

# Summit Report

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## Tamar to Exe - How can we do more for Nature?

Riviera Centre, Torquay

28<sup>th</sup> February 2011

10.00 - 4.00pm



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## **1.0 Introduction**

### **1.1 Background**

The Tamar to Exe (T2E) partnership is a new collaboration that will bring together a wide group of people to do more for nature in the Tamar to Exe area over the next few years in response to new challenges laid out as part of the England Biodiversity Strategy. The area lies between the Tamar and Exe rivers and from the southern boundary of Dartmoor National Park to the sea. From a wildlife perspective it contains examples of many nationally important habitats, from ancient woodlands to heathlands; species rich grasslands to seagrass beds and estuaries.

There are many projects already underway in the area, however these approaches alone have not proved sufficient to fully meet the wildlife aspiration and needs to secure good ecosystem functioning and a thriving wildlife. Resources and funding are becoming limited and new ways of working across sectors to deliver multi-partner multi-objective projects offer potential added value and a route to helping to secure a sustainable future for outputs that need exploring and testing. The T2E partnership will creatively blend skills, knowledge, and perspectives into a network that collaborates, organises, influences; prioritises 'what works' and adds value to current work whilst helping to shape future delivery. It will take a different and innovative approach to doing more for biodiversity. A number of partners have come together to help drive this project forwards, see an outline partnership structure in Appendices which is being used to help foster and drive the early days of the partnership. A map of the project area can also be found in Appendices.

### **1.2 Purpose of the Day**

The purpose of the day was to bring together a wide group of stakeholders from across different sectors to identify existing good practice for biodiversity in T2E, areas for improvement and better ways of and principles for delivering more. The ideas and information provided will steer the direction of biodiversity work in the area and ensure that in future we work together in a smarter and more effective way.

### **1.3 Delegates**

Invitations were sent out to a broad range of people including farmers, landowners, local authority representatives, business, statutory organisations and third sector organisations. A total of 65 delegates attended (Annex 2 details the attendance list). The delegates were split into pre-determined workshop groups.

### **1.4 Summit Programme and outcomes**

The key messages and outcome from the presentations are shown below. Please note presentations will shortly be available on <http://www.biodiversitysouthwest.org.uk/>

#### **1.4.1 Introduction to the Day - Why are we here? Mark Robins (Tamar to Exe Project Chair)**

- Why we are here - the need to do things differently to meet new challenges and opportunities.
- This is an early stage in the project and this day will help steer the direction of the project and the priorities in the first year - we want your involvement to help shape it. This is an opportunity for you to tell us what you want to see in this area.
- Lots of ways to become involved to help continuously shape and drive the project/s.
- This is about learning from the past to set a positive, forward looking approach.

#### **1.4.2 Tamar to Exe - A significant opportunity for enhancing biodiversity (Tony Richardson, Regional Director of RSPB)**

- There is a wealth and diversity of biodiversity in the Tamar to Exe area that enriches the lives of those who live there and provides an economic underpinning for local business and tourism.
- Fantastic opportunity for enhancing the biodiversity further through this project - and making area a great place to live and work.
  - Bringing partners together
  - Sharing resources and knowledge
  - Coordinated funding bids
  - Smarter work

#### **1.4.3 Successes to date and challenges ahead (Phil Owens, Natural England Regional Business Manager)**

- Tamar to Exe contains a wealth of wildlife ranging from internationally designated sites to local wildlife sites
- There are a diverse mix of land use across the area including farming, minerals, large urban area, estuaries etc;
- There has been significant investment in the area (HLS/ELS figures) for biodiversity and some great successes for biodiversity and partnership working (examples of good projects - Green Infrastructure in Plymouth, Torbay and Teignbridge, farmland birds.....)
- But... there is still more to do, new challenges ( climate change, policy changes, funding changes) and a need to integrate biodiversity with other areas of the natural environment (ecosystem services)

- Change can be an opportunity, IBDA good example of building on existing good practise but finding new ways of working together, locally, linking with all those that deliver biodiversity gain not just those in the 'industry' to deliver more biodiversity.
- NE committed to landscape scale working and helping find new ways of working.

