

Wetland Vision News Items 2006-2008

Project outputs made available for download, July 2008

The projects main outputs are now available from the downloads part of this website. This includes the main Vision advocacy report, technical material and maps. If you would like a hard copy and a CD containing all of the material, please get in touch.

Launch of the Wetland Vision, July 2008

The 50-year Wetland Vision for England was launched by the partners at the London Wetland Centre on the 7th of July 2008. This was a well attended and positive event attended by key partners, and a range of delivery and funding organisations. Presentations were delivered by James Marsden (Natural England), Graham Wynne (CEO, RSPB), Stephanie Hilborne (CEO, The Wildlife Trusts), Edward Impey (English Heritage), David King (Environment Agency) and Carrie Hume (former Wetland Vision Project Manager). The launch generated some really positive coverage for wetland restoration and the Wetland Vision, with articles in over 70 national or local news papers. A 5 minute slot was also aired on Channel 4 news

(<http://link.brightcove.com/services/link/bcpid1529573111/bclid1632351298/bctid1653700324>).

After the presentations and a Q&A session (chaired by Martin Spray CEO, WWT) attendees joined various discussion groups to focus on how we take the Vision forward and illicit some innovative thinking about delivery mechanisms. The outputs of these can now be downloaded from the Downloads page of this website.

The partners would like to thank everyone who attended the event, or who may have contributed in some way to the development of the Wetland Vision. We would also like to thank WWT for generously lending their facilities at the London Wetland Centre, and Defra for both financial support and gaining a statement of support for the Wetland Vision from Minister Joan Ruddock.

Workshops 2007

A final workshop is run which shares outputs with a range of stakeholders in advance of the launch of the project. This workshop provided an opportunity to explore and refine the final material, and also develop an advocacy strategy. In particular we looked at:

1. An insight into project products, and a discussion about what further issues these raise
2. A session to focus thoughts on the launch, and surrounding partnership and stakeholder advocacy
3. An overview of options to engage with you, and others further into the future, and to share outputs

September 2007

The projects Steering Group visit the Skjern floodplain restoration project in Denmark. A day is spent with the Project Manager identifying how such a project was planned and then made into a reality.

February 2007

English Heritage join the partnership as it enters its third year. Having contributed to the Technical Advisory Group, it became clear that there was a need to develop a more holistic vision that incorporated both above and below ground long-term conservation priorities, including the wetland historic environment. English Heritage were a very welcome partner, and have contributed significantly to its development since.

July 2006

A Wetland Projects GIS Officer, Karen Holliday, is appointed by the Project Manager to focus on developing the mapped components and spatial analysis of the Vision, and to collate information on local visions

February 2006

The partners launch a stakeholder engagement process at the CIWEM World Wetlands Day conference. The Wildlife Trusts join the partnership. This is in recognition of the need to incorporate more views about future wetlands, and of the range of stakeholders involved in the care and delivery of wetlands. The Wildlife Trusts bring a wealth of experience relating to the delivery of wetlands on the ground and on community engagement. Participants at the World Wetlands Day conference help to shape the nature of workshops and key questions for the coming year. A Technical Advisory Group is formed to explore aspects of project development, and to ensure robustness of our approach.

February 2005

The three year Wetland Vision project begins. From the onset the project represents an equal partnership with equal contributions, housed by the RSPB at their headquarters in Bedfordshire. The partnership consists of one of Natural England's founding bodies - English Nature - the Environment Agency and the RSPB. Project Manager Carrie Hume is appointed.