



# C2

## Stakeholder Workshop Report

### Managing the Uplands for Public Benefit

#### Bishopdale

#### 26/03/18

Peninme PeatLIFE delivery partners



Peninme PeatLIFE is funded by



**Date:** 26/03/18

**Location:** Street Head Inn, Thoraby

**Topic:** Managing the Uplands for Public Goods

**Attendees:**

The following agencies and organisations were represented:

- Yorkshire Wildlife Trust (Pennine Peat LIFE)
- NFU
- Wensleydale Facilitation Fund
- Natural England
- Environment Agency
- CLA
- Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority
- Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust
- University of Leeds
- IUCN Peatland Programme
- Yorkshire Integrated Catchment Solutions Programme (iCASP)
- Yorkshire Dales Millenium Trust

Local farmers and landowners were also in attendance alongside **Julian Sturdy**, MP for York, and **Rishi Sunak**, MP for Richmond.

**See Appendix 1 for full list of attendees.**

## **1. Aims**

- To publicise the work of the above organisations in helping to manage and finance flood risk and peatland restoration in Bishopdale
- To create an awareness among the attendees of the work being undertaken in Bishopdale and encourage collaboration to increase its efficacy
- To initiate the lobbying process with attending MPs to encourage the discussion and support of these issues in parliament

## **2. Overview**

**Presentations were given on:**

- *Peatland Restoration at Bishopdale: How this helps the Environment* (Tim Thom, Pennine PeatLIFE)
- *Innovative Financing to Support work on the ground: Woodland Carbon Code and Peatland Code* (Jillian Hoy, IUCN UK Peatland Programme)
- *Natural Flood Management* (Tarja Wilson & Helen Keep, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority)
- *Driving Work on the Ground* (Dan Turner, Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust)

- *Opportunities for Natural Flood Management and Monitoring Impact* (Joseph Holden, iCASP)

The presentations were followed by a discussion led by local MPs Rishi Sunak and Julian Sturdy (see Appendix 2 for more details).

After lunch the attendees were invited on a lowland and upland site visit to see some of the work being carried out.



**Figure 1.** Site visit on Thoralby Common.



**Figure 2.** Right to Left: Katie Aspray, EA; Julian Sturdy, MP; Jenny Sharman, PPL; Tim Thom, PPL; John Dinsdale, Wensleydale facilitation fund member; Andrew Walker, Yorkshire Water

### 3. Press coverage

- Press releases were sent out by the IUCN Peatland Programme on behalf of the organisations (See Appendix 2).
- Green TV were in attendance filming on behalf of iCASP.
- The Yorkshire Post covered the event with the following article:

<https://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/news/peatland-tested-as-delivery-model-for-public-goods-in-the-yorkshire-dales-1-9090725>

- Stackyard also covered the event with the following article:

[http://www.stackyard.com/news/2018/03/environment/08\\_ydnpa\\_bishopdale.html](http://www.stackyard.com/news/2018/03/environment/08_ydnpa_bishopdale.html)

### 4. Outcomes

It was felt that the event had a good range of presentations and that marrying together peatlands and Natural Flood Management worked well. The discussions before, during, and after helped to illuminate areas of overlap and of similar interest to land managers.

Repeating this format and mix of organisations would work well elsewhere. As well as presenting a situation where ideas can be shared and developed, it also enables to widen the audience and increase influence when it comes to advocacy.

Among the peatland representatives it was felt that it is now very important to build on the enthusiasm apparent in the MPs to help represent these issues in parliament. As such the Pennine PeatLIFE and IUCN Peatland programme are remaining in close contact with the

key landowner, Rob Brown, and aim to meet with Julian Sturdy MP to discuss how best to take these issues forward for discussion in parliament.

The Pennine PeatLIFE project also intends to build on the interest generated at a local level by creating a landowner group in Bishopdale to continue some of the discussions started on Upland Management at this event.

#### **Update 30/04/20**

Looking back, it is apparent that this event was the launch pad for several subsequent key discussions with government ministers and DEFRA. It led to a reception held at Westminster, hosted by Rob Brown and supported by Rishi Sunak MP and Julian Sturdy MP. All these incremental events have raised the profile of the uplands and peatland restoration within government, no doubt helping to generate the current support announced from the Treasury in March 2020 for a £640 million allocation towards peatland restoration and the planting of woodland.

