



# VALUING NATURE

## Exploring biodiversity values in the Somerset Levels with 'ecological entrepreneurs'

Mapping pathways from best to next  
practice

# Background and interests

- Social scientist interested in people's engagements with nature
- Issues of valuing nature:
  - previous partnership research with National Park Authority
- Interested in developing meaningful research impact
  - Previous marketing toolkit and 'workshop'
  - Would like to run interactive workshop
- Host organisation: RSPB

# Aspirations for the placement

- ‘Ecological entrepreneurs’ =
  - emerging communities and professionals innovating to capture and harness the values of nature
- To develop an understanding of:
  - the motivations of ‘ecological entrepreneurs’
  - their application and uptake of ideas of valuing nature
- Produce a ‘roadmap’ to positive futures and development pathways

# Somerset Levels and Moors

- Controversial context for issues of valuing nature
- Biodiversity, food, heritage, arts
- Nature-based NGOs:
  - charities
  - active citizen groups
  - private enterprise



# Personal learning

- Engage with non-governmental organisations
- Learn about biodiversity values deployed by RSPB
- Develop an understanding of how networks of NGOs are/ could be 'working together'
- Experience convening and delivering an interactive workshop

# Outputs for hosts and VN community

- A workshop/ seminar held on the Levels
  - With 'ecological entrepreneurs'
  - Feedback and develop findings
- A report: notes for policy and practice
  - How to foster and develop communities of 'ecological entrepreneurs'?
  - Insights into best and next practice
  - What can the RSPB do?
- Outcome:
  - Inform policy and decision-making around nature-based organisations