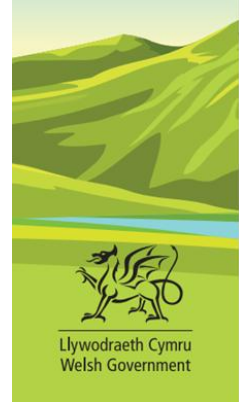


Deep Dive Designated Landscapes Working Group



Meeting Notes

Date of meeting: 7th December 2023

Time of meeting: 14:00-16:00

Attendees

Howard Davies, Chair, Andrew Blake, Wye Valley NL, Elinor Robers, TCLW, Emma Story, TCLW, Graham Berry, Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB, Keith Davies, NRW, Llyr Jones, NAAONB, Paul Sinnadurai, BBNPA, Rhys Owen, Eryri NPA, Tom Cosson, WG, Simon Pickering, WG, Karen Stothard, WG, Anna Jones, TCLW, Melody Rhydderch, NRW, Alan Sumnall, WEL

● Welcome and introductions

HS – began by welcoming new members and guests –

- Alan Sumnall, who is joining the group as the WEL representative. AS gave a brief introduction to his background and current role at the Butterfly Conservation Wales. He thanked the group for the opportunity, and said he was looking forward to working with us.
- Melody Rydderch, Behavioural Scientist NRW
- Karen Stothard, WG

● Apologies

James Latham, Michelle Webber, Tom Johnstone, Steve Spode, Ruth Lovell

● Minutes and actions of the last meeting

- GB – need to change the year of the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act to 2023 and 2034. ER to amend.
- The minutes were accepted as an accurate account of the last meeting.
- Revised Management plan guidance – KD – have now appointed Land Use Consultants to update and refresh the management plan guidance. Engagement events to take place in the new year with an update at the February meeting.
- TJ to discuss management plan guidance with Bannau Brycheiniog – Carry forward.
- Stakeholder mapping – Carry forward.

There were no other matters arising from the minutes.



● WG update

- KS – reports have been produced from the OECM and Monitoring group and these can be shared with this group to give an idea of progress. ACTION – KS to send reports to RL & ER to distribute.
- KS presented feedback from the Core Group in relation to The Environmental Governance and Biodiversity Targets bill.
- The FM has committed to bringing this forward for legislation in the Senedd term, with an introduction date of June 2025.
- KS – need to look at the actions and priorities in terms of the work that we are all trying to do and create a set of actions that we can deliver on and also identifying key players.
- This group is key in this process, and we need to think about how we are going to bring it all together.
- AB – Levelling up and Regeneration Bill 2023 -statutory instruments or for the Defra Minister to set targets and for the Designated Landscapes management plans to reflect those targets. Is there any intention or desire to align with this in Wales?
- KS – currently producing a White Paper which will hopefully go out for consultation at the end of January. Part of this is looking at how we get everybody to deliver against the targets.
- KD - important points from Team Wales basis, but also a Landscapes perspective. We have an opportunity with the work that will be undertaken to refresh the management plan guidance and to ensure that there is a strong emphasis on delivery and a partnership approach.
- KD to share letter from Claire Pillman which emphasises the point of organisations and public services working collaboratively and sets out some important messages.
- KS – key message from Protected Areas Working Group on recommendations on OECMs and NREAs shows no evidence of complete and effective management, and this needs urgent investment, but the 2030 target is achievable.
- KS to share outcome of OECM meeting.

● Emma Story Update – Strategic Framework

- ES – has started drafting a table for comments and will circulate ASAP so people have time to consider it before the next meeting.
- ES followed with an explanation on the draft table.
- KD – good way of identifying opportunities but also issues that need addressing on a wider scale. Also, a read across to the eight recommendations about bringing together key Welsh Government policy affecting land use on a Wales basis.
- AB – only purpose of AONBs is to conserve and enhance natural beauty, but lack of resources and legal backing hinder what we can do.
- RO – worried in terms of the impact at pace. Does this need to be reviewed again. Would it be acceptable to begin a dialogue with all political parties in Wales to try and set out a sort of agreement or an accord to enable a long-term vision?
- HD – best to contact your own elected representative.
- ES will send the table out for feedback.

● NRW – Melody Rhydderch

- MR introduced herself and her background.
- MR – delivered a presentation on successful partnerships, how they exist, what this looks like and what happens without them.



- HD – we need to really flesh out what working together looks like. Would be beneficial to the group to share the information MR has on equitable governance and we need to follow up on this.
- PS – partnerships and very resource intensive and risk laden but can also be successful e.g. Black Mountains land use partnership have now formed a charitable incorporated organisation to go into the next phase.

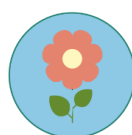


● Keith Davies - NRW

- Delivery plan for DLs – action to explore more effective ways of working between DLs and NRW. NRW corporate plan that identified designated landscapes as key partners.
- Need a more structured approach to issues and barriers.
- Suggestion to bring a framework to the next meeting and reflect on some principles from Melody.
- KD to take this forward and bring something to the January meeting.
- HD – why is what's happening, happening? We need to look at two or three areas that are going to give us the biggest change.
- HD – we need to understand or be more generous with the perspective of other people's organisations.
- KD – NP designation project – completed a seven-week public engagement period involving a series of online and in person events. Over 600 people attended the drop in events and over 1000 online, with over 1000 responses to a questionnaire. Currently analysing the responses.
- Final draft of the special qualities work has identified some high-level special qualities for the area of search. Land Use Consultants are undertaking the evidence gathering stage.
- The second stage of this work will look at the various management options available to help address manage the pressures and opportunities and this will include a new NP.
- Analysis on the engagement period will provide the basis on how to decide on the next stage, which would be looking at commissioning evidence on evaluation areas on the candidate area defined by a natural beauty assessment.
- A consultation on the candidate boundary is due in autumn 2024.

● WG Update

- TC gave an update on the SFS. The consultation is due soon and will give further details on the universal layer of the scheme.
- Length of the document has been slimmed down, therefore, will not contain a lot of detail and maybe the reason we don't see anything specific about NPs and AONBs as deliverers of collaborative projects.
- In terms of collaborative layer, is there a possibility to develop some kind of scheme not dissimilar to the Farming and Protected Landscapes as it is understood that this is a very successful scheme.
- Partners agreed to work together to develop a vision of how Designated Landscapes can support farmers and land managers and help in the delivery of the collaborative element of the Sustainable Farming Scheme.
- KD – fully support a collaborative partnership approach to engagement with SFS Development and opportunities for working beyond our boundaries.



● Engagement Update

- HD – request to suggest contacts that the group should be communicating with.

● AOB

- There was no AOB.



Action	Owner	Status
Amend the year of the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act to 2023 and 2034	ER	Done
Discuss management plan guidance with Bannau	TJ	
Look at stakeholder mapping and come back to wider group	HD, RL, TJ & ES	
Share outcome of OECM	KS	
Circulate table for comments and feedback	ES	
Bring a framework to the next meeting and reflect on some principles from Melody.	KD	

