

Restoring upland peatlands



CANN
Project
Report



Cuilcagh
Mountain
Story Map



NbS
Intervention
Excel Sheet

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Healthy peatlands store carbon, are a habitat for unique flora and fauna, and regulate water quality and flow. Degraded peatlands can emit carbon, release pollutants to downstream watercourses, and increase flood risk.

Lessons Learned

Kindly shared by Ulster Wildlife

 Sufficient staff capacity and time for **landowner engagement** is vital. These relationships can then be strengthened in future projects, e.g. PEAT+ 2026-29.



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 Time and cost of **ancillary logistics** for restoration work. E.g. machinery and refueling, access, permissions, material transport and storage.



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 **Training** for contractors and landowners, plus regular contact and site visits, ensures a high standard of work and avoids more time and expense in the long run.



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 Landowner engagement is harder without **financial incentives**. Uncertainties around carbon credits and double-funding with agri-environmental schemes also reduce landowner confidence.



 Need to set **clear parameters and expectations** early on in the project for monitoring and evaluation, data management, collaboration between partners, decision-making, etc.



*The Rivers Trust compiled this case study but was not involved in its delivery.

At a glance

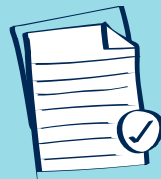


- 439 coir logs
- + 1 tonne heather brash
- + 2.5 km reprofiling edges
- + 323 peat dams + 23 water table monitoring points
- = over 50 ha of drained blanket bog
- + 475 m fencing to remove grazing pressure on eroded sections
- + 824 invasive non-native conifers removed
- + path work to reduce trampling

- Aerial imagery & LiDAR to prioritise hydrological
- restoration across 12,500 ha site.
- >5,200 conifers mapped.
- 4 years of species surveys.
- Recreational impact survey.
- Atmospheric nitrogen monitoring.



- ROI & NI Conservation Action Plans
- Cross-Border Wildfire Management Plan



Cuilcagh Mountain & Cuilcagh Anierin SACs, Co. Fermanagh

Cuilcagh was one part of the wider Interreg VA CANN Project 2017-22.
Restoration Plan: RPS Consultants
Stakeholder Engagement & Site Work: Ulster Wildlife, local landowners, and contractors
Consent: NIEA