



Local Nature Recovery Strategy

MINUTES

Steering Group- Online – Microsoft Teams 5th August 2025 14:00-16:00

Present

Charlie Alfandary	CA	LNRS Officer HC
Mandy Neill	MN	Principal Natural Environment Officer HC
Rhiannon Pierce	RP	Senior Advisor Natural England
Toby Fountain	TF	Herefordshire Wildlife Trust
Alan Reid	AR	Forestry Commission
Lydia Ashworth	LA	Environment Agency
Jenny Bashford	JB	Wye and Usk Foundation
Andrew Blake	AB	Wye Valley National Landscape

Apologies

Emma Gardener	EG	Ecologist HBRC
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1. Welcome

To Lydia Ashworth who has replaced Tim Pickering as the EA representative. Also to Jenny Bashford who has joined the group as a local interest group representative.

2. Feedback Regarding DEFRA Meeting

MN gave a summary of the meeting. It required presenting our position on 1) work in progress; 2) publication timescales; 3) possible variables; and 4) indications of how we might approach the delivery / implementation phase. The DEFRA representative was happy with the information that we provided, however there is still too much uncertainty in our publication timescale for them to commit to providing the next round of funding. Their proposal was to have another follow up meeting in mid / end September to see how the work has progressed over the summer, particularly in relation to the written document and the mapping.

Discussion was held around the implications of the funding, what it would be used for and what would happen if we don't get it. This included other funding sources for projects and partnership working at the implementation phase, the importance of referencing or linking with other action plans and 'stacking' funding or grant schemes that might be available locally or nationally. It is also linked to talking around learning from neighbouring authorities and how the maps and boundaries will be co-ordinated so that catchment schemes will also work 'seamlessly'. AR suggested that Worcestershire have a good paragraph in their text document about how they have worked with neighbours and also confirmed that his job description will change in the future to be linked to funding streams for LNRS in the West Midlands.

3. Update on Written Strategy and Design Work

CA explained that the draft text document for the Strategy Area Description and the Priorities and Measures is due with us on Friday 8th Aug. CA/MN will have a high level review on the morning of Monday 11th Aug and then send out a Share Point link to the Steering Group. RP will add both JB and a Malvern Hills National Landscape representative to the share point access. CA requested a 1 week turn around for comments if possible.

CA updated that graphic design of logos, images etc will be incorporated by the in-house HC team who will be working on these over the summer as well. RP requested sharing of the drafts when ready to be reviewed.

4. Update on Mapping

CA explained that GCER will be working on updating the base layer and opportunities layers. The specification and quote is complete. **CA** to send them the latest GIS files for incorporating and then they will run the modelling again with their latest methodology.

CA explained that in house partners Hoople are working on the GIS mapping of measures and will work on the website to host the LNRS.

5. Species Spreadsheet Review

CA gave an overview of the species and assemblages data. LA clarified whether biosecurity and climate impacts have been given consideration, which they have within the main habitat measures rather than these species lists.

Discussion was held around the assemblages groupings and titles and how they will be mapped. Consideration was given to whether they should be grouped based on habitats or measures or species. It was felt that just using a species group, such as lepidoptera, might not be meaningful enough or possible to map, although there is no clear guidance on this. RP suggested the preference for habitat groups that can then be mapped.

Discussion was held around specific species. **CA** to revisit these based on updated comments from NE and today's discussion. CA will circulate an updated list once complete (noting that EG is leading on this but is on leave).

6. LNRS Technician Job Application

CA advised that we received a good number and good quality applications for this position, which is now closed. CA and MN have shortlisted three to interview next week.

7. ANOB

MN updated that there had been no progress with contacting Georgie Hyde, NFU, to join the steering group, but will wait another week until after the largest agricultural show. An alternative to represent landowners will be approached if still no commitment.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 3rd September, 2pm.