



**Cranborne
Chase
National
Landscape**

Cranborne Chase National Landscape

Minutes for the
Partnership Board Meeting

14th April 2025
Online 10.00-12.00

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	
Cllr Shane Collins	Somerset Council		A
James Divall	Somerset Council		A
Stephen Dury	Somerset Council		A
Lisa Wood	Hampshire County Council Officer	Y	
Cllr Sherry Jespersen	Dorset Council	Y	
Giles Nicholson	Dorset Council		A
Charles Routh	Natural England		A
Rachel Webb	Natural England		A
Chris Gibbard	Forestry Commission		A
Alistair Fitzgerald	Independent		A
Cllr Edward Heron	Member Representative		
Ian Nockolds - Observer	Wiltshire Association of Town & Parish Councils		A
Lindsay Dedden	Dorset Association of Town & Parish Councils (DATPC)		A
Steve Butler	Dorset Association of Town & Parish Councils (DATPC)	Y	
Mark Burton	Country Land and Business Association		
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	
Craig Daters	FT	Nature Recovery Officer	Y	

1. Welcome and apologies

- 1.1. Apologies were received from: Alistair Fitzgerald, Graham Stanley, James Divall, Stephen Dury, Giles Nicholson; Graham Stanley, Charles Routh, Rachel Webb, Chris Gibbard, Lindsey Deden and Katie Davies. Plus Shane Collins and Ian Nockolds.
- 1.2. FdRP welcomes everyone especially new attendee, Lisa Wood, from Hampshire County Council.

2. Minutes of last meeting

- 2.1. There were no queries. The Chair will sign the minutes and, with the exception of any data protection issues, they will be published on the website.

3. Report A – CCNL Constitutional and Governance Items

- 3.1. LN described the situation to date with the Partnership Agreement 2022-25, the role of the Chair, the Governance Review, and some of the history behind this.
- 3.2. The Partnership Agreement 2022-25 was due to be replaced with a new three year Agreement to sit alongside a new three year funding settlement from Defra. However, there is no new funding grant agreement 2025-28. The Governments Spending Review is now due to happen in June/July this year with the notion that a new three year funding offer should hopefully arrive in advance of March 2026. Hence, this current Partner Agreement needs to be extended for one year until March 2026.
- 3.3. The Role of the Chair is ready for renewal, FdRP has offered to stay on for a further term of 1 year but is open to others to stand for the role. The Board thanked the Chair for her contribution and continued support.
- 3.4. LN explained that the planned governance review of the National Landscape Partnership structure had not been possible during 2024 due to workload pressures; not least the Management Plan Review, however this is now planned for 2025.
- 3.5. LN thanked the Board for their support which is much appreciated.

3.6. The following recommendation were approved:

- 3.7. That the Board agrees to an extension of the current Partner Agreement until 31st March 2026.
- 3.8. That the Board endorses the continuation of Fleur de Rhe-Philippe as Chairman for a further year.
- 3.9. That the Board acknowledges the requirement for a Governance Review and will expect the process to take place during 2025.

4 Report B – Budget Update

- 4.1 LN gave a report on the main budget spend for 2024/2025. As in the previous two years, the total Defra grant funding for 2024-2025 was £256,198. With Local Authority contributions of £74,878 the total core budget for 2024-2025 was £299,511, leaving a project budget of £31,565. This core grant was wholly spent.
- 4.2 In 2024-25, Defra also offered £164k uplift which was all capital. After a request from all National Landscapes, Defra changed this to 50:50 revenue: capital. Details of the spend is in Report B, page 2.
- 4.3 Defra has again given an uplift in 2025-26 of £251,000 but this is definitely all capital. The criteria for expenditure are very restrictive. National Landscapes have asked Defra if they can convert some of the capital to revenue by taking some revenue from the FiPL budget and replacing it with the uplift capital. National Parks have been allowed to do that. We await a response from Defra. Detail of expenditure criteria are in Appendix A and below:

A: Draft Criteria 1: Innovation, invest-to-save and income generating activities stream:

