

## **Brampton NFM Scheme Brampton Fell Moss Restoration Project**

**November 2024**

Special bulletin of Brampton 2 Zero [www.brampton2zero.org.uk](http://www.brampton2zero.org.uk)

We re delighted to report our business plan for Natural Flood Management (NFM), which includes the restoration of Brampton Fell Moss, was accepted by the Environment Agency. The Agency funding programme had huge interest nationally with a wide variety of applications from across England. These were independently reviewed with input from DEFRA and Natural England technical experts and 40 were chosen to be funded; B2Z is the only Community Interest Company leading a successful bid.

The project, awarded a £250,000 grant, will take place over the next 3 years and B2Z will responsible for managing it for 7 years after the flood management work is completed.



Figure 1 Floods in Brampton, 1982. Thanks to Ian Parsons for the photo.

The Environment Agency considers the intervention significant because it will help manage the water flow of Brampton Beck which runs in a culvert or in underground drains beneath the town. It famously flooded badly in 1982 and, with Cumbrian rainfall forecast to increase by 4cm over the next 50 years, the *Eden Rivers Trust* predict at least 116 houses could be adversely affected as the weather changes. Natural flood management will also create benefits downstream as Brampton Beck flows into the River Irthing which joins the River Eden outside Carlisle.

### **Partnership working**

B2Z are working in partnership with John Rattray, Head of Operations at *Eden Rivers Trust*, who lead the flood management actions; community engagement is the responsibility of Philip Sage, a Director of B2Z; education is led by Phil Furneaux.

The original idea for the funding application came from the farmer at Brampton Fell Moss and his continued support is integral to the success of the project.

