

QUANTOCK HILLS

AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY



DELIVERY PLAN 2019 – 2024

Version Information

Version	Date	Consultation	Amendments / Comment
1.0	26/10/18	None	
1.0.1	07/01/2019	Team. Cross checking with LPS, N&W 2 and other projects where delivery will have significant crossover with Delivery Plan.	New objective LM2. Minor amendments to policy wording BWHP1. Change in policies in Development, Planning & Infrastructure theme.
1.1.0	11/02/2019	Wider partnership meeting (5 th Feb) feedback on LPS and Delivery Plan	New priority for PRoW / Promoted route signing and waymarking
1.1.1	19/03/2019	Staff feedback round.	Separate column for LPS role to see if document reads better. Inclusion of actions from team.
	04/06/2019	JAC and wider partnership. Draft DP sent and feedback requested.	
1.1.2	19/06/2019	AONB team	Update actions on climate change assessments
		LPS	Include LPS delivery role
1.1.3	20/08/2019	Natural England	Consider and make amendments where reasonable.
FINAL	22/10/2019	Adopted by Quantock Hills JAC	

How will the Quantock Hills AONB Management Plan 2019-24 be delivered?

The Management Plan brings together the actions of many partner, all of which contribute to the conservation and enhancement of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The policies contained within the Management Plan outline the task that need to be undertaken in the next five years

The Delivery Plan identifies the actions required to deliver the policies from the Management Plan and who will be involved. It also highlights clearly the anticipated role of the AONB Service.

Resources for delivery are limited and there is much uncertainty into future funding mechanisms, so some actions should be viewed as being aspirational. However the Quantock Hills AONB Partnership has a strong track record on delivery of previous Management Plans and has helped secure significant funding to make more projects and actions outlined achievable.

Building on previous experience the AONB Partnership will secure new funds from a variety of sources to achieve delivery of the Management Plan. The Partnerships' role and sources of funding are reviewed annually and presented in the AONB Partnership's Business Plan. This allows flexibility to prioritise funds and resources as well as realise opportunities when they arise.

How does the AONB Partnership Operate?

The AONB Partnership works together to conserve and enhance the Quantock Hills. Individual partners will engage in the following ways

- Advisory – Providing advice to the AONB Service in delivery of the AONB Management Plan.
- Influence – influences other partners or their own organisations in the work they are undertaking to ensure good practice with regard to the AONB designation
- Promoting – There are two elements to promotion. There is promotion of the Quantock Hills as a AONB and the requirement to conserve and enhance it. There is also promotion of the work of the partnership and the AONB Service

The AONB Partnership also works to share good practice and influence policy development.

The Quantock Hills AONB Service

The AONB Service is a small team who work under the direction of the AONB Partnership. The AONB Service has three roles when it comes to delivering the Quantock Hills AONB Management Plan. These are:

- Lead –The AONB Service takes the lead role in developing, managing and implementing a project or area of work including securing and managing the funds and staffing required to take it forward.
- Partner – The AONB Service is actively involved in the project or area of work maybe by helping to develop or steer it or by providing funding or staff time but the initiative is led by another organisation.
- Promoter – The AONB Service is not actively involved in a project or area of work but may promote it as a delivery element of the Management Plan.

The AONB Service works with many organisations, communities and individuals both within and outside of the partnership.

Landscape Scale Delivery – the Quantock Landscape Partnership Scheme

During 2019 the Quantock Hills AONB Partnership, along with a number of other partners, is developing a Stage 2 Landscape Partnership Scheme (LPS) application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund (Heritage Lottery Fund). The application, if successful, will deliver £2.6m of funding through 24 projects which will enhance the natural and historic heritage of the wider Quantock landscape as well as engaging with more people from both local communities and neighbouring urban centres.

The LPS area is based on the landscape character type as identified through the Quantock Hills and Quantock LPS Landscape Character Assessments. The size of the LPS area is approximately 195km² nearly double this size of the AONB. The LPS will be delivering projects both within and outside of the AONB and it is difficult during the period of the development to predict outputs within specific geographical areas for many of the projects.

For the purpose of the Delivery Plan actions / projects for which the LPS has a role are identified in the LPS Role column. As the LPS application is going through a competitive process, the outcome of which will be known in March 2020, there are projects / actions which may appear to duplicate LPS projects. Once the outcome of the LPS application is known the Delivery Plan will be reviewed along with relevant Business Plans.

Delivering for Land Management

The Quantock Hills AONB Service is currently one of 12 AONBs across England looking to trial a new approach to agri-environment schemes. Currently called ELMS (England Land Management Schemes) the scheme aims to replace the current Countryside Stewardship Schemes after the UK leaves the EU.

