

Natural Connections

March 2011

Discussion Session
Word for Word Report

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About this report

What people said at the event is valuable and provides a wealth of information and insight.

Good practice is to make what people say or write in workshops is made available to all. However, when it is all typed up in lists, it can be difficult to comprehend and important themes and ideas are obscured. To make it easier, we sort and group comments into clusters of similar points. Instead of pre determining the clusters and headings, we use a method that allows themes to emerge. The ideas could have been grouped differently or different titles chosen, so no weight should be attached to them.

Whilst this report serves as a record of what people wrote in the conference, the contents are inevitably quite cryptic in places.

Acronyms used in this report	Meaning
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
BOA	Biodiversity Opportunity Area
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
CPO	Compulsory Purchase Order
CSF	Catchment Sensitive Farming
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
DEFRA	Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs
EA	Environment Agency
ELS	Entry Level Stewardship
ERZ	Ecological Restoration Zone
ES	Environmental Stewardship
FWAG	Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group
GI	Green Infrastructure
GIS	Geographic Information System
HLS	Higher Level Stewardship
IBDA	Integrated Biodiversity Delivery Areas
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
LPA	Local Planning Authority
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NCA	Natural Character Area
NEA	National Ecosystem Assessment
NP	National Park
NEWP	Scottish Wildlife Trust
Ofwat	Office of Water
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SWT	Scottish Wildlife Trust?? Or Suffolk Wildlife Trust
TEEB	The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity
URGP	Urban Regeneration and Green Space Partnership

1 What do you wish for? To move this forward, if you could have one wish, what would you most want to see happen?

Nature and benefits valued leading to more action

People enjoying and valuing nature leading to action

- More people enjoying and accessing 'nature' – leading to taking better care of our environment
- Massive effort on ensuring the public understand better, and value more the natural environment
- We could use people's obvious love of nature (i.e. Springwatch) to lead to real on the ground action ie get people to look after/take responsibility for their 'patch'

Benefits of natural environment understood

- Groundswell UK public opinion that delivery of green infrastructure is an imperative
- Greater/more widespread understanding of the benefits of GI/biodiversity/wildlife and nature
- We understand the true value of cleaning up our rivers in order to enable water companies to justify investment or not!

Better environmental education in schools

- Conservation and sustainable living in the curriculum; from primary - A-levels. And integration of the lower classes and 'minority' groups in conservation projects
- Education
- Children having real high growth green spaces to explore, enjoy and learn in at school and in their communities
- To ensure that young people have opportunities on their doorsteps and in their schools for greater contact with the natural world
- Better environmental education in schools so that the next generation is even better informed about the realities of our countryside and its management issues (and we spend/waste less time in arguing with the punters...)
- Change actual curriculum to help meet generation to have skills and knowledge to develop creative solutions and approaches

The way we work changing for the better

Flexible and holistic approach

- I wish that people would be happier to think outside of the box – to be more open to new ideas and new ways of doing things, which could result in greater benefits
- Flexible approach to Ecological Restoration Zones (ERZs) to be able to embrace Wildlife Trusts/RSPB/Natural England/ National Parks in the future programme.
- Holistic approach – focus on wildlife and plants. Species specific not Ecosystems services/multifunction!

Maturity

- A more mature nature conservation community

A clear big picture vision

- A shared vision among multiple stakeholders!
- Seeing the bigger picture
- A clear vision at a landscape scale (NCAs) to provide a relevant (people sensitive) framework for recovery through public, private and voluntary sector collaboration
- Cross boundary strategies for GI to prevent 'pocket'/isolated schemes and encourage a more overarching, strategic approach.
- Greater creativity in how 'infrastructure' is interpreted. It's not about conventional engineering solutions! Green/natural solutions

More joined up, innovative, integrated and collaborative

- Better communication and collaboration. Better leadership to ensure implementation of strategies/visions
- Innovative partnerships/collaborations
- Better joined up looking across public private sector to enable pooling of resources
- For environmental considerations to be fully integrated into all sectors/all decision making
- A less adversarial planning system and more collaborative working between statutory agencies, developers and consultants
- Organisations really working together and not each trying to use projects to further their own status.

- Genuine commitment from green infrastructure partners to work jointly over working in isolation – not what usually happens – working ‘jointly’ while carrying on doing their own thing, at the same time.
- Joined up thinking/ partnerships/stakeholder engagement to deliver catchment based solutions for environmental improvements (water/wildlife/energy generation, carbon storage etc) then sharing best practice to facilitate repetition.
- The Statutory sector and the Charity sector listening to each other and genuinely working together.
- More joined up thinking is achieved by better communication between and within organisations.
- Greater collaborative working. One strategy to deliver sustainable GI
- Integrate projects and improve partnership working

Action rather than words

- Less meetings and more doing. (meetings are obviously often important but only if something useful comes out of it)
- Better focus on delivery of ideas. Stop producing tonnes of strategy etc. when money could be spent actually implementing.
- Stop strategizing
- Good will to make things happen
- No more new initiatives
- Stop formulating new strategies which are basically old strategies but with a different name

Don’t waste funds and effort

- A bonfire of the disproportionate ‘green tape’ that prevents us doing green infrastructure projects and treats us like private developers
- Stop spending money on prioritisations

Words all can understand

Language and communication

- One wish: The sector speaking with one voice in a language that is accessible to all.
- Keep it simple for everyone to communicate in a way that others can understand
- To do away with unnecessarily complicated terminology. Let’s talk about landscape, wildlife, plants and animals, and turn people on to the environment and not off it!
- Greater understanding of the issues other individuals between stakeholders – better education.
- More inclusive language

Political support and understanding

Political commitment and leadership

- Politicians to have the foresight and the balls to put the environment and economy on an even-footing
- Real understanding from Gov. of society benefits from natural environment – it’s not a luxury
- Real recognition that conservation is important and essential rather than a luxury extra
- Central Government needs to give a clear steer to its departments and bodies that multi-benefit and multifunction is the way it wants them to work. To change the current behaviour/need to deliver against their own specific targets. Also the tools to deliver this on Gov. behalf.
- To have some real top down leadership! For environmental concerns to be apolitical and guaranteed in respect to funding and legal framework. This needs a single source of organisation with devolved local coordination. – An environmental Tsar
- Political buy in – carrots and sticks
- Political will to enable a CPO type system which to acquire land for establishment of UK-wide protected area landscape scale network.

