

Northern Upland Chain Local Nature Partnership

Background on Local Nature Partnerships

Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs) are partnerships of a broad range of local organisations, businesses and people who aim to help bring about improvements in their local natural environment. Setting up LNPs was one of the commitments we made in the Natural Environment White Paper 2011.

LNPs work strategically to help their local area manage the natural environment. They aim to make sure that its value, and the value of the services it provides to the economy and the people who live there, is taken into account in local decisions, for example about planning and development. LNPs are also being encouraged to work at a large scale, which has been termed 'landscape-scale'

Shared objectives

During the recent review of the Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan it became apparent that there were strong synergies between the policy objectives of the Management Plan and those of the Northern Upland Chain (NUC) Local Nature Partnership, particularly in terms of land management, economy and conservation.

The NUC LNP covers a large area of Northern England, including Nidderdale AONB, North Pennines AONB, Northumberland National Park and Yorkshire Dales National Park with representatives from the public, private and voluntary sectors.

NUC LNP objectives include:

- Conservation and restoration of blanket bog
- Conservation and restoration of species-rich grassland
- Working with farmers and landowners to secure positive outcomes for the natural environment and landscape
- Hen harrier conservation
- Investigating potential benefits of biodiversity off-setting for protected landscapes

Proposal to join NUC LNP

At the National Association for AONBs 'Landscapes for Life' Conference held during July 2014, the Principal AONB Officer raised with officers from Nidderdale and the North Pennines AONBs, the potential for Forest of Bowland to join the Northern Upland Chain LNP.

In early September, a board paper was presented by North Pennines AONB Lead Officer to the NUC LNP with the above proposal. The board welcomed this approach and asked officers to arrange a meeting between the various partners to discuss any potential issues relating neighbouring or overlapping LNPs (e.g. Lancashire, North Yorkshire & York).

Since the LNP board meeting, the Principal AONB Officer has had early discussions with representatives from Lancashire and North Yorkshire & York LNPs and no major concerns have been raised. A meeting between NUC LNP Chair and Vice-chair, Principal AONB

Officer and the other LNP representatives has been arranged for 19th November 2014 to discuss future working relationships.

Recommendation:

The committee is requested to:

- i. consider the report, offer comments and if minded, approve the Principal AONB Officer to pursue this matter further