

NERR092 Appendix 4 Natural Capital Indicators

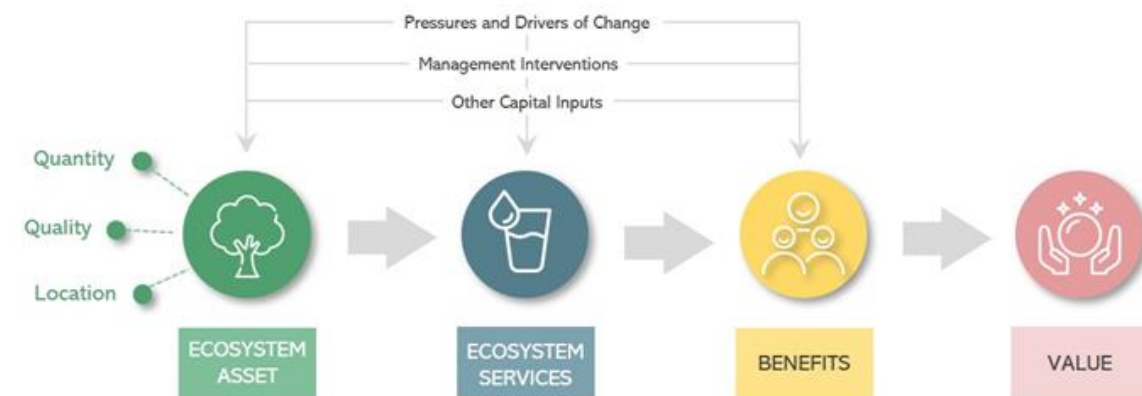
Natural England's Natural Capital Evidence Handbook helps you come to a strategic understanding about the natural environment in your place using natural capital evidence. This Evidence Information Note helps you access resources related to [Natural Capital Indicators: for defining and measuring change in natural capital \(NERR076\)](#)

Background

Natural England's Natural Capital Indicators were 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 aim of the project was to identify:

- Ideal indicators for measuring change in natural capital;
- Data sets for measuring the indicators;
- Data gaps, where data is not available to measure the indicators.

What did we do?



- Developed a **systematic approach** based on logic chains to identify attributes of ecosystem quantity, quality and location, which underpin the provision of ecosystem services.
- Used **expert opinion** of nearly 90 specialists in Natural England and the Environment Agency to identify indicators for measuring change from the logic chains.
- Quality assured the indicators with two Natural England Deputy Chief Scientists.
- Identified data to measure the indicators and data gaps where data was not found to measure an indicator.

Outputs: What is available to use?

[Natural Capital Indicators: for defining and measuring change in natural capital - NERR076](#)

publication including:

- Final report;
- Brief method note;
- Summaries of indicators, overall and for each broad habitat;
- 51 detailed logic chains for 17 ecosystem services across 8 broad habitats; and
- Excel spreadsheet of short and long list indicators, data sets to measure these and data gaps.

[The Natural Capital Indicators and Metrics Evidence Review \(2020\)](#) is a searchable literature review of the environmental properties which support the provision of ecosystem services, and the metrics used to measure these. It uses Natural England's Natural Capital Indicators and can be used in any work identifying metrics for measuring change in natural capital. It can also be used to understand the evidence base for environmental properties affecting the provision of ecosystem services.

What can you use it for?

- Linking ecosystem quantity, quality and location attributes to the provision of a wide range of ecosystem services.
- Understanding “what good looks like” for natural capital and attributes for future resilience.
- Picking out synergies, where an indicator is relevant to multiple ecosystem services, including biodiversity.
- Mapping the state of natural capital and developing a baseline assessment, against which to measure change, e.g. [National Natural Capital Atlas: Mapping Indicators - NECR285](#).
- Assessing ecosystem assets and services for natural capital accounting e.g. [Accounting for National Nature Reserves: A Natural Capital Account of the National Nature Reserves managed by Natural England - NERR078](#).
- Helping to embed natural capital in projects, initiatives and mechanisms.
- Identifying indicators for monitoring and evaluating projects and programmes, including how management interventions affect natural capital.
- Using the accompanying searchable literature review tool to find evidence linked to the natural capital indicators: <http://natcapindicators.simomics.com>.