

Well-being at the Coast: Links between culture, heritage and seascape of the North West Coast

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About me

- Researcher in Geography & Planning
- Researched LSI for many years and been involved in numerous EU funded projects on the subject
- Externally funded for governments for consultancy relating to LSI
- A lot of these projects looked at frameworks for addressing LSI from an MSP perspective
- Currently working on a PhD examining the socio-cultural benefits of seascape and access to the coast.
- Steering Committee member of the ISMF
- Trustee of the NWCF

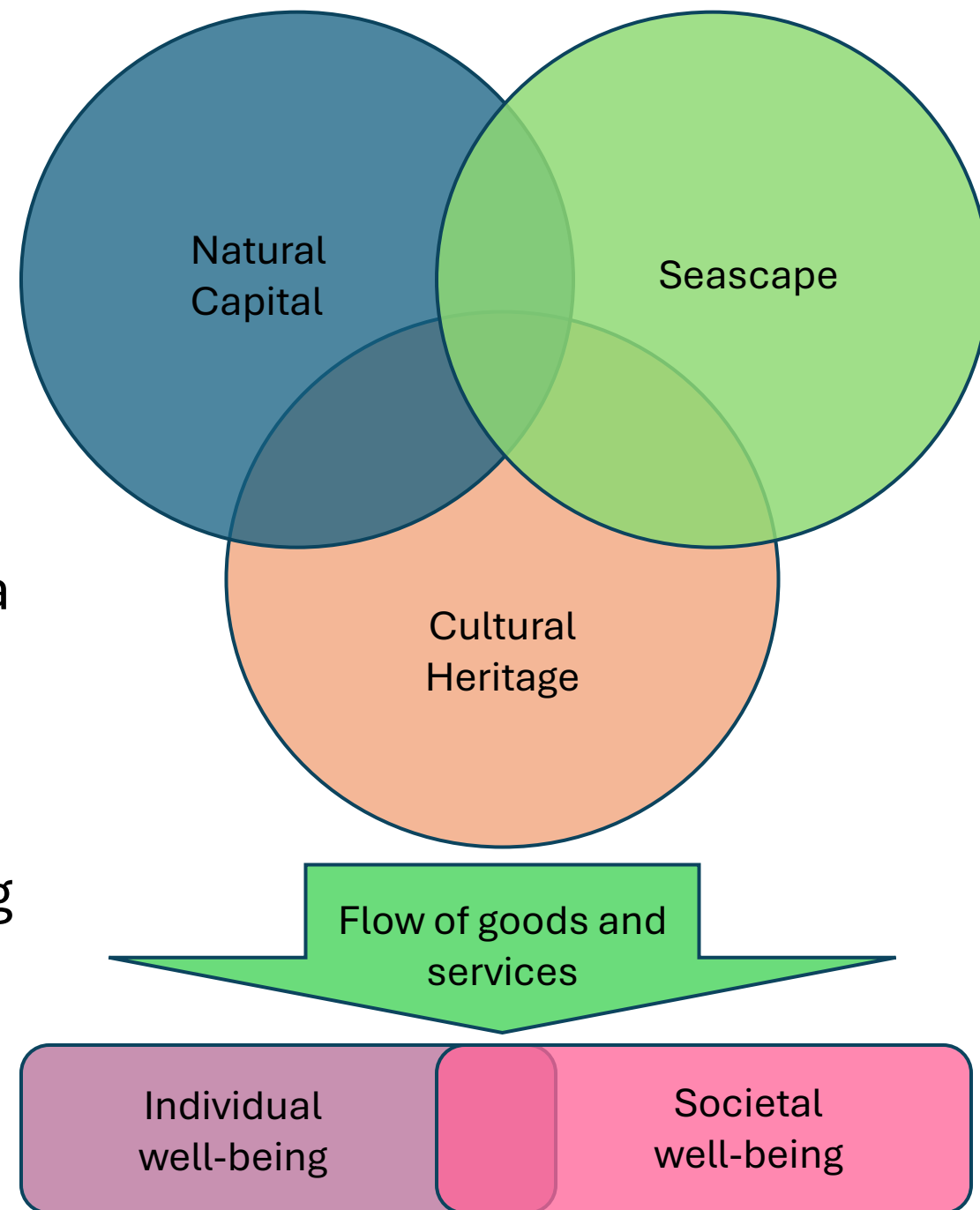
Contents

- Introduction – a brief overview of the project
- Seascape – What do we mean by seascape and what approaches have been used to assess it to date
- Natural Capital – What is Natural Capital (and Cultural Heritage) and how can complex systems be valued and incorporated into policy frameworks and aid decision-making.
- Well-being – What is well-being and how are individual and societal well-being affected by Natural Capital and Seascape.
- The North West Case Studies



Introduction

- In order to explore the three central themes of Seascape, Natural Capital and Well-being and the interconnectivity between them a literature review, in the form of 3 mini reports has been conducted. Currently being collated into a paper
- The information gathered during this review will inform the production of a conceptual framework
- Conceptual framework to be tested during the Summer 2023 in 2 locations in England





Seascape

- The term seascape can be interpreted in many different ways depending on the context be it artistic, ecological or related to planning both marine and terrestrial.
- Lessons can be learned from other interpretations of seascape when implementing it in MSP, particularly when considering the incorporation of Natural Capital into a SCA process

Definition

“an area of sea, coastline and land, as perceived by people, whose character results from the actions and interactions of land with sea, by natural and/or human factors.”

