



DIALOGUE
by DESIGN



NIA Public Dialogue Project – Overarching Report

March 2015

Final



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Executive summary

This report

This report provides an overarching summary of the findings from the Nature Improvement Area (NIA) Public Dialogue Project. Three NIAs participated in the Public Dialogue Project: this report attempts to draw common themes together, but given the different nature of the areas, much is not comparable. Further detail on the public dialogue work carried out by the three individual NIAs can be found in the separate individual reports¹.

The report includes reflections on the process of engaging with local publics on topics relating to nature conservation. These reflections are based upon our experiences as convenors of the three NIA Public Dialogue Projects. It deliberately does not duplicate the content of the evaluation report² which includes perspectives from a broader range of stakeholders to the dialogue project.

The NIA Public Dialogue Project

Nature Improvement Areas (NIAs) were introduced by the Government's Natural Environment White Paper to 'enhance and reconnect nature on a significant scale' in England. NIAs are designed to revitalise urban and rural areas by creating bigger, inter-connected networks of wildlife habitats to re-establish wildlife populations and help achieve nature's recovery. NIAs will improve the health of the natural environment to support food production, reduce flood risk and increase access to nature.

The twelve Nature Improvement Areas (NIAs)³, identified in 2011, were given an opportunity in late 2012 to apply for funds from Natural England to run a public dialogue project as part of their wider work to improve their local natural environment. Each of the NIAs for The Meres and Mosses of the Marches, Morecambe Bay Limestones and Wetlands and Nene Valley submitted bids for funding and were successful.

In February 2013 a partnership of Dialogue by Design⁴ and Icarus⁵, both independent providers of bespoke public and stakeholder dialogue processes, was appointed to assist the three NIAs in designing and delivering their public dialogue projects.

¹ <http://www.sciencewise-erc.org.uk/cms/nature-improvement-areas/>

² <http://www.sciencewise-erc.org.uk/cms/nature-improvement-areas/>

³ <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140711133551/http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/biodiversity/funding/nia/projects/default.aspx>

⁴ www.dialoguebydesign.co.uk

⁵ www.icarus.uk.net

The Public Dialogue Project ran from March 2013 until March 2015 and was funded and supported by Natural England, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) through the Sciencewise programme⁶ and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). Each NIA Public Dialogue Project received between £30 and £50ks worth of facilitator support and the NIA partnerships contributed considerable staff hours and venue costs.

The overarching aim⁷ of the NIA Public Dialogue Project was stated as:

To embed public dialogue into local decision making for the development of integrated biodiversity, landscape and ecosystems policy and practice, within the context of localism and Big Society.

The dialogue activity

Dialogue approaches and activities varied across the three projects.

The Meres and Mosses NIA project ran a series of sequential activities, enabling them to explore broad options before narrowing down on particular topics of interest. Initial scoping activities included a survey and a stakeholder workshop, followed by more focussed discussions at a series of public, stakeholder and mixed dialogue workshops.

The Morecambe Bay NIA project, on the other hand, chose to run a number of engagement activities concurrently. Activities included: public and stakeholder dialogues on the restoration of Winmarleigh Moss; a future vision for nature and farming in the Lyth Valley; the 'Aren't Bogs Brilliant?' engagement activity involving an art installation produced by local primary school children; and stakeholder engagement on the approach to restoration of Nichols Moss.

The Nene Valley NIA project also delivered a range of engagement activities running in parallel, including: two community panel processes to develop action plans for local areas of ecological importance; an interactive online space; training and guidance for other interested organisations; and wider engagement with youth and community groups.

For more details of the engagement methods and activities employed, please refer to the individual NIA Public Dialogue Project reports⁸.

⁶ Sciencewise is a programme of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to support public dialogue making involving science and technology issues www.sciencewise-erc.org.uk

⁷ Taken from the original ITT for the delivery contractor, December 2012

⁸ <http://www.sciencewise-erc.org.uk/cms/nature-improvement-areas/>

Common themes arising from the dialogue activities

The outputs from the dialogue processes and the views of the public across the three projects were as varied as the approaches taken. Examples of outputs were proposed Action Plans and visions for specific sites, and opportunity areas for the NIA. However, the following themes reoccurred across the sites:

- NIAs should provide education and information on nature conservation;
- An holistic approach to landscape management should be adopted;
- Water management and its associated risks is a key concern for local people; and
- There is an appetite across areas for members of the public to continue to be involved in the work of the NIAs.

Reflections on the dialogue projects

Dialogue by Design and Icarus explain a number of their main reflections on the dialogue projects for the consideration of future landscape and ecosystem partnerships and organisations looking to embed public dialogue into local decision-making:

- For broad topics such as landscape and nature conservation, the required length of time for a dialogue process is hard to predict. However, the two-year funding timescale for this project allowed for flexibility, adaptability and refinement within the dialogue process;
- When recruiting participants, it is best to start by developing a clear strategy, adopt a mixed methods approach and use incentives if required;
- Buy-in to the process can be achieved by engaging with landowners and other key stakeholders early, by having a clear route for any outcomes and, if there is a history of conflict in the area, by establishing independence from previous work;
- In terms of dialogue design, it is best to use a mixture of broad and deep engagement to get the most out of the dialogue process, bring in experts (in a managed way) to add richness to the discussions, and address anxieties about flood risk early to allow participants to move on to other topics;
- The dialogue teams found that the public can effectively contribute to deliberations on complex topics; and
- Rather than simply generating a list of concerns and issues, dialogue activities can be used to empower people to develop and deliver their own solutions to landscape and nature conservation issues, if they are enabled through information and ownership.

Case studies

Three case studies are included in Appendix A to help future partnerships envisage how they might utilise public dialogue processes in their own work:

- Using Google Earth tool to enable the public to look at issues on a landscape scale, Meres and Mosses NIA;
- Aren't bogs brilliant? Morecambe Bay NIA; and
- Production of a Guidance Document, Nene Valley NIA.

In addition, more information and detail on the methods used can be found in the individual NIA Public Dialogue Project reports.

Chapter 1: Introduction

1.1. NIA Public Dialogue Project

Nature Improvement Areas (NIAs) were introduced by the Government's Natural Environment White Paper to 'enhance and reconnect nature on a significant scale' in England. NIAs are designed to revitalise urban and rural areas by creating bigger, inter-connected networks of wildlife habitats to re-establish wildlife populations and help achieve nature's recovery. NIAs will improve the health of the natural environment to support food production, reduce flood risk and increase access to nature.

The twelve Nature Improvement Areas (NIAs)⁹, which were identified in 2011, were given an opportunity in late 2012 to apply for funds to run a public dialogue project as part of their wider work to improve their local natural environment. Each of the NIAs for the Meres and Mosses of the Marches, Morecambe Bay Limestones and Wetlands and Nene Valley submitted bids for funding and were successful.

In February 2013 a partnership of Dialogue by Design¹⁰ and Icarus¹¹, both independent providers of bespoke public and stakeholder dialogue processes, was appointed to assist the three NIAs in designing and delivering their public dialogue projects.

