



Arnside & Silverdale

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Annual Review 2020/21



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THE NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION
Areas of Outstanding
Natural Beauty



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Chairman's Foreword

The last year has been one of unique challenges for everyone and has meant significant changes to the AONB work programme, with many activities impossible due to Government restrictions. However, the AONB staff have continued to work throughout the pandemic, adapting their work, and with some assisting the local Council to support vulnerable residents. The AONB Office was closed in March 2020, and all staff moved to home working. While the AONB Office reopened to the public when restrictions allowed, most staff are continuing to work from home part time to make social distancing possible in the office environment, and we anticipate this will continue for some time.

Barbara Henneberry retired in March 2021 - we thank her for her many years of service and wish her a very happy retirement. Ruth Colbridge left us to join the National Association for AONBs as their Communications Manager and we wish her all the best in her new position. In the AONB Countryside Officer role, Helen Rawlinson returned from maternity leave and Dougie Watson has stayed on, together they are working 1.4FTE. Caroline Howard has joined us full time as Communications & Funding Officer.

I would like to say thank you on behalf of the AONB Partnership to everyone who has helped support local communities through this difficult time, in big ways and small. I'd particularly like to mention the Arnside Volunteer Group, recipients of this year's Bittern Award for outstanding contribution to the AONB. This group came together in response to the pandemic to support the community in a whole host of different ways, providing a lifeline to many residents. Thank you!

With the lockdown came a renewed appreciation and connection with nature and landscape and demonstrates the importance of our work to conserve, enhance and improve understanding of the AONB. While, many of activities were interrupted due to Covid, much valuable and important work was nevertheless completed and this is detailed in the Annual Review.

Cllr Brian Meakin

Annual Review 2020/21

Introduction

Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) was designated in 1972 and covers an area of approximately 75km² in south Cumbria and north Lancashire, including around 30km² of intertidal sand and mudflats in the Kent estuary and Morecambe Bay. 54% of the AONB is covered by national Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) designations and 33% of the AONB is under woodland cover.

The AONB is especially celebrated for its distinctive limestone landscape, magnificent views and extraordinary diversity of wildlife. Low limestone hills, limestone pavements, ancient woodlands, mosses, orchards, meadows and pastures and an impressive coastline, along with a rich cultural history, make this a truly special place.

Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty has:

- 10 scheduled monuments
- 14 listed buildings
- 34 species of Butterfly
- Over 110 km of Public Rights of Way

The intricate nature of many parts of the area and an exceptional variety of special features occurring in such a small place, creates a sense of intimacy and discovery. This fine-grained landscape character then contrasts in every way with the vast openness of adjacent Morecambe Bay.

The Arnside & Silverdale AONB area includes land administrated by 4 Local Authorities, and 6 Parish Councils.

The primary purpose of AONB designation is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area. As of 2020/21, there are 46 AONBs in the UK.

The Arnside & Silverdale AONB Management Plan 2019-24 is a statutory document which sets out a shared vision for the AONB for the next 20 years. The Plan describes the broad range of issues we face in this area and how we will manage them to conserve and enhance the area for future generations.

Our Vision

Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is a landscape of international importance, whose distinctive character is conserved and enhanced for future generations.

It is a place that is much loved and highly valued, for its strong sense of place, unique geology, diverse wildlife and rich heritage and the benefits it provides to society.

Its outstanding landscape - an intimate mosaic of low limestone hills, woodland, wetland, pastures, limestone pavements, intertidal flats, coastal scenery and distinctive settlements - and rich natural and cultural heritage are enjoyed, cherished, conserved and enhanced by those who live in, work in and visit the area.

The high quality and resilient landscape supports and is supported by the area's thriving rural economy and vibrant sustainable local communities. There are many and varied opportunities for people to access, enjoy and understand the area's special qualities, and participate in their conservation and enhancement, creating a strong connection with nature and the landscape.

Challenges and pressures are effectively and sensitively managed in an integrated way through a partnership approach. The area's natural capital and cultural assets are appropriately and sustainably managed to ensure a wide range of public benefits for present and future generations.

