

	<p>There will also be a reduction of around £80k/pa in annual payments because of the removal from the HLS of areas of thrown-open conifer inclosures which will not meet the IOS.</p> <p>Removal of Redundant Sign Posts. The Board approved funding of £1,500 for a survey by HCC to identify redundant sign posts on the B3078 and B3079. It was suggested that Ralph Montagu might be approached to see whether he would be prepared to advise on the survey, because of his particular interest in reducing signage on the Forest.</p> <p>Information Leaflet. The logos which are grouped together on the back page should be limited to those of the 3 partners. Other logos, if desirable, could be displayed adjacent to the relevant sections of the leaflet. More explanation is needed on the 'ditch and bank' boundary issue. It was also suggested that the presentation could be improved to identify more effectively with the New Forest. AB informed the Board that the NPA estimates that there are 2,000 houses fronting open forest. A print run of 5,000 was suggested.</p> <p>Bratley Pound. CD informed the Board that a supplier of suitable hardwood for the pound has been identified. A site meeting is planned for Friday to confirm minor amendments to the design of the pound to enable an order to be placed. The relative merits of hardwood and treated softwood were discussed. Despite conflicting views on the longevity of green hardwood, it was felt that this was more likely to outperform treated softwood and provide a better legacy for the future.</p> <p>Item 6: 2012/13 Programme Register: Queen's Meadow. MS clarified that the large variation between the forecast and actual cost of the restoration work at Queen's Meadow was due to the forecast figures being based on historic estimates. It was confirmed that future forecasts will take account of the experience gained on completed projects. Grace Herve (GH) and CD to update 2013/14 programme with more up-to-date figures.</p> <p>Penny Moor. It was agreed that JT would review the plans at a site meeting with Bill Howells, Sarah Oakley, and Richard Deakin.</p> <p>HAP/SAMs: Beaulieu Airfield Concrete Removal. It was noted that a large amount of concrete remains on the airfield. The Board asked for information on whether removal of this concrete was included in the current contract being managed by Richard Burke. The contract was based on a survey conducted by Anthony Pasmore, and the Board would like to know if the remaining concrete is included. Richard Burke is preparing a report which will clarify the situation. Any further clearance work will need to be put out to consultation because of the botanical interest in the artificial limestone habitat.</p> <p>OV reminded members of the need to submit capital works claims in time for the end-Feb 2013 deadline.</p> <p>Item 13: LIDAR. NE and NPA are liaising over a way to resolve the licensing difficulties for the LIDAR mapping so that NE has access to</p>	<p>AB</p> <p>AB</p> <p>CD</p> <p>GH/CD</p> <p>JT</p> <p>All</p>
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	<p>the data.</p> <p>Item 17: Bracken Survey. OV expressed disappointment that the bracken survey report was not complete. The Programme Register shows that £15,900 has already been paid. MS agreed to follow up. CD to ask Jonathan Cox to attend the next Board meeting on 30 January and to complete the final report for circulation at least 2 weeks ahead of the meeting.</p>	CD/JC
4. Latchmore Project	<p>The FC is waiting to hear the screening opinion from the planning authority as to whether or not the planning application will need an Environmental Impact Assessment. Where necessary individual planning applications will be submitted for engineering works for projects planned for next year.</p> <p>NE had a constructive meeting last week with the Friends of Latchmore. It was reiterated that Wetland Restorations are delegated to the FC within the HLS partnership, and therefore the FC would respond on all queries, liaising as necessary with other partners who would pass on any correspondence after first informing the correspondent that their request would be dealt with by the FC.</p> <p>It was noted that the planning process for future restoration projects could impose delays which would prevent the FC from meeting its annual targets; this would have a knock on effect, requiring a greater spend in later years in order to complete the 10 year HLS programme.</p>	RESUME All
5. 2012/13 Programme Register	<p>Both Programme Registers were in need of further updating to reflect recent decisions/spend. CD and Grace Herve (GH) were asked to give a higher priority to ensuring that the Registers are kept up to date.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Registers should be amended by removing column g 'Under/Over spend against planning figure'; and inserting a new column identifying responsibility for updating the spend (either GH or CD).</p> <p>The following changes were noted for amendment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lines 13 – 16 to be updated Add new VGS line – planned spend '£3.5k', description 'B + E (car & trailer) driver training Line 26 – check and confirm actual spend Line 31 – delete 'work to be carried forward to 2013/14' <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - insert, 'work to be carried forward to 2015/16' Line 33 – merge Drivers Nursery and Queens Meadow Line 34 – check spend to date Add new line – Planned spend '£2k'; description 'Removal of bracken litter' 	RESUME GH & CD
6. 2013/14 Programme Register	<p>Register to be updated by CD & GH.</p> <p>Line 21 – add £45,707 for Nightjar survey.</p> <p>MS to review wetland programme.</p>	RESUME GH MS
7. HLS Staffing	The Board agreed the proposals put forward for support staff costs	RESUME

