



**North Devon Coast National Landscape  
Partnership Meeting**

**Wednesday 1st October 2025, 10.00-12.30  
At: Caddsdow Business Centre, Bideford and on Teams**

**MINUTES**

**1. Welcome, Apologies and Introductions**

<p><b>Attendees – 15 voting members</b></p> <p>In person Eirene Williams (Chair) Richard Prows (Vice-Chair, TC Trust) Cllr Steve Harding (TDC) Lewis Andrew (Community Rep.) Liesje Birchenough (Coastwise ND) Dave Brain (EA) Paul Green (Community Rep.) Linda Blanchard (NDAS)</p> <p><b>Online</b> Kevin Cook (NDWSR) Kate Hind (DCC) Claire Moodie (EAND) Rose Roberts (Community Rep.) Helen Smith (TDC) Rob Joules (NT) Becky Hughes (NE)</p>	<p><b>NL Team</b> Joe Newberry (NL Manager) Laura Carolan (Comms &amp; Support) Jess Giblett (FNF Project Coordinator) Jamie Owen (FNF Project Assistant) Chrissie Ingle (NL Officer – from Nov)</p> <p><b>Apologies</b> Cllr Malcom Wilkinson (NDC) Brian Butler (NFU) Domonic Elson (Exmoor NP) Jane Young (Community Rep.) Mel Austen &amp; Andy Bell (ND Biosphere) Ian Crawford (TTEF) Charlotte Russel (HE) John Rous (CLA) Mark Saunders (NDC) Matthew Odgers-Brown (FC)</p>
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- a. **Chair Eirene Williams** welcomed the partnership members and introduced Chrissie Ingle, incoming NL Officer (November 17<sup>th</sup> start date).
- b. **Joe Newberry (NL Manager)** reported apologies.

**2. Minutes of Meeting April 2025 (attached) and matters arising  
Actions**

- a. **Cllr Harding** to continue to work with LPAs to ensure management plan and extension is on their websites.
- b. **ALL** to publicise NDCNL funding opportunities and promotion of the management plan public consultation.

**3. National Landscape Manager’s Report**

- a. Joe Newberry reviewed the manager’s report (attached) and the team highlighting progress in key areas:

- i. Undergrounding Power Lines – Putsborough and Shaftsborough projects awaiting development by NGED and future pipeline projects. Current funds allocated.
- ii. Update of the delivery of Finding Nature’s Footprints. Summer Bioblitz at Atlantic Academy engaged 370 individuals. Work now focuses on the development of localised Nature Recovery Plans.
- iii. Capital Uplift 30by30 £139k – Initial proposal to support NDDC in the acquisition of almost 9ha of farmland for the creation of a community woodland between Lee and Ilfracombe has not been progressed as the landowner is unwilling to sell. The team are now investigating alternative opportunities
- iv. Planning – Lewis Andrews gave a brief update on planning consultation number of consultations and decisions in favour to be shared at the next partnership.
- v. Farming in Protected Landscapes - FWAG SW awarded the contract of delivery to March 2026. Appointment of the Farming and Land Management Officer. 4 projects approved totalling £60k of £140k project allocation. 3 additional project for assessment at panel 9th October.
- vi. The successful bid to Nature Calling – This Place Calls to me. A collaboration between Red-Herring Productions, Olga Vynnyk and Rose French. Sessions begin in Oct
- vii. “Access for All” Defra grant of £63,008:  
Currently developing projects for delivery by March 2026 including: Interpretation panels at NDC Hillsborough, Ruda ponds access improvements and boardwalk, Additional disabled access equipment and changing rooms, Wave Project adaptive surf equipment, Braunton Burrows accessible gate

**4. Management Plan Review**

JN

- a. Public consultation is live until the 27<sup>th</sup> October. Organisations are encouraged to give feedback and all should share and promote the consultation
- b. Unfortunately, due to signoff to go to public consultation at DCC, TDC and NDDC there has been significant delay. The final draft will no longer be ready for submission to the December DCC cabinet. JN outlined a new timescale on the road to adoption:

September	October	November	December	January	February	March
Public Consultation		<a href="#">Draft Management Plan Public Consultation Now Live – North Devon Coast</a>				
		Consultation Report				
			Natural England – Signoff			
			Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) + Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)			
				Submit to cabinet for adoption in March		
		Produce State of the National Landscape Report				

Kate Hind will complete the HRA and SEA on behalf of the partnership. The completion of the State of Report will be put to tender.