Natural England, 2012

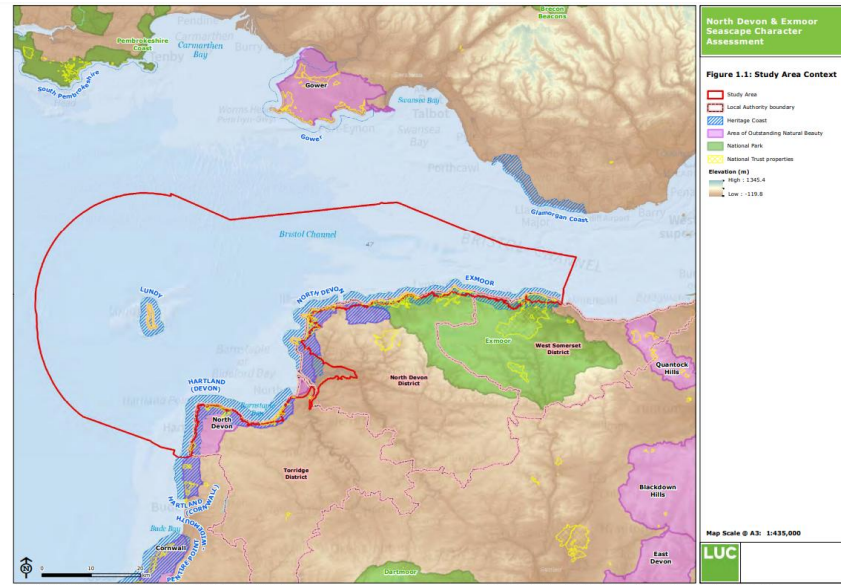


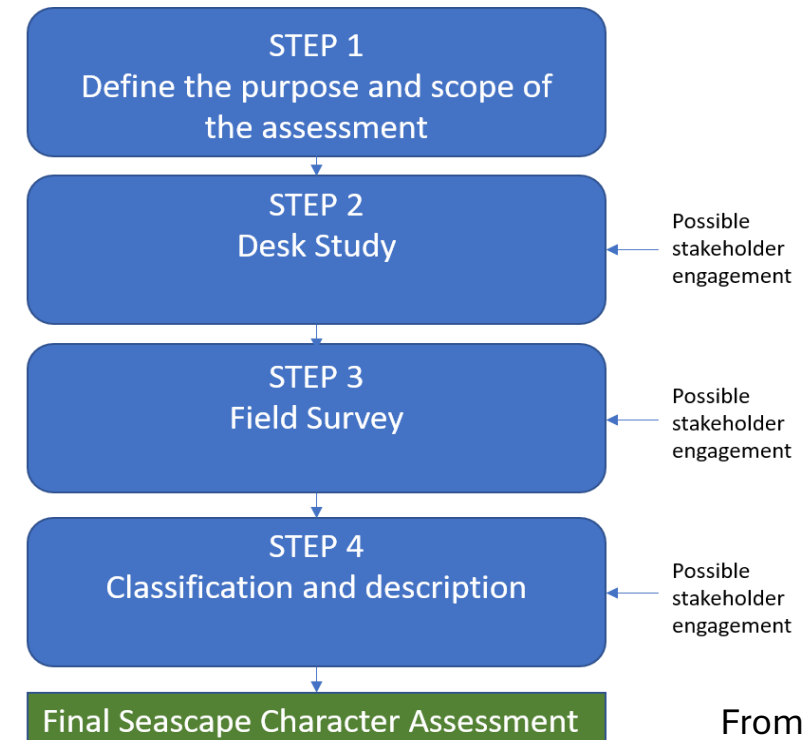
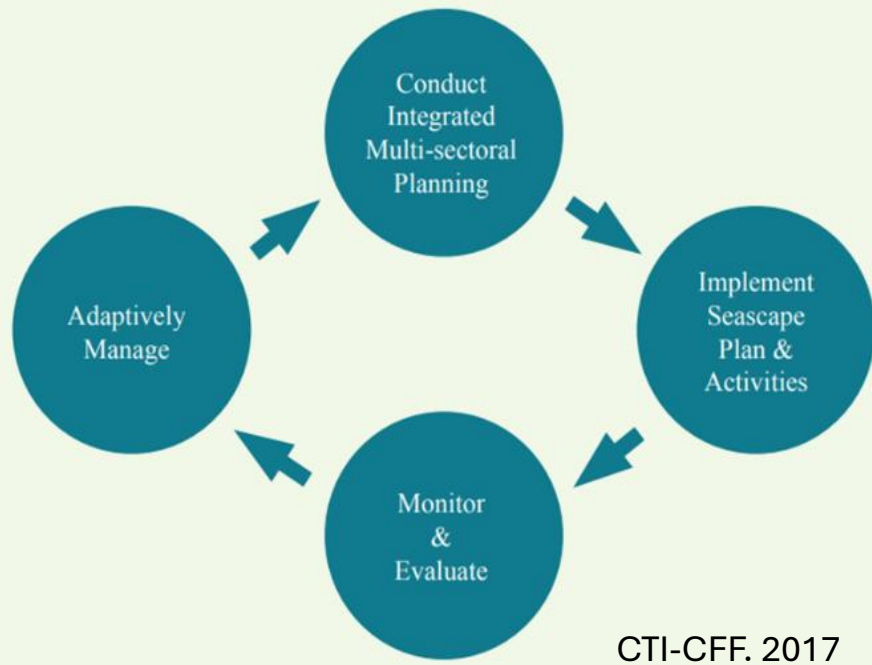
Image by Roman
Grac from Pixabay

