

Cotswolds National Landscape - 2023/24 Annual Work Programme

Cotswolds National Landscape - 2023/24 Annual Work Programme						✓	Completed
						●	In progress / on track
						⊙	Not started
						✋	On Hold
						✗	Off track
FUNCTION	Accountable	Responsible	By When	Target Measures	Progress	Comments	
BUSINESS PLANNING							
Start the review, planning and development for the Management Plan for the period 2025-30	CEO	SS	Mar-24	Evidence and targets review leading to State of the Cotswolds Report publication. Integration of outreach and workshops with Climate Change workstream.	✓	A timeline has been developed and a structured plan is in place to ensure the new Management Plan will be presented for Board adoption in February 2024.	
Ensure the CNL team plays an active role in emerging national strategies (in liaison with Defra, NE and NAAONB)	CEO	Senior team	Mar-24	CNL team influence has led to positive outcomes and a clarity over future direction of protected landscapes.	●	CEO involved with Protected Landscapes Partnership work (esp. EDI). JM on a short term secondment to the National Landscapes Association to primarily focus on the 'new duty', SS involved in the Targets and Outcomes workshops.	
Board development and strategy	Chair	CEO	Mar-24	(1) new Member mentoring scheme in place, (2) periodic meetings for the local authority member group, the parish council member group and the secretary of state member group. New Executive Committee in place.	●	New Exec in place and have met. Other actions being considered and will be carried forward to 2024/25.	
SUPPORT SERVICES							
Ensure the relocation from the Old Prison goes smoothly and regular workplace reviews take place with the team (post move)	CEO	CEO, Publica	Sep-23	The team are in their new office space from May 2023.	✓	Completed successfully.	
Review, simplify and update the Board Constitution	CEO	HoF, F&G Sub-Committee	Mar-24	Constitution more readable and useable.	✓	Adopted by the Board.	
Develop a Finance 'manual' to support understanding of processes	HoF	HoF, DM, MP	Mar-24	Greater team-wide understanding of the systems and processes.	✋	Will be carried forward to 2024/25.	
PARTNERSHIPS AND FUNDRAISING							
Continue to work on the local authority partnership strategy with Board Members and officers to develop the 'value-add' evidence and to identify potential partnership projects	CEO	JW	Mar-24	A clear way forward beyond the current year.	✓	May 23 - 2022-23 value-add report complete. Oct 23 - CEO and JW invited to present at the Gloucestershire S151 Officers mtg. Feb 24 - CEO and Chair agreed to focus the July away day on furthering the positive relationships between the CNL Board and all LA partners. Some LA's have increased their contributions for 2024/25.	
Prioritise fundraising and bid writing on securing resources to have a CNL-wide focus on education and outreach	JW	JW, Working Group	Mar-24	Funding obtained for a new role/remit.	●	Submitted a bid to the Ernest Cook Trust (awaiting outcome), in partnership with Young Gloucestershire and the Gloucestershire Community Rail Partnership.	
Have a central role in the development and delivery of the National Highways' Designated Funds projects that benefit the CNL	CEO	CEO, JW	Mar-24	Designated Funds strategy demonstrates great benefit to the CNL.	●	Biodiversity programme continuing to progress (albeit slightly slower than anticipated). Dark Skies bid moving forward to potential implementation phase.	
Deliver a high quality placement for the New to Nature trainee that focuses on skills, experience and working with a wide range of people	JW	JW	Mar-24	Successful delivery of the placement and a clear career pathway for the role-holder established.	✓	Nina Stubbington has now secured a new role in the organisation and her contract has been extended until March 2025.	
Review the Caring for the Cotswolds visitor giving grant scheme and develop a plan to ensure sustainable and efficient growth	JW	JW, AH	Sep-23	A sustainable plan in place.	●	More active with promotion of the scheme and potential new partnerships being explored to increase the size and reach.	
Review options for installing the new CNL logo in current and new boundary marker locations	JW	JW, AH	Mar-24	Options considered and a plan in place.	●	Being considered as a project to be delivered in 2024/25 with the additional Capital funding from Defra.	
COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT							
Work closely with the NAAONB team and brand agency to support the roll-out of the National Landscapes brand across the country	CEO	AH	Mar-24	CNL influence leads to a great outcome for the family of national landscapes.	✓	Completed very successfully.	