# Appendix 1.

## Attendees:

| First name | Surname       | Organisation                                               |
|------------|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| David      | Airey         | NFU                                                        |
| John       | Dinsdale      | Wensleydale Facilitation Fund Member                       |
| Alistair   | Dinsdale      | Wensleydale Facilitation Fund Member                       |
| Maurice    | Harrison      | Wensleydale Facilitation Fund Member                       |
| Nigel      | Thornborrow   | Wensleydale Facilitation Fund Member                       |
| Anna       | Crowther      | Wensleydale Facilitation Fund Member                       |
| Adrian     | Thorton-Berry | Wensleydale Facilitation Fund Member                       |
| Richard    | Dent          | Wensleydale Facilitation Fund Member                       |
| Ian        | Bell          | Wensleydale Facilitation Fund Member                       |
| Stephen    | Fawcett       | Wensleydale Facilitation Fund Member                       |
| Chris      | Akrigg        | Upper Wharfedale Facilitation Fund Member                  |
| Jane       | Harrison      | CLA                                                        |
| Adrian     | Shepherd      | YDNPA                                                      |
| Jack       | Hirst         | Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust                               |
| Mark       | Phillips      | NE                                                         |
| Rishi      | Sunak         | Conservative Party                                         |
| Julian     | Sturdy        | Conservative Party                                         |
| Louise     | Wilkinson     | Yorkshire Wildlife Trust                                   |
| Helen      | Brown         | Howesyke                                                   |
| Robert     | BROWN         | Howesyke                                                   |
| Laura      | Mealin        | Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority                    |
| Neil       | Londen        | Environment Agency                                         |
| Susan      | Ballard       | Yorkshire Integrated Catchment Solutions Programme         |
| Tim        | Thom          | Yorkshire Wildlife Trust                                   |
| Jenny      | Sharman       | Pennine PeatLIFE                                           |
| Helen      | Keep          | YDNPA                                                      |
| Tarja      | Wilson        | YDNPA                                                      |
| Brian      | Fawcett       | New House Farm                                             |
| Rob        | Fawcett       | New House Farm                                             |
| Ross       | Hodson        | North Yorkshire County Council                             |
| Andrew     | Walker        | YWS                                                        |
| Simon      | Stokes        | Environment Agency                                         |
| Katie      | Aspray        | Environment Agency                                         |
| Chris      | Clark         | Nethergill Farm                                            |
| Joseph     | Holden        | University of Leeds                                        |
| Joanna     | Richards      | IUCN UK Peatland Programme                                 |
| Jillian    | Hoy           | IUCN UK Peatland Programme                                 |
| Richard    | Grayson       | Yorkshire Integrated Catchment Solutions Programme (iCASP) |
| Robert     | Munroe        | Yorkshire Integrated Catchment Solutions Programme (iCASP) |
| Chris      | Lodge         | Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust                           |
| Isobel     | Hall          | Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust                           |
| Rita       | Mercer        | Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust                               |
| Charles    | Forman        | Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust                               |
| Dan        | Turner        | Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust                               |

## Appendix 2.

### Press release prior to event

23 March 2018

#### **IUCN UK Peatland Programme Press Release**

*On behalf of a wider partnership including Pennine PeatLIFE, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust*

### **PUBLIC BENEFITS DELIVERED IN BISHOPDALE**

Five organisations to showcase the public benefits delivered through good environmental management at local farm in Bishopdale

The world-famous uplands of the Yorkshire Dales provide a largely unrecognised wealth of benefits to the public, including natural flood management and carbon storage.

Five organisations are coming together on March 23<sup>rd</sup> to host an event at the Street Head Inn, Bishopdale, to celebrate those benefits and examine how they are provided.

There will be a series of presentations from organisations working in the Dales followed by a debate led by two Yorkshire MPs, Rishi Sunak and Julian Sturdy. After the debate and following some lunch, there will be an opportunity to visit nearby Howesyke Farm where positive action is being taken to address flooding and climate change.

Presentations in the morning will cover the following topics:

- Welcome – Rob Brown, local landowner and member of the Wensleydale Natural Flood Management Facilitation Fund
- Peatland restoration in Bishopdale and how this helps the environment – Pennine PeatLIFE
- Innovative financing to support work on the ground: the Woodland Carbon Code and Peatland Code – IUCN UK Peatland Programme
- Natural flood management – Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority
- Driving work on the ground – Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust
- Opportunities for monitoring the impact of natural flood management – Yorkshire iCASP.

After the presentation, Richmond MP, Rishi Sunak, and York Outer MP, Julian Sturdy, will lead a discussion around who is responsible for managing flooding and combating climate change. Consideration will also be given to who should pay for environmental management for public benefit. 34 farmers in the local area have come together to tackle some of these problems in the Bishopdale region, but is it their responsibility, or that of the wider public, businesses or the Government?

If you would like to attend the event, please confirm by registering here: <https://iucn-uk-peatland-programme.wildlifetrustsevents.org/bishopdale-managing-the-uplands-for-public-benefit-a-showcase-event>.

