

Habitat Regulations Assessment

Dartmoor Mires Project PR09

Location of Plan or Project/Application

International Nature Conservation Site

Project to be carried out within the Dartmoor SAC. Proposed work areas illustrated on attached map (Appendix 2).

Nature/Description of Plan or Project/Application

The project will carry out works to block drainage channels and erosion gullies. This will entail using peat sourced in the immediate vicinity and timber brought onto site. Some access by machinery will be needed to transport materials to site. A low ground pressure excavator will be used to excavate the peat needed for the construction of the dams. See Project Work Plan at Appendix 1.

Date Appropriate Assessment Recorded

This is a record of the appropriate assessment, required by Regulation 48 of the Habitats Regulations 1994, undertaken by Dartmoor National Park Authority (DNPA) in respect of the above project, in accordance with the Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC). The works to be carried out under the Dartmoor Mires Project have been identified as necessary for the management of the nature conservation interest of the SAC. Blanket bog is a Priority Habitat and these works aim to protect and where possible restore areas of blanket bog at risk from erosion.

Due to the nature of the works some aspects of the project require careful management to avoid damage to the priority area or other nature conservation interests. To minimise and mitigate against any negative impacts caused by the works DNPA has assessed the risks, and has put appropriate plans in place to minimise or eliminate these risks (see project work plan Appendix 1).

Natural England was consulted as part of the Dartmoor Mires Project of which Natural England is a full partner and signatory to the Memorandum of Agreement which describes and regulates the Project. Representations are attached at Appendix 4. The conclusions of this appropriate assessment are in accordance with the advice and recommendations of Natural England.

The opinion of the general public was taken under Reg. 48(4) by way of consultations on a regular basis and the views expressed (attached at Appendix 5) have been taken into account.

The site's conservation objectives have been taken into account, including consideration of the citation for the site (see appendix 3) and information supplied by Natural England (appendix 4). The likely effects of the proposal on the international nature conservation interests for which the site was designated may be summarised as:

- No likely significant negative effects on the integrity of the SAC designated features.

The assessment has concluded that:

- the plan or project as proposed would not adversely affect the integrity of the site,

The imposition of conditions or restrictions on the way the proposal is to be carried out has been considered and it is ascertained that:

- the following conditions and/or restrictions would avoid adverse effects on the integrity of the site.

As detailed in Project Plan supplied. See appendix 1.

Signed K. Bishop

Date 13.09.2011

Name KEVIN BISHOP

Position CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Appendix 1- Project work plan

The Dartmoor Mires Project aims to carry out restoration works on 110ha of blanket bog within the Dartmoor SAC over 5 years from 2010-15. All the areas of blanket bog within the SAC feature erosions gullies, principally around their periphery. It is likely that the damage was caused or contributed to by historic peat cutting around the sites, fire, and possibly past military/WW2 activity, fracturing the surface and lowering the water table around the periphery causing the formation of erosion channels as precipitation uses the fissures and gullies to run off the edges of the intact blanket bog. Without intervention, the channels migrate back into the bog, and broaden, the movement of the water dislodges vegetation leaving bare peat susceptible to rain, ice, wind and sun, escalating erosion and drying. This process has caused the water-table to drop across affected areas, compromising the biodiversity value of the bog, and its ability to perform a variety of eco-system functions.

Experience from pilot work on Dartmoor and project work elsewhere suggests that it is possible to undertake remedial works (restoration) to slow, or possibly halt, this process in order to conserve the remaining high quality blanket bog. This needs further work to establish and restoration at this site will help contribute towards the evaluation.

The priority areas for conservation are the areas of deepest peat on the top of the plateau where the gradient is relatively shallow. Where erosion gullies encroach on to this area they are small and early intervention using low key techniques should be successful. These areas will be restored by building a series of blocks made from peat along each channel. Peat will be sourced from within or immediately around the gully and relocated using an excavator. Where the gradient is steeper, peat eventually requires support to maintain its strength and retain water. During this project, it is proposed to experiment with using only peat to create blocks, and to monitor success. This will enable greater understanding of the threshold gradients which will aid –planning of future works on challenging sites. It is expected that blocks which continue to hold water throughout the winter, and several storms, are likely to stabilise and continue to function well.

However, around some hydrological monitoring equipment peat blocks may require some timber support so that they are not dislodged during rainfall periods. Use of timber will be kept to a minimum. Where timber support is necessary the size of the structure will be kept to the minimum required. Its top will generally be approximately level with the top of each edge of the gully. The formation of large deep pools will be avoided so in some cases it may be lower.

A detailed work plan will be drawn up and approved for each site prior to works commencing. The following table outlines the processes and procedures that will be followed for all sites prior to and during restoration works, and whilst installing monitoring equipment.

Action	Potentially Damaging Activity	Qualifying Feature Affected	Mitigation	Risk post mitigation
Restoration Works	Driving excavator on to and around site – risk of physical damage, leading to habitat loss, increased erosion and siltation.	7130 Blanket Bog 4030 European Dry Heaths 4010 North Atlantic Wet Heaths with Erica Tetralix 1044 Southern Damselfly 1106 Salmon 1355 Otter	<p>Ultra low ground pressure excavator will be used (below 3psi) with suitable tracks fitted, preventing sinking and minimising damage caused by tracks.</p> <p>Excavator driver will have experience of working on boggy terrain.</p> <p>Excavator contractors will be supervised by DNPA staff at all times. Routes onto and around the blanket bog will be planned in advance of moving excavator.</p> <p>Bare peat areas and particularly wet boggy ground will be avoided.</p> <p>Damaged caused by excavator tracks will be monitored by DNPA staff and works will cease if unacceptable levels of damage are being caused.</p> <p>5m excavator arm reach specified to minimise the need for constant movement across the site.</p>	Low
	Parking excavator on Blanket bog overnight - risk of physical damage, smothering, habitat loss	7130 Blanket Bog	<p>Ultra low ground pressure excavator used (below 3 psi) to prevent sinking and minimise damage caused by tracks.</p> <p>Excavator will only be left on site during restoration works. Any prolonged break in works would see excavator moved off site.</p>	Low

			DNPA staff under advisement from excavator driver will select a 'dry' well vegetated stable area of bog to park excavator.	
	Refuelling of excavator – Risk of fuel spillage causing toxic contamination	7130 Blanket Bog 1044 Southern Damselfly 1106 Salmon 1355 Otter	Contractors are required to submit a refuelling method statement for approval by DNPA before works begin.	Low
	Mechanical failure of machinery leading to spillage – risk of oil or fuel spillage causing toxic contamination	7130 Blanket Bog 4030 European Dry Heaths 4010 North Atlantic Wet Heaths with Erica Tetralix 1044 Southern Damselfly 1106 Salmon 1355 Otter	Contractors are required to provide machinery in good mechanical condition, and provide the appropriate equipment to deal with any spills quickly and efficiently. Provisions in place will be assessed by DNPA before works begin to ensure they are suitable.	Low
	Relocation of peat for blocks – risk of physical damage, increased erosion and siltation	7130 Blanket Bog 1044 Southern Damselfly 1106 Salmon 1355 Otter	Peat would be sourced locally from within the gully being restored. Priority will be given to using stranded peat 'islands' which are being gradually eroded, or by re-profiling the edge of the channel. The result would be a series of small, shallow pools providing ideal conditions for recolonisation by bog plants. At the completion of work, bare peat areas would be within the pool so underwater, or would have vegetation placed on top to protect it. In all cases the aim would be to leave a minimum of peat	Low

		<p>exposed. Peat may be sourced from borrow pits, only when absolutely necessary and only from areas where condition is already compromised. Vegetation will always be returned to the top once peat is extracted resulting in a small depression which itself may become a shallow bog pool.</p> <p>Contractors will be directed by DNPA staff at all times and careful consideration will be made as to the most suitable areas for relocation of the peat.</p> <p>Work plans specify the use of a non toothed bucket to reduce damaged caused by the relocation of peat.</p>	
	<p>Staff walking onto and around site – risk of physical damage caused from footfall</p>	<p>7130 Blanket Bog 4030 European Dry Heaths 4010 North Atlantic Wet Heaths with Erica Tetralix</p>	<p>Low numbers of personnel means there is not a significant risk from footfall.</p> <p>Low</p>
	<p>Transport of staff, equipment, materials, and machinery to site – risk of physical damage caused by vehicle</p>	<p>7130 Blanket Bog 4030 European Dry Heaths 4010 North Atlantic Wet Heaths with Erica Tetralix 1044 Southern Damselfly 1106 Salmon 1355 Otter</p>	<p>Where possible all personnel will be required to walk to site across the moor. Where this is not possible due to distance of walk or the need to take equipment/materials to site an ultra low ground pressure vehicle (below 3psi) suitable for boggy conditions must be used.</p> <p>The vehicles route will be planned in advance, and will be inspected and walked by DNPA staff and recorded using differential GPS prior to works.</p> <p>Low</p>

