

NATURAL ENGLAND BOARD



Meeting 2
5 December 2006

Paper No: **NEB P06 01**

Title: **Board Engagements**

October 2006 – February 2007

This paper gives a list of engagements carried out by Chair, Deputy Chair, and Board Members between 18 October - 5 December (at Annex 1) and those proposed from 6 December – 21 February for the Chair and Deputy Chair (Annex 2).

Engagements attended - 18 October – 5 December 2006

Martin Doughty, Chair

- 25 Oct Attended National Trust Reception at their new London office
- 30 Oct Attended joint meeting with Sir John Harman, Chair and Barbara Young, Chief Executive, Environment Agency with Helen Phillips
- 31 Oct Chaired Chairs Group meeting
- 31 Oct Attended Joint Agencies meeting with John Healey, Finance Secretary, HM Treasury with Helen Phillips; Sir John Harman, Chairman and Barbara Young, Chief Executive, Environment Agency; and Philip Sellwood, Chief Executive, and Edward Hyams, Energy Savings Trust
- 31 Oct Attended Farmcare and Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group 28th Silver Lapwing Awards Ceremony
- 1 Nov Attended meeting in Derbyshire to discuss the Kinder Trespass 75th anniversary celebrations.
- 2 Nov Attended launch of Launch of England Biodiversity Strategy (EBS) Progress report 2002-2006
- 7 Nov Met Lord Rooker, Minister of State (Lords), Sustainable Farming and Food, Defra with Helen Phillips to discuss various agricultural issues (agri-environment delivery, CAP, etc)
- 7 Nov Attended Chairs group dinner with Rt Hon David Miliband MP
- 8 Nov Attended Environment Agency – *The State of the Environment* Conference 2006
- 9 Nov Natural England Board visit to Poundbury
- 14 Nov Chaired Natural England Coastal Access Workshop
- 14 Nov Met Ben Bradshaw MP with Helen Phillips to discuss Lyme Bay and other marine issues.
- 14 Nov Attended Symonds Club dinner; speech by Helen Phillips
- 15 Nov Attended Country Landowners and Business Association (CLA) Consultation meeting held to seek advice and informed opinion for their Centenary conference report.
- 16 Nov Gave address at Thames Estuary Partnership Annual Forum at The Royal Geographical Society
- 16 Nov Met Stephen Hockman QC, Chair of the Bar Council, with Helen Phillips

- 21 Nov Chaired Coastal Access Stakeholder Workshop
- 21 Nov Attended reception to mark publication of *The Human Footprint* at the Natural History Museum
- 22 Nov Met Jim Knight MP, Minister of State, Department of Education and Skills with Guy Thompson and Doug Hulyer to discuss education outside the classroom
- 22 Nov Chaired Thames Gateway Forum seminar titled *Quality greenspace sells homes and lets office space*
- 23 Nov Met Barry Gardiner MP, Parliamentary Secretary (Commons) Biodiversity, Landscape and Rural Affairs, Defra with Helen Phillips to discuss Natural England business, coastal access and RDPE
- 23 Nov Attended meeting with Rt Hon David Miliband MP, Secretary of State, Defra to review of 2007/08 budgets with Helen Phillips
- 24 Nov Attended BBC Food and Farming awards
- 4 Dec Attended Natural England Board SSSI Workshop and dinner
- 5 Dec Attended Natural England Board Meeting

Poul Christensen, Deputy Chair

- 18 Oct EFRA Select Committee, London
NFU – BBO Presentation on Natural England vision – Eyensham Oxon
- 20 Oct External launch event York
- 21 Oct Mid-counties Co-operative Society (Plunkett) Cheltenham
- 22 Oct TFA dinner London
- 24 Oct TFA 25th Anniversary (present paper 11:30 – 11:50) Lords Cricket Ground
David Drew MP, Natural England budgets
Exonmobil Energy Challenge Reception, House of Commons
- 25 Oct Haymakers – Wessex Grain
- 3 Nov Cotswolds Conservative Board Annual conference
- 6 Nov CBI ‘Living with Minerals 2’ London Discussions
Evening reception for ‘Official Launch of UK National Mineral forum’
- 9 Nov Oxford Economics Partnership Annual dinner Oxford
- 14 Nov Coastal Access
- 15 Nov Rural Economy and Natural England Gatwick
Esmee Wilcox re interview MRD lessons learnt – London
Regional Assembly meeting London
- 17 Nov Royal Agricultural College Cirencester
- 21 Nov Board pre meeting London
- 22 Nov Adrian Darby, Prof Hill and Deryck Steer, JNCC, Peterborough
WHDDG Marlborough
- 27 Nov BBO Wildlife Trust – Opening of Chimney Meadows Nature Reserve
- 29 Nov Lunch with Rural Advocate – Fyfield
Chair Oxfordshire rural Forum – Blenheim
- 30 Nov Landscape Institute Annual Awards
Farmers Weekly Countryside farmer of the Year
Awards Ceremony (Guest of EA) London
- 4 Dec Lunch + Audit committee – Sheffield
SSSI workshop – Sheffield
Natural England Board Dinner – Sheffield
- 5 Dec Natural England Board – Sheffield

