

How can we turn the tide on natures' decline? Learning from the North Devon Landscape Pioneer

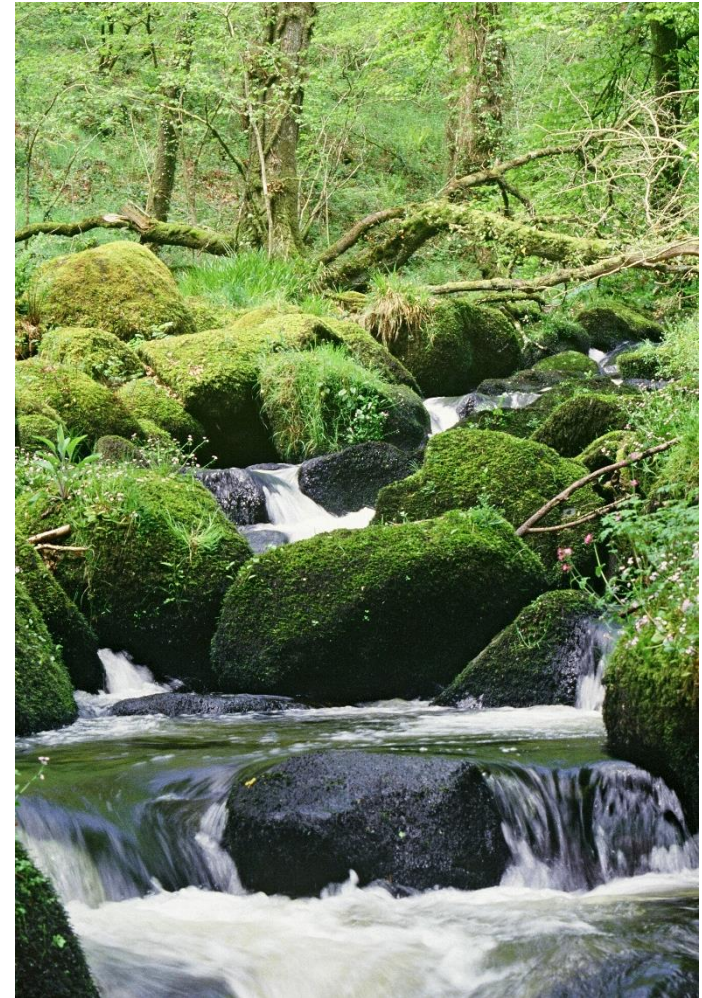
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Talk plan



- The North Devon Landscape Pioneer
- Our test and trial of a natural capital approach
- The Natural Capital Strategy
- Lessons learned
- Conclusions: How can we turn the tide on nature's decline?



The Pioneers



- 25 YEP “improving the environment within one generation”
- Aims:
 - Test new tools and methods as part of applying a natural capital approach in practice;
 - Demonstrate a joined-up, integrated approach to planning and delivery;
 - Pioneer and ‘scale-up’ the use of new funding opportunities; and
 - Grow our understanding of ‘what works’, sharing lessons and best practice.