			<p>DNPA staff will assess any damage caused by the vehicle and its use will be immediately ceased should it be deemed it is causing unacceptable levels of damage.</p> <p>Excavator will be left on site during works preventing repeated journeys to and from site.</p>	
<p>Disturbing unexploded ordnance (UXO) within peat during works – risk of disturbed UXO exploding causing physical damage and habitat loss</p>	<p>7130 Blanket Bog</p>	<p>7130 Blanket Bog</p>	<p>UXO surveys to be carried out prior to works taking place. Any potential items found will be left in situ and flagged. These will be avoided during works.</p>	<p>Low</p>
<p>Creation of blocks in erosion gullies – risk of physical damage, habitat loss</p>		<p>7130 Blanket Bog</p>	<p>Works are expected to bring benefits to the biodiversity of bogs and protect them where they are still in good condition.</p> <p>Works carried out in summer/autumn to avoid disturbance of breeding birds.</p> <p>Breeding bird survey and invertebrate surveys to be carried out at a selection of sites prior to works, with repeat surveys conducted during the project.</p> <p>Vegetation monitoring to be conducted at all sites and will be the main way in which the effects of</p>	<p>Low</p>

			restoration, can be assessed, through colonisation of bare peat areas, and changes in the species composition locally if the water-table becomes more stable. Photographic monitoring carried out before and after restoration to monitor change.	
Hydrological monitoring	Transport of staff, equipment, materials, and machinery to site – risk of physical damage caused by vehicle	7130 Blanket Bog 4030 European Dry Heaths 4010 North Atlantic Wet Heaths with Erica Tetralix 1044 Southern Damselfly 1106 Salmon 1355 Otter	Where possible all personnel will be required to walk to site across the moor. Where this is not possible due to distance of walk or the need to take equipment/materials to site an ultra low ground pressure vehicle (below 3psi) suitable for boggy conditions must be used. The vehicles route will be planned in advance, and will be inspected and walked by DNPA staff and recorded using differential GPS prior to works. DNPA staff will assess any damage caused by the vehicle and its use will be immediately ceased should it be deemed it is causing unacceptable levels of damage. Excavator will be left on site during works preventing repeated journeys to and from site.	Low
	Installation of hydrological monitoring equipment – risk of physical damage, smothering	7130 Blanket Bog	Suitable site for monitoring equipment selected by DNPA with EA. EA to draw up suitable monitoring plan, and required equipment.	Low

			<p>Equipment to be installed under supervision from DNPA staff.</p> <p>Suitable sized flume and erosion gully to be selected to minimise the amount of re-profiling required during installation.</p> <p>All equipment will be removed once no longer required under the supervision of DNPA staff (equipment is expected to remain on site for several years post restoration).</p>	
	<p>Installation of fencing around hydrological monitoring equipment – risk of risk of physical damage</p>	<p>7130 Blanket Bog</p>	<p>Wooden posts and wire fencing will be erected by hand. Stake posts will be used requiring no other material to hold them in place.</p> <p>DNPA staff will supervise erection of fencing and take appropriate steps if damage is being caused.</p> <p>Fencing will be removed from site once no longer required under the supervision of DNPA staff (fencing is expected to stay on site for several years post restoration).</p>	<p>Low</p>
	<p>Collecting of samples-- risk of damage from accessing site.</p>	<p>7130 Blanket Bog 4030 European Dry Heaths 4010 North Atlantic Wet Heaths with Erica Tetralix</p>	<p>Wafer samples to be collected from site on foot, this is not expected to cause any significant damage.</p>	<p>Low</p>



<p>Other monitoring and site visits associated with project</p>	<p>Transport of staff, equipment, materials to site -- risk of physical damage caused</p>	<p>7130 Blanket Bog 4030 European Dry Heaths 4010 North Atlantic Wet Heaths with Erica Tetralix</p>	<p>Visits to sites will be relatively infrequent and with low numbers of personnel. Staff, equipment and materials will be transported to site on foot minimising damage. The only materials to be left on site will be a few small wooden pegs used to mark vegetation monitoring transects. These are recorded using differential and will be removed at the end of the monitoring process.</p>	<p>Low</p>
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Appendix 2 - Maps (scales approximate)

Dartmoor National Park Authority

Dartmoor Mires Project 2010-15
Identified areas for blocking

Scale 1:50000 Compiled by shardy on 19 March 2013

-  Blocked/Proposed blocked area
-  Hydrologically restored area (HRA) post restoration works



Appendix 3 - DARTMOOR SAC CITATION

NATURA 2000 STANDARD DATA FORM

FOR SPECIAL PROTECTION AREAS (SPA), FOR SITES ELIGIBLE FOR IDENTIFICATION AS SITES OF COMMUNITY IMPORTANCE (SCI) AND FOR SPECIAL AREAS OF CONSERVATION (SAC)

1. Site identification:

1.1 Type B

1.2 Site code UK0012929

1.3 Compilation date 199601

1.4 Update 200305

1.5 Relationship with other Natura 2000 sites NA

1.6 Respondent(s) International Designations, JNCC, Peterborough

1.7 Site name Dartmoor

1.8 Site indication and designation classification dates

date site proposed as eligible as SCI 199601

date confirmed as SCI 200412

date site classified as SPA

date site designated as SAC 200504

2. Site location:

2.1 Site centre location

longitude latitude 03 59 40 W 50 39 37 N

2.2 Site area (ha) 23165.77

2.3 Site length (km) NA

2.5 Administrative region

NUTS code Region name % cover

UK622 Devon 100.00%

2.6 Biogeographic region

X Alpine Atlantic Boreal Continental Macaronesia Mediterranean

3. Ecological information:

3.1 Annex I habitats

Habitat types present on the site and the site assessment for them:

Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* 19.73 A C A A

European dry heaths 24.66 A C A B

Blanket bogs 34.52 A C A B

Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles 0.5 B C A B

3.2 Annex II species

Population Site assessment

Coenagrion mercuriale 50 - - - C A A B

Salmo salar Present - - - C A C C

Lutra lutra Present - - - C A C C

4. Site description

4.1 General site character

Habitat classes % cover

Inland water bodies (standing water, running water) 1.0

Bogs, Marshes, Water fringed vegetation, Fens 42.0

Heath, Scrub, Maquis and garrigue, *Phygrana* 40.0

Humid grassland, Mesophile grassland 12.0

Improved grassland 2.0

Broad-leaved deciduous woodland 1.0

Inland rocks, Screes, Sands, Permanent snow and ice 2.0

Total habitat cover 100%

4.1 Other site characteristics

Soil & geology:

Acidic, Granite, Peat

Geomorphology & landscape:

Crags/ledges, Hilly, Upland

4.2 Quality and importance

Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom.

European dry heaths for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom.

Blanket bogs for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom.

Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom.

Coenagrion mercurial for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom.

Salmo salar for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.

Lutra lutra for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.

4.3 Vulnerability

The ecological character of the site is, to a large extent, dependent upon long-established traditional farming methods. However, much of Dartmoor's blanket bog and wet heath has been affected by uncontrolled and unplanned fires, some of which start naturally in hot, dry summers, but most of which are started deliberately. A programme of alerting the public to the dangers of starting accidental fires is already undertaken by the National Park Authority. In addition, a Moorland Management Group is to be established so that farmers and conservationists can share knowledge on moorland management and reduce the potential for damage by fires. One of the key nature conservation objectives for Dartmoor is to reverse the degradation of blanket bog and wet heath by providing stable conditions that favour bog vegetation. This objective is being pursued by the production of burning plans in collaboration with the Commoners' Council, Commons Associations and the National Park Authority, and by promoting the Environmentally Sensitive Area programme. Dartmoor is used for military training and artillery and mortar fire has led to the formation of numerous craters, and gully erosion in some areas. However, the use of heavy munitions has ceased since 1998 and the craters are healing naturally.

Dry heath on Dartmoor has suffered extensive damage through overgrazing and frequent burning. Consequently, some areas of former dry heath have been converted to grass moorland, and large areas are in unfavourable condition because of low dwarf-shrub cover. Through the implementation of Environmental Cross-Compliance and by promoting the Environmentally Sensitive Area programme, the condition of dry heath should improve.

Wistman's Wood and Black Tor Copse are not fenced to exclude livestock. The low-intensity grazing provides ideal conditions for rich moss and lichen floras. Livestock are excluded from Dendles Wood however.

5. Site protection status and relation with CORINE biotopes:

5.1 Designation types at national and regional level

Code % cover

UK01 (NNR) 1.0

UK04 (SSSI/ASSI) 100.0

Appendix 4 - NE Submissions

Dartmoor Mires Project Management Board

Wednesday 25 May 2011

Meeting Room, DNPA, Parke

Present: Sue Goodfellow (Chair) – DNPA
Frances Cooper (DNPA)
Cathy McGarvey (South West Water)
Andy Guy (Natural England)
Anton Coaker (Dartmoor Commoners Council)
Mary Alford (Dartmoor Commoners Council)
Mary-Rose Lane (Environment Agency)
Jay Rowntree (Environment Agency)

- 1 **Apologies:** Martin Ross (South West Water)
Tom Stratton (Duchy of Cornwall)
David Marino (Duchy of Cornwall)
- 2 **Minutes of the last meeting – 19 January 2011, and Matters Arising**

Item 2 – Memorandum of Agreement – SG reported that this has now been signed by all parties.

Item 3 – FC reported that the proposed restoration work at Broad Down will now be scheduled to take place in year four. It was proposed that this site should be known as Wildbanks Mire. (Additional note – see Addendum)

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2011 were AGREED.

- 3 **2010/11 Report and budget outturn**

FC reported that a regular quarterly report will be put together for South West Water, prior to invoicing. DNPA has invoiced for £41k so far. Additional partner costs will total £61,499.74. CM reported that SWW had recently met with DNPA and outstanding issues had been resolved. The total 5 year allocation of £1116,000 has now been confirmed.

- 4 **Forest of Dartmoor HLS**

AG reported that unfortunately it is unlikely that the HLS will follow straight on from the ESA. However NE have written to the commoners to offer an agreement to start on 1st April 2011 with a UELS to plug the gap.

