

Building Sector Capacity: LANTRA certified Peatland Restoration Practitioner Course

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YPP'S PEATLAND RESTORATION PRACTITIONERS COURSE

Aims

- To **share expertise** gained through Yorkshire Peat Partnership's (YPP) 15 years' experience in all aspects of blanket bog restoration
- To provide a path to **professional accreditation** in peatland restoration
- To equip those entering the sector with skills and knowledge of **restoration best-practise**
- Initially written by Dr Tim Thom, Dr Chris Miller and Ollie Mackrill to expand and diversify knowledge of peatland restoration and management practises



Overview

- DURATION** - 6 days broken down into two 3 day sections. Phase 1: Preparation, Phase 2: Delivery
- DELIVERY EXPERIENCE** - classroom learning and site visits
- ASSESSMENT** - portfolio of written activities, write-ups from group work and other exercises
- QUALIFICATION** - LANTRA-certified
- COST** - £ 1,000 per person + VAT



“The course has already impacted on the way I do things and [my] confidence in my work”

2023 ACHIEVEMENTS

- 2 Peatland Restoration Practitioners courses delivered over summer 2023
- 19 LANTRA-certified qualifications issued
- 100% success rate for candidates attending
- 5 different sites visited (inc. blanket bog and raised bog habitats)
- Participants from **Dorset to Northumberland**
- Creation of a **Peatland Restoration Practitioners Teams Channel**
- Developed relationships with **Craven College, Natural England** and the **National Trust**
- New external financial support: including **Esmée Fairbairn Foundation**
- YPP joined the **LANTRA Farming Connect Network** in Wales



“The course is well aimed at those wishing to enter or [who] are new to the field”

CURRENT AND ASPIRING PEATLAND PROFESSIONALS

Target audience:

- Those looking to **gain an accreditation** to support professionalisation of skills
- Those looking to **gain understanding** to enter the peatland restoration sector
- Those looking to **develop skills** in project management of restoration works on peatlands – from survey to construction



NB: Prior experience using GIS (ideally QGIS) and some basic identification skills for typical bog plants e.g., Sphagnum mosses, cotton sedges etc. is essential

COURSE CONTENT

PHASE 1

- PEATLAND ECOLOGY** - Learn about peatland formation, ecosystem services associated with peatlands, the historic and current threats faced by UK peatlands, and sustainable management of peatlands.
- HEALTH & SAFETY** - Discuss hazard mitigation and risk assessment for working in upland environments. Understand the requirements of CDM Regulations (2015) when working with contractors on restoration projects.
- SURVEYING** - Explore requirements for peatland survey design. Identify erosion features on aerial images using QGIS. Investigate different habitats and indicator species associated with blanket bogs
- PRACTICAL RESTORATION** - Learn about upland restoration techniques and apply this knowledge using example sites.

PHASE 2

- RESTORATION PLANS** - Interpret survey data in QGIS. Use data outputs to form an actionable restoration plan. Adapt restoration plans to common constraints and obstacles to restoration work.
- DELIVERING RESTORATION** - Understand the tendering process for restoration plan's capital works. Learn about the necessary consents and utilities checks carried out ahead of capital works. Conduct quality control checks on capital works.
- ADVOCACY AND EVALUATING SUCCESS** - Discuss common stakeholder concerns regarding peatland restoration. Evaluate the success of various restoration works through works monitoring and ecosystem and habitat monitoring.
- PEATLAND RESTORATION FUNDING** - Discuss current funding streams for peatland restoration and explore the future of peatland restoration funding.

OUR STUDENTS SAY...

- “The course is well aimed at those wishing to enter or are new to the field, it will be a helpful boost to get new team members of Northumberland Peat Partnership up and running swiftly”. **Northumberland Peat Partnership Programme Manager**
- “The course has already impacted on the way I do things and the confidence in my work”. **Yorkshire Wildlife Trust Project Officer**
- “I thought the whole course was really interesting and it was great to get out to the field sites and see the restoration prescriptions out on site. It was also really great to meet other people working in the same field and hear other people's experiences of what kind of sites they have and the challenges that they are experiencing”. **Northumberland Peat Partnership Project Assistant**
- “This was a fantastic course, it was very engaging with tonnes of open discussions which really helped with learning the course material”. **Yorkshire Wildlife Trust Project Assistant**
- “The team delivering the sessions utilised specialists from the wider YPP team, to support some of the session topics and they were insightful in sharing their knowledge on the subject area”. **Dorset Peat Partnership Project Manager**

THE COURSE IN 2024

4 course dates available in Yorkshire in summer 2024. Dates and booking available in January on the YPP website.

Contact us ASAP to join the waiting list, and be first to hear when bookings open!

- NEW** - Development of further content exploring **fens**
- NEW** - Peatlands sustainable management course for **land managers**

