

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
SOUTH DEVON NATIONAL LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP
HELD AT FOLLATON HOUSE AND VIA ZOOM
ON FRIDAY 13 MARCH 2026**

INTRODUCTIONS & APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1. Those present were:

Cllr Georgina Allen	GA	South Hams District Council
Cllr Jacqueline Fry	JF	Devon County Council
Cllr Louise Wainwright	LW	Devon County Council
Ellen Rodger / Josh Bennett	ER/JB	Devon County Council
Cllr Christine Carter	CC	Torbay Council
Tracy Brooks	TB	Torbay Council
Peter Hawking-Sach	PH-S	Plymouth City Council
Dave Shorten	DS	Environment Agency
Becky Hughes	BH	Natural England
Peter Sandover	Chair	Independent
Richard Snow	RS	National Trust
Lorna Sherriff	LS	South West Coast Path Association
Louisa Dean	LD	Representative: community/vol groups
Peter Hinchliffe	PH	Representative: parish and town councils
Laura Campbell	LC	Representative: tourism
Lou Hoskin	LH	Slapton Adaptation Manager (briefing only)

2. National Landscape staff attending:

Roger English	NLM	NL Manager
Alice Wyness	AW	Farming in Protected Landscapes
Rob Skinner	RS	Life on the Edge
Vanessa Gray		NL Office Manager (meeting assistance & notes)

3. Apologies for absence were received from:

Doug Eltham	Devon County Council – <i>Ellen Rodger & Josh Bennett attending</i>
Cllr John McKay	South Hams District Council
Drew Powell	South Hams District Council
Matthew Odgers-Brown	Forestry Commission
Ross Simmonds	Historic England
John Martin	University of Plymouth
Julian Gray	South West Coast Path Association – <i>Lorna Sherriff attending</i>
Pete Moore	Representative: business community
Richard Stones	Representative: coast and marine
Jane Nichols	Representative: community/vol groups – <i>Louisa Dean attending</i>
Leah Harris	Representative: landowning and farming

4. Observers:

Observers were requested to follow the meeting live via YouTube.

NO PUBLIC STATEMENTS

NO CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

START BAY WINTER STORM DAMAGE

Lou Hoskin provided a private briefing for Partnership members on the 2025-26 winter storm damage across Start Bay, including Torcross and Beesands with the A379 road washed away and undermined, closing a stretch of the road.

5. Partnership expressed collective thanks to Slapton Line Partnership members for proactive response and recognised this is not a quick fix and will require significant time and due process.

Partnership also acknowledged increasing climate change threats to coast will continue, requiring adaptation strategies.

ACTION 1 (NL MANAGER): Include a Slapton Line update at future Partnership meetings.

MINUTES OF THE 28 NOVEMBER 2025 PARTNERSHIP MEETING FOR APPROVAL & ANY MATTERS ARISING

6. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PARTNERSHIP MEETING HELD 28 NOVEMBER 2025

Proposed: Cllr Georgina Allen
 Seconded: Peter Hinchliffe
 Resolved: No objections, the minutes were approved.

7. Matters arising:

- i. Conversations with Tracy Brooks, specifically to do with Brixham Urban Fringe, the latest Local Plan and evidence the base for landscape character, is ongoing.
- ii. Access for All, Removing Barriers now renamed Access Management

Carried forward action (all): Let the NL Manager know of any suitable Access Management projects at the earliest opportunity. We are running a pipeline of projects so can also plan ahead to financial years 27/28 & 28/29.

- iii. Plymouth Plan for Nature and People – via EWCO, landowners are incentivised to establish woodland close to settlements and to provide site access. Additional contribution (i.e. above and beyond capital costs and maintenance) available £3,700 per ha.
 - a. *Carried forward action (MO-B): Matthew Odgers-Brown to ask the Woodland Officer to send details of the scheme to Cllr Jacqueline Fry.*
- iv. National Landscapes Association position statement on housing

Carried forward action (NL Manager): Circulate when publicly available.
- v. Partnership Chair and Vice Chair roles

- a. Peter Sandover is happy to remain as Chair of the SDNL Partnership for a further year.

No other nominations have been received.

