



Brecks Options Study
Long Term Protection and Management
Stakeholder Webinar 20 September 2023

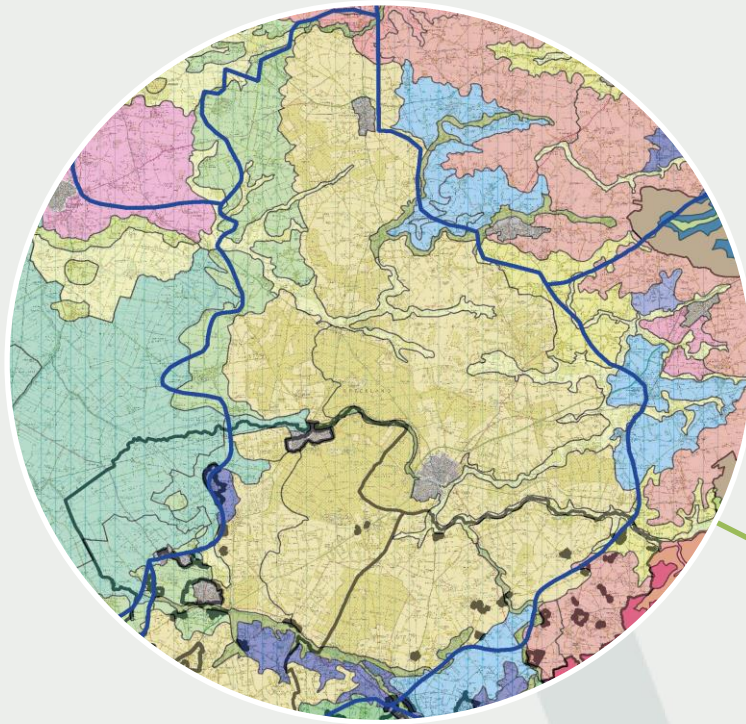


Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Rational for the Project
3. Findings from Workshop 1
4. Findings from research into management options
5. Next steps



