

Annex 2



Performance Report as at 31st August 2007

Natural England Balanced Scorecard

	Current Yr to date	Outlook Qtr 2
Delivery against Strategic Direction	AR	AR
Outcome 1 Conservation & Enhancement	R	R
Outcome 2 Access and Enjoyment	AG	AG
Outcome 3 Sustainable use	AR	AG
Outcome 4 Secure environmental future	AG	AG

	Current Yr to date	Outlook next month
Positioning Profile and Identity	R	AR
Reputation	AR	AG
Media coverage	AG	AG
Engagement with Stakeholders	R	AR
Relations with Customers	AR	AG

	Current Yr to date	Outlook next month
People & Innovation	AR	AG
Leadership	AG	AG
Culture Development	AR	AG
Capacity & Capability	AG	AG
Health and Safety	AG	AG

	Current Yr to date	Outlook next month
Business Performance	R	AG
Financial Performance	AG	AG
Resource allocation	R	AR
Sustainability and Efficiency	AG	AG
Health of business systems	R	AR

**Delivery against Strategic Direction
Performance - Quarter 2 to date (August 2007)**

AR

<p>Outcome 1 Conserve and Enhance</p>	<p>R</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 76% of SSSIs are in target condition, estimated to be at around 81% by year end (against target of 83%). Regional delivery plans are being updated and will be critically reviewed at the Q2 reviews. • Despite a levelling-off of the Farmland Bird Index some declining species, e.g. the tree sparrow, are starting to increase. • 711 Catchment Sensitive Farming capital grant scheme offers totalling £5.1m have been approved
<p>Outcome 2 Access and Enjoyment</p>	<p>AG</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 84% Access Management Grants Scheme projects approved to date (to local authorities for works to improve and manage open access land) • The 30,000th volunteer walk leader trained through Walking the Way to Health initiative. • 4 Local Coastal Access Forum events successfully held at Preston, Peterborough, Bristol and Durham with DEFRA
<p>Outcome 3 Sustainable use</p>	<p>AR</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ES Uptake remains below profile but has shown a 50% monthly rise in the last 3 months. A targeted Regional ES promotional strategy is being introduced • Phase 1 of ES targeting has been completed with regional maps produced on time and to specification at end July. • Energy Crops Scheme literature is now ready for comment by the industry. • The revised Heather and Grassland Burning Code was launched 2nd August, to be implemented from 1st October • The revised Habitats Regulation came into force on the 21st August
<p>Outcome 4 Secure Environmental Futures</p>	<p>AG</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advice provided to Defra on options to mitigate the environmental impact of a zero rate for set-aside for 2008 • An onshore renewable energy network has been established. Farm demo activities underway to encourage biomass/wood fuel production. • 13 Natural England 'Garden party' events in cities across England - part of the BBC Breathing Places City Event. • Big Lottery Fund has accepted our action plans for outstanding Due Diligence issues.

Positioning Profile and Identity Performance - Quarter 2 to date (August 2007)

R

<p>Reputation</p>	<p>AR</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anecdotal evidence suggests that Natural England is gradually building its reputation as an authoritative champion in our sector. • A stakeholder survey in September, and the launch of a Natural England Reputation Tracker next year will provide solid metrics to evaluate our progress effectively.
<p>Media coverage</p>	<p>AG</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since 1 April, Natural England has issued 26 media releases, and had 2,910 media mentions, of which 79 were national, and 158 in broadcast media. Majority of media coverage reflected our core outcomes. • Audience hits - 150 million • Advertising value equivalent - £3.7 million
<p>Engagement with stakeholders</p>	<p>R</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic plans on future stakeholder engagement not yet in place. • The stakeholder survey will provide baseline data on the health of our key relationships at a national and regional level • Engagement with stakeholders on our climate change policy and the Strategic Direction Refresh have been well received
<p>Relations with customers</p>	<p>AR</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prompt response to customer enquiries eg 99% of enquiries in July answered within 10 working days (2020 out of 2036). In May and June 100% of publications dispatched within 2 days • 10 compliments received in July commenting on helpfulness of Natural England staff • Most complaints concerned Natural England policies and procedures • Systems for consistent monitoring of customer service and relationship data not in place

