

6. CUT GATE, NORTH AMERICA FARM & GREAT RIDGE PATHWAYS PROJECT (DC)

1. Purpose of the report

The Peak District National Park Authority proposes to retain a leading role in pathway improvement work through the practical delivery of capital works on iconic pathways in the Peak District National Park.

We are seeking approval to apply for funding for capital works and associated project management from a number of sources to deliver pathway improvements to the Cut Gate Bridleway, North America Farm Bridleway and the Great Ridge Footpath. The project would be delivering identified and scoped pathway improvements to the three pathways.

We are seeking approval to undertake the Cut Gate & Great Ridge Project which will be funded by the British Mountaineering Council's (BMC) Mend our Mountains Campaign with additional funding coming Sheffield City Council. Additional funding is also being explored via the East Pennine Innovation Programme (EPIP), The European Outdoor Conservation Association (EOCA) and Heritage Lottery Funding. The PDNPA have contributed staff resource to securing funding. There is no contribution from the PDNPA to the capital works budget. At the time of submitting this report funding has not been received from the BMC (we have been advised that funding will be forwarded in March/April 2019). Accordingly this report is written on the basis of the BMC funding being in place. The purpose of this report is therefore to request authority to proceed with this project in anticipation of a successful outcome.

This will constitute a significant project, with an estimated capital works cost of £528,000 over a one year period.

Key issues

The project is reliant on funding from a variety of sources to form the project budget. The funding target for the project is £528,000 but if this total funding isn't in place when the project starts, the project will de-scope to match the funding in place.

Pathway improvement can be a controversial subject. Landowners carrying out their own pathway improvements have run into planning issues. The project will carry out stakeholder engagement in a careful and sensitive manner and will seek pre-application planning advice as appropriate prior to any works commencing.

The project will deliver three different pathway improvements. The pathways are in poor condition and require improvement to avoid further damage to active blanket bog in an area designated as SSSI.

- The Great Ridge Path, that runs between Mam Tor and Lose Hill. The project will deliver improvements to the part of the path between Hollin's Cross and Lose Hill.
- Cut Gate Bridleway, that runs from Slippery Stones at the top end of Howden Dam to Langsett. The project will potentially deliver improvements to the full length of the path subject to the funding raised. The BMC funding focus is on an area of the path starting as the path leaves National Trust land and runs north over The Broomhead Estate and the Midhope Estate. The project will address two infamously famous areas of bog that the path crosses.
- North America Farm Bridleway, that runs up from Langsett Reservoir to join Cut Gate Bridleway. The project will deliver improvements to the full length of

the bridleway

This project is in line with the Business Model, in the Moors for the Future Partnership Business Plan, approved by this Committee 6/14

RECOMMENDATION

2.
 - 1 **That the Audit Resources and Performance Committee approves this project proposal.**
 - 2 **That the Audit Resources and Performance Committee supports the funding applications to undertake the project and accepts the total funding of up to £528,000 to deliver the project.**
 - 3 **That the Authority may, subject to compliance with its procurement standing orders, enter into contracts for the delivery of the project.**

How does this contribute to our policies and legal obligations?

3. The project covers many aspects which will support the delivery aims of the National Park Management Plan 2018-23. More specifically:

Special quality 1: Beautiful views created by contrasting landscapes and dramatic geology

Special quality 2: Internationally important and locally distinctive wildlife and habitats

Special quality 3: Undeveloped places of tranquillity and dark night skies within reach of millions

Special quality 4: Landscapes that tell a story of thousands of years of people, farming and industry

Special quality 6: An inspiring space for escape, adventure, discovery and quiet Reflection

Special quality 7: Vital benefits for millions of people that flow beyond the landscape boundary

Areas of impact:

- 1: Preparing for a future climate
- 3: Managing landscape conservation on a big scale
- 4: A National Park for everyone
- 5: Encouraging enjoyment with understanding
- 6: Supporting thriving and sustainable communities and economy

4. Background

Historically the Authority (through Moors for the Future) has undertaken a number of large scale pathway improvement projects and have built up considerable experience and skill in delivering these types of projects. In total, over the last 15 years, Moors for the Future team have completed 22km of upland paths. This has allowed the Authority to build up a strong reputation for delivering high quality pathways improvements across the uplands.

A previous Campaign run by the BMC secured funding for work on the Ringing Roger footpath running up onto Kinder Scout, which was delivered by the Authority. The successful delivery of the project has led to the BMC approaching the Authority with the proposal that we deliver two pathway improvements for the BMC's Mend our Mountains Campaign.

Following discussions with Sheffield City Council, a £30,000 donation has been received from Sheffield City Council to contribute towards bridleway improvements on the North America Farm Bridleway.

