



Report of the Partnership Launch

22 November 2017

The Green Halo Partnership was launched on 22 November at Ordnance Survey's offices in Southampton. Almost 100 people attended to discuss the opportunities the Partnership offers, representing over 50 different organisations from across the public and private sectors.

Alison Barnes from the New Forest National Park outlined work done since the first Green Halo conference in July 2016 to help us understand how natural capital can help us tackle the big economic, environmental and societal challenges our communities face. The Partnership brings sectors together to explore practical ways of using a 'natural capital' approach.

All present were invited to make a commitment to working in partnership, and already 39 organisations have signed up – we expect more to join us in the coming weeks.

Our vision is to be a global exemplar of how our most precious landscapes can work in harmony with a thriving, economically successful community.





Guy Thompson, Natural England Chief Operating Officer

"The Green Halo Partnership is an opportunity to lead the country in turning policy into practice."

The national context

Natural England's Chief Operating Officer, Guy Thompson, outlined how natural capital – the value we place on our environmental assets – is guiding the development of national policy. The Government's 25 Year Environment Plan, expected to be published in January, will have natural capital at its heart.

The Plan will address the question "what has nature ever done for us?" by showing how nature's assets can contribute to society's health, wellbeing and prosperity.

Realising the benefits of natural capital is also likely to shape the Government's rural support policies post-Brexit.

There were three key 'take-away' messages:

- Our natural assets are part of the solution to environmental, economic and social challenges
- Those assets should be given a non-zero value and help guide our decision-making processes: whether on development, investment or other topics
- We need to work in partnership to deliver practical solutions, bringing communities with us.

Guy welcomed the Green Halo Partnership as a new way of working which reached across geographic and sector boundaries.





Kate Rice, Southern Water Catchment Strategy Officer

“We are taking a river ‘catchment first’ approach to protect the environment and support sustainable economic growth. Partnership and collaboration are vital.”

Real World Examples

Southern Water

One of our biggest challenges over the last year has been finding practical illustrations of how a natural capital perspective can shape projects on the ground.

Kate Rice, Southern Water’s Catchment Strategy Manager, spoke about how that perspective was guiding a fresh approach to the management of water catchments and natural aquifers. It is shaping the company’s investment decisions, as well as guiding its discussions with customers about future charging policies.

Southern Water’s ‘Catchment First’ approach encouraged holistic management of river catchments to help protect the environment and so sustain water supplies. It helps them find opportunities for partnership and co-delivery. However, she acknowledged that there are still lots of challenges, notably on how best to value the contribution of natural assets so it can be incorporated in decision-making.



Ordnance Survey

Ordnance Survey’s Chris Parker introduced the Geovation Challenge, a programme he has been running for several years to encourage innovative use of geo-data to tackle global problems. This year’s challenge was shaped around the Green Halo’s four themes (see below), and would, he hoped, help identify and shape projects which could provide some exemplars.



The Green Halo Forums

The Green Halo is exploring how the perspective offered by natural capital can help find new solutions under four broad (and overlapping) themes:

- Building the Local Economy
- Improving Health & Wellbeing
- Sustainable Living
- Protecting the Natural Environment

The Partnership will find practical examples of what can be done under each of these headings.

At the Launch people joined discussions on one of the four themes. These Forums also provided an initial opportunity to seek wider views on the contribution the Partnership can make.

Key points raised included:

- The importance of clear and simple metrics for measuring the contribution of our natural assets
- Avoid using detailed technical terms: keep the language simple and accessible
- We need a clear and simple measure of "success"

- Be clear who the target audience for each theme is
- Make sure we don't lecture people, but seek to inspire
- Practical projects are the best way of showing what we mean, so identify and share best practice
- We must build a real sense of "ownership" – both of assets and initiatives – in our communities, we cannot "impose"
- Collaboration is key
- Open communication is important, and so is education
- Our themes overlap, and need to be integrated (although not merged).



Professor Ian Williams

When we came back together to discuss the Forums we reinforced many of those points.

Professor Ian Williams, from the University of Southampton, neatly encapsulated three aspects which received universal endorsement:

- Don't obsess about the economics of natural capital: that's important but we mustn't get too engrossed in technicalities
- Keep our focus on action, don't create another talking shop
- The Partnership should showcase good leadership (to do the right thing) and management (by doing things right).



What next?

Alison Barnes ended the Launch by thanking all those present for attending and for the enthusiasm all showed for working together under the "Green Halo" banner.

Everyone wants the Partnership to be action-orientated, and the four **Forums** will be shaping and driving forward a programme of activity to build partnerships and ensure projects are delivered.

The Green Halo **Steering Group** will support and co-ordinate the work of the Forums. They'll also look at some of the concerns raised around data and methodology, as well as ensuring that we tell everyone about the Partnership and what we're trying to achieve.

We hope each Forum will be able to say a bit more about how they plan to move forward early in the New Year, and each will be open to hearing from those who want to take part in their activities.

The Green Halo **website** will be launched in the New Year and will contain details of our aims and objectives, the work of each Forum and all members of the Partnership. It will help all who want to take part keep up to date, and provide opportunities to input their thoughts, ideas and projects.

We'll also be writing to the **Environment Secretary** about the Green Halo Partnership and the widespread support we've had for "doing something". The Partnership can help Government achieve its aims, and we hope it will support us.

Contact us

To find out more, or get involved in building the Green Halo Partnership, please get in touch with:

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Thank you.





Partnership signatories

Associated British Ports	Dorset County Council	Hanmer Management Ltd	NHS West Hampshire CCG	Southampton Solent University
Barton Willmore	Enterprise M3 LEP	Hawk Conservancy	Ordnance Survey	Southern Water
Bournemouth Borough Council	Environment Agency	HPW	PMC Construction	Transport Works
Boyle and Summers	Fawley Waterside Ltd	Launch International	Pyterra	University of Bournemouth
Christchurch and East Dorset District Council	Forestry Commission	Lymington Harbour	Ramboll	Vail Williams
Country Land and Business Association Ltd	Hampshire & IOW Wildlife Trust	Natural England	RSPB	Wessex Water
Dorset AONB	Hampshire County Council	New Forest District Council	Santander	Willmott Dixon
	Hampshire Rural Forum	New Forest National Park Authority	Solent Forum	XCX Consulting