**People and Innovation
Performance - Quarter 2 to date (August 2007)**

AR

<p>Leadership</p>	<p>AR</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback from Phase II performance management training to all staff shows a marked improvement in the level of staff understanding of their role and the linkages to the Strategic Direction (95% compared with 88% in Phase I). • Attendance at Phase II training running at 90% - plans in place to achieve 100% participation. 160 sessions delivered –all supported by a senior manager • Estimated that 70% staff have individual performance agreements plans in place.
<p>Culture Development</p>	<p>AR</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estimated that 55% staff have personal development plans & 60 % staff had Quarter 1 performance conversations with their managers. • Transition programme milestone & dependency plans in place with revised destination statements published. • Transition leaders appointed. • Published staff feedback report and established integrated view of organisational engagement. • Pay and Reward Strategy with Treasury for consultation.
<p>Capacity and Capability</p>	<p>AR</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate Services, Communications and ISS Reviews on track to address key capacity and capability gaps. • Successfully recruited key leadership roles including Finance, Communications, OD, Health and Safety, Sustainability and Commercial Development. • Natural England first staff survey designed for launch in September which will include an assessment of skills capability to deliver Natural England Outcomes
<p>Health and Safety</p>	<p>AG</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One incident reported to HSE. No material breaches or failure of Policy. • Gap analysis completed on the coverage and quality of Risk Assessments. • Health and safety information and procedures developed to support the implementation of our Health and Safety Policy.

Business performance

Performance - Quarter 2 to date (August 2007)



Financial Performance	AG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our 2006/7 annual report and accounts will be unqualified. Draft management letter has no major control issues which is good performance for first year of organisation • Financial performance to August is within 3% of the budget profile. 82% of the annual budget has been committed.
Resource Allocation	R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Profiling not yet completed for over 88% of our corporate plan targets • 93% target performance reporting completed, with 66% to quality standard required. • 100% of activity spend budgets have been allocated to targets. • Lessons learnt from the initial Foot and Mouth emergency concluded that overall we had responded very well to the outbreak and this had been recognised and acknowledged by Defra and our partners.
Sustainability and Efficiency	AG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On target to meet £6.5m cash efficiency saving for 2007/8 • CO2 baseline report completed and validated. • Successful relocations of staff at Cambridge and Reading • Benefits model for transition projects that will deliver efficiencies is being developed.
Health of Business Systems	R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A service level agreement has been signed with Shared Services Division although performance of SSD remains unsatisfactory. A draft service recovery plan and service improvement plan has been produced but concerns over SSD ability to deliver. • On track to move to single IT platform for all systems by October 2007 although IBM performance is not at agreed standards • High level Business Process Model for Natural England showing links between functions completed. Initial priority processes mapped. • Risk management approach evaluated against the HMT Risk Management Assessment Framework

Delivery against Strategic Direction

Regional Highlights – to August 2007

Outcome 1 Conserve and Enhance

Biodiversity

- Little Terns will most likely have their best breeding season on record on the Hartlepool/Durham Coast this year. About 45 pairs have produced around 105 young, half of which have already fledged. This is exceptionally good breeding productivity for what is one of the rarest seabirds in the UK, and - we strongly suspect - is unprecedented in Northern England. The efforts of the Warden and his team of helpers, assisted by our own Castle Eden Dene Estate Team, have contributed significantly to the success.
- The first SSSI to be designated specifically to protect the water vole was confirmed at Dungeness. This covers 9000 ha and creates one site from eight smaller sites but also includes 2,300 ha of newly notified land. It is one of the best SSSIs for invertebrates, supporting many rare and scarce species associated with shingle and sand dune habitats and wetlands. It is home to Britain's only population of Sussex Emerald moth.
- During June, six consultation events about the white-tailed sea eagle re-introduction programme were held on the Suffolk coast, in partnership with our contractors, the Environment Council, and project partners. Three focus groups addressed key areas of concern from livestock farmers, shooting and fishing interests, and were successful in identifying key issues and potential ways forward. Later in the month, public drop-in meetings were held in Westleton, Southwold and Snape, during which the views of almost 250 people were gathered. The full report of these events has been received, with 45% of the public being 'very enthusiastic' about the project, 27% positive, but want more information, and only 3% against the proposal. Related press interest resulted in articles in the regional press and on the BBC website.
- A very successful Farmland Birds Conference was jointly organised in Yorkshire and the Humber with the RSPB. The conference, attended by approximately 100 delegates, focused attention on the best Environmental Stewardship options and opportunities for achieving the farmland bird PSA target within the region.
- Nottinghamshire County Council granted planning permission for an iconic new visitor campus adjacent to the Sherwood Forest National Nature Reserve (NNR). This forms the centrepiece of a bid to the BIG Lottery, a project entitled "Sherwood – the Living Legend", where there is one award of up to £50 million to be won. If successful, this project will help return the ancient forest landscape of Sherwood to its former glory, provide much needed benefits to local communities and develop new ways for people to explore and enjoy the wider Sherwood countryside. The construction of the new campus off the NNR will progress the removal of the existing visitor centre and associated car parks, thus allowing the restoration of the site to favourable condition.
- A training course was delivered to over 30 planners from a range of London Boroughs on species protection in planning. The event was designed to equip Development Control Officers with the knowledge to make informed decisions on planning applications in which legally protected or Biodiversity Action Plan Priority species are known or likely to be present at a development site, to help secure positive outcomes for biodiversity via the planning system.

