

Implementing SEEA in the UK

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UK Statistics System

- Independent from Government
- Directly accountable to Parliament and the devolved legislatures
- Covers the whole United Kingdom – England, Northern Ireland, Wales, Scotland
- Independent statistics regulator

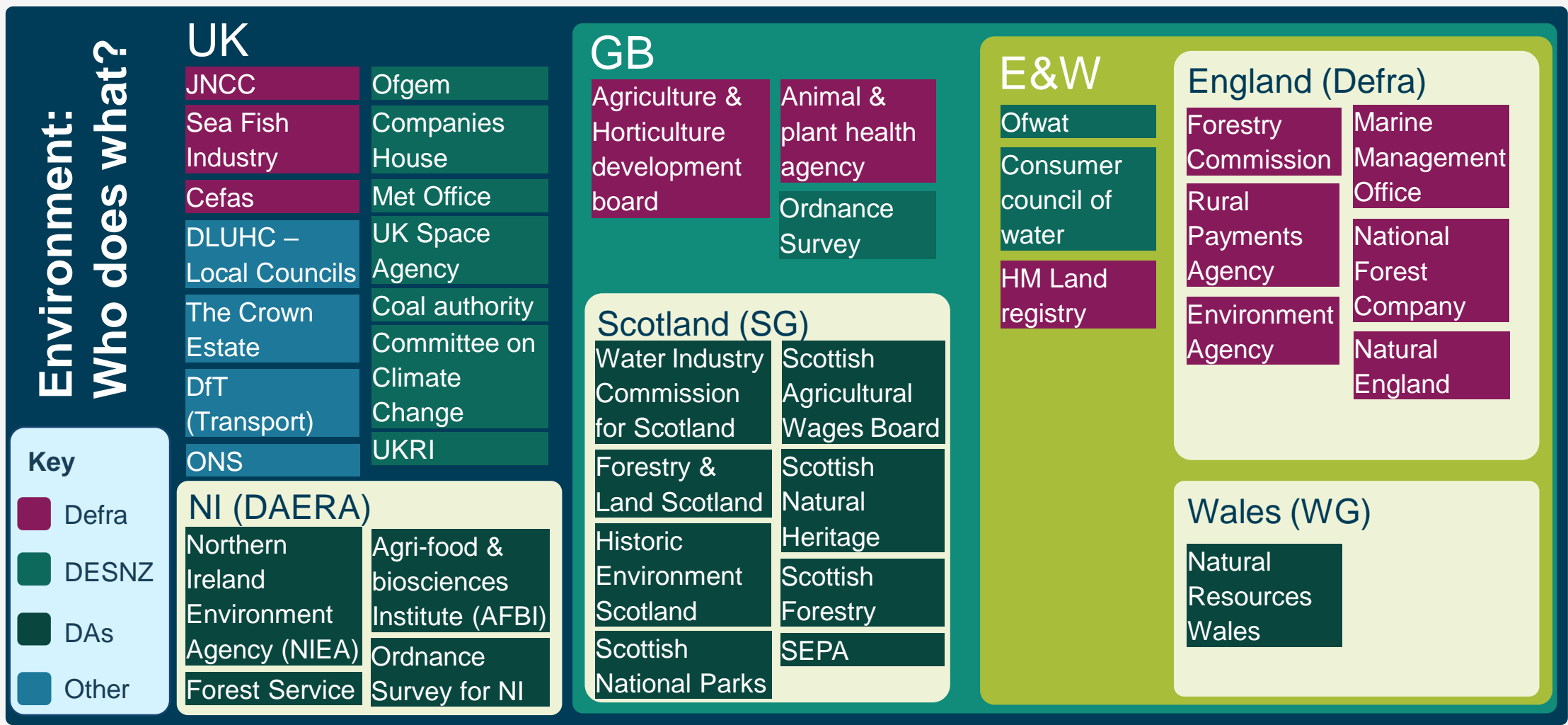


Statistics and
Registration Service
Act 2007

CHAPTER 15



Environment across government



Developing our Ecosystem Accounts

The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature



‘measuring our progress as a country not just by how our economy is growing, but by how our lives are improving... not just by our standard of living, but by our quality of life’

Prime Minister David Cameron, 2010

We will put natural capital at the heart of government accounting. We will work with the Office for National Statistics to fully include natural capital in the UK Environmental Accounts”

[UK Government White Paper](#), 2011

UK natural capital accounts: 2023

Estimates of the financial and societal value of natural resources to people in the

A million fewer people are gaining health benefits from nature since 2020

People in the UK are spending less time in natural environments since the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic

27 November 2023



An estimated 1.1 million fewer people across the UK gained health benefits from spending time in nature in 2022 compared with two years earlier.

natural world

for UK

UK natural capital accounts, UK: 2023

Natural capital accounts estimate habitat extent, condition indicators, ecosystem services and asset value of urban areas in the UK.

