

## Sandstone Ridge Partnership Five year work programme

<b>Theme 1. Governance and resources</b>					
<b>Desired outcome:</b> A partnership working together for a sustainable future for the Sandstone Ridge					
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Key Partners</b>	<b>Indicative cost p.a.</b>	<b>Total cost (5 yrs)</b>
Co-ordinate and ensure the effective delivery of the vision on behalf of the partners, local communities, funders, and adding value	Appointment of Sandstone Ridge Team, comprising: Lead Officer (0.5), Project Development Officer (1.0), Communications Officer (1.0) and Office Manager (0.5), (3FTE total)				
Create the opportunity for businesses, residents and visitors to financially support the mission by investing in a Sandstone Ridge Foundation that can be used to fund community projects	Establishment and administration of the Sandstone Ridge Foundation				
Deliver sustainable, efficient and effective core activity/management for the Sandstone Ridge Partnership	Management overheads, administration, financial and IT systems				
Establish a baseline of evidence from which the success of the Partnership is measured	Preparation of State of the Environment report				

**Theme 2. Communication****Desired outcome:** Recognition of the Sandstone Ridge landscape as a positive asset by residents, businesses and visitors

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Key Partners</b>	<b>Indicative cost p.a.</b>	<b>Total cost (5 yrs)</b>
Raise awareness, understanding and appreciation of the unique landscape, natural and cultural heritage of the Sandstone Ridge and its local distinctiveness and encourage positive attitudes towards its management	Communications campaign, utilising the branding tools, website, social and other media				
Raise the profile of the area among residents, businesses and visitors by providing events to explore the Ridge by foot, hoof and wheel	Annual Walk and Ride Festival				
Develop active community engagement within the area, by co-ordinating and enhancing volunteer activity	Friends Group  Volunteer training programme				

**Theme 3. Access and access infrastructure****Desired outcome:** Improved visitor and resident experiences through a high quality and connected access network

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Key Partners</b>	<b>Indicative cost p.a.</b>	<b>Total cost (5 yrs)</b>
Improve the spread of car parking provision across the area	Create new car park in the southern section of the Ridge				
Increase levels of accessibility to the Ridge for cycles and horse riding	Sandstone Trail cycle and horse riding route (Phase 1 – research and consultation)				
Develop new access opportunities that can assist in providing enjoyment and healthy exercise for less mobile and confident people	Circular fun/health walks in and around key service centres				

**Theme 4. Arts****Desired outcome:** People's lives enriched through artistic and cultural experiences inspired by the Ridge

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Key Partners</b>	<b>Indicative cost p.a.</b>	<b>Total cost (5 yrs)</b>
Celebrate the Sandstone Ridge through music, theatre, art exhibitions, talks and poetry with local performers and artists	Annual Sandstone Ridge Arts Festival				
Provide focal points - "Framing the Views" – that allow walkers to pause and experience the landscape in new ways	Installation of 5 signature art installations (sculptured seating) that responds to outstanding viewpoints on the Ridge				
A creative programme to involve local artists to respond across all of the projects within the five year work programme	Programme of artistic development and community engagement				

**Theme 5. Cultural heritage****Desired outcome:** The diversity and richness of cultural heritage assets is identified, retained and enhanced

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Key Partners</b>	<b>Indicative cost p.a.</b>	<b>Total cost (5 yrs)</b>
Involve and engage local communities in celebrating and looking after the area's historic transport and access infrastructure (milestones, mileposts, fingerposts, road signs, and historic stiles).	A Ridge-wide inventory of the assets (location, type, status, condition)  Restoration of assets  Parish pack				
Raise awareness of the changing landscape of the Sandstone Ridge	Pictorial History of the Sandstone Ridge publication				
Improve our understanding of the archaeological, geological and ecological environment of caves and mines through training, interpretation and education.	4 X archaeological investigations / excavations at cave sites				
Celebrate and promote the area's heritage of caves and mines	Beneath the Ridge publication				

**Theme 6. Nature and landscape****Desired outcome:** More, bigger, better and joined up places for wildlife

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Key Partners</b>	<b>Indicative cost p.a.</b>	<b>Total cost (5 yrs)</b>
Celebrate and restore traditional hedgerow and drystone sandstone wall boundary features to maintain local landscape character	Restoration of hedgerows and sandstone walls Volunteer training programme Annual Hedging and Walling competition				
Create a resilient network of wetlands in Delamere Forest that people can enjoy and value	Restoration of degraded meres and mosses				
Maintain key viewpoints through selective vegetation clearance and management for people to enjoy the panoramic and long-distance views	Enhanced key viewpoints				
Telling the story of the area's rich geodiversity and how it has influenced people's interactions with the land and shaped the landscape we see today	A Ridge-wide geodiversity audit and interpretation Enhancement of key geodiversity sites Educational packs. Creation of geo-trails. Site interpretation panels				
Return to the Wild programme of species recovery	Reintroduction of adders  Reintroduction of silver-studded blue				

**Theme 7. Rural economy and tourism**

**Desired outcome:** Sustainable rural and tourism businesses based on the area's natural assets and that respect and conserve its special qualities

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Key Partners</b>	<b>Indicative cost p.a.</b>	<b>Total cost (5 yrs)</b>
Encourage sustainable rural business development, adaption and diversification that conserves and enhances the natural beauty of the area	Local Distinctiveness handbook				
Market products and services together under the Sandstone Ridge brand, and promote the area as a great place for investment	Business Alliance Marketing materials				

**Theme 8. Sense of place****Desired outcome:** A Sandstone Ridge brand that fosters a strong identity and sense of place

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Key Partners</b>	<b>Indicative cost p.a.</b>	<b>Total cost (5 yrs)</b>
Encourage visitors to visit, stay in, and explore the area by providing an overview of things to do and what the area has to offer	Visitor guide/map publication				
Engender a strong sense of belonging, pride and ownership of the Sandstone Ridge	Gateway signs installed at Key Service Centres (eg, Frodsham, Helsby, Tarporley, Malpas)				
Promote the Sandstone Ridge and its offer	Exhibition / café van for touring the area and attending events				
Unite and encourage stakeholders to convey consistent, inspiring messages about the area	Branding toolkit publication				

<b>Theme 9. AONB designation</b>					
<b>Desired outcome:</b> Pursuing AONB designation insofar as this would help to meet the needs of the Ridge and its communities					
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Key Partners</b>	<b>Indicative cost p.a.</b>	<b>Total cost (5 yrs)</b>
Establish the case for the Sandstone Ridge to be considered for AONB designation	Assessment based on 1) Strength of evidence, 2) Public support, 3) Political support, 4) Local authority support, 5) Organisational local support, 6) Whether it is unfinished business.				

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To be included in the Work Programme, projects must:

- Support the Vision for the Ridge
- Deliver the Mission to Conserve, Connect, and Inspire
- Maximise the scope for partnership working, community and volunteer involvement
- Generate impacts and benefits that will be felt across the Cheshire Sandstone Ridge: National Character Area 62
- Fulfil a recognisable need or opportunity
- Be realistic and achievable
- Offer value for money
- Add value to what is being done already.