

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1 Why is Northwoods needed?

Scotland has some notable rewilding success stories, yet most activity is presently limited to large estates and landscape-scale projects. Outside of these ambitious initiatives, the challenge of restoring nature and connecting habitats remains, as does the challenge of applying rewilding principles to the many smaller landholdings that make up our landscape.

2 Who are the Northwoods land partners?

The network unites a diverse community of partners, representing a range of land uses and land ownership models, including small estates, farms and community woodlands, all with different starting points and rewilding aspirations. This adds to the complexity and richness of the network and helps us to demonstrate that even with consistent core principles, rewilding can look and feel quite different and still offer valuable benefits for nature, climate and people.

3 What area does the network cover?

Our founding land partners manage more than 3,500 acres. During the network's two-year development phase, we aim to treble our coverage to at least 9,000 acres.

4 Is Northwoods restricted to Scotland?

Yes. As well as in-depth knowledge of Scottish species and habitats, we have hard-won understanding and experience of the cultural and social sensitivities relating to land use in Scotland. We will use this contextual knowledge of rewilding, built over decades, to support land partners with physical change on the ground, and with changing opinions, values and mindsets.

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Is Northwoods partnership available to any landowner?

No. We are targeting medium-sized (50 to 1,000 acre) landholdings to support owners and managers who might otherwise not have the resources or expertise to rewild, while demonstrating to others at the same scale how it can be done. We also consider other factors when selecting partners, including geographic spread, location in relation to other rewilding activity, and type of land-use, to maximise the network's impact on ecological connectivity.

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How does rewilding happen across the network?

Our emphasis is on establishing formal partnerships with carefully selected landowners and managers who want to commit to rewilding. To enable focused support, we require partners to sign up to a set of rewilding commitments and principles that underpin the network. We then support and enable the actions required to realise their vision for nature recovery. Auditing for success and impact is built into partnership agreements.

7

Is there a place for farming in a rewilded landscape?

Yes. Regenerative farming and rewilding are two entirely compatible concepts and both provide potential solutions to the challenges posed by the biodiversity and climate crises. Several of the Northwoods land partners combine both approaches. Moving further and faster on the rewilding journey will be most appropriate in those areas that are less suitable for food production. If we are to improve the quality of our soils and water, produce good quality food and maintain economic vitality in rural communities, as well as restore biodiversity, we need both regenerative farming and rewilding.

8

Why is storytelling so important?

Practical rewilding actions are valuable in their own right but won't, on their own, turn the tide for nature recovery in Scotland. The stories and communications that are generated from these actions however, could. We work with our partners to tell powerful and engaging stories that create an amplifying effect, encouraging others, outwith the network, to adopt rewilding principles on their land.

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How does Northwoods sustain itself?

The network relies on a diverse range of income streams including individual, corporate and charitable trust donations. Rewilding actions on the ground also rely on grants and subsidy payments to varying degrees. A significant part of the network, however, is the development and delivery of new, sustainable rewilding business models, including nature-based tourism and events, rewilding branded food and produce, and payments for ecosystem services.