

# Bridgend County Borough Council



## Using Ecosystems Services Mapping to Inform the Planning Process

# Introduction

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# Planning vs Ecology

- ▶ Geoffs frustration
- ▶ Jon's Policy
- ▶ The eco-connection

1. Introduce a Green Infrastructure (eco-connectivity) policy into LDP
2. Use Evidence to support policy and raise profile of environment

# Planning vs Ecology

- ▶ Policy ENV5 – Green Infrastructure
- ▶ Landscape & Biodiversity SPG
- ▶ Habitat Mapping Evidence
- ▶ Problem Solved

# Planning vs Ecology

- ▶ Geoffs Frustrated Again!!
- ▶ Compromise not consensus



# From Barrier to Benefit

- ▶ Development Site for 50 dwellings.
- ▶ Site barriers
  - Space with trees recognised as an eco-connectivity corridor
  - Susceptible to surface water flooding
- ▶ Implications
  - Possible Surveys
  - Time delays
  - 5 less dwelling
  - Less profit

# From barrier to benefit

- ▶ Meeting biodiversity objectives
- ▶ Recreation Space
- ▶ SUD's
- ▶ Code for Sustainable homes
- ▶ Cheaper land values
- ▶ More attractive development
- ▶ Future Sales
- ▶ Smoother planning process

# Won the Battle but not the War

- ▶ Could win some developers over, but not all...
- ▶ Force hands
- ▶ Political and Public pressure



# How?

- ▶ Making it relevant to them
- ▶ GI On-Line tool
- ▶ Evidence

# Eco-System Services Mapping

## Current Use

- ▶ Huge Potential
- ▶ Examples of layers

- ▶ Base habitat layer
- ▶ Biodiversity
- ▶ Ecological opportunities
  - grassland
  - heathland
  - woodland
- ▶ Ecosystems Services Opportunities
  - pollination
  - soil carbon
  - vegetation
  - water regulation
  - recreation
  - available recreation
- ▶ Multi-benefit ecosystem services
- ▶ preferred ecosystem services
- ▶ woodland
  - existing woodland
  - existing woodland type
  - woodland network gardens
  - woodland network tier 1,2,3
  - woodland opportunity layer
- ▶ Ecosystem service provision
  - Aesthetic value
  - Agricultural intensity
  - areas with recreation resource potential
  - Areas potentially susceptible to surface water flooding
  - Clean water with filtration Bridgend
  - coast riverine flooding Bridgend
  - filtration potential Bridgend
  - historically significant areas Bridgend
  - intermediate Clip
  - less clip
  - Natural hazard Bridgend
  - pollination Bridgend
  - potential renewable energy provision
  - potential vulnerability to erosion Bridgend
  - soil carbon
  - timber fibre
  - vegetation carbon
  - water regulation

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- ▶ **Ecosystem service provision**

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# Eco-System Services Mapping

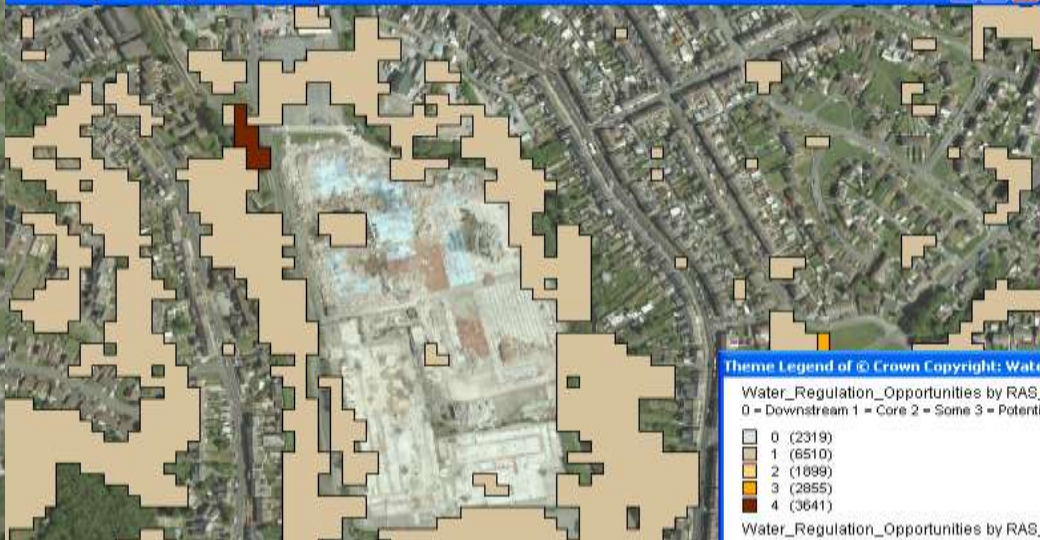






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Water\_Regulation\_Opportunities Map



Theme Legend of © Crown Copyright: Water\_Regulation\_Opportunities by RAS\_VAL

- 0 - Downstream 1 - Core 2 - Some 3 - Potential 4 - Preferred
  - 0 (2319)
  - 1 (6510)
  - 2 (1899)
  - 3 (2855)
  - 4 (3641)
- Water\_Regulation\_Opportunities by RAS\_VAL

# Eco-System Services Mapping

## Future Use

- ▶ Land-use Allocations (bundling)
- ▶ Innovative policy formulation
- ▶ Ecosystems Services LDP

# Vision

- ▶ Complete SPG & On-line Tool
- ▶ Consult on SPG
- ▶ Refine Mapping
- ▶ Develop Strategy
- ▶ Incorporate into Council functions