

# 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 <sup>th</sup> 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.   |

**Status: Draft**

### **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 195km<sup>2</sup> 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 |
| <b>LP1:</b> To protect, understand and enhance the landscape and character of the AONB and support those delivering these elements   | <b>LP1/1</b> 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        |
|  | <b>LP1/2</b> Pursue LEI funding to deliver a project which enhances landscape strength currently impacted by National Grid infrastructure   | Partnership / LPS                        | Executive      |          | 2019 - 22 | 2        |
|  | <b>LP1/3</b> Undertake visual intrusion assessment based on 2017 Quantock Hills LCA and 2019 Quantock LPS LCAs  | Partnership / LPS                        | Executive      |          | 2020      | 3        |
|  | <b>LP1/4</b> 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        |
|  | <b>LP1/5</b> 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        |
| <b>LP2:</b> To promote the highest standards of landscape management in respect of landscape beauty, natural capital and ecosystem services for all land uses.   | <b>LP2/1</b> Ensure assessment of AONB Business Plan to prioritise actions that achieve objective   | Partnership                              | Executive      |          | Annual    | 1        |
|  | <b>LP2/2</b> Ensure engagement with Defra NELMs targeting promoting special qualities and evidenced based approach at the local level   | Partnership / Defra                      | Executive      |          | ?         | 1        |
|  | <b>LP2/3</b> 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        |
| <b>LP3:</b> To encourage public understanding and support for  | <b>LP3/1</b> 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.   | <b>LP3/2</b> Publish articles / blogs etc through social media and e-newsletter that discuss importance of landscape as a concept | Partnership           | Executive | Partner | Annual      | 3 |
|   | <b>LP3/3</b> Run campaign exploring the importance of views and landscape through photographic competitions or similar events     | Partnership           | Executive |         | Annual      | 3 |
| <b>LP4:</b> To further develop, promote and utilise the landscape character approach in AONB management and policy, including development of LCA-based design guidance. | <b>LP4/1</b> Embed Quantock Hills LCA in AONB Partnership Business Planning process.  | Partnership           | Executive |         | Annual      | 1 |
|   | <b>LP4/2</b> Include LCA section on the AONB website.   | Partnership           | Executive |         | 2019        | 3 |
|   | <b>LP4/3</b> Develop design guidance  | Partnership / LPS, LA | Catalyst  |         | 2023 - 2024 | 2 |
| <b>LP5:</b> To continue to offer landscape character advice to Local Planning Authorities in strategic and development management consultations.                        | <b>LP5/1</b> Employment of a Landscape Planning Officer   | Partnership           | Executive |         | Annual      | 1 |
|   | <b>LP5/2</b> 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 |
| <b>LMP1:</b> 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.                             | <b>LP2/2</b> Ensure engagement with Defra NELs targeting promoting special qualities and evidenced based approach at the local level  | Partnership / Defra          | Executive      |          | ?         | 1        |
|  | <b>LP2/3</b> 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        |
|  | <b>LMP1/1</b> Explore option trial sites for management in SAC oak woodlands  | NE / Partnership             | Catalyst       |          | 2022      | 2        |
|  | <b>LMP1/2</b> Undertake summer heathland breeding bird survey, using results to feed into NE SSSI management plan   | Partnership / NE, RSPB, SoS  | Catalyst       | Partner  | 2024      | 2        |
|  | <b>LMP1/3</b> Undertake woodland bird survey, using results to feed into NE SAC management plan   | NE / Partnership, RSPB, SoS  | Catalyst       |          | 2023      | 2        |
|  | <b>LMP1/4</b> Ensure NELMs is developed to include options that will secure beneficial management of priority habitats of the SSSI, including heathland .   | NE / Partnership             | Advocate       |          | ?         | 1        |
|  | <b>LP1/4</b> 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        |
|  | <b>LMP1/5</b> develop and deliver project to restore acidic mires on Quantock Common SSSI   | Partnership / NE / NT        | Catalyst       |          | 2021      | 2        |
|  | <b>LMP1/6</b> Support delivery of agri-environment schemes including land management on SSSI sites  | Partnership / NE / NT        | Catalyst       |          | 2019      | 1        |
| <b>LMP2:</b> 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. | <b>LMP2/1</b> 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        |
|  | <b>LMP2/2</b> Provide workshops for local farmers / landowners to support them to access CS / NELMs funding   | FWAG-SW / Partnership        | Catalyst       |          | Annual    | 1        |



