

Biodiversity 2020

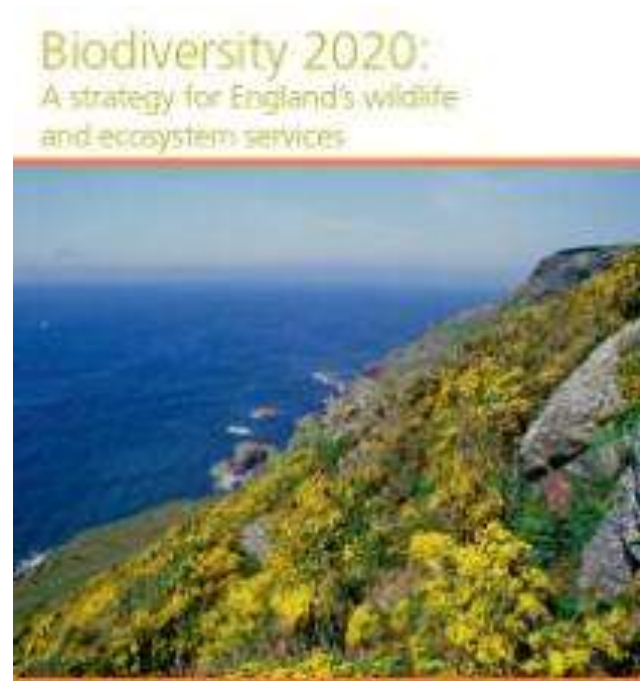
'our approach to halting the decline in biodiversity over the next decade'

Tim Graham

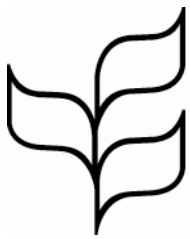
Lancashire Biodiversity Manager



United Nations Decade on Biodiversity







Convention on
Biological Diversity

COUNTDOWN 2010

Halt the loss of biodiversity



HM Government

The Natural Choice:
securing the value
of nature



RIO+20
United Nations Conference
on Sustainable Development

Thinking Bigger

- If every household in England were provided with good access to quality green space, an estimated £2.1 billion in healthcare costs could be saved
- £1 investment in SSSIs is worth £9 of benefits to the public
- Priority conservation action through the UK BAP is worth £1.39 billion to the country
- total value of natural resources to the UK economy was over £15bn in 2007

What is it all about then?

Mission is:

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

Through:

- A more integrated large-scale approach to conservation on land and at sea.
- Putting people at the heart of policy
- Reducing environment pressures
- Improving our knowledge
- Monitoring and Reporting

- 90% priority habitats in favourable or recovering condition and 50% of SSSIs in favourable condition, whilst maintaining at least 95% in favourable or recovering condition.
- More, Bigger and less fragmented areas for wildlife with no net loss of priority habitat, and an increase in overall extent of priority habitats by at least 200,000ha.
- By 2020 at least 17%, especially areas important for biodiversity and ecosystem services, conserved through effective integrated and joined up approaches to safeguard them through existing systems of protected areas and NIAs.
- Restoring at least 15% of degraded ecosystems as a contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

- **Species**

- By 2020 we will see and overall improvement in the status of our wildlife and will have prevented further human-induced extinctions of known threatened species.
- Landscape scale approach and ecological network will be complemented by specific tailored action.

- **People**

- By 2020 significantly more people will be engaged in biodiversity issues, aware of its values and taking positive action.

Ecological Network is the network of high quality sites, protected by buffer zones, and connected by wildlife corridors, and small but still wildlife-rich stepping stone sites. The networks for different species work at varying scales: some species need large areas, other much smaller area. An ecological network for England therefore consists of a range of networks.

- Better, Bigger, More and Joined.
- Encourage a more spatially-based approach, with multiple benefits.
- Encourage local Authorities to be more active and positive role in management of Local Sites through reporting on Governments new Single Data List.
- Work with transport agencies and partners to inform future priorities for the enhancement of these green corridors.
- Ensure species are given relevant protection – quinquennial review of schedule 5 and 8 of WCA 1981

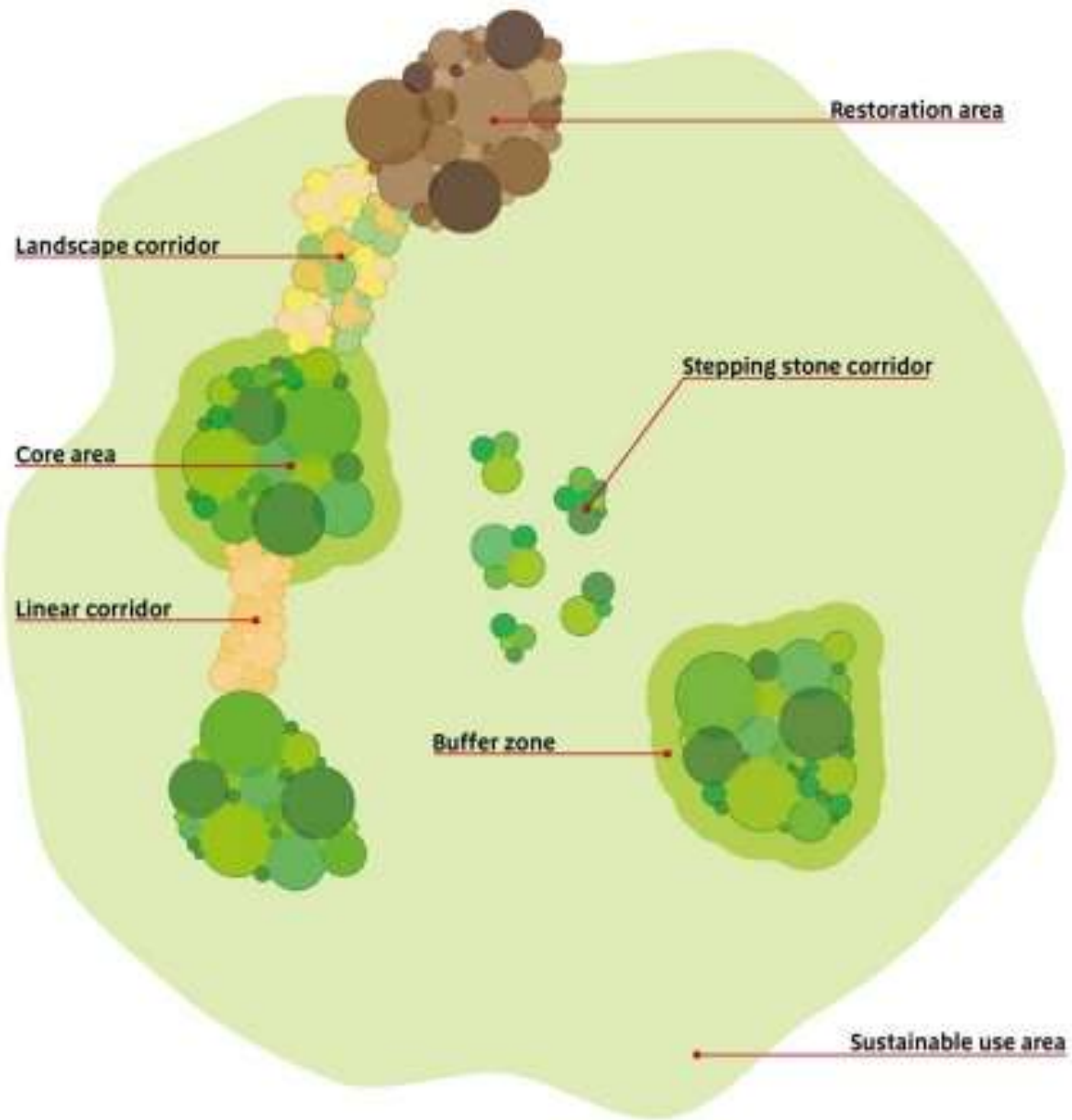



Figure 1. The components of ecological networks (see text for more details)

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- Need to better engage society and need to consider priority groups and sectors
 - Improve public health locally by making high quality green space available to everyone.
 - A new green space designation.
 - Help for public bodies to fulfil NERC Duty – developing tools and guidance. Raised profile for Parish Councils.
 - Taking better account of values in decision-making



- Take strategic approach to planning – guide locations, encourage greener design and enable development to enhance natural networks.
- Retain protection and improvement of the natural environment as core objectives of the planning system
- Deliver homes, business infrastructure and thriving local places while protecting and enhancing the natural and historic environment
- Planning is failing to achieve the kind of integrated and informed decision-making needed – including coherent and resilient ecological networks, and not net loss of biodiversity.
- Voluntary approach to biodiversity offsets.



Improve public access to biodiversity data – putting power into hands of people to act and hold others to account.

- Support surveillance schemes in voluntary and academic sector working with recording community to develop new approaches.
- Invest £5million over next three years to support national and local organisations and groups co-ordinate volunteer recording and contribute to NBN.
- Additional £1.2 million to support data sharing
- Create new fund for biodiversity recording
- Government will set out clearly data needed to support national and local decision-making, and monitor international commitments.

Take home message is...

- Intended as a call to action, and to provide a supporting/enabling framework for action.
- Ecological networks and landscape scale
- Cementing of the NEA: Natural world and the benefits we derive are critical to our well being and economic prosperity, and is consistently undervalued in decision-making.
- Local Wildlife Sites and their management are important part
- Local Nature Partnerships are key part of delivery from the Government Strategy, as local delivery is recognised as essential.
- International Obligation to *take effective and urgent action to halt the loss of biodiversity in order to ensure that by 2020 ecosystems are resilient and continue to provide essential services...*
- Important areas to deliver the Strategy exist within planning and through better engagement across society.