

CLIMATE CHANGE

Summary: To approve the NAAONBs' 'Statement of Commitment from AONB Chairs on Climate Action' and discuss the results of the Small World Consulting carbon baseline assessment for the Cotswolds.

Recommendation: That the Executive Committee approves the NAAONBs' statement

Report by: Mike Elliott, Net Zero Landscape Lead

BOARD MEMBERS REPRESENTED ON THE GROUP

- NB: Board members will be invited to join the Climate Change Working Group at the next AGM in June.

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1. Rising to the climate challenge means working collaboratively across the national Family of AONB teams, their partners, and their communities, using the AONB designation to influence relevant stakeholders. To achieve this ambition, the National Association of AONBs has drafted a 'Statement of Commitment from AONB Chairs on Climate Action'. We would like the Board to approve Brendan McCarthy signing this statement, indicating that the Cotswolds National Landscape Board is ready to act on climate change.
2. Since our last Executive Meeting in January 2022, we have appointed Maaiké (Mike) Elliott as our new Net Zero Landscape Lead. Mike previously worked for UK Research and Innovation's Global Food Security programme, where she focused on the link between climate change and our food system, liaising with policy makers, industry and government at national level, as well as the research community and the public.
3. To set us on the right path to achieving our [Climate Crisis Commitment](#), Mike's first step is to help us understand the current baseline for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, carbon storage and carbon sequestration in the Cotswolds National Landscape and identify the interventions that will help us to achieve Net Zero by 2050.
4. To this end, Mike has invited Dr Dmitry Yumashev from Small World Consulting to present his team's research quantifying the Cotswolds National Landscape's baseline GHG emissions/ storage/ sequestration, as well as a research-led pathway to achieving Net Zero in the Cotswolds by 2050 (Appendix 8b). Small World Consulting has already completed this same analysis for all 15 UK National Parks.
5. Small World Consulting's recommendations are designed to illustrate the scale and urgency of action required to achieve Net Zero by 2050 in the Cotswolds National Landscape. There are many potential pathways to achieving Net Zero, so Mike will be working with colleagues and key stakeholders to collaboratively identify the most suitable one for the Cotswolds National Landscape.

OTHER ACTIVITY

6. Over the past 10 weeks Mike has had various meetings with internal colleagues, as well as with key external contacts:

Dr Dmitry Yumashev – *Associate Consultant, Small World Consulting*

Chris Crookall-Fallon – *Head of Climate Action, Cotswolds District Council*

Rachel Lenane – *Project Manager, Gloucestershire Nature and Climate Fund*

Julian Atkins - *Countywide Climate Change Coordinator, Gloucester County Council*

Tim Field – *Coordinator, North East Cotswolds Farming Cluster*

Matt Whitney – *Manager, Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership*

DECISIONS REQUIRED

7. The Executive Committee is asked to approve the National Association of AONBs' "Chairman's Statement of Commitment".

NEXT STEPS

8. To publish the Small World Consulting report (technical report)
9. To publish a layman's guide (8-12 pages) to the Small World Consulting research findings
10. To engage key stakeholders with the Small World Consulting research findings

SUPPORTING PAPERS

- Appendix A – NAAONB Climate Action Commitment
- Appendix B – Small World Consulting presentation

MAY 2022