



Meeting notes

Meeting Title:	Local Nature Partnership Board Meeting
Date:	7 May 2024
Time:	09:00 – 11:30
Location:	The Barn, Trelissick, National Trust and online via Teams
Present:	Robin Teverson (RT) - Chair for part, Matt Walpole (MW) – Deputy Chair (Chair for part), Vicky Fraser (VF) – CEO, Martin Howlett (MHow), Sian Rees (SR), Clare Parnell (CP), Rebecca Williams (RW) for Russell Ashman, Julian Branscombe (JB), Cllr Harry Legg (HL), Ilya Maclean (IM), Nick Lawrence (NL), David Marshall (DM)
In attendance:	Mark Holmes (MH), Philippa Hoskin (PH), Dougie Handford (DH), Bethany Roberts (BR), Lorna Gaunt (LG) – note taker,
Guests:	Item 4 - Emma Browning (Cornwall National Landscapes Manager) (EB) and Jenny Christie – LNRS Advisor, Natural England (JC)

1	Apologies, items of AOB, Minutes, Matters Arising & Actions and Chair’s report
1.1	Apologies & items for AOB Cllr Martyn Alvey, Phil Mason, Mark Rice
1.2	Minutes of previous Board Meeting Minutes approved
1.3	Matters Arising and Actions All actions complete or in progress.
1.4	Chair’s report (full report circulated with the board papers) Taken as read. RT had a meeting on Pledge for Nature and would like more pledges from home owners and private dwellings. RT was invited to RAF St Mawgan to see the progress being made on their most enthusiastic pledge.
2	Executive Report Taken as read. The highlights were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been a lot of publicity over Cornwall Council selling environmental assets which will provide potential for nature recovery • The review of the Local Plan is underway and the LNP and its subgroups will have plenty of opportunities to help shape this important framework

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LNP Executive Team will visit Dorset LNP to learn about their health, wellbeing and nature work • The Nature Recovery team have reviewed the approach to LNP comms and systems to improve the reach and quality of LNP communication channels - on the agenda for later today • Seaweed Aquaculture – the Nature Recovery team held a workshop on the back of the LNP request for expert guidance, the outcomes inform a letter that will be sent to the Marine Management Organisation and Crown Estate • Local Investment in Nature – Cornwall’s natural capital exchange, was launched on the 30 April at the Chamber of Commerce Planet C Conference. <p>Questions from members: NL – regarding agricultural land values and the Council motion around the loss of farmland to solar farms. There needs to be a balance of land use – has the Council considered dual use? MH had put forward a case that was fed in. MH said the upgrade of the grid was essential and needed to be considered alongside nature.</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>Isles of Scilly update</p> <p>RW gave an IoS update. The Climate Adaptation plan is nearly complete. Around reducing flood risk exposure, there is a dedicated Landscape Officer and a partnership meeting has been had about the area management plan. With regards to the LNRS, a framework has been developed and the priority species and habitats long list is being created. MH had put a request in to government about FiPL projects so that they can go through to full transition; the national chair has sent it forward.</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) Steering Group Item (paper circulated in advance of meeting and taken as read)</p>
	<p>Progress update was given by PH:</p> <p>A voluntary marine extension is being integrated into the LNRS. There will be no funding for this and so the mapping will be carried out through a different approach. Currently the team are awaiting to hear from Defra about potential concerns for the voluntary extension. Marine and coastal areas were a top priority according to public responses, the Steering Group and Cornwall Council. It may need to be a separate document.</p> <p>Work continues with IoS colleagues and a separate workshop is being organised to integrate IoS specific information with Lisa Rundle (LR) providing farmer specific engagement. LR and BR have produced a leaflet. On mapping, good progress is being made. A mapping methods webinar is available online.</p> <p>BR introduced priorities long list session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actions and measures will be in the LNRS and will aid funding; it is a statutory and key requirement of the LNRS.

- There will be a refinement workshop to get a smaller list and then an actions and measures workshop.
- BR explained the scores and the calculation process using desk-based scoring from categories and habitats - habitat categorisation; ecosystem services; national targets; and local targets. Public survey and strategic survey mentions were also processed and ranked. Ranks were combined and divided by 2, producing emerging LNRS priorities.
- Different areas are doing things different. Aiming to do this thoroughly with a mix of opinion and evidence.

Questions from the Steering Group:

JC – how will species fit in? BR – desk-based scoring was only possible for habitats as there were less of them. The University of Exeter have done wider consultation with species experts for both Cornwall and Isles of Scilly and will be addressed after that happens.

RT – do the national targets get in the way of what we want to do? Are they relevant? IM - they are broadly sensible with a little flexibility. DH – looked at lists of different objectives nationally (water quality, flood defence - did have woodland, peatland) nothing worrying in the national targets that DH could see. Any that were not included could be taken back.

Deliverability – is deliverability considered in the prioritisation process? IM – there is an opportunity to go towards where things can be more deliverable.

