion in March 2008. It has enabled the AONB Unit to work much more effectively with businesses and communities, illustrated by the many achievements described in this report. Overnight stays are more beneficial to the local economy on the whole than day visits so we have been encouraging green tourism. Our work has been of interest to many other areas in this country and elsewhere in Europe. Read all about it here in the annual report and on the website.

One of the principal tasks of the Bowland Joint Advisory Committee is to make sure there is an up-to-date Statutory AONB Management Plan in place with the means to implement it. The legislation requires the plan to be revised and updated every five years and the local authorities are held accountable for it. So in late 2007 we began the review and I would like to thank everyone that helped get us off to a great start especially in local workshop sessions in Barley, Eldroth, Hornby, Scorton and Slaidburn and the Saturday drop in session at Chipping. It really does matter, as it is the statutory document that will underpin all our work through to 2014. We aim to complete the process by December 2008, in good time to meet the Secretary of State's deadline in March 2009.

On a more informal note, I really enjoyed trying out for myself a new all terrain tramper last year that got me across a rough and difficult piece of ground that otherwise I could never have walked over due to an ailing knee. The use of the trampers to open up new experiences to the elderly and infirm, and those with disabilities, is really worthwhile and I know from the comments recorded by users that it's one of the most appreciated things the County Council and the Bowland partners have achieved in recent years.

There are so many examples of successful projects by the AONB partnership to read about in these pages and I have only mentioned a few, so 'enjoy' and be inspired for more good work in the coming years.

County Councillor Jean Yates

Chairman of the Forest of Bowland AONB Joint Advisory Committee

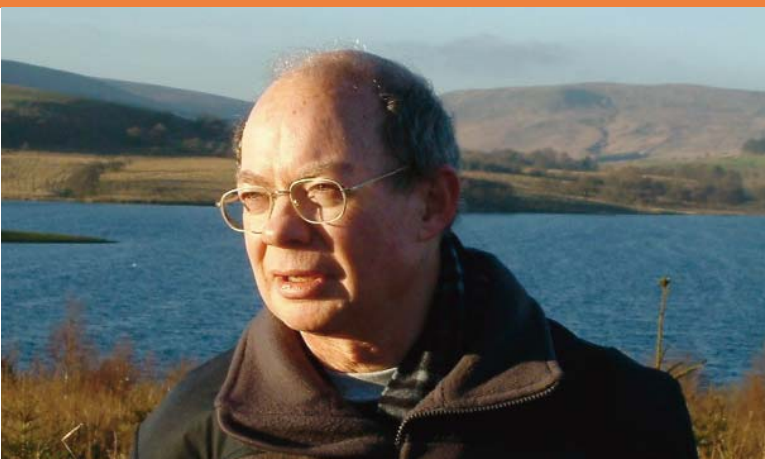
County Councillor Jean Yates

Chairman of the Forest of Bowland AONB Joint Advisory Committee

01524 859005

jean.yates@lancashire.gov.uk

AONB Manager's View



Inspiration has often come from how we respond to landscape. For many folk there is an added depth of interest in those landscapes that reveal evidence of the past. One of the unexpected outcomes of our work with community groups, over the last two years in particular, has been the discovery of a rich seam of community interest, not only in the remains of pre-history that you might expect, but also how local land based industries of more recent centuries shaped their parish landscapes. With SDF funding we have been able to assist local history groups with projects in the past, and the demand for more information has helped us draw up project proposals to bid for funding for the future. In coming reports we aim to see the fruits of these labours translated into tangible interpretation.

Meanwhile, check out the beautiful 'Discover Bowland Guide' on the website, or the published version, to see the diverse ways of appreciating Bowland's living landscapes.

One of the most enjoyable episodes of the last 12 months for me was the round of six public 'Communities of Place' workshops held in villages around Bowland, where representatives of a range of local interests and members of the general public were invited to help review and revise the Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan. The workshops were one part of a larger suite of consultation activities to inform the statutory review process. What might have been rather dry and academic were instead lively, challenging and productive events. To help things along, refreshments and lunch were provided by local caterers. Participants certainly earned their lunches during the five half day workshops, generating some 1,200 individual comments. Check the Forest of Bowland website for progress on the Plan.

One important aspect of revising the Plan is to incorporate the Strategy for Sustainable Tourism, drawn up with tourism stakeholders in 2004/05. When I recently reviewed the Action Plan for the Strategy, I was pleased to see how many actions we have already achieved in such a short time. All credit to a superb AONB team effort, the outstanding

work of local businesses and the funding by local and regional agencies that backed us! If you want to see something of what has been done have a look at the Evaluation Report for the Sustainable Bowland project on the 'Plans, Strategies and Reports' pages of our website, or download some of the Sustainable Tourism Newsletters if you have a broadband connection.

Because of the innovative work by the Bowland partnership over many years, Bowland attracts students and study groups. One Sunday in late November we had the pleasure of welcoming just such a group - 24 Norwegian researchers, planners, local and regional project leaders and politicians (including three mayors). They were from the West Norwegian Fjords, the Telemark Research Institute and the Norwegian University of Life Sciences (UMB). They were enthusiastic to see and hear about how different communities and interest groups, with their own different agendas, could find ways to rub along together and even join forces to achieve great results, as they evidently had done in Bowland.

Split into two groups, one group visited the Pendle Hill outlier of the AONB to hear about managing a traditional estate landscape of picture postcard villages, field and woodland, crowned by Pendle Hill itself. A landscape under pressure from visitors seeking outdoor recreation and a venue for sports such as fell running, hang gliding and parascending. The second group saw one of our stone carving workshops in full swing at Bolton-by-Bowland before heading on a circular walk to get to know the local issues better, pausing only for some very tasty local baking and refreshments at the 'Village Shop, Post Office & Tea Room'. Monday saw the whole party visiting local businesses to see for themselves how the AONB programmes were making a difference, and how businesses in Bowland were working together with the AONB to achieve the highest standards in sustainable management.

There were plenty of useful discussion sessions and the group made use of our Bowland Sense of Place Toolkit to assist them in getting the most out of these. It wasn't all serious though, and on the Sunday evening the group relaxed for a while launching into an impromptu 'choral' session of popular satirical Scandinavian songs, much to our surprise and that of the staff and guests at the hotel. Thankfully tolerance prevailed and everyone enjoyed the fun.

All our progress that attracts so much interest from far and wide would not be possible without the support of local communities and businesses, continued investment by Natural England and the county and district councils, who have the statutory responsibility to plan for 'conserving and enhancing' our well loved AONB

Don McKay

Forest of Bowland AONB Manager

Don McKay AONB Officer
© Susan MacDonald, Forest of Bowland AONB

Don McKay
AONB Manager
01772 534140, 07973 928315
don.mckay@lancashire.gov.uk

Natural & Cultural Heritage



Traditional boundaries

As part of the Forest of Bowland AONB traditional boundaries programme, 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.

During 2007 to 2008 the AONB has supported over 2000 metres of hedgerow restoration and 600 metres of dry stone walling in locations across Bowland.

The Bowland hedge laying competition and Bowland dry stone walling competition were key events in the calendar, and interpretation material was produced to raise awareness of the importance of traditional boundaries in the landscape.



Building a dry stone wall
© Graham Cooper www.forestofbowlandimages.com

Newly laid hedge at Stocks
© Martin Charlesworth, Forest of Bowland AONB

Natural & Cultural Heritage

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 radio tagged 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**.



