
East Devon NL Partnership

Minutes

Date: 27th June 2024

Time: 10-12am

Location: Kennaway House, Sidmouth

Chair: Richard Jefferies

Vice Chair: Marianne Rixson

Minutes: Daniel Wynn



**East Devon
National
Landscape**

**East Devon NL
Partnership Group
27 June 2024
In-person meeting**

Present	Charlie Plowden - CP – EDDC lead officer Melanie Croll – MC – DCC lead officer Jon-Starling Cross – JSC – Natural England Daniel Wynn – DW – NL Manager Richard Jefferies – RJ – Chair Marianne Rixson – MR – Vice-Chair Kim Strawbridge – KS – PHCT/CDE James Robertson – JR – Forestry Commission Jane Kewley – JK – OVA Alex Swan – AS - EA Lesley Clarke – LC – AV&DCS Nigel Hyman – NH – SVA Philip Wragg – PW – SVA
Apologies	Penny Mills – PM – Devon CPRE Ruth Angell – RA – The Donkey Sanctuary Ian Todd – IT – NFU (Vacating Position – replacement to be assigned) Ian Chubb – IC – Councilor Christine Channon – CC – Councilor John Ette – JE – Historic England Peter Burgess – PB – DWT NT Rep – NT (Currently Vacant Position) Sally King – SK – JCWHS DALC Rep – DALC (Vacant Position) Greg Page Turner – GPT – FSB
	Actions/recommendations
1. Notes of previous meeting	Previously Approved
2. Matters arising	None
3. Formal Election of Chair and Vice-Chair	- Richard Jefferies voted in as Chair - Marianne Rixson voted in as Vice-Chair
4. EDNL Operational Update	- Staffing – DW updated on current and future staffing within core EDNL & FiPL team. Of note: - EDNL recruiting new Wildlife Officer position for start asap. Post will go live across the main job sites imminently. Role will focus on species-specific funding bids, Elusive 8, and nature engagement. - New Project Officer (Steph) will be starting in September – DW will coordinate induction meetings with partners closer to the time. - New Planning Officer role shared between South Devon & North Devon National Landscapes and DCC will focus on strategic land use planning across East Devon National Landscape. Recruitment imminent but being led by partner National Landscape.

5. Farming in Protected Landscapes	• Total: £260,000, currently there is £123,794 allocated across 17 projects. • Left unallocated: £136,261 - this must be spent in FY24.25, so any project ideas, speak to Daniel Wynn / Pete Youngman (currently acting as a contractor for FWAGSW) • EDNL, DNL and BHNL working on a joint bid to create additional farm advisory capacity within the Axe Catchment. • DW confirmed DEFRA intend to extend both the FiPL Admin Role and the Technical Advisor role, but formal confirmation has not yet been received. Currently there is no commitment post-March 2025.
6. Access for All	• Five live projects totalling £29,404 with Seachange Devon, PHCT, EDDC & NT. Currently £28,420 left unallocated, needs spending FY24.25. Project idea? Speak to Dan. • Focal outcomes: Metres of accessible path, number of disabled toilets/benches/rest stops, accessible gates, visits and volunteer days facilitated, accessible or easy access routes wayfinding created/improved or other. • Eligible capital work: access infrastructure, widening paths, purchase trampers, tools, PPE for volunteers, accessible signage, improve existing infrastructure.
7. Communities Project Fund	• Reduced total (£10k) for this year to reflect staffing changes, no funding allocated as yet. • Currently over-subscribed, we have seven EOIs with funds over the total available • A range of activities requested: riverfly monitoring, food festival, churchyard meadow creation, resurface playing fields, community woodland management & river access path. • Still open for Expressions of Interest – submit an idea if you have one. Speak to Dan. • Fund will officially open in September
8. Partnership Plan review	<u>2024</u> • January – September: Scoping, review, evidence, identify issues, stakeholder consultation • September: Stakeholder Workshop, Wednesday 25th September, venue TBC • October – November: EDNL prepare Partnership Plan draft V1 <u>2025</u> • December – January: EDDC & DCC democratic process to secure cabinet approval to take plan out to public consultation • February – March: 6–8-week Public Consultation • April: EDNL team prepare Partnership Plan final edition • May – June: EDDC & DCC democratic process to secure cabinet approval of new plan • July: Formal adoption <i>NB: EDNL, along with other NLs, has been granted an extension on the Partnership Plan timeline until December 2025, meaning we have time for any slippage or delays.</i>
9. Partnership	• DW will review existing structures during 2024 as part of this Partnership Plan process, with a view to bringing any suggested amendments forward in 2025.

