



BOARD MEETING

10:30 am – Thursday 10 June 2021

Via VideoConferencing

Board Members Present: Chris Woodley-Stewart (North Pennines AONB Partnership); David Alborough (Northumbrian Water); Amanda Anderson (Moorland Association); Richard Betton (Northern Hill Farming Panel); David Gray (Open Seat); Neil Kilgour (Open Seat); Elliott Lorimer (Forest of Bowland AONB Partnership); Iain Mann (Nidderdale AONB); Laurie Norris (NFU); Gary Smith (Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority); Crispin Thorn (Forestry Commission); Christine Venus (Natural England); Jim Wardill (RSPB); Donna Robinson (Environment Agency); Jim Cokill (Durham Wildlife Trust)

Others present: Robert Mayhew (Northumberland National Park Authority); Adrian Shepherd (Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority); Josie Wilson (YDNPA Secretariat)

1. Apologies

David Hill (Chairman); Ben Lamb (Tees Rivers Trust)

2. Terms of Reference

Gary Smith introduced the paper. The Terms of Reference were last revised and agreed in September 2017 and should be reviewed every 3 years. The Chair and Vice-Chair should also be elected/re-elected every 3 years. The secretariat to the LNP should also be passed on every 3 years. It was proposed that new elections and the appointment of a new Secretariat should be done at the next Board meeting.

The Board discussed the terms of reference and whether the size of the board and the range of representation is still about right. There was broad agreement that it was but that a stronger reference to 'Nature Recovery' should be incorporated into the terms of reference.

Action: DG and NK to discuss with DH the proposition of one of them filling the vacant seat on the board representing the wider business sector.

Action: IM, EL, RM/PW to consider who will take on the secretariat role.

Action: All to send any further minor changes to GS by 24 June.

Action: CW-S to invite Nature North to the next Board meeting.

3. Farming in Protected Landscapes

Chris Woodley-Stewart and Adrian Shepherd gave an update on the 'Farming in Protected Landscapes' programme being launched by Defra to support farming in AONBs and National Parks. The programme launch has been delayed but further announcements are due w/b 21 June.

AONBs and National Parks will be allocated funds and these in turn will be dispensed by a local assessment panel set up by each AONB/NPA. Each protected landscape will be responsible for monitoring the outcomes.

Only grants over £5,000 will have to go through the assessment panel. None of the project applications will have to go through the Rural Payments Agency (RPA).

Recruitment for new posts to help deliver the scheme is now underway.

Action: DA to share Water Directive Governance documents with the group.

Action: CWS and DH to consider whether it would be appropriate for the LNP to write to the RPA to raise concerns about the apparently arbitrary bureaucracy being applied to grant applications.

4. Nature for Climate Fund update

CT gave an update on the England Trees Action Plan and the England Woodland Creation Offer.

The England Trees Action Plan (ETAP) is a long-term vision. Government will at least treble woodland creation rates in England by the end of this Parliament. Over 80 policy actions covering 5 chapters. £500 million for trees from the Nature for Climate Fund. Further information can be found at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/987432/england-trees-action-plan.pdf

The England Woodland Creation Offer (EWCO) will cover capital costs; annual maintenance payments for 10 years; payments towards recreational infrastructure; payments towards forest roads and tracks. Further information can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/england-woodland-creation-offer>

The details of the review process for the UK Forestry Standard are available here <https://forestry.gov.scot/sustainable-forestry/ukfs-scotland>

Action: Secretariat to share pdf of presentation with board members.

Action: CT agreed to come back to the Board with some thoughts / views on how we could take forward woodland creation opportunities across the LNP area. CT to discuss with RM.

5. Update on other LNP Projects

Nature Recovery Plan – There has been local level interest from Lancashire County council.

Local Nature Recovery Strategy – the LNRS Pilots have been now concluded. Defra will be reviewing the report on Lessons Learnt. It is expected that the requirements of the Bill will come into effect in about 12 months' time.

Action: CV to find out whether the Lessons Learnt report is publicly available, and ask Jo Trail-Thompson if she could update the board at a future board meeting.

Action: EL to circulate the initial outline of the LNP 'Prospectus for Nature Recovery.

Natural Capital Accounts - Eftac have been contracted to deliver this piece of work. The contract will be completed by the end of the summer in time to report back to the next board meeting.

Action: Update on Curlew project to be put on the agenda for next meeting.

6. Information sharing / intelligence

RSPB – 11 pairs of Hen Harriers successfully nesting in Bowland

7. Financial update

The Board noted the current financial position and pre-existing commitments.

8. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

The minutes were agreed to be a true record with a couple of amendments.

9. Any other business

None.

10. Date of next meeting

16 September 2021, 10:30 – 12:30 (followed by lunch) at the Morritt Hotel, Greta Bridge

AGREED ACTIONS

	NAME	ACTION
1.	David Gray; Neil Kilgour; David Hill	To discuss one of DG or NK filling the vacant 'permanent' seat on the board representing the wider business sector.
2.	Iain Mann; Elliott Lorimer; Rob Mayhew; Pauline Wall	Secretariat of board - IM, EL, RM/PW to discuss between themselves who would like to take on the secretariat role.
3.	All Board Members	Terms of Reference - All to send any minor details that need changing back to GS by 24 June.
4.	Chris Woodley-Stewart	To invite Nature North to the next Board meeting
5.	David Alborough	DA to share water Directive Governance documents with the group.
6.	CW-S/DH	To consider whether it would be appropriate for the LNP to write to the RPA to raise concerns about the apparently arbitrary bureaucracy applied to grant applications.
7.	Secretariat	Climate for Nature Fund - Secretariat to share pdf of presentation with board members.
8.	Crispin Thorn; Rob Mayhew	To come back to the Board with some thoughts / views on how we could take forward woodland creation opportunities across the LNP area for discussion at the September meeting.
9.	Christine Venus	To find out whether the defra report on Lessons Learnt from the LNRS pilots is publicly available, and to ask Jo Trail-Thompson if she could update the board at a future board meeting.
10.	Elliott Lorimer	To circulate the initial outline of the LNP 'Prospectus for Nature Recovery
11.	Secretariat	Update on Curlew project to be put on the agenda for next meeting.

OUTSTANDING ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

	Date	ACTION
1.	18 March 2021	IM - Action no.6 on strategies diagram will be brought back to a future meeting.
2.	18 March 2021	DA - Price Review - will share details with the Board.

3.	18 March 2021	GS to circulate the list of the current members of the LNP's curlew project group
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