

An Overview of Peatland Policy in Northern Ireland

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Department of

**Agriculture, Environment
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www.daera-ni.gov.uk

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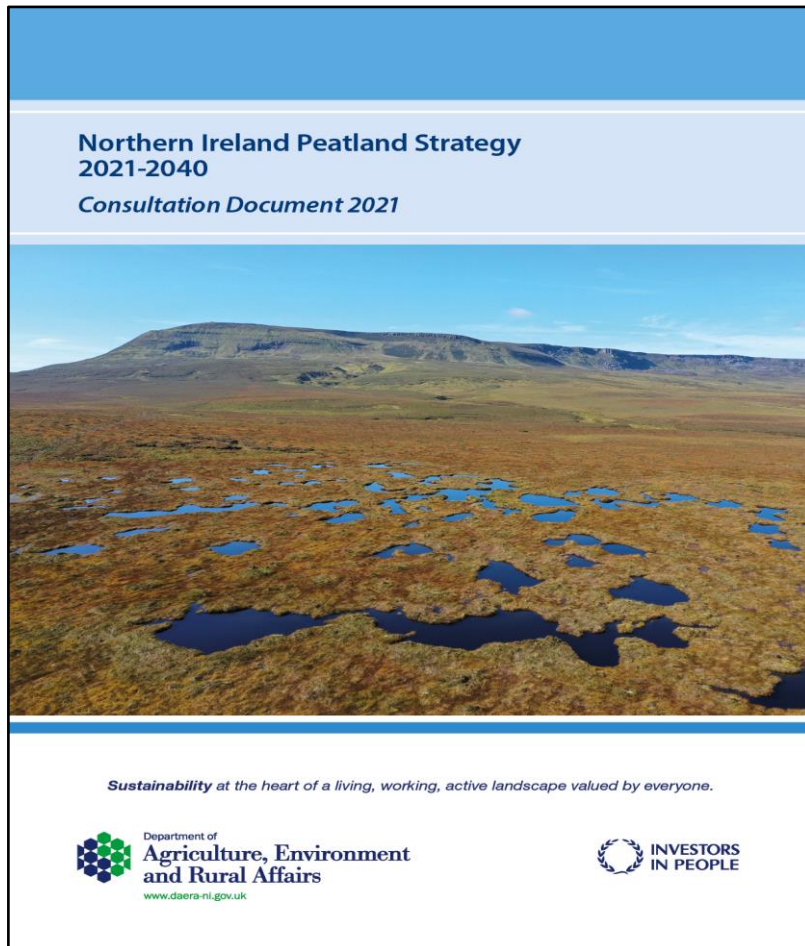
***Sustainability** at the heart of a living, working,
active landscape valued by everyone.*

Outline of Presentation

- Update on NI Peatland Strategy
 - Strategic Objectives & Actions
 - Strategic Outline Case
- Climate Action Plan – LULUCF
- Environmental Farming Scheme (EFS)
- Farming with Nature (FwN)



Draft NI Peatland Strategy Update



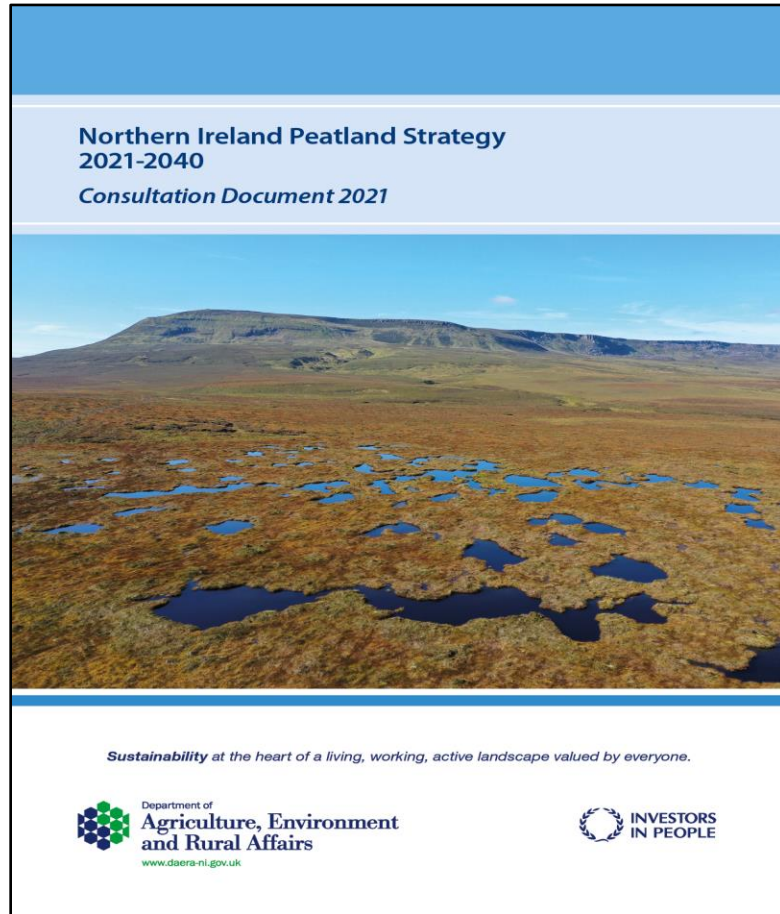
Scope of the Strategy

Includes intact peatland, degraded peatland and peatland soils which could be restored or managed to support greater carbon storage and nature recovery, whether publicly or privately owned.