#### **1.4.4 Tamar to Exe and the agricultural sector (Paul Cottingham, Environment Advisor NFU, SW)**

- Key issues for farming including a divergence in farm business income across different sectors.
- The contribution of agriculture to the economy and in particular in places like South Devon where local food is important.
- Possible priorities for the Productive Landscapes theme identified.
- Possible challenges/opportunities
- What might success look like for this theme and how will it incorporate an economic advantage for land managers?
- Why is it important for the farming community to be involved?

#### **1.4.5 New models for biodiversity delivery (Alex Scholefield, Biodiversity Officer Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust)**

- Traditional models of partnership, funding and delivery are being overtaken by events - principally over the coming years the massive reductions in public sector funding
- We have to be smarter in how we work together, break down boundaries and seek new sources of funding
- The era of developing projects in isolation is well and truly over. We need to share our ideas and resources and approach funders in a co-ordinated way.
- Torbay is a growth area with a high concentration of nature conservation sites. The natural environment is Torbay's identity and it drives tourism etc. Link to Geopark and improving recreational offer. Green tourism and English Riviera Tourism Company.
  - Urban area - community engagement with biodiversity and links to quality of life.
  - Torbay Coast & Countryside Trust has arisen as a result of these challenges and opportunities. A delivery model. Close alliance with Council both on the ground and in policy advice. Work with schools, volunteers and community groups. Big emphasis on partnerships.
  - New ways of funding - visitor payback, commercial opportunities. Household expenditure in the UK dwarfs public expenditure (£875 billion against £475 billion) and we need to harness a very small percentage of that value for biodiversity.

## **2. Workshops**

## **2.1 Workshop 1: 'Successes' and 'Areas for Improvement' in nature conservation up to 2010. (Kathryn Deeney (Plymouth Green Infrastructure Project))**

The purpose of this workshop session was to identify good projects and what made these successful, and lessons learnt from those that were not as successful. The group was split into small workshop groups and first in pairs asked to identify successes and lessons learnt and then as a whole group asked to list the 'goods' and 'bads.' They were then asked to agree the top 'good' and the top 'lesson learnt'

Key messages from successful projects:

- Continuity of projects important - especially to achieve long term outcomes
- A good partnership which operates on openness and trust.
- A well targeted project with clear messaging around vision, objectives, outcomes and commitment.
- All competent authorities need to be involved.
- Need for integrated projects.
- Community and landowner involvement.

## **2.2 Workshop 2: 2011 and beyond, priorities for the Tamar to Exe partnership**

Groups were asked to build on workshop 1 and identify where next steps and to set priorities for the Tamar to Exe partnership.

The groups were asked to:

- identify the key principles for the Tamar to Exe project
- As a group agree the top principle that should be taken forward
- Discuss as a group the potential mechanisms for delivering the top principle and the mechanism to do this
- Agree as a group a year one measure of success for the top principle and delivery mechanism

Outputs can be seen in Table 1 below.

**Table 1: Key principles for the Tamar to Exe project**

Key principle for T2E	Delivery Mechanism	Measure of success
<p>Radical shape up of governance structure to deliver nature conservation.</p> <p>Re-balance arguments - other land uses</p> <p>Overall plan for regulation.</p>	<p>Independent chair</p> <p>Steering group</p> <p>Better data management and sharing</p>	<p>2020 targets</p> <p>Natural character of areas on a sustainable footing.</p>
<p>Balanced Environment - sustainable, viable, inclusive</p> <p>Clear long term message</p> <p>Proposal to develop Economic strand.</p>	<p>Economically value contribution to landscape</p>	<p>Long term measure would be that is self supporting.</p> <p>Contribution to local economy</p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> year baseline and initial reporting.</p>
<p>Integrating biodiversity into other things that are happening.</p>	<p>IDB Project Co-ordinator</p> <p>Helping to get the problem we are trying to solve.</p>	<p>One year on we understand it.</p>
<p>People Focused.</p> <p>Engagement with people from the start of the project to improve biodiversity.</p>		<p>Survey at beginning and end to measure engagement and understanding.</p> <p>Number of volunteer hours achieved.</p>
<p>Long term vision with objectives</p> <p>Acknowledge need for flexibility</p> <p>Integration/signposting - integration needs added value.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Set of criteria needed</li> <li>- Agreement over principles</li> <li>- Resources</li> <li>- Enabling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Statistics re number of volunteers</li> <li>- Enquiries</li> <li>- No. Hits on a website - growing</li> <li>- Other sectors engaged</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Survey of awareness</li> <li>- Map based representation</li> <li>- Portal</li> <li>- Sustainability (1-5 years) i.e. would make landscapes look great</li> </ul>
Community Empowerment e.g. working with Parishes/local groups could they share/deliver/have governance/better use of existing resources (incl. Some agri.)	Effective way engagement with communities (of benefits, and influencing and building on their aspirations) we must be flexible.	Pilot/s established.
Integration Vision - most important Scale	Depends on speed/scale of project. Start with vision for long term climate adaptation that provides thriving productive environment.	Development of vision, consensus about the vision.
Adaptation of future landscapes - build resilience in habitats and people	<p>GI Plans /Local Plans/Parish Plans</p> <p>Developers - offsetting</p> <p>Education and awareness</p>	<p>Area of habitat restored and created.</p> <p>People made aware of issues.</p>



