

Current state of play: peatland policy, strategy and action

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Lancashire
Manchester
North Merseyside



Géosciences pour une Terre durable
brgm



NUI Galway
OÉ Gaillimh

UK peatland policy is complex!

Climate

Strategy

Regional

European

Legislation

Planning

Natural Capital

Carbon trading

Devolved

Brexit

Biodiversity

National

International

Environmental

Agriculture

International obligations



CONVENTION ON WETLANDS
(Ramsar, Iran, 1971)



United Nations Framework
Convention on Climate Change

Convention on Biological Diversity



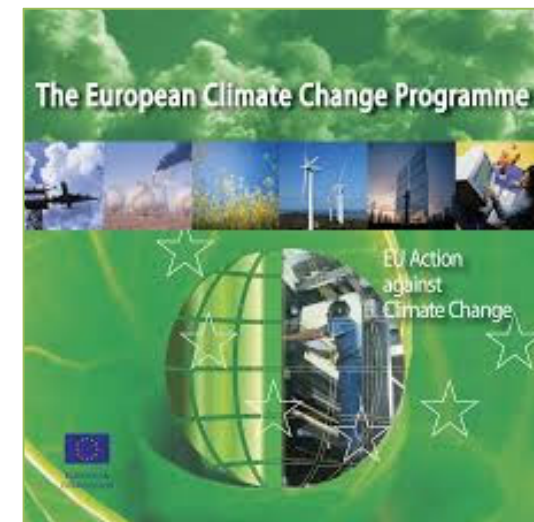
IUCN
World
Conservation
Congress
Hawai'i 2016

 SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Interreg 
North-West Europe
Care-Peat
European Regional Development Fund

European policy drivers



Policy and legislation in England

- **Protection/ Conservation:**

- Statutory area designations (e.g. SSSIs)
- National Planning Policy Framework



- **Funding for peatland restoration**

- Through current voluntary agri-environment schemes
- *Can be conflicts between restoration and other land management practices*
- Government-level (Defra) grant schemes (e.g. £10million in 2017)

- **Climate legislation** - Climate Change Act 2008

- Set emissions reductions targets BUT does not include formal recognition that peatland play a important role in reaching targets

A Green Future: 25 Year Plan to improve the Environment

Specific peatland objectives include:

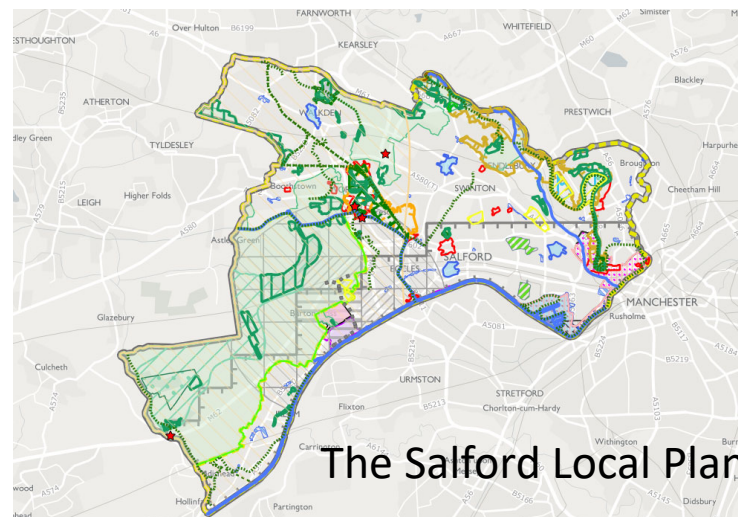
- Improving soil health, restoring and protecting vulnerable peatlands
- Ending peat use in horticultural products by 2030
- Create and deliver a new ambitious framework for peat restoration in England to ensure all of our peatlands are functioning for the needs of wildlife and people by 2030.



