

MDC, Longshaw Estate – Wednesday 16th October 2019 (2:00pm-3:00pm)

Present:

Bob Berzins (PLAF)
Danny Udall (EMP)
Dave Aspinall (SCC)
Frances Horsford (PDNPA)
Henry Folkard (BMC)
Kim Leyland (EMP/BMC)
Mark Anderson (PDNPA)
Nabil Abbas (SRWT)
Rachel Bennett (NT)
Sam Beaton (SCC)
Ted Talbot (NT)
Terry Howard (SR & SLAF)

Apologies:

Felicite Dodd (NE)
Jenny Parker (NE)
Rachel Mora-Bannon (PDNPA)
Sue Fletcher (PDNPA)

- *SCC meeting at Botanical Gardens in Sheffield, about ash dieback on 25th October 2019.*

Item 1. Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting

- Beavers - £15k total costs. EMP ready to contribute towards the feasibility of 4 sites as discussed. Will take a couple of years to complete the initial feasibility survey. Will need to establish a release site, get permissions in place, and establish feeding sites. Needs to be 3acres or more.
- A study being carried out in South Downs, so this discussion is spreading nationally.
- Important to consider the wider catchment, impact on local recreational usage of the area and the future – i.e. what happens after they have bred.

Item 2. Partner updates

Dave Aspinall (Sheffield City Council)

- Started fencing at Redmires Reservoir. Bike track still mired in controversy after the recent discovery of goshawks in the area. Jon Dallow currently liaising with people around these issues, and then will resubmit an application for the bike track in the next couple of months.
- Challenges ahead for Redmires with its increasing usage, population of water voles, potential beaver site. May require increased parking which may be difficult as permissions will have to be gained through PDNPA. Lots of overlap between SMP and SLLP's masterplans for the Redmires site.
- Hazel taken over Jeff Lomas at Yorkshire Water, and has been working with SCC on the 4 gateways as part of the Sheffield Lakeland Project.

Sam Beaton (SCC Highways)

- Continuing work with the Cutgate Appeal.
- Working with SRWT on damaged bridge in Blacka Moor by a horse rider. Got SWRT to assess the state of other bridle bridges in the area – all okay at present.
- SCC contributed money towards the Rambler's initiative to replace stiles in the Bradfield area as part of the SLLP.

Nabil Abbas (Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust)

- Blacka Moor focussing on woodland management this winter. Rhododendron control and woodland thinning.
- Recent altercation with commercial dogwalker. Be mindful that there are certain characters who may be irritable.

Bob Berzins (PLAF)

- Addressing lack of discussion around water access. Recent LAF meetings had presentations from a canoeist and Yorkshire Water. Rutland Water had lifeguards funded by parking fees for people to use water for recreation.
- Discussed cars parked on verges at Padley Gorge at the end of the last LAF. Could be worth discussing the issue with this area with Derbyshire County Council.
- TerraFirm an excellent contractor to work with as part of the SLLP, North American bridleway work. Contractor seems intent on producing robust paths that will require minimum maintenance in the future.

Henry Folkard (BMC)

- Ride Sheffield called a meeting last week with various user groups. May be a relevant meeting for SMP partners to attend.

Kim Leyland (EMP Ecologist/BMC)

- Ring Ouzel work has been continuing strongly and will go through into next year. Odd weather early in the season this year may have affected their productivity. Has a plan to carry out colour ringing on nestlings to study how they move between the Eastern Moors and Stanage.

Peak District National Park Authority

Ecology – Frances Horsford

- EMP Man Plan has gone around all of the specialists and is now with the Property team. PDNPA sign-off shouldn't be too far away now.
- North Lees – finished doing 4ha of haymeadow restoration work. Assessed gully blocks at North Lees, looking really wet which is very positive.
- Exploring funding bids at North Lees at the moment.
- Bird box monitoring gone well this year. Strong increase in pied flycatcher fledglings, recorded 120 this year.
- New tenant in North Lees, Nick Denniff taken over from 1 October 2019.

