

## Triennial Review of the Environment Agency and Natural England

# Baseline information for functions analysis: Natural England

January 2013

In January 2013, Defra published baseline information for the functions analysis of the Triennial Review of the Environment Agency and Natural England. This information was developed in partnership with the Environment Agency and Natural England, based on their 2012/13 Corporate Plans.

These documents are structured as follows:

- 'Level 1' summarises the bodies' primary functions. It shows how their corporate objectives are structured and resources allocated to deliver these. It also shows their key partners within Government and their main customer groups for each function.
- 'Level 2' details the main activities undertaken by the bodies to deliver their primary functions as set out at Level 1. It sets out the key performance indicators for these functions as agreed with Government and summarises the principal statutory and policy drivers for each area of work e.g. statutory obligations or Government commitments. It also indicates how the bodies' work in each area is changing as a result of reforms they have put (or are putting) in place in response to efficiency requirements, new policy challenges and recent external reviews.

Further points to note are:

- Grant in aid (GiA) figures refer to funding received from government.
- Full time equivalent (FTE) figures refer to staff resource allocated to deliver functions.
- Environment Agency figures cover both England and Wales.

For further information on the Triennial Review of the Environment Agency and Natural England see [www.defra.gov.uk/review-ea-ne/](http://www.defra.gov.uk/review-ea-ne/)

**Line of Sight Level One - Linking from Outcomes to Customers**

<b>Primary Functions (Objective Summary)</b>	Terrestrial Biodiversity	Marine Biodiversity	Protected Landscapes, Geology and Local Character	Engagement with Nature	Access to the Natural Environment	Sustainable Land Use	Sustainable Land Management	National Evidence	Local Evidence	Running and Supporting the Organisation and Driving Change	
<b>Main Activity (Delivery Levers)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advice</li> <li>Incentives</li> <li>Regulation</li> <li>Practical Action eg on NNRs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advice</li> <li>Regulation</li> <li>Practical Action eg on NNRs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advice</li> <li>Incentives</li> <li>Practical Action eg on NNRs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advice</li> <li>Incentives</li> <li>Practical Action eg on NNRs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advice</li> <li>Incentives</li> <li>Regulation</li> <li>Practical Action eg on NNRs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advice</li> <li>Regulation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advice</li> <li>Incentives</li> <li>Regulation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advice</li> </ul>	n/a	
<b>Corporate Plan Theme (Outcome)</b>	1. A healthy, well-functioning natural environment			2. People are inspired to value and conserve the natural environment		3. Sustainable use of the natural environment		4. A secure environmental future		5. An Excellent Public Body	
<b>Outcomes and Responsibilities (Corporate Plan Objective)</b>	1.1 Net biodiversity gain secured within healthy, well-functioning ecological networks	1.2 Productive and biologically diverse seas	1.3 Diverse landscapes continue to reflect the needs and aspirations of local communities and contribute to their distinctive character	2.1 More people understand the benefits of, engage with and take action to protect and enhance the natural environment	2.2 People are increasingly able to visit and enjoy the natural environment	3.1 Land is used for social and economic development in a way that recognises, protects and enhances the value of the natural environment	3.2 Land is used efficiently by competitive and productive businesses to deliver more environmental services, food, renewable energy and other benefits	4.1 We support Government and public bodies through the gathering of evidence and the provision of environmental data, information and advice	4.2 We work with communities and individuals to gather relevant evidence on the natural environment and support them through the provision of environmental data, support and advice	Developing the capacity, confidence and culture of the organisation and its operational effectiveness: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finance</li> <li>Procurement</li> <li>Internal audit</li> <li>Partnerships</li> <li>Estates and facilities</li> <li>Organisational development</li> <li>Learning and development</li> <li>Health and safety</li> <li>Performance</li> <li>Information technology and knowledge</li> <li>Communications</li> <li>Customer service excellence</li> <li>Sustainability</li> <li>Legal</li> <li>Standards</li> </ul>	
<b>Lead Business Area (Function)</b>	Landscape and Biodiversity	Marine	Landscape and Biodiversity	Access and Engagement		Land Use	Land Management	Evidence and Analysis		Corporate Services Standards External Affairs Customer Services	
<b>Funding Streams 2012/13 (£m)</b>	<b>GIA</b>	42.9	6.7	6.1	4.9	7.7	11.8	77.5	4.1	8.5	18.4
	<b>Other</b>	1.5 (NNR income) 0.7 (EU Life+ Nature fund)				8.1 (Big Lottery Fund) 0.5 (Rural Development Programme for England)		467.7 (Rural Development Programme for England)			
<b>Resource (FTE)</b>	547	111	68	80	83	215	873	70	63	263	
<b>Lead Government Body (Department)</b>	Defra	Defra	Defra	Defra		Defra	Defra	Defra		Defra Cabinet Office HM Treasury	
<b>Key Arm's-Length Body Partners</b>	Forestry Commission, Environment Agency, Joint Nature Conservation Committee	Marine Management Organisation, Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities, Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Cefas, Crown Estate	National Park Authorities, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Forestry Commission, Environment Agency, English Heritage	Forestry Commission, Environment Agency, BIG Lottery Fund, Heritage Lottery Fund, Canal and River Trust, Visit England,		Forestry Commission, Environment Agency, Infrastructure UK, Planning Inspectorate, Better Regulation Executive, Highways Agency, Ofwat	Environment Agency, Forestry Commission, Rural Payments Agency, Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency, Ministry of Defence – Defence Infrastructure Organisation	Forestry Commission, Environment Agency, Joint Nature Conservation Committee, National Biodiversity Network, Ordnance Survey, Local Records Centres, Office for National Statistics, Public Health England		n/a	
<b>Key Customers</b>	Farmers and other land managers Local authorities and related public body decision-makers Developers and their agents General public and local communities	Local authorities and related public body decision-makers Developers and their agents	Farmers and other land managers Local authorities and related public body decision-makers General public and local communities	Farmers and other land managers Local authorities and related public body decision-makers General public and local communities	Local authorities and related public body decision-makers General public and local communities	Local authorities and related public body decision-makers Developers and their agents	Farmers and other land managers	Local authorities and related public body decision-makers	Local authorities and related public body decision-makers Developers and their agents General public and local communities	n/a	

