

Heritage Lottery Fund Committee for the North East Meeting on 10 September 2015

CNE 2015 (3)

Summary report of the meeting of the Committee for the North East held on 10 September 2015 starting at 10.00 a.m. in the Newcastle Office.

Members Chris Mullin (Chairman)
Lindsay Allason-Jones
Susan Antrobus
Richard Evans
Stacy Hall
Richard Morris (Trustee)

Apologies Niall Hammond

1. Chair's report **Oral**

Chris Mullin, Chair of the Committee for the North East, welcomed Richard Evans to his first meeting as a member. He also reported that Lynn Turner and Jim Cokill had been appointed as Committee members from 1 April 2016.

Excellent feedback had been received from the new NHMF Chair, Sir Peter Luff's visit to the North East.

2. Declarations of Interest **Oral**

Chris Mullin mentioned that he was President of the Northumberland Wildlife Trust Ltd, the applicant for Restoring Ratty: the return of the Water Vole to Kielder Forest (item 8).

Niall Hammond, who had sent apologies to the meeting had declared a number of conflicts prior to the meeting. He was a board member of the Limestone Landscapes Partnership (item 10) and also of the Brightwater Landscape Partnership (item 19). His consultancy had also provided the Heritage Assessment of the building for Durham County Council for Former King James School (item 17) which was not deemed a conflict.

3. Minutes of last meeting on 11 June 2015 **CNE 2015 (3) 3**

The minutes were approved and signed as an accurate record of the meeting by the Chair, subject to a minor amendment on page 1.

4. Matters arising from the minutes **Oral**

There were none.

5. North East Regional Overview **CNE 2015 (3) 5**

Ivor Crowther, Head of HLF North East, presented the Overview.

He reported that the Board had awarded grants to Sciuriosity: Red Squirrel Project, Hatton Gallery and Chase Park since the last Committee meeting. This had taken the total investment in the North East to £128m in the last five years.

6. North East Budget

CNE 2015 (3) 6

Five first round applications were received with a total request of £2,729,000 against a first round pass budget of £887,433. There were insufficient monies in the budget and therefore the Committee would need to prioritise the items.

Two second round applications had been received. The Committee were able to support both applications if they were deemed to meet the quality threshold.

SF4 first round applications for discussion and decision

- **Heritage Grants**

**7. Coast Care - Volunteers on the Northumberland Coast AONB;
HG-14-08146**

CNE 2015 (3) 7

Northumberland Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership sought a first round pass including development funding for a three year project to engage 200 volunteers in the north Northumberland Coastal area. A programme of training would be delivered to engage people in natural and historical environment conservation including beach cleaning, building recording, Scheduled Ancient Monument surveying and habitat management. A series of events and activities would be delivered to raise awareness of and celebrate the area's heritage.

The Committee considered that the application represented a high priority for support and awarded a first round pass of £521,100 including a development grant of £13,500 (90% of total eligible development costs).

**8. Restoring Ratty: the return of the Water Vole to Kielder Forest;
HG-14-10211**

CNE 2015 (3) 8

*Chris Mullin declared an interest in the item and left the room before discussion commenced.
Richard Morris chaired the meeting for the item.*

Northumberland Wildlife Trust Ltd sought a first round pass including development funding to establish a captive breeding programme to reintroduce the water vole within Kielder Water and Forest Park. The water vole was in decline due to habitat loss and the introduction of North American mink. An associated activity programme would be delivered aimed at engaging people with the heritage of this nationally important and threatened species.

The Committee considered that the application represented a high priority for support and awarded a first round pass of £412,500 including a development grant of £14,000 (57% of total eligible development costs).

**9. Upon Tyne: understanding, valuing and celebrating the unique
heritage of Tynesiders and the River Tyne; HG-14-10253**

CNE 2015 (3) 9

Tyne Rivers Trust sought a first round pass of £1,132,500 including a development grant of £131,000 (78% of total eligible development costs) for a five year project aimed at engaging people with the cultural, industrial and natural heritage of the River Tyne and encouraging stewardship of the river. The scheme would be delivered in partnership with the Skill Mill, a social enterprise providing reparation and short-term employment opportunities for young offenders. A series of activities would be provided for school groups and university students.

The Committee rejected the application.

10. Village Atlases in the Limestone Landscapes; HG-15-01147**CNE 2015 (3) 10**

Durham County Council on behalf of Limestone Landscapes sought a first round pass of £448,500 including a development grant of £20,500 (83% of total eligible development costs) to develop 10 village atlas projects at sites across the Limestone Landscapes area in Durham, Sunderland and South Tyneside and work with communities to research and collate their settlement histories. Training would include wildlife identification, geological recording, archaeological dig field skills, architectural recording and oral history recording. The atlas and summary documents would be made available digitally and in hard copy.

The Committee rejected the application.

- **Heritage Enterprise**

11. The Restoration of Jesmond Dene Banqueting Hall; HE-14-07214**CNE 2015 (3) 11**

Tyne and Wear Building Preservation Trust sought a first round pass of £246,900 including a development grant of £32,300 (75% of total eligible development costs) to restore the Grade II listed Gatehouse of Jesmond Dene Banqueting Hall for use as two holiday lets as the first phase of a larger project to bring the whole complex back into use. Urgent works would be undertaken to halt the deterioration of the building from water ingress, including drainage and gutter clearance, and the installation of mobile dehumidifiers. The space would also be used for community activities such as small group talks and tours in the periods where there is no rental activity.

The Committee considered that the application represented a high priority for support and rejected the application in light of the available budget.

