

## **Nature Recovery Sheffield: Terms of Reference**

### **What is NRS?**

**We are a movement of people working together for nature recovery in Sheffield**

### **Why have we set up NRS?**

Globally, we are in the middle of a 6<sup>th</sup> mass extinction of wildlife. We are losing both the diversity of species and the total amount or abundance of wildlife. Causes are many but include a loss of good land or water for nature, made worse by climate change.

This matters because, as well as our moral role in caring for the world around us, people are also part of nature. We thrive when there is clean air to breathe, clean water to drink and when we feel connected to nature. We need good soils supporting nature-friendly food production. We rely on the land around us to support a diversity and abundance of plants, wildlife and other species that together make up an ecosystem that helps to store carbon to combat climate change and hold back flood waters that can otherwise destroy our homes and businesses.

To turn this around, we need more land and water that's good for nature where wildlife can thrive. The global community are currently discussing a proposal for 30% of land and water great for nature by 2030, then 50% by 2050.

We estimate that <3% of land and <8% of water is currently great for nature in Sheffield.

This is why we have recognised there is a nature (& climate) crisis, declared a nature emergency in Sheffield and are now working for nature's recovery.

### **Our Vision**

Throughout Sheffield, from our streets & neighbourhoods to the wider countryside, there will be an abundance of nature that is protected, cared for and experienced by everyone.

We want to see:

- 30% of land and water great for nature by 2030
- More wildlife by 2030

### **Our Mission**

*By thinking globally and acting locally, together we will turn around the nature emergency and put nature in recovery in Sheffield*

### **We will get there by:**

**Growing, co-ordinating and empowering a movement of people to:**

- 1) Protect & Restore:** looking after land and water that's already good for nature, restoring what's in poor condition
- 2) Create:** more spaces for nature, helping wildlife to thrive
- 3) Inspire:** more people to take action for nature

For more information and evidence on the above please see Appendix 1.

## **Membership of NRS Movement**

**Anyone can be part of NRS**, as an individual, group, school, business or organisation. To join NRS an individual or group needs to submit a simple online form that asks them to confirm that they:

1. Are aware of the nature crisis and declare a nature emergency
2. Are or will take action to help nature thrive
3. Will share the actions they take with the wider NRS community
4. Will support and encourage others to take action

Anyone who has an idea that will help nature recover and thrive will be actively encouraged and supported by other members.

Anyone who has signed up is positively encouraged to use the **NRS logo** to publicise their actions as being part of the wider NRS movement. They can still use their own group or organisational logos alongside. Members are encouraged to share their successes (and failures) through comms channels, networking events etc.

**Importantly**, we will ask all members to add their activity to our Nature Recovery Sheffield Community Action for Nature Map so that we can record progress towards our aims

## **How is NRS organised and run**

Please see the diagram on p4

NRS is run by a 'Co-ordinating Group' of volunteers with SRWT who provide support, resources and expertise that enables NRS to deliver more. NRS is key to SRWT delivering its overall strategy and that of the national Wildlife Trust movement.

Some NRS volunteers also represent or lead other local or national environmental, interest or faith groups. Therefore the intention of NRS is not to duplicate any existing group activity but to 'be greater than a sum of our parts' - by amplifying, multiplying and connecting activity across Sheffield.

NRS is not intended to become a separate independent organisation that might compete or duplicate the work of others in the city. It is a movement with a focus on empowering people to take action for nature's recovery

## **Co-ordinating Group**

Is a space for:

- Individuals or group leaders to share the actions they want to take - or are taking - and share learning or seek advice if needed
- Co-ordinating and bringing together similar activities or communities of interest – setting up a \*Task & Finish group to focus on that activity if needed
- Identifying common themes to amplify and promote – potentially linking to wider national campaigns
- Determining the need for and organising training or skills shares
- Organising large connecting events and networking opportunities
- Planning social media and wider communications about NRS activity
- Reviewing activity across the city (using the community action for nature map) and identifying where to prioritise
- Agreeing who should represent NRS to others at forums and meetings

**Meeting frequency:** monthly (except summer and Christmas holidays), set in advance.

Attendees: anyone who is taking action for nature either individually or as part of a group is welcome to attend the monthly Co-ordinating Group meetings in order to aid knowledge sharing across the city. In order to ensure continuity, there are three key attendees expected at each Co-ordinating Group meetings in 2022/23:

Claire Baker (OAG), Dawn Spiers (Sheffield Greenpeace), SRWT Rep (Ian, Nicky and/or Liz).

