

Glossary of terms

Term	Definition
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	Areas of land and water that are protected due to their special wildlife or geological features.
Biodiversity	Biodiversity is all the different kinds of life you'll find in one area—the variety of animals, plants, fungi, and even microorganisms like bacteria that make up our natural world.
Offsetting	A mechanism where negative impacts caused by an action are compensated for by positive actions elsewhere. For instance, where a development causes damage to a natural habitat, this can be mitigated, or offset, by creation or improvement to habitats elsewhere.
Ecosystem Services	Ecosystem services are the numerous benefits that humans derive from the natural environment, encompassing everything from the air we breathe to the food we eat.
Statement of Environmental Opportunity (SEO)	Any one of a range of opportunities outlined in each National Character Area profile produced by Natural England, together with the actions that can be taken to achieve it and its impact on ecosystem service provision.