

National Estate for Nature Group

Meeting Minutes: 14 October 2025

Attendance

- Defra: Minister for Nature Mary Creagh CBE MP, James Greenway (on Teams), Jed Hamblin-Boone
- Natural England: Tony Juniper, Andy Smith
- Environment Agency: Luke Farrington (on Teams)
- Forestry England: Tristram Hilborn (on Teams)
- Canal and River Trust: Heather Clarke (on Teams)
- The Church Commissioners: Paul Jaffe (on Teams), Laura Moss-Bromage (on Teams)
- Clinton Devon Estates: John Varley
- The Crown Estate: Bill Eyres
- Department for Education: Sally Wiseman (on Teams)
- Department for Transport: Naomi Ginnever (on Teams)
- Duchy of Cornwall: David Cope
- Duchy of Lancaster: Archie Rose
- Elveden Estate: Rob Minty
- Holkham Estate: Jake Fiennes
- LocatED: Lara Newman
- MoJ: Carl Von Reibnitz
- MoD: James Clare (on Teams)
- National Trust: Rosie Hails
- National Highways: Stephen Elderkin
- RSPB: Blanaid Denman (on Teams)
- United Utilities: Matthew Higginson (on Teams)
- Wildlife Trusts: Dan Pescod
- Yorkshire Water: Tim Hawkins (on Teams)
- Defra officials: Nick Barter, Ian Fenn, Louisa Willows, Nada Saidi (on Teams)

Apologies:

- Cabinet Office: Ross Ferguson
- Homes England: Alison Crofton
- Network Rail: Neil Strong

Actions

Defra Secretariat to:

1. Revise the Terms of Reference (ToR) based on amendments agreed in this meeting and publish on gov.uk
2. Schedule the Q1 meeting for January.

Minutes

1. Estate management plan metrics

Natural England shared progress on developing estate management metrics. Members highlighted the value of mapping and supported a flexible approach to measuring and reporting progress, emphasising the need to encourage contributions at all levels and recognising the multifunctionality of land.

Members noted the value of communicating progress to inspire and involve others beyond the group, and cautioned that a staged approach to measuring ambition and action should support practical progress without discouraging those at earlier stages.

30by30 was discussed as a framework for the NEN to trial approaches, 'pledge' contributions and engage others, with emphasis on long-term management and inclusive criteria. The importance was also recognised of land and action for nature and people beyond that which will count towards 30by30. It was clarified that each member is not required to achieve 30by30 on their own land, or for the NEN Group to do on the combined land, but rather that all members contribute to the national commitment.

The practicalities and challenges of long-term action and commitments on tenanted land was noted as an item for useful further discussion.

2. Agreement of the Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference and its 'minimum standard' were agreed pending incorporation of amendments discussed during the meeting, primarily to recognise that TNFD may be a longer-term ambition for some members and impractical for others; and to ensure pragmatism in engagement with LNRs in members' localities.

3. Rebuilding Nature Initiative

Stephen Elderkin of National Highways gave a presentation on the Rebuilding Nature Alliance and its potential for collaboration with the NEN or its members. It prompted discussion on how it, or similar initiatives, could support shared learning and leadership. Members noted the value of exploring the cost-effectiveness of different interventions to create, restore or connect habitat and relative infrastructure costs; and expressed interest in collaborative mapping efforts.