



NATIONAL LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW

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Summary

This paper briefly introduces a workshop session to be held at the meeting to progress the Management Plan review.

Recommendation

The Partnership is recommended to note progress and contribute ideas and suggestions on the topics below through the workshop.

Background

The Partnership has held discussions to progress the Management Plan review at the March and July meetings this year. The main outputs of these, on key issues and on the Plan vision, are shown in Appendices 1 and 2.

We will form into three groups for the workshop session (you can choose on the day):
Land Management
Planning
Community & enjoyment

Please could you consider and be ready to input your top few suggestions for the following (don't worry if you may not be able to suggest things for every heading):

Topic 1 Evidence and influences (written suggestions will be gathered – you can write these on the day, or in advance and bring them if you prefer)

- key sources of evidence and information to support the Plan (e.g. reports, data)
- recent higher level strategies or policies on relevant topics which the Plan needs to take into account
- any sources of information you know about on community views on topics related to the Plan

Topic 2 The current Plan (written suggestions will be gathered – you can write these on the day, or in advance and bring them if you prefer)

If you have used the current 2019-2024 Management Plan, please say:

- which sections (policies, guidance, etc) have been the most useful

- which sections (policies, guidance, etc) you think need updating or changing (if possible including why, and what change would you like to see)
- which topics currently don't have policies or guidance and perhaps should have

Topic 3 Actions (discussion in the workshop will focus on this topic)

- key new actions (for any actor) that you think the Plan needs to include or stimulate
- actions where the activity of different partners could be better co-ordinated
- actions that your organisation (if you are linked to one) can take forward to support the aims of the National Landscape in the next 5 years

Some guidance on framing actions:

- We classify actions into categories as:
 - **New Actions** (probably not currently happening, and either arising from the strategic priorities of the Plan or activities about to start anyway)
 - **In Progress** (such as a finite project which is already under way)
 - **Ongoing** (such as continuing relevant roles of organisations)
 - **Aspirations** (some of these are good to include to stretch and make the Plan ambitious, but realising that they may not all be possible to deliver).
- Actions generally have a lead organisation and sometimes supporting partners.
- The Management Plan isn't tied exclusively to a particular source of funding. In most cases the delivery of an action relies heavily on the commitment of the lead organisation.
- Not all actions should be reliant on lead from the National Landscape staff team, as this will limit the potential and scale of activity.
- Assigning actions in the Plan to organisations outside the Partnership is possible but the Plan will probably be less influential with those organisations.

List of Background Papers

Agenda item and papers on Management Plan Review at Partnership meetings 23rd March and 20th July 2023.

Current Management Plan 2019-24 <https://www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk/a-special-place/aonb-management-plan>

Human Rights Act Appraisal

The information in this report is compatible with the Human Rights Act 1998.

Environmental Appraisal

The recommendation in this paper will contribute to the conservation of protected landscapes.

Risk Management Appraisal

Risk management has been appraised as part of the considerations of this report.

Community / Consultations Appraisal

The topics raised in this paper have been the subject of earlier consultations with Partnership members.

Appendices

Appendix 1 New or changed issues for Plan review to address (23rd March meeting)

Appendix 2 Collated output from workshop on Management Plan vision (20th July meeting)

Appendix 1 New or changed issues for Plan review to address (23rd March meeting)

The Partnership's light touch review has identified the following issues to address in the full plan review, and as areas for development of new content in the new 2025-2030 Management Plan (note that list is not exhaustive and topics inter-relate and overlap):

- Climate change mitigation and adaptation, including integrating and developing content from the Partnership's Climate Change Action Plan, local and national strategies and plans for Net Zero.
- Nature Recovery – linking to the Colchester Declaration, the AONB Nature Recovery Plan and emerging Local Nature Recovery Strategies.
- Agriculture transition, the development of the Environmental Land Management (ELM) Scheme and support for those forms of farming most compatible with AONB purposes.
- Priorities set out in the Landscapes Review and government response, and any changes to purposes, duties and targets which result from this.
- The government's Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 (the revision to the 25 Year Environment Plan).
- Closer attention to natural capital assets and the ecosystem services they provide, along with Biodiversity Net Gain, emerging opportunities for green finance, the advantages and disadvantages of carbon offsetting.
- Local authority policies, including the Shropshire Plan (Shropshire Council).
- New Shropshire Local Plan and review directions for the Telford & Wrekin Local Plan.
- Changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
- The vision of the National Association for an uplift to the status of AONBs and the activity of their organisations, rebranded as National Landscapes.
- The evolving roles of small landowners, Town and Parish Councils and the aspirations of local communities.

Appendix 2 Collated output from workshop on Management Plan vision (20th July meeting)

Words/ideas which were most often mentioned are grouped towards the top, as well as by size and bold type. This will be worked up into a draft new vision statement by the team and brought back to a future Partnership meeting.

Sustainability

Nature recovery Reverse nature depletion Wildlife habitats Ecology – conserve and restore Clean rivers
Rewilding

Resilience Climate adaptation Healthy Mitigate climate change

Working landscape Living land and landscape Vitality Productive Sustainable farming Food security
Livelihoods Economically viable Land use Growth

Working together Collective Collaboration Partnership Connected

Beauty Outstanding People’s connection Dark skies Peace & quiet

Community Responsive to people – communities and people’s lives Caring Home Passion

Protected - through planning Influence planning policy Special significance Quality Enduring

Accessible to all Widening participation Inclusive Open to all Access Enjoyment Celebration Managing visitors
Public transport

Evolving – to meet needs Dynamic

Heritage

Culture

Quality of built environment

Villages