

# *The* **Great North Bog**

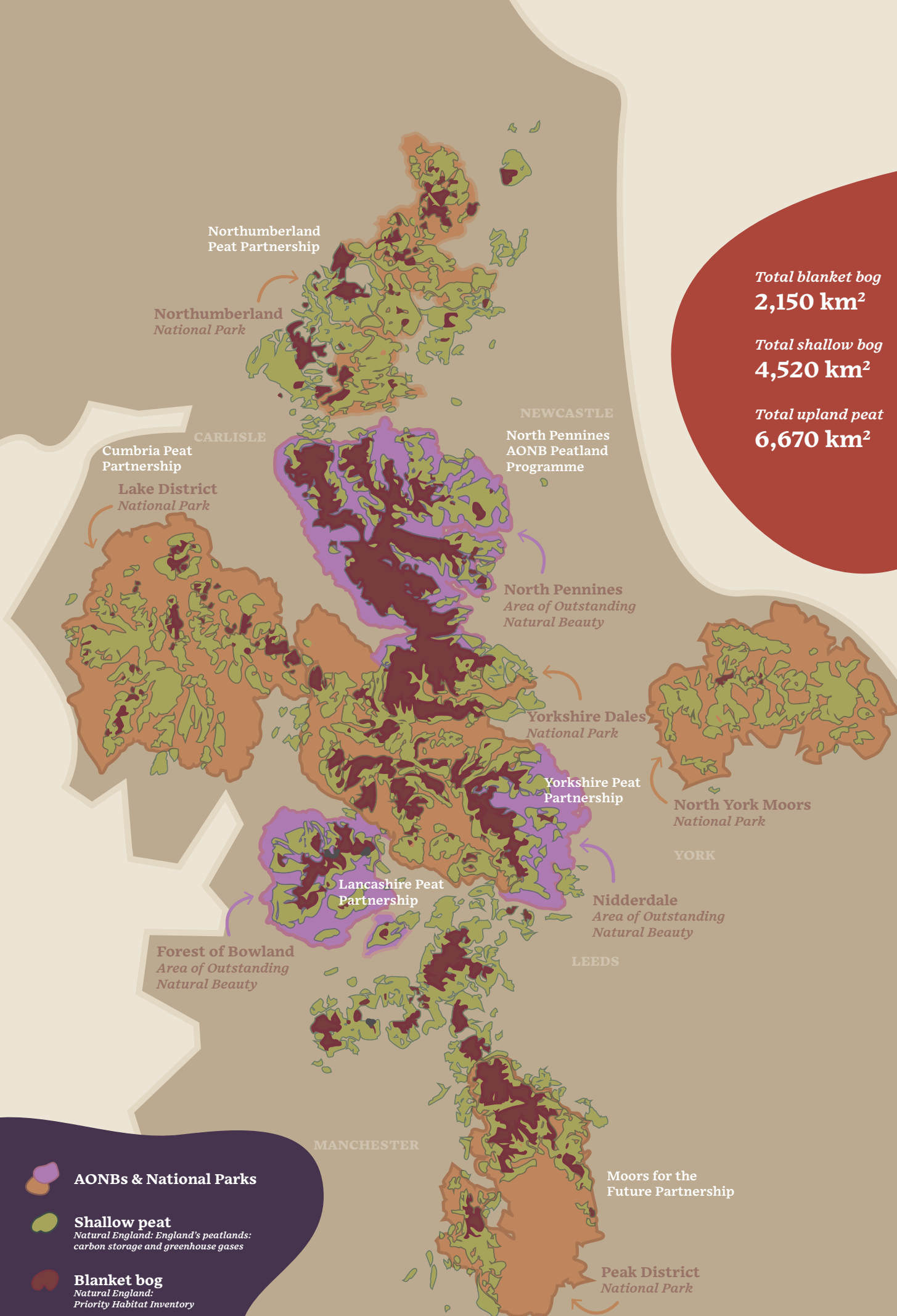
*Peatland Restoration in Northern England*

**Private Sector Partner Specification  
and Invitation to Respond**

Supported by



**Esmée  
Fairbairn**  
FOUNDATION



*Total blanket bog*  
**2,150 km<sup>2</sup>**

*Total shallow bog*  
**4,520 km<sup>2</sup>**

*Total upland peat*  
**6,670 km<sup>2</sup>**

Northumberland Peat Partnership

Northumberland National Park

NEWCASTLE

North Pennines AONB Peatland Programme

CARLISLE

Cumbria Peat Partnership

Lake District National Park

North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Yorkshire Dales National Park

Yorkshire Peat Partnership

North York Moors National Park

YORK

Lancashire Peat Partnership

Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

LEEDS

MANCHESTER

Moors for the Future Partnership

Peak District National Park

AONBs & National Parks

**Shallow peat**  
*Natural England: England's peatlands: carbon storage and greenhouse gases*

**Blanket bog**  
*Natural England: Priority Habitat Inventory*



## Introduction

**The Great North Bog (GNB) is a UK landscape scale initiative supported by six leading peat restoration partnerships (GNB coalition partners) who have a combined 80+ years of experience of restoring the most degraded upland landscapes in Europe. There is still a huge job still to be done but with access to substantial public sector grant and charitable trust funding combined with use of the IUCN Peatland Code, the GNB offers a compelling opportunity for private sector partners to support environmental restoration at scale and purchase voluntary carbon emission reductions using a nationally recognised metric.**

The following Specification is necessarily quite detailed and incorporates an innovative new commercial approach to peat restoration reflecting the inherent challenges associated with persuading private landowners to commit to permanent land use change.