The Quantock Hills proposal is a comprehensive scheme aiming to deliver across all six policies areas as identified by Defra. As already identified the AONB landscape types and therefore farming influence extends beyond the current AONB boundary and the proposal does recognise the need to include the agricultural fringes outside the AONB.

The Quantock proposal does include a request for additional resources to manage and deliver any scheme, which would need to be additional to those existing resources Defra provides.

As of spring 2019 Defra is looking to trial and test a number of the proposals put forward by AONBs and other organisations with the aspiration that the ELM's scheme is fully tested prior to being launched possibly in 2023/24. Actions have been identified which may be delivered by ELMs, though during this Management Plan period, these are expected to be limited to the trial and test phase.

Delivering for Wellbeing

The Somerset AONB's (Blackdown's, Mendips and Quantocks) have been working with Somerset Public Health (Somerset County Council) since April 2016 on a joint project which aimed to encourage non-traditional users to access the protected landscape for health and wellbeing benefits.

The project has been hugely successful and the outputs and outcomes have been significant considering the level of resource allocated to the project.

All project partners are keen to see a further project which builds on the lessons learnt. In partnership with Somerset Wildlife Trust, which has also been delivering a similar Nature and Wellbeing Project, the Somerset AONB's are looking to submit a larger scale bid for a three-year project. The bid is expected to be submitted in spring 2019 with the outcome known autumn 2019.

A number of actions could be delivered by a new project and these are identified through the Delivery Plan.

The Delivery Plan

The delivery plan draws together all the Objectives from the Quantock Hills AONB Management Plan 2019-24. The Delivery Plan is designed to be a standalone document to allow for ease of reading and should be read in the context of:

- 'A Special Landscape' which sets out the special qualities of the Quantock Hills and some of the issues affecting them.
- The earlier sections of the Management Plan which sets out the background to AONBs and their Management Plans, identifies the natural capital and benefits to society the Quantock Hills provides and establishes the common principals which run through the plan.
- The Delivery Plan takes the Objectives and Management Policies from the Statutory AONB Management Plan and sets out how they will be achieved / reached. The Delivery Plan will be updated annually through the AONB Business Plan and reviewed fully after three years. Some actions will cover the whole five year period of the AONB Management Plan, others are delivered through time limited projects. Due to the potential projects / initiatives covered in the prior section there is inevitable overlap in some areas.

The Delivery Plan presentation:

Objective –
something we want to achieve

Lead –

Organisation that will start the process of making the action happen

Partner –

Not an exclusive list, but list those central to delivering the action. Note – All land management works are assumed to be with the consent and participation of farmers / landowners, so they are not named against each action

Timescale –

Years of delivery or 'number per year'

Landscape Character & Quality							
LM1: To support sustainable land management to improve and extend the special wildlife, landscape and ecosystem services of Quantock Commons and farmland.							
Management Policy	Action	Lead / Partners	AONB Team Role	LPS Role	Timescale	Priority	
LP1: To protect, understand and enhance the landscape and character of the AONB and support those delivering these elements management in respect of landscape beauty, natural capital and ecosystem services for all land uses.	Relevant AONB Partners to report on an annual basis how decision making has demonstrated 'Due Regard' in relation to decisions made which could impact the AONB	Partnership / All relevant AONB partners	Catalyst	Advocate	Annual	2	

Action –

Work towards meeting the objective

AONB Team Role –

Executive – work it does itself and with others
Catalyst – Bringing others together to achieve actions
Advocate – promoting and championing