12. Prioritisation of first round items**Oral**

During the case by case discussions, the Committee considered that:

- *Coast Care - Volunteers on the Northumberland Coast AONB (item 7), Restoring Ratty: the return of the Water Vole to Kielder Forest (item 8) and The Restoration of Jesmond Dene Banqueting Hall (11)* represented a high priority for support
- *Upon Tyne: (item 9) and Village Atlases (item 10)* should be rejected.

During prioritisation, it was felt that *Coast Care (item 7) and Restoring Ratty (item 8)* were the highest priorities for support and were awarded first round passes. *The Restoration of Jesmond Dene Banqueting Hall* was rejected in light of the available budget.

- **Grants for Places of Worship**

13. Applications for Places of Worship in the North East**CNE 2015 (3) 13**

In the North East, two first round applications with a grant request of £121,800 were received against a regional budget of £67,786. At the initial sift, Historic England advice was that one case (13b) had not demonstrated that the works as proposed was an appropriate solution for the building's repair. The remaining case underwent full assessment (13a).

The following decisions were taken:

13a	The Church of Our Lady, Seaton Delaval	The Parish of Delaval	FIRST ROUND PASS OF £92,800 INCLUDING DEVELOPMENT GRANT OF £9,700 82% OF TOTAL ELIGIBLE DEVELOPMENT COSTS)	GP-14-07592
13b	Barnard Castle window replacement and stone repair	United Reform Church, Barnard Castle	REJECT	GP-14-08603

SF4 second round applications for discussion and decision

- **Heritage Grants**

- 14. Restoration and installation of an early 20th century pipe organ to its original form; HG-12-08478** **CNE 2015 (3) 14**

Horsley with Byrness PCC sought funding to restore an early twentieth century church organ to its original specification. The project would also provide a complementary learning programme focused on the renovation and history of the organ for the local community.

The Committee for the North East awarded a first round pass of £208,000, including development grant of £22,300 (52% of total eligible development costs) in December 2014. An uplift of £15,300 (8%) was sought to expand the project's schools programme.

The Committee for the North East awarded a grant of £201,000 (81%).

- 15. The preservation of a timber light vessel; HG-12-11304** **CNE 2015 (3) 15**

Royal Northumberland Yacht Club Ltd sought a grant of £1,056,300 (78% of total eligible delivery costs) towards a project to conserve the timber lightship, LV50, and engage people with the heritage of the vessel through education and training activities. Rotten and damaged timbers, rusting steelwork, damaged areas and top decking would be repaired or replaced and appropriate caulking would be undertaken. A laser survey would provide accurate records, digital drawings and a CAD model of the vessel and interpretation would be delivered. Volunteers and the Friends group would carry out research about the vessel and capture oral histories.

The Committee for the North East awarded a first round pass of £667,200 including a development grant of £69,600 (87% of total eligible development costs) in March 2014. An uplift of £458,700 (77%) was requested due to the unforeseen discovery of further timber deterioration during development and to dry dock the vessel to carry out the repairs.

The Committee for the North East rejected the application due to concerns raised.

SF4 first round Board applications for discussion and recommendation

- **Heritage Enterprise**

- 16. Former King James School; HE-15-00434** **CNE 2015 (3) 16**

South Durham Enterprise Agency sought a first round pass of £4,999,800 including a development grant of £417,000 (90% of total eligible development costs) to restore the Grade II listed former King James Lower School in Bishop Auckland, reopening it as a business enterprise centre. The scheme would bring into use 1,200 m² of floor space, of which over half would be available for renting and would be targeted at existing small businesses and people moving into self-employment. Urgent works would be carried out to improve the structural stability of the fire-damaged building. A programme of community engagement would be delivered.

The Committee for the North East considered that the project represented medium priority for support. The Board would determine the application in September.

- **Landscape Partnership**

- 17. Landscape Partnership Overview** **CNE 2015 (3) 17**

The Committee noted the Landscape Partnership Overview.

18. Revitalising Redesdale; LP-14-07780

CNE 2015 (3) 18

Natural England Northumbria Team sought a first round pass of £1,844,100 including a development grant of £115,700 (72% of total eligible development costs) for a scheme to celebrate the Redesdale valley's historic and cultural heritage. The project would restore and better manage habitats including 700ha of peatland, 240ha of grasslands and 150ha of woodland as well as creating a comprehensive management plan for the Rede to reduce silt and pollution inputs. Five Scheduled Ancient Monuments and five listed buildings would be repaired, removing two sites (Bremenium Roman Fort and Ridsdale Iron Works) from the Heritage at Risk register. A programme of volunteering activity would also be delivered.

Expert advice was supportive.

The Committee for the North East considered that the project represented high priority (1 of 2) for support. The Board would determine the application in October.

19. BrightWater Landscape Partnership; LP-14-06975

CNE 2015 (3) 19

Durham Wildlife Trust sought a first round pass of £2,860,600 including a development grant of £223,100 (84% of total eligible development costs) for a scheme focused on the largely undesignated lowland landscape of the River Skerne in County Durham. Natural heritage works would restore 50ha of wetlands and 1km of river channel and put in place foundations for a more sustainable use of the land in the future. Access to the landscape and important heritage sites would be significantly improved by new cycle and equestrian routes, circular routes and river walks. A programme of volunteering opportunities would offer practical skills development such as meadow management and walling and six built heritage trainees would be supported through the scheme.

Expert advice was supportive.

The Committee for the North East considered that the project represented high priority (2 of 2) for support. The Board would determine the application in October.

Papers for information

20. Mid-term review of SF4 and next steps in development of SF5

CNE 2015 (3) 20

The Committee discussed the paper.

21. Communications Report

CNE 2015 (3) 21

The Committee noted the report.

22. Corporate Update

Oral

The Committee noted the update.

23. Any other business

Oral

There was none.

The next meeting would be held on 24 November 2015.