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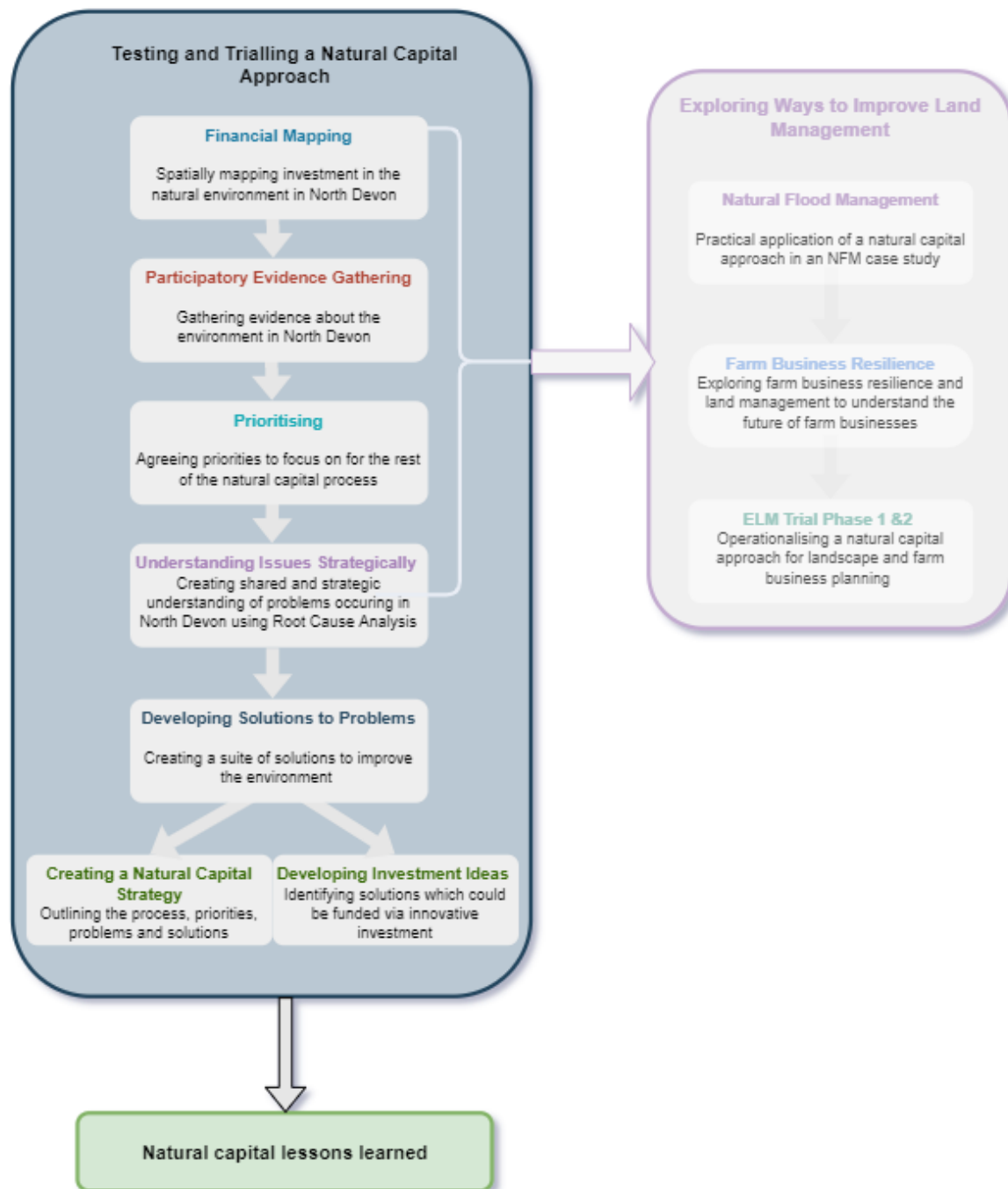
What did we want to try?



- **Experiment** with natural capital
- Deliberative and participative approach
- Test use of economic evidence to inform prioritisation
- Create a suite of innovative, investible and strategic interventions

