

Key facts and data background information

Updated: 4 November 2014

The following document is intended to clarify which datasets and analysis fed into the construction of the key facts and data reports for each National Character Area (National Character Area).

The sections listed below cover all references provided as 'Natural England' in both the key facts and data section and the main NCA profile.

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1. Landscape and nature conservation designations

Origin of figures: Data included in profiles was provided to Natural England by Land Use Consultants (LUC) in 2010.

GIS datasets used: Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty; National Parks, NCAs (2010).

Analysis: Datasets (above) cut by LUC to NCA boundaries via GIS query.

Notes on interpretation and use:

- designated site boundaries are cut to NCA boundaries and therefore include only the area of designation that overlaps with the mapped NCA area. In some cases this is known to provide misleading results. For example, where designated landscape boundaries include estuaries or similar elements or areas below the mean high water line these will not be included in the hectare figures (despite the designated landscape falling in no other NCA)
- greenbelt areas are not included
- changes to designated landscape boundaries since 2010 have not been included in the national analysis, but corrections may have been added as footnotes by local authors where applicable

1.1 Designated nature conservation sites

Origin of figures: Analysis was performed by Natural England Analysis Team (2011).

GIS datasets used: SAC, SSSI, SPA, NNR, SSSI, Ramsar; NCA boundaries (2011), local site boundaries (dataset created by NE for Lawton Report Analysis) (2010).

Analysis: Datasets (above) cut to NCA boundaries, via GIS query.

Notes on interpretation and use:

- SSSI figures are inclusive of geological SSSI
- designations may overlap
- full lists of SSSI (by name) by NCA are available from NE on request

Reference to local sites includes data provided by Natural England for the Lawton 'Making Space for Nature' report. The definition of local sites included is provided on p26 of the report. The data was compiled by Natural England from Local Record Centres in May 2010. The data is 'indicative', not 'definitive', and should only be used as a guide to the location of Local Wildlife Sites. It includes sites which have not gone through formal public consultation so the location of some may be questionable. A few NCAs are missing data due to there being no data in existence for that area. Where data does exist it is included. All definitive records are held by Local Record Centres.

1.1.1 Condition of sites

Origin: Analysis was performed by Natural England analysts (2011).

Datasets used: ENSIS (Natural England SSSI information system), NCA boundaries (2011).

Analysis: SSSI Unit condition (derived from ENSIS) was cut by NCA via GIS query.

Notes on interpretation and use:

- method of analysis used to generate SSSI figures differ slightly from section 1.1 therefore figures may differ from total for SSSI shown in section 1.1
- figures relate to data taken from the ENSIS system in March 2011. For the latest information on individual sites visit ENSIS using the links available in the profile
- figures include geological and mixed interest SSSI within analysis

2. Landform, geology and soils

2.1 Elevation

Origin: Analysis was commissioned by Natural England and performed by Land Use Consultants (LUC) in 2010.

GIS data sets used: Topography (OS Profile).

Analysis: Dataset (above) cut to NCA boundaries via GIS query.

Notes on interpretation and use:

- minimum and maximum figures are taken as an averages across 100m grids and therefore may round down highest points and round up lowest points
- for the reason above figures may differ slightly from other published low and high points

2.2 Landform and process

No further information required.

2.3 Bedrock geology

Origin: Analysis was commissioned by Natural England and performed by Land Use Consultants (LUC) in 2010.

GIS datasets used: Bedrock 50k (provided by BGS).

Analysis: Dataset (above) cut to NCA boundaries via GIS query.

Notes on interpretation and use:

- analysis used to provide numeric figures on bedrock area within NCA/ percentage coverage only (other information sources to provide additional narrative are listed in individual profiles)

2.4 Superficial deposits

Origin: Analysis was commissioned by Natural England and performed by Land Use Consultants (LUC) in 2010.

GIS datasets used: Superficial 50k (provided by BGS).

Analysis: Dataset (above) cut to NCA boundaries via GIS query.

Notes on interpretation and use:

- analysis used to provide figures on superficial deposit areas in NCA/ percentage coverage only (other information sources used to provide additional narrative are listed in individual profiles)

2.5 Designated geological sites

Origin: Analysis was commissioned by Natural England and performed by Natural England Geodiversity Team.

Datasets used: Geological site database (held by Natural England's Technical Advice and Designations Unit). Local site boundaries (dataset created by Natural England for Lawton Report analysis). Local Geological Site database (Natural England, 2009).

Analysis: Datasets (above) cut to NCA boundaries via GIS query.

Notes on interpretation and use:

- designated geological sites represent a subset of the total SSSI areas provided in Section 1
- local sites included relate to local sites submitted to NE (by local geological groups) in 2009 as part of an audit of local geological sites. Boundaries to sites are currently being quality assured. This process may lead to a change in NCA attribution for some sites

2.6 Soils and Agricultural Land Classification

Origin: Data shown in the report was provided to Natural England by Land Use Consultants (LUC) in 2010.

