



Mapping values: the vital nature of our uplands

An atlas linking environment and people

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Ullswater catchment – providing a range of ecosystem services

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Introduction

What is this atlas for?

The value of the upland environment for people reaches far beyond its boundaries. The uplands cover 12% of England, and around 1% of our population lives there, yet they are vital to us all for goods and services like water, food, places for recreation, climate regulation and for their inspirational nature.

We want the extraordinary importance of the upland environment for people's lives to be well understood by those who use, manage and benefit from it.

We hope this will lead to more people valuing this special environment, and working together to address the challenges it faces from climate change, from changing social and economic circumstances and from the impacts of unsustainable use. In this way, it will continue to benefit us all, now and in the future.

What do the maps show?

The maps identify what is unique and special about the uplands in terms of both the goods and services they provide for people, and the wildlife and natural features which underpin them. These goods and services from the upland environment are collectively known as 'ecosystem services'. Each chapter covers a different vital ecosystem service.

The maps illustrate:

Service supply

The supply of goods and services is a product of the natural characteristics of a given area, combined with its history of land use, and current land management.

Service demand

Demand is influenced by the geographic location of upland areas in relation to the populations who will benefit.

Quality of services

Water quality, carbon storage capacity or opportunities for recreation will vary from place to place. Service quality is often closely linked with land management practices.

Challenges

The maps illustrate some serious challenges faced by the upland environment today. They explain how addressing these can improve wildlife and the environment, as well as the services and benefits to people.

Identifying solutions

The final chapter, 'Managing for ecosystem services' shows how modifications to land use and management, and the tools for achieving these, can achieve a healthier upland environment.

Where are the uplands?



The upland boundary we have used in this atlas is coincident with the 'Severely Disadvantaged Area' boundary designated as part of the European Less Favoured Area legislation.