



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

England peatland update

Sophie Chapman (Defra), Wanda Fojt (Natural England),
Katharine Birdsall (Environment Agency)



Restore...

35,000ha by 2025 (just the start)

Two rounds of Nature for Climate Fund:

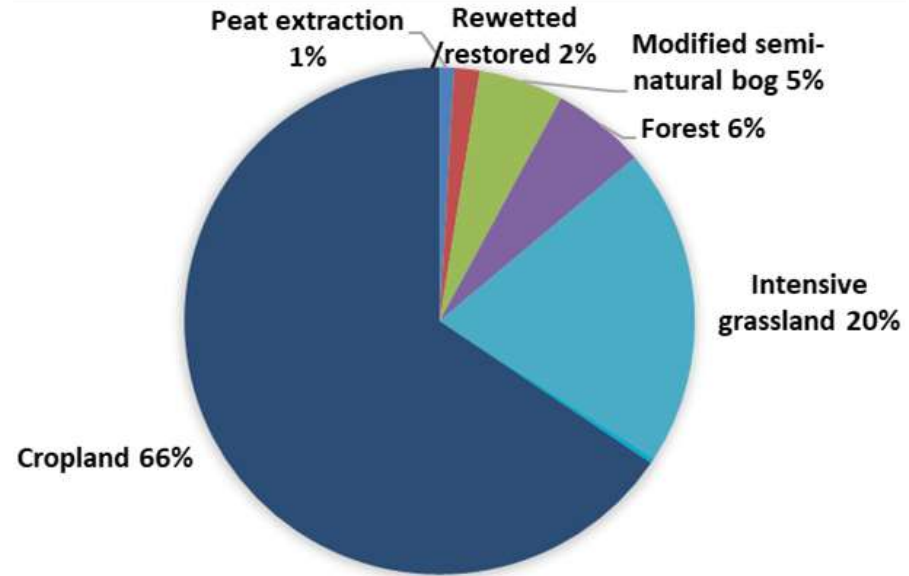
- Restoration grants
- Discovery grants

Natural England Restoration Roadmap



Protect and reduce degradation

Lowland Agricultural Peat Taskforce – to tackle England’s significant lowland peat emissions



Legislate to ban horticultural peat by 2024

Environment Agency

National Peatland Programme Team

The water environment in peatland science,
restoration and protection

Dr Katharine Birdsall, Senior Advisor – Technical Lead

EA Peat Programme priorities

NET ZERO DRIVER

Carbon storage

Carbon
sequestration

Water quality and resources

Environmental
protection

Drinking water
supply

Catchment resilience

Flood amelioration

Drought buffering

Nature based solutions

Biodiversity

Natural
processes

Working priorities 22-23

- **Advising Defra and others**
- Developing the **eco-hydrological evidence base**
- Strengthening delivery through **partnership working**
- Continued **programme development**

Come and talk to us!



Judith Bennett
Senior Advisor –
Project Lead



Katharine Birdsall
Senior Advisor –
Technical Lead



Emma Taylor
Peat Advisor

Natural England updates & forward look.



