



# **Landscape values, people and change**

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Europarc Conference, Killarney

1<sup>st</sup> October 2014

# 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

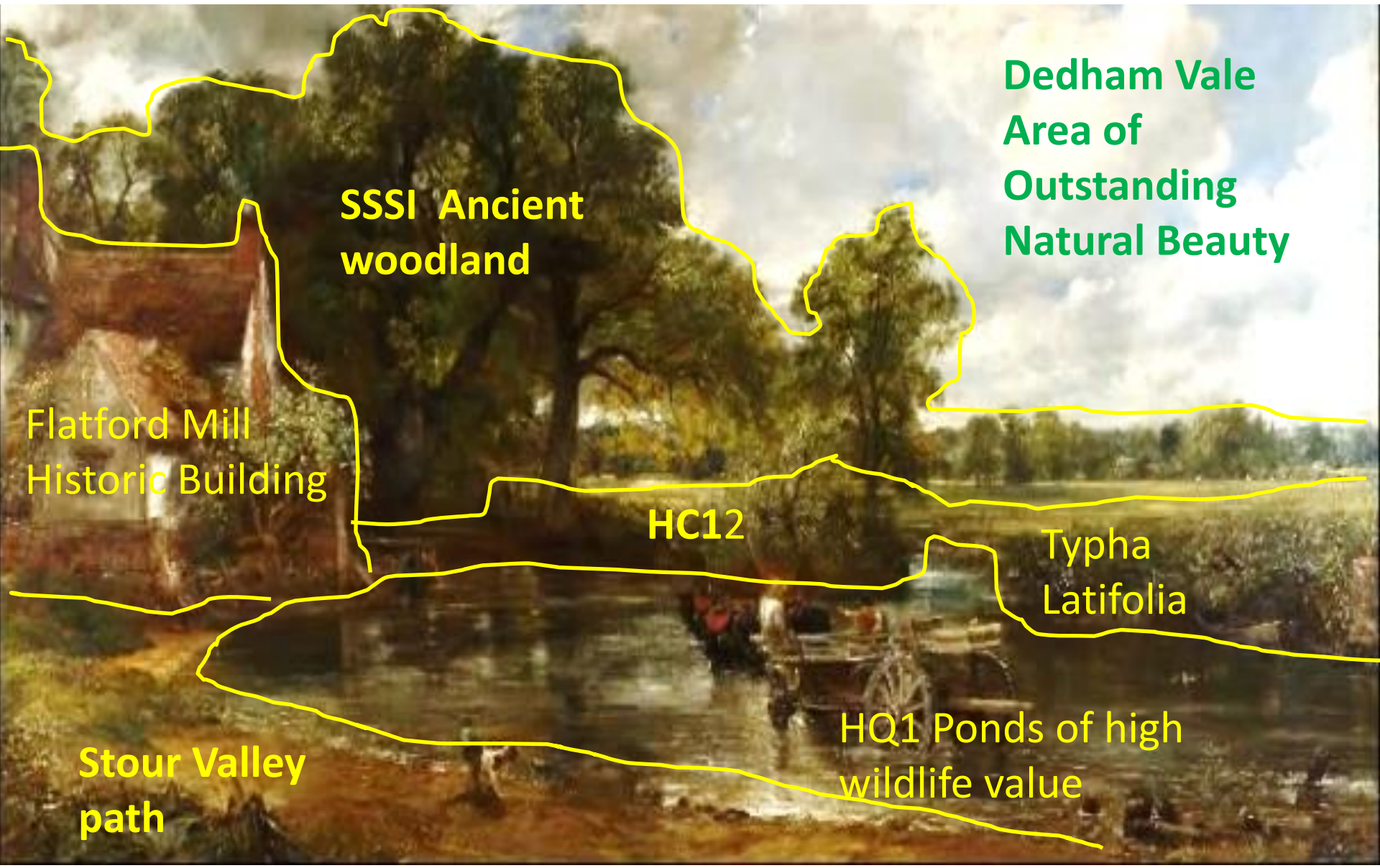
**Do you know this landscape?**





John Constable **The Hay Wain**, 1821

# Perhaps this is how we now value this landscape?



Dedham Vale  
Area of  
Outstanding  
Natural Beauty

SSSI Ancient  
woodland

Flatford Mill  
Historic Building

HC12

Typha  
Latifolia

Stour Valley  
path

HQ1 Ponds of high  
wildlife value

# 'Managing a Masterpiece' 2010-2014

## Stour Valley landscape Partnership Scheme

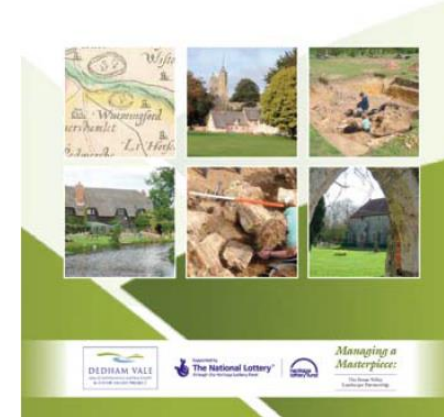
*Our vision:*

*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



# 86. South Suffolk and North Essex Clayland

## National Character Area 86 South Suffolk & North Essex Clayland

Note: In most instances, the NCA boundary is not precisely mapped and should be considered as a zone of transition between NCAs.



Wider context

London greenbelt

Development and transport pressures





# About National Character Areas...

All landscapes matter in England

Show the variety of landscape in England

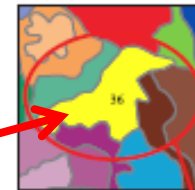
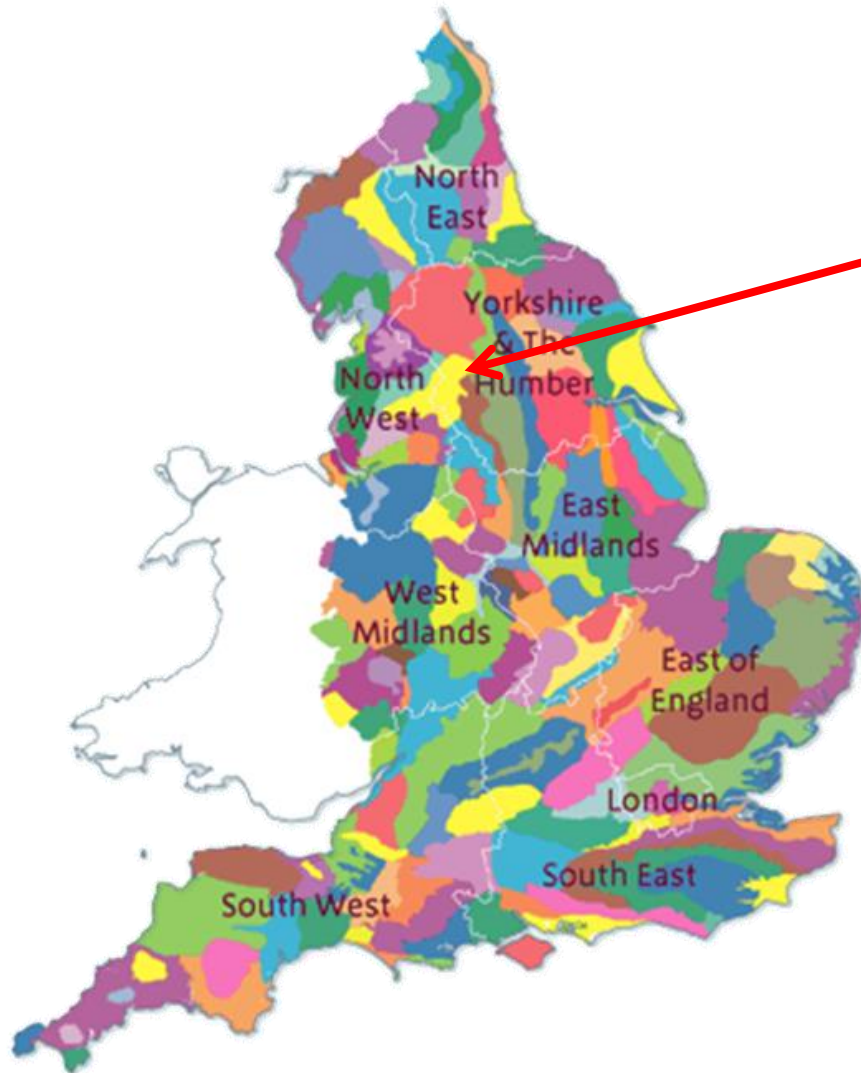
Described at 1:250,000 scale

