

LNRS Advisory Board meeting 8
Board Meeting Minutes & Actions

Date: 17th September 2024 10.00-11.30

Venue: Via Teams

Attendees:

| Gideon Ben-Tovim OBE (Chair) x | GBT | Nature Connected |
|---|------------|---------------------------------|
| Rachel Waggett | RW | LCR CA |
| Judy Clavey | JC | Forestry Commission |
| Emma Galbraith | EG | LCR CA |
| Tom Burditt | TB | LWT |
| Duane Chong | DC | Grow Well-being |
| Claire Bullen | CB | Mersey Rivers Trust |
| Michelle Whalley | MW | Nature Connected /Mersey Forest |
| Lucinda Lay | LL | Green Earth Developments Group |
| Andrea O'Connor | AOC | Sefton MBC |
| Jo Doolin | JD | MEAS |
| Thomas Smart | TS | Natural England |
| Mandi Craig | MC | NHS |
| Abigail Teward | AT | NFU |

1) Welcome / Introductions

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

2) Minutes from the previous meeting.

The minutes were accepted with a note that item 5 – Natural England Update and the ongoing alignment between FC and NE and the subject to tree planting in deep peat.

The current stand point is that in some areas it might be appropriate to establish wet woodland – but this is on a case by case basis and will be subject to thorough process as appropriate,

3) Measures (Jo Doolin - MEAS)

The draft measures were circulated in advance of the meeting for panel members to review, It was reiterated that the measures are actions that will help deliver the priorities and are grouped into broad habitat types with some species specific priorities and actions.

Over the summer break, the MEAS, NE and CA teams have been drawing on consultation feedback to develop the list of measures/ actions.

The measures include creation and enhancement actions, they are quite high-level and include a description/example of how they might be delivered. Please note, that these measures have been updated following feedback from the technical advisory panel which had been held in the week previously

JD provided an update and overview of these in the meeting with various questions and discussions occurring throughout.

Discussion.

Further conversations were had with regards to trees and peat led by representatives from FC and NE. It was reiterated that a number of tools would be used in any decision-making process with regards to tree planting in lowland peat; e.g. the Forest to Bog toolkit (which provides a decision support framework) and a specific decision framework for peatland protections determining the appropriateness to forest or deforest in peatland areas, This toolkits are supported by site visits and investigations. Action – FC to ensure that the support framework is sent to JD to attach in the background info to the measure.

A note was made that the measures will be accompanied by a map – and appropriateness of all the measures can be assessed on a site by site basis (the LNRS is not a delivery plan – it sets out what we could see on certain areas).

Comment

A comment was made that the document on the whole does not mention locations – however occasionally very specific locations are mentioned. A view would be to take a consistent approach and either don't mention any locations or mention many more.

Response

It was agreed by the LNRS team to take reference to the locations out as they will be mapped

Comment

There was a comment that within the NFM section, (measures) there was reference to upstream – it was queried what influence we might have on neighbouring LNRS to include this measure.

Response

It was agreed that the correct terminology should be upstream rather than uploads ensuring all measures can be actioned within LCR.

Comment

With regards to management of ancient / long established woodland - 58% woodland in LCR is not managed, and all woodland would benefit from management including those woodlands that do not fit within the “ancient/long established woodland categories” – this would have significant benefit to Nature, Is it possible to broaden the terminology so all woodland could be included.

Response

Yes – we would welcome some help with wording for this from FC representatives.

Comment -

This is great document and in relation to the point around newly planted trees – could community engagement to help with management of woodland be promoted through wording within the document. The section on the urban environment is great and many community groups will really welcome the inclusion of the wording – as it gives them a basis to engage with the Local Authorities to take these measures forward.

Response

Yes – this will be included within the enabling activity section.

Comment

It will be interesting to see how the LNRS will be reflected by future development plans and the planning process, including the role of mandatory biodiversity net gain (BNG).

