

Date: Wednesday 20th May 2026

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

- Ben Stone welcomed attendees and introduced the team.
- First-time attendees introduced themselves (name, organisation, role, and reason for joining).
- Mark Turner outlined the agenda:
 1. **Welcome & introductions**
 2. **School Progress Update (to March 2026)**
 3. **Snaps of our Site Visit**
 4. **Business Plan 2026/27**
 5. **Charlie Carter – Vertical Meadow Discussion**
 6. **Update – School and Green Finance Institute Working Group**
 7. **Basics resource – revisit**
 8. **Content update**
 9. **Update – Training programme**
 10. **AOB and Date of Next Meetings for 2026/27**

2. School Progress Update (to March 2026)

- An overview of School activity and progress to March 2026 was provided, including updated statistics linked to the wider purpose of the School.

UK SCHOOL PERFORMANCE TO MARCH 2026



KPI	End of FY March 2025	March 2026	% increase from end of last FY	Target 2025/6
No. of Partners	223	217	-2.7%	242
No. of priority supplier lists (quarterly update)	133	140	5%	145
Av. change in assessment score (corporate)	13%	13%	0%	14%
Av. change in assessment score (individual)	9%	6%	-3%	10%
Active companies since April	7,677	7,111	--	10,000
Active individuals since April (on School)	36,566	37,585	--	60,000
Active individuals recorded on Partner internal LMS (quarterly report)	14,319	13,652	--	15,000
Total Active individuals	50,885	51,237	--	60,000

- It was noted that active individual engagement figures finished slightly below the annual target, although overall progress and reach across the year remained positive.

3. Snaps of our Site Visit

The Group reflected on the recent visit to Toddbrook Reservoir, where attendees learned about the response to the extreme weather event and rainfall that nearly flooded Whaley Bridge.

Discussion covered:

- The emergency works undertaken to drain and rebuild the reservoir
- The surrounding natural environment, including the Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) located behind the reservoir
- The newly constructed spillway and conversations with the project team regarding resilience and adaptation measures
- The broader role of infrastructure adaptation in responding to climate change
- The visit also linked into ongoing discussions around Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs), Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and forthcoming guidance on integrating biodiversity and climate resilience.

4. Business (Delivery) Plan 2026/2027

- The 2026/27 delivery plan will build on the current structure but place greater emphasis **on the fundamentals** and building foundational environmental skills, particularly for supply chains, subcontractors and operational teams with limited in-house sustainability expertise. Includes development of an entry level School

resource addressing what organisations of any size can do to protect and enhance nature. Also includes developing a webinar on “Protecting and enhancing nature at your sites, projects and locations” – **marked for Tuesday 21st July 2026**

- Another key focus shall be on **materials and supply chain** – particularly looking at how we ensure materials entering projects are responsibly sourced and that nature-related risks are effectively managed
- A final focus for the Group shall be on **collaboration** and continuing to develop and strengthen relationships with key stakeholder organisations, including DEFRA, enforcement agencies, NatureScot, Wildlife Trusts, RSPB, Woodland Trust, UKGBC, INCA, the UK Business and Biodiversity Forum and BNG unit providers, while also undertaking two site visits and contributing to the Virtual Conference on 21 May, provisionally titled “*Acting and Reporting on Nature*”, which will explore topics including nature basics, BNG and equivalents, transition planning, metrics, disclosure, reporting and supply chain action.

Further comments:

Forestry and Timber Supply

The Group discussed opportunities and challenges within forestry and timber supply chains, including:

- The UK’s reliance on imported timber
- Opportunities to improve biodiversity outcomes through sustainable forestry management
- Tensions between forestry as commercial crop production and woodland as habitat creation
- Sam Bower noted previous discussions between the Woodland Trust, Forestry Commission and forestry industry representatives, highlighting differing priorities and approaches at scale. Potential future site visit opportunities linked to forestry were also discussed.

Homes England and Placemaking

- Examples were shared demonstrating how nature considerations are increasingly being integrated into housing and placemaking agendas. Northstowe in Cambridgeshire was highlighted as a positive example of embedding nature value within homebuilding projects. This could also be a potential site visit location across the next year for the Group.