## **The profiles:**

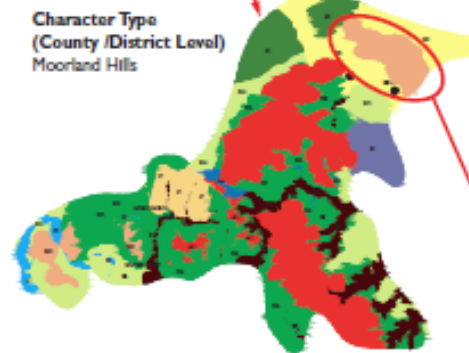
A tool for bringing people and communities together to share their values and perspectives

A starting point for working together..

# National Character Areas – from national to local scales



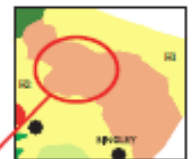
**Character Area (National/Regional Level)**  
 Joint Character Area 36 - The South Pennines  
 (from The Character of England)



**Character Type (County /District Level)**  
 Moorland Hills

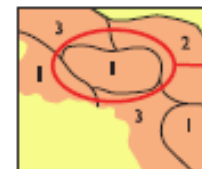
**Character Types (County/District Level)**  
 South Pennines Landscape

- HIGH MOOR PLATEAUS
- MOORLAND HILLS
- ENCLOSED UPLANDS
- MOORLAND FRINGE / UPLAND FRINGES
- RURAL FRINGES
- DEEPER VALLEYS
- WOODED / RURAL VALLEYS
- BROAD LOWLAND VALLEYS
- WEST PENNINE RESERVOIR VALLEY
- ROLLING UPLAND FoothILLS
- UPRISE FRINGE FARMLAND



**Character Area (County /District Level)**  
 Rombalds Hills

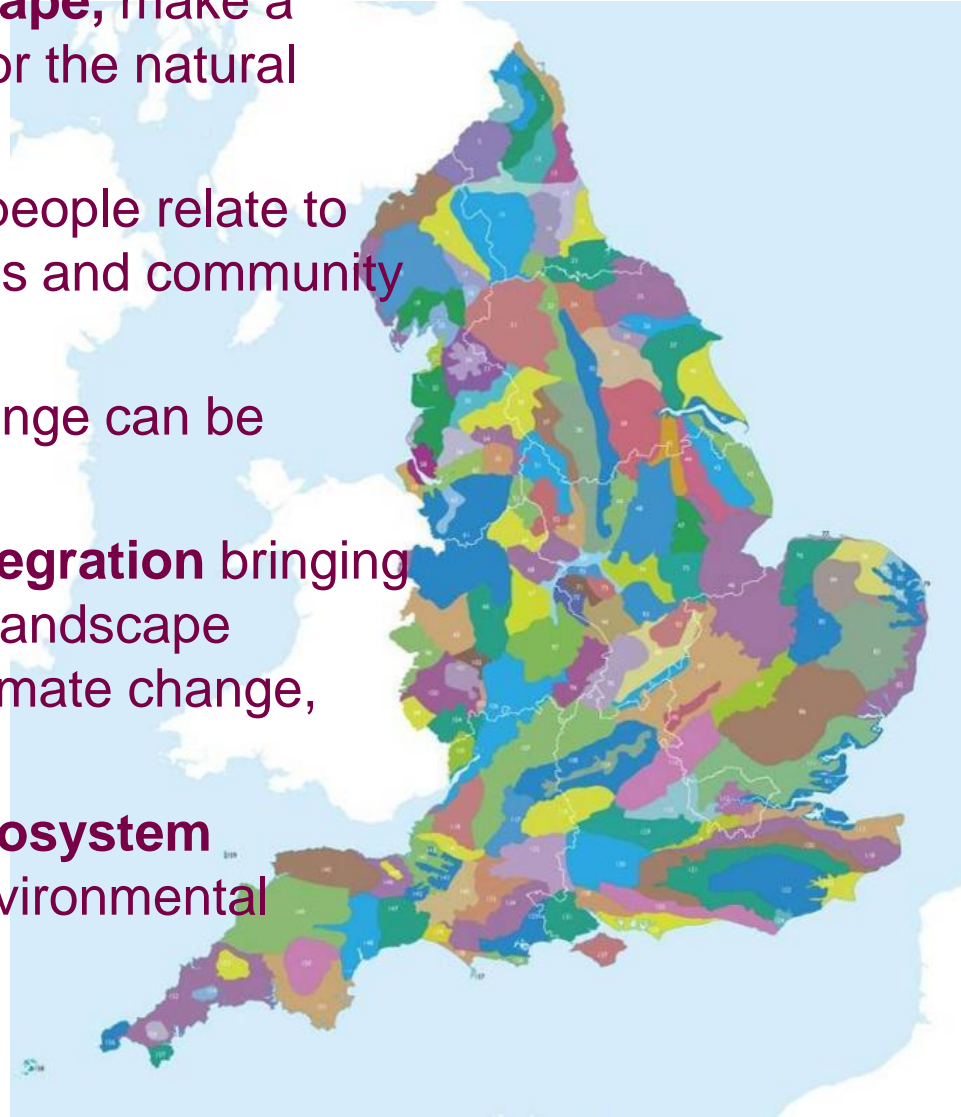
- Character Types (Hypothetical) (Local Level)**
1. High Moorland Tops
  2. Grassy Moorland Fringes
  3. Complex Moorland Mosaic



