



PAYMENT FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES:

A new opportunity for rural development or
policy pipedream?

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Bertebos Conference, New Ruralities, August 2014



Policy

- UK National Ecosystem Assessment and Follow on project
- Natural Environment White Paper
- DEFRA research



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Payments for Ecosystem Services: A Best Practice Guide



Realising nature's value: The Final Report of the Ecosystem Markets Task Force

March 2013



Upstream Thinking



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Upstream Thinking



Upstream Thinking is a new approach to improving raw water resources

The aim of the project is to improve raw water quality and manage

the quantity of water, at source, long before it reaches water treatment works, by improved land management.

The initiative started in 2008 with the pilot mires restoration project on Exmoor, which restored 326 hectares of SSSI. Additionally, partners Westcountry Rivers Trust demonstrated the success of catchment sensitive farming in their pilot project in the Upper Tamar, where raw water quality was impacted due to blue green algae blooms resulting from high nutrient inputs.

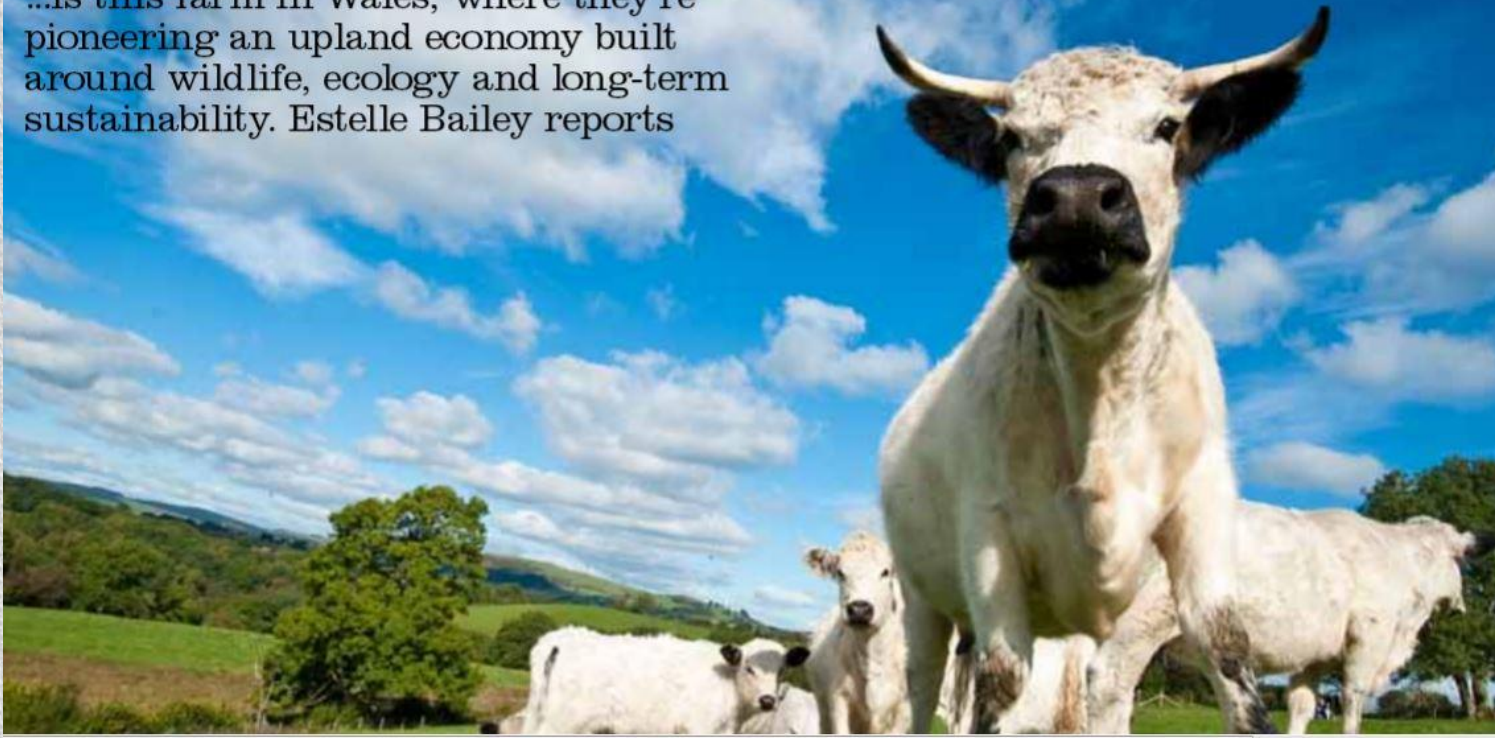
The success of both these pilot partnership projects lead to Ofwat approving £9.1million investment between 2010 and 2015.

**PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE OF THE YEAR
WATER INDUSTRY
ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS 2012
WINNER**

Pumlumon project

The most important hill in Britain...

