

Nature Recovery – Leadership Group Meeting
Tuesday 21st May 2024 11am-1pm (GMT)

Date: Tuesday 21st May 2024

Attendees: Ben Stone (Kier), Grace O’Connell (Action Sustainability), Hannah Powell, James Linton (Environment Agency), Jason Winslow (RSK Habitat Management), Laurence Cummins (Wates), Lynne Good (Supply Chain School), Mark Turner (Action Sustainability), Matthew Handley (Jewson), Michael McDermott (AmcoGiffen), Mikaela Weyer (Costain), Morgan Beattie (Graham), Morgan Price (Willmott Dixon), Nicola Johansen (Redrow), Olivia Phillips (Canary Wharf Group), Patrick McKeown (MWH Treatment), Rosie Barnett (Graham), Sam Bower (Balfour Beatty), Simon Garrett (Nature Positive), Wendy Storey (Suez), Yasmin Chatt (Supply Chain School).

[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 fourth meeting of the Nature Recovery Group and introduced himself as the Group Lead and Grace O’Connell as the Group’s support.

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

- 1. Welcome & introductions**
- 2. Recap of work programme**
- 3. Business planning 2024**
- 4. Resource update**
 - Resource review progress
 - New video content
- 5. Training programme FY 24/25**
 - Upcoming Virtual Conference
 - Event planning
- 6. AOB and DONM**

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

a) Explaining the Nature Recovery Group to interested parties

- Mark Turner demonstrated activities the Group intends to do to help maintain School membership and partnership. These include:
 - Legislation and policy updates

- **Updating resources** – i.e. maintaining the School library and all resources that range through five stages – beginner/ intermediate /expert/ advanced /leader - and making sure the School’s resource bank is as rich and up to date as possible
- **Events** – The Group has run two very successful webinars so far with support from Julia Baker at Mott MacDonald. Please find both linked below.
- **Collecting case studies** – e.g. As Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) in England for certain projects is now a legal requirement, the School would massively appreciate any case studies that showcase examples of Biodiversity Net Gain done well and the art of the possible
- **Topics promotion** - (e.g. Green/Blue Infrastructure)
- **Intervention points framework** – The School Group is very diverse in its approach and how it splits down markets/topics across the built environment and value chain from design through to build/operation, in-use, deconstruction etc.
- **Whole built environment life cycle** - We have to consider the whole built environment life cycle through our approach including over time, impacts from supply chain, materials and product choices etc. We want this to be a key area of focus in the Nature Recovery Group to help ensure that we do good things here but also positively influence nature recovery elsewhere in the world

