National Peatland Action Programme: Year 6 Report

2025/26



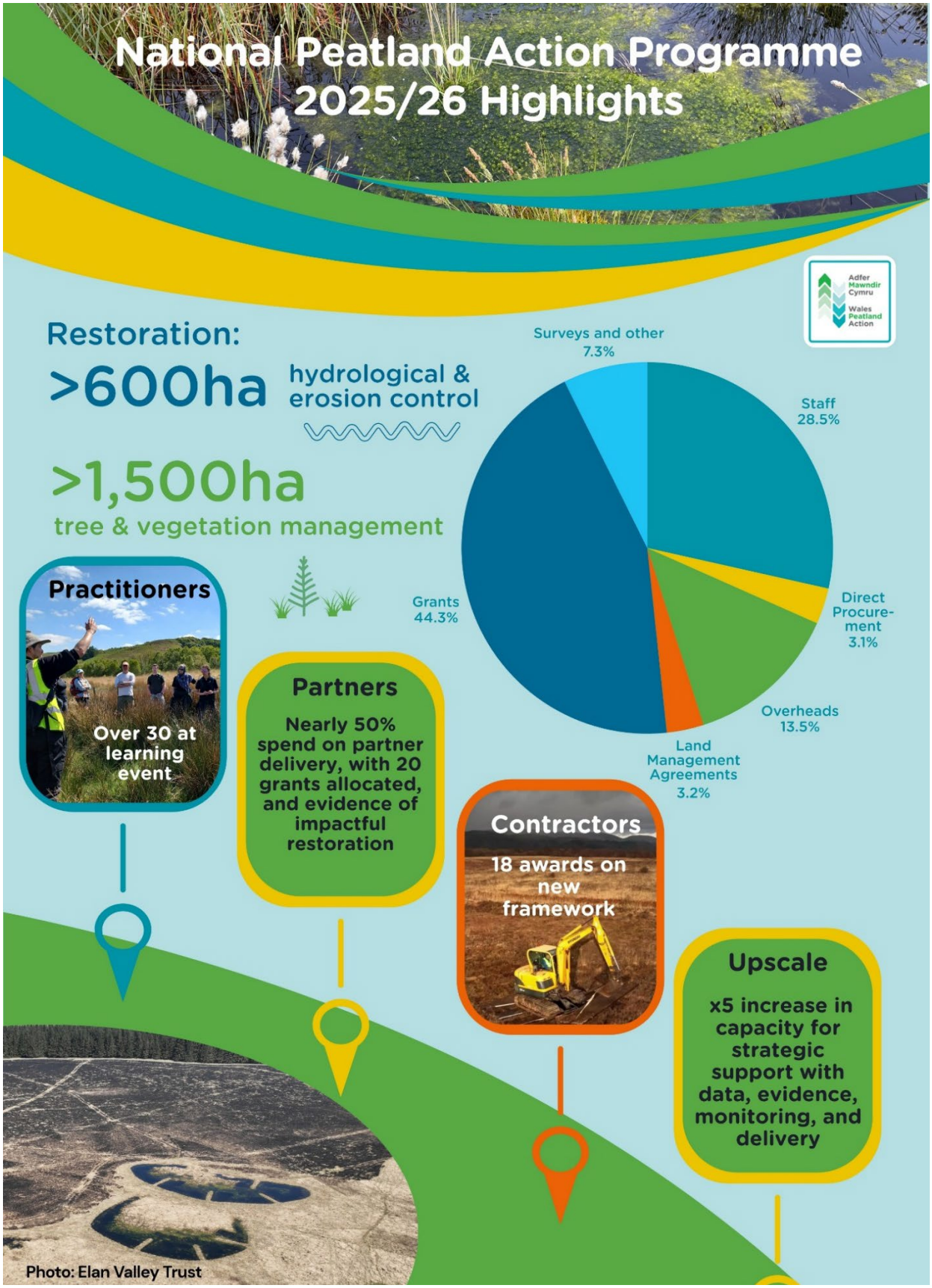
Natural Resources Wales, September 2026

(English language version)

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1.2025/26 Highlights



2. Executive Summary

2.1. The long view…

The Welsh Government commitments to nature recovery, sustainable land management and climate action have driven its ambition to significantly increase peatland restoration across the country. Through the National Peatland Action Programme (NPAP), the aim is to triple the annual peatland restoration rate by 2030/31.This builds on the successful delivery of the initial five-year (2020-25) Programme phase, which exceeded its original peatland restoration target, of 3,000ha, by delivering >3,600ha of restoration.

Moving from the initial Programme to delivering at the scale required by Welsh Government demands a step change in capacity, capability and ways of working across the peatland restoration sector. Transition was therefore a key feature of 2025/26 as NPAP embedded the upscaled capacity required to deliver at greater pace and scale. Under the banner, Wales Peatland Action, the wider restoration partnership is also key to delivering the upscale targets and is central to the expansion of the Programme.

To meet Welsh Government's target of achieving 1,800ha restoration per year by 2030/31, NPAP has planned for the incremental scaling of capability and capacity, taking delivery from 600ha to 1,800ha per year over this period. The Programme expansion ensures capacity for design and implementation to follow the key principles of restoration:

- building ecosystem resilience
- working at appropriate scales
- integrating the needs of priority peatland species.

The 2020-2025 Review and the 2025-2030 Plan, completed in 2025, provide more details.

2.2. Some 2025/26 highlights

- **Staffing**: Upscale in capacity and capability by taking the team from 7 to 38 across a range of functions. This capacity enables NPAP to accelerate restoration (including by supporting partners), monitoring, and advocacy, ensuring accurate data and accountability in public reporting.
- **Expertise**: The upscaled capacity brings additional expertise in delivery, contractor development, policy and planning, surveying and monitoring, data and GIS, and partnership engagement.
- **Delivery**: >600ha peatland restoration through hydrological and erosion control, and >1500 tree and vegetation management. (See breakdown in following box.)
- **Spend**: The total budget allocated to the Programme in 2025/26 was £5,220,000 Capital and £422,000 Revenue. 100% funding was provided by Welsh Government.
- **Grants:** NPAP awarded a total of £2.6m (from a total of £2.7m that NPAP made available) across 17 recipients via 20 separate grants in 2025/26. The award was £2m through the Strategic Allocated Funding (SAF) and £600k through the competitive Peatland Restoration Grant.

- **Contracting:** Launch and award of an 8-year peatland restoration framework. A total of 18 were accepted on the framework under the following lots: groundworks (8), vegetation and scrub management (8), and contractor development (2).
- **Development planning**: Additional casework capacity strengthened NRW's capability to address the increasing number and complexity of development planning proposals affecting peatland habitats. The additional staff resource supported timely, proportionate advice that contributed to informed decision making.
- **Reporting**: Peatland expertise submissions for the Habitats Regulations 9A report were completed in 2025/26.
- **Partnership**: Coordination of key strategic groups and networks, including the Wales Peatland Action: Practitioners Group, Strategic Partners Group, Monitoring Group, and Evidence Group.
- **Public engagement**: Events, social media, and videos have all been part of the outreach in 2025/26, including the Wales Peatland Story and Peatland: the good, the bad, and the land healers.
- **In the news**: Public and media response to peatland restoration has been positive. A notable story in 2025/26 was that of restored peatland in the Tywi area stalling wildfire spread.

Breakdown of all-Wales peatland restoration delivery data

Accounting for peatland restoration can be complex, given the distinction between the actions taken and the method of calculating the coverage of the peatland action. The following is a brief clarification in relation to the table below:

- **Restoration Activity:** Total NPAP-funded activity area for 2025/26 is **2,528ha** and includes an element of overlap where several activities occur on the same piece of land, e.g. tree management and hydrological restoration.

- **Restoration Footprint:** Counting the total footprint area addresses the overlap and for NPAP-funded action in 2025/26 it is **2,136ha**. It is less than the total of all restoration activities because it removes the overlaps and represents the actual area of peatland worked on.
- The reported area for NPAP-funded hydrological and erosion control on peatland – that has the greatest carbon capture impact – is **602ha**. Alongside this action was an additional **1,534ha** of tree and vegetation management.

- Additionally, NPAP also reports the data from non-NPAP funded restoration projects and this data can be found in the middle column. The column on the right shows the combined totals for Wales, with **3,019ha** restoration activity and **2,553ha** restoration footprint.

