

## NATIONAL UPDATES

### ***Purpose***

To advise members of activity nationally relating to National Landscapes in England and Wales.

FOR INFORMATION

### ***Key Issues***

- DEFRA officials maintain regular contact with National Landscape Lead Officers, both directly and through the National Landscape Association.
- Similarly in Wales, good relations and communication are maintained with Welsh Government, including through Tirweddau Cymru Landscapes Wales.
- Andrew Blake, Wye Valley National Landscape Manager currently holds the chair of Tirweddau Cymru Landscapes Wales.
- The next Tirweddau Cymru Landscapes Wales Seminar will be hosted in the Wye Valley, in late April 2025.
- The National Landscape Association AGM and Chairs' Conference is in London on 28<sup>th</sup> November.
- The next Lead Officers Meeting is in Birmingham in mid February.
- A meeting between the Welsh Government Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs and the Chair of the National Landscape Association was hosted in the Wye Valley, facilitated by the National Landscape Manager.

### ***Reasons***

Both governments are broadly supportive of National Landscapes. However, public resources are likely to remain constrained. Civil servants have built effective communications channels with the National Landscape Lead Officers, both directly and through the National Landscape Association. This enables swift and efficient exchanges of information as and when required.

Tirweddau Cymru Landscapes Wales has become an effective forum for collaboration and information exchange between Welsh Government, National Landscapes and National Parks lead officers, the National Landscape Association, NRW and other key stakeholders as required.

## ***Implications***

Huw Irranca-Davies, Welsh Government Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs, met with Phillip Hygate, Chair of the National Landscape Association in the Wye Valley in mid August. The National Landscape Manager led the two parties on a site visit to Cleddon Falls and Cleddon Bog, before hosting a meeting at the National Landscape Office in Monmouth. It was a useful opportunity to show off some of the practical projects and achievements of the National Landscape Team as well as discuss local and strategic issues, from the success of Farming in Protected Landscapes to concerns over the state of the River Wye, from rural recreational access impacts to national funding requirements.

The Wye Valley will also be hosting the next Tirweddau Cymru Landscapes Wales Seminar in late April/early May 2025. The full format and content is yet to be finalised. But it will be another good opportunity to demonstrate some of the achievements of the National Landscape Team, along with the outstanding natural beauty of the Wye Valley.

The National Landscape Association AGM and Chairs' Conference is in London on 28th November. The event is titled 'Leading Landscapes 24: Shaping the future of National Landscapes' and will explore the challenges and opportunities to deliver for:

- Place: Protect and enhance beautiful landscapes – for nature and for people
- People: Bring natural beauty into people's lives and give people a stake in natural beauty
- Partnerships: Inspire and empower strong coalitions to deliver

## ***Background***

The National Landscape Association, formerly the National Association for AONBs (NAAONB), is a national charity which works to make sure the UK's most outstanding landscapes are beautiful, thriving places that everyone can feel part of. It supports the UK's network of National Landscapes to help them to be as effective as possible. For more information see <https://www.national-landscapes.org.uk/>