

Water Based Recreation Pressures

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Aims of the Session

Aim of the session:

1. Look at how we identify pressures and the choices we make in responding to them.
Are we treating the cause or the effect?
1. Set out how collaborative working can lead to a more positive change in behaviour.

Objectives of the session:

- A. Defining what we mean by water recreation and understanding the scale and scope of water recreation today.
- A. Reflect on the types of pressures that are arising from water recreation and how they sit in the context of wider pressures.
- A. 'Causal Mapping exercise', thinking back 'up the chain' about the root causes of pressure
- A. Sharing some examples of where this approach works - or doesn't.

Statement Continuum

“Access to nature is important for our health and wellbeing”

Statement Continuum

“Recreation is the biggest threat to our water environment”

Statement Continuum

“Water recreation has a negative impact on wildlife”

The Water Environment in Context



Body of teenager found during police river search



A cordon was placed around the area as police searched the River Derwent



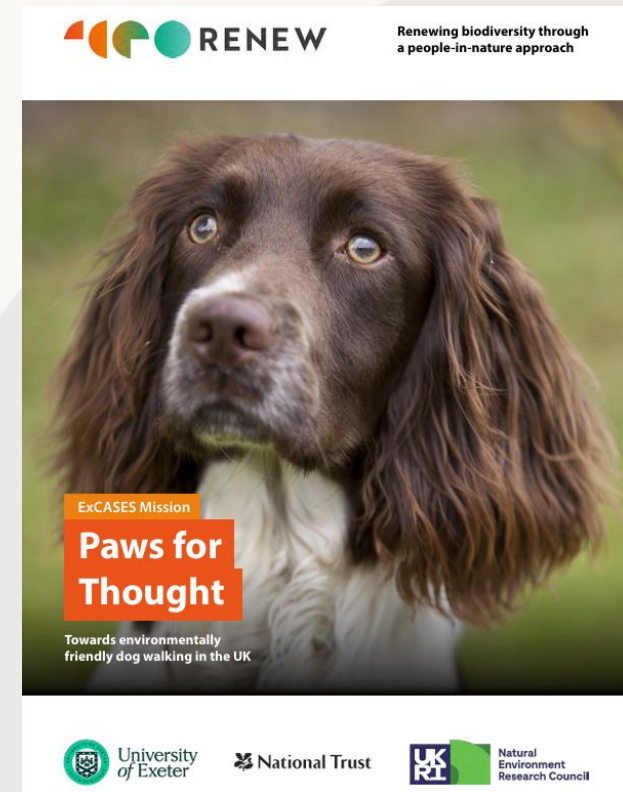
“In a statement, the local authority added: “Residents are reminded to stay away from open water”.

Working Across Barriers to Achieve More

ExCASES, Paws For Thought

The purpose:

- 1) To better understand the relationship between people, dogs, and nature
- 2) Explore how to ensure these relationships are sustainable and equitable



Evidence Review

- Identified 43 pieces of evidence across 13 impact categories
- Spatial mapping of dog densities and protected areas in England

Participatory workshops

- Conservationists, ecologists, researchers, canine sector, access & recreation, policy makers
- 45 people from 38 orgs over the process

Impact (no. pieces of contributing evidence & references)	Evidence summary	Taxa studied	BEAM outcome (balance of evidence)			
			Refutes	Mixed	Weakly supports	Strongly supports
Displacement of wildlife (n=17) 5, 6, 7, 11, 14, 17, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 27, 29, 36, 37, 39	<i>The presence of people and dogs can negatively affect the distribution of wildlife, excluding them from their preferred habitats.</i> • Disturbance by people and their dogs can exclude wildlife from their preferred sites for foraging, nesting, and resting, which can have impacts at the population level, in terms of abundance and distribution. • However, several studies suggest that wildlife can become habituated to, or tolerant of disturbance, demonstrating a mediated response to people and dogs.	  				
Shedding flea and parasite treatments (n=4) 15, 31, 32, 42	<i>Spot-on flea and parasite treatments can enter freshwater habitats, exposing wildlife to harmful insecticides.</i> • Fiprinol and imidacloprid pesticides, which are used in parasite treatments, are toxic for invertebrates and vertebrates. • They can be shed from, or washed off dogs, and find their way into aquatic ecosystems. The greatest sources of transmission are from bathing dogs after treatment, and from owners washing their hands - imidacloprid and fiprinol are detectable from hand washing 28 days after a treatment. • This is a UK-wide issue, and is most acute near densely populated areas, and within 2km of wastewater treatment plants, where concentrations of fiproles can greatly exceed toxicity limits. • However, there is uncertainty over the bioavailability of these compounds (the extent and rate at which the compounds enter the bodies and systems of wildlife in freshwater).	   				

