

LNRS Advisory Board
Board Meeting Minutes & Actions

Date: 13th March 2024 12:30-2.00

Venue: Via Teams

Attendees:

Gideon Ben-Tovim (Chair)	GBT	Nature Connected
Andrea O'Connor	AC	Sefton Council
Andrew Clark	AC	MEAS
Thomas Smart	TS	Natural England
Rachel Waggett	RW	LCR CA
Judy Clavey	JC	Forestry Commission
Emma Galbraith	EG	LCR CA
Anna Wright	AW	NFU
Phillip Turner	PT	Crown Estate
Tom Burditt	TB	Wildlife Trust
Annie Merry	AM	Faiths For Change
Elina-Marielle Doss	ED	BioBank
Rachel Waggett	RW	LCR CA
Petrina Brown	PB	Environment Agency
Michelle Whalley	MW	Nature Connected

I Welcome / Introductions

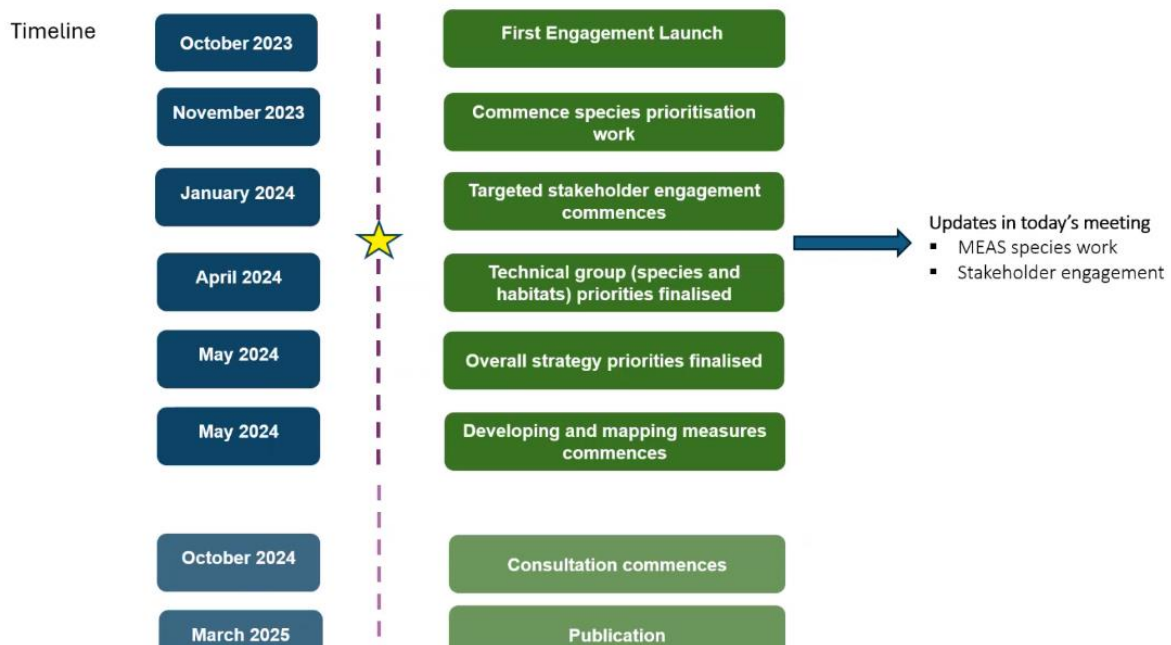
The meeting began with a welcome to all participants. Each attendee was introduced, and their presence acknowledged.

2) Minutes from the previous meeting.

These were accepted as a true reflection of the meeting.

3) Setting the scene - context of the meeting in relation to LNRS timeline (Rachel Waggitt and Emma Galbraith – LCR CA)

- Recap – required by Defra to complete LNRS by end of March 2025 – due to sign off process for example governance within local government/cabinet process which can take significant time – it has been proposed to Defra that by the end of March we will have a proposed publication version of LNRS – which will include all the public consultation and draft versions with incorporated comments – maps etc but will still allow further time to be ratified. Defra have accepted this proposed approach.
- Members will remember that the first engagement that took place at the end of 2023 – (public survey) commenced the species technical work that MEAS have been leading – the last two months have seen more targeted stakeholder engagement.
- Looking forward to the next few months – the following process will be followed-



Clarification – first draft of LNRS for consultation will be in October 2024. Drafts will be circulated to local authorities.