Better policy and drivers

Better policy

- Integration of the protection and enhancement of ecosystems/environment into policy decision making and ensuring delivery is achieved.
- Policy should be non-political, driven by fact and science
- Flexible and Strategic Regulatory framework

Reform in payments for land management

- CAP reform more in favour of agri-environment activities

- Significant positive environmental change to the common Agricultural policy
- Mechanisms for precisely spatially targeting agri-environment money i.e. not “there’s some money to dig a pond”, but “Here’s some money to dig a pond There” (to facilitate promoting connectivity etc.
- An integrated system of regulations and payments for ecosystem services and delivers wise use (ie sustainable)of our land
- CAP reform more in favour of agri-environment activities. To encourage natural flood management measures, which will have multiple benefits
- Revised woodland management plan

An integrated planning system

- Greater emphasis on identifying and implementing green infrastructure opportunities within the planning system/policy
- Better integration with planning system
- Ensure ecosystem services are central to the new National Planning Policy framework
- For concepts of ecosystem services and green infrastructure to be incorporated in national level policy

A proven model

- A proven model for achieving local level results for biodiversity within local and partnership framework that can be rolled out nationally.

Better participation and engagement

Facilitate stakeholder participation and consensus

- Recognition of importance of facilitation to make multi-function/benefit delivery happen (and therefore funding towards it)
- Ethical format to engagement more control over processes
- Acceptance that we need to take time to involve stakeholders effectively
- Really good quality shared decision workshops/processes being used for any ‘landscape scale’ projects (at the start and during)

More participation by non-ecologists

- Break up the cult – include the rest of the country.
- Greater contribution from non-ecologists to fulfil expectation for multi-functional landscapes
- Better motivation by all stakeholders to participate in partnerships and then ACT. Ability of EA DEFRA and Water Authorities to come to the table and WHO in their organisations to talk to and How to reach them! Need motivation by all players to integrate outcomes.

Smarter Funding: that encourages integration and collaboration and is long term

Funding that delivers multiple benefits and benefits nature

- Unlocking of funding from other sectors (to support the natural environment)
- Renew funding streams (in the widest sense) and create funding support for ‘integrated’ delivery of ESS’s etc.
- Integrated policy and funding streams (better use of existing funds) and a better understanding of both functionality and the costs avoided in health, flood risk and water management

Long term funding for more long term action

- Make Merrick Denton-Thompson Prime Minister! Or failing that, enable 10 year planning and funding frameworks.
- Gov./agencies facilitating planning over longer timescale, to enable more sustainable and wildlife friendly solutions to be progressed
- I want to be given longer time and firm long term commitment by those in power to actual follow process from instigation to delivery. Currently we do lots of early development work then the initiatives become ‘old hat’ and end.
- Gov./Agencies facilitating planning over longer timescales to enable more sustainable/wildlife friendly solutions to be developed
- A government that really cares! Long term funding to support greenspace. Dept for Health funding for greenspace. Using nature wisely.
- Secure funding
- Less “chopping and changing” in policy and consistent long term approach (Inc. less of perpetual reorganisation)

Subsidy for cottage industries so management is economically viable

- Government to subsidise cottage industries (e.g.) coppice for charcoal/hazel sticks instead of bamboo canes/reed bed management for thatching/firewood/ HLS applications to demonstrate how management will be economically sustainable into future.

Little used land, used better

- Re-establish more nature woodland on little used land – rough ground, urban fringe, , uplands for wildlife, landscape, fuel and leisure

Better use of knowledge and information

Better communication of knowledge

- More co-operation between organisations, better use of resources and better communication, especially in terms of academic research filtering to the community.
- Integrated use of knowledge and resources

Sharing and using information and maps more effectively

- The right information in the right place. Defragment.
- I wish for... a one stop shop for existing GI information/local projects and existing GIS layers within a country-wide area.
- Over layering of all GIS data sets from all organisations. An MOU between all organisations. Working together to inspire and enable communicates to deliver

Respect for professional expertise

- Respect for the knowledge, skills and competences of ecologists and environmental managers so that we can work as equals with planners, landscape architects and civil engineers to design/plan solutions that are good for nature, good for the environment and good for society.
- Support for positions of local ecologists at the district level, especially ones that can communicate

A healthy planet

- An environmentally stable planet
- Controlled population growth to enable sustainable food production and urban development on a wildlife rich planet

2 Delivering multifunction and multibenefit natural connections and green infrastructure....

2.1 What are we already doing that is going in the right direction?

Inspiring people

Hearts and minds

- Forestry – hearts and minds
- Winning hearts and minds
- Good will already in place in many circumstances. However, this could be encouraged further

Enabling community action

Big society/localism in action

- Creation of community owned by company who now take responsibility for managing the open land in the forest. Big society now delivering major landscape change
- Doorstep Greens – enabling communities to plan, create and manage their own community greenspace. 200 communities have created their own greenspace Funding and advice has now stopped – need to continue seed com funding - create partnerships between WT's GWK, RSPB, Woodland Trust. More long term funding

Working together

Partnership working

- Partnership working
- Partnership working
- Partnership working
- Partnerships
- Partnerships (discussions about nature of ps)
- partnerships with very diverse partners Interests – GI partnership housing, biodiversity, recreation, health
- External/internal partnership-building (SWT)
- Integrated delivery partnership: Cirencester, FWAG, J Phelps, Town Councils, Parishes
- We are working together and achieving multiple benefit in many ways, but we can always do this better
- Integrated Approaches already in place - CCRI/FWAGS integrated local delivery model already exists and has been evaluated by CCRI
- Collaborations between public and private and 3rd sector
- Working with the EA to balance ecology and carbon

Consultation

- Consultation
- Consultation
- Consultation, Involving Communities/partners etc
- Community events/public surveys to get people interested in and aware of wildlife and biodiversity

Talking to each other

- Talking to each other
- Talking to each other
- Talking to each other – simple Finding out who does what – harder
- Talking to each other eg. within Natural England different departments are talking with each other
- Knowing who to talk to

