



C2

Stakeholder Workshop Report

Managing the Uplands for Public Benefit

House of Commons Reception

Westminster

30/04/19

Peninme PeatLIFE delivery partners



Peninme PeatLIFE is funded by



Date: 30/04/19

Location: House of Commons, Westminster

Topic: Advocacy on the importance of the ecosystems services uplands provide with emphasis on peatlands

Attendees: See Appendix 1 (including invitation)

1. Aims

- To raise awareness of the importance of the uplands in terms of the ecosystem services they provide to wider society
- To highlight the plight peatlands are facing, and the desperate need for government support
- To showcase the excellent work that is being carried out by organisations throughout the uplands to ensure there is a win-win outcome for both people and the environment
- To emphasise the cooperation that exists between organisations and between landowners to produce this outcome
- To motivate MPs and Ministers to support peatland restoration and sustainable upland management.

2. Overview

This event grew out of the highly successful event instigated by landowner Rob Brown in Bishopdale. Rob Brown owns one of the Pennine PeatLIFE (PPL) sites currently under restoration and conversations with the PPL Officer in charge (Jenny Sharman) led to the organisation of this event. Julian Sturdy MP and Rishi Sunak MP who attended and spoke at Bishopdale were both very inspired and motivated to take their learning from this event to Westminster. Through a steady process of lobbying, and continued support from Rob Brown, work from the PPL team and the invaluable input and coordination skills of the IUCN Peat Programme, this House of Commons reception sponsored by Julian Sturdy MP and supported by Rishi Sunak MP became a reality.

The event was hosted by Rob Brown on behalf of the partners within the PPL Project. It attracted 24 different organisations under the theme of 'Managing the Uplands for Public Benefit' with displays from 15 partner organisations (listed in Appendix 1). It was attended by upwards of 49 people including Angela Smith MP, Sue Hayman MP, The Duke of Montrose, Rt Hon Sir Jeffrey M Donaldson MP, David Simpson MP, Mr Clive Betts MP, Ben Lake MP, Julian Sturdy MP, Rishi Sunak MP, Julian Smith MP, Lord Dear, Dr Therese Coffey MP, and John Grogan MP.

Speeches were given by Rob Brown, Rob Stoneman and Therese Coffey MP.



Figure 1. Minister for the Environment, Therese Coffey speaking to the assembled audience with Rob Brown, the host and landowner of PPL's restoration site, Stake Moss, to her right.

3. Press coverage

A press release was issued (see Appendix 2).

The IUCN carried the following article:

<https://www.iucn-uk-peatlandprogramme.org/news/managing-uplands-public-benefit-house-commons-reception>

An informal video of the speeches is available.

4. Outcomes

The event was deemed a great success and led to further support from Julian Smith MP who subsequently visited the Pennine PeatLIFE site of Fleet Moss to discuss restoration issues in more detail. It had further positive knock-on effects with MPs from other areas visiting their own local peatland operations e.g. Ben Lake MP in Wales.

Overall the event raised the profile of peatlands in government and may have played a part in the recent unprecedented commitment from the Treasury to allocate £640 million to protecting peatlands and planting woodland.

Appendix 1.

