

IUCN UK Peatland Programme Conference 2022

Scotland update

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Scottish peatlands

- **2.66m hectares, 34% of land area**
- Stores 1.8 billion tonnes carbon = **45 years total net annual emissions**
- Not all looks like bog – much looks like agricultural grassland or forestry



Source: RSPB

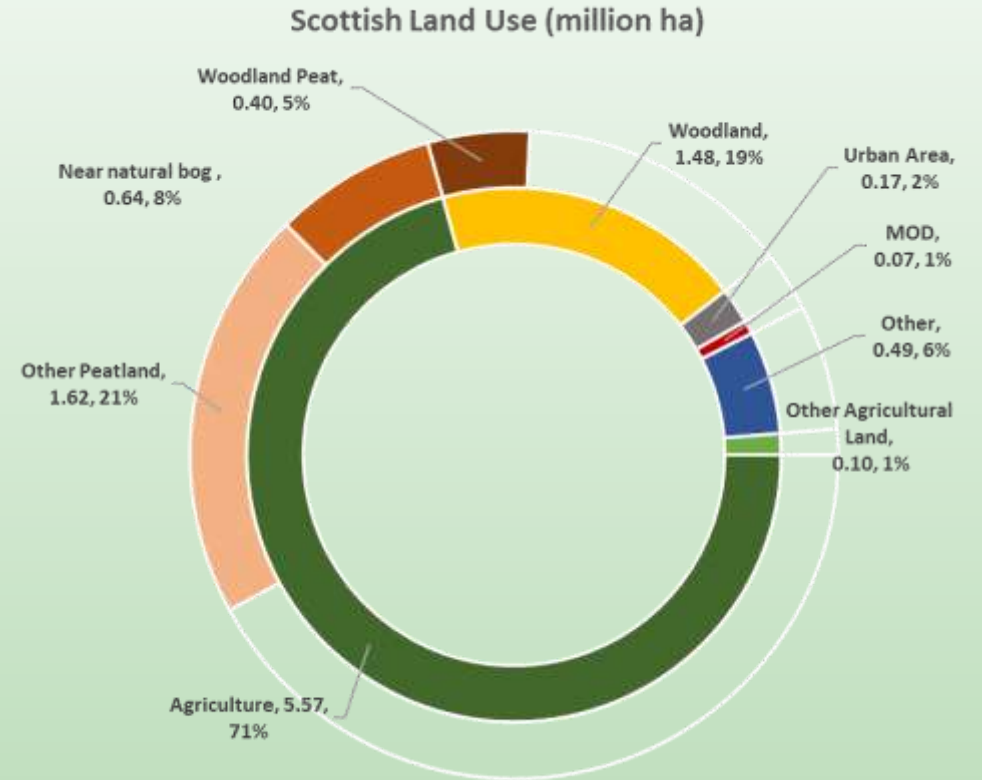


Source: Forestry and Land Scotland



Source: Farmers Weekly

- BUT, around **2m hectares (75%) degraded**
- Net emitter: in 2020 released **15% of Scotland's total net emissions** - more than energy or buildings
- **Peatland restoration critical** to tackling climate and nature crises and Scotland's 2045 just transition to net zero



Restoration – targets (hectares), ambition, achievements, funding, delivery

250,000ha by 2030 @ >20,000ha/yr

Current target (CCPu, 1990 baseline)

57,344 ha

Restored to date since 1990 (1x Arran)



192,656 ha

To be restored by 2030 (5x Arran)