National Parks

- National Parks can look at things on a landscape scale and engage stakeholders

Thinking bigger

Living landscapes/ landscape scale approaches

- Catchment scale projects incl. Living Landscapes
- Green landscape scale schemes
- Increased awareness of need for landscape scale work
- Landscape Scale Institute
- Landscape scale National Parks
- Landscape scale work – restoration
- Landscape-scale schemes; eg limestone Landscapes
- Link landscapes beyond nature reserves
- Living landscape – vision/schemes already going on
- Living landscapes – as long as this is significant effort to share responsibility and involve key agencies (not just landowners)
- Living Landscapes vision
- Looking at possibilities for landscape scale connections, especially woodland //// along valleys and around and into towns
- Looking beyond the boundary of sites – starting - With the Natural Environment White Paper and the Natural Environmental Framework (in Wales) – Good place to start
- Lot of landscape schemes
- Lots of landscape scale projects - Living Landscapes
- National Parks – Landscape scale work
- Neroche scheme – landscape partnership scheme in Devon and Somerset – 250ha of restored habitat – joining together SSSIs, National Nature Reserves
- Projects initiated – landscape scale schemes
- Recognising the landscape scale
- Will to work at larger scale
- Working on landscape scale projects, developing species work, reserve management, building blocks to deliver this. Advocacy
- Wildlife Trusts – increasing land management perspective beyond nature reserves – landscape scale

Cross Border working

- Ground swell of GI – promotion – is now well known. It is being actioned already – cross border working – being actioned
- Some cross boundary work

Thinking big

- Thinking big!
- At least 30% greenspace turned over to wild vegetation

Identifying areas and opportunities

Natural Character Areas

- Natural England – We are developing a landscape scale delivery framework based on National Character Areas which is evidence base and integrates landscape, biod, geod, historic env., access to agree areas of environmental opportunity
- Landscape character area studies – guidelines often aim to create/restore historic features of wildlife links such as re-introducing indigenous

Biodiversity Opportunity Areas

- Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOA)
- BOAs – SWT delivery – landowner/community/education/planning/policy
- Biodiversity Opportunity Area mapping. Used by NGOs to inform work eg reserves acquisition and community engagement. This feeds into strategic influence. Urban needs more development
- Biodiversity opportunity areas and environmental stewardship schemes
- Identifying BOAs – identifying opportunities – challenge is how to deliver

Opportunity mapping

- Opportunity mapping for green infrastructure
- Habitat Mapping - Opportunity mapping/Green Infrastructure mapping
- Mapping – NBIS
- Network and opportunity mapping undertaken for targeting delivery
- Identifying existing work – biodiversity opportunity maps to develop GI plans that identify priority areas

Biodiversity Action Plans

- Biodiversity action plans where there is on ground practical action/advice

- Species and habitat conservation

Evidence base

- Building an evidence base
- Building and collating evidence

Making good use of current initiatives.

Green Infrastructure Projects

- GI strategy for Herts – consultants leading district workshops. GI projects for each district. Good vision but need better info sharing about schemes and networking
- Our own sites are going well – eager to knit these sites into the emerging GI plan for south Herts
- Developing GI policies at a local authority level
- The Green Infrastructure Priority Areas defined within the Norwich Green Infrastructure Delivery Plan. These are based on the biodiversity opportunity mapping carried out by Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service. They are used as part of the funding prioritisation process
- Central Scotland Green network – a national planning requirement. Funding and co-ordination provided
- GI now part of planning of some areas in Kent such as East Kent and Kent Gateway. Very much learning process but on right tracks. Tends to be very urban based. Opportunities seem mostly through the devt. Plan system

Agri environment schemes and initiatives

- Agri/env scheme to create headlands, improve wetlands etc
- Agri-env schemes (HLS etc) – working with landowners in wider environment
- Agri-environment schemes have delivered clear environmental benefits
- South Downs Farmland Bird Initiative
- Agri-environ-scheme
- AgriEnv schemes – is nationally/regionally need local targeting to get benefits and achieve connectivity
- Agri-environment schemes filling gaps in matrix and increase environmental/biodiversity knowledge among farming community. Lots of landscape level projects
- Single applications

Coastal management

- Managed Retreat Schemes

Managing what we have

- Existing schemes and projects – take them into account! Make use of them!
- Good management of existing wildlife habitat, backed up by science and evidence
- Managing important sites and encouraging other to do research
- Land management – local authority
- Opportunities-led approach in consolidating protection/conservation of what we already have with regard to biodiversity
- Various elements are going well (at a component level) eg. Survey. Protect, advocate, advice

New Approaches

FWAG delivery model

- FWAG – ‘joined up’ (FWAG report)
- Integrated Delivery Model FWAG

New ways of thinking about environment

- Ecosystem function work. Green Infrastructure
- Ecosystem Services with multifunctional landscapes in urban areas
- Taking stock of where we are with biodiversity conservation and considering new approaches

New initiatives and framework

- Wide range of initiatives (possible too wide)
- Awareness at all levels of need for natural connections (Lawton review etc)
- NEA/NEWP/TEEB/Lawton Review – setting the framework for action
- National framework
- Advocacy and policy
- Media and education to limited extent
- Strategic thinking

- Influencing/co-ordinating GI work by Las

Innovative water management

- Encouraging soft engineering solutions – multi-benefit solutions – flood risk management, water quality, re-connection of rivers with their floodplain, biodiversity benefits
- Catchment management by water companies
- Water catchment management
- Catchment management approach to provide multiple benefits through a variety of stakeholders
- SUDS
- As local authority funding a GI plan for Herts - Could centre GI on watercourses in this county
- New (Scottish) legislation recognising the importance of a catchment approach to flood risk management, and taking a more natural approach by working with the environment. Central to this is full stakeholder involvement in planning for floor risk management. Also national assessment of opportunity for Natural flood management to take place
- Water companies – CSF/officers on ground/South West Water funding to give to farmers to implement changes (eg slurry management)

Room for improvement

- If halting the decline in biodiversity 2010 is anything to go by, anything that is right on track is a drop in the ocean
- Private sector businesses are already making changes but this only tends to be associated where a competitive advantage would be gained
- Need to be more multi-disciplinary

2.2 How can we strengthen and enhance what we are already doing?

More effective communication and participation

Use different words and be understood

- Being mindful of language used/making it appropriate to the evidence
- Simplify language or try to understand other peoples languages
- Better communication/using appropriate language for groups concerned
- Simplifying language – understanding other people’s language
- Understandable language
- Understanding others language/direction
- Language (shared/common)
- Simplifying the language
- Simplify language
- Using different language for audiences
- Articulate messages

Improve communication

- Communication fragmented – need joined up approach
- Need to improve communications and partnerships
- Improve communication across the county so that new schemes can feed into existing schemes
- Improve communication across Stat and non-stat bodies
- Better communication of need for connected landscapes
- Communicate information better to local people let them know what’s going on
- Communicate more effectively
- Education.

