



DUDDON MOSSES PEATLAND RESTORATION PROGRAMME

› **Location:**

Lake District

› **Client:**

Environment Agency

SERVICES



Vegetation Management



Ecology

OVERVIEW

Duddon Mosses is 30.77ha Natural Nature Reserve near Ulverston in the Lake District. The site is a system of raised mosses/mires at the head of the Duddon Estuary. It is a SSSI site because it has rare bog plants such as bog mosses (*Sphagnum*), cotton grasses and the carnivorous sundew. Trees and non-native species including rhododendron required removal and treatment. On three sides the Duddon Mosses is a lowland raised bog, which is rich in wildlife with adders, lizards, cottongrass, bog asphodel, and notably, the rare moss *Sphagnum pulchrum*. The peat in this lowland raised bog is thought to be around 7,000 years old.

To re-wet and enhance the existing peatland, ATM performed large scale tree clearance, scrub removal, mulching and thinning works, across some 23 hectares of the 36 hectares of raised bog.

CHALLENGE

Duddon Mosses is a lowland raised bog with regrowth woodland covering a large area of the bog. Some tree felling has been carried out by other contractors in previous years. The surrounding land is farmland, woodland and occupied houses and gardens. There are open field drains across areas of the worksite which link to the perimeter drain. Most have been blocked in the past.



OUR SOLUTION

To ensure that existing drains were not impacted by the contract for tree felling they were marked up on the constraints plan prior to start on site and protected during the site works.

All trees identified on the plans were felled. This included birch, holly, pine and rhododendron. Brash and timber less than 150mm in diameter was chipped and left on-site. Larger trees including Oak trees were felled towards the moss, to ensure that existing boundary fences were not damaged.



Measures were used to prevent public encroachment and to prevent unauthorised access. Ground conditions are extremely wet at all times however the works were scheduled during wetter weather to minimise the impact upon the public. To manage the risk, ground conditions and associated disturbance were monitored weekly with our Site Manager and the Client's Site Manager.

Vehicular access was limited to the routes agreed within the Traffic Management Plan prior to commencement of the works. This was strictly adhered to. Where livestock was present, we were mindful to ensure that gates were left as found (whether open or closed) and that the work was undertaken in a manner that presented no threat to the welfare of the animals.



Numerous measures were put in place to protect the environment. A safe refuelling area was established. All plant and equipment used Bio Oils. Operatives received training in refuelling plant and spill response.

RESULTS / BENEFITS

Outgoing Reserve Manager Steve Benn said:

“THE WORKS UNDERTAKEN BY ATM WILL PROVIDE A FURTHER STEP IN THE SURVIVAL OF DUDDON MOSSES RARE HABITAT AND THE PLANTS AND ANIMALS IT SUPPORTS. TREES WHICH WERE HAVING A DETRIMENTAL EFFECT ON THE BOG HAVE BEEN REMOVED TO PROTECT THE FRAGILE ECO-SYSTEM.”

