



North Devon Coast National Landscape PARTNERSHIP

Wednesday 29th January 2025

Hybrid MS Teams/Caddsdow Business Centre, Bideford 1.30 - 4.00

MINUTES

<p>Attendees - 17 Voting Members Lewis Andrews (Community Rep.) Liesje Birchenough (Coastwise ND) Dave Brain (EA) Pete Burgess (DWT) Kevin Cook (Community Rep.) Ian Crawford (TTEF) Dominic Elson (Exmoor NPA) Paul Green (Community Rep.) Kate Hind (DCC) Becky Hughes (NE) Claire Moodie (Community Rep.) Matt Odgers-Brown (FC) Richard Prowse (Vice-Chair, TC Trust) Rose Roberts (Community Rep.) Justin Seedhouse (NT) Eirene Williams (Chair) Jane Young (Community Rep.)</p>	<p>Officers Jenny Carey-Wood (NL Manager) Laura Carolan (Comms & Support) Evie Giblett (Project Assistant) Joe Newberry (NL Officer) Jamie Owen (FNF Project Assistant)</p> <p>Apologies Mel Austen (ND Biosphere) Andrew Bell (ND Biosphere) Cllr Elma Blackmore (Braunton PC) Brian Butler (NFU) Chris Goodall (NE) Cllr Steve Harding (TDC) Chris Preece (Voluntary Sector - NDAS) John Rous (CLA) Charlotte Russell (HE) Cllr Malcolm Wilkinson (NDC)</p>
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1. Welcome and Apologies - Chair Dr Eirene Williams welcomed Partnership members in person and online and reported apologies. EW reported that since the last Partnership, Louise Reynolds the Joint Manager had resigned in October (but had completed a draft report on the Review of the Partnership and membership) and JCW had returned to full-time manager. Jamie Buxton-Gould the FNF Project Co-ordinator had also resigned to pursue her ecology career, and the post will be going out for recruitment shortly. The chair thanked both officers for their work and contribution to the National Landscape.

2. Minutes of the meeting on 25th September 2024. Minutes agreed and Matters arising:

- FiPL project visits – proposed to be after April Partnership arranged by JN
- LC had received communications only from PFND
- JCW received link to design guides from Exmoor NPA but all due to be updated
- LPAs had received written confirmation of Plan extension, but this is not shown on their websites. **Action – JCW** to follow up with LPAs.
- Limited comments on amendments to NPPF on national forum. **DE** advised there are proposed new rules on planning for EV chargers etc.
- **Creative People and Places** - Arts Council England funding bid by North Devon Council – the National Landscape is a consortium partner on behalf of the environment sector (Exmoor National Park and North Devon Biosphere). Decision due July 2025.

3. Governance - It was agreed to defer re-election of Community Representatives to Partnership to April pending update of the Partnership Review, and to conduct a skills audit of current members, taking account of review recommendations – **Action: KH.**

4. Management Plan Review – discussion of Outline Draft v2 circulated:

- a) **Vision – agreed to** update the vision with additional elements such as thriving habitats, nature-based solutions, ecosystem functioning, people engagement and review wording of the accessibility statement. Cross check with outcomes in later sections.
- b) **Special Qualities – agreed to** include proposed edits to Wildlife, Geology and Heritage sections but not an additional people focussed quality
- c) **Structure – agreed to** Climate and EDI being cross cutting themes but need clear explanation in report and highlighted in other sections where they are addressed. **KH** advised that DCC had no concerns about proposed structure. **Action: JCW** to follow up with our other two local authorities as no representatives present. **Agreed to** three main chapters – but re-ordered putting Place first to reflect landscape designation, then Nature and finally People to reflect the current ecological priorities.
- d) **Main chapters** - Place and People sections agreed but many edits to Nature on both the Outcome and Drivers whilst noting this does not need to duplicate the existing Nature Recovery Plan. **BH** requested that the original wording of the PLTOFs be retained in full.
- e) **PLTOF apportionments – Action: JN** to liaise with BH, MOB and DB before finalising
- f) Online consultation – results from 466 completed surveys reported and summary will be included in Plan and taken into account in proposed Objectives.
- g) **State of AONB report** – to be completed and sent to Partnership in February.
- h) **Next steps** – meeting with Partnership members in February to add detail to Objectives and Delivery Plan. **Action: JCW and team** to edit and complete remaining sections before circulating a final draft to Executive/Partnership by end of March for final sign off in April.

