

DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

4 December 2015

TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2015/16Report of the Head of Business Support

- Recommendation:** **That:**
- (i) The Treasury Management Strategy be amended as outlined in paragraphs 2.5 below; and**
 - (ii) Barclays Bank remains on the approved counterparty list**

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Authority has for many years adopted a cautious and prudent approach to treasury management. Lending is only possible to banks and building societies which have strong credit limits and meet the criteria set by the Authority, using information published by the three major credit rating agencies. In the past this policy has enabled the Authority to avoid having any exposure to the riskier areas of treasury management such as the Icelandic banks in 2008. This policy has been maintained in the knowledge that putting security before liquidity or yield does impact on the income being generated from these investments.
- 1.2 However, the nature of risks is changing, with banks no longer being seen as ultra-safe, and the new regulatory environment around the concept of 'bail-in' meaning that rating agencies are now placing less reliance on Governments to bail out failing banks. As a result, the balance of risk between bank deposits and other forms of investment, such as property funds or bond funds, could be judged to be less significant than it has been in the past.

2 The Impact of "Bail-in"

- 2.1 During the financial crisis of 2007/08 the Government stepped in to bail out the Royal Bank of Scotland and Lloyds Bank. The perception has been that the major banks would not be allowed to fail, and the likelihood of the Government stepping in to provide support was reflected in the credit ratings of the major UK banks. However, the new regulatory environment is putting more emphasis on the requirement for investors to take a hit by funding a "bail-in". A "bail-in" is where the bank's creditors, including local authorities depositing money with them, bear some of the burden by having part of the debt they are owed written off. New regulation also requires banks to hold a larger capital balance to ensure the security of deposits and to meet any significant cashflow event.
- 2.2 In recognition of the revised regulatory environment, the credit rating agencies are now adjusting their ratings to reflect the ability and likelihood of the Government providing financial support and are removing any previous uplift awarded for this support. At the same time, they are reviewing where banks have increased their capital ratios, and in many cases this will have a positive impact on their rating, which may offset the perceived loss of Government support. In early June

Standard and Poors concluded a review of UK banks and as a result many banks, including Lloyds, had their ratings affirmed at the previous level.

- 2.3 However, as reported (verbally) to the Authority in June, Barclays Plc, the Authority's banker and main counterparty suffered a ratings downgrade by one of the three credit rating agencies, and as a result their short term rating no longer satisfies the Authority's current lending criteria. The situation is difficult, as Barclays are the Authority's bankers and all of our cash deposits are held or invested (for the short-term) solely with them. An analysis of Barclays' current credit rating from the three major agencies against the Authority's criteria is shown at Appendix 1.
- 2.4 The key reason that Barclays has been affected by the review and suffered a worse result than other banks is that the review includes their investment bank, which is deemed to be a more risky enterprise. This is not true, for example, in relation to Lloyds. Discussions have been held with Barclays and with Capita, the County Council's treasury advisors. Capita use a range of other metrics to assess the creditworthiness of a counterparty, including the price of credit default swaps (CDS). A CDS, is in effect, the cost of insuring against a bank default, and the more likely the bank is to default, the higher the price of the CDS. Using their metrics Capita continue to include Barclays on their list of recommended counterparties.
- 2.5 It is therefore proposed that a change could be made to the Treasury Management Strategy which would allow Barclays back onto the list. The proposal is that the following criteria be added to the strategy: "Where the short term rating of a counterparty is [one notch] below the stated criteria, but the counterparty meets the long term rating criteria, they may still be used subject to the advice of the S151 Officer and the County Council's external advisors (Capita) who will take into account a range of other metrics in arriving at their advice."
- 2.6 The Authority's investment portfolio (surplus cash balances) is small and we do not therefore have large enough sums to spread our investments with multiple counterparties or for the longer-term. Indeed, even in the face of such low interest rate returns, we have continued to perform reasonably well, to the extent that other National Park colleagues have asked us to share the details of our strategy and operational practices to see if they could make improvements. Another option would be to consider having our investments managed by a third party, to perhaps take advantage of some type of 'pooling arrangement'. This has been discussed with the County Council, but has not been taken forward, as the charges incurred would almost certainly negate any possible investment gains and reduce our income even further.

3 Equality and Sustainability Impact

- 3.1 We have not traditionally looked in detail at where, or with whom Barclays Bank invests our money held on deposit or in our current accounts.

4 Conclusion

- 4.1 Despite the issues around "bail-in" and the downgrading of their credit rating, Barclays are not considered a significant risk, and it would therefore not be unreasonable to amend the Treasury Management Strategy to permit them to

remain on the Authority's counterparty list. This is the view of the Authority's Section 151 Officer.

- 4.2 The Authority's arrangements for treasury management continue to be maintained at a high standard and we continue to consult with the Devon County Council Investment Manager on at least a monthly basis. The overriding objective continues to be to invest prudently, with priority being given to security and liquidity before yield.

DONNA HEALY

Attachments: Appendix 1 – Credit Rating Analysis

20151204 DH Treasury Management 2015-16.doc

Credit Rating Analysis – showing DNPA Criteria and Barclays Ratings

Rating Agency	Moody's		Standard & Poors		Fitch	
	Long term	Short term	Long term	Short term	Long term	Short term
Rating Description Prime	Aaa	P-1	AAA	A-1+	AAA	F1+
	Aa1		AA+			
	Aa2		AA			
	Aa3		AA-			
Upper Medium Grade	A1	P-2	A+	A-1	A+	F1
	A2		A			
	A3		A-			
Lower Median Grade	Baa1	P-3	BBB+	A-2	BBB+	F2
	Baa2		BBB			
	Baa3		BBB-			
Non-investment Grade Speculative	Ba1	Not Prime	BB+	B	BB+	B
	Ba2		BB			
	Ba3		BB-			
Highly Speculative	B1	Prime	B+	B	B+	B
	B2		B			
	B3		B-			

Key:	
Barclays Ratings	Yellow
Criteria met	Above lower bold line
Criteria not met	Below lower bold line

NB: the Short-term rating is most relevant to our investments / cash deposits

DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

4 December 2015

ALL THE MOOR BUTTERFLIESReport of the Senior EcologistRecommendation: **That Members:**

- (i) Support Butterfly Conservation in its new project to conserve rare butterflies and increase public engagement and awareness across Dartmoor, Exmoor and Bodmin Moor;**
- (ii) Note the agreed outcomes for Dartmoor; and**
- (iii) Approve a contribution of £17,500 as match funding for All the Moor Butterflies subject to continued recognition of the Authority's contribution to this Project and final agreement on detail of public engagement activity on Dartmoor.**

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Dartmoor holds nationally important populations of three butterfly species, the Marsh, High Brown and Pearl-bordered Fritillaries. The colonies of the Marsh Fritillary in the National Park are also considered to be of international importance as this species is classified as globally threatened. They represent about 20% of the national resource. All three butterflies have undergone large national declines, with the High Brown being considered the most threatened of Britain's butterfly species. They are all key species within Living Dartmoor (the Biodiversity Action Plan for Dartmoor) and are priority species for conservation within the national Biodiversity 2020 strategy.
- 1.2 Butterfly Conservation, through its UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme data as well as species focused time count data, has one of the largest datasets in the world for insects. This data allows accurate monitoring of population trends of UK species. Data shows that the target species for the All the Moor Butterflies project have been experiencing UK-wide declines since the 1970s:
 - High Brown Fritillary – declined by 62% in abundance and 96% in distribution since 1978 (found on Exmoor and Dartmoor).
 - Heath Fritillary – declined by 81% in abundance and 68% in distribution since 1981 (found on Exmoor).
 - Marsh Fritillary – declined by 10% in abundance and 79% in distribution since 1981 (found on Exmoor, Dartmoor and Bodmin Moor).
 - Pearl-bordered Fritillary – declined by 71% in abundance since 1976 (found on Dartmoor and Bodmin Moor).
 - Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary – declined by 58% in abundance since 1976 (found on Exmoor, Dartmoor and Bodmin Moor).

