



**Yorkshire**  
Wildlife Trust

# Yorkshire Peat Partnership Annual Report

2024 – 2025

SWARTH MOOR ©BETH THOMAS

[yppartnership.org.uk](http://yppartnership.org.uk)

*Rewet, replant, restore*

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# HEADLINES

This is a progress report on the peatland restoration work completed in Yorkshire since 2009. Previous annual reports have included work in Forest of Bowland; this was, strictly speaking, carried out by Yorkshire Wildlife Trust rather than Yorkshire Peat Partnership.

## Landscape-scale Action

Yorkshire Peat Partnership delivered a remarkable 51,867 ha\* of peat restoration work by the end of March 2025 which is 55% of the estimated 94,220 ha\* of peatland in our operational area.

### Key highlights included:

-  Securing £1,706,299 to cover core costs (e.g. staff, vehicles, equipment and office costs)
-  Securing £1,510,000 of capital funds to carry out direct peatland restoration
-  Completing foot surveys of 3,955 ha of the estimated 94,220 ha of peatland
-  Completing restoration plans for 2,131 ha of peatland in new sites
-  Implementing works on a total of 7,689 ha of peatland – 4,915 ha on new sites and 2,774 ha on existing sites

\*this is defined as upland management units containing peat.

# 1. YORKSHIRE PEAT PARTNERSHIP

## 1.1 What is Yorkshire Peat Partnership?

Yorkshire Peat Partnership began in 2009, as an umbrella organisation led by Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, to try to coordinate the restoration of the badly degraded blanket bog of northern Yorkshire. Since then, we have become the primary organisation coordinating the delivery of upland peatland restoration across the Yorkshire Dales National Park, the North York Moors National Park and Nidderdale National Landscape. We work closely with landowners, agents, gamekeepers, farmers and contractors to help restore Yorkshire's internationally important blanket bog.

## 1.2 Why are we needed?

Blanket bog is (in England) an upland peatland habitat, occurring from around 200m upwards, generally on flat or gently sloping ground where drainage is poor. Few plants are adapted to the acidic, infertile conditions found on the deepest peat, and sphagnum mosses and cottongrasses predominate.

The UK has 13% of the world's blanket bog, and we estimate North Yorkshire holds around 94,000 ha - around 26% of England's total resource - storing over 27,000,000 tonnes of carbon. In addition to locking up millennia of carbon, healthy blanket bog helps to slow the flow of water from the uplands into rivers and streams, filters our drinking water and provides habitat for some amazing wildlife. Formed over thousands of years, it has taken just six decades to devastate Yorkshire's peatlands.

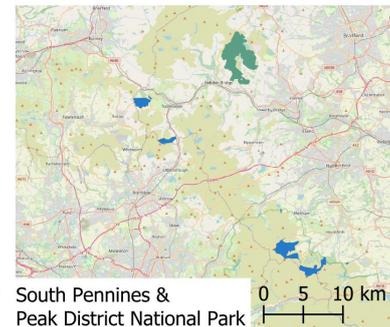
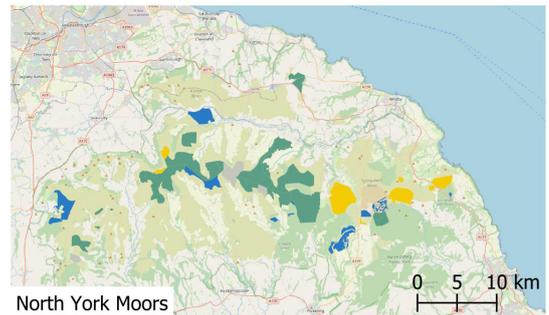
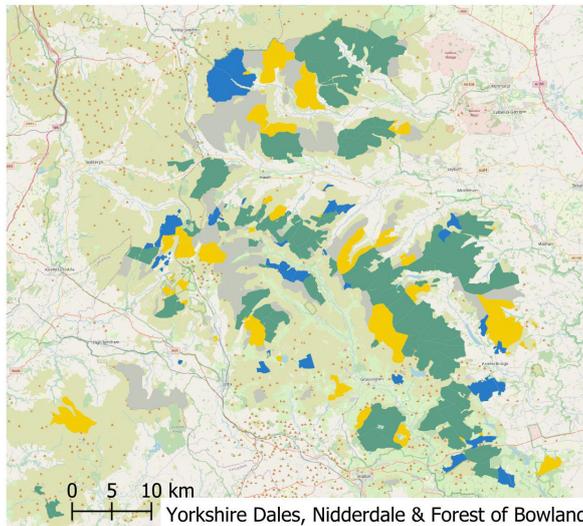
Most damage occurred between the 1950s and 1980s, when the government incentivised landowners to drain the land for "agricultural improvement". Drainage channels - known as grips - were dug across vast tracts of blanket bog, which still criss-cross the landscape today. 80% of our blanket bog has been damaged in this way, leaving our peatlands brown and broken. We, along with our partners and funders, aim to restore this amazing habitat to fully functioning blanket bog that benefits both people and wildlife.

