

Severn Vision

A Vision for the Bristol Channel and Severn



GEOGRAPHIC AREA

The geographic scope of this project stretches from Tewkesbury (Gloucestershire) to Morte Point (North Devon) and Port Eynon (Gower) and includes the major rivers, Severn Estuary and Bristol Channel.





OUR VISION...

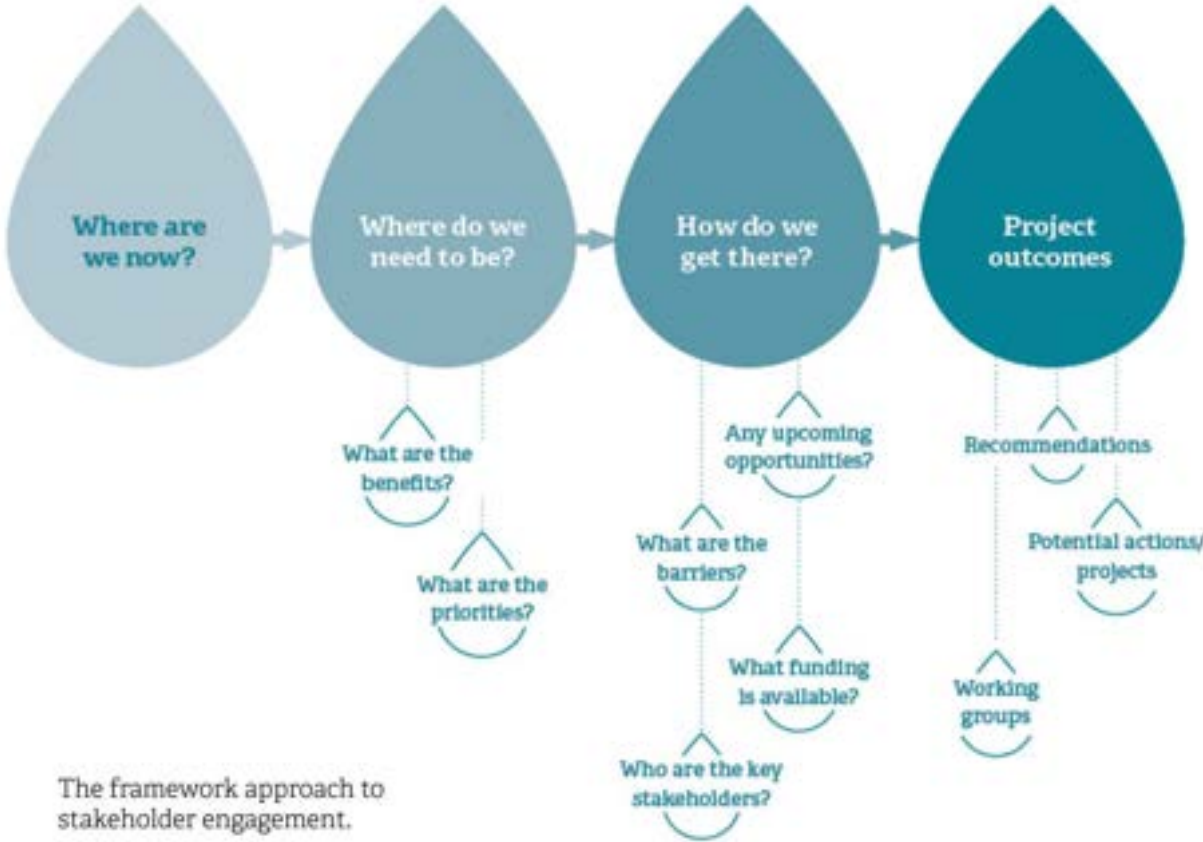
Is for a Severn Estuary that:

- is restored as a healthy functioning ecosystem, valued for its internationally important wildlife, habitats and landscapes;
- provides more benefits for people, local communities, places, and economies, including greater resilience to climate change; and
- becomes a natural powerhouse, where development is planned and managed in a way that sustains and enhances the estuary's resources.



Pilot Phase 2021-22

Funded by Environment
Agency's Championing Coastal
Coordination Fund



Phase 1 2022-23

Funded by Welsh Government's Coastal Capacity Challenge Fund administered by the Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA) & Environment Agency's Championing Coastal Coordination Fund



Produce a Natural Capital Plan for the whole area, building on the North Devon and Gloucestershire Natural Capital Plans and expanding to include a Natural Capital Investment Plan and Blue Carbon Credit strategy.

Engage Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) and Nature Recovery Action Plan (NRAP) Responsible Authorities through facilitated workshops to ensure a uniformed approach to integration of coast, estuary and marine within these strategies.

Develop the mechanism and structure to form a Management Forum and associated specialism focus groups.

Understanding data and evidence needs and identification of gaps with annual reviews and sharing through a focused conference.

Expand the Shoresearch volunteer community across the area and develop a strategy that supports monitoring by NE and NRW has been successful elsewhere and expand the remit of Shoresearch to include survey and monitoring of Nature-based Solutions.

Form a "coastal enhancement factor" policy to be integrated within local authority planning strategies using the London Plan Urban Greening Factor* as a template to evaluate and quantify the enhancements appropriate to the site for use down to mean low water.

Run governance workshops with competent/relevant authorities and Community groups & parish councils supported by the Coastal Champions.



National Marine Park Scoping Workshop



Next steps for NMP

- The opportunity presented by a NMP also carries risks associated with potential divergence across stakeholders and communities.
- SEP are key to facilitating co-ordination
- Common understanding of purpose and opportunity would be key to preventing barriers towards its' potential.
- The question of whether and where National Marine Park status could be helpful, depends upon its scale and purpose.
- The question of 'who' to be involved and at what stage of NMP feasibility, could be guided (and led) by SEP
- The 'prize' of NMP status could be a huge opportunity
- A more cohesive approach to planning and management could lead to decision-making focused more towards sustainability.
- Perhaps nowhere in Britain is more challenging for cross-border and cross-sector collaboration than the large Bristol Channel and Severn ecosystem with over 3 million people living in major cities and rural countryside, from North Somerset and Exmoor to the Gower Peninsula and Brecon Beacons.

Motion for the Ocean

A model Motion for the Ocean to help local authorities play their part in realising a clean, healthy and productive ocean and all of the direct economic, health and wellbeing benefits it will bring.



172 projects



- 113 Ongoing projects - marked green on the map,
- 36 Finished projects - marked blue on the map,
- 20 Project opportunities &/or Upcoming projects - marked purple on the map,
- 3 Potential project area - marked pink on the map.

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Next steps.....

Phase 2

- Scoping and proposal for a new governance model for the Vision area
- Co-designed framework for the co-delivery of a Natural Capital Plan