Seascape

- Insights gained from the approaches used for example by the Coral Triangle Initiative on assessments of large scale multi-use marine areas with respect to LME's (Atkinson et al. 2011)
- Approaches to SCA's undertaken by Natural England, MMO & LUC both nationally and on the Dorset Coast examined for guidance regarding coverage and spatial scale (LUC. 2015, MMO. 2018, Natural England. 2012)

Box 1: Key Elements

1. Social Support
2. Political Will
3. Harmonized Policies & Regulations
4. Adequate Institutions and Partnerships
5. Sustainable Financing
6. Restoration of Critical Habitats
7. Maintenance of Ecosystem Services
8. Protection of Threatened & Critical Species
9. Fisheries Managed for Sustainability
10. Integrated Terrestrial & Marine Management
11. Respect for Customary Practices
12. Education & Awareness
13. Cultural, Gender, & Social Sensitivity
14. Sustainable Social & Economic Development
15. Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation



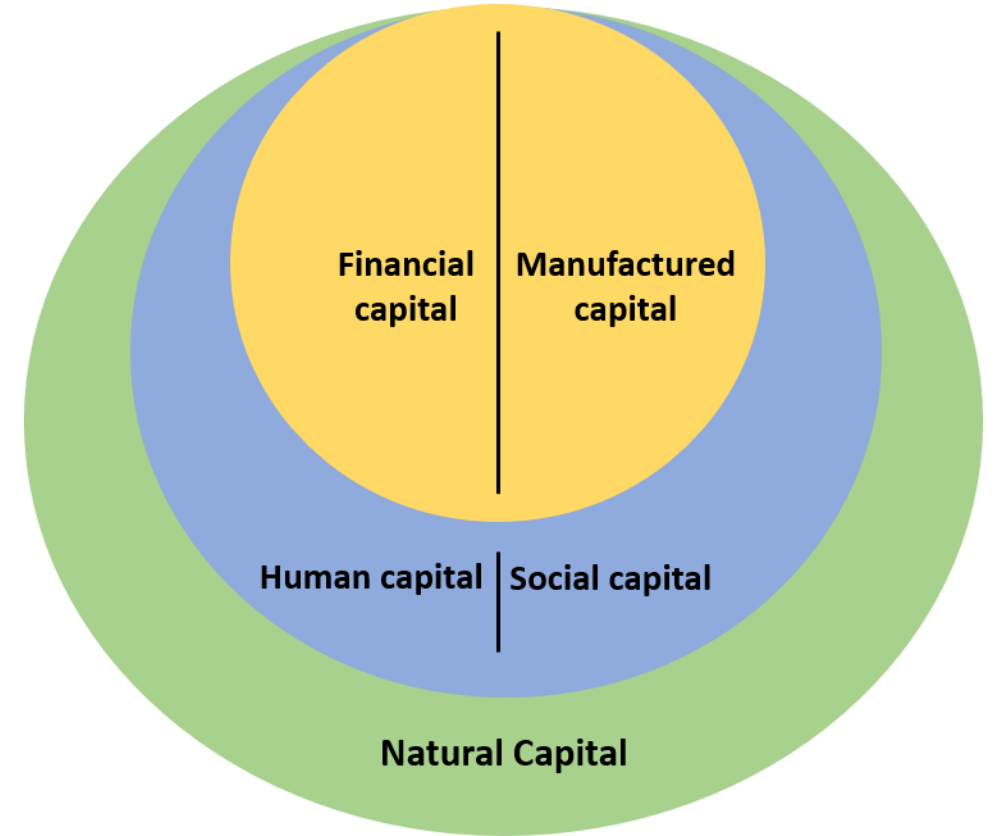
Seascape

The review of the literature relating to seascape produced a series of research questions to be examined in both subsequent reports and also within the conceptual framework development and fieldwork:

- Is there a greater need for overlap between LCA's and SCA's required for coastal areas in order to maximise the benefit to wellbeing?
- Has the value of seascape changed over time, particularly when considering recent economic, political and global events such as the Covid-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine?
- Has public perception towards some features in marine waters relating to certain sectors altered in recent history and the drivers behind such change?