Yorkshire Peat Partnership is managed by Yorkshire Wildlife Trust in partnership with Yorkshire Water, Natural England, North York Moors National Park Authority, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority the Environment Agency, Moorland Association, National Trust and Nidderdale National Landscape, and private landowners.



# 2. OUR WORK

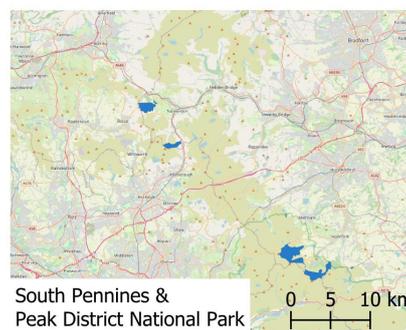
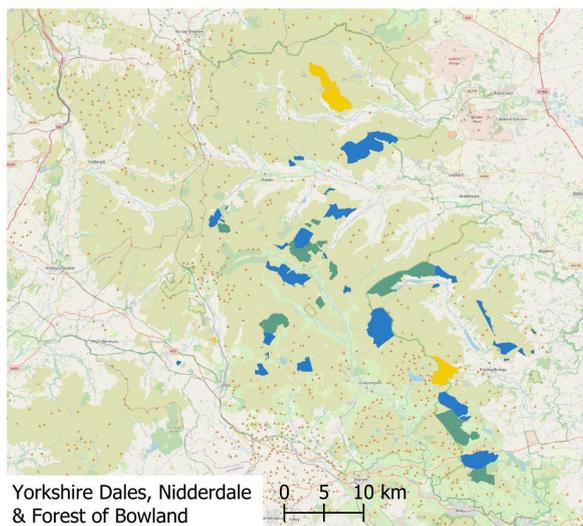
## 2.1 Our work on the ground since 2009



### Current status as of March 2025

- Potential for restoration identified
  - Works delivered
  - Restoration plan completed
  - Surveyed
- Basemap OpenStreetMap

## 2.2 Our work on the ground 2024/2025



### Progress changes from March 2024 - March 2025

- Restoration plan completed
  - Works delivered
  - Surveyed
- Basemap OpenStreetMap

## 2.3 Our work in numbers 2024/2025

### Areas covered by walkover surveys

Region	Previous Area (ha)	New Area 2025 (ha)	Total Area (ha)
Forest of Bowland National Landscape	1,819	24	1,844
Nidderdale East	424	0	424
Nidderdale National Landscapes	17,530	142	17,672
North Pennines	74	0	74
North York Moors National Park	12,637	585	13,222
South Pennines	1,699	329	2,028
Yorkshire Dales East	805	5	811
Yorkshire Dales National Park	37,522	2,870	40,392
<b>Total: All regions</b>	<b>72,511</b>	<b>3,955</b>	<b>76,466</b>

### Restoration plans

Region	2025 Area (ha)	New Area 2025 (ha)	Repeat Area 2025 (ha)
Forest of Bowland National Landscape	0	0	0
Nidderdale National Landscapes	694	694	0
North Pennines	0	0	0
North York Moors National Park	0	0	0
South Pennines	0	0	0
Yorkshire Dales National Park	1,437	1,437	0
<b>Total: All regions</b>	<b>2,131</b>	<b>2,131</b>	<b>0</b>

### Work on the ground

Region	2025 Area (ha)	New Area 2025 (ha)	Repeat Area 2025 (ha)
Forest of Bowland National Landscape	0	0	0
Nidderdale National Landscapes	2,707	1,456	1,250
North Pennines			
North York Moors National Park	3,219	1,938	1,281
South Pennines	0	0	0
Yorkshire Dales National Park	1,763	1,521	243
<b>Total: All regions</b>	<b>7,689</b>	<b>4,915</b>	<b>2,774</b>

## 2.4 Funding

Yorkshire Peat Partnership is not-for-profit; all of our funding goes into covering our overheads, research and development, monitoring or capital restoration works.

