



**South Devon**  
National  
Landscape

# **Partnership Meeting**

to be held at

**10am on Friday 24 November 2023**

Repton Room at Follaton House and via Zoom

## **Agenda & Papers**

South Devon National Landscape team, Follaton House, Totnes, TQ9 5NE  
Telephone 01803 229330 Email [enquiries@southdevon-nl.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@southdevon-nl.org.uk)

## National Landscape Partnership Membership

**Members nominated by local authorities**

Devon County Council

Cllr Roger Croad  
Cllr Jonathan Hawkins  
(officer advising Peter Chamberlain)

Plymouth City Council

Mike Oxford

South Hams District Council

Cllr Georgina Allen

Cllr John McKay

(officer advising Graham Swiss)

Torbay Council

Cllr Christine Carter

(officer advising Tracy Brooks)

**Members nominated by statutory agencies**

Environment Agency

Emma Magee

Forestry Commission

Joshua Bennett

Historic England

Ross Simmonds

Natural England

Eamon Crowe

**Members co-opted by the Partnership Committee**

Independent

Peter Sandover (Chair)

National Trust

Richard Snow

Plymouth University

John Martin (Vice Chair)

South West Coast Path Association

Ken Carter

**Community Representatives**

Amenity groups

Penny Mills

Business community

Gary Jolliffe

Coast and marine sector

Natasha Bradshaw

Community/voluntary groups

Vacant

Environmental organisations (NGOs)

Ed Parr-Ferris

Landowning/farming community

Vacant

Parish Councils

Vacant

Tourism community

Laura Campbell

*National Landscape team staff attending*

Manager

Roger English

Office Manager

Vanessa Gray (minute taker)

## Agenda

Item 1	Public statements	
The formal meeting and live recording to YouTube immediately follows the public statement session		
Item 2 (5 mins)	Introductions & apologies for absence	
Item 3	Declarations of Interests	
Item 4 (5 mins)	Minutes of the last Partnership Committee meeting (23 June 2023) for approval and any matters arising	Page 2
Item 5 (5 mins)	<b>South Devon National Landscape Partnership matters</b> 5a) Partnership Chair's report	Page 13
Item 6 (10 mins)	<b>National Matters</b> 6a) Rebranding of AONBs to National Landscapes	Page 15
(15 mins)	6b) Levelling Up and Regeneration Act – provisions relating to AONBs contained in Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000	Page 18
(10 mins)	6c) Natural England Guidance on Management Plan reviews for protected landscapes	Page 24
Item 7 (10 mins)	<b>South Devon National Landscape Management</b> 7a) South Hams District Council emerging Corporate Strategy	Page 26
(15 mins)	7b) Management Plan review scope and timetable	Verbal
(10 mins)	7c) South West Coast Path National Trail update	Page 29
(10 mins)	7d) Nature based solutions and natural flood management within South Devon's catchments	Verbal
Item 8 (25 mins)	<b>Partner updates</b> – partner contributions to <b>conserving and enhancing the South Devon National Landscape and Management Plan priorities</b> – recent, current and year ahead.	Verbal
Item 9	<b>For Information</b> 9a) Planning update, including current and recent key planning applications	Annex

## ITEM 4 APPROVAL OF MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SOUTH DEVON AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT FOLLATON HOUSE AND VIA ZOOM ON FRIDAY 23 JUNE 2023

#### INTRODUCTIONS & APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

##### Those present were:

Cllr Roger Croad	RC	Devon County Council
Cllr Jonathan Hawkins	JH	Devon County Council
Kate Hind	KH	Devon County Council <i>initial part of meeting</i>
Peter Chamberlain	PC	Devon County Council <i>from 11am (meeting clash)</i>
Cllr Georgina Allen	GA	South Hams District Council
Cllr John McKay	JM	South Hams District Council
Graham Swiss	GS	South Hams District Council
Tracy Brooks	TB	Torbay Council
Emma Magee	EM	Environment Agency
Peter Sandover	Chair	Independent
Richard Snow	RS	National Trust
John Martin	Vice-chair	Plymouth University
Ken Carter	KC	South West Coast Path Association
Penny Mills	PM	Representative: amenity groups
Natasha Bradshaw	NJB	Representative: coast and marine

##### AONB staff attending:

Roger English	RE	AONB Manager
Vanessa Gray		AONB Office Manager
Phoebe Rhead		AONB FiPL admin (to take notes)

##### Apologies for absence were received from:

Cllr Christine Carter	Torbay Council
Eamon Crowe	Natural England
Ed Parr Ferris	Representative: environmental organisations (NGOs)
Liz Hitchins	Representative: parishes
Laura Campbell	Representative: tourism

##### Observers

Observers were requested to follow the meeting live via YouTube. There was an issue that prevented the meeting streaming live to YouTube, the video was uploaded post meeting.

#### 2. PUBLIC STATEMENTS

- 2.1 No public statements.

#### 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

- 3.1 No interests were declared.

#### **4. MINUTES OF THE 10 MARCH 2023 PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING FOR APPROVAL & ANY MATTERS ARISING**

##### **3.1 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING ON 10 MARCH 2023**

Proposed: Cllr Jonathan Hawkins

Seconded: Emma Magee

Resolved: No objections, the minutes were approved.

##### **3.2 Progress on Actions:**

3.2.1 Action 4 (AONB Manager): Share report with partnership committee members when available. Report has not yet become available but will be circulated when it has.

3.2.2 Action 5 (AONB Manager): Share report with partnership committee members when available. Report has not yet become available but will be circulated when it has.

3.2.3 Action 7 (Vice-chair): Contact the AONB Manager regarding the two year research project. Carried forward due to busy diaries – John Martin will contact the AONB Manager post meeting.

#### **5A PARTNERSHIP CHAIR REPORT**

5a.1 The Chair authored a report that was circulated in the meeting papers.

EM – Mike Pearey the lead executive member for Biodiversity and climate change for South Hams West Dart is holding an event at his farm to talk about biodiversity projects and hear Cllr John McKay's aims for sustainability projects.

##### **ACTION 1 (EM): TO CONNECT THE CHAIR WITH MIKE PEAREY**

5a.2 The Chair is visiting all parish and town councils in the AONB, he has attended a few meetings to date which have been very rewarding. The Chair will feedback suggestions/issues to Partnership Committee.

5a.3 The Chair's report is a new initiative to allow meetings to concentrate on matters relating to the purpose of the Partnership and allow members more time to raise questions. The Chair requests members of Partnership Committee provide brief reports, one page or preferably shorter, in advance of meetings going forward (within 14 days).

#### **5B AONB PARTNERSHIP COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES**

##### **5B.1 Part 1 – Recruiting to vacant roles**

A number of available options to fill three Partnership Committee Community Representative roles were outlined in the paper for this item. The roles are:

- Community and Voluntary Groups
- Farming and Landowner
- Parish Councils

##### **Comments and in discussion**

- i. EM – Feels that 2A is the best option and expressed the need to fill these roles as having these vacancies on the partnership at present is leaving a real gap. Can also put forward some names to the AONB Manager.
- ii. JM – Are there connections with the farming communities through their organisations such as young farmers, which could be a route in?

AONB Manager – we have good contacts with farming groups. There are several young farmers groups around the area which we are in contact with, some of which sit on the Farming in Protected Landscapes local assessment panel. Likewise with the local NFU group.

- iii. EM – There is a new food cluster group being created, a good link between local food production and a possible avenue to explore.
- iv. CHAIR – Agrees with all comments made and likes the 2A approach given that these will be shorter term roles and this option is resource light.

### **TO APPROVE PROPOSED OPTION 2A, TO SEEK SUITABLE CANDIDATES TO CO-OPT INTO ROLES**

Proposed: Emma Magee

Seconded: Ken Carter

Resolved: No objections, option 2A was approved.

## **5B.2 Part 2 – Life on the Edge project: distribution of Community Grants and Conservation Grants**

The AONB Manager went through the update contained in the paper for this item.

Subject to a successful Round 2 bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund, a five-year delivery phase will commence in April 2024. Two separate schemes, Community grants and Conservation grants, have been developed to offer grants through this project. These two schemes will be run in the same way and using the same procedures, but each with a different focus. The proposal is to run these schemes in a similar way to the former AONB Sustainable Development Fund, which is well tried and tested.

### **Comments and in discussion**

- i. CHAIR – Would be keen to sit on the panel and be involved.
- ii. JH – I am happy with the process but feel we should have a Devon County Council representative as well as a member of this group on the panel, Roger Croad or myself.  
AONB Manager – There will be opportunities for anyone on this group to be involved.
- iii. EM – The amounts available for grants over the 5 year period are relatively small pots of money. Is there an opportunity for the project team to make decisions on the small grants rather than them all having to go to panel?  
AONB Manager – The National Lottery stipulate that every level must go before the panel. Unlike the FiPL programme where applications under £5000 do not have to go to panel.  
EM – That will take a lot of administration from the team to arrange meetings, host meetings and record results.

