



The Sundew

Cumbria BogLIFE project newsletter

Welcome to the Roudsea woods and Mosses edition of *The Sundew*. In this issue:

- We have now completed all our planned restoration works – find out what we achieved and how it is looking.
- The cultural history of peat bogs – what do bogs mean to you? Are they still important to the local community? And how can you help us research this subject?
- Also, read about our exciting developments we have in the pipeline!

Bringing Cumbria's Raised Bogs to LIFE



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Bog Rosemary with its pink, bell shaped flowers, is a relative of Heather and a bog specialist.



The yellow spikes of Bog Asphodel can be seen during July and August. This plant was valued in the past as a substitute for saffron, being used to dye hair and cloth, producing a pale yellow colour. It was also used in traditional medicine to treat hernias, coughs and ulcers – luckily we have more reliable treatments now!

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Project Site Locations



Restoration works complete!

Major restoration works funded through the LIFE project at the southern end of Roudsea Woods and Mosses NNR have now been completed. This is a huge milestone for the Cumbria BogLIFE project and a turning point in the future of this part of the NNR. Here is what we have achieved on the site:

Scrub, Pine and Rhododendron removal

A total of 70.2ha of invasive scrub and pine and 70.5ha of Rhododendron has been removed from the bog. This will stop water from being sucked up from the bog by the deep roots and opens up the ground to allow bog plants to regrow.



Fixed point photography before (top) and after (bottom) Rhododendron Flailing.

Restoring the water table

Ground works have taken place on 96.3ha of degraded bog. This work involves filling in the drains and cracks in the peat to stop water flowing off the bog, and creating bunds which hold a skim of water on the surface of the bog.



Groundworks taking place on dry, degraded bog.

All photos on this page © Natural England



Bunding work holding a skim of water on the bog surface

What next?

The work the Cumbria BogLIFE project has carried is just the beginning. We have put the right conditions in place to allow the bog to restore itself – now we have to be patient! However, we will continue to monitor vegetation cover and water levels to see how the bog responds to the work.



Sphagnum mosses, the building blocks of peatbogs, starting to recover in a re-wetted area of Roudsea Woods and Mosses



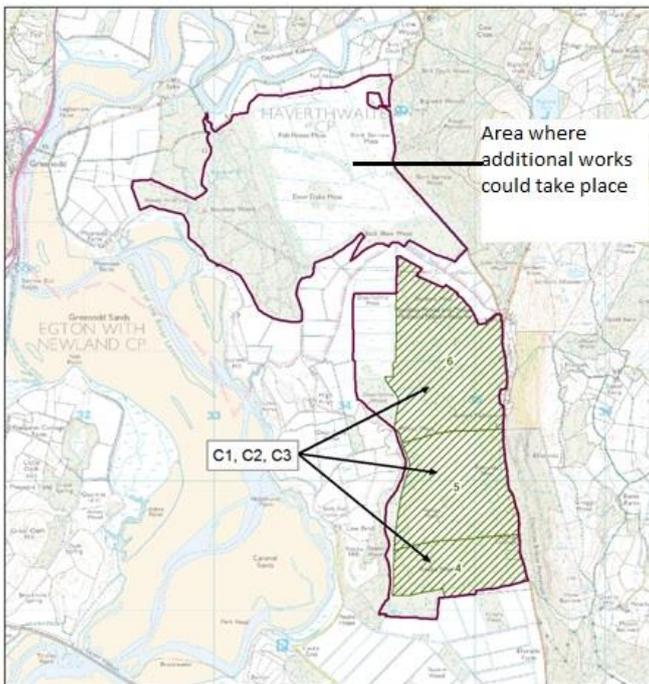
View from Ellerside Hill showing how the filled in drains and the bunding is helping to restore the watertable on the bog.

Exciting project developments!

Although the Cumbria BogLIFE project has completed all the restoration work it set out to do at Roudsea Woods and Mosses, we have the opportunity to do even more amazing restoration work here!

We have some extra funds which we will be able to spend restoring priority areas in the northern end of the site. The map below shows you where work has already taken place (shaded in green) and where we hope to carry out more work.