The Specification is therefore most suitable for leading private sector partners with ambitious Net Zero transition plans and who are willing to help GNB tackle this challenge.

---

### **The Great North Bog Initiative**

The time to invest in England's peatlands is now. Healthy peatlands provide many benefits to society and are vital in helping tackle the climate and biodiversity crises. The peatland restoration programmes of northern England have developed a vision to match the scale of

---

this ecological challenge.

The GNB is an ambitious peatland restoration enterprise being developed by a coalition of the North Pennines AONB Partnership (NPAP), the Yorkshire Peat Partnership, the Moors for the Future Partnership, Cumbria Peat Partnership, Northumberland Peat Partnership and the Lancashire Peatlands Partnership. The Great North Bog is a landscape-scale approach to upland peatland restoration and conservation across nearly 7,000 square kilometres of peatland soils in and around the Protected Landscapes of northern England and represents the largest collaborative peatland conservation effort in the UK.

The UK has almost 15% of the world's blanket bog and this provides a range of vital ecosystem services including carbon sequestration, natural flood management, drinking water and biodiversity.

**Approximately 92% of England's blanket bog is in the GNB area.**

The GNB stores between 450 million and 660 million tonnes of carbon in its peaty soils. However it is also a seriously degraded ecosystem as a result of past drainage, peat cutting, overgrazing and burning and is currently emitting over 3 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent gases (CO<sub>2</sub>e) into the atmosphere every year.

The landscape-scale restoration of the GNB is a significant opportunity to reduce carbon emissions and improve other ecosystem services such as, water quality, flood risk reduction, biodiversity and climate change resilience.

The majority of peatland restoration work in the English uplands to date has been carried out under the management of the 6 partnerships that comprise the Great North Bog coalition; the majority (over 95%) of the land worked on is in private ownership. The Great North Bog partners have a long history of developing good working relationships with these landowners to make peat restoration happen and this is one of the strengths and successes of the partnership approach.

---

## **Peat Restoration in the UK**

Currently, most peat restoration in the UK has been financed through public sector grants and charitable trusts, with the only major private sector finance coming from OFWAT regulated water company investment or, occasionally self-funded by landowners, through agri-environment schemes. However, as the public sector finances come under increasing pressure and the size of the environmental challenge and impacts of climate change increase rapidly, we need to find alternative funding sources by engaging private sector investment in delivery of the Great North Bog ambition. The carbon market and other ecosystem services markets may provide new ways to finance peatland restoration. However, the private landowners who own most of our upland peatlands are nervous and uncertain about these markets compared to their traditional agri-environment funding sources. Some of the barriers to engaging private sector finance in peatland restoration mentioned by landowners are:

- A requirement for a long-term commitment to land management change at a time of great uncertainty
- Concerns over the interaction between private finance and future ELMS grants

- Lack of understanding of the likely value of future carbon markets
- Challenges in understanding and dealing with the Peatland Code application and funding processes
- A lack of knowledge of the benefits or the process of restoration in relation to their current land management activities
- Fear that moving into carbon and other ecosystem markets could be the end of their traditional activities of farming and grouse shooting.

Inevitably these challenges need to be overcome if we are to scale-up restoration activities in a climate for reducing public sector spending in the UK. This Specification aims to help overcome some of these barriers.

The Great North Bog coalition partners have a wide range of funding already in place for a significant pipeline of projects, but there are two important tools currently available for a major programme of delivery by March 2025 and beyond:

### **Nature For Climate Fund (N4C)**

A £750m Defra grant scheme launched in May 2021 designed to fund woodland creation, peatland restoration and restore biodiversity all of which contribute to the wider goals of the UK Government's 25 year Environment Plan and to achieving Net Zero by 2050.

Some £50m of the N4C has been specifically allocated to the England Peat Action Plan which is designed to restore at least 35,000 ha of peatland by 2025. N4C grants are awarded through a competitive bidding process and can finance up to 75% of restoration capital costs – requiring 25% match funding with a significant proportion of this match coming from private sector finance.

The Great North Bog coalition has achieved a huge success rate in bidding to the N4C fund, securing over £14 million in the first two bidding rounds which will lead to the restoration of 7,162ha of peatland by the end of March 2025 and reducing carbon emissions by over 700,000 tCO<sub>2</sub> eq by 2050. It is anticipated that this will increase further as we bid into the third round in Spring 2023.

A further estimated £1.3 million has been secured from the Discovery part of the fund, to develop a pipeline of a further 98 sites covering 27,235ha by March 2023 which would then be used in future funding bids including a Round 3 bid to the N4C.

