

Financial Statement

Current Income		Expenditure	
Defra	(£) 116,693	Staff costs	(£) 181,967
Somerset County Council	21,500	Training	1,725
Sedgemoor District Council	11,500	Travel / Subsistence	15,782
Taunton Deane Borough Council	10,000	Accommodation	21,596
West Somerset Council	9,957	Partnership Budget	8,675
Forestry Commission	17,300	Partnership Running Costs	11,904
Mendip Hills AONB	6,450	Core Expenditure	241,648
Events Income	5,693	AONB Projects	38,879
Charges	1,273	SDF	14,369
Miscellaneous	1,988	Cash Expenditure	294,896
Local Action (Project)	18,339		
1SW (Project)	1,093	<i>Earmarked Reserves</i>	35,079
Carry forward (13/14)	77,222		
Current income	297,734		
Amount Owing			
Defra	42,759		
Natural England	13,150		
Amount Owing	55,909		
Total Income	353,643	Total Expenditure	329,975

Looking forward into 2014/2015

- Deliver **Conservation Enhancement** Scheme works to prevent or control Phytophthora diseases in lowland heath habitats
- Run **plant disease** awareness workshop for farmers and landowners
- Undertake assessment of **biodiversity connectivity** and create a 'gaps' analysis
- Undertake research into **Quantock hedgerow** features to better understand their landscape importance
- Collect biannual data from **15 visitor counters** installed throughout AONB
- Launch **Landscape Development Fund**, a grant for landowners and farmers to increase the quality of landscape features as part of Hinkley C mitigation work.
- Undertake fixed **point photography monitoring** on 12 sites to record landscape change over time

Funded by:



Quantock Hills AONB: Nationally protected; naturally beautiful

Annual Report 2013/2014



Highlights

- **Revised 5 year Management Plan** with 72 Action Points and 32 Objectives for the conservation and enhancement of the Quantock Hills.
- Welcomed **new Ranger** Rebekah West to the team
- **50Ha of invasive species control** undertaken to prevent the spread of diseases such as Phytophthora
- **Stepping Up to the Market** project completed supporting local food and drink businesses.
- **Adder surveys** on 3 sites
- **Bat monitoring** training, and 3 transects undertaken
- **Dormouse monitoring** at Cothelstone Hill
- **Pied Flycatcher monitoring** undertaken on 150 boxes
- **Quantock Heritage Apple Day**, 17 exhibitors, 600 people attended
- **2,729 volunteer hours completed**
- **12 new Heritage Volunteers** recruited
- **£23,100 allocated** to 10 SDF community projects in AONB
- **Western Somerset Woodlands** Project supported, with 2 training events held
- **Woodlands for Wildlife**, Community Supported Forestry projected supported
- **Annual Deer Count** supported
- **13 AONB events** held with 427 people attending
- Outdoor screening of **'Pandaemonium'** legendary film director **Julien Temple** interviewed by local journalist Martin Hesp, 200 people attended
- **77km** of promoted recreation routes audited.
- **24 days of Ranger patrols** to engage visitors and provide information.
- **24 blog posts**, 8 press releases and 4 newsletters with **4,000** Facebook likes and **1,300** Twitter followers.



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Here are some examples of the work carried about by the AONB Service with partners, from April 2013 to March 2014.

Case Studies



Stepping Up to the Market Project

This partnership project with West Somerset Council brought local food and drink businesses together to explore the potential of 'scaling up' to supply large scale industry and corporations collaboratively. The project also worked to support local producers and suppliers improve their marketing and promotion strategies.

Included 4 marketing training days attended by 35 businesses, 2 networking days and the production of a local produce leaflet distributed regionally.



Wildlife Monitoring

The annual wildlife monitoring provides year on year Quantock specific data. Surveys include Adder monitoring on 3 sites, Dormouse monitoring at Cothelstone Hill, assistance with Pied Flycatcher monitoring of 150 boxes the results of which feed into regional research on Climate Change by Exeter University and assistance with the Quantock Deer count which is lead by the Quantock Deer Management and Conservation Group (QDMCG).



Coleridge Campaign: Outdoor screening of Pandaemonium

Legendary film director Julien Temple spent an evening in July discussing Samuel Taylor Coleridge with local journalist Martin Hesp for a Q&A session in front of 200 people. Followed by an outdoor screening of his film Pandaemonium Starring John Hannah, Linus Roach and Emily Woof and shot on location in the Quantocks.

The event showcased the literary importance of the connection between Coleridge, the Romantic Movement and the Quantock Hills. This event was in partnership with the National Trust and Somerset Film.

Quantock Hills AONB Service Annual Report 2013 / 2014

Case Studies

Volunteers

A new Heritage Volunteer initiative was set up in partnership with English Heritage. 12 new recruits signed up for monitoring and assessing scheduled monuments on the Quantocks.

Wildlife Monitoring Volunteers were also recruited, with training taking place in July and August for butterfly and bat monitoring. In total 2,729 hours were worked by Quantock volunteers over the course of the year, on tasks ranging from litter picks to ragwort pulling to event management.



Quantock events

427 people attended events held by the AONB Service throughout the year, including stargazing, wildlife safaris, day long Quantock hikes, bat walks, nightjar walks, owl prowls and fungi forays.

These events provide an opportunity for people to get out into the hills, talk to Rangers and specialists about the wildlife in the Quantocks and find out more about the work being undertaken to protect it.



Quantock Orchard Project

The Quantock Orchard project, run in partnership with Bristol University completed Phase III in October with Quantock Apple Day. 600 people attended, with 17 exhibitors including apple identification experts, apple inspired poetry, apple tree nurseries and food and drink. Funders AHRC conducted interviews with visitors and organisers, and local knowledge of orchards and apple varieties were collected from both those that attended the event and who got in touch as a result of promotion.

At least one landowner was inspired to plant an orchard as a direct result of the project, with others showing considerable interest.

