

Local Nature Recovery Strategy Steering Group

Minutes of Steering Group Meeting on 11th July 2023

Present:

Fran Lancaster	FM	Principal Natural Environment Officer HC
Andrew Blake	AB	Wye Valley AONB and representing Malvern Hills AONB
Rhiannon Pierce	RP	Senior Advisor Natural England
Rachel Sparks	RS	Forestry Commission
Emma Gardner	EG	Herefordshire Biological Record Centre (HBRC) HC

Apologies:

Jamie Audsley	JA	CEO Herefordshire Wildlife Trust (HWT)
Liz Duberley	LD	Service Manager Built and Natural Environment HC
Sam Banks	SB	Strategic and Neighbourhood Planning Manager HC
Martin Quine	MQ	Environment Agency Place Manager Herefordshire/Gloucestershire

1. Welcome

FL welcomed members to the second steering group for the Herefordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). Apologies were received from a number of steering group members.

Those present agreed that actions would be agreed in principle with an opportunity given to those not present to comment by email following the meeting.

ACTION:

FL to write up the minutes and to give one week for any additional comments from those not able to attend the meeting

2. Update on the actions from the last meeting

The group ran through the minutes of the last meeting a various updates were given by HC. It was agreed that a rolling 'Actions Log' would be created and maintained for the sake of clarity.

Updates on the actions from the previous meeting are provided in the separate 'Actions Log'.

ACTION:

FL to create a 'Record of Actions' which can be updated in an ongoing way and to provide alongside the minutes following each steering group meeting.

3. Consideration of the Mapping Proposals document

The group talked through the Mapping Flow Chart – identifying that the mapping which has previously been carried out by Herefordshire Wildlife Trust through Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust (GWT) fits at 'Step 5' on the flow chart.

The Baseline would fit under 'Step 1' on the flow chart and discussions with HWT and GWT have clarified that a baseline map has not been created as part of work undertaken so far.

The group talked through the Mapping Proposals document.

Baseline – Actions 1 and 2 were discussed and supported by all those present.

Opportunity Mapping – Actions 3, 4, 5 and 6 were discussed and supported by all those present.

The following additional points were made:

- Relating to Action 1 – it was suggested that an effort should be made to establish where Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) may have been lost and where possible to visit any sites where aerial photography shows potential significant deterioration or loss.
- Relating to all mapping actions – that we should be clear about the confidence of any data we are using and seek to use highest confidence data, or be clear on the potential impacts of including any lower confidence data.
- Relating to opportunity mapping – discussions with GWT around progressing the opportunity map could explore whether the SCIMAP approach might be of assistance in addressing potential issues with larger areas of agricultural land in Herefordshire. It maps topography and soil type to identify areas of high risk for soil and nutrient runoff into rivers and so might be useful in targeting opportunities in those areas?
- The group highlighted the value of engaging with the grassland recording community around addressing issues of grassland quality within the model.

ACTIONS:

FL to wait for feedback from other members of the steering group by 21st July 2023.

FL/EG/LD to proceed with Actions 1 – 5 from the Mapping Proposals document.

4.Date of the Next Meeting

The following dates were suggested for LNRS meetings in order to fix availability early. Those present agreed the dates and suggested that some flexibility around in person or virtual meetings would be desirable particularly to support FC attendance as Rachel Sparks transitions out of her current role.

Proposed dates: 18th September 2023 at 1pm – 3pm virtually (via Teams)
 19th October 2023 at 1pm – 3pm in person in Hereford (venue tbc)
 15th November 2023 at 1pm – 3pm virtually (via Teams)