The Chair of the group will be one of the three key attendees.

Agenda: will be set by the group, mainly by the Chair. Light touch notes and record of actions planned will be taken and reviewed at every meeting so that things aren't repeated or misunderstood.

Secretariat: SRWT

Regular communication and joint working with SRWT is essential (see below).

**\*NRS Task & Finish Group (if required)**

Responsible for:

- taking forward a specific task/activity that requires more than 1 or 2 people to have an impact

Meeting frequency: as required for action area/targets

Comprised of: members who are self-selecting based on their capacity and skills in relation to the particular task and drawn from the wider NRS Community.

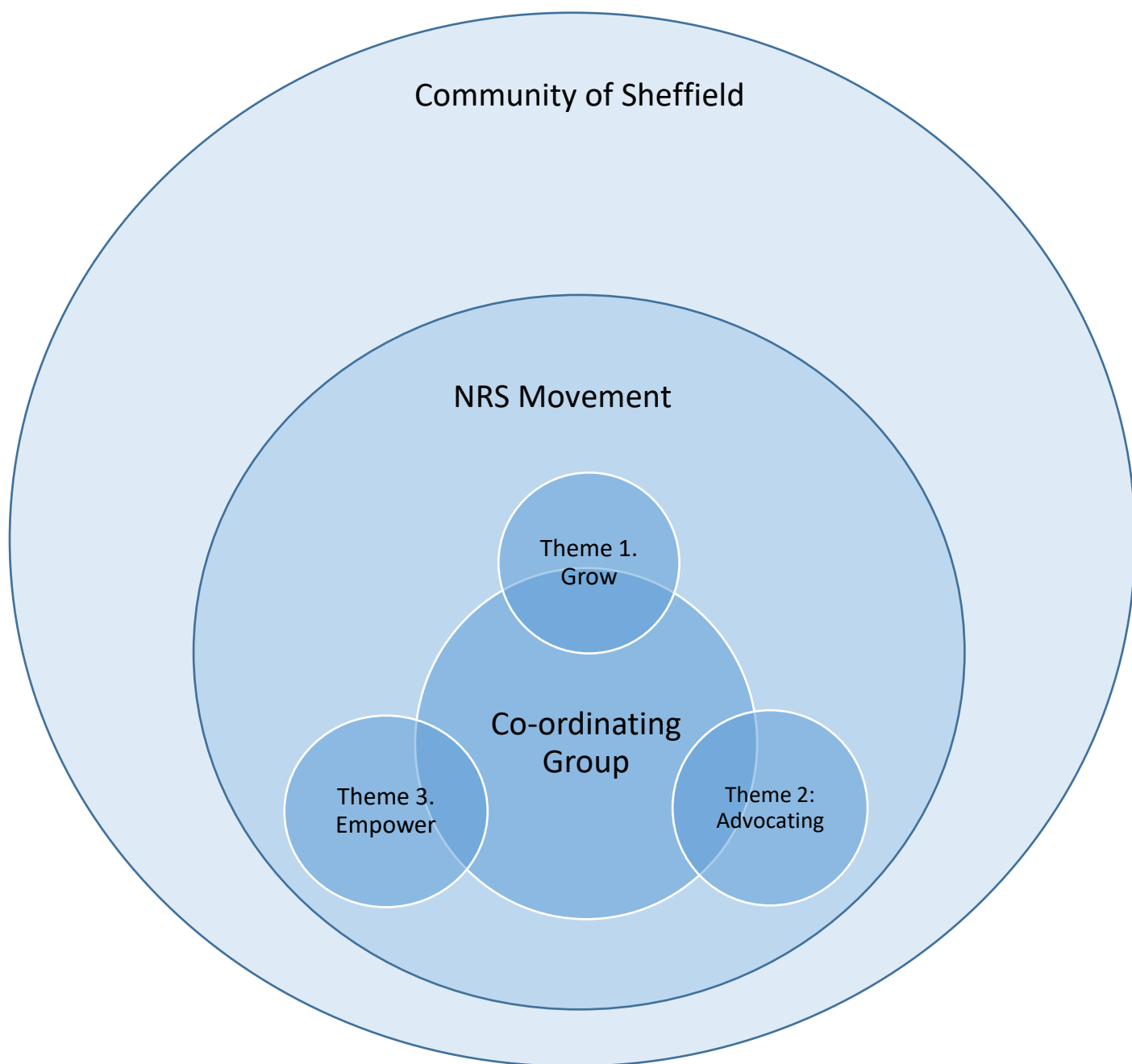
One person from the Task & Finish group will feedback to the Co-ordinating Group about progress. This can be by attending the Co-ordinating Group or providing a short summary to one of the Key Attendees.