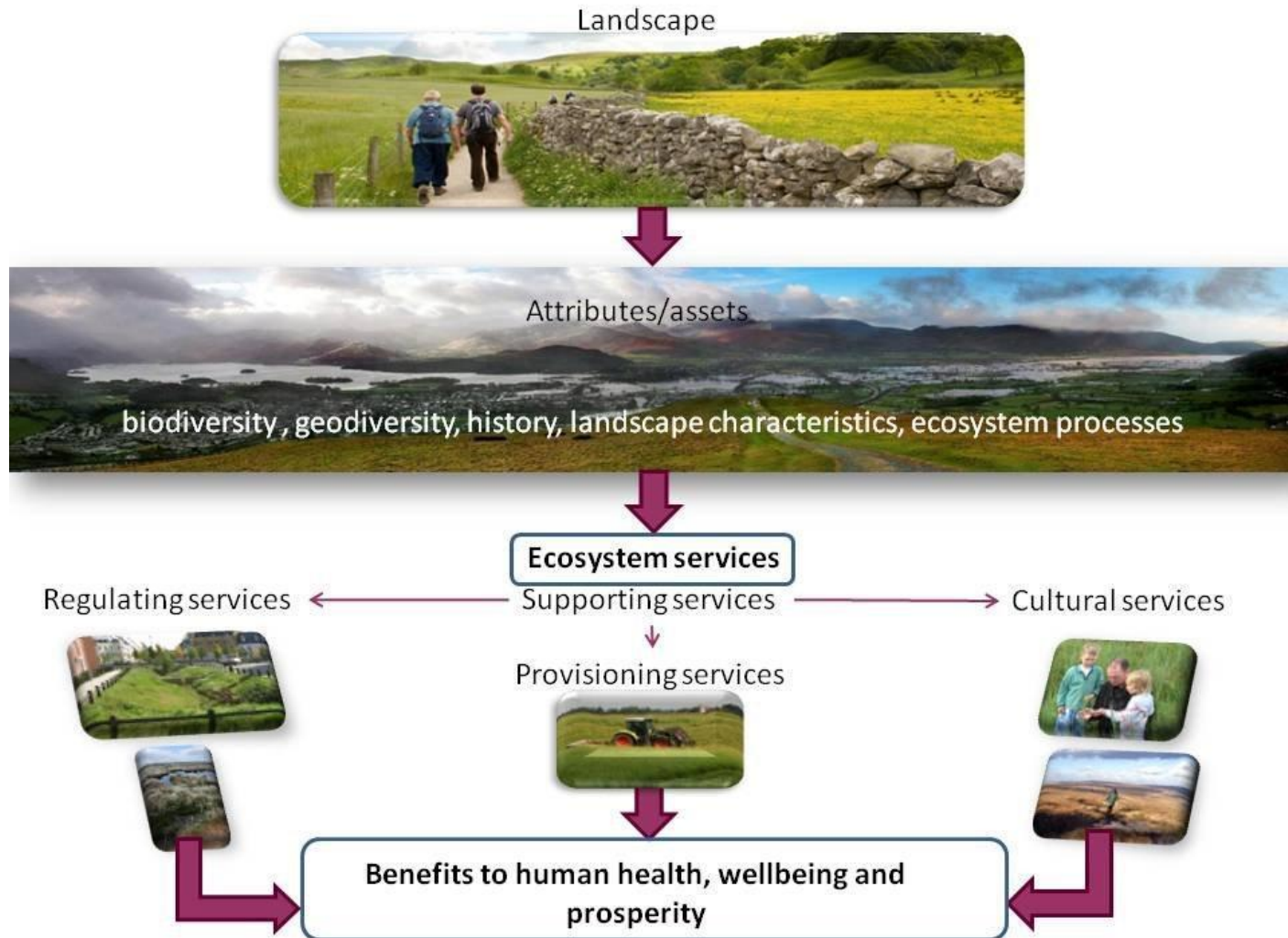
**Character Area (Hypothetical) (Local Level)**  
 Rombalds Top

# National Character Area framework

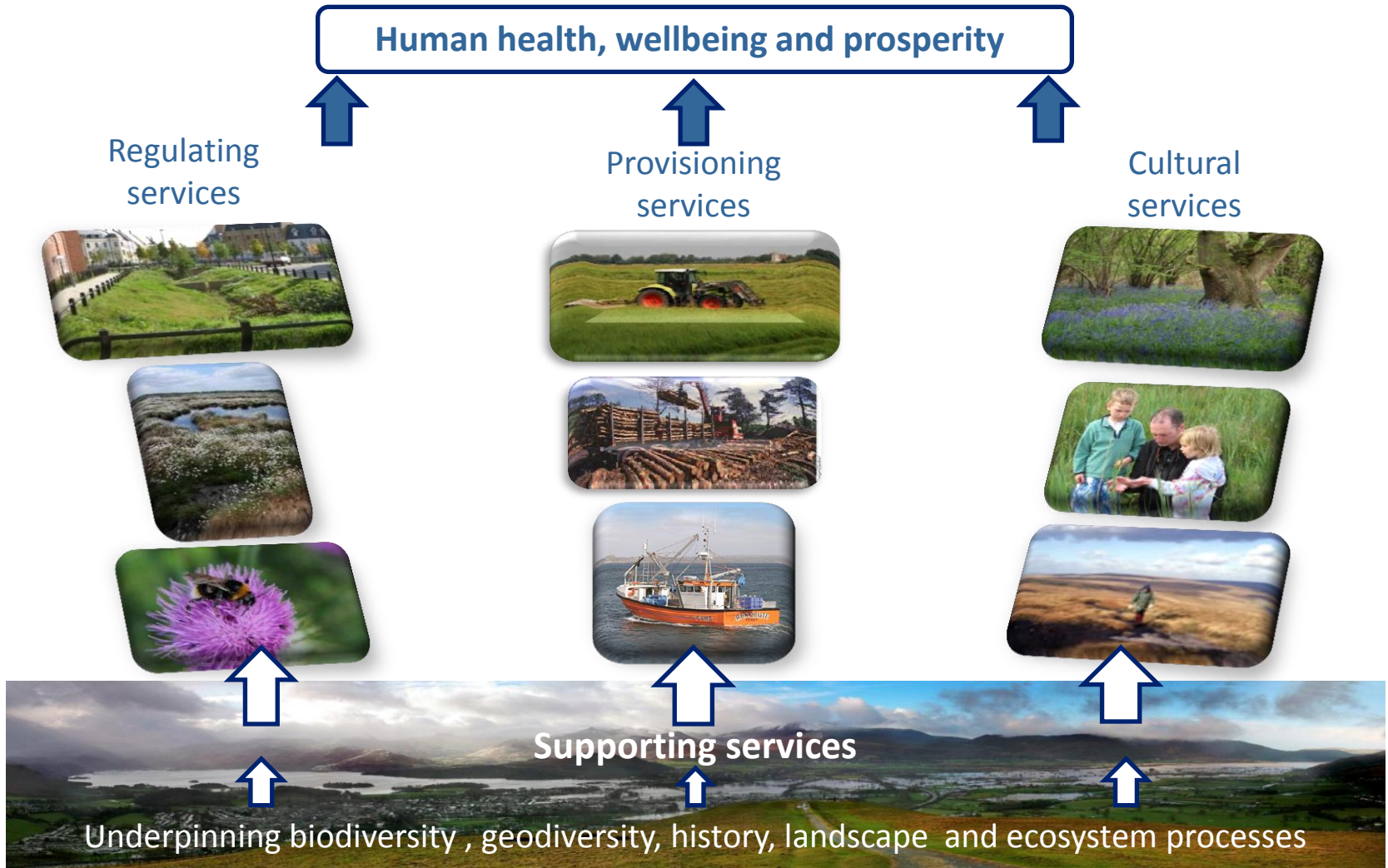
- Follow **natural lines in the landscape**, make a good decision making framework for the natural environment.
- Provide **context** about the places people relate to and for a wide range of partnerships and community groups
- Provide a **baseline** from which change can be monitored.
- Provide the 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.



# NCAAs: a focus on **integration**....



# .....and supporting an **ecosystems approach**



# **The wildlife conservation perspective.....**

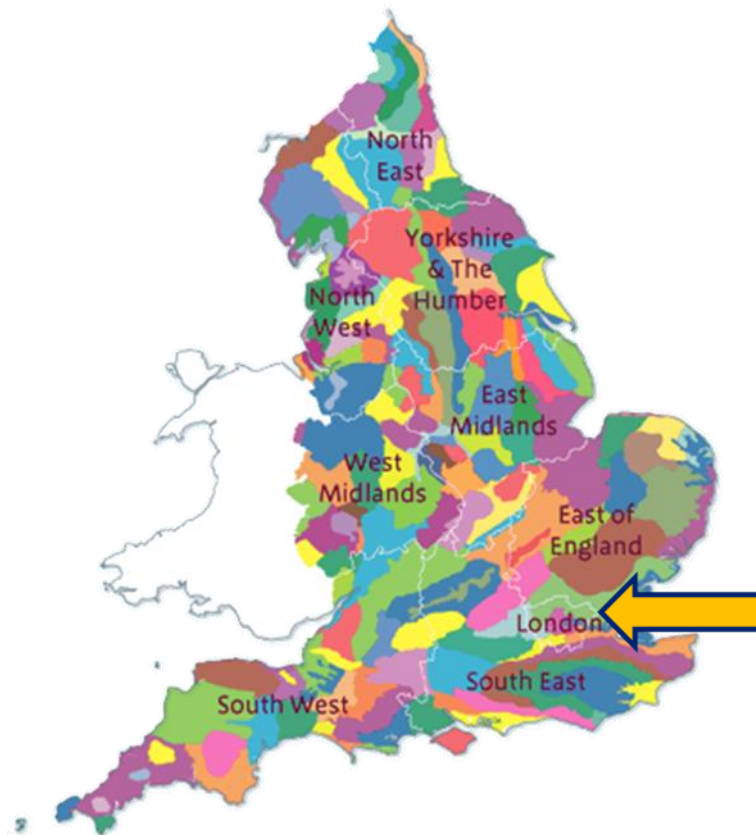
Wildlife Trusts - Living Landscapes

# 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 set out a new and ambitious landscape-scale approach to nature conservation. The aim is a better future for 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 declines of bees, butterflies and migrant birds show just how fragile our natural inheritance 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 systems before they become irreparably 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 Landscape schemes are restoring, recreating and reconnecting large areas of wildlife habitat, and the ecosystems upon which we depend.

