


Thu 02/02/2023 13:50

Dear Colleagues,

It was fantastic to see so many of you at our conference. To have nearly a third of our workforce together at one location was a great opportunity to exchange ideas, network and of course have some fun. Initial feedback would suggest all of those objectives were achieved which is great. We are in the process of collating the feedback from the various different sessions and will aim to pull everything together and put it in next week's catch up. I hope that will also fill in some of the blanks for those of you who were unable to attend or joined on zoom.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mike Etherington for organising the conference and for Martin and the team at Castle Head for being such excellent hosts. For those of you that didn't hear or see the conference opening, the slides and text have been uploaded to the intranet and you can see them  [here](#). The timeline caused some amusement as we realised that our predecessors faced some very familiar issues. The pictures have also suggested a possible dress code for next year's conference.

### **Impact Report**

Philip shared a glimpse of the Impact Report at the conference, and we will aim to upload it and have a link to it in next week's catch up.

### **Government Environmental Improvement Plan**

Whilst we were away at conference the Government announced its [Environmental Improvement Plan](#). The official [press release](#) strikes an upbeat tone and there are things that we can welcome, but you don't have to dig too far to find out that the aim for everyone to live within 15 minutes of green or blue space is non statutory. The aim to halt the decline of nature by 2030 before reversing it is unambitious, given the state of our already nature deprived nation. It's a point that Field Studies Council and many others included in our response to the consultation.

### **People and Nature Study**

Natural England run this long-term study and it continues to provide really useful information about who and how people connect to nature and access green spaces. There's a separate study that focussed on children too. The study ran throughout the covid pandemic, [providing reports](#) and evidence base for policy makers about the vital importance of nature connection and local green spaces. There's also a [data explorer](#) which can help organisations drill down into the data sets. It's the kind of thing that will make the Digital and Data team happy, I'm sure.

### **Welcome to Field Studies Council:**

At Slapton Ley, Anna Harrison has been promoted to Senior Tutor and Jan Radford has joined us as Head Housekeeper

Stephen Taylor has returned as North Relief Head Chef

Samuel McGhee has joined Millport as Hospitality and Catering Assistant

Jennifer McKenna has moved to Biodiversity Course Co-ordinator

Mark Richards has joined as Preston Montford's Maintenance Officer

Mark