

Peatland Conservation and the UK Peatland Code

Paul Leadbitter, Peatland Programme Manager

Peatland Programme Objectives:

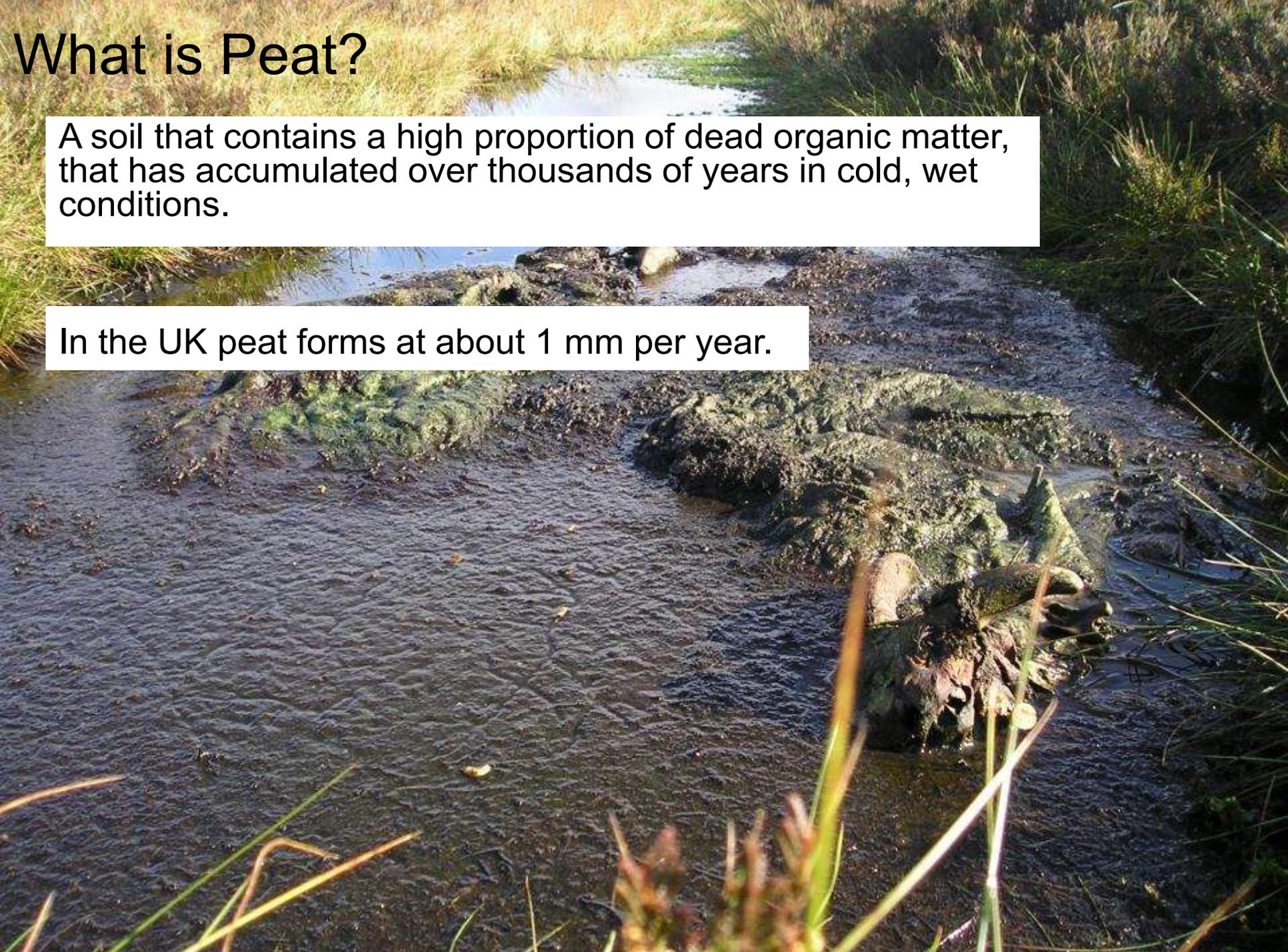


- **Restoration:** Supporting restoration and management work;
- **Research:** Supporting and disseminating new and existing research;
- **Celebration:** Raising appreciation and understanding of blanket bog;
- **Promoting best practice:** Provision of management advice.

