

## Nature Recovery Workshop Write Up – 2 November 2022

### How could we achieve 30% target for land-based recovery?

#### Stop Doing the bad stuff

- Pesticides, chemicals, artificial fertilisers
- Planting monocultures
- No non-natives
- Import of animal feedstuffs

#### Make space for the good stuff

- Simple
- Nature will do the good stuff itself
- New developments – use native tree planting
- Protect the Best (designated spaces) and improve the rest (Cornwall)

#### Planning and administrative context

- Needs to allow change for good
- E.g., of 2yrs to get permission to dig a wildlife pond, agri permission would have been immediate.
- Streamlining permissions/consents for habitat delivery

#### Data and evidence

- add in less secure landscapes, i.e., agri schemes / short term
- big difference between DC and BCP areas – need to map and quantify/understand this and the difference it will make to the scheme/potential for recovery
- 70% land in BCP are private gardens
  - Be more messy, No Mow May
  - Urban Greening Opportunities
- Need agreed methodology for monitoring
- 75% land unknown
  - E.g., MOD land
- SNCI's – under-funded and therefore an opportunity. How do we link them up?
- Scale of connectivity
- Need framework in place to make change easy
- Understand what's already started/in place/growing
  - Beaver/Bison intros without boundaries (Purbeck)
  - Wild Woodberry
  - SVP potential

#### Making it attractive

- We need to show nature recovery is an attractive thing to do
- Opportunity –
  - promote nature and change in land use
  - build allies and advocates
  - FIPL
  - Farm clusters
- Inspire people to participate

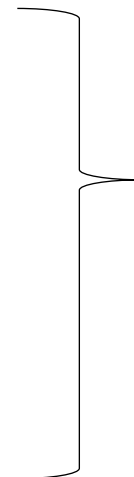
- Make it easy for farmer x to dig that pond, so farmer y is inspired to as well
- Be flexible
- LA's need to be advocates and be seen to be leading on this – doing the right thing
- E Angle example
- Place Dorset as the UK's 'Well-Being capital'
- Don't penalise for related work – make it all positive
  - Land allocated for conservation should not be devalued
  - Land acquisition and 'Angel Investment' already coming through (wild Woodberry, Mapperton etc.), pensions markets and philanthropy could do a lot of this for us
- Make the process easy
  - Increase confidence
  - Decrease blockers
  - Embed in local Plan
- Bring people along – understand values and relate to Green environment

### Leads in to...Knowing the Markets

- BNG Credits
- Natural capital/green finance
- Nature based solutions
- Are we the next BitCoin?

### Need to Incentivise £££

- 1-in a generation opportunity
- Change of mindset
- Need to convince general public
- Influence consumer choice
  - Influence supermarkets
  - Food pricing and sourcing
  - Support local businesses/SME's
  - But balance with financial crisis – 'good' food is expensive
  - Accreditation is important e.g. organic/veg/vegan
- Viability of future food production
  - Easing burden on Agri
  - Advice and brokering
- Plan for next decision makers and engage now



All amounts  
to Behaviour  
change

### Setting and meeting targets

- Risk taking activity (change in use, move to habitat focus)
- In a risk averse sector

All limited because of a lack of Govt clarity and policy

### Climate resilience

- Long term thinking
- Diversification
  - Water Q
  - Carbon
  - Flood mitigation/benefits of floodplain restoration

## How could we achieve this 30% target for marine-based nature recovery?

### **Targets / monitoring and evaluation**

- Need to define the area – how do we know when we have done it?
- Is it Dorset's 30% + Devon + others?
- Dorset area.
- Measure targets from watercourse
- Water quality and 30% target – how do we quantify this? Get the data to answer the question
- Need to have a vision to see where we are going
- 2015 list – we know that
- We need to protect 30% of the seabed. Where there is full protection, this will have a knock-on effect
  - accountability – there needs to be this
  - enforcement

