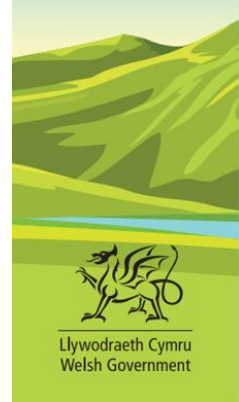


Deep Dive Designated Landscapes Working Group



Meeting Notes

Date of meeting: 16th January 2024

Time of meeting: 14:00-16:00

Attendees

Howard Davies, Chair, Andrew Blake, Wye Valley NL, Elinor Roberts, TCLW, Ruth Lovell, 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, Eifiona Williams, WG, Anna Jones, TCLW, Alan Sumnall, WEL, Michelle Webber, PCNPA, Tom Johnstone, TCLW, Steve Spode, WG

● Welcome and introductions

- Introduction from Eifiona Williams who sat in on Karen Stothard's behalf.
- Discussion on Category V protected area situation and the IUCN UK report which came out in December.
- Report looked at the status of the national landscapes and national parks, which have historically had a Category V status.
- Compliance report and the conclusion drawn was that national landscapes, AONBs and national parks no longer fully meet the criteria of a of an IUCN protected area.
- The status is currently unclear.
- Are people aware of this? We need to raise the issue and discuss and how do we respond?
- HD will draft a short note, setting out some of the context, summarise some implications and share with the group.

● Apologies

James Latham

● Minutes, matters arising and actions of the last meeting

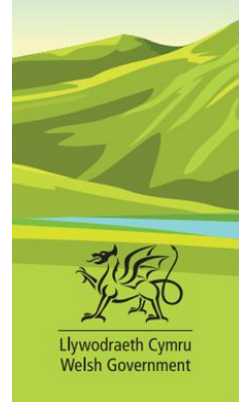
- RL has met with Andy Schofield, from the Environment Platform for Wales, a network that brings together Welsh academic institutions. Discussion had on potential of gathering a research centre focused on DLs.
- Some work on our behalf in terms of what our asks would be and what research we would like to see.
- PS happy to help with coordinating this work and will arrange a discussion with RL.
- Actions were signed off and there were no other matters arising from the minutes.

● WG update

- Integrated Natural Resource scheme – new funding programme that is being launched.



- Opportunity here to bridge the gap of the collaborative layer of the SFS and produce a coherent funding bid from this group.
- The scheme has not been launched yet and is currently being consulted on internally.
- Continuing internal review of funding post 2025, which is when the 3-year grants come to end.
- Trying to ensure that there is more funding ring fenced for frontline biodiversity.
- SP – WG have had their draft budget announcement and at the moment, funding remains as it was and is in a reasonable position.
- SS – clarification needed from Minister on whether reports from this group and the OECM and monitoring groups, will be in the public domain.
- Need to start nailing down some OECMs and start to offer out what we think could work.
- HD – need to look at data and evidence and how we prove what we are trying to do is working.



● Emma Story Update – Strategic Framework

- ES – gave an update on her work, looking at how we achieve our outcomes and recommendations that will be forming the report that goes to the minister.
- ES presented the draft table.
- KD – logical flow to how the material is set out and presented.
- Need more emphasis on the Where – where should we be prioritising interventions and investments and ensuring there is a clear steer there in terms of spatial approach to identifying priority areas.
- HD - Is there a particular vehicle for delivery at the national level, that we need to be thinking about?
- AB – possible to add another couple of columns and drill down into these examples? Need to be working on the critical quick actions and mini action plans showing who, what, when where and how.
- ES – discuss with AJ and incorporate transition work.
- TC – need to look at the work TJ is doing and ensure that this is embedded into the management plans, local development schemes etc and to think through some of these and how to link them.
- TJ – how do we get data to drive delivery on the ground, how do we translate this data.
- TJ – update on the mapping work late February/early March and possibly early learning on how we translate these maps into actual delivery on the ground.
- SS – conversation about where this all happens is key.
- TJ – first step is to try and identify where limited resources can be well spent.
- Need to understand what our current resourcing can deliver.
- PS – really encouraging that this work is going on.
- PS – gave some explanations on mapping uses and cluster groups.
- AS – are other NGOs factored into the maps?
- TJ – not factored in at this stage but will be later after taking it out to the DLs.
- HD – ES has taken the think piece and turned it into a logical flow form that links both the purposes of designated landscapes, recognising that we still have not resolved the issues between designated national landscapes and national parks.
- Sets out how to create a set of integrated goals and what that might look like if it was going to be delivered spatially.
- Please send any feedback to ES or please get in touch if you have any questions.



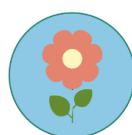
● NRW Update

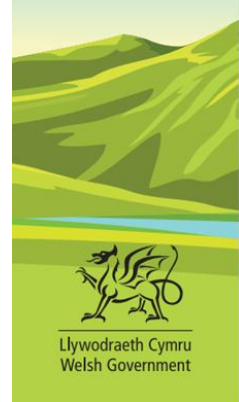
- KD – NP designation update – in the process of producing a report on the engagement process, key themes, and specific comments.
- Special qualities work has been completed and Land Use Consultants working through the forces for change assessment.
- Looking at the range of management options available and address the opportunities and issues that have come out of the forces for change work. Intention is to have these pieces of work complete by the end of the financial year.
- Also preparing a commission to look at more detailed natural beauty assessments, to help with identifying the candidate boundary for the new NP.
- Other piece of work is the All-Wales mapping of Natural Beauty and SMNR which is progressing well and not far of a stage to test how the mapping tool might work.
- Will need additional technical advice group in the stakeholder group just to explain how we will incorporate seascapes and the urban in the methodology.
- Intention to commence testing in the Spring and will help to identify key opportunities at a national and regional scale.
- Management plan guidance – commissioned Land Use Consultants to produce initial update document by the end of March.
- Clear steer that the approach and the process needs to focus on systemic change, climate and nature emergency and so on.
- Initial workshop of the 18th of January with the intention of getting a feel of what currently does and does not work, what needs to be done to improve the guidance and the process.
- Follow on workshop on the 20th of February where Land Use Consultants will produce an outline of the updated and revised guidance.
- Consultation hub has been set up – opportunity for people to give feedback and listen back to workshops if they are unable to attend.
- KD will send link to ER to circulate.
- HD – question that runs through all this work - relationship between valuing and understanding what people value about current landscapes.



