



**Meeting notes**

<b>Meeting Title:</b>	<b>Local Nature Partnership Board Meeting</b>
<b>Date:</b>	16 October 2024
<b>Time:</b>	09:30 – 12:00
<b>Location:</b>	Hybrid: Isles of Scilly Council Chamber and MS Teams
<b>Present:</b>	IoS Council Chamber: Julian Branscombe (JB), Cllr Harry Legg (HL), Ilya Maclean (IM), Rebecca Williams (RW), Russell Ashman (RA) (left during LNRS update)  MS Teams: Robin Teverson (RT) - Chair, Matt Walpole (MW) – Deputy Chair (Chair for LNRS Steering Group), Vicky Fraser (VF) CEO, Cllr Martyn Alvey (MA), Rebecca Lovell (RL), Sian Rees (SR), Clare Parnell (CP), Martin Howlett (MHow), Nick Lawrence (NL), Dougie Handford (DH), Lorna Gaunt
<b>In attendance:</b>	IoS Council Chamber: Philippa Hoskin (PH), Bethany Roberts (BR)  MS Teams: Mark Holmes (MHol), Dougie Handford (DH), Tamsin Daniel (TD), Lorna Gaunt – note taker
<b>Guests:</b>	Abigail Crosby (AC) – IoS Council Chamber  For the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Nature Strategy Steering Group item: Emma Browning (EB) and Jenny Christie – MS Teams

<b>1</b>	<b>Apologies, items of AOB, Minutes, Matters Arising &amp; Actions and Chair’s report</b>
<b>1.1</b>	<b>Apologies, welcome &amp; items for AOB</b> Mark Rice, Phil Mason, Andrea Ayres, RT welcomed Tamsin Daniel, Protected and Historic Landscapes Manager at Cornwall Council, who will be joining meetings as a support officer for ongoing engagement with Tamar Valley and Cornwall National Landscapes. TD also oversees World Heritage sites and sits on the Bord Ertach Kernow.  SR is approaching the end of the three year board membership (January 2025). RT and SR have discussed whether the membership should be extended for a further three years. SR agreed and there were no objections from the board.
<b>1.2</b>	<b>Minutes of previous Board Meeting</b> Minutes of the previous board meeting were approved.
<b>1.3</b>	<b>Matters Arising and Actions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RT will continue to try and engage with RNAS Culdrose to explore opportunities for nature recovery.</li> </ul>
<b>1.4</b>	<b>Chair’s report</b> (full report circulated with the board papers) Taken as read with the highlights being:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MW and RT wrote to Natural England on behalf of the LNRS Steering Group around getting the strategy out to public consultation in a timely manner.</li> <li>• RT is grateful to MHow who hosted a useful meeting with the NFU's new Cornwall County Advisor Ben Gallant.</li> <li>• A meeting with Nature South West covered a potential vehicle around natural capital investment, similar to LINC; RT to keep the board updated.</li> </ul>
<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>Executive Report</b></p> <p>Taken as read with the highlights being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VF thanked the Nature Recovery (NR) team for helping to produce the Executive report.</li> <li>• Lots of anticipation for the Autumn Statement especially around the Environmental Improvement Plan. Report correction - the LNRS verbal update to the CloS Leadership Board Executive meeting will now take place after the Autumn Statement.</li> <li>• The Council's Nature Recovery Delivery Plan - discussions are being had with the CC's Group of Companies about Biodiversity Net Gain and what they might require.</li> <li>• CC and NT are discussing opportunities for closer partnership working, with an initial focus on access to nature and nature recovery within the Tehidy/Camborne/Godrevy area <a href="#">Nature Towns and Cities</a></li> <li>• The LNP Executive Group agreed to an upgrade to the LNP website and a push on the Pledge for Nature (P4N) campaign next Spring. P4N messaging needs to be right to engage with the landowning sector.</li> <li>• The NR team will be carrying out a roadshow of drop ins for stakeholders to learn about how they can take action for nature.</li> <li>• Via the Farming and Landowner Sub Group a date has been secured for members to attend the next Cornwall CLA Management Meeting.</li> <li>• This year's Cornwall Sustainability Awards will take place on 6 December and the deadline for applications is 31 October.</li> </ul> <p>NL commented – as previously raised, he is keen that the LNP uses any opportunity to influence the mid term review of the County Farms Strategy, especially around the farmed estate. MA confirmed the review of the strategy is currently within the Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programme. As the review takes place there will be an opportunity to feed in thoughts. <b>ACTION:</b> Ensure opportunity is acted upon - LG</p>
<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>Isles of Scilly update</b> (verbal)</p> <p>RW gave an IoS update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The draft LNRS went to the IoS Full Council and was unanimously approved. A drop in session is arranged for tomorrow.</li> <li>• There is an online survey asking for views on the Isles of Scilly National Landscape Management Plan.</li> <li>• The Seabird Partnership met to scope out future rat eradication project.</li> <li>• The majority of IoS farmers have signed up to the ELMs landscape recovery project.</li> </ul> <p>RT commented that it was great to see the full backing of members for the draft LNRS and is pleased to see the Isles of Scilly so well recognised and defined in the strategy.</p>
<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>Farming engagement and next steps</b> (verbal report)</p> <p>MHow said progress was being made, building on relationships within the farming sector through various organisations.</p>

