

Essex Net Zero Innovation Futures

Essex Climate Action
Commission

06/06/2023

The project partners



Essex County Council is one of the largest local authorities in England with a range of responsibilities from economy, social care and the environment.



Finance Earth is a leading environmental impact investment advisor and fund manager, working across the natural and built asset sectors to create innovative, investable projects.



Downforce Technologies provides a novel and highly-effective platform for rapid, remote and high-resolution calculation of quantities and values of natural capital and ecosystem services produced by farmers and land stewards.



The Essex Net Zero Futures Initiative Project is grant funded by the UK Natural Investment Readiness Investment Fund (NEIRF)

The project objective is to develop natural capital opportunities at 4 estates in Essex.



★ Spain's Hall Estate (832 ha)

★ Braxted Park (323 ha)

★ Wildfell Gray's Farm (120 ha)

★ Abbotts Hall (282 ha)

Main outputs

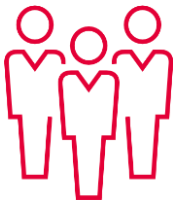
The 'Essex Net Zero Innovation Futures' project aims to unlock investment in natural capital interventions at four sites totaling 1,557 hectares in Essex. This will be achieved through the following activities:



Develop natural capital projects generating a range of ecosystem services (carbon, biodiversity, water quality)



Create an investment case and test investors interest in supporting these natural capital projects



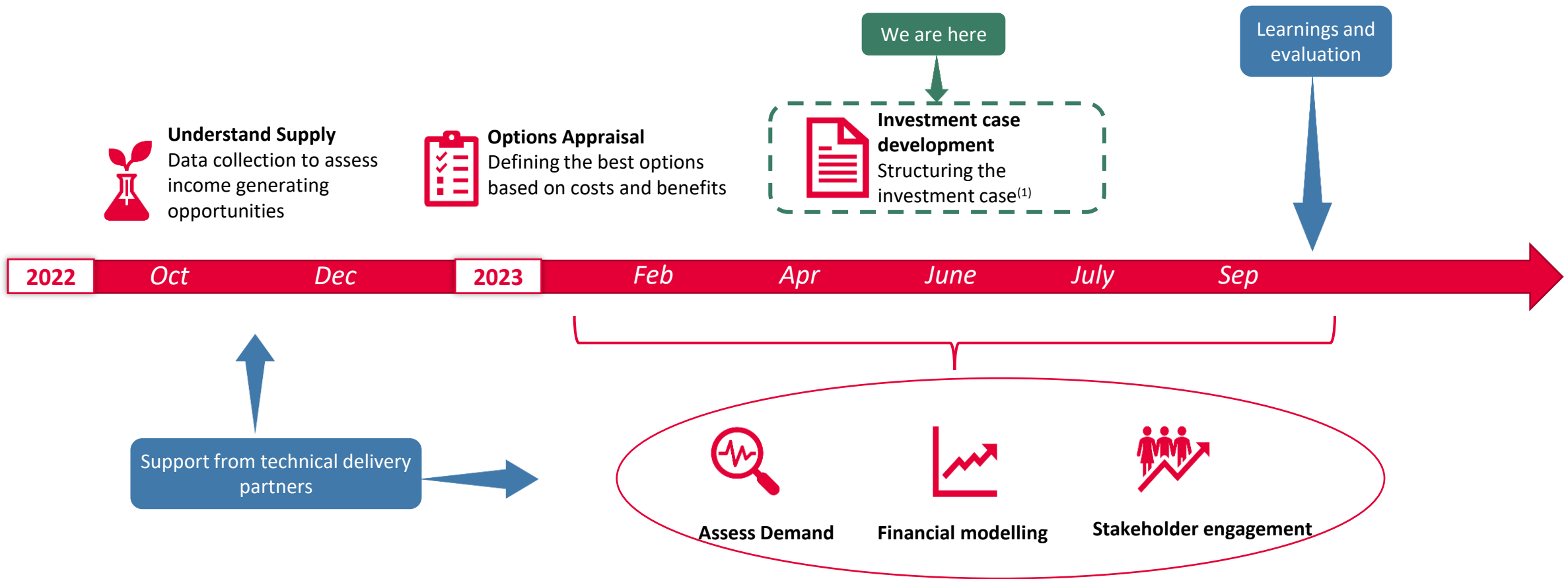
Test buyers' appetite to purchase ecosystem services, in particular woodland carbon and soil carbon



Prepare end of NEIRF grant report outlining key recommendations and learnings

Timeline and project structure

The project is currently at the stage of developing an investment case to assess the investment readiness of the selected opportunities, refine the ecosystem services sales strategy for each opportunity, and engage with potential investors.