AONB Team Role –

As the AONB role but for the dedicated LPS team

Priority –

1 high – 3 low

Landscape Character & Quality						
L1: To encourage and deliver understanding, conservation and enhancement of the character and quality of the AONB landscape through land use and development management that supports its special qualities.						
Management Policy	Action	Lead / Partners	AONB Team Role	LPS Role	Timescale	Priority
LP1: To protect, understand and enhance the landscape and character of the AONB and support those delivering these elements	LP1/1 Relevant AONB Partners to report on an annual basis how decision making has demonstrated 'Due Regard' in relation to decisions made which could impact the AONB	Partnership / All relevant AONB partners	Catalyst		Annual	2
	LP1/2 Pursue LEI funding to deliver a project which enhances landscape strength currently impacted by National Grid infrastructure	Partnership / LPS	Executive		2019 - 22	2
	LP1/3 Undertake visual intrusion assessment based on 2017 Quantock Hills LCA and 2019 Quantock LPS LCAs	Partnership / LPS	Executive		2020	3
	LP1/4 Restore heathland currently used as a car park at Crowcombe Park Gate and provide parking at alternative location	LPS / FoQ, QCA	Catalyst	Lead	2022	2
	LP1/5 Undertake consultative research into communities views on the special qualities of the Quantock Hills and how these should evolve into the future (25, 50 and 100 years ahead)	Partnership / LPS, HE, FC	Executive	Partner	2023	1
LP2: To promote the highest standards of landscape management in respect of landscape beauty, natural capital and ecosystem services for all land uses.	LP2/1 Ensure assessment of AONB Business Plan to prioritise actions that achieve objective	Partnership	Executive		Annual	1
	LP2/2 Ensure engagement with Defra NELMs targeting promoting special qualities and evidenced based approach at the local level	Partnership / Defra	Executive		?	1
	LP2/3 Engagement with Quantock Facilitation Fund ensuring special qualities are promoted through events and support the QFF in promoting collaboration between landowners and managers to achieve landscape scale working.	Partnership / FWAG-SW	Catalyst		2019-21	2
LP3: To encourage public understanding and support for	LP3/1 Undertake an annual programme of public accessible walks, talks and events ensuring events promote special qualities of the AONB	Partnership / NT, FC, LPS	Executive	Partner	Annual	2

landscape conservation and enhancement.	LP3/2 Publish articles / blogs etc through social media and e-newsletter that discuss importance of landscape as a concept	Partnership	Executive	Partner	Annual	3
	LP3/3 Run campaign exploring the importance of views and landscape through photographic competitions or similar events	Partnership	Executive		Annual	3
LP4: To further develop, promote and utilise the landscape character approach in AONB management and policy, including development of LCA-based design guidance.	LP4/1 Embed Quantock Hills LCA in AONB Partnership Business Planning process.	Partnership	Executive		Annual	1
	LP4/2 Include LCA section on the AONB website.	Partnership	Executive		2019	3
	LP4/3 Develop design guidance	Partnership / LPS, LA	Catalyst		2023 - 2024	2
LP5: To continue to offer landscape character advice to Local Planning Authorities in strategic and development management consultations.	LP5/1 Employment of a Landscape Planning Officer	Partnership	Executive		Annual	1
	LP5/2 Renew / seek agreement with local planning authorities to provide costed pre-application advice.	Partnership / LA	Executive		Annual	1

Land Management: Farming, Forestry & Catchment						
LM1: To support sustainable land management to improve and extend the special wildlife, landscape and ecosystem services of Quantock Commons and farmland.						
Management Policy	Action	Lead / Partners	AONB Team Role	LPS tole	Timescale	Priority
LMP1: To protect, maintain and where appropriate extend the dry acid grassland, acid flushes/mires, open moorland and upland oakwoods with their important bird assemblage, of Quantock Common.	LP2/2 Ensure engagement with Defra NELMs targeting promoting special qualities and evidenced based approach at the local level	Partnership / Defra	Executive		?	1
	LP2/3 Engagement with Quantock Facilitation Fund ensuring special qualities are promoted through events and support the QFF in promoting collaboration between landowners and managers to achieve landscape scale working.	Partnership / FWAG-SW	Catalyst		2019-21	2
	LMP1/1 Explore option trial sites for management in SAC oak woodlands	NE / Partnership	Catalyst		2022	2
	LMP1/2 Undertake summer heathland breeding bird survey, using results to feed into NE SSSI management plan	Partnership / NE, RSPB, SoS	Catalyst	Partner	2024	2
	LMP1/3 Undertake woodland bird survey, using results to feed into NE SAC management plan	NE / Partnership, RSPB, SoS	Catalyst		2023	2
	LMP1/4 Ensure NELMs is developed to include options that will secure beneficial management of priority habitats of the SSSI, including heathland .	NE / Partnership	Advocate		?	1
	LP1/4 Restore heathland currently used as a car park at Crowcombe Park Gate and provide parking at alternative location	LPS / FoQ, QCA	Catalyst	Lead	2022	2
	LMP1/5 develop and deliver project to restore acidic mires on Quantock Common SSSI	Partnership / NE / NT	Catalyst		2021	2
	LMP1/6 Support delivery of agri-environment schemes including land management on SSSI sites	Partnership / NE / NT	Catalyst		2019	1
LMP2: To encourage and support the positive management of Quantock farmland, woodland and water catchment through engagement with the development and delivery of a high quality locally responsive land management scheme.	LMP2/1 Engage with Defra in the running of NELMs trials / tests to ensure Quantock Hills special qualities are included in future schemes.	Partnership / FWAG-SW, Defra	Executive		2019	1
	LMP2/2 Provide workshops for local farmers / landowners to support them to access CS / NELMs funding	FWAG-SW / Partnership	Catalyst		Annual	1

