



EYES ON THE BOG

funded as part of THE GREAT NORTH BOG

What?

Eyes on the Bog enables scientifically robust, repeatable, low-tech, long-term monitoring on peatland sites.

Once set up, data can be easily and sustainably be collected by staff, keepers, farmers or local volunteers.

The basic techniques have been designed by the **IUCN UK Peatlands Programme**. The standardised procedures mean that peatlands can be monitored across the UK to a consistent standard, creating a network of sites that can be easily and reliably compared with one another.



Peatland Programme

Where?

Eyes on the Bog sites can include damaged peatlands, peatlands under restoration or peatlands in good condition. Having sites at different stages can help us understand how they change through time.

Monitoring instruments should be established on deep peat to which monitors have easy, safe access.



Peat depth marker

Why?

Existing peatland monitoring is happening around the UK but to varying standards—this means data from one site may not be easily compared with data from another. We want to establish a simple, repeatable set of guidelines setting out how to collect the basic information needed to assess the condition of peatlands and effectiveness of restoration techniques; this will help us to refine the Peatland Code and test long term climate predictions.

The aim of Eyes on the Bog is for the equipment to run for as long as possible to collect long-term, reliable data without damaging the bog. We want to create a network of monitoring plots on accessible sites. We hope to involve the public as citizen scientists and so raise awareness of these special habitats.

Who?

We (Great North Bog) are proposing locations as Eyes on the Bog sites across the north of England. We are asking local land owners, farmers, gamekeepers, volunteer groups, schools and other community groups to get involved. Exactly who is involved will vary from site to site depending on access (safety) and interest. It is possible just to have a farmer or gamekeeper check the monitoring once a year or, if a site has access and interested parties, involve volunteers and the local community much more frequently.

Eyes on the Bog sites must be set up following the exact procedure described in the manual. If sites are not set up in a standardised manner, the data collected will be less reliable and not comparable with other sites in the network. We are proposing to do additional monitoring to the IUCN basic set up. How much additional monitoring will depend on each site.



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When?

We are aiming to set up sites as soon as possible.

A basic set up will need monitoring once or twice a year. If there are more things being monitored then it may need visiting several times a year.

Questions

Where does the data go?

Great North Bog partners and the Peat Data hub hosted at Leeds University and any stakeholders (landowners, keepers etc.) who would like them.

How often will someone visit?

Depends on what monitoring is agreed for the site but at least once or twice a year.

How much space will this occupy?

On each site (moor) that joins the monitoring there will be a square plot of 5 by 5 metres containing all the equipment. This will be a wooden post to mark the plot and provide a photograph point, a peat depth rod and water table rods; these will be in the ground but with a small part sticking up to allow them to be located. Other rods might mark locations of vegetation monitoring quadrats or other monitoring if that has been agreed for that site.

How long will the monitoring be there?

Ideally, many years. It may not be possible to always monitor everything but the peat depth rods, for instance, could be left a very long time to see if peat is lost or accumulated in the area.

Types of monitoring

Peat depth marker (post)

Water table rods

Fixed point photography

These three are required on every site, everything else will depend on the site.

Tea bag index

Vegetation quadrats

Camera traps

Moth traps

Gas monitoring

Bat surveys

Riverfly monitoring

Butterfly transects

Sediment rods

360 photography



Yorkshire Wildlife Trust