Our Common Cause:
Our Upland Commons

Enabling a shared future for all

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INVITATION TO TENDER

From Foundation for Common Land (on behalf of the National Trust)

For Restoration of Two Spring Mires on Harford and Ugborough Moor and leading a practical training workshop to individuals wishing to learn more about mire and peatland restoration.

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1. Project Overview

1.1 Background

The Foundation for Common Land and a broad partnership of organisations have secured a grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to deliver a landmark project that will conserve and enhance the cultural and natural heritage of commons and commoning in upland England, working in the Lake District, Dartmoor, the Yorkshire Dales and Shropshire Hills. The project will be delivered between March 2021 and April 2024

This project comes at a critical time when common land faces the biggest changes in agricultural policy support for three generations, and when there is an urgent need to rectify past ecological damage and create resilience in the face of climate change. Commons are too small in number and in economic impact to register within national policy and planning, yet the landscapes and cultural heritage commoners manage are of disproportionately high value for biodiversity, water supply, carbon storage, historic environment, natural beauty and public access.

You can find out more about the Our Upland Commons Project and the Our Common Cause Partnership here

The Dartmoor Headwater Natural Flood Management (NFM) Project (https://www.dartmoor.gov.uk/wildlife-and-heritage/our-conservation-work/dartmoor-headwaters-project) is run jointly by the Environment Agency and Dartmoor National Park Authority. The project tests the effectiveness of using natural river processes, land management and soft engineering approaches to reduce the risk of flooding and improve water quality and biodiversity.

These two projects are working together to secure funding for the proposed mire restoration and training on Harford and Ugborough Moors.
N.B - Funding is secured for the Hangershell Mire restoration and training workshop. We are awaiting confirmation of funding for Scad Brook Spring Mire restoration (*28 September, at the latest*)

1.2 Engaging Stakeholders and Demonstrating by Doing

Critical to the project's ethos is the belief that if we are to achieve the best outcomes for commons, we need to understand different perspectives and passions, we need effective collaboration and we need trusted facilitation to promote fruitful discussion and build consensus.

The projects delivered as part of Our Common Cause will 'demonstrate by doing' and so change attitudes and behaviours, build collaboration, and bring people together.

Projects at a local scale demonstrating how we can deliver positive change regionally and nationally. Sharing our learning amongst our partners and stakeholders within, between and beyond our four local areas is a key outcome of this project.

To facilitate collaboration, sharing and learning the project employs a national project manager as well as local project officers in each region. Each region is also supported by an Area Group, comprising key local stakeholders including the local national park/AONB, governmental and third sector conservation and heritage organisations, and representatives of landowners and commoners.

The consultant /contractor should demonstrate their approach to working with the project team and area group to:

- Engage the relevant stakeholders in the delivery of this project.
- Ensuring the relevance of their delivery to the those involved in the day to day management of the commons (including commoners).
- Maximizing the opportunities for sharing, learning and influencing long term change.

2. Summary of Spring Mire Restoration works at Hangershell and Scad Brook Mire

The purpose of this project is to restore the degraded areas of mire where the peat is drying out and damaged due to poaching, heavy tracking and trampling by livestock and to slow the flow of water throughout the mire. The benefit of this will be to improve the quality and resilience of the mire habitat, in conjunction with other measures being taken on site, and to improve the water and carbon storage potential of the mire.

Slowing the flow of water throughout the mire will allow the mire vegetation and sphagnum moss to recolonise over time, also alleviating run-off issues which are causing issues on the track below and beyond this in the mire habitat lower side of the track. Slowing the flow can be achieved using a combination of techniques including the use of wooden dam blocks in drainage channels, natural timber flow deflectors to spread out the water and horseshoe shaped peat bunds to retain the water and allow peat and sphagnum to form.

There are also several peat hags, which will benefit from reprofiling and revegetating to prevent further peat erosion.

3. Summary of the 2-day mire restoration training workshop for potential contractors

The aim of this project is to upskill local contractors and others interested in undertaking mire restoration projects.

Peat and Mire restoration work is increasing on Dartmoor and we would like you to share your knowledge and skills with people interested in finding out more about this area of work.

The idea is that as part of the restoration works on Hangershell Mire, you will deliver a 2 day hands on practical training workshop to 6-8 individuals.

By the end of the workshop, it is expected that those taking part will have a broad understanding of the purpose of peat and mire restoration works, and a good foundation in the basic skills required in constructing timber dams, flow deflectors and peat bunds.

