



The Natural Choice Natural Environment White Paper

from acronyms to reality on the ground

Natural Connections 2012 conference, Feb 2012

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The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature



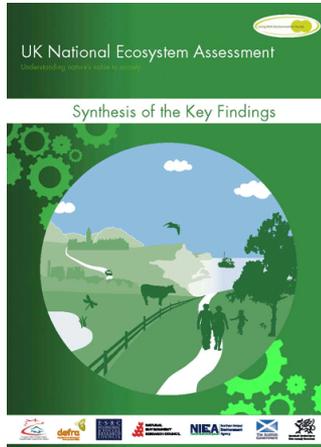
“Our 2020 mission is to halt overall biodiversity loss, support healthy well-functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks, with more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people.”

*“Protect the environment **for** people, not **from** people.”*

“the NEWP”

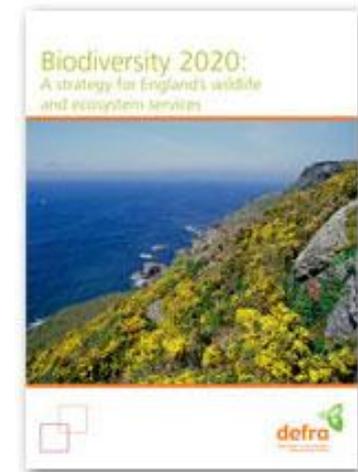
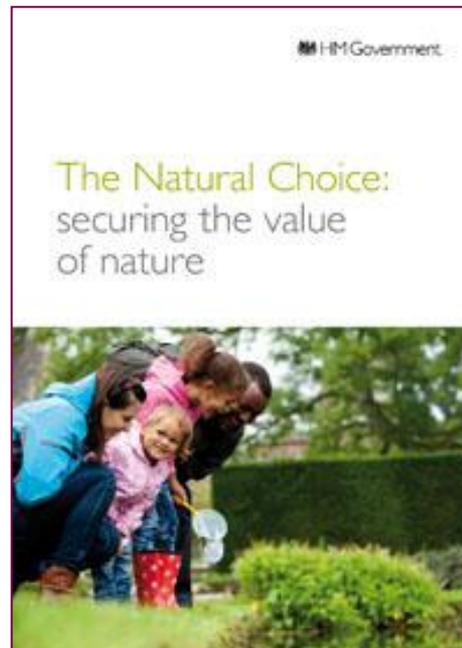


NEWP in context:



**Making Space for Nature:
A review of
England's
Wildlife Sites
and Ecological
Network**

Lawton Review



- **Vision: Realising the value of nature**
 - Clearer values, better choices
 - More benefits for more people from a healthy natural environment now and in the future
- **Key Themes**
 - Ecosystems services: benefits focus
 - Landscape scale activity: appropriate geography
 - People at the centre: as beneficiaries and shapers
 - Long-term view: 50 year vision & road-map approach
 - Nature as dynamic system – resilience & coherence

- **Protect and enhance natural assets** (Ch 2)
 - Create a thriving green economy which supports growth (Ch 3)
 - **Connect people and nature** (Ch 4)
 - International leadership (Ch 5)
 - Tracking progress (Ch 6)
- **Underpinning principles:** Flexible; Fair; Sustainable; Transparent; Systemic
 - **92 action commitments** – some new, some renewed

Some of NEWP's main initiatives



- **'Nature Improvement Areas'** (NIAs) for ecological restoration -- competition to select 12 pilot NIAs currently underway
- **Local Nature Partnerships** (LNPS) – 50 to be set up, covering most of England
- **Green Infrastructure Partnership** and **local 'Green Area'** designation – Jacqui Stearn this afternoon
- **'My Environment' web-portal**, for personalisable local environmental information, access to GIS data,
- Citizen science....
- Natural environment 'champions' and local outreach 'ambassadors'
- Green economy and sustainable growth
- Biodiversity off-setting: 6 voluntary pilots
- Environmental Stewardship: (ES): develop and pilot a more flexible, outcome-based system

NIAs – Nature Improvement Areas



- Purpose: ecological restoration at a ‘significant’ landscape scale to improve biodiversity, ecosystems and our connections with the natural environment, taking forward recommendations in the Lawton Review
- Emphasis on partnerships and wider involvement

Pilot competition – 12 NIAs to be announced 27 February

- Applications invited July 2011 --76 applications received, 20 went through to Round 2; currently shortlist of 15 .
- Sir John Lawton chairing the selection process
- £7.5m over current Spending Review period
- Evidence and learning....

Local Natural Partnerships

- **Key mechanism to deliver a wide range of NEWP commitments** where local areas wish to establish them. Implicit assumption of relatively large or landscape scale conservation.
- **Fifty** currently being set up, to cover much of England: one-off fund in 2011/12 worth £1 million, to develop LNPs.
- Directed to engage with **Local Enterprise Boards** and **Local Wellbeing Partnerships** to link conservation objectives to economic development and human well-being priorities and programmes.
- Annual ministerial event: to share best practice and celebrate success

“People at the centre”

- **Working with communities:** Participation and partnership – governance, open and flexible processes, from formal (eg LNP, NIAs) to community levels
- **Working for communities:** demonstrating social benefits, including fairness
- **‘My Environment’ personalisable** on-line information resource
- **Citizen Science** – £1.2m fund for innovation in biodiversity recording and NBN
- **Engagement:** key performance indicator across NE
- Links to Localism Bill – community engagement

“a green and growing economy which not only uses natural capital in a responsible and fair way but contributes to improving it. It will properly value the stocks and flows of natural capital. Growth will be green because it is intrinsically linked to the health of the country’s natural resources.”

Natural Value Programme

- Natural Capital Committee:
- Ecosystem Services Market Task Force
- Pilot Biodiversity Off-setting scheme: 6 pilots
- Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES)
- MEBIE and ecosystem service assessment Tool-kits being developed

ALB implications



- Working more closely to deliver responsive, reliable and respectful customer-focussed services
- Providing simpler and more direct routes to access consistent, efficient, high quality service

Excellent customer services

- Aligning their positions on regulation creating a more consistent, proportionate and better targeted regime
- Enforcing protection while also providing coherent, consistent and streamlined advice to facilitate the Government's presumption in favour of sustainable development

Integrated and targeted delivery

collaborate to deliver joined-up outcomes for the environment, for society and for the economy in more cost-effective ways

Smart and effective regulation

- Joined-up delivery that integrates outcomes for the environment, society and the economy
- Focussing delivery to enable more people and firms to benefit from a healthy natural environment

Joined-up evidence, analysis and advice

- Working closely together in delivering high quality and accessible evidence, analysis and advice
- Integrating expertise and supporting partnerships with Government, communities and businesses

Further information



Natural Environment White Paper – The Natural Choice

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/natural/whitepaper/>

UK National Ecosystem Assessment

<http://uknea.unep-wcmc.org/>

Lawton Review – Making Space for Nature:

<http://archive.defra.gov.uk/environment/biodiversity/documents/201009space-for-nature.pdf>

Biodiversity 2020

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/2011/08/19/pb13583-biodiversity-strategy-2020/>

Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES): a short introduction

<http://archive.defra.gov.uk/environment/policy/natural-environ/documents/payments-ecosystem.pdf>