**Table 2 Discussion session outputs**

<b>Main issues and thoughts from the discussion session:</b>
<p>Relationship management is key</p> <p>Biodiversity loss needs more coverage.</p>
<p>Value - Move away from monetary value, need to look at the intrinsic value.</p> <p>Added value required for project and outputs.</p>
<p>Landowners and farmers are doing a lot of the work need to remember this and there is a value. Involve landowners and farmers at the very beginning, sharing the design and delivery of the project. (currently improving)</p> <p>Need to replace funding that could be lost through CAP reform - land managers need to realise benefit from the landscape and wildlife.</p>
<p>Mechanism is needed for involving all the farmers and fisherman - is there is a better mechanism for communication?</p>
<p>Need to put it into a meaningful language, and give certainty. Members need something practical to do.</p> <p>Need to include 'food security' as part of the mix for the T2E. How does it work for me as a land manager? How does it help meet regulation?</p>
<p>Need to understand the economic case for understanding why people make certain decisions.</p>
<p>We do a lot of talking to people, and need to do more listening and understand our customer better. Identify key sectors and get the discussion right from the beginning.</p>
<p>Transitional movement - lots of lessons learnt in the model, but we need to understand why biodiversity in this area.</p> <p>Our brand is weak - we need to get better at communication/marketing.</p>
<p>Interpretation - Need to be accurate, currently mis-selling</p>
<p>Currently people do not think biodiversity is a key part of their</p>

lives.
Need to focus on area of mid Devon as this has been ignored
Do not understand where the resource is going to come from to do the community focused work - this is resource heavy - group needs to consider this in organising work.
Develop an economic strand and baseline against this within a year.

### 3.0 Next Steps (Mark Robins)

The next steps for the Tamar to Exe partnership will be:

- Workshop report circulated with findings of the day;
- Production of a **One Year Action Plan** for the project - this will be complete by summer 2011 and capture actions identified by the workshop and partners as activities which are both urgent and ready to go;
- Production of a **Five Year Delivery Plan** by autumn 2011 - this will build on the findings of the workshop and the one year Action Plan. Evidence will be collated and consultation undertaken to develop a package of activity to deliver and meet the needs and opportunity within the area building on current activity;
- **Theme group meetings** and further discussion to refine and develop the programme/project further - the theme groups will be essential in identifying the needs of area thematically and will be instrumental in the development of the One Year Action Plan and Five Year Delivery Plan and an overarching vision and objectives.

## Appendices

**Table 3 Feedback Workshop 1**

The groups were asked to feedback to the whole group their top ‘good’ and ‘lesson learnt’ to the group (Table 1). Other examples of ‘good’ and ‘bad’ projects (Table 2 and Appendix) and lessons learnt (Table 2) were recorded by the facilitators on flipcharts.

**Table 1: Top successful project from workshop groups and the lessons learnt on projects that were not as successful**

Top Successful Project	Why?	Lessons learnt from projects not as successful	Why?
<b>Life into Landscapes</b>	Included 3 elements - people, biodiversity, landscape. Landowners and community groups partnership based. SDAONB/ BTCV/DWT/TCCT/disadvantaged groups.	Good links between advice and practical work.  Lack of continuity of projects.	No continuity of short term projects to achieve overall project aims. Not enough time to achieve long term outcomes and do we know what the long term vision is - what do we want to see in future?
<b>Greater Horseshoe Bat Project (South Hams SAC)</b>	Links coast with land.Co-ordination across all authorities Innovation acting on opportunity and targeted (?)  Good partnership  Guidance document now issued by contractors and guiding HLS	Project Coombe Royal in Teignbridge - clear messages, local community	Openness of partners and trust Need to focus on sustainability  Clear message around value of outcomes to ensure commitment.