About Us

Dynamic and successful partnership working is critical to enable delivery of the AONB Management Plan and to create a strong and resilient AONB Partnership. The AONB Team plays an essential role in this process: providing management and leadership; making things happen on the ground, translating vision and national policy into local action; stimulating collaboration and delivering results; and providing value for money by accessing funding and resources.

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of our work and to record our achievements in the 12-month period up to 31st March 2021 and to show how we are contributing to delivery of the objectives set out in the AONB Management Plan 2019-24.



Left to right: Dougie Watson, Sue Hunter, Lucy Barron, Belinda Barclay, Caroline Howard, Helen Rawlinson

The AONB Partnership Team

AONB Manager: Lucy Barron

AONB Officer: Sue Hunter

AONB Countryside Officers: Helen Rawlinson (0.6FTE); Dougie Watson (0.8FTE)

AONB Communications & Funding Officers: Barbara Henneberry (0.6FTE, April - February) and Ruth Ainsworth (0.4FTE, April - July), Caroline Howard (February onwards)

Local Nature Reserves Warden and Gateway to Warton Crag Project Officer: Belinda Barclay

The team is based at The Old Station Building, Arnside.

Throughout our work we are aiming to make a real difference and for three key outcomes:

- An outstanding landscape rich in natural and cultural heritage
- Vibrant and sustainable communities
- A strong connection between people and the landscape

An outstanding landscape rich in natural and cultural heritage



Strategic objective 1: Conserve, enhance and improve understanding of the natural beauty, landscape and seascape character, and special qualities of Arnside & Silverdale AONB

We gave landscape planning advice to Local Authority Planning Officers 68 times, in response to planning applications. We assessed a total of 175 planning applications (1c). 7 overhead wires were surveyed as part of the Underground for Visual Amenity scheme and we submitted 3 to Electricity Northwest for consideration. The line at Warton is progressing with ENW negotiating with landowners (1k).

Covid-19 has meant only essential work has been carried out on the ground to conserve or enhance land. We worked as a key partner in various projects and steering groups including the **Morecambe Bay Local Nature Partnership** and **Cumbria Local Nature Partnership**. We were also involved in the **Morecambe Bay Partnership**, **Warton Mires Steering Group** and the **Back On Our Map (BOOM)** project as a supporting partner (1d).

We organised and supervised 19 practical conservation tasks with the AONB volunteer team. Volunteers contributed 520 hours of their time. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, all volunteer tasks planned during national lockdowns were cancelled. We restarted the programme briefly in Autumn 2020, and later in March 2021, with additional safety precautions in place, including setting a maximum number of 5 volunteers per task to ensure we could maintain social distancing (1f).

At Warton Crag and Trowbarrow Local Nature Reserves, we manage 2 Higher Level Countryside Stewardship schemes, undertaking work to conserve and enhance the special limestone habitats, plants and wildlife (1f). Both of the LNRs that we manage have had conservation grazing, with cattle at Warton Crag LNR and ponies at Trowbarrow LNR (1i).

Sadly, the Hedgelaying Competition which normally takes place in November was postponed due to Covid 19, along with the other LWHA Grand Prix events (1j).

We sent out an appeal in the December e-newsletter for photos of our dark skies to support the **Dark Skies Project**. We have taken 18 sky quality meter readings at 18 sites (40 SQMs now undertaken on 38 sites across the AONB from October 2019 to March 2021). We supported Friends of the Lake District on their Cumbria Dark Skies Festival, and have held discussions with Nick Dunn of Lancaster University, considering light pollution in the AONB (1n).

Strategic objective 2: Conserve, enhance and improve understanding of the natural capital of the AONB and the range and value of the public benefits and ecosystem services that it provides to society

We promoted the **Natural Health Service**, promoting the health & wellbeing benefits of nature through our social media feed – particularly important at this time (2b).

We supported a **Postgraduate Research project** on 'Connecting with nature in 2020. Who did, who didn't and why it matters' (2c).

Strategic objective 3: Conserve and improve understanding of the geodiversity of the AONB.

