



Why are bogs important?

Peatlands are the world's largest natural carbon store.


Peatlands cover less than 3% of the land surface of Earth but are thought to contain twice as much carbon as the world's forests. This makes them a vital defence against the effects of climate change.



Bogs provide places for animals to graze.


If managed carefully, cows, sheep and horses can be found grazing on bogs. The rushes that grow on bogs can also be cut to provide bedding for livestock.






Peat bogs have historic, archaeological and cultural significance.

Because peat bogs can be thousands of years old, they contain layers of historical data and evidence. By examining a section of peat, scientists can tell what the past landscape was like, what type of animals colonised the area, and what the weather conditions were like.




Bogs can help to promote tourism and recreation.

The wide-open spaces that bogs offer are perfect places for escaping the hustle and bustle of towns and cities and attract millions of visitors each year. These visitors will often spend money on accommodation and food helping to support the local economy.



Bogs can help improve water quality.

Bogs are often located in the uplands, lying at the top of river catchments, where there is frequent and heavy rainfall. If in good condition, the water that runs off bogs into drinking water reservoirs is usually cleaner, thanks to special moorland plants called sphagnum moss which filter the water.




Bogs play an important part in improving people's health and well-being.

People visit bogs to relax, explore and unwind, enjoying the tranquillity of the vast open expanses' that bogs offer.



Bogs provide food for humans.

Blackberries, wild plums, elderberries, bilberries and cranberries can all be found growing wild on bogs.



Raised bogs can help prevent the risk of flooding.

Raised bogs provide a unique service in the fight against flooding. The peat slows down the flow of rainfall, helping to prevent flooding further downstream.



Bogs provide habitat for an array of wildlife.

Bogs contain very low levels of nutrients and are vital habitats for special plants, birds and insects, many of which can only live or breed in these special habitats.