



The Peatland Code: key to delivering action?



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Where are we going?





Farming in Wales: change ahead

- The only certainty is uncertainty

PRESS RELEASE

Historic first Welsh Agriculture Bill to support farmers into the future

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Philip Clarke
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Agriculture Bill has been laid before the way for ambitious and transformational farmers, sustainable food production, and the Welsh countryside, culture and Minister Lesley Griffiths announced

First published: 26 September 2022
Last updated: 26 September 2022

programme for Government commitment for a snares and glue traps. Wales will be the first a complete ban.

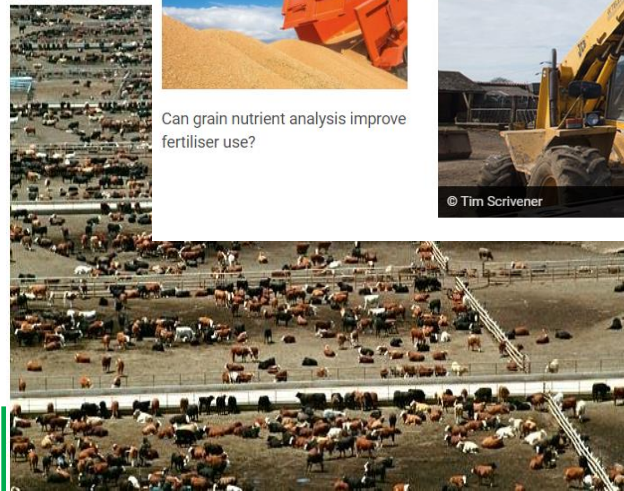
Policy framework recognises the complementary farmers in the sustainable production of food respond to the climate and nature emergencies, communities and keeping farmers on the land.

Land Management which establishes a policy and at ensuring farmers can carry on producing high goods for generations to come. Sustainable Land or key objectives which are to produce foods and



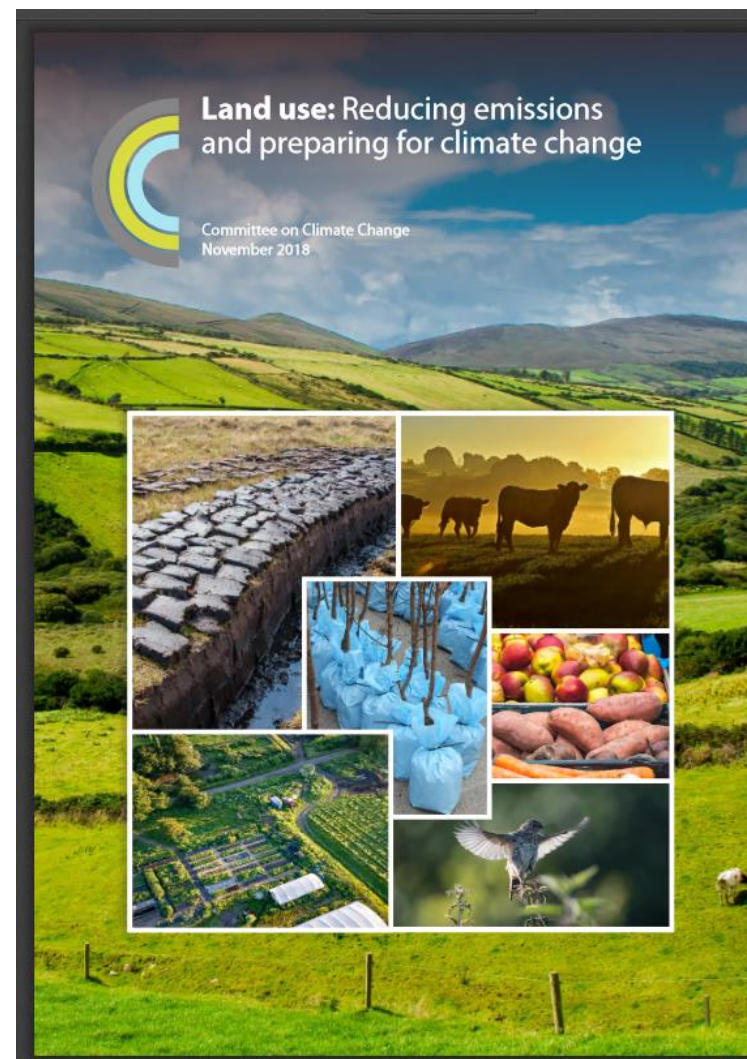
Giving up footprint

Study shows red more land and 11 ti



This is really, really important

- Government response



This is really, really important



This is really, really important



So where does this leave livestock production?



