

Nature for Climate Peatland Grant Scheme

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NCPGS aims & activities

The England Peat Action Plan sets ambitious restoration targets for degraded peatlands in England. To help achieve this, Natural England is delivering the Nature for Climate Peatland Grant Scheme (NCPGS).

The grant scheme funds landscape scale restoration activities at any stage of a restoration journey. Grants also help unlock barriers to restoration and build new partnerships. Funding is available until March 2025.

£ 750 million
Nature for Climate Fund

£ 50 million
For peatland restoration

35,000 ha
Under restoration management by 2025

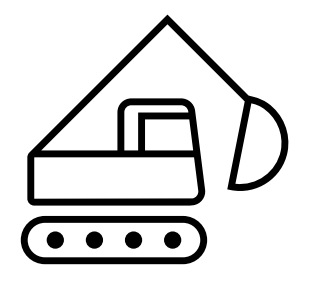
5.7 Mt
Carbon secured by 2050

£ 30 million
Grant funding committed

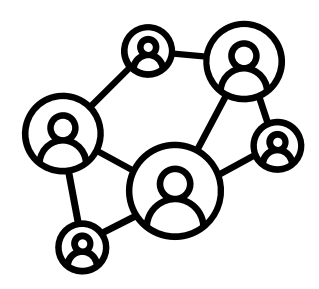
£ 11 million
Additional finance secured

19,000 ha
Committed to restoration so far

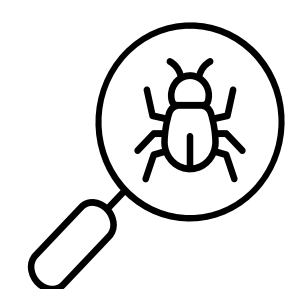
42,000 ha
Being explored for restoration potential