Table 1. Overview of Wales-wide reported delivery

Category calculated	Aspect calculated	NPAP funded 2025/26 (ha)	Non-NPAP funded 2025/26 (ha)	All data reported to NPAP 2025/26 (ha)
Restoration Activity	**Total Activity:**	**2,528**	**491**	**3,019**
Restoration Footprint	Hydrological management & Erosion control	602	75	677
Restoration Footprint	Tree & Vegetation management	1,534	342	1,876
Restoration Footprint	**Total Footprint:**	**2,136**	**417**	**2,553**

3. Introduction

3.1. An effective Programme with focus and priorities

The National Peatland Action Programme (NPAP) has a track record of focused effective delivery, achieving above target outcomes in its first five years.

Set up in 2020, NPAP, funded by the Welsh Government and led by Natural Resources Wales (NRW), is Wales' flagship initiative to restore peatlands and coordinate action. NPAP works in partnership with landowners and land managers to bring these remarkable landscapes back to life – tackling climate change and biodiversity loss together.

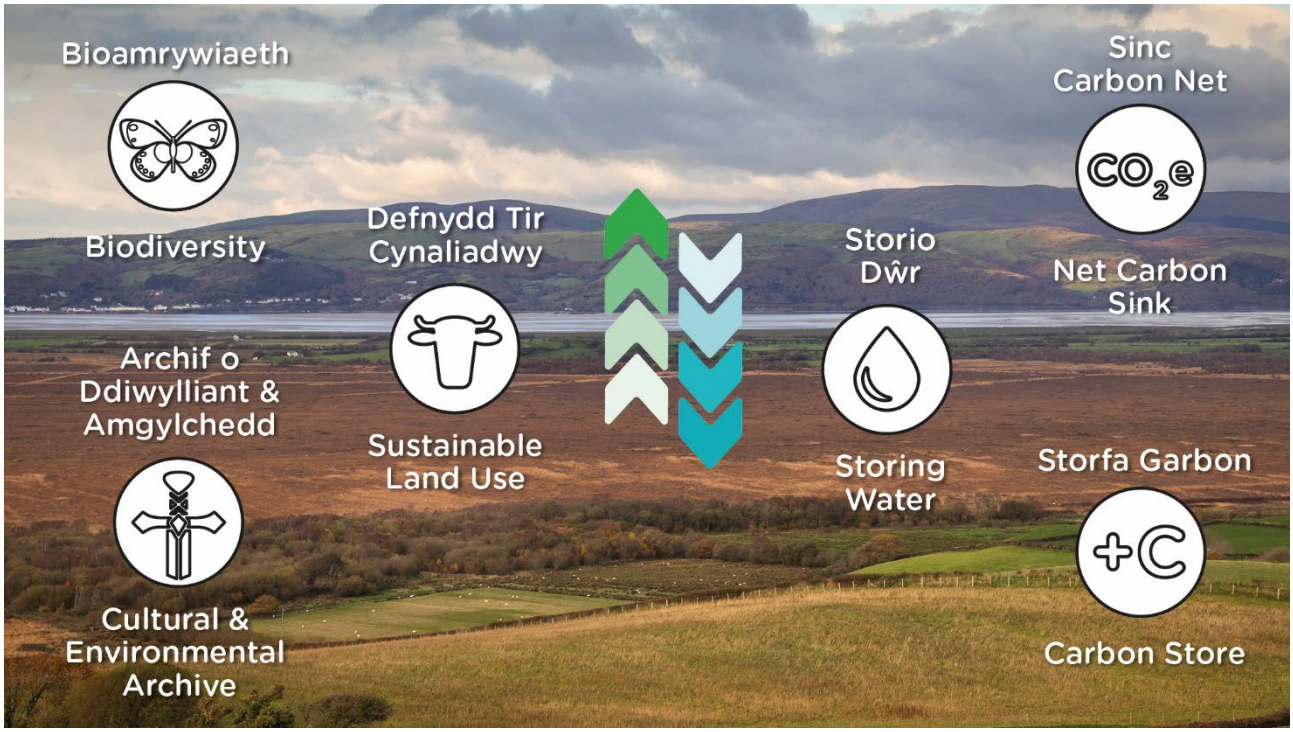


Figure 1. Healthy peatlands provide many benefits to the people of Wales including rich biodiversity, sustainable land use for grazing, water storage, storage of 30% of our land-based carbon, a net carbon sink, and a cultural and environmental archive of our history.

A wide range of Welsh Government policy recognises the critical role of peatland restoration and protection in delivering nature recovery and ecological resilience, decarbonisation, and climate-change adaptation. The case for continuing and expanding the Programme was accepted and embedded in the Sustainable Land Management Indicators and Targets, the Welsh Government's Biodiversity Action Plan, and the latest Climate Change Adaptation Plan.

NPAP's 2020-2025 Review provides the context to the upscale that started in 2025/26 and which is set out in the 2025-2030 Plan. The new five-year phase is one of greater pace and scale. So, 2025/26 saw consolidation and recruitment of the staff required to restore more peatland, but also to take the wider actions needed to protect and maintain these landscapes for the benefit of people, wildlife, and the climate. NPAP's goal is to restore 1,800 hectares of peatland annually by 2030/31 and keep delivering at that scale. Healthy

peatlands are a win for wildlife, climate, and water. They're not just part of our natural heritage, they're vital for the future of Wales.

All the diverse peatlands in Wales are valuable and need protection and, in most cases, restoration. NPAP's focus is to reverse peatland erosion and drainage, manage upland and lowland peatland sustainably, restore afforested peatlands, and take steps to restore some of the highest carbon-emitting peatlands.

NPAP maximises effectiveness by leading on three cross-cutting themes: national coordination; national monitoring and activity capture; and increasing wider engagement by stakeholders, landowners, and the public.

3.2. Managing the upscale of resources and scope

The total budget allocated to the Programme in 2025/26 was £5,220,000 Capital and £422,000 Revenue, with100% funding provided by Welsh Government.

The NPAP Board provides strategic oversight of the Programme and the effective use of resources. Welsh Government's lead on peat policy is also represented on the Board ensuring alignment between Programme delivery and national policy objectives.

Governance arrangements operate according to the principles of NRW's Managing our Money financial scheme of delegation, with the NRW Programme Management Office providing central oversight, assurance and support for effective Programme delivery.

The Programme team grew from 7 to 38 staff during 2025/26, bringing capacity and specialist expertise across a range of functions. This investment has strengthened the foundations needed to deliver peatland restoration at greater pace and scale in the years ahead. It has also expanded the Programme's capacity for monitoring and evidence, workforce development, communications and stakeholder engagement, as well as policy and casework, supporting both the delivery and protection of peatlands across Wales.

Accordingly, the Programme Management structure was revised with bespoke teams and functions accountable for Delivery, Monitoring, Data, Evidence, and Policy and Casework.

The Programme's aims are reflected in the management structure and the coordination links between functions, as indicated in Figure 2.



Figure 2. Programme management allows for accountability through five specialist team leads and flexibility for coordination across functions to maximise effectiveness.

4. Funding for delivery

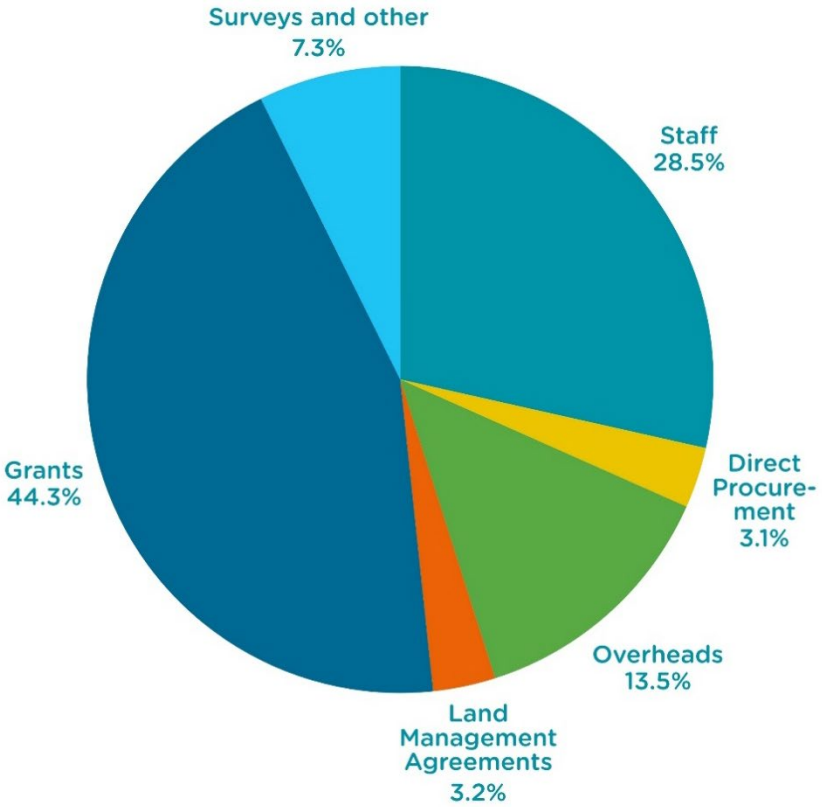
Delivery of the ambitious Wales Peatland Action targets requires the concerted and coordinated input of a wide range of partners, ranging from national parks and environmental agencies to individual landowners. NPAP, through NRW, also delivers peatland restoration directly on the Welsh Government Woodland Estate (WGWE), and through procurement on other ecologically sensitive sites.

