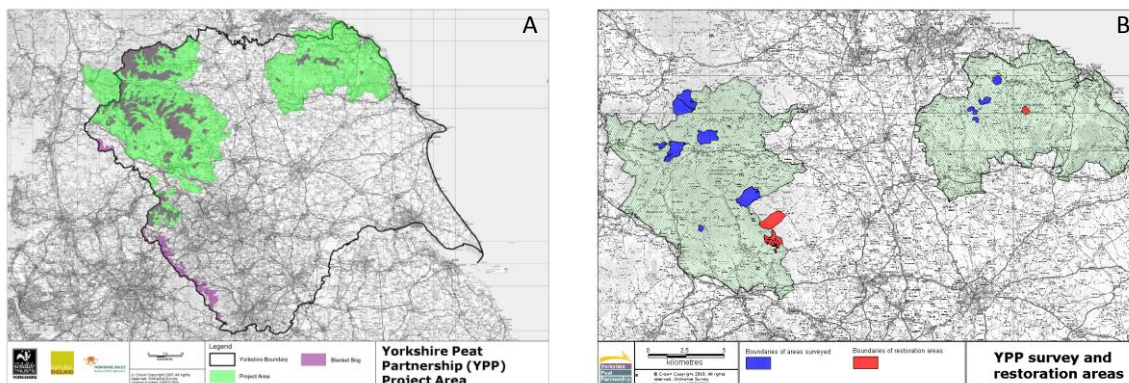


Yorkshire Peat Partnership



Location, size of peatland and extent of restoration works

The Yorkshire Peat Partnerships (YPP), potential project area is vast, encompassing the uplands of the Yorkshire Dales National Park, Nidderdale AONB, North York Moors National Park and areas of the South Pennines, North of the River Calder. Within the Yorkshire region alone there is nearly 70,000 ha of upland peat soil, upon which a staggering 4,350,000 m of grips (drainage channels) have been incised. Currently, YPP has a works programme that potentially covers 49 sites over a 3 year period.



Map A shows the extent of the Yorkshire Peat Partnerships project region.

Map B shows site boundaries of areas that have been surveyed ■ and subject to restoration ■

Table 1; Ground works completed by Yorkshire Peat Partnership.

Sites	Area Surveyed (ha ⁻¹)	Length grips/gullies blocked (km)
Grimwith (Yorkshire Dales)	489	39
Coverhead (Yorkshire Dales)	~ 200	
Stags Fell (Yorkshire Dales)	1650	
Mossdale (Yorkshire Dales)	1783	
Birkdale (Yorkshire Dales)	384	
Fell Close (Yorkshire Dales)	109	N/A
Fountains Fell (Yorkshire Dales)	170	
Steane (Nidderdale)		107
Glaisdale (N York Moors)	300	18
Kempswithin (N York)	418	N/A

Moors)		
Baysdale (N York Moors)	368	
Above Broad Ings (N York Moors)	218	
Slape Wath (N York Moors)	114	
TOTAL	6203	164

Table 2; Project deliverables between now and March 2013.

Deliverables (July 2010 – March 2013)	Area (ha¹)/length (km)	Comments
Area to be surveyed	35,400	
Length of grips to block	2825	~ 50% grips in region
Length of gullies to restore	1054	~ 50% grips in region
Area of bare peat to restore	184	
TOTAL PROJECTED ON GROUND EXPENDITURE		
£10,612,870		

Restoration works

A detailed survey is carried out on all YPP sites prior to restoration. All grips, gullies and bare peat areas are quantified. Vegetation communities, possible causes of erosion and potential restoration techniques are all recorded on-site before works. This provides YPP with a solid basis for guidance on the most appropriate restoration techniques and provides base-line data for further restoration monitoring.

A combination of grip and gully blocking and bare peat restoration is employed by YPP in order to begin the process of rehabilitating degraded peatland to peat forming ecosystems. Existing techniques of grip blocking e.g. peat dams and bare peat restoration e.g. stabilisation and revegetation are currently being employed to restore peat in the Yorkshire Dales and the North York Moors.

Research

YPP is committed to initiating and supporting peatland research. Of particular importance to YPP is promoting research into the direct effects of restoration on peatland dynamics. One of the Yorkshire Peat Partnership's research objectives is to form a YPP research hub. This will consist of designated YPP research sites that are being actively restored. A research network is being established in order to facilitate practical research addressing key peatland restoration research questions. Additionally, desk-based research is being conducted using aerial imagery and colour infra-red imagery to quantify vegetation changes, burning regimes and to develop indices such as erosion and wetness. Software that categorises vegetation and bare peat is also being developed as part of our research agenda.

Monitoring

Base-line monitoring of hydrological, vegetation and sediment dynamics is vital in order to inform best practice and to establish the success of restoration works. YPP is committed to long-term monitoring; sites will be revisited on an annual basis for the first three years following works with an overall monitoring period of five years. The YPP monitoring protocol is designed to take into account time and resources required for long-term monitoring and is

comprehensively structured so that volunteers can continue to monitor YPP sites long into the future. YPP will also endeavour to establishment specific research monitoring for more detailed, targeted monitoring.

Partners involved, funding sources

The Yorkshire Peat Partnership, or YPP, is an umbrella organisation comprising the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, Natural England, North York Moors National Park Authority and the Environment Agency. It also receives support from Nidderdale AONB, Pennine Prospects, Environment Agency, National Trust, Moorland Association, Yorkshire Water, National Farmers Union and Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust.

All restoration capital works are being funded by Natural England's Higher Level Steward Scheme (HLS). Natural England has committed to considerable investment in the Yorkshire Peat Partnership in order to facilitate large-scale peatland restoration. The work is researched, planned, carried out and monitored by staff and resources from the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority. The Yorkshire Wildlife Trust provides headquarters, staff and GIS expertise to facilitate the project and the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority provides staff to manage the Partnership and drive forward ground works. The North York Moors National Park Authority and the Environment Agency also provide vital funding to help support the Partnership.

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Examples of the restoration works that YPP have undertaken



Credit: Peter Christopherson, YPP.

Stean Moor, Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Beauty. During winter 2009, 107 km of grips were blocked on Stean Moor. The density and pattern of grips on Stean Moor are unique to the area. It is often referred to as the thumb print due to its swirling pattern. There are approximately 200km of grips identified on Stean, so phase 2 blocking is timetabled to be undertaken by the Yorkshire Peat Partnership over the next few years.



Staggs Fell, Yorkshire Dales National Park. 1650 ha of Staggs Fell have been surveyed by the Yorkshire Peat Partnership. 300km of grips and almost 20 ha of bare peat have been identified and mapped. The Yorkshire Peat Partnership hopes to undertake restoration in the area over the next few years.