



Berwickshire & Northumberland
Marine Nature Partnership

Steering Group Meeting 10.30am 15th June 2023 Virtual meeting

1. Welcome and Introductions

Attendees:

| | | |
|---------------------|----|-------------------------------------|
| Nick Brodin | NB | Berwickshire and Northumberland MNP |
| Anthony Crook | AC | Environment Agency |
| David Feige (Chair) | DF | Northumberland County Council |
| Fiona Munro | FM | Marine Scotland |
| Catherine Scott | CS | Natural England |

Apologies:

| | | |
|------------------|----|--------------------------|
| Anne Brown | AB | NatureScot |
| Raffaella Diesel | RD | Scottish Borders Council |
| Anna Griffin | AG | SEPA |

2. Minutes of last meeting

The actions from the last Steering Group in February 2023 were reviewed. Progress with action points is summarised in the attached table.

| Action | Who | Status |
|---|-----|----------|
| DF to set up call with AG on Nutrient Neutrality | DF | ongoing |
| DF to pass on details of the Wansbeck Boat Club to the Wansbeck Estuary Project | DF | Complete |

The action point on Nutrient Neutrality was rolled-over. **ACTION DF**

3. Partnership Officer Update

A full written update was provided with the papers for the meeting. A brief summary of some of the main points is given below:

As part of the ongoing 3Cs project with Durham Heritage Coast, two workshops were held in March to bring people together to review existing opportunity mapping produced by the Environment Agency's ReMeMaRe project, share details of current or proposed habitat restoration opportunities, identify potential new habitat restoration opportunities and discuss the current barriers standing in the way of delivering coastal habitat restoration at scale. We hope to secure more 3Cs funding for the next stage of the work which will see a prioritisation of the opportunities identified and the identification of collaborative action to realise these. We hope to find out about additional funding in July.

The Wild Recreation Guide has been produced as a PDF and is available to download from our website <https://www.xbordercurrents.co.uk/documents-and-links/wild-recreation-guide/> Further work will be undertaken to promote the messages in the guide. As an initial step a short film has been commissioned about how to recognise the signs of shown by coastal wildlife when suffering disturbance, with a similar film about dog walking likely to follow. These will be produced in conjunction with Space for Shorebirds who will contribute to the funding.

Two workshops have been held to help finalise the Marine INNS Strategy. A revised version of the Plan will now be produced and circulated for any additional comments. It will then be brought to the Steering Group for final approval.

Posts and mobile phone cradles for the CoastSnap Project have now been delivered. Permission to instal the posts at four locations owned by Northumberland County Council is now in place. Additional permissions for other locations are being followed up. Citizen Science work on Eiders and rocky shore monitoring has also been progressed using funding from Natural England.

4. Partner Updates

Environment Agency: AC updated on Environment Agency surveys planned for this year – these include benthic invertebrates on the Aln estuary and Budle Bay, seagrass and macroalgae at Holy Island/Budle Bay, and saltmarsh surveys of the Wansbeck and the Blyth.

Natural England: CS reported that NE have a new Marine Lead Advisor started work in July and that the deadline for the INNS Local Action Group fund has been extended. CS will forward the details of this to NB **ACTION CS**

Northumberland County Council: Royal Hosking have been commissioned to look at a strategic solution to nutrient neutrality at Lindisfarne. Funding from DLUHC (Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities) will be available to deliver the preferred solutions.

Space for Shorebirds (the Northumberland Coastal Mitigation Service) is currently busy with nest protection for breeding ringed plover. This includes work on an active nest site at Blyth South Beach.

Work will start on the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) in the autumn. The LNRS will cover the North of Tyne area (Northumberland, North Tyneside and Newcastle). The lead organisation will be the North of Tyne Combine Authority but Northumberland County Council will act as the responsible body on their behalf.

5. Partnership Finance

Letters requesting annual partner contributions to the Marine Nature Partnership will go out soon.

6. AOB

The Environment Agency have a new Citizen Science lead. AC will put NB in touch with them. **ACTION AC**

7. Table of actions from meeting

| Action | Who | Status |
|--|-----|----------|
| DF to set up call with AG on Nutrient Neutrality | DF | |
| CS to forward details of the INNS Local Action Group fund to NB | CS | Complete |
| AC to put NB in touch with the Environment Agency's new Citizen Science lead | AC | Complete |