



Improvement Programme for England's Natura 2000 Sites (IPENS)

Launch Workshop Report



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Introduction

1. The launch workshop for the Improvement Programme for England's Natura 2000 Sites, held on 24th April 2013, provided a key opportunity to share and test the project's initial work to identify and prioritise 'issues' affecting Natura 2000 sites. After introductory presentations which described the [project](#) and the [wider policy context](#), the project's initial findings on priority issues affecting the condition of Natura 2000 sites were shared and discussed. Attendees (see annex 1) were invited to provide feedback about:
 - Whether the right issues had been identified
 - Whether any issues had been missed
 - Whether any issues had been rejected which should have been included

IPENS Programme Scoping – identifying and prioritising issues

2. A key output of the IPENS project will be to develop new mechanisms (i.e. the enabling structure for the implementation of actions), or refine existing ones, for issues (pressures and threats) that we are not currently able to address in full. The scoping phase of work aims to identify a list of priority pressure and threat 'themes' which the IPENS project will focus on. Work on themes will complement the development of site specific improvement plans, by providing strategic approaches for themes which affect multiple sites, as well as specific actions for themes which impact fewer sites.
3. Programme scoping commenced by sourcing evidence of issues affecting Natura 2000 sites in England from:
 - Natural England's ENSIS data system.
 - Article 17 reports - these describe the pressures and threats to habitats and species protected under the [Habitats Directive](#).
 - Other sources provided by Natural England specialists.

A review of the evidence resulted in the production of an initial list of issues which were brigaded into themes (such as; physical change, disease and invasive species, and habitat and species management).

Box 1. Example of a theme and some of the issues associated with it

Theme: disease and invasive species

Issues:

- Freshwater non-native invasive species having adverse effects on our native species, such as by competition, disease or habitat modification. Species of concern to us include *Pacifastacus leniusculus* (American signal crayfish), which spreads disease to our native crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes* (white-clawed crayfish); and *Crassula helmsii* (New Zealand pygmyweed) which deoxygenates and shades waterbodies, adversely affecting a variety of species.
- Tackling plant diseases such as *Phytophthora austrocedrae*, a disease affecting Juniper which threatens some of our upland habitats.
- Controlling bracken on our Natura 2000 sites, to avoid adverse impacts of the spread of this species on the diversity of habitats. This is of particular importance in the light of the recent ban on the herbicide Asulam, which has historically been the preferred herbicide to control this species on protected sites.

4. Detailed discussions with Natural England's specialists then provided information about the mechanisms available to address each theme, and any gaps or barriers. Based on this detailed information, the IPENS project team made a provisional decision on which themes should be included within the scope of the project, and which should not be developed further. Annex 2, Section A lists those themes which the project provisionally identified as 'within scope', including information on available mechanisms and gaps. Section B suggests themes which IPENS will not take further, together with the rationale upon which this decision was made. Stakeholders at the event were invited to provide feedback on the lists of issues.

Analysis of Feedback

5. Feedback received from stakeholders at the IPENS Launch Event can be broken down into two broad categories:
 - Specific suggestions of new 'issues' to consider including on the master list.
 - Broader comments about solutions and our approach to the management of Natura 2000 sites.

Identification and prioritisation of themes and issues

6. Feedback on the initial prioritisation of themes and issues confirmed that the approach and conclusions were appropriate and that the rationale for rejecting some issues was suitable. Despite the lack of comprehensive data on pressures and threats facing Special Protection Area (SPA) bird species, no specific feedback was received, indicating that the provisional prioritisation was inappropriate for birds. This

gave some degree of confidence that the approach taken was appropriate, despite the data issues.

7. A number of additional themes and issues were proposed (see annex 3). Since the event, the project team has considered all the proposals for new themes and issues and has drawn conclusions about whether they should be:
 - Added to the list of issues;
 - Addressed by the project through commissioning evidence work or through Theme or Site Plans; or
 - Rejected.

Annex 3 lists the stakeholder proposals and the project team decisions and rationale.

8. It was clear that the number of issues and themes identified was too large for IPENS to tackle within its two year lifespan. The project was therefore advised by stakeholders to focus its efforts on a smaller number of themes where it could add the most value to existing work.

