

Nature Recovery Launch – Leadership Group Meeting
Tuesday 5th September 2023 2-4pm (GMT)

Date: Tuesday 5th September 2023

Attendees: Mark Turner (Action Sustainability), Grace O’Connell (Supply Chain Sustainability School), Ross Primmer (Action Sustainability), Sam Walker (Action Sustainability), Lynne Good (Supply Chain Sustainability School), Mikaela Weyer (Costain), Steve Barton (Ground Control), Sam Bower (Balfour Beatty), Harry McDonnell (Morgan Sindall), Don Holmes (Mitie), Jo Fielding-Cooke (Skewb Green), Martin Ballard (Wates), Jane King (Morgan Sindall), Cassie Charette (Canary Wharf), Jenna Bates (Kier), Laura Bradley (Flannery Plant), Niall Conroy (Wolffkran Ltd), Giang Tran (Algeco), Russell Bromage (Sisk), Nicola Johansen (Redrow), Gina Ciotaki (Wates), Diane Crowe (Reconomy), Julia Balfour (Mott MacDonald), Adam Cane (ACO), Eoin Bailey (Celsa UK), Alana Smith (Transport for Wales).

Please note these meeting notes are to be read in conjunction with the agenda and final slide deck as circulated to all.

Meeting Notes:

1. Welcome & Introductions

Mark Turner welcomed all attendees to the inaugural meeting of the ‘Nature Recovery’ Group and introduced himself as the Group Lead and Grace O’Connell as the Group’s support.

Every attendee then introduced themselves to the Group, including their name, organisation, and job role (see attendee list).

Mark Turner then covered the Agenda for the meeting which included:

- ***What do we call ourselves?***
- ***Agree draft Terms of Reference***
- ***Discuss and agree our cross sectoral/market approach***
- ***Agree scope of work and partnership – we propose to encompass all following aspects of the built environment;***
 - ***Planning***
 - ***Design and construction***
 - ***Management and maintenance***
- ***Review of current and planned learning content and events***
- ***Agree initial work programme and priorities***
- ***AOB and DONM***

Mark Turner displayed a slide containing logos for all Partners currently involved in the Group, divided by market sector. *[Any new Partner organisations who join the Nature Group will have their logo added.]*

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2. What do we call ourselves?

Grace O'Connell ran a Menti vote for the attendees to vote on an official name for the Group. A quick discussion was held over the results.



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Other? Please share your ideas and suggestions

16 Responses

Biodiversity and Nature Net Gain

Nature champions

Biodiversity and nature recovery

Ecology group

Biodiversity Protection / Enhancement

Keep it simple!

Natural Environment

We ARE nature

simple!

Other? Please share your ideas and suggestions

16 Responses

easy to understand

Biodiversity and Nature

Nature Value Group

environmental enhancement and
protection group

Environmental net gain

biodiversity protection and enhancement

Engaging with nature trusts as key delivery
partners of off-site nature recovery and
biodiversity net gain

- There were 25 responses in total – the name with the most votes (14) was **Nature Recovery**. **This will therefore be the official name of the Leadership Group.**
- The group also expressed the importance of the name of the group to consider the broader dynamic of the School Partnerships and those involved from different sectors and markets across the built environment industry.
- There is a need to understand what the Group will be doing, and the name should follow that.
- There was a potential suggestion that whoever the chair is that is elected for the Group should revisit this name? – suggested by Martin (do we include this point Mark?)