### **Key Partners**

- Need to have fishermen involved to help nature recovery
- Need to work through neutral organisations (DCF) so there is a safe space to work
- Delegate this question to DCF as more stakeholders need to participate
- Councils need to connect county farms to any effect on the marine
- Move away from just fishermen to marine users such as leisure market. Look at habits of marine users
- MMO need to be actively engaged – need to link to Marine Plan
- Link with scientists so we can find out what is there
- Citizen science for divers is a good way to collect data: SeaSearch – involve them

### **Key themes/issues**

- We currently have lots of marine designated protected areas, and protecting the bit where there is less damage
- High Marine Protected Areas – Dorset didn't put forward for one of these as knew what the response would be
- Need some Highly Marine Protected Area, and no-go zones
- Some habitats have been lost e.g. oyster beds, so can't recover
- Need to stop the damaging stuff so need to work with people to be part of the conversation but not from green angle
- Diversification of fishermen to things that support nature recovery industries
- Should include and connect catchments as lots of issues upstream cause issues in the sea e.g. Poole Harbour
- Slow the Flow – need to connect that to the 30%
- Noise is an invisible pressure – boat traffic etc. that affects migrations
- New technologies could help e.g. propellers for boats
- Sewage discharges impacting water quality
- Nutrient issues need to be considered
- Seagrass has been valued at billions of pounds – really good carbon offsetting
- Tourism is damaging to marine environment because lack of awareness
- Increased sea temperature will bring in new species – what are they?
- What species are we happy to lose? Need to look and consider climate change

- Invasive species – are they an issue or not? Need to decide whether they have become nature
- Sea is very difficult. We have no knowledge of what will happen if we just stopped activities – would this rewild areas?
- Sea could be much harder to recover
- Public see the sea as wild not damaged which could be a problem
- Marine plastic an issue – clean up the sea needs to be included in nature recovery
- DCF conference – impact, economic value of sea angling was very high and works more than all commercial fishing. Need to look at fish, work with industry who have a vested interest in big fish so that this can be encouraged
- Do need to have high-quality conditions to have sustainable fish
- How do we work at seascape scale?
- Many people don't want a marine National Park as there are statutory and bureaucratically
- How can we create sanctuary that stops the damage? What is a more attractive opportunity for those doing damage?
- A proportion of farming community that are at end of their tether, but fishermen aren't
- Seagrass and salt marsh are carbon stores – use this as an offset for damaging activities
- Highways piloting a scheme where they can use money to offset carbon for seagrass
- Bottom trawling equivalent to draining peat in terms of climate damage, so take carbon money for stopping bottom trawling?

#### **Sharing good practice / communication**

- Use Lyme Bay as an example as a way of nature recovery
  - lots of studies done
  - baseline surveys
  - led by Blue Nature
- Demonstrate case studies – Lyme Regis is one. Lyme Bay was a consumer-focused campaign which is why it was a success
- Ecomoorings – Studland an example of marine recovery
- Marine environment that is full of life is better for nature and users
- Change the language – stop using words like 'stop it' and use 'manage it'
- Need more video, films, cameras, visuals to connect people. Tell story with images

#### **Action needed**

- We should not be so compromising all the time. Needs strong leadership and goals
- Need to change the culture amongst those who damage nature (e.g. fishermen)
- Bringing in new industries that are more contained, such as aquaculture – to play a role in supporting recovery of nature
- Need investment to achieve recovery, and need priorities on what we should be concentrating on
- Need grants and support from government to pay people to do more that affects water quality
- Blend boundaries between land and sea – mapping risk zones, opportunity zones – then becomes meaningful across the seascape
- Create where any investment goes by knowing what we have and where we want to recover – using biodiversity metric
  - DC can then look at where they want to invest
- Support a marine National Park? exploring economic
  - explore to extend Jurassic Coast designation to the sea, for geology and nature recovery

