

INTRODUCTION

There is currently a huge appetite for natural capital investment from individuals, corporations and funds who are looking to nature-based solutions to provide both environmental and economic returns on their investments.

Natural capital is the part of nature which directly or indirectly underpins value to people. This includes the global stock of land, air, water, living organisms, plus all the natural processes and functions that take place within these. These resources provide us with ecosystem services and goods that are vital for our survival and wellbeing.

For example, woodland is a natural capital asset as it provides services such as carbon sequestration, reduced water run-off, a supply of wood fuel and social benefits in that it can be a peaceful place for people to visit.

The Strutt & Parker Natural Capital team encompasses a UK-wide group of industry leading chartered surveyors and foresters, who can help to unlock opportunities for landowners and managers driven to improve the natural environment. The team works to find new income streams for the various ecosystem services that clients deliver on their land. These can include carbon offsetting, flood mitigation, enhancing biodiversity, and nutrient neutrality.

In addition to aiding rural landowners and managers, we assist commercial clients and investors who are seeking investment in carbon offsets or green projects, with the view to increasing their portfolio's ESG and sustainability credentials.

If you would like to discuss any aspect of natural capital, please do get in touch.



ALEX BREARLEY
HEAD OF NATURAL CAPITAL, UK
AND HEAD OF IOHN CLEGG & CO

OPPORTUNITIES FOR NATURAL CAPITAL

The range of options when it comes to looking at ways to enhance and monetise natural capital assets is wide. Key areas of interest are as follows:



OUR SERVICES

CARBON ACCOUNTING AND OFFSETTING

We support clients in realising the full potential of their assets by providing advice on the carbon accounting of built and rural estates, carbon reduction strategies and design, utilising our environmental credit/ unit calculator tool. In addition, we deliver sustainable offsetting schemes and provide brokerage services between landowners and investors.

FORESTRY AND WOODLAND MANAGEMENT

Through our John Clegg & Co business line, which is the specialist forestry arm of Strutt & Parker, we provide a complete forestry and woodland management service. The team provides a range of services including helping clients with investment, valuations, woodland creation, sales and asset management of commercial and native woodland and forests across the UK.

PEATLAND RESTORATION

Our peatland service includes providing the design of peatland projects, their delivery and continued project management. In addition, our team can assist landowners in securing both private and public funding for peatland restoration projects across the UK, to generate carbon credits and navigate peatland opportunities through our peatland scoping assessments.

SOIL

Our team supports clients with the sustainable management of soil, focusing on farming techniques which improve the structure and organic content matter of soil. We support clients to establish a baseline soil carbon measurement through our agronomy services by soil testing, undertaking carbon audits and providing soil management consultancy advice.

NATURAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTING

Our natural capital accounting services include developing natural capital accounts to quantify changes in natural capital stocks and their associated benefits and values over time. We also offer ecosystem services valuations to assess the economic, social, and environmental value of services provided by natural capital, to support decision-making processes and aid strategic estate planning.

SUSTAINABLE INVESTMENTS

For clients interested in investments which meet ESG criteria, we offer an advisory service on investment opportunities that support the conservation and sustainable use of natural capital. Our services include aiding clients to invest in natural capital assets through the acquisition of farmland, peatland and woodland.



BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN (BNG)

We support developers and landowners to achieve BNG requirements within their development projects. We provide a range of BNG services including brokerage between landowners and developers, baseline desktop reports for developers, consultancy and advisory services, provision of heads of terms and third-party consultancy liaison between ecologists, legal advisories and external consultants.

CONSERVATION AND REWILDING

Our team can develop conservation plans and management strategies that aim to deliver positive outcomes for biodiversity and enhance the value of an estate's natural capital. The Land Management and Commercial teams provide support to clients through strategic estate reviews and sustainability consultancy, using natural capital accounting and other tools.

NUTRIENT NEUTRALITY

We support developers and landowners in identifying and securing the nutrient neutrality requirements for planning and development projects. Our team can offer a baseline desktop review, broker an exchange of credits, and provide the advice to support the delivery of the commitments.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

We provide advice on engaging with stakeholders such as local communities, policymakers and NGOs to develop consensus and support for natural capital initiatives. We partner with clients developing nature-based solutions to establish a positive working dialogue with local communities to increase the success of their projects.

RENEWABLES ASSESSMENT

Our renewables specialists provide both feasibility studies and energy assessment reports for clients looking at renewable energy as an additional income stream. Following this we provide consultancy advice for energy and renewable opportunities, brokerage services, valuations, financial modelling, carbon energy reporting, net zero energy strategies, project management and land sourcing for larger sites.

STRATEGIC OPERATIONS REVIEW

We aid clients in evaluating and reporting on the impact of business activities or land use changes on their natural capital and the associated ecosystem services. After conducting assessments, we identify the opportunities and risks around natural capital relevant to a specific business, landowner or investor allowing us to realise any potential opportunities for additional revenue streams.



SUSTAINABLE FARMING

Our Farming and Rural Research teams can assist clients on improving the sustainability of their operations through farm environment reviews and by using tools like our arable profitability calculator. Our team can also act in an advisory capacity on regenerative farming methods and accessing sustainable farming funding schemes.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Our team provides a full project management service for all ventures, from the initial planning stages through to the implementation, management and maintenance of sites ensuring clients make the most of the natural capital their land possesses. The aim is always to deliver projects which make a difference to clients and the environment.



KEY CONTACTS



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