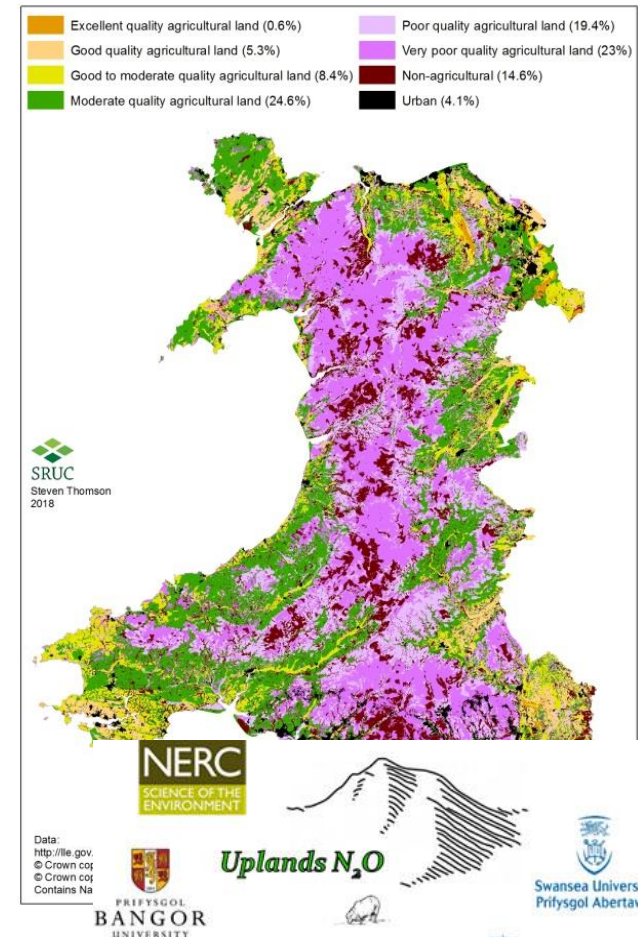


Not all systems are equal



Cleverer accounting; acknowledging role of grassland systems

- Grass-based systems can have a lower environmental impact
- ...and also deliver environmental benefits



