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*“We hope that we will soon be witness to a marked and lasting improvement of the situation, knowing that in order for that to happen we must all do our part. This is a crisis demanding collective action.” [IUCN European Regional Office](#)*

Recognition that collective change is needed for the recovery from the current global pandemic is not only pertinent but inextricably linked to the global biodiversity and climate change crises. To recover from any one of these crises requires acknowledgement and immediate decisive action. A ‘Green recovery’ – that puts environmental health at its heart – would simultaneously tackle climate change, turn the tide on biodiversity loss and address the threat of future zoonosis pandemics, all of which are symptomatic of wide spread, sustained environmental destruction. [Continue reading...](#)

### The rise of peat-free products

As the climate and biodiversity crises become ever more urgent innovative peat-free products offer a sustainable way to protect peatlands and boost the economy.

Jacqueline Wright, Business Development Manager of [Beadamoss®](#), a company producing sphagnum moss and moorland plants for over 15 years, shares her thoughts on the continued evolution of the UK peat-free industry. [Read full article...](#)





[Bog Day](#) has grown from a national awareness day, launched in 2018, to celebrate bogs, fens, swamps & marshes. It is an opportunity to raise awareness of [peatlands](#) – the benefits they provide, the threats they face and the ways we can all help to protect them. Bog Day is now celebrated internationally every 4th Sunday in July, this year taking place on **Sunday 26th July 2020**.

#### **Why are peatlands special and do we need to raise awareness?**

For most people working on peatlands the 'Why?', even on a bad day, is clear. From desk-bound Project Managers to Gamekeepers, from Public Engagement Officers to Academic Researchers there is something about peatlands that makes them enticing, interesting or important places. We are somewhat unique.

For the majority of people their association with peat is with... [continue reading.](#)

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## **Partner highlights**

### **Building links between public and private investment to help bring the green shoots of recovery to the moors.**

[Moors for the Future Partnership](#), who for the past 17 years has been working to restore the peatlands of the Peak District and South Pennine moors, has been selected to receive funding in a pilot scheme to encourage sustainable private sector investment in our natural environment.

Defra, the Environment Agency (EA), Esmée Fairbairn Foundation (EFF) and Triodos Bank UK have formed a collaboration to support environmental projects to create sustainable funding models.

Having been sourced and evaluated by Triodos Bank UK the project will receive grant funding from Defra, the EA and EFF to support their development, complete business plans to attract private sector investment, and deliver long-term environmental benefits and sustainable financial returns.

Find out more: <https://www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk/the-latest/recent-news/other-news-articles/building-links-between-public-and-private-investment-to-help-bring-the->



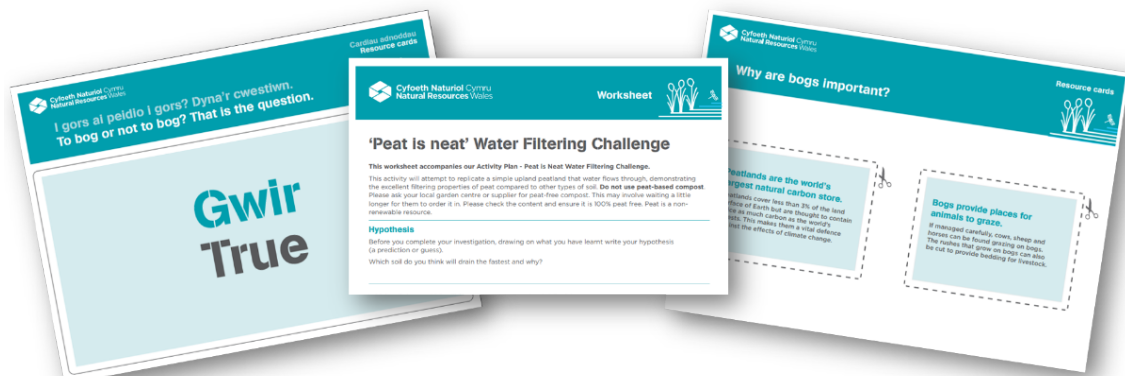
## [green-shoots-of-recovery-to-the-moors](#)



