

SECA Natural Capital Sub-Group Report Back

Our first decision is that, if there is a sub-group, it should be called the “**natural capital**” sub-group (rather than “Land and Nature”). In so doing we should ensure the correct use of the term indeed “own” the definition to counter its miss use (pricing nature, trading nature, licence to trash etc).

There is already a lot going on in the natural capital arena so we need to be clear if there is an extra role that a SECA group could contribute. Several things discussed are valuable but are probably already being done by constituent organisations. These include:

- Expressing the value of nature
- Presenting positive visions for the environment
- Provide inspiring stories about what can be achieved
- Promoting resilience in the environment through diverse nature
- Promoting natural solutions to, for instance, flood management, carbon capture etc.

SECA Role – To identify key players in the regional natural Capital agenda and stay abreast of developments and share with wider SECA audience where and if relevant through newsletter. See below.

We considered, however, that there may be 4 areas where a SECA group may be helpful:

1. Ensuring that natural capital as a subject is always present in SECA newsletters so it stays as a consideration / priority in the minds of SECA members.
2. A “Rewild your Local Authority” project where we look at and share best practice in LAs to encourage them to deliver better for natural capital.
3. Look at how LAs are working on their own land in relation to the climate and ecological emergency – how are they directly delivering net biodiversity gain.
4. Generate and promote success stories to inspire SECA members and present positive visions.

In terms of the activity of the group, however, much of the above focuses on the use of a SECA group on networking in a way that is not already done by SECA's constituent organisations. Appropriate networking might then empower SECA members to, for example, work with LAs to help them deliver better for natural capital. So, a group may not be there to deliver action itself but may be there to network information to enable SECA members to deliver action.

We sought a practical way of doing this in a way that should not call on capacity from SECA centrally. The key recommendation here was to provide natural capital stories that could be slotted straight in to SECA newsletters with minimal requirement for editing. This could be the single simple achievable task that may help keep the ecological emergency an integral part of the climate emergency in the minds of SECA members and perhaps provide the tools for members to take action. Articles for the newsletter would be essentially very brief but could contain links to more information.

Volunteers to deliver action:

- Helen Meade (Railway Lands Wildlife Trust, email – coordinator@railwaylandproject.org) offered to bring stories together and offer them to the SECA newsletter.
- Henri Brocklebank (SWT – henribrocklebank@sussexwt.org.uk) might be able to help with coordination.

- Tony Whitbread (SWT – tonywhitbread2@sussexwt.org.uk) offered to support
- Mike Rowbottom (thesixhillsgiant@gmail.com) may have capacity to help the group.

Next step – Henri to work with Helen to consider a system of contributing articles.

Attendees in the Natural Capital group:

Tony Whitbread	SWT	tonywhitbread2@sussexwt.org.uk
Henri Brocklebank	SWT	henrirocklebank@sussexwt.org.uk
Helen Meade	Railway Lands Wildlife Trust	coordinator@railwaylandproject.org
Mike Rowbottom		thesixhillsgiant@gmail.com
John and Mary Bassendine		jsbassendine@yahoo.co.uk
John Marder		johnmarder@hotmail.com
Milly Hawkins	Railway Lands Wildlife Trust	education@railwaylandproject.org