Non-Executive Board Members

Significant regional engagements since 17 October

The main themes for stakeholder engagement in the regions were:

- RDPE and the associated impacts on Environmental Stewardship delivery;
- Exploring how Natural England can work with Local Strategic Partnerships influence Local Authority Agreements and Sustainable Community Strategies.

East of England (Melinda Appleby)

- NNR declaration at Paston, involving local community, heritage societies, and Local Area Partnership
- External launch at Homerton College
- Regional Biodiversity Forum - Wild Ideas for the East of England, developing a regional implementation plan for the England Biodiversity Strategy with a wide range of partners and stakeholders, both new and familiar
- Regional FWAG conference on agriculture, water and the environment where Natural England set out the challenges that climate change will present.

East Midlands (Christopher Pennell)

- Peak District National Park Authority – CEO, key staff and Board members

North East (David Hill)

- External launch with stakeholder inputs from Jonathan Blackie RD GO-NE, Simon Henderson Chair SFFS and Chris Woodley-Stewart North Pennines AONB
- Northumberland National Park Chief Executive, Tony Gates, and Minister Barry Gardiner, 21 November

North West (Pam Warhurst and Peter Allen)

- Launch of Mersey Canoe Trail in Stockport, 16 November
- Lake District National Park Authority, October
- Regional launch, Wigan, 20 October

South East (Merrick Denton-Thompson, Roger Clarke and Poul Christensen)

- Surrey Hills AONB farming seminar (October)
- Ongoing involvement with Hants Rural Pathfinder
- Chilterns AONB Conservation Board Forum, 9 November
- Regional Assembly – plenary session, November
- Cotswolds Forum, 2 November

South West (Doug Hulyer)

- Cotswold AONB Board and CEO

West Midlands (Roger Clarke)

- Regional stakeholder launch - Birmingham, 18 October

Yorkshire & Humber (Lynn Crowe and Pam Warhurst)

- Regional stakeholder launch, 20 October
- Sheffield Green Strategy conference – Sheffield, 28 November
- North York Moors Chief Executive, 29 November
- Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority Chief Executive
- Yorkshire Water, Bradford, 4 December

Engagements from 6 December 2006 to 21 February 2007

Martin Doughty, Chair, Natural England

5 Dec	Green Alliance Annual meeting and debate
6 Dec	John Grimshaw, Chief Executive, Sustrans with Helen Phillips
11 Dec	Dame Yve Buckland, Chairman, Consumer Council for Water
11 Dec	Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust 60 years celebration at Clarence House.
12 Dec	Invited to be Guest of Honour at launch of Handbook of Water Vole Conservation
14 Dec	Sir Don Curry, Chairman, Sustainable Farming and Food Implementation Group with Helen Phillips
20 Dec	Meeting with David Fursdon, President, CLA with Helen Phillips
10 Jan	County Surveyors' Society Annual Dinner
16 Jan	Conservative Parliamentary dinner – to be hosted by Peter Ainsworth MP
Jan/Feb	Chairs Group – Jan
20 Feb	BBC Rural Affairs Committee
20 Feb	Natural England Board
21 Feb	Natural England Board

Poul Christensen, Deputy Chair

6 Dec	JNCC – not attending SLP meeting – London
12 Dec	Hants Rural Forum – role of Natural England in Rural Delivery – Sparsholt
13 Dec	Oxon CC – Oxford
15 Dec	VWHDC Visit to KHF
2 Jan	Oxford Conference dinner – Examination Halls
3 Jan	Oxford Farming Conference – Oxford
4 Jan	Oxford Farming Conference – Oxford
16 Jan	Conservative Parliamentary dinner – to be hosted by Peter Ainsworth MP
29 Jan	RDAs Rural Board Members Day – London?
31 Jan	Land Management Policy team farm visit – Stones Farm
20 Feb	Natural England Board
21 Feb	Natural England Board