



NORTHUMBERLAND Peat Partnership



@northumberlandpeat



Northumberland Peat Partnership

Introduction

The **Northumberland Peat Partnership (NPP)** is a **collaborative** effort that aims to bring together **stakeholders** to successfully and effectively draw finance to **survey, manage and restore peatlands** in Northumberland.

The NPP works within a **Partnership Area** - encompassing Northumberland north of the **A69** to the **Scottish Border**.

To date, the NPP has **surveyed over 12,000ha** across more than **56 peatland sites** in Northumberland. By surveying and producing **restoration plans** the NPP is helping contribute to **DEFRA's target** to put **35,000ha** of **degraded peatlands** on a trajectory to **restoration by 2035**.

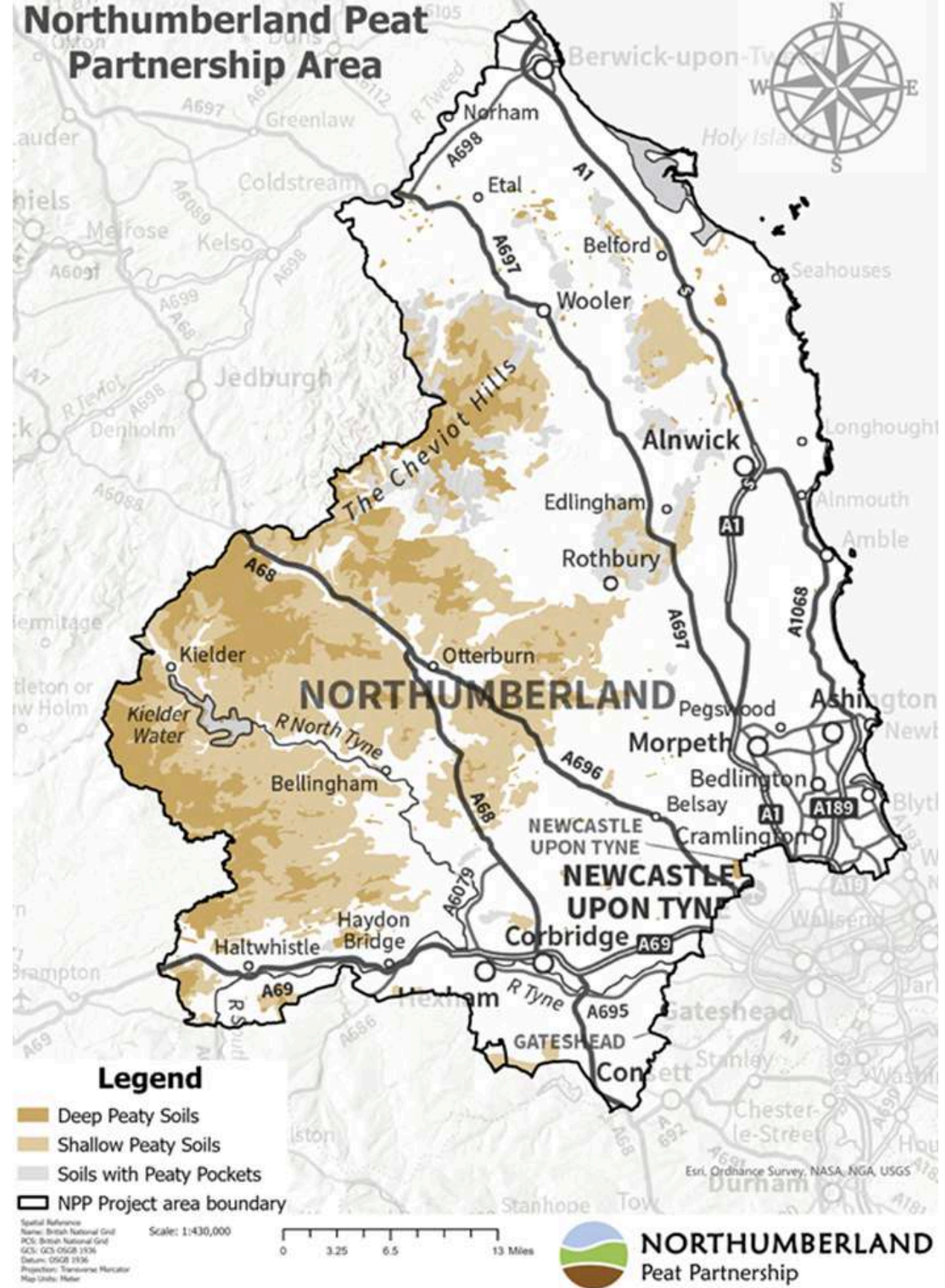


Wallington Big Green Week

The team is comprised of a **Programme Manager, Data Officer, Engagement Officer, Survey Officers (x2), Survey Assistants (x3) and contractors**



Cheviot Summit



Background

Due to a **lack of a coordinated approach** to peatland **surveying and restoration** across the extensive peatlands of **Northumberland**, the need for an **active peat partnership** in this area was recognised.

In **2020**, a **collaborative agreement** was signed between the NPP's founding members, bringing the NPP into fruition.

The NPP received funding from the **Esmée Fairbairn Foundation** and as part of the **Nature for Climate and Peat Discovery Grant (NCP)** which provided the initial funding for staff **recruitment, site surveys** and producing restoration **plans**. Two of the sites surveyed within the NCP grant scheme - **The Wou and Whitelee Moor** - will be undergoing **restoration in autumn 2024**.