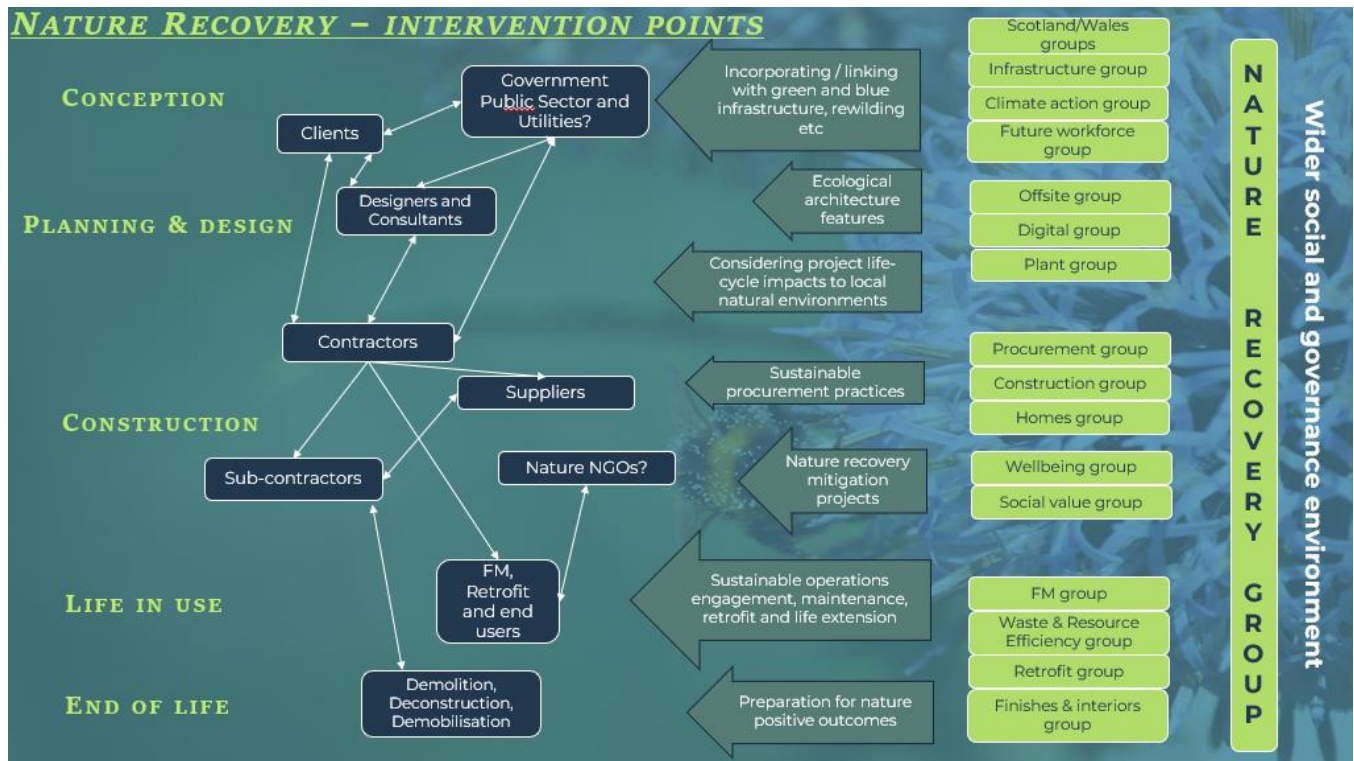
ACTIONS:

Partners to:

- Promote our two recent webinar recordings with Julia Baker – these give a really good overview of BNG and its equivalents in the UK as well as the first one touching on developing reporting requirements – see linked here:
 - [An Introduction to BNG and TNFD with Mott MacDonald: Webinar Recording](#)
 - [Biodiversity enhancement policies across the UK similarities and differences with Mott MacDonald: Webinar Recording](#)

b) Nature Recovery Group intervention points framework

- Mark Turner showcased the Nature Group’s intervention points framework (see below) and other various interconnected leadership groups within the School
- All Leadership Groups in the School **should** have an interest in the nature recovery agenda and maintain links and build these up over time
- Mark Turner then asked attendees if there was anything missing in the framework and to offer back any ideas.



ACTIONS:

Partners to:

- Supply any additional feedback to either Mark or Grace on the intervention framework above – what is missing? Is your organisation’s role properly represented? How can we improve this?

2. Recap of work programme – initial priorities

- Mark Turner summarised the overall work programme of the Group so far. This included:
 - **Setting up the group** – Including creating a title, drafting a terms of reference document. The Group still requires a chair
 - **Confirm cross sector approach** – This relates back to the intervention framework. The Group should refer to all sectors, tiers and the whole value chain. There is a crucial requirement to influence supply chains and associated impacts on local areas, communities and ecosystems
 - **Agree scope and work of partnership** – The Group will encompass all aspects of the built environment including planning, design, construction, management & maintenance

- **Initial resource review** – A sub-group has started an initial review, but the majority of the library still needs development. *See 4. Resource review progress* below
- **Events for BNG** – See and please share with colleagues recordings of both events delivered through the Group so far below:
- [An Introduction to BNG and TNFD with Mott MacDonald: Webinar Recording](#)
- [Biodiversity enhancement policies across the UK similarities and differences with Mott MacDonald: Webinar Recording](#)
- **Raising any future sub groups** – e.g. resource review, events (webinars, workshops), virtual conference (VC) planning.

ACTIONS:

Partners to:

- Get in contact with either Grace or Mark if they are interested in becoming or nominating a Chair for the Group. If there is more than one expression of interest a process will be enacted to choose the successful candidate.