● SFS Development

- PS – discussions had with RO and RL – going towards a joint response. Already submitted an overarching statement from Tirweddau Cymru with the four points that we wanted to see covered in the scheme and will continue to support those and then speak to those in more detail going forwards.
- Intending on submitting a Tirweddau Cymru response
- RO – bear in mind the consultation scope on this – fairly narrow in terms of what we can put forward as this current consultation has a strong steer on the universal actions. Very little on other aspects related to us as DLs.
- LIJ – narrow consultation and important to set the vision for what the collaborative consultation will be. Can use this as a slight plug for the Integrated Natural Resources scheme, like an informal EOI.
- NAAONB will be providing a response and will be focused on the stuff that is relevant to the DLs.
- HD – has Tirweddau Cymru got a role in pulling all this together and supporting each other in the response.
- TJ – e-learning modules designed as learning but being used as CPD? Is there an opportunity to help develop biodiversity modules?
- RO – not sure how much influence we would have in the learning sector.

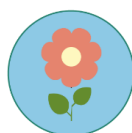


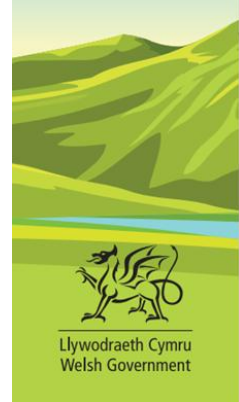


- PS – do we have any feel at all for how seriously our submission will be and if and when we are going to get a serious part of the scheme as Tirweddau Cymru?
- Risk that we will be left trying to deliver on a massively ambitious programme without the tools to do it.
- SP – cannot guarantee that there will be significant pots of cash to the extent that we would want to see from SFS. These challenges are being highlighted and conversation are ongoing, but we will have to wait and see. Perfectly possible that SFS will not provide all opportunities we need to take advantage of.
- HD – need to look at FIPL in England and how it has been used to scale up the organisation, such that it was in a better position to survive in a new agricultural context.
- RL – need to put forward a vision of what we think it should look like and we as a partnership should not be shy of putting forward exactly what we want to say in a response to this consultation.
- Alliance for Designated Landscapes are moving into a more campaign space and are setting up an E-action.
- RL will share correspondence that the alliance has been having with Lesley Griffiths.
- RO - 87 million cut in the agricultural budgets and knowing where this money is going to come from is important and will alter our thinking and resource for delivery.
- Need a frank discussion with all the landscapes soon to determine what their current capacity is and looking at amalgamating resources if needed.
- HD – imperative that we get the principles outlined and worry less about the detail of how it will be delivered in different areas.

● Reporting

- HD – committed to reporting at the end of February, and although we started later than other groups, this brings us in line with the reporting timetables of the other groups.
- Discussions had on how we might report and what it will look like and also come up with a number of agreements.
- Emerging themes coming from this group –
 1. Recommendation on levelling up – drawing on the Valued and Resilient work and central to that is the strength and duty of regard to seek to further the purpose.
 2. Team Wales approach – maintaining and developing further collaborative working across Wales and forming a more strategic partnership with NRW.
 3. Strategic framework from ES - taking the legislative underpinning of national landscapes and national parks and following through from what we are doing, how we are going to do it and the detail of how we might get these things delivered.
 4. More unified approach to mapping and monitoring – linking to the nature networks map and TJs mapping work.
 5. The role of designated landscapes in supporting SFS and linking that to an emerging INRS bid.
 6. What does maintaining an international perspective on our work look like? This links to the IUCN and the discussions around categories.
- KD - some actions will obviously be delivered now, but assume it is a hook on what happens in stage 2?
- HD – timeline –





- Pull together reports by the end of February.
- Chairs will pull together executive summaries, and these will be targeted towards the Minister.
- 1st March – look to submit the draft reports to the core Deep Dive groups with an airing on the 18th of March when the core group can discuss all three reports.
- After feedback, comes back to the expert groups to finalise reports and looking at early May for the final reports to be published.
- Late May for phase 2 start

- Phase 2 will include the details, like, costings that are required to take these things further, although the recommendations from this group at the first report will give an indication as to whether resources are required and so on.
- If the group is content with these subject areas, then we can take them away and flesh them into a persuasive argument that hold together.
- AB – be aware of the risk of change in administration and potential effect on the momentum of this work. Would be good to have a reference on all of this and progress independently if needed?
- HD and RL to discuss how to manage the report and how best to pull all of the information together.
- HD – be prepared to be drawn upon.

● Engagement

- RL – keeping website updated with the minutes and the newsletter.
- Follow on from previous action to meet and discuss stakeholder mapping.

● AOB

There was no AOB.

Action	Owner	Status
Draft a short note on category V status, setting out some of the context, summarise some implications and share with the group	HD	
Arrange discussion following email with Environment Platform Wales	RL & PS	
Feedback to ES on draft table	ALL	
Circulate consultation hub link	ER	
Discuss how to manage the report	HD & RL	
Stakeholder mapping meeting	HD / RL / TJ / ES	