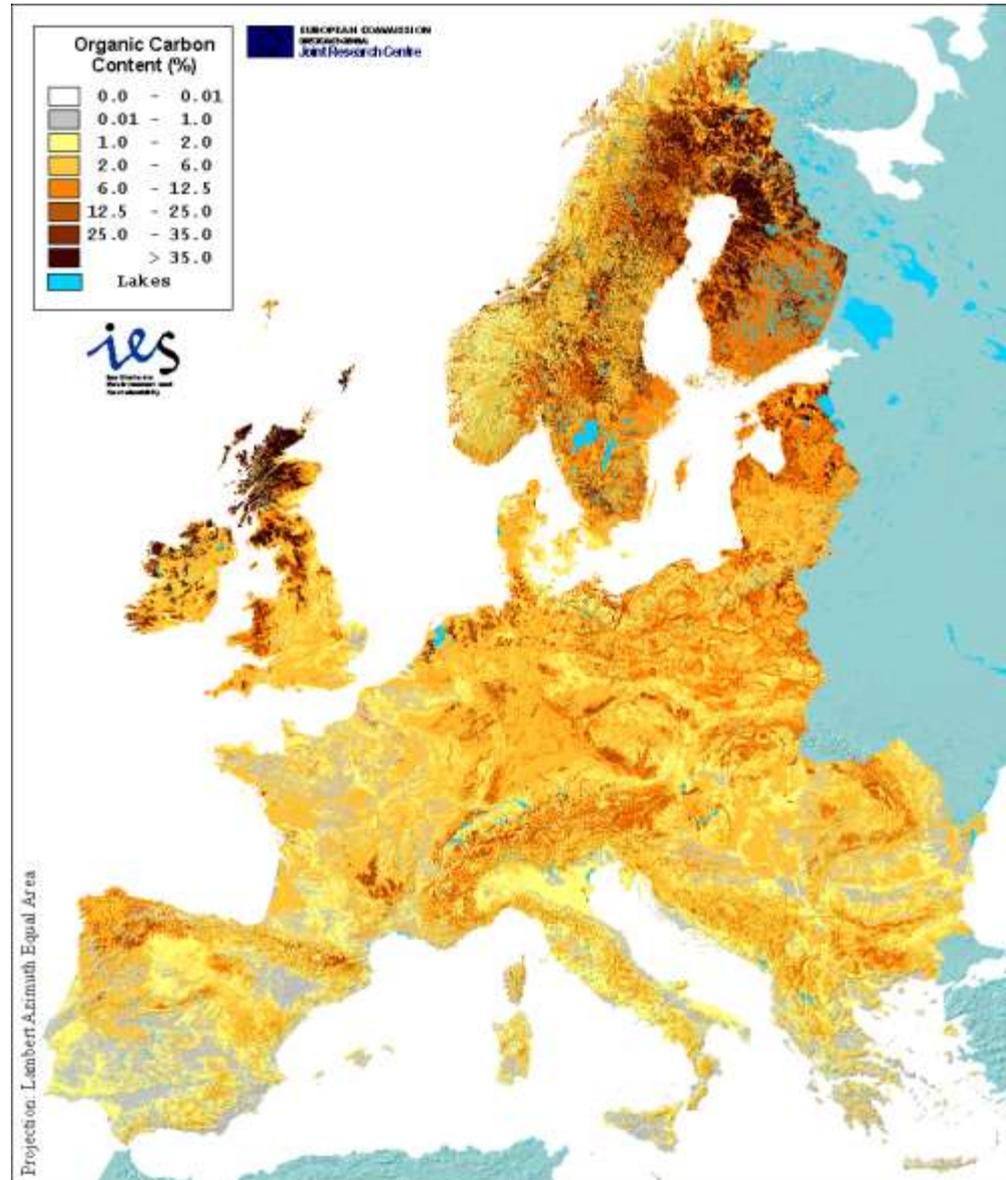
What is Peat?

A soil that contains a high proportion of dead organic matter, that has accumulated over thousands of years in cold, wet conditions.