More buy in

- More buy in from society and government
- Good will already in place in many circumstances. However, this could be encouraged further

Effective stakeholder participation

- Good practice stakeholder engagement
- Ethical Engagement
- Consensus rather than compromise.
- Listening – finding consensus
- Working out scales for participation/consultation
- NE etc initiatives (e.g. IBDA’s) = should be informed by local knowledge and action – TOP DOWN IS COUNTER PRODUCTIVE

- Stakeholder participation – at what level.
- Getting the right range of stakeholders/partners
- Ensuring that all stakeholders get together and understand the benefits of the green infrastructure approach
- Ensure that all the stakeholders involved in the process – including the public
- Engaging better with local communities (needs resources) to enhance their understanding and focus/harness their enthusiasm
- New mechanisms to engage with public
- Broaden stakeholders
- Broaden stakeholder base
- Broadening the stakeholders who are involved eg. Economists, developers
- Better networking
- By increasing the levels of engagement of some of the developers who have an interest in the potential development areas around Norwich
- Involve more developers.
- Better inclusion of land managers

Incentivise collaboration

- Collaboration – support for collaborative action amongst landowners and communities
- Action Areas with real commitment from participants
- Different approach to getting diff. individual landowners

Science and information

Better science and evidence

- Better science – ask people what they want, what is useful
- Better science/evidence and pay more attention to it
- Ensure that the data are available and maps are used! Communicate what we are doing better and to the right people in the right way
- Improve habitat mapping – in quantity and quality – improve evidence base for planning green infrastructure

Share information

- Information sharing
- Collective Evidence as we implement.
- Bringing together information – share

Timeframes

Extended time frames

- Longer term vision – beyond 5 years
- Increase budgeting timescales from 5 years to more realistic timeframe for sustainable solutions
- Stop thinking in 5 year scales. More sure that best practice, lessons learnt we promoted
- Working in longer time-frames (in perpetuity) to deliver ecological benefits
- Longer term timeframes needed.
- Timescales need to be extended to say 20 years funding
- Lengthen timeframes (Ofwat)
- Longer timescales
- Lengthen the funding periods for utilities to allow longer term benefits to be taken into accounts
- Changing funding mechanism for water companies to support longer term planning solution which support natural ecosystems (not new infrastructure) (needs a change in Gov. policy and Ofwat funding mechanisms which is 5 years)
- Longer-time scales. Vision – broader-based coalition
- Long-term timescales 20 year cycles
- Long term planning
- Timescales need reassessing
- Think bigger scale and longer
- Work to longer timescales

Sharing success

Learning from success and good practice examples

- Communication of existing good projects
- Sharing best practice – case studies, techniques, training
- Report, raise awareness of partnership projects and successes
- Even better sharing of information about schemes already existing. Better networking
- Spread best practice knowledge on landscape work
- Publicise good examples
- Expose beneficial projects more widely, also to share knowledge/experience
- Don't reinvent the wheel!
- Need better dissemination of knowledge about projects etc, across organisations/councils but also across different departments within organisations/councils

Collaborative and joined up working

Partnership working

- Communicate to wider audience – look for partnership opp.
- More partnership working and better networking. Sharing best practice
- Partnership working
- Policy change. Real partnership work
- Partnerships
- New partners.
- Create equal partnerships, consensus between different groups
- More ownership of partnerships, more consensus
- Equal partnerships where each partner is valued dependant of size, scale/share better (knowledge and funding)
- More support for work forums such as Biodiversity Partnerships. To co-ordinate targeted work in the BOAs

Integrated joined up projects

- Joined up approach needed amongst/between different organisations
- Joined up working – Implementation
- 'joined up' approach = long term vision
- Join up IBDAs/future landscapes/living landscapes/NP/AONB for ERZs
- More joined-up with non-conservationists
- More implementation (joined up) and sharing best practise

Collaboration with others

- Improve collaborative working in the public sector (eg. Country/district levels).
- More collaborative working – Include others like health professionals, developers
- Co-operation across government Departments.
- More working with private sector

Funding and other resources

Funding

- More resources - higher priority
- Funding for evidence based conservation (monitoring).
- Try to find a way to bring in more private sector funding
- Gain political support – funding

Pool resources

- Join up separate streams of funding into more integrated delivery funds
- Integrate projects – sharing information
- Co-ordination is the key. Taking that overarching view. Ensuring no duplication of effort and multiple benefits.
- Pool resources with other interested parties
- Eliminate duplication of effort.
- Opportunities to join up initiatives
- Need to be more efficient
- Pool resources across public sector

Work out what we are doing!

Landscape scale initiatives?

- Do we have landscape-scale initiatives or initiatives in a landscape?
 - Involving local communities
 - Environmental cooperatives
 - Biodiversity partnerships bring together lots of organisations
 - Need a reason to come together
- Larger scale – need for more, bigger solutions
- Holistic approach

Understand multifunction management

- Understand multifunctionism – developing a broader view
- Better interpretation of benefits and processes
- Appreciating wider benefits
- Multifunctional landscapes approach
- multifunction urban landscapes - Partnerships and pilot study to implement
- Multi-functional land use eg growing food in cities

Make links

- Knitting together terrestrial and marine scapes
- Build on joining up the fragments
- Think outside existing protected area site boundaries
- Habitat Connections
- Cohesive
- Aim to cross boundaries (ie district) with a more strategic approach
- Use innovation and technology to create permeable adaptive landscape
- Integrating urban and rural connections
- Need more connection between HLS etc schemes. Need to connect up schemes eg. Green grids.

Smarter funding

Incentivise environmental change

- Force the required step change in peoples thoughts and behaviour and fund environmental change properly
- Using GI plans to target environmental stewardship applications and funding
- Integrate with other aspects – eg woodland corridors that provide biofuel and run off mitigation
- Provide more financial incentives to implement schemes

Modify funding approaches

- Simplify incentive/payment schemes(targeting)
- Focus on delivery/fund facilitation
- Target them and make economically sustainable to priority areas eg. HLS to incentivise coppicing/other cottage industries. To produce product that funds management
- Better targeting of Env. Stewardship at identified areas of opportunity – link with delivering Lawton
- Need local targeting for ES to achieve connectivity
- Integrating the two, using ELS/HLS more strategically to deliver objectives in priority areas at the local level. Provide models for best practice engagement of communities and all the local stakeholders – equally
- Match schemes with BOAs

Ecosystem services

- Ecosystem services - ££ currency – develop
- valuing ecosystems services

Changes in policy context

Framework

- National frameworks being developed (?)
- National and local frameworks for landscape-scale projects and multifunctional use.
- Need policy driver for delivering landscape-scale projects
- More direction of support from Regulators

- Coordination and establishment of standards
- Strategies (too many)
- Links between national and local planning

Remove bureaucracy

- Removing bureaucratic barriers and language barriers
- Bonfire of green tape

Water and agri environment initiatives

Water management

- Reviewing and changing the abstraction license/charging mechanisms to encourage water to be used in a way that protects sensitive wetlands
- Ensure that Natural Flood Management takes account of existing work and projects

Agri-environment schemes

- CAP reform – strong env. steer from Govt.
- We need to know about all the plans that the private landowners are pursuing around us. Is this public information?
- Agri environment schemes - Need to demonstrate longer term economic benefits to landowners so approach continues beyond life time of grant. Look beyond the single farm/site to multiple sites
- More direction in where funding is targeted in schemes such as ELS MLS
- Re-targeting to more ambitious objectives, away from ELS
- Need agri/env scheme to be joined up to create connectivity (ie more targeted to groups of farmers etc)
- Joint HLS applications.

Urban change

- What will the urban environment look like in the future
- Urban infrastructure – food production – future vision – multi-functional landscapes

Get on with implementation

Focus on implementation

- Translating the vision into action – skills, tools to do it
- Focus more on implementation
- Translate policies and priorities into action
- Having identified GI – need to make it happen on the ground – this is already happening with Wildlife Trusts – Need to draw Higher level GI strategies together with current on the ground action – use of National Character Areas
- Central govt. needs to support public sector to deliver open access – eg – expertise for advice to communities
- Need a step change - New approaches
- Translation of strategic visions to reality implementation – giving ‘Big Society’ skills/resources/support?
- Natural Character Area – implementation
- Natural Character Areas
- Living landscape projects in // // // // for sites in S Herts. This will enhance and strengthen our work here
- Change in ‘who pays’. In new devt, precept on parish to ensure maintenance in public realm. In countryside, landowners ‘fund’ to manage the land resource. Big carrot or penalty beyond what already through cross compliance.

Other comments

- Strengthen role/importance of local authority ecologist and environmental managers – too many being lost by public spending cuts
- Work internationally
- Landscape and green infrastructure considered as separate issues

2.3 What else do we need to do or do differently?

Funding

Tapping into alternate budgets

- Recognise inter-relationship between landscape, health and educational, and budgets need to provide for this cross-linkage.
- Make more imaginative proactive use of local businesses as partners, sources of funding.
- Co-ordinate info/grants to landowners
- More innovative looking for funding – water company approach
- Holistic view to budgets eg. NHS/DoE funding for landscape management. Cross discipline working
- Target funding
- Community infrastructure levy – more funding please

Integrated funding

- Integrated funding streams
- integrated funding streams
- More innovation with regard to funding sources
- Long term funding – maintenance, evidence building
- Holistic approach to funding is joined up/integrated
- Investing in alternative, novel approaches for funding natural connections eg. Habitat banking
- Funders – more holistic approach to giving money to projects - Not just small specific projects
- Join up funding rather than different schemes
- Integrated funding streams
- Identify other funding streams
- Funding/resources – input from the government/facilitated
- Proportionate investment into green economy

Funding that encourages integrated approaches

- Funding for process to integrate
- Funding streams that encourage integrated approaches
- Funding mechanisms reinforce integrated working
- Pool funding streams for research/mgmt.(reward for taking an integrated approach)
- Encouraging Multi-objective funding streams from agencies etc
- Streams of funding need to be joined up – to give a more integrated approach

Long term funding

- Long term funding rather than short-term projects which have to be repackaged

A word of caution about funding

- Funding – the initial promise of Funding for Green Infrastructure projects in the Norwich Growth Point area failed to materialise. Organisations are reluctant to develop projects more fully when time pressures on a reduced staff are increasing and the chances of getting funding are limited

Education

- Education – resources (funding)

Make the business case

- Need to establish the business case for green infrastructure for landowners/developers
- Make case for eg biodiversity in business plan
- Use the evidence base effectively – health, economic, environmental benefits.

Habitat Banking

- Habitat banking – finding for delivery natural, landscape scale initiative

Time frames

Longer time frames need consideration

- Long term projects
- On-going maintenance costs – long term
- Long scale projects to be able to monitor effectively

Participation and consultation

Participation

- More dialogue, working together integration
- Stakeholder participation
- Consensus working
- Talk to different stakeholders and use facilitated workshops.
- Work with the public understand what they want and how we can both achieve a win-win
- Governance, forums (advisory) to develop consensus and multi-functionality

Funding for facilitation and process

- Improve funding stream. Fund facilitation and fund the process
- Funding for processes, integrated
- Funding new mechanisms to engage with a broader range of people eg. Avon wildlife Trusts Section 106 nature reserve

