Abstract
This report presents the key findings from the Natural Connections Demonstration Project, that aimed to encourage teachers to take curricular learning outdoors. The project was commissioned by DEFRA, Natural England and Historic England, and delivered by a team at Plymouth University. 125 schools contributed to the evaluation which found that: 1. schools most likely to engage with outdoor learning displayed strong leadership and were open-minded about trying new things 2. schools reported a statistically-significant increase in the amount of time spent on outdoor learning activity across the project 3. Schools adopted many different models of outdoor learning 4. Schools invested time, goodwill, energy and funding in outdoor learning 5. Over 90 per cent of responding schools agreed that outdoor learning was useful for curriculum delivery 6. Outdoor learning had positive impacts for teachers and pupils 7. the project model of distributed independent brokerage was found to have the capacity to unlock latent demand for outdoor learning in schools, and to support schools in embedding low-cost outdoor learning practice.

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1 Martin Gilchrist The Natural Connections Demonstration Project 2012-2016.

2 Project Objectives
To stimulate demand for outdoor learning from schools in areas of high deprivation
To support schools with building outdoor learning into their planning and practices
To stimulate supply of outdoor learning services for schools and teachers

3 Distributed model #NCDP16 #outdoorlearning Central Team 5 hub leaders. beacon schools cluster of schools outdoor learning team per school outdoor learning team per school beacon school beacon School Distributed model #NCDP16 #outdoorlearning. Demonstration Projects. 10YFP Trust Fund (Phase 1: 2012-2017). This fund was established in 2012 as one of the means of implementation of the Ten Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (10YFP). 57 projects were selected for funding under calls for proposals for all six thematic programmes of the One Planet network. It was considered a priority in the first phase of the 10YFP to ensure that support from the Trust Fund was made available to all six programmes. Martin Gilchrist The Natural Connections Demonstration Project 2012-2016. Project Objectives

4 The UK Government Policy Paper The Natural Choice (2011) pledged to 'remove barriers to learning outdoors and increase schools' abilities to teach outdoors when they wish to do so' The Natural Connections Demonstration Project was established to address this #outdoorlearning.

5 Project Objectives • To stimulate demand for outdoor learning from schools in areas of high deprivation • To support schools with building outdoor learning into their planning and practices • To stimulate supply of outdoor learning services for schools and teachers