|   |   |                         |           |         |         |   |
|---|---|-------------------------|-----------|---------|---------|---|
| <b>LMP3:</b> To support the understanding, conservation and proper management of Quantock hedges and associated banks.  | <b>LMP3/1</b> Undertake parish level hedge survey   | LPS / Partnership       | Advocate  | Lead    | 2020-25 | 2 |
|   | <b>LMP3/2</b> Ensure targeting of beech hedgebanks through NELMs.   | Partnership             | Executive |         | ?       | 1 |
|   | <b>LMP3/3</b> 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 |
|   | <b>LMP3/4</b> Provide third party grants for appropriate hedge management / creation.   | LPS                     | Advocate  | Lead    | 2020-24 | 3 |
|   | <b>LMP3/5</b> Support volunteer / community training in appropriate hedge management techniques   | Partnership / FWAG-SW   | Catalyst  | Partner | 2019-24 | 2 |
| <b>LMP4:</b> To support the sensitive management of woodland and plantations to enhance and extend the distinctive character, landscape and wildlife of the Quantocks.  | <b>LMP4/1</b> Undertake surveys and assessments of appropriate woodlands to identify and record lichens, mosses and liverworts  | Plantlife / Partnership | Advocate  |         | 2019-21 | 2 |
|   | <b>LMP4/2</b> 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 |
|   | <b>LMP4/3</b> Influence Woodland Management Plans to ensure Quantock special qualities are enhanced through woodland management   | FC                      | Advocate  |         | Annual  | 2 |
| <b>LMP5:</b> 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. | <b>LMP5/1</b> Undertake connectivity study to identify and prioritise woodland / hedgerow creation opportunities.   | Partnership / LPS       | Executive | Partner | 2021-23 | 1 |
|   | <b>LMP5/2</b> Ensure targeting of Quantock Hills for woodland creation and management grant   | FC                      | Advocate  |         | Annual  | 1 |
|   | <b>LMP5/3</b> Support Community Groups undertaking woodland management through provision of advice, grants and training   | LPS / FC                | Catalyst  | Lead    | 2020-24 | 2 |
|   | <b>LMP4/2</b> 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 |
| <b>BWHP1:</b> 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. | <b>LMP5/1</b> Undertake connectivity study to identify and prioritise woodland / hedgerow creation opportunities.   | Partnership / LPS           | Executive      | Partner  | 2021-23   | 1        |
|  | <b>LP2/2</b> Ensure engagement with Defra NELs targeting promoting special qualities and evidenced based approach at the local level                          | Partnership                 | Executive      |          | ?         | 1        |
|  | <b>LMP2/1</b> 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        |
|  | <b>LMP2/3</b> 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        |
| <b>BWHP4:</b> 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.                                  | <b>BWHP4/1</b> Ensure Woodland Management Plans realise opportunities for conversion to open / broadleaf woodlands  | Partnership / FC            | Advocate       |          | Annual    | 1        |
|  | <b>BWHP4/2</b> 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 |
| <b>BWHP2:</b> To monitor biodiversity through regular surveys of key species across the AONB.  | <b>BWHP2/1</b> Work with SERC and recorder groups to undertake gap analysis of monitoring   | Partnership / LPS, SERC     | Catalyst       |          | 2020      | 2        |
|  | <b>BWHP2/2</b> Maintain existing monitoring schemes (deer, pied flycatchers, bats, butterflies, dormice) through provision of training, resources and support | Partnership / SERC, LPS     | Executive      | Partner  | Annual    | 1        |
|  | <b>BWHP2/3</b> Develop species monitoring schemes to support existing schemes.  | LPS                         | Catalyst       | Lead     | 2020-24   | 2        |
|  | <b>LMP1/2</b> Undertake summer heathland breeding bird survey, using results to feed into NE SSSI management plan   | Partnership / NE, RSPB, SoS | Catalyst       | Partner  | 2024      | 2        |

