

Developing UK indicators for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. (Defra contract 1301).

Supporting information for the survey on Habitat Connectivity indicators and data sets.

This project is considering options for updating the existing UK indicator of **habitat connectivity** and/or alternative options. Availability of suitable datasets is a significant constraint on possible options.

The review and synthesis of metadata used in the UK National Ecosystem Assessment identified data sets that might be used in relation to habitat connectivity, which are listed in **Table 1** (the full suite of data sets identified can be accessed [here](#)).

We are keen to identify existing indicators of habitat connectivity and additional data sets that relate to:

- a. **Spatial land cover and land use**
- b. **Distribution (and abundance) of species strongly reliant on habitat connectivity (i.e. less mobile species).**

Please bear in mind the criteria that will be used for quality testing indicator options (**Annex 1**) when listing any indicators or data sets that you think may be suitable.

The information that you provide will be used in an expert workshop, which will: review and rank all datasets identified against the criteria for quality testing indicator options; consider the pros and cons of functional, structural or species-based indicators and rank them against the criteria for quality testing indicator options; and identify a maximum of three possible options for using/updating/developing an indicator of habitat connectivity.

Table 1: Data sets identified in the scoping study that might be used in relation to developing an indicator on habitat connectivity.

Record ID	Title of dataset
032	Countryside Survey sample squares
090	Countryside Survey Land Cover Map
281	National Inventory of Woodland and Trees
213	UK urban and suburban areas with populations > 10000 people

Annex 1. Criteria for quality testing indicator options.

Criteria	Levels
Precision	1. Unknown precision or precision quantifiable but unable to statistically assess trends due to small sample size/unrepresentative/biased/high volatility
	2. Uncertainty quantifiable and signal-to-noise ratio allows for statistical assessment of trends
	3. Uncertainty quantifiable and signal-to-noise ratio allows for year on year statistical assessments
Time series availability	1. Insufficient data for assessment (<5 years)
	2. Sufficient data to make an assessment of progress (5-10 years)
	3. Both long and short -term trends can be assessed (10+ years data)
Data security	1. Future data sources known to be uncertain
	2. Future data unthreatened
	3. Future data secure
Data transparency and auditability	1. Data unavailable to public
	2. Limited summary data available
	3. Full raw/primary data set and detailed description available
Transparency and soundness of methodology	1. Methodology not available
	2. Methodology available but not peer reviewed
	3. Methodology externally published and peer reviewed
Data verification	1. Unverified data
	2. Some verification checks in place
	3. Detailed verification in place and documented
Frequency of updates	1. Periodic
	2. 3-5 years
	3. Annual or biennial
Geographic coverage	1. Not full UK
	2. UK coverage, some bias
	3. Full UK coverage
Capacity for disaggregation	1. Cannot be disaggregated
	2. Can be disaggregated but data quality issues arise
	3. Can be disaggregated to Country level and assessed