

Natural England Commissioned Report NECR318

Natural Capital Atlases: Mapping Indicators for County and City regions

First published 3rd July 2020

www.gov.uk/natural-england



Foreword

Natural England commission a range of reports from external contractors to provide evidence and advice to assist us in delivering our duties. The views in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of Natural England.

Background

Enhancing the state of the environment is essential for both people and planet. This is because our wellbeing and prosperity relies on the benefits that we get from nature. The 25 Year Environment Plan aims to improve the state of the environment within a generation; we need to create resilient ecosystems where both people and planet are able to thrive.

Understanding the state of our natural environment is the essential first step to improving it. Natural England's Natural Capital Indicators (Lusardi et al., 2018) are designed to inform our understanding of the state of our natural assets. These indicators measure the quantity, quality and location of ecosystems, and the flow of ecosystem services from them. The indicators highlight which properties of the environment are important for delivering which

ecosystem services and benefits. Understanding the state of natural capital is essential to enable the sustainable provision of multiple benefits, now and into the future.

These Natural Capital Atlases follow on from the National Natural Capital Atlas (Wigley et al., 2020). The best available and nationally consistent evidence is used to map out indicators showing asset quality, quantity and location. Indicators for some flows of ecosystem services are also mapped.

These atlases provide an "off the shelf" natural capital evidence base for each place. They can be added to and built on. They have a wide variety of uses with more information in the "How to start using your atlas" annex. The data package can be downloaded enabling users to explore the data layers in more detail.

This report should be cited as: Lear, R., Wigley, S., Lord, A., Lusardi, J., and Rice, P. (2020) Natural Capital Atlases: Mapping Indicators for County and City Regions, Natural England Commissioned Report Number 318.

The authors would like to thank all contributors to this report, particularly Natasha Lombino and David Parker for their input to the project steering group.

Natural England Project Manager – Alice Lord

Contractor – Westcountry Rivers Limited

Keywords – natural capital, natural capital indicators, ecosystem services, baseline assessment, state of the environment reports

Further information

This report can be downloaded from the Natural England Access to Evidence Catalogue:

<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/> . For information on Natural England publications contact the Natural England Enquiry Service on 0300 060 3900 or e-mail enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk.

This report is published by Natural England under the Open Government Licence - OGLv3.0 for public sector information. You are encouraged to use, and reuse, information subject to certain conditions. For details of the licence visit [Copyright](#). Natural England photographs are only available for non commercial purposes. If any other information such as maps or data cannot be used commercially this will be made clear within the report.

ISBN 978-1-78354-647-3

© Natural England and other parties 2020