Access – Sue Smith/Mike Rhodes

- The tree planting made me think about our providing for the future and linking in the 20 trees planted with next year's 20th anniversary of the CRoW Act which sits nicely between this year's 70th anniversary of National Park legislation and the Peak District's forthcoming 70th anniversary in 2021. There's nothing like a good anniversary to give us the opportunity to see how far we've come and where we want to be.

There are a few areas that I'm looking at next year:

- 1) Access points - Sam, Dave and I are already working to identify and upgrade access furniture on Sheffield's Access Land with funding via donations to the National Park's Access Fund. I think we are well on the way to exceeding 20 anniversary gates which is great because this helps to improve both access and its accessibility. There's also scope to look at the access points at Burbage, especially from the Fox House.
- 2) Accessible Routes - Burbage Valley will be in this next batch of Miles without Stiles routes. This might also incorporate the track we walked yesterday to take people to the packhorse bridge and the rowans. The Landscape Review was encouraging for Miles without Stiles.

- 3) New Access - Burbage Valley is the polo mint of Access Land so could we dedicate it under s16 of the Act to bring forward the correction to be provided by the mapping review which has been put back to 2024? Again encouragement given in the Landscape Review re open access.

I've focused just on the area at Burbage not because I don't get out as much as I would like but also because it has been 20 years since the legislation also set up Local Access Forums. In September the Peak District LAF will be meeting at the MDC with potentially the opportunity to review and reflect with other invitees and to develop aspirations for the next 20 years. I've suggested that this could be a summit-style meeting with site visits. All very early days at the moment but would be good to get your thoughts.

North Lees/Stange - Mark Anderson

- HLF bid expressions of interest gone in. Should have more to share about this later in the month at the next Stange Open Forum.

Rachel Bennett (National Trust, Longshaw)

- Landscape Masterplanning process – enlisted a consultant to work up a masterplan for their Hub area. Did workshops with staff and volunteers. Next one will be at the MDC and open to the public. Should end up with a map of the area showing what NT plan to do in the area for visitor experience. Dates and times on the website, ACTION dates to be forwarded with minutes.
- Wood pasture restoration works continuing.
- Monitoring report will be finalised in the next couple of months.
- Longshaw pond that was leaking is now repaired.
- Grant from Lindley Shaw Trust.
- Preparing a tender for grazing in High Fields.
- Tree nursery works now completed.
- Cattle incident this week. Livestock has been removed for the time being whilst an investigation is underway. Person was limping and had an injury to the head. Was able to drive and drive to an unknown nearby hospital for treatment.
- Rachel & Lucy going to the World Ranger congress in Nepal, representing rangers in the UK.

Danny Udall (Eastern Moors, NT & RSPB)

- Successful annual Bolving event this last weekend. Ran a shuttle bus from Longshaw car park up to Barbrook to minimise traffic and risk to attendees coming on foot.

- Ecological summary meeting last week. Happy to share the report with any SMP members. **ACTION** attach a copy with the minutes.
- Had sheep stuck near Millstone Edge. Looking at installing a fence in due course. Wire being cut near stiles in the area for access.
- RSPB still in structural effectiveness period. EMP now moved from the North region to the Midlands. Martin new Area Manager for the midlands and will be in post at the beginning of next year. Invite Martin to next SMP meeting (January-onwards)
- Working on replacing access points and gates to bring them up to standard. Recently put in 2 on Gardom's Edge.
- Events licensing process moving over to the new National Trust AOPS process.
- Lots of discussion on climate change in woodlands.

Terry Howard (Sheffield Ramblers & Sheffield Local Access Forum)

- Lost Ways report issued with last minutes are relevant to all partners' estates, would welcome responses.
- Reproduced a map as per GHB Ward's original map, denoting the lost ways.
- Thanks to Terry for pulling the map together, will prove a useful record.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 12th February 2020 at the MDC, Longshaw Estate.

Meeting ends and continues with 5-year Celebration get together at the MDC.

ACTION Miriam from Upland Skies project to come to an SMP meeting to elaborate on the project.