



West of England Nature Partnership
Joining up the dots for nature

WENP Steering Group Meeting

2 Rivergate, Bristol // 12 March 2018 // 10:00-12:30

Attendees

Heather Elgar (Chair) – HE	West of England Nature Partnership
Ian Barrett – IB	Avon Wildlife Trust
Mark Minkley – MM	Bath & North East Somerset
Richard Ennion – RE	Bristol City Council
Richard Cresswell – RC	Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership
Dannielle Sinnott – DS	UWE
Rachel Williams – RW	Natural England
Brian Glasson – BG	South Gloucestershire Council

Apologies

Tom Boden	National Trust
John Flannigan	North Somerset Council
Ruth Barden	Wessex Water
Savita Willmott	Bristol Natural History Consortium
Alan Kellas	WENP Nature, Health & Wellbeing Working Group Co-Chair

Minutes

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

HE reviewed the outputs from the Away Day and provided an update on key actions:

- A meeting is scheduled for 14 March to discuss best options for WENP Governance;
- Work programme and working groups have been revised to transition towards Task-Finish groups with clarified remits and outputs;
- GI Plan continues to be the priority for this year;
- Working to tighten internal communications.

Evidence

Environmental Data Review (HE): A webinar was held on 26 February to share top level findings and options with a wider stakeholder group, and to gauge feedback to steer the final report. HE is currently reviewing the first draft of the report and will share with MM for review shortly. A WENP Governance Statement has been produced to formalise WENP's role in the review. A meeting is planned on 9 April with key stakeholders (funders of the review, BRERC funders, BRERC Board and other key stakeholders) to discuss final recommendations.



It was agreed appropriate that WENP should then make a formal recommendation as a partnership as to the best way forward. It was discussed that the review should clearly consider viable alternatives, and the meeting on 9 April should provide an outline of alternative governance models.

Action: HE to share outputs ahead of the meeting on 9 April

State of the Environment (HE): HE met with Bristol Naturalists Society who are very knowledgeable and conduct annual trends analysis of birds and other key species. They are interested in being involved in WENP State of the Environment work. There are also several other local groups which should be mapped and involved as part of efforts to develop a State of the Environment dashboard/report.

Action: HE to map out local groups with expertise relevant for State of Environment

Action: HE to (re)convene State of the Environment working group over next couple of months

Environment Agency – Natural Capital Approaches (RC): RC provided an update on work EA is currently doing with BACP to pilot learnings from the Defra Pioneers (embedding the natural capital approach) in the Bristol Avon. A workshop was held on 6 March to discuss four key approaches: Natural Capital Mapping; Natural Capital Catchment Accounting; Integrated Appraisal; and the Natural Capital Planning Tool (Site based tool).

A key outcome of this effort is that EA plan to produce a natural capital account of the Bristol Avon Catchment, using publicly available data, in Q1. This account could feed into the Joint GI Plan.

Spatial Planning

Joint Green Infrastructure Plan (MM): The Project Initiation Document (PID) has been signed off. Resourcing is being confirmed, with ongoing discussions with WECA. Once resourcing is in place, a detailed project plan, including regarding WENP's specific involvement, will be determined.

Action: MM to share PID with Steering Group once confirmed it can be shared externally

One City Plan (IB): Since January, BGCP is leading on the Environment pillar of the Bristol One City Plan. IB, as Nature Director for BGCP, and HE have supported (alongside stakeholders at a workshop held on 28 February) the development of content for 'Nature' under the Environment pillar. The final One City Plan will be launched in June at the City Gathering. This framing of outcomes, targets and indicators for restoring nature in Bristol could be used as a starting point for an environmental strategy for the wider West of England.

Action: HE to share workshop outputs with SG

Restoring Nature

Landscapes & Networks (IB): A workshop was held on 5 March to review previous mapping efforts and discuss proposed ecological networks for grasslands, wetlands and woodlands. While much work has already happened for grasslands (B-Lines), and wetlands are relatively known, it was apparent that the group should focus on determining a sound methodology for a woodland network.



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BG mentioned that work is currently underway to consider how the principles of Forgotten Landscapes could be applied to other sites in South Gloucestershire. This effort could feed into wider priority setting and packaging of interventions.

Action: HE to convene technical workshop to determine and apply methodology for a detailed woodland network

Bristol & Bath Parks Foundation (RE): A bid has been submitted to Nesta to establish a Parks Foundation across both Bristol and B&NES.

Pollinator Strategy (MM): A potential West of England pollinator strategy was discussed, bringing together B-Lines and the Great Bristol Pollinator strategy.

Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership (RC): A draft BACP action plan will soon be ready for wider dissemination. This builds on priority interventions and focus areas as identified through partnership workshops held at the end of last year. The Bristol Frome Improvement Project has been identified as a key focus within the West of England, and has secured support from both Bristol and South Gloucestershire. It is intended that a coordinator will be recruited for this project. An apprentice is also being recruited to support BACP.

Economic Development

Natural Capital Trust (HE): The final research report has been submitted to Defra and was mentioned in the 25 Year Environment Plan. A workshop is planned for 10 April to discuss how to take the concept forward in the West of England, and determine the best plan for testing. It was discussed who beyond WENP should be invited to attend the workshop.

Action: Steering Group to forward workshop invite to others as appropriate

Corporate Engagement (HE): The Landscape Enterprise Network (LENs) approach was proposed to map out corporate landscape beneficiaries towards improved corporate engagement, economic resilience and increased investment in natural capital through multiple beneficiary PES schemes (potentially managed through the Natural Capital Trust). RW has secured some funding from Natural England, although additional funding is needed to carry out the mapping and engagement. The Environment Agency (EA) are scoping similar work. HE and RW are meeting with EA soon to discuss how to join up efforts. The LEP should be involved in this work.

Action: HE to share LENs Cumbria case study

Public Health

WENP Health Strategy (HE): The Health & Wellbeing Working Group is next meeting on 15 March and discussions will include clarification of remit towards clearer outputs to meet a wider vision of the mainstreamed prescribing of green care. Regarding strategic influencing (especially of commissioning), WENP is currently looking to engage representation from NHS involved in commissioning and STP. A Statement of Intent is currently being circulated around the four Health & Wellbeing Boards to tighten partnership working



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between WENP and HWBs. It was discussed how WENP could help bring nature to discussions through, for example, joint responses to consultations with existing health networks, such as Bristol Health Partners.

Communications

Conference: The framing, content, budget and timing of the WENP conference were discussed. It was felt that the event should remain free but could happen later in the year.

Action: HE to explore potential to have joint conference with BACP