| **INT:** | I just have to ask for your consent, brilliant, so I thought just to start off with if you sort of just a bit of a background about yourself, the organisation that you are affiliated to and your role within that. |
| --- | --- |
| DEU31: | Okay so mine is a little bit complicated, so I’m a Development Officer for two local nature partnerships, [Government initiative]and [Government initiative] and that is a shared its s shared post. I’m officially working for [area council] and then I’m seconded my time to [area council]and so I work sort of between the two but in a seconded capacity from East Riding of Yorkshire Council. And then if you want a bit of background the purpose of the local nature partnerships, they are government initiative dating back from the Natural Environment in 2011 and their remit is to widen the involvement of people in nature conservation and get more of an interest in protecting the national environment and be engaged in the natural environment with a focus more on links to the economic sector and health sector to kind of widen the conversation so a lot of what I do is more strategic discussions around kind of policy, behavior changes that sort of sectorial level but I do get involved with kind of local projects to kind of demonstrate on the ground pilots and examples of working and things like that and I do a lot around the concept of natural capital as a kind of crossing the various bridges between the natural environments and other areas of interest so that, using that kind of general concept and then making it understanding what that means in real terms basically at a local level. |
| **INT:** | In terms of the nature partnerships, are they kept completely separate or do that sort of overlap at all? |
| DEU31: | No they are completely separate, just as a bit of background the government was very keen that local nature partnerships abutted and didn’t overlap in anyway and we are kind of independent of each other effectively but the reason we went about doing this role that I’m in is to, they both had full time officers that then left, they saw the benefit of having dedicated officers to the local nature partnerships rather than trying, a lot of local nature partnerships around the country do it with kind of people in their day jobs would then try and do something else and it’s much more limited than you can achieve. I didn’t have the capacity to host a full time officer but thought a shared one would work and yeah so my work is very much kind of supporting those two independently but because of that shared roll the two L&P’s are quite similar in many ways both in what they are trying to achieve you know demographics of the area, the geography and the landscapes of the area, the ecology and the kind of makeup of the local authorities and everything are quite similar so there’s a lot of benefit of looking other than the fact that they are neighbouring of looking at joint pieces of work or pieces of work that cover the whole area and then you can kind of drop down into the two for being more specific and that has worked very well so that’s been going for, it’s the fifth year now that I’ve been hosted in this way and we’ve managed to kind of find different routes of getting me funded sort of showing that the interest has grown, so rather than kind of straggling money we’ve kind of made arguments that have gotten more people investing in my role and yeah showing that kind of approach is working well so. |
| **INT:** | Just a couple of questions, in terms of the nature partnerships themselves how many people are involved and what type of organisations are involved? |
| DEU31: | So the more involved are the board members so they are both managed by a board of sort of senior officers/senior managers in general and each of them has around sort of twelve to fifteen, I’d say they are slightly different that kind of a number of organised [unclear 0:04:10.5] and that’s a mix of the local authorities in the area of representational local authorities of the area, representations of the [unclear 0:04:17.6] family, representation of the environmental NGO’s, the protected landscapes, in North Yorkshire we’ve got two protected landscapes in our area so those have seats at the table, the local enterprise partnerships are on the board and the Health and Wellbeing boards are represented to the public health team so it’s quite a nice spread of those sorts of people and then we have the national farms representing the kind of land donor interest part you know land/farm management interest and I think that’s the sort of coverage. So it’s about that sort of number that are actively looking after the board as I said East Riding Council kind of oversee the L & P one in the sense of hosting me and providing secretariat and managerial support and North Yorkshire Council Council host me and oversee that local nature partnership but it is, they are independent, they’re not kind of council partnerships they are sort of independent partnerships in that way, information partnerships basically. There is theoretically a representation of a much wider group and again I need to recount because we get people interested in joining so I have a kind of contact list that I send information out on and try and keep people up to date at the local level which varies from bigger organisations to just individuals so I think the North Yorkshire one is around 180 names but obviously that’s not 180 organisations but it’s property getting on for near a hundred groups, organisations and that sort of thing and as I say they vary in how much, and we’ve been able to support a number of them in different ways over the years but in the main it is just that kind of contact and they know to come to me if they think I can help and I will pass on information regularly about funding opportunities or job opportunities or you know just policy or local things or good news stories, so there is a very corporate [unclear 0:06:11.5] let’s say up to you know a hundred plus that are aware of us and interested in what we are up. |
