

## Summary of land use and community projects and initiatives featured in *Green expectations: involving communities in landscape change*

*Green expectations: involving communities in landscape change* explores when and where community involvement in changes to land use and management might be useful and appropriate. For the report we carried out desk research looking at over 75 projects, approaches and initiatives and interviewed leaders involved in 12 projects and initiatives. Below we summarise the main information from the interviews and a selection of other projects that we featured in the report.

**Table 1: Project and initiatives interviewed**

<b>Name of project or initiative</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Governance structure</b>	<b>Benefits to community</b>	<b>Benefits to project</b>	<b>Success factors</b>
Affric Highlands <a href="https://treesforlife.org.uk/about-us/affric-highlands/">treesforlife.org.uk/about-us/affric-highlands/</a>	Thirty year community-focused rewilding project to create a 20,000 hectare nature recovery area on the West Coast of Scotland. Trees for Life are working with local landowners to explore what land management changes they can make to support nature restoration, and with local communities to develop economic and business opportunities through nature-based employment.	No formal governance structure. Trees for Life lead the project but want Affric Highlands to develop its own governance structure representing their three areas of focus: nature, community and livelihood.	Trees for Life are donating a third of the income from carbon credits sold from the reserve to community benefit organisations. The project gives members of the community an opportunity to shape their future and create an economy that is not just tourist based.	Local community buy-in is needed for the project to last beyond the typical five year model. Community engagement helps to build the sense that changes are there for the long term.	Investing a lot of time in youth engagement.

<p>Burrenbeo Trust</p> <p><a href="http://burrenbeo.com/">burrenbeo.com/</a></p>	<p>Membership-based charitable trust founded in 2008, running over 25 community-led conservation programmes in the Burren National Park, Ireland. Led a project in 2010 where local authorities, Burren agencies and local communities co-designed a Burren Community Charter, setting out a vision for the area. The charter is being used to develop a strategic plan for the region.</p>	<p>Independent membership organisation (charitable trust)</p>	<p>Tea talks, monthly walks and volunteer activities bring social benefits and opportunities to learn about the local landscape and heritage. Co-design of local place plans and the Burren Charter helps the community gain a feeling of ownership over local land.</p>	<p>Volunteer support is crucial to the delivery of projects. Community engagement helps Burrenbeo identify which areas need work and attention and brings a broader range of ideas to the table. Encourages landowners to collaborate on nature restoration projects.</p>	<p>Comprehensive scoping and community consultation through a large scale campaign.</p>
<p>Carneddau Landscape Partnership</p> <p><a href="http://snowdonia.gov.wales/protect/conservation-work/carneddau-landscape-partnership/">snowdonia.gov.wales/protect/conservation-work/carneddau-landscape-partnership/</a></p>	<p>Partnership of 20+ organisations delivering a five year scheme to conserve the heritage of the Carneddau Mountains. Numerous projects are being undertaken over a 22,000 hectare area, with the aim of empowering local communities to “discover, protect and celebrate” their landscape. Stakeholder consultations conducted during the project development phase.</p>	<p>Informal partnership of different organisations.</p>	<p>The project empowers communities to learn about their heritage, form an emotional connection with the landscape, and play a part in its future conservation and management.</p>	<p>Project partners pool resources and share expertise that might otherwise be costly to buy in. This increases the project’s longevity as community members and groups continue this work after the partnership ends.</p>	<p>Having a project manager known and trusted by the local community. Identifying and connecting with individuals with extensive networks. Lots of school outreach.</p>

