

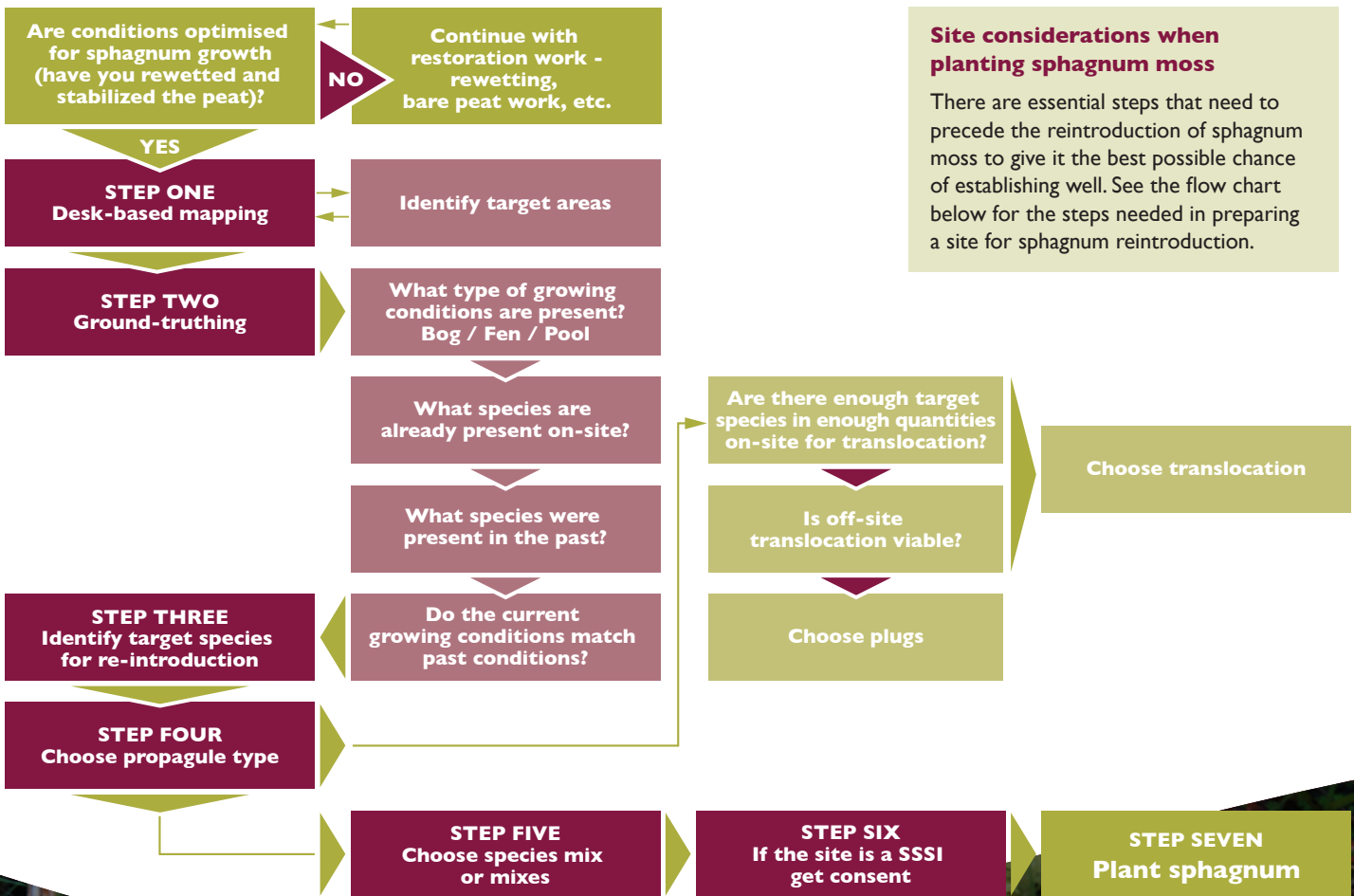
Re-introducing Sphagnum moss

Sphagnum moss is a keystone species in a healthy, peat-building blanket bog and forms a large part of both the living bog layer and the stored carbon beneath. Atmospheric pollution from the Industrial Revolution stripped many of the peatlands within the Peak District and South Pennines of this living bog layer, leaving the bare peat below exposed and vulnerable to erosion.

Sphagnum reintroduction, as part of a wider restoration plan, will increase the resilience of these important blanket bog habitats to climate change so that the peatlands can continue to provide multiple benefits, termed as ecosystem services, to us all, including:

- Carbon storage and sequestration
- Wildlife & biodiversity
- Economic sustainability (e.g. agriculture and tourism)
- Water provision and quality
- Flood mitigation
- Public health and wellbeing (e.g. recreation)

Blanket bogs are naturally waterlogged habitats. Sphagnum is key to holding water on the moors, yet it is the last stage of moorland restoration. Sphagnum moss needs to be planted in wet areas to thrive, so the land must already be wet enough to support them for planting to be successful.