	In the meantime, DW will be actively approaching new Partners to get more diverse involvement – any thoughts on who, let DW know.
10. EDNL Work Programme	<u>Arts & Engagement</u> - Currently preparing a funding bid for Arts Council, submission Sept, focus on river heritage in Otter and Axe Catchment. Focal towns of Honiton and Axminster. Reach out to DW if you have any thoughts. <u>Nature Engagement</u> - Led 3 or 4 events so far including moth walks, meadow walks & nature talks. More planned through summer. <u>Farm Engagement</u> - EDFG over 100 members, led 4 events so far, more planned. EDNL will attend the Honiton Farm Show this year. Plan to attend more in future years. Looking at funding opportunities to scale up and grow this network with dedicated staff resource. <u>Event Updates</u> - July Ambassador won't occur this year due to scheduling issues. Instead, we are hosting an informal 'Meet & Greet' for Ambassadors with myself at the Manor Pavilion Theatre on the 10th July in the bar area. I'll be there from 10:00-11:30am. No formal agenda. - Summer Partnership Field-Trip, cancelled this year due to timing and scheduling issues. - Sept Annual Conference – cancelled due to staff capacity. Will return in 2025. Sept Stakeholder Workshop, Wednesday 25th September, venue TBC – hosting a formal workshop to determine priorities for the new 5year Management Plan. This will be Partnership plus others. Rough agenda: start with 20mins presentations, launch into series of 2 workshops where participants will be split into discussion groups and asked to feedback afterwards. DW will use notes and feedback to draft Version 1 of the Partnership Plan.
11. Partner Updates	- EA - £1M Climate Resilient Otter Catchment (CROC) currently in the development stage. Project aims to reduce local flood risk, focus on communities & soil condition with a source-sea catchment approach. Linked into Landscape Recovery. Triple Axe Project – whole of Axe; farming, people and nature. Still seeing a decline in water quality; river restoration work, Rivers Run Through Us. Lesley link in. - Natural England - election delayed announcement of new schemes, SFI options have been released aimed at food production. CS Higher Tier announcements not released yet due to elections. Elections have delayed many of the announcements. - Forestry Commission – woodland creation focus (England Woodland Creation Offer), lower threshold for woodland management plan (reduce size 3ha to 0.5ha), incentivising woodland creation by improving payments and stackability, 2 new Deer Officers will be developing an agroforestry offer - squirrel management is included in new package. - CDE - Jon Wilding retires end of the year, so Clare James is replacing him. Lord Clinton passed away (15th July Thanksgiving Ceremony – speak to CDE if you wish to be invited). Heaths to Sea Landscape Recovery – tenders put in place, Project Officer in place now. Stakeholder engagement

	will begin happening over next year. Technical reports taking place now. Gas Peaker – energy security, micro-energy generation via gas peakers to supplement main electricity supply when needed. Planning – particular focus will be on mitigation from development, focus on ensuring appropriate mitigation is identified and delivered. Nature Reserves – LNR masterplan developing, how to develop people, nature and community. Final version will be published end 2024. Otter Estuary – LORP has ended now, moved into ongoing management as a nature reserve. Pebblebeds for All – NLH funding, how to communicate, how we can change how we work to remove some of these barriers to access. New Car Parking Strategy resulted in a decrease in antisocial behaviour that peaked post-pandemic. • DCC – change of personnel (Peter Chamberlain retired – replaced interim capacity with Doug Elthen), Exe Estuary Manager – will be leaving, Steph Harper Chung (Kate Hind will carry on the role as interim capacity), new CEO (Donna Manson, keen on youth, care givers and diversity). LNRS – Sarah Jennings coordinating, workshops being planned for summer, DRAFT by Christmas, final version end March. Kate Hind – Active Devon submit NLF application in Littleham (most deprived area in landscape). • AVA - chair's book published, like to create Friends of the River Axe – been in touch with Chardstock Eco Group, lots of monitoring in upper catchment but not much done in lower catchment – aim to address this gap, citizen science schemes in various tributaries, but monitoring stops and doesn't continue as no coordination of data consumption, committee getting smaller, need to recruit volunteers and committee state, people in Seaton don't understand upper catchment work. • SVA – new HQ, moving activities outside of Sidmouth into surrounding areas (Sidford, Salcombe), Pete Youngman completed an archaeology trail across landscape complete with written guide for sightseeing. First walk planned in September - EDNL to support in securing access. Own 50 acres of land in Sid Valley (Marget's Meadow etc.), Peter Rhodes manages conservation of land. 10 years ago commissioned a survey into water quality within the Sid Catchment. • EDDC - recruited Ecologist for planning applications related to biodiversity net gain (steady trickle of applications), EDDC creating habitat banks, submitted a NN scheme bid within Axe Catchment. Started a tree, woodland and hedgerow strategy. Currently there BNG scheme working with Local Plan colleagues to deliver 20% BNG rather than the statutory 10%, showcasing how EDDC going above and beyond the normal to achieve better environmental results.
12. AOB	• All AOBs noted and addressed
13. Next Partnership meetings	• Thursday 12th December 2024, 10am-12pm, Location TBC