

# The White Peak Partnership

## Steering Group meeting

15:00 Tuesday 4 December 2018 at Peak District National Park Authority, Aldern House

### Minutes

#### Introductions & apologies

Attendees:

Sarah Bird (SB) - Secretariat

Suzanne Fletcher (SLF) - Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA)

Mark Haslam (MH) - Environment Agency (EA)

Dan Abrahams (DA) - Natural England (NE)

Jon Stewart (JS) - National Trust (NT)

Kieron Huston (KH) - Derbyshire Wildlife Trust (DWT)

Neil Rudge - Natural England (NE)

Apologies:

Tim Allen (TA) - Historic England (HE)

Noted: Andrew Critchlow (National Farmers Union) to be invited to sit on the Steering Group and attend future meetings.

#### Minutes from the last meeting

Actions from the last meeting have been completed. Minutes from the last meeting accepted as true.

#### Independent Chair/ Note-taker

JS has been approached by Pat Coleman to represent her to the Group as an independent Chair and note-taker.

Noted that the role of Chair is currently shared around members of the Group to implement a shared commitment and responsibility. Members of the Group do not have a problem with taking up the role of Chair, but time to write up notes and follow up actions can be an issue. Sarah Bird (Biodiversity Partnerships Officer, PDNPA) offered as Secretariat role. Group accepted.

Noted the Chair should have background knowledge in the White Peak and the Partnership.

Action: JS to follow up the offer; the time is not right for an independent Chair but there may be other ways Pat can become involved in the Partnership.

JS raises the involvement of the Local Access Forum (LAF), as Jon sits on the Board. Agreed the LAF are welcome to be part of the wider Partnership, but this does not have a formal status as yet.

Action: JS to report back to the LAF.

#### Water Environment Grant & water vulnerability mapping

The 'Wye Water' bid to the Water Environment Grant (WEG) was unsuccessful.

Action: SB to ask for feedback from the WEG application.

PDNPA and EA to put together a project proposal for completing the feasibility part of the WEG bid, with funding from both parties, to produce a 'Water Vulnerability Heat Map' for the White Peak.

Action: SB to put together a project proposal in conjunction with MH.

## Defra pilots

No feedback at time of meeting.

DA has had a progress update on the development of the new Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS) by NE.

- Defra want the ELMS to deliver the targets in the 25 Year Environment Plan.
- It will be broad and deep.
- The aim is for conservation to be a core part of land management businesses.
- Land managers would be seen as contractors (not customers) based on a land management plan.
- The farm plan would look at what the existing farm interest is and how to improve on delivering public goods.
- Farmers would have to pay for advice.
- Payment would be at single holding scale, stacked depending on how much conservation/ public goods is delivered.
- Defra are looking to appoint a contract for valuing natural capital.
- There will be a presumption against capital works.
- A baseline will replace cross-compliance.
- Target for 88,000 land managers to be involved by year 10.

Action: DA to circulate the full update.

Action: SLF to circulate the farm advice framework draft.

Workshop Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December to identify location(s) and priorities for ELMS trial.

Action: SB to forward invite to DA and advisors at NT.

## Strategic approach to projects

Carried out review of short-listed projects at this meeting rather than forming a task & finish group.

### 1 – White Peak River Habitats & Wildlife

Existing works: NT river Dove restoration project. White Peak facilitation group WEG bid. Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF) (some NE time). Priority project for the Derwent Catchment Partnership. Severn Trent STEPS reverse auction. Invasive species project run by PDNPA.

Opportunities: No clear opportunities for future work.

### 2 – White Peak Land Management Advice

Existing works: White Peak advisors training event. PDNPA & sometimes others offer a drop in advice session on a Monday at the ABC Bakewell.

Opportunities: White Peak advisors training event to continue annually, and form a contact group. Land management advice to hopefully change to advise for delivering public goods.

### 3 – White Peak Slowing the Flow

Existing works: NT river Dove restoration project. Natural Flood Management (NFM) advice already incorporated into land management advice and action.

Opportunities: Incorporate into 1.

