

Deep Dive Designated Landscapes Working Group

Meeting Notes

Date of meeting: 2nd July 2025

Time of meeting: 14:00-16:00

Attendees

Ruth Lovell, Sara Wynne-Pari, Howard Davies, Graham Berry, Andrew Blake, Simon Pickering, Simone Lowthe-Thomas, Rebecca Walley, Keith Davies, Gareth Ludkin, Carole Thornley, Lawrence Harris, Tom Cosson, Steve Spode

Apologies

Anna Jones, Michelle Webber, Sarah Mellor, Alan Sumnall, Paul Sinnadurai

● Welcome, introductions and updates

- Core Group is now Strategic Delivery Group, HD is still on this
- OECM group convening to discuss how they may be deployed in Wales
- Dylan Lloyd (NRW) is working on defining Management Effectiveness and we have stressed the importance of making this relevant to Designated Landscapes not just traditional protected sites.
- At the last BDD meeting we looked at the work plan, how to socialise the action plan and what are the most significant barriers to delivery.
- Of particular concern was NRW's lack of capacity to support and lead despite their proactive support, in particular at Regional and Local Team Level.
- Plea for clarity of role of core group and its role in identifying interdependencies across the 3 groups
- Clear recognition that TCLW has a significant role in enabling staff across DLs to upskill in climate literacy, climate work, GIS and delivering on gaps in the action plan.
- A number of reports have come through –
 1. BES draft report of group workshop
 2. MEPCA Indicator draft report – deadline for comments at the end of June, but there will be further opportunity to comment. This will be looking at how to take a global indicator and make relevant to the whole of Wales.
 3. WG 30x30 framework has been published [A 30by30 framework for Wales | GOV.WALES](#)

● Lawrence Harris Update – Ffermio Bro

- The programme is now full steam ahead and the first batch of details have been received from the DL's
- 200 EOI's so far, predominantly from ENPA, Llŷn & Ynys Môn
- NP's quicker to get off the ground than NLs.
- Llŷn and Môn likely to have higher number of single farm applications.
- PCNPA Coast are already over their budget, and this is looking likely for all DLs.
- TC is in the process of securing funding for next year.
- Some really interesting and exciting projects coming out of the EOIs.
- How do we use the data from Ffermio Bro to inform the collaborative layer of the SFS? Can we build a request for data and evidence at this stage?
- Thematic and geographical collaborations rather than farm clusters.
- Looking to secure an independent evaluator to come in and look at the programme and how it is delivering collaboration. In the process of developing a scope for the external evaluator.
- We can use year 1 lessons to inform years two and three.
- TC looking at funding for evaluation and may include INRS.
- Impact on Biodiversity – has there been a demonstrable benefit on biodiversity in the area as a result of Ffermio Bro.
- SS – making links between the SFS and 30x30 monitoring and rapid appraisal and joining this up with Ffermio Bro.
- SLT – South Downs NP using Bio Net Gain and different biodiversity assessment criteria, could possibly share some learning from this.
- AB – using SLSP to augment elements that Ffermio Bro can't fund.

● Sara Wynne-Pari Update – Work programme

- Has now met with nearly all DLs to get an overview of where everyone is at with clear themes coming out already.
- Clear need for regular catch ups and briefings between all DLs where people can share updates and invite stakeholders to give clarity on some processes.
- Different DLs are leading on different things therefore a monthly meeting would be beneficial, to update and inform on this.
- Suggest that DLs visit each other to share experiences, learning and discuss the tools they are using and how to roll this out in different areas.
- The smaller DLs have some capacity issues; how can we support this in a way that's helping to upskill.
- Met with a number of key stakeholder groups.
- Have been talking to Cynnal Cymru about creating a bespoke eco literacy training course for DLs.
- Attending the OECMs and Monitoring task and finish groups to ensure cut across the groups.
- **ACTION:** work programme will be prepared by August for approval.

● GIS Training

- SWP has been talking to DLs about their mapping needs and what people are currently using.
- Obviously enough maps about, but this data needs to be simplified and user friendly.
- Need heat maps to focus on priority areas
- There are useful tools about, and opportunities to develop some interactive tools for DLs like LiDAR. Cymru. This could be adapted for Nature recovery and is very user friendly.
- BBNPA have suggested a practical workshop, looking at how these maps can be used.
- Idea to start a GIS mapping group.
- Clear that there is no 'one size fits all' kind of training with a diverse and varied level of training, from novices to experts.
- Practical application training is essential and PCNPA have produced good 'how to videos'.
- Training will be arranged for the Ffermio Bro advisors at the end of September.
- Need to look at the access and licencing for different software's.
- GB – not-for-profit scheme run by Esri for the NLs.
- AB – farm advisors in England are using a Land app which has all Countryside Stewardship data. Is there an equivalent in Wales?
- Concern around skill retention and turnover of staff. Encourage new roles to have GIS as part of the job description.
- SWP – would like to form a group to feedback and forth on practicalities and support in a wider capacity.
- Is there a possibility of having a nature recovery portal on the TCLW website with bite sized information drawn from TCLW officers reports and recommendations.
- HD – the data exists so we don't need to reinvent it but there are massive variations in capabilities and capacities.
- Is there a way to share the videos from PCNPA and use pull help from experts in this area?