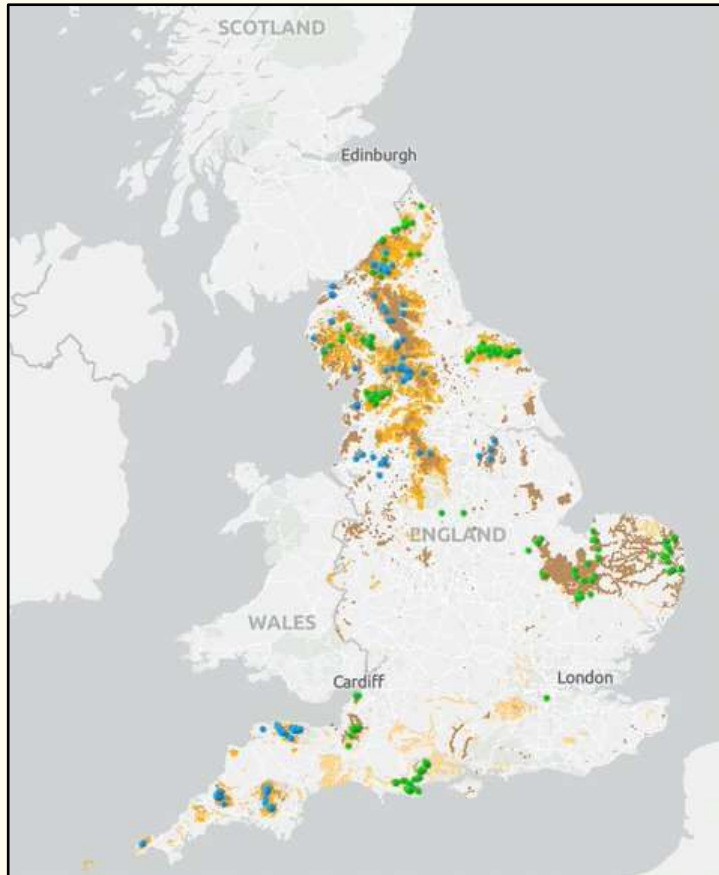
England Peat Action Plan – Restoration Roadmap

NATURAL
ENGLAND

- 282,000 ha by 2050 under restoration
- Collaborative effort
- Robust and realistic
- Informed by the England Peat Map
- Emily.dresner@naturalengland.org.uk



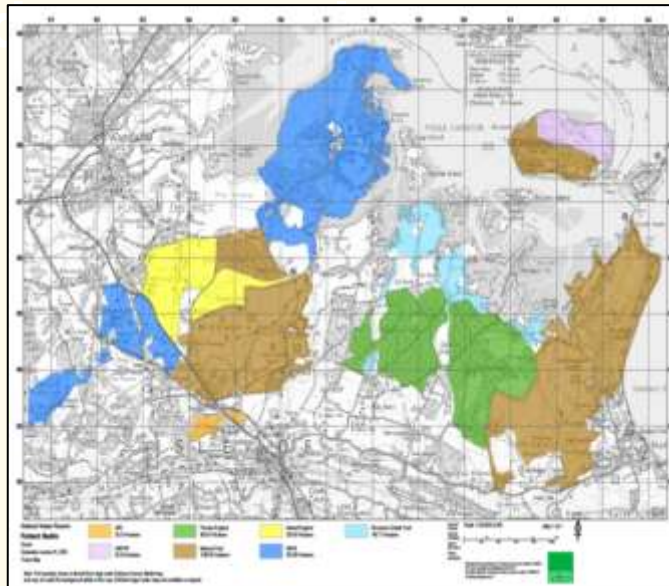
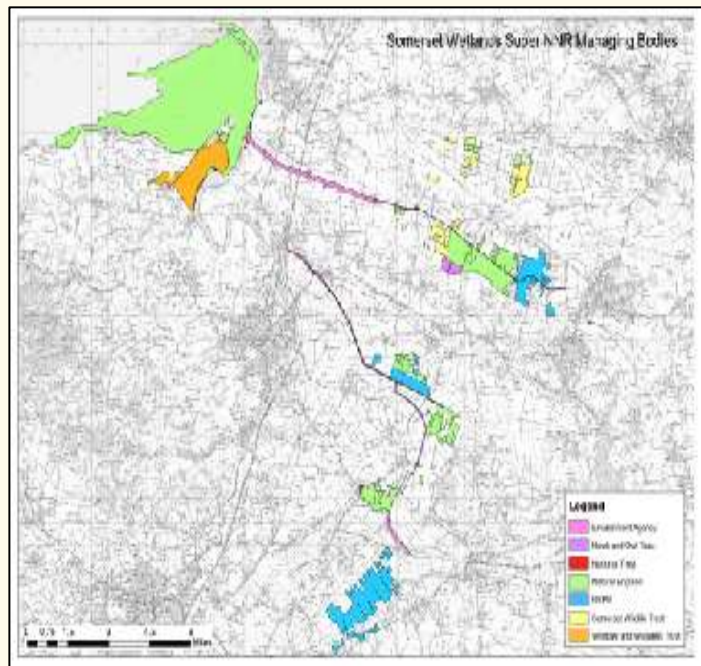
Nature for Climate Peat Grant Scheme