| **INT:** | That’s great, and you talk about how your sort of trying to incorporate economy and health, how are you integrating that? |
| DEU31: | The way we’ve tried to do it from the beginning is move away from bringing …. |
| **INT:** | Sorry about that, I lost you. |
| DEU31: | Sorry yeah, my computer was doing this yesterday on a Zoom call I don’t know what it’s got against Zoom all of sudden, so we’ll persevere but as I say I’m sorry if it keeps kicking me out. |
| **INT:** | If it’s easier to do it without the camera that’s fine. |
| DEU31: | It’s weird cos it just suddenly decides it doesn’t want to, I can turn it off if it does it again and see if it makes a difference but I don’t know what’s going on. I don’t think I got very far into the answer so I think traditionally as a kind of sweeping generalisation the kind of bi-diversity issue was presented as a problem that people should get involved in so this is declining or that’s declining and you should help kind of overcome it as an over simplistic thing and so what we tried to do differently which has been successful is to sort of say what are your problems and how can the natural environment help that and become a solution which then gets people engaged that it is it’s relevant to them because obviously the first way round you kind of thing well I’m a business I haven’t had anything to do with the wildlife you know why would I get involved or I’m a health charity it doesn’t have anything to do with me whereas if you sort of say well what do you want to happen you know we want to reduce obesity or I’d like my workforce to be healthier or I’d like to be more resilient to you know factors like flooding then you can sort of say well the national environment has a role to play in that and you can kind of explore it together why then they would want to get involved and so that is what we have tried to do so the natural capital concept is really good for that because it’s a starter for ten of sort of saying what is it you are interested in and this is how the national environment can help and so we’ve done that approach with the local enterprise partnership for more strategic pieces of work that’s led to for example them so we’ve done things around the data side of things so we commissioned a piece of work through the [consultancy] that just sort of laid out this is what natural capital is, this is the kind of things we are talking about from a data perspective that you may be using every day or you may not use you might want to and start just talking to people about how do you need this information for decision making to a wide audience of people from you know planners and local guys to kind of business representatives and charity , health charity and things like that and then what would you like if we could do it for you and how would you like. So that was a really good starting conversation just to sort of see what people are interested in and what they were using and what they weren’t aware of and just make that kind of national topic of natural capital, the government is very pro, pro the last few years to how useful is that at a local level and that’s really kind of sparked those local conversations of well actually people do want to embrace it but we don’t have the right data or we don’t have the examples that sort of thing, so that’s led to a really good relationship with….. are you there? You froze but you came back and I turned my camera off. So the left has been very embracing of the environment was really important for the economy of North Yorkshire and York because of the farming background and that sort of thing and tourism but they didn’t necessarily know how it was relevant to them if they wanted to make a difference so the natural capital has allowed us to kind of do that and it’s led to a study that they commissioned with kind of our support of doing it, looking at the natural capital of North Yorkshire and West Yorkshire because they did it in conjunction with [City] regional. So again they’ve really embraced that, we’ve worked together on the devolution proposal for North Yorkshire and again managed to get natural capital as a chapter in itself with specific asks around to government about funding both capital and revenue to kind of move the agenda forward of how do we build meaningful natural capital that would support you know economic aspirations and they’ve also done [unclear 0:11:36.4] pathway in their interest for how to achieve NET zero targets locally and they have a whole section in there on land use and agriculture so again our know building in what’s the natural environment element of that issue and that solution so things like heathland and woodland and you know marine, you know what kind of things are we talking about, again that’s been a real success of that relationship with the left, the health side has been more actual projects where there is just a lot of data out there that shows that access to the national environment is good for you know a wide range of health issues but we, so we just want to say let’s demonstrate that so we’ve done