



The Sundew

Cumbria BogLIFE project newsletter

Welcome the latest edition of *The Sundew* - keeping you in touch with the work of the Cumbria BogLIFE project in your area. In this edition you can read about how the peat bog restoration work is progressing, as well as some updates from Roudsea Woods and Mosses NNR.

A walk up the hill at Ellerside Wood will help put the BogLIFE restoration work in to perspective, with great aerial views across the site, as well as stunning views of the surrounding countryside.

Bringing Cumbria's Raised Bogs to LIFE

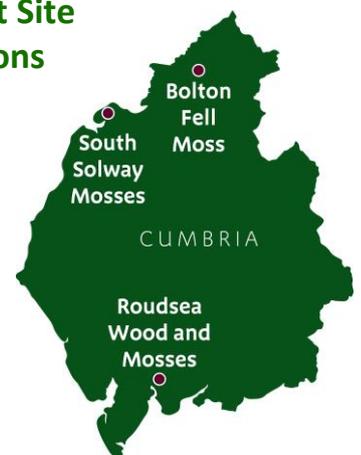


Bog Asphodel at Fish House © Rob Petley-Jones



© A. Brock

Project Site Locations



Bringing Roudsea back to BogLIFE

Peat bogs are by nature very wet places – up to 90% water! However, drainage ditches have dried out the bog at Roudsea. The dried conditions has allowed trees and rhododendron to take hold, drying the bog further and blocking the sunlight. The Cumbria BogLIFE project has been working to restore the peat bog back to its naturally wet and “boggy” state. This is how we are doing so far...

Scrub removal

An important part of bog restoration is scrub and tree removal. Trees take up huge amounts of water through the roots, drying out the underlying peat. To date we have removed 42.2ha of trees and scrub. This winter we hope to remove a further 28ha.

Rhododendron bashing

You would be forgiven for thinking this was a woodland rather than a wetland! We have removed 83ha of rhododendron to date, with a further 5ha of flailing and 145ha of spraying planned this winter.



© A Brock

The dense scrub and rhododendron gave the bog the appearance of woodland rather than wetland!

Bunding and re-wetting

The next step of the restoration process is re-profiling the bog and allowing it to “re-wet”. This involves blocking up the drains, and creating a series of bunds, which capture water and keep in within the bog. This work is carried out by diggers. They dig down to the underlying peat, which naturally holds water, and use this to build the bunds. So far 66.3ha of bog has been re-wetted.



© A. Brock

Tree and rhododendron removal have opened up the landscape, and reprofiling the bog in to banded cells means water is retained.



© J. Dunbavin

Recovery

The work we are doing now is starting to create the right environment for the bog to recover. But we have to be patient! Bog restoration is a process that takes many years. However, we are starting to see exciting signs of bog life already, such as this flush of cotton grass, and of course, Sphagnum mosses.



First Female Fledged!

After a run of males, our Ospreys at Roudsea Woods and Mosses NNR have finally fledged their first female chick! The male, YC, arrived back on the nest in terrible weather on 27th March, and was joined by the female just a few days later. After a couple of weeks of nest tidying, the female was incubating eggs by the 19th April. Sadly, because of the angle of the camera, we do not know how many eggs were laid, or how many hatched, but the one chick that did fledge was certainly well fed – she was huge, weighing in at nearly 2kg! She was ringed blue “1N” and will spend the next couple of years in West Africa before returning to the UK.



© Rob Petley-Jones

Fair-well Rob, Hello Glen!

This summer, Rob Petley-Jones retired after 12 years of working at Roudsea. However, we are fortunate to have a great person to take up his work. Here, he tells us more about himself...

“My name is Glen Swainson and I have recently taken over from Rob Petley-Jones as Senior Reserve Manager for Roudsea Wood and Mosses and Gait Barrows National Nature Reserves. I also look after a group of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) in and around Arnside and Silverdale. SSSIs are nationally important sites designated for their biodiversity or geology and Natural England has responsibility for making sure they are managed sympathetically”



Glen Swainson will be managing Roudsea Woods and Mosses NNR.

“I feel very fortunate to be involved with a site as special as Roudsea and I am really excited about the future of the bogs now that a large proportion of the bog has been restored through the Cumbria Bogs LIFE project”.

“My main focus for management on the Reserve in the coming years will be to restore the areas of bog outside of the LIFE project area (invasive rhododendron is an ongoing problem), continue the coppice management regime in the limestone woodlands to benefit Hazel dormice and encourage and protect our pair of breeding osprey that have been summer residents for the last 4 years. Roudsea is a wonderful place to visit at any time of year and there is a great network of tracks through the woodland to explore. You can request a visitor’s permit by emailing john.osborne@naturalengland.org.uk.”



The beautiful raft spider is one of the many species you might bump in to on a trip to Roudsea.

Photo © Rob Petley-Jones





Visiting Roudsea Woods and Mosses NNR

- Roudsea woods and Mosses is a very special reserve, leased to Natural England by the Holker Estate. Visitors are welcome to but must get a special permit from Natural England. Find out more in the [reserve leaflet](#) For a permit, please email john.osborne@naturalengland.org.uk
- <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5794526008442880>

Access to the restoration site is via organised events only. However, group guided walks can be arranged. Contact us for more information.

Interested in our other BogLIFE sites?

Wedholme Flow (part of the South Solway Mosses NNR): Open access on this reserve, so visit any time. Find out more at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cumbrias-national-nature-reserves/cumbrias-national-nature-reserves>

Bolton Fell Moss: There is no public access at present. Access with Natural England staff is possible for accompanied groups and during advertised community events. Watch this space though, as we will be consulting on future access options with the intention of providing some public access to the site.

We need your help!

We are conducting research in to how people connect their local bogs. We would love it if you could help us! All you need to do is follow this link and you will be taken to the survey. It should take around 10 minutes to complete and will help us evaluate the impact of our work in the area. Thank you!

<http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/HSU1N/>



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