Landscape values, people and change

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Topics

• ELC, CBD, Ecosystem services - Integration

• Natural and Social science – quantitative and qualitative evidence base

• (Re)Connecting – people, landscape and nature

• Understanding landscape change and...

• People’s response to change
Do you know this landscape?
John Constable  
**The Hay Wain**, 1821
Perhaps this is how we now value this landscape?
‘Managing a Masterpiece’ 2010-2014

Stour Valley landscape Partnership Scheme

Our vision:
A Stour Valley where the landscape is understood, cared for and celebrated by communities with the knowledge, skills and opportunities needed to manage and enjoy it.

It will remain the quintessential lowland English landscape, with the rich heritage of meadows, riverside trees, field boundaries and historic structures that have inspired generations of artists

People will have been enabled to sustain a landscape that is accessible to all, culturally and naturally rich, and beautiful.”

- Partnership funding - £260,000
- HLF funding – £910,000
- 73 projects
Dedham Vale AONB – A protected landscape, valued by society, linked to a wider landscape context described in 159 National Character Areas
Wider context

London greenbelt

Development and transport pressures
About National Character Areas...

All landscapes matter in England

Show the variety of landscape in England

Described at 1:250,000 scale

**The profiles:**
A tool for bringing people and communities together to share their values and perspectives

A starting point for working together..
National Character Areas – from national to local scales
National Character Area framework

- Follow **natural lines in the landscape**, make a good decision making framework for the natural environment.
- Provide **context** about the places people relate to and for a wide range of partnerships and community groups.
- Provide a **baseline** from which change can be monitored.
- Provide the best opportunity for **integration** bringing together biodiversity, geodiversity, landscape character, access, engagement, climate change, historic environment, etc.
- Allow the easy application of an **ecosystem services approach** to securing environmental outcomes.
NCAs: a focus on integration....
.....and supporting an ecosystems approach

Human health, wellbeing and prosperity

Regulating services

Provisioning services

Cultural services

Supporting services

Underpinning biodiversity, geodiversity, history, landscape and ecosystem processes
The wildlife conservation perspective.....

Wildlife Trusts - Living Landscapes
Updated NCA Profile – a quick tour

111 Northern Thames Basin

- Interactive PDF
- Available online from the Natural England Website at 'Publications’
Wildlife Trusts – Living Landscapes
Large-scale conservation

A recovery plan for wildlife and us

In 2006, The Wildlife Trusts first published A Living Landscape, the report you are now reading. It sets out a new and ambitious landscape-scale approach to nature conservation. The aim is to safeguard the future of the UK’s wildlife, helping to protect against threats like climate change and development, and securing vital benefits such as cleaner water and better access to green spaces.

Despite many successes for nature conservation during the 20th century, the health of our environment – measured by the variety and abundance of the species it supports – is still under threat. Recent concerns over the decline of bees, butterflies and migrant birds show just how fragile our natural environment is. Added to this, in 2007 the UK experienced its worst floods for 50 years.

A Living Landscape is The Wildlife Trusts’ recovery plan for the UK’s wildlife and fragmented habitats. We believe we must rebuild our natural patterns before they become irrevocably damaged. In practice this means working with hundreds of landowners across the UK in towns, cities and in the wider countryside. Using our network of 2,250 nature reserves as a cornerstone, The Wildlife Trusts’ Living Landscapes scheme is restoring, reconnecting and rewilding large areas of wildlife habitat, and the ecosystems upon which they depend. The next few pages illustrate the range of these schemes. Some have been running for a decade whilst others are in their infancy. Let us know where you look and The Wildlife Trusts are drawing up plans, mining funds, buying land, changing habitats and inspiring others to follow their lead. If we can recreate the vision, wildlife will flourish again everywhere, children will grow up inspired by the sights and sounds of nature and people will live closer to wildlife that thrives.

Find further information about Living Landscapes schemes at wildlifetrusts.org/livinglandscapes. You can browse an interactive UK map for more details on each scheme, and download regional Living Landscape reports.

1. Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust Waves of Health
Area 60 per cent of the islands
Established in 1905, this project is restoring and rewilding fragmented habitats and ensuring the area’s wildlife, plants, birds and landscapes are as vibrant as possible.

2. Cornwall Wildlife Trust
West Cornwall Wetlands
Area 5,000 hectares
This scheme is focusing on rewilding and reconnection of wetland habitats and providing high-quality environment for wildlife and people.

3. Devon Wildlife Trust
Working Wetlands on the Culm
Area 35,000 hectares
Reconnecting the wetland system to create a network of vital habitat.

