

Heritage Lottery Fund's Landscape Partnerships – helping to deliver and inform National Character Areas

Adrian Phillips



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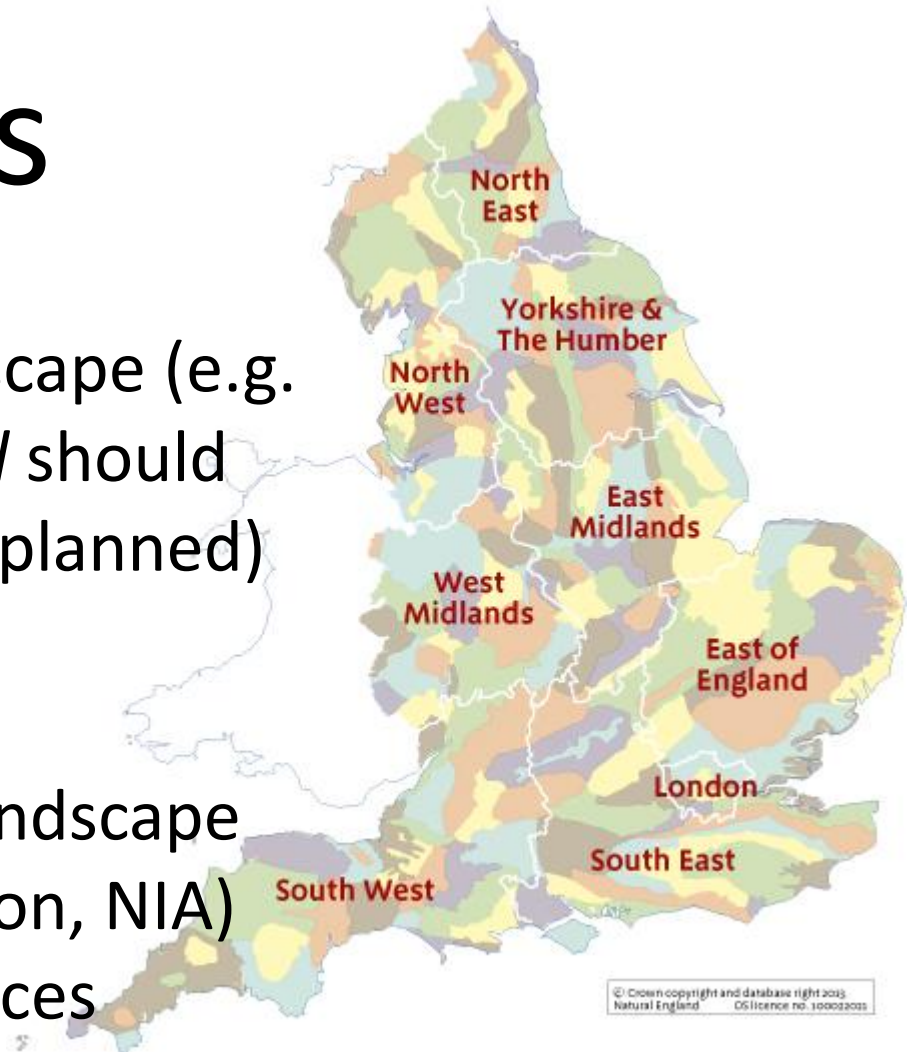
How the ELC defines Landscape:

“An area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors”



I NCAs

- Adopt ELC view of landscape (e.g. *all* landscapes matter; *all* should be protected, managed, planned)
- Consolidates masses of information about place
- Connects ELC view of landscape to landscape scale (Lawton, NIA)
- Adds in ecosystem services
- Vital for planning and land management



HLF's Landscape Partnership programme





The HLF's Landscape Partnership programme is an example of the ELC in action

KEY FEATURES OF LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIPS

- Focussed on an area of distinctive landscape character
- Scheme area covers 20 to 200 km² (or a little more)
- Schemes must cover breadth of heritage and involve local people
- Supported by HLF Grants of £100,000-£3,000,000 for 3-5 years

