



# Nature for Climate Peatland Grant Scheme: Monitoring the impacts of peatland restoration

Dr Emma Craig

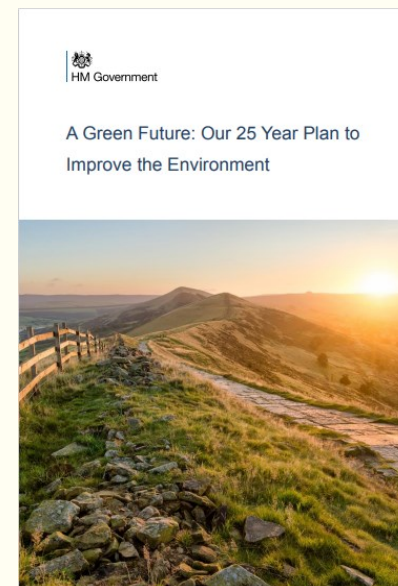
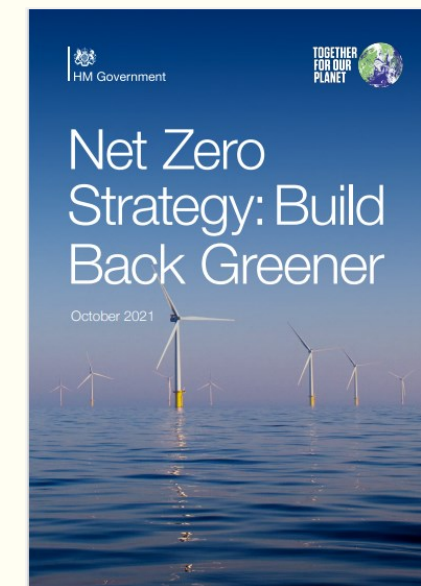
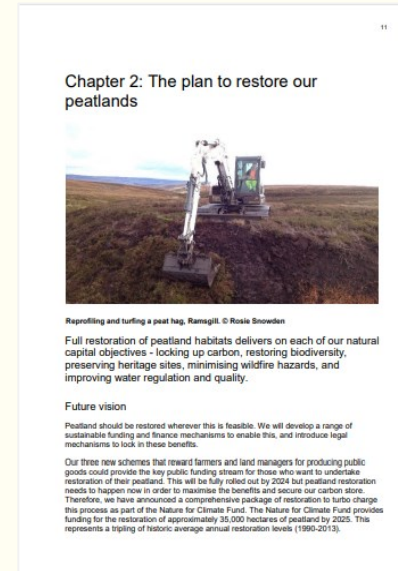
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[www.gov.uk/natural-england](http://www.gov.uk/natural-england)

IUCN UK Peatland Programme Conference 2022

# Restoration of England's peatlands

- 35,000 ha of degraded peatland under restoration by 2025 (EPAP)
- 280,000 ha under restoration by 2050 (Net Zero Strategy)
- 25 Year Environment Plan contribution:
  - 75% of SSSIs into favourable condition by 2042
  - Creating or restoring 500,000 hectares of wildlife rich habitat as part of a Nature Recovery Network



# Nature for Climate Peatland Grant Scheme

- Restoration grants for activities to deliver restoration on the ground
  - 75% grant + 25% match funding
- Discovery grants to unlock barriers and develop restoration plans
  - 100% grant



