

Being well with nature



Natural capital Case study

Being well with nature					
Service \ Habitat	Recreation	Health	Noise	Air Quality	Soil Quality
Semi natural grassland					
Woodland					
Freshwater					
Urban					

Summary

There is increasing evidence that access to nature holds valuable benefits for levels of health and wellbeing. The economic benefits of this are recognised through the value of savings received by the health sector.

Work, including promoting access to nature, contributes to five ecosystem service flows, one of which is health, while the rest are directly linked to health. The impact of the workstream is felt across four of the NEA broad habitat types. However the impact is currently unfeasible to quantify due to the nature of the projects.

Natural capital contribution¹

Being well with nature contributes towards the following UK figures:

- £6.6bn annual flow and £302.1bn asset value of recreation^[1]
- The £26.8bn value of nature to urban health^{[2]2}
- £59m annual benefit and asset value of £1.7bn for noise pollution mitigation^{[2]3}
- £1.1bn annual benefit and £32.6bn^[1] asset value of air pollution removal, including £201m asset value provided by Greater Lincolnshire woodlands, farmland and freshwater habitats
- £1.2bn annual flow and £29bn asset value for protecting and improving soil quality^[3]

It also contributes to the asset value of the habitats it impacts, such as:⁴

- Woodland – UK £87.6bn^{[4][5]}, Greater Lincolnshire £358m
- Freshwater – UK £39.5bn^[5]
- Urban – UK £38.7bn^[2]

Achieving more for nature

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Table key

	Promotes
	Sustains
	Detrimental
	Unknown

Notes on methods

All accounts are partial or minimum natural capital accounts as not all service flows coming from the natural environment have been valued.

UK service accounts

Taken from existing figures and presented as reported where possible.

Some services are the combination of different habitat specific figures from one or more publications.

UK habitat accounts

Taken from existing figures and presented as reported where possible.

In some cases habitat asset values presented here are the sum figures from various publications where either a habitat value has not been published or if it was not inclusive of all service values available.

Greater Lincolnshire habitat accounts

Based on the per hectare habitat value of UK wide figures, taking into account the area of the habitats found within Greater Lincolnshire. They are intended as an indicator of potential natural capital values and to highlight the importance of developing local accounts from scratch.

For more information on methods please see the full natural capital report.

Sources

- [1] Office for National Statistics (2018) *UK natural capital: Ecosystem service accounts, 1997 to 2015*. Statistical Bulletin.
- [2] EFTEC (2017) *A study to scope and develop urban natural capital accounts for the UK*. Defra: London.
- [3] Cranfield University (2010). *Cost of soil degradation in England and Wales*. Defra: Cranfield
- [4] Ricardo Energy and Environment (2016) *Valuing flood-regulation services for inclusion in the UK ecosystem accounts*. ONS: Didcot
- [5] Office for National Statistics (2017) *UK natural capital: ecosystem accounts for freshwater, farmland and woodland*. Statistical bulletin.

¹ Habitats and services in both the tables and the 'Contribution' section have been presented in the order used in the National Ecosystem Assessment (2008). Due to this the services remain grouped with other relevant services in regards to 'provisioning', 'cultural' and 'regulating'.

² Based on avoidance of cost.

³ Based on figures from a study in Manchester.

⁴ Based on the ecosystem services which have had monetary values calculated and as such are minimum or partial accounts.