



## NORTHERN UPLAND CHAIN LOCAL NATURE PARTNERSHIP

### BOARD MEETING

10.30 am – Friday 8 December 2017

The Morritt Arms, Greta Bridge, County Durham

**Board Members Present:** David Hill (Chairman), Chris Woodley-Stewart (North Pennines AONB Partnership – Vice Chair), Andrew Miller (Northumberland NPA), Gary Smith (Yorkshire Dales NPA), Robert Benson (Moorland Association), Crispin Thorn (Forestry Commission), Steve Merrett (Environment Agency), , Paul Burgess (Nidderdale AONB Partnership); Amanda Miller (RSPB), Rob Stoneman (Yorkshire Wildlife Trust), Laurie Norris (NFU), Richard Betton (Northern Hill Farming Panel); Christine Venus (Natural England)

**Others present:** Adrian Shepherd (Yorkshire Dales NPA); Jillian Hoy (IUCN-UK).

#### 1. Apologies

Elliott Lorimer (Forest of Bowland AONB Partnership), Ben Lamb (Tees Rivers Trust); David Alborough (Northumbrian Water)

#### 2. Peatland Code

Jillian Hoy gave a presentation on work to develop and implement a peatland carbon code. The Board was very supportive of the work, noting that this could be an important additional funding stream for peatland restoration. Private sector finance could potentially be 'blended' with other funding (e.g. future agri-environment schemes) that might reward land managers for the ongoing management of peatland. It would be important that all peatland restoration since 1990 (the baseline for carbon reduction targets) is included in the Government's inventory. It was agreed that the LNP should lobby Government to make the peatland carbon code mandatory.

**Action:** *GS/RS to draft letter for the Chairman to send to the Secretary of State at Defra.*

#### 3. Logic Framework for LNP priorities

Chris Woodley-Stewart presented a revised 'logic framework' that would help the NUCLNP to stay focused on its priorities. The final framework reflected the comments from Board members after the last meeting. The Board agreed to adopt the framework and use it as a reference at future Board meetings. The Board also agreed to beef up the LNP website to include: an annual infographic and, a series of project briefing notes.

**Action:** *GS to put the logic framework on the NUCLNP website;*

*GS to add the logic framework to the reverse of future agendas, and include reference to it in the standard template for reports*

*GS to commission an infographic for 2017-18 and briefing notes on key LNP projects.*

#### **4. Delegated Natural Heritage Grant Scheme**

Paul Burgess presented a paper on setting out the potential content of a bid to HLF for delegated nature conservation grant scheme for the LNP area. The Board supported the development of a 'stage 1' bid to HLF but noted the likely need to find at least £600k in match-funding. The Board also noted the potential negative impact of proposed changes to HLF grant-giving processes, and agreed to make a response to HLF.

**Action: GS, CW-S and PB to commission consultant to prepare the bid to HLF for a delegated nature conservation grant scheme by March 2018**

**CW-S to give GS a copy of the NAAONB response to HLF, as the basis for preparing a LNP response.**

#### **5. Follow-up to woodland creation event**

Crispin Thorn presented a paper on how the LNP might now work to deliver the woodland creation ambitions set out in the Natural Capital Investment Prospectus. The Board reiterated its commitment to significant woodland creation, with 'the right trees in the right place'. The Board agreed to reinvigorate the 'Great Upland Forest' group and ask that group to move quickly to bring forward proposals. Chris Woodley-Stewart asked to stand down as Chair of the group, and it was agreed that Robert Mayhew (Northumberland NPA) would convene the group until a new Chair could be identified.

**Action: Robert Mayhew to re-convene the 'Great Upland Forest' group, and report back to the Board in March on progress in developing practical proposals for the LNP to support woodland creation.**

#### **6. HNV Farming and Natural Capital**

Gary Smith presented the paper setting out a vision for farming and natural capital in the LNP area. The document had been revised following the last Board meeting, and had now been endorsed by the Northern Hill Farming Panel. The Board agreed to adopt the vision as the basis for wider engagement with farmers/landowners and government.

It was noted that there was still a significant 'evidence gap' in the document in terms of being able to quantify the extent and scale of the natural capital/ecosystem services provided in the LNP area.

**Action: GS to format and then add the vision for HNV farming to the LNP website.**

**All to disseminate the vision to their respective 'constituencies'.**

**AS/PB to develop a proposal for a study to identify the potential value of natural capital/ecosystem services that might be delivered through HNV farming in the LNP area.**

#### **7. Hill Farming Training Scheme**

Adrian Shepherd presented the paper proposing that the LNP fund the development of a training scheme to help build understanding of hill farming practice amongst conservation professionals. The scheme would be based on a model developed by the Foundation for Common Land. The Board approved a commitment of up to £10,000 for Northumberland National Park Authority to develop and run the pilot on behalf of the LNP.