1

2

3

2021

2022

2023

2024

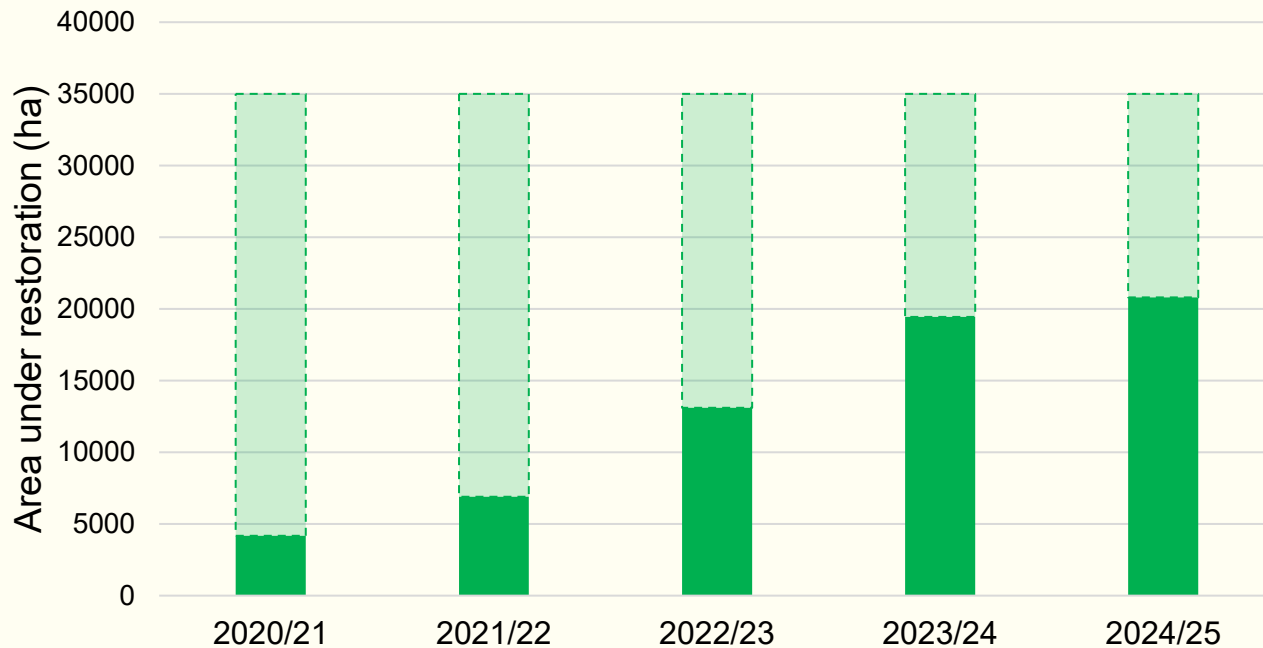
2025

Discovery Grants

Restoration Grants

# NCPGS Projects

Cumulative NCPGS restoration area committed to date (hectares)





# NCPGS: Why are we monitoring?

Monitoring in restoration grants is required to:

- demonstrate projects have **delivered against their restoration objectives**
- enable **adaptive management**
- assess the impact of restoration activities on peatland condition - **hydrology and biodiversity**

Impact Evaluation:

- To what extent have restoration activities funded through the NCPGS improved peatland condition?