NO OBJECTIONS, IT WAS RESOLVED THAT PETER SANDOVER WILL CONTINUE AS CHAIR FOR A FURTHER YEAR.

- b. John Martin is stepping down as Vice Chair but maintaining University representative position.

- c. Peter Hinchliffe is happy to stand as Vice Chair of the SDNL Partnership and clarified he is not committing to progression to Chair when Peter Sandover steps down.

No other nominations received.

VOTE: UNANIMOUSLY IN FAVOUR OF PETER HINCHLIFFE TO TAKE UP THE ROLE OF VICE CHAIR WITH EFFECT FROM THE NEXT MEETING OF THE SDNL PARTNERSHIP, FOR A THREE YEAR TERM.

- d. Peter Hinchliffe: Confirmed willingness to continue as Parish Council representative in addition to Vice Chair role, but open to someone else taking over parish representation.
- vi. Floating pennywort
 - a. NL Manager: A press release on invasive floating pennywort¹ is not ready however we are moving towards pennywort growth season when additional vigilance is needed. We have now secured sufficient funding to unlock the weevil release. It is planned to release a briefing on floating pennywort in the next 2-3 weeks.

Carried forward action (NL Manager): Provide Jane Nicholls with a briefing on floating pennywort that Jane can circulate / create a press release from.
 - vii. Natural England Strategy²
 - a. Although Becky Hughes has not received direct feedback on the NE strategy from individual SDNL Partnership members, it is an ongoing conversation. Always happy to engage on NE strategy, approach and how we work with the National Landscape Partnership.

PARTNERSHIP CHAIR'S REPORT

Item 5 in the papers provided a summary of activity over the last few months undertaken on behalf of the National Landscape Partnership by the Chair, Peter Sandover.

Matters arising

- 8. Slapton Line / Start Bay storm damage
 - i. The Chair thanked Lou Hoskin for her factual and comprehensive update on the Start Bay area and on behalf of the SDNL Partnership. The Chair also thanked Slapton Line Partnership on their work and the speed of response.
 - ii. DCC has submitted a high level estimate of £18m to the Department for Transport; principally looking at repairing the section of road between Torcross and the Monument car park, plus some works at Torcross. The DfT have requested more details, plus a business case.
 - iii. There are wider social and economic impacts and unfortunately no quick fix, plus there is a need to follow due process.
 - iv. The local MP, Caroline Voaden is very proactive in Westminster on this area's behalf.

¹ [Floating pennywort \[nonnativespecies.org\]](https://nonnativespecies.org/)

² [NE Strategy \[Gov.UK\]](https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/natural-england)

9. The Chair thanked Ed Parr-Ferris who has resigned as the Partnership representative for environmental organisations (NGOs) after around 15 years. Ed has moved on from Devon Wildlife Trust; we will speak with DWT to see if they wish to provide another representative.

FARMING IN PROTECTED LANDSCAPES PROGRAMME

This item summarises the Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme as so far implemented in South Devon National Landscape. It reports on programme extension of three years, ambitions going forward and programme achievements to date.

Alice Wyness, SDNL Farm Engagement Officer for the FiPL programme, gave an update.

Main details and matters arising

10. The Programme is successfully delivering across nature, climate, people and place themes. Partnership working is essential for delivery, particularly with National Trust, Natural England, and local authorities.
11. Programme extended until March 2029 with £30 million nationwide commitment; South Devon to receive approximately £400,000 annually.
12. Three-year funding provides opportunity for longer term project planning and pipeline development. Themes not yet confirmed but expected to continue with nature, climate, people and place.
13. Additional £10 million committed for wildlife-rich habitat creation outside protected sites; South Devon allocated £120,000.
14. 375 inquiries from landowners to date; 139 developed into projects across over five years.
15. Key themes emerged including accessibility to local produce (meat vending machines, online farmers market, Hunts Cider mixing tank), rural education (interpretation boards, volunteer days, workshops), tree planting (infield trees, orchards, hedges), water quality improvements (Wild About the River farm audits, tow and fert machine for foliar nitrogen application), and grassland management (boreholes, rotational grazing infrastructure).
16. Developing farmer-friendly version of Management Plan to help with application process.

