



Friday 22nd April 2016, 10.30-12.30, Humberhead Peatlands, Natural England, Unit 1a, Green Tree Warehousing, Tudworth Road, Hatfield, DN7 6HD

Attendees: Tim Kohler (TK), Roger Mitchell (RM), Sue Wilkinson (SW), Matt Cox (MC), Tim Allen (TA),

Apologies: Paul Duncan (PD), Helen Kirk (HK), Caroline Steel (CS), James Freeborough (JF), Matt Blissett (MB), David Hinchliffe (DNH), John Dunbavin (JD), Melissa Massarella (MM),

Support staff: David Hargreaves (DPH), Amanda Lane (AJL)

Discussions/Key Points	For Action By
<p>1. Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising – TK</p> <p>TK welcomed members and advised that in the absence of PD he would Chair the meeting. Apologies were noted.</p> <p>TK invited members to read through the minutes from the previous meeting and advise on any inaccuracies. He then took members through the actions from the previous meeting, and the following was noted:</p> <p><u>Action 1 - Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) for the Water Level Management Plan</u> – TK informed members that he has had a couple of meetings with DW reference the HRA for the pumping station and that DW has the HRA template from Natural England to complete. TK confirmed that he had not yet received the document back and that the pumping station construction works would not start until the completed HRA has been seen by Natural England.</p> <p><u>Action 2 – Breakdown of DE IDB budget to be made available</u> – TK confirmed that this was discussed at the last Water Level Management meeting, and it was the intention that this information would be available on their website.</p> <p><u>Action 3 – Number, date and format for Planning for Real events</u> – TK said this will be covered as an agenda item under ‘Progress Update’.</p> <p><u>Action 4 – Confirmation on associate beneficiary contracts/invoices for LIFE+ project can be viewed by Steering Group</u> – TK asked that this action remains on the minutes as PD is still looking in to it.</p>	<p>Action 1: TK to chase DW for the completed HRA.</p> <p>Action 2: PD to seek confirmation on whether associated beneficiary contracts/invoices for the LIFE+ project can be viewed by the Steering</p>



<p><u>Action 5 – Clarification on whether there is sufficient match funding to cover the LIFE+ Project</u> – DPH informed members that there is sufficient match funding for the Project and the picture is now positive.</p> <p><u>Action 6 – Works to comply with Eels Regulations</u> – SW reported that all Doncaster East owned pumping stations had been removed from the Eel Regulations including Blaxton Quarry and that this had been removed not because it would be a bad habitat but because of the long lengths of culverting going through private land which stopped the eels proceeding.</p> <p><u>Action 7 – Monitor displacement of birds during scrub clearance works</u> – TK confirmed that this had been carried out on a daily basis by the estate team during late February and early March.</p> <p><u>Action 8 – Suggestions from Steering Group members on ideas for future events</u> – DPH said that he had not yet received any suggestions but that there were a full range of activities planned. TK asked to leave this as a standing action so that members could still forward their suggestions.</p> <p><u>Action 9 – On-site information boards</u> – DPH informed members that information boards for the LIFE+ Project would be arriving onsite on Monday 25th April and sited at the Colliery Entrance, Bailey Bridge and Jones Cable, Thorne Moors and Boston Park, Hatfield. There will not be an information board at Swinefleet as this is a private track. DPH apologised for not circulating the information to members for them to check. He confirmed that the generic NNR information boards were being refurbished and there was an opportunity to add further details to these boards. TA asked if there was a chance to add the Heritage Lottery Funding (HLF) logos, TK said he did not see this as an issue. MC asked if there would be an opportunity to discuss the Trust’s requirements for signage and TK asked if this could be followed-up at the end of the meeting. DPH also suggested to TA that the location of the information boards could be moved to meet future changes or requirements by HLF.</p> <p><u>Action 10 – Joint DE IDB and LIFE+ Project meeting and onsite visit</u> – DPH confirmed that this action is still on-going but informed the Group that members of the Water Level Management Group had recently had a site visit.</p> <p><u>Action 11 – Circulate monitoring and science sub group meeting paper</u> – AL confirmed that this had been sent to members.</p> <p><u>Action 12 – Review paper produced by Roger Meade</u> – TK said that he had not read the paper as he was unable to recall which paper he was</p>	<p>Group members.</p> <p>Action 3: Steering Group members to email DPH with suggestions for future events/guided walks, etc.</p> <p>Action 4: TK and MC to discuss Trust’s signage requirements at the end of the meeting.</p> <p>Action 5: PD and DPH to work on a date for a joint DE IDB and LIFE+ Project meeting and site visit.</p> <p>Action 6: TK to seek</p>
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<p>to read. TK to seek clarification from HK on the name of the paper.</p> <p><u>Action 13 – Suggestions on people to invite to monitoring and science sub group meetings</u> – TK asked if members could email him with suggestions for names. MC asked if he was on the mailing list for the Group. AL to ask RS to add MC to the mailing list.</p> <p>TA picked up from the previous minutes, in relation to the visitor (foot) counters being installed on Thorne and Hatfield Moors. He asked if he could receive further information on what counters are being installed, how many, where they are located and when, including details on any software being used.</p> <p><u>Action 14 – Potential for Green Spaces Network to host LIFE+ Project on their website</u> – DPH confirmed that he has made contact about the possibility of the Network hosting website. However, permission has now been granted to have a bespoke project website. DPH said that he would cover this under the project performance report item on the agenda.</p> <p><u>Action 15 – Draft mid-term workshop programme</u> – DPH informed the Group that this would be covered as an agenda item under ‘Progress Update’.</p> <p><u>Action 16 – Distribute a LIFE+ Project newsletter update to Steering Group members</u> – DPH confirmed that a LIFE+ Project interim report had been sent out to the Steering Group members on the 7th march 2016.</p> <p><u>Action 17 – Invitation to EU Monitor to a future Steering Group meeting</u> – DPH confirmed that he would be inviting the EU Monitor to a Steering Group meeting, and that the EU Monitor had recently requested a site visit to review progress.</p>	<p>clarification from HK on the paper written by Roger Meade that he needed to read.</p> <p>Action 7: RS to add MC to the monitoring and science sub group mailing list.</p> <p>Action 8: JC and/or RS to contact TA with details on the visitor (foot) counters being installed on Thorne and Hatfield Moors.</p>
<p>2. Key Milestones/Operational Activities – DPH and AL</p> <p>Project Performance Report - DPH</p> <p>DPH took members through the LIFE+ Project Performance Report for the period 14th January 2016 to 31st March 2016 by providing an update on progress.</p> <p><u>Action A1</u> – Project establishment. DPH informed members that the current complement of Estate Workers – 3 in total – will be focused on two activities over the summer, including rhododendron spraying and installation of plastic piling. A decision was pending on whether to bring the number of estate workers for the forthcoming winter season</p>	



