

Designated Landscape Biodiversity Expert Group

Meeting Notes

Date of meeting: 28 August 2025

Time of meeting: 10:00-12:00

Attendees

Anna Jones, Andrew Blake, Carole Thornley, Dylan Lloyd, Gareth Ludkin, Graham Berry, Helen Lucocq, Howard Davies (Chair), James Hitchcock, Lawrence Harris, Luke Romaine, Rhys Owen, Ruth Lovell, Sara Wynne-Pari, Liza Thomas,

Apologies

Tom Cosson, Steve Spode, Keith Davies, Rebecca Walley, Michelle Webber, Sarah Mellor, Elinor Roberts

● Welcome, introductions and updates

- Helen Lucocq (Coed Cadw) and James Hitchcock (Rewilding Britain) welcomed as WEL representatives
- Action to update name of this group to reflect move into delivery from deep dive. Designated Landscape Biodiversity Expert Group.

● BES Report – Feedback & next steps

Update wording on management plan references in Recommendation A:

Useful discussion on draft report including an important note to differentiate between the statutory Management Plan for the area and potentially longer-term management plans for sites. It is important to recognise the role the statutory plan has as an expression of public policy in place, its role in integrating activity at a landscape scale, and the governance framework that necessarily follows.

- Next steps: HD/RL to work with BES to finalise, translate and publish the report.
- Communications and advocacy plans to be developed reflecting the importance of influencing the Programme for Government as well as party manifestos.
- Potential to share at NP Member seminar in ENPA October 25
- Support noted from partners to help disseminate the report once published

● Sara Wynne-Pari Update – Work programme

- SWP outlined the work programme. Positive feedback received, but a health warning on the volume of work identified. Suggestions included identifying dependencies and prioritising action for which change is dependent.
- SWP to update group on Nature Recovery Forum as it is established

● Lawrence Harris Update – Ffermio Bro

- Update on scheme and interest. Broad discussion on tactical vs strategic approaches.
- INRS discussed, and option to use this group to feedback to Welsh Government on the application process and wait time on decision: HD/RL collect feedback for WG

● Actions & Commitments from last meeting

- Actions and commitments from the group following the Aberystwyth meeting will be recirculated - (see below)
- Relevant Authority Group - KD
- Engagement with MEPCA work through Dylan Lloyd.
- Noted NRW Management Plan guidance document is not expected to be in produced in a format as previously discussed. KD/LT to update the group.

● TCLW Governance Review

- RL gave an overview of the planned review of landscape governance in Wales, to be carried out by an independent task and finish group providing recommendations to TCLW.

● AOB

- PS – flagged issue with recent fires in BBNP, including SAC damage and implications for peatland work. Keep on agenda and consider DL representation on Wales wide wildfire group.
- **ACTION:** ER to send poll out to arrange the next meeting in October.

Action	Owner	Status
Update group name to reflect move into delivery		
Update group on Nature Recovery Forum	SWP	

Collect feedback for WG – application process	HD/RL	
Circulate actions and commitments	RL/ER	
Relevant Authority Group	KD	
Engagement with MEPCA work through Dylan Lloyd	ALL	
Update on NRW Management Plan Guidance	KD/LT	
Fire damage and implications. Consider DL representation on Wales Wide Wildlife Group	ALL	
Send poll to arrange next meeting	ER	

Commitments from Group Members

Dylan Lloyd (NRW)

- Provide guidance on MEPCA for implementation in DLs

Paul Sinnadurai (Bannau Brycheiniog NPA)

- Ffermio Bro: R&D pathways, developing SLM – Data, evidence we need and how do we collect and present this?
- Area partnerships underway

Anna Jones (TCLW)

- Build collaboration (Workstream 4)
- “Landscapes for Everyone” campaign (strategy, comms, Nature Connection focus and belonging) **ACTION** _ rapid review of the success of the ‘Landscapes for Everyone’ campaign against its 3 principles (to engage stakeholders, to demonstrate value, to tailor opportunities).
- Workstream 7 (governance, legislation review)
- Social impact value data and framework
- Just transition
- ARWAP action development
- National Park designation
 - Oversight of management plan
 - Internal integration, advocacy
 - Prioritise, react, pivot

Llyr Jones (National Landscapes Association)

Lead on a new social contract linked to exercising the duty of regard – “The group recommends establishing a National Relevant Authorities Forum” to work collaboratively at a strategic national scale to drive systemic change and provide the context for individual Designated Landscapes management plans.

Sara Wynne-Pari (TCLW)

- Drive workstreams 3 and 5

Lawrence Harris (TCLW)

- Lead Workstream 1, identify interdependencies
- Support workstreams 2 and 3
- Coordinate SoNLR resources and partnerships

Carole Thornley & Liza Tomos (NRW)

- Summary management planning guidance
- Comms
- SOER review, checklist, data