Line of Sight Level Two - Outcome One: A healthy, well-functioning natural environment

1.3 Protected Landscapes, Geology and Local Character: diverse landscapes continue to reflect the needs and aspirations of local communities and contribute to their distinctive character

<b>Corporate Plan Objective</b>	1.1 Terrestrial Biodiversity: net biodiversity gain secured within healthy, well-functioning ecological networks
<b>Business Functions</b>	Landscape and Biodiversity Land Management      Land Use Regulation

1.2 Marine Biodiversity: productive and biologically diverse seas
Marine Evidence and Analysis      Standards and Analysis

Landscape and Biodiversity Land Management Evidence and Analysis
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<b>Description of Work Area</b>	<p><u>Advice</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide management advice and best practice guidance to the 26,000+ owners and occupiers of SSSIs on managing the special interest of their land to establish and maintain favourable condition.</li> <li>Provide advice to Defra and wider stakeholders to inform the selection and implementation of Nature Improvement Areas (NIAs); administer the Defra/NE jointly funded NIA grant scheme; provide technical advice and share best practice to project partnerships; monitor/report on performance; and support the achievement of NIA objectives through appropriate deployment of NE's resources.</li> <li>Advise Government on the selection and designation of Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas and Ramsar sites and provide specialist technical conservation advice to public body decision-makers and land managers on the protection and management of their special features.</li> <li>Work with partners to manage invasive non-native species threats by maintaining an audit of non-native species, by publishing guidance on the legal requirements and best practice for dealing with them, and by providing direct advice to land managers on practical action.</li> <li>Advise Defra on the surveillance requirements of habitats and species listed in EU Habitats and Birds Directives and commission relevant surveys where appropriate; prepare technical reports for Defra/JNCC on the status of priority habitats and species to meet EU reporting requirements; and advise Defra on the statutory list of habitats and species of principal importance in England.</li> <li>Support Defra-led implementation of the Biodiversity 2020 strategy by chairing the Terrestrial Biodiversity Group, facilitating partner contributions and leading the development, management and reporting of the delivery plan for terrestrial protected sites, habitats, ecosystems and species.</li> </ul> <p><u>Incentives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide advice to Government and other stakeholders on the effective use of a range of funding incentives to secure the protection, management and recovery of priority wildlife and geological sites (including Natura 2000 sites and SSSIs) and priority habitats and species.</li> <li>Directly administer grants and other funding sources, including agri-environment schemes, Nature Improvement Areas, Species Recovery Programme, local partnership funding, and EU Life projects.</li> </ul> <p><u>Regulation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Notify new SSSIs and maintain and update the existing SSSI series in England (over 4100 individual sites); define the features of special interest and their associated conservation objectives; administer the regulatory regime providing statutory advice (consents, assents and advice), and where appropriate taking enforcement action, to ensure no deterioration of special interest features.</li> <li>Advise land managers on wildlife management and issue wildlife licences giving them permission to carry out an activity affecting a protected animal or plant that would otherwise be illegal; and issue licences in relation to the introduction of non-native species.</li> <li>Work with Defra to deliver the necessary licensing regime to implement the Government's badger control policy to help tackle bovine TB.</li> </ul> <p><u>Practical Action</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor the condition of Natura 2000 sites and SSSIs and report to Defra on the overall proportion in target condition.</li> <li>Fund and work in partnership with academic institutions and specialist voluntary bodies to increase understanding of the status and conservation requirements of priority habitats and species through research.</li> <li>Directly manage two-thirds of England's 224 National Nature Reserves (NNRs) as exemplars of nature conservation management, for research and monitoring purposes, and to provide opportunities for public enjoyment of the natural world; approve the partner bodies, such as conservation charities, that manage the 'approved body' NNRs; and declare new NNRs.</li> </ul>
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<p><u>Advice</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We work closely with the Joint Nature Conservation Committee and other partners and stakeholders to provide advice to Defra on England's contribution to the establishment of an ecologically coherent and well-managed network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in UK waters.</li> <li>We provide conservation advice to marine regulators ie the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCAs) on conservation objectives and activities likely to impact the features of MPAs (including Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas and Marine Conservation Zones) in territorial waters, to inform the development, implementation and regulation of MPA management measures.</li> <li>We provide advice to other government departments, such as DECC, to other marine regulators, including MMO and IFCAs, and to the project developers and their consultants on marine planning, licensing and consenting issues.</li> </ul> <p><u>Regulation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We notify, and administer the regulatory regime for, SSSIs in the intertidal zone and in estuarial waters.</li> </ul> <p><u>Practical Action</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In collaboration with other ALBs, we are responsible for monitoring and reporting on the state of the MPA network in territorial waters. This work is largely conducted through commissioned contracts.</li> </ul>
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<p><u>Advice</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As Government's statutory adviser on landscape, we designate England's most important landscapes as National Parks or Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) and we review and modify their boundaries. We provide guidance and advice to relevant authorities on the planning and management of these areas.</li> <li>Provide integrated advice, guidance and training on landscape and geodiversity to local planning authorities and tailored advice and guidance to local communities.</li> <li>Produce a series of National Character Area profiles setting out data, information and analysis of environmental assets and opportunities in every local area (159 in total) to inform partner organisations and local communities.</li> </ul> <p><u>Incentives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use Environmental Stewardship schemes to secure the protection and enhancement of the historic environment and landscape features that strengthen landscape character in accordance with our National Character Area profiles.</li> </ul> <p><u>Practical Action</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake strategic monitoring and reporting for protected landscapes and monitor change in landscape character more widely.</li> <li>Take a lead role on behalf of Defra in monitoring the implementation of the European Landscape Convention in England.</li> </ul>
