

# UplandsManagementGroup

## Review of Progress February 2020

### TASK AND FINISH GROUPS

#### Moorland Wildfire

- There continues to be interest in the Guidance and we receive requests for the documents regularly.

#### Woodland and Forestry

- Government policy is moving towards expansion of forestry and woodland,
- The 25 Year Environment Plan aims to support the development of a new Northern Forest and larger scale woodland creation. It is likely that there will be a mix of commercial forestry and woodland creation for amenity and environmental reasons.
- As upland areas are likely to be targeted for new woodland creation, the need for guidance is greater than ever.
- We propose to set up a small T and F Group to develop high level guidance offering insight into the range of issues that those considering woodland creation should take in to account, linking where possible to sources of more in depth advice.
- **We need volunteers to lead and work on this – perhaps 3 – 4 people – and produce a Draft in time for the Group to consider it during the telecall scheduled for 28<sup>th</sup> April.**
- James Mawle's paper on the moorland fringe (appended) will act as a starting point. The Moors for the Future Guiding Principles for the Creation of Clough Woodland may also be useful (also appended).
- A draft Task and Finish Group Brief is attached.

#### Monitoring

- The report is in final stages of preparation and will be published shortly after final checks have been made.
- A further task and finish group is proposed to develop a Monitoring Protocol that incorporates the recommendations contained in this Report.
- Volunteers are being sought.

#### Hefting

- There is a proposal to produce guidance highlighting the role and value of hefting in upland stock management.
- This has been proposed by Helen Radmore, who represents Dartmoor Commoners on the Uplands Stakeholder Forum.
- Volunteers to help with this will be welcome.

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## **OTHER ACTIVITY**

### **DEFRA Upland Stakeholder Forum**

- Simon Thorp will represent the UMG at the next meeting, which takes place on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

### **Great North Bog**

- Three of the upland peat partnerships have come together to propose plans for a 'Great North Bog' - a co-ordinated plan to further peatland restoration across the uplands of Northern England.
- A summary document is attached.

### **ELMS**

- Defra is working on its programme of ELMS Tests and Trials.
- Proposals made by Simon on behalf of England and Wales Wildfire Forum to test the UMG risk assessment process have not been taken up so far.
- Defra has published a policy discussion at <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/elm/elmpolicyconsultation/> and a Policy discussion document at [https://consult.defra.gov.uk/elm/elmpolicyconsultation/supporting\\_documents/elmdiscussiondocument20200225a%20002.pdf](https://consult.defra.gov.uk/elm/elmpolicyconsultation/supporting_documents/elmdiscussiondocument20200225a%20002.pdf)

### **Wildfire**

- The UK Wildfire conference took place in Cardiff last November. It was organised by South Wales Fire & Rescue Service on behalf of the England & Wales Wildfire Forum (EWWF).
  - The conference was very successful and well attended.
  - A book of abstracts of conference papers can be found here: <http://bit.ly/EWWF19abstracts>
  - Posters and Presentations may be found here: <https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/fire/wildfire.aspx>
- The Natural England Wildfire Evidence Review is ready for publication.
- The Defra Wildfire Review is also nearing publication but is not expected imminently.
- The James Hutton Institute in Scotland and the University of Manchester are leading separate projects that aim to promote the development of a Fire Danger Rating System. The EWWF and Scottish Wildfire Forum are encouraging close dialogue between the two projects.

### **Bracken Control**

- Simon Thorp is the Coordinator of the Bracken Control Group which represents the interests of all involved with controlling bracken throughout the UK. The BCG Sign posting guidance is attached to this Update.
- There are concerns about the regime that has been proposed for chemical control of bracken in 2020.
  - Currently, application of Asulam, the main chemical agent, will only be allowed from a helicopter.
  - Also, the buffer against surface water bodies zone for aerial application will be increased from 90m to 50m.

- A meeting with the authorities took place on 21<sup>st</sup> February and the following actions are proposed:
  - Draft a new EA application to provide additional information in the hope of achieving a change in the regime.
  - Write to the Defra Minister to set out the issues, in advance of submitting the new EA application to CRD.
  - Consider hosting a seminar / workshop to develop a longer-term strategy for bracken control.
- There are no guarantees that a new application will result in any changes, but there is hope.
- For more details see the Newsletter on the BCG website:  
<https://www.brackencontrol.co.uk/news>

### Upcoming Meetings

- 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020 - The Uplands Stakeholder Forum, London
- 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2020 – The England & Wales Wildfire Forum, London

### Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April Telecall 10.30 – 12.00

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November 10:30 – 14:30 (NE, York) (TBC)



Trees in the  
uplands.docx



Guiding principles for  
the creation of clough



The GNB summary  
vision.pdf



200302 Bracken  
Signposting Guidance

## New Woodland Creation Guidance Task and Finish Group: Draft Brief

<b>Issue</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There is a Government Policy drive to create new woodland to help meet 25 Year Environment Plan and carbon Net Zero targets. Proposals include a Great North Forest.</li> <li>2. A substantial proportion of new woodland is likely to be in the uplands where there are implications for other land uses, species, habitats, cultural values and landscape.</li> <li>3. New woodlands may have different purposes: Some may be commercial woodlands; others may be created for environmental biodiversity or amenity purposes. Most are likely to have multiple benefits.</li> <li>4. Guidance is required so that those developing new woods consider the potential implications and identify and plan for all the potential benefits:-‘The right tree in the right place’.</li> </ol>
<b>Objectives</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Provide a simple ‘sign posting’ guide for those considering creation of new woods.</li> <li>2 Develop simple guidance that identifies the full range of potential issues that those proposing woodland creation should consider. Each issue will be explained in a brief summary paragraph.</li> <li>3 Identify the potential benefits of new woodland so that those creating them can ensure that they offer the widest possible benefit.</li> <li>4 Produce a straightforward exposition of the meaning of ‘The right tree in the right place’.</li> <li>5 Identify and link to sources of further, in depth, guidance.</li> </ol>
<b>Task Group Output</b>	The T&F Group will produce and report by 15 <sup>th</sup> April 2020 for consideration by the full Group and, if appropriate, adoption at the April meeting.
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<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Start</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2020

	<b>Interim Report</b> 15 <sup>th</sup> April 2020	
	<b>Finish</b> 15 <sup>th</sup> May 2020 (Assuming adoption by the Group on 28 <sup>th</sup> April and allowing time for any amendments required and publication).	
<b>Task Group Chairman</b>	TBC	
<b>Task Group Members</b>	TBC Volunteers required please.	
<b>Method of working</b>	It is anticipated that all the work will be done via email / telecall. The Chair of the Task and Finish Group will agree with members the allocation of the work and will draw together the completed document.	