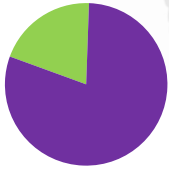


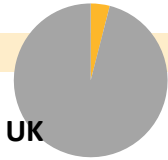
Peatlands are a vital carbon store

UK peatlands



- Healthy
- Degraded

- Peatlands cover **3%** of land globally - store **30%** of all soil carbon - more than all the world's forests combined
- Peatlands are found in **180 countries** - the UK is in the **top 10** for peatland area coverage
- Peatlands store **3.2bn tonnes** of carbon in the UK but **80% are damaged**
- In Somerset, almost **11 million tonnes** of carbon is stored in our lowland peat
- Carbon stored in Somerset's peatland is equivalent to the carbon sequestered by **~182 million trees grown for 10 years**



UK

- Peat
- Other

CO₂ Equivalent (CO₂e) Emissions

- **4%** of UK total emissions - **20 million tonnes** CO₂e emitted pa

But...

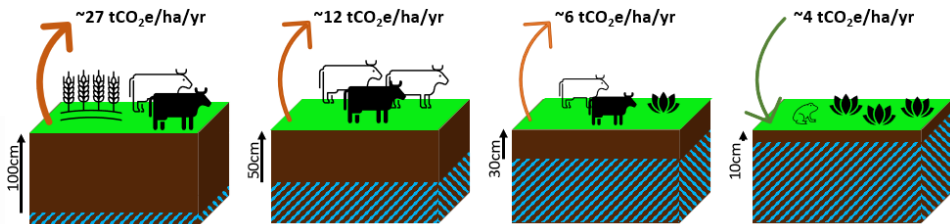
- **10%** of Somerset's total emissions - **~300,000 tonnes** CO₂e emitted pa



Somerset

Peat is a critical tool in the climate crisis – what remains must stay in the ground and keep wet

- Every **10cm** the water table is raised in peatland (to within 30cm of surface) reduces CO₂e released by **3 t/ha/yr**
- At **10cm** healthy peatland can begin sequestering carbon



- In ideal conditions, peat grows at **1mm/yr** - **1000 years** to form **1m**
- Heavy drainage can see peat wastage of **10-30mm/yr** – **33 years** to lose **1m**
- The Somerset Moors are very low-lying but used to be about **5m higher** before humans started using the peat

If you'd like to find out more please get in touch:

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