



Trails and sustainable development

Julian Gray, Vice Chair, World Trails Network



TRAILS & SUSTAINABILITY
International Task Team



Sustainable development

“meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

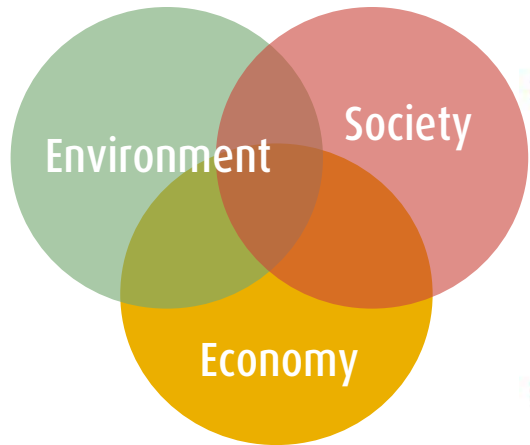
*Our Common Future
United Nations Brundtland Commission 1987*

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

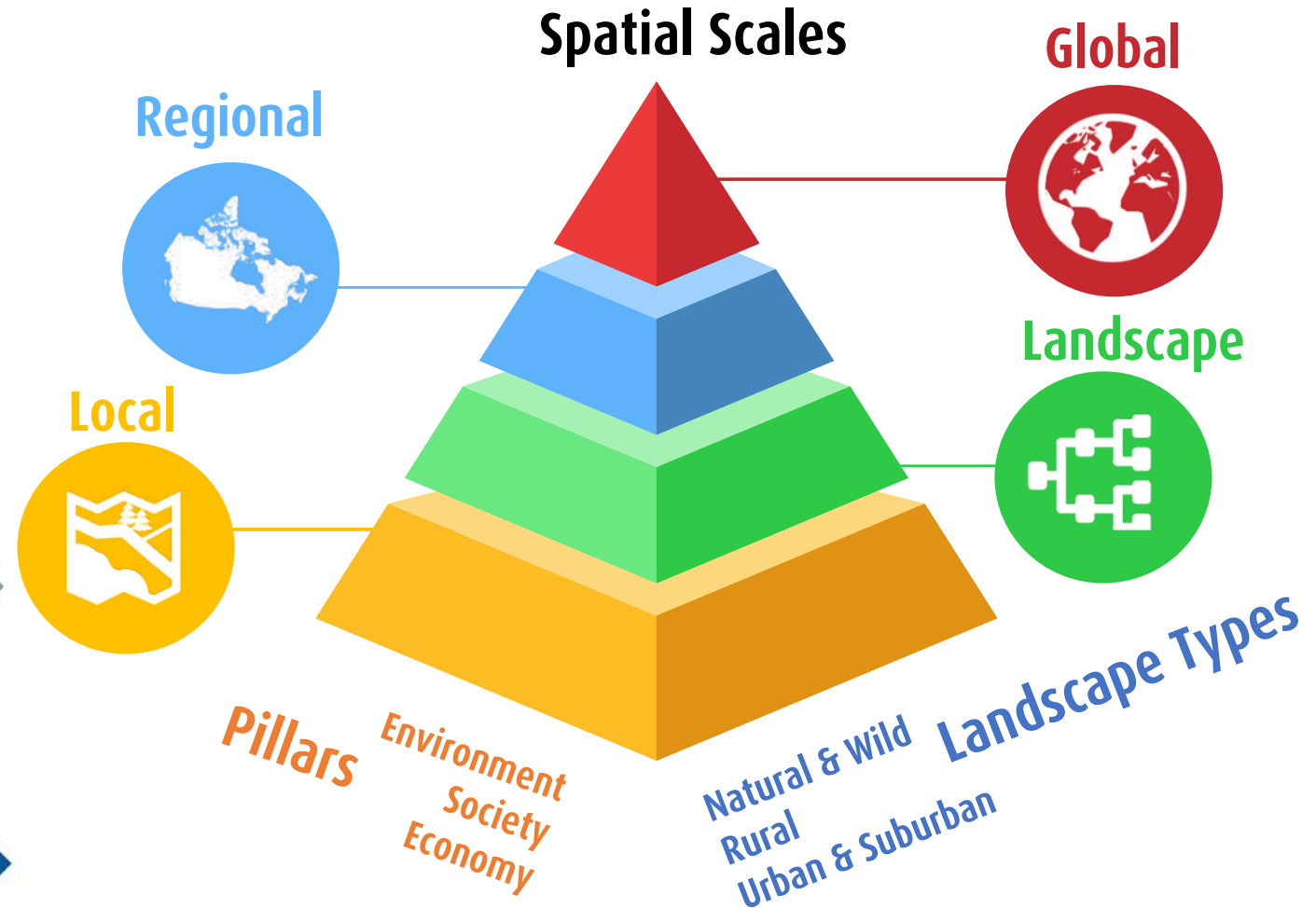
People
Planet
Prosperity
Peace
Partnership