|  |   |                              |           |         |                  |   |
|--|---|------------------------------|-----------|---------|------------------|---|
|  | <b>LMP1/3</b> Undertake woodland bird survey, using results to feed into NE SAC management plan   | NE / Partnership, RSPB, SoS  | Catalyst  |         | 2023             | 2 |
| <b>BWHP3:</b> To monitor and manage harmful invasive species and diseases across the AONB.   | <b>BWHP3/1</b> Ensure funding is prioritised for invasive species control over priority habitats through existing or new schemes            | NE / Partnership             | Advocate  |         | Annual           | 2 |
|  | <b>BWHP3/2</b> To undertake, where appropriate, invasive species control and management through AONB task groups, such as the QCV.          | Partnership / NE, FC         | Executive |         | Annual           | 3 |
| <b>BWHP5:</b> 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. | <b>BWHP5/1</b> Undertake rapid woodland assessments and ensure records of monitoring are used to inform appropriate management of woodlands | Plantlife / FC               | Advocate  |         | 2019-22          | 2 |
|  | <b>BWHP5/2</b> 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 |
| <b>HEP1:</b> Support the protection, conservation and reinstatement of historic and culturally significant Quantock landscapes and features, particularly assets on the Heritage at Risk Register. | <b>HEP1/1</b> Undertake conservation works on heritage at risk assets   | LPS / HE                   | Advocate       | Lead     | 2020-24        | 1        |
|  | <b>HEP1/2</b> Engage with the Somerset Highways Parish Signs project to train volunteers in restoration of traditional roadsigns              | PC / LA, LPS, Partnership  | Catalyst       | Partner  | Annual         | 2        |
| <b>HEP2:</b> Promote public understanding of the significance of the Quantock historic and cultural landscape through community engagement and appropriate interpretation.                         | <b>HEP2/1</b> 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        |
|  | <b>HEP2/2</b> 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        |
|  | <b>LP3/1</b> 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        |

|   |  |                       |           |         |         |   |
|---|--|-----------------------|-----------|---------|---------|---|
| <b>HEP3:</b> The further investigation and recording of historic and culturally significant Quantock landscapes and features. | <b>HEP3/1</b> Continue monitoring of Scheduled Monuments through support of Heritage Monitoring Volunteer Group              | Partnership / LPS, HE | Executive | Partner | Annual  | 2 |
|   | <b>HEP3/2</b> Develop and support monitoring of estate parkland and associated heritage features                             | LPS / Partnership, HE | Advocate  | Lead    | 2020-24 | 2 |
|   | <b>HEP3/3</b> 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 |
| <b>GCP1:</b> To maintain representative example exposures of Quantock geology with public access where safe, and interpret them for the public where appropriate. | <b>GCP1/1</b> Work with key landowners to interpret geological exposures where publicly accessible and of interest  | Partnership / SERC    | Executive      |          | 2021-23   | 3        |
|   | <b>GCP1/2</b> Update and produce digital version of Geological Information Leaflet  | Partnership           | Executive      |          | 2022      | 3        |
| <b>GCP2:</b> To protect the high quality of Quantock coastal landform and their distinctive landscape contribution from inappropriate development and activities. | <b>GCP2/1</b> 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        |
|   | <b>GCP2/2</b> 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 |
| <b>GCP3:</b> To assess the climate change adaptation priorities and possibilities in respect of the special qualities of the                                      | <b>GCP3/1</b> Undertake climate change adaptation assessment for relevant habitats of the Quantock Hills  | Partnership / NE      | Executive      |          | 2021      | 1        |

|   |   |                           |           |         |         |   |
|---|---|---------------------------|-----------|---------|---------|---|
| AONB through implementation of the Natural England Climate Change Adaptation Manual (NE546).  | <b>GCP3/2</b> Ensure learning from adaptation assessment is built into NELMs advice / support                     | Partnership / NE, FWAG-SW | Catalyst  |         | 2022    | 1 |
|   | <b>GCP3/2</b> Provide a series of workshops providing adaptation / resilience advice to landowners / farmers      | FWAG-SW / Partnership, NE | Catalyst  |         | 2022-24 | 2 |
| <b>GCP4:</b> 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. | <b>LMP5/1</b> 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 |
| <b>DPIP1:</b> 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.   | <b>DPIP1/1</b> Consult partnership and other relevant organisations on forward planning strategies and significant development   | LA / Partnership  | Catalyst       |          | Annual    | 1        |
|  | <b>DPIP1/2</b> Provide adequate resource / professional capacity to respond to consultation from LAs on strategic planning and significant development                                     | Partnership / LAs | Executive      |          | Annual    | 1        |
| <b>DPIP2:</b> 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. | <b>DPIP2/1</b> Ensure development and infrastructure within the AONB is assessed with regard to the purposes of the AONB   | LA / Partnership  | Advocate       |          | Annual    | 1        |
|  | <b>DPIP2/2</b> 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        |
|  | <b>DPIP3/1</b> Produce and promote design guidance, ensure adoption by relevant local authorities  | Partnership / LA  | Executive      |          | 2023      | 2        |

