



What should be our priorities for habitat creation and restoration (and why don't we do more of it)?

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Why do we need habitat creation? (i.e. what are BAP habitat targets for?)

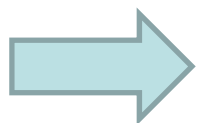


- Our species need it:
Habitat loss is the top cause of decline of BAP species
(UK BAP reporting round results: 1999, 2002, 2005, 2008)
- In England:
 - 99.7% East Anglian Fens lost since 17th Century
 - 84% lowland heathland lost since 1800
 - 97% flower-rich meadows lost since 1930
 - 20% hedgerows lost between 1984 and 1990

Why do we need habitat creation?



- Habitat loss causes local and ultimately national extinctions (e.g. one vascular plants loss per county every 1-2 years)
- Fundamental to halting and reversing biodiversity decline and meeting commitments (BAP, Favourable Conservation Status)
- Habitat creation delivers services that have real value now and are likely to be even more important in the future



We need more land for biodiversity at a time when there are increasing demands for other purposes (food, housing, etc.)



If habitat creation is so important
why haven't we done more?

Opportunities for habitat creation (analysis by EBG)

| Mechanism | Initiating creation | Sustaining gains |
|--|---------------------|------------------|
| Designated sites (SSSIs, NNRs SACs, SPAs) | ☹️ | 😊 |
| Incentive schemes (outside designated sites) | 😊 | ☹️ |
| Direct delivery by government | ☹️ | 😞 |
| Planning and development gain | ☹️ | 😞 |
| Voluntary Conservation Organisations | 😊 | 😊 |
| Grant-giving bodies | 😊 | 😞 |
| Planning and development gain | ☹️ | 😞 |
| Business | ☹️ | 😞 |
| Ecosystem service delivery | ☹️ | 😞 |

Opportunities for habitat creation take home messages



- Initiating restoration and creation:
 - Several mechanisms available. Sometimes all available funds aren't accessed
 - Challenge is to achieve gains in the right places and at a sufficient scale to conserve biodiversity now and in the future
- Sustaining gains in the long-term:
 - Far fewer options
 - Designation
 - Sympathetic land ownership

Opportunities for habitat creation take home messages



- Potential solutions:
 - Improve agri-env incentives for sustaining gains (e.g. paying for ecosystem services?)
 - Designate land for the purpose of habitat creation (ecological network establishment?)
 - Do more on government estate
 - Do more in National Parks/ AONBs
 - Buy more land and transfer ownership to NGO partners
 - Make more of business opportunities
 - Ecosystem service solutions
 - Environmental markets and biodiversity offsets

Future opportunities for habitat creation

| Mechanism | Initiating creation | Sustaining gains |
|---|---------------------|------------------|
| All designated sites (incl. <u>NPs, AONBs</u>) | 😊 | 😊 |
| Incentive schemes | 😊 | 😐 → 😊 |
| Direct delivery by government | 😐 → 😊 | 😞 → 😊 |
| Regulatory levers | 😐 | 😞 → 😐 |
| Voluntary Conservation Organisations | 😊 | 😊 |
| Grant-giving bodies | 😊 | 😞 → 😐 |
| Planning and development gain | 😐 → 😊 | 😞 → 😊 |
| Business | 😐 → 😊 | 😞 → 😊 |
| Ecosystem service delivery | 😞 → 😊 | 😞 → 😊 |



There is increased emphasis on and opportunity for habitat creation

What should we do
and where should we do it?

Factors we might use to prioritise include:



- Potential (geology, hydrology, historic land use)
- Distance from target ('do the rarest first?')
- Distribution of current resource
 - reducing fragmentation, buffering sites, creating networks
- Current and future species distribution
- Scale
- Ecosystem services (including accessibility)
- Opportunity
- Sustainability of gains