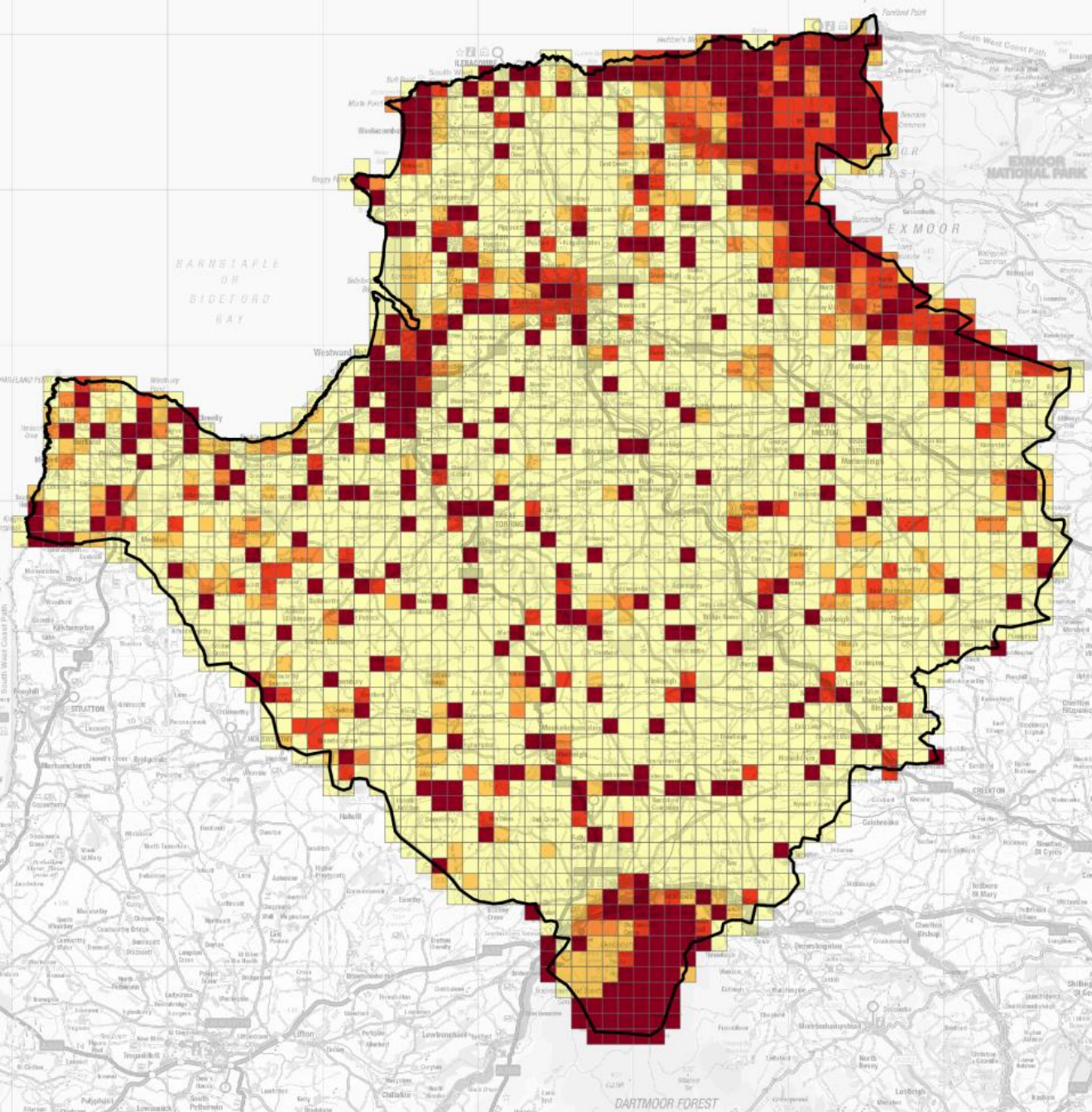


Upper Reaches of the River Torridge © Devon Wildlife Trust



Expenditure Heatmap

Spatially allocated expenditure



□ Pioneer Area

□ 1km grid

Expenditure

□ >40% lower than mean

□ 10-40% lower

□ Mean +/- 10%

□ 10-40% greater

□ >40% greater than mean

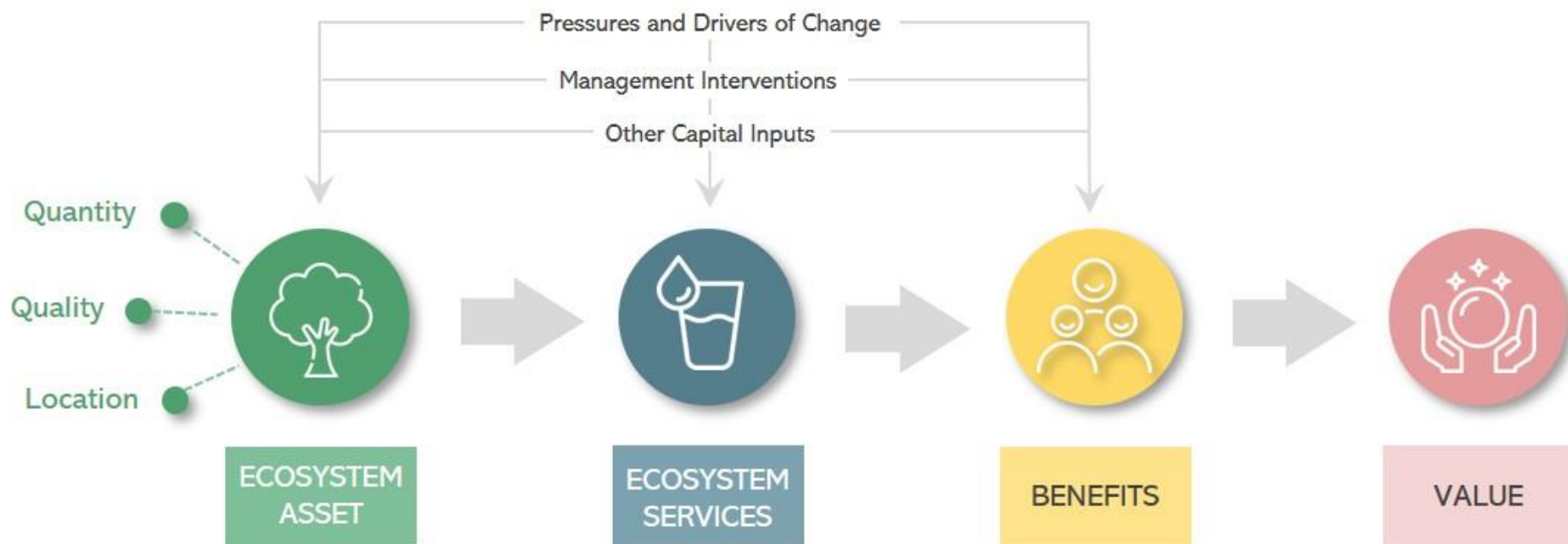


0 5 10 km



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Evidence base



From Wigley et al., 2020

Initial prioritisation



Eight priorities ranked by value, condition, trend

Habitat	Ecosystem Service	Economic Value (£/Year) North Devon	Trend last 20 years	Condition	Econ Value per ha	Area (ha)	Economic Value (confidence)	Trend (confidence)	Condition (confidence)
Improved pasture	Water Purif'n	1) millions	down*	-2	50	96,848	1	3	1
Arable	Water Purif'n	1) millions	down*	-1	50	21,189	1	3	1
Arable	Recreation &	1) millions	stable	-1	100	21,189	1*	1	1
Permanent grassland	Recreation &	1) millions	stable	-1	125	58,026	1*	1	1
Deciduous woodland	Climate	1) millions	stable	-1	318	29,877	2	1	1
Deciduous woodland	Water Reg'n	1) millions	stable	-1	400	29,877	1	1	1
Improved pasture	Climate	1) (millions)	up *	-1	-128	96,848	2*	2*	3
Permanent grassland	Water Purif'n	1) millions	down*	0	50	58,026	1	3	1

Deliberative prioritisation



Interim Pairs

Improved pasture – water purification

Arable – water purification

Arable – recreation & tourism

Permanent Grassland – recreation & tourism

Deciduous Woodland – climate

Deciduous Woodland – water regulation

Improved Pasture – climate

Permanent Grassland – water purification

Final Pairs

Improved pasture – water purification

Arable – water purification

Culm grassland – water regulation

Coastal margins – tourism & recreation (and cultural)

