

Local Nature Recovery Strategy Steering Group

Minutes of Steering Group Meeting on 5th September 2024

Present:

Liz Duberley	LD	Nutrient Mitigation Lead HC
Juliet Hynes	JH	Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust
Andrew Blake	AB	Wye Valley National Landscape
Helen Dale	HD	Regional Advisor Countryside Management (CLA)
Nickie Frost	NF	Graduate Ecologist HC
Emma Gardner	EG	Ecologist HBRC
Alan Reid	AR	Forestry Commission
Rhiannon Pierce	RP	Senior Advisor Natural England
Cllr E Swinglehurst	ES	Cabinet Member for Environment HC
Charlie Alfandary	CA	LNRS Officer (pending) HC

1. Welcome

Apologies:

Claire Spicer	CW	Herefordshire Wildlife Trust
Emma Whitehouse	EW	Environment Agency

LD welcomed members to the tenth steering group for the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). JH and CA would be attending remotely and ES and CA would be arriving later.

2. Opportunities mapping overview by Juliet Hynes (online)

JH presented how the baseline map of existing habitats was constructed and how the opportunity maps (open habitats network; woodland network; water and wetland network) were determined. When layered these maps indicate strategic restoration areas within Herefordshire.

Key points raised:

- These are strategic maps and therefore should only be used as guides suggesting where ecological networks can be strengthened and tweaked for different partnerships and opportunities.
- For initial landowner consultations these maps have been simplified into a single priority network map with hedgerow/margins identified. This map will guide the development of projects but landowner discussions will also highlight what they want on their land.

It was agreed that the presentation of the mapping for the landowner engagement session should be via both a digital presentation as well as zoomed in printed A1 maps for annotation.

ACTIONS:

- **A summary paragraph to describe the mapping process for the landowner consultation process will be produced by HC.**

3. Species Update by Emma Gardner

A workshop was held in July with species experts to categorise the list of species provided by Natural England to identify species in Hereford which could be covered by general management and species that need specific management. There is currently missing data for aves, orthoptera, terrestrial, and 20 different freshwater taxonomic groups. Missing data is to be sourced from contacts in Gloucestershire and wider identified experts. The process will provide an auditable trail which sets out how priority species have been selected.

NE highlighted that in the future there may be a requirement to include species for re-introduction into the list of species to prioritise in Herefordshire.

ACTIONS:

- **EG will provide a refined list once data gaps are addressed.**
- **EG will run a second species workshop with targeted meetings to agree the next steps for individual species.**

4. Engagement Update by Liz Duberley

An up-date was given about the in person workshops in market towns and cities that were carried out in June – August. Leaflets have been produced with links to the LNRS engagement survey which is currently underway and has over 80 responses so far. The newsletter is currently being drafted as well as an email to parish councils.

The Herefordshire Rural Hub will be presenting an in person workshop on LNRS to landowners in October. The Rural Hub are also presenting an online session to members on the Landscape Recovery Schemes as well as an in person session to officers in October. NFU will host a stand at Kington Show and distribute information on the LNRS survey A webinar is also being created to deliver a self-serve video uploaded onto the website to explain the LNRS.

ACTIONS:

- **The new Nature Recovery will prioritise communications regarding LNRS on social media.**

5. Recruitment Update by Liz Duberley

LD introduced Charlie Alfandry the new Nature Recovery officer.

LD is currently collating priorities and tasks for the new Nature Recovery Officer when they come into post (date: TBC). This will include advertisement and communications for the LNRS.

LD will be staying in role to keep continuity until the adoption of strategy.

6. Strategy Update

The steering group were updated on the tender which has been reissued and waiting bids. Due to tight timescales, it was discussed that in other LNRS's a standard form has gone out to draw on priorities and measures and this should be carried out by HC in order to get process underway ahead of the successful bidder. It was decided that the standard template which outlines measures is the simplest format and should be used.

It was agreed an auditable trail needs to be produced for the identification of priorities and measures, much like as done with the species identification.

ACTIONS:

- **HC to identify measures required for Herefordshire to provide to successful bidder on commencement of contract**
- **CA to create auditable trail for priorities and measures identification**

7. Next Steps

The need for an application such as sharepoint where documents can be shared with the steering group is a priority steering group members will check with their own organisations options available.

8. AOB

LD will issue a Doodle Poll for the next meeting.