- Narrow-bordered Bee Hawkmoth – declined by 43% (found on Dartmoor and Bodmin Moor).

2 The Two Moors Threatened Butterfly Project

- 2.1 The Two Moors Threatened Butterfly Project began in 2005 and is a partnership project involving Dartmoor National Park Authority (DNPA), Exmoor National Park Authority, Environment Agency, Butterfly Conservation and Natural England. The Authority has supported the project both financially and with officer time. An annual contribution of £5,000 has been made with similar or greater contributions from the partners. A Project Officer, employed by Butterfly Conservation, has continually been in post with a base at the Natural England offices in Exeter and has been able to build on the work carried out through DNPA Management Agreements on sites in the 1980's and 1990's.
- 2.2 During its 10 years the project **has turned around the fortunes of the Marsh Fritillary on Dartmoor** from a species in slow decline to an increase back to the population levels of the early 1990s when many of the colonies were first discovered. Both the High Brown and Pearl-bordered fritillaries have been stabilised in this period, again following previous declines. This is a significant achievement given that the trends have occurred during a time when the colonies of these butterflies nationally have continued to decline. **This project is now used by Butterfly Conservation and other conservation organisations as one of the best examples in the country of a landscape-scale approach** producing results through long-term working with farmers and land owners to achieve biodiversity gains. Through the appointment of a Project Officer, the project has achieved impressive results on Dartmoor:
- helping farmers prepare applications to agri-environment schemes (70 Higher Level Stewardship agreements signed)
 - providing on site advice annually (89 sites covering 1032 hectares)
 - getting volunteers involved in habitat management and monitoring of the butterflies (averaged 15 events per year)
 - providing guided walks and training workshops (160 people attended in 2015).

3 All the Moor Butterflies Project

- 3.1 Butterfly Conservation has submitted a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to further develop the work undertaken over the past 10 years. Like the Landscape Partnership Scheme – Moor than Meets the eye - this is a two stage process. A first round pass was approved by the HLF in June 2015 and over the past five months Butterfly Conservation have employed an officer to develop the second round bid and undertake public engagement work and consultation. This has included increasing the number and use of volunteers. Through the development phase the following actions have been carried out: landowner consultation, partnership development with other conservation organisations, community consultation with groups, volunteer skills audit, contacting local schools and colleges, delivering pilot workshops and public events, working with demonstration network partners on interpretation materials and planning

an extensive programme of community engagement activities. The Authority provided a small contribution of £500 towards the development phase of the project.

3.2 If successful, the second round bid will fund a new three year project to start in September 2016. The new project will expand the work of the previous initiative to additionally cover Bodmin Moor. It will incorporate a wider range of butterflies and moths, increase the level of public engagement and showcase best practice in conservation management. The new Project, titled 'All the Moor Butterflies', would complement the work being undertaken on Natural Connections under Moor than meets eye.

3.3 The All the Moor Butterflies project has a number of themes:

- Site advisory work and delivery of habitat management – This will include direct work on the ground and landowner events to continue the positive progress made over the last 10 years, both on existing and new sites.
- Public engagement activities - A programme of activities is being planned to engage a wide range of people and new audiences with butterflies, moths and their conservation. The project will work with landowners, conservation professionals, volunteers, children, young people and vulnerable groups (eg. mental health and learning difficulties). There will be a significant increase in the amount of outreach work taking place on Dartmoor. Public engagement events and activities will be undertaken on a variety of sites on Dartmoor including commons, on farms and at our own Visitor centres. The project will deliver an extensive programme of public talks and guided walks, as well as targeted work with specific groups.
- Demonstration areas: These areas will be a focus for delivery of events, training workshops, management demonstrations and it is anticipated that there will be two such areas on Dartmoor:
 - Teign Valley (Pearl-bordered Fritillary, High Brown Fritillary)
 - Fernworthy-Long Lane valley (Marsh Fritillary, Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Narrow-bordered Bee Hawkmoth)

3.4 Butterfly Conservation have identified the following key outcomes for the project:

- Monitoring of target species (on Dartmoor these will include Marsh Fritillary, Pearl-bordered Fritillary, High Brown Fritillary, Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary and Narrow-bordered Bee Hawkmoth)
- Enhanced conservation skills and knowledge amongst landowners, farmers and conservation professionals focused on butterflies and moths
- More networking opportunities for farmers, landowners and commoners and opportunities for farmer-to-farmer links
- Free public participation events, walks, talks and workshops (estimated 27 events over the three years)
- Targeted community engagement work with hard to reach and vulnerable groups
- Educational activities delivered with local schools and colleges
- Skilled network of 'Moor Butterfly Guardians' volunteers to maintain monitoring and advisory work
- Production of 'Butterflies and Moths of Dartmoor' leaflet (format to be agreed)

- Detailed handbook on 'Management of Moorland for Lepidoptera' for conservation professionals and landowners
- Mobile interpretation panels on the butterflies of Dartmoor (these will be available for use by DNPA teams and on the Outreach vehicle, possibly also an exhibition at Princetown Visitor centre)
- One-day conference on 'Conserving Lepidoptera on Moorland Habitat' in south west England

4 Conclusion

- 4.1 The proposed All The Moor Butterflies project is providing a welcome expansion to the very successful work undertaken through the Two Moors Butterfly project. This project was initiated by the Authority through the Dartmoor BAP 10 years ago and we have continued to provide officer support and core funding to the project with a grant of £5,000 a year. It is felt that this is excellent value for money with clear successes for the butterfly over this period.. The new project will not only expand the work undertaken over past years but significantly increase public engagement activity, promoting the work of the project and raising awareness of these important butterflies and their habitats. The HLF funding would be a very welcome addition to the project and help us achieve new directions and additional outcomes. This project exemplifies how important the Authority's role to develop, support and help shape new partnerships is in this case to protect and enhance nationally threatened species
- 4.2 It is recommended that the Authority supports this project with a financial contribution of £17,500 over the next three years (starting in 2016/17) and allocates officer time to help shape the strategic direction of the project and agree some of specific work on Dartmoor, particularly the new public engagement elements. It is important that the Authority's contribution to this project continues to be recognised and promoted.

5 Financial Implications

- 5.1 The total budget for the HLF submission is £479,215. Butterfly Conservation are hoping that HLF will contribute 63% of total costs. Other potential funders include Exmoor NPA, Natural England and a number of other charitable trusts. It is recommended that the Authority continues to support this project and sets aside £17,500 as its match funding contribution over the next three years. This sum could be allocated from the . 2015/16 Project Fund and transferred to earmarked reserves.

6 Equality and Sustainability Impact

- 6.1 Butterfly Conservation and partners in the Project are acutely aware of the need to ensure that there is a legacy for the target species and habitats, and the people of Dartmoor, beyond the funded project. The following elements of the project will help to promote a sustainable element to the project's legacy:
- The interpretation materials produced as part of the project are designed to be used beyond the end of the project and will be passed over to partners to continue using at events and activities on Dartmoor in the future.

