



Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2018, 10.30-12.30, Humberhead Peatlands, Natural England, Unit 1a, Green Tree Warehousing, Tudworth Road, Hatfield, DN7 6HD

**Attendees:** Matt Cox (MC), Tony Devos (TD) *via telephone link*, David Hargreaves (DPH), Helen Kirk (HK), Tim Kohler (TK), Helen Laycock (HL), Melissa Massarella (MM), Martin Oldknow (MO), Neil Pike (NP), Cllr Sue Wilkinson (SW)

**Apologies:** Robert Burnett (RB), Catherine Leonard (CL), Tammy Smalley (TS)

Discussions/Key Points	For Action By
<p><b>1. Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising – DPH</b></p> <p>DPH took members through the actions from the previous meeting and the following was noted:</p> <p><u>Action 1 – Volunteer input to project film</u> – HL reported that Edward Brightman had completed this before leaving. The project film is nearly complete and will be shown at the conference.</p> <p><u>Action 2 – Partner/Steering Group names for film credits</u> – HL confirmed that the film producers are inserting an extra slide into the credits.</p> <p><u>Action 3 – TK re-record voiceover for film</u> – Complete.</p> <p><u>Action 4 – Management plan feedback meeting</u> – To carry forward.</p> <p><u>Action 5 – IDB overheads</u> – To be discussed under item 3.</p> <p><u>Action 6 – EU progress report</u> – DPH confirmed that the report is now available on the project website.</p> <p><u>Action 7 – Lab equipment list</u> – DPH will circulate after the conference.</p> <p><u>Action 8 – End of Project Conference programme</u> – Complete.</p> <p><u>Action 9 – Speakers to be made aware of conference panel discussions</u> – Complete.</p> <p><u>Action 10 – External conference speaker suggestions</u> – DPH reported that none had been received but the programme is now full.</p> <p><u>Action 11 – Do speakers/Steering Group need to register for conference?</u> – HL reported that yes they do so that dietary requirements and accommodation needs can be collected. HL has forwarded the registration link to speakers and Steering Group members asking them to register.</p>	<p><b>Action 1:</b> TK to set up a formal meeting to obtain feedback on the Management Plan.</p> <p><b>Action 2:</b> DPH to circulate the list of potential equipment to be purchased for the lab after the conference.</p> <p><b>Action 3:</b> Steering Group members to register for the conference if they wish to attend.</p>



**2. Progress Update: Key Milestones/Operational Activities – DPH**

**Project Performance Report**

DPH took members through the LIFE+ Project Performance Report for the most recent reporting period, providing an update on progress.

Action A1 – Project establishment. DPH reported that the two Assistant Project Managers and Estate Team have now all left. DPH and HL are currently contracted until the end of September and RS until the end of June but early departure is an inevitable risk with fixed term contracts. A further project extension application is being prepared and there is money in the salary budget due to early departures to cover DPH’s and HL’s salaries for the intended extension period.

Action A2 – Site Management Plans. Ongoing.

Action A3 – Consents and licences. DPH reported that all new structures will have eel passes fitted.

Actions C1&2 – Scrub clearance. All works have been completed and targets have been exceeded.

Action C3 – Rhododendron control. The original target has been exceeded. TK reported that money has been secured through the HLF Landscape Partnership and Northern Peatland bid to continue the work.

Action C4 – Hatfield Moors weirs, dams and bunding. DPH reported that the contract for the three outstanding tilting weirs has been signed with a local contractor and works will commence mid-May and take 6 weeks, ground conditions dependent.

Action C5 – Thorne Moors plugs, bunds and weirs. DPH reported that there are additional works outstanding.

Action C6 – Thorne pumping station. TK reported that the pump control system is malfunctioning. The battery needs replacing for one with a larger capacity, which will hopefully take place the week beginning 16<sup>th</sup> April.

Action D1 – Nightjar study. RS confirmed that the draft final report has been commented on. Lucy Mitchell will complete an additional year of data collection and report to the NNR.

Action D2 – Invertebrate monitoring. RS is currently writing up and will report the results at the conference. HK asked if the results would be

