

Sustainable opportunities on rewetted lowland agricultural peat

Casperd et al. (2025)

Farming is a driver of climate change – contributing 11% of UK GHG emissions

Patchy Peat Solutions Project
6 diverse near contiguous farms in the Shropshire/Staffordshire.

Total area

- 1875 ha
- 472 ha on lowland peat
- 126 ha available for rewetting



Figure 1 Habitat creation on Farm B – wetland via arable reversion.

Projected BNG (rewetted peat)
631.38 Biodiversity Units (BU)
14.42 Watercourse Units (WU)

Estimated financial return
£1.27- £4.23 million
(10 K - 4.23 K per ha)

(figures based on market price Spring 2024)



Figure 2 Mapped Downforce Biodiversity Index Farm A-F.

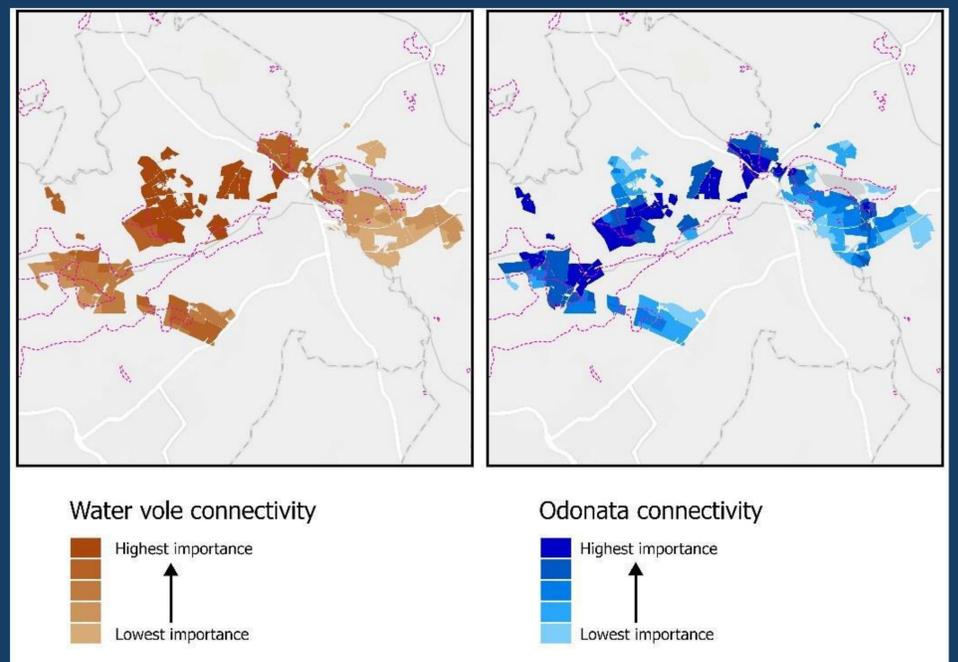


Figure 3 Maps indicating the importance of the project farms' land holdings for water vole and Odonata connectivity.

Natural Capital opportunities were most likely to be adopted by farmers.

Barriers

Cost & risk to the farmer/landowner

Enablers

- Policy which aligns environmental goals & farming economic viability
- Financial incentives – long term & multiyear
- Well defined natural capital (carbon/nutrient) market
- Technical support (especially water management)
- Multistakeholder landscape scale coordination

Figure 4 Indicative costs (£) of rewetting lowland peat across 6 case study sites

