

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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