Attendee	Organisation
Paul Leadbitter	North Pennines AONB Partnership
Chris Woodley-Stewart	North Pennines AONB Partnership
Sarah Hudspeth	North Pennines AONB Partnership
Chris Miller	Pennine PeatLIFE
Jenny Sharman	Pennine PeatLIFE
Lyndon Marquis	Yorkshire Peat Partnership
Rob Stoneman	Yorkshire Wildlife Trust
Tim Thom	Yorkshire Wildlife Trust
Elliott Lorimer	Forest of Bowland AONB Partnership
Tarja Wilson	Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority
Daniel Turner	Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust
Morag Angus	South West Water
Pat Thompson	RSPB
Adam Barnett	RSPB
Amanda Anderson	Moorland Association
Jeremy Duckworth	Moorland Association
Clifton Bain	IUCN UK Peatland Programme
Jillian Hoy	IUCN UK Peatland Programme
Sarah Proctor	IUCN UK Peatland Programme
Joseph Holden	University of Leeds
Jennifer Fulton	Ulster Wildlife Trust
Jim McAdam	Ulster Wildlife Trust
Sharon Davison	Moors for the Future
David Chapman	Moors for the Future
Marian Pye	Snowdonia National Park Authority
Granville Davies	Yorkshire Water
Sophie Chapman	Defra
David Hunter	Defra
Carol Fielding	Natural Resources Wales
Robert Brown	Howesyeke Estate
Matthew Hodian	Environment Agency
Katie Aspray	Environment Agency
Oliver Harmar	Environment Agency
Brad Tooze	Natural England
Jenny Dadd	Esmee Fairbairn
Rob Cooper	Northumbrian Water
Stuart Waugh	Northumbrian Water
Liz Corbett	Northumbrian Water
Liam Budd	Labour Party
MP	Constituency
Julian Sturdy	York Outer
Liz Saville Roberts	Dwyfor Merionnydd
Clive Betts	Sheffield South East
Therese Coffey	Environment Minister
Angela Smith	Pennistone & Stocksbridge
Rishi Sunak	Richmond (Yorkshire)
Cat Smith	Lancaster & Fleetwood
Julian Smith	Craven District (Yorkshire)

Sue Hayman	Workington
Lord Dear	House of Lords
Duke of Montrose	House of Lords
Ben Lake	Ceredigion
Lord Gardiner	House of Lords

Appendix 2. Invitation to the Event



Invitation to a House of Commons Reception

*Jubilee Room, House of Commons, London
April 30th 2019 at 3:30 – 5:30pm*

NORTH PENNINES
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



Managing the Uplands for Public Benefit

Upland catchments provide us with much of the water we drink, help protect us from flooding, give us somewhere to work as well as to play and are one of our greatest natural climate change solutions. Partnerships are working together across the UK to restore, enhance and protect UK Uplands and secure the wealth of natural capital they provide.

This reception provides an opportunity to showcase the importance of UK uplands – recognising their intrinsic value and the public benefits they provide. On-going Government support and long-term funding is vital to the implementation of the UK Peatland Strategy and achieving the associated actions laid out in ‘A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment’.

Introductions will be provided by:

- *Dr. Thérèse Coffey MP*, Minister for the Environment, UK Parliament
- *Rob Brown*, Owner of Howesyke Farm & Wensleydale Natural Flood Management Facilitation Fund Steering Group Member.
- *Rob Stoneman*, CEO of Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, Chair of Pennine PeatLIFE and Chair of IUCN UK PP

The majority of time is reserved for meeting the network of partnerships, projects and organisations working to protect UK Uplands.

This event is kindly sponsored by Julian Sturdy MP and hosted by Rob Brown on behalf of North Pennines Area of Nature Beauty (AONB) Partnership / Pennine PeatLIFE and the IUCN UK Peatland Programme.

Please RSVP to info@iucn.org.uk by Tuesday 2nd April

A wine reception will be provided, please let us know of any dietary requirements with your RSVP.

Entrance via Cromwell Green visitors' entrance **TBC**

Entrance closes at 10:00pm weekdays when either House is sitting and 8:00pm at all other times, incl. weekends

Please allow up to 30 minutes to clear security • Smoking/e-cigarettes not permitted • No parking facilities available

Admittance upon presentation of electronic or paper invitation only

Guests are advised to bring personal photo identification



Press Release ... Press Release ... Press Release ...

2 May 2019

Conservation experts in Westminster to highlight upland peatland community's role in tackling climate change

Conservation bodies active in peatland restoration across the UK were in Westminster this week to explain the vital role of their work in the fight to slow climate change.

A week after 16-year-old climate change activist Greta Thunberg took her environmental message to Westminster, a group of organisations met MPs and Peers to highlight the valuable public benefits of healthy peatlands and how restoring and protecting them can help to tackle catastrophic climate change.