3. Agree draft Terms of Reference (TOR)

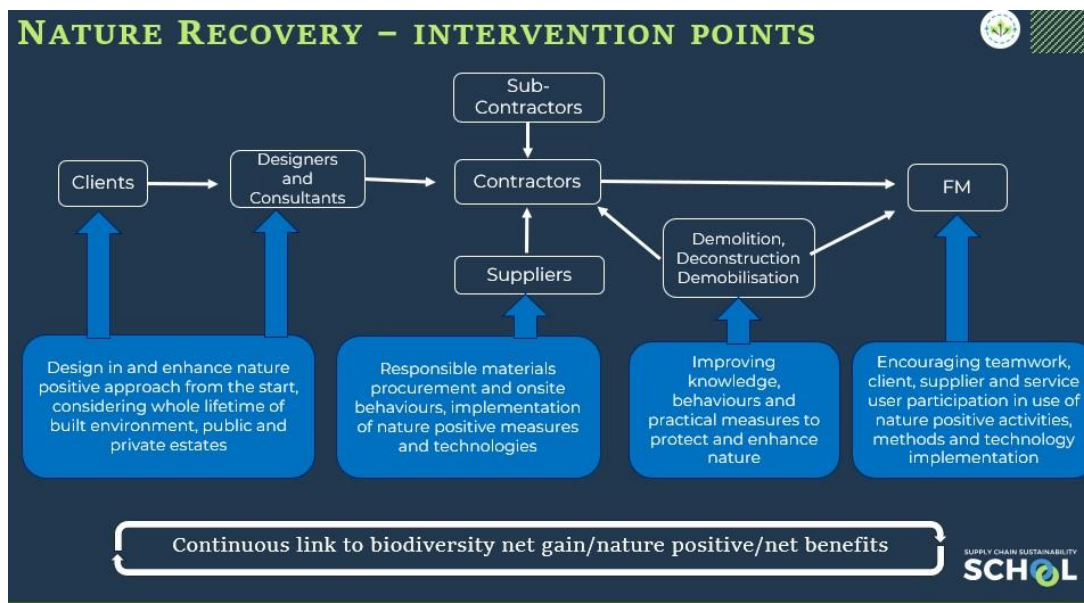
- Mark Turner asked the Group if they had reviewed the draft Terms of Reference document that had been sent to all attendees a week prior to the launch and for any comments/questions.
- Julia Baker said the document needs to list the Group outcomes (when finalised)
- Laura Bradley needs to check on 'Nature Recovery' as term used in supplier days – TOR point 7a.

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- TOR should be kept as broad as possible - we are living in a time when things have never been so dynamic.
- A link to the draft Terms of Reference can be found [here](#).

4. Discuss and agree the cross sectoral/market approach

- Mark Turner emphasised that the Group must represent all of the School family of partners including Clients/Designers and Consultants/Sub Contractors/Contractors/Suppliers/Demolition, Deconstruction, Demobilisation and in FM
- The Nature Recovery Intervention Points diagram (below) was discussed.



- The process diagram captures the whole of the partnership and membership dynamics across the School.
- This helps to identify where gaps and opportunities lie (in terms of Partners who are/could be involved in the Group).
- Key to consider the loop back feature and emphasise this (make larger in the diagram) the continuous link all has to Biodiversity Net Gain (hereafter known as BNG)/Nature Positive/Net Benefits.
- The diagram also needs a looping back feature from FM through back to clients.
- The diagram can be key to define terms such as BNG/Nature Positive/Net Benefits, so **everyone** understands.
- It is also key to evidence where businesses have a direct and indirect impact, understanding this level of impact and for those organisations that may not have a direct impact, understand where an indirect positive impact can still be made.
- The Circular Economy needs to be considered and choices made at the design stage – need to consider designing positive nature solutions at the beginning and offering this to clients rather than relying on what clients ask for.

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- The interactions are also strongly interlinked with social elements – value of nature in communities, designing in nature not just for the environment but people, social value, health & wellbeing.
- Holistic approach to nature recovery is key – across the whole value chain e.g. could be powerful for policy makers too and influencing RIBA 1/2/3 specifications (recognise this in diagram as a box above clients and designers).

ACTIONS:

School:

- Revise diagram with loop back feature enlarged and more visible across clients/FM.

Partners to:

- Set up potential subgroup looking at conceptual framework and how nature recovery and biodiversity works within wider frame of construction and society? – Mark shall we include?

5. Scope of work and partnership

Julia Baker discussed to the Group how to embed thinking about nature recovery in terms of the continuous chain including:

- *Planning*
- *Design and Construction*
- *Management and Maintenance*
- Scope of work in the group needs to be ambitious but also realistic – as a group we can influence all three spheres – for e.g., those working in management/maintenance certainly have a voice in what happens in terms of planning
- There is a need to talk about nature positively, and not to consider nature being a hinderance for projects, BNG/Net Benefits etc also should be spoken about positive and at the front and centre of objectives for the Group.
- The School should encourage education around the topic and support development of positive case studies and demonstrate what they look like.
- There is a need to look at non-statutory approaches currently taking place.
- There needs to be more conversation for that outside of just refurbishments and new builds.
- This feeds into ideas about to define the scope of nature and nature recovery – this is scalar – for e.g., habitat/species or environment as a whole – feeds back to the Group's name and Terms of Reference.
- What is key is for the Group to set an understanding over the next year of what all the various nature based policies and strategies are that are being released – e.g., BNG, TNFD, Net Positive – the focus of the Group should be around educating and training on what these broad concepts mean and what does best practice or 'good' like this in terms of these.

6. Review of current/planning learning content and events

Mark Turner presented to the Group examples of content that are already contained within the School around the topic of nature and biodiversity. These included:

1) Content – in the formats of e-learning, videos, web links, documents, case studies and tools.