Management of Natura 2000 sites

9. A wide range of views were received about the approach to the management of the Natura 2000 series and the measures used to resolve issues. A selection of comments is presented below, and all the comments (see annex 4 for full transcript) will be used to inform the next stages of the project:
 - IPENS should consolidate existing plans and focus on adding value. Where possible IPENS should help to orientate national strategy to site based activity.
 - Improvements could be made to the way in which Natural England operates regarding Natura 2000 sites, particularly through better join up of agri-environment advice and wider measures, and through the use of our regulatory powers and advisory role.
 - Economic incentives that help deliver business solutions and environmental improvements are essential to help secure the engagement of economic interests in managing Natura 2000 sites.
 - We need to step back to sense check what we are trying to achieve in the longer term on the Natura 2000 series and whether we are taking the best approach using all available mechanisms. Long term sustainable solutions are needed.
 - In some cases large or catchment scale approaches are required. Is there potential to create bigger sites, or manage Natura 2000 sites together with non-designated sites?

Next Steps

10. Paragraph 7 outlines how the feedback on the list of themes and issues has been used to inform the work to finalise and prioritise the list of issues and themes the project should focus on. Natural England Research Report 'Improvement Programme for England's Natura 2000 Sites (IPENS) Programme Scoping' provides a full account of the approach used to scope and prioritise the issues and themes, including how stakeholder feedback has informed the prioritisation.
11. The additional feedback provided at the event will be used to inform the later stages of the project, including the:
 - **Development of Theme Plans** – IPENS will produce Theme Plans, which will provide a national strategic approach to address issues that impact on, and affect the condition of, multiple Natura 2000 sites and which are difficult to resolve on a site-by-site basis (for example, diffuse water pollution).
 - **Development of Site Improvement Plans** – IPENS will produce a plan for each Natura 2000 site which outlines the measures required to achieve and maintain the site in favourable condition such that it contributes to favourable conservation status.
12. This was the first of a number of IPENS stakeholder events. More detailed discussions about the issues affecting Natura 2000 Sites (for the prioritised themes) and the solutions to address them will now follow.

Further Information

13. The launch event webpage (<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/designations/sac/ipensworks/hoطلاunch.aspx>) provides links to the event papers and presentations.
14. Natural England Research Report 'Improvement Programme for England's Natura 2000 Sites (IPENS) Programme Scoping' provides a full account of the approach used to scope and prioritise the issues and themes, including how stakeholder feedback has informed the prioritisation.

Annex 1 Organisations represented at IPENS launch event

Astrale

Association of Internal Drainage Boards (Somerset Drainage Boards Consortium)

British Trust for Ornithology

Country Land & Business Association

Defence Infrastructure Organisations

Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra)

English National Parks Authorities Association

Environment Agency

Fisheries MPA Coalition

Forestry Commission (Forest Services)

Humber Management Scheme / Humber INCA

National Farmers Union

Natural England

Natural Resources Wales

RSPB

Scottish Natural Heritage

Water Companies (Yorkshire Water)

Wildlife Trusts

Wildlife & Countryside LINK

Annex 2 Programme Scoping

Improvement Programme for England's Natura 2000 Sites (IPENS)

Programme Scoping

A key output of the IPENS project will be to develop new mechanisms, or refine existing ones, for pressures and threats which we are not currently able to fully address. The scoping phase of work aims to identify a list of priority pressure and threat 'themes' which IPENS will develop. Work on themes will complement the development of site specific action plans, by providing strategic approaches for many themes which affect multiple sites, as well as specific actions for themes which impact fewer sites.

Programme scoping commenced by sourcing evidence of pressures and threats to Natura 2000 sites in England from Natural England's ENSIS data system, Article 17 reports and other sources provided by Natural England specialists. A review of the evidence resulted in the production of an initial list of themes. Detailed discussions with Natural England's specialists then provided information about the mechanisms available to address each theme, and any gaps or barriers. Based on this detailed information, the IPENS project team made a provisional decision on which themes should be included within the scope of the project, and which should not be developed further. Section A below lists those themes which the project has provisionally identified as 'within scope', including information on available mechanisms and gaps. Section B suggests themes which IPENS will not take further, together with the rationale upon which this decision was made.