Add a Slide



Join at menti.com use code 45087472

 Mentimeter

First word that comes to mind when you think of the Bristol Channel & Severn

Waiting for answers



Rhymney Great Wharf Habitat Restoration Polders Enhancement Project

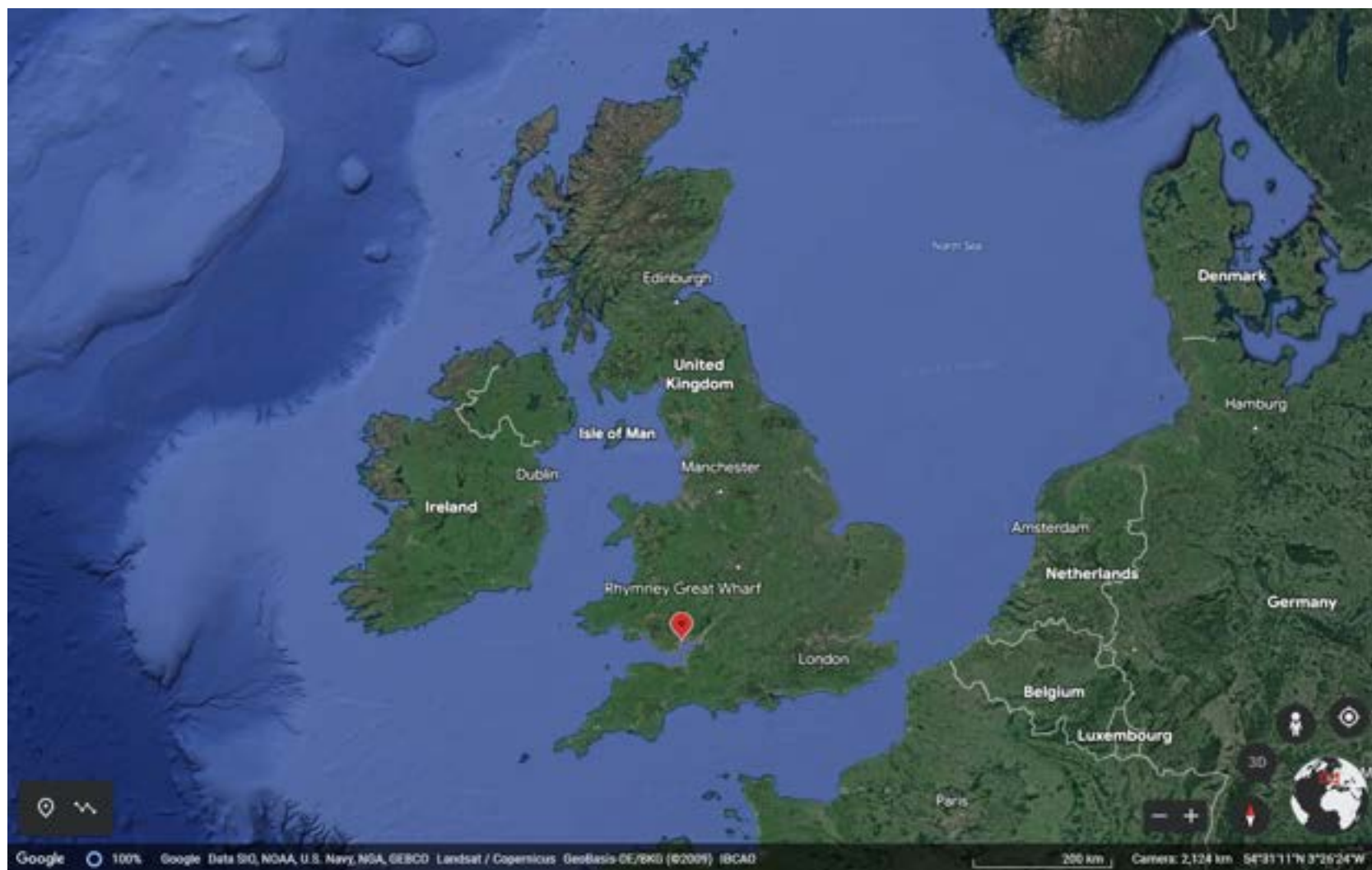


Presentation by

Chloë James

Marine Project Manger at NRW

Rhymney Great Wharf





Rhymney Great Wharf



Rumney Over

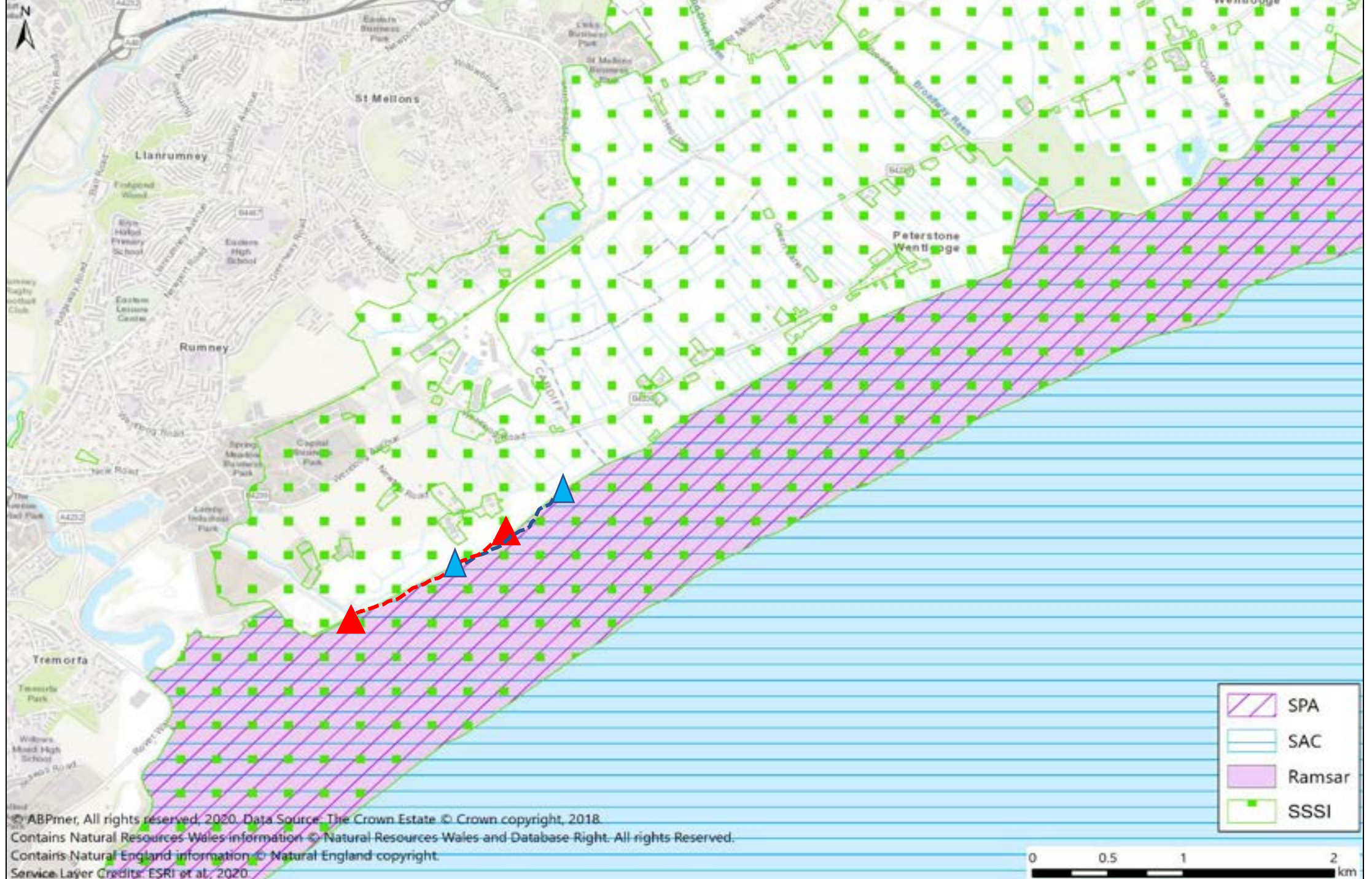
Green acres wentloog

NEWTON

Cardiff Sea Wall Pumping House

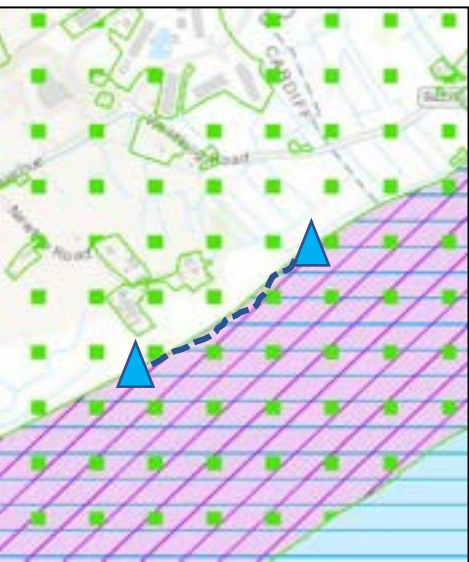
Rumney Great Wharf

Service Road



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 Contains Natural Resources Wales information © Natural Resources Wales and Database Right. All rights Reserved.
 Contains Natural England information © Natural England copyright.
 Service Layer Credits: ESRI et al, 2020.

Drone footage from West to East Polder 1 to 5



What's a polder?

Sedimentation polder :

Intertidal area, enclosed by rectangularly arranged brushwood groynes to facilitate enhanced sediment deposition.

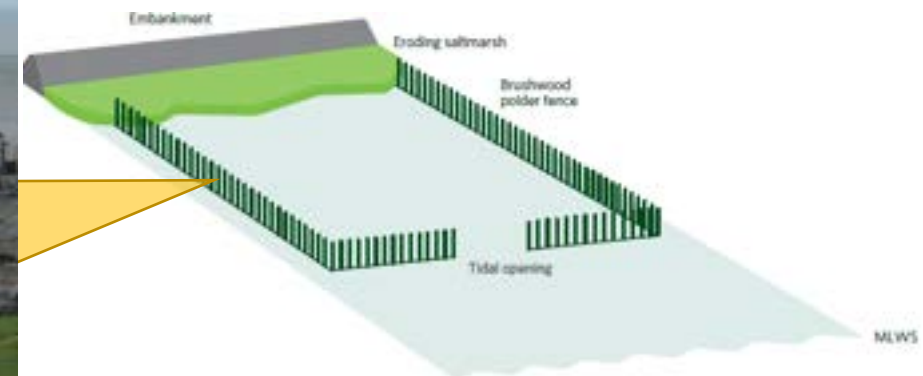
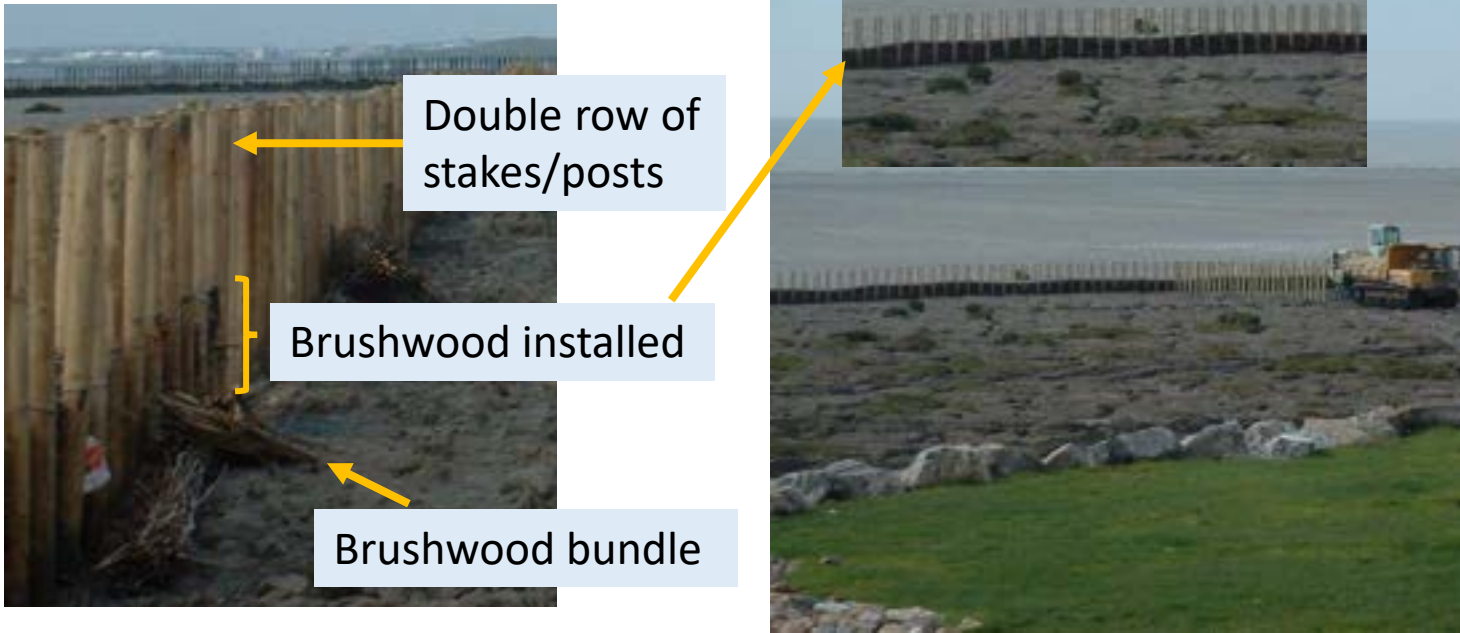
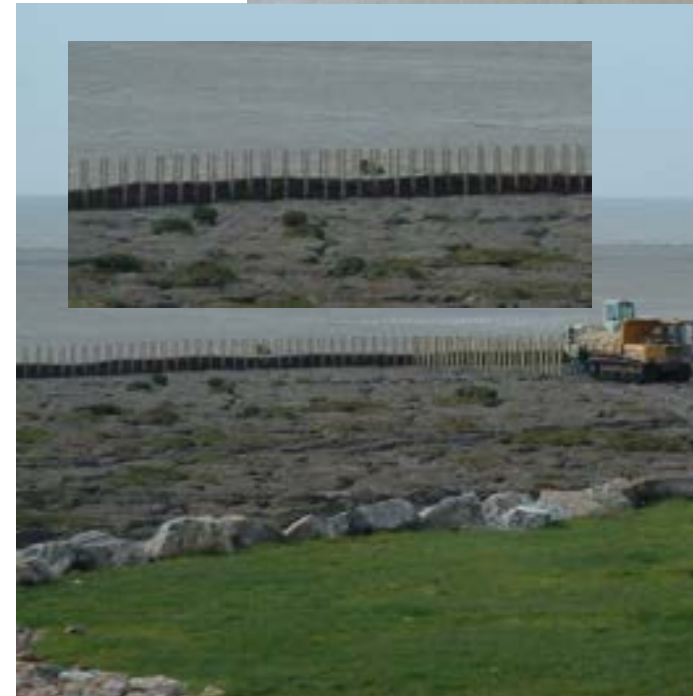
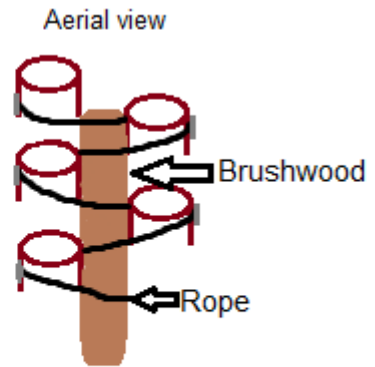
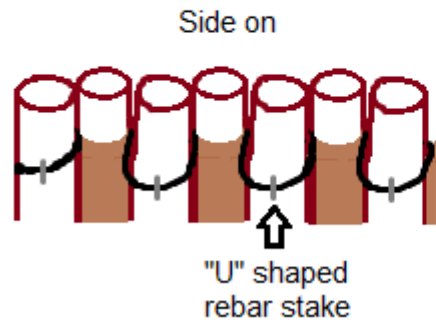


Figure 5.9: Basic setup of a single sedimentation field (also referred to as sedimentation polder) consisting of brushwood groynes inserted in the mudflat to form an enclosure with a tidal inlet (adapted from Colenutt, 2001).

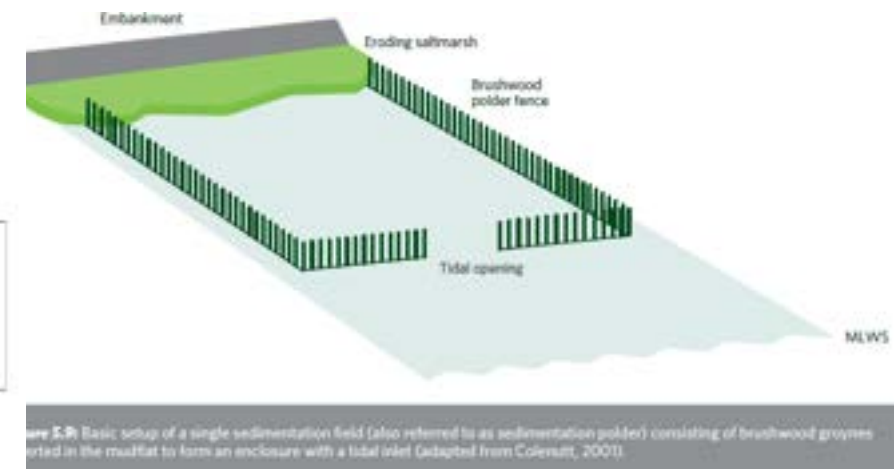
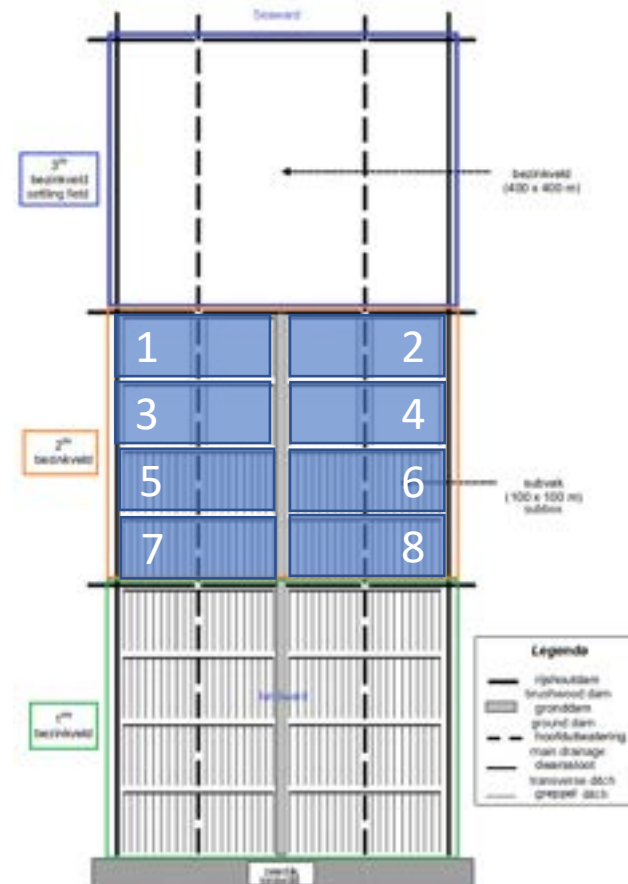
What's a polder/ Lahnung?



