

Sheffield Moors Partnership Meeting Minutes

Longshaw Estate – Wednesday 13th September 2017 (2:45pm to 4:15pm)

Present:

Danny Udall (EMP)
Dave Aspinall (SCC Woodlands Team)
Hannah Wittram (SWT)
Henry Folkard (BMC & PLAF)
John Horscroft (Ride Sheffield)
Matt Buckler (MFTF)
Rachel Bennett (NT Longshaw)
Richard Harris (SCC Ecology team)
Sam Beaton (SCC – PROW)
Sue Smith (PDNPA)
Ted Talbot (NT Longshaw)
Terry Howard (Sheffield Ramblers, PLAF & TOC)

Matters Arising from mins of March 2017 meeting:

- Sue Smith - Update on PHD report into NIA visitor perceptions is available.
- Matt Buckler - Several journal papers in preparation for this work (from MFF - linked to NIA), visitor perceptions of landscape change.
- Ted Talbot - Rave/antisocial problems currently being monitored by Longshaw/National Trust rangers, 8 this season so far - assessing how the authorities can help work with us to tackle the issue.
- Dave Aspinall – antisocial behaviour has improved at Lady Canning’s Wood this year
- John H and Henry F both agreed that encouraging others to report antisocial behaviour (via calling 119) have improved the issue at large, as police respond to the number of incident numbers recorded for an area.
- Dave Aspinall – a sting operation caught 10 motorbikes in Grenoside Woods recently. Professional dog walkers and dog fouling is becoming a more common occurrence/problem at several sites, also unregistered use by personal trainers.
- Henry F – Problem at Stanage for professional dog walkers. “Should be a consistent SMP policy across all the areas to offer consistence for people to follow universally.”
- Danny Udall discussed ‘code of conduct’ for behaviour on the moorlands, and ‘Project Poo’.
- Danny Udall discussed the soaring issues on Blackamoor, Hannah has explained that a paraglider is refusing to obtain a licence for the practice. Contact the Derbyshire Soaring Club about the issue, as they may be able to mediate.
- Sue Smith – not had any problems reported to the PDNPA about Houndkirk rd. Danny explained Eastern Moors visit every weekend (at staggered times) and have been monitoring the impact 4x4 use has had on the track and SSSI.
- Sam Beaton – had been having 4x4 issues which have gradually reduced due to EMP staff & vols speaking with people constructively to raise awareness.
- Sam Beaton – could potentially be less vehicles venturing the area than initially suspected.
- Sue Smith – a group of 6 motorcyclists have been seen accessing Oxstones on several occasions, no licence plates on the vehicles. Please help monitor this and report.
- Lost ways in context of SMP needs assessing, may be a potential to claim rights of way. Need to have a strategic and modern approach. Could look at concessionary rights of way, as it’s a lot easier to do from a land management point of view. “Why have a footpath when you’ve got access?” Better rationalization of the paths would be welcomed, easier to maintain and help create wildlife refuges.

- Sue Smith – Events meeting held with partners about the PDNPA event notification system, key challenge is to encourage event organisers to use it. Promotion underway and still in progress. All partners need to work with organisers to ensure risk mitigation measures around impact to other users, residents, archaeology & wildlife are put into place. Feedback from the events meeting showed the majority of the events do run well, with little or no impact identified but monitoring may be needed to quantify. PDNPA to hold a further meeting with partners in December (TBC). Discussion took place about the volume of events and that there are few quiet weekends. Interested to see the National Trust's feedback on the increase of events in the National Park..
- Henry – Credibility kitemarking may potentially help event organisers, “brand of quality” – can we encourage their sector/industry to do this?
- Dave Aspinall – some fell running groups refusing to contribute to SCC events (info from Howard Simpson – SCC events man).
- John – bumped into fell runner, not particularly pleased with recent decisions made in High Peak. (event request was off PROW and across restored blanket bog)
- Ted – we need to explain our ‘missions’ more to encourage others to aligning with our conservation objectives as well as our access ones. Event requests on newly restored bog. Lack of parking & event facilities are still all burning issues.
- Rachel Bennett - Need to market activities & events notification better at school groups? Sarah to flag with Sarah Wilks. Many do not know the Law.
- Sue Smith – PDNPA North Lees - no change except Stanage car park stickers no longer being sold, 2017/2018 small increase to parking charges, linked to permit system and likely enforcement will be enforced with Derbyshire County council next year. Communications program focusing on the benefits of the permit scheme. Ted – “Request of PDNPA to join up for Longshaw’s parking charges and ours, so we can jointly promote this”, so all parking fees are the same across the SMP landscape and the National Park. Market the parking fees and how these costs will go back and improve the experience and landscape as a whole – advertise this to all visitors and car park users.
- Henry Folkard – Honey-pot sites on crowded days an issue, better to be more tolerant and exercise a little leeway; can’t combat it all.