We would be grateful if participants could give some thought to the lists below prior to the Launch Event, and then be prepared to provide feedback to the following questions:

- **Have we identified the right issues?**
- **Have we missed any?**
- **Have we rejected any that we should have included?**

We will also be seeking initial feedback on available mechanisms, their effectiveness, and any suggestions for new mechanisms that may be needed.

A. Themes within the scope of the IPENS project

- 1) Current issues, requiring significant effort due to gaps in mechanisms or approach, and for which solutions will be long term:

Theme	Available mechanisms	Gaps
Air quality: nitrogen	Regulation; agri-environment options; Catchment Sensitive Farming capital grants; advocacy to seek further emission reductions from industry, transport & agriculture.	Effective mechanisms for diffuse sources; evidence and action for other sources e.g. transport.

Theme	Available mechanisms	Gaps
Water quality: Diffuse water pollution (DWP) – nutrients	Diffuse water pollution plans; agri-environment Resource Protection options; Catchment Sensitive Farming grants; Creation of buffer areas around sensitive sites.	Strategic approach to evidence gathering; improved articulation of the DWP problem for policy makers; better targeting of agri-environment options; evidence of the effectiveness of current options; novel solutions.
Marine: Coastal squeeze & failure to offset	Shoreline Management Plans; regime theory application (needs further research); regulation for development; managed realignment.	Strategic approaches for protected sites in dynamic environments.

2) Current or future issues, requiring moderate effort:

Theme	Available mechanisms	Gaps
Disease & Invasives: Freshwater Invasive Non Native Species (INNS)	Physical removal; Chemical treatment (herbicides); Bio-control	Strategic approaches; sources of multi-year funding
Disease & Invasives: General	Bio-security at borders; Stock / species movement control via Statutory Instruments	Climate change scenarios of future invasive species risks; tighter biosecurity options; improved control of stock / species movement; improved understanding of species resistance or vulnerability to disease (via genetic analysis) to help target action.
Habitat & species management: Agriculture / cutting & mowing	HLS / CES	Agri-environment payment rates which encourage uptake of appropriate options; improved availability of equipment.
Habitat & species management: Bracken removal	HLS options for herbicide application or mechanical control	Availability of the herbicide of choice (Asulam); investigations into good alternative treatments.
Habitat & species management: Invertebrate SAC features	Regulation; HLS; Species Recovery Programme projects	Species specific measures, particularly for: Desmoulin's Whorl Snail (<i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>); Freshwater Pearl Mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>); Ramshorn Snail (<i>Anisus vorticulus</i>); Southern Damselfly (<i>Coenagrion mercuriale</i>); Marsh Fritillary butterfly (<i>Euphydryas aurinia</i>); Violet Click Beetle (<i>Limoniscus violaceus</i>); White Clawed Crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>).
Habitat & species management:	HLS / CES and associated capital works; improving connectivity & landscape scale projects; local	Livestock availability; agri-environment payment rates which encourage uptake of appropriate options; improved connectivity

Theme	Available mechanisms	Gaps
Lowland grasslands / Grazing regime	grazing initiatives	and landscape scale projects.
Habitat & species management: Lowland Heath	HLS; buffering approaches for recreational pressure	Mechanisms to address recreation pressure on larger sites; funding for monitoring
Habitat & species management: Vascular plant SAC features	Species Recovery Programme projects; HLS	Species specific measures required. Landscape scale approaches.
Habitat & species management: Vascular plants / Grazing regime	HLS / CES	Species specific measures. Livestock availability; agri-environment payment rates which encourage uptake of appropriate options; improved connectivity and landscape scale projects
Habitat restoration: Lake restoration (including fish stocking)	Implementation of Lake Restoration Plans; agri-environment options; partnership working; chemical treatments for nutrient loads (being trialled)	Strategic approaches; funding for expensive work (de-silting).
Habitat restoration: River restoration	Implementation of River Restoration Plans; removal of in-river barriers; agri-environment options	Develop potential mechanisms into achievable mechanisms by addressing barriers with both policy and funding for capital works; land purchase options to allow channel movement.
Hydrology: hydrological functioning	Site management plans; agri-environment options; Water Level Management Plans; WFD funding	Evidence about eco-hydrological functioning to identify required measures.
Marine: Change to coastal processes	No mechanisms currently available	Mechanisms which complement principles for dealing with dynamic sites
Marine: Commercial fisheries	Defra project – Articles 6.2 & 6.3	Gap in knowledge of specific fishing gear effects on certain N2K features; further research required on extent of some N2K features
Marine: Ports & shipping / Construction Disturbance	Regulation	Evidence for cumulative effects of construction and shipping
Marine: Ports & shipping / loss of sites & physical impacts	Regulation	Strategy for the notification of compensation sites as Natura 2000 sites
Marine: Ports	Voluntary approaches in some areas	Risk assessment of ballast water from small,

