

# North Devon Coast National Landscape Management Plan

## Statement on the Delay of Adoption 2026



**North Devon  
Coast  
National  
Landscape**

The North Devon Coast National Landscape (NDCNL) management plan covers the geographic area of the Protected Landscape, outlining the vision and strategy for conserving and enhancing its natural beauty, including wildlife and cultural heritage, and promoting opportunities for the public understanding and enjoyment of its special qualities.

The management plan for an existing Protected Landscape must be reviewed every 5-years. Following Defra guidance, the NDCNL Partnership in 2022 and agreement with the relevant authorities, Devon County Council, Torrington District Council and North Devon Council in May 2023 made the decision to delay the review of the 2019-2024 management plan until 2025.

The six years since the last Management Plan was produced have seen major changes in the environment, land management, climate and society that have affected the NDCNL. Policy changes at international and national level are reflected in new ambitions for National Landscape Partnerships as a key delivery mechanism for nature and climate priorities, working closely with Natural England and Defra. These include the Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework, the 30 by 30 Criteria and the Devon Local Nature Recovery Strategy. New national legislation has strengthened protection of these areas by amending the duty on relevant authorities to 'seek to further', rather than to just 'have regard to' the purpose to conserve and enhance natural beauty in fulfilling their duties and making decisions affecting the National Landscape.

### **The process of reviewing the management plan and the production of a 2025-2030 draft plan has now been completed following Defra guidance.**

Given significant changes to the context in which the management plan is applied, the decision has been made by the National Landscape team and relevant authorities to carry out a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). This process will result in the preparation of an environmental report that identifies, describes and evaluates the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and geographical scope of the plan. This will ensure the 2025-2030 plan is as effective and robust as possible.

The completion of the SEA will introduce a delay to the relevant authorities' adoption of the newly produced management plan.

Until the new plan is adopted, we recognise that the current management plan 2019-2024, and the policies within are “fit-for-purpose” and are effective in delivering the purpose of the management plan “to conserve and enhance natural beauty”. The NDCNL 2019-2024 management plan will remain in use until the complete adoption of a new plan.



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