

# Sheffield Moors Partnership Minutes

Flat 7, Longshaw Estate – Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2018 (2:00pm to 4:00pm)

## **Present:**

Ted Talbot (NT)  
Terry Howard (SR, SLAF)  
John Gilpin (SCC)  
Sam Beaton (SCC PROW)  
Chris Bray (PDNPA VEM)  
Claire Thomson (SRWT) – on behalf of Nabil Abbas  
Henry Folkard (BMC)  
Keith Tomkins (SRWT)  
Bob Berzins (PLAF)  
Danny Udall (EMP)  
Rachel Bennett (NT)  
Sue Fletcher (PDNPA)

## **Apologies:**

Felicite Dodd (NE)  
Matt Buckler (MFTF)

## ***Keith Tomkins gave a presentation on the Sheffield Lakeland Landscape Partnership project***

- Matlock Meadows have a 'dummy' cow that you can milk – worth checking out for SLLP's youth programme.
- Be cautious of knock-on effect of the promotion of geocaching (i.e. littering).
- SLLP hoping to reach out to SMP attendees and their respective groups, once the project has 'bedded in'.
- Key focus is to sustain the partnership, not necessarily sustaining the project.
- Lottery keen for various projects to link up and work together, where they geographically overlap.
- Project information accessible via. website.

## **Matters arising from minutes of the last meeting**

- The first version of the EMP user guide has now been printed and ready for distribution amongst groups and visitors across the landscape.
- Henry Folkard would appreciate his comments on climbing being incorporated in to the next version.
- PDNPA currently reviewing the NP man plan, which has gone through advisory group, looking into revising the countryside code and signage which has had a lot of support from moorland owners and keepers, all agreed that it would be much easier to enforce a universal countryside code across the landscape.
- Kathy at EMP would be the primary contact for feedback on the user guide at present, until the next version is released.
- Henry F – (correction from last minutes) Mend Our Mountains (from minutes of last meeting – not 'won outcome'.) Walk along ridge with a torchlight procession, was a success which

others would like to repeat next year. However mass participation events, and night time events, is a concern and may only remain a one-off occasion.

- Should continue to implement collective messaging across the landscape, i.e. erecting fire safety signs at the same time, and vice versa when taking them down.
- The user guide is excellent for one branch of visitors, however it could also be useful to have a jazzier version targeted at younger audiences/school groups etc. particularly for visitors travelling from further afield like Nottinghamshire, as well as Derbyshire and Yorkshire.

## Partner Updates

### John Gilpin (Sheffield City Council)

- Woodland restocking at Redmires Plantation has had an herbicide application. Although some of the new planting suffering from weevil and hare damage.
- Planning approval still required for the proposed cycle track at Redmires.
- Ongoing maintenance of Burbage and Lady Cannings Plantations including site risk assessment and invasive weed control.
- SCC Ecology Team confirm Nightjar have returned to the recently clear-felled areas of Redmires.
- Rangers have erected “No Fire” signage across SCC Peak Park Estate.

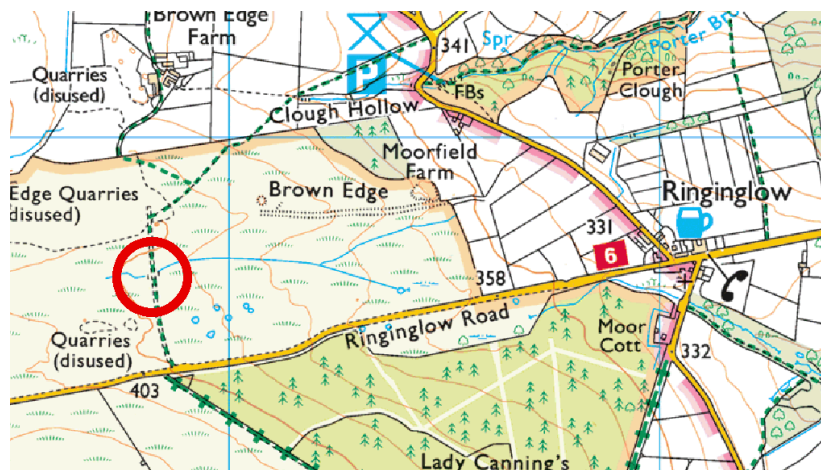
### Sam Beaton (Sheffield City Council)

Update from SCC PROW:

- SCC Property Services is considering dedicating Parson House Farm access track that crosses over Houndkirk Road Byway as a Restricted Byway (red line on map below). Although many cyclists and walkers use it already without a problem, horse riders have been stopped from using it and there are private signs on it. It provides a convenient short cut between Houndkirk Road Byway and the Bridleways starting from Stony Ridge car park at Blackamoor:



- 50m of stone flags are to be laid across boggy section of Sheffield FP 44 this summer. Location circled in red below:



- Cut Gate Bridleway: the setting up of a steering group is being looked into so that there is a strategic overview of the management of the whole route from end to end

#### **Nabil Abbas (Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust)**

- Blacka Moor - Countryside Stewardship agreement (woodlands only) has started – the paperwork finally came through 5 months late. Capital works will focus on rhododendron removal.
- Summer management work underway, as usual: 20 cattle grazing on moor, bracken & thistle control, PROW maintenance
- Sheffield Lakeland Landscape Project - Landscape Conservation Action Plan has been submitted to HLF; all being well delivery will start in November 2018.
- In partnership with Derbyshire WT, we've started 'Working 4 Nature' HLF project - will offer new trainee placements & extra capacity for working with trainees.
- Upland Skies project - SRWT are project partner on RSPB-led HLF project currently in development.

