



VALUING NATURE

**The natural capital of
floodplains as a function of
land use.**

A Natural Capital Synthesis Report and
briefing paper

Background

- Floodplains cover between 0.4-1.4% of global land surface. Estimates suggest they provide 20-25% of global ecosystem services.
- In England, floodplains cover 5% of land area.
- 65% of the floodplain area in England is arable, horticulture and intensively grazed land, compared with 3% neutral grassland and 6% broadleaved woodland.
- Land uses with greatest natural capital are currently underrepresented.



A Literature review

Goods and services provided by floodplains, (including less tangible benefits such as cultural services)

Particular focus on key services considered at risk in NEA:

- Carbon storage
- Clean water (sediment trapping, nutrient capture)
- Hazard protection (Natural Flood Management)
- Wildlife



Key questions

- How does service provision relate to land use?
- Where are the gaps in the evidence required to guide sustainable use of floodplains?
- To what extent do management decisions influence the delivery of particular ecosystem services; which are most critical?
- What conflicts and synergies exist between different services e.g. carbon storage and biodiversity.



Method and timetable

- **A systematic literature review summarising available evidence**
(5 days - 5th-23rd Feb, including visiting Forest Research to explore evidence and data on floodplain woodlands - 1 day week beg. 26th Feb)
- **A matrix to assist the decision-making process on different floodplain types** (2.5 days - 19th-27th Feb)
- **A briefing paper for policymakers which distils the key findings**
(2 days - 27th Feb-12th March)
- **Liaise with FMP Steering Group about key elements for inclusion in a briefing paper** (1 day late February)
- **Consult with external partners e.g. SG/FR** (2 days 13th -23rd March)
- **Amend draft** (2 days 23rd - 28th March)
- **Completed report, matrix and briefing paper produced by 31st March 2018.**

User engagement – target audience

- UK Government – highlight the disproportional benefits from floodplains and influence post Brexit agri-environment discussions.
- Statutory agencies responsible for land-management decisions (NE, EA)
- NGO's responsible for land-management decisions and actively engaged in influencing Government (Wildlife Trusts, National Trust, RSPB).



User engagement - uptake

- Floodplain Meadows Partnership SG identified the need for this work in 2017.
- SG consulted on the briefing paper content (and before publication)
- Additional engagement with Forest Research (not currently on SG for FMP)
- Floodplainmeadows.com, newsletters, Facebook, Twitter, future FMP conferences and training courses
- FMP currently expanding to engage Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland more directly (related workshop planned in Wales June 2018 with NRW and meeting with SNH July 2018).

Floodplain Meadows Partnership