Datasets used: Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) provided by Defra 2010.

Analysis: Dataset (above) cut to NCA boundaries via GIS query.

Notes on interpretation and use:

- ALC maps were provided to assist authors describe the location of ALC grades
- ALC where hectare and percentage figures do not add up to the total area for the NCA the remaining area is classed as 'unclassified'
- definitions for each grade of ALC land are provided below. More information is provided by [Defra](#):
 - Grade 1 - excellent quality agricultural land - land with no or very minor limitations to agricultural use. A very wide range of agricultural and horticultural crops can be grown and commonly includes top fruit, soft fruit, salad crops and winter harvested vegetables. Yields are high and less variable than on land of lower quality.
 - Grade 2 - very good quality agricultural land - land with minor limitations that affect crop yield, cultivations or harvesting. A wide range of agricultural and horticultural crops can usually be grown but on some land in the grade there may be reduced flexibility due to difficulties with the production of the more demanding crops such as winter harvested vegetables and arable root crops. The level of yield is generally high but may be lower or more variable than Grade 1.
 - Grade 3 - good to moderate quality agricultural land - land with moderate limitations that affect the choice of crops, timing and type of cultivation, harvesting or the level of yield. Where more demanding crops are grown yields are generally lower or more variable than on land in Grades 1 and 2.

- Grade 4 - poor quality agricultural land - land with severe limitations that significantly restrict the range of crops and/or level of yields. It is mainly suited to grass with occasional arable crops, for example, cereals and forage crops, the yields of which are variable. In moist climates yields of grass may be moderate to high but there may be difficulties in utilisation. The grade also includes very droughty arable land.
- Grade 5 - very poor quality agricultural land - land with very severe limitations that restrict use to permanent pasture or rough grazing, except for occasional pioneer forage crops.

3. Key waterbodies and catchments

3.1 Major rivers/canals

Origin: Analysis was commissioned by Natural England and performed by Land Use Consultants (LUC) in 2010.

Datasets used: OS River Data.

Analysis: Dataset (above) cut to NCA boundaries via GIS query.

Notes on interpretation and use:

- data does not include reservoirs
- data does not include all rivers, only major rivers are included
- where small sections of large rivers pass through the NCA these may have been excluded
- tidal stretches of rivers may be omitted where they do not overlap with NCA boundaries

3.2 Water quality

Origin: Analysis was commissioned by Natural England and performed by Land Use Consultants (LUC) in 2010.

Datasets used: Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (NVZ) data (2010).

Analysis: Datasets (above) cut to NCA boundaries via GIS query.

Notes on interpretation and use:

- data relates to 2010 NVZ areas and may have changed, if the latest information is needed please contact the Environment Agency directly
- more information on [Nitrate Vulnerable Zones \(NVZs\)](#) can be found on the Environment Agency website

4. Trees and woodland

4.1 Total woodland cover

Origin: Analysis carried out jointly by Natural England and Forestry Commission as part of National Forest Inventory and Woodland Potential Calculator in 2011. Ancient Woodland Figures were provided by Natural England (English Nature) analysts in 2004.

GIS datasets used: [National Forest Inventory \(NFI\), \(2011\)](#).

Analysis: Datasets (above) cut to NCA boundaries via GIS query.

4.2 Distribution and size of woodland and trees in the landscape

No further information required.

4.3 Woodland types

Origin: Analysis of the National Forest Inventory via the Woodland Potential Calculator of woodland types was carried out by Natural England in 2012.

Datasets Used: National Forest Inventory (NFI), 2011.

Analysis: Datasets (above) cut to NCA boundaries via GIS query.

5. Boundary features and patterns

No further information required.

6. Agriculture

6.1 Farm type

6.2 Farm size

6.3 Farm ownership

6.4 Land use

6.5 Livestock numbers

6.6 Farm labour

Origin: Analysis was provided to Natural England by the Defra Sustainable Land Management and Livestock Farming Analysis and Evidence Division, 2010. The figures included do not relate to the 2012 inventory. Inventory figures for 2010 were released after the Defra NCA analysis was commissioned.

Datasets used: Agricultural Census 2000 and 2009.

Analysis: Datasets (above) cut to NCA boundaries via GIS query.

Notes on interpretation and use:

- since publication the Agricultural Census data 2010 has been published by Defra. This contains full survey information and corrects errors caused by part-sample based analysis used to derive the 2009 figures shown in the key facts and data document.
- analysis included in the document relates to data as provided by Defra. Due to the method of analysis the figures, for example for livestock, may provide a misleading level accuracy.

7. Key habitats and species

7.1 Habitat distribution/coverage

No further information required.

