**Local Nature Recovery Strategy Steering Group**

**Minutes of Steering Group Meeting on 18th November 2024**

**Present:**

Emma Gardner EG Chair of meeting, Principal Ecologist (HBRC)

Charlie Alfandary CA Local Nature Recovery Officer (HC)

Rhiannon Pierce RP Senior Officer (NE)

Alan Reid AR Nature Recovery Advisor (FC)

Helen Dale HD Regional Advisor Countryside Management (CLA)

Tim Pickering TP Environment Planning Specialist (EA)

**Apologies:**

Liz Duberley LD Service Manager Built and Natural Environment HC

Andrew Blake AB Wye Valley AONB and representing Malvern Hills AONB

Claire Spicer CS Herefordshire Wildlife Trust

1. **Update on Self-Serve Webinar – CA:**

Link to webinar: [Herefordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) – Herefordshire Council](https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/lnrs)

CA shared that Self-serve webinar is available on Herefordshire Council website. The webinar is an accessible explanation of what LNRS and how to engage. Survey is still live on the same webpage so the webinar will hopefully provide some background explanation to LNRS process.

**Actions for CA: Explore whether link to webinar can be shared on medias and newsletter etc. CA to also check whether number of plays can be analysed to gauge interaction.**

1. **Update on publishing mapping and survey – CA:**

CA shared online overview of mapping and associated key. Open, woodland and water opportunity areas are broken down into high, medium and low priority areas and represented in distinct colours. Users will be able to interact with the mapping, turning on and off layers and zooming in to greater scales. There will be another survey that goes alongside the mapping, to gain detailed insights into land parcel information i.e. is the information displayed correct, what should happen here in regards to nature recovery. Mapping and associated survey should go live to the public in the next week or two.

SG queried relevance of showing high, medium and low areas – is it useful or confusing to users? RP shared that others examples so far haven’t broken down into these areas. Could be that high, medium and low categories help us make decisions, but overall end mapping is a bit simpler?

**Action for RP: Clarify how many priorities and measures should be in one place as per guidance and regulations.**

**Action for EG: Provide SG with mock up of simplified map, not showing high, medium or low.**

**Actions for CA: Provide SG with text explainer to go alongside mapping.**

1. **Progress relating to consultant and writing of the strategy – CA:**

SLR have been appointed to write the strategy and have had a couple of start up meetings. Currently their scope does not include for them to present the strategy graphically.

RP presented a number of LNRSs that are currently live online, that have differing presentational methods. SG discussed advantages and disadvantages of presenting the LNRS as one large document or broken down into easier to digest documents.

Overall, SG agreed that possibly having quick links for various user groups would be beneficial and putting lengthy methodologies and technical documents in appendices would potentially be the least confusing/ most useable. Closest example to this was WECA: [The Local Nature Recovery Strategy​ and Toolkit - West of England Combined Authority](https://www.westofengland-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/the-local-nature-recovery-strategy/)

**Actions for CA: Meet with internal council webteam to discuss differing presentation techniques e.g. having multiple links on the same page in an easy to view way.**

**Actions for all: Keep an eye for new LNRSs as they get published and feedback to Charlie what elements you think work or don’t in regards to explanation and presentation.**

1. **Update on species – EG:**

EG presented species form on screen that was shared in email with SG previously, asking for experts to input into missing taxa. Decision was made to hide final species score from taxa experts, to discourage them from altering the final score of species to ensure their final prioritisation. EG and CA have done some initial scoping of potential assemblages and will share in more detail at the next species group.

**Actions for EG/RP: Send examples of published LNRSs species lists to species working group ahead of next meeting.**

1. **Engagement, workshops for landowners and farmers – CA:**

HC are working with Kate Speke Adams at the Herefordshire RuralHub to design a pilot farmer, landowner event. The event will gain feedback on the mapping shared in regards to content and accessibility. Farmers will be asked to add comments to proposals on set areas of land and suggest appropriate measures. LD, CA and RP meeting Kate this afternoon to discuss detail.

HC are also exploring the possibility of engaging with a local marketing organisation to potentially do a PR campaign around LNRS in Herefordshire.

**Action for CA: Provide bullet point summary of meeting with RuralHub and share with steering group.**

1. **Priorities and measures – CA**

Building on internal SharePoint form collating priorities and measures, CA is looking to extend the ask to wider partners to ensure range of inputs and expertise to LNRS. Form has been circulated with the steering group.

**Action for all: Send list of partners who should contribute to LNRS priorities and measures to CA. CA will circulate form to suggested contacts.**

**Action for CA: Set up working group to prioritise suggested priorities and measures. Query – can we include county recorder rep in this group?**

**Action for AR: Send CA Worcestershire’s priority matrix as an example. AR to also feedback to SG on WMCA prioritisation workshop scheduled for next week.**

1. **AOB**

None

Dates of next meetings:

16th December, 10am-12pm - in person at HARC

20th January, 2pm-4pm – in person at TBC.

17th February, 10am-12pm – location TBC