

Local Nature Partnership – exploring the possibilities for the Peak District Biodiversity Sector Workshop Report



13:45 – 17:00

Tuesday 14 February 2012

Boardroom, Aldern House, Bakewell

Facilitated by Pete Spriggs
Clearer Thinking

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Facilitation & Environmental Training

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Workshop objectives

By the end of the workshop we will have:

- A better understanding of the proposed Peak District Local Nature Partnership (LNP);
- Explored the mutual benefits from being involved with the Peak District LNP;
- Discussed how a Peak District LNP could best work for the Biodiversity Implementation Group (BIG);
- Been updated on the next steps planned for the Peak District LNP bid to the Government.

Agenda

Time	Session
14:00	Welcome & introductions
	Setting the scene
	Knowledge sharing – what do you know of the possible opportunities and threats of LNPs?
	What should an LNP do for the Peak District?
	The shape of the LNP
	How do you want to be involved?
	What's next?
17:00	Workshop closes

Attendees

Name	Organisation
Penny Anderson	Penny Anderson Associates
Brian Armstrong	Biodiversity Officer, Sheffield City Council
David Broom	Consultant Ecologist, Tarmac
Jane Chapman	Head of Environment & Economy, PDNPA
Jon Flanders	Staffordshire Wildlife Trust
Ed Green	Chief Executive, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust
Barry Joyce	Conservation & Design Manager, Derbyshire County Council
David Kingsley-Rowe	Lead Advisor Landscape Team, Natural England
Andy McIntosh	Restoration Manager Central Region, Tarmac
Dave Mallon	Derbyshire Mammal Group
Dave O'Hara	RSPB
Richard May	Moorland Association
Neil Riddle	Conservancy Operations Manager (E Midlands), Forestry Commission
Anne Robinson	Friends of the Peak District
Karen Shelley-Jones	Ecologist (LBAP Coordinator), PDNPA
Vicki Shenton	Environmental Manager, Tarmac – Buxton Lime & Cement
Jon Stewart	General Manager, National Trust
Rhodri Thomas	Natural Environment Team Manager, PDNPA

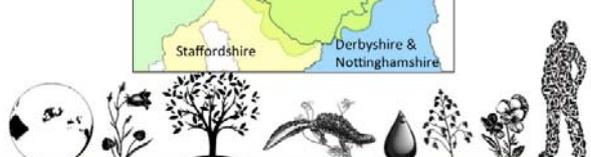
Apologies were received from Dan Widdowson & Louise Hill, Biodiversity Officers, Environment Agency

Welcome & introductions

Jane Chapman, Head of Environment & Economy at the PDNPA welcomed everyone to the workshop and introduced Pete Spriggs who would be facilitating the afternoon. The group briefly introduced themselves.

Setting the scene

Karen Shelley-Jones gave a short summary to the background of Local Nature Partnerships and the current thinking from Defra as to their purpose and role. The key slides presented are shown below:

<h3>Local Nature Partnerships – What?</h3> <p>“A diverse range of individuals, businesses and organisations brought together at a local level to create a vision and plan of action of how the natural environment can be taken into account in decision making”</p> <h3>How?</h3> 	<h3>Local Nature Partnerships – Purpose</h3> <p>Drive positive change in the local natural environment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Take a strategic view of challenges and opportunities and identify ways to manage the natural environment as a system for the benefit of nature, people and the economy <p>Contribute to achieving Gov't environmental objectives locally:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Include the identification of local ecological networks, whilst addressing local priorities <p>Become local champions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Influence decision-making relating to the natural environment and its value to social and economic outcomes, through working closely with LAs, LEPs and Health and Wellbeing Boards 
<h3>Local Nature Partnerships – Expectations</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bring together a wide range of sectors and interest groups to agree and align priorities;• Develop a shared strategic vision and set ambitions;• Have a good picture of the local natural environment;• Be sufficiently influential and knowledgeable to raise the profile of the natural environment and its services;• Engage in and influence strategic decision making;• Involve and empower local people and communities;• Have a good overview of activity in the area, build on, galvanise, co-ordinate and integrate. 	<h3>Local Nature Partnerships – The Story So Far...</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• June 2011 – NEWP announces LNP concept• 31st July 2011 & 31st Oct 2011 – Deadlines for capacity building funding – 47 accepted• March 2012 – Spend the first half of the funding• ‘Early’ 2012 – Application for Government recognition• June 2012 – complete capacity building funded phase• ‘Summer’ 2012 – First LNPs announced• ‘Late’ 2012 – Ministerial event for first tranche of LNPs 
<h3>Local Nature Partnerships – Locally</h3>  	<h3>Local Nature Partnership – Local Benefits</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• LNPs will be represented in the governance of the Biodiversity 2020 strategy.• Government backing and involvement from agencies (NE, EA, FC).• Influencing planning – identify ecological networks and embedding these in planning and policy.• Opportunity to make clear connections between ecosystem services and people.• Achieving Local Nature Partnership status could support work already ongoing to develop and deliver major initiatives.• It could build on this success by forging even stronger links between the private sector, voluntary organisations and government bodies, to secure new resources and stimulate work by partners to deliver on agreed priorities. 

<h3 style="text-align: center;">Local Nature Partnership Development Outputs</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed partnership structure and vision • Cross-boundary working arrangements • Project communication plan • Identified project champions • Shared approach to integrating nature into other agendas • Framework to support community action • Commitment to produce Geodiversity Action Plan 	<h3 style="text-align: center;">Local Nature Partnership – Key Points</h3> <p>Local – grass-roots, knowledge-based</p> <p>Influence – decision-making, planning</p> <p>Vision – integrated vision with agreed and aligned priorities</p> <p>Environment – champion value of natural environment & its services</p> <p>Sustainable – self-resourcing</p> 
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Knowledge sharing

This session involved working in smaller groups discussing the question ‘What do you know of the possible opportunities and threats of LNPs?’ Each group highlighted what they felt was the top threat and top opportunity from the LNP. The content generated was as follows:

Group 1

Threats	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Another level of bureaucracy • Don't undermine existing partnerships • Nothing gets done • Another short term idea • Scepticism • How to keep people enthused • Will it add value? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reaching a wider sector base to agree shared priorities • Show the “value” of nature to health, business etc • We're in a National Park and operate on a landscape scale already • Spatial appraisal – South West Peak etc. for social target areas • Another mechanism to support land use management e.g. targeted approach locally for species/ habitats • Learning from other sectors • Speaking with one voice about key priorities • Could make the Biodiversity Action Plan more appealing and take some bureaucracy out of it

Top Threat: Another level of bureaucracy.

Top Opportunity: Evolution – We've learnt from the Biodiversity Action Plan process, and its time to focus delivery of shared priorities across wider sector base and show results.

Group 2

Threats	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relationship with management structures for local Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) – Do we need 2 groups? Are BAP subgroups still going? • Strategic or delivery? – Shouldn't seek to replace what is working • Is LNP the mechanism? • Something for nothing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential to apply for larger funding? • Wider partnership potential • Stronger link to civil society • People enjoying but also involved (including recorders' effort, much more targeted) • Talking the language of others • Could become a focus for effort • Link to National Park Management Plan (NPMP) • Is LNP the equivalent to Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)? What does it do?

Top threat: Being all things...Strategic vs. delivery. Find a niche/don't get in the way.

Top opportunity: Strategic links – Primary Care Trusts– Local Enterprise Partnerships – National Park Management Plan. Building coalitions. Remit = more strategic.

Group 3

Threats	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinvention of what we have already: Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP), Local Access Forum, business forum • Too large to manage? • Issue around resources needed? • Small resident population in the Peak District. Are we catering outside the population? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sell ecosystem services to wider audience especially water- storage, flooding. • Larger partnership than BAP groups (would it work?) • Pull existing fora together to work better together, especially businesses. • Can LNP do more than NPMP? • Bring more local communities / people on board e.g. gathering data

Top threat: Risk of duplicating effort. Risk of losing the partnerships/working that we already have. Risk of doing more talking and less doing. Is it needed here?