	LMP2/3 Ensure targeting of NFM initiatives include measures to protect and enhance the landscapes and habitats of the AONB	Partnership / FWAG-SW / SRA	Executive		Annual	1
LMP3: To support the understanding, conservation and proper management of Quantock hedges and associated banks.	LMP3/1 Undertake parish level hedge survey	LPS / Partnership	Advocate	Lead	2020-25	2
	LMP3/2 Ensure targeting of beech hedgebanks through NELMs.	Partnership	Executive		?	1
	LMP3/3 Undertake 'showcase' examples of beech hedgebank restoration at key sites throughout the Quantock Hills to promote appropriate management	LPS / Partnership	Catalyst	Lead	2020-23	2
	LMP3/4 Provide third party grants for appropriate hedge management / creation.	LPS	Advocate	Lead	2020-24	3
	LMP3/5 Support volunteer / community training in appropriate hedge management techniques	Partnership / FWAG-SW	Catalyst	Partner	2019-24	2
LMP4: To support the sensitive management of woodland and plantations to enhance and extend the distinctive character, landscape and wildlife of the Quantocks.	LMP4/1 Undertake surveys and assessments of appropriate woodlands to identify and record lichens, mosses and liverworts	Plantlife / Partnership	Advocate		2019-21	2
	LMP4/2 Deliver a series of workshops / training events to cover appropriate management of woodlands through the Quantock Facilitation Fund and Plantlife's Building Resilience Project	FWAG-SW / Plantlife	Advocate		2019-21	1
	LMP4/3 Influence Woodland Management Plans to ensure Quantock special qualities are enhanced through woodland management	FC	Advocate		Annual	2
LMP5: To encourage and support the creation and positive management of privately owned woodland and orchards, bringing more into management to increase the wide range of ecosystem services provided.	LMP5/1 Undertake connectivity study to identify and prioritise woodland / hedgerow creation opportunities.	Partnership / LPS	Executive	Partner	2021-23	1
	LMP5/2 Ensure targeting of Quantock Hills for woodland creation and management grant	FC	Advocate		Annual	1
	LMP5/3 Support Community Groups undertaking woodland management through provision of advice, grants and training	LPS / FC	Catalyst	Lead	2020-24	2
	LMP4/2 Deliver a series of workshops / training events to cover appropriate management of woodlands through the Quantock Facilitation Fund and Plantlife's Building Resilience Project	FWAG-SW / Plantlife	Advocate		2019-21	1

Biodiversity: Wildlife & Habitats						
BWH1: To maintain and enrich the biodiversity and ecosystems of the Quantocks at the landscape scale.						
Management Policy	Action	Lead / Partners	AONB Team Role	LPS Role	Timescale	Priority
BWHP1: To engage with development of land management, agri-environment and/or other innovative schemes to protect, connect and expand valuable Quantock habitats both inside and outside the AONB boundary.	LMP5/1 Undertake connectivity study to identify and prioritise woodland / hedgerow creation opportunities.	Partnership / LPS	Executive	Partner	2021-23	1
	LP2/2 Ensure engagement with Defra NELs targeting promoting special qualities and evidenced based approach at the local level	Partnership	Executive		?	1
	LMP2/1 Engage with Defra in the running of NELMs trials / tests to ensure Quantock Hills special qualities are included in future schemes.	Partnership / FWAG-SW	Executive		2019	1
	LMP2/3 Ensure targeting of NFM initiatives include measures to protect and enhance the landscapes and habitats of the AONB	Partnership / FWAG-SW / SRA	Executive		Annual	1
BWHP4: To support the managed conversion of plantations (wholly or in part) to heathland or semi-natural woodland where this strengthens the existing network of habitats.	BWHP4/1 Ensure Woodland Management Plans realise opportunities for conversion to open / broadleaf woodlands	Partnership / FC	Advocate		Annual	1
	BWHP4/2 Undertake conversion of plantation to open habitat and / or broadleaf woodland where appropriate through the LIS Project	FC / Partnership	Catalyst		2019-23	2
BWH2: to increase knowledge and understanding of the biodiversity and ecosystems of the Quantocks and their linkages to the surrounding area.						
Management Policy	Action	Lead / Partners	AONB Team Role	LPS Role	Timescale	Priority
BWHP2: To monitor biodiversity through regular surveys of key species across the AONB.	BWHP2/1 Work with SERC and recorder groups to undertake gap analysis of monitoring	Partnership / LPS, SERC	Catalyst		2020	2
	BWHP2/2 Maintain existing monitoring schemes (deer, pied flycatchers, bats, butterflies, dormice) through provision of training, resources and support	Partnership / SERC, LPS	Executive	Partner	Annual	1
	BWHP2/3 Develop species monitoring schemes to support existing schemes.	LPS	Catalyst	Lead	2020-24	2

