

The White Peak Partnership

Steering Group meeting

09:30 – 12:30 Wednesday 5 June 2019 at Peak District National Park Authority, Aldern House

Minutes

Introductions & apologies

Attendees

Jon Stewart (JS) - National Trust (NT) - Chair
Sarah Bird (SB) - Secretariat
Suzanne Fletcher (SLF) - Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA)
Mark Haslam (MH) - Environment Agency (EA)
Marion Andrews (MA) - Natural England (NE)
Kieron Huston (KH) - Derbyshire Wildlife Trust (DWT)
Andrew Critchlow (AC) – National Farmers Union (NFU)
Tim Allen (TA) - Historic England (HE)
Faith Johnson (FJ) – Environmental Quality Mark (EQM) (part)

Apologies

Neil Rudge (NR) - Natural England (NE)

Minutes from the last meeting

Minutes from the last meeting accepted as true. Actions from the last meeting that are not covered elsewhere have been completed with the exception of

- Action: KH to send DerwentWISE project data to TA and SB via WeTransfer or similar, and project report to all.

Defra ELMS Tests, Trials & Pilots – White Peak test

Project Officer for the White Peak test at Defra is now back to Eifion Jones.

Action: SB to add TA to Brexit sub-group.

PDNPA have completed the Pro Forma. Due to change in project officer, the Pro Forma was not submitted to the first panel meeting in March. The Pro Forma was submitted by Eifion Jones to the early April board, and then to the Tests & Trials Steering Group in late April.

The Defra board like it, with some consideration points:

1. How does the NCA approach work for water catchments?

The approach will consider land management plans in the context of a water catchment. However, catchment-focus is a single interest, and does not cover the full range of public goods like the NCA approach. Looking at it through an NCA lens, but other information, including from the catchment should be feeding in.

Suggested sub-catchment level might fit with NCAs better. How NCAs fit with catchments will now be one of the questions we aim to answer.

2. Instead of extending to the Dark Peak and South West Peak, should perhaps consider a landscape with less NCA 'brand' identity.

Phase 1 is covering the White Peak. Packaged the Dark Peak/ South West Peak (or an NCA outside the National Park) as being in 'phase 2'.

JS – Possibly the Derwent Fringe.

SLF – If there is some link to the sub-divisions of the National Park, the PDNPA may be able to cover it. If completely outside the National Park, PDNPA will probably not be in a position to lead on the test.

Defra Phase 1 Tests & Trials have been oversubscribed for funding. Defra did not disclose what the budget was. The Pro Forma completed by the PDNPA only asked for the funding for work that cannot be done within normal work streams and budgets - 2 days staff time, facilitating three workshops and paying farmers for attendance and work.

From a National Park perspective, there might be a meeting soon to discuss National Parks and AONBs funding.

Work to date that is being done/ can be done without additional funding from Defra:

- The NCA ready reckoner. Most members of the steering group have commented. Steering group shown most up to date version. Please see appendix one.
- Action: SB to send out final version of NCA summary before it goes out for testing.
- Action: All to provide final comments to SB by Monday 8th July 2019.
- PDNPA farm advisers will take out the NCA summary to soft test with farmers and land managers. There may be an ask for other advisers to also test the summary. It will be accompanied with a fixed series of questions that will aim to answer the Defra policy questions.
- Almost done the carbon ready reckoner (see separate item below).
- Preparing the contract for the construction of the budget ready reckoner. The budget ready reckoner will split out what a farmer or land manager can deliver in terms of public goods and food production. It will be simple with standard costs.

AC – The National Audit Office have released a position statement on the progress of ELMs. The report can be found at <https://www.nao.org.uk/report/early-review-of-the-new-farming-programme/>.

Trials are not part of the tests that we have asked for funding for in the Pro Forma.

Action: SB to send redacted trials summary.

Action: SB write summary of the White Peak test and circulate.

White Peak Test - Carbon calculator

The Steering Group have a short presentation from Faith Johnson.

The Steering Group was shown the draft brief at previous meeting. The contract has been let to Faith Johnson from the Environmental Quality Mark (EQM). The carbon ready reckoner is based on the EQM carbon footprint/ management calculator, designed with ADAS. The existing calculator is a complicated tool - it takes approximately half a day for a farmer to pull information together, then three hours to pull together the information and input it into the tool. It is updated with latest research from Defra etc.

The idea for the ready reckoner is to be simple, for a farmer or land manager that might have half an hour to be able to input and get some ideas on carbon management.

So far, it has been a desk exercise, followed by coming up with a carbon tool.

FJ has been through other carbon tools that already exists, and has been in contact with several organisations including ADAS, Moors for the Future, Defra, NFU (AC), CLA (who are presenting what already exists at their conference), Allerton Project (GWCT). Some examples are the Cool Farm tool, which is used by businesses including McDonald's, and the Farm Carbon Cutting Toolkit, which is more for on farm sustainability.