	targeting advisors.		
<b>Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum</b>	<p>Fully integrated into planning, especially through planning tariff for conservation.</p> <p>Involvement of all competent authorities.</p> <p>Integrates terrestrial and marine environment.</p>	<p>Need to get all competent authorities involved.</p> <p>Important to focus on strategic outcomes - fully embedded into strategic and decision making framework.</p> <p>Small cumulative impacts need to be avoided.</p>	<p>Need to have partner approach to biodiversity offsetting on broader basis to deliver wider benefit.</p> <p>Funding always an issue.</p>
<b>Wembury Marine Centre and other</b>	<p>Mutual interests.</p> <p>Explained mutual interest, engaged partners with integration to deliver project.</p> <p>Water: same solution benefits EA (reduced risk of flooding), water company - reduced purification costs, communities (wetlands to access)</p>	<p>Need for integration.</p> <p>However mainstreaming beyond end of project and link between water on land and sea needed thinking through.</p>	<p>Is it the same water. It is the same food supply (land or sea).</p> <p>Boundaries and single issues are main problems.</p>

<b>Tamar Invasive Project</b>	(37km river, 80+landowners control giant hogweed)	Partnership working - AONB/EA/NE/CC  Small defined project  Long term - 8 years  Clear targets	
<b>Bigbury Bay Oysters</b>	Bottom up  Robust evidence  Solution focused  Low cost  It links with eco services i.e. water to biodiversity  Source apportioned.	Got wildlife and biodiversity out of its silo  Huge biodiversity spin offs.	Having an agreed vision with broad stakeholders (should be trying to be ambitious), coordination and small scale.  Find another imperative - social imperative

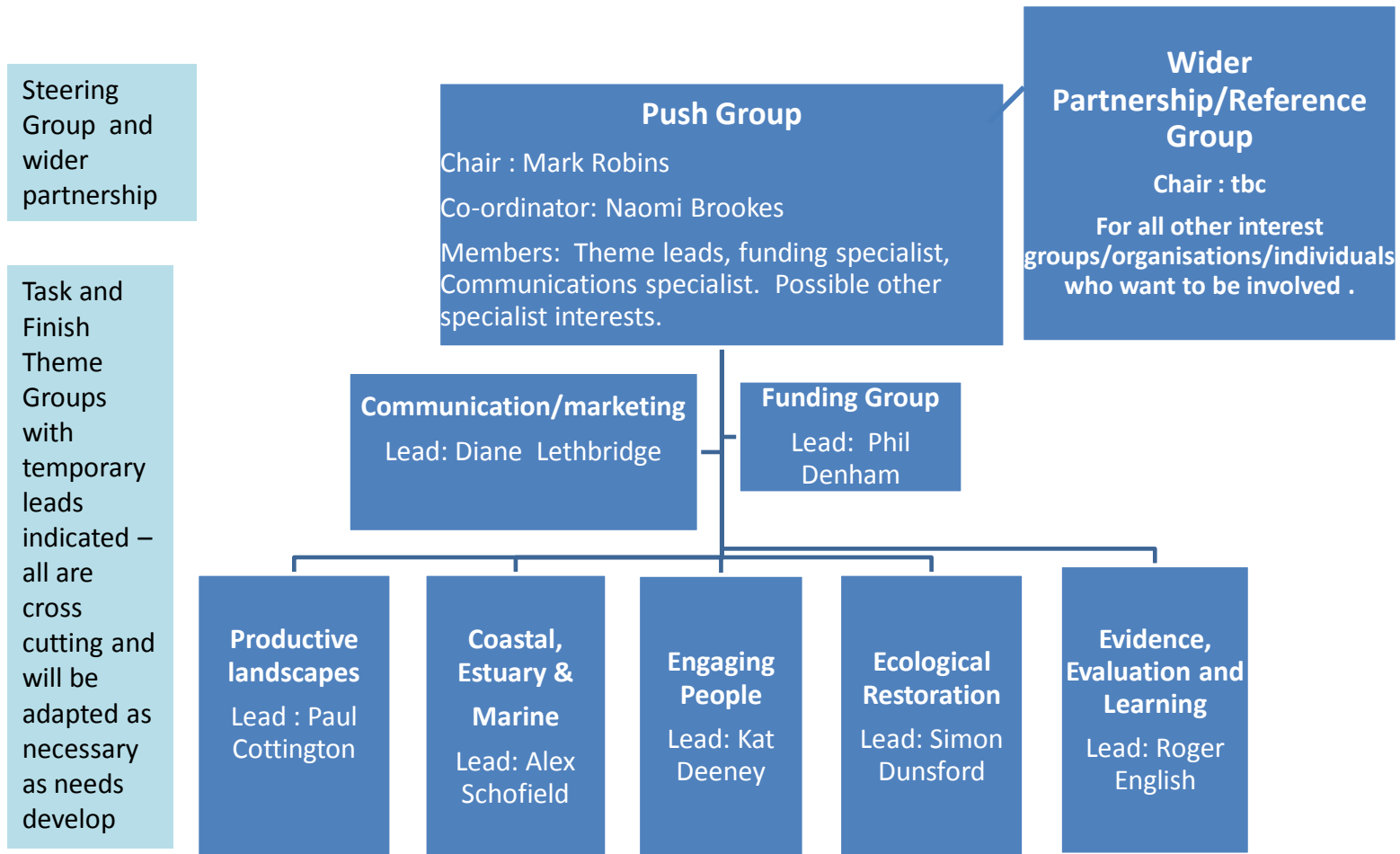
**Table 4: Examples of other good projects and lesson learnt and why**