Partner updates:

DANNY UDALL (EASTERN MOORS PARTNERSHIP)

- Management plan on deadline to put out a draft for the end of year.
- Onsite rangering going well
- Basic maintenance of the site; including access points, resurfacing car parks, etc.
- Had issues with Photographers and badger sets, working with National Park to police this issue.
- Hay meadow cutting finally managed.

JOHN HORSCROFT (RIDE SHEFFIELD)

- Lady Cannings trails now opened and going well - been tremendously successful, top surface almost worn out due to popularity with ages 2yo-74yo.
- “Be nice” signs – not much further ahead with the plan yet.
- Redmires track, fully funded by local businesses and mountain bikers; if PDNPA could get planning permission soon, could be building track in winter (from Stanage Pole, 1 mile long). Aim to open next Easter. Will now have to be built after the Plantation forestry works.
- Cannings, people saying there’s a reduction in people biking on natural trails; Redmires track will further encourage this and reduce erosion.
- Work day up on Blackamoor with stone relocating, deal with Alpkit to fund plant and equipment to carry out works on the bridleway. Positive news that local businesses are willing

to help contribute. Alpkit Foundation gives out grants, etc. Could be useful. could be used as a benchmark example to encourage other businesses to help.

- Terry – requested that a Lady Canning's track presentation was given to people on Local Access Forum as they were not fully aware of the works. Please give a presentation in future.

HENRY FOLKARD (BMC & PEAK LOCAL ACCESS FORUM)

- Sheffield Moors Partnership needs more visibility; don't underestimate people who aren't landowners etc in helping to push proposed work forward. Has concerns about Lyme's Disease awareness. More deer, fewer sheep, Lyme's Disease on the up and need to address this. Hand out leaflets to local surgeries to raise awareness on the issue.

SUE SMITH (PDNPA)

- Re structuring – last section on commercial development and outreach Directorate including Rangers is on-going.
- National Park Management Plan – consultation undertaken on special qualities and areas of impact. Over 200 comments have been received, many around moorland management issues and the lack of focus on the rural economy. Meeting/workshop planned early October for further discussion and what/how all partners can help deliver any agreed ask.
- On going problems with MTBers using unsustainable footpaths around Oxstones – seem to be getting worse since the popularity of Lady Cannings. Clear signage required for those unaware of access rights, and a lesson needs to be learned in advance of the opening of Radmires as we feel this may lead to pressure on paths on the area around Redmires and Stanage Edge
- Local Access Forum is at Longshaw on Thursday 21st – major items are Miles Without Stiles, Mend Our Mountains campaign and Moorland landowner liaison. The afternoon will be looking more closely at issues of access for people with disabilities (ie Miles Without Stiles)
- Miles without Stiles – National Parks' accessible routes. Currently identifying a range of routes and their suitability in the PDNP. Will be contacting landowners shortly re specific routes. LAF and disability groups are being involved. Guide will be published later this year for a launch in Spring. Promotion assisted by Yorkshire Water's sponsorship. The NPA's Access Fund will assist with some improvement works and maintenance but other sources of funding and contribution will also be required.
- SMP key PROW/Access outstanding actions - There has been no progress possible on the aspiration to create a bridleway from North Lees to Hathersage (which is outside Sheffield Moors area) due to the landowner being resistant. A concession bridleway on the footpath across Nell Croft is being considered.
- Stanage/North Lees Estate – Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier application submitted and now with NE for commencement 1 January 2018. Campsite will be run at weekends over the winter. Stanage Steering Group looking at a heritage project. Next meeting of the Stanage Forum is on 23 September to be attended by Simon Malcolm, Emma Stone and Chris Bray.
- Will pass on request to invite Chris Bray (new North Lees officer) to the next SMP meeting.