In **August 2024**, the NPP secured another **NCP grant**, lining up **3655 ha** across **8 sites** providing a stream of field surveys and desk-based mapping work across Northumberland's peatlands until **31st March 2025**.

Methodology

To survey peatlands, the NPP uses a variety of methods - from **digital technology** such as **GIS and drone imagery** to **on-the-ground** survey measures of peat depth and vegetation type:

Desk-Based Mapping:

- Gather **site information** (e.g. degrading features - bare peat, hags, gullies)
- **Digital map** of features using drone imagery, LiDAR2 and base maps

On-the-ground Surveys:

- Peat depth
- *Sphagnum* cover
- NVC community
- BNG status
- Vegetation species

Data is collected from a **centroid point** within a **100m x 100m** grid, within a **10m x 10m** quadrat around the centroid.

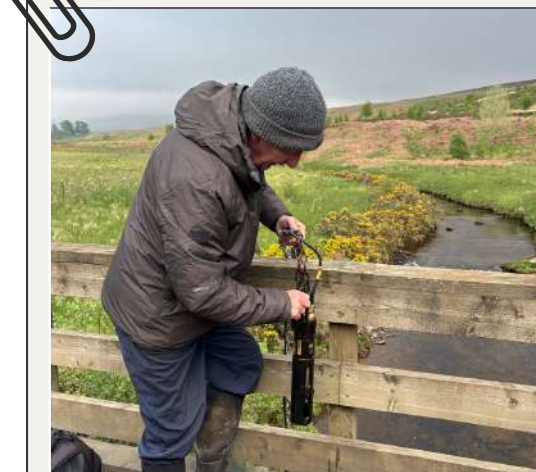
Where peat depth is **greater than 30cm** a more detailed vegetation survey is taken within a **2m x 2m** quadrat.



Taking peat depths at Prestwick Carr



Peat coring at Moss Peteral



Hydrological Monitoring at Whitelee Moor

Objectives

The NPP's **main objective** is to **survey and restore** peatlands in Northumberland, raising **awareness** about the **importance** of these landscapes.

To help achieve this we can offer the **following services** to landowners wishing to manage peat on their land:

- **Site surveying** on the ground
- Compose **restoration plans** and **support** with their **delivery**
- **Managing** restoration **projects**
- Use of **satellite and drone imagery** to better understand a site and its features
- Provide support for **public and private funding** application (e.g. Peatland Code, Countryside Stewardship)
- **Hydrological monitoring**



Bare peat at Holburn Moss

View our storymap here!

