

Cotswolds Nature Recovery Forum

Terms of Reference – 25 January 2021

Purpose

The Cotswolds Nature Recovery Forum (the Forum) exists to achieve and sustain the recovery of nature across the Cotswolds.

Objectives

In pursuit of this purpose, the Forum;

- Sets out priorities, outcomes and actions for nature recovery across the Cotswolds within a Nature Recovery Plan.
- Supports and encourages collaborative working to make nature recovery across the Cotswolds a reality.
 - Identifying and coordinating existing activity.
 - Encouraging working across boundaries be they land ownership, political or sectorial.
 - Identifying and strategically filling gaps in activity through project development.
- Informs strategies and ways of resourcing action to best deliver nature recovery across the Cotswolds
- Communicates the following key messages.

Key Messages

- Wildlife needs to recover from past losses and adapt to climate change through utilising large sites and spreading across permeable landscapes. Achieving this requires a coherent and robust nature recovery network.
- A coherent and robust nature recovery network is an essential element of a fully functioning ecosystem and as such is important in maintaining ecosystem services. These ecosystem services are critically important to the wellbeing and economy of people living in and around the Cotswolds.
- The fragmented nature of habitats in the Cotswolds means that they are not currently fit for purpose in terms of enabling our wildlife to adapt to climate change and in maintaining ecosystem services.
- The way to create a coherent and robust nature recovery network is to make habitats better, bigger, more and joined as outlined in '[Making Space for Nature](#) (2010)'.

- Achieving and sustaining a coherent and robust nature recovery network will require new mechanisms, partnerships and ways of working with new audiences.

Geographical Scope

The Forum's primary area of interest is the Cotswolds National Landscape (AONB) however the Forum will work across the National Landscape boundary where it makes sense.

The Forum will take an interest in how wildlife travels to and from the National Landscape and where it enters and leaves it.

Legal Status

The Forum is an informal partnership. It does not constitute a legal entity in its own right.

Delivery

The purpose and objectives of the Forum are achieved by the collective and collaborative effort of all its members, both developing new projects and by using existing mechanisms.

Any individual member organisation can take the lead on a project on behalf of the Forum.

Membership

- The Forum's membership is open and self-selecting.
- The only requirement for membership is that the member shares the Forum's purpose and objectives.
- Forum members normally represent an organisation although this is not a strict requirement and the Forum reserves the option to invite individuals with specialist knowledge.
- There is no limit on the number of members from any individual organisation.
- Any member can withdraw from the Forum at any time by notifying the secretariat.

Meetings

- Meetings are open to all members.
- The frequency of meetings is not set. The date time and venue for each meeting is set at the previous meeting according to need.
- The chair for each meeting is agreed at its start or at the previous meeting.
- Any member can add an agenda item(s) through contacting the secretariat at least two weeks prior to the meeting.
- Decisions at meetings are agreed by consensus or if necessary by a simple majority of those present.
- Time limited and task based working groups can be set up by agreement at a meeting.

- Attendance at meetings is encouraged but is not a requirement.

Secretariat

The Cotswolds National Landscape provides the secretariat. In doing so it will;

- Maintain a membership list in the form of an e-mail distribution list.
- Produce agendas and papers for meetings.
- Record and circulate brief notes of decisions taken at meetings.