

What is Wren ECOConsulting?

Wren ECOConsulting is an independent environmental consultancy based in South Cumbria, formed in January 2021 by Gemma Wren. Although based in the north of England, services can readily be adapted to a national context.

Wren ECOConsulting offers pragmatic project/programme management support for **landscape scale** nature recovery projects. Whether you're a landowner or organisation interested in nature recovery I can help you set up and deliver **impactful sustainable** land management projects. From project/programme inception and strategic design through to practical delivery and supporting mechanisms for long term sustainability.

Why work with me?

In the field of nature conservation we have tackled the easy bits - to move forward with nature recovery at scale we now need to tackle the difficult bits – this requires creative thinking and working with a wider range of stakeholders to create meaningful and sustainable solutions. It can be hard to find the time and headspace to progress this work.

Drawing from my experience over the last 20 years of delivery and design of partnership projects within the conservation sector I have a unique experience and outlook to help you kick-start and deliver your nature recovery ambitions.

Five things you will get from working with me:

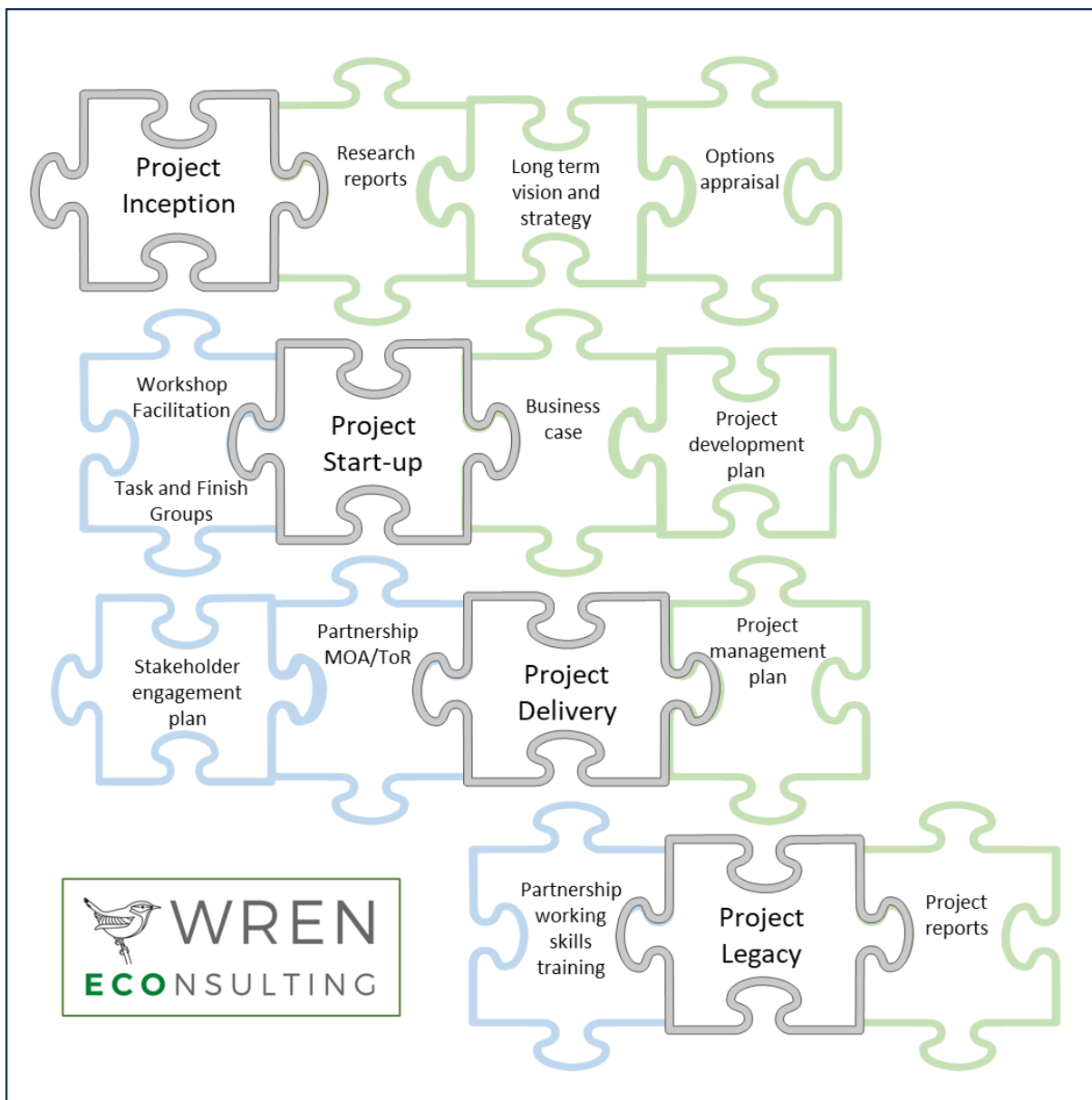
- A **problem-solving** approach to developing project ideas and creating meaningful project plans. Developing fit for purpose partnership models to deliver at scale and pace.
- **Clarity** on direction and what is needed to move forward. Being a critical friend and challenging entrenched thinking. Encouraging sharing of learning from past and existing projects rather than reinventing the wheel.
- A creative yet pragmatic approach to **collaborative** working with a range of stakeholders. Promoting co-creation and consensus building – developing relationships and thinking outside the box to truly engage different interests.
- Identification of cross sector skills, expertise and resources than could enhance **efficiencies** and accelerate progress.
- Development of long-term **sustainable** strategies with practical delivery plans. Embedding partnership working skills to empower teams and individuals.