## 5. Landscape Connections - expression of interest interactive workshop JN/CI

- a. Drivers for project development. JN gave a presentation overview of the drivers for project development including the Environmental Improvement Plan and its development of 30by30 targets and PLTOFs, the Biosphere Nature Recovery Plan and the Devon Local Nature Recovery Strategy. Collectively, these drivers give a broad emphasis of nature recovery and access priorities.  
JN presented on the success of previous short-term <3yr projects in raising awareness and engaging wider audiences.
- b. Funding opportunity – National Lottery Heritage Fund Landscape Connections. A brief review of the potential funding opportunity through Landscape connections including a development phase <2yrs and a delivery phase up to 8yrs. Grants available from £10k to £10million.
- c. Priority setting. JN gave an overview of the partnership discussions to date and the priorities for project development emerging across Nature and People themes. Partnership attendees were then asked to provide input to the project development by addressing key questions:  
What is missing?  
What should delivery look like? Including best practice, available guidance and reports, targets and indicators.  
Which other strategic partners should we consider.  
**Action: Team** – to review the output of the workshop and provide an update on progress at a future partnership.

## 6. Partnership Review JN

There are still outstanding actions from the Partnership Review discussed in January 2025 including:

Carry out a skills and knowledge audit of the members

Actively recruit new partnership members

Seek advice on EDI in the partnership

Given the current pressures on the team through the management plan review and staff recruitment, the decision was made to prioritise these actions at the next partnership review.

**Action: Executive** – to discuss the outputs of the partnership review ahead of the next partnership meeting.

## 7. Partner Updates

Liesje Birchenough (Coastwise ND)

-Coastwise programme of Autumn events promoted on the website [Welcome to Coastwise North Devon - Coastwise North Devon](#)

Kevin Cook (North Devon World Surf Reserve)

-Successful surf and conservation film festival held in Croyde 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> August included the -Save the Waves film festival and the Edinburgh Conservation film festival alongside workshops and activities. Looking at planning next year.

-Adam and Rob are heading to Santa Cruise for the WSR conference to discuss surfenomics and present the “protect your patch” initiative developed in North Devon.

- Local Stewardship Council meeting 6<sup>th</sup> November  
Rose Roberts (community rep.)
- Devon Wildlife Trust winter meeting programme published
- Bideford Sustainability Group successful apple pressing and practical conservation days
- NB continue programme of guided walks and half-term activities including the Nature's Tonic supported by FNF

Becky Hughes (Natural England)

- Chris Goodall retired after 24years at NE. There is significant restructuring of roles within NE and there will likely be a new contact for North Devon. Becky will remain the current contact until such time.

Claire Moodie (Earth Action North Devon)

- Ocean Explorers, currently only focused on Ilfracombe for school activity.
- Launched the adult Ocean Explorers from Oct with Sports England funding for 4x cohorts initially.
- Annual Tarka cleanup collected ~640kg
- EAND collaborated with the NDWSR, Biosphere and NL on the Surf and Conservation Film festival delivery.
- EAND working with NDWSR + NT on water quality and stream interventions in the Coombesgate catchment
- November 14<sup>th</sup> fundraising quiz.

Kate Hind (Devon County Council)

- LNRS development. Statutory document the DLNP have lead development. Will be a website and interactive map showing opportunity areas. Public consultation to 20<sup>th</sup> October, it is important that North Devon is well represented.

## **8. Any Other Business**

None

## **9. Date of Next Meetings – 28<sup>th</sup> January 2026**