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<b>Key Performance Indicators (agreed with Defra)</b>	<p>We increase the SSSI area in favourable condition whilst maintaining the area in favourable or recovering above 95%.</p> <p>We implement regulatory and enforcement measures for wildlife and habitat protection and management while contributing to sustainable development. Our National Nature Reserves are managed as exemplar nature conservation sites so that we increase the % in favourable condition and their contribution to restoring wider ecosystems.</p> <p>We manage badger control applications in line with Secretary of State's guidance.</p>
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<p>We deliver timely advice to enable Government and regulators to establish a well managed Marine Protected Area network covering in excess of 25% of English territorial waters by the end of 2016.</p>
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<p>We contribute to the delivery of Biodiversity 2020, the European Landscape Convention and the UK Geodiversity Action Plan by investing in large-scale integrated project partnerships in priority areas (including Nature Improvement Areas) using the National Character Area framework.</p>
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<b>Direction of Travel</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Government's objectives for biodiversity and healthy, well-functioning ecosystems are set out in the <i>Natural Environment White Paper</i> and <i>Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services</i> both published in 2011. These reflect obligations and commitments which successive Governments have made under different international agreements and provide a clear focus and direction for our work to conserve biodiversity. We have an explicit leadership and facilitation role in the governance and delivery of the Biodiversity Strategy for terrestrial habitat and species outcomes.</li> <li>The review of the implementation of the Habitats and Birds Directives, the Red Tape Challenge and our action plan in response to the Chancellor's Autumn Statement have each driven change in our approach to the implementation of our statutory functions in this area.</li> <li>The Lawton Review has highlighted the importance of creating resilient and coherent ecological networks to achieve biodiversity outcomes and to secure ecosystem services of wide public benefit.</li> <li>Our new Designations Strategy helps to deliver the aims of the Natural Environment White Paper by presenting ways that protected areas can support ambitions to create more integrated networks of landscapes, geological features, and important wildlife habitats.</li> </ul>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We are implementing significant improvements to our marine work as a result of two major recent reviews:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>an independent review commissioned by the Defra Chief Scientist of the evidence process for selecting marine Special Areas of Conservation which recommended changes to improve data handling and transparency, and</li> <li>Defra's Review of the Marine ALB Landscape which considered ways in which better joint working and collaboration could be achieved to deliver efficiency savings within the current structure.</li> </ol> </li> <li>In parallel with these changes, we are collaborating with other Defra network marine ALBs to develop and implement an integrated marine survey, evidence and monitoring programme. The estimated savings from this in 2011/12 were £1.2m and are expected to increase in future years as we work with and through the Defra network Marine Biodiversity Evidence Coordination Board.</li> </ul>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>From 1 April 2011, responsibility for funding and strategic oversight of the AONB Joint Advisory Committees, the two Conservation Boards and the National Association for AONBs transferred from Natural England to Defra, leaving Natural England with responsibility to provide technical expert support and advice at the local level.</li> <li>We are reviewing all 159 National Character Areas to provide a consistent and strategic evidence base and analysis across England incorporating information on ecosystem goods and services. We published key facts and data for all NCAs in July 2012 and intend to publish 80 full profiles as a rolling programme in 2012/13 and the remainder in 2013/14.</li> <li>We published an integrated Designations Strategy which informs the implementation of all our designatory functions in line with UK and EU legislation and policy.</li> </ul>
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<b>Drivers</b>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Statutory powers and duties</td> <td>                     National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 (Part III: Nature Conservation)                      Wildlife &amp; Countryside Act 1981 (Part II: Nature Conservation)                      Protection of Badgers Act 1992                      Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (Part III: Nature Conservation and Wildlife Protection)                      Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (Part 1: General Purpose and General Implementation Powers)                      The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010                 </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Policy-driven programmes and tasks</td> <td>                     Natural Environment White Paper (Chapter 2: Protecting and Improving our Natural Environment)                      England Biodiversity Strategy (Outcome 1 – Habitats and ecosystems on land; Theme 1: A more integrated large-scale approach to conservation on land and at sea; Theme 3: reducing environmental pressures)                 </td> </tr> </table>	Statutory powers and duties	National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 (Part III: Nature Conservation) Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (Part II: Nature Conservation) Protection of Badgers Act 1992 Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (Part III: Nature Conservation and Wildlife Protection) Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (Part 1: General Purpose and General Implementation Powers) The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010	Policy-driven programmes and tasks	Natural Environment White Paper (Chapter 2: Protecting and Improving our Natural Environment) England Biodiversity Strategy (Outcome 1 – Habitats and ecosystems on land; Theme 1: A more integrated large-scale approach to conservation on land and at sea; Theme 3: reducing environmental pressures)
Statutory powers and duties	National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 (Part III: Nature Conservation) Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (Part II: Nature Conservation) Protection of Badgers Act 1992 Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (Part III: Nature Conservation and Wildlife Protection) Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (Part 1: General Purpose and General Implementation Powers) The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010				
Policy-driven programmes and tasks	Natural Environment White Paper (Chapter 2: Protecting and Improving our Natural Environment) England Biodiversity Strategy (Outcome 1 – Habitats and ecosystems on land; Theme 1: A more integrated large-scale approach to conservation on land and at sea; Theme 3: reducing environmental pressures)				

