



NORTHERN UPLAND CHAIN LOCAL NATURE PARTNERSHIP

17th BOARD MEETING

10.30am, Thursday 9th March 2017

The Morritt Arms, Greta Bridge, County Durham

Board Members Present: David Hill (Chair), Gary Smith (Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority), Kate Hawley (Forestry Commission, on behalf of Crispin Thorn), Clare Steward (Environment Agency on behalf of Oliver Harmar), James Scott-Harden (Moorland Association), Ben Lamb (Tees Rivers Trust), David Aldborough (Northumbrian Water), Andrew Miller (Northumberland National Park Authority), Chris Woodley-Stewart (North Pennines AONB Partnership – Vice Chair), Peter Robertson (RSPB), Richard Betton (Open Seat), Elliott Lorimer (Forest of Bowland AONB Partnership), Rob Stoneman (Yorkshire Wildlife Trust).

Others present: Adrian Shepherd (Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority), Abi Mansley (Northumberland National Park Authority).

1. Apologies

Christine Venus (Natural England), Laurie Norris (NFU), Rebecca Barrett (North Pennines AONB), Crispin Thorn (Forestry Commission), Oliver Harmar (Environment Agency).

2. Minutes of 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 dealt with elsewhere on this agenda unless detailed below:

- (1) and (2) It was agreed to abandon the two actions relating to information about woodland sites.
- (5) Plantlife had been invited to give a presentation on the vascular plants project at the June Board meeting;
- (6) ***GS to notify relevant LNPs that the areas brought into the Yorkshire Dales National Park on 1 August 2016 are now covered by two overlapping LNPs.***

(7) Adelle Rowe (Natural England) had written to confirm that the Treasury has agreed to underwrite any LIFE projects approved before we exit the EU for the entire funding of the project (usually up to 5 years from start date). NE is planning to apply in the 2017 round (September application period). After 2017, the UK's 'ring-fenced' pot for LIFE funding disappears, so very unlikely to get many projects through after this.

3. Woodland Creation Event Proposal

KH ran through the proposal. It was agreed that some further work needed to be done to put the event in the context of: "how do we get the right trees in the right places for the NUCLNP area?". The Board agreed to fund the event up a maximum cost of £800.

Action: KH and CW-S to draw up final programme and location for an event on 20 June 2017.

4. High Nature Value Farming

AS ran through the paper and the recent progress, which was noted by the Board. The Board also noted that there had been no response yet from the NFU to the outstanding request for a contribution to the costs of the work of the Northern Hill Farming Panel. It was agreed to approach the NFU again but in relation to a specific project, rather than ongoing running costs.

Action: AS to work up a proposal on behalf of the NHFP for NFU funding support.

5. Habitat Mapping

The Board discussed the extent to which the LNP's habitat network mapping data could be shared with other bodies. It was agreed that we can share the final network maps but not the original data for individual parcels of land. The network maps will be made available via the LNP website.

Action: AM to put the habitat network data into a suitable format and liaise with YDNPA to get the data on to the LNP website by the end of March.

6. Financial update

The Board noted the current financial position set out in the paper.

Action: GS to agenda financial updates for all future Board meetings.

7. External funding

The Board whether to support the idea of seeking external funding for a post to drive forward the work of the LNP. In addition to the proposal in the report, it was also suggested that the LNP might consider support a post to market the LNP's natural capital to potential public and private sector investors. This could be a 'development opportunity' for e.g. a member of staff from one of the water companies. It was agreed that both proposals be considered at the June Board meeting

Action: PB to draw up a job description/person specification for a dedicated LNP officer

RS/DA to work up a proposal for marketing the LNP's natural capital

8. LNP Development Grant

The Board noted the potential availability of a Defra grant of up to £5,000 for LNPs but determined not to submit an application.

9. Local Access Forum feedback

The Board noted the projects suggested by the Durham, Lancashire and Yorkshire Dales LAFs, and agreed to consider these at the Board meeting on 8 June alongside any other suggestions raised at the Annual Forum.

Action: GS to agenda 'Future LNP priorities' for the June Board meeting.

10. Project updates

EL had proposed a revised timetable for the hay meadows project for the Board's consideration. The Board asked that EL provide the Secretariat with an alternative proposal so that the project was not delayed until the autumn.

Action: EL to submit revised proposal/timetable for the haymeadows project to the Secretariat.

DH confirmed that the first meeting of the Curlew Project working group would be held on 20 March.

11. Running the Annual Forum

The Board agreed the arrangements for managing the interactive sessions at the Annual Forum that afternoon.

Action: GS to ensure feedback from interactive sessions at the Annual Forum goes on the LNP website.

12. Information sharing/intelligence

RS and CW-S confirmed that the 'Pennine Peat Partnership' had been successful (at the third attempt) in securing €3.9 million from the EU LIFE fund for restoring degraded peatland across the North Pennines and Yorkshire. The Board noted the importance of the continued financial commitment (€3 million) from the Water Companies and EA during the lengthy (re)application process.

DA reported that he attended meetings of an 'Action for Sustainability' Group that includes Directors of Finance from major companies. It might be a vehicle for the LNP to raise directly the issue of investment in the natural capital of the LNP.

Action: DA to explore whether LNP could present to the 'A4S' group

13. Forward items

In addition to the items already identified in the paper, the Board considered that the following might be added to future agendas:

- NUC LNP input to Defra's 25 Year Environment Plan (June)
- Hen Harriers and other raptors (September)
- Sustainable levels of predator control
- Peatland Code and Woodland Carbon Code
- Review of the Membership and Terms of Reference for the Board

- Site visit to the see the Results-based Agri-environment Payment Scheme pilot in Wensleydale.

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held at the YDNPA offices in Bainbridge, to include a site visit to the RBAPS project. The Board also requested time for a proper discussion about responding to/influencing the direction of government policy, notably the forthcoming 25 Year Plans.

Action: GS to agenda identified forward items for future meetings

AS to arrange a Board site visit to RBAPS project in June

14.Dates of next meetings

Thursday 8th June 2017 (to include site visit, lunch and meeting)

Friday 15th September 2017

Friday 8th December 2017

Summary of actions

	NAME	ACTION
1	Gary Smith	Notify relevant LNPs that the areas brought into the Yorkshire Dales NP on 1 August 2016 are now covered by two overlapping LNPs
2	Kate Hawley and Chris Woodley-Stewart	Draw up final programme and location for a woodland event on 20 June 2017
3	Adrian Shepherd	Work up a proposal on behalf of the NHFP for NFU funding support
4	Abi Mansley	Put the habitat network data into a suitable format and liaise with YDNPA to get the data on to the LNP website by the end of March
5	Gary Smith	Agenda financial updates for all future Board meetings
6	Paul Burgess	Draw up a job description/person specification for a dedicated LNP officer
7	Rob Stoneman and David Alborough	Work up a proposal for marketing the LNP's natural capital
8	Gary Smith	Agenda 'Future LNP priorities' for the June Board meeting
9	Elliot Lorimer	Submit revised proposal/timetable for the hay meadows project to the Secretariat
10	Gary Smith	Ensure feedback from interactive sessions at the Annual Forum goes on the LNP website
11	David Alborough	Explore whether LNP could present to the 'A4S' group
12	Gary Smith	Agenda identified forward items for future meetings
13	Adrian Shepherd	Arrange a Board site visit to RBAPS project in June