The next seven pages illustrate the range of these schemes. Some have been running for a decade whilst others are in their infancy, but everywhere you look The Wildlife Trusts are drawing up plans, raising funds, buying land, changing habitats, and inspiring others to follow their lead. If we can realise this vision, wildlife will flourish again everywhere, children will grow up inspired by the sights and sounds of nature and people will live happier, healthier lives.

Find further information about Living Landscape schemes at [wildlifetrusts.org/aliveinglandscape](http://wildlifetrusts.org/aliveinglandscape). 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 Heath

**Area: 60 per cent of the islands**

Landscape-scale conservation project, restoring heathland on the Isles of Scilly, helping to provide a high-quality environment for wildlife and people.



**5. Somerset Wildlife Trust**

#### Brue Valley Living Landscape scheme

**Area: 12,000 hectares**

Based in the Somerset Levels, this project is restoring and re-creating areas of wetland habitat with links to local farming and food production.



**9. Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust**

#### Severn Vale Living Landscape Project

**Area: 11,000 hectares**

Restoring the wetlands of the Severn Vale to their former glory, creating a 50 km wetland wildlife highway through the county.



**13. Hants & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust**

#### NE Hants Grazing for Wildlife Project

**Area: 1,750 hectares**

Reintroducing grazing animals to a huge area of heathland and grassland in north and east Hampshire to help reverse habitat loss.



**2. Cornwall Wildlife Trust**

#### West Cornwall Wetlands

**Area: 15,000 hectares**

Restoring and reconnecting fragmented wetlands and moors to create a coast-to-coast Living Landscape.



**6. Somerset Wildlife Trust**

#### Mendip Hills Living Landscape Project

**Area: 13,000 hectares**

Restoring, linking and re-creating wildlife habitat across more than 13,000 hectares, stretching from the NE to Wells.



**10. Wiltshire Wildlife Trust**

#### Landscape for Wildlife

**Area: 8,000 hectares**

Working with landowners to recreate links between wildlife sites, restoring meadows, hedgerows and ponds to create a wildlife-friendly landscape.



**14. Hants & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust**

#### Itchen Valley Living Landscape

**Area: 66 hectares**

Improvements along this renowned chalk river will make the Itchen Navigation's wildlife, history and natural beauty more accessible to local people.



**3. Devon Wildlife Trust**

#### Working Wetlands on the Culm

**Area: 65,000 hectares**

Restoring, recreating and reconnecting important wildlife-rich landscapes in North Devon, focusing particularly on the rare Culm grasslands.



**7. Avon Wildlife Trust**

#### Restoring Wildflower-rich Grasslands

**Area: 31,000 hectares**

Maintaining, restoring and linking species-rich grassland in Avon, through working with the farming community.



**11. Wiltshire Wildlife Trust**

#### New Life for Chalk Grassland

**Area: 158,990 hectares**

Protecting rare chalk grassland in Wiltshire, working with farmers and landowners to recreate and restore vital wildlife habitat.



**15. Hants & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust**

#### Roydon Woods and Lymington Valley

**Area: 2,000 hectares**

Ensuring this wildlife-rich landscape is in good environmental management will help endangered species such as the pearl-bordered fritillary.



**4. Dorset Wildlife Trust**

#### Pastures New

**Area: 25,509 hectares**

Working with local farmers and communities to restore wildlife-rich grasslands, protecting West Dorset's natural heritage.



**8. Avon Wildlife Trust**

#### N Somerset Levels and Moors Project

**Area: 86,000 hectares**

Safeguarding and enhancing the natural heritage of the Levels and Moors, working with farmers and landowners to protect wildlife.



**12. Alderney Wildlife Trust**

#### Living Islands

**Area: 1,500 hectares**

Protecting Alderney's world renowned wildlife, raising awareness of the threats it faces and managing the island's wildlife sites.



**16. Hants & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust**

#### Loddon and Eversley Heritage Area

**Area: 43,000 hectares**

Started in 2004, this scheme has already created large areas of habitat, including 170 hectares of woodland and 50 km of hedgerows.

