

Sussex LNRS Working Group

Meeting Notes

Monday 21 October 2024, 11:00 to 13:00

Present	Apologies
Kate Cole (KC), ESCC	Isabel Swift (IS), Knight Frank
Don Baker (DB), WSCC	Elizabeth Brigden (EB), CBC
Julie Middleton (JM), SxNP	Matthew Woodcock (MW), FC
Craig Steenhoff (CS), WDC	
Peter Taylor (PT), EA	
Coral Brigden (CB), WSCC	
Claire Kerr (CK), SDNPA	
Suzie Robson (SR), CJH Farm Advice/SE FWAG	
Holly Harrison (HH), RDC	
Lyndsey Neale (LN), NE	
Jennifer Hollingum (JH), MSDC	
Sarah Brotherton (SB), HWNL	
Ed Santry (ES), BHCC	
Grace Olsson (GO), NE	
William Maiden (WM), FC	
Anthony Weston (AW), CLM	
Laura Brook (LB), SWT	

Meeting recording available [here](#).

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

KC welcomed everyone to the meeting. KC to Chair.

KC reported that Sandra Rogers and Kim Dawson have left BHCC, and welcomed ES, BHCC Biodiversity Officer, to the meeting. ES reported that Sandra's replacement is Steve Tremlett, and Nicola Hurley will be attending Board meetings for the foreseeable future.

2. Minutes and matters arising

The September meeting was cancelled and a written update was provided in lieu. As such there were no matters arising. All previous actions have either been done or are covered on the agenda.

3. General Update



LNRS WG Update 21
Oct 2024.pdf

- a) Defra/NE Update:
 - a. No significant updates since the last meeting. Defra have been running regular Q&A webinars, focusing on measures, which provide an opportunity to air views and seek answers.
 - b. Re planning guidance, the Env't Act created a requirement for the plan-making process to "have regard to" LNRSs. Guidance on what this means to be published by 01/01/25. LURA created requirements for plans to "take account of" LNRSs. The relevant sections of LURA have not yet been commenced and form part of wider reforms to the planning system so not yet in force. Government has stated that they do intend to proceed with reforms that would enable the requirements, but the timelines are uncertain.
 - c. A question around how LNRSs will be implemented and the role of the RA in delivery was asked of the Gov't by LNPs nationally. In a ministerial letter, Mary Creagh MP Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Nature has confirmed that delivery will be through join-up with other funding sources, and that Gov't are developing options for coordination of implementation in advance of the next spending review and exploring options for private finance to deliver priorities.
- b) Project Plan:
 - a. The Project Plan was recently reviewed in the light of outstanding tasks and the impact of the pre-election period. We are still aiming to deliver the pre-consultation draft early in the new year, but this is likely to slip to the end of January. Caveats remain.
 - b. The key issue is County Elections on 01/05/25. DB and KC met with the Democratic Services members from both RAs re the pre-election period. Noted that public facing activities will be strictly applied; this will have a substantial impact on timing for final publication. Constraints that we must work within: strict pre-election controls from mid-March; likely to be an informal pre-election period from Jan. Impacts: will likely be refused entry into public consultation between Jan and May and definitely refused between March and May.
 - c. Current timing: progress at present leads to RAs seeking SA approval between Jan end and Feb end 2025. Puts public facing component in middle of pre-election period. Any significant change as result of elections will cause further delays.
 - d. Worst case scenario, should publication be pushed to autumn, potential for further Gov't guidance affecting LNRS possibly requiring further consultation with SAs.
 - e. Approval process of pre-consultation draft with SAs and WG unlikely to be affected.
- c) Engagement:
 - a. High level summary only – more detailed update to follow later in agenda on Technical Review Panel and Workshop.
 - b. Other events include cluster meetings plus a meeting with three large estates (Barlavington in West, Glynde and Firle in East). Norfolk were scheduled to attend but had to pull out at last minute.
 - c. All well received. Lots of questions but nothing new. Clusters generally happy to be mapped at high level with measures aligning with their objectives. Large estates, potentially slightly more reserved about mapping, as already doing all they can do, but keen to stay engaged.
- d) Species:
 - a. Long lists produced for both LNRS areas. Shared with County Recorders and SxBRC are collating and analysing responses to produce a shorter list, although some species have been added.
 - b. Next stage:
 - i. Finalise short list.

- ii. Establish which species can be 'grouped' and/or are adequately catered for by habitat priorities;
 - iii. ID those species which need specific priorities and/or measures (may require mapping/hot spotting);
 - iv. Sense check with County Recorders and CBR via workshop.
- e) Summary next steps and timings:
- a. Engagement of key groups ongoing but winding down.
 - b. Over the next 2-4 weeks:
 - i. Shortlisted priorities and shortlisting rationale to be added to website;
 - ii. Final promotion of voluntary 'Map your actions for nature' tool and surveys before close;
 - iii. Description and opportunities piece – once reviewed in light of recommendations from TRP, a non-technical summary will be produced;
 - iv. Measures collation, evaluation, drafting and categorisation.
 - c. Before Christmas:
 - i. Mapping;
 - ii. Finalise species lists, priorities and measures.

Discussion:

CK reported that draft Hampshire LNRS has gone to SAs for 28 day consultation. May be some learning as there have been some technical issues with maps and GIS layers.

Action: DB and KC to talk to Hampshire to see what can be learnt.