The Public Dialogue Project was funded and supported by Natural England, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) through the Sciencewise programme¹² and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). Each NIA Public Dialogue Project received between £30 and £50ks worth of facilitator support and the NIA partnerships contributed considerable staff hours and venue costs.

The overarching aim¹³ of the NIA Public Dialogue Project was stated as

To embed public dialogue into local decision making for the development of integrated biodiversity, landscape and

⁹ <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140711133551/http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/biodiversity/funding/nia/projects/default.aspx>

¹⁰ www.dialoguebydesign.co.uk

¹¹ www.icarus.uk.net

¹² Sciencewise is a programme of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to support public dialogue making involving science and technology issues www.sciencewise-erc.org.uk

¹³ Taken from the original ITT for the delivery contractor, December 2012

ecosystems policy and practice, within the context of localism and Big Society.

The key objectives¹⁴ for the elements of the dialogue covered by the Sciencewise grant are:

To embed public dialogue in the NIA planning process:

- To enable NIA partnerships to take evidence-based local policy decisions, dealing with varied and novel scientific and technical information and associated complexity and uncertainty informed by public opinion; and
- To develop, test and apply novel methods of engagement processes to encourage and enable public dialogue in decision making and planning for NIAs.

To embed public dialogue in national policy learning from NIAs:

- To learn from (and with) the NIA partnerships about how they present and deal with scientific and technical issues to enable local decision making;
- To encourage the public in the on-going development of integrated policies on locally-driven, evidence-based conservation and enhancement of landscape, biodiversity, ecological networks and ecosystem services; and
- To facilitate public participation in the evaluation of progress towards ecological and wider outcomes of the NIAs.

The Public Dialogue Project ran from March 2013 until the end of March 2015. The Project was independently evaluated throughout by 3KQ¹⁵.

1.2. The NIAs

Descriptions of the ecology of the three NIAs taking part in the Public Dialogue Project are provided below.

The Meres and Mosses of the Marches NIA

The Meres and Mosses of Shropshire and Cheshire are a forgotten mosaic of wetlands, important for some of the rarest wildlife in the UK. The area is the second largest natural network of ponds and wetlands in England (after the Lake District). The Meres and Mosses NIA contains over 200 meres and mosses (pools and bogs) and 13,000 hectares (ha) of peat

¹⁴ Taken from the original ITT for the delivery contractor, December 2012

¹⁵ www.3kg.co.uk

deposits. Over 2,000 ha of the NIA are designated as Ramsar¹⁶ sites of international importance¹⁷.

The Meres and Mosses NIA contains more than 1,900 species of invertebrates, including large heath butterfly, white-faced darter dragonfly, bog bush-cricket, raft spider and four-spotted chaser. Bird species include teal, mallard, curlew, skylark, meadow pipit, hobby and nightjar. There are also water vole and adder.

Morecambe Bay Limestones and Wetlands NIA

Morecambe Bay NIA is based on the limestone and wetland areas around Morecambe Bay. The area is a UK biodiversity hotspot with a unique transition of priority coastal and freshwater wetlands and limestone pavements, grasslands and woodlands, a wealth of designated wildlife sites (over 30% is designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) / Local Wildlife Site) and many high quality non-designated sites.

Nene Valley NIA

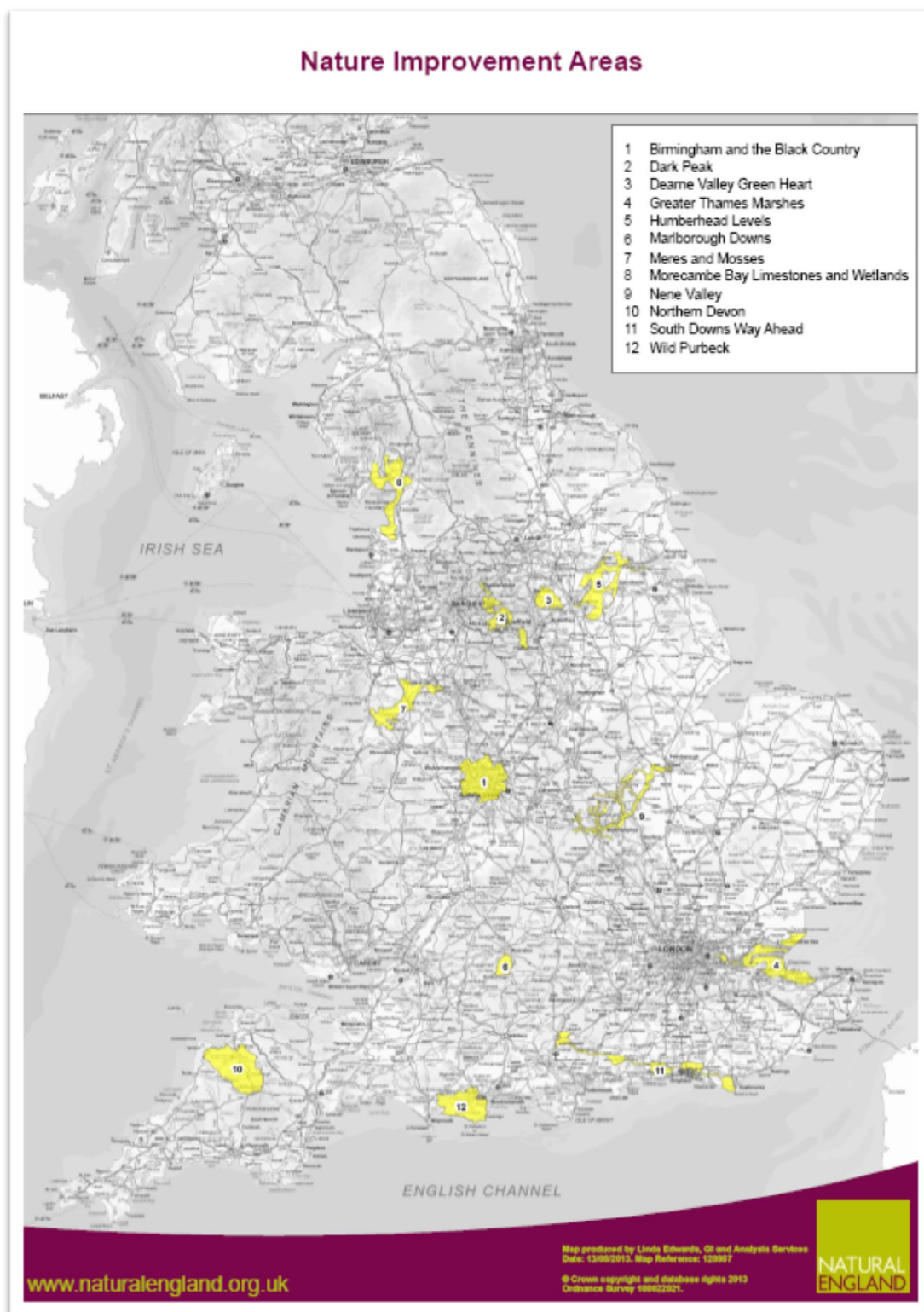
The Nene Valley NIA is re-creating and re-connecting natural areas along the River Nene and its tributaries from Daventry to Peterborough.