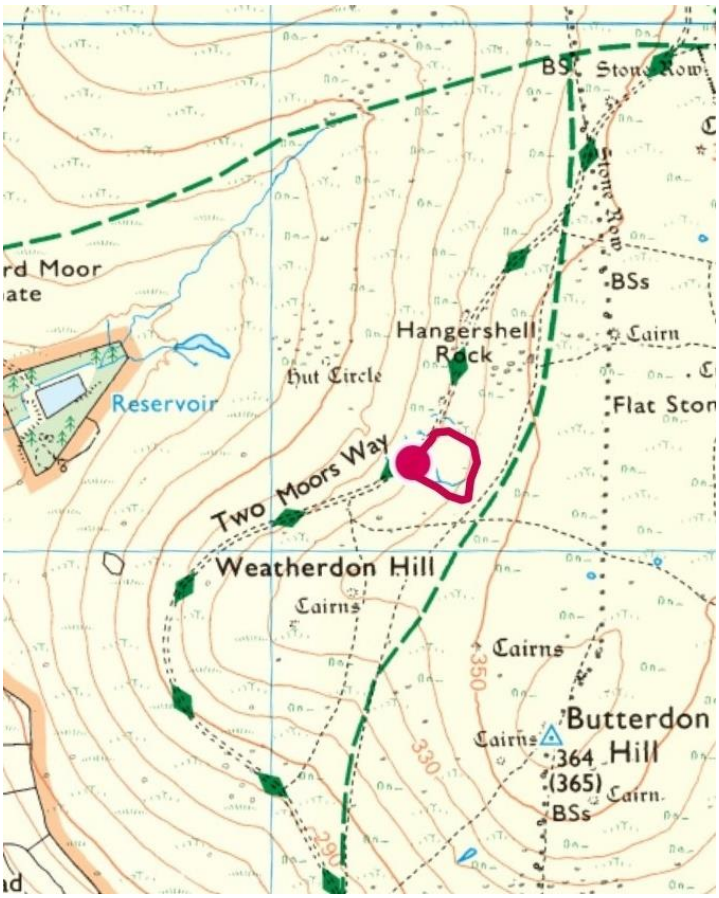
4. Site Details

4.1 Hangershell Mire

Site Location	Harford Moor
Statutory Designation	Dartmoor National Park
Parishes	Harford
District	South Hams
County	Devon County Devon Central
Grid Reference	SX 6535 5925
Area	1.36 ha
Elevation	325–340 m AOD

The small mire is situated on Harford Moor, lying between Weatherdon Hill and Hangershell Rock at 325–340m, above the Moorland Line (England), and within registered common land and the unenclosed open moorland of Dartmoor National Park. The site has public access with the 'Two Moors Way' long-distance public footpath running through the lower part of the site along the route of the disused railway. The site is included in the Access Land of the CRoW Act 2000.

