



## Meeting notes

<b>Meeting Title:</b>	<b>Local Nature Partnership Board Meeting</b>
<b>Date:</b>	29 June 2023
<b>Time:</b>	09:30 – 12.30
<b>Location:</b>	Hybrid: National Trust Regional Office, Lanhydrock
<b>Present:</b>	In person: Robin Teverson (RT) Chair, Cllr Martyn Alvey (MA), Vicky Fraser (VF), Matt Walpole (MW), Clare Parnell (CP), Nick Lawrence (NL), Martin Howlett (MHow), Sian Rees (SR), Mark Rice (MR), Mark Holmes (MH)  Online: Rebecca Williams (RW), Phil Mason (PMaso), for the LNRS item - Jenny Christie (JC), Emma Browning (EB)
<b>In attendance:</b>	Philippa Hoskin (PH), Dougie Handford (DH), Bethany Roberts (BR) – note taker
<b>Guests:</b>	Laurence Couldrick - CEO, Westcountry Rivers Trust, Sarah O'Brien - External Affairs Consultant, Stuart Corbett – Environment Agency

<b>1</b>	<b>Apologies, items of AOB, Minutes, Matters Arising &amp; Actions and Chair's report</b>
<b>1.1</b>	<b>Welcome, thank you, apologies &amp; items for AOB</b> Apologies: Julian Branscombe, Ilya Maclean AOB: none
<b>1.2</b>	<b>Minutes of previous Board Meeting</b> Minutes approved.
<b>1.3</b>	<b>Matters Arising and Actions</b> Matters arising – all completed.
<b>1.4</b>	<b>Chair's report</b> (full report circulated with the board papers) Taken as read – RT highlighted the following:  <b>LNP Conference 2023</b> – RT thanked everyone; it was a huge success. There is a need to review the format for next year, learning from the last two years.  <b>Nature South West</b> – RT is involved in early conversations around this  <b>Local Investment in Natural Capital (LINC)</b> – PH updated the group. It is at the discovery stage and there is flexibility to adjust the proposal. It will come to Board when there is better understanding of the design, direction and details.
<b>1.5</b>	<b>Executive Report</b> (full report circulated with the board papers) Taken as read – VF highlighted the following:  <b>Cornwall Plan Review</b> – attended a recent workshop. Aim is to make sure our targets are meaningful and measurable, refining the number of objectives contained in the plan. Proposed plan will be reviewed at Leadership Board on 8 <sup>th</sup> September.

	<p><b>NFU meeting</b> - measurable and achievable was at the forefront of mind during this meeting. The farming community is central to Local Nature Recovery Strategy work. Can't be another burden.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Dougie and Beth to share survey results from Royal Cornwall Show.</p> <p><b>LNP Work Programme</b> – working with MW on LNP Board priorities for the next year. It should be a shop front for the LNP each year, useful to showcase our work to wider stakeholders.</p> <p><b>Enforcement Steering Group</b> – a concern was raised by MW however PH re-assured him that there is a refined project plan for the piece of work.</p> <p>Issues around the SSSI designation at West Penwith were raised - the LNP board supported this designation with the caveat that the farming community were on board.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> CP/MH to put together an informal paper laying out some lessons learned from the SSSI designation to inform farming community engagement for the Local Nature Recovery Strategy - CP/MH. MW offered help.</p>
2	<p><b>Local Nature Recovery Strategy Steering Group Item</b></p> <p>RT Welcomed Jenny Christie, the Local Nature Recovery Strategy Natural England Senior Advisor and Emma Browning, Manager of the Cornwall AONB.</p> <p>PH - reminder that there was agreement at the last board that the partnership would act as the Local Nature Recovery Steering Group and the design principles presented were agreed by the board.</p> <p>PH gave a presentation and outlined the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cornwall Council has been formally asked by Defra to be the responsible authority and new burdens funding agreed. CC will produce the LNRS but not deliver it. Neighbourhoods and Overview Scrutiny Committee will act as internal steer, they welcomed role of LNP and approved of design principles. IoS – Council of the Isles of Scilly and IoS Wildlife Trust are leading the work there, gained approved that the IoS AONB will be the local steering group.</li> <li>• Engagement Strategy – looking for advice and help to integrate all feedback. Will be producing more detailed strategy in coming weeks. Already have huge existing and engaged network of stakeholders and LNP sub groups. There aren't existing links to all groups so will be identifying and working with key intermediaries to reach groups such as young people and health professionals.</li> <li>• Stakeholder engagement - there is a step by step process to get list of priorities for delivery. Essential to get rigorous set of priorities that are deliverable.</li> <li>• Stakeholder mapping exercise will be carried out on plan. Feedback welcomed on this.</li> </ul> <p>Asks of LNP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engagement – confirmation that partners are willing and able to identify opportunities to run LNRS engagement session and share contact details of those who can help amplify LNRS engagement. Contribute to Phase 1 engagement and share with networks. Provide expert advice and support during phase 2 priority refinement.</li> <li>• Mapping – provide spatial datasets for inclusion in opportunity mapping.</li> </ul> <p>Members had the following comments:</p> <p>Stakeholder engagement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure stakeholders who have previously been involved have their contributions recognised</li> <li>• Businesses, particularly through green financing and investment critical in achieving this – engage early</li> <li>• More time is needed to engage past July/August</li> </ul>

- Recommendations that the team consider:
  - Treveth
  - Environment Agency - opportunities around delivery of flood defence schemes that incorporate nature based solutions
  - Public Health, via a contact who is supporting with FIPL
  - Developers, schools, NHS, recreation and tourism
  - Marine – contact will be made with Cornwall Fish Producer Organisation
  - Those who have the people/expertise/time to put LNRS into practice

Mapping:

- Mapping would be hosted by Cornwall Council
- Need to understand the baselines and the targets, eg what is High Nature Value?
- Lots of data that can be provided by the National Trust
- Would be helpful to see a definition of what “well-managed” means for nature

**RECOMMENDATION:** RT asked if Board are happy to accept paper as it is - agreed.

**ACTIONS:**

1. RT reminded VF that he wants a paper on how this will be deliverable through the LNRS process - VF
2. CP would like to see a definition of ‘well managed’ for nature - PH
3. NL would like a 1:1 regarding this – PH

**3 National Trust update**

SO outlined the National Trust national ambitions around nature: To create 25,000 hectares of new wildlife habitats by 2025; plant and establish 20 million trees by 2030; be carbon net-zero by 2030; and increase the ability of sites to adapt to climate change, create green corridors for people and nature near towns and cities.

