

## **Natural England**

Natural England is working closely with colleagues in Defra and its network to include the costs and benefits of environmental change in decision-making through economic valuation. There is on-going work focussed at programme and project level, but there is also an attempt to apply this approach to national strategic decision-making through the inclusion of the value of ecosystem service change in the national environmental accounts. A critical issue for this approach is the sensitivity of the values to uncertainties in future states of the world – this project is therefore specifically of interest because energy choices are a relevant and significant uncertainty. More generally, issues of likely futures with regard to energy provision and energy provision's interaction with ecosystem services are important to our strategic thinking and understanding.

## **Royal Society for the Protection of Birds**

Climate change is one of the greatest threats biodiversity, yet new energy sources will require infrastructure; and building infrastructure often exacerbates the primary cause of biodiversity loss by damaging or destroying habitats. The RSPB's vision is, therefore, a transition to a low carbon energy system in harmony with nature. Balancing these two, at times contradictory, and , at other times, complementary aims is, however, a significant challenge which we hope to learn more about from this research. At the high level we need to understand what mix of technologies best balances our joint aims of carbon reduction and habitat protection. At the local scale we want to understand how to mitigate or avoid impacts of individual low carbon infrastructure developments and to better manage land so that it meets our food and energy demands in a way that avoids damage to wildlife. We are also interested in the development of local energy markets particularly with reference to biomass produced as a consequence of reserve management.