NPAP used the following mechanisms to fund and deliver capital projects with partners:

- Grants – Strategic Allocated Funding and competitive grants
- Direct procurement – direct delivery on government land and land management agreements on partner sites

Figure 3. Table and associated pie chart showing breakdown of spend areas for 2025/26.

Category of spend	Percentage (claimed figures)
Grants	44.3%
Land Management Agreements	3.2%
Direct Procurement	3.1%
Surveys and other	7.3%
Staff	28.5%
Overheads	13.5%



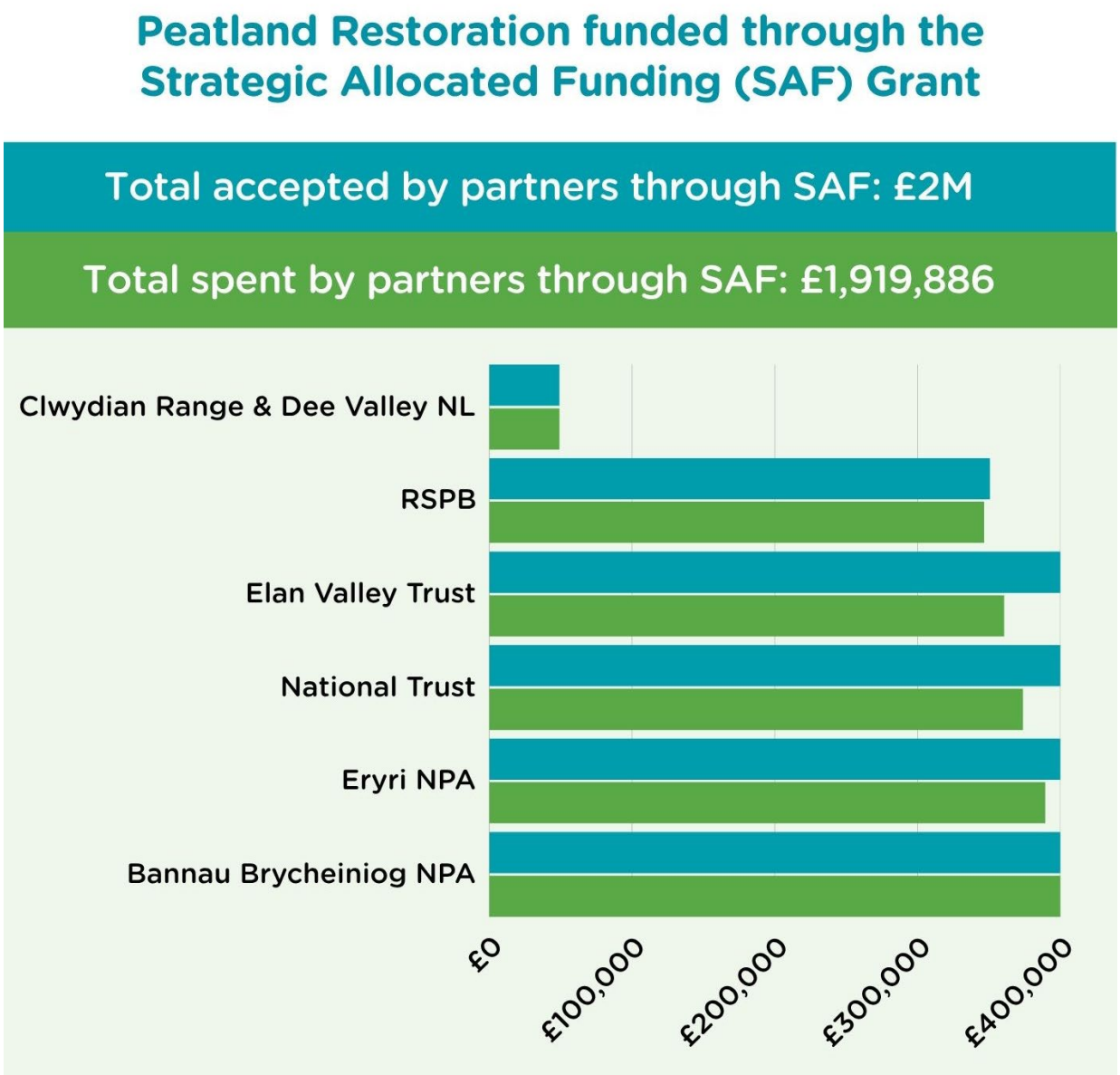
4.1. Grants

Grant aid represents a key means of Wales Peatland Action partner engagement and is enabled by NRW's grant mechanism portfolio. NPAP allocated a total of £2.7m across 17 recipients via 20 separate grants in 2025/26, with £2.6 awarded, and £2.35m value claimed. The allocation was £2m through the Strategic Allocated Funding (SAF) and £600k through the competitive Peatland Restoration Grant.

4.1.2 Strategic Allocated Funding

NPAP delivers its ambitious targets on a landscape scale through the Strategic Allocated Funding (SAF) mechanism. Six strategic partners were allocated budgets (over 3 years) according to a formula based on objective criteria. The total awarded through SAF in 2025/26 was £2m and the actual total spent by partners was £1,920,000.

Figure 4. Chart and associated table showing Strategic Allocated Funding Grant allocation 2025/26.