Purpose of Study



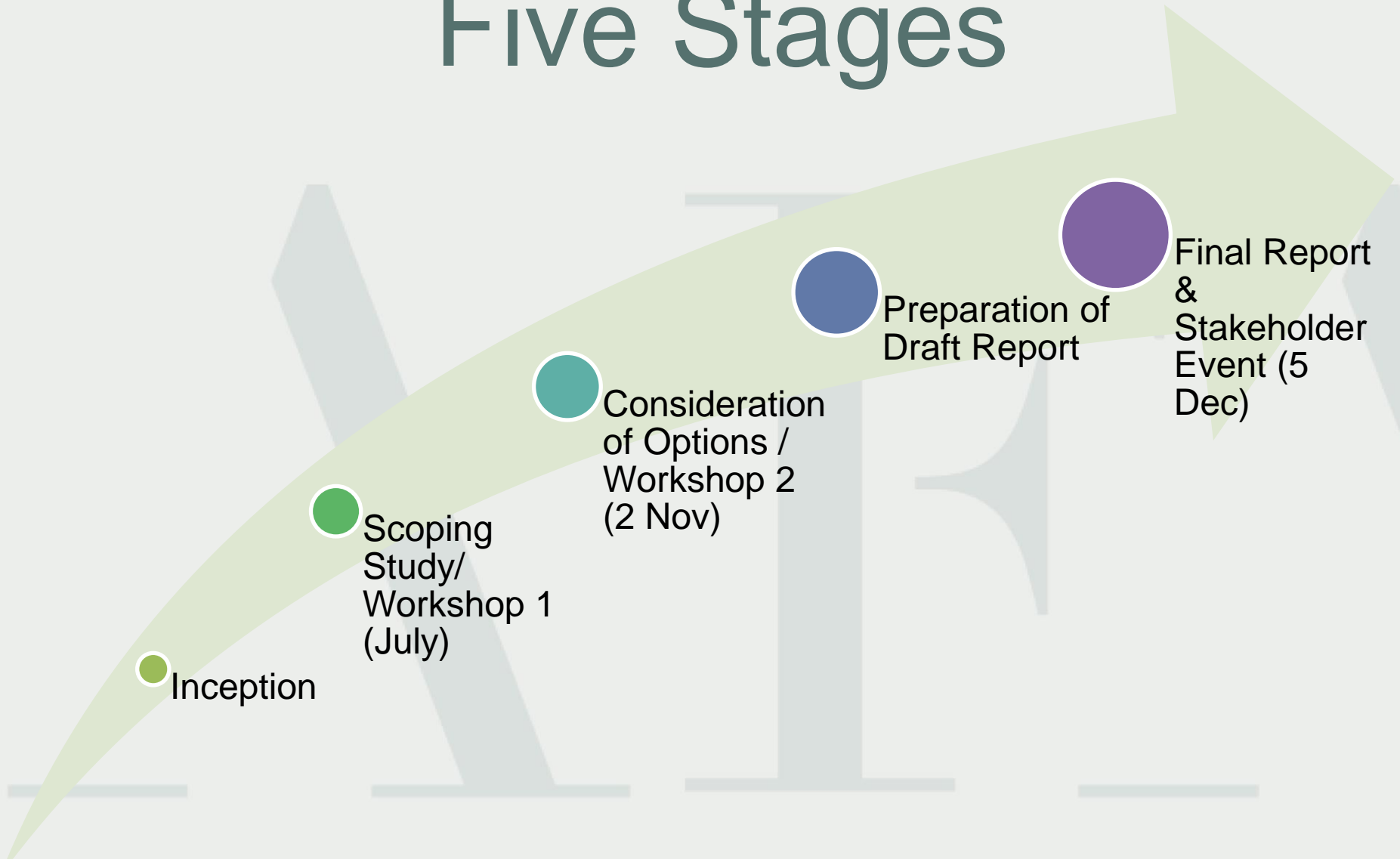
Review
existing
initiatives

Identify
opportunities
and options

Identify a
preferred delivery
framework



Five Stages



Workshop

- Current situation
 - Strengths
 - Weaknesses
- Future drivers
 - Opportunities
 - Threats
- Aspirations



Strengths

- Recognisable landscape/branding
- Unique ecological value
- History of good governance, accessing funding and delivery
- Existing knowledge and expertise
- Public land available for delivering initiatives.
- Large variety of existing initiatives and partnership working



Weaknesses

- Lack of understanding/shared information
- Lack of funding and funding is short-term
- Lack of national status and protection in planning
- Uncertainty re climate change
- Pressure for recreation and tourism
- Limited landscape scale recovery
- Lack of coordination and fragmented delivery
- Unsustainable management (lack of rabbits, water resources and chemical inputs)



Opportunities

- Limited number of landowners (Private & public) - collaboration between them can lead to bigger gains
- Key stakeholders willing to engage
- Unique habitat/landscape and distinctive ecosystem services
- Long-term funding through private finance; climate, biodiversity, Nitrate neutrality etc
- Well positioned to respond to bigger trends and initiatives; Ecotourism, social prescribing & wellbeing
- Local population that is not currently that well engaged but could benefit considerably.



Threats

- Fear of the unknown – lack of knowledge/accessible data
- Sense of not being prepared – reactive and lack of resilience
- Lack of long-term commitment – need to secure lasting change
- Recognition may cause restrictions preventing sustainable business and communities
- Missed opportunities because no overarching governance in place
- Continued species and habitat decline



Aspiration

The Brecks becomes a distinctive resilient landscape supporting community and wildlife through a well-coordinated approach to partner delivery.



