
Scottish Natural Heritage

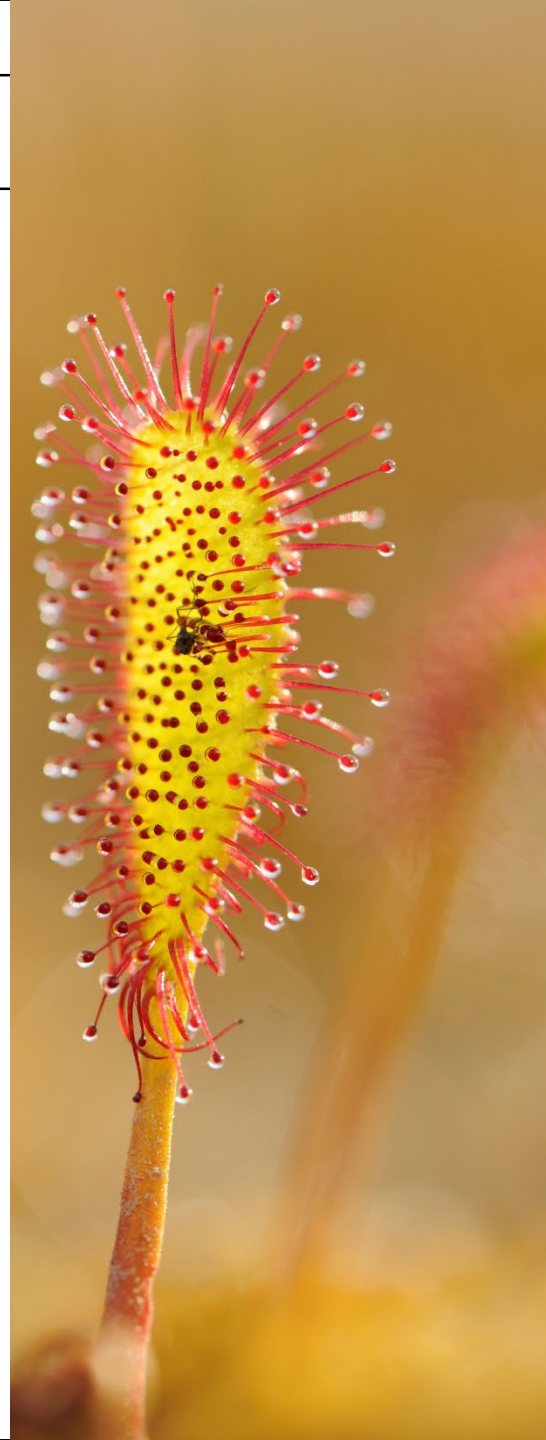
Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba

IUCN UK Peatland Programme Conference 2019



Andrew Coupar
Habitats Group Manager

- **Policy**
- **Delivery**
- **Reports**
- **Land Use & Management**
- **Projects**

