

WENP Work Programme 2020

Last updated 11/12/2019



West of England Nature Partnership
Joining up the dots for nature

AREA	ACTIVITY	LEAD	STATUS
Nature Recovery Network Achieve the vision of a Nature Recovery Network (NRN) in the West of England, strengthening and securing nature at a landscape-scale.	Embed the NRN within regional policy and funding Work to embed the NRN within regional policy including, inter alia, the WoE GI Strategy, Net Gain Policy and regional Planning Policy. Identify potential sources of funding for the NRN. Support development of GI Strategy and Net Gain policy through providing evidence, identifying priorities, and developing mechanisms, goals and procedures for monitoring. Identify strategic projects based on mapping, identified ecological priorities and funding opportunities. Use these projects to both contribute towards and promote the NRN.	LA	WENP representation on GI Strategy WG and Net Gain Task Group. Possibility of a NRN fund for the WoE to be explored with WECA. Draft set of strategic projects for the WoE produced; to inform GI projects. Development of a 10-year strategy for the NRN to be explored.
	Embed the NRN within local authorities' work and policy Local Authorities (LAs) to embed the NRN within their work and to ensure the NRN is contained within local policy and plans. Engagement of local communities through LAs. WENP to positively input to Local Plans to ensure sufficient weighting is given to the NRN and the natural environment more widely.	MM, RE, JF, DV	LA representatives to report back to WENP Board
	Work with environmental NGOs and partnerships Work with environmental NGOs and partnerships to embed NRN within their work and to develop projects that contribute to the NRN, building on existing work where possible. Engage with LNPs, and relevant regional and national bodies to identify opportunities for connection of the NRN with the wider landscape and to share work conducted by WENP.	IB	Relevant environmental NGOs contacted through NRN dissemination. NGOs on WENP Board to report back on activities. Engagement with LNPs through SW LNP network and DEFRA LNP Board.
	Engagement and promotion of the NRN locally Engage local groups and businesses to encourage the integration of the NRN into existing and potential projects, and the development of new projects that contribute to achieving the NRN.	SGa	Letters sent to identified stakeholders and consultation disseminated. Ongoing work to engage with stakeholders and promote the NRN.

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	<p>Woodland Strategy</p> <p>Establish a Woodland Strategy group to discuss strategy for woodland creation/management and tree-planting in the WoE and opportunities to provide dedicated resource for this role.</p> <p>Explore the creation of a Delivery Mechanism for woodland component of the Nature Recovery Network, aggregating demand and supply for trees/woodland in the West of England.</p>	MM/RB	<p>Group established and principles for woodland creation/management to be drafted (MM lead).</p> <p>WoE Delivery Mechanism for woodland and tree planting to be progressed (RB lead).</p> <p>Woodland Strategy to be included as a Strategic GI Project in WoE GI Strategy.</p>
	<p>Integrate the NRN within agriculture, including within ELMS</p> <p>Raise awareness of the NRN with farmers and landowners and embed NRN within farm advice. Work with relevant stakeholders to integrate (nature-friendly) agriculture into the Nature Recovery Network and to embed the NRN within emerging ELMS.</p>	CN	<p>Ongoing engagement with landowners and farmer representatives.</p> <p>Embedding NRN within ELMS to be explored when/if trialled in the region.</p>
	<p>Deliver river and waterways component of the NRN</p> <p>Work on river and waterways to be led by Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership.</p>	RC	<p>Aim to secure funding for minimum of one priority area. BACP to report back to Board.</p>
	<p>West of England Environment Indicators</p> <p><i>(Wildlife Index Working Group)</i></p> <p>Use existing systematically recorded data to communicate 'stories' regarding changes in wildlife abundance/distribution and other ecosystem services in short-term.</p> <p>Develop a statistically robust model that can be used to monitor wildlife abundance for a wider range of species, and use this to monitor progress in delivering the NRN and One City Plan.</p> <p>Identify priority indicators for environment and develop plan for publicly accessible State of Environment report / live dashboard.</p>	IB	<p>Existing data to be collected and analysed to communicate stories in short-term.</p> <p>Funding for PhD proposal for development of robust occupancy model to be explored through WENP Board.</p> <p>To explore producing a short report on the State of the Environment in the West of England based on existing data.</p>
	<p>Land ownership Mapping</p> <p>Produce map of 'joint land holdings for nature', including all sites under ownership by WENP partners, to inform opportunities for implementation of the Nature Recovery Network.</p>	SGr	<p>Existing, available information on land ownership to be reviewed by partners.</p> <p>To be explored whether this could/should be conducted through GI Strategy.</p>

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Enhance investment in natural capital in WoE Secure investment to drive positive outcomes for the restoration of the natural environment, recognising that nature underpins our economy and societal wellbeing	Ensure natural capital concepts embedded in WoE key strategies Embed understanding of natural capital in industrial, energy and transport strategies. Maximise and align investment in natural capital from diverse funding sources, including more effective mitigation spending through development.	LA	NCT Report with Defra, awaiting publication Natural capital concepts to be embedded in GI Strategy
	Corporate Engagement – Landscape Enterprise Network Better understand regional economy reliance on natural assets and improve corporate engagement to identify opportunities for innovative finance and building economic resilience.	AH	Funding provided by NE to be transferred to BACP to part-fund LENS project in Frome catchment.
	Carbon offsetting / natural climate solutions Explore mechanisms and metrics for investment in habitats to sequester carbon and enhance natural capital	IB	To be discussed at Board
Health and wellbeing Facilitate greater awareness of the benefits the natural environment provides to our health & wellbeing to all levels of society	Health and Nature Strategy <i>(Health and Nature Strategy Group)</i> Mainstream nature and health-based services through identified strategic actions which aim to share best practice towards the integration of nature and health-based services in our public health systems.	SGr	Task-finish group focusing on plan to mainstream green care
	Strengthen links with HWBs and NHS Build relationships with and influence decision makers, and inform strategic health strategies of the value of nature for health & wellbeing and the potential cost-saving results.	MS/SH	Ongoing
	Practitioner Forum for Nature, Health and Wellbeing Provide a joined-up point of contact for those involved in nature based health care, to facilitate a network of people committed to sharing best practice, skills & exemplar projects. Strengthen and develop good practice links between health, social care and nature partners.	SGa	Ongoing. Working to increase number of people signed up to and frequency of use of Hyvr.

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Working together Facilitate the restoration of the natural environment through effective multi-sector working and transformational change. Actively promote and communicate the value of the natural environment and the work of WENP to all stakeholders.	WENP Business Case		
	Produce business case for WENP and review funding arrangements to secure long-term resourcing of the Partnership	SGr	Ongoing
	Board representation		
	Ensure LEP and Infrastructure Advisory Board are updated on WENP activities and the correct communication mechanisms are in place to create a two-way dialogue	LA	Ongoing
	Working strategically with partners to respond to selected consultations	SGa	Ongoing
	Environmental Data Review		
	Review current environmental evidence system in West of England and best opportunities to optimise	MM	Independent review & WENP position paper complete. Decisions with funders and BRERC Board. Explore with partners effective provision of environmental data to underpin NRN and GI strategy.
	LNP national and South West networks	SGa	Ongoing
	Working across other partnerships	All	Ongoing
	Website, newsletters and social media	SGa	Ongoing
WENP Forum	SGr/SGa	2020 forum to be held in September, with theme/content to be decided.	
Annual Review	SGr/SGa	2020 Annual Review published (click here to view)	