



Minutes & Actions

1. Welcome, Introduction & Apologies (RJ)

Voting Members in Attendance

Cllr Richard Jefferies	RJ	East Devon District Council
Cllr Marianne Rixson	MR	East Devon District Council
Lesley Clarke	LC	Axe Vale & District Conservation Society
Haylor Lass	HL	Otter Vale Association
Kim Strawbridge	KS	Pebblebed Heaths Conservation Trust
James Robertson	JR	Forestry Commission
Sally King	SK	Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site
Peter Rose	PR	Sid Vale Association

Officers

Charlie Plowden	CP	East Devon District Council
Kate Hind	KH	Devon County Council
Daniel Wynn	DW	East Devon National Landscape
Stephanie Aburrow	SA	East Devon National Landscape
Jack Hirst	JH	East Devon National Landscape
Lou Maddocks	LM	East Devon National Landscape

Apologies/No Response

Cllr Paul Arnott	PA	Devon County Council
Rebecca Hughes	RH	Natural England
Ruth Angell	RA	Donkey Sanctuary
Greg Page Turner	GP	Federation of Small Businesses
Penny Mills	PM	CPRE
Alex Swan	AS	Environment Agency
John Ette	JE	Historic England
Doug Rudge	DRU	Axe Vale & District Conservation Society
Ian Todd	IT	NFU
Clare James	CJ	Clinton Devon Estates
Lucy Buckingham	LB	National Trust
Sam Scriven	SS	Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site
Representative from Devon Wildlife Trust		

2. Minutes & Actions from Previous Meeting (RJ)

Minutes from previous meeting approved as a true record. No matters arising that would not be covered in the agenda items.



3. East Devon National Landscape (EDNL) 2025 Operations & NL National Updates – Policy/Budget (DW/SA/JH)

DW updated the Partnership on the existing work programme and current state of the budget, noting that all budget lines were fully allocated and spend on track with expected performance. Current forecasts predict no underspend and no deficit against budget.

DW updated on the state of the new Capital Uplift/30x30 Fund, noting the ongoing negotiation for a new office premises and the capital purchase of a turboflail for nature conservation. This turboflail will provide habitat creation across a range of smaller sites. EDNL will publicise with the RSPB once this machine is operational.

SA updated the Partnership on the current state of the EDNL Fund, Access for All and the Connecting Coast & Country project. Noting that all grants are fully allocated, projects on track and in line with spend. SA gave an overview of the supported projects.

JH updated the Partnership on the current state of the Farming in Protected Landscape's programme. Noted that projects were planned with a current underspend in the capital budget. There were some sensitive projects that may not get approval/be completed which could result in a situation where there is not full spend. Put a call out to all partners to contact him if they wish to discuss any projects.

Report on EDNL Operations noted and approved by all present.

DW reported on the recent work of the National Landscape Association, including the scaling up their staff resource, increased interest in green finance and the preliminary discussions around governance and continued operation of the Protected Landscape family. Also mentioned their work championing national teams for greater revenue contribution to support NL teams across the UK. DW noted that early budget discussions with DEFRA for the next budget settlement we're still in discussion, with early indications suggesting a flat settlement and continuation of capital funding.

Report on NL National Updates – Policy/Budget noted and approved by all present.

DW updated the Partnership on the formal approval and regulatory sign-off of the new East Devon National Landscape Management Plan 2025-2030.

Report was noted and approved by all present

4. Partners Updates & Collaborations Opportunities (ALL)

Forestry Commission (JR)

- Introduced Gerry Garlick –the new Land Use Adviser



- Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier – this has launched. Preapplication but invite only. 10year agreement. Bring woodland into management but you do need an existing Management Plan to enter.
- Countryside Stewardship Protection & Infrastructure – pays to protect individual trees from beaver. Good payment rates for specific tree species.
- CS Higher Tier – used to be mixed applications. Completely separated. They don't happen anymore.
- Environment Impact Assessment – grant funding outside of CS creating woodland without undertaking EIAs. Trees with ability to make minimum 0.5ha and min 20% of tree cover.
- Natural England now have a Tree Action Plan Delivery Officer plan, (Tree Action Plan). Reach out to contact this individual. Simon Thame.
- Budget is currently on a 1-year rolling basis with little long-term security. Unsure of the future on CS in comparison to SFI, with demand expected to outstrip budget. They have funding for delivery of projects and for revenue support.

