

The role of parks in nature's recovery



West of England Nature Partnership
Joining up the dots for nature

Who are we?



Local Nature Partnerships:

- Set up to maximise the benefits of the natural environment for **wildlife**, **people** and the **economy** – taking a natural capital approach
- A prescribed body in the Duty to Cooperate per Localism Act
- ~50 around the country

West of England Nature Partnership:

- The designated Local Nature Partnership for the West of England, est. 2012



We're working to restore the natural environment in the West of England through embedding the value of nature in decision making across spatial planning, public health and economic development

Our vision is a West of England where nature and people thrive



Bath & North East
Somerset Council



The wider context...



IPBES Report:
1 mil species at
risk of
extinction



Mental health
crisis



Rising
inequalities

National and
local declared
climate
emergencies



... critical role of
parks!

Whatever you think about Brexit...



... it's stirred up a lot of debate about the environmental legislation we need



A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment



Independent Environmental Watchdog?

Requirement to map and protect Nature Recovery Networks?

Agricultural Bill

Environment Bill

New Environmental Land Management Scheme 'Public Money for Public Goods'

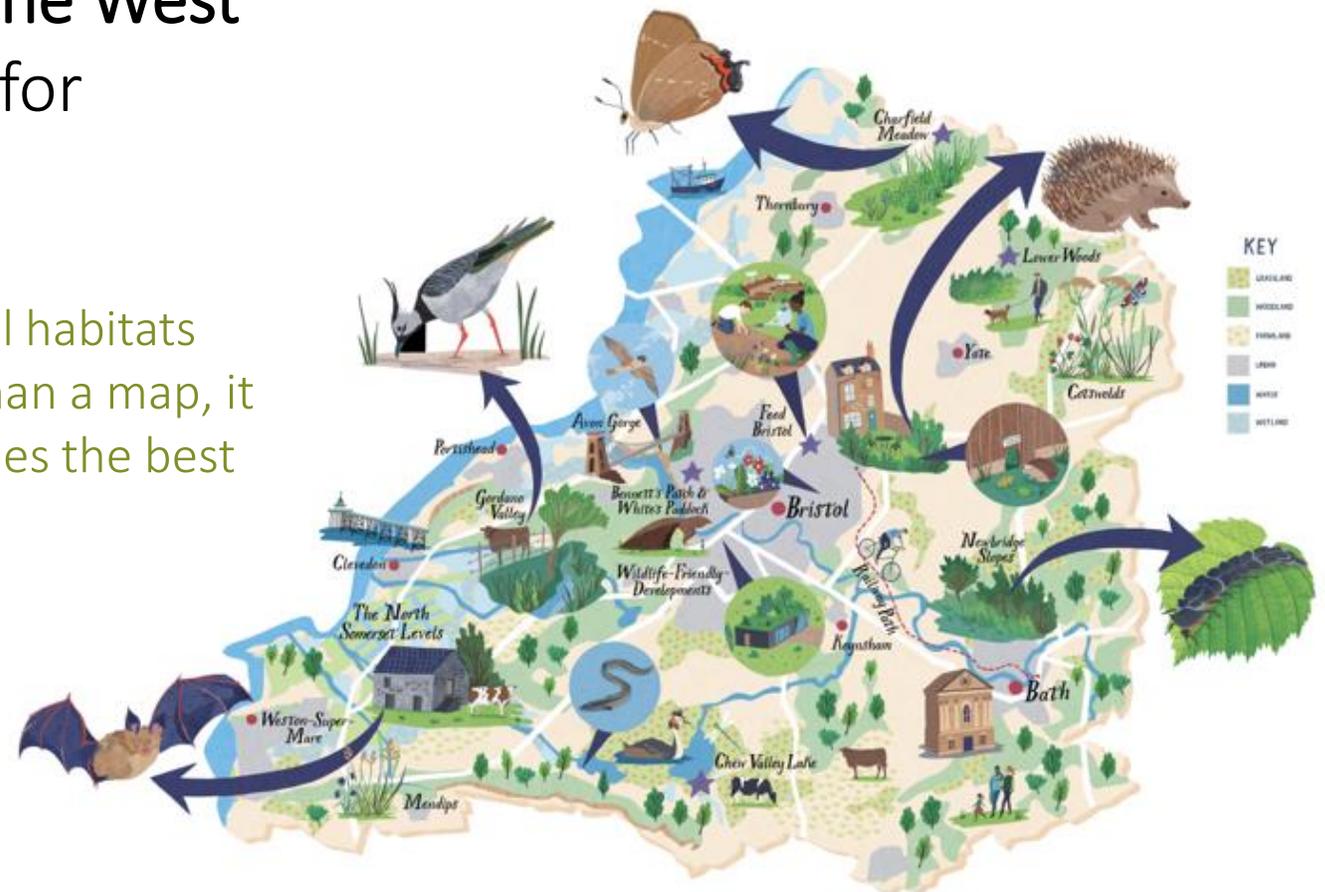
Getting on with it: A local plan for nature's recovery



