

FIRNS Advancing the UK Saltmarsh Code

Final Report

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RSPB Skinflats Site inundated at a very high tide (Photo unit: James Leonard/RSPB)

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Executive Summary

The ‘Advancing the UK Saltmarsh Code in Scotland’ project funded through the Facility for Investment Ready Nature in Scotland (FIRNS), which is jointly supported by Nature Scot and the National Heritage Lottery Fund, aimed to support the development of the UK Saltmarsh Code and test its applicability in Scotland by undertaking the following activities: (1) review the potential for Scottish saltmarsh restoration; (2) develop a business case for 2 Scottish saltmarsh sites; (3) inform advancement of UK Saltmarsh Code and key Scottish policy developments.

The project partners, Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (UKCEH), Finance Earth (FE), and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), have prepared this Final Report to summarise the progress made against each of the workstreams, the key outcomes achieved and benefits delivered, the challenges and barriers faced by the project and the key recommendations and next steps arising from the work. This Final Report is accompanied by the following project deliverables, which include the detailed outputs from the workstreams: (1) “Saltmarsh Restoration Potential in Scotland” (Carter et al., 2024a); (2) “Advancing the UK Saltmarsh Code in Scotland – Community Engagement Report” (Carter et al., 2024b); (3) “Business Case and Policy Recommendation for Saltmarsh Restoration in Scotland” (Burden et al., 2024).

The project has identified a total of 114 sites across approximately 2,616 ha of potential intertidal habitat in Scotland (Carter et al., 2024a). It has showcased the potential financial and commercial viability of Scottish saltmarsh restoration sites, provided that they are supported with a dedicated capital and operational grants scheme as well as ongoing payments for the maintenance of marshes post-restoration (Burden et al., 2024). Through workshops with approximately 40 participants, including landowners, environmental NGOs, local authorities and community representatives, in the Solway Firth and Firth of Forth, the project has identified key barriers to saltmarsh restoration in Scotland, including uncertainty over land ownership claims post undertaking MR, the restricted potential for MR, and the continuing gaps in data on carbon and cost estimates (Carter et al., 2024b).

The partners have put forward a list of key recommendations for the Scottish Government and others to take forward in the form of policy and funding mechanisms that can address these barriers. These include the introduction of a dedicated grant scheme to support MR projects in partnership with NatureScot and Scottish Marine Environmental Enhancement Fund (SMEEF), ongoing payments to land managers for delivering this public good, resolving issues around responsibility for seawall maintenance, providing legal clarity on land ownership claims post undertaking MR, and producing a National Saltmarsh Plan to coordinate and monitor efforts to address ongoing data gaps.

Additionally, the project has provided key learnings for the advancement of the UK Saltmarsh Code that will be taken forward by the participants as part of the Code’s development, such as setting appropriate buffer thresholds, considering the inclusion of ex-ante carbon unit sales,



ensuring that financial additionality criteria can account for substantial grant requirements, and expanding the scope of the Code in future iterations (Burden et al., 2024).

Project Overview

Description and Key Objectives

The UK is facing a biodiversity and climate crisis. It has lost approximately 15% of its intertidal habitat since 1945 and has 45,000 ha of saltmarsh habitat remaining (ONS, 2016). Approximately 13% lies in Scotland, of which the majority is in the Solway Firth and Firth of Forth, with many additional small sites scattered around the Scottish coastline. Furthermore, c.100 ha of UK saltmarsh continues to be lost each year due to coastal pressure and climate change (Dickie et al., 2015). In Scotland, a loss of 650 ha by 2060 is predicted from the Haynes (2016) baseline (based on Beaumont et al., (2014) predictions).


Saltmarshes can play an important role in delivering climate change mitigation and adaptation, natural flood management, biodiversity enhancement and benefits for local communities. The Scottish Biodiversity Strategy presents a vision for 2045 where “the ability of flourishing coastal habitats such as saltmarshes and tidal flats to provide significant carbon sequestration and storage is acknowledged and protected”. In recognition of the contribution that saltmarsh restoration can make to Scottish government targets and the need for new funding mechanisms to enable these activities, this FIRNS development project aimed to enable the advancement of the UK Saltmarsh Code to support the development of a values-led high-integrity saltmarsh carbon market.