Pennine PeatLIFE, a major peatland conservation project led by the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partnership in collaboration with Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and Forest of Bowland AONB Partnership, hosted the parliamentary reception on Tuesday 30 April. The reception was co-ordinated by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) UK Peatland Programme, and brought together partnerships working across the UK, representing a wealth of expertise and over 100,000 hectares of restored peatlands.

Julian Sturdy MP (York Outer) and Rishi Sunak MP (Richmond) sponsored the event and talked about their visits to Pennine PeatLIFE sites in their own constituencies.

Environment Minister, Thérèse Coffey said:

“I was delighted to speak to the Pennine PeatLIFE event. The UK’s three million hectares of peatlands are an invaluable resource in our natural environment, providing carbon storage, clean water, flood mitigation, natural habitats, and land for agriculture and recreation.

“Four large-scale peatland projects across England are benefitting from £10 million of Defra funding, to restore over 6,000 hectares of degraded peatland between now and March 2021. It was great to see the fruits of that investment and meet some of the people behind this essential work.”

The undervalued moorland landscape of upland areas of the UK can capture and store vast amounts of carbon, locking it in to stop it contributing to further climate change. However if they are left to degrade, peatlands will release their stored carbon into the atmosphere. Dried-out, damaged peat is also vulnerable to fire, as can be seen with the wildfires that have taken hold on moors across the country.

Public benefits of healthy peatlands are not restricted to tackling climate change. 70% of our drinking water comes from upland catchments, they host internationally important biodiversity of plants and animals, and they ‘slow the flow’ of water which can reduce the impact of flooding.

Rob Stoneman, Chair of Pennine PeatLIFE, said: “With the industrial revolution the UK began what Greta Thunberg refers to as a ‘mind-blowing historical carbon debt.’ We think that we should be leading a new industrial revolution, one that reduces emissions and addresses climate change as the biggest challenge humanity has ever faced. Healthy peatlands are central to this climate change revolution, and we must continue to invest in their conservation.”

Rob Brown, owner of Howesyke Farm in the Yorkshire Dales National Park, spoke about his experience as a landowner: “On my farm 950 acres of peatland have been restored for the public benefit. Thousands of tonnes of CO² have been saved from entering the atmosphere and downstream the benefits include cleaner water and reduced impact of flooding.

“We need to create more opportunities for land managers to undertake peatland restoration and support the delivery organisations, such as AONB and National Park teams, through blended public, private and charitable funding solutions.”

Paul Leadbitter, Peatland Programme Manager at the North Pennines AONB Partnership, said: “What many people see when they look at our moorlands are vast expanses of a harsh and relatively inaccessible habitat, seemingly without much growing there. However these peatlands and the plants that grow on them are the engines of carbon storage in our upland landscape.”

Pennine PeatLIFE is funded by the EU LIFE programme with match funding from Yorkshire Water, United Utilities, Northumbrian Water and the Environment Agency. The North Pennines AONB Partnership and IUCN UK Peatland Programme have also received funding from innovative funders and grant-makers such as the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation to further develop peat restoration programmes in the UK.

The UK Peatland Strategy sets out an ambitious target of two million hectares of peatland in good condition, under restoration or being sustainably managed by 2040.

IUCN UK Peatland Programme Director, Clifton Bain, said: “There is great momentum and expertise in the UK peatland sector and we have made real progress towards our targets. Long-term funding is needed to maintain this momentum and realise the many benefits healthy peatlands provide us with.

“The United Nations General Assembly has declared the next decade the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. Restoring degraded ecosystems is a proven measure to tackle climate change and the peatland community in the UK can help meet this commitment through innovative restoration practices and its established ethos of partnership working.”

ENDS

Notes to editors

Contact Sarah Hudspeth at North Pennines AONB Partnership for further information – shudspeth@northpenninesaonb.org.uk, Phone: 01388 528801

An image from the parliamentary reception is attached, plus a healthy peatland and degraded blanket bog. Main image left to right Rishi Sunak MP, Julian Sturdy MP, Dr Therese Coffey MP, Rob Stoneman and Rob Brown.

For alternative images please contact Sarah on 01388 528801 or email shudspeth@northpenninesaonb.org.uk