7.2 Priority habitats

Origin: Analysis was performed by Natural England Analysis Team (2011).

Datasets used: UK BAP Habitat Inventories: Blanket bog v2.1; Coastal flood plain and grazing marsh v1; Coastal vegetated shingle v1; Coastal sand dunes v1; Fens v1.2; Lowland calcareous grassland v2.01; Lowland dry acid grassland v2; Lowland heathland v1.2; Lowland meadows v2.1; Lowland raised bog v1.2. Maritime cliff and slope v2. Mudflats v1.2; Purple moor grass and rush pasture v2; Reedbeds v1.2; Saline lagoons v1.1; Upland calcareous grassland v1; Upland hay meadows v2.1; Upland heathland v2.1; NCA boundaries.

Analysis: Datasets (above) cut to NCA boundaries via GIS query.

Notes on interpretation and use:

- data relates to national habitat inventories only. It therefore omits the following priority habitats: arable field margins, traditional orchards, hedgerows, rivers, upland flushes, fens and swamps, upland cliff and scree, wood pasture and parkland, brownfield and ponds – where available local estimates of extent have been provided.
- data is based on the mapped boundaries of inventories where the inventory polygons are present but unmappable. This is known to create particular issues with fen and reedbed inventories.
- data includes all inventory attributes and therefore includes information in which our confidence in the quality of data is poor – see metadata for each inventory
- the individual inventories are available to download, along with full metadata, from the [Natural England GIS website](#)

- broad habitat data has been included for woodland on the advice of Natural England woodland specialists in preference to individual BAP habitat inventories which were deemed unreliable. This data was provided via a prior analysis commissioned by the former UK BAP Habitat Action Group.

8. Settlement and development patterns

8.1 Settlement patterns

No further information required.

8.2 Main settlements

Origin: Analysis was performed by Natural England Analysis Team (2011).

Datasets used: 2001 Census Data (ONS), NCA boundaries (2011).

Analysis: Datasets (above) cut to NCA boundaries via GIS query.

Notes on interpretation and use:

- figures are indicative only. Census data from 2001 is now a decade out of date.

9. Key historic sites and features

9.1 Origin of historic features

No further information required.

9.2 Designated historic assets

Origin: Analysis was commissioned Natural England by and performed by Land Use Consultants (LUC) in 2010.

Datasets used: Register of Historic Battlefields; Record of Scheduled Monuments; Register of Historic Parks and Gardens; World Heritage Sites (2010).

Analysis: Datasets (above) cut to NCA boundaries, via GIS query.

Notes on interpretation and use:

- more information on the [Register of Historic Battlefields](#), [Scheduled Monuments](#) and the [Register of Historic Parks and Gardens](#) is available from English Heritage

- more information on [World Heritage Sites](#) is available from UNESCO

10. Recreation and access

10.1 Public access

Origin: Analysis was commissioned by Natural England and performed by Natural England Analysts.

Datasets used: National Trust Land (Natural England 2010); Common Land (Natural England 2010); Country Parks (Natural England 2010), Village Greens (Natural England 2010); Doorstep Green (Natural England 2010); FC Walkers Grants (Natural England 2010); LNR (Natural England 2010); Millennium Greens (Natural England 2010); Agri-Environment Access (Natural England 2010); Woods for People (2010).

Analysis: Dataset (above) cut to NCA boundaries via GIS query.

Notes on interpretation and use:

- 201 Doorstep Greens exist. They are permanent areas of public green space close to people's homes in disadvantaged areas where regeneration of the local environment is crucial. Local communities were actively engaged in their design and creation. The sites were set up between 2001 and 2003 with advice from the Countryside Agency (now Natural England) and funding from The Big Lottery Fund. Each Green is now managed by its own charitable trust who fundraise for and maintain each space in perpetuity.
- more information on [Local Nature Reserves](#)
- more information on [common land and village greens](#)
- more information on [Woods for People](#) is available from the Woodland Trust

11. Experiential qualities

11.1 Tranquillity

Origin: Analysis was commissioned by Natural England and performed by Land Use Consultants (LUC) in 2010.

Datasets used: CPRE Tranquillity Data (provided by CPRE 2010).

Analysis: Datasets (above) cut to NCA boundaries via GIS query.

Notes on interpretation and use:

- more information on [tranquillity and how it was mapped](#) is available on the CPRE website

11.2 Intrusion

Origin: Analysis was commissioned by Natural England and performed by Land Use Consultants (LUC) in 2010.

Datasets used: Intrusion 1960; Intrusion 1990; Intrusion 2007 (provided by CRPE 2010).

Analysis: Datasets (above) cut to NCA boundaries, via GIS query.

Notes on interpretation and use:

- where hectare/percentage figures do not add up to the total area for the NCA the remaining area is classed as 'unclassified'
- more information on [intrusion](#) can be found on the CPRE website