the best ones to highlight is well it’s been running for a few years, something called [nature-based activity]which started with a kind of the ambitions of the L&P of making these links that then became not really with my involvement at the beginning a pitch to the public health team about how do we promote local walking routes and existing rights of way from a town out into the countryside of different lengths so that people could just to a half hour and then for like several hours of walking which the public health team really liked and then that has sort of evolved over time to this project [nature-based activity]which is about you know enthusing people to get out and accessing the natural environment and it has become now more the help by stealth where rather than saying you should walk for your health which, some insight work highlighted people didn’t really want to walk for health they’ll walk for anything but their health in general, if you encourage the reasons to go out and the variety of things that you can do then people can get healthy as they are doing it and so that’s what it has been doing and so those have been piloted in [Town] and [Town] and most recently in Ripon and they’ve all taken slightly different tact’s in how they do this but there has been a real interest particularly from the health side of that approach of just creating reasons for people to go out and different ways to do it and messaging around that and then on the flip side we’ve done mental health with the concept of sort of social horticulture so more hands on growing things and I brought a long running project called [plant project]which is for like twenty years work with farmers to support very very at risk of local extension annual arable flowers but quite a few people knew about it outside those kind of farmers and the people linked with them so I got Next Steps which is a mental health charity based in [City] who have an allotment where they grow food to get on board and we were successful in getting some money from the Heritage Lottery Fund to get a project in place that they host, they look after and they are making that link between people who can provide them seed from the farms, growing it on their site and then finding new sites in towns and villages you know odd areas of raised beds or green spaces that have that ability to grow these plants which gives great nature conservation benefit because it’s widening the network of sites that these are at, it’s giving that kind of much more direct engagement with the public about this issue and an opportunity for them to get involved if they want to but more important from a Next Steps perspective they have lots of volunteers that are clients with you know depression of anxiety or more serious mental health issues and they can do something very hands on that they have found really beneficial to those issues that they have so it’s built confidence and built skills and so they really valued it and that’s been going on, this is the end of a three year bid and we are now working together to look for the next bid so that’s been a really good example of more hands on with plans that we would like to then replicate elsewhere in a different way but same sort of approach. So those are kind of two examples of how we have done those sort of projects and I’ve sort of had a background role in just kind of making that happen whether that’s kind of getting people talking, growing ideas in the mix, making connections and then in this instance I did help with the funding bid in the background to kind of write the project outline and that sort of thing so my support can vary quite a lot and my role of how I engage can vary quite a lot and in that sense. |
| **INT:** | That’s brilliant, thanks for giving me that in depth, there are quite a few projects you have been involved in, that’s great. |
| DEU31: | Yeah, keeping busy. |
| **INT:** | So sort of just focusing on a bit more on sort of the species records data that you do use, do you focus on single species or groups of species and what decisions does this inform? |
| DEU31: | I have become more and more into kind of grouped information and general concepts rather than specifics so in a previous life I was Bi-diversity Officer at [area council]and so that was very much targeting the most at risk species and then trying to enthuse people about then, in this role it’s kind of broader, broader concepts around the natural environment and then getting people enthused. Where possible we can sort of narrow it down to specific species so [plant project]has been really good for highlighting specific species at risk and then you know how to work with them and accessing the records as needed you know to do that, excuse me, in more widely that that it tends to be more habitat based things because people are engaging more easily with woodland and peatland those kind of broader concepts and then you know as needed we can then look do we need species data to kind of build and then look do we need species data to kind of build on that, yeah so I mean for example I’ve not been so involved in it but for example oysters have really taken off on the east coast as a kind of specific species to do reintroductions with and seagrass you know on a different thing so you can find those ones where people kind of want to engage with them but as a starter for ten kind of a habitat level tends to work better I think. |
| **INT:** | Yeah, I guess that whole the premise is that you are trying to engage with more people and I guess a broader range and trying to find the ones that sort of make people tick is probably important. |
