

# Funding Options for Protected Site Strategies



This toolkit provides guidance on how to secure funding for Protected Site Strategies (PSS). Opportunities for private funding should be considered throughout the stages of creating a PSS, rather than being an afterthought at the end of a project. This toolkit is particularly focused on private funding for land management change.

Depending on your screen, you may wish to change the zoom level of your browser so the full width of the toolkit can be viewed.

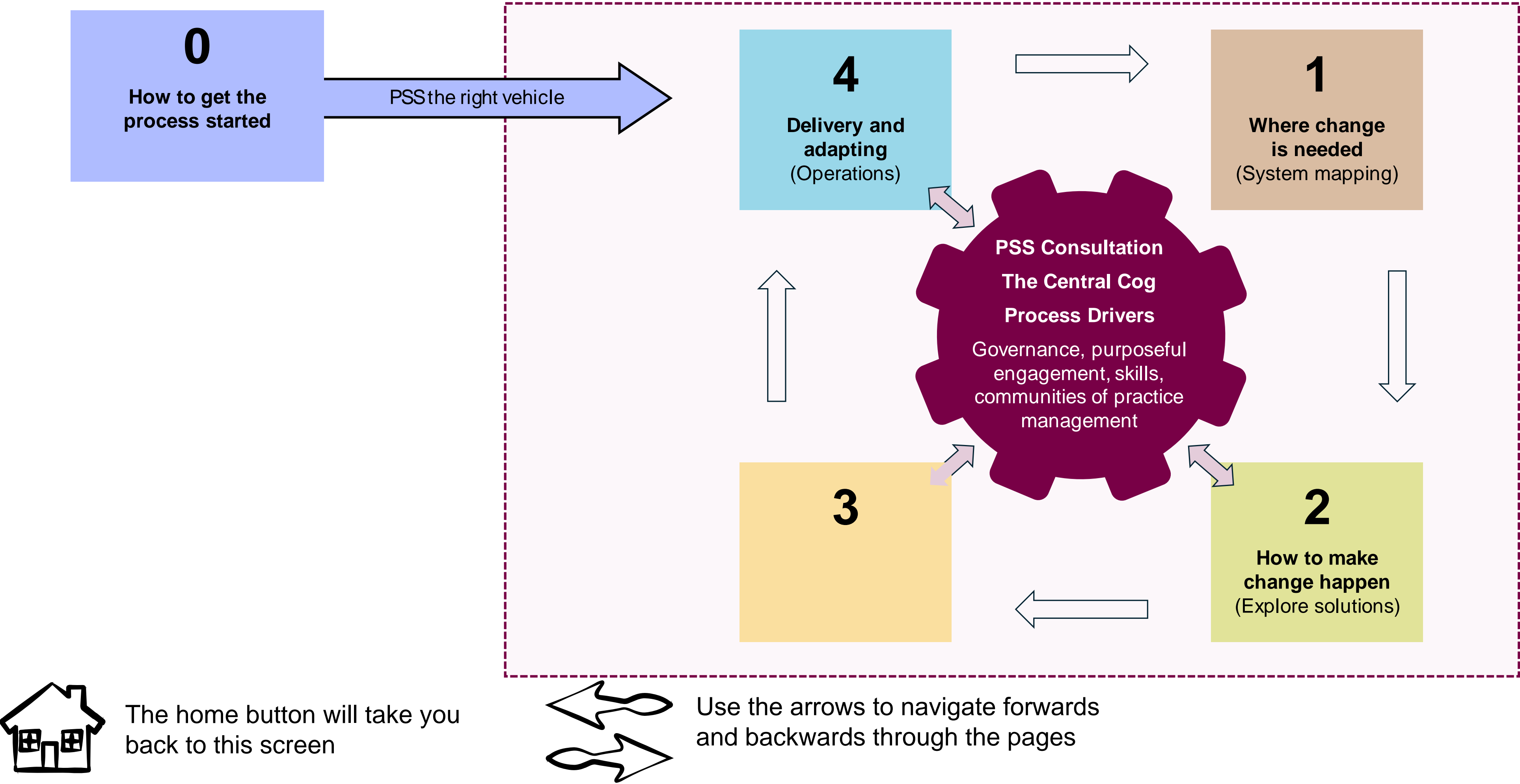


This toolkit is designed to help anyone with an interest in PSS understand where there are opportunities for private funding. To give you the best experience, please identify in what capacity you are viewing this toolkit:



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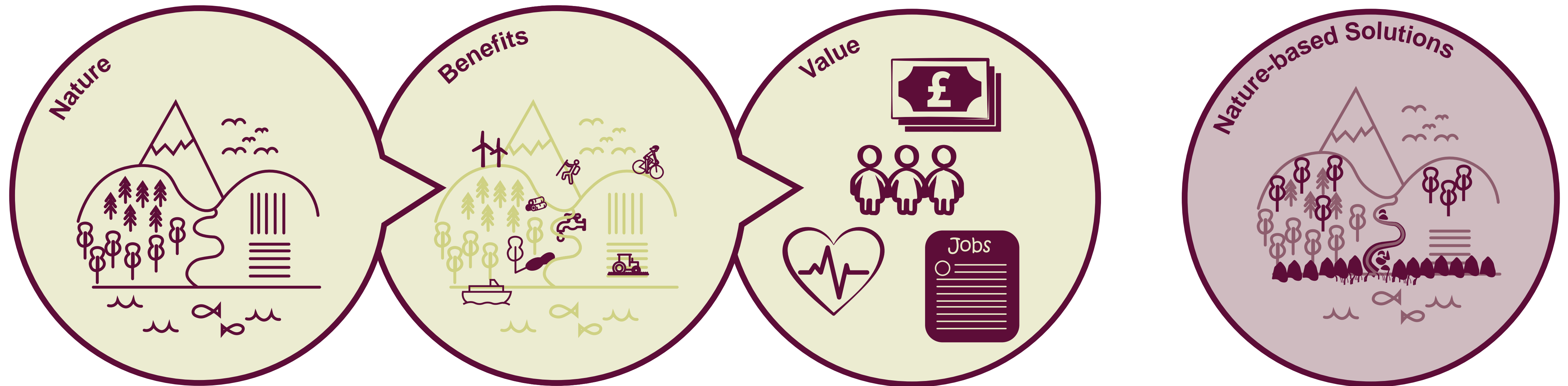
There are five key stages along the PSS journey. Click on the stages below to understand how green finance can be embedded throughout the process:



# 0. How to get the PSS started

## Key ideas and principles

This stage is about understanding if there is a need for a PSS. As part of this early stage it can be important to think about the landscape around the PSS and what benefits nature in the landscape can deliver for people. Explore the graphic below which shows the key ideas behind this.





# O. How to get the PSS started

Continue to stage 1

## The hidden benefits of nature

Plants, animals and non-living parts of the world interact with each other as ecosystems. These ecosystems are complex and connected. Short term solutions may increase risks in the long term - as demonstrated in the graphic below.



The example above highlights the role of regenerative agriculture. Regenerative agriculture aims to allow the soil, water, nutrients, and natural assets to regenerate themselves. In comparison, industrial farming uses natural resources more quickly than they can recover. So in the long term the amount of nature decreases.

## Case study - Wildfarmed

Wildfarmed formed in 2018 as a radical alternative approach to large-scale industrial food production. It aims to produce high quality flour and bread through regenerative farming and also achieve biodiversity and soil health improvements and reduced pollution. Farmers integrate animals and a mix of crops alongside cereal production and do not use pesticides.

Wildfarmed now works with growers across over 50 farms (in the UK and France) who meet their standards and actively share learning and innovation. They supply a range of retailers, including restaurants, bakeries and supermarkets.





# 1. Where change is needed (System mapping)

## Key considerations and principles

This stage is about understanding the problems the PSS needs to address. In order to do this, it is important to understand what factors influence the condition of the protected site. Understanding the social and economic context is an important part of this. This will help highlight how businesses depend on the nature.