Delivery against Strategic Direction

Regional Highlights – to August 2007

Outcome 2 Access and Enjoyment

Frequency and diversity

- Natural England hosted a joint conference with the North East Wildlife Trusts for over 50 environmental volunteer providers and volunteers to find ways to manage the over supply of volunteers generated from publicity from events such as Breathing Places. A small working group has been set up to find ways of co-ordinating and sharing training, signposting of volunteers to other providers that have spaces, building capacity to provide more volunteering opportunities.
- A joint event (30th May) entitled Spring into Action was hosted by Natural England, British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, and the Community Service Volunteers (CSV) at Dersingham Bog NNR, Norfolk. The event focussed on bringing together 48 young volunteers from the National Children's Home, those with learning difficulties through CSV, Natural England's NNR volunteers and volunteers from an estate in King's Lynn to make a contribution towards achieving favourable condition status on the reserve.
- As part of the outreach project to increase the number and diversity of visitors to the South East's Aston Rowant NNR an Education Pack has been produced where all activities are risk assessed and linked to the national curriculum. 15 teachers from 10 local schools attended the launch and there have been 6 school visits so far with others confirmed for the autumn term. The activities have also been used for group visits from a local nature club, children and adults with learning and mental disabilities, teenagers from deprived backgrounds, an Asian Church and community groups from ethnic backgrounds.
- The completion of the Cotswold Way National Trail, providing the nation with its newest National Trail, NE's flagship recreational route. The launch celebrated the completion of major works to implement the trail as well as a promotional Guide book and Companion guide.
- The 17 mile Calder Aire link route to the Pennine Bridleway National Trail opened in June. The launch was marked with a walk, horse ride and cycle along part of the route. A new car park with horse box parking, corral and interpretation panel have been built. The route will enable local residents and visitors more opportunities to explore their local area and venture further afield to the Pennine Bridleway.

Understanding and action

- Approximately 5,000 visitors participated in activities on the Natural England Stand at the BBC Breathing Places event in Hull, significantly raising the profile and agenda of Natural England.
- Natural England made a presentation to the East Midlands Public Health Conference on the value of the Great Outdoors on peoples' health. It was the most popular presentation. As a result we have been asked to support the re-drafting of the Regional Health Strategy in early 2008.
- A London Housing Estate from Hackney and Natural England supported residents in putting together a garden in the Chelsea Flower Show to show what can be achieved both for wildlife and local people by managing the open spaces around housing estates in a more imaginative way. This was one of the ways the messages from "A Natural Estate – making space for nature on housing estates" was promoted. Our Board Member Sarah Burton launched the publication, part of the Neighbourhoods Green initiative, a partnership between Natural England, the Peabody Trust, Notting Hill Housing, CABE Space and Groundwork London. We have run a workshop for social housing landlords and as a result a number of housing estates would like to try and implement some of the ideas
- A full and varied programme of events has taken place at Whixall and Bettisfield NNR on the Shropshire/ Welsh Border this summer Through a series of fun activities, walks and talks locals (over 1400 permit holders), visitors and community groups learned more about the history & future of this important and rare site.

Delivery against Strategic Direction

Regional Highlights – to August 2007

Outcome 3 Sustainable use

Land Management Activities

- The River Till Wetlands Restoration Project in the North East is being project managed by the Tweed Forum using monies from the Environment Agency River Levies Fund and SITA Land Fill Trust, along with HLS. New wetland habitats will be created by control breeches in the flood banks along the Till, which is part of the River Tweed. The project has its first farms signed up and works will commence this autumn creating 40ha of flood plain with a range of habitats, including grazing flood plain, reed beds, fen, wet woodland, and grassland buffers for resource protection to reduce agricultural inputs into the river from any flooding.
- Business partnership - The stakeholder launch of Natural Economy North West project was held in June, with keynote speech from Sir Martin Doughty. The project has attracted £2.9 million external funding (£2.4m from NW Development Agency and £0.5m from SITA) plus £0.3m from Natural England. A 100 day campaign and network was also launched to show just how important our natural environment is to the economy, the image of the Northwest and to our quality of life.