|   |  |                           |           |         |        |   |
|---|--|---------------------------|-----------|---------|--------|---|
| <b>DPIP3:</b> Protect local distinctiveness in AONB settlements and Quantock lanes and roads.   | <b>DPIP3/2</b> Develop a partnership agreement with relevant local authorities for development of highways within the AONB   | Partnership / LA          | Executive |         | 2023   | 2 |
| <b>DPIP4:</b> Consider the impacts of Permitted Development on the special qualities of the AONB and whether they can be mitigated  | <b>DPIP4/1</b> Undertake impact assessment (special qualities) of all known GPDO structures since 2015   | Partnership / LA          | Executive |         | 2022   | 2 |
|   | <b>DPIP4/2</b> With evidence from GPDO impact assessment seek appropriate planning direction   | Partnership / LA          | Catalyst  |         | 2023   | 2 |
| <b>DPIP5:</b> 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. | <b>DPIP5/1</b> 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 |
|   | <b>DPIP5/2</b> Run annual workshop for local authority planning staff to promote AONB purpose, good and bad practice.  | Partnership / LA          | Executive |         | Annual | 2 |
| <b>DPIP6:</b> 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.                           | <b>DPIP3/1</b> Produce and promote design guidance, ensure adoption by relevant local authorities  | Partnership / LA          | Executive |         | 2023   | 2 |
|   | <b>DPIP2/2</b> 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 |
| <b>DPIP7:</b> Protect the dark skies and tranquillity of the AONB.  | <b>DPIP7/1</b> Promote the CPRE Dark Skies and Tranquillity research and reports through public events and information   | Partnership               | Executive |         | Annual | 2 |
|   | <b>DPIP3/1</b> Produce and promote design guidance, ensure adoption by relevant local authorities  | Partnership / LA          | Executive |         | 2023   | 2 |
| <b>DPIP8:</b> Protect the views in to and out of the AONB through involvement in the planning process   | <b>DPIP1/2</b> Provide adequate resource / professional capacity to respond to consultation from LAs on strategic planning and significant development   | Partnership / LAs         | Executive |         | Annual | 1 |
|   | <b>DPIP8/1</b> 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   | 2 |



| 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 |  |
| <b>LEVP1:</b> To work with local businesses and support new markets for farmers that promote sustainable growth and the special qualities of the AONB.                                | <b>LEVP1/1</b> Investigate potential of 'Quantock' brand in adding value to appropriate products.  | Partnership           | Executive      |          | 2023       | 2        |  |
|   | <b>LEVP1/2</b> 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        |  |
| <b>LEVP2:</b> To provide evidence for decision making through monitoring visitor trends and activities, including economic benefits and impacts on the special qualities of the AONB. | <b>LEVP2/1</b> Collate quantitative visitor data being gathered by various landowners at key visitor locations in the AONB                                       | Partnership / NT, FC  | Executive      |          | Annual     | 3        |  |
|   | <b>LEVP2/2</b> Undertake online user survey allowing comparable analysis with 2018 User Survey   | Partnership           | Executive      |          | 2021, 2023 | 2        |  |
| <b>LEVP3:</b> To Support landscape-sensitive delivery of fast broadband throughout the AONB.  | <b>LEVP3/1</b> Lobby government / local authorities to ensure delivery of fast broadband to rurally isolated areas   | Partnership           | Executive      |          | 2022       | 2        |  |
|   | <b>LEVP3/2</b> 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 |
| <b>ARWP1:</b> To actively seek opportunities that maximise the health and wellbeing benefits the AONB can offer through partnership working and projects.  | <b>ARWP1/1</b> 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        |
|  | <b>ARWP1/2</b> 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        |
|  | <b>ARWP1/3</b> Provision of events / volunteering opportunities that will enhance the wellbeing of recipients   | Partnership / LPS, NT, FC      | Catalyst       | Partner  | Annual    | 2        |
| <b>ARWP2:</b> To pursue high quality sustainable access to popular AONB visitor locations through the Active Travel Routes approach.   | <b>ARWP2/1</b> Investigate non-car routes from Stockmoor and west Bridgwater utilising walking / cycling infrastructures associated with HPC ancillary developments                 | LA / Partnership               | Catalyst       | Partner  | 2023      | 2        |
|  | <b>ARWP2/2</b> 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        |
| <b>ARWP3:</b> To ensure public access areas, Rights of Way and promoted routes are useable and maintained to a high standard.  | <b>ARWP3/1</b> Undertake sample access audits at sites and on rights of way to assess useability  | Partnership / LA, NT, FC, SWHT | Catalyst       |          | Annual    | 2        |
|  | <b>ARWP3/2</b> Provide relevant and up to date accessibility information through websites and other relevant outputs  | Partnership / NT, SWHT, FC     | Catalyst       |          | Annual    | 2        |
|  | <b>ARWP3/3</b> Monitor and prioritise maintenance of key promoted routes  | Partnership / NT, FC           | Executive      |          | Annual    | 2        |
|  | <b>ARWP3/4</b> 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        |
|  | <b>ARWP3/5</b> Undertake audit of Rights of Way signage off of Quantock Common  | Partnership / SCC              | Executive      |          | 2020      | 3        |