Key policy and strategy reports

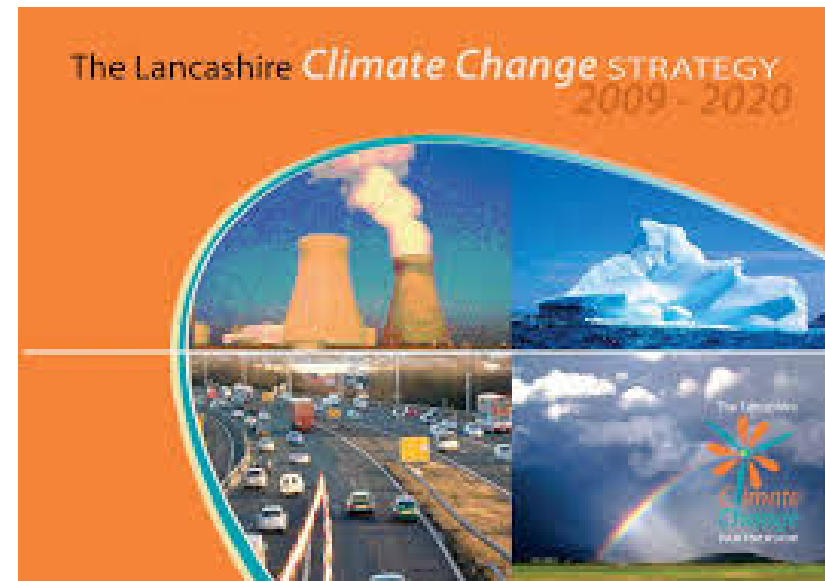


Regional Policy: Greater Manchester



Regional Policy: Lancashire

- Lancashire Climate Change Strategy 2009-2020
- Lancashire Green Infrastructure Strategy (2009)
- Landscape Strategy for Lancashire (2000)
- Local Plan for Lancaster District 2011-2031



Current State of play: Action

- Regional peat partnerships across upland and lowlands
- Rivers Trust and Catchment Based Approach (CaBA) partnerships



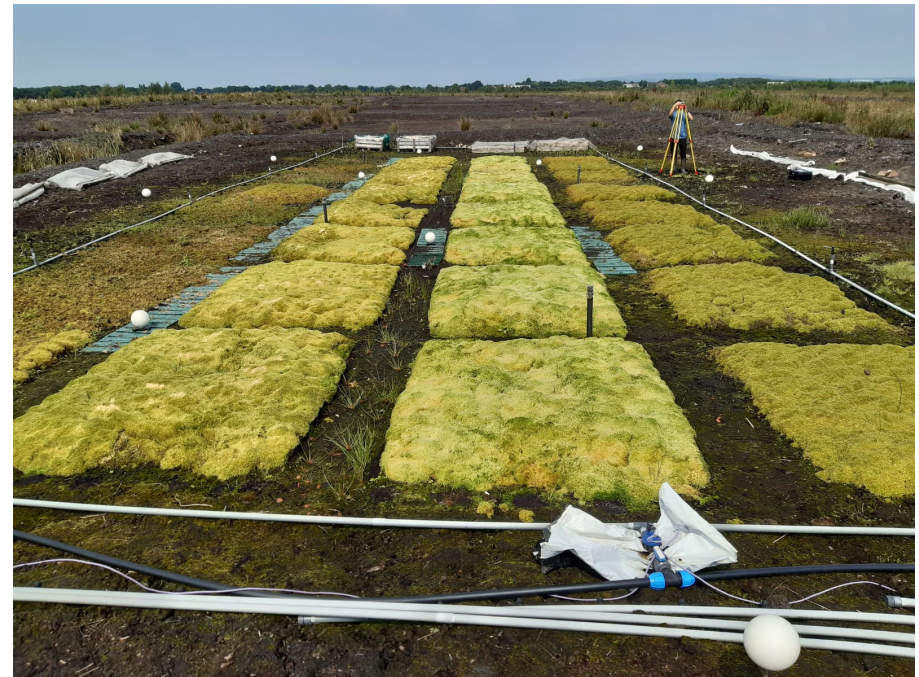
Current State of play: Action funding

- Defra biodiversity spending, EU spending and NGO spending accounts for over £476 million per year



Current State of play: alternative land management

Project Name	Areas Investigated
Sphagnum Farming UK - A Sustainable Alternative to Peat in Growing Media	Sphagnum cultivation.
Waterworks Project	Typha, Reed, Sphagnum, Glyceria and other cultivation
Wetland Conservation Biomass to Bioenergy	Biomass production for energy – Reed, Typha, Fen biomass.
CANAPE project / Hickling Broad	Converting surplus materials from conservation management into commercial products – reed and sedge.



Sphagnum Farming UK – Innovate UK



Conclusions

- **United Kingdom is one of the countries leading the way in restoring peatlands**
- **Projects across the UK are delivering often large scale, restoration and rewetting of peatlands**
- **Government commitments to secure future of this peatlands**

And yet...

- **80% of our UK peatlands are still in a damaged state**
- **There are conflicts between peatland restoration and some subsidy-based land management practices**
- **We are in a time of significant policy change post-Brexit**