Natural Capital

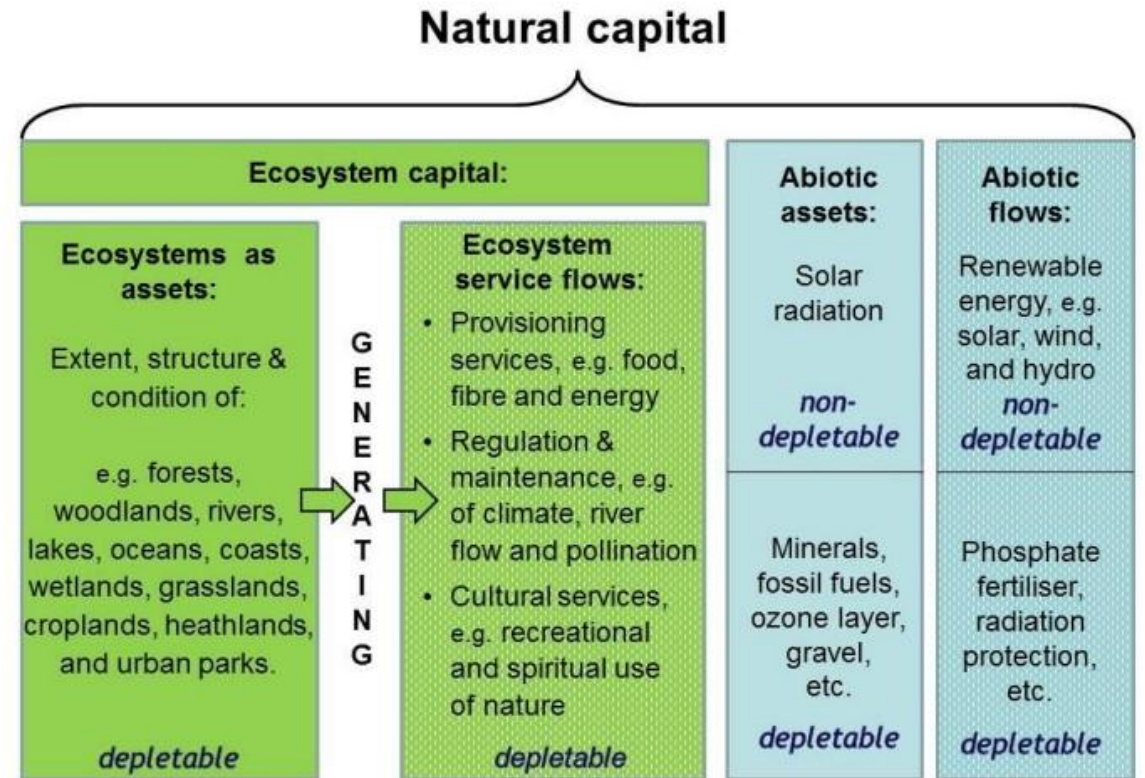
- The concept of Natural Capital has evolved considerably since the first use of the term in the 1800's.
- Natural capital as we understand it today is a very broad term which includes biotic and abiotic elements of nature alongside numerous processes required to generate ES and benefits to well-being (NCC, 2013).



NCC, 2019

Natural Capital

- Ecosystem services form a key component of Natural Capital and frameworks and Assessments examining the flows and transfer of such services as benefits to humans have been undertaken extensively over the past 20 years in particular.
- Key studies and Assessments examined included:
 - The Millennium Assessment (MA. 2005)
 - TEEB (2010)
 - The UKNEA (and follow on) (2014)
 - EU MAES (2018)
- Much of the initial research on ES focused on provisioning, regulating and supporting services. There has been an increase in Cultural ES research in recent years.



Components of natural capital, developed from the natural capital figure in the EU MAES report on Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services (European Commission, 2013).
 Source. (R. Haines-Young et al., 2018).

