

Livestock grazing and peatland restoration can be compatible. Restoration can improve grazing extent and quality, as well as improve access for stock and people.



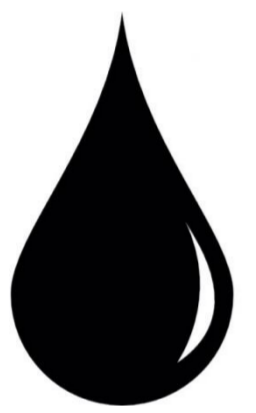
Healthy peatlands provide **food and favoured habitat** for grouse, improving access to land and reduced risks to game from injuries in deep gullies, eroding hags and deep drainage ditches. They also reduce the speed of water runoff which can protect downstream **fisheries** from sedimentation and pH changes that can result in losses.



Every day, Scottish Water provides **1.34 billion litres** of clear fresh drinking water to its customers, much of which comes from peatland catchments. When peat soils are degraded it can result in colouration which makes the raw water harder and more costly to treat.



Blanket bog is the most extensive peatland habitat in Scotland, covering some 1.8 million hectares – **23%** of Scotland's land area. It is also the largest terrestrial carbon store, holding around **1.7 billion tonnes of carbon** - equivalent to **140 years** worth of Scotland's total annual greenhouse gas emissions (46.70 Mt CO₂e in 2014).



Healthy peatlands store water and help to maintain steady flow rates therefore reducing downstream flood risk. Sphagnum moss, the main driver of peat formation, can hold, on average, between **20–30 times** its own weight in water.



94 Special Areas of Conservation are designated in Scotland for peatland habitats extending over 221,000 hectares. These in turn support uniquely adapted birds, plants, fungi, invertebrates including butterflies, and micro-organisms.



Sustainable tourism contributes over **£4 billion** to the Scottish economy every year. Landscapes, wildlife and outdoor activities are consistently given as the top reasons for visiting Scotland. Walking, in particular, is the most popular outdoor past-time enjoyed by the people of Scotland.



Two **3,000-year-old** Scottish “bog bodies” were discovered below a prehistoric village in South Uist. Their unusually well-preserved bones led them to the discovery that they had been preserved in a peat bog, found and reburied hundreds of years later.



Rewetted peatlands are a **natural defence** against wild fire. As the climate changes we can expect warmer, drier summers that will increase the risk of wild fires across Scotland.