### **TO AGREE THE PROCESS OUTLINED IN THE PAPER FOR THIS ITEM**

#### **RESOLVED**

The process outlined in the AONB Manager's paper is agreed, subject to the following:

1. Interested members from the Partnership Committee are involved;
2. The Chair is subject to agreement by the panel.

## **6A DEVON LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGY AND THE SOUTH DEVON AONB NATURE RECOVERY PLAN**

Tracy Brooks from Torbay Council provided an update for Partnership.

### **6A.1 Observations and in discussion**

- i. JM – Is there a lot of this information already on magic maps?  
TB – Yes, Natural England are going to provide the nationally important items such as SSSI's. There is also a national map that we will work off.
- ii. JM – The JLP is up for renewal next year so it's an opportunity to change planning priorities in terms of net gain and biodiversity. I take it that this be part of the review.  
TB – Yes, it is that important factor to having regard to the LNRS habitat map.
- iii. JM – Environmental metrics are very difficult; how will you measure progress?  
TB – Metrics are set-up and have been provided. We are learning how to use those metrics.
- iv. JM – This has statutory significance, in so far as you have to take account of it when making planning decisions.  
TB – Yes you have to take due regard.
- v. JM – South Hams District Council manages 460 parcels of land, so there is an opportunity to make some of these into nature reserves.
- vi. PM – What weight will the Local Nature Recovery Strategy have in the development management decision taking process?  
TB – We haven't been through that process yet. The habitat map will in the first instance be gathering sites that already have some form of designation where consideration must be given. This should lift the importance of county wildlife sites. In alignment with the duty to have regard and show how we are conserving and enhancing biodiversity it will lift the level of awareness and acknowledge this must be considered. It will be available on a map which should really help people in terms of transparency.  
EM – Although County wildlife sites do not have a statutory designation, which changes the level of regard they have in planning, they also don't have dedicated surveys or funding. The database of the sites and condition is maintained by the Devon Biodiversity Records Centre who do not receive regular funding for survey completion. It is important to recognise and treasure these sites, but we also need to acknowledge there is no guarantee of their condition.
- vii. EM - There is a Local Nature Recovery Strategy questionnaire on the Local Nature Partnership website<sup>1</sup> with contact details for Bella Birch-Hurst. There will be a pro-active push with communications to reach various channels, of which the AONB is one, but if there are things you would like to be considered or included, add yourself to the list to be part of the conversation.
- viii. EM - Regarding biodiversity net gain, although implementation is now to be in November, developers are already looking at this and raising queries with the EA. The requirement is on the developer to perform the calculation and propose a BNG approach for the development.
- ix. Vice-chair – To reinforce some of the points made; Following some work we have been doing around this area and also the Outcomes Framework that is also coming, we have found that agencies are aware of local knowledge. There is no standard pipeline for such knowledge and data collected locally to make its way into national datasets. It is important connections are made in terms of understanding what is happening on the ground and

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<sup>1</sup> [Devon Local Nature Recovery Strategy \(Devon LNP website\)](#)

making decisions in combination with the national datasets. Hopefully I can talk about what we have been doing at a future meeting.

## 6A.2 South Devon AONB Nature Recovery Plan

The AONB Manager gave an update on South Devon AONB's Nature Recovery Plan.

### Observations and in discussion

- i. KH – Devon County Council have a team who are looking at the intertidal marine part of the LNRS and working closely with people from the MMO. Will be looking into how it can be included in the LNRS strategy for Devon.
- ii. EM – Suggest removing percentages from the presentation as they can mislead. Replace with a clearer way of displaying the information, for example using arrows to show the direction of travel.
- iii. CHAIR – Is this information available on the website even though it is a working document?  
AONB Manager – The document is available as a download on the AONB state of nature page<sup>2</sup>. *Post meeting update: the embedded PDF Nature Recovery Opportunities map can be found on page 23 of the document.*

## 6B DEVON TREE AND WOODLAND STRATEGY AND SOUTH DEVON AONB WOODLAND VISIONING

6B.1 The AONB Manager gave an update and provided highlights on Devon's Tree and Woodland Strategy and woodland visioning work.

- i. Outside of largescale schemes, there are a range of different ways of introducing or reintroducing trees and increasing canopy cover in the South Devon landscape.
- ii. Emma Magee, Environment Agency has stepped forward with EA support to bring together a suite of Defra agencies and the South Devon AONB to explore woodland visioning work across South Devon, covering a range of different types of tree and woodland introduction.

6B.2 Emma Magee: Woodland visioning is aimed at a broad range of audiences to highlight opportunities for woodland creation and tree planting and what this can achieve in different contexts.

- i. There are many different results that can be achieved in terms of landscape character and economic opportunities. Woodland visioning intends to show what planting could create in the short to medium term future. It will include trees in hedgerows, orchard planting, cross slope planting, floodplain planting; essentially a range of planting activity that achieves a number of different outcomes and benefits.
- ii. There are a number of funding options through existing schemes.
- iii. This is being done without funding and are reliant on inhouse expertise from a range of Government bodies to progress this on a goodwill basis. We have landscape experts from both the Environment Agency and Forestry Commission; local Forestry Commission colleagues, Natural England colleagues with a South Devon remit as well as the South Devon AONB team involved in this process. The right people, from a statutory perspective, are onboard to inspire the type of schemes the various agencies assembled will support.

### 6B.3 Observations and in discussion

- i. KC: Is any work being done on tree nursery establishment using local stock?

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<sup>2</sup> [South Devon AONB Nature Recovery Plan \(June 2023\)](#)

EM: Although some Defra funding available for establishing tree nurseries was initially available, that scheme has now closed. Further funding may become available in the future.

- ii. PC: In addition to tree initiatives listed in the meeting papers, Devon County Council has submitted an application to the Forestry Commission Local Authority Treescapes Fund. If successful, the fund would be used to pay for the purchase and planting of trees at sites across Devon. To date the focus has been on Local Authority owned sites, if successful we will team up with larger private landowners and community groups for small scale planting on sites that will hopefully include some in the AONB.
- iii. **ACTION 2 (ALL): CONTACT THE AONB MANAGER IF YOU WISH TO BECOME MORE INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND DELIVERY OF THIS AREA OF WORK**

## **6C DEVON CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION STRATEGY**

The update for this item was included in the meeting papers. A consultation is currently open until 30 June. The AONB unit will respond on behalf of the South Devon AONB Partnership. All are encouraged to get any items to the AONB Manager swiftly to allow these to be incorporated into the response.

### **6C.1 Observations and in discussion**

- i. CHAIR: Partnership Committee members are encouraged to look at the links in the meeting papers and, in particular, the executive summary. It is assumed Partnership will also make their own representations.

## 6D SUMMARY OF SOUTH DEVON AONB FINANCIAL POSITION FOR 2023/24

The AONB Manager went through the update provided in the meeting papers, including finances at summary level.

6D.1 The Core Funding Group for the South Devon AONB advises the Funding Authorities of South Hams District Council and Devon County Council, on matters relating to the staffing, pay, conditions and budget of the AONB Staff Unit on behalf of the Partnership. The Core Funding Group also provides oversight of the priorities of the Staff Unit.

### 6D.2 Main points

- i. There are budget challenges to face in the years ahead.
- ii. Contributions from the four local authorities together unlock Defra funding, there is an operational shortfall however.
- iii. The funding we receive from Defra is produced from a national funding formula which is fixed. Cost of living increases and inflation has had an effect on our outgoing costs. Funding from Defra has shown a modest increase with Local Authority funding remaining static.
- iv. The staff unit looks at opportunities for earned income and, wherever possible, full cost recovery from a range of different sources that align with AONB Management Plan priorities and Defra core asks. We are managing it well this year and drawing on small, medium and large projects to increase income but there are diminishing opportunities to recover all staff costs.
- v. Core team size is relatively modest and has challenges ahead. The core team underpins the ability to develop other project programmes and initiatives as they come along. The financial challenges affect our opportunity to bid for other projects.

### 6D.3 Observations and in discussion

- i. PM - What is meant by hosting recharge and temporary support costs communication/planning?  
AONB Manager:
  - Hosting - The AONB unit is hosted by South Hams District Council. There is a hosting agreement on behalf of Partnership that covers the staff unit accommodation, Finance, HR, Payroll and limited ICT support for this SHDC systems used. The charge is £2,901 per FTE. With 10 members of staff currently within the unit, which equates to 8.5 FTEs (however no hosting charge is levied for the communications intern), this year we pay back a little over £23k to SHDC.
  - Temporary support costs (planning) - South Hams District Council committed to an additional £8,000 to part fund a shared AONB Planning Officer role between North Devon, East Devon and South Devon AONBs. Although progress has been slow, with a partnership agreement approach for the three AONBs and their host authorities, we are now very close to the point where we are able to advertise the position.
  - Temporary support costs (communications) – Initially a member of the core team was involved in the Farming in Protected Landscape programme to get the project up and running. Defra allowed us to backfill their role and that together with additional funding from the Life on the Edge project allowed us to fund a full time communications assistant role (intern) split 50/50 between supporting Diane Lethbridge, Communications Officer, and the Life on the Edge project.
- ii. PC - I would reemphasise a couple of the points as they are very important:

- The modest core budget is critical to its operation. Large additional grants from Defra, such as FiPL and Access funding, demonstrates the trust and recognition Defra has for the value that AONBs bring.
  - If you look at the other figures in the reports, particularly relating to project spend, and add these up you will see the multiplier effect we get from the essential core funding. Without which these projects, and significant amounts of money to the local area, would not be possible. Collectively we should recognise what good value we get from our modest match funding contributions.
- iii. EM - Professional fees figures on core costs and estuaries projects are high per FTE. AONB Manager – The professional fees line is for additional support we buy in, however this has been pared down to the minimum.
- This year we are entering a Management Plan review period with work on the state of nature and state of AONB in preparation for this, and a whole other range of work we are tasked with delivering.

