

## Media Release – Rewarding outstanding contribution got one step closer

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### For immediate release

The search to find this year's worthy recipient(s) of the Bowland Award has gone one step further with five showcases planned to for consideration by delegates at Landscapes for Life Conference 2016 next week.

The Bowland Award, a hen harrier sculpture in bronze, is awarded annually for **the best project, best practice or outstanding contribution to the wellbeing of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.**

The showcases next week will cover the work of

- Stour Valley Volunteers
- Stepping into Nature
- Lincolnshire Wolds Walking Festival
- Sharing Historic Character of the North Wessex Downs, and
- Robin Toogood

Howard Davies, Chief Executive of the National Association for AONBs, said: "The Award is one of our ways of acknowledging the tireless work of people who contribute to making the UK's Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty wonderful places to live and work in or visit. We are looking for a person or a group of people for whom sharing, learning and inspiring is a way of life".

He added: "The five showcases will allow the nominated projects/people an opportunity for a "final pitch" at Landscapes for Life Conference 2016 "Sharing, Learning, Inspiring" next week and we look forward to an exciting evening of voting.

**Ends**

**The National Association for  
Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty**

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## Editors notes:

- The National Association for AONBs (NAAONB) is a charity that provides a strong collective voice for the UK's 46 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs). Its objectives are to promote the conservation and enhancement of AONBs, advance the education, understanding and appreciation by the public of AONBs, and promote the efficiency and effectiveness of those promoting or representing AONBs, other Protected Areas and those areas for which designation might be pursued. It does this by taking a collaborative and partnership based approach to working with our membership and other organisations at a national level to achieve shared goals. For more information see Web: [www.landscapesforlife.org.uk](http://www.landscapesforlife.org.uk) Twitter: @naaonb @AONBFamily
- Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), along with National Parks, are considered to be the most special landscapes in the country and belong to an international Protected Landscape Family. There are 38 AONBs in England and Wales, and a further eight in Northern Ireland. For further information about the AONB Family visit [www.landscapesforlife.org.uk](http://www.landscapesforlife.org.uk)
- **Landscapes for Life Conferences** provide an opportunity for the AONB Family and those interested in protection our precious landscapes to join together and address issues of current concern. See <http://www.landscapesforlifeconference.org.uk/>
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Previous recipients have been

- 1999 - Professor Gerald Smart
- 2000 - The Rt. Hon The Lord Renton of Mount Harry
- 2002 - Ray Woolmore
- 2004 - Richard Butler
- 2005 - The Rt Hon Alun Michael MP
- 2006 - The Countryside Agency
- 2007 - Professor Adrian Phillips CBE
- 2008 - Simon Hooton
- 2009 - Mike Taylor OBE
- 2010 - Butterfly Conservation
- 2011 - The Gower Society
- 2012 - Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project
- 2013 - Chilterns Chalk Stream Project
- 2014 –Altogether Archaeology – North Pennines
- 2015 – Cranborne Chase AONB Farmland Project