Tales from a National Park

Sarah Fowler

Peak District National Park Authority
National Parks – protected landscapes

• Spectacular natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage
• Opportunity for escape, reflection and adventure and wonder
The Peak District National Park

- 555 sq miles at the heart of the nation
- Highly accessible
- *Probably* the most visited
- Transition between upland and lowland
- Where the campaign for national parks began
Our purposes ...
Our role...

... speak up for the place

... a convenor for the place
Landscape scale conservation

Working in the Dark Peak – what can we learn?
Industrial past left a legacy

- 150 years of pollution alongside wildfires
- Left 27 sq km of bare exposed peat
- Inhospitable for wildlife and people
Simple ambition

We set about to bring life back to the moorlands of the Peak District National Park and South Pennies

➤ One common purpose
Convening of partners

- National Park Authority
- Environment Agency
- Natural England
- Water companies
- Moorland owners
- National Trust
- RSPB
- Pennine Prospects
Partners

• Commitment to the long-term
• Supporting core costs
• Accepting leadership by others
• Purpose first, organisational visibility second

➢ Working together towards the common purpose
A lead partner

• Inspire the vision in others
• Convene the partners
• Accept the cash flow risk and other risks
• Manage resources
• Finding solutions from VAT to hedging
• Providing the governance

➢ Taking the risk, making the business of delivery work
Securing the funds

• In 2003 we secured £5 million HLF funding to start work towards this vision
• In 2010 we secured £10 million EU funding
• In 2016 we secured £12 million EU funding

➢ First funds are crucial, helps growth
Deliver the outcomes

• Restored 900ha of badly damaged bog
• Protected 2,500 ha of active blanket bog
• Led to global innovation in moorland restoration
• Led to scientific endeavour showing the value of restored moorland

➢ Being relevant and making a difference on the ground
Stories are important
Bare peat erodes at the rate of 25mm a year
Active blanket bog grows at 1mm/ year
Partnership in action

Coming together is the beginning
Keeping together is progress
Working together is success

➢ It takes reciprocity, trust and cooperation
We are not new to this....

• In our DNA... convenor for the National Park Management Plan
• In our future... National Parks Partnerships, Miles without Stiles
The next 15 years

Maintaining the collaboration:

• Working outside the National Park boundary
• Collaboration across programmes
• Connecting our protected areas landscapes
• Only just touched on:
  • Community science – inspiring generations
  • Economic science – funding this as a service to the nation