4) Progress of commission – species work – (Andrew Clark – MEAS)

- At the recent technical advisory group meeting – there was an opportunity to provide an update on the longlist - as a reminder to the Board there is a need to produce long list of species from different taxonomic groups. All of these lists are progressing well and some are near completion e.g mammals. Some are taking more time due to a need for further data and input from experts –Jo Doolin from MEAS is liaising with experts across the LCR and the team are in the process of working with biobank to ensure that threaten and near threatened habitats are listed, section 41 of principle of importance are included.
- Invertebrates list needs further input so the team are working with LWT who employ an invertebrate specialist and Liverpool museum – it’s likely that there will be an invertebrate technical subgroup set up to progress this taxonomic group.
- Habitat workshop planned for 18th March – in person only meeting – (65 have registered– full capacity) much wider audience invited to include experts/ community groups/elected members/ statutory agencies –NE leading session (George Coombs).
- Expected outputs – will be to identify priorities – for example – within woodland – broad priorities for woodland – leading into measures of what recovery would look like. It is anticipated that there will be a mix of technical responses – including identifying rarities in our area – and further information around public values of habitats – those that are cherished by local people.

Clarification Question; - For anyone that can’t make the session – is there provision for input outside of the meeting?

Response – yes there will be more opportunity for further input and a possible online session will be arranged to add further opportunity at this point.

- AC went on to discuss the opportunity method report – which MEAS and LJMU have been asked to coproduce –they are currently in the process of the writing method – will be in final draft by end of March 24.

Comments and Questions

- TB commended the work of the team leading the commission and stated that it was clear to see that a lot of the feedback and comments shared at the technical advisory panel and more broadly have been taken onboard and incorporated as themes into the work. TB echoed GBT thanks to the team and highlighted that the levels of engagement spoke for themselves.
- PT– shared that the Crown Estate on their internal databases have a good understanding of what currently and potential exists in the space/conflicts – such as within the marine and coastal space and would be happy to work with MEAS to add this extra layer if and when appropriate – PT would take a steer on when this would be most useful.

AC stated that this would be useful and requested that an inventory of data held by the estate be shared. PT agreed that links to what is held publicly will be shared and conversations on possible projects arising could be had on a one to one basis.

- GBT thanked AC and team again on behalf of the Board for both the quantity and quality of work.

5) Sectoral engagement update including youth, farmers and other stakeholders. – (Emma Galbraith LCR CA)

- EG provided a comprehensive update on Sectoral Engagement including the recent Farmer and Landowner Workshop/ the planned habitat working group workshop, and one to one discussions with Key Stakeholders,
- **Farmer/landowner workshop update** - key considerations included that a balanced approach needed – food production and profitability is crucial. Landowners are keen to support flood alleviation, hedgerows, farmland birds, soil quality, invasive species control. Further education around LNRS approach is likely to be needed. Concerns from this stakeholder group include uncertainty in funding from government, lack of flexibility in BNG, impact of commercial viability of land, control of public access
- **Habitat Working Group Workshop** – as previously discussed this is fully booked at capacity of 65. Key objectives – expansion of species into habitat focus, establishing priorities, opportunities and challenges for each habitat.
- **One to One discussions** are being held which cover current Nature based activities, opportunities for future activity/ collaboration, wider benefits of importance, priority habitats and species, challenges and barriers - these discussions are taking places with stakeholders such as Canal and Rivers Trust, Liverpool ONE/PEEL/Grosvenor, National Trust/ Mersey Forest. UU/ Universities
- **Key themes** which have come out of stakeholder engagement are similar to those that came out of the public consultation; - including community engagement/access to nature/ education/ climate resilience/ clean air,

Date of next meeting - May 1st 2024. 12.30pm – 1.45pm

Action Log	Owner
Refresh the Green Paper for NHS in Cheshire Mersey, aligning it with national requirements.	DS / RW
PT to share with AC – inventory on publicly held date held by Crown Estate.	PT/AC