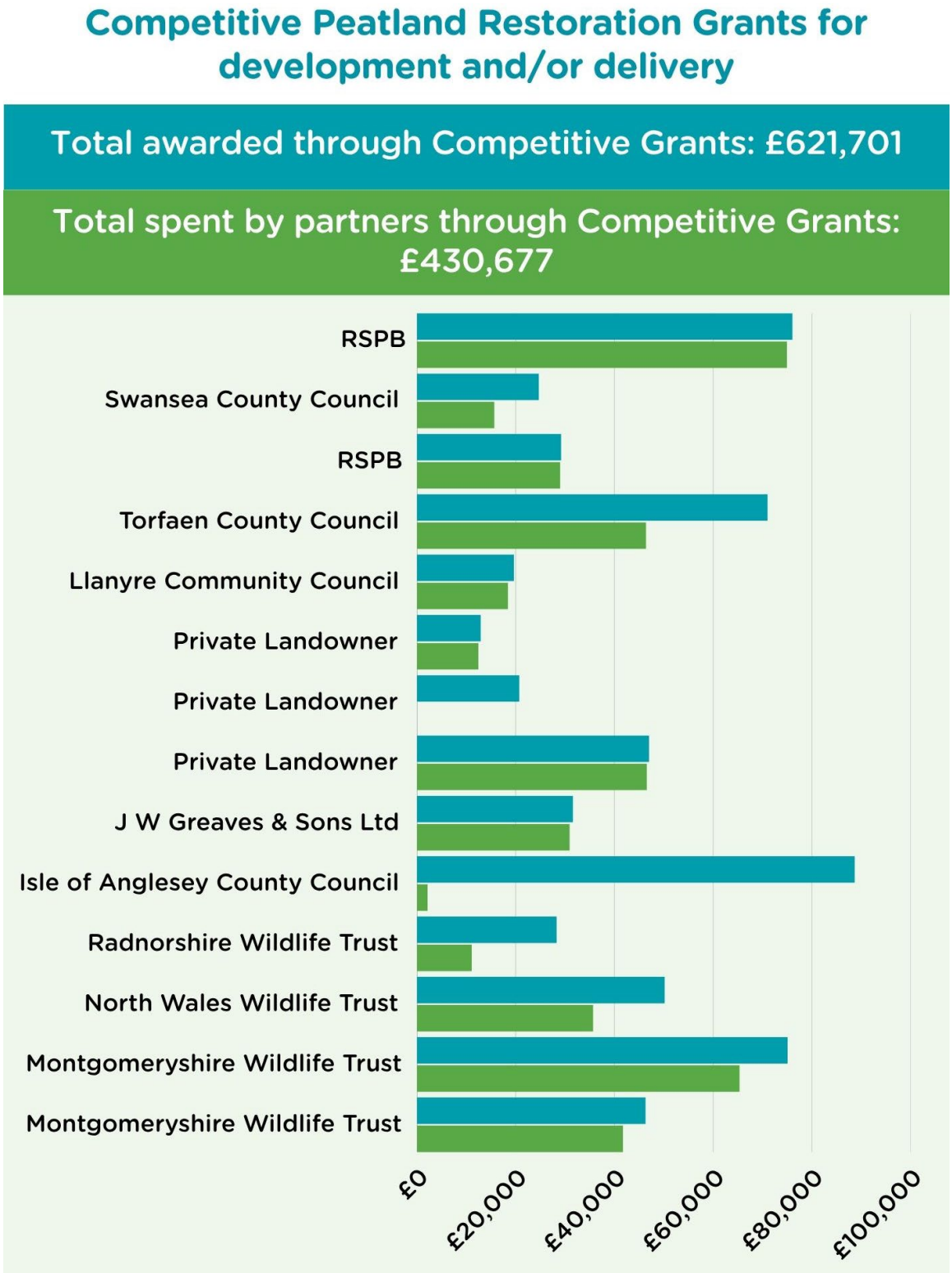


Strategic Allocated Funding	Allocation in 2025/26	Claimed 2025/26	Total three-year allocation (until 2027/28)
Clwydian Range & Dee Valley National Landscape (Denbighshire County Council)	£49,242	£49,242	£147,726
RSPB	£350,758	£346,570	£1,052,274
Elan Valley Trust	£400,000	£360,723	£1,200,000
National Trust	£400,000	£373,897	£1,200,000
Eryri NPA	£400,000	£389,454	£1,200,000
Bannau Brycheiniog NPA	£400,000	£400,000	£1,200,000

4.1.2. Competitive grants

One competitive Peatland Restoration Grant round was allocated in 2025/26. These competitive grants enable development and/or delivery action to the budget of £10K-£250K.

Figure 5. Chart and table showing awards of the competitive Peatland Restoration Grants in 2025/26 to develop plans and/or deliver peatland restoration.



Peatland Restoration Grant recipient	Restoration focus: Delivery/Development	Awarded	Claimed
RSPB (Llyn Efyrnwy small sites)	Delivery	£76,090	£74,958
Swansea County Council	Development	£24,719	£15,687
RSPB (Cwm Pennant)	Development	£29,226	£29,038
Torfaen County Council	Development	£71,038	£46,431
Llanyre Community Council	Delivery	£19,675	£18,467
Private landowner	Development	£12,950	£12,450
Private landowner	Delivery	£20,750	£0
Private landowner	Delivery	£47,012	£46,581
J W Greaves & Sons Ltd	Development	£31,633	£30,960
Isle of Anglesey County Council	Delivery	£88,702	£2,170
Radnorshire Wildlife Trust	Development	£28,300	£11,116
North Wales Wildlife Trust	Delivery	£50,211	£35,712
Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust	Development	£75,074	£65,375
Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust	Delivery	£46,321	£41,732

4.2. Direct procurement

For its direct delivery of peatland restoration, NPAP and NRW colleagues focus on areas of the Welsh Government Woodland Estate (WGWE), National Nature Reserves (NNR), Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), and Special Areas of Conservation (SAC).

WGWE sites are identified with NRW's National Forest Planning Team in line with forest resource plans.

NPAP peatland restoration sites on WGWE	Delivery 2025/26, approx. ha
Blaen Berwyn, Tywi Forest.	5.4
Llyn Gorast (south-east)	16

Table 2. NPAP peatland restoration on WGWE sites 2025/26.

Highlights for delivery on WGWE sites include delivery of a groundworks contract at Llyn Gorast SE, in the Tywi Forest. This was the first groundworks contract on the new NPAP Peatland Restoration Framework. An experienced NPAP Specialist Officer, designed and managed the contract, working with the peatland contractor. The restoration included a

variety of different techniques, including ground smoothing, stump grinding, contour bunding, and installation of dams.



Figure 6. Series of timber dams installed within a drainage ditch at Llyn Gorast (south-east), Tywi Forest.

4.3. Land Management Agreements

Direct funding by NRW of restoration or management activity on third-party land is generally governed by a Section 16 Management Agreement (S16 LMA) although other funding mechanisms can also be applied. See 2025/26-funded projects in the table below.

Table 3. The restoration enabled by Land Management Agreements (LMAs) or other agreements during 2025/26.

Restoration enabled by LMAs or other agreements	Delivery 2025/26, approx. ha	Funding and/or support provided
Waun Fawr, Crymych	7	£1,287 (mowing) £23,600 fencing and culvert (works designed and procured by NPAP)
RSPB Hafod	19.2	£45,221
RSPB Cerniau	2	£14,436
Fenn's and Whixall	32	£64K
Cors Erddreiniog	Investigation only	£16,590
Llyn Tynymynydd	6	£1,810



Figure 7. Pisten Bully mowing marshy grassland habitat prior to establishing grazing at Waun Fawr, Crymych.



Figure 8. Two photographs showing works at Fenn's and Whixall included bunding.

The Cors Erddreiniog work involved hydrological and ownership investigations only. During 2025/26, NPAP funded the installation of equipment to support the collection of baseline hydrological data for a project to return all important calcareous groundwater influence to areas of peatland and a marl lake within the peatland. This will inform the detail of subsequent restoration work.

4.4. Access licences

Restoration work at Vicarage Moss SSSI, county of Wrexham, funded by Nature Networks and NPAP, has enhanced an important kettle hole bog system. NPAP funded the removal of dense scrub and conifer encroachment from the central raised mire. The work has reopened the bog surface, improved water retention, and created better conditions for Sphagnum recovery and other peatland-specialist plants. (Nature Networks funded the gorse clearance on the adjacent smaller kettle hole.) Together, these works are helping to safeguard the ecological and geological value of Vicarage Moss.

Funding through access licences	Delivery 2025/26, approx. ha	Funding provided
Vicarage Moss SSSI	3	£17,500

Table 4. Funding through an Access Licence.



Figure 9. NPAP funded the removal of dense scrub and conifer encroachment at Vicarage Moss.

5. Delivery overview

5.1. Strategic overview

Following are some key Programme summaries, with Figures 10-13 illustrating some of the main areas of Programme delivery achieved in 2025/6.

Figure 10: Table and chart on map showing Restoration Activity Hectares reported by Broad Activity Group.

Restoration activity:	Ha*
Hydrological management	328
Erosion control	306
Vegetation management	6
Tree management	1450
Grazing management	438

* When GIS data is fully quality assured it is published on the Wales Peatland Data Portal.

