

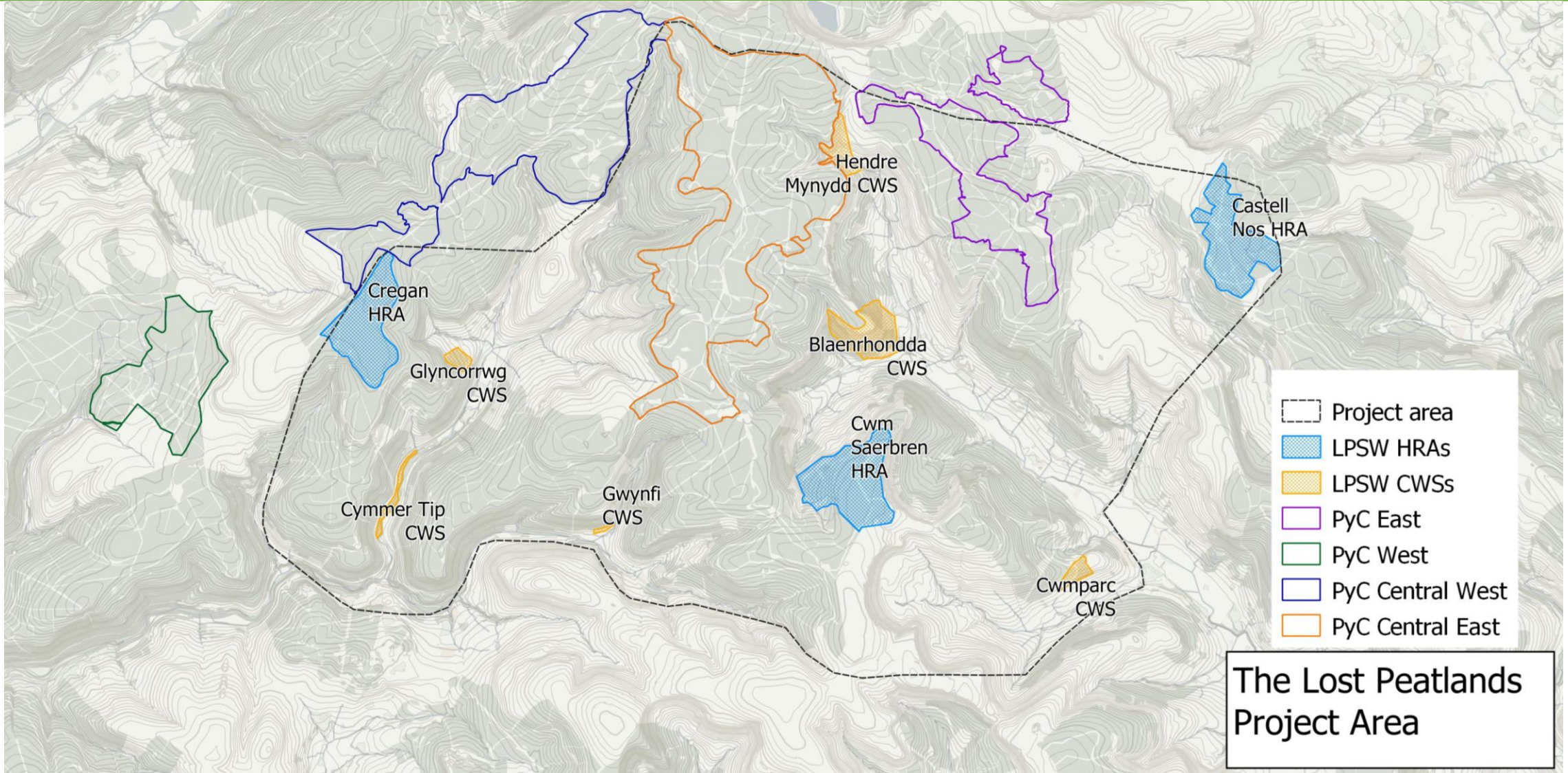
Lost Peatlands

IUCN Conference

Project Overview



LOST PEATLANDS
PROJECT
PROSIECT ADFER
MAWNDIROEDD



The Lost Peatlands
Project Area

Works Completed



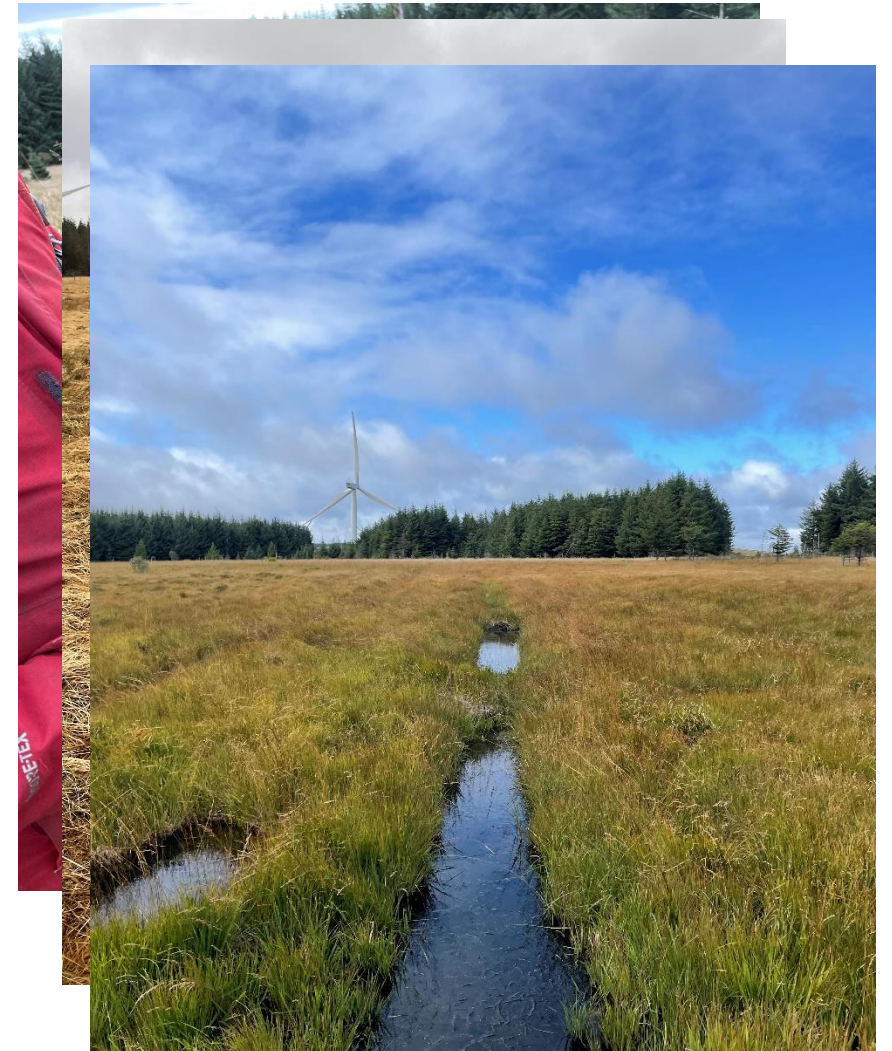
- Lost Peatlands –
 - Castell Nos ~25ha worked 2021/22
 - Castell Nos ~20ha to be worked 2022-2024
 - Cwm Saerbren ~3ha to be worked 2022/2023
 - Cregan ~ 50ha to be worked 2022/2023
- Pen y Cymoedd –
 - Trial area ~ 7ha worked 2021/2022
 - ~220 ha to be worked 2022-2024



Challenges/ opportunities



- Proximity to urban areas –
 - Illegal offroad vehicle damage to restoration interventions, risk of arson, risks to stored equipment and materials
 - Industrial legacy – spoil and slips
 - + Relatively easy access for volunteers
- Significant extents of shallower peat (0.5 to 1m) and failed crop -
 - ~ Modify restoration methods e.g. stump removal/ cross tracking



Challenges/ opportunities



- Protected species –
 - + Water vole on site Castell Nos
 - + European Nightjar breeding at Castell nos and Cregan
 - ~ WCA conservation licence needed to undertake works at Castell Nos
 - ~ Opportunity to feed into wider research – e.g. European Nightjar migration tracking



Challenges/ opportunities



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- Lack of contractor capacity
 - Challenge is building confidence to invest via a visible pipeline of work. NPAP has provided this...but need more.
- Inflation
 - Cost of fuel and materials increasing impacting budget
- Timber prices
 - Higher prices may have impacted contractor behaviour for felling operations



Success ?