- Training on aspects of the target species' ecology, identification and conservation will be provided to partners and volunteers, which will upskill existing professionals and volunteers, thus ensuring a legacy of butterfly and moth knowledge on Dartmoor.
- Training and engagement of volunteers will aim to create a group of 'Moor Butterfly Guardians' who can continue to monitor species on an annual basis beyond the end of the project. The aim will be to integrate these volunteers into existing established volunteer frameworks, including the DNPA or local Butterfly Conservation branches.
- All of our interpretation resources and materials will be made available online so that they can be accessed beyond the end of the project.

6.2 Despite all of this, it is recognised that the best way to maintain strong and resilient populations of these species is annual effort from a dedicated project officer. They are able to maintain strong and positive relationships with farmers and landowners, provide detailed ecological expertise, act as a link to other agencies and build up the confidence of volunteers and provide support when needed. Butterfly Conservation therefore plan to investigate other sources of funding to continue some of these mechanisms beyond the three year duration of the planned project.

NORMAN BALDOCK

DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK PLANNING AUTHORITY

4 December 2015

TREE PRESERVATION ORDER : WAR MEMORIAL RECREATION GROUND, YELVERTONReport of the Trees and Landscape Officer**Recommendation : That the Tree Preservation Order at The War Memorial Recreation Ground, Yelverton be confirmed as made.**

- 1 A Tree Preservation Order was made on 22 July 2015, under delegated powers, to protect trees standing along the southern boundary of the War Memorial Recreation Ground, Yelverton.
- 2 The Authority received a request from the chairman of the Yelverton Memorial Recreation Field and Village Hall Trust to place a Tree Preservation Order on trees growing along the southern boundary of the Recreation Ground. The chairman of the Trust considered that pressure was being put on the Trust to remove some of the trees growing along the southern boundary. An adjacent landowner has a common law right to prune trees back to their boundary, if such works were to be carried out the trees would become unbalance which may affect their stability and appearance.
- 3 The adjacent land is owned by Maristow Estate. This land has been put forward for residential development, initially as an allocated site during the Local Plan Public Inquiry and more recently as a SHLAA site. Neither proposal has been supported by the Authority. Tennis courts are located close to the trees and the tennis courts are leased by the Recreation Trust to Yelverton Tennis Club.
- 4 Numerous mature and semi-mature trees are growing along the southern boundary of the Recreation Ground. An assessment of the trees was made in accordance with Planning Practice Guidance. The trees are considered to be in good health with no evidence of serious structural weakness and with a life expectancy of over 40 years. The trees are visible in the landscape, particularly from Meavy Road which runs along the eastern boundary of the recreation ground and from Gratton Lane. The trees are an important linear feature in the landscape and their removal would have a detrimental impact on the character of the area.
- 5 The Authority served the Order on all parties who have an interest in the land and gave them 28 days in which to make representations regarding the Order.
- 6 An objection to the Order has been made by Mr Hess on behalf of Maristow Estate (see appendix 1). The main reasons for objecting are that the Order is unnecessary because the trees are not under threat, the trees are in a good state of health with no decay or decline and why protect something that is being managed responsibly, the amenity value of the trees is a subjective opinion and there are other trees that are more visible and significant, the trees need to be managed which may require the

removal of some individual trees and stems and the TPO will prevent proper management of the trees.

- 7 The chairman of the tennis club has not objected to the Order, but would like to liaise with the National Park Authority and the landowner to agree appropriate pruning to protect the tennis courts. The Parish Council has a neutral view. The Yelverton Memorial Recreation Field and Village Hall Trust support the Order. No other objections or comments have been received.
- 8 The Chairman of the Yelverton Memorial Recreation Field and Village Hall Trust approached the Authority and believes several of the trees were under threat. The adjacent landowner has tried to have the land allocated for development and trees growing along the boundary may restrict the development potential of this land and it would be reasonable for an Authority to protect valued trees at an early stage of a development proposal. The trees have been assessed using an accepted methodology and are considered to have high amenity value. Trees are living growing structures and the Authority accepts that trees may cause problems and appropriate management may need to be carried out. The Authority will support appropriate remedial tree work. A Tree Preservation Order brings the management of trees under the control of the Authority, but if works are required an application will need to be submitted to the Authority, there is no financial cost involved with making an application and the process is not considered to be onerous. The Authority will be happy to engage in negotiations with all parties to ensure the trees are managed properly. If a tree becomes dead or dangerous it will no longer be protected by the Order and can be removed immediately.
- 9 The Order has been made under the Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012, which means the trees have immediate, but provisional protection for 6 months. If the Order is not confirmed within six months the provisional protection comes to an end. Having made a provisional Order the Authority has three options:
 - (i) confirm the Order as made;
 - (ii) not confirm the Order.
 - (iii) modify the Order and confirm the modified Order.
- 10 If the Order is confirmed it will protect the trees in perpetuity. Once an Order is confirmed the management of the trees will be controlled by the Authority. However, work to the trees will be permitted if it is considered to be acceptable management. If the Order is not confirmed the trees will not be protected and the landowner and neighbouring landowner (in exercising their common law rights) will be able to carry out works to the trees without the consent of the Authority.
- 11 Considering the amenity value of the trees it is recommended the Order be confirmed as made.

BRIAN BEASLEY

Attachments: Appendix 1 – Letter of Objection

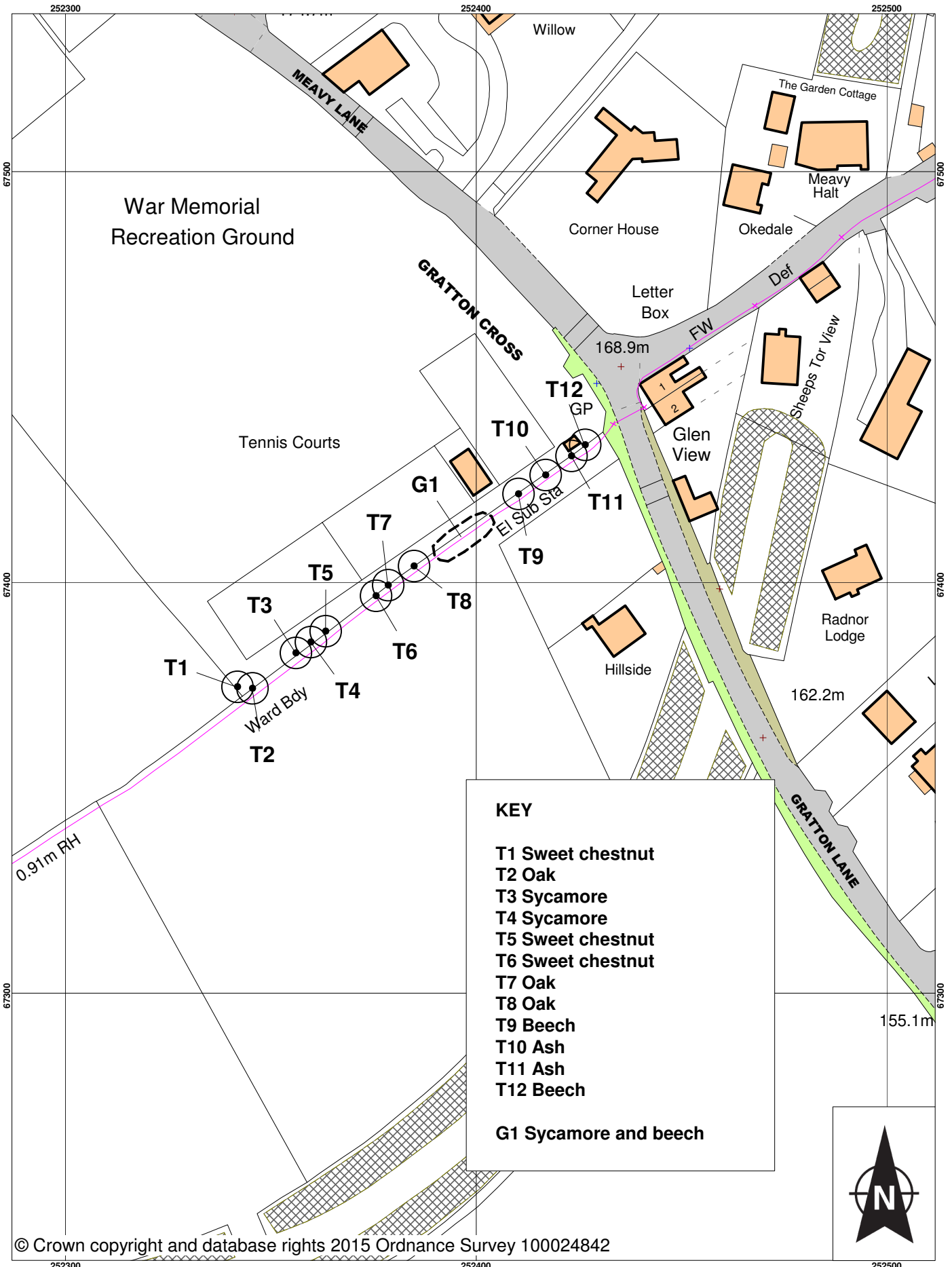
20151204 BB – TPO War Memorial Recreation Ground, Yelverton