This project built on the findings and outputs of a previous Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund (NEIRF) project funded by Defra, Environment Agency (EA), and Natural England (NE) which involved the current project partners (Burden et al., 2023a, Burden et al., 2023b). The project partners supporting this FIRNS project include:


- UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (UKCEH): an independent, not-for-profit research institute conducting world-leading environmental science with impact.
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB): the UK’s largest conservation charity, tackling problems that threaten our environment.
- Finance Earth (FE): a specialist investment boutique providing corporate finance and fund management services to leading NGOs, public and private bodies that protect and restore nature, in the UK and internationally.

This FIRNS project had three key objectives that are outlined in Figure 1 below. The location of project activities, which were concentrated in the Firth of Forth and Solway Firth, has been indicated in Figure 2 below.

Figure 1: Project Objectives of the FIRNS “Advancing the UK Saltmarsh Code in Scotland” project

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Review potential for Scottish saltmarsh restoration by undertaking desktop research on Scottish saltmarsh sites and developing carbon proxies based on site data.
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Develop a business case for 2 Scottish saltmarsh sites by expanding data gathering, refining verification costs, conducting financial modelling and undertaking stakeholder engagement with potential sellers, buyers, investors, local authorities, regulators and local communities.
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Inform advancement of UK Saltmarsh Code and key Scottish policy developments by analysing Scottish policy and funding mechanisms and integrating learnings into the development of the Code.

The project has successfully met its aims and objectives of enabling the advancement of the Saltmarsh Code in Scotland by analysing the saltmarsh restoration potential, assessing the role that the UK Saltmarsh Code could play in supporting restoration through the financial assessment of two pilot sites, engaging with a wide range of relevant stakeholders and providing a comprehensive list of recommendations to ensure the intended outcomes can be achieved.

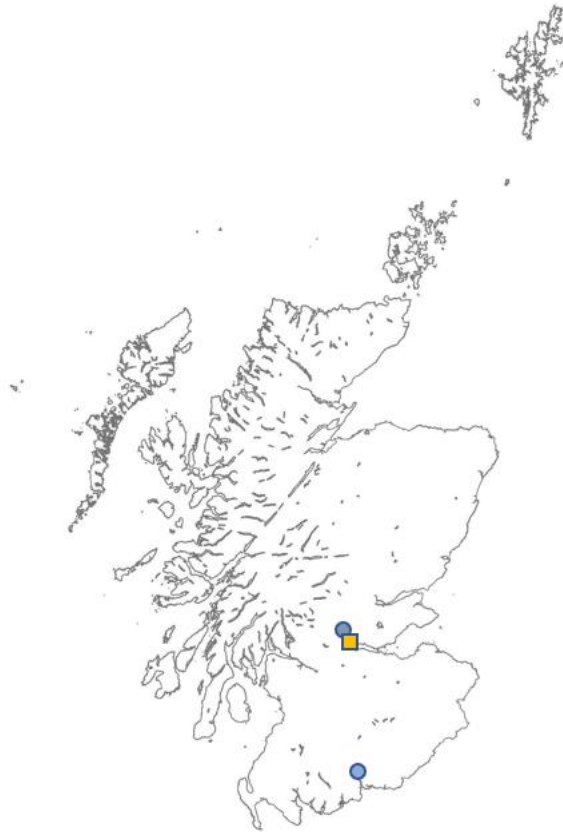
The partners undertook the following workstreams and produced corresponding deliverables to summarise the outputs:

1. UKCEH conducted a comprehensive review of the potential for saltmarsh restoration in Scotland and summarised the outputs in the “Saltmarsh Restoration Potential in Scotland” report (Carter et al., 2024a);
2. FE undertook a financial assessment of two Scottish saltmarsh sites to assess the impact of carbon revenues on the financial and commercial viability of the sites. This is summarised in the “Business Case and Policy Recommendation for Saltmarsh Restoration in Scotland” (Burden et al., 2024);
3. UKCEH, RSPB and FE organised two in-person stakeholder engagement and capacity building workshops. A summary of the content of the workshops and description of the types and number of participants is provided in the “Advancing the UK Saltmarsh Code in Scotland – Community Engagement Report” (Carter et al., 2024b);
4. UKCEH, RSPB and FE have provided a detailed set of recommendations for policy and funding mechanisms that are required to advance the UK Saltmarsh Code and support saltmarsh restoration in Scotland in the “Business Case and Policy Recommendation for Saltmarsh Restoration in Scotland” (Burden et al., 2024).