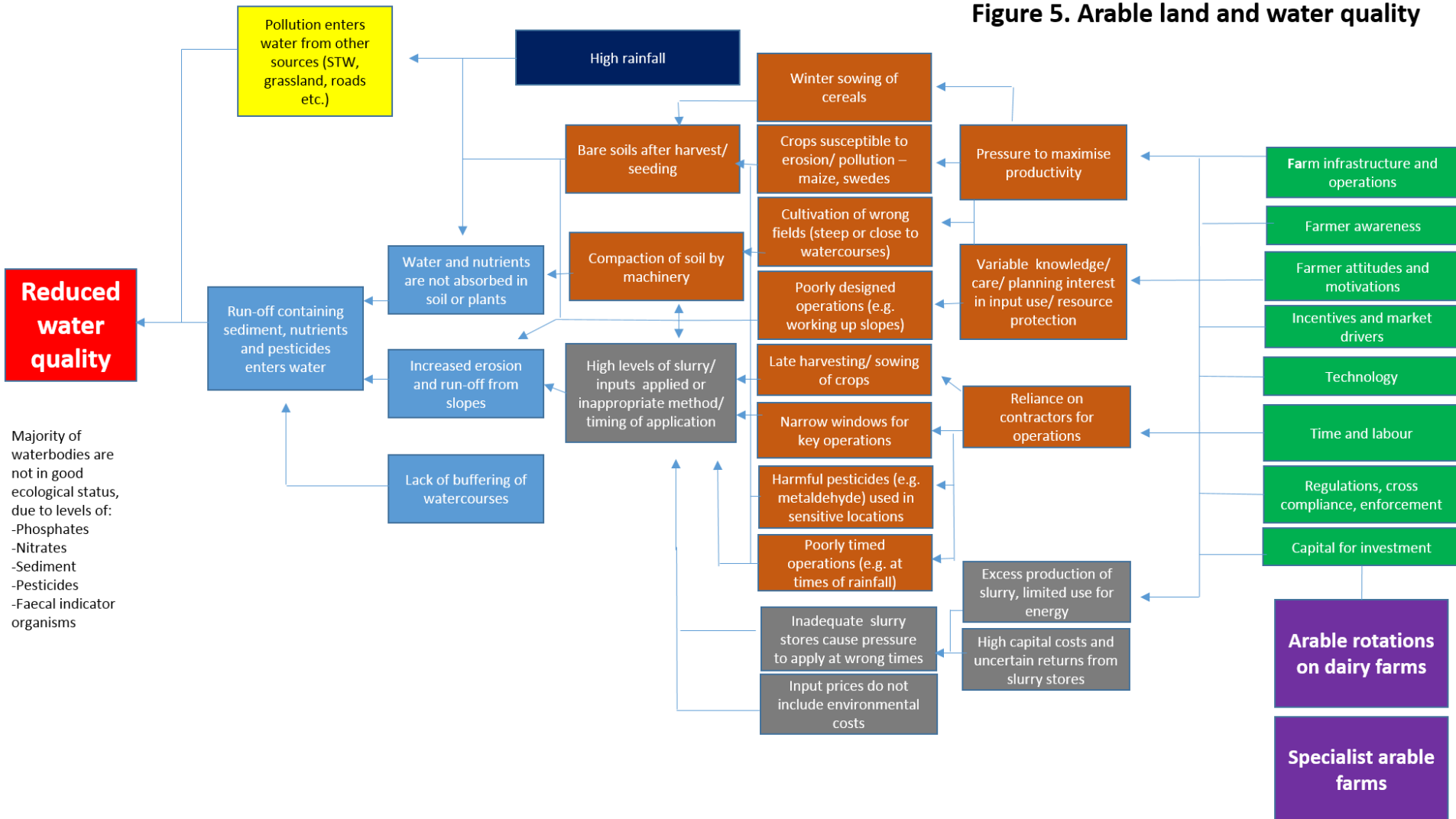
Woodland - climate

Deciduous Woodland – water regulation

Improved Pasture - climate

Permanent Grassland – water purification

Figure 5. Arable land and water quality



Selecting a group of interventions

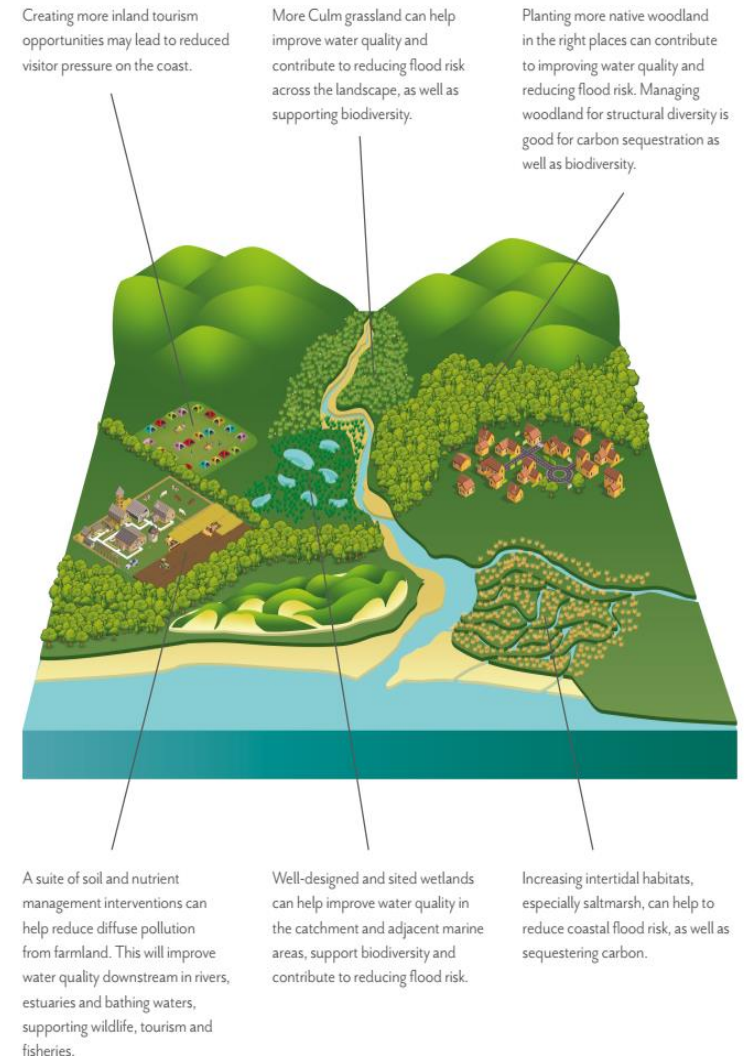
- Strategic (root cause)
- Feasible
- Investible
- Multiple ecosystem services
- Good for biodiversity