Dartmoor National Park Authority

TPO Yelverton Recreation Ground



Scale 1:1250



THE MARISTOW ESTATE

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27 August 2015

Mr Brian Beasley
Trees and Landscape Officer
Dartmoor National Park Authority
Parke
Bovey Tracey
TQ13 9JQ

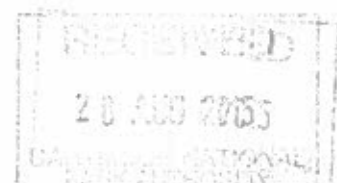
Dear Brian

Town and Country planning Act 1990
Tree Preservation Order 2015 – ref BB/CF/27/12/4/217

We write to lodge an appeal against the imposition of the above Order dated 22 July 2015.

The grounds for appeal are as follows:

1. The order is unnecessary and generated by subjective presumption concerning possible future development of adjoining land without there being any current evidence to support the reasons given for protection status. There is no threat to these trees.
2. The trees are all in good state of health with no decay or decline whatsoever. Why protect something that is already being managed responsibly and in good condition?
3. The amenity value of the boundary is a subjective opinion and besides, there are numerous other trees and boundaries in the Parish that are arguably more visible and significant in the landscape hence if the rationale given for the Order is applied proportionally, the alleged policy of protection should be widened. If not, why single out this boundary individually?
4. In order for the trees along this boundary to be managed properly and to flourish in the future, as there is little room in the existing canopy to permit full development, we have been advised that removal of a proportion to retain a select group of individuals thus providing sufficient access to resources to develop full and healthy crowns would be beneficial to their longevity. This is not a proposal at this time but is a responsible management consideration that we have been advised. The Order cannot increase management requirements for the trees. The Order is therefore ultimately self defeating as the Order effectively places restrictions on management works so actually doing no management work, which is not necessarily in the interests of the trees is entirely allowable, whereas doing some management work, which may be in the interests of the trees, is not required and is now wrapped up in a bureaucratic and unnecessarily costly process. How is the Order of any benefit therefore to responsible tree management other than ensuring that the tree boundary grows towards natural suffocation and eventual decay.
5. We suggest that had the Authority consulted with my clients, it would be far better to select a number of high priority specimens to be covered by an Order and for agreement be reached a number of lesser trees of lower significance not to be covered thus enabling their future removal (if required). This would have the benefit of ensuring the best possible management outcome for the primary trees on this boundary.



6. My clients have hundreds of thousands of trees on their Estate that they have owned since 1798. They are entirely familiar with responsible tree, vegetation and landscape management. They regard this faceless intervention by DNPA as nothing more than ill thought, reactionary, over exuberant meddling.

Given the above reasons, we respectfully believe that there is no need for the Order as proposed and seek its negotiated amendment or removal.

Yours sincerely,

Joseph E Hess MRICS FAAV
Trustee and Managing Agent on behalf of Walkhampton Trust

DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

4 December 2015

**MOOR THAN MEETS THE EYE (MTMTE) LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP SCHEME
YEAR 1 PROGRESS REPORT**

Report of the Moor Than Meets the Eye Scheme Manager

Recommendation: That:

- (i) Members note progress to date.**
- (ii) Note the need to make provision in the Authority's Medium Term Financial Plan to deal with the current forecast cashflow shortfall at the end of the project.**
- (iii) Note the new approach to risk management and the fact that a six month report will be presented at Audit and Governance Committee and end of year report to Authority.**

1 Background

1.1 The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) granted Permission to Start on 18 August 2014 following the *Moor than meets the eye (MTMTE)* Landscape Partnership Scheme's (the Scheme) successful Round 2 application to the HLF Landscape Partnership Programme grant fund. This triggered the transition from the 'Development' to the 'Delivery' Stage.

1.2 The Scheme's Partners are:

- Dartmoor National Park Authority (DNPA) as 'Lead Partner' for *MTMTE*
- Dartmoor Commoners' Council
- Dartmoor Farmers' Association
- Dartmoor Preservation Association
- Devon County Council
- Duchy of Cornwall
- Historic England
- Natural England
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
- South West Lakes Trust
- Visit Dartmoor, and
- Woodland Trust.

- 1.3 Representatives from these Partners form the Landscape Partnership Board (the Board) and provide strategic oversight and direction for the Scheme and the *MTMTE* Staff Team.
- 1.4 The Scheme consists of 34 coordinated and linked projects (the Projects) to deliver a set of HLF 'Approved Purposes' and outcomes:
- To conserve the unique historic landscape of East Dartmoor and its natural habitats which tell the story of human influence over thousands of years;
 - To significantly enhance physical and intellectual access to the heritage landscape;
 - To develop new ways to increase community involvement and understanding of the historic and natural landscape and improve the ability of local people to share, celebrate and enjoy their local landscape;
 - To provide local communities, businesses, land managers, guides and local property owners with enhanced skills, confidence and enthusiasm to contribute to the conservation of our built and natural heritage;
 - To sustain a living and working landscape by encouraging and facilitating business opportunities that capture the value of the landscape; and
 - To develop a well-trained and co-ordinated volunteer workforce to help conserve and interpret the area's heritage.
- 1.5 The Projects vary in duration but all must be delivered by Scheme completion on 17 August 2019 (five years after the Permission to Start).
- 1.6 HLF has granted up to £1.9m towards the Scheme's total budget of £3,843,182 giving an Intervention Rate of 49.4%. The remaining funding comes from the *MTMTE* Partners and together forms a single, 'common fund' used to manage Project cashflow and overall Scheme delivery.
- 1.7 Projects are led and managed by 'Project Leads' from a mix of partners including Landscape Partnership Partner staff, voluntary organisations, community groups, volunteers and private individuals.
- 1.8 The team is employed by DNPA, based above the National Park Visitor Centre, Princetown and consist of:
- Scheme Manager
 - Community & Events Officer
 - Community Heritage Officer (part-time)
 - Community Ecologist (part-time), and
 - Finance & Administration Officer (part-time).
- 1.9 The team were appointed on 5 January 2015 and have been in post for some 11 months.

