Yorkshire Dales Biodiversity Forum
Terms of Reference

Purpose

1. The Forum brings together the organisations that have a major contribution to make to achieving the ambition and objectives for nature that are set out in the Yorkshire Dales National Park Management Plan. It acts as an advisor to the Yorkshire Dales National Park Management Plan Partnership and the National Park Authority on biodiversity issues. It reports annually to the Partnership through its Chair

Role

2. The primary role of the Forum is to co-ordinate and support implementation of the ambition and objectives for nature recovery that are set out in the Yorkshire Dales National Park Management Plan, and the Yorkshire Dales Nature Recovery Plan; and, by doing so, support implementation of the Local Nature Recovery Strategies for Cumbria, Lancashire and North Yorkshire.

3. To achieve this, the Forum is expected to:
    a. Identify and co-ordinate opportunities to secure funding for significant new nature recovery projects and programmes;
    b. Identify opportunities to speed up or improve the effectiveness of nature recovery activity within the National Park
    c. Monitor and report progress in implementing the above objectives;
    d. Provide advice and information on significant biodiversity and nature recovery issues to the National Park Management Plan Partnership and the National Park Authority, as appropriate;
    e. Oversee the review of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Nature Recovery Plan;
    f. Engage positively with the Yorkshire Dales Farming and Land Management Forum to develop solutions for nature recovery that also support achievement of the objectives for farming in the National Park Management Plan.

Membership

4. Membership of the Forum is open to those organisations and individuals that:
    a. Can make a significant contribution to the achievement of the agreed nature recovery objectives for the National Park
    b. Are prepared to work collaboratively and constructively with each other.
    c. Are prepared to commit time and resources to the Forum.

5. The members of the Forum are listed in the **Annex.** Each body shall have a named representative and one named substitute. It is for each partner organisation to determine who is best placed to represent them on the Forum having regard to:
    a. the roles and responsibilities of the Forum (as set out above); and,
    b. the key requirements expected of each individual:
        i. have the authority to make decisions and commitments on behalf of their organisation;
        ii. communicate information about the Partnership's work within their own organisation;
        iii. co-ordinate views from across their organisation in order to provide a single organisational view on relevant issues;
        iv. ensure the timely provision of relevant monitoring information from their organisation.

6. The Forum will be supported by officers of the National Park Authority, led by the Senior Wildlife Conservation Officer.

Forum Delivery Group

7. The Delivery Group will be made up of those bodies that will make the most significant contribution to achieving the range of agreed nature recovery objectives for the National Park (i.e. those identified as 'leads' or 'supporting bodies' for the nature recovery objectives in the National Park Management Plan 2025-30).

8. To ensure effective decision-making, the Delivery Group will be limited to a maximum of 15 organistions. The Delivery Group may invite other bodies to attend its meetings. The Delivery Group may also decide to set up and delegate to additional sub-groups to take forward key items of work.

9. The Delivery Group shall nominate and elect the Forum chair, who will be appointed for a period of 2 years.

10. The Delivery Group will:
    a. identify where there are opportunities or need for greater collaboration and co-ordinated action amongst partners to deliver the nature objectives in the Yorkshire Dales National Park Management Plan.

b. ensure that robust and timely data is provided by the key partners in accordance with the timetable, and prepare annual progress reports for he National Park Management Plan Partnership;

c. agree the framework for monitoring progress on the Yorkshire Dales Nature Recovery Plan, including habitat and species monitoring;

d. hold an annual full Forum meeting open to all members.

Technical Advisory Group

11. A Technical Advisory Group will be established to support implementation of the agreed monitoring framework. Membership of the group will be open to all Forum members.

12. Detailed aims and objectives will be agreed by the Delivery Group.

Meetings

13. Initially, the Forum Delivery Group will meet twice a year[1].

14. The annual full Forum meeting will normally be held in June/July.

15. Minutes of Board meetings and the full Forum will be circulated to all members of the Forum

External Representation:

16. Any member of the Forum may, with the Forum's agreement, represent the Forum at external meetings and consultations, on the basis that they:

- Make clear that they are acting on behalf of the Yorkshire Dales Biodiversity Forum and state any potential conflicts of interest.
- Ensure that their contribution is representative of the Forum's consensus view, not just that of their own organisation.
- Report back to the Forum as required.

17. In providing independent advice to the National Park Management Plan Partnership or the National Park Authority, the Forum does not constrain the independent voice of individual organisations.

[1] It is proposed that meetings will normally be held in February and October.

Yorkshire Dales National Park Biodiversity Forum

Membership

Chair

Dr Jane Smart (Independent)

Forum Delivery Group

- Cumbria Wildlife Trust
- Environment Agency
- Forestry Commission
- National Trust
- Natural England
- North Yorkshire Council
- Rivers Trust representative (on behalf of all the Rivers Trusts)
- Westmorland and Furness Council
- Woodland Trust
- Yorkshire Dales Biodiversity Forum Technical Advisory Group (subject to agreement).
- Yorkshire Dales Farming and Land Management Forum
- Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust
- Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority
- Yorkshire Wildlife Trust (also representing the Yorkshire Peat Partnership)

Other Forum Members

- Aire Rivers Trust
- BASC
- Cumbria Peat Partnership
- Eden Rivers Trust
- Friends of the Dales
- Lancashire County Council
- Leeds University (Steve Carver)
- Local Biodiversity Records Centres
- Northen England Raptor Forum
- RSPB
- Stop Ure Pollution
- Sustainable Swaledale
- Upper Wharfedale Field Society
- Wharfedale Naturalists' Society
- Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester & North Merseyside
- Wild Trout Trust
- Yoredale Natural History Society