In the UK peat forms at about 1 mm per year.



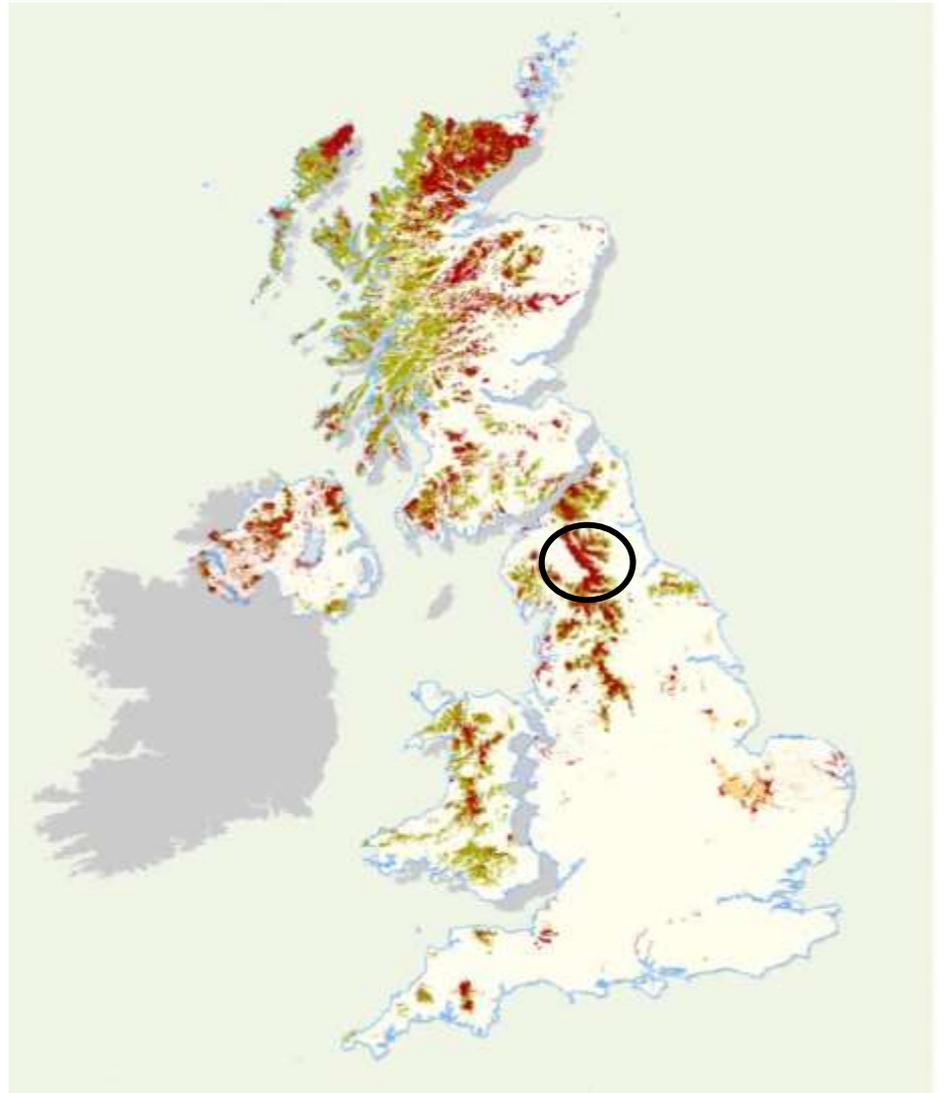
Where is Europe's Peat?



515,000 km²

Where is the UK's Peat ?