Please see Appendix 1 for Harford Spring Mire Survey 2021, Belinda Wheeler



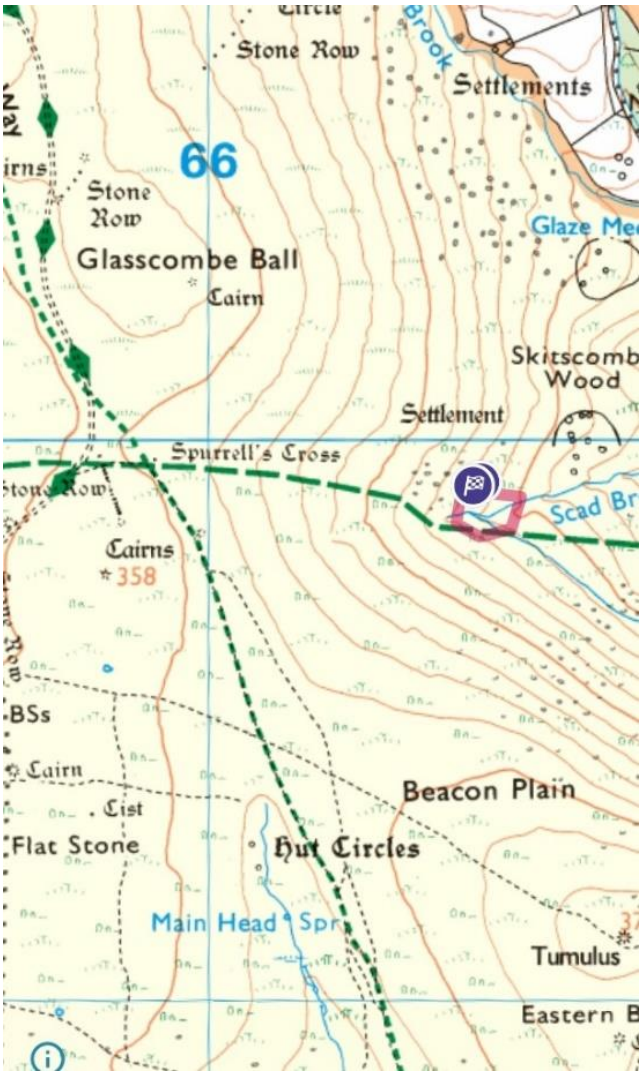
4.2 Scad Brook Mire and Upland flush

Site Name:	(1) Scad Brook & (2) Flush above Scad Brook
Site Location	Ugborough Common
Statutory Designation	Dartmoor National Park
Parishes	Ugborough
District	South Hams
County	Devon
Central Grid Reference	(1) SX 6633 5985 & (2) SW 6637 5971
Area	(1) 0.13 ha & (2) 2.69 ha
Elevation	285–335 m AOD

Scad Brook issues from a spring that arises on the lower slopes of a small valley on Ugborough Common. The slopes on either side of the brook support mire vegetation

flushed by springs and ground water from above. The area lies between Glascombe Ball and Beacon Plain above the Moorland Line (England), and within registered common land and the unenclosed open moorland of Dartmoor National Park.

Please see Appendix 2 for Scad Brook Spring Head Mires Survey 2021, Belinda Wheeler



5. Methods and Techniques

The contractor is to supply all materials associated with the project, to include any timber boards, stakes, lengths of unprocessed timber and is responsible for providing or hiring any machinery required

5.1 Leaky Woody Dams and flow deflectors

Leaky woody dams to be constructed from lengths of natural timber in the round, brought in from a local source where possible. The dams will be placed at strategic locations, with the aim of slowing down and spreading out water to re-wet the surrounding area (see maps in sections 6.1 & 6.2. These dams should be leaky enough to allow some baseflow through and encourage excess water to be deflected out to rewet adjacent drier areas.

- Lengths of timber will differ in size, however, they should be greater than 25 cm diameter and long enough to enable spreading of the water.
- Long and strong supporting posts will be necessary to secure the dam during higher flows.
- Logs can be stacked depending on the depth of ditches/gullies
- The timber used should be robust and durable to withstand the wet conditions and exposure.
- The timber need to be secured firmly in place by stakes to withstand high flows and interference from livestock.
- An erosion control measure needs to be placed downstream of each dam, directly below the V notch, to prevent scouring when the dam overflows.
- Where wide log dams are used in more defined gullies/ tin mining gullies, they should be bedded into the base and sides of the gully as agreed by the archaeologist.

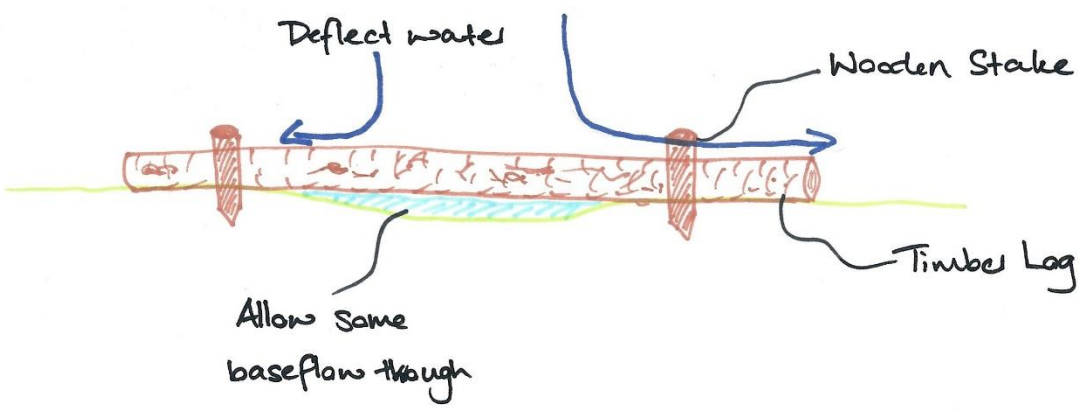


Figure 2: Schematic of flow deflector

5.2 Woody Dam Blocks

These dams are slightly permeable gulley blocks to slow the flow of water and to create pools. These should be less leaky than the design detailed above, to create pools and create lateral flow within the site. An approximation of number of woody dam blocks and their locations can be found in section 6.1 & 6.2.

The number of the boards needed depends on material used and the size of the channel gulley.

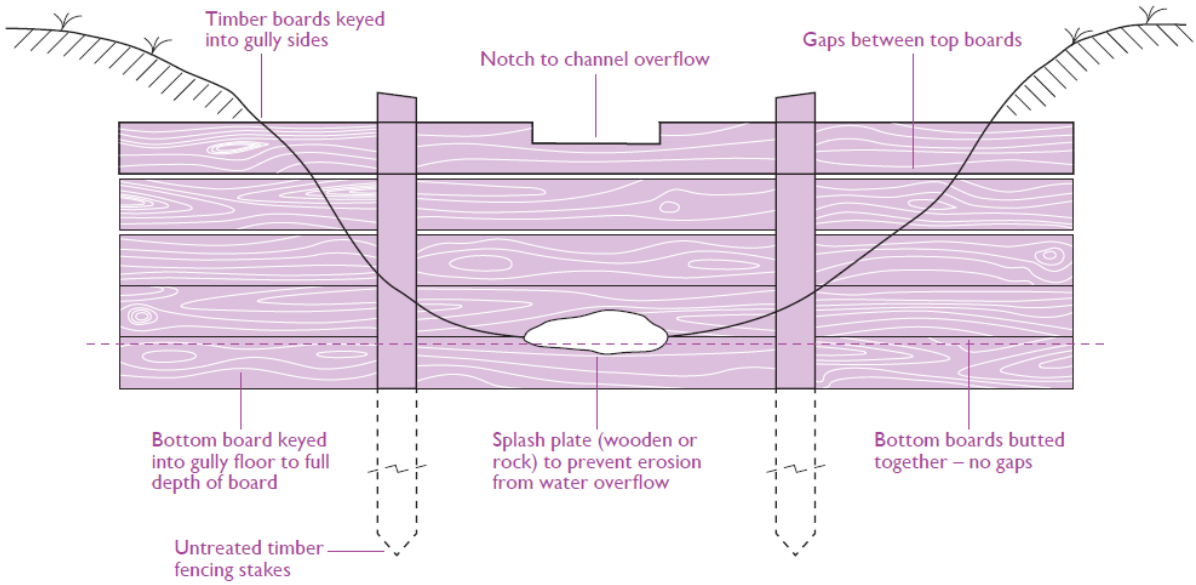


Figure 3: Schematic of woody dam block

Figure 4: Woody dam block being installed showing downstream splash plate, overflow notch and upstream peat covering

5.3 Low Peat Bunds

Creation of low semi-circular bunds constructed from peat and strategically placed to hold water within the confines of the bund. This will allow the recovery of mire vegetation and the eventual formation of Sphagnum moss. The height of the dams should be no more than 300mm, and the approximate location of the bunds can be seen in section 6.2.

5.4 Peat Hag Reprofiling

The larger peat hags within the vicinity of the mire need to be regraded to remove the steep peat face and prevent further continual erosion.