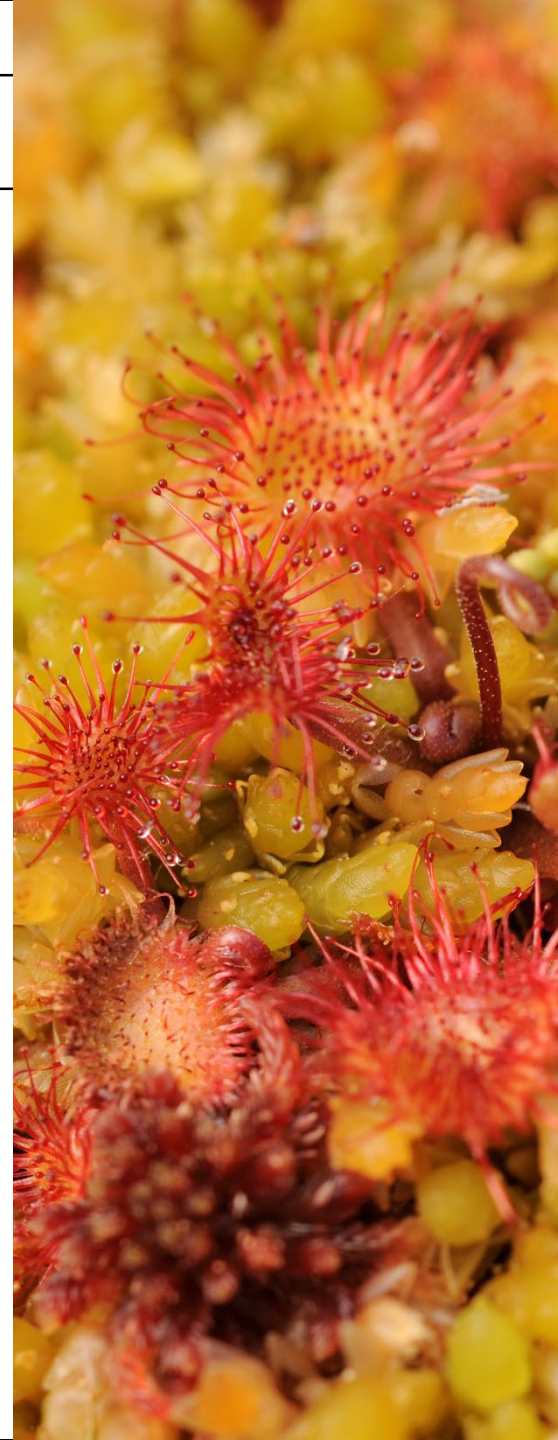


Policy

The Government's Programme for Scotland 2019-20

“While almost 20,000 hectares of peatlands have been restored by our Peatland Action initiative, many of Scotland’s peatlands are not in good condition.”

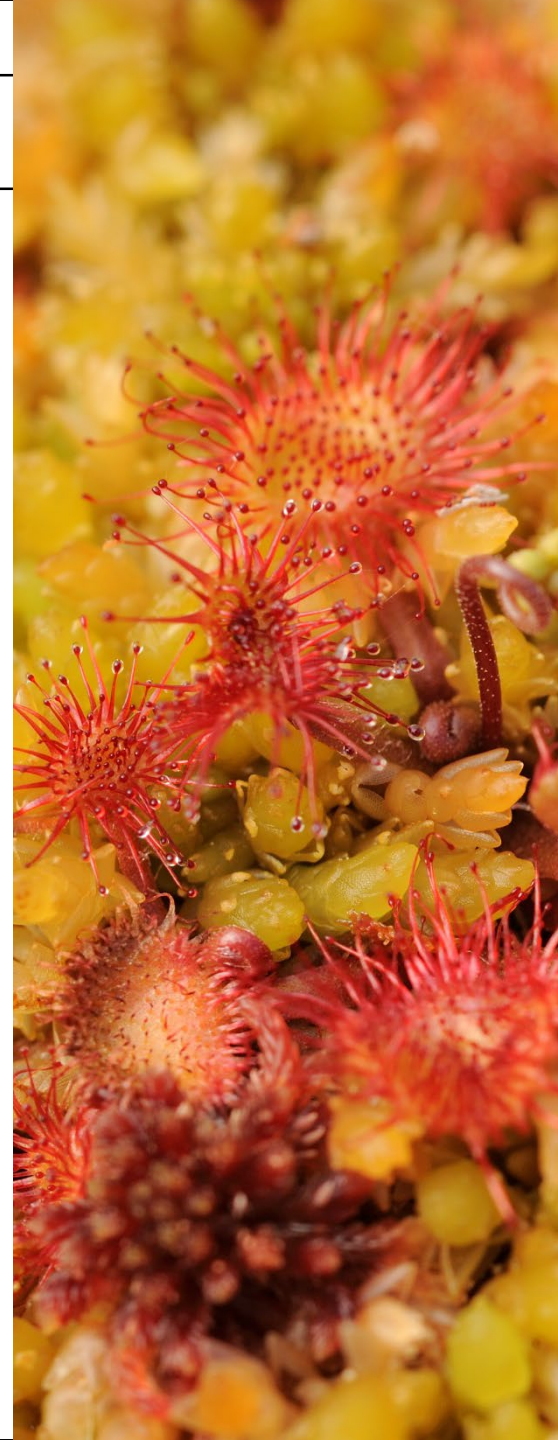
“This year we are investing a total of £14 million to fund projects to restore degraded peatlands.”



Policy

The Government's Programme for Scotland 2019-20

“To address activity that impacts some of our peatlands and reduces their carbon store, we will seek to phase out the use of horticultural peat by increasing uptake of alternative growing media substrate.”



