

**Workshop: 25th March 2010,
Lowestoft**

East Anglia Hub Meeting 1
FULL WORKSHOP REPORT

**For: Net Gain
By: BDOR Limited**

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. This is the full report of the workshop held in Lowestoft on 25th March 2010. This was the first meeting for this particular 'Hub', one of four that were held during late March to cover the whole of Net Gain's East coast area. Further Hub meetings will be held as work proceeds towards detailed recommendations to government for the location of Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) in the Net Gain area.

1.2. The prime aim of the Hub approach is to enable more detailed and local knowledge and skill to be used than would be possible through one overall event for the whole stretch of coast. To that end it will be those who attend and contribute to the Hubs who will be the final decision-makers on recommended MCZs. An overall review body – the Stakeholder Advisory panel (StAP) - will consider the recommendations from the four Hubs but strictly to ensure appropriate consistency (or variation), robustness of evidence and argument; the StAP will not take decisions.

1.3. The invitee list for all the Hubs was based on guidance offered by participants at the earlier large Group Meeting, and on local knowledge gleaned by members of the Net Gain team. Because of the very demanding timetable set nationally, little notice was given to those invited to the workshop and this is likely to have affected response rates. Nevertheless the attendance was good in terms of numbers and in terms of the range of interests represented. Appendix 1 lists all attendees and those who sent apologies.

1.4. The overall format – the same for all four Hub events - was of a mix of short presentations or handouts and small group work, sometimes (not always) followed by plenary discussion or questions. Details of each session follow later but, in summary, the programme was as follows:

- ⊕ **Welcome and Introductions (to all)**
- ⊕ **Briefing on the Net Gain Project**
- ⊕ **Principles for a Successful MCZ**
- ⊕ **Understanding the Ecological Guidance**
- ⊕ **Working on Maps**
- ⊕ **Terns of reference for the Hubs**
- ⊕ **The format and membership of the StAP**
- ⊕ **Next Stages and Outstanding Points**

1.5. All except the welcome session are covered in the main sections of this report though not always – as will be explained – with material recorded in this report. All text in italics (as here) is explanation, description and commentary. Everything in plain text is as recorded during the workshop.

2. NET GAIN BRIEFING

2.1. *At each Hub event there were some who had attended a Roadshow event and/or the Large Group Meeting and some who were new to the process. All the former had heard the standard briefing at least once but newcomers needed to be brought up to speed with the basics of the project, its purpose, format and so forth. Rather than repeat the presentation again, basic material was placed on tables and those who had been before were asked to help to brief the newcomers, while Net Gain staff were available to respond to any questions.*

2.2. *Following the group discussions, some questions were raised in plenary and recorded as follows:*

- ⊕ How much area for each Hub?
- ⊕ Balancing evidence? (different types of evidence)
- ⊕ Timetable/deadline – plus breakdown
- ⊕ Balance of larger/smaller groups
- ⊕ Will it count when goes to public consultation?
- ⊕ What does “reduce costs” mean?
- ⊕ Role of social/economic guidance?
- ⊕ Links with other protected areas and hierarchy?
- ⊕ Who is on science advisory panel?
Where does dredging come in? Next table!
- ⊕ Boundaries – eg: estuaries?
(Equity of penalties?!)
- ⊕ Foreign vessels/groups?

2.3. *Some questions were answered on the spot, some during later sessions on the day and some have been answered in the full Q&A set available on the Net gain website.*

3. PRINCIPLES FOR A SUCCESSFUL MCZ

3.1. *During the earlier Large Group Meeting (LGM) people were asked to look ahead to imagine what might be some principles for a successful Marine Conservation Zone – ie. not just how one might be recommended (as in the current process) but how it might be designated, operated, managed and policed in the future.*

3.2. *A summary of the key messages from the LGM was given to groups at the start of this session and they were asked to tick any they supported, add any new one and query phrasing (and write alternatives). The text in italics below is what was on the handout sheet, the comments made by the groups are in plain text; note also the ticks.*

<p>1. <i>The process to recommend them should be open and transparent and conform fully to all relevant guidance and standards.</i> – ✓ ✓</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Φ Delete “...and conform fully to all relevant guidance and standards” Φ Government set guidance will predetermine the outcome! Φ Add ... and reducing costs Φ “... relevant ...” – explain?
<p>2. <i>Recommendations should be based on strong, clear and widely agreed evidence and data</i> - ✓</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Φ “... widely agreed evidence” (by whom?) Φ Past, present and future Φ National Ecological Guidance – to include socio-economic, etc? Φ “ ... widely ...” ? Φ “ ... widely agreed ...” – where possible. However, there should be a robust process for verifying anecdotal evidence into the MCZ process
<p>3. <i>Evidence should cover, on an equal basis, social and economic, as well as ecological, issues and factors</i> - ✓</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Φ “Evidence should be presented ...” Φ Future-proofing Φ Add ... of all marine users Φ “ ... equal basis ...”
<p>4. <i>All existing users and activities should be considered</i> - ✓ ✓</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Φ “... should be equally considered” Φ Redundant? Covered within 5.? Φ And FUTURE users!? Φ Resource/spatial activities Φ And NEW users Φ Considered on an equal footing
<p>5. <i>All stakeholders should have an opportunity at all stages to provide information and evidence, engage in debate and be genuinely listened to</i> - ✓ ✓</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Φ ... and contribute to decision-making Φ And questions
<p>6. <i>Boundaries should be set for appropriately sized areas with attention paid to existing designations, overlaps with other areas and implications for areas around</i> - ✓ ✓</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Φ Displacement

7. Once in place, all MCZs should be well enforced, regularly monitored and regularly reviewed - ✓?

- Φ Future of MCZs – re: funding, etc
- Φ "... **appropriately** monitored and **appropriately** reviewed." HAS to be meaningful!

8. When areas are recommended (and then designated and managed) it must be clear how they will show positive environmental and ecological benefit and their impacts on uses and users - ?

- Φ Benefit/outcomes
- Φ Compatibility – within and adjacent to designated sites = key
- Φ Not looked at

3.3. There was a very short feedback session at this point. A few additional points were made:

- Φ Monitoring success of MCZ
- Φ Switch points 2 and 3
- Φ Information to (casual) sea users of MCZ existence!
- Φ Ensure adherence to MCZs – (how do we inform all sea users?)
- Φ "**IDEALS** for Successful MCZs"

3.4. A final version of these principles, combining all comments from the four first round Hub meetings will be available as soon as possible as part of regular contact with Hub members.

4. ECOLOGICAL NETWORK GUIDANCE

4.1. This session was built on a two-part presentation by Steve Barnard from Net Gain. The nationally produced guidance is long and complex so it was decided that the best approach would be to cover a few only of the key aspects then let groups consider the points and raise questions before moving on to the second set of key issues and further group work. The powerpoint slides used during the presentation are in Appendix 2.

