**Eyes on the Bog**

**What is it?**

Eyes on the Bog is funded as part of the [Great North Bog](https://www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0022/345451/The-GNB-summary-vision.pdf) and is a scheme that enables scientifically robust, repeatable, low tech, low cost, long term monitoring on peatland sites.

Once set up, data can be easily and sustainably collected by staff or trained volunteers. Our volunteer monitors working across the Yorkshire Dales were trained up by Yorkshire Peat Partnership, who are running the project.

The basic techniques the teams are using have been designed by the IUCN Peatlands Programme. The standardised procedures mean that peatlands can be monitored across the UK to a consistent standard, creating a network of sites that can be easily and reliably compared with one another.

**Where are the sites?**

Eyes on the Bog sites can include damaged peatlands, peatlands under restoration or peatlands in good condition. Yorkshire Peat Partnership have a variety of sites already set up across the Yorkshire Dales and also welcome suggestions from volunteers as to local sites, which they will then aim to set up in agreement and consultation with local landowners.

**How do volunteers monitor sites?**

Since Eyes on the Bog aims to establish a simple, repeatable set of guidelines about how to collect the basic information needed to assess the condition of peatlands and the effectiveness of restoration techniques, volunteer teams use: rust rods and surface level rods. They are also trained in how to conduct a *von post* test and identify peatland vegetation.

The data gathered from the sites is fed into the [Peat Data Hub](https://peatdatahub.net/) hosted by the University of Leeds, enabling direct comparison from one site to another. It also enables the Great North Bog partners, such as Yorkshire Peat Partnership to refine the [Peatland Code](https://www.iucn-uk-peatlandprogramme.org/peatland-code/introduction-peatland-code#:~:text=The%20Peatland%20Code%20is%20a,%2C%20quantifiable%2C%20additional%20and%20permanent.) and test long term climate predictions.

If you are interested in becoming one of our Eyes on the Bog peatland monitors please get in touch with [Victoria Benn](mailto:%20victoria.benn@friendsofthedales.org.uk).