	LMP1/2 Undertake summer heathland breeding bird survey, using results to feed into NE SSSI management plan	Partnership / NE, RSPB, SoS	Catalyst	Partner	2024	2
	LMP1/3 Undertake woodland bird survey, using results to feed into NE SAC management plan	NE / Partnership, RSPB, SoS	Catalyst		2023	2
BWHP3: To monitor and manage harmful invasive species and diseases across the AONB.	BWHP3/1 Ensure funding is prioritised for invasive species control over priority habitats through existing or new schemes	NE / Partnership	Advocate		Annual	2
	BWHP3/2 To undertake, where appropriate, invasive species control and management through AONB task groups, such as the QCV.	Partnership / NE, FC	Executive		Annual	3
BWHP5: To research and monitor the populations and ecological networks of key Quantock species and use the information gained to inform management actions that will maintain or restore robust populations of these species.	BWHP5/1 Undertake rapid woodland assessments and ensure records of monitoring are used to inform appropriate management of woodlands	Plantlife / FC	Advocate		2019-22	2
	BWHP5/2 Host a biological Recording Day presenting monitoring results, ensuring relevant organisations such as NE and FC are present	Partnership / LPS, SERC, FoQ	Catalyst	Partner	2020, 2022, 2024	2

Historic Environment and Cultural Influences						
HE1: To ensure the historic and culturally significant landscape and features of the AONB are protected, conserved and understood in detail.						
Management Policy	Action	Lead / Partners	AONB Team Role	LPS Role	Timescale	Priority
HEP1: Support the protection, conservation and reinstatement of historic and culturally significant Quantock landscapes and features, particularly assets on the Heritage at Risk Register.	HEP1/1 Undertake conservation works on heritage at risk assets	LPS / HE	Advocate	Lead	2020-24	1
	HEP1/2 Engage with the Somerset Highways Parish Signs project to train volunteers in restoration of traditional roadsigns	PC / LA, LPS, Partnership	Catalyst	Partner	Annual	2
HEP2: Promote public understanding of the significance of the Quantock historic and cultural landscape through community engagement and appropriate interpretation.	HEP2/1 Undertake archaeological events aimed and public engagement to promote importance of historic heritage of the Quantock Hills	SWHT / LPS	Advocate	Lead	2020 2022 2024	3
	HEP2/2 Undertake schools-based arts programme increasing knowledge of romantic poetry movement and role of landscape in its formation.	LPS / SPAEDA,	Advocate	Lead	2020-24	2

	LP3/1 Undertake an annual programme of public accessible walks, talks and events ensuring events promote special qualities of the AONB	LPS / Partnership, NT, FoQ	Catalyst	Partner	Annual	2
HEP3: The further investigation and recording of historic and culturally significant Quantock landscapes and features.	HEP3/1 Continue monitoring of Scheduled Monuments through support of Heritage Monitoring Volunteer Group	Partnership / LPS, HE	Executive	Partner	Annual	2
	HEP3/2 Develop and support monitoring of estate parkland and associated heritage features	LPS / Partnership, HE	Advocate	Lead	2020-24	2
	HEP3/3 Endure the collation, recording and appropriate storage of Quantock heritage articles, documents, pictures etc	FoQ / LPS SWHT	Advocate		2020-24	3

Geology & Climate						
GC1: To maintain, protect and promote understanding of the coastal SSSI and a representative sample of other visible Quantock geology.						
Management Policy	Action	Lead / Partners	AONB Team Role	LPS Role	Timescale	Priority
GCP1: To maintain representative example exposures of Quantock geology with public access where safe, and interpret them for the public where appropriate.	GCP1/1 Work with key landowners to interpret geological exposures where publicly accessible and of interest	Partnership / SERC	Executive		2021-23	3
	GCP1/2 Update and produce digital version of Geological Information Leaflet	Partnership	Executive		2022	3
GCP2: To protect the high quality of Quantock coastal landform and their distinctive landscape contribution from inappropriate development and activities.	GCP2/1 Undertake Seascape Assessment to support the Quantock Hills LCA providing better understanding of the coastal fringe in terms of impacts of development	Partnership / LA	Executive		2021	2
	GCP2/2 Ensure importance of geological SSSI is promoted through interpretation and specific public events	Partnership / NE, LPS	Catalyst	Partner	Annual	2
GC2: To identify and reinforce adaptation strategies and resilience to climate change in respect of the special qualities of the AONB.						
Management Policy	Action	Lead / Partners	AONB Team Role	LPS Role	Timescale	Priority