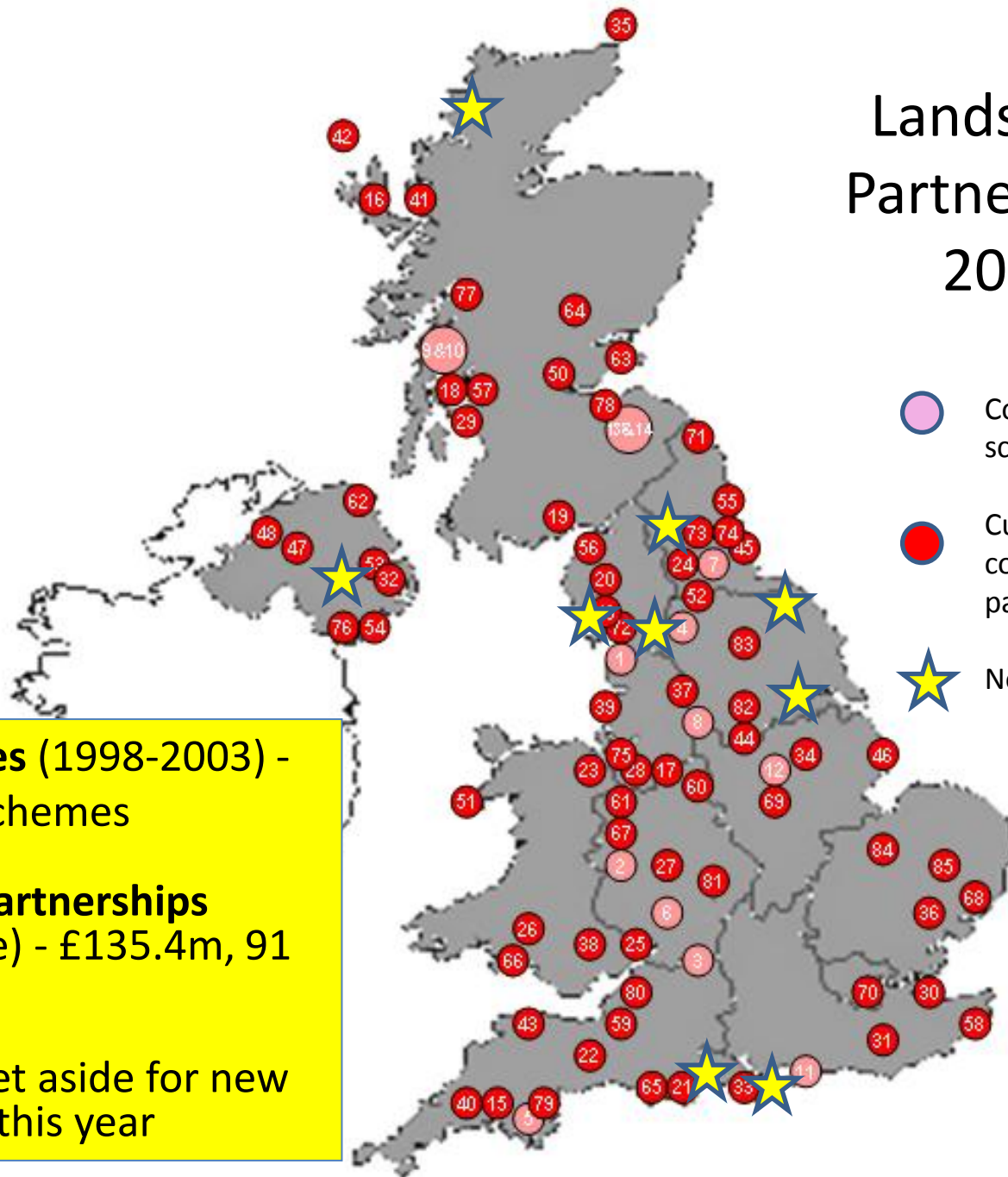
Landscape Partnerships 2013

- Completed area schemes
- Current and completed partnerships
- Newly approved LPs

Area Schemes (1998-2003) -
£24.6m, 14 schemes

Landscape Partnerships
(2004 to date) - £135.4m, 91 schemes

Incs. £21m set aside for new schemes for this year



HLF advice on Landscape Character in Landscape Partnerships

- “A high quality Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) ... will underpin all your work”
- Follow ELC principles: **all landscapes matter** and **everyone has a right to be involved in decisions**
- Follow ELC view of landscape: “... landscape is much more than just the visual: it includes physical features, built heritage, habitats, geology, archaeology, current land use **and the perceptions of people** who live in and visit the area”
- Always use NCAs (but they are “drawn at coarse scale ... just a starting point”)
- Use too LCAs (prepared by LAs, national parks, AONBs, local communities), seascape character assessments, historic landscape characterisations etc.

