

National Estate for Nature Group

Meeting Minutes: 19 June 2025

Attendance

- Defra: Minister for Nature Mary Creagh, James Greenway, Jed Hamblin-Boone
- Natural England: Tony Juniper, Oliver Harmar, Andy Smith (on Teams)
- Environment Agency: Luke Farrington (on Teams)
- Forestry Commission: Richard Stanford
- Forestry England: Mike Seddon
- Canal and River Trust: Richard Parry
- Church Commissioners: Paul Jaffe
- Clinton Devon Estates: John Varley
- The Crown Estate: Bill Eyres
- Department for Education: Louise Whitesman (on Teams)
- Department for Transport: Jennifer Raynor (on Teams)
- Duchy of Cornwall: Will Bax
- Duchy of Lancaster: Alistair Martin
- Elveden Estate: Andrew Blenkiron
- Homes England: Alison Crofton
- LocatED: Lara Newman
- MoJ: Carl Von Reibnitz
- MoD: James Clare
- National Trust: Rosie Hails
- Network Rail: Neil Strong
- National Highways: Stephen Elderkin
- RSPB: Michael Copleston
- United Utilities: Jim Airton (on Teams)
- Wildlife Trusts: Rob Stoneman
- Yorkshire Water: Tim Hawkins (on Teams)
- Defra officials: Deb Hankins, Andrew Jackson, Nick Barter, Ian Fenn, Tom Lafford, Louisa Willows

Apologies:

- Cabinet Office: Ross Ferguson

Note

Due to technical issues, some attendees joining virtually missed part of the meeting.

Actions

Defra Secretariat to:

1. Schedule an interim meeting for Natural England to present initial proposals for the metrics and objectives of the proposed minimum standard for the group's action.
2. Revise the Terms of Reference (ToR) based on member feedback and circulate for agreement by 16 July, scheduling discussion to support.
3. Schedule the Q3 meeting for September.

Members to:

1. Agree the ToR by correspondence and by 23 July.
2. Propose projects or items for discussion at or between quarterly meetings.

Minutes

1. Member experiences

- Short presentations were delivered by The Crown Estate, RSPB, National Trust, Clinton Devon Estates, and Defra, sharing experiences in applying aspects of the proposed minimum standard.

2. Metrics and objectives for the Minimum Standard

- Due to technical issues, the scheduled presentation - on initial proposals on how to define, measure and track action against the proposed minimum standard - could not be delivered. The presentation will be shared with members, and an interim meeting will be arranged to discuss the proposed metrics and objectives.
- Natural England will establish a working group to advance the development of the metrics and objectives.

3. NEN Terms of Reference

- Members proposed that the minimum standard and its constituent elements should be flexible and ambitious, acknowledging that not all standards are applicable to every organisation.
- It was proposed that a menu of options should be developed, with a requirement to deliver a minimum number of selected standards or principles.
- Discussion around TNFD (Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures) acknowledged that although it supports organisational resilience, not all organisations may be well positioned to implement it. Some members suggested

prioritising the TCFD (Taskforce on Climate-related Financial Disclosures) as a step towards TNFD.

- Some members noted the need for internal governance and approvals before committing to the minimum standard. It was agreed that Defra would recirculate draft ToRs for the group's agreement by 16 July.

Suggestions for beneficial follow up actions or discussion included:

- Identifying a collective approach for mapping all members' land holdings to enhance transparency, support shared insight, and better enable collaboration across estates.
- Establishing a mechanism for accountability, including peer review.
- Acting as a 'leadership' group to engage and encourage organisations beyond the NEN membership, including consideration of engaging and responding to public appetite for action.