Peatland Action Delivery per year to date:

| | 2012 - 13 | 2013 - 14 | 2014 - 15 | 2015 - 16 | 2016 - 17 | 2017 - 18 | 2018 - 19 |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Spend (£m) | 0.200 | 0.486 | 4.251 | 3.170 | 0.392 | 4.613 | 7.261 |
| Restoration (ha) | 270 | 420 | 5,570 | 2,810 | 450 | 3,660 | 5,810 |
| Feasibility (ha) | 1,800 | 1,600 | 20,000 | 8,500 | 0 | 24,000 | 72,000 |

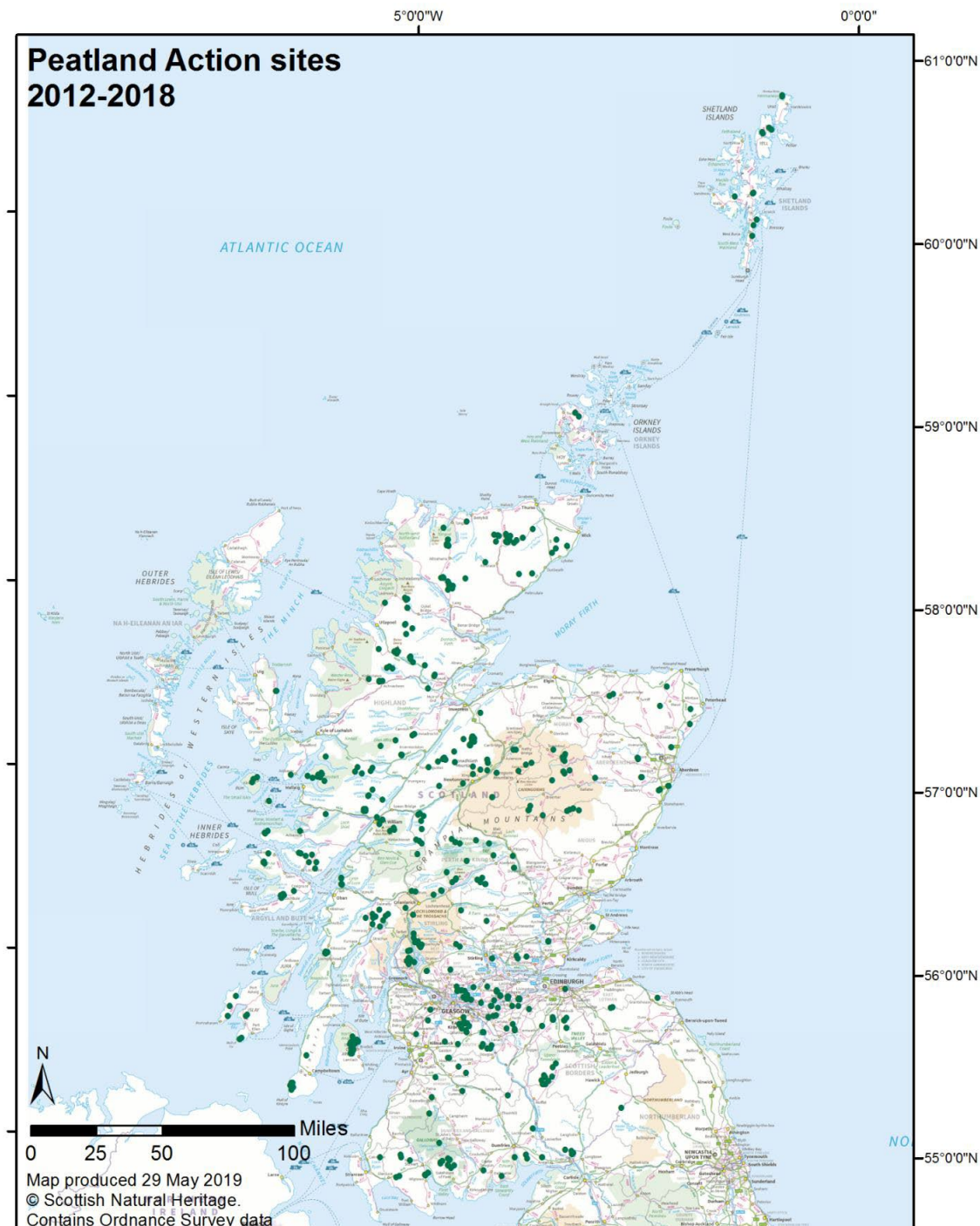
Overall spend to 31 March 2019: £20.373 million