Peat depth sampling at Hatfield Moor. Photo credit: Emily Dresner, NE

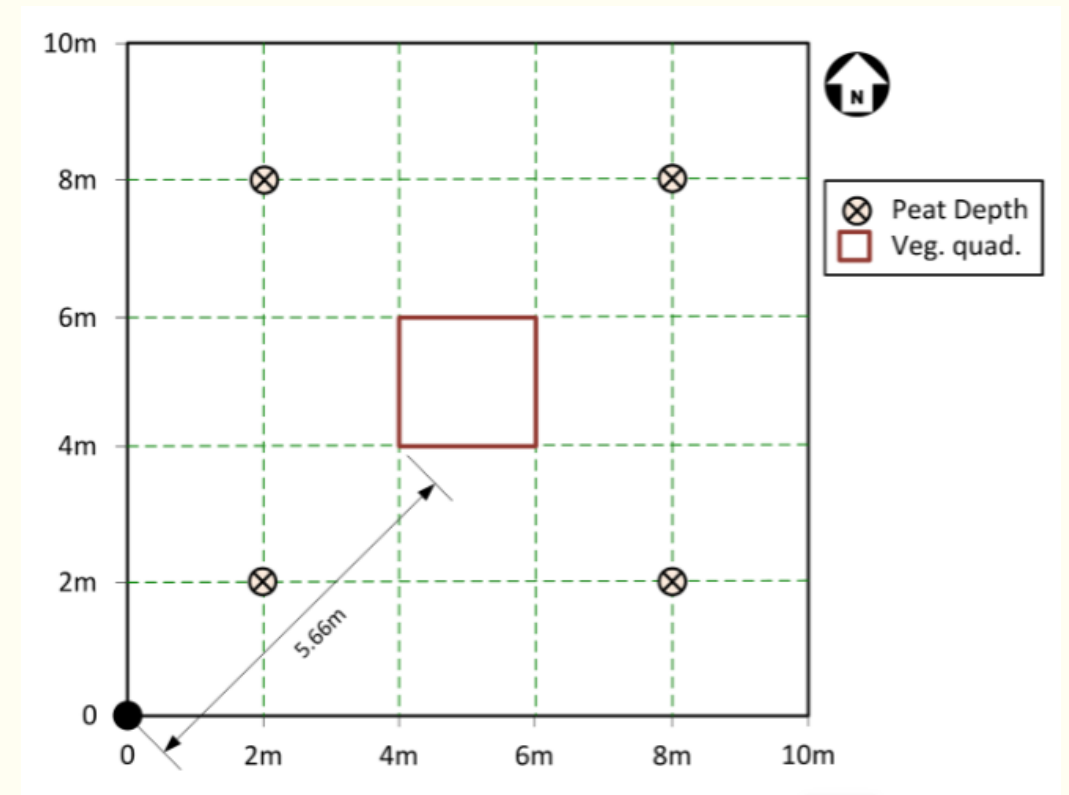
# NCPGS: What is being monitored?

Guidance on recommended approaches for:

- Mapping of restoration works
- Peat depth
- Vegetation surveys
- Water level monitoring
- Peat condition category
- Fixed point photography

Projects to decide on:

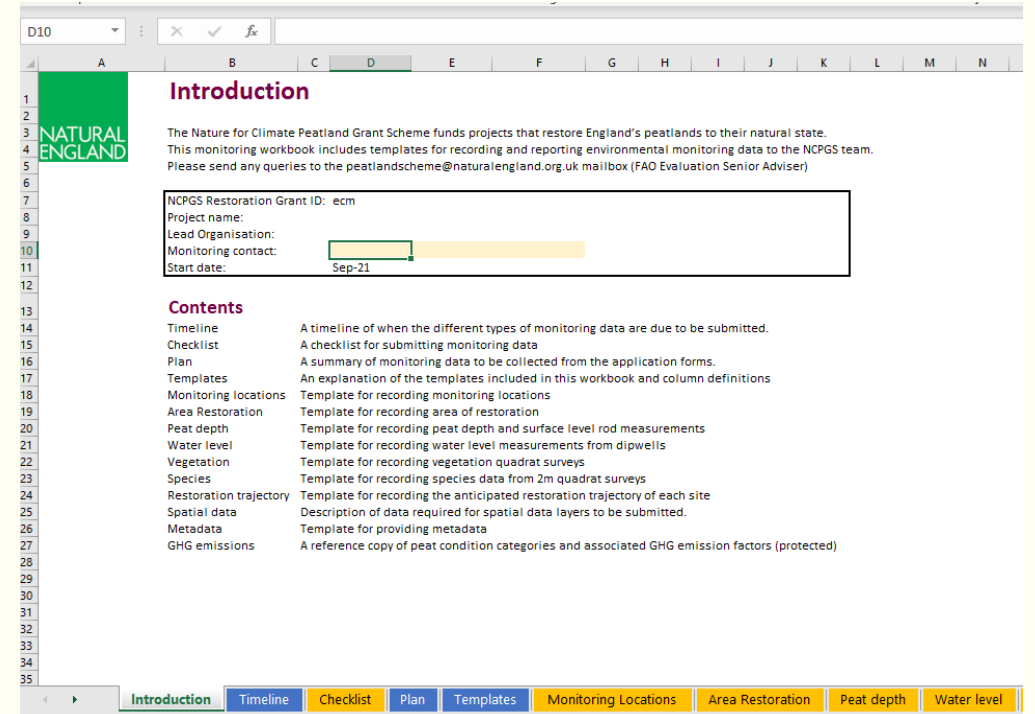
- Number of sampling points
- Location of sampling points