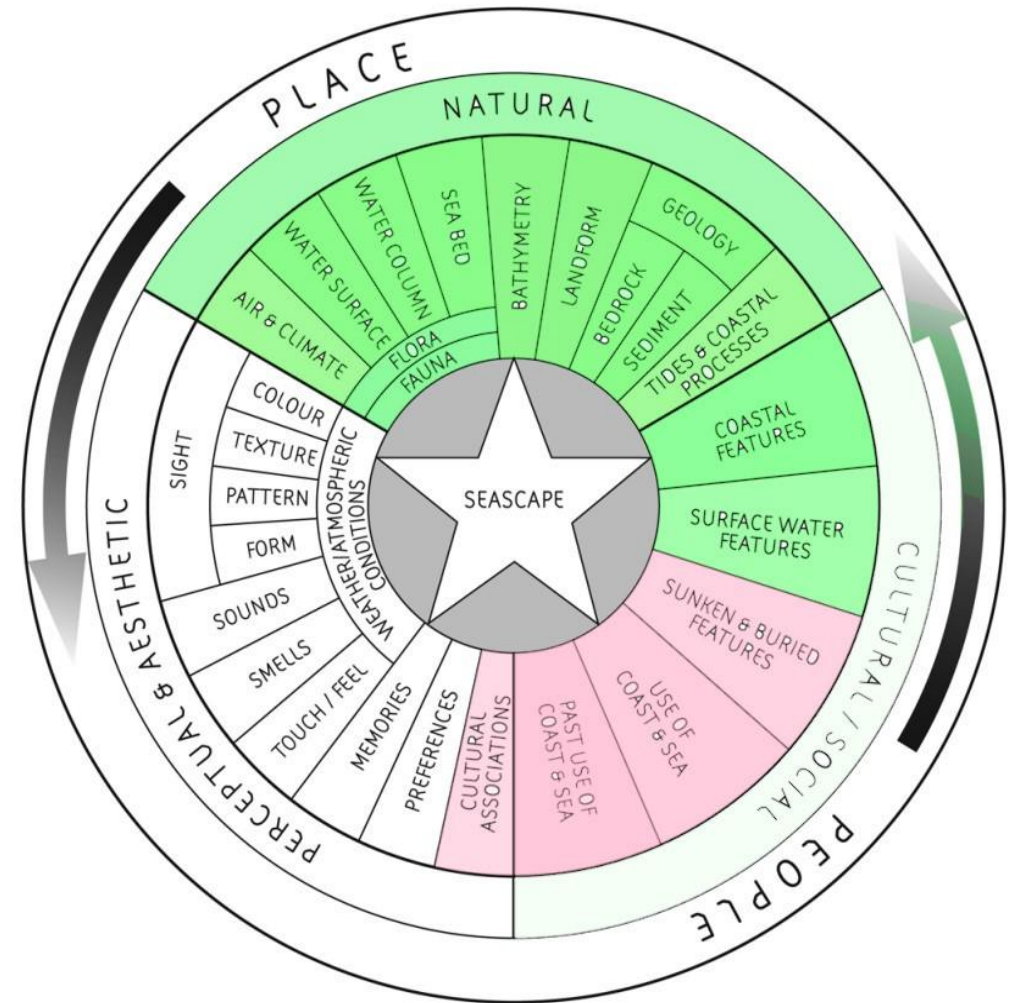
Cultural Ecosystem Services



- How are these services utilized
- How are the value of these services quantified?
- Does this vary geographically

Natural Capital & Cultural Heritage links to Seascape

- An opportunity exists to incorporate existing ecosystem services and other cultural heritage benefits to the NE Seascape wheel.
- This could be further expanded to include further goods and services deemed valuable to human well-being
- Aspects of the ecosystem/conservation based could also be incorporated into a revised seascape wheel to enhance the coverage of NC elements



