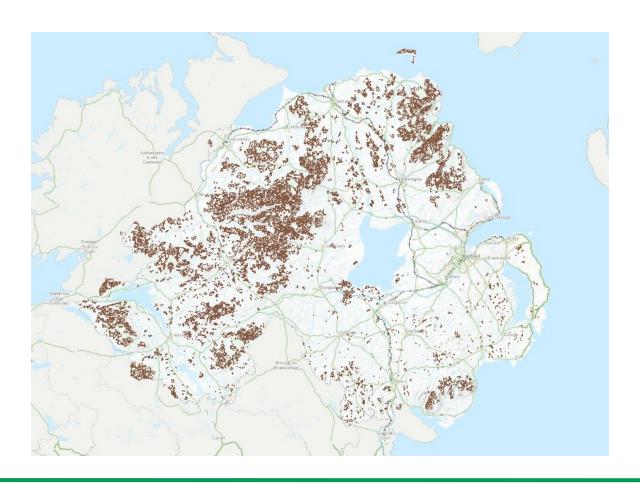
# Peatland Restoration in Northern Ireland

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#### **Peatland extent in Northern Ireland**



### **Peatland threats and pressures**

- Drainage
- Agriculture
  - Reclamation
  - Overgrazing
  - Undergrazing
- Burning/flailing
- Peat-cutting
  - Horticulture
  - Fuel
- Afforestation
- Development windfarms
- Nutrient enrichment (air and water)
- Climate change



### Northern Ireland peatland policy development

- Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands Order (1985)
  - Created peatland ASSIs
- EU Habitats Directive (1992)
  - Created peatland SACs
- Conserving Peatland in Northern Ireland (1993)
  - This document sought further site designation
- Northern Ireland Biodiversity Strategy (2002 present)
  - Response to CBD
- Draft NI Assembly Programme for Government (2017)
  - Designated land under favourable management
  - c12% peatland so designated

However, no NI Executive or Assembly since January 2017



### **Current DAERA policy initiatives**

- DAERA formed in 2016 from DARD and NIEA
- 'Going for Growth' sustainable prosperity statement
- Sustainable Agriculture Land Management Strategy (2018)
- Agricultural ammonia emissions
  - Exceedance of critical loads throughout NI
    - Decline in Sphagnum and increase in algae on peatlands
    - DAERA Ammonia Action Plan being developed
- Knowledge Advisory Service (2018)
  - "one stop shop" for farmers re: productivity, environmental sustainability and resilience

### Northern Ireland environmental grants

- Rural Development Programme 2014-2020
  - Environmental Farming Scheme (2017-2020)
    - Safeguarding designated sites and priority habitats
    - Site Specific Management Plans
    - Tranche 2
    - Group Scheme
- DAERA NIEA Environment Fund 2016-present



## Other initiatives with a peatland component

- NI Wildfire Stakeholders Group
- INTERREG V
  - Wetland designated sites
  - Mapping
  - Management Plans
  - Management works
- SCAMP
  - Garron Plateau
- HLF projects
  - Lough Neagh Landscape Partnership Scheme
  - Heart of Ancient Ulster Landscape Partnership Scheme

### **UK Peatland Strategy goals**

- A. Conserve and enhance through restoration, the best and most readily recoverable peatlands EFS target 50000ha, SAC management plans
- B. Restore degraded areas to functioning peatland ecosystems INTERREG, SCAMP, HLF, planning
- C. Applying land uses that are compatible with healthy Peatlands
   Sustainable Agriculture Land Management Strategy. Ammonia strategy, developing agricultural policy
- D. Adapting management of drained peatlands under intensive productive use - Sustainable Agriculture Land Management Strategy, developing agricultural policy
- E. Establish a formal framework to stimulate appropriate funding support, share experience, encourage best land management practice HLF projects

