



Planning for Nature: The Role of Local Nature Partnerships

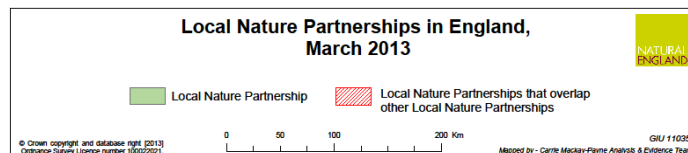
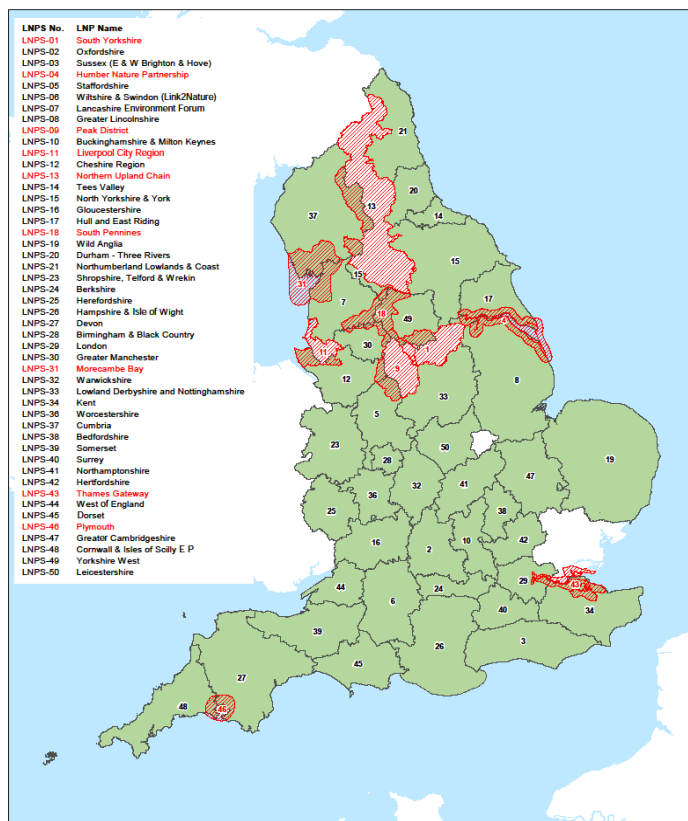
Sue Goodfellow (Chair, Natural Devon)

Outline of session

- What are Local Nature Partnerships?
- How do they function and what do they do? (An example from Devon)
- What role can LNPs play in planning in your area?

Conclusions

Local Nature Partnerships



- Partnerships of a broad range of local organisations, businesses and people who aim to help bring about improvements in their local natural environment
- Set up in the 2011 Natural Environment White Paper
- Expected to work alongside Local Enterprise Partnerships and Health and Wellbeing Boards

Some SW LNPs



'connecting people and nature'

What do they do? The example of Natural Devon



- Approximately 8 LNPs in the SW, working together nationally and regionally
- Natural Devon given LNP status by Ministers in late 2012 along with 49 other LNPs in England.
- Natural Devon covers Devon (including Torbay but not Plymouth)

Our purpose



To **maximise collaboration** between all relevant organisations, partnerships and individuals in order to:

ensure that a healthy natural environment underpins a high quality of life across Devon with a strong green economy and healthy communities

Why is Natural Devon needed?



Our quality of life is generally high. However Devon faces a number of challenges:

- Population growth
- Economy (low wages / seasonal employment)
- Climate change
- Continued impacts on our wildlife and habitats
- A complex world of organisations, sectors, funding, priorities.....