It is important to think about scale. Different stakeholders and businesses are affected by different benefits from nature at different scales.

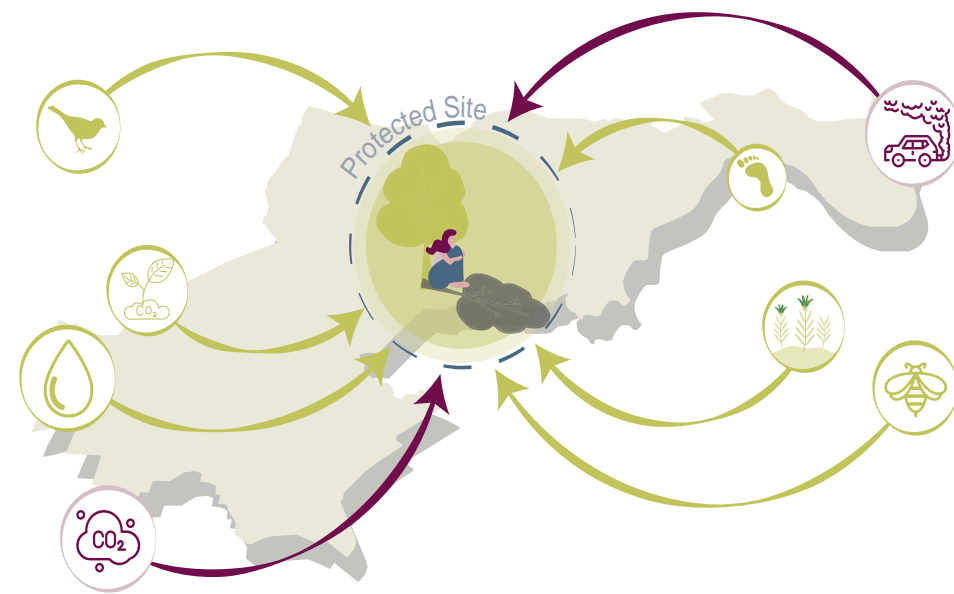
The image to the left identifies examples of some different potential beneficiaries of nature. Click on the numbers to explore some of the different benefits provided at different scales.



# 1. Where change is needed (System mapping)

## Other things to think about (1)

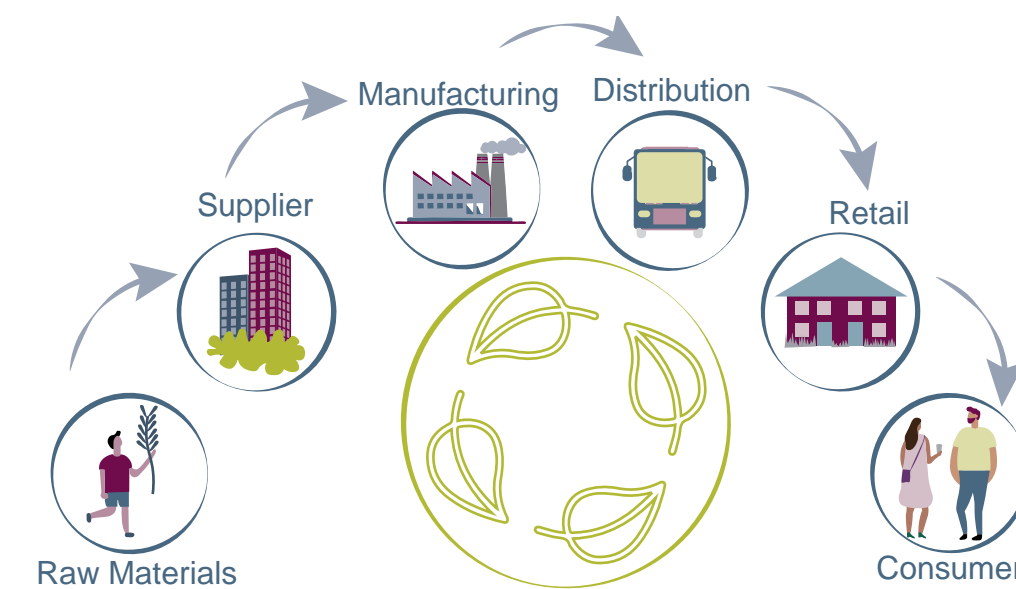
### The landscape scale



Natural processes and functions are connected. They often take place at large scales across a landscape. This is known as the landscape scale. It is important to think about these large scales to restore nature. This is important for the principles of 'bigger, better, more and joined'.

Different benefits from nature may be delivered at different scales. Therefore the benefits of nature may change depending on what nature restoration is being delivered.

### Supply chains



To understand the links between business operations and the benefits from nature it is important to understand how nature supports all elements of business functioning. This includes employees, supply chains, retailers, manufacturers, distribution centres and customers.



Snowy Peak District landscape

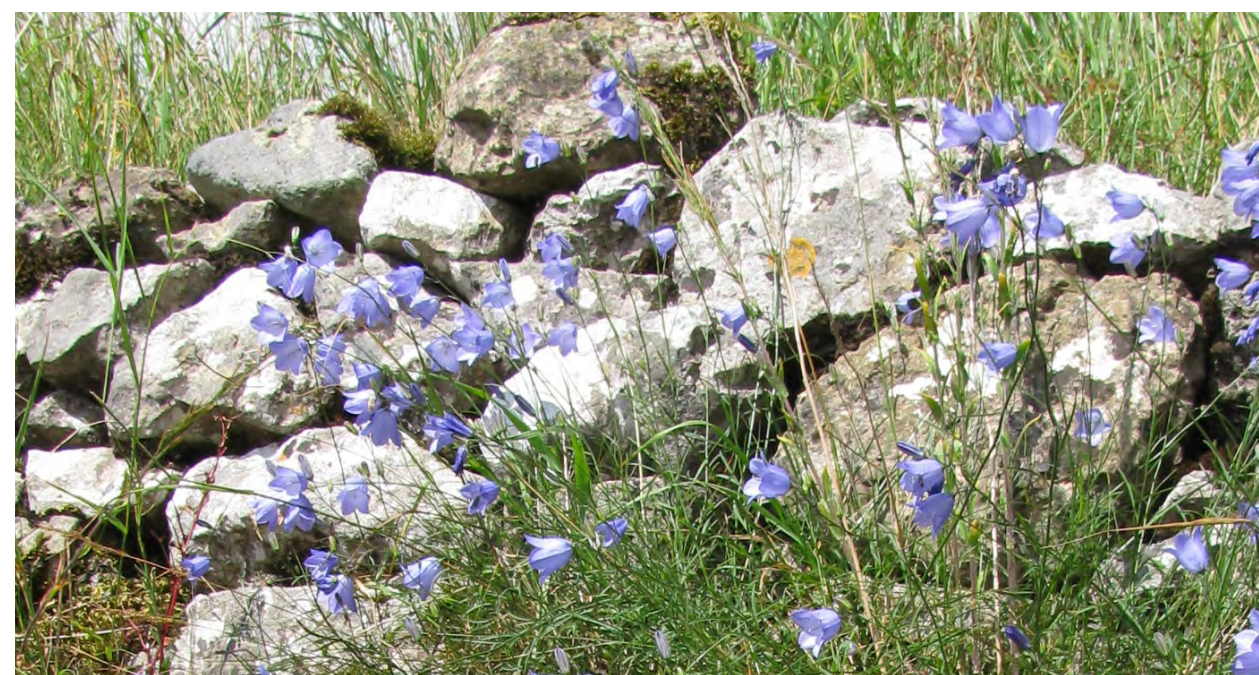




# 1. Where change is needed (System mapping)

Continue to stage 2

## Other things to think about (2)



### Non-monetary benefits



Natural landscapes can also provide non-monetary values. This may include spiritual or emotional connections to nature or a specific place. These can be difficult to measure or quantify. It is still important to consider how these wider benefits may feed into business success indirectly.

