

# Environmental Stewardship on Council land

Danny Jackson

Countryside and Rights of Way Manager

City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council

## Background: Countryside and Rights of Way Service

- Part of Regeneration Department (Planning Service)
- Remit: management of rights of way network, biodiversity, land management (urban and rural sites) in the Bradford District.
- Also regional work through Pennine Prospects (South Pennines)







# Protected/designated sites in the Bradford District



## Range of sites managed: access + conservation



## Range of management approaches

- In house – revenue funded
- Devolved management to local voluntary conservation sector or Friends of groups
- Partnership with other agencies/funders
- Environmental Stewardship schemes



Local voluntary conservation groups and Friends – wider access to funding, strong community links



# Partnerships 1: British Waterways; WREN Bingley North Bog



# Bingley North Bog



## Partnership 2: Pennine Prospects, HLF Ilkley Moor



# Site issues + responses



Site Manager's Network

Moorwatch Initiative

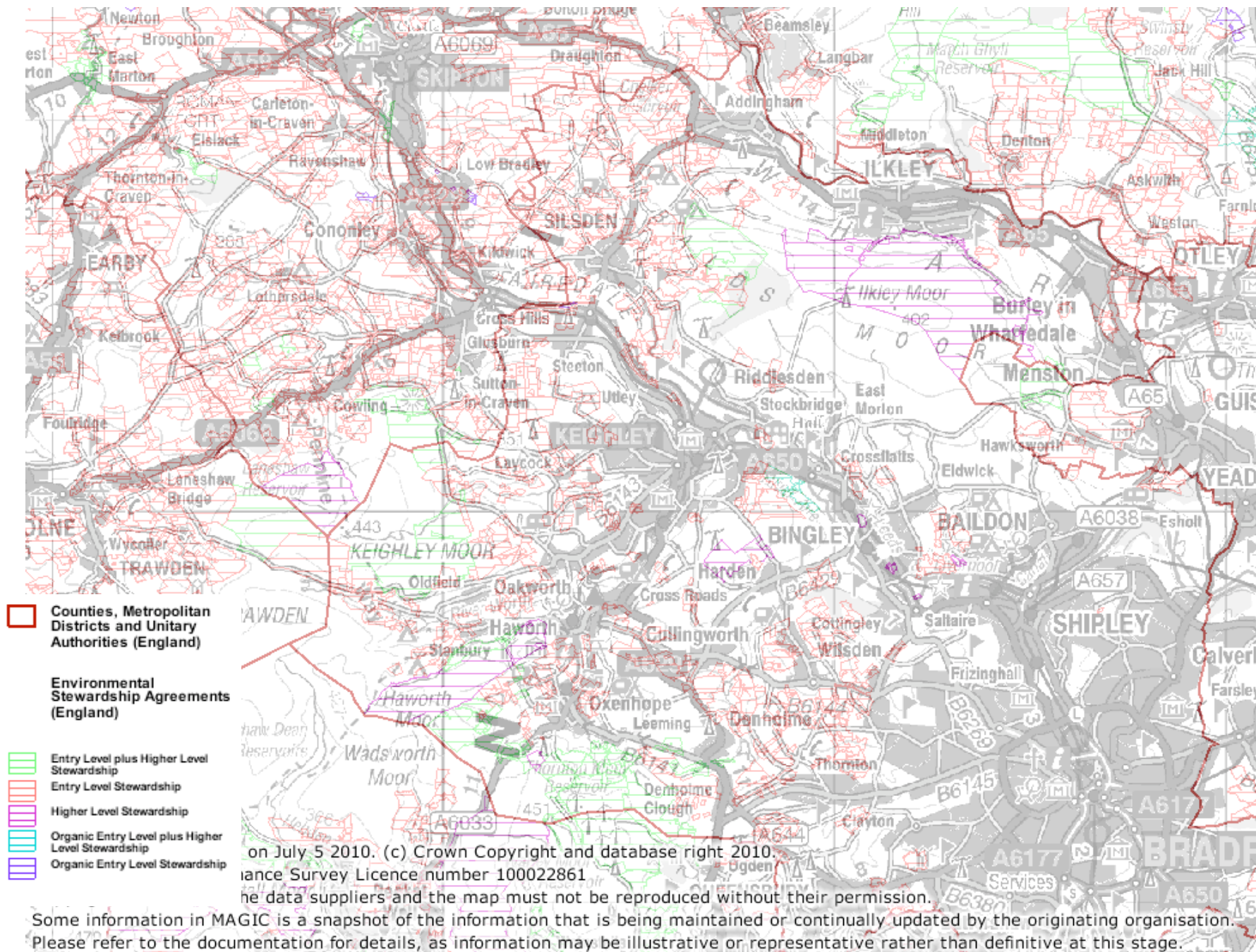
South Pennine  
Fire Operations Group

Reconnections/  
Street Reach

## Stewardship agreements

- Harden Moor
- Bingley / Airedale sites (North and South Bogs, Ryeloaf Meadows)
- Baildon Moor
- Trench Meadows
- Ilkley Moor