| DEU31: | Yes, yeah. |
| **INT:** | Brilliant, and does the data that you do collect where does it come from and is it a raw data or has it been processed in anyway? |
| DEU31: | So a lot of what we have been doing is natural capital so we don’t tend to be collecting a lot of data it’s more kind of accessing where it’s readily available to then find out where the gaps are and so that’s been a lot of kind of open source national data or local data through the record center if appropriate, the North and East Yorkshire Logical Base Centre and then that with the natural capital work that led to highlighting the fact that there was a lot of gaps and issues with data sets like that people were using regularly for work like [unclear 0:18:59.4] Habitat inventory data that natural England looks after so that then made a move to how do we better, how do we just improve that data as a whole without – you’re still there good I thought I’d lost you. Without kind of having to pay for expensive surveys so that’s moved to remote sensing and the data center got involved with the Natural Living England Maps project which is a kind of national remove sensing of the whole country basically remote sensing but to a useable level and the L & P paid to have the data center ground truth and provide training data for those satellites so it would be better quality basically so it is habitat data but it is more usable at a local level rather than the risk that it becomes kind of big trend data that looks at a national level but if you want to zoom into a field that doesn’t work. So that’s kind of I think that’s finished, I haven’t seen any yet but that is basically kind of the first iteration is done and it is a Natural England product but it is better than what it might be elsewhere in the country and we are using the data center as the kind of conduit for that so I don’t have direct access to that data I will do it through them and that tends to be how we do it certainly the [area council]that’s how they do it, they have a memorandum of agreement with the data center to look after data so they don’t have to hold onto big data etc. etc. they can just work with the data center and pay an annual amount to be doing that and again when it’s things more specific like the Cornfield Flowers it tends to be working with what people already use for their data sources but I if we are putting new stuff in I push hard for people to kind of this is from experience, people do it all the time and we are making sure they are writing down where this stuff is and making sure that it is shared and again I do tend to signpost toward the data center locally because they will send it up into the natural streams but also saying you can do NBN or Ireport or whatever as long as we are kind of making sure that we have got that data being recorded somewhere and so for example with this new next iteration of the [plant project]the Next Steps are leading on it is likely that Plantlife will get involved and they have been very much using you know they have a system for recording this stuff and I don’t have an issue with but we use that instead as long as it is going somewhere that we are all happy, it gets shared so someone if Joe Blogg wants to know where Cornfield Flowers are you know our data will be available. |
| **INT:** | Brilliant, and in terms of accessing data do you find there are any restrictions at all in place? |
| DEU31: | Again, I tend to not to do it too much myself I tend to ask questions of the people who know more like the data center and that’s what we are trying to overcome as much as possible is to prevent that kind of limitation so there is a lot of data out there that’s open source but what we found through the [consultancy] work that we did and if you want a copy I should say I am very happy to share it with you, it’s a useful starter for ten on this, just remind me afterwards, it highlighted that there is a lot of national data that isn’t very useful at a local level because of all sorts of issues about age or resolution or gaps in data etc. so we’ve sort of recognised those limitations and that’s why something like remote sensing could be really useful especially if it’s kind of government run one where it’s open source but it will get [unclear 0:22:42.3] redone regularly so you can see change but we are very keen that local activity can be added on to it which as I understand it can be the way that it’s been worked at so if we are doing a local project or new information comes up or a survey we can put that on to that sort of national sort of nationally available information and it should so in those kind of gaps between we know what is happening on the ground and what change there is. |
| **INT:** | You mentioned about the issues that you talk about sort of age and resolution, is there is a resolution that you sort of prefer? |
| DEU31: | A lot, well yeah, again not so much that I know that much about it but just in recognising that we are trying to make it’s as useful as possible so if you’re like a planning officer for example and you need to make decisions data that’s [unclear 0:23:38.0] resolution is not very helpful because it’s not detailed enough and even like a hundred meter resolution probably isn’t good enough so the benefit of the remote sensing is if I’m saying get down to 5 meter or less so it’s very accurate you know within a field scale is the kind of level that we are trying to get as much as possible just because that is most useful to most people as opposed a lot of the data if it’s kind of a kilometer you know square or higher you know you’re losing your audiences because it’s strategically grey, you know anyone that’s not working strategically it’s no use effectively so you know as accurate as possible effectively but kind of within meters is really what we are looking for. |