...is this farm in Wales, where they're pioneering an upland economy built around wildlife, ecology and long-term sustainability. Estelle Bailey reports



Lessons learned

- Pure PES difficult to implement on the ground
- ‘Hybrid’ approaches emerging: State, market and philanthropy
- Locally tailored approaches work best
- Need practical and clear valuation & transactional models
- Willing suppliers and trusted intermediaries
- Regulatory environment important

BUT

- Scaling up may be difficult
- PES challenges existing perceptions and cultures: relationships are critical factor
- Need time and resources to achieve results

Discussion 1

- Will PES grow, or be seen as a policy fad?
- ❖ Strong 'policy push' : is policy running ahead of practice (and science)?



Wales Environment Research Hub

Wales Environment Research Hub (WERH)

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About WERH

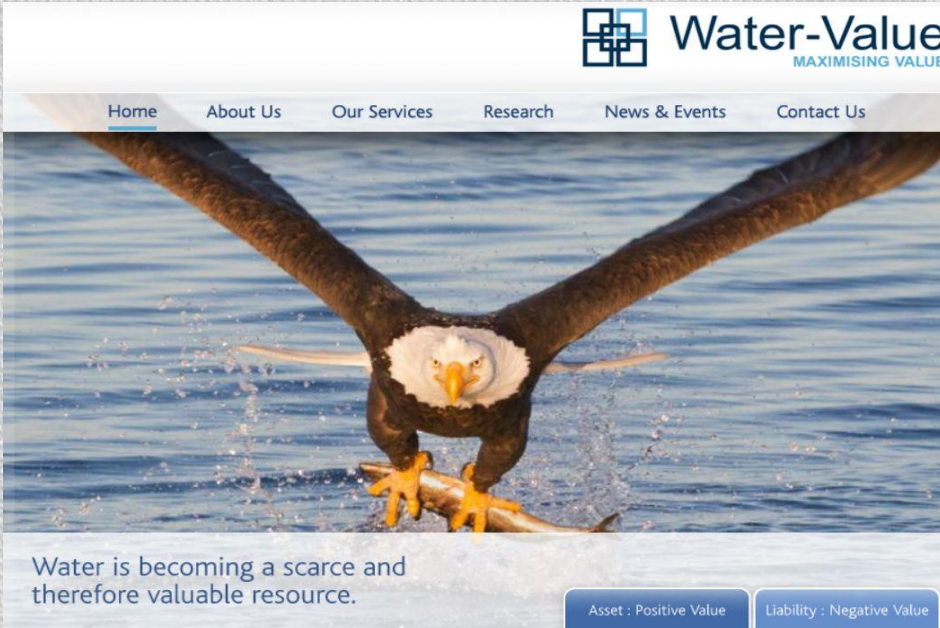
Natural Environment Framework 'Living Wales'

The Welsh Government has launched a new approach to Biodiversity and Nature Conservation - the Natural Environment Framework (NEF). The NEF will define how biodiversity outcomes can be achieved under the central organising principle of sustainable development. The NEF will draw on principles contained in the Wales Environment Strategy, Biodiversity Framework and the ecosystems services approach and aims to add context to existing legislation. A public consultation has taken place and the NEF framework is being further developed.


- ❖ Better outcomes for environment and society?
- ❖ Who are the winners and losers?

Discussion 2

- **What does this mean for rural economies?**
 - ❖ Consumption economies: local products
 - ❖ Payments for farmers: But will they engage?
 - ❖ New income stream for local enterprise?
 - ❖ Big business or local beneficiaries?



The image shows the top portion of the Water-Value website. At the top right is the logo for "Water-Value" with the tagline "MAXIMISING VALUE". Below the logo is a navigation menu with links for "Home", "About Us", "Our Services", "Research", "News & Events", and "Contact Us". The main visual is a large photograph of a bald eagle with its wings spread, perched on a log in a body of water. Below the photo, a text box reads: "Water is becoming a scarce and therefore valuable resource." At the bottom of the page, there are two buttons: "Asset : Positive Value" and "Liability : Negative Value".



The image is a poster from The Countryside Agency. In the top right corner is the agency's logo, which consists of three horizontal bars in blue, green, and red, followed by the text "The Countryside Agency". Below the logo, the title "Eat the view" is written in white on a blue background, with the subtitle "Promoting sustainable local products" underneath. The bottom half of the poster shows a photograph of a green hillside under a clear sky.



The image is the cover of a report titled "Realising nature's value: The Final Report of the Ecosystem Markets Task Force". At the top right is the logo for "ecosystemmarkets TASK FORCE", which features a stylized green plant icon. The title is centered in green text. Below the title, it says "March 2013". On the right side of the cover, there is a photograph of a flock of sheep grazing in a green field.



Unintended consequences

Smithy Wood, Sheffield

- “It seems unlikely to me that anyone would have proposed trashing this ancient woodland to build a service station in the middle of it were it not for the possibility of biodiversity offsets”. (George Monbiot, 2014)



Proceed with caution



Acknowledgements/ further information

- Payment for Ecosystem Services, RELU Policy and Practice Note
 - ❖ <http://www.relu.ac.uk/news/policy%20and%20practice%20notes/39%20PES/PES.pdf>
- Defra
 - ❖ <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs>
- Academic papers by Sophie Wynne Jones at Aberystwyth University
 - ❖ <http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/iges/staff/academic-staff/sxw/>
- George Monbiot
 - ❖ <http://www.monbiot.com/>