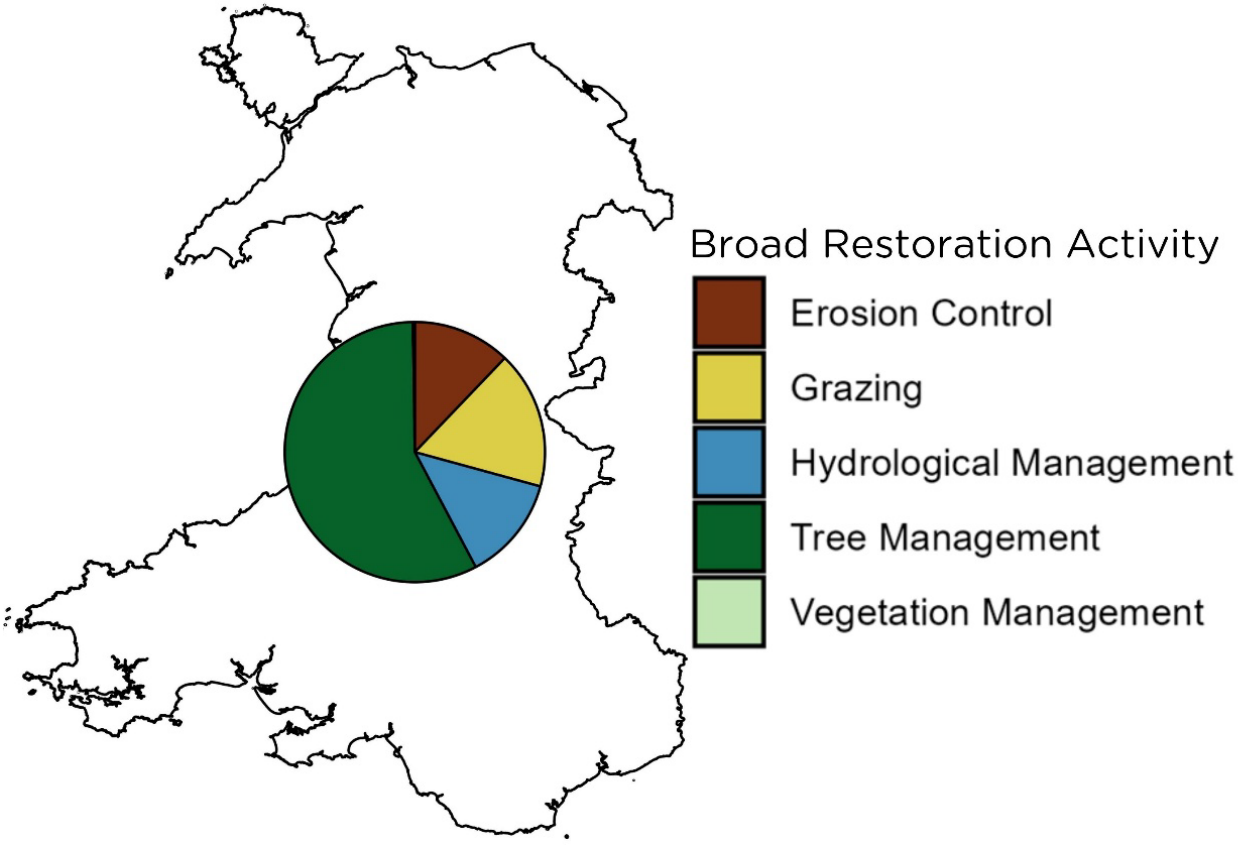


Figure 11: Table and charts on map showing Restoration Activity Hectares reported by Broad Activity Group for each Operational Area.

Operational Area	Erosion control (ha)	Grazing (ha)	Hydrological mgt. (ha)	Tree mgt. (ha)	Vegetation mgt. (ha)	Total area (ha)
Mid Wales	188	157	112	8	0.5	**465.5**
North East Wales	6	0	27	124	0	**157**
North West Wales	97	237	182.5	1318	3	**1837.5**
South East Wales	1	0	6	0	0	**7**
South West Wales	14	44	0	0	3	**61**

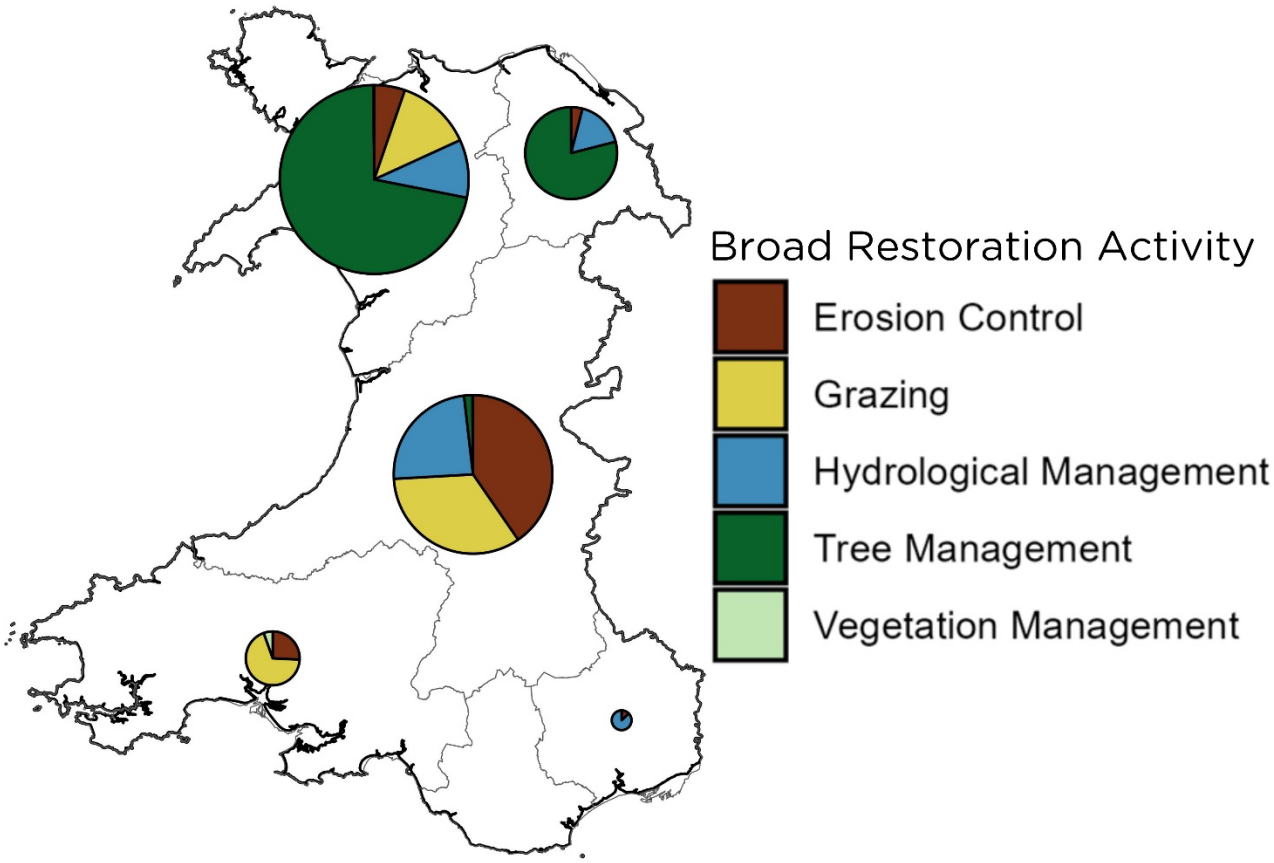


Figure 12: Table and chart on map showing Restoration Activity Hectares reported by Priority Theme.

Priority theme	Ha*
Afforested	11.5
Erosion	306
Drainage	327.5
Lowland	136
Upland	1747

* When GIS data is fully quality assured it is published on the Wales Peatland Data Portal.

