



## **BOARD MEETING**

**10:00 am – Thursday 18 March 2021**

**Via VideoConferencing**

**Board Members Present:** David Hill (Chairman); 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);

**Others present:** Robert Mayhew (Northumberland National Park Authority); Adrian Shepherd (Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority); Tom Burstson (Food, Farming & Countryside Commission)

### **1. Apologies**

Jim Cokill (Durham Wildlife Trust); Pauline Wall (Northumberland NPA); Ben Lamb (Tees Rivers Trust);

### **2. Presentation – Food, Farming & Countryside Commission**

Presentation from Tom Burstson, Director of [Food, Farming and Countryside Commission](#).

The FFCC are a national networked charitable organisation that works with partners in government, businesses and communities, to generate radical ideas and practical actions.

**Action:** *TB to forward presentation slides to share with the board members.*

### **3. Farming in Protected Landscapes**

Chris Woodley-Stewart and Adrian Shepherd sit on the national Defra group that are developing the proposed 'Farming in Protected Landscapes' programme to support farming in AONBs and National Parks. The programme will launch in spring and applications for funding to be open from June. The Agricultural Transition Plan identified up to £52 million would be available over 3 years.

**Action:** *GS to circulate information about annual spend through agri-environment schemes in protected landscapes.*

### **4. National 'Curlew Recovery Partnership'**

The Board was keen to know more about the new Curlew Recovery Partnership. Many organisations doing their own thing with regards to curlew recovery projects. The Board asked that the LNP make contact with the Partnership to explore the potential for taking forward the existing LNP curlew project proposal that was put together by Ian Proudler.

**Action:** *DH to invite Tom Ord-Powlett to come to the next LNP Board meeting*

**JW to circulate summary of the RSPB's Curlew project (Green Recovery Challenge Fund)**

***GS to circulate the list of the current members of the LNP's curlew project group***

***DH and GS to discuss next steps in making contact with the Curlew Recovery Partnership.***

## **5. Annual Forum**

The Annual Forum is scheduled for 13 May 2021. GS asked for suggestions regarding theme/content. After some discussion it was agreed that we should use the Forum as:

- a 'stocktake' for what the LNP has achieved so far;
- a landowner perspective on the 'spaghetti' of policies/initiatives;
- a chance to highlight some big opportunities for the future (Curlew Recovery Partnership; 'Great North Bog'; and, 'Farming in Protected Landscapes'.

There will need to be an election this year for both open seats. Notice of the election will be given when promoting the event and candidates sought.

***Action: DH, CW-S and GS to finalise the agenda.***

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

Nature Recovery Plan – it is still the intention to put together a high-level Plan covering the whole of the LNP (to provide coherence, and an overall framework for more detailed plans for each protected landscape) but this has been put on hold temporarily.

Local Nature Recovery Strategy – the LNRS Pilots have been extended until the end of May. Defra will then review how things have gone, and develop final guidance. It's expected that the requirements of the Bill will come into effect in about 12 months time.

Natural Capital Accounts - GS/AS/RB met with Eftec to discuss the specification and negotiate a revised quote for this piece of work (as approved at the last Board meeting). It was intended that the GIS/data mapping elements of the work would be done by the LNP partners to reduce costs. The contract will be let based on the work being completed by the end of the summer.

***Action: Natural Capital Accounts - GS (AS/RB/DA) to finalise details and let the contract.***

## **7. Information sharing / intelligence**

Forestry Commission – some of the Nature for Climate Fund money has been allocated to Community Forests and the Forestry Commission. ***CT to provide an update at next meeting.***

Moorland Association – developing an App to allow local wildlife data collection. Also noted the huge areas of upland peat that have been restored in recent years (see [latest news](#)), and the 75% survival rate of Hen Harrier chicks from 2020.

Price Review (PR) 24 for the water companies will start soon. The water companies have concerns about the application of Biodiversity Net Gain, especially for water infrastructure projects. ***DA will share details with the Board.***

Great North Bog – submitting bid to the Nature for Climate Fund and the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation.

Lancashire CC has agreed a new programme to improve the environment which includes Peatland restoration and carbon capture.

National Curlew Day is on 21 April. ***Would be good to do some collective communication on that (RM).***

## **8. Financial update**

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

No further commitments will be made until the Natural Capital Accounts contract has been let.

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

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

- Action no.2 'What the hill are worth' scoping study to be shared with Ed Milbank – CW-S to do.
- Action no.6 on strategies diagram will be brought back to a future meeting.
- Action no.8 – Open Seats – voting to be held at Annual Forum in May.

## 10. Any other business

NUCLNP website not working at present – JW working with website hosts to rectify this.

## 11. Date of next meeting

10 June

### AGREED ACTIONS

	NAME	ACTION
1.	Tom Burston	TB to forward presentation slides to share with the board members. ✓
2.	Gary Smith	Farming in Protected Landscapes - GS to circulate information about annual spend through agri-environment schemes in protected landscapes. ✓
3.	David Hill; Gary Smith; Josie Wilson	DH to invite Tom Ord-Powlett to come to Annual Forum. ✓ JW to circulate summary of the RSPB's Curlew project (Green Recovery Challenge Fund) ✓ GS to circulate the list of the current members of the LNP's curlew project group DH and GS to discuss next steps in making contact with the Curlew Recovery Partnership.
4.	David Hill, Chris Woodley-Stewart & Gary Smith	Annual Forum - DH, CW-S and GS to finalise the agenda. ✓
5.	Gary Smith (AS/RB/DA)	Natural Capital Accounts - GS (AS/RB/DA) to finalise details and let the contract. ✓
6.	Crispin Thorn	Nature for Climate Fund money / Forestry Commission - CT to provide an update at next meeting. ✓
7.	David Alborough	Price Review - DA will share details with the Board.
8.	Rob Mayhew	National Curlew Day - Would be good to do some collective communication on that (RM).