The Nene Valley offers a wide range of natural habitats, including wildflower meadows, wetlands, marshes, woodlands and wet grasslands. This diversity of habitats makes the valley one of the most important inland localities in England for a whole range of wildlife including kingfishers, herons, otters and grass snakes. It is also internationally important for its populations of over-wintering water birds such as golden plovers, bitterns, wigeon and gadwall. The core of the NIA, the Nene Valley floodplain between Northampton and Aldwinckle, has been classified as a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the European Birds Directive for this reason.

A map showing the location of all twelve NIAs is provided on the following page.

¹⁶ The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, called the Ramsar Convention, is an intergovernmental treaty that provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources.

¹⁷ www.cheshirewildlifetrust.org.uk



Chapter 2: The dialogue activities

This chapter summarises the dialogue activities delivered by each of the three NIAs as part of the Public Dialogue Project.

The activities in each of the three areas were outlined originally in their submissions to Natural England for funding and were accepted as the basis of their grant aided work through this project. When Dialogue by Design and Icarus were appointed as convenors, these proposals were refined, and they continued to evolve over the duration of the project. For more information about the activities and outputs from each of the three NIA Public Dialogue Projects please see the individual NIA Public Dialogue reports¹⁸.

2.1. The Meres and Mosses of the Marches NIA

As planning started and the team began to think about how they could use the results of a public dialogue process to inform decision-making, a more focussed purpose for the dialogue process emerged.

The purpose of the dialogue was to allow all involved to gain an understanding of:

- The **issues and opportunities** recognised by, and **priorities** of, people living and working in the Meres and Mosses area, in relation to the strapline “One Special Landscape”;
- The elements of the landscape which are **valued** and perceived as needing protection;
- What a layer of environmental governance – the NIA Partnership – and those who make / deliver policy here can **do** within our existing national policy and legal framework; and
- What can (and will) **civic society contribute** to making the Meres and Mosses NIA better for nature and for people.

The dialogue project consisted of the following activities:

Scoping the conversation about Meres and Mosses NIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey to understand what landscape elements are valued and what needs protecting (more than 260 responses)
Preparing, informing and stimulating the dialogue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of think pieces¹⁹ showing the perspectives of a rural economist, an ecologist and a representative of the farming sector

¹⁸ <http://www.sciencewise-erc.org.uk/cms/nature-improvement-areas/>

¹⁹ Namely the views of expert individuals responding to a similar set of questions, reflecting their views and the perspectives of their specialism, in this case, ecology, agriculture and the rural economy / rural development

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A stakeholder workshop to seek their views on what policies and plans can be influenced by the public and how, and what influencers and decision makers want to know about public attitudes • Preparing stimulus materials and tools, including interpretation and adaptation of ecological research undertaken for the NIA Partnership to create a Google Earth tour²⁰ (see Appendix A)
Exploring the views of people with a broad range of interests from across the area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruitment • Delivery of ten public dialogue workshops with more than 100 people in total
Exploring options for delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second stakeholder workshop
Two-way conversation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mixed public and stakeholder workshop
Reporting and dissemination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Film 'Views in a landscape'²¹

A timeline for the Meres and Mosses NIA public dialogue activities is provided in Appendix B.

Findings

On an individual level, lack of knowledge was perhaps the most significant barrier to more active involvement of the public in contributing to or supporting landscape scale management of the Meres and Mosses. On the whole, before taking part in the dialogue, as illustrated by the quotes provided below, people were quite unaware how rare and threatened some of the habitats and species in the Meres and Mosses. They were also unaware of a need to intervene, nor what personal contribution or action they could make to improve conditions for nature.

A consistent message from participants was that schools, colleges, and informal / vocational training providers should place greater emphasis on understanding local ecological systems, particularly hydrology and water management and how environmental, agricultural, planning and other policies need to be followed and enforced in order to protect natural systems.

Participants also expressed a desire for improved balance between very local approaches to planning, and also wider green infrastructure management and enhancement, and national priorities. They felt the NIA Partnership should present a clear vision, and its membership

²⁰ To see a part of the Google Earth tour please watch the film at <https://vimeo.com/118469134>

²¹ <https://vimeo.com/118469134>

should provide an appropriately influential layer of governance to enable it to have more “clout”.

For more information about the Meres and Mosses NIA Public Dialogue Project please see the individual report which can be found at <http://www.sciencewise-erc.org.uk/cms/nature-improvement-areas/> .

2.2. Morecambe Bay Limestones and Wetlands NIA

The Morecambe Bay strand of the NIA Public Dialogue Project focussed around two key topics²²:

- The restoration of lowland raised bogs; and
- The need to develop a shared vision for the future management of natural assets in the Lyth Valley in Cumbria, prompted by likely changes in the management of water in the area.

Underpinning these issues was the need for informed conversations around the increased risk (actual or perceived) of flooding or wetting of land.

Through effective dialogue with local people and stakeholders, this project aimed to help the NIA in achieving its ambition to enhance conservation and encourage shared visions for nature.

The project was delivered through four distinct work streams; a brief description of each is given below:

Nichols Moss restoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement of stakeholders (landowners) to establish a shared approach to the restoration of lowland raised bog near Witherslack in Cumbria • (Planned public dialogue based on a draft management plan developed by the landowners has not proved possible within the duration of the Public Dialogue Project)
Winmarleigh Moss restoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement of stakeholders (landowners, shooting syndicates and neighbouring landowners) and dialogue with members of the public regarding the planned restoration of lowland raised bog near Winmarleigh, Lancashire
Aren't Bogs Brilliant?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement of the public through delivery of a temporary art installation produced by local primary school children and installed on Foulshaw Moss, a restored lowland raised bog in Cumbria. Dialogue was structured around the positive value

²² Taken from the Morecambe Bay Limestones and Wetlands NIA bid to NE for funding

of the Moss as a local natural asset. (See Appendix A)	
Lyth Valley Dialogue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structured dialogue with partner agencies, landowners / farmers and members of the public designed to develop a shared future vision for nature and for farming in the Lyth Valley in Cumbria, an area that may potentially experience significant changes to water management in the near future

A timeline for the Morecambe Bay NIA dialogue activities is provided in Appendix C.