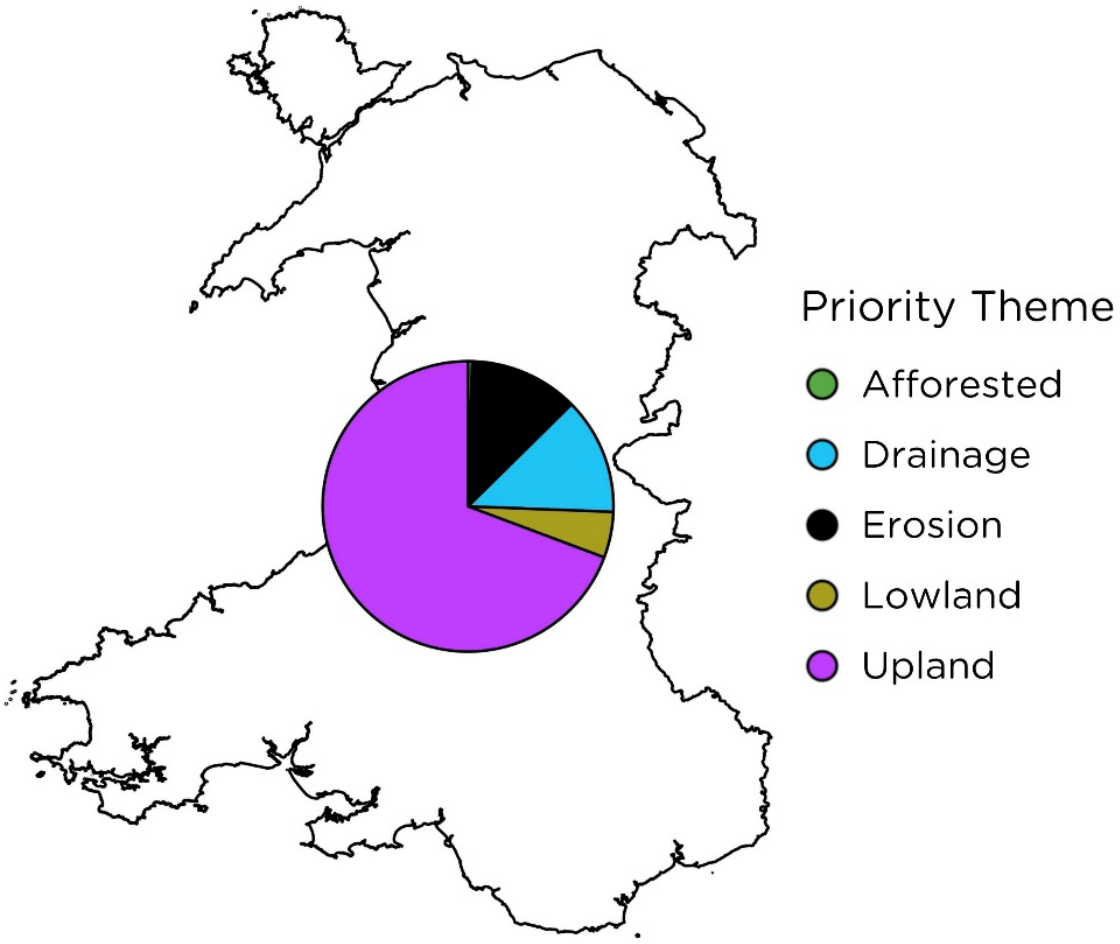
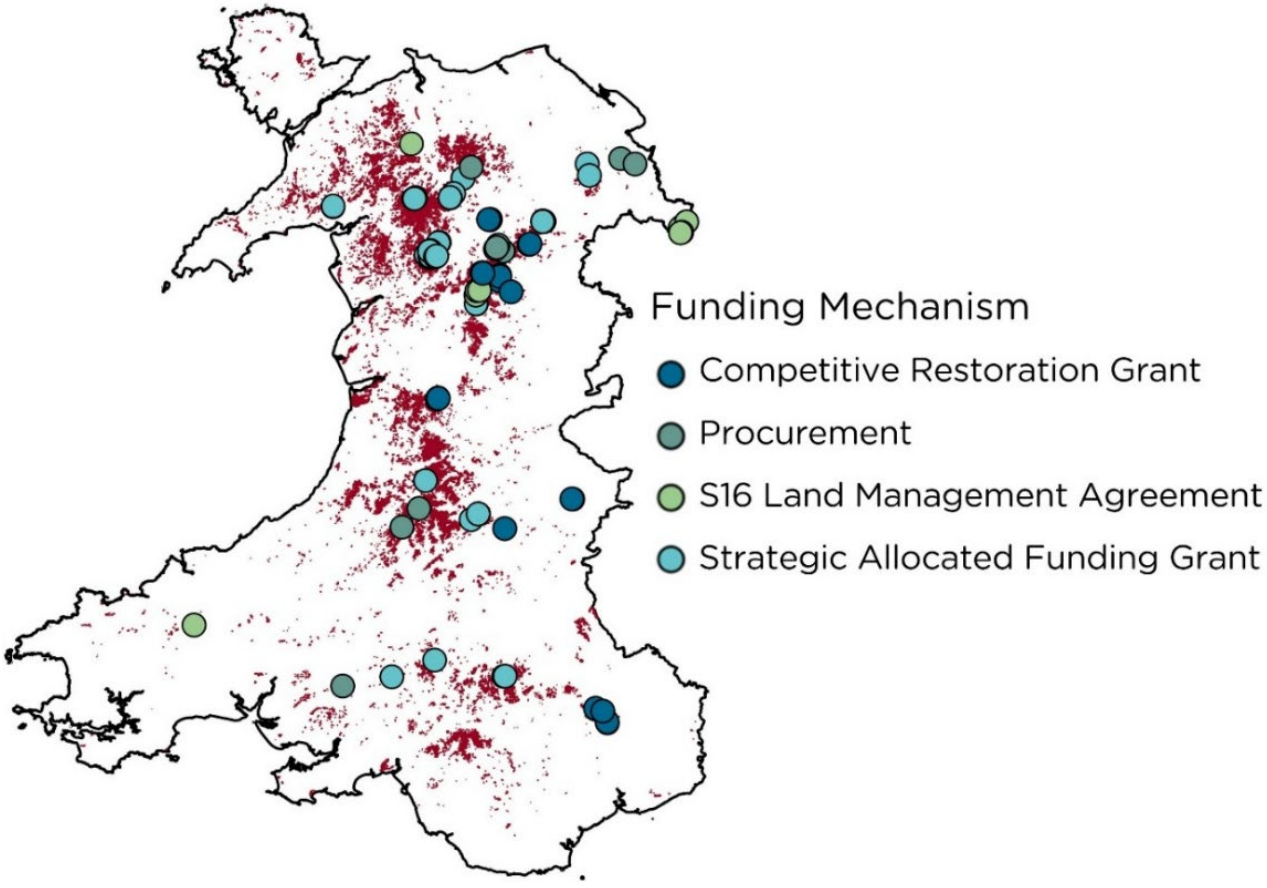


Figure 13: Table, and map as indicator, showing Restoration Activity Hectares reported by Funding Mechanism.

Funding mechanism	Reported ha*	Main priority themes addressed
Strategic Allocated Funding Grant	1285	Peatland drainage Peat erosion Sustainable management of upland and lowland peatlands
Competitive Peatland Restoration Grant	249	Peatland drainage Peat erosion Sustainable management of upland and lowland peatlands
Direct procurement of groundworks	925	Peatland drainage Sustainable management of upland and lowland peatlands Afforested peatlands
Land Management Agreements – S16 & others	69	Peatland drainage Peat erosion Sustainable management of lowland peatlands Afforested peatlands

* When GIS data is fully quality assured it is published on the Wales Peatland Data Portal.



