

LNRS Technical Advisory Panel 8

Meeting Minutes & Actions

Date: Tuesday 10th September 10.00 – 11.00

Venue: Via Teams

Attendees:

Rachel Waggett (Chair)	RW	LCR Combined Authority
Andrew Clark	AC	MEAS
Joanne Doolin	JD	MEAS
Michelle Whalley	MW	Mersey Forest / Nature Connected
Mike Roberts	MR	St Helen's BC
Phil Smith	PS	UOL
Petrina Brown	PB	Environment Agency
Richard Scott	RS	Eden Project
Thomas Smart	TS	Natural England
Hilary Ash	HA	Wirral Wildlife
Natasha Murwill	CB	Marine Management
Noemie Bonnin	NB	LJMU
Tally Anderson	TA	LJMU
Joe Philips	JP	Cheshire Wildlife Trust
Susannah Gill	SG	Mersey Forest
Judy Clavey	JC	Forestry Commission
Emma Galbraith	EG	LCR Combined Authority
Jenny Hodgson	JH	Liverpool University

1) Welcome / Introductions/Actions

RW welcomed the group to the eighth LNRS technical meeting.

2) Matters arising –

On behalf of the Chair of the LNRS Advisory Board, Gideon Ben-Tovim OBE, RW thanked the panel for all of the hard work that had gone into the development of the Strategy so far.

3) Draft Measures - update (AC/JD)

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.

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

Question -

A question was asked about whether there was a risk that actions would be restricted to particular sites – and could this prevent important adhoc work – such as grass verges?

Response

JD responded that the work would not be not restricted to any particular designated sites.

Question

A question was asked about the link between measures and mapping?

Response

AC responded that there were three outputs within the mapping –

Output 1) Layer one – areas of particular importance to biodiversity

Output 2) Layer two – areas that could be of importance to biodiversity

Output 3) A measures layer mapped on both of the above.

The mapping method for these outputs is still in development but will be using extensive data of existing habitats and plans.

Question

will there be an audience element - e.g. suggestions of measures that can be put in place by community / farmer etc?

Response

The strategy will be written in a way that it is meaningful for all audiences and stakeholders so that everyone can feel informed of actions they can take.

TS explained that there will be a section within the strategy on enabling factors such as behaviour change, funding for long term projects, improved biodiversity monitoring, better data. These are all factors which are important to the delivery of the measures but will be in a separate section of the document.

The conversation continued with the point that a lot of the threats to habitats are from recreational disturbances, and measures to help mitigate these risks can't be mapped – e.g. education / behavioural change/ community engagement/education etc. These factors will all be listed within the broader strategy document.

Question

Within which output will local wildlife sites be mapped, there is concern that local wildlife sites are under threat from housing targets. Will buffer zones be stipulated to protect against noise/light/invasive species etc?

Response –

These will be mapped within the areas of particular importance to biodiversity map. This should help provide additional protections to the sites and elevate recognition.

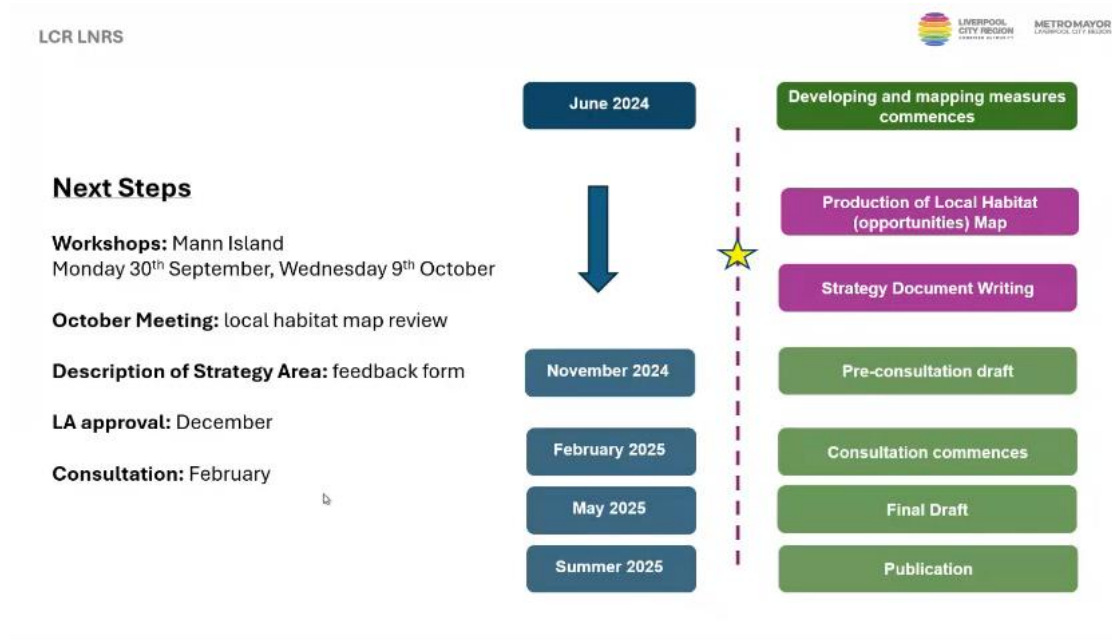
Whilst buffer zones cannot be dictated, there will be reference in the strategy to ensure that the importance is highlighted.

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.
- Species evidence base – draft database produced by NE national team has been given a soft release for use specifically within the LNRS by core teams. – a note that this database is incomplete/ draft format, not QA/peer review – but does include important data that NE wanted to get out for use in LNRS if at all possible It provides useful datasets for use when mapping of measures. The database continues to be in development and will be a very useful tool for future projects.

5) Update on next steps – (EG)

Members should have received invitations to workshops happening on the 30th September and 9th October.



The written part of the strategy is in development and the draft of the description of the strategy area – which includes the intro to lcr/ natural environment / pressures/species is being finalised. This will be shared with the group for comment in the next two weeks with a feedback form.

6) AOB (All) N/A

7) Date of next meeting 15th Oct 11am – 12pm

Action Log	Owner (s)
Discuss the group's continuity after LNRS completion.	TB and all participants
Explore opportunities such as carbon capture meadows, soil charter, waste minimization, and youth representation.	RS
Incorporate co-benefits of nature in the climate action plan.	RW
Group to be updated when items are uploaded to specific websites	MW

Mersey Forest to explore ways of helping to provide updated ancient woodland inventory for Cheshire.	SG
Panel members to return any comments on Description of strategy area within feedback from which will be circulated early October.	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.