Hen Harrier Cam

A camera was set up to view progress of a nest of hen harrier chicks and to provide footage for display at Beacon Fell Visitor Centre as part of a partnership project between RSPB and Lancashire Countryside Service. This is an ongoing project and is being developed further into the future. It has proved to be a very popular project with many visitors returning to check on the progress of the chicks.

Female hen harrier
© Andy Hey, rspb-images.com

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

Natural & Cultural Heritage



RSPB Birds of Bowland Project

Raptors on Bowland's United Utilities Estate

There are very few things that you can rely on in life, but one is that the United Utilities Bowland Estate will host the majority of breeding hen harriers in England and, perhaps, that British summers never live up to our expectations - 2007 was no exception!

A dedicated team of RSPB staff and volunteers worked through the cold, snowy conditions of March, into the marginally warmer conditions of April, the glorious conditions in May and the deluge that was June and July. The result of this monitoring in freezing, baking (am I never happy!!) and wet conditions, was the discovery of 12 nesting attempts - a modern record for the estate, and approximately 60% of all hen harrier nesting attempts in England in 2007, which culminated in the fledging of 26 young.

Without the support of United Utilities (UU) and its tenants, the English population of breeding hen harriers would be pitifully smaller than it already is.

The annual programme of guided walks run by RSPB and UU was as well attended as ever, with several hundred people participating on the regular moorland safaris that run between April and July. These are a huge benefit in giving people the opportunity to see and learn about a

wide range of upland wildlife, not just hen harriers, as well as how the area is managed for a wide range of interests.

This people engagement work took a new step in 2007, when RSPB and UU joined up with Natural England and Lancashire County Council, in an attempt to show visitors to Beacon Fell Country Park live images of a hen harrier nest on the UU estate. Unfortunately, due to technical difficulties, the live option was a non-starter. However, images were recorded and played back at Beacon Fell which were enjoyed by visitors between mid May and late June, when the lone chick fledged.

RSPB have continued to work on the UU SCaMP project over the past year, with the major emphasis on working with Natural England and farm tenants to secure agri-environment funding through the Higher Level Stewardship scheme administered by Natural England. This money has helped to reduce stocking levels on some areas, pay for grip blocking, manage rush dominated pasture for the benefit of breeding wading birds and many other environmental benefits.

As ever all this work is very much a team effort, so thanks to everybody involved, in any way.

Hen harrier chick
© Stephen Murphy, Natural England

Hen harrier chick and eggs
© Peter Wilson, RSPB

For more details about the RSPB Birds of Bowland project please contact **Peter Wilson** on 07968 129570 or email pete.wilson@rspb.org.uk

Natural & Cultural Heritage

RSPB Birds of Bowland Project

Bowland Wader Project

Now into its seventh year, the RSPB Bowland Wader Project continues to celebrate and help conserve the area's nationally important but declining wading bird populations. Lapwings, curlews, redshanks and snipe are all benefiting from the combined actions of many local farmers, landowners and partner organisations to deliver habitat management for these special birds. Much of the habitat work is delivered through Natural England's Higher Level Stewardship Scheme, and in the past twelve months the Wader Project has helped secure six new agreements across the AONB.

Regular visits to all farms managing areas for waders ensure that good relations are developed and that everything that can be done to help the farm's waders is being done. This approach consistently delivers; on one farm in Roeburndale the lapwing population has doubled in its first year under HLS management!

Chipping Moss on the Leagram Estate remains one of the best sites for breeding waders in southern Bowland. Close to twenty pairs of lapwings are now breeding on the site and the management work for wading birds has also benefited other species. Reed bunting are present in good numbers and skylarks have returned to breed after an absence of many years. The increasingly diverse grassland includes many wildflowers and the restored ditches are alive with dragonflies and damselflies. Farming the site remains key to its success and the tenant farmer, as well as receiving an income from his stewardship scheme, is now also benefiting from a high demand for his Hereford beef cattle, animals that were purchased to help graze the site more effectively for the wading birds!

The Wader Project has also helped farmers on sites where stewardship is unattainable, thanks to funding from partner organisations including the AONB, Lancashire Countryside Service and Ribble Valley Borough Council. At United Utilities' Alston Reservoirs near Longridge, creation of shallow lagoons, scrapes and wet grassland habitat continues to attract high populations of breeding waders and the site has attracted 18 different species of wading bird and 15 species of wildfowl since its creation in 2005!

The research element of the Project continues in the form of the Lapwing Recovery Project; a trial management project that is part of Natural England and RSPB's Natural England and RSPB's Action for Birds (AfBiE) programme. Action for Birds in England (AfBiE) programme. The project is testing the effectiveness of agri-environment scheme options for managing habitat for breeding lapwings. This spring, surveys were undertaken on 62 farms spread widely throughout the AONB. Staff and volunteers are all involved in collecting this vital data and new volunteers are always welcome. Go on you know you want to, it's a great way of getting out of the office and contributing to a project that will help conserve one of the AONB's most symbolic birds!

Engaging people remains key to Wader Project work. Articles have appeared in the local press, several presentations have been given to groups ranging from the Lancashire Biodiversity Action Plan to the WI and there has been full participation in recent events, such as Bleasdale's World Environment Day and the Disabled Ramblers Association visit to Bowland. The annual Bowland Festival and RSPB guided walks were again very popular.



Male lapwing in Roeburndale
© Gavin Thomas, RSPB

RSPB Alston wetland
© Gavin Thomas, RSPB



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

Natural & Cultural Heritage

United Utilities Sustainable Catchment Management Programme (SCaMP)

United Utilities Sustainable Catchment Management Programme (SCaMP) is the only catchment scale programme we are aware of in the UK. The two areas are our Bowland Estate and our Southern Estate area (Goyt, Longdendale and Peak District). We are now three years into the five-year programme, which aims to improve the landscape and habitat value of the land and to help stabilise or reverse the deterioration in raw water colour. The programme objectives are:

To develop an integrated approach to catchment management incorporating sustainable upland farming which delivers:

- Government targets for SSSIs
- Biodiversity plans for priority habitats and species
- Improved raw water quality

The aim of the £10m programme is to improve the condition of the land, the wildlife habitats on it and the quality of the raw water that runs off it into our reservoirs. We are now implementing the plans which lay out all of the work required to ensure that we move to a farming system that is both environmentally and economically sustainable. The plans are done, the negotiations are largely complete and most of the grants are secured; it is now about implementing works on the ground.

The programme looks to get multiple benefits from investing in activities, such as planting new streamside woodland which provides a valuable new habitat for wildlife, whilst at the same time providing a barrier to grazing farm animals contaminating reservoir feeder streams. By providing new farm buildings, grazing pressure can be reduced on fragile habitats at appropriate times of year, along with activities that present an elevated risk to raw water quality, such as lambing and calving. The programme is currently in its third year, with substantial work currently underway, which has led to over 90% of specially designated land being classified as being in favourable or recovering condition. We have planted over 250 hectares of woodland, blocked over 30km of moorland drains, started to re-vegetate over 60ha of bare peat and built or improved eight buildings, so the programme is well underway.



For more information about SCaMP contact
Martin McGrath on 01200 445540
or at Martin.McGrath@uuplc.co.uk

Natural & Cultural Heritage



Wyre Coast & Countryside Service

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

A group of local businesses have joined together to help increase 'Access for All' within the local area, under the umbrella of 'Wyresdale Wheels For All'. This innovative project brings together the public and private sectors and assists people with limited mobility to access the wider countryside around Scorton, Calder Vale and Bleasdale through the use of an electric powered Tramper.

