

The Chain 2



May 2012

Progress with the Northern Upland Chain

News from Bowes Museum...

A follow up to the two March workshops took place at the Bowes Museum, Barnard Castle on 24th April. 36 delegates representing 33 different organisations came together to:

- Hear about progress with the Local Nature Partnership to date
- Consider the opportunities that the Local Nature Partnership could deliver
- Discuss a position paper circulated prior to the meeting



Some of the opportunities for the LNP

“The Northern Upland Chain would enable bigger, better and more joined up actions to benefit key species, help deliver ecosystem services at a landscape scale and enable economic benefits for land owners.”

“Our existing community and biodiversity projects can become bigger, better and more joined up.”

“We can improve linkage between the Protected Areas.”



Supporting local people in identifying, developing and managing local wildlife projects

Headline outcomes of our work to date

- There is a high level of support for the Northern Upland Chain LNP
- The partnership will need to be able to deliver clear added value
- There is a clear role to develop joint funding bids, deliver joint projects, connect things together and share best practice

An external perspective

Guest speaker, Adrian Hilton of Climate North East, welcomed the creation of the proposed Northern Upland Chain LNP and saw the opportunity to extend the work already begun through a Life + bid ...

The Utilities approach to LNPs

Senior managers from Yorkshire Water are meeting on 10th May to discuss their approach to the 9 LNPs covering their territory. Part of the discussion will focus on considering the suggestion that they nominate someone to represent the water companies on the Northern Upland Chain LNP board.

Before it was re-organised, Water UK convened an Access & Recreation Network across the industry that covered biodiversity issues. The network is still operating on an informal basis, and it is thought this could be adapted to cover LNP liaison.

Discussing the position paper...



Small group discussions were held to look at the opportunities and issues arising from the position paper that identified partners' thinking on the function of the LNP, along with considering possible structural options for the composition of the partnership.

A clearer voice for the uplands

The discussion groups developed the ideas proposed to date and confirmed that the Northern Upland Chain LNP should:

- Establish a clearer voice for the uplands by developing a shared, bold, long-term vision
- Show leadership, in part through having an independent chair
- Be selective, developing a strategy to focus activity and demonstrate added value
- Develop relevant communication channels to keep everyone informed and engaged



Key actions and next steps

- Members of the project team will continue to talk to neighbouring LNPs, establishing contiguous boundaries and ways of working together

- We will seek partner endorsement
- A draft application will be completed and put up on our consultation page in the week beginning 14th May

www.countrysidepartnership.co.uk/consultations/NorthernUplandChain.html

- By Thursday 31st May we will have completed and submitted the application in advance of the extended Diamond Jubilee celebrations

Partner endorsement

Our application will be strengthened if it is endorsed by partner organisations. Defra will expect partners to sign up to the application, confirming their support for this response to the LNP initiative.

At the Bowes meeting we agreed that we would contact the represented organisations to seek letters of support for the Northern Upland Chain LNP as it develops its plans over the coming months.

Neighbouring LNPs co-operate

North Yorkshire and Leeds City Region LNPs are the latest of our neighbours to agree to non-overlapping boundaries and ongoing co-operation with the Northern Upland Chain.



"The Chain" is published by the Countryside Training Partnership (David Mount and Simon Lees) on behalf of the proposed Northern Upland Chain partnership