

We will ensure that the work is underpinned by the very best evidence and we will put in place robust monitoring to help us evaluate success.



We plan to establish partnerships in three separate areas of English uplands to demonstrate how ecosystem services can drive land management.

For more information

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/securefuture/default.aspx>

Enquiries

enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk
0845 600 3078

Front cover photograph: People walking on Dartmoor
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NATURAL
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Natural England is here to conserve and enhance the natural environment, for its intrinsic value, the wellbeing and enjoyment of people and the economic prosperity that it brings.

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Delivering nature's services

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Nature's infrastructure

At this time of great environmental change, we need nature more than ever in our history. Our health, wellbeing and happiness depends on it. A healthy natural environment provides us with a wide range of benefits which are essential for our long-term prosperity. We cannot afford to take nature for granted anymore.

What do we mean by 'ecosystem services'?

The term ecosystem services describes the many benefits we get from the natural environment – products like food, fibre, wood, and water; services like pollination, nutrient cycling, soil formation, water purification, flood defence and opportunities for reflection and recreation – all are critical for our wellbeing.

The danger is that we continue to take nature's services for granted. Many of them – for instance fresh air, clean water, green spaces – are 'public goods', not traded in markets. We often see them as free gifts, and do not invest in their production. If we are to ensure the continued delivery of these benefits from nature we need to understand and value their importance and invest in them.



Cloud over Dodd above Bassenthwaite

© Natural England/Michael Turner



Sheep farming in the uplands

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Joining forces to close the deficit

A secure future, one which needs to value and safeguard ecosystem services, requires us to work together to provide those benefits. By combining our expertise and resources, land managers, public and private sector organisations can achieve more with less. Through three demonstration projects we will show that an integrated approach is the most efficient and effective way to deliver these services as key elements of viable land managing businesses.

The demonstration projects will develop and implement a local vision for upland landscapes. A vision that delivers the best mix of services and benefits for people and revolutionises the way in which upland land managers are rewarded for their stewardship of the land.

So what's new?

These pilots are unique because:

- we are designing the delivery of ecosystem services into the projects from the outset;
- they will deliver multiple benefits: environmental, economic, social and cultural;
- we will change land and water management to do this;
- we will develop new institutions and partnerships to link those that provide the services (the land managers) to those that benefit from them.

Where and how will we work?

There are three pilot areas, one in each of three main upland areas of England. These areas are vital for carbon storage, flood risk management, water quality and supply, food and recreation, as well as being home to many rare and important species.

In each of these areas partnerships have been established to represent those responsible for securing benefits from ecosystem services. These partnerships will identify current and potential services provided by their particular area of upland, determine the value of these services and identify those who benefit. Partners will then work closely together to define the management changes needed to maximise these benefits. A greater understanding of these benefits will lead to new markets and ways of investing in the natural environment and land management, which will deliver more services, and a healthier natural environment, for less money.



Blocking grips to restore upland peat – an important carbon store

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