FC and SG advised the Board that the Dartmoor Mires Project is requesting authorisation from the Board to carry out some work this year at Winney's Down. The work will be the same as that agreed last year but without the use of timber dams this year, to assess whether this is successful. Graziers are being invited to a site meeting on 24th June where they will be

updated on the proposals and also be able to discuss the location of access points for quad bikes.

It was agreed that the Project Board gave authorisation to proceed with contracting the work, provided that commoners gave approval at their meeting on 28 June, following the site visit on 24 June.

FC distributed draft wording of a public notice to be placed in the local press, giving notice of the work to take place in the near future and the associated tender process. MRL suggested that all graziers involved should be advised in writing that the public notice was to be placed in the hope that agreement is reached and, in this way, the window for the work to be carried out will not be missed. Additional information could also be given to graziers at the meeting on the 24th June.

AC asked whether any decisions had been taken regarding how contractors tendering for the work will be asked to detail their costs e.g., fixed amount, daily or hourly rate etc. FC gave some information and asked AC for his assistance in finalising the specification which he agreed to do.

5 2011/12 Draft Work Plan and Budget

FC presented the draft year 2 revision to the 5 year costed workplan and budget. She highlighted the breakdown of work streams, associated costs and totals. This would be an amendment to Appendix 1 of the Memorandum of Agreement.

5a & b – FC advised that in addition to the restoration work, the hydrological monitoring is the other priority for the Mires Project this year. MRL reported that the draft Dartmoor Hydrological Monitoring Plan has been drawn up. It is proposed that the monitoring will be carried out at Broad Down.

The Environment Agency (EA) and University of Exeter (UoE) have liaised regarding the data to be collected. For technical reasons, it is now proposed that UoE will manage the gathering of data onsite, with the EA undertaking analysis. The EA does not expect there to be any difference to what data is collected. The Mires Project will seek advice from the Commoners regarding the type of enclosure required to protect the equipment from livestock, and vice versa. Consent from the Secretary of State will be required for any enclosure, and other structures as it would be in situ for the duration of the project; Planning Permission is not required. It is proposed that the monitoring term will be 9 years provided there are means to manage it.

A site visit will be organised soon to which commoners and other partners will be invited. (Further information – see Addendum)

Vegetation monitoring will be carried out in 15-20m long transects, marked with small wooden posts as used last year at Winneys Down. It is hoped that this can be carried out in July.

All of this work will be advised to graziers prior to commencement.

5c – FC advised that recruitment of the Historic Environment Officer was underway with interviews scheduled for 21 June.

FC also advised the second year of field work, including GPR, being undertaken by Ralph Fyfe of Plymouth University will take place over the summer.

5d – Communication. FC asked for feedback and suggestions for improvement. CMG commented that she is comfortable with the membership and performance of the Board thus far. MA suggested, and FC confirmed, that she has offered to attend Dartmoor Forest commoners meetings. AG advised that commoners were welcome to invite Natural England to attend their meetings. It was agreed that the Commoners Council should be made aware of the workplan – to include the vegetation monitoring and hydrological monitoring. MRL commented that she was happy with the content and flow of information.

Delivery Plan – The Board felt that this was both informative and well written. MA suggested that it be sent to the Commoners' Council. FC invited members to feed back their comments to her by Friday 17th June. Upon completion the Plan will be sent to the Commoners' Council, placed on the webpage and distributed to members of the Advisory Group.

Website – FC reported that Richard Drysdale is currently working on the structure of the site - www.dartmoormiresproject.org.uk – items are gradually being added to the site.

Public information and project leaflet – FC invited views from members regarding the possibility of putting a leaflet together which would provide more information than the flyer which had been used at the launch. CM suggested that this should be low priority and suggested that it be reviewed in six months time. This was agreed.

Press releases – It was agreed that to the next press release would relate to the restoration, assuming it goes ahead.

Conference attendance – FC advised that the funds set aside for conference attendance are for any member to access in order that they may attend relevant seminars/conferences etc.

6 Priorities for the next six months

As above – Winneys Down restoration work
Hydrological monitoring
Other planned activities are shown on the 12 month work plan.

7 Revisions to five year work plan and budget

Areas earmarked for restoration within the firing ranges will take place in August only; therefore, the amount of work that can be done may be restricted. This includes all sites except Winneys Down and Broad Down. Access may be less restricted at Hangingstone Hill. FC advised that we may need to consider, later in the project, whether it is possible to carry out work on more than one site at a time in order to meet our targets. This has not been timetabled as yet as the availability of contractors is not yet known.

8 Future meetings

Hydrological monitoring – a meeting can be called if required.

The next meeting will take the form of a site visit, in October 2011. (Additional note - see Addendum).

CM suggested consideration be given to organising an open day next summer.

9 Any other business

1. Blackabrook – for information - Landmarc have removed half of the timber, but are unable to remove what remains. This will be addressed. .
2. Licensing issues – Natural England is putting together a project to bring together peatland datasets with a view to improving – via LIDAR data. A firm of consultants is undertaking this on NE's behalf. DNPA is facilitating this.
3. PR14 - SWW already making preparation for PR14 with a view to funding further work between 2015-2020. There may be some need for the partnership to provide information. It was agreed that SWW would be asked to provide specific advice on what information was required in the short-term.

ADDENDUM

- Minute 2 Re Item 3 - There has been some further discussion on this following the meeting. Due to the potential for confusion and it is now proposed that we keep the original name of Broad Down.
- Minute 5 - A site visit for partners, including graziers, has been set for 25 July.
- Minute 8 It is suggested that there is also a meeting to follow the site visit.

Dartmoor Mires Project Management Board

Wednesday 23 November 2011

Meeting Room, DNPA High Moorland Office, Princetown

Present: Sue Goodfellow (Chair) – DNPA
Frances Cooper (Dartmoor Mires Project)
Cathy McGarvey (South West Water)
Robert Prentice (South West Water)
Andy Guy (Natural England)
Anton Coaker (Dartmoor Commoners Council)
Mary Alford (Dartmoor Commoners Council)
Mary-Rose Lane (Environment Agency)
Jay Rowntree (Environment Agency)
David Marino (Duchy of Cornwall)
Nicola Rohan (Dartmoor Mires Project)

1 Apologies: Tom Stratton (Duchy of Cornwall)

2 Welcome Nikki Rohan (Historic Environment Officer)

Nikki was introduced to the Project Board and outlined her experience to date.

3 Minutes of the last meeting – 25 May 2011, and Matters Arising

Item 9 – MA raised concerns that the timber at Blackabrook had not been removed. DM will look into the MoD moving the timber. FC agreed to let him know the grid co-ords.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 25 May 2011 were AGREED.

4 Restoration at Winney's Down – A Short Film of restoration at Winney's Down

FC showed the Project Board the video of the restoration work at Winney's Down. JR suggested that the clip should be shown on YouTube. FC advised that this was in hand.

FC reported on the work at Winney's Down and outlined the differences between the two contractors used.

AC asked what type of machine was preferable and why it was preferable.

FC outlined the differences between the two and that the second contractor was preferable because it the machine had rubber cambered tracks and a swivel head bucket that allowed the machine to reach places that the first contractor couldn't access.

AC suggested that the type of machine tracks and digging bucket necessary for the restoration works be specifically requested in the next tender to allow local contractors to compete for the bid. MA reported that she was unaware how the tender for the contractor was selected and also expressed a preference for awarding the contract to local firms.

SG and FC reported that the tender process has to be in line with procurement regulations.

It was agreed that the Project Board will be included in future discussions and available for consultation regarding contractor specifications in the next tender.

5 Dartmoor Mires Project targets (SSW)

RP reported that SSW has agreed a target of 110ha of restoration works with Ofwat and requested that the Project Board sign up to achieving this target.

AC asked if the Project is on target and if the targets are achievable. FC advised that she doesn't know if the targets are achievable. SG stated that the project achieved its targets for this year.

FC advised that the work plans are developed in consultation with the partners so we do not know whether restoration will proceed until consultation has taken place.

JR recommended that an area greater than 110ha should be selected for restoration work in case some of the sites fail.

It was agreed by the board that the total area for restoration (110ha) during this project is not being increased but the total candidate area available for consideration was greater, approximately 150ha, to provide an alternative in the event that a decision is made not to proceed on some areas. SG reiterated that only 110 ha would be restored and that any additional areas should be discussed with the Commoners.

6 (5) Budget Update

FC distributed a copy of the Year 2 costs to the board and gave a breakdown of costs and totals including those for the partners including DNPA, SWW (University of Exeter) and the Environment Agency. She reported that the cost of the restoration carried out to date was less than the amount budgeted for. As the total costs were not finalised at present they will be available for the next Project Board meeting.

7 (6) Priorities for the next six months

7 (a) Hydrological monitoring (HM), consultation and timetable.

FC reported that it is necessary to fence two small areas for the HM and outlined the size of the two areas.

AC asked how long the fences need to stay in place. SG informed the board that it is 9 years and requested MA's and AC's input in how best to present the information to the commoners.

SG outlined to the board the options to consider with regard to legally establishing fencing required for the Hydrological Monitoring, which were as follows:

- Secretary of State Consent (Commons Act 2006)
- Exemption route (Commons Act 2006)
- Use of Dartmoor Commons Act 1985

A discussion concluded as that the fencing should be erected by 1st March and was needed for up to 9 years, either the exemption route (which only allows for 5 years) or the Dartmoor Commons Act route should be followed. SG agreed to take this back to DNPA's Leadership Team, find out more information from Defra and the Planning Inspectorate and consult the Commoners Council on their views.