## **6E FACTUAL REVISIONS TO THE SOUTH DEVON AONB PLANNING PROTOCOL**

### **6E.1 TO APPROVE THE REVISED AONB PLANNING PROTOCOL**

PROPOSED: Penny Mills

SECONDED: Cllr John McKay

RESOLVED: No objections, the revised AONB Planning Protocol was approved

*Post meeting update: the revisions were completed as agreed and made available on the [South Devon AONB planning webpage](#)<sup>3</sup>*

## **7A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR AONBs AND NATIONAL LANDSCAPES, PARKS AND TRAILS PARTNERSHIP**

The AONB Manager provided an update on National Matters.

### **7A.1 Main points**

- i. South Devon AONB has recently been visited by John Watkins, chief executive of the National Association for AONBs, who is visiting all AONBs.
  - The AONB Manager, the staff unit and the Partnership Chair met John and discussed both challenges and positive stories.
  - A key proposal in the Glover Landscapes Review is proposal 24 around increased powers, purposes, and resources for AONB's. This also sought for funding to be doubled that year.
- ii. AONB designations / funding
  - Natural England, on behalf of Defra, are committed to designating two new AONBs: Cheshire Sandstone Ridge and The Yorkshire Wolds. Although it would be strange to set up new AONBs under the current funding model it is equally not possible to use a different model to existing AONBs.
  - The Environmental Improvement Plan was published in January. Defra have released a little over £200,000 to the AONB network to develop the scope of green investment opportunities. South Devon AONB are involved in the working group.

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<sup>3</sup> [South Devon AONB Planning Protocol v2.1](#)

- iii. The NAAONB Annual conference is a great opportunity to discuss topical issues with this year's focussing on "Invested and investing in landscapes: who, why how".
- iv. Rebranding
  - Rebranding is an outcome linked to the Landscapes Review, where it was evidenced that AONBs do not work as a national brand. Defra are driving rebranding as National Landscapes forward to bring AONBs into alignment with National Parks and National Trails. In the future we would be known as the South Devon National Landscape, have a South Devon National Landscape Partnership and be supported by the South Devon National Landscape team. The NAAONB will be rebranded as the National Landscapes Association.
  - There will be a new logo that is being developed now.

**ACTION 3 (AONB MANAGER): CIRCULATE REBRANDING INFORMATION PACK WHEN RECEIVED WITH AN INVITATION FOR FEEDBACK**

## 8 PARTNER UPDATES

An opportunity for Partners to update Partnership Committee on their projects contributing to conserving and enhancing the South Devon AONB and work towards AONB Management Plan priorities.

### 8.1 Cllr John McKay, South Hams District Council

- i. Just taken over as Lead Executive Member for Climate Change and Biodiversity. South Hams District Council are setting up an advisory panel and I am putting together a starting document. I am setting a target of 12% reduction per year in omissions which is a very ambitious target but is what is needed.

### 8.2 Graham Swiss, South Hams District Council

- i. Chris Shears attended the last meeting to give a presentation on the Shared Prosperity Fund. Chris is keen for the AONB to be involved and will be contacting the AONB Manager in the next week with a view to involvement in one of the partnership groups.
- ii. The District Council has put in a detailed response to the consultation on the infrastructure levy.

### 8.3 Emma Magee, Environment Agency

- i. There will be another round of the Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund later this year.

### 8.4 Richard Snow, National Trust

- i. The National Trust ambition is to improve all their land not only for nature but to improve access to help more people get out in the countryside. Currently working on a big project at Wembury to improve routes and create new routes. Just completed the first phase to improve the South West Coast Path from the beach at Wembury up to Rocket house, then onto Wembury Barton farm. This is a relatively flat area so a great place to welcome people with more restricted mobility. This part of the footpath is now two meters wide and surfaced. Completed in partnership with the South West Coast Path team.
- ii. The AONB team have helped with work in the meadow at Wembury. An access path from the village, which was very muddy has now been resurfaced. We have been working alongside Devon Disabled Ramblers who are very pleased with the outcome. The project has a further four kilometres of access path to be improved.

- iii. Some paths around Wembury have been re-routed due to ash dieback.

#### 8.5 Ken Carter, South West Coast Path Association

- i. A big thank you to the AONB and National Trust for supporting the Trailblazer event and joining in on some of the walks.
- ii. The National Trails family, National Parks and AONBs are working together through the Protected Landscapes Partnership.

#### 8.6 Penny Mills, representative for amenity groups

- i. Thank you to the Chair for meeting up with Amenity Groups which was very useful.
- ii. I wrote to the Secretary of State to find out what is happening with the Glover Landscapes Review. During this meeting I have received a reply from Trudy Harrison Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, minister for Natural Environment and Land Use.

[The letter was read out in full at the meeting. For the purposes of these minutes an extract of the reply is shown below. A copy of the letter will be circulated with the minutes]:

*"... Last year, Defra welcomed the recommendations of the Landscapes Review in our published response, which also set out our vision for protected landscapes as a coherent national network of beautiful, nature-rich spaces that all parts of society can easily access and enjoy.*

*As you know, the Government's response was accompanied by a public consultation on legislative proposals to which we received over 15,000 responses. Defra officials have analysed the responses and we are carefully considering how the proposals fit with wider Government policy, including the recently published Environmental Improvement Plan.*

*In the meantime, we are continuing to make considerable progress towards our vision by implementing our non-legislative proposals, particularly through our successful 'Farming in Protected Landscapes' and 'Access for All' programmes. Defra's upcoming response to the consultation will set out the actions we are taking to enable protected landscapes to deliver more for nature, climate, people, and place. ..."*

- iii. The National Grid are likely to build more pylons in our AONB, North Devon have been successful in getting some of these pylons removed and buried.

AONB Manager: Some lower level 11kv-33kv lines have been undergrounded. The project at East Prawle was completed last December and there are four other projects in the pipeline. If any of the members know of any powerlines that could be undergrounded, contact Adam Davidson, AONB Project Officer, the lead officer for this project. An update on the undergrounding project was provided at the March Partnership meeting <sup>4</sup>.

## 9 PLANNING UPDATE

This is a for information item. A planning update paper was circulated prior to the meeting. Penny Mills asked for an update on the AONB planning role during this agenda item. The AONB Manager responded that this is due to go out to advert very soon. It will depend on the notice period of the person recruited as to when they start, as this can vary from no notice to 3 months.

## PARTNERSHIP MEETING DATES

### 2023

- Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November, Repton Room Follaton House and online via Zoom

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<sup>4</sup> [Meeting papers: March Partnership Committee meetings](#)

**2024 proposed dates**

- 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024
- 19<sup>th</sup> July 2024
- 29<sup>th</sup> November 2024

## ITEM 5 South Devon National Landscape Partnership matters

### 5A. Partnership Chair's Report

ITEM FOR	INFORMATION & FEEDBACK	REPORT BY	Peter Sandover, South Devon NL Partnership Chair
<b>SUMMARY</b>	This report provides a summary of activity over the last few months undertaken on behalf of the National Landscape Partnership by the Chair, Peter Sandover		
<b>MANAGEMENT PLAN THEMES</b>	<b>All PARTNERSHIP:</b> Awareness & communication; Management, organisation & partnerships. <b>Others</b> – underpins and links to all other Management Plan themes.		
<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	Partnership members are recommended to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Note the report and are encouraged to provide brief reports where possible in advance of scheduled meetings to assist with Item 8 Partner updates.</li> </ol>		

### Engagement

1. Over the last 4 months I have continued my engagement with the communities and organisations who enjoy our special landscape.
  - More Parish and Town Councils have given me a warm welcome including Dartmouth Town Council, Kingsbridge Town Council, Bigbury Parish Council, Brixham Town Council, Salcombe Town Council, Stokenham Parish Council, Brixton Parish Council, Slapton Parish Council, Loddiswell Parish Council and Kingston Parish Council. I have met a total of thirteen PCs thus far, with more meetings scheduled, but still less than 25% of all the parishes within the National Landscape.
  - I have met with the manager of Dartmouth Caring, Nick Hindmarsh and as a follow up I, with the National Landscape Community Projects Officer, will be giving a presentation of our projects and responsibilities to Dartmouth Rotarians on 30<sup>th</sup> November.
  - In liaison with the National Landscape Community Projects Officer, I helped organise a successful walking weekend in early September along the South West Coast Path for ten visually impaired walkers from the Malvern Hills with a similar number of guides. Two of the walks included visits to Coleton Fishacre and Greenway and we were grateful to the National Trust and their staff for very informative presentations and guided visits at both properties.