The Rights of Way Team have previously carried out pathway improvements on the Great Ridge Path, restoring the section from Hollins Cross to Mam Tor summit (2002). The current proposed project will complete the improvements required to the path by carrying out works on the section between Hollins Cross and Lose Hill.

Responsibilities

The Project will be managed by Diarmuid Crehan, Project Manager within the current Moors for the Future programme. Mike Rhodes (PDNPA Access & Rights of Way Manager) will be the projects Subject Matter Expert. Overall supervision will be provided by Matt Scott-Campbell, Conservation and Land Management Programme Manager

Timescale

The project will be implemented over a 1 year period (2019-20), with capital works expected to commence in Autumn/Winter 2019.

5. Are there any corporate implications members should be concerned about?

A number of the landowners included in the bid have complicated land ownership and stakeholder scenarios. This will require significant Officer input to manage and secure the necessary agreements from all parties. This exercise will be undertaken on a site by site basis, and there is a residual risk that the necessary approvals from all parties may not be achievable for reasons that are not visible to the Authority at the time of bidding.

During the fundraising stage the Moors for the Future team made contact with the key stakeholders for each of the sites included in the proposed scope and this engagement will continue throughout the project. The key stakeholders for each site have indicated their support of the proposed works but consent could be put on hold or withdrawn at any time.

6. Financial: *Cash Flow*

There will be no cash flow amounts for the Authority to incorporate. An anticipated profile of spending has been defined for the whole project and has been submitted to the PDNPA Chief Finance Officer for review.

The value of the project will be up to £528,000. A cash flow forecast is attached as Appendix 1. Note there is no financial input requested from the Authority. The project will be funded by funding raised and in place before the appointments of contractors to deliver the works.

7. Risk Management

Health and Safety

All projects will be managed as currently, in discussion with the Authority's Health and Safety Officer. This includes use of the Construction Design and Management Regulations (CDM 2015), where applicable.

Practical Delivery

The path improvement works proposed within this project are within the expertise of the Moors for the Future team. As such the risk of the work not delivering the required results is considered to be low.

As part of this recommendation the Moors for the Future Programme Management team has assessed the resource requirements of this new project. This has been in consultation with the team and Head of Programme Delivery. Following this assessment the availability of capacity within the team to deliver this project is confirmed. The continuation of adequate capacity in light of ongoing commitments on other projects will remain the responsibility of the Moors for the Future Programme Managers.

All projects will be planned and managed using the Moors for the Future Project Management Toolkit. This includes using Gantt chart techniques to define the critical path for project delivery and the use of a RID Log (Risks, Issues & Dependencies) to identify and manage risks to project delivery.

A project delivery schedule will be defined at the start of the project based on the team's operational capability and agreed with landowners and the principle funders. This schedule will be base-lined and continually monitored to assess project progress and to anticipate potential delivery issues. The project will also be managed under change control with the principle funders and be re-baselined as may be required in the event of changes. Moors for the Future has considerable experience of project management for works of this nature, and the risks to success stemming from the proposed management of this project are low.

Material and Contractor Availability

It is recognised that the capacity of the contractor community will be stretched during the next few years as the Authority enters key capital delivery years for the MoorLIFE 2020 project, The Moor Carbon project funded by DEFRA and the ongoing Private Lands Portfolio of works funded by Natural England. All projects will be delivered in tandem with one another to manage the risk of contractor capacity and to drive efficiencies and economies of scale in procurement. The Authority has existing and established framework contracts in place that will be sufficient to procure all the proposed works. These will be fully integrated into Moors for the Future Partnership's wider programme of works.

General Management

The new project will be managed by a project group in the same manner as with the other Moors for the Future projects. The remit of this group is to provide project steering and would be made up of, the Moors for the Future Programme Management team and other officers across the Authority, the BMC, Sheffield Wildlife Trust, The National Trust and the Project Manager. There is also a monitoring function through the line management structure of the Authority including the Director of Conservation and Planning, Moors for the Future Head of Programme Delivery and the Conservation and Land Management Programme Manager. The Project Manager is responsible for

monitoring the budget but this is overseen by the Moors for the Future Programme Office Manager working closely with the Chief Finance Officer.

Sustainability

The proposed project will address carbon losses by creating a path that encourages users to travel on the path and not across the fragile bog habitat. Blanket bog and peatlands that are subject to medium footfall quickly degenerate to bare peat which releases significant carbon into the atmosphere as well as washing into the reservoirs. The process of revegetating bare and eroding peat will also deliver significant multiple benefits with regard to ecosystem services.

8. Background papers (not previously published) – None

Appendices –

1. Cash Flow Forecast
2. Project working area maps

Report Author

Diarmuid Crehan, Project Manager, Moors for the Future Partnership, 25 October 2018