What's a polder/ Lahnung?



Polders in Germany





Polder 5
1988

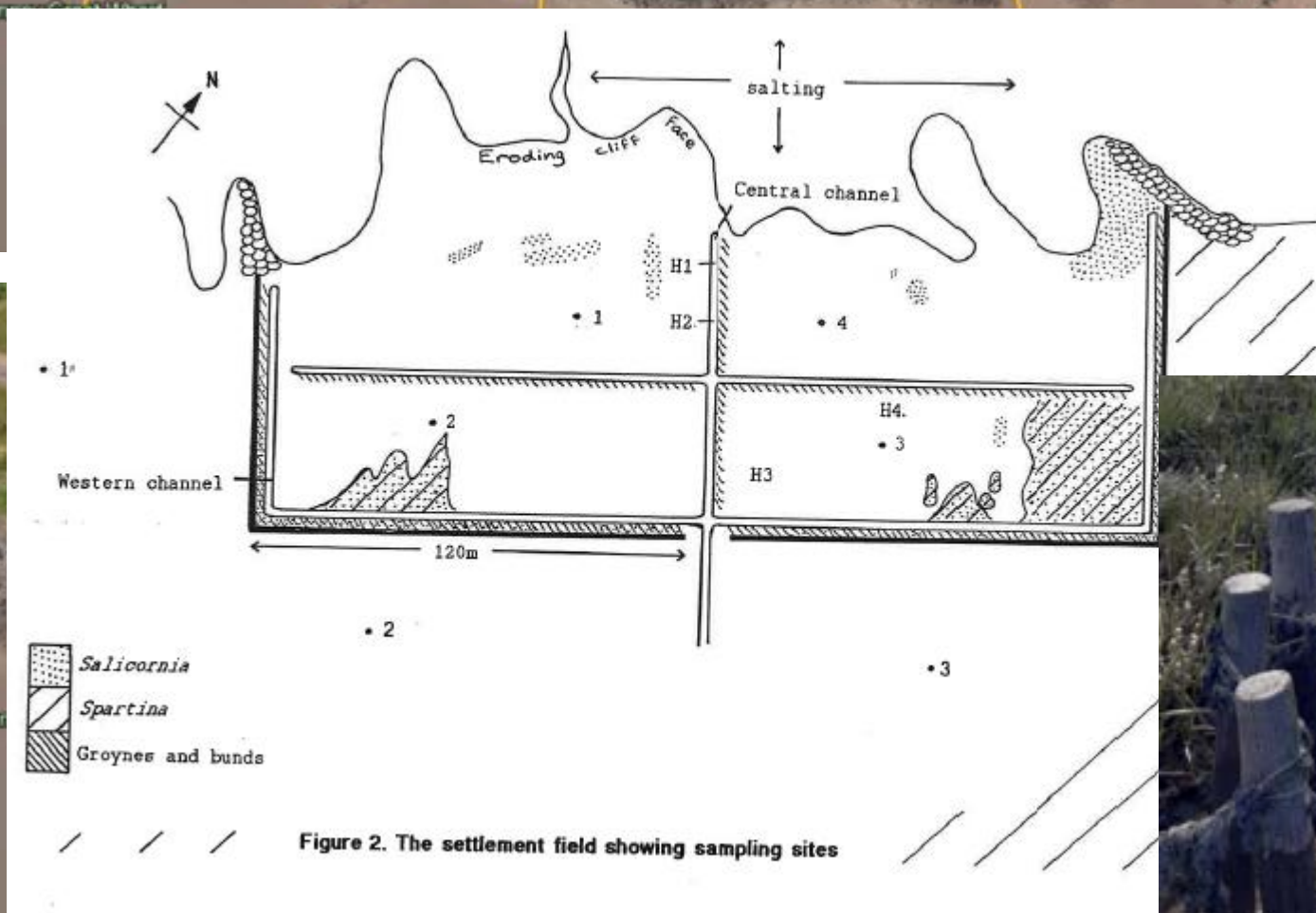
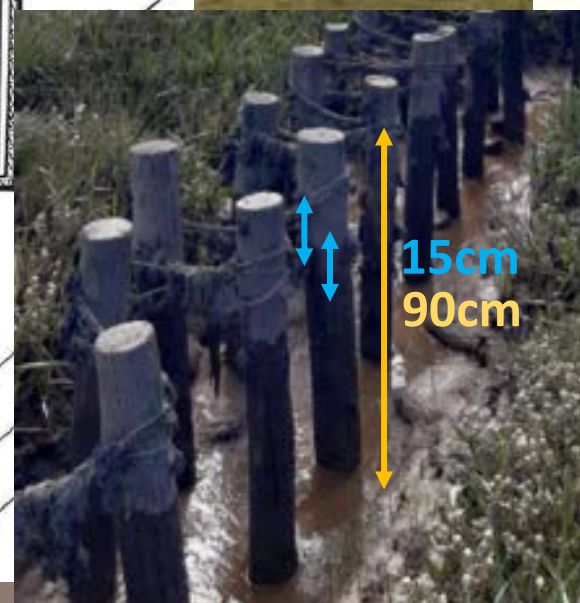


Figure 2. The settlement field showing sampling sites



NCC: 000 n00000
B. 972

Contract: WFS-05-432(22)

NATURE CONSERVANCY
C 1
26 SEP 1989
LOCATION: B

MACRO-INVERTEBRATE COLONISATION OF A RECLAIMED AREA
IN THE SEVERN ESTUARY.

Sarah J. White and Chris Hotten.

Department of Pure and Applied Biology,
University of Wales College of Cardiff,
PO Box 915, Cardiff CF1 3TL.

August 1989



Case study 57. Rhymney Great Wharf

Author: Huw Alford
 Main driver: Improved defence and habitat enhancement
 Project stage: Constructed 2005



Photo 1: Rhymney wharf flood embankment post 3 January 2014 tidal event (8.03m above Ordnance Datum at Newport 2 gauge)

Project summary:

The Severn Estuary foreshore has international importance, reflected by the following designations: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Protection Area (SPA), possible Special Area of Conservation (pSAC) and Ramsar. The site itself is located seaward of the Wentfooge Sea Defences, where the upper, vegetated saltmarsh is referred to as the 'wharf' and the lower unvegetated foreshore as the 'mudflats'.

The Wentfooge Sea Defences (Map 1) protect an area of low-lying land, of which approximately 320m² lies below mean high water springs (MHWS). The wharf acts as part of the sea defence by reducing the incident wave energy on the embankments themselves.

Study of the foreshore highlighted that the wharf had been eroding locally at a fairly constant rate over a long period. In 2003, pockets of erosion were in close proximity to the flood defence embankment and as such continued erosion was predicted to undermine the embankment by the year 2008. As an immediate mitigation against further erosion of the wharf, thus protecting the defences, it was decided to use harder, more traditional engineering in the form of blockstone and rip-rap. As a longer term strategy, polder were used in an effort to regenerate the mudflats and increase protection to the wharf scarp.



Flood Asset

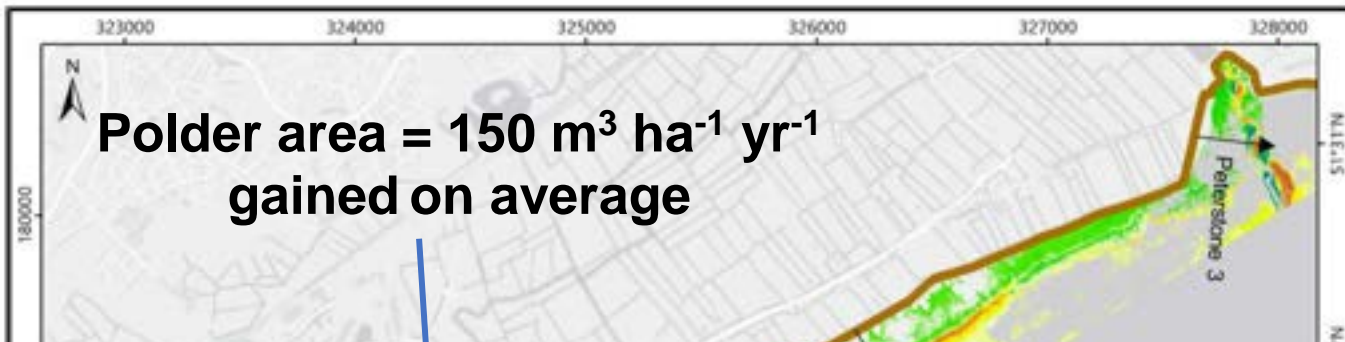


Map 1: Location of Rhymney Great Wharf (source: MyMap, accessed 6 January 2017)

Above is an extract from the 57 report, showing the earth embankment which is the Flood and Coastal Protection Asset at RGW.



Above is a photo of the embankment Feb 2023, from the edge of the wharf cliff (near polder 1) where you can see the rock armouring and aggregate infilling from 2005.



Report number: 18716 Evidence Report
 Report number: 528
 Publication date: March 2021
 Contract number: PO 2049223 & PO 2011619
 Contractor: ABPmer
 Contract Manager: Sarah Reed

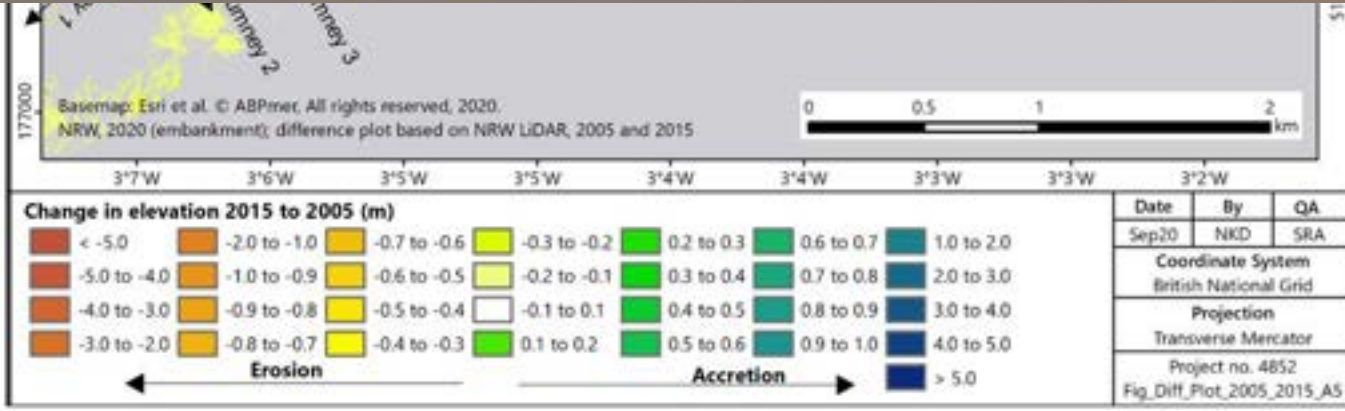
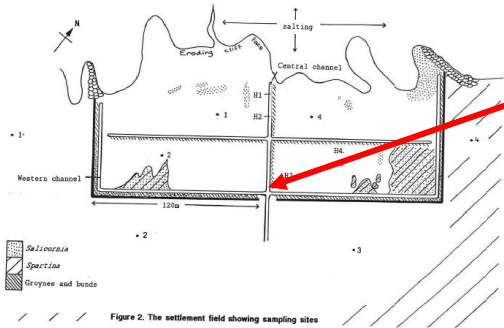


Figure 6 LiDAR difference plot for Rumney to Peterstone frontage, showing 2005 to 2015 elevation changes (arrows indicate cross section location and orientation)