An activity which meets one or more of the following criteria:

- *Activities projecting quantifiable cost savings*
- *Activities projecting quantifiable income generation or which help leverage other funding*
- *Upgrades of capital assets to avoid major defects / maintain operation / reduce carbon emissions and accelerate net zero progress*
- *Activities which seek to identify innovative new approaches and efficiencies*
- *Direct contribution to furthering PL statutory purposes to avoid unnecessary use of RDEL*

B: Draft Criteria 2: 30by30 delivery stream:

The objective of the 30by30 delivery stream is to enable more areas within Protected Landscapes to count for 30by30. The proposal must demonstrate how the funds will enable additional areas in Protected Landscapes to meet the published [30by30 criteria](#):

- **Purpose:** *The purposes or management objectives for this area must ensure the delivery of in-situ conservation outcomes.*
- **Protection:** *The conservation of this area must be secured for at least 20 years, through legal or other effective means.*
- **Management:** *The area's governance or ownership must have the ability to implement reasonable management actions to achieve in-situ conservation outcomes.*
- **Management:** *There must be a management plan or similar that is designed to deliver in-situ conservation outcomes.*
- **Management:** *Management measures are being implemented, with appropriate monitoring, evaluation and learning in place to assess progress and inform future management.*
- **Management:** *The area is achieving, or making progress towards, in-situ conservation outcomes, with reasonable confidence that these outcomes will be achieved.*

- 4.4 Under the 30by30 criterion, asking farmers to sign up their land for 20 years seems a big ask and highly unlikely to happen. The team is going to think carefully about how to complete the spend within these parameters and finalise expenditure within the year. There is much to discuss to decide how to best utilise this
- 4.5 In 2024-25, Access for All Funding was £107,118; all of which was capital. This funding is not for just any access improvements; it is specifically to improve or create access for the less able or those with physical or mental issues or disadvantages, to be able to access the countryside and

gain all the benefits from it that others already enjoy. Details of the projects were recounted. The biggest one was at Springhead who had scores of less abled youngsters wanting to attend but the facilities on site were not of a standard to accommodate them. Work included improving access, accessible toilets and hand-washing facilities, bridges and parking. Projects receiving funding were:

- An outdoor classroom at Tokes Farm to allow vulnerable adults and children of varying abilities to learn about food and how it is grown on the farm, in all weathers - **£14,525**
- Billhay Farm – to fit plaster board/plaster to a classroom converted from a farm building and to install heaters, allowing usage throughout the year for less able youngsters to learn about farming and the countryside generally - **£10,480**
- Summerleaze A - to vastly improve the track leading to their outdoor learning area to allow wheelchairs users to access the site - **£4,920.00**
- Summerleaze B – Supply of a yurt complete with flooring and heating enabling less able children and adults to attend a Forest School and other outdoor learning throughout the year - **£15,400.00**
- Project Manna – to provide a bridge enabling attendees to cross a small river to access additional parts of the site for the less able - **£4,620**
- Springhead Trust: fundamental works to transform the Springhead Trust into an educational establishment that can safely accommodate physically and mentally less able groups of youngsters that cannot currently use the site for environmental education. Works consist of the conversion of an old dairy into a less able toilet and hand washing facility; improvements to parking areas, signage, walkways etc across the whole site – **£47,912.00**
- Tisbury benches/picnic tables - **£5,714**
- Wiltshire Ramblers interpretation board - **£936**
- SEEDS for Success, equipment and PPE for disadvantaged youngsters and their practical work - **£805**
- Harnham Water Meadows Trust – repair to several bridges across the site - **£1,806**

4.6. Access for All funding 2025-26 is £175,474 and again is all capital. LN will be looking soon to scope what this funding might be utilised for.

