



Peatland Programme

Commission of Inquiry into Peatland Restoration Review Topic 1 State of the Peatlands

This Review is being carried out between JNCC and the UK country conservation agencies.

The Review will be lead by JNCC and UK Lead Coordination Network (Soils, Upland, Lowland Wetland), with: Dr Patricia Bruneau, Scottish Natural Heritage; Andrew Coupar, Scottish Natural Heritage; Alex Higgins, Northern Ireland Environment Agency; Sally Johnson, Scottish Natural Heritage; Dr Peter Jones, Countryside Council for Wales; Dr Matthew Shepherd, Natural England; Richard Weyl, Northern Ireland Environment Agency.

Review outline

To complement the IUCN UK Peatland Programme Inquiry, the JNCC Lead Co-ordination Networks for Soils, Uplands and Lowland Wetlands are preparing a report outlining the state of evidence and knowledge relating to peatland location, extent, management, land cover, pressures and condition in the UK.

This report aims to define what is meant by peatlands in the UK, and will describe issues relating to the definition and mapping of peat and peaty soils and their associated vegetation. The report will include describe available data and information sources and when possible quantify the nature of UK peatlands and the extent of our knowledge of peatlands distribution and conditions.

The review will cover the following:

Introduction

- Definition of peatlands
- Rationale: how knowledge of peatland distribution and status can inform policy, delivery and research

Extent of peatlands

- Current location maps
- Efforts underway to improve location mapping
- Future requirements: 3D peat depth and properties map

Peatland status

- Definitions of different peatland status classes: describing land uses/management, land covers, pressures, and peat condition; and interactions between these.
- Efforts underway to improve peat status mapping