| **INT:** | Of course, that’s brilliant. Could you say outputs yourself? So any process… |
| DEU31: | Data wise – no not really no as I say we try and do it through the data center if they are doing it or kind of make use of what’s readily available. I’m just trying to think if I’ve done any survey commissions or anything, I don’t think so. |
| **INT:** | No, brilliant, and you talked about it earlier and obviously your involvement with the data itself is probably not yourself but how do you deal with the data gaps that do sort of occur? |
| DEU31: | I’ve been less involved in it, I have colleagues who kind of deal with it on more of a daily basis and I think it is a kind of regular frustration of not having that information available or perhaps even knowing that what the data says is wrong because they’ve been to the site or whatever but then obviously you do have that difficulty that if you are trying to make decisions on it you know you are sort of saying well I know that that’s not that it’s this, it’s not as robust as you need it to be for your, you know because you may not be the decision maker, you may be informing the decision makers within a council for example so it is an ongoing issue of how do you deal with those kind of things and I’m not sure I have much more of answer to that just because it’s just the ongoing saga of what to do when you don’t have the right data or know the data is false effectively. And I know that there are some issues like [unclear 0:26:02.7] is a good example and Natural England is doing an update now on certain elements like ancient woodland because they have recognised for a long time that there’s problems with it and not very easy to resolve but it is that problem that as a local recognising that say this field is not what it should be and it should be this a lot of these data sets can’t be changed in that manner and that’s a real frustration as well that you know what it is locally but you can’t change the overall data sets to recognise that. |
| **INT:** | So then how would you, how do you consider confidence, accuracy and precision in the data? |
| DEU31: | Again, in a difficult manner I think I can’t answer this very well because I don’t have to do it too much in my job but in talking to others I think it is kind of recognising the potential limitations to the data and arguably trying to put more of a weighting in that knowledge of the expertise, potentially availability of other local data if available but you know I would tend to you know go with the knowledge of the data center for example on knowing what the issues are with certain data sets or kind of issues or better knowledge if it’s not that data saying it so. |
| **INT:** | No, I appreciate that, that’s okay. So alternative, so you talk about the number or projects that you are involved with and how you are sort of engaging with sort of various audiences, do you are there are any other forms of communication that you produce, say reports, or do you do events talks with people? |
| DEU31: | What we have tended to do is kind of commission reports to raise issues or explore things and then that might be supported by a workshop so that we can gage what people and kind of present the report and have those kind of discussions about people’s thoughts on it and then more importantly what the next steps might be, so that tends to be a way of doing it, we have done some conferences, not very many but we have done some conferences to try and engage with the wider network of people who are interested , again more as a kind of what we are up to and what do you think it is important that we might not be doing and what we should be doing next. I’ve mentioned the kind of email way and it’s not very formal but I do try and share information and you know get information back as much as possible so I am used as a conduit quite a lot by the range of partners who want to flag up as I say funding opportunities or job availability or things of interest and sort of share them around. I’m just trying to think what else we might do, no I can’t think of anything else at the moment I mean we do do things like because of the role in the council we do do things like support members so members might request information on topics and so I do present to County Councillors and other Councillors on those, on issues so for example on the East Riding side I did recently I was recently part of a member’s seminar on climate change so kind of looking at raising awareness on things that might not be as obvious on topics like that in relation to the role of the natural environment. So that can be quite discreet groups or large groups, I don’t tend to do big talks you know some people get out and get invited to Women’s Institute level, I don’t tend to do that sort of thing. |
| **INT:** | And in terms of the data aspirations that you have sort of for future is there anyway that the date that you use can be improved to help in your decision making at all? |