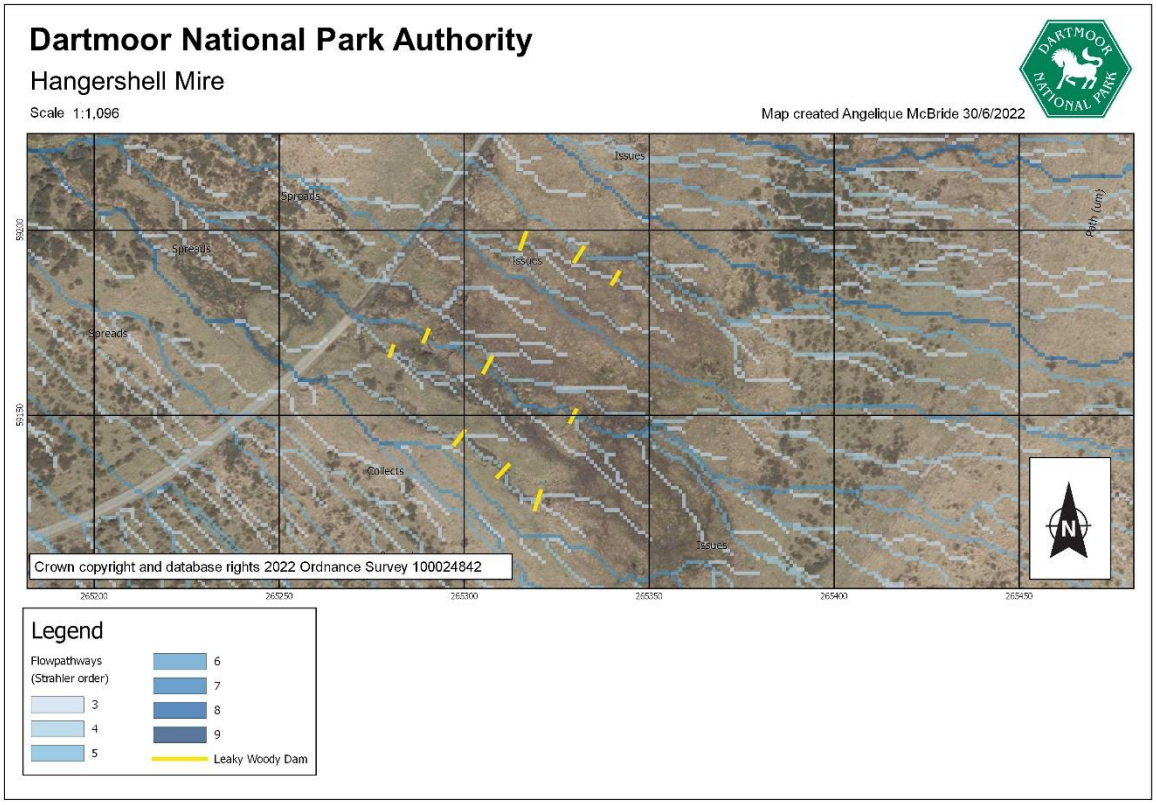
- The turf should be removed from behind the peat hag and set to one side for use later.
- The eroded peat face should be regraded to an angle of 30 degrees. With the spoil spread in the eroded area in front of the hag.
- Then turf should be replaced and bedded into the bare areas as far as possible.

6. Location of interventions

6.1 Hangershell Mire

Approximate location of 10 leaky woody dams / low peat bunds within flowpathways, to slow the flow and to encourage lateral flow within the site.

The larger peat hags (2-4) within the vicinity of the mire need to be regraded to remove the steep peat face and prevent further continual erosion.



Section of mire below the railway track

15 woody dam blocks to be placed in the three small, shallow drainage channels formerly tin gulleys at 3m intervals to slow down water and to create small pools where vegetation and sphagnum can form.

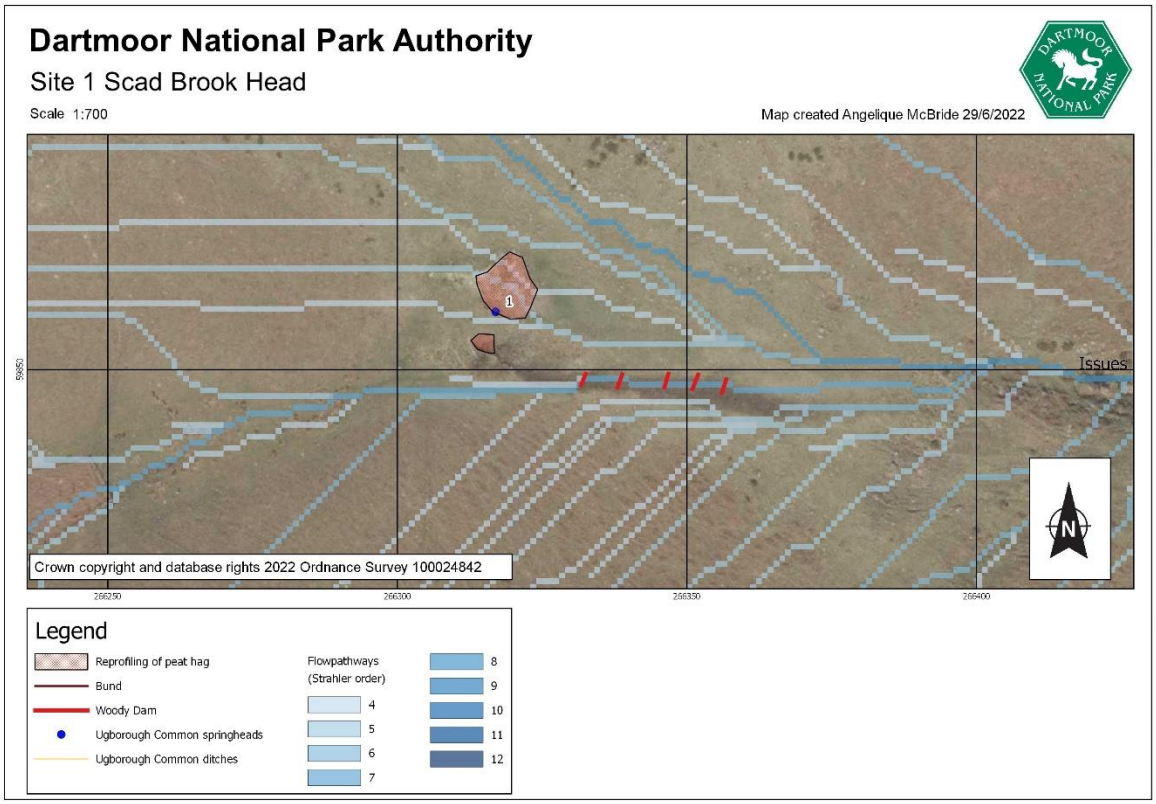
An Archaeologist will be on site to approve where these dams will be bedded into the site.