Have key indicators such as climate sensitivity of species been considered? Some couldn't be included at this point. PH – there were other tools available to ensure areas such as this were covered.

How likely is it that it will look similar to the pilot? There was broad agreement with pilot outcomes; when mapping outputs are determined the landscape will change.

SR – are the public survey and strategic survey considered to be equal? PH - the multiplier can be changed. **ACTION:** to review multiplier.

Local priorities for Cornwall

After looking at emerging LNRS priorities, public survey, strategic survey and desk based scoring all four categories show woodland (general), hedgerows, nature friendly farming, rivers, ponds and pools, peatland has 100% alignment. Could we group woodland – what would it look like?

NL – around definition (pasture, grassland, woodland, etc) responders might not determine the definition in the same way. PH - when there is general consensus thought

will need to be given to terminology. NL – the definition of hedgerows is particularly important for future funding streams. CP agrees with Nick.

CP - mapping and deliverability – what are we taking into account around key areas and priorities, how they coalesce. How do we decide on sites and prioritising – looking at agricultural land for example. When looking at a site, might it link in with health and welfare, need to look at additional attributes of the site. PH – IM is looking at nature opportunity mapping but not other benefits so opportunities for co-location has to come through other strategies. JC – there should be consideration of access, etc.

MHow – although looking at land use, countryside stewarding, SFI and other ongoing programmes is important, it is BNG that is coming up with economic benefit and should be considered now, as it will be delivered through these schemes.

SR – suggests weighting by ecosystem and not co-location, focussing on one area at scale – could be focussed on 'place'.

WORKSHOP

The Steering Group were asked to come up with priorities long list and report back:

IM - heathland (within existing nature network), nature friendly farming meadows (most scope for improvement). In moors and wetlands (seasonally flooded areas) as high priority. Conspicuously missing – maritime and coastal grassland. Was off bottom of 21.

HL – maritime grassland and wet meadows. Intertidal and hedgerows and heathland. Marine perhaps forgotten, tide swept channels and reefs and sandbanks (exposed and almost exposed). Not in 21 - checking it has been captured?

CP – rivers top priority, integral part, riparian, hedgerows, nature friendly farming as ability to make biggest difference. Woodlands, soils, heathland, orchards. Maritime. Maybe doing some pushback.

JB – are tidal habitats in statutory duty? Ponds and pools (not that different) wetlands as a whole. Pools are a small part of bigger habitat. Soils crucial but not suitable as a habitat category. Meadows and pastures being separated out not sensible. List teased into meaningful habitats from conservation point of view but do they pull together other micro habitats in coastal strip between farmland and sea?

DM – woodland should encompass all tree planting and maintenance, right tree and right place, and sometimes no trees. Deliverable nature friendly farming very influential and fundable. Marine – as much as marine nature recovery supported, Defra guidance coming out could cause a diversion so it should be done separately. PH – any marine priorities will not be instead of, it will be in addition to.

	<p>MH and DM nature friendly farming is 1st priority. Have grouped them into 10. Soils very important and beneficial to climate, what we can grow, slow the flow. How it can be put together, interrelationship between Cornwall and Devon side. Working closely with Devon. IM is also consulting with Devon and working closely on mapping. Will look at border and matching themes.</p> <p>MHow - woodland - not just different types, plantations and timber production. Biomass to be part of our renewable solution.</p> <p>SR - Nature friendly farming – it is an activity and a means to achieve all priorities. Top of list.</p> <p>NL – estuaries.</p> <p>JC - urban environment and mining.</p> <p>There will be a dedicated session on this - PH imagines a prioritisation workshop at the end of June and then have another session with experts and refine at that point. Steering Group members will be invited.</p>
5	<p>Communications Proposal and Royal Cornwall Show</p> <p>Communications Proposal</p> <p>Alicia Shephard is the Outreach Officer in the team and brought a communications proposal to the Executive Meeting. There are a number of recommendations for the board and in particular a request to amplify messaging through member’s own social media accounts.</p> <p>Royal Cornwall Show</p> <p>The team are in full swing organising a stand at the RCS and MH and CP have been helping to shape this.</p> <p>It’s a massive catchment and not every single farmer will attend. We will be on fringe of business area. We are engaging with various partners such as farm Net Zero, farm business advisors.</p> <p>CP – invite organisations like farming wildlife advisory group, farm carbon toolkit, farm Cornwall, business information point (solutions for farmers to move forward). Don’t just attract farmers already on the regenerative farming route. Strapline – something that will attract all farmers, ie nature in your food protection. Route to food security.</p> <p>CP – signpost from other known areas. CLA and NFU and social media promoting. LNP newsletter, etc. Environment page for Cornishman.</p>

	SR - funding from research for CRISPS. SR to pass on details.
6	Roundtable (verbal updates) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LEP ended 31 March. • SPF being run by Cornwall Great Cornish food store (small grant scheme). • Still appointing replacement IoS IFCA role. • Potential FiPL extension to 2027. • Andrea Ayres keen to engage. • CSA – open for applications – new trees for growth section.
7	AOB None