<b>Good examples of Projects</b>	<b>Why?</b>
<b>Sharkham Village</b>	Development - get in early Good Partnership Using S106 and achievable targets.
<b>Cirl Bunting project</b>	Targeted at key landowners; Used available grants; Support for farmers and feedback (praise and recognition) Successful monitoring and presentation of this is very good.

	Possibly needed to be better and more co delivery. Cirl Bunting to detriment of other Catchment Sensitive Farming work.
<b>Catchment Sensitive Farming</b>	Targeted; Focused; Pot of money; Support
<b>Torbay Local Biodiversity Action Plan</b>	Pooled resources and helped identify biodiversity within area including Geodiversity info. Funding coming to an end.
<b>Torbay Green Infrastructure Project</b>	Co-ordinating. Economic hook that others don't have. Funding coming to an end.  Generally pro-active and good planning around GI and development.
<b>Biodiversity Offsetting</b>	Consultants looking at biodiversity offsetting to see how this can help.
<b>Plymouth Blue Sound</b>	Lottery funded. Stepping Stones to Nature. Training youth about marine environment. Awareness raising. Question around 'so what' - marine and maritime. Two sides of a coin and quite hard getting these two areas together.
<b>AONB</b>	Awareness raising with community. Villages engage with wider age range at schools and villages. Orchard work. Make project
<b>Lessons learnt</b>	<b>Why?</b>
<b>Project Officer</b>	Continuity/relationships
<b>Funding</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continuity/consistency</li> <li>- Not changing goal posts and frequently</li> <li>- Help for community groups to find funding</li> </ul>
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	<p>after it and why money should go to it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Biodiversity/health agenda</li> <li>- Need to reach tourism/NHS/Police?schools</li> </ul>
Celebrate the common biodiversity away from species led conservation	
What are we going to achieve? How are we measuring success? Over riding objective?	
Indicators around - do the general public care? Short term and long term.	
Broader vision avoiding using targeting areas.	

## Draft proposal for governance arrangements of South Devon IBDA





## Tamar to Exe Draft Project Area Map



## Delegate List

Name	Organisation
Aidan Lonergan	RSPB
Alex Schofield	Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust
Andrea Ayres	Groundwork SW
Andrew Whitehouse	Buglife
Anthony Mildmay White	Flete Estate
Basil Greenwood	Natural England
Cath Jeffs	RSPB
Chris Mayes	Natural England
Chris Sutton Scott Tucker	Landowner
David Appleton	Natural England
Dean Price	BTCV
Deborah Deveney	RSPB
Deborah Elton	Forestry Commission
Diane Lethbridge	South Devon AONB
Dominic Acland	Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust
Elly Andison	Environment Agency
Giles Beauchamp	RSPB
Graham Burton	Moor Trees
Hugh Tyler	Natural England
Jade Bartlett	Orchardlink
Janet Lister	National Trust
Jeremy Sabel	Plymouth City Council
Jess Thomasson	Environment Agency
Jim Masters	Devon Maritime Forum

