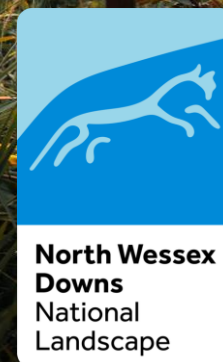




Mend the Gap and the Ridgeway National Trail

Celebrating & Connecting the Goring Gap
Ruth Staples-Rolfe Programme Manager



Where Two National Trails come together

The Ridgeway and Thames National Trail
cross over in two National Landscapes



Today



Introduction to the programme

Local case studies and possible things to consider on future projects

- **Heritage**
- **Access**
- **Nature**

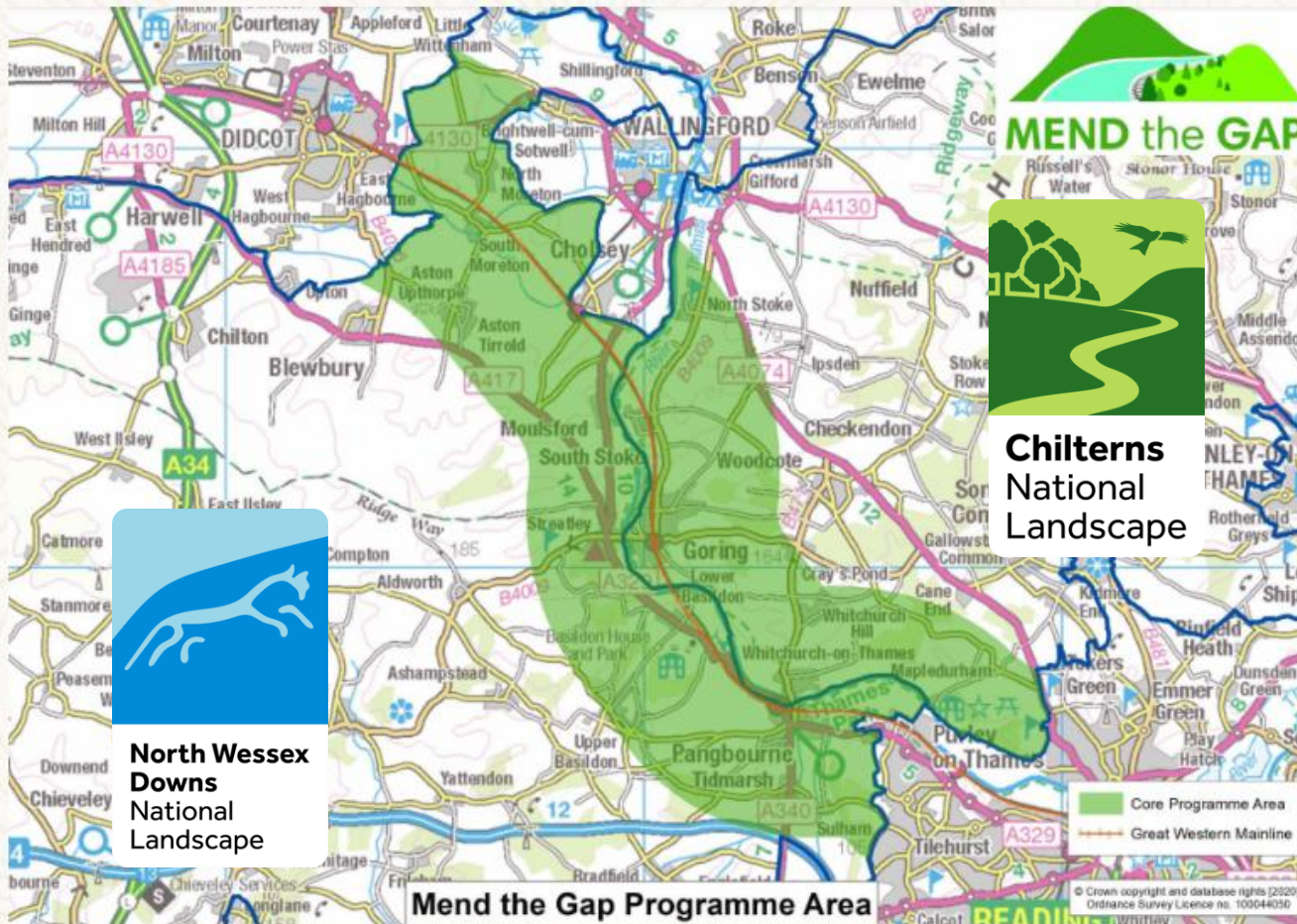
Time for questions

Please talk to us further - thank you

Email contact: mendthegap@chilterns.org.uk



Where is Mend the Gap



Where does the programme operate?