#### **Danny Udall (Eastern Moors, NT & RSPB)**

- Management plan now in draft and currently being consulted on, with summary document to follow.
- Big news – 43 hectares affected in fire on Big Moor. Update to follow in the meeting.
- Dealing with a number of raves around the Sheffield Moors, which have now become a weekly occurrence.
- Monitoring work ongoing, short-eared owl doing well, found out that our merlin nest has been predated.
- Sandyford Brook works continuing through the summer.
- Deer numbers have remained the same on Big Moor, approx. 130 counted. Need to focus on a wider Sheffield Moors approach to deer management.
- New staff members settling in well into the team, Louise Baddeley as the new Community Involvement Ranger, and Mike Timmons as the new Estate Worker.

#### **Ted Talbot (National Trust, Longshaw)**

- Since Easter - Countryside Team have been busy repairing lots of snow damaged fences & walls etc. after hard winter & before grazing animals were turned out.

- Moorlife 2020 winter works saw a lot of heather cutting & sphagnum planting this year.
- Ecological surveys are being undertaken at many sites
- New grazing plan at Greenwood farm – move to cattle has gone well.
- NT is currently in the process of acquiring 2 new sites of species rich wildflower farmland in the White Peak, at Stoney Middleton and below Buxton (over 100ha, combined) . Pending completion these will be announced on National Meadows day - 7<sup>th</sup> July.
- Ranger Team assisted with the Fire on the Eastern Moors. A good & quick response but 45 Ha was burnt still.
- Visitor impact, Raves & antisocial behaviour – including dogs off leads & BBQs remain a concern across the EMP area.
- Ash dieback has suddenly taken a leap forward in the White Peak areas (esp : Dovedale) this year - real concern and will mean an increased Tree Safety budget requirement - NT have launched an appeal to help fund restoration . See [nationaltrust.org.uk/PeakDistrictAppeal](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/PeakDistrictAppeal)
- The DEFRA funded Edale Badger Edge Vaccination project (to combat the spread of Bovine TB without killing Badgers) is going well and expanding to the Eastern Moors and Lyme Park this year. In partnership with DWT
- NT are to celebrate “Radical Landscapes” next year – will include the Kinder Scout story.
- NT have a new Director General – Hillary McGrady, an internal appointment so no change in our current Land, Outdoors & Nature focused strategy.

#### **Terry Howard (SLAF)**

- Exhibition on campaigning in Weston Park museum, due to finish July, on rambling and walking in the Peak District, showcasing rescued ephemera.
- No longer pursuing project with the National Trust at Longshaw, however, has been invited to be involved with the National Trust’s Radical Landscapes campaign.
- Been out filming with Michael Portillo around the Hope Valley railway line.

#### **Peak District National Park**

##### **Access - Sue Smith**

- Focus on accessibility during National Parks Week, which commences 23 July. Report goes to LAF tomorrow. Includes 3 Miles without Stiles routes.

##### **Events - Sarah Wilks**

- Next events meeting is to be arranged and led by Sarah Wilks.

##### **North Lees/Stanage - Chris Bray**

- Staffing - Estate Ranger appointed - Mark Anderson who is working hard on income generation for the estate and ring ouzels.
- Countryside Stewardship agreement paperwork has recently been received albeit 6 months late. Now ready for signing and will be meeting next week with team to finalise work programme.
- Stanage Steering group archaeology project set up and a splinter group of the existing team.

##### **Eastern Moors – Sue Fletcher**

- Fire site – partnership working between the NT & PDNPA re further recording of archaeological features and possible stabilisation if required. There may be opportunities to diversify the moorland sward post fire - if this can be done whilst protecting the archaeology. M4F have introduced other species e.g. bilberry at Rushworth Common very effectively after a moorland fire.

