

# Corporate report: Marches Mosses BogLIFE project

*Updated:* Project leaflet and links to BogLIFE newsletters added.

In August 2016 the EU LIFE programme awarded Natural England a multi-million pound grant over 5 years to support the Marches Mosses BogLIFE project. The aim is to restore the Fenn's, Whixall, Bettisfield, Wem and Cadney Mosses Special Area of Conservation (SAC). The partnership includes Natural Resources Wales and the Shropshire Wildlife Trust. The project's also supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The project plans to create a healthier and larger habitat for Marches Mosses by storing rainfall on the existing bog where appropriate by:

- blocking ditches
- creating small bunds (low banks) to prevent runoff
- buying and restoring more peatland
- removing selected areas of scrub, trees and conifer plantations

To reduce the effects of air pollution on the bog the project will:

- test ways of managing its effects on bog vegetation, such as controlling dense areas of purple moor grass using different methods
- engage with local land managers and others to raise awareness of how air pollution affects the bog and explore ways to reduce its impact

The project will also:

- improve the bog's water quality
- clean up a former scrap-yard
- monitor the recovery of the bog
- share knowledge gained with managers of similar habitats in the UK and Europe
- establish a centre of excellence for volunteering and training
- raise awareness of the bog by engaging with a wide range of audiences such as local schools

## **Background**

Lowland raised bogs are one of the rarest wildlife habitats in the world. This habitat is very important for biodiversity and for its critical role in carbon storage. The aim is to reduce past damage from:

- plantation forestry
- scrub invasion
- peat extraction
- land drainage for agriculture and other uses

- invasive species
- air pollution

## Contact

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## [Press release: North East men fined for illegal fishing](#)

The Environment Agency is reminding anglers of the importance of having a rod licence after two men were fined for fishing illegally in separate offences.

They were caught during targeted patrols on the River Derwent in Gateshead by Environment Agency Fisheries Enforcement Officers

On 28 March this year, Kyle Taylor-Allen, 30, of The Crescent, Dunston, Gateshead, was found coarse fishing at Swalwell without a licence.

He was also fishing during the close season, which is prohibited, and using illegal bait.

He was fined a total of £770, ordered to pay costs of £127 and a victim

surcharge or £30.

On 13 April this year, Peter Blackett, 53, of Waterbeach Place, Newcastle, was found fishing without a licence at Rowlands Gill.

He was also fishing during close season, using an illegal bait and he had taken and killed a fish while fishing without the landowner's permission, an offence under the Theft Act.

The offences were all proved in absence at Gateshead Magistrates' Court on 3 July.

### **'It's vital anglers abide by the law'**

Fisheries Enforcement Officer David Shears said: "It's vital that anglers abide by the law to protect the future of the sport and the quality of our rivers and fisheries.

"We work closely with our partners at the police, angling clubs and the Angling Trust to identify where illegal fishing might be taking place.

"Our fisheries enforcement officers work hard to target those people flouting the law and we won't hesitate to take action.

"Illegal fishing can be more costly than you think and hopefully this will act as a deterrent for any angler thinking of cheating the system."

The close season started on 15 March and runs for three months, preventing fishing for coarse fish to give the fish a chance to breed.

All income from rod licence sales is used to fund Environment Agency work to protect and improve fish stocks and fisheries, including improving habitats for fish and facilities for anglers, tackling illegal fishing and working with partners to encourage people to give fishing a go.

Buying a rod licence is quick and easy – you can [buy one online on the gov.uk website](https://www.gov.uk/buy-rodllicence)

The Environment Agency urges anyone to report illegal fishing by calling 0800 80 70 60.

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**[Transparency data: Thanckes oil fuel depot loading facility and tank farm](#)**

## [fire fighting upgrade](#)

On 8 May 2015 the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) submitted an application to the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) for a marine licence to construct a new jetty head and approach structure at Thanckes Oil Fuel Depot (OFD). The application also included decommissioning of the existing jetty structure and capital dredging of a new berth and approach channel. The original application proposed disposal of dredged material at Rame Head South designated disposal site.

During the determination period a new disposal site in the Plymouth Sound area was characterised. The site, Plymouth Deep (PL035), was fully assessed for the disposal of capital and maintenance material. PL035 was selected as the disposal site for this application by the MMO as best site in terms of the practical, economic and environmental costs.

The MMO has carried out an Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) under the Marine Works (EIA) Regulations 2007 (as amended). The MMO has now determined the application and a summary of all information relating to the determination can be found in the attached EIA Consent Decision. A copy of the licence and supporting assessments has also been attached for reference.

Further Information:

All marine licence applications are available from the marine licensing public register.

### **Contact information:**

Marine Licensing Team

Telephone: 0300 123 1032

Email: [marine.consents@marinemanagement.org.uk](mailto:marine.consents@marinemanagement.org.uk)

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## [Press release: Demolition company fined for illegal waste site](#)

A County Durham demolition company has been ordered to pay £6,180.46 after pleading guilty to breaking environmental laws.

PTS Demolition and Dismantling Ltd, which operates out of Hackworth Industrial Estate, Shildon, Bishop Auckland, was prosecuted for operating a waste transfer station without a permit at Newton Aycliffe Magistrates' Court on 5 July 2017. The court ruled it was a deliberate offence and ordered the

firm to pay a fine of £3,500 and £2,680.46 costs.

The charges brought by the Environment Agency relate to the company's attempts to reduce costs by starting its own waste transfer station.

An Environment Officer and a colleague from Durham County Council visited the site in July 2014 to provide advice on how to apply for an environmental permit and planning permission to do this.

In 2015, Environment Officers visited a further five times to give additional advice and guidance. At the same time they recorded evidence that the company was operating a waste transfer station illegally, including storing 100 tonnes of crushed aggregate, 15 skips full of mixed waste and a store of fire extinguishers.

In February 2016, PTS Demolition submitted a permit application, which was returned for failing to include the application fee. Following a further visit by Environment Officers to give more advice, the company submitted another application. This was also returned for failing to include a Fire Prevention Plan (FPP). Again, officers provided advice on how to complete an FPP.

Officers returned to the site on 11 August 2016. The levels of waste had reduced but some skips of mixed waste remained, along with a number of wooden railway sleepers and a skip containing glass.

### **Company given 'every possible opportunity' to comply**

Jamie Fletcher, Environment Agency Area Environment Manager, said:

The regulations exist to protect the environment, legitimate business and local communities from the risk of harm. Every business dealing in waste, whether they produce, carry, sort, recycle, ship or dispose of it, has a responsibility to fully understand and comply with environmental laws.

We gave PTS Demolition every possible opportunity and extensive support to comply. However, not only did they store waste illegally, the company repeatedly ignored advice and failed to shut down operations.

Those that repeatedly fail to comply with regulations pose a heightened risk to the environment and undermine legitimate business. In such circumstances we will have no hesitation prosecuting to ensure that waste crime doesn't pay.

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