3. Business planning 2024

- Mark informed the Group of the business planning agenda for the Group and context behind the School and its 7 key action focus to drive impact – through more partners, more suppliers, multipliers, staff learning, improved customer journey, marketing, recommendations – all culminating together to achieve more active companies, more active individuals and people doing more learning
- Mark reminded the group of the business planning agenda for the Group including the main focus:

“To educate and upskill more people about biodiversity, nature positive solutions and their role in nature recovery”

FOCUS 2024 To educate and upskill more people about biodiversity, nature positive solutions and their role in nature recovery

- **Establish Nature Recovery Group within School**
 - All elements of School Partnership to engage
 - Ensure that group addresses reporting standards and supply chain impacts as well as biodiversity net gain and its equivalents
 - Develop and share content to engage colleagues at all levels in securing nature positive outcomes locally and globally
 - Support development and delivery of a virtual conference, at least three webinars and two workshops addressing key topics
- **Collaborate to encourage supply chain and internal team engagement**
 - Partners to engage procurement to help identify or develop content relevant to own colleagues and supply chains
 - Ensure supply chains are included in plans for virtual conference and webinar programme
 - Develop relevant learning pathways for supply chain and colleagues
 - Partners to assign learning (via the School's LMS / Learning Pathways or their own) to their workforce and supply chains
- **Collaborate on net gain strategies and practice**
 - Deliver training on requirements and best practice across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland
 - Focus on effective practice, highlighting the challenges, pitfalls and showcasing opportunities from successful and innovative implementation
- **Improve reporting and stakeholder engagement**
 - Work with Partners and external stakeholders to understand then improve reporting standards
 - Partners to input into development of resources including case studies and share their outputs through the School
 - Develop and grow relationships with regulatory bodies, NGOs and corporate reporting stakeholder organisations.
- **See the full slide deck from slides 7-15 for information on KPIs, targets and intended activity for the Group over the next FY to meet and exceed the School's 50k (active individual users) target**
- Particular emphasis on work needed for workstreams/content on BNG and wider supply chain related impacts (e.g. different product sources and materials) and delivering webinars/video content on each
- Mark asked the Group how they felt about the business planning agenda for the next year

How does the Group feel about the business planning focus/anything missing?

- Feedback was positive – some further suggestions were provided by partners:
 - Mikaela Weyer and Ben Stone will enquire if they can share content they are producing (from their respective organisations) for World Environment Day
 - Ben Stone – Real value to the different example approaches for BNG – e.g. permitted development and how BNG applies in that scenario
 - Nicola Johansen – The planning agenda hits the mark from the homebuilders perspective, useful to also consider potential for SuDS consultation that is coming out soon – for e.g. how to involve BNG and new SuDS legislation together
 - Simon Garrett – Has contacts for wildlife filming videographers.

ACTIONS:

Partners to:

- Partners to review the focus areas of the business planning and feedback additional suggestions for improvements or comments to Mark Turner.

4. Resource update

- Grace explained since the last Group meeting in February, we have added some new resources to the School library. These include:
 - [Biodiversity Enhancement Policies across the UK: Similarities and differences in England, Scotland and Wales with Mott MacDonald](#)
 - [What is Natural Capital – Explainer](#)
 - [Living Roofs and Walls – 10 years of urban greening in London and beyond](#)
 - [CIEEM Good Practice Guidance for Habitats and Species](#)
- Grace also reminded attendees of the dedicated School website for the Nature Recovery Group - please find [here](#). This details important information about the group including group activities, contacts, upcoming meeting dates and meeting notes.

Upcoming website page review

- Grace informed the Group that we will be conducting in Q1 (June) a review of the current School's Biodiversity and Ecology website page
- Mark will be leading on this – however any suggestions for content you believe that should be included, please get in touch with either Mark or Grace

E-Learning module review

- The '[Introduction to Biodiversity](#)' e-learning module will also be going through a refresh and upgrade across the course of Q2 this year
- We are looking for a partner peer reviewer in the Group who is willing to approve the script once it has gone through internal review and give industry sign off.

