



## NORTHERN UPLAND CHAIN LOCAL NATURE PARTNERSHIP

### BOARD MEETING

10.30 am – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2018

The Morritt Arms, Greta Bridge, County Durham

**Board Members Present:** David Hill (Chairman), Chris Woodley-Stewart (North Pennines AONB Partnership – Vice Chair), Rob Mayhew (Northumberland National Park Authority), Gary Smith (Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority), Amanda Anderson (Moorland Association), Paul Burgess (Nidderdale AONB Partnership), Rob Stoneman (Yorkshire Wildlife Trust), Crispin Thorn (Forestry Commission), Richard Betton (Northern Hill Farming Panel), Laurie Norris (NFU), Elliott Lorimer (Forest of Bowland AONB Partnership)

**Others present:** Adrian Shepherd (Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority), Rebecca Barrett (North Pennines AONB Partnership), Janet Fairclough (RSPB), Blanaid Denman (RSPB), Stuart Pudney (Northumbrian Water), Steve Merrett (Environment Agency)

### **1. Apologies**

David Aldborough (Northumbrian Water), Ben Lamb (Tees Rivers Trust), Graham Warren (Environment Agency), Amanda Miller (RSPB), Christine Venus (Natural England)

### **2. Curlew project**

Adrian Shepherd gave a presentation on progress made by the curlew working group to date. The aim is for coordinated land management advice, training, support, demonstration events and talks across the LNP. Efforts will focus on 'ground-truthing' curlew hotspots, working with land managers to highlight great management/share best practice, offer advice and coordinate data gathering. An important role of the group is to fill data gaps and ensure that consistent advice is given. It was noted that NE does not have capacity to lead on outcome 2 (consistent land management advice).

The Board agreed to fund (£5,000) outcome 1 - the proposed data work by the RSPB. The Board also agreed to fund a part-time (up to 2.5 fte) LNP project officer to start work on outcomes 2 and 3, and to develop a funding proposal to the Esmee Fairburn Foundation for a more ambitious implementation programme.

Several of the protected landscapes indicated that they might be prepared to contribute additional funding to help support the project officer's work. It was proposed that all Board Members' organisations should be asked to contribute funding.

**Action:** *CWS to liaise with other Board Members to secure additional funding from their respective organisations.*

**AM to commission Curlew data work**

**GS to recruit LNP Curlew Project Officer**

**RM/Rosie Thomas to develop Curlew project communication plan and costs**

### **3. Hay meadows**

Elliott Lorimer gave a presentation on work to draw together all the advice and interpretation on hay meadows produced across the LNP over the past 12 years. This has been funded by the LNP and led by the Forest of Bowland AONB Partnership. Once finished, the information will be accessible through the LNP website via a 'microsite'. New information can be added to the site so it will be a live feature not simply an archive. The working website can be viewed here:

<http://haymeadow.testing.scape3.default.countryscape.uk0.bigv.io/meadow-resources-home>

The Board congratulated Elliott on the work and it was agreed that the microsite should be launched formally at the Annual Forum on 14<sup>th</sup> September.

**Action: EL to ensure final site contains links to the Wensleydale RBAPs pilot, BeeLines, and Plantlife's Magnificent Meadows programme.**

### **4. North East Area Integrated Plan**

Steve Merrett gave a presentation on the Environment Agency, Natural England and Forestry Commission's 2018/19 North East Integrated Plan. There are 14 of these plans around the country, including one for Yorkshire. They are a tool to promote greater collaborative working between EA/NE/FC and identify priorities for that year. Steve suggested that in the future, they may evolve into natural capital strategies.

**Action: CT to circulate latest Integrated Plan for Yorkshire Area.**

### **5. Press releases and other communications**

The Board discussed and agreed some standard arrangements for handling future press releases and other media communications, as set out in Gary Smith's report. It was agreed that the Northumberland NPA and Yorkshire Dales NPA would provide professional media support to the LNP on a rolling 12 month basis, with YDNPA taking the lead for the first 12 months. The Board thanked Rosie Thomas for her work on this.

**Action: GS to produce standard PR guidance note, and brief YDNPA Comms Team.**

### **6. HLF Heritage Grant Bid**

The Board discussed recent progress with the bid. In line with Joanna Swiers' report, it was agreed that the work to date lacks place-based engagement and that there is currently not enough evidence to progress a bid. In light of multiple other priority projects, it was, therefore, agreed that the bid would be put on hold for a year.

