



Peatland Restoration in the North Pennines AONB

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Peatland Programme Objectives:



- **Restoration:** Supporting restoration and management work;
- **Research:** Supporting and disseminating new and existing research;
- **Celebration:** Raising appreciation and understanding of blanket bog;
- **Promoting best practice:** Provision of management advice.

What is Peat?

- A soil that contains a high proportion of dead organic matter, that has accumulated over thousands of years in cold, wet conditions.

Peat forms at about 1 mm per year.



Why is Peat Important?

Biodiversity

Flooding

Carbon Store/Sink

Water Colour/Supply

Sediment Loading

Historical Record



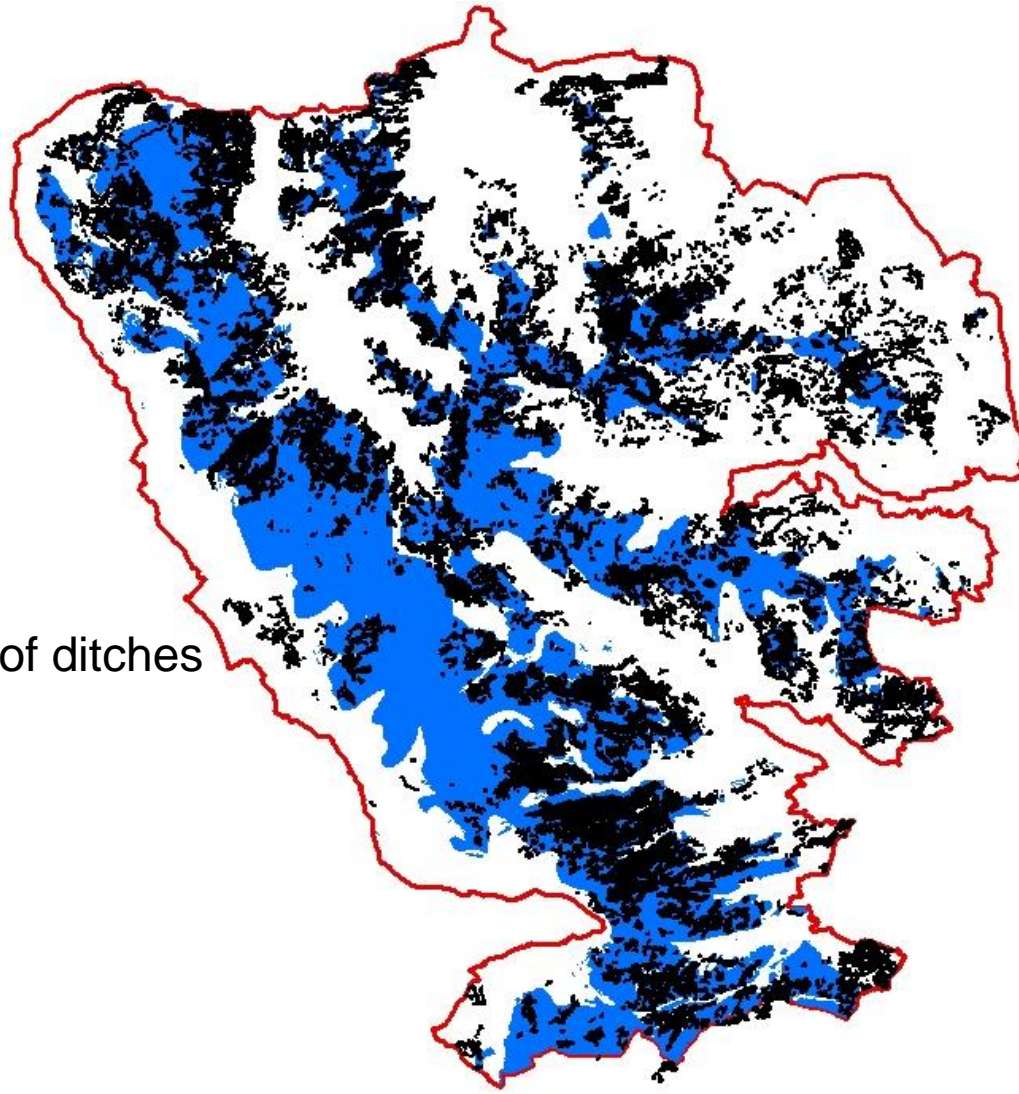
Local – National – International Benefits





The Legacy

- Eroding peat
- Increase in sediment
- Increased run off and erosion
- Water colour increase
- Biodiversity loss
- Carbon loss
- Historic environment loss



- 10,000 km of ditches

- 9,000 km of ditches now blocked

Grip Blocking

Landscape Scale Problem – Simple, proven, long term, natural solution.