● BES Report – Feedback & next steps

- Received useful feedback from BBNPA and WG.
- From BES perspective, there may be need for quick refresh in light of the 30x30 framework from WG.
- Will respond and look at the feedback received.
- Date to be arranged with Rebecca (BES) to discuss the feedback

● Actions & Commitment from last meeting

- Review of meeting in Aberystwyth to keep the ball rolling.
- HD stressed the importance of engaging with the MEPCA indicator guidance from Dylan Lloyd for it to work in a landscape perspective.
- More work is needed, particularly around the level of detail expected for management information, confidence levels on assessments, score categories and data licencing work.
- Need further feedback from other organisations and also update the guidance, this will then form part of a wider consultation exercise and discussion on how NRW will take the work forward.
- Ffermio Bro collaborative layer needs to be developed.
- Landscapes for Everyone campaign – Anna to update in next meeting. Useful to discuss how to action this and how we are working on an engagement and justice front, not just nature recovery.
- Duty of regard – setting up a National Relevant Authorities forum. This is much about a social process as it is about the detail of legislation. **ACTION:** Any feedback on how to take this forward is welcome.
- AB – PINS view on how to address variation in England and Wales as legislation has not changed in Wales for both section 85 and section 62.
- Duty of regard to economic growth in the planning and infrastructure bill but issues with NPs and Access to the Countryside act overriding this so duty of regard was deleted from any legislation relating to NPs.
- Promise in England in December that they would bring forward secondary regulations for nature and water quality, but this is being quietly dropped and will be challenged by CNP.
- **ACTION:** Opportunity to discuss legislation at next TCLW meeting on the 17th of July and feedback on this and key manifesto messages.
- Lots of changes in NRW; new board members and Chair. How do we also support the messaging in NRW. HD has met with, and briefed, Adam Taylor the incoming Chair of the Protected Areas Committee on the work of the DL sub-group
- Management Plan guidance summary will be done soon and will be circulated once complete.

● Communications

- How do we optimise communications?
- Comms is a two-way street, and it is important that the information from this group is shared between your teams and other organisations.
- The meeting notes will be uploaded to the TCLW website
- Wales Environment Link – looking to recruit new members to support wider engagement. HD has met with Karen Whitfield who has agreed to come back with any expressions of interest to join the group following the resignation of Alan Sumnall.
- RL – open to suggestions on how what could be done differently or what could we do more of.
- TC – suggested simplifying and summarising reports or creating an infographic to communicate key messages.

- This would tie in well with the Senedd elections next year and the TCLW vision.

● Resourcing 30x30

- SWP – NLA have published a report called Resourcing 30x30, looking at calculating what currently fits within the 30% target and then calculating the opportunities for reaching 30% and further.
- The report does two things –
 1. Gives a baseline of where NL are in England and what the opportunities are
 2. What this looks like financially and how can it be resourced.
- They have shared the methodology, and we will be looking at doing something similar in Wales.
- Will be split into two parts –
 1. Calculating what counts for 30x30
 2. Resourcing
- **ACTION:** Cath Howell, Head of Natural Capital from BBNPA to be invited to a future meeting to discuss.
- SLT – Directors for Nature Conservation (NPs) – interesting work on mapping 30x30. Might be worth inviting them to a future meeting.
- SS – need a gap analysis of existing protected sites network and potential additional SSSI notification and potential OECMs.
- GB – statement from another meeting – ‘not to forget about the 70%’ and its important role in supporting the 30x30 target. It will be critical to look beyond the DL boundaries.

● AOB

- GL – is there any engagement with the task and finish group for biodiversity targets and climate change? Who from this group is being consulted over targets?
- TC – WG have been contacted asking for one or two reps to be on this task and finish group.
- HD – call from IUCN Green listing team who intend to inform the governments of Great Britain and Northern Ireland of their intention to set up a jurisdiction to take forward the green listing accreditation standard for protected areas. HD happy to discuss further for more information.
- **ACTION:** ER to send poll out to arrange the next meeting.

Action	Owner	Status
Arrange date to discuss BES feedback	RL / HD	
Work plan for next meeting	SWP	

Feedback on Duty of regard – setting up a National Relevant Authorities forum	ALL	
Feedback from TCLW meeting on the 17 th of July	RL / SWP	
Invite CH from BBNPA to future meeting	RL / SWP	
Send out poll to arrange next meeting	ER	