### **7. Report on scope of a Natural Capital document for LNP**

Chris Woodley-Stewart explained that no progress has yet been made in scoping a natural capital document for the LNP owing to lack of staff time. The aspiration is for a prospectus for what can be done. It was agreed that CWS and Rob Stoneman would produce a brief scope, and circulate to Board Members. The more detailed work to collate the data needed to produce the final document could then be divvied up amongst partners, with potential involvement of consultants if necessary.

**Action: CWS and RS to draft a scope for a natural capital document for the LNP, and circulate it**

### **8. Great Upland Forest group future proposal**

Rob Mayhew is now chairing this group and gave an update on the meeting held in March 2018. An issue discussed at this meeting was FC's draft guidance note on afforestation in breeding wader areas. This has

now been revised. RM reported that he has used the revised guidance and found it helpful in steering discussion and guiding reductions in the scale of planting proposals in areas important for breeding waders.

The group needs to meet again to consider what further action could be taken to help deliver on the LNP's woodland creation ambitions, and whether there is a particular role for the LNP

A new national accord has been signed between national parks and FC.

**Action: RM to convene meeting of GUGF to consider whether there are any practical proposals for action by the LNP to support more woodland creation, and report back to the Board.**

## **9. High Nature Value Farming**

Adrian reported that three quotes have been received for the HNV farming economics research being commissioned by the LNP. AS and Richard Betton will assess the bids and appoint a suitable contractor.

The LNP's Hill Farming Training Initiative – led by Northumberland NPA – is now ready to start.

The Northern Hill Farming Panel has now been established for 2 years, and there will be a review of its membership this year.

**Action: AS/RB to let contract for the HNV farming economics research**

**Action: RB/LN to discuss a funding contribution from the NFU for this research**

## **10. Financial Update**

Gary Smith referred the Board to the financial update set out in the board paper.

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

Crispin Thorn explained that the revised guidance on afforestation near important breeding wader sites would be circulated soon.

Steve Merrett explained that River Basin Management plans are being reviewed and this will involve a series of consultations, starting in June.

**Action: CT to circulate final version of FC's afforestation/wader guidance.**

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

The minutes were agreed as a true record. The following actions, not covered elsewhere, were still outstanding:

- GS/RS to draft letter for Chairman to send to Secretary of State at Defra re making the peatland code statutory.
- GS to commission an LNP infographic for 2017-18, and briefing notes on key LNP projects
- DH, CW-S, RS and GS to determine the agenda for the LNP Forum and secure relevant speakers
- PB to assess the extent of nature tourism within the LNP

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

14 September 2018. It was agreed that this would also be the date of the Annual Forum

	<b>NAME</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
1.	Chris Woodley-Stewart	CWS to liaise with other Board Members to secure additional funding from their respective organisations
2.	Amanda Miller	AM to commission Curlew data work
3.	Gary Smith	GS to recruit LNP Curlew Project Officer
4.	Rob Mayhew / Rosie Thomas	RM/Rosie Thomas to develop Curlew project communication plan and costs
5.	Elliott Lorimer	EL to ensure final site contains links to the Wensleydale RBAPs pilot, BeeLines, and Plantlife's Magnificent Meadows programme
6.	Crispin Thorn	CT to circulate latest Integrated Plan for Yorkshire Area
7.	Gary Smith	GS to produce standard PR guidance note, and brief YDNPA Comms Team
8.	Chris Woodley-Stewart / Rob Stoneman	CWS and RS to draft a scope for a natural capital document for the LNP, and circulate it
9.	Rob Mayhew	RM to convene meeting of GUG to consider whether there are any practical proposals for action by the LNP to support more woodland creation, and report back to the Board.
10.	Adrian Shepherd / Richard Betton	AS/RB to let contract for the HNV farming economics research
11.	Richard Betton / Laurie Norris	RB/LN to discuss a funding contribution from the NFU for this research
12.	Crispin Thorn	CT to circulate final version of FC's afforestation/wader guidance.
	<b>Actions outstanding from previous meeting</b>	
13.	Gary Smith / Rob Stoneman	GS/RS to draft letter for Chairman to send to Secretary of State at Defra re making the peatland code statutory.
14.	Gary Smith	GS to commission an LNP infographic for 2017-18, and briefing notes on key LNP projects
15.	David Hill, Chris Woodley-Stewart, Rob Stoneman, Gary Smith	DH, CW-S, RS and GS to determine the agenda for the LNP Forum and secure relevant speakers
16.	Paul Burgess	PB to assess the extent of nature tourism within the LNP