**Pendle Hill Farmer Network**

**ADDITIONAL MEMBERS Group Agreement**

Main Parties: 1) The Forest of Bowland AONB

 2) Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership

 3) The Pendle Hill Farmer Network

Other partner Ribble Rivers Trust, Environment Agency, Natural England, RSPB

Organisations:

Aims of the Group: a) To increase understanding of the local Countryside Stewardship priorities and knowledge of landscape scale conservation techniques, and to encourage the uptake of schemes

 b) To work together with as many group members as possible implementing these techniques on members' farms by:

 i) restoring, managing and expanding priority habitats: namely woodlands, grasslands, wetlands and moorlands

 ii) restoring traditional boundaries

 iii) implementing natural flood management techniques

Period of the: Start date 1/1/2018

Agreement End date 31/3/2021

Membership Rules: Membership comprises all who signed this document. Additional members can be invited to join the group if they sign up to the terms of this agreement.

 Members agree to:

* attend at least 50% of the events under the facilitation fund project that are organised by the group facilitator during the period of the agreement
* complete all necessary forms to comply with funding rules when attending events organised by the facilitator
* participate in the monitoring of the facilitation fund project
* share information with group members and partners
* respect group members and partners opinions
* undertake new activity on members farmland as a result of the meetings
* access funds via the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership for environmental management on members' holdings (where it meets PHLP objectives)

Meetings: The facilitator will call group meetings and organise events for the whole group. In addition the farmers in the group will elect a chair person.

The Facilitator: The facilitator will be employed by the Forest of Bowland AONB and work one day a week. They will work with the group and partners to achieve the aims of the project.

 The facilitator will organise the meetings which provide relevant training and provide support to the group to assist with applications to Countryside Stewardship. They will also work with other organisations to try and secure additional funding to increase the impact of the project and work on group members’ farms.

 The facilitator is responsible for submitting claims and reports as required by the facilitation fund.

Evaluation: The project will be evaluated in a range of ways including obtaining regular feedback from knowledge transfer events, gathering information by questionnaire from group members on relevant new activity being carried out on farms. This information will be collated into a report at the end of the project, with regular feedback on progress given to each steering group meeting. All members will have a responsibility to work with the facilitator to provide this information throughout the project as requested.

Confidentiality: The facilitator and partners shall preserve the confidentiality of any information and documents, in any form, which are disclosed in writing or orally by group members in relation to the aims of the group and which are explicitly indicated in writing as confidential.

Data protection: The facilitator and partners shall comply with all relevant UK and EU data protection legislation in delivering their obligations under the Agreement.

Disputes: In the event of disputes between members this will be handled by arbitration between members. The process will be overseen by the facilitator plus a member of staff from the AONB Unit. In the event of no resolution being found at this stage an independent HR consultant will be used.

Changes to this

Agreement: The terms in this agreement can only be made if agreed by the majority of the group at an open meeting to which all members have been invited.

Signed on behalf of the Forest of Bowland AONB:

NAME:

SIGNATURE

Date:

Signed by members:

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