GCP3: To assess the climate change adaptation priorities and possibilities in respect of the special qualities of the AONB through implementation of the Natural England Climate Change Adaptation Manual (NE546).	GCP3/1 Undertake climate change adaptation assessment for relevant habitats of the Quantock Hills	Partnership / NE	Executive		2021	1
	GCP3/2 Ensure learning from adaptation assessment is built into NELMs advice / support	Partnership / NE, FWAG-SW	Catalyst		2022	1
	GCP3/2 Provide a series of workshops providing adaptation / resilience advice to landowners / farmers	FWAG-SW / Partnership, NE	Catalyst		2022-24	2
GCP4: To take a strategic landscape scale approach to the creation, restoration and maintenance of habitats in the AONB to maximise Quantock wildlife and landscape resilience to the impacts of climate change.	LMP5/1 Undertake connectivity study to identify and prioritise woodland / hedgerow creation opportunities.	Partnership / LPS	Executive	Partner	2021-23	1

Development, Planning & Infrastructure						
DPI1: To ensure development and infrastructure conserves and enhances the AONB; that it is compatible with its distinctive character described by the LCA, not compromising the special qualities of the AONB outlined in the Statement of Significance						
Management Policy	Action	Lead / Partners	AONB Team Role	LPS Role	Timescale	Priority
DPIP1: Protect the special qualities of the AONB through appropriate recognition in forward planning documents and significant planning applications reflecting AONB Service consultation, comments and advice.	DPIP1/1 Consult partnership and other relevant organisations on forward planning strategies and significant development	LA / Partnership	Catalyst		Annual	1
	DPIP1/2 Provide adequate resource / professional capacity to respond to consultation from LAs on strategic planning and significant development	Partnership / LAs	Executive		Annual	1
DPIP2: Ensure development and infrastructure in the AONB is appropriate in location, landscape sensitivity, scale and design respecting its distinctive character described by the LCA and its special qualities outlined in the Statement of Significance.	DPIP2/1 Ensure development and infrastructure within the AONB is assessed with regard to the purposes of the AONB	LA / Partnership	Advocate		Annual	1
	DPIP2/2 Ensure professional / relevantly skilled resources are available to undertake appropriate assessment of impact of development / infrastructure upon the Quantock Hills AONB	LA	Advocate		Annual	1

DPIP3: Protect local distinctiveness in AONB settlements and Quantock lanes and roads.	DPIP3/1 Produce and promote design guidance, ensure adoption by relevant local authorities	Partnership / LA	Executive		2023	2
	DPIP3/2 Develop a partnership agreement with relevant local authorities for development of highways within the AONB	Partnership / LA	Executive		2023	2
DPIP4: Consider the impacts of Permitted Development on the special qualities of the AONB and whether they can be mitigated	DPIP4/1 Undertake impact assessment (special qualities) of all known GPDO structures since 2015	Partnership / LA	Executive		2022	2
	DPIP4/2 With evidence from GPDO impact assessment seek appropriate planning direction	Partnership / LA	Catalyst		2023	2
DPIP5: Ensure development in the AONB maintains or delivers net gain in biodiversity, protects significant trees and other important landscape features and promotes the conservation of the historic environment.	DPIP5/1 Undertake sample assessment of gain / loss for biodiversity / landscape features / historic assets through development in the AONB, ensure learning informs decisions of local authorities in regard to development	Partnership / FoQ, NE, HE	Executive		2022	1
	DPIP5/2 Run annual workshop for local authority planning staff to promote AONB purpose, good and bad practice.	Partnership / LA	Executive		Annual	2
DPIP6: Ensure development in the setting of the AONB does not harm the natural beauty, character and special qualities of the AONB or otherwise prejudice the delivery of AONB purposes.	DPIP3/1 Produce and promote design guidance, ensure adoption by relevant local authorities	Partnership / LA	Executive		2023	2
	DPIP2/2 Ensure professional / relevantly skilled resources are available to undertake appropriate assessment of impact of development / infrastructure upon the Quantock Hills AONB	LA	Advocate		Annual	1
DPIP7: Protect the dark skies and tranquillity of the AONB.	DPIP7/1 Promote the CPRE Dark Skies and Tranquillity research and reports through public events and information	Partnership	Executive		Annual	2
	DPIP3/1 Produce and promote design guidance, ensure adoption by relevant local authorities	Partnership / LA	Executive		2023	2
DPIP8: Protect the views in to and out of the AONB through involvement in the planning process	DPIP1/2 Provide adequate resource / professional capacity to respond to consultation from LAs on strategic planning and significant development	Partnership / LAs	Executive		Annual	1
	DPIP8/1 Undertake public consultation and feedback on importance of views. Produce report and ensure learning enhances decision making on relevant development	Partnership / LA, LPS	Executive	Partner		2024