### **Peatland Code**

The Peatland Code is a science based metric supporting the growing voluntary carbon credits market for peatland restoration. It is run by the IUCN Peatland Programme and carbon credits are externally validated and verified. The projects run from 30 up to 100 years, with the restoration works and the subsequent carbon savings verified every 5 years. More information on the Peatland Code can be found here: [iucn-uk-peatlandprogramme.org/peatland-code/introduction-peatland-code](https://iucn-uk-peatlandprogramme.org/peatland-code/introduction-peatland-code)

Alternative codes are also emerging, such as **Wilder Carbon** ([wildercarbon.com/projects](https://wildercarbon.com/projects)), which has been developed by Kent Wildlife Trust and aims to recognise biodiversity gain alongside carbon emission reductions.

---

## **GNB Ambitions**

The six GNB coalition partners are all operationally independent, geographically discrete and structured in different ways (see brief details at Annex 4). However they have demonstrated there is a real opportunity to work together through the GNB coalition to promote peatland restoration in Northern England, and to develop tools, resources and common partnerships to help scale-up the restoration effort.

An important GNB objective is to develop a comprehensive and commercially attractive restoration offer to landowners which is accessible to all six GNB coalition partners.

This offer will include:

- a) Provision of a one stop shop service to landowners incorporating scoping, planning, permitting and restoration.
- b) Access to existing grant schemes (N4C in particular) and management of accreditation with the Peatland Code, and
- c) Provision of an innovative and compelling financing and carbon package.

To a large extent, a) and b) above are "business as usual" for GNB coalition partners. It is item c) where the GNB team need the help of private sector partners and this has led to the development of this Specification.

---

## **How can the private sector help GNB?**

At the moment, if a landowner wants to restore an area of peatland and generate revenue from carbon, they would typically be required to secure grant funding through their local peat restoration partnership, register the project with the Peatland Code and sell PIUs (pending issuance units – effectively carbon credits in advance) to a buyer post restoration. This arrangement would require the landowner to enter into a carbon contract with the buyer for an agreed period (minimum 30 years) under which they would commit to maintain the peatland in accordance with the Peatland Code so that the buyer can formally claim the carbon credits after 5 years and every subsequent 10 years to offset against their own CO<sub>2</sub> emissions or Net Zero targets.

Feedback from GNB coalition partners indicates that many landowners are reluctant to proceed with restoration under these commercial arrangements because the one-off income stream from sale of PIUs does not adequately compensate the landowner for the 30+ year future contractual commitment - which is seen as a liability. Landowners are concerned that they may end up in a position of trying to sell or pass on their landholding to a third party or their next generation with what is in effect a contractual covenant over the land and no further revenue potential – thereby creating an effective liability for the successor and a reduction in value of the landholding. In addition, many landowners also feel that an up-front sale of carbon PIUs does not allow them to take advantage of the much anticipated growth in future market value of accredited carbon units.

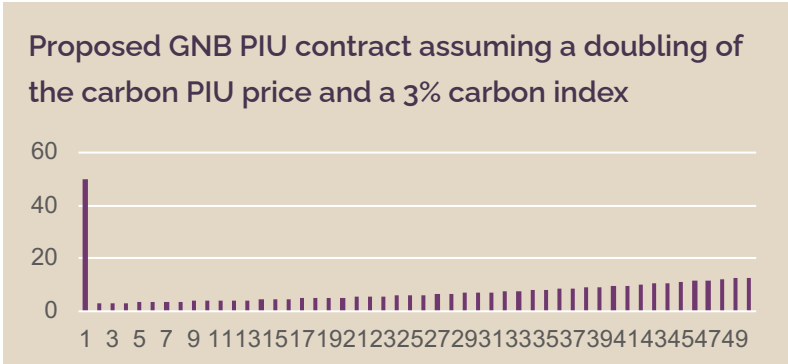
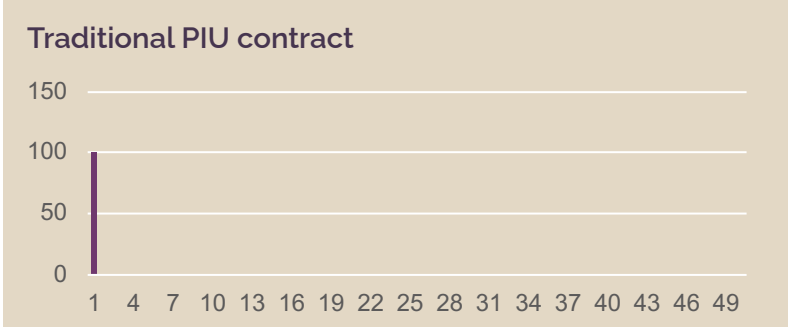
The arrangement described above does not necessarily work well for the buyer either. The buyer will have made a significant payment up front for the carbon PIUs but their ability to claim and utilise carbon credits against their emissions or Net Zero targets over the 30+ year contract term relies entirely on the landowner continuing to meet their obligations under the long term carbon contract. The buyer carries a risk when the landowner has no ongoing commercial income stream from the landholding, and this is likely reflected in the low current market price of voluntary market carbon PIUs.

**Instead GNB would like to create a new commercial solution between buyer and landowner for mutual benefit** whereby the buyer agrees to purchase the Peatland Code accredited PIUs based on a new commercial arrangement as follows:

- Long term Carbon Contract including compliance with Peatland Code (no change here)
- Under the contract, payment for PIUs is based on:
  - o 25% of an attractive and improved headline price per tCO<sub>2e</sub> up-front, plus
  - o annual payment of the remaining 75% over the remaining life of the Carbon Contract linked to an agreed carbon market index.