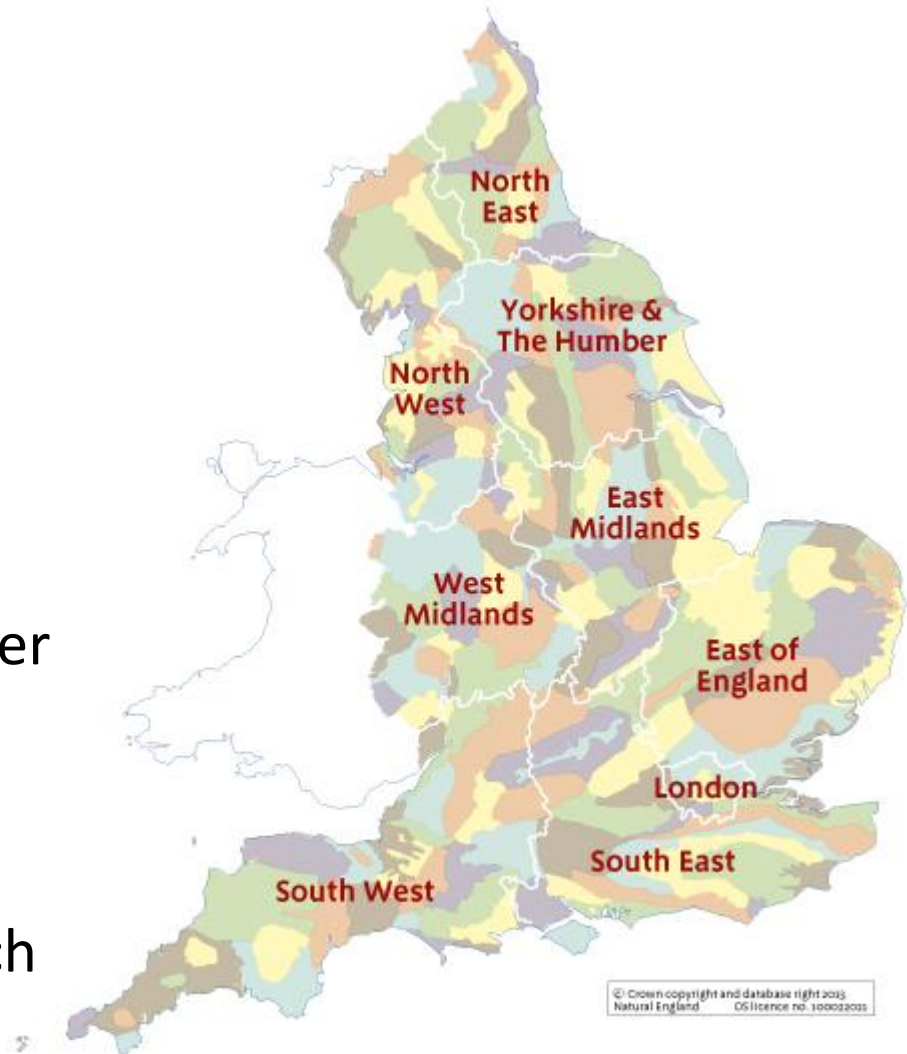
The issue of scale

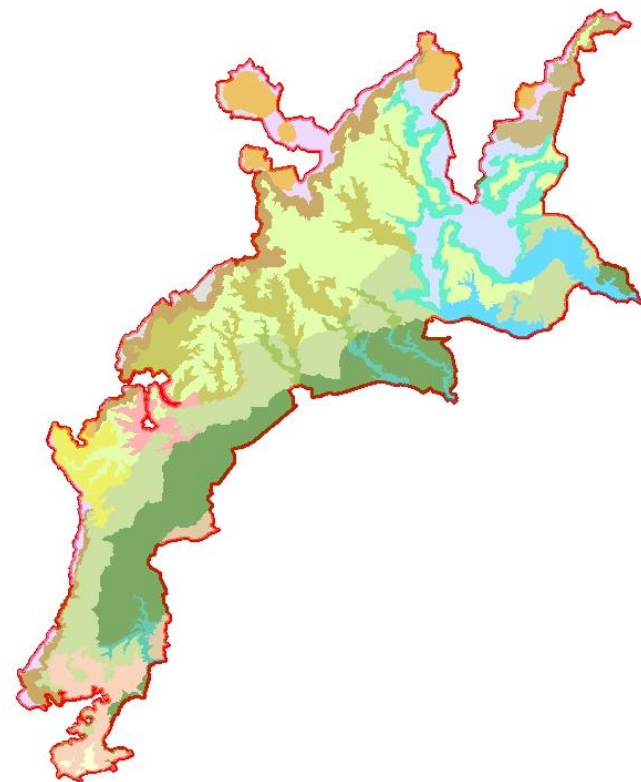
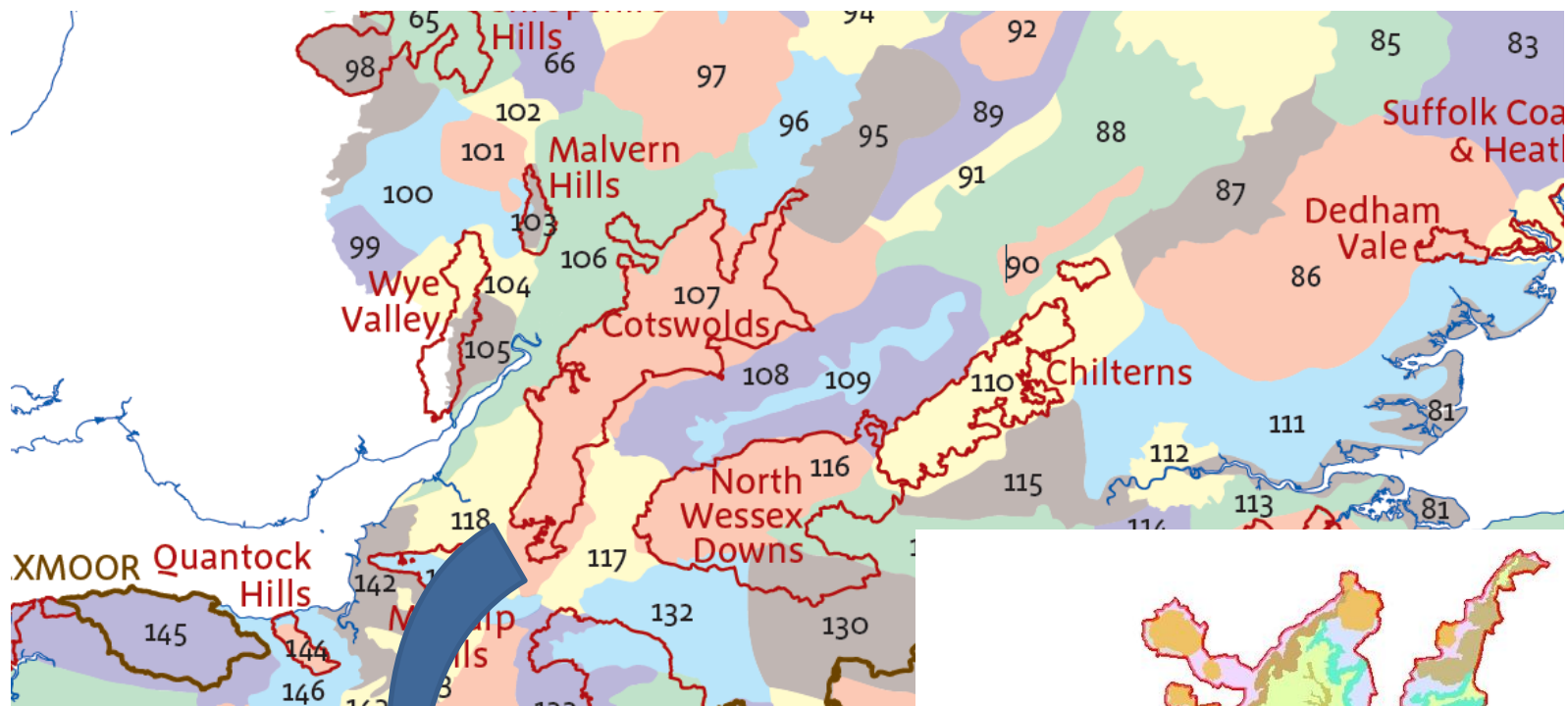
159 NCAs, *average* size:
820 km²

