



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Developments in landscape scale approaches in England



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Forestry Commission
England

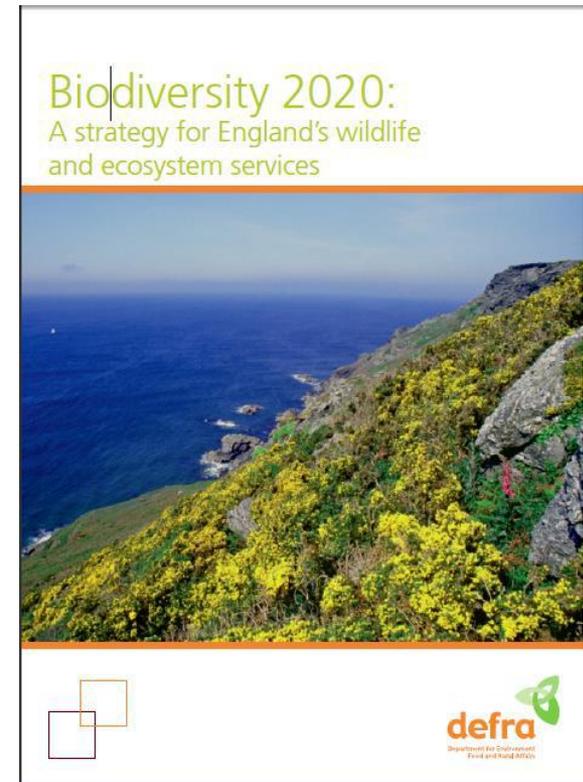


Environment
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Biodiversity 2020: a strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services – published in 2011

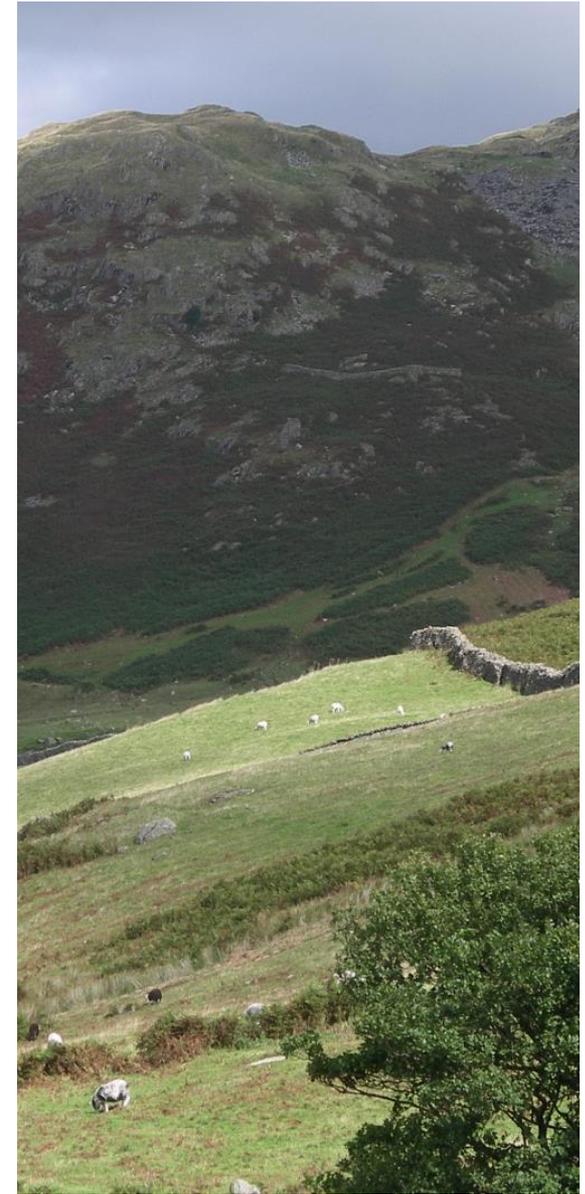
Outcomes: by 2020

- more and less fragmented areas for wildlife,
- no net loss of priority habitat, and overall increase of 200,000ha;
- restoring at least 15% of degraded ecosystems
- overall improvement in status of wildlife
- no human induced extinctions
- more people engaged in biodiversity issues, aware of its values and taking positive action