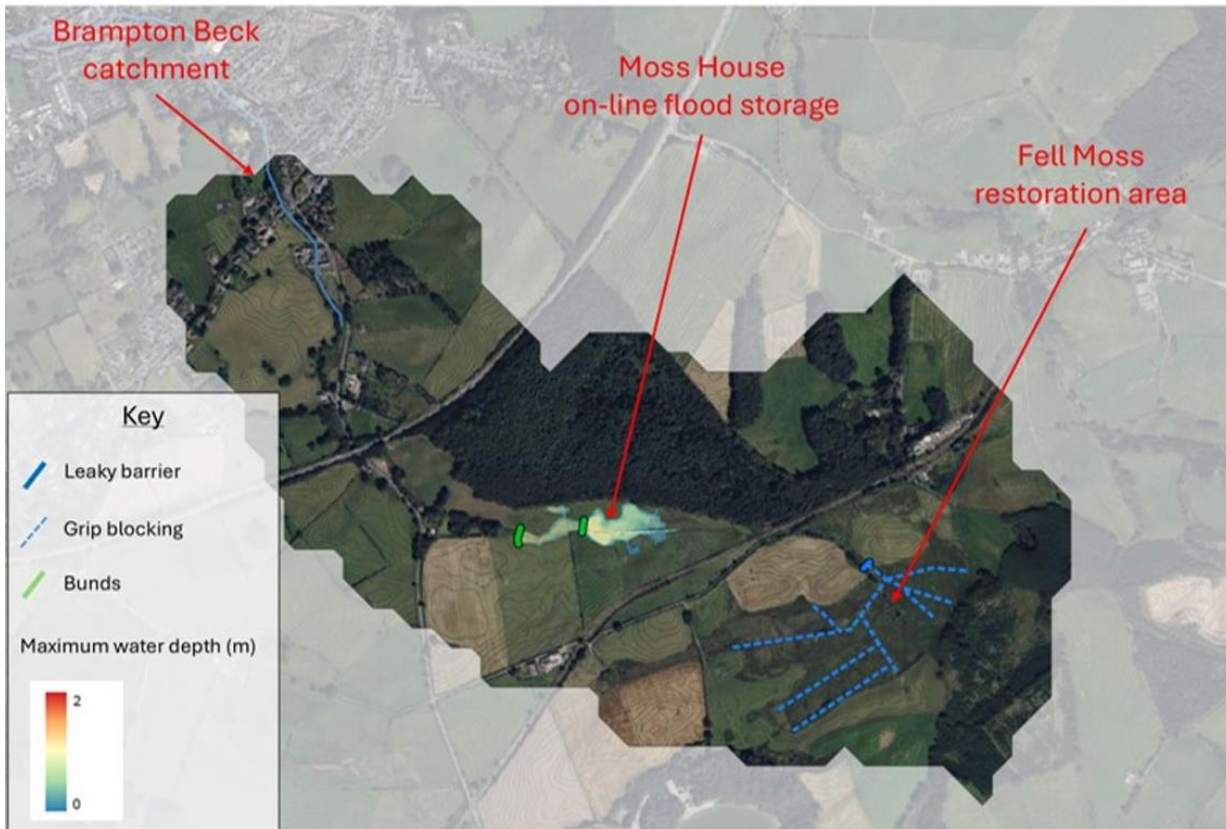


Figure 2 An aerial view of the Brampton Fell Moss NFM. Copyright Eden Rivers Trust

## The Natural Flood Management Scheme

At a presentation to *Brampton Parish Council* on 29 October John Rattray outlined how the proposed flood management work will develop current farming management systems introduced by the owner of the land. Over time the farmer has allowed many of the drains to become blocked which benefits natural flooding; the project work will construct two bunds, banks created from earth, to hold back more water. The bunds (a main one and a secondary one) will be constructed with a clay core and built in spillway to control levels of water. The combined volume of the water held back will be between 8,000 and 10,000 cubic metres.

The 15 hectares of Brampton Fell Moss will be restored using a network of grips, shallow channels, and drains which allow the water to naturally disperse across the land which significantly supports natural flood management. Using grips to hold water back also encourages sphagnum moss to grow as well as promoting diverse habitats and ecological systems.

The two proposed intervention areas, Fell Moss and Moss House are illustrated on the map on page 3; it also shows the proposed route of a new public footpath.

The bunds will be raised on the land near Moss House and the completed work here will be landscaped and fenced off for safety. Bog restoration takes place on the Fell Moss.