Findings

The engagement work at **Nichols Moss** has highlighted important issues for future engagement on multi-ownership landscapes where restoration is planned:

- Split ownership within a landscape that needs to be treated as one unit for the restoration presents significant challenges. Identifying a route that can bring landowners together constructively is pivotal to progression.
- Past dialogue between individual landowners and public bodies will have an influence on how individual landowners consider involvement in a shared scheme. This suggests there is a value in adopting a broader, more comprehensive view when considering ongoing engagement with individual landowners.
- Public dialogue is unlikely to be a first step in relation to land in multiple private ownerships. Only when those landowners have reached a place where they are comfortable with a shared understanding of their role with regard to the wider landscape will it be possible to consider opening up the conversations to include the public in discussions about the future of that landscape.
- Identifying individual concerns across a multi-owner site is extremely valuable, though the sooner it is possible to move towards a shared group process, the more likely the potential is for successful action.
- It is important to understand the local dynamics and informal positions of influence within a collection of individual landowners in order to make informed choices as to approaches to engagement.
- The involvement of an independent facilitator enabled open and honest conversations with the landowners and helped Natural England to adopt a complementary role. This approach has been effective in (re)establishing good quality relationships with the landowners and generated the potential for a shared scheme.
- Concerns related to the management of water, and perceived risks of increased wetting to land are the principle issue for landowners in considering restoration plans.

At **Winmarleigh Moss** the dialogue process highlighted the value of providing good quality information within a structured two-stage process designed to gather and respond to concerns and questions from the public. The nature of those concerns and questions has been

consistent with past NIA experience in the restoration of bogs. The findings from the Winmarleigh activity are:

- Where a proposed scheme of works has been developed, it is important to recognise the nature of the dialogue as essentially one of consultation and information giving, rather than one offering any high level influence on design. This will guide the chosen structure of the work and ensure participants are not misled as to the degree of influence available through the process.
- The involvement of a small local planning group can be important in enabling a facilitator to make the correct choices regarding the structure and approach for the dialogue activity.
- Using postal invites for the public can be reasonably effective, though recruitment may be enhanced through a greater presence of publicity in and around the villages involved, and by repeating communication between sessions.
- Communication that is simple, non-technical and non-scientific is effective in conveying information and enabling public understanding.
- A two-stage approach with structured sessions is an effective means of gathering and responding to the concerns of local people. The process identified themes within the concerns of local people and allowed the Wildlife Trust to respond directly to those concerns. It also created opportunities for the Wildlife Trust staff and local people to establish the foundations for ongoing conversations that would be necessary or desirable during the implementation of the restoration plans.
- Anxieties about the movement of water and the perceived risks of flooding and increased wetting of neighbouring land are prominent issues raised by local people.

With the **Aren't Bogs Brilliant?** project we found that using arts approaches as an engagement tool in natural settings can be highly effective. The work has demonstrated that positive conversations with the public around restored Moss sites are possible and useful. Other conclusions from the project are:

- The combination of arts approaches and working with primary school children is an effective means of attracting members of the public to visit a bog. The majority of those who attended the launch day had not visited the site before.
- The feedback from the public indicated a willingness to re-visit Foulshaw Moss and other sites as a result of encountering the Moss for the first time. Members of the public were interested in the wildlife of the Moss and valued the natural peace and tranquillity of the site.
- Well-structured opportunities for dialogue that are positively framed can generate constructive contributions from members of the public regarding access and wildlife and increased understanding of how water works within a bog system.

The work in the **Lyth Valley** has demonstrated that it is possible to engage in dialogue constructively with local people around ambitions for nature against a background of tension. Using a 'future-basing' approach enabled participants in the dialogue to avoid discussions

regarding the drainage of the land in the valley and consider positively what the future might look like. Other conclusions it is possible to draw from the Lyth Valley dialogue are:

- Plain, non-technical, non-scientific language enabled wide ranging and inclusive discussions.
- A consciously positive approach to the dialogue activity, and one that was both pro-nature and pro-farming, offered all involved a positive starting / entry point to the conversations.
- A themed approach was effective in guiding and managing the discussions.
- A positive and ambitious vision for the future, shaped by conservation agencies, farmers and the public, has been created.
- The public involved acknowledged the needs of the farming community.
- The farming community acknowledged the needs of nature and the benefits of working with conservation bodies.
- The public have anxieties regarding the role of tourism in the valley, but are ambitious in the gains they would like to see for nature.

For more information about the Morecambe Bay NIA Public Dialogue Project please see the individual report which can be found at <http://www.sciencewise-erc.org.uk/cms/nature-improvement-areas/> .

2.3. Nene Valley NIA

The intention of the Nene Valley NIA Public Dialogue Project²³ was to give local people a sense of ownership in finding solutions to address access issues in the NIA, thus contributing to the sustainable delivery of those solutions both during and beyond the end of the original NIA funding period from Defra.

The public dialogue was overseen by a planning group – a sub group of the NIA Partnership Board - and included members of relevant organisations supportive of and willing to contribute to the dialogue process (RSPB, Wildlife Trust, Natural England, University of Northampton and River Nene Regional Park).

The planning group worked in partnership with the dialogue facilitator across five work streams:

Community Panel pilot -
Northampton Washlands

- Testing a Panel approach to assessing site issues and potential

²³ Original bid to NE for funding and Nene Valley NIA final Public Dialogue Action Plan

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involving 12 members of the public recruited using a mixed-methods approach, with no incentivisation The panel met four times and drafted out an action plan for the Washlands
Second Community Panel process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involving 14 members of the public, recruited with no incentivisation The panel met six times for detailed deliberations, resulting in a draft action plan for the two adjoining sites of Summer Leys and Mary's Lake. The action plan included recommendations for the future of the site
Interactive website ²⁴ to provide a space and mechanism for online dialogue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launched and used by the University of Northampton as part of their cultural ecosystem services mapping exercise Used by the dialogue facilitator to create debate around key issues on the sites which were the focus of the second Community Panel
Training and guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To share learning from the public dialogue process, a training session was held for organisations from the Nene Valley NIA A comprehensive guidance document²⁵ was created, providing background information about public dialogue and a detailed description of the Nene Valley Community Panels process. (See Appendix A)
Wider engagement with youth and community groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The RSPB led on two sets of activities that engaged more broadly with youth and community groups: PloverFest and an arts project

A timeline for the Nene Valley NIA dialogue activities is provided in Appendix D.

Findings

The key areas of interest included in the Northampton Washlands Community Panel's Action Plan were:

- Options for addressing dog disturbance in the basin area through revising current access restrictions and / or formalising alternative dog walking areas;

²⁴ www.nenevalleynia.org/

²⁵ <http://www.sciencewise-erc.org.uk/cms/nature-improvement-areas/>

- Creating a mechanism for ongoing volunteer involvement on the site through the formation of a 'Friends of' group;
- Developing mechanisms for surveillance of anti-social behaviour on site;
- Educating users about the importance of the site and why certain access restrictions are in place;
- Pursuing professional expertise to inform the development of habitat improvements on site; and
- Understanding more about the site's role with regard to flood management, both currently and into the future.