Changes to government policy: future direction



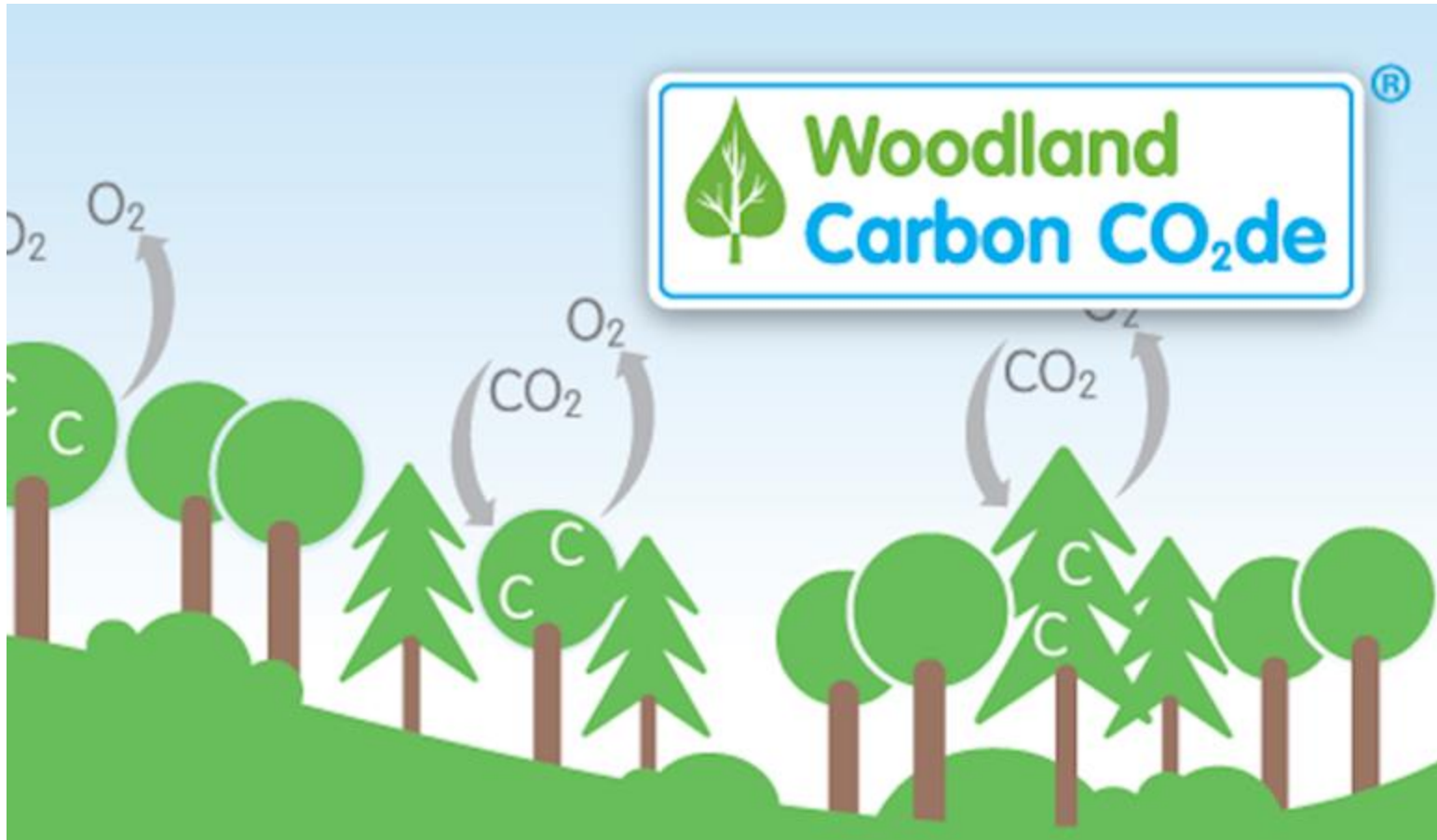


Private funds?





Private funds?



Private funds?

- Held a series of focus group meetings with grazers to try and ascertain:

Why is take-up so low??

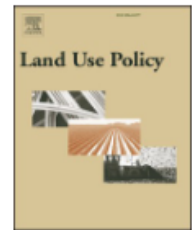




Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Land Use Policy

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/landusepol



Barriers and opportunities facing the UK Peatland Code: A case-study of blended green finance

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ARTICLE INFO

Keywords:

Agri-environment schemes
Carbon credits
Ecosystem markets
Land use policy
Payments for Ecosystem Services

ABSTRACT

Blended finance offers a way of increasing total expenditure on tackling the twin climate and biodiversity global emergencies. However, this requires effective methods for combining private and public funding. As an example of the barriers and opportunities facing practical implementation of a blended finance approach, this Viewpoint paper presents a case-study of the UK Peatland Code which will have relevance to other instances of blended finance initiatives elsewhere. Restoration of degraded peatlands reduces their carbon emissions and can provide emission reductions and other environmental gains in a socially cost-effective manner. However, many benefits are public goods arising as externalities which are difficult to convert into financial returns to private investors. To address this problem, the Peatland Code has been developed as a voluntary certification standard for UK peatland projects wishing to seek additional private funding via the voluntary carbon market. However, uptake of the Peatland Code has been slow. Despite growing demand in the voluntary carbon market, we observe six main barriers to supply-side uptake: lack of awareness amongst land managers; resistance to land use change, particularly when measures are seen to potentially compromise agricultural production; high upfront capital costs; limited equipment and skills; uncertainty over ongoing costs and support; and, administrative bureaucracy/inflexibility. We offer recommendations for how such barriers could be reduced to increase supply-side



The value of peatlands

- The Snowdonia National Park holds around 30% of Wales' peatlands, with over 25,000 hectares of peat, and an estimated 17 million tonnes of carbon
 - Currently, many Welsh peatlands are a **source** of carbon
- Very important for biodiversity
- Water storage



Restoring upland bog in North Wales is 'more effective than preserving Amazon rainforest'

As peatlands store more carbon than tropical rainforests, efforts to reverse decades of man-made damage to upland bog yield greater benefits for global warming

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Private funds?

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By Dale Spridgeon



Llwytmor Carneddau

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A PROJECT to restore "globally rare" Snowdonia mountain peatland is underway.

Large scale erosion is taking place on the 'blanket bogs' slopes of Llwytmor and Foel-Grach in the Carneddau region.

