

# Sea The Value: Training notes

## CPN WS1 – Understanding different types of value

### *Natural Capital Accounts Scoping Exercise*

July 2024

#### **Objectives**

The intention of this exercise is to encourage participants to think about different aspects of natural capital and their value. Note that “value” in this exercise is considered from a human-centric ‘economic welfare’ sense, not its measurement is not limited to £ values.

#### **Outputs**

A matrix which tabulates the most important features and benefits from a natural area of their choosing.

#### **Uses**

The exercises helps participants run through a process of starting to develop, or conceptualise, a natural capital account. A full natural capital accounting process involves the development of an asset register, physical or monetary accounts, and values of assets and liabilities<sup>1</sup>.

### *Exercise steps*

#### **1. Draw a simple sketch of your natural area**

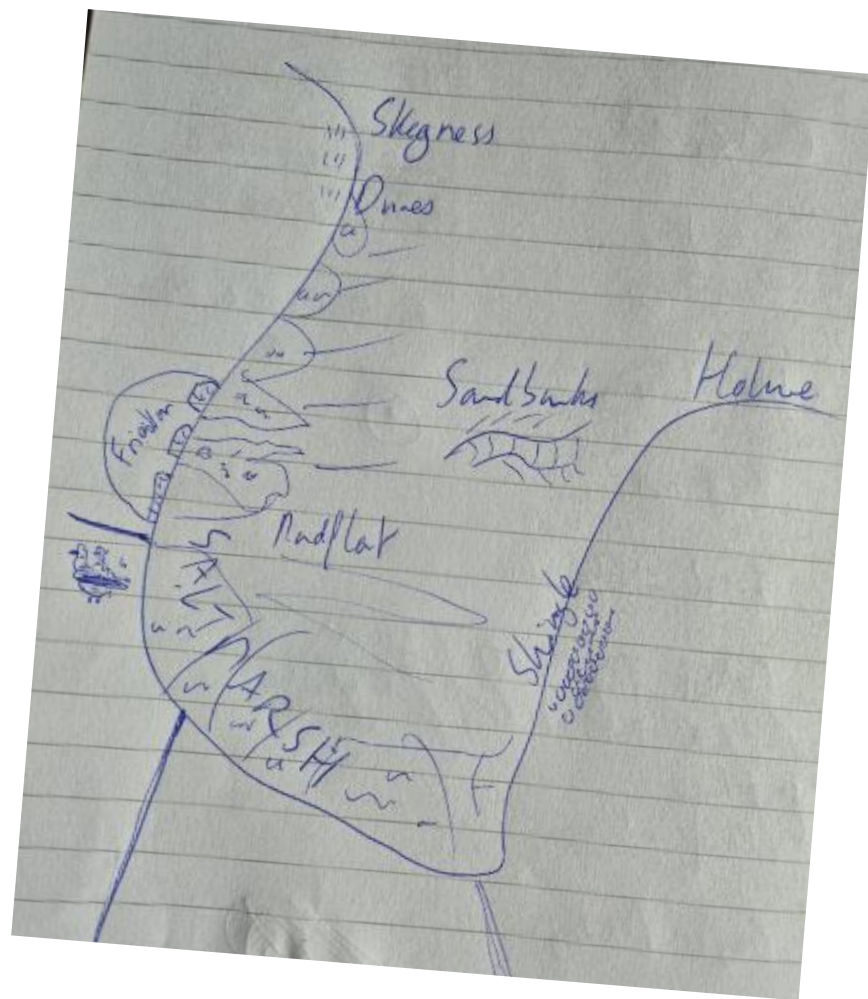
This is not intended to be a work of art; a scribble is sufficient. The sketch is a prompt for participants to think about the natural features that exist in their chosen area. This thought process will be used to describe the important benefits in the area from each feature. An example sketch is shown in Figure 1.

If questions like “should I include...” arise, the answer should generally be yes. More information is likely to be better, but the emphasis is on better representation or thought around the natural features, rather than the beauty of the picture!

Encourage respondents to use colours if they have them and there is time. This will make it easier to interpret the sketch and the thought process later.