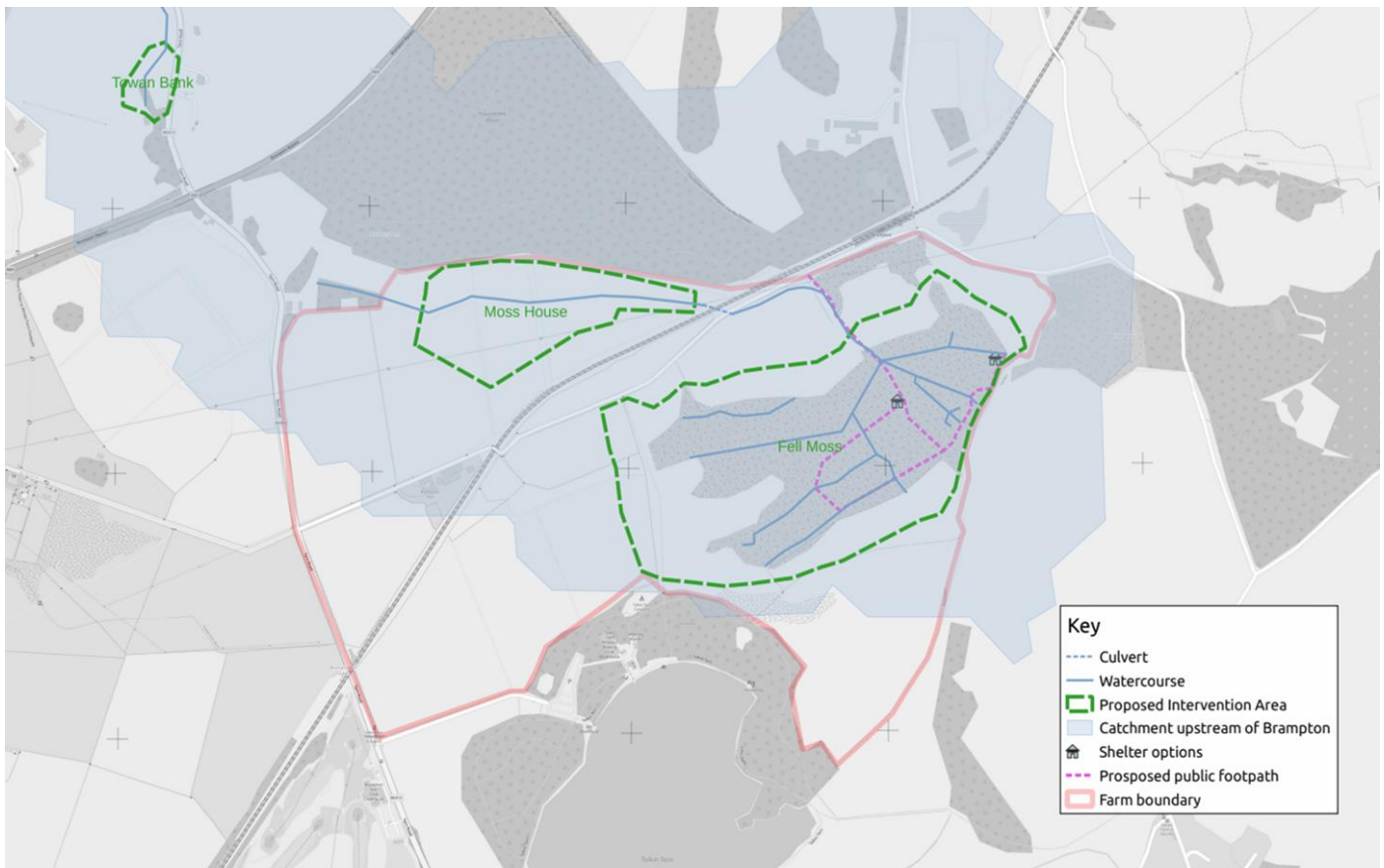


Figure 3 Copyright Eden Rivers Trust

## Community engagement and education

The community engagement and education actions will begin early in 2025. Over the next few months Philip Sage will be co-ordinating a range of ecology surveys to establish baseline data: examining fish present in Brampton Beck, surveying vegetation and undertaking bird surveys: one in the winter to identify migrants, the other in Spring for nesting birds. This very important initial work will enable B2Z to assess the impact of diversity and habitat changes as the Brampton Fell Moss project progresses.

Philip will be launching practical activities linked to Brampton Fell Moss Restoration Project next March. He plans to recruit, train and support volunteers to work together and promote community capacity and shared knowledge as the project progresses.

By 2026 B2Z hope to establish a Friends of the Moss or similar self-supporting group to sustain longer term community involvement.

## Connecting with Nature Lottery bid

In order to maximise the impact and community benefit of Brampton Fell Moss Restoration Project activities B2Z have launched a Partnership National Lottery Bid. This has two parts:

**To enhance the Brampton Fell Moss Restoration Project** by actively engaging with the local secondary school and local community groups to deliver citizen science activities so everyone can be involved with the Moss regeneration.

**Developing ‘Nature Stations’** in Brampton where people can sit and connect with nature. A Nature Trail would connect up these spaces and help people to recognise the biodiversity around them every day. This work would

involve the local primary school and engage families and local community groups.

Phil Furneaux, Founding Director of B2Z, convened two meetings on 24 October to share ideas about this bid with potential local partners. At the moment we are working with them to finalise the submission.

## **Are you interested in finding out more?**

B2Z will be presenting the Brampton NFM Scheme and Brampton Fell Moss Restoration Project at the *Café Scientifique* on Thursday 30 January 2025. Contact: Tim Coombe for more information: [timothycoombe@damhead.me](mailto:timothycoombe@damhead.me)

Background information about the project: <https://www.brampton2zero.org.uk/projects/brampton-fell-moss-restoration>

## **Keep up to date with us on Facebook**

 Our newsletter retrospectively covers activities but new stories, longer articles and forthcoming events are posted on our [Facebook page](#).

## **Would you like to volunteer with B2Z?**



We need volunteers to help with a range of activities to achieve a net carbon zero community. For more information email:

[\*\*enquiries@brampton2zero.org.uk\*\*](mailto:enquiries@brampton2zero.org.uk)



*Aerial view of Brampton Fell Moss, Talkin Tarn in background*

To express an early interest in involvement in the Brampton Fell Moss Restoration Project please email [enquiries@brampton2zero.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@brampton2zero.org.uk)