4.2. The questions from each of the two stages of the session follow below (the numbered items) with immediate answers where possible (the bullet points). If not given here, answers will follow as soon as possible.

Stage 1

1. What does 'protection' mean? Do we help decide threats?

- Φ Try to avoid conflicts of interest. Then look at threats and data. If conflict, sensitive to physical disturbance – may wish to control trawling

2.	Are % guideline limits in concrete?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Φ Argument needs to be made from all sides (never listen to fishermen, only the scientists!) Φ Guidance is just guidance!
3.	No mention of birds
4.	How to choose, eg: 16-32%
5.	Ranges apply nationally?
	Φ Yes
6.	Will guidance evolve on species, and how?
	Φ Potentially
7.	Who decided species and habitat lists, etc?
	Φ Already listed and best scientific material
8.	Do we have expertise in Hubs?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Φ Hub skill OK if get/use guidance Φ Yes
9.	List of threats? Evidence?
	Φ Should come with guidance and will be backed by evidence
10.	If rigid guidelines, what arguments can be made, effectively, by 'ordinary people'
11.	Subject to negotiation by who's got the biggest purse?
12.	How long has NE had to produce all this info? All topical?
	Φ Put together in last year
13.	Clarify whether Hubs really have power to 'decide'
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Φ Not completely open, but can reduce/change if balancing argument made Φ SAP may query and challenge local argument
14.	What is natural anyway?
15.	Is this simply moving damaging activities around?

Stage 2

1. Protection too tight for future growth? Φ Yes, potentially so looking at this. May be reason to review
2. Enforceability of lots of small? Φ Potentially, yes
3. Buffer zones offer same protection? Φ Some yes, some no
4. How straight? (Straighter helps trawlers, etc) Φ Can reflect user criteria (even those without GIS, etc!)
5. Managing gear in/near areas? Compensation for removal? Φ Scope for compensation and management in Act
6. What is 'damage'? Eg: can't even sail through Φ Different levels for different features – can go through
7. If area's too wide, impact on distance and fuel and time Φ [NE looking at compatibility of uses/issues/species, protection, etc]
8. Are zones to be whole year or seasonal, etc? Φ Can be incorporated

5. WORKING ON MAPS

5.1. *This was an important session but difficult to record, mainly because its prime aim was simply to show Hub members what is available now and what would be available shortly, in what form, at what scale and so forth. There was, however, a 'recording' element to it but this was done by individuals noting on a form what information they and their colleagues have available about use of the seas. By definition, this information is confidential so cannot be included here.*

5.2. *There were, however, a number of comments made and recorded about the most appropriate ways of presenting it, as follows.*

<p><i>Does the “base” information allow people to orient themselves?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Φ Key feature dots are key Φ Key marine features need to be overlaid, etc, on broad habitat map Φ Admiralty charts Φ Needs to be on an admiralty chart Φ Yes. Good size of map at A2 Φ Administrative boundaries – to parish level Φ More named communities on the coastline
<p><i>Extent of the maps (scale)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Φ Need some to be zoomed into key points example =foci Φ Use GIS based maps at our Hubs, so provides greatest flexibility Φ Yes – include boundary with Kings Lynn Hub – or is there overlap? Φ A layer for presence of feature rather than a geographic map layer Φ Maps would be better in portrait view – cutting off unnecessary inland area, more legend into centre of region Φ Good for an overview, but would like to zoom in to Hub/region
<p><i>Is the legend self-explanatory?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Φ Yes x3 Φ No 2 keys represent same feature Φ Why mixed sandbank and fishing ground on legend? Separate layer for fishing types
<p><i>Is the font size suitable?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Φ Bit small, but OK Φ OK Φ Yes
<p><i>Layer overlay</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Φ Yes, but live GIS would be better Φ Use GIS based maps at our Hubs Φ Correcting on acetates/paper copies good and useful when working at tables. PowerPoint/on-screen also could be useful for overviews Φ Registration for overlays
<p><i>Use of colour</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Φ Fine Φ Yes too similar, use of hatching, etc Φ Red + Green – line types, etc

5.3. A few other questions were raised or points made during the brief feedback discussion:

- Φ Use of technology
- Φ Why on SSSI map included '{' for dredging areas? Could put on same maps SACs and SPAs

- Φ Would rather not have a group GIS presentation, as it would be difficult to see
- Φ It would be very helpful to have a GIS/web-access-enabled laptop per group so we can zoom in and out as needed
- Φ PDF version of latest maps/layers at each meeting, as per the interactive JNCC map, therefore don't need a GIS-enabled laptop, just PDF reader
- Φ Maps not complete (missing wind farm?)

6. TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE HUBS

6.1. *This session was managed in a similar way to the earlier one on Principles, i.e. by giving people a first draft set of Terms of Reference and asking them to comment on them by annotating the sheet given to them. As before, the text in italics below is what was on the handout sheet, the comments made by the groups are in plain text; note also the ticks.*

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 *To work together to recommend to the Stakeholder Advisory Panel Marine Conservation Zones that have the widest possible support and are based on the best possible evidence - ✓ ✓ ✓*
- Φ And management recommendations

2.0 Membership

- 2.1 *To include representatives of groups and organisations with a range of possible interests in MCZs and who are able to speak on behalf of those groups or organisations - ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓*
- Φ Size of group being represented
- 2.2 *All effort should be put into ensuring that the same people attend each Hub meeting (see 3.2 below), although substitutes can be used - ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓*
- Φ Issue and background
 - Φ Sign up to ToR
- 2.3 *As work develops to suggest specific locations for MCZs, additional representatives with relevant local interest may be invited to join - ✓ ✓ ✓*
- Φ Issue and background
 - Φ Sign up to ToR
 - Φ Some groups here on advisory role only
- 2.4 *Where appropriate, Net Gain staff would ideally join in sessions as equal participants - ✓ ✓ ✓*
- Φ NO! Not decision-makers
 - Φ Delete "as equal participants"
 - Φ As an advisory role?