4. Dorset Wildlife Trust
Pastures New
Area 25,000 hectares
Working with farmers to improve habitats, rewilding key wildlife-rich grasslands, and creating new habitat for rare species.

5. Somerset Wildlife Trust
River Valley Living Landscapes Scheme
Area 12,000 hectares
This project is focusing on restoring and rewilding areas of wildlife habitat with links to local farms and food production.

6. Somerset Wildlife Trust
Mendip Hills Living Landscape Project
Area 12,000 hectares
Reconnecting the landscape and looking at ways to reconnect habitats and people with wildlife.

7. Avon Wildlife Trust
Restoring Wildflower-rich Grasslands
Area 35,000 hectares
Improving and enhancing some of the most important wildflower-grassland habitats across the county.

8. Avon Wildlife Trust
N Somerset Levels and Moors Project
Area 50,000 hectares
Restoring the Levels and Moors, working with farmers and landowners to protect wildlife.

9. Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust
Severn Vale Living Landscape Project
Area 12,000 hectares
Reconnecting landscape and physical habitat in the Severn Vale to create a complete framework for nature and people.

10. Wiltshire Wildlife Trust
Landscapes for Wildlife
Area 1,000 hectares
Working with landowners to create new areas of wildlife habitat and ensure that waders and birds have access to vital landscape.

11. Wiltshire Wildlife Trust
New Life for Chalk Grassland
Area 100,000 hectares
Improving and enhancing the chalk grasslands in Wiltshire to create a new landscape for wildlife.

12. Wiltshire Wildlife Trust
Living Islands
Area 1,000 hectares
Restoring the chalk grassland habitats and improving the chalk grassland habitats for waders and birds.

13. New Forest Wildlife Trust
New Forest Wetland
Area 1,000 hectares
Restoring and improving the wetland habitats in the New Forest to create a new habitat for waders and birds.

14. New Forest Wildlife Trust
Hillside Valley Living Landscape
Area 400 hectares
Improving and enhancing the wetland habitats in the New Forest to create a new habitat for waders and birds.

15. New Forest Wildlife Trust
Ridgeway and Lymington Valley
Area 400 hectares
Restoring and improving the wetland habitats in the New Forest to create a new habitat for waders and birds.

16. New Forest Wildlife Trust
Leasden and Biversley Heritage Area
Area 1,000 hectares
Improving and enhancing the wetland habitats in the New Forest to create a new habitat for waders and birds.
A recovery plan for nature

Restore, recreate, reconnect

Living Landscapes are a recovery plan for nature championed by The Wildlife Trusts since 2006 to help create a resilient and healthy environment rich in wildlife and to provide ecological security for people.
Mendip Hills Living Landscape –
One of over 100 Living Landscapes projects in the UK
National Character Area profile: 141. Mendip Hills

Introduction & Summary

Description

Opportunities

Key facts and data

Landscape change

Analysis

Supporting documents

SEO 3: Conserve and sustainably manage the rural agricultural landscape and enhance the network of nationally and internationally important sites and semi-natural habitats associated with the distinctive geology and topography to create a coherent and resilient ecological network, enabling ecosystems to adapt to climate change and for the benefits to biodiversity, water flow, water quality and protection of the aquifer, soil quality, regulating soil erosion, rural heritage and culture.

... continued from previous page

- Enhancing signage, paths, parking and other facilities to minimise congestion, erosion and other problems in key heathland areas, as well as continuing to provide information to help visitors to understand the importance and vulnerability of the heathland areas, especially the Blackdown, Charterhouse and Priddy Mineries areas.
- Encouraging the conversion of suitable plantation and marginal grassland areas to heathland to strengthen the currently very fragmented heathland network.
- Protecting, managing and expanding the lowland calcareous grassland network throughout the NCA which has declined under agricultural improvement, or has been prone to neglect, undergrazing and scrub encroachment, managing and consolidating through controlled grazing regimes and scrub control.
- Enhancing the ecological permeability of the landscape through maintaining and encouraging areas of semi-natural grassland within designed parkland, promoting sympathetic management of species-rich grassland on road verges and tracks, and encouraging the targeted uptake of agri-environment scheme options that promote legume and herb-rich swards for silage production on temporary grasslands on the plateau as a means of increasing the permeability of intensive agricultural land for wildlife.