Statutory powers and duties	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Part II: Nature Conservation) Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (Part 5: Nature Conservation) Marine Strategy Framework Directive The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010
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Statutory powers and duties	National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 (Part II: National Parks) Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Part II: National Parks) Environment Act 1995 (Part III: National Parks) Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (Part IV: AONBs) Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (Part I: General Purpose and General Implementation Powers)
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Policy-driven programmes and tasks	UK Government's Marine Policy Statement 2011 Convention on Biological Diversity OSPAR Convention Natural Environment White Paper (Chapter 2: Protecting and Improving our Natural Environment) Biodiversity 2020
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Policy-driven programmes and tasks	European Landscape Convention Natural Environment White Paper (Chapter 2: Protecting and Improving our Natural Environment)
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<b>Government Departments Involved</b>	Defra (sets overall policy context and is responsible for the England Biodiversity Strategy outcomes on behalf of Government) Dept for Business, Innovation and Skills (sets the Government's 'better regulation' agenda) MoD (major land owner responsible for 9% of all SSSI land in England)
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Defra (sets overall marine policy and outcomes) DECC (sets policy for marine energy, renewable energy deployment and offshore licensing regimes) DfT (responsible for marine transport policy and Maritime and Coastguard Agency)
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Defra (sets overall landscape policy context and outcomes) National Park Authorities (responsible for the protection and management of England's ten National Parks) MoD (a major landowner in National Parks)
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<b>Customers</b>	Farmers and other land managers Local authorities and related public body decision-makers Developers and their agents General public and local communities
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Local authorities and related public body decision-makers Developers and their agents
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Farmers and other land managers Local authorities and related public body decision-makers General public and local communities
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Line of Sight Level Two - Outcome Two: people are inspired to value and conserve the natural environment

