



South West Peak – a Landscape at a Crossroads

Landscape Partnership Brief Update

December 2014

The South West Peak Landscape Partnership has received an earmarked grant of £2.5m from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for the Landscape at a Crossroads project. This means that money has been set aside by HLF. Development funding of £154,300 has been awarded to help the partnership progress plans to apply for the full delivery grant at a later date (May 2016).

Once HLF has given permission to start, recruitment for a Landscape Partnership Development Officer will commence. It is hoped that the partnership will have an officer in place as quickly as possible. In the meantime, I will continue to liaise with partners and HLF to progress whatever we can.

A key piece of work to complete during the development phase is the Landscape Conservation Action Plan. This will draw on our existing knowledge and supplement it with new information to describe the area, its landscape, features, communities, risks and opportunities.

There will also be plenty of opportunities for local people to have their say about why the South West Peak matters, and to work with the partners to develop and add to their existing project ideas including: helping farmers to maintain viable farm businesses whilst safeguarding and enhancing important habitats and iconic species like the curlew; working to improve water quality in rivers and streams; field studies opportunities and rural skills apprenticeships; encouraging people to access and enjoy the countryside; protecting and restoring small heritage features, and providing volunteering opportunities.

One particular project idea which will be of interest to the Local Access Forum is a project called 'Better Outside'. Devised by rangers, learning & discovery and policy staff, we aim to work with public health representatives to devise a series of interventions which will promote healthy access and enjoyment of the outdoors. As part of this project we would look to initially identify a small number of routes which can be enhanced to improve access to some of the key heritage features of the area. This will give us some nice interpretation opportunities and tie in with some of the work planned through other projects. We would also then look at opportunities for furthering involvement such as volunteering opportunities aimed at people with special health and/or access needs. I am meeting with colleagues very soon to discuss these ideas.

Staffordshire Wildlife Trust has proposed access improvements on the Roaches as part of the scheme. As with all proposed projects the details of this are to be worked up during the development phase in consultation with partners and local communities.

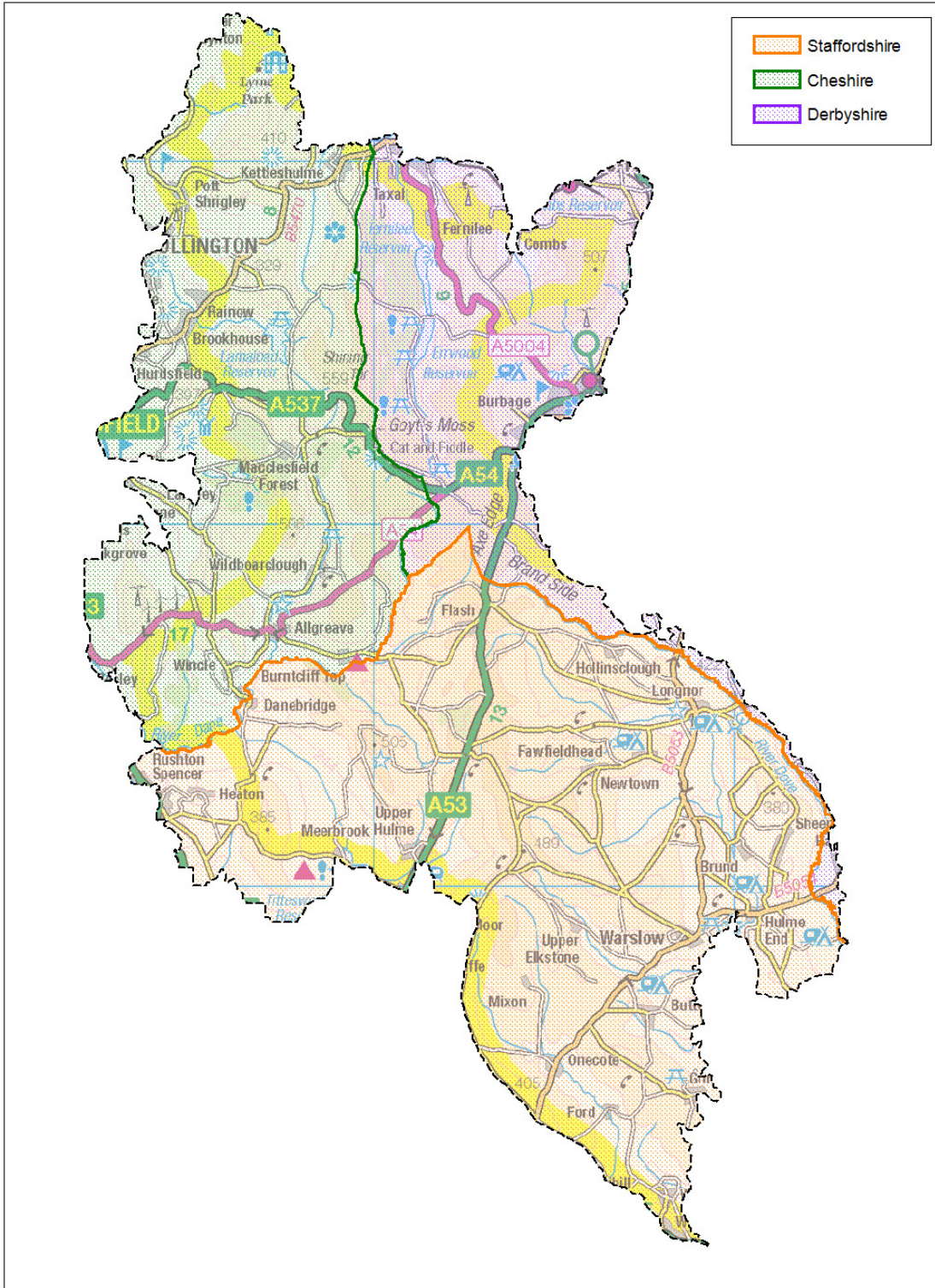
Partners who have signed a Memorandum of Understanding covering the development phase are: Staffordshire and Cheshire Wildlife Trusts, Natural England, Environment Agency, English Heritage, RSPB, The Farming Life Centre, Support Staffordshire (Staffordshire Moorlands), Staffordshire County Council, Severn Trent Water and United Utilities. Each of these partners is represented on the project board which will oversee the development phase. The Peak District Local Nature Partnership (LNP) who championed the bid is also represented on the board.

The partnership website will be updated whenever we can to keep people informed at:

www.southwestpeak.co.uk

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Map of the Landscape Partnership area



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Scale 1:152941

South West Peak Landscape Partnership Area
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