Our environment underpins our lives

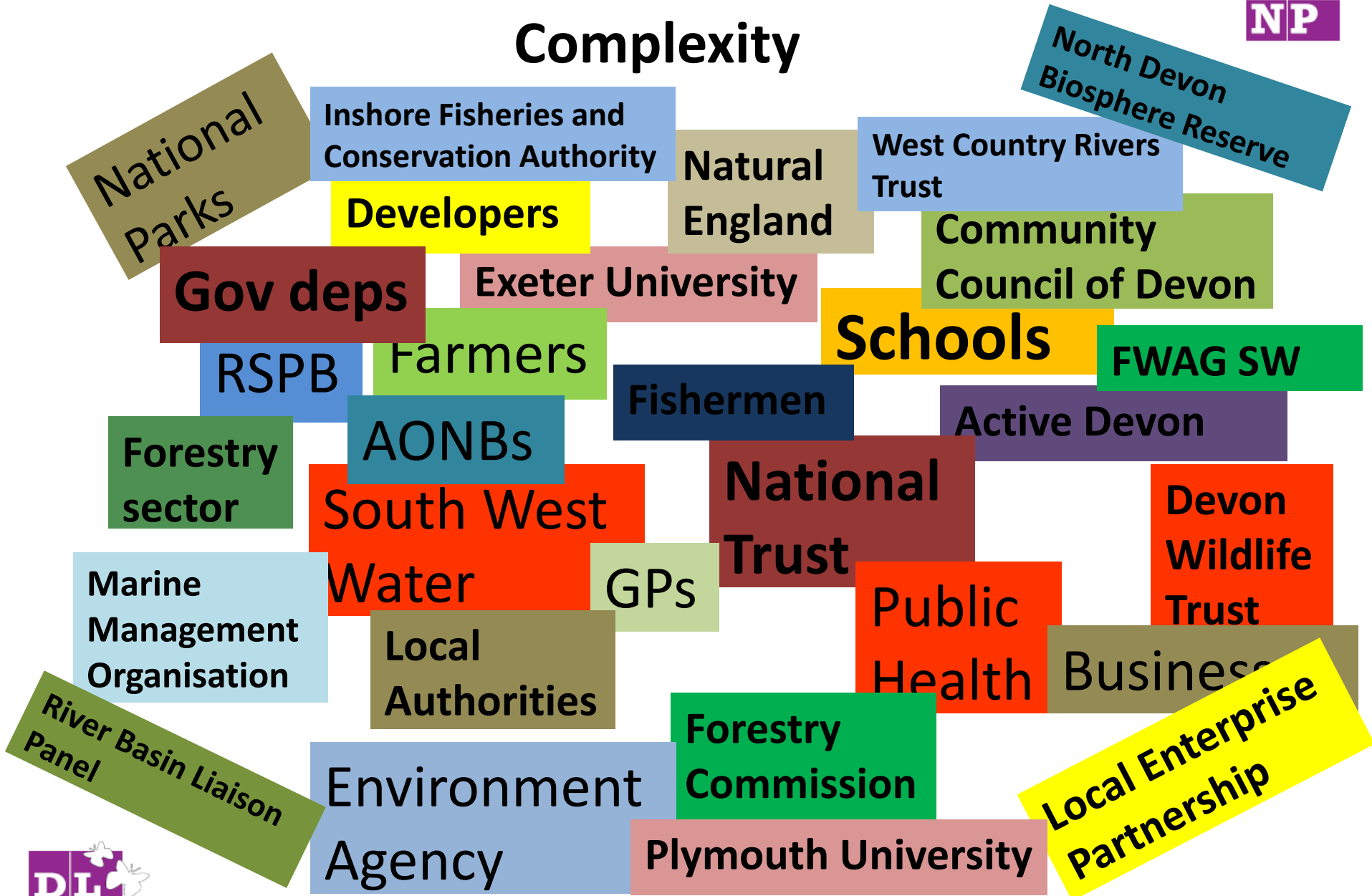


- The value of our environment is generally taken for granted and often not valued in decision making.
 - The health value of the UK's green spaces is £30 billion a year
 - The cost of replacing pollination services provided by bees is ~ £1.8 billion a year in the UK
 - Visitors to the East Devon coast spend over £250 million each year
 - The value of Brixham's fish landing is £22 million a year

'There is no business on a dead planet'

(Petter Stordalen, Norwegian businessman and billionaire)

Complexity



Adding value



We are an umbrella partnership which can:

- **Improve communication and awareness**
- **Forge links**
- **Provide a common evidence base**
- **Champion priorities**
- **Speak with one voice and influence decisions**
- **Help to unlock resources**

Natural Devon structure

- **Board** – Represents the wide range of sectors, provides leadership (independent Chair)
- **Executive Group** - Supports the Board (15 officers plus secretariat)
- **Forum** - open to anyone with an interest in securing the benefits of a healthy natural environment (currently 500 members)
- **Coordinator** - Sarah Jennings, Devon County Council