Not all human behaviour is motivated by financial incentives. Providing non-monetary benefits can also motivate potential partners and supporters of nature restoration projects.

### Connected thinking



Exploring the links between nature and business can be a complex process. It is worth taking the time to explore all of these connections to identify less obvious ways in which nature contributes to successful businesses. This allows more creative solutions to be identified.

Strong communication and partnership working between everyone is important to encourage this.

There are opportunities for everyone to benefit from PSS. It is important that people are engaged with the PSS process and able to share their views on what elements of nature matter to them.

Funding opportunities will be easier to identify and deliver if there is wide support for nature restoration activities.



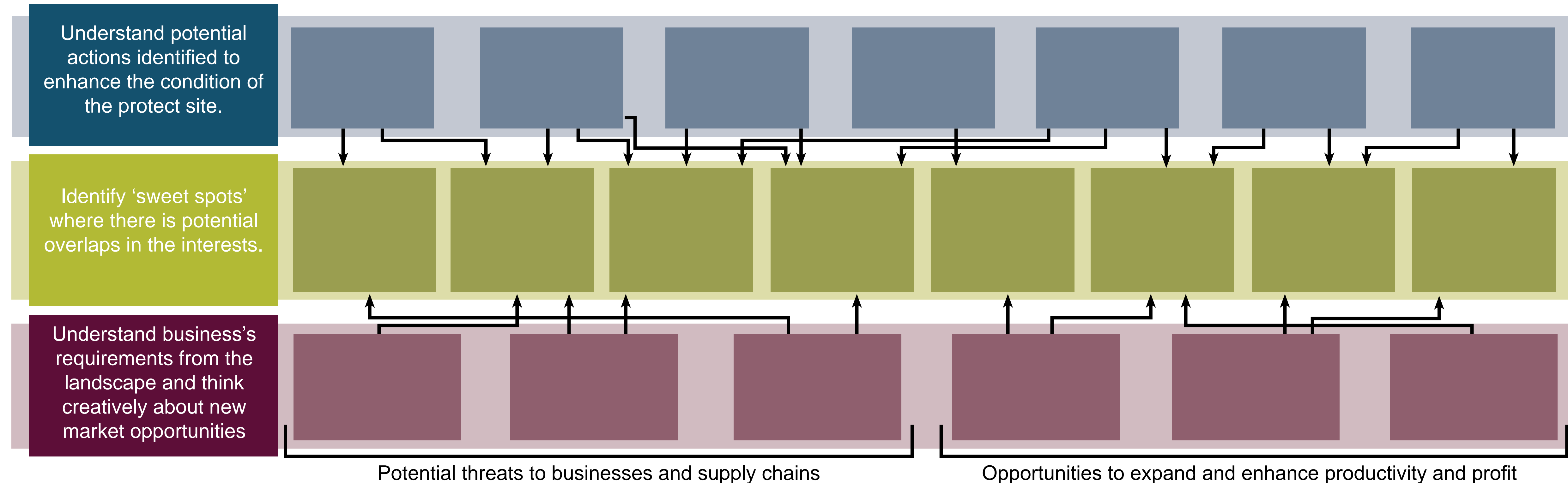
## 2. How to make change happen (Explore solutions)

### Finding technical Solutions

This stage of the PSS is about identifying what could change to address the problems identified in Stage 1.

In order to identify funding, solutions should represent the **sweet spots** between what businesses and communities need and what will benefit nature.

Explore the diagram below which highlights just some examples of how technical solutions to protect ecosystems can also deliver benefits to businesses.





# 2. How to make change happen (Explore solutions)

## Part 1: Technical solutions – West Dean Case Study

A novel approach to funding nature restoration by creating local supply chains and connecting people to their local landscape.

The West Dean Estate, in the South Down, comprises over 2000ha of designed landscape, woodland and mixed farming. It incorporates four protected sites, including Kingley Vale, Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and National Nature Reserve (NNR).

The Estate was selected as one of the pilot studies for creating a PSS, with an aim of transforming the management of the estate to prioritise biodiversity, climate resilience and community engagement. During the initial stages understanding the pressures on the protected sites, overgrazing by deer was highlighted as a key issue due to massive over population of deer on the South Downs.

Growing local venison markets has been explored as an opportunity for funding nature recovery in the estate. This has been achieved by working with tenant farmers (who act as suppliers) and local food businesses (who act as buyers). This funding initiative was pursued alongside agri-environment schemes.

It was a preferred option as it was seen as being the **‘right thing to do’** in terms of utilising the entire deer carcass, and using this as a sustainable and healthy food source. Part of this initiative has included education with local communities to develop a local market for venison by addressing some public perceptions on eating venison and the role of deer in the landscape. Marketability of the venison products is based on ties to the local landscape and supporting local supply chains.

Additional financial benefits include the reduced costs of supplying meat from local sources (due to reduced miles travelled). Reduced carbon emissions are also associated with these local supply chains.

Non-monetary benefits include enhancing people’s connection to the land and creating supportive local initiatives.

The PSS was a useful mechanism for asking different questions about how land is managed. There have been challenges with education and bringing everybody on side. Whilst culling deer is often a necessary part of management it is not always something that it talked about so a **change in mindset** is needed.



Mixed farmland and chalk scarp slope  
(c) West Dean Estate

**Discover more**

View the [Whole Estate Plan](#) to find out more about the vision for the Estate



## 2. How to make change happen (Explore solutions)

### Part 2: Types of funding to support delivery of change

This is about identifying solutions to deliver positive change to the protected site. The PSS guidance suggests that this should include identifying three potential options to create change. It is important that sustainable funding opportunities are considered within each of these options.

The different types of funding interventions that could be explored are detailed below. These funding options are particularly relevant if it is identified in Stage 1 that land management change is needed and that private funding is needed to enable that change. Click on each intervention type below for an example of how this has been done.

Projects can be funded by one, or a mix of these different options. The type of funding may also change over time. Public or philanthropic funding may be important for supporting initial work to build up a more long terms system of payments.



## 2. How to make change happen (Explore solutions)

Continue to stage 3

### Wendling Beck project case study

An innovative project incorporating a range of funding initiatives to create a flexible approach to restoring nature at scale.

The Wendling Beck project covers over 2000 acres of arable farmland in Norfolk, including three fragmented SSSI's. Land use was dominated by intensive cereal crop on the thin sandy soils. In 2020, the end to Basic Payments after Brexit was a catalyst for neighbouring farmers to come together and seek a funding solution for farming that did not rely on subsidies. At the same time, there was a strong desire to do more to let nature thrive, bring back wildlife and support nature-based solutions.

The Wendling Beck project was a pioneer for financing nature recovery through **Biodiversity Net Gain**. More recently, **phosphate and nitrate credits** have been developed. These will help deliver nutrient mitigation across the River Wensum catchment. Within the biodiversity uplift credits, research into the amount of soil carbon capture delivered is taking place. These represent additional ways the project is benefiting people.

Credits-based funding is combined with traditional food production. This is still continuing, but there has been a shift towards **regenerative agriculture**. Grass-fed beef and blackcurrant produce is being explored.

Part of the project has also included increasing footpaths and working with a local history museum to **educate people** about what the project is doing. This helps connect people to the environment.

Initial funding to set up to undertake baseline conditions audits, and for **ongoing research and development**, as been funded by public funding (as a pilot for the Natural Environment investment Readiness Fund (NEIRF)) as well as philanthropic funding from The Nature Conservancy (TNC).

#### Key wins

- Over 2,5000 biodiversity units have been created
- The Wendling Beck project is estimated to sequester 250,000 tonnes of carbon.
- The project will restore almost 4,000m of river.



