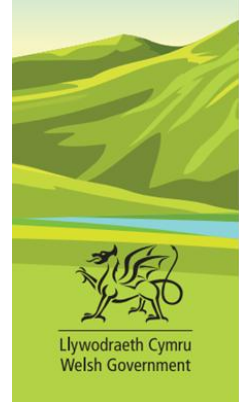


Deep Dive Designated Landscapes Working Group



Meeting Notes

Date of meeting: 9th November 2023

Time of meeting: 10:00-12:00

Attendees: Andrew Blake, Wye Valley AONB, Elinor Robers, TCLW, Emma Story, TCLW, Graham Berry, Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB, Howard Davies, Chair, Jim Latham, NRW, Keith Davies, NRW, Llyr Jones, NAAONB, Michelle Webber, PNCPA, Paul Sinnadurai, BBNPA, Rhys Owen, Eryri NPA, Ruth Lovell, TCLW, Tom Cosson, WG, Tom Johnstone, TCLW, Simon Pickering, WG, Anna Jones, TCLW

Apologies:

Karen Stothard, Steve Spode, Kate Frawley

● Welcome

HD welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked if all members were happy with the notes of the last meeting. TJ noted he was not included in the list of attendees of the last meeting – ER to amend.

● Matters arising from the actions of the last meeting

- HD has been in contact with Wales Environment Link (WEL) who will be sending a representative to join the group.
- Group ToR have been amended and now signed off. RL to get them translated and uploaded to TCLW website.
- KS has circulated the presentation from the last meeting.
- RO had a recent meeting with KF and Mark Alexander. It was a positive meeting with sharing of more technical information and data. Proactive approach from this group needed here. Formulate a catalogue of actions that could be delivered as landscapes, within the collaborative layer. RO to draft and send for comment.
- Is there scope for conservation agencies to make bids on any unspent funds from Wales Habitat scheme? KD will take this question forward to the relevant team.
- KD has been in contact with KF following the last meeting, interested in exploring how the All-Wales mapping work can help feed into and inform thinking. Will update on this at the next meeting.



- TC – we need to have conversations with KF about how we can potentially shape what the collaborative layer looks like. TC will discuss the way forward with KF.
- LIJ – the collaborative layer is highly relevant to the DLs. Good opportunity here to set out a position statement.
- PS agreed that this group would be capable of developing a collaborative action proposal and provide evidence for it.
- RO to develop first draft in terms of what collaborative actions may look like and will discuss at December meeting.
- RL has sent out a mail chimp update, showing a summary of where we are and what we are doing. Please share.
- MW – the steering group for Pembrokeshire's Nature Partnership are meeting at the beginning of December to there will be an update in our next meeting.
- HD – three key areas for this group to look at:
 1. Looking at a more culturally mature relationship between DLs and NRW.
 2. Up the pace and scale in terms of a partnership approach to work at a landscape scale. What would this look like?
 3. How to integrate all of this into supporting farmers and landowners around the SFS.

● Strategic framework, presentation and discussion, Emma Story and Tom Johnstone

- ES – presentation on the strategic framework being developed. This will be the basis for prioritised action plans for nature restoration.
- KD – very useful conceptual framework and needs to be framed in the wider national context.
- AB – Wye Catchment partnership – commissioned Mott MacDonald to undertake systems mapping, and asking what system changes are required. What are the implications once we've mapped out all the connection and systems? What are the triggers and impacts?
- All to send feedback on the framework to ES and TJ as soon as possible and before Christmas.

● NRW – Keith Davies

- KD – National Park designation process – Currently halfway through public engagement period, a range of in person and online engagements events with the public and sectoral stakeholders. Very useful events in terms of helping understand some of the issues and opportunities that are arising from the new NP and opportunities for nature recovery within the area. Potential issues include the uncertainty around the SFS funding. Clarity and certainty of how this will work is needed, so working with the teams in WG is key here.
- Working to identify the special qualities within the area of search for the new NP. Land Use Consultants (LUC) have been commissioned to undertake this work and the evidence



gathering, including evidence on the economic, social, environmental, and cultural terms and opportunities within the area of search, which will then be mapped.