Vision of the Strategy

Our peatland habitats are protected, enhanced and managed sustainably, are recognised for their intrinsic value and for the benefits they provide – for wildlife, people and climate.

Draft NI Peatland Strategy Update



Progress to Date

- Provides a framework for both conserving our intact peatlands and our peatland restoration programme.
- Public Consultation Exercise on draft Peatland Strategy – Summer 2021
- Public consultation on Equality Impact Assessment completed (2022) and Strategy finalised.
- DAERA Business Plan target to prepare a strategy by December 2024.
- Implementation Plan to be developed following publication.

NI Peatland Strategy – Strategic Objectives



5 Strategic Objectives & 24 Supporting Actions

- Peatland Conservation, Restoration & Management
- Peatland Policies
- Capacity Building & Research
- Knowledge Sharing, Communication & Access
- Governance, Implementation & Funding



Peatland Restoration

A Strategic Outline Case is under development to inform a business case for a Government funded peatland restoration plan

Strategic basis

- To meet Climate Change Committee recommendations of 150,000 hectares of peatland to be restored, to help:
 - Reduce NI carbon emissions by 10%
 - Assist meet international biodiversity targets
 - Costs to rewet peatland habitat - estimated at an average of £2000/Ha

Current estimates on cost to reduce carbon emissions by 1 tonne across sectors

Peatland restoration - £20

Transport - £100

Domestic Heating - £200



Climate Action Plan - LULUCF

- Climate Change Act (NI) 2022
- Climate Action Plans must set out policies and programmes to put Northern Ireland on course to reach net zero by 2050
- LULUCF Chapter of CAP
 - Increase forest cover
 - Restore Peatlands – aim to align with CCC recommendations
 - Deliver carbon sequestration through agri-environment schemes



EFS Management Options – Peatlands

Seven Tranches of EFS Higher Level

Remedial Management Options include:

- Blanket Bogs
- Upland Heath
- Lowland Heath
- Intact lowland raised bog
- Montane Heath
- Fen

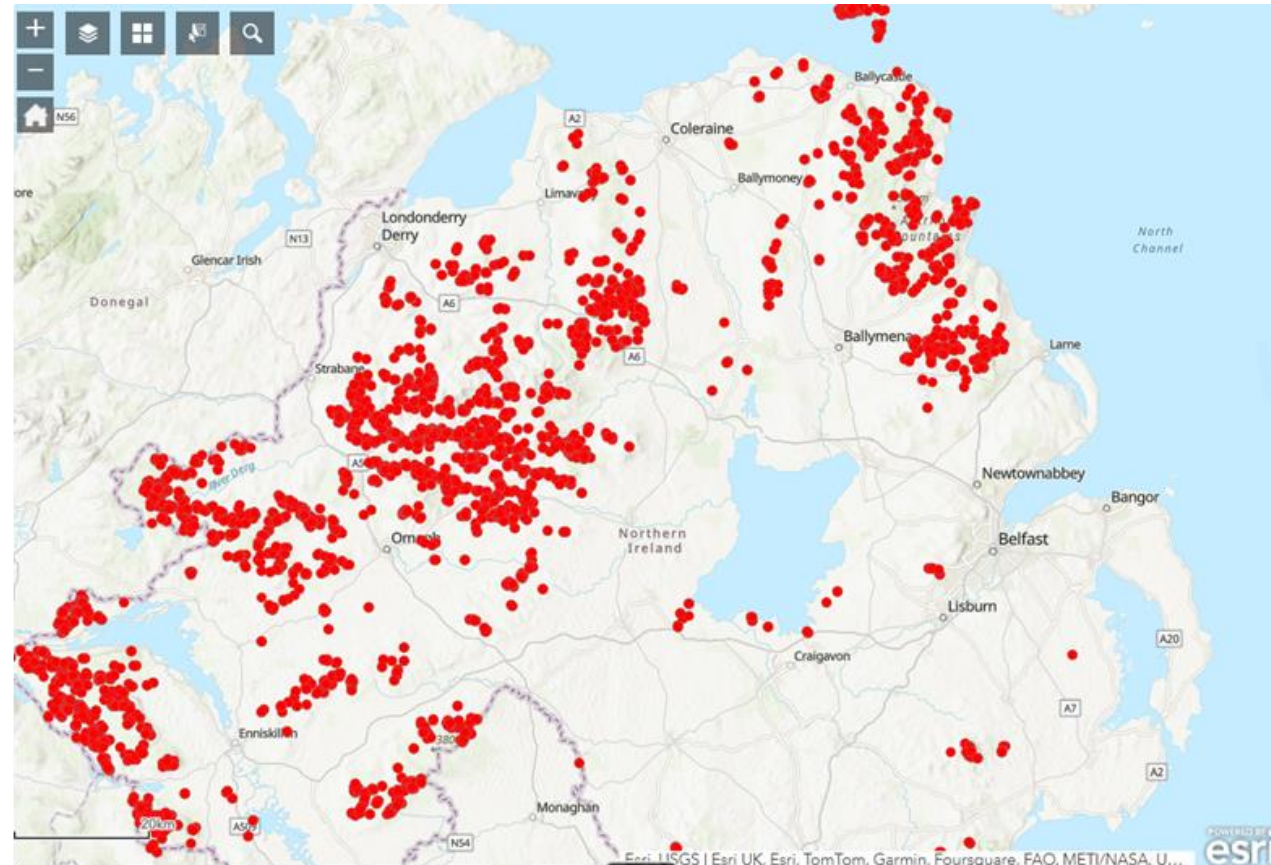
Non-Productive Investments included:

- Ditch blocking dams

EFS Groups providing advice on peatland management, through Ulster Wildlife and RSPB

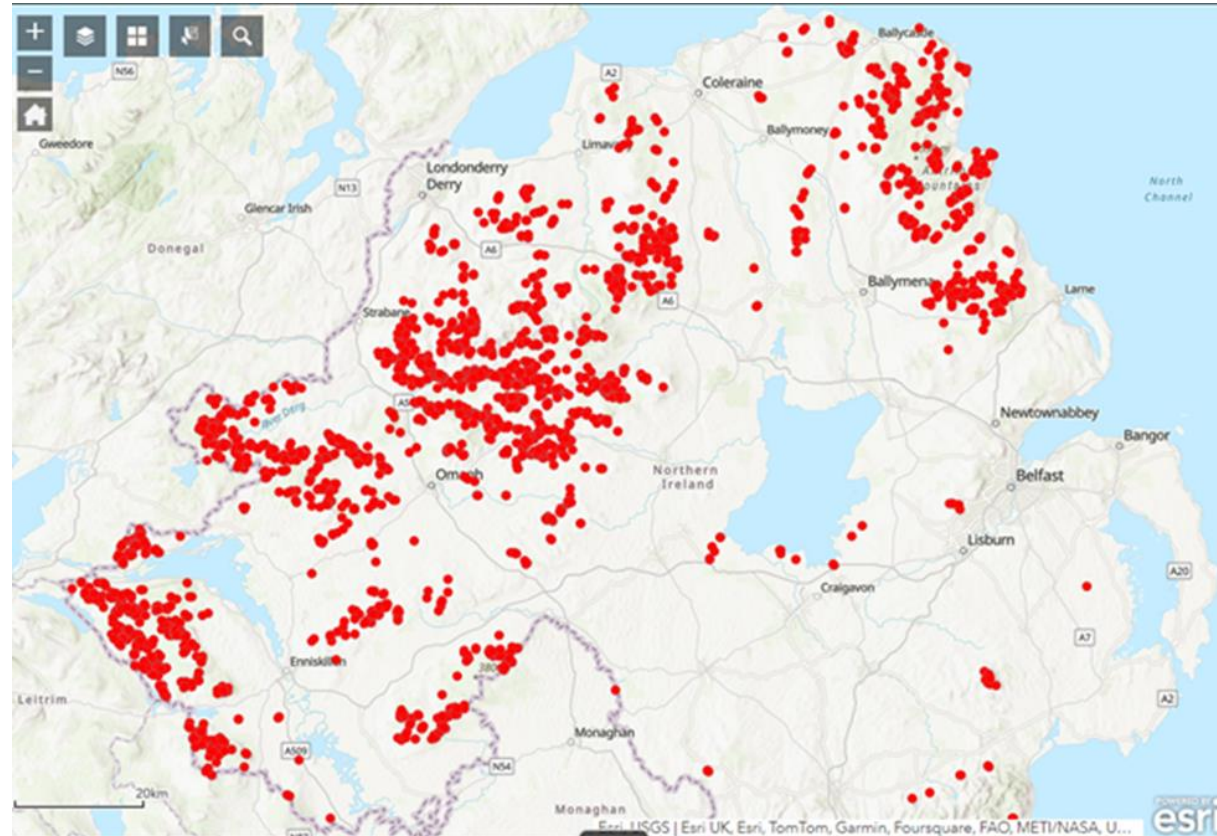


All EFS Higher Level Remedial Management Options for Peatland



Live EFS Higher Level Remedial Management Options for Peatlands

There are 27,361 ha of peatland under agreement in Tranches 3 to 7



Thank you Any Questions?

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