



**South Devon**  
National  
Landscape

# Partnership Meeting

to be held at

**10am on Friday 15 March 2024**

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)  
 Mike Oxford  
 Cllr Georgina Allen  
 Cllr John McKay  
 (officer advising Graham Swiss)  
 Cllr Christine Carter  
 (officer advising Tracy Brooks)

Plymouth City Council  
 South Hams District Council

Torbay Council

**Members nominated by statutory agencies**

Environment Agency  
 Forestry Commission  
 Historic England  
 Natural England

Emma Magee  
 Joshua Bennett  
 Ross Simmonds  
 Eamon Crowe

**Members co-opted by Partnership**

Independent  
 National Trust  
 Plymouth University  
 South West Coast Path Association

Peter Sandover (Chair)  
 Richard Snow  
 John Martin (Vice Chair)  
 Ken Carter

**Community Representatives**

Amenity groups  
 Business community  
 Coast and marine sector  
 Community/voluntary groups  
 Environmental organisations (NGOs)  
 Landowning/farming community  
 Parish Councils  
 Tourism community

Penny Mills  
 Gary Jolliffe  
 Natasha Bradshaw  
 Vacant  
 Ed Parr-Ferris  
 Vacant\*  
 Peter Hinchliffe  
 Laura Campbell

*National Landscape team staff attending*

Manager  
 Community Projects Officer  
 Farming in Protected Landscapes Administrator

Roger English  
 Nicky Bailey (presenting)  
 Phoebe Rhead (meeting assistance)

*Also attending*

\*Leah Harris

For co-option to Landowning/farming  
 community role

## 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 meeting (24 November 2023) for approval and any matters arising	Page 2
Item 5 (5 mins) (5 mins)	<b>South Devon National Landscape Partnership matters</b> 5a) Partnership Chair’s report 5b) Co-option of Community Group representatives	Page 13 Page 15
Item 6 (15 mins) (10 mins) (5 mins)	<b>National Matters</b> 6a) Targets and Outcomes Framework for Protected Landscapes 6b) National Landscapes Association and network priorities 6c) National Consultation on Bathing Waters	Page 16 Verbal Page 21
Item 7 (20 mins) (5 mins) (5 mins) (5 mins) (10 mins)	<b>South Devon National Landscape Management</b> 7a) Life on the Edge: Five-year Delivery Phase 7b) South Hams District Council: ‘Keeping it Local’ programme 7c) Key priorities and actions from South Devon’s river catchments 7d) Review of the AONB Management Plan 7e) National Landscape Team priorities for 2024/25 financial year	Page 23 Verbal Page 27 Verbal 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	Annex

## ITEM 4 APPROVAL OF MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SOUTH DEVON NATIONAL LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP HELD AT FOLLATON HOUSE AND VIA ZOOM ON FRIDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2023

#### 1. PUBLIC STATEMENTS

1.1. No public statements.

#### 2. INTRODUCTIONS & APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

##### Those present were:

Peter Chamberlain	PC	Devon County Council
Cllr Georgina Allen	GA	South Hams District Council
Cllr John McKay	JM	South Hams District Council
Graham Swiss	GS	South Hams District Council
Cllr Christine Carter	CC	Torbay Council
Tracy Brooks	TB	Torbay Council
Emma Magee	EM	Environment Agency
Joshua Bennett	JB	Forestry Commission
Matthew Odgers-Brown	MOB	Forestry Commission
Eamon Crowe	EC	Natural England
Peter Sandover	Chair	Independent
John Martin	Vice-chair	Plymouth University
Ken Carter	KC	South West Coast Path Association
Penny Mills	PM	Representative: amenity groups
Ed Parr Ferris	EPF	Representative: environmental organisations
Laura Campbell	LC	Representative: tourism

##### National Landscape staff attending:

Roger English	RE	NL Manager
Vanessa Gray		NL Office Manager

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

Cllr Roger Croad		Devon County Council
Cllr Jonathan Hawkins		Devon County Council
Mike Oxford		Plymouth City Council
Richard Snow		National Trust
Natasha Bradshaw		Representative: coast and marine

##### Observers:

Observers were requested to follow the meeting live via YouTube.

The Chair welcomed new members to the Partnership: Cllr Carter, Joshua Bennett, Matthew Odgers-Brown and Peter Hinchliffe who initially attended as an observer pending election to Partnership.

#### 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

3.1. No interests were declared.

#### **4. MINUTES OF THE 23 JUNE 2023 PARTNERSHIP MEETING FOR APPROVAL & ANY MATTERS ARISING**

##### **4.1. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PARTNERSHIP MEETING ON 23 JUNE 2023**

Proposed: Ken Carter

Resolved: No objections, the minutes were approved.

##### **4.2. Progress on Actions from the March meeting:**

- i. Action 4 (AONB Manager): Share Land Use Framework report with Partnership members when available. The Devon pilot report has not been made available however a larger, end of total report was found yesterday and will be circulated with the minutes of this meeting. *Post meeting update, use link in footer to download the available reports<sup>1</sup>.*
- ii. Action 5 (AONB Manager): Share National Association business plan with Partnership members when available. *Post meeting update, circulate with the minutes.*
- iii. 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 NL Manager to arrange a date.

##### **4.3. Progress on Actions from the June meeting:**

- i. Action 1 (EM): Connect the Chair with Mike Pearey. Chair was unable to go to the event being held on Mike Pearey's farm; will endeavour to catch up with him.
- ii. Action 2 (ALL): contact the AONB manager if you wish to become more involved in the development and delivery of this area of work [*Devon tree and woodland strategy and South Devon AONB woodland visioning*].

##### **Observations and in discussion**

- Devon Wildlife Trust, Saving Devon's Treescapes, have tree nurseries at Fowlescombe, , Meeth Quarry Nature Reserve and Broadclyst. Community micro-nurseries also being supported by the project.
  - Moor Trees have a nursery at Dartington.
  - EM: Portal suggests there will be a further round of the tree production capital grant<sup>2</sup>.
- iii. Action 3 (AONB manager): circulate rebranding information pack when received with an invitation for feedback. No further information has been made available to share since the last Partnership meeting. The Partner Toolkit will be circulated with the minutes.

#### **5. EXTRAORDINARY AGENDA ITEM**

This item was introduced for the co-option of Peter Hinchliffe to the Partnership as the community representative for Parish and Town Councils in the South Devon National Landscape. Partnership members were asked to consider a personal statement from Peter Hinchliffe in support of his co-option, circulated the day before the meeting. Peter was asked to step out of the room while voting took place.

##### **5.1. TO APPROVE THE CO-OPTION OF PETER HINCHLIFFE TO THE VACANT COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE FOR PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS**

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<sup>1</sup> [Finding common ground: Integrating data, science and innovation for better use of land GOV.UK](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Tree Production Capital Grant – GOV.UK](#)

Resolved: No objections, Peter Hinchliffe was duly co-opted.

- 5.2. Upon his return to the room, Peter took up the role and continued the reminder of the meeting as a member of the South Devon National Landscape Partnership.

## 5A PARTNERSHIP CHAIR REPORT

The report provided a summary of activity over the last few months undertaken on behalf of the National Landscape Partnership by the Chair, Peter Sandover.

Partnership members are recommended to note the report and are encouraged to provide brief reports where possible in advance of scheduled meetings to assist with Item 8 Partner updates.

- 5a.1 In addition to the report, Chair thanked the NL Manager and team for their work on the transition from AONB to National Landscape.

## 6A REBRANDING OF AONBS TO NATIONAL LANDSCAPES

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.

Partnership members are recommended to note the change in branding and use of naming conventions relating to the Area, Partnership, Team and National Association and use the new terminology in advocacy work.