> 30,000 ha/yr

Implied annual rate to meet 2030 target

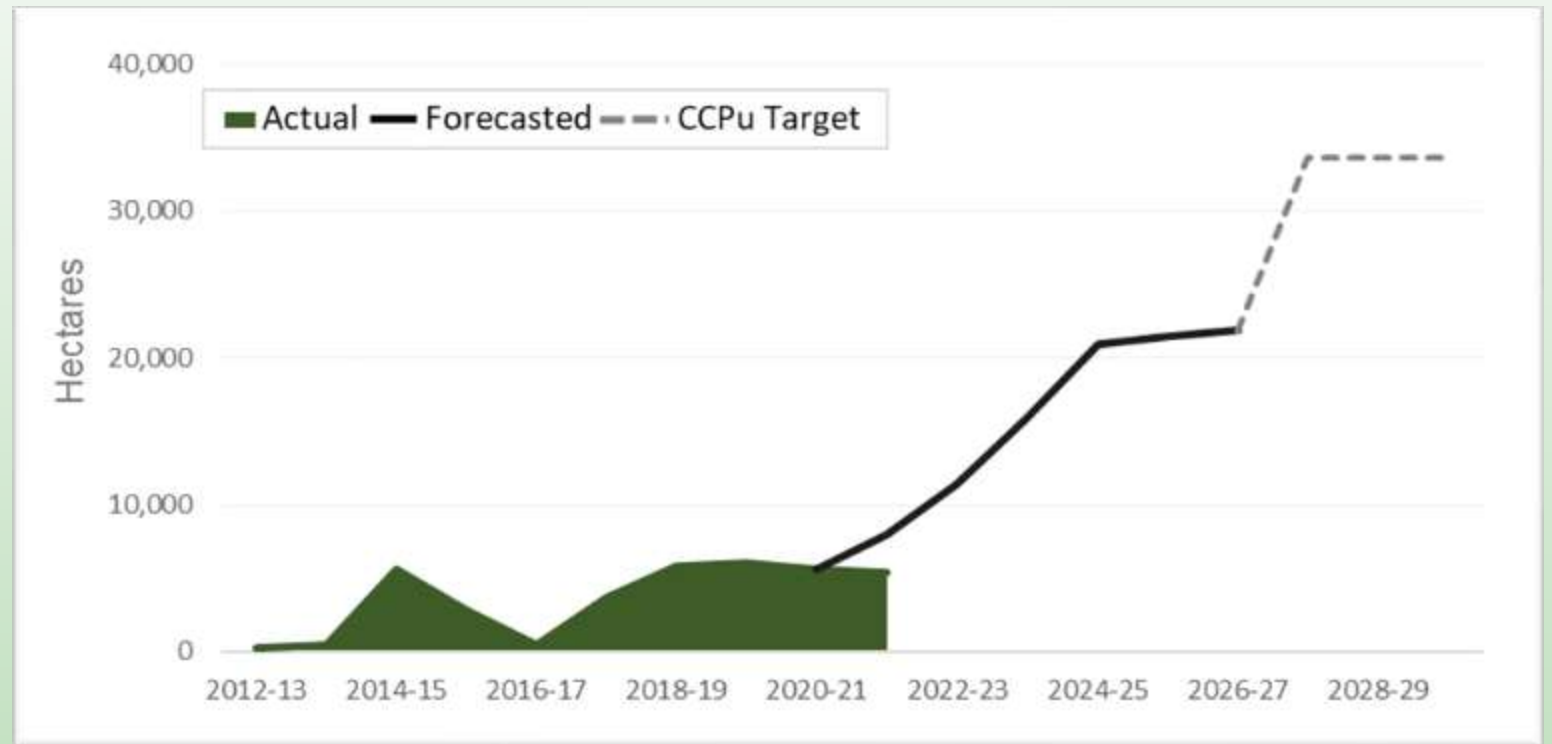
5,676 ha/yr

Average annual rate over last 3 years. 9,000 ha forecast in 2022-23 (up 68%)



£250m between 2020-30

SG financial commitment



- 5 delivery partners (Peatland Action, 2x National Parks, FLS, Scottish Water):