The above solution allows the landowner to generate a cash sum up-front but also creates a carbon index linked revenue stream for the long term management of the landholding in return for continued compliance with Peatland Code. Importantly, this solution ensures the landholding remains a revenue generating asset rather than a liability – and also allows the landowner to share in the increase in value of carbon markets. The landowner will need to be comfortable with the private sector partner counterparty risk and of course any contract will need to deal with mutual events of default.

Similarly, the above solution enables the buyer to secure 100% of the PIUs up-front but pay for them over time in the knowledge that the landowner has a very strong interest in ensuring the landholding continues to comply with Peatland Code. This should significantly reduce the risk to the carbon credits for the buyer - but will inevitably result in a higher overall price being paid for the PIUs over the life of the contract due to a higher headline price and the index linked nature of the payments.



GNB anticipate that this new proposed contractual solution will be attractive to most landowners and will result in more restoration projects coming forward. The purpose of this Specification is to test private sector appetite for supporting GNB with this new approach.

It is worth pointing out that some landowners may want to proceed with a traditional approach and undertake restoration, register with the Peatland Code and then either sell PIUs up front or retain the PIUs – only selling them when they become PCUs after 5 years. These transactions could also be offered to the GNB private sector partners, but we are seeking to look at alternatives to this in this Specification.

<sup>1</sup> This could be IUCN Peatland Code or potentially Wilder Carbon code if the latter becomes accepted by carbon buyers – for discussion.

---

## Pipeline estimate

The total capital works budget available for peat restoration within the England Peat Strategy element of N4C is thought to be around £45 million and this is due to be committed to peatland restoration projects across England by the end of March 2025. At the moment, there is no indication as to what might succeed N4C or whether the March 2025 deadline for spend will be extended and so GNB coalition partners are working with this current information only.

GNB coalition partners have collectively estimated the potential pipeline of N4C funded peat restoration projects across the GNB region between now and March 2025 is as follows:

	High Case	Base Case
NFC funding already secured by GNB coalition partners	£14,336,302	
Potential NFC funding including existing capital secured plus future capital pipeline based on existing N4C Discovery grants secured		£68,853,082
Estimated ha restored	7,162 ha	34,397 ha
Estimated range of tCO <sub>2</sub> e reductions secured	711,080 tCO <sub>2</sub> e	3,415,110 tCO <sub>2</sub> e

In summary, GNB coalition partners consider there could be 711,080 tCO<sub>2</sub>e emissions reductions available to GNB private sector partners through the existing N4C funded projects alone. Execution of the Discovery grant pipeline would significantly increase this to over 3.4 million tCO<sub>2</sub>e. The GNB coalition partners will work with landowners to get as many of these carbon emission reduction units as possible accredited with the Peatland Code.<sup>1</sup>

---

## The proposed GNB private sector partner agreement

GNB intend to develop a standard agreement (the Private Sector Partner Agreement) with up to three private sector partners. A written response to Annex 2 of this Specification will be used as a basis for more detailed discussions with interested parties.

GNB envisage that the private sector partners selected will enter into an exclusive three year arrangement which enables them to have sight of all eligible GNB Projects (see below) for a period of three years from contract commencement. Each of the GNB private sector partners will be asked to commit to a standard minimum headline PIU price (expressed in terms of £/tCO<sub>2</sub>e) for the purpose of supporting future GNB peat restoration projects.

In order to demonstrate best value to landowners (who effectively own the carbon emission reductions) GNB coalition partners will require that each of the three GNB private sector partners are

---

able to make a bid on each individual GNB project. There will be no obligation on any of the private sector partners to bid on a particular project should it not be of interest, however if all three partners do bid then this will naturally create a level of competition between them subject to the minimum framework contract price referred to above.

