



Developing the County's Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Land Technical Advice Group meeting 4 January 2024, 9.30am, online MINUTES

1. Summary of actions and items agreed

1.1 Items agreed

N/A

1.2 Actions

Action	Who	Status
Contact Esther Goodhew, Secretary of Kent Valuers Club, via Lambert and Foster	Alexa MM	Closed
Contact William Maiden (FC) re land agent engagement	Alexa MM	Open
Add Risk section to Engagement Strategy, noting time constraints of advisors (and landowners); impacts on engagement with landowners and farmers of ELMS uncertainty and election.	Alexa MM	Open
Ask NFU and CLA leads if they can do 'talking heads' on FAQ	Rachel B	Open
Review Engagement Strategy and provide further feedback.	All	Open
Promote online briefings, and workshops, via newsletters and social media.	All	Open
Create additional feature in tool/app to enable famers or landowners to link their entries to a wider project.	Robbie Still	Open
The date of the next meeting (1 February) clashes with a workshop, a new date for a	Alexa MM	Open

meeting in the later half of January will be sent out.		
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2. Attending and apologies

Attending: Kathi Bauer (South East Rivers Trust); Rachel Boot (Making Space for Nature); Rory Harding (Kent Wildlife Trust); Alexander Hodges (Bumblebee Conservation Trust); Louise Lawton (Making Space for Nature); Alexa Murray Mujtaba (Making Space for Nature)(Chair); Callum Preece (BTF Partnership); Karen Rigby-Faux (Natural England); Rosie Salt-Crockford (Country and Business Landowners Association).

Guest: (Item 4) Robbie Still (Kent Wildlife Trust)

Apologies: Ellen Wilson (Kent Wildlife Trust); Andrea Griffiths (Countryside Partnerships); Stuart Harris (Nature Friendly Farming Network); Kirstie Speed (CLA); Oliver Pantry (Upper Medway Inland Drainage Board).

3. Landowner Engagement and Communications Strategy Review

Recognizing that attendees had very limited time to review the agenda, the group discussed the following:

- Need to engage more land agents. Details were provided for the Secretary of the Kent Valuers Club who have newsletter which goes to all Agents. The Forestry Commission LNRS Advisor is also following up with Land Agents.
- The number of landowners in Countryside Scheme agreements may provide a possible comparison for engagement monitoring/measuring. Links to data from Defra providing details of CS and previous Environmental Schemes in England were shared.
- Limited time available for professional advisors to spend time engaging in and understanding the LNRS, particularly those whose funding is project based.
- Lack of clarity on link between ELMS and LNRS is a major barrier to engaging landowners and farmers.
- Perception among landowners and farmers that the general election will result in changes to/scrapping of LNRS (and possibly other farming/agricultural policies), therefore landowners and farmers are reluctant to engage.
- Landowner 'Easy Guide' needs to be high level as we still lack details e.g. policy links, per above.
- FAQs: Suggestion that they could be voiced up, suggest NFU and CLA leads are best placed.

ACTION:

- a) Contact Esther Goodhew, Secretary of Kent Valuers Club, via Lambert and Foster (Alexa)
- b) Contact William Maiden (FC) re land agent engagement (Alexa)
- c) Add Risk section to Engagement Strategy, noting time constraints of advisors (and landowners); impacts on engagement with landowners and farmers of ELMS uncertainty and election (Alexa)
- d) Ask NFU and CLA leads if they can do 'talking heads' on FAQ (Rachel)
- e) Review Engagement Strategy and provide further feedback (All)

4. Review of Communications & Engagement activities for next 3 months

Discussion was limited due to lack of time. Focus over next 2 months is on Online Briefings for Landowners (10 January); Survey and in person workshops (January/February) on priorities; capturing existing Nature Recovery Actions via App.

ACTION:

- a) Promote online briefings, and workshops, via newsletters and social media (All)

5. Review Nature Recovery project mapping App

Robbie Still from Kent Wildlife Trust demonstrated the online tool that his team have been commissioned to develop by the Making Space for Nature project. This tool/App will enable existing actions for nature recovery to be captured. Users will be able to see 'All Actions' that are already captured and then enter their own under 'My Actions'. Once the person's own details and name of the project are captured, all other screens can be skipped so that if they don't know further details they are not prevented from capturing the project at a high level.

We discussed whether there was potential for the same project to be captured multiple times, e.g. by a farmer; farmer cluster and organization leading the project. It was agreed that if this happened, it wouldn't be a problem as each might provide different levels of detail and it would increase engagement with landowners if they were involved in mapping directly. It was suggested that the tool provide a means for farmers/landowners to link their entry to a project.

Questions were asked about the arrangements for user testing and support for users. Limited time is available for testing, which will be focused on bugs rather than any more detailed revision to the tool/app. All members of the Delivery Board, TAG and LAN will be asked to test the site once it is ready, there will be c 4 days for testing. To provide support, a training video will be captured (similar in format to those done by LandApp), which show how to

capture a project and can then be put on YouTube for others to watch. Making Space for Nature team members and graduates will be trained up and a 'surgery' service offered at the workshops so that those attending can use the opportunity to learn how to capture any projects they are involved with.

It was queried how the tool/app would be maintained beyond the lifetime of the Making Space for Nature Project. Robbie advised that it will be hosted on Kent Wildlife Trust so that it can remain available after the project ends. At this stage funding for the next phase of LNRS is not known, but it is hoped that funding can be found to support this on an on-going basis.

ACTION:

- a) Create additional feature in tool/app to enable farmers or landowners to link their entries to a wider project. (Robbie Still)

6. AOB

ACTION: The date of the next meeting (1 February) clashes with a workshop, a new date for a meeting in the later half of January will be sent out.