- 1.10 As lead partner, DNPA is responsible for the general administrative, financial and management functions of the Scheme. These include:
- overall monitoring of actions and projects undertaken in the delivery of the Scheme;
 - responsibility for completing and submitting grant claims to HLF on behalf of the Projects within the Scheme;
 - taking receipt of grant claim monies from HLF;
 - making payments to Project Partners; and
 - retaining core documents and records relating to the Scheme for audit and governance purposes.
- 1.11 The MTMTE Staff Team administers this for DNPA and the Landscape Partnership as a whole.

2 Update on the Delivery Stage of the Scheme

- 2.1 The Scheme's delivery is split into quarters over the five year delivery window, starting September 2014 (including the short period from the 18 August 2014 Permission to Start date). The 34 Projects are scheduled within this five year window and the Scheme is in Year 2 Quarter 1 (Y2Q1) (ending 30 November 2015) at the time of writing this report.
- 2.2 Generally, the Projects and Scheme overall is behind the forecast position submitted at the bid stage, after the first year (to end of Y1Q4). Feedback from HLF suggests that this is typical of the majority of Landscape Partnership Schemes at the start of their Delivery Stage. Whilst this provides some reassurance and comfort, we should not be complacent.
- 2.3 The Scheme has 28 live projects out of the planned 29 at this stage and 34 total overall. A summary of the Projects' progress and Red/Amber/Green (RAG) status can be seen at Appendix 1.
- 2.4 At the end of Y1Q4, the Scheme is £902k behind the £1.556m forecast. Approximately £600k of this underspend is due to later delivery of PC5 – Wray Valley Trail, led by Devon County Council. This is discussed further in sections 3.11, 3.12 and 7.1.
- 2.5 Project Leads were asked to update their forecasts as part of their Y1Q4 end of period reporting so that the Scheme could start Y2Q1 on a robust footing to track progress against. Some of this information is still outstanding. Whilst some Project Leads submit prompt and accurate quarterly reporting information, others do not. This is hampering effective and pro-active Scheme management. This is further discussed in section 4.
- 2.6 Despite slower than expected progress, many of the Projects are now delivering significant tangible outputs, including:

- PA4 - Discovering the nature of the Bovey Valley: completion of research into Barbastelle Bat dispersal patterns across 100 hectares of the Bovey Valley
- PA5 - Unveiling the heritage of the high moor: confirmed dating of Sittaford stone circle to the early Bronze Age period and volunteer walkover surveys of the surrounding area;
- PA6 - Higher Uppacott: thatching, windows, hot-lime mortaring and internal works are either complete or underway representing a step-change in the building fabric;
- PA8 - Ancient Boundaries/Modern Farming: stone walling and access works agreed and permission to start at five out of the six sites applied for;
- PA9 - Hameldown bomber: completion of the archaeological survey as part of the investigation into the WWII Hampden Bomber crash on Hameldown;
- PB2 - Parishscapes: All four parishes in the first phase have either completed some projects or have them underway. A further three are planning their applications for grant funding. Lustleigh has completed restoring their Tithe Map and North Bovey has completed repairs and installed a new boundary stone on Dickford Bridge;
- PB3 - Moor Medieval: established a core volunteer study group/pool of knowledge, lending library, fieldtrip programme, research sub-groups and themes formed. Completion of the Phase 2 archaeological dig at North Hall Manor, Widecombe;
- PB9 - Moor Boots: 39 awards have been made, exceeding the first year target;
- PB10 - Whitehorse Hill Community Play: debut promenade performances held on 19-20 September engaging approximately 120 people;
- PC1 - Dartmoor Story: agreed Branding Guidelines for the Scheme; *MTMTE* 1st Year celebration event on Bonehill Rocks with two primary schools, *MTMTE* Partners and HLF; key contributor to organising and hosting Bellever Day
- PC4 - Brimpts Tin Trail: a new exhibition has been developed and moved to a larger room following significant volunteer input, allowing extensive use of Dartmoor Tin Research Group assets/interpretive material;
- PC6 - Heritage Trails: web app developed
- PC7 - Fernworthy Reservoir Improved Access: the Potters Walk footpath surfacing works are complete and wider access improvements are 70% complete overall;
- PD2 - EcoSkills: four placements based in the East Dartmoor (Yarner Wood) National Nature Reserve, one of which has successfully gained employment helped by the skills and experience gained on placement; and
- PE6 - *MTMTE* website launched.

- 2.7 The summer months saw a diverse events programme increasing *MTMTE* exposure in the community. For example, Bellever Day attracted over 300 people and had many *MTMTE*-organised exhibitors across our themes. Over 1,000 people have been involved in approximately 30 *MTMTE* events so far.
- 2.8 Project work is increasing *MTMTE* exposure and generating opportunities for working with organisations such as Devon Wildlife Trust and the Devon branch of Butterfly Conservation.
- 2.9 Some of the Scheme's Projects have also featured in regional press and the Dartmoor press with, for example, the archaeological excavations at North Hall Manor and six pieces in the latest edition of Dartmoor Magazine. The project has its own website - www.moorthanmeetstheeye.org - and social media presence.
- 2.10 Targeted and general open volunteer recruitment has seen the Scheme's volunteer resource pool grow to 84. The Scheme has a £140k target for Volunteering input (equivalent to 2,800 'unskilled' days). Our volunteers have kindly given: 174 'Unskilled', 61 'Skilled' and 11 'Professional' days so far, equivalent to £21,700.

3 Financial implications

- 3.1 As the Lead Partner and Accountable Body, DNPA are exposed to significant risk in managing the Scheme and its Common Fund cashflow position. This is shown in Appendix 2.
- 3.2 DNPA is committed to a £200k contribution to the Scheme's Common Fund, as agreed in the Authority report NPA/14/001.
- 3.3 The first year's expenditure is £653,513 compared to the bid forecast of £1.556m (-58%). The Scheme's current £902k underspend highlights the slower than expected start and need for accurate re-baselining and forecasting by Project Leads.
- 3.4 The underspend was, in part, contributed to by the delay appointing the *MTMTE* Team and them being available in post for the Scheme to start in earnest.
- 3.5 Expenditure in the last quarter totalled £215,058 compared to the bid forecast of £277,783 (-23%). Both these figures continue to highlight the need for more accurate Project forecast spend profiling from Project Leads as this impacts the Scheme's forecast cashflow position and ability to pro-actively manage delivery.
- 3.6 Accurate Project Lead reporting is essential to ensure a robust position and proactively manage any resultant impact on the Common Fund and DNPA as the Scheme's Accountable Body.