back up to 6. DPH suggested that it made sense to look at having 5 estate workers as this would mean they could all fit in one crew cab rather than using two. DPH informed members that he is going to recommend a formal extension to the project of 6-9 months, which if agreed by the Team Leader and Manager would be requested in the Mid Term Report going to the EU.

TA commented on the Rhododendron spraying that he has witnessed in North Wales over the last three years and the big difference that it has made to the area. DPH suggested that it is a case of hitting the spraying 'just right'. RM asked how the Rhododendron was being treated, and DPH confirmed with Roundup.

Action A2 – DPH commented that this action was on 'red' and TK clarified that he is working on the Management Plan but it is slow going.

Action A3 – DPH confirmed that all consents are in place. However, a visit from the EA had taken place to look at the Eels regulations in relation to works scheduled on Hatfield Moors. The EA has concluded that there are minor scale works that will need to take place on Hatfield, in relation to Eels Regs due to the EA's pumping station at Tunnel Pits, located South East of Hatfield. The work to be undertaken at Hatfield means that works required in the Tunnel Pits area will now rise up the EA priority list.

Action C1 and C2 – DPH reminded members that the scrub clearance work for 2015/16 did not start until December 2015 and that the Estate Workers and Contractors had achieved the target set for the season. It is the intention to get the scrub clearance 2016/17 season started earlier. He also clarified that scrub clearance works on Hatfield would need prioritising ahead of the bunding work that is due to take place later in the year. DPH confirmed that the tender for the 2016/17 season would be ready for June 2016, which is two months earlier than last year. Members asked how many contractors vehicles had got stuck during this season's works and DPH confirmed just one. A 16 tonne vehicle which required a 20 tonne vehicle to aid its rescue.

DPH informed members that he and the Assistant Project Managers had met earlier in the week with the scrub clearance constructors, Tilhill, to review how the contract had progressed, and for both parties were pleased with progress. However, the main issue has been tracks, in terms of damage. TK clarified that he is working on a track strategy for the NNR. In the meantime, he is looking at repairs with the NNR team over the summer and how the public are diverted to protect delicate tracks. DPH commented that the DE IDB (JBA) will not be carrying out substantive works during the 2016/17 scrub clearance

Action 9: TK to update members on the anticipated completion date for the Management Plan



season so this should limit future damage.

