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Stakeholder Workshop Report

Pennine PeatLIFE Launch

16.10.2017

Pennine PeatLIFE delivery partners



Pennine PeatLIFE is funded by



Date: 11:00 - 13:30, 16.10.2017

Location: The Morritt Hotel, Barnard Castle

Topic: Introduction to Pennine PeatLIFE project

Attendees: 49 representatives from a range of organisations (see Appendix 1)

1. Aims

- Provide an introduction to the Pennine PeatLIFE project and its objectives
- Raise the profile of Pennine PeatLIFE
- Make connections useful to the progression of the project

2. Overview

49 attendees including landowners, gamekeepers and representatives from a range of NGOs and government agencies were welcomed to The Morritt Hotel. Following a series of presentations, lunch was served. Presentations included an introduction to the Pennine PeatLIFE project by Paul Leadbitter, 'Funding peatland restoration' from Northumbrian Water Ltd, an introduction to the Peatland Code from the IUCN UK Peatland Programme, 'Working with land managers' by the Moorland Association and an overview of the importance of peatland restoration from the Environment Agency. Over lunch, attendees exchanged knowledge and discussed opportunities for future collaboration.



Figure 1. Pennine PeatLIFE staff with stakeholders.



Figure 2. Attendees networking during the event.



Figure 3. Display to demonstrate peatland restoration.

3. Press coverage

A press release was produced to coincide with the launch date (see Appendix 2). TV coverage of the launch event which was aired on regional BBC news.

4. Outcomes

The launch event raised the profile of Pennine PeatLIFE amongst a variety of important stakeholders, including the landowners and gamekeepers with whom the project must have a good working relationship in order to carry out peatland restoration, as well as government agencies, NGOs and potential future funders. The presentations encouraged them to consider incorporating some of the techniques discussed into future sites and funding schemes, and the event was an effective networking exercise from which valuable connections were made which have led to useful knowledge exchanges or collaborations on future sites across the North Pennines. The press coverage of the launch event raised public awareness of Pennine PeatLIFE and peatland restoration more generally, which is important for influencing policy and promoting the cause.

Appendix 1.

Attendees

First name	Surname	Organisation
Amanda	Anderson	Moorland Association
Lord	Barnard	Raby Estate
Mark	Brown	Yorkshire Peat Partnership/Pennine PeatLIFE
Vicky	Cairns	Northumbrian Water
Sylvia	Cleasby	North Pennines AONB Partnership
Rob	Cooper	Northumbrian Water
Ian	Crosher	Natural England
David	Dangerfield	Environment Agency
Helen	Davies	Environment Agency
Chris	Dean	Moors for the Future Partnership
Stuart	Dent	Crooksby Howeskye
Tony	Devos	Cumbrian Bogs LIFE+ Project
Brian	Fawcett	New House Farm
Dorothy	Gibson	Durham County Council
Oliver	Harmer	Environment Agency
Jillian	Hoy	IUCN UK Peatland Programme
Andrew	Hyslop	Raby Estate
Mark	Jenkinson	Hartley Fell Graziers
Paul	Leadbitter	North Pennines AONB Partnership
Hazel	Leah	Northumbrian Water
Alistair	Lockett	North Pennines AONB Partnership
Elliott	Lorimer	Forest of Bowland AONB
Martin	Lunn	Northumbrian Water Group
Angus	Lunn	Northumberland Wildlife Trust
Steve	Merrett	Environment Agency
Amanda	Miller	RSPB
Peter	Nailon	Wear Rivers Trust
Moirra	Owen	Defence Infrastructure Organisation
Adrian	Pitches	BBC Newcastle
Joanna	Richards	IUCN UK Peatland Programme
Sarah	Robinson	Forest of Bowland AONB
Phil	Rothwell	RFCC
Jenny	Sharman	Yorkshire Peat Partnership
Martin	Slater	Environment Agency
Jackie	Smith	Natural England
Matthew	Snelling	Yorkshire Wildlife Trust
Rosie	Snowden	Yorkshire Peat Partnership
Clare	Steward	Environment Agency
Rob	Stoneman	Yorkshire Wildlife Trust
Emma	Taylor	North Pennines AONB Partnership
Tim	Thom	Yorkshire Wildlife Trust
Thomas	Vickers	T.H. Vickers & Sons
Andrew	Walker	Yorkshire Water
Graham	Walsh	Natural England
Chris	Watt	North Pennines AONB Partnership
Stewart	Waugh	Northumbrian Water
Alison	Whalley	Environment Agency
Pete	Wilson	United Utilities
Nigel	Winter	West Arkengarthdale Estate
Chris	Woodley-Stewart	North Pennines AONB

Appendix 2.

Press release



NORTH PENNINES

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

PRESS RELEASE ... PRESS RELEASE ... PRESS RELEASE

Embargo 00:01; 16 October 2017

£6 million invested in restoring nature's natural carbon store in Northern England

A new £6 million project launches today to help fix large swathes of Pennine peatland over the next four years. The project, *Pennine PeatLIFE*, which will take place in areas of the North Pennines, Yorkshire Dales and Forest of Bowland, will fix currently damaged areas of blanket bog or 'peat bog', so that they once more provide homes for wildlife, store carbon to help us combat climate change and help filter clean water for us to drink.