- 3.7 The *MTMTE* Team collate Project Leads' reporting information on a quarterly basis (the next deadline being on 7 December) for verifying and claims preparation to HLF by 21 of the same month. This process draws down against the total HLF grant of £1.9m at the 49.4% Intervention Rate. For example, if our total combined Project quarterly spend is £100k, then the onward payment from HLF to the Scheme's Common Fund administered by DNPA is £49,400.
- 3.8 The combination of inaccurate Project spend forecasting and discretionary payments places further stress on the Common Fund's cashflow position. Project Leads have again been tasked with updating this as part of their Y2Q1 reporting due on 7 December 2015.
- 3.9 The Board and DNPA has also made it clear that on-going reporting delays and inaccuracies may result in either delayed or no payments for that quarter to Project Lead Organisations. This is obviously a situation we are striving to avoid but need all of the Scheme's Partners to fulfil their obligations.
- 3.10 The Scheme's actual cashflow position is a function of the quarterly HLF payments received and onward payments to Project Lead Organisations who have made a claim in that quarter. This net position is influenced by the mix of Projects claiming in that quarter and their respective Intervention Rates. Projects range from those fully funded by HLF/the Scheme to those whom effectively generate the equivalent match funding for every pound spent. This is illustrated by the 'Balance - in period' chart in Appendix 2. The current forecast shows that the Common Fund will generally be paying out more than it receives over the next three quarters and generally until Scheme completion.
- 3.11 The cumulative effect on the Common Fund's balance is also shown in Appendix 2. This assumes DNPA's £200k contribution is available to be drawn down against from the start to help manage the Common Fund's cashflow position. This is particularly key given the delayed delivery of PC5 – Wray Valley Trail as this was originally forecast to have generated £831k of HLF match funding into the Common Fund by June 2015.
- 3.12 Devon County Council has assured DNPA of the revised delivery programme and continued funding contribution. The majority of the remaining contribution is now forecast in spring 2016.
- 3.13 The Head of Business Support has recommended that a provision of £300,000 is made in Reserves to cover the forecast operational cashflow position and will review this with the Scheme Manager at least quarterly; this will be reported to Audit and Governance Committee.

4 Scheme and Project management

- 4.1 One of the key challenges in managing the Scheme is being able to coordinate messages to, and obtain and collate Project-level information in a consistent fashion from a diverse range of Project Leads; all from varying

types and levels of organisations through to volunteers and private individuals of varying backgrounds, experience and interests.

- 4.2 The Scheme's performance is driven by the individual Projects and how they integrate to achieve the HLF Approved Purposes. How well we understand and are able to manage Scheme performance is driven by the supply of accurate Project information in a timely fashion. This supply of the right information at the right time enables the right people (the *MTMTE* Team and Board) to make effective decisions and monitor the Projects and Scheme overall.
- 4.3 Whilst some of our Project Leads are very pro-active and reliably supply prompt and accurate information every quarter, this requires a step-change for many. This is something which the *MTMTE* Team will continue to assist with and support.
- 4.4 The Board, DNPA as Lead Partner and *MTMTE* Team continue to impress the importance of this to all our Project Leads and Organisations. As a last resort, quarterly claims payments may be withheld if reporting does not improve.

5 Risk

- 5.1 The Scheme's strategic risk register submitted as part of the HLF bid was a simple probability times severity matrix identifying seven risks. No provision was made in either the budget or schedule (in terms of cost and time impact) to deal with these risks if they are realised.
- 5.2 The majority of the Projects identified some risks during their delivery as part of their Project Proformas submitted to HLF. Limited, if any, provision was made in their Project budgets however to deal with these risks.
- 5.3 The new Scheme Manager has introduced a Quantified Risk Register (QRR) to more accurately identify, quantify and manage risk. This is the typical model used to develop and deliver Government/Local Authority projects.
- 5.4 The QRR is a live document throughout the course of the Scheme and is influenced by the Projects' individual risks. These risks will either be realised, part-realised or not occur as the Projects progress and eventually disappear as the Projects and Scheme complete.
- 5.5 The Scheme's Top 10 risks by notional cash value are:

ID	Risk
1	Unsecured funding
2	Funding shortfall
3	Inaccurate budgeting
4	Risk provision

ID	Risk
5	MTMTE Team start-up costs
6	MTMTE Team salary budget
7	Project Lead Organisation / Lead / Stakeholder support
8	Cashflow shortfall
9	Cashflow logistics – onward partner payments
10	Effects of the economy and budgetary impact on Partners' continued Scheme participation

- 5.6 The majority of these risks impact in monetary terms if they are realised and some are functions of, or compounded by, others.
- 5.7 The QRR currently totals £187k (4.9% of the £3.843m Scheme budget). The Scheme Manager and Board are actively monitoring these risks to ensure that as far as possible they are managed appropriately to minimise any cost to the scheme.
- 5.8 Members will be informed of changes to the QRR through 6 monthly reports to the Audit and Governance Committee and the annual report to Authority. The HLF are kept informed through regular meetings.

6 Lessons learnt

- 6.1 A number of lessons have been learnt in moving from the Development to Delivery Stage. Much of this revolves around changing mindsets from 'ideas and aspirations' to 'doing' and the practicalities and logistics applying in the Delivery Stage. The Landscape Partnership Board are keen to learn as we progress through the project and we will report key issues to Audit and Governance Committee.

7 Summary of Year 1 - key achievements and messages

- 7.1 As noted above, after the first year of the project the spend profile is behind schedule. The Wray Valley Trail accounts for a large proportion of that and it is now on target to deliver in Spring 2016 and over the remainder of the project.
- 7.2 All projects are still currently projected to complete in the five year window. HLF is not concerned at this stage as slippage is normal for large and complex Landscape Partnership schemes in Year 1. However, we must not be complacent and the QRR will help us ensure that we accurately monitor and manage risk through the Scheme Manager and the Board.
- 7.3 It is essential that all projects provide accurate and timely reporting and this needs to be improved during Year 2 so that we accurately monitor progress and any slippage.

- 7.4 There is a risk to the Authority if cashflow projections are not accurate. The Head of Business Support is fully engaged in the process and adequate reserves have been earmarked to cope with any cash flow deficit that, at this stage, are most likely towards the end of the Delivery Stage in Year 5.
- 7.5 Despite slower than anticipated progress there have been some excellent outcomes: we have a full staff team in place; 28 out of the 29 projects have started and there has been real progress as outlined in section 2.
- 7.6 In addition, over 1,000 people have been involved in approximately 30 *MTMTE* events so far and 84 volunteers are registered for the Scheme, contributing 246 days.
- 7.7 Six parishes are either working on their Parishscapes project or are developing their applications with a further four being planned now. These are engaging a diverse range of school and community groups including:
- Ashburton Museum
 - Bank Youth Group (Ashburton)
 - East Dartmoor National Nature Reserve - History Hunters
 - Greenhill Arts Centre
 - Guild of St Lawrence
 - Lustleigh Society
 - Moretonhampstead History Society
 - North Bovey Conservation Group
 - St Andrew's Church (Ashburton).
- 7.8 Approximately 70 people attended the PB3 - Moor Medieval Symposium with six nationally renowned speakers.
- 7.9 We completed a second community archaeological dig at North Hall Manor, Widcombe-in-the-Moor as part of a week-long celebration in the Festival of Archaeology.
- 7.10 We have undertaken habitat management with RSPB conservation volunteers to encourage return of key species (23 volunteer days) and undertaken surveys and mapping of non-native invasive plant species in the Barramoor Valley and Stannon Brook. Integrated Management Plans are in development for two Rhôs pasture systems and wider links have also been established with the Haymeadows community across Dartmoor and external organisations.
- 7.11 In the East Dartmoor NNR, open space and woodland edge habitat has been created in Hisley Woods which will encourage 'lichen hot spots', a key base for the Lichen Lovers volunteer group. Our Woodland Trust partners have also completed the Barbastelle Bat project's main research phase into dispersal patterns across 100 hectares of the Bovey Valley.

8 Equality and Sustainability Impact Assessment

- 8.1 The projects being delivered were selected to improve access to and understanding of the MTMTE (and wider Dartmoor) area by all sectors of society; support local communities and businesses; and deliver a range of environmental benefits.