Action C3 – DPH clarified it is the intention to start this year’s Rhododendron spraying in May 2016. The Estate team have been working on the Soft Track vehicle so that it can carry the water, etc. required for spraying, enabling the three Estate Workers to work on site throughout the day, weather permitting.

Action C4 – DPH confirmed that he had received a topological survey back from JBA which will be reviewed to determine the works that need carrying out on Hatfield Moors. The tendering process for the works is scheduled to take place over the coming weeks. It is envisaged that two tenders will be let to cover the major civil engineering and small bunding works. It has been decided that the Estate Workers will carry out the plastic piling works on Hatfield, complementing their spraying works.

Action C5 – DPH confirmed that following the birding season JBA will continue with the plugs, bunds and piling works on Thorne Moors. RM raised a point about the peat depths across Thorne Moors. TK clarified that there are a variety of depths across the Moors but these are relatively shallow.

Action C6 – The pumping station works are due to start in June/July. The works will be in the vicinity of the Cranes but the works will commence post their breeding season.

Action D1 – The work being undertaken by Lucy Ryan, doctoral student, at York University is on track. EOn have agreed to provide monies for further tagging of birds on Thorne Moors but this will not form part of the LIFE+ Project. TK confirmed that he is still awaiting information from DMBC that these works can go ahead as it is related to a planning issue that comes under the jurisdiction of the Council rather than Natural England. TA asked if the monies coming from EOn, £65,000 over the next three years, could be used as match funding. DPH suggested that this should be mentioned in the LIFE+ Project Mid Term report to the EU.

Action D2 – The aerial photography works needed to support this action are currently out for tender.

Action D3 – The installation of the data loggers is currently behind schedule but it is planned that these will be installed by May 2016.

Action D4 – DPH confirmed that the MoA with York University for these works is still being finalised. There was an intention that an intern from Leeds University would undertake the socio economic aspects but unfortunately this was not taken up, and further work is taking place to

Action 10: DPH to mention the EOn monies in the LIFE+ Project Mid Term report to the EU.



secure an intern from another university. The questionnaire to support the socio-economic baseline has now been distributed to 20,000+ households across the area, including Crowle and Swinefleet. This exercise will be repeated at the end of the project and the results/analysis will be available for use by other projects, e.g. Heritage Lottery Funding.

Action E1 – DPH reported that he is confident that the target for community events e.g. school visits, guided walks, etc. will be exceeded. The Assistant Project Managers are undertaking a number of the presentations to schools and community groups.

Action E2 – Networking with other projects is behind target. However, DPH and RS have a visit planned and booked to Denmark towards the end of May 2016. A reciprocal visit by the Danish visitors to the UK is scheduled for September 2016.

Action E3 – DPH advised members that events will be covered later in the agenda. It is envisaged that the end of project conference will not take place until autumn 2017.

Action E4 – DPH confirmed that the onsite information boards will be installed on Monday 25th April 2016. He also informed members that the LIFE+ Project had received website exemption from the Cabinet Office meaning that the Project could have its own bespoke website. DPH confirmed that quotes had been received for a website and that the website was being developed by a company based near York. Work will now take place to provide the content, etc. for the site, working towards completion by the end of June 2016.

Action F2 – DPH clarified that there is underspend on vehicles and he will be asking the EU if these monies can be moved within the LIFE+ budget. He confirmed that the monies received from the EU is to cover the depreciation costs of the vehicles and that if Natural England wished to keep the vehicles then they would have to be purchased by the NNR. MC asked whether training formed part of the LIFE+ Project budget and DPH clarified that the monies are just to cover the physical aspects.

Events – AL

AL took members through the two events booked for September, as follows

Mid Project Event – Friday 16th September at Crowle Community Hall, from 10:30-15:30, with a visit to Crowle/Thorne Moors in the afternoon. The draft programme will include presentations from David Shaw, Natural England, along with the local MEP and MP, and a



<p>Lincolnshire Council and Mr Isle, in relation to the removal of his rights to extract. The deal is in relation to compensation. TA asked a general question on whether there is a way to link this as match funding to a bigger project but the members were unable to offer an answer.</p>	
<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>The next meeting of the Group will take place at the Humberhead Peatlands office on Friday 15th July 2016 from 10.30 – 15:00, including a site visit.</p> <p>The meeting finished at 11:55.</p>	