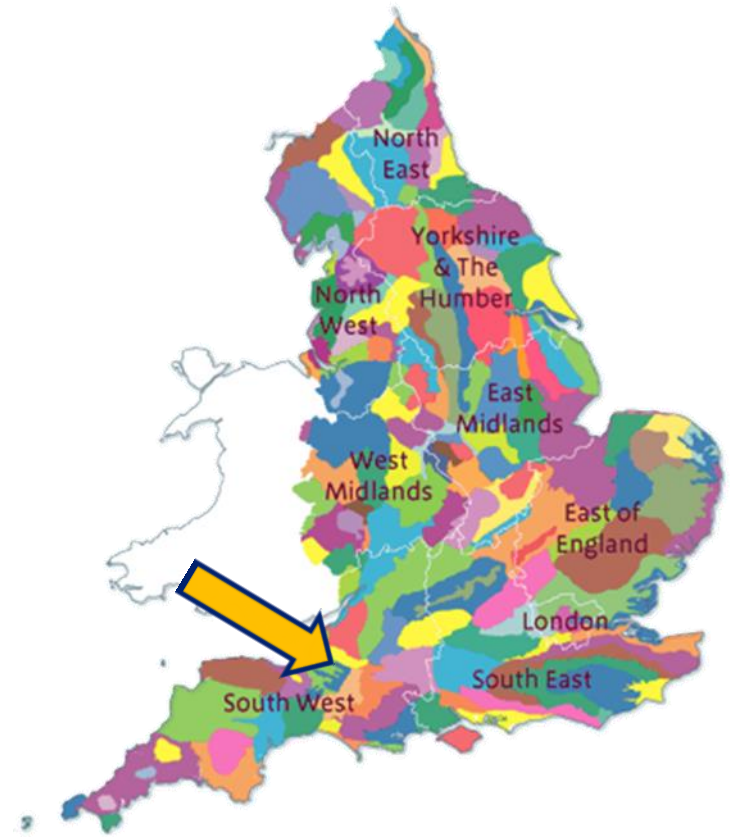


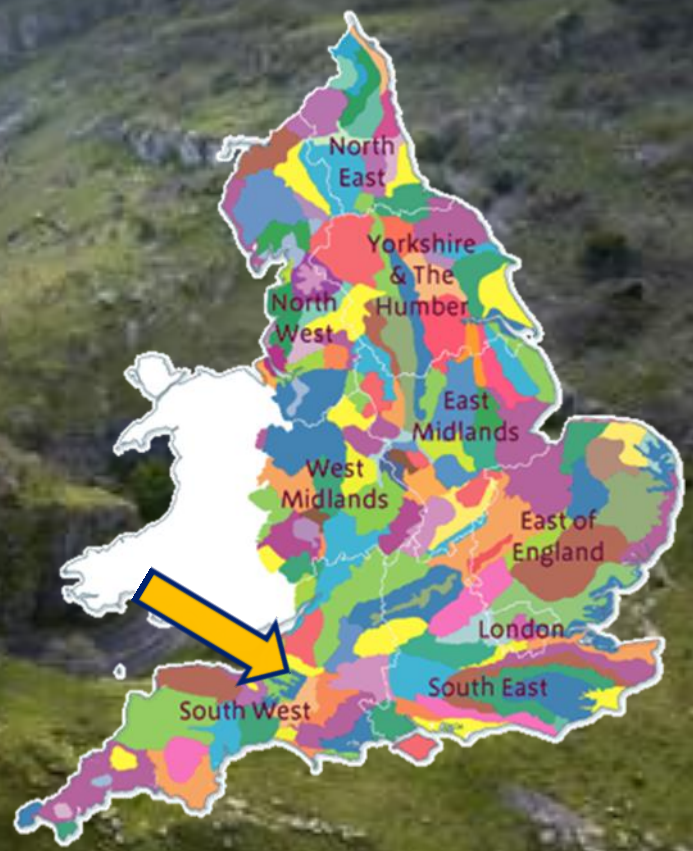
# A recovery plan for nature

## 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





North East

Yorkshire & The Humber

North West

East Midlands

West Midlands

East of England

London

South East

South West

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.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE

CHEDDAR

RADSTOCK

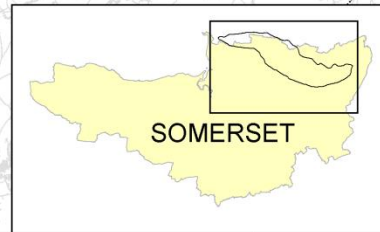
WELLS

FROME

GLASTONBURY

**Legend**

-  River Core Areas
-  River Corridors
-  Woodland Core Areas
-  Woodland Stepping Stones
-  Woodland Matrix Habitats
-  Mendip Hills NCA 141
-  Active quarries



**Broadleaved Woodland and Riverine Ecological Networks**

Mendip Hills Living Landscape

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10003392 2013  
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WESTON-SUPER-MARE

CHEDDAR









RADSTOCK

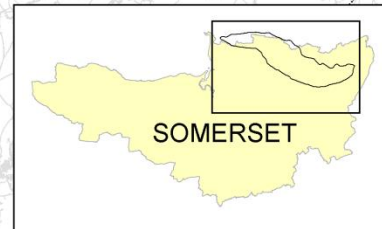
WELLS

FROME

GLASTONBURY

**Legend**

-  Heathland and Acid Grassland Core Areas
-  Heathland and Acid Grassland Stepping Stones
-  Heathland and Acid Grassland Matrix Habitats
-  Grassland Core Areas
-  Grassland Stepping Stones
-  Grassland Matrix Habitats
-  Mendip Hills NCA 141
-  Active quarries



Heathland and Grassland Ecological Networks

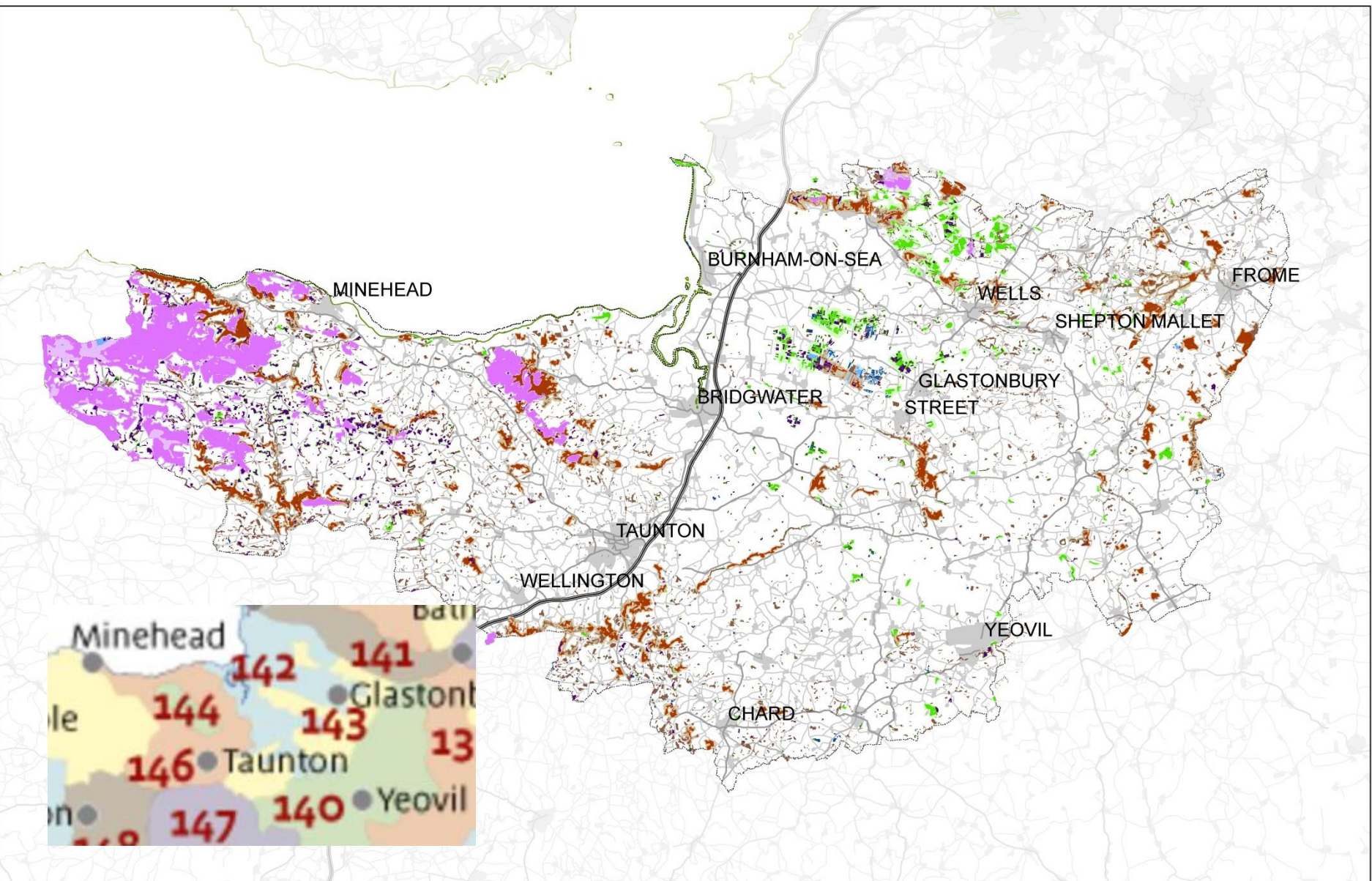
Mendip Hills Living Landscape

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Somerset Wildlife Trust  
 Callow Rock Office  
 Shipham Gorge  
 Cheddar  
 Somerset  
 BS27 3DQ

### Ecological networks

### Mendip Hills Living Landscape

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 Somerset Wildlife Trust  
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 07/11/2013

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# **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