# Stewardship in Bradford



# Factors

- Earlier involvement with Countryside Stewardship on one site (Ilkley Moor) – experience
- Targeting – favoured the region – South Pennines
- SSSI – priority for Natural England

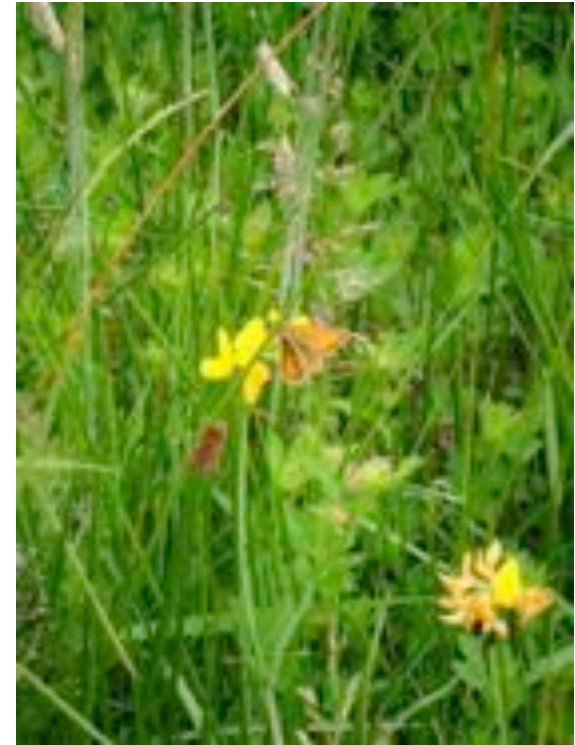


# South Pennines target area

- Maintain/restore: grassland mosaics, blanket bog, rough grazing, heather moorland, wet flushes, lowland heath, old meadows and pastures, upland hay meadows, ancient and native woodlands.
- Provide habitat for in-bye birds – lapwing, curlew, snipe, redshank, yellow wagtail, twite
- Create new permissive access
- Maintain and restore traditional field boundaries
- Protect and restore degraded blanket bog
- Management of visible and below ground archaeological and historic features



# Trench Meadows SSSI



Conservation grazing

# Harden Moor



# Ryeloaf meadows – wet woodland



# Bingley South Bog SSSI – lowland mire



# Stages in the process

- Register the site on Rural Land Register at the Rural Payments Agency – they assign a vendor number and County Parish Holding numbers to create land parcels.
- Farm Environment Plan
- Application including options (annual and capital)

# Ilkley Moor SSSI/SPA/SAC – complicated (urban common, joint agreement, special projects)



# Ilkley and Burley Moors HLS

- Heather/moorland management
- Sheep management
- Bracken control
- Access works
- Boundary repairs
- Archaeological projects
- Fire restoration projects





