Tool Assessor
Information Sheet

Participatory GIS Tool

NATURAL ENGLAND ADAS

theresearchbox

Quick Facts

Inputs

Personal user information, user-added pins, descriptions and photographs or evidence

Outputs

Information provided to the tool developers

Scale

Local and regional scale

Context

A range of land uses

Cost

Open access

Software required

A device (e.g. PC, laptop, tablet) with an internet connection

Skills Required

Basic knowledge of how to access and use a website

Developer

ADAS and The Research Box for Natural England, in association with the Morecambe Bay NIA and the Arnside and Silverdale AONB Partnership.

Description

The PGIS tool is an interactive website that the public can use to record their perceptions about the natural environment of the Morecambe Bay area. It captures simple information about the user and seeks to identify the locations where people experience cultural ecosystem services, and ascertain why they are important or valuable.

Ecosystem services included

Five cultural ecosystem services.

Habitats

Semi-natural grasslands, woodland, enclosed farmland, freshwater, wetlands and floodplains, coastal margins and urban.

How does it work?

PGIS aims to improve understanding of how the public perceive and value different landscapes. The tool considers five cultural ecosystem services: outdoor recreation; local history, heritage and learning; solitude, calm and tranquillity; beauty and inspiration; and wildlife and nature. Users place digital pins onto Ordnance Survey and satellite maps to show locations where they experience cultural services. They can record notes and upload photos to give an indication about the activities they undertake and why they find that place special. This dataset can then be layered with other map data in a GIS (e.g. landcover, site designations, rights of way) to identify correlations and areas that provide multiple ecosystem services. Ultimately the information can be used as part of the evidence base in planning and development scenarios.

Case studies in the UK

This tool currently only functions for the Morecambe Bay area. The case study generated heat maps which identified areas that provided multiple service values. Data overlaid with landcover maps identified that users valued woodlands, rough grasslands, fens and marshes, freshwater and urban areas (amongst others).

Where can I get it?

http://web1.adas.co.uk/pgis/