4.7. FDRP commented that we've spent it all and spent it on good things too.

4.8. The Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) budget for 2024/25 was £766,474. This is reported on further in *Report D – Team Work Update*

4.9. BW commented on the core funding and the lack of any increase; who should we comment to, MP's, Defra?

4.10. FdRP – asks LN to draft a letter and she will circulate for signatures and send to the Secretary of State.

4.11. SB – don't emphasize how much you can do with so little! FdRP – point well taken

4.12. BW asks if CCNL should purchase a premises out of capital, and thus release some rental revenue?

4.13. BW also asked if the famers don't sign up for 30by30 for the 20 years required, would it be possible for CCNL to buy some land to commit for 20 years. LN replies yes, we could, or we

could grant the money to a 3rd party who may be better placed to manage it into the future. The biggest issue with owning land is the capacity in the team and ongoing funding to manage the land to the standard expected and needed.

4.14. FdRP with the uncertainty at present we just need to take opportunities as they come.

4.15. JR and SJ – asked if there are more plans for road signs in counties other than in Wiltshire – LN replies yes hopefully during 2025/2026, however the restrictions on capital spending this year may preclude that.

4.16. FdRP – asks for comments on the recommendations – there are no objections.

4.17. **The Board endorses the following recommendations:**

- vi. That the Board notes total core and project expenditure for 2024-25 together with the fact that both claims have been approved by Defra and payment made.
- vii. That the Board recognises that all the Access for All capital funding was effectively spent.
- viii. That the Board recognises the expenditure of the £251,914 capital grant for 2025/2026 will require very careful thought
- ix. That the Board supports the exchange of revenue and capital funding should that be allowed by Defra
- x. That if the Board is aware of potential projects/areas for expenditure of the Access for All monies, to contact LN

4.18. **ACTION** LN to prepare letter for the Secretary of State

5.0. Report C – Cranborne Chase National Landscape Management Plan 2025-2030

5.1. LN – apologies for the lateness of delivery which was due to resources and the size of the task.

The Board had suggested to make it a light touch review but within the constraints of the guidelines LN did need to change the Natural Environment chapter to Nature Recovery. We also needed to add a Climate Change and Water chapters. All National Landscapes are also due to prepare and publish a Climate Change Plan by 2028. The LA's all have their own Climate Change plans, so someone with appropriate experience is needed to collate information from these and prepare a plan for the National Landscape by 2028.

5.2. LN stated that the emphasis is so much on nature recovery and climate change that the primary purpose of designation, which is landscape, is in danger of being forgotten or lost. That is something the entire team is concerned about.

5.3. The revised Management Plan 2025-30 has been sent for full design. This will also include icons to indicate which of Defra's Nature, Climate, People, Place themes is being addressed in each chapter.

5.4. The five year Delivery Plan will need to be agreed between the National Landscape team and its partners during 2025.

5.5. The word version of the Plan has been sent to the five Local Authorities for formal adoption.

5.6. FdRP: Getting the money spent and spent effectively is more important than the paperwork. Delivering is more important and what we are doing feels right.

5.7. SB: With climate and other changes around the world, to nail something down now may be a bit previous, perhaps we should wait until the world resolves other issues ie prioritising the steel and coal industries. FdR, thanked SB.

- 5.8. LT: Wiltshire Council has two NL Plans waiting for adoption after the elections have finished, as no business can be concluded within the six weeks before an election. They will go on 10th June to the meeting of the new Cabinet.
- 5.9. LW: Part of the problem is the misalignment between Defra's climate change plans and other statutory organisations, so maybe waiting until 2027/28 is a sensible suggestion.
- 5.10. BW: The State of the National Landscape Report – where does this fit in. LN: It needs to be compiled every five years in advance of the Management Plan. The intention is that it can illustrate positive/negative changes from the previous five years.