- 2.5 *At least one member from each Hub will act as a representative on the Stakeholder Advisory Panel and contribute there on behalf of all Hub members - ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓*
- Φ Net Gain staff here instead
 - Φ Why don't they come to us instead?
 - Φ Choose a neutral or independent member with less bias, or 2+ members!
 - Φ Very important
 - Φ At least 2
 - Φ Recognition that the Hub member will have dual representation – their own interests and that of the Hub

3.0 Operation of Meetings

- 3.1 *Meetings (one, perhaps 2) will take place during each of the main 'iteration' stages of the national MCZ recommendation process - ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓*
- Φ Flexibility if more required
 - Φ What are the stages?
 - Φ May vary?
- 3.2 *Apart from the first round, meetings will be timetabled and located as fully as possible with the agreement of Hub members - ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ?*
- Φ Clarify
- 3.3 *The meetings will be organised and run by the Stakeholder consultant team on behalf of Net Gain and Hub members. They will suggest and manage agendas based on an understanding of what the group has requested, what is necessary at that particular stage and what is feasible to cover in the agreed time - ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓*
- 3.4 *All present will contribute as fully and openly as possible (while respecting, for example, commercial confidentiality) - ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓*
- 3.5 *All will be treated as equal 'in the room' and all views will be respected - ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓*
- 3.6 *Except in particular and agreed circumstances, no comments made or noted will be attributed to any particular person or group - ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓*
- Φ Delete "no" ... (makes accountability and follow-up easier)
- 3.7 *The facilitation team will aim to note all key points correctly. Members need to help by ensuring correctness at the time - ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓*
- Φ ... and thereafter
- 3.8 *The facilitation team (and Net Gain staff if appropriate) will do all possible to support Hub members in their role - ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓*

4.0 Communications

- 4.1 *Full reports will be made from each meeting and circulated to all participants (and any sending apologies) - ✓ ✓ ✓*
- Φ Request hard or soft copies
 - Φ "Full reports will be made **speedily**"
 - Φ Opp to comment needed
 - Φ When – week/month?
- 4.2 *If additional information is requested to be included within the report after an event, it will be included but clearly differentiated as 'post event' - ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓*

- 4.3 *Reports will be available to anybody via the project website and/or on request - ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓*
 ☐ Timing important
 ☐ In draft form first? To pick up comments, then published
- 4.4 *Members will be encouraged to share information, ideas etc. with others in their group or organisation and to either bring any further information or ideas to subsequent meetings or feed back directly and promptly to Net Gain - ✓ ✓ ✓*
 ☐ In between meetings, too
 ☐ Vital, but require speedy and complete info sharing
- 4.5 *Net Gain may produce Summaries and Press Releases on Hub events. Timescales are such that it will not be possible to share drafts of these with all Hub members but all care will be taken to respect the outcomes of the events - ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓*
- 4.6 *It is understood that some Hub members, and/or their organisations, may wish to produce their own Press Releases. Similar care and respect for the process, for others and for confidentiality will be expected in these - ✓ ✓ ✓ ?*
 ☐ Concerns about this
- 4.7 *Following from 3.6 above, no Hub member will comment outside Hub events in a way that attributes views, ideas, information etc. to any individual - ✓ ✓ ✓*
 ☐ Not sure as a team!! Wording?
 ☐ Concerns about this

5.0 Net Gain Overall

- 5.1 *Although each Hub group will make its own recommendations, Net Gain and the Stakeholder Advisory Panel may raise questions and seek amendments in order to ensure appropriate consistency across the 4 areas. - ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓*
 ☐ Definite consistency
 ☐ Might not be appropriate
 ☐ But require feedback
- 5.2 *It is the responsibility of the Hubs to do all possible to ensure that their recommendations are sound and supportable - ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓*
- 6.2. *One additional comment was recorded:*
 ☐ Recognise that individuals represent organisations and others, and need information and agendas in good time to prepare for meetings, and properly feed back (both ways)
- 6.3. *A final version of these Terms of Reference, combining all comments from the four first round Hub meetings will be available as soon as possible as part of regular contact with Hub members.*

7. ROLE AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE STAP

7.1 This plenary discussion was introduced by Trevor Jameson, the independent, appointed Chairman of the Stakeholder Advisory Panel (StAP). Trevor made clear again the role of the StAP in relation to the Hubs – that the latter are the decision-making groups and described how the StAP would overview, challenge (if necessary) and bring together the recommendations from Hubs and support them when submitted to government. He also described the rationale for StAP size – making it less than 20 if possible to make it sensibly manageable, and for its membership – that it should try to represent all or as many as possible of the different sectors or interests.

7.2 This prompted a lively discussion, making it difficult to capture all points made. The following points were noted:

- ⊕ StAP come to Hub? i.e.: someone to report up and someone to report back
- ⊕ Would just one person give fair reflection up and back?
- ⊕ Avoiding partisan views
- ⊕ Role of Net Gain staff on Hub? (Jo there on secretariat role)
- ⊕ Environment Agency? (Kate willing – has link to Balanced Seas)
- ⊕ Local Authorities? Coastal Groups?
- ⊕ Role of Liaison Offices? At StAP?
- ⊕ Couldn't StAP people also be 'allocated' to a Hub (if not already on one?)
- ⊕ But a bit out of kilter with role of StAP just as recipient/commentator
- ⊕ 20 difficult, more unworkable – put some at advisory group level to side of StAP? StAP becomes just 2 per Hub
- ⊕ But all to date suggest need for all sectors ON Hub
- ⊕ Why are aggregates, wind, etc, on? They cause the damage!
- ⊕ StAP is about coverage, not weighting, (which happens at Hub level)
- ⊕ Overlap with Balanced Seas may be difficult!

8. NEXT STAGES

8.1 Apart from highlighting the details of the next Hub meeting, this brief session was an opportunity to pick up on other points raised during the day.

8.2 As suggested, it was agreed that contact details for all Hub members would be shared around (strictly to that group). It was also decided that names of Hub members, and their organisations, (but not contact details) would be placed on the Net Gain website. There was also a suggestion about changing the sequence of meetings so that the North East Hub does not always happen first!

8.3 At the end of the session an evaluation form was handed round for people to comment on the day. The results are in Appendix 3.

PARTICIPANTS

The list below includes all invitees. We have also included those who sent apologies; they also will be receiving this report.

Net Gain East of England Hub – invitees for meeting on 25th March 2010, Lowestoft

Hub member			
First name	Surname	Sector	Notes
John	Abbott	Recreational angling	Unable to attend this meeting
Jane	Burch	Councils	
David	Chambers	Commercial fishing	
Helen	Chappell	Heritage	Unable to attend this meeting
Hester	Clack	Natural England	
Katie	Critchley	Environment Agency	
R J	Docwra	Commercial fishing	Unable to attend this meeting
Roger	Hipwell	Commercial fishing	
John	Hiskett	Wildlife Trust	
Aaron	Howe	RSPB	
Iain	Johnston	Ports/Harbours	
Roger	Knights	Yachting	
David	Little	Commercial fishing	
Dave	Lock	Diving	
Darren	Marriott	Commercial fishing	
Keith	Mountifield	Recreational angling	
John	Noble	Marinet	Unable to attend this meeting
Graham	Pickett	Academic	
Tom	Pinborough	Recreational angling	
David	Richards	Commercial fishing	
Mark	Russell	Aggregates	
Peter	Shore	Ports/Harbours	Unable to attend this meeting
Hugh	Sims	Processing	
Barry	Smart	MFA	
Rob	Spray	MCS	
Judith	Stoutt	SFC	Matt Mander deputised for this meeting
Kirk	Stribling	Processing	
Chris	Thaxter	Other NGO (e.g. NT)	Unable to attend this meeting
Bob	Thompson	Recreational angling	
Kate	Tibble	Offshore renewables	
David	Vicary	Recreational angling	
Ralph L	West	Commercial fishing	
Chris	Wightman	Commercial fishing	
John	Winter	Commercial fishing	