Discover more

Visit the [Wendling Beck project website](#)

Listen to the [Nature Markets podcast episode](#)



# 3. Preparing for action (Plan for delivery)

## Key considerations and principles

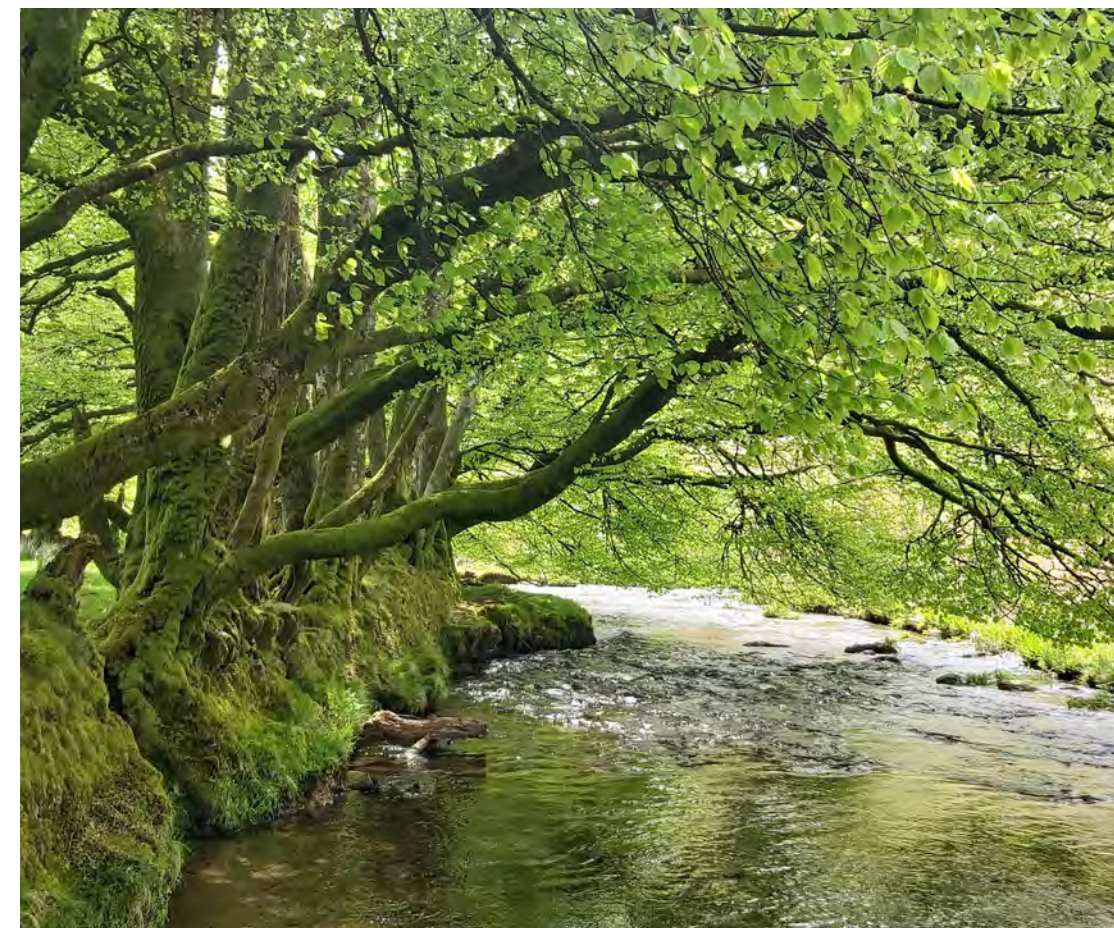
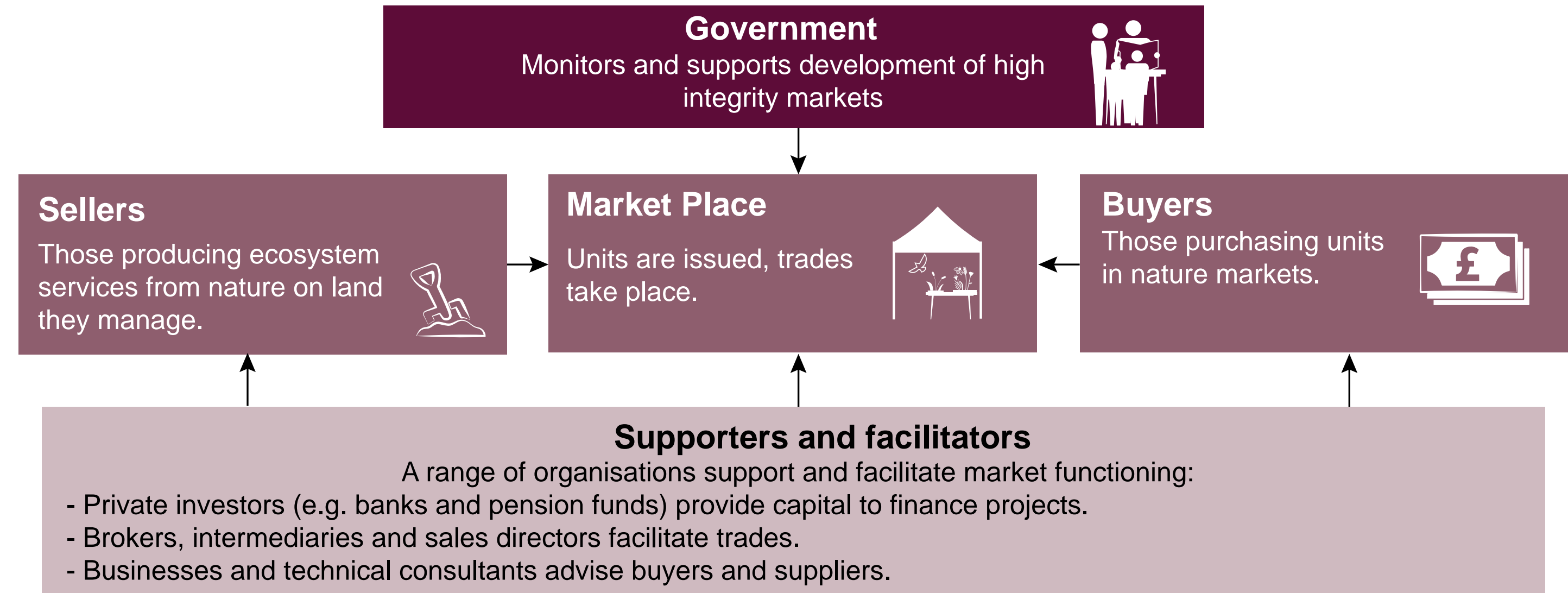
This stage incorporates the final preparation tasks before practical delivery. This toolkit focusses on delivery for nature markets.

The main task related to building long-term funding opportunities is to bring partners and stakeholders together more formally.

There are two key steps involved:

- All potential buyers, investors and land managers need to come together to **broker a deal**.
- Establish **governance structures and contracts**.

The diagram to the right shows an example of a governance structure for nature markets. It shows how there are different people with different roles coming together. Green funding options need to be done in collaboration with partners.





# 3. Preparing for action (Plan for delivery)

Continue to stage 4

## Case Study – Bristol Avon Catchment Market

An innovative approach to nature restoration, joining up businesses and land owners in market rounds.

The Bristol Avon catchment includes the landscapes around watercourses south east of Bristol and Bath, which flow into the River Severn Estuary Special Area of Conservation (SAC). The estuary contains important sandbanks, mudflats and salt meadows, and provides habitats for sea lamprey and river lamprey.

Water pollution is impacting the protected site. This is a problem that needs to be addressed at a catchment scale. Flood events can increase pollutants entering the water course and further increase pollution. Habitat creation including low-input grasslands, scrub, wetland, woodland and hedgerows can reduce flood risk.

The Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, Avon Wildlife Trust and EnTrade came together to develop the Bristol Avon Catchment Market using initial start-funding from the Government's Green Recovery Challenge Fund. The initiative allows benefits from nature based projects including woodland and wetland creation to be 'sold' at **high-integrity markets**. This offers an alternative funding mechanism to finance the huge amount of work that needs to be done across the catchment.

