



# WaterLANDS

Water-based Solutions for Carbon Storage, People & Wilderness

Professor Joe Holden, Professor Julia Martin-Ortega, Dr Richard Grayson  
University of Leeds [r.grayson@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:r.grayson@leeds.ac.uk) @georg



[@WaterLANDS\\_EU](https://twitter.com/WaterLANDS_EU)



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[www.waterlands.eu](http://www.waterlands.eu)



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# At a Glance

**Title:** Water-based solutions for carbon storage, people and wilderness

**Programme:** H2020-LC-GD-2020-3

**Type of action:** Innovation Action

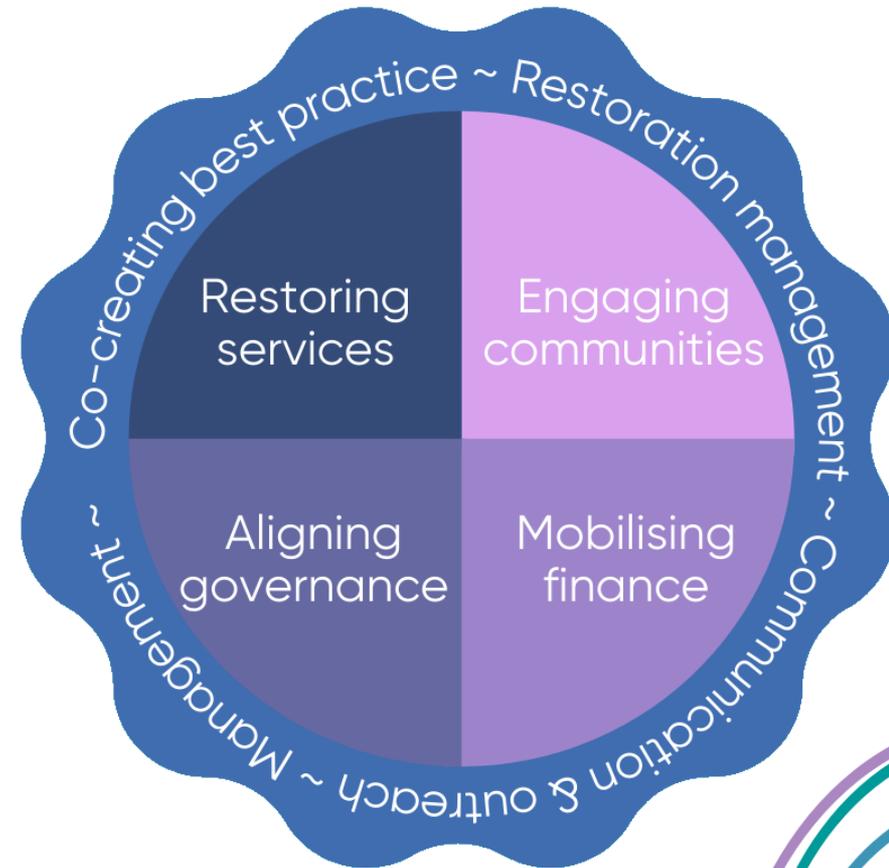
**Duration:** Dec. 2021 – Nov. 2026 (60 months)

**Coordinator:** University College Dublin, Ireland

**Consortium:** 32 partners from 14 countries

**Total Budget:** €23,631,574

EU Grant: €23,068,483



# Restoration Green Cluster



[www.waterlands.eu](http://www.waterlands.eu)



[www.project-merlin.eu](http://www.project-merlin.eu)



[www.rest-coast.eu](http://www.rest-coast.eu)



## SUPERB

Upscaling Forest Restoration

<https://forest-restoration.eu>

Projects will demonstrate how restoration can be up-scaled.

