



## NORTHERN UPLAND CHAIN LOCAL NATURE PARTNERSHIP

### 18<sup>th</sup> BOARD MEETING

10.30am, Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2017

YDNPA, Yoredale, Bainbridge

**Board Members Present:** David Hill (Chair), Chris Woodley-Stewart (North Pennines AONB Partnership), Gary Smith (Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority), Crispin Thorn (Forestry Commission), Paul Burgess (Nidderdale AONB Partnership), Christine Venus (Natural England), Robert Benson (Moorland Association), Ben Lamb (Tees Rivers Trust), David Aldborough (Northumbrian Water), Peter Robertson (RSPB), Rob Stoneman (Yorkshire Wildlife Trust), Laurie Norris (NFU)

**Others present:** Rebecca Barrett (North Pennines AONB Partnership & Minutes), Beth Halskie (Plantlife), Robin Milton (NFU)

#### 1. Apologies

Richard Betton (Open Seat), Elliott Lorimer (Forest of Bowland AONB Partnership), Adrian Shepherd (Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority)

#### 2. Presentation from Plantlife about their declining vascular plant project (Beth Halski)

Key points from Beth's presentation:

- A collaborative project between BSBI, Plantlife & Natural England that ran from 2011 to 2016.
- Designed to improve the evidence base for a list of critically endangered species
- The project mapped all known locations for 26 species using data from 1900 onwards
- All records were mapped against designations including National Parks, AONBs, SSSIs etc
- Detailed management advice sheets are being produced for key species
- All data and reports are available on the Plantlife website - [Widespread declining species](#) – but the project has not yet been actively publicised

Beth asked the Board's advice for how to get the data to those who would be best placed to use it, such as land managers, farmers and agencies. PR commented that it would be helpful to have a list of the species that are particularly important for the LNP. A link could then be put on the LNP website. CWS added that a mechanism is needed to record where action is taken as a result of the information. RBen pointed out the use of common names rather than scientific ones would help people to engage/understand. Beth will consider this feedback and report back with thoughts on next steps.

**Action: GS to liaise with Beth Halski and organise appropriate links from the LNP website to the information on widespread declining plant species**

### 3. Responding to and influencing Government policy (David Hill)

DH outlined the following perspectives: Defra's 25 year plans appear to be in the long grass. Nonetheless, there is a pressing need to properly integrate farming and the environment so that great things can be delivered by both. There is little point in lobbying for the next 6 months until the political situation settles; however, over the next 3 months we should spend time thinking about how to achieve the best for farming and the environment with a particular focus on natural capital.

The Board agreed that the following should be priority issues to focus on and seek ministerial access to:

- HNV farming policy work (including the Northern Hill Farming Panel and RBAPs pilot)
- Woodland work
- Natural capital approach

It was agreed that a document be produced for the next Board meeting to summarise the LNP's work so far on HNV farming and natural capital, as the basis for setting out a vision for supporting farming and the environment in the future.

**Action: GS to draft paper on HNV farming and natural capital for the next Board meeting.**

### 4. Future LNP priorities (Gary Smith)

Gary ran through the Board paper. The following points were then made: RS – there is a need to explore common ground to find out how all parties can collaborate to reverse the current trends in biodiversity decline. CWS – concrete results of collaboration need to be seen. Can estates and the farming community be challenged to make a difference? DH – incremental successes need to be recognised. CWS – need to be able to call out examples of bad practice as part of a mature debate and true collaboration. DA suggested the involvement of a professional strategist to help develop a plan of action. CWS suggested that a 'logic framework' would be a good place to start.

**Action: CWS to draft a logic framework for future LNP priorities**

The following themes were agreed as immediate priorities:

- Curlew
- HNV farming
- Moorland management/local-level delivery
- Natural capital and financing mechanisms

**Action: DH to circulate draft paper on curlew**

Nature tourism – it was agreed that there is a need to assess what is going on at a local level prior to adopting this as a theme. CT stressed the need to maintain the ambition for woodland creation and to keep pushing the woodland natural capital prospectus. BL commented that it would be valuable to have natural flood management as a theme as it is currently a priority for Defra.

**Action: PB to assess extent of nature tourism within the LNP**

Robin Milton informed the Board that the NFU have done some work to estimate how much the HNV farming approach would cost. The Board considered that it would be useful to draw up some figures for how much the sort of HNV farming we would like to see might cost. RM agreed to share his thinking.

### 5. Job description/person specification for a dedicated LNP officer (Paul Burgess)

PB explained that the LNP needs to better marshal the resources at its disposal through a dedicated post. This would require external funding, most likely through HLF. CWS recommended HLF's *Resilient Heritage* funding stream, and suggested that the application go through the Yorkshire region.

**Action: PB to pursue funding for a project officer from HLF**

## **6. Proposal for marketing the LNP's natural capital (Rob Stoneman)**

RS introduced the topic by raising a series of questions. Who should we be marketing our natural capital to? LEPs, corporate investors, policy-makers in relation to post-Brexit agriculture policy? Why do we want to do it? Unless government regulates for it, it is difficult to see how it will work.

DA offered to put the Humber document in front of the September meeting of the water companies' sustainability group to seek their views on what they would like to see.

**Action: RS & CWS to scope a natural capital document for the LNP including costs**

## **7. Proposal on behalf of the NHFP for NFU funding support**

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

## **8. Woodland creation event (Crispin Thorn)**

This event has been rearranged for 22<sup>nd</sup> September and will be held on the Barningham Estate. It has the purpose of engaging with landowners and those with an interest in woodland planting, from small-scale ghyll planting to large-scale commercial planting. CT also reported that a small woodland unit is being established to promote non-Countryside Stewardship creation options eg the woodland carbon fund.

## **9. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising**

The minutes were agreed as a true record. Progress against (numbered) action points from the last meeting was reviewed. All actions were completed as planned or were dealt with under the agenda unless detailed below:

Action 4 – the habitat network data is now accessible via the LNP website ([Habitat network mapping](#)). The Board thanked Abi Mansley for her hard work in getting this achieved.

## **10. Financial update (Gary Smith)**

GS informed the Board that almost £50k is available for supporting LNP project work this year.

## **11. Information sharing/intelligence**

CT informed the Board that helicopter surveillance of phytophthora in larch will be taking place across the region this month. There has been one record of an outbreak in North Yorkshire. A pest alert has been put out for Xylella ([Xylella pest alert](#)); though currently only affecting olive trees in Europe, this has the potential to affect oak and maple.

## **12. Forward items (Gary Smith)**

The following issues are to be addressed at the next meeting:

- review of membership and terms of reference for the Board
- presentation on the peatland code (to be arranged by Rob Stoneman)

## **13. Date of next meeting**

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at the Morritt Arms, Greta Bridge

## Summary of actions

	<b>NAME</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
1	Gary Smith	To organise appropriate links from the LNP website to the information on widespread declining plant species
2	Chris Woodley-Stewart	To draft a logic framework for future LNP priorities
3	David Hill	To circulate draft paper on curlew
4	Paul Burgess	To assess current extent of nature tourism within the LNP
5	Paul Burgess	To discuss with HLF the potential for funding for a dedicated LNP project officer
4	Rob Stoneman & Chris Woodley-Stewart	To scope a natural capital document for the LNP including costs

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