



Natural England Peatland Team

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Overview of the Peatland Team

We are a national team based in Strategy and Government Advice. We work closely with our colleagues across Natural England, including Area Teams and specialists, and in Defra. As well as with stakeholders and partners. We are working on building closer connections with our sister organisations, beginning with a recent face to face meeting with the Peatland ACTION team from NatureScot.

Our staff:

We have a range of technical advisers including for:

- Monitoring and evaluation
- Protected sites
- Peatland historic environment
- Peatland restoration
- Communication and engagement
- Grant schemes payment

Main Work Areas:

Our teams work breaks down into three main areas:

1. Grant Schemes
2. Strategy - Peatland Restoration Roadmap
3. Policy advice - Upland Policy & Protection

Grants - Nature for Climate Peat Grant Scheme

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

The grant scheme funds

- landscape scale restoration activities at any stage of a restoration journey.
- unlocks barriers to restoration
- builds new partnerships.

Funding is available until March 2025.

Nature for Climate Fund commitments:

£ 750 million	£ 50+ million	35,000 ha
Nature for Climate Fund	For peatland restoration	Under restoration by 2025

NCPGS progress:

£ 50 million	£ 16 million	25,000 ha
Grant funding committed	Additional finance secured	Committed to restoration so far

Grants - Paludiculture Exploration Fund

The Paludiculture Exploration Fund is in two parts:

1. A contract with NIAB who are delivering a series of engagement activities to expand interest in paludiculture and share knowledge from the PEF projects and more.
2. A grant offer which has awarded 12 grants to projects exploring elements of wet farming across England.

Our grant-aided projects cover various aspects of the paludiculture value chain. This recognises and responds to some of the barriers highlighted by the Lowland Agricultural Peat Task Force.

Through PEF we aim to build knowledge, exploring areas such as; developing multiple uses for bulrushes (*Typha latifolia*), the establishment of sphagnum as a crop and an alternative to peat based growing media. Other projects aim to build knowledge through demonstration of crops and products.

You can find out more at www.paludiculture.org.uk or scan the QR code.



(left) inspecting seed heads of *Typha latifolia* and (right) fibre board and insulation from this crop – Jim Milner

Upland Policy & Protection

We aim to:

- **Promote** sustainable management of vegetation on peatland
- **Advise** Defra about regulation of burning
- **Contribute** to advice to Defra about management and land use policy in the uplands, including the Environmental Land Management Scheme, Sustainable Farming Incentive and Environmental Improvement Plan
- **Lead** on the Trees and Peat guidance (aligning the Trees and Peat Action Plans)
- **Explain** how to reduce wildfire risk
- **Increase** knowledge and understanding of upland



Ingleborough NNR © Natural England/Neil Pike

Contact: uplandnetwork@naturalengland.org.uk

Strategy: Peatland Restoration Roadmap

- Setting out a pathway to restoration of **England's peatland habitats**
- Ambition: **280,000ha** of restoration delivery by 2050
- Supports **England Peat Action Plan** and **Net Zero Strategy**
- Developing an **evidence-based Roadmap** which helps the sector deliver
- Working with partners to understand **strategic issues, barriers, solutions** (PSG)
- Convening **researchers and practitioners** to draw on technical expertise (TAG)
- Commissioning stakeholder research to **build a shared delivery pipeline**
- Collaborating on **definitions of restoration and trajectories to recovery**
- **Project team:** Emily Dresner and Tom Entwistle
- **Contact:** peatlandroadmap@naturalengland.org.uk or scan the QR code



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Communication and Engagement - Peatland Game

We are co-creating an educational game based on peatland habitats with solo game designer Miranda Bennett-Margrave. The aim of the game is to engage and enthuse the general public, particularly children, about the importance of peatlands, how they function and how we can support and protect them. You can follow the game's development by using the QR code below. There is also the opportunity to give us your views on what we should include in our game by taking part in our survey.



One of the characters from the City of Corals game: [Miranda](https://www.indiegamejournal.com/2019/05/01/miranda/) – [Indie game design journal \(wordpress.com\)](https://www.indiegamejournal.com/2019/05/01/miranda/)

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