



Sustainable Development and The Ecosystems Approach Heysham –M6 Case Study

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Ecosystems and Decision Making in Planning

- **Where are principles already being used?**
- **Where are ecosystem principles missing?**
- **Synergies between SD and Ecosystems in planning**
- **How will Ecosystems Approach make planning truly sustainable?**

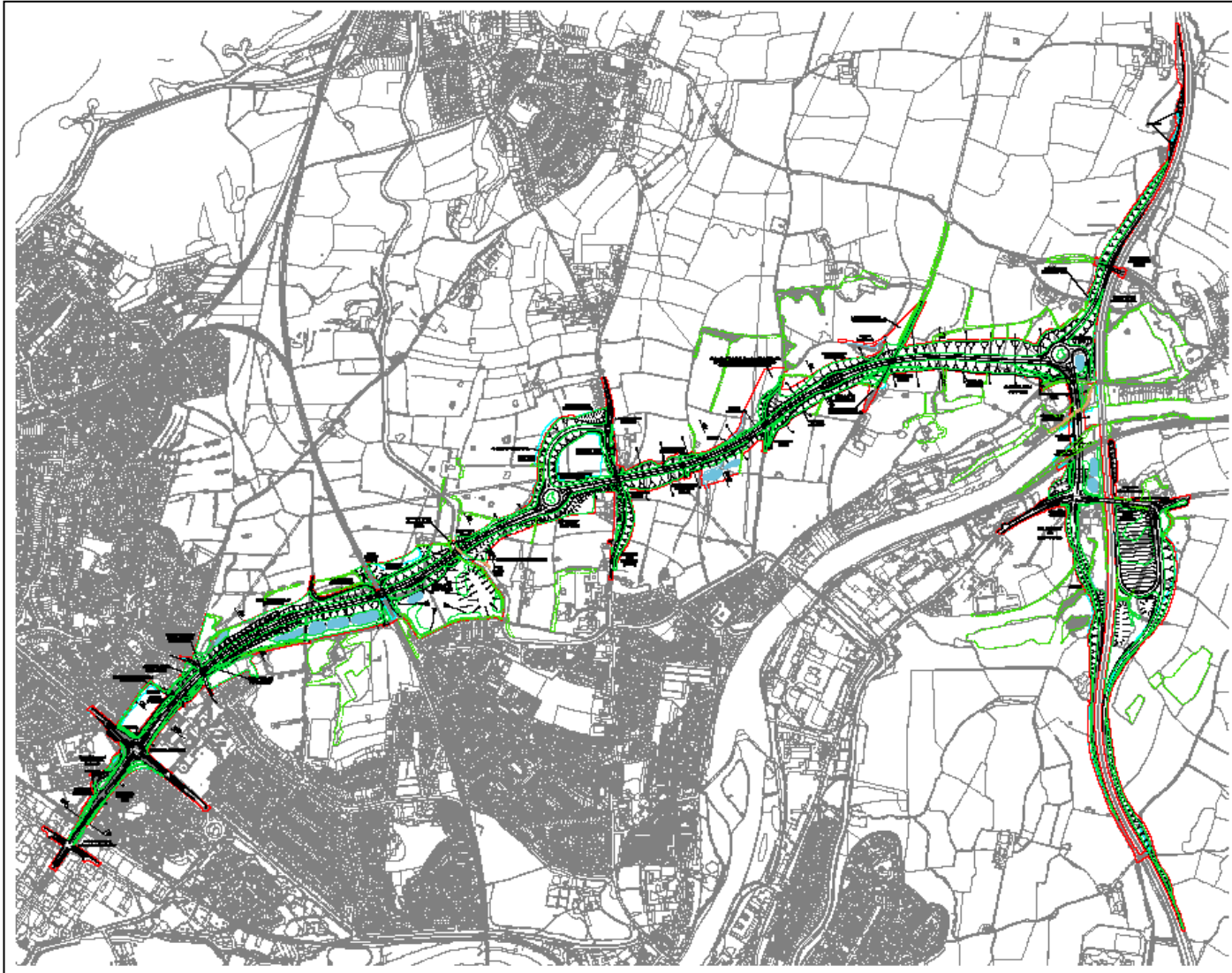
Background to the Heysham M6 Link

- **Proposal to build a dual carriageway by – passing Lancaster to the North**
- **Re model M6 Junction 34**
- **First proposed in 1949**
- **Fairly continuous planning activity since 1992**
- **Two alternative routes considered – North or West**

Background to the Heysham M6 Link

- **ADAS involved since 2002**
- **Northern Route adopted in 2004**
- **Revised planning application submitted September 2006**
- **Public Inquiry July 2007**
- **Feb 2008 Inspectors decision in favour**
- **2010 construction due to start**

Proposed Design (June 2006)



Research Approach

- **Using the Ecosystem approach set out in the CBD guidelines evaluate how well the current system delivers an ecosystem approach**
- **Develop and test tools and methodologies for the application of an ecosystem based approach to an infrastructure development of this kind**

Conclusions

- The Ecosystem Approach needs to be embedded in the culture of the organisations responsible for planning policy and delivery
- We need a better understanding of ecosystem health and function and the thresholds and limits affecting them
- We need to be able to make direct links between people's quality of life and the benefits that ecosystem goods and services provide.

Where are the principles of the Ecosystem Approach already being used in the planning system?

- **Based on a well developed democratic process with a strong policy and legislative framework.**
- **Decision making and management bodies have a wealth of experience.**
- **Public consultation and stakeholder involvement is part of the process.**

Where are the principles of the Ecosystem Approach missing in the planning system?

- Little consideration of ecosystem goods and services and how we enjoy them
- Future management
- Concept of ecosystem health and function, limits and thresholds.
- Limited valuation of environmental assets, not integrated with social and economic valuations.
- Public and stakeholder ownership.

Understanding Thresholds



The local context



Organic farms in the UK with a six mile buffer

The local context

- **Reassess the magnitude of local impacts**
 - **Local context**
 - **Local data sources**
 - **Local values**

What Is The Added Value Of Adjusting The System To Incorporate The Ecosystem Approach

- **A holistic approach**
- **Wider community engagement**
- **Sustainable Development?**

Synergies between SD and the Ecosystems Approach in Planning

- **Integrated approach**
- **Climate Change**
- **Spatial Planning**
- **Community Involvement**

- **Are there any conflicts?**

How Will The Ecosystems Approach Help To Make Planning Truly Sustainable

- **Change in culture**
- **Community involvement and ownership**
- **Better consideration and understanding of impacts on ecosystem goods and services**