The key areas of interest included in the Summer Leys and Mary's Lake Community Panel's Action Plan were:

- Strategic actions: liaison with the owners of Mary's Lake; develop a strategic zoning plan for the valley; establish a process for monitoring species and site use and sharing this data with the public; ecological review of Summer Leys and Mary's Lake; develop citizen's science; strategy for dealing with unseasonal flooding; and management of alien species.
- Facilities actions: review the site supervision; secure a site warden; more dog poo bins; investigate the scope for a Dog Control Zone order; re-start the 'Friends' group; add car park litter bin; implement a limited 'stick and flick' policy; improve the feeding station; and improve the sand martin site.
- Communications actions: improved signage; develop user code of conduct; advice to micro light pilots; arrange more events; work with local schools.
- Access actions: publicising alternative locations; bramble culling; re-marking the parking bays for disabled users; improving access for people with disabilities; improve surfacing in places; and addressing impact of the proposed cycle path.

For more information about the Nene Valley NIA Public Dialogue Project please see the individual report which can be found at <http://www.sciencewise-erc.org.uk/cms/nature-improvement-areas/>.

Chapter 3: Common themes arising from the dialogue activities

This section summarises the main themes arising from the dialogue outputs across the three NIA projects.

In order to gather these, each of the NIA leads and the facilitators from each project discussed together the outcomes of the projects and looked for any common themes. The outputs detailed in the reports and follow up discussions, where required, were used to illustrate the identified themes further.

Given the differences in dialogue approach, landscape and participants in each area, the outputs from the dialogue activities were varied in focus and level of detail. Where possible we draw together common themes across the projects, but many more specific points were raised within individual projects. For more detailed analysis of outputs from the activities in each area, please refer to the individual dialogue project reports.

3.1. NIAs should provide education/information on nature conservation

Participants were keen for NIAs to provide more informative and educational activities.

In the Nene Valley, the Summer Leys / Mary's Lake Community Panel proposed educational activities on site and the need for more on site explanation about why certain behaviours (such as dogs off leads) were not encouraged.

Meres and Mosses dialogue participants recommended that the NIA should see how it can work with schools, especially secondary schools, to enable them to use more local examples and resources within the national curriculum. This will help to raise awareness of the needs and role of nature in sustaining and enhancing each NIA and in turn to help promote behaviour change.

In the Morecambe Bay discussions the public was interested to know the impacts of proposed restoration plans on existing species. They were particularly interested in the 'trade-offs' in terms of wildlife likely to be lost or displaced by the changes versus the species that would benefit / be encouraged by the work.

3.2. Adopt a holistic approach to landscape management

The importance of looking after the landscape as a whole was discussed in all three NIAs. In the Nene Valley project, there was an awareness that varying access levels across vulnerable areas may allow issues to bounce from one site to another. For this reason the Nene Valley

project decided to combine two potential Community Panels for adjacent sites into one Panel, and one of the recommendations within that Panel's Action Plan²⁶ was for the NIA to take a valley-wide approach by developing a zoning plan.

In the Morecambe Bay discussions around the vision for the Lyth Valley, a strong theme emerged that habitats need to be well connected to one another and concerns were raised around the potential impact on wildlife if tourism levels were raised.

The need for a better understanding amongst all stakeholders and the public about the complexities of land management practices and the role that farmers and land owners can / do play in helping protect and manage the environment was raised in the Meres and Mosses Public Dialogue.

3.3. Water management is a concern for local people

All three NIAs found water management and its associated risks to be a topic of particular interest and /or concern to local people.

The Morecambe Bay project showed that wetting and flooding is one of the most significant concerns to local people, and that there was a general level of mistrust held by people regarding information about how water behaves. The potential impact of restoration activities on localised flooding and neighbouring land was an issue raised by both of the NIAs looking at mosses – Meres and Mosses and Morecambe Bay.

The Nene Valley dialogue project attempted to address this gap in public knowledge. The Northampton Washland community panel raised detailed questions which were passed to the Environment Agency for a response (the Environment Agency were not represented at the meetings, but are a Nene Valley NIA partner). Responses were relayed back by email as soon as they were received. These discussions led to Panel members having a better grasp of the complex issues inherent in flood risk management (and specifically the operation of the Washland as a flood storage reservoir) but there was still a sense that this was an area where they could make little headway in terms of influencing policy.

Within the Meres and Mosses dialogue it was noted that people need to have a better understanding of how important water and hydrology is in the Meres and Mosses. Water connects the naturally isolated habitats and hence issues of water quantity and quality are relevant to appropriate management. This confirms the need for collaborative, landscape – or at least catchment - scale approaches, rather than more restricted site-based interventions.

²⁶ See Appendix J of Nene Valley NIA Public Dialogue report at <http://www.sciencewise-erc.org.uk/cms/nature-improvement-areas/>

3.4. Requests to be further involved

There was an appetite across the dialogue projects for members of the public to continue to be involved in the work of the NIA. In both of the Nene Valley Community Panels and in the final public and stakeholder workshop of the Meres and Mosses dialogue process there were discussions about the potential for a 'Friends Of' group.

Members of the public indicated through anecdotal evidence and their evaluation forms that they enjoyed the experience of the deliberations about the sites / issues and wanted to continue to have an ongoing role of some sort. In fact, in the Nene Valley project a few of the Community Panel members were willing to give up their time to accompany the facilitator to the NIA Board meeting to present their Action Plan.

Stakeholders and the members of the public involved have gained insight into the perspectives and dilemmas of the conservation agencies and the landowners, and they have become advocates for those sites/ the NIA. This demonstrates that there is an interest in the general public to be involved in such things and perhaps what's needed is that initial investment of time where they feel valued for the contribution they are making.

Chapter 4: Reflections on the dialogue process

This chapter outlines some main reflections on the dialogue process, from the perspective of the dialogue convenors, for the consideration of future landscape and ecosystem partnerships and organisations looking to embed public dialogue into local decision-making. This learning is based upon our experiences throughout the project as convenors of the three NIA Public Dialogue Projects. The three facilitators, project manager for Dialogue by Design, project manager for Natural England and the Dialogue Engagement Specialist from Sciencewise had catch up calls at least once a month throughout the project. Progress and any issues identified were discussed in these meetings and the Dialogue by Design project manager made a note of any learning that would be relevant for this report. This report deliberately does not duplicate the content of the evaluation report which includes perspectives from a broader range of stakeholders to the NIA Public Dialogue Project.

4.1. Length of the dialogue process

It's hard to predict how long a dialogue process will take for landscape-wide discussions

As convenors of engagement projects, we tend to think of dialogues as discrete projects, often with particular deadlines and funding windows. In reality, for landscape partnerships dealing with the natural environment, their dialogue with the public should be an ongoing relationship. Discussions may shift in focus as particular issues are raised and dealt with, but engagement does not stop when a particular project stops. It is easier to apply normal project timetables to site or issue specific dialogue processes. However, if partnerships wish to ask very open questions of the public then it is extremely hard to predict how iterative and how long that dialogue process may need to be.

