

Chapter 6: Cultural Historic Heritage

In Derbyshire it is recognised that heritage assets may contribute to, constrain or influence the delivery of natural capital projects, and decision making seeks to ensure the appropriate protection and enhancement of heritage assets as well as natural capital.

The natural capital of a heritage asset may be an integral element of the asset whilst at the same time allowing for/facilitating the provision of ecosystem services. For example, woodland within a Registered Park and Garden holds natural capital but in terms of heritage significance illustrates a design intention important to an understanding of the designed landscape of the park. Any natural capital projects affecting the woodland would need to consider the effect on significance of the park.

Furthermore, outside the footprint of a heritage asset, a woodland or other natural capital stock which includes important habitat types/natural capital resources may be an important element of setting contributing towards the significance of a heritage asset. Change to these resources could adversely or positively affect a heritage asset and its ecosystem services through 'setting' change.

This association between heritage assets and habitat, while largely coincidental, therefore means that natural capital change could affect heritage assets and/or ecosystem services. Due to overlaps between natural and heritage capitals, plus the lack of market values attributable to certain cultural services, sub-optimal decisions can be made around 'capital maintenance' and indeed valuable assets are often implicitly given zero value and overlooked.

Decision making related to the maintenance and enhancement of natural capital should therefore consider the effect of proposals on designated heritage assets, whether this be proposals within the footprints of designated heritage assets or within the 'setting' of those assets; natural capital gain should be sympathetic/beneficial to heritage assets, wherever possible, and to the ecosystem services which they provide. Natural capital and ecosystem services that derive from heritage assets should be considered concurrently wherever this is appropriate to do so.

Whilst designated status is not necessarily an indication of the potential for natural capital and the provision of ecosystem services, it can be a useful starting point to enable the natural capital of heritage assets to be considered. The designated heritage assets present within the non-urban areas of Derbyshire include:

- World Heritage Sites;
- Scheduled Monuments;
- Grade I and II* Listed Buildings;
- Registered Parks and Gardens (RPGs); and
- Registered Battlefields.

Urban areas are excluded due to their more limited potential for natural capital projects in comparison to non-urban areas. Grade II Listed Buildings are excluded due to the size of the Grade II dataset and the relative significance of these assets, albeit the general principles presented with respect to Grade I and II* Listed Buildings would still apply to Grade II Listed Buildings.

To assist in the understanding of the ecosystem services that a heritage asset may hold, the potential ecosystem services discussed in this section are those provided in Enabling a



Natural Capital Approach.²⁶ These include 'cultural services' which recognises the importance of intangible services such as the sense of public wellbeing that can derive from appreciation of artistic expression, spiritual fulfilment, sense of place and community and educational resources inherent to certain heritage assets.

Assets are principally described by their designated status. However, where specific sub-types of assets require particular focus, or where there are nuances associated with their natural capital context, this is highlighted.

A dataset on cultural heritage has been collated and analysed and conclusions drawn for purposes of preliminary review and discussion, in order to assist in the longer-term development of a methodology that can be applied to specific heritage assets. It informs the natural capital strategy but does not consider the detailed effect of natural capital projects on specific heritage assets/types of assets, an exercise which would require project specific consideration on a case-by-case basis.

The results of this review are shown in Appendix 11. They are listed by type of designation and the ecosystem services they might be expected to interact with. The risks and opportunities for each ecosystem service are also reviewed.

²⁶ Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (2020)