With the assistance of Lancashire Countryside Service, Wyre Coast & Countryside Service and the Forest of Bowland AONB, two training events and an official launch day were held and a publicity leaflet has been produced. These Countryside Services, with the help of volunteers and contractors, are currently improving a number of access routes for the trampers within the area.

Garstang Walking Festival ran from 8th - 13th May 2007 and was officially opened by Cedric Robinson - the Queens Official Guide Across the Sands of Morecambe Bay. A total of 55 walks and activities took place over the 6-day event, with 27 (50%) taking place within the AONB. The Festival acts as a gateway to the countryside around the Western edge of Bowland and beyond, and celebrates its wildlife, heritage and bio-diversity during springtime.

Wyre Coast & Countryside Service continue to support the Bowland Festival through contribution to the steering group and organising a total of 11 walks and activities led by a combination of staff and volunteers during the Festival fortnight. The Bowland Dry Stone Walling Competition was held during the Festival at Cobble Hey Farm & Gardens. Organised by Wyre Coast & Countryside Service in association with the Mid Lancs Dry Stone Walling Association, the competition attracted 11 competitors from both Lancashire & Cumbria,

with the workshop attracting a further 8 beginners who came to learn this traditional craft. The day proved very successful, with a good standard in the competition, fine weather and over 100 spectators

Coast & Countryside Service continues to contribute towards the Traditional Boundaries project within western Bowland. Volunteers have been busy planting new hedgerows around Bleasdale Parish Hall and at High Moor Farm, also at Bleasdale. Volunteers have also planted new hedgerow and gapped up existing hedgerow at Sykes Farm, Nether Wyresdale. In addition, volunteers laid 40 metres of hedgerow down the Brock Valley as part of a larger access project, which also saw a section of new hedge planted.

Funding was obtained from Garstang Area Partnership to implement the first phase of improvements to a major Gateway into Bowland from Garstang, a concessionary path along the old route of the Pilling Pig Railway Line. The Garstang Area Partnership also funded access improvements, which replaced a series of worn stiles with new gates.

Wyre Coast & Countryside Service hosted the 2007 Annual Conference, 'The Association of Countryside Volunteer Wardens (ACVW)', at Bleasdale Parish Hall. Around 50 delegates from England and Wales attended the two-day conference. On the first day they listened to a range of speakers from Wyre's Coast & Countryside Service, Forest of Bowland AONB and Lancashire County Council, as well as two local, rural tourism outlets - Cobble Hey Farm & Gardens and The Priory. Following the speakers, delegates were led on a walk around Lower Fairsnape Farm, which allowed them the chance to try out the Trampers. Day two saw the delegates split into three walking parties who were led on guided walks over Nicky Nook, around Cobble Hey Farm & Gardens and the parish of Bleasdale.

Wyre Coast & Countryside Service also took part in a visit from The Society of American Travel Writers when they visited the North West of England, organised through Lancashire & Blackpool Tourist Board.

Bowland dry stone walling competition
© Wyre Borough Council

Wyresdale Wheels for All Launch
© Wyre Borough Council

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

Natural & Cultural Heritage

Volunteering in Bowland

The first BTCV (British Trust for Conservation Volunteers) conservation holiday in Bowland for several years took place in Wigglesworth and Sawley in early March 2007.

Seven volunteers, with ages ranging from 20 to 76, came from as far away as Cambridge, Bath, Essex and even Dresden, to learn Lancashire style hedgelaying, staying at Barley Village Hall. Further tasks continued through 2007, with more hedgelaying during November at Stocks cap Reservoir and during Christmas at Barnacre. More recent volunteer projects have included dry stone walling and some hard graft towards the development of new routeways in Gisburn Forest.

Sustainable Bowland - Village Projects

Restored war memorial - The Forest of Bowland and 12 other funders contributed to the wonderful restoration of the war memorial for Chipping and Bowland with Leagram. There was agreement to change the site to incorporate a seat and a wall, and secured funds enabled this to take place.

Stone wall building - Kim Shutes and The Friends at Thorneyholme School (Dunsop Bridge) heard about the rebuilding of the wall at Tosside, and with the assistance of funding have been able to build a wall bordering the school playground and a hedge around three sides of the play area. Many volunteers have contributed and turned out even in atrocious weather for the wall building. The stone was also donated, so this has been a project of tremendous value that is going to make a big difference visually for Thorneyholme.

Re-painting village rails - The AONB purchased tins of paint for local communities to get involved in the re-painting of lengths of railing. Anne Fletcher in Chipping led the way and recruited a group of volunteers to start painting around the Chipping and Leagram area.

Village Hall improvements and cobble restoration - In Pendle, there have been several project developments. The first is Barley Village Hall, with improvements to the front steps, entrance and railings. In Roughlee restoration of the 'Happy Valley' and in Newchurch, Sparable Lane, cobbles have been re-laid. Again, local people have put together packages of funding and donated items and/or their time to make huge improvements to their localities.



BCTV volunteers on the conservation holiday

Chipping and Leagram war memorial

Railings in Bolton by Bowland

Newly laid cobbles at Sparable Lane, Newchurch

© Martin Charlesworth, Forest of Bowland AONB

For more information on volunteering in Bowland please contact
Martin Charlesworth on 01200 426433 / 07989 258675
or e-mail him at martin.charlesworth@lancashire.gov.uk

Natural & Cultural Heritage

Annual Conference 2007 - Landscape and Climate Change



The Forest of Bowland AONB Annual Conference was held at the newly refurbished Slaidburn Village Hall in October, with the theme of landscape and climate change.

Delegates were invited to celebrate the unique landscape of the Forest of Bowland, to learn more about how climate change may affect the area and to look at examples of how the AONB partnership is taking action to respond to climate change.

Delegates learnt more about the European Landscape convention from guest speaker Jonathan Porter from Countryside, and Sarah Robinson from Natural England gave us a local perspective on how climate changes

might affect Bowland, demonstrating 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 fantastic locally produced food.

Stone Carving Workshops

As part of the Forest of Bowland Stone Carved Waymarkers Project, the Forest of Bowland AONB ran two 4-day stone carving workshops. 4 participants learnt the skills and secrets of well-known professional stone carver, Philip Kennedy, and created their own stone waymarkers, interpreting the local landscape and wildlife. The waymarkers afterwards took pride of place in the landscape marking local footpaths.



Speaker Steven Glyn from Sustainability North West
© Forest of Bowland AONB

Carving Workshop
© Forest of Bowland AONB

Social Equity & Economic Opportunity



Forest of Bowland AONB Sustainable Development Fund

This was our third year of SDF and we were able to support 12 new projects, providing nearly £70,000 worth of grant aid to sustainable projects within the AONB. The projects were:

- A wind turbine at Quernmore Primary School to generate electricity (and enthusiasm!) for the school
- Support for the Lancaster Climate Change Advice Centre to work with rural communities in Lancaster district to reduce their energy use and carbon footprints
- A habitat and landscape survey for the Ribble Catchment Conservation Trust, based on the Bashall Brook area
- Installing photovoltaic panels and a biomass boiler at Dove Syke Nursery, West Bradford
- Support for Pioneer Projects in delivering their community arts projects in the Bentham area of Bowland
- A wind turbine and photovoltaic panels at the Wild Boar Park near Chipping
- A solar thermal system for heating hot water at Over Wyresdale Parish Hall in Abbeystead
- Small scale machinery for Melling with Wrayton Parish Council to enable them to harvest and bale the hay from the village green, which is an important wildflower site
- New exhibitions and publicity for the Heritage Trust North West's Slaidburn Archive, so they can tour their historical information around local villages and events

- Production of interpretive leaflets and display panels by Community Futures, to promote the renewable technologies installed at four village halls and Dalehead Church over the last three years
- Match funding for Harvey Maps to produce a new walkers, cyclists and riders map of the AONB
- Match funding for Cycle Adventure, a new mobile cycle hire and guiding business for Bowland

This year we were lucky to support a wide range of projects, together neatly summing up what sustainable development is all about: safeguarding the natural environment whilst enriching the local community and investing in the local economy.

