

NATURAL ENGLAND BOARD

Meeting # 1
17 October 2006



Item [M2]

Title: Chair's Report

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is for the Board to:

- Note the key engagements undertaken by the Chair, Deputy Chair and Board members, since the Board meeting of 13 September 2006 (Annex 1).
- Note the key engagement opportunities in the period to the Board meeting 5 December 2006 (Annex 2).

Engagements attended 14 September – 17 October

Sir Martin Doughty, Chair

14 Sept	Gave keynote address at Countryside Management Association Conference
15-16 Sept	Attended European Environment and Sustainable Development Advisory Councils (EEAC) Conference in Warsaw
18 Sept	Gave presentation at joint Wildlife Trust/RSPB/Natural England fringe event at the Liberal-Democrat Party Conference in Brighton
18 Sept	Attended Natural England Staff launch and Management Team dinner in London
19 Sept	Gave speech at celebration of English Nature's achievements
20 Sept	Met Barry Gardiner MP, Parliamentary Secretary (Commons), Biodiversity, Landscape and Rural Affairs with Helen Phillips
20 Sept	Attended final Countryside Agency Board dinner
21 Sept	Gave keynote address at Europarc 2006 Conference
24 Sept	Gave presentation at joint Wildlife Trust/RSPB/Natural England fringe event at the Labour Party Conference in Manchester
24 Sept	Attended RSPB dinner with Barry Gardiner MP - Other attendees were - Helen Phillips, Graham Wynne (CE RSPB), Martin Harper (Head of Government Affairs RSPB), Sue Holden (CE Woodland Trust) and James Cooper (Head of Government Affairs Woodland Trust)
25 Sept	Attended Groundwork/Shelter seminar on the impact of the Government's regeneration and housing policies on northern towns and cities; speaker – Yvette Cooper MP, Minister of State, Department for Communities and Local Government.
25 Sept	Attended Natural England Staff launch and Management Team dinner in North West
26 Sept	Attended Natural England Staff launch and Management Team dinner in North East
27 Sept	Attended Natural England Staff launch and Management Team dinner in West Midlands
3 Oct	Attended Natural England Staff launch and management team dinner in South East

- 4 Oct Filmed for Groundwork launch video on Derbyshire
- 5 Oct Interviewed by County Surveyors Society re Transport Futures
- 10 Oct Gave keynote address at West Midlands Regional Assembly Sustainability Challenge – Climate Change conference
- 11 Oct Gave presentation at Natural England national launch
- 12 Oct Interviewed for Ramblers' Association *Walk* magazine
- 13 Oct Gave presentation at launch of National Trust's Dovedale NNR
- 16 Oct Interviewed for *Countryfile*
- Attended the Natural England Board workshop and dinner at the Commonwealth Club, London
- 17 Oct Chaired the Natural England Board meeting

Mr Poul Christensen, Deputy Chair

- 25 Sept Attended Natural England Staff launch and Management Team dinner in North West
- 27 Sept Attended the Joint Nature Conservation Committee dinner in Peterborough
- 28 Sept Attended the RSPB/SWLA Reception at the Mall Galleries, London
- 3 Oct Attended Natural England Staff launch and dinner in South East
- 4 Oct Attended Natural England Staff launch and dinner in Yorkshire and Humber
- 10 Oct Attended and spoke at British Urban Regeneration Association conference – Milton Keynes
- 11 Oct Participated in Natural England national launch
- 12 Oct NE external launch at Clandon Park, Guildford
- 16 Oct NE external launch at Jerwood Space, London
- Attended the Natural England Board workshop and dinner at the Commonwealth Club, London
- 17 Oct Attended the Natural England Board meeting
- Attended the Institute of Civil Engineers Annual Parliamentary Reception, London