### 6a.1 Observations and in discussion

- i. The NL team received a very small budget that has gone into messaging and a sum has been earmarked for regularly used items such as banners.
- ii. It is disappointing no-one has seen any coverage on the rebranding in the local press.
- iii. Farming Today covered the rebranding of AONBs and had John Watkins, Chief Executive of the National Landscapes Association on the programme<sup>3</sup>.
- iv. The National Landscapes Association has a new website URL<sup>4</sup>.
- v. New branding guidelines allow for a suite of complimentary imagery to be used. We have access to a national set of other 'tiles' and can also create additional 'tiles' for our own use.
- vi. Gateway signage
  - Comments included: gateway signs raise awareness and are prominent features; Gateway signs should be changed swiftly.  
NL Manager – We have investigated placing a reflective transfer over the top as a temporary measure. The cost-effective approach is to replace when the sign reaches its end of life or is damaged.

**ACTION 1 (Diane Lethbridge, NL Communications Officer): Investigate options to cover existing gateway signs and develop a programme to replace.**

- vii. Coastal Wild Belt

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<sup>3</sup> [Farming Today podcast, available to download until 20<sup>th</sup> December | BBC.co.uk](#)

<sup>4</sup> [National Landscapes Association website](#)

- Coastal Wild Belt is one of the key workstreams of the Protected Landscapes Partnership, advocated by National Trails.
  - Ken Carter, South West Coast Path Association:
    - With the rollout of the King Charles III England Coast Path, there is an opportunity through the Marine and Coastal Access Act for Natural England to roll-back the route of the National Trail when impacted by events such as coastal erosion and to designate Coastal Margin down to mean high water mark.
    - As the England Coast Path is established, there is a great opportunity for increasing the resilience of the Coast Path by developing this Coastal Margin as a Wild Belt along our shoreline.
    - SWCPA has been lobbying Defra to identify this as a designation.
    - National Trails provide the opportunity for bio-connectivity between Protected Landscapes and National Landscapes.
    - There is some funding available through the Protected Landscapes Partnership to develop options.
    - This also falls in line with the National Trust's concept of wider coastal management.
  - NL Manager - Effectively there has been a live pilot with the Life on the Edge project.
- viii. TB – Is there any scope within the neighbourhood proportion of Cil funding that parish councils may have available for any necessary rebranding?

**ACTION 2 (NL Manager): Explore this option.**

## 6B LEVELLING-UP AND REGENERATION ACT

The report provided an overview of new provisions relating to National Landscapes contained in the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023.

Partnership members are recommended to:

- 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;
- raise specific questions with the National Landscape Manager to inform the development of a further paper for Partnership members once guidance is published. Secondary legislation is also pending. *Post meeting update: Secondary legislation is likely to take between 12-18 months for Defra to complete.*

### 6b.1 Observations and in discussion

- i. Partnership members are encouraged to raise awareness of the provisions pertaining to AONBs [National Landscapes] in the Levelling-up and regeneration act, directing any specific queries to the NL team.
- ii. We hope to have the final Government response to the Glover Landscapes Review by the end of the year. We are hearing that Defra are still intending to introduce new statutory purposes for National Landscapes. It was clear however that National Landscapes becoming statutory consultees would not be a priority.

*Post meeting update: The Government published 'Implementing the Landscapes Review: summary of responses' on 29<sup>th</sup> November<sup>5</sup>.*

- iii. Chair – Going forward, in my talks to parish councils, I will mention the enhanced obligations.
- iv. MOB – We are about to draft a new Management Plan, good opportunity to explain the new requirement and get engagement on this.

## **6C NATURAL ENGLAND GUIDANCE ON MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEWS**

The report provided a brief overview of emerging guidance from Natural England on behalf of Defra, setting out best practice for reviewing Protected Landscape management plans.

Partnership members are recommended to note the scope of the emerging guidance and relationship to key areas of missing detail.

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

- i. NL Manager - Lord Benyon has been very clear that in this round, the requirement is for a substantial Management Plan review.
- ii. Our Planning Guidance document has been singled out as an example of national best practise in the emerging guidance document.
- iii. KC – Does the guidance have anything about connectivity between Protected Landscapes?  
NL Manager – Although primarily charged with what is happening within the National Landscape boundary, we also operate outside the boundary. For example, the Catchment Based Approach (CaBA) works well outside of South Devon NL.

The draft guidance contained very little in terms of the 'Setting'; we have provided feedback as well as what we would want to see included. There is a need to think beyond designated boundaries. It would be very helpful for National Trails to raise this with Natural England too.

## **7A SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL EMERGING CORPORATE STRATEGY [THE COUNCIL PLAN]**

The report provides a brief introduction to the emerging Council Plan for South Hams District Council and focus areas of mutual interest and benefit for the Council and National Landscape Partnership.

Partnership members are recommended to note the scope of the emerging South Hams District Council Plan and suggest areas for further collaboration and action consistent with furthering the purpose of conserving and enhancing natural beauty.

7a.1 Cllr McKay, executive member for climate change and biodiversity, provided an update.

### **7a.2 Observations and in discussion**

- i. The corporate strategy is now known as the Council Plan.
- ii. EPF - We see new housing being built that is not energy efficient and does not have renewables. Could we as the Partnership suggest a higher standard so homes are more affordable to run?

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<sup>5</sup> [Implementing the Landscapes Review – summary of responses | GOV.UK](#)

NL Manager – It will take time to roll through as housing being developed now will have been consented years before. The Partnership does have a role to play here through the Management Plan.

Cllr McKay – I am lobbying for changes.

EPF – As a Partnership we can say this is important and include this in the Management Plan.

## 7B MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW SCOPE & TIMETABLE

The NL Manager provided a verbal report.

Partnership members are requested to provide advice and a steer on two key aspects:

- Sources of information.
- Consultations.

7b.1 We are not at the point where we can start the Management Plan review process in earnest given that a number of significant elements of legislation, plans, strategies, policies and frameworks are not yet published. We have begun to amass data and have commenced high level work on gap analysis. We are currently 3-4 months adrift from our previously briefed timetable.

7b.2 Partnership members are requested to signpost and connect the NL Manager to available resources that will assist the MP review.

7b.3 Consultations are key to a substantial Management Plan review. Partnership members are requested to provide feedback with advice and suggestions on the most appropriate mechanisms that have worked well and how to approach this in the South Devon area. We will create a community consultation and engagement plan and this can be produced ahead of any guidance being produced by Natural England.

- i. Chair - Encourage wider engagement in addition to parish councils and their structures to engage groups, so that groups such as younger people are not missed.
- ii. Cllr McKay – Sustainable South Hams has developed connections with parish councils and local groups involved with sustainability issues.

PH – Our parish council is not engaged with Sustainable South Hams at present, would like contact details.

7b.4 **ACTION 3 (Cllr McKay): Connect the NL Manager with Jane Nichols at Sustainable South Hams and provide contact information to Peter Hinchliffe**

**ACTION 4 (All): Contact the NL Manager with ideas for sources of information and suggested approach to consultations.**

7b.5 A further update will be provided at the March meeting.

## 7D NATURE BASED SOLUTIONS & NATURAL FLOOD MANAGEMENT

Emma Magee, Environment Agency, provided a verbal update on this item.

7d.1 Dartmoor Headwaters project, funded by EA, delivered in partnership with Dartmoor National Park Authority. Dartmoor Headwaters Natural Flood Management Project | Dartmoor<sup>6</sup> – targeting

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<sup>6</sup> [Dartmoor Headwaters NFM project | Dartmoor.gov.uk](https://www.dartmoor.gov.uk/nature-based-solutions/natural-flood-management/)

priority catchments on Dartmoor. Relevant to South Devon are the Dean & Mardle [Dart catchment], the Yealm and the Erme.