As in previous years we supported a number of renewable energy projects. Quernmore School really impressed us with their enthusiasm and commitment to including their wind turbine in their learning activities, and also by spreading the word within the local community and to other schools. We also tried to support awareness projects about climate change: how to reduce your energy use at home, and interpretation about the renewable technologies now in use within the AONB. However, for 2008 we have decided not to prioritise community renewable energy projects via SDF as there are now several other grant schemes open to applicants in this area, but we do hope to still see more of these projects developing in the AONB.

On the community side we continued our support of Pioneer Projects, and ventured into the heritage sector with Slaidburn Archive. We worked with a number of businesses too, supporting the local economy via tourism ventures and micro generation schemes. We also helped with conservation projects at Melling (where their mowing and harvesting machinery is now available for hire to other landowners) and at Bashall Brook.

Renewable energy at Barley Village Hall
© Forest of Bowland AONB

Photovoltaic Panels and Chipping Wild Boar Park
© Forest of Bowland AONB

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

Social Equity & Economic Opportunity

Sustainable Bowland

Forest of Bowland Business Network

FOREST OF BOWLAND Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM NETWORK

During 2007 and 2008 the Forest of Bowland Business Network was developed to enable tourism businesses to work with the AONB. The aid of the Network is to improve the sustainable development and management of tourism in protected areas, whilst taking into account of the needs of the environment, local residents, local businesses and visitors. During this time the businesses met on a regular basis and now over 60 businesses have signed-up to the Network, which continues to be supported by the AONB. The Network have been involved in various activities during last year; including the Green Tourism Business Scheme; a website competition to encourage businesses in the Network to develop their websites to show their commitments to sustainable tourism in the Forest of Bowland AONB.

Businesses supported through part funding by the Forest of Bowland AONB Sustainable Bowland Project

Below are several case studies highlighting the development of new businesses in the Forest of Bowland, supported by the Sustainable Tourism project.

Cycle Adventure

Cycling enthusiast Stuart Jones has recently embarked on a new business venture, offering cycle hire, tours and guided rides across the Forest of Bowland AONB. Stuart's business developed from the realisation that the Forest of Bowland offers a diverse range of stunning landscapes, quiet lanes and forest ways, to exciting tracks and trails in a peaceful undiscovered part of the countryside, with routes to cater for a whole range of abilities:

'The Forest of Bowland offers a great opportunity for cyclists of all ages and abilities to enjoy a fun and healthy day out in tranquil surroundings, with spectacular views around every corner.'

Stuart acknowledges the obvious benefits of cycling over other forms of transport, particularly the contribution made to help reduce carbon emissions. www.cycle-adventure.co.uk



Business Network member, The Priory at Scorton



Social Equity & Economic Opportunity

Greenhall Riding Centre

Greenhall Riding Centre is owned by mother and daughter team Jean and Rachael Easterby. Both have had a passion for riding for many years and recently decided to expand their livery yard to a business, which includes a riding centre, to make full use of the 18 stables and outdoor arena. This is an exciting venture, as this will be the first trekking centre to be set-up within the Forest of Bowland AONB. The Centre is in the north of the AONB set in a spectacular and remote location in the midst of the fells surrounded by heather moorland. With riding that offers panoramic views over the Bowland countryside there is no better way to experience all the area has to offer than the peace and tranquility offered by horse back! www.greenhallridingcentre.co.uk

Dale House camping barn, Dale Head, Slaidburn

In 2006, Chris and Cheryl Morris-Barrow and their young family purchased a house in an idyllic spot, with views over Stocks reservoir and Gisburn Forest. Attached to their house is a derelict 17th century barn and it was their dream to preserve this barn in a way that was sensitive to the beautiful surroundings, but could also be developed in some way to bring it back to life.

And so began the project of Dale House camping barn...

Chris and Cheryl wanted to develop a barn that didn't detract too much from the original structure, and so set about creating accommodation space around the original fixtures and fittings. The beams were incorporated into the build of the stairs, which lead to a cosy mezzanine sleeping area. The remainder of the space is made up of a simple kitchen, living area, toilets and showers, which make use of the original cattle stalls, with the toilet being adapted specifically for disabled access. The barn has also made use of a Bio Disc sanitation system, which is an efficient and environmentally safe solution to sewage disposal. The cosy ambience to the barn is finished off with a wood burning stove, which soon warms the building after a cold day on the fells.

The barn took three months to complete and was just in time for its first booking of a group of conservation volunteers, who were working on laying a hedge about a mile down the road. Despite the rush to meet the completion deadline for the camping barn, the volunteers had a really enjoyable stay and even embarked on some evening walks to capture the atmosphere of the area. www.dalehousebarn.co.uk



Horse riding on Slater Fell
© Tarja Wilson, LCC

Chris & Cheryl Morris-Barrow and family
inside the Dale House camping barn
© Chris Morris-Barrow

Social Equity & Economic Opportunity



Maiden Bridge, Tatham

Many artists have a dream to control their own environment but when David and Hannah Davies discovered a traditional farmstead located high in the beautiful Bowland Fells, with extensive views over the Lune Valley, they knew that they could make this vision a reality. And so began the story of Maiden Bridge...

Here on this ancient site ('mai dunn' is Celtic for 'great hill') David and Hannah Davies have created their own stronghold, not only in their physical development of the buildings and surrounding landscape, but also in a partnership project which has created both a unique exhibition space and a multifaceted business promoting the arts and design.

When they discovered Maiden Bridge in 1988 they instantly realised its potential for development. Although the main house had been sympathetically retained, the opportunity to renovate two additional barns and a cottage offered exciting possibilities. Together the couple set about restoring the collection of buildings around the cobbled courtyard, systematically developing their own living/work spaces, exhibition areas and also the surrounding five acres of land.

Maiden Bridge promotes the use of its buildings and facilities through lively interaction and involvement with the local community. It frequently hosts open days for local institutions. Both David and Hannah are very committed to making the arts accessible to young people and feel that Maiden Bridge should reflect their desire to heighten aesthetic awareness in everyday living. This commitment is further supported by the encouragement of collaborative projects; Facing North being an example. Facing North was an exhibition partly supported by the Forest of Bowland AONB's sustainable tourism project, featuring Bowland themed artwork by 50 professional artists and the children of Tatham primary school. www.maidenbridge.co.uk

Bleasdale Cottages

In 2007, Robert and Anne Gardner of Lower Fairsnape Farm completed the conversion of several of their old farm buildings into self catering holiday cottages -Bleasdale Cottages. The farm is set in open countryside with stunning views of the fells on 200 acres of farmland, in an area that typifies the beauty of the Forest of Bowland AONB, and where conservation and sustainable tourism are a high priority. Lower Fairsnape farm is an ideal get-away for those who enjoy walking, cycling and bird watching; or just the peace and quiet to take in the beautiful surroundings. The AONB's sustainable tourism project has provided funding for conversion of the former cattle shed into a drying area and secure storage for those partaking in outdoor pursuits while staying at Bleasdale Cottages. The Gardners also secured funds from Leader+ and Lancashire Rural Tourism Initiative to install a wood pellet boiler to heat the cottages. Wood pellets used for the heating system are made up solely of natural, renewable, raw material.