While the project has been successful in meeting its objectives, the intended outcomes relating to advancing saltmarsh restoration in Scotland will require other stakeholders such as key Scottish government organisation to implement the recommended policy and funding actions. The project partners will strive to implement the recommendations for the

advancement of the Saltmarsh Code as part of their continuing work post the completion of the FIRNS project.

Figure 2: Location of project activities. (Note: Blue Circle = stakeholder engagement workshops, orange square = business case sites.)



Key Activities and Progress

Review and summarise potential for saltmarsh restoration in Scotland

The desktop research document includes a thorough update on the current state of knowledge of Scottish saltmarsh. It summarises the extent of marshes, the size and distribution of individual marshes as well as the distribution of the different saltmarsh zone. It further assesses the protection and condition of the marshes and reports on saltmarsh restoration that has taken place to date.

The two main sections of the “Saltmarsh Restoration Potential in Scotland” report aim at identifying the potential for saltmarsh restoration in Scotland and the associated potential carbon gains. These sections focus on MR as the main restoration method because this has been the emphasis of published reports. The report also highlights the uncertainty of existing

carbon data for future calculations and concludes with recommendations on filling some of the evidence gaps.

Develop a business case for two Scottish saltmarsh sites

Figure 3: Overview of modelled sites

Inch of Ferryton



- **Objective:** An assessment of the commercial viability of a prospective managed realignment site under the Saltmarsh Code.
- **Location:** Inner Firth of Forth
- **Saltmarsh restoration area:** 80 ha
- **Designations:** Adjacent to Firth of Forth SSSI and SPA
- **Timeline:** Project designs undertaken. Revised extensive proposal not possible without buy-in from additional landowner and utilities providers.

RSPB Skinflats



- **Objective:** A retrospective assessment of the commercial viability of a managed realignment site under the Saltmarsh Code.
- **Location:** Inner Firth of Forth
- **Saltmarsh restoration area:** 8 ha
- **Designations:** Adjacent to Firth of Forth SSSI and SPA, forming an extension to the area of SSSI qualifying habitat
- **Timeline:** A regulated tidal exchange scheme was installed in 2009, and managed realignment took place in 2018.

FE developed a financial model for the selected sites in Figure 3 and a Business Case based on key outputs. Both sites are located in the Firth of Forth where half of the estuary's saltmarsh has been lost over the past 200 years. The location is also suitable for MR as it is a low-lying estuary on the East Coast with high degrees of historical reclamation and high sediment availability. As MR is likely to be the required restoration method for saltmarsh restoration under the UK Saltmarsh Code, analysis of these sites is appropriate for an investment case for financing saltmarsh restoration in Scotland. The Skinflats site has already been delivered while the Inch of Ferryton site is a prospective investment and thus detailed maps and GIS data for the sites have not been included in the "Business Case and Policy Recommendations for Saltmarsh Restoration in Scotland" report.

To develop the financial models, restoration and maintenance cost estimates for the sites were shared by RSPB and carbon accumulation curves were shared by UKCEH. FE engaged with the Soil Association to better understand the estimated validation and verification costs for saltmarsh carbon projects under a potential code. Where possible, the assumptions used were kept the same as those in the previous NEIRF project (Burden et al., 2023a) to allow for a comparison between England and Scotland.

FE's analysis of the financial model showed that the projects can be investable under a Saltmarsh Code provided sufficient capital and operational grants are provided. Given a 15-year investment period and a purely ex-post sales strategy, at the point of the initial investor's

exit, both projects can provide target returns of 10% with the addition of capital grants in the range of £15,000/ha to £25,500/ha depending on the site. An operational grant of £400/ha/year (over 15 years) is also assumed as part of this analysis, similar to the assumption taken during the NEIRF project (Burden et al., 2024).