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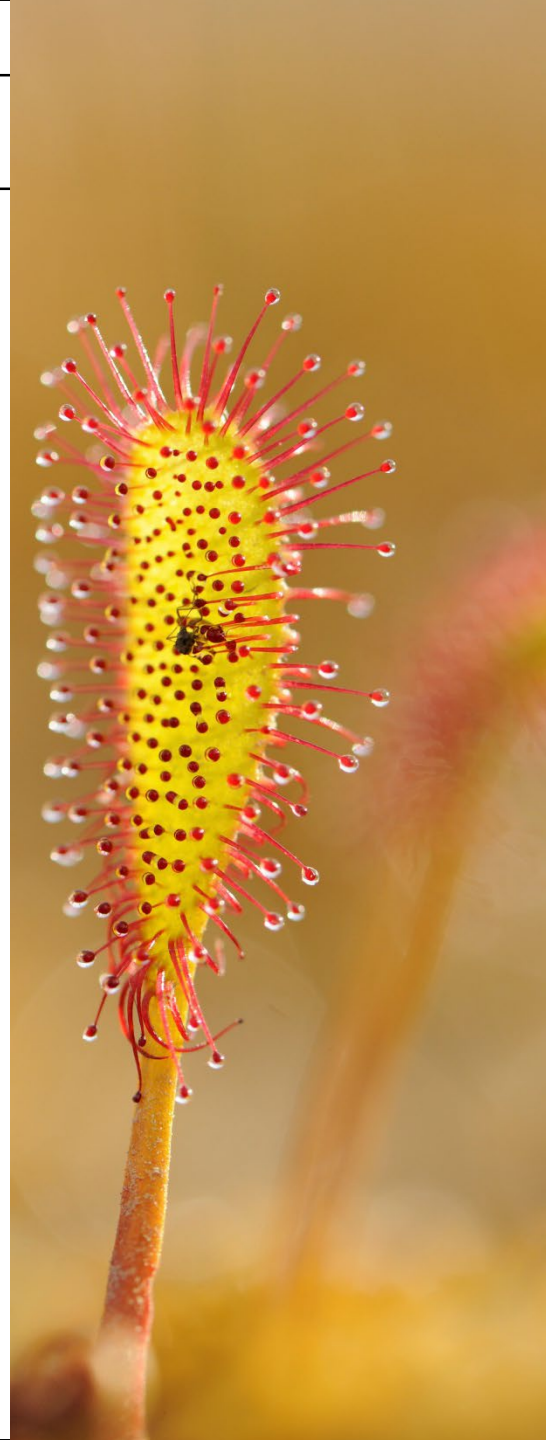
Peatland Action sites 2012-2018



Delivery

Peatland Action:

- **Budget for 2019/20**
£3m + £9m = £12m



Reports

- **UK natural capital: peatlands** (Office for National Statistics)

“The carbon benefits for restoring peatland are estimated to outweigh the cost by 5 to 10 times”

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/environmentalaccounts/bulletins/uknaturalcapitalforpeatlands/naturalcapitalaccounts>



Reports

- **Climate benefits of forest-to-bog restoration on deep peat**
 - **Policy briefing** (Hermans, R. *et al* 2019)
 - Despite some uncertainty, our results showed a clear contribution to global climate cooling in the decades following peatland restoration.
 - The results confirm the benefits of forest removal on deep peats where conifer yields have been low.

<https://www.climateexchange.org.uk/media/3654/climate-benefits-of-forest-to-bog-restoration-on-deep-peat.pdf>