5.2. Partner highlights

5.2.1. Eryri National Park Authority SAF



5.2.2. Bannau Brycheiniog NPA SAF



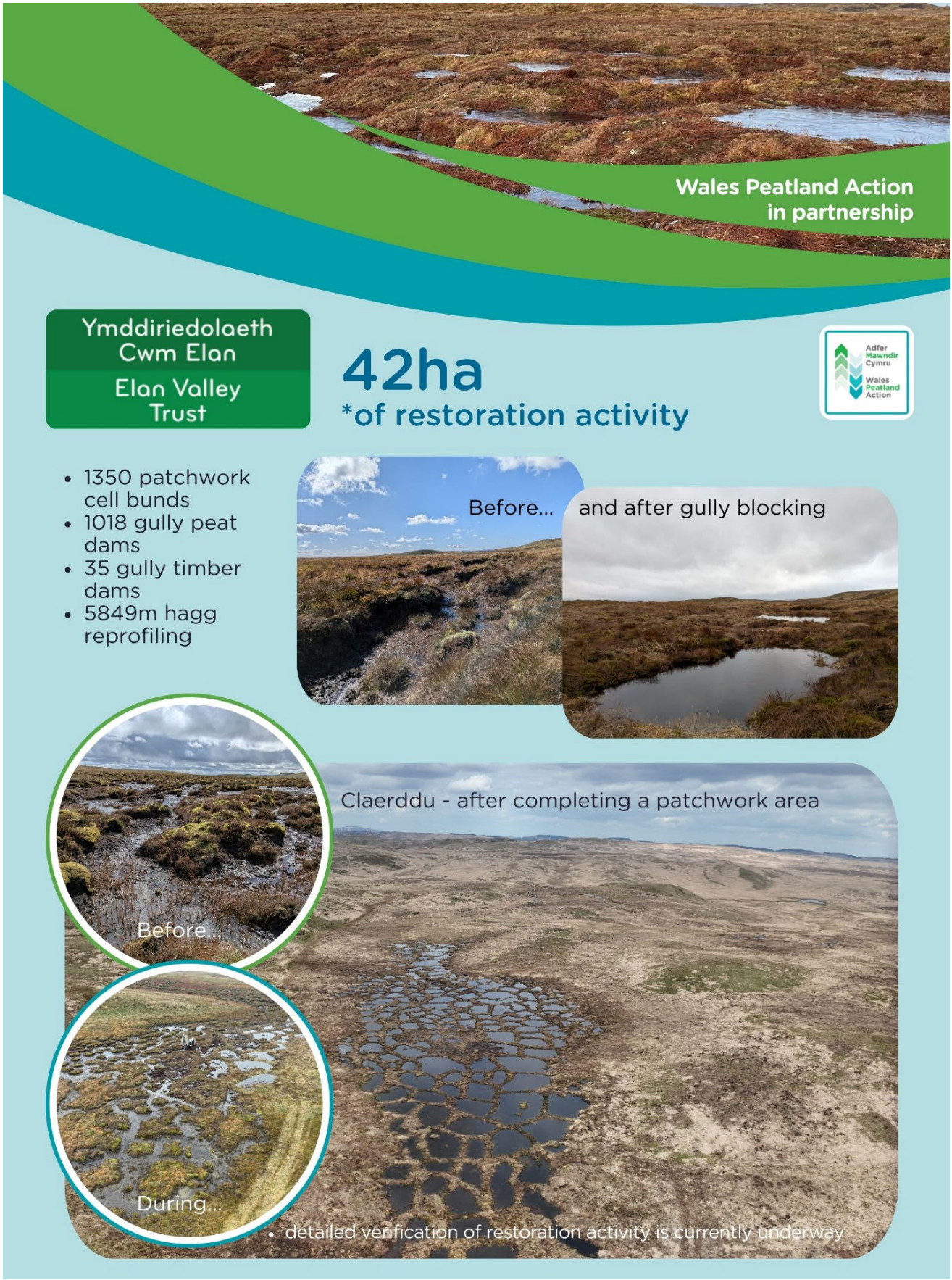
5.2.3. National Trust SAF



5.2.4. RSPB SAF


Wales Peatland Action
in partnership
rspb
93ha
*of restoration activity
Adfer Mawndir Cymru
Wales Peatland Action
Dolydd -
ditch blocking
Bryn Fawnog -
after augering stumps
Highlights of restoration work at multiple sites included:
• ditch and gully blocking
• hagg reprofiling
• stump augering
• and ground smoothing
Eidda Fawr - ditch and gully work and hagg reprofiling
• detailed verification of restoration activity is currently underway

5.2.5. Elan Valley Trust SAF



5.2.6. Clwydian Range & Dee Valley National Landscape SAF



6. Survey and monitoring

Survey and monitoring are essential components of peatland restoration in Wales. They support the design of restoration interventions, provide validation of restoration delivery, and inform best practice in the application of restoration techniques. Survey and monitoring enable the assessment and demonstration of ecological change, particularly improvements in biodiversity, as well as predicted reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, monitoring evidence plays a key role in communicating and promoting the wider environmental and societal benefits of peatland restoration.

6.1. Highlights in 2025/26

NPAP established its Survey and Monitoring Team between mid and late 2025/26. This increases capacity for strategic development and delivery of monitoring moving forward.

Other 2025/26 survey and monitoring delivery highlights through NPAP include:

- Peat Toolkit Surveys completed for five Forest Resource Plan (FRP) areas (including both field data collection and reporting components for two areas, covering a combined total of 319.2ha; for the other three FRP areas work included completion of the reporting component with data collection completed the previous year).
- Peat depth surveys completed on seven sites, along with partial completion of two additional sites, in preparation for ground restoration works in 2026/27 and 2027/28. Survey method requires sample collection on at least a 100m grid.
- A peat survey of the NRW landholdings of y Berwyn NNR, covering around 1300ha, and recording 1286 peat depths.
- Water Vole surveys on eight sites (100ha) to inform species licences, prepare mitigation plans and inform design of restoration specifications.
- Condition mapping and fixed-point sampling of vegetation at three sites with 129 samples established. In total 10 sites have been sampled using this approach.
- The Hydrological Monitoring Strategy is now available and in use to guide plans for installation of hydrological instrumentation.
- Hydrological data from existing instrumentation continues to be downloaded and reviewed. Figure 14 provides an example from Hafod Elwy.
- Wales Peatland Action Monitoring Group met twice during the year and discussed a range of topics including Blanket Bog Ecohydrology, use of InSAR, the core functions of the NPAP Survey and Monitoring Team, as well as partner updates.
- Development of a draft training plan and project management plan for the coming year for the Survey and Monitoring Team.
- Initiation of a review of existing peatland survey and monitoring methods to determine best practice, with the aim of finalising methods in 2026/27.

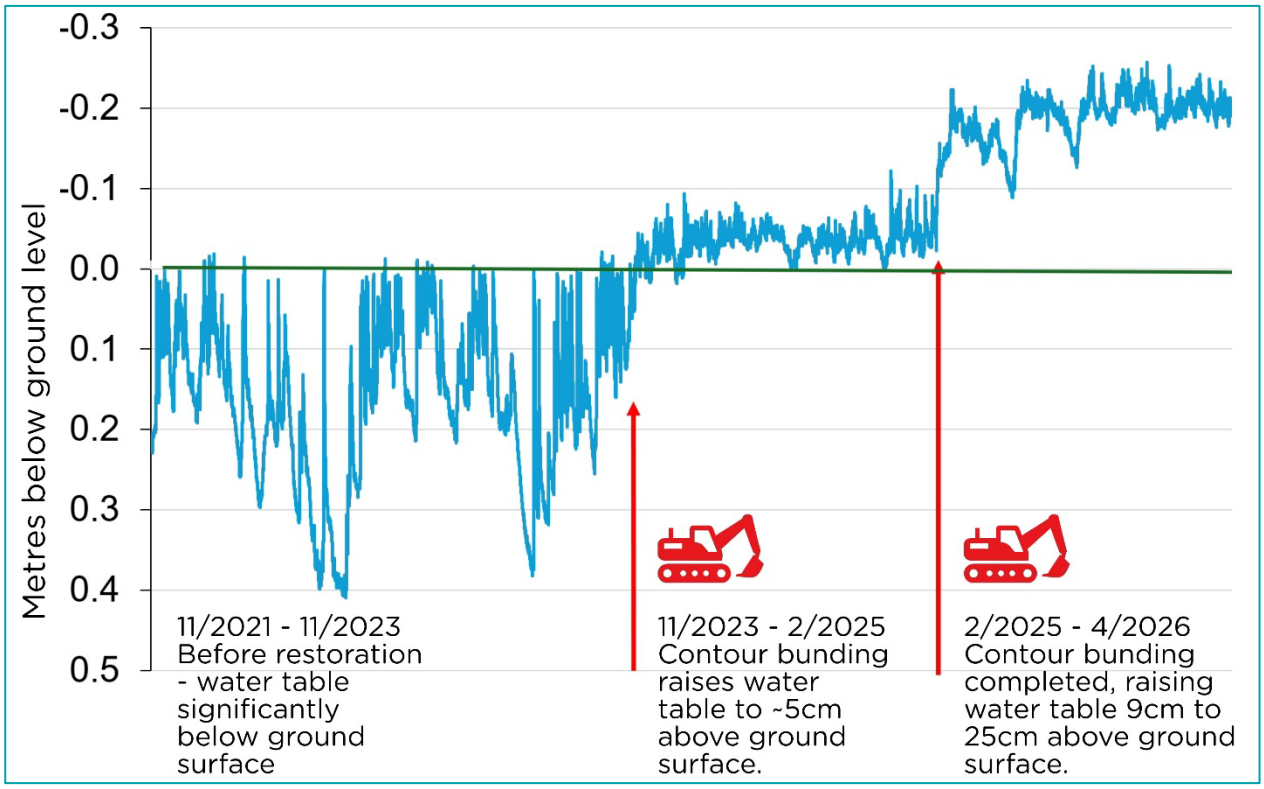


Figure 14. Chart with blue line showing water table depth below ground surface, clearly evidences the increase of the water table level after restoration at Hafod Elwy. From left to right of the chart starts November 2021 to April 2026, with the middle section showing how contour bunding raised water levels above ground surface.



Figure 15. Hafod Elwy showing healthy function peatland with water table raised.