ACTIONS:

Partners to:

- Any partners who have time and resource to kindly volunteer and help with the module script review, please contact Grace O'Connell. NB – this help would be particularly welcome!

a) **Resource review progress**

- 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 129 resources to review in total**
- **There are just over 50% left to review**

Call out for case studies:

- We currently have **6** nature focused case studies in the School
- Case studies in multiple format make for interesting resources showcasing real life application and examples
- Extra case studies are needed for the School – e.g. on nature based solutions, BNG gone well/challenges, blue infrastructure projects, deeper supply chain impacts

ACTIONS:

School to:

- Grace to follow up with Jason Winslow who has a selection of BNG/NBS/habitat creation case studies he can share from RSK

Partners to:

- Any partners who have time and resource to kindly volunteer and help with the resource review, please contact Grace
- Case studies and short videos etc are especially welcome.

b) **New video content**

- As part of the Group’s business plan, we aim to produce x4 new videos for the library
- Simple and necessary messaging can be conveyed in short format through videos – it’s key however we get the subject matter right
- Ideas so far are (see slide 19 in final deck):
- ***Video 1 = Setting the scene on biodiversity***
- ***Video 2 = BNG***
- ***Video 3 = External reporting***
- ***Video 4 = Supply chain impacts***

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The Group was asked via Jamboard what they think to the suggestions of the video content above.

[Please find the Jamboard link here.](#) This Jamboard link remains active to all Partners.

Jamboard results:

How do these 4 videos sound? Do they seem sensible to produce?

A Jamboard grid with four yellow sticky notes:

- Agree with the videos.**
- What is the target audience for these videos? Who are we aiming them at?
- RSPB were able to provide us with some excellent B Roll footage of swifts
- Waterways - runoff pollution, chemicals, pesticides, fertilizer, impact on wildlife and nature, various water habitats

Have we captured the right topics? Any other ideas/suggestions/improvements?

A Jamboard grid with seven yellow sticky notes:

- Rewilding projects
- Some NBS examples
- Empowering communities in housing - community gardens, wildlife support tools, loan & share
- Maintenance & monitoring
- For external reporting a video around quantification of nature impacts may be useful
- With Supply Chain Impacts - I wonder if it will be useful to summarise how this is done - the tools available, the types of impacts and risks to the supply chain/industry
- An often ignored area is "how" to get people to engage with this and change what they do. I've taught courses on behaviour-change for conservation, so this might be worth it? (Simon)
- A focus on very small companies / small BNG sites would be useful

Any volunteers/speakers who would like to get involved?

A Jamboard grid with four yellow sticky notes:

- I might be able to suggest people, or make connections to people who could produce/edit/advise/provide voices/faces for these, through filmmaking contacts (Simon)
- Water stewardship - run off pollution, various chemicals/fertilisers/pesticides, waterways, wildlife in water habitats
- Managing waste with nature in mind - consumption and waste, circular
- The relationship between climate and nature risks (people are starting to understand Carbon, this helps with communication to senior leadership teams)

- Nicola Johansen believed the video topics sound sensible;
 - With supply chain impacts – perhaps it may be useful to summarise how this is done – the tools available, the types of impacts and risks to the supply chain/industry, difference from carbon etc
 - Focus on SMEs, small BNG sites would be useful
 - Nicola may be able to get involved in supporting the supply chain impacts video – discussing the work we have started in mapping impacts (not yet reporting however)

ACTIONS:

School to:

- Collate the ideas from the Jamboard to begin development of the video content
- Reach out to Nicola for potential speakers from Redrow and involvement in the supply chain impacts video

Partners to:

- Anyone who is willing to contribute/get involved as speakers in the videos, please contact either Grace or Mark.

