VALUING NATURE

Peatland carbon accumulation: can palaeoenvironmental investigations promote sound ecosystem management?

Robert Collier
PhD Student, University of Southampton
R.Collier@soton.ac.uk   @CarbonInPeat

UNIVERSITY OF Southampton
Palaeoenvironmental Laboratory (PLUS)

Centre for Ecology & Hydrology
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL

Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru
Natural Resources Wales

Blanket peatlands as a research area

- Blanket peatlands are the UK's most efficient terrestrial carbon stores

- Little is known about the impact of intensive management on their natural capacity to sequester carbon

https://gmep.wales/

- I work within the Glastir Monitoring and Evaluation Programme (GMEP) to examine how differing management regimes (e.g. drainage, rotational burning) have affected carbon accumulation over the last 150 years using palaeoenvironmental techniques

- My research adds to the understanding of peatland natural capital and may be used to determine best-practice management of the Welsh landscape over the coming decades

Why attend the Business Impact School?

- *Listen* to other researchers and private sector representatives that are involved in ecosystem services/natural capital

- *Understand* private business and organisation decision making regarding valuing nature approaches

- *Discuss* the similarities/differences in approaches to promoting the 'value of nature' and sound ecosystem management

- *Learn* how my research can be used, and ways in which future research could be *tailored/co-designed* to be of maximal use to private companies and organisations

- Make *connections* in the wider natural capital community

The value of my research to business

Challenges

- Communicating 'palaeo' data

- Identifying the most 'useful' data for businesses

- Scale dependency of ecosystem services

- Balancing land owner needs with the societal need for non-monetary benefits
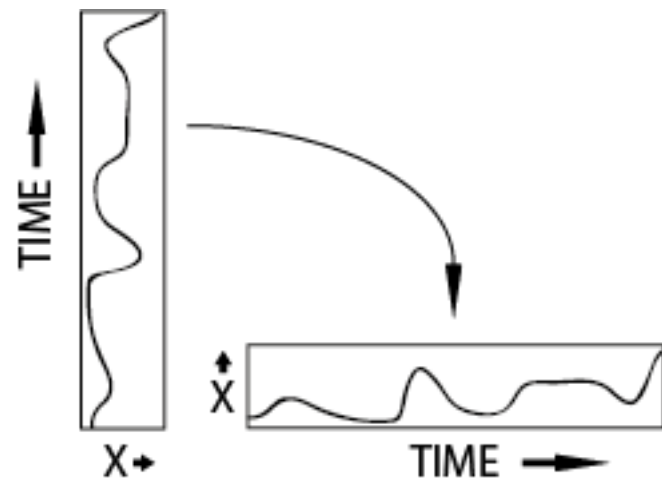
Opportunities

- Direct link with an established program that seeks to ensure payment for environmental goods and services (GMEP)

- If the scheme is successful, then institutional use of this data may encourage uptake by the private sector

- Private sector engagement may promote wider dialogue with land owners/managers