

This project has been supported by Defra, DCLG, Environment Agency, Forestry Commission and Natural England

People, Place, and Economy

Over 35 people with representation from 9 government-selected NIAs, several LNPs, Local Authorities and other landscape scale approaches met to address the theme of people, place and economy. With eleven presenters addressing a range of issues it made an action packed day of discussion and deliberation.

Key messages and challenges arising from the day included:

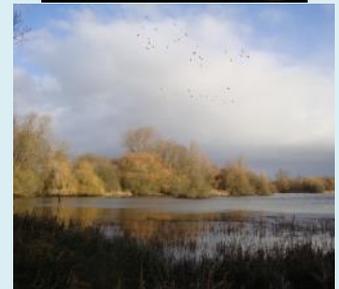
- The contradiction between long-term land use planning and a short-term economic model,
- Mechanisms for integrating the natural environment into the 'jobs and growth' agenda,
- How to go about valuing what nature does for us,
- Generating a shift in public perception regarding food prices and food origins to allow farmers to deliver functioning ecosystems,
- Incorporating costs to ecosystem service delivery in cost-benefit analysis,
- Growth and jobs are expensive to deliver; biodiversity is cheap.

Can we improve this view?



We reckon we can!

Robin Field is working with the farmer who owns the field on the opposite side of the river from the Castle at Fotheringhay in order to re-introduce wild flowers into the field. The field is currently cut for hay and then grazed by sheep. It has the full range of grasses but lacks wildflowers. In autumn of 2014 strips of the field will be cultivated and wildflower seed will be sown. Over the following years we hope that the wildflowers will establish, creating a valuable wildlife habitat and also improving the view for visitors to Fotheringhay castle.



Keep in touch

As a partner in the NIA project we would like to keep you up to date with the project's progress. If you would prefer not to hear from us, or would like more information, please contact Heather Ball (heather.ball@wildlifebcn.org). News stories and updates will be regularly posted to our dedicated website www.nenevalleynia.org.

NENE VALLEY

Nature • Improvement • Area
connecting people and nature

Update
October 2013 – April 2014

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Visitor Access Study for the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits

This study was undertaken in 2012-13 by Footprint Ecology. A number of survey techniques were used, including face-to-face questionnaires, mapping, visitor counts and car-park counts. There are an estimated 900,000 visitors to the SPA each year, and we can conclude that:

- Most visitors live within 3km, arrive by car, and stay for less than 2 hours.
- Half of the interviewees had dogs with them; dog walking is the most common activity in the Nene Valley.
- Dog walkers cover 3.1km, and cyclists 7.3km on average during a visit.
- A high proportion of visitors are aware of the value of the site for wintering birds.
- Stanwick Lakes is the busiest location, with around one-third of the visitors.
- The quality of the site was important for determining where to visit, as was distance from home.

River greening in Peterborough

Simon Whitton is working with Peterborough City Council to improve the habitat of 640m of the vertical concrete bank on the northern side of the River Nene right in the city centre. This will be achieved by placing pre-planted coir rolls just under the water level. Not only will this enhance habitats for fish, invertebrates and birds, but the whole area will look a lot more attractive for walkers, cyclists and boaters along this section of the river. It was agreed that in the first instance we would create a 12m-long trial area as a demonstration of the benefits that such works could bring about. This was completed in March 2014. Hopefully PCC will be suitably impressed with the completed works and we will be able to proceed with similar improvements on the remaining 630m of riverbank.

Before installation:



After installation:



Who's who?

Natural Development Officer - Heather Webb (hwebb@northamptonshire.gov.uk)
River Restoration Advisor - Simon Whitton (swhitton@northamptonshire.gov.uk)
Land Advisor - Robin Field (rfield@northamptonshire.gov.uk)
Post-Doctoral Research Fellow - Jim Rouquette (jim.rouquette@northampton.ac.uk)

The NIA team is supported by Heather Ball at the Wildlife Trust and the finance and admin team at RNRP. Colin Wilkinson (RSPB, colin.wilkinson@rspb.org.uk) is coordinating the delivery of objective two, access and public awareness.

nenevalley

Nene Valley Festival to run from 24th October until 8th November 2014. This is the first year of a festival which the 'Destination Nene Valley' Partnership hopes to expand in future. A series of events will be published soon. Please speak to Karen Williams for more information. kwilliams@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk.



Planning Advice Note issued -

A single page advice note for planning officers has been produced, and NIA training sessions have been held. The document, and training, is available from Heather Webb.

Photo credits: Peterborough Coir Rolls, Simon Whitton. View of River Nene from train, Stibbington, DS Pugh.