

Bedfordshire Great Ouse Valley Environment Trust

Presentation to Bedfordshire Branch of the SLCC
Tuesday 15th June 2021

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Agenda



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Example of Stevington parish

Environmental Concerns



- Increasing threats to our local environment
- Rural community challenges
- Response to the climate emergency

Conclusions

- The science says we have a problem
- We have to do something now
- BUT what can we do?
- GOVET emerged from this

Justification for creating GOVET



The River Great Ouse is important to North Bedfordshire

A climate emergency has been declared

Oxford Cambridge Arc Development create challenges

- GOVET is not a movement to oppose developments

What can we do?

- Independent evidence of biodiversity and quality of the environment
- Preserve and enhance biodiversity of the river and valley

**Beds GOVET: The Environmental Voice of Parish Communities along
the Bedfordshire Great Ouse Valley**

AIMS



Support parish communities along the Bedfordshire Great Ouse Valley in achieving their NDP environmental policies and objectives

- Advice
- working together to enable interventions at larger scale
- Identifying and applying for grants and funds

Support increase in biodiversity of the GOV

Champion and support efforts to achieve designation as a protected natural landscape

**Beds GOVET: The Environmental Voice of Parish Communities
along the Bedfordshire Great Ouse Valley**

SCOPE



Spatial Scope :

- The river Great Ouse and the parishes on the Great Ouse Valley across Bedfordshire
- Initial focus: parishes upstream of Bedford and Kempston
- As membership and resources grow: extend scope to parishes in Bedford and down- stream of Bedford across to Cambridge border

Environmental scope

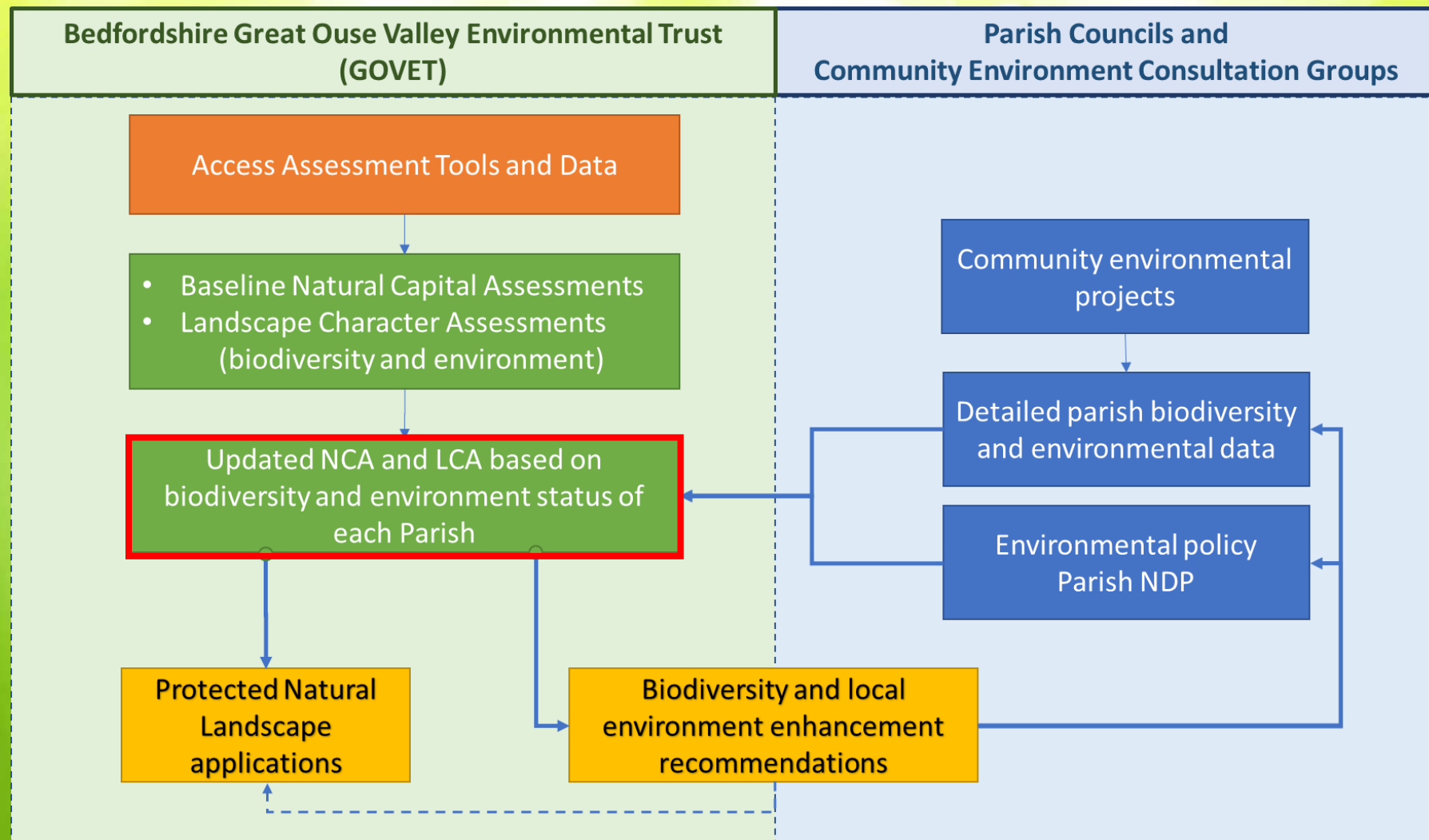
- air quality, water quality, noise pollution, light pollution, water pollution from rural and urban sources,
- All forms of biodiversity including plant, animal and invertebrate species, habitats, soil quality, carbon sequestration, farming practice, energy source, waste, and people well-being.

Key Objectives



1. Champion and support parish community efforts to meet their environmental objectives
2. Support quantification of natural capital, associated ecosystem services and landscape character of the GOV
3. Investigate provision of better public access to the river and valley, while minimising its impact on wildlife
4. Champion and support river management efforts

Interacting with GOV Parishes on NCA and LCA



Example: Stevington

A Rich Natural History



Stevington Environmental Consultation Group

1. Build on existing Stevington parish natural history data
2. Parish biodiversity community action projects:
 - Sustainable gardens
 - Biodiversity of Community green spaces
 - Biodiversity of hedges and land boundaries
 - Tree and shrub planting (Queens Platinum Jubilee)
 - Land owners and farmers: sustainable/regenerative practices
 - Connecting wild life habitats.
 - Local nature reserves and county wildlife sites
3. Community actions to support Net Zero.
4. Access to existing walks bridleways and footpaths
5. River users forum: wild swimming, sailing, fishing
6. Collaboration with Bedford GOVET

Working with other charities and organisations



Developing links and working relationships with:

Organisations

- Parish councils along the GOV
- Bedford Borough Council
- Other government agencies

Trusts and Charities

- Local Network Partnership
- Great Ouse Valley Trust (Cambridge)
- CPRE
- Bedford Natural History Society
- National Biodiversity Network
- Wild Life BNC
- Greensands Ridge
- Bedford Climate Change Forum

We are currently in the process of setting GOVEG up as a CIO

We are looking for collaboration with other organisations or charities



THANK YOU

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