Cotswolds National Landscape - 2022/23 Detailed Work Programme

PROGRESS UPDATE: SEPTEMBER 2022

√	Completed
	In progress / on track
•	Not started
X	Off track

FUNCTION	Accountable	Responsible	By When	Target Measures	Progress	Comments				
BUSINESS PLANNING	BUSINESS PLANNING									
Develop and produce the 3-Year Business Plan Framework 2023-26	АР	All	Mar-23	Framework adopted by the Board in October 2022	•	An employee workshop was held in July and the Business Plan Framework will be presented to the October Board for adoption.				
Develop and produce the Management Plan 2023-25 (interim), which will be followed by a full review for the period 2025-30	АР	SS	Feb-23	Plan adopted by the Board and endorsed by key external stakeholders	•	An initial consultation on the policies of the plan took place over the summer. A first draft has been completed and will be reviewed at the Executive Committee meeting (13 Sept) and Full Board (11 Oct) before going out for wider consultation and comment.				
Landscapes Review	АР	AP, SS	Sep-22	Government's final response received and appropriate actions/ priorities built into both the Business Plan and the Management Plan thinking	•	Awaiting outcomes and liaising closely with the NAAONB.				
Workplace Strategy	АР	AP	Mar-23	Secured a high standard and flexible office and meeting space for the team	•	Identified a short-term solution for new workspace (two locations) from July 2023. Negotiating terms, etc.				
SUPPORT SERVICES										
Property Management	АР	МР	Mar-23	Ensure the leased areas meet the conditions as detailed in the lease	•	Roof works to be completed (c.£22k) and negotiations for the remaining works are ongoing with the landlord.				
IT Strategy	АР	MP	Mar-23	Deliver milestones 3-5 from the roadmap, i.e. data migrated to MS SharePoint, new backup solutions, loan server decommissioned, Cyber Essentials certified	•	Folders are being re-organised before migrating to SharePoint.				
Review, simplify and update the Board Constitution	AW	tbc	Mar-23	Required changes identified and the Constitution reviewed for accuracy (e.g. references), simplified, reformatted and made more accessible	•	This will start when the Head of Finance returns from maternity leave later this month.				
Develop a Finance 'manual'	AW	DM, MP	Mar-23	Key finance team tasks and processes documented to demonstrate the internal control environment and to increase team resilience	•	This will start when the Head of Finance returns from maternity leave later this month.				
Introduce monthly cash-flow forecasting	AW	AW	Mar-23	Monthly cash flow forecasts developed to benefit future year reporting	✓	The Interim Head of Finance has produced a draft cash-flow and presented to the Finance and Governance Sub-Committee.				
PARTNERSHIPS AND FUNDRAISING										
Grow the support base and increase the profile of the Caring for the Cotswolds visitor giving grant scheme	JW	JW, AH	Dec-22	Increased membership due to enhanced promotional activities; positive PR through promotion of flagship projects	•	Currently there are nine business members, who receive regular updates on the projects that they have helped to fund. Continuing to seek new members.				
Sculpture Trail 2023	JW	JW, AP, AH	Sep-22	Detailed funding model and project plan in place; Executive Committee approval	×	Decision made not to run a sculpture trail in 2023.				
Continue to build relationships with funders - trusts, donors, corporates, etc.	JW	JW, AP	Mar-23	Review of relevant local, regional and national funders with introductions made and funding applications submitted, as appropriate.	•	Ongoing.				
Report back to the current funders of the Rural Skills and Young People project and the Everyone's Evenlode project	JW	JW, EB, RM, RR, RW- J	Sep-22	Provide accurate and timely reports that showcase our work and build progressive partnerships for the future	✓	Thames Water, Wates Foundation and Summerfield Trust all receive regular project progress reports.				
Review options for installing the new CNL logo in current and new boundary marker locations	JW	JW, AH	Mar-23	Support the Wardens to complete the comprehensive review; have a blue-print for Parish and Town Councils to update the logo; seek funding for implementation		New boundary stone installed at Elmley Castle (with the Cotswolds National Landscape logo). Currently completing a location and condition survey for all markers.				

