

Nature Recovery – Leadership Group Meeting
Tuesday 21st November 2023 10-12pm (GMT)

Date: Tuesday 21st November 2023

Attendees: Grace O’Connell, Lucy Hunt, Mark Turner, Ross Primmer, Millie Holder, Sophie Stephens, Don Holmes, Fisher, Hattie (MSC), Morgan Price, Gordon Brownrigg, Cameron McGeoch, Sadler, Agnes, Conroy, Niall, Mikaela Weyer, Martin Ballard, Steven J. Barton, Storey, Wendy, Cassie Charette, Mcdonnell, Harry (MSC), Smith, Alex, Olivia Allen, Laurence Cummins, Emma Thompson, Rick Dunn, Maddie Hall (Guest), Eoin Bailey, Russell Bromage, Lynne Good, Oliver Peat, Julia Baker, Broadhurst, Leigh, Bower, Sam, Cane, Adam (ACO).

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

Meeting Notes:

1. Welcome & Introductions

Mark Turner welcomed all attendees to the second 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 above).

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

- **Welcome & introductions**
- **Progress so far:**
 - a) **Framework – Group Intervention Points**
 - b) **Resource review**
 - c) **Previous training programme**
 - d) **Upcoming webinars**
 - e) **New resources**
- **Business Planning**
- **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. Progress so far

- Launched 5th September
- Outcomes of the first Nature Recovery Group meeting were as follows:
- Agreed title and draft TORs
- Confirmed the cross sectoral approach – across all sectors, tiers and the whole value chain (subgroup conceptual framework) – demonstrates richness of partnership and how it interacts with the rest of the School
- Discussed scope of work and partnership – encompass all aspects of the built environment including planning, design, construction, management & maintenance (e.g. RIBA stages)
- Prioritisation of top 3 tasks for group to start with:
 - *Develop a shared understanding of BNG/Nature Positive/Net Benefits*
 - *Audit/improve existing School material – review subgroup set up*
 - *Understand the work of the TNFD*

ACTION:

School to:

- Receive any expressions of interest for becoming Chair in the Group.

Partners to:

- Get in contact with either Grace or Mark if they are interested in becoming a Chair for the Group.

a) Conceptual Framework – Group Intervention Points:

- Mark displayed the ‘before’ version of the conceptual framework and then ‘after’ – still clearly a work in progress (WIP), but the diagram demonstrates the interaction of stages (conception, planning, construction, life in use, end of life) for the Nature Recovery group and the role of various players (suppliers, government, clients, contractors, utilities, retrofit, demolition, deconstruction), and interaction across the rest of the School Groups.
- Mark then asked for open feedback from the group on this current framework:
- *Eoin Bailey – Need to consider the value of resources that already exist on sites*
- *Martin Ballard – Nature NGOs are capable of playing a wider role than just the ‘life in use’ stage*
- *Don Holmes – Relevant feedback loops are essential and should be incorporated, NGOs are becoming more active in terms of offering commercial consultancy – benefits from this*
- *Maddie Hall – What about increasing consideration of all the products used throughout the whole supply chain process? For example, impact of water stress, palm oil, thinking about the wider scale of recycling and impact/opportunities of working with waste management and resource companies too.*

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b) Resource review:

- Grace explained to the group the progress so far on the resource review of all pre-existing ‘biodiversity and ecology’ resources in the School library
- There are around 160 resources to review
- Around 18% of all CURRENT resources so far have been reviewed
- Grace asked for any extra volunteers who have time and capacity to help with the resource review to get in contact with her and can set up a call to explain the process
- Leight Broadhurst mentioned some excellent work emerging via ESA
- Sophie Stevens also mentioned a resource being released next week on maximising benefits of open spaces. See here: https://www.linkedin.com/posts/ground-control_2_gsab-sustainability-housingassociations-activity-7130124759484227584-iF8p?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop

ACTIONS:

School to:

- Grace to secure from Sophie the link for the resource mentioned and add to the School library
- Grace to add two new recommended resources sent by Leigh Broadhurst as below:
 - [24158 Biodiversity-Best-Practice-Guide-2022_UPDATE.pdf \(esauk.org\)](#)
 - [Supporting a Nature Positive Future.pdf \(esauk.org\)](#)
- Grace to circulate around the case study template for the School and a link to the already submitted case studies in the School.