Lower Fairsnape Farm has been managed for the last five years under the Countryside Stewardship Scheme. They have established concessionary footpaths to provide walks on the farm. They have also been supported by the Woodland Grant Scheme to plant trees on the open access area on the holding and worked with RSPB to extend the habitat for wading birds. They are now established as an important hotspot for breeding lapwing, redshank, curlew and snipe and a bird hide is on site to view the birds and have won awards for their efforts in lapwing conservation. There is also a very healthy population of Brown Hare at Lower Fairsnape and the Gardners do everything they can to encourage them. www.bleasdalecottages.co.uk

Maiden Bridge
© Rosemary Morison

Robert and Anne Gardner outside Hare House,
one of their newly converted holiday cottages.
© Hetty Pavey, Forest of Bowland AONB.

For more information on business support and the
Forest of Bowland Sustainable Tourism Network, please contact
Mike Pugh on 01200 426433 or e-mail him at
mike.pugh@lancashire.gov.uk

Social Equity & Economic Opportunity

Sustainable Bowland

Training for Bowland businesses



During the autumn of 2007 the AONB ran a successful programme of training days for people involved in the business of sustainable tourism. The courses were well attended and covered a variety of topics, including a Green Tourism course. This course looked at how to improve environmental performance while saving money and time, and also addressed waste minimisation, improving energy efficiency and renewable energy practice. The popular Sense of Place workshop that was also delivered in 2006, enabled participants to develop their own understanding of 'a sense of place' and look at how this could be developed in the marketing of their own business. A marketing course run by the

Tourism Centre at Lancaster University

provided practical solutions for creative marketing, as well as the production of a creative marketing action plan. Two familiarisation days took place at Beacon Fell and Gisburn Forest, which enabled businesses to develop and improve their understanding of the AONB and its special qualities; it also provided an opportunity to network and visit other tourism businesses whilst participating in outdoor activities, such as walking and riding a Trammer.

Feedback from the training was excellent; a comment from one participant on the Marketing training course was 'The training session far exceeded my expectations and I have gained many useful points from which I hope my business will benefit in the future, excellent thank you.'

Green Tourism Business Scheme



Seventeen tourism operators received Gold, Silver and Bronze Awards in the area's first Green Tourism Business Scheme (GTBS).

The tourism businesses, ranging from campsites, restaurants, pubs, self-catering accommodation and cycle hire, have achieved 5 Gold, 6 Silver and 6 bronze awards with the Green Tourism Business Scheme. Winners received their awards at The

Forest of Bowland Sustainable Tourism Forum on Thursday 15th November 2007 at Over Wyresdale Parish Hall, Abbeystead, presented by His Grace, the Duke of Westminster.

In addition to working towards their awards with GTBS, these businesses have shown a commitment to working with the Forest of Bowland AONB and other tourism businesses in the area through the Sustainable Tourism Network. These quality accredited businesses also encourage consumers to contribute towards the areas payback scheme, the Bowland Tourism Environment Fund, which puts money directly into environmental projects in the area.

Over 80 businesses and partners of the Forest of Bowland attended the successful event. It provided an opportunity for businesses to gain an update on progress in delivering the Sustainable Tourism Strategy and listen to inspiring words by several businesses and community groups about their specific sustainable tourism developments. These included insights from Anne Clark of Broadgate Farm; Chris Morris of Barrow of Dale House camping barn; Ann Fletcher, the Chipping Lengthswoman and James Starkie, Chairman of Roughlee Parish Council. The Priory at Scorton provided a hearty and enjoyable lunch. Thanks to all our speakers and well done to all those who received an award, it is extremely inspiring to see such a strong commitment to sustainable tourism in a wide variety of businesses in Bowland.



Mansergh Farmhouse Cottages, a Bronze GTBS winner.

Malkin Tower Farm Holiday Cottages, a Gold GTBS winner.



For more information on GTBS, please contact
Hetty Byrne on 01200 426433 / 07989 258671
or e-mail her at hetty.byrne@lancashire.gov.uk

Social Equity & Economic Opportunity

Community Futures

Community Futures has continued to support community development projects in the Forest of Bowland AONB area and is represented at the AONB Officer's Technical Committee.

The highlight of this year was the final completion and opening of Community Resource Centres (CRC) at Slaidburn and Abbeystead. These complete the 10 CRCs that Community Futures supported programme and are already being utilised and enjoyed by users. Some have incorporated renewable energy technology and are able to demonstrate to others the potential benefits. Community Futures assisted in organising a study tour with Lancashire County Council which visited CRCs in the AONB.

Five communities in the AONB have been assisted by Community Futures to ensure that the renewable technologies installed in their community buildings can educate others. Funding from the Forest of Bowland AONB Sustainable Development Fund produced interpretation boards, individual leaflets, and an A3 leaflet covering all the communities to celebrate their successes and promote renewable energy systems to visitors.

The cost of replacing energy systems in a building with renewable technology can be more costly, but the additional costs are re-cooped within a fairly short time frame, especially as gas and oil prices continue to rise, making renewables much more economically viable. Renewable energy technologies generate electricity or heat buildings without burning fossil fuels. The AONB Sustainable Development Fund has supported all of the following projects:

Over Wyresdale Parish Hall, Abbeystead has installed a ground source heat pump and solar panels. The heat produced by the ground source

heat pump is distributed via under-floor heating throughout the building. The solar panels provide hot water for the building.

Bleasdale Village Hall has installed a biomass boiler and wind turbine. The boiler provides heat and hot water for the building. The turbine provides a back up system to the boiler to ensure that the building will never need to rely on fossil fuels.

Barley Village Hall has three air source heat pumps and photovoltaic solar panels. The air source heat pumps are used to heat the building, with the solar panels providing electricity to run the largest pumps as well as other electrical items in the hall.

Slaidburn Village Hall has installed a biomass boiler in order to provide under floor heating and hot water for the entire facility. The British boiler installed is unique, as it has the ability to use either wood chips or pellets.

Dalehead Church has previously had no mains electricity. The wind turbine produces electricity to run energy efficient lighting, with any surplus being dumped in sequence into three storage heaters.

Community Futures has continued working with Parish Councils in the Forest of Bowland AONB and will result in four new Parish Plans being produced this year. These are useful documents which provide a 'Vision' for the future, inform local leaders of community needs and provide reliable evidence to support funding applications, such as improving village hall facilities.

Community Futures has supported 18 village halls in and around the Forest of Bowland AONB, providing funding and energy efficiency advice, business/project planning and governance.



Images
© Community Futures

Contact Community Futures on 01772 718710 / 717461
or visit the Community Futures website at
www.communityfutures.org.uk

Social Equity & Economic Opportunity

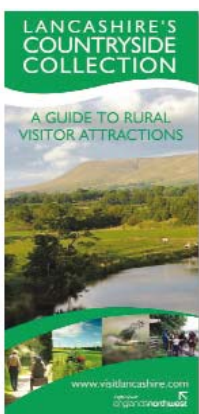
Lancashire Rural Futures

Lancashire Rural Futures continued to deliver in the Forest of Bowland AONB during its last year of operations. Within the AONB forty seven jobs were created or safeguarded and 952ha of land were brought into positive management.

In addition, 113 diagnostics were undertaken, 37 new products created and 20 Environmental schemes delivered.

Since the closure of the LRF program, a small team of rural advisors has been retained within Business Services Lancashire Ltd. This team is still delivering to businesses within the AONB. Long term support for the AONB's business community will be dependent on new resources becoming available through the Rural Development Program for England (RDPE), which is due to be launched in the spring of 2009.

