

Catchment Based Partnership – Yorkshire Esk Rivers Trust and North York Moors National Park Authority

Memorandum of Understanding

1. Vision and Objectives

The Catchment Based Partnership for the Esk and Coastal Streams is jointly hosted by the Yorkshire Esk Rivers Trust (YERT) and the North York Moors National Park Authority (NYMNPA).

The vision of the Catchment Partnership is:

'To create a healthy and wildlife rich water environment within the Esk and Coastal Streams that will bring both social and economic benefits to all.'

The objectives of the Partnership are to:

- Conserve, protect and improve the water quality and biodiversity within the Esk and Coastal Streams; and
- Advance the awareness and understanding of the public, local communities, associations, voluntary organisations, government agencies and companies in the importance of, and need for, conservation and protection measures and actions.

2. The Role of YERT/ NYMNPA and 'Ways of Working'

2.1 Organisational contacts

NYMNPA staff

- David Renwick, Director of Conservation is the main point of contact for the NYMNPA regarding the Partnership and will provide additional support and guidance.
- David Renwick, Director of Conservation of NYMNPA and Andy Wilson, CEO of NYMNPA will participate at a strategic level.
- Simon Hirst, River Esk Project Officer, will lead on the delivery of key projects related to the Esk catchment and will be responsible for ensuring that these help to deliver the priorities identified through the Partnership and that the Partnership is kept up to date with progress. He will also be a member of the Esk CaBA Steering Group and provide information and support to the partnership.

YERT staff

- Simon Foster is President of YERT and has a wealth of knowledge relating to the River Esk.
- Angus Oughtred is Chairman of YERT and will be the principle point of contact with NYMNPA both at operational and strategic level. Angus Oughtred will be Chair the Esk CaBA Steering Group.
- Stephen Till is Vice Chairman of YERT and leads on issues relating to fisheries management in addition to supporting the Chairman on more general operational and strategic issues.
- Stewart Bates is responsible for finance and is the principle point of contact between YERT and Harrison Holt Chartered Accountants.
- Olly Foster is Secretary for YERT and in addition is responsible for fisheries enforcement.
- George Winn Darley is experienced in land management and advises YERT accordingly.

- Keith Bristow represents Angling interests at YERT and is also actively involved in public engagement activities for YERT i.e. Young Angler Initiative.

Partnership Staff

- The Esk Catchment Partnership Officer, will be the first point of contact for the Partnership, will provide secretarial support to the Steering Group and will coordinate and carry out research and monitoring in accordance with the 3 year plan with the River Esk Project Officer as required.

2.2 Strategy and framework

As lead partners YERT and NYMNPA will work together to develop a 3 year rolling plan based on the outcomes of the initial Catchment Based Approach (CaBA) Workshops held on the 31st of March 2014. The Plan will not only include specific practical projects within the catchment but also effective measures in relation to communicating and engaging with key stakeholders. The Plan will be a living document and will be subject to a formal review at least annually by YERT/ NYMNPA. The document will be shaped, agreed and its delivery steered by the Partnership Steering Group.

2.3 Financial controls, reporting and governance

NYMNPA will be responsible for providing financial information and reporting for the Partnership's funding resources and will present these for consideration at Partnership meetings as appropriate. This will be charged quarterly at an hourly rate to be agreed annually.

The holding of funds will be undertaken by either of the joint hosts depending on the most appropriate arrangement for that fund. Financial reporting will highlight separately, restricted and non-restricted funds.

2.4 Funding

YERT and NYMNPA will seek to maximise the sources of funding to deliver the works within the catchment. NYMNPA has the opportunity to secure funding as a Local Authority and a National Park Authority and YERT can secure funding as a registered charity and through public donations. Both NYMNPA and YERT will be fully transparent in relation to both sources of funding and allocated spend.

It is recognised that NYMNPA have both the experience and resource to apply for funding bids and as such the NYMNPA will lead the process but with support, input and guidance from YERT.

2.5 Administrative resource

NYMNPA will provide administrative resource to the Partnership on an as and when required basis. This will be charged quarterly at an hourly rate to be agreed annually and will include the provision of all postage costs and stationary.

2.6 Data and evidence support

It is recognised that NYMNPA retain much of the historic and current data on the environmental status of the Esk and coastal streams, using this information will be important in assisting the prioritisation of projects. NYMNPA will provide such information to support the ongoing management and execution of the 3 year plan. This will be supplemented

through YERT providing additional local knowledge and in particular information relating to the fishery.

2.7 Post project monitoring and analysis

The importance of being able to demonstrate the results from projects undertaken within the catchment cannot be understated as only being able to demonstrate this will the partnership be able to maintain funding sources. It is recognised that both YERT and NYMNPA must demonstrate an equal commitment to fulfilling this requirement alongside other partnership members as appropriate.

2.8 External communication

YERT and NYMNPA will agree in advance any communications, press releases or reports and submissions to government bodies, lead organisations or funding bodies. The intention would always be that both YERT and NYMNPA would also jointly attend events and forums relevant to the partnership.

2.9 Education and public engagement

It is recognised that NYMNPA have both the experience and resource to develop initiatives in the fields of education and public engagement. Different initiatives of this type will be delivered by the most appropriate partner given the target audience.

2.10 Hosting of staff, human resources and recruitment

At this stage in the Partnership's development it is recognised that NYMNPA has the appropriate resources and administrative functions to host the Partnership's paid staff, including the Catchment Officer, support officer and any other support.

It is also recognised that the NYMNPA also has considerable experience and expertise in managing volunteers and apprentices, both of which will be beneficial to the Partnership and will enable partners, including YERT to deliver volunteer work on the ground.

3. Monitoring, Review and Ongoing Management

The lead officers for YERT and NYMNPA will meet as a minimum bi-annually in order to assess how this Memorandum of Understanding is being delivered and how it relates to the wider Partnership.

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