Devon County Council (KH)

- NE are launching their new strategy next week
- LNRS – up for public consultation, out for 3 weeks more from this date, include opportunities for species and habitats. Goes to low mean water. Put a call out for feedback from all and as many as possible.
 - CP - What happens after? As NE pushing to understand how strategy relates to Biodiversity Net Gain. Each county will be given £150k to deliver LNRS – plan is to recruit a biodiversity officer. EDDC looking to better collaborate on shared priorities.
- Water Quality – new cabinet member with this as a remit. They want a summit on water quality but lots of conversations around this. They want to be careful not to duplicate effort, so this summit is an evolving idea.
- 5 new roles within the wider team including Climate Officer & Lead Ecologist.
- World Heritage Site – Jurassic Coast, establishing a small team to deliver objectives and strengthening collaboration with other teams in response to the recent collapse of the Jurassic Coast Trust.

CDE / Pebblebed Heaths Conservation Trust (KS)

- Heaths to Sea LR – second year of planning. Extension granted to March for final submission. Team still very busy collecting baseline data and other metrics.
- Looking to expand conservation grazing on the heathland, currently graze 1/3rd so looking at options.
- Access Plan – looking at permissive access, open access & public consultation for this plan. Aiming to release in new year.



- Pebblebeds for All – completing end y2 and 1 more year of delivery. Youth Rangers started this year running monthly.
- Action for Nature – drop in volunteering, no experience required, training provided. Put a call out for others to share promotion for the events.
- Reclaim the Night – investigating feeling safe at nighttime. 1st weekend in Dec. Comms going out soon. Inviting women to come along and celebrate the estuary.
- Submitted a Species Recovery Bid – Southern Damselfly application. Funding to do surveying, identify habitat improvements over the course of 3 years.
- Investigating heritage at risk improvements
- Specific site data on air quality related to designations & reasons for.
- Greater collaboration – targets & aspirations around species and earmarking projects we could do to develop shovel-ready species projects. Request that EDNL consider hosting a workshop or similar to develop this species project pipeline.

Sid Vale Association (PR)

- New SVA representative so Peter introduced himself to the group.
- Activity – overseeing the 50 acres of land. Majority accessible. Signs put up indicating they are nature reserves. Good community support for the reserves.

Otter Vale Association (HL)

- Big community appetite to monitor water quality.
- Focus areas: Champion Clean Water (River Fly Testing), Encourage Sustainable & Appropriate Development, Biodiversity (INNS, enhance), Encourage Better Ways of Living (strong walking programme, Plastic Free Ottery), Helping Young People

Axe Vale Association (LC)

- Small committee
- Friends of the River Axe – linked through EDCP, RRTU. Riparian mammal project, student investigating research – now has a job
- Engaging with the Young Person in volunteer work – supporting young generation
- Need to access habitat across the Axe Catchment. Signs of Water Voles. Get the Axe ‘beaver-ready’. Engaged with the Seaton Masterplan.
- New public engagement activity planned for next year – River Axe Festival Week. Link EDNL into this.

East Devon District Council (CP)

- Default position to secure 10% BNG. EDDC setting target for 20% BNG.
- Creation of habitat banks – working through the process.



- Secured £4.2M nutrient neutrality on River Axe. Ringfenced around new development within Axminster – scheme cannot focus on agriculture.
- ‘Wild About Seaton’ Partnership – multifaceted project with trails, wildlife etc.
- Local Nature Recovery Plan aligned to LNRS & NL’s nature recovery plan

5. Any Other Business (All)

None raised.

6. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 13th May, 10:00-12:30, Venue: TBC