



Landscape Pioneer eNews October 2018

This update provides a summary overview of progress on the main Landscape Pioneer workstreams during the last 6 months and an overview of the key activities around the 25 Year Environment Plan and the Pioneers.

The 25 YEP, Defra and the Pioneers: In terms of the 25 Year Environment Plan there is currently a lot of activity in Defra around EU Exit and progressing the 25 YEP. The Environment Bill is a key aspect of this. There is a legal requirement that Defra brings forward replacement environment principles (e.g. polluter pays principles) to address the gaps created by leaving EU and there may be a new body to take responsibility for the 25 YEP. During this period the profile of the Pioneers has increased with increasing recognition of what the four Pioneers have achieved to date. A summary report on the Pioneers was reported to the Defra Joint Flood & Water and Environmental Quality Outcome System Group (OSG) on 18 September 2018. The response was very positive and encouraging to the Pioneers in the work they have been doing and lessons learned to date.

Defra will be updating Ministers on the Pioneers in November once the evaluation work from earlier this year is complete and agreed. All the Pioneers have completed some outputs now and have a clearer narrative about what they have done and are doing.

There are obvious links going forward between the pioneers testing of a natural capital approach and the local natural capital plans (a key aspiration of the 25 YEP). This will be a real opportunity to shape the local natural capital plans feeding in what we have learned from the pioneers. Nationally the other very significant areas are the Environmental Land Management Trials and testing and shaping the net gain approach.

Landscape Pioneer highlights since the last report

1. **The natural capital approach** is building on a 5 phase approach (more below) to testing the natural capital approach with North Devon stakeholders (evidence, priorities, root causes, interventions, and investment plan). We are now in the 5th phase to co-create a strategic natural capital investment plan to be complete in January 2019. This work is also feeding in to Defra's plans to inform the testing of local natural capital plans.
2. **Designing an ELM Trial to test a natural capital approach** in North Devon's landscapes and farm businesses to start in April 2019. The time spent on the Pioneer to date has meant we were able to submit a successful ELM Trial offer to Defra at the end of June and since then work with Defra to fully design the Trial. The pioneer had us 'business ready' with a direct line into the Defra ELM team, well developed innovative ideas to test, engaged land managers and a working group ready to agree the offer.
3. **Testing net gain in North Devon** is underway. Highways England have loaned us one of their Environment Planner's to work with the Pioneer Task and Finish group to develop a net gain road map and select developments to test net gain approach.
4. **Joint working with Marine Pioneer** on financial innovation, sustainable finance and delivery mechanisms through the North Devon Biosphere to explore shared objectives



1. A better way of working with farmers

We are working with the Defra ELM Tests and Trials Team to co design the Landscape Pioneer Trial by April 2019 ready for start (year 1). The following two slides summarise the proposal and planned activities.

Purpose of Paper and Decision Required

The Trial proposes to:

- Test natural capital mapping at a landscape scale to enable land managers to make a natural capital farm business 'offer' through a whole farm integrated plan (promoting viable farm businesses and farm business resilience);
- Agree and articulate the extent of services (environmental outcomes) required from the natural capital of an area to ensure landscape resilience.
- The Trial will test a different approach with farm businesses, making an offer and monitoring implementation of the offer at both the farm business and landscape scales.
- The principal output of this phase is a fully costed and timetabled Trial to start in April 2019. Additional outputs include the Field Testing Board – measured by the ToRs, membership list and minutes; and initiation of Trial activities including invitation to potential participating farmers (to be shared with Defra), and an agreed monitoring and evaluation programme (shared with Defra).

Project Board (PB) are asked to:

- Consider funding phase one of the trial. The initial phase will look to establish project governance, detailed planning and initial testing for the trial.
- Note – this would be phase one of three.



Timeline

Key Milestone	Date (from Project Plan)
Establish Task and Finish Group for design phase	November 2018
Whole farm integrated business planning approach agreed and proposal tested with a sample of potential participants, advisers and environment experts	January 2019
Trial monitoring and evaluation programme designed and agreed	February 2019
Initial invitations and information sharing for participating farmers in clusters	March 2019
National and local governance for the Trial agreed	March 2019
Mechanism agreed to establish the 'landscape scale ask' during 2019/20	March 2019
Design and process for whole farm integrated business planning activities including process for control groups and professional development programmes for land managers agreed by task and finish group and Defra	March 2019
Costed Trial plan completed and agreed with Defra	March 2019

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Also feeding into the ELM Trial design we have ongoing work with both SWEEP and DWT.