**Action: AM to commission Ema Caskie to initiate the development of the hill farm training scheme, and set up a MoU with the Foundation for Common Land to guide the hill farm training scheme.**

**All to consider whether hill farming training could be included as CPD for their staff.**

## **8. Annual Forum 2018**

Gary Smith presented a paper asking the Board for ideas for theme and agenda of the 2018 Annual Forum. The Board agreed that the Forum would take place on 9 March 2018, and the theme should be 'Finding common ground on a vision for the uplands'.

**Action:** *GS to make the logistical/organisational arrangements for the Forum.*

*DH, CW-S, RS and GS to determine the agenda for the Forum and secure relevant speakers.*

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

The Board approved the minutes of 15 September, and noted the following actions were still outstanding:

**Action:** *GS to invite James Farrer (NYLEP) to sit on the Board.*

*DA to look for other potential business representatives to sit on the Board*

*GS to finalise a JD/spec for a LNP support officer and appoint to the post*

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

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

## **10. Update on LNP projects**

- a. **Haymeadows** – Elliot Lorimer had provided a short progress report on the group's work. The intention is to have all the material and the website up and running in time for the Annual Forum.
- b. **Curlews** – Amanda Miller gave a brief update on the group's work, which was focusing on data collection and developing a 'calendar of action' to manage land for curlew. May 2018 would be 'Curlew Crisis' month. The Board agreed to support efforts to raise awareness of the plight of curlew (and the way that the NUC is bucking the national trend) during that month.
- c. **HNV farming** – Adrian Shepherd gave a further brief update on the group's work, which had largely been covered by earlier items on this agenda.

**Action:** *AM to ask NNPA's Communications Officer to liaise with the Curlew working group on potential ideas to raise awareness during 'Curlew Crisis' month in May 2018.*

## **11. Financial update**

The Board noted the current financial state of the LNP, which remains healthy.

## **12. Information sharing**

No specific new items

## **13. Forward items**

The Board noted the current forward items, and agreed that Hen Harriers should be an item for the meeting in March.

**Action:** *AM/AS to produce a paper on Hen Harriers as the basis for discussion at the March meeting.*

## **14. Date of next meeting**

9 March 2018 – 10.30 am at the Morrill Arms.

	<b>NAME</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
1.	Gary Smith	To invite James Farrer (NYLEP) to sit on the Board.
2.	David Alborough	To identify other potential business representatives who could add value to the Board
3.	Gary Smith	To finalise a JD/spec for the LNP project officer post and appoint to it
4.	Paul Burgess	To assess the extent of nature tourism in the LNP
5.	Gary Smith/Rob Stoneman	To draft letter for the Chairman to send to the Secretary of State at Defra
6.	Gary Smith	To put the logic framework on the NUCLNP website
7.	Gary Smith	To add the logic framework to the reverse of future agendas, and include reference to it in the standard report template.
8.	Gary Smith	To commission an infographic for 2017-18 and briefing notes on key LNP projects
9.	Gary Smith / Chris Woodley-Stewart / Paul Burgess	To commission consultant to prepare the bid to HLF for a delegated nature conservation grant scheme by March 2018
10.	Chris Woodley-Stewart	To give GS a copy of the NAAONB response to HLF, as the basis for preparing a LNP response
11.	Robert Mayhew	To re-convene the 'Great Upland Forest' group, and report back to the Board in March on progress in developing practical proposals for the LNP to support woodland creation
12.	Gary Smith	To format and then add the vision for HNV farming to the LNP website.
13.	All	All to disseminate the vision to their respective 'constituencies'.
14.	Adrian Shepherd / Paul Burgess	To develop a proposal for a study to identify the potential value of natural capital/ecosystem services that might be delivered through HNV farming in the LNP area.
15.	Andrew Miller	To commission Ema Caskie to initiate the development of the hill farm training scheme, and set up a MoU with the Foundation for Common Land to guide the hill farm training scheme.
16.	All	To consider whether hill farming training could be included as CPD for their staff.
17.	Gary Smith	To make the logistical/organisational arrangements for the Forum.
18.	David Hill /Chris Woodley-Stewart/Rob Stoneman/Gary Smith	To determine the agenda for the Forum and secure relevant speakers.
19.	Andrew Miller	To ask NNPA's Communications Officer to liaise with the Curlew working group on potential ideas to raise awareness during 'Curlew Crisis' month in May 2018.
20.	Andrew Miller / Adrian Shepherd	To produce a paper on Hen Harriers as the basis for discussion at the March meeting.