A splash plate or other erosion control measure needs to be placed downstream of each dam, directly below the V notch, to prevent scouring when the dam overflows.

6.2 Scad Brook Mire and Upland flush

Site 1: Scad Brook Head

Location of peat hags in need of reprofiling and approximately 5 woody dam blocks within the flowpathway to create pools and spread water laterally within the site.



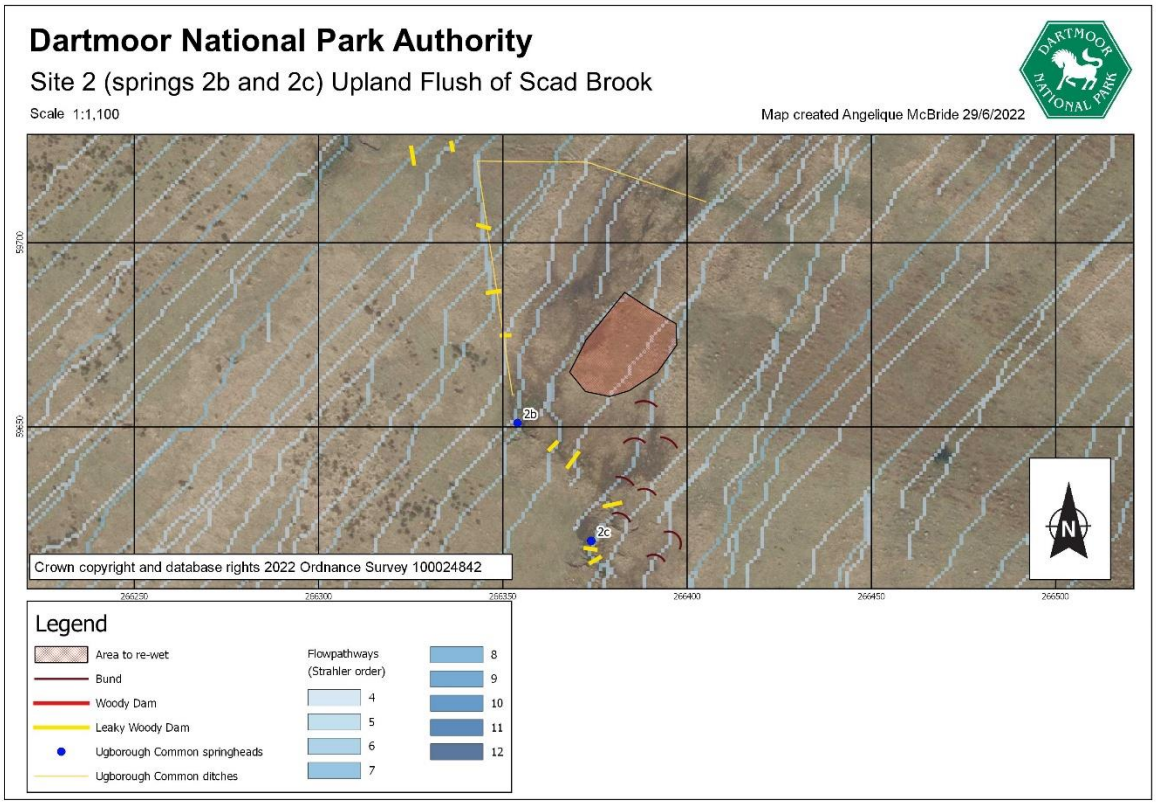
Site 2a: Upland Flush of Scad Brook

Approximately 4 Leaky woody dams located within ditches to slow water and to reduce further erosion. 2 low peat bunds also included in areas where water can collect to slow water and to create pools for livestock to access drinking water.

Site 2b & 2c: Upland Flush of Scad Brook

