

Black Mountains Land Use Partnership Payment for Ecosystem Services Project

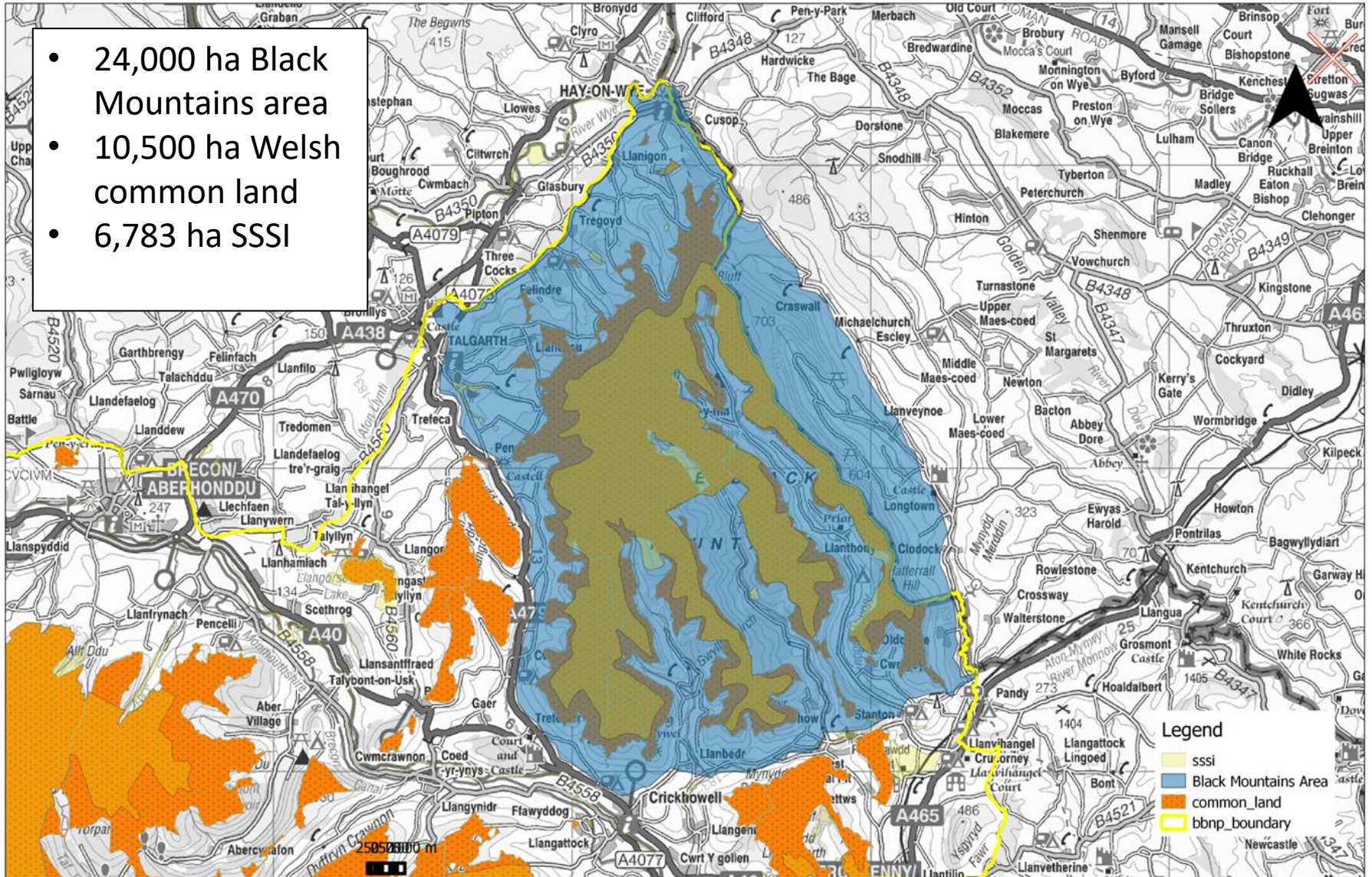


**Cronfa Amaethyddol Ewrop ar
gyfer Datblygu Gwledig:**
Ewrop yn Buddsoddi mewn Ardaloedd Gwledig
**European Agricultural Fund for
Rural Development:**
Europe Investing in Rural Areas



**Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government**

- 24,000 ha Black Mountains area
- 10,500 ha Welsh common land
- 6,783 ha SSSI



Black Mountains Land Use Partnership area
with SSSI boundary, common land and National Park boundary

Date: 25/09/2015 Scale: 1:114,975

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Payment for Ecosystem Services

Aims and Objectives

Develop a portfolio to attract sponsorship for the management of the ecosystem services provided in the Black Mountains Project Area. Develop a portfolio of potential PES opportunities in the Project Area for piloting / exploring with government and ES beneficiaries.

Identify, quantify and make 'market-ready' a range of ecosystem services/public benefits. Identify and quantify the range of ecosystem services and suggest ways of making them marketable.

The project will investigate the feasibility of bundling these together as a single PES offer versus multiple bundled offers versus marketing single services for different potential buyers, potentially in different places at different times. Investigate which ecosystem services are most important in the Project Area, and how they could be bundled together using an Eco-Metric with peatland management at the core.

If feasibility and timetable permits, potential service buyers will be identified during the lifetime of the project. Unrealistic to market ecosystem services at this stage, but potential service buyers can be identified and potential pilot projects established.

This project will not focus on peatland or woodland but will investigate the feasibility (i.e., identifiable, quantifiable and manageable) of the widest range of ecosystem services in the Project Area. The project should not focus on peatland carbon but should focus on the range of co-benefits (including 'below the fence line') that flow from peatland management 'above the fence line'.

The end result should be that the Board, and Partnership members, are versed fully in the knowledge and understanding of how PES schemes might operate in the Project Area.

The Issues/Lessons Learnt

Scope for additionality:
private vs public payment
schemes

Risk mitigation: investors,
landowners and land
managers

Establishing a well-defined
ecosystem service for sale:
quantifiable, reliable,
interchangeable; individual
services vs. bundled services

Supply-side complications:
land tenure and occupation;
impacts on agricultural
operations; taxation
implications

Policy context: the right legal
and practical tools in place

Partnership & PES Next Steps

1. Undertake detailed habitat network mapping to identify those strategic locations across the Black Mountains where investment could be targeted towards habitat restoration and creation;
2. Engage with the planning officers at the National Park Authority and explore whether habitat banking or the trading of biodiversity credits could be endorsed in local planning policy;
3. Invite landowners / land managers / graziers to submit expressions of interest in bringing forward compensatory habitat restoration or creation projects;
4. Discuss with an established offsetting broker whether there are opportunities to sell biodiversity credits to local developers;
5. Advertise the opportunity with professional and industry bodies; there would be a unique selling point as a pioneer project in Wales.