



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Rural Development Programme for England External Working Group

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Background

- Established 3 years ago to help with developing the 2014-2020 Programme
- Key stakeholders from wide range of sectors
- Met about once a month plus ad hoc meetings e.g. on evidence base, evaluation
- Open and frank discussion of issues and policy development



Benefits

- Ownership of programme by stakeholders
- Strong working relationships, trust, enhanced reputation for Pillar 2 and Defra
- “Feedback loop” / dialogue for the programme – including for NRN priorities and activities
- Crucial in addressing all 4 NRN objectives (Art 54.2) but especially ***involving stakeholders*** and ***improving quality of implementation***.



Links with Programme Monitoring Committee

- Standalone group, no formal link with PMC, but is complementary
- EWG is more “hands-on” and can undertake specific tasks

Membership

- Approx. 20 members
- New members – LEPs – and currently reviewing membership
- Participation – planning of agendas will help stakeholders who can't attend every meeting
- Core group with broader membership.

Key EWG Members

Soil Association

National Farmers
Union

Country Land and
Business
Association

National Trust

Environment
Agency

Campaign to
Protect Rural
England

Heritage Alliance

Wildlife Trusts

Central Association
of Agricultural
Valuers

Local Government
Association

National Parks
Authority

Tenant Farmers
Association

ACRE

Royal Society for
the Protection of
Birds

English Heritage

LEPs:
Buckinghamshire
Lincolnshire