



SPERRINS PARTNERSHIP

**Sperrin Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
5 Year Action Plan 2026 - 2031**



**Aim 1: Conserve And Protect
The Natural Heritage Of Sperrin AONB**

Objective	Action	Description	Lead Coordinator	Partners/Resource (listed in no particular order)	Year(s)
1.1. Support the conservation of priority habitats and species within the AONB	1.1.1 Water course protection.	<p>Delivery of a results-based programme, providing small grants to landowners within the AONB for measures which will ensure improvements to water course protection.</p> <p>Initial small budget from Environment Fund and in year funding however will advocate for extension of the Sustainable Catchment Programme throughout the AONB.</p> <p>For example Grants: 75%. Match funding: 25% (can include in kind contribution)</p> <p>The provision of a Farm Engagement Officer could assist this action by carrying out a farm visit, identifying potential measures and thereafter carry out another visit to ensure work has been carried out to a high standard.</p>	Sperrins Partnership	Farmers and Landowners Loughs Agency NI Water Rivers Trust	Annually
	1.1.2 Raise awareness of water course protection.	<p>To facilitate training and support for farmers, landowners and the broader community in relation to water course. This should be facilitated through delivery of an annual calendar of workshops and information sessions on key topics such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nutrient and Fertiliser Management • Runoff Control • Buffer Zones and Riparian Management • Pesticide and Chemical Use • Drainage and Irrigation Management <p>Existing provision will be mapped to ensure no duplication and to establish a baseline.</p>	Sperrins Partnership	AFBI CAFRE DFI Rivers Farmers and Landowners Local Communities Loughs Agency NI Water Rivers Trust Ulster Farmers Union	Annually
	1.1.3 Baseline assessment of peatland status within the AONB.	<p>Survey across the AONB which will enable ongoing assessment of the condition, extent, and ecological health of peatland.</p> <p>Establish a baseline for peatland restoration projects across the AONB which will be used to identify gaps and opportunities. The action will complement ongoing efforts by partners including UW, NI Water and RSPB. Includes training and education events on monitoring and recording.</p>	Sperrins Partnership	DAERA Farmers and Landowners Local Councils NI Water Peatland Collaborative Network RSPB Ulster Farmers Union	Ongoing
	1.1.4 Carry out peatland restoration works on priority areas identified above.	<p>Work with stakeholders and landowners to advance Peatland Restoration projects in identified priority areas. We will adopt a partnership approach to funding applications where possible. Restoration works will be dependent on landowner agreement and securing additional funding.</p>	Sperrins Partnership	DAERA Landowners & Farmers Local Councils NI Water RSPB Ulster Wildlife	Ongoing

Objective	Action	Description	Lead Coordinator	Partners/Resource (listed in no particular order)	Year(s)
1.1. Support the conservation of priority habitats and species within the AONB	1.1.5 Create a database of priority and species of interest in the AONB.	An up-to-date report on priority species and species of interest throughout the AONB will be produced using current data from designated sites. This will be regularly updated depending on availability of monitoring data. This report should act as a baseline to monitor the impact on conservation efforts.	Sperrins Partnership	BTO CEDAR DAERA Local Councils National Biodiversity Data Centre RSPB Ulster Wildlife	2026/27 2027/28 2028/29
	1.1.6 Support the conservation of priority species within the AONB.	This should include training and education for local communities and stakeholders as well as practical works to support conservation. Examples of key species identified during the consultation include red squirrel, Hen Harrier, Atlantic salmon, freshwater pearl mussel, Curlew and Marsh Fritillary.	Sperrins Partnership	BTO CEDAR DAERA DFI Rivers Local Councils Loughs Agency Rivers Trust RSPB Ulster Wildlife	Ongoing
	1.1.7 Awareness of invasive species.	Raise awareness of invasive species, for example, through events, workshops, educational visits and the production of resources.	Sperrins Partnership	CEDAR Local Councils RSPB Ulster Wildlife	Annually
	1.1.8 Management of invasive species.	Projects to manage the spread of non-native invasive species that have potential to negatively impact priority habitats or species. Working with delivery partners to deliver existing projects as well as developing and delivering new projects in partnership.	Sperrins Partnership	DAERA – Forest Service Farmers and Landowners NI Water NIEA Rivers Trust RSPB Ulster Wildlife	Ongoing
	1.1.9 Habitat recovery projects.	Establish a baseline of current conditions using current data from designated sites and other sources. This will be regularly updated depending on availability of monitoring data. Key priority habitats in unfavourable conditions identified, exploring options to improve.	Sperrins Partnership	DAERA – Forest Service NI Water NIEA Rivers Trust RSPB Ulster Wildlife Woodland Trust	Ongoing

