

England Species Reintroductions Taskforce

Date and time: 6th September 2023, 10:30-12:00

Location: Online

Attendees: Andy Clements (Chair), Jenny MacPherson, Karim Vahed, Mike Shurmer, George Holmes, Delphine Pouget, Andrew Stringer, Jake Fiennes, Martin Lines, Scott Jackson, Simon Lee (Secretariat)

Apologies: Ben McCarthy, Julia Touza, Sarah Dalrymple, Geoff Hilton, Mike Fay, John Ewen

Minutes

1. Welcome from the Chair

2. Minutes and actions from last meeting

Andy Clements and Simon Lee provided an update on actions from the Taskforce meeting held on the 11/07/2023. All actions have been completed or are being progressed satisfactorily.

3. Sub-group updates

Andrew Stringer provided a brief summary of activity on the predator guild assessment since the last meeting. George Holmes and Simon Lee updated members on progress on the project looking at more and better conservation translocations, confirming that the much of work will be undertaken by a 6-month post-doctoral position, hosted by the University of Leeds. As previously minuted, revised project briefs for both work streams will be shared with Taskforce members in due course.

4. Online repository for best practice

Simon Lee reported on a meeting with Sarah Dalrymple regarding a potential online repository of best practice guidance and database of conservation translocation projects. In the round table discuss that followed, members expressed the need for communications to clarify the independence of the Taskforce and not imply endorsement of projects/programmes listed on a future database.

Action

Sarah Dalrymple to give a presentation on options for online platforms at the November meeting of the Taskforce.

5. Communications and engagement

5.1 Future blogs

Delphine Pouget outlined suggested themes and led a discussion around upcoming blog postings, with members highlighting the value of these communications and proposing a programme of quarterly blogs to feature the ongoing activity of the Taskforce and the benefit of conservations translocations for nature recovery.

5.2 Message House workshop

Simon Lee provided a brief update on progress with organising a Message House workshop with the Defra/NE Communications Team.

5.3 Stakeholder meetings

Andy Clements and Simon Lee updated members on plans and preparations for initial discussions with themed stakeholder groups in October and November 2023. Karim Vahed provided additional contact points and avenues for engaging with entomologist groups. Andy Clements led a detailed discussion around timetables, prioritisation and purposes of the initial meetings, highlighting how they will shape ongoing lines of communication, engagement and the proposed stakeholder Forum.

Actions

Andy Clements and Natural England to draft the next blog and share with members for their consideration, with a prospective publication window of November 2023. Stakeholder engagement to be added as a substantial agenda item for the November meeting

5. Member updates

There was a round table session on topical organisational news and wider issues related to conservation translocations. These included member briefings on:

- First breeding of white-tailed eagles following their reintroduction to England.
- Research into soil fungi community translocations.
- Payments for coexistence as human-wildlife conflict resolution tool.
- British Wildlife magazine article on conservation translocations.
- COP15 target(4) to develop indicator of human-wildlife coexistence.
- Numerous recent and planned invertebrate translocation projects.
- Incidental and illegal translocations.

6. Plan for November meeting

Simon Lee outlined plans and potential locations for an in-person meeting in November

7. Round up and date/location of next meeting

Date of next meeting: Late November – date and location TBC