

What is Natural Capital?

The term natural capital refers to all UK natural assets which form the environment around us. The accounts link assets to the benefits they provide, such as clean air and water and the ability to walk in woodlands.



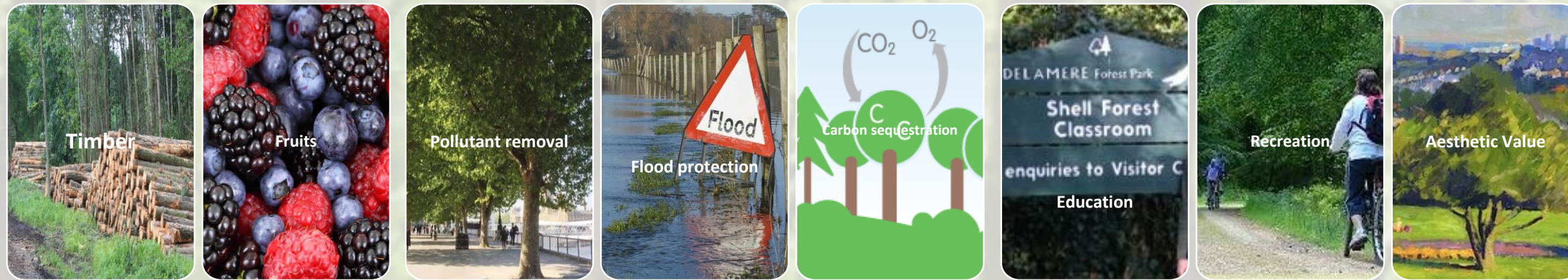
Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

Woodland

Provisioning Services

Regulating Services

Cultural Services



We are developing UK accounts for 8 habitats



Woodland



Farmland



Freshwater



Marine



Urban



Coastal margins



Semi-natural grassland



Mountains, Moorland and Heathland

Strategy for account development

Complete	UK account 	Cross-cutting accounts Land cover and land use Carbon stock Pollution removal Recreation	Habitat accounts Farmland Woodland Freshwater Urban
	Not complete 	All ecosystem services Biodiversity Peatlands 	All ecosystem services Biodiversity Peatlands

Spatial accounts

Which can be broken down by region and by habitat

Why do we need natural capital accounts?

GDP tells us only part of our economic story

- hides and excludes services provided by natural capital
- focuses only on flows, not stocks
- nature is priceless, not valueless

The natural capital accounts will:

- highlight links with economic activity and pressures
- monitoring losses and gains providing integrated information

Why ONS and Defra?

- ✓ Partnership established in 2012 following Natural Environment White Paper
- ✓ Combines complementary resources and expertise in a common agenda.
- ✓ Strong support and engagement from Natural Capital Committee