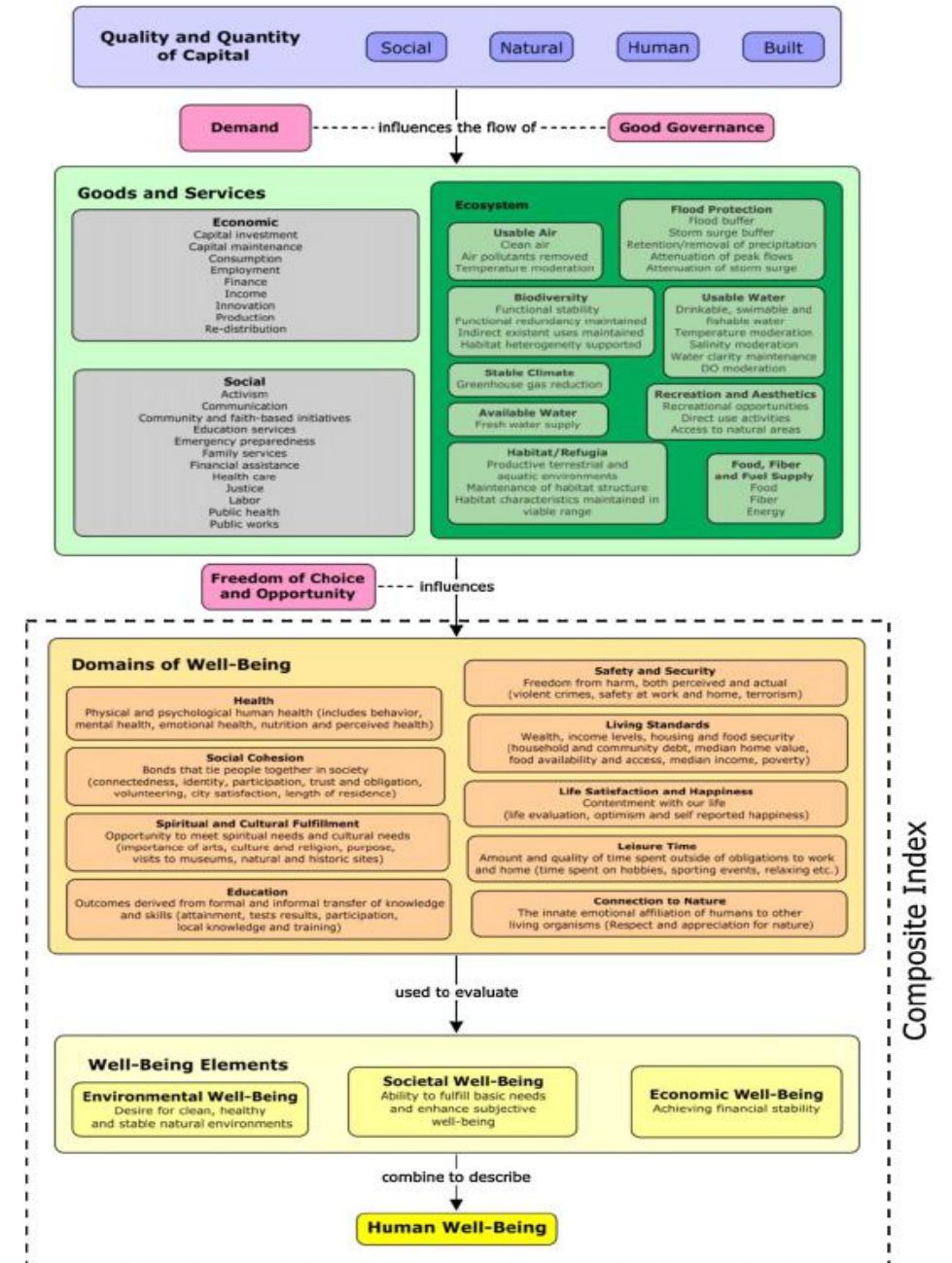
Well-being

- Well-being is a complex construct which often used synonymously with terms including ‘happiness’, or ‘quality of life’, with the definition provided often closely linked to the context in which it will be applied (e.g. Health/Mental Health Policy, Planning etc.)
- For the purposes of this project, well-being will be considered in the forms of ‘Subjective Well-being’ (SWB) and ‘Societal Well-being’ representing an individual or a specific group or nation dependent on the scope of the study.
- Mental Health & Health Policy consider well-being in very different ways and should be addressed as such