MARK ALLOTT

Background papers: NPA/14/001

Attachments: Appendix 1 – Project Status and Staff Links
Appendix 2 - Cashflow

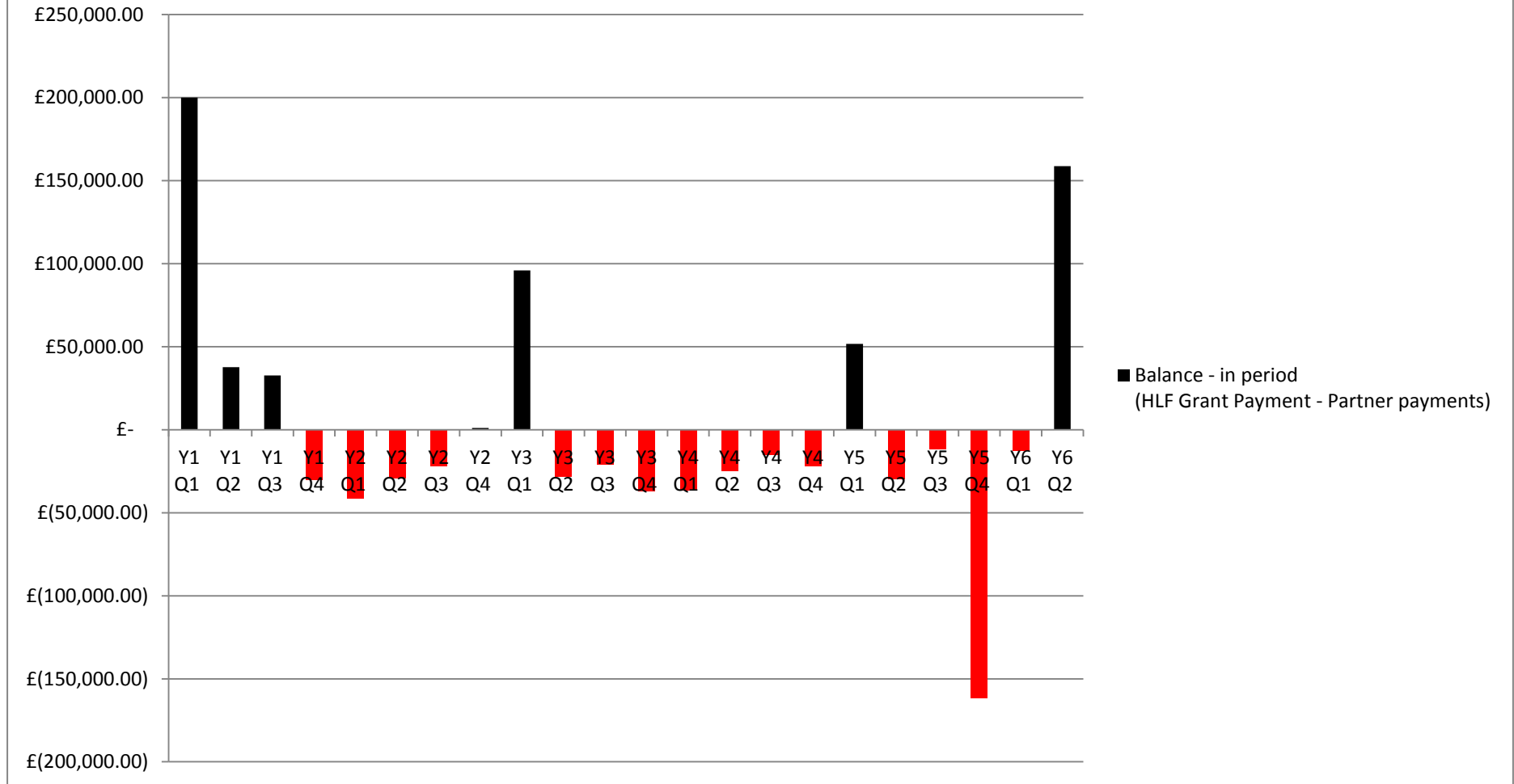
20151204 MA - MTMTE

MTMTE - Landscape Partnership Scheme
Project Status and Staff Links

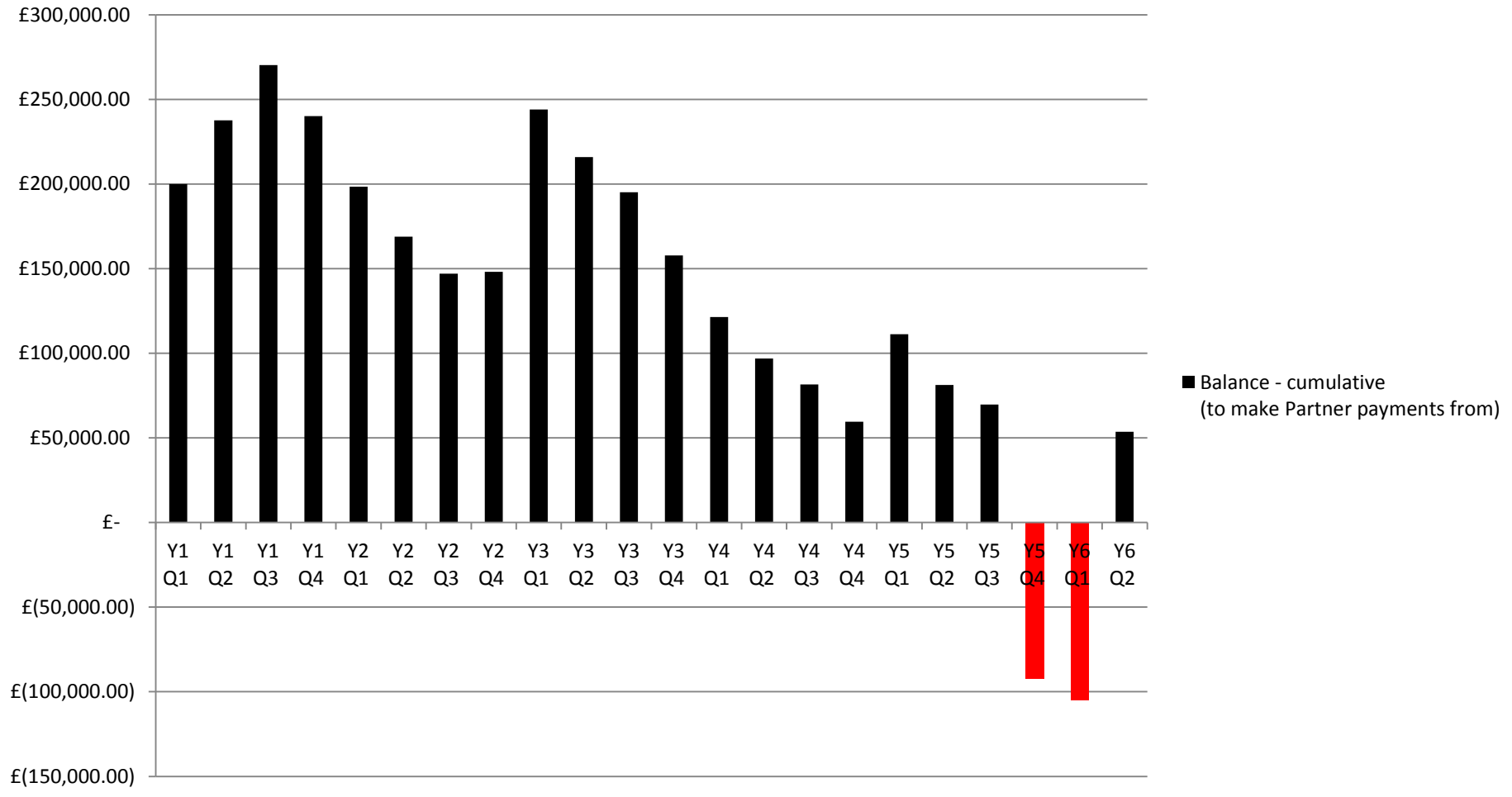
		Project Performance - Status (RAG)								
		Budget	Cost (£ to quarter end)	Overall	Schedule (Timescale)	Quality	Cost position	Scope	Benefits	Risk
PA1	Moorland Birds	£ 89,296.00	£ 6,819.91	A	A	A	G	R	R	R
PA2	Haymeadows	£ 9,000.00	£ 2,631.59	A	A	G	A	G	G	A
PA3	Natural Connections	£ 9,000.00	£ 2,611.58	A	A	G	A	G	G	A
PA4	Discovering the Nature of the Bovey Valley	£ 266,445.00	£ 46,379.84	G	G	G	G	G	G	G
PA5	Unveiling the heritage of the High Moor and	£ 79,000.00	£ 11,705.00	G	G	G	A	G	G	G
PA6	Higher Uppacott	£ 153,250.00	£ 40,069.19	A	A	G	G	G	G	A
PA7	Ponies, Pounds and Driftways	£ 34,000.00	£ -	A	A	G	G	G	G	G
PA8	Ancient Boundaries, Modern Farming	£ 100,000.00	£ -	G	G	A	A	A	A	A
PA9	Hameldown WWII Bomber Crash Archaeological	£ 2,300.00	£ 1,829.00	G	G	G	G	G	A	G
PB1	Bellever and Postbridge Trails	£ 124,400.00	£ 2,237.90	A	A	G	A	G	G	G
PB2	Parishscapes	£ 175,386.25	£ 9,400.00	A	A	G	A	G	G	G
PB3	Moor Medieval	£ 25,000.00	£ 3,896.18	A	A	G	G	A	G	A
PB4	Engaging with the Nature of the Bovey Valley	£ 156,003.00	£ 24,550.87	G	A	G	A	G	G	G
PB5	Welcome to Widecombe	£ 49,429.88	£ -	G	G	G	G	G	G	G
PB6	Managing Volunteers	£ 20,000.00	£ 284.91	A	A	G	A	G	G	A
PB7	In the Footsteps of the Victorians	£ 102,087.00	£ 1,429.07	R	A	G	A	R	A	A
PB8	Pony Herd Identification Project	£ 6,768.00	£ -	A	A	G	A	G	G	G
PB9	Moor Boots	£ 20,000.00	£ 3,944.66	G	G	G	G	G	G	A
PB10	Whitehorse Community Play	£ 14,350.00	£ 9,958.00	G	G	G	A	G	G	G
PC1	Moor than meets the eye Interpretation - Discovering the Dartmoor Story	£ 177,986.00	£ 4,806.89	A	A	G	A	A	G	A
PC4	Brimpts Tin Trail	£ 12,300.00	£ 2,979.80	G	A	G	G	G	G	A
PC5	Wray Valley Trail	£ 845,000.00	£ 202,779.37	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
PC6	Heritage Trails	£ 9,900.00	£ 9,479.90	G	A	G	G	G	G	G
PC7	Fernworthy Reservoir Improved Access	£ 120,846.00	£ 56,787.84	G	A	G	A	A	G	G
PC8	Postbridge Visitor Centre	£ 184,920.00	£ 2,850.00	A	A	G	A	A	G	G
PD1	Dartmoor Diploma	£ 150,000.00	£ -	A	A	A	A	G	G	A
PD2	EcoSkills	£ 199,500.00	£ 80,421.17	G	G	G	G	G	G	G
PD3	East Shallowford Trust	£ 30,000.00	£ -	G	G	G	G	G	G	G
PE1	Staff Team	£ 631,177.28	£ 101,450.18	G			A	G		G
PE2	HERO and GI Staff for PC6	£ 11,338.00	£ 11,338.00	G			G	G		G
PE3	Transport and Subsistence	£ 5,000.00	£ 6,608.27	G			R	G		G
PE4	Training	£ 3,000.00	£ 500.00	G	G	G	G	G	G	G
PE5	Monitoring and Evaluation	£ 20,000.00	£ -	G	G	G	G	G	G	G
PE6	Moor than meets the eye Website	£ 6,500.00	£ 5,763.43	A	A	G	G	G	G	G