The analysis confirms the conclusions of the NEIRF project (Burden et al., 2023a) by reiterating the requirement of sufficient capital and operational grant funding from the government stacked alongside carbon income to ensure the viability of saltmarsh restoration projects. It also provides further insight into the potential differences between the pilot sites selected as part of the NEIRF project and the Scottish sites.

Undertake stakeholder engagement and capacity building

FE, UKCEH and RSPB along with Dumfries & Galloway Council and the Solway Firth Partnership have hosted two in-person workshops on the potential to engage with the Saltmarsh Code. The workshops were held over 2 days (on 20-21 February 2024) at Chrichton Central, Dumfries, Solway Firth and at Forth Valley College, Alloa, Firth of Forth with 25 and 18 attendees respectively. Stakeholders present included potential sellers such as landowners and land managers, potential buyers/investors, community representatives, environmental NGOs and local authorities in the Solway Firth and Firth of Forth. The workshop agenda included talks on the local context, green finance, saltmarsh restoration potential in Scotland, the UK Saltmarsh Code, and a plenary discussion. A site visit was scheduled for both workshops, however the visit to the SRUC fields at the River Nith near Dumfries was cancelled due to poor weather and ground conditions (Carter et al., 2024b).

Both workshops included plenary discussions where participants discussed topics such as the barriers to saltmarsh restoration in Scotland as well as the policy changes and incentives required to encourage saltmarsh restoration. The key barriers and recommendations raised by the participants have been addressed in detail in the accompanying project reports (Carter et al., 2024b). There was also a capacity building function to the workshops, with a focused session on green finance. To review the success of the capacity building function, respondents were asked to fill in surveys to rate their understanding of green finance. Outputs from the workshop are further discussed in the “Advancing the UK Saltmarsh Code in Scotland – Community Engagement Report” (Carter et al., 2024b).

Inform the advancement of the UK Saltmarsh Code and key policy developments in Scotland

While the Scottish Government is already playing an active role in developing initiatives and frameworks to underpin the development of natural capital markets through the Scottish Marine Environmental Enhancement Fund (SMEEF), the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy, the Blue Economy Vision for Scotland, the National Strategy for Economic Transformation, and the Interim Principles for Responsible Investment in Natural Capital, additional actions and funding sources will be required to support saltmarsh restoration.

The project partners have prepared a set of key recommendations based on the project workstreams discussed above, as well as further desktop and secondary research, as part of the “Business Case and Policy Recommendations for Saltmarsh Restoration in Scotland” report. The key recommendations the project has produced are categorised as follows and summarised in the sections below (Burden et al., 2024):

- policy and funding mechanisms the Scottish Government and others can implement to support saltmarsh restoration and the advancement of nature markets;
- inputs to advance the development of the UK Saltmarsh Code and ensure its applicability to Scotland saltmarsh sites.

Project Evaluation

Key Challenges

The key challenges/barriers identified across the project and the solutions found by the project team to address these have been outlined below.

1. Availability and accuracy of costs data
 - a. Restoration costs: Collection of costs data for saltmarsh restoration has been challenging as historic information has been difficult to trace, due to the complexities around historic unconventional restoration processes. The Skinflats site is a RSPB Nature Reserve which was restored via a regulated tidal exchange (RTE) scheme in 2009, with further work conducted using MR in 2018. As it was assumed the code would require MR as a restoration method, costs for MR over the whole site were needed, which was identified through estimating MR costs as a proportion (70%) of total RTE and MR costs, considering that MR tends to be a more expensive method of saltmarsh restoration. Sensitivity analysis was also conducted to account for up to 20% change in restoration cost (Burden et al., 2024).
 - b. Validation and verification costs: Another challenge associated with data cost collection was to identify costs for validation and verification. As the UK Saltmarsh Code is in development and no validation and verification costs have been identified, costs were identified based on those of the Peatland Code. FE engaged with the Soil Association, which provided further insights and estimates on costs based on the likelihood that the UK Saltmarsh Code verification and validation costs would be higher than those for the Peatland Code. This is due to potential complexities involved with measuring carbon accumulation in saltmarsh MR sites, the potential requirement for site visits and difficulties in site access.
2. Availability and accuracy of data to estimate carbon accumulation curves: There is no data on accretion rates available for saltmarsh restoration sites in Scotland. However, this is a key driver of carbon accumulation in the early years following restoration and carbon accumulation rate models require this input. This challenge was addressed by using data from a restored saltmarsh in England (Garbutt, 2018). This data set represents the longest record of sediment accretion rates from any MR sites in the UK and was used in the absence of any site-specific data. The same carbon accumulation rate was assumed for both Skinflats and Inch of Ferryton given the proximity of the sites.
3. Site delivery via the Market and Investment Readiness Grant: An initial aim of the project was that the business case developed would prepare the pilot sites for the Market and Investment Readiness grant. The project team decided not to apply for the Market and Investment Readiness grant, on the basis that Skinflats has already been

