

Environmental Report

for the

Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan 2019 - 2024

May 2019

Forest of Bowland AONB Unit

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I. Introduction

I.1 The Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

The Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) was designated in 1964. It is one of England's finest landscapes and is internationally important for its heather moorland, blanket bog and rare upland bird species. The AONB is situated in north west England, covering 803 square kilometres of rural land in the counties of Lancashire (730 sq.km) and Yorkshire (73 sq.km).

The Forest of Bowland AONB is a nationally important designated landscape. The purpose of the AONB designation is primarily to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the landscape. Social and economic well-being, including the needs of farming and forestry sectors and people's quiet enjoyment of the landscape should also be supported, but in ways which conserves and enhances the AONB.

The primary aim is to achieve the purpose of the AONB designation: to conserve and enhance natural beauty.

The area is managed by a partnership of landowners, farmers, tourism businesses, 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.

Members of the AONB Joint Advisory Committee are outlined below:

- Lancashire County Council
- North Yorkshire County Council
- Craven District Council
- Lancaster City Council
- Pendle Borough Council
- Preston City Council
- Ribble Valley Borough Council
- Wyre Council
- Lancashire Association of Local Councils
- Yorkshire Local Councils Association
- Natural England
- United Utilities plc
- Environment Agency
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
- The Ramblers Association
- Bowland Land Managers Forum
- The Moorland Association
- Bowland Sustainable Tourism Network
- Champion Bowland
- Friends of Bowland

A staff team (known as the AONB Unit) is hosted by Lancashire County Council and works on behalf of the AONB Partnership.

1.2 Context

This Environmental Report has been prepared in support of the review of the Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan.

AONB Management Plans are statutory plans whose purpose is to provide a framework for ensuring delivery of the statutory purpose of AONBs, that of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of their designated landscape.

The Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000 requires relevant local authorities with part of their administrative area to jointly produce and adopt a plan which formulates policy for the management of the area. The Management Plan published in 2009 is now due for review under the periodic review timetable as set out in the Act.

The new Management Plan will set out the objectives for management of the area for the period 2019-2024 and falls under the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (SEA Regulations, Statutory Instrument 2004, No 1633).

The Forest of Bowland AONB Joint Advisory Committee committed to undertake the review on behalf of the eight principal local authorities in the area (Craven District Council, Lancashire County Council, Lancaster City Council, North Yorkshire County Council, Pendle Borough Council, Preston City Council, Ribble Valley Borough Council and Wyre Council). A Review Group was established in January 2018 and holds delegated responsibility for carrying forward the review. The Group comprises representatives from the local authorities, Natural England, Environment Agency and is coordinated and administered by the AONB Manager.

1.3 Strategic Environmental Assessment

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a statutory assessment process¹ to ensure that land-use plans and programmes, for plans and programmes likely to have significant effects on the environment, whether positive or negative.

1.4 Outline of the Process

The methodology used for this SEA is based on Government guidance² and the Guidance on SEA of AONB Management Plans³ provided by Natural England. It has also been informed by SEAs and Sustainability Appraisals (SA) undertaken by other AONBs.

There are five stages to the SEA:

¹ The European Union Directive on Strategic Environmental Assessment (2001/42/EC) came into force in England on 21 July 2004 through the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations). (Statutory Instrument 2004 No.1633)

² A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, September 2005

³ Guidance to English AONB Partnerships and Conservation Boards on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of AONB Management Plans, Natural England, July 2007.

Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope.

This was undertaken by a Scoping Report produced in October 2018 which outlined baseline information to set the context of the assessment, including the development of environmental and sustainability objectives, against which the Management Plan policies could be assessed.

The Scoping Report was subject to consultation with the statutory consultees Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency during October/November 2018. The comments received have guided the scope of the SEA and have been incorporated into this Environmental Report and the draft Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan as appropriate.

Stage B: Developing and refining alternatives and assessing effects.

As the draft Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan objectives emerged through the plan review process, an assessment of the draft objectives against the environmental and sustainability objectives was undertaken.

The Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan already puts the environment at the heart of the plan-making process and it was agreed during the SEA scoping consultation that alternatives to the draft policies would only be developed and assessed if the draft policies were identified as resulting in partial or significant negative effects on the environmental and/or sustainability objectives.

None of the draft policies have been assessed as resulting in partial or significant negative effects on the environmental or sustainability objectives so no alternative policies have been developed or assessed.

Stage C: Preparing the Environmental Report.

This Environmental Report documents the SEA methodology, including the outcomes of the assessment of the draft Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan policies.

Depending on the level and complexity of comments received during final consultation on the draft Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan, the Environmental Report may be updated or reissued following the consultation to reflect policy changes incorporated into the final Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan.

Stage D: Consulting on draft plan and the Environmental Report.

As detailed in the guidance, the statutory consultees must be consulted at the scoping stage (see Stage A) and, along with the public, must be consulted on the Environmental Report and the draft Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan.

The Environmental Report will be published for public consultation in January 2018. Consultation comments on the draft Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan and Environmental Report will be taken into consideration before publishing the final Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan and, if necessary, in an updated version of the Environmental Report (see Stage C).

Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the plan on the environment.

The Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (European Directive 2001/42/EC) requires the effectiveness of the Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan and its impact on the environment to be monitored.

Following the SEA Scoping Report consultation, the environmental baseline has been refined so that it can be used to assist in the ongoing monitoring of the Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan policies and their impact on the environment.

2. Baseline Information

2.1 Plans & Policies

To comply with the SEA Directive, information is provided regarding the Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan's relationship with other relevant plans and programmes, in addition to showing how environmental protection objectives have been taken into account during the Management Plan review.

A preliminary review of plans and policies relevant to the Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan was undertaken for the SEA Scoping Report. Appendix I provides a more detailed review, incorporating key aims and relevant objectives of those plans and policies and how they relate to the Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan.

2.2 Environmental Baseline

The SEA Scoping Report identified potential sources of information and/or data that could be used as an evidence base for the environmental conditions in the Forest of Bowland AONB. These have been refined following the SEA Scoping Report consultation and further discussion with the AONB Unit.

The revised environmental baseline (Appendix I) presents realistic and usable data/information that has assisted in the Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan review and/or could be used for ongoing monitoring of the environmental impact of the Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan policies.

2.3 Statement of Key Issues

The SEA Scoping Report highlighted the key environmental issues and potential impacts for the Forest of Bowland AONB's components of natural beauty. These have been expanded on and are incorporated into the revised Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan following consultation during the Plan preparation.

3. Strategic Environmental Assessment

The draft Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan objectives and actions have been assessed against the environmental and sustainability objectives developed through the SEA process, as set out in the SEA Scoping Report.

The environmental objectives are:

E1	To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity (habitats, fauna and flora, geology and geomorphology)
E2	To ensure no adverse effect arises on population (i.e. demographic balance)
E3	To safeguard human health
E4	To protect and enhance soil quality
E5	To protect water quality
E6	To protect air and climate
E7	To protect, maintain and enhance the historic environment (archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage)
E8	To protect and enhance landscape
E9	To protect material assets including natural resources
E10	To avoid significant adverse impacts created by the cumulative effect of the above.

For every policy, the likely effect (positive or negative) on each of the environmental objectives is assessed. The results are presented in a table of outcomes in Chapter 4; the possible outcomes used are:

Significant positive effect	++
Partial positive effect	+
Neutral effect	N
Partial negative effect	-
Significant negative effect	--
Effects uncertain	+/-

4. Assessment Results

4.1 Assessment matrix

The assessment of the draft Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan objectives and actions is summarised in the table below.

Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan		Strategic Environmental Assessment Objectives									
Objective	Action	E1	E2	E3	E4	E5	E6	E7	E8	E9	E10
Landscape	I.1A	N	+/-	N	N	N	N	+	+	+	+
	I.1B	N	+/-	N	N	N	N	+	+	+	+
	I.1C	N	N	N	N	N	N	++	++	+	+
	I.1D	N	N	N	N	N	N	++	++	+	+
	I.1E	+	N	N	+	+	++	++	++	+	++
	I.1F	+	N	N	+	+	N	++	++	++	++
	I.1G	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	++	+	+
	I.1H	+	N	N	N	+	+	++	++	+	+
	I.1I	++	N	N	+	N	N	N	+	N	+
Habitats and Species	I.2A	++	N	N	+	+	N	+	++	++	++
	I.2B	++	N	N	+	+	N	+	++	++	++
	I.2C	++	N	N	+	+	+	N	++	++	++
	I.2D	++	N	N	++	+	+	N	+	+	+
	I.2E	++	N	N	++	++	++	N	+	++	++
	I.2F	+	N	N	++	+	+	+	++	++	++
	I.2G	++	N	N	++	+	++	+	+	++	++
	I.2H	++	N	N	++	+	++	N	+	++	++
	I.2I	++	N	N	++	++	+	N	+	+	++
	I.2J	++	N	+	++	++	++	N	+	++	++
	I.2K	++	N	+	N	++	+	N	+	++	++

	1.2L	++	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	+	N	+
	1.2M	++	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	+
	1.2N	++	N	N	N	++	N	N	N	N	N	+
	1.2O	N	N	N	+	+	+	N	+	N	N	+
	1.2P	++	N	N	+	+	+	N	++	+	N	+
Historic Environment	1.3A	N	N	N	N	N	N	++	++	++	++	++
	1.3B	+	N	N	N	N	N	++	++	++	++	++
	1.3C	N	N	N	N	N	N	++	++	+	N	++
	1.3D	+	N	N	N	N	N	++	+	N	N	++
Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services	1.4A	+	N	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	1.4B	N	N	N	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	1.4C	+	N	+	+	+	+	N	N	+	N	+
	1.4D	N	N	+	+	+	+	N	N	N	N	+
	1.4E	N	N	N	+	+	++	N	+	++	++	+
Farming and Land Management	2.1A	+	N	N	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	2.1B	+	N	N	++	++	+	++	+	+	+	++
	2.1C	+	N	N	++	++	N	++	++	++	++	++
	2.1D	+	N	N	+	+	N	N	N	N	N	+
	2.1E	N	+	N	N	N	N	+	N	N	N	+
	2.1F	N	+	N	N	N	N	++	++	+	+	+
	2.1G	+	N	N	++	N	+	++	+	++	++	++
Sustainable Tourism	2.2A	N	N	N	N	N	+	N	N	N	N	+
	2.2B	N	N	N	N	N	+	N	N	N	N	+
	2.2C	N	N	N	N	N	+	N	N	N	N	+
	2.2D	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
	2.2E	N	N	N	N	N	+	+	+	+	N	+

	2.2F	N	N	N	N	N	N	+	+	N	+
	2.2G	N	N	N	N	N	N	+	+	N	+
	2.2H	+	N	N	N	N	N	+	+	N	+
Local Economy and Rural Services	2.3A	N	+	N	N	N	N	N	N	+	+
	2.3B	N	+	N	N	N	N	N	+	+	+
	2.3C	N	+	N	N	+	N	N	+	+	+
	2.3D	+	N	N	N	+	N	+	++	+	+
	2.3E	N	+	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	+
	2.3F	N	+	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	+
	2.3G	N	+	N	N	N	N	N	+	+	+
Community Engagement and Volunteering	2.4A	N	N	N	N	N	N	+	+	N	+
	2.4B	+	N	N	N	N	N	++	++	N	++
	2.4C	+	N	N	N	N	+	++	++	+	++
	2.4D	N	N	++	N	N	N	++	++	N	++
	2.4E	+	N	++	N	N	N	++	++	++	++
	2.4F	N	N	++	N	N	N	N	+	++	+
Countryside Access	3.1A	N	N	+	N	N	+	N	+	++	+
	3.1B	N	+	++	N	N	+	N	+	++	+
	3.1C	N	N	+	N	N	+	N	+	++	+
	3.1D	N	N	++	N	N	N	N	+	++	+
	3.1E	+	N	N	N	N	N	N	+	++	+
	3.1F	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	+	++	+
	3.1G	N	N	+	N	N	+	N	+	++	+
	3.1H	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Visitor Management and Information	3.2A	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	+	+	+
	3.2B	N	N	N	N	N	+	+	+	+	+
	3.2C	N	N	N	+	N	N	N	+	++	+
	3.2D	+	N	+	N	N	N	N	+	++	+