Encourage wider involvement

- Merrick stated ‘diversity of humanity is the key to success’ in his vision. I couldn’t agree more. However, this sector is flooded with the white middle-classes. We need to engage All of Britain’s society to make this work
- Implementation of localism /Bill in facilitation
- Multicultural approval - we need to involve all sector and the community
- Encourage local community involvement
- Multiple organisations working in the same area, but not all joined up.
- Work with people and partners from the beginning
- Find ways of engaging people in environmental issues beyond climate change – dominated media
- Buy in from private sector

Overcoming consultation fatigue

- Consult effectively
- Consultation fatigue - make it topical
- Consultation – presently fatigue - can’t make a difference - we need to do consultation much more effectively
- Less endless consultation, more delivery – needs to be long term
- Address consultation fatigue – encourage people to get involved by assuming them that their views can be influential
- Importance of making it relevant to people

Get professional input

- We are experts on wildlife and biodiversity, but not experts (necessarily) in facilitation, branding and communication – we need to employ more experts from those areas and work with them to reach wider audiences

Empowered local communities

Empower communities

- Need more resources to help empower communities
- Empowerment and support for communities – resources (funding)
- Encourage local groups and empower them to take the actions that they want to do. Give them space to manage the land the way they want to
- Less top down; more empowering/enabling especially deprived communities
- Believe more in the skills and abilities and resources of voluntary sector
- Look twice at what local communities think they can do. In one instance a transition Town group has ideas far bigger than ours for one site

Environmental justice

- Environmental justice – what are the barriers to people using the natural environment – not just distance

Effective Communication

Use appealing language

- Must engage with the next generation more. We must use a language most people understand
 - Ecosystem services – no

- integrated biodiversity areas – no
- wildlife, nature – yes
- Create a language that others can understand. Communicate better
- New language – involve communicators from outside conservation sector.
- Need to communicate more effectively with general public – language, psychology, multiple benefits
- Articulate the value of biodiversity in a more compelling way
- Tell the story simply
- ‘Futerra’ – branding biodiversity
- Have a common language
- Communicate better – simple terminology
- Use the right language – make it relevant to all – This would encourage greater involvement from different people
- Landscape means different things to different people
- Recognise the meaning of landscape is not the same for everyone
- Use common, accessible language

Use new social media

- Better use of technology to mobilize
- Use new technologies to communicate and lobby
- Learn from success and use new technologies
- Better communication with general public: Twitter, Facebook, Education
- Technologies – Facebook
- Use of social media
- Use of modern media

Listen

- Listen to what the public want as well – better planning design
- Understand what people want on the ground

Communicate better

- Clear visions
- Communicate better with the public
- Communicate what we do better and inc. collaboration (eg between Local Record Centre Nationwide) to allow standardisation in things like habitat mapping to make it more useful nationally
- Better communicating quantitative/qualitative/financial benefits with evidence

Communicate with other sectors

- Improve communications – joined up thinking
- Liaise with other sectors, eg. Media, psychology, business, to enhance conservation aims

Education

- Culture shift through school education – opportunity to do this through new curriculum (in Scotland)
- Educate the public as to environmental issues of objectives to encourage funding
- Education – more investment in outdoor education opportunities
- Engage the younger generations – in biological recording the majority of people who go out recording are of retirement age
- Education and media. Cross-discipline including government
- Education, it may not be feasible to allow local people to plan for themselves
- People need to change expectations/lifestyle – can’t carry on as we are now.
- Local decisions must be informed

Stream line procedures

Streamline the process / simplify policy

- Reduce the ‘red tape’
- Streamline process to allow delivery of GI and natural connections
- Streamline processes and remove red tape
- Stop disproportionate red tape to green projects
- Policy change and adjustment across the board - Lose control, ditch the organisational labelling and posturing, and share leadership locally and nationally
- Problem – Lots of bureaucracy in planning system and obscuring simple measures through over-technical language
- Solution – Ecology in planning to be outcome – driven, concentrate on habitat, compensation etc.

- rather than surveys to ‘tick boxes’
- Remove some of the barriers
- More proportionate regulation, streamlined consenting

Positive policies

- Govt. policy to create/value and protect ecological networks (but not at the expense of Green Belts)
- GI needs to be more recognised – more local enabling by government

Avoid duplication of effort

- Stop doing same thing in paralleled by different organisations; one organisation to lead in partnership
- Stop re-inventing the wheel with new initiatives and give existing initiatives a chance to develop

Help farmers

- Lobby for Farm Business Tenancies to change – they can be very short term (and high rent), which makes it hard for farmers who are tenants to think long-term – need to influence big landowners eg Crown Estate
- Farmers destroying good habitat before they can apply for a grant to recreate that habitat

Multifunction landscapes

- Creating multifunctional spaces – getting people to be more ready to accommodate other people’s needs/desires’
- Species protection – too much funding/regulation/focus on individual sites/species
- Multi-functionality of spaces – developing consensus
- If organisation works for one species/habitat – need to look at a wider habitats and linkage with species

Changes within the sector

Value NGO’s

- Recognise the vast experience of NGOs. And local groups
- Compete less between NGO’s

Organisational

- We need to merge the many organisations managing the fragments of our landscape. We have fragmented management
- Can’t just look at local projects and local delivery – also need regional and national input to give direction
- Integration

Quality leadership

- Quality leadership
- Champions
- More pressure on government
- Issue in my organisation some senior staff are not conservation trained – from business backgrounds. Therefore do not understand holistic approach to all wildlife/habitats just one species set and the habitat associated with that

Focus on delivery

- Focussed delivery – actual change on the ground
- Restore landscapes – in most areas this means more nature woodland (in Cornwall – Sessile, Oak, Hazel and Alder in damp valleys) on any land not in other use
- Avoid talking shops – less ‘visioning’ – more doing if you want the community on board
- Maintaining what we’ve got

Share information and good practice

- Sharing information across groups/sectors
- Lesson learned – forests
- Spread good practice eg. Through dissemination of research

Be creative

- Much more creative approach to landscape in urban and peri-urban areas`
- Be prepared to accept non-native species and habitats in the urban environment
- Break out from conventional engineering approaches to GI. Not about precise “lines on a map” – fuzziness

Monitoring and evidence base

- Evidence Research for monitoring. Evaluation of work funding

2.4 Following today what two actions will you go away and do?

Get priorities right!

- Take my son bug hunting this weekend!