- 7d.2 DRIP project - Devon Resilience Innovation Project (DRIP) - Flood Risk Management<sup>7</sup> and Devon Resilience Innovation Project – Devon County council<sup>8</sup> – led by Gale Alexander. The project engaged Westcountry Rivers Trust (Katy Hockaday), Has visited landowners in South Pool and proposed some NFM interventions. EA and Catchment Sensitive Farming are on advisory board for these designs.
- 7d.3 Farming in Protected Landscapes is an effective way of targeting advice to landowners and raising awareness of NFM. There are NFM opportunities with National Trust on the Dart, landowners on the Erme and potential on the Salcombe-Kingsbridge catchment, working in partnership with Devon Wildlife Trust.
- 7d.4 Further reading: Working with natural processes to reduce flood risk<sup>9</sup>.

7d.5 **Observations and in discussion**

- i. PC – A lot of what will be done with the Dart Headwaters and DRIP projects will supplement more traditional flood risk management.
- ii. EPF – With the big programmes you trial a whole suite of things but there might be local opportunities to trial things that miss out on these programmes. The Farming in Protected Landscape programme can help plug the gaps, for example in East Devon FiPL is being used to incentivise landowners to set back, making space beside streams that flood.
- iii. MOB – Forestry Commission recognises the water benefits and has incentives available (see 8. Partner Updates for further information and link). FC is also working on a Woodland Water Code that will be similar to the Woodland Carbon Code, recognising landowners that benefit water quality.

## 8. PARTNER UPDATES

An opportunity for Partners to update Partnership on their projects contributing to conserving and enhancing the South Devon National Landscape and work towards Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan priorities.

- 8.1. Peter Chamberlain, Devon County Council
- i. The Levelling-up & Regeneration Act also introduced a new statutory duty on local authorities for the maintenance of the historic environmental record, affecting Devon County Council, Torbay Council and Plymouth City Council.  
Chair – Any parish that had a Neighbourhood Plan process will most likely have a list of non-designated heritage assets. The NPs that I have been involved in, have fed this data back to DCC.
- 8.2. Cllr McKay, South Hams District Council
- i. A “Keep it Local” symposium, held on 10<sup>th</sup> November, had 40 delegates including from the farming and food production communities across the district. This was very successful. A report will be circulated when available.

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<sup>7</sup> [DRIP – Flood risk management | Devon.gov.uk](#)

<sup>8</sup> [DRIP | Devon.gov.uk](#)

<sup>9</sup> [Working with natural processes to reduce flood risk | GOV.UK](#)

The purpose was to discover and consult on how the council can best help and one proposal is to consider appointing an officer to act as liaison with the food and agriculture industries.

- ii. When I started in this role, I commissioned a report from the University of West England on climate change and biodiversity for the South Hams. Part 1 has just been delivered. One of the key things that comes out, unsurprisingly, is that we will have warmer wetter winters and drier summers. There is a real issue over water retention and effects on the agriculture sector in summer as well as reduction of river flows in the summer.

Chair – The report will be a useful evidence base for the Management Plan.

**ACTION 5 (NL Manager): Draw on findings from the University of West England report.**

8.3. Graham Swiss, South Hams District Council

- i. Levelling-up and Regeneration Act
  - From a planning perspective, real detail is yet to come, with secondary legislation expected.
  - The Government will produce national development management policies, impacting the scope of Local Plans and Neighbourhood Plans.
  - The Joint Local Plan review is not progressing to any great extent while awaiting changes.
- ii. Neighbourhood Plans
  - 21 neighbourhood plans are adopted in the South Hams. Totnes NP is going to Executive next week.
  - Depending on location, between a fifth and two thirds of housing in the South Hams is a second home.
  - Of the 21 adopted Neighbourhood Plans, 12 have a local residency policy requirement. All 12 are coastal parishes in the South Devon National Landscape.
  - New housing scheme at St Anns Chapel launched.

8.4. Tracy Brooks, Torbay Council

- i. The Levelling-up & Regeneration Act requires a Local Plan to be produced within 30 months. This is a very tight timescale to develop plans. Worthy of a future discussion when we have more information.
- ii. Emerging devolution deal between Torbay and Devon.
- iii. EM – Does the £20m levelling up 'Fish and Chips' project in Torbay have any impact on the NL?  
TB – This funding is for Brixham Fish Quay and a site in Paignton. My understanding is that neither directly affect the South Devon National Landscape.

8.5. Emma Magee, Environment Agency

- i. National Flood Awareness Week  
We are streamlining the way partners access funding from the EA on property flood resilience measures and will be setting up supplier frameworks to support survey and installation projects managed in house. We also launched a 'Be Flood Smart' campaign<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> [Be Flood Smart | Flood Protection | FloodRe.co.uk](#)

with Flood Re. As always, please encourage communities to prepare by checking your flood risk<sup>11</sup>, signing up for warnings<sup>12</sup>, and making a flood plan<sup>13</sup>.

- ii. World Anti-microbial Awareness week  
Raft of publications on the topic of AMR, of particular interest locally – detection in Bathing Waters. Have passed to University of Exeter researchers working on this and looking to undertake a PhD collecting data in the Dart – funding pending.
- iii. SWW draft business plan released<sup>14</sup>  
You can submit your views and comments about the business plans to Ofwat<sup>15</sup>, deadline 14 December 2023.
- iv. EA Salmon Stocks assessment now available<sup>16</sup>. More information available in Creating a better place (blog)<sup>17</sup>.
- v. Updates to water body data can now be seen through the catchment data explorer<sup>18</sup>.
- vi. Surfers Against Sewage report released this week<sup>19</sup>. There were some inaccuracies; EA response to the Surfers Against Sewage report<sup>20</sup>.
- vii. Fish Legal challenge over RBMP – decision recently announced in Fish Legal favour<sup>21</sup> There are some inaccuracies in the coverage of the report however. RBMP's status stays the same, it is still the legal entity and nothing is in place to replace them. So we need to continue to deliver the 2022 plan and we will be starting development of the 2028 RBMP.
- viii. Projects in area
  - Successfully secured funding for a Dart Catchment Action Plan, delivered in partnership with South Devon NL;
  - Yealm and Erme Species Survival project in progress (DWT/Parklife);
  - Further funding for Dart Saltmarsh.

#### 8.6. Matthew Odgers-Brown, Forestry Commission

- i. EA working with FC looking at offsetting it's carbon footprint.
- ii. To guide and inform woodland creation FC low sensitivity mapping layers indicate landscapes where woodland is likely to be acceptable/appropriate i.e. where there are less constraints such as priority habitat or historic features, and where lower grade agricultural soils are present<sup>22</sup>.
- iii. FC current Woodland management matters campaign - useful material and resources informing and encouraging woodland<sup>23</sup>.
- iv. Recent England Woodland Creation Offer updates & enhancements

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<sup>11</sup> [Check flood risk | GOV.UK](#)

<sup>12</sup> [Sign up for flood warnings | GOV.UK](#)

<sup>13</sup> [Plan ahead for flooding | GOV.UK](#)

<sup>14</sup> [Business Plan 2020-25 | South West Water](#)

<sup>15</sup> [Your water, your say survey | Ofwat](#)

<sup>16</sup> [Background: Salmon Stocks and Fisheries England and Wales in 2022 | GOV.UK](#)

<sup>17</sup> [Results from the latest report into UK salmon stocks – Creating a better place | GOV.UK blog](#)

<sup>18</sup> [Water body data update August 2023 – Creating a better place | GOV.UK blog](#)

<sup>19</sup> [Water Quality Report 2023 | Surfers Against Sewage](#)

<sup>20</sup> [Response to Surfers Against Sewage report | GOV.UK](#)

<sup>21</sup> [Defra failure to protect and restore water bodies | The Guardian](#)

<sup>22</sup> [A guide to Forestry Commission's Sensitivity Maps for Woodland Creation - GOV.UK](#)