STIMULATE **DEMAND** AMONG LANDOWNERS

DESIGN SCHEMES

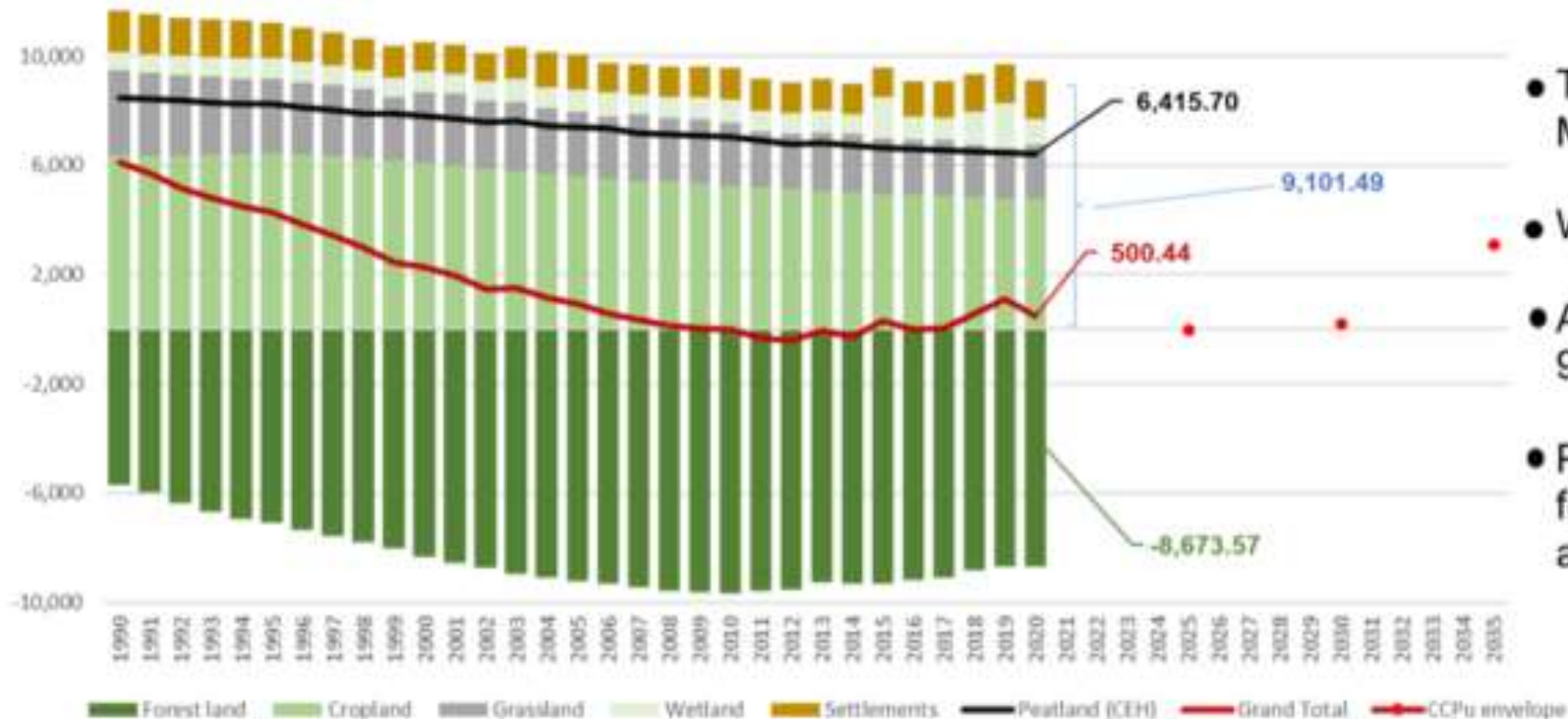
PROCURE CONTRACTORS TO **SUPPLY**



Restoration – targets (emissions), ambition, achievements, data, monitoring

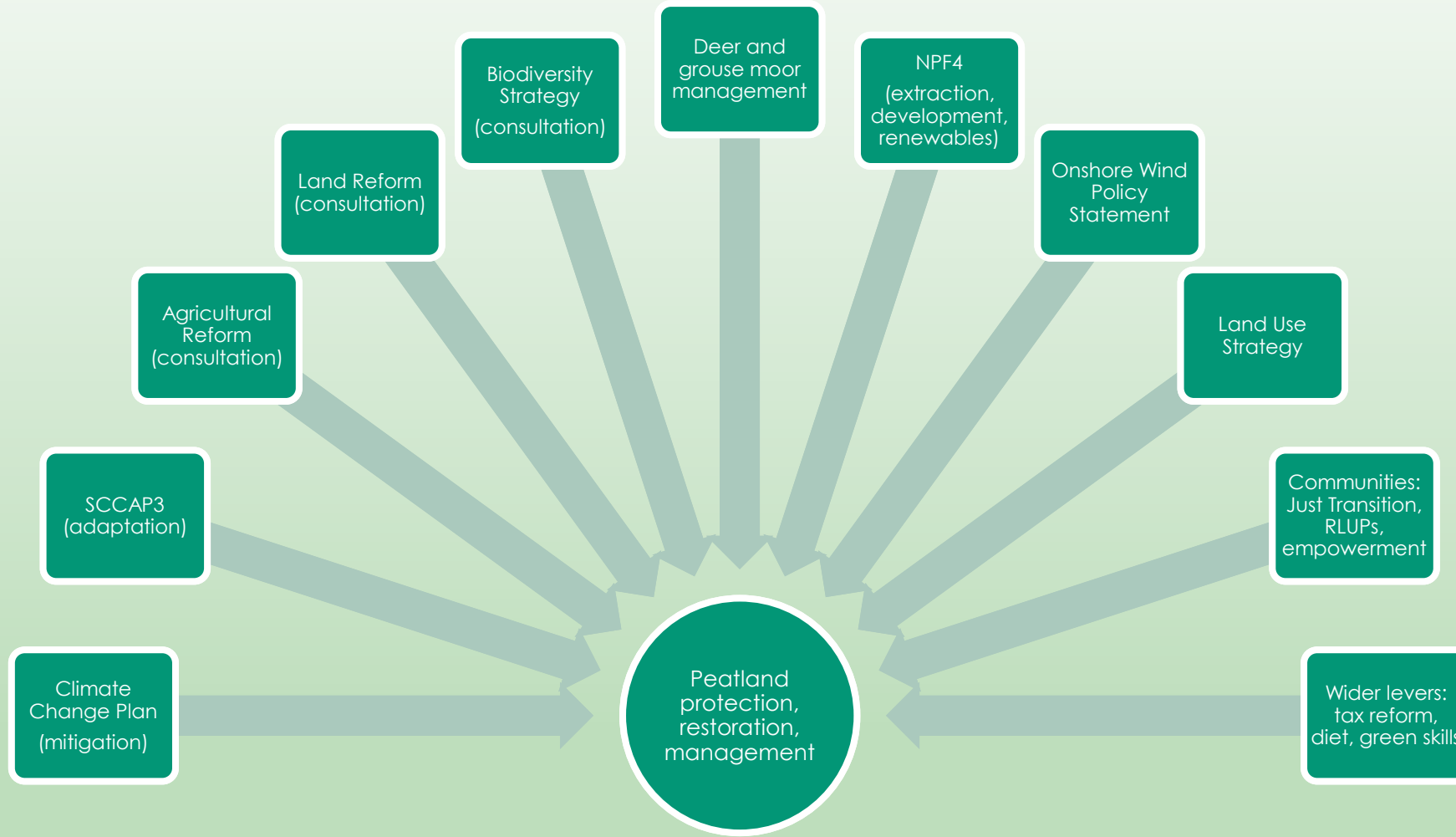
- LULUCF complex sector based upon **modelled** rather than **measured** data (with new research all the time)
- But broadly a large **sink** (trees) and a large **source** (degraded peat) that currently roughly balance out
- Overall net emissions of 0.5MtCO₂e in 2020 **just** within LULUCF envelope (0.6MtCO₂e)
- Scottish data feeds into UK GHG inventory
- Peatland Action is developing a new **monitoring strategy** to track both outputs and outcomes of peatland restoration.

LULUCF emissions estimate and CCPu envelope (ktCO₂e)



- Total LULUCF emissions equate to around 0.5 MtCO₂e annually
- Within this, forestry sequesters around 8.7 MtCO₂e
- All other sources of emissions within LULUCF emit 9.1 MtCO₂e
- Peatland is not a distinct LULUCF category, but is found across a number of other categories, emitting around 6.4 MtCO₂e per year