Average size of LPs: 150
km²

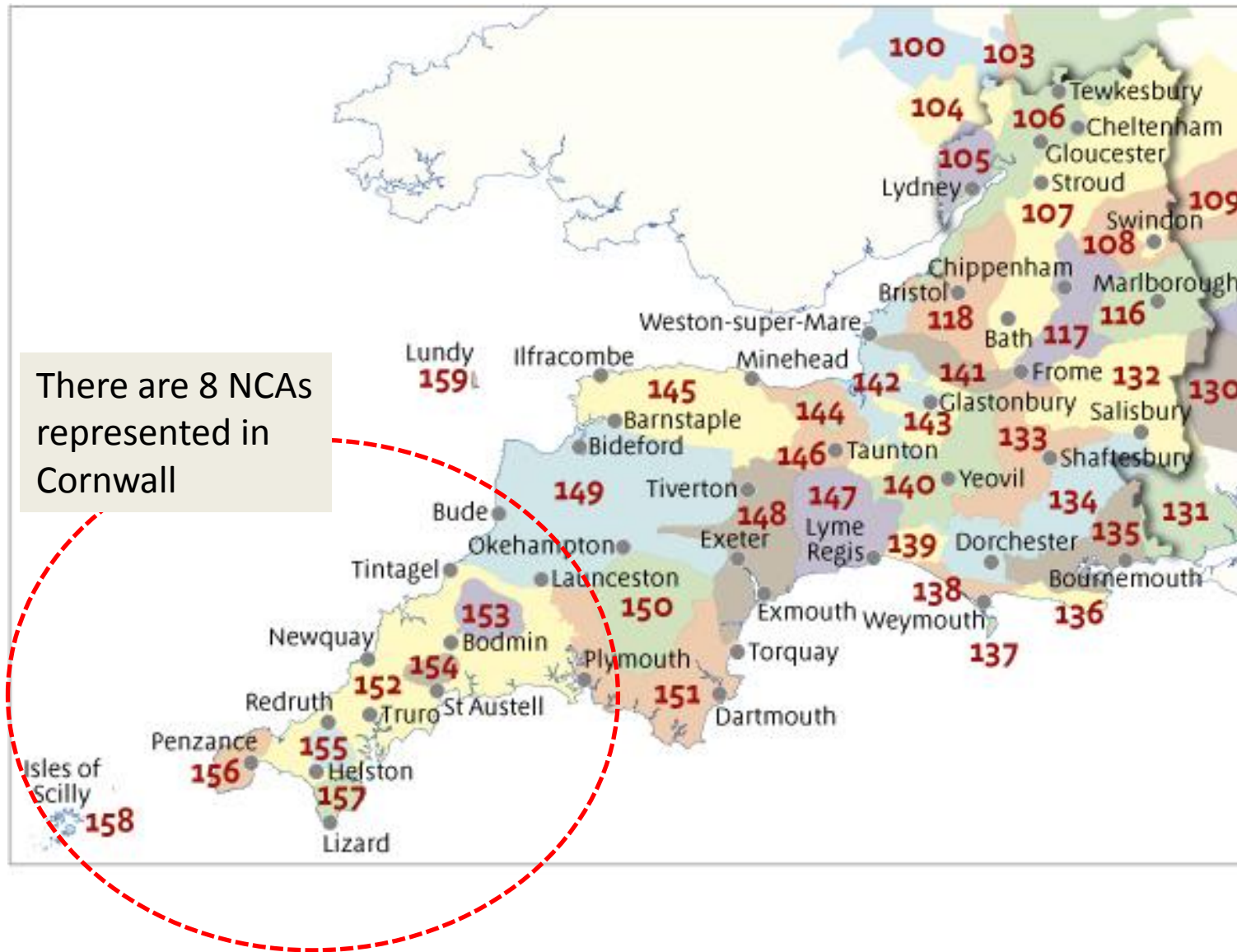
Approx. no. of LPs to cover
England (town and
country): 800-900

