



Local Nature Recovery Strategy

MINUTES

Steering Group- Online – Microsoft Teams
2nd June 2025 14-16:00

Present

| | | |
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| Charlie Alfandary | CA | LNRS Officer HC |
| Liz Duberley | LD | Nutrient Mitigation Lead HC |
| Mandy Neill | MN | Principal Natural Environment Officer HC |
| Toby Fountain | TF | Herefordshire Wildlife Trust |
| Alan Reid | AR | Forestry Commission |
| Tim Pickering | TP | Environment Agency |
| Andrew Blake | AB | Wye Valley National Landscape |

Apologies

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|-----------------|----|--------------------------------|
| Emma Gardener | EG | Ecologist HBRC |
| Rhiannon Pierce | RP | Senior Advisor Natural England |

1. Welcome

LD introduced Mandy Neill, who has just started as Principal Natural Environment Officer at HC (a role previously held by Fran Lancaster). Mandy has been Senior Landscape Officer at HC for five years but is fairly new to LNRS and will work with Charlie once LD leaves.

2. Update to the GANT chart-

CA has updated the key tasks and timescales on the GANT chart, which is saved on Sharepoint. Key date is aiming for NE panel review in October. **Action: Ensure all steering group can access and review this.**

3. Update on Written Strategy

SLR have now produced a first draft of both sections of the document.

- a. Strategy Area Description – The first draft had requests for lots of data points to be added and / or confirmed by the Steering Group. **Action: All steering group to review this and provide the relevant data asap**, to allow SLR to complete a second draft that can then be shared for consultation more widely.
- b. Priorities and Measures – The first draft has just been completed and circulated. Steering group need to ensure that they are happy that it is Herefordshire specific where it can be. **Action: All steering group to review the document and provide a response to CA by 9th June.**

4. Update on mapping corridors

CA shared a map on screen showing possible corridors, based on informed decisions by the HC team to aid discussion. **Action: CA to circulate the map. All steering group to review the corridors, to mark up and describe any suggested changes or additions.**

5. Discussion on Wider Environment benefits

CA shared example lists of wider environmental benefits, based on Northhamptonshire and the NE 10 national recommendations. Discussion on how to select most important for HC based on what ecosystem services are drawn from priority habitats; which have the most multiple benefits; how to weight the importance or priorities of the different habitats or benefits. Discussion on how to represent these with different icons, numbers or matrices. **Action: CA to compile HC list and share for review.**

6. Species update

CA advised good progress on creating the species assemblages, based on both habitat groupings and / or overlapping measures. Work on the species shortlist is also progressing well. TF advised that he has a meeting arranged with EG to work on bird species.

7. Dates for future meetings

LD advised that this was her last meeting before leaving HC. MN will chair the next meeting. Meetings will be held on Teams, unless otherwise agreed if there is a specific agenda item that needs full discussion and decision making.

Wed 2nd July 2025

Tue 5th August 2025

Tue 2nd September 2025

8. ANOB

AR suggested that as good practice our timescales ensure the possibility for mapping and other data to be completed well ahead of NE panel review and circulated to the consultees for review in good time.

LD suggested that CA and MN catch up with neighbouring authorities for updates and feedback on their LNRS.

LD advised that Helen Dale has stepped down from this Steering Group. LD suggested an representative name from NFU (who already sits on the Shropshire LNRS steering group) to fill this gap and will formalise in due course.