Theme	Available mechanisms	Gaps
& shipping / Non-native species (via smaller vessels)		unregulated vessels.
Marine: Renewable Energy Development	Regulation	Evidence for impacts of construction and ongoing disturbance on Natura 2000 features.
Mining & extraction: Remediation of metalliferous mine spoil	Regulation (Article 6 process)	Clear policy to resolve conflicting requirements of Habitats and Water Framework Directives for sites where remediation of metal-rich sediments is an issue. Improved evidence of site functioning. Alternative options for maintaining integrity of the calaminarian grasslands SAC feature.
Water quality: Unregulated point sources (e.g. septic tanks / road runoff)	No mechanisms available	Evidence to understand the scale of the problem for Natura 2000 sites

- 3) Current or future issues, i) requiring less work, and/or ii) awaiting outcomes of other projects, and/or iii) scale of issue needs scoping:

Theme	Available Mechanisms	Gaps
Fisheries: Marine / ornithological impacts	Local regulation / agreements	Comprehensive overview of the scale of the problem for Natura 2000 sites.
Habitat & species management: Uplands / Burning	Regulation	Awaiting report of the Uplands Evidence Review
Habitat & species management: Uplands / Degraded blanket bog	HLS / habitat management actions	Awaiting report of the Uplands Evidence Review
Habitat & species management: Uplands / Grazing regime	HLS	Awaiting report of the Uplands Evidence Review
Habitat & species management: Uplands / Haymeadows	HLS	Awaiting report of the Uplands Evidence Review
Habitat & species management: Uplands / Tracks	Regulation	Awaiting report of the Uplands Evidence Review
Habitat & species management: Woodlands	Woodland Grant Scheme; Deer control	Evidence for effectiveness of deer control and WGS on Natura 2000 sites.

Theme	Available Mechanisms	Gaps
Marine: Recreation / Bait digging	Some regulation for commercial bait digging; local codes of conduct	Awaiting outcomes of national conference
Marine: Recreation / Dog Walking	Local voluntary agreements; local codes of conduct	Awaiting outcomes of national conference
Marine: Recreation / Recreational Angling	Local codes of conduct	Awaiting outcomes of national conference
Marine: Recreation / Recreational Boating	Some voluntary agreements; control over anchoring / mooring on sensitive sites in some harbour-controlled areas	Awaiting outcomes of national conference
Marine: Recreation / Wildfowling	No national legislation, but some regional agreements	Awaiting outcomes of national conference
Water abstraction: exempt	Environment Agency mechanism to be developed	Evidence of the scale of the problem on Natura 2000 sites.
Water quality: Marine / toxics / bioaccumulation	Regulation	National overview of the scale of the issue for Natura 2000 sites, based on a systematic review of Review of Consents outcomes for toxic substances.
Water quality: Marine general incl thermal	Regulation	Research the casework issues emerging in Wales, to determine whether there is an issue to address in England

B. Themes not within scope of IPENS project

Rationale	Theme / issue
Regulated activity. Management for Natura 2000 relies on effective regulation / Article 6 process. No new mechanisms needed.	Hydropower developments
	Marine: Oil & Gas
	Marine: Aggregates
	Marine: Ports & shipping / Maintenance dredging
	Mining & extraction: Peat removal
	Pollution (other): Contaminated land
	Pollution (other): Radioactivity
	Pollution (other): spreading waste to land
Water quality: Point source pollution (domestic)	