Average no. of LPs in each
NCA: 5 or 6

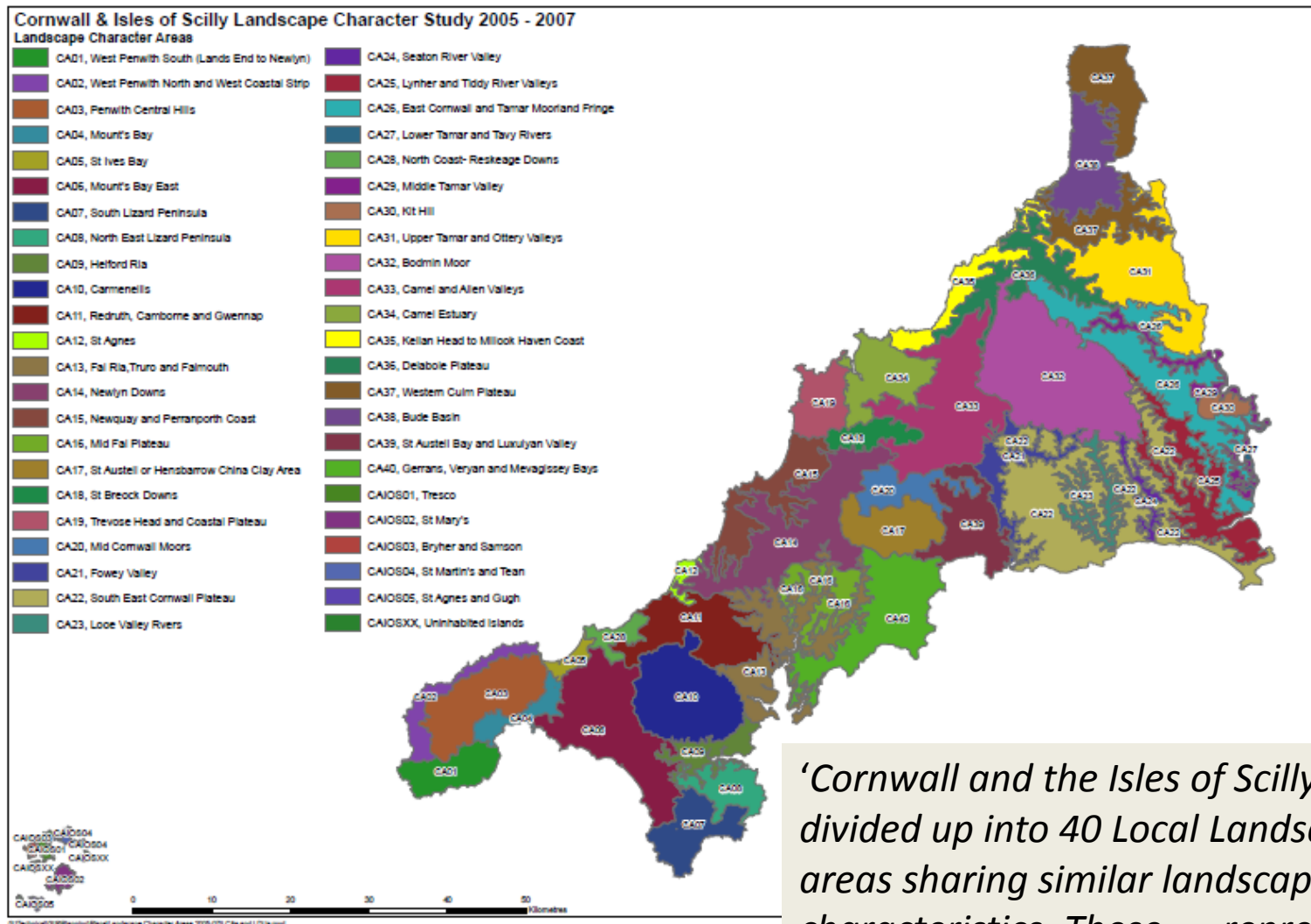




National Character Areas in the South West



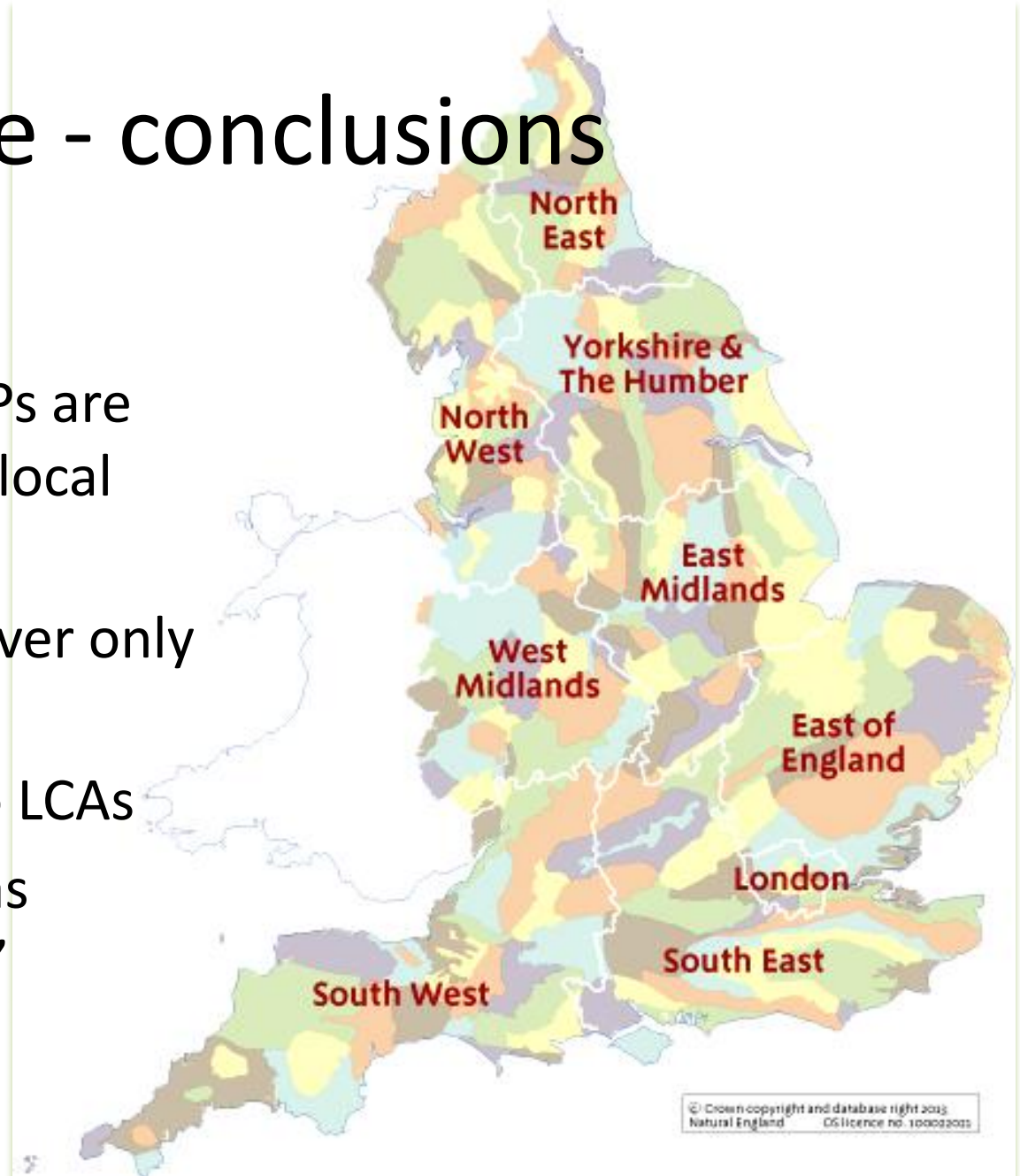
Local Character Areas in Cornwall



'Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly have been divided up into 40 Local Landscape Character areas sharing similar landscape characteristics. These ... represent the next scale down from the large national areas'

Scale - conclusions

- Given size (and £), LPs are best at delivering at local character scale
- So they will often cover only part of an NCA
- They relate better to LCAs
- Or to similar areas 'as perceived by people'



Top down view of landscape – or Russian dolls



ELC

- **The European Landscape Convention**
- Sets the international context



NCA

- **National Character Areas**
- Provides the national context



HLF/LP

- **HLF funding for LCAs etc.**
- Helps deliver national/international objectives

The outcomes HLF seeks through LPs:

Outcomes for heritage

- better managed
- in better condition
- identified/recorded



Outcomes for people

- developed skills
- learnt about heritage
- volunteered time

Outcomes for communities

- environmental impacts will be reduced
- more people and a wider range of people will have engaged with heritage
- the local area/community will be a better place to live, work or visit