Objective	Action	Description	Lead Coordinator	Partners/Resource (listed in no particular order)	Year(s)
1.1. Support the conservation of priority habitats and species within the AONB	1.1.10 Tree Planting.	Encourage an increase in the percentage of native planting across the AONB. Work in partnership with key partners, local communities and landowners to ensure the preservation and conservation of existing native woodlands while promoting opportunities to encourage native tree planting via forestry funded schemes.	Forest Service/ Woodland Trust	DAERA Farmers and Landowners Local Councils NI Water RSPB Sperrins Partnership	Ongoing
	1.1.11 Support the identification of potential sites for inclusion within 30 X 30 political commitment.	The Sperrins Partnership will support efforts to identify potential sites for inclusion within 30 by 30. This will include liaising and consulting with key stakeholders https://www.nienvironmentlink.org/site/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/30-x-30-What-does-it-mean-for-Northern-Ireland2-updated.pdf	Ulster Wildlife	Farmers and Landowners Landscapes NI NIEA RSPB Sperrins Partnership	2026/27 2027/28
	1.1.12 Support All Ireland pollinator strategy.	Host one annual event within the AONB promoting the All-Ireland Pollinator Strategy	Sperrins Partnership	Local Council	Annually
	1.1.13 Big Butterfly Count.	Encourage local participation in the annual Big Butterfly Count and share findings	Butterfly Conservation	Local Council Sperrins Partnership Ulster Wildlife	Annually
	1.1.14 Participation in Sperrins Wildfire Group.	Establishment and participation in Sperrins Wildfire Group in line with the NI Wildfire Strategic Framework 2025 - 2030	Sperrins Partnership	Farmers & Landowners NIEA/DAERA NIFSR Ulster Farmers Union	Ongoing
	1.1.15 Conservation Awareness raising programme.	Facilitation of an annual programme of workshops and information sessions raising awareness of key issues facing biodiversity in the Sperrins. Topics may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact of invasive species • Identifying and recording priority species • Impact of climate change & potential mitigation measures 	Sperrins Partnership	BTO Butterfly Conservation Local Council National Biodiversity Data Centre Rivers Trust RSPB Ulster Wildlife	Annually
	1.1.16 Explore opportunities to support upland management in the AONB.	Explore potential support for fencing and other innovative methods to support upland management in the AONB. This will address land abandonment by reintroducing livestock. Grazing of the land will support biodiversity recovery and heather management, thereby increasing wildfire resilience.	Sperrins Partnership	DAERA Farmers and Landowners Ulster Farmers Union	Ongoing

Objective	Action	Description	Lead Coordinator	Partners/Resource (listed in no particular order)	Year(s)
1.2. Promote sustainable land management and conservation within the AONB	1.2.1 Sustainable agricultural practice and biodiversity promotion	<p>To deliver an annual calendar of training and education workshops focused on sustainable agricultural practice and biodiversity promotion. Workshops should occur bimonthly (6 per annum) and complement existing provision. Focused on key priority topics needs based and requirements.</p> <p>This will encourage nature friendly farming in AONB and participation in agri-environment schemes.</p>	Sperrins Partnership	CAFRE Farmers and Landowners Local Council NI Water NIEA Rivers Trust Ulster Farmers Union Ulster Wildlife Woodland Trust	Annually
	1.2.2 Farm diversification	<p>To organise and facilitate two best practice visits to diversified farms in the Sperrins and further afield per annum. The visits will be open to farmers across the Sperrins, enhancing capacity, resilience, and potential for farm diversification and shared learning.</p>	Sperrins Partnership	CAFRE Local Councils NI Water Other Landscape Management bodies both in NI and Cross Boarder TNI Ulster Farmers Union	Annually
	1.2.3 Farming connections and policy consultations	<p>To establish and support a collaborative farming working group with representatives from local farming groups. Proposed that the group will meet at least bi-annually (To be determined by the group). Its purpose is to facilitate discourse and provide peer support on strategic matters of importance to farmers, as well as create a platform for local farmers to contribute to key policies and strategies. Local solutions to local issues.</p> <p>Bi-annual meetings will be enhanced by bi-annual site visits with existing local farming groups.</p>	Sperrins Partnership	DAERA Farmers & Landowners Landscapes NI Local Farming Groups National Sheep Association (NSA) NIAPA Rural Support Ulster Farmers Union	Ongoing
	1.2.4 Farming connections	<p>To continue to build stronger connections between the Sperrins Partnership and farmers by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sperrins Partnership carrying out bi-annual site visits with existing local farming groups . Sperrins Partnership will continue to attend local and regional shows and Agri food events to promote and create awareness of the AONB Designation and management plan. 	Sperrins Partnership	Farmers & Landowners Local Farming Groups NSA RSPB Rural Support Ulster Farmers Union Ulster Wildlife	Ongoing