	3.2E	+	N	N	N	N	N	+	+	++	+
	3.2F	+	N	N	N	N	N	+	+	N	+
	3.2G	+	N	N	N	N	N	+	+	N	+
	3.2H	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	+	+	+
	3.2I	N	N	N	N	N	N	+	+	+	+
Discovering and Learning	3.3A	+	N	+	N	N	N	+	+	N	+
	3.3B	+	N	N	N	N	N	+	++	N	+
	3.3C	+	+	++	N	N	N	+	++	N	+
	3.3D	N	N	N	N	N	N	+	+	N	+
	3.3E	N	N	++	N	N	N	+	+	N	+
	3.3F	+	+	++	N	N	N	+	+	N	+
Health and Well-being	3.4A	+	+	++	N	N	N	N	+	N	+
	3.4B	+	+	++	N	N	N	N	+	N	+
	3.4C	N	N	+	N	N	N	N	+	N	+

4.2 Assessment commentary

The assessment of all draft Forest of Bowland AONB actions (approximately 880 analyses) indicates that none of the objectives or actions will result in partial or significant negative effects on the environmental objectives. As such, it has not been necessary to develop and assess alternatives to the draft policies.

Two analyses were identified as uncertain in their effects. These analyses relate to actions seeking to ensure development management policy and decision-making conserves and enhances the landscape of the AONB. The likely impact of these actions on population(s) within the AONB and surrounding areas is uncertain.

Overall, the results show that 47% of the draft actions are likely to result in partial or significant positive effects on the environmental and sustainability criteria, with the remaining 53% of the draft actions likely to be neutral or uncertain in their effects on the assessment criteria.

It is therefore concluded that the draft Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan will not only avoid having a detrimental effect on the environmental criteria, but will contribute to achieving key environmental aims.

5. Monitoring & Evaluation

The Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive requires the effectiveness of the Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan and its impact on the environment to be monitored. The environmental baseline in the Scoping Report presented potential data sources for relevant information and/or data that could inform the current condition of the AONB.

The environmental baseline has been refined and updated (Appendix I) so that it can be used to assist in the ongoing monitoring of the Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan, and monitor any impact that the objectives and actions may have on the environment.

The suggested environmental baseline datasets can only provide an indication of the Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan's effectiveness; much of the data will be influenced by external forces over which the Forest of Bowland AONB has little or no control, such as the economy, climate change and future domestic agricultural policy.

The availability of data and the resources to collect them are lacking in some areas, but the Forest of Bowland AONB Unit is continually working to develop and improve the monitoring regime, based on the information provided in Appendix I, so that it encompasses consistent, robust datasets that can be used to monitor change within the protected landscape over time.

6. Technical Review & Conclusions

The Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan aims to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area, whilst also taking into account social and economic needs. To this end the draft policy wording encompasses many of the environmental objectives against which those policies have been assessed.

As such, the draft Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan has been assessed as likely to result in partial or significant positive effects, based on the environmental criteria.

Appendix 1 Environmental baseline

SEA Topic	AONB Feature	Indicators	Issues/targets	Data sources
Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Protected areas	Extent of area within AONB protected by classes of designations, international, national and local	No targets	Designation boundaries available Natural England dataset downloads
	Key species and assemblages of species	Nationally rare and scarce species present within AONB	No targets	Natural England Lancashire Environmental Records Network (LERN)
	Species distribution/ population changes	% change in key species distribution/populations eg butterflies, birds	No targets	
	SSSI condition	SSSI condition	At least 60% in favourable condition with at least 98% in favourable or recovering condition by 2020	Natural England – Framework for Monitoring Environmental Outcomes in Protected Landscapes
	Woodlands	Condition of broad habitat within SSSIs Woodland Grants under Countryside Stewardship Schemes Total area of woodland (Sub-divided into categories, eg broadleaved, conifer, mixed, shrub land plus young trees, felled	Promotion of, conservation and extension of semi natural habitats	Natural England – Framework for Monitoring Environmental Outcomes in Protected Landscapes Woodland Grants under CS, MAGIC Forestry Commission - Framework for Monitoring Environmental Outcomes in Protected Landscapes

SEA Topic	AONB Feature	Indicators	Issues/targets	Data sources
		woodland) % area of woodland that is managed (incorporating woodlands where there has been Forestry Commission England grant scheme or felling licence activity in previous 5-10 years).		Forestry Commission - Framework for Monitoring Environmental Outcomes in Protected Landscapes
	Grassland	Condition of broad habitat within SSSIs Types and extent of grasslands	Promotion of, conservation and extension of semi natural habitats	Natural England – Framework for Monitoring Environmental Outcomes in Protected Landscapes North Lancashire Meadows Group, Grassland Inventory LERN Bowland Haytime Projects, Survey Reports
	Priority habitats	Area in AONB Proportion of AONB Hectares of land enhanced for biodiversity No. or planning approvals that achieve net gain		Breakdown of UK priority habitats given in NCA profiles: 33 Bowland Fringe and Pendle Hill, 34 Bowland Fells NAAONB Indicators for Defra Natural England & AONB data on planning approvals
Population	Census population estimates	% change in population % change in demographics	No targets No targets	Census data 2011 Lancashire County Council North Yorkshire County Council
	Indicators of multiple deprivation	Census period Regional and national comparisons		Census data 2011

SEA Topic	AONB Feature	Indicators	Issues/targets	Data sources
	Profile of workers in various rural industries for example: % in agriculture, forestry, hunting % in mining and quarrying % in hotels and restaurants	Agricultural census annual trends Census trends	Lack of diversity in employment opportunities	Census data 2011 Agricultural Survey, Defra Economic Profile of the Forest of Bowland AONB (2013)
	Unemployment data	Regional and national comparisons		Local authority data
	Local services	Available services	Retention of local services	Local information/AONB unit
	Housing	Affordability ratio Regional and national comparators	Need for affordable housing	Local authority data Community strategies
Human health	Health and well being	Health Poverty Index and Index of Deprivation - Health	No targets	MHCLG Index of Deprivation 2015 – Health and disability Department of Health, Health Poverty Index www.hpi.org.uk
Geology	Designated geological sites	No. of geological SSSI unit features and % in favourable or recovering condition	See SSSI condition above	Natural England – Framework for Monitoring Environmental Outcomes in Protected Landscapes
	Local geological sites	No. of Local Geological sites	No targets	GeoLancashire Geoconservation Society
Soil	Soil type			The Soils and Their Use in Northern England, Soil Survey of England and Wales, 1984
	Agricultural Land Classification	Area of different grades Proportion of AONB of different grades	No targets	Area and proportion of different grades given in NCA profiles: 33 Bowland Fringe and Pendle Hill and 34 Bowland Fells

SEA Topic	AONB Feature	Indicators	Issues/targets	Data sources
Water	Water quality	Ecological status of rivers and surface water bodies within and adjacent to the AONB	Moderate/poor Ecological status of watercourses in Lune, Ribble and Wyre catchments	Environment Agency – Framework for Monitoring Environmental Outcomes in Protected Landscapes
	Water resources	Availability of water for licensing	Areas of restricted water abstraction in Lune, Ribble and Wyre catchments	EA Catchment abstraction management strategies
	Flooding – fluvial and tidal flood risk		Fluvial flood risk in various settlements in AONB	EA flood risk maps could be accessed Lead local flood authorities information
Air	Air quality		Not currently considered to be an issue within AONB	Local authorities - any air quality monitoring within the AONB? Local authorities/Environment Agency – discharges to air regulated under the Pollution Prevention and Control Regulations?
Climate	Greenhouse gas emissions		Govt policy is to reduce emissions by 34% below 1990 levels by 2020 and by 80% by 2050	Lancashire Climate Change Strategy 2009-2020, Yorkshire and Humber Climate Change Plan Local authority data?
	Energy generation	No. of renewable energy generation schemes in AONB	2009 Renewable Energy Directive sets a UK target of 15% of energy from renewable sources by 2020	
Material assets	Dark skies	Increase in light pollution within the AONB		International Dark Sky Association http://www.darksky.org/