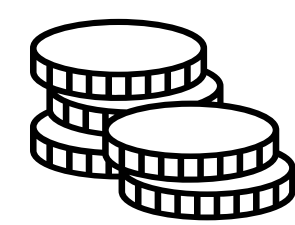
Restoration works



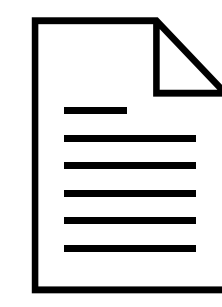
Developing partnerships



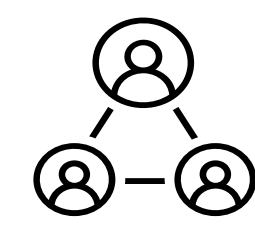
Surveying & monitoring



Securing private finance



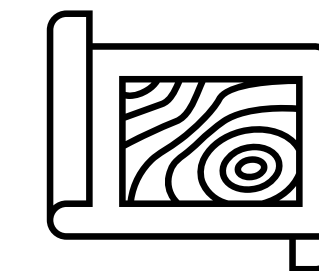
Planning restoration



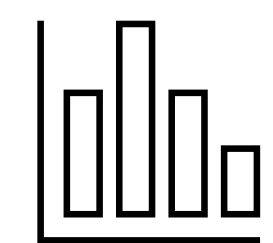
Community engagement



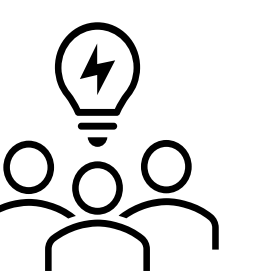
Gaining permissions



Historic Environment



Feasibility studies



Technical training

11 Restoration Grant Projects to restore degraded peatlands

Northern Lowland Peatland Coalition

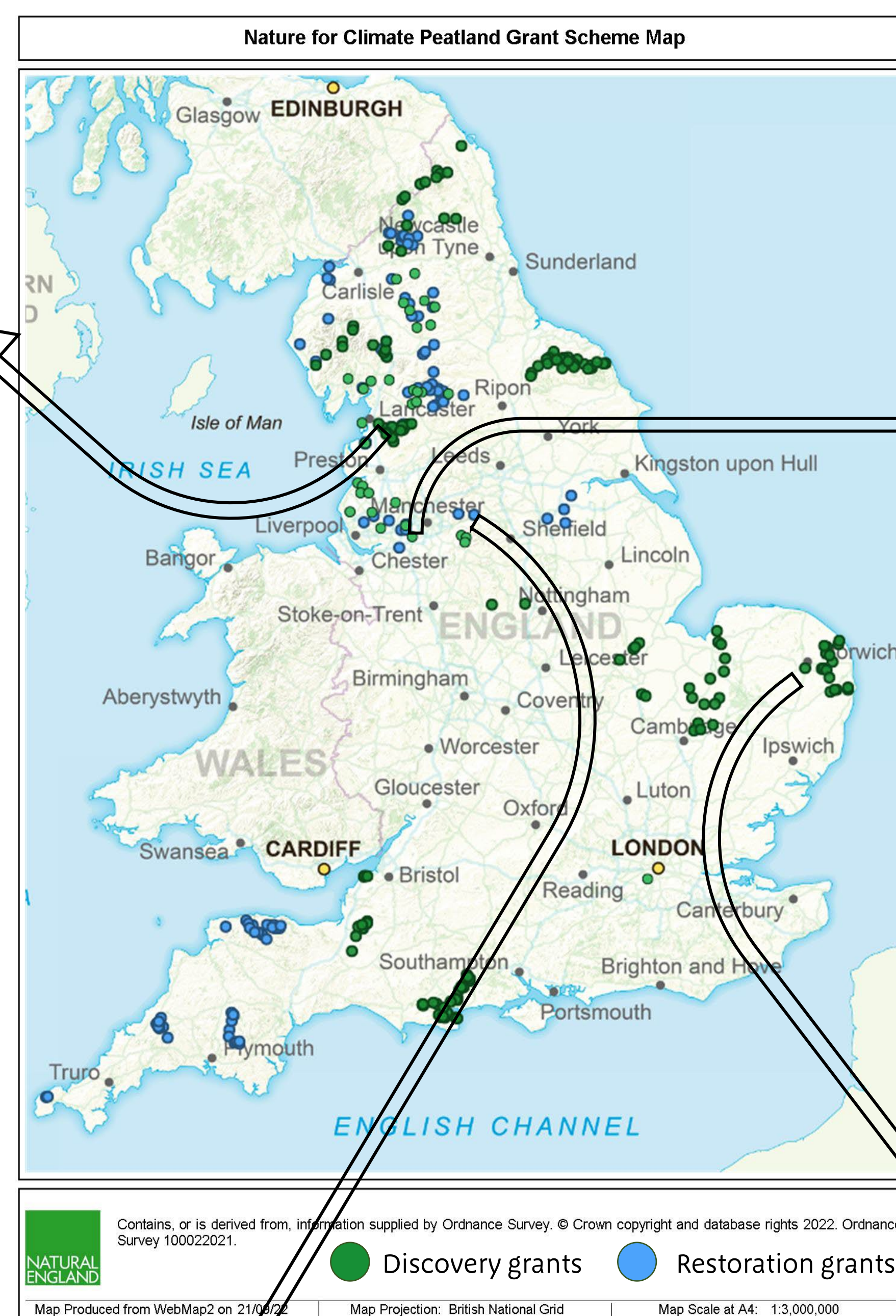
This project brings together the Lancashire and Cumbria Peat Partnerships and the Greater Manchester Wetlands Partnership to restore 200 ha of degraded lowland raised bog across the north of England.

Works at Winmarleigh and Cockerham Mosses have included trench bunding to create a 'peat wall' which seals sub-surface cracks in the peat and reduces the water being lost. This restoration, combined with agri-environment works, has resulted in the hydrological re-connection of adjacent peat areas. Ongoing water level measurements will be used to monitor the recovery of these sites.

The coalition has also been awarded a Discovery Grant in 2022 to survey new sites, work with farmers on lowland agricultural peatlands and train new contractors.



Winmarleigh Moss trench bunding and Cockerham Moss restoration. Photo credits: Lancashire Wildlife Trust



15 Discovery Grant Projects to overcome barriers to restoration

The Great North Bog (West)

The Great North Bog (GNB) brings together partners working across upland peatlands in the north of England. The National Trust are leading this project, working with Cumbria Wildlife Trust, the Forest of Bowland AONB and United Utilities, as well as private estates and the wider GNB partners.

Through the project, peatland condition surveys and historic environment assessments have been carried out, enabling restoration plans to be developed for 12 upland sites in Cumbria and the Forest of Bowland so far.

Eyes on the Bog monitoring plots have been established at 4 sites to date, with volunteers trained in moorland vegetation ID, and how to use rust-rods and surface-level rods.

From this Discovery project, the partnership has been successful in obtaining a Restoration Grant in 2022 to restore 1,063 ha across Cumbria and the Forest of Bowland.

Broads Peat Project

This project is led by the Broads Authority and includes a wide range of partners to form the Broads Peat Partnership. The ambition is to develop a new approach to peat management and carbon storage in the Broads, investigating c. 1,200 ha in the region.

In addition to site surveys, a new economic model for lowland peat restoration is being developed by Palladium. Workshops and site visits are being carried out to introduce landowners to new opportunities.

Three Discovery projects in the area have also come together to share their learning: the Broads Peat Project, the Fens East Peat Partnership and NIAB. Knowledge sharing has included survey techniques and carbon financing, with more events being planned.



Peat coring. Photo credit: Daniel Wade, Broads Authority



Survey technique workshop. Photo credit: Phil Sheldrake, NE

Moor Climate Action Project

This project is led by Moors for the Future Partnership, with project partners including the Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA), and the landowner, Yorkshire Water. The Snailsden site in South Yorkshire includes badly degraded peat in need of restoration but the project was complicated by the presence of buried Mesolithic sites (including flint) which could be disturbed by the works.

The archaeological consultants recommended test pit surveys to find the hidden sites. However this could have caused project delays and higher costs. After advice from the PDNPA Archaeologist, the project realised that the majority of sites were in basal peat layers. Moors for the Future were therefore able to adjust their peat dam and reprofiling methodology to avoid disturbing the lower peat layers and reduce the potential risk to the historic features.

The restoration plans are an example of how restoration techniques can be optimised to avoid damaging historic features. The project has been granted NCPGS Restoration Grant funding and works will start on site using the adjusted historic environment friendly methods in Autumn 2022.



Mesolithic Flint previously found near Barnsley. Photo credits: West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service (creative commons)

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