Aim 2: Protect, Enhance and Promote the Historic Environment within Sperrin AONB



Objective	Action	Description	Lead Coordinator	Partners/Resource (listed in no particular order)	Year(s)
2.1. Value, protect and enhance built heritage within the AONB.	2.1.1 Establish a Heritage Working Group that will represent the entire Sperrin AONB.	<p>This group will underpin heritage related actions and steer delivery of heritage projects.</p> <p>Increase opportunities for people to get involved with our heritage and celebrate the unique heritage identity of the people of the AONB.</p> <p>Provide opportunities for local people to engage others with their heritage and history and assist local heritage groups in promoting heritage.</p>	Sperrins Partnership	HED Local Community Networks e.g. RCN and Rapid Local Community Organisations and Heritage Groups Local Councils National Trust Ulster Architectural Heritage	Ongoing
	2.1.2 Perform an audit of existing heritage assets across Sperrin AONB and explore options for potential to access heritage and create new heritage trails.	We will map existing heritage across the AONB, engaging with local communities to record heritage within their own locality. This will facilitate engagement with landowners about potential access to heritage on their land and how this access might look e.g. physical or virtual.	Sperrins Partnership	HED Local Community Networks e.g. Rural Community Network and RAPID Local Community Organisations and Heritage Groups Local Councils Ulster Architectural Heritage	2026/27 2027/28 2028/29
	2.1.3 Establish a heritage map showcasing key heritage sites in the Sperrins.	Using data already recorded e.g. HED Map Viewer layers, a user-friendly map of built heritage within Sperrin AONB will be created. This information will be available online and via printed AONB wide guides.	Sperrins Partnership	Historic Environment Division (HED) Local Community Networks e.g. RCN and Rapid Local Community Organisations and Heritage Groups Local Councils Ulster Architectural Heritage	2026/27 2027/28 2028/29
	2.1.4 Identify built heritage at risk within the AONB and support efforts for restoration.	<p>Identify built heritage at risk within the AONB and support efforts for restoration such as working with local communities and landowners to identify funding opportunities.</p> <p>Monitor and review heritage at risk and liaise with local and regional partners and Historic Environment Division.</p> <p>Provide heritage advice, guidance, signposting to partners considering taking forward heritage led regeneration projects</p>	Sperrins Partnership	Historic Environment Division (HED) Local Community Networks e.g. RCN and Rapid Local Community Organisations and Heritage Groups Local Councils Ulster Architectural Heritage Farmers and Landowners	Ongoing