TERRY HOWARD (SHEFFIELD RAMBLERS & PEAK LOCAL ACCESS FORUM)

- Busy with book had published. Talk with NT for potential heritage archive and research facility housed at Longshaw, also Sheffield Museums interested in this. Will involve all Sheffield Moors Partnership groups.

DAVE ASPINALL (SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL)

- Lady Cannings issues mentioned prior. Impact on birds, number of accidents (Edale Mountain Rescue team concerned).
- Looking for campsite feasibility study in Lady Cannings.

- Redmires biking trail mentioned earlier.
- Working with Yorkshire water, outdoor city initiative potential opening of franchise centring around Redmires for coffee shop
- Burbage regenerative works ongoing, seed collection, additional planting, clearing Bracken, dealing with wind damage.
- Sheffield Lakeland bid, presentation to go ahead to HLF soon (£3million project).
- Exploring available money through rural tourism, trail heads/camping – potential funding.

RICHARD HARRIS (SCC ECOLOGY)

- Burbage – botanical surveys to be repeated this year, 4 years on from original, results/reports to follow.
- Conifer plantation – clear areas overseeded with local origin seed – more distinctive to the local area
- Sheffield Lakeland HLF bid – should also be wildlife surveys to follow as part of that project
- Invasive species on Redmires on long causeway, Sam Beaton been trying to treat with Piri Piri Burr (From Australia/NZ). Getting aggressively prolific in a particular area – need to monitor.
- Biological data sharing agreement with National Park – potentially move to include NT and RSPB.
- Birds of Prey meet with Helen from RSPB & Martin from NT & Wildlife trust also involved. HLF bid due to go in for the project.

SAM BEATON (SCC PROW)

- Last year working on two bridleways on Strines Edge, both had a lot of work done by private landowners – they've used contractor Terrafirma who've done all physical, resourceful work – minimal materials ordered for the works. Costs, half stone flagging???? Work is excellent and naturalistic looking, John "mountain bikers who have used are impressed." Sue Smith "technique is called sub-soiling". Henry "the technique has been used elsewhere". Matt "we used it on Cutgate, also by Terrafirma".

MATT BUCKLER (MFF)

- Moorlife 2020 – been in contact with Dave for survey work on Redmires on peat pipes, how to reduce impact of peat pipes. Trying to work with neighbouring estate on this work.
- Bogfest in Edale next week, launching land management guides detailing reduction of blanket burning of peat.
- Next week uplands habitats management strategy – in-bye land, woodlands, upland heath.
- Consultation for cutthroat track to launch next week. Same agreement needed.

HANNAH WITTRAM (Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust)

- Blackamoor - Woodland works focusing on birch.
- Improvement of public access.
- Paragliding issue (mentioned earlier.)
- One mini rave on Blackamoor (was teenagers) and one fly-tipping incident in Stony Ridge car park – haven't been too bad on the whole.
- Professional dog walkers in Wyming Brook.
- Sheffield Lakeland project ongoing.

RACHEL BENNETT (NATIONAL TRUST)

- Reconvened SMOG, asked to channel awareness amongst the various groups' contacts – will be discussing raves over the summer period.
- Have had about 12 raves over the summer, Bole Hill.

- Seeking to install car park barriers to prevent access for ravers and equipment handlers.
- Meteor showers – potentially leave car park open for visitors.
- Longshaw Hub development, plans to go ahead and will relocate offices to Longshaw flats (2 weeks during December displaying plans in MDC for what Longshaw proposes to do).
- New Ranger base development to go ahead, need to agree costs.

TED TALBOT (NATIONAL TRUST)

- Visit from US National Park Service rangers to give a talk on 3rd October – one from Grand Canyon, other from Badlands NP.

JOHN HORSCROFT (RIDE SHEFFIELD)

- (Asking Sue Smith) Increase of traffic to Oxstone? – any evidence to back this? Danny – “have used aerial maps to assess track width, and have noticed a gradual change”.
- Mountain bike usage has decreased with fencing, however Sue believes it’s increased with the installation of gates. Henry thinks it’s improved.
- Need hard evidence of physical impact biking activity has on the landscape before we propose any significant changes. However, precautionary principle should apply here - yes we do need evidence-based decision making which will be addressed in the management plan, but if damage is clearly occurring we should all be concerned and work to avoid it through good communication.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 15th November 2017, 1:00pm to 4:00pm at Flat 7, Longshaw Estate.

Meeting ends