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OMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT									
Develop a funding and delivery plan for the national Arts in the Landscape strategy	АН	AH, JW, Andy Graham	Mar-23	Have a clear plan in place for the Cotswolds, with potential funders identified and bid/s submitted	•	Not started.			
Promote the Platinum Jubilee Voluntary Warden guided walks	АН	AH, RJ, Mike Cripps	Sep-22	Number of walks / number of walk attendees / social media engagement / number of visits to guided walks page / participant feedback		Some walks have been completed but the programme has been extended.			
Co-ordinate CNL attendance at the Moreton Show 2022	АН	MC, SB, HS, AF, RM, RR, RW-J	Sep-22	Ensure the CNL brand is well represented, alongside the key themes of FiPL, Glorious Cotswold Grasslands and Everyone's Evenlode	✓	The Moreton Show took place on Saturday 3 September. The stand looked fantastic, great support from the team and high levels of public engagement throughout the day.			
Schedule the national 'moments' into the CNL social calendar	АН	АН	Mar-23	Planned social media calendar to incorporate national moments/ weeks, e.g. volunteering, into the overall CNL social media activity		Ongoing.			
PLANNING AND LANDSCAPE									
Deliver the Landscape Enhancement Initiative (National Grid)	SS	SS	Mar-23	Three existing projects deliver to schedule; the National Trust Lodge Park proposal gains approval and delivery starts	•	National Grid has released funding for the three existing projects and they are in various stages of delivery. The NT Lodge Park proposal has been approved, awaiting funding agreement.			
Influence planning policy	JM	Mſ	Mar-23	(1) % of high priority local plan consultations responded to (N.B. 'High priority' = issues and options, preferred options, pre-submission and main modifications (or equivalent)); target = 75%. (2) Local Plan consultation responses to promote delivery of Cotswold Nature Recovery Plan, where appropriate	•	Responded to two local plan consultations during Q1, incorporating and promoting the Cotswolds Nature Recovery Plan where applicable.			
Influence development management	JM	SJ	Mar-23	% of development management applications that we object to for which the local authority refuses permission or for which the application is withdrawn. Target = 60%	•	6 out of 6 in line with the Board's objection during Q1, i.e. 100%.			
Fulfil obligations of being a statutory consultee (in anticipation of the Government implementing statutory consultee status for AONBs, as proposed in the Landscapes Review)	JM	SJ	Mar-23	% of pro-active development management consultations that are above our primary consultation thresholds for which we provide a substantive response by the original deadline. Target = 60-79%	•	79% in Q1, so well on track.			
Review Neighbourhood Planning Position Statement	JM	JM, SJ	Mar-23	Updated Neighbourhood Planning Position Statement adopted	•	Not started.			
LAND MANAGEMENT									
Continue to grow knowledge of Environmental Land Management (ELM), representing the organisation at both a National and Cotswolds level	MC	МС	Mar-23	Positive dialogue and engagement with Defra/Protected Landscapes ELM Group	•	Land Management Lead represented on the Account Management call. Keen to progress further during the year.			
Finalise allocation of Rail Corridor Enhancement Project funds and conclude Cotswolds Champions Programme	MC	SB	Mar-23	Number of RCEP supported projects/grant allocated and claimed. Cotswolds Champions projects completed and programme closed	•	The compensation element of the programme is now complete, the lineside mitigation project remains ongoing due to reluctance of one major landowner.			
Respond to consultations on land management proposals, inc. Woodland and Natural Flood Management	МС	МС	Mar-23	Responses submitted and recorded as required		Responded to 28 land management proposals during Q1.			
Continue engagement with the Thames Water 'Smarter Catchment' project in the Evenlode catchment	МС	MC, JW	Mar-23	Smarter Catchment projects are in line with the AONB Management Plan and guidance and help deliver priorities. Grassland/meadow restoration project included	•	Land Management Lead and Partnerships Lead continue to represent CNL at programme steering group meetings and leading on delivery of certain aspects of the programme.			
Prepare and publish guidance for woodland creation and tree planting	MC	МС	Aug-22	Guide published on the website and promoted to farmers, land managers, foresters, agents, etc.	•	Not started.			