Research and Consultations

- AONB designation / AONB adoption
- Other Effective area-based Conservation Mechanisms (OECMs)
- Regional Park
- Super National Nature Reserve
- Cambridge Nature Network
- Integrated Local Delivery Framework (ILDF)



National Landscape

| What | Where |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• National Parks and AONBs• Defined in statute – primary legislation | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10 National Parks and 33 AONBs• Cover a wide range of landscapes• East of England: The Broads, Dedham Vale, Suffolk Coast & Heaths and North Norfolk |
| How | Why |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Statutory criterion of natural beauty• National Parks must also meet criterion of opportunities for open air recreation• Designation process undertaken by Natural England• May take many years | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Statutory protection in planning• Duty to have regard• Funding (Gov and additional funds)• Tried and tested governance – JAC, AONB Team, Partnership• Focus on geographical area• Management plan |

OECMs

Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures

| What | Where |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Internationally agreed by IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature)• Managed for many different objectives but must deliver effective conservation for nature | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Global• Includes range of areas - small sites managed by communities to large wilderness areas |
| How | Why |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Apply to non protected areas• Demonstrate sustained effective management• Exhibit biodiversity values• Deliver in-situ conservation• Holistic consideration of ecosystem• Judged by Expert Assessment Group | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• International recognition• Applies to a geographical area• Takes account of communities• Tried and tested• Global standard |

Regional Park

| What | Where |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Varied origins, objectives, roles and levels of success• No agreed definition of the term• A transparent non-statutory, partnership owned and led, environmental organisation | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Colne Valley (1965)• Lee Valley (1967)• River Nene (2004)• Wandle Valley (2012) |
| How | Why |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lee Valley Regional park has a statutory basis (30 years to establish)• Others are charitable trusts• Management of trust overseen by board of trustees/directors inc. local, regional and national organisations and interests | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Relates to a geographic area• Embedded in local plans and strategies• Provide for integrated management |

Super NNR

| What | Where |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Combines existing NNRs across non-designated areas• Brings together multiple stakeholders• Seeks expansion of habitat | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Purbeck Heaths• Somerset Levels• Wild Ennerdale |
| How | Why |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implements NE strategy for England's NNRs• Approved by NE• Managed by approved bodies and overseen by NE• Draw on public, charitable and private funding | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Creates more collaborative working• Seeks landscape scale nature recovery• Improves resilience of habitat and species to climate change |

Cambridge Nature Network

| What | Where |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Initiated by Wildlife Trust and Conservation Charity (Past, Present and Future)• Nature Recovery Network• Not a new land designation | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Focused on 10km radius around Cambridge• Includes best habitats and best opportunities for creating new habitat |
| How | Why |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prepared an action plan including opportunity mapping• WT prepared vision through landowner collaboration• Recognition within local plan and other policy documents• Grant from Gatsby Foundation• Informal partnership | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Helps to prioritize the best places to take action• Focuses on a spatial plan – no need for designation• Combines public and privately owned assets• Recognition in local plan and strategy |

ILDF

Integrated Local Delivery Framework

| What | Where |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Led by FWAG Association• FWAGs – local Farming and Wildlife Advisory Groups (FWAGs)• Mechanism to tackle climate change at the local level | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• At a parish, ward or town level• Established in Gloucestershire |
| How | Why |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Creates a forum for stakeholders• Trained facilitator• Connects statutory and non-statutory partners• Connects communities to farmer groups• Scopes risks and opportunities at a landscape scale | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Values local knowledge, culture and sense of place• Proven approach to tackling climate change at a local level• Maximises effective use of public, private and charitable funds• Helps people take meaningful action |

What does this tell us?

- Many different approaches
- Have in common:
 - Collaborative and partnership working
 - Accessing funding
 - Long term commitment
 - Evidence base
 - Vision and action/management plan



Workshop 2

Date: 2 November 2023

Purpose: To find out more on selected options and to discuss a suitable approach for the Brecks

Guest Speakers:

Howard Davies (former Chief Executive of the National Association for AONBs) and

Jenny Phelps MBE (Senior Farm Conservation Advisor FWAG)