### Evaluating the socio-economic benefits of peatland restoration

For the past two years [Pennine PeatLIFE](#) through [Yorkshire Peat Partnership](#) (YPP) has been collaborating with Leeds University to develop a User Guide for practitioners interested in evaluating the socio-economic benefits of peatland restoration. The process was supported and funded by the [Yorkshire Integrated Catchment Solutions Programme \(iCASP\)](#) and the guide was completed in 2019. This highly successful collaboration has now led to further support from iCASP to produce a user-friendly, bespoke protocol for one of the methodologies commonly used and deemed most appropriate for assisting the project. [Read full article...](#)

## Resources



## New bog education resources launched

As the world prepares to celebrate International Bog Day (26 July 2020) [Natural Resources Wales](#) (NRW) is marking the occasion by bringing the brilliance of bogs to an online audience with the launch of its all new [Peatland Education Resource](#).

The Peatland Education Resource is the first ever created by [NRW and the LIFE Welsh Raised Bogs Project](#), a £4million EU and Welsh Government funded project.

All the activities and games will help teachers deliver against the current curriculum and will enable learners to progress in the way described in the four purposes of the Curriculum for Wales.

There will also be an online guided walk available to watch which will take the viewer around Cors Fochno raised bog and show its many wonders, as well as a [Facebook Live event at 2pm on Bog Day](#) where the audience will be able to learn more about the project and ask questions to the team. [Read full article...](#)

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## Building Blocks webinars: watch again

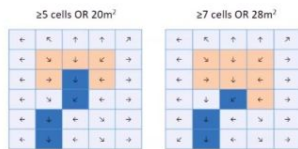
**Part 1** – Find out about Moors for the Future Partnership's ground-breaking project *Building Blocks- Next Steps in Gully Blocking*. Building Blocks has enabled the Partnership to map 100,000 gully blocks that need their attention across the damaged blanket bog of the South Pennines Special Area for Conservation. This modelling has allowed them to create a list of areas to prioritise in their work for many years to come, and ensure that resources are secured into the future for the most sensitive landscapes.

**Part 2** – Join the Partnership team for a closer look at the technical details of the Building Blocks project. Find out how the team carried out the modelling and what processes they undertook to map the 100,000 gully blocks. This webinar will provide information for those who want more detail on how to carry out a project like this.

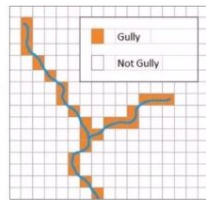
**Watch again:** <https://www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk/our-work/our-projects/weg-building-blocks-next-steps-in-gully-blocking>

## Defining gullies

- Flow pathways defined using an initiation threshold
- Assume that flow pathway = gully



Schematic diagram of initiation thresholds



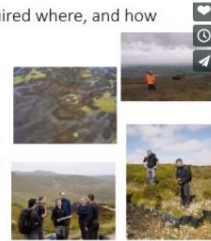
Schematic diagram showing a gridded gully network

How do we know what restoration is required where, and how do we prioritise resources..?

- After 17 years of delivering peatland conservation MFFP know the area well and so do our partners and the land owning/managing community
- Availability of funding and permissions / consents
- Liaison with partners and land managers
- Use of remote sensing and GIS analysis in tandem with field survey

MFFP are always innovating in our approaches to restoration planning and delivery and in designing the Building Blocks Project we recognised there were opportunities to improve this based on hydrological outcomes. These included:

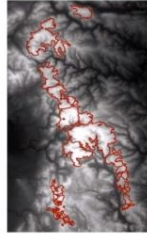
- Using more data based analysis (metrics) in tandem with existing approaches to improve accuracy / assessment of outcomes.
- Using better resolution data, and doing so continually as a matter of course.