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FARMING IN PROTECTED LANDSCAPES				I	Ι _	
Grant allocation	MC	FEOs, CR	Mar-23	Year 2 grant budget is fully allocated across a diverse range/ type/ geography	-	In progress.
Grant claims	MC	FEOs, CR	Mar-23	Year 2 grant claims made are timely and accurate		In progress.
Programme reporting	MC	FEOs, CR	Mar-23	Monthly, quarterly and annual reporting to Defra submitted to a high standard		Ongoing.
NATURE RECOVERY						
Communicate the messages of the Nature Recovery Plan to secure policy improvements and delivery	SS	SS	Mar-23	Engagement with the six Local Nature Recovery Strategy processes and support the development of nature recovery proposals	•	Ongoing, Cotswold District Council has formally adopted the Plan.
Continue to support the Cotswolds Nature Recovery Forum	SS	SS	Mar-23	2+ meetings per annum. Membership 70+ individuals, 35+ organisations	•	Ongoing, with a focus on Local Nature Recovery Strategies (six coincident with the CNL).
Continue to facilitate the Big Chalk programme	SS	SS	Mar-23	Completed consultancy, extended partnership and refined geography; project funding proposals submitted, including NLHF EOI	•	Ongoing.
Deliver the first year of post-Esmee Fairbairn Foundation funding of the Glorious Cotswold Grassland programme	SS	HS, AF	Mar-23	Combine earned income with additional funding streams to deliver a financially and operationally sustainable programme. Restore 50ha of wildflower grassland	•	Progressing very well; secured funding via the Thames Water 'Smarter Catchment' programme, continuing to deliver Severn Trent's 'Great Big Nature Boost', strong relationships with landowners and the potential of a large scale Biodiversity Net Gain project.
CLIMATE ACTION					•	
Carbon Baseline Assessment	АР	ME	Jun-22	The baselining assessment of the CNL completed and recommendations for potential action articulated	•	The results of the assessment was presented to the CNL Executive Committee in May and the final full report will be completed in September.
Stakeholder engagement and understanding	АР	ME	Mar-23	Thorough understanding of external partners' priorities and ambitions; start to build consensus for compatible climate solutions	•	The Climate Action Lead has developed a strong network of external stakeholders and is building a fuller picture across the CNL and the 15 local authorities.
Review Renewable Energy Position Statement	JM	JM, ME	Oct-22	Updated Renewable Energy Position Statement adopted at October Board	•	The Position Statement will now be adopted at the February 2023 Board meeting. The Planning and Landscape Lead has drafted Renewable Energy Guidance as part of the NAAONB's Climate Toolkit.
Target setting	АР	ME	Mar-23	Achievable target set to meet the CNL climate crisis commitment; targets incorporated into the Management Plan 2023-28	•	Not started.
RURAL SKILLS		Ī	Ī		1	
Sustainable programme of outreach work (focusing on young people)	JW	ЕВ	Mar-23	Funding allocated to maximise the learning outcomes for children and young people; additional grant funding opportunities identified	•	165 children and young people engaged during Q1.
TRAILS AND ACCESS						
Deliver improvements to the Cotswold Way National Trail	RJ	RJ, ND	Mar-23	Completion of surface improvements at Chipping Campden with additional funding sourced, including Robert Welch contribution; completion of surface and drainage improvements at Stanton and north of Bath	•	Ongoing as per programme.
Deliver access improvements for mobility scooters	RJ	RJ, ND, VWs	Mar-23	Dependant on funding, install two new routes at Stinchcombe and Lansdown; work with South Wardens district to identify and promote additional disability routes	•	Still awaiting funding decision from National Highways' Designated Funds.
Produce a schools educational resource based on the Cotswold Way	RJ	ND, AH, RJ	Mar-23	Completion of the second stage of the project to provide whiteboard material and teachers notes for lessons based on the Cotswold Way	•	Resources drafted and being rolled out.
Promote access in the Bath area and produce 18 additional routes for the Bathscapes access project	RJ	ND	Mar-23	Promotion of the Circuit of Bath; guided walks led throughout the year to promote walking around Bath; identification and creation of 18 new routes around Bath for a variety of audiences	•	Circuit of Bath completed. Ten additional routes completed, with a further nine in development.
Complete the Cotswolds Riders Way	RJ	SS	Dec-22	Create a cycling route parallel to the Cotswold Way	•	Not started.

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EVERYONE'S EVENLODE						
Develop a pilot project for River Schools	JW	RM & RWJ	Dec-22	Detailed feedback from participating schools used to create educational offering	\checkmark	The Pilot was completed in mid-July and the team now have a blueprint for delivery going forward.
Pilot Duke of Edinburgh at Marlborough School	JW	RM & RWJ	Dec-22	Regular monthly working party at Combe Mill (Blenheim Palace) to restore habitats adjacent to the river	✓	Completed successfully with regular sessions held accommodating six DoE students at a time.
Hold a teacher training day, graduate PGCE programme	JW	RM & RWJ	Dec-22	Oxford University Geography PGCE students to undertake training at Combe Mill from September 2022	•	Scheduled to start in October.
Organise a series of catchment awareness events	JW	RR & RWJ	Oct-22	To include representation at fairs and possibly a river community day	✓	11 fairs, events and shows attended with high levels of public engagement and interest.
Research and promote local guided walks	JW	RR & RWJ	Dec-22	To increase catchment awareness and participation by the community	✓	Four guided walks have been completed to date, in partnership with the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens
VOLUNTEERS						
Produce an organisation-wide Volunteering Policy	RJ	RJ, Publica	Jun-22	Volunteering Policy written and presented for adoption at the June board	\checkmark	Policy adopted at the June Board meeting.
Produce a Volunteers Handbook	RJ	RJ, VWs	Sep-22	Volunteers handbook to be distributed to wardens and uploaded to wardens area of the website	✓	Handbook written and on the Volunteers section of the website.
Organise and deliver the Volunteers Conference	RJ	RJ, VWs	Jun-22	Farming and tourism themed conference at the Royal Agricultural University	✓	Conference extremely well attended with great speakers and afternoon walks/workshops.
Produce a Queen's Platinum Jubilee programme of guided walks	RJ	RJ, VWs	Sep-22	A programme of royal themed guided walks from June to August		Some walks have been completed but the programme has been extended.