

PROTECT-NFM NEWSLETTER

Issue 02 | Apr 2018

The last few weeks have been all-hands-on-deck to set up monitoring for the gully blocking experiments at Urchin Clough. We've been out in all weathers to get everything in place before a rapidly approaching bird breeding season. We are extremely grateful to Mr Thomas Kier for letting us work on his land, and Natural England for granting permission to work in the SSSI. Special thanks also go to our project partners and friends at Moors for the Future Partnership for their support in setting up the sites (especially for arranging a helicopter lift to get the heavier materials in place!), and to the team from the University of Manchester Geography labs for their assistance in the field.

Next month, our focus will be on the woodland sites, so we should have lots to update you with in the next newsletter.



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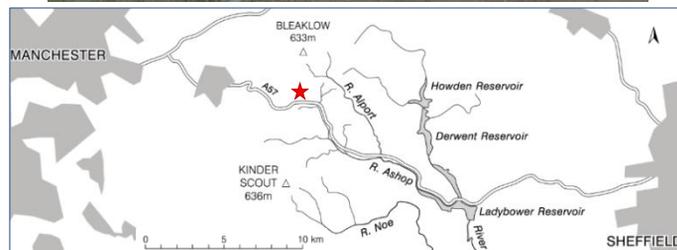
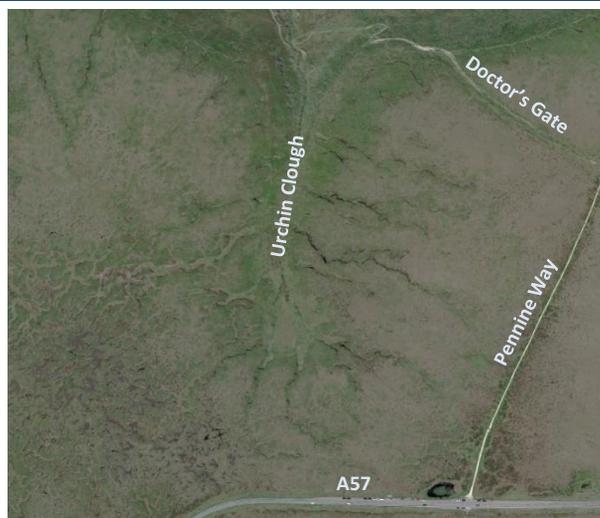
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Our new field site at Urchin Clough

Urchin Clough is a small, steep catchment which drains into the wider Glossop Brook catchment. It's tucked into the corner where the Pennine Way meets Snake Pass and Doctor's Gate on the edge of the Bleaklow Plateau. The area will be the focus for our gully blocking experiments and will be carried out in conjunction with our project partners Moors For the Future and GMMC Environment Agency.

We have installed v-notch weirs in 12 tributary gullies to monitor discharge, along with rain gauges and dipwells to monitor precipitation and water tables. It was important to get this up and running before access became limited over bird breeding to provide as much valuable pre-intervention baseline data as possible, which is integral to our Before-After-Control-Impact (BACI) research design.

The monitoring equipment is telemetered to keep site disturbance to a minimum, so we should be able to update you on our first batch of results soon!



Danielle Alderson joins the team

Danielle returned to Manchester in mid-February to start her new role as Martin Evans' Research Assistant during his tenure as Head of School. She had previously completed her PhD in the Geography department on carbon cycling and organic matter quality in upland floodplains. Although her role isn't tied to Protect-NFM, she will be getting involved with many of our activities as we progress through the project. She has already played an integral part in getting the monitoring in place at the new field site, and her upland knowledge will be of great value to the project. Welcome back Danielle!



Protect-NFM at EGU 2018

Emma (along with Joe and Dave) attended the European Geosciences Union General Assembly in Vienna. Emma had a busy week! She presented a poster introducing the Protect project in a session focused on Nature Based Solutions, where it generated a lot of interest. She also gave a talk in the Games for Geoscience session on Downpour!, a game which draws on the findings of the Making Space for Water project to engage the public on the potential to manage UK uplands for NFM. She was also invited to join the Flood Risk, Resilience and Adaptation network, and attended its inaugural meeting while at the conference.