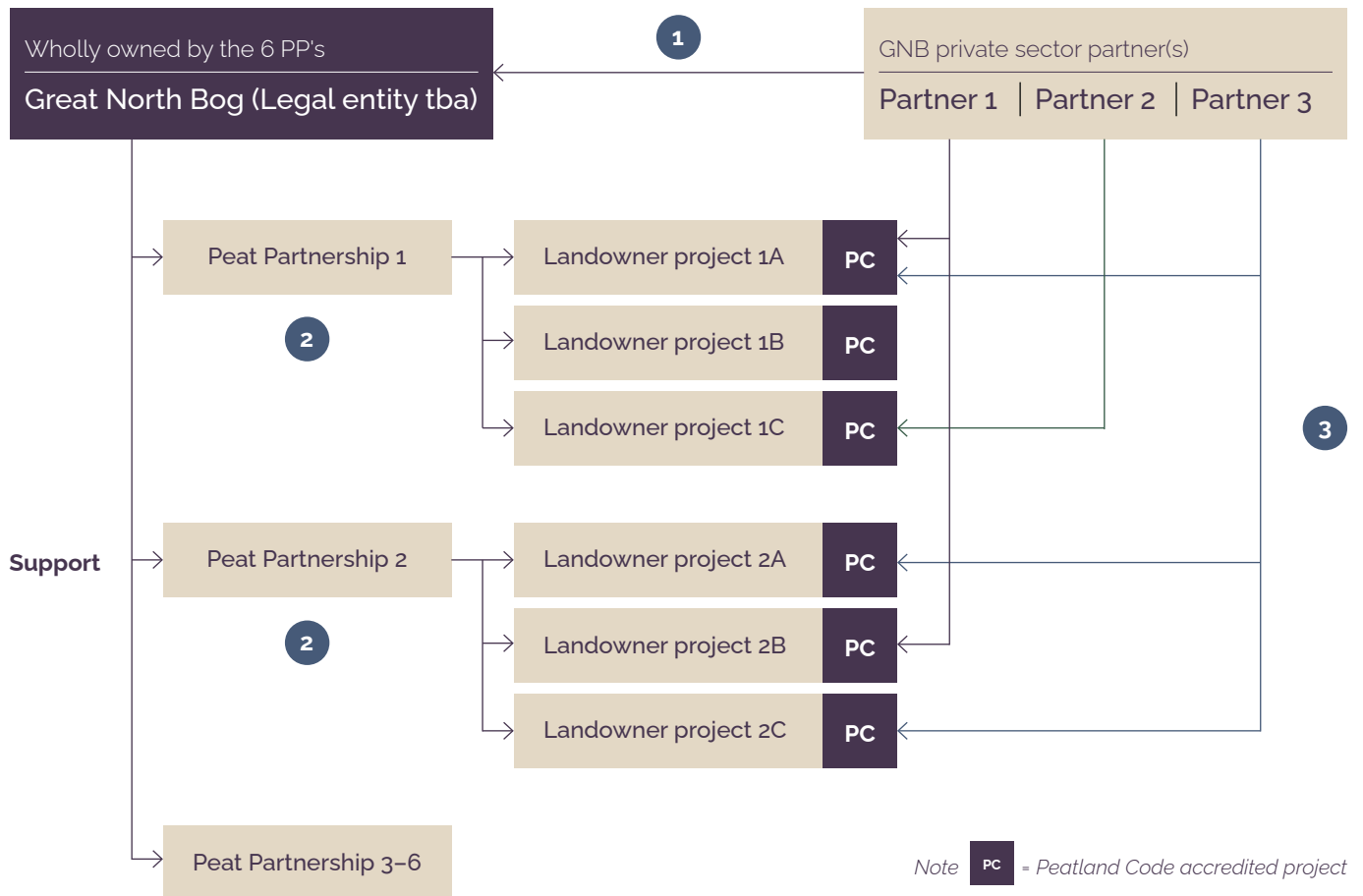
---

## **GNB contracting and delivery structure**

In due course, GNB coalition partners intend to form a collective legal entity to act as a focal point and help formalise their collaboration with each other. This entity will also be the vehicle for engaging with the GNB private sector partner(s). This could be a Community Interest Company (Great North Bog CIC) or some other legal structure – for example a Great North Bog consortium arrangement or similar. We will discuss our thoughts on this with interested parties.

The individual GNB coalition partners will however continue to retain complete operational independence when it comes to dealing with landowners and delivering restoration projects in their geographic area.

The proposed contracting and delivery structure agreed by GNB coalition partners is as follows



The above structure envisages the following agreements and contracts (using the same numbering):

**1. GNB Private Sector Partner Agreement**

A legally binding contract between the GNB legal entity and the selected GNB private sector partner(s) which includes details of the baseline commercial and other terms agreed between the parties. A summary of the headline structure of this contract and what GNB coalition partners are looking for in a GNB private sector partner is included at Annex 1.

**2. Restoration Contract**

A legally binding contract between the individual GNB coalition partner and the landowner, which includes inter alia the restoration plan, timetable, commercial terms relating to grants and carbon, commitment to Peatland Code, future monitoring and maintenance obligations.

The Restoration Contract will be based on a detailed non-binding MoU drawn up at an earlier stage between the GNB coalition partner and the landowner, and which summarises the peat restoration project, obligations of all parties and commercial and other terms. This working document will be prepared by the GNB coalition partner (supported by appropriate central GNB legal entity resource) and likely revised over time; it will ultimately form the basis for the Restoration Contract and Financing and Carbon Contract (below).

### 3. **Financing and Carbon Contract**

A legally binding contract between the landowner and the selected GNB private sector partner (and the GNB coalition partner depending on where any capital contribution is directed), This will be based on the above MoU, and will include the commercial terms relating to covering the costs of the GNB coalition partner in delivering the restoration work and any ongoing maintenance works, the provision of any capital match funding for the project and sale of PIUs and/or PCUs by the landowner to the GNB private sector partner plus ongoing commitments relating to compliance with Peatland Code..

A simple chronological example of a typical GNB restoration project is included at Annex 3.