- Encouraging continuation of traditional hay meadow management while preserving traditional breeds, rare species and characteristic habitats; protecting soil structure, carbon content and permeability; maintaining the purpose and function of typical landscape features such as walls, hedges, traditional farmsteads and field barns; and protecting water quality. Environmental schemes and support for marketing of local farm produce could play an important role.
- Working with farmers to reduce sources of diffuse agricultural pollution into the groundwater and watercourses, and run-off and soil erosion into watercourses, for example by ensuring that they have adequate access to soil analysis to enable the calculation of appropriate levels of fertiliser inputs to reduce energy wastage and benefit water quality, and maintaining appropriate stocking levels and tillage regimes.
- Encouraging the maintenance and restoration of drystone walls and hedgerows across slopes to slow run-off and reduce soil erosion.
- Encouraging farmers to maintain or improve soil condition of cultivated soils through incorporation of appropriate levels of organic matter, increasing water retention and infiltration but not causing groundwater pollution.
- Continuing to ensure that conditions are applied to quarrying and any other mineral or gas extraction, such as fracking, to minimise impacts on groundwater hydrology, including that of the Bath hot springs, a significant tourist attraction in the neighbouring Cotswolds NCA.
Protecting Wildlife for the Future
The Landscape Character perspective..

Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

‘What Makes a View’

Copies of the report by Fiona Fyfe
Landscape Institute Award 2014
‘What Makes a View?’
CORDIALE Field Trial
The ‘Camden Town’ group of artists, early 20th Century
Topography
The Project:

- Identify how views relate to landscape character

- Community engagement and consultation throughout the project.

- Planning and management tool to retain and enhance the area’s views in the future.

- A framework to enable members of the community to monitor landscape change.
Landscape Character within the Blackdown Hills AONB
Blackdown Hills Scarp Landscape Character Area
Blackdown Hills Landscape Character Area
A closer look at the Blackdown Hills Landscape Character Area
Expressing views of the Blackdown Hills

16th and 17th Century travellers’ descriptions:

Celia Fiennes (1695)
“Full of enclosures, good grass and corn…”

Defoe (1724)
“The view of the country is the most beautiful landskip in the world, a mere picture…"

Dumpdon Hill, Hutchinson 1865
Contemporary artists in the Blackdown Hills
(Liz Gregory and Andrew Bell)
How do local people describe the landscape?
How does the landscape make local people feel?
Development of Planning, Management Tool and Monitoring tool

- Identifying the **special qualities** of each Landscape Character Area.
- Identifying the **sensitivities** of each Landscape Character Area in response to forces for change.
- Making **recommendations** to protect these landscapes under the headings of **Protect, Manage and Plan (ELC)**

**Monitoring by the community:**

- Developing and testing a **questionnaire** to enable volunteers to record changes in the landscape.
- Providing a **framework** for local volunteers to undertake surveys of landscape changes in the medium to long term (including photographic record).
The Cultural Services perspective.....

Natural England

Experiencing Landscapes research

Importance of developing our evidence base
Experiencing Landscapes: 14 Pilot NCAs

Eden Valley

Dark Peak

Lancashire Coal Measures (LCM)

Arden

Exmoor

Devon Redlands

Dorset Heaths

North Downs

North Thames Basin (NTB)

Beds/Cams Claylands

Fens

Lincolnshire Coast and Marshes

Yorkshire Wolds

Durham Magnesium Limestone Plateau (DMLP)

East Midlands

South West

South East

London

East of England

West Midlands

North West

North East

Yorkshire & The Humber

North & The Humber

East Midlands

Experiencing Landscapes: capturing the cultural services and experiential qualities of landscape
Experiencing Landscapes:
Portfolio of local and special landscapes

- **Special Intrequent**
  - Here, you want to splash out and get the top quality experience (like Waitrose)

- **A bit further away, but you get a more sophisticated experience here. Maybe this place fulfils a particular need: a challenging walk or thinking place (like the regular supermarket)**

- **You know you can get your basics here. They are the local places, quick hits, very accessible, comforting and familiar (like the corner shop)**
# Experiencing Landscapes:
Cultural services provided by landscape features – indicative.

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<th>Place</th>
<th>Inspiration</th>
<th>Calm</th>
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<th>Spiritual</th>
<th>Learning</th>
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Monitoring landscape change
Countryside Quality Counts:
Indicator map for change 1999-2003

Existing landscape character was maintained in 51% of England’s landscapes and enhanced in a further 10%

Loss or neglect of character was shown in 20% of our landscapes, given the loss of character observed in the 1990-1998 assessment

New characteristics are emerging in 19% of our landscapes
Thank you