Support commitments in EU Green Deal,

- Biodiversity Strategy, EU Restoration Law, UN CBD

Demonstrate how large-scale restoration can deliver benefits and synergies:

- Adaptation/mitigation of climate change (including its financing)
- Secure ecosystem service provision (including financing)
- Increase resilience to natural disasters
- Reversal of persistent biodiversity loss

# iCASP Ways of Working

## Using approaches developed through iCASP:

- Deliver impact
- Build on existing knowledge
- Enable partnership working – multiple stakeholders
- Carry out community engagement
- Science to policy

Also using the iCASP region (plus a bit more) as a case study



# Leeds Team

- Joseph Holden
- Julia Martin-Ortega
- Richard Grayson
- Jenny Armstrong
- Jiren Xu
- Josh Cohen
- Gaby Lopez Gonzalez
- Cath Seal
- Melanie Stonard
- Andy Baird
- Pippa Chapman
- Paul Morris
- Lee Brown
- Klaus Glenk (SRUC)

## UK Partners



# Wetlands Restoration



- **Wetlands provide essential services** for landscapes and society by:
  - retaining and purifying water
  - removing pollutants and excess nutrients
  - storing atmospheric carbon
  - moderating flooding and coastal storms
  - supporting an immense variety of wildlife
  - offering recreation, well-being and economic opportunities
- When mismanaged, these valuable services are lost.
- With the rapid global loss of biodiversity and an increase in the frequency of environmental disasters associated with climate change, **the restoration of wetlands is more important than ever.**
- Practical solutions are currently lacking or fragmented.



# Project Objectives



- WaterLANDS aims to restore wetland sites across Europe which have been damaged by human activity and to lay the foundations for upscaling protection across more areas.
- The project will undertake hands-on restoration of specific wetland sites, covering an initial 10,500 hectares, and create best practice models that can be applied to wetland restoration at other sites.
- By engaging with local communities, policymakers and other stakeholders, the project will ensure that wetland restoration results not only in environmental gains, but also social and economic benefits for the communities involved.
- Identifying viable investible propositions for wetlands will also help establish long-term financial support for scalability.

# Expected Results



The WaterLANDS partners will work together to:

- **Demonstrate** large-scale wetland restoration
- **Overcome** barriers to restoration and develop integrated solutions for upscaling
- **Foster** cross-sectoral and interdisciplinary collaboration to co-create restoration
- **Apply** a community-led paradigm in the co-design of restoration
- **Maintain** wetland carbon storage and enhanced natural carbon sequestration services
- **Provide** tailored financial solutions and resources for restoration
- **Incubate** a restoration legacy by showing the basis for upscaling

# Project Network

- Building a Legacy across

- 15 Knowledge Sites
- 6 Action Sites
- 14 Partner Countries

**Action Site** – Yorkshire iCASP – Great North Bog

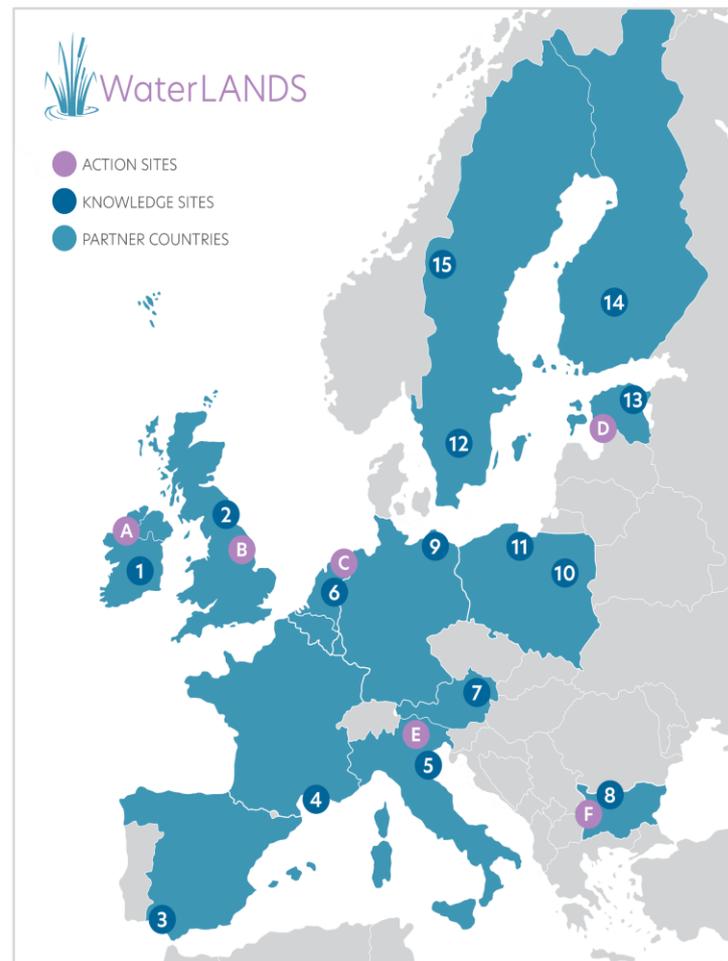
**Knowledge Site** – PeatDataHub  
water@leeds

