

How Can Built Environment Professionals Better Engage with the Ecosystem Approach



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Structure



- Interview with a planner
- Communication and the Ecosystem Approach
- Hooks for engagement
- Crossing a divide



Case Study: North Devon & Torridge Joint Local Plan

North Devon & Torridge Joint Local Plan

What is this case study about?

This case study illustrated how the development of the North Devon and Torridge Joint local plan can incorporate an Ecosystem Approach and embed an Ecosystem Services Framework to help shape the statutory framework for the future development of the area.

What is its contextual setting?

The Joint North Devon and Torridge Local Plan is presently being prepared under the provisions of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 by North Devon Council and Torridge District Council. This forms the statutory plan for decision-making, involving a wide range of audiences in its creation. Publication of the *National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)* in March 2012 recognised the value of ecosystem services to the delivery of sustainable development as central to the Government's growth agenda.

The local plan preparation process also drew together a number of other work streams which also centred on a recognition of the value of ecosystems services to plan making and decision-taking; these included participation as a pilot authority in a county wide biodiversity offsetting programme, involvement in the Ecosystems Knowledge Network and contribution towards other spatial strategies such as the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve at Braunton Burrows and the Nature Improvement Area on the culm measures.

How has the Ecosystem Approach been used?

The approach taken was driven by Section 30 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 which states that a local authority exercising the



Mike Kelly : North Devon and Teignbridge Joint ...


0:00 / 6:58




The above principles of the Ecosystem Approach are evident (light green) or significant (dark green) within this case study

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bxONIY-3hel>

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION



SENDER **MESSAGE** **RECEIVER**
FEEDBACK



BIRMINGHAM CITY
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- What is the key ecosystem approach message?
- Overcoming the 'environmental' label
- Confusion of academic terms and jargon
- Evolution or revolution for work practice?
- Beware Ecosystem Messiahs

Lets be NEATer



National Ecosystem Approach Toolkit



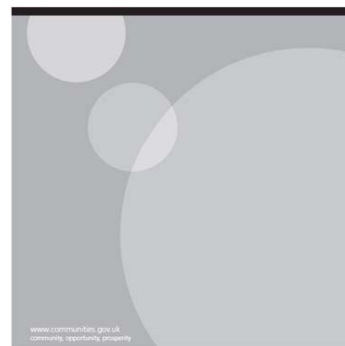
Built Environment Hooks



- Place-making
- NPPF
- Regulatory Tools
 - SEA Sustainability Appraisal
 - EIA
 - SuDS
- Duty to Cooperate
 - Housing needs
 - Flooding
 - GI



National Planning Policy Framework

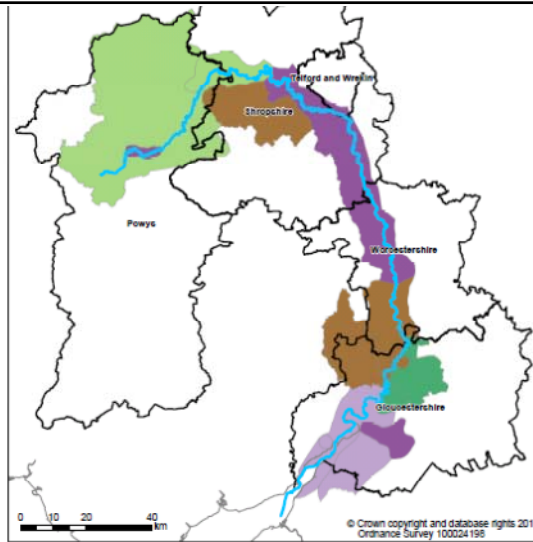


www.communities.gov.uk
community.reports.projects

How to get Interests together



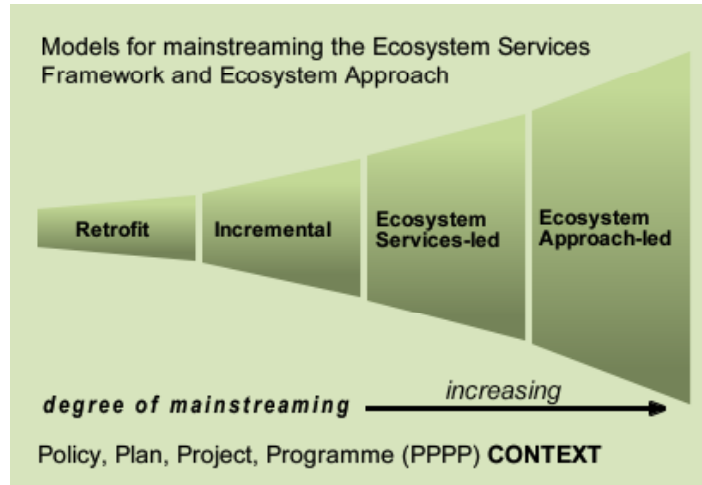
Source: Jim Davies
Env Agency



- 0 10 20 40 km
- © Crown copyright and database rights 2013
Ordnance Survey 100024198
- Catchment Flood Management Plans Boundaries**
CFMP Policy
- Not Yet Approved
 - Policy 1. No active intervention (including flood warning and maintenance). Continue to monitor and advise.
 - Policy 2. Reduce existing flood risk management actions.
 - Policy 3. Continue with existing or alternative actions to manage flood risk at the current level.
 - Policy 4. Take further action to sustain the current level of flood risk into the future.
 - Policy 5. Take further action to reduce flood risk.
 - Policy 6. Take action with others to store water or manage run-off to provide overall flood risk reduction or environmental benefit.



How to value ecosystem services in policy



How to value ecosystem services in policy



- SURVEY phase incorporating MAPPING ECOSYSTEM ASSESSMENT
- Using/Adapting existing Regulatory tools within an Ecosystem services Framework
- SEA EIA CBA

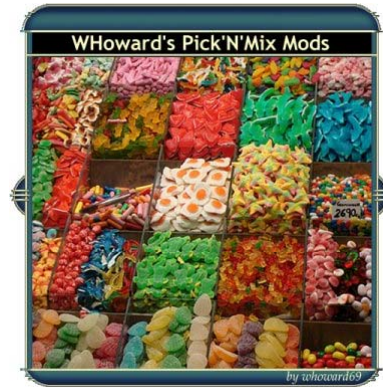
National Ecosystem Approach Toolkit



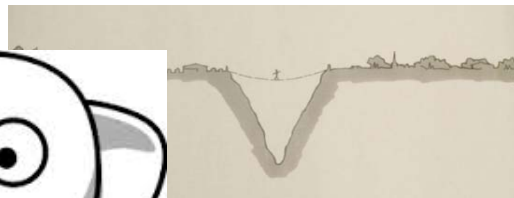
How not to value ecosystem services



- Selective cherry picking of ecosystem services in isolation
- Using financial values alone (intrinsic and cultural)



Crossing the planning vs. environment divide



So what



- Communication still leaves a lot to be desired.
- Finding hooks vital to progress discussion and partnerships
- Planners not well embedded in ecosystem lexicon
- Importance of having sound evidence base for use in planning tools to identify trade-offs
- Shared language of multiple benefits unites.

Completing the Jigsaw