delivered and the financial model was conducted as a retrospective exercise, and that Inch of Ferryton would require the participation of all landowner and utility companies as partners, and further design work.

4. During the workshops, participants highlighted various barriers to saltmarsh restoration specific to Scotland compared to the rest of the UK such as lack of ongoing payments to protect restored saltmarsh and the cost-benefit imbalance of the responsibility of seawall maintenance siting with private landowners, as well as some barriers in common with the rest of the UK, such as high upfront costs of MR schemes, land ownership claims as a result of MR's impact on sea levels and ongoing community concerns around MR. A key set of recommendations covering policy and funding mechanisms the Scottish Government can consider to address these barriers have been included in the business case (Burden et. al., 2024).

Outcomes Achieved and Project Benefits

The key outcomes achieved by the project and its benefits are summarised below. The project did not have any additional or unintended benefits.

1. Two in person workshops were successfully held with 44 people attending across a wide range of stakeholders. 25 and 19 participants attended each workshop in the Solway Firth and Firth of Forth, respectively. There was a lot of engagement from stakeholders across both workshops and the project team were able to gather valuable insights into the potential barriers, policy needs and incentives for saltmarsh restoration in Scotland. The team were also able to gather an indication of potential interest landowners may have in a UK Saltmarsh Code. In a post-workshop questionnaire, in response to the prompt "I will consider engaging with Green Finance to advance saltmarsh restoration when the opportunity arises", the average response was a rating of 4 out of 5 (Carter et al., 2024b).
2. The workshops were effective in conducting training and capacity building on Green Finance related to saltmarsh natural capital. Post-workshop feedback demonstrated the workshops had increased attendees' knowledge of Green Finance: when rating the prompt "This event has increased my knowledge on Green Finance", the average response was a rating of 4 out of 5 (Carter et al., 2024b).
3. Peer-reviewed and grey literature were searched to identify assessments and studies on saltmarsh restoration potential in Scotland. A total of 114 sites across approx. 2,616 ha of potential intertidal habitat have been identified (Carter et al., 2024a). The research conducted by UKCEH has provided centralised information on saltmarsh restoration potential in Scotland as well as existing data/research gaps that need to be addressed. Details are covered in the "Saltmarsh Restoration Potential in Scotland" report (Carter et al., 2024a).
4. Financial modelling was undertaken, despite data collection challenges (see below), providing a good basis for understanding the viability of saltmarsh restoration in

Scotland. Preliminary results from the financial modelling for the two sites demonstrate potential carbon revenues of c. £140k per ha (undiscounted) over the project lifetimes (Burden et al., 2024). Please note this is based on various assumptions.

5. New insights have been gained to inform government policies (both via this project team as well as collaborating with other FIRNS projects such as the Dumfries and Galloway Council project. A summary of the key policy and funding mechanisms required to support saltmarsh restoration in Scotland have been included in “Business Case and Policy Recommendations for Saltmarsh Restoration in Scotland” (Burden et al., 2024).
6. New insights have been gained to inform the advancement of the UK Saltmarsh Code including the specific aspects to be considered to ensure that it is relevant to Scottish saltmarsh sites and can be used by landowners.
7. FIRNS is acknowledged as part of all deliverables created as part of this project. Moreover, during the two in-person workshops on the potential of saltmarsh carbon and the code on 21st and 22nd February, the FIRNS funding was explicitly named, explained and the logos were used.

Conclusions

The key recommendations and next steps the project partners have proposed are summarised in this section.

