



ARISE

INITIATIVE

Advancing Resilience and Innovation for a Sustainable Environment

Part of the UKRI Resilient UK Coastal Communities and Seas Programme

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COAST-R webinar, September 2026



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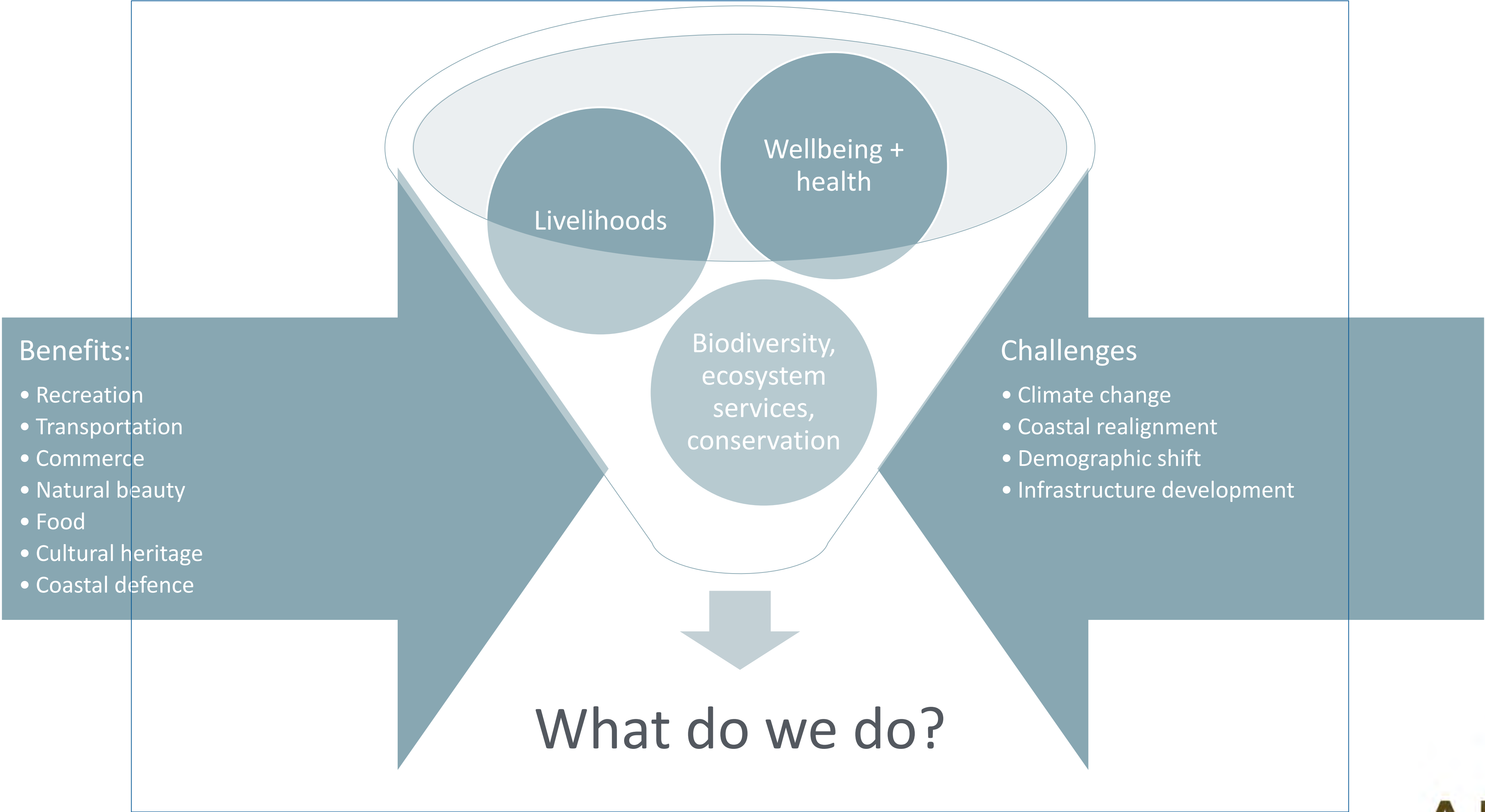


What is ARISE?



**ARISE is a project working to
understand resilience in coastal
communities**

How do we think about coastal communities?



ARISE asks

How can place-based interventions help coastal communities build resilience in ways that are robust to climate change and coastal change?