ACTION 2 [Alice Wyness]: Develop farmer-friendly version of Management Plan to assist with FIPL applications.

17. Creating heat map overlaying existing farm holdings with priority habitat and agricultural grade soil to identify target areas for engagement.
18. Focus on engaging hard-to-reach farmers who haven't accessed FIPL yet.
19. John (Local Assessment Panel Chair): Welcomed 3-year extension; emphasized desire for applications from new entrants, young people, and succession planning projects.
20. Peter Sandover: Praised FIPL as highly valued program with easy access and strong engagement from landowners and farmers.
21. Becky Hughes (Natural England): Pleased with 3-year announcement; offered to meet with FIPL team to refresh understanding of SSSI consenting, EIAs, and permitting processes; wants to discuss Natural England priorities around protected sites and 30x30 integration. Raised questions about eligibility criteria for wildlife-rich habitat funding; Alice confirmed they will know more following the training on new funding streams, scheduled for Monday and Tuesday.

ACTION 3 (Becky Hughes): Contact AW next week; Push the projects we are confident wildlife-rich habitat funding supports.

22. Chair: Having a farmer friendly version of the Management Plan is a great idea and important to do.

23. Cllr Louise Wainwright: There are crossovers with Blue print for rivers³; would love to meet and discuss synergies.

ACTION 4 [AW]: Arrange a meeting with Cllr Wainwright to discuss crossovers between FiPL and Blue print for rivers.

LIFE ON THE EDGE PROJECT

This item provided an overview of progress, from the start of Life on the Edge (LoTE) Delivery Phase (April 2024) to date; highlighting the processes, successes, and challenges as we approach the mid-term of this 5-year project.

Rob Skinner, Life on the Edge Project Manager, provided a comprehensive update on the five-year National Lottery Heritage (NLHF) funded project, now two years into delivery.

Main details and matters arising

24. LoTE is successfully delivering across people, nature, and land management objectives.
25. Strong Partnership working is key; working with National Trust, Field Studies Council, Buglife, South Hams District Council and South West Coast Path Association among others.
26. Project area covers Plymouth to Torbay coastline with 5 hotspot areas (4,000 hectares); targeting 30 rare and threatened invertebrates.
27. NLHF holds LoTE as an exemplar project for coastal nature recovery nationally.
28. 7,000 people engaged in first two years through extensive nature-based activities program
29. Staffing – providing valuable entry-level employment opportunities in conservation sector.
 - i. Recruitment completed in phases: core team by July 2024, apprentices and communications assistant by August-September 2024, trainees by March 2025.
 - ii. 14 entry-level opportunities created to date: 6 apprentices (2 cohorts of 3), 6 trainees (3rd intake for summer), 2 communications assistants.

Latest trainee recruitment received 114 applications for one role, breaking South Hams DC HR records.

Apprentices hosted by National Trust and Field Studies Council (FSC, current cohort only); accreditation through Sparsholt College.

Conservation Officer Sam employed through Buglife.
30. 880 hours of volunteer time logged; developing volunteer offer as new activity for the National Landscape.
31. Land management achievements: 26 hectares species-rich grassland creation (26% of 100ha target), 115 hectares invertebrate-friendly habitats created, 6 farm management plans advised.
32. Utilised £40,000 of DEFRA 30x30 funding alongside project funds.
33. Discovery of new Mediterranean oil beetle populations at Froward Point and near Little Dartmouth by trained volunteers.
34. Small grants program

17 grants approved totalling just under £20,000; conservation grants capped at £5,000, community grants at £2,000.
35. Pollinator plans emerging as successful community-based approach; Holbeton developed plan covering 10 different initiatives.
36. Highlights included Robberfly performance with Doorstep Arts and National Landscapes Nature Calling Program; touring theatre in second year.

³ [Blue print for rivers \[.ORG\]](#)

37. All activities evaluated by external evaluator for health and wellbeing impacts.
38. Future focus on developing target audience work, branching out from Torbay-centric approach, working through groups for legacy, developing volunteer offer, creating "shovel-ready" plans.
39. Becky Hughes (Natural England): Praised project as gold standard for Coastal Wild Belt approach; wants to see Life on the Edge as catalyst for Coastal Wild Belt implementation; offered Natural England support to strengthen links with Local Nature Recovery Strategies and share learning
40. NL Manager: LotE project is instrumental in driving our Protected Landscapes Target and Outcomes Framework targets.

