

Partnership Meeting - Minutes

Wednesday 20th May 2026

10.00-12.30

Hybrid – Ruda Holiday Park, Croyde and on Teams



**North Devon
Coast
National
Landscape**

1. Welcome, Apologies and Introductions

Attendees – 22 voting members In person Eirene Williams (Chair) Richard Prowse (Vice-Chair, Tarka Country Trust) Brian Butler (National Farmers' Union) Claire Moodie (Earth Action North Devon) Cllr. Graham Bell (Devon County Council) Cllr. Malcolm Wilkinson (North Devon Council) Cllr. Stephen Harding (Torridge District Council) Dave Brain (Environment Agency) Dominic Elson (Exmoor National Park) Helen Smith (Torridge District Council) Jane Young (Community Rep.) Kate Hind & Ellie Vaughan (Devon County Council) Kevin Cook (North Devon World Surf Reserve) Lewis Andrews (Community Rep.) Liesje Birchenough (Coastwise North Devon) Linda Blanchard (North Devon Archaeological Society) Paul Green (Community Rep.) Rob Joules & Josey Field (National Trust) Rose Roberts (Community Rep.) Steve Crowther (CPRE) Sue Prosper (Taw and Torridge Estuary Forum) Simon Maddocks (Community Rep. Applicant) Online Andy Bell (North Devon Biosphere Reserve)	NL Team Joe Newberry (National Landscape Manager) (JN) Laura Carolan (People and Place Officer) (LC) Jemima Western (Farming and Land Management Officer) (JW) Jess Giblett (Project Coordinator) (JG) Apologies Chrissie Ingle (National Landscape Officer) (CI) John Rous (The Country Land and Business Association) Becky Hughes (Natural England) Charlotte Russell (Historic England) Mel Austen (North Devon Biosphere Reserve) Matthew Odgers-Brown (Forestry Commission)
---	---

2. Minutes of Meeting January 2026 - Chair

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as a correct record. Outstanding actions were carried forward and are addressed on the agenda

3. National Landscape Manager's Report - JN

Staffing: Jess Giblett Role "Project Coordinator" retained until September 2026 focusing on supporting wellbeing activities, foster care network and working with communities to roll out the nature recovery plans and develop projects for the National Landscape Community Fund.

Management Plan Review Progress. Strategic Environmental Assessment now complete and the finished draft will be submitted to DCC, TDC and NDC appointed officers to produce reports and present to cabinet and committees week commencing 1/06/26

Updates from the Team

The team presented on their key areas of work since the last partnership and looking forward through 2026. Additional details in the circulated slides

- a. Access (LC)
- b. National Landscape Community Fund (LC)
- c. Farming in Protected Landscapes (JW)
- d. Finding Nature's Footprints (JG)
- e. 30by30 and Landscape Connections NLHF bid (JN)

4. Partnership Terms of Reference

JN presented the table of amendments summarising changes from 2019-2026. Predominantly updating the name of the designation and the incorporation of more recent legislation such as LURA. Additional changes include WSR, NDAS, EAND inclusion as members. Removal of the Annual Conference until further assessment of the value and feasibility of hosting. Staff structure changes. Renaming Sustainable Development Fund as National Landscape Community Fund.

Additional Comments: Amendment needed to clarify the status for re-election of community reps. The suggestion was presented that community reps may be re-elected after the 2-year term repeatedly with no fixed end. The partnership recognised the value of longstanding and committed community representatives.

ACTION: JN to implement final edits to the Partnership ToR and circulate.

5. Community Representatives Recruitment

- a. Following the partnership review and some previously "community" representatives taking positions as "organisational" partners we are actively looking to recruit additional representation on the Partnership. Current advert for community rep and chair vacancies has been shared with the mailing list, on social media and through a press release. Please share the opportunity widely. The advert identifies key areas of knowledge and experience which would complement the current partnership.
- b. Application to consider. The team received an application to the position of community rep from Simon Maddocks. Simon introduced himself before stepping out of the meeting. The Partners reviewed Simon's application. Cllr. Graham Bell proposed Simon Maddocks should join the partnership as a community representative, Rose Roberts seconded the motion and the partnership voted all in favour.

ACTION: JN will arrange a full partnership induction with Simon Maddocks.

6. Partnership Delivery Plan

The focus of the session was to begin identifying activities and actions from within the partnership that will form the delivery plan of the Management Plan 2026-2031. The partners split into table focused of the 3 management plan themes, Place, Nature and People and reviewed the objectives set in the management plan with an aim to identify current and proposed activities, key partners and success criteria.

ACTION: Team will produce the draft partnership delivery plan to accompany the new management plan in July.

7. Partner Updates

In response to recommendations at January's partnership, partners were requested to give their updates 2-weeks ahead of the meeting to be circulated with the papers allowing more time in the meeting to discuss collaboration and actions. JN had circulated an online form requesting detail of current activity, upcoming activity, key dates and requests from the partnership. 6 partners responded ahead of the meeting and JN produced a partners update report circulated with the agenda. Feedback on the process was positive and the intention is to repeat in September with greater engagement. Additional partner updates were given and have been summarised in the complete Partners Update Report circulated.

8. Any Other Business

Brian Butler raised concern about the lack of visitor interpretation at key tourist sites such as Saunton Sands Hotel and Ruda Holiday Park, these are in prime National Landscape Locations and are the point at which many visitors engage with the Landscape.

ACTION: LC to explore options for raising the profile of the NL within private tourist businesses along the coast.

9. Date of Next Meetings

- a. 23rd September 2026 (Torridge location TBC)
- b. 20th January 2027

10. Optional Site Visit

Following the meeting the partners were invited to visit a couple of local sites and projects: **Croyde Beach Car park to view the** Wave Project's adaptive surfing equipment and Access for All's beach wheelchairs funded by the Sustainable Development Fund. **Ruda Ponds and Wetlands** to discuss plans and ambitions for Nature, People and Climate and Place.