



**Cranborne Chase
National Landscape**

Cranborne Chase National Landscape

Minutes for the Partnership Board Meeting

25 November 2024
Online 14.00 - 16.00

| Representative | Organisation | Present | Apologies |
|---------------------------|--|---------|-----------|
| Fleur de Rhe-Philippe MBE | Chair / Independent | Y | |
| Vacant | Vice Chair | | |
| Cllr Bridget Wayman | Wiltshire Council | Y | |
| Lynn Trigwell | Wiltshire Officer | Y | |
| Cllr Nabil Najjar | Wiltshire Council | | |
| Cllr Janet Richards | New Forest District Council | Y | |
| Keith Baker | NFDC Officer | Y | |
| | Somerset Council | | |
| Jonathan Doyle | Somerset Council Officer | | |
| Cllr Edward Heron | Hampshire County Council | | A |
| | Hampshire County Council Officer | | |
| Cllr Sherry Jespersen | Dorset Council | | A |
| Russell Goff | Dorset Council Officer | | A |
| Graham Stanley | Dorset Council Officer | Y | |
| Charles Routh | Natural England | Y | |
| James Fry | Forestry Commission | | A |
| Alistair Fitzgerald | Independent | | A |
| Ian Nockolds - Observer | Wiltshire Association of Town & Parish Councils | Y | |
| Lindsay Dedden | Dorset Association of Town & Parish Councils (DATPC) | Y | |
| Steve Butler | Dorset Association of Town & Parish Councils (DATPC) | Y | |
| Mark Burton | Country Land and Business Association | Y | |
| Francis Taylor | Commission to Protect Rural England | Y | |
| Katie Davies | National Farmers Union | | A |
| CCNL Team | Position | | |
| Linda Nunn FT | CCNL Director | Y | |
| Richard Burden PT | Principal Landscape and Planning Officer | Y | |
| Sarah Newland PT | Project Support Officer (<i>taking minutes</i>) | Y | |

1. Welcome and apologies

- 1.1 Apologies were received from: Alistair Fitzgerald; James Fry; Katie Davies; Cllr Jesperen (after the meeting); Cllr Helen Kay (Somerset), who sent apologies and has contacted relevant people at Somerset for a new nominee.
- 1.2 We welcome Ian Nickolds a representative from the Wiltshire Association of Town and Parish Councils as an observer for this meeting.
- 1.3 FdRP welcomes everyone and thanks Alistair for chairing the last meeting.

2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

- 2.1 The Minutes from the Board Meeting on 5th June 2024 were agreed. With the exception of confidential items, these will be published on the website. Report A – CCNL Budget Updates

3. Report A – CCNL Budget Updates

- 3.1 LN described the budget situation to date.
- 3.2 Chase & Chalke were mentioned several times as they have undertaken amazing work over the last 4 ½ years and have left a legacy of 600+ volunteers amongst the outcomes. New staff have been engaged to continue the project after a last-minute funding extension to Chase & Chalke. Some of the projects will be taken forward and eventually extended over the whole of the Cranborne Chase NL. We have found two PT Community Engagement Officers, to take this forward up until the end of March 2025. If anyone does have a ranger that we could take on secondment until the end of March, please do let LN know.
- 3.3 RB achieves amazing output for his three-day week. The Landscape & Planning role should really be a full-time post.
- 3.4 We are waiting for the finalising of a rent review, probably an extra £6k+ and this is part of the estimated costs.
- 3.5 Defra have given each NL a one-off uplift this year of £164,000; half revenue, half capital. Currently Chase & Chalke have two vehicles which will be returned mid next year. These vehicles have a tremendous impact on our visibility within CCNL and so we propose to purchase a vehicle for use by the NL team from the capital allocation. LN working with Wiltshire Council Fleet Services to organise this.
- 3.6 Road signage will take up around £20k. RB has been negotiating with all the authorities to progress this. The CCNL logo will appear with the International Dark Sky Reserve on the entrance to the area on all major roads. There is sufficient budget to cover the A and B roads. There is an option for villages or parishes to have the logo on their signage as well.
- 3.7 Access for All (A4A) funding has been received from a separate part of Defra. Some of this will be used for projects that originally came in to us under FiPL. These are generally farms

or educational establishments improving access to and learning about the countryside. We have also contacted all of our 108 Parishes within the CCNL area to see if they have projects that we can assist with.