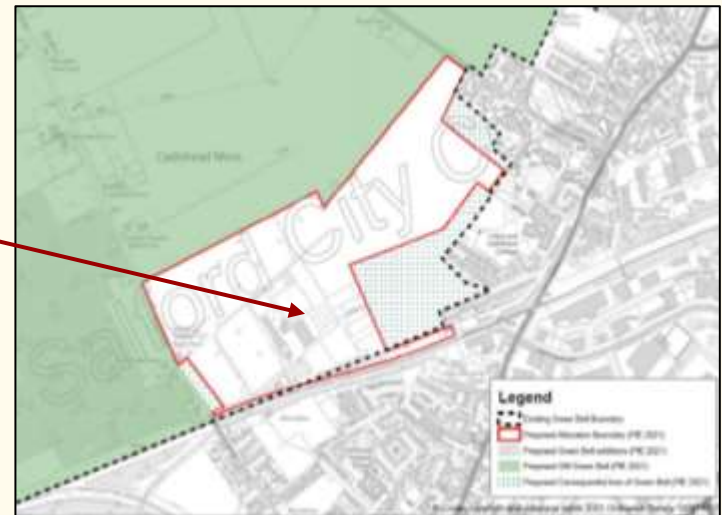
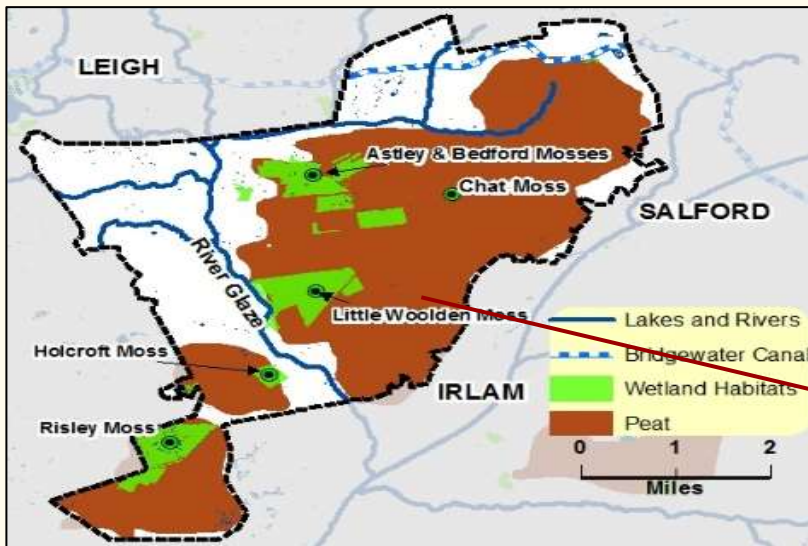
- Accelerating restoration. 35,000 by 2025
- 11 Restoration and 15 live Discovery Projects
- 15,000 ha under restoration and
- 40,000 ha being considered under Discovery
- 5.7 Mt carbon by 2050
- Upland and lowland peatlands
- peatlandscheme@naturalengland.org.uk

Mire restoration at scale

Land



Protecting peatlands – Natural England advisory role



Preventing the degradation of peat

Chapter 3: The plan to reduce degradation



Lowland agricultural peatland and a drainage ditch, Somerset. © Delta

Most restoration work to-date has focussed on blanket and raised bog. However, we need to broaden our approach given that the majority of greenhouse gas emissions from our peatlands come from the lowlands.

The Great Fen Project has shown that full conversion to wetland nature management is possible under the right circumstances in the lowlands. But full restoration is not feasible in all lowland or affected settings. Measures to stabilise and reduce the degradation of our peatland through responsible management will be necessary to meet Net Zero by 2050.

Future vision: