

Nature Improvement Areas National Event

23 February 2016

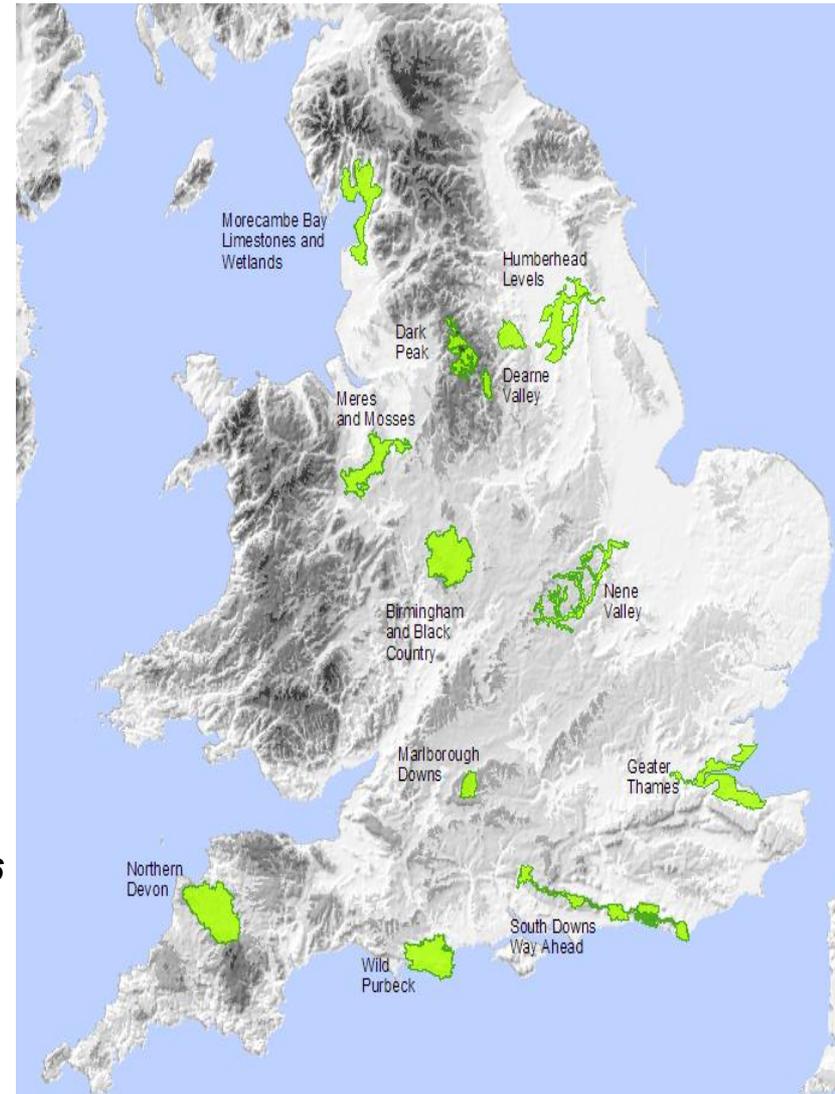


Nature Improvement Areas

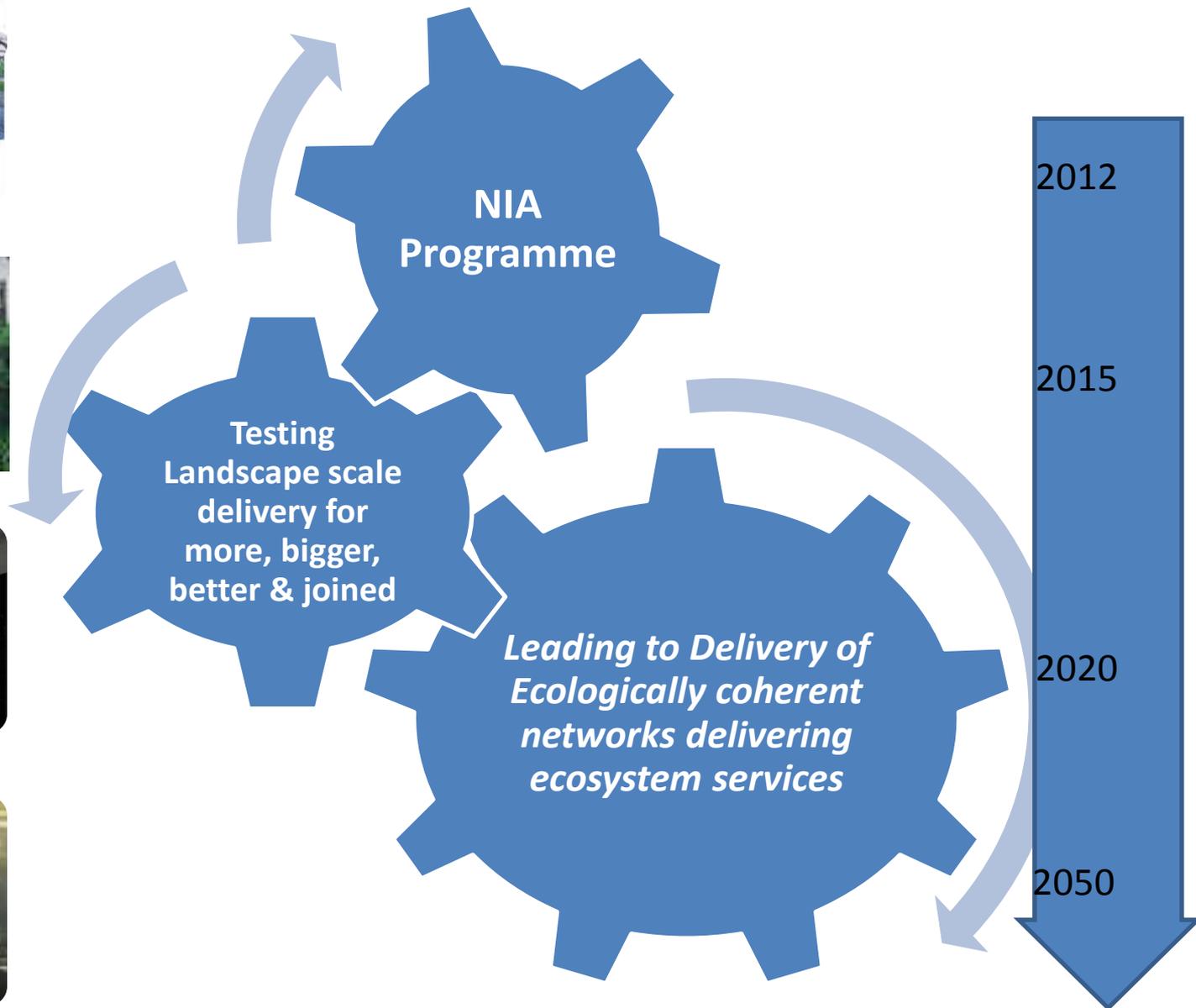
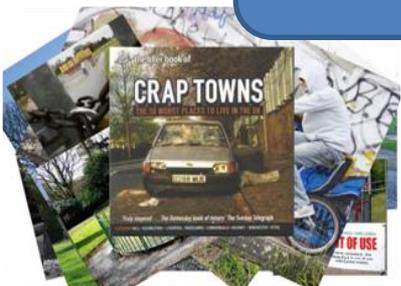
- NIA Competition announced in 2011. Each NIA should be of between 10,000 and 50,000 ha to contribute to the ambition outlined in Making Space For Nature for Ecological Restoration. NIAs are a key component of the Biodiversity 2020 strategy.
- *The 12 initial NIAs receive a share of £7.5 Million from NE & Defra funding over 3 years (2012-15)*
- NE, FC and EA have been instructed to positively engage with NIAs to ensure their success – each organisation ... *to maximise collaboration in these areas*
- 12 initial NIAs cover Approx. 500,000 ha's of land area - delivery started 1 April 2012. All have multiple partners, working to integrate delivery at a landscape scale.
- *Local Nature Partnerships can identify locally determined NIAs, working to NIA criteria, to use M&E Framework ... but without, or limited, NE/Defra funding.*

Three year Monitoring and Evaluation Report published January 2016

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nature-improvement-areas-thousands-more-hectares-for-our-wildlife>



Nature Improvement Areas – The Future ?



2012- 2015

Small National Team from NE (3.1 FTE) Managing the NIA Programme, working with Defra for programme delivery and M&E, also working with BIS/Sciencewise programme to improve public dialogue;

Local Area team adviser input to all 12 NIAs - Each NIA had a NE lead adviser working with each partnership

established a NIA Best Practise Group using Web tools, and face to face events to illustrate issues and successes;