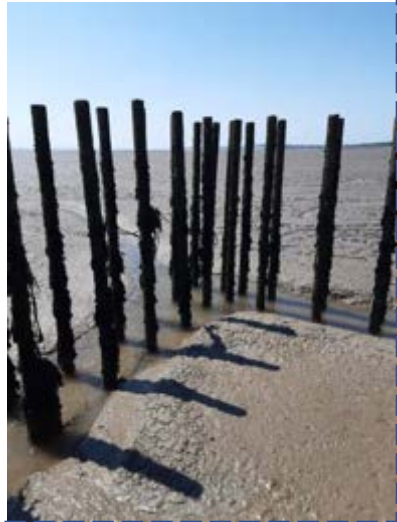
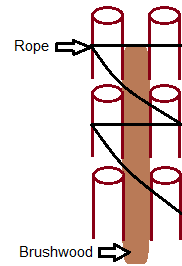
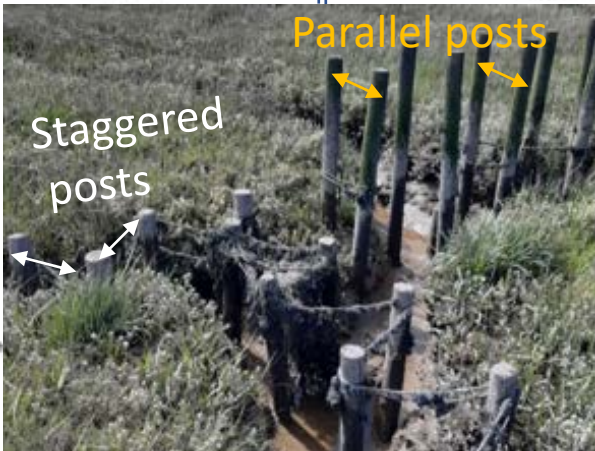
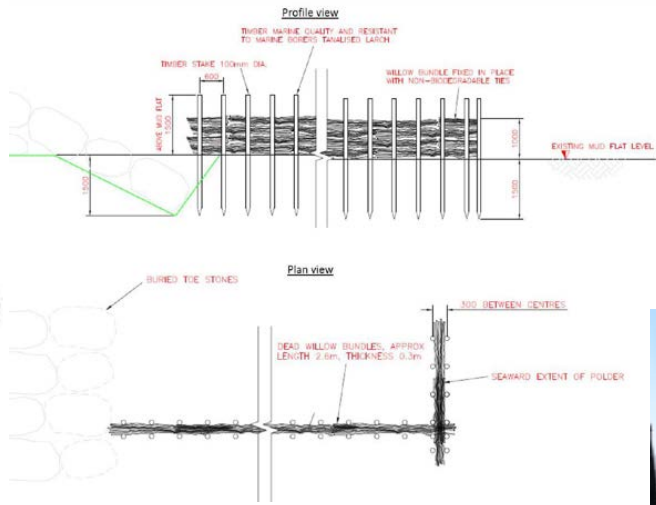
1988 polder

2005 polders



Tidal opening

VS



Maintenance



Monitoring



Topographic survey using UAS



Sonde deployment informing depth and sediment availability



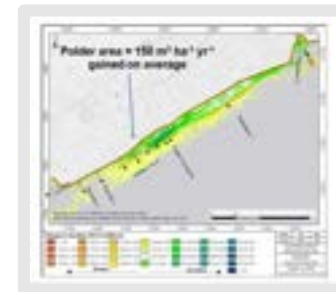
B4+ mini buoys measuring wave orbital movements – informing hydrodynamics



Left – Right: Dr Jonathan Dale, Dr Cai Ladd, Dr Michael Kennedy and Dr Michelle Farrell

Must haves:

- Plant community surveys
- Topographic surveys



Please get in touch if you or your contacts have research interests that could help to complete these and/ other survey.

[Home](#) > [About us](#) > [Our projects](#) > [Marine projects](#)

Nature Networks - information on marine

- Bait collection
- Welsh Acoustic Marine Mammal Survey
- Marine litter and derelict vessel prevention
- Investigations into the decline of species and habitats
- Maerl in the Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire Marine SAC.
- Sponges in the Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC.
- Horse Mussel beds, in the Pen Llyn a'r Sarnau (PLAS) SAC.
- Sandbank diversity across the MPA Network.
- Herring in Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire Marine SAC.
- Invasive Non-Native Species Biosecurity Planning
- **Rumney Great Wharf Polders**
- Coastal Squeeze
- Improving Marine Conservation Advice

Rhymney Great Wharf Habitat Restoration Polders Enhancement Project

Objectives

1. Protect the frontage of RGW from existing erosive pressures upon mudflat and saltmarsh habitats by promoting sediment deposition in the first instance.
2. Create conditions that will support both mudflat and saltmarsh features to varying extents over time.
3. Have a refined sedimentation polder design
4. Support the flood risk management of the area

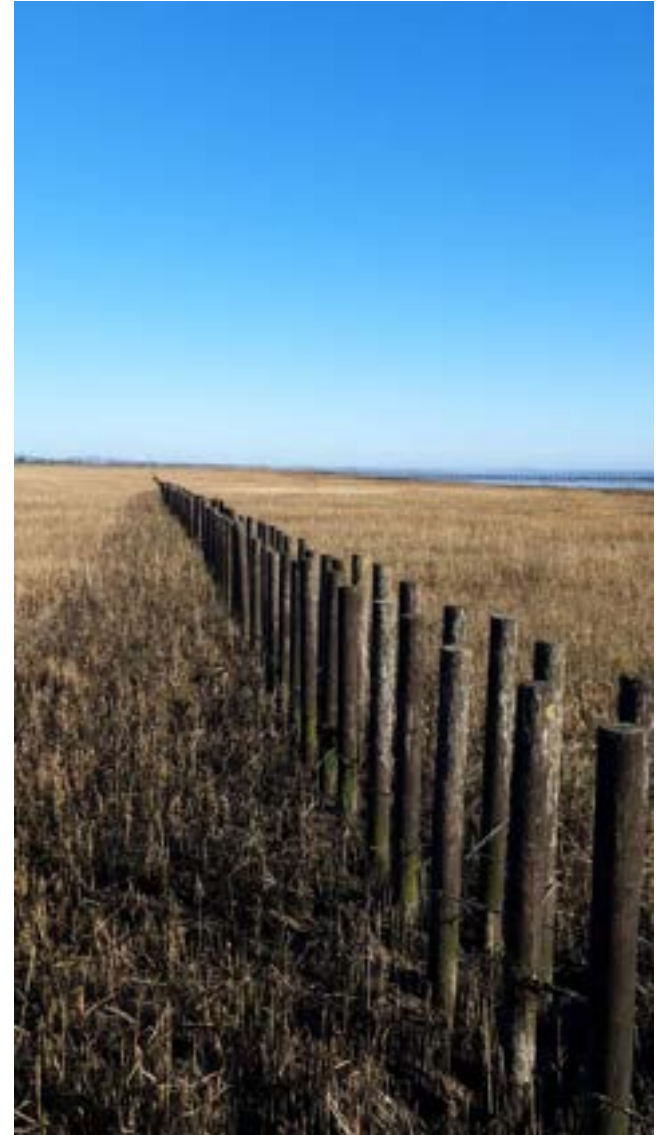
Timeline:

Baseline data (May – September 2023)

Construction summer (March – September 2024)

Structural repairs each year (2024-2030)

Continual monitoring (2023-2032)





EAGLE REINTRODUCTION WALES

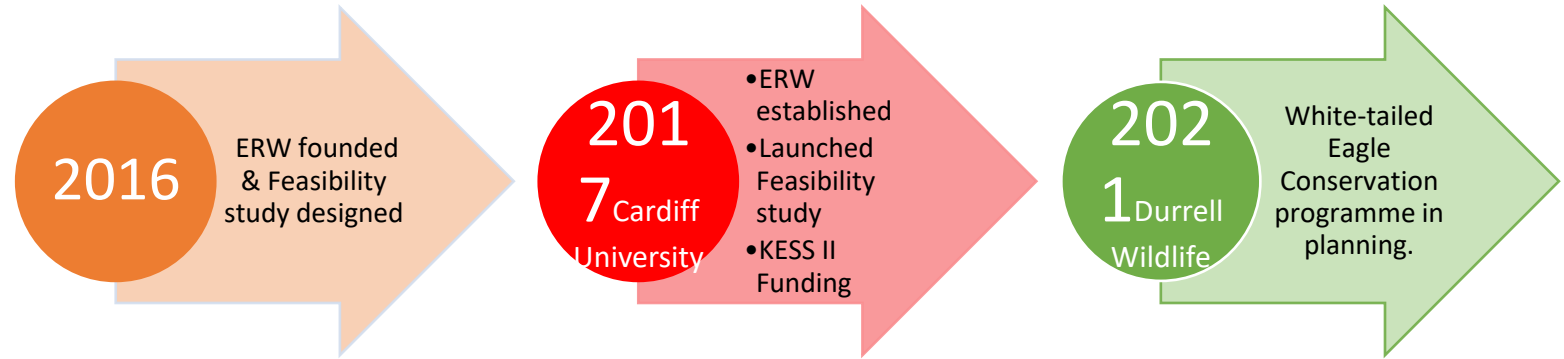
AILGYFLWYNO'R ERYR CYMRU

Restoring White-tailed Eagles to South-east Wales & the Severn Estuary

By Dr Sophie-lee Williams



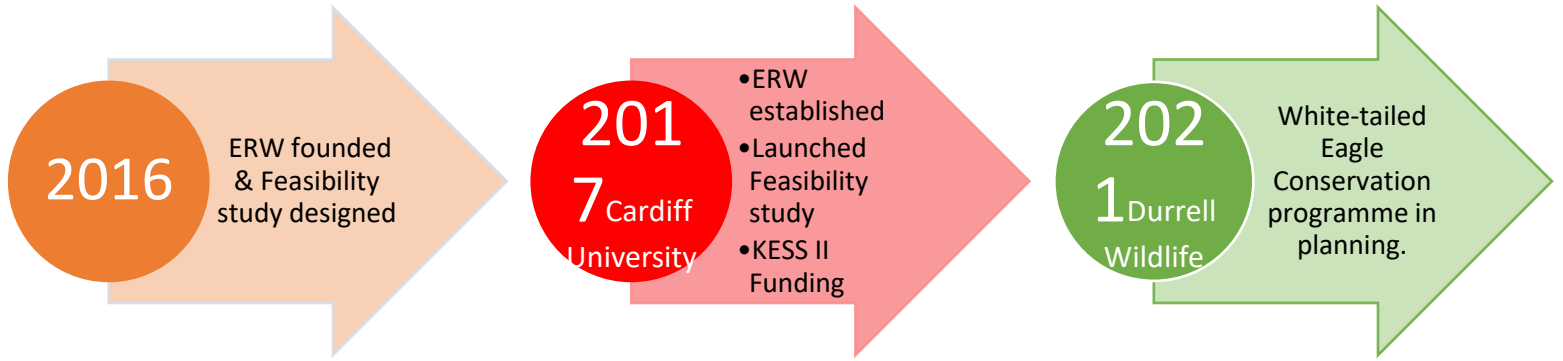
Follow us *Dilyn wch ni*
www.eaglereintroductionwales.com
f t @ERWproject



ERW founded 2016



Working with eagles in Scotland 2016



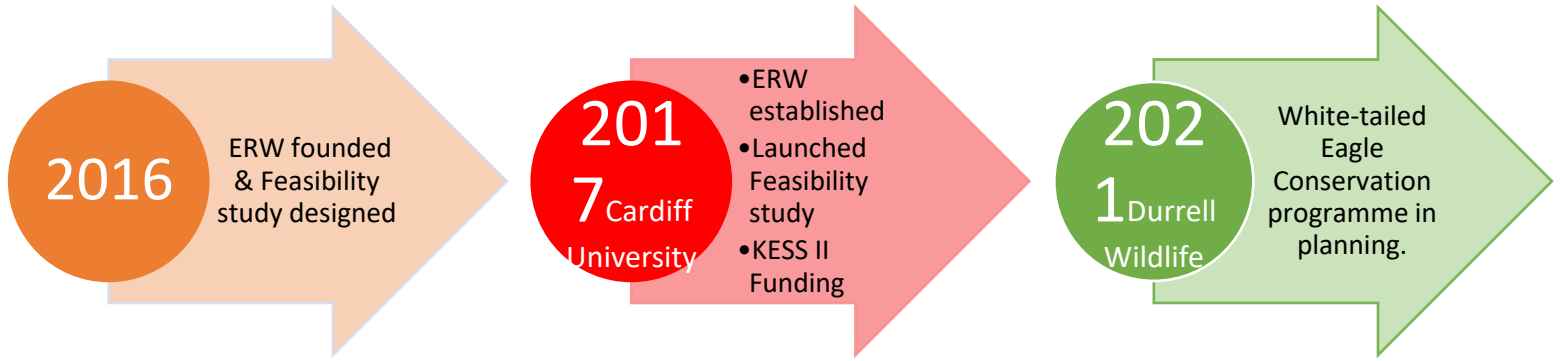
Sophie's brainchild 2017



Norway 2019



PhD submission 2020



WTE Project officer 2021



Sophie & Eagle ambassador 2021



Release site selection 2022

Durrell
Wildlife

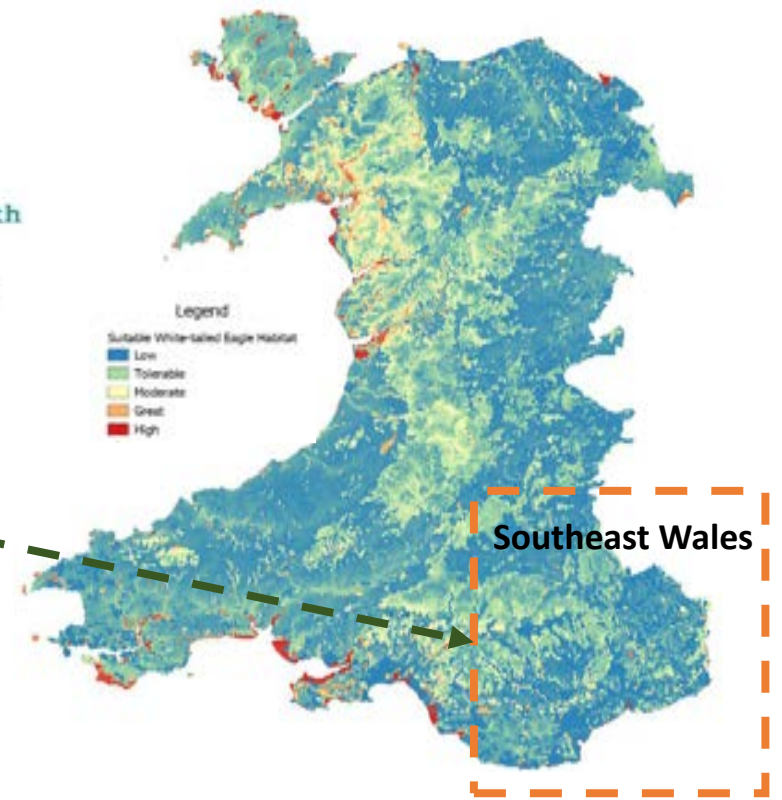
Aim: Restore a breeding population of White-tailed Eagles in SE Wales



© Jeff Smith



Gwent
Wildlife
Trust



WTE habitat suitability Wales

Durrell
Wildlife

Aim: Restore a breeding population of White-tailed Eagles in SE Wales



- **HOW** do we go about a re-introduction?