In addition to the invited Hub members, the following members of Net Gain staff were present:

- ⊕ *Steve Barnard – Stakeholder Manager*
- ⊕ *Katerina Wojtaszekova – GIS & Data Officer*
- ⊕ *Tammy Stamford – Liaison Officer*
- ⊕ *Trevor Jameson – StAP Chair*

Independent facilitation support was provided by:

- ⊕ *Steve Smith (Icarus Collective)*
- ⊕ *Jeff Bishop (BDOR)*

ECOLOGICAL NETWORK GUIDANCE POWERPOINT SLIDES

<p>Ecological Network Guidance - Part 1</p> <p>Seven key principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Representativity ❖ Replication ❖ Viability ❖ Adequacy ❖ Connectivity ❖ Protection ❖ Best available science
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International best practice recognises a series of design principles needed to deliver effective marine protected area networks. The Ecological Network Guidance has seven key principles – which have been derived from the Oslo and Paris Convention (OSPAR).

The interpretation of all these principles must be evidence-driven, based on best available knowledge. The evidence-based interpretations reflect current scientific understanding of the marine environment. Where existing evidence may be lacking or incomplete, international best practice can be reviewed; or alternatively ‘rules of thumb’, derived from scientific knowledge and understanding, can be developed.

For the first presentation this morning I will discuss just two of these: representativity and adequacy.

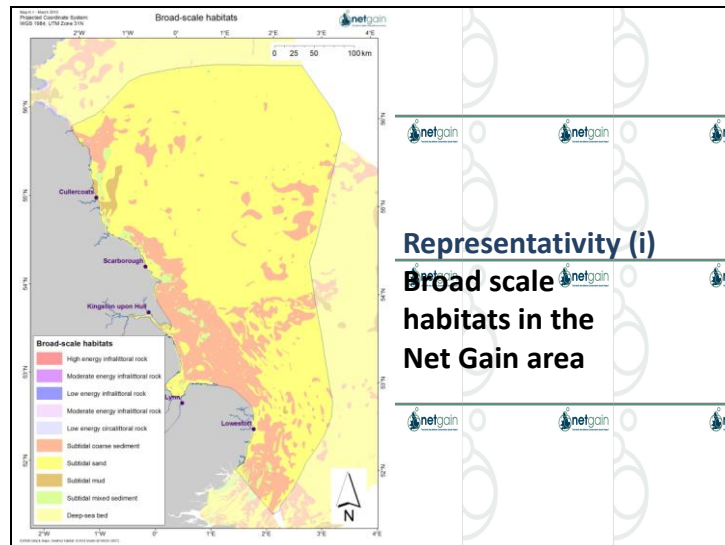
<p>Representativity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ What does it mean? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We need to protect a little bit of everything ❖ How do we cover a wide range of habitats and species? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. initial focus on 23 broad-scale habitats ii. key species and habitats iii. other important areas
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The main message is that Marine Conservation Zones should represent the range of marine habitats and species through protecting all of the major habitat types and associated biological communities that are present in each of the seas in our marine area.

So, put simply, sites should be representative, protecting a little bit of everything.

There are 1000s of species and habitats present in the UK marine area. We must find a practical and biologically meaningful way of representing this wide range of species and habitats.

At the simplest level, this can be done by protecting broad-scale habitats. If a broad habitat type is protected then there will be a trickle down effect of providing protection for more specific habitats and certain groups of species. In all, some 23 broad-scale habitats have been identified for the regional projects to protect - although not all of these will be found in Net Gain's area.



Representativity (i) Broad scale habitats in the Net Gain area

The map here shows some of the broad-scale habitats within the Net Gain area. The brighter, bolder area is the Net Gain project area. Within that we have indicated a number of different broad-scale habitats, predominantly coarse sediment and sand, but also some mud mixed sediment types.

I say that this represents only 'some' of the broad-scale habitats within our area because the data we have at the moment is incomplete. Although the map shown here looks to be fairly complete at the moment we have data for only 10 of the broad-scale habitats. In general these are the 'offshore' (sub-tidal) habitats and we are waiting for information on the inshore, inter-tidal, habitats.

We do have additional finer scale detail for some the habitat types for parts of the northern area and around the Wash – but again this data is very patchy.

This means that what data we are able to show you today is incomplete, but all of Net Gain's habitat data is being updated through new contract work which is expected to be completed in April. By the time of our next meeting we should have a near complete data set to present.

Other broad-scale habitats	
❖ High energy intertidal rock	❖ Intertidal mixed sediment
❖ Moderate energy intertidal rock	❖ Coastal saltmarsh and saline reedbeds
❖ Low energy intertidal rock	❖ Intertidal sediment dominated by aquatic angiosperms
❖ Intertidal coarse sediment	❖ Intertidal biogenic reef
❖ Intertidal sand and muddy sand	❖ Subtidal macrophyte dominated sediment
❖ Intertidal mud	❖ Subtidal biogenic reefs

This is a list of the other broad scale habitats which we are awaiting data on – whilst it may be that we need to include some of these habitats in our MCZs, it is possible that some do not occur in our area so there would be no need to consider them in the planning process.

Representativity (ii): Features of Conservation Importance
❖ <i>Broad scale habitats</i> ✓
❖ Key species and habitats Features of Conservation Importance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ FOCI => rare, threatened and declining species (x34 – incl. x3 highly mobile) and habitats (x22)
❖ Where do the lists of FOCI come from? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ OSPAR, BAP and Wildlife & Countryside Act

The guidance we have says that - in addition to protecting the range of biodiversity through broad-scale habitat types - rare, threatened or declining species and habitats should be specifically protected in a Marine Protected Area network. This is because:

- some habitats or species may be more vulnerable to natural and human impacts, and therefore require special consideration;
- because they are unique in their biodiversity composition, certain discrete habitats may warrant protection; and
- not all species are closely associated with habitats, particularly pelagic species, and should be considered in their own right.

A number of Features Of Conservation Importance (or FOCI) have been identified from existing international environmental agreements and from national legislation, including

- the Initial OSPAR List of Threatened and/or Declining Species and Habitats;
- the UK List of Priority Species and Habitats (the so-called UK Biodiversity Action Plan or BAP species); and
- species listed under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act (1981).