# HLS options examples- annual

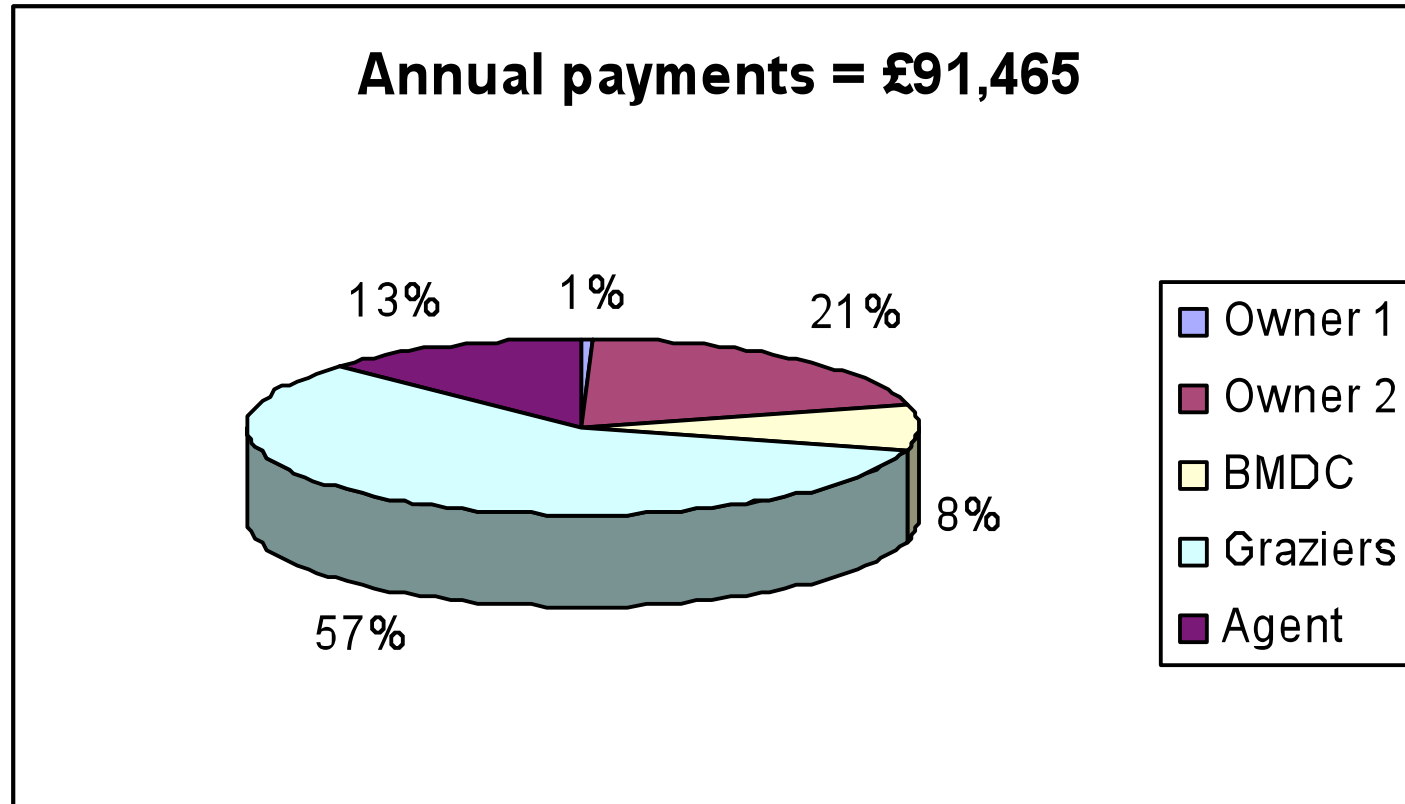
- Restoration of moorland (HL10)
- Management of heather (HL12)
- Seasonal exclusion of livestock (HL15\*)
- Shepherding supplement (HL16\*)
- Bracken control supplement (HR5)
- Supplement for group applications (HR8\*)
- Restoration of woodland (HC8)
- Archaeological features on grassland (HD5)
- Restoration of species rich semi-natural grassland (HK7)
- Supplement for cattle grazing (HR1)
- Upgrading access for people with reduced mobility (HN7)
- Permissive bridleway/cyclepath access (HN4)
- Restoration of fen (HQ7)