<p>& Partner Resources for Delivery of Programmes</p>	<p>(additional to those staff costs directly connected with specific projects e.g. wetland restoration or VGS) as follows:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="368 210 1214 383"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Ad-hoc technical knowledge and support</th> <th>Project management and administrative functions</th> <th>Technical input into smaller annual projects</th> <th>Totals</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Verderers</td> <td></td> <td>£11,800</td> <td></td> <td>£11,800</td> </tr> <tr> <td>FC</td> <td>£5,300</td> <td>£19,600</td> <td>£1,600</td> <td>£26,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NFPA</td> <td>£1,500</td> <td>£11,600</td> <td>£8,400</td> <td>£21,500</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The Project Register to be updated to include the total planning figures on 3 new lines (one for each partner).</p> <p>Any additional staff funding requirements, outside these figures, to be referred back to the Board as and when required.</p> <p>It was agreed that support staff funding would be reviewed annually in December.</p>		Ad-hoc technical knowledge and support	Project management and administrative functions	Technical input into smaller annual projects	Totals	Verderers		£11,800		£11,800	FC	£5,300	£19,600	£1,600	£26,500	NFPA	£1,500	£11,600	£8,400	£21,500	<p>All</p> <p>GH/CD</p>
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<p>8. Verderers' Grazing Scheme' (VGS)</p>	<p>The Board noted the decisions taken at the recent meeting of the VGS Management Committee.</p> <p>OV explained the situation regarding the application of the VGS on the adjacent commons. NE has made it clear that the HLS rules preclude any cross subsidy between HLS areas, so the Verderers' HLS money may not be used to subsidise payments on the commons; these benefit from their own HLS agreements. The Verderers will administer HLS grazing payments contributed by the HLS holders on the commons but, because of the higher stock densities, the rate paid to those VGS members may be considerably lower than the rate paid to VGS members on the Verderers' HLS area unless the NT is able to provide additional funding. The arrangements for the commons are being referred to the VGS Advisory Group, which, in addition to the OV representing the Verderers, includes NE, NT, and representatives of the commons, CDA, and Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust who chairs the meetings, for their recommendation.</p> <p>NE has recently reassessed the commons as 'favourable'. These had previously been assessed as 'overgrazed' and the Verderers had been directed by NE not to make any payments for depasturing stock. That instruction no longer applies. JT explained that the recent assessment identified the commons as 'species rich' and 'favourable', noting that they provide a different but equally important habitat to other parts of the Forest. There continue to be problems with 'ground damage' at Blackhill and Halfmoon Commons, but this is being addressed and the NT has reached agreement with commoners to remove 200 cattle. OV requested a formal letter from NE, confirming the change of assessment.</p> <p>OV informed the Board that, in light of the underspend on Wetland Restorations, the VGS would bring forward the annual payment to members. Originally planned for April after receipt of the second half yearly HLS payment; payment will now be made in February.</p> <p>JT informed the Board that the application for the HR1 Cattle Grazing Supplement has been approved and the additional £35/ha for heathland and grassland will be included in the rate next year,</p>	<p>RESUME</p> <p>JT</p> <p>CD</p>																				