Key examples are:

- [Introduction to Biodiversity E-Learning Module](#)
- [Biodiversity Sustainability Short](#)
- [Biodiversity & Ecology School Website](#)
- Further suggested resources from the Group are:
- [Biodiversity Net Gain for local authorities | Local Government Association](#)
- [Natural Capital and Environmental Net Gain](#) - ENG covers BNG and the wider impact on Natural Environment from construction activities. NIC focuses on significant or linear infrastructure assets. Could SCSS represent the Built Environment's ENG focus? Natural Environment Gain?

ACTIONS:

School to:

- Grace to co-ordinate resource review process with volunteers from the Group including:
 - Gina Ciotaki (Wates)
 - Niall Conroy (Wolffkran Ltd)
 - Steve Barton (Ground Control)
 - Jane King (Morgan Sindall)
 - Giang Tran (Algeco)
 - Adam Cane (ACO)
- Grace to send across case study template to Group that members can populate and add on as resources.
- Grace to create new Nature Recovery Leadership Group page on the School website.

Partners to:

- Volunteers above to use their subject matter expertise and collective knowledge to review pre-existing (nature based) resources in the content library according to relevance/functionality and highlight/fill any gaps. This is so the School's content library on nature and biodiversity is as fresh, updated and engaging as possible.
- Case Studies also need to be suggested/provided from other organisations – these are popular content formats in the School.

2) Events

- Mark Turner showed the Group the previous and upcoming programme of events around nature within the School across the next FY 23/24.
- The School will require help from the Group to plan further events across the next year – and plan them early to gain good attendance numbers.

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- The number of events hosted/supported by the Group will form a deliverable in the Group's Business Plan.
- The events could follow a timeline of activities in the run up to BNG – e.g., end of November 2023 - mandatory Net Gain has landed, or have resources to mirror this. For example, communicating in a clear and concise way the concepts of BNG/Nature Positive and portray a timeline around it (short set of videos/clips) – known as the 'BNG Countdown'.

ACTIONS:

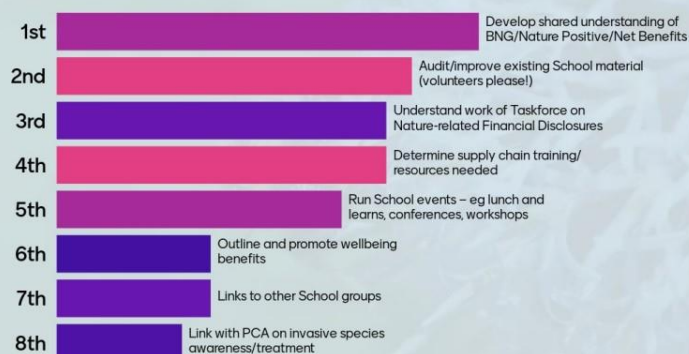
School to:

- Mark and Grace to work with the Group in co-ordinating a key timeline of events pencilled in across the next year
- **Plan for School conference Q1 2024-25 – target 1000 bookings**
- Mark and Grace to use the School's marketing platform to bolster event campaigns but be mindful of lead up times needed for a successful campaign.
- **Could two separate subgroups form around resource review/events?**

7. Agree initial work programme and priorities

Grace O'Connell ran a Menti vote for attendees to rate a set of 8 potential tasks for the Nature Recovery Group, in order of importance. A Jamboard activity followed, for all attendees to write down further detail and comments.

What should we prioritise in terms of tasks for the Nature Group?



- There were 21 responses in total – see final order of results above.
- The three highest priority tasks identified overall by the Group were:

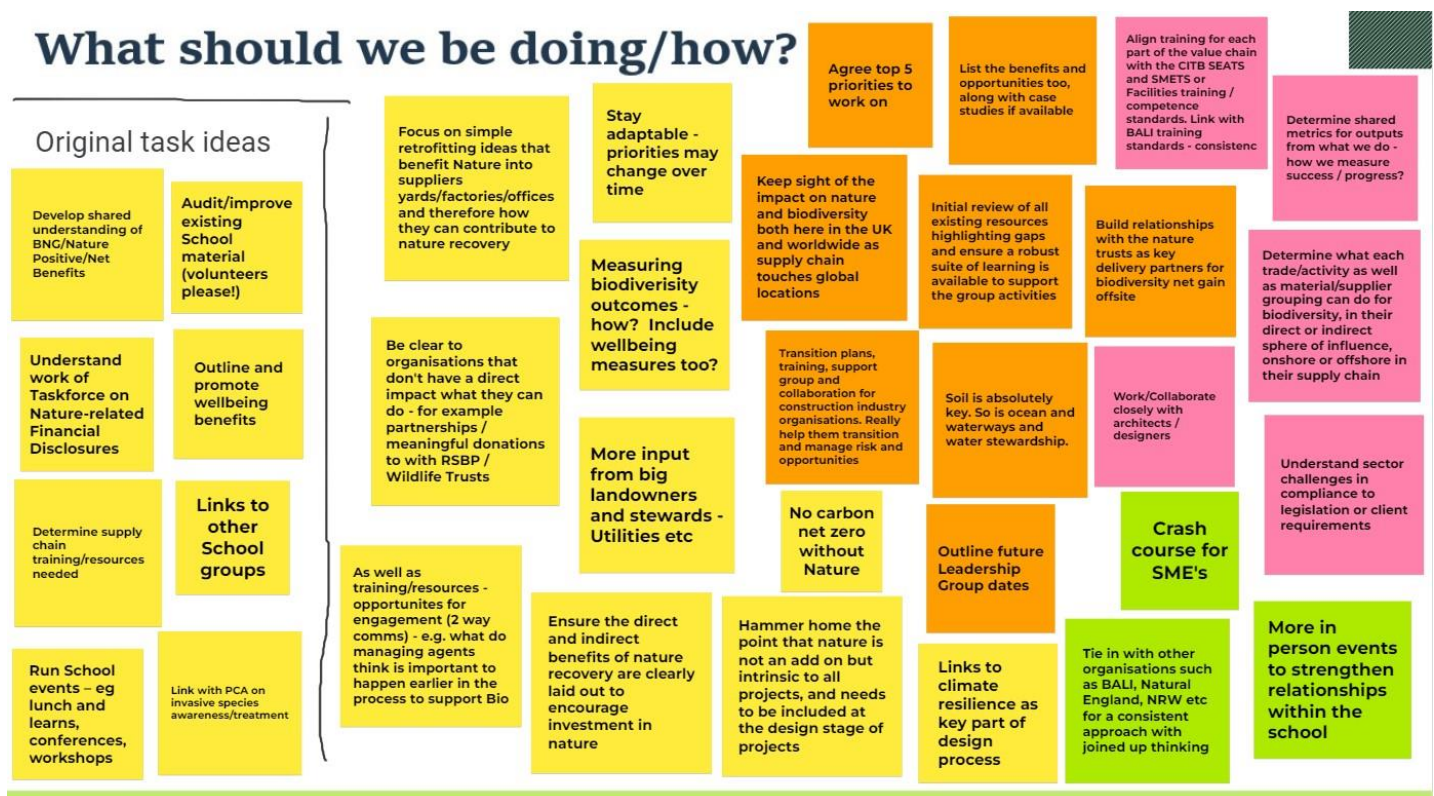
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- **1) Develop a shared understanding of BNG/Nature Positive/Net Benefits**
- **2) Audit/improve existing School material**
- **3) Understand the work of the TNFD**
- It is clear the Group must focus on communicating in a clear and concise way the various concepts around nature, so everyone has a shared understanding.
- There must also be a solid foundation on traditional terms/concepts as well as new policies and strategies entering this field – i.e., need to make sure the “nuts and bolts” are considered too – we can’t forget about Japanese Knotweed!
- Links to other School Groups is an important priority as it is crucial to understanding our scope and how this Group fits in with others, to ensure no duplication of efforts.

Jamboard Exercise:

Grace O’Connell ran a follow-on Jamboard exercise for all attendees to write further notes/thoughts on what tasks the Group should be considering and how to plan for executing them. Please find all notes captured below, so far. The Jamboard will remain live for the Group and can be accessed [here](#).

What should we be doing/how?



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What should we be doing/how?



What should we be doing/how?

Ask employees what they want to learn more on or have more impact on relating to nature & biodiversity. Empower them in their work & in family/home/personal life

Ask employees what THEY want to learn and have impact on. Empower them in doing their job, and in home/family/personal life too - it will affect their kids and grandchildren and

- The list of tasks for the Group will become self-evident as the Group progresses and develops.

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ACTIONS:

School and Partners to:

- Agree on work programme and priorities – think about how we can shortcut getting priorities into action.

8. AOB and DONM

INDICATIVE TIMELINE FOR OUR WORK



The date of the next Group meeting is scheduled for either the **16/21/22nd November 2023**.

ACTIONS:

School to:

- Grace to do a call out for all Group members to decide on chosen date from above and send diary invites once confirmed. – Mark – from responses from those in the meeting looks like 21st is good.

END OF MEETING NOTES.