

The White Peak Partnership

Steering Group meeting

14:00 Tuesday 22 January 2019 at Peak District National Park Authority, Aldern House

Minutes

Introductions & apologies

Attendees:

Neil Rudge - Natural England (NE) – Chair as TA (HE) could not attend the meeting in person.

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)

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

Tim Birch (TB) – Derbyshire Wildlife Trust (DWT)

Andrew Critchlow (AC) – National Farmers Union (NFU)

Tim Allen (TA) - Historic England (HE) (from 14:30 by phone)

Apologies:

Jon Stewart (JS) - National Trust (NT)

Minutes from the last meeting

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

- Action for SB under Strategic approach to projects (21) – to complete before the next meeting
- No update available for actions for JS - follow up at the next meeting

Update: KH has begun conversations with Tarmac land agent re restoration of quarries.

Action: DA to forward Defra pilot presentation notes to AC.

Strategic approach to projects – revised plan

Projects have been entered onto a spreadsheet, categorised and circulated.

Action: KH to find original project proposal submissions and send to SB.

Action: All to feed into SB with known existing projects.

Action: SB to add geographic coverage column, known existing projects/ works and circulate.

Water vulnerability mapping

EA are currently contracting Professor Gunn to work on realigning the catchment boundaries to reflect the underground situation, not just the topographic surface situation, as this does not realistically reflect the flow of water in the White Peak. This is being carried out through known soughs, springs etc., and dye testing that has been conducted to date.

Work to collate information that could be used to produce the water vulnerability heat map is being progressed by EA. Some data gathered has proved to be not at a fine enough resolution to update the current knowledge/ situation.

Professor Gunn needs to carry out work to refine the scale of some of the previous work he has carried out.

NR & AC comments – Needs to be based on accurate, reliable data for users to have confidence in application.

Current project plan in draft form. SB and MH will continue to work on this.

Initial draft of heat map to be produced by April 2019.

Ravine woodland LIFE bid

NE leading, in partnership with PDNPA, DWT, Chatsworth, NT (limited). Bid to restore ravine woods in response to ash dieback. The bid was submitted in 2018, have selected 200 out of 1000 applications for further information (deadline 25/01/2019). Approx £5.5 mil covering 900ha across the SAC.

A small selection of landowners (7) own 70% of the woodlands (NT, NE, DWT, Staffordshire Wildlife Trust etc.).

Estimated start time is September/ October 2019, for 5 years with staff employed by NE.

Works would include:

- Small scale felling
- Propagation
- Introduction of foundation species that have been lost, e.g. wych elm, small leaved lime, large leaved lime
- Retaining ash trees as feasible with health & safety
- Long-term monitoring
- Engagement with local communities
- Research and development, e.g. use of drones

Woodland Trust will probably be able to provide the trees for planting for no cost.

DerwentWISE project has Lidar data which could be used to assess historical sensitivity.

Action: KH to send Lidar data to DA.

Defra ELMS Tests, Trials & Pilots – White Peak ‘tests’

49/150 pilot ideas have been selected by Defra for testing, of which the White Peak is one. This is Phase 1 ‘testing’ of initial ‘building blocks’. Six National Parks test ideas have been accepted (Eifion Jones is on secondment to Defra and is the lead for these).

The proposed outputs of the White Peak Pilot Ideas tests will be:

- A National Character Area (NCA) framework (currently developing a short version for land managers, updated with reference to 25YEP and current language of public goods), tested in the White Peak with scope for further testing with facilitation groups in the Dark Peak and South West Peak.
- Sub-landscapes with public goods prioritised/ targets.
- Land Management Plan (LMP) template co-designed with land managers, showing the public goods they will be delivering.
- Simple ready reckoners for land managers to use; carbon and business budget.

Work to date:

- White Peak advisors workshop to identify key areas and feasibility of testing
- NCA summary and public goods for land managers draft
- List of land managers to approach for testing NCA approach and LMPs
- Initial discussions with Defra officer
- Draft project plan (awaiting pro forma from Defra).

AC comments – National work is needed for benchmarking carbon.

TA comments – Need to ensure appropriate inclusion of cultural heritage as public goods. How to promote permanent change, not just for the lifetime of a contract? Needs properly joined up advice between disciplines.

DA comments – at one stage advice was not going to be funded through public money but this is still under consideration.

Some ‘tests’ for levels of advice are being explored.

Action: All who sit as stakeholders on national groups to promote the need for advice in delivering successful schemes (ongoing).

Historic England Peak District Walls Pilot

Historic England has funded a series of research projects looking into ecosystem services/ natural capital in the context of cultural heritage. The Peak District Walls Pilot is one of these. The research does not reflect the policy of Historic England when giving advice about walls. Some of the questions the research aimed to answer:

- What are the public benefits from walls
- How do benefits vary spatially
- Can a process of valuation be produced
- How would different walls status (e.g. well-maintained vs tumbled-down) be taken into account

Action: SLF to share draft document (confidential).

Action: TA to share link to website once the final version has been uploaded.

Action: All to send questions/ comments to TA.

Endangered Landscapes Programme – Project Innovation Grant open

This has funded 'Cairngorms Connect' in Scotland and 'Summit to Sea' in Wales, plus various other projects in other EU countries.

DWT are submitted a proposal with Rewilding Britain for the Dark Peak.

Discussion as to whether the fund could be used for nature recovery networks in the White Peak. Scope to incorporate existing work, e.g. opportunity mapping for a nature recovery network, magnificent meadows, water vulnerability mapping, ravine woodland. Agreed it is worth submitting an expression of interest.

Action: SB to enquire whether PDNPA is eligible to submit a bid, or if not to explore with JS whether NT would be interested in submitting a WP bid.

Initial deadline for expression of interest is 4th March 2019.

Action: DA to forward opportunity mapping report to TA.

Action: DA to send SB habitat network mapping data.

White Peak Partnership meeting/event

Agreed should set up regular emails, in the form of newsletter/ email update.

Action: SB to write template.

Do not need a partnership meeting until more information is available and there are activities for the wider partnership to engage in.

SB is setting up White Peak website, hosted by PDNPA. This will contain the minutes from the steering group, and other information as relevant, e.g. outputs from events.

Action: SB to circulate link when website is set up.

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

Next Steering Group meeting **10:00 Friday 15th March 2019**, Courtyard Room at PDNPA Aldern House.

Action: KH check room availability at DWT office.

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

Action: TA to chair the meeting

Any other business

TB update – Waiting for new HLF criteria, will be a meeting early February.