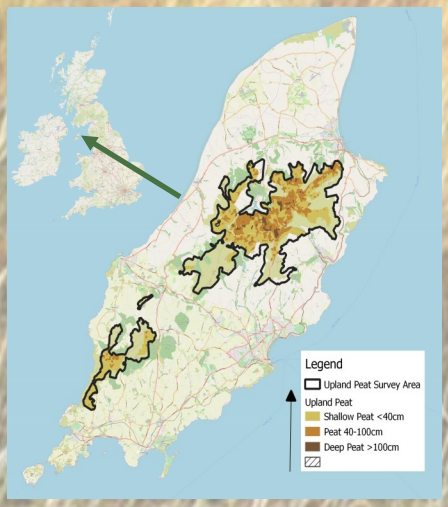
# Manx Mires Partnership

- Led by Manx Wildlife Trust, with the help of volunteers.
- Funded by Manx Wildlife Trust, Manx Lottery Trust and Manx National Heritage.
- Supported by the Isle of Man Government and other landowners and farmers.

## Why are peatlands and mires important?

- A number of different habitats occur on peatland, but when the habitat is actively forming peat it is known as a mire.
- Peat is a long-term carbon store.
- Peatlands are an important habitats for a number of specialist plant species, invertebrates and wetland birds, such as curlew.
- Peatland habitats are key element of Nature-based Solutions to help mitigate the climate crisis.
- Degraded peatlands are a major source of carbon emissions.

Sphagnum mosses: the building blocks of peat




Upland peat survey area on the Isle of Man

**The Isle of Man, with an area of 57,239 hectares, has up to 10,000 hectares of upland peat habitats, some of which are degraded.**

## Why are they degraded?

- Historic drainage channels
- Cutting for fuel
- Historic and localised over-grazing
- Commercial forestry
- Wildfire
- Recreation pressure

Degraded peat habitat

Training volunteers to help with the survey.

## So far we have...

- Surveyed and mapped the extent and depth of 4643 hectares of peatland with the help of volunteers, including two upland farmers.
- Contributed to the IMPACT Report on climate change mitigation, which influenced the Climate Change Bill and led to the banning of peat extraction.

Upland farmers helping with the survey.

## What next?

- There is now a commitment by the Isle of Man Government to a series of restoration projects starting early 2021 as part of their climate change mitigation plan.
- We have started to survey a pilot area of upland peat to assess habitat condition and produce a restoration plan.

## Restoration

- We will work with partners to protect and re-wet existing peat by blocking drainage channels, re-profiling peat hags and stabilising areas of bare peat.
- Restoration will encourage the recovery of peat-forming habitats, such as blanket bog, which will reduce carbon emissions from degraded peat, improve carbon sequestration and reduce wild fire and flood risk.
- Restoration will improve upland habitats for a range of invertebrates and birds, such as Curlew.

Blanket bog habitat on a Manx Wildlife Trust reserve

Surveying for the depth and extent of upland peat.