<p><b>Corporate Plan Objective</b></p>	<p>2.1 Engagement with Nature: more people understand the benefits of, engage with and take action to protect and enhance the natural environment</p>	<p>2.2 Access to the Natural Environment: people are increasingly able to visit and enjoy the natural environment</p>
<p><b>Business Functions</b></p>	<p>Access and Engagement Customer Services External Affairs Evidence and Analysis Standards</p>	
<p><b>Description of Work Area</b></p>	<p><u>Advice</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate, encourage, enable, lead and support others (including arm's-length bodies, local authorities and civil society organisations) to help local communities to better understand, value and take action for the natural environment.</li> <li>Work in partnership with other arm's-length bodies and civil society organisations to devise, support and implement measures to increase the number of school-aged children experiencing the benefits that come from learning in natural environments, for example through our Natural Connections and Natural Play initiatives.</li> <li>Gather evidence about good practice, environmental, social and economic benefits of a healthy natural environment, and changing values, understandings, behaviours and attitudes of society towards the natural environment and translate this evidence into information and advice that guides others (including funding partners such as the Big Lottery Fund and Heritage Lottery Fund) to support practical action, which engages individuals and communities with the natural environment.</li> <li>Continue to work with the various London Olympics institutions (including the London Legacy Development Corporation) to secure a natural environment legacy from the London Olympic Games.</li> </ul> <p><u>Incentives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Through the £30m Access to Nature grant scheme (financed by the Big Lottery Fund), support a wide range of community-based local engagement activities.</li> <li>Secure the delivery of learning and engagement outcomes from farmers and other land managers using the Educational Access options under the Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) scheme.</li> <li>Run the Country Parks Accreditation Scheme to identify and recognise those Country Parks which deliver minimum standards of core facilities and services.</li> </ul> <p><u>Practical Action</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide opportunities for the public and local communities to get involved across the full range of our work on the 64,000ha of National Nature Reserves that we directly manage, through work parties, open days, and other events, or more formally as one of nearly 2000 NNR volunteers.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Advice</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide evidence-based advice and guidance to communities, user groups, local authorities, Local Access Forums and businesses to help them manage the environmental, social and economic impacts and opportunities of access, to provide new and improved access opportunities, and to increase the amount and quality of greenspace and the benefit it delivers.</li> <li>Provide evidence about the state and trends of access to the natural environment, for example through the Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment (MENE) survey.</li> <li>Based on the best available evidence, and on our experience and knowledge of delivery, provide advice to Government to help develop new and more detailed policy about access.</li> </ul> <p><u>Incentives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide financial support to England's network of 13 National Trails to ensure their management and maintenance to nationally agreed standards.</li> <li>Encourage and support local communities to work with land owners to deliver new permanent access rights through the £2m 'Paths for Communities' funding scheme.</li> </ul> <p><u>Regulation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with land owners, stakeholders and local authorities to plan and implement a long distance route around the coast of England.</li> <li>Maintain online the maps and associated information required to deliver statutory access to 865,000ha of 'open access land' (mountain, heath, moor, down and common land) to agreed standards and principles (including the periodic review of the statutory maps).</li> <li>Exercise our powers to propose new National Trails: in 2012/13 we will complete work with partners on the creation and establishment of the new Pennine Bridleway (southern section).</li> </ul> <p><u>Practical Action</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide public access for quiet enjoyment to over 4million visitors per year on the 150 NNRs that we directly manage.</li> <li>Working to dedicate all parts of our eligible NNRs for permanent public access in perpetuity.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Key Performance Indicators (agreed with Defra)</b></p>	<p>We work with others to engage and enable local communities to enjoy, understand and improve the natural environment. Our management of National Nature Reserves is exemplary in integrating public engagement and access, and delivering good customer satisfaction.</p>	<p>We work locally with stakeholders, partners and community groups to deliver improvements to and economic benefits from access infrastructure. We work locally with stakeholders and local access authority partners to deliver coastal access rights.</p>
<p><b>Direction of Travel</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Our work is driven by the vision and priorities for engagement set out in NEWP Chapter 4 (Reconnecting People and Nature).</li> <li>In March 2012 we transferred all aspects of our Walking for Health programme (a community-led healthy walking scheme which reconnects people with their local environment) to a 'Big Society' alliance of the Ramblers and Macmillan Cancer Support. Our incubation of the scheme over five years involved support (in the form of insurance, training and accreditation) to nearly 12,000 trained volunteers and saw the number of active participants in health walks increase three-fold.</li> <li>Natural Connections is a partnership initiative designed to use volunteers to build local community capacity to support outdoor learning in natural environments, targeted at schools with little or no existing provision (often in deprived urban areas). We are in the process of establishing a major three-year demonstration project with a contracted lead partner in the South West of England.</li> <li>We are developing new minimum standards for engagement with the public and local communities across all of our NNRs and will support outreach programmes on those NNRs with the highest potential to engage new audiences. In keeping with substantial reform challenges, and in response to reductions in staffing levels, this work is being delivered increasingly in partnership with civil society organisations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Our work helps to deliver improved access to the countryside in line with NEWP Chapter 4 (Reconnecting People and Nature).</li> <li>We are working to improve access provision and the quality of our advice by integrating access outcomes into our wider work (eg land use planning and sustainable land management).</li> <li>By changing the way we do things, we have improved our efficiency in the delivery of our access responsibilities. For example, we have reduced the costs of delivering our statutory access duties by over £1m per annum and we have reduced the number of staff working on coastal access, whilst increasing the rate at which new rights will be opened.</li> <li>Through the National Trails review we are working closely with partners and stakeholders to agree the transition to a new management model which will maintain the standard and quality of England's 13 National Trails, whilst allowing more efficient, sustainable and locally driven management programmes.</li> <li>We have developed and are delivering the Paths for Communities grant scheme (with £2m funding under the Rural Development Programme for England) which will enable local community groups to create new or upgraded public rights of way to meet their local needs.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Drivers</b></p>	<p>Statutory powers and duties</p> <p>Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (Part 1: General Purpose and General Implementation Powers)</p> <p>Policy-driven programmes and tasks</p> <p>England Biodiversity Strategy (Outcome 4: people; Theme 2: putting people at the heart of biodiversity policy) Natural Environment White Paper (Chapter 4 Reconnecting People and Nature: commitments 54-81) Aarhus Convention (public participation in decision making)</p>	<p>Statutory powers and duties</p> <p>National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 (Part 4: Public Rights of Way and Long Distance Routes; Part 5: Access to Open Country) Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (Part 1: Right of Access) Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (Part 1: General Purpose and General Implementation Powers) Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (Part 9: Coastal Access Duty)</p> <p>Policy-driven programmes and tasks</p> <p>Natural Environment White Paper (Chapter 4 Reconnecting People and Nature: commitments 54-81) Defra Rights of Way Circular 1/09 (setting out guidance for local authorities) Rural Economy Growth Review and Rural Development Programme for England Axis 3 (Paths for Communities)</p>
<p><b>Government Departments Involved</b></p>	<p>Defra (sets overall policy context and outcomes) Department for Health (sets policy framework for health benefits of outdoor activity (cf Walking for Health)) Department for Education (sets policy framework for outdoor education) DCMS (sets policy linkages between environment and historic/cultural heritage)</p>	<p>Defra (sets overall policy context and outcomes) DCLG (sponsorship of Local Authority work on public rights of way network)</p>
<p><b>Customers</b></p>	<p>Farmers and other land managers Local authorities and related public body decision-makers General public and local communities</p>	<p>Local authorities and related public body decision-makers General public and local communities</p>

Line of Sight Level Two - Outcome Three: Sustainable use of the natural environment