Objective	Action	Description	Lead Coordinator	Partners/Resource (listed in no particular order)	Year(s)
2.1. Value, protect and enhance built heritage within the AONB.	2.1.5 Perform an audit of heritage signage within the AONB.	An audit of existing heritage signage will take place to determine gaps and opportunities	Sperrins Partnership	Local Councils Local Heritage Groups and Community Organisations.	2026/27 2027/28
2.2. Champion and promote the cultural heritage of Sperrin AONB.	2.2.1 Promote the tradition of storytelling and the recording of oral history within the AONB.	Champion the tradition of storytelling and its importance to the cultural heritage of the AONB. Encourage individuals and communities to record their history. Information session from NI Archive about how to collect and archive local history.	Sperrins Partnership	Community Networks e.g. Rural Community Network Local Communities and Local Heritage Groups Local Councils NI Archive via CCGBC Museum Services	Ongoing
	2.2.2 Townland connections project.	Project exploring local historic townlands within the AONB and their connection to the natural and cultural heritage of the area. Aim to conserve the field names and townlands of the AONB for future generations. Create a map viewer	Sperrins Partnership	Community Networks e.g. RCN. Local communities and Local Heritage Groups Local Councils (e.g. Irish language officers) NI Archive via CCGBC Museum Services UU Irish language	Annually
	2.2.3 Language in the AONB.	Project exploring the history of Irish Language within Sperrin AONB and its impact on the cultural heritage and legacy of the area.	Sperrins Partnership	Community Networks e.g. Rural Community Network Local communities and Local Heritage Groups Local Councils (e.g. Irish language officers) NI Archive via CCGBC Museum Services	Annually

Objective	Action	Description	Lead Coordinator	Partners/Resource (listed in no particular order)	Year(s)
2.2. Champion and promote the cultural heritage of Sperrin AONB.	2.2.4 Heritage focused small grants programme.	Administer an annual small grants programme open to local community and heritage groups with projects that promote the natural, built or cultural heritage of the AONB.	Sperrins Partnership	Community Networks e.g. RCN. Historic Environment Division (HED) Local communities and Local Heritage Groups Local Councils NI Archive via CCGBC Museum Services	Annually
	2.2.5 Annual calendar of events promoting the natural and cultural heritage of the AONB including one annual Sperrin event.	To establish and deliver an annual calendar of fairs and events that promote local crafts, skills, and produce. The annual calendar of events should be consolidated under the Sperrins AONB brand and consider the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Events should be hosted at varying locations throughout the AONB • Encourage and support uptake of stalls and stands from the Sperrin AONB region at other craft fairs and events across NI to build brand awareness 	Sperrins Partnership	Community Networks e.g. RCN. Historic Environment Division (HED) Local communities and Local Heritage Groups Local Councils	Annually

A woman with brown hair, wearing a green quilted jacket, a patterned sweater, and a red scarf, is leaning against a large tree trunk. She has a black backpack on. The background shows a landscape with rolling hills and a wooden fence. In the bottom left corner, two other people are partially visible. A green semi-transparent box is overlaid on the top left of the image, containing white text.

**Aim 3: Protect And Conserve The Landscape
Character Of Sperrin AONB For Future Generations**

Objective	Action	Description	Lead Coordinator	Partners/Resource (listed in no particular order)	Year(s)
3.1. Monitor landscape character changes within the AONB.	3.1.1 Monitor the landscape changes through fixed point photography.	An audit of existing heritage signage will take place to determine gaps and opportunities	Sperrins Partnership	Local Councils	Annually
3.2. Promote traditional heritage skills.	3.2.1 Traditional heritage and crafts.	<p>To establish and deliver traditional heritage and craft projects across Sperrin AONB. The project will cover key topics such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stone wall creation • Traditional farming methods and tools • Conservation and repair of farm buildings • Thatching • Hedge laying <p>The project will be a mixture of hands-on workshops, site visits, excursions and include an intergenerational component. It will promote the revival of traditional craft methods and techniques within the AONB. The project will in turn support the conservation of vernacular buildings within the AONB.</p>	Sperrins Partnership	Community Networks e.g. Rural Community Networks & Rural Area Partnership Incorporated (RAPID) Farmers and landowners Historic Environment Division (HED) Local communities and Heritage Groups Local Councils Ulster Architectural Heritage	Ongoing

**Aim 4: Encourage Sustainable Use And Access
Of Sperrin Aonb Which Promotes The Wellbeing
And Resilience Of Local Communities**



