

Ecosystem services: How it can be applied to river restoration and natural flood management schemes in practice

This course provides a unique opportunity to link theory to practice and participants will have the opportunity to get out on site and think about what valuing ecosystem services means in the real world.

Date: Thursday 9th July 2015, 9.00am – 5pm

**Location: Hexham Community Centre, Hexham, Northumberland
(to include site visit to river to test ecosystem service approach)**

Guest presenters: Mark Everard (University of West England) and Rob McInnes (Director, RM Wetlands & Environment Ltd). Both are experts with practical experience of applying ecosystem service approaches. The course will be facilitated by Jenny Mant from RRC.

Course content:

- Understand clearly what is meant by ecosystem services in the context of river and floodplain restoration and for natural flood risk management.
- Recognise the environmental, economic and social benefits of taking a systemic approach to assessment of ecosystem interventions.
- Using 'real world' case studies to learn about the different mechanisms for valuing ecosystem benefits ranging from:
 - Simple, expert- or stakeholder-based
 - Benefit transfer techniques
 - More complex valuation methods and when they may require assessment, through to more complex methodologies
- Costs estimation and how these may be assessed in terms of benefits-cost calculation.
- Case studies to explore how and who might pay for ecosystem services and how you might start to encourage different sectors to sign up to such agreements.
- Using case studies, explore in groups, different methods to come up with your own ecosystem evaluation.
- Assess the benefits of a river improvement project (if feasible in the field).

Key learning deliverables:

- Ability to identify different ecosystem services.
- Understand the importance of taking a systemic approach to assessment.
- Be able to make an initial estimate of the value of ecosystem change and the means to achieve this with others.
- Understand the complexities related to paying for ecosystem services.

PROGRAMME

When?	What?	Who?
09:00-09:30	Registration and coffee/tea	All
09:30-9.45	Welcome, H&S, introductions and purpose of day	JM
09.45-11:15	<p>What are ecosystem services?</p> <p>Using an interactive approach delegates will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand clearly what is meant by ecosystem services in the context of river and floodplain restoration and for natural flood risk management (presentation) • Recognise the environmental, economic and social benefits of taking a systemic approach to assessment of ecosystem interventions <p>Discussion –15 minutes</p>	ME, RJM
11:15-13.15	<p>In the field:</p> <p>Identify ecosystem services (part 1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An opportunity to get out on site and discuss with course presenters <p>Discussion about observations on site to understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Types of services • Benefits • Conflicts <p>Identify ecosystem services (part 2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify prospects for ecosystem service enhancement (and score). What restoration measures will best achieve this? 	RJM, ME, JM,
13.15-14.15	Lunch	
14:15-14:30	Discussion in classroom	
14:30-15.30	<p>Case studies</p> <p>Using ‘real world’ case studies to learn about the different mechanisms for valuing ecosystem benefits from simple stakeholder scoring systems to complex valuation methods.</p>	ME, RJM,
15:30-16.00	Tea break and continued discussion	All
16.00-16:40	<p>Optimising ecosystem services outcomes in management plans:</p> <p>These will be based either on the local site OR delegates’ can bring their own problems. Presenters will be available to help with this. Plans to be presented.</p>	All
16:40-17:00	Discussion and feedback	All
17:00	Thanks and depart	All