7 (b) Restoration 2012, sites and workplans

FC stated that Hangingstone Hill and some of the Cowsic/Walkham (South Heads) sites are provisionally scheduled for restoration next year. She stated that she will consult the partners and send drafts of plans for comment.

AC expressed concern at the size the Cowsic Head sites. He advised that the DCC be consulted about these restoration areas as they have the potential to impact upon stock movements. He stated that FC should speak to the graziers directly.

7 (c) Research and monitoring seminar

FC advised that the seminar was currently scheduled for February 2012. It was agreed to reschedule the seminar until early 2013.

8 Any other business

1. SG informed the project board that she will be leaving her post at the DNPA. She stated that the Mires Project will move into a new Directorate headed by Alison Kohler who will be the DNPA lead director on the Mires Project. Others involved in the project would remain in their posts and the Mires Project still had high priority for the DNPA. CM thanked SG for chairing the Project Board.

9 Future meetings

The next meeting will take place at 2pm on 7th March 2011 at DNPA Offices in Princetown.

Dartmoor Mires Project Management Board

Tuesday 20 March 2012

Room 1, DNPA High Moorland Office, Princetown

Present: Sue Goodfellow (Chair) – DNPA
Ally Kohler (DNPA)
Frances Cooper (Dartmoor Mires Project)
Nicola Rohan (Dartmoor Mires Project)
Norman Baldock – (DNPA)
Robert Prentice (South West Water)
Andy Guy (Natural England)
Anton Coaker (Dartmoor Commoners Council)
Mary Afford (Dartmoor Commoners Council)
Jay Rowntree (Environment Agency)
Tom Stratton (Duchy of Cornwall)
Dr. Richard Brazier (University of Exeter) in attendance

1 Apologies: Cathy McGarvey (South West Water)
David Marino (Duchy of Cornwall)
Mary-Rose Lane (Environment Agency)

2 Minutes of the last meeting – 23 November 2011 and Matters Arising

Item 3 – MA raised concerns that the timber at Blackabrook had not been removed and stated that it was not good enough. FC stated that both she and DM were trying to sort this matter out.

It was agreed that DM will take this up.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 23 November 2011 were AGREED.

3 Hydrological Monitoring Update

a. Presentation by Dr. Richard Brazier, University of Exeter

RB gave a verbal update on the hydrological monitoring and brief explanation on the processes involved in the work. He stated that there are two types of erosion so two types of monitoring are required; a base station in the top enclosure on Broad Down and the met station located in the bottom enclosure. The met station includes two rain gauges that are wired into a telemetry system that uses the mobile phone network to transmit data to the University of Exeter. They installed 50 dipwells, which are used to monitor the water depth.

The lower site monitors a more linear gully. RB expects to see significant changes in quantity and quality of water once monitoring of this location is up and running. A flume has been inserted into the gully to normalise the channel in order to measure discharge. At this stage 80% of the work is done, all that remains to do is the tidying up of the site. He reported that the mobile signal is working perfectly.

RB outlined the process involved in the gas flux work. He stated that they are setting up the equipment to understand degassing and the effect of the hydrology on this. He expects to get data within the next month.

AC asked if the graziers had been consulted about the restoration at Broad Down. FC informed the board that a draft restoration plan was sent to the Trustees and graziers. SG stated that the commoners were informed and that the DNPA received a letter from David Evans stating that they had no objections in principle.

MA inquired what the timescale is for this process.

NB added that it would be at autumn 2013 before the restoration work at Broad Down could be carried out.

4 Historic Environment

a. Advice note for project partners

NR tabled a Historic Environment Advice Note and outlined the content which included a list of legislation and policy that protects the historic environment in England. She also outlined the process by which the historic environment is dealt with by Dartmoor Mires Project and added that all work is carried out in line with current legislation, policy, guidance and best practice. NR added that all work relating to the historic environment is carried out in consultation and in agreement with the DNPA Archaeologists. NR also informed the group of the implications if archaeological remains were disturbed during the course of restoration works and added that in accordance with current government policy the project would be liable for any cost implication arising from the discovery of archaeological remains during works association with the project.

5 Adoption of definition of Restoration Areas for Dartmoor Mires Project

FC showed a map of Winney's Down illustrating the blocked areas and the related *hydrologically restored area* which can be determined using flow maps, derived from the

LIDAR data. She added that in future when we talk of restored areas we mean the total area benefiting from the works: the hydrologically restored area.

NB added that there are two areas, one with blocks and one that is hydrologically restored.

AC added that this was bad news for the farmers as a larger area will be wetter.

MA also expressed concern that the area outside of the restored area will become wetter meaning less land for graziers.

AG stated that only the area where the dam is constructed is wetter than further out. FC agreed with this and added that the additional area was bog with a high water table already. It would not become wetter but the blocking would protect it from becoming drier through encroaching drainage. The watertable would be expected to rise a little in the blocked area.

SG added that the scale at which the project is working will not effect grazing for the moment.

It was AGREED that the definition of a 'restored' area is the *hydrologically restored area*.

6 Potential Restoration Areas for Mires Project 2010/2015

a. Hangingsstone Hill/Alternative Sites

NR tabled a Historic Environment Advice note for Hangingsstone Hill outlining the reasons for the high potential to uncover archaeological remains during restoration works. She informed the board about the importance of the cist excavated on Whitehorse Hill and the potential cost implications (potentially in excess of £130,000) if a similar discovery was made during restoration works. In the event such a discovery was made or in fact if any archaeological remains were uncovered within the site, then the cost would have to be borne by the Project. In light of the recent excavation of the cist and the extensive peat cutting on the eastern side of Hangingsstone Hill a detailed survey of the site is required. The level of survey required must be carried out in advance of restoration works and the cost is beyond the current Mires budget. However, this area forms part of the DNPA's Landscape Partnership Heritage Lottery Fund bid and, if successful, the restoration area would be subject to intensive survey as part of this work. It was, therefore, recommended that restoration work does not take place at the site during this (2010-2015) phase of restoration works.

The Project Board AGREED that restoration of the Hangingsstone Hill site would be postponed during the life of the current project.

FC advised that alternatives are being considered, in adjacent areas and a field visit is planned.

There was some discussion regarding the 110 ha target and the group was advised that DNPA do not anticipate that it can be met in the time available. It is expected that approximately 90 ha is would be a more likely estimate.

RP stated that only doing 90ha is very worrying from South West Water's perspective.

It was AGREED to hold a Project Board meeting to discuss project planning on 30th May at 10.00am at Princetown. Constraints and options for undertaking restoration during the current project can be fully discussed.

7 Dartmoor Mires Budget

a. Year 2 update

FC tabled the Year 2 budget update and stated the Year 2 budget was an estimate as the end of year figures were not available yet.

b. Year 3 budget

FC tabled the Year 3 draft budget but advised that it reflected the previously discussed plans, and not a revised work plan as currently under discussion.

c. Five Year Project Budget

FC tabled the budget and explained that she had created a £40,000 contingency fund for the historic environment or other use as necessary so that funds are available, for example, in the event that archaeological remains are encountered during the life of the project.

9 Dates for future meetings

As above it was agreed that the next meeting would be held on 30th May 10.00am at DNPA Offices in Princetown.

FC added that she would provide update outturn figures for the Year 2 budget.

10 AOB

MA wished SG good luck and thanked her for chairing the project board meetings.

Dartmoor Mires Project Management Board

Wednesday 30th May 2012

Room 1, DNPA High Moorland Office, Princetown

- Present:
- Ally Kohler (Chair) (DNPA)
 - Frances Cooper (Dartmoor Mires Project)
 - Nicola Rohan (Dartmoor Mires Project)
 - Norman Baldock – (DNPA)
 - Robert Prentice (South West Water)
 - Andy Guy (Natural England)
 - Mary-Rose Lane (Environment Agency)
 - Mary Alford (Dartmoor Commoners Council)
 - Cathy McGarvey (South West Water)
 - David Marino (Duchy of Cornwall)
- 1 **Apologies:**
- Anton Coaker (Dartmoor Commoners Council)
 - Jay Rowntree (Environment Agency)

2 Minutes of the last meeting – 20 March 2012 and Matters Arising

Item 2 –FC stated that she has arranged with Landmarc (Defence Estates contractor) to collect the timber from Blackabrook in August.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20 March 2012 were AGREED.

5 Introduction to the meeting

AK stated that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the constraints to the Mires restoration work and discuss ways to overcome any constraints.

6 Constraints, issues and protocols related to the implementation of practical restoration

A handout was distributed, which outlined the constraints and included the following; required action, additional/alternative means and feasibility of alternative.

The following constraints were discussed

a) Firing ranges

DM suggested he speaks with the MoD about confining training to other areas within the ranges during periods when Mires restoration work is taking place.

ACTION DM will lead conversations to establish MoD plans for firing.

b) Unexploded Ordnance

DM informed the project board that the MoD are selling two sites that have to be EOD cleared. They have currently put in a bid for this work and if awarded the contract, it will be their priority.

AK suggested that there are private contractors but they are costly.

DM said that he will explore what private contractors are out there and their costs.

ACTION DM to explore the availability and costs of private contractors for UXO clearance.

c) Time of year/weather

FC explained that restoration work is not possible between March and July due to bird nesting and that from November to February the days are short, weather poor and the vegetation is resilience is decreased.