| DEU31: | Well I think the main thing that we are keen on through this remote sensing living maps and what comes after it is that kind of comprehensive picture that isn’t just a snap shot in time. I mean it would obviously be a snapshot in time but that you can then replicate it and demonstrate change because obviously that’s the difficulty with any data is you know that is a moment in time and is that going to be updated to the same level by the same people by the same standards etc. and so having something that can be across the county for example but know that it could be redone or updated is the real power to it and then at the scale that is useful to the wide range of audiences that need it and then something popped into my head that’s just gone out again…gone, really annoying, I think that’s the key thing is, oh that’s what I was going to say, and then what we are interested in doing is that is a kind of, it’s recognising that that is really like a baseline that you can build things on top of so having the habitat data is great but then recognising that that can be used in a variety of different ways and there might be help needed to demonstrate to people that that is useful data but the natural capital concept again is really useful for that so once we’ve got this data element sorted on the kind of remote sense habitat layer we are then wanting to do a natural capital asset register so again start saying well what are those things doing now and then what could they be doing and what quality are they now and if they were improved in their condition what would that be so again it gives more depth and more richness to that data so that kind of wider audience can get involved so it’s not just the ecologists that get excited by it but it is the economic officers you know and the local authority of decision makers and businesses and land managers they all can sort of see that it’s you know what the potential is for whatever the issue is and then also that scale element of sort of saying well we can talk about this field, we can talk about this landscape and make decisions on that and look at the range of issues that we are interested, is flooding, it is climate change or whatever and answer those questions, they can then help decide what’s the best thing with that piece of land should it stay as it is, should it be invested in to be better quality of what it is or should it be something completely different and if it is what impact does it have on the area. So that’s the next step that we are looking at and that’s the environment agency just produced an excel based toolkit on this so you can do a kind of natural capital asset register and a risk register following that [unclear 0:32:50.7] and so the data center again is doing that on behalf where they are going to do the first few steps of that based on the living maps data to sort of see how that looks and what comes out of that and is that useful , theoretically useful at any scale but I kind of aim at catchment scale I think so we are going to try it on a county level and see what the looks like and does that help the kind of discussions on decision making and date around the natural environment. So that will be really exciting cos again it just helps to show how presenting data in different ways can be most useful to the most audiences basically. |
| **INT:** | No, that’s brilliant. So just sort of as a final section, just going to sort of focus a bit more on modeled data. So how would you feel about using modeled data in your work? |
| DEU31: | Yeah, no issues with it, again it could potentially be very useful the obviously it’s quite a big category but I think again it’s kind of making data useful I guess is a way of looking at it and recognising the different audiences that you need, need the data presented in different ways or questions answered with data so we haven’t done a huge amount of modeling on data that may well come down the line, we did have some early conversations about kind of around scoring catchment activity and would it be useful to model data for the same sort of things we’ve been talking about it like what is it now, what could it be etc., it didn’t go anywhere at the time just because of I guess the problem with model data is there’s lots of different ways of doing it so if you are going to model a catchment you know there’s Joe Bloggs way and then there’s Tom Smith’s way which is better and which should we go for and you know so we didn’t need to get bogged down in that sort of thing because it wasn’t a specific project that needed it, it was more about presenting information but I think as time goes on and I think around the natural capital thing you know once we have that well you know well the data is now more robust and we can ask questions a bit more than there may be more need for modelling to sort of say if we change this to that what would happen you know and those sorts of things or if this does this and that does that what impact is that. So it might well become something or is likely to become something that will develop down the line as more of a kind of issue to get involved and see what we can do with it. |
| **INT:** | Yeah, brilliant and do you see it sort of affecting your interpretation of data at all? |
| DEU31: | In what way? In the sense of how you use the modeling? |
| **INT:** | Yeah, so sort of in terms of sort of accuracy and sort of completeness of…or does it depend on the model? |