Regional Planning and Spatial Strategies

- Joint planning seminars, in association with Yorkshire & The Humber Assembly were targeted at both local authority planning officers (forward planning and development control) and local authority Members. A supporting information pack was agreed and produced. It included briefing submissions by Natural England, Environment Agency, English Heritage, Forestry Commission, Government Office and Sport England.
- We have met the ODA to discuss our response to the planning application for the Olympic Site and have proactively led on securing a partnership to ensure proposals are environmentally sustainable and provide a starting point from which to deliver the legacy. We are also brokering discussions with Hackney Borough Council to explore benefits of mitigation options adjacent to the site.
- We have raised the profile of Natural England, its Strategic Direction and emerging policies through frequent input of evidence and persuasive arguments to the Examination in Public of the South West's Regional Spatial Strategy, on aspects including growth points, protected landscapes, rural areas, strategically significant cities and towns. Appropriate co-ordination of responses with regional partners strengthened our input, building on a well established network with Environment Agency, Council for the Protection of England (CPRE), English Heritage, RSPB, Government Office SW.
- For the East Midlands Spatial Strategies, Natural England has secured a seat at 8 Examination in Public (EIP) debates and submitted written representations to 12 'Matters' to be considered by the Panel The EIP started at the end of May and continued throughout June and July.
- Wide engagement with East of England regional frameworks and strategies. Detailed input to the sustainability appraisal of the Economic Strategy Review, the development of environmental indicators for the Integrated Regional Strategy & RSS with EERA, an Environmental Capacity Pilot in the Haven Gateway, the development of an Integrated Regional Landscape Framework with the regional Landscape Forum, and the agreement of Significant Water Management Issues for the Anglia River Basin District.

Delivery against Strategic Direction

Regional Highlights – to August 2007

Outcome 4 Secure Environmental Futures

Green energy and adaptation to climate change

- After five years of consultation we are about to conclude our advice on the closest inshore wind farm in the UK. This 30 turbine wind farm in Tees Bay will make a significant contribution of a much needed 108 mega watts to the renewable energy target for North East England. The entire consultation directly involved the RSPB as a partner, to great advantage. This fruitful consultation demonstrates the kind of win-win solutions we need for sustainable use of marine resources demonstrating that economic growth and renewable energy generation can be achieved literally alongside the interests of our internationally important designated sites.
- North West Climate Change Action Plan has set up a climate change fund. We have been successful in getting the fund to accept biological sequestration as an eligible activity which will enable additional funding streams for peat restoration in the region.
- The East of England Growth Areas project has made excellent progress in Q1 with the Peterborough Green Grid strategy launched and good progress on strategy preparation in the 3 Growth Points. A national/regional key target is establishing partnerships with developers, and a series of productive meetings have been held, leading to active engagement on 2 major sites, and one Area Action Plan process.

Breathing Cities events

- On June 9th Natural England London Region went to the London Borough of Newham with boxes of bug 'bling' and bags full of plastic bottles, as part of the Breathing Places Cities event. The event was attended by over 10,000 people with queues forming for the most popular activities, one of which was the Natural England tent. As well as having their faces painted and listening to stories from the Fairyland Trust, families created bottle feeders, took part in a gardeners question time, (potting wildlife friendly plants) and learned how to make insect houses. We also encouraged people to take part in the wildlife gardening survey and many people took away a green prescription. We reached a new audience and helped spread the word about local wildlife as well as helping to build a closer regional team.
- The West Midlands Natural England's Garden Party at the BBC Breathing Places Cities event (9th & 10th June) was held at Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham. The Garden Party was an outstanding success with just under 30,000 visitors to the event. Extensive local media coverage and excellent community engagement was achieved over the weekend http://www.bbc.co.uk/birmingham/content/articles/2007/06/09/springwatch_roundup_june07_feature.shtml . Activities were designed for families and included making bird feeders, recycled origami plant pots, potting insect friendly plants, nature quizzes and many other activities. All were well received and excited our visitors.