

## Northern England Raptor Forum



### Objectives

The objectives of the Northern England Raptor Forum (hereinafter called “the Forum”) are:

- I. to provide one effective voice to represent the conservation interests of raptors (birds of prey, including owls and raven) in the northern England uplands
- II. to base this representation primarily on the results of field study research and the expertise held within the Forum and its individual member groups
- III. where appropriate, to act as a parent body, providing overall co-ordination in the activities of the individual member groups in their field work
- IV. to develop centralised policies and offer advice that will assist the individual member groups and lead to improved conservation outcomes
- V. to assist individual member groups with the annual requirements of Licensing with Natural England and/ or British Trust for Ornithology.
- VI. to lobby, advise and promote the causes of conservation and protection of raptors wherever possible
- VII. to circulate the results of fieldwork to appropriate individuals and bodies in furtherance of these objectives
- VIII. to obtain external funding from appropriate source(s) which allows the aims of the Forum, including fair distribution to individual member groups, to be progressed
- IX. to publish an annual review covering all target species and any specific reports as deemed necessary
- X. to host an annual Northern England Raptor Conference to encourage debate and disseminate information, with a shared responsibility for all aspects of its organisation
- XI. to pursue charitable status if deemed advantageous.

## **Northern England Raptor Forum Constitution**

(Version 3 , approved Feb 13)

The Northern England Raptor Forum is a formally constituted body. The Forum shall have the general objectives as set out on page 1 or as may be amended subsequently by a majority vote in accordance with this Constitution.

### Membership

Membership of the Forum shall comprise one or two representatives from each of the individually recognised raptor study groups active in the northern region. Current member groups are listed in Appendix 1. New groups may be accepted by majority vote and should operate with a suitable written constitution and have demonstrated responsible monitoring of raptor populations in their area.

### Officers

The officers of the Forum shall be Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Press Officer.

Candidates must be proposed and seconded by two members of the Forum, via email or in writing to the Secretary at least 2 weeks before an AGM.

The office of Chair shall be subject to re-election annually on a majority vote. The Secretary, Treasurer and Press Officer shall be elected by majority vote for a maximum period of three years (or such a period as the Forum may decide).

### Management & Meetings

Meetings shall be held at times and places that the Forum may decide but at least twice per year. The affairs of the Forum shall be managed at such meetings and also by communication amongst members in between meetings via email, post or conference call.

Decisions shall be made by a simple majority. There shall be one vote per individual group. The Chair may cast a deciding vote if necessary. A minimum quorum of two-thirds of members is required for any policy vote other than one involving dissolution (see item, page 4).

Information such as minutes or reports shall be available on request to members of the individual recognised member groups represented on the Forum.

Sub-committees may be formed, comprising selected members and at least 2 officers, to address topics of interest in-between meetings. The recommendations and outcomes of such work should be taken back to the full Forum membership for ratification.

Special General Meetings (SGM) may be called at any time to discuss urgent business subject to a written request from any member and the agreement of majority of members. The SGM should be held at the earliest opportunity and no later than 4 weeks from date of the initial request.

The Forum may invite to its meetings, or consult at any time with, outside persons or other organisations as it may choose following the agreement of the Chair. Such individuals constitute an Advisory Group but shall have no voting powers.

### Conduct & Confidentiality

Members or their respective RSG members, should not comment publicly in a way that may be perceived as representing the opinion of the Forum without prior approval of the Chair.

Matters discussed and opinions given at NERF meetings should be considered confidential.

Information displayed on the Forum website shall be first submitted and approved by the Chair who will consult with members as necessary.

### Finance

The Forum shall seek grant-aided funds from appropriate Governmental or private organisations and shall pursue charitable status if this provides advantages in funding and other aspects.

All funds of the Forum shall be lodged at such bank or building society accounts as the Forum may select. The Forum shall hold a specific account and all payments shall be signed by two out of three officers (Chair, Secretary or Treasurer). The Treasurer shall produce annual accounts, which shall be subject to an independent examination, at the end of each calendar year.

### Subscription

The Forum may levy such subscription on individual member groups as it feels appropriate and necessary.

### Change of constitution

To carry any resolution in respect of changes to the constitution there should be at least two thirds of the members present and voting must be in favour.

### Dissolution

The Forum may be dissolved by means of a resolution passed by not less than two-thirds of all members. The matter must be duly shown on an AGM or SGM agenda provided to members two weeks prior to the meeting. All member groups must participate in such a vote either being present or via email.

In the event of dissolution, any monies remaining after liquidation of the assets of the Forum shall be divided equally between individual member groups or shall be donated to such a body as the Forum may consider appropriate.

## **Appendix 1. Northern England Raptor Forum Membership**

Bowland Raptor Study Group

Calderdale Raptor Group

Durham Upland Bird Study Group

Manchester Raptor Group

Northumbria Ringing Group

North York Moors Upland Bird (Merlin) Study Group

Peak District Raptor Monitoring Group

South Peak Raptor Study Group

South Ryedale and East Yorkshire Raptor Study Group.

Yorkshire Dales Upland Bird Study Group