M-R L stated that the Mires Project is a pilot and the point of this is to figure out how to do this work on Dartmoor.

d) Contractors

FC stated that a lot was learned from doing the work on Winney's Down. The tracks on the machine are very important, the chamfered plastic tracks are less intrusive than unchamfered metal tracks and don't break the ground. The machine can also safely access more parts of the site.

The 'tilt-rotator' for the bucket also enabled more dexterous handling of peat which was advantageous.

The Board agreed that buying chamfered tracks and a tilt-rotator for the project was not the best course of action, as different machines are expected to require different fittings.

ACTION

1. Advertise future work with detailed specifications stated.
2. Invite Anton Coaker and local contractors to visit the site during restoration work this September so they can see the tracks and tilt-rotator that are required for restoration work.
3. Speak with Landmarc (conservation contractors) in Totnes to establish what equipment/machinery they have.

e) Contracts and tendering

MA inquired whether any local contractors could be used for the work.

FC stated that EU procurement regulations do not allow for preference of local contractors.

However, it would be good to provide assistance where possible to enable local contractors.

ACTION M-R L will find out the specifications for the equipment a local contractor on Exmoor uses to determine whether he might be able to undertake the work.

f) Supervision of Work

FC stated that the methods for grip blocking used elsewhere in the UK is very different to the work required for Dartmoor, where it needs closer supervision, at this stage due to the experimental nature of the work.

RP stated that the project requires a second person to supervise restoration work as there is too much risk involved in having only one person available with the knowledge on how to supervise the work.

AK agreed that there is a need for additional assistance and the DNPA will consider whether the budget can accommodate a Grade 4 post from September 2012 until the end of the contract to learn restoration techniques and undertake other supporting work.

M-RL stated that it is best to have a dedicated person who can commit to long days on site for the duration of restoration work.

NB added that an additional person could help prepare for PR14.

The following was agreed;

1. Support staff will be recruited before this September's site work, if possible
2. DNPA will discuss with SWW about whether the position will be full-time or part-time
3. Person recruited will help prepare for PR14
4. The job advert will be sent to Project Partners so they can promote and pass on the details to any interested persons

g) Site character

It was agreed that this topic was already covered and did not require further discussion.

h) Establishing agreement for works

AK stated that if the workload of the project is to increase then the agreement process needs support and prompt reply from the project partners.

5 Sites identified and related information

a) Winney's Down

FC informed the board that Winney's Down will be finished over 1 week this autumn.

b) Broad Down

Broad Down is proposed to be restored in 2013. It is estimated that Broad Down restoration work will take 38 days.

The combined hydrologically restored areas for Winney's Down and Broad Down is around 80ha.

c) South Tavy Head

FC informed the Board that it would only be possible to restore around 5.8ha of the South Tavy Head site during the life of this project.

AK informed the board that an informal meeting with the Forest of Dartmoor Commoners' Council established that they are happy to go ahead with this work in principle.

DM stated that it is worth speaking with to the MoD about firing in this area.

d) Winney's Down Area 2

FC stated that this site could potentially be restored this autumn, the hydrologically restored area is significant and the site is outside the firing range.

AK informed the board that if we are to push ahead with aiming to do Winney's Down 2 this autumn then it is a priority on FC's time so DNPA need assurances that there are not other demands on her time.

FC stated that if full procurement is required then it will be very difficult if not impossible to get this done in time.

e) Cranmere Pool

FC stated that the site has been divided into 4 areas and it would only be possible to do Cranmere Pool South and Cranmere Pool West during this project, which would give a hydrologically restored area of 10.3ha.

f) Amicombe Hill

FC informed the board that the hydrological gain at this site is probably the same as the blocked areas. Also, this site is likely to require different techniques and would require significantly ore time to prepare.

MRL suggested that the project would not learn much from this site.

NR added that there would be a significant impact on the historic environment as the landscape is the result of industrial peat cutting and the project may encounter resistance to altering this landscape.

Proposed Works were outlined by AK

1. Focus on Winney's Down and possibly Winney's Down 2 this year
2. Broad Down in 2013
3. South Tavy Head and Cranmere Pool in 2014 subject to approval, and Winneys Down 2, if not previously restored

NR informed the board that palaeoecological survey needs to be carried out at Winney's Down 2 and Cranmere Pool prior to restoration work as these sites were not included in Ralph Fyfe's survey areas.

FC stated that this work plan assumes there is one work team.

ACTION

1. Run with this programme
2. Project staff will look into doing Winney's Down 2 this year.
3. Resources will be used to recruit an additional person.
4. The workplan will be shared with SSW

6 Preparation and approaches to PR14

MRL stated that for PR09 the Exmoor Project needed to prepare information. Time needed to gather information is not allocated in the current timetable. She suggested that it needs to be factored into the workplan.

AK informed the board that all stakeholders will be kept informed of PR14.

ACTION CMG will provide a timetable for PR14.

7 Dates for future meetings

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on 7th November 2.00pm at DNPA Offices in Princetown.

Dartmoor Mires Project Management Board

**2.00pm Wednesday 7th November 2012
DNPA High Moorland Office, Princetown**

Minutes

Attendance: Anton Coaker (DCC), Crawford Munro (SWW), Mary-Rose Lane (EA), David Marino (Duchy), Cathy McGarvey (SWW), Alison Kohler (DNPA), Norman Baldock (DNPA), Tom Stratton (Duchy), Andy Guy (NE), Frances Cooper (Dartmoor Mires Project Officer)

1. Apologies

Scott Hardy and Jay Rowntree

2. Minutes of the meetings 20th March and 30th May and matters arising 20th March 2012

Item 2: Timber at Blackabrook. FC confirmed that the timber has been removed with the assistance of Landmarc.

Item 3. Hydrological monitoring. FC reported that equipment has been set up and data is being collected as expected. Gas flux data not yet being gathered – to begin in spring 2013. MRL reported some problems with data transfer between University of Exeter and Environment Agency, which will do analysis of water quantity data.

No analysis/interpretation of data is available yet.

MRL also reported that Dr Richard Brazier is working on a modelling technique to assist application of results to other sites,

The minutes were AGREED

30th May 2012

Item 4a) DM reported that the MOD cannot guarantee access but a request some months prior to restoration might be successful.

Item 4b) DM reported that the MoD were not keen to provide details of potential UXO contractors for security reasons.

Item 5c) Amend minutes to show Forest of Dartmoor Commoners Association not Commoners' Council.

The minutes were AGREED

3. Report on restoration at Winney's Down 2012

FC reported that the restoration at Areas 1 & 2 had gone ahead, and thanked everyone for their assistance. Additional time was spent at Area 1 due to the capability of the excavator, so that a better result was achieved. Less time was required to complete Area 2 so both sites were completed within the anticipated timeframe and budget. At Area 2, a few slightly larger blocks 6- 8 foot wide, and 3-4 foot deep were created, in a more substantial gully at the southern end of the site. Whilst the excavator performed well, and could move across bare/poorly vegetated areas, there are limits to where it can work from, effectively.

FC reported that the contractor had trouble with the walk in to site and used a rubber-tracked Argo ATV to travel to Area 2 each day, (Area 1 was accessed on foot.) Ground disturbance was monitored and found to be minimal despite very poor weather during this spell.

There was some discussion regarding use of borrow pits to source peat. FC confirmed that more borrow pits were created this year, than last. Borrow pits were carefully sited within the immediate vicinity of the gully being blocked and resulted in more small pools instead of widening existing gullies which results in wider pools.

FC advised that, the Argo ATV also contained the fuel tank used to supply the excavator. This left each night and was kept in a locked container within the plantation. In practice, a small 210 litre tank, topped up each week, was sufficient to supply necessary fuel.

AG reminded TS that a Landowner Activities Consent form, to cover Mires activities is still outstanding. AG explained that it should be the Duchy as landowner, rather than the Mires Project, who completes the form.

Action: Duchy to complete Landowner Consent Form

The possibility of a site visit was discussed but deferred to the spring.

Action: FC to ask Colin Abel whether commoners would like to visit.

CMu advised that the project's methodology for defining 'Hydrologically Restored Areas' would be raised at a meeting with Jonathan Bailey of the Environment Agency to discuss Ofwat expectations. MRL advised that methodology had been agreed by the Project Board and that approval by the Environment Agency was not required. It was agreed that MRL would be invited to attend the meeting at the Agency lead for the Dartmoor Mires Project.

Action: CMu to arrange meeting with MRL and Jonathan Bailey

4. Dartmoor Mires Project Budget

a. Year 3 budget

FC tabled an update on the current Year 3 budget and confirmed that current expenditure was in line with expectations. Outturn relating to recent restoration work not yet available.

b. 5 Year Project Budget

FC tabled a 5-year summary budget, showing outturn for Year 2 which had not previously been available.

CMu advised that SWW are hoping for some savings where possible but the original £1.116m will not be reduced.

5. Potential for development of local contractor capacity to undertake mire restoration – clarification of information required

FC requested a clear steer from the project board, regarding investigating potential to develop local contractor capacity for practical restoration. Whilst it is desirable to have a local contractor the specialist nature of the sites mean that suitable machinery is thought to be scarce. It is believed that the track design of Alaska's machinery is critical to its performance. However, other factors may also be important and it cannot be guaranteed that another machine with similar tracks would perform satisfactorily, or that another design would not perform equally well. FC was concerned about encouraging contractors to invest in equipment which might not result in a satisfactory performance, or a successful bid.