### AONB National Conference at Bath University

2. I joined members of the staff team at the annual conference between 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> September, this was extremely well organised by the National Association and host AONBs (Mendip Hills, Cotswolds, North Wessex Downs, Cranborne Chase, Wye Valley and Quantock Hills). It was a great opportunity to meet and share knowledge with other AONBs and spend more time with our team. Many issues raised have a bearing on our work, including green financing, management plan updates, access to protected landscapes and hearing the thoughts of experts including Julian Glover, the National Trust, Tony Juniper (Natural England), Defra and the WWF.

## **Protected Landscapes (PLs) and new legislation in the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act<sup>5</sup>**

3. I attended a zoom meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> September with all Partnership chairs hosted the Secretary of State for the Environment Therese Coffey. The announcements made were generally welcomed; enhancing PLs and their management plans, placing a stronger commitment on partners to contribute to their delivery, and a new partnership between the National Parks, National Trails and National Landscapes furthering the recommendations of Julian Glover. However, when asked, it was clear that the general desire for National Landscapes to gain statutory consultee status (also recommended by Glover) and devoting sufficient resource/ funding for this was not a high priority.

### **Devon wide National Landscapes**

4. Following various introductions at the National Conference I will be participating in a coordination meeting of the all the Devon National Landscapes on 8<sup>th</sup> November facilitated by the chair of the North Devon Coast National Landscape Partnership.

### **National Launch of National Landscapes**

5. I with Roger English will have attended the national launch of the formal transition from AONBs to National Landscapes in London on 22<sup>nd</sup> November and the following day will be at the **National Landscape Association annual Chairs conference**.

### **Thank you**

6. Finally, I wish to thank and congratulate Roger and the team for successfully completing the development phase of **Life on the Edge** and submission of the bid for the project phase, and concurrently completing a first stage proposal for the **South Devon Landscape Recovery** funding. Also, their continued success initiating and supporting many **Farming in Protected Landscape** projects. The team have been working extremely hard over recent months to achieve this as well many other projects and responsibilities.

Item Ends.

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<sup>5</sup> [Levelling-up and Regeneration Act](#)

## ITEM 6. National Matters

### 6A. Re-branding of AONBs to National Landscapes

<b>ITEM FOR</b>	INFORMATION, FEEDBACK & ADVOCACY	<b>REPORT BY</b>	Diane Lethbridge, National Landscape Communications Officer & Roger English, National Landscape Manager
<b>SUMMARY</b>	This item builds on earlier reports provided to the Partnership and by the time of the meeting, follows the official launch of the new National Landscapes Brand.		
<b>MANAGEMENT PLAN THEMES</b>	<p><b>All PLACE:</b> Landscape character; Natural resources &amp; climate; Biodiversity &amp; geodiversity; Historic environment; Farming and land management; Coast &amp; marine; Rivers &amp; estuaries;.</p> <p><b>All PEOPLE:</b> Tourism, access &amp; recreation; Planning &amp; sustainable development; Transport &amp; highways; Rural economy &amp; services; Community &amp; culture.</p> <p><b>All PARTNERSHIP:</b> Awareness &amp; communication; Management, organisation &amp; partnerships.</p>		
<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	Partnership members are recommended to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Note the change in branding and use of naming conventions relating to the Area, Partnership, Team and National Association.</li> <li>Use the new terminology in your advocacy work</li> </ol>		

### Background

- The Glover Review of Designated Landscapes, final report<sup>6</sup> published in September 2019 recommended amongst its 27 proposals that:

*24 - AONBs strengthened with new purposes, powers and resources, renamed as National Landscapes*
- Defra have funded the rebranding work led by the National Landscape Association as part of delivery of the recommendations of the Glover Review of Designated Landscapes.

### National Landscapes

- The new name reflects their national importance; the vital contribution they make to protect the nation from the threats of climate change, nature depletion and the wellbeing crisis, whilst also creating greater understanding and awareness for the work that they do.
- It is intended to create a united identity across the family and a stronger case for funding opportunities whilst making all people feel welcome.
- The title National Landscape does not remove or replace the legal definition of an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in law; however it is a simpler name without a complicated initialism.
- The work has been overseen by a steering group of representatives from different National Landscapes and throughout the development of the new brand they have

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<sup>6</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/designated-landscapes-national-parks-and-aonbs-2018-review>

given input alongside a Creative Council of people representing groups currently underrepresented in National Landscapes.

### **A new, strong and consistent identity**

7. From 22nd November 2023, all AONBs will become known as National Landscapes. This strong and consistent branding is designed to 'level-up', reflect the importance of these protected landscapes alongside the UK's National Parks and National Trails, and catalyse increased resources.

### **South Devon**

8. The term National Landscape will be used in the following ways in relation to South Devon:

- The area is the **South Devon National Landscape**
- Governed by the **South Devon National Landscape Partnership**
- Supported by the **South Devon National Landscape team**

The legal designation will remain Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

### **National Association**

9. The National Association for AONBs will become known as the National Landscapes Association from the 22nd November 2023.
  - Collectively, the National Landscapes are the **National Landscapes Family**
  - Including the National Landscapes Association they are the **National Landscapes Network**

### **Protected Landscapes**

10. Collectively, National Landscapes, National Parks and National Trails will continue to be known as Protected Landscapes.
11. A new Protected Landscapes Partnership backed by over £2 million of Defra funding is bringing together national organisations representing England's National Landscapes, National Parks, National Trails and Natural England to collaborate, share knowledge and tackle common objectives such as nature recovery and improved public access. The Protected Landscapes Partnership brings together:
  - Defra
  - National Landscapes Association
  - National Parks England
  - National Trails UK
  - Natural England

12. Key work streams of the **Protected Landscapes Partnership** are:

- Nature recovery coordination
- Nature based solutions - green finance and investment
- Art in the Landscape
- Evidence and data
- Carbon baselining
- Coastal Wildbelt
- Equity, diversity and inclusion training and resources
- Accessology

Item Ends.

## 6B. Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023 – provisions relating to National Landscapes

ITEM FOR	CONSIDERATION AND FEEDBACK	REPORT BY	Roger English National Landscape Manager
<b>SUMMARY</b>	This report provides an overview of new provisions relating to National Landscapes contained in the new Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023		
<b>MANAGEMENT PLAN THEMES</b>	<p><b>All PLACE:</b> Landscape character; Natural resources &amp; climate; Biodiversity &amp; geodiversity; Historic environment; Farming and land management; Coast &amp; marine; Rivers &amp; estuaries;</p> <p><b>All PEOPLE:</b> Tourism, access &amp; recreation; Planning &amp; sustainable development; Transport &amp; highways; Rural economy &amp; services; Community &amp; culture.</p> <p><b>All PARTNERSHIP:</b> Awareness &amp; communication; Management, organisation &amp; partnerships.</p>		
<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	<p>Partnership members are recommended to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Note the step change in duties and responsibilities for relevant authorities and the role of the National Landscape Management Plan arising from the protected landscapes provisions in the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023</li> <li>Raise specific questions with the National Landscape Manager to inform the development of a further paper for Partnership members once guidance and secondary legislation are published.</li> </ol>		

### Background

1. The Defra Secretary of State tabled a Written Ministerial Statement<sup>7</sup> on 13th September setting out a package of measures to support Protected Landscapes in England. This package included a commitment to new legislation through an amendment to the Levelling up and Regeneration Bill at Third Reading delivered by Lord Benyon.
2. The Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill received Royal Assent on the 26th October, and the final text of the new Levelling up and Regeneration Act 2023<sup>8</sup> was published on the 3rd November. In addition to the main focus of this lengthy and complex new legislation on reform of the planning system, the same Act contains in Part 12, section 245 important modifications and new clauses for insertion into Part IV to the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 relating to Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
3. While some of the provisions including a revised s85 CROW Act duty come into force on the 26th December 2023, the majority of clauses require associated regulations and changes to national policy before they are triggered. A separate paper will be brought to a future meeting of the National Landscape Partnership to outline the key areas of change and implications for National Landscape management arising principally from the Act's sections relating to the planning system.