Agenda: will be set by the group. Light touch notes and record of actions planned will be taken and reviewed at every meeting so that things aren't repeated or misunderstood. Date of next meeting will be agreed within meetings

Secretariat: can be provided by SRWT but only as a last resort. Ideally a member of the group will take notes.

**Funds & Resources:**

SRWT can provide some support and resources (e.g. website, GDPR-compliant data storage). SRWT can also secure additional funds and paid support, for example, a community pot to facilitate people/communities taking action. In this case SRWT would be the 'accountable body' (our accounts are audited) but the funds would be restricted for NRS use and distributed by NRS Co-ordinating Group.



## **Appendix 1: Information and Evidence**

Biodiversity: the diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems, is declining faster than at any time in human history worldwide<sup>1,2</sup>. Of the United Nation’s 20 targets for biodiversity, only six have been partially met. The rest have failed<sup>3</sup>.

Although these are international facts, the UK State of Nature Report highlights that it is one of the most nature depleted countries in the world<sup>4</sup>, having suffered from decades of pressures including land-use change, pollution, changes in farming practices and now a changing climate. A shocking 2020 report revealed that 1 in 4 species of mammals are threatened with extinction in the UK<sup>5</sup>.

But what about the local picture? In 2018, The Sheffield State of Nature Report<sup>6</sup> was published by a consortium of partner organisations<sup>7</sup>. Where the data was available, it revealed a mixed picture and generally reflects national trends including declines in farmland bird species and sites designated for wildlife being in varied condition. Please see the full report for a detailed overview of what we know, and don’t know.

### **1) Protect & Restore:** *looking after land and water that’s already good for nature, restoring what’s in poor condition*

We need to protect and improve the spaces we already have for nature across the whole of Sheffield, so that they are great for nature as well as people. Over 36% of Sheffield district is designated by sites with European, national or local designation<sup>8</sup> including five ‘Sites of Special Scientific Interest’ (SSSI’s), 253 Local Wildlife Sites (LWS’s) and 17 Local Nature Reserves (LNR’s). However, the majority of this designated land is in the Peak District National Park and only just over half of Sheffield’s LWS are classified as being in ‘positive conservation management’. This is due to a range of factors including neglect, non-native invasive species and development threats.

There are opportunities for communities to become involved in the on-going protection, management and enhancement of such sites, especially those on publically-owned land. Sheffield City Council is a major land owner – owning between 18-26% of Sheffield (depending on which measure is used<sup>9</sup>) and therefore is an obvious partner to work with. Many Friends of Groups already carry out this essential work, and it would be building on this existing network of expertise. There are also opportunities to work with private land owners – both big and small who own natural green and blue spaces in Sheffield.