**Action 4:** RS to collaborate with the Thorne & Hatfield Moors Conservation Forum



<p>published in any form. The Steering Group discussed potential publication routes, including a Natural England Technical Note and the Thorne &amp; Hatfield Moors Conservation Forum report.</p> <p><u>Action D3</u> – Water level monitoring. RS confirmed that the data is currently being processed.</p> <p><u>Action D4</u> – Socio-economic and ecosystem service assessment. RS reported that Professor Fred Worrall of Durham University will report the results of the carbon storage assessment at the conference. The University of York will also report the results of the cultural ecosystem services study. However, the Economic Impact Assessment will not be ready for the conference.</p> <p><u>Actions E1-4</u> – Communications. DPH reported that, if the project extension application is successful, the project will be able to hold another summer of events. Moorspace 8 is now being circulated with Moorspace 9 to follow. A final tenth edition summarising the project will be produced if funding can be found.</p> <p><u>Actions F1-4</u> – Project management and monitoring. DPH reported that the project reports and audit will be postponed due to the project extension.</p>	<p>regarding publishing invertebrate monitoring results.</p>
<p><b>3. IDB Match Funding Shortfall – DPH</b></p> <p>DPH reported that the money spent on the Water Level Management Plan by the IDB was designated as match funding for the project. The issue with the IDB's VAT created a £500k shortfall in match funding and, in addition, c.£340k of match funding is still unspent (JBA cannot report the exact amount). DPH has met with the IDB and their new service provider and they have stated that they wish to return the money to the EA and not complete the works. DPH will meet with the EA and the IDB on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2018 to determine if the EA will spend the money itself or transfer it to NE in return for completing the works. If the EA is to complete the works, they would need to become an associated beneficiary of the project and complete the necessary paperwork by the end of April. The simpler option would be for NE to receive the money and do the works, though this would of course involve more work for project staff.</p> <p>If the issue cannot be resolved by the end of April then the project extension application would be at risk. The EU Monitor has logged the application but suspended it until there is clarity on who will spend the match funding. The IDB expected the remaining works to take 10 months and so an extension to March 2019 was requested. However, the withdrawal of the IDB will cause significant delays so additional time may be required. The EU Monitor is confident that a 12-month</p>	<p><b>Action 5:</b> DPH to report back to the Steering Group following the meeting with the EA on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2018 once the implications have been discussed within NE.</p>



<p>project extension would be approved on condition that Lucy Mitchell will collect another field season of nightjar data and provide a 5 page addendum to her report at no extra cost and that another year of water level monitoring data is reported. There is sufficient money in the salary budget to cover the Project Manager and Administration Officer salaries for the extension period. Additional overheads have been built into the project extension application and agreed by the EU Monitor in principle, which will reduce the match funding shortfall. The end of project conference will go ahead but an additional one day end of project celebration event will be held at the end of the extension period.</p>	
<p><b>4. End of Project Conference – DPH, HL</b></p> <p>HL showed the Steering Group a list of the 78 delegates who are currently registered to attend the conference. The venues and coaches have been booked and the conference folder and brochure are with a designer. Andrew Sells, Chairman of NE, has agreed to give the closing address. Some speakers still need to register. Since both of the Assistant Project Managers and the Estate Team have now left, there is some concern over the number of staff that will be available to help at the conference. It has been decided not to provide portable toilets for the site visits as toilets are available at Hatfield Moors and there are public toilets in Crowle near Thorne Moors.</p> <p>MM reported that a member of Doncaster MBC will not be able to give the welcome speech at the conference dinner. HK suggested that some of the insects collected by Richard Smith could be displayed at the conference. SW asked if the conference invitation could be forwarded to other IDB board members and DPH confirmed that it could. MM suggested that it is also sent to <a href="mailto:member.services@doncaster.gov.uk">member.services@doncaster.gov.uk</a> and to Hatfield, Thorne and Crowle councils.</p>	<p><b>Action 6:</b> HL to forward conference invite to <a href="mailto:member.services@doncaster.gov.uk">member.services@doncaster.gov.uk</a> and Hatfield, Thorne and Crowle councils.</p>
<p><b>5. AOB</b></p> <p>HK reported that artistic materials were available for display at the conference and a publications list from the Forum’s website could be included in the folder for delegates.</p> <p>MM offered to promote the conference via Twitter and requested the registration link. NP suggested contacting Liz Holdsworth to promote the conference via the NE Y&amp;NL Twitter account.</p>	<p><b>Action 7:</b> HL to send conference registration link to MM.</p> <p><b>Action 8:</b> HL to contact Liz Holdsworth re promoting the conference via NE’s Y&amp;NL Twitter account.</p>



<p>TD suggested that if the project extension application was successful and a further end of project celebration was planned, there would be the opportunity to combine it with the Cumbria BogLIFE final event in February/March 2019. DPH reported that a joint event to launch the new reserve office was already planned.</p>	
<p><b>6. Date of Next Meeting</b></p> <p>The next meeting is scheduled to take place at the Humberhead Peatlands office on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2018 from 10:30 – 12:30. HL asked if this should be rescheduled for Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2018 and the Steering Group agreed.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 12:20.</p>	<p><b>Action 9:</b> HL to amend the date of the next meeting to 14<sup>th</sup> June 2018.</p>