Lancashire & Blackpool Tourist Board



During 2007 to 2008, Lancashire and Blackpool Tourist Board has continued to promote country escapes as a key theme, with the Forest of Bowland AONB as theme 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 2007 to March 2008 and included two direct mail campaigns, press advertising, e-marketing, website development and press coverage.

The successful Countryside Collection leaflet was updated to include 34 rural attractions for the 2008 season, and a new publication 'Welcoming Walkers & Cyclists - Where to stay in Rural Lancashire' was produced to promote accommodation with the Walkers & Cyclists Charter Mark and accredited campsites in Lancashire.



These guides, and guides from partners, were distributed at the Ordnance Survey Outdoor Show at the NEC in March 2008.



Inn at Whitewell
© Carlie Hedley, Natural England

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

Social Equity & Economic Opportunity

Tasty Bowland tempts TV and teachers

The food and landscape of the Forest of Bowland became the focus of TV attention through an international LEADER+ project arranged by Lancashire Rural Futures.

The heritage of "Bu-Land" or "cattle land" has been shaped over centuries by our dairy industry. International visitors travelled from Latvia to visit Lancashire's unique cheesemakers, to celebrate this. Not only were the Latvian visitors able to admire the skills of our artisan cheesemakers, but they also brought their leading chef Martins Ritins along to make a TV documentary about food heroes. Martin has cooked for Princes and Presidents, and likes to seek out quality local food and its origins for his TV food and travel series.

He was fascinated by the unique collection of Lancashire artisan cheesemakers all operating in one postcode on the edge of Bowland, and using local milk. He was also able to see grouse shooting on the Bowland Fells and was taught how to prepare, cook and enjoy grouse at the Inn at Whitewell, in the heart of Bowland, by head chef Jamie Cadman. As a result the Bowland landscape and heritage was captured on film and shown as creating distinctive and high quality food.

To help Lancashire children also gain a better understanding of our heritage in cheese making, demonstrations of Lancashire cheesemaking were taken into 24 primary schools across Bowland and Lancashire. Thanks to Bob Kitching of Leagram Dairy, these presentations were seen by over 1100 children who were introduced to science, history, heritage and a cultural link to local food in an engaging and educational hour.

As a lasting legacy for tourism in the area, three "Cheese trails" were established. These are circular walks in the proximity of our artisan dairies, so that visitors can appreciate the link between cheesemaking in the area and how its history can be traced through the cheese stones and landscape which remain today. There are three cheese trails, the 'Creamy Lancashire', 'Crumbly Lancashire' & the 'Tasty Lancashire' trail, to celebrate being the only county to have our name associated with three cheeses. These trails can be downloaded from the Forest of Bowland website walking section at www.forestofbowland.com
See page 22 for further information.



Schoolchildren take part in cheesemaking demonstration



Ranger Services in Bowland

Lancashire County Council's Ranger Service continues to offer assistance, help and guidance to visitors and residents of the add Forest of Bowland AONB. There are three full time Rangers who work within the AONB, one of whom works 100% within the AONB and the other two spending approximately 60% of their time in Bowland.

In addition we have a strong volunteer service, who in 2007/8 supplied 2500 man hours of work within the AONB.

Projects carried out during the last year have included monitoring the Whitendale Eagle Owl, providing information for the Bowland Visitor Centre hen harrier cam, conducting surveys on Access Land for Natural England, visitor management and site maintenance.

The wet summer did not deter the nesting, hatching and fledging of Eagle Owls in the Forest of Bowland AONB north of Dunsop Bridge. The owls chose to nest close by a well-used Public Right of Way and once the

chicks hatched the adults took exception to walkers using the path. The Owls began swooping on walkers, especially those with dogs, and in some cases they made contact causing superficial wounds and great shock.

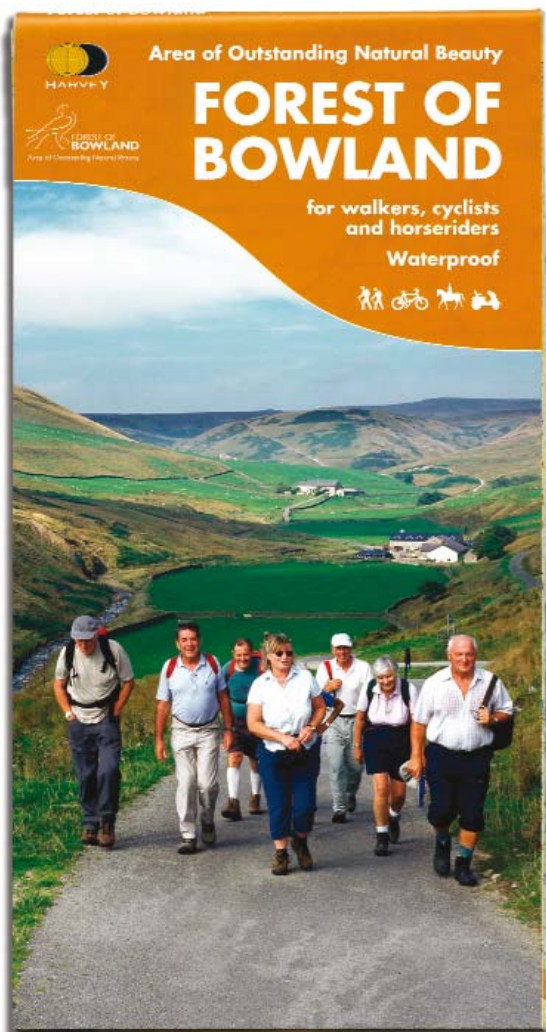
For public safety the path was closed, under emergency powers initially and then a temporary closure. Full time and Volunteer Rangers were heavily involved in enforcing the closure and acting as information points for the hundreds of walkers and bird watchers who walked up the valley. This project was an excellent example of partnership working between the land owners United Utilities and the RSPB, Natural England, the police and the Countryside Service.

The "hen harrier cam" was a great success last spring. Pictures of a hen harrier nest were available to watch on a large screen at Bowland Visitor Centre, Beacon Fell, with staff available to interpret the pictures and provide information on this rare bird of prey, the symbol of the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Enjoyment

New Forest of Bowland Harvey Map

A new waterproof and lightweight two-in-one map has been published by specialist map producer HARVEY in cooperation with the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). This practical map will help people to explore this beautiful area, whether by bike, on foot or horseback. The 1:25,000 scale walkers' map gives, for the first time, detailed information on how to enjoy the Access Land on the high fells of Bowland and all-ability routes in the lowlands, it also highlights the network of minor roads and tracks and is easy to read. The 1:55,000 cycling and horse riding map shows the whole of the AONB in one map, perfect for planning longer routes, it shows steep hills and includes suggested cycle routes and cycle hire information.



Cheese Trails

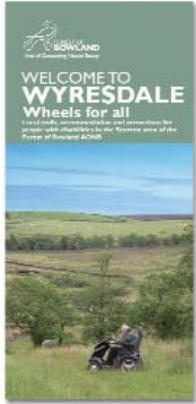
Lancashire's artisan cheesemakers are uniquely concentrated in a small geographical area on the edge of the Forest of Bowland. With help from the LEADER+ initiative and Lancashire Countryside Services, three Lancashire Cheese trails were created. The Cheese Trails are circular routes ranging from four to six miles each, focusing on a diary of Lancashire's cheesemakers. The aim is to celebrate this distinctive local product, and to look at its history and the links cheesemaking has with the landscape. The project results from a LEADER+ initiative working between Latvia, and the Forest of Bowland AONB.