REVIEW OF THE NATIONAL LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The National Landscape Manager provided an update on Management Plan development and upcoming consultation process.

Main details and matters arising

41. Plan will provide strategic direction for next 5 years and beyond and takes different approach with two-generation vision, looking ahead 50 years.
42. Utilises case studies including Slapton Line, farm system changes, water quality and quantity challenges.
43. Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment being finalised as mandatory requirements.

ACTION 5 [NL MANAGER]: Finalise Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment for Management Plan.

44. Writing team worked hard to build on robust evidence base; Risk of delaying for micro-improvements versus getting out for consultation.
45. Draft plan
 - i. At final check stage with local authorities before public consultation.
 - ii. Consultation period will be advised.
46. Chair suggested he and the newly elected Vice Chair Peter Hinchliffe may be able to offer some Q&A sessions for parishes during the consultation period.

ACTION 6 (Chair/newly elected Vice Chair): Consider offering Management Plan Q&A sessions to parishes during the consultation period

47. NL Manager: Thanked partners for contributions including leading conversations, providing data, signposting, and convening stakeholder discussions.
48. NL Manager: Delivery phase will require strong collaborative action across all partners.

SDNL TEAM PRIORITIES FOR ACTION 2026/27

The NL Manager presented overview of confirmed funding streams and budget allocations for the coming year.

Main details and matters arising

49. Funding [Defra indicative funding subject to final confirmation]
 - i. Total funding approximately £1.7 million annually, compared to £350,000-360,000 in 2013-2019 period

- ii. Core funding breakdown: DEFRA core £185,507 (3 years revenue), FIPL £408,086 (3 years capital and revenue), Access £102,692 (3 years capital), 30by30 on Land £191,519 (3 years capital), Creation of Wildlife Rich Habitat £120,092 (1 year capital)
 - iii. Life on the Edge £663,000 (complex multi-partner mix)
 - iv. Estuaries Partnership £67,000 plus intertidal habitat projects
50. Funding instrumental in driving Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework targets. Partnership working essential as National Landscape team doesn't own land or assets.
51. All funding reviewed and approved by Core Funding Group meeting last week.
52. 3-year funding allocations allow return to project pipeline approach after years of hand-to-mouth annual announcements.
53. Additional projects not on list include Yealm to Dart Estuary work with Local Water Environment Grants.
54. 30x30 investment this year includes purchase of roboflail machine for coastal wildlife-rich habitat management; available for loan to partner landowners.
55. Priorities driven by funding streams but business-as-usual activities continue.
56. Retained 1.5 days per week of planning support through Cornwall National Landscape.
57. Busy period ahead with Torbay local plan review, South Hams local plan, and local government reorganisation.
58. Recruiting into vacant Project Officer role; expecting to onboard in coming weeks to get team back to full strength. Recruitment into this role is critical to unlocking full potential of funding.

ACTION 7 [NL Manager]: Recruit Project Officer to fill vacant position (expected onboarding in coming weeks).

59. Chair: Acknowledged team working in difficult circumstances being one person down for over 18 months.

PARTNER UPDATES

This item provided an opportunity for Partners to update Partnership on their contributions to conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the South Devon National Landscape and delivering on area of outstanding natural beauty Management Plan priorities.

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 the Partner updates agenda item

60. Josh Bennett, Devon County Council
- i. Local Nature Recovery Strategy submitted and awaiting sign-off from supporting local authorities; official publication expected end of April/start of May.
 - ii. Beth Bird appointed as Local Nature Partnership Manager with University of Exeter intern support.
 - iii. Biodiversity Duty Report⁴ presented to Cabinet on Wednesday covering January 2024 to December 2025.
61. Cllr Georgina Allen, South Hams District Council
- i. Consumed with Local Government Reorganisation. Unknowns make it difficult to plan ahead.

⁴ [Biodiversity Duty Report \[Devon.GOV.UK\]](https://www.devon.gov.uk/biodiversity-duty-report)

- ii. We have one of the worst funding situations in the country; drawing back on potential projects; support for National Landscape continues.

