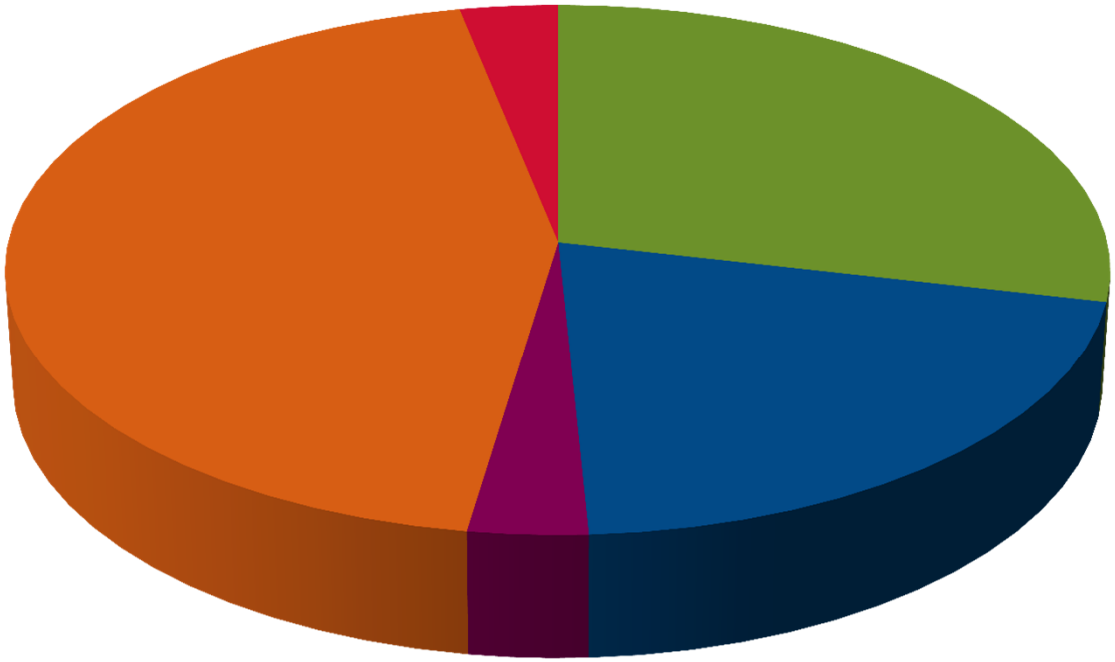
To what extent can peatland restoration contribute to achieving good ecological status

Charles Forman, Environment Agency

Reasons for failure attributed to peat degradation

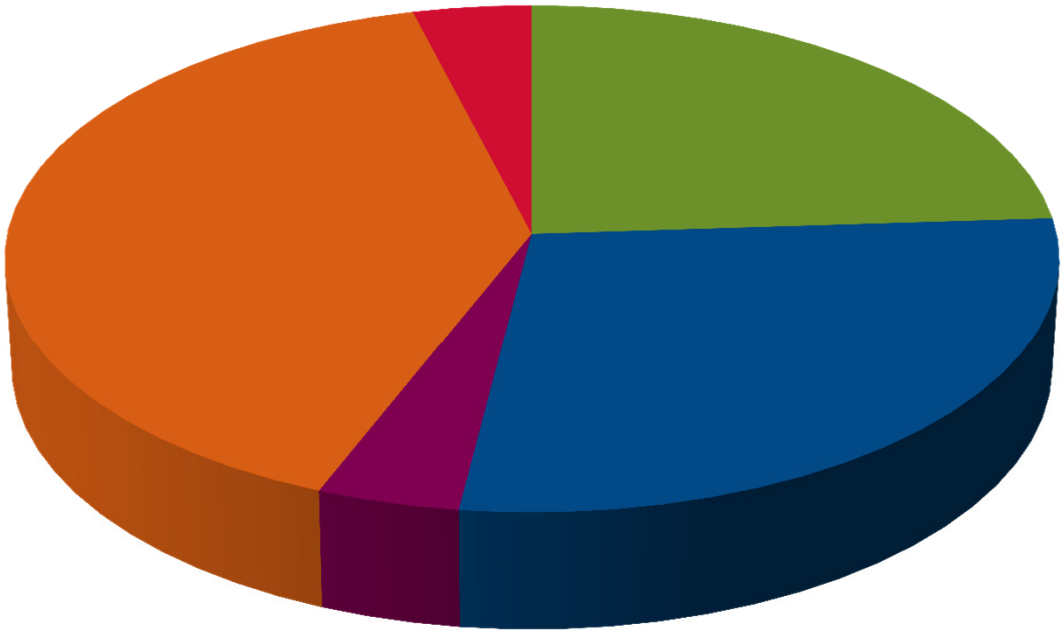
- Sedimentation – from degraded peatland or may also be from agricultural land in some cases
- Acid flushes – from degraded peatland or may also be from coniferous forests in some areas
- The majority of failures are confirmed
- How acidic is a ‘natural’ upland water body?

Summary of peatland restoration sites



- 18 sites draining into WBs failing because of peat degradation
- 11 sites draining into WBs at GES (no peat pressure)
- 2 sites draining into WBs at GES (deterioration pressure from degraded peat)
- 28 sites draining into WBs not failing because of peat degradation
- 2 sites with insufficient WB data

Summary of waterbodies



- 12 WBs failing because of peat degradation
- 12 WBs at GES (no deterioration risk)
- 2 WBs at GES (deterioration risk from degraded peat
- 20 WBs not failing because of peat degradation
- 2 WBs with insufficient data

Comparison with Moor House

- 2/3 WBs draining the site at GES
- Trout Beck failure not confirmed

Other reasons for failure in upland water bodies

- Pollution from abandoned mines
- Alien species (signal crayfish)
- Barriers to fish
- Barriers to fish
- Domestic sewage