This map is available from most outdoor outlets and bookshops at £9.95. Visit www.harveymaps.co.uk for more information.

These 'Cheese Trails' are available to download in the walking section of www.forestofbowland.com

Wyresdale Wheels for All



Wyresdale Wheels for All was developed by a group of local businesses working in partnership with Lancashire Countryside Service, Forest of Bowland AONB, Lancashire & Blackpool Tourist Board, Wyre Coast & Countryside Service and Wyre Tourism Association. After the initial purchase of a tramper in March 2007, 25km of tramper usable trails were created, including 17km of off road routes. A new leaflet was produced promoting the businesses involved, and included details of how to book the tramper and maps illustrating the tramper trails.

Members of staff from the businesses were trained to carry out inductions for tramper users, and an on-line booking system was set up

that linked the tramper bookings to accommodation and other activities, such as fishing and guided walks. For the period of this report, 48 bookings were taken over 69 days, which included four accommodation stays of more than one day. The businesses were quick to see the benefits in this kind of tourism, with one of them taking the lead in the involvement of local businesses in the scheme. Jonty Collinson of The Priory at Scorton believes that making your business friendly for disabled people makes good business sense, he said, 'A disabled person will often bring along friends and family with them when making a booking.'

In addition, a new accessible bird hide was installed on the tramper trail at Broadgate Farm, with a second trail to link this up to an existing bird hide on Lower Fairsnape Farm. Also, two of the tramper trails were made into downloadable routes with plans to produce more in the future. The Wyresdale Wheels for All leaflet and the downloadable Tramper Trails are available at www.forestofbowland.com



This project is funded by Forest of Bowland Sustainable Bowland Project, NWDA, LTP, Lancashire Rural Tourism Initiative (LRTi), Forest of Bowland AONB, Natural England, Lancashire County Council, Wyre Borough Council, Wyre Tourism Association, United Utilities and the private businesses involved.

For more information please contact
Tarja Wilson on 01200 426433 / 07887 830853
or e-mail her at tarja.wilson@lancashire.gov.uk

Enjoyment

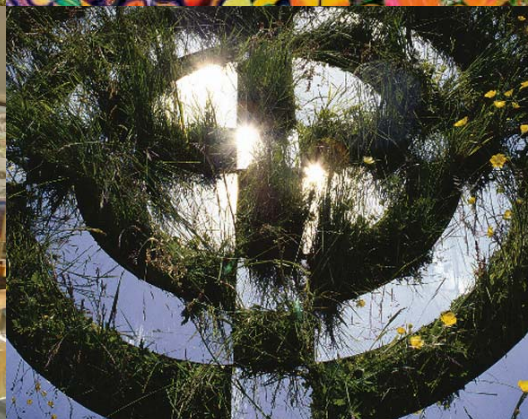
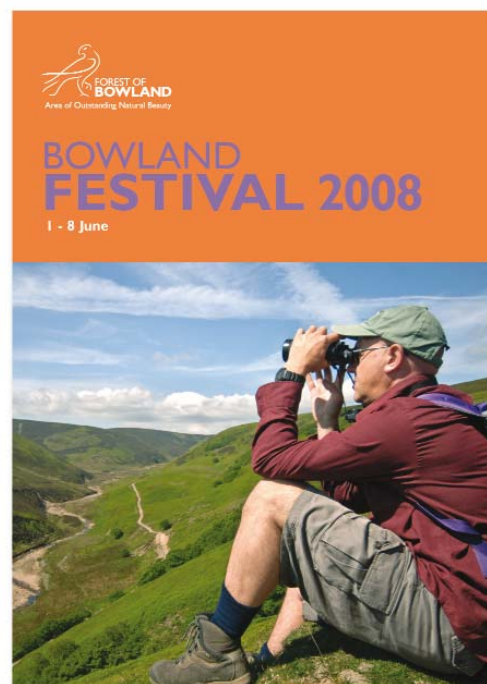
Bowland Festival

A packed programme of events for Bowland Festival 2007 enabled local people and visitors alike to celebrate the birds, wildlife, landscape and culture of the AONB.

Over 20 partnership organisations helped to deliver a very successful festival consisting of over 100 events from 2-17 June. The festival offers a unique opportunity to discover more about all aspects of the AONB through a series of events and activities run by local experts.

The festival encouraged people to discover the area's exceptional birds and wildlife through events such as the hen harrier radio tracking safari and badger encounter; to explore its heritage; to enjoy its landscape and to sample its delicious food and drink. A series of arts events and exhibitions added to the diversity of the programme.

It would not have been possible to run the festival without the hard work and commitment of all the organisations and individuals involved, in particular; the festival steering group (made up of representatives from AONB, RSPB, United Utilities, Lancashire Countryside Service, Wyre Borough Council and Lancashire Rural Futures).



Hen harrier radio tracking
© Forest of Bowland AONB

Pete Flowers, Green Close Studios
© Pete Flowers

Slaidburn Church
© Forest of Bowland AONB

Bob Kitching Cheese making demonstration
© Forest of Bowland AONB

Sue Flowers, Atlantis Fields
© Sue Flowers

Bowland brewery
© Forest of Bowland AONB

For more information on the Bowland Festival please contact
Susan MacDonald on 01772 531473 / 07973 925312
or e-mail her at susan.macdonald@lancashire.gov.uk

Co-ordination & Management

Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan Review

The AONB legislation (National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000) was designed to protect areas of unspoiled natural beauty for future generations, and in 2000 placed a statutory duty on local authorities to prepare statutory management plans for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and review them every five years.

This new revised plan for the period 2009-2014 will directly affect the landscape and rural communities of the area by influencing the policy, actions and priorities of partner organisations.

The Forest of Bowland AONB management plan review process aimed to be as efficient as possible, whilst ensuring it was inclusive and engaging. A series of workshops and meetings were held with stakeholders and public to review the existing plan and discuss new issues and objectives. Techniques to encourage active, positive participation by delegates were used.

Responses from initial consultation informed the revision of the plan for 2009 - 2014 under six principal themes:

- Natural and Cultural Landscape
- Working in Partnership
- Enjoyment, health and well-being
- Economy
- Community
- Responding to climate change

Comments were compiled and reviewed and public consultation is to take place during 2008.

Publications and Leaflets

March 2008 saw the launch of the new Forest of Bowland AONB Visitor Guide - 'Discover Bowland' - a 40-page guide highlighting information about walking, cycling, horse riding, local produce, birds, arts & crafts, accommodation and much more. The guide references many of the businesses involved in sustainable tourism in Bowland and provides a useful map and information about public transport. Copies of the guide have been made available to Tourist Information Centres and businesses within Bowland and are also available by request from the Forest of Bowland website.

Other leaflets produced have included the development of several more of the popular village leaflets for Dunsop Bridge and Newton in Bowland, Calder Vale, Bleasdale & Barnacre, Bolton-by-Bowland, Sawley & Tosside and Chipping. Additionally, a fishing leaflet and birding leaflet highlighting businesses and prime locations for carrying out these activities within Bowland have been produced.