Biodiversity 2020 - priority actions

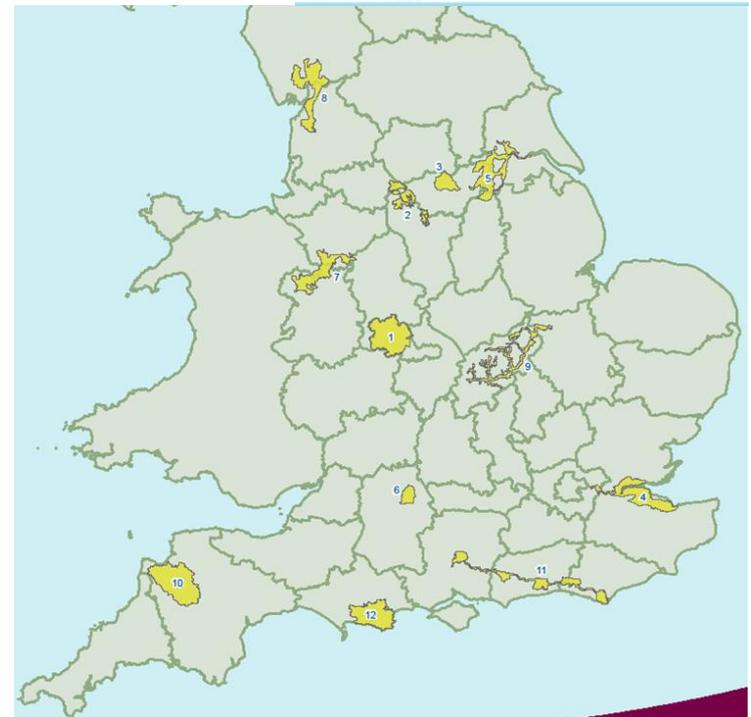
- Establish more coherent and resilient ecological networks on land that safeguard ecosystem services for the benefit of wildlife and people.
- Encourage integrated, landscape-scale approaches which will help achieve multiple outcomes.



Nature Improvement Areas – pilot 2011-15

- Bottom-up approach
- Competition launched in 2011
- Proposals from local authorities, land managers, private sector and conservation organisations
- Seed-corn funding (£7.5m) for three years to establish local partnerships and co-fund projects
- Mix of landscapes – urban, coastal, wetland, farmland, upland

- 1 Birmingham and the Black Country
- 2 Dark Peak
- 3 Dearne Valley Green Heart
- 4 Greater Thames Marshes
- 5 Humberhead Levels
- 6 Marlborough Downs
- 7 Meres and Mosses
- 8 Morecambe Bay Limestones and Wetlands
- 9 Nene Valley
- 10 Northern Devon
- 11 South Downs Way Ahead
- 12 Wild Purbeck



NIAAs – objectives

‘large-scale habitat restoration and recreation, under-pinned by the re-establishment of ecological processes and ecosystem services’.

- Improved biodiversity:

- More, bigger, better, more joined-up wildlife habitats

- Enhanced ecosystem services:

- Regulating, provisioning, cultural services

- Social and economic benefits and well-being

- Better collaboration and partnership working – adding value to existing investments



Evaluation of NIAs – key outcomes (1)

- maintained or improved 13,664ha and restored 4,625ha of priority habitat and improve habitat connectivity;
- enhanced a wide range of ecosystem services including improving habitats for pollinators, for natural flood protection and carbon sequestration;
- in one NIA it was estimated that conserving 1,500ha of species-rich grassland had a value of £6 million in terms of water resource management and carbon storage.



Evaluation of NIAs – key outcomes (2)

- created easier access to and improve the quality of greenspace
- help people to engage with and understand the natural environment.
 - in three of the NIAs 26,500 people participated in educational visits
 - volunteers contributed over 47,000 days of their time to actions in NIAs, with recognised health benefits



Evaluation of NIAs – key outcomes (3)

- NIA partnerships were broader and better coordinated than would have been possible otherwise. They included organisations that are not traditionally involved in conservation work, such as local businesses.
- Land managers were involved in, and undertook activities across all the NIAs
- The NIA partnerships also engaged with their local communities, encouraging community involvement in decision-making,
- The NIA partnerships mobilised resources with an equivalent value of £26.2 million (including the financial value of volunteer time and services in-kind) in addition to the initial (£7.5m) government grant funding.



Integrating landscape scale approaches into agri-environment scheme delivery

- In England, Nature Improvement Areas were replaced by the **Facilitation Fund** in 2016
- The **Facilitation Fund** is part of Countryside Stewardship (our agri-environment scheme)
- The Facilitation Fund pays for a person or organisation (facilitator) to help a group of farmers and other land managers work at a landscape scale