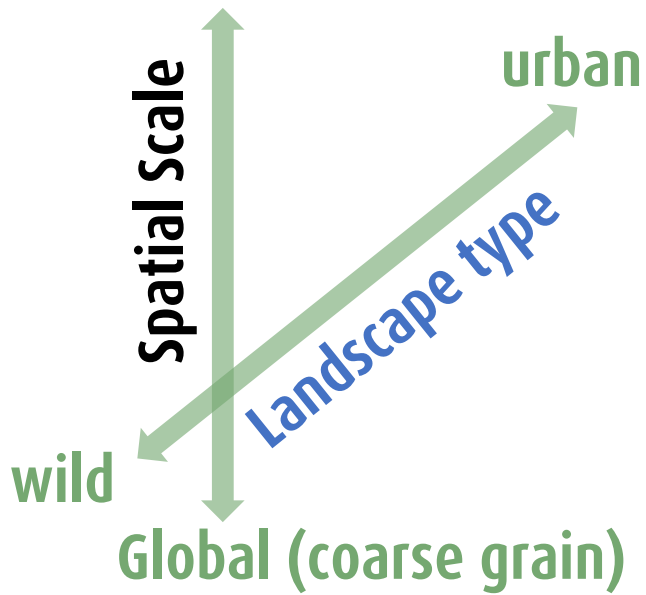
Trail making Rapid Assessment Process



Trails and Sustainability



Local (fine grain)



Trails and Sustainability Toolbox



	Urban	Environment	Economy	Society/Culture
Local Individual Trails		direct impact at trail and area	tourism, local businesses	hiking groups,
Rural Landscape		Environment	Economy	Society/Culture
Local Individual Trails		site specific; soil,	businesses and	hiking groups, community, urban
WILD Landscape		Environment	Economy	Society/Culture
Local Individual Trails		site specific; soil, wildlife, waters	generate revenue in surrounding businesses	hiking groups, community, education
Landscape Trail Networks, Long Trails		landscape ecology, habitat fragmentation, watersheds	distributed economic impact	trail organizations, trail coalitions
Regional National and Multi-National Regional Trails Networks		regional environmental issues	national trails and tourism programs	national groups, government agency
Global Global Trails System		climate change, global ecological restoration	global trails economic impact	international trails organizations, NGOs