- 26,000 km² of peat
- 11% of the land base of the UK
- Blanket Bog, raised bog and fen
- Mostly privately owned
- Heavily managed
- Drained
- Grazed
- Burned
- Wind farms
- Roads
- North Pennines AONB



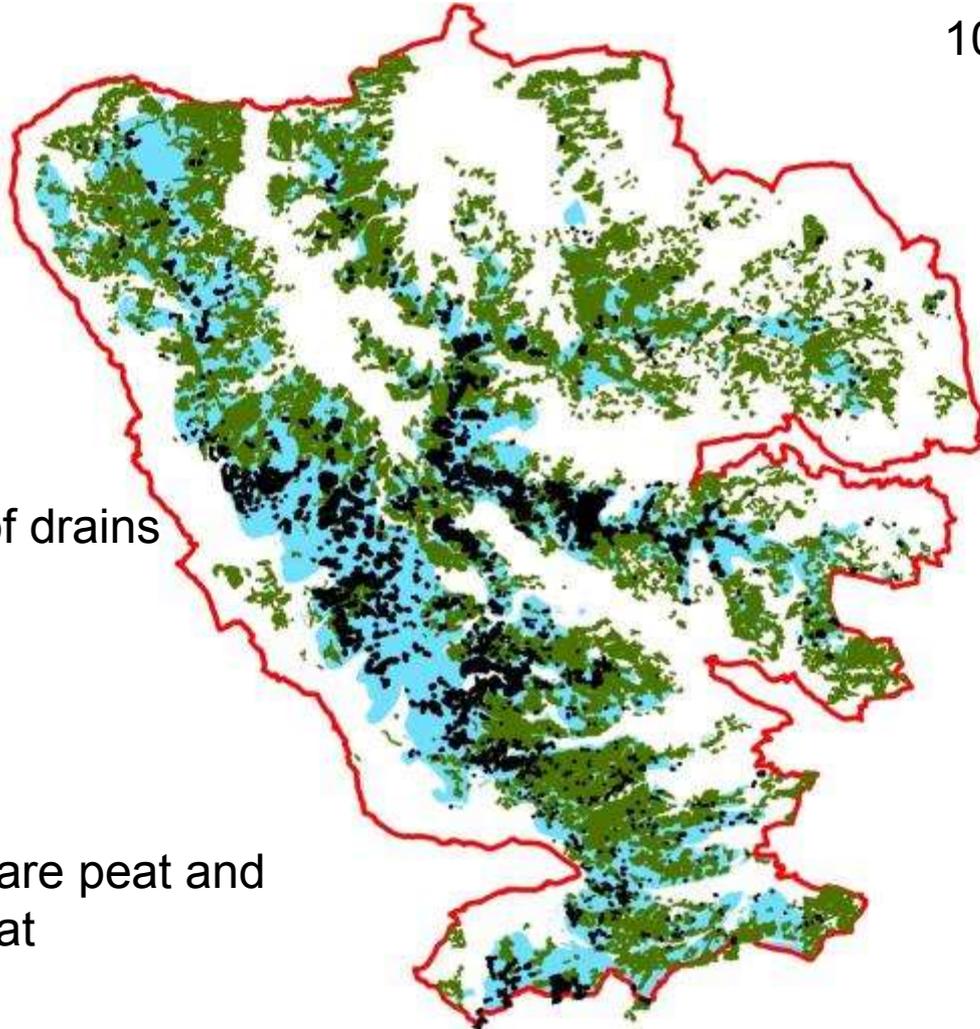
NORTH PENNINES

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

AONB ~ 2000 km²
1000 km² peat

10,000 km of drains

6000 ha of bare peat and
damaged peat



Why are Peatlands Important?