62. Tracy Brooks, Torbay Council

- i. Local plan: carried out Regulation 18 consultation, thanks to SDNL for comments. Progressing toward Regulation 19 consultation hopefully in late summer, trying to meet deadline under current system.
- ii. Commissioned integrated management plan for Berry Head National Nature Reserve. Hope for consultation events in late April/early May. Will share details with Partnership.

63. Dave Shorten, Environment Agency

- i. River Basin Management Plans (RBMP) being reviewed and updated; includes developing a programme of measures at a waterbody level. Engagement for this will be via the South Devon Catchment Partnership. Draft RBMP will be out to public consultation December 2026; final publication December 2027.
- ii. As part of the River Basin Management Plan review and updating the Significant Water Management Issues (SWMI) consultation is still open until 20 May 2026. Partners are encouraged to put in a response⁵.
- iii. Completing Water Environment Improvement Fund projects this year; reduced funding for next year requiring reprioritisation. WEIF funded projects for South Devon for 2026/27 include work with the National Trust at Ringmore, Saltmarsh Restoration with Dart Harbour & Navigation Authority, Invasive control at Slapton with the Field Studies Council, Investigations of Fish passage on the River Erme.

64. Becky Hughes, Natural England

- i. Focused on Devon LNRS publication which is due in the coming months; will be area team point of contact as LNRS moves to formal publication.
- ii. Supporting National Landscapes on Management Plan reviews.
- iii. Working on National Lottery Heritage Fund Landscape Connections bids.
- iv. Landscape Recovery schemes reaching end of development phase; anticipating Round 3 of Landscape Recovery in next 12 months; keen to hear early expressions of interest.
- v. Committed to FiPL panel representation despite resource constraints.

65. Richard Snow, National Trust

- i. Completed major tree planting at Wembury in partnership with Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest.
- ii. Starting 105 hectares new tree planting at Ringmore and Kingston area over 3 planting seasons; 15 hectares planted this season; significant wood pasture component.
- iii. Improving toilets at Wembury beach for wheelchair accessibility in combination with beach access improvements – funded through the South West Coast Path Association Access funding.

66. Lorna Sherriff, South West Coast Path Association

- i. Putting together bid with National Trails UK for part-time Coastal Wildlife officer for whole South West (3 days a week).
- ii. New office and Coast Path centre opening at Royal William Yard. Moving in this month and the Centre will open later this year.

⁵ [Significant water management issues \[Environment Agency GOV.UK\]](#)

- iii. Access projects going well with partners National Trust, Torbay and Devon County Council; Understand that National Trails are not receiving access funding next year, but still awaiting grant offer.
67. Louisa Dean, representative: community/vol groups
- i. Developing Rally for Nature campaign to bring together groups, projects and events under shared banner; focusing on connecting existing activity and helping communities get involved; South Hams District Council provided seed funding; currently in development stage, building core team and identity; first public moment at Rivers and Moorlands Festival in Ivybridge on 5 June co-curated with Dartmoor Dynamic Landscapes and Ivybridge Town Council; looking for partners to get involved.
68. Cllr Louise Wainwright, Devon County Council
- i. Ongoing work on water quality with cabinet member; planned conference in summer.
69. Laura Campbell, representative: tourism community (update provided by email)
- Relevant observations to Tourism from SDNL reports
 - i. Coastal resilience is a major concern (Slapton Line storm impacts). This will influence visitor access, messaging, and community reassurance for tourism dependent areas.
South Hams Chamber (of which I am a member of the Exec) are actively working to support local businesses
 - ii. Life on the Edge generates strong tourism aligned benefits: enhanced coastal trails, species rich landscapes, and community engagement activities that directly improve visitor experience.
 - iii. FiPL projects (farming in protected landscape) supporting local produce, rural skills, interpretation boards and landscape improvements enhance visitor offer and sense of place.
 - iv. Public events and festivals (SDNL Spring events, Rally for Nature launch, LotE arts programme) present opportunities to strengthen tourism partnerships.
AirBnB grant can utilise this as content, if successful. Announcement was due February - but we still wait. But still can be shared with local visitor outlets.
 - v. Planning reforms may influence future tourism infrastructure, coastal development, and the protection of scenic character that underpins the area's visitor economy.
 - Attended the South Hams Tourism Symposium: Improved connection and collaboration required for the area for the Tourism Industry. Better operational and marketing support for small businesses required.
 - vi. Positive Tourism Strategy & Business Tool Kit being launched by David Boocock Projects Officer for Conservation and Communities at the Dartmoor National Park Authority. Connecting to share best practice.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

This item very briefly introduced and signposted the updated Environmental Improvement Plan 2025 and the subsequent Office for Environmental Protection Assessment of progress to improve the natural environment in England.