<sup>23</sup> [Developing the means to manage woodlands - Forestry Commission \(blog.gov.uk\)](#)

- Capital Funding Period has been extended from 2 years to 3 years and the Annual Maintenance Payments extended from 10 to 15 years .
  - Grant details here<sup>24</sup>.
- v. UK Forestry Standard reviewed and new version published
- Blog<sup>25</sup>.
  - Standard available here<sup>26</sup>.
- vi. Consultation reform
- A new approach to consultation on forestry applications (from mid September 2023). i.e. consultations on deforestation (felling licences) and afforestation (woodland planning grants, EWCO applications & EIAs (Forestry Act). More information and updates to/roll out of processes to follow. Information available here<sup>27</sup>.
- vii. Government recently released statistics showing continued decline in UK bird populations. Figures suggest that Woodland bird species are faring the worst. 2022 UK woodland bird index was 37% below its 1970 value. Data available here<sup>28</sup>.
- viii. New report identifies threats to UK woodlands. A horizon scan of issues affecting UK forest management within 50 years - highlighting potential for woodland ecosystem collapse. Report available here<sup>29</sup>.
- ix. Request the woodland visioning work is pushed forwards, to help shape the Management Plan.
- 8.7. Eamon Crowe, Natural England
- i. Been involved with the EA on some of the work on flood management. Linking this to woodland creation is something we will raise with Roger offline. We have been speaking with DNPA about having a link between Dartmoor and South Devon National Landscape around Yealm and Erme. A great deal depends on the outcome of the next round of Landscape Recovery areas; hopefully announced before end November.
- ACTION 6 (Eamon Crowe): Arrange a meeting to discuss further with the NL Manager, Emma Magee and James Mason (Forestry Commission).**
- ii. Countryside Stewardship is undergoing a major change. Under the banner of ELM, there will be announcements in the new year related to increased payment rates. Probably being announced at the Oxford conference in January.
- 8.8. Ken Carter, South West Coast Path Association (in addition to the separate report)
- i. King Charles III England Coast Path, Cremyll to Kingswear stretch has now been approved. Most of the route follows the South West Coast Path line however there are differences around Stoke Fleming where the new route is through the village and closer to the coast.
- ii. Thanks to the National Landscape team for the two projects put forward for Natural England Access funding. Together with projects from DCC, National Trust and other

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<sup>24</sup> [England Woodland Creation Offer - GOV.UK](#)

<sup>25</sup> [The UK Forestry Standard Review - Forestry Commission \(blog.gov.uk\)](#)

<sup>26</sup> [The UK Forestry Standard - GOV.UK](#)

<sup>27</sup> [The Forestry Commission's new approach to consultation on forestry applications - Forestry Commission \(blog.gov.uk\)](#)

<sup>28</sup> [Wild bird populations in the UK, 1970 to 2022 - GOV.UK](#)

<sup>29</sup> [horizon scan of issues affecting UK forest management within 50 years | Forestry: An International Journal of Forest Research | Oxford Academic \(oup.com\)](#)

partners, we were able to put in a bid for an additional £250k, almost half of which is going to projects in South Devon. The projects need to be delivered by 31 March 2024.

iii. Volunteering

- Involved with The Woodland Trust and Devon Wildlife Trust collecting tree seed.
- Helped The Woodland Trust with leaky dams, slowing the flow in the Avon valley and creating wetland behind.

8.9. Penny Mills, representative for amenity groups

- i. The planning officer role is very important and is taking time to put in place.  
RE – There is a strong commitment from East Devon, North Devon and South Devon to work over the next few weeks to get the final elements in place. The role will go to SHDC HR panel before it can be advertised.

8.10. Ed Parr-Ferris, representative for environmental organisations (NGOs)

- i. Local Nature Recovery Strategy process is ongoing, with a lot of work led by the DCC team.
- ii. We have been involved with the University of Exeter who are developing mapping solutions for the LNRS. There will be consultations on the outcomes and priorities in the summer.
- iii. There is an active bid for funding, with consents applications submitted, for Pine Marten reintroduction into the South West.

8.11. Peter Hinchliffe, representative for town and parish councils

- i. Newton and Noss is revising their Neighbourhood Plan.
- ii. The percentage of second homes in Noss Mayo has reached 49%.
- iii. Following a court judgement for remediation, Akzonobel [International Paints] have applied for an MMO licence for works likely to start in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2024. Would like input from the EA before work commences.  
EM – Suggest you contact my colleague Rob Price who covers that area and is best placed to direct you to relevant contacts within the EA.
- iv. Request a list of parishes I should be contacting in this role.

**ACTION 7 (Diane Lethbridge, NL Communications Officer): Send a list of parish and town councils in and partly in the South Devon National Landscape.**

8.12. Roger English, South Devon National Landscape Manager

- i. National Lottery Heritage Funded Life on the Edge project decision will now be made on 13 December. We should hear shortly after midday the following day, although news of the decision will be embargoed until the National Lottery publish the list of successful projects.

## 9. PLANNING UPDATE

This is a 'for information' item. A planning update paper was circulated prior to the meeting.

## 10. PARTNERSHIP MEETING DATES

Proposed dates in 2024

- 15 March
- 19 July
- 29 November

**MEETING CLOSED**

## ITEM 5 South Devon National Landscape Partnership matters

### 5A. Partnership Chair's Report

<b>ITEM FOR</b>	<b>INFORMATION &amp; FEEDBACK</b>	<b>REPORT BY</b>	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>		

### Funding Bids

1. Firstly, I offer my personal congratulations to Roger, the staff team and main partners for their success in securing the National Lottery funding of £2.2M for the Delivery Phase of Life on the Edge project. This success worth £4.4M over 5 years required a considerable effort beyond the team's normal day to day responsibilities. In parallel with making this bid the team were also preparing a submission to funding for a Landscape Recovery Scheme working with many of the landowners in our National Landscape, unfortunately this bid was unsuccessful by the smallest of margins, this again required considerable work by the team. But the effort is not wasted and following feedback from the funders a project will be redeveloped for the next round of Landscape Recovery Scheme funding.
2. I also congratulate the Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) team for their hard work in securing additional funding for the support programme for this financial year and next.
3. These projects place additional strain on our team and they are actively recruiting for additional project staff as well as the planning support role. We are very grateful to officers and members of SHDC for their support for the Partnership for underwriting of the Life on the Edge Project and ongoing assistance in our core funding.

### Engagement

4. More Parish and Town Councils have given me a warm welcome including:
  - Slapton Parish Council
  - Kingston Parish Council

I have met a total 16 PCs thus far, with more meetings scheduled to take place shortly at:

- Loddiswell

- Wembury
- Yealmpton

There is still a way to go to cover all 48 parishes wholly or partly in our National Landscape.

5. The council briefings give me an opportunity to promote the launch of the National Landscape and announce consultation initiatives informing the forthcoming management plan review. I can explain the enhanced duties placed on relevant authorities (such as Town and Parish Councils) to further the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of our National Landscape.

I am also able to provide feedback to the team including praise for our FIPL team from farming representatives.

Also challenges facing parishes highlighting contentious planning applications and, in the case of Slapton, the future of the Slapton Line.

In future I plan to share the responsibility of engaging councils with our newly appointed Parish Council Community Representative Peter Hinchliffe.

6. I also gave a presentation to Dartmouth Rotarians on 30th November.

Item Ends.