## Scope of projects

Future peatland restoration projects delivered by GNB coalition partners over the next three years or so are likely to fall into a range of categories, depending on the sources and extent of up-front capital funding:

Project Type	Capital funding package	Capital match funding required	Landowner preference re carbon	Peatland Code	In scope
1	100% funding secured by GNB coalition partner	None	Sale of PIUs, PCUs or a combination of both	Yes	Yes
2	75% to 100% capital funding secured by GNB coalition partner	Up to 25% of capital funding	Sale of PIUs, PCUs or a combination of both	Yes	Yes
3	50% to 75% capital funding secured by GNB coalition partner	25% to 50% of capital funding	Sale of PIUs, PCUs or a combination of both	Yes	Yes
4	100% capital funding secured including at least a 10% contribution from landowner	None	Sale of PIUs, PCUs or a combination of both	Yes	Possibly

### Project Type 1

This is very straightforward. The GNB coalition partner secures 100% capital funding for a restoration project through N4C and/or other grant funding sources. The project can then be presented to the GNB private sector partner(s) who can bid to provide a carbon financing proposal to the landowner. Different landowners may wish to sell PIUs, PCUs or a combination of both.

### Project Type 2

This is more challenging than Project Type 1 because it requires up to 25% of capital match funding in addition to the flexible carbon offer described in Type 1 above.

### Project Type 3

This is more challenging again, because these projects require between 25% and 50% capital funding, in addition to the flexible carbon offer described in Type 1 above.

Wherever possible, the GNB coalition partners will make it a condition of Project Types 1,2 and 3 that the landowner takes up one of the carbon financing options presented by the GNB private sector partner(s), and utilises the services of the GNB coalition partner to manage the restoration works and any ongoing maintenance.

### Project Type 4

This is where the landowner is making a significant up-front capital contribution to the peat restoration project. and so the landowner is likely to demand more choice in the treatment of potential carbon income. For example, they may want to a) retain the carbon for their own insetting or b) they may wish to invite offers from the GNB private sector partner(s) or c) they may wish to sell the carbon to a third party.

---

## **The GNB offer to potential GNB private sector partners**

GNB believes it can offer the following to potential GNB private sector partners:

- The delivery of a steady and long-term pipeline of Peatland Code accredited carbon credits, generated by peat restoration projects in Northern England.
- Potential for delivery of other specific (and measurable) ecosystem services arising from individual peat restoration projects, if these are of interest – for example, biodiversity gain, water stewardship (storage, quality, reduced flood risk) and social benefits (local employment, volunteering, community investment initiatives).
- An opportunity to raise awareness and prominently demonstrate that your business and brand is actively committed to environmental and social restoration, through the GNB Private Sector Partner Agreement with the GNB legal entity.
- An opportunity to work collaboratively with the GNB coalition, its supporters and local community groups, to support broader environmental and social initiatives across northern England.

---

## **What the GNB coalition is looking for in a private sector partner**

GNB coalition partners' primary objectives through this collaboration are to a) persuade and incentivise landowners to accelerate peat restoration in northern England, b) ensure that the wider environmental benefits of peat restoration are properly valued and c) ensure that a fair share of the commercial benefits are retained by GNB, landowners and local communities.

All of these objectives require financial support from one or more private sector partners who want to invest in carbon emission reductions through purchase of Peatland Code accredited carbon credits and help restore our valuable upland landscapes in the GNB Region.

The GNB coalition is therefore looking to identify up to three potential private sector partners who share GNB's vision for the restoration of the uplands of northern England at scale. A more detailed summary of requirements is included at Annex 1

---

## Process and next steps

We are aware we are operating in an emerging market sector. Whilst we have aimed to set out a clear structure for our thinking to date, we anticipate will be able to refine our approach through dialogue with potential partners who have also been considering how to address this new opportunity. We would invite potential partners to engage in the following process to develop thinking, finalise the model, to make solid partnership proposals and establish agreements:

### Step 1

Interested parties are invited to consider this specification and express interest in discussing the opportunity in more detail. To help inform conversations, you should provide some early information through responses to the questions shown in Annex Two. We invite interested parties to respond by email to [info@greatnorthbog.org.uk](mailto:info@greatnorthbog.org.uk) by 9.00 a.m. on Tuesday 30th May 2023.

### Step 2

The GNB team and advisers will review initial submissions and arrange conversations with interested parties to refine the model during June/July 2023.

### Step 3

By the summer we will have a finalised model which can then be used in a formal mechanism to select a partner(s), which is likely to be conducted through a tendering process, subject to what emerges in the early discussions.

It is then likely that a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) would be created with partner(s) which will set out the key terms of the GNB Private Sector Partner Agreement.

### Step 4

Following the selection of preferred partner(s), the MoU will be expanded to form a formal contract. Our aim is to reach agreement with preferred partners as soon as practically possible within 2023.

---

## Contact details

In order to ensure a level playing field during Step 1, we do not want to hold individual discussions on this Specification. There is however scope for interested parties to put forward alternative ideas in their response to the EOI questions at Annex 2.

For any administrative questions in relation to this Specification, please email the GNB inbox at [info@greatnorthbog.org.uk](mailto:info@greatnorthbog.org.uk) and we will provide a prompt response.