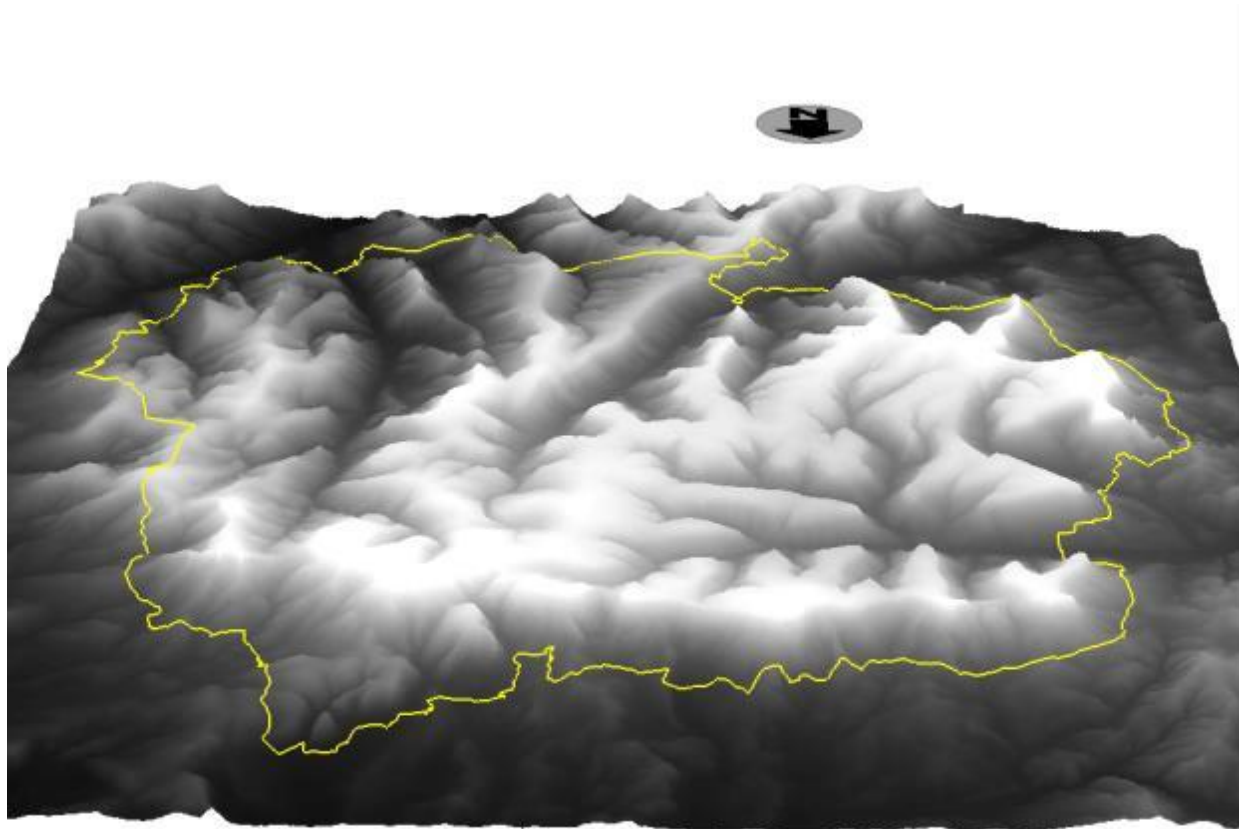
# ‘What Makes a View?’ CORDIALE Field Trial



# The 'Camden Town' group of artists, early 20<sup>th</sup> Century



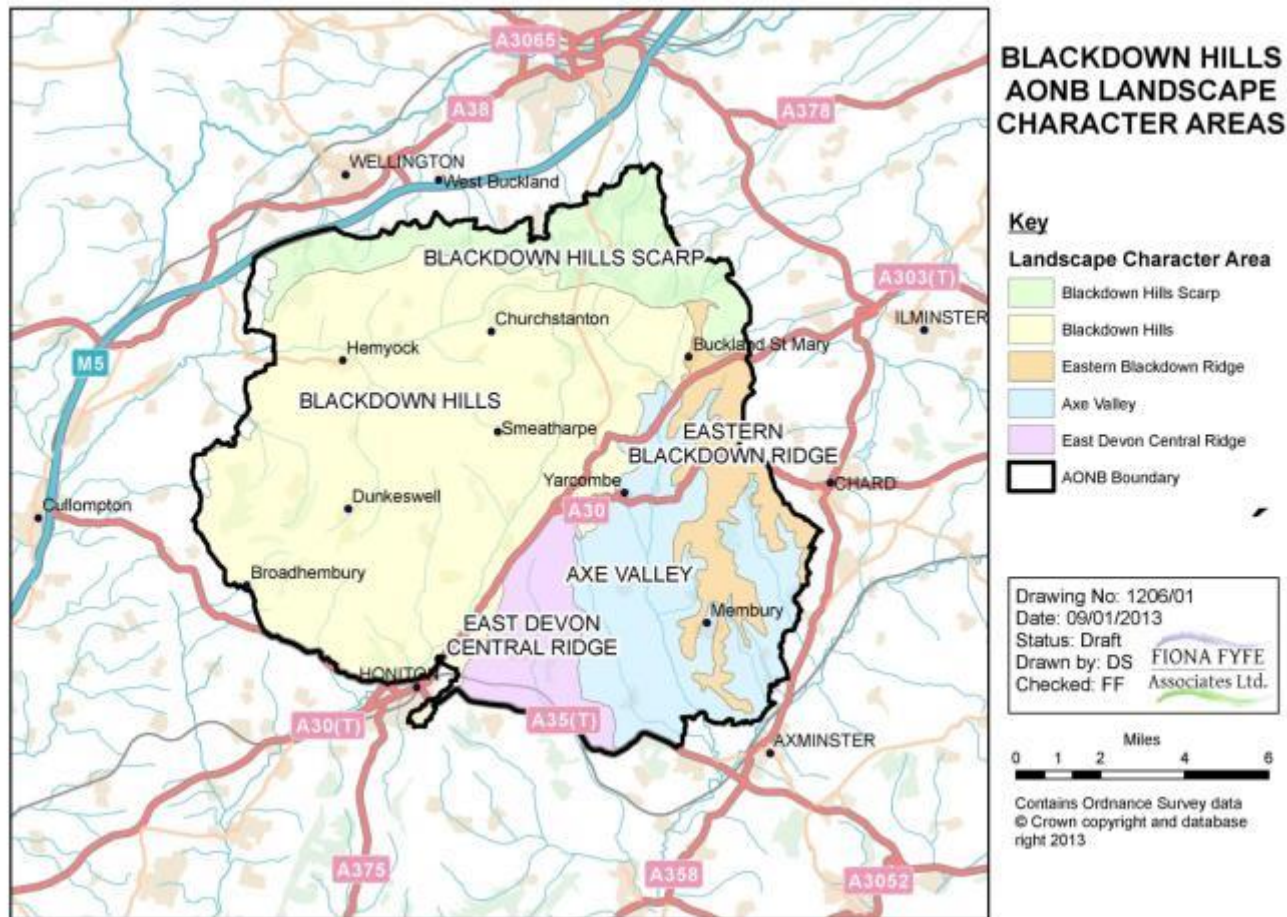
# Topography



# 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

16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> 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..."*