	<p>commencing on 1 March 2013. Because of these additional funds, NE will no longer provide separate funding for Capital Items. NE stated that a contractor should be employed to survey Wetland Restoration projects, based on the results of a current study which is reviewing available evidence and putting forward proposals for a monitoring programme. The supplement will release HLS funding which will be used for the monitoring programme which is an essential part of the HLS agreement. OV requested a letter from NE confirming this good news.</p> <p>OV then summarised the financial changes to the scheme: the HLS has lost £80,000 for the thrown open inclosures which will not meet IOS for non-native species; the HLS has also lost the ability to claim for Capital Items, which in 2012 amounted to £132,000. Fortunately NE's approval of the HR1 Cattle Grazing Supplement has now added £450,000 so the net increase in budget is approximately £240,000. However the monitoring programme will not be cheap and this expense is currently unknown and not budgeted.</p> <p>GF raised the issue of a commoning family which has been warned by the Verderers that the damage caused by their cattle poaching the Forest is unacceptable. JT confirmed that the poaching cannot be allowed to get any worse, especially because the worst winter months are still to come and further damage is inevitable if the cattle are allowed to continue using that area.</p> <p>The family had increased the number of cattle on which they paid marking fees this year from 29 to 105. Due to the severe poaching, they were asked to consider a feeding area away from the poaching, or to keep the cattle in their holding. OV explained that the VGS pays money to commoners for good practice. A VGS member's animals must not damage the SSSI, and VGS members must comply with any request from the Verderers to move or remove animals if they are contributing to damage to the SSSI. Failure to do so will result in the loss of the VGS payment.</p> <p>The CDA is concerned that the massive additional cost incurred by commoners keeping cattle in during the winter months in these circumstances is unsustainable and that there should be acceptance of localised damage as an inevitable consequence of keeping cattle; reminding the Board that the HLS is dependent on cattle numbers for the HR1 cattle grazing supplement paid in recognition of the vital conservation grazing role of cattle.</p>	JT
9. Capital Works by FC	<p>MS confirmed that the capital works in progress will be completed in time for claims to be submitted by the deadline.</p> <p>OV noted that the capital works plan refers to a meeting on Rhododendron removal at Boltons Bench due to be held "in September", and asked for this to be updated.</p>	RESUME MS
10. SAMs	The Board noted the clear and concise brief by Michael Ndeze (MN) and recorded their thanks.	RESUME MN
11. LIDAR	The Board noted the Historic Environment Report provided for the meeting; it was asked that the reference to 'quarterly updates' should be changed to 'bi-monthly updates' in line with the programme for	RESUME Lawrence Shaw (LS)

	<p>HLS Board meetings. The job titles of 'Heritage Mapping and Data Officer', and 'Project Officer' required some clarification and it was confirmed that these both refer to the 'LIDAR Analyst'.</p> <p>AB explained the requirement for a continuation of the LIDAR analysis. Current resources are inadequate to manage the programme, so the proposal is for a Data & Survey Assistant to accelerate the analysis programme for 12 months. It was explained that the cost was for employing a consultant on a short term contract. A continuation of the LIDAR analysis was agreed in principle, but before detailed funding can be agreed, the Board would like to know for how many years funding is needed to complete the LIDAR analysis.</p> <p>OV noted that the report was very informative but felt that it asks more questions than it answers. It was agreed that LS should be invited to attend the next Board meeting on 30 January 2013.</p> <p>Costings for a full restoration of Eyeworth Weir were tabled. It was felt to be too expensive. Frank Green will be asked to inform the Board which items are a priority.</p> <p>FG to complete details in the column for Location/boundary reference in the table at Part 4 of the HLS agreement to enable this to be cross referenced with the capital works programme.</p>	<p>AB</p> <p>CD/LS</p> <p>FG</p> <p>FG</p>
<p>12. Baseline Survey</p>	<p>AB informed the Board that Georgianna Watson is now fit and has returned to work.</p> <p>Work is on target for completion by the end of January. JT was asked to review the data, when complete, with the LAS and Dave Morris (DM) from the FC, and record any actions and report back to the Board with recommendations for action.</p> <p>OV clarified the priorities for the LAS agreed by the VGS Management Committee at their last meeting. It was felt that greater emphasis should be placed on farm visits and advice to commoners, rather than running training courses.</p> <p>AB asked for clear targets to be set for the number of farm visits, which provide measurable indicators of success. It was agreed that CD would liaise with JS on this.</p>	<p>RESUME</p> <p>JT & Julie Stubbs (JS) & DM</p> <p>JS</p> <p>CD/JS</p>
<p>13. Bird Survey</p>	<p>Ian Barker (IB) attended.</p> <p>GF queried the requirement for formal bird surveys. It was explained that these will provide accurate scientific data and enable the benefits of the HLS to be measured.</p> <p>JT reminded the Board that NE was paying for the Hen Harrier survey.</p> <p>The Board did not accept the 10% contingency figure over and above the cost of the Nightjar survey.</p> <p>The contract offer to RPS for £45,707 was approved.</p>	<p>RESUME</p>