## Topographic data

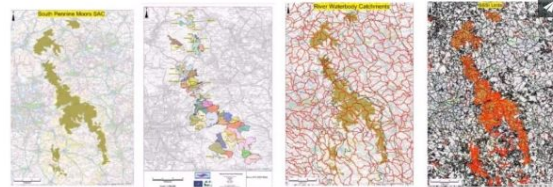
- Environment Agency's Integrated Height Model (IHM)
- Full coverage of the South Pennines SAC
- 2 metre resolution dataset
- Majority of data collected at 5 metre resolution and interpolated to 2 metres

3D representation of the IHM Digital Elevation Model (DEM) covering the upper Derwent Catchment



IHM Digital Elevation Model (DEM) of the South Pennines SAC

Objective: Analysis of outcomes at a range of scales



## iCASP annual confluence event online

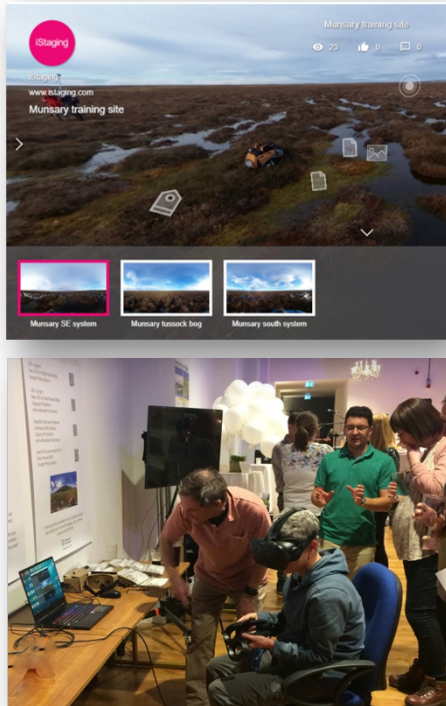
In a change to the usual face-to-face annual meeting, this year [iCASP's annual Confluence event](#) went online with a series of video updates of projects and two webinars on increasing climate resilience and soils. One of the videos is an update about progress of the Optimal Peatland Restoration (OPR) project.

As a bolt-on to the OPR project, iCASP has developed a protocol about the [Deliberative Monetary Valuation Method](#). The protocol was requested by peatland practitioners so they are able to carry out their own estimates of the monetary values of ecosystems using robust state of the art methods. As part of the process a training workshop was recently delivered for several partner organisations to introduce the protocol, the techniques used and to gather feedback to finalise the protocol for publication. A final version of the protocol and a video from the training session will shortly be available on the [iCASP website in the Resources and Publications section](#).

## Bringing peatland sites to you: Virtual Reality provides a useful tool for assessing peatlands.

Virtual Reality (VR) and 3D views can be used to generate useful descriptions of peatland sites. Virtual reality images are being used in combination with 3D views and a site assessment matrix to gain good baseline characterisation of peat bogs. Developed by Richard Lindsay, University of East London, several bogs can now be explored through Virtual Reality -





providing not only tool for monitoring but a new way of inspiring people to explore peatlands.

[Instructions to view](#) Esgyrn Bottom, Carmel, Waun Ddu and Rhos Goch part of the LIFE+ New LIFE for Welsh Raised Bogs project; Plantlife's Munsary Peatlands, Caithness and Hard Hill Experimental Plots on Moor House.

## Events

Visit <https://www.iucn-uk-peatlandprogramme.org/events> for upcoming events.

