

It can take a hundred years for 10 centimetres of peat to form



What is peat?

Peat is a carbon-rich soil formed as plants grow, die, and then can't fully decompose in these wet landscapes.

Yorkshire's peatlands have been forming for thousands of years. They support a unique community of wildlife. Sundews catch insects in their sticky leaves, lizards scuttle across the bog surface, and curlews fill the air with their bubbling calls. Sphagnum moss underpins it all; this habitat engineer stores water and shapes the wet, acidic world of our peatlands.

Who are Yorkshire Peat Partnership?

Yorkshire's peatlands are badly damaged. Historical land management approaches have left up to 80 percent of these vital habitats drained and eroding.

Yorkshire Peat Partnership is coordinating the delivery of upland peatland restoration across the Yorkshire Dales National Park, helping these vital habitats to recover.



Our vision is a Yorkshire with restored peatlands: a home to amazing wildlife that is valued for storing carbon, managing flooding, and providing clean water.

yppartnership.org.uk



Nethergill Farm

Nethergill Farm is creating a haven for wildlife in the heart of the Yorkshire Dales National Park. Its Nature Barn offers pause and comfort on The Dales Way, and offers longer stays with camping and on-site accommodation. Book your stay at nethergill.co.uk

The Dales Way Association

The Dales Way Association supports and promotes the Dales Way long distance footpath. If you plan to walk the Dales Way, or just want to know more, official route guides and information are available at dalesway.org

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust is committed to creating a Yorkshire rich in wildlife for everyone, and manages the work of Yorkshire Peat Partnership. ywt.org.uk

Yorkshire Dales National Park

Around three quarters of the Dales Way runs through the Yorkshire Dales National Park. Learn more about this outstanding place to explore at yorkshiredales.org.uk

The National Trust

The National Trust's work in the Yorkshire Dales – including peatland restoration alongside Yorkshire Peat Partnership – aims to make this precious landscape sustainable for all. nationaltrust.org.uk



Supported by



Farming in Protected Landscapes programme

The Peaty Dales Way

Celebrating Yorkshire's iconic walking route and the precious peatlands it crosses

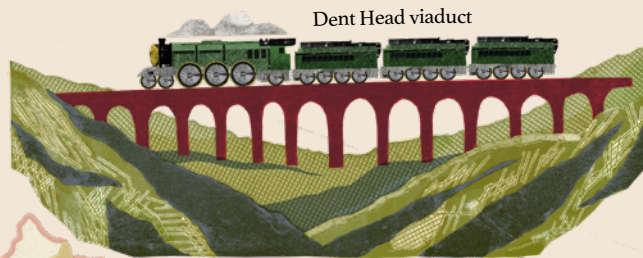


The Dales Way

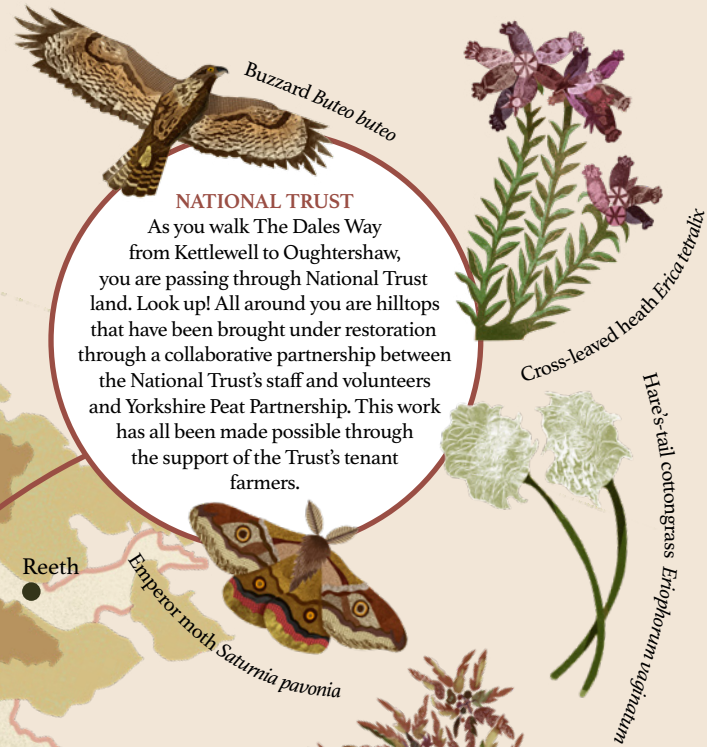
The Dales Way is one of England's most loved long distance walking paths. This iconic 80-mile-long walking route has an intrinsic relationship with water, following valley floors and river edges, whilst sitting in the shadow of upland peatlands. These 'blanket bogs' sit at the top of the catchments and soak up, store and gently release rain into the rivers.