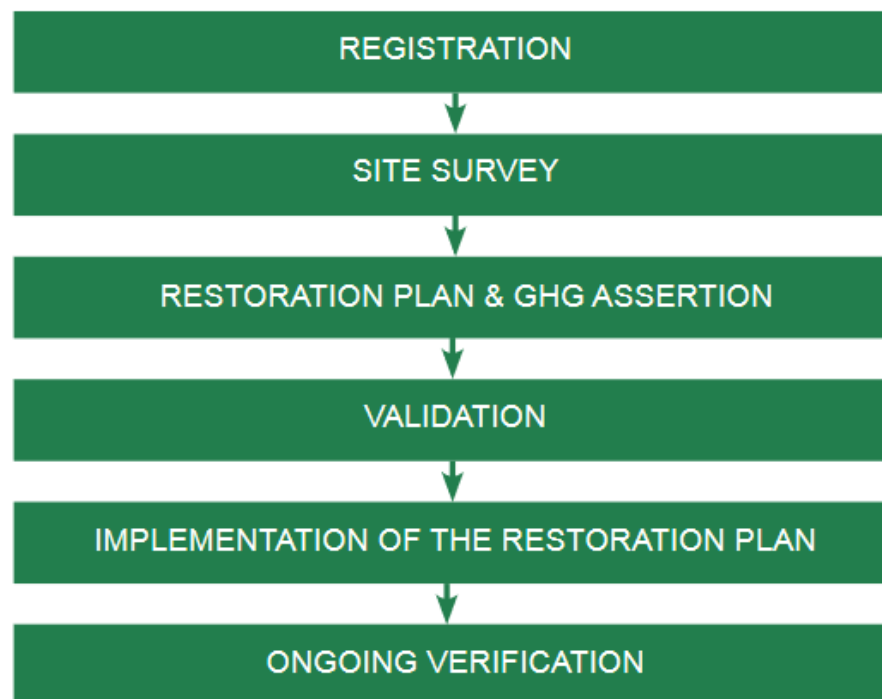
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Private funds? The Peatland Code

- Manage of “degraded” peatland in a way that stores carbon
- Verification / validation
- Carbon stored can be put “for sale”
- Private funders to pay for carbon off-setting
- 30-year agreements



Private funds? The Peatland Code

- Payments **in addition** to e.g. Glastir
 - Management must not conflict with other obligations
- Agreement between grazer and landowner
- A group of farmers set up as a co-operative can have one peatland code agreement
 - Landowner would have to give permission and show that they have a long-term tenancy
 - Landowner would also have to be a guarantor if the co-operative breaks up
- Thoughts???



Survey questions

- **Q1** Please describe your **current level of knowledge** of peatlands and peatland restoration
- **Q2** Are you **aware of the carbon benefits** of peatland restoration?
- **Q3** Have you **heard of the Peatland Code** and/or funding for peatland restoration through agri-environment schemes?
- **Q4** On a scale of 0 to 5, please indicate your **interest** in undertaking a peatland restoration project (0 being not interested and 5 being you are already planning peatland restoration)
- **Q5** If you own/manage an area of peatland can you describe what **condition** you feel it is in? Please consider this question both in terms of agricultural productivity and peatland ecology



Survey questions

- **Q6** What are your **motivations** for undertaking a peatland restoration project?
- **Q7** What **concerns** you about undertaking a peatland restoration project? Have you thought about restoring your peatland and then changed your mind? If so, please tell us why
- **Q8** What **support** would you need to undertake a peatland restoration project?
- **Q9** Have you entered any **other** forestry or Glastir/ environment **schemes**?
- Several groups, at different stages of 'the journey'

Interest, barriers and answers

- Respondents generally open, positive, and willing to discuss
 - Not universal, but more receptive than many would assume
- Six main barriers
 1. Lack of awareness (of benefits of restoration, and of the Peatland Code)
 2. Resistance to land use change – particularly when production is seen to / thought to be compromised
 3. upfront capital costs
 4. Limited equipment and skills
 5. Uncertainty over ongoing costs and support
 6. Administrative bureaucracy


Interest, barriers and answers

- Promotion of sustainable land management
 - *Particularly by/from farmers*
- Facilitation of blended (private / public) financing
- Continued upfront public support for capital works
 - Private funding more for ongoing payments
- Simplified and more flexible administrative structure
 - Complementary support



Summary

- Now is the time for conversation
 - Framed appropriately
- Particular issues for tenants and grazers of common land
- Administrative burden really needs consideration
 - Fingers have been burnt; relationships are key (and easily lost)



Achieving the Sustainable Management of
Upland Peatlands in Wales

One of the six priorities of the
Welsh National Peatland Action Programme



Diolch yn fawr / Many thanks

