

Research & Innovation needs of the Infrastructure sector

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Establish current activity to measure and value nature in the sector

(e.g. how to apply corporate natural capital accounting, and how to define and deliver 'net gain' for infrastructure projects), the direction of travel in this respect, and the related knowledge needs;

Extent to which knowledge needs are supported by existing R&I

how can uptake be accelerated (e.g. through collaborative working between the research and business communities, filling knowledge gaps)

What further R&I investment is needed to support the sector in measuring and valuing nature

What role the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), or other funders, may have in supporting that.

Current activity and challenges

- A wide range of activity and action across the sector
- Range of focus, Biodiversity Green Infrastructure, BNG, Natural Capital
- A range in scale of application
- A wide range of drivers
 - SDGs
 - Environment Bill
 - TCFD
 - NetZero commitments
 - Corporate commitments
 - Regulatory drivers

Barriers

- Regulatory uncertainty
- Regulatory constraints
- Absence of consistent standards
- Lack of integrated approaches
- Data availability issues, coverage completeness, thresholds
- Compensatory approaches and trade-offs
- Making a robust business case
- In house capacity and competency

Key Findings

New Research & Innovation needs	Detailed requirements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of new knowledge 	<p>NCA, Risks of monetising, Ecosystem trade offs, integration of BNG, Green Infrastructure, Social Capital</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of frameworks, standards, guidance and tools 	<p>Data, Common valuation currency, synthesis of toolkits, common definition and terms</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Innovation and scaling actions 	<p>how to accelerate uptake by business of natural asset considerations in decision-making, peer-to-peer learning across sectors , catchment management for natural assets to scale</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Making the case for natural assets within business 	<p>how biodiversity and ecosystems can be recognised by business as a ‘material’ issue. value of natural assets for business resilience in the face of climate change</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research on financing business projects/ innovations related to natural assets 	<p>Research on the bankability of projects/ innovations that create/restore natural assets, Research on how best to deploy finance for investment in natural assets</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training and capacity-building 	<p>Investment in new research and innovation skill sets,</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dissemination and communication 	<p>Development of a knowledge hub Research on what might shift public opinion in favour of measuring and valuing (and trading?) natural assets</p>

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