The Natural Capital Strategy

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- **Priorities**
 - reducing flood risk,
 - improving water quality,
 - increasing carbon storage and sequestration, and
 - mitigating the pressure of tourism and recreation
- **Interventions – land use change, land management, incentives, motivations and capacities and governance**



Investment opportunities for North Devon



- 1. Local food network for natural capital friendly farms,
- 2. Carbon accreditation for habitats eg saltmarsh & Culm,
- 3. Eco-tourism standard for inland river corridors and,
- 4. A woodland hub



Lessons learned for best practice



1. Using a natural capital approach helped us to think differently about the environment
2. It helped us to understand what transformative change looks like
3. Applying a natural capital approach requires a significant amount of time and resources
4. Consider the whole system
5. Use a participatory strategic planning process
6. Special aspects of place (eg biodiversity) must be considered throughout the process
7. Finding innovative solutions which are also investible is a challenge

Lessons learned for best practice



7. Evidence – you need quantitative, qualitative and spatial
8. The participatory and deliberative process was key to the success of the trial. Partnership working is very valuable and investing in it is important
9. The trial of a new approach provided a great opportunity to engage new partners, but you need a wide group engaged from the start.
10. Governance is important for decision making because success in addressing the priorities requires: Institutional responsibility; Adaptive management; Localisation; and Shared commitment
11. Integrated Local Planning and Delivery requires time, enabling policy frameworks and organisational commitment to deliver change.

How can we turn the tide on nature's decline?



- By thinking differently
- By being more strategic
- By working together better & including people throughout

Check & Improve: Evaluation and monitoring

- Monitor and report progress
- Evaluate effectiveness of plan
- Adapt and refine from lessons learnt
- Embed best practice

6. Check & improve

Evaluation and monitoring

Act: Make it Happen

- Create an integrated and prioritised action plan
- Identify delivery mechanisms
- Establish funding and resource package
- Embed actions in partner delivery, local plans and strategies

5. Act

Make it happen

Decide and Plan for Multiple Benefits

- Establish practical vision
- Understand current barriers and opportunities
- Determine actions for multiple benefits
- Shared outputs e.g. opportunity mapping
- Assess and appraise options

4. Decide

Decide and plan for multiple benefits

1. Define

Define partnership and vision

Define Partnership and Vision

- Develop collaborative partnership
- Agree high level vision for natural capital
- Define scale and boundaries
- Determine strategic direction

2. Establish

Establish a shared evidence base

Establish a Shared Evidence Base

- Context of place
- State of natural capital assets
- Who benefits and who doesn't
- Shared outputs e.g. maps, registers, accounts

3. Forecast

Forecast and understand drivers of change

Forecast and Understand Drivers of Change

- Understand current drivers of change
- Forecast impact of climate change and other pressures

Engagement
&
Co-creation

Any questions?



- Any questions?

- Links to reports
- A Natural Capital Strategy for North Devon:

<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6070000127574016>

- Root Cause Analysis
<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5889042149539840>

- Investment opportunities
<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5724468750319616>

- Lessons learned – coming soon!



A Natural Capital Strategy
for North Devon – Summary

