

West Pennine Moors Area Management Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 27th January, 2015 at 10.00 am in Cabinet Room 'D' - The Henry Bolingbroke Room, County Hall, Preston

Present:

Chair

County Councillor Jackie Oakes

Committee Members

Councillor Andrew MacNae, Rossendale Borough Council
Councillor Tony Cummings, Bury Council
Hazel Gregory, United Utilities
Dave Dunlop, Lancashire Wildlife Trust
Mark Turner, Pennine Prospects
Ian Harper, United Utilities
Andy Grundy, Bolton Council
Mick Holding, Natural England

Officers

Fiona Cruchley, Lancashire County Council
Alison Marland, Chorley Council

1. Welcome and Introduction to the meeting - County Councillor Jackie Oakes, Chair of the Area Management Committee (10.00am)

County Councillor Jackie Oakes welcomed everyone to the Joint Member/Officer meeting of the West Pennine Moors Area Management Committee.

Those present each introduced themselves and the organisation they represented.

Mr Hammersley

Stuart Benson, Lancashire County Council reported on the recent passing of Mr G Hammersley, a long standing member of the Committee. Mr Hammersley had served on the Committee for many years and his knowledge and experience would be sorely missed.

The Committee agreed to place on record its appreciation of Mr Hammersley's commitment and efforts over many years.

2. Project Progress (10.15am)

Members of the Committee were invited to give progress reports on projects and initiatives they were involved in.

SSSI

Mick Holding, Natural England reported that work on achieving SSSI had been ongoing for 3 years. In terms of an update for the Committee he reported that:

- New officer had been appointed now who knows the area well
- Flora/fauna surveys had been undertaken
- Permission for access had been obtained where possible
- Woods, Hay meadows had been included, as well as grassland, fungi and reptiles
- All surveys, reports and legal papers were due to be approved by the Board
- Further statutory processes to follow were outlined

United Utilities

Ian Harper, United Utilities gave a presentation on SCAMP 2 – Sustainable Catchment Management Programme. SCAMP is an integrated approach to catchment management incorporating sustainable upland farming which delivers a range of water quality, environmental and public goods. A copy of the presentation is attached to the minutes.

Pennine Prospects

Mark Turner, Pennine Prospects reported that an application for a Local Nature Partnership in the South Pennines had been submitted in 2012 and that application had been successful. A Steering Group had been established with a range of local authority partners, and included an economic development focus.

Six priority areas had been developed and areas of overlap identified. Organisations with an interest were encouraged to get involved as the next key stage was to get projects up and running.

The Committee noted the update reports.

3. Taking stock - implementation of the WPM Management Plan 2010-2014 (11.15am)

Fiona Cruchley reported that local authority finances had changed drastically since 2009 and as a result of discussions at the last meeting of the Committee, it had been considered worthwhile taking stock.

A basic assessment of the West Pennine Moors Management Plan had been undertaken by officers and 139 actions had been identified. These actions were shared with the Committee and had been graded under a traffic light scheme designed to indicate progress.

Fiona reported that many actions appeared to be aspirational and were probably not achievable. It was therefore important for the Committee to look agree its priorities and what can realistically be achieved. Local authorities were increasingly becoming more focused on statutory responsibilities and this position was unlikely to change for the foreseeable future.

4. Where next for the West Pennine Moors? (11.35am)

Mark Turner, Pennine Prospects, informed the Committee that Pennine Prospects was a rural regeneration company focused on the South Pennines. It had been established in 2005 and it was felt that there was an opportunity now to look at the whole landscape and work more closely with the West Pennine Moors Area Management Committee. Pennine Prospects was already looking at partnership working and it was anticipated that a paper would be considered by the Board in March.

Members of the Committee agreed it was an opportunity to work together and across boundaries. It was considered important to consider the balance between different users eg. Mountain bikes, walker and equestrians.

