

NERR092 Appendix 5 Natural Capital Atlases: Mapping Indicators

Natural England's Natural Capital Evidence Handbook helps you come to a strategic understanding about the natural environment in your place using natural capital evidence. This Evidence Information Note helps you access resources related to Natural England's Natural Capital Atlases: Mapping Indicators.

Background

The Natural Capital Atlases map the state of natural capital in terms of its quantity, quality and location using the best available nationally consistent evidence. The Natural Capital Atlases for County and City Regions (Lear and other 2020) follow on from the National Natural Capital Atlas (Wigley and others 2020) which trialled mapping the indicators identified in Lusardi and others (2018).

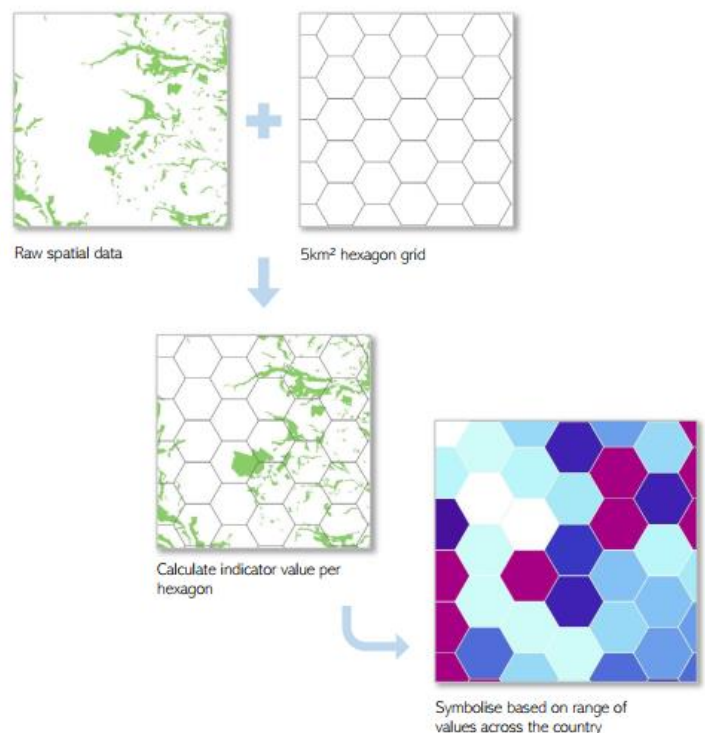
What did we do?

To create a national atlas for England:

- Investigated potential data sources for short-list indicators identified in Lusardi and others (2018).
- Collated nationally consistent and available data.
- Mapped quantity, quality and location indicators for ecosystem assets at 25 km².
- Mapped some indicators for ecosystem service flows.

Building on the National Atlas, the County and City Atlas project:

- Re-analysed the same data at 5 km².
- Created a series of 44 atlases for county/city regions.
- Produced a "How to start using your atlas" guide to help users understand their atlas and created a data package and GIS user guidance.



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Outputs: What is available to use?

- [National Natural Capital Atlas](#) for England.
- [County / city region Natural Capital Atlas](#) series - Forty-four atlases covering the whole of England, areas based on administrative boundaries.
- [Data package](#) and [GIS user guidance](#) that accompanies the county/city atlases so that users can create atlas maps for different places.
- [“How to start using your atlas”](#) document to aid interpretation and application.

What can you use them for?

- The atlases, and their associated data package, form the beginnings of a natural capital evidence base. You can use them as a starting point to understand what you have got in your place and what it is doing for people.
- By adding more local data and information you can build on this evidence base to form a detailed picture of your place. You can compare your place to the rest of the country using the National Atlas.
- If your place doesn't match up with one of the existing atlases you can use the data package and guidance to re-cut the maps to a different boundary.
- The atlases provide a standard method which can be followed to organise natural capital evidence. The method can be followed by anyone to create an atlas for their place at a different scale or using different input data.
- You can identify the best areas of natural capital which need continued protection, as well as identifying opportunity areas for enhancement and targeting of interventions.
- The atlases also provide a starting point from which to measure future change.
- Your atlas maps can help you to talk about your place to others using a natural capital lens. You can link assets to the ecosystem services they provide and talk about what people are getting from nature in your place.

References

Lear, R. Wigley, S. Lord, A. Lusardi, J. & Rice, P. 2020. Natural Capital Atlases: Mapping Indicators for County and City Regions, Natural England Commissioned Report Number 318.

Lusardi, J. Rice, P. Waters, R.D. & Craven J. 2018. Natural Capital Indicators: for defining and measuring change in natural capital. Natural England Research Report, Number 076

Wigley, S. Paling, N. Rice, P. Lord, A. & Lusardi, J. 2020. National Natural Capital Atlas. Natural England Commissioned Report Number 285.