Sales are done in market rounds where buyers' bids and sellers' offers are matched up in a way that maximised the surplus generated. This surplus is then shared with successful buyers and sellers. There are several key partners / user groups within the project:

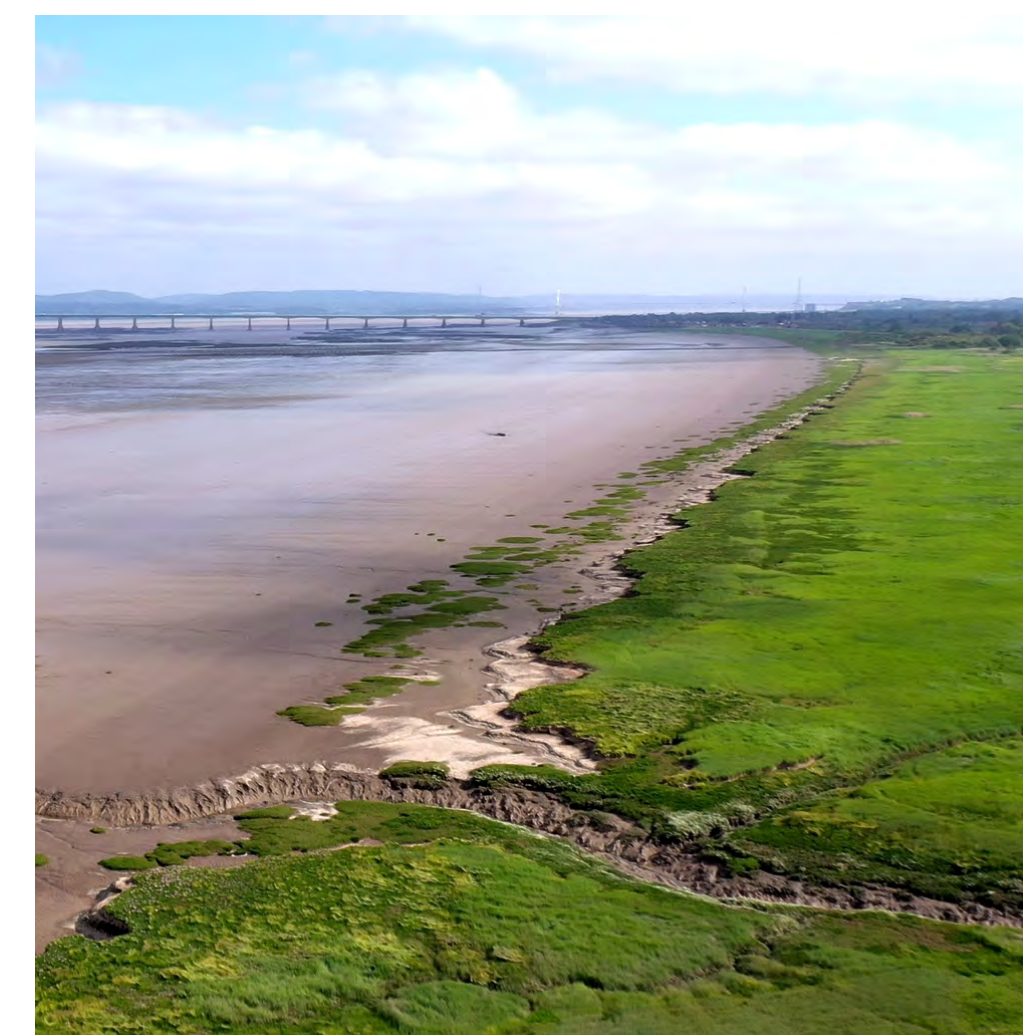
- Buyers – make bids at the market round, specifying the maximum they want to pay.
- Sellers – make offers to deliver projects to generate ecosystem services, specifying the minimum they are willing to be paid.
- Market Operator – responsible for establishing the market rules, registering participants for the online markets and sharing out surplus. This role is taken on by EnTrade.
- Independent Matching Service - responsible for matching buyers and sellers at the market. This role is taken on by the University of Exeter.

### Key wins

- So far there have been two market rounds which have generated £286,000 worth of BNG trades to date.



Undulating grassland landscape south of Bristol



Discover more

Visit the [Bristol Avon Catchment website](#) to find out how it all works

Explore the details of setting up this project on the [Green Finance Initiative Hive](#)

Listen to the [episode on the Nature Markets podcast](#)

