



## LIFE Project Exchange



### Summary of events 12<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Peninne PeatLIFE delivery partners



Peninne PeatLIFE is funded by



## **EU LIFE Finnish and Eurosite Visit**

*Diary of events 12<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> March 2018*

The North Pennines AONB Partnership (NPAP) with Pennine PeatLIFE project partner Yorkshire Wildlife Trust (YWT) hosted 12 guests from Finland, Croatia, and the Netherlands in March 2018 to build synergies and allow for knowledge exchange between peatland experts across the EU. The exchange was also attended by staff from the Environment Agency and Northumbrian Water who are co-financiers of the Pennine PeatLIFE project.

During the course of the week, visits to damaged and restored peatland sites in the North Pennines AONB were arranged to showcase the restoration techniques being used in the cold, wet, high altitude locations of Northern England, a Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) demonstration was given to showcase innovative surveying techniques and a seminar on the UK Peatland Code was presented. The exchange offered many opportunities for establishing links with European counterparts.

### **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March**

The guests arrived in Stanhope, County Durham during the evening.



*Fairfield Guest House in Stanhope served as base camp for the week*



## **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March**

During the morning, guests were given a presentation by NPAP Field Officer Dr Emma Taylor summarising the techniques used in Pennine PeatLIFE restoration work to give a perspective as to the problem and to provide a context for the site visits later on in the day.



*Guests receiving a morning briefing about the Pennine PeatLIFE project.*



*Machinery and bags full of heather brash for spreading at a restoration site.*





*Demonstrating the use of coir rolls that slow the water on damaged peat.*

The day wasn't solely concentrated on peatlands with guests getting to see other areas of the North Pennines AONB such as the iconic Teesdale High Force Waterfall. Damaged peatlands contribute to increased 'water colour' in rivers and reservoirs leading to higher water treatment costs for water companies; peatland restoration can be an effective way of reducing water colour.



*High Force in Teesdale.*





On return to Fairview house a presentation about the Finnish Peat LIFE project, Hydrology LIFE was given by Project Manager Tuomas Haapalehto (Metsähallitus Parks & Wildlife Finland) followed by the confirmation of the Twinning of the Pennine PeatLIFE and Hydrology LIFE projects via Eurosite's Twinning initiative. Pennine PeatLIFE and Hydrology LIFE will work closely together over the next few years to exchange information about peatlands.



Presentation by Tuomas Haapalehto – Hydrology Life (Metsähallitus Parks & Wildlife Finland)



*Twinning of the two LIFE projects, l to r Kristijan Civic - Eurosite, Tuomas Haapalehto - Hydrology Life Paul Leadbitter – NPAP (Pennine PeatLIFE).*

### **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March**

The guests were taken to a current restoration site to view a demonstration of a UAV. Lead by staff from YWT and NPAP this exercise allowed the guests to observe how aerial technology can assist in field work mapping and data collection. UAVs can produce high resolution images which are useful for restoration planning, monitoring and modelling.



*Alistair Lockett, NPAP Field Officer getting the Twin Mapper UAV ready for demonstration.*





*Mark Brown, GIS & Remote Sensing Officer YWT explaining how the eBee UAV works.*



*Twin Mapper UAV in action.*

After the UAV demonstration, the group returned to Fairfield House where a presentation by Mark Brown from YWT was given about UAV applications for blanket bog restoration and monitoring. This included how to process remote sensing data via GIS software to evaluate, monitor and model blanket bog restoration and recovery.

In the afternoon a presentation of the UK Peatland Code was delivered by Jillian Hoy of the IUCN UK Peatland Programme. The UK Peatland Code is an innovative payment for ecosystem services mechanism (PES). The demonstration of the Code is a key component of the Pennine PeatLIFE project and this presentation was given to provide the group a detailed outline and a better understanding of what the Peatland Code is and to also showcase the role of this scheme in long term financing of peatland restoration.



*Mark Brown, GIS & Remote Sensing Officer YWT presenting about how to process UAV data.*





*Peatland Code presentation from Jillian Hoy from IUCN UK Peatland Programme.*

### **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March**

During the morning the guests headed to Flow Moss, a previously restored site near Allendale in Northumberland. NPAP Field Officer Emma Taylor described the restoration work completed while restoring the site since 2010. Around the site, guests could observe experiments in action such as an MSc project looking into lime and fertiliser impacts on *Sphagnum* growth, coir roll establishment and numerous volunteer efforts spreading brash and planting *Sphagnum*.



*Flow Moss site visit, showing a recent bare peat restoration area.*



*Tuomas Haapalehto with LIFE and Natura 2000 flags at Flow Moss*



*Allard van Leerdam (Staatsbosbeheer) presenting on peatland restoration in the Netherlands.*

In the afternoon the quarterly meeting of Eurosite Ecosystem Services Working Group (ESWG) was held at Fairfield House with other ESWG members not present on this UK trip calling in by phone. Following that a presentation was given by Allard



van Leerdam, Jan Veenstra and Martin Carree about Peatland restoration in the Netherlands. This presentation highlighted some of the differences and similarities between the UK and the Netherlands in terms of peatland issues.

It is anticipated that some staff members from NPAP and YWT will visit Finland later in 2018 to see the work of the Hydrology LIFE project and to also see if any UK techniques, i.e. UAV, modelling, restoration or PES can be used in Finland and or what Finnish techniques may work in the UK.

The week came to a close with visitors departing for Newcastle airport.

In attendance for this exchange were:

1. Tuomas Haapalehto - Metsähallitus Parks & Wildlife Finland (Hydrology LIFE)
2. Jari Ilmonen - Metsähallitus Parks & Wildlife Finland (Hydrology LIFE)
3. Kaisu Aapala - Finnish Environment Institute
4. Suvi Haapalehto - Metsähallitus Parks & Wildlife Finland
5. Maarit Simila - Metsähallitus Parks & Wildlife Finland
6. Kristijan Civic - Eurosite
7. Marina Skunca – Geonatura Ltd.
8. Jan Veenstra - Staatsbosbeheer
9. Allan Van Leerdam - Staatsbosbeheer
10. Martin Carree - Staatsbosbeheer
11. Esther Moens- Natuurmonumenten
12. Paul Vertegaal- Natuurmonumenten
13. Jillian Hoy - IUCN UK Peatland Programme
14. Katie Aspray - Environment Agency
15. Rob Cooper - Northumbrian Water Limited
16. Anita Prosser - Eurosite
17. Tim Thom - YWT (Pennine PeatLIFE)
18. Chris Miller - YWT (Pennine PeatLIFE)
19. Jenny Sharman - YWT (Pennine PeatLIFE)
20. Mark Brown - YWT (Pennine PeatLIFE)
21. Paul Leadbitter - NPAP (Pennine PeatLIFE)
22. Sylvia Cleasby - NPAP (Pennine PeatLIFE)
23. Alistair Lockett - NPAP (Pennine PeatLIFE)
24. Emma Taylor - NPAP (Pennine PeatLIFE)
25. Chris Watt - NPAP (Pennine PeatLIFE)
26. Simon Wilson - NPAP
27. Chris Woodley-Stewart – NPAP
28. Sarah Hudspeth - NPAP

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