Policy environment

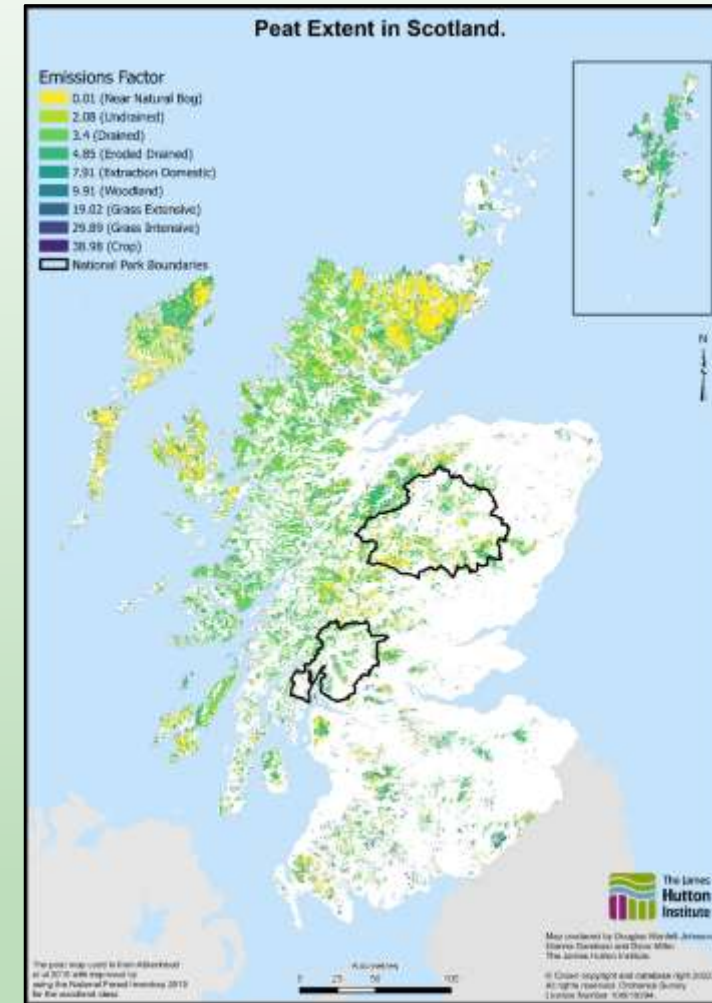
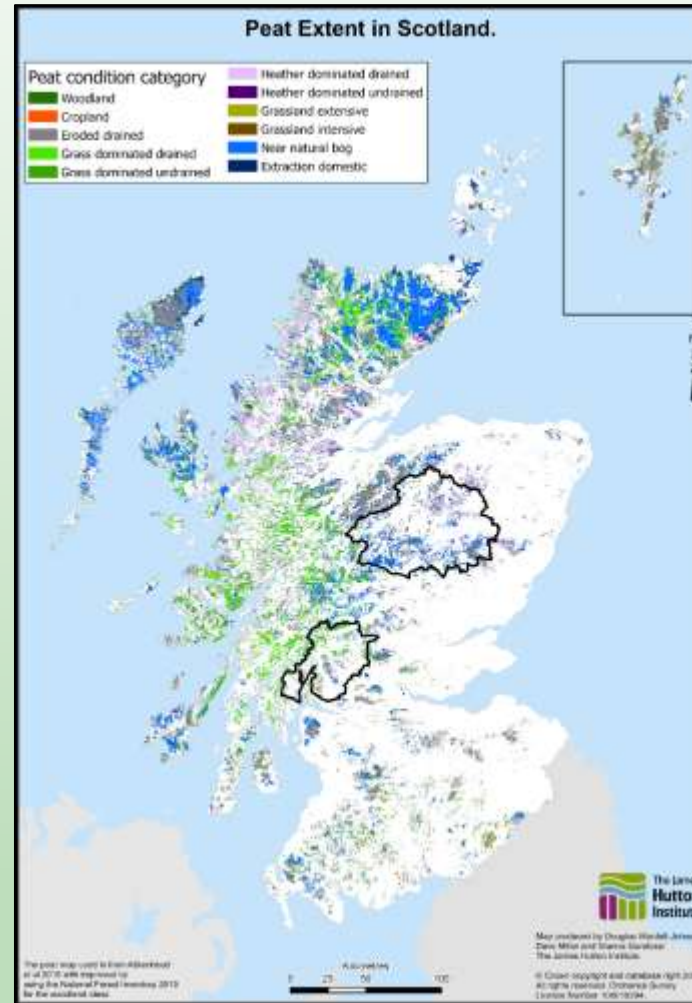
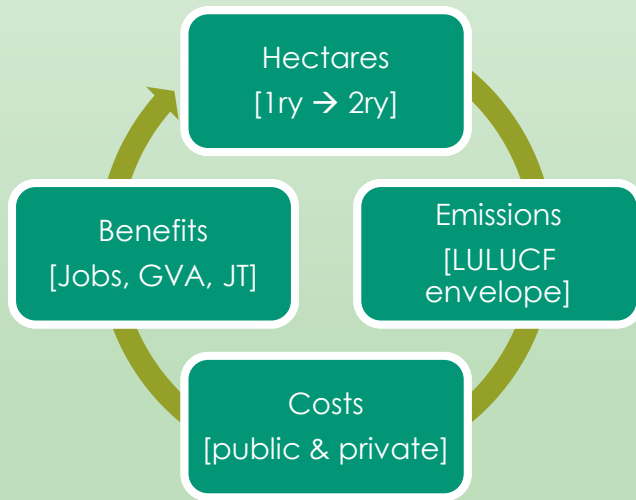