<sup>1</sup> [BS 8632:2021 | 30 Jun 2021 | BSI Knowledge \(bsigroup.com\)](#)

Names of different areas and landmarks are also encouraged. Any commentary around their association with the area is also beneficial, since this is likely to help in later linking between the features drawn and the benefits from the area, and reflects the cultural importance of natural features in the area.



**Figure 1. Example Account Scoping Map.**

## 2. Asset-service account scoping matrix

### Edit features and benefits

The asset service matrix is a simplified representation of how you can link natural features to benefits. An example is shown below. The intention is to give participants a starting point and not a full list.

Prompt respondents to edit the benefits and features to reflect the area sketched. Show respondents how to add more detail i.e., add an additional row or column for a benefit or natural feature, respectively.

Participants do not need to include the size of area (e.g., hectares) dedicated to each feature, although additional columns/rows can be added if it is useful for them to quantify and represent in the matrix.

Encourage the participants to focus first on updating the features list, and then moving onto the benefits list. The priority tagging should come later.

Any level of granularity is acceptable for the participant. Encourage a balance between:

- *less detail which makes the exercise simple but still meaningful, and*
- *more detail which encompasses greater complexity but more insight.*

The example in Figure 2 (below) corresponds to the sketch map shown in Figure 1. Some edits are highlighted. The solid grey shows a habitat (Sandbanks) and benefits (sapphire harvesting and tourism) that have been added in. The hatching shows a benefit (seaweed harvest) and two habitats (Kelp and Maerl) that are not relevant to the area.

## Complete table for priorities

Now prompt participants to complete the matrix to identify the priority benefits (i.e. the most important or valuable to society). The matrix can be marked according to the priority/data key at the bottom of the page. Use an example to illustrate what each of the keys mean.

When identifying priorities, the interest should be in overall value (in whatever typology necessary) to society. This can be broadly understood as which aspects are most influential or make the difference for decision making around management in that area. An example matrix is shown in Figure 3.

Specific aspects to prompt/consider may include:

- *The scale of the benefit – to help determine this think about both:*
  - *The Extent (or size) of area providing the benefit*
  - *The importance of the benefits for people*
- *Where there are different people who benefit, who are they and how do they benefit?*
- *Data availability and access to stakeholders who hold this data/other knowledge*

Natural capital accounts record both physical measurements (e.g., tCO<sub>2</sub>e carbon sequestration from a given feature), and monetary values (e.g., value of commercial fish landings), where available.

This exercise combines thinking about state of the environment, economics, and ecosystem services. All participants will have done that in their own way through the session and the prompts above.

## Conclusion

As a conclusion from this exercise, participants may wish to list and think about:

- *What the sources of information for their account would be*
- *Partner organisations and people who would be able to provide expert input and/or supporting information*
- *The level of resources available and required to collate evidence in this format. What evidence is proportionate and important to decision making? What evidence would be great but currently not readily available in a cost-effective way?*

Benefits to people		Natural features													
		Coastal/intertidal						Subtidal							
		Beach	Coastal shingle	Reedbeds	Mud	Saltmarsh	Other (please insert)	Seagrass	Sandbanks	Mussel beds	Subtidal sediments	Oyster reefs	Kelp beds	Maerl beds	Other (please insert)
Products from nature	Wild caught fish and shellfish														
	Farmed fish and shellfish														
	Seaweed														
	Other materials (e.g., ornaments)														
	Samphire														
Regulating function	Other (please insert here)														
	Carbon sequestration														
	Reducing sediment movement														
	Coastal protection														
	Removing nutrients														
Other benefits	Other (please insert here)														
	Aesthetics														
	Education														
	Recreation														
	Tourism														
Other benefits	Biodiversity conservation														
	Other (please insert here)														

**Figure 2. Example natural capital account scoping matrix.**

Benefits to people		Natural features																				
		Coastal/intertidal							Subtidal				Other (please insert here)									
		Beach	Coastal shingle	Reedbeds	Mud	Saltmarsh	Seagrass	Sandbanks	Mussel beds	Subtidal sediments	Oyster reefs											
Products from nature	Wild caught fish and shellfish																					
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	Recreation																					
	Tourism																					
	Biodiversity conservation																					
Other (please insert here)																						
Key																						
Description																						

**Figure 3. Example of completed account scoping matrix.**