Local Economy & Visitors						
LEV1: To support tourism and economic activity across the AONB where it is environmentally sustainable and benefits businesses in local communities.						
Management Policy	Action	Lead / Partners	AONB Team Role	LPS Role	Timescale	Priority
LEVP1: To work with local businesses and support new markets for farmers that promote sustainable growth and the special qualities of the AONB.	LEVP1/1 Investigate potential of 'Quantock' brand in adding value to appropriate products.	Partnership	Executive		2023	2
	LEVP1/2 Run workshops for farmers / landowners that demonstrate appropriate diversity opportunities with regard to the special qualities of the AONB	FWAG-SW / Partnership	Catalyst		2019-21	2
LEVP2: To provide evidence for decision making through monitoring visitor trends and activities, including economic benefits and impacts on the special qualities of the AONB.	LEVP2/1 Collate quantitative visitor data being gathered by various landowners at key visitor locations in the AONB	Partnership / NT, FC	Executive		Annual	3
	LEVP2/2 Undertake online user survey allowing comparable analysis with 2018 User Survey	Partnership	Executive		2021, 2023	2
LEVP3: To Support landscape-sensitive delivery of fast broadband throughout the AONB.	LEVP3/1 Lobby government / local authorities to ensure delivery of fast broadband to rurally isolated areas	Partnership	Executive		2022	2
	LEVP3/2 Produce report of good practice case studies in alternative fast broadband provision from other rural areas to inform Quantock local communities.	Partnership	Executive		2022	3

Access, Recreation & Wellbeing						
ARW1: To provide high quality public access in appropriate areas of the Quantocks, promoting the health and wellbeing benefits of recreation in the AONB while minimising adverse environmental impacts.						
Management Policy	Action	Lead / Partners	AONB Team Role	LPS Role	Timescale	Priority
ARWP1: To actively seek opportunities that maximise the health and wellbeing benefits the AONB can offer through partnership working and projects.	ARWP1/1 Support the development of new Nature & Wellbeing project working in partnership with other protected landscapes and relevant organisations	SWT / Partnership, SPH	Catalyst		2019-21	1
	ARWP1/2 Provision of relevant advice and information to allow access and confidence for groups and individuals to use the Quantock Hills for health and wellbeing purposes	Partnership / SPH	Executive		2020	2
	ARWP1/3 Provision of events / volunteering opportunities that will enhance the wellbeing of recipients	Partnership / LPS, NT, FC	Catalyst	Partner	Annual	2
ARWP2: To pursue high quality sustainable access to popular AONB visitor locations through the Active Travel Routes approach.	ARWP2/1 Investigate non-car routes from Stockmoor and west Bridgwater utilising walking / cycling infrastructures associated with HPC ancillary developments	LA / Partnership	Catalyst	Partner	2023	2
	ARWP2/2 Support provision of non-car route from Taunton North developments to Quantock fringes where provision would not be detrimental to the special qualities of the AONB	Partnership / NT, LA, HGT	Advocate		?	2
ARWP3: To ensure public access areas, Rights of Way and promoted routes are useable and maintained to a high standard.	ARWP3/1 Undertake sample access audits at sites and on rights of way to assess useability	Partnership / LA, NT, FC, SWHT	Catalyst		Annual	2
	ARWP3/2 Provide relevant and up to date accessibility information through websites and other relevant outputs	Partnership / NT, SWHT, FC	Catalyst		Annual	2
	ARWP3/3 Monitor and prioritise maintenance of key promoted routes	Partnership / NT, FC	Executive		Annual	2
	ARWP3/4 Support parish council to develop Parish Paths projects with Somerset County Council to monitor condition of Rights of Way and to improve signage and waymarking,	SCC / Partnership	Catalyst		Annual	2
	ARWP3/5 Undertake audit of Rights of Way signage off of Quantock Common	Partnership / SCC	Executive		2020	3

ARWP4: To reduce user conflict and limit damage to rights of way and landscape quality from recreational uses including off-road driving.	ARWP4/1 Continue to manage events notification programme	Partnership / FC, NT	Executive		Annual	1
	ARWP4/2 Co-ordinate liaison of conservation and enforcement organisations to address user conflict and access issues	Partnership / FC, NT, Police, NE	Catalyst		Annual	2
	ARWP4/3 Promote key education messages at appropriate times of the year to raise awareness of relevant issues (e.g. sheep worrying, summer fires, bird nesting etc)	Partnership / FC, NT, NE	Catalyst		Annual	1
ARWP5: To maintain practical AONB staff on the ground to support volunteers, manage Rights of Way misuse and reduce access problems such as sheep worrying and summer fires.	ARWP5/1 Ensure adequate resource to maintain practical AONB Staff on the ground	Partnership	Executive		Annual	2

