Working in Partnership to Recover Nature

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What we'll cover today

- The business case for nature's recovery
- Who is Natural England and what is a Nature Recovery Network?
- Delivery Challenges and Opportunities
- Enabling businesses to get involved
- Deep dive: Projects for Nature – connecting business with nature recovery projects
- Deep dive: Urban greening and Natural England's Green Infrastructure Standards
- Q&A

The Business Case for Nature Recovery

"Our economies, livelihoods and well-being all depend on our most precious asset: Nature"

Over 50% world GDP ($44tn) - moderately or highly dependent on nature and its services (WEF, 2020)

➢ **BUT** - we have failed to manage our nature asset sustainably, reducing its ability to regenerate and presenting a significant risk

WEF Global Risks Report 2024 ranked biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse and natural resource shortages in top 4 risks for next 10years.

UK: bottom 10% globally for biodiversity and worst amongst G7. 1 in 7 species in decline

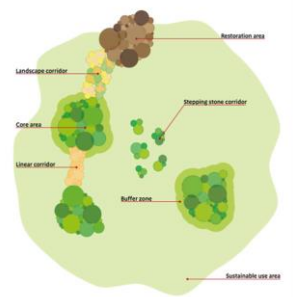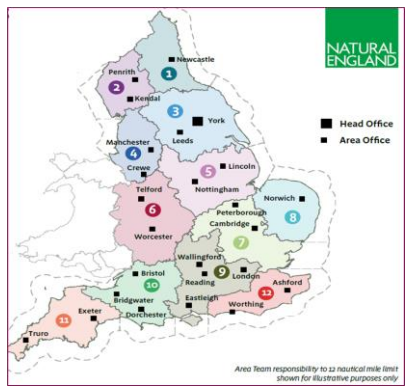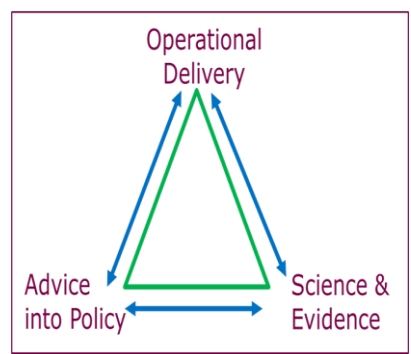➢ **"Nature degradation could cause a 12% loss to UK GDP"** (GFI, 2024)

"Conserving and restoring our natural assets will sustain and enhance their supply."

Who are Natural England and what is a Nature Recovery Network ?

➢ <u>Government advisor</u> on the natural environment. Sponsored by Defra, accountable to Parliament
➢ Statutory functions, regulator, delivery
➢ Build partnerships - national and local

Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

Operational Delivery

Advice into Policy — Science & Evidence

A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment

Environmental Improvement Plan 2023
First revision of the 25 Year Environment Plan

Lawton Report 'Make Space for Nature' (2010) - '*Bigger, Better, More Joined up*'

'*We will develop a Nature Recovery Network to **complement and connect wildlife-rich sites**, which [could] bring a wide range of additional benefits*"

❑ Create new areas of nature-rich land
❑ Enhance quality of existing sites
❑ Expand and connect to other sites
❑ Recover threatened species
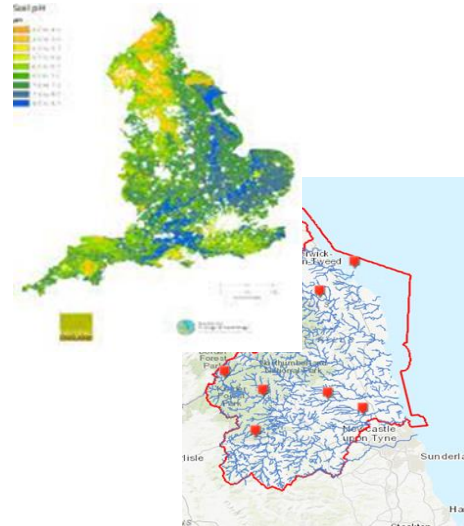❑ With co-benefits for people and climate

EIP targets:
➢ *Species extinction and abundance*
➢ *Habitat (including 30x30)*
➢ *People - 'Green in 15'*
➢ *Public and private funding incl. Nature Finance*

The Delivery Challenges and Opportunities:
- Spatial Tools, Partnerships, Funding and Finance

1. Spatial mapping tools to help plan the NRN. Need to align national and local priorities.

- ➤ Natural Capital Ecosystem Assessment
- ➤ Local Nature Recovery Strategies
- ➤ Tools to help baseline, calculate biodiversity uplift

2. Strong Partnerships to deliver action at scale and pace.
Government, landowners and managers, local authorities and communities, conservation organisations, businesses.