Within the contract brief was a list of White Peak habitats, which have been fit with habitat categories on the existing toolkit.

Action: FJ to ask whether need to split out acid, calcareous and neutral grasslands and if there is data to support it.

Whilst the tool needs to be simple, it needs to be based on sound scientific data, and made clear that this is a test, land managers will not be changing management based on the test.

The Steering Group had a brief demonstration of the tool so far. A limitation of change over time was picked up.

TA – what happens if a change is interrupted by ploughing, for example, how does this affect carbon?

Action: FJ to add in 'other' habitat, then would know how much land cannot be categorised by the existing habitats and may indicate what's missing.

Action: SB to share FJ email address.

EIA Regulations – Update & flyer

PDNPA have produced a guidance flyer. Have had six cases in the National Park. Farmers and land managers and generally not aware that they might be in breach of the Regulations (updated in 2017).

Action: SB to send link to EIA flyer. See appendix two.

EIA flyer can be found at

<https://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/looking-after/living-and-working/farmers-land-managers/guidancenotes>

Water Vulnerability Mapping update

EA have been working on this, it is currently with the GIS team to make it easier and simpler. The team was hoping it would have been faster with NE funding, but NE funding has now been withdrawn.

NE have mapped risks with small sewage discharges from treatment works, private septic tanks etc. as part of the report 'Development of a Risk Assessment Tool to Evaluate the Significance of Septic Tanks Around Freshwater SSSIs (NECR222), available at

<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5704095755665408>

A limestone catchment like the White Peak has not been used in developing the risk tool because of the complexities. Unfortunately, there are licensing issues stopping circulation of the maps and more detailed work.

Action: MH to ask if the White Peak Water Vulnerability Mapping can be presented at next meeting.

Project Plan – spreadsheet updates

Action: SB to circulate updated spreadsheet. See appendix three.

Carry forward as main item for next agenda (one hour). Objective to prioritise.

Does there need to be a health and wellbeing item?

Action: KH to send summary of work to update the actions spreadsheet to SB.

Action: SB to allocate checks of spreadsheet to members, to group into less items and consider how to take priority actions forward.

White Peak advisers training day

Repeat of the farm advisers training day that was held last September, to be held this September (2019).

Suggested that soils and carbon should be the theme. All agree.

Ideas: Soils demonstrations, possibly on a farm that has adapted management in response to soil testing, live testing for nutrients, soil structure, biodiversity etc., how lab analysis works, costs.

Action: All to send SB list of possible locations and speakers.

Speaker from NE or Defra on updates to Countryside Stewardship.

Whole White Peak Partnership newsletter

Steering Group presented with draft for a newsletter for the wider partnership, in lieu of having a wider partnership event in the future.

Action: All to give feedback to SB on newsletter. See appendix four.

Action: SB to add link to website.

Action: SB to top and tail with explanation about the White Peak and ask for articles.

Action: SB to add PDF of opportunity mapping report on website.

River Dove WEG

Steering Group was sent a summary document prior to the meeting. Appendix five for reference.

Action: **JS** to check planning permission requirements and feed back to TA.

Action: **SB** to add summary document to website.

Action: **SLF** to check involvement of Cultural Heritage at PDNPA with the WEG.

Ravine woodland LIFE bid

Found out last week that the bid had been unsuccessful by two points. National Lottery Heritage Fund have given feedback as to how to increase the score. Examples include overestimating costs and needing more detail on some of the works that are proposed.

All partners who have been involved so far still want to be involved.

Action: **KH** to look into data available from DerwentWISE.

Action: If KH cannot find the data, **TA** to ask consultant directly for the data.

Partner birds update/ partner updates

DWT considering HLF bid for Local Wildlife Sites in the south of the White Peak.

DWT health and wellbeing project that expands 'get better with nature', currently funded by Nestle in Buxton.

HE have had a slight restructure. Nick Carter covers this area now. There will be an internal review of engagement and meetings people are attending for prioritisation. TA will continue to attend for now.

SB phoned in to a webinar consultation for LNPs on the Nature Recovery Networks Project currently being carried out by NE. Key messages were:

- A national framework with local prioritisation and delivery
- LNPs have been left without resources for so long that many do not run any more
- Local delivery will require enough resources
- Developing a mapping tool
- Want Nature Recovery Areas – National Parks are well placed to do this
- NE are going to collate all the questions that they received during the webinar, and pull together a responses document.

Action: **SB** to circulate a summary of the webinar and the response document when released.

Date, location & chair of next meeting – (Chair in order: DWT, EA, HE, NE, NFU, NT, PDNPA)

Next Steering Group meeting **13:00 Thursday 3rd October 2019**, Library at PDNPA Aldern House.

Action: **SLF** to chair the next meeting on behalf of PDNPA.

Action: **SB** to add NFU to Chair circulation (see above).