Partners to:

- Any partners who have time and resource to kindly volunteer and help with the resource review, please contact Grace O’Connell
- Any partners who also have any known resources they think are key in adding to the School library, please contact Grace O’Connell
- Case studies and short videos etc are especially welcome.

c) Previous training programmes + upcoming webinars:

- Mark presented a table of all previous webinars and workshops hosted in the last financial year (since April 2023) related to the topic of nature and biodiversity (see full slide deck for details).
- Julia Baker then discussed the two upcoming webinars scheduled by the Group. These are:
 - 1) ‘An Introduction to BNG and the TNFD with Mott Macdonald’ – This is a webinar to kick start the new year on these two topics and exploring the relationship between the two etc. [Please click here for the event link.](#)
 - 2) The second webinar, ‘Biodiversity enhancement policies across the UK – similarities and differences with Mott Macdonald’. This will illustrate in more detail

not just on policies in England, but importantly Scotland and Wales too, looking at the differences and similarities across these parts of the UK. Some of the policy in development in Wales and Scotland could hopefully influence further policy developments in England. It will also explore the linkage between biodiversity closely with climate change. [Please click here for the event link.](#)

- Event links for both are found in the full slide deck accompanying the meeting notes.

d) New resources:

- Grace explained the latest resources added to the School since the last Nature group meeting in September 2023. These include:
 - [NatureScot Peatland Action - Restoring Scotland's Peatlands](#)
 - [Developing with Nature Guidance - NatureScot](#)
 - [Urban Nature Atlas](#)
- Grace then directed the group to the new dedicated website page also which details important information about the groups' activities, contacts, upcoming meeting dates and meeting notes.

ACTIONS:

Partners to:

- Any with any new content that is useful for the School, get in contact with Grace and she will add to the library.