Top opportunity: Making the benefits of the natural environment meaningful to everyone (ecosystem services, especially carbon storage, water and flooding). Assess how the BAP was appreciated, learn from the results, extend for ecosystem services and SELL. Use Water Framework Directive as much as possible – particularly relevant in Peak District.

Group 4

Threats	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that strategic businesses / economic priorities are reflected • Need to define local and balance with strategic context • Risk of overlooking cultural heritage / geodiversity • Risk of consultation overload 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better integration: Public/voluntary sectors • Sharing best practice • Wider environmental influence on decision making • Broader environmental context of priorities and sign-posting opportunities • LNP objectives as a material consideration in planning decision

Top threat: Lack of clarity of purpose (need to identify clear focus on priorities).

Top opportunity: Better integration and sharing of good practice.

What should an LNP do for the Peak District?

The overarching question for this session was 'What should a Peak District Local Nature Partnership aim to do?'

Pete introduced five areas:

1. Developing a strategic vision & ambition for the Peak District.
2. Understanding local activity connected with the natural environment.
3. Raising awareness of the value of the natural environment.
4. Bringing together sectors, interest groups to agree & align priorities and influence strategic decision making.
5. Involving & empowering local people & communities.

Each group was asked 'What should a Peak District LNP do under this heading?' The ideas were written onto flip chart paper, and passed round other groups to add in their ideas and suggestions. Finally the group which had originally discussed the heading, offered a three key point summary of the flip chart content. The content generated by this session is shown below:

1. Developing a strategic vision & ambition for the Peak District

Flip chart summary

- National Park Management Plan (NPMP) is in place but it doesn't cover the whole Peak District area. Need to determine how the NPMP and LNP could work together.
- Also local Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) / England Biodiversity Strategy (inc Lawton).
- Stress ecosystem services .
- Do we have the right timeframe for the vision?
- How to join the economic, environmental and social together – guide to where LNP gets involved?
- How do we talk the language of economic / social interests and embed that in the ambition? A shared ambition across sectors.
- Should 'local sustainability partnership' be more appropriate?
- Most of LNP prospective partners will have their own visions, therefore this is not about a new LNP vision – rather, convincing others that their visions should have the natural environment at their heart in order to be sustainable.

Key point summary

"Vision Overload"

1. Influencing other partnerships/strategy/policy/plan visions to highlight the natural environment.
2. Finding the right language to relate to economic and social interests.
3. Identifying the difference between NPMP vision and LNP vision and emphasis.

2. Understanding local activity connected with the natural environment

Flip chart summary

- Current understanding of local activity is sufficient to establish a LNP.
- Activity understood but quality / effectiveness of results not always known.
- Opportunity to support relevant research e.g. effectiveness of actions for ecosystem services, as an example – Moors for the Future at Bleaklow.
- Use of case studies to promote / highlight / encourage.
- How do we work more effectively with local naturalists groups?
- 'Ours' is not the only take on what is important in the natural environment e.g. what do local communities think?

Key point summary

1. Identify focus for local activity through LNP.
2. Ensure that activity extends to monitoring.
3. Need to confirm level of activity that constitutes "local".

3. Raising awareness of the value of the natural environment

Flip chart summary

- Getting message across at the right level in the right places e.g. LEPs, NPMP Advisory Group, PCTs, MPs, local authorities at senior level.
- Consistent message for delivery organisations / people at local level.
- Join up between delivery organisations / people to maximise delivery.
- Brokering conversations between providers and those wanting the service.
- Strengthen links between public / voluntary / private sectors.
- Focus on young people (= our future) - schools, organisations, scouts etc.
- Do we go to our several million visitors too? Probably yes.
- Community pride of place.

- Hands-on involvement.
- Key demonstration sites to inspire.
- Local 'festivals' – has a business angle.
- Diversifying farm and countryside businesses.
- Hubs and gateways.

