



Catchment Based Approach

DATA & EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT

HABITAT RESTORATION AND NATURE RECOVERY

Online Event: 19th August 2020 14:30 – 16:00

Q&A SUMMARY

Q: Is there a timescale for publication of NE strategy post 2020? Can we hope before 2021?

A: Emily Dresner (NE) – It's likely to be published late summer or autumn 2021. The Convention on Biological Diversity conference will reconvene in May to agree new international biodiversity targets and then these will need to be translated into domestic targets for the strategy. The other preparatory work on the strategy will start gathering pace in September.

Q: How does C-RHS relate to MoRPh?

A: Josh Robins (RRC) - It is just a different survey method which can be implemented. Both have slightly different approaches and applications, so you can pick a method to suit the project or catchment that you are working on.

Q: What criteria should we use in selecting the survey method?

A: Michelle Walker (RT) - I had a chat with Marc Naura recently and he said that MoRPH is suited to before/after restoration monitoring at site level, but cRHS can be used to prioritise sites for restoration, and can be directly compared and combined with existing RHS data.

Q: Just wondered if there's any reason why ponds aren't covered [in the National Habitat Network Maps]?

A: Jeff Edwards (NE) - There is no priority pond inventory that we can use for this

Q: I imagine your source of data is the Priority Habitat Inventory, which is in some cases needs updating. So, my question is how the results of the generated habitat network were validated and against what?

A: Jeff Edwards (NE) - The PHI is recognised as needing updating and NE will be looking into this as soon as possible. The local data can be used to update the habitat network maps and as we all work together to get our environmental data into a better place. We will create new network maps using that additional data. At present these maps are not intended to be the NRN and it is recognised that they need to be carefully interpreted and that additional local data needs to be used at a local level.

Q: Any idea when the floodplain habitats & ponds will be completed so that we have a complete water habitat set for LNRS/catchment priorities?

A: Jeff Edwards (NE) - The pond data layer is currently not available so we cannot create a map for this habitat. Ruth Hall is working on this and when we have a layer for priority ponds that we can use we will start work on a network map for this habitat. The coastal and floodplain grazing marsh inventory is problematic as it contains large areas of little biodiversity value. The definition for this habitat is focussed on species that require specific hydrology that mostly can only be provided through engineered solutions. We are trying to develop a more functional approach to floodplains and a new habitat definition currently called 'Floodplain Wetland Mosaics'. This work is still ongoing but once it is completed, we will look at how to develop a network map for this.

Q: Will the maps be updated with updated national habitat inventories, as I believe these are still being done? Or is all data incorporated now?

A: Jeff Edwards (NE) - The maps should be updated as the PHI is updated, currently annually, but can be more frequently if lots of new data is added to the PHI. Running the mapping tools for this is very quick so adding data in this way is not an issue, accessing the additional data and updating the PHI is more of a problem, but NE are looking into this in connection with the NRN work.

Q: How frequently would data [from the habitat restoration priorities mapping] be re-evaluated - annually? every 5 years? This could be integrated into catchment partnership monitoring plans and schedules if we knew.

A: Lucy Butler (RT) – We're working with NE and Cartographer who helped build the mapping portal to enable the data from the naturalness maps and priority restoration mapping to be published to the CaBA open data portal so you can pull into Desktop GIS or online maps and integrate with your plans.

Q: How does the EA morphology mapping work relate/link to the priority river restoration mapping?

A: Follow up answer will be provided by Chris Mainstone and Richard Jeffries