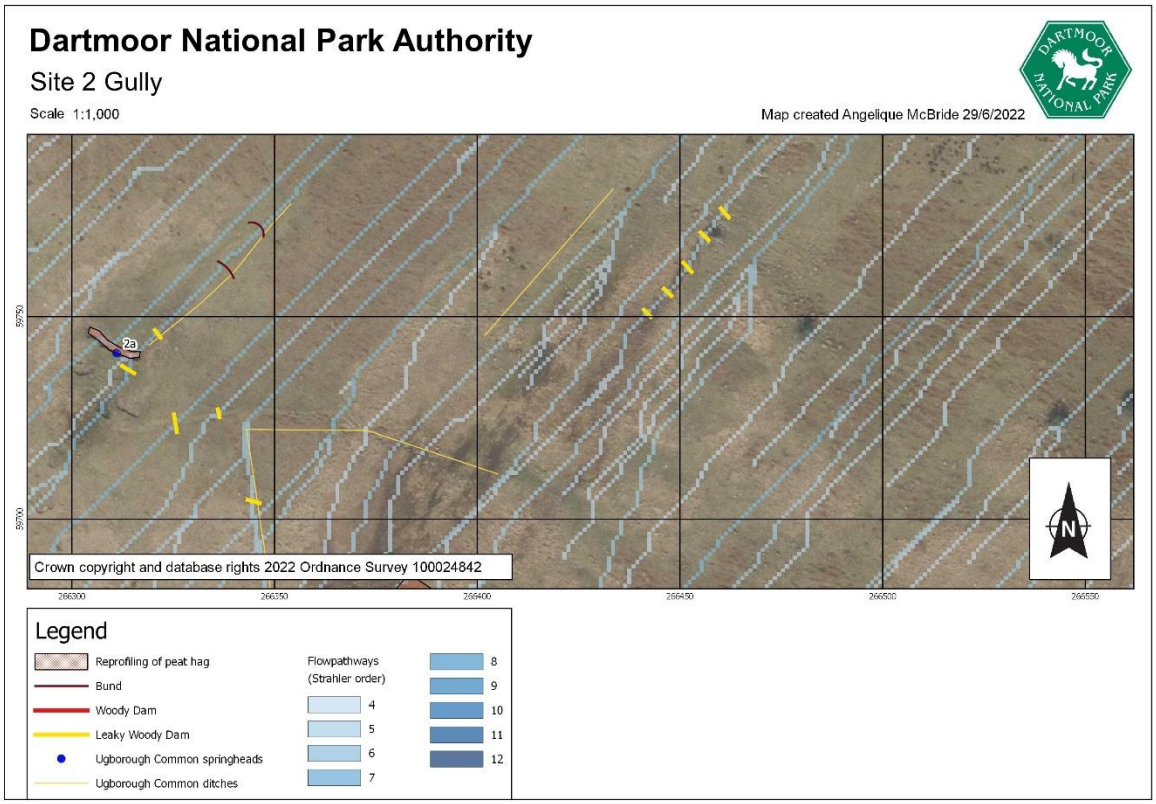
Approximately 8 low peat bunds to hold water and expand mire habitat within the drier area. The area highlighted in red is in need of re-wetting, however, it is difficult to understand from ground truthing if water can be directed and held within this area. Additional bunds of leaky woody dams can be installed if the contractor feels they can re-wet this area (please add contingency costs to account for this). Approximate locations of leaky woody dams

- 5 flow deflectors in the mire between and around 2b & 2C
- 3 leaky woody dams within the ditch - these can be dams with stacked timber logs



Site 2: Gulley

Approximately 5 leaky woody dams within a steep sided gulley, these should be stacked timber log dams.