Change language

- Keep messages/terminologies simple
- Re-visit messaging of my stock-presentation on 'Living Landscapes'
- Identify a better way to communicate connected landscape necessity – what is a living landscape
- Improve language within house and across publications to sell positive message
- Make our language clearer on our website regarding 'ecosystem approach' etc

Water management

- Understand whether we should put more effort into catchment solutions
- Meet Ofwat to discuss funding arrangements for integrated catchment management planning
- Try to build on the catchment management work (existing) by interpreting the Story behind it more effectively
- Talk to "water" colleague about what SW water did
- Get my R&D team working on understanding the value of cleaning up rivers
- Liaise with water companies in my project areas
- Discuss upstream water co. work in context of existing landscape project
- Investigate funding opportunities used by other water companies to deliver biodiversity/catchment projects

Linking GI to health benefits

- Research who does what where in connection with GI and health benefits
- Find out how walking for health evidence and data can be used for future dialogue
- Ensure that health and environment silos are joined up
- Network contacts within the health agenda with Forestry Resources for Green Infrastructure Plan

Forest Research Resource and URGP

- Brief colleagues on current projects and Forest Research Resource
- Communicate with/send as appropriate to Forest Research green space database initiative
- Share JNCC work to develop a GI database at a UK level with the Forest Research team
- Learn more – visit Forest research Website
- Submit info to Forest Research, URGP database
- Take a look at the Forest Research URGP web-site
- Encourage greater membership of the URGP
- Research URGP and use info/contacts to develop GI work

Participation and consultation

- Use knowledge to involve public more in future projects - Engage rather than consult
- Look at the stakeholder participation model and consider
- Use well designed process with 3rd parties to develop South Downs National Park Plan
- Listen to local people on their views on the environment
- Plan communication and consultation better
- Review plans for future public consultation
- Put more effort into the stakeholder dialogue process on our (spatial) climate change adaptation plan
- Take back to a steering group advice on engaging and involving land managers in projects from the outset
- Think again about how to involve communities in writing Living Landscape vision doc
- Facilitated Workshops that look at joint decisions and commitment to implementation
- Try harder to facilitate focus group sessions with a wider audience
- Find out more about our Local landscapes work and how it is engaging and involving communities at a local level

Partnerships

- Continue to look for partners with which to carry out GI projects
- Develop our partnership working
- Continue making connections between officers and projects in partner organisations (and in wider communications too)
- Think even harder how I could encourage creation of local GI partnerships

- Organise closer collaboration with partner organisations to make the most of our joint efforts
- Identify creative ways that as a researcher can partner with people/organisations attending this conference to provide evidence
- Ensure that all partner organisations are involved in the GI strategy production
- To influence the projects I'm involved in, particularly strategies to incorporate and aim to deliver opportunities already highlighted by other existing parties/bodies/data ////

Look for added benefit

- Always consider how any one project is connected to others – integrated benefits
- Scope how we can be more involved with current projects
- Encourage my colleagues to be more creative and demand more from GI
 - Develop a shared vision with local farmers to achieve this
- Ensure that all reports in support of planning applications include the promotion of habitat Connections to the wider environment
- Discuss opportunities with local group for better integration and use of localism agenda
- Look over TREBAP objectives and how these 'additional' enhancements for biodiversity on a particular project could be implemented
- Raise the importance of GI on the developer's agenda
- Look at the wider benefits of landscape scale action and communicate with other stakeholders

Influence others

- Plan conferences that are targeted to address specific knowledge-sharing areas
- Share the integrated local delivery with as many folks possible
- Aim to make people (inc. regulators) think about longer term sustainable solution
- Disseminate own best practice examples internally and externally to encourage others
- Continue to give advice on planning applications based on outcome for habitats rather than process alone
- Make research findings available eg. Through website, word of mouth, reports
- Use the GI resource to influence LPAs on policy and devt management decision making in our AONB area
- Think about the ways that I personally can contribute to the behaviour shift in my community
- Try and assist/influence organisation implementing landscape scale action
- Promote Neroche Scheme more widely – especially to Forest Research colleagues!
- Education for elected members
- Encourage my clients (developers) to be more open with statutory consultees

Find out more

- Research networking and opportunity maps information
- Do some of my own research on issues discussed today – multibenefit/multifunctional places – so I am in a better position to position to implement actions
- Read up some of the references
- Find out what existing stewardship schemes are up and running in our district
- Look into green infrastructure projects/GI strategies
- Review latest TEEB reports
- Get to grips with the forthcoming White Paper
- Re-read 'branding biodiversity' by Futerra
- Attend Talk Action's Facilitation training workshop
- Google the reports mentioned
- Find out more information on projects that are currently going on
- Have a look at what currently being done in Wales – Join up for UN
- Check out GI by Design (Milton Keynes) guidance
- Make use of the resources highlighted today
- Seek clarity from Defra in relation to what they consider GI to be, ie. Narrow or mainstreamed for bd.

Make the case

- Develop funding models to demonstrate the value of GI in their own pockets
- Produce a plan showing how woodland connectivity could look in the NE Norwich Growth Triangle
- Help collate work on ecosystem services already being done by National Parks for dissemination

Rethink and enhance current work

- Seek to bring ideas into the South Downs National Park Management Plan
- Speak to North Downs AONBs about taking a more proactive approach to land management though next round of mgt plan reviews and take more control of resources to implement fully integrated

approach

- Better prepare a Green Infrastructure strategy
- Think about Essonden(?) in relation to transition town movement
- Firmer stance about “adaptive management” approach on another project. Imp to continue to ‘learn by doing’
- Think about how we can work with Defra initiatives
- Carry on working on developing and implementing projects in the BOAs

New resources or links to existing

- Contacts to provide good practice procedure to help me develop new company procedures
- Need to develop and communicate a vision of a living landscape/illustration for rural and urban vision
- Executive report and actions on Biodiversity Duty and Env. White Paper
- Ensure links to GI stuff from biodiversity Planning Toolkit

