

Blackdown Hills National Landscape Management Plan 2025-2030 Engagement and Consultation Report

1. Key consultation phases in the review process:

- Blackdown Hills Management Group workshops to scope scale of review and maintain overview of process (2022-2025)
- Public online survey, widely promoted through parish councils, parish magazines, social media and events, to gauge views on natural beauty, and future priorities (September 2023 to end of January 2024)
- Stakeholder workshop for organisations, to help development vision, principles and priorities. (February 2024)
- Reporting to local authority partners in advance of public consultation and ongoing engagement with officers and councillors (summer/autumn 2024)
- Local authority and management group consultation on draft plan ahead of public consultation (November 2024)
- Six-week consultation period for partners and public on a draft plan (online via website, promoted to stakeholders and public) (January to March 2025)

2. Record of public consultation (21st January until 4th March 2025; period extended to 19th March for parish councils, and some other partner responses received during this period)

A. Comments received from:

Type	No.	Organisation
Parish or town council	6	Otterford Parish Council, Culmstock Parish Council, Hemyock Parish Council, Clayhidon Parish Council, Kentisbeare Parish Council, Broadhembury Parish Council
Local authority	4	MDDC(Cllr), DCC Heritage, South West Heritage Trust, Somerset Council (Nov 2024)
Statutory agency	3	Forestry Commission (South West Area Team), Historic England, Natural England
Local resident	6	
Landowner/farmer	1	
Local interest or community group	2	Luppitt Landscape Partnership, Partnership Management Group members (Nov 2024)
Non-government organisation	2	CPRE Somerset, Somerset Wildlife Trust
Other	1	Devon Countryside Access Forum
total responses	25	

B. Summary of amendments made to management plan as a result of consultation:

Section	Amendments
General	<p>Added section numbering and some sub-headings to aid navigation</p> <p>‘Current status’ changed to ‘At a glance’</p> <p>Strategic Delivery Plan added to appendices</p> <p>Chair’s foreword and partnership commendation statement to be added</p> <p>Full design, maps and images to be included</p>
Introduction	<p>1.1</p> <p>Added text to emphasise role of plan among partnership organisations.</p> <p>Specified that relevant authorities includes the national landscape partnership.</p> <p>Additional concluding remarks added about aim/purpose of the plan.</p> <p>1.3</p> <p>Additional references to strengthened duty.</p> <p>Additional information on the protected landscapes targets.</p> <p>Amended information on the Landscapes Review.</p> <p>In the policy influences section;</p> <p>Added international context (UN sustainable development goals).</p> <p>Added reference to MDDC and EDDC climate action.</p> <p>Added reference to Natural England, Historic England, and the National Lottery Heritage Fund joint statement.</p> <p>Included a new section – summary of forces for change.</p>
Special Qualities	<p>Deletion of one element of a sentence in unspoilt rural character paragraph.</p> <p>Special qualities appendix;</p> <p>Corresponding amendment to the above.</p> <p>Some additional details added to historic landscape.</p> <p>Some further detail added to natural environment section, on turbaries and spring-line mire.</p>
Vision	<p>Minor wording change to thriving, diverse communities... part.</p> <p>Additional descriptive wording to wildlife and habitats part.</p> <p>Revised heritage part.</p>
Place	<p>Changed/added ‘regenerative’ alongside ‘sustainable’.</p> <p>Added archaeology to relevant objective.</p> <p>Additional principle added about national targets/local needs.</p> <p>Commentary added about take up of agri-environment schemes under priorities for action.</p> <p>Included priority for Target 10 (heritage).</p> <p>Added two ‘other priorities’, one related to heritage, the other to planning.</p> <p>Added forestry-related references to relevant policies.</p>

	<p>Context;</p> <p>Additional commentary in respect of water quality.</p> <p>Added paragraph on air quality.</p> <p>Organised landscape section more logically, with sub-headings.</p> <p>Combined heritage and geology and some additional heritage commentary.</p> <p>Farming and land use heading changed to farming and land management.</p> <p>Soil health bullet points revised.</p> <p>Added references to UK Forestry Standard, and some other text amendments.</p> <p>'A spotlight on planning' heading changed to Planning and development.</p> <p>Key points from the NPPF reformatted.</p> <p>Added cross reference to Climate section and policies.</p> <p>Added specific quote from NPPF footnote regarding 'major development'.</p> <p>Additional text added under role of the management plan.</p> <p>Added reference to noise/activity/lighting applying beyond the boundary.</p>
People	<p>Amended wording of access/enjoyment objective.</p> <p>Re-ordered and combined guiding principles.</p> <p>Added detail of lengths of rights of way.</p> <p>Additional priority included for Target 9.</p> <p>Two additional 'other priorities', communication/information audit, and collaboration to address community issues.</p> <p>Policies PE1 and PE3 amended to (activities compatible with conserving and enhancing) and added historic to natural environment.</p> <p>Context;</p> <p>Added commentary on health and wellbeing organisations and experience.</p> <p>Specified Culm garden village alongside surrounding towns in terms of green infrastructure/access.</p> <p>Expanded local access forum commentary, and included reference to Parish Paths Partnership (P3) groups in Devon.</p>
Nature	<p>Reference to habitat creation targets added under priorities for action for 30 by 30.</p> <p>Context;</p> <p>Included reference to marsh fritillary not being present on SAC site.</p> <p>Added reference to Somerset Levels and Moors.</p>
Climate	<p>Added clarification about cross-cutting nature of the climate theme at the start.</p> <p>Under actions for climate change mitigation, added new action around quantifying peat deposits and carbon contained.</p> <p>Under actions for adaptation, added point about renewable energy installations and AD plants.</p> <p>Policies;</p>

	<p>Added general point - clarification about cross referencing other themes.</p> <p>Context;</p> <p>Added reference to renewable energy development and signposting to Devon landscape guidance on accommodating wind and solar.</p>
Delivery and monitoring	<p>Added sub-heading of implementation.</p> <p>Added section about functions and role of National Landscape Partnership in delivery.</p> <p>Additional contextual information added as introduction to monitoring and evaluation.</p> <p>Note added about using local intelligence to question national targets and outcomes.</p> <p>Updated references to the delivery plan (and new delivery plan included in appendices).</p>

All comments submitted have been recorded on a spreadsheet, with a note on response/course of action.