

ORVal

Quick Facts

Inputs

User selects sites to analyse

Outputs

Estimated number of visits to a greenspace site (or group of sites), and value of the visits.

Scale

Site, local, regional or national scale

Context

A range of land uses

Cost

Open access

Software required

Internet access

Skills Required

None.

Developer

University of Exeter, funded by Defra.

Description

ORVal is a freely accessible web-based tool that predicts the number of visits to existing and new greenspaces in England, and estimates the welfare value of those visits in monetary terms. It is based on an econometric model of recreational demand derived from MENE data. Users can examine the recreational value of existing green space and test how the number of visits and the value of these visits might change if the land cover was changed, or if new green spaces were created. Results can be grouped by local authority area or catchment, and can be split by socio-economic group.

Ecosystem services included

Recreation.

Habitats

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

How does it work?

The user can zoom into a map of England (based on OpenStreetMap) showing existing green spaces. as well as 23 habitat types from the CEH Land Cover Map 2007. The number of trips to each site or path segment is estimated via an econometric model based on data from the last seven years of the weekly MENE (monitor of engagement with the natural environment) survey, taking into account socio-economic characteristics, location, size, land covers, water margins, designations and points of interest. The value of the trips is based on the travel cost, in terms of vehicle fuel and travel time

Case studies in the UK

ORVal has been used to estimate the value for all Millennium and Doorstep Greens in the Liverpool local authority area as around £750,000 per year, of which around a third accrues to the C1 socio-economic group. in the whole of England the benefits are around £50 million per year, compared to an initial one-off investment of £55 million

Where can I get it?

<http://leep.exeter.ac.uk/orval/>

Development of the Tool Assessor database and information sheets was funded by JNCC.