<p>Forest Carbon</p> <p><a href="http://www.forestcarbon.co.uk/">www.forestcarbon.co.uk/</a></p>	<p>Company founded in 2006 developing woodland creation and peatland restoration projects for carbon capture and ecosystem services in the UK. All of Forest Carbon's schemes are certified under the Woodland Carbon Code and Peatland Code.</p> <p>This has contributed to the development of the UK's first peat carbon project on behalf of the International Carbon Action Partnership.</p>		<p>Communities benefit from income from carbon markets (see the Affric Highlands project). Some projects result in increased recreational space or facilities.</p>	<p>As businesses are anticipating higher scrutiny of the carbon market, projects that can demonstrate close community engagement may generate more of a premium, while those that do not may become harder to sell.</p>	<p>Project success may be limited when there is a clash between what local communities want and commercial aims.</p>
<p>Integrated Local Delivery (ILD)</p> <p><a href="http://www.fwagsw.org.uk/ild-integrated-local-delivery">www.fwagsw.org.uk/ild-integrated-local-delivery</a></p>	<p>This framework was developed in 2004 enabling communities to lead on the protection of their local environment, by bringing together all the stakeholders in a local area to scope the risks and opportunities at landscape scale. ILD has been successfully used in several projects, including the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' (Defra's) pilot Upper Thames Catchment Partnership and Water with Integrated Local Delivery project in Gloucestershire.</p>		<p>Provides a clear, simple process that people can follow to start making change in their local community. Gives individuals a sense of achievement and direction and fosters collaboration between stakeholders.</p>	<p>ILD helps individuals and organisations address the root cause of environmental issues rather than treating the symptoms, allowing them to enact change in a more resilient way. Allows stakeholders to find 'shared' solutions that benefit all parties.</p>	<p>Having an effective facilitator. ILD gives structure to the stakeholder and community engagement process. Allows legacy to be embedded within the governance of a project.</p>

<p>Rural Urban Synthesis Society (RUSS)</p> <p><a href="http://www.theruss.org/">www.theruss.org/</a></p>	<p>Community Land Trust, founded in 2009, managing the Church Grove housing project in south London which will provide 36 sustainable and affordable homes. Future residents were closely involved in the co-design of this neighbourhood over a ten year period and the broader community was consulted. It received grant funding from the Greater London Authority and loans from Triodos, CAF Venturesome and Big Issue Invest.</p>	<p>Community Benefit Society/ Community Land Trust, with approximately 800 members</p>	<p>Wellbeing benefits from volunteering and organising around an important cause. The neighbourhood will deliver secure, affordable housing for residents and wellbeing benefits associated with living as part of a likeminded community.</p>	<p>The co-design process helped create a neighborhood that will meet most future residents' needs. Residents have the option to 'self-build' elements of their homes, reducing costs.</p>	<p>The right engagement at the right time. It was thought to have been more beneficial to involve the community at the end of the project, when concrete decisions were being taken.</p>
<p>Skyline Project</p> <p><a href="http://www.thegreenvalleys.org/our-projects/skyline/">www.thegreenvalleys.org/our-projects/skyline/</a></p>	<p>Pilot community forest management project in Treherbert, South Wales, funded by the Welsh Foundational Economy Challenge Fund. The local community worked with Natural Resources Wales (NRW) to co-design a 100 year plan outlining the principles of how to manage a 600 hectare area of forest. Both parties are now working on an agreement where community members will be employed to carry out work under the forest plan.</p>	<p>Community Interest Company limited by guarantee.</p>	<p>Increased employment opportunities. Community benefits from some of the revenue from forest management. Community benefit from being able to use the land in a way that fits their values.</p>	<p>The forestry plan took into account both community values and local forestry expertise. Community members gain an understanding of the rationale behind certain land management decisions through the co-design process.</p>	<p>The presence of a trusted local organisation, Welcome to Our Woods (CIC), which was used as a means to mobilise community members. The use of a trained external facilitator.</p>

