

Transport Corridors – connecting with infrastructure and others agendas

Q&A

Catrin Ellis Jones: *in M&M it's a very flat landscape, so people don't see it. One of the main railway lines go right past a mere. There is a possible opportunity to remove some trees to reveal the landscape visible. **What's the 'way in' to the possible transport infrastructure funding?***

Nick White: Landscape issues can be considered. There are options to make people aware of the landscapes the railway is passing through. HA considering visual landscape and views, e.g. from service stations.

Tom Hayek: ***Are there any plans beyond HA work to role similar approach out to local authority highway departments?***

Nick White: We would like to encourage this. However this current project is quite limited in scope to the two NIAs, and HA / NW but we recognise most of road network managed locally. There are other projects (e.g. plantlife) who are working locally / raising awareness of for example: verge management for biodiversity and we are keen to highlight these. Within bounds of the project scope is however quite limited. There are other possibilities such as EU funded projects around biomass from roadside verges and particularly projects introducing management that LAs can gain money from.

Jemma Batten: there is a vibrant verges project in MD, through which verges were surveyed and farmers have been encouraged to undertaken seeding, change cutting approaches etc. – and the biodiversity benefits (e.g. vole populations, owls etc.).

Lisa Schneidau: ***Do any other NIAs have any examples of positive support from big landowning associations e.g. NFU? In ND they're involved but not actively.***

Jemma Batten: at a local level had a positive relationship with the NFU (though noted personal relations may have a role in this)

James Phillips: ***of the £300 million available what projects are possible, and what is the proportion for biodiversity?***

Nick White: It is not clear yet how the fund works as this is still under negotiation. The ambition is to look at projects 'in the round' rather than chunks of funding for e.g. biodiversity etc. These discussions are ongoing between NE and HA. Only operates on HA estate. It is hoped there will be more detail in the new financial year.