- **WHY** are we proposing a re-introduction for Wales?



- **WHAT** do we need to consider?



- **WHERE** will a re-introduction happen?





© Sergey Uryadnikov

White-tailed Sea Eagle, Eryr y Môr
(Haliaeetus albicilla)

American Bald Eagle
(H. leucocephalus)



African Fish Eagle
(H. vocifer)

Steller's Sea Eagle
(H. pelagicus)



Family *Haliaeetridae*
Genus *Haliaeetus* (fish eagles)
Weight ♀ 6 kg and ♂ 10 lb (4 kg)
Wingspan ♀ 4 ft and ♂ 7 ft



© Mark Caunt

White-tailed Sea Eagle, Eryr y Môr

(Haliaeetus albicilla)



Coastlines

Coastal cliffs
Lakes

Estuaries &

Large mature wetlands

Family – *Accipitridae*

Genus – *Haliaeetus* (fish eagles)

Weight – ♀ 15 lb (6 kg) and ♂ 10lb (4 kg)

Wingspan – ♀ 8 ¼ ft and ♂ 7 ft

Habitat – coastal and freshwater

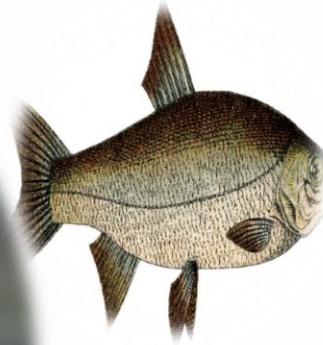
Notes – tags



© Andrew Astbury

White-tailed Sea Eagle, Eyr y Môr
(Haliaeetus albicilla)

Fish - 40 -60%
(1.5 – 3 kg)



Birds - 30 -50%
(1.5 – 5 kg)

Carrion - 20 -40%



Mammals - 15 - 30%
(1.5 – 3 kg)

Family – *Accipitridae*

Genus – *Haliaeetus* (fish eagles)

Weight – ♀ 15 lb (6 kg) and ♂ 10lb (4 kg)

Wingspan – ♀ 8 ¼ ft and ♂ 7 ft

Habitat – Marine and freshwater

Nest – trees & crags

Prey – fish, seabirds, mammals, & Carrion

Durrell
Wildlife

Aim: Restore a breeding population of White-tailed Eagles in SE Wales



- **HOW** do we go about a re-introduction?



- **WHY** are we proposing a re-introduction for Wales?



- **WHAT** do we need to consider?



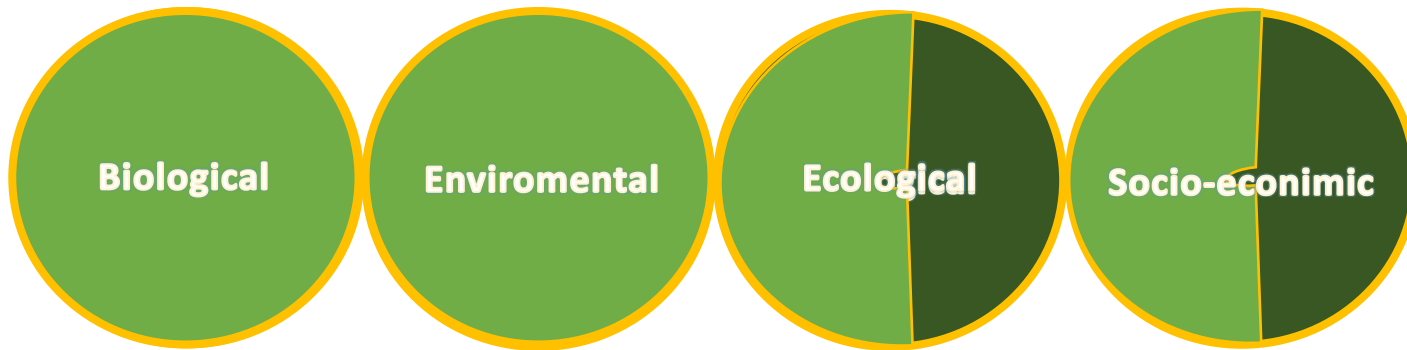
- **WHERE** will a re-introduction happen?



Restoring
White-
tailed
Eagles

How: *Do we go about a reintroduction of White-tailed Eagles to Wales?*

- **Reintroduction programmes** are strict, highly regulated licencing applications
- Licence applications include a **comprehensive assessment:**



Can eagles **biologically** survive in modern Wales?

Can the modern Welsh **enviroment** hold eagles?

Can eagles restore **ecological** functions and at what risks?

Do eagles fit into the **socio-economic** structures and ethics?



Guidelines for Reintroductions and Other Conservation Translocations



Durrell
Wildlife

Aim: Restore a breeding population of White-tailed Eagles in SE Wales



- **HOW** do we go about a re-introduction?



- **WHY** are we proposing a re-introduction for Wales?



- **WHAT** do we need to consider?

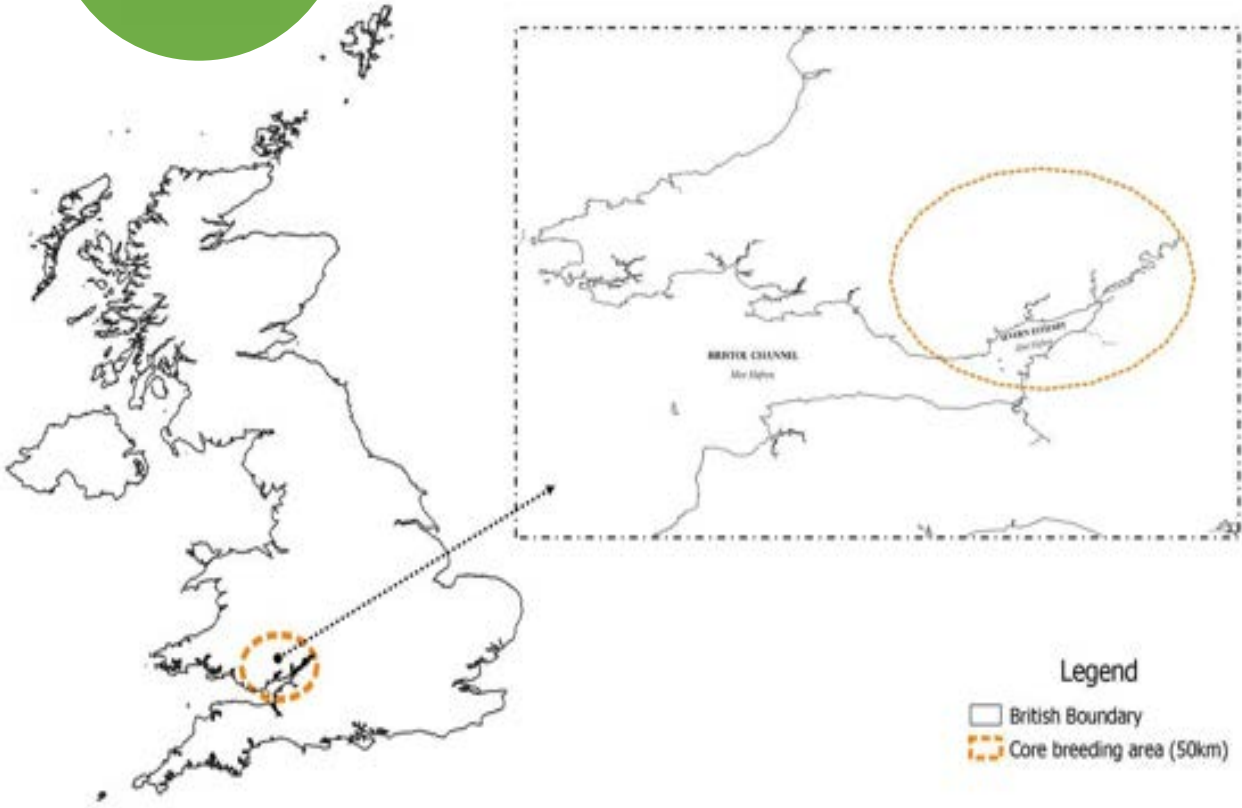


- **WHERE** will a re-introduction happen?



Restoring
White-
tailed
Eagles

Why Southeast Wales & Severn Estuary? ...



Welsh importance

Restoring a native-lost species and it's ecosystem functions back to former freshwater and marine landscapes

UK importance

Strengthen the population numbers in S. Britain and increase metapopulation mixing of small UK populations.

EUR importance

Securing the long-term sustainability of EUR population numbers, gene pools and metapopulation dynamics.

Restoring
White-
tailed
Eagles

An opportunity to restore health & resilience to aquatic habitats

Coastlines



Estuaries & Wetlands



Lakes & Rivers



Woodlands



Restoring healthy biodiversity, habitats & eco-resilience:

Trophic Cascades – keeping seasonal prey numbers in check

Meso-predator Release – balancing the food chain

Scavengers – natural clean up services

Trophic Process Linkers – transfer energy through the food chain

Resource Linkers – transport nutrients between aquatic and terrestrial habitats



© Philip
Bird

Restoring
White-
tailed
Eagles

An opportunity to bring wider conservation benefits ...

Coastlines



Estuaries & Wetlands



Lakes & Rivers



Woodlands



Bringing wider conservation benefits:

Bio-indicator species – useful management tools for habitat condition, disease, pollution and climate change.

Flagship species– Iconic species & icons to promote our special biodiversity & spaces

Umbrella species – SPA's to protect breeding & roosting areas provide secure spaces for other biodiversity

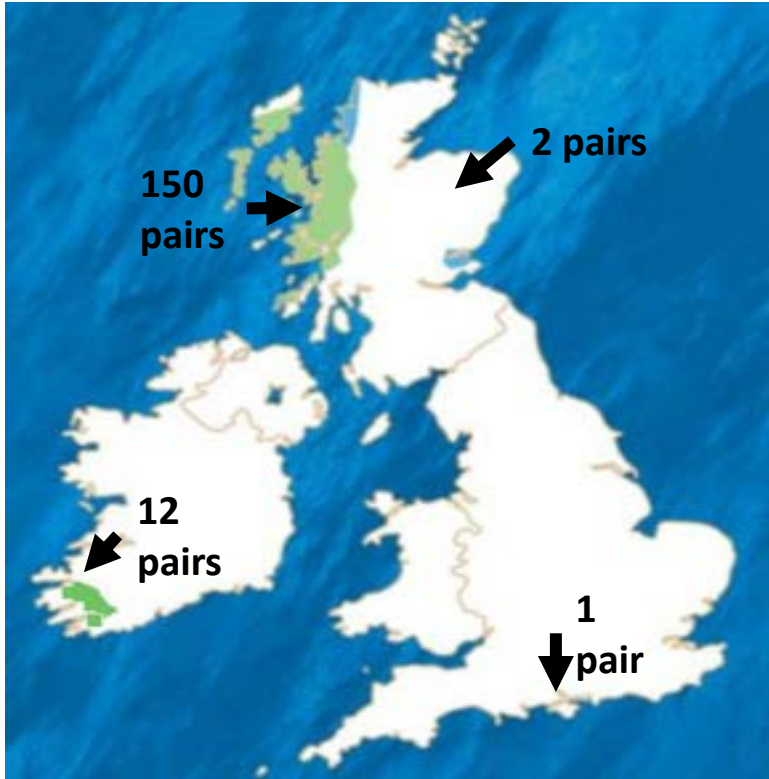


© Philip
Bird

Restoring
White-tailed
Eagles

Is the most acceptable option for the species

- Species biology**
- Natal philopatry
 - Long maturation age
 - Slow population growth
 - Natural colonisation to Wales 50-80 years



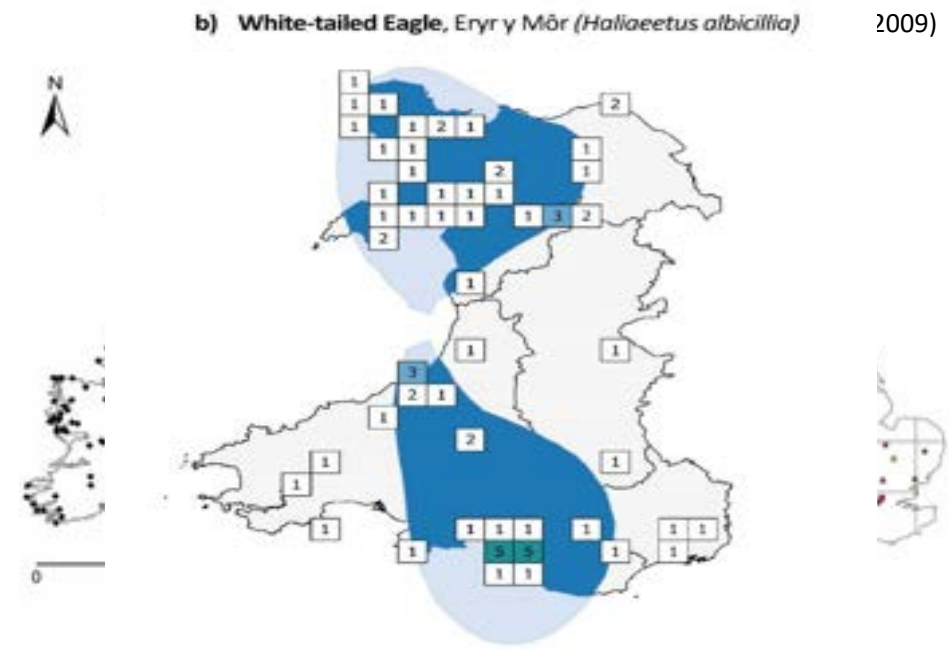
The breeding distribution of WTE's in Britain

Restoring
White-tailed
Eagles

Is the most acceptable option for the species

Species biology
 Natal philopatry
 Long maturation age
 Slow population growth
 Natural colonisation to
 Wales 50-80 years

Eagle History
 Widespread UK species
 Historic records in Britain/Wales
 Extinction cause reduced



Historic records of WTE's across Wales

Historic UK population estimated to between 1,000 – 1,400 pairs

Restoring
White-tailed
Eagles

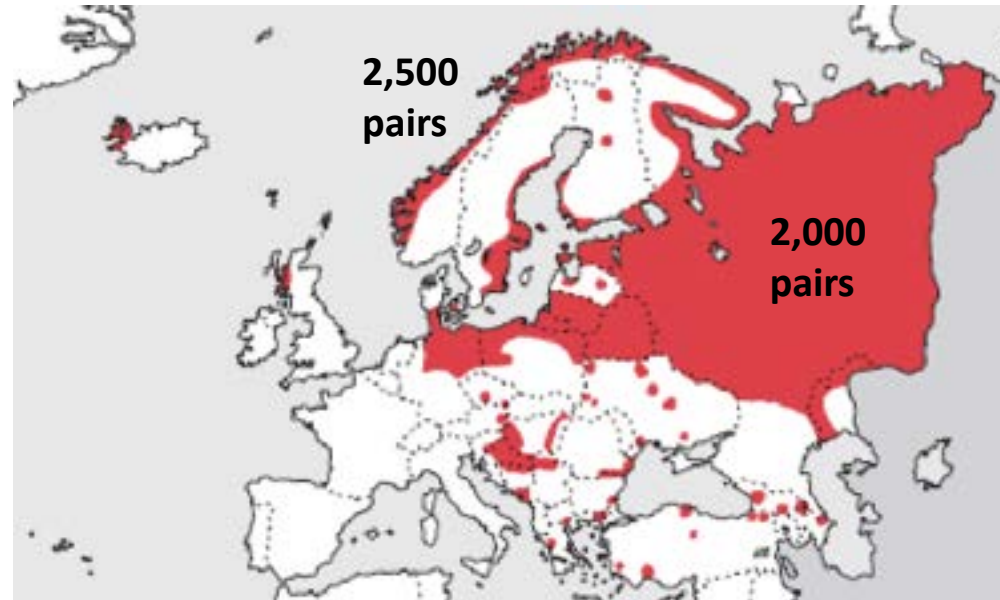
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- Natal philopatry
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Eagle History

- Widespread UK species
- Historic records in Britain/Wales
- Extinction cause reduced



White-tailed Eagle EUR breeding distribution

Source Population

- Norway breeding stronghold
- No risk**

Restoring
White-tailed
Eagles

Is the most acceptable option for the species

Species biology
 Natal philopatry
 Long maturation age
 Slow population growth
 Natural colonisation to
 Wales 50-80 years

Eagle History
 Widespread UK species
 Historic records in Britain/Wales
 Extinction cause reduced

White-tailed Eagles 1970s White-tailed Eagles 2021



Bald Eagles 1980s Bald Eagles 2016

Source Population
 Norway breeding
 stronghold
No risk

Not a novel concept
 UK reintroduction schemes
 EUR reintroduction schemes
 Bald Eagle restoration

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Wildlife

Aim: Restore a breeding population of White-tailed Eagles in SE Wales



- **HOW** do we go about a re-introduction?



- **WHY** are we proposing a re-introduction for Wales?



- **WHAT** do we need to consider?



- **WHERE** will a re-introduction happen?



Restoring
White-
tailed
Eagles

Is suitable for modern day Southeast Wales

Suitable habitat –

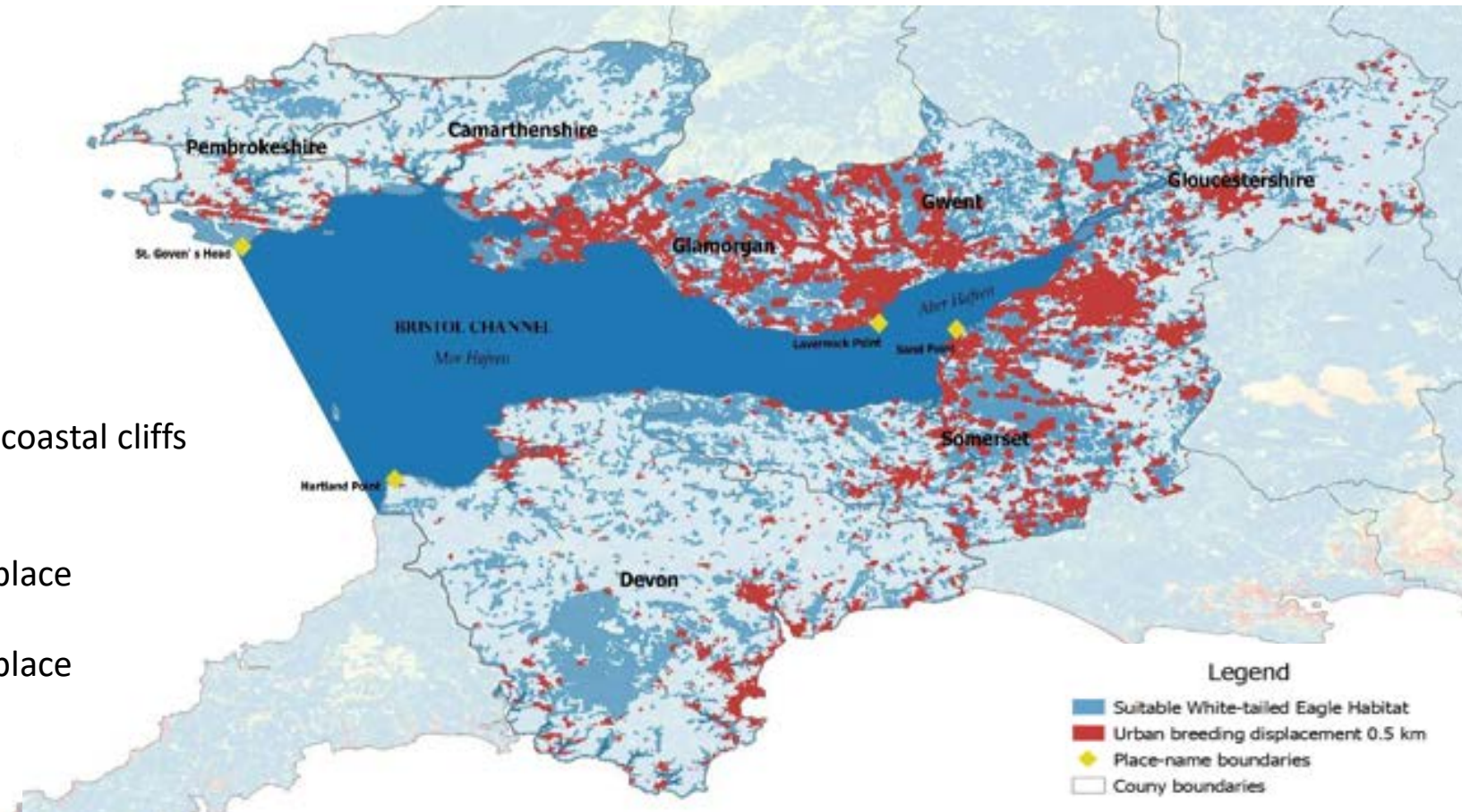
- **Severn Estuary** encloses 3,552 km² of habitat, supporting 9 – 38 pairs.
- **Bristol Channel** encloses 2,725 km² of habitat, supporting between 7 – 36 pairs.

Nesting habitat –

Large expanses of mature woodland cover and coastal cliffs

Available habitat –

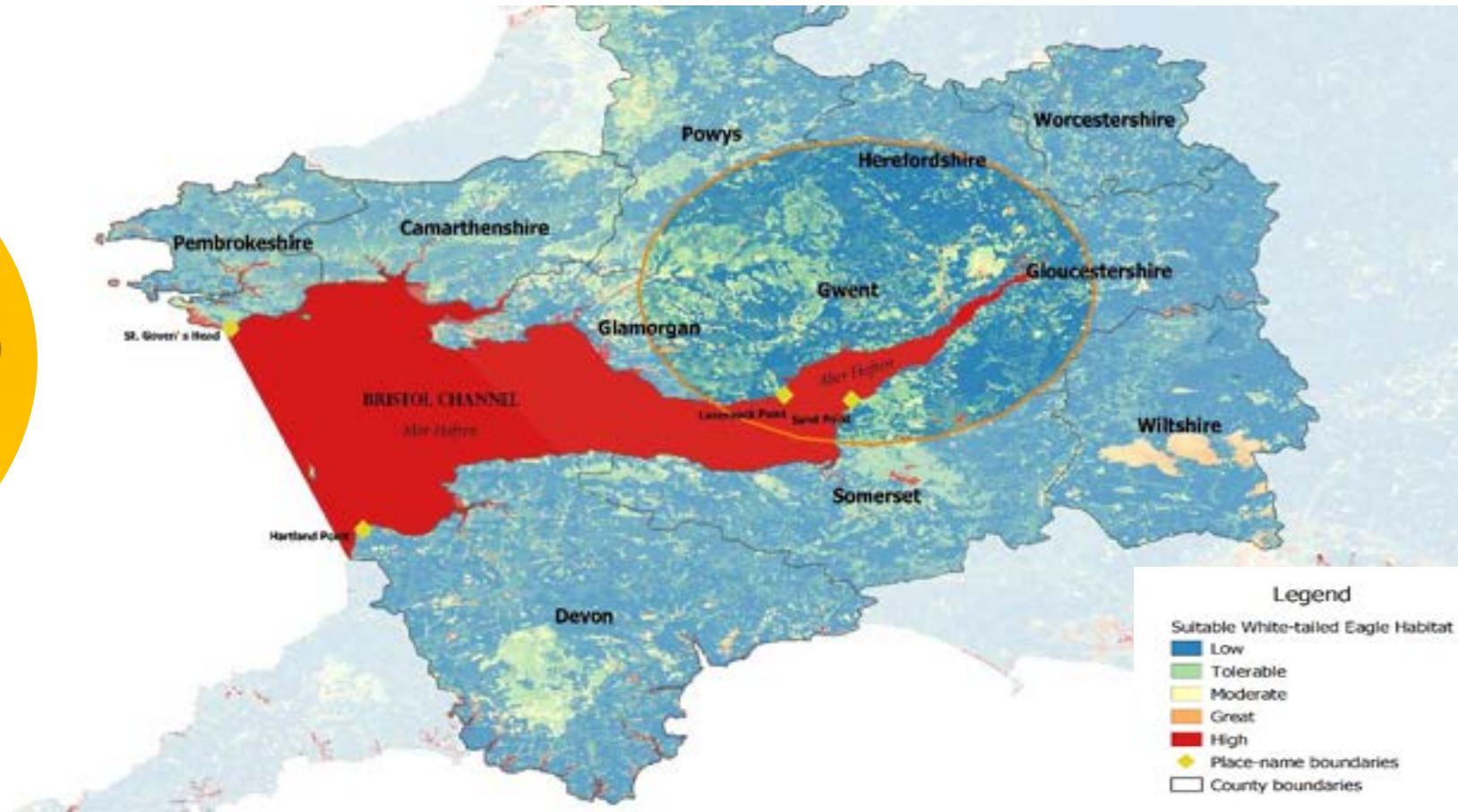
- **Severn Estuary** 462 km² is predicted to displace nesting birds, supporting 9 – 27 pairs.
- **Bristol Channel** 392 km² is predicted to displace nesting birds, supporting 7 – 21 pairs.



Restoring
White-tailed
Eagles

Is suitable for modern day Southeast Wales

Evidence suggests Southeast Wales is best placed to restore a small population of 6 – 10 breeding White-tailed Eagles over a 10-year timeframe.



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Wildlife

Aim: Restore a breeding population of White-tailed Eagles in SE Wales



- **HOW** do we go about a re-introduction?



- **WHY** are we proposing a re-introduction for Wales?



- **WHAT** do we need to consider?



- **WHERE** will a re-introduction happen?



Restoring
White-
tailed
Eagles

***On Search** for a suitable release site to anchor further research*

Release site selection Southeast Wales

- Worked with **>25** eNGO & private land owners
- Visited **>62** potential release sites
- Provided **28** White-tailed Eagle workshops

We are now in the process of final release site selection



*Welsh Government Rural Communities –
Rural Development Programme 2014-2020*



Restoring
White-tailed
Eagles

Ongoing regional assessments

Benefits and risks to protected species

Habitats Regulations Assessments (HRAs) – core dispersal within range
50km of release site:

- Map Special Designated Area's in core dispersal range
- Assess prey abundance (birds, mammals, fish & carrion)
- Identify species of conservation importance
- Evaluate the potential risk to species of conservation importance

EXAMPLE: Severn Estuary is designated for its winter bird assemblage



Berwick's
Swan
Cygnus columbianus bewickii



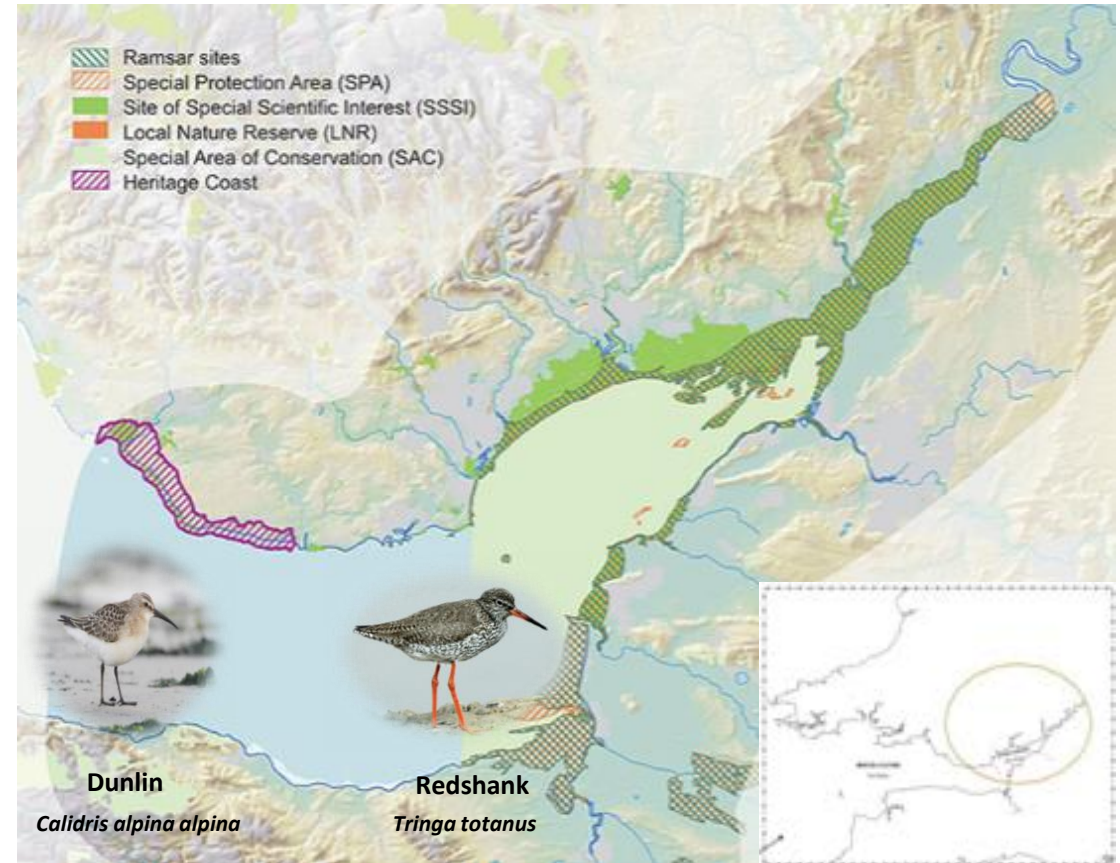
Shelduck
Tadorna tadorna



Greater white-fronted
goose
Anser albifrons albifrons



Gadwall
Anas strepera



Ongoing regional assessments

Restoring
White-tailed
Eagles

Community attitude towards White-tailed Eagles



Restoring
White-
tailed
Eagles

Is the most acceptable option for the species and Wales

- Welsh, UK and International conservation importance to the species
- Abundance of suitable habitat & resources for the species.
- Bring wider benefits to Wales via species and ecosystem restoration
- An opportunity to create healthier and resilient ecosystems
- Boost regional economies through increasing tourism & revenue
 - £4.9 – 8 million tourist spend
 - 110 jobs supported
 - £2.1 million local income supported



Work left to complete ...

- Confirm final location for release site [2022]
- Complete HRA's and prey abundance assessments [2023]
- Launch & complete social assessments [2023]
- Plan, design & implement release strategy & methods [2024]
- Complete & submit feasibility study & license [2024]



EAGLE REINTRODUCTION WALES

AILGYFLWYNO'R ERYR CYMRU

Restoring White-tailed Eagles to South-east Wales & the Severn Estuary

By Dr Sophie-lee Williams

Thank you for listening!

Dioch yn fawr am wrando!



Follow us *Dilyn wch ni*
www.eaglereintroductionwales.com
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Natural
Resources
Wales



Coastal Communities

Sustainable growth & nature recovery
in the Vale of Glamorgan

Coastal Community Capacity Building Fund 2023

Partneriaeth Natur Lleol
Bro Morgannwg
Vale of Glamorgan
Local Nature Partnership



A coastal scene with a sandy beach, buildings, and a cloudy sky. The sky is filled with soft, grey clouds. In the background, there are several buildings, including a large, multi-story building with a red roof. The beach is wide and sandy, with a few people visible in the distance. The water is calm and reflects the sky.

Coastal Community Capacity Building Fund Jan-March 2023

- Outputs:
 - Develop partnership
 - Initial nature recovery plan from ecological surveys and evidence gathering
 - Community engagement
 - sessions x3
 - Local economy engagement
 - sessions x2
- Report outlining delivery and further development needs

Glamorgan Coastal Forum

Working in Partnership

To deliver the twin goals of Nature Recovery and Sustainable Growth, working in collaboration, identifying opportunities for partnership and developing place-based visions and solutions for the issues facing coastal communities across Wales will be crucial.

No one organisation can achieve these goals alone, and mobilising action that is adapted to the needs of communities in place requires careful collaboration with the people affected.





Sustainable Growth

Issues we heard in community sessions

- **Nature** - a sense of the reduction in the diversity and abundance of nature was shared, as was the need to bring back nature by making more space for nature, protecting special places, and making farming more nature friendly. An idea of wild coastal strips was heard in multiple sessions.
- **Access** - another common theme, with stakeholders identifying problems with access and maintenance along the coast path, and the need for new and restored sections of path, and improved styles.
- **Pressure from visitors and development** - in the area was a common theme, with a need to both provide better facilities to discourage activities such as littering, but also to improve people's understanding of the area and police bad behaviour.



Sustainable Growth

Issues we heard in economy sessions

- **The cost of living crisis** - especially energy costs. Support to move to renewable energy was seen as something that would make a big difference. Local businesses want to buy more local food and become involved in more local schemes to support their area but are blocked from doing so by cost.
- **Nature degradation, development and a lack of facilities** - was also an issue heard in economy sessions. For example, developments threatening existing campsites. Reductions in SW prevailing wind (being replaced by Easterlies) has been affecting sailing business.
- The need for **economically sustainable work** was mentioned across sessions, with ideas including increasing marine skills, increasing transport and promotion for tourism.



Coastal Capacity Building

Several barriers impacting on coastal communities' capacity have been identified, including, but not limited to,

- a lack of long-term funding for projects; poor communication and a feeling of not being listened to;
- a lack of legacy or follow up activity following project completion;
- people within coastal communities not feeling that they have a knowledge or capacity to have a role to play in marine and coastal issues.





Coastal Ecosystem – Priorities in South Central

1. Broaden and reconnect coastal habitats, building extent and connectivity
2. Restore natural processes to improve condition
3. Identify nature-based solutions for coastal adaptation at suitable locations