7. Consents

The Dartmoor National Park (DNPA) Archaeologist has confirmed that there is no archaeological concern with the mire restoration. Foundation for Common Land will ensure that a DNPA Archaeologist is on site to undertake a watching brief to monitor the installation of the timber dams in the tin working gulley.

The land is not part of a SSSI and Natural England approved the works on 21 Feb 2022.

8. Landownership

The work will be conducted at Hangershell spring mire on common land that is owned by John Howell. The work conducted at Scad spring mire on common land that is owned by the Hurrell Family.

9. Access

The sites can be accessed from Cantrell Moor Gate and along the Railway Track.

10. Other Considerations

- Low ground pressure, wide-tracked vehicles should be used to prevent damage to the ground conditions. Larger, tracked vehicles are preferable as they require fewer trips than smaller ones. If using tractors- tyres should be wide or even with double wheels on the back axle.

- Work must be conducted outside of the bird nesting season.

- The DNPA Archaeologist wishes to be present on site when work in tin mining areas commences. Sufficient notice of work commencing will need to be given to accommodate this.

- All health and safety precautions must be followed in accordance with the contractor's risk assessments.

- All works to consider the safety of livestock and the public throughout. The site to be left tidy and safe at the end of each working day with materials stashed safely out of the way.

11. Contract Management

This contract will be managed by the Our Common Cause Project Officer Tamsin Thomas who is employed by the National Trust and seconded to the Foundation for Common Land. The contract will be with the National Trust and will need to comply with the Trust's General Terms & Conditions (attached).

12. Health and Safety, and Insurance

The contractor will be responsible for the health and safety of its employees, volunteers and participants in events it is delivering, as well as for ensuring that none of the work it is delivering under this contract adversely effects the health or safety of the public or any other persons.

The contractor will be required to produce a suitable risk assessment covering the works delivered under this contract prior to the commencement of the contract, and to provide any documentation relevant to the safe delivery of the project.

The contractor will need to demonstrate evidence of the following insurance policies:

- Employers liability £5 million
- Public Liability £5 million
- Professional Indemnity Insurance £1 million (or demonstrate that the advice given under this contract is covered by the contractor's public liability policy).

12.1 Biosecurity and Environmental Good Practice.

The contractor should demonstrate strong biosecurity measures and environmental good practice in their proposed working methodology. This should include, but is not limited to, ensuring all timber is local provenance seed and UK grown, and is free of disease. All trees (with the exception of bare rooted stock), must be subject to a 6-week off-site quarantine period, during which it is checked for disease before being brought onto site.

13. Timetable

The tender application should include a timetable of key project milestones, showing when main outputs are scheduled. Key dates for set up of contract are shown below.

MILESTONE	DEADLINE
Submit tenders in response to this brief	*August 12th 2022*
Selection of preferred contractor (including possible telecall/meeting to discuss the work further)	*WC August 15th 2022*
Contract start date and inception meeting	*WC September 5 2022*

Spring Mire Restoration	*September/October 2022*
Contractor training workshop	*September/October 2022*
Completion of all works and submission of final report	*01 November 2022*

14. Tender Submission

Please submit a quotation, with a detailed breakdown for each restoration project and the training workshop to tamsin@foundationforcommonland.org.uk. by 5pm on August 12th. We will aim to finalise the appointment by August 19th . Your quotation should include:

- Details and relevant experience and qualifications of the individual(s) who will be delivering the work,
- Examples of similar work completed for other projects.
- An outline budget broken down into the different components of the work:
  - o The fee structure for the individual/s involved including estimated time allocation
  - o Estimated costs for travel and any accommodation or other subsistence
  - o Total cost for all work and expenses, excluding VAT
  - o VAT status.
- A timetable outlining key milestones and outputs; and a proposed payment schedule with payments linked to the completion of the identified milestones.

15. Selection Criteria

	Proposed Methodology (approach to the work, scope of proposed delivery, response to the tender)	Suitability for the Work (Experience of delivering similar projects, skills and qualifications of team, sector knowledge)	Demonstrating by Doing (Proposed approach to engaging stakeholders, working with the wider OCC team and project, maximizing learning, sharing and wider influence).	Value for Money (Proposed day rates, allocated costs compared to scope of delivery)
Weighting	20%	35%	25%	20%

NB The Project Manager/Project Officer reserves the right to reject the proposal if they are not satisfied with the content and/or not to appoint the cheapest or any tender for any reason.