Rationale	Theme / issue
	Water quality: Point source pollution (industrial / toxic)
Noted by IPENS as an emerging or potential future issue. Research is underway but as the effect on Natura 2000 is not well understood, it is considered outside the scope of the current IPENS project.	Air quality: ozone
	Disease & Invasives: Chalara
	Disease & Invasives: Juniper Decline
	Water quality: Point source pollution (endocrine disruptors)
Regulated activity and effective Water Sector mechanisms in place to address outstanding issues.	Water abstraction: non-Water company
	Water abstraction: Water company
Effective mechanism in place for the key feature this pertains to.	Mortality: Taking / removal of flora
IPENS will log this as a generic issue. Feature or theme specific issues that arise may still be addressed within scope of the project.	Landscape change: Habitat Fragmentation
	Landscape change: Habitat Fragmentation / vascular plants

Annex 3 New themes and issues proposed by stakeholders and the IPENS project response

New themes proposed by stakeholders	IPENS Rationale	IPENS Conclusion
Marine: Commercial fisheries	Impacts of commercial fisheries on Natura 2000 sites are being dealt with by a separate Defra project focussing on Article 6 of the Habitats Directive. This has prioritised commercial fisheries issues and will address them in a staged process. IPENS does not want to duplicate this work, so will not take this issue into later stages of the project.	Not appropriate for IPENS
Marine: Renewable energy development	Renewable energy development is well regulated, therefore there is not a role for IPENS to develop new mechanisms.	Not appropriate for IPENS
Climate change impacts	In recognition of the importance of this issue, consideration will be given to either including a climate change element into site improvement plans, or letting an evidence contract to help gather evidence of the main climate change related factors relevant to each Natura 2000 site and/or interest features	IPENS evidence project / Site Improvement Plans
Disease & Invasives: invasive native species	Whilst the project recognises that invasive native species can potentially impact Natura 2000 sites, as deer were the only specific concern raised, no other issues will be taken forward in the project.	Retain deer on issues master list
Water Quality: impacts of upland forestry	It was noted that forestry can both be an adverse and mitigating influence in the uplands. It will be addressed in site improvement plans where relevant, but it will not be considered as a priority for the development of new mechanisms.	IPENS Site Improvement Plans
Landscape: use and management change	IPENS is contributing ideas related to the Natura 2000 series to ongoing work to shape and design	IPENS to contribute to agri-environment scheme design

	<p>the new agri-environment scheme. Until the results of this work are known IPENS will not take forward any separate work on new mechanisms.</p>	
Air quality: historic versus ongoing	<p>The need to consider both historic and ongoing elements of air quality was noted, and will be built into site and theme plans where appropriate.</p>	IPENS Site and Theme Plans
Recreational pressures	<p>Whilst it is clear that recreational pressure does impact on certain sites and interest features, a lack of clarity about what IPENS could address led to this issue being rejected. However, at a later stage in the prioritisation work, it was added back into the list of issues for further work.</p>	Retain on master issues list
Natural physical change	<p>Whilst this will be addressed in site improvement plans where relevant, it was decided that it would not be possible to progress any additional work to develop new mechanisms within the scope and time limits of the IPENS project.</p>	IPENS Site Improvement Plans
Water quality: connection between terrestrial & freshwater issues	<p>The need to take a catchment based approach was noted and will be built into site and theme plans where appropriate.</p>	IPENS Site and Theme Plans
Water quality: smothering / siltation from agricultural practices (eg On pearl mussel)	<p>Siltation issues are considered to be a part of 'diffuse water pollution' and therefore are already included in the priority theme list.</p>	Already on master issues list
Water quality: Marine / unregulated pollution sources from shipping (eg PIP)	<p>Although this issue continues to be an occasional risk to some Natura 2000 features, shipping is largely well regulated and controlled. The legislation around pollution sources from shipping is thorough and lobbying for changes to the types of pollution that are regulated is carried out by projects and organisations other than IPENS.</p>	Not appropriate for IPENS
Marine: loss of sites / mitigation	<p>This is an issue that has been discussed with Natural England specialists and it may be included in a coastal squeeze Theme Plan as</p>	IPENS Theme Plans

	coastal development is commonly a factor in coastal squeeze.	
Marine: Recreation / Wildfowling	All wildfowling on intertidal / coastal Natura 2000 sites which are also SSSI is regulated under the SSSI Operations Likely to Damage lists. Those areas which are Natura 2000 and not SSSI, where wildfowling takes place are likely to be very small and therefore it was recommended at the launch event not to pursue this issue.	Remove from master issues list