5. Round-up and closing comments (12.15pm)

Everyone was thanked for their input and Fiona suggested that there was a number of questions/issues that would need to be addressed and these included:

- What can be done?
- What Structure is required?
- How we work across the whole area

It was **agreed** to establish a task and Finish Group with the aim of producing proposals for consideration by the Area Management Committee at its meeting in July 2015.

I Young
Director of Governance,
Finance and Public Services

County Hall
Preston

SCaMP2

Sustainable Catchment Management Programme

helping life flow smoothly
life flow smoothly
helping life flow smoothly
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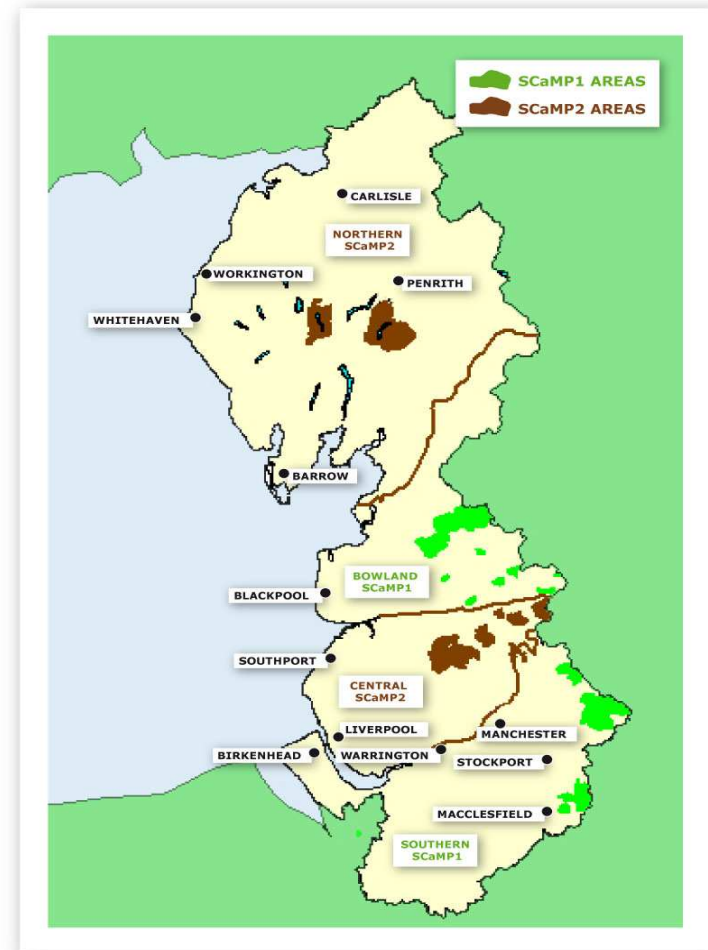


Introduction

- UU land ownership of 56,385 ha
- 17,500 ha designated as SSSI and majority as SPA or SAC to protect habitats and species

SCaMP - an integrated approach to catchment management incorporating sustainable upland farming which delivers a range of water quality, environmental and public goods

- Phase 1 – 2005-2010
- Phase 2 – 2010-2015



Background

- Agricultural pressure on large areas of United Utilities water catchment land
- Large areas of upland peat moors had been drained to improve farming output. Impact of industrial pollution and climate
- Common Agricultural Policy payments based on headage which encouraged farmers to have maximum numbers of stock
- Many areas of SSSI and EC designated Special Protection Areas were in unfavourable declining condition
- Raw water quality was deteriorating



Pressure on the catchment



Opportunity

- Introduction of Single Farm Payment began phasing of payments based on environmental conditions
- Environmental Stewardship Schemes provide an additional opportunity for farmers to gain additional income for managing land for environmental benefits
- Government targets were set to improve SSSI condition
- UK, Lancashire and UU Biodiversity Action Plan targets
- The political climate was right for United Utilities to begin focussing on catchment management