## ACTION SITES

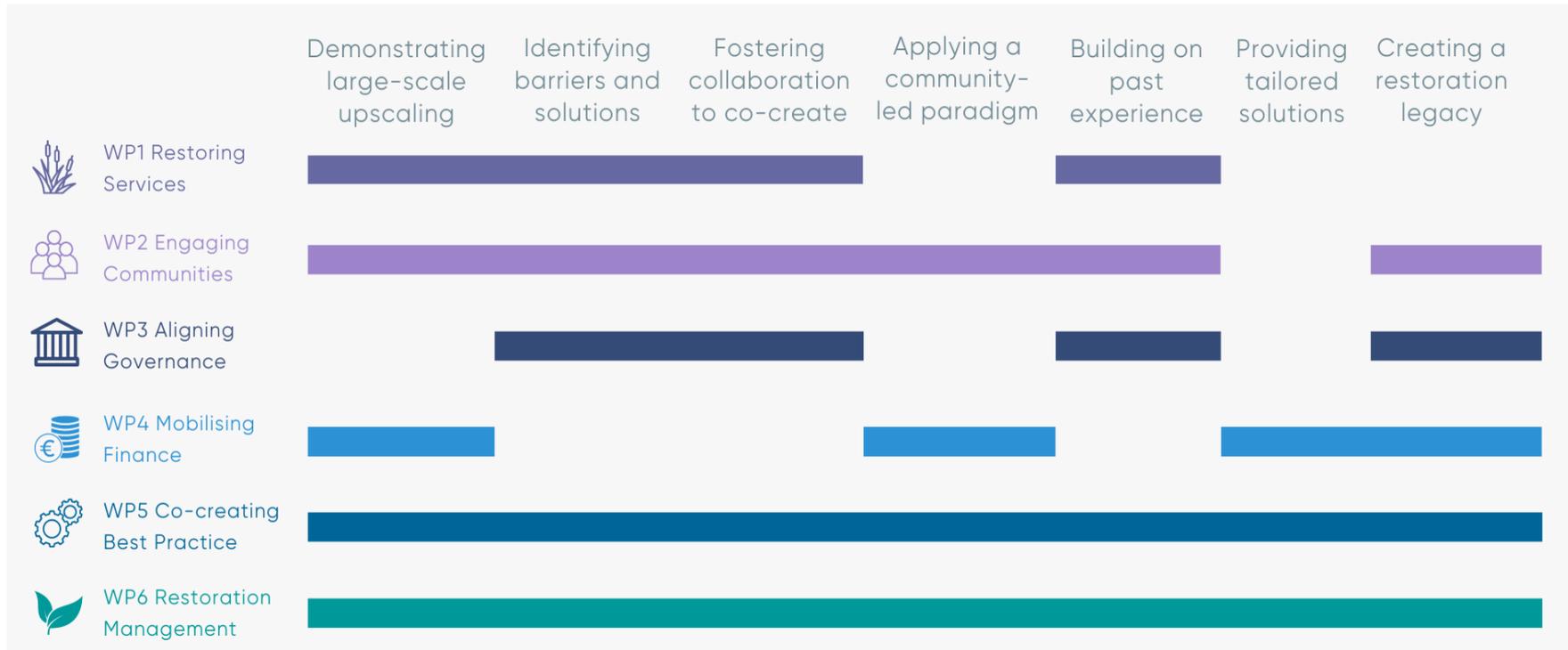
- A LIFE-IP Wild Atlantic Nature (Ireland)
- B Yorkshire iCASP (The United Kingdom)
- C Eems-Dollard Estuary (The Netherlands)
- D Pärnu Catchment (Estonia)
- E Venice Lagoon (Italy)
- F Dragoman Marsh (Bulgaria)