	<p>Farming engagement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MHow met with Ben Gallant, the new Cornwall County Advisor at the NFU, who has a background with the Westcountry Rivers Trust, is keen to get the message out to the NFU.</li> <li>• CLA and NFU - it's good news that Duncan Anderson Margetts and Hattie Severinsen have engaged with the Farming and Landowner Working Group.</li> <li>• Still need to look at grassroots member engagement as the NFU and CLA doesn't reach all; only 10% of members engage.</li> <li>• Credit to the team for the appointment of Lisa Rundle whose background has really helped with engagement within the sector and to members of the NR team for the recent LNRS Workshops which worked really well.</li> </ul> <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Last year's Royal Cornwall Show with National Landscapes was a really good start and can be built upon.</li> <li>• There are other opportunities for engagement, we should make contact with Young Farmers Clubs.</li> <li>• Although FiPL funding is ending FiPL officers are in place until the end of 2027 and we need to utilise this important resource.</li> <li>• With regards to the expanded Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) offer, MHow is concerned that an Impact Assessment (IA) has not been completed and there's no model for this payment scheme which aims to benefit food production.</li> </ul> <p>Member comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It's really important that we ensure the range of organisations mentioned are fully engaged to ensure the delivery plans for the LNRS.</li> <li>• It would be good to keep up links with Carbon Net Zero as they have assessed and decided what would be beneficial moving forwards and Farm Carbon Toolkit.</li> <li>• CSA awards – encouraged growing greener section to extend to growing anything not just trees, to encourage farmers to apply. Sponsorship from farming/agri-food, NFU or Cornish Mutual would be a good way to encourage the farming sector to apply in future.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION:</b> put future engagement with farmers on the agenda for the LNP Exec Group to continue the discussion - VF</p>
5	<p><b>Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Nature Recovery Strategy Steering Group Item</b> (papers circulated in advance of meeting and taken as read)</p>
	<p><b>LNRS Update</b></p> <p>PH gave an update on what's happened since the September board meeting and thanked BR, DH, Marcus Rhodes, Megan Hickmore, IM and all the Defra Arms' Length Bodies (ALBs). Delegated Authority was given by MW and VF on behalf of the Steering Group approving the draft strategy and maps for submission to Council of the Isles of Scilly and Natural England to commence their pre-consultation assessment process.</p> <p>Since the last board meeting the following has taken place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two workshops to look at the mapping.</li> <li>• Two public drop ins – thank you to the NFU Management Committee who provided good one to ones and positive feedback and steer which guided the next iteration.</li> <li>• The team have looked at and reflected on participation in engagement activities. There have been 2,200 points of engagement and 130 separate engagement activities, and videos.</li> <li>• Edits – version 5.1 of the strategy is based on feedback.</li> </ul>

- Roadmap for Nature Recovery has been added to pull out highlights – more needs to be done on the Executive Summary for the final document.
- Created new appendices including a public-facing LNRS methodology.
- Design work on strategy is happening – the designed version will be shared with the Steering Group.

#### Mapping work:

- Updated the systematic conservation planning model for Cornwall – increased to approximately 60% at least of total opportunities.
- Post hoc decisions have been included.
- Isles of Scilly opportunity maps.
- Mapping of actions.
- Additional functionality has been included.
- Changes to look – colours etc.
- Ancient woodland buffer kept at 100m.
- Coastal wild belt has been reduced to 250m.
- All intertidal included – even areas within SSSI included.
- River floodplain plus 10m buffer included.

#### What's coming up:

- Pre-consultation approval received from the Council of the Isles of Scilly following their Full Council meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> October.
- Cornwall Council preparation for the LNRS pre-consultation panel (21<sup>st</sup> October) with NE and Defra's ALBs.
- Pre consultation decision anticipated from NE by 26<sup>th</sup> October.
- Preparation for Public consultation including expert steer from our engagement and consultation specialist in CC to design the survey.
- Starting to prepare communication and engagement plan to run alongside the public consultation, including farmer engagement.
- CC Member engagement.
- Cross border workshop with Devon LNRS Team.
- Other accessible versions will be considered.