4. Update on Stakeholder Engagement



LNRS WG
Engagement 21 Oct 2

Reminder of where we are in the process: working on IDing measures and thinking about mapping.

Three key questions around measures: what key actions can deliver priorities in next 5-8 years; where and what action is happening on the ground.

Measures: reviewed measures from four RAs + SDNP, HWNL, CHC and BOAs. Thinking about how we can connect these actions or measures with funding opportunities. Delivery Partners workshop in September where we asked some of these key questions. Finalising outputs from workshop and will share once complete. Thinking about core audience for LNRS because will determine how we write measures.

Deliverability: talking to landowners and managers, including large estates, and have meetings with golf clubs coming up. Continuing to collect data via mapping tool and surveys. 94 responses to date from Community Action groups and more than 50 pins on map.

Next steps: to collate and review and think about mapping. In terms of mapping approach, talking to neighbouring RAs, pulling together expert group to devise methodology and sourcing GIS capabilities.

Website: publishing priority shortlist and outcomes, plus rationale and principles document.

Surveys and competition: Public survey closed, landowner and community group surveys still live. Youth competition closed and winners notified.

Some work to be done around managing expectations, e.g. if the data is or isn't used.

Upcoming: Catchment partnership workshop coming up, to gather extensive work already done in water environment. Health and wellbeing workshop to capture nature recovery in urban environment. Will go back to delivery partners in January to share mapping

Moving forwards: how and when we prepare for public consultation will be impacted by pre-election period. Minimal activity outside specific groups from now onwards. Elected members briefing in December to manage expectations.

Technical Review Panel: group of local experts reviewed description and opportunities piece + priorities, to make sure we have the evidence base correct.

Discussion:

CK asked whether SDNPA could attend the water workshop. Agreed.

Action: SDNPA to be invited to Catchment Partnership workshop.

HH asked if the Elected Member briefing was for District and Borough Councils as well as County. This was confirmed and the date was confirmed as 03/12/24.

PT asked about the Catchment Partnerships meeting and the specific mapping of measures. The intention is to catch up with Catchment Partnerships as they could not attend the measures workshop and in recognition of the complexity of work in this space, and the need to capture more detail.

Last week there was a workshop session run by SE Water and Southern Water, with LDC, WDC and SDNPA present. Conclusion was to support a catchment based approach. It was noted that water companies already have their strategies for the next 5 years planner. LNRS needs to ID where the water sector as a whole is identifying the best places to use nature-based solutions as part of their overall big strategies. Drainage and waste water management plans are done along a catchment basis as well.

Offline conversation required to discuss the SDNPA partnership management plan review and how it fits with the LNRS.

5. Priorities, Outcomes and Measures

Priorities and Outcomes:

Shortlisted priorities and outcomes have been pulled together into one [document](#). Provides introduction to how we developed long list and how they were shortlisted. [Companion document on shortlisting](#). Still have species and nature-based solutions priorities to add. Priorities split into broad habitat types. Outcomes are around what success looks like in the next 10 years. Would welcome feedback on the documents.

Action: All to feedback on Priorities and Outcomes document.

Measures:

What are the actions needed to deliver each priority and the outcomes? Drawn from delivery partners workshop, review of plans and strategies, review of other RA measures etc, NE workshop etc. Adding in funding options where known. Also thinking about whether these measures could be mapped – will not be possible for all. Rather than having very tightly written measures, we are going to signpost to existing best practice guidance. Aiming to complete first draft by end of the week and circulate for review.

Action: KC/DB to circulate draft measures by end of the week and All to review.

Discussion:

Some measures are not location specific, but are enabling or signposting. Are you intending to put in locations where possible. Confirmed that if we know of something beneficial happening or likely to happen, then we will seek to capture in the ACIB. The process is to start with a long list of measures, then categorise, and evaluate mapability.

EIP 30x30. Can we say how close we can get to the 30x30 target? Sussex likely already there prior to LNRS process starting.

Perhaps it is clear in the document but it seems that the priorities have different hierarchies / granularity, e.g. woodland has several types/levels. Can the levels/groupings follow UKHab? The description document that sites behind this is grounded in UKHab but the link is not made clear. Noted that care must be taken when using UKHab as this is a licensed product.

Principles:

Question as to how all this fits together. Train of thought: what do we have, what are the pressures, how do we respond – that is where the [principles](#) come in. Seve on them. Sets out principles of how we need to respond to nature crisis. In core areas, we need to hold on to what we have and make it better. Want to create bigger, better, more joined wildlife spaces. What to support ecosystems, natural processes, and showcase and support action for nature across our farmed landscapes. Support out vulnerable and threatened species. Invest in and use nature to deliver wider benefits. Structured document to set out each principle and to articulate the challenge. Aware that many pressures and threats cannot be dealt with solely by an LNRS – need other mechanisms and processes.

6. Next steps

Next steps:

- Newsletter will be emailed today.
- Priorities, outcomes and principles documents to be published on website today.
- Invitation to Elected Members briefing imminent.

Actions:

- 1) **DB and KC to talk to Hampshire to see what can be learnt.**
- 2) **All to feedback on Priorities and Outcomes document.**
- 3) **KC/DB to circulate draft measures by end of the week and All to review. Asked for 2 week turnaround.**

7. AOB

None

DONM 18th November 2024, 11:00-13:00.