Objective	Action	Description	Lead Coordinator	Partners/Resource (listed in no particular order)	Year(s)
4.1. Support initiatives that enhance the health and wellbeing of communities within the AONB.	4.1.1 Community participatory budgeting project.	A small grants programme for local communities aimed at promoting wellbeing and the natural, built or cultural heritage of the AONB. (4 grants per year)	Sperrins Partnership	Community Networks e.g. Rural Community Network & Rural Area Partnership Incorporated (RAPID)	Annually
	4.1.2 Farmer wellbeing.	To establish and implement a small grants programme to fund local farming groups to develop farmer wellbeing initiatives during the course of the action plan. Support will be available to groups interested in making an application.	Sperrins Partnership	Local Community Groups and Farming Groups Local Councils Rural Support Ulster Farmers Union	Annually
	4.1.3 Outdoor recreation wellbeing initiatives.	Through the Sperrins Outdoor Recreation Officer, Sperrins Partnership will support a programme of activities aimed at promoting the health and wellbeing of local communities through outdoor recreation. This will include marginalised and underrepresented groups such as older people and those with additional needs.	Sperrins Partnership	Local Communities Local Councils Local Sports Organisations Outscape Sport NI The Outdoor Partnership	Ongoing
4.2. Encourage greater access to Outdoor Recreation opportunities within the AONB	4.2.1 Review, update and support delivery of the sperrins outdoor recreation action plan 2013.	This will Increase the range of outdoor recreation opportunities and improve access to the countryside for all.	Sperrins Partnership	Local Communities Local Councils Local Sports Organisations NIEA Outscape Sport NI The Outdoor Partnership	Ongoing
	4.2.2 Explore options to enhance outdoor recreation opportunities within the AONB.	We will engage with local farmers and landowners to explore options to enhance outdoor recreation opportunities within the AONB. This may include permissive path agreements, for example.	Sperrins Partnership	Local Councils Outdoor Tourism Partnership Outscape Tourism NI The Outdoor Partnership	Ongoing

Objective	Action	Description	Lead Coordinator	Partners/Resource (listed in no particular order)	Year(s)
4.2. Encourage greater access to outdoor recreation opportunities within the AONB.	4.2.3 Delivery of an annual Sperrins Youth ambassador programme.	This will be delivered in partnership with The Outdoor Partnership (TOP). As well as equipping participants with a range of transferrable skills, it will encourage young people to explore future opportunities within the outdoor recreation sector and provide environmental awareness.	Sperrins Partnership/The Outdoor Partnership	Landscapes NI	Annually
	4.2.4 Attend the National Outdoor Recreation Forum meetings	Provide feedback on AONB activity in relation to challenges and opportunities with regards to outdoor recreation.	Sperrins Partnership		Ongoing
	4.2.5 Attend and input into The Outdoor partnership (TOP) stakeholder meetings	Provide feedback on AONB activity in relation to challenges and opportunities with regards to outdoor recreation.	Sperrins Partnership	Local Sports Clubs and Groups Sport NI The Outdoor Partnership	Ongoing
4.3. Promote Sustainable Tourism within the AONB.	4.3.1 Establish an eco-tourism focused Working Group comprised of local businesses and providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To identify and deliver on projects within the AONB. Establish membership through Expressions of Interest Access joint training opportunities and explore funding. 	Sperrins Partnership	Local Communities Local Councils Local Providers and Businesses Tourism NI	Ongoing
	4.3.2 Sperrin AONB Brand	<p>To establish a brand identity for the Sperrins AONB as the banner under which the key actions in this document are developed and delivered. Key sub actions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commissioning the development of the brand identity, ensuring involvement of all stakeholders Delivery of a brand launch and marketing campaign to raise brand awareness <p>*Noted that Sperrin AONB brand and a Sperrin tourism brand are two different concepts.</p>	Sperrins Partnership	Local Communities Local Councils Local providers and businesses NIEA Sperrins Partnership Tourism Northern Ireland	2026/27 2027/28
	4.3.3 Engage with councils' tourism teams and TNI to promote sustainable and regenerative tourism.	Sperrins Partnership will continue to engage with TNI and local councils tourism teams to promote sustainable and regenerative tourism	Sperrins Partnership	Local Councils Tourism NI	Ongoing