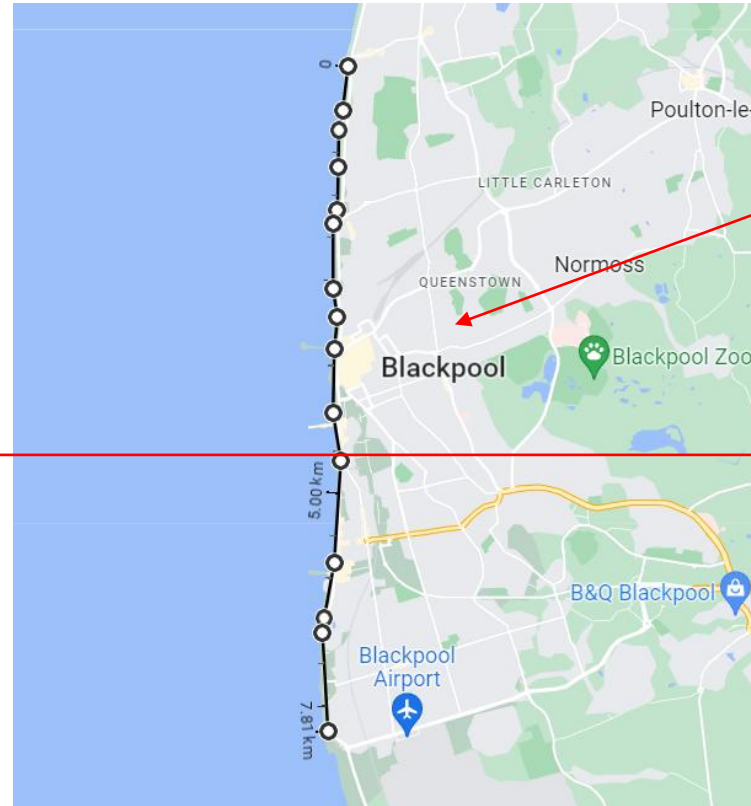
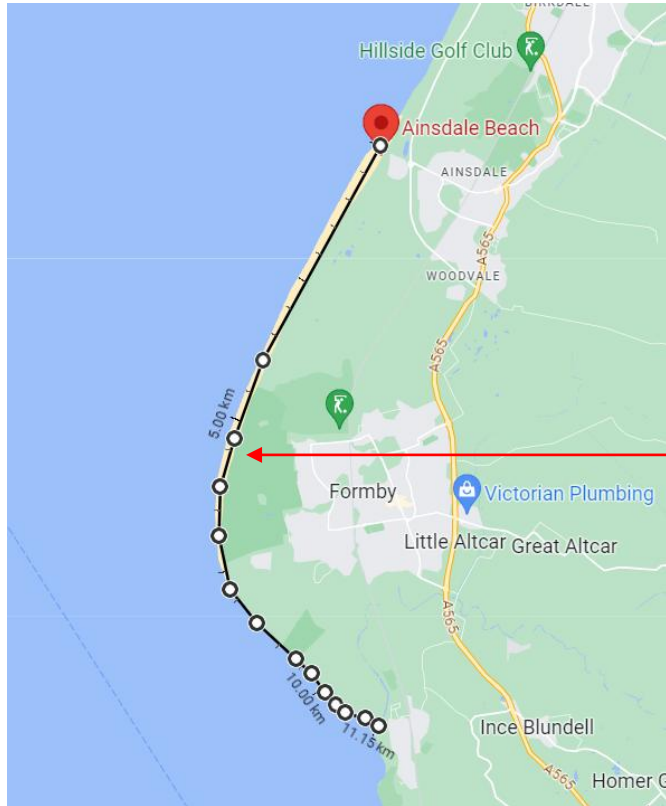
Well-being

- Significant links exist between well-being and Natural Capital including the goods and services received from ecosystems and the cultural heritage associated with England's coasts and seas.
- The flow of goods and services can impact specific domains of well-being which if these links can be identified can aid decision-making (Smith, Case et al. 2013)





NW Case Studies

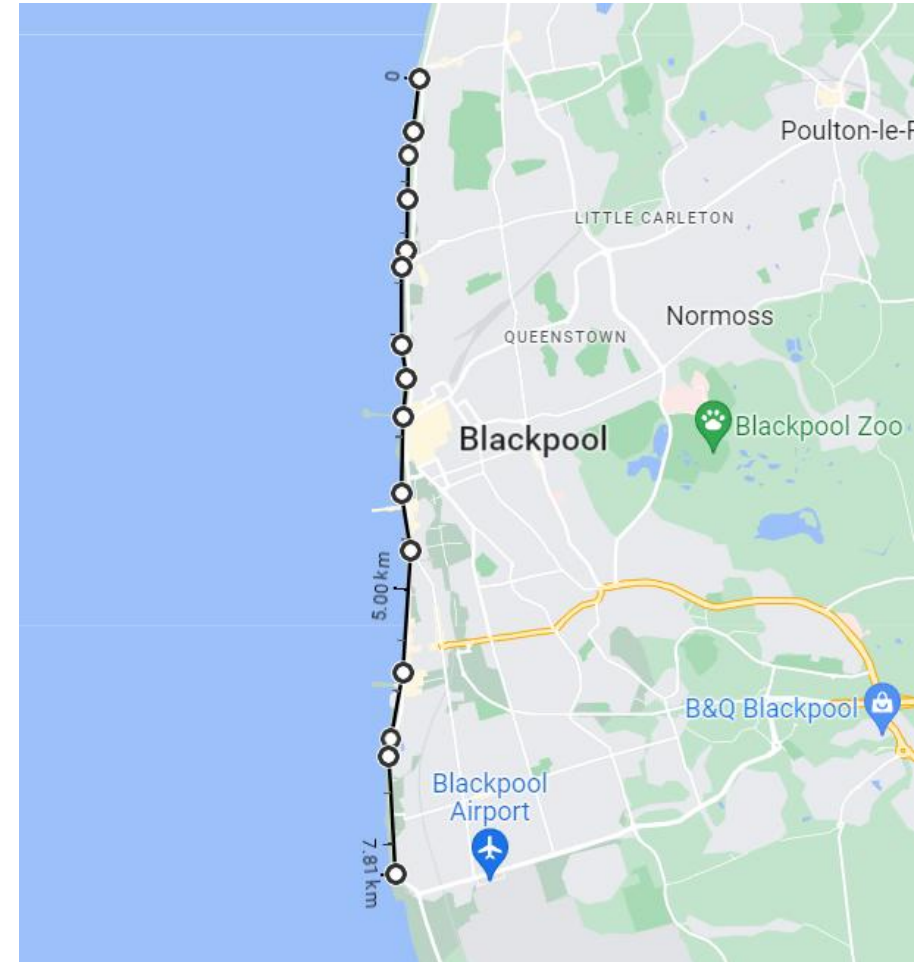


Methodology

- Mixed method approach
 - Online Survey
 - Semi structured interviews (key stakeholders)
- Mapping of cultural aspects of the coastal landscape
- Analysis of survey and interview data, alongside past existing project data and ONS Well-being data
- Deductive analysis of survey and interview data, based upon the seascape wheel and ecosystem services frameworks