How can a country that is dedicated to finding place-based solutions take transferable lessons from one community to another whilst reliably accounting for relationships between individuals, groups, organisations, and the land and the sea?

ARISE

- 9 institutions/organisations
- 4 counties' coastal areas



ARISE Assessment

- **What** are we measuring: concepts, constructs, and variables being assessed?
- **How** are we measuring: methods and approaches used to assess them?
- **Which** concepts being examined through ARISE are novel and/or emerging within resilience research?
- **Which** concepts are already established in the literature and are being tested and further validated in coastal community contexts through ARISE?

Conceptual definitions, Operational definitions, Variables

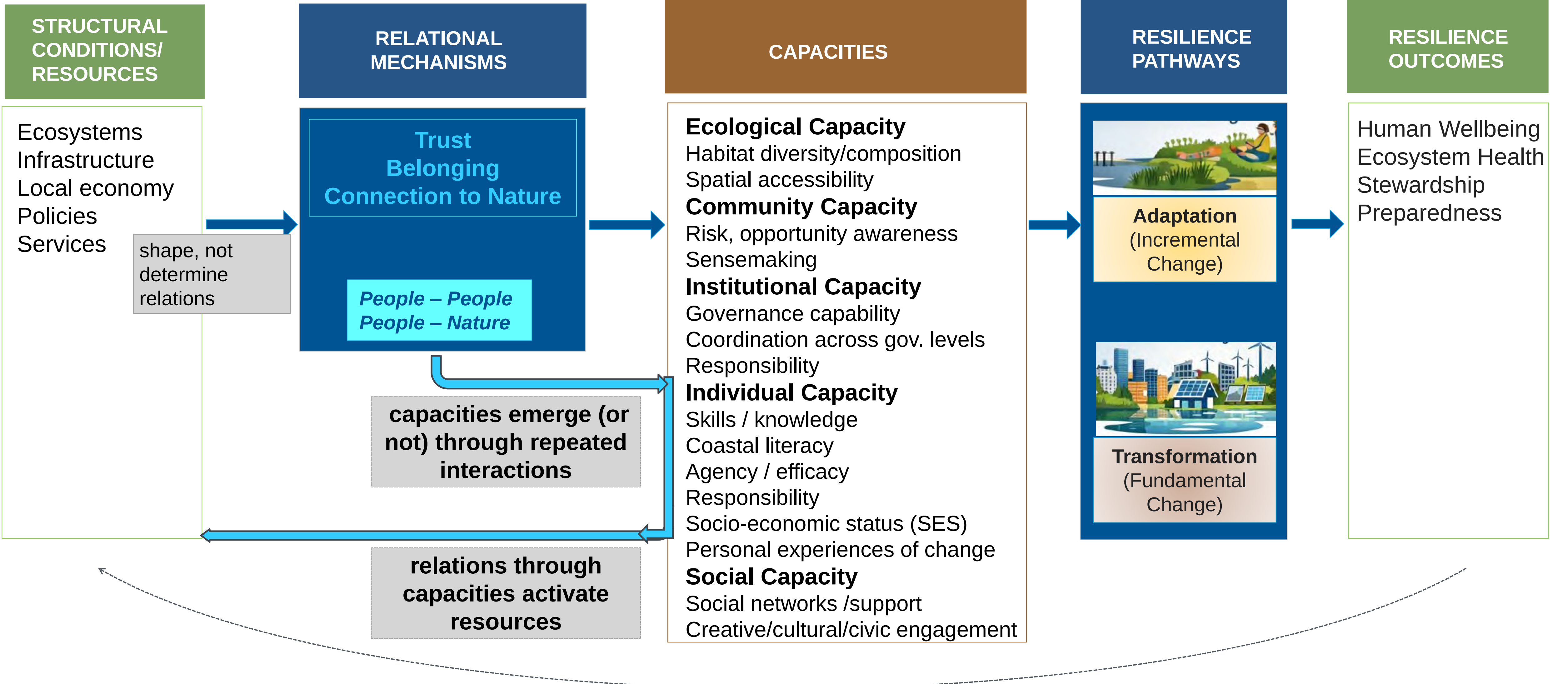
- **Conceptual definition:** a broad, abstract idea or construct.
- **Operational definition:** a detailed, measurable description of a concept in terms of the specific procedures, actions, or processes used to assess it.
- **Variable:** measurable element that operationalises the concept.