Community & Volunteering						
CV1: To support and promote active communities and volunteer involvement in the AONB.						
Management Policy	Action	Lead / Partners	AONB Team Role	LPS Role	Timescale	Priority
CVP1: To support sustainable village and rural projects which address AONB Management Plan related issues.	CVP1/1 Secure external funding to provide small grants fund available to parishes / community groups for projects which address AONB Management Plan related issues	Partnership / LPS	Executive	Partner	Annual	1
	CVP1/2 Ensure adequate resource to support parishes / community group in securing funding for projects which address AONB Management Plan related issues	Partnership	Executive		Annual	2
CVP2: To support, within available resources, Quantock communities in the development and delivery of Community and Neighbourhood Planning where there is no conflict with AONB objectives.	CVP2/1 Undertake initial screening of Community and Neighbourhood plans and where resources allow support development	Partnership	Advocate		Annual	3
	CVP2/2 Produce guidance for local communities looking to produce Community / Neighbourhood Plans promoting special qualities of the AONB	Partnership	Executive		2020	2
CVP3: To further develop the role of community groups and volunteers in the management of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.	CVP3/1 Ensure adequate resource to manage existing and in-development volunteer groups	Partnership	Executive		Annual	1
	CVP3/2 Develop new volunteering opportunities in support of health & wellbeing, Heritage and wildlife monitoring work streams	LPS / Partnership, NT, FC, SERC	Catalyst	Partner	2020-2024	2
	CVP3/3 Support the development of community supported forestry and woodland management groups through provision of training, resources and equipment	LPS / Partnership	Catalyst	Lead	2020-2024	2

Public Understanding & Interpretation						
PUI1: To continually update and improve the relevance, quality and accessibility of Quantock information and interpretation for AONB visitors and local communities, within available resources.						
Management Policy	Action	Lead / Partners	AONB Team Role	LPS Role	Timescale	Priority
PUIP1: To maintain varied, regular and stimulating social media outputs, promoting core messages.	PUIP1/1 Run SM campaign on annual basis based on one core message ensuring partners engage	Partnership	Catalyst		Annual	1
	PUIP1/2 Undertake SM relevant training for partners to enhance efficiency and impact of SM use	Partnership / SWHT, NT, FC, FoQ	Catalyst		2020	3
PUIP2: To further develop and populate the AONB website as a public source of information and interest.	PUIP2/1 Run annual photographic competition providing updated promotional content for website	Partnership / LPS	Executive	Partner	Annual	2
	PUIP2/2 Investigate potential for community led population / development of AONB website content	Partnership / LPS	Catalyst	Partner	2020-24	3
PUIP3: To develop and deliver interpretation and activities that increase visitors' understanding of the landscape and heritage of the Quantocks and encourage them to actively care for the area.	LP3/1 Undertake an annual programme of public accessible walks, talks and events ensuring events promote special qualities of the AONB	Partnership / LPS, NT, FC	Executive	Partner	Annual	2
	PUIP3/1 Undertake annual 'Big' event aimed at family groups which will celebrate the Quantock landscape	LPS / Partnership, NT, FC, SWHT	Catalyst	Partner	2020-24	2
	PUIP3/2 Engage schools though Building Resilience Project in the importance of lower plants for habitats and ecosystems.	Partner	Advocate		2019-22	2
	HEP2/1 Undertake archaeological events aimed and public engagement to promote importance of historic heritage of the Quantock Hills	SWHT / LPS	Advocate	Lead	2020 2022 2024	3
	PUIP3/3 Develop the interpretative impact of the main visitor locations of Fyne Court, Kilve Beach and Great Wood	NT / FC / Partnership, LPS	Advocate	Partner	2020-24	2

Glossary / Key

AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Defra	Department for Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs
CPRE	Campaign for the Protection of Rural England
FC	Forestry Commission / Forestry England
FoQ	Friends of Quantock
GPDO	General Permitted Development Order – allows certain works that would normally require planning permission to be permitted as scale or type of works are generally not likely to have an unacceptable impact.
HGT	Hestercombe Gardens Trust
LA	Local Authorities
LPS	Quantock Landscape Partnership Scheme
NE	Natural England
NELMs	New Environmental Land Management Scheme
PC	Parish Councils
QCA	Quantock Commoners Association
Plantlife	Plantlife – Organisation delivering the Building Resilience Project
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SoS	Somerset Ornithological Society
SPH	Somerset Public Health
SWHT	South West Heritage Trust
SWT	Somerset Wildlife Trust