AC felt that there are many suitable machines locally which could be adapted. TS suggested approaching LogLogic, a Devon based machine construction firm, to investigate the feasibility of developing suitable tracks for use with standard machines. LogLogic have built other low ground pressure sand specialised machines.

Action: FC to provide a photo of Alaska's machine to TS.

Action: TS to approach LogLogic regarding track construction

MRL advised that the University of Exeter (UoE) is experiencing practical difficulties in retrieving samples from the monitoring site at Flat Tor Pan. It is suggested that a farmer may be able to help.

There was some concern regarding use of conventional quad bikes for this, due to surface damage caused. It was agreed that journeys should follow agreed/established routes only to avoid causing damage.

It was agreed that possible solutions would be discussed with the UoE, and a meeting set up with Colin Abel if appropriate to discuss how collecting water bottles might be organised.

Action: FC to discuss with UoE.

6. Work programme for next 12 months

a. Seminar

FC advised that the Research and Monitoring Seminar has been arranged for 30th January 2013 at University of Exeter. Scott Hardy has circulated draft programme for the day and will consult on the invitation list.

b. Restoration

FC reported that next area scheduled for restoration is Flat Tor Pan (Broad Down) which is the hydrological monitoring site. The restoration plan is at final draft stage with only minor amendment required following discussion with commoners at a site meeting in the summer. It is hoped that work will begin in early August and anticipated that it will take 8-10 weeks to complete.

c. Monitoring

FC advised that vegetation surveys for 2013 are scheduled for Blackabrook Head/Down, Winneys Down Areas 1&2 and ideally Flat Tor Pan, as baseline surveys were done in 2011. FC hopes that some of the survey work at Blackabrook Down can be done by volunteers. Some will be done by FC& SH but some may be done by contractor.

FC also advised that the Breeding Birds Survey, will be repeated in summer 2013.

d. Other communications

The draft newsletter text will be ready to circulate to partners very shortly, following previous consultation on subjects covered.

Following partner consultation, SH has made progress with developing the website and the page structure is now set up. Text and photos will be assembled over the next few weeks and will be sent to partners for approval.

7. PR14 development

AK informed the group that DNPA and SWW were due to meet to discuss SWW aspirations for a new project under the Water Company Price Review 14 (PR14) period. TS was concerned that other partners were not involved at this early stage. AK explained that Dartmoor-wide projects were possible, beyond the scope of a Mires-type project. There was considerable feeling that other partners should be involved from an early stage and that a meeting of partners should be organised.

CMu and CMc were not yet able to provide further information to the Project Board regarding timetables for PR14 development. Partners were concerned that discussions needed to get underway if a project is to be developed. As partners are busy, meetings cannot be quickly scheduled and project development takes considerable time. CMu thought a timetable might be available and would be establish this as soon as possible.

Action: CMu to provide timetable for PR14 development and what information is required, where available.

TS raised concerns regarding the raising of expectations amongst commoners, by SWW, regarding potential Payment for Ecosystem Services, as no mechanism has yet been established.

TS requested better communication regarding Mires and project development activities..

8. Dates for future meetings

It was agreed that an early date to discuss PR14 is needed.

Action: DNPA to set up an on-line poll to find a date to meet in January

9. AOB

Paleoecological investigation at Winney's Down Area 2 - FC advised that Vanessa Straker from English Heritage had asked for some analysis of the cores taken from Winney's Down Area 2, additional to that originally commissioned, to assist with accurate dating. FC understood that the cost would be within the £5k originally authorised for this work. It was AGREED that further analysis up to this limit should be done.

Living Wetlands Award – CMc asked partners whether the Dartmoor Mires Project should be put forward for a Living Wetlands Award. It was felt that it is probably too early, as no evaluation has yet taken place.

Flat Tor Pan (Broad Down) Planning Consent – AK updated partners on the Planning Application and that they (one for the equipment in each enclosure) had been received from MRL immediately prior to the meeting. There will be a full consultation.

Appendix 5 – Public consultation

Dartmoor Mires Project Advisory Group

10am – 1pm Tuesday 27th July 2010

Room 1, High Moorland Office, Princetown

Minutes

Attendance: Sue Goodfellow – DNPA, Colin Abel – FDCA, Mary Alford – FDCA, Tony Clark – MOD, Frances Cooper – DNPA, Vanessa Straker – English Heritage, Jane Marchand – DNPA, Tom Stratton – Duchy of Cornwall, Mary-Rose Lane - Environment Agency, Martin Ross – South West Water, Helen Booker - RSPB

1. Welcome/Apologies

Vanessa Straker of English Heritage, and Martin Ross of South West Water were welcomed to the group.

Apologies had been received from David Marino – Duchy of Cornwall, Patrick Watson – Dartmoor Access Forum

2. Minutes of last meeting/ Matters arising

No matters were arising from the last meeting of the Dartmoor Blanket Bog Project Advisory Group.

3. Chair of future meetings & membership of group

The group received and approved a recommendation from members of the Dartmoor Mires Project Board (DMPB) that Sue Goodfellow should be permanent Chair of futures meeting of the Advisory Group.

It was agreed that new members would not be invited to join the group presently. However recent site visits with the Dartmoor Society and Dartmoor Preservation Association (DPA) had been beneficial and a good level of communication should be maintained.

Mary-Rose Lane reported that the DPA are happy with current levels of communication.

It was agreed that members of the group would try to find a substitute if they were unable to attend meetings, to ensure their organisation or interest group was represented.

Action: ALL

4. Dartmoor Mires Project - partnership update

The Memorandum of Agreement has now been finalised and is in the process of being signed by partners. A copy of the 5 year costed work plan was provided to the group as requested previously. It was agreed that a first year version would be developed and sent electronically around the group. In addition a summary of activities over the 5 year project period, and also the first year would be produced.

Action: FC

FC left the room at this point.

A proposal was made that FC would take on the duties of the Dartmoor Mires Project Officer. SG advised that the contribution in time which DNPA would have made via FC's time, would instead be provided by other DNPA staff which would bring in a range of expertise, in particular with regard to communication. SG reiterated DNPA's commitment to the project and intention to provide in kind support to the level specified in the MoA.

This proposal received the approval of the group.

(FC rejoined the group) It was agreed that a contact for communications needed to be established.

MR advised the group that a report of the consultants review of the Exmoor Mires Restoration Project would soon be available. Full or summary reports can be provided.

There was some discussion regarding communication between the Exmoor and Dartmoor Projects. FC and David Smith (Exmoor Mires Project Officer) communicate regularly, informally but it was agreed that better means of communication should be set up where possible. Joint meetings and reciprocal presentations will be set up. It was suggested that publicity and promotional work would be worked on jointly and that both could benefit from new ideas and suggestions. VS commented this might help in managing and dealing with perceptions regarding project activities.

Action: FC to facilitate.

5. Winney's Down site plan progress

Forest of Dartmoor ESA Trustees and some relevant graziers have seen and commented on the first early draft of work plan for restoration at Winney's Down. FC is currently revising this and will forward the second draft to more graziers, contact details to be provided by David Evans, secretary to the Trustees. CA confirmed that the FDCA were happy with the proposed work and approval had been given. FDCA were thanked for their input and attention to this.

Action: FC circulate final draft

Action: FoD Trustees provide grazier contact details

MA asked whether arrangements to remove timber from Blackabrook had been made. FC advised that we do not currently have the mans. It was agreed that the timber would be removed at the first opportunity.

Action:FC

6. Hydrological monitoring update

MRL advised that identifying a suitable monitoring site on Dartmoor, which is suitable to answer our questions and meets necessary criteria, has proved difficult because of the inherent nature of Dartmoor sites. Considerable time from EA staff has been put to this high priority task, which is continuing to pursue the best option.

There was some discussion regarding monitoring of hydrological change at Winneys Down. The site is not suitable for use of monitoring equipment such as dipwells, but surface water will be monitored in the restoration work though presence of pools behind dams (photo monitoring) and changes in vegetation toward species which grow in high water-table conditions.

It was suggested that hydro equipment should be labelled to avoid confusion with ordnance. TC asked whether all Dartmoor raingages will continue to be monitored following Mike Sampson's retirement. MRL confirmed that EA are aware of this issue.

7. Update on survey work

i) Historic environment surveys

Dr Ralph Fyfe has recently completed his report for Winneys Down, Broad Down and Hangingstone Hill. Using GPR on peatland in this way is a new technique and has provided very interesting data. 10,000 year old peat is not the deepest peat on Winneys Down. Analysis of the peat core has shown continuous accumulation until the last 100 years or so on Winneys Down: a complete peat profile. It is thought that peat is no longer accumulating but further work is underway by researchers from Plymouth University, to investigate this further.

FDCA would like Ralph to do a presentation to its members. Action FDCA to issue invitation

TC commented that information from cores on past climate change might provide useful information for managing future change.

It was agreed that good publicity could be obtained, and that Ralph's work would provide a good focus for a press release. FC will pursue this with DNPA communications team.

Action: FC

Copies of the report will be circulated.

Action: FC

Phil Newman has completed the first phase of the Historic Peat Cutting survey, using Duchy records and LiDAR. He will now move on the field surveys. His final report is due to the autumn.

i) Biodiversity surveys

Bird survey – Baseline survey field work is complete. An interim report is due for completion at the end of July. Analysis is still to be done prior to a final report due in October. Dunlin numbers appear to be as high as ever previously recorded.