Trails and Sustainability White Paper



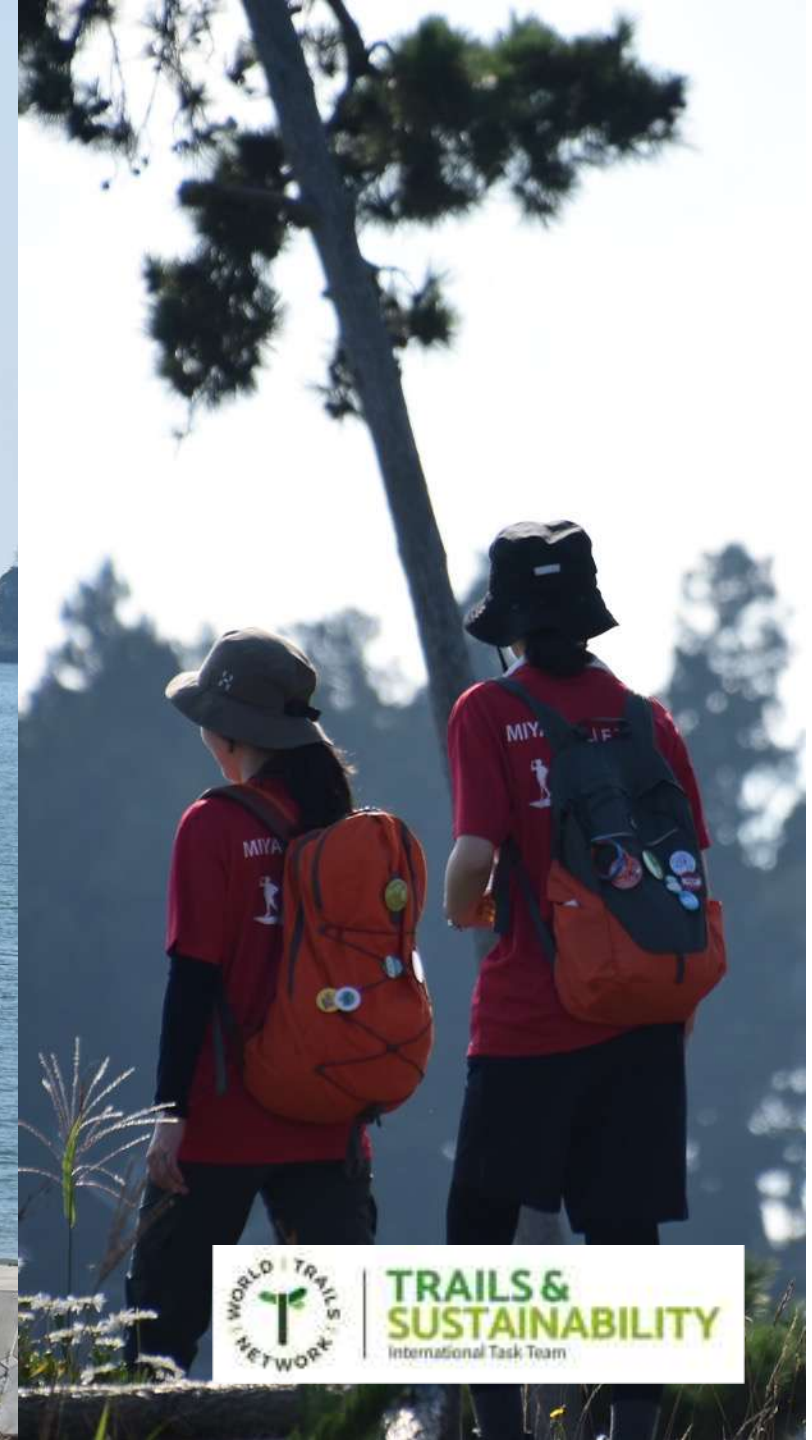
Trails connect people to and through wild, natural, cultural and urban landscapes, helping create a sense of place. Trails also enable the development of a narrative around journeys helping address often complex issues.

Positive environmental impact

- building resilience to climate change for trail communities and the trail corridor
- using trails as vehicles to deliver nature recovery
- utilising the trail corridor to reconnect fragmented habitats and biospheres
- promoting sustainable management of the trail, trail users and wider trail corridor

Positive social impact

- offering a route to communities' health and wellbeing
- engaging trail users with sustainability issues
- protecting, conserving and celebrating the elements that make trails special from food, to cultural heritage and the people who live and work along the trail
- delivering active travel opportunities



Positive economic impact

- developing and promoting a sustainable - regenerative trail economy and supporting sustainable livelihoods
- delivering a vehicle for visitor payback: social license to operate for tourism businesses by protecting future pipeline
- Providing a vehicle for individuals, communities and business to support the trail for future generations



The need to articulate the public benefit of trails



Natural Health Service

- Benefits of being active
- Connecting to nature: green space
- Being by water: blue space
- Economic benefits of a healthier society
- WHO HEAT model and University of East Anglia MOVES tool
- £75 million cost savings each year to public health



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Policy Research




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ENGLAND




South West
Coast Path
ASSOCIATION


The South West Coast Path Health and Wellbeing



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South West
Coast Path
ASSOCIATION

ation with funding from
University of Exeter.