Accounts containing information on the extent, condition and value of natural capital assets, including

Developing estimates of depletion for the UK natural capital accounts: 2024

Developing methods to estimate the depletion of UK natural capital assets, with initial results for three non-renewable services. These are official statistics in development.

UK natural capital, UK:

Assets, including
al margins. Uses
for Ecosystem

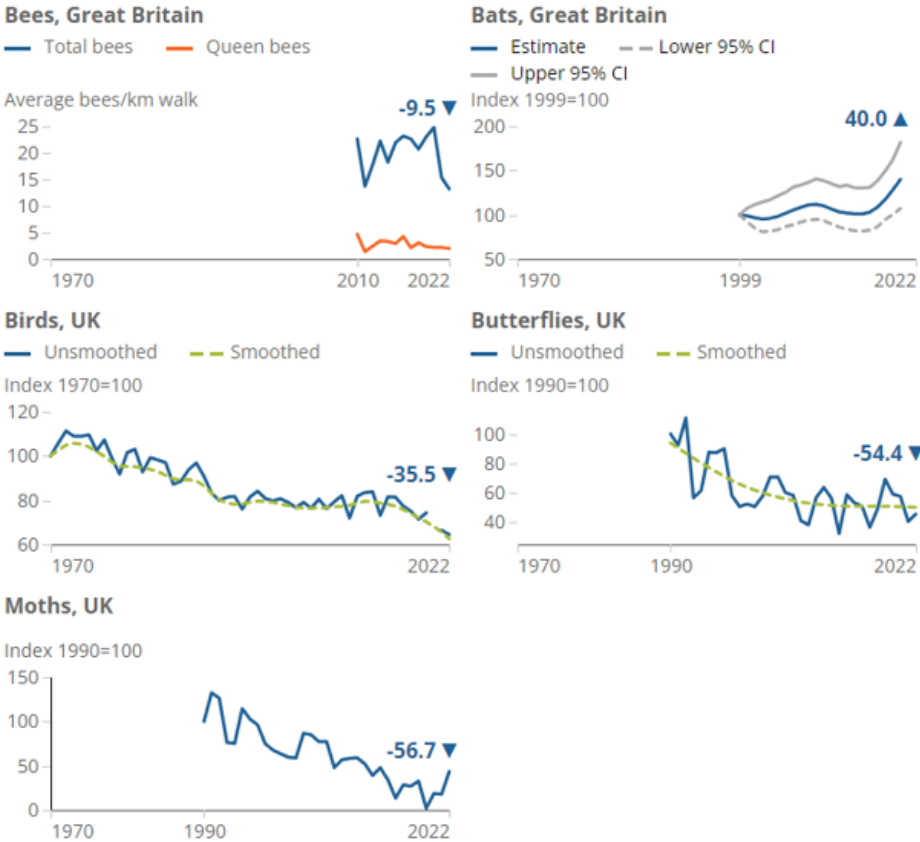
Accounting. Experimental estimates.

for National
the natural
DP) agenda.
counts.
together and

Some key developments

- Regular production of monetary accounts for 16 ecosystem services
- Production of sub-national accounts
- Inclusion in the UK National Accounts "Blue Book"
- A separate peatland account and restoration cost account
- Development of supply and use tables
- Initial estimates of depletion
- Analysis to support policy e.g. the pandemic

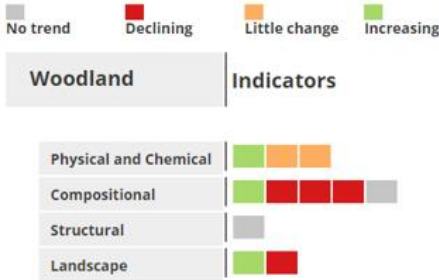
Figure 3: Compositional woodland species for bats, bees, birds, butterflies and moths, Great Britain, or UK