## 5B. Co-option of Community Representatives to the Partnership

ITEM FOR	INFORMATION & DECISION	REPORT BY	Roger English, National Landscape Manager
<b>SUMMARY</b>	This report provides a summary of the current position on Community Representatives for the National Landscape Partnership and request for co-option of Leah Harris to the role of Farming and Landowning Community Representative.		
<b>MANAGEMENT PLAN THEMES</b>	<p><b>PLACE:</b> Landscape character; Natural resources &amp; climate; Biodiversity &amp; geodiversity; Historic environment; Farming and land management; Rivers &amp; estuaries.</p> <p><b>PEOPLE:</b> Rural economy &amp; services; Community &amp; culture.</p> <p><b>All PARTNERSHIP:</b> Awareness &amp; communication; Management, organisation &amp; partnerships.</p> <p><b>Others</b> – underpins and links to all other Management Plan themes.</p>		
<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	<p>Partnership members are recommended to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Consider and vote on the co-option of Leah Harris to the role of Farming and Landowning Community Representative.</li> <li>ii. Consider and offer feedback on formally approaching Sustainable South Hams to represent the wide range of voluntary community groups active within the area.</li> </ol>		

### Community Representatives

1. The Community Representative roles continue to provide an invaluable contribution to Partnership meetings and wider National Landscape work. Following the co-option in November 2023 of Peter Hinchliffe to the role of National Landscape Community Representative for the area's Parish Councils, six Community Representative roles were filled, however two important roles remained vacant.

### Farming and Landowning Community Representative

2. Around 80% of the land area of the National Landscape is farmed and a profitable, sustainable and environmentally beneficial farming and land management sector is one of the principal means of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, special qualities and distinctive landscape of the National Landscape. With this level of relevance, period of agricultural transition, challenges and opportunities there has never been a more important time for the farming sector to be well represented within the National Landscape Partnership.
3. One such opportunity that has developed over recent years continues to be the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme. An important part of the programme's operation and success in South Devon has been the involvement of a committed group of farmer representatives.
4. One of those dynamic and engaged farmer representatives has been Leah Harris, with their family farm in Newton Ferrers. Leah has kindly expressed an interest in taking on the Farming and Community Representative role and a personal statement from Leah has been circulated in support of this item for the Partnership's consideration.

Item Ends.

## ITEM 6. National Matters

### 6A. Targets and Outcomes Framework for Protected Landscapes

<b>ITEM FOR</b>	INFORMATION, FEEDBACK & DISCUSSION	<b>REPORT BY</b>	Roger English, National Landscape Manager
<b>SUMMARY</b>	This item covers the introduction of a new Targets and Outcomes Framework for Protected Landscapes in England. This will be added to in the meeting to explore implications and expectations for the South Devon National Landscape area, team, Partnership, Management Plan and group of 'relevant authorities'.		
<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>i. Note the introduction of the Targets and Outcomes Framework together with links to Environment Improvement Plan 2023 outcomes.</li> <li>ii. Ahead of the formal Management Plan Review, give early consideration to supporting delivery that will advance the South Devon position on the items covered by the 9 pertinent targets.</li> <li>iii. Use the 9 targets pertinent to the South Devon National Landscape in your advocacy work.</li> </ol>		

### Background

1. National Landscapes and National Parks, along with National Trails, collectively known as Protected Landscapes, are home to some of the nation's most iconic and beautiful places. These remarkable landscapes support our nation's health and wellbeing and are recognised to play a crucial role in delivering national commitments to tackle climate change and restore nature. This includes international commitments under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity.
2. At the end of January 2024, Defra published its "Targets and Outcomes Framework" <sup>30</sup> for protected landscapes. The Framework applies specific outcomes defined in the Environmental Improvement Plan 2023<sup>31</sup> to protected landscapes and sets related targets.

### Environmental Improvement Plan 2023

3. The targets have been set to promote the actions that have been deemed most needed to achieve positive changes. They set the ambition for government expectations of Protected Landscapes to achieve 3 outcomes from the national Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP) 2023:

<sup>30</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protected-landscapes-targets-and-outcomes-framework/protected-landscapes-targets-and-outcomes-framework>

<sup>31</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-improvement-plan>

- Goal 1: Thriving plants and wildlife
  - Goal 7: Mitigating and adapting to climate change
  - Goal 10: Enhancing beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment
4. To work towards these outcomes, identified the EIP targets have been identified for Protected Landscapes bodies and other relevant authorities and partners to prioritise and focus on. These prioritised EIP targets are those that:
    - are most relevant to National Park and National Landscapes' statutory purposes
    - have data available at the right spatial level
    - Protected Landscape bodies can influence the progress of, by mobilising partners, including through their statutory management plans
  5. The framework builds on new legislation in the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act (amending sections 85 and 90 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000) that strengthens how relevant authorities must deliver the purposes of Protected Landscapes. The government has committed to take forward secondary legislation as Statutory Instrument that will detail how relevant authorities are required to help develop and implement management plans for Protected Landscapes.
  6. An important principle is that the targets are for **the Protected Landscapes as places** (the geographic area covered by the designation). Action will be coordinated by Protected Landscape bodies through their statutory management plan. It will be the responsibility of all stakeholders, partners and land managers in the area to support their delivery.
  7. Some targets are action focused, while others set a clear numerical target for how much Protected Landscapes are expected to contribute as areas to the national targets.

## Meet the Targets

8. Thriving plants and wildlife targets

### **Target 1**

Restore or create more than 250,000 hectares of a range of wildlife-rich habitats within Protected Landscapes, outside protected sites by 2042 (from a 2022 baseline).

### **Target 2**

Bring 80% of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes into favourable condition by 2042.

### **Target 3**

For 60% of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes assessed as having 'actions on track' to achieve favourable condition by 31 January 2028.

### **Target 4**

Continuing favourable management of all existing priority habitat already in favourable condition outside of SSSIs (from a 2022 baseline) and increasing to include all newly restored or created habitat through agri-environment schemes by 2042.

**Target 5**

Ensuring at least 65% to 80% of land managers adopt nature friendly farming on at least 10% to 15% of their land by 2030.

## 9. Mitigating and adapting to climate change targets

**Target 6**

Reduce net greenhouse gas emissions in Protected Landscapes to net zero by 2050 relative to 1990 levels.

**Target 7**

Restore approximately 130,000 hectares of peat in Protected Landscapes by 2050.

**Target 8**

Increase tree canopy and woodland cover (combined) by 3% of total land area in Protected Landscapes by 2050 (from 2022 baseline).

## 10. Enhancing beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment targets

**Target 9**

Reduce net greenhouse gas emissions in Protected Landscapes to net zero by 2050 relative to 1990 levels.

**Target 10**

Restore approximately 130,000 hectares of peat in Protected Landscapes by 2050.

**Next steps**

11. All Protected Landscape bodies (including ourselves) are required to embed these targets within our Management Plans, and pursue actions captured within associated delivery plans to ensure year on year progress by all relevant authorities. Effective Partnership working on annual management action, projects, initiatives and campaigns will all be needed to effect positive progress.
12. Natural England will work with individual Protected Landscape bodies to apportion the targets set out in our targets and outcomes framework appropriately between them, based on local circumstances including potential partner contributions and other evidence. Apportioned targets will be agreed between individual Protected Landscapes and Natural England within 18 months of publication of the Targets and Outcomes Framework.
13. Natural England will be responsible for collating data (where available on an annual basis), to demonstrate how Protected Landscapes are progressing towards their targets. This information will be published as part of the EIP Annual Reporting process. This will enable Protected Landscapes bodies, Defra and the national Protected Landscape Partnership to help target action, resources, learning and best practice to accelerate progress towards desired targets.
14. The framework will be reviewed at least every 5 years, linked to refreshes of the EIP, recognising that the national targets extend well beyond the next 5 years or one management plan cycle.

Item Ends.

## Appendix 1 to Item 6A

### **Assessing progress towards Protected Landscape targets**

The following indicators will be used to measure progress towards the targets and outcomes set out in the framework.