- 3.8 Project Manna, involving lots of youngsters has been financed by FiPL and A4A – a thank you letter is attached along with the Board reports.
- 3.9 Cllr BW notes the frustration filling the Nature Recovery Role.
- 3.10 MB requests a copy of the JD for this role and agrees the shortage of various rural professionals. **Action** SN/LN to forward JD.
- 3.11 FdRP declares the following recommendations are approved: That;**
 - 3.11.1 The Board notes core and project expenditure is ongoing for 2024-25 including progress with the additional revenue and capital expenditure and that the first grant claim has been submitted and received from Defra.
 - 3.11.2 The Board supports progress in utilising the Access for All capital funding this year.
 - 3.11.3 The Board endorses the ongoing attempt to find a suitable Nature Recovery Officer; and notes that two temporary Community Engagement posts are currently filled and a tourism post may or may not be recruited in time for this financial year.
 - 3.11.3 Board members will continue to take any opportunity that arise (MPs, Defra officials) to advocate for increased funding via Defra for the work of National Landscape teams; extra, one-off revenue and capital is very acceptable, but it is increased core funding that is needed enabling the recruitment of crucial, permanent team members

4.Report B – Team Work Update

- 4.1 LN: Team members have been busy. Apologies for lack of paragraph numbering in the reports, we are having continued issues with network speeds.
- 4.2 RB: Currently working on our Annual Planning Forum – please ask if you haven't received notification.
- 4.3 There were 108 Planning Applications. Issues taking time include the development on the North and North East of Blandford, where the previous government decided that the LPA cannot disregard the National Landscape and the newly made Pimperne Neighbourhood Plan. In that plan, an area which was being put forward for planning permission for 100 houses was designated as open space and open gap between the parish and the expanding town of Blandford. Together with Pimperne PC and North Dorset CPRE, CCNL therefore invited the Secretary of State to 'call-in' the application because there are two national reasons for having an inquiry to see that everything is independently evaluated. That was agreed, but the new SoS has cancelled the call-in and Dorset Council has issued the planning permission.
- 4.4 CCNL had one of the first integrated Landscape Character Assessments in 2003 and we have now had this updated. It has identified that the chalk river valley floors are very different to the extensive valley sides in the Ebble and the Wylde Valleys so they have been identified as

separate character areas. Grovely Wood and Great Wood were previously identified as open downland, and are now categorised as 'Wooded Downland', with significant history attached.

- 4.5 The change of Government has necessitated a restart for national guidance on the implementation and operation of the enhanced Section 85 duty, although a 'family view' from the National Landscapes Association for LPAs has just been produced.
- 4.6 The experiences with Field scale PVs near Shaftesbury and Salisbury, which can take up good quality, food producing, high grade agricultural land, as well as the potential visual impacts of Wind Turbines on our downlands mean these forms of renewable energy can be a threat to the integrity of the CCNL landscapes. The Board is, therefore, invited to consider setting out its position with the following resolution:
Cranborne Chase National Landscape Partnership does not believe renewables, such as wind turbines and field scale solar arrays, which have significant capacity to conflict with conserving and enhancing natural beauty are appropriate in this nationally important and nationally designated landscape. The Partnership reserves the right to oppose/object to any such proposals.

4.7 Cllr BW makes the proposal. It is seconded by SB, FT and LD.

- 4.8 Cllr BW: Reserving the best and most versatile agricultural land should be a priority. Not all ground in the CCNL comes under this heading, some areas are windy. This puts pressure on the landscape from wind turbines which would detract from the landscape.
- 4.9 SB agrees – please not here – we should try this.
- 4.10 MB: CLA represents land-based business – but a NL Partnership is to Protect the Landscape – so he'd say, if he has a vote, he would abstain on basis of conflict of interest.
- 4.11 CR: Representing Natural England and speaking as an individual, would object to something as vague as this. Does this add value over and above objecting to individual applications?
- 4.12 FT: New builds in Salisbury still don't have PV panels on roofs. Pleased to note that in the plans for Bishopstone, every house has roof panels added at the time of the build.
- 4.13 KB: Current PA system should cover this.
- 4.14 JR: We need to be very clear about what it is being asked for, ie, if not visible, then not such an issue.
- 4.15 RB clarifies that it refers to 'Field Scale'. So, the resolution would be laying down a marker that this sort and scale of proposal needs to have its homework done.

4.6 Voting:

In Favour: 6. Abstain: 1. Against: 1.

4.61 The vote carries in favour of endorsing the resolution.

- 4.7 LN continues with the staff update:

AW – We now have a podcast with volunteers from C&C, ‘The Ramblers’ will be a monthly feature. AW worked on T&Cs to ensure compliant and working with ST on DNS events and currently refreshing the website and social media including supporting Chalke & Chase since their incumbent left on maternity leave. This includes creating walking maps for downloading from the website alongside the usual monthly newsletters and social media updates.