Recommendations

The project partners, as a result of the activities undertaken through the project, have put forward the following recommendations for funding and policy mechanisms that can be undertaken by the Scottish Government and others to support saltmarsh restoration and the additional work needed to support the advancement of the UK Saltmarsh Code (Burden et al., 2024).

Supporting saltmarsh restoration in Scotland:

1. Introduce a dedicated grant scheme to meet high upfront costs and ongoing costs, and to support delivery of the government's climate and nature objectives
2. Introduce payments for ongoing maintenance of historic/natural or restored saltmarshes
3. Clarify uncertainties around continued agricultural subsidy support post undertaking MR and incorporate saltmarsh restoration into the subsidy scheme
4. Shift the responsibility of sea wall maintenance away from private landowners to a public body with responsibility for flood risk management
5. Address the continuing saltmarsh data gaps and data availability
6. Build community understanding of MR
7. Clarify land ownership claims post undertaking MR
8. Ensure land use planning policies support habitat restoration

Supporting the advancement of nature markets in Scotland:

1. Consider the provision of funding support for the ongoing management and further development of the Saltmarsh Code
2. Address the risks of engaging with voluntary carbon markets
3. Increase focus on other nature markets e.g. biodiversity uplift
4. Increase support for buyers on the demand side of the market

Supporting the advancement of the UK Saltmarsh Code:

1. Select a buffer threshold that supports project viability and scientific integrity
2. Consider the inclusion of Pending Issuance Unit sales within the Code
3. Further refine the assumption on creditable carbon accumulation
4. Ensure the Code's financial additionality criteria accounts for the substantial grant requirements
5. Consider introducing more practical case studies to support landowner engagement
6. Consider the expansion of the scope of the UK Saltmarsh Code beyond:

- a. MR to include other restoration practices,
- b. carbon units to include biodiversity and natural flood management and,
- c. other intertidal habitats such as mudflats.

Key Next Steps

The project partners will continue to work together as part of the EA funded work to develop the Saltmarsh Code. The key outputs and recommendations from this FIRNS project will feed directly into the EA project to ensure implementation of the recommendations, and certainty of the development of a Code that can be applied within Scotland and will be relevant to Scottish saltmarsh sites.

One of the barriers to saltmarsh restoration in Scotland identified in the stakeholder engagement workshops is the focus on MR for saltmarsh restoration carbon credits. The long-term vision of the Saltmarsh Code is to incorporate other restoration methods. As a first step towards this, UKCEH are now working on a project in partnership with University of Essex and funded by Blue Marine Foundation to review other saltmarsh restoration methods and their success rates and criteria in the UK and northwest Europe.

Along with Dumfries & Galloway Council, FE has applied for a FIRNS Round 2 project to build on the feasibility study developed in the Round 1 project and to identify opportunity areas for saltmarsh creation in the Solway Firth. The project will also investigate and model non-MR approaches to saltmarsh restoration, with the potential to inform the ongoing development of the Saltmarsh Code.

RSPB Scotland will continue to explore opportunities for delivery of saltmarsh restoration, particularly in the Forth, working with partners to understand and where possible overcome barriers to implementation. RSPB will also continue to use Skinflats as a demonstration site and focus for advocating the benefits of saltmarsh restoration, as well as highlighting the policy and funding changes required if wider implementation of MR is to happen.