Play an active role in the development of the NAAONB Arts in the Landscape national programme	AH	AH	Mar-24	CNL contributions to local and national arts projects.	⊙	awaiting to hear about NLAs funding bid to the Arts Council.	
Co-ordinate CNL attendance at the Moreton Show 2023	AH	AH, MC, SB, HS, AF, RM, RR, RW-J	Sep-23	Visitor attendance at show, and visitor and colleague feedback.	✓	Completed. Excellent feedback from colleagues and visitors alike.	

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PLANNING AND LANDSCAPE						
Continue to work with National Grid on (1) the proposed Cotswolds Visual Impact Provision project and (2) the Landscape Enhancement Initiative	CEO	JM, MC, RJ, SS	Mar-24	Report on how the CNL team's input has influenced the schemes to-date.	●	Three live LEI projects in the CNL. CEO and Land Management Lead on the Stakeholder Reference group for the VIP project and influencing the scheme. Planning Lead providing pre-app advice.
Continue to liaise with National Highways (and its contractors) during detailed design and early construction phase of the A417 Missing Link	CEO	JM, MC, RJ	Mar-24	Detailed design for various elements of the scheme accepted and comms plan in place ahead of the works commencing.	●	The main contractor, Kier, holds regular meetings with key environmental stakeholders but there is some concern over a growing disconnect in the collaborative approach that was so well received during the pre-DCO period.
Take an active role in the development planning of the Severn-Thames water transfer scheme	JM	CEO, MC, ME	Mar-24	Report on how the CNL team's input has influenced the scheme options.	👋	Scheme on hold for the foreseeable future.
Seek funding and conduct detailed opportunity mapping for (1) renewable energy and (2) woodland creation	CEO	JM, MC, ME	Mar-24	Funding secured and opportunity mapping completed.	●	Potential funding source for the Woodland Opportunity Mapping exercise, hope to be able to confirm this FY.
Seek Board adoption of the revised ' Renewable Energy ' and ' Neighbourhood Planning ' position statements	JM	JM, SJ, ME, Working Groups	Jun-23	Position Statements adopted.	✓	Both Position Statements adopted at the June Board meeting.
LAND MANAGEMENT						
Continue engagement with the Thames Water 'Smarter Water Catchments' project in the Evenlode catchment	MC	MC, JW	Mar-24	Engagement ongoing via Steering and theme working groups. Projects led by CNL team are delivered (tbc for biodiversity and landscape for 2023/24)	●	CNL (MC and JW) are on the SWC Steering group and Theme Groups for Biodiversity, Habitat and Landscape and Education and Engagement. CNL team advised the Exec Committee on current fracturing of relationships between Thames Water and the Evenlode Catchment Partnership, and the Board's position was agreed.
Prepare and publish guidance for woodland creation and tree planting	MC	MC, ME	Sep-23	Guidance finalised, published on CNL website and promoted to land managers, agents, etc.	✗	Guidance collated from existing CNL guidance and policy (LS&G, NRP etc) and draft completed and circulated within the CNL's management team and Climate Action WG for comment.
Finalise allocation and close the Rail Corridor Enhancement Project	MC	SB	Mar-24	Funding allocated, claimed and programme closed.	●	Negotiations continue with the Badminton Estate, significant funding still to allocate to projects. The CNL team will write to Network Rail in the next two months to propose alternative options for the remaining funds.
FARMING IN PROTECTED LANDSCAPES						
Allocate grant budget for year three of the 4-year programme and report (as required) to Defra.	MC	FiPL team	Mar-24	Year 3 of FiPL successfully delivered with all the grant money allocated and claimed by end of February 2024.	●	The panel has met six times so far this FY. Although the KPI is currently red (as at Q3) there are currently no significant concerns about the grant being allocated as projected.
NATURE RECOVERY						
Continue engagement with the six Local Nature Recovery Strategies during their development of nature recovery proposals	SS	SS	Mar-24	Lead on engagement on behalf of co-incident protected landscapes in Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire; directly engage in West of England, Wiltshire and Warwickshire; Support Malvern Hills AONB in leading on engagement in Warwickshire.	●	Deep involvement with Oxon & Gloucs. In the loop with the others to varying degrees. SS being retained as an expert advisor for the Glos LNP.
Continue playing a central role in the Big Chalk programme	SS	SS	Mar-24	Establishment of functioning Board and Topic groups leading to advocacy, collaboration, project support and project development.	●	Progress good overall. Protected Landscapes Partnership is funding a Big Chalk programme role until March 2025.