What exactly can Wren ECOnculting do for you?

I believe it’s important to take a holistic approach to nature recovery. I like to think of the process of project design and delivery as an intricate jigsaw.

The green and blue pieces below are examples of the outputs that I can help you to deliver throughout all life stages of a project. The green pieces have a more technical focus. The blue pieces are the fundamental social elements that are key to the success of landscape scale projects with multiple stakeholders.

Wren ECOnculting can bring these pieces together to help you build impactful sustainable land management projects.



(N.B. ‘Project’ may be interchanged with ‘Programme’)

A bit about me



I am passionate about meaningful and impactful delivery of landscape scale nature recovery, joining land management expertise with social integrity.

I am committed to my own continual professional development in this area as well as being passionate about growing a generation of conservationists with the skills to work in a collaborative environment. I am keen to join with other like-minded professionals to create a network of associates who can support landscape scale projects in this way.

I have over 20 years' experience of working in conservation land management. During that time I have led partnership projects at the local and landscape level across a broad range of landscapes including protected sites.

I have worked within local government, NGOs and the private sector both across the UK and abroad - managing a wide variety of nature conservation projects, leading operational teams in practical delivery as well as developing organisational long-term strategies for site management and monitoring.

This experience both in on-ground delivery and at a strategic level, offers me the rare ability to create realistic and meaningful strategy documents that can be effectively translated to delivery.

I have extensive experience in stakeholder engagement; facilitating and leading challenging conversations around land management issues with local communities to deliver positive outcomes. I have represented organisations in the media, at conferences and local forums, on good news stories as well as contentious issues.

I have strong team leadership experience – motivating, training and mentoring remote teams as well as delivering change management within organisations to promote innovation, resource efficiency and resilience. I enjoy bringing people together to common goals and will always aim for inclusivity in design, development and implementation.

Through my own CPD I keep up to date with current policy, strategy and funding within the environmental sector. I am a full member of CIEEM.

I am currently a trustee with Lancashire Wildlife Trust primarily focused on supporting their Nature Recovery outcomes and leading for EDI on the Trust Council.

In my 'spare' time I like to be outdoors – running, walking, gardening, taking photos or guiding wildlife tours around the Morecambe Bay area.

Examples of recent client work include:

- Natural England: Jan – Mar 2021. Researching a Multi Capitals Conceptual Framework, exploring the integration of landscape character assessment with cultural and natural capital. Collaboration with Motmot Consulting and University of Cumbria.
- National Trust: Aug 21 - Feb 22. Identifying the barriers and opportunities for transformational catchment projects in the Bollin catchment to deliver bigger, better and more joined up healthy resilient landscapes. Research and report for the Bollin Catchment Green Recovery Challenge Fund.
- National Parks England: Oct 21 - Apr 22. Development of a business case for Nature Recovery across the 10 NPAs in England. Resulted in additional £4.4m funding to NPAs in 2023. Collaboration with Motmot Consulting.
- RSPB: Nov 21 - Jan 22. Natural Capital Investment research - identifying barriers and opportunities for farmers to access alternative funding mechanisms for delivery of nature recovery interventions. Used to inform Cumbria Connect, £4m Endangered Landscapes Project.
- National Trust: Mar – Dec 22. Project management of Great North Bog West peatland restoration project across Cumbria and Lancashire working with Cumbria Peat Partnership and Forest of Bowland AONB.
- National Trust: Sept 22 – Mar 23. Project management support and development of business case for landscape scale NFM project in West Yorkshire. Resulted in funding award of £1.7m from West Yorkshire Combined Authority.
- Arnsdale & Silverdale AONB: Dec 22 – Mar 24. Development of draft Nature Recovery Plan for consultation. Collaboration with Motmot Consulting.
- Castletown Estates: Oct 23 - Feb 24. Writing and submission of FiPL applications for variety of conservation land management projects.
- Cumbria Wildlife Trust/Natural England: Feb 24 – Mar 25. Cumbria Lowland Peatland Engagement Project. Design of engagement strategy to understand landowner concerns around peatland restoration and development of long-term strategy to enable restoration works. Training and skills development for engagement team. Facilitation of workshops and events.