5. National Landscape Managers’ Report

- a) Key updates to the **Business Plan**:
 - Biodiversity – LNRS to be presented at Devon Local Nature Partnership conference on 24 March, data and mapping could feed into Management Plan
 - SDF – 2 projects in pipeline, funds still available
 - Nature Calling – exploring option to work with Ilfracombe on arts/nature project
 - Video – main one 8 minutes long but commissioning further 12 bite-size clips for use on social media – all to be completed for March.
 - Accessibility audit of website to be completed by Cosmic to remove PDFs

b) Planning and Development update

Planning Activity April - December 2024 (comparison with same period in 2023-24)

Type	North Devon	Torridge	Total
No. Applications submitted in AONB	78 (171)	22 (40)	100 (211)
No. Comments submitted	25	4	29 (62)
No. Decisions against our advice (including o/s from last year)	3	1	4
Good Outcomes in line with our advice	5	4	9
Pre-Application Requests	28	5	33 (40)
Pre-Application advice given	12	3	15 (11)

Appeals Submissions	0	1	1 (5)
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LA queried outcomes – **Action: JCW/LA** to update at next meeting

Comments

- Approval of 21 affordable houses under a CLT at Woolacombe
 - Pre-applications – 45% responded to because have a landscape or visual impact; full applications gradually increasing but lower than last year.
 - White Cross FLOW - Revised Submission January 2025, amended data – to review
 - Xlinks Morocco-UK Power Project (NSIP) – new submission in January – to review.
 - LURA 2023 – Seek to Further the Purpose – more active duty and defines relevant authorities. See: [Guidance for relevant authorities on seeking to further the purposes of Protected Landscapes - GOV.UK](#)
 - North Devon & Torridge Housing & Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) – consultations
 - Recruited specialist landscape planning advice from Exmoor National Park Authority
- c) **Finding Nature’s Footprints** (JN, JO, EG) – see attachments presented at meeting – infographic of year 2 activities and Year 2 evaluation survey results. Key points are the 13,000 species observations uploaded onto iNaturalist by team, volunteers and participants; 1421 people engaged in project activities; new species found on Braunton Burrows; training and survey ambitions achieved, final year will focus on new audience engagement and community-led nature recovery plans.

6. Partnership Review (verbal report by the Chair) – draft report needs to be linked to new Management Plan, final version to be circulated in February. **The following recommendations and actions from the report were proposed now by the Chair and All Agreed:**

Recommendation 1 - Workshop to be held at next Partnership meeting to review changes

Recommendation - Manager to seek advice on addressing EDI in representation

Recommendation - Carry out a skills and knowledge audit of membership in February

Recommendation - Actively recruit new members ASAP for known representation gaps and others from skills audit. Known gaps:

- Parish councils
- Green Tourism
- Nature – invite lead of ‘Coast’ working group of Nature Recovery Plan
- Health and Wellbeing
- Accessibility/Access issues
- Education
- Local representative for heritage (NDAS stepping down)

7. Partner Updates

Devon Wildlife Trust (PB) – pine marten release completed on Dartmoor, further release planned for Exmoor and given 10-mile range, they may move into the Combe Martin area in the National Landscape. Looking at further work on healthy rivers and wetlands with existing projects coming to an end in next 2 years (ND Natural Solutions and WEIF).

World Surfing Reserve (KC) – planning to install interpretation panel in the British Museum of Surfing and working on a heritage trail, alongside sessions in schools. University continuing with Surfonomics work, looking at economic impact of surfing alongside work with Biosphere and National Trust on water quality issues.

National Trust (JS) - The National Trust has launched a new ten-year strategy 'People and Nature Thriving' on their 130th anniversary. At its core are three ambitious 2050 goals: to restore nature, to end unequal access to nature, beauty and history, and to inspire millions more people to care and take action. For the North Devon and Torridge teams, there will be continuity in the approaches and management they have been carrying out, with ambitious targets to achieve on their 5000 acres in NL. More work needed with neighbouring landowners to work at bigger scale.

Devon County Council (KH) – Roundup – electric buses coming to bus Route 21 serving the coast; Devon Association has funds to celebrate UNESCO Biosphere designation and planning activities around Torrington; Recruiting a woodland creation officer to add to the 69k trees already planted; Naturally Healthy Forum team working with Active Devon to support library wellbeing walks including from Northam, Bideford, Braunton and Ilfracombe from May; Will Frost is the new officer working on DRIP in area (hosted by Biosphere team); Wild About Devon awards now open until 28th February for nominations for groups or individuals <https://www.devonlnp.org.uk/get-involved/wild-about-devon/wild-about-devon-awards/>

Coastwise North Devon (LB) – winter talks programme and citizen science activities ongoing – see <https://www.coastwisenorthdevon.org.uk/>

8. Date of Next Meeting –

WEDNESDAY 30th April 2025, 10-12.30 hybrid meeting at Woolsey Hall followed by sandwich lunch and **Site Visit 1.30-4pm** to East Titchberry, Hartland to see FiPL and Access projects and Malthouse restoration with National Trust, and Galsham Farm access project.