### Notable changes to the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nature-recovery-to-be-accelerated-in-englands-protected-landscapes>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2023/55/enacted>

4. Although modifications to existing legislation also affect National Parks, the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads, and National Landscape Conservation Boards, the extract of text from the legislation contained in Appendix 1 to this agenda item relates to South Devon National Landscape type of designation. The changes can be summarised as:
  - The s85 CROW Act 2000 'duty of regard' has been replaced with an a more active and enhanced duty of "*must seek to further the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty*" of the AONB. This provision becomes law on 26<sup>th</sup> December 2023.
  - Provides for secondary legislation in the form of Statutory Instrument to set out how relevant authorities are to comply with the new duty including "*provision about things that the authorities may, must or must not do to comply with the duty*".
  - A series of additions to s90 CROW Act 2000 relating to National Landscape Management Plans provide for secondary legislation in the form of Statutory Instrument to be used to:
    - Require a National Landscape management plan to meet any target in the Environmental Improvement Plan 2023
    - Set out how much the management plan must contribute
    - Set out how the management plan must further the purpose of the National Landscape
    - Require any relevant authority to contribute toward the preparation, implementation and review of a Management Plan and set out how a relevant authority must do so.
5. Further detail will be provided for National Landscape Partnership members and the National Landscape's relevant authorities when secondary legislation and legal analysis is available.

### **Relevant authorities**

6. 'Relevant authorities' is a term used to refer to offices, agencies and bodies to which the specific legal duties listed above apply. While it is understood that the current list will be updated and future proofed, relevant authorities include:
  - Government, departments, their executive agencies and related public bodies
  - Regulators
  - Statutory undertakers
  - County, District, Unitary and Parish Councils
  - Harbour authorities
  - Crown Estate

7. The duties apply to any decisions or activities a relevant authority may take affecting land in these areas; not just to those that relate to narrowly-defined environmental or countryside issues<sup>9</sup>.
8. Additionally it may also be the case that the activities of certain relevant authorities operating outside the boundaries of National Landscapes may have an impact within them. In such cases relevant authorities will also be required to further the purpose of National Landscapes.

### **New duty to further the purpose of National Landscapes**

9. The addition of “*must seek to further*” will ensure that more rigorous attention is paid to the statutory purpose of AONB designation. This is greater than having due regard which was widely interpreted as simply giving or having consideration when taking decisions or undertaking actions which may affect the designation. The proposed change would provide for a more structured and proactive process, one which is undertaken with greater transparency and involve demonstration of best endeavour.
10. This will help public bodies, like local authorities and Natural England and other relevant authorities such as harbour authorities, to fully understand why, for example, if a practise, project, scheme or proposal does not further the National Landscape purposes what other actions, adaptations or mitigations must be implemented instead. The change should also help Planning Inspectors, Strategic Planners, Planning Case Officers and Development Management Committees in their roles by providing a more substantive and transparent test against which decisions can be measured.

### **Glover Landscapes Review implementation**

11. Taken together, the new Levelling-up and Regeneration Act provisions for AONBs, National Landscapes rebranding, Farming in Protected Landscapes programme funding and an undertaking to review the National Funding Formula for protected landscapes in England marks good progress in delivering on more powers, purposes and resources for National Landscapes.
12. The government’s formal response to the Glover Landscapes Review 2019 is expected shortly following the government’s initial response and associated public consultation that closed in early April 2022. The response is expected to be accompanied by a new Outcomes Framework for protected landscapes. The latter will include targets allocated to each protected landscape.

Item Ends.

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<sup>9</sup> [https://landscapesforlife.org.uk/application/files/2015/8928/8605/Duty\\_of\\_Regard\\_Guide\\_Defra\\_2005.pdf](https://landscapesforlife.org.uk/application/files/2015/8928/8605/Duty_of_Regard_Guide_Defra_2005.pdf)

## Appendix 1 to Item 6b

### Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023 miscellaneous provisions relating to National Landscapes

#### 245 Protected landscapes

(5)The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 is amended in accordance with subsections (6) to (10).

(6)In section 85 (general duty of public bodies etc)—

(a)before subsection (1), insert—

“(A1)In exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect, land in an area of outstanding natural beauty in England, a relevant authority other than a devolved Welsh authority must seek to further the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area of outstanding natural beauty.

(A2)In exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect, land in an area of outstanding natural beauty in England, a devolved Welsh authority must have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area of outstanding natural beauty.”;

(b)in subsection (1), after “beauty”, in the first place it occurs, insert “in Wales”;

(c)after that subsection, insert—

“(1A)The Secretary of State may by regulations make provision about how a relevant authority is to comply with the duty under subsection (A1) (including provision about things that the authority may, must or must not do to comply with the duty).”;

(d)in subsection (3), after “(2)—” insert—

““devolved Welsh authority” has the same meaning as in the Government of Wales Act 2006 (see, in particular, section 157A of that Act);”.

(7)In section 87 (general purposes and powers)—

(a)before subsection (1) insert—

“(A1)It is the duty of a conservation board established in relation to an area in England, in the exercise of their functions, to seek to further—

(a)the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area of outstanding natural beauty, and

(b)the purpose of increasing the understanding and enjoyment by the public of the special qualities of the area of outstanding natural beauty,

but if it appears to the board that there is a conflict between those purposes, they are to attach greater weight to the purpose mentioned in paragraph (a).”;

(b) in subsection (1), after “board”, in the first place it occurs, insert “established in relation to an area in Wales”;

(c) in subsection (2), for the words from “while” to “(1)” substitute “whilst fulfilling their duties under subsection (A1) or (1) (as the case may be)”.

(8) In section 90 (supplementary provisions relating to management plans), after subsection (2) insert—

“(2A) The Secretary of State may by regulations make provision—

(a) requiring a plan under section 89 relating to an area of outstanding natural beauty in England to contribute to the meeting of any target set under Chapter 1 of Part 1 of the Environment Act 2021;

(b) setting out how such a plan must contribute to the meeting of such targets;

(c) setting out how a plan under section 89 relating to an area of outstanding natural beauty in England must further the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of that area.”

(9) After that section insert—

**“90A Duty of public bodies etc in relation to management plans**

(1) The Secretary of State may by regulations make provision—

(a) requiring a relevant authority other than a devolved Welsh authority to contribute to the preparation, implementation or review of a plan under section 89 relating to an area of outstanding natural beauty in England;

(b) setting out how such a relevant authority may or must do so.

(2) In this section—

“devolved Welsh authority” has the same meaning as in the Government of Wales Act 2006 (see, in particular, section 157A of that Act);

“relevant authority” has the same meaning as in section 85.”

(10) After section 91 insert—

**“91A Regulations under Part 4**

(1) A power to make regulations under this Part—

(a) is exercisable by statutory instrument;

(b) includes power to make different provision for different purposes or different areas;

(c) includes power to make consequential, incidental, supplementary, transitional, transitory or saving provision.

(2) Regulations under this Part are to be made by statutory instrument.

(3)A statutory instrument containing regulations under this Part is subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.”

Extracts taken from:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2023/55/enacted>

Yellow highlighting added to aid identification of key changes

## 6C. Natural England Guidance on Management Plan reviews for protected landscapes

ITEM FOR	CONSIDERATION AND FEEDBACK	REPORT BY	Roger English National Landscape Manager
<b>SUMMARY</b>	This report provides a brief overview of emerging guidance from Natural England on behalf of Defra, setting out best practice for reviewing protected landscape management plans.		
<b>MANAGEMENT PLAN THEMES</b>	<p><b>ALL PLACE:</b> Landscape Character; Natural resources &amp; climate; Biodiversity &amp; geodiversity; Farming and land management; Historic Environment &amp; Local Distinctiveness; Coast &amp; marine; Rivers &amp; estuaries.</p> <p><b>ALL PEOPLE:</b> Tourism, access &amp; recreation; Planning &amp; sustainable development; Transport &amp; highways; Rural economy &amp; services; Community &amp; culture.</p> <p><b>ALL PARTNERSHIP:</b> Awareness &amp; communication; Management, organisation &amp; partnerships.</p>		
<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	<p>Partnership members are recommended to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Note the scope of the emerging guidance and relationship to key areas of missing detail.</li> </ol>		

### Background

1. Guidance on National Landscape Management Plans dates back to early 2000s Countryside Agency era. While *CA23 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plans – A Guide* (2001) and *CA221 Guidance for the Review of AONB Management Plans* (2006) are still useful, they are now markedly out of date and not fit for purpose when approaching a fifth generation National Landscape Management Plan.
2. Defra requested Natural England lead on reviewing and updating the guidance for all protected landscape Management Plans. Consultants carried out an initial review of existing practice from around the National Landscape and National Park families followed by further work on areas of continuing relevance, gaps to be addressed and best practice from across the network.
3. The guidance aims to anchor management planning in the relevant legislative framework for Protected Landscapes, achieving a consistent suite of Plans while maintaining sufficient flexibility to reflect individual designations' unique qualities and management needs.
4. The emerging guidance is non-statutory at this time but sets out a framework for producing and delivering a consistent suite of statutory Protected Landscapes Management Plans across England. Note that the previous agenda item on the Levelling up and Regeneration Act 2023 highlighted that the new legislation provides for the Secretary of State for the Environment to issue at a future point regulations on National Landscape Management Plan content via Statutory Instrument.

