

# Natural Capital Planning Tool

## Quick Facts

### Inputs

Data about proposed development site in an Excel spreadsheet

### Outputs

Ecosystem service impact score, development impact score, guidance

### Scale

Site-based and local scale

### Context

A range of land uses

### Cost

The current version is a demo and not yet available.

### Software required

Microsoft Excel

### Skills Required

Microsoft Excel, basic level

### Developer

Team from Birmingham City Council, Consultancy for Environmental Economics and Policy (CEEP) and UK Business Council for Sustainable Development (UK BCSD).

## Description

The Natural Capital Planning Tool (NCPT) allows for an indicative assessment of ecosystem services over 25 years. The user inputs data about a development site and the tool calculates an Ecosystem Service Impact Score; and a Development Impact Score (overall effect of the proposed development on all ecosystem services).

## Ecosystem services included

Ten ecosystem services across provisioning, regulating and cultural categories.

## Habitats

Urban, semi-natural grasslands, woodland, freshwater, wetlands and floodplains, enclosed farmland, coastal margins, mountains, moors and heaths.

## How does it work?

The tool seeks to determine the maximum potential positive outcomes for natural capital from the 'Masterplan' stage and for 25 years post-development. The Ecosystem Service Impact Score (ESIS) assesses the impact for each service, and these scores combined provide the Development Impact Score (DIS). If a proposed development scores negatively, the tool outlines design strategies and provides guidance to improve impact on ecosystem services.

## Case studies in the UK

The tool is being used by Birmingham City Council on a sustainable urban extension. The aim is to provide high standards of design and sustainability and a network of green spaces to achieve a net positive outcome for natural capital. It has also been used in Rugeley, Staffordshire by the Environment Agency on a flood alleviation scheme.

## Where can I find out more?

<http://www.rics.org/uk/knowledge/research/research-reports/natural-capital-tool-planning-/>

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