7. Data science

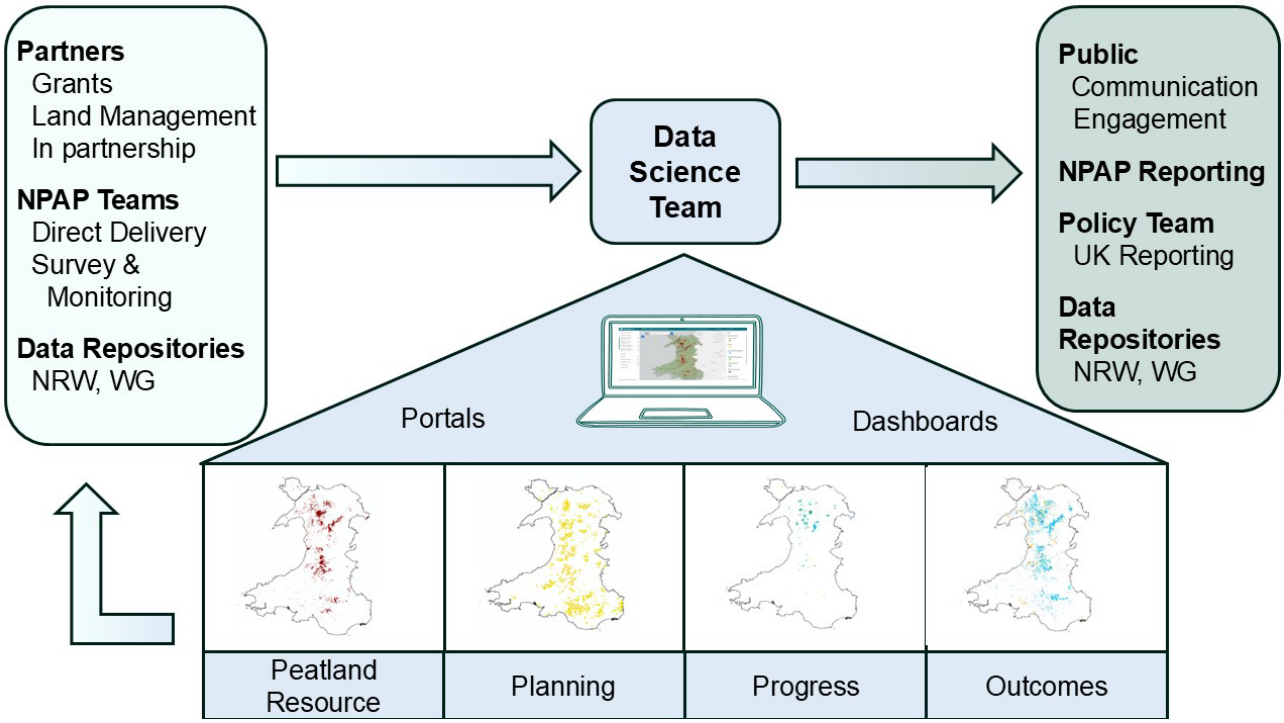
The Peatland Data Science Team works with maps and data to quantify the peatland resource in Wales and to help plan, implement and report on NPAP's progress and the outcomes of restoration efforts to tackle climate and biodiversity emergencies.

Recruitment
Data Science Team leader was in post by mid-October. Recruitment of the GIS and Data Products Specialist Advisor, Specialist Advisor for Peatland Biodiversity, and two GIS and Data officers began in February 2026. The GIS and Data Products Specialist Advisor was in post by March.

Work scoping and delivery
The scope and work packages for the new team were identified for financial year 2025/26, assigning priority to recruitment and sustaining key deliverables.

- An audit of NPAP's data resources and existing processes to assess status of technical work and requirements to deliver 2026/27 was undertaken.
- Technical delivery prioritised tracking restoration activity. Namely, working with internal and external partners to guide, track and check the activity maps they provide in preparation for incorporation into analytical pipelines used to deliver consolidated maps and metrics for the Programme. This work continued alongside recruitment of new team members who will later take this on.
- Work to review and update existing data products for restoration activity and opportunity mapping also served as a basis for identifying induction and training plans for team members.

Figure 16. The central role of the Data Science team in supporting internal and external functions.



8. Policy, development planning, reporting, and evidence

In 2025/26 the process of recruiting staff to the team was completed, bringing it to a total complement of 6.5. There are now specialist roles covering evidence, policy, reporting and site protection casework as well as the wider span of work covered by the team. This wider scope includes policy advice to NRW, the Welsh Government, IUCN UK Peatland Programme, JNCC, and development of Welsh Government's Sustainable Farming Scheme. This has enabled a stronger and more proactive focus in key areas which underpin the delivery programme, as well as wider measures which contribute to the protection and sustainable management of peatland resources.

Figure 17. NPAP provides policy advice to enable informed decision-making on a range of initiatives, actions and policies.



8.1. Policy

Peatland protection

Site designation remains a critical tool for peatland protection. During 2025/26, the main activity centred around the designation of Mynyddoedd Llangynidr and Llangatwg, Cefn yr Ystrad a Chomin Merthyr, a large (>6,000ha) upland site in SE Wales.



Figure 18. Mynydd Llangatwg: blanket bog on fire August 2025.

In terms of more strategic activity, a review of national designation priorities for Welsh peatland features commenced and work to revise the wider national (England, Wales and Scotland) JNCC SSSI selection guidelines for fen habitats was completed, ready for final JNCC review and approval.

8.2. Development planning

NPAP provided expert technical scrutiny across a total of 43 planning applications. Renewable energy development (and predominantly wind energy) dominated this work, with 31 cases. Most of the applications were classed as Developments of National Significance (DNS). The overall caseload comprised 11 requests for EIA scoping advice, 7 pre-application consultations, and 10 full planning applications.

Expert representation was provided at two Welsh Governments Planning & Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW) inspector-led planning hearings, covering a solar farm application at Cil-lonydd and a nearby windfarm application at Mynydd Maen, both located in Caerphilly County Borough Council. Wherever possible, this work was supported by site visits to determine the accuracy of peat soil and habitat mapping undertaken in support of planning applications.



Figure 19. Casework specialists assessing peatland habitat at Carnedd Wen, Llanbrynmair.

NPAP and Significant Infrastructure Projects funding has enabled the recruitment of two casework officers in 2025/26 to ensure NRW meets the demands of this increasing casework workload.

8.3. Reporting

NPAP evidence feeds into a wide range of reporting requirements linked to the key policy areas of biodiversity and decarbonisation and work began on mapping out the main areas into which NPAP evidence will feed in the coming years. Submissions for the Habitats Regulations 9A report were completed in 2025/26. This succeeds previous reporting under Article 17 of the Habitats & Species Directive but follows a very similar format. It represents Wales' first country-level assessment under Regulation 9A of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended in Wales). Reports were completed for the nine wetland habitats listed under Annex 1 of the Directive.

The assessment underlines the importance of NPAP as a Programme addressing peatland condition across Wales. Development of more comprehensive metrics which reflect ecosystem recovery is a key priority for NPAP.

8.4. Evidence

2025/26 also saw the appointment of a senior, dedicated Evidence lead to develop a comprehensive evidence programme in partnership with NPAP's Wales Peatland Evidence Group.

9. Engagement – partners, contractors, public

9.1. Partnership engagement

Partnership working is essential for protecting, restoring, and managing peatlands. Landowners and land managers care for the 4% of Wales that is peatland, which is a valuable national resource. NPAP engages with them through grants and outreach events.

At a strategic level, NPAP coordinates several key groups. These include four Wales Peatland Action groups that focus on: Strategic delivery, Practitioner delivery, Monitoring, and Evidence.

NPAP also works with partners outside Wales, including the IUCN, other peatland programmes, and government bodies.



Figure 20: The two-day Practitioners Event was well attended and included learning best-practice restoration at Elan Valley and Cors Caron sites.

9.2. Contractor engagement

In 2025/26, NPAP increased its work with contractors through recruiting a new Market Force Development role.

Key achievements included:

- contractor events held in north and south Wales, with 40 contractors attending
- launch and award of an 8-year peatland restoration framework:
    - Groundworks – 8 companies awarded
    - Vegetation and scrub management – 8 companies awarded
    - Contractor development for those new to peatland – 2 companies awarded
- additional support from Business Wales for framework applicants
- issue of an NPAP Contractors Welcome Pack, covering peatland characteristics, restoration goals, hydrology, restoration methods, and CDM regulations
- training delivered for contractors in the development strand of the framework
- ongoing work with partners to design future contractor training.



Figure 21: Launch of Peatland Restoration Framework for Contractors included support for applicants.

9.3. Communicating

With the NPAP upscale, its communication activity also increased. NPAP shared its 2025-2030 Plan and its Review of 2020-2025. For the public, NPAP produced the animated 'Wales Peatland Story' and 'The Good, the Bad, and the Land Healers'. These helped explain what peatlands are and why restoration is important.

Landowners and managers interested in peatland grants took part in webinars with question-and-answer sessions. They also engaged with NPAP at outreach events such as the Royal Welsh Show. NPAP shared news through the media and on social media using the @PeatlandCymru handle. One popular story showed how restored peatland helped stall the spread of wildfire. To support Programme growth, NPAP advertised new jobs, with over 3,000 online views. General information is available on the NPAP webpage, and enquiries can be sent to npap@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk.



Figure 22: Welcome news from Llyn Gorast, Tywi, where the newly restored peatland site stalled wildfire spread from the adjacent un-restored area.