### 6 – Wildflower Grassland Restoration

Existing works: Incorporated into the Brexit pilot. Magnificent Meadows national bid unsuccessful.

Opportunities: A local version of Magnificent Meadows. Focus for land management advice.

### 7 – Pond Restoration to Expand Great Crested Newt Network

Existing works: As an engineered water body, dew ponds do not fit with the current Countryside Stewardship Scheme (CSS). PDNPA are using National Park grant scheme to restore some ponds. DWT have also restored two ponds. There are issues of retention, maintenance and enhancement.

Opportunities: Action: SLF to link dew ponds as a cultural heritage feature in the Brexit brief.

8 – (Small) Grant Scheme for Farmers

Existing works: STEPS small grant scheme. CSS hedgerows & boundaries scheme (£10k).

Opportunities: Only relevant if a new scheme does not deliver fully.

9 – Farm Advice to Reduce Diffuse Pollution

Existing works: Covered under 2. EA working with Severn Trent to identify priorities with septic tanks not on the sewage network.

Opportunities: Map where most polluting holdings are. EA have a national incident reporting system, which could be used to do this. No clear mechanism for producing this. Find funding to tackle sources of pollution not covered under CSF.

10 – Response to Ash Dieback

Existing works: Trees Outside Woods. Ravine project.

12 – Developing Low Complexity, High Outcome Landscape-scale Habitat Improvements

Existing works: NE at Middle Hay. NT at High Fields, trials to create structural diversity.

Unsure what the ask is from this project.

14 – Bigger, Better, Joined-up and More

Existing works: NT and NE looking at Cressbrook to Combs Dale with input from PDNPA advisors. DWT work with Tarmac.

Opportunities: Potential for an HLF project.

17 – Great Crested Newt Facilitation

Existing works: Covered under 7.

Opportunities: Use great crested newt as a proxy for connectivity across the plateau, and as a flagship species. Facilitation fund for great crested newt.

21 – White Peak Farmers Facilitation Group

Existing works: White Peak Farmers.

Action: SB to ask Ann Cantrell about size of existing group, plans, WEG bid.

23 – Farmer/ Cluster Group Networks

Existing works: Failed bid by PDNPA to establish facilitation fund group in the Wye catchment. Part of the Brexit brief.

Opportunities: Build a potential facilitation fund group as a nature recovery network group. DWT suggests Rose End Meadows. Steering Group members work with existing facilitation fund to encourage wider participation.

24 – Peak District Ask for Future Land Management Support

Existing works: Covered under the Brexit bid.

25 – Valuing Cultural Heritage

Existing works: Pilot in Winster.

Opportunities: Five Conservation Areas do not have an adopted appraisal. Link with landscape monitoring. Link a community with 1991 report to show changes.

26 – Integrating Land Management and Wildlife

Existing works: Covered under the Brexit bid.

27 – Exploring the White Peak Heritage

Existing works: Miles Without Stiles.

Opportunities: Link to Pedal Peak and circular routes.

Action: JS to ask LAF if there are any key issues and if there are other existing works.

29 – Wildlife on the Plateau

Existing works: Covered under advice and engagement with farmers.

30 – Future for Upland Ashwoods

Covered under 10.

32 – Quarries & Middleton Mine

Existing works: Future use of quarries related to planning. Quarries outside the National Park being taken forward by Derbyshire County Council and DWT.

Opportunities: Access to relieve pressures on the National Park.

Action: KH to enquire about what is happening with quarries currently.

34 – Peak Walls Ecosystem Services Assessment

Existing works: Carried out by HE, waiting for report from TA.

Action: SB to group priorities and summarise existing works that fulfil any priorities.

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**White Peak Opportunity Mapping**

DA sent out opportunity mapping report.

Action: All to send comments to DA.

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**Action Plan**

Action: KH/ DWT to refresh action plan for next meeting.

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**Date & Location of Next Meeting**

Next Steering Group meeting Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2019.

Action: KH check room availability at DWT office.

Action: SB to book room at Aldern House as provisional location.

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