

# Peatland policy: a just transition for people AND nature

How do we achieve a just transition for the UK's peatland communities?



Peatland Programme

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alliance...”

# Peatland policy: a just transition for people and nature

Lydia Collas, Senior Policy Analyst, Green Alliance

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# Structure of today's session

- Introduction from each panellist
- Session 1
  - What do peatlands currently deliver?
  - What do we want from the peatlands of the future?
  - Key priorities for a just transition
- Session 2
  - What policy is needed to guide the transition?

# Panellists

“ green  
alliance...”



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# Peatland Policy: a just transition for the UK's peatland communities

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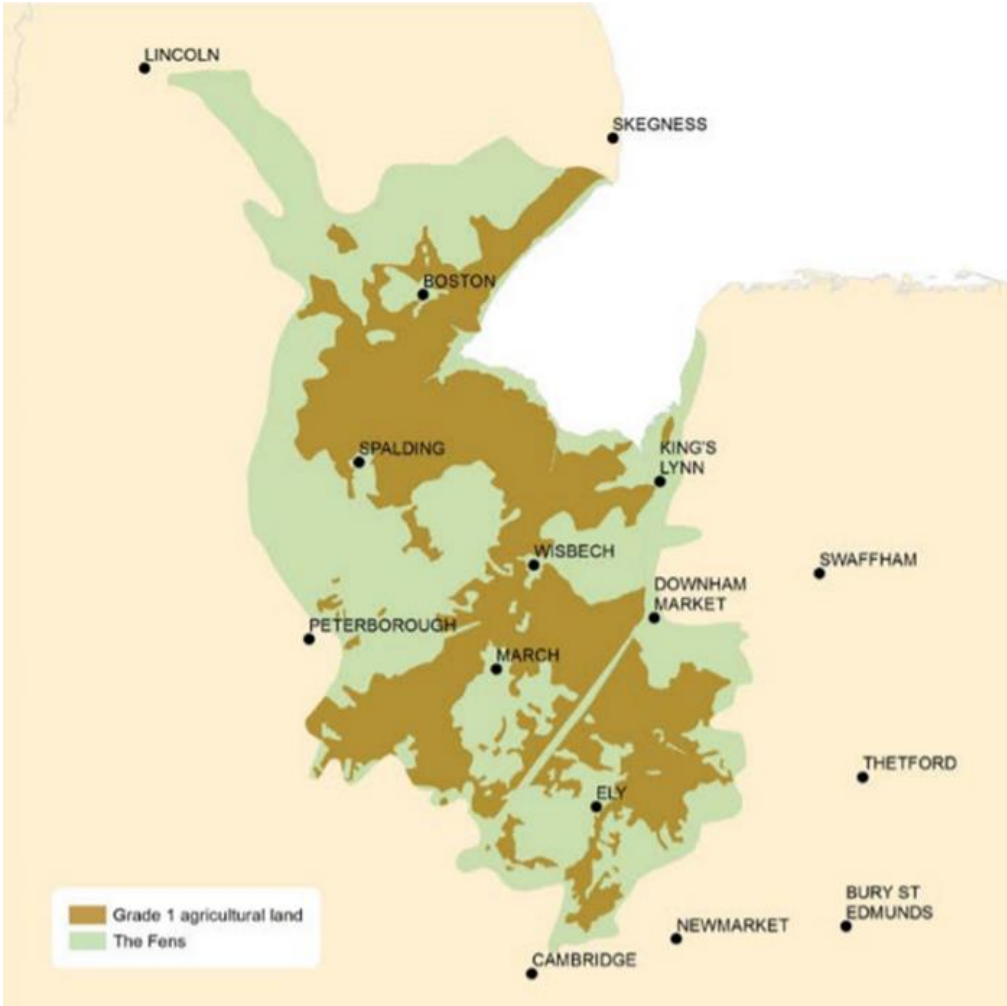
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# The Fens in Numbers

- 7% of the UK's food produced on just 4% of the land
- 1/3 of the UK's fresh produce
- Agricultural supply chain employs 80,000 people – equivalent to the population of Peterborough
- 88% of the land in the Fens is cultivated – 89% of which is Grade I or Grade II
- 50% of the UK's total Grade I land is in the Fens
- Contributes £3bn to the economy

(Source: NFU, Delivering for Britain: Food and Farming in the Fens, 2019)





# IUCN Peatland Conference

## Peatland Policy: A Just Transition for People and Nature

**Renny McKeown**  
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Environment, Marine & Fisheries Group  
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# Climate Change (Northern Ireland) Act 2022

- Target of 100% Reduction in GHG Emissions by 2050
- DAERA must set Carbon Budgets
- Climate Action Plans for every 5-year period
- DAERA is leading on our first CAP (2023-27)

Climate Action Plans must have regard to:

- the desirability of coordinating with UK, ROI etc.
- **the Just Transition principle**
- the special economic and social role of agriculture
- the desirability of using nature-based projects
- the risk of carbon leakage and the desirability of eliminating or minimising that risk

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# Just Transition

- Just Transition Commission.
- Commission must oversee implementation of Just Transition elements of CCA
- Provide advice to Departments
- Just Transition Fund for Agriculture
- NI Climate Commissioner

## Just Transition Principles

- Supporting jobs which are climate resilient
- Environmentally sustainable
- Support low Carbon investment
- Support those most affected by Climate Change.
- Includes representation from agriculture, fisheries, academia, trade unions, civic society and environmental groups.

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# Northern Ireland Peatland Strategy



- Strategic Objective 3 – Capacity Building & Appropriate Research are supported to ensure delivery of the Northern Ireland Peatland Strategy
- Action 11 - Develop and deliver knowledge transfer, education and training and innovation programmes to meet the needs of landowners, organisations and contractors, to build capacity in peatland conservation, restoration and management.

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# Solutions?

- NI at the beginning of our peatland restoration journey
- What can we do to support peatland restoration and a Just Transition in NI?

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