Farmer engagement has been underway during 2018 to understand future farm business resilience and landscape resilience given the changes ahead for land management schemes. SWEEP are leading the engagement on our behalf through Kate Hind and a number of introductory workshops involving 80 farmers have been held around North Devon to understand farmers perceptions of their current farm businesses, their natural capital assets, current markets and potential future markets. This initial engagement will contribute to informing the design of an Environmental Land Management (ELM) Trial to test a natural capital approach with farmers and land managers from April 2019.

We are also collaborating with Devon Wildlife Trust and South West Water to test the approach proposed in this proposed ELM Trial working in more depth with 2 farm businesses whose activities have a particular impact on the Wistlandpound reservoir. We are taking a whole farm business planning approach with land managers to identify the scope and business rationale for increasing farm resilience and incentivising management towards providing more public goods from their land.

In designing the ELM Trial with Defra we will establish a land management task and finish group of experts in North Devon who will advise us on the development and delivery of the Trial ((the governance aspects referenced in the Defra slide).



2 Natural Capital approach

The Landscape Pioneer Working Group have been engaged in developing the natural capital approach over an 18 month period. The diagram below summarises the approach and steps we have taken. We are currently at step 5 developing a natural capital investment strategy for North Devon. We had a two day workshop in Umberleigh in June to bring together the root cause analysis work on priority problems to collectively identify and agree innovative interventions. We have just begun a contract with Eunomia to produce a natural capital investment strategy with linked business cases for investment. This will build on the work we have done over the past 18 months to gather the natural capital evidence base, prioritise our problems on which to focus, analyse these to the root cause and select interventions to tackle these problems.

At the end of November 2018 we will have a natural capital investment planning workshop. We are inviting a diverse group of people to contribute including the private sector from a range of business types and the health and well being sector to further improve and develop the strategy and interventions selected.

The lessons learned from the Landscape Pioneer in applying a natural capital approach have been shared in a presentation to the national ENDS conference (27th July 2018), a poster at the Defra Nobel House market stall science and evidence event (3rd October 2018).

One of the important lessons is the importance of how biodiversity is handled in a natural capital approach. This has been an issue coming up at every workshop and the concern is that biodiversity is not included well in the current natural capital framework. In recognition of this we are including it explicitly at every stage of decision making and we are still working on the best mechanisms to do this.



North Devon Landscape Pioneer: Trialling a Natural Capital Approach



Objectives

- To test the application of the 'natural capital approach' in practice with stakeholders.
- To develop a shared evidence base and priorities to inform investment cases
- To use a deliberative approach with stakeholders participating at every stage



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Our Natural Capital Approach

1. Gathering Evidence
Stakeholder workshops built a shared evidence base, agreeing the condition of our environmental assets and services provided.

2. Deciding Eight Priority Problems
Priority habitat and ecosystem service "pairs" were selected using a rule: those with a high economic value, in a poor condition and a downward trend were initially chosen and then discussed in a workshop.

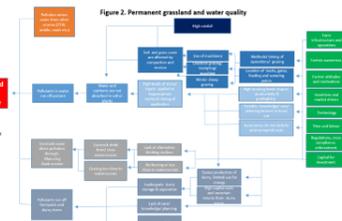
3. Root Causes Analysis

The set of eight priority problems were analysed. The five "Why" model was used to identify the root cause of the issues.

4. Selecting Interventions
Stakeholder workshop to identify and agree interventions.

5. Developing Investment Cases
Contractor currently creating a natural capital strategy document with specific investment cases for the interventions.

Habitat	Ecosystem Service	Economic Value (£/Year North Devon)	Trend last 20 years	Condition	Econ Value per ha	Area (ha)	Economic Value (£/ha)	Trend (2000-2018)	Condition (2018)
Improved pasture	Water Purification	£1,000	Down	2	50	96,848	1	2	2
Arable	Water Purification	£1,000	Down	1	50	21,189	1	3	1
Arable	Pollination	£1,000	Stable	1	100	21,189	1	1	1
Permanent grassland	Pollination	£1,000	Stable	1	125	58,026	1	1	1
Deciduous woodland	Climate	£1,000	Stable	1	118	29,877	1	1	1
Deciduous woodland	Water Regulation	£1,000	Stable	1	400	29,877	1	1	1
Improved pasture	Climate	£1,000	Up	2	128	96,848	1	2	1
Permanent grassland	Water Purification	£1,000	Down	0	50	58,026	1	3	1



July 2017

October 2017

February 2018

June 2018

October 2018

What have we learnt?