NRN Delivery Partnership engaging partners to collaborate on projects and trial innovative approaches at national, local and regional levels.

3. Sufficient funding and finance

Despite significant public funding, estimated finance gap £21-53bn over next 10 years. Government target to generate £500m/yr by 2027, over £1bn/yr by 2030.

Green finance for nature is key element of a blended finance mix – opportunities around new nature markets for ecosystem services (BNG, nature-based carbon, nutrient neutrality, flood mitigation and water quality). Additional revenue streams for repayable finance to deliver nature restoration.

https://www.greenfinanceinstitute.co.uk/news-and-insights/finance-gap-for-uk-nature-report/

Enabling Businesses to get involved

"Biodiversity is already firmly on the agenda in boardrooms across the country and will only attract greater attention in the years ahead.. [but] there is still a gap to be bridged between boardroom awareness and tangible action." https://renewbiodiversity.org.uk/the-nature-of-business-report/

Private sector drivers for nature restoration [not mutually-exclusive]:

➢ **Reputational** – marketing and PR, trusted business or employer, CSR and ESG investment, disclosure regimes
➢ **Corporate Sustainability** mandatory requirements (e.g. BNG) or voluntary (e.g. Net Zero), TNFD/TCFD and SBTN
➢ **Operational** – reduce costs (e.g. water treatment) or risks/increase resilience of assets (e.g. flood mitigation) and supply chains (e.g. sustainable farming) through NBS
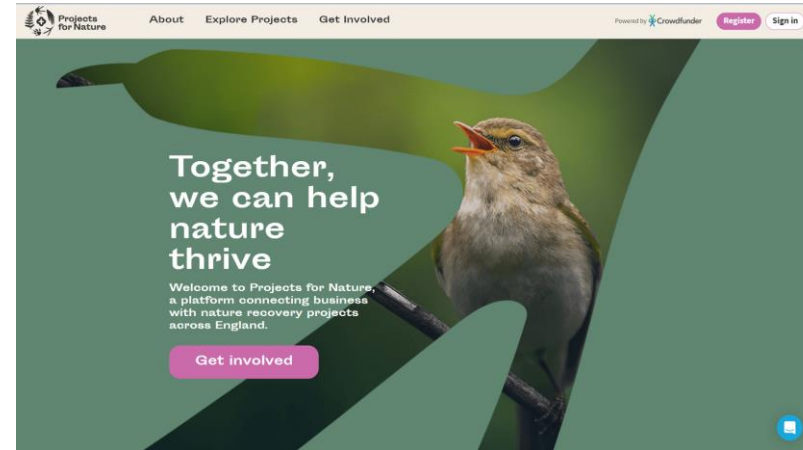➢ **Financial return** – %£ return over time through revenue streams (e.g. ecosystem markets)

BUT

▪ A whole new language! For both businesses and the nature sector trying to engage businesses and align interests
▪ Nature is more complex than e.g. carbon – less clarity around metrics and outcomes, no clear standards and data, frameworks still emerging. Hard to know where to start
▪ Unclear how to 'find' and 'engage' with nature recovery projects. How to know which ones are 'good' and will deliver quality outcomes? Need confidence
▪ How to make the business case to our Boards to take action to support and/or invest in nature recovery?

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Audience poll:

Question 1 – Does your company currently have a biodiversity or nature strategy, policy or position, and/or targets?

Question 2 – How likely would you be to support or invest in nature projects to meet this strategy?

'Projects for Nature', a pioneering platform, accelerating a movement to support nature by connecting businesses, and other donors, with screened nature recovery projects.

Audience poll:

Question 3 – How likely would you be to use a platform like Projects for Nature?

Question 4 – What are the main barriers to your organisation engaging with or supporting nature recovery in the UK?

