

Notes from ADEPT NC&H group 11th May 2026

Attendees

Tim De-Keyzer	Suffolk CC (Chair)
Quinton Carroll	Cambridgeshire CC
Kiruben Naicker	Cambridgeshire CC
Eliza Alqassar	Buckinghamshire C
Rachel Murtagh	Planning Advisory Service
Jo Bowman	North Yorkshire C
Adam Stewart	Defra
Simon Cramp	Hampshire CC
Simon Adams	Environment Agency
Simon Cridland	Bracknell & Forest Heath DC
George Goodby	Environment Agency
Rebecca Moberly	Planning Advisory Service
Adam Lathbury	Derbyshire CC
Matt Adams	Nottinghamshire CC
Tom French	Derbyshire CC
Justin Wilson	West Yorkshire CA
Timothy Johns	North Yorkshire C
Hannah Girvan	Westmorland & Furness C
Nada Saidi	Defra

Biodiversity Net Gain

RM summarised recently announced changes in govt response to consultations undertaken in 2025

Q/ discussion:

NSIPs - BNG will only apply to development consent order applications submitted on or after 2 November 2026

Delivery hierarchy: NSIPs can deliver on-site or off-site in the first instance

RM slides attached.

Other points:

EA (Bucks) you can view our guidance here: [Guidance on Archaeology and Biodiversity Net Gain](#)

This is aimed at landowners and is something we insist on for habitat banks we are regulating as a Registered Organisation. What we don't know is how many other ROs encourage landowners to carry out HER searches and take archaeology into account...

RM added some links for BNG as mentioned:

The BNG and archaeology guidance is linked on this page: [Multi-functional Benefits and Biodiversity Net Gain | Local Government Association](#) and includes a recording of a session about the project from Dr Nick Overton who led the work

Sharing existing practice on [The Off-site BNG Marketplace | Local Government Association](#)

The recording and slides from last week's session with Defra and MHCLG on upcoming BNG changes will be posted here very soon: [PAS BNG Event Resources | Local Government Association](#). In the meantime, you can access the recordings at the PAS YouTube channel.

[Good Practice of LPAs and applicants working together on BNG | Local Government Association](#)
- more good practice to follow;

Lots of resources here: [The BNG Library | Local Government Association](#)

Q. as to whether ADEPT will respond to the brownfield exemption consultation. TDK will check back with DD. This likely through Planning group.

ALGAO updates

QC provided an update on several pieces of work undertaken by ALGAO:

Archaeology and solar farms:

[Archaeology and Solar Farms: Good Practice Guide • Solar Energy UK](#)

Archaeology value to development – update imminent:

[Archaeology in Development Management: its contribution in England, Scotland & Wales | ALGAO](#)

How LGR is affecting archaeology services – report is pending

EA (Bucks) - the Archaeology and Solar guidance was being pushed hard at the ClfA conference a couple of weeks ago. The ask being to consider each site on a case by case basis, to trial new survey techniques where standard geophysics doesn't work, and not to take a blanket pre-determination approach. Mixed views on this and will be interesting to see how it pans out.

MA (Notts) - Just to add that the Solar Guidance is for large scale schemes rather than the smaller (TCPA) ones.

QC - Current Historic England Advice Note on renewable energy being reviewed, esp. in light of change in policy on onshore wind. Watch this space!

Local Nature Recovery Strategies

AS provided national update:

Published LNRS now over 30

Imminent email to RAs confirming funding [now received 😊]

Also package of delivery advice with some amends from previous

TDK raised Q re Rebuilding Nature and who currently engaged with them – this was limited for those on the call. EA (Bucks) aware that Ox-Cam arc partners looking at this.

As confirmed Defra keeping watching brief on development of these strategic network approaches, could see potential value, but wasn't promoting any of them specifically, or looking to build a 'regional' level of mapping between LNRS and national NRN.

PAS referenced a [survey](#) they are carrying out of LAs views on strategic nature networks

To join our Nature Network for LPAs please drop a line to pas@local.gov.uk

Land Use Framework

NS joined the meeting and provided an overview of the LUF published recently (slides attached) and invited feedback. The discussion touched on potential for more disaggregated data/ analysis, potentially more aligned with SDS geographies. Further data releases are promised in the Defra materials. Also ongoing engagement with stakeholders on applications of the LUF principles and analysis, for example linked to future focusing/ prioritisation of environmental land management support. TDK took action to speak to DD about ensuring ADEPT has seat in ongoing stakeholder work at national and regional scale.

ALL invited to reflect on following Qs:

Any local ideas/ initiatives to take the LUF and apply at a more local/ regional scale?

Are there existing channels/ collaboration platforms/ groups that would provide a good place for that regional/ local translation of the LUF?

Any views/ suggestions on how the LUF/ LNRS frameworks in tandem can be used to inform and strengthen environmental land management delivery?

Updates

Natural England – weren't able to attend

Environment Agency – SA flagged [Chief Scientist's Annual Review](#) and two products relating to our Integrated Water Management Programme: [Planning and Water Toolkit](#) [IWMF Toolkit](#)

Planning Advisory Service RMu highlighted the [Nature Recovery Toolkit for Local Authorities | Local Government Association & Nature Recovery Toolkit Pilot Case Studies | Local Government Association](#) and a forthcoming launch [event](#) on 1st June.

Join the launch of the redesigned Nature Recovery Toolkit, shaped by council pilots—real case studies, practical lessons, and next steps.

FYI PAS has a support programme and a network for SDS Strategic Planning | Local Government Association

[PAS SDS Good Practice Tips for effective working between Strategic and Local Planning Authorities](#) |...

Future items/ AOB

Reminder to all to let TDK have any future agenda items that they would like the group to cover.

End of meeting.