Monitoring Objectives



- External project monitoring and evaluation process to ensure that HLF funding outcomes and work programmes objectives were satisfied
- Ecological monitoring has a primary focus on what can reasonably be observed during the project lifespan (c.March 2025)
- Monitoring efforts and research support for evidence gaps and secondary impacts
- Monitoring will be continued for 10 years post project through stakeholder and volunteer organisations

Core Monitoring



Monitoring being carried out at all upland HRAs which directly answers to the success of restoration works within the project lifespan

- Habitat condition monitoring
- Vegetation community change monitoring
- Peat water table monitoring
- TOC Monitoring
- GHG Flux Monitoring
- Intervention integrity

Supporting Monitoring



Monitoring being carried out at some or all upland HRAs which provides additional ecological context to the success of restoration works within the project lifespan or for long term study

- Hydrometric monitoring
- Protected species monitoring
- Local priority or project priority species monitoring
- Data derived from remote sensing
- Lower resolution volunteer/student led projects

Research



Work not funded through the project but supported with access to sites or data and consultation with project staff

- Longitudinal studies on TOC changes through restoration process
- GHG flux studies on wider upland bog in the project area to provide additional context
- Carbon storage analyses of peat vs trees
- Higher resolution vegetation and habitat condition monitoring
- Geophysical techniques in a peatland setting

