






The Natural Choice: an overview of Natural Environment White Paper

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The Natural Choice:
securing the value
of nature










What is the Natural Environment White Paper?

- Launched in June 2011
- The first White Paper on the Natural Environment for 20 years
- The NEWP sets out the government vision for the natural environment in England for the next 50 years
- Contains nearly 100 environmental 'commitments'




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Background to the Natural Environment White Paper

- Rio convention (1992)
- UKBAP (1994) and LBAPs (mid nineties onwards)
- Agreement to 'Halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010'
- Growing focus on 'Ecosystems services'
- 'An invitation to shape the nature of England' (July 2010)
- Lawton review 'Making space for nature' (September 2010)



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Background to the Natural Environment White Paper – Lawton review

'Do England's wildlife sites comprise a coherent and resilient ecological network?'

– **No.**

'if our existing networks are not sufficient, what needs to be done?'

– We need **more, bigger, better** and **joined** wildlife sites.



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Background to the Natural Environment White Paper

Nature conservation organisations and others are making concerted efforts to protect and restore biodiversity, but

- Despite our best efforts, we have failed to halt the loss of biodiversity
- Many other sectors are not engaged
- Need to engage more broadly
- We are failing to properly recognise the true worth of biodiversity
- Need for landscape scale conservation

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Introduction to the Natural Environment White Paper

- Aims to improve the quality of the natural environment, halt the decline in habitats and species, and strengthen the connection between people and nature
- Uses a very broad definition of the 'natural environment'
- Treats nature as a system
- Proposes a more strategic approach to nature conservation
- Proposes that we must place the value of nature at the centre of the choices we must make

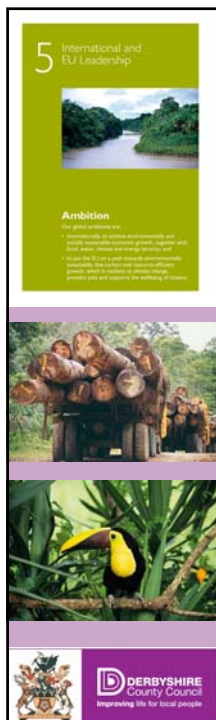
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Introduction to the Natural Environment White Paper

‘We will mainstream the value of nature across our society by:

- facilitating greater **local action to protect and improve nature**;
- **creating a green economy**;
- **strengthening the connections between people and nature**; and
- showing **leadership in the European Union and internationally**’



International and EU Leadership - Ambitions

‘Our global ambitions are:

- internationally, **to achieve environmentally and socially sustainable economic growth, together with food, water, climate and energy security**; and
- to put the EU on a path towards environmentally **sustainable, low-carbon and resource-efficient growth, which is resilient to climate change, provides jobs and supports the wellbeing of citizens.**’

4 Reconnecting people and nature



Ambition
 To reconnect people and nature by providing opportunities for people to enjoy the benefits of nature by giving them freedom to connect with it. Everyone should have fair access to a good-quality natural environment. We want to see every child in England given the opportunity to experience and learn about the natural environment. We want to help people take more responsibility for their environment, putting local communities in control and making it easier for people to take positive action.






Reconnecting people and nature - Ambition




‘No one will protect what they do not first care about.’
 Sir David Attenborough, 2010

‘Our ambition is to **strengthen the connections between people and nature**. We want more people to **enjoy the benefits of nature** by giving them freedom to connect with it. Everyone should have **fair access to a good-quality natural environment**. We want to see **every child in England given the opportunity to experience and learn about the natural environment**. We want to help **people take more responsibility for their environment**, putting local communities in control and making it easier for people to take positive action.’

3 Growing a green economy



Ambition
 To grow a green and growing economy that properly values the stocks and flows of natural capital. Growth will be green because it is intrinsically linked to the health of the country’s natural resources. The economy will capture the value of nature. It will encourage businesses to use natural capital sustainably, protecting and improving it through their day-to-day operations and the management of their supply chains.

Growing a green economy - Ambition

‘Our ambition is for a **green and growing economy** which not only **uses natural capital in a responsible and fair way but contributes to improving it**. It will properly value the stocks and flows of natural capital. Growth will be green because it is intrinsically linked to the health of the country’s natural resources. **The economy will capture the value of nature**. It will **encourage businesses to use natural capital sustainably**, protecting and improving it through their day-to-day operations and the management of their supply chains.’

2 Protecting and improving our natural environment

Ambition

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Protecting and improving our natural environment - Ambitions

‘We want to improve the quality of our natural environment across England, moving to a net gain in the value of nature. We aim to arrest the decline in habitats and species and the degradation of landscapes. We will protect priority habitats and safeguard vulnerable non-renewable resources for future generations. We will support natural systems to function more effectively in town, in the country and at sea. We will achieve this through **joined-up action at local and national levels to create an ecological network which is resilient to changing pressures.**’

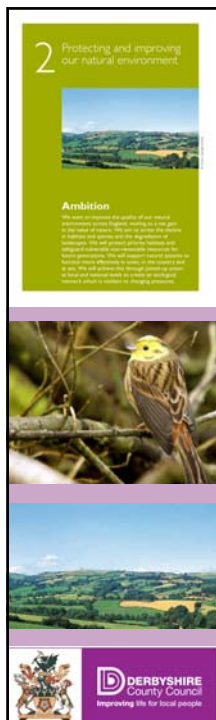
2 Protecting and improving our natural environment

Ambition

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Protecting and improving our natural environment – Key commitments

- Supporting **Local Nature Partnerships**, to strengthen local action;
- New **Nature Improvement Areas** in response to the Lawton review;
- **Promoting ecologically coherent planning**; and
- **Piloting biodiversity offsets**



Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs) – what are they?