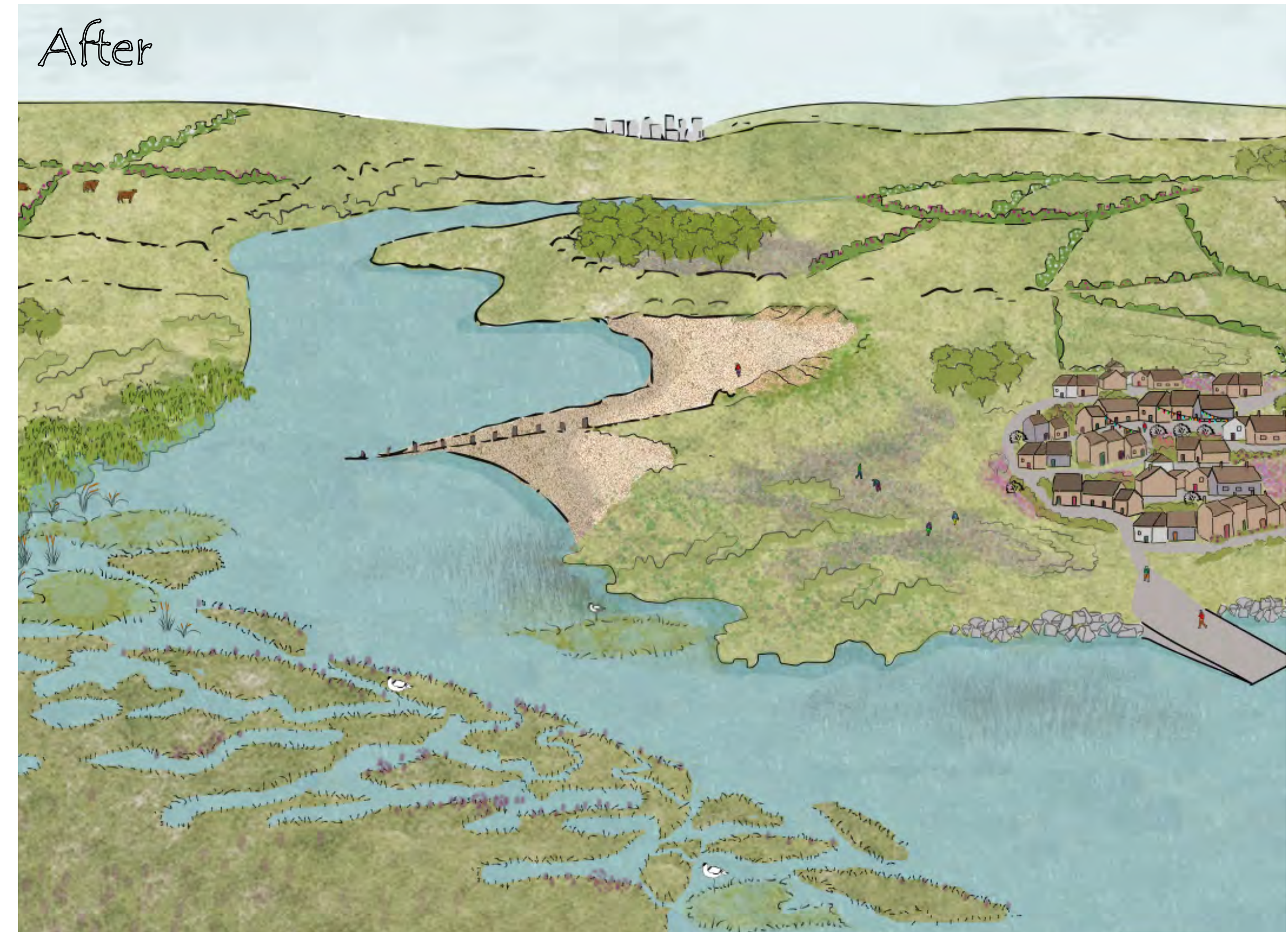
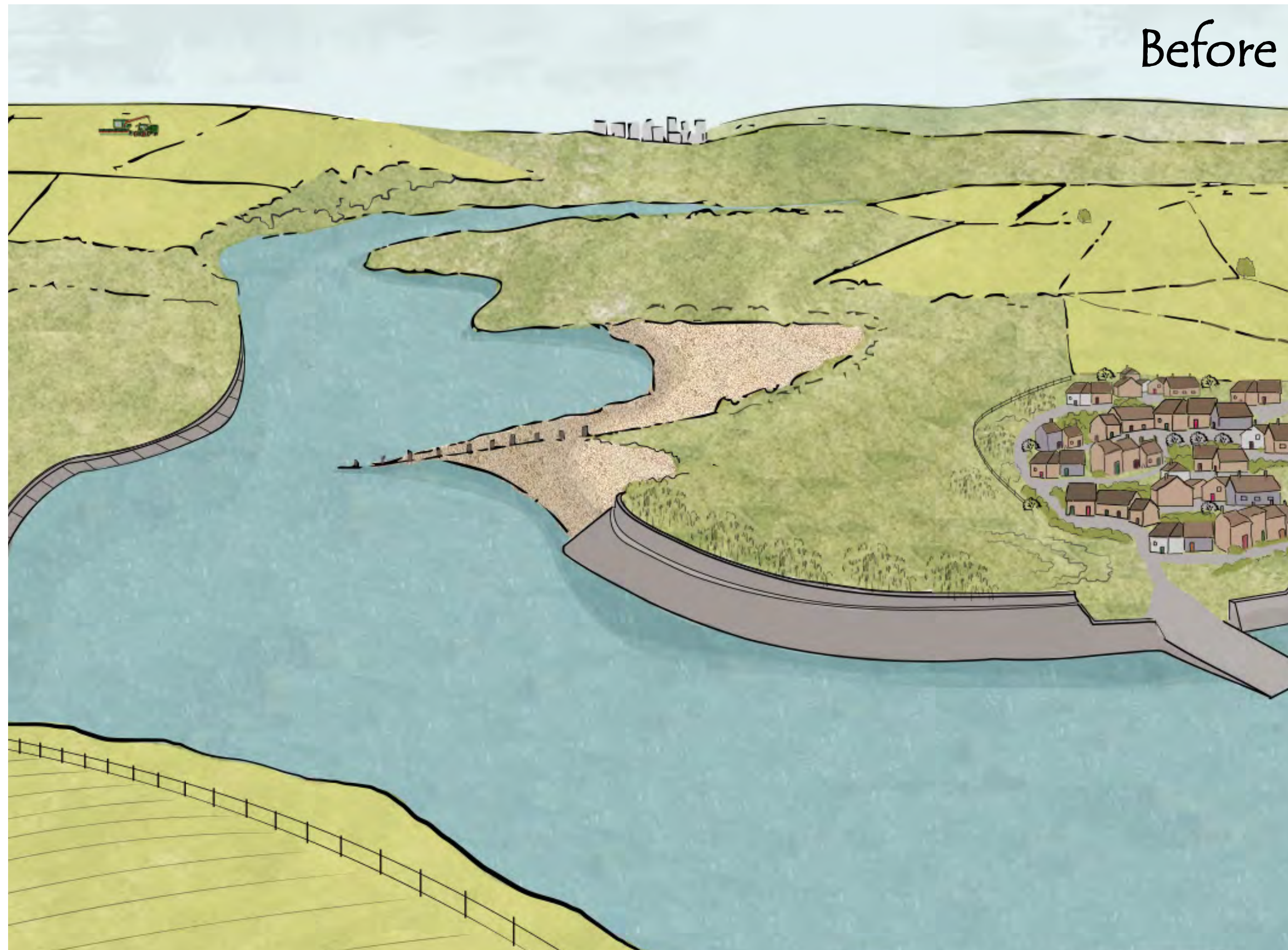


## 4. Delivery and adapting (Operations)

### Key considerations and principles

When the PSS is in operation, there will be ongoing monitoring of the project outcomes. Often this may be a legal requirement to ensure that the purchased credits or supply chain enhancements are being delivered. Monitoring and evaluation can also help inform future management. Lessons on what works well and what could be improved can be taken forward and management adapted to meet these findings.

There may be opportunities to feedback and tell project partners what the impact of the nature recovery has been on people living, working and visiting the PSS. This will help the project to deliver as many benefits as possible.





# Voluntary payments for ecosystem services

## The Wyre Natural Flood Risk Management project case study

Creation of a novel market for selling Natural Flood Management credits, based on robust modelling of the catchment.

The Wyre catchment covers most of North Lancashire, from the rugged upland fells of the Forest of Bowland National Landscape (adjoining the Bowland Fells Special Protection Area (SPA)) to the broad expanses of intertidal mudflats and sandflats at Morcambe Bay Special Area of Conservation SAC and Wyre Estuary Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). In the south, the catchment borders the urban environment, including around Preston.

The landscape has been **modified over several centuries** by humans- including diffuse pollution from agriculture, physical modifications to watercourses, and the spread of invasive non-native species which all threaten the resilience of functioning ecosystems across the landscape. Flooding is a particular challenge as it impacts communities, local businesses, and natural habitats. Flood events are likely to become worse due to the effects of climate change.

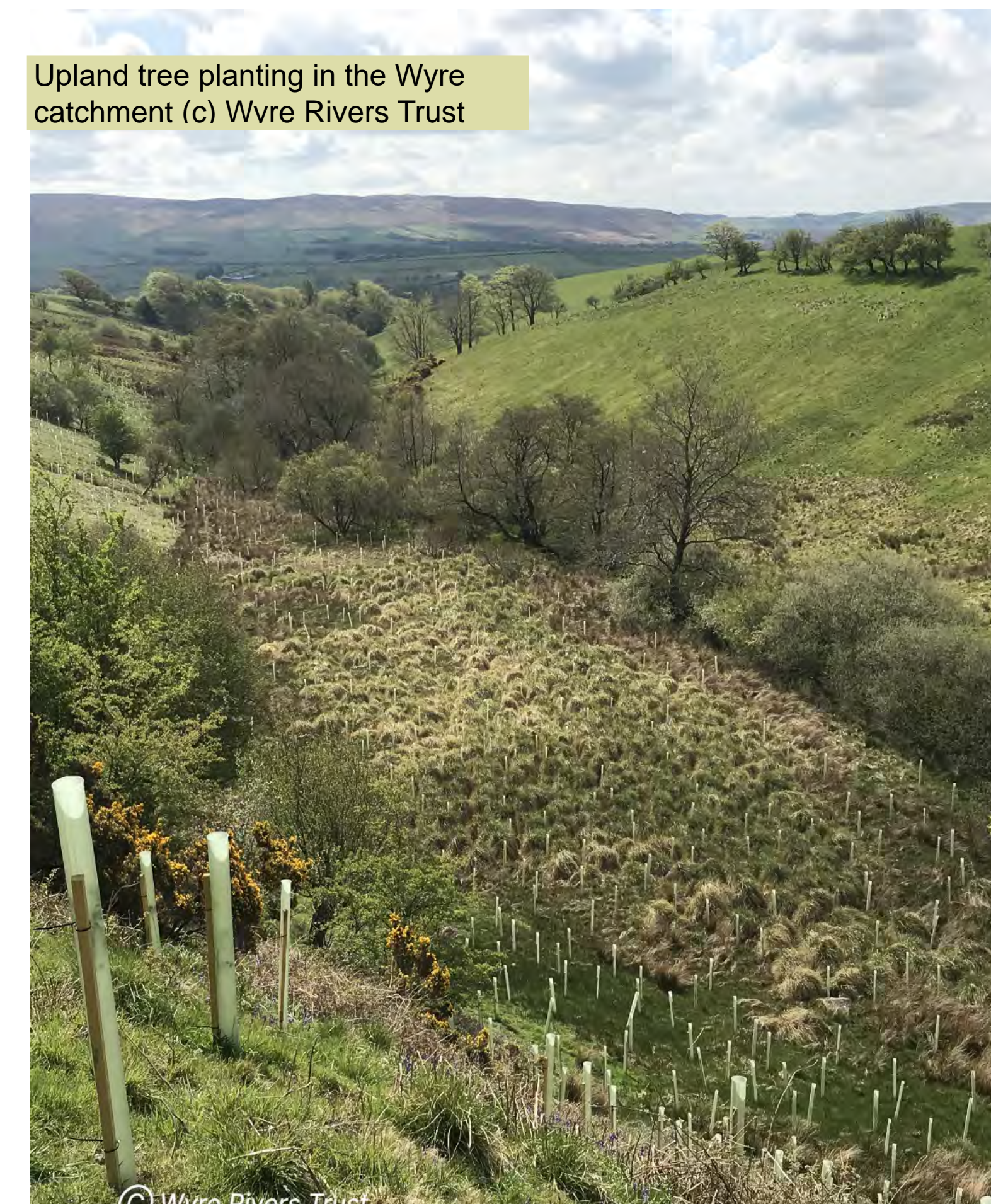
The Wyre Rivers Trust, The Rivers Trust and partners have been developing an approach to securing investment for catchment scale delivery of **Natural Flood Management** (NFM) by selling NFM as an ecosystem service. Creation of a mechanism for these sales has been based on extensive modelling of the River Wyre catchment.

