

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

Lancashire Environment Record Network

LERN and its partners will:

- 1. Work together to encourage and promote an active voluntary recording sector across Lancashire**
- 2. Provide a focal point for the collection, handling and secure storage of biological and geological records in Lancashire**
- 3. Share information/data with a common aim to protect the county's biodiversity**
- 4. Share records through the National Biodiversity Network, where partners agree**
- 5. Improve access to and dissemination of biological and geological information to a wide range of users**
- 6. Provide biological and geological records to support decision-making with up-to-date and accurate information**
- 7. Co-ordinate and participate in biological and geological surveys**
- 8. Promote and maintain agreed standards of recording**
- 9. Provide and utilise a service to interpret data**
- 10. Sustain a secure financial future for the Lancashire Environment Record Network**

Signed

..... (Name and position in group)

..... (Lancashire Environment Record Network)



Work together to encourage and promote an active voluntary recording sector across Lancashire
LERN will be pro-active in its support of recorders and recording groups. Voluntary recorders gather most of the records for the county and are vital to the success of the network. It will encourage and support the formation of new groups, including groups for young people.

Provide a focal point for the collection, handling and secure storage of biological and geological records in Lancashire

Recorders and recording groups will be able to use LERN as a secure central point for their information. It will ensure records are validated and verified, stored for future use in an organised fashion and for the benefit of Lancashire as a whole.

Share information/data with a common aim to protect the county's biodiversity

LERN will break down barriers which have prevented the sharing of information between groups. Many of these barriers have been caused by lack of communication. LERN will create communication channels to ensure a smooth flow of information and enter into agreements over how the information is used.

Share records through the National Biodiversity Network, where partners agree

LERN will provide the National Biodiversity Network with records to ensure Lancashire is part of any study or profile of the UK as a whole. It means Lancashire's records will reach a huge audience and be available for work that will protect the environment nationally and globally.

Improve access to and dissemination of biological and geological information to a wide range of users

LERN will create systems and introduce activities to encourage wider use of records to encourage more people to consider environmental matters. Access in the past has been restricted to people who knew where information already existed.

Provide biological and geological records to support decision-making with up-to-date and accurate information

Information held by LERN will provide vital data for decision-makers at local, regional and national levels. With up-to-date and correctly maintained data LERN and its partners will have a major influence on decisions which could impact the county's environment and the local community.

Co-ordinate and participate in biological and geological surveys

LERN will be available to provide a central point and have the expertise to ensure groups involved in biological and geological surveys have relevant information and resources.

Promote and maintain agreed standards of recording

Standards and validation of records must be of the highest quality. While Lancashire's local groups are exceptional, new recorders must be able to access guidelines to ensure they help to maintain those standards.

Provide and utilise a service to interpret data

LERN will offer advice and training in how to use and understand data and data systems. We can provide technical support in areas that local groups may not have access eg GIS mapping.

Sustain a secure financial future for the Lancashire Environment Record Network

LERN will endeavour to generate enough income to secure its long-term future. Opportunities for income generation arise from sponsorship, grants, data interpretation and sales.

www.lancspartners.org/lern