\*payments to third parties

# Annual and Capital HLS payments

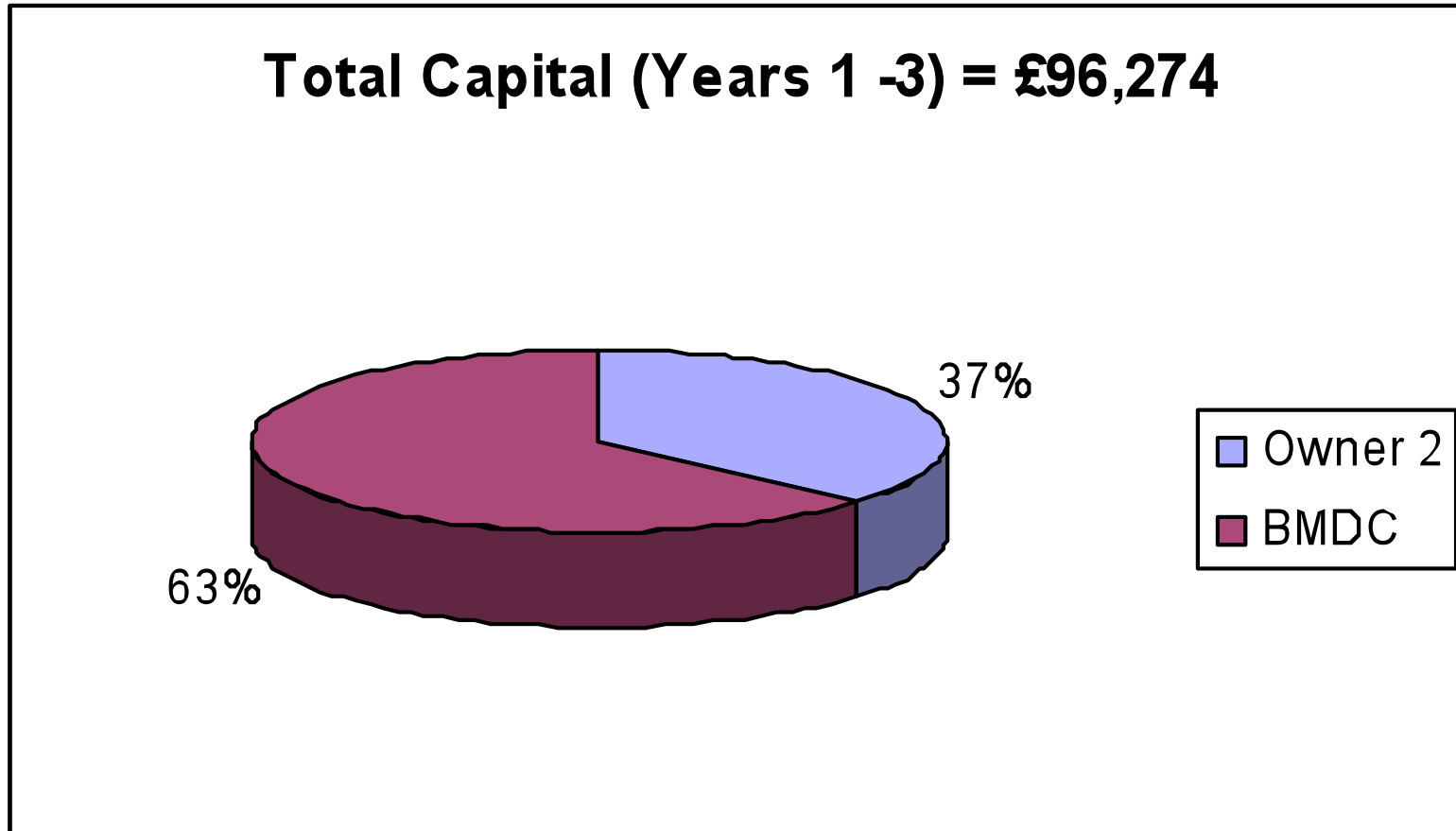
Site	Area	Total annual payments (10 years)	Total capital
Trench Meadows	5	£11,297	£4,079
Bingley Bogs	17	£12,671	£12,302
Harden Moor	85	£47,630	£8,653
Penistone Hill	71	£40,640	£10,244
Ilkley Moor & Burley Moor	1166	£914,660	£96,274
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1344</b>	<b>£1,026,898</b>	<b>£131,552</b>

# Annual payments breakdown: Ikley HLS joint agreement



Owner 1	£482
Owner 2	£18,939
BMDC	£7,374
Graziers	£53,000
Agent	£11,670

# Capital payments: Ikley HLS joint agreement



# Publicity and politics



## Telegraph & Argus

### **Money will be used to help wildlife, promote heather growth and improve footpaths**

[By Paul Langan »](#)

An extra £1 million of funding is to be poured into improvements to Ickley Moor over the next ten years, it has been announced.

Celebrating news of a £1m investment in Ickley Moor are, from left, Dave Key, from Natural England, Councillor Anne Hawkesworth and Edward Bromet, from the Moorland Association.

The funding, from the Government conservation body Natural England, will pay for a raft of measures designed to enhance wildlife, promote heather growth and improve footpaths.

# Points to consider:

- Relationship with Natural England. Commitment and flexibility of regional team at NE – can sign consents whilst negotiating agreements.
- Complicated application process – more complex the agreement, more time it takes.
- Farm Environment Plan – do your own?
- Cost – benefit – payments don't cover actual costs – need a long term financial commitment
- Exit strategy – what happens after 10 years?
- Environmental gain is the key
- Tool for community involvement and sustaining environmental gain beyond 10 years
- PR / Politics
- Gives your site a financial “value” – earning potential – useful in today's climate.