They are working on urban green space and urban habitat banks, increasing access to outdoors, diversity of visitors and staff, and engagement with children and young people. Major national campaigns are People’s plan for nature, Save our Wild Isles, Scale of Need research, and Blossom campaign. Their work on restoring natural habitats includes the Cornwall Coastal Corridor and Cornish coastal meadows. Two projects highlighting partnership working - Tin Coast, a good example of a sustainable tourism project, and the Tamar intertidal habitat creation.

Comments from members:

- Around water scarcity, is there an opportunity to inform NT members – through National Trust properties and holiday cottages
- Good to reaching out to those who think the outdoors is not for them. Focus on how people get to places, promoting public transport.
- Launch of the Tamar Coast to Coast path is an opportunity to get people into the countryside and away from specific sites. NT parkland provides an opportunity for people to enjoy the countryside, away from those popular sites. NT are keen to promote/focus more on “hubs” with facilities and physical joining up so people can walk between locations.
- Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group project matched volunteer bird watchers with farms to carry out surveys.
- National Trust’s tenant farmers - how to engage that sector? Individual relationships are important, NT is striving for more consistent communication and engagement - one single message.
- Important input from NT tenants for the Council Farms Strategy. Lizard tenants have been positive.

#### 4 Water Regulation and Resources

RT welcomed Stuart Corbett, Environment Agency, and Laurence Couldrick, CEO Westcountry Rivers Trust.

##### Water pollution and regulation across Cornwall

Mark Rice gave a presentation on water pollution and regulation which is the focus of much media and political scrutiny. The main points were:

- Funding for Environment Agency Grant in Aid has declined and some diverted into other frontline operational activities. Cross-funding occurs for regulating and monitoring.
- Transforming Water Industry Regulation project being announced to get expertise into area teams.
- Policy – government latest plan for water is ambitious, tackling all forms of pollution.
- Place based organisation, in charge of permit and licence regimes, inspection, compliance and enforcement activity. The EA lead on the development of water industry national environment programme and water resources planning.
- Govts Plan for Water - not one English waterway currently in good ecological and chemical health. Only 16% of England's waters met criteria for good river health. Cornwall status is better than other areas. EA has put back target on ecological statement to tackle long-term issues (forever chemicals).
- Three main regimes that pollute: minewaters, agriculture, water companies.

##### Nature Based Solutions to deliver water resource management

Laurence Couldrick (LC), CEO of the West Country Rivers Trust is pleased to have strong regulatory body behind them (EA).

- Climate change pressures across water sector and challenges across catchments, from a range of pressures and causes. Issues lead to greater costs for farmers.
- Flood, drought, aquatic biodiversity, water quality are the four main groups working in catchments and are currently working in silos. Nature based solutions can support and interact to lots of these areas.
- WCRT have looked at integration of these silo areas through the Integrated Catchment Management (ICM) - Upstream Thinking, Nutrient Neutrality, working with Cornwall Council and South West Water on Phosphate Credits in River Camel, Water for Growth (Fowey and Camel to support fisheries migration).
- A new project, "Water Net Gain", is trying to capture the rainfall and stop it from entering seas through soil management, flow barriers, interceptors, and wetlands. Trying these stores with high water consumers such as dairy sector.
- Lagas – they have a business planning tool with SWW around grant funding. **ACTION:** Speak to CC/Ilya about LNRS mapping integration and Lagas integration.
- Citizen science – huge growth, 500 volunteers taking samples. **ACTION:** talk to NL about collaboration on citizen science projects.

Board comments:

- What impact is water quantity and extraction having on riverine communities? SWW last year used temporary use bans, drought licenses and permanent use licences. Water usage has skyrocketed and likely to see scarcity, pollution concentration and oxygenation issues. Good drought planning is essential.
- Ponds and water net gain. Links in well with LNRS, and work to look at "ghost ponds". WCRT project will align to LNRS.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan for Water is good overarching plan and funding formulas and procurement need to catch up with ICM based approach.</li> <li>• Septic tanks - pollution and water quality? EA has taken enforcement action against septic tank emptying companies. Direct discharges from septic tanks, a project aims to engineer out or provide secondary treatment option. There's a great need for data; can use citizen science, also applied for funding for a Smart Regulation system to better inform regulators of issues and where they're coming from.</li> <li>• Farming industry welcoming measures and moves for ways that they can do things to tackle pollution. Abstraction and water storage is so important on farms. Working together with systems, via Water Environment Investment Framework in Tamar is a great example of this working really well. When considering regulation, important to remember the economic impacts not only environmental impacts.</li> <li>• Critical minerals - can we get a double benefit by cleaning up and also utilising the minerals that are extracted during cleaning. Challenge of upskilling the organisation locally and nationally in order to fully realise this potential opportunity.</li> </ul>
5	<p><b>Roundtable</b> Board members gave updates.</p>
6	<p><b>AOB</b> None</p>