Conceptual definitions, Operational definitions, Variables

Belonging

- **Conceived:** the subjective, emotional feeling of being accepted, valued, and included as an integral member of a group, community, or place;
- **Operationalised:** *"I feel like I belong to this neighbourhood"* (6-wave Questionnaire);
- **Variable:** *belonging₁*

A concept or a construct can be operationalised using one or more variables or methods, where each captures different dimensions.



Key Points

- Relations activate resources through capacities, and capacities themselves emerge through repeated interactions over time.
- We propose and test that resilience is not solely determined by resources/structural conditions – it is produced and sustained and strengthened through relations over time.
- Resilience is not something we necessarily have, it is something that is continuously produced (or not) through repeated interactions.

From Concept to Data

- From the concept of relational resilience, we derived, designed, and developed a variety of assessment tools and metrics for gauging relationships between people and people, and between people and nature
- Our goal is to measure some things in multiple ways – use different approaches to validate each other, develop novel approaches, fill gaps and take advantage of benefits that established measures might have

Integrating Diverse Data: Nature Connection

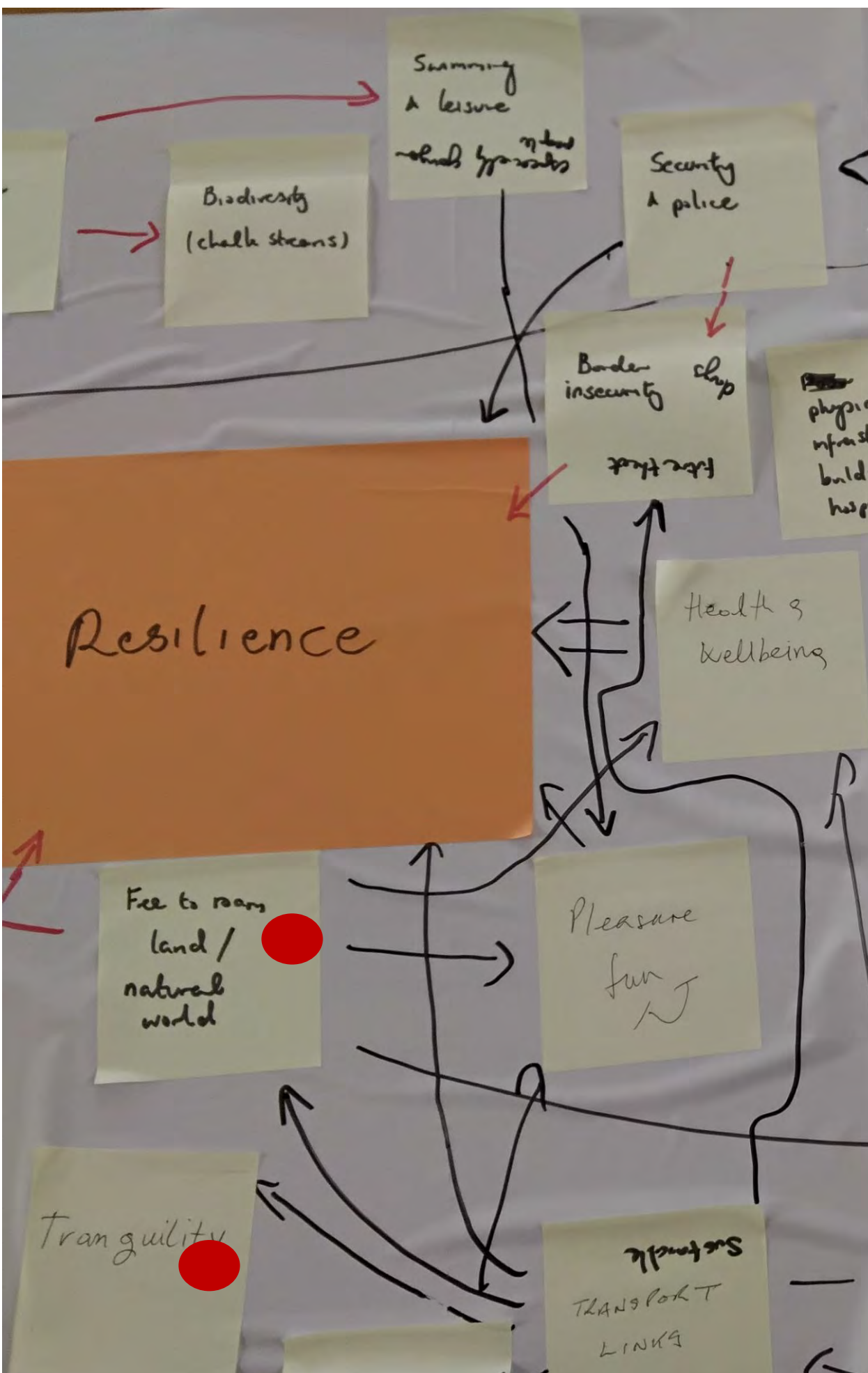
Focus Groups

Participants talking about several important aspects of their local nature, one of which was tranquillity and space to roam land/natural world.