- Special qualities work and feedback from the engagement events will inform the next step of the process.
- Developing a framework to demonstrate and evidence how the designation process and the new National Park itself embeds and integrates nature recovery, climate adaptation and well-being. Will have an update for this group in a couple of months' time.
- All-Wales natural beauty mapping work ongoing. A small technical advisory group is helping inform and taking it forward, and also a series of workshops with external stakeholders. Workshops are explaining the scope of the work, explaining the framework on the method, and identifying the sources of evidence.
- Consultants will be commissioned to revise guidance on management plans for designated landscapes. A small steering group will be set up to work with NRW and the consultants. Aim to produce a final draft by the end of the financial year.
- KD and RO met to discuss future working relationships. Further discussions will be arranged with senior staff, to explore issues and potential to agree a way of working, which recognises that DLs are a key strategic partner.
- TC – want to ensure the revised management plan guidance is embedded properly into decision making and can drive transformational change on the ground. Request to have a more focused debate on this.
- AB – Levelling up and Regeneration Act 2023 has been enacted in England – this will be a key delivery tool and includes enhancing management plans and placing a stronger requirement on partners to contribute to their delivery.
- SP – potential for this group to feed into legislative change in the next Senedd term.
- RL – learn from Bannau and Eryri management plans and their development with a partnership approach.
- HD asked the group to consider what one thing they would change with regard to management plans and to feed back. How do we pull together learning from the management plans in a useful and accessible way.
- TJ discuss with BBNPA on their experience and feedback.

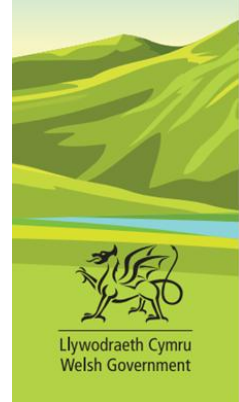
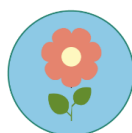
● NRW – James Latham

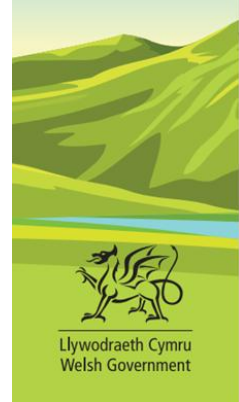
- JL – Senior Specialist Officer Nature Networks at NRW.

Nature networks –

- Ecological basis
- As a funding scheme
- Wider policy connections

The Nature Network Map development **Outputs from the NN Map Stage 1**



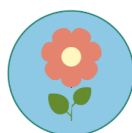


- Three-year WG programme running to 2025 which has around £45 million associated with it.
- Two strands of funding –
 1. Internal NRW
 2. NLHF Grants

- The Deep Dive included a recommendation to transform Wales' protected sites portfolio and associated with that are two specific actions -
 1. Expand and scale up the Nature Networks programme
 2. Develop a Nature Networks map to identify key focus areas.
- Interesting message emerging – not only are the DLs rich in protected sites themselves, but they are important for connective function and a broader functioning for biodiversity.
- GB – consider links to local network partnership, reviewing nature recovery plans in NE Wales. DLs may be set within a framework of a number of Local Authorities all looking at nature recovery and we need to consider how we can work together.
- TC – Key piece in action plan, which is to develop strategic plans for nature for the DLs. Does this mapping partly give us the where to direct our energies and investments, and then these could be embedded in the management plans?
- RL – edit and share presentation [available online here.](#)
- AB – Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust have mapped Wye Valley AONB – have some impressive resources and methodologies. Gloucestershire's "Natural Capital" map: <https://naturalcapital.gcerdata.com/> led by Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust for the Glos LNP <https://www.gloucestershirenature.org.uk/>
- TJ – importance of partnership working and the lack of resource to do all the partnership working we would like to be doing.
- HD – mapping gaps - possibility to designate if there are opportunities for nature recovery? Interesting to look the natural beauty mapping in relation to this when it is complete and look at where you would get the biggest gains for taking up a whole landscape approach.
- TJ – suggested inviting Clive Walmsley, NRW, to a future meeting to discuss climate change implications for landscapes.
- KD - the all Wales mapping work will provide framework and some strategic evidence to help inform discussions around future landscapes and where to prioritise intervention and investment.

● Engagement

- HD – is there anything more this group can do in terms of engaging others better?



- TJ – need to do more to be engaged with green finance.
- HD – suggestion to look at a stakeholder mapping exercise at a national level.
- Is there a link here to management planning? What if DLs were to present their offer in terms of an investment portfolio? What would it look like and how would they do it in a way that resonated with investors in a way that was not going to compromise the values that we all stand for anyway?
- HD, RL, TJ and ES to look at stakeholder mapping and then come back to the wider group for others to feed in.

● AOB

- ES – will incorporate comments made today and will circulate a V.4 of the framework for comment.

● Date of next meeting

- 7th of December
- HD – to arrange a pre-meeting with behavioural scientist from NRW.

Action	Owner	Status
Add TJ to attendee list of last meeting	ER	Done
Translate TOR and upload to website	RL	
Draft catalogue of actions for collaborative layer of SFS	RO	
Send feedback to ES and TJ on framework	ALL	
Request for a more focused debate on revised management plan guidance	NRW	
Edit and share JL presentation	RL	
Discuss management plan guidance with Bannau	TJ	
Look at stakeholder mapping and come back to wider group	HD, RL, TJ & ES	
Arrange pre-meeting with behavioural scientist from NRW	KD	