A longer funding timescale can allow greater flexibility and adaptability within a dialogue process

The length of time the Public Dialogue Project funding was available for (two years) allowed the NIAs to:

- Adapt their original dialogue programme plans as their understanding of which issues / sites were suitable for a dialogue process, or indeed even required a dialogue process, developed (particularly for the Morecambe Bay and Nene Valley NIAs);
- Learn from dialogue work carried out earlier in the programme;
- Adapt their plans to take account of shifting priorities and opportunities within the wider NIA programme; and
- Allow the dialogue process to start from an open position ('blank sheet of paper') and then gradually use input from the public and stakeholders to develop the scope of the

dialogue, widening up the discussions before narrowing them back down again. (This was particularly the case for the Meres and Mosses NIA).

Whilst the NIAs did not achieve every goal set out in their original funding bids, they made invaluable progress towards achieving those goals, many of which cannot be rushed. It is our observation that the three NIAs are now much better equipped to include public dialogue in future work: they have a better understanding of what can be achieved through a dialogue process and the level of resource required for this from sponsoring organisations; they have also developed good relationships with a number of landowners, stakeholders, partner organisations and members of the public. It is hoped that the latter will help foster buy-in to future projects and be of benefit to the Partnerships' ongoing work.

4.2. Recruiting participants

Be clear who the recruitment is targeting and why

All three NIAs tried to engage with more than just the 'usual suspects' within their dialogue processes and they employed a wide variety of recruitment methods to achieve this (see Case Study 1 in the appendix A). It is important to define who you want to engage with and why. In some sparsely populated areas it was almost impossible to find any members of the public who did not have a pre-existing relationship with the public agencies and / or the local environment and its issues. All three NIAs felt it was important to include those that neighbour the area being discussed, as well as those that live within it.

Use a mixed methods approach to recruitment

Different recruitment methods included:

- Utilising existing contacts of the NIA partnership member organisations;
- Establishing new relationships with other organisations, such as housing associations, and utilising their networks;
- Letter or leaflet delivery to every address within a certain catchment area (particularly when a dialogue was about a particular site);
- Posters at churches, community venues, schools etc.;
- Credit card sized invites to future meetings to take away from events;
- Using the launch of an art project for primary school children to attract their parents;
- Using the local network of Parish Councils and community organisations, including promotion by local politicians;
- Local newspaper articles; and
- On site advertising (posters and NIA representatives spending time on site talking to visitors about the dialogue project).

Our observation was that a mixed methods approach was the most effective in getting a sufficient number of people with a breadth of interests amongst those people to attend specific events. Face to face recruitment methods, particularly at or near sites that were central to the dialogue process, were particularly successful. The more time that can be dedicated to recruitment the more effective it is and this can impact hugely on the value of the entire dialogue project.

External recruitment agencies are not always appropriate / necessary

Many public dialogue processes discussing national questions and issues use specialised recruitment companies and incentive payments to sign up members of the public, giving them specific quotas to meet for different sections of society. Given that this would have cost each NIA Public Dialogue project a very large proportion of their budget (potentially half), as well as the devolved decision-making nature of this public dialogue project, this sampling approach to recruitment was not felt to be appropriate for this project, and the three NIAs carried out their own recruitment.

Consider the use of incentives

The Morecambe Bay and Nene Valley projects did not use incentive payments, either because they felt it may compromise the perceived independence of the process, or because the level of public interest in the dialogue activities made it unnecessary. The Meres and Mosses project chose to use incentive payments (£35 for an evening session, £20 for the student workshops as they had no associated travel costs, and £45 for the final workshop to encourage members of the public to travel further to a second workshop), principally because they were seeking public input on a non-site specific issue and they sought to target at least some members of the public with no existing connection to the Meres and Mosses. Some of the people attending these events did not want the incentive payment or said that they would be passing it on to a charity of their own choice. Others admitted that they would not have attended if there had not been an incentive payment on offer.

Our experience across the three NIA Public Dialogue Projects was that incentives are more appropriate for area- or regional-wide topics rather than site-specific issues. If necessary, groups wanting to run public dialogue processes could consider offering an appropriate incentive payment whilst making it clear that this offer does not have to be taken up and, if it is not taken up, the money will be ring fenced either for further public dialogue work or for restoration of the environment.

4.3. Gaining buy-in to the dialogue activities

The three NIAs used different methods to help participants move beyond previous history and entrenched positions.

Maintaining independence

For some strands of engagement within the Morecambe Bay Public Dialogue Project, establishing an independence from previous work was important to success. This included stressing the involvement of an independent facilitator and establishing an identity for the specific project. It is important to have a web presence for new initiatives, as many people will want to establish who or what is behind a project before becoming involved.

The use of three think pieces in the Meres and Mosses dialogue, providing the perspectives of different viewpoints allowed the input of varying views in a depersonalised way.

Engage with landowners and other key stakeholders in the scoping stage

Some of the sites chosen for public dialogue had a history of conflict between the landowners, the local community and environmental bodies. At these sites it was not possible to move straight into a dialogue with the public before first having a dialogue with the landowners. For some sites, especially where more than one landowner was involved, individual discussions with individual landowners were required before they could be brought together for a discussion.

Within the Nene Valley project the tenant farmer at the Washlands site was initially very sceptical. He thought it was presumptuous that the public would be discussing his livelihood. At first he was very reluctant to get involved in the Community Panel and the facilitator spent time explaining the process and how it would work. Following the explanations, he participated enthusiastically, aided by the willingness of other members of the Panel to appreciate his perspective.

In complex situations, public dialogue can most effectively be delivered as one element of a wider engagement process that incorporates an understanding of the role and perspectives of other stakeholders. This is particularly relevant where the history of a piece of work is characterised by challenge, tension or damaged relationships (examples from Morecambe Bay project include sites in multiple private ownership and processes where mistrust has developed over time with public agencies).

Having a clear route for any outcomes

Having a clear route for the outcomes of any public engagement helps to overcome scepticism. In the Nene Valley Summer Leys / Mary's Lake Community Panel, some members had been involved in a previous 'Friends of' type group that had disbanded due to a lack of support. A couple also sat on the management group, set up at the time of the original transfer from Hansons. As a result there was some scepticism about whether the process would add anything new / different. The facilitator and the NIA team had to overcome this by explaining the purpose clearly and constantly reminding the Panel how findings would be used to influence the NIA Board's future actions. (Although the NIA did experience some difficulty in

doing this as they currently have no further funding secured once the current Government funding period ends on 31st March 2015.)

The Meres and Mosses Public Dialogue project also had a clear route for the outcomes of each dialogue session as they fed into the next stage of the dialogue process. It was important to the members of the public that their input was later fed back to stakeholders and the dialogue process concluded with a mixed stakeholder and public workshop so that stakeholders could hear the views of members of the public directly.

4.4. Designing the dialogue

Use a mixture of broad and deep engagement

One of the most striking observations for the NIA members most closely involved with the dialogue work has been the contrast between broad and shallow engagement and the more in-depth, structured and bespoke engagement methods involving smaller numbers than the NIA Public Dialogue Projects have often utilised.

It has been recognised that organisations, in particular organisations that rely on donations for their funding, often measure engagement success through the number of people reached, rather than the quality of the feedback and discussions. They often seek a mandate to progress with a proposed option but this mandate takes the form of a yes / no closed question rather than providing any intelligence that helps inform the decision-making process or subsequent implementation process.