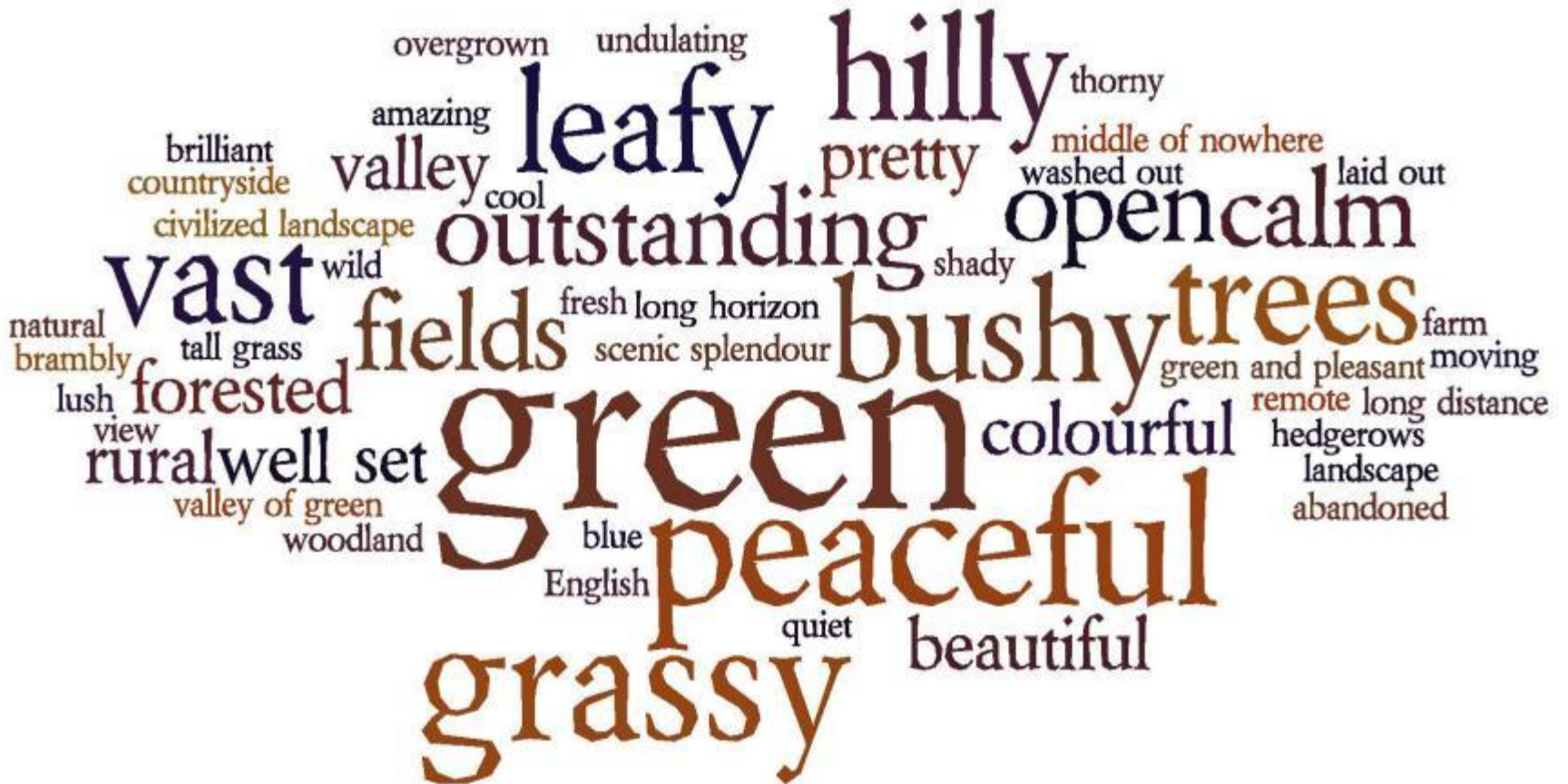
*Dumphon Hill, Hutchinson 1865*

# 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?



A word cloud of adjectives in various shades of brown and red, centered around the word 'happy'. The largest words are 'relaxed', 'happy', and 'calm'. Other prominent words include 'peaceful', 'free', 'quiet', 'alive', 'home', 'cool', 'warm', 'comfy', 'fresh', 'safe', 'good', 'independent', 'tall', 'wild', 'joyful', 'lightly breezed', 'spread out', 'tired', 'just out there', 'good', 'isolated', 'cheerful', 'sleepy', 'fresh', 'warm', 'comfy', 'active', 'prickly', 'relieved', 'cozy', 'clean', 'refreshed', 'living', 'deep', 'on top of the world', 'bouncy', 'full', 'hidden', 'crazy', and 'alive'.

peaceful

spread out tired

just out there lightly breezed

good independent tall

isolated safe

alive

hidden home

cheerful sleepy fresh

warm comfy

cool

happy

alive crazy

hidden home bouncy full on top of the world

comfy active tranquil prickly relieved

cozy clean

refreshed living

deep

quiet

free

relaxed

calm

# 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.....**

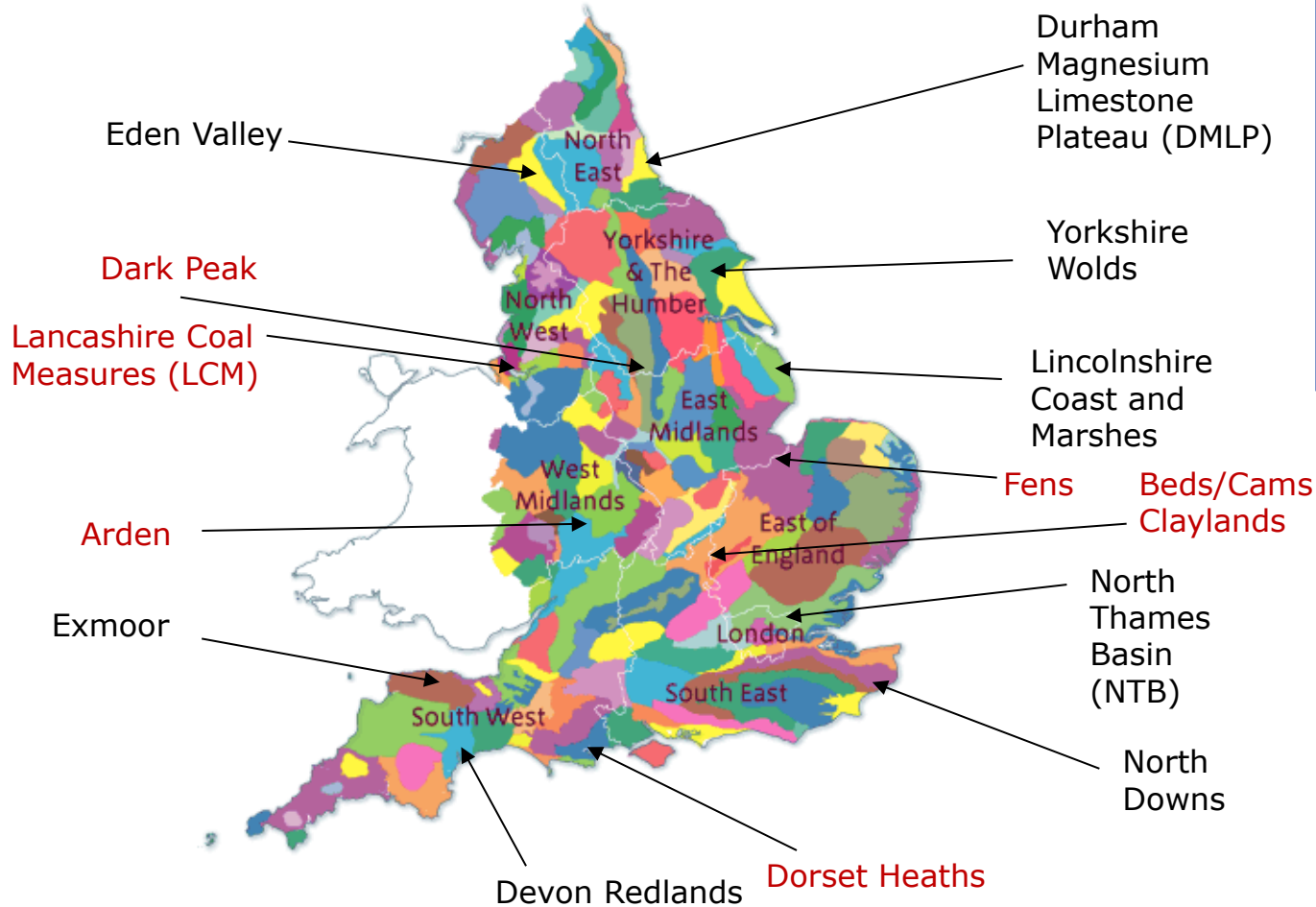
Natural England

**Experiencing Landscapes** research

Importance of developing our evidence base

# Experiencing Landscapes: 14 Pilot NCAs

Experiencing Landscapes:  
capturing the *cultural services*  
and *experiential qualities* of  
landscape