#### **Thriving plants and wildlife indicators**

The following indicators will measure progress on the 'thriving plants and wildlife' targets:

- extent of wildlife rich habitat created or restored within Protected Landscapes, outside of protected sites
- percentage of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes in favourable condition
- percentage of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes assessed as having 'actions on track' to achieve favourable condition
- extent of priority habitat within Protected Landscapes, outside of protected sites, in favourable management through agri-environment schemes
- percentage of land managers adopting nature-friendly farming on a percentage of their land

#### **Mitigating and adapting to climate change indicators**

The following indicators will measure progress on the 'mitigating and adapting to climate change' targets:

- the level of greenhouse gas emissions within Protected Landscapes
- extent of peat under restoration in Protected Landscapes
- extent of tree canopy and woodland cover in Protected Landscapes

#### **Enhancing beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment**

In future access metrics will focus on our EIP commitments that everyone should live within 15 minutes' walk of a green or blue space and removing barriers to access.

For now, the following indicators will measure progress on the 'enhancing beauty, heritage and engagement' targets:

- improve and promote accessibility to and engagement with Protected Landscapes for all using existing metrics in the Access for All programme:
  - metres of accessible path as a percentage of total path
  - number of accessible toilets and rest stops
  - number of disability accessible parking spaces
  - number of accessible gates and gaps
  - number of visits and volunteer days facilitated by new equipment

- number of schools engaged (primary and secondary) both inside and outside the Protected Landscape boundary
- number of volunteer days
- number of accessible or easy access routes for which wayfinding has been created or improved
- policies in place to ensure Protected Landscapes are taking positive action to widen the diversity of their staff, boards and volunteers
- number and percentage of nationally designated heritage assets in Protected Landscapes to be deemed at risk. To separately cover the categories of:
  - scheduled monuments
  - registered parks and gardens
  - registered battlefields
  - listed buildings (grade I or II\*)
  - protected wreck sites

## 6C. National Consultation on Bathing Waters

ITEM FOR	INFORMATION	REPORT BY	Nigel Mortimer, National Landscape Estuaries Officer
<b>SUMMARY</b>	This report provides Partnership members with an update on the Bathing Waters consultation and National Landscape response.		
<b>MANAGEMENT PLAN THEMES</b>	<p><b>PLACE:</b> Landscape Character; Natural resources &amp; climate; Biodiversity &amp; geodiversity; Farming and land management; Coast &amp; marine; Rivers &amp; estuaries.</p> <p><b>PEOPLE:</b> Tourism, access &amp; recreation; Planning &amp; sustainable development; 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Note the scope of the consultation and wider benefits should bathing water status be approved.</li> </ul>		

### Background

1. Defra recently invited comments on the suitability of 27 proposed sites around England to be designated as new Bathing Waters<sup>32</sup>. 18 sites already exist throughout the South Devon National Landscape, with five located close to the mouths of estuaries.
2. Five of the sites, representing 18% of all the proposed sites, are located within the South Devon National Landscape; one in the Erme Estuary and four in the Dart Estuary.
3. The sites were put forward by their local communities and landowners following extensive collection of background information to demonstrate levels of use and facilities. Designation would ensure their testing for Bathing Water quality, helping to drive any improvements deemed necessary.
4. The monitoring data are used to make annual water quality classifications of
  - Excellent
  - Good
  - Sufficient
  - Poor
5. If the water quality does not meet the standards set by the Regulations, the Environment Agency will investigate the sources of pollution to identify remedial measures that can be put in place.
6. The South Devon National Landscape team responded to support the designation of the five local sites and added further detail.
7. While the Bathing Waters consultation ended on 10 March, decisions and announcements on the inclusion of the sites on the official list of designated bathing waters will follow along with Defra's Plan for Water that is expected imminently.

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<sup>32</sup> <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/water/consultation-on-designation-of-27-sites-as-bathing/>

**Other considerations**

8. Whilst the consultation was specifically focused upon water quality for recreational swimming purposes, there are similarly full immersion/part immersion water sports such as paddle boarding, kayaking and dinghy sailing in areas within the estuaries. These activities and many others would also benefit from the monitoring and increased scrutiny that bathing water status would bring.

Item Ends.

## 7A. Life on the Edge: Five-year Delivery Phase

ITEM FOR	INFORMATION & DISCUSSION	REPORT BY	Nicky Bailey, National Landscape Community Projects Officer
<b>SUMMARY</b>	This report provides an overview of the Delivery Phase to Life on the Edge (LotE), following a successful bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for £2.24 million, awarded South Devon National Landscape in December 2023. The National Landscape Community Projects Officer will provide a presentation and further detail for Partnership in the meeting.		
<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:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. To appoint a member to represent the Partnership Committee on the LotE Project Advisory Group. It is suggested that this should be the chair;</li> <li>ii. To appoint the Partnership Committee Community Representatives as the LotE Grants panel;</li> <li>iii. That the South Devon National Landscape Core Funding Group continues to provide financial oversight of LotE budgets, reported to by the LotE Project Manager;</li> <li>iv. That Partnership Committee members advocate, support and promote LotE as a flagship project of the South Devon National Landscape, to their communities and partners.</li> </ol>		

### Background

1. The South Devon coast between Plymouth and Torbay is home to the greatest concentration of threatened invertebrate and plant species in the county of Devon, many of them confined to a narrow and ever-shrinking coastal strip by intensive agriculture on the one side and the sea on the other. Life on the Edge will work with farmers, landowners, and local communities to restore habitat for these threatened species and better connect communities with nature, improving their health and wellbeing.
2. The Development phase of Life on the Edge (LotE) was completed in July 2023. An initial grant of £220,900 was awarded by the NLHF for a £417,000 18 month programme, to test, trial and evidence need for the delivery of LotE. During this time 5,294 people joined in with LotE activities including walks and events, school visits, health and wellbeing programmes, discussion forums, insect surveys, training sessions, art workshops and performances. Throughout this engagement period, feedback was gathered, processes were evaluated, habitat assessments and surveys were carried out and audiences refined. This evidence for need, research, lessons learned, and data collated shaped the Delivery Phase application which was submitted in August 2023.

3. In December 2023 South Devon National Landscape, on behalf of the LotE partnership, was awarded £2.24 million by the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) for the Delivery Phase of LotE. This funding will be 51 % of a total project value of £4,420,265. Additional funding has been secured from Devon Environment Foundation, National Trust, Milkywire, South Hams District Council and South West Coast Path Association. Non-cash contributions total £1,213,00 as well as the equivalent value of £514,500 of volunteer time.

### Project Management

4. The project Partnership is led by South Devon National Landscape with the national Invertebrate charity Buglife, National Trust, South West Coast Path team and Doorstep Arts. These groups form the **Executive Committee** and will be responsible for making key decision about the project as it progresses.
5. Many other groups and organisations are involved the delivery of the project, and these will form the **Project Advisory Group**. These members provide advice and guidance, wider project support and connections to communities. They represent LotE audiences and stakeholders and will be an essential conduit for getting to the right people in the right voice. Membership includes representatives from farmers and landowners, Parish Councils, local authorities, dementia groups, Torbay Community Development Trust, Buglife, Plantlife, Natural England, South West Coast Path Association, Eco Churches, Devon adult and young carers, The Box and Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust.
6. The **LotE team** will consist of a Project Manager (1FTE), Community Officer (1FTE), Conservation officer (1FTE), Volunteer and learning Officer (0.4 FTE) and Finance and Admin officer (0.6FTE). They will work from the National Landscape office and be fully integrated into the NL team. There will be additional paid members of the team over the course of the project including 9 Countryside Worker Apprentices, 10 Conservation and Community Trainees and 5 Communications interns. The LotE team, along with the SDNL manager and Senior Conservation officer from Buglife will report back to the NLHF at quarterly meetings with a named Investment Manager and project mentor.

