**Sussex LNRS Working Group**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Monday 21 July 2025, 11:00 to 13:00**

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| **Present** | **Apologies** |
| ESCC, WSCC, BHCC, HDC, W2W, SWT, HWNL, MSDC, CBC, WayForward, RDC, CLA, SDNPA, SE FWAG, CLM, NE, Knight Frank, WDC, CHC, FC | SxNP, NFU, Knepp Wildland Foundation, EA |

1. **Welcome, Introductions and Apologies**

ESCC to Chair. New Knight Frank rep was welcomed to the group and introductions were made. Apologies were noted.

1. **Minutes and matters arising**

There were no specific actions from the previous meeting. No issues or matters arising.

1. **General Update**:

Nationally: Minister has written to both RAs, offering a conditional £135.5K for transition to delivery, dependent on publication of LNRS by December 2025 or soon thereafter. Letter also covered expected roles and responsibilities for delivery. Meeting with Defra 09/07/25. Very positive. Fully understand and appreciate timeline. The main reason we can't publish by December is due to the governance process we have to follow. Likely that we will get funding but will be meeting Defra again in the autumn to review progress and timelines. Feedback that the two Sussex strategies are looking very good and shaping up to be standouts nationally. Benchmarking against national progress, still the case that only 4 LNRSs have been published. We are in line with the majority of other LNRSs nationally in preparing for consultation.

Measures and mapping: Update on agenda.

Written LNRS and editorial matters: Update on agenda.

Timeline: Broadly unchanged since last meeting. Currently drafting document, working on mapping and starting graphic design. Aim to start 28 day SAG consultation on 18/08/25, NE Panel 02/09/25, target date for public consultation 15/10/25 to end of November. Therefore looking at publication around March 2026.

Next steps:

1. Finalising main document drafts, to be shared as soon as possible.
2. Mapping – reviewing all mapped measures this week, considering overlaps, coverage of ACIB etc.
3. **Mapping Update**

Since the last meeting, have had two further mapping meetings with the workshop groups: rivers and wetlands 19/06/25 and urban and corridors 14/07/25. Meeting notes and recordings circulated with meeting papers.

There have been some minor changes to measures - v7 circulated with meeting papers: Protected sites, corridors and more wildlife-rich habitat now in Nature Networks priority. To allow us to pick up buffers to protected sites, corridors and things like habitat banks etc. An opportunity to cover Lawton principles.

Rivers and wetlands:

Agreed to map as package of measures, and measures have been tweaked to reflect this. Using floodzone 3. Basically around the fact that the restoration of our rivers and river systems is probably the biggest things we can and should be doing for nature recovery. Also, many of the measures are co-dependent and complex. Difficult to target to particular areas. Road run-off too complex and will be unmapped. All chalk streams to be mapped given their importance.

Urban:

Mapping new greenspaces where LPAs have given us spatial data. Renaturalising urban streams - would like to map but working on methodology. Golf courses being mapped. Discussed disparity between LPA data. Agreed to map to OS layer and to use local data to add in key omissions. Agreed the categories that would be mapped and which should be omitted, e.g. school grounds not being mapped but provide links to publicly available information and poss fact sheet for schools. Acknowledged that some of those categories omitted could have potential, e.g. playing fields around the boundaries, but not possible to target without ground-truthing. Not mapping urban woodland.

Corridors:

Cor 2.2 create new wildlife corridors. Mapping those encapsulated by local plans etc where possible. W2W broad corridor is too big and not focused enough to be mapped in its entirety. Looking at ways of using it for targeting. Transport corridors - chasing data. Strategic crossings. Is a spreadsheet of possibilities but do not know which could happen. Mapping designated wildlife verges. Mapping off-road sections of Avenue Vert.

Next steps:

On Wednesday 23/07/25, LNRS team will be reviewing all the mapped measures together to look at overall coverage, overlap etc

1. **Draft LNRS Structure/Outline**

Provided overview of key deadlines we need to hit for document production to meet timeline. Currently in writing and editing stage + mapping. Following SAG, will take on board any changes and get LNRS properly designed for public consultation, and create interactive version of local habitat map.

Preparing for consultation - using WSCC consultation portal for both strategies. Preparing engagement assets and consultation questionnaire. Will be reviewing the draft LNRS with some of our key farmers in August to help us prepare messaging.

During consultation, series of webinars aimed at different groups, plus briefings for land advisors and land agents. Social media and PR support being developed and will be updating the communications toolkit for partners to use to help spread the message. For those without digital access, library briefings + hard copies at the three upper tiers.

Structure of document:

* Part 1: essentially provides context.
* Part 2: covers what is needed, where and how. Includes principles, priorities and measures.
* Part 3: species priorities and measures.
* Part 4: Technical document - how we did it.

1. **Next steps**

As summarised in update slides.

1. **AOB**

None.

1. **DONM**

18/08/25, 11:00-13:00. TBC given holidays.