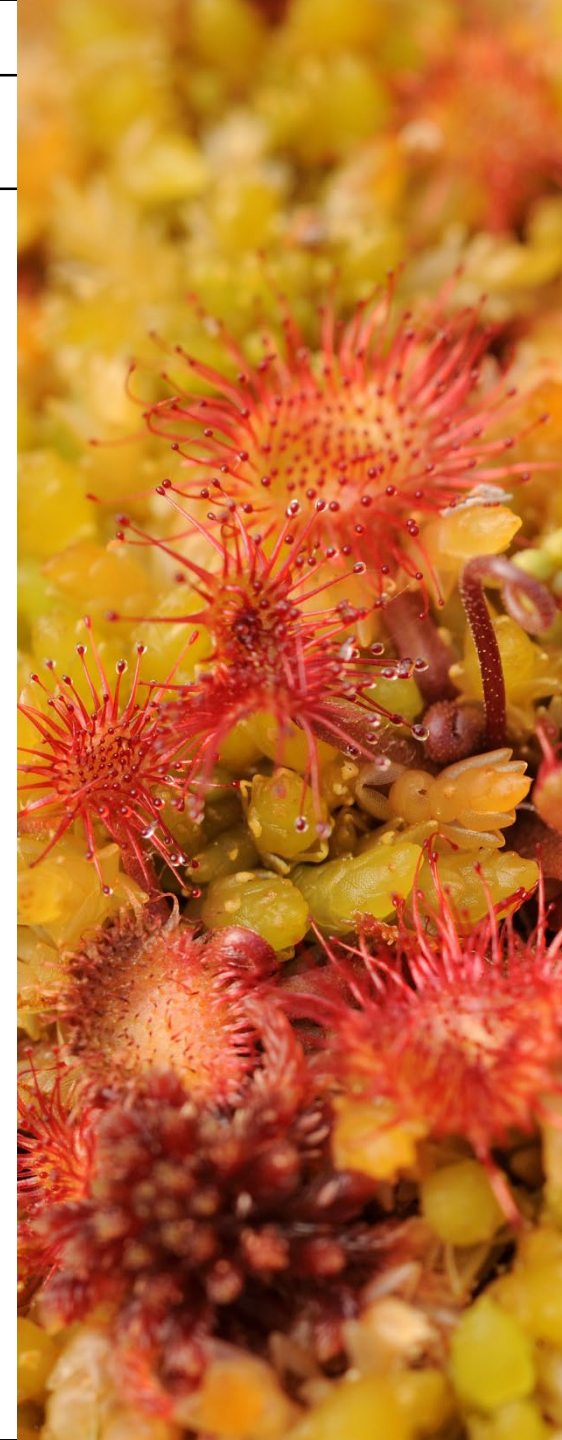
Reports – coming shortly

- **Rapid Evidence Assessment of the Market in Peat-Free Sustainable Growing Media**
- **Scoping a National Peatland Monitoring Framework**



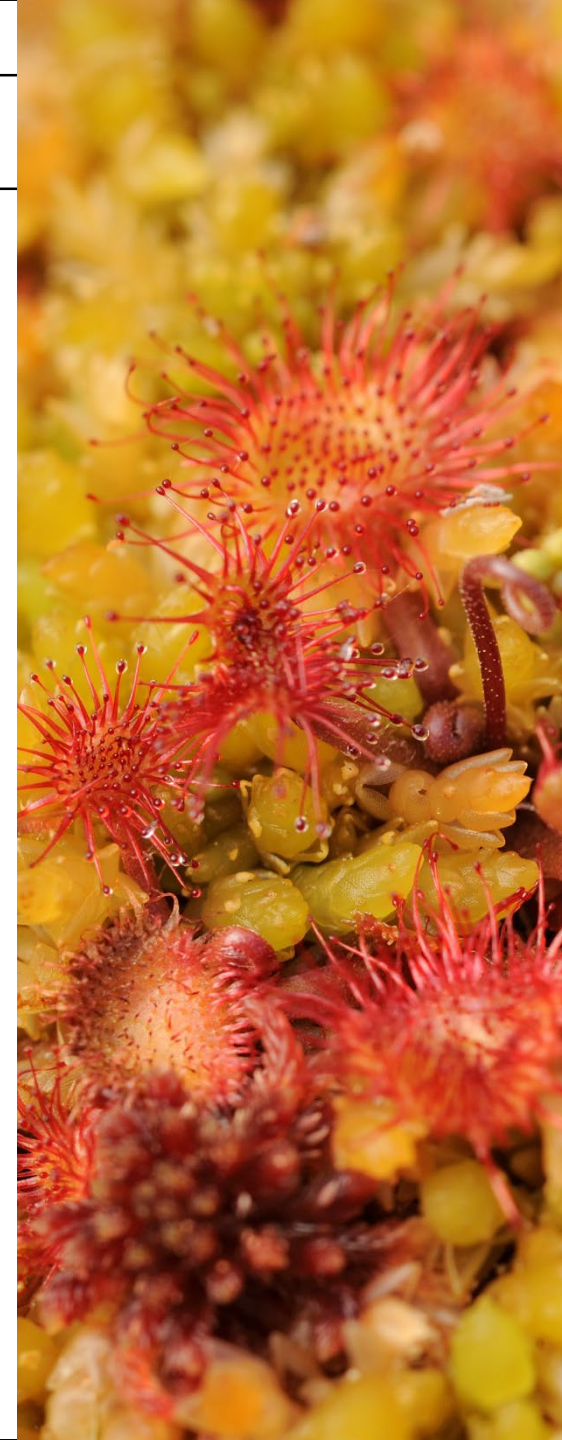
Land Use & Management

- **Wildfire**
 - Incidence
 - Mapping
 - Melvich - Halladale
 - Bute
 - Moray
 - Fire Danger Rating System
 - Scot Gov funding to help develop continuing
- **Renewables**
- **Forestry**



