

Project Summary

Rotten Bottom – Peatland Restoration:

Country	Scotland
Location	Scottish Borders, nr. Moffat
UK grid reference	NT145144
Project completion date	January 2021
Total restoration area	35.1 hectares
Anticipated CO₂e avoided	6,826 tonnes
Peatland Code status	Validated

Narrative:

The peatland restoration at Rotten Bottom is part of a wider, multi-site project to tackle degraded peatlands across the Talla and Gameshope estate. This land is owned and managed by the Borders Forest Trust, who are committed to restoring it for nature, by planting trees and scrub, and also helping blanket bogs and mire habitats to recover.

A combination of bare peat re-vegetation, hagg re-profiling and gully blocking will allow the water table to rise and peat-forming plant species to re-colonise the area. These plants lock up carbon when they die and become stored, partially decomposed, as layers of peat below the growing layer of mosses.

By restoring the peatlands, this project will not only reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the degraded mires, it will also allow the landscape to store more water and support a greater diversity of wildlife, including iconic species like black grouse and hen harriers.

Another key aim of this project is education, with the Borders Forest Trust hoping to host site visits from academics, policy makers and conservation bodies, to raise awareness about peatland restoration and demonstrate effective techniques for driving recovery.