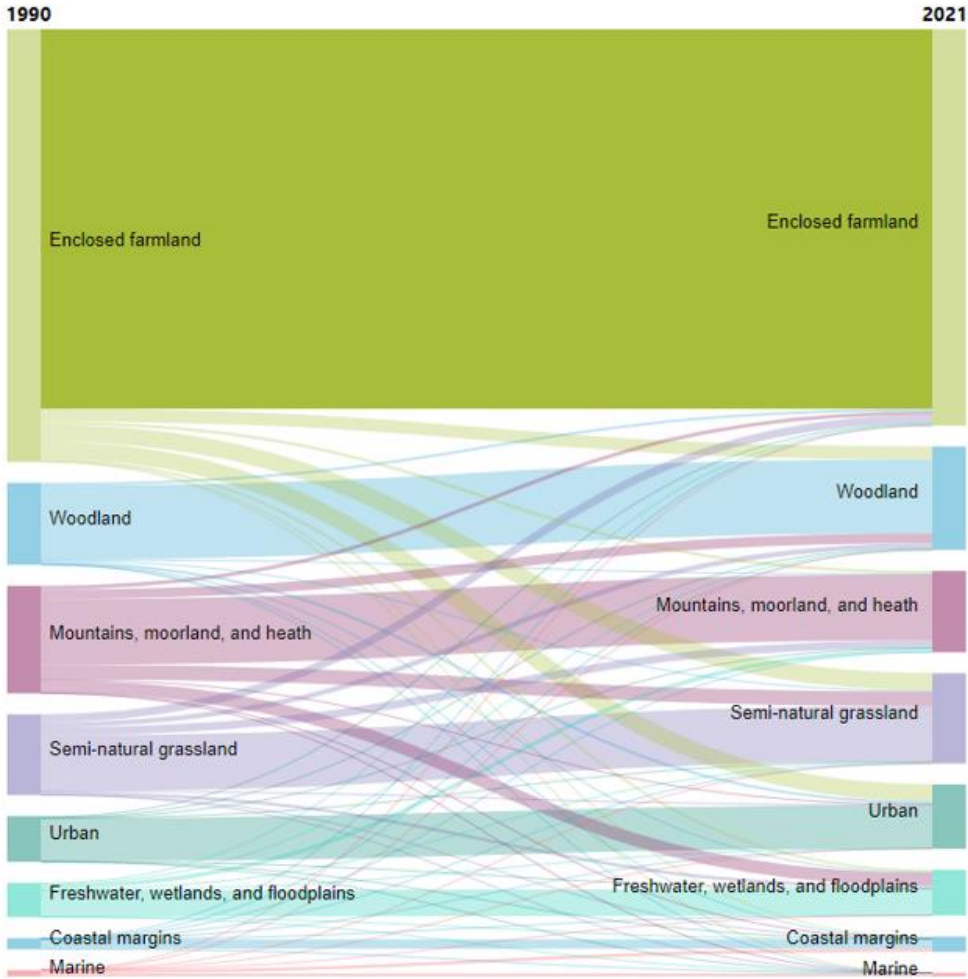
Source: Office for National Statistics, Bat Conservation Trust, BeeWalk, British Trust for Ornithology; Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey (WCBS); Royal Society for the Protection of Birds; Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme (UKBMS), and Rothamsted Insect Survey

UK Habitats

Figure 2: Summary of long-term trend for woodland condition indicators



Source: Office for National Statistics



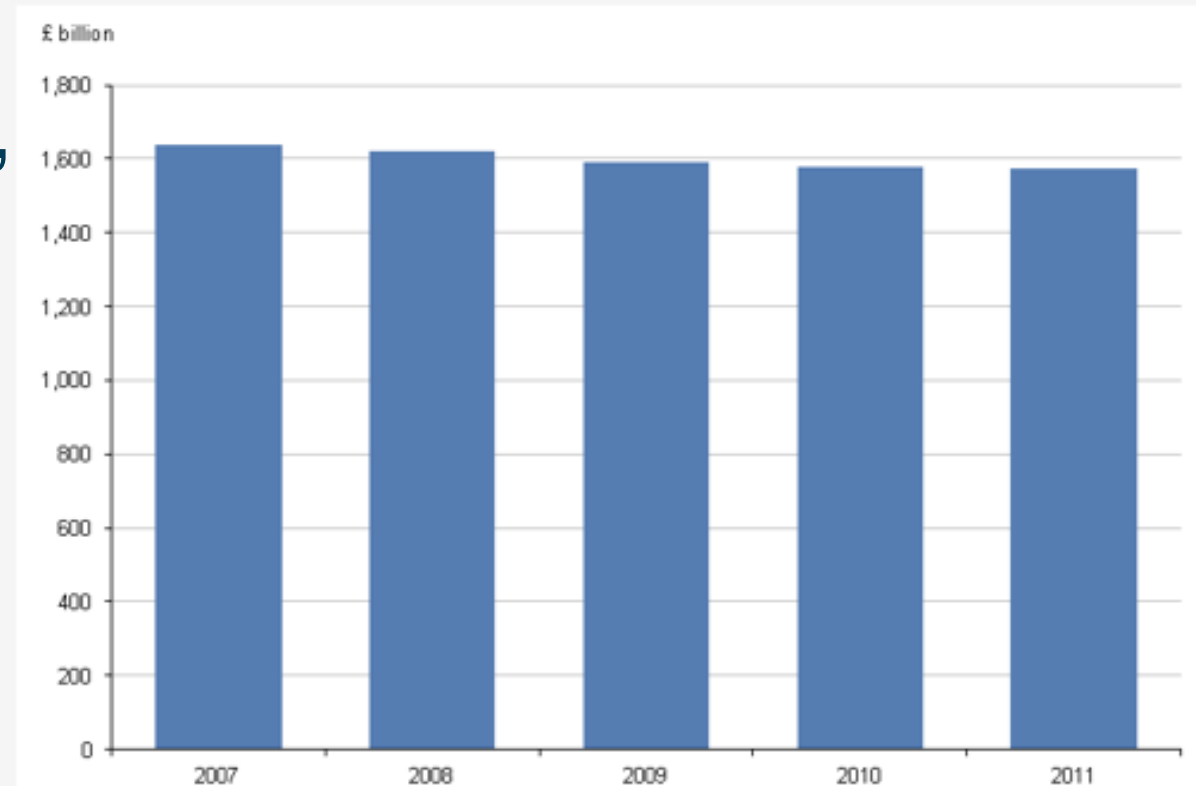
Source: UK natural capital accounts from the Office for National Statistics and Land Cover Maps from UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology

UK Natural Capital Accounts, 2014

7 Ecosystem Services: Sub-soil Assets, Agricultural land, Timber, Fisheries, Water abstracted for public water supply, Outdoor recreation, Net greenhouse gas sequestration

Net present value

UK-wide only



UK Natural Capital Accounts, 2023

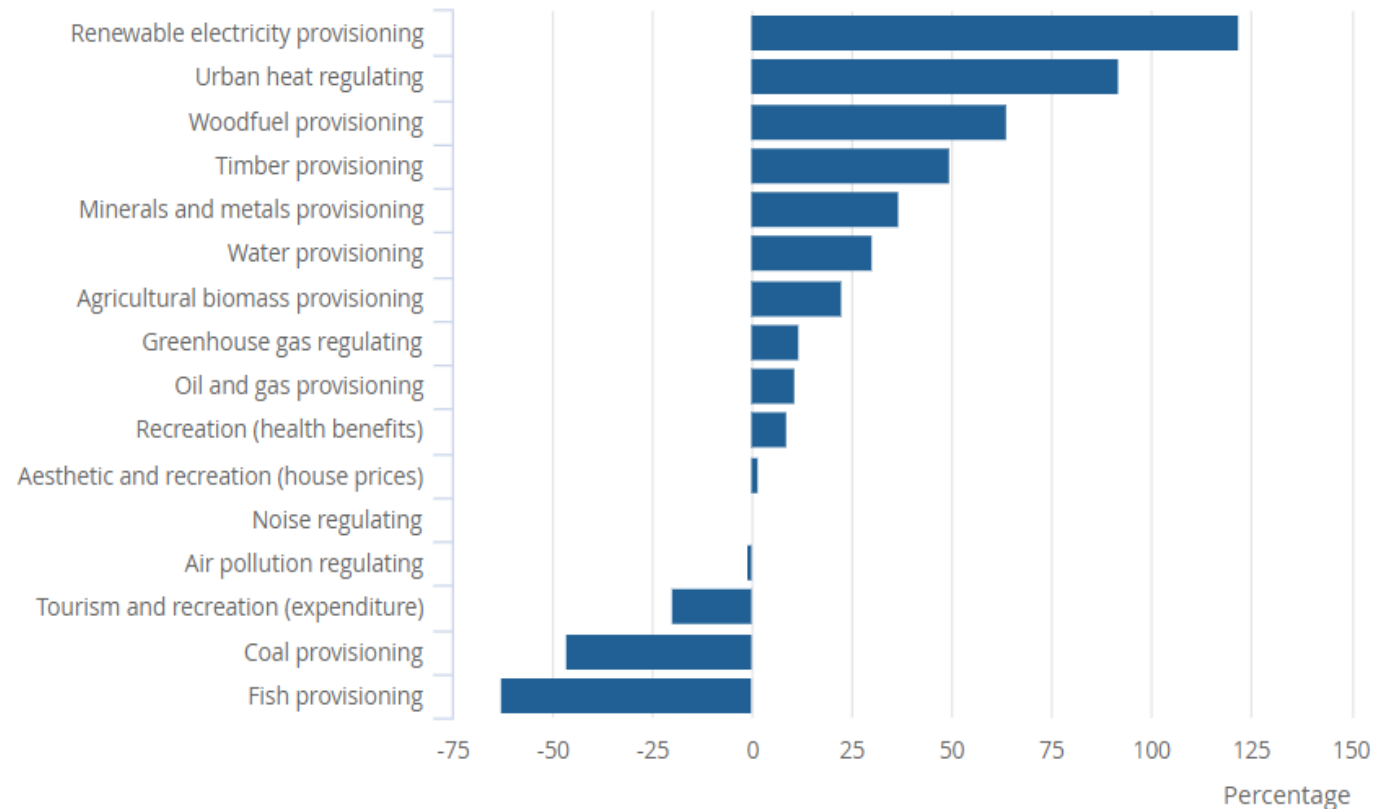
16 Ecosystem Services, including:

- 9 provisioning services
- 4 regulating services
- 3 cultural services

Net present value used, with more advanced modelling and valuation techniques for some services

Breakdowns for 4 UK nations and by habitat

Percentage change in asset value in the UK between 2017 and 2021



Some challenges

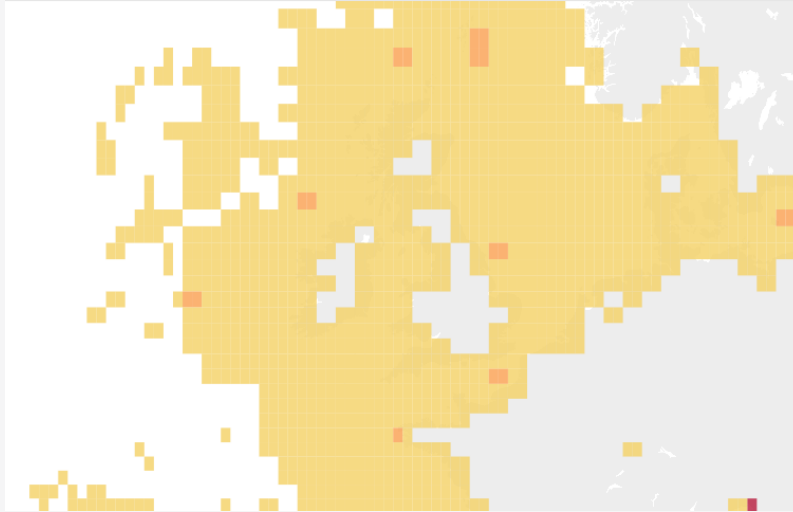
- Data
- When are we "done"?
- Engagement & communication with users

Fish

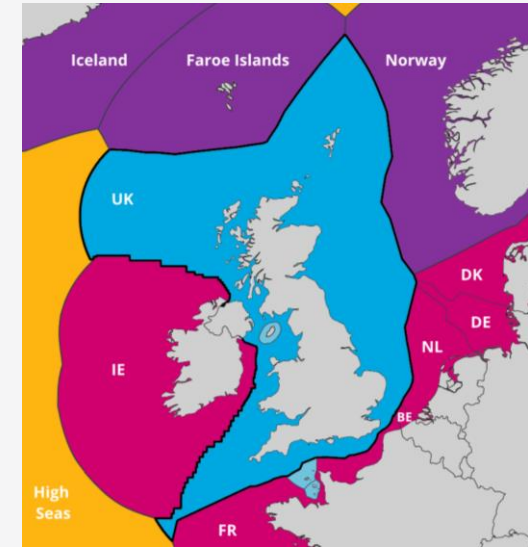


Approach

1. ICES rectangle level landings (by species and year)



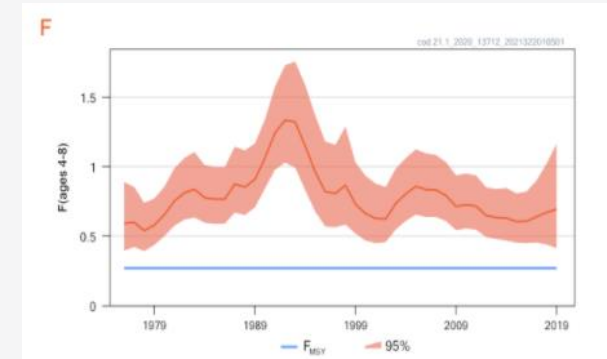
2. Cut and apportion to UK EEZ using MMO factors