Five buyers of the flood management ecosystem service have been identified, including the Environment Agency, United Utilities and Wyre Council. Farmers and landowners act as the 'sellers' and are paid to host the NFM measures on their land.

Payments will cover the cost of creating and maintaining NFM interventions, including leaky dams, river restoration, banded hedges, woodland creation, grassland conversion and pond creation.

### Key wins

- A total of £2 million in ecosystem service payments is scheduled over the nine-year period of the project



Upland tree planting in the Wyre catchment (c) Wyre Rivers Trust

**Discover more**

Find out more on the [Wyre Rivers Trust website](#)

Listen to the [Nature Markets podcast](#) episode on the Wyre



# Compliance payments to ecosystem services

## Thames Basin Heath case study

A groundbreaking compliance-based payments to unlock development without threatening protected sites.

The Thames Basin Heath Special Protection Area (SPA) is a network of sites extending over 8000ha across Surrey, Hampshire and Berkshire and incorporates heathland and woodland. It is one of the most important sites for wildlife in Europe. The heathland-woodland edge habitat supports breeding birds, including nightjar, woodlark and the Dartford warbler. The Heaths are also valued by local visitors, who enjoy the benefits of access to natural, open landscapes on their doorstep.

The proximity of the heaths to large populations of people, including on the edge of London, has created **recreational pressures** which threaten the ecological integrity of the SPA. New development is expected to make this worse. Research has highlighted the link between public access and the breeding success of the birds on the Heaths. However, development is needed in order to meet the housing needs of growing populations.

The relevant local authorities, along with natural environment focussed partners, came together to form the Thames Basin Heath Partnership. They set out a framework allowing development to take place within the visitor catchment of the Heaths, without increasing the recreational damage to these habitats. This was based on the idea of compliance-based payments. Developers were required to provide contributions to reduce the recreational damage impacting the Heaths in order to receive planning permission. This was done through two mechanisms:

- Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) which involves the creation of **new natural greenspaces** with a similar public appeal, to draw recreation away from the SPA.
- Strategic Access Management and Monitoring (SAMM) which supports work to **engage and educate** the public about the impact of their actions (particularly from dog walkers) on the Heath.

### Key wins

- Since the initiative began in 2009 populations of woodlark have increased, and nightjar and Dartford warbler have increased.
- Over 80 alternative greenspaces are now recognised and there are on-site wardens on the Heaths 7 days a week.



Dartford warbler



**Discover more**

Find out more about the work of the [Thames Basin Heaths Partnership](#)

Read about the [success of the SANG and SAMM projects](#)



# Payments to supply chains

## East of England case study

A collaborative approach to implement nature-based solutions at scale to improve the health, productivity and resilience of landscapes

The East of England covers 15% of England's land area, including a number of protected sites, such as extensive grassland and heath at Breckland Special Protection Area (SPA) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC), as well as a number of internationally protected wetlands and fens. In the north, the land drains into the North Sea at the Wash SPA and the north Norfolk Coast SAC. The landscape supports important arable agriculture and growing urban populations.

The predominantly low-lying region faces climate risks, notably flooding, sea-level rise and water scarcity. Agriculture is highly **vulnerable** to climate risks, requiring sustainable land management. In order to invest in these changes, financial incentives are required to support farmers to adopt regenerative practices.

**Landscape Enterprise Networks (LENs)** is a system for organising buying and selling of nature-based solutions to create resilience in supply chains. They have brought together a trading community of food manufacturers, water companies and the West Northamptonshire Council to implement nature-based solutions including carbon reduction and sequestration, flood risk mitigation, soil regeneration, biodiversity and habitat creation and water quality improvements. Funders invest in regenerative practices, and the outcomes are tracked by the LENs MRV (Measurement, Reporting, Verification) programme.

Key to the success of this project has been working at scale, continued engagement with investors and farmers, and multi-stakeholder collaboration.

### Key wins

- 2021 trade which resulted in £1 million invested
- 2023 trade with a further £3.9 million invested



Hay bales in cut field

[Discover more](#)

View the [East of England LENs Fact File](#)

Discover more about the [LENs approach](#)

Read more about how [Nestlé are investing in regenerative agriculture](#)



# Private investment

## Oxygen Conservation case study

A private business investing in land acquisition with the specific goal of protecting and restoring nature at scale.

Oxygen Conservation, a subsidiary of Oxygen House Group (an investment group), invests in land to protect and restore natural capital. The company aims to scale conservation across the UK using capital through Oxygen House Group and external repayable finance, such as **commercial loans**.

In 2023, Oxygen Conservation acquired two estates in Scotland, Blackburn and Hartsgarth, and Invergeldie, which together cover 23,000 acres. These acquisitions were completed using a **£20.55m loan facility** (with a repayment period of 25 years) from Triodos Bank. Both sites are former grouse moors with low environmental baselines, creating opportunities for delivering natural capital gains to benefit local people and wildlife. Across the two sites, Oxygen Conservation hopes to deliver 6,500 acres of new **native woodlands** and 7,000 acres of **restored peatlands**, storing over **1 million tonnes of carbon**. Carbon credits will be sold, as defined and measured by the Peatland and Woodland Carbon Codes. Both estates also have operational farmland that will be transitioned to organic and regenerative agriculture, with the produce sold locally.

Wider income opportunities pursued across Oxygen Conservation's sites (with plans tailored to the specific landscape) include sale of biodiversity credits/units, renewable energy generation, property development and ecotourism.

### Key wins

- Purchase of 23,000 acres of estate for restoration
- Potential to sequester 1 million tonnes of carbon and generate profit through carbon as well as biodiversity credits.

Aberdeen Angus cattle (c) Oxygen Conservation



**Discover more**

Read about [Oxygen Conservation's vision for restoring nature](#)

More on [Triodos Bank](#) finance for nature-based projects

Read more about what Oxygen Conservation are doing in [Blackburn & Hartsgarth](#)

Find out more about this case study on the [Green Finance Institute Hive](#)



# Philanthropic funding

## Nature North case study

A large-scale joined up approach to delivering nature restoration in partnership across landscapes.