Board Members

Significant National Engagements

- 12 Sept Met Colin Peacock, Chair of National AONB Association, Lancaster (*Roger Clarke*)
- 15 Sept Attended meeting with Richard Pullen, Defra to discuss role as link between NE and Local Government (*Merrick Denton-Thompson*)
- 19 Sept Attended the celebration of English Nature's achievements event at One Great George Street, London. (*Melinda Appleby, Lynn Crowe, Roger Clarke, David Hill, Sarah Burton, Merrick Denton-Thompson*)
- 20 Sept Final Countryside Agency board dinner, Cheltenham. (*Tony Hams*)
- 21 Sept Spoke at the Europarc conference in Oxford on 'Protected Areas in England' . (*Tony Hams*)
- 25-27 Sept Attended and gave a keynote speech at National Nature Reserves Conference 'NNRs in a Changing World', Bournemouth (*Doug Hulyer*)
- 2 Oct Informal meeting with Tony Hams, Chair of Peak District National Park and Chair of Association of National Park Authorities, Matlock (*Roger Clarke*)
- 5 Oct Attended meeting between the LGA and Jon Cable of the National Audit Office regarding the NAO's work on the Defra programme (*Merrick Denton-Thompson*)
- 9 Oct Attended the Ministerial visit by Baroness Andrews to the Harlow Green Spaces projects (*Melinda Appleby*)
- 12-13 Oct Attended *Communicate* conference (communicating biodiversity), Bristol (in multiple roles) (*Doug Hulyer*)
- 17 Oct Attended the Wildscreen Festival evening event – Peter Scott lecture on Climate Change, Bristol (in multiple roles) (*Doug Hulyer*)

Significant Regional Engagements

South West

- 14 Sept Opened new Moorland Centre, Edale, with the Duke of Devonshire and others, as Chair of the Moors for the Future Partnership (*Lynn Crowe*)

North East

- 15 Sept Attended the RSPB stakeholder meeting, Geltsdale (*David Hill*)
- 27 Sept Attended the JNCC meeting and dinner, Peterborough (*David Hill*)

Yorkshire & Humber

- 26 Sept Participated in preliminary steering group meeting at Sheffield City Council, on their new Green and Open Spaces Strategy (*Lynn Crowe*)
- South East*
29 Sept Presented a paper to the Chichester Harbour Conservancy Conference on the future human impacts on the Harbour and AONB (*Merrick Denton-Thompson*)
- East Midlands*
13 Oct Attended opening of Dovedale NNR, Derbyshire (*Lynn Crowe, Roger Clarke*)

Forward look: engagement opportunities, as of 11 Oct 2006

Sir Martin Doughty, Chair, Natural England

31 Oct	Chairs' Group meeting
31 Oct	Joint agencies meeting (Environment Agency, Natural England and Energy Savings Trust) with John Healey, Finance Secretary, HM Treasury
31 Oct	Farmcare and Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group 28 th Silver Lapwing Awards Ceremony
2 Nov	Launch of England Biodiversity Strategy – (Barry Gardiner MP attending)
7 Nov	Chairs Group dinner – (David Miliband MP, SoS to attend)
8 Nov	Environment Agency Conference – State of the Environment
16 Nov	Thames Estuary Partnership Annual Forum at The Royal Geographical Society
22 Nov	Thames Gateway Forum Seminar - working title: "Green spaces sell homes!"
23 Nov	To meet Gillian Merron MP and Sir David Rowlands, Permanent Secretary, Department for Transport with Helen Phillips
14 Dec	To attend meeting with Sir Don Curry and Helen Phillips

Mr Poul Christensen, Deputy Chair

18 Oct	NFU/BBO event in Eynsham, Oxon
21 Oct	Midcounties Co-operative Society
23-24 Oct	Tenant Farmers Association 25 th Anniversary event
15 Nov	Rural Economy event, and Regional Assembly dinner, Gatwick
20-21 Nov	"Environmental Future 06" conference , QEII Centre, London
30 Nov	Farmers Weekly Countryside Farmer of the Year Awards Ceremony, London

Non-Executive Board Members

- 2 Nov Association of Local Government Ecologists (*Merrick Denton-Thompson*)
- 9 Nov Chilterns Conservation Board AGM, Henley (*Roger Clarke*)
- 14 Nov National Parks dinner, London (*Roger Clarke*)
- 14-16 Nov IEEM conference, Cardiff (*David Hill*)
- 15 Nov Rights of Way Law Society Seminar at Oxford University (*Merrick Denton-Thompson*)
- 1 Dec Management Plan for the South Downs (*Merrick Denton-Thompson*)