SEA Topic	AONB Feature	Indicators	Issues/targets	Data sources
				CPRE Dark Skies tranquillity mapping
	Tourism	% employed in tourism No. of accredited accommodation providers Visitor numbers Visitor profile Reasons for visiting	Car parking and visitor facilities Impacts of increasing visitor numbers Development of sustainable tourism	Marketing Lancashire Welcome to Yorkshire Local authorities STEAM reports AONB visitor and business enterprise surveys
	Access	Length of Public Rights of Way (likely to be subdivided eg. Into footpaths, bridleways, cycle tracks and Byways Open to Traffic) Area of open access land (CRoW Act plus other managed open access)		Natural England – Framework for Monitoring Environmental Outcomes in Protected Landscapes Natural England - CRoW Local Nature Reserves
	Minerals	No. of active quarry sites in AONB	Application for extension to licence for Cloughton Brickworks	County Council Development Management teams, Minerals and Waste
Cultural Heritage	Heritage assets	Number of heritage assets, including the number of listed buildings (including grade II listed) and structural scheduled monuments, scheduled monuments, registered	No net loss of designated heritage assets Remove (for positive reasons) 25% of nationally designated	Historic England – Framework for Monitoring Environmental Outcomes in Protected Landscapes HER

SEA Topic	AONB Feature	Indicators	Issues/targets	Data sources
		<p>parks and gardens and non-statutory designated sites/assets</p> <p>% of heritage assets that are 'at risk', including buildings at risk (excluding grade II listed), monuments, registered parks and gardens, conservation areas</p>	<p>heritage at risk assets from the baseline 2010 Register</p>	<p>Historic England – Framework for Monitoring Environmental Outcomes in Protected Landscapes HER</p>
	Settlement and development patterns	No. of Conservation Area appraisals in place	<p>Decline in distinctive character of settlements</p> <p>Housing - land allocations</p>	Local authorities
Landscape	Land management incentives	% of land managed under agri-environment schemes (CSS, ESA, ES and the different levels of CS)		Natural England – Framework for Monitoring Environmental Outcomes in Protected Landscapes
	Tranquillity	<p>Changes in extent of tranquil areas</p> <p>% of the protected landscape that is relatively tranquil for its area</p>		<p>CPRE tranquillity mapping</p> <p>Natural England – Framework for Monitoring Environmental Outcomes in Protected Landscapes</p>
	Woodland within the agricultural setting	% of AONB in woodland		Defra farm statistics
	Landscape character	Uptake of CS options that contribute to conserving and enhancing landscape character:		Natural England – Framework for Monitoring Environmental Outcomes in Protected Landscapes

SEA Topic	AONB Feature	Indicators	Issues/targets	Data sources
		archaeological features, hedgerow trees and in-field trees, woodland managed and created, low input grassland managed, restored and created, management, restoration or creation of lowland heathland Uptake of ES field parcel options and 'numbers of' items e.g. trees (info will need to be tailored to local circumstances)		
	Woodland Types	Total woodland cover, woodland types (broadleaved, coniferous, mixed etc), area and % of ancient woodland		Breakdown of Woodland types given in NCA profiles: 33 Bowland Fringe and Pendle Hill and 34 Bowland Fells
	Distinctive boundary features	Length of hedgerow or dry stone walls	Decline in /loss of distinctive boundary features	AONB Traditional Boundary surveys AONB Traditional Boundaries Programme Pendle Hill LP Traditional Boundaries project
	Agricultural land use change	Farm type, farm size, farm ownership, land use, livestock numbers		Defra farm statistics
	Views from the AONB	No. of developments including tall, vertical infrastructure within setting of the AONB		Local authorities