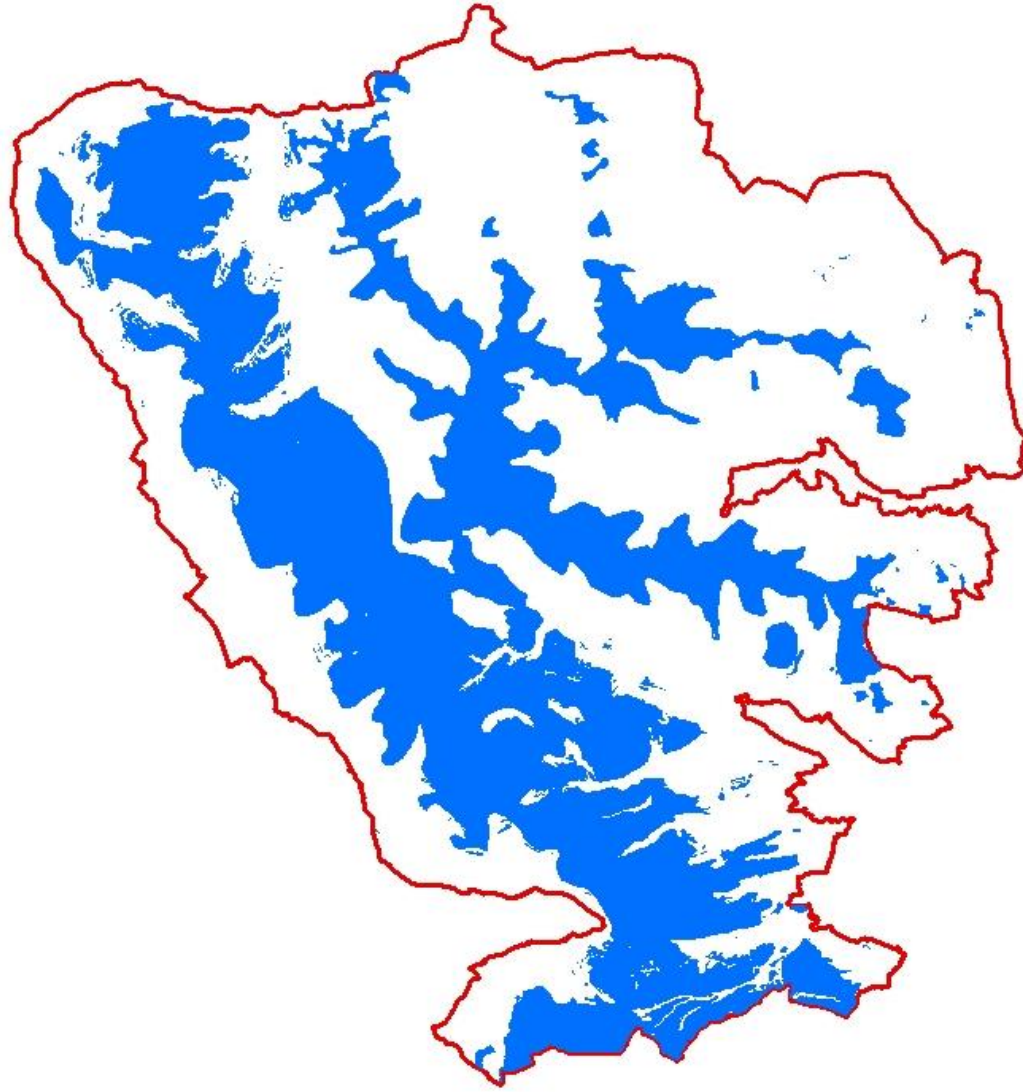
Insert peat dams (blocks) every 7-10 metres.