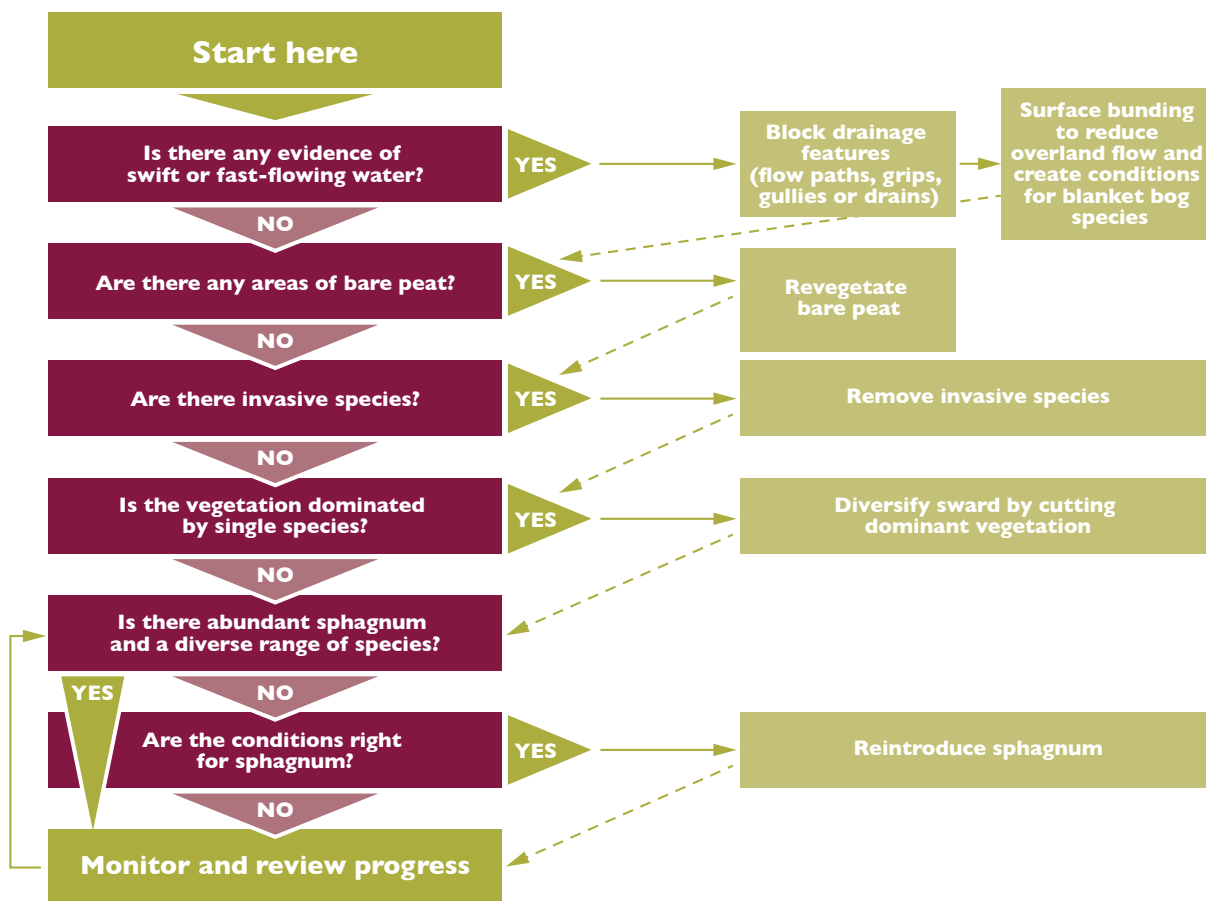
Methodology for planting sphagnum plugs

Sphagnum plugs are planted into wet ground, approximately three paces apart. Gradually, these plugs will grow in size until they form one continuous blanket across the bog. Trials are investigating better planting techniques. Over time, the sphagnum moss should restore active peat-building functionality to the moor. Please refer to the *Planting Guide* for instructions on how to plant sphagnum plugs.

Preparing a site for sphagnum

There are key features to note to help you best set the landscape up for success when planting sphagnum. Use the flow chart to ensure all the necessary steps have been taken before planting.

Sphagnum moss can hold up to **20 times** its weight in water.
 Sphagnum moss is a **key component** of blanket bogs.
 Sphagnum moss is **essential to forming peat**, which accumulates at about 1mm per year.



Related documents to view

This factsheet is part of a suite of documents to guide you through the process of planting sphagnum. Please refer to the *Sphagnum Practitioners' Guide* for a detailed overview of the process in its entirety, and view the *Sphagnum Planting Guide* when you are ready to plant the sphagnum into the ground. Both are available to view online: www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk

MoorLIFE 2020

This factsheet is one of a series produced by the MoorLIFE 2020 project. 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 The South Pennines Park (the Associated Beneficiaries).

www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk

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