

## **The Roaches Asset Management Review**

### **Draft Objectives for External Consultation**

#### **Fundamental Principles**

- the area of land under review is the Roaches Estate and Gradbach Car Park as shown on the attached plans
- the Authority intends to apply for new Higher Level Scheme (agri-environment) to commence in 2011 at Back Forest Moor and 2012 for the remainder of The Estate, which it will pass on to or share with any potential partner/tenant/purchaser where appropriate
- the Estate must continue to contribute to National Park Management Plan outcomes, maintaining a balance between conservation, recreation and community.
- the Authority will retain the sporting rights of the Roaches Estate.
- there will be no financial resources available from the Authority
- there is an expectation that there will be field staff resource allocated to the Estate. No staff resource will be available from the Authority.
- a full Estate Management Plan should be produced within 2 years of the review decision taking full account of existing moorland management plans and agreements made under HLS.

#### **Planning Context**

The vast majority of the Estate is defined as Natural Zone in the Local Plan and in the emerging core strategy of the Local Development Framework, and development is not permitted except in exceptional circumstances. Development in countryside outside of the Natural Zone is not normally permitted unless it is necessary for reasons including recreation and tourism but the Authority does not envisage any additional facilities being constructed at the Roaches as there are concerns about the carrying capacity of the area and the fact that any development is likely to lead to undesirable changes in the landscape.

## Draft Objectives

### 01 Draft Biodiversity Objectives

#### General

- Conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the site aiming to build a resilience to climate change and develop a variety of habitats suitable for a diversity of species
- Use the Estate as a test bed and show case for new and innovative approaches to moorland management, including economically viable moorland management where appropriate
- Conserve, manage and where possible enhance populations of key bird species and other relevant species identified in the Biodiversity Action Plan.
- Identify and implement management to contribute to UK and Peak District BAP targets
- Meet and surpass 'favourable condition' (as defined by Natural England) for the SSSI
- Influence neighbours to integrate with the management plan
- Work with Natural England to establish an area wide strategy for predator control, based on scientific evidence.

#### Detail

- Manage dry heath and blanket bog by cutting where possible or burning if necessary on a long term rotation maintaining some areas of older heather
- Manage bracken where necessary, except in areas where wildlife habitats would be harmed, erosion would result or where it forms an important landscape feature.
- Return molinia areas on Back Forest slopes to mixed heather moorland without using chemicals
- Restore heathland to western slopes of Back Forest
- Hydrologically restore wetland habitats by blocking drains and creating scrapes where appropriate and with appropriate consultation
- Birch removal from core heather moorland areas and adjoining wetland habitats where there are clear benefits
- Manage in-bye land for maximum biodiversity, including the creation / enhancement of flower-rich pastures and possibly fodder crops for birds
- Manage core woodland areas as diverse, native broad leaf dominated woodlands whilst valuing mature conifers as landscape features.
- Maintain and enhance naturally regenerating rowan woodland in transitional zone between core moorland and core woodland areas adjacent to Back Forest

## **02 Draft Cultural Heritage Objectives**

Carry out a new phase 1 archaeological survey of the whole Estate within 1 year and prioritise features for restoration having regard to the HLS application.

Restore enclosures and intakes where appropriate

Work with the BMC to keep Rockhall Cottage in good repair and condition

Address erosion issues in Scheduled Ancient Monument areas

## **03 Draft Natural Beauty Objectives**

Maintain and enhance key landscape features and character including maintaining and creating dramatic views from edges and ridges and increasing native trees in mature woodland areas

Work with relevant parties including the Highway Authority to improve routes to reduce the scarring on the landscape due to erosion from recreational pursuits.

## **04 Draft Climate Change Objectives**

Actively demonstrate and promote good practice in environmentally sustainable land management and seek to influence management of surrounding land to build resilience to climate change in conjunction with PDLMAS.

Review opportunities to encourage colonisation, or introduction, of locally extinct species and species which might be expected to colonise due to climate change

Restore hydrological integrity of blanket bog

Encourage visitors to use sustainable means of transport

## **06 Draft Traffic Management Objectives**

Together with the National Park Authority to input significantly to the Highways Authority to formulate an integrated traffic management plan for the Roaches, which provides sustainable means of access for all who want to visit and enjoy the Estate, particularly as the current plan relies on a mini bus scheme that is no longer provided and a clear way scheme that is no longer enforced at all times. This should:

- Seek to involve and gain commitment from partner organisations, such as the Police, District and County Councils
- restrict parking to a maximum of the current number of official parking spaces on the Highway adjacent to the Estate.
- promote alternative means of accessing the Estate, such as lift sharing, use of other car parks further away from the Estate, cycling, walking and public transport.
- promote walking and other sustainable means of access from further afield with links to other destinations

## **07 Draft Recreation and Tourism Objectives**

Continue to promote sustainable and appropriate access for recreation, care of the environment and respect for other users.

Seek to enhance visitor experience and promote understanding of the special qualities of the Estate and the National Park within the existing infrastructure by

- influencing behaviour through participation in learning and volunteering opportunities, especially among priority target audiences as identified in the Authority's Working With People Strategy.
- providing up to date and improved on and off site interpretation
- encouraging visitors to use sustainable transport and discouraging car borne visitors
- working with partners to take a wider than Roaches approach

Seek to improve access and rights of way on the Estate having regard to its special qualities and SSSI status by

- maintaining existing routes and associated furniture in good condition, particularly the major ridge footpath across Roaches Moor, footpaths on Back Forest and Hen cloud and footpaths providing accessibility to main climbing area.
- maintain open access in line with the provisions of the CROW Act legislation
- continuing to prohibit illegal 4x4 and trail bike use
- considering the creation of new or upgraded routes, particularly bridleways, where they:
  - link well with the network of routes in the surrounding area
  - are sustainable in terms of the biodiversity, landscape and cultural heritage values of the Estate
  - do not cause irresolvable conflicts with other visitors and local residents

## **08 Draft Understanding the National Park Objectives**

Engage stakeholders (and volunteers) fully and properly in management decisions, and in practical work such as surveys, estate management works and monitoring, learning from the experience of the Stanage Forum.

Improve visitor engagement and interpretation, with greater use of educational visits, informal learning events and guided walks, in particular those that improve the understanding of Moorlands and the National Park

Utilise the Estate to demonstrate a balance between conservation and recreation and how they can be compatible.

Utilise the Estate to demonstrate how land management for wildlife conservation and natural resources benefits people's health, well being and the wider environment.

## **09 Draft People and Communities Objectives**

Reach out to all sectors of the community particularly those who don't currently benefit from the Estate

Promote the iconic landscape to act as a potential gateway location for the National Park drawing in those who would not normally visit, preferably by non car borne means.

Influence neighbouring land managers and owners.

## **10 Draft Economy Objectives**

Maintain agricultural management as a key tool for delivering conservation objectives, utilising and supporting local farming and business enterprises to achieve conservation and recreation objectives.

Endeavour to achieve agricultural solutions which provide an exemplar approach to viable farming/land management in an area of high wildlife and recreation importance

Wherever possible to use the Estate to demonstrate traditional local skills eg

- Walling
- Heather management

Consider using ecosystem services as a potential source of income

Consider opportunities to link local farms and businesses to the national recreation asset values of the landscape.

NB There is no 05 Draft Mineral Extraction Objective. The numbering reflects the Authority's Corporate Objectives and mineral extraction is not relevant to the Roaches Estate.