3) Business Planning FY 24/25

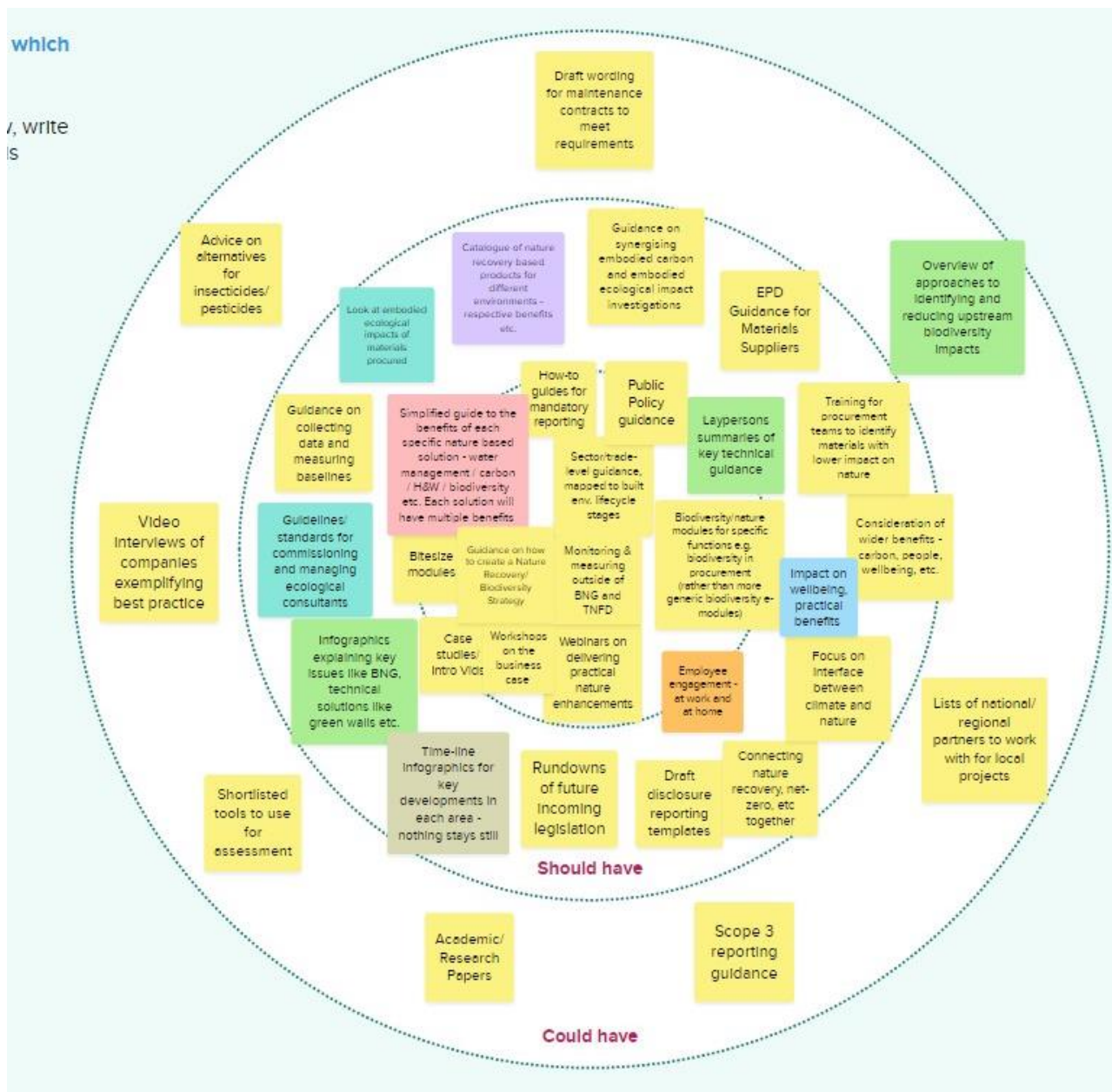
- The rest of the session then focused on business planning for the coming financial year
- Mark explained the partner impact survey results and the prominent of biodiversity and nature as a key priority for content in the School
- From the results of the survey, partners felt the following could have more content and focus:
 - Biodiversity in Scotland and Wales
 - BNG
 - Nature
 - Natural capital accounting
- The top challenges identified in the survey also including:
 - Adapting our business to the climate and nature emergencies
 - EPD certification
 - BNG
 - Environmental protection
 - Environmental considerations in project scope and concept (i.e. ensuring environment is on the table)
- A full report of the findings from the survey was circulated prior to the meeting, so all Partners have a copy for reference. Also see the main slide deck circulated alongside the meeting notes which display screenshots of findings related specifically to biodiversity and nature.

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Mural exercise:

- Mark and Grace then invited the Group to join the Mural link to commence the business planning exercise. [Mural link can be found here.](#)
- Each member of the group was invited to test out the platform first and use the sticky notes feature on the first 'Introduction' board
- The focus then moved to the main activity slides for 'Q2 Balance', 'Q 3 Challenges', and 'Q 4 Rank Priority'
- See details below of each board and a screenshot of all notes added to the Mural – N.B. These will be easier to read on the Mural itself, which will remain open.

Qu2 Balance Board:



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- For the 'Q2 Balance' board, the group were asked to add sticky notes about the type of activities that the group should focus on and what activities the group needs more, the same, or less of across the next financial year. This first exercise in the mural board aimed to be a broader overview of all ideas with the aim that each board that follows funnels down to prioritised tasks and a set list of challenges and proposed solutions.
- [See the full board here to explore the results more closely.](#)

Qu3 Challenges Board:

- The group members were then asked to move on to the 'Q3 Challenges' board to discuss the key sustainability challenges that we have as a sector. Sticky notes had already been added to the board prior with some of the key challenges identified from the partner impact survey results
- From the list produced, the group then had to identify a top 3/4 challenges
- [See the full board here to explore the results more closely.](#)

QUESTION 3: Discuss the key sustainability challenges that we have as a sector. Then choose 2 or 3 key challenges that the School can address through knowledge & collaboration.