The regions of the North West, North East and Yorkshire and Humber in England encompass some of England's most important habitats. This includes wild swathes of blanket bog (including the North Pennine Moors Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Area (SPA), spectacular coastlines (including the Berwickshire & North Northumberland Coast SPA) and awe-inspiring mountains and lakes (including the Lake District High Fells SAC).

A report from the Institute for Public Policy Research highlighted that the condition of nature in the north of England is poor (70% of SSSIs in the north are in unfavourable condition). Additionally, the under-valuation of nature was identified as having the potential to impact the resilience of the Northern economy (which in places is forecast to have low growth).

The report recommended **joint decision making** and delivery was need between nature-related organisations in the North.

Senior leaders of these organisations came together at a Northern Nature Leaders workshop in 2019 and developed the concept of Nature North. In 2019 the Nature North Partnership Board was established, comprising environmental NGOs and quangos, as well as the Heritage Fund and Esmée Fairburn Foundation, who provided **philanthropic financial support**.

Nature North have established a number of **investable propositions** These are nature recovery projects which are delivering quantified benefits to people, climate and the economy. By demonstrating these benefits, the projects can bring a wider range of partners and investors on board to deliver recovery at scale.

The Great North Bog and Northern Forest programmes are already established. New investable propositions are being developed, including Northern Coasts and Estuaries; Green Northern Connection; and River Nature North.



**Discover more**

Visit the [Nature North website](#)

Find out more about the [Esmée Fairburn Foundation](#)

Find out more about the [Heritage Fund](#)



# Morridge Hill project case study

Ambitious approach to explore financing solutions for family farms as part of the Landscape Recovery Fund pilot.

The Morridge Hill project covers an area of over 2500ha in the Peak District. This intricate mosaic of habitats includes a patchwork of peatlands, rough pastures and grasslands and watercourses within the Staffordshire Moorlands. It is located within the south of the Peak District National Park, and within the Peak District Moors Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Special Area of Protection (SPA). The area is internationally designated for its heath, scrub and bog habitats, as well as breeding populations of merlin, European Golden plover and short-eared owl.

The project area includes over 15 private and public landowners, including the Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA), Staffordshire Wildlife Trust (SWT), and the Ministry of Defence. A coordinated approach is needed to achieve **landscape-scale recovery** of nature and address local challenges related to biodiversity loss and climate change. The project aims to achieve Nature Recovery ambitions, whilst supporting sustainable food production and enhancing the historic environment features in the area.

The project applied for **£749,000 in government funding** through the Landscape Recovery Fund for a two-year development phase (starting in 2024). Work has begun on the co-creation of a long-term tailored management plan to support sustainable farming and biodiversity. Government funding is being used to deliver a development-phase which will **build partnership working**, and develop novel private finance solutions for family farms. Farmers look to build on their existing delivery of ecosystem services, and develop local sustainable food production, alongside accelerating positive impacts for Nature. The Morridge Hill Country team includes a Project Manager, Biodiversity Interventions Officer, and Technical Officer, with wider delivery support coming from staff at PDNPA and SWT.

The two-year development phase is expected to transition into a 20-30 year delivery phase funded by a blend of public and private finance. If successful, the project will secure a bespoke agreement with Defra to restore habitats and historic features, enhance biodiversity, sequester carbon, and promote sustainable farming.



Gorse and heather moorland



Curlew on upland grassland



# Glossary, acronyms and useful information

**Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)** Requirement for all developments to delivery a positive impact on biodiversity through nature creation and enhancement to deliver at least a 10% uplift compared to the baseline. This can be delivered on or off-site. More information [here](#).

**Green Finance Institute (GFI)** An independent advisory group providing research, advice and guidance on transitioning to a greener future. This includes the GFI Hive which is focussed on mobilising finance for nature. More information [here](#).

**Local Planning Authority (LPA)** Authority responsible for planning, usually the planning authority of the relevant district or borough council. Within a National Park the national park authority acts as the LPA.

**National Landscape** A landscape designation for outstanding landscapes of beauty and tranquillity. These were previously referred to as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). More information [here](#).

**National Nature Reserve** A publicly accessible space offering visitors an opportunity to connect with important wildlife, habitats, geology and landscapes. They are identified by Natural England to protect important habitats, species and geology and provide ‘outdoor laboratories’ for research. More information [here](#).

**National Park** A landscape designation comprising some of the best landscapes across the country. These are valued for their beauty and cultural heritage as well as wildlife. More information [here](#).

**Non-governmental organisation (NGO)** A voluntary, non-profit independent organisation which operates outside government control. In this toolkit, use of NGO refers to environmental and nature-based NGOs. At a national level, this includes [The Wildlife Trusts](#), [the RSPB](#), [the Rivers Trust](#), [the Woodland Trust](#) and the [National Trust](#).

**Nutrient Neutrality** Regulations which apply to identified areas where phosphate and nitrate concentrations in rivers are threatening protected habitats and species. Within these areas development is required to mitigate nutrient pollution, including through restoring nature. More information [here](#).

**Protected Site Strategy (PSS)** Protected Site Strategies (PSS) aim to bring together key stakeholders to address on and offsite pressures on protected sites (such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest) to help restore our most precious habitats, species, and geodiversity. Also termed as Nature Collectives, they describe a coming together of people and science (evidence gathering) in specified places to solve challenges to the natural environment. Each PSS/Nature Collective is underpinned by the PSS legislation in the Environment Act 2021.

**Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)** A national designation protected when it is considered to have features of special interest because of its wildlife, geology or landform. More information [here](#).

**Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)** A designation to protect areas of international importance for birds. More information [here](#).

**Special Protection Area (SPA)** A designation to protect internationally important habitats and species. More information [here](#).

**Woodland Carbon Code (WCC)** A voluntary standard for woodland creation project. It provides a quality assurance standard for UK woodland carbon projects. More information [here](#).



## Further resources

Dasgupta Review: Provides an overview of why nature should matter to people and businesses

State of Natural Capital Report: An important document pulling together the best available evidence on natural capital within England.

Natural Capital Evidence Handbook: A key resource for practitioners on how to 'do' natural capital in place.

LEAP approach: This summary outlines the LEAP (Locate, Evaluate, Assess, Prepare) approach to integrate nature into business planning. More of their work can be found [here](#).

Natural Capital Indicators for defining and measuring change in natural capital: Provides information on which indicators can act as effective, early-warning indicators of change and may highlight key threats to the Protected Site.

Natural Capital Atlases: These provide mapping for natural capital indicators for county and city regions.

Managing Ecosystem Services Evidence Review: A tool to show different management interventions affect provision of ecosystem services.

Nature Strategy Handbook: Supports businesses in developing a nature strategy.

Introduction to Nature Markets: A useful starting point to understand how nature markets work.

GFI Investment Readiness Toolkit: Steps 1 - 4 of the investment readiness toolkit provides important guidance and resources on how to start building funding solutions. Further resources and checklists are provided for each of these steps. Steps 5 - 8 of the Investment Readiness Toolkit provides support on the policy and regulation of setting up nature markets and green commerce arrangements.

GFI Farming Toolkit: Similar to the Investment Readiness Toolkit but with a focus on the supply side. Steps 1 - 4 of the investment readiness toolkit provides important guidance and resources on how to start building funding solutions. Further resources and checklists are provided for each of these steps. Steps 5- 8 provides support on the policy and regulation of setting up nature markets and green commerce arrangements.

Governance of blended finance: Explores the governance structures and legal forms available to entities seeking to deliver nature-based solutions.

The Nature-based Solutions Blueprint: Guidance on how companies can build business cases for using NbS to address their challenges and opportunities while delivering positive climate and impacts.



Toolkit produced by LUC on behalf of Natural England



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