<p>Slow the Flow</p> <p><a href="http://slowtheflow.net/">slowtheflow.net/</a></p>	<p>This is a charity working to advance public education on national flood management (NFM) and sustainable drainage systems (SuDS). Set up in 2015, when community members from Hebden Bridge came together to explore measures to reduce flood risk. Slow the Flow runs a volunteer-led NFM project at the National Trust Hardcastle Craggs site in Calderdale and work with landowners and tenant farmers to implement NFM and SuDS measures on their land.</p>	<p>Independent membership organisation (charitable trust)</p>	<p>Mental and physical health benefits from taking part in outdoor volunteering. The project has helped to upskill volunteers and led to employment opportunities in the sector.</p>	<p>Needs volunteer support to carry out NFM projects, as well as the support of landowners.</p>	<p>It is important to manage expectations and make it clear that the project will not stop all flooding. Good social media strategy.</p>
<p>Stroud Valleys Natural Flood Management Project</p> <p><a href="http://www.stroud.gov.uk/environment/flooding-and-drainage/stroud-valleys-natural-flood-management-project">www.stroud.gov.uk/environment/flooding-and-drainage/stroud-valleys-natural-flood-management-project</a></p>	<p>Community generated natural flood management (NFM) project spanning a 200 km<sup>2</sup> area of the River Frome catchment. The project began in 2014, following seven years of campaigning by community flood action groups. These groups have been closely involved in decisions throughout the project's development process and are still involved in its governance.</p>	<p>A funding partnership between the Environmental Agency, Gloucestershire County Council, Stroud District Council and the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee. Delivery partnership including Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, the National Trust, local charities and flood action community groups.</p>	<p>Psychological benefits from knowing that action is being taken to reduce flood risk. Social benefits of taking part in volunteer work. Landowners are paid to carry out land management changes and their contractors are trained to do this: about 40 land managers and contractors have been upskilled so far.</p>	<p>The project would not exist without the community action that generated it. Engaging with flood action groups has given the project officer the social contract needed to carry out what is regarded as quite an unusual project.</p>	<p>A project officer with strong interpersonal skills and the ability to converse with a wide range of people. Ensuring that the right level of community engagement happens at the right time.</p>

<p>Tarras Valley Nature Reserve (TVNR) - Langholm Initiative</p> <p><a href="http://www.langholminitiative.org.uk/tarrasvalleynaturereserve">www.langholminitiative.org.uk/tarrasvalleynaturereserve</a></p>	<p>5,000 hectare community-owned nature reserve in southern Scotland managed by the Langholm Initiative. The local community successfully fundraised and purchased two ~2,500 hectare areas of land from Buccleuch in 2021-22, thanks to a grant from the Scottish Land Fund. The Langholm Initiative is consulting community groups to determine land management priorities.</p>	<p>The Langholm Initiative is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation governed by a board of five trustees and accountable to the organisation membership.</p>	<p>Increased economic and business opportunities through nature-based employment. More visitors to the town and increased spending.</p>	<p>The community played a central role in raising the funds to purchase the land. Still early to tell how community engagement in land management decisions will benefit the project.</p>	<p>The Langholm Initiative took the time to understand and engage with members of the community who did not support the project</p>
<p>Tir Canol</p> <p><a href="http://tircanol.cymru/">tircanol.cymru/</a></p>	<p>A project co-designing a model for conservation and land and sea use appropriate to mid Wales. Evolved out of the failed Summit to Sea project, which experienced a community backlash. Local stakeholders were then invited to co-design a new blueprint for the management of the 10,000 hectare area.</p>	<p>Broad partnership of conservation organisations and environment NGOs managed by RSPB Cymru.</p>	<p>Co-design process allows locals to create a land management plan in line with their vision. The project is helping set farmers up to benefit from future agricultural schemes based on payments for ecosystem services.</p>	<p>The local community is often tied to the land either financially, through family links or culturally, so community involvement is crucial in giving the project legitimacy and gaining their support.</p>	<p>Having a facilitator with a connection to the local area and who can empathise with the local community. Sufficient funding.</p>

<p>Wyre Natural Flood Management Investment Readiness Project</p> <p><a href="http://theriverstrust.org/our-work/our-projects/wyre-nfm-investment-readiness-project">theriverstrust.org/our-work/our-projects/wyre-nfm-investment-readiness-project</a></p>	<p>Pilot project run by the Rivers Trust and Wyre Rivers Trust, set up in 2019 to investigate innovative funding opportunities for implementing NFM measures. Stakeholders were involved in the design of the financial instrument and are represented on the board of directors of the Wyre Catchment CIC (established to raise investment).</p>	<p>The Wyre Catchment CIC is a Community Interest Company limited by guarantee, with an asset lock.</p>	<p>Increased social health and wellbeing (less physiological and economic harm from flooding events).</p>	<p>The project benefited from being able to draw on partners' broad range of expertise. The project was co-designed with a core of investor and land manager stakeholders who had an interest and expertise in designing the financial mechanisms to make it viable, before bringing in wider community interests.</p>	<p>Local ownership and focus of the project. Having a decentralised partnership with the Wyre Rivers Trust as a broker in the middle. The project enabled long term revenue payments to farmers, which was useful in engaging this constituency.</p>
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Table 2: Other projects and initiatives discussed in the report