Roudsea Wood and Mosses SAC: UK0019834(2005)



□ Roudsea Wood and Mosses SAC
▨ Area where concrete actions are taking place (plus SSSI Unit Reference)

Concrete actions:
C1 – Tree & scrub removal
C2 – Rhododendron removal
C3 – Groundwork & raising water levels on degraded/vegetated peat

Map produced by GIS and Analysis Services Team (1) Date: 11/06/13. Map Reference: 120968 RWM © Crown copyright and database rights 2013 Ordnance Survey 100022021.

How to take part

If you would like to take part in this research, there are a number of different ways you can participate. The quickest and simplest way you can do this is by completing our online questionnaire which can be found by following this link:

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

If you want to get a bit more involved, you can also join us on a photowalk event we are holding at Roudsea Woods and Mosses. This will be a social walk around the restoration site, but with a bit of a twist!

We will be providing everyone with a camera before heading out to capture images of what you value most (or least!) about the landscape. This will be followed by tea and cake to discuss your photos. See the back of the newsletter for more details about the event, and feel free to get in touch if you would like more information! (Contact details are on the back page)



Domestic peat cutting c.1906 – this photo was probably taken on the South Solway Mosses, when peat cutting and burning was still part of everyday life.

Peat Bogs – what do they mean to you?

Peat bogs have been valued for centuries for the natural resources they provide, and have a rich, although often overlooked, social history linked to them. Like many bogs, Roudsea Woods and Mosses has a history of domestic peat cutting for fuel and heating. The bog would have been important to the communities that lived nearby, who would have had turbarry rights (the right to cut peat).

Now that times have changed, and these practises no longer take place, do the bogs at Roudsea Woods and Mosses still have value to the local community? And is there value in the work the Cumbria BogLIFE project has carried out? These are questions we are hoping to answer, and we are looking for people to help us.



The present day – people value bogs for different reasons, such as a chance to see an Osprey at Roudsea Woods and Mosses.

Events at Roudsea Woods and Mosses

Osprey Watch Day

Sunday 22nd July 10am – 4pm

- Join us at the nest viewpoint to watch our Osprey family.
- The juvenile birds will be leaving the nest about now and taking their first flight!
- Powerful telescopes provided

Follow the signs along the private road off the B5278 – Opposite the Clock Tower Business Park, Haverthwaite
Tel: 07967 971 523 for further details

Photowalk on Roudsea Woods and Mosses Exploring the cultural value of bogs.

Tuesday 14th August 10am – 1pm (approx.)

This is a social walk around the restored areas of Roudsea, but with a twist! We will arm you with a camera and you will take photos of whatever inspires you along the way. Afterwards we will head off for a cup of tea and cake so we can discuss your photos and what they mean to you. Free event but due to limited cameras, booking is needed. For more information and booking, phone Keeley Spate on 07881 255242 or email keeley.spate@naturalengland.org.uk

Visiting Roudsea

Roudsea Woods and Mosses NNR: Near Haverthwaite. Permissive access (a free permit) is required to visit this very special reserve, which Natural England leases from the Holker Estate. Find out more in the [reserve leaflet](http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5794526008442880) <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5794526008442880>

Interested in seeing our other BogLIFE sites?

Wedholme Flow NNR

The reserve is part of the South Solway Mosses, and is open access so you can visit at any time! Wedholme Flow can be found near the villages of Newton Arlosh and Kirkbride. If you wish to arrange a guided walk, please get in touch.

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

Bolton Fell Moss

There is no public access at present to Bolton Fell Moss at present. Access with Natural England staff is possible for accompanied groups and during advertised community events. If you would like to arrange a group visit, please get in touch.

Did you know...?

Because Cumbria BogLIFE is a funded project, we can offer walks, talks and educational events to community groups and schools **free of charge**. Contact us to find out more.

Contact Us:

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- www.gov.uk/government/publications/cumbrian-bogs-life-project

LIFE+ This project is being generously supported by the European Union's LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity Programme, which is the funding instrument for the environment. Funding is awarded to best practice, innovative demonstration projects that contribute to the objectives of **Natura 2000** - a network of the very best areas for wildlife across Europe.