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Appendix

Project Workplan

FIRNS: Advancing the UK Saltmarsh Code Workplan

	Deliverables	Lead Partner	Support Partner	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24
0.0 Project management									
0.1 Fortnightly updates	Fortnightly meeting	FE		0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
0.2 Inception meeting to refine approach to work, agree timelines, key milestones etc.	Inception report	FE		1					
1.0 Review and summarise potential for saltmarsh restoration in Scotland									
1.1 Undertake desktop research on existing and restored saltmarsh sites in Scotland, including potential community benefits	Summary research document	CEH	RSPB		0.25	0.25	1.5		
1.2 Developing carbon proxies for Scottish saltmarsh based on existing, and newly collected site data and the Burden et al. model for sites in the Inner Firth and	Financial model inputs	CEH	RSPB		0.25	0.25	1.5		
2.0 Develop business case for 2 Scottish saltmarsh sites									
2.1 Expand data gathering for restoration / maintenance costs for the 2 selected pilot	Financial model inputs	FE	RSPB	1.3	1	0.7	2		
2.2 Refine validation / verification related cost estimates for UK Saltmarsh code through stakeholder engagement with validation and verification bodies (e.g. SA,	Financial model inputs	FE			0.4	0.7	1.5	1.4	
2.3 Conduct financial modelling for the 2 pilot sites to assess viability	Pilot site financial model outputs	FE					3.5	3.5	
2.4 Engage with a 'community of interest' associated with the saltmarsh restoration sites in Scotland including potential sellers and landowners (e.g. RSPB/WWT), buyers, investors (e.g. SMEEF), LPAs, regulators, and local communities etc	Stakeholder engagement tracker and workshop materials	All			0.4	0.4	2	2.5	1.2
2.5 Undertake 2 capacity building, training and learnings webinars on green/conservation finance concepts relevant to saltmarsh natural capital for relevant and local 'community of interest' stakeholders (e.g. landowners, LPAs etc)	Training materials and 2 webinars	FE	RSPB				3	2.5	1.5
2.6 Develop a business case for the pilot sites by assessing alignment to code recommendations and eligibility as well as financial viability to prepare the sites for the second stage Market and Investment Readiness grant	Pilot site business case	FE	RSPB						5
3.0 Inform the advancement of the UK saltmarsh code and key policy developments in Scotland									
3.1 Analyse Scottish policy and funding mechanisms that support saltmarsh restoration (e.g. SMEEF) through desktop research	Summary of recommendations and policy and funding mechanisms document	FE	RSPB					2	1
3.2 Provide recommendations to inform future Scottish policy mechanisms (such as public funding, stacking/bundling considerations, local community considerations and other market enabling support)	Summary of recommendations and policy and funding mechanisms document	All						2	1
3.3 Learnings and outcomes from this project will be used to inform and be integrated into the development of the UK Saltmarsh Code as well as further pilot site development for the second stage Market and Investment Readiness grant; a learnings webinar will be held for interested parties (e.g. NatureScot)	Summary learnings and outcomes document and 1 learnings webinar	All							4
				2.8	2.8	2.8	15.5	14.4	14.2

Key Roles and Responsibilities

UKCEH:

- Undertake desktop review on blue carbon data extant and restored saltmarsh sites in Scotland. The review will include a review of Natural Capital benefits in Scotland and the potential for additional units to be added to the Saltmarsh Code.
- Develop carbon proxies for Scottish saltmarsh based on existing, and newly collected site data and the Burden et al. model for sites in the Inner Firth and Solway
- Facilitate stakeholder engagement by bringing together key stakeholders in Solway

FE:

- Through the project partners, gather restoration and maintenance costs data for the selected pilot sites and refine validation / verification related cost estimates for UK Saltmarsh code through stakeholder engagement with validation and verification bodies (e.g. SA, OF&G)
- Conduct financial modelling for the 2 pilot sites to assess viability
- Develop a business case for the pilot sites by assessing alignment to code recommendations and eligibility as well as financial viability to prepare the sites for the second stage Market and Investment Readiness grant

- Analyse Scottish policy and funding mechanisms that support saltmarsh restoration (e.g. SMEEF) through desktop research
- Deliver 2 capacity building and training webinars with relevant and interested stakeholders in Scotland linked to the pilot sites and beyond

RSPB:

- Provide access to reserves to pilot the code and assist with data gathering for restoration / maintenance costs for Skinflats
- Support CEH with data gathering for carbon proxies and rates on the pilot sites and desktop research on existing and restored saltmarsh sites in Scotland
- Facilitate stakeholder engagement in the Forth by bringing together local organisations and individuals with an interest in developing a saltmarsh code.
- Provide Scottish policy expertise and practitioners experience of funding restoration

All partners:

- Undertake stakeholder engagement with potential sellers and landowners (e.g. RSPB/WWT), buyers, investors (e.g. SMEEF), LPAs, regulators etc
- Provide recommendations to inform future Scottish policy mechanisms (such as public funding, stacking/bundling considerations, local community considerations and other market enabling support)
- Provide recommendations based on learnings and outcomes from for the development of the UK Saltmarsh Code as well as further pilot site development for the second stage Market and Investment Readiness grant

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