Name of project or approach	Summary	Governance structure	Details of community engagement and benefits
<p>Avon Need Trees</p> <p><a href="http://avonneedstreets.org.uk/">avonneedstreets.org.uk/</a></p>	<p>A charity creating new permanent woodland throughout the Bristol Avon catchment area. It owns and maintains two community woodlands covering 19 hectares and is exploring the possibility of purchasing a third site near Bristol.</p>	<p>Charitable trust</p>	<p>The organisation runs regular volunteer days covering conservation, tree care and planting (in winter) in their woods. It also works with local farmers, landowners and councils to develop, run and manage woodland creation projects on their land.</p>
<p>Longlands Common</p> <p><a href="http://www.longlandscommon.org/">www.longlandscommon.org/</a></p>	<p>A 12 hectare community-owned common on the green belt between Harrogate and Knaresborough in North Yorkshire. The local community raised funds to buy Longlands Farm in 2021 by issuing community shares in the project and received match funding from the Co-operatives UK Community Shares Booster Fund. They are now working to turn the farm into an open woodland.</p>	<p>A Community Benefit Society was set up to issue shares.</p>	<p>Decisions about how the land is managed are fielded to shareholders, with the committee making the final call. The project relies on local volunteer work and pro-bono expertise to plant and maintain the woodland. It will benefit the community by providing a space for recreation and nature-based education.</p>
<p>Riverwood Investment Readiness Pioneers</p> <p><a href="http://www.riverwoods.org.uk/project/riverwoods-investment-readiness-pioneers/">www.riverwoods.org.uk/project/riverwoods-investment-readiness-pioneers/</a></p>	<p>Riverwoods is an initiative aiming to create a network of thriving riverbank woodlands across Scotland. The Investment Readiness Pioneers project provides an opportunity for landowners, communities and other stakeholders to work together to identify Riverwoods projects that could be financed using innovative new mechanisms and equipping them with the tools to begin this journey.</p>	<p>Led by a partnership between Scottish Wildlife Trust, Democratic Society and the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation.</p>	<p>Local communities were involved in identifying and shortlisting potential Riverwoods projects to receive development funding for investment readiness. All project applications had to outline ways they had engaged with or planned to engage communities affected by the project. Applications were then submitted to an online platform, and the public were given the opportunity to comment and vote on them.</p>



<p>Save Trecadwgan Farm</p> <p><a href="http://www.savetrecadwganfarm.org/">www.savetrecadwganfarm.org/</a></p>	<p>An unsuccessful community-led initiative aiming to purchase a 4.5 hectare plot of a former county farm in Pembrokeshire.</p>		<p>The council originally put the farm for sale via public auction, but agreed to take it off at the request of Save Trecadwgan Farm to allow the group to prepare a business plan and fundraise. A first offer put in by a charitable foundation on behalf of the community fell through, and while a second offer by a third party on behalf of the community was formally accepted, the council decided to put the farm back up for public auction after receiving a number of higher offers. The farm was eventually sold to the highest bidder. It is understood that this decision was taken by the council to help alleviate funding pressures (see: <i>The Pembrokeshire Herald</i>, 12 February 2020 ‘Trecadwgan farm to be sold by auction’)</p>
<p><a href="http://www.whistlewoodcommon.org/">Whistlewood Common</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.whistlewoodcommon.org/">www.whistlewoodcommon.org/</a></p>	<p>A four hectare area of community owned land in South Derbyshire. Purchased in 2013 through the issuing of community shares and match funding from the Co-operatives UK Community Shares Booster Fund.</p>	<p>Whistlewood Common Ltd Community Benefit society was set up to issue shares.</p>	<p>Land was managed according to permaculture principles and used by the community as a space for recreation, fitness, workshops, community events on sustainability, food growing and appreciation of nature. The common also runs weekly volunteer days where members of the local community can contribute to various projects.</p>