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What HLF says about landscape

‘Landscape is a key part of our heritage – nationally and locally – and hugely valued by **people**’



‘Landscape offers scope for **people** and **communities** to come together to protect, improve, celebrate, learn about and engage with **their** landscape’



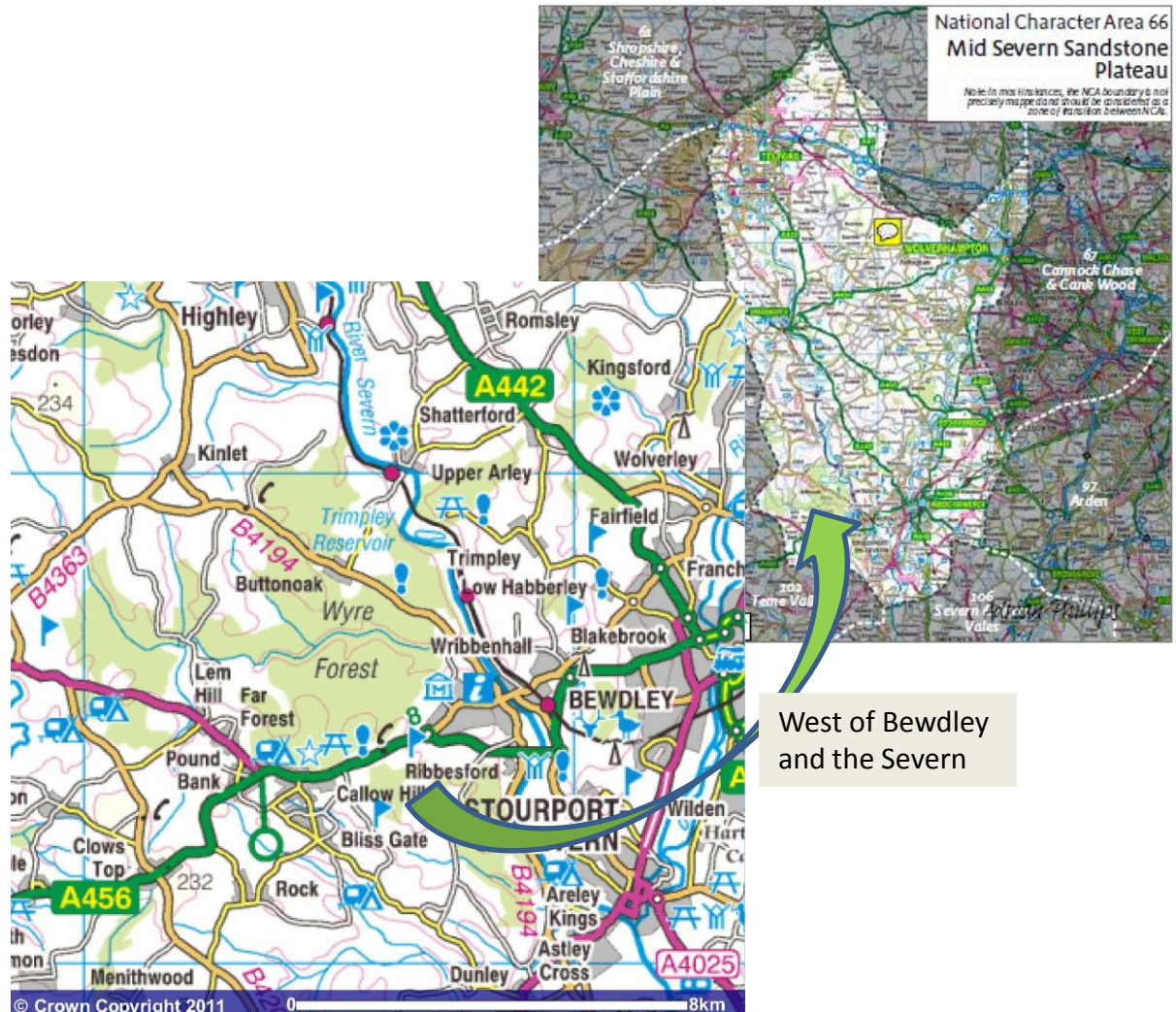


Example 1: the Wyre Forest LP

STATUS: LP completed last year – legacy scheme underway

England's third largest ancient woodland

- In SW corner of NCA Profile 66
- Part NE ownership
- Part FC ownership
- NNR/SSSI
- Surrounding areas of orchard etc.
- Disadvantaged area



Wyre Forest Partnership 2009-2012

- Led by FC and NE - top down at first
- With *some* LA support
- Drew in local community – helped redefine area, aims etc. Became *their* project
- Wider area, broader vision
- Scheme covered - 72 sq kms
- 18 projects implemented



Achievements

- Improvements in woodland biodiversity
- increased public participation
- new jobs in local food sector
- new renewable energy capacity
- new community learning centre
- improved tourism appeal
- stronger identity for Wyre Forest (Forestry Panel)
- Legacy scheme (NE/FC)