A Nature Recovery Network for the West of England: An aspirational plan for nature's recovery:

A joined-up network of marine and terrestrial habitats where nature and people can thrive. More than a map, it is an active, adaptive spatial plan that identifies the best opportunities for nature's recovery.

25 Year Environment Plan: Commitment *'to develop a Nature Recovery Network to protect and restore wildlife, and provide opportunities to re-introduce species that we have lost from our countryside'*



Map illustrated by Sara Mulvanny – Agency Rush

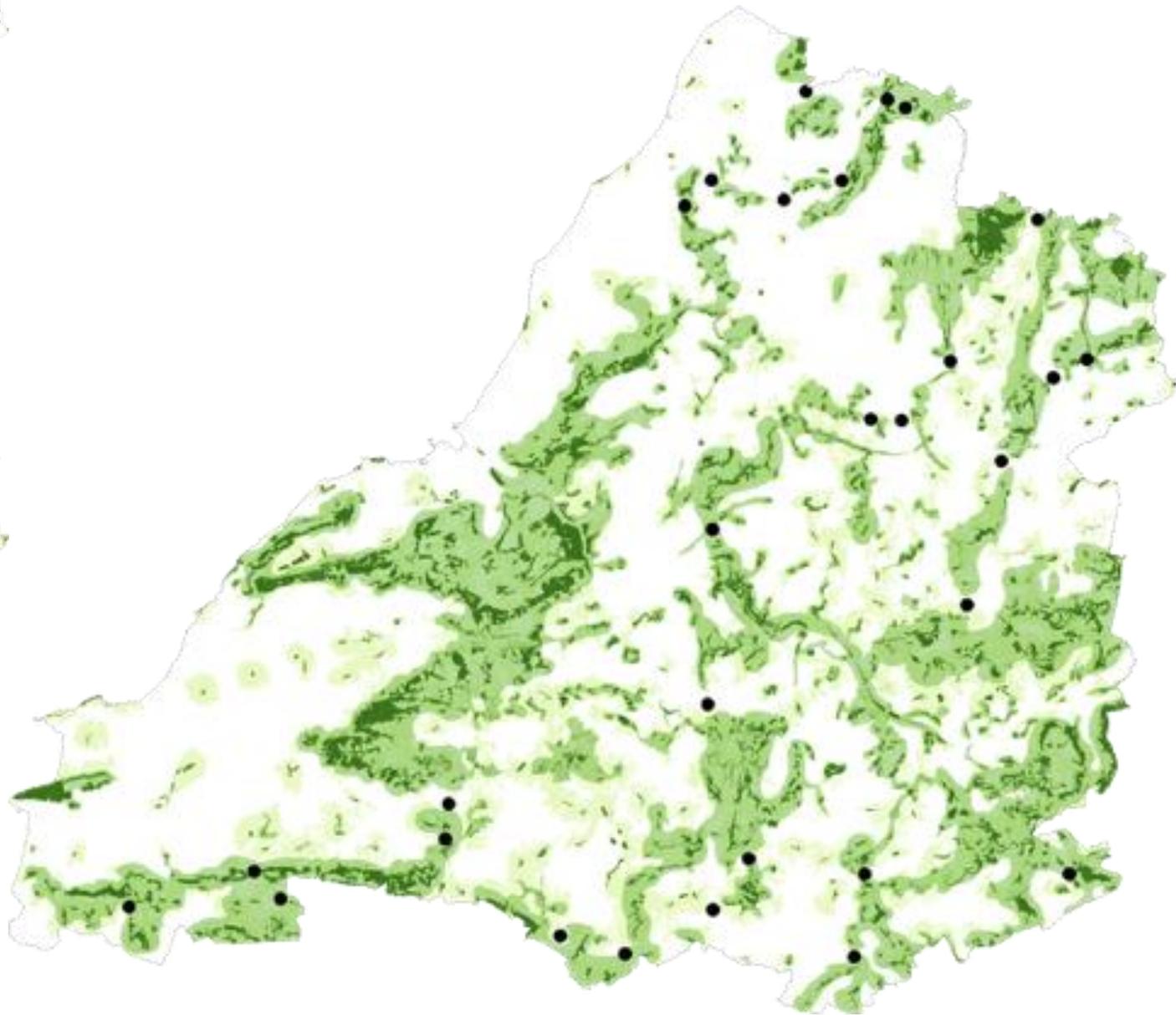
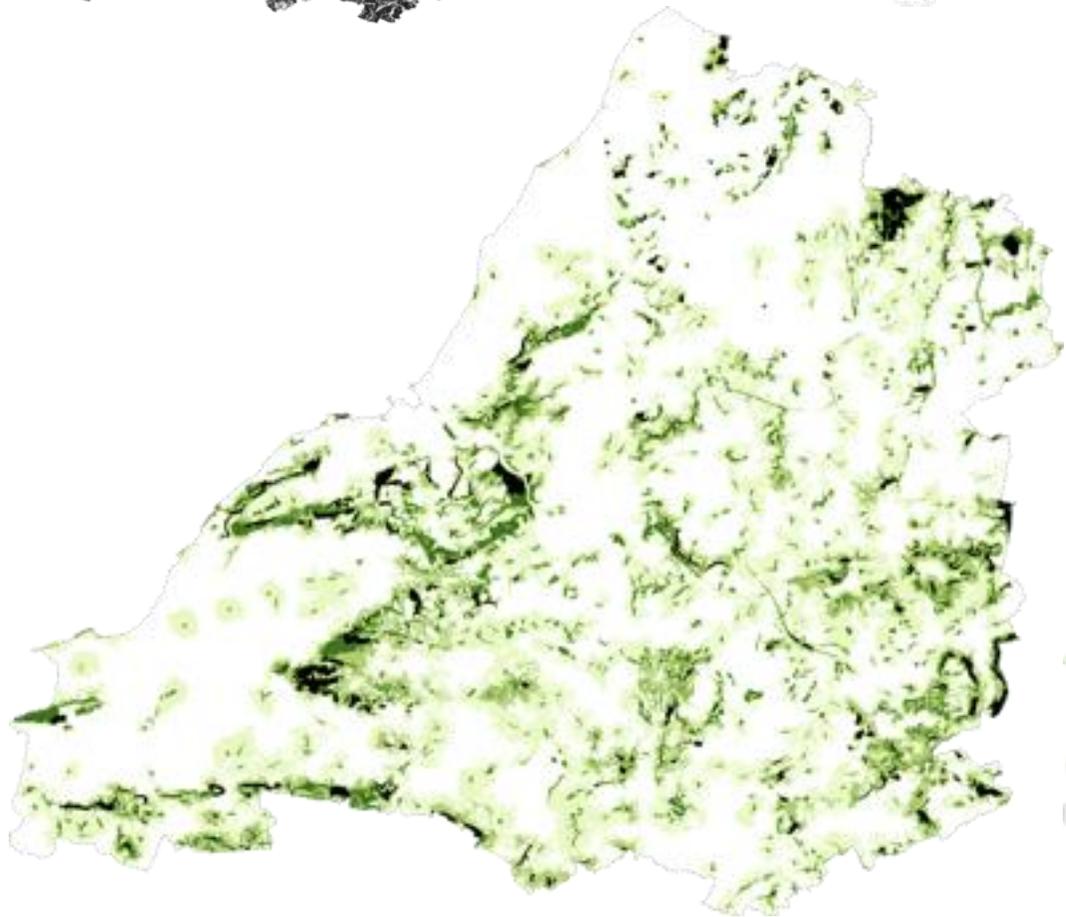
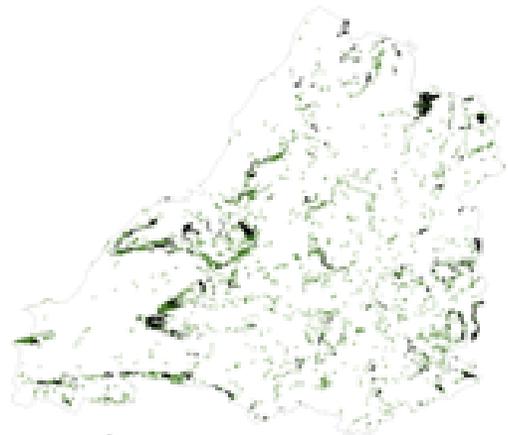
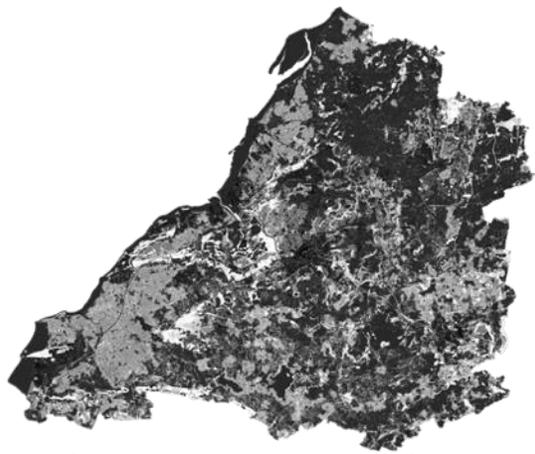
Underlying principles...