We drafted a **Geodiversity Action Plan** for the AONB to provide a framework for conserving, managing, and raising awareness of the AONB's geodiversity (3a). We conserved 7 hectares of land for geodiversity (3b). We undertook a site visit to Trowbarrow LNR to discuss future management to provide enhanced access to the site's geology.

In our formal responses to **1 planning application**, we have raised awareness of the existence and importance of a Limestone Pavement Order (3b).

We raised awareness of the importance of geodiversity in the AONB landscape by:

- Incorporating **geodiversity interpretation** into new visitor information panels at Warton Crag Local Geological Site.
- Supporting Natural England to develop a small interpretation centre at the renovated old building in Gait Barrows NNR, including **geology panels** to promote the interest of the exceptional limestone pavement, marl lake and the significance of the site for palaeo-environmental research within NNR.
- Promoting geodiversity via **social media**.

Strategic objective 4: Conserve, enhance and restore the AONB's characteristic mosaic of habitats and improve their connectivity, take targeted action to conserve key species and improve understanding of the biodiversity of the AONB.

We continued early work on preparation of **Nature Recovery Plan** for the AONB including interpretation of detailed habitat opportunity mapping and data gathering. We co-hosted an ecologist post with National Trust (NT) to lead on this work. We drafted an **Arnside & Silverdale AONB State of Nature Report**. We participated in early work on the **Cumbria Local Nature Recovery Strategy Pilot**, working with Cumbria County Council and others. We worked as part of the **Colchester Declaration steering group** to develop national approaches to nature recovery within the AONB network and began work to develop an AONB 'coastal cluster' project. (4a, b).

We worked as a key partner in the **Morecambe Bay Local Nature Partnership** (LNP) and participated in discussions about wider **Nature Recovery Networks** (NRNs) across Cumbria and Lancashire. We secured additional funding from Natural England to help deliver NRNs. We worked with Plantlife on a successful bid to the Green Recovery Fund which will enable us to develop a **meadows restoration project**. We carried out development and planning work for a series of AONB nature recovery projects, working with relevant partners including **wildflower verges, hedgerows and tree nursery projects** (4b).

We organised and supervised over **19 practical conservation tasks** with the AONB volunteer team undertaking vital habitat management works on a range of sites from SSSIs and Local Wildlife Sites to ancient woodlands and roadside verges (4g, l). We supported the Arnside/Silverdale Landscape Trust with their campaign to **get people to make wildlife boxes** for their nature reserves (4o).

We advised the **Westmorland Red Squirrels Group** (4m) and the **Forestry Commission** on deer management (4n).

We launched a farmer/landowner survey (working with NFU and local farmer networks) to strengthen relationships and gather information. This will shape our future work with farmers and landowners, helping us support and advise farmers and landowners to deliver nature recovery. We held our first **webinar** and published our first '**Land Matters**' **newsletter** published (4f).

We organised meetings and field visits for the **Local Nature Reserves Advisory Groups** to ensure collaboration and joined-up habitat management on these 2 sites – these were held over Zoom on the 30th Sept (Trowbarrow) and 8th October (Warton Crag) (4q). We also organised a field visit with Lancashire Wildlife Trust to discuss **ash dieback monitoring** and winter works (4l).

When covid restrictions allowed, we controlled the spread of **invasive cotoneaster** through AONB volunteer work parties (4r).

We supported **Back on our Map** (BOOM) project officers in their work on **species reintroduction**. (4t)

We continued our participation in the **Warton Mires project**, working with RSPB and others. This project which will create a large area of wet grassland habitat in the south of the AONB alongside flood alleviation measures for Warton village, although progress has been somewhat disrupted due to the pandemic. We worked with the RSPB and Salford University to put together a proposal for a virtual reality model for the project to aid community and stakeholder consultation (4aa).

Strategic objective 5: Improve water quality and condition of watercourses and waterbodies in the AONB and support natural flood management.

We supported South Cumbria Rivers Trust (SCRT) on the **Arnside Silverdale Water Quality** project. This is part of a wider partnership project by the National Rivers Trust – Wholescape Approach to Marine Management (WAMM). We helped find appropriate sites and a team of volunteers to carry out water quality monitoring, although due to the Covid-19 pandemic, volunteers have not been able to do the water quality monitoring and this has been undertaken by SCRT staff. We helped the SCRT staff with water quality monitoring and electro-fishing (5a).