Objective	Action	Description	Lead Coordinator	Partners/Resource (listed in no particular order)	Year(s)
4.4. Encourage responsible use of the AONB.	4.4.1 Promotion of “Leave No Trace”.	Will include workshops, training where appropriate and the production and distribution of resources.	Sperrins Partnership	Local Councils	Ongoing
	4.4.2 Explore the feasibility of Sperrin AONB Rangers	Given the size and geographic spread of the AONB this may be difficult, but we will explore options.	Sperrins Partnership	Local Councils Landscape NI	Ongoing
	4.4.2 Promote ‘Get Wet Stay Safe’ Campaign	Promote training and awareness sessions across the Sperrin AONB on the impacts of cold water and basic safety messages for stand-up paddle boarding, kayak and canoeing as well as open water swimmers	Sperrins Partnership	Sport NI	Ongoing
	4.4.3 Promote responsible and respectful dog walking within the AONB.	Raise awareness among the public to promote responsible and respectful dog walking within the AONB. Dogs should be kept on leads to ensure they do not disturb livestock, nesting birds and other wildlife.	Sperrins Partnership	Local Councils RSPB Ulster Farmers Union	Ongoing

Aim 5: Raise Awareness Of The AONB And Promote Appreciation And Pride In Its Landscape, And Natural And Historic Environment



Objective	Action	Description	Lead Coordinator	Partners/Resource (listed in no particular order)	Year(s)
5.1. Raise awareness of the AONB among local communities.	5.1.1 Develop a schools engagement programme promoting the natural, built and cultural heritage of the AONB.	The action will target schools across the AONB, with locations being rotated annually. It will include a classroom-based session followed by a site visit within the AONB, aimed at encouraging a greater connection to the landscape and the heritage thereof.	Sperrins Partnership	Historic Environment Division (HED) Local Council Officers Local Primary Schools Ulster Wildlife	Annually
	5.1.2 Raise awareness of the unique geological profile of the AONB.	Through the production of educational resources and workshops.	Sperrins Partnership		Ongoing
	5.1.3 Attend local events to promote the AONB status and benefits.	Sperrins Partnership will attend local business/ provider events to raise awareness of the AONB.	Sperrins Partnership	Local Councils Local providers	Ongoing
	5.1.4 Develop and circulate an AONB e -newsletter.	The newsletter will contain information on the AONB and Sperrins Partnership activities to support the AONB.	Sperrins Partnership		Ongoing
	5.1.5 Deliver an annual AONB art competition.	This will be aimed at local schools and will help to promote the AONB among children, their families and the wider community.	Sperrins Partnership	Local Schools	Annually
5.2. Raise awareness of the AONB among stakeholders and the wider public.	5.2.1 Champion the AONB.	Sperrins Partnership Board members will champion the AONB Designation.	Sperrins Partnership		Ongoing
	5.2.2 Provide and update the website with relevant AONB information.	Sperrins Partnership will maintain and update the website and other communication platforms with relevant information and updates that affect the AONB. This will encourage better understanding of the AONB and its many special qualities.	Sperrins Partnership		Ongoing

Aim 6: Adopt A Collaborative And Partnership Approach To AONB Management



Objective	Action	Description	Lead Coordinator	Partners/Resource (listed in no particular order)	Year(s)
6.1. Pursue a governance structure that promotes inclusivity and best practice.	6.1.1 Working in partnership for the benefit of the AONB.	Sperrins Partnership and all other stakeholders actively take part in knowledge sharing, and networking and engage and inform relevant individuals and groups about the AONB and build capacity among partners. Sperrins Partnership will communicate effectively to all strategic stakeholders and the public in order to positively and effectively promote the AONB, avoid duplication and displacement, and have a coordinated approach to the management of the AONB.	Sperrins Partnership	All partners	Ongoing
	6.1.2 Review the governance structure and operation of the Sperrins Partnership.	Carry out a review and analysis of the Sperrins Partnership governance arrangements to ensure it is meeting the needs of the AONB and its people, place and planet. Continuously review effectiveness of operation of the partnership and ways of working.	Sperrins Partnership	Landscape NI Local Councils Other AONB Management Organisations	2026/27 2027/28
	6.1.3 Review the Sperrins Partnership Board Terms of Reference.	Sperrins Partnership will lead on the review of the Sperrins partnership board review of terms of reference to ensure that they meet the current needs of the AONB.	Sperrins Partnership	Landscape NI Local Councils Other AONBs	2026/27 2027/28
	6.1.4 Enhance the Sperrins Partnership Boards understanding of legislation and policy that effect the AONB such as NCALO.	Sperrins Partnership will engage with Landscapes NI and other organisations and groups to encourage networking and sharing of information and expertise. Sperrins Partnership will provide training to Board members when possible and when deemed necessary.	Sperrins Partnership	Landscape NI NIEA	Ongoing
	6.1.5 Expand existing staff resources to ensure the delivery needs of this plan can be met.	Successful delivery of this plan will be dependent on sufficient staff resources. Therefore, the Sperrins Partnership will explore options to expand existing staff numbers.	Sperrins Partnership	Local Councils NIEA	Ongoing

