



**North Devon
Coast
National
Landscape**

Partnership Chair

Chair of the North Devon Coast National Landscape Partnership

Role Description

The Chair provides leadership, strategic direction, and oversight for the North Devon Coast National Landscape (NDCNL) Partnership.

As well as chairing Partnership meetings, the Chair serves as an ambassador for the National Landscape by representing the Partnership at a high level, building strong relationships, and identifying opportunities to help develop and deliver the statutory Management Plan and strengthen its long-term legacy.

The role requires a commitment to serve at least one 2-year term. If the Chair wishes to serve a second term, the Partnership may reappoint without open election. Neither the Chair nor Vice Chair may serve for longer than four years in total.

This is a voluntary role. Reasonable expenses will be reimbursed if agreed in advance and in line with the host local authority's standard rates of payment.

Principal Duties and Responsibilities

- Chair Partnership meetings (minimum of three per year), guiding the agenda, facilitating discussion, and ensuring meetings run effectively and inclusively.
- Attend Executive Group meetings and Management Plan sessions, taking an active interest in the wider work of the Partnership, including its Working Groups.
- Provide advice and guidance to the National Landscape representatives of the host authority (Devon County Council).
- Work closely with, advise, and support the National Landscape Manager, including oversight of the Manager's annual work programme.
- Maintain close contact with key strategic partners such as the Delivery Partner organisation, local authorities, natural environment bodies, and relevant local NGOs.
- Champion the interests of the North Devon Coast National Landscape, promoting support for the Management Plan, and representing the Partnership within the wider National Landscapes family (including the National Landscapes Association).
- Foster inclusive and collaborative partnerships, building strong, mutually beneficial relationships with public, private, voluntary, and community stakeholders across North Devon and, where relevant, regionally and nationally.
- Represent the National Landscape in external networks, including local, regional and national forums.
- Maintain an up-to-date understanding of issues affecting the North Devon Coast, undertaking training or attending relevant seminars where necessary.
- Act impartially and free from political influence, ensuring the Partnership operates in the best interests of the National Landscape.
- Encourage and support Partnership Members to act collectively and in the interests of the National Landscape.

- Prepare forewords or statements for the Annual Review and the 5-year Management Plan when required.
- Ensure the Vice Chair is involved and well-briefed, so they are able to act when needed.
- Attend the National Landscapes Association Conference in July and the Chairs Conference in November, and represent the National Landscape at other external events when appropriate.
- Be visible within the National Landscape, visiting sites and engaging with local partners and communities whenever practical.

The Partnership Chair is a person who:

- Has presence, confidence, and strong communication and motivational skills.
- Has a passion for North Devon and is well-respected in a relevant area such as planning and development, nature conservation, land management, landscape, heritage, recreation, tourism, or health and wellbeing.
- Is aware of current issues affecting the North Devon Coast and able to foster inclusive, productive partnerships across a wide variety of organisations and interests.
- Is politically aware, diplomatic, and able to advocate for the National Landscape while maintaining neutrality and professionalism.
- Can work collaboratively with the National Landscapes Manager, the Delivery Partner, and the host local authority.
- Has excellent interpersonal skills and is flexible in approach.
- Is able to chair meetings effectively, managing diverse viewpoints and facilitating constructive dialogue.
- Is comfortable leading a collaborative partnership.
- Is a confident communicator, including with media if required.

Essential Skills

- Leadership.
- Ability to encourage involvement and active partnership working.
- Ability to balance a broad range of interests.
- Effective chairing and facilitation skills.
- Strong presentational and hosting abilities.
- Advocacy and ambassadorial capability.
- Analytical skills and confidence in handling a wide remit.

Experience

Essential

- Experience of committees and partnership working.
- Experience working with public, private, and voluntary sectors.
- Experience overseeing budgets or financial management.
- Experience of working collaboratively within a rural or coastal context.

Desirable

- Experience with funding programmes or grant schemes.
- Experience with planning policy or decision-making.
- Experience in organisational development or supporting small bodies.
- Experience in other National Landscapes or protected landscapes.

Knowledge and Interests

Essential

- An understanding of conservation and environmental issues.
- Interest in the social, economic, and environmental opportunities facing rural and coastal communities.
- Knowledge of North Devon's landscape, communities, and relevant networks.
- Understanding of policy, strategy, and delivery structures relevant to UK protected landscapes.

Desirable

- Specialist knowledge relevant to the National Landscape's priorities.
- Knowledge of, or contacts within, regional environmental or strategic networks.

How to Apply

To apply, please complete the Application Form below and return it to AONB@Devon.Gov.UK.

If you are unable to apply via email, please contact us on 01392 388476 to request an application form.

We strongly encourage applicants to arrange an informal conversation with the current Chair and/or the National Landscape Manager before applying. Please get in touch using the email address above to arrange this.

The North Devon Coast National Landscape Partnership is committed to ensuring this role is open to all qualified applicants. If you require any adaptations or assistance during the application process, please let us know.