Wildfire

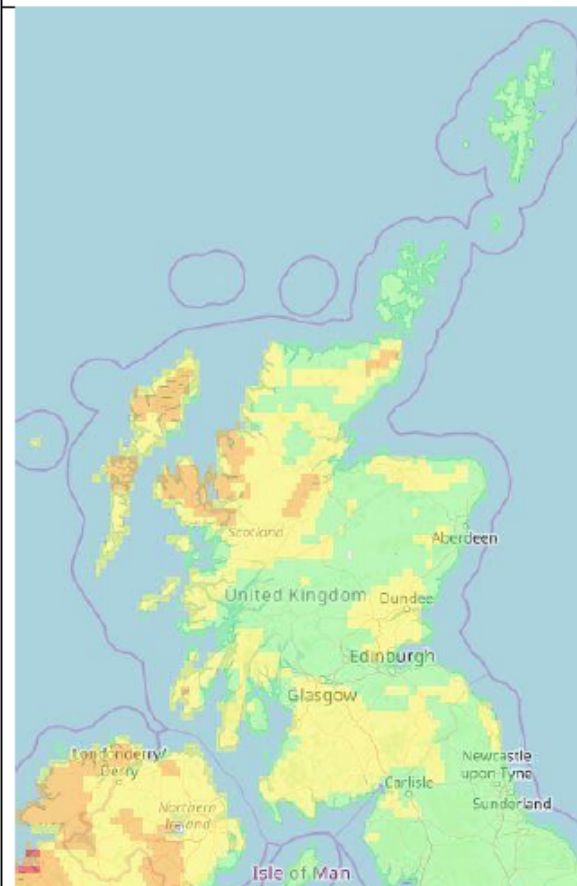
- **West Halladale in the Flow Country, the largest wildfire this season (5,614 ha).**
- **North Bute - the area has experienced fires on at least four occasions: in 2010, 2016, 2017 and 2019.**
- **In total 11,710 ha of land was mapped as burned with 5,860 ha being within designated sites**



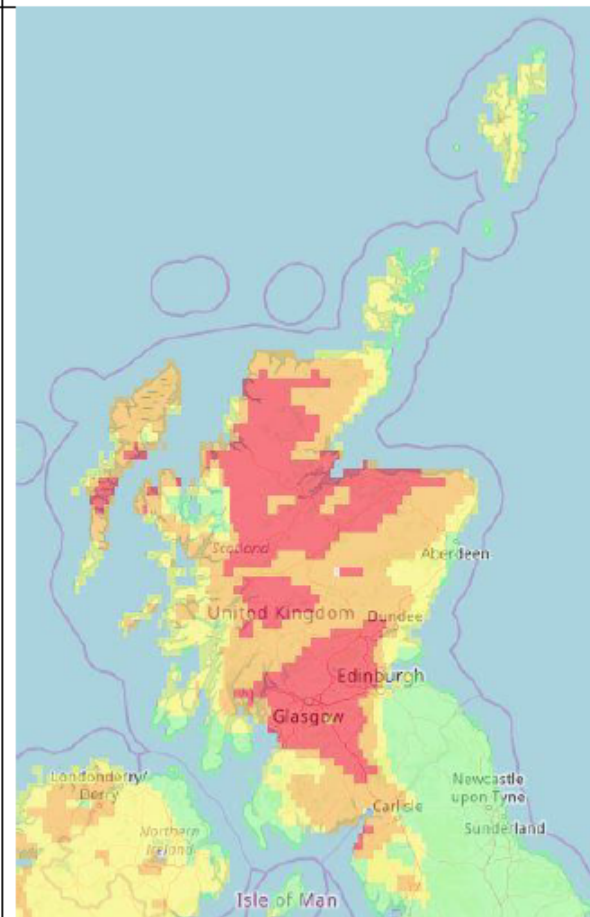


Fire Danger Assessments

EFFIS Initial Spread Index forecast
11/05/19 for 14/05/19



EFFIS Initial Spread Index forecast
11/05/19 for 17/05/19



The Initial Spread Index coloured yellow is above 3 where there will be a VERY HIGH spread potential 5th- 6th May, becoming EXTREME in areas coloured brown or red.



Renewables

- **Equivalent of 100% of Scotland's electricity demand to be generated from renewable sources by 2020**
- **74.6% in 2018**
- **Some good Habitat Management Plans**
- **Frequently no Habitat Management Plans**



Woodland and forestry creation

(The Government's Programme for Scotland 2019-20)

“In the coming year, we will raise our ambition and commit to planting 12,000 hectares. This will be supported by an additional £5 million investment”



Woodland and forestry creation

(The Government's Programme for Scotland 2019-20)

“...we already have ambitious targets for tree planting which take us to 15,000 hectares by 2025, we anticipate accelerating progress towards that and setting increased targets beyond 2021.”