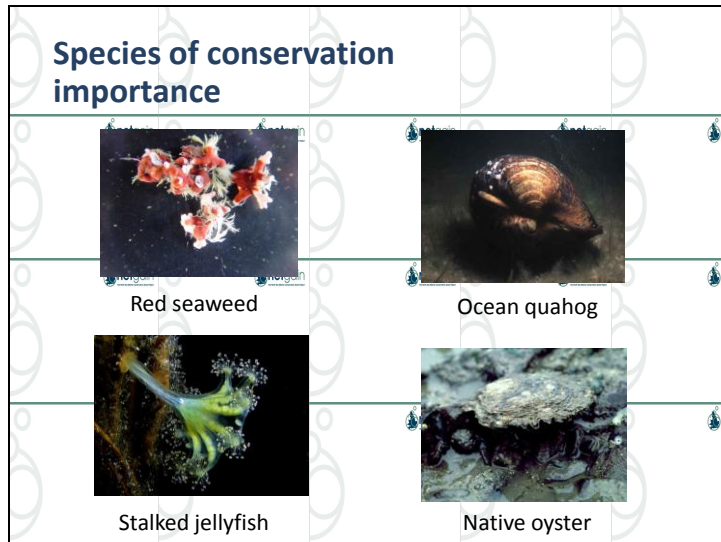
From these lists there are 22 habitats and 34 species of conservation importance that should be protected within the overall network of Marine Protected Areas.

31 of the species listed are of low or limited mobility, which means that they can be protected by protecting discrete areas of the sea. However, the guidance also lists three species of fish that should be considered – the European eel, the smelt and the undulate ray - and these three species are of course highly mobile. Whilst there is some evidence that site-based protection may be appropriate (for example where there are significant aggregations of each species) there is currently no data to support the clear identification of relevant areas in UK waters.

What do we know we have in the Net Gain area?	
❖ Blue mussel beds	❖ Peat and clay exposures
❖ Estuarine rocky habitats	❖ <i>Sabellaria spinosa</i> reefs
❖ Intertidal boulder communities	❖ Saline lagoons
❖ Intertidal mudflats	❖ Seagrass beds
❖ Littoral chalk communities	❖ Sheltered muddy gravel
❖ <i>Modiolus modiolus</i> beds	❖ Subtidal chalk
❖ Mud in deep water	❖ Subtidal sands and gravels
	❖ Tide swept channels

This is a list of the habitats of conservation importance for which we have known records in the Net Gain area.

As I said before though, the data and maps we currently have are probably incomplete.



In addition to the habitats of conservation importance we have been provided with lists of species of conservation importance. For some of these species it may be possible to reach their targets for inclusion within a network of marine Protected Areas by protecting their habitats – in effect (although I'm not sure this is the right metaphor to use here) 'killing two birds with one stone' .

Of the species of conservation interest outlined in the guidance, we know of records for at least nine species within Net Gain's area, including one of the species of red seaweed that are on the list, the ocean quahog, one of the species of stalked jelly fish from the list, and the native oyster.

Others include:

- the common maerl
- the starlet sea anemone
- the lagoon sand shrimp
- a particular species of amphipod shrimp, and
- the crayfish or spiny lobster

There may be other species from the list given in the guidance – but as yet we do not have the data. This is an important area where your input will be extremely useful.

**Representativity (iii):
Areas of additional ecological importance**

- ❖ *Broad scale habitats* ✓
- ❖ *Key species and habitats – FOCI* ✓
- ❖ **Additional areas**
 - important spawning, or nursery & juvenile areas
 - important feeding, breeding, moulting, loafing, wintering or resting areas
 - areas of high natural biodiversity and high productivity

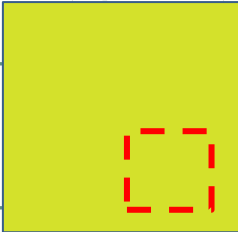
Finally under representativity there is a third category of area that needs to be considered when drawing up a list of representative sites.

These are important ecological areas which, either by themselves or in a network, make a disproportionately greater contribution to ecosystem function, biodiversity, or resilience than their area alone would suggest.

Areas of additional ecological importance would include, for example, important spawning or feeding grounds, or areas which display high natural biodiversity or productivity (so-called biodiversity hotspots).

It is by considering these additional areas that the network will provide protection for the highly mobile species (the three fish species I talked about a few slides back).

Adequacy



Example:
Sub-tidal mixed sediment

- protect 16-32% of the total area of habitat present

Finally in this presentation I'd like to say a few words about the second key principle - adequacy.

Adequacy refers to the overall size of the MPA network and the amount of each habitat or species that is protected within it. We need to protect enough of each habitat and species

to ensure its long-term protection. The areas that we, that you, decide to protect need to protect a sensible proportion of each feature.

To help with this the guidance provides targets for what percentage of each feature should be protected within the MPA network in order to ensure its long-term protection and, where necessary, its recovery.

For example, the guidance says that we need to protect 16-32% of the area of sub-tidal mixed sediment, and so could propose a potential MCZ within a given area of mixed sediment as shown here.

By adopting a target-based approach we have clear support for conservation decisions. Equally important is that the process of network design is made transparent and more open to stakeholder involvement.

So that's a quick run through of representativity and adequacy. Before we move on to the remaining principles I'll pass back to ----- who will lead us through a brief Q&A session.

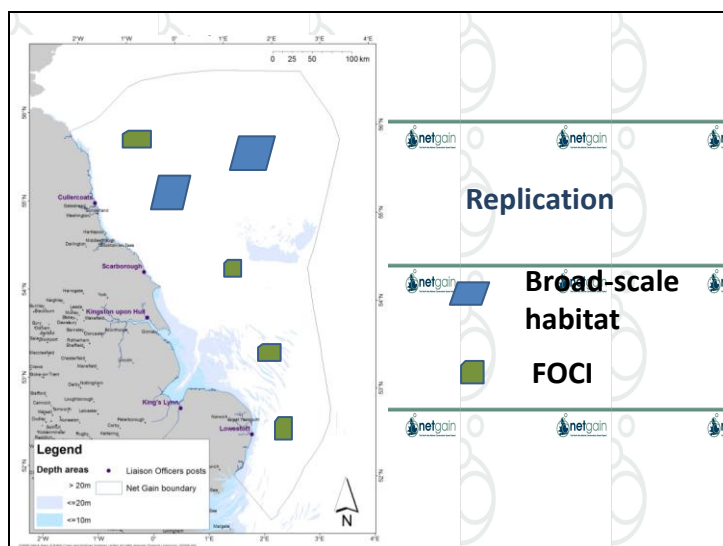


**Ecological Network
Guidance - Part 2**

Seven key principles:

- ❖ **Representativity**
- ❖ **Replication**
- ❖ **Viability**
- ❖ **Adequacy**
- ❖ **Connectivity**
- ❖ **Protection**
- ❖ **Best available science**

In the first presentation I covered representativity and adequacy – I'd like to finish off now by briefly discussing the remaining key principles outlined in the guidance for developing networks of Marine Protected Areas.