#### Board member comments:

- MW pointed out that you can zoom in on the mapping portal to see recommended priority actions for a specific area.
- Question: regarding mapping of historic features within farmland, was consideration given to areas that for historic reasons (say under ELMS or SFI) are in a special category? Answer: we spoke to our Heritage colleagues who advised us that they want historic features to be seen as an opportunity provided that the right guidance is sought. For this reason we are going to include the relevant contact details for the Heritage Team so that landowners and managers can contact them for the most up to date information for that site, as records are changed and enhanced frequently.
- IoS Full Council were disappointed that the LNRS couldn't extend to marine but they've been informed of the developing voluntary marine recovery framework.
- A conversation was had with the IoS Duchy representatives about links between the LNRS and other schemes. Because there is uncertainty about whether the future planning status of sites will be affected, farmed land wasn't currently included in the opportunity mapping for IoS only, but may be subject to change between now and adoption.
- JC gave thanks to BR and DH for the huge amount of work they've done.

- The link to the opportunity mapping will become publicly available as part of the Public Consultation, it was noted that as the maps are still pre-consultation and subject to change, it's preferable they are not widely shared without any explanation to avoid confusion ahead of the Formal Public Consultation. There will be an 'Under Construction' pop up to make it clear.
- AONB referred to in mapping which needs to be changed to National Landscapes.

### **Delivery Framework**

MW referred to the discussion paper circulated in advance of the meeting about what delivery of the LNRS will look like and what should be the ongoing role of the LNP? PH added that since the papers were sent out Defra had sent an email about what role the Responsible Authority would have, and it looked like there would be no future funding for delivery.

MW referred to the questions set out in the paper and asked for members' views:

The LNRS needs to be delivered and it mustn't get out of date. The 30 by 30 target is close and the LNP has an ethical and moral role in LNRS progress and delivery. It was felt that the LNP should use their status on the Leadership Board, have oversight of the LNRS delivery with the Steering Group acting as custodian (along with NGOs, farming groups, etc). Choose the most important areas of action to concentrate on was suggested. Need to align with agri-environment funding.

#### **Funding:**

Next year's Cornwall Council budget is being considered and non-statutory areas of work will be heavily scrutinised. The Government needs to make this a statutory obligation and members felt there was a strong argument for central government funding. More clarity from government is expected on the implications of the new strengthened Biodiversity Duty for public bodies.

#### **Evaluation and monitoring:**

It's important to know how changes will be tracked but there wasn't any guidance or clarity around this, plus the availability of data will be a challenge. One suggestion is to monitor key sentinel sites, placing effort and research findings for that site, which could then be applied more widely. The LNRS targets will align with National Landscapes target outcomes.

#### **ACTIONS:**

- LNRS delivery should be a statutory obligation and needs central government funding. PH to raise these points at the Defra workshop next week.
- RL and SR to keep us to task when working out a process for evaluation and monitoring.

## **6 Marine Nature Recovery Framework** (a paper was provided and taken as read)

PH and Abigail Crosby (AC) presented this item.

It was hoped that marine would be integrated into the LNRS as outcomes of surveys showed marine and coastal areas to be a high priority for people. Defra advised against this and the voluntary Marine Nature Recovery Framework is now being written to align with and complement the terrestrial LNRS. MA pointed out that this approach is unique to Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly and is not something that is reflected nationally.

AC presented some slides, in summary:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The framework is being developed with the Marine and Coastal Partnership with EA funding.</li> <li>• There is a 12 nautical mile limit.</li> <li>• Ten marine priorities have been chosen based on evidence collated from a workshop with public and strategic enablers. Along with expert working groups AC is taking this forward to create priority chapters.</li> <li>• A third workshop about assessment and mapping considerations.</li> <li>• Compared to the terrestrial environment, evidence and data is lacking.</li> <li>• Seeking steer and recommendations from the board.</li> </ul> <p>Comments from the board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Crown Estate is producing a Marine Recovery Routemap to map the whole seabed. PH said the team have a good relationship with the Crown Estate and are working with their Natural Capital lead.</li> <li>• This is far more developed than in other Councils with a mix of protection, restoration and management.</li> <li>• Recommend working with IFCA regarding fish habitats especially for cod, tuna, shark and rays due to the commercial aspect.</li> <li>• It's important the LNP doesn't disengage with this due to the links between land based aspects and offshore issues such as water quality.</li> <li>• Good to see worms on the priority list but changes traditional approach (going into muds) but consider if there are statutory or voluntary tools for this different type of approach.</li> <li>• IoS need to input to this.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION:</b> to have a conversation with SR with regards to some of the helpful comments and suggestions made above.</p>
7	<p><b>Roundtable</b></p> <p>Verbal updates were given by all members.</p>
8	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>None</p>
	<p><b>2024/2025 meeting dates</b></p> <p>22 November 2024 (online)</p> <p>28 January 2025 (online)</p> <p>24 March 2025</p> <p>23 May 2025</p> <p>15 July 2025</p>