

NATURE RECOVERY WORKING GROUP

Summary: To review the inaugural meeting of the Nature Recovery Working Group and associated work

Recommendation: That the Executive Committee notes the report.

Report by: Simon Smith, Nature Recovery Lead

MEMBERS OF THE GROUP (and attendance at inaugural meeting)

1. Nigel Adcock	Board Member	
2. Jo Barker	Board Member	
3. Rebecca Charley	Board Member	
4. Matt Darby	Board Member	
5. Amanda Davis	Board Member	
6. Andrea Graham	Board Member	
7. Beverley Hardman	Board Member	
8. Graham Hopkins	Board Member	
9. Doug Hulyer	Board Member	
10. Liz Reason	Board Member	
11. Catherine Le Grice-Mack	Board Member	Apologies
12. Simon Smith	CNL Officer	
13. Rebecca Waite (Bex)	CNL CEO (Chair)	
14. Bruce Winney	External Officer	
15. Lisa Endingborough	External Officer	Apologies
16. Anna Field	CNL Officer	Apologies

Note. Board members are interim members subject to elections to be held at the AGM in June.

MEETINGS SINCE THE LAST EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

17. Inaugural meeting held on 16th April 2026
18. Key points of discussion.

A key objective of the meeting was to provide members with an insight into the breadth and depth of the technical work the group will be undertaking.

- Terms of reference were agreed
- Working group chair to be agreed following elections at the June Board
- Initial non board member co-optees were agreed. Note these include Bruce Winney, National Landscape Association Nature Recovery Lead. We are lucky to have him.
- 5 of the 6 Local Nature Recovery Strategies coincident with the Cotswolds have been published. The meeting considered how they can best be used to refresh and develop the Cotswolds Nature Recovery Plan to better promote and guide delivery. Key areas looked at were

- Habitat measures
- Species measures
- Mapping
- The meeting agreed that a refresh of habitat measures should be fairly rapid. The approach taken to the species measures will need greater consideration as it has not previously been applied in the Cotswolds. Mapping is more uncertain depending on the compilation being undertaken at the national and Big Chalk scales.
- The meeting briefly considered the data and target setting relevant to nature recovery.

OTHER ACTIVITY

19. The focus of LNRS partnerships and others is now moving towards delivery & we are involved in multiple meetings across these partnerships. Interesting examples of recent activity include:
- A new post is being created in Oxfordshire to work with Natural England in removing the capacity barriers holding back Countryside Stewardship proposals.
 - Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership is reviewing the remit of its Nature Recovery Working Group to better focus on LNRS delivery.
 - The Nature Recovery Lead and CEO are attending the first Annual Forum of the recently formed Wiltshire LNP.
 - Following the adoption & promotion by the Oxon LNP Board of a paper drafted by the Nature Recovery Lead, resourcing of the Wildlife Sites Project has improved significantly.
 - The Big Chalk Partnership has worked with the Protected Landscapes Partnership to raise the issues caused by the removal of GRH6 (species rich grassland creation) from SFI at the ministerial level within Defra.

DECISIONS REQUIRED

20. None.

NEXT STEPS

21. The next meeting is scheduled for 30th June 2026.

SUPPORTING PAPERS

- None

May 2026