### **2) Create:** *more spaces for nature, helping wildlife to thrive*

Natural habitats are becoming increasingly fragmented by roads, building developments and other threats. Corridors and networks of quality habitat are needed to help wildlife move throughout the city and adapt to climate change. A number of existing nature corridors exist, or partially exist, but could be improved such as

<sup>1</sup> <https://ipbes.net/global-assessment> (2019)

<sup>2</sup> [www.wwf.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-09/LPR20\\_Full\\_report.pdf](http://www.wwf.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-09/LPR20_Full_report.pdf) (2020)

<sup>3</sup> [www.cbd.int/gbo5](http://www.cbd.int/gbo5)

<sup>4</sup> [www.rspb.org.uk/our-work/state-of-nature-report/](http://www.rspb.org.uk/our-work/state-of-nature-report/) (2019)

<sup>5</sup> [www.mammal.org.uk/science-research/red-list/](http://www.mammal.org.uk/science-research/red-list/) (2020)

<sup>6</sup> [www.wildsheffield.com/wildlife/wildlife-conservation/sheffield-state-of-nature/](http://www.wildsheffield.com/wildlife/wildlife-conservation/sheffield-state-of-nature/) (2018)

<sup>7</sup> Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust, Sheffield City Council, The University of Sheffield, Sheffield Hallam University, Museums Sheffield, Sheffield Bird Study Group and Sorby Natural History Society

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.wildsheffield.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/3.-DESIGNATED-SITES.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> <https://nowthenmagazine.com/articles/who-owns-sheffield-digging-deep-into-land-ownership-in-our-city#:~:text=Land%20Registry%20figures%20reveal%20that,to%20be%20around%2024%2C000%20acres>

those along river corridors. In other cases, the community has aspirations to create or improve corridors- for example S12, S13, S20, north Sheffield Woodlands, Sharrow and Greenhill. There is a real desire to map neighbourhoods and look for opportunities to make more spaces better for nature, for example:

- There are 83 parks in Sheffield parks and 2724ha of amenity grassland<sup>6</sup>
- There are 2.9 million m<sup>2</sup> of grass verges in Sheffield<sup>10</sup> roadside verges
- Grounds of private/community premises e.g. businesses, churches, health services
- There are about 3000 allotments across 70 sites in Sheffield and 4,290ha<sup>6</sup> of urban gardens. A huge potential habitat. Making better use of private and community gardens and green spaces in the community could create additional areas for nature.
- These spaces vary in how great they are for nature at the moment, but all offer at least some scope to do more

In some cases this will also provide improved connections between greenspaces for people, building on the existing connections in Sheffield<sup>11</sup>. This will involve working with many partners including SCC, community groups and organisations, businesses, public organisation, schools, allotment groups, tenant and resident associations, street tree wardens, gardeners and individuals.

### **3) Inspire: more people to take action for nature**

Nature is important for children's health and development, but studies show that in the UK the average child spends less time outside each day than the average prisoner. There are also inequalities in children's access to nature; 71% of children from ethnic minority backgrounds spend less time outside since the Covid-19 pandemic began in March 2020, compared with 57% of white children, and children in households with lower incomes were less likely to spend time outdoors compared to those with greater income<sup>12</sup>.

By engaging with green social prescribing providers / networks and the Local Area Committees, we can make nature more accessible for all and improve peoples' health and wellbeing.

Spending time in nature has huge benefits for our physical and mental wellbeing. There has been a great deal of research about this and the following are examples with proven benefits<sup>13</sup>.

We also want to inspire and engage communities and individuals with stories of actions being taken in Sheffield's communities.

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<sup>10</sup> [www.amey.co.uk/what-we-do/transport-infrastructure/sheffield-streets-ahead/](http://www.amey.co.uk/what-we-do/transport-infrastructure/sheffield-streets-ahead/)

<sup>11</sup> [www.welcometosheffield.co.uk/content/articles/a-greenground-map-of-sheffield/](http://www.welcometosheffield.co.uk/content/articles/a-greenground-map-of-sheffield/)

<sup>12</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/collections/people-and-nature-survey-for-england](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/people-and-nature-survey-for-england)

<sup>13</sup> [www.wildlifetrusts.org/nature-health-and-wild-wellbeing](http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/nature-health-and-wild-wellbeing)