- Need to have a shared vision of Marine Nature Parks for nature recovery
- Look at natural solutions in land – then sea better
- No schemes e.g. seagrass meadow creation available; need to have more of this
- No credits for seagrass to bring in funding
- Supporting sustainable fishing and get people to support it
- Blue Belt project – look at others and not reinvent the wheel. Also MEDPAN example
- Map the habitats where the juvenile species are and protect ‘sprat’ areas
- Target the right habitats e.g. salt marsh, and have ‘no-go zones’ at the same time as making positive zones
- Support good aquaculture and have zones and integrate into nature recovery ‘twinning scheme’
- Use webcams under the sea to raise awareness
- Education work – bring into science curriculum
- Traceability on local fish products needs to be mandated
- Stop the use of bottom-towed gear – no mobile gear should touch the seabed
- Need to work in partnership to propose designation
- Niche marketing is needed: ‘sustainable fish’
- Government needs to change the way things are done – stop paying for things that damage the marine environment
- Adapt our lifestyle to address the ecological emergency
- Need a scheme set up so that mitigation can be done – trees and seagrass

### **How should partners work together to coordinate and drive delivery, and measure and monitor progress?**

#### **Partnership working**

- Strong partnership working in Dorset
- Potential to use Base camp or knowledge hub to share information
- There are many partnerships – map them and who does what
- Do we need more partnerships? or better links?
- Evaluate partnership working
- Make most of existing partnerships
- Partnership in legislative areas – e.g. NE – where does this fit in without undermining national strategies?
- Building trust and facilitation for joint working
- Not compete for funding
- Face to face meetings are important, not just online to build partnerships (or potential for hybrid meetings)
- Work harmoniously and not focus on the loudest voices – work better together.

#### **Partners**

- Engage more widely with people and organisations beyond the conservation sector
  - Network Rail / transport
  - Green banking
  - Business
  - Urban communities
  - Landowning communities land agents – bring together and champion from within

- DACTC
- Young Pioneers and youth groups
- Farm clusters
- Industry and developers
- EDI work needs to be strengthened
- Geographical contacts – organic groups
- ‘Friends of’ groups
- Schools, colleges
- Other partnerships

### **Monitoring and evaluation**

- Measure and monitor need more resourcing
- Data from delivery needs to feed up to LNP level
- Need to improve measure and monitoring (soil / water biomass – long term monitoring needed), especially for adaptive management
- Build agility and resilience – not so target-driven (measure and monitor meaningful and appropriate times)
- Multiple websites – make sure data is accessible in relevant places
- Condition and area – broad framework and more detailed
- Citizen science – but multiple sources and hosts, need to collate to local picture
- Framework for delivery and monitoring for LNRs
- Trusted source for evidence, start baseline now
- Judging condition – no agreement on condition for rivers and possibly wetlands and other habitats
- Records have been added to DERC to support mapping – link data back to records
- Strength in record centre, but under resourced for future work
- More records needed
- Adopting the same targets, across partners to work together and all contribute to the same goals
- Work harmonious and not the loudest! – work better together
- How will national strategies be integrated and feed into LNRs, could be national but not local priority

### **Engagement and Communication**

- Celebrate successes / good news stories of what has been done to inform politicians and policy makers – including grassroots community groups
- Case studies, examples and demonstration of what can be achieved, evidence what we can do and link how partnerships work – social network to share examples and ideas
- Negative language use – prohibit, constraints e.g. swap to positive language
- Behaviour science (DCF) and Planet Purbeck – local voice to help people champion and mobilise communications
- Meaningfully engaged, influence thinking with alignment to good outcomes
- Investment needed for engagement approach
- Listening to champions, parish councils, bring them to the forefront to help mainstream – Exemplars
- Link researchers, volunteers etc.
- Planet Purbeck has developed some short films – newer tech, social media.
- Bring together and engage with wider partners

