

WENP Work Programme 2021

05/03/2021



West of England Nature Partnership
Joining up the dots for nature

AREA	ACTIVITY	LEAD / FACILITATE	BOARD LEAD	STATUS
Nature Recovery Achieve the vision of a Nature Recovery Network (NRN) in the West of England, strengthening and securing nature at a landscape-scale.	NRN Prospectus <i>(NRN Implementation Working Group)</i> Identify strategic projects based on mapping, identified ecological priorities and existing work, in order to facilitate investment into the Nature Recovery Network. Through partners and WENP resource, develop projects to become 'investment-ready'.	Lead	IB	Prospectus produced and updated regularly. Work ongoing to further develop projects that aren't yet 'investment ready'. Links with GI Pipeline and BACP Action Plan to be clarified via project map.
	West of England Tree and Woodland Strategy <i>(Tree and Woodland Strategy Working Group)</i> Produce a Tree and Woodland Strategy for the West of England, providing a strategic direction for tree planting, woodland creation and woodland management that maximises benefits across all ecosystem services, including nature recovery. Embed Strategy within regional policy/plans and communicate to wider set of stakeholders to embed its influence at all levels.	Lead	MM	Woodland Strategy to be published in 2021. T&W Strategy Group to drive suggested actions, and integration of Strategy into policy, plans etc. Communications to be explored with Woodland Trust and FoA Trust.
	Nature Recovery and Agriculture <i>(Agriculture Working Group)</i> Work with the agricultural sector to facilitate its contribution to nature's recovery in the WoE, including through the emerging ELM Scheme and other mechanisms for investing in nature-based solutions. Raise awareness of the NRN within agricultural sector and embed within farm advice. Explore mapping of land ownership and engagement with landowners in WoE to facilitate the above.	Lead	SGa	West of England Agriculture WG (jointly hosted with BACP) established and leading on this workstream.
	AONB Nature Recovery Plans Work with the two AONBs in the West of England to embed NRN within AONB Nature Recovery Plans and ensure consistency with WoE plans and strategies.	Lead	SGa	SGa on AONB Nature Recovery Plan Working Groups

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	<p>Embed the NRN within regional policy and funding</p> <p>Work to embed the NRN within regional policy including, inter alia, GI strategies, Net Gain Policy, and the Spatial Development Strategy. Identify potential sources of funding for the NRN.</p> <p>Support development of GI Strategy and Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) policy through providing evidence, identifying priorities, and developing mechanisms, goals and procedures for monitoring.</p>	Lead	LA	<p>NRN embedded within JGIS. WENP represented on GI Strategy WG.</p> <p>GI Pipeline being used as a tool for funding GI outcomes.</p> <p>Work ongoing to embed NRN within BNG policy through Biodiversity Net Gain Task Group.</p>
	<p>Embed the NRN within local authorities' work and policy</p> <p>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.</p> <p>WENP to positively input to Local Plans to ensure sufficient weighting is given to the NRN and the natural environment more widely.</p>	Lead	MM, RE, JF, DV	<p>Work with LAs ongoing to embed NRN within Local Plans, strategies and other relevant work. To explore workshop.</p> <p>LA representatives to report back to WENP Board.</p>
	<p>Work with environmental NGOs and partnerships</p> <p>Work with eNGOs and partnerships to embed NRN within their work and to develop projects that contribute to the NRN, building on existing work where possible.</p> <p>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.</p>	Lead	SW	<p>NGOs on WENP Board to report back on activities.</p> <p>Engagement with LNPs through SW LNP network and DEFRA LNP Board.</p>
	<p>Engagement and promotion of the NRN locally</p> <p>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. Explore a visualisation of the NRN for engagement.</p>	Lead	SW/SGa	Ongoing work to engage with stakeholders and promote the NRN.
	<p>West of England Environmental Data</p> <p>Create a comprehensive, accessible, accurate and up-to-date suite of environmental data for the West of England, facilitating informed decisions on the natural environment.</p>	Facilitate	LA/IB	<p>Led through Environment Officer Steering Group.</p> <p>Work on Wildlife Index being led through Bristol One City approach.</p>
	<p>Local Nature Recovery Strategy</p> <p>Explore arrangements for the development of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy, in response to expected requirement from the Environment Bill.</p>	Facilitate	LA	To be explored when Environment Bill passed
	<p>Deliver river and waterways component of the NRN</p> <p>Work on river and waterways to be led by Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership, with the aim to secure funding for at least one priority area.</p>	Facilitate	RC	<p>BACP to report back to Board.</p> <p>Updated map of wetland component of NRN being led by BACP.</p>

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Enhance investment in nature-based solutions in WoE Secure investment to drive positive outcomes for the restoration of the natural environment, recognising that nature underpins our economy and societal wellbeing	Financing nature-based solutions Inform and facilitate establishment of a mechanism (or mechanisms) in the West of England for leveraging in investment, from both public and private sources, into investible nature-based solutions that provide ecosystem services to private/public beneficiaries. Put in place governance arrangements to enabler strategic investment through mechanisms and ensure links between mechanisms are strong. Utilise NRN Prospectus to direct strategic investment.	Lead	IB/LA	Bristol Avon Catchment Market and other mechanisms being explored within WoE. Governance arrangements to be explored through WENP Board.
	Ensure value of the natural environment embedded in WoE key strategies Embed understanding of the value of the natural environment in regional (and pan-regional) industrial, energy and transport strategies. Maximise and align investment in natural capital from diverse funding sources, including more effective mitigation spending through development.	Lead	LA	NCT Report with Defra, awaiting publication Natural capital concepts embedded in GI Strategy Engagement with Western Gateway underway
	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.	Facilitate	AH	WENP represented on LENs task group
Nature and Health Integrate nature and health into the health and care sector. 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.	Lead	SGr	Health and Nature Strategy Group leading work. BNSSG one of seven ‘test and learn sites’ for Green Prescribing, in which WENP is engaged.
	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.	Lead	SGr/MS	Ongoing
	Nature and Health Practitioners Network Provide a space for practitioners in the field of nature and health, as well as other interested parties, to connect, collaborate, discuss, learn and share; and to develop standards and quality assurance to facilitate goal of mainstreaming nature and health.	Facilitate	SGa	Practitioner Network meeting regularly; website established; WENP to hand over support of Network

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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 Funding Case Produce business case for WENP and review funding arrangements to secure long-term resourcing of the Partnership	Lead	SGr	Ongoing – funding case to be taken to LA Directors
	Board representation Ensure LEP and Planning and Housing Board are updated on WENP activities and the correct communication mechanisms are in place to create a two-way dialogue	Lead	LA	Ongoing. LEP representation on Board to be explored.
	Working with partners to respond to selected consultations	Lead	SGa	Ongoing
	LNP national and South West networks Engage with LNPs within the South West and more widely to share best practice, identify joint areas of work, respond to national consultations etc.	Lead	SGa	SW LNP Network restarted in 2020; now meeting regularly. WENP represented on LNP Sounding Board.
	Website, newsletters and social media	Lead	SGa	Ongoing
	WENP Conference	Lead	SGr/SGa	Date and format for 2021 Conference to be decided based on coronavirus restrictions.
	Annual Review	Lead	SGa	2020 Annual Review published (click here to view)