| DEU31: | I think it will probably depend on the model, I’m just trying to sort of think, it’s quite a big question, yeah, I think it will depend on the questions being asked of it and then what the model is able to do because obviously it depends on what you are then trying to do based on the model and the impacts of that so I think that was one of the reasons we focused a lot on the very basic data is that people kind of build will build models on bad data and then say well the model says this and your like well yeah but the data is not good enough for that to work so we are trying to overcome those potential problems of bad data in bad data out and then obviously that would hopefully make the models more robust for decision making support because you kind of know that what you started with is correct and therefore whatever you are asking the model to do should be correct or at least to an extent that people are happy with it. |
| **INT:** | Yeah, course, well I’m just going to show you some examples of model data that part of the team have created so I’ll just ask if you can interpret them and then whether you find them useful and then if there’s anything you would add to make them even more useful. So I’ll just share my screen now. So hopefully you can see that? |
| DEU31: | Yes. |
| **INT:** | Brilliant so this is for a six spot [unclear 0:37:15.1] and it’s the one on the left, I don’t know you can see my mouse here but the one on the left is a raw probability distribution model at a national scale, at face value are you able to interpret that? |
| DEU31: | So I would interpret that as meaning where it is most green is where it is most likely that the moth is and where it is whitest is least likely to be in. Going by the model south west if where you would want to be looking for the moth and east coast up and more northerly you are least likely to see them. |
| **INT:** | That’s brilliant and obviously I know you focus on sort of on a local level but on a national scale would that be of any use in your work at all? |
| DEU31: | Potentially with certain species, I mean there are things like there is more and more interesting climate change impact on species and certainly around invasive species and recognising how much of an issue they or could be so I think if we are worrying about what might be coming our way either as a negative or as a positive then this kind of information could be useful so you know in this instance if this was an invasive species we might think well it’s not really a risk to North Yorkshire or East Yorkshire cos you know it’s highly unlikely it would be there or vice versa if it was Woodland planting for example is getting really complicated because the native species that you want to plant are a lot of them have health risks you know from the species perspective not from a people perspective and so what you can chose is getting harder and harder ash being a good example so then you start saying well what could we plant which isn’t locally appropriate or isn’t native so again things like this could be useful in saying well it’s a UK species that’s in the South and it’s likely to move North or it’s not present at all but it’s on the continent you know so it might be appropriate so it could be useful, we don’t, at the moment don’t tend to but it does, this kind of national data is of interest in sense of that kind of future planning or risk planning that we do kind of get involved in. |
| **INT:** | No, that’s brilliant, thanks for that. I’ll just scroll down so this again is a raw probability distribution model but on a local scale so well more local scale around Wallingford in Oxfordshire at 5km and again are you able to interpret that. |
| DEU31: | It’s the same species is it? |
| **INT:** | Same species yeah. |
| DEU31: | So again I would interpret that as green areas where you are most likely to find the species and white areas as least likely to find the species and again probably a local level that would be I would think relating to buildings roads things like that versus natural spaces that are what the species needs further out from the center. |
| **INT:** | And then from a sort of strategic point of view at a more local level is that more useful than the national or? |
| DEU31: | Again, yes I think so I think when it gets to we haven’t had to do it yet but obviously coming up fast is things like local national recovery strategies and trying to do that network analysis of you know once you kind of identify what the species and habitats are that we are interested in where are they now and where could they be so I think that this kind of analysis would become more important going forward to have more robust decision making cos obviously what we used to do was sit around maps and draw on it with crayons on edge and kind of say well that’s do it….. |
| **INT:** | Can you hear me Matt? Can you hear me? |
| DEU31: | Hello! |
| **INT:** | Hello I was just about to reply. |
| DEU31: | Oh god, I didn’t know if I could get through, that was so stressful. |
| **INT:** | No absolutely fine. I only just had one more map to show you so don’t worry. |
| DEU31: | Did you get my answer on the previous one? |
| **INT:** | Yeah, yeah, I’ve got your answer on the previous ones that was great. So can you see that? |
| DEU31: | Yes. |
| **INT:** | Brilliant, we’ll try and go through this quickly. So the one on the right is a variation model again for the same species and this sort of works together with the raw probability map, are you able to interpret this one at face value? |
| DEU31: | I would say not at face value, I don’t think I understand what the variation means for the species in relation to what I am seeing on the map. |
| **INT:** | So essentially, the variation map is sort of showing the degree of confidence that you have in the species being there so if we look at the raw probability map for Wales slightly darker areas so you have a high likeliness of that species being there and if we look at the variation model there is a dark area in Wales again but this is showing at a greater variation in the species being there so or a greater variation in the probability distribution so we are less confident that that is going to be there. |
