



## Local Nature Recovery Strategy Steering Group

### Minutes of Steering Group Meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025

#### Present:

Charlie Alfandary	CA	LNRS Officer HC
Emma Gardner	EG	Ecologist HBRC
Liz Duberley	LD	Nutrient Mitigation Lead HC
Toby Fountain	TF	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
Tim Pickering	TP	Environment Agency

#### 1. Welcome

ED welcomed members.

#### 2. Update on Engagement regarding LNRS and mapping survey - CA

SFI announcement will affect how sessions are held. Sessions delayed in the hope of better attendance. **ACTION: All to forward contacts re. venues for the landowner sessions to CA. TF looking into a Black Mountains contact.**

TF mentioned that Stuart Hedley is carrying out county wide mapping of vegetation which may be useful to the project. **ACTION: EG to find out more but due to time constraints may be that it's useful for next LNRS review.**

CA confirmed that the high and medium layers will be merged into one opportunity mapping layer rather than shown separately. If the Ice Age Pond dataset is provided in a useable format (i.e. mapped polygons) then they will be included in the mapping in the same way as orchards.

**ACTION: TA to present an update on the LNRS at future Wye Catchment Partnership meeting**

11<sup>th</sup> April webinar to take place (check for who?)

It was suggested that Herefordshire LNRS could do some general LNRS promotion nationally.

**ACTION: LD to take the proposal for a more nationwide PR push to Cllr Swinglehurst for input. All generally in favour but recognise that it should really be coming from DEFRA/NE. Do we have the resource even if budgets allow?**

**ACTION: RP to clarify NE funding for LNRS.**

#### 3. Update of Mapping working group and GWT - CA

GCER will be redoing the opportunity mapping to incorporate relevant feedback from the consultations as well as mapping the measures/priorities. It is hoped that this will take place between the end of May and July.

CA will be setting a deadline for survey responses and landowner feedback which allows time to review submissions and prepare appropriate data for GCER.

CA shared Gloucestershire's draft as we considering a similar final output for the mapping. RP reported that GCER have received feedback about putting priorities in order of preference rather than just showing a long list of them.

#### **4. Priorities and measures working group update and gaps in data - CA**

Received lots of input so far but unfortunately had to spend a lot of time chasing some participants. All agreed that we now need to put a deadline for responses in order to meet deadlines. CA reports that he is still trying to get WUF to feed into the process and we still need more input on geology and air quality.

In the interests of efficiency CA and RP will now go through the priorities and measures which have been produced so far and then distribute for comments.

**ACTION: all to provide any contacts re. air quality.**

#### **5. Description of strategy area discussion regarding info for creation - CA**

A draft has now been received from the consultants and circulated to the steering group. CA thanked the group for the feedback already received but noted that we needed more regarding scrub, hedgerows, upland, agri?? and successful projects.

**Action: all to provide feedback where appropriate or suggest alternative parties that may be able to assist.**

TF knows of rewilding projects in the West of the county, may be appropriate contacts who can feed in. **Action: TF to discuss with CA.**

**Action: RP to look at Pat Stirling project.**

#### **6. Discussion for the process of removing land from the mapping - CA**

As per DEFRA guidance all land may be included in the opportunity mapping but landowners have the right to ask for their land to be removed. It is hoped that few will take up this option but discussion was had regarding what evidence landowners would need to supply should they wish for it to be removed. Agreed that they would be required to submit precise boundaries of their land holding.

**Action: CA to draft a paragraph regarding opting out which will be included in the strategy and mentioned in the engagement sessions.**

#### **7. Update of Species - EG**

Lots of feedback coming through from species experts which will be useful for shortlisting. Some experts have chosen not to provide further input at this stage but it's thought that what has already been provided should still allow us to deal with these species.

**Actions: EG to chase remaining species experts. EG to share 'missing species' with Jack in case he can feed in from a national stand point.**

#### **8. AOB**

**Actions: CA to check date for next meeting. RP to share other LNRS that have been published.**