



## United Kingdom



### Legal Status

Roudsea Wood and Mosses (SAC)

Morecambe Bay (SAC) (part) including Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA and Morecambe Bay RAMSAR

Roudsea Wood and Mosses (SSSI)

Roudsea Wood and Mosses National Nature Reserve (NNR)

Lake District National Park / World Heritage Site

### Habitats and Protected Species

Lowland raised bog

Fen

Wet woodland

### Management

Natural England

### Information and videos

Further information:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cumbrian-bogs-life-project>

Leaflet Roudsea Wood and Mosses NNR:  
<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5794526008442880>

## Roudsea Wood and Mosses

### Introduction

Roudsea Wood and Mosses is in Cumbria, northern England, and covers 398 ha. It is one of the best examples of active raised bog in the UK, of European significance and a designated National Nature Reserve. The site's varied geology, from limestone in the east to slates in the west, together with areas of alluvial soils and fens, support a diverse range of habitat types. The high rainfall in the region has led to the development of lowland raised bogs and deep peat deposits. Restoration of the bog through the removal of trees, scrub and rhododendron, blocking ditches, stabilisation of the peat cutting faces and creation of bunds was completed in the autumn of 2019.

### Issues & key challenges

- Degraded or partially restored lowland raised bogs are highly susceptible to climatic changes leading to drying of the peat. This, coupled with the fact that some of the adjacent bog habitat is under private ownership and not under restoration, will be a continued challenge for the site.
- Non-native species, primarily Rhododendron has had a major impact on the bogs and requires ongoing control, the aim being to eradicate it from the site. Restoring the naturally occurring high water table should help reduce scrub and tree encroachment.
- The coastal salt marsh currently is in good condition, but confined by hard sea defences. Sea level rise will put increasing pressure on the habitat.



### Outcomes & benefits

- The restoration of the bog will lead to the protection of the current carbon stocks with active bog forming, leading to the site becoming an active carbon sink sequestering -99 tonnes C/yr or -344 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>eq/yr.
- Huge reduction in wildfire risk thanks to the tree felling / mulching and hydrological restoration.
- Several rare species are benefiting from the restoration of the wetland habitat, such as argent and sable, raft spider, oblong-leaved sundew, adder, otter, breeding osprey and large yellow sedge.

### Lessons learnt & future

- Successful restoration of lowland raised bogs requires most, if not all, the historic area of the bog and surrounding transitional habitat to be covered to enable the hydrological conditions that support active bog development to be created, and the potential adverse impacts of adjacent land use and land use change to be minimised.
- Looking forward, management now aims to safeguard the restored hydrology of the peat body and to facilitate the recovery of an active bog system such that the bog receives all its water from rain and other precipitation; and the water table in the peat is stable and near the surface.



CARBON SINKS



NATURAL SPONGES

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Eurosite Factsheet

Wetlands and Climate Change

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