### Project Vision and Strategy

7. The LotE **Vision** is to give some of the UK's most threatened invertebrates, living along the South Devon coast between Plymouth and Torbay, the space to recover and thrive; and for the people who live in and visit this beautiful landscape to feel a sense of pride and achievement in having helped to give our precious wildlife a brighter future.
8. Lote has five strategic objectives:
  - 8.1 **RECONNECT** local communities, urban and rural, and visitors to South Devon, to the National Landscape and special wildlife on their doorstep – inspiring them to discover, value and take action for special species:
    - Work with target communities of young people and older isolated people.
    - Using arts as well as practical activities to make nature more accessible and relevant to people's lives.
    - Provide easy transport solutions and social activities to help build people's confidence in visiting the coast and develop long-lasting changes in people's lives.

- Online and in person interpretation, events, and activities to help people learn about and understand the project.

#### 8.2 **REFRESH** people's health and wellbeing, through:

- Feeling better connected with other people, their communities and nature.
- Feeling physically healthier, taking part in activities and practical tasks, walks, volunteering.
- Improving wellbeing through sense of purpose, involvement, social connection, mindfulness and achievement.

#### 8.3 **EMPOWER** people to make a real contribution to tackling the ecological emergency, gaining new skills, knowledge, capacity, and inspiration to deliver nature recovery in their communities:

- Provide training, education, upskilling, volunteer opportunities, work experience, traineeships, and apprenticeships through our Learning with LotE programme.
- Farm and landowner advice, workshops and peer to peer training.
- Community and Conservation grant programmes with a value of £199,500.
- Capital investment in landscape recovery and creation of seed donor sites.

#### 8.4 **RESTORE** resilient populations of some of the UK's most threatened invertebrates and plants to the South Devon coast:

- Landscape scale improvements along the coast with new, larger, better maintained and better-connected areas of priority habitat leading to increased populations of target species over the life of the project.
- More resilience in flagship vulnerable species and hundreds more, better connected through a connected B-Lines nature recovery network.
- An ongoing supply of local produced South Devon coastal grassland seed, mix perfectly suited to the conditions the vulnerable species require, supporting habitat restoration well beyond the end of the project.

#### 8.5 **ENHANCE** the whole coastline of the National Landscape for people and wildlife:

- The coastline will be richer in wildlife, with a broad corridor of connected nature-rich habitats spreading inland from the narrow band of coastal cliffs, enjoyed by and interpreted to residents and the thousands of users of the South West Coast Path.
- Wildflower meadow creation in parishes across the project area will make better places to live, work and visit, managed by capable communities, guided by Pollinator Plans.
- These improvements will mean the area becomes more colourful, more interesting, and more natural, restoring long-lost biodiversity to the landscape, boosting the quality of life of residents and enhancing tourism.

#### **Life on the Edge Targets**

- At least 33,000 beneficiary-days will be delivered by the project over 5 years.
- At least 3,000 people who have previously had limited engagement with the coast, will be able to overcome barriers and have new, rewarding and life-enhancing experiences connecting with nature along the South Devon coast.

- 75% of these targeted participants will report an improvement in their wellbeing as a result of taking part in LotE activities, feeling healthier, more confident and better connected.
- 9 apprentices, 5 communication interns, 10 trainees, the whole SDNL workforce, dozens of farmers and landowners, and hundreds of other learners, volunteers and partners will gain valuable new skills to use in securing nature's recovery.
- At least 18,000 people will increase their understanding of LotE special species and habitats, and it is expected 50% will take targeted action at home, at work or in their community that benefits nature.
- 50% of local residents surveyed will be aware of and appreciate the Life on the Edge project and the changes it has made to enhance the local area.
- Over 900,000 visitors and users of the South West Coast Path through LotE Hotspot areas will benefit from a more nature-rich experience as well as learning about the steps taken to protect rare species, and how they can get involved themselves.
- The 60 LotE target species will have progressed along their journey to recovery and will have a more sustainable future.
- 675ha of invertebrate-friendly habitat will be restored or created in LotE Hotspots.
- Of this total, 100ha of new seed donor sites will be created, to supply future regeneration programmes as part of the legacy of Life on the Edge.
- In addition, over 1,300ha of nature-friendly farmland in South Devon coastal B-Lines will create a network connecting LotE Hotspots.

Item Ends.

## 7C. Key priorities and actions from South Devon's river catchments

ITEM FOR	INFORMATION & FEEDBACK	REPORT BY	Nigel Mortimer, National Landscape Estuaries Officer
<b>SUMMARY</b>	This report outlines three key priorities and associated actions from across South Devon's River Catchments		
<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>i. Note the scope of work undertaken by the National Landscape Estuaries Officer, other members of the team and Partnership in support of the water environment.</li> <li>ii. Suggest other areas of estuaries and catchment work Partnership members would like to hear more detail on within future meetings of the National Landscape Partnership.</li> </ol>		

### Saltmarsh Restoration Projects

1. South Devon National Landscape is part of a local partnership to conserve, restore and enhance saltmarshes within the Dart Estuary. These range from pocket sized pioneer saltmarsh, often formed of several clumps of cordgrass e.g. (north of Stoke Gabriel along the north bank) to well established saltmarsh several hundred metres long and 40-50 metres deep.
2. This latter structure is considered narrow by national saltmarsh standards, particularly in comparison with those found along the coast and estuaries of the East of England, but typical of our sheltered ria estuaries in South Devon. This is a feature that the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology consider to be positive with the steepness of the shoreline being a limiting factor affecting migration or colonisation.
3. The project is currently in its second phase. Health and extent environmental surveys have been completed for 13 areas of priority saltmarsh together with an assessment of their conservation management potential.
4. Initial findings suggest that our Dart saltmarshes are in reasonable health but are often small because of the geomorphology of our estuaries (rias or drowned river valleys). Several sites have been identified where some interventive protection or restoration may enhance longer-term resilience and ecosystem services being offered. Rare or notable species within the saltmarshes are being recorded in order to assist with adding to the case for investment in their conservation.
5. The longer-term National Landscape intention is to seek to support similar projects across all five of our estuaries. To this end, learning from the Dart is already being applied on the Yealm Estuary where an initial 'ground-truthing' has taken place of the saltmarshes identified by local knowledge and satellite imagery. Topography and substrate provide for better draining saltmarsh in the Yealm compared to the Dart and this in turn has enabled more diverse species composition including sea purslane.

6. A sell-out Super Saltmarsh free screening event<sup>33</sup> is being held at Totnes Cinema on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March from 6:30pm-9:30pm to highlight aspects of the project so far, including responses from local artists who joined the project over the winter.

### **Dwarf seagrass 'replanting' trials**

7. South Devon National Landscape is leading on a trial to replant what are thought to be naturally floating plants of a dwarf seagrass found within the creeks of the Salcombe-Kingsbridge Estuary as the plants set seed in August.
8. The trial aims to collect some of these plants, that may be free-floating as a seed dispersal mechanism, and trial replanting them within identified similar sites within our neighbouring estuaries.
9. Discussions are ongoing with Natural England, other nation-wide colleagues involved with dwarf seagrass conservation and the relevant land/foreshore owners to ensure biosecurity, identify sites and replanting trial methodology.
10. Whilst success will come down to many factors, including local climate, academic colleagues have suggested and are supporting this trial approach.
11. Further background research on dwarf seagrass has shown how little we understand these important species and the wider wildlife communities they support.

### **River Dart Catchment Action Plan**

12. Funded by the Environment Agency, South Devon National Landscape along with many other local partners are involved in the preparation of an Action Plan to improve the environment but particularly water quality and quantity within the river Dart water catchment area.
13. The plan will be used to help identify gaps in action, facilitate drivers, catalyse projects, and attract funding to improve all aspects of the water environment with the catchment from source to sea.
14. It is anticipated that similar Catchment Action Plans will be prepared for each South Devon estuary, similar structurally but honed to the local catchment landscape and community wishes, engendering a local sense of pride and ownership. This collection of action plans will particularly be used to access new opportunities provided through the next Defra Plan for Water.