<p><b>Corporate Plan Objective</b></p>	<p>3.1 Sustainable Land Use: land is used for social and economic development in a way that recognises, protects and enhances the value of the natural environment</p>	<p>3.2 Sustainable Land Management: land is used efficiently by competitive and productive businesses to deliver more environmental services, food, renewable energy and other benefits</p>
<p><b>Business Functions</b></p>	<p>Land Use Customer Services Local Partnerships and Integration Regulation</p>	<p>Land Management Customer Services Landscape and Biodiversity Regulation</p>
<p><b>Description of Work Area</b></p>	<p><u>Advice</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide timely statutory advice to local planning authorities and other decision-makers in response to consultations on development proposals affecting the natural environment (around 25,000 cases a year). Such advice ranges from generic standing advice to bespoke detailed technical guidance (negotiated directly with developers and local planning authorities) on the protection and enhancement of designated areas (Natura 2000 sites, SSSIs, National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty) in relation to development proposals affecting them.</li> <li>• Provide bespoke, targeted, outcome-focussed statutory advice to local planning authorities (and other competent authorities) in the development of their strategic plans, in order to protect habitats and species, landscape, and access and enjoyment opportunities, and to support delivery of new public benefits such as priority habitats under Biodiversity 2020. This includes advice on coastal programmes (such as Shoreline Management Plans) and freshwater-related programmes (such as water company Asset Management Plans), on central Government plans (such as National Policy Statements relating to nationally significant infrastructure proposals) and on the creation of 'green infrastructure' in major regeneration initiatives.</li> <li>• Work directly with Defra and local planning authorities in six areas to pilot the use of biodiversity offsetting as a tool to secure quantified compensation to address the biodiversity impacts of new development.</li> </ul> <p><u>Regulation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 2,500 wildlife licences a year for activities affecting protected species (under both European and domestic legislation) that would otherwise be an offence.</li> <li>• Administer the camping and caravanning exemption certification process.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Advice</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver advice and support to farmers on Entry Level Stewardship (and its variants) through contracts under the Environmental Training and Information Programme (ETIP).</li> <li>• Provide detailed local advice to farmers (and where appropriate capital grants) to reduce diffuse pollution from agriculture under the Catchment Sensitive Farming Programme (and Soils for Profit).</li> <li>• Provide advice and technical support to Defra to inform Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) reform negotiations and in the design, development and implementation of the next Rural Development Programme.</li> <li>• Advise HMRC (on behalf of Defra) on applications under the Inheritance Tax Exemption Scheme to secure public benefits from heritage landscapes, and undertake associated monitoring and inspections.</li> </ul> <p><u>Incentives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver agri-environment schemes and the Energy Crops Scheme. These include Entry Level Stewardship (ELS) and its variants, Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) and legacy schemes from earlier programmes (such as Countryside Stewardship).</li> <li>• Work with land management stakeholders and local partners to develop and maintain targeting statements and manage the application pipeline with customers to ensure a programme of high value-for-money agreements under HLS that deliver priority outcomes.</li> <li>• Integrate the delivery of HLS with other initiatives, in particular with partnerships receiving Lottery funding and with Water Companies as part of their Asset Management Plans.</li> <li>• Monitor and evaluate the operation and outcomes of the schemes and implement (in discussion with Defra and customers) changes to scheme design and options in order to improve efficiency and effectiveness.</li> </ul> <p><u>Regulation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regulate certain land management operations (including agricultural intensification of semi-natural or uncultivated land, grass and heather burning, overgrazing and supplementary feeding) and enforce remediation where environmental damage is caused to protected habitats and species.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Key Performance Indicators (agreed with Defra)</b></p>	<p>We ensure, through our advisory and regulatory roles, on land and at sea, that we help protect and enhance the natural environment so enabling sustainable development</p>	<p>We secure targeted outcomes through Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) We secure targeted outcomes through Entry Level Stewardship (ELS). We reduce the cost to those we regulate through the delivery of a regulatory improvement programme</p>