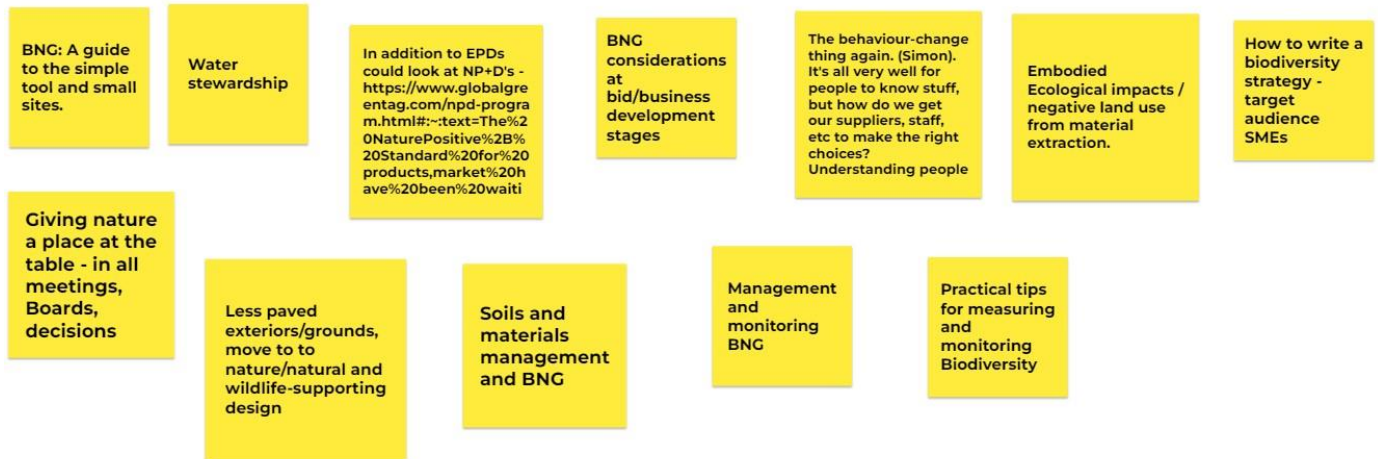
5) Training programme – FY 24/25

- The Group has delivered two successful webinars so far this year (links provide earlier in these notes):
- Mark then detailed information on the upcoming virtual conference '**Biodiversity Net Gain: Beyond Legal Compliance**' (22nd May 2-4pm)
- Mark then explained the Group would like to run approximately one event every two months for the next financial year (2024-2025)
- Mark introduced the next Jamboard exercise to ask the attendees what they would like to see in terms of the wider training programme for the next year – potential subject matters for e.g include;
 - *Procurement policy/action*
 - *EPDs*
 - *Supply chain mapping*
 - *Material passports*
 - *Plam oil, conflict materials*
 - *Reporting via TNFD, CSRD, GRI*

[Please find the Jamboard link here.](#) This Jamboard link remains active to all Partners.

Jamboard results:

What additional webinar topics might we need? e.g. Biodiversity and Sustainable Procurement



- Olivia Phillips – It would be useful to have webinar content on practical tips and advice for writing a biodiversity strategy – something the audience can take away and action
- Mikaela Weyer – Consider also NP+D’s – see useful link [here](#).

ACTIONS:

School to:

- Upload the resource above on NP+D’s to the library
- Consider feedback from Jamboard when devising webinar topics over course of the year’s training programme – certainly something on water stewardship

Partners to:

- Feedback any other suggestions on webinar content – the Jamboard link remains active
- Anyone willing to contribute webinar content, or topics, please contact Grace – use the opportunity to showcase you and your suppliers’ expertise and let’s develop a really exciting programme!

Jamboard exercise – Virtual Conference

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- Attendees were asked to think about what the next virtual conference should focus on (after the Group’s VC on 22nd May) and whether a VC on external reporting and supply chain impacts is a sensible idea?

[Please find the Jamboard link here.](#) This Jamboard link remains active to all Partners.

Jamboard results:

What do you think to a future Virtual Conference based on external reporting and supply chain impacts?

The Jamboard results for this question are displayed in yellow boxes:

- good idea!**
- This sound great!**
- Great**
- Very good**
- British Hedgehog Preservation Society - fencing, habitats in gardens, landscaping. Rolawn - bioscapes - combined version for Schedule 3 Suds impacts.

Does this seem sensible? Anything important to consider?

The Jamboard results for this question are displayed in yellow boxes:

- Survey to find out where companies / suppliers are currently in this journey
- We'd need someone from the reporting groups to do 15mins on what is happening, what is coming, what is needed from companies of different sizes
- Invite nature-focussed organisation speakers to say what they want our industry to do
- Wildlife Trusts, WWF, Business for Nature. Will send a list if that helps
- It's a massive topic so good to do as a whole conference
- Important to give sufficient weight and time to the technical side of assessing impacts and dependencies across the value chain

Any other ideas or topics of importance?

The Jamboard result for this question is displayed in a yellow box:

- LCA approaches for biodiversity/land-use change are not standardized across the industry - this should be an aim of this group and collaboration between its members

ACTIONS:

School to:

- Collate the ideas from the Jamboard to begin development of a new VC over the course of the next FY

Partners to:

- Feedback any more ideas to Mark Turner and Grace O’Connell on training programme content and if you would like to be involved in the production of any webinars or the virtual conference.

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8. AOB and DONM

The date of the next Group meeting is 11th September 2024, 10am-12pm.

END OF MEETING NOTES.