



## **NORTHERN UPLAND CHAIN LOCAL NATURE PARTNERSHIP**

### **BOARD MEETING**

**10.30 am – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

**The Morritt Arms, Greta Bridge, County Durham**

**Board Members Present:** David Hill (Chairman); Amanda Anderson (Moorland Association); Richard Betton (Northern Hill Farming Panel); Paul Burgess (Nidderdale AONB Partnership); Ben Lamb (Tees Rivers Trust); Elliott Lorimer (Forest of Bowland AONB Partnership); Rob Mayhew (Northumberland National Park Authority); Amanda Miller (RSPB); Laurie Norris (NFU); Gary Smith (Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority); Christine Venus (Natural England); Graham Warren (Environment Agency); Simon Wilson (North Pennines AONB Partnership)

**Others present:** Adrian Shepherd (Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority)

#### **1. Apologies**

Rob Stoneman (Yorkshire Wildlife Trust); Crispin Thorn (Forestry Commission); Chris Woodley-Stewart (North Pennines AONB Partnership).

#### **2. Improving outcomes for raptors**

The Board considered the paper prepared by Chris Woodley-Stewart, and agreed the revised set of 'short-term outcomes' for this area of work. There then followed a discussion about some of the more detailed actions that might form part of the LNP's future work programme. These would be edited and added to by Chris Woodley-Stewart, prior to a final version being brought to the Board for consideration at the December meeting.

#### **3. LNP Data**

The Board considered the paper prepared by Gary Smith. It was noted that the paper provided some interesting statistical analysis of some of the environmental trends in the Northern Upland Chain, and there was value in having access to this information. However, a number of the measures were really 'outputs' rather than 'outcomes', and it was not clear they would help to measure progress on the LNP's 13 short-term outcomes. The Board asked that a further paper be brought to the next meeting setting out some potential options for measuring the short-term outcomes. The Board also asked for a letter to go to Defra urging support for Natural England and other Defra agencies to continue to provide the existing statistics.

#### **4. Natural capital document**

The Board considered the paper prepared by Rob Stoneman. It was noted that producing a document – in the form proposed – would be a major piece of work. At this time, the Board was minded to support a

shorter, more 'generic' document – using material from existing sources (e.g. the two Natural Capital Investment Plans) wherever possible. The document would need to have regard to the work on post-Brexit opportunities being done by ADAS, and Defra's 25-year Environment Plan. David Hill and Graham Warren offered to assist with drafting the sections on investment (5.1 and 5.3) and water (3.5; 4.5; 5.5).

## **5. LNP infographic**

The Board considered the paper prepared by Gary Smith. There was widespread support for the idea of a short document to promote the LNP area and work. The Board asked for their thanks to be passed on to Josie Wilson who had put the infographic together. It was noted that a number of the statistics still needed to be checked. It was suggested that the infographic could usefully include something on water quality and supply. The projects page should also mention the Hill Farm Training Initiative. If possible, it would be a list of 5 projects.

## **6. Update on other LNP projects**

- a. Great Upland Forest – the group would be meeting on 28 September to consider what further action could be taken to help deliver the LNP's woodland creation ambitions, and whether there is a particular role for the LNP. A report would then come to the Board in December.
- b. Curlew Project – the group had met on 4 September, and was making progress in the 4 areas agreed by the Board. The data project would report back to the Board in December. Chris Thompson (RSPB) was now taking forward the creation of a network of advisers, and ground-truthing curlew hotspots in the short-term. Following discussion at the Board, it was agreed that Northumberland NPA would produce the project communications plan in January. It was noted that the way in which the project was being taken forward was different to that previously approved by the Board – and for which funding had been allocated. It was, therefore, agreed that the group should move quickly to define the scope of a wider LNP Curlew project, for which a project development officer would then be recruited. The Chairman expressed the view that the curlew project needed to progress at a faster pace in view of the critical situation regarding its population.
- c. High Nature Value Farming – ADAS had submitted their interim report on post-Brexit funding opportunities, and had held a workshop with the Northern Hill Farming Panel. The final report would be coming to the December Board meeting. Six farmers had now been trained to host visits by conservation professionals as part of the Hill Farming Training Initiative. Defra had announced funding for an extension to the Results-Based Agri-environment Payment Scheme pilot in Wensleydale.

## **7. Financial update**

The Board noted the financial update in the paper from Gary Smith. Laurie Norris confirmed that the NFU would be contributing funding to the ADAS report.

## **8. Information sharing**

The Board requested future agenda items on:

- The Year of Green Action 2019
- Wildfire resilience

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

The minutes were agreed as a true record. It was agreed that the following outstanding actions should be dropped:

- CWS to liaise with other Board members to secure additional funding for the Curlew project
- GS/RS to draft letter for Chairman to send to Secretary of State at Defra re making the peatland code statutory.
- GS to recruit LNP Curlew Project Officer
- PB to assess the extent of nature tourism within the LNP

## 10. Any other business

The Board approved using the existing website provider to carry out a re-design/refresh of the site.

## 11. Date of next meeting

7 December 2018 – 10.30 am at the The Morrith Arms, Greta Bridge.

## AGREED ACTIONS

	NAME	ACTION
1.	Chris Woodley-Stewart	To edit/amend/add to the Board's initial suggestions for the raptor action plan and report to the December Board meeting
2.	Gary Smith	To write to Defra to urge support for Natural England and other Defra agencies to continue to provide an annual set of environmental statistics for protected landscapes.
3.	Gary Smith	To consider options for measuring progress towards the LNP's 13 'short-term outcomes' and report back to the December Board meeting.
4.	Rob Stoneman, Chris Woodley-Stewart, Graham Warren, David Hill	To produce a first draft of a natural capital document for the Northern Upland Chain.
5.	Gary Smith	Finalise and then commission the design of the infographic for the LNP.
6.	Rob Mayhew	To convene meeting of GUFG to consider whether there are any practical proposals for action by the LNP to support more woodland creation, and report back to the Board.
7.	Amanda Miller	To work with the Curlew Project group to specify the scope for a wider curlew conservation project across the LNP.
8.	Rob Mayhew	To arrange for production of a communications plan for the Curlew project by January.
9.	Adrian Shepherd/Richard Betton	To report back to the December Board meeting with the ADAS report on post-Brexit farming opportunities from public goods.
10.	Elliott Lorimer	To complete the haymeadow web resource and 'go live'.
11.	Gary Smith	To commission the re-design/refresh of the website.
	<b>Actions outstanding from previous meeting</b>	
12.	Amanda Miller	AM to commission Curlew data work