

Deep Dive Designated Landscapes Working Group

Meeting Notes

Date of meeting: 3rd April 2025

Time of meeting: 9.30-11.00

Attendees

Howard Davies, Chair, Andrew Blake, Wye Valley NL, Elinor Roberts, TCLW, Graham Berry, Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB, Rhys Owen, Eryri, Keith Davies, NRW, Llyr Jones, NAAONB, Simon Pickering, WG, Tom Cosson WG, Lawrence Harris, TCLW, Steve Spode, WG, Carole Thornley, NRW, Gareth Ludkin, CNP, Alan Sumnall, Butterfly Conservation

Apologies

Ruth Lovell, TCLW

● Welcome, introductions and updates

- HD welcome everyone to the meeting and introduced Gareth Ludkin, Campaign for National Parks.
- HD – good time to go through where we are with the Deep Dive and make decisions on the way forward collectively.
- Also need to look how we are going to deliver against the recommendations of the Deep Dive report.
- The read across between the three groups took some time to organise but now make sense.
- All reports have been uploaded to the Wales Biodiversity Partnership website here [Wales Biodiversity Partnership - 30 by 30 in Wales](#).
- We now need to cement our offer in regard to 30x30 targets and the way we deliver and make the report real.
- We are small enough in Wales to do things collaboratively and large enough to make a difference.

● WG

- TC – reasonably content with next year's budget with the National Landscapes getting a small increase and the National Parks retaining theirs.
- Some changes made to capital funding and 2/3 of the original funding has been ringfenced for nature and carbon work, with the remainder being used for general capital funding.
- Expect to see more investment over the next two years in biodiversity.

- Ffermio Bro is going full speed ahead and will be launched at the TCLW seminar with the Cabinet Secretary in attendance.
- All 8 designated landscapes will be getting an allocation of money with advisors currently being recruited.
- SS – it is now important to move forward with the Deep Dive work and put words into action.
- An implementation group will be formed, consisting of people who do this work on the ground.
- Main focus is to concentrate on the actions that can begin to move forward and start working on some pilots and learn by doing.
- Working with Dylan from NRW to look at how to monitor this work and how we baseline, but we need a better understanding of the actual areas and the conditions of these sites.
- Looking to convert how we monitor and baseline these sites into something we can use more of.
- We cannot identify OECDs in existing protected areas, but we can identify areas which fulfil the same criteria and evidence in this way.
- HD – a draft report has been produced with the British Ecological Society, looking at how we improve management and efficiency.
- LH – Ffermio Bro is moving along quickly, with all processes and procedures in place.
- All landscape allocations have been agreed and there will be a formal launch at the end of April.
- In the process of appointing advisors which should all be in post by the middle of June.
- Starting to look at the local assessment panels who will be responsible for agreeing on the applications over the threshold.
- Positive to note that all major farming unions are supportive of the scheme.
- Currently looking at ways of monitoring and capturing information to ensure the scheme is a success and then using this information to improve in the future.
- HD – thank you Tom for all your work on this scheme and taking it forward. Great to see a recommendation from the Deep Dive report in action.

● NRW

- Join up between NRW and the Deep Dive process has not been as effective as it should be. NRW have taken note of this and are monitoring engagement with the Deep Dive process.
- Looking to bring an additional person to the working group.
- Numerous team changes at NRW.
- New NP designation – consultation on the candidate boundary received around 2000 responses. A report will be published in April.
- On balance there have been more positive responses indicating a high level of support for the new NP.
- Numerous impact assessments required to look at health, equality and Welsh language etc.
- There will also be a document summarising nature benefits within the boundary.
- Also commissioned is a piece of work reviewing the planning services across the candidate area, collecting views from the local authorities and the impact of a new NP on existing capacity.

- Another piece of work is looking at the potential benefits economically from a new NP.
- CT – National Landscapes budget has been protected for the next 2 years
- The management plan guidance is now out for people to use and adheres to the Category V guidelines from the IUCN.
- We are currently working on a document bringing the key points and highlights together which should be available soon.
- CT will circulate the management plan guidance to all and discuss with TCLW regarding uploading it to the website.
- SS – how does the Ffermio Bro team propose to monitor and record the actions of the scheme on the ground? What is the current biodiversity value of the area you're working on and how it changes through the actions of the scheme.
- LH – currently looking at these processes and how to record etc, but also due to time pressure it is important to get things in place that enable landscapes to do this efficiently, so this may be something to look at more in the second year of the scheme.
- Is there a read across between this development and the work Dylan Lloyd is doing on effective management?
- SS will share this information with LH and a meeting will be arranged to look at this work further.
- HD – look at forming a smaller group to look at this and the recommendation from the British Ecological Society.
- GB - how do we share information about what is happening and make our systems work effectively. Important to look at synergy with other schemes that are operating to the same objectives.
- LH – the Ffermio Bro advisors will have an in-depth knowledge of all schemes operating where they can signpost landowners to other schemes.

● **TCLW**

- A Nature Recovery 30x30 Manager has been appointed and will be starting sometime in May with TCLW.
- AB – Wye Valley will be hosting the TCLW seminar from the 30th April – 1st May consisting of site visits and a visit from the deputy minister.
- RL and HD are meeting with the BES to go through their draft report and will circulate it to the group once done.

● **Action Plan**

- HD - The report identified a number of work streams to take forward with a clear link between the recommendations and the work streams.
- HD – went through the actions to get an idea of how the group would like to take these work streams forward.

- The 8 work streams were as follows –
 - Workstream 1: Defining a Role for Designated Landscapes in the Sustainable Farming Scheme (SFS)
 - Workstream 2: Realigning National Park and AONB Management Plans with the Nature and Climate Emergency
 - Workstream 3: Nature Mapping
 - Workstream 4: Building Collaboration
 - Workstream 5: Resourcing Action
 - Workstream 6: Improving Processes
 - Workstream 7: Working Fairly
 - Workstream 8: Considering Legislation
- TC noted that collaboration is a universal principle of all streams.
- SP – we are nearing the end of a legislative Senedd term so this is a good time to start thinking about what legislative change could be useful and putting these forward.
- KD noted that there will be some interdependencies across NRW to help effectively deliver the recommendations so will discuss with key staff.
- Please send Action Plan comments or feedback to HD by the 18th of April.

● AOB

- ER/RL to send out date for face-to-face meeting.
- HD to circulate information on green list criteria

Action	Owner	Status
Share info on effective management with LH	SS	
Send action plan comments to HD by 18 th April	All	
Arrange face-to-face meeting	ER	
Circulate info on green list criteria	HD	