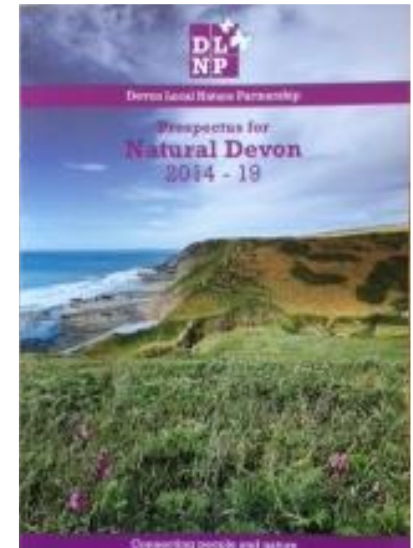


Aims of Natural Devon: our prospectus

Three aims and seven priority themes have been agreed following wide consultation

Aims:

- *To protect and improve Devon's natural environment*
- *To grow Devon's green economy*
- *To reconnect Devon's people with nature*



Seven Themes



Naturally Healthy



Green Connections



Outdoor Learning



Farming with Nature



Wood for Good



Resilient wetlands



Sustainable Seas

Themes.....



Each theme has

- A **vision**, plus what we will do to achieve it, and what success looks like
 - A lead Board and Executive member to champion, develop and oversee a simple **action plan** for delivery with partners
- e.g. 'Green Connections' - lead Nicola Bulbeck, CE of Teignbridge District Council: Executive member Jonny Miller

How Natural Devon is making a difference, some examples



Influencing decisions...

- Input into the LEP's strategies and structures including ESIF
- Input into New Environmental Land Management Scheme, Active Devon, Naturally Healthy
- Supporting funding bids which help to meet our aims e.g. River Otter restoration, Greater Horseshoe Bat, NIA , Helping Hands projects
- Bringing sectors together to share ideas and actions



Providing the right evidence...

- 'Reconnecting people with Nature' - 2012
- 'Green economy scoping report' - 2012
- 'State of Devon's Nature' (summary and full report) - 2013
- 'State of Devon's environment' - 2014
- 'Economic benefits of the environment' – background for LEED toolkit and LEP SEP - 2013
- 'Improving Engagement with our Natural Environment: Behaviour Change Scoping Report' - 2014



Forging links / combining funds...

- Health and environment - 'compacts' signed with the Devon and Torbay Health & Wellbeing Boards; research into barriers; task force and workshop to bring people together
- Outdoor education, health and environment - new schools project (combined funding of £40K)
- Marine workshop - developing a marine environmental plan
- Forestry, energy and environment sectors - wood fuel work
- Economy and environment - strong links with LEP



Improving communication...

Website - an information hub - www.naturaldevon.org.uk

Newsletter to all Forum members

Successful conference – 140 delegates from a wide range of sectors contributed to Action Planning through themed workshops including green connections

Natural Devon Partnership events in 2015 have included

- Ministerial visit – Jan
- Farming and the environment conference – Feb
- Ash dieback conference – March
- Naturally Healthy Week – May
- Bees' Needs Week – July
- Input to Active Devon and Social Providers Conferences - June



Planned events

- Outdoor Learning Week - spring 2016
- Natural Devon Conference 2016



Green Connections

Our Vision:

‘High quality green infrastructure is integrated into, and connects, all housing and commercial developments helping Devon to be known as a great place to live, work and do business’



We will:

- Promote a better planned, co-ordinated approach to GI across Devon with a particular focus on the area with most growth
- Encourage greater investment in GI provision
- Showcase how GI can deliver growth and essential services

Key activities on the Green Connections theme

- Working Group established (see Jonny Miller TDC)
 - Priority GI Projects being developed to promote to funders.
 - Compensatory framework for 'unavoidable' loss of wildlife habitat being developed across Devon.
 - The [Devon Duty to Cooperate Protocol](#) signed
 - [Devon Wildlife and Planning Guidance](#) being developed to ensure that Local Planning Authorities and developers meet the legislative and policy requirements to protect wildlife while avoiding unnecessary delays.
 - [Devon Landscape and Planning Guidance](#) being developed – led by the Devon Landscape Policy Group
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Finding out more..

www.naturaldevon.org.uk

Your views?

Turn to your neighbour and talk for 5 mins each...

What role can Local Nature Partnerships play in your area to help you in your work?