Projects, initiatives, activities

- **Flows to the Future**
- **Cairngorms Connect**
- **Flow Country World Heritage Site proposal**



Flows to the Future

- £10.6m (HLF/NLHF £4.6m)
- RSPB, SNH, HIE, THC
 - Restoration
 - Schools
 - Communities
 - Arts
 - Volunteers



Flows to the Future

- **Restoration**

| Activity | Ha |
|--|--------|
| Felling and whole tree mulching | 837.4 |
| Furrow blocking & brash crushing in areas felled >10 years ago | 866.34 |
| Furrow and drain blocking | 718.49 |
| Removal of non-native conifer regen | 564 |



Flows to the Future

- **Arts**

- **Commissions**

- **‘Below the Blanket’ at RBGE**

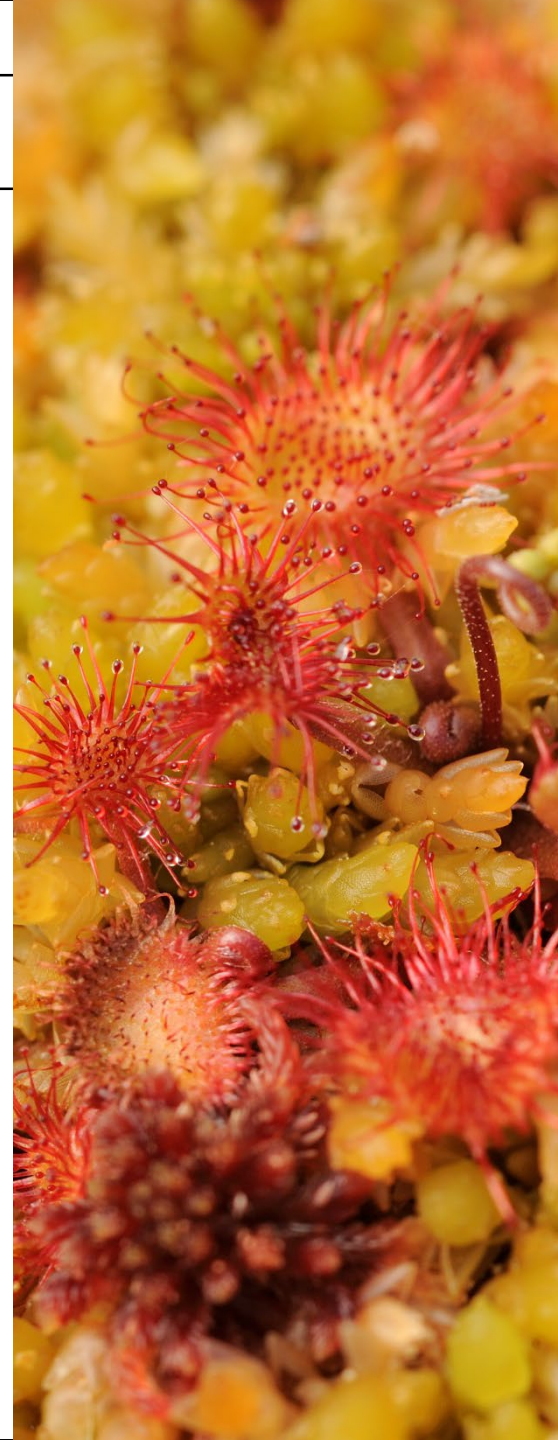
“A sensory series of visual, sonic and kinetic installations inspired by blanket bog in the Scottish highlands, Cryptic take you on a captivating journey to Caithness and Sutherland’s Flow Country”



Projects, initiatives, activities

Cairngorms Connect

“... a partnership of neighbouring land managers, committed to a bold and ambitious 200-year vision to enhance habitats, species and ecological processes across a vast area within the Cairngorms National Park”



Cairngorms Connect

Partners:

- Wildland Ltd
- RSPB
- Forestry and Land Scotland
- SNH

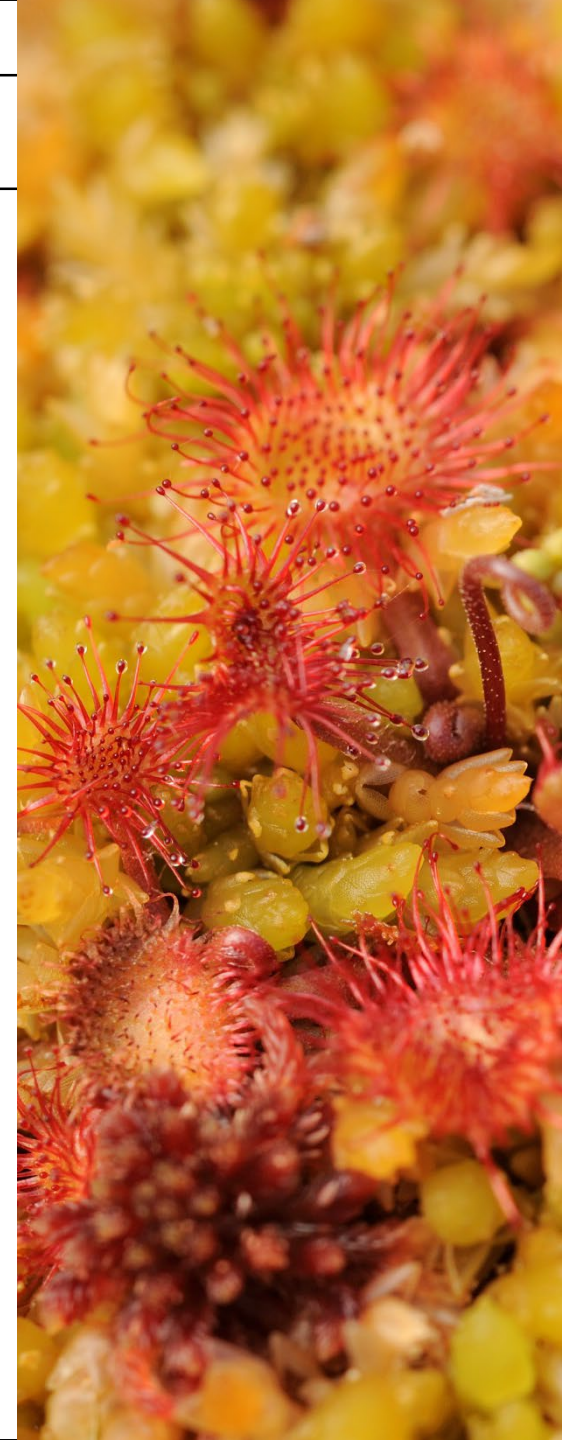
Funded by the **Endangered Landscapes Programme (ELP)** through a grant from **Arcadia** - a charitable fund of Lisbet Rausing and Peter Baldwin.



Cairngorms Connect

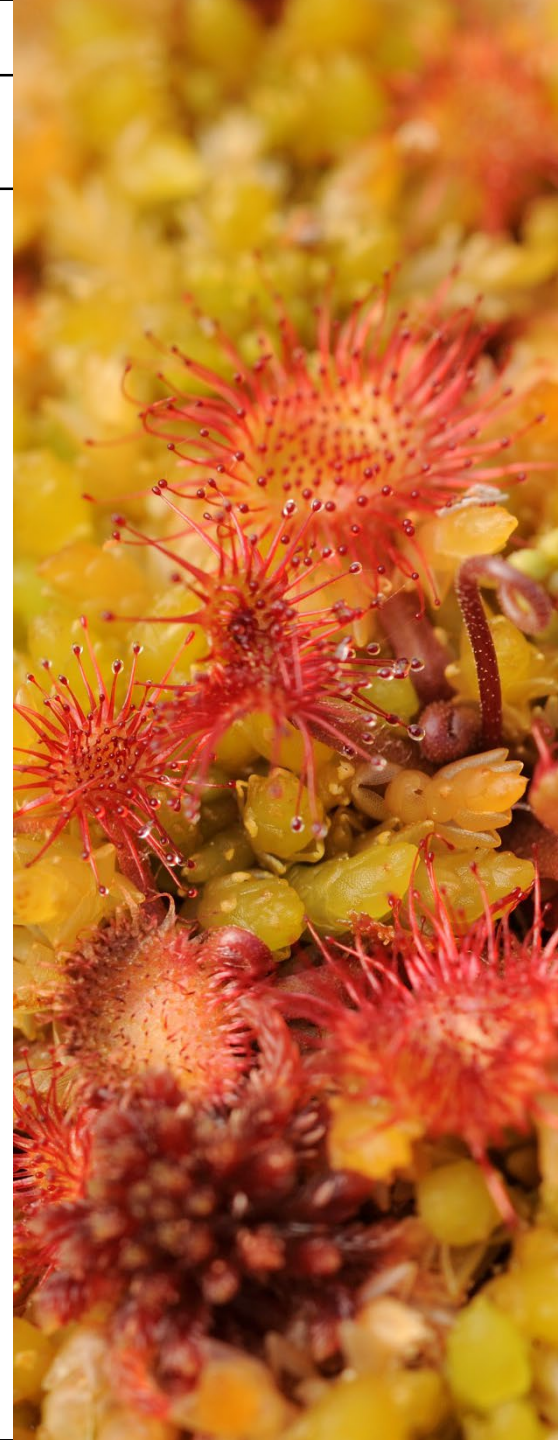
Includes restoring:

- Bog Woodland
- Blanket Bog



Flow Country WHS Proposal

- Submit Technical Evaluation
October 2019
- Should know early 2020 if UK
inclined to nominate site to
UNESCO



Thank you