ACTIONS:

Partners listed to investigate/arrange public transport accessible site visit opportunities:

- **Lee Heykoop** – for Homes England placemaking example
- **Sam Bower** – for nature focused forestry example

Materials Mapping Project

- Potential future collaboration opportunities were discussed, including a materials mapping project focused on high-risk materials, potentially in partnership with UKGBC, subject to funding being secured.
- Partners were encouraged to consider supporting the initiative through consultancy days or specialist expertise.

5. Charlie Carter – Vertical Meadow Discussion

Charlie Carter provided an overview of [Vertical Meadow](#) and its approach to transforming the living wall industry through low-cost, low-maintenance green infrastructure systems.

Discussion points included:

- The importance of long-term maintenance planning for green infrastructure installations
- Replicating species-rich wildflower meadows in urban environments
- Temporary and permanent applications across projects including retail, office and data centre environments
- Use of on-site seed growth rather than transporting mature systems
- Monitoring biodiversity, irrigation and resilience through embedded sensors and real-time data collection
- Measuring cooling impacts and integrating systems into wider building resilience strategies
- ***See the full slide deck from Charlie in the post-meeting notes.***

ACTIONS:

Mark and Grace to:

- Investigate opportunity to conduct July site visit around Vertical Meadow installations in London.

6. Update – School and Green Finance Institute Working Group

- The Group discussed ongoing collaboration with the Green Finance Institute in relation to TNFD and nature-related metrics and disclosure.
- Although GFI is no longer convening workshops directly, it remains supportive of the Group's activities.

Discussions focused on how best to continue collaboration, including:

- Quarterly structured meetings
- A correspondence or **community practice group** with meetings arranged as needed
- Continued knowledge-sharing across organisations at varying levels of reporting maturity
- It was recognised that organisations remain at different stages of TNFD and nature disclosure development, and therefore practical and proportionate approaches would be needed.

Key work should be around:

- Supporting organisations at the beginning of their disclosure/TNFD journey
- Providing guidance around LEAP and understanding impacts and dependencies before focusing on risk and opportunity assessment
- Identifying a small number of meaningful sector-wide nature metrics
- Exploring how existing organisational data (such as EMS data and EPDs) can better support nature-related reporting before requesting additional supplier data
- Integrating nature into wider sustainability governance structures
- Developing practical, sector-specific Nature Positive Plans.

There was strong support for maintaining collaborative discussion spaces and continuing knowledge exchange through virtual meetings and email discussion groups.

ACTIONS:

Partners to:

- Discuss internally if you would like your organisation to be involved within the School's Nature reporting and disclosure Community of Practice
- It will require frank discussion, mutual honesty and learning for all
- **This will involve online meetings and communication via email etc in between**
- Please contact Ben, Mark or Grace if your organisation is interested in joining
- We really encourage organisations to get involved no matter where you are in your TNFD or nature disclosure development
- **Please note: Joining the Group does not require you as a business to become a TNFD adopter.**

7. Basics resource - revisit

- The Group revisited the proposed "Basics" nature resource, originally developed through earlier Group discussions, and confirmed support for progressing the work further during 2026/27
- It was recognised that many existing School resources assume a baseline understanding of biodiversity and move too quickly into technical concepts such as Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), which can create barriers for SMEs, subcontractors and operational teams with limited sustainability knowledge
- The resource is intended to address this gap by helping learners engage first with the fundamentals of biodiversity and providing relatable content that helps organisations understand how biodiversity connects to day-to-day activities and where small-scale actions can have meaningful impact
- The previously discussed concept for an interactive "Where's Wally?"-style activity will continue to be explored as part of the resource development. Two familiar example sites shall be included:
 - Construction and development sites
 - Workplace settings such as offices, depots and yards

8. Content update

- The Group received an update on new nature-related content added to the School library since the previous meeting in February 2026. Newly released resources include:
 - Non-Native Species Image Gallery
 - Non-Native Species ID Sheets
 - Case Study: Mansfield Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems

An update was also provided on engagement with the School's nature learning pathways. Current pathway data for May 2026 shows:

- [*Nature and Biodiversity – An Introduction*](#): 171 assigned / 48 completed
- [*Biodiversity Net Gain Equivalents and Green Infrastructure*](#): 115 assigned / 10 completed
- [*Nature Reporting and Disclosure*](#): 86 assigned / 7 completed

Invasive Species E-Learning Module

- Penny presented an update on the development of the new invasive species e-learning module currently being produced for the School
- The module has been developed in response to ongoing discussions within the Group around the lack of awareness and understanding across industry regarding invasive and protected species that may be encountered on sites. The resource aims to support learners not only in identifying species, but also in understanding the appropriate actions to take if species are found during works or operations
- The module includes interactive content and visual learning elements designed to make species identification and understanding more accessible and engaging for learners
- A key challenge highlighted during development has been sourcing suitable images with the correct copyright licensing permissions. It was noted that without sufficient imagery, the module risks becoming overly text-heavy and less effective from a learner engagement perspective.

ACTION:

Partners to:

- Continue to provide usable (i.e. of correct quality and free for public access and use) images of invasives and protected species.

Climate Resilience E-Learning Module

- An update was provided on the new Climate Resilience e-learning module developed collaboratively between the UK Green Building Council (UKGBC) and the Supply Chain Sustainability School
- The module introduces the fundamentals of climate resilience and adaptation within the built environment, helping learners understand why climate resilience matters and how it connects to day-to-day roles and decision-making
- Topics covered include climate risk, vulnerability, adaptation approaches and practical actions organisations can take to improve resilience across projects, sites and operations. The module also explores the relationship between climate, nature and people within the built environment
- The Group welcomed the continued collaboration with UKGBC and recognised the importance of building practical climate adaptation knowledge alongside wider nature and biodiversity learning
- Please access the module here: [Climate Resilience](#).

Update – Biodiversity Net Gain for NSIPs

- The Group discussed forthcoming mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) requirements for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs), which are due to come into effect from November 2026
- Discussion focused on the implications of the upcoming BNG requirements for infrastructure delivery, resilience planning and nature-based solutions, alongside opportunities to better integrate biodiversity considerations into major projects from the earliest stages of development
- A key recent publication around this can be found [here](#).

ACTIONS:

Partners to:

- Please promote the new learning pathways to your colleagues, peers and suppliers - We'd like to drive as much engagement to them as possible!
- The pathways, although public facing, can also be created within your own School dashboards if you wish to use some of the pre-existing resources from these and other bespoke resources for your internal colleagues and supply chain
- Please also promote the new [Climate Resilience](#) module to your colleagues, peers and suppliers
- If you'd like more support on setting up your own nature pathways in your School accounts, please contact Grace.

9. Training programme

- The session then turned its interest to the delivery plans for events (webinars, virtual conferences) across the next year and what our Partners think should be included – what topics/speakers.

Webinar 1 – Protecting and enhancing Nature at your sites, projects and locations

- The session will focus on practical biodiversity enhancement measures across different site types and operational contexts
- A date has been earmarked for **Tuesday 21st July 2026, 10:00am – 11:00am**

Webinar 2 (November) – “Materials and supply – key impacts and practical actions for Nature”

- This session will examine nature-related risks within materials and supply chains and outline practical mitigation actions
- Topics may include:
 - Data-driven design decisions
 - Integration of carbon and nature considerations – building on carbon knowledge
 - Climate resilience through utilising natural SuDS and undertaking responsible timber sourcing
 - How materials impact nature, high impact materials, sustainability certifications & traceability, circular approaches in practice (“all the R's”).

Webinar 3 (February) - “Developing a Nature Scorecard for your business”

ACTIONS:

Any potential contributors please confirm with Mark and Grace if you would be willing to help. we are very open to novel suggestions and input from Partners' supply chains.

10. AOB and Date of Next Meetings for 2026/27

- 23rd September 2026 – 10-12pm
- 13th November 2026 – 10-12pm
- 11th February 2027 – 10-12pm

Invites have been sent around already to your diaries – please let Grace know if you haven't received these.

The date of the next Group meeting is 23rd September 2026, 10am-12pm.

END OF MEETING NOTES.