Annex 4 Stakeholder feedback received at IPENS launch event, 24 April 2013

Group 1

General feedback

- We need to allow ourselves an opportunity to step back and sense-check what we are trying to achieve in the long term on sites (and groups of sites) and whether we are taking the best approach using all the various mechanisms – often best done at ‘ecological network/landscape’ scale, after some initial detailed analysis of issues and solutions.
- We need to use consistent terminology with the Site of Species Scientific Interest suite – introducing a new terminology confuses.
- Suggestion that ‘themes’ are mapped against mechanisms in a matrix to identify any bigger strategic issues/messages.
- Need to ensure we consolidate around plans already in place, recognise what works well already (if it ain’t broke..) and focus on the added value

Have we got the right mechanisms? Should we add new ones?

Mechanisms not listed or downplayed in the analysis:

- Socio-economic mechanisms – specifically economic incentives that help deliver business solutions
- Farm advice – specifically CFE
- Regulation not picked up consistently across themes
- External funding – e.g. Heritage Lottery Fund
- Catchment Sensitive Farming grants
- Research and monitoring
- Reviewing Natura 2000 site objectives/revising designations – based on review of landscape scale networks
- Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANGs) – green infrastructure projects, linked to a Community Infrastructure Levy
- Species re-introductions/translocations
- Land purchase
- Landscape scale projects
- Community engagement

New or developing mechanisms:

- Payment for ecosystem services
- Carbon trading
- Biodiversity offsets
- Range of mechanisms to encourage ‘sustainable drainage’ arising from recent Floods/water white paper?

- Opportunity to develop Regional Habitat creation plans (currently feeding into Shoreline Management Plans and Water Level Management Plans) as a wider mechanism to deliver habitat creation/compensation for site impacts?
- Rural development regulation – specific Natura 2000 funding measures?

Mechanisms not working so well (i.e. there is greater potential):

- Regulation – how and where we deploy Countryside and Rights of Way Act proactive powers re management schemes etc and also decision-making around casework
- Advice around agri-environment interventions not always joined up with wider measures
- Evidence often a constraint across many mechanisms – needs a particular focus
- Need to recognise the limitations of Common Agricultural Policy funding – both money in the pot and also not a longer term solution?
- Invasive control programmes – no dedicated funding for surveillance system to support

Other comments

- Themes versus places based approach
- Air quality – distinguish between historic & ongoing
- Natural change
- Wildfire is a potential gap
- Early warning systems
- Evidence on deer control is already good
- Keep prioritisation under review
- Be clear on what is good in terms of mechanisms
- Military training – where does this fit in?
- Whose costs / benefits are we estimating?

Group 2

Invasives (native and non-native)

Existing mechanisms:

- Orientating national strategy to site based activity
- Nationwide action plans – NNISS
 - Implement on Natura 2000 sites/network
 - Take action or not ie Determine appropriate response per species
- Catchment level activity = tackling at source
 - Prevention and reaction
 - None in England as yet (use River Basin Management Plans?)
- Deer Initiative
 - Cost?
 - Already focused at Sites of Special Scientific Interest/Special Areas of Conservation
 - A good model

- Environmental Stewardship should not be a barrier to tackling invasives on sites
 - Issues with derogations
 - Options to specifically tackle invasives if they appear
- Prevention - GB strategy review
 - Implementation for England

Funding:

- Deer Management plans in woodland – Cost of Woodland Grant Scheme
- Small amount from Environmental Stewardship – potential for more?
- UK grant bodies
- New EU Life projects
- Natura 2000 measure in the Rural Development Programme for England (linked to second one around Environmental Stewardship)

Lowland Grazing

Livestock issues:

- Availability
- Movement
- Fencing

Solutions:

- Stock sharing (flying flocks)
- Invisible Fencing – Trials at Epping Forest/Burnham Beeches
- Creation of bigger sites, managing them with adjacent sites (non-designated)
- Different grazing animals – use of ponies instead of sheep/cattle?
- Landscape approach – connecting small sites
- Innovative Partnerships
 - Landowners + Non-Governmental organisations + Statutory bodies + local initiatives
 - Realise multiple funding mechanisms

Funding:

a) Current:

- Environmental Stewardship
 - supports grazing where livestock exists but not where livestock unavailable
 - Potential ability to use for flying flocks + infrastructure + staffing

b) Future:

- Need long term sustainable solutions
- Beyond Environmental Stewardship

Group 3 - Water

Existing mechanisms:

- We don't need more of the same – creative and novel approaches needed – innovation
- Incentives
- How we perceive the management end point is time dependent – are we aiming for woodland as it was in the past, or are we comfortable with a changed outcome? Or just the best we can get?
- What we have traditionally done is not enough now and we need to demonstrate progress for continued public engagement
- There is a continued need for end-of-pipe solutions, whilst longer-term 'diffuse' mechanisms take effect
- Focus on function, and possibly changing function to adapt to conditions
- Identify seed funding to develop or implement innovative mechanisms
- Partnerships can be seen as a mechanism in their own right (issues are administrative blockages, different rules to meet for each partner, management structures, resources needed to manage groups)
- Local benefits need to be made more clear – Members of Parliament, Non-Governmental Organisations, Community groups etc

Funding / What to do in the future to get it right:

- Knowledge sharing is vital. Who to go to for what (at various scales / levels – don't restrict to site boundary)
- Social responsibility – land banking? Swapping or purchasing arrangements to allow land use change or adaptation within an area or group of users
- Flexible use of funds. Bids to central fund made up of partner contributions
- Key advocates needed in key posts – virtual groups / teams & networks
- Businesses should be invited to join steering groups
- Smaller businesses or farms could also be valuable contributors
- Use the Action Plan's stakeholder groups to capture ideas / approaches
- Use top-up incentives for mechanisms that can be linked to payment
- Use of praise as encouragement - recognition

Have we got the right issues?

- No economic model
 - Ecosystems cost benefits / value. Quantitative values
 - Tax credit / incentives – more carrot than stick
- Climate change
 - Tough enough job to cope with “no deterioration”
 - Biggest issue for 'wet' sites – needs addressing or considering
 - Changes to catchment management – natural and anthropogenic – future projects as part of management plan
- Horizon scanning – what's coming next? Links to other work needed
- Public engagement – greater & wider understanding of issues and links to other plans
- Better integration of Natura 2000 protected area requirements in Water Framework Directive River Basin Management Plans

- Balance of strategic and site specific issues
- Use of enforcement – apparent reluctance of regulators to use existing powers
- Missing issues include:
 - Invasive NATIVE species
 - Prioritisation of invasive species (focus on less widespread?)
 - Impact of forestry on water quality is now well understood
 - Landscape change – upstream impacting rest of catchment (e.g. forestry)

Group 4 – Marine & Coastal

Existing mechanisms – what is good plus issues:

- 2 methods of controlling activities (Carrot & Stick)
- Regulation (Carrot & Stick at different times), including incentives
- Voluntary methods (carrot), including education, codes of practice etc
- Incentives include decommissioning etc, however it is much harder to financially incentivise at sea as there is no owner of the resources (Crown Estate own the seabed, but fish stocks for example are un-owned) – marine equivalent of HLS would not work
- In order to measure how good a mechanism is, we first need to understand what success looks like and this is not possible for some areas.
- We cannot assume success without monitoring & evidence to establish the facts, which is costly
- An important mechanism in marine particularly is to empower & engage interested parties in order to gain compliance.
- It would be useful for IPENS to look at existing best practice, both domestic & abroad (EU).
- An available (although not always used mechanism) is the possible inclusion of partnerships and local communities as a means of helping to protect & enhance N2K sites.

Funding:

- Lots of marine evidence gathering still to be done
- This is costly, and therefore need to be careful about what evidence is gathered – type, method, area etc

Have we got the right issues?

- Yes, but some need to have name changes (for example bait digging to bait gathering)
- Wildfowling (rec) does not need to be on the list as it is regulated through SSSIs (on the OLDs list) and there are very few N2K sites that have intertidal areas where wildfowling takes place, that are not underpinned by SSSI
- Marine power could be added to the list (i.e. nuclear / coal in addition to renewable energy) although all of these are well regulated

- Worth thinking about whether unregulated sources of pollution from shipping is an issue that IPENS could look at – e.g. the recent pollution incident – is this too big an issue / already regulated where possible?