- Evidence base is subject to significant uncertainty due to gaps in data
- Unpublished reports and expert opinion is needed to supplement data to build a rounder picture
- Qualitative data is hard to fit into a quantitative approach, but is just as important: methods to capture different types of data need further exploration
- Existing data was not gathered with natural capital in mind, so often needs retrofitting

- Stakeholders can be sceptical of a "Natural Capital Approach"
- Biodiversity needs to be included explicitly in each stage of the process to make sure interventions include a places' biodiversity needs
- Monetary valuation and evidence is unfamiliar to many stakeholders, this can lead to a low confidence in using this type of evidence for decision making

- Root cause analysis is a helpful tool to better understand and demonstrate the driving factors of problems
- Stakeholders engaged with the process and found it useful
- Root cause analysis can enable better understanding about our current suite of management techniques by matching them to the appropriate level

- Interventions could be identified close to the root cause, but it was difficult for our group of stakeholders to think of radical changes or novel interventions
- Stakeholders present will determine the kind of interventions identified, it is important to include a wide range of stakeholders in the discussion

What next?

We are still exploring:

- How can we use a place-based investment plan to draw in funding? What are the mechanisms?
- Who needs to "own" this plan for it to be a success?
- Does this approach change the way decisions are made?
- Does this approach lead to improvements in the environment?



North Devon Landscape Pioneer



3. Net gain and planning: more investments in North Devon's natural capital

The Net Gain Task and Finish Group have met twice in this 6 month period with the most recent on 25th September 2018. The meeting included North Devon District Council, Torrington District Council, Natural England, Environment Agency and the ND Biosphere. Both NDDC and TDC are very supportive and the programme will build on offsetting work which has already been done in the North Devon Biosphere.

Highways England have loaned Laurence Lewis-Jones an Environment Planner to Natural England to progress this work. Laurence will be networked with the national Natural England net gain planning team who are working closely with both Defra and the Urban Pioneer in Manchester to bring the most innovative thinking to test in N Devon. He is seconded to NE for 2 days/week from 24 September to end April 2019. He will be based in the Natural England Bristol Office (Horizon House) and will come to N Devon as required (and probably once/month). The limited resource means we will aim to keep the administrative requirements of this workstream and associated governance to a minimum so we agreed the Task and Finish group would consist of those directly contributing to the workstream and the developments being tested. A wider network for communications and sharing lessons learned would be included mainly through electronic updates and sharing capacity where possible (in particular with Greater Exeter Strategic Plan and Cornwall Council).

The main purpose of the next 6 months is:

1. **to demonstrate the application of net gain** and a natural capital approach and to test, evaluate and communicate this application within N Devon and more widely to NE, HE and Defra. Current developments are being considered to be selected for testing the net gain approach to generate live testing of the approach and lessons to share; and
2. **to test the eco-metric approach** as one of Natural England's pilots. This means a 4-6 month pilot to gather information on the decisions that would have been taken / have already been taken prior to applying the eco-metric tool, test the eco-metric spreadsheet tool, with accompanying guidance, talk through the methodology, followed by an evaluation and feedback process, including a comparison of outcomes with and without the eco-metric approach, and with other evaluation approaches where these are available. At the end of March 2019 there will be a final stakeholder workshop and webinar, to present the outcome of the evaluations and experiences of using the tool to the wider user community.

Below is a summary project timeline highlighting the main workstreams and milestones the Landscape Pioneer is planning for.

Any comments or questions please contact:

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North Devon Landscape Pioneer



Work strand	Project	Oct-18	Nov-18	Dec-18	Jan-19	Feb-19	Mar-19	Apr-19	May-19	Jun-19	Jul-19	Aug-19	Sep-19	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20			
Natural capital approach to demonstrate a joined up, integrated approach to planning and delivery	Draft natural capital strategy	★				NC Investment Plan																
	External workshop to agree strategy and identify broader interventions	★																				
	Business cases and strategy completed	★																				
A better way of working with farmers	Farm business engagement to explore resilience	★			SWEEP farmer engagement report complete;																	
	Co-design ELM Trial	★																				
	ELM Trial to start	ELM Trial Funding secured				★																
Testing a net gain approach	Net gain Task & Finish Group Est N Devon net gain roadmap initiated and developments agreed for testing	★																				
	Testing net gain approach in current and agreed developments	★																				
Financial innovation	Joint working with Marine Pioneer on financial innovation, sustainable finance and delivery mechanisms through the North Devon Biosphere to explore shared objectives	★								★	Joint Marine & Landscape Pioneers natural capital of North Devon investment conference; launch event for Biosphere Foundation/Natural capital trust											
Programme management	Engagement, communication, delivery and sharing lessons learned	★																				