Biodiversity

Flooding

Carbon Store

Carbon Sink

Water Colour

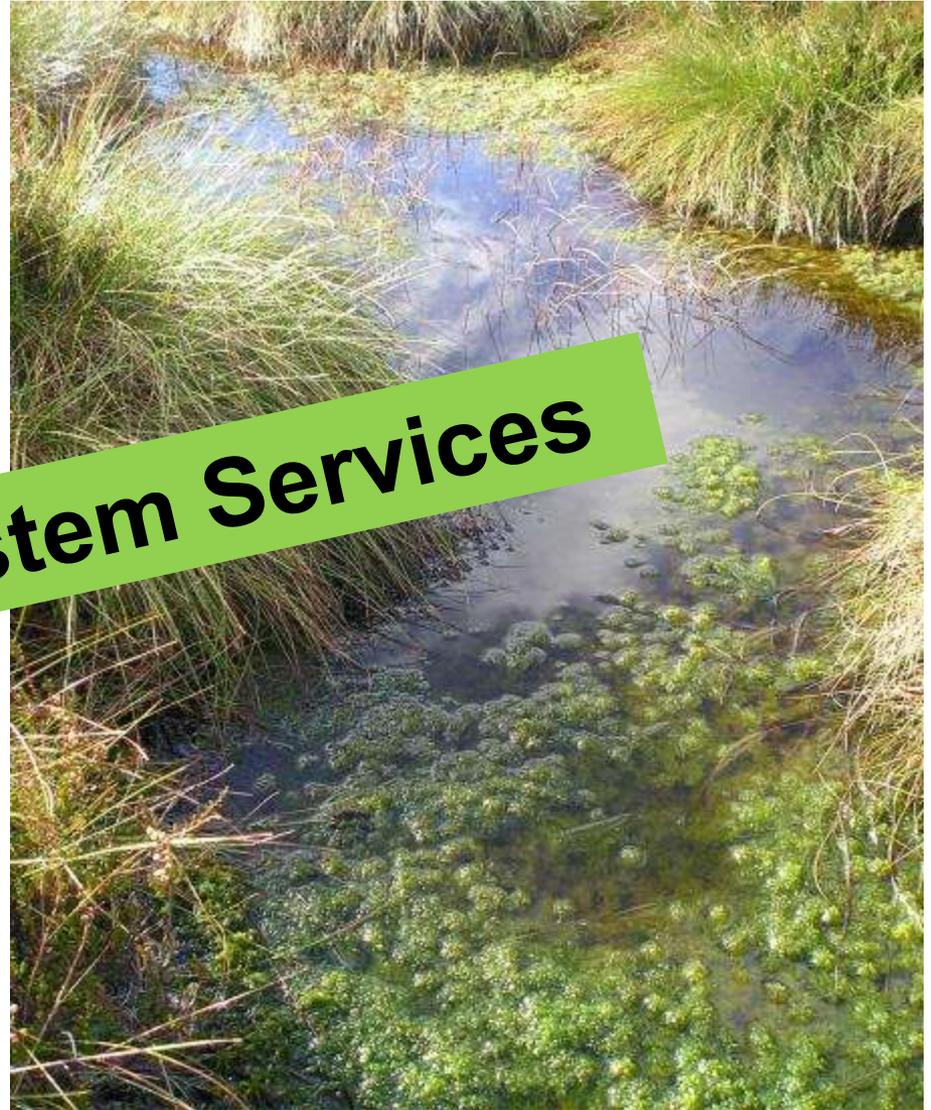
Water Supply

Sediment Loading

Historical Record

Economy

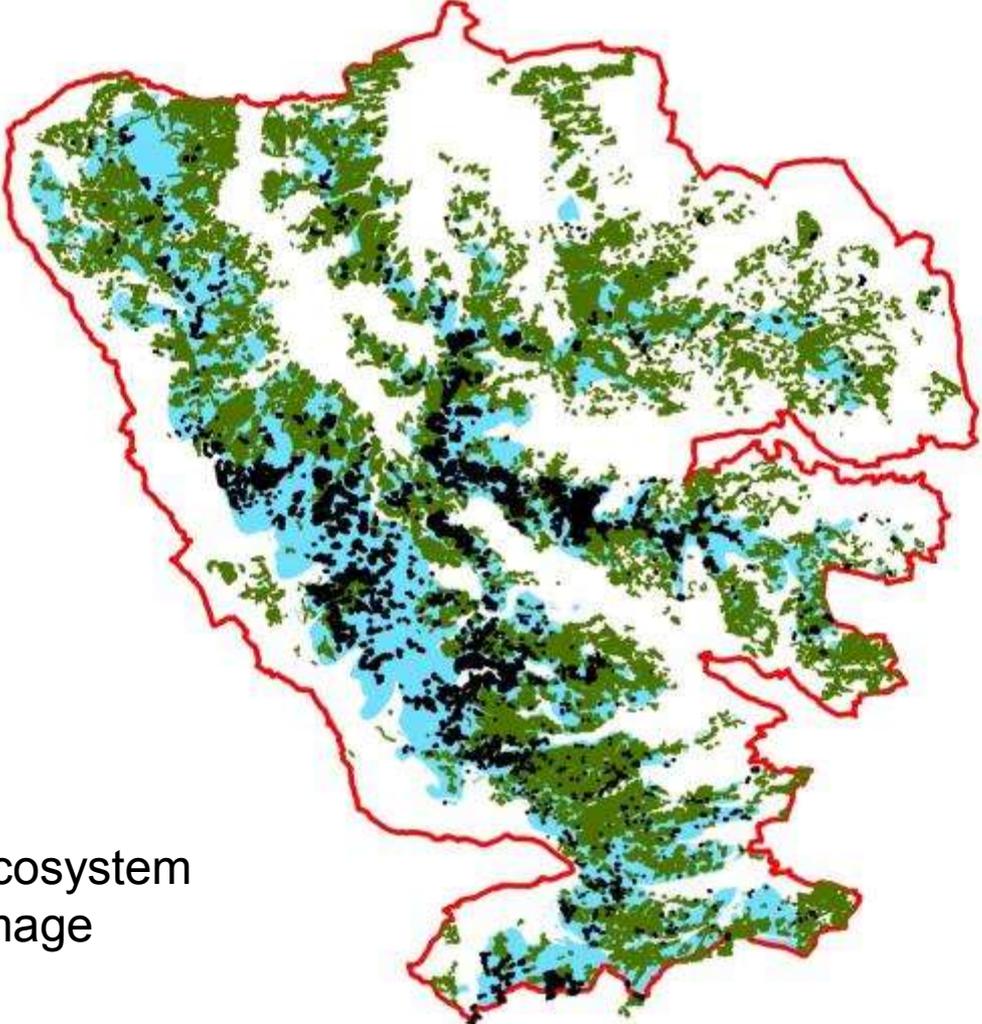
Ecosystem Services



NORTH PENNINES



Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



Significant Ecosystem
Services damage







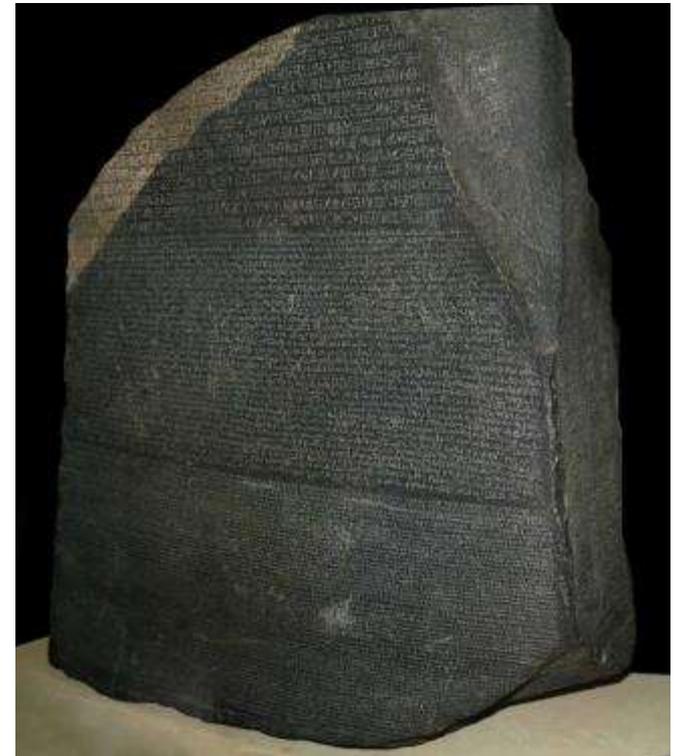




‘As you go through life, take time to monetise the roses.’

- 80% of UK peatlands are damaged
- Peatlands provide a series of ecosystem services to society
- There isn't enough funding to repair all the peatlands in the UK
- What service do peatlands provide that might be saleable?
- 10 million tonnes of CO₂ released from them every year
- 7% of global CO₂ emissions comes, 6% from global aviation
- Climate change is a significant issue
- There are carbon markets

PEATLAND CODE



What is a peatland worth?



€1.50 Flooding?

€3.20 Biodiversity?

€1.65 Sediment?