CA reported that a pair of golden plover had been seen and would provide details to RSPB. RSPB surveyors had heard a call but no evidence of nesting. Action: CA

Vegetation monitoring – second year vegetation monitoring at Blackabrook Down is complete with Blackabrook Head and photo monitoring due in August. Baseline survey at Winney's Down is underway.

No comparison of data has yet been made, and it is possible that little significant change will be evident at this stage. It was agreed that a summary report of vegetation monitoring be produced annually. Action: FC

It was agreed that relevant survey data would be shared amongst partner to ensure no duplication, and best use of resources.

8. Update - Forest of Dartmoor Commoners' Association

CA advised the FoD Trustees were currently facilitating the next phase of Ralph Fyfe's survey, which would cover remaining potential Mires sites over next 2 years.

9. Update - Dartmoor Commoners' Council

Anton Coaker was not present.

10. Update - Dartmoor Access Forum
Patrick Coaker was not present.

11. Update – RSPB
Nothing further.

12. Update - English Heritage
VS pleased to be involved

13. Update – Duchy
TS is keeping the Dartmoor Commons Owners Association informed of progress.

14. Future Meetings
10am 3 November 2010. Details of this and further meetings to be circulated. Action: FC

15. AOB
MR reported that Richard Benyon (new minister for the Environment) had praised water-related initiatives in the southwest. MR also advised the group that a structure for PR14 is currently being developed by Defra. Ecosystem payments work is underway centring on Burrator. This is a separate piece of work to that being developed under the Future Farming initiative. Water quality monitoring for Mires will be via a Knowledge Transfer Partnership with Exeter University.

DARTMOOR MIRES PROJECT ADVISORY GROUP

Wednesday 12 January 2011

High Moorland Office, Princetown

Present:

- Sue Goodfellow (Chair) – DNPA
- Frances Cooper (DNPA)
- Norman Baldock (DNPA)
- Jane Marchand (DNPA)
- Andy Crabb (DNPA/EH)
- Tom Stratton (Duchy of Cornwall)
- David Marino (Duchy of Cornwall)
- Patrick Watson (Dartmoor Access Forum)
- Kevin Rylands (RSPB)
- Cathy McGarvey (South West Water)
- Andy Guy (Natural England)
- Tony Clarke (MoD)
- Anton Coaker (Dartmoor Commoners Council)
- Mary Alford (Dartmoor Commoners Council)
- Mary-Rose Lane (Environment Agency)
- Jay Rowntree (Environment Agency)

Vanessa Straker (English Heritage)

Apologies: Martin Ross (South West Water)

In attendance: Phil Newman (Independent Archaeologist)
Penny Bailey (DNPA)

1. Minutes of the last meeting / matters arising

Save for one change – on the final page – should read 'AntonCoaker', the Minutes of the meeting held on 27 July 2010 were AGREED as a true record.

2. Dartmoor Mires Project – update

FC reported on the progress made since October 2010. With regard to the Memorandum of Agreement it is hoped that progress can be made by the end of the week. A date for the Project Launch has been set for 1st February 2011, schedule to follow as soon as possible. Copies of the agreed logo for the Project were circulated to members, including letterhead and flyers. Work is currently underway on the flyers and display panels. The Project now has a front page web page on the DNPA website. In October 2011 a letter was sent to commoners, setting out the targets for 2011. The restoration proposal for Broad Down is currently underway and an initial archaeological field assessment has been carried out. Phil Newman has completed his survey of historic peat cutting on Dartmoor. The RSPB has completed a survey of breeding birds associated with Mires sites.

With regard to the next few months, following the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement and the official Launch, the recruitment of a Historic Environment Officer can get underway, a site visit with partners and commoners will be scheduled to discuss monitoring and restoration plans for Broad Down, liaison with the MoD will take place and the contract for the restoration work at Winneys Down will go out to tender. It is expected that the report on invertebrates – associated with blanket bog (both good and degraded) will be completed.

TS asked for an update regarding work plans in association with graziers. FC advised that with regard to Winneys Down, this work is all but complete. AG reported that he had met with graziers on Monday – the expectation is that the practical work will start this year. Graziers are relying on successful entry into the HLS, aiming for the HLS to commence in September.

SG welcomed Vanessa Straker, English Heritage, to the meeting.

3. Dartmoor Historic Peat Cutting Survey – Phil Newman

PN made a presentation of his findings to the meeting. He advised that his research had been conducted using three methods: Duchy records (1300 documents), archaeological survey (based on LIDAR data) and fieldwork.

The earliest record of turf cutting for charcoal is from the 13th Century. This information does not feature in the Duchy records as it was the customary right of settlers on the moor to carry out turf cutting. In the 18th Century licensing was introduced for those living on the edge of the moor due to grazing concerns. There were four industrial peat settlements – Blackabrook, Brent Moor, Rattlebrook and Walkham Head. All of these areas were drained before cutting the turf which would have proved advantageous for those working the peat

areas. Conflicts of interest occurred, for example the building of the tramway, between those in the peat industry and commoners using the land for grazing.

JM commented that this is an exciting piece of work and, as a consequence, archaeologists may have to reconsider some of the mounds on Dartmoor that have been classed as barrows.

Mary Alford, Mary-Rose Lane and Jay Rowntree arrived at the meeting.

With regard to accessing the report, FC advised that printed versions could be made available if required; a pdf version cannot be sent to members as it is too big to send. FC is in the process of gathering various reports which will be organised on a web based site and this report will be available via this media also.

4. Hydrological monitoring update

MRL reported that having spoken to EA Hydrologist Sean Arnott, a plan specifically for Dartmoor is being drawn up; he needs to liaise with FC before it can be finalised in the next few weeks. FC advised that she had discussed progress and a possible site visit, with Sean; MRL said that photographs of Exmoor are expected in the near future which will be of assistance. A PhD student is currently being employed to assist with setting up monitoring on the Exmoor sites and will use this experience to assist progress on the Dartmoor site.

5. Options for contracting restoration work

FC advised that the use of local contractors with a good knowledge of Dartmoor would be a preferred option. This would also support the local economy. However, successful restoration will require specialist low ground pressure machinery. Advertising for expressions of interest will take place in the local press and on-line, if possible. FC asked members if they were aware of any contractors who would be able to undertake this type of work. AC advised that he was aware of teams who could do the work but do not have the machinery. It was agreed that the specification should be drawn up as soon as possible with a view to advertising for expressions of interest in the near future.

6. Project Launch and Branding – update

FC reported that the date of 1st February 2011 will, hopefully, be confirmed as the date for the Launch. Confirmation is expected by the end of the week. The Memorandum of Agreement needs to be put in place and she has been assured that this will be signed by South West Water on Thursday 13th January and couriered up to London to Duchy HQ for their signature.. At present the Minister's diary is set for a visit to Exmoor on 31st January, and Dartmoor on the 1st February. The Community Hall at Princetown has been booked and it is hoped that the Minister will visit during the morning, and leave after lunch. FC was hopeful that invitations to the launch will be able to be sent next week. A seven panel display is being designed to provide an overview of the work of the Project.

Action: FC to re-issue the ideas / themes by email to Advisory Group
Advisory Group to be given an idea of the itinerary for the event

7. Updates from Partners

PW advised that he had no items to bring before the meeting but asked about the progress of Ralph Fyfe's report. FC advised that the report is complete, has been produced and will be made available to all on-line.

KR reported that the report on breeding birds had been completed. Helen Booker has offered to provide a full update at the next meeting. KR reported that 16 pairs of Dunlins had been found which is considered a 'stable' population – 92% of the pairs surveyed had open water (ditches, small pools) within 25m of the nest site, flat areas are avoided, the birds preferring to nest in areas with hummocks, tussocks etc, to provide ground cover. 300 pairs of Skylarks and 100 pairs of Meadow Pippits were also counted – these numbers were as expected.

AC/MA – AC asked whether individual commoners were aware of what is happening on the ground. FC advised that she had sent an update to David Evans (Secretary to the Forest of Dartmoor ESA Trustees), for distribution, during the last quarter of 2010; she does not have contact information for all commoners. It was agreed that FC should liaise with AC/MA regarding contact details.

MA commented that commoners would be interested to know the sites used for the RSPB survey.

VS/AC did not have anything to add but wished to record their thanks to Phil Newman for his report.

JM reported that Ralph Fyfe had given a very successful talk on his archaeological and paleontological survey work to Dartmoor Forest Commoners recently.

She added her thanks to Phil Newman for his completed work on the Historic Survey of Dartmoor's Peat Workings. DNPA is the first National Park to undertake this type of research.

NB advised that Lauren Parry had undertaken a number of talks and some of her papers are now available – these will be located on the project area of the website. SG commented that this work is helpful in that there is now a better source of information regarding how much carbon is held on Dartmoor.

8. Future meetings

It was agreed that the next meeting will be a site meeting at Winneys Down, this to be held in May, date to be confirmed.

9. Any Other Business

There being no other business the meeting closed.

DARTMOOR MIRES PROJECT ADVISORY GROUP

Wednesday 1 February 2012

Meeting Room, DNPA offices, Parke, Bovey Tracey

Present: Sue Goodfellow (Chair) – DNPA
Frances Cooper (DNPA)
Norman Baldock (DNPA)
Nicola Rohan (DNPA)
Tom Stratton (Duchy of Cornwall)
David Marino (Duchy of Cornwall)
Andy Molloy (Dartmoor Access Forum)
Helen Booker (RSPB)
Cathy McGarvey (South West Water)
Andy Guy (Natural England)
Anton Coaker (Dartmoor Commoners Council)
Mary Alford (Dartmoor Commoners Council)
Colin Abel (Forest of Dartmoor Commoners Association)
Jay Rowntree (Environment Agency)
Mike Holland (Environment Agency) in attendance

Apologies: Mary-Rose Lane (Environment Agency)
Vanessa Straker (English Heritage)
Jane Marchand (DPNA)
Chris Robinson (MOD)

1. Minutes of the last meeting / matters arising

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12 Jan 2011 were AGREED.