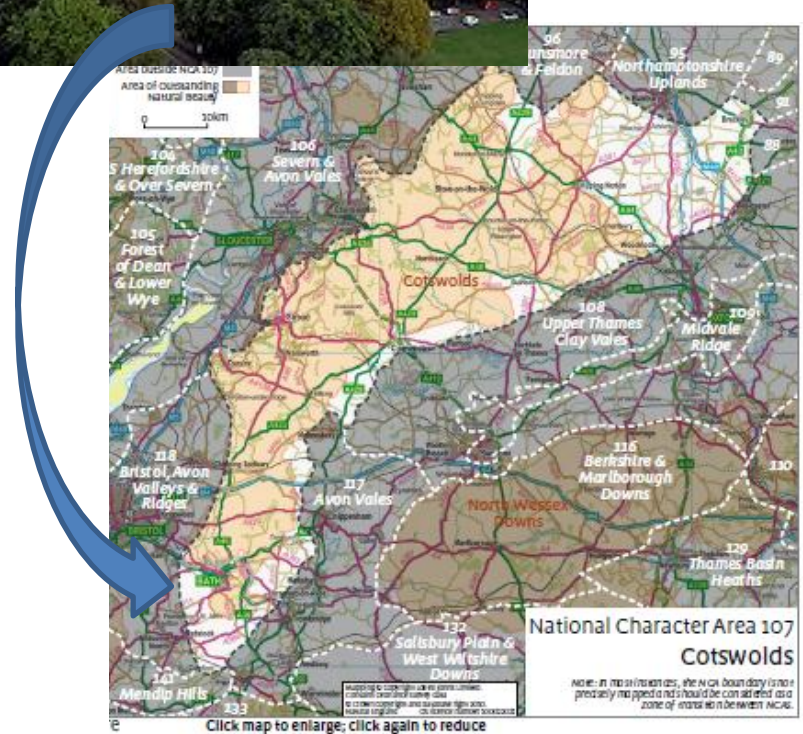


Example 2 – the setting of Bath LP bid

STATUS – Bid under development



- Boundaries not yet agreed
- Likely all to be within NCA Profile 107 (Cotswolds)
- And to cross several LCA boundaries
- The aim is to strengthen link between the WH city and the land around – seen locally as the key issue
- But LP could still deliver on many Cotswold NCA objectives

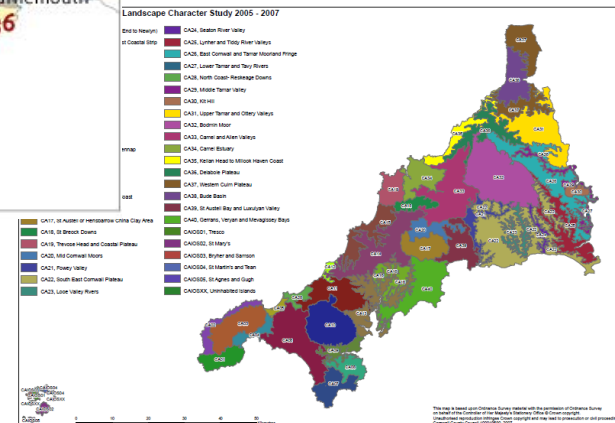
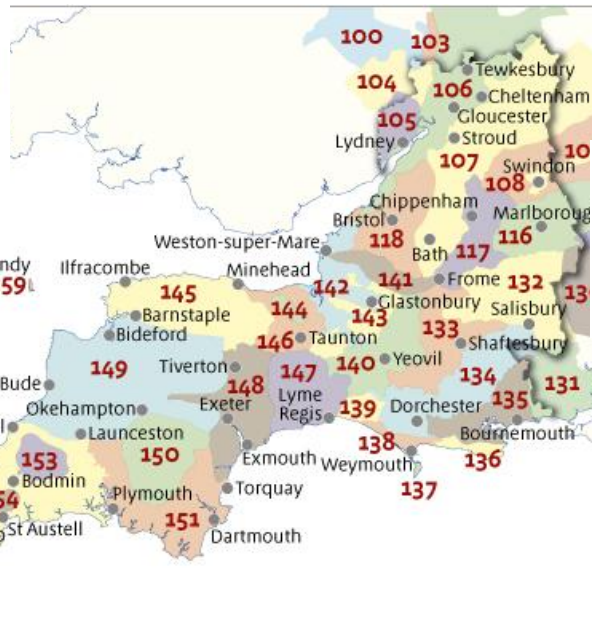


Conclusion 1: Common strands bind ELC, NCAs and HLF/LPs ...



- Shared view of landscape – all subscribe to the same definition
- Holistic + integrated
- People + nature
- Past + present
- Tangible + intangible values
- Democratic, not elitist approach
- Participatory, not top down
- Seeking economic, social and environmental sustainability
- Using landscape to guide change, not obstruct it

Conclusion 2: HLF/LPs are a good way to deliver the aims of NCAs – from top to bottom





Conclusion 3 :but since HLF LPs help communities express *their* love of place, they can also inform the implementation of NCA aims