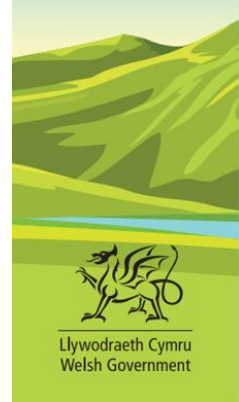


Deep Dive Designated Landscapes Working Group



Meeting Notes

Date of meeting: 21st March 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, Simon Pickering, WG, Katie Jones, WG, Tom Cosson WG, Anna Jones, TCLW, Karen Stothard, WG.

● Welcome and introductions

HD thanked everyone for their effort over the past few weeks and appreciated the support.

Apologies

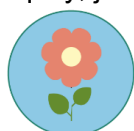
- Alan Sumnall, Tom Johnstone, Rhys Owen

● Minutes, matters arising and actions

- The minutes were approved as an accurate record of the previous meeting.
- HD thanked all of those who attended the meeting in Aberystwyth in February. RL will circulate the notes from the meeting.
- SP – the Campaigns for National Parks event at the Senedd was strongly supported and underlined the use and value of meeting face to face. Important to keep this in mind when looking for opportunities to highlight this work.

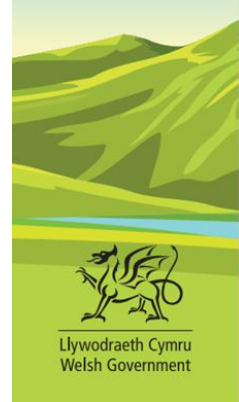
● Report

- HD – update on where we are with the report.
- RL has set up a shared Google drive, which has all the report chapters available, and everybody has access to. There are 6 themes with one thread running throughout -
 1. International Context
 2. Wales Strategic framework
 3. Team Wales
 4. Legislative leavers
 5. Mapping and Monitoring Nature
 6. Developing the Role of Designated Landscapes and Supporting the Sustainable Farming Scheme
- The final golden thread running throughout the report – Access and ensuring the principals of collaboration, participation, engagement, equity, justice, fairness, and the rights of



everyone are not just warm words that appear in chapters of what we do but are woven into the fabric of everything we do.

- Aim to have a programme approach and not separate themes.
- TC – agreed with GB that it was a great piece of work and was impressed by how the report has come together into a cohesive narrative considering there are different authors.
- HD – encouraged everyone to add comments on the Google drive. If there are any issues, please get in touch with RL.
- HD – we have committed to getting the report out for consultation by the 28th of March. The other two groups have produced their reports, and they are out for consultation.
- KS – thanked everyone who has contributed to the report so far. Everyone should have an invitation to the meeting in Cardiff on the 18th of April. This will be a joint meeting between this group, the monitoring group and the OECM group. Aware that these reports have been developed in parallel, so we need to make sure that we get some of the interdependencies right and maximize some of the opportunities coming out of the reports.
- Please let KS know if you have not had an invite.
- ES – strategic framework and a new version of the diagram will be uploaded soon.
- KS – will share the reports from the other two groups. ER to circulate.
- PS – if we have time should we commission a critical friend review before submission of the report?
- ES – could we send it to the three NP CEOs to look at?
- HD – nothing stopping it being circulated wider. Would be good to know what the other groups have done?
- KS – the reports were circulated around the groups themselves for comments and then escalated to the core group for sign off.
- TC – do not think we need any formal sign off by any one person as only interim report.
- PS – conversation needed to look at OECMs and IUCN recommendations.
- TC – TCLW could circulate information to colleagues.



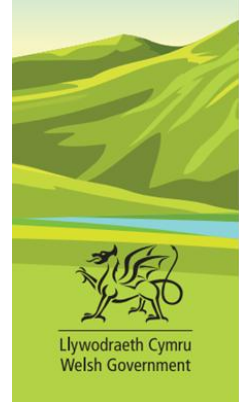
● Strategic Framework

- ES – gave an update on the strategic framework and explained that the notes that accompany the diagram will be uploaded to the shared drive ASAP.
- Gaps in updates to planning policy. Could anyone who has any planning background, take a look and send feedback, or ask planning colleagues in their landscape for feedback.
- Also need someone to look at the skills section and add something in.
- TC – would it be worth including something from the two bodies that have been working with TJ on the mapping work? How they would use it in real life and what changes it would make on the ground? GB to work with ES on this.

● SFS Development / INRS Bid

- TC – vast amount of feedback submitted to the consultation. SFS teams are currently working through it all and have held some sessions this week with policy teams.
- Most changes, if any, will be around the universal layer.
- Our greatest opportunities lie in the optional and collaborative layers but there is little on these in the consultation.
- No formal launch of the INR scheme and no updates.
- TC will share any information when available.