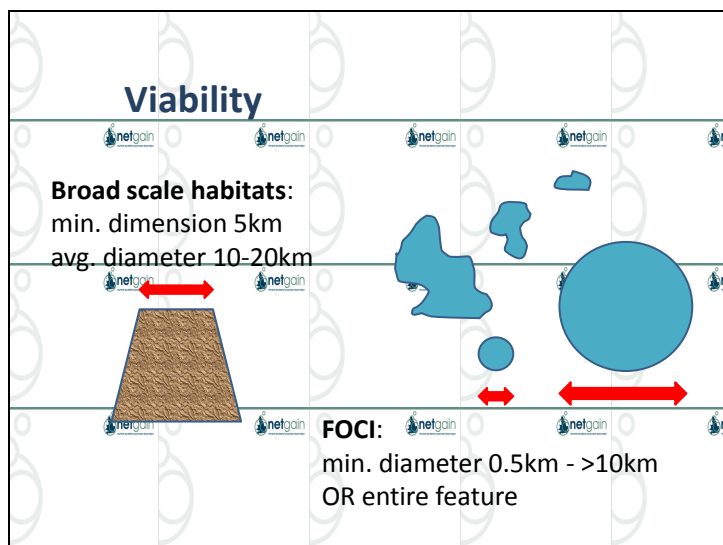
Firstly, replication.

Very simply, there should be two or more MCZ sites for each broad-scale habitat and 3 to 5 examples for each Feature of Conservation Importance in each project area.

Replication is important to safeguard against catastrophes and collapse of populations.

Replication is a form of insurance and spreads the risk of damaging events and long term changes that may negatively affect species and habitats protected by separate MPAs. It also ensures that some of the natural variation found in species' populations and habitats is captured.

Whilst we have been given minimum numbers of replicates, the final number will clearly depend on the number of options we have for each habitat and species. If there's only one example in our area then it would be hard to get two replicates.



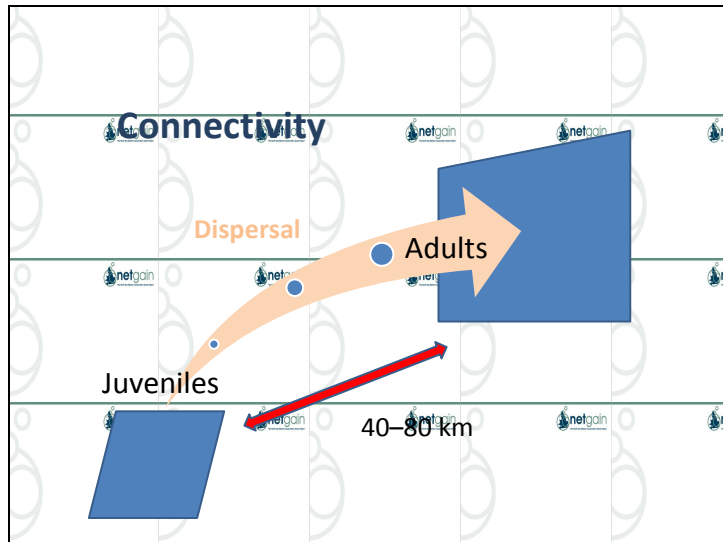
Viability should ensure each site is of sufficient size to accommodate the movements of species, thereby ensuring the sites are self-sustaining.

Many species in the sea move relatively short distances as eggs, larvae, juveniles and adults. For such species, even relatively small protected areas may be able to support self-sustaining populations that are replenished from local reproduction.

However, for more mobile species, smaller protected areas means less effective protection. Locating protected areas in places that are important to such species - such as spawning sites, nursery grounds and migration bottlenecks - could provide valuable protection to highly mobile species.

The guidance suggests that protected areas of broad-scale habitat types should be at least 5km along their shortest edge and, on average, should be 10 to 20km across.

For Features of Conservation Importance – either habitats or species – the recommended size for protected areas varies according to what particular habitat or species is being considered. The recommended sizes range from 0.5 to more than 10km across, although, for a few features, the entire area of habitat or range of particular species should be protected.



Connectivity – the network of Marine Protected Areas should seek to maximise and enhance the linkages between individual Marine Protected Areas and, at the larger scale, between the regional networks.

Connectivity enables mutual support between sites within the network – at its simplest, sites must be close enough together for larvae and adults to move between them.

For many marine species dispersal distances may be significantly larger than can be contained in one protected area. In this case it is not possible to simply identify a single area to protect the species - as the offspring/adults may disperse beyond the site's boundary with few left to replenish the local population. We need to look at creating a network of sites where each area is able to benefit others.

Protected areas must therefore be located close enough to one another to allow exchange at different life stages.

As a general guide, different examples of protected areas for a given species should be placed within 40-80km of each other.

Other considerations

- ❖ Areas with a high degree of naturalness
- ❖ Areas with scientific, educational and research interest
- ❖ Remaining principles:
 - Use of best available science
 - Protection – include reference areas (protected from disturbance)

Other considerations for sites to be included within the network are specific sites with a high degree of naturalness or areas that are important because of their scientific, educational or research interest.

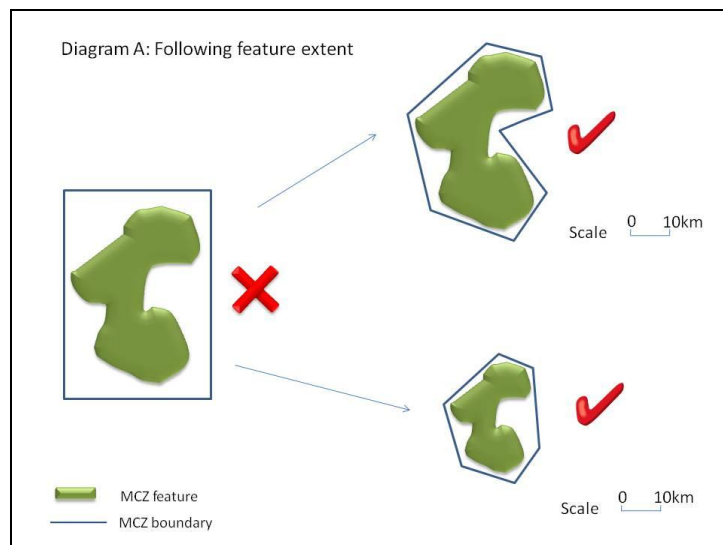
Site selection should be based on the best available science. However, this doesn't mean that patchy data (for example) would be ignored. It is more a case of making sure that, where there are more than one source of data available, the quality of what is actually used is not compromised but the best of what is available is taken forward. Lack of full scientific certainty should not be a reason for dismissing possible sites.

Also, where there is a clear link between the distribution of a particular species and a certain habitat type, there is some scope for using the existence of the habitat as a basis for site selection for species protection.

The network is likely to include a range of levels of protection for specific habitats or species from highly protected areas where no damaging activities are allowed to areas where only minimal restrictions would be needed to protect the site's features. These different levels of protection will be based on the conservation objectives for each site. However, as a basic principle it is expected that, for each species or habitat, there will be at least one example of a reference area where all extraction, deposition or human-derived disturbance has been removed or prevented.

To round off with, I'd just like to share some of the guidance on drawing boundaries around protected areas.

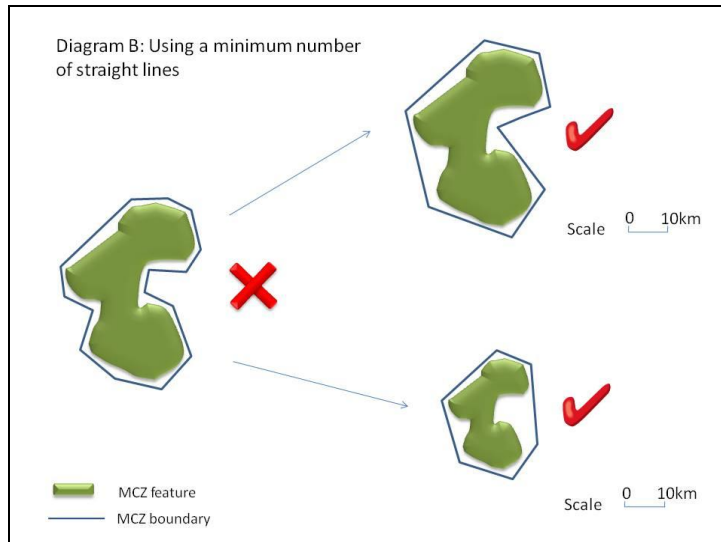
The following five slides aim to give you an idea of some of the more practical considerations you will need to take into account when recommending sites.



It is important to set the boundaries so they are easy to follow, understand, enforce etc.

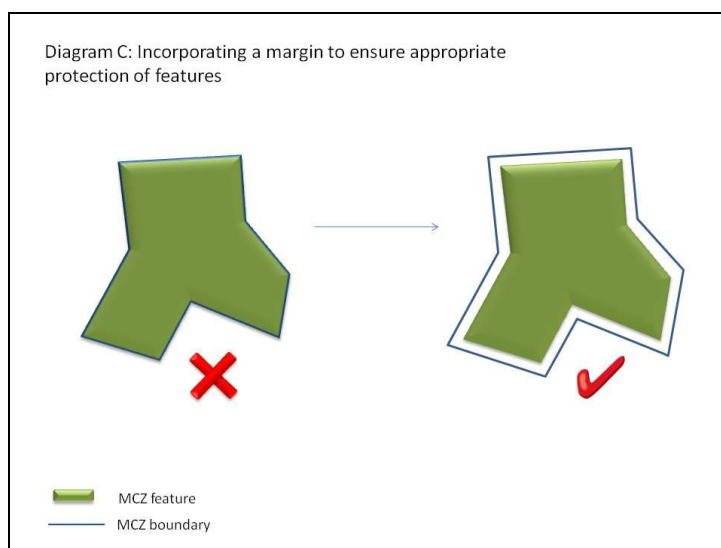
MCZ boundaries should follow feature extent (where appropriate), whilst: using a minimum number of straight lines and ensuring as compact a shape as possible.

So rather than a simple large box, it is better to 'trim' the boundary to better fit the area to be protected.

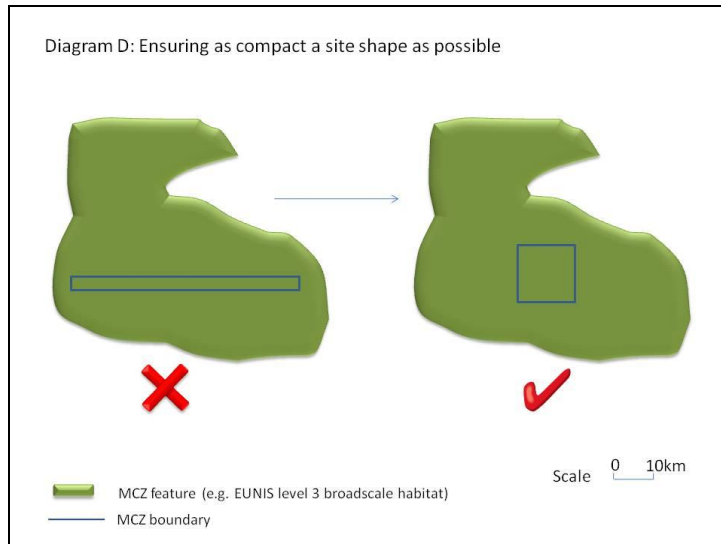


However, when doing this trimming, you need to be reasonable and not use too many short lines to try to capture ALL of the detail.

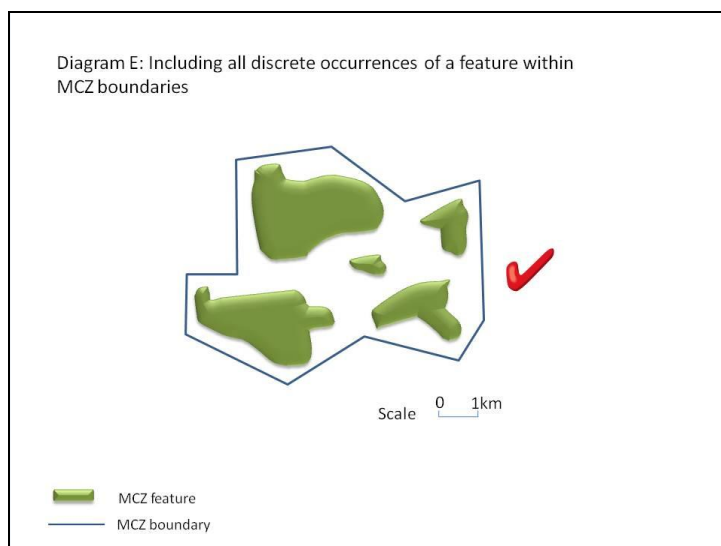
Rather than a site boundary that exactly follows the extent of a feature there should be a little bit of compromise.












To ensure better protection for some features it may be appropriate to include a buffer, or margin, when drawing the site boundary.



When selecting a site within an area of broad-scale habitat (for example, remember the guidance to protect 16-32% of sub-tidal mixed sediment) the boundary should be drawn to protect as compact a shape as possible.



Finally, where there are close but separate examples of a habitat or species that you want to protect, then consider including a number of separate examples (possibly even all of them) within the boundary of a single site.