### Core revenue funding

Organisation	Amount £						TOTAL
	2009-19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	
Yorkshire Wildlife Trust - legacies, fundraising & consultancy	428,173	106,054	53,556	27,051		1,200	614,834
Morgan Sindall donation to Nature for Climate					200,000	-	200,000
Yorkshire Wildlife Trust - individual donations					11,794	12,851	24,645
Yorkshire Wildlife Trust - corporate donations					7,800		7,800
Yorkshire Wildlife Trust - People's Postcode Lottery Nature Based solutions fund	-	-	188,843	-		-	188,843
VP PLC donation to Peatfix project	-	-	24,000	-	24,000	-	48,000
Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority	300,100	-	-	5,000		-	305,100
North York Moors National Park Authority	93,146	-	-	-		-	93,146
Nidderdale NL	1,000	-	-	-		10,127	11,127
North Pennines NL	10,000	-	-	-		-	10,000
Environment Agency FCRM	314,379	95,000	14,348	14,250	13,180	14,250	465,407
Environment Agency – direct						5,000	5,000
Environment Agency – via Pennine PeatLIFE	225,000	-	95,000	-		-	320,000
Environment Agency - Great North Bog Development	-	-	59,833	-		-	59,833
Natural England	588,845	-	-	-	23,961		612,806
Natural England - Species Recovery Programme						48,096	48,096
DEFRA Peatland Fund – via YWT	66,666	33,333	13,703	-		-	113,702
DEFRA England Peat Strategy Pilot	45,083	-	-	-		-	45,083
Higher Level Stewardship scheme	248,864	-	-	-		-	248,864
Countryside Stewardship (PA2s & CoW)	154,231	90,977	97,227	73,536	63,774	15,526	495,271
SFI						8,320	8,320
Other contracts						116,380	116,380
Landscape Recovery - Ure Dales						254,578	254,578
Yorkshire Water – AMP	405,074	61,258	194,661	178,924	150,936	107,113	1,097,966
Yorkshire Water – via Pennine PeatLIFE	143,771	-	-	-		-	143,771
Peter de Haan Conservation Trust – via YWT	100,000	-	-	-		-	100,000
EU-LIFE – via Pennine PeatLIFE	-	121,902	119,630	70,025		-	311,557
Natural England - Nature for Climate Fund	-	-	90,820	147,657	194,685	661,601	1,094,763
Nature for Climate Fund - University of Manchester						84,353	84,353

## Core revenue funding (continued)

Organisation	Amount £						TOTAL
	2009-19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	
Nature for Climate Fund - National Trust						64,789	64,789
Nature for Climate Fund – Moor to Restore	-	-	-	44,363	4,736	-	49,099
Esmée Fairbairn – via YWT	-	-	110,000	176,000	121,000	121,000	528,000
YDNPA FiPL					6,288	-	6,288
Nidderdale FiPL	-	-	-	9598	87,900	40,616	138,114
Tees-Swale: Naturally Connected (Heritage Lottery Fund via NPAP)	-	-	-	23,640	20,638	40,500	84,778
Bradford MDC-WYCA Climate Community Grant					26,000	6,900	26,000
Groundwork contribution to New to Nature Trainee					18,238	-	18,238
Peat Practitioners training course					14,115	43,845	57,960
IUCN UK Peatland Programme						4,500	4,500
NYC UK Shared Prosperity Fund						44,754	44,754
Garfield Weston Foundation				15,000			15,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,124,332</b>	<b>508,524</b>	<b>1,061,621</b>	<b>785,044</b>	<b>989,045</b>	<b>1,706,299</b>	<b>8,166,764</b>
Loans – Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority	2,107,341	-	-				-
Loans – The Wildlife Trusts	1,500,000	-	-				-

## Capital funding

Organisation	Amount £						TOTAL
	2009-19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	
Environment Agency	643,410	-	80,652	6,583	138,750	80,750	950,145
Natural England – Water Framework Directive	166,239	-	-	-	-	-	166,239
Natural England Nature for Climate Fund	-	-	219,600	2,045,597	2,586,536	868,151	5,719,884
Higher Level Scheme (administered by Natural England through individual land manager agreements)	11,417,822	77,076	-	-		-	11,494,898
Countryside Stewardship Scheme (administered by Natural England and Rural Payments Agency through individual land manager agreements)	176,219	573,551	1,250,563	73,536	222,937	18,269	2,315,075
Yorkshire Water – AMP	2,489,508	149,709	415,585	789,532	719,619	328,662	4,892,615
Yorkshire Water – via Pennine PeatLIFE	756,229	-	-	-	-	-	756,229
EU-LIFE – via Pennine PeatLIFE	38,588	799,341	140,437	19,736	-	-	998,102
DEFRA Peatland Fund -via YWT	1,621,850	1,811,373	98,106	-	-	-	3,531,329
Nidderdale FiPL	-	-	-	6,495		-	6,495
Yorkshire Dales FiPL	-	-	-		63,392	214,168	277,560
Garfield Weston Foundation	-	-	-	297,000			297,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17,309,865</b>	<b>3,411,050</b>	<b>2,204,943</b>	<b>3,238,479</b>	<b>3,731,234</b>	<b>1,510,000</b>	<b>31,405,571</b>

