



WHOLESCAPE THINKING - GUIDANCE FOR STRONGER PARTNERSHIP WORKING TO SUPPORT THE 25 YEAR PLAN

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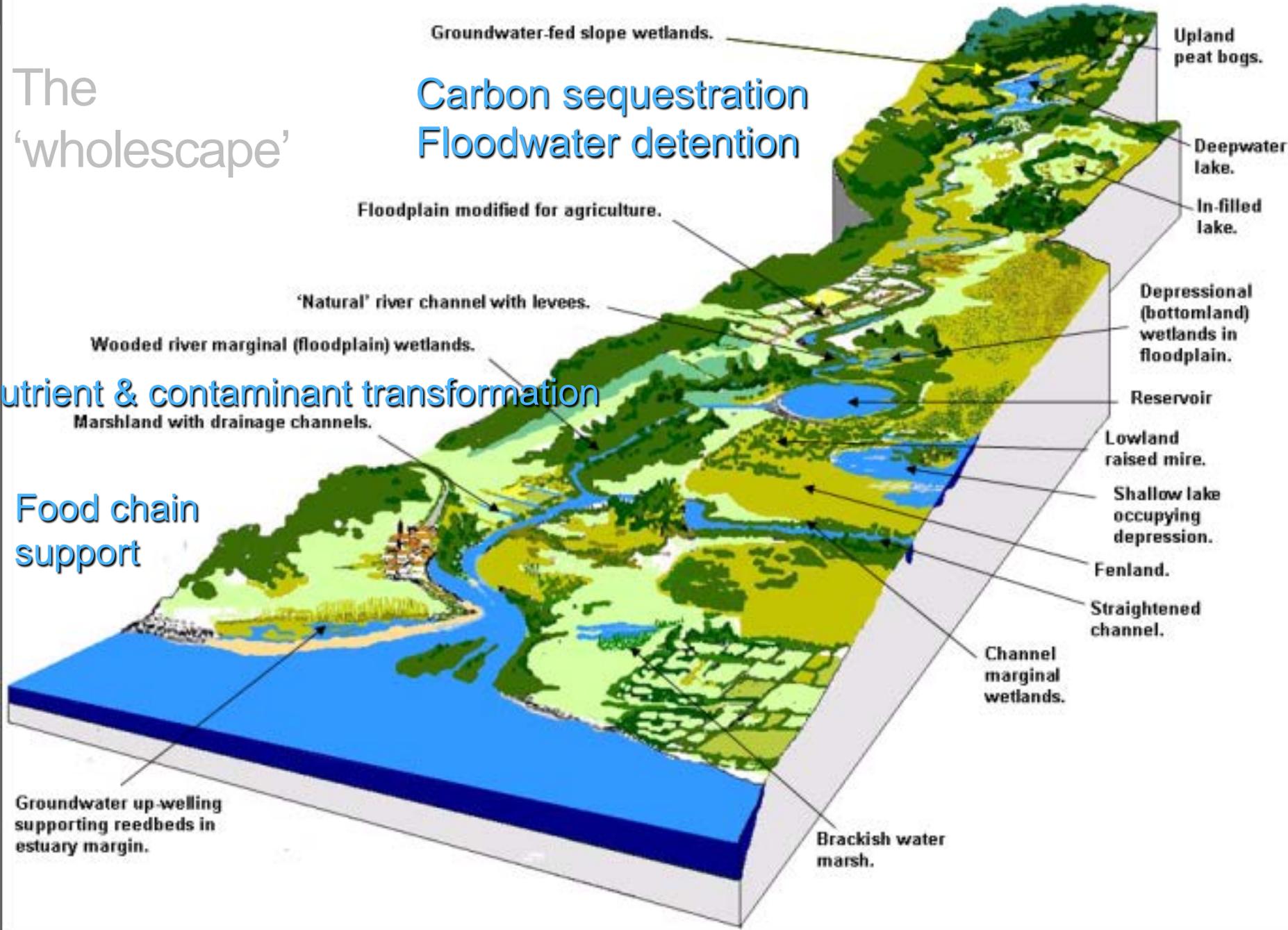
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The
'wholescape'

Carbon sequestration
Floodwater detention

Nutrient & contaminant transformation

Food chain
support



The process

Nov. 2014 Natural Capital Summit 'Valuing our Life Support Systems' Partnerships for Land and Water management.

