

The White Peak Partnership

Steering Group meeting

09:50 – 12:00 Friday 24 April 2020 via WebEx

Minutes

Introductions & apologies

Attendees

Tim Allen (TA) - Historic England (HE) – Chair
Sarah Bird (SB) - Secretariat
Mark Haslam (MH) - Environment Agency (EA)
Suzanne Fletcher (SLF) - Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA)
Andrew Critchlow (AC) - National Farmers Union (NFU)
Dave Savage (DS) - Derbyshire Wildlife Trust (DWT)
Neil Rudge (NR) - Natural England (NE)
Jon Stewart (JS) - National Trust (NT) (part)

Apologies

Dan Abrahams (DA) - 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: TA to send LIDAR data & analytical report to DA.**

Update on action point from previous minutes: **SB to get update from MA on Diffuse Water Pollution Plan (DWPP) for the Wye** - DWPP is nearing completion, would like to incorporate the water vulnerability mapping to guide the use of the options.

Coronavirus update – round table of working arrangements

SLF – PDNPA following government advice. All facilities are closed. Aldern House is open on a Wednesday to fulfil the planning function. No site visits except for health and safety reasons. Looking to furlough some staff.

DS – Reserves team have been furloughed. Sites that can be closed, are closed. Need site checks for health and safety. One member of staff for planning responses. Everyone working from home, most staff will be furloughed from Thursday 30th April.

NR – NE prioritisation exercise, categorise 1-3. Category 3 staff either moved to higher priority work or volunteered to help in the Department of Work and Pensions or Department of Social Care. All offices are closed. Most people are working from home. White Peak – some activities are still being carried out. NNR team are undertaking some activities for animal welfare or health and safety. Urgent site visits can occur with appropriate risk assessment.

AC – Working from home. All offices are closed. No furlough or site visits.

MH – Most working from home. Some operations delivery for flood risk management out on site. Only site visits are for urgent pollution incidents or illegal activity in the White Peak.

TA – All working from home. Only site visits if urgent to follow up on potential illegal activity or for health and safety.

Update Defra ELMs – White Peak Test

The group was given a presentation by SLF & SB (see appendix 1).

NR – feedback has been positive that NCAs are good. NE are looking to revise/ refresh the full documents, make them more interactive.

Action: All to promote the test and expression of interest to smaller holdings to fill this identified gap.

Update on the budget ready reckoner – demonstration by the consultant at 12:15.

Monitoring and evaluation training and social science approach – completing questionnaires. Both have been approved by the LMF Brexit sub-group.

PDNPA is attending webinars on each theme. Presented to the first Prioritisation webinar in March.

TA – independent third party because they don't want to pay? No, didn't want to share data with other farmers.

ELMs policy consultation

Policy document – on pause due to COVID-19. SLF working on a response on behalf of the Land Managers' Forum and helping co-ordinate English National Park Authorities response. Spring not a good time for farmers, so can respond after lambing. Wildlife Trusts responding.

Community representation on Steering Group

Original thinking was that community involvement would come with project work. Chair of Peak Parishes Forum felt somewhat left out of WPP. Nature Recovery Networks will need community engagement at an early stage. Other Defra ELMs Tests are engaging with the community.

How to select a community rep? NR – will it add a benefit to the steering group? Widen the range of the wider partnership? Peak Parishes Forum meeting will hopefully be an opportunity to present what the WPP has been doing and the Defra ELMs White Peak Test.

Action: SLF to present to Peak Parishes Forum work of the WPP and WP test.

Water Vulnerability Mapping update

Had comments back from colleagues – some data layers need refining. Large files that are difficult to work with from home. A second version will be produced for comment later in the year. Difficult to progress it through April and to determine timescales to roll out as can't ground truth. Could feed into the DWPP for the Wye (ground water has low phosphate concentrations), as it is difficult to assess where spikes in phosphate come from.

Target intermittent events using data already have. Use it to concentrate on dairy etc., factor in water travel, could move quicker or further in different areas. Can use and discuss internally. Test local knowledge once COVID-19 restrictions lifted. Map is difficult to interpret in PDF format, doesn't show why it's vulnerable.

NR feedback – concept and hard copy have been enthusiastically received by colleagues in NE. Catchment Sensitive Farming Officer (CSFO) (Simon Hargreaves) has a copy to ground truth when restrictions are lifted. Helpful for new staff who are less familiar with the area. CSFO to liaise with Andrew from EA.

Whole White Peak Partnership newsletter – new stories

Newsletter mailing list received from DWT. Waiting for email format to send out.

Action: SB to circulate current draft.

Action: All to send new stories to SB.

Project Plan – next steps

SLF – Top priority to help influence the new ELMs to deliver the WP vision. All PDNPA capacity is being used to do this. No projects on the list that we are pursuing.

MH – waiting for allocation for new financial year.

TA – not looking at environmental capital in the PD. Did the walls study – ongoing conversation nationally. No more case studies in this area. Nothing moving forward in the White Peak.

Action: SLF & SB review of prioritisation section in ELMs, about potential conflicts between any public goods and between delivery and farming.

Action: All explore how actions fit into development of Nature Recovery Network (NRN).

Partner bids and updates

SLF – Working on a piece on the transitional arrangements in the uplands. Farm advisers are almost training with farmers to help them submit claims or submissions online.

NR – RavineLIFE bid first submission was 2 points below threshold. Got useful feedback on the weaknesses, taken lessons learnt. Feedback was positive. Second submission is in – in next couple of months would hope to have feedback. Early summer hope to hear if bid has been successful.

NRN and practical field trials: Piece in ParkLife was fantastic. Link discussions around trials with NRN meeting/ discussion. Keep momentum on trials – send joint submission to Defra on how it fits with the Test work. Briefing for Tony Juniper remotely in the future. Ben has done a summary for James Marshall etc. Want to keep momentum. Trust between neighbours involved in the Field App. Step towards sharing knowledge and information between farmers.

AC – impacts on members: dairy farmers are badly impacted (milk supplied to the restaurant industry). A and B quota. B quota now max 15p per litre. Beef and sheep market is volatile. Livestock markets are still functioning but limited by social distancing. TA – anything that could put members out of business in risks to market structure? AC – Food services sector likely to be a long lockdown. Hasn't moved into the retail sector. Imports may undercut domestic produce as demand isn't there locally. Catch up with Derbyshire rural chaplaincy. NR – CS applications will be processed, working on best way to deliver MT and HT agreements, using e.g. phone calls and aerial photography but yet to be agreed. SLF – RPA keep communications open, get application in with as good as evidence as you can by the deadline, can work on detailed information after submission.

TA – stewardship consultations are being responded to. SHINE system is web based.

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

Next Steering Group meeting morning 17th July 2020*. Chair Natural England. Via WebEx.

***Update:** Rearranged to afternoon 25th August 2020.