3. Match to FAO sub-regions

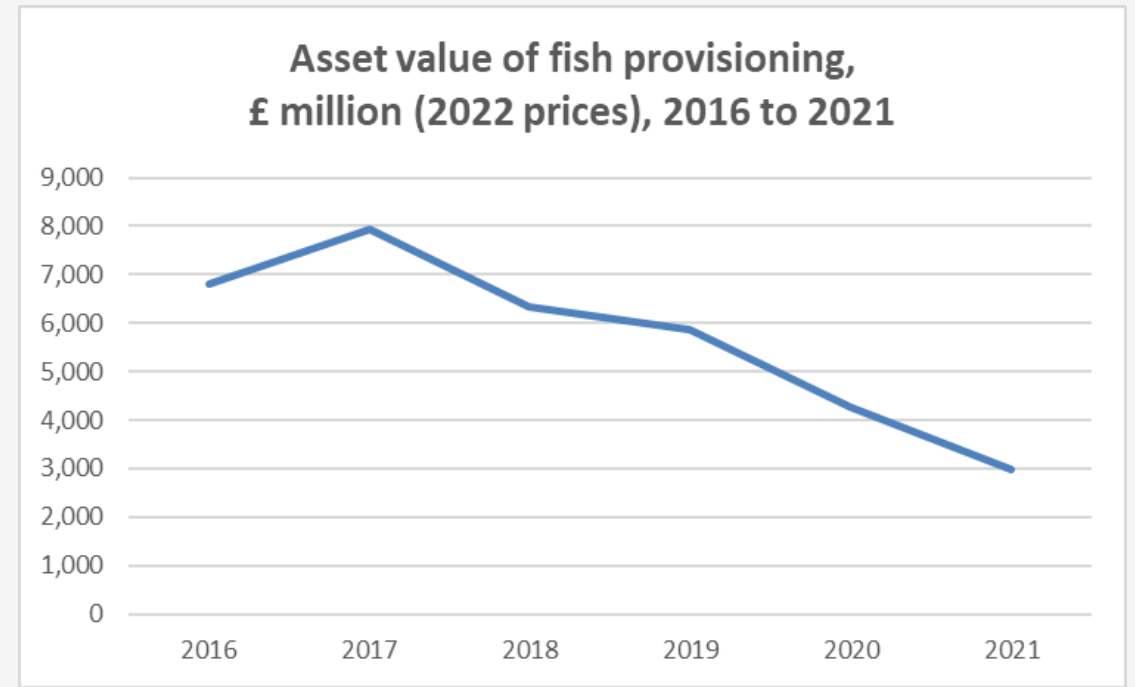
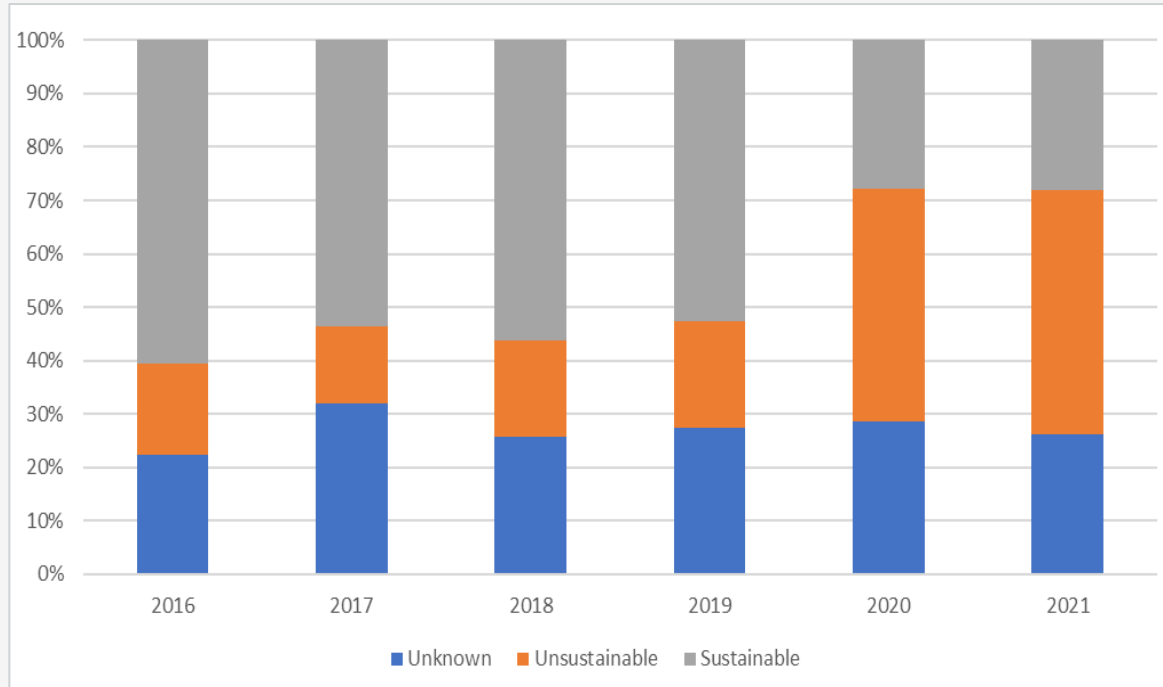


4. Match to ICES stock assessment



Sustainability status & asset value

- NPV approach
- Green book social discount rate
- Sustainable discounted over 100 years; Unsustainable and unknown discounted over 25 years