Led by the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partnership in collaboration with Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and Forest of Bowland AONB Partnership, the *Pennine PeatLIFE* project aims to restore a huge 1,300 hectares of bog – space enough for over 1,000 cricket matches to be held all at once. In addition the project will test innovative ways of funding works of this kind, identifying new approaches to paying for environmental improvements that benefit all society.

Rob Stoneman, Chief Executive of Yorkshire Wildlife Trust said:

"The unique wet, cool climate of the UK might not suit all, but it provides the perfect conditions for blanket bog formation, with over 13% of the world's resource found here. We therefore have a vital role to play in the protection of this globally important habitat and *Pennine PeatLIFE* is a major step forward in achieving this.

"Having long studied peatlands and their importance for climate, water, wildlife and historical studies, I am delighted that Yorkshire Wildlife Trust will be part of this ambitious project to return this habitat, which is close to my heart, back to a bill of health working closely with a team of excellent partners."

Chris Woodley-Stewart, Director of the AONB Partnership, said:

"There's a really strong partnership working together to make this project happen, from the three main organisations doing the work on the ground, the landowners on whose peatlands we'll be working, the universities undertaking the monitoring and organisations like the water companies and Environment Agency that are helping to fund and guide the programme. The North Pennines AONB Partnership and Yorkshire Peat Partnership have developed real expertise in peatland restoration over the years and this is great opportunity to scale up the work, for all the benefits peatland restoration brings to society."

Financed by the European Union's LIFE Programme, Environment Agency, Yorkshire Water, Northumbrian Water and United Utilities, *Pennine PeatLIFE* brings together a strong coalition of experienced partners to deliver a large-scale programme of peatland restoration and research with wide ranging benefits.

Andrew Walker, Catchment Manager from Yorkshire Water said:

"45% of the water we treat comes from upland catchments, so they're a really important source of water for us. They're also dominated by internationally important peatland habitats, so initiatives like this are an excellent way for us to work in partnership with other water companies and key stakeholders to restore and enhance these landscapes. Healthy peatlands not only deliver cleaner water, but can help reduce the impact of downstream flooding, as well as mitigate against a changing climate."

Pete Wilson, Catchment Partnership Officer, from United Utilities said:

"United Utilities is very excited to be a part of this innovative partnership project. Peatland restoration has been at the heart of our catchment management for many years. Not only does it lead to improvements in internationally important habitats, but it can have a host of other benefits to society such as improvements in water quality, reductions in CO₂ emissions as well as slowing water flow into streams and rivers."

John Devall, Water Director from Northumbrian Water said:

"We are proud to be part of this fantastic partnership project which will involve restoring eroding peat habitats on a landscape scale.

"The EU *Pennine PeatLIFE* project will provide water quality benefits beyond the uplands; delivering upstream solutions for the benefits of our downstream customers for now and in the future."

Restoration work will begin in November in collaboration with a number of landowners and will involve the use of newly developed techniques suited to the harsher climate of Northern England. New ways of recording changes in the peatlands 'before and after' the restoration will also be trialled, using Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs). Knowledge gained from the project will be shared with UK and international partners to promote effective and sustainable peatland restoration techniques.

David Dangerfield Director of Operations (North) from the Environment Agency said:

"We are delighted to be able to support *Pennine PeatLIFE*. The project brings together a number of partners to restore and protect peatlands across the Northern Pennines, and in the process improve water quality, biodiversity and natural flood management. The project will enable us all to share knowledge and experience, delivering more for our customers and the environment."

The *Pennine PeatLIFE* launch event is being held on October 16th, 2017 at the Morritt Arms Hotel near Barnard Castle.

Ends

Notes for editors

Contact Paul Leadbitter at North Pennines AONB Partnership for further information – pleadbitter@northpenninesaonb.org.uk 01388 528801

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.

North Pennines AONB Partnership

The North Pennines AONB Partnership is an alliance of 24 public, statutory and voluntary sector bodies with an interest in the future of the AONB. The work of the Partnership is carried out by its Staff Unit which takes action to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area, to raise awareness of its special qualities and to improve the quality of life for local people.

The **North Pennines** is one of England's most special places – a peaceful, unspoilt landscape with a rich history and vibrant natural beauty. It was designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in 1988. The purpose of this nationally recognised designation is the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of the area.

At almost 2,000 sq. kilometres the North Pennines is the second largest of the 46 AONBs (in England, Wales and Northern Ireland) and is one of the most peaceful and unspoilt places in England. Visit www.landscapesforlife.org.uk for information about the AONB Family.

The **North Pennines** lies between the National Parks of the Lake District, the Yorkshire Dales, and Northumberland with the urban centres of County Durham away to the east. Parts of the AONB are within the boundaries of five local authorities; the three counties of Cumbria, Durham and Northumberland, Carlisle City Council and Eden District Council.

UNESCO Global Geopark

As well as being an AONB the North Pennines is a UNESCO Global Geopark. This puts the area's Geopark status in the same UNESCO family as World Heritage Sites and Biosphere Reserves. Global Geoparks are places with outstanding geology where special effort is made to make the most of geological heritage to support community and economy. Locally this includes producing geo-trails, developing projects with school and community groups, producing displays for visitor attractions and holding geology festivals and events. A new programme is being planned for 2016-2020 that will, if funding can be secured, include new downloadable trails, interactive facilities at Bowlees Visitor Centre, a range of community and school projects, the creation of a 'rock park' and establishing an international Geo-Youth Camp in the area. Visit www.northpennines.org.uk for more information.

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

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 with 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. Visit www.ywt.org.uk for more information.