## Annex 1 – GNB Private Sector Partner agreement

### Suggested basic contract structure.

<b>Counterparties</b>	GNB legal entity and GNB private sector partner
<b>Scope</b>	All peatland restoration projects delivered by GNB coalition partners which fall into Project Types 1 to 3 (see table on page 4) and which are Peatland Code accredited and with a minimum contract length of 30 years and a maximum contract length of 100 years
<b>Respective roles</b>	GNB coalition partners will handle all project development and landowner negotiations to MoU and Restoration Contract stage. The GNB private sector partners will have the opportunity to bid to support the project and buy the carbon – with the successful private sector partner then working with the GNB coalition partner and landowner at Financing and Carbon Contract stage per Annex 3
<b>Term</b>	We are suggesting a three year GNB Private Sector Partner Agreement
<b>Commercials</b>	To be agreed following competitive process but will include a minimum headline PIU price and a form of financial support to GNB through a transaction based Facilitation Fee or some other mechanism
<b>Payment terms</b>	Payment for PIUs and PCUs will be contained within the Financing and Carbon Contract with the landowner. Payment any Facilitation Fees or other support to the GNB legal entity to be agreed
<b>Exclusivity</b>	Selection for the GNB Private Sector Partner Agreement will give the successful partner a period of 3 years under which it will have the opportunity to bid on all GNB restoration projects meeting the Scope (above)
<b>KPIs</b>	Tba – suggest termination by GNB private sector partner if a minimum contracted activity (in ha) is not delivered and offered to the GNB private sector partner(s) by 31 December 2024. Equally, the private sector partner can be removed by GNB if they have failed to successfully bid on a minimum contracted activity (in ha) by 31 December 2024
<b>Reporting</b>	Agree regular reporting template to be completed by the GNB legal entity on projects delivered, in progress etc
<b>Communications and PR</b>	Comms plan and joint PR and branding agreed between GNB legal entity, GNB coalition partners and the GNB private sector partners
<b>Templates</b>	Template Financing and Carbon Contract for use with landowners to be appended to GNB Private Sector Partner Agreement

## **GNB Coalition requirements of a private sector partner**

- A robust, transparent and active corporate commitment to achieve organisational Net Zero alongside (ideally) other voluntary ESG, biodiversity and CSR targets.
- Evidence of financial capacity to support an investment at scale in the natural environment through purchase of carbon emission reductions derived from peat restoration in the GNB region.
- Specifically in relation to the financing and carbon offer:
  - an attractive and flexible purchase price offer to landowners for Peatland Code accredited carbon credits (both PIUs and PCUs) reflecting the multiple environmental and social benefits arising from peat restoration, and
  - a willingness to also support the long-term objectives of the GNB through payment of Facilitation Fees based on a % of carbon transactions with landowners or some other capacity building mechanism.
- A willingness to commit to a medium term (minimum 3 years) GNB Private Sector Partner Agreement with the GNB legal entity, based on availability and use of N4C and other grant funding.
- A strong corporate connection to the GNB area would be an added bonus.

---

## Annex 2 – Expression of Interest – Questions

To assist us in understanding your approach to this opportunity and to prepare for early discussions, please provide answers to the following questions:

- Q1.** Please tell us a little about your organisation and any particular connection to, or interest in the GNB region and/or peatland restoration.
- Q2.** Please provide details of any formal corporate commitments towards net zero or other environmental, social or CSR targets.
- Q3.** Please explain how you think a partnership with GNB could help you meet your corporate operational objectives.
- Q4.** Please provide a summary of your headline responses to the contents of the specification?
- Q5.** Are there any aspects of the specification which are unattractive to you, and if so, do you have any alternative suggestions, which will help to enable the funders, restorers and landowners to commit to peatland restoration in the long term.
- Q6.** Are any other ecosystem services (e.g. biodiversity, water stewardship) of specific interest to you to meet your corporate targets?
- Q7.** Some peatland restoration projects will require an element of private finance as match funding for the capital works. Please can you confirm if you would be prepared to offer such a facility.
- Q8.** Would you consider purchasing carbon from peatland restoration projects which have decided to use alternative metrics to the Peatland Code, such as Wilder Carbon?
- Q9.** Are you comfortable with our proposal of an initial three year private sector partner contract? If not what would your ideal minimum and maximum be?
- Q10** What are the key questions or conditions that you would like to explore with us in the next stage of this process?

Note: The GNB team will be assessing all EOI responses with an open mindset and so we would actively encourage interested parties to put forward good counter proposals or ideas if the Specification we have drafted doesn't work for you.

---

## Annex 3 – Example of a typical GNB project

The following assumes that the GNB legal entity and up to three private sector partners have concluded and signed the GNB Private Sector Partner Agreement.

- Individual GNB coalition partner identifies a project which fits (within the scope of the GNB Private Sector Partner Agreement)
- GNB coalition partner works with the landowner through to the point where a detailed non-binding MoU can be agreed covering:
  - Restoration Plan
  - Timing and costings
  - Capital funding plan - N4C plus any match funding if applicable
  - Peatland Code (or equivalent e.g. Wilder Carbon) application
  - Carbon plan (i.e. which carbon credit plan does the landowner wants to go for) based on estimated tCO<sub>2e</sub> savings
  - Monitoring and maintenance plan (to tie in with the Peatland Code or equivalent)
- GNB coalition partner and landowner sign the non-binding MoU and informs GNB private sector partners.
- GNB private sector partners then make formal bids (simple process templated proposal) to provide the financing and carbon package for the project.
- Best bid is selected to move forward as preferred partner for that project.
- The GNB legal entity provides a draft Financing and Carbon Contract to landowner, successful private sector partner and relevant GNB coalition partner for review.
- GNB coalition partner progresses Peatland Code, N4C and any other grant applications plus any other restoration planning or consents required (this phase may take a few months).
- Final steps prior to start of restoration.
  - Restoration Contract between GNB coalition partner and landowner is signed.
  - Financing and Carbon Contract between GNB private sector partner and landowner is signed.