<p><b>Direction of Travel</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We are establishing a customer-focussed culture by listening and responding to customer feedback through surveys, feedback postcards, a high level Development Industry Group and Customer Panels. We work with customers to design solutions to the issues they raise. We are increasing our understanding of customers' needs by developing a programme of interchange with developers and by rolling out customer service training with staff.</li> <li>• We work increasingly with the Environment Agency and the Forestry Commission to deliver integrated advice through a 'single voice' model, for example: in the delivery of advice to Local Enterprise Partnerships to help them secure wider social and economic benefits from a healthy natural environment; in the development of joint guidance to developers to explain, in a single place, the respective roles of the three bodies in new development; and in piloting the appointment of Environmental Account Managers to provide a single point of contact for major developers.</li> <li>• We are piloting a new chargeable pre-application advice service to developers.</li> <li>• We are implementing a major organisational change programme to improve the way in which we deliver our statutory advice and regulatory roles, taking account of the 'better regulation' agenda and in particular the Penfold Review, Red Tape Challenge and Habitats Directive Implementation Review.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The detailed requirements for our work on agri-environment schemes (and related measures) is set out in the Rural Development Programme for England 2007-13. We have agreed with Defra a process for prioritising agreements based on outcomes and engaging potential customers for new agreements in order to give greater clarity and a longer lead in time to customers.</li> <li>• We have supplemented this with advice and training to help farmers choose the best ELS agreement and implement it effectively. The importance of direct contact with customers and follow up to assess and improve agreements through aftercare is fully recognised and designed in to our work.</li> <li>• We have worked closely with the farming industry to help deliver the Campaign for the Farmed Environment - an industry-led voluntary initiative to address the environmental impacts of the loss of set aside land.</li> <li>• We manage a programme of monitoring, evaluation and research projects jointly agreed with Defra, the Environment Agency and the Forestry Commission. We use this evidence to inform changes to the schemes to deliver better outcomes and support Defra in securing Commission approval for changes, most recently through the MESME project (Making Environmental Stewardship More Effective).</li> <li>• Currently, as we are coming to the end of this programme and preparing for the next, we are bringing this evidence and the lessons from the delivery of the current programme together to contribute to the process of developing the next programme and to manage the transition from the current programme.</li> <li>• We have worked closely with the Environment Agency and the Forestry Commission to develop a common understanding of the importance of agri-environment schemes for outcomes (under eg Water Framework Directive and the Strategy for England's Trees, Woods and Forests) and for a more sustainable farm sector and together we have contributed to Defra's work on farm advice and integrating advice, incentives and regulation to achieve a more sustainable food and farming system.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Drivers</b></p>	<p><b>Statutory powers and duties</b></p> <p>Public Health Act 1936 (Sec 269 - exemption certificates for campsites) Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960 (Sec 2 - exemption certificates for caravan sites) Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Part1: Wildlife; Part 2: Nature Conservation) The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010 (Schedule 5) Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (Part IV: Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty) Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (Part 1: General Purpose and General Implementation Powers) The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 Localism Act 2011 (Part 6: Planning) Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations 2011</p> <p><b>Policy-driven programmes and tasks</b></p> <p>Natural Environment White Paper (Chapter 2: Protecting and Improving our Natural Environment; Chapter 3: Growing a Green Economy) National Planning Policy Framework (Chapter 11: Conserving and enhancing the natural environment) National Infrastructure Plan (Chapter 6: Securing Efficient Delivery of Infrastructure)</p>	<p><b>Statutory powers and duties</b></p> <p>EU Rural Development Regulation 2005 and associated EU implementation rules Inheritance Tax Act 1984 (Part 2 – Exempt Transfers) Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) (England) (No.2) Regulations 2006 Heather and Grass etc. Burning (England) Regulations 2007 Environmental Damage (Prevention and Remediation) Regulations 2009 Agriculture (Cross Compliance) Regulations 2009</p> <p><b>Policy-driven programmes and tasks</b></p> <p>Rural Development Programme for England 2007-13 Natural Environment White Paper (Chapter 2: Protecting and Improving our Natural Environment) Water White Paper (Chapter 3: Protecting our Rivers) Defra Uplands Policy Review (Chapter 2: Supporting England's Hill Farmers; Chapter 3: Delivering Public Goods From The Uplands Environment)</p>
<p><b>Government Departments Involved</b></p>	<p>Defra (sets overall environmental policy context and outcomes) DCLG (sets National Planning Policy Framework and related policy and guidance) Dept for Business, Innovation and Skills (sets the Government's 'better regulation' agenda) DECC (sets overall policy for energy supply and transmission, renewable energy deployment and licensing regimes) Planning Inspectorate (an executive agency of DCLG responsible for planning appeals, examination of local plans and determination of applications for nationally significant infrastructure projects) Defra Major Infrastructure and Environment Unit (facilitates swift and proportionate resolution of Habitats and Wild Birds Directives issues for nationally significant infrastructure projects )</p>	<p>Defra (sets overall rural development programme and associated delivery regimes) DECC (sets renewable energy policy framework which underpins Energy Crops Scheme) Dept for Business, Innovation and Skills (sets the Government's 'better regulation' agenda) HM Revenue and Customs (responsible for policy and regulatory framework underpinning the Inheritance Tax Exemption Scheme) DCMS (sets policy linkages between environment and historic/cultural heritage)</p>
<p><b>Customers</b></p>	<p>Local authorities and related public body decision-makers Developers and their agents</p>	<p>Farmers and other land managers</p>