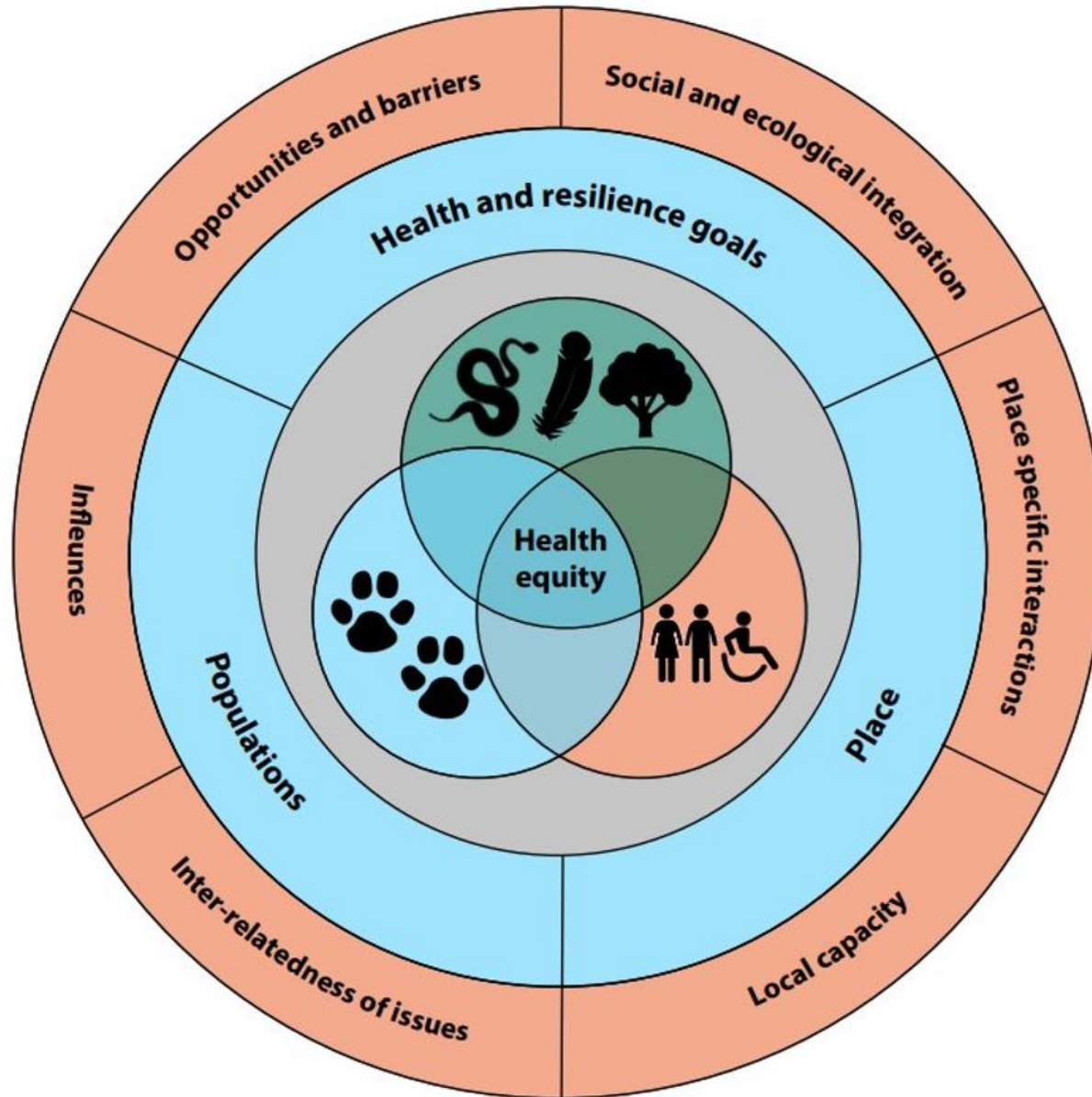
Reframing the narrative

Stakeholders agreed that only promoting a nature conservation message has limited success in changing dog walking behaviour

Different priorities, values, pressures, power asymmetries - lack of resonance

Greater uptake may be achieved by integrating human health into animal welfare objectives

We adapted a One Health framework and trialled it with stakeholders



Pivoting around the central objective of achieving health equity encouraged broader consideration of different populations needs

It encouraged the integration of different kinds of knowledge and evidence

Identified opportunities for collaborations and co-benefits within and across communities

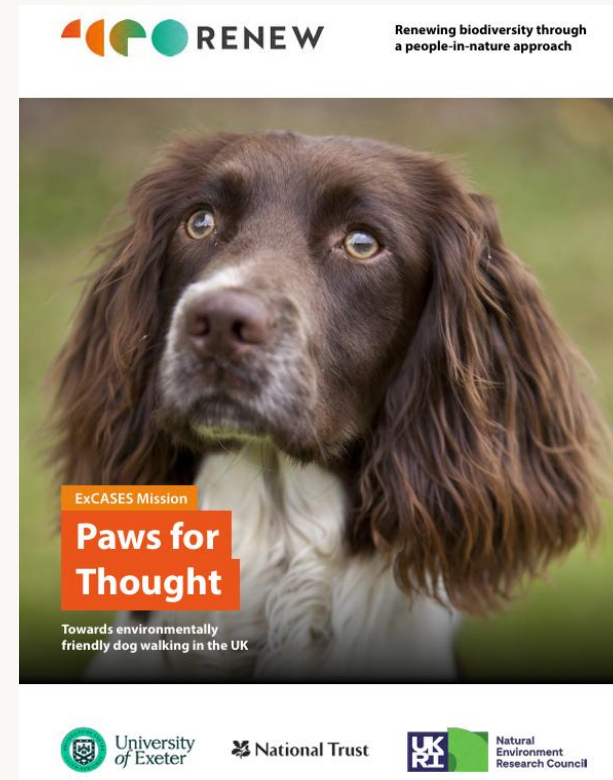
Led to more holistic appraisal of issues, and more inclusive and effective interventions



For more information, check out our Paws for Thought outputs

www.renewbiodiversity.org.uk

Themes > ExCASES



Working Across Barriers to Achieve More

The Paddlers 'Code



Summary

There are multiple pressures on our waterways and coastal environments - and we prioritise impacts differently

Seemingly disparate impacts are often connected by shared underlying causes

Our challenge is to identify where it's most effective, equitable, and feasible to intervene

Collaborating with communities and across sectors and disciplines, can lead to more sustainable, inclusive, and fair outcomes for people and nature