|   |  |                                  |           |  |        |   |
|---|--|----------------------------------|-----------|--|--------|---|
| <b>ARWP4:</b> To reduce user conflict and limit damage to rights of way and landscape quality from recreational uses including off-road driving.                                    | <b>ARWP4/1</b> Continue to manage events notification programme  | Partnership / FC, NT             | Executive |  | Annual | 1 |
|   | <b>ARWP4/2</b> Co-ordinate liaison of conservation and enforcement organisations to address user conflict and access issues  | Partnership / FC, NT, Police, NE | Catalyst  |  | Annual | 2 |
|   | <b>ARWP4/3</b> 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 |
| <b>ARWP5:</b> 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. | <b>ARWP5/1</b> 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 |
| <b>CVP1:</b> To support sustainable village and rural projects which address AONB Management Plan related issues.  | <b>CVP1/1</b> 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        |
|  | <b>CVP1/2</b> Ensure adequate resource to support parishes / community group in securing funding for projects which address AONB Management Plan related issues            | Partnership                     | Executive      |          | Annual    | 2        |
| <b>CVP2:</b> 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. | <b>CVP2/1</b> Undertake initial screening of Community and Neighbourhood plans and where resources allow support development   | Partnership                     | Advocate       |          | Annual    | 3        |
|  | <b>CVP2/2</b> Produce guidance for local communities looking to produce Community / Neighbourhood Plans promoting special qualities of the AONB                            | Partnership                     | Executive      |          | 2020      | 2        |
| <b>CVP3:</b> To further develop the role of community groups and volunteers in the management of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.   | <b>CVP3/1</b> Ensure adequate resource to manage existing and in-development volunteer groups  | Partnership                     | Executive      |          | Annual    | 1        |
|  | <b>CVP3/2</b> 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        |
|  | <b>CVP3/3</b> 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 |
| <b>PUIP1:</b> To maintain varied, regular and stimulating social media outputs, promoting core messages.  | <b>PUIP1/1</b> Run SM campaign on annual basis based on one core message ensuring partners engage   | Partnership                     | Catalyst       |          | Annual         | 1        |
|   | <b>PUIP1/2</b> Undertake SM relevant training for partners to enhance efficiency and impact of SM use   | Partnership / SWHT, NT, FC, FoQ | Catalyst       |          | 2020           | 3        |
| <b>PUIP2:</b> To further develop and populate the AONB website as a public source of information and interest.  | <b>PUIP2/1</b> Run annual photographic competition providing updated promotional content for website  | Partnership / LPS               | Executive      | Partner  | Annual         | 2        |
|   | <b>PUIP2/2</b> Investigate potential for community led population / development of AONB website content                                       | Partnership / LPS               | Catalyst       | Partner  | 2020-24        | 3        |
| <b>PUIP3:</b> 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. | <b>LP3/1</b> 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        |
|   | <b>PUIP3/1</b> Undertake annual 'Big' event aimed at family groups which will celebrate the Quantock landscape                                | LPS / Partnership, NT, FC, SWHT | Catalyst       | Partner  | 2020-24        | 2        |
|   | <b>PUIP3/2</b> Engage schools through Building Resilience Project in the importance of  | Partner                         | Advocate       |          | 2019-22        | 2        |
|   | <b>HEP2/1</b> 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        |
|   | <b>PUIP3/3</b> 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   |