5.11. The following recommendations were approved:

- 5.12. That the Board endorses the Cranborne Chase National Landscape Management Plan 2025-30
- 5.13. That Local Authority Officers please inform LN as soon as the Plan has been adopted by their Local Authority

6.0 Report D – Teamwork Update

- 6.1. LN introduces the report and suggests that as there are lots of issues for us to deal with, the Steering Group could be re-instated. The Steering Group used to advise and support LN and the team in their work.
- 6.2. Richard Burden (PT) Principal Landscape and Planning Officer**
- 6.3. RB introduced his landscape and planning background and role for newer Board members.
- 6.4. We have had 221 various planning applications in the last 12 months. Major housing development continues to cause issues. The Section 85 duty was changed just over a year ago, and the designation has been reinforced to 'must seek to further the purposes of designation' [conserving and enhancing natural beauty]. NL Officers such as himself have been involved with preparing a Briefing Note on behalf of the National Landscapes Association specifically for local planning authorities which will, hopefully, enable them to enhance compliance.
- 6.5. Solar Farms are another continuing issue, and where they are outside, but in the setting of this NL, the usual aim is to get better and swift integration into the landscape rather than always objecting to them.
- 6.6. Large housing proposals including 1700 at Alderholt, refused, and now 1700 dwellings on the SE side of Frome. Being in the setting of this NL it is more the Planning Authorities' role than ourselves to cover the acceptability on land use terms. The developers at Alderholt agreed that compensation would be provided to counter the effects of additional use of this NL by the future inhabitants. RB has put forward a similar approach to compensation at Frome
- 6.7. The special landscape arrangements agreed by this Board in relation to development on the northern side of Shaftesbury within this NL have, a decade later, not been adequately implemented, despite being part of the sales package for new residents. Shaftesbury TC and residents are chasing this up with Dorset Council and RB is supporting STC and the local residents to ensure what this Board agreed is achieved.
- 6.8. Lack of knowledge of the boundary of this NL, and IDSR, has been an outstanding issue. With considerable help from Wiltshire Highways eight boundary road signs, incorporating our new logo, have now been installed. A balance is required, too many could be construed as clutter, so we have stuck to A and B Roads. Boundary signs on the trunk roads, A36 and

A303, are proving more difficult, and overtures have been made to Dorset Highways for assistance.

- 6.9. Local Plan reviews aim to ensure developments happen in the right place. The Wiltshire LP is coming up for Examination, and Dorset is working on its draft. With other NLs RB has been promoting a consistent NL Policy to insert all LPs. It has been a long term aim of CCNL to have consistent Planning Policy across the whole area and its five PAs. It would therefore, be helpful for this Board to endorse the policy and recommend to the constituent LPs.
- 6.10. Section 85 issue at Codford. The PINS did not explicitly address the S85 duty when considering an appeal against the refusal of planning permission for a substantial container storage operation so RB took this up with the Chief Inspector. The PINS Annual conference in May will now include a briefing on the purposes of NL designation and the revised s.85 duty from the NLA.
- 6.11. SB asks about some interesting issues in Alderholt. RB explains the situation relies on the LPA to go through procedures.

6.12. Angela Willis (PT) Communications Officer

- 6.13. AW has been producing the latest issue of the Hart which will be delivered to all doorsteps in June 2025.
- 6.14. AW oversaw an amazing StarFest in Warminster which was phenomenally successful. ST, Dark Sky Advisor, was unable to attend due to a road accident, so other staff have stepped in brilliantly. Hopefully ST will be back with us soon.
- 6.15. The major Dorset Visual Arts 'Droves & Downs' initiative will help promote the NL without us having to do too much. The chosen artists will liaise with the NL team initially to help give them inspiration and they will then disperse to produce their particular artwork re the NL.
- 6.16. AW is an exceedingly good Communications Officer but sadly is leaving us for her 'dream job' in June. She will be very sorely missed. An advert has already gone out to recruit a new Communications Officer.

6.17. Steve Tonkin (PT) Dark Skies Advisor

- 6.18. ST – ST has again visited and talked with the 'We Out Here Festival' organisers. The Festival could now be cited as the Best Practice Music Festival for Lighting Standards, thanks to Steve and Richard's input over the last two years.
- 6.19. ST has produced a new, glossy ring-bound Star Gazing Booklet – it is quite amazing. Will make samples available for next in person meeting.