When the Dales Way crosses the watershed at its halfway point of Cam Houses, it's traditionally seen as the 'slog' of the route. But as you rise over this section you are in the peatiest bit, and one of Yorkshire's most valuable and precious habitats. Take a little time to appreciate the beauty and solitude of this spectacular landscape.

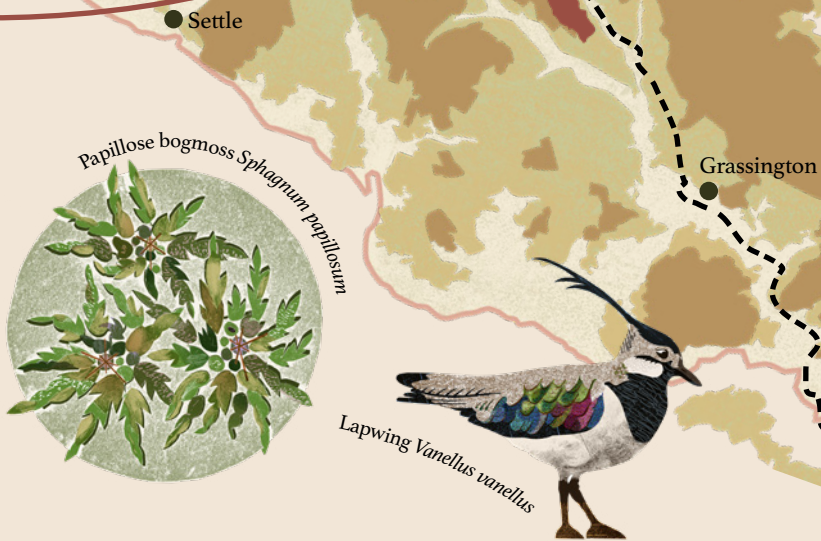
DENT HEAD
Close to the iconic Dent Head viaduct, the local farming family has taken the lead in restoring their damaged peatland. They have bought specialist equipment and practised restoration techniques to start the recovery of this remote area. It's a remarkable story of a diversified business which now delivers restoration across the National Park and beyond.



NATIONAL TRUST
As you walk The Dales Way from Kettlewell to Oughtershaw, you are passing through National Trust land. Look up! All around you are hilltops that have been brought under restoration through a collaborative partnership between the National Trust's staff and volunteers and Yorkshire Peat Partnership. This work has all been made possible through the support of the Trust's tenant farmers.



NETHERGILL FARM
Halfway along The Dales Way, Nethergill Farm marks the beginning of the route's most remote and challenging stretch. The site also pinpoints a story of collective action for nature. The farm's peatland is under restoration to help its biodiversity thrive; working together, the owners, local community, volunteers and scientists monitor its progress. Its bog pools are reforming, and ground-nesting birds are flocking to the site.



Yorkshire Peat Partnership has been restoring peatlands in the Yorkshire Dales since 2009.

Across the region, upland blanket bogs are now peppered with leaky dams. These slow the flow of water and help to restore sites like Fleet Moss – just up the hill from Nethergill. Once one of the most eroded peatlands in the Yorkshire Dales, its transformation from a brown ruin to a green and quaking bog is a leading example of the magical recovery we can see across the Dales.

- MAP KEY**
- Yorkshire Dales National Park boundary
 - Deep peat (peatland soil over 30cm)
 - Sites surveyed or brought under restoration by Yorkshire Peat Partnership
 - Spotlight peatland restoration sites on the Dales Way
 - Dales Way footpath



Illustrated by Charlotte Wilkinson

