

NatureBid slide set accompanying notes – Keith Davie

Slide 1:

Keith Davie

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I'm going to talk about **NatureBid** our online auction platform for improvements in river catchments.

I'll be focusing on the lessons and process more than the practical elements of the tool itself.

If you need to know more get in touch with me later.

Slide 2:

1. NatureBid is another tool in the Environment Agency's toolbox for incentivise positive environmental behaviour and practices.
2. Developed by the Environment Agency and Sylva Foundation
3. The auction platform is an efficient way that enables **trades** whereby society buys environmental goods. Different companies and organisations pay for outcomes. This widens and diversifies who can buy a stake in their environment. Companies that invest in their landscapes are more sustainable with more resilient supply chains and infrastructure.
4. Partnership First – the auction platform enable partners to lead on delivery. The Environment Agency does not need to lead on delivery – others can engage with farmers and landowners.
5. Buying environmental **goods** goes above regulatory compliance and standards.

Slide 3:

Somerset

(Tone & Parret Catchments)

- We received bids for all six proposed measures – maize being the most popular
- ~ 300 Ha of NFM interventions.
- This shows that auctions can work for a number of types of intervention.
- Farmers enjoyed the interactive approach – however only 6% of farmers targeted before the auction made bids. This shows that a quality over quantity approach works.

County Wide

Dartmoor

- No farmers bid – this was for a variety of reasons
 - Concerns over liability.

- The auction was open for only two weeks – farmers wanted longer
- On Dartmoor this part of mix of funding opportunities which confused the picture
- Concern over payment for losses/penalties given their involvement in other schemes.
- Farmers disliked the delivery body.

Devon – Tamar Catchment

- Led by the West Country Rivers Trust – a well established organisation with strong network amongst farmers and landowners.
- Targeted promotion was carried out – they knew exactly how to promote the auction and engage with farmers and landowners.
- This shows that TRUST, RELATIONSHIPS & REPUTATION are essential.

Slide 4:

Wider Lessons

1. It's important to get the **right intervention in the right place**. This is something we are looking to develop. We are exploring options on how we could use environmental data to support the auction process e.g. built into the tool or use alongside, how can we present data simply that helps farmers bid, how can we use data to show buyers the outcomes they're buying
2. The process is not a simple transaction. Engagement, checking, verification are just as important (if not more) than the bidding process itself.
3. Is there room for supporting collaboration between farmers/landowners to provide nature based solutions on a landscape scale rather than a farm scale?
4. We need different forms of engagement for different contexts - the platforms we use need to be flexible to be able to adapt
5. Learning from the auctions show that the social and cultural context are key and that we can develop NatureBid to support more collaborative, community-led and landscape scale forms of engagement

Slide 5:

Fell to Well

- This is in the Tweed Catchment in Northumbria on the Till Fell Sandstone. Partners are the Tweed Forum and Northumbrian Water. The area is a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone.
- Fell to Well will address excess nitrate which is impacting on groundwater and therefore drinking water supply to 25,000 people.
- Cover crops – nutrient capture, reduced nutrient loss, reduced erosion.

- Soil fertility capture
- Soil health / soil structure
- Breaking compaction – deep rooting species such radish.
- Weed control and pest control

LENs Northamptonshire

- We're working with others to develop a LENs. If this is successful then we will seek to deliver an auction.
- Working with Anglian Water and Nestlé on sustainable soil management and water infiltration and flow rates.
- Anglian Water interest lies in the costs of raw water treatment and effluent management. Nestlé wants a resilient supply of arable-derived feedstock.
- This presents opportunities for co-investment in land management interventions – e.g. integration of tree and wetland habitat into the landscape and soil protection through in-field rotational measures.
- Anglian Water and Nestlé can share costs and increase the impact of landscape interventions.

South Downs

We're establishing if there is appetite for an auction.

Slide 6:

No notes

Slide 7:

no notes