MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE COTSWOLDS NATIONAL LANDSCAPE BOARD -

HELD AT COTSWOLDS NATIONAL LANDSCAPE, MARSDEN MANOR FARM, RENDCOMB, CIRENCESTER, GL7 7EU

TUESDAY 19th MAY 2026, 10:00am

Present
Brendan McCarthy (Chair)
Rebecca Charley (Vice-Chair)
Sue Crawford (SC)
Paul Crossley (PC) – arrived 10.53am
Amanda Davis (AD) – joined online via Teams
Juliet Layton (JL)
Cate Le Grice-Mack (CGM) – arrived 10.53am
Rosie Pearson (RP) – left at 12.30pm
Ben Stokes (BS)

Also in Attendance:
Alana Hopkins (AH) minute-taking
Olivia Blackwell (OB)
Mark Connelly (MC)
Fred Constantine Smith (FCS)
Magda Glanowska (MG)
Simon Joyce (joined online via Teams)
Hannah McDonnell (observing, arrived 10.43am, departed 12.37pm)
Simon Smith (SS)
Rebecca Waite (RW)
James Webb (JW)
Alice Whitehead (AW)

1. INTRODUCTORY MATTERS

- Apologies – No apologies were received.
- Introductions and announcements – None.
- Declarations of interest – no interests were declared.
- Public questions – None received.

2. MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING – 20 JANUARY 2026

- Decision – The minutes were noted.
- Actions Arising – all actions arising were either completed or in progress.

3. MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING – 24 FEBRUARY 2026

- The Executive Committee noted the Minutes of the Board Meeting held on 24 February 2026. There were no amendments reported.

4. REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

- RW talked through the detail of her written report to the Executive Committee. In addition to the paper, she noted that all CNL Board members should receive a general reminder at the next full board meeting that at CNL Board and Executive Committee meetings, Working Group and other CNL committee meetings they are there to represent the CNL, rather than any other concerns/ affiliations (e.g parish or local council).

Comments:

- AD sought additional clarity on the point raised, which she requested follow up time with RW for.
- There was also a brief discussion about the importance of recruiting SOS members with a varied but relevant skillset, and the importance (for them and the organisation) of them having a baseline level of knowledge about conservation/environment/protected landscapes. The importance of a thorough induction process for them was also noted.
- AD offered to promote the SOS Board member vacancies through National Association of Local Councils (NALC).
- There was a short discussion about the Wildlife Rich Habitat Funding, how to spend or allocate it, how many projects it might facilitate, and the potential risk associated with this unexpected windfall allocation.

Decision:	Actions ref:	Actions Arising:
The Executive Committee noted the update.	E/02/26/1	1.Board members from the local authorities yet to endorse the CNL Management Plan were encouraged to progress this issue with their relevant authorities. For those not present at Executive Committee, this would be followed up at the June 2026 Board meeting.

5. FINANCIAL AND OPERATIONAL OVERVIEW

- MG talked through the Financial and Operational Overview paper, reminding members of the context for the key numbers shown. She also updated them on TIAA – the newly appointed external auditor. Finally, she updated members about new income streams which were confirmed after the Board approved the CNL 2026/27 budget in February 2026. These were: the extension to FiPL, capex uplift 2026/27, Access for All funding 2026/27, Wildlife Rich Habitat funding, and a revenue uplift.

Comments:	
• The Chair congratulated MG on a job well done. • BS asked if the outstanding Cotswold Champions funding is still held (MC replied that it was safely held, and the scope for its use has been broadened in agreement with Network Rail).	
Decision:	**Actions Arising:**
The Executive Committee noted the update.	None

6. FARMING IN PROTECTED LANDSCAPES

MC delivered an overview presentation on Farming in Protected Landscapes in the Cotswolds – from the programme launch in 2021 to date. He explained how the programme works and covered some success stories facilitated through the programme.

Comments:	
• Prompted by a comment from CGM, there was a short discussion about the closure of local abattoirs over the decades, and whether or not there was potential for farmers to apply for FIPL funding to address this issue. • RW recommended that where members have working relationships with those affected by this issue, they encourage people to find out more about FiPL and check eligibility for applications.	
Decision:	**Actions Arising:**
The Executive Committee noted the update.	None

7. NATURE RECOVERY

SS introduced his paper, and through the highlights. He updated the Executive Committee about Nigel Adcock (working group member) has volunteered to take on a refresh of LNRS measures for a broad habitat type (rivers and wetlands).
SS also noted that he and the CEO will be attending the launch of a new National Nature Reserve at Leckhampton Hill on 4th June.

Comments:	
Decision:	**Actions Arising**
The Executive Committee noted the update.	None

8. ACCESS AND INCLUSION

RW introduced the paper on behalf of Nicole Daw. She introduced Hannah McDonnell as the new chair of the Access and Inclusion group, and explained the recent update to the group name.

Comments:	
Decision:	**Actions Arising:**
The Executive Committee noted the update.	None.

9. PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE

SJ introduced the paper and updated on recent progress.

	Comments:	
• The Chair commended SJ and JM on the quality and volume of work undertaken. • The Chair also asked if there were any indications of timings for responses to the Statutory Consultee System consultation and the NPPF consultation. SJ said no indication on timing had been offered on the former, but that the NPPF results were expected towards the end of the year.		
	Decision:	**Actions Arising:**
	The Executive Committee noted the update.	None.

10. PROJECTS AND FUNDRAISING

- JW introduced his paper, offering detail and context on key areas of delivery. He drew attention to Rowan Wynne-Jones who is excelling in her new Water Restoration Officer role, and noted that the formation of an Engagement team is working well. He also introduced the paid work placement concept, which he will be launching later in summer 2026.

	Comments:	
	Decision:	**Actions Arising:**
	The Executive Committee noted the update.	None.

11. CLIMATE ACTION

- FCS introduced the paper with additional updates from AW.

Comments:
• AD asked if the Carbon Literacy Training would be rolled out – the answer given was that FCS and AW would be holding back on doing this while they worked through other priorities. Those priorities also included considerations around Race to Zero – which would be at an organisational / landscape level rather than individual level.

• AD also suggested that Bourton-on-the-Water, with its thriving tourism industry could be considered as a pilot location for assessing and reducing emissions relating to transport, food, and drink.	
Decision:	**Actions Arising:**
The Executive Committee noted the update.	None.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Executive meeting will be on Tuesday 22 September at the CNL Marsden office.

The Meeting commenced at 10.05am and closed at 12.53pm.