Questionnaire (6-wave)

- 1. I always treat nature with respect*
- 2. Being in nature makes me very happy*
- 3. Spending time in nature is very important to me*
- 4. I feel part of nature*

Nature Connection Index, reduced 4-item scale, 7-point response “Completely agree” - “Completely disagree”



Integrating Diverse Data: Trust

- **Focus Groups:** in some locations trust identified as a factor that contribute to resilience (ex. Mayland: trust – village identity – shared vision – resilience). *Context-specific, emergent.*
- **Questionnaire, 6 waves:** generalised trust (*"On a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is not at all and 10 is completely, in general how much do you trust most people?"*). *Well established item, used widely in many regional and national level surveys.*
- **Novelty:** is not in the concept or how it was operationalised, but in how the constructs are connected, how they operate across contexts, and how they relate to resilience.

Novel vs. Established

Regardless of whether constructs and/or methods are novel or established in previous work, ARISE aims to cross-validate findings, where insights from one method will be used to inform and deepen understanding across others.

Novel – one’s perceived capability to access coastal spaces

[CL5] Below we list coastal spaces and resources which may exist in your county or local community. Which, if any, would you know how to access if you wanted to? Please select all that apply

By “access,” we mean knowing how to get to a place and what you would need to do to use it — for example, following safety rules or knowing who to contact at a nature reserve or activity centre.

<1>	Sand dunes	<9>	Sea cliffs
<2>	Beaches	<10>	Coastal walking paths
<3>	Saltmarshes	<11>	Harbours and piers
<4>	Mudflats and sandflats	<12>	Coastal nature reserve
<5>	Estuaries and tidal rivers	<13>	Water-based activity sites (e.g. kayaking, sailing clubs)
<6>	Coastal woodlands and heaths	<14>	Lifeguarding Stations
<7>	Reedbeds	<99 fixed xor>	None - I would not know how to access any of these
<8>	Coastal lagoons	<98 fixed xor>	N/A - I would not want to access any of these

New Contributions: Coastal Literacy

- Literacy as access is higher for visible, more recreational spaces like beaches, coastal paths, and lower for saltmarshes that play important role in flood protection or mudflats that are important for biodiversity.
- If people don't know how to access these environments, are they also less likely to protect them, value them, notice when they degrade? Or is it better to stay out of them and let them serve their functions?
- Something can be physically present and ecologically important, but if its invisible in people's minds, if its not socially relevant, what potential impacts could that have on these habitats?
- Should communities make these spaces more visible and accessible through citizen science, place-based initiatives – what could be risks and benefits?