The programme area covers the railway corridor along a 20km stretch of line between the outskirts of Reading and Didcot and 3km either side of the line.

[About Mend the Gap](#)

Mend the Gap is enhancing the areas of the Chilterns and North Wessex Downs National Landscapes that have been negatively impacted by the electrification of the Great Western Railway mainline.

We want to enable



Enhancement of
arable and
wetland habitats



Enhancement of
the chalk and
arable habitats

Access, Enjoyment and Understanding

Monitoring and evaluation

What we are doing now



Planting hedges and trees to soften the impact of the gantries on the landscape

Over 5km of hedge and 720 trees so far



Wetland projects in five sub catchments.

Pang, Sulham, Thames, Cholsey and Mill Brook



Farm cluster
chalk grassland restoration

Goring Gap
chalk plant study



Make sure the programme is for everyone

Schools,
Parish Councils
Access projects

Supporting Understanding, Access and Enjoyment of iconic landscapes



VOICING THE NEEDS OF NATURE



Lapwing over wetland, Simon Booker



Kidney Vetch, Peter



Otter, Simon Booker



Adonis Blue, Peter Orr



Club-tailed dragonfly, Steven Godz



Flood Meadow, Dave Olinski



Loddon Lilies, Peter Orr

Case Study One chalk landscape



Enhancing biodiversity: re-seeding and restoring 86 hectares of chalk grassland at Rectory Farm. <https://youtu.be/wg-aooz3MZc?si=QuyhUJMCUBwNYkrC>

Case Study One chalk landscape



Things to consider on future projects

- Don't underestimate project management time and cost
- Don't be shy of the camera
- Identify your audiences and never underestimate the value in sharing your story with other landowners
- Link to a farm clusters



Images Future Nature

Case Study Two

Heritage



<https://youtu.be/tc5Dn6vn2Pw?si=-cxpGXzfjYCp8UIU>

Case Study Two Heritage

Things to consider on future projects

- Budget in technical and higher levels of accessibility for interpretation,
- Collaboration with, technicians, land managers and National Landscapes can support wider landscape interpretation e.g. chalk grassland value under a heritage feature
- Should we have a shared vision for signage on the ridgeway?
- Allow time for collaboration, this brings the best results
- Keep funders and stakeholders informed of progress and expectations



Images Dave Olinski

Case Study three Access



Image Dave Olinski



Image Simon Booker



Image West Berkshire Rights of way



Image Dave Olinski



Image Dave Olinski

Case Study three

Access

Things to consider on future projects

- What is access funding? Is it access for all or just a few? Keeping both in your sites
- Loo, View and Brew
- Work with local walkers and groups
- Get a good baseline on a landscape scale with connecting routes
- Work with nature recovery heritage and landowners to make the most of the changes you want to make
- Nature Recovery – where might there be compromises to make?

Case Study ~~four~~ for the future Climate resilience Trees and water



<https://mendthegap.uk/enhancement-projects/projects-we-have-supported/sulham-woodmeadows-project/>

Case Study ~~four~~ for the future

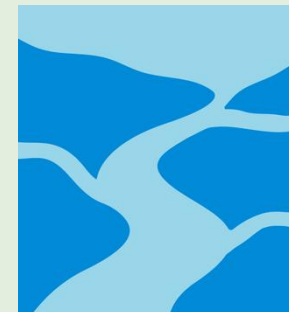
Climate resilience

Trees and water

Lessons :

- Budget for adaptation
- Give more space for flooding and (stressed) nature
- Think catchment/landscape wide
- Link to a farm clusters
- Make **cool** spaces for everyone and everything

Thank you



Introduction to the programme

Local case studies and possible Things to consider on future projects

- **Heritage**
- **Access**
- **Nature**

Time for questions

Please talk to us further - thank you

Email contact: mendthegap@chilterns.org.uk