Blackpool Fylde Case Study

- Case Study area extends from the village of Bispham on the North Shore of Blackpool down to the South Shore adjacent to Blackpool Airport
- The area encompasses the tourism centred north and central piers, Blackpool Pleasure Beach and the iconic Blackpool Tower
- The Case Study will include the adjacent marine planning areas up to the limits of the NW Inshore Marine Plan visible from the terrestrial area shown on the map

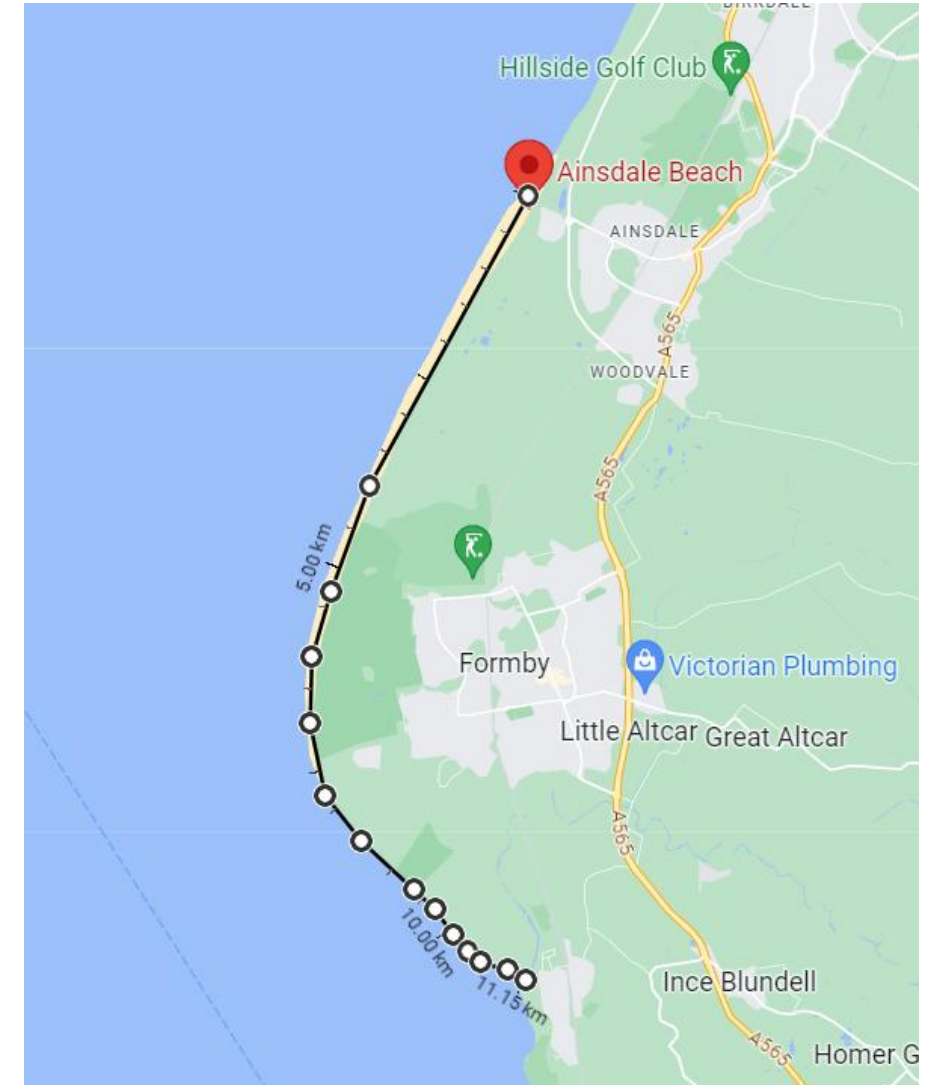






Sefton Coast Case Study

- Case Study area which covers an approximately 7 mile (11.5km) section of coastline running along the Sefton Coast from Ainsdale Beach to the neighbouring settlement of Hightown
- The Case Study will include the adjacent marine planning areas up to the limits of the NW Inshore Marine Plan visible from the terrestrial area shown on the map





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Thank you

Any Questions?

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