C4: Sense of Place

Ecosystem Service Definition

The aspects of a place that make it special and distinctive – this could include locally characteristic species, habitats, landscapes, or features; places related to historic and cultural events, or places important to people for spiritual or emotional reasons.

Baseline Methods & Rationale

A relational dataset was produced to map the interaction with nature ecosystem service baseline within Gloucestershire. Overlapping designated sites were used as a modifying dataset following the methods of (Smith, 2020) who states that protected areas are more likely to support a greater amount and diversity of wildlife. Some designated sites may also preserve other natural or semi-natural features of interest (i.e. geological features), and features of cultural or historical importance (i.e. scheduled monuments). Designated sites included: local nature reserves (LNRs), national nature reserves (NNRs), sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs), and special areas of conservation (SACs), areas of outstanding natural beauty (AONBs), country parks, Millennium Greens, Doorstep Greens, registered battlefields, registered parks and gardens, and scheduled ancient monuments.

Greater modifier values were applied where a greater number of designated sites overlapped.
These values are given in Table C3.1 and are also derived from Smith (2020).

Table C4.1: Weights assigned for modification of the sense of place baseline dataset

Number of Designated Site Overlaps	Modifier
>=3	1.20
2	1.15
1	1.10
0	1.00

Opportunity, Methods & Rationale

An opportunity dataset was not produced for the sense of place ecosystem service due to the absence of meaningful data that can be used to assess where sense of place currently being delivered by natural capital assets is not meeting demand for delivery of the ecosystem service.

Limitations and Further Development

Using designated sites assumes that greater wildlife amount and diversity are supported by designated sites, however, the condition of these sites has not been accounted for within the analysis. Likewise, the analysis assumes that all designated sites are of equal value in contributing to the sense of place ecosystem service.

As described in Section 2, cultural ecosystem service scores were clustered using K-nearest neighbour classification. Though this better reflects rural areas where the ability of a given natural capital asset (habitat) to provide a given ecosystem service is impacted by surrounding natural capital assets.

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A result of this, however, is that existing urban green space – often small parcels surrounded by low eco-metric scoring urban areas – is not fully represented in the classification. This may be resolved through creating a composite HSSM dataset, where rural areas are classified through K-nearest neighbour analysis, and urban areas remain unclassified as per the raw HSSM dataset.

References

Smith, A., 2020. Natural capital in Oxfordshire: Short report. Environmental Change Institute, University of Oxford.

Natural England, 2003. Accessible Natural Green Space Standards in Towns and Cities: A Review and Toolkit for their Implementation (ENRR526). University of Manchester.

Figure C3.1: Interaction with nature baseline (relational)

C4: Sense of Place
(baseline, relational)

Ecosystem service provision

Low   High

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