**ENDS**

**For more information, please contact:**

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IUCN UK Peatland Programme

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**Press Release Post Event**

**26 March 2017**

[IUCN UK Peatland Programme Press Release](#)

*On behalf of a wider partnership including Pennine PeatLIFE, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust and Yorkshire iCASP*

## **PUBLIC GOODS DELIVERED IN BISHOPDALE**

Yorkshire Dales land managers and environmental organisations work collaboratively to combat climate change and flooding

Environmental organisations met with land managers, farmers and local MPs Julian Sturdy (York Outer) and Rishi Sunak (Richmond) in Leyburn, Yorkshire Dales last week to discuss the role of collaborative land management in providing public good.

With Secretary of State for the Environment, Michael Gove, recently setting out plans to divert current agricultural payments so that public money pays for public good, the meeting

was timely in its demonstration of action already taking place in this corner of the Yorkshire Dales.

The 'public goods' up for discussion at this particular meeting were land management to help combat climate change and flooding. The UK was described as having its very own 'rainforest' for storing carbon in the form of its blanket bogs – with Pennine PeatLIFE demonstrating peatland restoration techniques at Howesyke Farm to help alleviate climate change. Private investment to support this type of work was promoted by the IUCN UK Peatland Programme who introduced the Peatland Code. This voluntary scheme provides a mechanism for businesses to 'buy' the carbon emissions saved through peatland restoration and management – a concept that was encouraged by Julian Sturdy MP, who supported efforts to see “business offset their carbon in the UK rather than looking abroad.”

Flood prevention as a public good was introduced by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and the Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust, who have been working collaboratively with Howesyke Farm and other land managers in the area to address this issue. A practical guide has been created providing clear advice on natural flood management measures that can be taken and these were demonstrated at Howesyke Farm – including tree planting and the creation of buffer strips.

Rob Brown of Howesyke Farm, which was used to showcase both peatland and natural flood management said:

“We have access to a great deal of experience and knowledge from within our local environmental organisations. I have been impressed at what we've been able to achieve together over a relatively short-time – although the real impact of the land management interventions we've made will really show in the next few decades. This has all been possible whilst maintaining more traditional land uses, including sheep farming and a grouse shoot.”

Julian Sturdy MP added

“A successful and viable rural sector is necessary to support the delivery of environmental benefits in the future.”

The need for science and research to back up land management decisions, so that the right interventions are made at the right time was also highlighted – with Yorkshire iCASP from the University of Leeds presenting work they were doing to apply existing research to flood management decisions. Rishi Sunak MP provided reassurance of Government's commitment to driving forward this work, stating:

“Opportunities will continue to exist through funders such as the European Research Council, and the Government intend to increase spending on vital research year-on-year.”

*ENDS*

*For more information, please contact:*

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## Notes

### [IUCN UK Peatland Programme](#)

The IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature) UK Peatland Programme exists to promote peatland restoration in the UK and advocates the multiple benefits of peatlands through partnerships, strong science, sound policy and effective practice. The work of the Peatland Programme is overseen by a coalition of partner bodies including [Defra](#), [John Muir Trust](#), [Moors for the Future Partnership](#), [National Trust for Scotland](#), [Natural England](#), [Natural Resources Wales](#), [North Pennines AONB Partnership](#), [RSPB](#), [Scottish Natural Heritage](#), [Scottish Wildlife Trust](#), [University of East London](#), [University of Newcastle](#) and [Yorkshire Wildlife Trust](#).

The IUCN UK Peatland Programme is hosted by the Scottish and Yorkshire Wildlife Trusts and funded by [The Peter De Haan Charitable Trust](#), [Esmée Fairbairn Foundation](#) and [John Ellerman Foundation](#).

Peatlands cover less than 3% of the land surface of the Earth yet they contain twice as much carbon as the world's forests. Huge areas of bog have been drained and damaged in the past, and the carbon that was locked in the peat for thousands of years is now rapidly being released to the atmosphere. Damaged peatlands are responsible for at least 10% of the world's carbon dioxide emissions. Restoring peatlands is an effective and cost efficient way of reversing the carbon loss from damaged bogs.

The UK is one of the world's top twelve countries in terms of peatland area, out of 180 nations with peat deposits and is in the top 20 countries with the most damaged peatlands. Scotland holds 60% of the UK's peatland. See [www.iucn-uk-peatlandprogramme.org](http://www.iucn-uk-peatlandprogramme.org) for more information.

### [Pennine PeatLIFE](#)

The Pennine PeatLIFE project is being led by the [North Pennines AONB Partnership](#) in collaboration with [Yorkshire Wildlife Trust](#) and [Forest of Bowland AONB](#). The project is delivering 1,300 hectares of peatland restoration in the North Pennines, Yorkshire Dales and Forest of Bowland, establishing new restoration techniques to suit the unique climatic conditions and trialling innovative Payment for Ecosystem Services methods to inform future peatland restoration funding streams.

The project is funded by the EU LIFE Programme and co-financed by Environment Agency, Northumbrian Water, United Utilities and Yorkshire Water.

### [Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority](#)

To be provided

### [Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust](#)

To be provided

### [Yorkshire iCASP](#)

To be provided