1. **Mapped locally and in partnership** – but respond to emerging national frameworks
2. Be based on the **best available evidence**
3. Reflect that **nature does not recognise boundaries**
4. Reflect that nature's **life support systems** are foundational
5. Start from **all** our existing terrestrial and marine habitats
6. Be designed to **thrive** and not just survive
7. Promote **resilience and adaptability to a changing climate**
8. Acknowledge that **nature works at all scales and everywhere**
9. Reflect that nature's recovery is **relevant to everyone**
10. Influence decision making and ensure **long term investment** for nature's recovery



South West
Local Nature
Partnerships



West of England Ecological Networks

Grassland

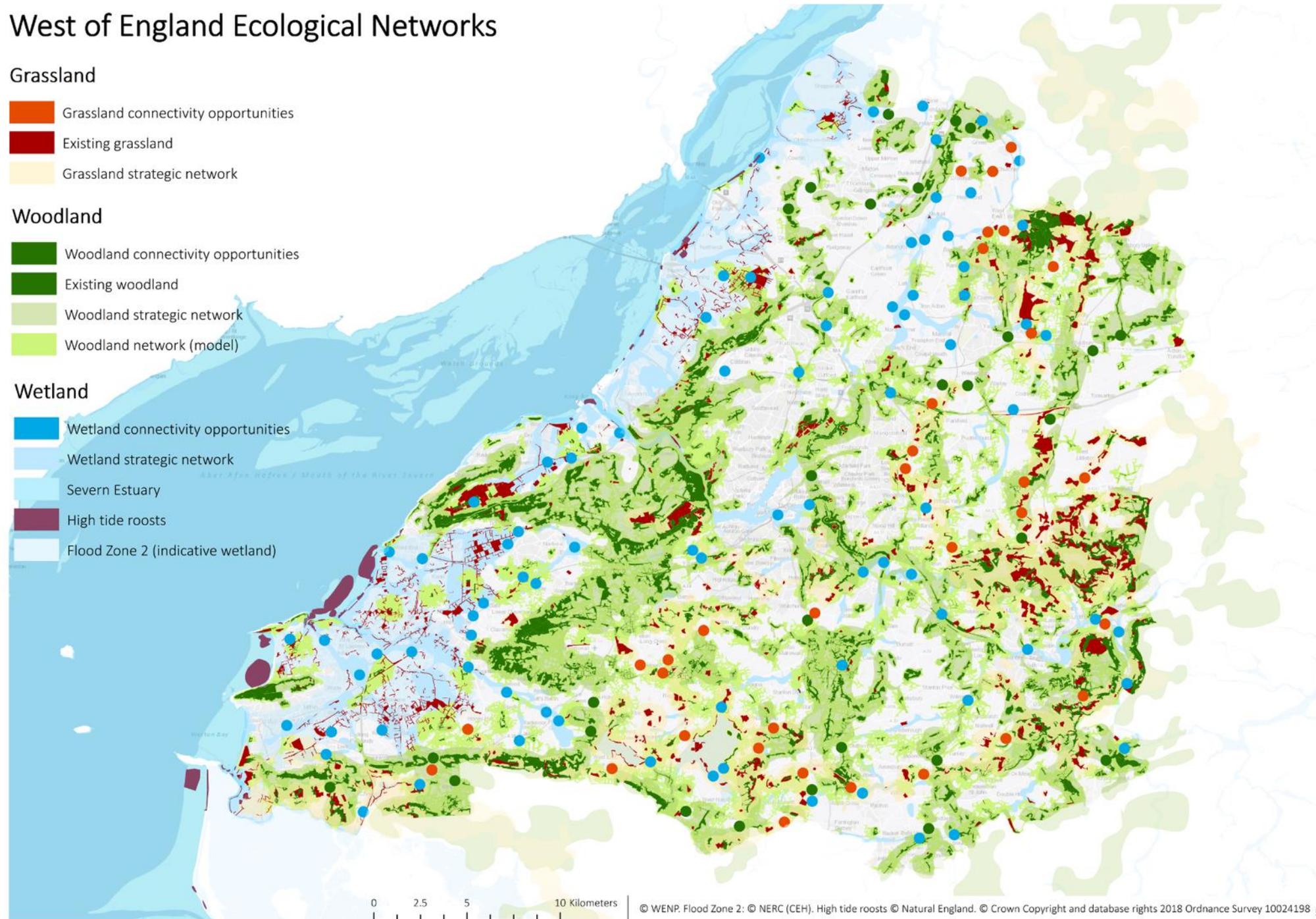
- Grassland connectivity opportunities
- Existing grassland
- Grassland strategic network

Woodland

- Woodland connectivity opportunities
- Existing woodland
- Woodland strategic network
- Woodland network (model)

Wetland

- Wetland connectivity opportunities
- Wetland strategic network
- Severn Estuary
- High tide roosts
- Flood Zone 2 (indicative wetland)



0 2.5 5 10 Kilometers

.... So where are we?



Nature Recovery Network

6. Engagement with different stakeholder groups to support nature's recovery

5. Ecological game-changers in WoE for nature's recovery

4. Aspirational ambitions (for all) to deliver nature's recovery

3. NRN mapping in WoE (ecological network map)

2. Shared principles and vision of what a NRN is (SW LNPs)

1. 25 Year Environment Plan: Commitment to NRN

**Everyone has a
role in nature's
recovery.**

Embed in
planning, ELMs,
investment
decisions, utility
strategies, etc.



Thank you & questions?