● Engagement

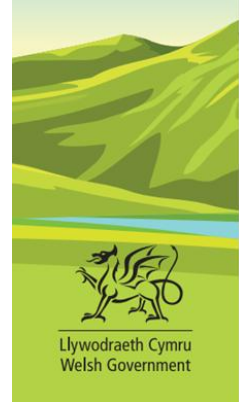
- HD – questions needed on the best way to link in with the members of Wales Environment Link (WEL). There are 2 suggestions –
 1. Alan to consider this in the round when the report comes out and have conversations with members of link.
 2. HD plus others to present to a link meeting.
- HD is happy to present to Link.
- Objective is to make sure we are engaging other 3rd sector organisations in discussions at a stage where they can affect an outcome.
- AB – if HD is happy to arrange a formal engagement with them, then this sounds appropriate.
- AJ – have we had any timings for the next phase of review, moving towards the finalised reports?
- HD – meeting on the 18th of April as previously discussed.
- KS – no specific timeline yet.
- HD to contact WEL and will discuss with RL.

● Forward Work Programme

- HD – need to consider longer term actions associated with the work of this group:
 - SFS engagement and coordinating the IRNS bid
 - Realignment of management plans and new management plan guidance
 - Effective management and robust monitoring
 - People element
 - Strategic and tactical proactive communication around nature, climate and DLs.
 - Training and learning elements around climate and nature literacy.
 - Engagement with public service boards and other strategic bodies.
 - Ensuring NRW and WG staff get what they need in terms of evidencing an argument to support us with regards to funding we need and the political support we need to take forward our agendas around nature and climate.
- PS – how are we going to finance things going forward? We need to get innovative at resourcing. Possibility of having a running brief in the background on this and what else we can do?
- HD – emergency prioritising to reflect nature and climate emergencies.
- GB – trying to do more work with the local Nature partnership in North East Wales but comes with challenges. Having to make difficult decisions due to low resources.
- LIJ – we seem to be skirting around private sector investment and green finance. We need to take this head on and try to control the narrative ourselves.
- Companies want to invest in ready-made projects therefore we need a programme of work ready to go.
- RL – good idea to start looking into this and see who's doing what with who.
- TC – agree on getting a list of projects together, but another approach is to scale up current projects.
- AB – companies like to invest in a proven model rather than looking at smaller scale things.
- LIJ – Hannah from Nature based solutions team at NAAONB could come to a meeting and speak about the green finance work they are doing.
- HD – it is also about framing an investable proposition which is beyond the scope of most of the work that we have ever done in DLs.



- HD – is there value in adding one paragraph to the report on this, so that we can pick it up in terms of work coming out of the report. LIJ to work on this.
- PS – going down this route is a fundamental change for us as organisations. We would need to hard-nosed as we would be dealing with hard-nosed individuals but would also get us to react and act at speed.
- HD – feedback from the Green Finance conference in Birmingham would be useful.



● NRW

- KD – National Park Designation – currently working on an engagement report summarising the key issues and themes arising out of the engagement period held at the end of last year. This will identify some of the positive and negative themes emerging and how to take them forward.
- Finalising the forces for change and management options which is building on special qualities work.
- Currently have a tender process to identify a consultancy to undertake the evaluation and natural beauty assessment leading up to the preparation of a candidate area.
- Consultation on draft boundary in the autumn of this year.
- All Wales Mapping – team is currently testing the draft methodology. This will form the basis on how to refine and iterate the evidence and methodology for a wider application.
- The team will also organise a technical advice group and stakeholder group later in the spring to bring people up to speed on how the work has been taken forward.
- Revised Guidance for Management Plans – Land Use consultants commissioned to produce a document and have held several workshops. Latest workshop discussed the work to date and some of the key issues.
- Consultation hub is open until the 30th of April so still time to make any comments.
- NRW hoping to finalise the document by early summer / late autumn.
- Mindful that individual DLs cannot do everything themselves, so brings in importance of how to work with the relevant authorities, particularly at national and strategic level.
- HD – opportunity here for us to start synchronising our thinking with the opportunity the management plan guidance brings and good to see potential overlap and alignment.

● EDI – Anna Jones

- HD – how do we embed issues of equality, diversity, participation, and community engagement through the report – needs a section on its own as well as being written throughout.
- AJ – can see from discussions today how this sits behind a lot of the conversations that have gone on, and it is coming through clearly in what has already been written.
- Would be good to start off strong with a paragraph that tries to bring everything in across the chapters.
- Would be good if any colleagues or officers could add some people in nature stories to the report to bring it to life.
- PS – important to think about joint ventures and why we cannot have these operating models in Wales.
- We have not got the enough money or expertise to do all this alone, so we need to find a way to share one set of objectives.
- Need a stronger duty to seek, to further and maybe this will encourage other organisations to do the same and work together.
- HD - we have most of the tools in place, which shows that the pressure is a behavioural issue, as much as a legislative issue.



● AOB

- HD – once the report is out, we will plan future meeting frequency and group structure.
- HD – hugely grateful for all the work that has been put into the report.
- PS – on behalf of everyone, thanked HD for all his work in chairing the group and for his valuable expertise.



Next meeting – 11th April

Action	Owner	Status
Circulate meeting notes from Aberystwyth meeting	RL	
Circulate other group reports	ER	
Add paragraph to report on Green Finance	LIJ	