- strategic partnerships of organisations that work to create a shared vision for their area and deliver better, more integrated, environmental outcomes
- their overall purpose will be to bring a diverse range of individuals, businesses and organisations together at a local level
- create a vision and plan of action of how the natural environment can be taken into account in decision making



Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs) - vision




- Demonstrate local leadership, raising awareness of the benefits a healthy natural environment brings;
- Develop a shared environmental vision and set of priorities for their area;
- Contribute to local plans;
- Help contribute to the Green Economy;
- Bring together a range of local stakeholders;
- Co-operate with other partnerships;
- Work at a landscape scale; and
- Form at a level that can take a strategic approach

2 Protecting and improving our natural environment



Ambition

The ambition is to improve the quality of our natural environment across Derbyshire by protecting and enhancing our green spaces, waterways and wildlife. We will work with our partners to create a network of green spaces and waterways that will improve the quality of our natural environment and provide a range of benefits for our communities.

Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs) – current situation

- Expressions of interest invited for LNP development funding
- Two major bids in Derbyshire
- Winter 2011/12 – the Government will invite expressions of interest from local partnerships aspiring to be recognised as Local Nature Partnerships.
- Mid-2012 –Launch event for first wave of Local Nature Partnerships

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Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs) – current situation



A Local Nature Partnership for Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire.

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2 Protecting and improving our natural environment



Ambition

Our ambition is to improve the quality of our natural environment, to protect and enhance the green infrastructure that we have, and to create new green infrastructure where it is needed. We will work with our partners to deliver a range of actions to improve our natural environment, including:

- protecting and enhancing our green infrastructure
- creating new green infrastructure
- improving the quality of our natural environment
- working with our partners to deliver a range of actions to improve our natural environment

Nature Improvement Areas (NIAs)

- Nature Improvement Areas are large areas (10-50,000Ha) designed to deliver a step change in nature conservation
- Established to help deliver ecological restoration as part of a series of actions at a landscape scale
- Developed from the recommendations identified in the Lawton Review (ERZs)
- NIAs must be championed and operated by broad partnerships of organisations

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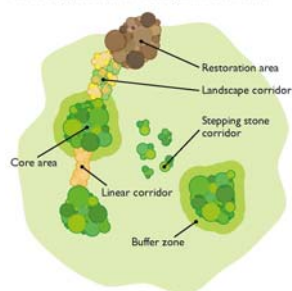


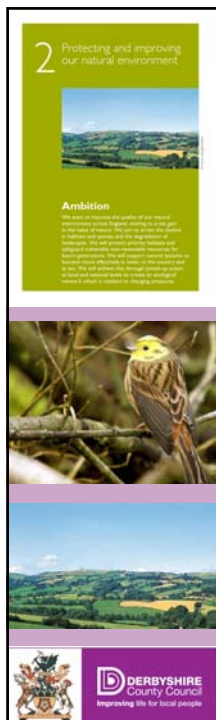
Nature Improvement Areas (NIAs)

NIAs should include:

- core areas
- corridors and stepping stones
- restoration areas
- buffer zones
- sustainable use areas

The components of ecological networks





Nature Improvement Areas (NIAs)

NIAs should aim to enhance the ecological network over large areas by:


- Increasing the number of wildlife sites
- Increasing the size of existing wildlife sites
- Improving the management of existing wildlife sites
- Improving connectivity between sites
- Creating wildlife corridors

(or more, bigger, better and joined!)




Nature Improvement Areas (NIAs)

- Landscape scale delivery linked to ecosystems – landscape approach taken in new Lowland Derbyshire LBAP
- Competition announced to select 12 initial NIA areas. Bids currently being considered
- £7.5m funding available for the first 12 NIAs, to be spent between 2012 - 2014
- Funding is intended to be ‘pump priming’, but...
- Lawton – ‘we estimate that the total annual costs of establishing a coherent and resilient network will be in the range of £600 million to £1.1 billion’



Ecologically coherent planning

- The Government expects the planning system to deliver the homes, business, infrastructure and thriving local places that the country needs, while protecting and enhancing the natural and historic environment
- The Government envisages that planning can:
 - Produce a more strategic and integrated approach to planning for nature
 - Encourage greener design and enable development to enhance natural networks
 - Protect and improve the natural environment, facilitating coherent and resilient ecological networks
 - Deliver no net loss of biodiversity;
- The government has recently published the draft National Planning Policy Framework



Biodiversity offsetting

- **Biodiversity offsets** are conservation activities designed to deliver biodiversity benefits in compensation for losses in a measurable way.
- Good developments incorporate biodiversity considerations in their design but are still likely to result in some biodiversity loss.
- One way to compensate for this loss is by offsetting: the developer secures compensatory habitat expansion or restoration elsewhere.
- Aim is to deliver 'no net loss' of biodiversity by applying a consistent framework for biodiversity offsetting

6

Conclusion



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Conclusions

- The NEWP is still in its infancy
- Some commitments are already starting to be delivered
- Although it is an evolution of previous thinking, it is very ambitious
- Full delivery will require:
 - Action
 - Commitment from the biodiversity sector
 - Buy-in from other sectors
 - Money
 - Time