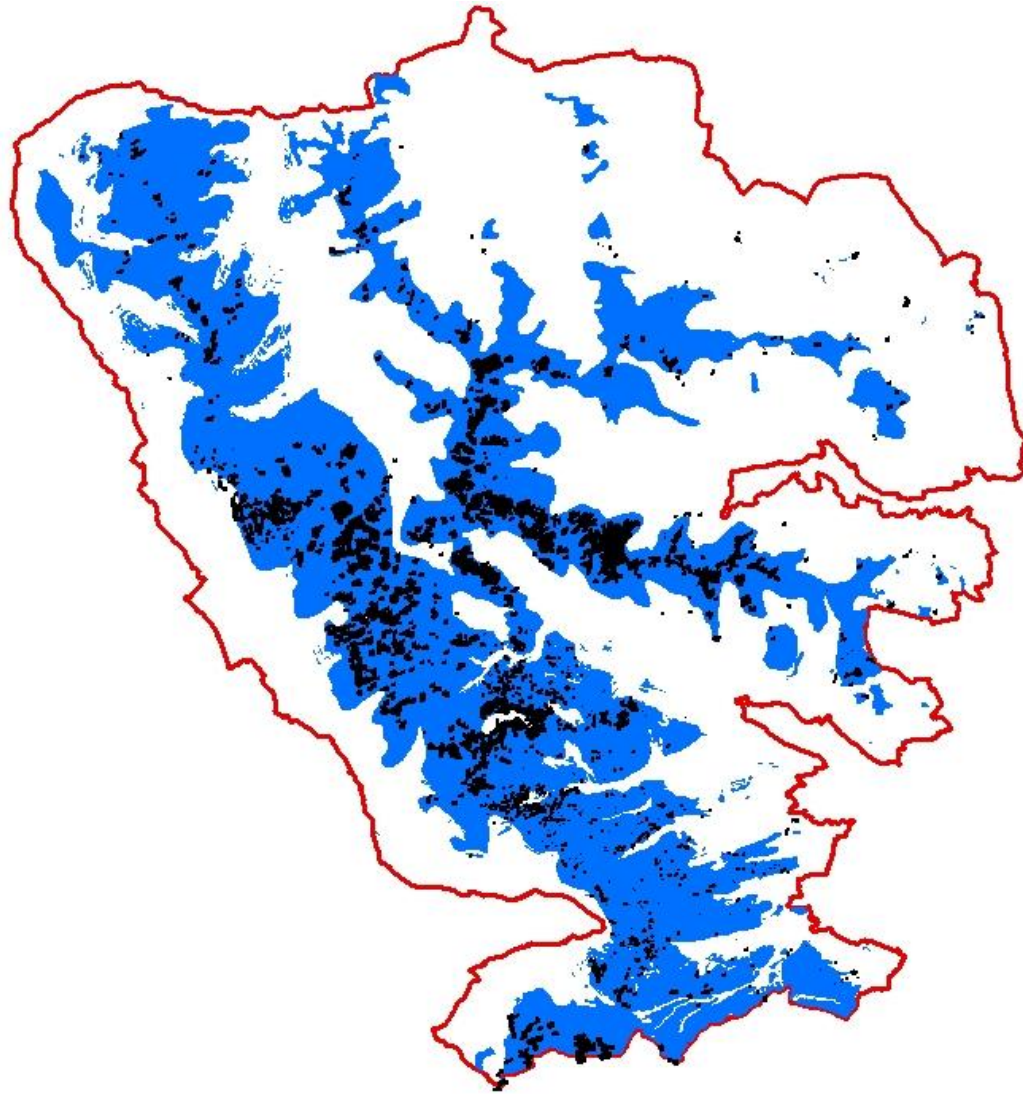


Local specialist contractors with the right skills and moorland experience.



