



LOST PEATLANDS  
PROJECT  
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MAWNDIROEDD



# UPLAND FOREST TO BOG RESTORATION

in the Afan and Rhondda Valleys

## What is the Lost Peatlands Project?

The Lost Peatlands Partnership is working to restore habitats in the Rhigos mountains, above the Afan and Rhondda Valleys in South Wales. We are funded by National Lottery Heritage Fund and the project area is split between the counties of Neath Port Talbot and Rhondda Cynon Taf. These mountains have a vast peat resource which has been subject to intensive land use changes over recent decades. Since 2019 we have been working to restore this landscape and deliver community benefits for the people of the South Wales Valleys.

## What is Forest to Bog?

Forest to bog restoration is a relatively new type of peatland restoration. The aim is to take areas which are currently used for commercial forestry on deep peat and, once the trees have been removed, restore the hydrological functioning of the peatlands. There is still a lot we don't know, but our project is working in partnership to answer those questions and improve how we manage forest to bog sites in Wales

### PEATLAND RESTORATION

We have three large upland forest to bog restoration areas within our project landscape, working in partnership we are delivering restoration of these sites through a range of specially developed methods.

Check out the digger in action here

And a report on our restoration works with Dr Mike Shewring here

### PEN Y CYMOEDD

Restoration works at Pen y Cymoedd wind farm are being used as match funding for the Lost Peatlands project, and we work closely with Vattenfall and NRW to deliver professional training and knowledge exchange events to make sure our results contribute to best practice.

### WATER VOLES

We undertake surveys every year for our Castell Nos HRA to see how our peatland restoration works affect water voles, addressing evidence gaps for both upland water vole populations and water voles in peatlands.

Learn more about our water voles with NRW Senior Officer Scott Hand!

And save this talk on uplands water voles by Rob Parry from INCC

### RESEARCH AND MONITORING

We are monitoring a wide range of responses to our restoration works, including hydrology, vegetation and species using our sites. We're also working in partnership with Swansea University to address key research questions for forest to bog restoration, including greenhouse gas emissions, microtopo recovery, hydrological functioning and more.

We'll be presenting some of our results at the CIEEM conference in January, join us there!

### COAL SPOIL

We have amazing coal spoil sites within our project area which are incredibly species rich. These sites are incredibly under appreciated and, due to the changing chemical nature of the sites, and the open spoil nature, are hugely important for fungi and invertebrates.

Save this talk on coal spoil biodiversity with Liam Olds from Buglife

### COMMUNITY WILD SPACES

We have six community wild spaces where we run events, training and health and well-being sessions. These sites are all unique and are the gateways to the uplands

Keep up to date with our events here

And check out some of our past training talks and more on youtube

## Want to learn more?



You can keep up to date with all things Lost Peatlands on our website and social media.

You can also download our Lost Peatlands Explorer App

Or you can contact us at [LostPeatlands@npt.gov.uk](mailto:LostPeatlands@npt.gov.uk)



## Follow the bog dogs on Instagram!