Item Ends.

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<sup>33</sup> [Living Dart: The Saltmarsh Project - Screening, Talks and Live Performances Tickets, Mon 25 Mar 2024 at 18:30 | Eventbrite](#)

## Diary dates

### Remaining meeting dates in 2024

- Friday 19 July
- Friday 29 November



**South Devon**  
National  
Landscape

# **Partnership Meeting**

to be held at

**10am on Friday 15 March 2024**

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 March 2024*

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 November 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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. 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>ii. Continue to provide early notification of significant planning matters to the National Landscape Manager to enable timely and appropriate action to be taken.</li> </ul>		

**Key Activity**

**Planning Caseload**

1. In the year 2023/2024 to date, Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) have formally consulted the National Landscape team on 54 applications. In addition, the National Landscape team has been consulted on 6 felling/restocking licences, 4 woodland creation proposals, 3 Environmental Impact Applications, 1 Caravan Club equivalent Notification, 5 pre-applications, 3 Marine License applications, 2 communications applications, a netting consultation, a Transport Strategy, a Torbay Local Validation List Consultation and a Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping Report consultation.
2. In total, there have been 28 new consultations since the last update.
3. Summary of activity since the last update:
  - 15 cases that LPAs have determined
  - 2 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
  - 6 felling/restocking licences
  - 4 woodland creation proposals
  - 3 EIA applications
  - 2 communications installation applications
  - Netting consultation
  - Torbay Local Validation List
  - 1 SEA Scoping Report
  - Transport Strategy

4. Note the **21** applications with completed responses and an LPA decision as at the November Partnership 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
5. 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>15 Applications - LPA decision made</b>					
2089/20/FUL	Fish Hoek South Town Dartmouth Alter and extend 2 dwellings and erect 2 new dwellings	<b>Withdrawn</b>	-	N	
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	<b>Withdrawn</b>	-	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).	<b>Permission With Legal Agreement</b>	-	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	<b>Appeal dismissed</b>	-	N	APPEAL REF.: APP/X1165/W/23/3314568, APPEAL START DATE: 12 June 2023
2268/23/VAR	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>Refused</b>	-	N	
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	<b>Approved</b>	-	N	
P/2022/0302	Land At Gattery Lane Brixham Formation of stable building and widening of entrance.	<b>Approval</b>	-	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	<b>Approved</b>	-	N	
3167/23/VAR	Coombeshead Solar Farm Diptford Application variation of condition 5 (use of land) of planning consent 17/0265/14/F	<b>Approved</b>	-	N	
1068/23/FUL	Smalls East Portlemouth Application for boat house with living area above	<b>Withdrawn</b>	-	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)	<b>Withdrawn</b>	-	N	
2536/23/FUL	Fairholme Riverside Road Dittisham New 3 bed dwelling & detached garden store	<b>Withdrawn</b>	-	N	
<b>3215/23/VAR</b>	<b>Korniloff Residential Care Home, Warren Road, Bigbury On Sea</b> <b>Application for variation of condition</b>	<b>Approved</b>	-	N	<b>Related planning consent 0180/23/FUL</b>

App Ref	Application Type	Decision	In accordance with NL advice / guidance	NL Major	Comments
4088/23/ARC	Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth Application for approval of details reserved by condition 4 ( Construction and Environmental Management Plan)	Withdrawn	-	N	Related planning consent 4412/22/FUL
APPEAL 2928/22/FUL	71, Yealm Road, Newton Ferrers Proposed boatshed and reinstatement of Landing (Resubmission of 0370/22/FUL)	Refused	-	N	Retrospective APPEAL REF: APP/K1128/W/23/3334409 Start date: 21 Feb 2024
<b>7 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	Land To The Southwest Of Copythorne Road Brixham Outline planning application for the erection of up to 77 dwellings	-	Objection	Y	
2798/23/FUL	North Embankment Dartmouth Proposed new slipway	-	Holding Objection	N	
4211/23/FUL	Old Coastguard Cottages, Wembury Construction of 5.9x2.5m timber platform/ landing stage/jetty, with timber columns over stone quay	-	No objection subject to conditions	N	
3504/23/OPA	1 Moorland Court Yelverton Outline application with some reserved matters (access & layout) for erection of one dwelling	-	n/a	N	Not SDNL (Tamar Valley)
<b>19 Applications - Responses in development</b>					
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	Revised plans Sep'23 (NL objected to original plans) Awaiting legal agreement
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
P/2023/0553	Land Off St Mary's Road, Brixham Demolition of existing industrial buildings and erection of 28 residential dwellings	-	-	N	
APPEAL 1803/23/VAR	Land at Garden Mill, Derby Road, Kingsbridge Outline application with some matters reserved for residential development scheme for 32no. dwelling.	-	-	N	APPEAL REF: APP/K1128/W/23/3325969 START DATE: 7 Sep 2023  Relates to Condition 1 of the Outline permission. Condition 7 of the Reserved Matters permission.  (Outline: 28/1560/15/O (granted on appeal: APP/K1128/W/16/3156062) Reserved Matters: 0826/20/ARM)

App Ref	Application Type	Decision	In accordance with NL advice / guidance	NL Major	Comments
3540/23/FUL	Sheerwater Devon Road Salcombe Replacement dwelling with associated landscaping (resubmission of 3273/22/FUL)	-	-	N	
<b>DCC/4366/2023</b>	<b>Land adjacent to Malborough Waste Water Treatment Works Install additional &amp; replacement infrastructure and change of use from undeveloped land to an operational site</b>	-	-	N	<b>Extends the operational site area on land at (and adjacent to) Malborough Waste Water Treatment Works</b>
<b>3732/23/FUL, 3733/23/FUL, 3734/23/FUL, 3735/23/FUL</b>	<b>Land At Sx 805 583, Ashprington Agricultural livestock building &amp; engineering works to create a level yard area (applications 1 to 4)</b>	-	-	N	
<b>P/2023/1014</b>	<b>Land At Northfields Lane, Brixham Change of use of land from holiday accommodation to residential and construction of one self-contained dwelling with car parking and amenity space</b>	-	-	N	
<b>P/2023/1025</b>	<b>39 Wall Park Road Brixham Construct dwelling and garage.</b>	-	-	N	<b>Amended plans uploaded 16 January 2024</b>
<b>3995/23/FUL</b>	<b>Baltic Wharf Boatyard St Peters Quay Totnes Phased delivery of a mixed-use development comprising marine workshops (Use Class B2) and boat storage, offices (Use Class E), care home (Use Class C2), houses and apartments (Use Class C3), mixed commercial uses (Use Class E).</b>	-	-	N	
<b>0149/24/FUL</b>	<b>Land At Sx 668 437 Bantham Proposed stabilisation of cliff slope</b>	-	-	N	
<b>0278/24/ARM</b>	<b>Land at SX 855 508 Violet Drive Dartmouth Approval of reserved matters (layout, appearance, scale and landscaping) for Erection of a 3-storey, 105-bedroom hotel with ancillary restaurant</b>	-	-	N	<b>Related outline approval 0479/21/VAR</b>
<b>4213/23/FUL</b>	<b>Land At SX 745 386, East Portlemouth Temporary change of use of land to host Charity Art Installation from August 2024 to January 2025</b>	-	-	N	
<b>4207/23/FUL</b>	<b>Collapit Creek House, West Alvington Replacement of Collapit Creek House, Coach House &amp; annex, outbuildings, driveway, parking, new swimming pool</b>	-	-	Y/N	<b>Initially raised by Tree Officer and Landscape Officer</b>
<b>0388/24/FUL</b>	<b>Land at SX663 436 Bantham Change of use of land to surf school &amp; siting of two storage containers</b>	-	-	N	<b>Retrospective</b>

Item Ends.