The NL Manager highlighted updated Environmental Improvement Plan 2025 and OEP progress report.

Main points and matters arising

- 76. Environmental Improvement Plan 2025 includes updated interim targets.
- 77. All projects and activities described in meeting contribute toward meeting targets.
- 78. Office for Environmental Protection issued progress report with strong warning about being off track collectively.
- 79. Work described for next year becomes even more important in this context.
- 80. Partnership encouraged to review both documents, particularly targets and interim targets in EIP 2025 and OEP progression report.

CONSULTATION ON DRAFT REVISED NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK

This item introduced the recent National Planning Policy Framework consultation, key protected landscapes matters, and the response made by the National Landscapes Association with extensive input from the national Planning and Placemaking Working Group.

The NL Manager highlighted the National Landscapes Association response to NPPF consultation and implications for protected landscapes.

Main points and matters arising

- 81. NPPF changes:
 - i. Changes fundamentally alter planning context for both strategic planning and development management.
 - ii. Headline concern is cumulative harm from multiple changes to protections, each individually minor but collectively significant.
- 82. National Landscapes Association submitted comprehensive response on behalf of all National Landscapes.
 - i. Provides useful reference material for local responses.
 - ii. Full text of response included in meeting papers and available on the NLA website⁶; Partnership are encouraged to reference the response and use their wording.
- 83. Peter Hinchliffe: Raised concerns from South Hams District Council briefing about parish requirements to designate housing sites; questioned how National Landscape protection can help combat unreasonable housing requirements.
NL Manager: Explained challenge of delivering housing need versus practical reality; South Hams advice to parishes likely successful but untested at local plan inquiry; Partnership fully supportive of helping local authorities but assessment work must be funded by District Council.
- 84. Cllr Georgina Allen: Described "absolute mess" with housing targets of 800 houses per year without enough sites; concerns about pressure on areas adjacent to National Landscape; strip development from Torbay to Totnes; dense development around South Brent and Ivybridge; developers targeting undeveloped desirable areas.
NL Manager: Noted parallel situation across Devon; working together as National Landscapes; housing position statement in development similar to National Parks approach; South Devon in top 10 for development pressure nationally.

⁶ [National Landscapes Association NPPF consultation response \[ORG.UK\]](#)

UK LIVING HERITAGE INVENTORIES – CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

The NL Manager flagged UNESCO Living Heritage call for submissions relevant to South Devon. Intangible cultural heritage is key component of special qualities.

Main points and matters arising

85. Many special qualities and key features not easily recordable or mappable, including cultures, traditions, oral histories.
86. UK government signatory to UNESCO Living Heritage proposal.
87. Call for submissions now open through UK Living Heritage Laboratory⁷.
 - i. Relevant examples include regattas, sailing traditions, historic and current writers, wassails and other local events and activities.
 - ii. Partnership can make individual submissions or work with National Landscape team for collective representation.

PROTECTED LANDSCAPES PARTNERSHIP: LANDSCAPE OBSERVATORY

The NL Manager introduced the Landscape Observatory program supporting National Parks, National Landscapes and National Trails.

