

A scenic landscape featuring a large, calm lake in a valley. The lake is surrounded by lush green hills and mountains under a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. The sun is reflecting off the water, creating a shimmering effect. In the foreground, there are some trees and a grassy slope.

◀ National Parks

UK National Parks and the journey to Net Zero

Naomi Conway

Development Director, National Parks Partnerships

Where it started

15 CEOs unified = using the National Parks/AONBs as a resource to fight climate change

10% of Great Britain's landmass



Developing the proposal

Criteria:

- Nature restoration with positive carbon impacts
- At least c. 70% within NP boundaries
- Additional benefits to include biodiversity; water quality; reduced flood risk; volunteering; recreational improvements; job creation; at-risk species protection...

Net Zero With Nature

To date – 19 projects

Wide range :

- 'Temperate rainforest' in Exmoor National Park
- Hedgerow restoration in Snowdonia
- Pollination corridors in the South Downs
- Coastal grassland in the North York Moors



Estimations of scale

Not including 'Great North Bog':

- C. 33,000 ha of restoration (larger than Birmingham)
- 4,000 ha of woodland creation/management
- 4,000 ha of grassland improvement
- 11,750 ha of peatland restoration
- 10,660 ha mixed habitat restoration
- 100km hedgerows



10 year cost to deliver = c. £100 million

Testing the waters

Talking to companies in 2020...

- Definite interest in supporting UK based nature restoration
- We're *not* offering carbon offset opportunities (yet)
- Majority seeking accredited verification of supported work
- Not all about Verified Carbon Units...other outcomes are important

Conclusions

- National Parks can play a major role in a low carbon society – GNB international level opportunity
- Work can be funded NOW, expertise and experience is here – early adopters?
- Strong corporate interest in/ understanding of nature restoration
- Challenge to unlock high levels of financial support
- Unlocking full potential likely to come from a public/private approach
- Need for standardised measurement, monitoring and accrediting across the sector

Conclusions

For more information:

Naomi Conway

National Parks Partnerships

naomi.conway@nationalparks.co.uk