



C5

Stakeholder Workshop Report

Peatland restoration field visit

with Natural England

10.10.2018

Peninme PeatLIFE delivery partners



Peninme PeatLIFE is funded by



Date: 10.10.2018

Location: Tynehead Fell, Cumbria

Topic: Pennine PeatLIFE restoration works

Attendees: 9 staff from Natural England (see Appendix 1)

1. Aims

- Showcase the nature of the peatland restoration works being carried out as part of Pennine PeatLIFE
- Demonstrate the specific restoration techniques being used on Tynehead Fell
- Facilitate discussions around peatland restoration and its incorporation into Countryside Stewardship agreements

2. Overview

At the time of visiting, Tynehead Fell was undergoing restoration work. Stone dams and coir rolls had been installed in September 2018, heather brash cutting was ongoing in preparation for spreading in October/November 2018 and further treatment with fertiliser, seeding and planting with cotton grass (hare's tail and common) and *Sphagnum* was to take place in 2019.

After an introduction and overview of the Pennine PeatLIFE project, the attendees were initially shown re-profiling of haggs before carrying on to the main restoration sites and discussing the impacts of the stone dams and coir rolls on biodiversity, hydrology, flood management and carbon sequestration. Monitoring techniques were also discussed utilising fixed-point photography, quadrats and the role of UAVs in restoration monitoring and surveying.



Figure 1. Staff from Natural England discuss the use of stone dams and coir rolls.

From the main restoration sites the attendees were taken to the heather cutting areas (figure 2) and the fixed quadrats to be used for post-cut monitoring of vegetation regrowth.



Figure 2. Staff from Natural England examine an area recently cut for heather brash.

On the return to the vehicles at the end of the visit, some attendees looked at a bare peat pan and seven monitoring plots which have been set up to look at post-restoration impacts on vegetation regeneration, hydrology and carbon flux.

3. Press coverage

There was no press coverage of this event.

4. Outcomes

The site visit provided an opportunity for Natural England staff to look at a site in the process of undergoing restoration and see the impact of works being carried out. It also gave them an insight into the practicalities of peatland restoration work and how it would relate to moorland management plans. Conversely, it was an opportunity for the North Pennines AONB Partnership peatland team to discuss these issues with Natural England as well as joint working opportunities and best working practices. Showcasing ongoing restoration work at this event has led to a greater level of trust between Pennine PeatLIFE staff and Natural England advisers, increasing their likelihood to give consent for peatland restoration works on SSSIs and including more restoration work in Countryside Stewardship agreements and moorland management plans.

Although Natural England is not directly a landowner, it is a powerful body with the potential to influence leaders and shape policy, which is crucial to peatland restoration becoming incorporated into land management practices and schemes on a national scale. It also holds a lot of sway over landowners and dictates which practices are included in their land management agreements, so familiarising their staff with peatland restoration techniques is high priority. Natural England is also an important potential funding source so highlighting the value and success of peatland restoration will lead to further peatlands being restored.

Appendix 1.

Attendees

Attendee	Organisation
Alistair Lockett	North Pennines AONB
Lee Rankin	North Pennines AONB
Chris Watt	North Pennines AONB
Steven Lipscombe	North Pennines AONB
Katherine Tongue	North Pennines AONB/Natural England
Cara Courage	Natural England
Fraser Elliott	Natural England
Tracy Hall	Natural England
Dani Hallam	Natural England
Sally Hopkins	Natural England
Patrick Oulton	Natural England
Jilli Rogerson	Natural England
Silas Walton	Natural England