### Notes on the above approach:

- The restoration project development and landowner relationship is handled by the individual GNB coalition partner as currently. This is an important point for GNB coalition partners.
- For the GNB private sector partners, the above is designed to be a reasonably light-touch process once the GNB Private Sector Partner Agreement has been signed and

a Financing and Carbon template is in place for use by GNB coalition partners. The GNB private sector partners will need to bid on projects on a case by case basis, but a simple template will be provided to ensure this is straightforward.

- Landowners will deal almost exclusively with the GNB coalition partner.
- The GNB legal entity intends to develop some central (grant funded initially) resource to support GNB coalition partners with landowner negotiations, MoUs and financial proposals.

---

## Annex 4 – Brief profile of the six GNB coalition partners

### North Pennines AONB Partnership Peatland Programme

**Formed:** 2006

**Ownership structure:** An initiative of the North Pennines AONB Partnership, which is an unincorporated association which acts as the joint advisory body for the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Formed in March 2003, NPAP is an alliance of 33 statutory agencies, local authorities and voluntary and community organisations which work to develop initiatives which conserve and enhance natural beauty, promote public enjoyment and understanding of the AONB's nature and heritage and support the local economy in matters related to the purpose of AONB designation.

**Geographic location:** North Pennines AONB covering parts of the counties of Durham, Cumbria and Northumberland

**Restoration activity:** Since start-up in 2006 the NPAP Peatland Programme has restored 450 km<sup>2</sup> of drained and damaged peatlands.

### Yorkshire Peat Partnership

**Formed:** 2008

**Ownership structure:** Coordinated by Yorkshire Wildlife Trust's Peat Programme team, the Yorkshire Peat Partnership consists of a range of stakeholders covering upland peatland restoration within the Yorkshire Region. In addition to Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, members currently include the Yorkshire Dales and North York Moors National Park Authorities, Nidderdale AONB Partnership, Natural England, Environment Agency, National Trust, Moorland Association, National Farmer's Union, Rivers Trusts, Yorkshire Water and many landowners.

**Geographic location:** northern Yorkshire including areas of the south Pennines, Yorkshire Dales and North York Moors National Parks, and Nidderdale AONB.

**Restoration activity:** Since start-up in 2008 the Yorkshire Peat Partnership has restored 410 km<sup>2</sup> of drained and damaged peatlands.

### Moors For The Future Partnership

**Formed:** 2002

**Ownership structure:** Vision and direction owned by the Moors for the Future Partnership Strategic Management Board. Decisions on what contracts and grants to accept owned by the Peak District National Park Authority (presently and for the preceding 20 years the host and legal identity is the Peak District National Park Authority which employs all staff and holds all delivery contracts).

**Geographic location:** The core working area is the Dark Peak and the South Pennines Park. A major geographic driver in the past has been the South Pennine Moorlands Special Area of Conservation (EU designation). The area covers 750km<sup>2</sup> and its connecting regions house 11.5m people.

**Restoration activity:** Since start up in 2003, Moors For The Future Partnership has restored 24,659 hectares of drained and damaged peatlands

## **Cumbria Peat Partnership**

**Formed:** 2013

**Ownership structure:** Chair and Secretariat are with Cumbria Wildlife Trust.

**Geographic location:** Covers all of the county of Cumbria outside of the North Pennines AONB

**Restoration activity:** Since its formation in 2012, the partnership has restored 4,746 hectares of drained and damaged peatlands

## **Northumberland Peat Partnership**

**Formed:** 2020

**Ownership structure:** Programme partners and steering group members include: Northumberland Wildlife Trust (host of NPP team), Northumberland National Park Authority, Tweed Forum, Northumberland County Council, Natural England, Environment Agency, Forestry England, Northumbrian Water, National Trust, Ministry of Defence and private landowners/estates.

**Geographic location:** all peatlands north of the A69 within Northumberland.

**Restoration activity:** Over the past five decades, Northumberland Wildlife Trust has been working with various partners to protect the region's peatlands via The Border Mires peatland restoration project (58 sites over 2,000 ha, primarily on Forestry England land). This is the earliest and longest running project of its kind in the country. In addition, NWT has managed and restored various peatlands outside of the Border Mires for more than two decades, totalling around 1,800 ha.

## **Lancashire Peatlands Partnership**

**Formed:** 2009

**Ownership structure:** The partnership is hosted by the Lancashire Wildlife Trust with the Forest of Bowland AONB Partnership currently the primary (upland) peatland restoration delivery partner; the LPP has Terms of Reference but no official governance or ownership structure. To be reviewed now the new LPP staff are in place.

**Geographic location:** Currently LPP partners are primarily active in the Bowland Fells and the Lancashire Lowlands but represents peat/peat interest across upland and lowland Lancashire – incl. Bowland Fells, South and West Pennines, the Rossendale 'gap' and Lancashire lowlands.

**Restoration activity:** 1000 ha to date.



[greatnorthbog.org.uk](http://greatnorthbog.org.uk)