Eroding Peat





- 2900 ha of bare peat on 4000 sites











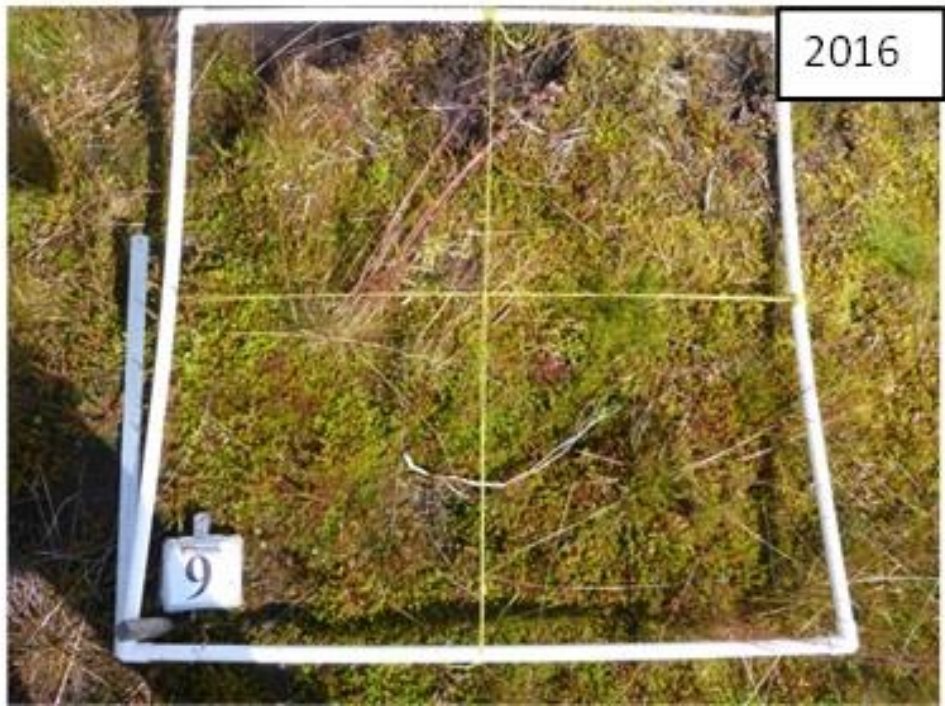
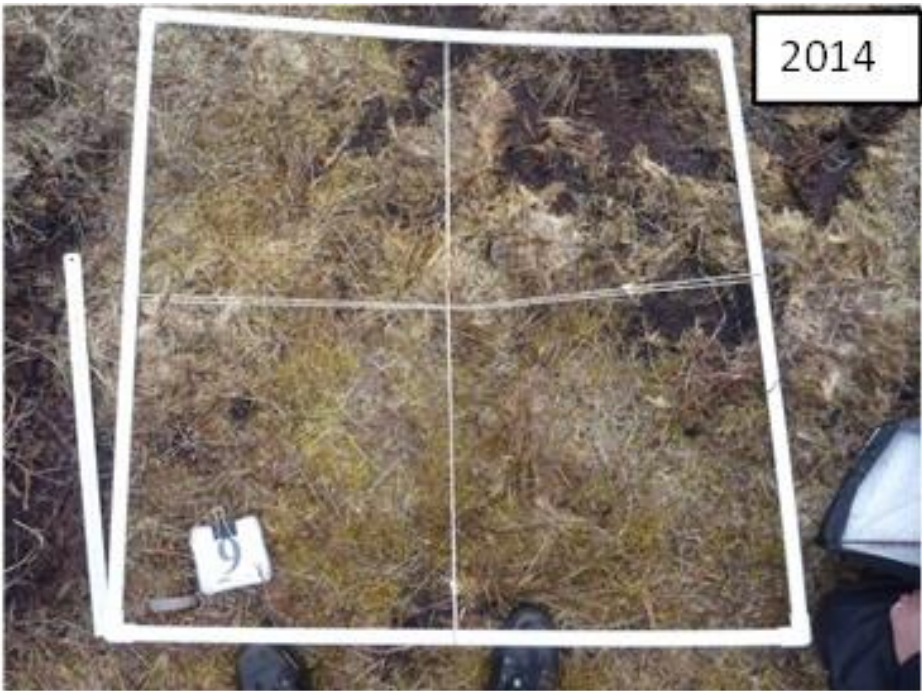














Pennine PeatLIFE

The aim of the Pennine PeatLIFE project is to demonstrate and evaluate Blanket Bog restoration techniques suited northern England and the development and showcasing of a financial payment for ecosystem services (PES) mechanism in the UK Peatland Code.
(5 year project - €6.5 million)

This project will determine the most cost-effective PES restoration approach by:

1. **Demonstrating financially viable region-specific and sustainable *Sphagnum* based restoration techniques for re-activating 1353 ha of blanket bog in northern England.**
2. **Demonstrating through ‘Concept to Contract’ trials, the UK Peatland Code, as a viable payment for ecosystem services for upland peatlands.**
3. **Demonstrating new approaches using Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) to assess vegetation change** as a proxy measure for monitoring change in ecosystem services benefits of blanket bog undergoing restoration and as a validation tool for the UK Peatland Code.
4. **Disseminating the demonstration activities** to policy makers, landowners and managers, government agencies, NGOs, and other key stakeholders in the UK and across the EU.

NORTH PENNINES



Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



North Pennines
UNESCO
Global Geopark

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