⁽¹⁾ More details on investment case development process available in the "Current development and next steps section"

Potential for carbon sequestration and biodiversity



There is a potential **for 24t CO₂e** to be sequestered through woodland creation over the next 100 years



There is a potential for additional **49t CO₂e** carbon to be sequestered in the soil over the next 25 years



Over **1,600 biodiversity units** can be created across the 4 sites, creating new and enhancing existing habitats.

Next steps for the project and beyond

1

Assess demand and identify interested buyers

2

Finalise financial models and develop investment case

3

Test investment case with investors and produce report

4

Embed ENZIF learnings



Following the project, ECC will be able to demonstrate and continue exploring:

- Outline options to enable replicability and scaling in Essex
- Assess attractiveness of creating additional farm clusters, partnerships to coordinate landowners and farmers
- Demonstrate the potential for nature recovery in Essex
- Assess how local communities can play a role in nature recovery

This information is issued by:
Essex County Council

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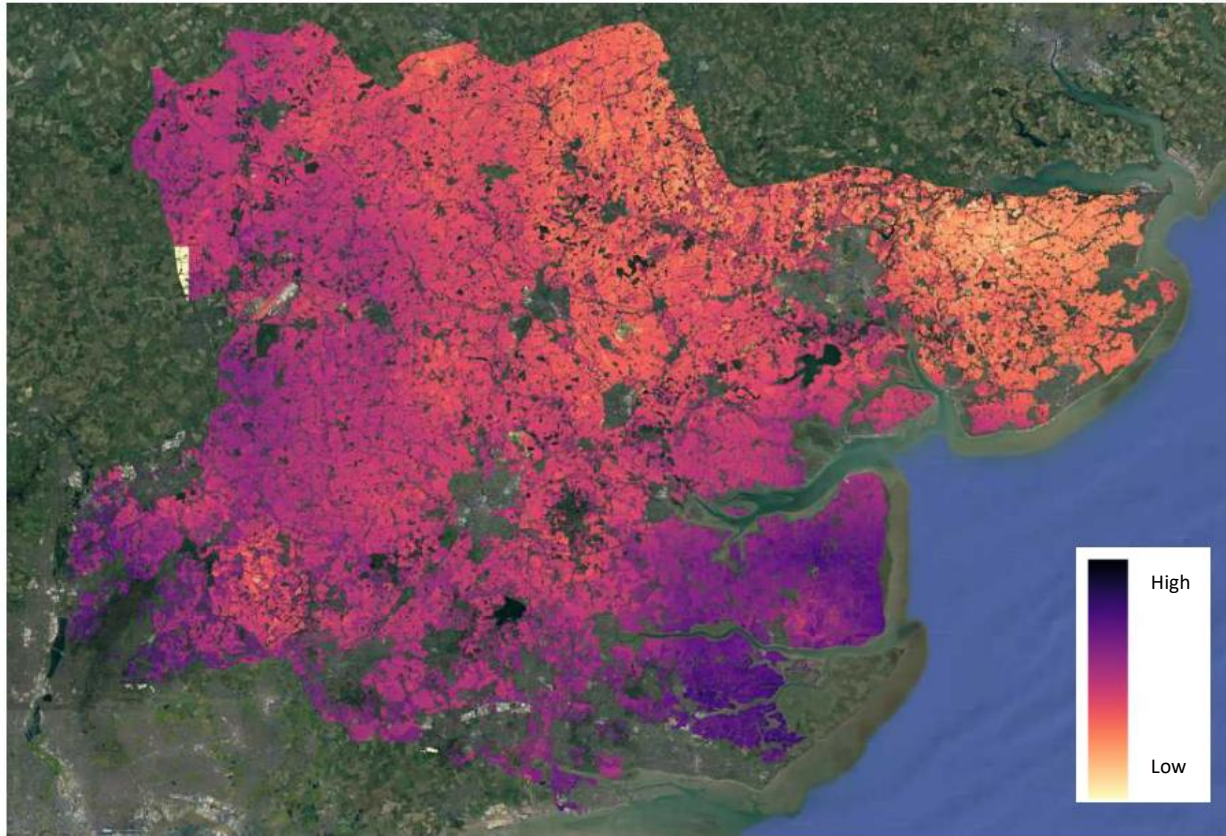
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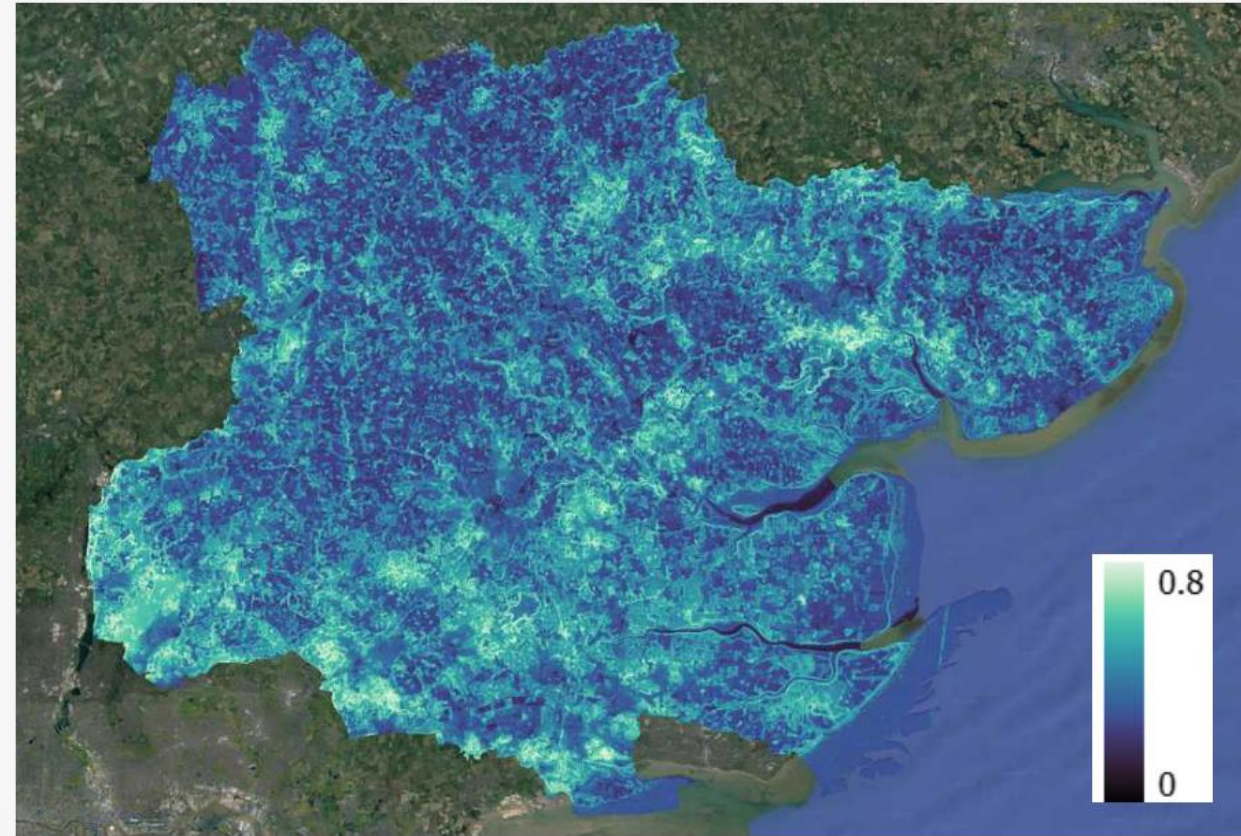
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alternative formats, on request.

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Essex-wide Soil Carbon and Biodiversity potential



Soil Organic Carbon (%)



Downforce Biodiversity Index (0=low, 1-high)