



The natural capital of floodplains

VALUING NATURE PROGRAMME - BUSINESS IMPACT
CONFERENCE

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VALUING
NATURE



The Open
University

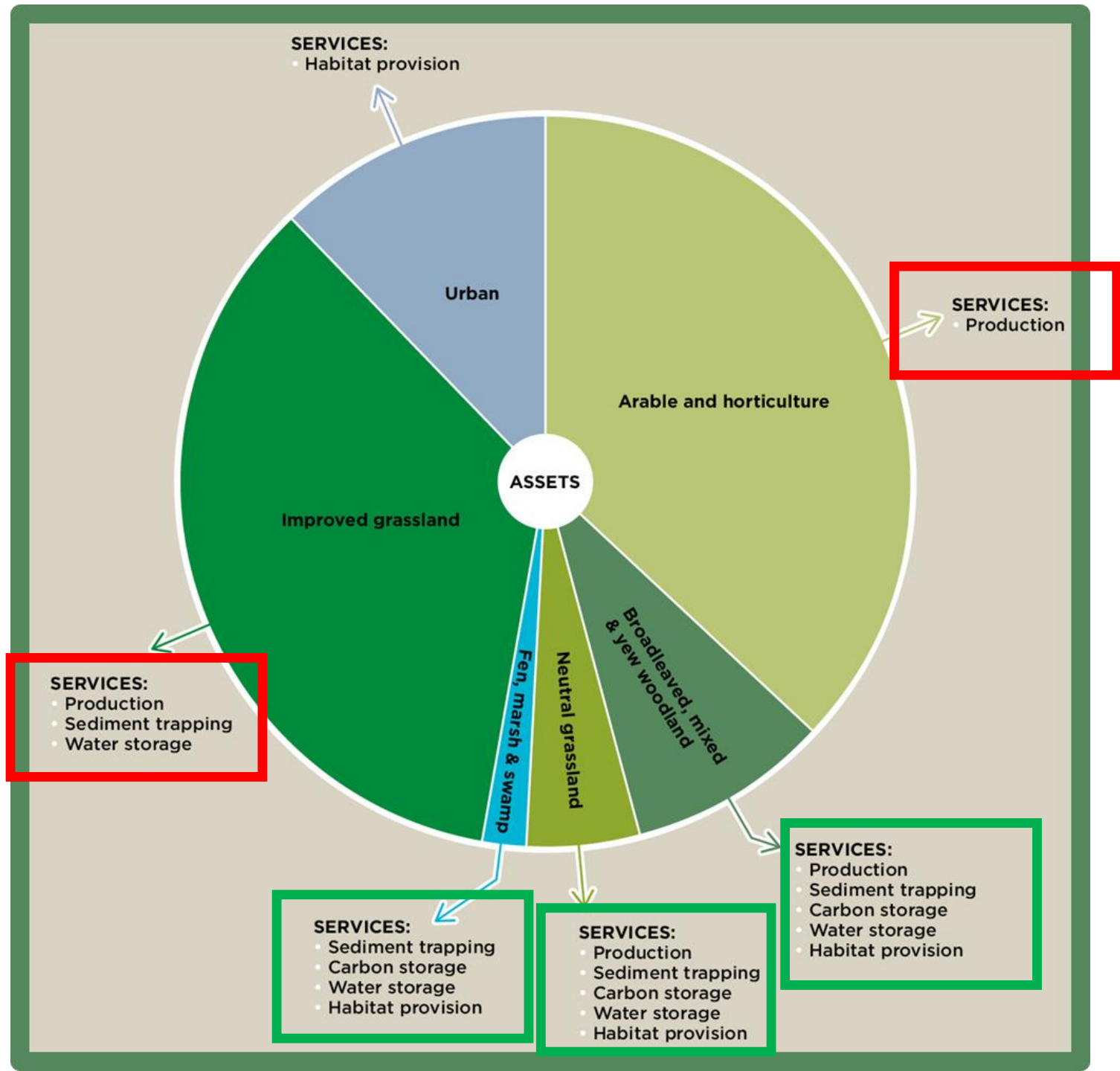


70 % English and Welsh floodplains - intensive agriculture

11 % - semi natural habitats

42 % - rivers no longer connected to floodplains





Commercial farm

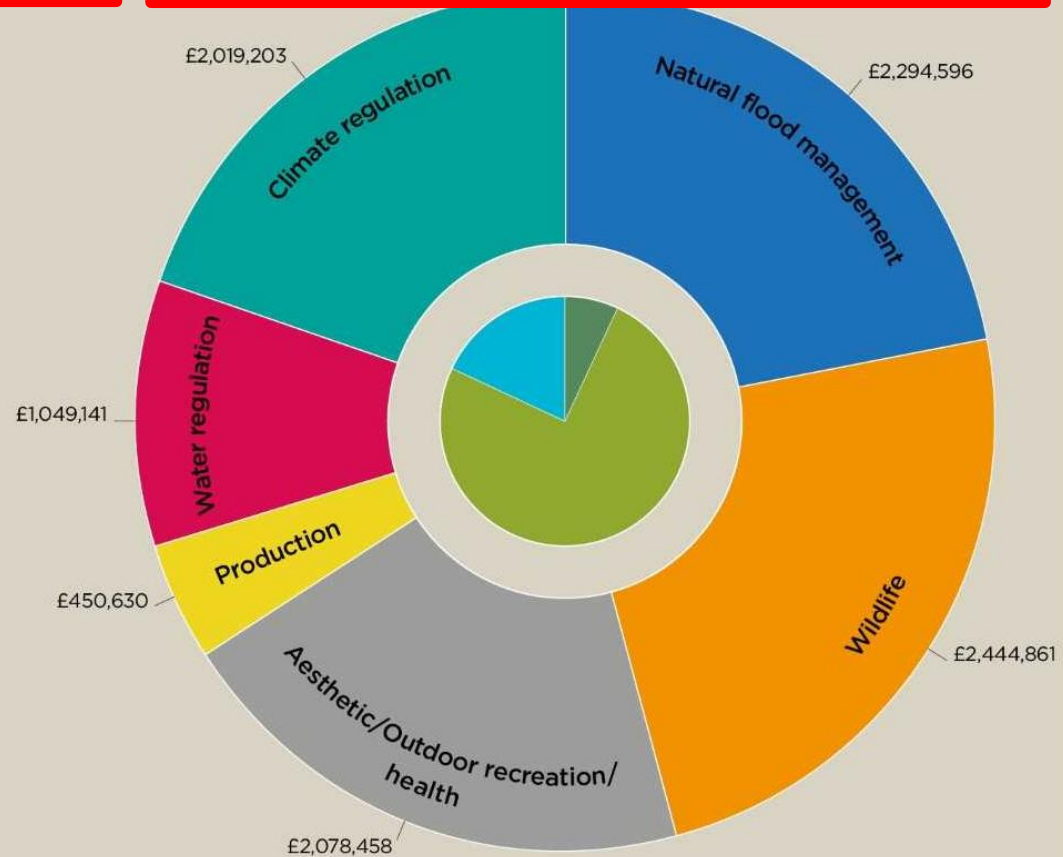
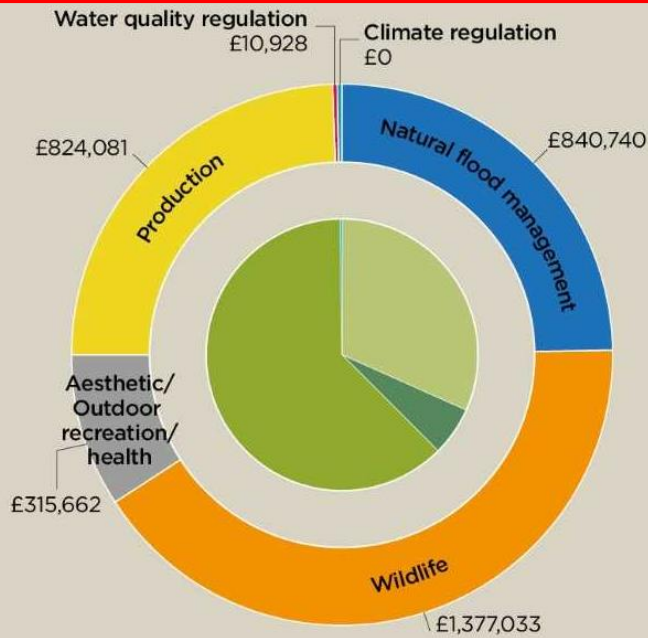
£1.2m

30 years

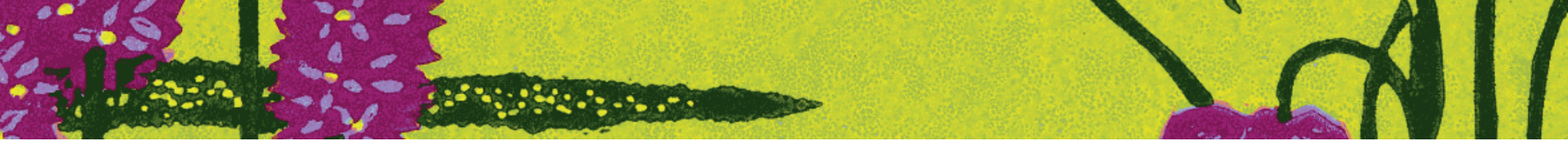
Nature Reserve

£8.2m

30 years



- Arable and horticulture
- Broadleaved, mixed & yew woodland
- Neutral grassland
- Fen, marsh & swamp

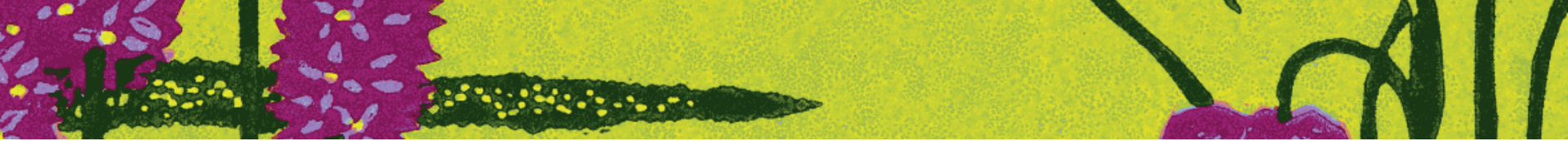


Soil carbon

Broad Habitat	Mean C density (t ha ⁻¹)
Arable & horticultural	47.3*
Improved grassland	67.2*
Neutral grassland	68.7*
Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland	73.0*
Fen, marsh & swamp	82.8*
Coniferous woodland	89.8*
Floodplain meadow	109.4**

*Mean carbon density data from the Countryside Survey 2007 reported in Chamberlain *et al.*, 2010

** Unpublished data, Gowing and Lawson. Open University



Future collaborative research

- Effectiveness of floodplain restoration in **reducing flood risk** and **maximising carbon storage**.
- Evidence and data for the **Insurance industry**
- Ecological and biogeochemical **processes**.
- Valuing **species rich** habitats