- 4.8 ST - Worked with St Giles Estate, improving lighting. Had a very long day with a Poetry Event starting at dawn and finishing with late night star gazing. Also delivered training at NFDC with RB and, thanks to Bill Parks, has a venue for free in Warminster. He takes part in the monthly Sustainable Warminster’s ‘Energy Advice Tea Party’ promoting responsible lighting and dark habitats and organised eleven stargazing events over the winter period.
- 4.9 SN – organising racking for the new storage area. Undergone training for Oracle to get the financial information out of the system so no longer relying on WC to provide. Been busy checking inventory, organising the Planning Forum and supporting the team. Updating the Planning Application register, so that we can keep track and provide statistics.
- 4.10 We have two new starters, also PT, as they are so new in post we will report on their activities next time. Catherine Simmonds and Wendy Read are now PT Community Engagement Officers working for the CCNL.
- 4.11 LN - Has been working from home during September & October to enable to concentration on reviewing the CCNL Management Plan, along with support from consultant Paul Tiplady. Instigated a review of the Nature Recovery Plan. Participated in National Landscapes Association meetings such as Lead Officers/ Nature Recovery/ Defra Targets and Outcomes Framework / Nature-Based Solutions. Carried out HR duties for all staff including leavers, maternity payments, inductions, probations, appraisals and DBS checks. Working on a potential bid with the NLHF Landscape Connections funding programme.
- 4.12 RH and CM, the FiPL team, are coming to the time in the year where they will be chasing up claims to ensure they do happen. There were 20 on-going projects and 70 enquiries for grants, 57 of these progressed to full applications. 37 of the projects are still in progress. There remains uncertainty on the future of this programme.
- 4.13 LN: Overall, CCNL has managed about £1.7M of spending so far this year.
- 4.14 FdRP commends LN & her team for producing so much work with a small team.

4.14.1 The following recommendations were approved, (item 3 by vote above):

1. The Board recognises the achievements of individual team members since June 2024
2. The Board Members extend a welcome to the new temporary Community Engagement recruits
3. The Board endorses the resolution: *‘Cranborne Chase National Landscape Partnership does not believe renewables, such as wind turbines and field scale solar arrays, which have significant capacity to conflict with conserving and enhancing natural beauty are appropriate in this nationally important and nationally designated landscape. The Partnership reserves the right to oppose/object to any such proposals.’*

5. Report C – Chase & Chalke Landscape Partnership Scheme

- 5.1 LN – Robert Lloyd’s report is separate and there are highlights noted within it. At the end of the 5 year plan, with 10 days to go, we were advised we could apply for a continuation until the end of June 2025. We now have a contractor undertaking communications work. Please welcome Melissa Howell who is very good and replaces Roland Hughes. She’s known as the ‘Sunshine Ranger’. We retained CMO, our Community Heritage and Engagement Officer and taken on Bryony Hughes as Support Officer, so overall a reduced Chase & Chalke team. They are working on finalising a few projects and carrying through with a few of the C&C projects to encourage more involvement and sign up of new volunteers.
- 5.2 The NLHF have agreed the purchase of the new exhibition vehicle, similar to the NFNPA’s vehicle, which will remain here after the project. It will be a huge asset, greatly increasing awareness and only requires one member of staff to enable it to be used at any time.
- 5.3 RL leaves at the end of December from secondment with Natural England. He’s done a very good job and leaves with many thanks from the whole team.

5.4 The following recommendations were approved:

- 5.4.1 The Board congratulates the immense amount of work already undertaken by the Chase & Chalke team together with their now packed programme up until end June 2025.
- 5.4.2 The Board relays its thanks to Robert Lloyd, Chase & Chalke Manager, who has been on secondment from Natural England for the last year. He leaves us 20th December 2024
- 5.4.3 The Board welcomes the two new staff joining the C&C team to ensure the immense goodwill, training and commitment of the 670+ volunteers can continue to be supported into the future both for their benefit and that of this National Landscape

6. Report D – Update on Management Plan Review

- 6.1 LN The updated plan requires adoption by 1st April 2025. Defra has set out apportioned targets for NLs & NPs for nature recovery hence CCNL has targets set to help achieve national targets. The reviewed CCNL Management Plan along with the Nature Recovery Plan (which will be finalised by a contractor) will be sent out for a 6 week formal consultation period. Comments will need considering/incorporating, before submitting to the LA’s for adoption in the new year.
- 6.2 FdRP – Would any members of the Board be prepared to meet to review the draft? BW & GS to liaise on this.
- 6.3 LN - please give names to SN of specific staff within your organisations who need to see the draft for comments and which member of staff needs the final copy to be approved. Plus, dates for when you would need this to finalise the papers to your Committees.
- 6.4 LT: Send directly to her for Wiltshire Council and she will liaise with colleagues who need to see it. Will endeavour to have this done by March

6.5KB when is adoption needed by? – LN - The Management Plan will need full adoption by 1st of April 2025.

6.6 The following recommendations and actions were approved:

- 6.6.1 The Board will inform the team (sarahnewland@cranbornechase.org.uk) which Officers within their Local Authorities, or organisations, might be best placed or need to see the draft Plan during the 6 week consultation period to ensure they receive a copy for comment.
- 6.6.2 That Local Authority partners inform the team as soon as feasible (through the above email) the name of the Officer(s) that should receive the final Management Plan for formal adoption and any relevant dates the team should be aware of regarding Committee meetings.

7 AOB and date of next meeting

- 7.1 The Thank you letter from the Manna Project was noted.
- 7.2 Date of next meeting: TBC February 2025

Meeting minutes signed as correct
By Chair, Fleur de Rhé-Philippe

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Fleur de Rhé-Philippe', is written over a vertical line.

Date: December 2024