€0.65 Water Colour?

€4.00 Carbon Store?

CO₂



CO₂









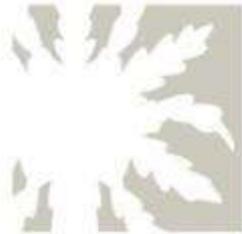
A simple equation



+

PEATLAND

CODE





TB175

TAKEUCHI

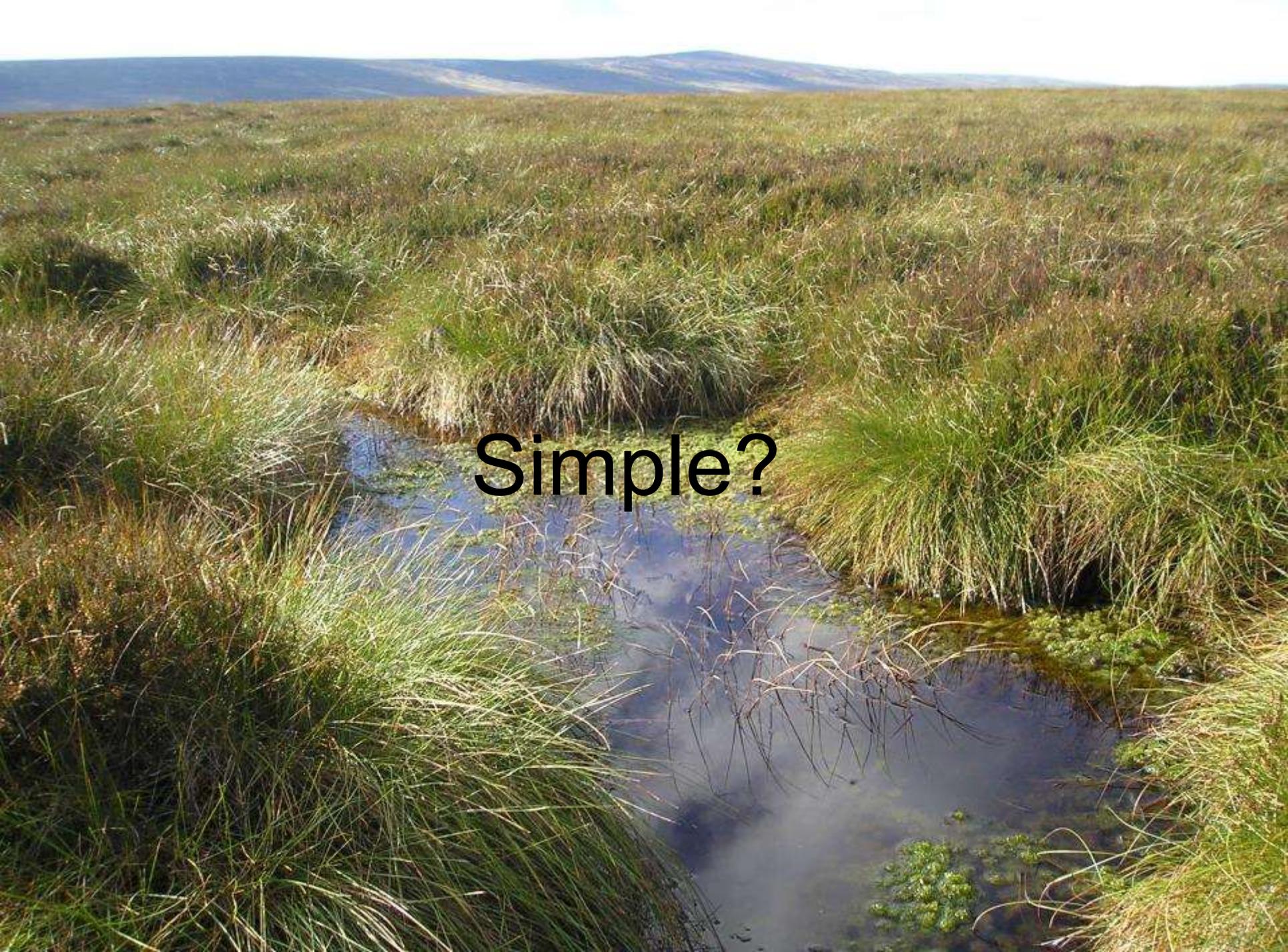


+



==



A landscape photograph showing a vast, flat expanse of tall, dry grasses in shades of green and brown. In the center, a small, dark pond reflects the sky and the surrounding vegetation. The background features a range of low, rolling hills under a clear sky. The word "Simple?" is written in a large, black, sans-serif font across the middle of the image.