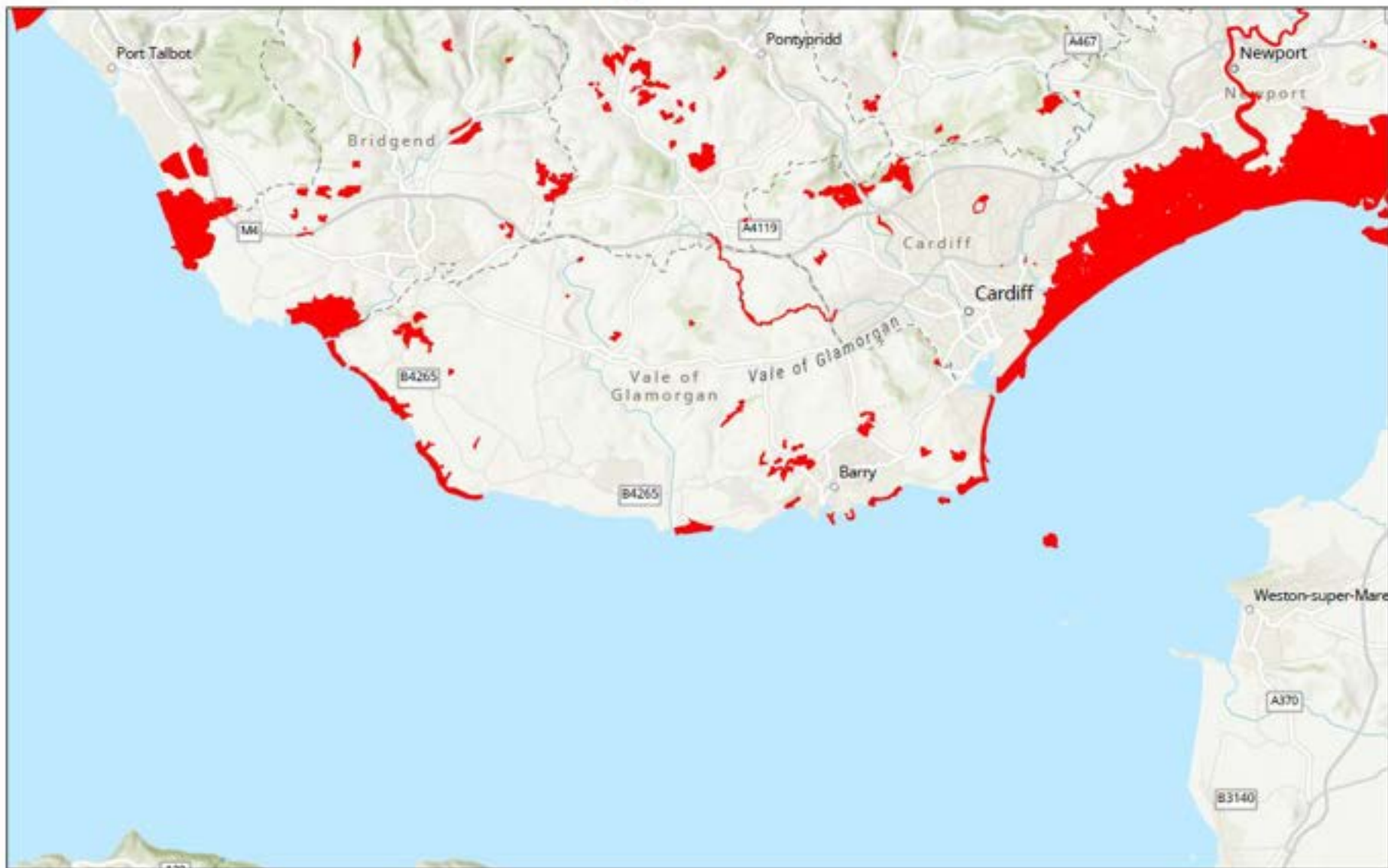


Species



Extent

Glamorgan Coast SSSIs

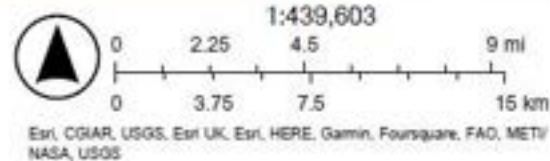


22/09/2022

Sites of Special Scientific Interest

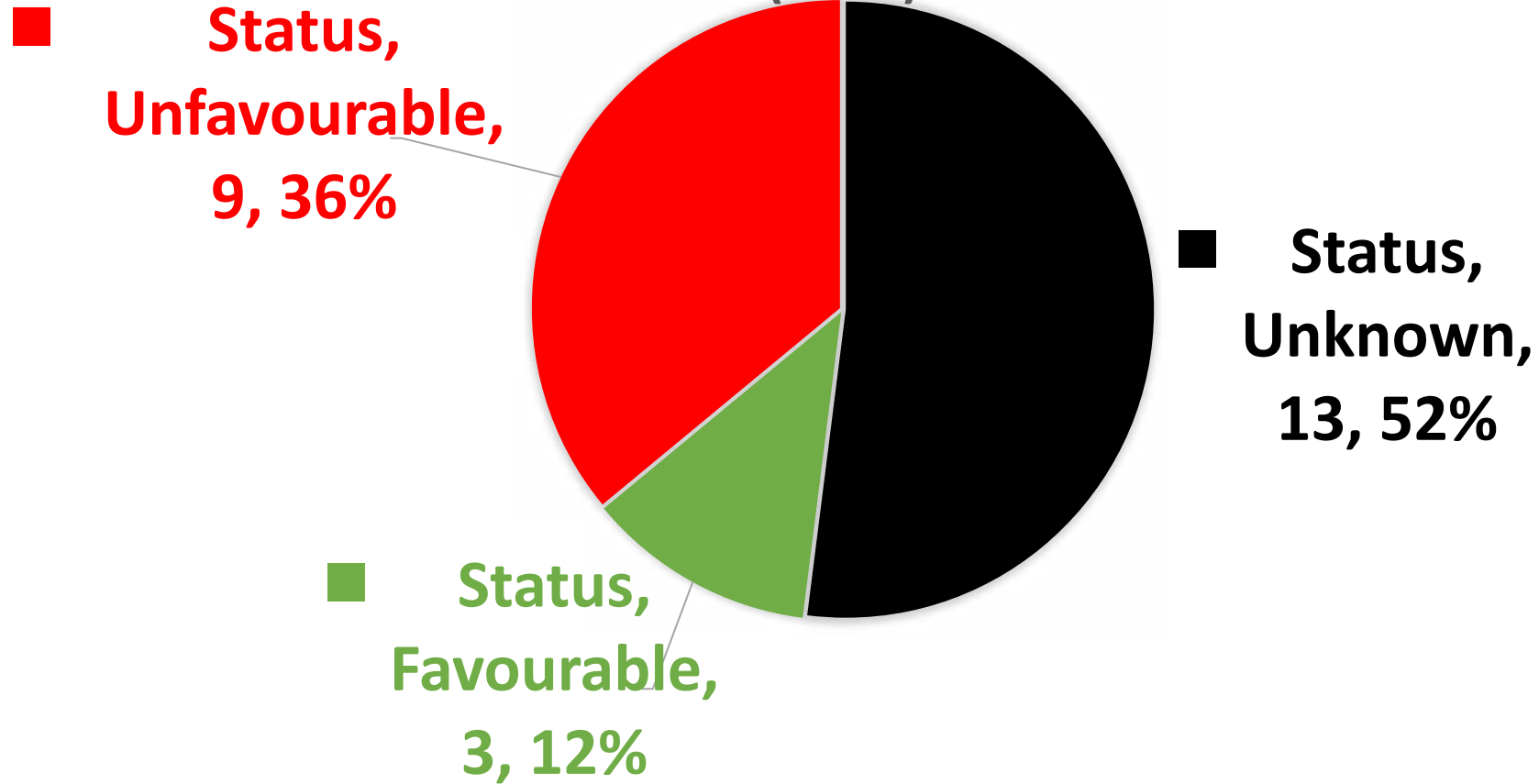
World Hillshade

 Sites of Special Scientific Interest

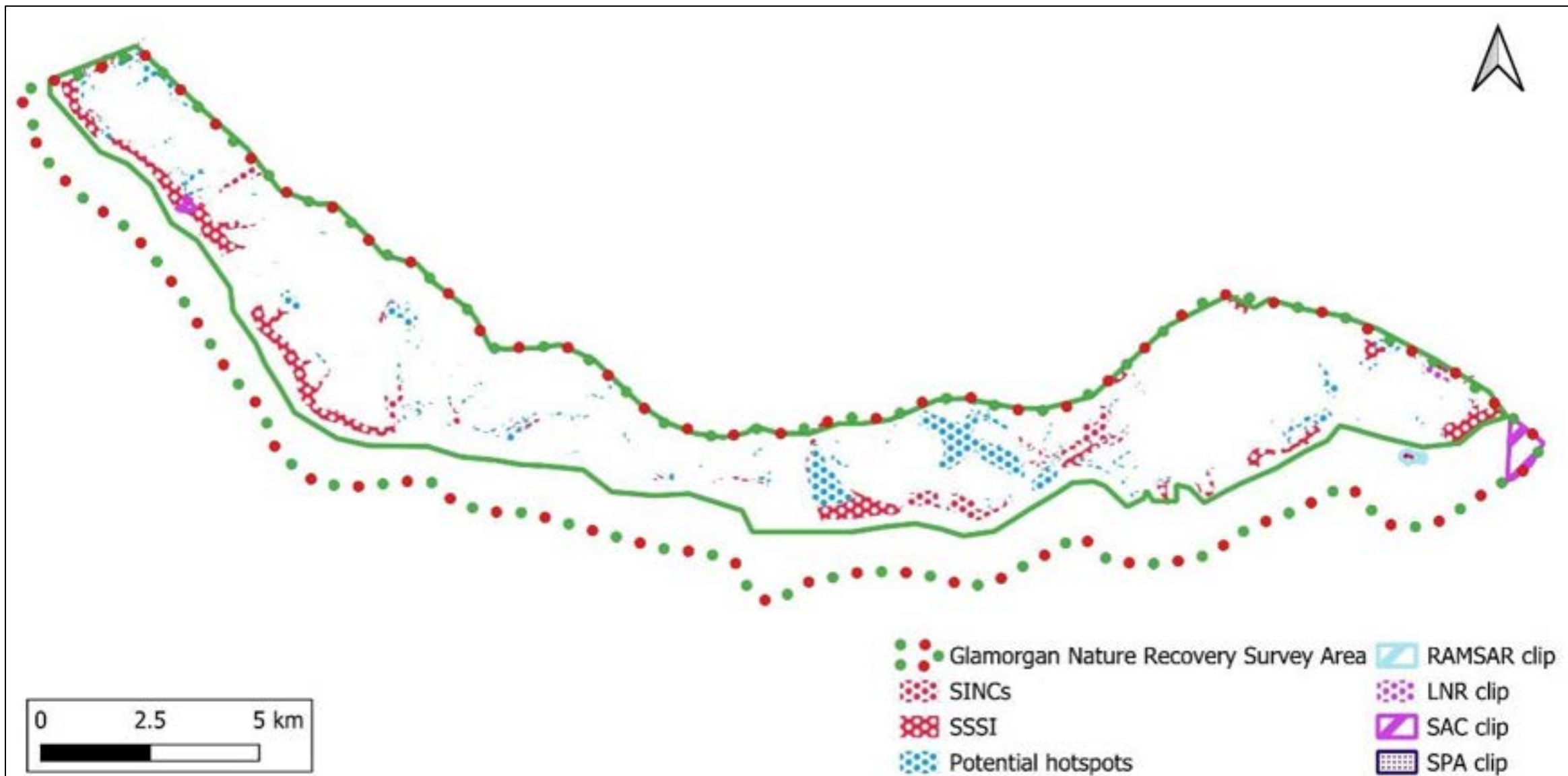


STATUS OF SSSI BIOLOGICAL FEATURES CONDITION

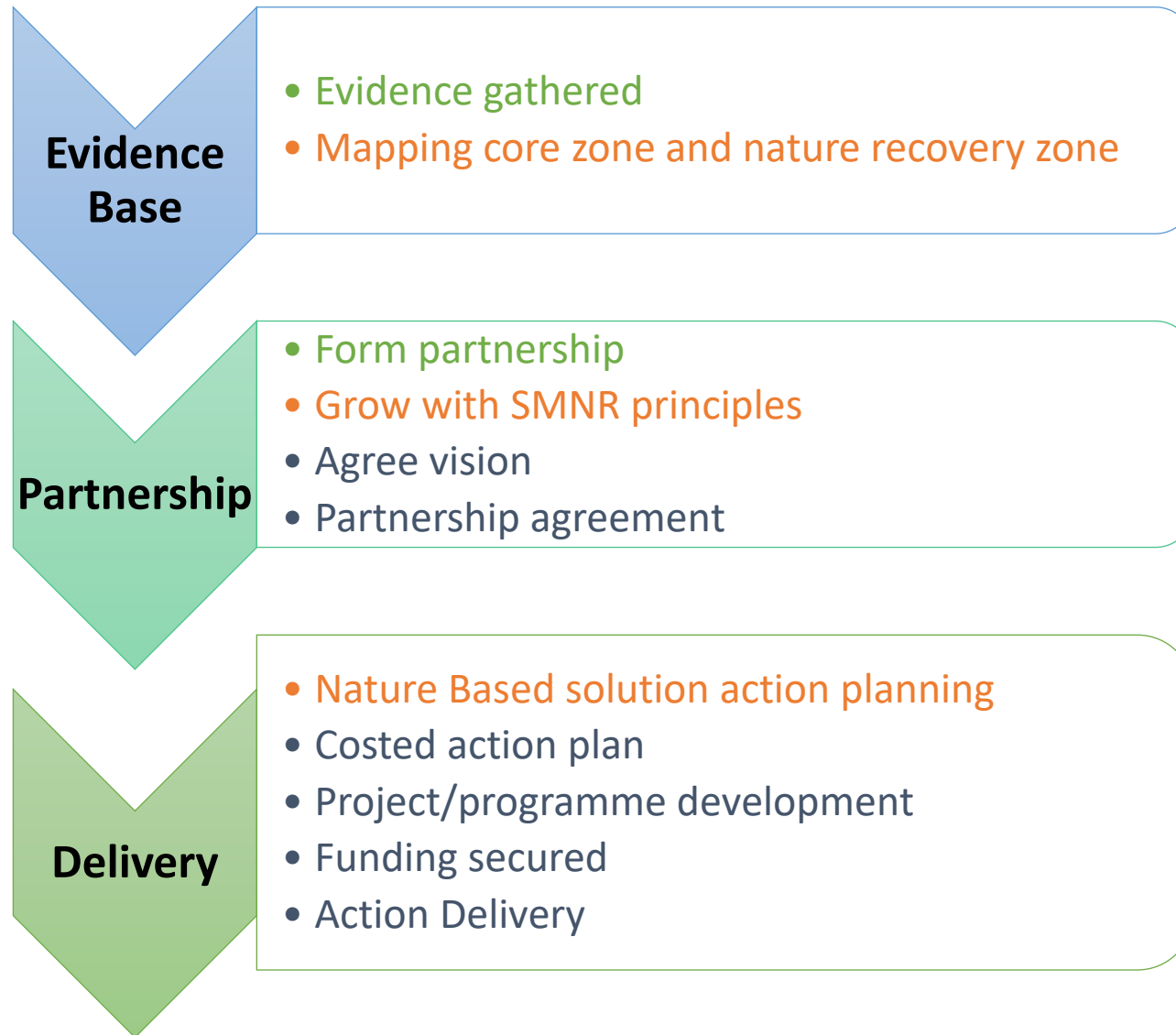
(2020)



Potential Connectivity



Vale of Glamorgan coast Nature Network



- What does success look like in 2023/24?
- Vale of Glamorgan coastal forum formed
 - Coastal community capacity building funding secured
 - Partnership expands and creates vision

Contact us...

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