SCaMP 1

- Between 2005 and 2010 the SCaMP 1 programme focussed a spend of £10.7m on our land holdings including SSSIs in the Peak District and Bowland areas
- Work included:
 - Grip blocking
 - Bare peat restoration
 - New farm facilities
 - Fencing, walling, water troughs
 - New woodland, hedgerows
 - Species rich grassland, scrapes, rushy pasture

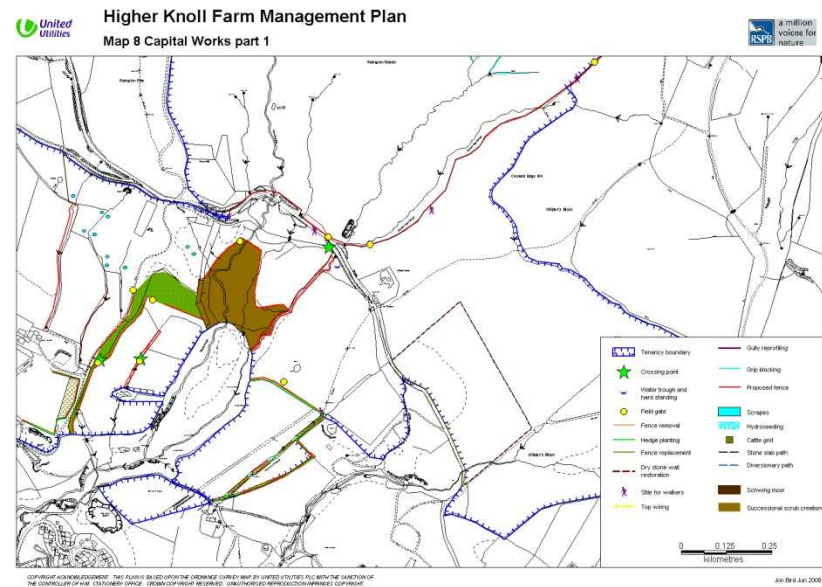


SCaMP2

- The main driver for SCaMP2 is raw water quality
- Analysis of data over several decades has highlighted a rising trend in both colour and turbidity
- This in turn leads to increases in the use of power and chemicals in order to achieve drinking water standards
- Drinking Water standards and price regulation requires the Company to improve raw water input to the treatment works
- This can only be achieved by taking action on the catchments

Lessons learned from SCaMP1

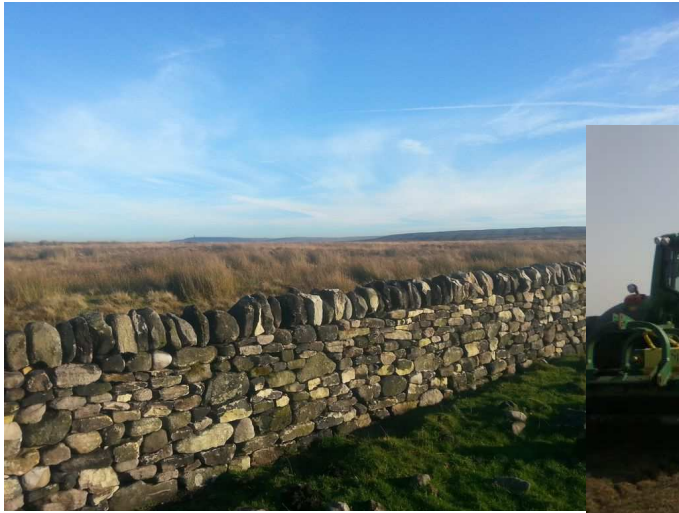
- Plan well in advance and in conjunction with the tenants
- Work closely with NE
- Discuss supply of materials and scheduling of work with contractors
- Ensure that the farm plan is sustainable and delivering benefits



What has been achieved since 2010 ?

- 32 SCaMP2 plans have been delivered
- This encompasses 16 AHA tenancies and 24 Bare land lets across the West Pennine Moors and east Lancashire
- 31 Farms have entered into either ELS/UELS or HLS schemes.
- In effect this has put approximately 7906 Ha into positive management
- To achieve this UU has invested £5m

What are the outcomes





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