Key point summary

1. Getting the message across at the right level in the right places e.g. LEP's, NPMP, PCT's, MP's, LEA's Local Authorities (senior level).
2. Consistent messages for delivery organisations / people at local level.
3. Join up between delivery organisations and people to maximise delivery – sum of the parts.

4. Bringing together sectors, interest groups to agree & align priorities and influence strategic decision making

Flip chart summary

- Build on existing Biodiversity Partnership, get together with Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) and Health & Wellbeing Boards (HWBs). There are six LEPs covering the Peak District, Business Peak District is the group through which we liaise with the LEPs. Establish actively working relationship with HWBs and LEPs.
- Have to convince LEPs and HWBs that LNPs are of value to them.
- Identifying groups already in place –Staffs Business Environment Network (SBEN).
- Find individual champions.
- Join up with other LNPs to ensure we don't confuse partners through multiple contacts. Could we work with other LNPs that overlap better with partners such as the LEPs?
- Identify sectors and interest groups that should be involved.
- Confirm LNP decision-making priorities – not always strategic decisions.

Key point summary

1. Develop partnership relationship with LEPs and Health & Wellbeing Boards to convince them of the importance of the natural environment and work with them to develop initiatives and identify champions.
2. Build on and develop existing BAP and other partnerships.
3. Avoid duplication; build on what works in terms of partnerships.

5. Involving & empowering local people & communities

Flip chart summary

- Education; volunteering; representation – tapping into local knowledge base / engagement to facilitate delivery. Sense of local 'ownership' of nature projects.
- To support finance, say via Heritage Lottery Fund or Health & Wellbeing agenda.
- How does the above relate to what is already happening and the resource ability of the LNP to deliver?
- Work through other partners who are already engaged and join them up.
- Demonstration projects / advice.
- Networking.
- There are two groups of people – local people living in the area and the millions of visitors.

Key point summary

1. Task partners to engage, empower and involve local communities in project areas.
2. Catalyst to bring everyone together.
3. Identify areas of commonality – engagement to facilitate delivery.

The shape of the LNP

This session took the form of a whole group discussion around some of the questions related to the possible forms a Peak District LNP might take and how it would sit with other partnerships and initiatives. A summary of the points made is shown below;

1. What's the ideal format of a Peak District LNP?

- Key partner organisations
- Not too big
- Sector representatives
- Strategic thinkers
- LEPs potentially represented by Business Peak District
- Representatives from sectors including economic and social as well as natural environment
- Evolve BAP with new set of subgroups (maybe geographic rather than habitat based)?
- Maybe a "council" that represents a wider range of advisory groups who meet less frequently (similar to LBAP)
- Fleet of foot – flexibility for the future

2. What's the Peak District LNPs relationship with Biodiversity Implementation Group (BIG)?

- Does BIG work at the moment?
- Could lose focus on biodiversity
- Option - do nothing (or minimum change)
- Could you amend the BIG and deliver most of what the LNP could deliver?
- LNP could just focus on biodiversity (risk) and not look further
- Even if combining - don't call BIG / LNP – needs to start fresh
- Needs to be more than a PDNPA partnership – more along the lines of MFF
- What might the structure of LNP be? Don't know whether it will be a separate organisation – as it will be a partnership.
- Maybe could use Community Infrastructure Levy Funds

3. What's the Peak District LNPs relationship with the surrounding LNPs?

- Should there be any overlap?
- Decide whether realigning boundaries is a good idea – overlap complicates situation
- Cross working can still take place but overlapping areas may prove problematic
- Discussion and decisions with surrounding LNPs – quite a task of logistics!
- Should be led by ecological coherence developed by LBAP area
- Need for focus
- Strategic vs. delivery – where does the LNP sit? To cover whole of P.D. needs to be more strategic

Capturing the concerns & unknowns

Throughout the workshop participants were provided the opportunity to share their concerns and questions in relation to a Peak District LNP. These were as follows:

Concerns	
There is potential for the LNP to overload partners who cover the wider region	Need to avoid this being a talking shop
The timeframe is tight	Is it needed?
Is the LNP to the LBAP what IBDA's were to other landscape approaches? (Unnecessary?)	