# NCPGS: What we do with the data

Within Natural England:

- Monitoring data submissions by projects each year
- Scheme-level data analysis
- Impact evaluation
- Area teams – SSSI monitoring
- England Peat Map project -  
(peat extent, depth and condition)
- Trajectory of peatland restoration to 2050



The screenshot shows an Excel spreadsheet with the following content:

**Introduction**

The Nature for Climate Peatland Grant Scheme funds projects that restore England's peatlands to their natural state. This monitoring workbook includes templates for recording and reporting environmental monitoring data to the NCPGS team. Please send any queries to the [peatlandscheme@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:peatlandscheme@naturalengland.org.uk) mailbox (FAO Evaluation Senior Adviser)

NCPGS Restoration Grant ID: ecm

Project name:

Lead Organisation:

Monitoring contact:

Start date: Sep-21

**Contents**

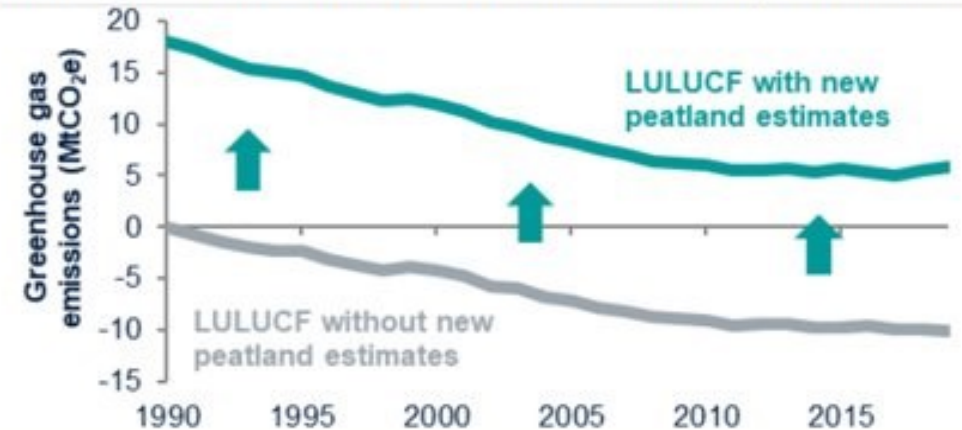
Timeline	A timeline of when the different types of monitoring data are due to be submitted.
Checklist	A checklist for submitting monitoring data
Plan	A summary of monitoring data to be collected from the application forms.
Templates	An explanation of the templates included in this workbook and column definitions
Monitoring locations	Template for recording monitoring locations
Area Restoration	Template for recording area of restoration
Peat depth	Template for recording peat depth and surface level rod measurements
Water level	Template for recording water level measurements from dipwells
Vegetation	Template for recording vegetation quadrat surveys
Species	Template for recording species data from 2m quadrat surveys
Restoration trajectory	Template for recording the anticipated restoration trajectory of each site
Spatial data	Description of data required for spatial data layers to be submitted.
Metadata	Template for providing metadata
GHG emissions	A reference copy of peat condition categories and associated GHG emission factors (protected)

# NCPGS: wider data uses

- Data available under OGL
- Restoration Register (Defra led)
- Contribution to UK GHG Inventory reporting for peatlands
- Published case studies
- Heritage & environment reporting

**There has been a major revision to better represent peatland emissions this year**

Overall, this has increased emissions by between 15 and 19 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e each year. It mostly affects the LULUCF sector which, as shown below, has become a net source of emissions throughout the time





# Evaluating NCPGS

- Process evaluation

To what extent has the delivery of peatland restoration through the NCPGS been effective?

- Impact evaluation

To what extent have restoration activities funded through the NCPGS improved peatland condition?

- Value for money evaluation

To what extent has the NCPGS delivered value for money?