#### **Other – Sue Fletcher**

- PDNP Management Plan – good range of final comments with much support. Final version agreed with PDNPA Members and document being finalised.
- Chatsworth Moorland Meeting Update – well attended meeting held on 23 May. Updates provided on the 4 key issues which are now all embedded in the PDNP Management Plan:
  - Visitor management – strong support for a review of the countryside code and a collective approach to signage. Local Access Forum sub group proposed to help take this forward. Concerns over event management.
  - Moorland birds – repeat 2004 survey to be carried out plus analysis – being project managed by M4F. Support for continuation of the Birds of Prey initiative. Concern about social media campaign – moorland monitors and damage to legal traps. (Preliminary results for curlew are looking positive)
  - Resilient Moorland Management – good progress, 100% sign up by private moorland owners to voluntary cessation of burning of blanket bog & deep peat. Not all Government Agencies or private farmers signed up yet. Sub group established to take forward the long term management plans.
  - Fire risk – clarification of fire severity index and when open access can be closed. Focus was on education, better and collective signage promptly put out and taken in. The two recent fires were mentioned and the risk from instant BBQs highlighted. Fire Operations Group sub group to be set up and look at pilot areas for better fire prevention.
  - 5<sup>th</sup> area identified - Rural, heritage and wildlife crime – Moorland Association to join current meetings involving PDNPA and the Police.
- Health & Harmony consultation – PD Land Managers Forum submitted a response for the Peak District.
- Brexit and future Environmental Land Management Scheme developments – planned testing, trialing of new approaches leading to a pilot for around 4,000 farmers/land managers in 2021/22 planned.
- Government's 25 year environment plan - review of National Parks: -
  - Will ask if the protections for National Parks and AONBs are still fit for purpose.
  - Focus - how our protected landscapes can be improved and better supported, and maybe expanded. Weakening or undermining their existing protections or geographic scope is not in scope.
  - Will be led by Julian Glover (journalist, former speech writer of David Cameron, lived in the PDNP) and supported by a small working group.
  - June 2018 and will report in 2019.
  - Defra Media Release on the Review can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/national-parks-review-launched>
  - The Terms of Reference for the Review can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/designated-landscapes-national-parks-and-aonbs-2018-review>
- Bids:
  - Water Environment Grant bids for SWP for NFM, WP feasibility study around water vulnerable zones, NT River Dove bid also included small project for invasive species control.
  - Plantlife – Magnificent Meadows HLF bid – DWT, NT & PDNPA involved.
  - Trees outside Woodlands in the White Peak one of 8 areas being developed into a HLF bid by the Woodland Trust.

#### **Matt Buckler (Moors for the Future)**

- Awarded £3.1M from Defra's Peatland Restoration Fund.

- Working with Dorset County Council on the fire recording website – Charlie Kenyon – could come and talk through the project at a future meeting.
- 2 Water Environment Grant bids –
  - Woodland creation from Upper Aire to the Trent
  - Moorland gully blocking – most effective places across the SAC
- Sheffield Lakeland Partnership – North America Farm part of Cut Gate. Also Mend our Mountains campaign for other sections of the route. Still looking for other funding sources for the remaining sections.
- LIFE bid – looking for pilot areas for community action as a way of engaging people to do conservation works e.g. Dovestones which has had more
- Matt Buckler (DWT – Trent Valley Living Landscape) and Brendon Whittram (River Stewardship Company) both leaving. Matt Scott-Campbell will become the Programme Manager for the initial interim period. Recruiting Conservation Contracts Managers & Conservation Works Officers at the moment.

#### **Chris Bray (Peak District National Park)**

- Mark Anderson new estate ranger, currently involved with the campsite. Half of his post is income derived. Aim to keep the post full time as its important to area.
- CS agreement currently underway, and need to be signed off. For Stanage and North Lees.
- Stanage steering group looking at a new archaeological project.

#### ***Danny gave an update on the Eastern Moors fire on Big Moor***

- Fire started in the molinia. Two reports of an individual leaving the area, and believe it was deliberately lit. Police investigation closed due to the lack of evidence submitted.
- Lessons learned: more substantial firefighting PPE must be invested in, ATV machines with foggers on the back, and intensive fire training.
- EMP commissioned a survey to assess the impact on heritage on the burnt site.
- Going forward, lobbying to change the packaging on disposable barbeques and how stores display the products is the only firm way to alter attitudes toward disposable barbeque use. However this is a wider problem, which affects further than the Peak District.
- Opportunity for a fire fighting fund.

#### **Eastern Moors Partnership management plan update**

- Henry would like to view the draft version in person at Barbrook, due to lack of printing facilities. (print a copy to put in post?) HF, TH, BB. PDF version for PDNPA (SF & CB) via. big file limit (contact Sue if having difficulty).
- Aim to have the management plan signed off by SMP partners and physically printed by Christmas 2018.

#### **AOB**

- Nick Sellwood to work on the SMP 5-year review document, funding-permitted. Propose to hold a workshop over two separate days with SMP attendees to celebrate our successes from the past 5-years, highlight our remaining challenges, and discuss how 'we' collectively feel it best to move forward and develop as a group. Important to re-promote the partnership within our respective organisations. Workshop ideally to happen October time.
- Terry Howard has been approached by an artist for a group of ramblers to hold a 'Wigan handclap' on the moors. To take place in July.

- Bob Berzins now a representative of the PLAF, following Henry's leaving. Terry Howard now the nominated representative of SLAF. Terry asks could John and Henry continue as advisory members of the SMP.
- Badger vaccination programme to continue in the landscape soon.

**Date of next meeting: Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2018, 2pm to 4pm, at the MDC, Longshaw Estate.**

***Meeting ends***