Unknowns	Response / thinking so far
Unclear how the LNP will fit in with and be different from the NPMP	This is something to be explored during this LNP development phase
Who is it for? Local residents/visitors?	The 'Local' in LNP refers to the local area , however, the Peak District is important to a wider range of people than those who live or work within its boundaries, and this must be accounted for.
Is it important to be a LNP to lever funds/support etc. in the future? Does Defra require total LNP coverage in England?	This is unclear at this stage; however, during the development of the white paper, stakeholders asked for something that would enable local areas to work in a joined up and strategic way to help manage the natural environment to produce multiple benefits for people, the economy and the environment. LNPs are expected to fill this policy gap.
How does the LNP relate to the BAP partnership?	This is something to be explored during this LNP development phase
How many LNP's will be approved by Defra?	Around 50 LNPs are envisaged, however, achieving LNP status is not a competitive process, rather prospective LNPs will be expected to demonstrate understanding of their role and that they have made credible plans for delivering it in their area.
What is the most significant economic player in the P.D?	Tourism, Land Management, Manufacturing are all relatively even.
If LNP's are expected to influence policy – surely we should be included?	This is something to be explored during this LNP development phase

How do you want to be involved? / Final reflections

Pete thanked everyone for their contributions throughout the afternoon. Before they departed participants were offered an opportunity to feedback any final reflections or indication on how they might want to be involved in a potential Peak District LNP going forward. The comments are summarised below:

<p>Involvement – NPA to keep support and co-ordinate more to an LNP</p>	<p>Involvement – as volunteers. Reflection - Awesome key decisions to make if a LNP is warranted. Key – don't waste time/ money on strategy / talking when delivery is vital</p>	<p>Reflection - Need to define clear objectives and system benefits. Also a specific area which can be managed to achieve mutually acceptable targets</p>	<p>Involvement – Some level of involvement as with BIG / LBAP process</p>
<p>Involvement – Similar to BIG – partner or represented by a partner with mutual objectives. Reflection - Need to clearly identify the added value or amend BIG.</p>	<p>Involvement – Please keep me informed Reflection – have to bottom out if we need a Peak District LNP</p>	<p>Reflection – A little more clarity from Defra would help. Partners are needed to generate our own approach to LNP</p>	<p>Involvement – Define purpose and outcomes. We will promote them and support them (but can't actually deliver) to enhance P.D</p>
<p>Reflection - Support thinking about evolution of BAP / LBAP process with NP "secretariat" looking at potential landscape areas to replace habitat led LBAP, with space for other sectors. Other sector involvement should be gradually developed through real projects delivered by various partners</p>	<p>Reflection - View LNP as an "umbrella" group over BAP group, Peak Business Forum, LAC, Geodiversity groups etc. encouraging cross fertilisation between these groups. Needs to be streamlined e.g. twice / three times yearly meetings Needs to identify key focuses</p>	<p>Involvement – Deconflict over any overlap / boundaries. Share experiences. Reflection - Have better aligned visions/priorities to reduce confusion with other sectors</p>	<p>Reflection/Involvement - Need to see better focus aims/objectives and approach but keen to be involved in future consultations and implementation if LNP can be made to work</p>
<p>Involvement – Kept informed, help where I can</p>	<p>Involvement – Maintain current input as necessary to BIG – extends to reflect LNP format and objectives</p>	<p>Involvement – Waiting for formal scoping decision before I can decide future involvement</p>	<p>Involvement – Involvement of Trees and woodland team would make sense. Ideally if representative on PDNP LNP is also involved with South Yorks LNP</p>
<p>Reflection - Still much to debate to get to an agreed structure / process for a LNP</p>	<p>Involvement – Partner providing evidence</p>		

The workshop ended at 17:00.

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