

Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme in Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

Key programme priorities for Arnside & Silverdale AONB

- Improve resilience of the landscape to climate change
- Enhance or restore priority habitats
- Improve connectivity of habitats and enhance habitat mosaics across the landscape
- Create or enhance transitional habitats e.g. woodland edge
- Take targeted action for priority species
- Restore traditional boundaries - drystone walls and hedgerows
- Plant boundary and in-field trees, particularly to ensure succession planting for parkland, veteran, and notable trees
- Conserve, enhance or restore landscape or heritage features
- Improve public access by creating permissive paths and easy access routes
- Providing more opportunities for people to explore, enjoy and understand the landscape, in particular more diverse audiences, e.g. through events, interpretation, or improving facilities
- Supporting farm businesses to become more nature-friendly and sustainable

Ideally, we are looking for projects with impact that deliver multiple benefits.

Collaborative projects and multi-year projects will be proactively encouraged.

Our Farming in Protected Landscapes Officer will work with the AONB Farming and Land Management group and individual or small groups of farmers and land managers to develop projects which deliver these key priorities.

Indicative project examples

- Example 1 – A farmer/land manager in Arnside & Silverdale AONB will carry out scrub management to reinstate species-rich limestone grassland, install a series of gates to improve access for people with limited mobility and plant new hedgerows and in-field trees across their land holding. This will deliver public benefits by addressing climate change and improving landscape character, wildlife habitats, and access opportunities.
- Example 2 – A farmer/land manager in Arnside & Silverdale AONB will carry out an ecological survey and soil test for 7ha of semi-improved grassland to assess the suitability for restoration to species-rich grassland and go on to restore 3ha of the semi-improved grassland. They also restore a heritage lime kiln and drystone walls, provide a new concessionary access route, and install new signage to direct people to a local café business to support the local economy.

Arnside & Silverdale AONB Management Plan 2019-24

All projects will be expected to demonstrate how they help deliver the Arnside & Silverdale AONB Management Plan 2019-24. We have created a summary below of the elements of the Management Plan most relevant to the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme. The full Management Plan document can be downloaded from the AONB website.

Long term vision

Arnside & Silverdale AONB 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 areas thriving rural economy and vibrant sustainable local communities. Here are many and varied opportunities for people to access, enjoy and understand the area's special qualities, and participate in the conservation and enhancement, creating a strong connection with nature and the landscape.

Challenges and pressure 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.

2019 – 2024 Management Plan Core Principles:

Landscape approach - Conservation and enhancement of the beauty, character, and quality of the AONB landscape lie at the heart of the Management Plan. This means taking a 'landscape-scale' approach working across numerous different sites and interests and embracing both natural and cultural influences.

Sustainable land management – Encouraging and supporting farming, land- and woodland management practices that help to conserve and enhance natural beauty, landscape and seascape character and nature is essential in delivering the purpose of AONB designation. Maintaining viable land management businesses and rural livelihoods are vital factors in keeping the area special.

Natural capital and ecosystems approach – Using a natural capital and ecosystem approach helps to deliver healthy functioning natural systems and 'bigger, better, more joined up' biodiversity.

Climate change adaptation and mitigation – In responding to climate change, maximising opportunities to improve landscape resilience such as improving habitat condition and enhancing connectivity will be a priority.

Accessible to all – There should be equality of opportunity for everyone to enjoy what this area has to offer.

Management Plan actions most relevant to the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme

<p>Climate</p> <p>Strategic Objective 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1d: Landscape scale approach to conserving and enhancing natural and cultural heritage • 1g: Promote importance of good soil management for carbon storage, water quality and flood regulation by establishing and implementing soil management plans <p>Strategic objective 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2a: manage area based on natural capital and ecosystem services approach to increase landscape resilience especially resilience to climate change <p>Strategic objective 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4a: Establish a ‘nature recovery network’ to develop robust ecological networks that are resilient to climate change, through habitat enhancement, expansion, restoration, and creation including improving habitat connectivity by establishing buffer zones, linear corridors and ‘stepping stones’ • 4w: conserve, enhance and improve the resilience of pollination as an ecosystem service supporting actions to create pollinator habitat and help pollinating insects <p>Strategic objective 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5a: deliver projects to help increase flood resilience • 5i: support appropriate natural flood management schemes 	<p>Nature</p> <p>Strategic objective 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1h: sensitive land and woodland management practices • 1l: appropriate grazing regimes on limestone grassland sites • 1l: conserve ancient, veteran notable and parkland trees and ensure succession planting <p>Strategic objective 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4e: increase the proportion of Local wildlife Sites that are in positive management • 4f: encourage high nature-value farming and forestry/woodland practices • 4g: retain, improve and expand areas of species-rich calcareous grassland including by managing scrub and ensuring appropriate grazing regimes • 4h+i: hay meadow management and enhancement • 4j: create more transitional habitats, such as woodland edge, to blend habitats to enhance the boundaries between high quality habitat and surrounding land • 4p: create, restore and enhance wetland habitats in appropriate locations include wet grassland, moss and fenland and reedbed • 4s: targeted action to conserve key species <p>Strategic objective 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5b: Measures to protect and enhance the water environment and improve water quality • 5h: support the creation, restoration and enhancement of wetland habitats and the reinstatement of natural processes
<p>People</p> <p>Strategic objective 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3d: increase awareness and appreciation of geology and conservation of geodiversity in as sustainable way at key sites 	<p>Place</p> <p>Strategic objective 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1j: conserve and restore distinctive landscape boundaries and features such as hedgerows, drystone walls, field barns • 1n: dark skies • 1o: projects and initiatives to reinforce AONB’s distinctive sense of place

Strategic objective 4

- 4bb: tackle recreational disturbance via education, appropriate signage and awareness raising

Strategic objective 11

- 11e: support and promote practical volunteering programmes

Strategic objective 12

- 12b: provide high quality visitor information and interpretation and promote quiet recreation
- 12d: support education programmes for primary and secondary schools
- 12g: deliver projects to interpret and celebrate the special qualities of the AONB

Strategic objective 13

- 13b: improve and/or expand public access, seek to encourage access for all and multi user routes
- 13d: develop a network of Tramped-friendly routes
- 13e: improve network and connectivity of bridleways for horses
- 13f: secure agreements for permissive paths
- 13g: provide high quality and consistent style of path way marker signposts
- 13j: actively promote the Countryside Code

Strategic objective 14

- 14a: offer a programme of therapeutic walks/ outdoor experiences for people living with dementia and their carers and other 'walking for health' style initiatives
- 14b+d: develop new health and wellbeing initiatives and projects that link to the landscape

Strategic objective 3

- 3b: conserve and positively manage geodiversity

Strategic objective 6

- 6c: conserve and enhance heritage assets and features

Strategic objective 8

- 8e: develop and support a network of woodland management and woodfuel businesses to make greater use of under-managed woodlands and add value to locally produced wood products

Strategic objective 9

- 9i: deliver local food and products initiatives – support development of short supply chains which link land management, local products and tourism