

## North York Moors National Park Authority

15 December 2014

### Feedback from Lead Members on Forums

#### Countryside and Land Management Forum

10 November 2014

#### Topic – the Monument Management Scheme

**Attending** – representatives of Forestry Commission, English Heritage, Natural England, Local History Societies, NFU, Landowners and the National Park.

**Mags Waughman the MMS Officer** presented a comprehensive overview of our scheme, its successes, challenges and thoughts for next steps.

**Some facts** – 840 Scheduled Ancient Monuments in the Park; in 2009 25% @Risk and 20% Vulnerable; a grant programme now in its second phase (2012/2015) is based on £200k from English Heritage and £30k from NYM and is managed by Mags and a part-time Volunteer co-ordinator. The MMS has secured some 72 monuments repaired or managed, 380 have had “health checks” using volunteers, 86 have been removed from the @Risk Register with another 28 due for removal in 2015. As well as removing sites from the @Risk Register, the MMS also aims to increase understanding, knowledge and best practice and build capacity in the archaeological community to manage sites

**Issues raised** – sometime conflict of interest and lack of awareness of monument owners and their legal obligations; the huge volume of non-scheduled monuments which are not recorded/understood and are vulnerable to changes in land management (eg Bee boles, the Rosedale to Whitby Trod) ; the Big 4 Threats – bracken, bikes, badgers and boots; funding and the continuing support from Partners who are also Defra funded; the only-partially-tapped resource of local knowledge and enthusiasm;

**Ideas shared** – scope for greater volunteers engagement and harnessing local enthusiasm; under used asset of Local History Groups and Nature Conservation Groups and their potential to help run monuments; scope to look further afield for help eg the WI, Catterick Garrison; scope for wider/more publicity to raise awareness and a multi-agency guide for owners; how to popularise archaeology in the wake of Time Team, Horrible Histories etc;

**Looking forward** – new grant regimes anticipated for 2015 – HLF/LEADER/Countryside Stewardship Agreements; MMS working via the 4Parish Areas structure to develop a strategy and engage enthusiasts; advising and enthusing Parish Forums; greater Partnership Working especially by the Defra funded agencies; secure wider publicity via local TV, oral history projects, tourism networks;

#### Summary

The meeting was well attended and everyone engaged with ideas, comment and suggestions. We've got a good thing going here and need to keep up the momentum!

**Alison Fisher, Chair**  
**Countryside and Land Management Forum**  
**November 2014**