- 26th July 2020 - [BogDay](#)
- 7th - 15th January 2021  
**IUCN World Conservation Congress, Marseille, France**  
[Conference](#) comprised of forum, exhibition & Members' Assembly takes place every 4 years this year focussing on contribution to [post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework](#).
- 17th - 30th May 2021  
**COP 15 - [2020 UN Biodiversity Conference](#), Kunming, China.**  
 The 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The event will review the progress of [CBD's Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020](#) & aim to determine new global targets on biodiversity; finalising the [post-2020 global biodiversity framework](#).
- 1st - 12th November 2021  
**COP26 – [26th United Nations Climate Change Conference](#), Glasgow SEC**  
**Key Conference themes:**
  - Determine new global targets on climate change: Tackle Climate change & bring about urgent climate action.
  - Protect planet for future generations (UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration)
  - Transformational change needed to unleash full potential of Paris Agreement

- **UK (host country):** UK Year of Climate Action; UK Pledge to achieve Net Zero by 2050

## Vacancies - research opportunities and jobs

### IUCN UK Peatland Code Co-ordinator

Scottish Wildlife Trust, Edinburgh

£25,000 pa

Job description and Application form: <https://scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk/job/peatland-code-co-ordinator/>

**Closing date:** 19th August 2020

### IUCN UK Peatland Programme Communications Officer

Scottish Wildlife Trust, Edinburgh

£25,000 pa

For Job description and Application form

see: <https://scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk/job/communications-officer/>

**Closing date:** 19th August 2020

Please contact [info@iucn.org.uk](mailto:info@iucn.org.uk) if you have a research, volunteer or employment opportunity that you would like to share with the UK peatland community.

## Research publications

- Clutterbuck, B., Burton, W., Smith, C. & Yarnella, R.W. (2020) Vehicular tracks and the influence of land use and habitat protection in the British uplands. *Science of the Total Environment* **737** <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2020.140243>
- Flanagan, N.E., Wang, H., Winton, S. & Richards, C. J. (2020) Low-severity fire as a mechanism of organic matter protection in global peatlands: Thermal alteration slows decomposition. *Global Change Biology*. **26** (7) 3930 - 3946. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/gcb.15102>
- Friggens, N. L., Hester, A. J., Mitchell, R. J., Parker, T. C., Subke, JA. & Wookey, P. A. (2020) Tree planting in organic soils does not result in net carbon sequestration on decadal timescales. *Global Change Biology*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/gcb.15229>
- Gaffney, P.P.J., Hancock, M. H., Taggart, M. A. & Andersen, R. (2020) Restoration of afforested peatland: Immediate effects on aquatic carbon loss. *Science of the Total Environment* **742** <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2020.140594>
- Hong, S., Yin, G., Piao, S. *et al.* (2020) Divergent responses of soil organic carbon to afforestation. *Nat Sustain.* <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41893-020-0557-y>
- Matthews, K. B., Wardell-Johnson, D., Miller, D., Fitton, N., Jones, E., Bathgate, S., Randle, T., Matthews, R., Smith, P., Perks. M (2020) Not seeing

the carbon for the trees? Why area-based targets for establishing new woodlands can limit or underplay their climate change mitigation benefits. *Land Use Policy* **97**

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.landusepol.2020.104690>

- Müller, J. and Joos, F. (2020) Peatland area and carbon over the past 21 000 years – a global process based model investigation, *Biogeosciences Discuss.* <https://doi.org/10.5194/bg-2020-110>, *In review*.
- van Bellen, S., Larivière, V. (2020) The ecosystem of peatland research: a bibliometric analysis. *Mires and Peat*, 26, 15, 30pp. (Online: <http://www.mires-and-peat.net/pages/volumes/map26/map2615.php>); doi: [10.19189/MaP.2020.RSC.StA.1977](https://doi.org/10.19189/MaP.2020.RSC.StA.1977)

**Please note:** this list is by no means comprehensive, nor are these stories endorsements from the Programme, but for your information only.

**The next edition of the Newsletter is due out in October 2020. To submit articles please email:** [info@iucn.org.uk](mailto:info@iucn.org.uk)

#### Privacy policy:

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**For information about reports and initiatives referred to in this newsletter please visit:** [www.iucn-uk-peatlandprogramme.org](http://www.iucn-uk-peatlandprogramme.org). You are receiving this newsletter as you signed-up. If you would no longer like to receive these emails, please reply to this email letting us know to unsubscribe you

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