We worked as an active partner in the **Becks to Bay** local catchment partnership led by SCRT (5b).

Promoted the **Love my Beach** initiative (5f).

In our formal responses to **3 planning applications**, we have raised awareness of the importance of septic tanks (5g).

We organised a **shore-line litter pick** with AONB volunteers (5l).

Strategic objective 6: Conserve, restore and improve understanding of the historic environment of the AONB including heritage assets, historic landscape character and cultural heritage

In our formal responses to **6 planning applications**, we have raised awareness of the importance of heritage assets and features and historic landscape. We contributed to the **Blackstone Point Community Archaeological Survey Report** by Green Archaeology. This was completion of the project commissioned by Morecambe Bay Partnership, undertaking an archaeological survey of the previously unrecorded stone jetty at Blackstone Point which we discovered (6i).

We have maintained the 'A rich sense of history' section on the AONB website and downloadable walks offer an insight into the area's rich heritage (6o).

We held **AONB volunteer conservation work parties** at **2 historic wells** in Silverdale – *Bank Well and Wood Well* (6s).

Strategic objective 7: Implement a landscape capacity-led approach to development planning and management, which conserves and enhances the natural beauty, landscape, seascape and special qualities of the AONB and its setting

We implemented a landscape-capacity-led approach to planning and development as set out in the **AONB Development Plan Document (DPD)** (7b-x). The AONB DPD was shortlisted as a finalist in the RTPI Awards for Planning Excellence 2020. The RTPI ran a virtual awards ceremony in May 2020, where the RTPI judges praised the document as "a pioneering and innovative approach to plan making" (7b).

We submitted **7 formal responses to consultations** to ensure that the national importance of the AONB landscape is recognised and that policies to ensure the conservation and enhancement of the area are included in new and reviewed plans and strategies relevant to the area: British Standard for Biodiversity Net Gain; Lancaster City Council Green Infrastructure Strategy; SLDC Local Plan Review; All-Party Parliamentary Groups (APPG) – Dark Skies; White Paper on Planning for the Future; Lancaster City Council Review – Climate Change; Marine Management Organisation Survey (7e).

We assessed **175 planning applications** relevant to the AONB according to the planning protocol and submitted **68 formal responses** (7f).

Vibrant and sustainable communities



Strategic objective 8: Support landowners and managers to sustainably manage the landscape in ways that conserve and enhance the special qualities of the AONB and deliver a range of environmental, community and local economic benefits, in particular by encouraging farming, land and woodland management practices that enhance natural beauty and landscape character.

We launched a **farmer/landowner survey** (working with NFU and local farmer networks) to shape our future work with farmers and landowners. We held consultation discussions with two large landowning estates (8a).

We worked with Butterfly Conservation to develop plans for extension of the **Morecambe Bay Countryside Stewardship Facilitation Fund** scheme (8c).

We provided **bespoke advice** on hedges, meadows, grants, tree planting, visitor management, tree disease and heritage features to **4 individual landowners**. We supported the Landscape Trust Reserves committee, attending Zoom meetings to offer help and advice (8b).

We supported the **Coppice Co-op** and **Silverdale District Woodbank**, 2 local groups carrying out woodland management, producing woodfuel and helping people in fuel poverty (8e).

The Hedgelaying competition which normally takes place in November was postponed, and then cancelled along with the other LWHA Grand Prix events (8g).

Strategic objective 9: Ensure that the visitor economy is environmentally sustainable and contributes to the conservation and enhancement of the area's special qualities, and enable visitors to have high quality experiences of nature, culture and quiet recreation.

Worked with local Parish Councils to develop, design and produce **information panels** to encourage sustainable and responsible tourism and improve the visitor experience. We worked with Yealand Redmayne and Yealand Conyers Parish Councils to produce a joint information panel for the Yealands. (9b).

We provided '**bedroom packs**' of our leaflets to local accommodation providers (9c). We promoted and supported the **Arnside Art Group Virtual Trail** (9d).

As part of the '**Gateway to Warton Crag Project**', we designed and installed interpretation panels and installed a new waymarked route. We held Wildflower ID and Transect training in September and the Friends of Warton Crag, volunteer activities were held in line with AONB volunteer tasks (9h).

Local businesses feature on our website, raising the profile of the fantastic range of locally made produce and helping support the local economy. We **promoted local businesses** that opened up after lockdown with Covid safety measures in place as part of the Enjoy Summer Safely campaign (9i). We also worked with local artist Caren Threlfall on **AONB colouring sheets** and **Autumn leaves project** with Arnside School to support the local art gallery (9i).

We worked as a key partner in discussions with the Eden Project in advance of their plans to establish an **Eden Project North** in Morecambe (9j).

Strategic objective 10: Support delivery of affordable housing and services to help meet local community needs and environmentally sustainable local economic activity that conserves and enhances the special qualities of the AONB.

We **promoted the use of public transport** through leaflets, website, downloadable walks routes etc. wherever possible, although this was scaled back due to Covid 19 restrictions (10d).

We participated in **Furness Line Community Rail Partnership**, including co-hosting Friends of Arnside Station (10e).

Strategic objective 11: Engage local communities in conserving and enhancing the AONB and encourage active involvement through volunteering.

As part of the 'Gateway to Warton Crag' project, we organised activities for the **Friends of Warton Crag volunteer group**, in line with the main AONB volunteer programme (11a, 11d).

All **6 parish councils** are represented on the **AONB Executive Committee**. We provided annual reports of AONB Partnership activity provided to each parish upon request (11b).

We delivered the **AONB Grants Fund** - run jointly by the Arnside & Silverdale AONB Partnership and the Arnside/Silverdale Landscape Trust, working together to support projects which conserve and enhance the AONB or connect people with the landscape. This year we have allocated grants to the value of **£2500** in support of local projects (11c).

We have worked closely with the **Arnside/Silverdale AONB Landscape Trust**, a charity with over 1000 members, which supports the work of the AONB Partnership (11d). We supported and encouraged the **Bittern Countryside Community Interest Company's** initiative to help people reduce their use of plastic (11f).

Where possible, we provided opportunities to engage in practical conservation management tasks, monitoring, administration and event support through the **AONB volunteer programme**. Volunteers have continued throughout to help us with website updates and social media. We supported our volunteer network through lockdown, to avoid social isolation and put them in touch with local volunteer support networks if needed (11g).

We carried out **3 monthly litter picks** as part of the AONB volunteer programme with **12 bin bags of rubbish** collected and recycled wherever possible. We organised a litter pick for 24th September as part of the **Great British 'Spring' Clean** initiative (11i).

A strong connection between people and the landscape



Strategic objective 12: Provide high quality information, events and activities to enable people to enjoy, learn about and celebrate the AONB's special qualities in a sustainable way.

We continued to deliver our own Communications Strategy to provide a variety of high quality, consistent online and printed material conveying our key messages.

Our social media presence increased to:

- **3811** followers on Twitter
- **2681** followers on Facebook
- Website analytical reports show **36806** users and **199,233** page views in this 12-month period (12a).
- **351** followers on Instagram
- **1216** subscribers to our e-newsletters

We have worked with local Parish Councils to develop, design and produce **information panels** to encourage sustainable and responsible tourism and improve the visitor experience. Further information is also available on our website under the 'Discover – Things to see and do' section (12b).

Our flagship event, the Annual Conference was due in January, but we were unable to go ahead within Covid-19 guidelines (12c). All of our WILD! Project events were cancelled due to Covid-19, but planning for next year was undertaken (12i).

When possible, we engaged directly with local schools, hosting **8 educational visits** to the 2 Local Nature Reserves. Unfortunately the majority of visits were cancelled due to covid 19 restrictions, and two funded projects have been postponed to 2021/22 (12d).

We operated the information centre based at the AONB Office, opening when in line with government guidance on Covid 19 (12f).

Strategic objective 13: Maintain and improve access to the coast and countryside in a sustainable way for a diverse range of people and promote responsible, safe and quiet recreation.

We **maintained the footpath network** to a high standard through ongoing improvements to public rights of way and concessionary footpaths through good quality signage and vegetation management as part of the AONB volunteer programme of works (13a). We purchased and installed **15 new/replacement fingerpost waymarkers** (13g). We maintained downloadable **self-guided routes** available on our website (13m).

We also **improved access to Trowbarrow LNR** for users of Trampers (all-terrain mobility vehicles) (13b). The **AONB Tramper**, based at RSPB Leighton Moss, was not hired over this 12 month period, likely due Covid 19 lockdowns (13d).

We worked in partnership with staff from Natural England with regard to the section of the **England Coast Path** which passes through the AONB (13c).

We actively promoted the **Countryside Code** through signage and leaflets (13i) and social media, especially following the easing of Covid-19 restrictions and more people visiting the countryside. We worked with local parish councils to produce new **Stay Safe signage** and additional new signage to encourage responsible behaviour (13h).

Strategic objective 14: Provide opportunities for people to improve their health and wellbeing by connecting with nature, culture and the landscape.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, all **Dementia-friendly Walks for All** were cancelled (14a). We promoted the rights of way network and LNRs for daily exercise through lockdown and the benefits of nature and beauty and landscape for health and wellbeing (14b).

The Areti Trust funded projects had to be postponed to 2021/22 due to Covid 19 restrictions. The funders have confirmed that the grant offers are still valid. (14c).

Some highlights from 2020/21

An outstanding landscape rich in natural and cultural heritage

In 2020 / 2021 we continued to manage Trowbarrow and Warton Crag Local Nature Reserves, in line with our Countryside Stewardship agreements, as well as managing a network of small sites in the AONB (for example the orchard verge at Sandside).

We have developed new projects, including:

- Bee on the Verge, a campaign to promote biodiversity in roadside verges working with local partners including Arnside Parish Council and Yealand Women's Institute.
- The AONB tree nursery, starting with local oak seedlings which our volunteers have been growing on.
- Meadow Makers, a Green Recovery Challenge Fund bid led by Plantlife.
- Preliminary work on the State of Nature Report and the Tree and Woodland Strategy.

We were able to access Defra funding to help establish the Arnside & Silverdale Farming and Land Management group, supporting local farmers and other land managers as they prepare for new Environmental Land Management schemes.

Vibrant and sustainable communities

The Covid 19 lockdown created a lot of challenges for the AONB as was the case for the rest of the country. We supported the parish councils with signage to help people follow safe behaviours. We also helped to support local vulnerable people via redeployment through Lancaster city council. We adapted our volunteer programme to re-start within Covid 19 guidance when possible, to allow people to get back out in the AONB and volunteer is a safe way.

A strong connection between people and the landscape

We used social media and our website to keep people connected to the AONB during lockdown; including working with a local artist to create downloadable colouring sheets. The collection of images featuring things found in the AONB were created to focus the mind on the moment and hopefully give a sense of tranquillity for which Arnside & Silverdale is so well loved.

We got kids out into nature when possible, facilitating Local Nature Reserve visits by Storth School (Trowbarrow) and Archbishop Hutton (Warton Crag) in December.

We also worked with Arnside School on an Autumn project: an AONB Countryside Officer took the children on a walk up the Knott and they helped collect acorns for the AONB's new native tree nursery. Back at school, the children created Autumn Leaves collages which were displayed in a local art gallery over half term.

The Bittern Award 2020: Si Whorral & the Arnside Volunteer Group

The Bittern Award, which recognises outstanding contributions to the AONB, went to Simon Whorral and the Arnside Volunteer Group for their incredible work to support the AONB community during the Covid pandemic.

After the first Covid lockdown was announced in March 2020 Si set up a physical base on Arnside promenade and, with a small team of administrative volunteers, co-ordinated hundreds of volunteers who shopped, did hospital runs, walked dogs, provided hot meals, and delivered prescriptions, glasses, help and supplies to anyone in the village that needed it. The AVG supported local businesses, partnering with shops and local suppliers, helping them to survive lockdown and providing groceries and essential services to the village.

As the crisis progressed, AVG responded – phone buddies volunteered to call people who were lonely or isolated, sewing groups were established and whole PPE kits were made and supplied to local carers and care homes, a local brewery was approached to provide free hand sanitisers. There was even a separate online hub with local teachers supporting parents with homeschooling.

The group has been vital in providing the physical and emotional support needed to keep the village going during this difficult time and has supported, strengthened and enriched the local community, fostering positivity and collaboration which will have long-lasting benefits. It has been made possible by hundreds of people working together but would not have happened at all without Si Whorral.

Thank you and looking forward

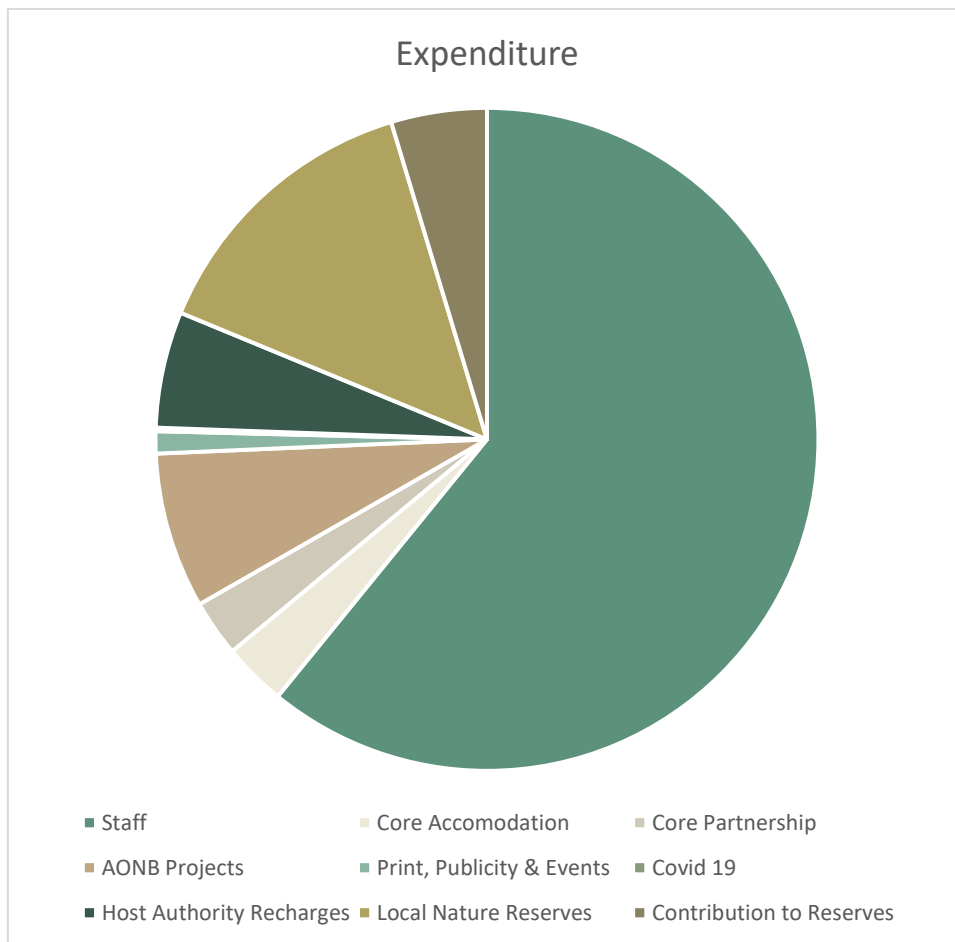
The publication of the National Review of Designated Landscapes published in late 2019 made a series of far-reaching recommendations to ensure our national landscapes can be a positive force for the nation's wellbeing into the future, alive for nature and beauty, and, for everyone. As we recover from the pandemic, we are working with others at both a national and local level to renew our focus on implementing these recommendations in the context of the climate and ecological crises.

The work that the AONB staff has achieved during the pandemic, as set out in this Annual Review, is incredible and I'd like to personally thank all the team members past and present for their commitment and resilience. Thanks also to all of our partners and volunteers, who are an absolute pleasure to work with. I look forward to leading the team and partnership over the coming year!

