Geophysical Research Abstracts, Vol. 8, 02706, 2006
SRef-ID: 1607-7962/gra/EGU06-A-02706

Revegetated peat gully systems: classification and characterization

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The High Peak Estate in the Peak District National Park has been well known for the eroded peat landscapes of Bleaklow and Kinder Scout, however very little has been known about the substantial revegetation of eroded peat that occupies these areas. Twenty gullies were studied from four catchments that have shown extensive revegetation from aerial photography. From locations that showed changes in revegetation from 1977 to 2000 aerial photography, a short core/monolith (c. 50cm) was taken, with a total of 58 being collected. Plant macrofossil analysis and moisture content, were subjected to an analogue matching technique with surface data, to convert data to percentage species coverage. The surface data was ordinated and classified. Four main types of revegetation surface were identified as gullies with broad peat floored, broad mineral floored, narrow peat and narrow mineral floored; each of these types were further characterized by the revegetation stratigraphies that corresponded to them and their revegetation ages and key revegetation stages were dated using historic aerial photography.