For more information on the Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan Review please contact **Don McKay** on 01772 534140 or e-mail him at don.mckay@Lancashire.gov.uk. Drafts and the final version of the plan will be available at www.forestofbowland.com

For further information on publications please contact **Susan MacDonald** on 01772 531473 or e-mail her at susan.macdonald@lancashire.gov.uk

Co-ordination & Management

Website Developments

Working with Lancashire and Blackpool Tourist Board (LBTB) we have developed linkages that have allowed us to include an accommodation database with a search engine on the Forest of Bowland website which searches specifically for accommodation in the Forest of Bowland at http://www.forestofbowland.com/visit_staying.asp In addition, funding was secured from LBTB to integrate with their events database, to incorporate a search engine on the Forest of Bowland website, again to highlight events taking place in the area at http://www.forestofbowland.co.uk/news_events.asp

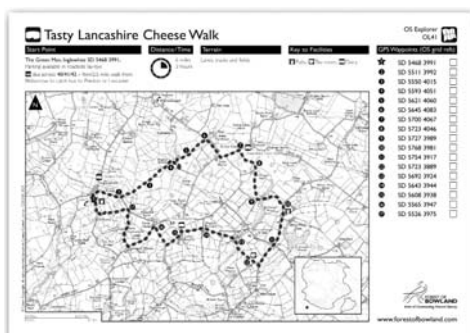
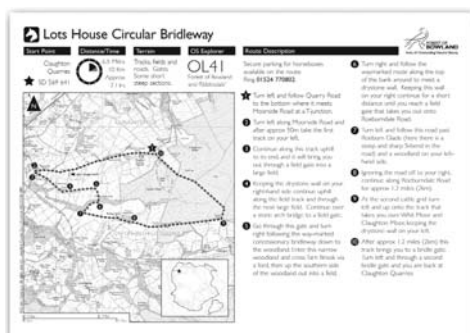
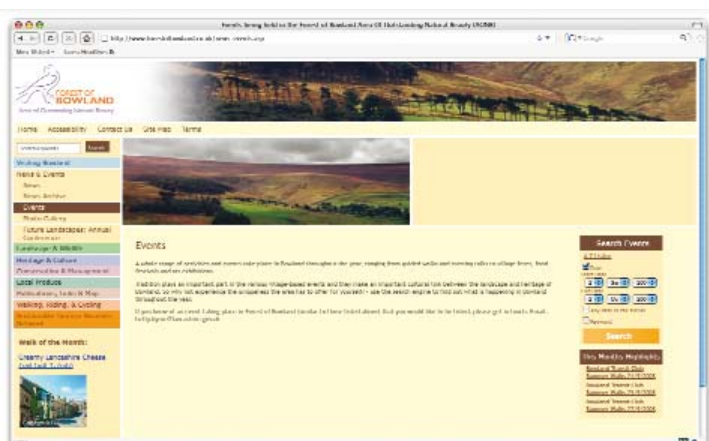
We have continued to develop a number of new walking routes utilising the easily accessible web walks template. This is designed so walks are easily printable from a desk top printer; the template includes an OS route map, GPS points, route description and useful information about the walk. The number and variety of walks available has increased significantly, along with some new downloadable Access for All routes to

accompany the Wyresdale Wheels for All leaflet. Each month we select a 'walk of the month' which is posted on the home page, which has proved to be incredibly popular. Following the development of the downloadable routes we have launched a new walking, riding and cycling section on the website which links to information about villages and public transport

http://www.forestofbowland.co.uk/wrc/wrc_introduction.asp

General text updates have been implemented across the website to ensure information is current and mirroring the text that has been used in the Forest of Bowland Discovery Guide. Information about events, volunteering, news and accommodation is also regularly reviewed to keep the website up to date and interesting to the visitor.

An e-bulletin linking to the news section on the website has also been produced to inform partners, businesses and organisations of project developments and the work of the AONB.



http://www.forestofbowland.co.uk/news_events.asp

http://www.forestofbowland.co.uk/wrc/wrc_introduction.asp

Tramper trail

Bridalway trail

Cheese walk (using the new long walk template)

www.forestofbowland.com

for more information about www.forestofbowland.com please contact **Hetty Byrne** on 01200 426433 / 07989 258671 or e-mail her at hetty.byrne@lancashire.gov.uk

Financial Summary

Forest of Bowland AONB Joint Advisory Committee Budget

	Actual 2007/2008 (Out-turn prices) £'s
EXPENDITURE	
Salary, N.I and Superannuation	120,060
Outbased premises costs	0
Travel and subsistence	5,969
Central, departmental and technical support	55,657
Core activities	58,790
Projects/Information	259,268
TOTAL COST TO BE RECOVERED	499,744
INCOME	
Government Grants	
Natural England	292,062
Contributions	
United Utilities	16,560
Other Project Contributions	4,266
County Councils	
Lancashire	75,409
North Yorkshire	6,750
District Councils	
Craven	6,750
Lancaster	6,750
Pendle	6,750
Preston	6,750
Ribble Valley	9,750
Wyre	12,290
SUB TOTAL – LOCAL AUTHORITIES	131,199
	444,087
CONTRIBUTION TO SUPPORT COSTS (in kind)	
Lancashire County Council	55,657
	499,744

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 M D L Ireton

Craven District Council

Councillor L Barrington

Lancaster City Council

Councillor E Blamire

Wyre Borough Council

Councillor R Brooks

Ribble Valley Borough Council

Councillor Mrs R Elms

Preston City Council

Councillor A Gornall

Pendle Borough Council

Councillor P Boyle

Lancashire Association of Parish and Town Councils

Mr M Helm

Yorkshire Local Councils Association

Councillor C Price

Natural England

Susannah England

United Utilities

Ian Grindy

Environment Agency (North West Region)

Matt Crump (until 13.9.07)
Daniel Bond

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

Contact

Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

PO Box 9
Guild House
Cross Street
Preston
PR1 8RD

Tel: 01772 531473

Fax: 01772 533423

bowland@lancashire.gov.uk

www.forestofbowland.com

AONB Unit

Don McKay

AONB Officer

Tel: 01772 534140

Mobile: 07973 928315

Email: don.mckay@lancashire.gov.uk

Lucy Barron

Assistant AONB Officer

Tel: 01772 534134

Mobile: 07973 923142

Email: lucy.barron@lancashire.gov.uk

Susan MacDonald

Publicity & Information Officer

Tel: 01772 531473

Mobile: 07973 925312

Email: susan.macdonald@lancashire.gov.uk

Cathy Hopley

Community & Funding Officer

Tel: 01200 426433

Mobile: 07891 537835

Email: cathy.hopley@lancashire.gov.uk

Martin Charlesworth

Community Projects Officer - Sustainable Tourism

Tel: 01200 426433

Mobile: 07989 258675

Email: martin.charlesworth@lancashire.gov.uk

Hetty Byrne

Information Officer - Sustainable Tourism

Tel: 01200 426433

Mobile: 07989 258671

Email: hetty.byrne@lancashire.gov.uk

Mike Pugh

Business Development Officer - Sustainable Tourism

Tel: 01200 426433

Mobile: 07989 258672

Email: mike.pugh@lancashire.gov.uk

Lancashire County Council Area Countryside Officers

Dave Oyston

East Lancashire including Pendle Hill

Tel: 07771 995615

Email: david.oyston@lancashire.gov.uk

Dave Padley

Bowland East

Tel: 07860 578558

Email: david.padley@lancashire.gov.uk

Tarja Wilson

Bowland North and West

Tel: 01200 426433

Mobile: 07887 830853

Email: tarja.wilson@lancashire.gov.uk

Other Countryside Services

Alison Boden

Senior Manager, Wyre Coast & Countryside Service

Tel: 01253 887220

Email: aboden@wyrebc.gov.uk

www.wyrebc.gov.uk

United Utilities

Bowland Estate Office

Tel: 01200 454400

www.unitedutilities.com