Economic Assessment of the Mental Health and Wellbeing Benefits of Walking on the South West Coast Path: Methodology and Scoping Study

April 2022

Dr Carolyn Petersen, Centre for Rural Policy Research, University of Exeter



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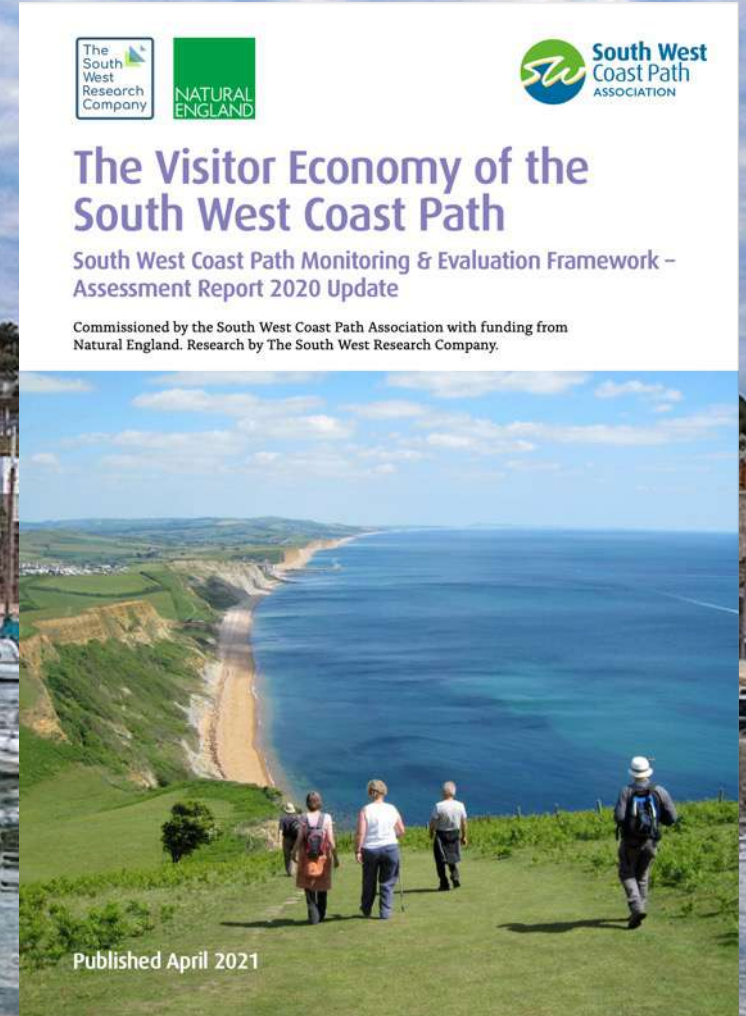
GODREVY
1 1/2 MILES
GWITHIAN
TOWANS