Lucy Barron
AONB Manager

Financial Summary 2020/2021

Expenditure 2020/21

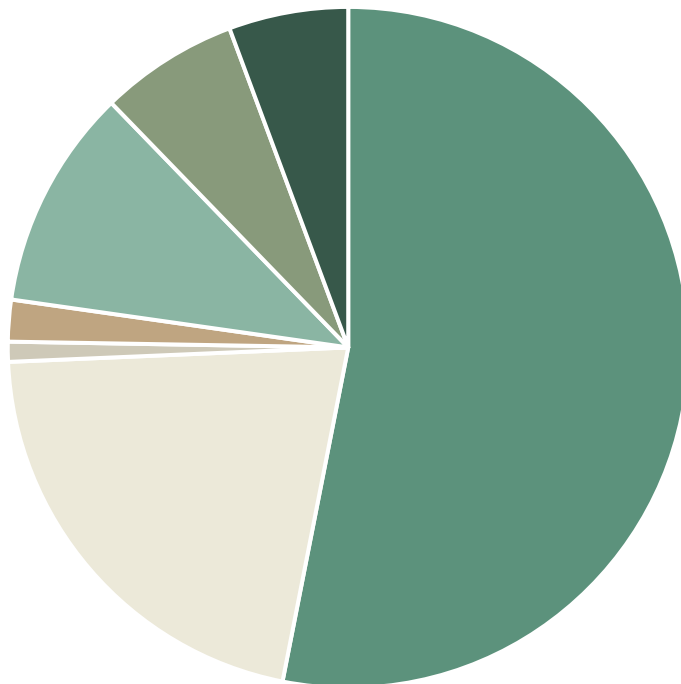


Expenditure summary

Staff Costs, inc. travel, subsistence & training	£171,754.08
Core Accommodation Costs	£8703.08
Core Partnership Running Costs	£7,770.92
AONB Projects & Community Engagement Programme	£21,451.28
Print, Publicity & Events	£3,046.95
Covid 19 Expenditure	£482.53
Host Authority Support Recharges	£16,000.00
LNR Management Programme & Gateway to Warton Crag	£39,774.31
Contribution to the Reserve	£13169.11
Total	£282,152.26

Income 2020/21

Income



■ Defra ■ Local Authorities ■ Parish Councils ■ Contracting etc. ■ Other Grants ■ Countryside Stewardship (LNRs) ■ HA In Kind Contrib.

Income Summary

Defra	£149,800.43
Local Authorities ¹	£59,905.00
Parish Councils ²	£2,675.00
Contracting Income, FIT & Donations	£5,581.30
Other Grants	£29,626.25
Countryside Stewardship (Local Nature Reserves)	£18,564.28
Host Authority In Kind Contribution	£16,000.00
Total	£282,152.26

**Balance held in reserves:
£52,302.17**

¹ South Lakeland District Council, Lancashire County Council, Lancaster City Council, Cumbria County Council

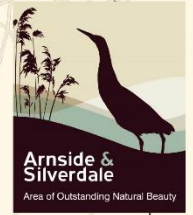
² Arnside Parish Council, Beetham Parish Council, Silverdale Parish Council, Yealand Conyers Parish Council, Yealand Redmayne Parish Council, Warton Parish Council

Arnside & Silverdale

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Discover... explore... enjoy

- Best places for ...**
-  Butterflies/ dragonflies
 -  Orchids/ wildflowers
 -  Bird watching
 -  Buildings of historic interest
 -  Views



WARNING Access onto Morecambe Bay is dangerous. Seek local guidance.

- KEY**
-  AONB boundary
 -  Public footpaths
 -  Concessionary/permissive footpaths
 -  Bridleways
 -  Byways
 -  Railway
 -  Limestone pavement
 -  Woodland
 -  Saltmarsh



The representation on this map of any other road, track or path is no evidence of the existence of a right of way.
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Arnside & Silverdale



Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Photo Credits: Arnside Knott View (Adam Donaldson), Arnside Knott View in Snow (Adam Donaldson) Salt Marsh Quakers Stang (Alan Lawlor), Girl with Flower (Ella Riden)



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