



Historic England

Call for Proposals

Heritage, natural capital and ecosystem services: case studies

Project No: 7705

Date of Issue: Tuesday 14th November 2017

Summary

Historic England is seeking expressions of interest from organisations interested in participating in a series of pilot studies that will explore how the heritage sector might more fruitfully engage with natural capital and ecosystem services approaches. The aim is to explore how might the historic environment be better included in these approaches contribute to developing guidelines.

By looking in detail at the heritage associated with particular environmental contexts the aim of the pilot studies is to:

- Identify the heritage alongside the natural capital associated with these environments. To what extent do the two coincide? What is the relationship between the two?
- Set out in the language of ecosystem services what public and environmental goods and services the heritage assets provide (including ‘provisioning’, ‘supporting’, ‘regulatory’ and ‘cultural services’)
- Identify other values that fall outside the ecosystem services framework that can be ascribed to the heritage assets.
- In doing the above develop a methodology that can be used to ensure that heritage can be reflected in a way that is compatible with natural capital and ecosystem services approaches.
- Provide the heritage and natural environment sectors with case study examples of how this might work for different environmental contexts.

We are looking to commission 6 to 10 projects overall to cover a range of environmental contexts.

Background

The environment we have inherited today is the result of both human activities and natural processes, some of which have occurred over millennia. Although often perceived as natural many of the characteristic landscapes, distinctive places and the habitats we value most are the direct or indirect result of human activity. Recognising the important role that past human activity has played in shaping our environment, Historic England promotes understanding this as critical to making decisions about future approaches to its management.

A number of values – economic or otherwise – can be ascribed to our environment, and the way in which is diminished or enhanced can also be measured in many different ways. Natural capital - often defined as comprising our stocks of assets (such as geology, soil, air, water and species) produces a wide range of services for people. These are often

characterised as “ecosystem services”. Both the natural capital accounting and the ecosystem services approach are becoming increasingly popular with policymakers and land managers, as well as within the planning system. However, not all environmental capital is natural, and the historic environment is not always included in these assessments. Historic England has begun to explore how the heritage sector might more fruitfully engage with this influential methodology.

Aims

Historic England is pursuing a number of initiatives which aim to support the heritage sector in engaging with natural capital and ecosystem services methodologies in order to protect the historic environment within future environmental policy.

These initiatives will look at:

1. What need is there for advice – what does the sector (natural environment and heritage sector) want?
2. How is the historic environment included at the moment?
3. How might the historic environment be better included – what might this look like?
4. Developing guidance/handbook on best practice and how to do this.

The pilot studies commissioned as a result of this call will primarily address aim 3 above but will also inform the development of the guidance for the heritage sector on how to engage with natural capital and ecosystem services approaches (aim 4 above). Although these studies will inform this guidance the development of the guidance itself will be the subject of a separate project.

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- Set out in the language of ecosystem services what public and environmental goods and services the heritage assets provide (including ‘provisioning’, ‘supporting’, ‘regulatory’ and ‘cultural services’)
- Identify other values that fall outside the ecosystem services framework that can be ascribed to the heritage assets.
- In doing the above develop a methodology that can be used to ensure that heritage can be reflected in a way that is compatible with natural capital and ecosystem services approaches.
- Provide the heritage and natural environment sectors with case study examples of how this might work for different environmental contexts.

It is the current intention that the guidance and case studies will be freely available probably in the form of a web-accessible .pdf produced by Historic England.

Environmental contexts of particular interest to Historic England are outlined as priorities in our research agenda(<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/he-research-agenda/>). Some examples are:

- Marine and coastal

- Chalk/limestone grassland.
- Boundaries and linear landscape features – hedgerows, walls, holloways and linear earthworks
- Wetlands and peat – terrestrial, coastal and marine.
- Woodland and Parkland
- Water meadows and other water management features
- Designed landscapes (urban/rural and private/public)
- Urban and peri-urban features like public parks, street trees and private gardens
- Structures (including ruins) – built heritage as ecosystem.

Each project should consider one environmental context. We are looking to commission 6 to 10 projects overall to cover a range of environmental contexts.

Business Case

This project contributes to the Historic England Corporate Plan (2017-2020). Particularly the following aims:

- Aim 1. Championing
- Aim 2. Protecting through the listing and planning system
- Aim 4. Strengthening national capacity and sustaining heritage protection systems

It will also contribute toward the #value theme identified in the Historic England Research Agenda (2017).

Both the natural capital accounting and the ecosystem services approach are becoming increasingly popular with policymakers and land managers, as well as within the planning system. However, not all environmental capital is natural, and the historic environment is not always included in these assessments. Historic England has begun to explore how the heritage sector might more fruitfully engage with this influential methodology. This will further align our work with the NCC's Pioneer Programme as well as developing environmental policy including Defra 25 Year Environment Plan and emerging Agriculture Strategy.