## 2. NEXT STEPS

Our LANTRA accredited Peatland Restoration Practitioners course will enter its 3rd year and we continue to refine content as we, ourselves, learn from our participants. Responding to feedback, we will be adding in some short 1-day courses on specific topics. We will also be seeking funding to continue our learning offer for young people through Peatland Pathways. This successful and popular 2-day course introduces young people to the possibility of a career in the peatland sector.

Building on the success of our engagement work, we will look to share the wonders of peat with an ever wider audience. Our ACE Bogs project worked with Denton reserve to help people understand and love the peatlands on their doorstep and reached an amazing finale with an exhibition in Ilkley. ACE Bogs 2.0 will expand that project's goals to bring communities together with multiple artists at Nethergill in Langstrothdale. This is being made possible through Defra's Farming in Protected Landscapes funding, administered by YDNPA

Our Dragons in the Dales project, funded by Natural England's Species Recovery Programme, improved habitat for three declining species of dragonfly on Swarth Moor in Ribblesdale. We will seek to continue this stream of work by exploring reintroduction of the large heath butterfly, and also wider invertebrate survey work across the Great North Bog. We will also be working with partners on the reintroduction of *Sphagnum austini*; once the key peat forming species in the Yorkshire Dales, atmospheric pollution in the industrial revolution led to local extinction.

We will continue to work with partners in the peatland sector to see proper regulation for use of and development on peat. Despite overwhelming support from the public and in the House of Commons, there is still no legislation to prevent the extraction and use of peat in horticulture, leading to barren, bare black surfaces on what should be thriving lowland bogs across the British Isles and Europe. Meanwhile, the end to the de facto ban on onshore wind farms threatens our upland peatlands and the communities below them. We will continue to lobby Government for protection of this precious resource.



## 4 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The success of Yorkshire Peat Partnership is the result of the hard work of by a huge range of partners and could not have happened without them. Landowners, their agents, gamekeepers, farmers and tenants have helped deliver the restoration work on their land, often helping practically but also providing advocacy support and helping to unlock funding.

None of the work could have taken place without our major funders supporting both the capital work but also the hugely important core funds that enable Yorkshire Peat Partnership to function. We are hugely grateful to Natural England, the Environment Agency, Yorkshire Water, the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, the North York Moors National Park Authority, Peter de Haan Conservation Trust, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation & Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, Garfield Weston Foundation, Vp plc, People's Postcode Lottery, Nidderdale National Landscape, the EU LIFE Programme, North Yorkshire Council, West Yorkshire Combined Authority, Heritage Lottery Fund and Defra.

We would also like to thank our Steering Group members for supporting and guiding our work.

A special mention goes to Yorkshire Wildlife Trust for hosting Yorkshire Peat Partnership and providing all the essential back-up services we couldn't have done without. The impact and cost of hosting YPP should not be under-estimated.

Last but not least none of this could have happened without the support of Yorkshire Wildlife Trust's hugely dedicated, hard-working peat team (Shanti Adamson, Roz Bardon, Joe Bodycote, Katie Bolton, Mark Brown, Josh Burge, Lucy Cardy, Pete Christopherson, Matt Cross, Aaron de Raat, Emily East, Liberty Firby-Fisk, Millie German, Rhiannon Green, Sam Halliday, Joseph Haywood, Dom Hinchley, Astrid Hanlon, Les Hughes, Zach Jennings, Ceri Katz, Emma Knowles, Lucy Lee, Megan Lee, Samantha Lewsey, Tessa Levens, Alexandra Manojlovic, Emma Mackenzie, Ollie Mackrill, Lyndon Marquis, Jessica McMaster, Chris Miller, Gautier Nicoli; Osborne, Manon Pue, Sophie Pyne, Jenny Sharman, Ellen Shields, Lizzie Slingsby, Jackie Smith, Matt Snelling, Rosie Snowden, Emily Stewart-Rayner, Elizabeth Sullivan, Kane Szuman, Tim Thom, Beth Thomas, Kay Waites, Jamie Wharton, Laura Watson, Jo Welch) who have come and gone over the years but remain the heart, soul and spirit of Yorkshire Peat Partnership.