All three projects sought to include both deep (small group, face to face, facilitated discussions) and broader (surveys, questionnaires and the use of websites) aspects to their dialogues (See Case Study 2 in the appendix A).

Bring in the experts

Members of the public who took part in the processes appeared to value the opportunity to sit alongside technical experts. Where they had little knowledge of the subject this helped them understand the issues under discussion; where they were quite knowledgeable this helped generate detailed deliberations. As a result they were able to appreciate how important it is for others to understand more about the issues.

However, it is worth noting that some effort may need to be put into making sure the technical input is presented in a digestible way for members of the public. For example, for the Winmarleigh Moss restoration dialogue in the Morecambe Bay NIA, the presentations given at meetings with the public were not only designed to be short and non-technical but were also rehearsed and vetted by the working group in advance. In the Meres and Mosses project Google Earth was used to design a specific presentation to help the public to understand the scale of the landscape being discussed and how different issues might affect it (see Case Study 3 in the appendix A for more detail).

Address perceptions, anxieties and questions regarding flood risk early on

The public dialogue projects discovered that a constructive public conversation on environmental issues that involves changes to water management regimes is unlikely to be possible without the opportunity to improve the understanding of the public about how water behaves, addressing perceptions, anxieties and questions regarding the real or imagined risks of increased wetting or flooding of land.

The public can effectively contribute to deliberations on complex topics

It is our view that the projects illustrated the Sciencewise premise for public dialogue exercises. That is, members of the public can make an effective contribution to deliberations on complex scientific issues in order to inform policy or decision-making. Each of the three projects successfully engaged the public, provided a platform for them to contribute their views, and hear and question those of others, and ultimately enabled them to make informed decisions about future plans, priorities or policies.

Dialogue can empower people

The collaborative style of working employed in the Public Dialogue Project has enabled the NIAs to work with members of the public to resolve, or move towards resolving problems rather than simply receiving a list of new concerns. Both the Nene Valley and Meres and Mosses NIAs observed that they need to get better at giving the public the power and information required to do part of their jobs for them, for example through acting as advocates and communicating messages. The Public Dialogue Projects have established a great starting point for that to happen.

Appendix A: Case Studies

Case Study 1: Aren't bogs brilliant? Morecambe Bay

This project sought to bring together members of the public from areas close to a restored bog to discuss the potential of the site for education, leisure and learning opportunities. It also looked to encourage members of the public to become better connected with nature and more involved in the onward care of the bog and the wildlife living there.

Using a creative approach, the project worked with local primary school children to create a temporary art installation on Foulshaw Moss in Cumbria. Children, parents and people from the neighbouring communities were then invited to the 'launch' of the exhibition, providing an ideal opportunity to engage people in conversation about the bog. A follow up session at a local Village Hall was held to encourage further dialogue with local people about Foulshaw Moss and its wildlife.

This methodology was based on the assumption that the majority of members of the public whose lives are unconnected with the natural environment would not have encountered lowland raised bog habitats, and so would have very little interest in committing to a discussion of those habitats without some form of incentive or reason to do so. In the absence of monetary incentives, the Steering Group identified an art project as a reasonable means of connecting people with the environment of Foulshaw Moss.

The work with children was conducted by the NIA's Community Engagement Officer (employed by the RSPB) who volunteered to co-work on this work stream with the facilitator, and a community artist known to the NIA. This involved a visit to Foulshaw Moss for the children to experience the environment and discover and learn about the nature of the bog and the wildlife that lives there. This was followed by a number of sessions in school with the artist and two RSPB officers to design and develop the artworks, which were then installed along the boardwalks at the Nature Reserve.



Children, parents and people from the neighbouring communities were invited to the 'launch' of the exhibition, providing the opportunity to engage people in conversation about the bog. The launch took place on a Saturday afternoon, which was agreed as the most likely time to attract a good level of attendance.

The RSPB officers involved in the project, the artist and the Reserve Warden, from Cumbria Wildlife Trust, were stationed on the bog to talk with local people about the wildlife, the environment and the art project. The Dialogue Project facilitator welcomed people and also spoke with people after their visit to gather their views about what they had experienced. Those who attended the launch were asked to complete a brief feedback form and were also given a credit card sized invitation to the planned follow up event at a nearby Village Hall.

A follow up event was held two weeks later. This took place on a weekday evening (7-9pm) in the Village Hall in Witherslack (the nearest village to the Moss, and the location of the school that had participated in the project). At this session brief inputs were provided through PowerPoint presentations by the Reserve Warden, and these inputs were followed by facilitated discussions.

Given the choice of methodology, i.e. generating interest through the work of children, it was not felt to be appropriate to financially incentivise attendance.

The project team was very pleased with the effectiveness of the recruitment with over 50 people being attracted to Foulshaw Moss (this was aided by good weather on the day of the launch). Most of those who attended had a direct link to the children who participated in the art project.

Of the 30 people who completed a form, 23 had never visited Foulshaw Moss before, though 26 said they would visit the site again. The same number indicated they would visit other nature reserves in the area. Seven people said they would consider volunteering to help look after the bog, and 15 provided email addresses to allow the Wildlife Trust to contact them again.

Case Study 2: Production of a Guidance Document, Nene Valley

Background

The planning group for the Public Dialogue Project consisted of a core set of NIA partner organisations who benefited from seeing the process first hand, and witnessing the high quality of deliberation that took place. However other partners' involvement was limited to hearing updates at Board meetings and seeing the site action plans.

The planning group could clearly see the added value the process brought to the NIA and wanted to ensure that this was shared with other partners in order to:

- Ensure the learning from running the Public Dialogue Project was embedded across the NIA Partnership;
- Give partners the opportunity to understand more about what is entailed in a public dialogue process; and
- Help partners understand when a similar approach would be appropriate in the future.

A training session was held with partners covering these points, and a comprehensive guidance document was produced that could be used by partners on an ongoing basis, and further afield in other NIAs or for other landscape scale partnerships and projects.

Content of the training and guidance

A two hour training session was held. It was led by the public dialogue facilitator and seven people attended, representing local authorities, the RSPB, River Nene Regional Park and the Wildlife Trust. There were several objectives for the session:

- Learn more about what is meant by public dialogue and how it differs from other forms of engaging the public;
- Consider the situations in which public dialogue is beneficial;
- Understand the conditions for planning and delivering a public dialogue process;
- Hear about how we approached public dialogue in the Nene Valley NIA; and
- Discuss areas of partners' work where they might want to consider using public dialogue.

Feedback from participants was very positive. Aspects of the session that they found most useful included: defining public dialogue; examining the Summer Leys Community Panel as a case study; and exercises that made them think about when a public dialogue process is appropriate and when it is not.