2. Biodiversity monitoring

(a) Breeding Birds survey 2010

Helen Booker from RSPB gave a presentation on the results of the Breeding Bird Survey 2010.

Several parties around the table requested a copy of the report. FC informed the group that it is available. Copies of the report will be sent to the Advisory Group. The report will also be available on the DNPA website but without the precise location maps in order to safeguard the dunlin from egg collectors.

AC inquired whether, if the project is successful and the open pools that attract the dunlin become vegetated and grown over, will this outcome prove bad for the dunlin.

NB explained that dunlins are associated with high quality blanket bog, which often feature a natural hummock and hollow character. It is likely that this form of growth would develop in time on Dartmoor. Helen Booker advised that vegetation in the pools does not seem to be a problem for dunlins.

(b) Other Biodiversity Monitoring

NB reported on the results of the invertebrate survey carried out at Winney's Down, Broad Down and Cranmere Pool. Twenty species that are associated with blanket bog and considered important within the UK were identified during the survey, of these three are considered very rare. They report will be put on the website and a link to the reports send to the Advisory Group.

NB also ran through the other monitoring which is underway, but explained that it is still early days in terms of significant vegetation change. Monitoring results will be provided to the commoners when available.* see NB below

3. Report on the restoration at Winney's Down

FC explained the process of restoration and provided before and after photos of some of the gullies that were blocked during the restoration works. Information on the costs of restoration works and the contractors were also outlined.

AC advised that it is wrong to say peat dams are being used and the term 'turf dams' are more accurate as vegetation is important in securing the dam construction. FC agreed that vegetation is essential in stabilising the blocks.

AC inquired if the gullies on the hydrological monitoring site at Broad Down require dams of a similar size to those shown in the photos from Winney's Down.

FC confirmed that all sites currently identified show similar patterns of erosion and stated that the hydrological monitoring aims to inform us of the effects of restoration works on other sites. She informed the group that before and after photos of the work at Winney's Down were available to view at the meeting.

4. Hydrological monitoring update

FC reported that she is hopeful that it will be possible to have the hydrological monitoring set up by the end of February/early March. She reported that the DNPA was currently undertaking a consultation process, in relation to the fencing, which ends on 10th February.

SG expressed gratitude to the Commoners Council for allowing the DNPA to use the Dartmoor Commons Act to enable the installation of the fencing at Broad Down to proceed.

AC inquired if treated timber would be use for the fencing. FC stated that untreated sweet chestnut or equivalent hard wood would be used. AC offered to advise the project on selecting suitable timber. FC accepted his offer.

FC reported that the hydrological monitoring would be managed by University of Exeter and hoped that the equipment and fencing would be in place for 9 years, after which point the equipment and fencing would be removed.

5. Mires restoration target areas review

FC explained using flow maps that some work has now been done to define what constitutes a restored area. The LIDAR, commissioned in 2009 by the FDCA on behalf of the project has allowed analysis showing the area upstream of (proposed) blocked areas which contributes to flow in the blocked areas. This can be considered the 'hydrologically restored area.' This means that for some sites a smaller blocked area results in a larger 'hydrologically restored' area. The additional areas will not develop pools or be obviously wetter but will be protected from being drained by encroaching gullies. This has been presented to SWW which has accepted that this is as appropriate contributing area towards the 110 hectare target.

FC informed the group that restoration work at Winney's Down was largely done but would need to be revisited in the future to complete the restoration works but that when completed it would contribute 25 hectares towards the target, even though the area containing blocks is only 9 hectares..

FC further advised that she has used the experience gained restoring Winney's Down to assess what area can be restored, with available resources and time, during the remainder of the project. The resulting potential 'hydrologically restored areas' total 111 hectares. On this basis, the target is just achievable.

Broad Down is earmarked for restoration in 2013 and FC advised that restoration work in the South Head sites is restricted to August due to firing. FC has estimated that during the life of this project it will only be possible to do work in one part of this area, which is suggested to be South Tavy Head. Carrying out this work over 3 Augusts starting 2012 would block 16.95 ha and hydrologically restore 25.18 ha. Depending on progress, it might be possible to extend restoration into an adjacent area. FC advised that the cluster of sites around the 'South Heads' are all part of the same peat system.

AC inquired whether FC had spoken to the active graziers in this area. CA advised that FC should speak to the graziers before going any further as they are worried about losing more land to restoration. They may not agree to move ahead with further restoration until monitoring provides hard statistics to back up the project. AC asked if there are more site options as not all graziers will disagree with restoration work. He advised that FC should not make plans assuming that the graziers will comply.

6. Potential 2012 restoration sites and Plans

FC reported that Hangingstone Hill and South Tavy Head sites are scheduled for restoration work in 2012.

CA advised speaking with the graziers but Hangingstone Hill should not be a problem

(a) South Heads (South Tavy Head)

CA stated that there was a need to agree on a name for the sites in this area as there was some confusion as to where it referred to. The group term 'South Heads' was not well understood by the group. FC advised that it refers to the system at the heads of the Tavy, Cowsic and Walkham rivers and that the individual sites within the cluster are named after their location as far as possible..

Action 'South Tavy Head' was agreed by the group for the indicated part of the group of sites.

AC inquired what the timescales are for the other South Tavy Head sites. FC stated that the restoration work at South Tavy Head site would only be carried out over 3 Augusts.

SG advised the group that the 2 areas for work in 2012 (South Tavy Head and Hangingstone Hill) are located within the firing ranges so work can only be carried out during August and the first two weeks of September.

DM added that there is more flexibility at Hangingstone Hill and the site is easier to access.

SG inquired as to when the restoration plans for 2012 would be available. FC advised they would be done soon.

AC and CA advised that commoners should be consulted before too much preparation was done, including the FDCA, DCC and that the graziers should be informed of all work intended as part of this project.

TS stated that there needs to be regular communication with the Commoners so they have information on the project. He suggested sending a map of Dartmoor illustrating the sites' locations and a note on each site including the land area for restoration. He added that it is important to mention that the South Head Sites are within the 110 ha but Blackabrook isn't included within the 110 ha for the present phase of restoration.

CA stated that the impact on the graziers needs to be addressed as they feel the process is one sided. He added that the update is a good idea.

MA suggested that the map should be colour coded and include the potential sites.

AG suggested that a map is produced of Dartmoor showing the damaged areas with the potential for restoration.

TS advised that there is a need to provide clarity about what stage the pilot project has reached. There is a preference not to create fear of large areas that may never be restored. He suggests that confusion will be avoided with a clearly devised work plan and map and added that the project needs to be specific about what it is doing and intends to do.

NB responded that a phased map would address these issues. SG added that part of the project's remit is to test, review and identify implications for future restoration work.

(b) Hangingstone Hill

(i) Recreation notices

FC advised that Hangingstone Hill is an area with higher recreational use which might be considered by the Advisory Group. One point for consideration was whether notices advising walkers of an easier alternative via the peatpass/track might be helpful as a lot of people walk between Hangingstone and Whitehorse Hill and the erosion is more advanced than other sites, making walking across particularly difficult.

AM requested GIS and information about the work at Hangingstone Hill so the Dartmoor Access Forum could be informed of the areas they should avoid. MA asked AM if they

avoid restored areas. AM replied that they would avoid walking over the area and he would recommend this action to the Forum.

FC stated that she wouldn't wish people to avoid restored areas. She added that it was not the intention of the project to exclude people from accessing mire sites.

(ii) **Historic environment**

NR added that the Historic Environment is a serious consideration at the site because of the recent excavation of the cist at Whitehorse Hill, which is a nationally and internationally important archaeological find. She added that any work at the site would have to be done in close consultation and in agreement with the DNPA Archaeologists and English Heritage.

Action: FC to compile update for the Commoners, which will include phased map showing all areas for restoration including potential sites.

8. Archaeological and Palaeoecological Survey 2011/2012 Update

NR outlined the results of Ralph Fyfe's 2011/2012 survey of the South Head (Walkham, Tavy, Cowsic heads) sites, which was made available in draft form for the meeting. The survey has established that earliest date for peat development in the study area is 11500 BP, which is very early for Dartmoor and the latest peat development took place 3800BP. The survey included GPR survey, in which 33000 measurements of peat depth were taken and the peat from selected points was dated in order to establish when peat development began. It explored the relationship between peat depth and age to see if peat depth could be used to age peat. The study concluded that this was not possible as peat accumulation varied across the study area.

9. Updates from around the table

There were no updates from any of the attendees.

10. 12 Month Work Plan

FC will send out the 12 month work plan to the Advisory Group.

11. Future Meetings

- (a) Post-restoration visit to Winney's Down.
- (b) Hydrological monitoring visit to Broad Down
- (c) Potential 2012 restoration sites

There was interest around the table for visits to Winney's Down and Broad Down. CA inquired if the visits could be combined.

FC responded that it would depend on the crossing point on the East Dart River so it would probably not be possible. Candidate dates will be sent out soon.

12. Any Other Business

It was agreed that the Advisory Group would remain an annual meeting
The date of the next Advisory Group meeting was set for 23rd January 2013 at 3.00pm.