Spend 3 minutes brain storming and use the sticky notes to write down what you think are the key challenges. Then spend 5 discuss these Ideas together. Use the rest of the time to decide and choose as a group which 2 or 3 are the key challenges that need to be addressed and move them into that section.

Accessing decent supplier data - water in products

Key opportunities in what goes into contract and what is enforced in contract with proper KPIs

Net gain is about retaining features as much as adding stuff

Client education

Getting the proper link from design through to maintenance - vital to have a proper link and handover

Plan for delivering first VC

Understand BNG/Net Positive/Net Benefits

Review nature resources

EPDs

Future workforce and skills

Client awareness and willingness to go beyond legal requirements

Seeing what was promised vs what was actually delivered - eg trees planted in August, wildflower planting not done, failure to deliver on promised outcomes

Maintenance engaged at design stage

Impacts of products is important - what about new technology like lithium batteries etc..?

Ensuring operational use of built asset isn't affected - options often resisted on this ground

Natural capital accounting

Understand the work of the TNFD

Making sure what is promised is delivered on site - ref Nature Scot research on this

Pollution control? Water, air, land?

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Q4 Rank Priority Board:

- Using the results from the ‘Q3 Challenges’ board, the group were then asked to prioritise four key challenges and discuss solutions, stages or component parts for how to tackle each challenge identified
- This has the aim of outlining a headline business plan for the upcoming year and our proposed “must do” activities
N.B. the other content will still form part of the group’s thinking and workplan, to some extent depending on budget, time and opportunity
- [See the full board here to explore the results more closely.](#)

Pick your challenge(s) from question 3.

Populate the table with the challenge (s) as a sticky note.

Then discuss the solution to that challenge (spend 5 minutes on this).

Use the sticky notes to capture your answers for a solution (what the School can do to help solve that problem).

Challenge	Solution School - Knowledge & Collaboration
1. BNG/Net Benefits/ Nature Positive - improve knowledge and delivery	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 15%;">Workstream on delivery impacts</div> <div style="width: 15%;">Workstream on Supply chain related Impacts (upstream)</div> <div style="width: 15%;">Supplier data - based on risk, spend etc - heatmap top 5 materials?</div> <div style="width: 15%;">Break down training by role - different material for each group, (based on functions e.g. procurement, operations etc.)</div> <div style="width: 15%;">comms plan- video and supporting explanatory docs</div> </div>
2. Understanding reporting requirements v/s business risk/ opportunity	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 15%;">To include BNG equivalents, ESG reporting, wider biodiversity reporting, requirements of main indices and disclosure frameworks etc</div> <div style="width: 15%;">Understanding outline costs for BNG/TNFD processes and how to phase those costs etc</div> <div style="width: 15%;">Develop or locate and showcase content addressing how to report effectively</div> <div style="width: 15%;">Develop written and video resources via comms plan</div> </div>
3. Improve our School resource base	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 15%;">Continue and complete process of resource review</div> <div style="width: 15%;">Determine any new resources the School needs to develop - video, animations, infographics, "how to" guides etc</div> <div style="width: 15%;">Oversee and contribute to resource development (small working group assisted by wider group)</div> </div>
4. Plan for virtual conference Q1/2 2024/5 and deliver	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 15%;">Determine core content - small working group</div> <div style="width: 15%;">Assemble speakers and publicise</div> <div style="width: 15%;">Deliver by end of Q2 2024/25 latest - preferably sooner</div> </div>

ACTIONS:

School to:

- Mark and Grace to meet internally to discuss proposed outline above and fine tune the plan
- The group will be meeting again before the plan is finalised
- Mark will then report the headlines to the School board in March 2024.

8. AOB and DONM

INDICATIVE TIMELINE FOR OUR WORK



The date of the next Group meeting is 21st February 2024, 10-12pm.

END OF MEETING NOTES.