John Hepburn	Wembury Amenity Society
John Vine	Imerys
John Yeoman	South Devon Coastal Local Action Group.
Jon Grimes	Natural England
Julian Carnell	Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust
Julien Scalter	Natural England
Kaja Curry	Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum
Kat Deeney	Plymouth Green Infrastructure Project
Kevin Mowat	Tor Bay Harbour Master
Kevin Rylands	RSPB
Lee Marshall	Torbay Council
Liz Clare	English Heritage
Liz Turner	Trees for Health
Lizbe Pilbeam	Catchment Sensitive farming
Lynne Kenderdine	Devon Wildlife Trust
Mark Robins	Chair of Tamar to Exe
Matt Low	Natural England
Mel Parker	Natural England

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
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Naomi Brookes	Natural England
Nick Whatley	Environment Agency
Nicola Owen	Sibelco UK Ltd
Nigel Mortimer	South Devon AONB
Nik Ward	Natural England
Paul Buckley	RSPB
Paul Cottingham	NFU

Peter Burgess	Devon Wildlife Trust
Peter Exley	RSPB
Phil Owens	Natural England
Richard Taylor	Torbay Council
Richard White	Devon Wildlife Trust
Rob Wolton	Devon Hedge Group
Robin Toogood	South Devon AONB
Roger English	South Devon AONB
Roland Stonex	FWAG
Rosemary Teverson	Tamar Valley AONB
Ross Kennerley	South Hams District Council
Sally Glass	Woodland Trust
Sally Hope Johnson	FWAG
Sarah Jennings	Devon County Council/ Devon LBAP
Sarah Vaughan	Silvanus Trust
Simon Brenman	South West Wildlife Trusts
Simon Dunsford	Natural England
Simon Garner	National Trust
Simon Wiltshire	Aggregate Industries
Geoffrey Newman	Landowner
Stephen Carroll	Teignbridge District Council
Stuart Watts	Aune Conservation Association
Tim Robbins	Devon & Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority
Tim Selman	Tamar Valley AONB
Tony Page	Teignbridge District Council
Tony Richardson	RSPB

Tracey Brooks

Torbay Council

Victoria Hughes

Silvanus Trust

**Apologies**

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Alison Fields

Forestry Commission

Gillian Glegg

University of Plymouth

John Merefield

University Of Exeter

John Waldon

Devon Birds

Mike Oxford

ALGE

Andy Byfield

Plantlife

## Feedback from Workshop Session 1

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**Table 2: Examples of other good projects and lesson learnt and why**

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Celebrate the common biodiversity away from species led conservation	
What are we going to achieve? How are we measuring success? Overriding objective?	
Indicators around - do the general public care? Short term and long term.	
Broader vision avoiding using targeting areas.	

## Additional workshop feedback from workshop 2

Key Principle	Success measure
Flourishing wildlife and habitats at a landscape scale....using the Lawton Principles	
People are fundamental - not driven by statute/statutory bodies.	
Integration of coast and inland waters	
Farmland ....farmers making a living and not seen as the problem	
Cultural landscape	
Harnessing volunteer effort and enthusiasm....and sense of pride - Parish Plans	
Parish Plans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Feed in info</li> <li>- Package of info and context in IBDA</li> <li>- Identifies priorities for the umbrella IBDA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Parish plans place value on identified assets...then go and do it....volunteers etc...</li> </ul>
Engaging with general Public to	Different audiences:

encourage ownership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Farmer/landowners</li> <li>- Users/deprived wards</li> <li>- Tourists</li> <li>- Residents/volunteer workforce</li> <li>- Parish projects to identify gaps and opportunities to link habitats/connectivity</li> </ul>
River corridors to be used as a core to connect habitats	
Connecting habitats	
Establish Baseline of engagement in Nature Conservation of on the ground actuality	
Suite of common species or quality of habitats	
Mosaic of habitats	
How is nature central to peoples live? How to measure?	
Use principles of Green Infrastructure projects and use on broader sense.	
Transition towns - sustainability/food groups etc but no biodiversity	Learn from approach and piggy back onto these
Dartmoor circle group - fringe of Dartmoor 'towns'	Learn from approach and piggy back onto these