Disseminating information to colleagues

- Tell my colleagues about today – probably write a short report for my institutes newsletter (and word of mouth)
- Write an article for the magazine
- Share my new knowledge with team and colleagues
- Share information discussed today with others in my office/organisation
- Briefing colleagues on project cases eg. South West Water
- Influence rest of team to think ‘bigger’
- Pass on this discussion to colleagues/CEO
- Brief rest of organisation
- Raise stuff learnt today to other people in my team
- Brief colleagues on latest progress with GI so better awareness in my team
- Fill in my colleagues on the proceedings of today’s conference
- Feedback information and what I’ve learned from the conference to colleagues
- Feed back to the people higher in the environment team who do have the power to make changes
- Feedback to manages developing our new structure
- Brief team on today’s learning points
- Educate colleagues about what is actually native habitat (rather than semi natural) aim for native (often woodland) less costly to maintain, sustainable and multibenefit
- Brief my boss and have a discussion
- Share the knowledge gained here with colleagues
- Carry on promoting the benefits/opportunities of GI to colleagues doing the ‘day job’ across E and W

Speak with particular people

- Joint meeting Avon and Somerset Wildlife Trusts Living Landscapes with “connectivity Kevin” to plan next steps
- Work with Kevin Watts for our landscape restoration work
- Liaise with Merrick re Landscape Trust
- Contact Jim Paice and Richard Benyon to share my views on today
- Talk to Matt P about schemes around us to weave that work into our ‘infrastructure’

Other actions

- Stop listening to N.E and their latest strategy eg. IBDAS, TRIBS
- Northern Kites project (Gateshead)
- Hopefully bid for some GI work!

2.5 What resources or case studies do you know of?

Resources

Natural England E

- Natural England guidance
- Natural Health Service (Natural England)
- NE GI guidance
- I will send you an email or see [www.naturalengland.org.uk/North East/GreenInfrastructure](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/North%20East/GreenInfrastructure) “signposting document”
- Numerous on NE website and being shared with Forest Research

Living Landscapes

- Landscape character Assessment incorporating habitat network analysis (based on Living Landscape scheme) to produce strategic landscape/biodiversity objectives
- Living Landscapes beginner 1 day course on ‘landscapes and wildlife’
- Living Landscapes farmland puzzle/word game for education events!

Opportunity Mapping

- Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping offers a good layer to start with

Forest Research

- Forest Research
- Forest research have done a lot of work with green networks
- Forestry Commission website

Others

- Wetland Vision for England (50 year vision)
- Biodiversity Planning Toolkit – a way in for Planners and developers
- County level accessible natural green space standards
- Environmental Philanthropy – explore local ‘resource’
- European Commission webpages on GI
- JNCC database of GI initiatives in UK
- Paper (short) – Socio-Economic Approach to landscape-scale conservation (South West Wildlife Trusts, August 2007)
- Putting local wildlife on the map
- Research in: National Park governance: greenspace: cultural meaning of hunting; access and recreation
- See the URGP website – 30 case studies, 12 evidence notes, 20 toolkits and models, 12 best practice guides
- Urban Benefits
- www.naturalcapitalinitiative.org.uk

Place based projects

Wales

- Landscape Scale initiative in Wales

Scottish Projects

- Plans for wetland Inventory in Scotland
- (Scotland) National Assessment of opportunities for natural flood management measures
- Central Scotland Green Network, Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network, Trees for Life, BEETLE model (Forest Research),GN-IUI
- Tarland water management and land use project . Macaulay Institute Aberdeen

South East

- All London Green Grid (and East London Green Grid)
- Thames Headwaters Conservation Credit Pilot Project – developing working case for habitat banking/biodiversity offsets in the UK
- Greening the Gateway (Thames Gateway)
- Valley of Visions – Kent
- NE Kent Green Infrastructure
- Kent Wildlife Trust Living Landscape project case studies

- An approach to Integrated whole farm approach – Kent Downs AONB Farm Diversification Toolkit www.kentdowns.org.uk
 - Dover G Infrastructure study
 - South Downs Farmland Birds Initiative (RSPB, NE, SDNPA)
 - South Downs Landscape – Scale Delivery Plan (stage are draft)
 - Proposal for new sustainable reservoir at Havant Thicket: a very successful stakeholder engagement which informed public consultation process. Stakeholder group reviewed responses and recommended way forward. Scheme adapted to maximise benefits for Green Infrastructure

 - HLS Delivery in S Downs – GIS/integrated targeting (NE)
- South West of England**
- The Cornwall AONB Management Plan 2011-2016
 - Taunton Living Landscape
 - West Penwith – upstream thinking (South West Water and Cornwall Wildlife Trust)
 - South West Nature Map
- West England**
- Mendip Living Landscape
 - Avon wildlife Trust’s new Portbury Wharf reserve created through unique scheme of section 106 agreement for adjacent new housing development. Home owners pay //// for management of reserve by AWT. Local residents across reserve and feel ownership of it. New audience for conservation and AWT – if you need further information contact myself – Lucy Rogers, Director of Conservation, Avon Wildlife Trust
 - All in Somerset with research/various approaches
 - Neroche – www.nerochescheme.org
 - Neroche Partnership
- East of England**
- Dereham Green Infrastructure Strategy (a good example of a GI strategy produced for a small market town in Norfolk)
 - Greater Norwich Green Infrastructure Map
 - Norwich Green Infrastructure Delivery Plan.
 - New NWT resource available from davidn@norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk
 - Living Landscapes (Danbury Ridge, Essex Wildlife Trust website)
 - Huntingdon Fens Project
 - Chelmer and Blackwater Partnership – catchment officers advising farmers “Branch Out” fund from Essex and Suffolk water/Northumbrian water
- Midlands**
- GI by design – design guidance for sustainable communities/new urban extensions in the Milton Keynes South Midlands area
- North West**
- A Cheshire local authority has done a lot of work with creating networks across the county
 - Griffiths Park Chemical Landfill – ICI, Lostock Cheshire – A community asset turned into a community asset.
 - Irish Sea Conservation Zones
- Other locations we did not know off the top of our heads!**
- Brue Living Landscape
 - Haven Gateway Green Infrastructure strategy
 - MK Parks Trust guidance
 - Selwood Living Landscape
 - Wandle Valley project
 - Allan Water Project – again River restoration and flood management - scoping study about to start
 - Eddleston water project – river restoration and natural flood management-catchment approach