| DEU31: | Okay, okay, |
| **INT:** | So essentially trying to address sort of data gaps. |
| DEU31: | Okay, okay. So in that instance then comparing the two it’s much less what’s the word I want to say clear but much less certain where the species is likely to be in say Wales or south west England that in the previous map. |
| **INT:** | Yeah, absolutely. |
| DEU31: | So if you looked at that at face value you would think it’s much less likely to find that species in the UK as opposed to the left hand one you would say oh it’s very clearly in the UK or likely in the UK but just in this area. |
| **INT:** | Yeah. |
| DEU31: | Okay. |
| **INT:** | And then again this is a sort of like a local level again same concept. |
| DEU31: | Yeah. |
| **INT:** | Would you find these useful at all? |
| DEU31: | Yeah I think so, obviously in the sense of yeah that kind of robustness of data so yeah it’s sounds like it’s arguably more certain with the modelling data that the species you are looking for are likely to be present than the other one if you are comparing like for like so it’s interesting. I mean it’s interesting to see the variability between the two so I think if it kind of, what’s the word, it sort of undermines the first one which is interesting so I guess if I was presented with those two it would then ask questions about like where did the first ones data come from where did the second ones data so it’s interesting in that sense of yeah which then informs decision making I guess on the quality of data that’s underpinning it. |
| **INT:** | Yeah, I should just point out that the data used for these maps are from the MBM. Is there anything that you would add, just sort of talking generally about all the models, is there anything you would add to make them more useful or change anything? |
| DEU31: | I guess the only thing from experience but whether that’s there already would be the age of the data so obviously if this is going to take in all records of a species then the fact that there was a species recorded in 1970 is not necessarily that useful so and that could just be in the sense of the information that goes with this so how far back are these records going and if you are doing quite an age spread it might be that you would want something presenting well no this is probability though, so I guess it would be you know is this based on very old data or very recent data I guess would be the sort of thing because if it’s based on well this is based on species that we are seeing in the 1970’s then you know that doesn’t sound very robust, if it’s the last ten years or five years then you know that’s helpful and if it’s a case of, I mean I always find it interesting when there is with species data if it’s that kind of able to presented through time so what was it looking like in the 1970’s as opposed to last year so again you know are these species that rapidly disappearing or rapidly increasing or stable they can then let you decide about the value of wanting to introduce them more or conserve them in your area. |
| **INT:** | That’s brilliant, was there anything else that you wanted to talk about at all? |
| DEU31: | Not obviously no, no. |
| **INT:** | Brilliant, so I’ll just stop sharing my screen now. I’ve asked all the questions that I intended to ask you it was just that last bit was there anything that you wanted to ask me at all or thought I should have asked you? |
| DEU31: | No, no I don’t think so. Are you doing… I probably should have re-read the original thing are you doing kind of final reports on this or this is just kind of seeking out interest in things? |
| **INT:** | Absolutely, so we are seeking out interest but then also we are producing a report and we are currently about to write a paper as well on the findings and this will sort of feed into the other side of the project who are sort of creating an App and a tool for sort of model data and it’s use for various audiences. So if this is something that you are interested in is it something that you would like to be kept informed about? |
| DEU31: | Yeah, no please I think it would be useful I mean as I say I’m not a big data user but it is very integral to my work in the sense of you know supporting decision making so you know I do work closely with [Name] at the data center for that reason of recognising the importance of data and but also kind of understanding the background issues with it so anything that can make it more usable or presentable to a variety of audiences that I am certainly interested in it so yeah. |
| **INT:** | That’s brilliant. Well if there wasn’t anything else then thanks very much for speaking to me. |
| DEU31: | It was a pleasure, I’ll turn my camera on to say goodbye. |
| **INT:** | I really appreciate, thanks for taking the time and it would be good to hear about the [consultancy] sort of side that you were talking about earlier. |
| DEU31: | Okay, I’ll dig that out and I’ll send that to you now before I forget. |
| **INT:** | Thank you very much. |
| DEU31: | And again if I said anything else and you would like to know more about things then I may well have a report so just let me know and I’ll send stuff through. |
| **INT:** | That’s brilliant, thanks again. |
| DEU31: | Great, good to talk to you, have a great weekend. |
| **INT:** | Yeah, you too, bye. |

**Audio Ends: 0:55:55.5**