Response

Much of what is included within the LNRS is consolidating and enhancing nature which is already there. The LNRS is not a delivery plan – as above, it sets out what we could see on certain areas - and so should not conflict with local planning decisions.

Comment

The raising of water tables/wetter farmer is welcomed but it is not appropriate everywhere and the consideration of food production on farm land should always be taken into account.

Response

Yes agreed that the raising of the water table will work in some places and not others. The document is not prescribing any particular action and we agree that food production is a very important consideration.

Comments from other members of the Board were welcomed – as follows

This is a really good document, well done.

Some of the best I've seen – well done

This is very impressive, thank you for taking into account comments.

This is very relevant to the NHS estate who are currently developing a multi-faceted strategy to nature recovery– will be doing a big exercise right across Cheshire ad Mersey – to maximise the value of green space in nature recovery.

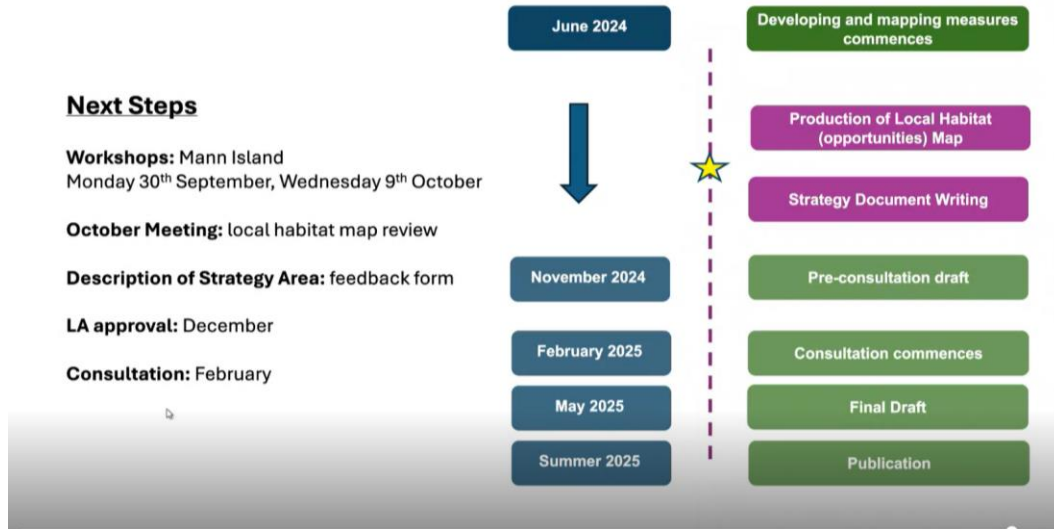
4) Natural England update (national context) – (TS)

Greater Manchester are currently at pre consultation this week (GM were one of the pilot areas so are ahead in the process) they are having a panel meeting – which ever RA will have – normally in the first week of pre consultation. This will include deputy director level managers from NE/FC/EA, to ensure consistencies across the country.

5) Next steps of the commission (RW)

On behalf of EG, RW shared the following slide with the Board – with an explanation as to where we are with the process and the next steps, including information on the upcoming workshops which all members will be invited to.

LCR LNRS



6) AOB (All)

GBT thanked the Board for their valuable input and the LNRS team for all of their excellent work.

3) Date of next meeting - 22/10/2024

| Action Log | Owner (s) |
|---|-----------|
| FC/NE to ensure that appropriate decision support frameworks used to determine tree planting on lowland peat are sent to JD for inclusion within the technical references of the Strategy | JC/TS |
| FC to provide JD with suggested wording to ensure that woodland management as a measure includes all woodland in need of management. | JC |
| Any further comments from Board members on the measures should be forwarded to JD by 28 th Sept | All |

Note: The listed owners are based on the roles and responsibilities mentioned in the provided information. Adjustments may be made based on the participants' preferences or specific assignments during the meeting.

