

Appendix 1 - Countryside Stewardship Historic Building Restoration Pilot

Background

Between 2008 & 2014 the PDNPA worked in partnership with Natural England (NE) to deliver traditional building restoration projects via the Environmental Stewardship Higher Level Scheme (HLS). 25 buildings and other structures were restored at a total cost of £1,559,387; landowner input £311,877 (grant at 80%).

In 2017 NE & Historic England (HE) invited all National Parks (NPs) to work in partnership to deliver historic building restoration projects. The original budget was £2m; this was later increased to £8m. Only 5 NPs joined the partnership including the Peak District, Yorkshire Dales, Lake District, Northumberland, Dartmoor.

The importance of having local NP advisers and specialists in-house who can communicate with applicants/agreement holders and assist NE/HE to deliver the Pilot within the boundaries of NPs was recognised. A PDNPA farm adviser led on the Pilot with input from conservation officers.

The Pilot

The starting point was to create a Pilot Scheme process within a short timeframe. With past experience of delivering HLS restoration projects the lead PDNPA adviser had significant input in to the design and development of the scheme.

The Pilot used the lessons learnt from HLS including:

- NPA specialist involvement
- Management plan costs 100% funded
- Assessment criteria & threshold
- 2 year capital grant agreements
- 5 year maintenance requirement
- Short application window - opening in April and closing in June 2018.

Peak District Projects

There were 70 expressions of interest, all scored and assessed for eligibility, looking at the historic and landscape significance of the building, wildlife value and potential, proximity to public access routes and potential for public enjoyment. Any projects that met the scheme threshold score were progressed. This resulted in:

- 18 Applications (24 buildings - 4 Listed Buildings (LB), 4 Curtilage Listed Buildings (CLB), 1 Scheduled Monument (SM))
- 15 Management plans – funded at 100% grant (£193,978)
- 15 formal consents required e.g. Planning Permission, General Permitted Development Order, Listed Building and Scheduled Monument consent
- 4 projects withdrawn (involving 8 barns)

Buildings Restored:

- 16 buildings (5 field barns and 11 yard barns)
- 8 barns have protected species
- Total cost £2.7 million (Grant 80% (£2,193,308) (25% of whole pilot budget) Landowner input 20% (£548,327))

Appendix 1 - Countryside Stewardship Historic Building Restoration Pilot

Delivery of the Pilot was significantly impacted by Brexit and the Covid 19 outbreak which lead to cash flow issues, contract down time, problems sourcing materials and the substantial rises in costs.

The Pilot Review

A review of the Pilot is currently being undertaken. It is hoped that funding for traditional building restoration projects will be made available as part of Defra's Environmental Land Management (ELM) Schemes. There is the opportunity to consider whether traditional building restoration projects including low-key change of use should be funded as part of ELM. Some of the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme projects will also provide experience and learnings.

Example photographs of two barns before and after restoration

FIELD BARNS



**Knowle House
Barn,
Warslow Moors
Estate**

**Barn owl & bats
GPDO Consent & Wildlife Licence**



Appendix 1 - Countryside Stewardship Historic Building Restoration Pilot



**One Ash Grange
Barns, Monyash**

**Curtilage Listed Buildings
GPDO & LB Consent**