## KNOWLEDGE SITES

- 1 Abbeyleix Bog (Ireland)
- 2 Water@Leeds (The United Kingdom)
- 3 Doñana Wetland (Spain)
- 4 Camargue (France)
- 5 Venice Lagoon (Italy)
- 6 Engbertsdijkvenen (The Netherlands)
- 7 Landscape Finance Lab (Austria)
- 8 Belene Island (Bulgaria)
- 9 M. Succow Foundation (Germany)
- 10 Wetlands around Warsaw (Poland)
- 11 Mazury Forest Mire (Poland)
- 12 Store Mosse (Sweden)
- 13 Sirtsu and Tudusoo Mires (Estonia)
- 14 Siikaneva (Finland)
- 15 Jämtland Mountains (Sweden)

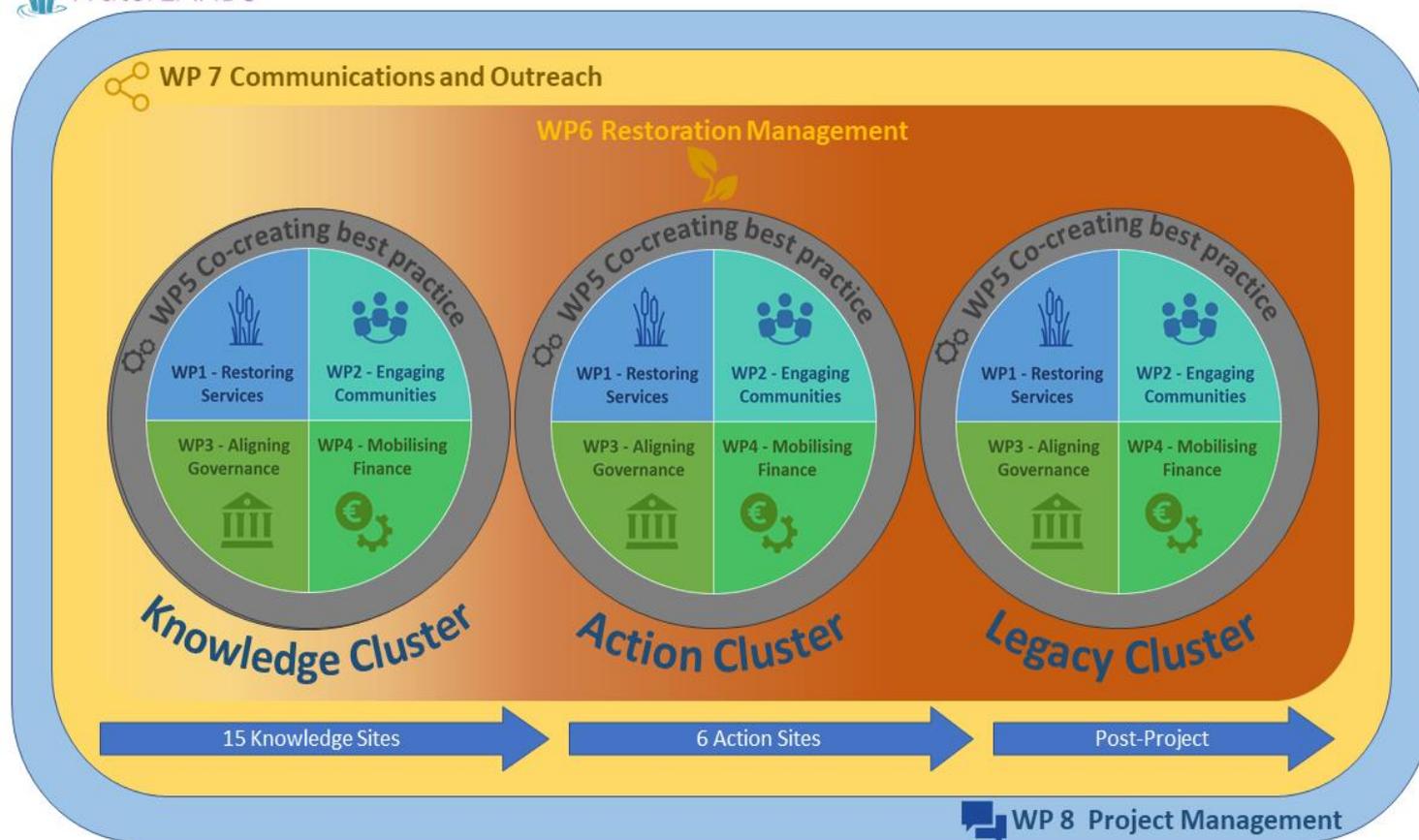


# Project Structure



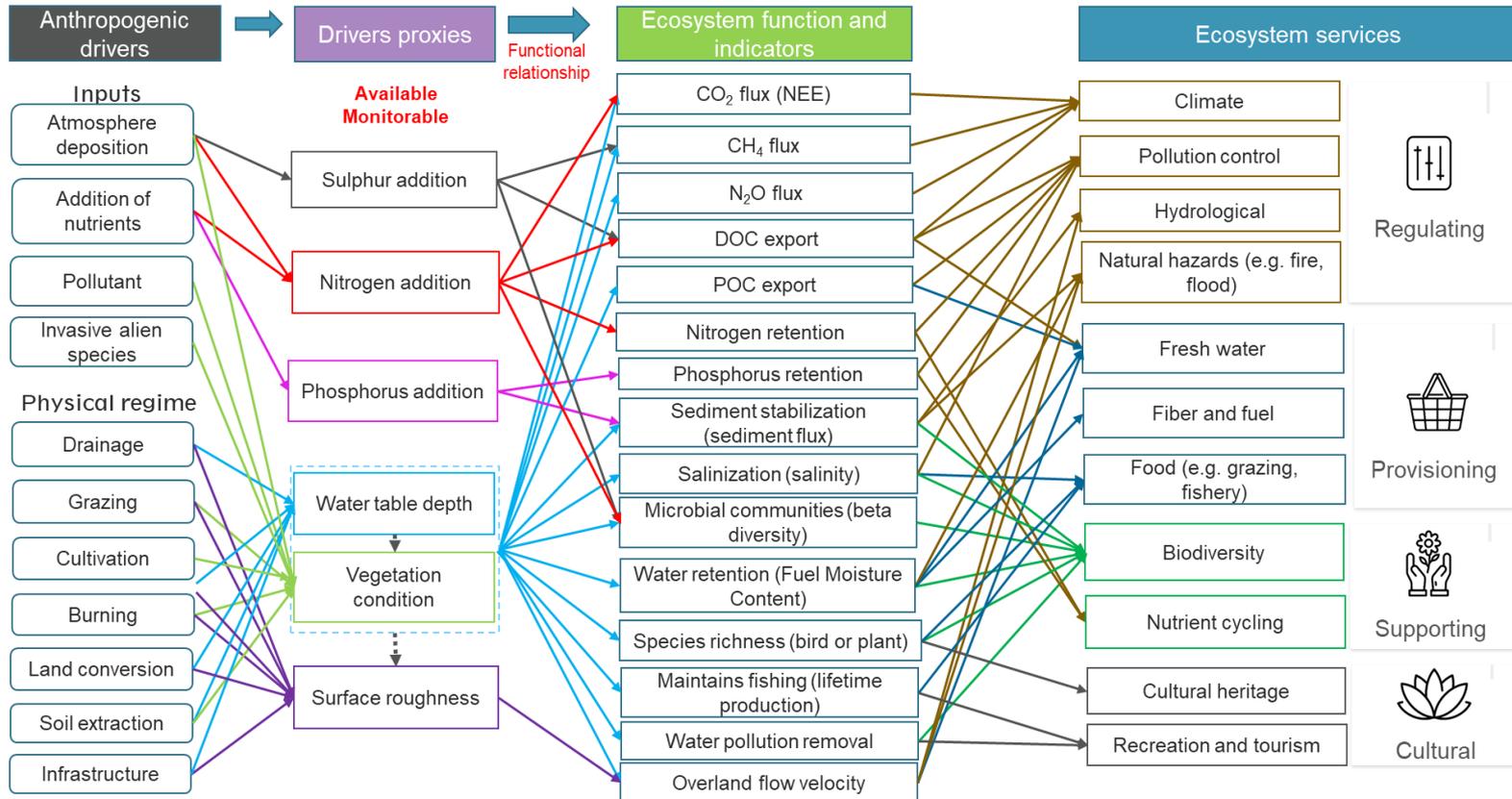
Work Packages (WP) on Communication, Dissemination, Knowledge Management and Exploitation of Results; Project Management; and Ethics Requirements.