The session was also an opportunity to find out from participants what they would want from a guidance document. It was explained that the slides used during the session were intended to form the basis of the content of the guidance; they were asked to reflect on this and to suggest what adaptations may be required. This proved to be a helpful exercise as it contributed directly to the production of the

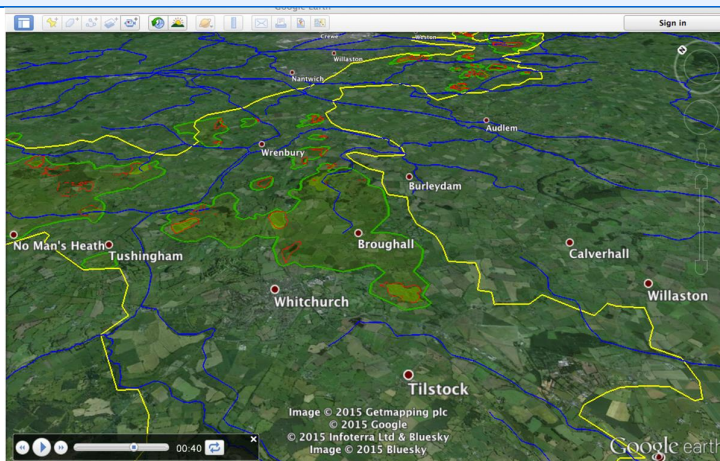
guidance document.

The guidance was written by the public dialogue facilitator, with both the RSPB and Dialogue by Design helping with the tasks of editing, proof reading and design. It provides background information about public dialogue, and a detailed description of the Nene Valley Community Panels process. It also includes sample templates that others can use should they decide to undertake a public dialogue process. The full guidance document can be found at <http://www.sciencewise-erc.org.uk/cms/nature-improvement-areas/> .

Case Study 3: Using Google Earth tool to enable the public to look at issues on a landscape scale, Meres and Mosses

The facilitator liaised with the NIA Wetland Restoration Officer, to understand the thinking behind landscape-scale conservation and how it might apply in the Meres and Mosses. This involved looking at:

- Spatial and place-based issues;
- The importance of water quality and quantity on the condition of designated sites;
- Management options around designated sites; and
- The need for collaboration in order to achieve functioning ecological units and catchments.



Screen grab of Google Earth tour, displaying outline of the NIA, rivers, designated sites, and the outline (in bright green) of an ecological catchment.

Mapping associated with this work was fed into a Google Earth tour designed by the facilitator as a dialogue tool – to enable participants to look at the issues on a landscape scale, and to zoom in on how the issues might apply to areas very familiar to them. Land Use Consultants were commissioned to provide an independent expert overview of engagement materials to inform the facilitator's small-group discussion guide and to produce a 'Google Earth tour'.

Between July and September 2014, eight small-group (between 4 and 11 participants), deliberative workshops were held at various locations. Each followed a similar format and used the Google Earth tour to introduce the Meres and Mosses as a landscape area and to prompt observations from the public.

Appendix B: Meres and Mosses project timeline

Engagement activity	Apr-13	May-13	Jun-13	Jul-13	Aug-13	Sep-13	Oct-13	Nov-13	Dec-13	Jan-14	Feb-14	Mar-14	Apr-14	May-14	Jun-14	Jul-14	Aug-14	Sep-14	Oct-14	Nov-14	Dec-14	Jan-15	Feb-15	Mar-15
Scoping the conversation about Meres and Mosses NIA																								
Planning meetings NIA / lead contact, understanding 'starting point' for the Public Dialogue																								
Clarification of Public Dialogue Project aims and requirements																								
Initial Public Dialogue engagement activities																								
Preparation, informing and stimulating the dialogue																								
Development of Think Pieces for use to inform the Public Dialogue process																								
Stakeholder workshop - 1																								
Development of spatial and place-based issues and development of google-earth tour and other engagement materials																								
Exploring the views of people with a broad range of interests from across the area																								
Recruitment planning and recruitment																								
Small-group deliberative workshops with members of the public																								
Exploring options for delivery and two way conversation																								
Stakeholder workshop - 2																								
Mixed public and stakeholder workshop																								
Reporting and dissemination																								
Presentation of initial Public Dialogue results at the Meres and Mosses Forum																								
Production of film 'Views in a Landscape' and final report																								

Appendix C: Morecambe Bay project timeline

	Engagement activity	Apr-13	May-13	Jun-13	Jul-13	Aug-13	Sep-13	Oct-13	Nov-13	Dec-13	Jan-14	Feb-14	Mar-14	Apr-14	May-14	Jun-14	Jul-14	Aug-14	Sep-14	Oct-14	Nov-14	Dec-14	Jan-15	Feb-15	Mar-15
Workstream 1	Nichols Moss restoration																								
	Planning meetings NIA / lead contact																								
	Scoping meeting with stakeholders to the restoration																								
	Individual conversations with SSSI landowners																								
	Individual conversations with neighbouring landowners																								
	(Planned work with SSSI landowners as a group)																								
	(Public dialogue sessions)																								
Workstream 2	Winmarleigh Moss restoration																								
	Planning meetings NIA / lead contact / steering group																								
	Scoping meeting with stakeholders to the restoration																								
	Meetings with tenants (shooting syndicates)																								
	Dialogue sessions with neighbouring landowners																								
	Dialogue sessions with public																								
Workstream 3	Aren't Bogs Brilliant?																								
	Planning meetings																								
	Work with schoolchildren to create the art trail																								
	Installation / de-commissioning of art trail																								
	Launch of art trail / initial public engagement																								
	Follow up dialogue session with public																								
Workstream 4	Lyth Valley visioning																								
	Planning meetings NIA / lead contact / steering group																								
	Scoping meeting with stakeholders																								
	Stakeholder session																								
	Farmers / landowners / tenants session																								
	Dialogue session with the public																								
	Revised versions of vision																								

Appendix D: Nene Valley project timeline

		Apr-13	May-13	Jun-13	Jul-13	Aug-13	Sep-13	Oct-13	Nov-13	Dec-13	Jan-14	Feb-14	Mar-14	Apr-14	May-14	Jun-14	Jul-14	Aug-14	Sep-14	Oct-14	Nov-14	Dec-14	Jan-15	Feb-15	Mar-15
	Engagement activity																								
	Community Panel pilot; Northampton																								
Workstream 1	Washlands																								
	Planning for pilot																								
	Recruitment for Panel																								
	Panel meetings																								
	Production of Action Plan																								
	Presentation of Action plan to Board																								
	Roll out of Community Panel process; Summer																								
Workstream 2	Leys/Mary's Lake																								
	Review learning from pilot and assess visitor access research																								
	Planning for Panel																								
	Recruitment for Panel																								
	Panel meetings																								
	Production of Action Plan																								
	Presentation of Action Plan to Board																								
Workstream 3	Interactive website																								
	Website specification developed																								
	Website contractor commissioned																								
	Website developed																								
	Website launched																								
	Online dialogue																								
Workstream 4	Training and guidance																								
	Training plan developed and delivered																								
	Guidance paper drafted and edited																								
Workstream 5	Wider engagement with youth and community groups																								
	PloverFest design and delivery																								
	Arts activities and installations																								