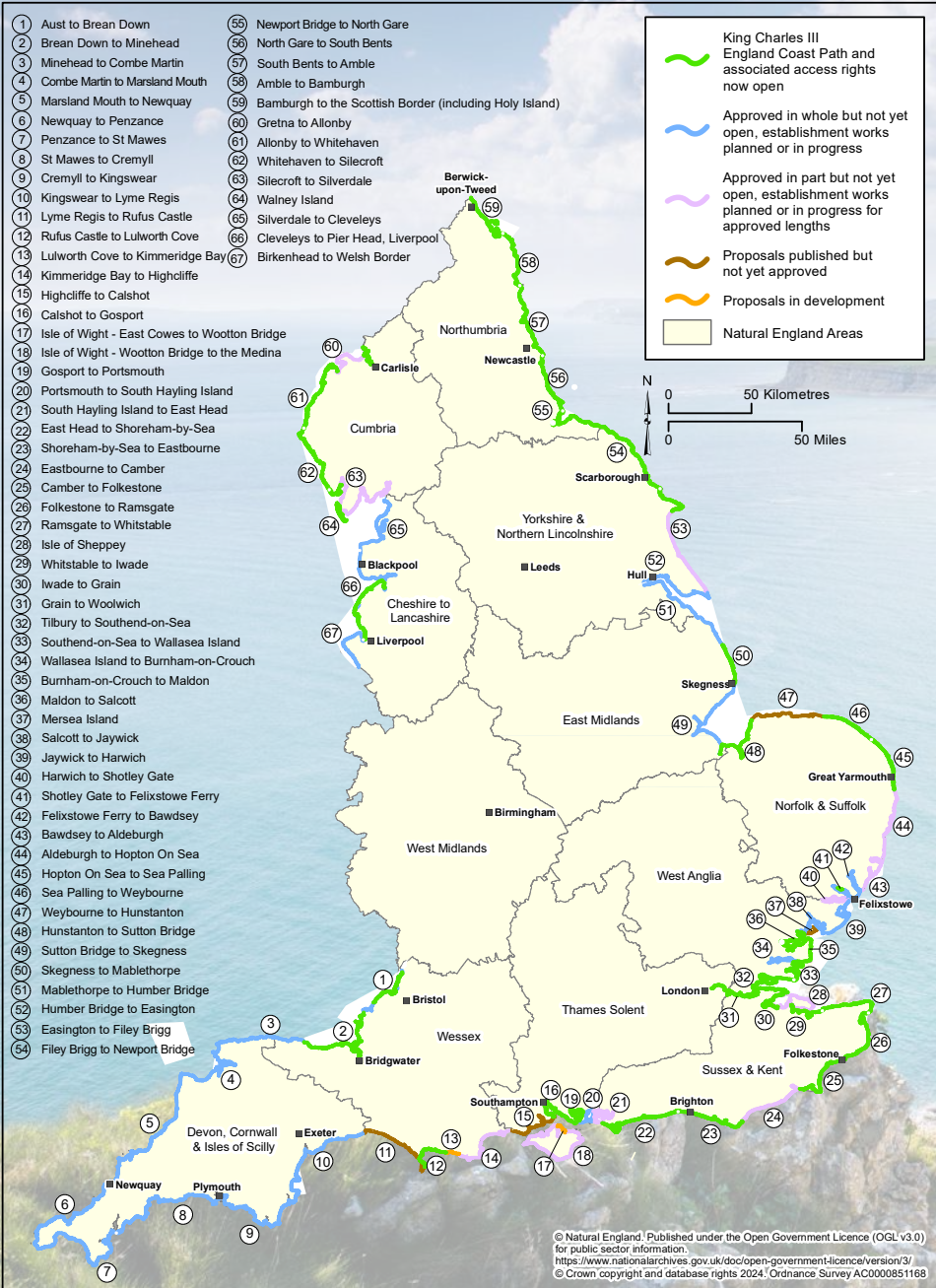
Supporting a regenerative visitor economy

9-million visits

5% of the visitor economy of SW England

£520 million visitor economy
supporting 11,000 jobs





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2,700 miles – 4,350 kms long
 800 square miles 2070 square kms
 new open access land



KING CHARLES III
**ENGLAND
 COAST PATH**

NATIONAL TRAILS 





coastal Wildbelt

✓ Advocacy + campaign plan

BETTER ACCESS & NATURE FOR PEOPLE ALONG OUR DYNAMIC COAST

funding strategy



Programme development plan



Awareness workshops

case studies



Stakeholder buy-in & lived experience

Governance

Signed charter (maybe)



the National VOICE for the coast



OUR KEY THEMES

Don't forget The National Trails!

What's missing?

Heritage + coastal erosion

Storm waters

New data sets
Educating stakeholders



PRIORITISE funding...



DEVELOPMENT
2025 - 2027

DELIVERY
2027 - 2032

(phase 1)

2024 - 2025

SCOPING YEAR

incubating our ideas

PROTECTED LANDSCAPES PARTNERSHIP

- INSPIRE
- CHAMPION
- SUPPORT
- PROTECT
- IMPROVE
- PROMOTE
- COLLABORATE





Links

[World Trails Conference](#)

[National Trails UK](#)

[South West Coast Path](#)

SWCP [Tourism Research](#)

SWCP [Health Research](#)

SWCP [Wellbeing Research](#)

[Julian Gray](#)



Thank You

Julian Gray, Vice Chair, World Trails Network