

Local Nature Recovery Strategy Steering Group

Minutes of Steering Group Meeting on 20th January 2025

Present:

Charlie Alfandary	CA	LNRS Officer HC
Emma Gardner	EG	Ecologist HBRC
Liz Duberley	LD	Nutrient Mitigation Lead HC
Nickie Frost	NF	Graduate Ecologist HC
Claire Spicer	CS	Herefordshire Wildlife Trust
Andrew Blake	AB	Wye Valley National Landscape
Helen Dale	HD	Regional Advisor Countryside Management (CLA)
Alan Reid	AR	Forestry Commission
Rhiannon Pierce	RP	Senior Advisor Natural England

1. Welcome

EG welcomed members to the steering group for the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS).

Apologies:

Tim Pickering Environment Agency

2. Update on Engagement regarding LNRS and mapping survey

CA updated the stakeholders on the progress with engagement. A session was carried out with the Rural Hub where landowners and farmers gave constructive feedback. General feedback included the need to tailor the LNRS to different levels of agriculture and a concern for how data will be used in the future. Critiques were more centred around LNRS nationally rather than just the Herefordshire LNRS. But overall interested and good feedback on terminology / accessibility.

HC are looking at engagement with a wider variety of stakeholders, mapping live on HC website. Reaching out to parish council in Herefordshire - a webinar would be carried out the following Wednesday for this to make aware of mapping and get feedback. HC are now looking at engaging with industry and public health by arranging webinar in the future.

3. Plans for creation of Mapping working group

CA proposed a working group is formed to establish how the final priorities map will look, including the levels of useability, the level of information it will hold and where the amount of data hinders accessibility. CA proposed this should be carried out along with the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust.

Suggestions for the working group included someone with less technical skills to get a general user prospective along with someone more technically minded to sensor check, volunteers from the Rural Hub, someone from the environmental sector or with knowledge about the county.

A discussion about what layers should be presented on the map was carried out. Currently it shows high to low priorities and the three specific habitat types, but it is likely that the final map will only show medium and high priorities. Queries were raised about whether it should be a singular or multi-layer map.

ACTIONS:

- CS to contact Toby Fountain (HWT)
- CA to find someone from council coms team

4. Wider Mapping engagement opportunities discussion

It was discussed among the steering group what wider mapping engagement opportunities were available. Groups that were highlighted included larger estate owners, forestry England, church commissioners and citizen science groups, CPRE. It was suggested that postal invites go out to drive up engagement.

Contact has been made to the Black Mountains Land Use Partnership but no response has been received.

ACTIONS:

-RP to find a direct contact for Black Mountains

5. Priorities and measures working group update and potential for country wide priorities

The Priorities and Measures spreadsheet was reviewed by the steering group. A score is given to the priorities if it meets certain criteria which provides an overall weighting for the priority. The criteria's were reviewed and the following queries and/or amendments were made:

Criteria 8 - how can we guarantee that the land is practically available i.e. it might be there but the landowner may not give permission to use it. Should this question not be weighted but rather an informative?

Criteria 9 - to be amended as it may not be practical to align with neighbouring LNRS – the focus will be on what climatic impacts will lead to new habitats or species changes. Action to be framed around climate resilience around county. This question may be revisited when the LNRS is more established.

Criteria 11- should the priority level change from 1 to 3 (high importance) as funding will be necessary to secure delivery on the ground.

Criteria 12- should the priority level change from 1 to 3 (medium) as it shows that this has been flagged by many stakeholders

ACTIONS:

-CA will make amendments and then send out to steering group for confirmation.

6. Update regarding SLR and Description of strategy area discussion regarding info for creation- Charlie Alfandary

HC have commissioned SLR to write the area description. Currently collating data and asked steering group if they can forward any further data onwards.

ACTIONS:

-CA will create a sharepoint to collate data.

7. Updated GANTT chart- Charlie Alfandary

CA presented the GANTT chart which has been updated to reflect the new LNRS deadline (approved by DEFRA) which has been delayed till October. Engagement is expected to finish in February, and data collation and mapping in March. Public consultation period and edits will start in April and should take about 5 months. Final publication is proposed by mid-October.

ACTIONS:

-CA will circulate updated GANT chart with additions from SLR.

ANOB

None