



OPERAs



Ecosystem Science
for Policy & Practice

Ecosystem services to offset urban development in East Lothian

A socio-cultural perspective

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Landscape developments in East Lothian

1. What do people think of the East Lothian countryside (in its current form)?



2. What do people think about residential development?



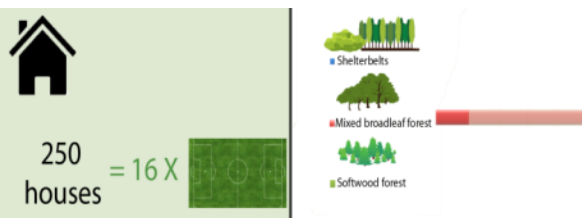
3. What do people think about environmental compensation?



What we did → survey with 258 residents in East Lothian

1. What do people think of the East Lothian countryside?

What ES are important? (9)
Which ES link to different landscape elements?



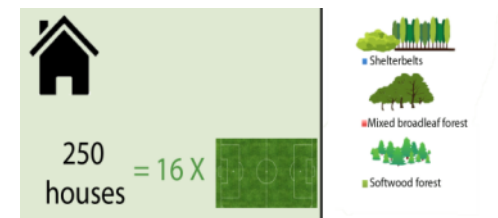
2. What do people think about residential development?

Statements about residential development



3. What do people think about environmental compensation?

Evaluate different compensation scenarios



What we learned so far

1. What do people think of the East Lothian countryside?

Recreation, support wildlife and cultural heritage most important ES

Recreation: coast
Wildlife: mixed broadleaf forest
Cultural heritage: shelterbelts, agricultural fields

2. What do people think about residential development?

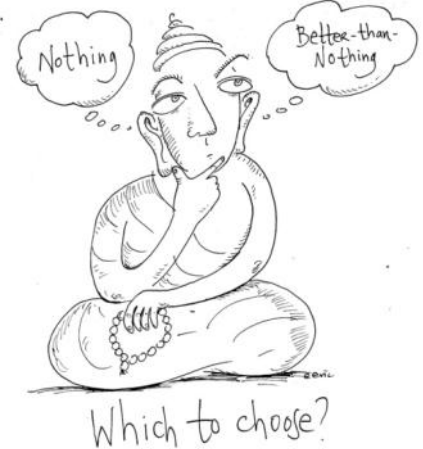
Majority does not like additional housing, but they do think it is necessary

75 % thinks that residential development will have negative impact on ES

3. What do people think about environmental compensation?

52,7 % woodlands can compensate for housing

79,1 % compensation should be obligatory



Work in progress

Further analyses to identify **differences between groups of people and preferences for environmental compensation**



Recommendations for spatial planning and landscape management, concerning:

- the relative value people attach to different landscape elements
- socio-cultural trade-offs between different land use types and ecosystem services provided
- opportunities and pitfalls of environmental compensation, from a socio-cultural perspective.

Thank you for your attention!