### **Driving delivery**

- Delivery at local level and determine where gaps are
- Decide what does good look like – how do we know? Where are we headed – steps of where we get to and open up to other metrics – wider than biodiversity
- Make nature recovery mainstream – environmental partnerships good but not good at wider partnerships – not just the conservation sector
- New finance options – facilitate landowners
- What do government targets mean – nature richness
- How do we change production for nature positive
- Need LNRS to be one plan area – possible different targets
- Moving from static strategy (and opportunities) to interactive maps for record areas
- Farmer advice – not hard sell and not getting multiple advice who is speaking to which landowner, are some being missed and are some people more open to different advisors
- Draft strategies need to be joined up or cross-checked – need commonality
- Partners to adopt key elements of a strategy
- Reference strategy for delivery projects – integrate into organisations own plans
- Government funding to require links to other strategy actions
- Need continuity, not just projects funded – long-term staffing
- Make it new and exciting
- Agile to be able to respond – can-do attitude
- Development action plan for partners
- ‘How to’ materials (uncomplicated!), get the basics right – not do the wrong thing
- Creating, maintaining and supporting roles to keep people in post
- Resources – e.g. SW reps: how to influence local? can we be more efficient (some work happens)
- Continuity to see a process through – see the complete process
- Multiple funding for an advisor to work for multiple partners and time to spend to build relationships
- Ambition – big money in restoration: from the City on individual team can do part of it, can bring landowners together to bring in the big funding
- Working on some general ambitions, but are our individual goals etc. aligned? remove barriers and align to unlock

### **What are the main barriers to the recovery of nature and what should the key ask for government be?**

#### **Barriers to nature recovery**

- Capacity / priorities
  - Capacity & organisations forming forward-thinking priorities with resources employed doing the right things
  - Potential conflicting short-term priorities
- Wider communication / engagement needed
  - Disconnect between people & nature – valuing
  - Emotional connection/valuing nature – growing understanding
  - Access to understanding & engagement on what it looks like/examples
  - Schools engagement

- Understanding & communicating wider co-benefits e.g. natural capital
- Messaging/marketing
- Jargon – need simplified language
- Better use of psychology for engagement
- Involving a range of landowners & engagement across various parties
- Awareness raising / societal change
  - Better understanding of what large scale change could look like over time (e.g. of what natural rivers systems would look like)
  - Needs wider societal change
  - Skills gaps, and need for broader/less specialist skills, as well as need for AI/tech trials
  - Farm cluster success in growing action & a point of contact for wider-scale schemes
- Financing / resourcing
  - Uncertainty for landowners (agri-env schemes, change in govt/u-turns, green finance)
  - Shifting baselines
  - Clarity on future financing
  - Natural capital financing/new & less fragmented ways of funding
  - Resourcing for governance/advisory boards
  - Financial barriers in Green Book rules
  - Short-termism in scale/timing of funding – Need for longer-term timescales in funding & policy (a key barrier/uncertainty/risk)
- Strategic priorities/policies
  - Planning policy – s106 limited scope & impact; consistent approach needed to expand (e.g. Portland)
  - Planning Policy – Local Plan; need for site allocation for nature recovery and strategic approach
  - Permitted Development Rights
  - Strategic vision – what do we want it to look like
  - Joined up approach across terrestrial/marine
  - Council influence on land management e.g. its assets like County Farms
- Other barriers
  - Non-agri areas
  - Stability in land use
  - Administrative barriers and siloing
  - Internal organisational barriers to alignment (e.g. on transport or land use sign off)
  - Linking species protections to wider recovery approaches like dynamic land approaches at scale
  - Food costs/security and the need to keep production with clear links between agri, waste, value etc.
  - Land ownership model
  - Tackle food waste

### **Asks to Government**

- Clearer links between climate, resilience & health
- Clearer leadership, messaging & resourcing from government
- Government aligning priorities/projects (e.g. incentives/payments/ELMS)
- Better monitoring & enforcement through whole legal process, including support for BNG
- Joined up approach across policy (e.g. animal welfare, pollution control, legislative barriers,



housing targets)

- Greater Defra influence needed across Govt departments
- Stronger Government targets
- Improved curriculum (schools & FE)
- Incentives & funding
- Incorporating non-productive land into ELMS too
- Highly Protected Marine Areas