### Emerging guidance

5. Provided to protected landscapes in early September 2023 in an early draft form for consultation, the emerging guidance examines:

- The legislative and policy background of Protected Landscapes in the context of management planning
- The necessary processes behind the production and review of a Management Plan
- The critical considerations regarding the development of content
- The implementation of the Plan over the delivery period

### **Other considerations**

6. The guidance makes specific reference to a number of significant elements of legislation, plans, strategies, policies and frameworks that are not yet published or in the public domain in their draft form. These include:
    - A new Outcomes Framework for Protected Landscapes with area based targets\* specific to each protected landscape linked to the Environmental Improvement Plan arising from the Environment Act 2021
    - Multiple regulations linked to reform of the planning system contained in the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023, including:
      - Development Plans, Local planning & Neighbourhood planning
      - National Development Management Policies
      - Heritage
      - Environmental Outcomes Reports
    - Local Nature Recovery Strategies
    - National Land Use Framework
    - Government's full and formal response to Glover Landscapes Review
- \* the targets are for the Protected Landscape as a geographic area, with shared responsibility amongst partners for their delivery.

### **Final version - published guidance**

7. Further work is being undertaken by Natural England in consultation with a national working group following feedback during September and October 2023 from National Landscape and National Park teams.
8. Gaps are being worked on with text developed to align with key emerging documentation including those listed above under 'other considerations'. Final guidance is now expected during the first half of 2024, though it is likely that key gaps will remain and any management plan review timetable will need to flex and accommodate new guidance or requirements throughout a necessarily lengthy review period.

Item Ends.

## 7A. South Hams District Council emerging Corporate Strategy

ITEM FOR	INFORMATION & DISCUSSION	REPORT BY	Roger English National Landscape Manager
<b>SUMMARY</b>	This report provides a brief introduction to the emerging Corporate Strategy for South Hams District Council and focus areas of mutual interest and benefit for the Council and National Landscape Partnership.		
<b>MANAGEMENT PLAN THEMES</b>	<p><b>ALL PLACE:</b> Natural resources &amp; climate; Biodiversity &amp; geodiversity; Farming and land management; Historic Environment &amp; Local Distinctiveness; Coast &amp; marine; Rivers &amp; estuaries; Landscape Character.</p> <p><b>ALL PEOPLE:</b> Tourism, access &amp; recreation; Planning &amp; sustainable development; Transport &amp; highways; Rural economy &amp; services; Community &amp; culture.</p> <p><b>ALL PARTNERSHIP:</b> Awareness &amp; communication; Management, organisation &amp; partnerships.</p>		
<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	<p>Partnership members are recommended to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Note the scope of the emerging South Hams District Council Corporate Strategy and</li> <li>Suggest areas for further collaboration and action consistent with furthering the purpose of conserving and enhancing natural beauty.</li> </ol>		

### Background

- At its meeting on 28 June, the South Hams District Council Executive considered a report on 'setting priorities for the new Council' and agreed the approach and timeline for the development of a new 4-year corporate strategy aligned to the manifesto commitments of the new political administration in order to respond to the needs of residents and communities in the South Hams.
- A period of formal consultation ran from 25th September and ran through until late October. During this period, views were sought on the draft aims and ambitions<sup>10</sup> through:
  - An online survey on the full strategy and paper survey for anyone not able to provide their thoughts online;
  - A series of 'quick polls' on social media channels to gain feedback on specific aims and ambitions.
  - Conversations with key partners including Town and Parish Councils.
  - Face to face attendance at a number of locations across the district to gain views from residents on our priorities.
  - Providing all District Councillors with FAQ's and a briefing note to enable them to have discussions on priorities within their own communities.

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<sup>10</sup>

<https://democracy.swdevon.gov.uk/documents/s30732/Appendix%20B%20Draft%20Corporate%20Strategy%202024%20-%202028.pdf>

## Emerging priorities

3. Four key focus areas have emerged for the next four years, with ambitions around Climate and Biodiversity being a consideration through everything the Council does.



4. The final strategy and delivery plans (including resourcing plans) will be considered by the Executive on 30th November 2023 and, subject to agreement, recommended for adoption to Full Council in December.

## Alignment with National Landscape Management Plan priorities and actions

5. The South Devon National Landscape Partnership has consistently made a significant contribution to the delivery of Council priorities over its 20-year lifetime with a focus upon Nature, Climate, People and Place captured through the strategy and delivery plan of the statutory Management Plan for the area. Now more than ever the Partnership's core and project activity is exceptionally well aligned with the new Council's corporate priorities, together with Defra and those of other local authority partners Devon County Council, Torbay Council and Plymouth City Council.
6. National Landscape Partnership activity contributes to all Corporate strategy themes but makes a particularly strong contribution toward climate and biodiversity ambitions through actions and projects including the following illustrative examples:
  - South Devon National Landscape Nature Recovery Plan
  - Life on the Edge
  - Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme
  - Landscape Recovery

## Environmental Improvement Plan 2023

7. 'Thriving plants and wildlife' is considered the apex goal of the Environmental Improvement Plan 2023. The delivery plan for the next decade focuses on eight important areas in support of this goal:

**1 Creating more joined up space for nature on land** – protecting land and increasing interconnections to boost natural resilience.

**2 Restoring our protected sites on land** – tackling increasing pressures on our most valuable sites and building their long-term resilience.

**3 Managing our woodlands for biodiversity, climate and sustainable forestry** – delivering co-benefits for nature and climate.

**4 Enhancing nature in our marine and coastal environments** – taking a holistic approach to coastal and marine protection.

**5 Taking targeted actions to restore and manage species** – such as tailored conservation strategies and habitat creation.

**6 Mobilising green finance and the private sector** – drawing on the increasing interest in investing in nature.

**7 Taking action to restore our global environment** – supporting other countries to take the action we role-model domestically.

**8 Unlocking private and public financial flows** – ensuring that we grow new sources of finance for nature.

The South Devon National Landscape Partnership is delivering on all of these areas through its Delivery Plan actions, with a high proportion led by the National Landscape team with the support of valued partners.

Item Ends.

## 7C. South West Coast Path National Trail update

ITEM FOR	INFORMATION	REPORT BY	Ken Carter, South West Coast Path Association Trustee
<b>SUMMARY</b>	This report outlines Coast Path matters of relevance to the South Devon National Landscape Partnership.		
<b>MANAGEMENT PLAN THEMES</b>	<p><b>ALL PLACE:</b> Natural resources &amp; climate; Biodiversity &amp; geodiversity; Farming and land management; Historic Environment &amp; Local Distinctiveness; Coast &amp; marine; Rivers &amp; estuaries; Landscape Character.</p> <p><b>ALL PEOPLE:</b> Tourism, access &amp; recreation; Planning &amp; sustainable development; Transport &amp; highways; Rural economy &amp; services; Community &amp; culture.</p> <p><b>ALL PARTNERSHIP:</b> Awareness &amp; communication; Management, organisation &amp; partnerships.</p>		
<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	<p>Partnership members are recommended to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Note the scope of work undertaken by the SW Coast Path Association and National Trail Partnership; and</li> <li>The strong partnership work delivering impactful actions of mutual benefit</li> </ol>		

### Report

1. The Coast Path Association is in the final couple of months of its 50th celebrations. Feedback from SWCPA members, supporters and organisations who have been involved in the various events over 2023 has been very positive. Thanks to all the staff of the National Landscape team for taking part and contributing towards the success of the Trailblazing relay walk event. The Coast Path Forum, held at Royal William Yard, flagged key issues such as climate change, nature in crisis, health and wellbeing, connecting people to nature, sustainable transport and affordable accommodation along the National Trail. The Charity, when reviewing its Business Plan, has attempted to address these issues in the hope to build resilience in the Coast Path for the next 50 years. The ninth episode of the charity's podcast: 630 Miles has been produced and will be published on Spotify in the next week. The final three episodes scheduled for the year are in production and will be a great legacy of the 50th anniversary celebrations.
2. The SWCP Trail Partnership delivery group met earlier in October and approved an updated version of the SWCP National Trail Delivery Framework (Guides the management policy of the Trail). The confirmation of the KC3ECP access route for Cremyll to Kingswear is anticipated soon (Verbal update may be provided at the meeting).
3. The Natural England SWCP grant for 23/24 is £524K, covering staffing and maintenance of the 630 miles, plus a capital accessibility investment grant of a further £83k in 2023/4. A new £248k bid has been invited and submitted to Natural England for a total of 54 projects to improve access/accessibility/information along the National Trail. Approval is subject to projects being completed by end of March 2024. SD National Landscape projects include Hallsands Interpretation provision at Start Point totalling £11,560 with £8,670 NE grant, 8 Farm conservation boards totalling £8,875 with £6,655 NE grant. Devon Highways have 10 Projects in the SD National Landscape totalling £24,500 with £18,250 NE grant and The National Trust have 9 projects in the area totalling £41,000 with £30,750 NE grant. These works range from erosion repairs, drainage and path surfacing to safety fencing and access for all improvements. Thanks

to all partners for responding so positively to this opportunity to improve the quality of the Trail in South Devon.