# Work Package nesting



# WP1 Restoring Services

## WP1.2 Assess drivers of change and tipping points in wetland functioning **Jiren Xu** (Impact pathways from anthropogenic drivers to ecosystem services of EU wetlands (bog, fen, swamp, inland marsh, and coastal marsh))



Source: Ramsar Global Wetland Outlook (2018), European Environment Agency website, EU Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services (2013), and T1.1 results

# WP2 Engaging Communities



**WP2.1** Analysis of existing and best community engagement practice

**WP2.2** Assessing community and stakeholder relationships with wetlands **Josh Cohen**

**WP2.3** Systems for the economic and social transitioning for restoration

**WP2.4** Monitoring & evaluation of community engagement processes at Action Sites **Jenny Armstrong**



# WP6 Restoration Management



**Overall Objective:** To ensure the effective development, planning and execution of wide-scale restoration of wetlands across the WaterLANDS network of Action Sites.

## Specific objectives:

1. Draw on the interdisciplinary expertise and developments in the preceding WPs to plan and commence practical restoration actions with a view to visible results by 2024.
2. Provide the practical means to recruit and engage local stakeholders in the co-design of restoration.
3. Identify and satisfy the planning and regulatory requirements of instigating large-scale restoration.
4. Monitor the effectiveness of restoration activities.
5. Ensure the foundations for long-term viability and scalability of restoration at all action sites and a selection of knowledge sites.

# Yorkshire iCASP: United Kingdom



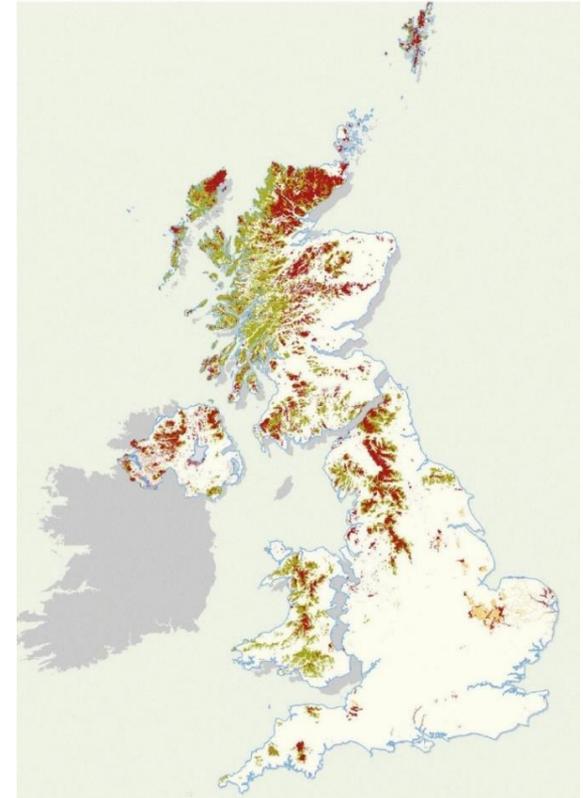
UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS



~9 % of UK has deep peat cover

~20 % has shallow peaty soils

New peat map of England is being surveyed 2022-2024, including peat depth, condition and other properties



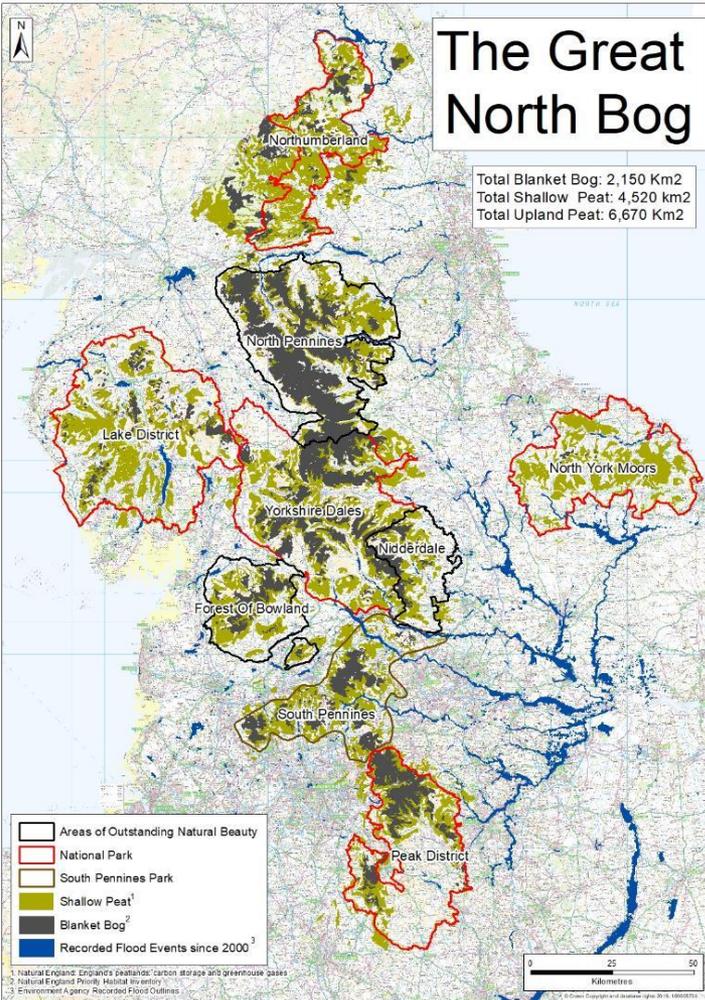
# Yorkshire iCASP: United Kingdom



## The Great North Bog

Total Blanket Bog: 2,150 Km<sup>2</sup>  
 Total Shallow Peat: 4,520 km<sup>2</sup>  
 Total Upland Peat: 6,670 Km<sup>2</sup>

The Great North Bog is an ambitious, large-scale peatland restoration initiative being developed by:



# Knowledge Site



Gaby Lopez Gonzalez

Any relevant peatland research

## PeatDataHub

combining global peatland datasets

<https://peatdatahub.net/>



<https://www.iucn-uk-peatlandprogramme.org/get-involved/eyes-bog>



r.grayson@leeds.ac.uk @georg

**Project Manager:**

Craig Bullock

[craig.bullock@ucd.ie](mailto:craig.bullock@ucd.ie)

**Deputy Project Manager:**

Shane Mc Guinness

[shane.mcguinness@ucd.ie](mailto:shane.mcguinness@ucd.ie)



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