Oct. 2015 Workshop at CEH 'Natural capital without boundaries : integrating the management of catchments, coast and the sea through partnership.'

June 2016 Task force to discuss outcomes from workshop.

Nov. 2017 Draft guidance distributed for comment.

Feb. 2018 Revised draft to be reviewed at Final Workshop.



Workshop

What are the benefits of working across boundaries?

What are the draw-back or limitations of working across boundaries?

What are the opportunities and mechanisms for working across boundaries?

What are the obstacles to working across boundaries and who/what needs to change?



Key outcome from Summit and subsequent expert workshop

Guidelines should be developed, based on practical experiences, of how to develop and better utilize partnership working and overcome any constraints

Structure of document

- Purpose
- What do we want to achieve?
- Why do we need to do this?
- What principles are guiding us?
- Moving from principles to practice-examples
- What are the constraints?
- Actions required

Principles of Integrated Management through partnership

- Adopting the natural capital approach to transcend conventional sectoral / geographical boundaries for related management. New 'wholescape' thinking can encourage integrated and equitable consideration of different perspectives.
- Meeting legal obligations and supporting government policy objectives including the Ecosystem Approach, Catchment Based Approach (Water Framework Directive), marine planning, conservation and integrated coastal management (Marine Act, Maritime Spatial Planning Directive & Marine Strategy Framework Directive).
- Seeking holistic solutions with common objectives that do not harm other sectors, addressing shared challenges, replacing silo-thinking, identifying system failures and supporting multiple outcomes.

Further principles

- Taking a joined-up approach to funding amongst all vested interests, to increase efficiencies and cost-effectiveness. Using partnerships to overcome institutional and funding boundary constraints.
- Using partnership working to effect sharing of scientific and local knowledge, encouraging sharing of learning and resources to fill gaps in responsibility, e.g. Local Nature Partnerships.
- Using natural capital as a common currency to communicate between different geographical, sectoral and institutional boundaries. Natural capital provides a bridge between economic, social and environmental perspectives that supports partnership working.

Examples

- Flooding and fishing
- Upstream and downstream thinking
- Trans-boundary partnerships
- Nutrient benefit or harm?
- Livestock grazing and water runoff
- Marine

Constraints

- Limited joined up thinking among government departments due to long history of sector-based approaches to governance, hence environmental, economic and social / health policies frequently not aligned.
- Few people in government departments, agencies, private enterprise or community groups have experience in cross-thematic working.
- Cross-disciplinary approaches rarely taught in schools and Universities – important for mainstreaming this approach in the future.

Further constraints:

- Ecosystem services / natural capital accounts or audits still largely lacking in business and government c.f. traditional metrics
- Recognition is weak that legislation, policy and management practices need to be implemented at appropriate scales, such as the river catchment, coastal system and marine region as whole systems.
- Coordinated plans that integrate, coastal / estuarine and catchment systems are broadly lacking.
- Time and resources are required to establish partnership working and initial costs can be a barrier to establishing new ways of working.

Required key actions

- Collate the disparate experiences of existing partnership working
- Promote shared learning
- Create a partnership innovation fund
- Develop a knowledge exchange facility

Putting the 25 year plan into place

- New independent body to hold government to account and a new set of environmental principles to underpin policy.
- Strengthening leadership and delivery through better local planning, more effective partnerships and learning from 4 pioneers.
- Work closely with a large range of stakeholders to identify their contribution to the goals of the plan