Develop greater understanding of Green Finance opportunities as they relate to the CNL	CEO	Senior team	Mar-24	Personal training and development for key team members; be involved in national discussions; build on existing private sector partnerships.	●	Various team members undertaking training and attending seminars, etc. CEO on the NLA working group for their green finance activity.
Deliver Year 1 of the Glorious Cotswold Grasslands Biodiversity Programme	SS	HS, AF, BNG Officer	Mar-24	Successful delivery of year 1 programme. Establishment of fit for purpose and successful operational, legal and funding mechanisms.	●	Practical and survey progress gone well. Some delays with the legal agreements but Year 1 expected to be completed ok.

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CLIMATE ACTION						
Conduct a series of climate-focused visioning workshops to help inform future ideas and priorities for mitigation and adaptation	CEO	Working Group	Dec-23	Hold 2-3 visioning workshops and complete Net Zero Vision report.	✓	Hugely successful series of workshops with over 250 attendees. The 3Keel report is being presented at the Feb Board Meeting.
Input into the development of the Management Plan 2025-30, by identifying relevant targets for the period	CEO	SS, Working Group	Mar-24	Potential CNL targets identified and compared to emerging national targets and fed into the thinking/development of the Management Plan.	●	This will follow on from the 3Keel report, supported by the new Climate Action Lead.
Review progress against project outcomes , and ensure funder priorities are met	CEO	SB	Dec-23	Send progress report to funder, demonstrating how project outcomes align with funder priorities.	✓	On track.
Develop a clear and fundable proposition for continuing the climate activity beyond the current project period	CEO	JW	Mar-24	Funding proposition written, potential funders identified and bid/s submitted.	✓	Decision made to fund from core funds plus operational surpluses (e.g. GCG). New role-holder starting in March 2024.
TRAILS AND ACCESS						
Plan and prepare for the 2024/25 ' Removing Barriers ' Defra-funded capital programme	CEO	RJ, ND, Working Group	Mar-24	A clear strategy in place that identifies the theme priorities, geographical need and best value.	✓	Projects submitted from partners and shortlisted following two review meetings (with support from the Wellbeing and Inclusion WG).
Complete the access project of the wider Bathscape programme	RJ	ND	Mar-24	Completion of the access improvements for the Circuit of Bath and additional routes to improve access for the communities of Bath and visitors to the area. Create a series of video trails to reach a wider audience and hold a celebration of the project.	✓	Completed.
Monitor and influence the National Trails UK priorities and future ambitions, taking an active role in its development	CEO	RJ, CTAP	Mar-24	Attend the NTUK meetings to represent the best interests of the Cotswold Way National Trail, feeding back relevant information to CTAP and the CNL Board.	✓	very positive relationship and the CNL is hosting both the NTUK summit and the National Trails Officer meeting in May 2024.
EVERYONE'S EVENLODE						
Following completion of the pilot phase, roll out the full project delivery of education and community outreach in the catchment	JW	EE team	Mar-24	Full project successfully rolled out.	✓	Full education programme delivered Apr-Jul and a full community events programme delivered Jun-Sep (the busiest periods) .
Continue the teacher training objective to support post-project sustainability	JW	EE team	Mar-24	Teacher training day (graduate PGCE programme) delivered in partnership with Oxford University.	●	Teacher training ongoing to ensure project legacy.
Build capacity of education providers	JW	EE team	Mar-24	Establishment and roll-out of the Outdoor Learning Network (OLN)	●	The OLN meets regularly and is gaining momentum.
VOLUNTEERS						
Complete a H&S review of all volunteer activity, to ensure best practice at all times	RJ	RJ, ND, AF, VWs	Mar-24	Updated safety procedures, advice and risk assessments for volunteers working on behalf of the CNL Board are published and on the website.	●	In progress.
Support the Voluntary Wardens with key appointments	RJ	RJ, VWs	Sep-23	Hold induction sessions for the new Chairs and support the new Head, Deputy Head and Chairs in their new roles.	✓	Head Warden, Deputy Head Warden and five District Chairs all in place.
Organise and deliver the Volunteers Conference	RJ	RJ, VWs	Jun-23	The delivery of a successful, well attended and thought provoking annual volunteers conference.	✓	Very successful event.