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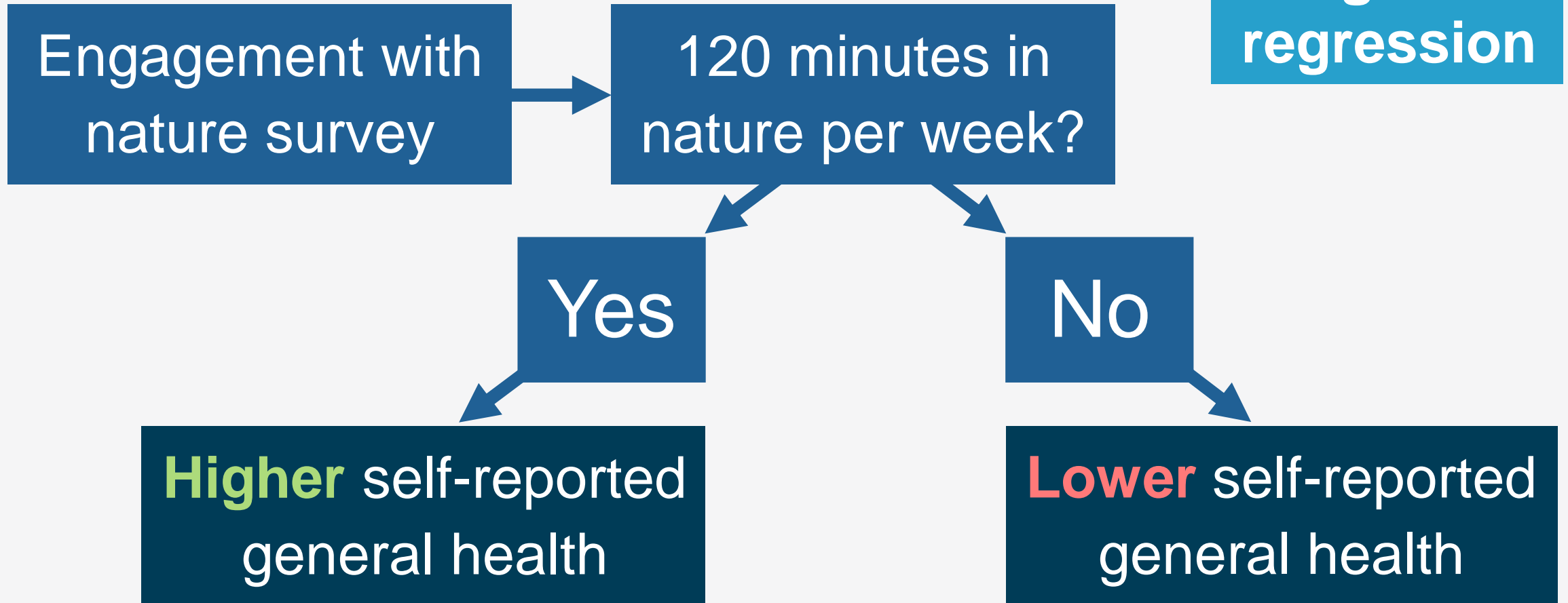
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Estimating health benefits

Multinomial
logistic
regression

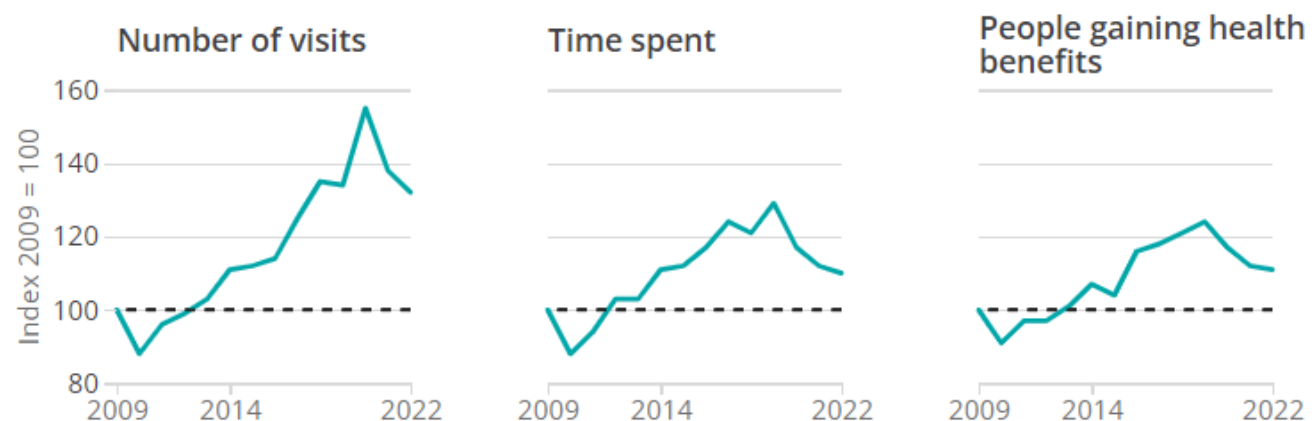


**Between 2009 and 2020
the number of visits
rose...**

**...after 2020,
visits to nature have
begun to decline**

**Fewer people have gained health benefits from outdoor recreation
since 2020**

Change in the number of visits to, time spent in, and people gaining health benefits from nature, UK, 2009 to 2022



Use of our Natural Capital Accounts



THE GREEN BOOK

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT
GUIDANCE ON APPRAISAL
AND EVALUATION