6.20. Craig Daters (FT) Nature Recovery Officer

- 6.21. CD has started as our much-awaited Nature Recovery Officer and we welcome him on board.
- 6.22. CD will be focusing on the government's 30by30 targets, which are really challenging targets. It will take some creative thinking and definitely some partnerships with other organisations and land owners to achieve these. The key will be to have functioning, viable habitats, that work on a social and economic basis as well.

6.23. Sarah Newland (PT) Project Support Officer

- 6.24. SN has been keeping an eye on the budget and updating the Planning Application register for RB. She has also organised storage for the new storeroom and helped organise the Annual Planning Forum and Annual Forum.

6.25. Catherine Simmonds & Wendy Read (PT) Landscape Partnership Heritage & Community Engagement Officers

6.26. CS & WR have been working with the Chase & Chalke team to ensure that walks go ahead, are safe and enjoyable. The Chase & Chalke team was allowed, by the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF), to spend a little more money so both their contracts have now been extended to the end of June 2025. It is excellent to be able to keep them on board.

6.27. Robert Hall (FT) Farming In Protected Landscapes (FiPL) Officer & Celine Millis (PT) FiPL Support Officer

6.28. FiPL - An immense thanks goes to RH and CM who administer the FiPL program. In 2024/25, £673k was granted to over 83 different projects. Funding for 2025/26 is less than the previous year. £644,000k this coming year, down from 800k (including Staffing and Admin Costs) in 2024-25. Priorities are focussing on achieving targets in the new Nature Recovery Plan and the new Management Plan as well as Defra's four primary criteria of Nature, Climate, People and Place.

6.29. Linda Nunn (FT) Director, Cranborne Chase National Landscape

6.30. LN (*Report D item 10, page 6/7*). Among other things LN is trying to get some more Ranger posts to continue to engage with the legacy of 700 volunteers we've already had sign up from the Chase & Chalke programme.

6.31. FdRP emphasises the achievements of the small team.

6.32. BW hopes for ST to recover and thanks to AW.

6.33. RB asks to confirm the wording for the phrase: – That the board endorses the Protected Landscapes Local Plan policy and encourages all the Local Planning Authorities of this National Landscape, to adopt a similar policy.

6.34. FDRP The following recommendations and actions were approved:

6.35. That the Board acknowledges the achievements of individual team members since the last meeting

6.36. That Board Members extend a welcome to Craig Daters, FT Nature Recovery Officer

6.37. That the Board undertakes to ensure the new, updated s.85 duty is disseminated to all relevant officers/parties

6.38. That the Board supports the Protected Landscapes Local Plan policy compiled by John Mills of the Cotswolds NL

7. Report E - Chase and Chalke

7.1 The Chase & Chalke Landscape Partnership Scheme, which originally started in January 2020 is now due to finish June 2025. There will not be any further extensions. Any agreement to spend additional monies can only be on the original 'approved purposes'

7.2 All equipment purchased will revert to CCNL after the scheme ends. It is paramount that funding is drawn down to fund future staff to continue to utilise these and other resources from this major scheme as legacy.

7.3 FdRP Thanked LN for the report and asked for any comments. No comments so content with the two recommendations.

7.4 BW hopes LN is successful in securing funding for the Rangers.

7.5 LN thanked BW for the signing of all the FiPL claims and for chairing the Landscape Partnership Board. BW enjoyed the sheer diversity of the projects that are being undertaken.

7.6 The following recommendations were approved:

- That 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.
- That the Board welcomes the temporary staff joining the Chase & Chalke team to ensure the immense goodwill, training and commitment of the 700+ volunteers can continue to be supported into the future both for their benefit and that of this National Landscape.

8 AOB and date of next meeting

8.1 The next meeting will be a face to face one and a date in September 2025 will be offered via doodle poll.

8.2 LW wishes to confirm it is difficult for her to attend out of office meetings but she can do online meetings on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

8.3 FdRP Thanked everyone and closed the meeting.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Fleur de Rhé-Philippe', written over a vertical line.

Date: June 2025