Simple?

PEATLAND CODE



The Peatland Code is a voluntary standard which provides a consistent approach for UK peatland restoration projects wishing to attract private finance.

By achieving validation and verification to the Peatland Code businesses wishing to provide funding are given assurance that a restoration project will deliver the benefits they claim.

Currently the Peatland Code provides assurance for climate change related carbon benefits only.

So far the Peatland Code is untested*

HOW THE PEATLAND CODE WORKS



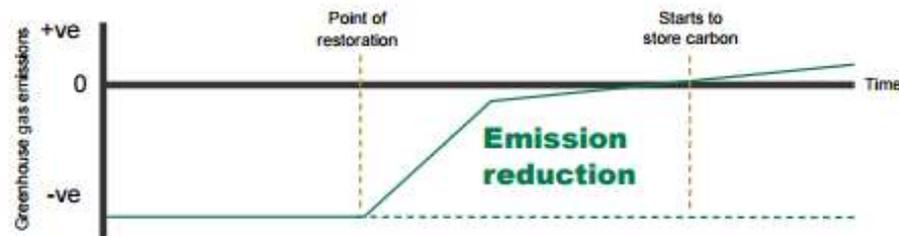
Benefits (100ha restoration project)

| | Over 30 years | Over 100 years |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Total Greenhouse Gas emissions reduction (restoration 50ha actively eroding, 50ha drained peat) | 22,141 tCO ₂ e | 73,803 tCO ₂ e |

Costs (100ha restoration project)

| | Over 30 years | Over 100 years |
|--|---------------|----------------|
| Av. capital costs (restoration 50ha actively eroding, 50ha drained peat) | £177,500 | £177,500 |
| Cost of monitoring, management, compliance and opportunity cost | £122,970 | £409,900 |
| Total cost | £300,470 | £587,400 |
| Equivalent price per tCO ₂ e | £13.50 | £7.95 |

Costs and benefits dependent on state of damaged land and type of restoration – figures quoted are for illustrative purposes only and will vary from site to site. An administrative charge will also apply per hectare restored.



NPAP has submitted a 6.7 million euro LIFE bid (Pennine PeatLIFE) aimed at restoring large areas of blanket bog in the Northern Pennines by demonstrating new restoration techniques suited to the harsher environment of northern England and the development and showcasing of a new financing technique.

This will be achieved by:

1. Demonstrating new region-specific and cost effective restoration techniques to speed up the re-activation of peat-forming blanket bog in the wetter, colder and higher eroded bog systems Pennines of northern England.
2. Demonstrating 10 'Concept to Contract' trials of the **UK Peatland Code** to showcase and test the on the ground viability of it as income stream to encourage landowners to restore and maintain peatlands in good condition.
3. Demonstrating and evaluating techniques for a simple, local and sustainable harvest of sphagnum mosses to provide an appropriate and consistent supply for use in restoration projects.
4. Promoting the importance of upland blanket bogs for carbon management to policy makers, landowners, conservation agencies in the EU and other key stakeholders

1. NPAP will work with Eurosites and IUCN UK Peatland Programme as part of this LIFE bid to promote a better understanding of UK peatland restoration work and the 'Concept to Contract' trials of the Peatland Code,
2. Site visits to the UK are planned to demonstrate new restoration techniques,
3. Planned events across the EU to maximise synergies with peatland conservation and ecosystem service payment discussions are also planned.
4. Bid decision, March 2017.

NORTH PENNINES

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



North Pennines
UNESCO
Global Geopark



Landscapes
for life
.org.uk

{ NORTH PENNINES
One of the
AONB family

Peatland Conservation and the UK Peatland Code

Paul Leadbitter, Peatland Programme Manager