4. Defra has made a commitment in the Environmental Improvement Plan to work across government and beyond to ensure that anyone can reach green or blue space within 15 minutes from their front door. In addition, Defra will work to reduce other barriers which prevent people from accessing green and blue spaces, such as physical challenges, lack of confidence and lack of information. A working group has been set up to engage with stakeholders including the SWCPA to identify policy interventions that can help deliver these commitments.
5. Natural England's Landscape Advisory Panel (NELAP) visited Plymouth in September for two days of meetings. They looked at new landscape designations including the National Marine Park and potential Coastal Wildbelt. The visit included a walk along the SWCP with our Director, National Trail Officer, local Coast Path Connectors project team and the National Trust. The walk considered opportunities for open access and nature recovery in the KC3ECP coastal margin and how the Coastal Wildbelt and National Trust's SW coastal vision align. In addition to NELAP members, the walk included a Deputy Director of Defra and Natural England Board member.
6. National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) are developing an Integrated Landscapes Programme with £150 million of funding for protected landscapes from 2024-2033. The Association are in discussions with NLHF about the Coastal Wildbelt being one of twenty landscape-scale projects funded across the UK. The programme will be launched in Spring 2024.
7. The new Protected Landscapes Partnership continues to move forward with Defra approving grants of £2.4 million for Natural England, National Parks England, the National Landscape Association and National Trails UK. The funding will deliver work to improve equity of access and nature recovery across the protected landscapes. The Minister has announced that the first formal meeting of partnership will take place in November.
8. The SWCP Association is producing a new research brief with University of Exeter, this is to undertake the next phase in the SWCP Health and Wellbeing research. The charity's H&W Working Group will oversee the research.
9. Plymouth University are leading a UK Research and Innovation Resilient UK coastal communities and seas programme. Initial discussions have been held with the University about the synergies of working with the SWCPA. A series of meetings are scheduled in November.
10. We continue to develop plans to host the Beach of Dreams project in the SW in May 2025. The aim is to run a series of walks and workshops in 2024 through the Coast Path Connectors team which will capture the stories and images for a series of SWCP flags to be made and displayed in 2025. This project is subject to a successful funding bid.
11. Web developers have built a new version of the SWCPA web site<sup>11</sup> with a modern version of our hosting platform. This will see improvements in the speed and functionality of the web site especially using mobile browsers.

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<sup>11</sup> [SWCPA website](#)

12. The 2024 SWCP Photographer of the Year competition was launched at the beginning of November. One option being discussed with GWR is the hosting of the exhibition in Paddington Station.
13. The World Trails Conference is a global gathering of trail experts, trail managers and builders, trail destinations, enthusiasts and academics, who meet every two years to share knowledge, network and ensure the benefits trails offer society continue to be sustainable and supported around the world. The 2024 Conference is being held in Ottawa and is supported by the Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC). In advance of the conference the BTC and SWCPA have agreed to celebrate the 550 mile Bruce Trail and 630 mile SW Coast Path through the World Trails Network Friendship Trail Programme.
14. The Association is planning to move offices to a new location in the recently renovated Melville building at Royal William Yard. This move will be to a more central public position opposite the ferry landing stage with the Coast Path passing in front of the building. In addition to an office space, there is an opportunity to provide a visitor centre to raise awareness of the work of the charity in championing the benefits of walking the Coast Path and engaging more support for it.

### **Background information on the SWCP Association**

15. Trustees meet quarterly to consider running the Charity, monitoring its income and expenditure against Business Plan targets.
16. Income at the end of quarter three in 2023 is already over the business plan budget target with Donations being the most significant increase, almost double the year's target and could be down to the success of the 50th Celebrations. Membership is steady but with no growth, which could be due to the cost-of-living crisis. The increase in individual and corporate donations and community fundraising with a corresponding slow-down in membership growth reflects the transition of the Association from long distance walkers club to a charity with a cause.
17. Grants income is above the annual target and additional Natural England grants will increase this further. Sponsorships are on target, with the 50th anniversary helping secure a number of new sponsorships. With fundraising targets generally met for the year, we're now starting to transition our 50th anniversary celebrations into a new Every Mile Matters campaign for 2024.
18. The Association has received a number of in-memorial donations and legacies over the year. We have been notified of a more significant legacy which is going through legal proceedings prior to the charity receiving the final settlement, which is now expected at the end of the year. Legacies are not budgeted for and are used to develop the capacity of the organisation, for example the new proposed visitor centre.

Item Ends.

## **Diary dates**

### **Proposed meeting dates in 2024**

- Friday 15 March
- Friday 19 July
- Friday 29 November



**South Devon**  
National  
Landscape

# **Partnership Meeting**

to be held at

**10am on Friday 24 November 2023**

Repton Room at Follaton House and via Zoom

## **Annex to Meeting Papers**

South Devon National Landscape team, Follaton House, Totnes, TQ9 5NE  
Telephone 01803 229330 Email [enquiries@southdevon-nl.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@southdevon-nl.org.uk)

## **Agenda item 9A: Summary of Development Management and other Planning**

### **Activity** *updated 1 November 2023*

ITEM FOR	INFORMATION	REPORT BY	Roger English, National Landscape Manager
<b>SUMMARY</b>	This report provides a brief update on Local planning authority development management consultations since the June 2023 Partnership meeting pertinent to the South Devon National Landscape.		
<b>MANAGEMENT PLAN THEMES</b>	<p><b>All PLACE:</b> Landscape character; Natural resources &amp; climate; Biodiversity &amp; geodiversity; Historic environment; Farming and land management; Coast &amp; marine; Rivers &amp; estuaries.</p> <p><b>All PEOPLE:</b> Tourism, access &amp; recreation; Planning &amp; sustainable development; Transport &amp; highways; Rural economy &amp; services; Community &amp; culture.</p>		
<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	<p>Partnership members are recommended to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Note the level of resource commitment currently applied to the type of development management consultations, bearing in mind the South Devon National Landscape Planning Protocol, in addition to strategic and neighbourhood plan demand across the local planning authority areas. Keep this under review.</li> <li>Continue to provide early notification of significant planning matters to the National Landscape Manager to enable timely and appropriate action to be taken.</li> </ol>		

## **Key Activity**

### **Planning Caseload**

- In the year 2023/2024 to date, Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) have formally consulted the National Landscape team on 36 applications. In addition, the National Landscape team has been consulted on 2 felling/restocking licences, 4 woodland creation proposals, 3 Environmental Impact Applications, 1 Caravan Club equivalent Notification, 5 pre-applications, a Marine License application, a Torbay Local Validation List Consultation and a Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping Report consultation.
- In total, there have been 30 new consultations since the last update.
- Summary of activity since the last update:
  - 21 cases that LPAs have determined
  - 5 completed responses on cases that LPAs/MMO are yet to determine
  - 18 cases under consideration with responses currently in development
  - 3 pre- applications responded to / responses in development
  - 2 felling/restocking licences
  - 4 woodland creation proposals
  - 3 EIA applications
  - Torbay Local Validation List
  - 1 SEA Scoping Report
- Note the 25 applications with completed responses and an LPA decision as at the June Partnership Committee meeting are treated as closed and are not reported again in the table below. Wording in 'normal' text signifies this appeared on the last planning update, with any changes/updates noted in '**bold**' text
- The following table lists the planning cases relevant to the period:

App Ref	Application Type	Decision	In accordance with NL advice / guidance	NL Major	Comments
<b>21 Applications - LPA decision made</b>					
2167/19/FUL	Gara Rock Hotel East Portlemouth READVERTISEMENT (Revised plans received) 3 additional holiday units within Gara Rock Resort	<b>Refusal</b>	Objection	N	Application re-advertised, number of units reduced. Revisions and further information on compliance with earlier landscape conditions awaited Further revisions Feb 23
3335/21/FUL	Site at land west of Collaton Park Newton Ferrers 125 homes	<b>Conditional Approval</b>	Objection	Y	Committee date 25.5.22, approved Revised plans Feb 23
3953/21/FUL	101 Yealm Road Newton Ferrers Demolish two-storey detached buildings & garage. Erect 2 four bed family homes and extension of quay to east of site providing new landing ramp for dwelling 2	<b>Refusal</b>	Objection	N	READVERTISED (amended plans & supporting documents). Objection maintained.
2928/22/FUL	71 Yealm Road Newton Ferrers Proposed boatshed and reinstatement of Landing (Resubmission of 0370/22/FUL) (Retrospective)	<b>Refusal</b>	Objection	N	Revised plans Jun 23
3813/22/ARC	Brewery Quay Island Street Salcombe Application for approval of details reserved by condition 13 (Flood Warning) 16 (Noise Impact Assessment) and 20 (Shutters)	<b>Discharge – split decision</b>	No comment	N	Planning consent 0434/20/FUL
0868/20/ARM	Development Site SX612502 North Of Church Hill Holbeton Application for approval of reserved matters construct 14 dwellings	<b>Conditional Approval</b>	-	N	Following outline approval 25/1720/15/O; resubmission of 0127/19/ARM <b>READVERTISED – Revised plans Aug</b>
4774/21/FUL	Burgh Island Hotel, Bigbury On Sea Extend and refurbish Hotel and associated buildings; develop new staff accommodation, extend Pilchard Inn, extend Bay View Cafe	<b>Conditional Approval</b>	-	N	DMC December - approved, subject to legal agreement  Poss Heritage Coast NPPF 177 Major Reconsulted 9May22 - readvertised, revised plans
0915/22/FUL	Land off Bantham Beach Road Bantham Replacement beach shower/toilet block, replacement village sewage treatment plant, new residents/mooring holders car park and new parking, ANPR system and associated signage on the beach road and car park	<b>Refusal</b>	-	N	Landscape Officer comments Feb 23 – holding objection  Reconsulted 11Oct22
1516/22/CLP	Salcombe Retreat Malborough Proposed Siting of 52 Static Caravans	<b>Certified</b>	-	N	Raised by member of the public Resubmission of 1485/21/CLP
2831/22/FUL	Land Adjacent To Stonehanger Court Devon Road Salcombe Construction of a two storey house	<b>Refusal</b>	-	N	Landscape Officer comments Nov 22 – objection
4412/22/FUL	Northern Berthing Facility Britannia Royal Naval College Dartmouth Replacement pontoons & gangway/ bridge access to/from existing quay wall & repairs to existing quay wall	<b>Conditional Approval</b>	-	N	
0457/23/FUL	Former Guttery Reservoir Lower Broad Park Dartmouth Erection of 7 new dwellings and associated access road	<b>Refusal</b>	-	N	Revised plans June 23
1108/23/FUL	Land At Sx 729 441 Morley Way Kingsbridge Proposed construction of employment buildings & associated works	<b>Conditional Approval</b>	-	Y	Part of K5 consented site – employment use.
0622/23/VAR	Noss-On-Dart Marina Bridge Road Kingswear Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) for amendments to Phase 12 of the redevelopment relating to the Waterside Apartments Building, raised walkway and Central Square and associated conditions 15, 20, 36, 49 & administrative changes required to conditions 1, 3, 4, 17, 22, 28, 29, 30, 31, 33, 41, 42, 43, 45, 51, 52, 56, 58, 59,	<b>Conditional Approval</b>	-	Y	Following grant of planning permission ref. 2161/17/OPA (as amended by S.73 planning permission ref. 0504/20/VAR)

App Ref	Application Type	Decision	In accordance with NL advice / guidance	NL Major	Comments
	60 reflecting approved discharge of conditions				
1451/23/ARC	Waterside East Portlemouth TQ8 8PU Application for approval of details reserved by condition 3 (CEMP) of planning consent 2254/22/HHO	Approved	No objection	N	
2233/23/ARC	<b>Folly End Folly Lane Salcombe</b> <b>Application for approval of details reserved by condition 3 (CMP) of planning consent 0459/23/VAR</b>	Approved	No objection subject to conditions	N	
2274/23/FUL	<b>Maypool Cottage</b> <b>Remodelling of existing dwelling &amp; annexe (resubmission of 0935/23/FUL)</b>	Conditional Approval	No objection subject to conditions	N	
2139/23/FUL	<b>Meadowsfoot Beach Mothecombe</b> <b>Provision of new pedestrian access route to Meadowsfoot Beach with concrete steps &amp; handrail, raised concrete path &amp; handrail &amp; widened concrete path &amp; handrail.</b>	Conditional Approval	No objection subject to conditions	N	
1986/23/FUL	<b>Point View Noss Mayo</b> <b>Proposed sailing store &amp; works to stabilise riverbank</b>	Conditional Approval	No objection subject to conditions	N	
2791/23/FUL	<b>93 Yealm Road Newton Ferrers</b> <b>Addition of timber building to quay</b>	Conditional Approval	No Objection	N	
2537/23/FUL	<b>Land At Sx 778 426 Frogmore</b> <b>Works to agricultural access</b>	Conditional Approval	-	N	Raised by member of the public
<b>5 Applications - Response submitted - LPA still to determine</b>					
3053/21/ARM	Noss Marina Approval of reserved matters	-	Advice provided	Y	
2786/20/FUL	West Buckland Barn Bantham READVERTISEMENT (Revised plans and amended development description) Erection of new agricultural store	-	Objection	N	
P/2022/0339	Site Adjacent To Brixham Cricket Club Change of use from agricultural land to outdoor football pitch.	-	Objection	N	Part retrospective. Respond by 26.4.23 Reconsulted 3.4.23
P/2023/0480	<b>Land To The Southwest Of Copythorne Road Brixham</b> <b>Outline planning application for the erection of up to 77 dwellings</b>	-	Objection	Y	
2798/23/FUL	<b>North Embankment Dartmouth</b> <b>Proposed new slipway</b>	-	Holding Objection	N	
<b>18 Applications - Responses in development</b>					
2089/20/FUL	Fish Hoek South Town Dartmouth Alter and extend 2 dwellings and erect 2 new dwellings	-	-	N	Related to withdrawn application no. 2781/18/FUL
4158/19/FUL	Development Site At Sx 734 439, Land to Northwest of junction between Ropewalk and Kingsway Park Ropewalk Kingsbridge 15 dwellings	-	-	N	READVERTISED – Revised plans
2982/21/FUL	Land Opposite Butts Park Newton Ferrers Erection of 20 residential units	-	-	Y	<b>Revised plans Sep'23</b> (NL objected to original plans) <b>Awaiting legal agreement</b>

App Ref	Application Type	Decision	In accordance with NL advice / guidance	NL Major	Comments
0384/23/OPA	Land At Sx 652 517 Modbury Outline Planning Application (with all matters reserved apart from access) demolish existing buildings [construct] up to 40 dwellings on land at Pennpark, Modbury	-	-	N	READVERTISEMENT (Amended Description)  Revised plans Mar 23 SHDC Landscape comments – no objection but further information required
3368/22/FUL	Sand Pebbles Hotel Hope Cove Change of use from hotel/guesthouse with owner's accommodation to 11- holiday lets incl an extension & modest new build element	-	-	N	
P/2023/0377	Land To The South Of White Rock, Paignton Variation of Conditions 21 and 27 on P/2022/0112 (Variation of Conditions relating to application P/2017/1133 MOA.). Condition 21 (Highway phasing). Condition 27 (Phasing of Windy Corner and Long Rd Highway Junction Works).	-	-	N	
APPEAL P/2020/0966	Wall Park Touring And Centry Road Camping Site, Centry Road, Brixham Replacement of 24 touring caravan pitches with 10 holiday static units/lodges	-	-	N	APPEAL REF.: APP/X1165/W/23/3314568, APPEAL START DATE: 12th June 2023
P/2023/0553	<b>Land Off St Mary's Road, Brixham Demolition of existing industrial buildings and erection of 28 residential dwellings</b>	-	-	N	
2268/23/VAR	<b>The Cove Guest House Torcross Application for variation of condition 1 (approved plans) of planning consent 1411/21/VAR (resubmission of 2110/22/VAR)</b>	-	-	N	
1803/23/VAR	Land at Garden Mill, Derby Road, Kingsbridge Outline application with some matters reserved for residential development scheme for 32no. dwelling.	-	-	N	<b>Appeal APP/K1128/W/23/3325969 START DATE: 7 Sep 2023</b>  <b>Relates to Condition 1 of the Outline permission. Condition 7 of the Reserved Matters permission.</b>  <b>(Outline: 28/1560/15/O (granted on appeal: APP/K1128/W/16/3156062) Reserved Matters: 0826/20/ARM)</b>
2622/23/VAR	Land Off Townstal Road Dartmouth Application for variation of conditions 1 (approved drawings) 4 (access, parking & drainage) 5 (lighting) of planning consent 4160/22/ARM	-	-	N	
P/2022/0302	Land At Gattery Lane Brixham Formation of stable building and widening of entrance.	-	-	N	
2928/23/HHO	Greystones De Courcy Road Salcombe Householder application for alterations and enhancements to the roof, replacement bays and new windows and door openings	-	-	N	
3167/23/VAR	Coombeshead Solar Farm Diptford Application variation of condition 5 (use of land) of planning consent 17/0265/14/F	-	-	N	
1068/23/FUL	Smalls East Portlemouth Application for boat house with living area above	-	-	N	Initially raised by Salcombe Harbour
2209/23/FUL	Herongate Lower Street Dittisham Conversion & extension of boathouse for short term holiday let (resubmission of 3628/22/FUL)	-	-	N	

<b>App Ref</b>	<b>Application Type</b>	<b>Decision</b>	<b>In accordance with NL advice / guidance</b>	<b>NL Major</b>	<b>Comments</b>
2536/23/FUL	Fairholme Riverside Road Dittisham New 3 bed dwelling & detached garden store	-	-	N	
3540/23/FUL	Sheerwater Devon Road Salcombe Replacement dwelling with associated landscaping (resubmission of 3273/22/FUL)	-	-	N	

Item Ends.