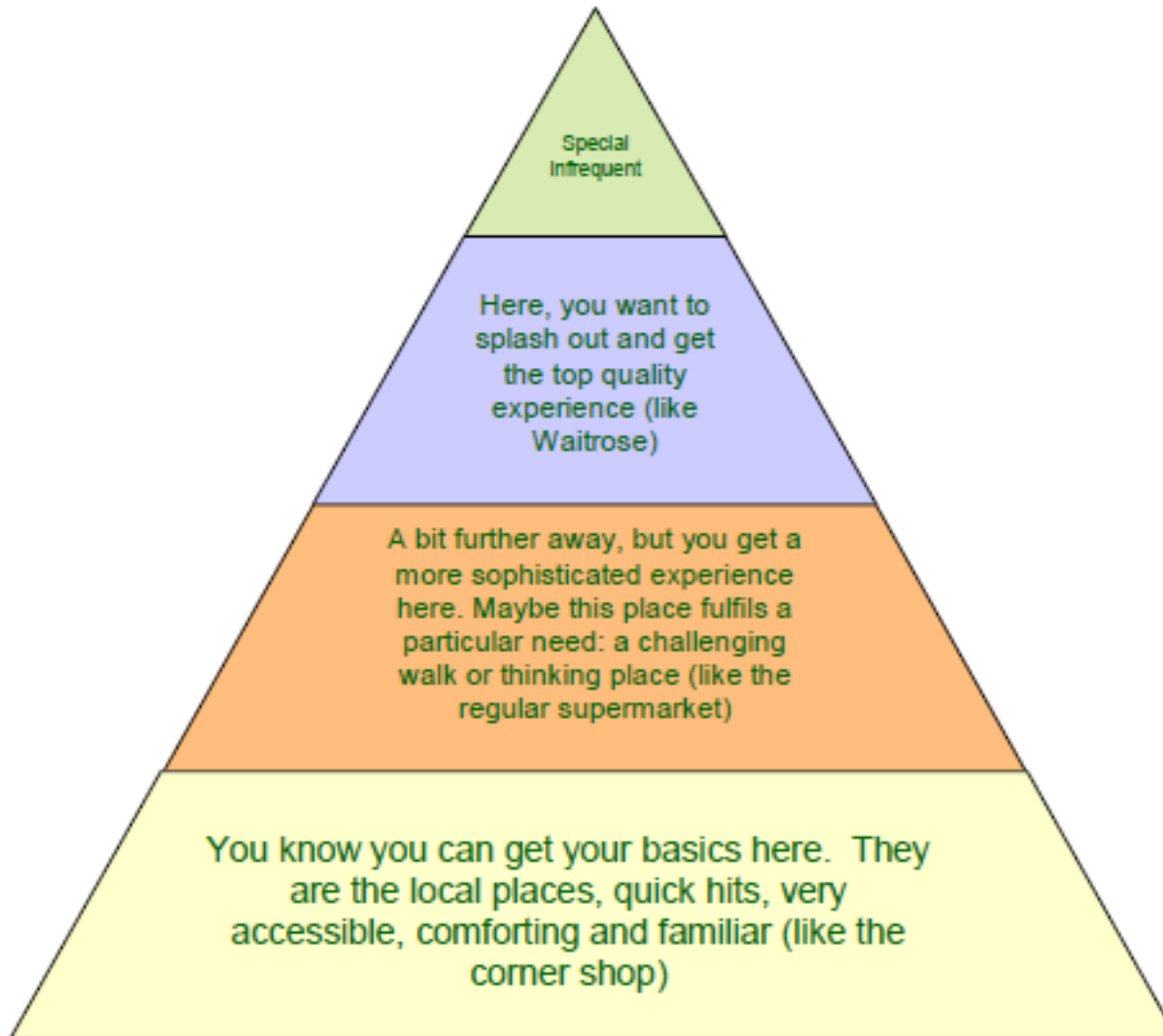
First published 09 October 2009

[www.naturalengland.org.uk](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk)



# Experiencing Landscapes:

## Portfolio of local and special landscapes





# Experiencing Landscapes:

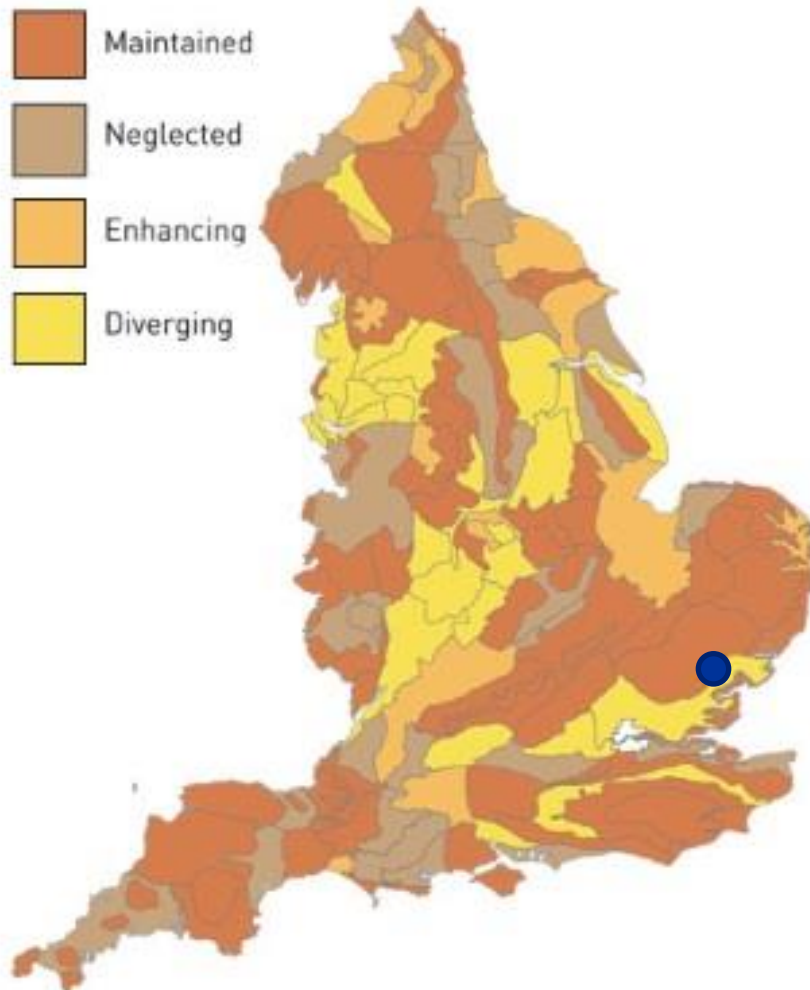
## Cultural services provided by landscape features – indicative.

Feature	History	Place	Inspiration	Calm	Leisure/ activities	Spiritual	Learning	Escape
Water, rivers streams	Low	Medium	High	High	High	High	Medium	High
Bogs & Marshes	Low	Low 1	Low	Low1	Medium		Medium	
Coast	Medium	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
Mountains & Hills	Medium	Medium	High	Medium	High	High	Medium	High
Moorland	Low	High	Medium	Low	Medium	High	Low	High
Woodland & Trees	Medium	Medium	High	High	High	High	Medium	High
Field Systems	High	High	Medium	High	Low	Low	Low	High
Hedges, (walls)	High	High	Low	High	Medium	Medium	High	Medium
Villages	High	High	Low	Medium	High	Low	High	High
Lanes	Medium	High	Medium	Medium	High			High

# 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