88. Landscape Observatory⁸ provides network-wide capability for baseline mapping and monitoring; will inform Management Plan delivery and climate adaptation planning.
89. Three key strands of activity: mapping work using AI, habitat condition monitoring, and adaptive management for climate change.
90. Using 12.5cm resolution national aerial photography with AI interpretation.
91. Current hedge data sets vary wildly:
 - i. Rural Payments Agency shows 4 million metres, UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology shows 2.7 million metres, University of Exeter data somewhere between.
 - ii. Need accurate baseline to measure progress and evaluate initiatives.
92. AI will map baseline then track changes in landscape and infer condition changes for hedges, land use, and cultural heritage features.
93. Climate change strand uses Resist-Accept-Direct approach from US National Park Service and Forestry Service.
94. Questions traditional conservation approach of restoring to past versus dealing with accelerated future change and tipping points.
95. Clare Downing at National Landscapes Association helping translate theory into Management Plan review and climate change adaptation plan for next Adaptation Reporting Round.
96. National Landscapes Association produced helpful opinion piece on approach – How National Landscapes are Preparing for Change⁹.

NATIONAL LANDSCAPES ASSOCIATION PRIORITIES FOR ACTION 2026/27

The NL Manager went through the item.

97. The NLA team are working hard at Westminster and more broadly. Some results coming through i.e. funding decisions.

⁷ [Inventory of Living Heritage in the UK \[UNESCO.ORG.UK\]](https://www.unesco.org/uk/whl)

⁸ [Landscape Observatory \[ORG.UK\]](https://www.landscapeobservatory.org.uk)

⁹ [How NLA are preparing for change \[NLA.ORG\]](https://www.nla.org.uk)

98. This year's National Conference¹⁰, Vitality of Place, is taking place in Norwich 7th, 8th and 9th July.
- i. Opportunity for Partnership members to attend.
 - ii. We have some funding available, should you wish to attend and your own organisation is unable to fund your place.

ACTION 8 (all): Let the NL Manager know by Wednesday 22nd April if you wish to attend. Also confirm if you would seek to have your place funded from SDNL budget.

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

99. NL Manager
- i. Carried forward: Circulate National Landscapes Association position statement on housing when publicly available.
 - ii. Carried forward: Provide press release/briefing on invasive non-native species to Jane Nicholls for onward circulation (within 2-3 weeks).
 - iii. Include a Slapton Line Partnership update at future Partnership meetings.
 - iv. Recruit Project Officer to fill vacant position (expected onboarding in coming weeks).
 - v. Finalise Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment for Management Plan.
 - vi. Launch Management Plan public consultation (dates tbd).
100. Chair and newly elected Vice Chair
- i. Consider organising question and answer sessions for parishes during Management Plan consultation period.
101. Alice Wyness
- i. Develop farmer-friendly version of Management Plan to assist with FIPL applications
 - ii. Meet with Becky Hughes and Natural England colleagues to refresh understanding of SSSI consenting, EIAs, and permits
 - iii. Meet with Louise Wainwright to discuss synergies with Blueprint for Rivers work
102. ALL
- i. Let the NL Manager know of any suitable Access Management projects at the earliest opportunity. We are running a pipeline of projects so can also plan ahead to financial years 27/28 & 28/29.
 - ii. Review Environmental Improvement Plan 2025 and Office for Environmental Protection progress report
 - iii. Review National Landscapes Association NPPF consultation response for reference material
 - iv. Consider attendance at National Landscapes Association conference in Norwich (early July), advising the NL Manager of your intent to attend no later than 22nd April.
 - v. Consider submissions to UK Living Heritage Laboratory call.
103. Richard Snow
- i. Present on National Trust activity at the July Partnership meeting.
104. Becky Hughes
- i. Contact Alice Wyness next week to arrange meeting to discuss understanding of SSSI consenting, EIAs, and FIPL priorities.

¹⁰ [NLA Conference \[.ORG\]](#)

105. Tracy Brooks
 - i. Share Berry Head integrated management plan consultation details with Partnership (late April/early May).
106. Matthew Odgers-Brown
 - i. Carried forward action: Plymouth Plan for Nature and People – via EWCO, landowners are incentivised to establish woodland close to settlements and to provide site access. Additional contribution (i.e. above and beyond capital costs and maintenance) available £3,700 per ha. Ask Woodland Officer to send details of the scheme to Cllr Jacqueline Fry.

FUTURE MEETINGS

107. Meetings in 2026
 - i. 17 July at 10am, Repton room Follaton House
 - ii. 27 November at 10am, Repton room Follaton House

MEETING CLOSED

These minutes remain as draft until approved at the next meeting of the South Devon National Landscape Partnership.