Stakeholders

The external stakeholders are:

- the general public given the focus on public benefits
- Defra
- DCMS
- Natural England
- Environment Agency
- County Land owners Association
- National Farmers Union
- National Trust
- National Park Authorities and Association of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Individual landowners, land managers and estates
- Environmental consultants
- BES-Net
- Natural Capital Committee

- ALGAO
- Heritage Alliance
- Ecosystems Knowledge Network
- Historic Environment Scotland
- Cadw
- UK Research Councils
- MMO (Pete Cosgrove as point)

Historic England stakeholders:

- Government Advice Team
- Strategic research and partnerships team
- Rural Network
- Landscape Strategy Manager (Jonathan Last)
- Historic Places
- Corporate communications

Proposals returned in response to this call should identify local stakeholders who will need to be informed of individual pilot studies.

Communication with national external stakeholders mentioned above will be coordinated by Historic England.

Methods

Each project should consider one environmental context only. We are looking to commission 6 to 10 projects overall to cover a range of environmental contexts.

It will be expected that although projects may be undertaken by different organisations there will be some cross communication co-ordinated by Historic England. Proposals returned in response to this call should include time/costs for at least one member of the team to attend two single day seminars in London.

Proposals returned should allow for time and costs associated with accessing information held by Historic Environment Records (HERs), National Heritage List for England (NHLE), Biological Record Centre and local ecological/biological records. We expect you to have engaged the relevant HERs in the development of your proposal. Historic England will flag the call to the HER forum.

Projects should take account of National Character Areas and Historic Landscape and Seascape Characterisation.

Draft reports should be submitted to Historic England by end of August 2018. The second day seminar will take place after submission of draft reports. Final reports should be submitted within four weeks of the seminar.

Organisations responding to this call will be expected to set out a clear methodology that will meet the project's aims and objectives, as described above. We expect organisations to demonstrate familiarity with natural capital and ecosystem services.

Assessing Impact

Impact assessment is a means of measuring the effectiveness of activities and projects and judging the significance of the changes or benefits brought about by these actions. Impact can be gauged in terms of reach (how many people/organisations were influenced by the work) and significance (the difference it made to these people/organisations). Gathering and assessing evidence of impact should be considered in proposals.

Proposals should set out how the impact of the study could be assessed and whether or not this assessment is to be undertaken by the applicant or Historic England.

Products, Communication and Engagement

Projects will be expected to produce a report to a common format for inclusion in a single edited volume within the Historic England Research Report series. The common format will be agreed at the first of the two day seminars. Applicants should, however, include an indicative report synopsis in their proposal which should cover as a minimum methodology, results, recommendations and a critical review of the approach taken.

It is recognised that other products might be appropriate, depending upon the approach taken. Details of these alongside a case for their relevance should be included within the application.

Copyright of the individual pilot studies will reside with the individual organisations although Historic England will be granted a perpetual, non-exclusive royalty free licence to amend, copy, sub-licence etc. any of the resulting products.

Local communication and engagement should take place throughout the lifecycle of a project starting before the project has begun. A short communication and engagement plan should be included in any proposals submitted.

Budget

We are looking to commission 6 to 10 projects overall to cover a range of environmental contexts.

Proposed projects should not exceed a cost of £20,000 each (excluding any VAT that might be payable) although projects in excess for £15,000 will need to justify the higher cost.

How to apply

Proposals should be based on the template attached to this document and must include a task list, timetable and costs. We will not be commissioning Project Designs.

Proposals sent in by consortia are acceptable. Applicants may apply for more than one project.

Please submit proposals by emailing HPCcalls@HistoricEngland.org.uk

The Heritage Protection Commissions Programme Guidance for Applicants can be downloaded from the HPC web pages.

Timetable

Proposals must be submitted by midnight on Sunday 7th January. Applicants will be informed of the decision by the end of January 2018.

Draft reports should be submitted to Historic England by end of August 2018. The second day seminar will take place after submission of draft reports. Final reports should be submitted within four weeks of the seminar.

Further information

For questions about the project please contact Hannah.Fluck@HistoricEngland.org.uk or Meredith.Wiggins@HistoricEngland.org.uk.

For further queries about the application process, deadlines etc please contact Tim Cromack at Tim.Cromack@HistoricEngland.org.uk

Suggested Template for Proposals

DOCUMENT-CONTROL GRID

Project Name and HE reference number 7705

Author(s) and contact details

Origin Date

Reviser(s)

Date of last revision

Summary of changes

BACKGROUND

The background should set out the basic characteristics of the selected environmental context and any relevant local or thematic issues.

AIMS

Explain how a pilot study in your area on your topic will meet the aims of this project.

BUSINESS CASE

Why is it important that this environmental context has been selected and is being approached in this way?

PROJECT TEAM

Who will be in the project team?

METHODS STATEMENT

Outline the methods to be used to meet the project's aims (see main Call document).

HEALTH AND SAFETY STATEMENT

All Proposals should include a health and safety statement.

RISK LOG

You should include a Risk Log, which may be in tabular form.

PRODUCTS

Outline the main products (see main Call document).

TASK LIST

A task list based on page 24 of our Guidance for Grants Projects

<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/guidance-grants-projects/>

BUDGET

Costs based on the example shown on page 23 of our Guidance for Grants Projects

<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/guidance-grants-projects/>

TIMETABLE

A Gantt chart and/or timetable.

If you require an alternative accessible version of this document (for instance in audio, Braille or large print) please contact our Customer Services Department:

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Fax: 01793 414926

Textphone: 0800 015 0516

E-mail: customers@HistoricEngland.org.uk