Line of Sight Level Two - Outcome Four: A secure environmental future

<b>Corporate Plan Objective</b>	4.1 National Evidence: we support Government and public bodies through the gathering of evidence and the provision of environmental data, information and advice	4.2 Local Evidence: we work with communities and individuals to gather relevant evidence on the natural environment and support them through the provision of environmental data, support and advice								
<b>Business Functions</b>	Evidence and Analysis Landscape and Biodiversity Access and Engagement Standards	Evidence and Analysis Access and Engagement Standards Local Partnerships and Integration								
<b>Description of Work Area</b>	<p><u>Advice</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain a comprehensive, robust and quality assured evidence base across all our business areas. This is developed through our own work and funding programmes and through external sources of evidence.</li> <li>• Establish and implement an Evidence Strategy to ensure evidence planning is integrated and rigorously prioritised across Natural England and with Defra and other government bodies.</li> <li>• Work with other Defra Arm's-Length Bodies, country agencies in Scotland and Wales, academic institutions and the funding councils to develop a common understanding of priorities for natural environment and related research</li> <li>• Establish and embed an Evidence Standard across all areas of the business to ensure our evidence work meets the highest standards of academic discipline and quality assurance.</li> <li>• Work in partnership, especially across the Defra network, to agree a common approach to evidence standards</li> <li>• Use evidence to deliver better outcomes (for the environment and for our customers and partners) through better targeted interventions through the Rural Development Programme for England, more effective statutory advice through the planning system, robust Marine Protected Area management measures and authoritative State of the Natural Environment reporting.</li> <li>• Nurture our specialist expertise (especially through our Heads of Profession) to ensure that all our advice and partnership working is informed by the best and most up-to-date evidence and to lead the development of innovative approaches in areas such as climate change adaptation and ecosystem services evaluation.</li> <li>• Encourage students from universities and colleges to undertake research and dissertation projects that have a beneficial impact on the natural environment. We support a number of PhDs examining crucial nature issues.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Advice</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work to make our evidence relevant and accessible locally and to take greater account of social evidence about community aspirations and engagement, in line with Government's civil society and localism agendas.</li> <li>• Work closely with local partners (including local records centres and voluntary organisations) and the National Biodiversity Network to provide an accessible system to enable the public to contribute new evidence on the natural environment.</li> <li>• Increase the use of geographical analysis of our data to enable easier access to data at a variety of scales to meet local as well as national needs.</li> <li>• Develop the natural environment evidence base on the National Nature Reserve estate, through monitoring, research and trialling innovative approaches to communication.</li> <li>• Lead the implementation of Defra's My Environment initiative, making environmental information more readily available (through a new web portal) to help people get involved in their local environment.</li> </ul>								
<b>Key Performance Indicators (agreed with Defra)</b>	We develop a comprehensive and robust evidence base in line with our evidence strategy, including our own research and major programmes to monitor the marine and terrestrial environments, whilst taking full account of relevant evidence from external sources. We work closely with partners in developing, strengthening and sharing our specialist capability to maximise confidence in our use of evidence. We embed the ecosystem approach and climate change response in our delivery, particularly on protected areas, Environmental Stewardship, England Biodiversity Strategy and the Natural Environment White Paper delivery.	We work closely with the Defra Chief Scientific Adviser and partners to deliver evidence and analysis to published quality standards that is accessible both nationally and to local communities, in order to facilitate transparent and evidence-based decision making at all levels.								
<b>Direction of Travel</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our marine evidence processes were the subject of a rigorous independent review under the Defra Chief Scientist in 2010 and we have made several changes in our evidence work overall in response to its findings, through:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the implementation of an Evidence Standard and Evidence Strategy</li> <li>- increased transparency and accessibility to our evidence, particularly through our website</li> <li>- greater joint working on evidence across the Defra network</li> <li>- commissioning independent expert reviews on high profile topics or where our decisions or advice are particularly contested.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• We are introducing new ways of working to ensure that we have a single organisational evidence programme targeted at our priority evidence needs and coordinated with the rest of the Defra network.</li> <li>• We are significantly enhancing our approach to specialist capability, both sustaining and developing our own specialist resource and sharing expertise across the Defra network.</li> <li>• We are responding to the Government's Habitats Directive Implementation Review (2012) by improving data quality and providing better access to it.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We are working to improve access to data via the National Biodiversity Network and the network of local environmental records centres</li> <li>• We are responding to the new localism agenda through by improving access to our evidence in an appropriate format and style to meet the needs of local communities</li> <li>• We are working with arm's-length bodies and civil society partners to develop a species surveillance programme with volunteer input at its core.</li> </ul>								
<b>Drivers</b>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td data-bbox="222 1396 460 1533">Statutory powers and duties</td> <td data-bbox="460 1396 1558 1533">Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (Part 1: General Purpose and General Implementation Powers)</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="222 1533 460 1648">Policy-driven programmes and tasks</td> <td data-bbox="460 1533 1558 1648">Natural Environment White Paper (Chapter 4 Reconnecting People and Nature: commitments 77-81 and Chapter 6 Monitoring and Recording Progress: commitments 87-92) England Biodiversity Strategy (Outcome 4: people; Theme 4: improving our knowledge) Office for National Statistics - Code of Practice</td> </tr> </table>	Statutory powers and duties	Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (Part 1: General Purpose and General Implementation Powers)	Policy-driven programmes and tasks	Natural Environment White Paper (Chapter 4 Reconnecting People and Nature: commitments 77-81 and Chapter 6 Monitoring and Recording Progress: commitments 87-92) England Biodiversity Strategy (Outcome 4: people; Theme 4: improving our knowledge) Office for National Statistics - Code of Practice	<table border="0"> <tr> <td data-bbox="1558 1396 1795 1533">Statutory powers and duties</td> <td data-bbox="1795 1396 2902 1533">National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act (Part III - NNRs) Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (Part 1: General Purpose and General Implementation Powers) Localism Act 2011 and associated DCLG Guidance</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1558 1533 1795 1648">Policy-driven programmes and tasks</td> <td data-bbox="1795 1533 2902 1648">Natural Environment White Paper (Chapter 4 Reconnecting People and Nature: commitments 77-81 and Chapter 6 Monitoring and Recording Progress: commitments 87-92) England Biodiversity Strategy (Outcome 4: people; Theme 4: improving our knowledge)</td> </tr> </table>	Statutory powers and duties	National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act (Part III - NNRs) Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (Part 1: General Purpose and General Implementation Powers) Localism Act 2011 and associated DCLG Guidance	Policy-driven programmes and tasks	Natural Environment White Paper (Chapter 4 Reconnecting People and Nature: commitments 77-81 and Chapter 6 Monitoring and Recording Progress: commitments 87-92) England Biodiversity Strategy (Outcome 4: people; Theme 4: improving our knowledge)
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<b>Government Departments Involved</b>	Defra (sets overall environmental policy context and outcomes) Government Office for Science (sets policy and guidelines to ensure the provision of quality scientific advice to Government and to support evidence based policy-making) Office for National Statistics (sets the professional standards for the production and quality of national statistical data)	Defra (sets overall environmental policy context and outcomes) Government Office for Science (sets policy and guidelines to ensure the provision of quality scientific advice to Government and to support evidence based policy-making)								
<b>Customers</b>	Local authorities and related public body decision-makers	Local authorities and related public body decision-makers Developers and their agents General public and local communities								