

States of blanket bog

The states of blanket bog are:

- STATE 2** Bare peat
- STATE 2a** Revegetated bare peat
- STATE 3** Dwarf shrub dominated blanket bog
- STATE 4** Grass and/or sedge dominated blanket bog
- STATE 5** Modified blanket bog with high dwarf shrub cover but with sphagnum and other mire species
- STATE 6** Active hummock/hollow/ridge blanket bog

Further information on the different states of blanket bog is available in the Blanket Bog Land Management Guidance produced by the Moors for the Future Partnership on behalf of the Uplands Management Group – www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk/blanket-bog-land-management-guidance

State 1 is afforested blanket bog which does not fit within this restoration trajectory diagram



Pathway to good condition



State 2: Bare peat Little or no vegetation with areas of exposed bare peat and extensive gullying and haggging. Unlikely to support representative peatland communities. Small patches of dwarf shrubs (heather) may exist (inactive).



State 2a: Revegetated bare peat Bare peat that has been revegetated. Techniques vary and can include spreading sphagnum-rich heather brash or sowing a crop of fast growing amenity grasses, supported by the application of lime and fertiliser; whose roots bind the peat soil. The amenity grasses will eventually die as the pH drops and the fertiliser is used up.



State 3: Dwarf shrub dominated blanket bog Largely inactive, severely modified bogs where dwarf shrub cover exceeds 75% of the canopy and other typical mire species such as bog mosses and even cotton grass are rare or absent. It may have moderate to severe gullying and haggging. Occurs often on 'drier', modified peats and the more easterly moors.



State 4: Grass and/or sedge dominated blanket bog May be active or have potential to become so. Vegetation is dominated by graminoids such as purple moor grass, cotton grass or deer grass with sphagnum bog mosses scarce or absent. This state does not include the post-burn grass or sedge dominated areas of modified bogs of State 5.



State 5: Modified blanket bog (active) Dwarf shrub cover is high, often reaching 50–75%, and sphagnum cover tends to be lower than in intact blanket bogs. Cotton grass is abundant or frequent as an understorey and becomes dominant in the years following fire. Moderately active, with peat formation likely to be slower than in State 6. It may be drained, but usually with few gullies or hagggs. Characteristic of much of the Pennines, for example.



State 6: Active blanket bog This is unmodified or little modified, sphagnum-rich blanket bog, which is peat-forming (active) often with hummocks and hollows. There may be basin or valley mire components. Typically neither heather nor cotton grass achieve high abundance and there is usually a good sphagnum understorey. It meets, or is close to meeting, favourable condition attributes.

MoorLIFE2020

Published by MoorLIFE 2020, a Moors for the Future Partnership project in the EU designated South Pennine Moors Special Area of Conservation. Delivered by the Peak District National Park Authority as the lead and accountable body (the Coordinating Beneficiary). On the ground delivery is being undertaken largely by the Moors for the Future staff team with works also undertaken by staff of the National Trust High Peak and Marsden Moor Estates, the RSPB Dove Stone team and Pennine Prospects (the Associated Beneficiaries).

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Funded by the EU LIFE programme and co-financed by Severn Trent Water, Yorkshire Water and United Utilities. With advice and regulation from Natural England and the Environment Agency, and local advice from landowners.

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