Urban Greening

Research on business attitudes and opinions towards Urban Greening in cities and towns.

www.gov.uk/natural-england

Green Infrastructure Framework

What is the Green Infrastructure Framework?

The Green Infrastructure Framework supports the greening of our towns and cities as part of the Nature Recovery Network. It sets out what good looks like for local planning authorities, developers, parks and greenspace managers and communities. It provides tools to help plan and design green infrastructure networks that deliver multiple benefits. The five main products in the Framework are:

Green Infrastructure Principles

Why, What and How of good green infrastructure

Why	1. Nature 2. Health 3. Economy 4. Water 5. Climate
What	1. Multifunctional 2. Varied 3. Connected 4. Accessible 5. Responds to Character
How	1. Partnership and Vision 2. Evidence 3. Plan Strategically 4. Design 5. Manage, Value and Evaluate

Green Infrastructure Standards

National standards for green infrastructure quantity and quality.

Green Infrastructure Mapping

Mapped datasets to support the standards

Green Infrastructure Planning and Design Guide

How to design good quality green infrastructure

Process Journeys

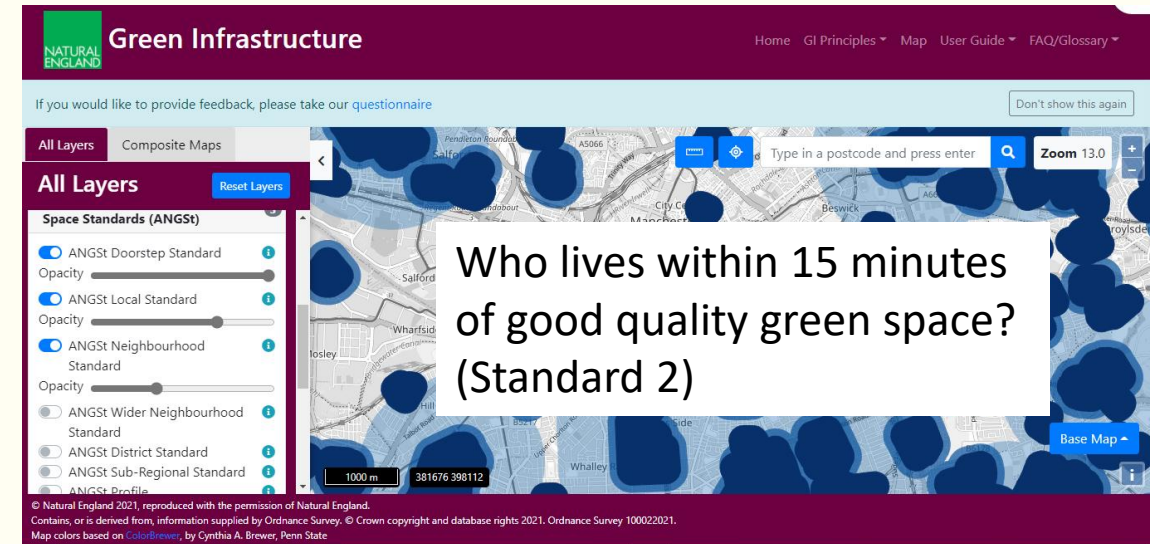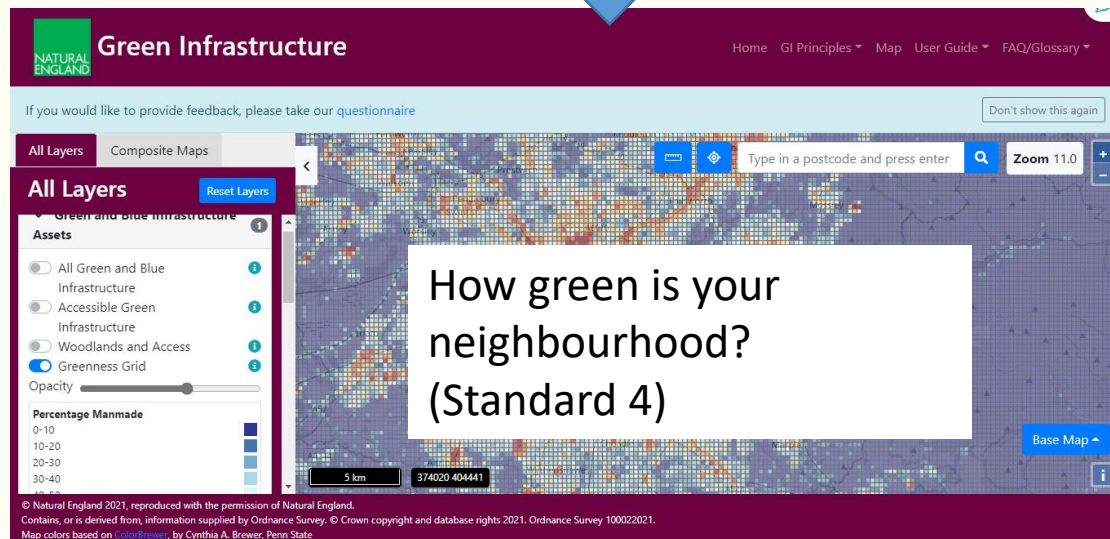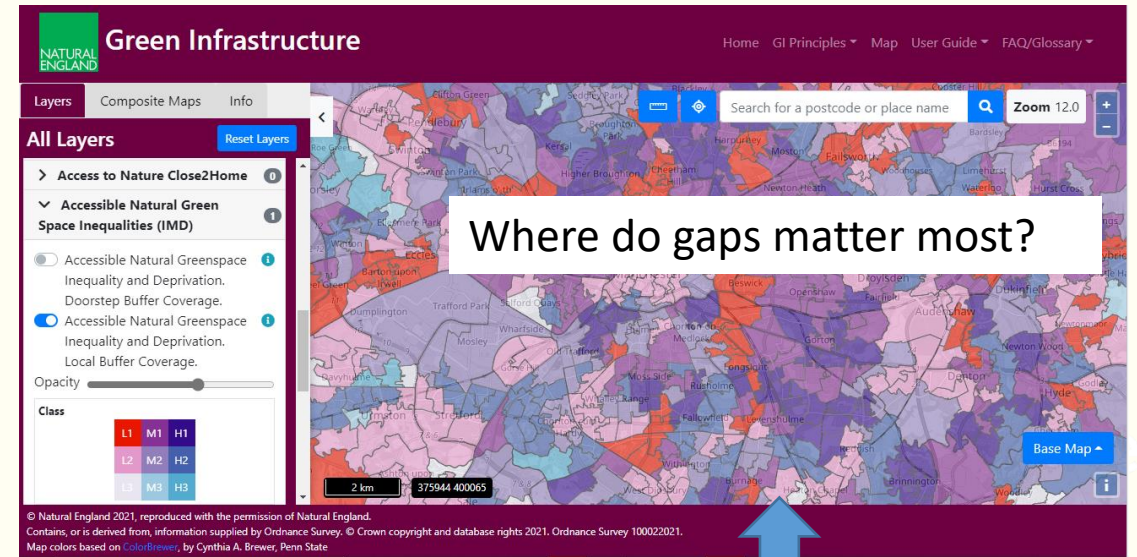How to apply the products in the Framework for Planners, Developers and Neighbourhood Planners

For more information scan the QR code or copy the link:

https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/GreenInfrastructure/Home.aspx

Uses of Green Infrastructure Mapping

https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/GreenInfrastructure/map.aspx

Where is the Green Infrastructure? (Standard 1)

Where do gaps matter most?

How green is your neighbourhood? (Standard 4)

Who lives within 15 minutes of good quality green space? (Standard 2)

Audience poll:

Urban Greening Research Poll

Nature Recovery: Business opinions

Natural England are inviting businesses to have their say and inform a research project on Nature Recovery and associated policy.

- We aim to conduct online 1:1 interviews (circa 30 minutes) to understand attitudes and opinions in May and June 2024. If you would be interested in having your say, please write to:-

Andrew.Burford@naturalengland.org.uk and/or

Rosie.East@naturalengland.org.uk

To find out more or register your interest in Projects for Nature: Participate – Nature conservation | Projects for Nature

To find out more about the Nature Recovery Network: The Nature Recovery Network - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

To contact the NRN Delivery Partnership team: NDPNaturerecovery@naturalengland.org.uk