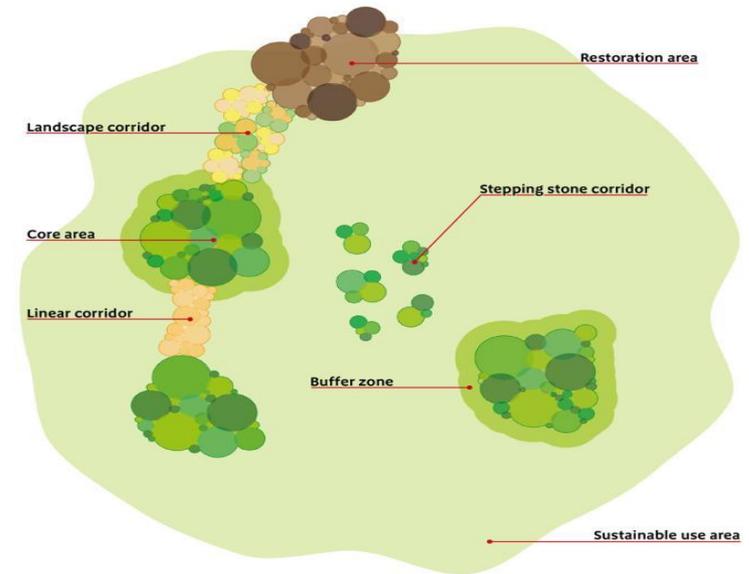
Developed integrated M&E

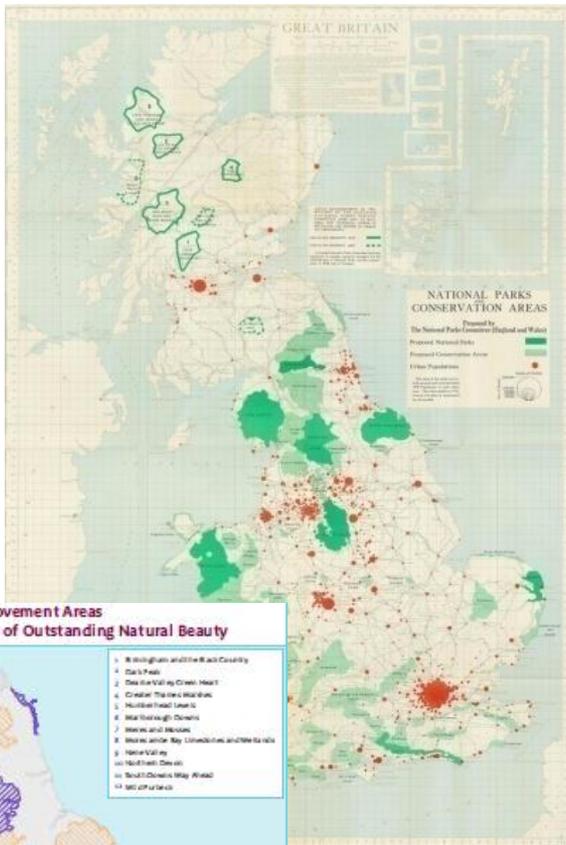
2015-2020

Ecological Networks team in Natural England will develop and support integrated landscape scale delivery across NE, area teams and partner organisations.

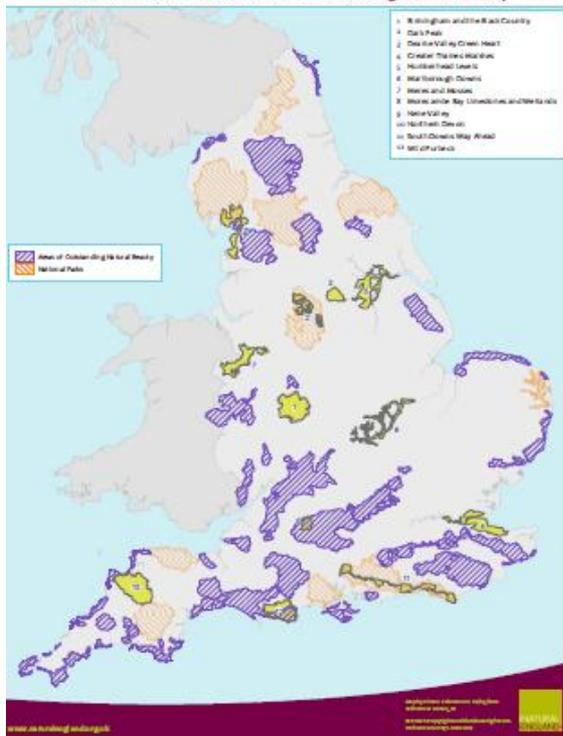
Use Countryside Stewardship and other resources to mobilise, enable and animate landscape scale integrated delivery.

- Designate sites to protect habitats and species that are highly threatened and, once lost, impossible to recreate or restore, even in the long-term.
- Create a well managed, ecologically coherent network (terrestrial and marine)
- Focus on Nature Improvement Areas, AONBs, National Parks, and areas identified through spatial prioritisation ... use designation as a tool to contribute to the creation of ecological networks in well-managed landscapes.
- Maintain Best Practise Network
- Develop integrated light touch M&E for landscape scale initiatives.





**Nature Improvement Areas
with National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty**



**Nature Improvement Areas
with Higher Level Sites**