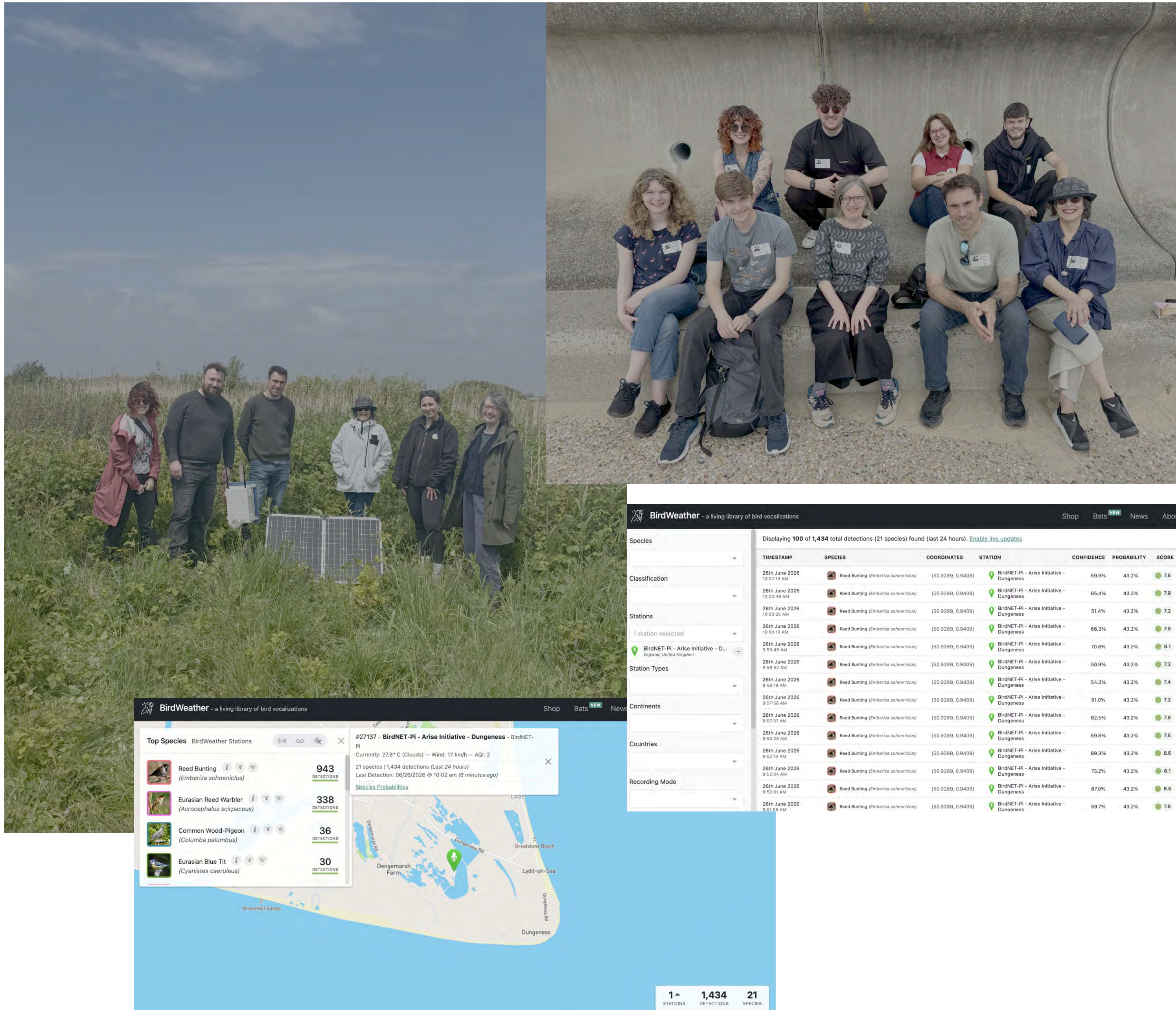


Engagement

- Managed by UEA co-Leads
- Series of coffee chats and world cafes
- Impact gauged via q-sort methodology, assessing varying coastal resident profiles
- Heacham (Norfolk)
Bawdsey (Suffolk)
St Osyth (Essex)
East Church (Kent)

Citizen Science and Art in Education

- Managed by Suffolk co-Leads
- 3 visits to primary schools
- Impact gauged via child drawing, teacher interviews, parent questionnaires
- Burnham Market (Norfolk)
Orford (Suffolk)
Fingringhoe (Essex)
Dymchurch/Burmarsh (Kent)



Would you like to help fight river pollution in your area, and learn more about freshwater ecology? Become a Riverfly Monitor!

Riverflies are freshwater invertebrates that can tell us how healthy a river is. Because they are sensitive to pollution, changes in their numbers can show whether water quality is improving or getting worse.



The Riverfly Partnership and ARISE Initiative invite you to a

Riverfly Monitoring Training



Saturday, 5 September 2026

10am-4pm

Minster Village Hall
High St, Ramsgate CT12 4BU

- The Riverfly Monitoring Initiative is a nationwide citizen science scheme where volunteers collect long-term data on riverflies to help track river health.
- No previous experience required, but must be 18+
- This event is free of charge; lunch and equipment provided.



Empowerment & Environmental Monitoring

- Managed by Essex & Aberystwyth co-Leads
- Tutorial on Riverfly Monitoring, monthly monitoring activities
- Impact gauged via pre- / post-questionnaires
- Ingoldisthorpe (Norfolk)
Coldfair Green (Suffolk)
Mayland (Essex)
Minster (Kent)



Community of Practice

- Managed by ARISE Team
- Semi-annual in-person meetings, online meetings
- Self-defined goals, objectives, values, working groups
- Focusing on sustainability, information sharing, knowledge sharing, policy engagement



Thank you for listening!

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