Ecological Network Guidance - Part 2 Seven key principles:			
❖ <i>Representativity</i>			
❖ Replication			
❖ Viability			
❖ <i>Adequacy</i>			
❖ Connectivity			
❖ Protection			
❖ Best available science			

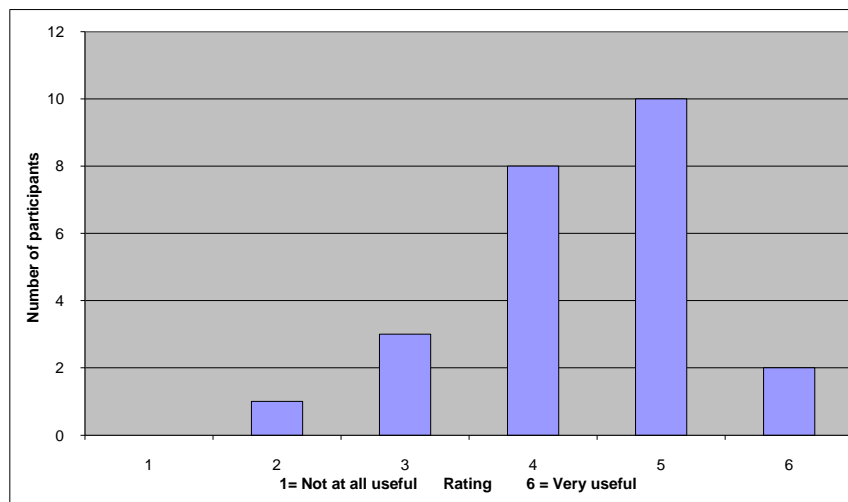
So that's the remaining principles outlined. As before, I'll pass back to Steve and Cathy who will lead us through a Q&A session.

APPENDIX 3

Summary of Feedback From Participants

All comments have been included verbatim

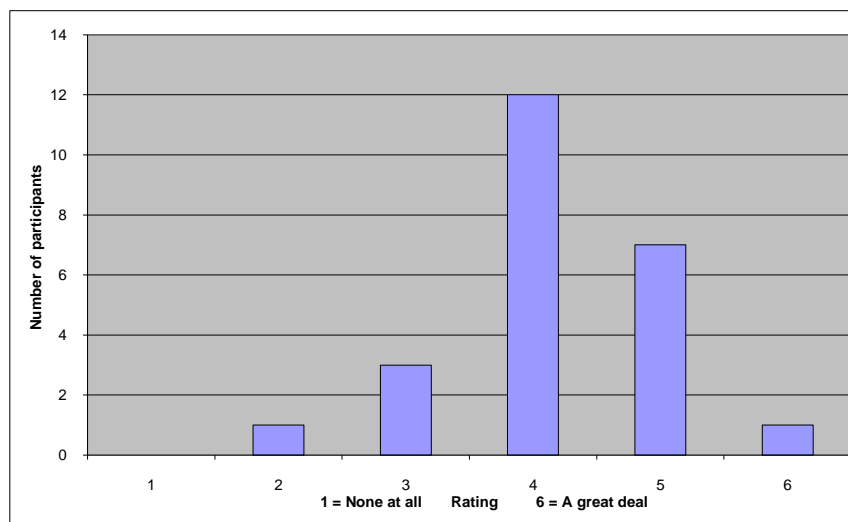
1. How useful overall did you find the day?



Comments:

- OK ... a few questions not answered
- Very good
- Few attendees had prepared
- Good starting point

2. How much progress did we make in achieving the objectives of the day?

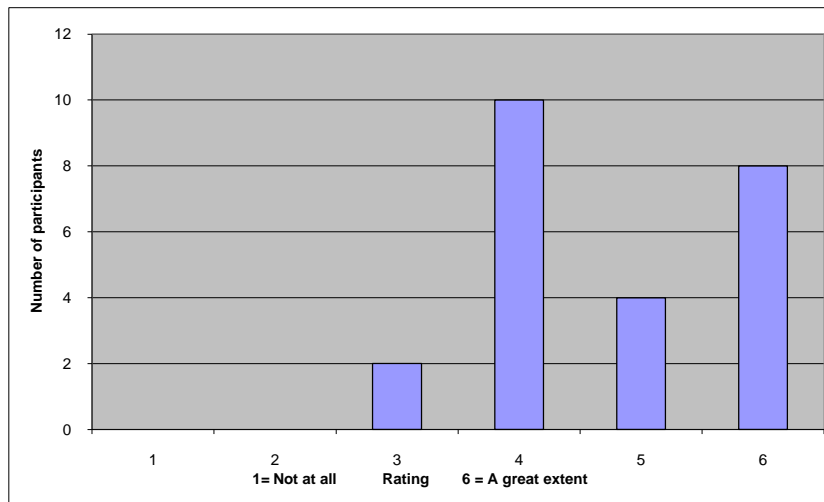


Comments:

- Overall outline fine - as much detail as needed
- Good
- Slower than ideal

- Not much further forward than original workshop!
- Realised the issues in dealing with large groups and agreeing
- A long way to go re: understanding what will be required at the group
- Relationships/trust/understanding will take some time to develop

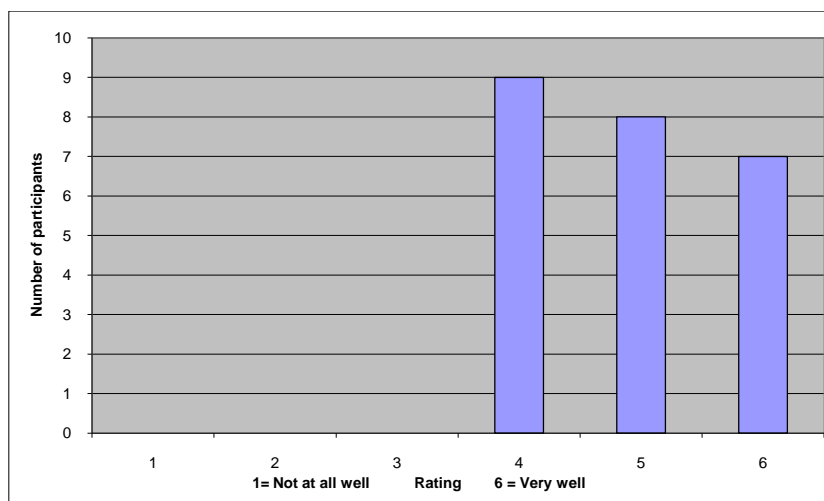
3. To what extent have you had an opportunity to engage with others and share your views?



Comments:

- Chatted to table members – question posed to the front was skipped over
- Very good
- Generally useful
- Excellent opportunities to liaise with other representatives
- Excellent on tables
- But need more time to get to know people

4. How well was the day run and facilitated?



Comments:

- Good
- Dragged a bit on StAP discussion
- Kept to time (almost) and objectives achieved
- Well-presented ... sometimes a bit rushed
- A bit bossy!

- People still talk over each other
- The hard work is just beginning

5. Any other comments?

- OK
- GIS needs to be presented electronically
- Good to see not many entrenched views and open opinions
- Need to take groupviews on board rather than impose views
- Importance of data availability before meeting
- Room lovely, but shame about acoustics
- Team of facilitators and Net Gain worked well together