	<p>It was agreed that IB should arrange for Board members to make a site visit with the contractor during the survey; this would be an evening in May/June next year.</p> <p>The Board considered 3 different methods for contracting the remaining surveys for Dartford Warbler & Woodlark; and Breeding Waders; the preferred option is to arrange the tender in lots and subsequently to judge the merits of single or multiple contracts. IB to inform CD of budget costs for 2013/14, and a proposed timetable.</p>	<p>IB</p> <p>IB</p>
14. Non Native Plants	The Board noted the update by Catherine Chatters.	RESUME
15. Bracken Survey	Link to comments at Item 3. JC to provide the final report at least 2 weeks ahead of the next Board meeting and to attend the meeting to brief the Board on his findings.	RESUME JC
16. Cutting & Burning Study	<p>The Board noted the update by Barbara Smith (BS). It would be helpful if the report for the next Board meeting in January could include a conclusion or indication of the findings to date.</p> <p>There was a brief discussion over the education road show mentioned in the report; AB will follow up and check that it is in line with the education programme.</p>	<p>RESUME BS</p> <p>AB</p>
17. Measurement of Wetland Restorations	The Board noted the update by Alexander Lovegrove.	RESUME
18. Open Forest Sub Compartment Database (SCD)	A query was raised over the planning figure of £20k at line 25 of the 2012/13 Programme Register: should this be split between 2012/13 & 2013/14? MS will clarify this.	RESUME MS
19. Archaeology for Wetland Restoration	A draft protocol had been prepared by Tom Dommett, but did not meet the requirement. MS explained that the FC obtains archaeological input from a contractor but ultimately is guided by the advice of the Historic Adviser, i.e. NPA, to identify what needs to be done to protect archaeology during restoration projects. FC has explicitly set out its approach and the key determining role of the Historic Advisor to NF HAG.	DISCHARGE MS
20. Annual Health Check	CD agreed to send Board members electronic copies of the Health Check template; members were asked to complete their sections and return to CD by 11 January for collation and despatch to JT.	CD/All
21. AOB	<p>The HLS accounts were presented at the meeting. These had only arrived by e-mail the previous evening and the Board had not had an opportunity look at them. It was agreed that the accounts would be approved out of committee.</p> <p>OV asked whether a project to index the Verderers' Court minutes from 1877 to 1990 would be an appropriate HLS historic project. JT felt that this did not meet the objectives of the HLS.</p> <p>GF mentioned recent drift fencing work contracted by the FC and enquired whether or not some weighting could be given to local</p>	<p>All</p> <p>JT</p>

	<p>contractors rather than contractors from outside the Forest. MS advised that environmental factors such as travel distances could be taken into account and noted that 3 of the 4 contractors were in fact local.</p> <p>JT noted that the budget does not include any funding in 2013/14 for the 'Non Native Plants' project. CD to liaise with CC over funding requirements for future years.</p> <p>AB mentioned the action in the last minutes to write to the Highways Agency over upgrading the fencing on the A31 to post and rail. She will liaise with Sue Westwood, the Clerk to the Verderers over this.</p> <p>AB informed the Board that a common concern expressed by stakeholders interviewed during the NPA peer review, was what would happen after the end of the HLS agreement. JT explained that it was impossible to forecast at this stage.</p>	<p>CD/CC</p> <p>AB</p>
Dates for future meetings	It was agreed that CD would circulate a list of proposed dates for 2013 meetings.	CD
	<p>The meeting concluded at 13.30 hrs</p> <p>The next meeting is scheduled to be held on 30 January 2013</p>	



Dominic May
Official Verderer