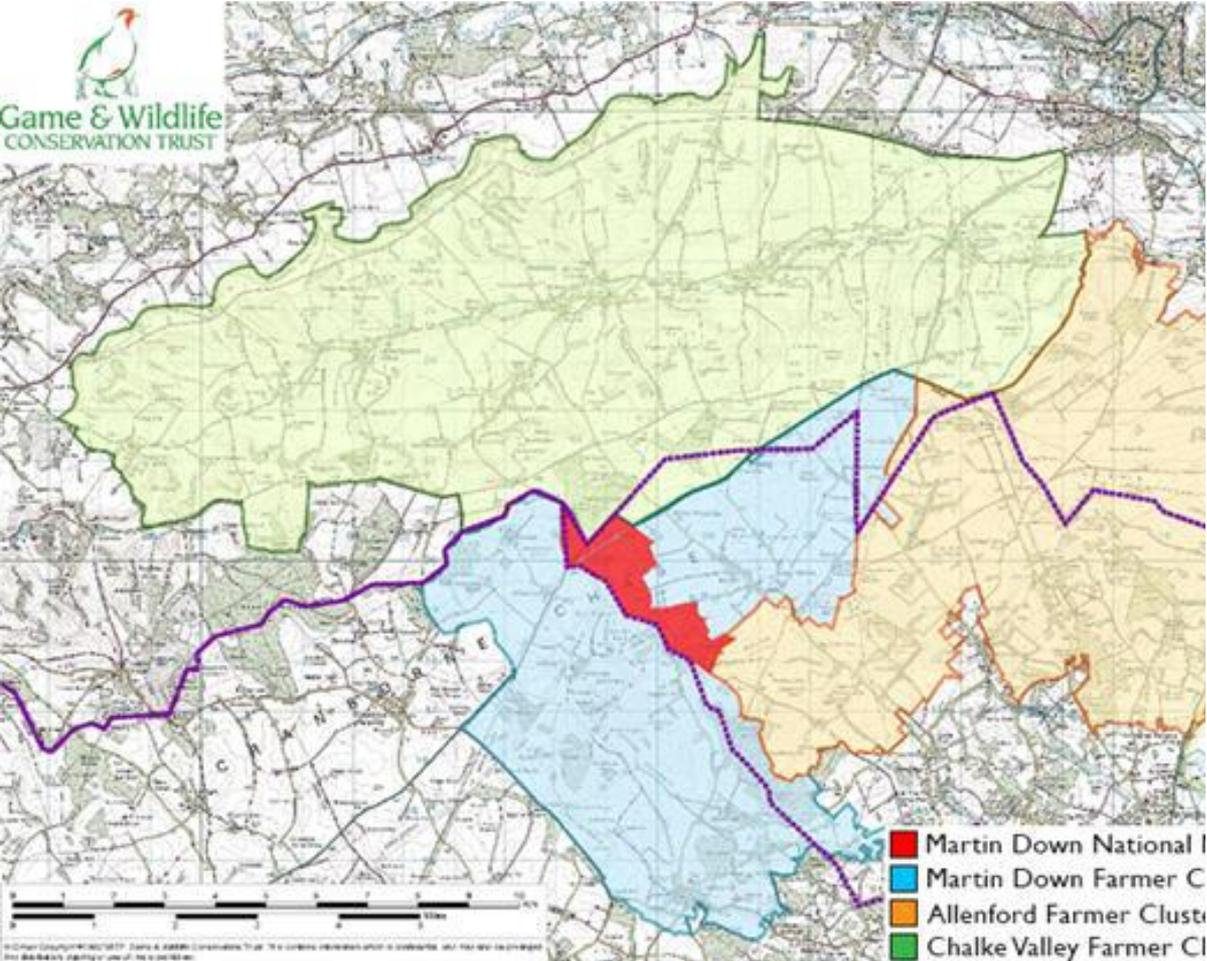


NGO and private sector initiatives on landscape scale delivery

- **Farmer Clusters** – farmer led multi-landholding approaches to conservation (UK-wide)
- **Wildlife Estates** is a whole farm or whole estate approach based on independent auditing (UK-wide)
- The **Endangered Landscapes Programme** is a re-wilding programme funded by philanthropists (UK-wide)
- Various ad-hoc NGO-led initiatives, delivered largely through advice to landowners and farmers (e.g. **B-lines, Buzz along the coast, urban buzz**)



An Example: Martin Down Farmer Cluster



- 43 farmers working together across 238 square km around Martin Down National Nature Reserve (in red)
- Increasing the amount of wild pollinator habitat on arable land by over 50%
- Trebling the number of ponds suitable for turtle dove
- Improving hedgehog education in four villages
- Increasing grey partridge habitat on 600ha of the cluster area

Wild Ennerdale – a partnership approach

- 4300 ha in NW England (Lake District)
- Partnership between the Forestry Commission, National Trust and United Utilities.
- Allowing the evolution of Ennerdale as a wild valley for the benefit of people, relying more on natural processes to shape its landscape and ecology
- Linked to recreation, tourism and water quality improvement



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Next Steps

- 25 Year Environment Plan published in Jan 2018
- Commitment to publish a **post-2020 strategy for nature**
- Develop a **nature recovery network**
 - **A network of landscape scale projects of different scale and depth**
 - A targeted approach to habitat restoration and creation to link and join protected sites and habitats
 - Contributing to other effective area based measure target
- A new code to guide species reintroductions
- Trials and testing of new approaches to support effective landscape partnerships in our new agri-environment scheme

