

Local Nature Recovery Strategy Steering Group

Minutes of Steering Group Meeting on 11th April 2024

Present:

Liz Duberley	LD	Service Manager Built and Natural Environment HC
Amelia Airey	AA	Nature Recovery Officer HC
Emma Gardner	EG	Ecologist HBRC
Rhiannon Pierce	RP	Senior Advisor Natural England
Emma Whitehouse	EW	Environment Agency
Alan Reid	AR	Forestry Commission
Helen Dale	HD	Regional Advisor Countryside Management (CLA)
Claire Spicer	CS	Herefordshire Wildlife Trust

1. Welcome and Apologies:

Fran Lancaster	FL	Principal Natural Environment Officer HC
Andrew Blake	AB	Wye Valley AONB and representing Malvern Hills AONB

2. Minutes from last meeting

There were no outstanding actions arising from previous minutes.

3. Gantt Chart Progress

AA gave a brief update on progress regarding the project planning in relation to design work, engagement plan, and strategy. Amendments have been made to include priorities and measures work within the project plan.

4a. Engagement Plan

AA ran through the Engagement stakeholder plan outlining phase 1 – awareness raising and phase 2 – participation.

Action: Steering Group to review Engagement Document and feedback to AA

Detailed discussions included social media, stakeholder list and opportunities for engagement making use of existing events. The steering group decided that utilising existing contacts and existing networks will take place.

Action: AA to draft standard email to share with steering group that they can share within their own contacts and signpost individuals that will be interested to the nature recovery email address..

Action: AA to create a stakeholder list of key contacts and a separate sheet for calendar, Steering Group to feed into this.

It was raised that multiple ways of engaging including an online survey will be useful and prior to full engagement a warm-up webinar will be beneficial to raise the profile of the LNRS. It was discussed that farmer, landowners and land managers could have their own warm-up event. It was decided that the DEFRA video should be used within the webinar, for the background.

Action: Steering Group to think about what could be included and feedback to AA

Action: RP to share frequently asked questions for other local authorities

Action: AA to explore creating a SharePoint

It was confirmed that habitats, species and spatial mapping will be blended together into one event covering all aspects and biological recorders, specialist and NGOs would be engaged with.

Action: AA to update the Gantt chart to reflect the agreed engagement plan.

4b. Engagement Plan – moving forward

It was decided that a meeting for the engagement working group should occur and gave the opportunity for people to state their interest in attending.

The steering group decided that the engagement working group is able to make decisions for expediency as long as it follows closely to the engagement plan that the Steering Group has had oversight of. Minutes to be shared with Steering Group.

5. Strategy Tender

AA gave a brief update on progress and tender to be circulates once finalised.

6. Design Work

The steering group discussed options, selected the logo that was most appealing with minor amendments.

Action: AA to feedback to the designer

7. A.O.B.

To formalise the species working group and engagement working group

Action: AA to send out doodle poll and suggest times for meeting for both the engagement working group and species working group.

Action: AR to share Gloucestershire Farming engagement with AA

8. Date of next meeting

Dates for steering group meeting agreed from May – September.