- Peatland's overlap with other land uses places its care and management at centre of what is an extremely fluid policy environment
- This brings great complexity and dependencies to what is often a *relatively* straightforward engineering intervention



Where to restore – a.k.a. *Which peat where?*

- Peat overlaps agriculture & forestry
- Differential carbon emissions and savings
- Meeting emissions targets will need mix of restoration types
- CCP scenarios: locations that optimise emissions, hectares, costs and benefits



How to deliver a significant increase in annual restoration rates

New delivery plan – 4 pillars – accelerate then transform - voluntary to targeted, incentives and regulation

Delivery

- Stimulate **demand**, enhance **supply** and establish a **supporting framework** for landowners and land managers.
- This includes expanding workforce, supporting crofting communities, an enhanced advisory service, targeting large landowners, and developing new tools focus efforts on sites that optimise multiple benefits at minimal cost (e.g. CivTech Peatland Restoration Portal).

Policy shaping

- Ensure that peatland restoration is **fully represented within the much wider land use, land use change policy landscape** in which it sits.
- This includes policy interaction with agricultural and land reform, climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity, planning, energy, deer and grouse management and Just Transition.

Finance

- Consolidate **public finance** and (through Private Investment in Natural Capital programme) increase flow of **responsible private finance** into peatland restoration.
- This includes support for multi-year contracts, increasing the traction of the Peatland Code and adjusting public funding models, through research exploring new private finance mechanisms, and developing a pipeline of investible projects.

Monitoring and research

- Ensuring peatland restoration is **informed by the best available scientific evidence** through a new Scientific and Technical Advisory Group.
- Through a new **monitoring strategy (PA)**, improve monitoring of outputs and outcomes.
- Commission **research and pilots** to enhance understanding of new techniques (e.g. extensive grassland) and other technical and analytical unknowns.



Peat in horticulture

Sales ban

- 2021-22 PfG pledge to consult on a ban on the sale of peat-related gardening products as part of wider commitment to phase out the use of peat in horticulture.
- Initial focus on retail sector, which accounts for 62% of all peat used in UK horticulture.
- Lower transition rates in the professional sector and we will continue to work with industry to understand their challenges.
- Soon launch consultation which will inform our direction and speed of travel towards a ban.
- The UK Internal Market Act undermines Scotland's ability to implement effective policy to ban the sale of peat for horticulture. OIM reporting.

NPF4

- Proposes stronger protections for peatlands and carbon rich soils.
- Draft NPF4 as consulted proposed that:
 - new commercial peat extraction, including extensions to existing sites, should not be supported except in limited circumstances;
 - development on peatland, carbon rich soils and priority peatland habitat should not be supported unless it is essential and in a limited range of circumstances, with any proposals subject to further assessment.
- Final NPF4 to be laid in Scottish Parliament in autumn.



Source: BBC



Source: University of Aberdeen



Source: RHS



Thank you

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This afternoon, Peter Hutchinson of Peatland Action will present operational and delivery perspectives on restoration in Scotland



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