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Stakeholder Workshop Report

International Bog Day

28/07/19

Pennine PeatLIFE delivery partners



Pennine PeatLIFE is funded by



Date: 27/07/19

Location: Buckden, Yorkshire Dales

Topic: International Bog day – celebration of bogs

Attendees: Jenny Sharman (PPL), Lyndon Marquis (PPL/YPP), Chris Osbourne (PPL/YPP), Tim Thom (PPL/YPP), Beth Thomas (YPP), Jennifer Few (YWT), National Trust representative, Yorkshire Dales National Park representative, YWT membership representative

1. Aims

- To educate the public on the value of peatlands
- To plant 500 cotton grass plugs and 2000 sphagnum plugs on Buckden pike
- To combine the efforts of the National Trust, Yorkshire Peat Partnership, Pennine PeatLIFE (PPL) and the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust (YWT) in a joint venture to celebrate peatlands

2. Overview

In addition to being International Bog Day, this event was a celebration of Yorkshire Peat Partnership's 10th birthday. As the National Trust and Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority have been key partners from the start, it was appropriate to share celebrations with the 30th anniversary of the National Trust's estate in Upper Wharfedale and the 70th Anniversary of National Parks.



Figure 1. The staff and volunteers from Pennine PeatLIFE, Yorkshire Peat Partnership, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, the National Trust, Yorkshire Dales National Park gathered to help on International Bog Day, July 2019, Buckden

The event was marked by a presentation given to supporters of Yorkshire Peat Partnership's (YPP) Peat Appeal. This covered the history of YPP and an overview of work to date and work to come. At the same time, a marquee, placed at the start of the walk to Buckden pike was manned by PPL and YPP staff, alongside the National Trust and Yorkshire Wildlife Trust. With interactive and educational games for children (and interested adults!), the staff

spoke with passion to the 64 individuals who passed by throughout the day on the role of peatlands in flood management, water quality and carbon storage.



Figure 2. *Volunteers and members of the public planting sphagnum and cotton grass on Buckden Pike, July 2019*

Once on the walk, the volunteers and general public helped to plant either a sphagnum plug or a cotton grass plant on the summit. In the spirit of the event, the plugs had been donated by local contractor, Marsden AES Ltd, and sphagnum suppliers, Micropropagation Services.

A special birthday cake was made to enhance the celebrations by YPP staff member, Beth Thomas.



Figure 3. *Yorkshire Peat Partnership's 10th Anniversary Birthday cake*

3. Press coverage

A press release was produced by Lyndon Marquis (see **Appendix 1**)

4. Outcomes

The event was a good example of the cooperation that exists between key organisations and companies in the region. The event will have helped raise the local profile of peatlands, and educated the individuals on the role peatlands play in the area (as well as nationally and internationally). It was also a very good team building exercise for all the staff concerned. Buckden Pike, from having only a sparse covering of sphagnum, can now boast an extra 2000 plants alongside the 500 extra cotton grass plugs that now adorn the path to the summit.



Figure 4. *Sphagnum plants along the path to Buckden pike, planted by volunteers and the general public on International Bog Day, July 2019.*

Appendix 1. Press Release

Yorkshire Peat Partnership celebrates 10th birthday with special event on Bog Day

Yorkshire Peat Partnership will be heading to Buckden on Sunday 28th July to celebrate their 10th birthday with a selection of fun activities with partners the National Trust and Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority.

All three partners will be setting up shop in Buckden's public carpark on International Bog Day with a selection of family-friendly activities. If you are heading for the summit of Buckden Pike, you can help the team and the Dales Young Rangers plant some sphagnum and cottongrass – no digging required!

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust's Peat Programme Manager, Tim Thom, said:

"There's around 70,000 hectares of blanket bog in Yorkshire. Over the last ten years, with the support of our partners, we have helped to bring 27,223 hectares back to wet, boggy life – that's the size of Hull! There is still a lot to do but this is a massive achievement in just 10 years.

"The National Trust and Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority have been key partners from the start and it is great to share our celebrations with the 30th anniversary of the National Trust's estate in Upper Wharfedale and the 70th Anniversary of National Parks. With three anniversaries to celebrate, this Bog Day is shaping up to be the best one yet!"

YPP started life in 2009 as an umbrella organisation, led by Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, to coordinate the restoration of the badly degraded peatlands in the uplands of northern Yorkshire. Since then, YPP has grown into the primary coordinator of peatland restoration across the Yorkshire Dales and North York Moors National Parks, and Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

National Trust Area Ranger for Upper Wharfedale Peter Katic said:

"It will be great to be working with our partners on Buckden Pike on the 28th July, not only to celebrate and talk about the vital importance of these peat moorlands but also to commemorate 30 years since the generous gift of the Upper Wharfedale Estate to the National Trust.

"This year we will be laying a further 360 metres of stone flags along the ridge path between Buckden Pike summit and the Polish War Memorial. This will complete the protection of the fragile peat along the route, helping the blanket bog to begin its recovery. It will also allow visitors and the local community to continue enjoying the sense of freedom and far reaching views that these amazing places provide"

Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority Member Champion for the Natural Environment, Ian McPherson, said:

“When the idea for a Yorkshire Peat Partnership was first agreed 10 years ago, we had no idea that it would make such a hugely significant contribution to the environment of the Yorkshire Dales National Park. The gains of doing peatland restoration – in terms of biodiversity, sequestering carbon and reducing flood peaks – are enormous. That is why it is so important that we get a national commitment to provide the funding that we need to speed up and complete the restoration of the rest of the devastated ‘blanket bog’ peatlands of the Dales, almost all of which is internationally-designated for wildlife.”

For thousands of years, peatlands have stretched across Yorkshire. Our most ancient and iconic landscapes should be a mosaic of vibrant greens, reds and purples. Instead, they are a brown and broken wasteland.

Nothing says Yorkshire quite like a great carpet of squelchy blanket bog – the peatland habitat that dominates our uplands – stretching out to the horizon. As well as being intrinsically Yorkshire, peatlands store twice as much carbon as all the world’s forests combined; by slowing the flow of water from the hills, they reduce the risk of flooding further downstream; and they are home to beautiful wildlife like curlew, golden plover, and common lizards

Each year, International Bog Day falls on the final Sunday in July. This annual event celebrates the beauty of bogs and raises awareness of peatlands, the services they provide for free, and the threats they face.

End

Notes for editors

For further information, please contact: Lyndon Marquis,
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Yorkshire Peat Partnership www.ypppartnership.org.uk The Yorkshire Peat Partnership has been created to restore and conserve our valuable upland peat resource. Peat is important for the wildlife it supports, the water it holds and the carbon it stores. It creates healthy upland areas that everyone can enjoy.

The Yorkshire Peat Partnership is managed by Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, in partnership with Natural England, the North York Moors and Yorkshire Dales National Park Authorities and the Environment Agency with support from Yorkshire Water, National Trust, Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust, Pennine Prospects, Moors for the Future Partnership and Nidderdale AONB.

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust www.ywt.org.uk Yorkshire Wildlife Trust is a local charity working for a county rich in wildlife. We look after over 100 of Yorkshire’s best places for wildlife and encourage people to visit and get involved in their care. We stand up for Yorkshire’s wildlife wherever it is under threat, and work with others to find solutions that benefit both wildlife and people. We inspire thousands of children, families and others every year, reconnecting them with their local environment and wildlife. With the support of these people, we are restoring and recreating a Living Landscape in Yorkshire and raising awareness of, and fighting for, Yorkshire’s Living Sea.

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust is registered with the Fundraising Regulator.

About the National Trust

The National Trust cares for 6608 hectares of land in the Yorkshire Dales at Malham Tarn and in Upper Wharfedale. The National Trust works to create a balance of conservation with access across this outstanding area of limestone habitats, blanket peat, flower-rich hay meadows and hill farms. For more information, visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/yorkshire-dales

The National Trust is a conservation charity founded in 1895 by three people who saw the importance of our nation's heritage and open spaces, and wanted to preserve them for everyone to enjoy. More than 120 years later, these values are still at the heart of everything the charity does.

Entirely independent of Government, the National Trust looks after more than 250,000 hectares of countryside, 780 miles of coastline and hundreds of special places across England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

More than 26 million people visit every year, and together with 5.2 million members and over 61,000 volunteers, they help to support the charity in its work to care for special places for ever, for everyone. www.nationaltrust.org.uk

About the Yorkshire Dales National Park

The Yorkshire Dales National Park is one of 15 National Parks in the UK. It is administered by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, which has two main purposes: "to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage" and "to promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the National Park". In carrying out these purposes, the Authority has a duty "to seek to foster the economic and social well being of local communities". The National Park Authority comprises 25 members, made up of county and district councillors and members appointed by the Secretary of State for the Environment to represent parishes or in recognition of their specialist skills or knowledge.