	Budget	Cost	% complete
PROGRAMME A TOTAL:	£ 742,291.00	£ 112,046.11	15%
PROGRAMME B TOTAL:	£ 693,424.13	£ 55,701.59	8%
PROGRAMME C TOTAL:	£ 1,350,952.00	£ 279,683.80	21%
PROGRAMME D TOTAL:	£ 379,500.00	£ 80,421.17	21%
PROGRAMME E TOTAL:	£ 677,015.28	£ 125,659.88	19%
TOTAL:	£ 3,843,182.41	£ 653,512.55	17%

Balance - in period (HLF Grant Payment - Partner payments)



Balance - cumulative (to make Partner payments from)



DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK PLANNING AUTHORITY

4 December 2015

**TREE PRESERVATION ORDERS, SECTION 211 NOTIFICATIONS
(WORKS TO TREES IN CONSERVATION AREAS)
AND HEDGEROW REMOVAL NOTICES
DETERMINED UNDER DELEGATED POWERS**

Report of the Trees and Landscape Officer

Recommendation : **That the decisions be noted.**

TREE PRESERVATION ORDERS

Teignbridge

Ref: 15/025 Tyrwhitt House, Princetown SX 5860 7387

Application to reduce the canopy of a beech tree by 2.5m. The works will have minimal impact on the health or appearance of the tree. Consent was granted subject to the following conditions:

1. Five working days, notice to be given to the Authority prior to the commencement of approved works.
2. All works to be carried out in accordance with British Standard 3998:2010 Tree Work – Recommendations.

Ref: 15/0028 2 Courtenay Terrace, Moreton SX 7555 8579

Application to reduce the length of three crossing branches on a beech tree. The works will have minimal impact on the health or appearance of the tree. Consent was granted subject to the following conditions:

1. Five working days, notice to be given to the Authority prior to the commencement of approved works.
2. All works to be carried out in accordance with British Standard 3998:2010 Tree Work – Recommendations.

SECTION 211 NOTICES

Teignbridge

Ref: 15/0026 The Wilderness, Ashburton SX 7600 6999

Notification to fell three poplar trees. The trees are hidden from public view and have minimal amenity value.

A Tree Preservation Order has not been made.

Ref: 15/0029

Town Barton, Manaton

SX 7500 8119

Notification to fell a cypress tree. The tree has poor form and limited public amenity value.

A Tree Preservation Order has not been made.

West Devon

Ref: 15/0027

48 New Street, Chagford

SX 7071 8725

Notification to fell a cherry tree. The tree is hidden from public view and has minimal amenity value.

A Tree Preservation Order has not been made.

Ref: 15/0030

Little Phantasy, Throwleigh

SX 6672 9081

Notification to reduce the height of a holly tree by 1m. The works are minor and will have minimal impact on the health or appearance of the tree.

A Tree Preservation Order has not been made.

BRIAN BEASLEY