Objective	Action	Description	Lead Coordinator	Partners/Resource (listed in no particular order)	Year(s)
6.2. Promote a collaborative and coordinated approach to landscape management	6.2.1 Membership of landscapes NI.	Sperrins Partnership will maintain membership of Landscapes NI, attending and supporting regular meetings, events and other initiatives. The Sperrins Partnership will escalate and discuss any local issues/ opportunities facing the AONB to Landscapes NI.	Sperrins Partnership	Landscape NI	Ongoing
	6.2.2 Advocate government for stronger AONB protection.	Landscapes NI and the Sperrins Partnership will advocate to government to improve statutory recognition of AONB's.	Landscapes NI/ Sperrins Partnership		Ongoing
	6.2.3 Continue to explore funding opportunities that will fund the action plan and lobby central government for Core funding for AONB similar to the model in mainland UK.	To ensure the management plan can be managed effectively it is vital to secure appropriate funding to support the partnership and partners to deliver effectively. The Sperrin AONB management and action plan will be used as a tool to leverage funding to support effective and meaningful delivery of AONB activities.	Sperrins Partnership	Landscape NI	Ongoing
	6.2.4 Advocate for a just transition programme that offers support for nature recovery projects.	If successful, the programme should include workshops and guidance on best practice restoration activity, and access to grant funding to support implementation across the Sperrins AONB.	Sperrins Partnership	Landscape NI DAERA	Ongoing

*Small grants programmes will be funding dependant

Glossary of Acronyms

AFBI	Agri-food & Bio Sciences Institute
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
ASSI	Area of Special Scientific Interest
BTO	British Trust for Ornithology
CCGBC	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Coast
CM	Centimetre
CEDAR	Centre for Environmental Data Recording
CAFRE	College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise
DfC	Department for Communities
DfE	Department for the Economy
DfI	Department for Infrastructure
DAERA	Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
DCSDC	Derry City & Strabane District Council
EIP	Environmental Improvement Plan
FODC	Fermanagh & Omagh District Council
GPS	Global Positioning System.
HA	Hectare
HED	Historic Environment Division
IAT	International Appalachian Trail
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
LCA	Landscape Character Area
LiDAR	Light Detection and Ranging System
LDP	Local Development Plan
LMA	Local Management Area
M	Metre
MUDC	Mid Ulster District Council
MDM	Multiple Deprivation Area
NNR	National Nature Reserve

NCALO	Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands Order (Northern Ireland) 1985
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NE	North- East
NI	Northern Ireland
NIAPA	Northern Ireland Agricultural Producers' Association
NIEA	Northern Ireland Environment Agency
NIFRS	Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Services
NSA	National Sheep Association
OEP	Office for Environmental Protection
POMNI	People in the Outdoors Monitor for Northern Ireland
RAMSAR	Ramsar Convention, International Treaty for Conservation and Sustainable Use of Wetlands.
RDS	Regional Development Strategy
RLCA	Regional Landscape Character Areas
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
RAPID	Rural Area Partnership Incorporated
RCN	Rural Community Network
SLNCI	Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance
SWNE	South- West- North- East
SW	South-West
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SPA	Special Protection Area
SNI	Sport NI
SPPS	Strategic Planning Policy Statement for Northern Ireland
SWOT	Strengths, Weaknesses Opportunities and Threats Analysis
SOA	Super Output Area
TOP	The Outdoor Partnership
TNI	Tourism Northern Ireland
UFU	Ulster Farmers Union
UU	Ulster University
UW	Ulster Wildlife





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www.sperrinspartnershipproject.com
or email info@sperrinspartnershipproject.com