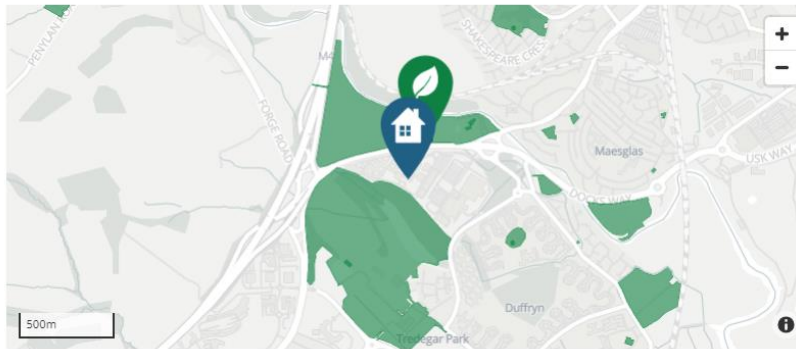
Data for the public

The estimated value added to your property by green space is

£6,940

Your nearest public green space is a **play space**, **233 metres** from your home.

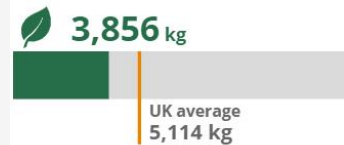
Move the slider to see what difference being nearer or further away from public green space would make to the value.



Enter your postcode or use the map

NP16 7JX

Total pollution removed by vegetation
in this km square



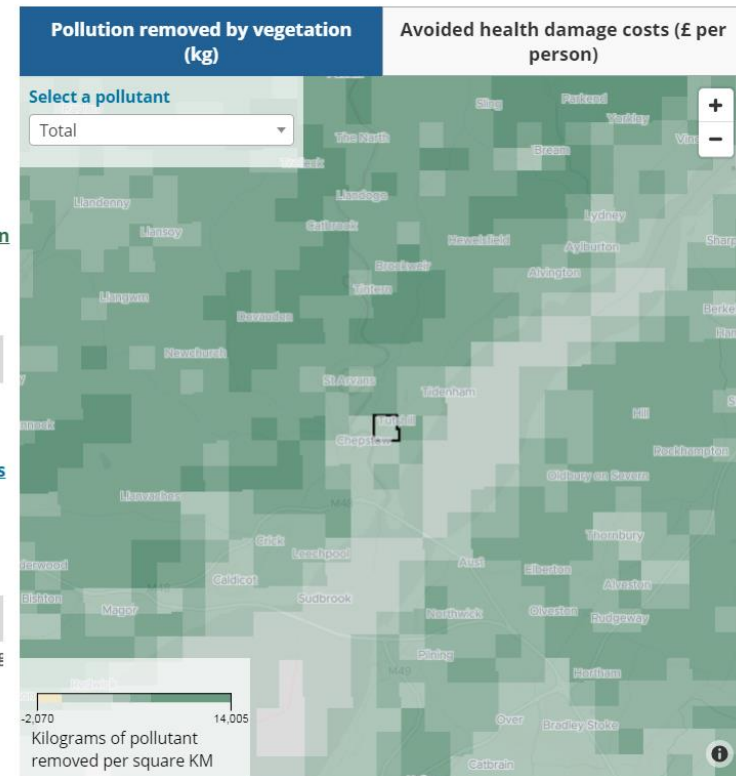
The amount saved in healthcare costs
per person in your wider area,
Gloucestershire



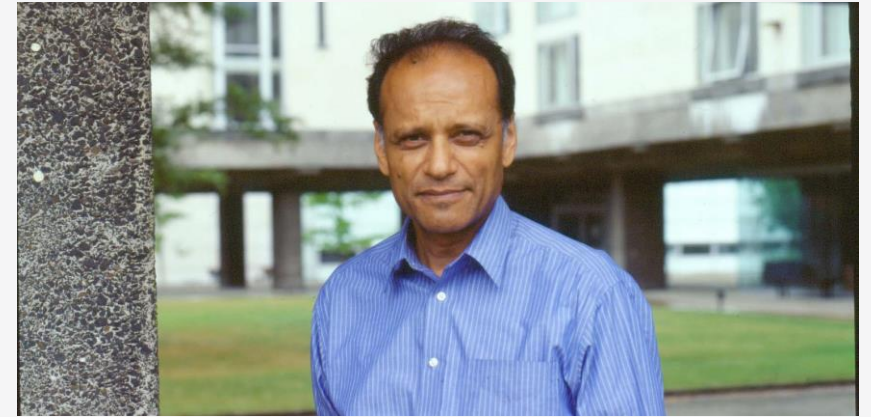
Share your results



Source: Office for National Statistics, Centre for Ecology and Hydrology



Adapting the National Accounts



The Future...

The Dark Hedges, Northern Ireland





Thank you