



LIFE+ Project – Restoring the Humberhead Peatlands

Mid Project Workshop – Tuesday 27th September 2016
09:00 – 16:15 at Thorne, South Yorkshire, England

“Making Moor Space”

This is an opportunity for you to join a one-day workshop and find out how Natural England and our partners are helping to restore the precious lowland raised bog habitat of the Humberhead Peatlands National Nature Reserve, covering Thorne, Hatfield, Crowle and Goole Moors, in South Yorkshire, England.

Come along and see how European investment has been used so far to manage the water levels using dams, weirs and bunds and by clearing scrub vegetation to reduce the amount of water being sucked out of the peat. And how through the recreation of boggy conditions, invertebrates are flourishing and the European Nightjar is thriving.

The workshop will combine lively and engaging onsite sessions, delivered by the people undertaking the work on the ground. There will also be a chance for you to learn about the techniques being used, the lessons learned and their results so far.

The day will begin with an opening plenary setting the context for the Project, including the history to the Humberhead Peatlands. This will be followed by four onsite workshops held on Thorne Moors SAC and conclude with a closing plenary.

There will also be a chance to meet researchers and local amateurs who have contributed and shaped the Humberhead Peatlands.

At around 3,300 ha in extent, the Humberhead Peatlands form the largest complex of lowland raised bog in England and are designated as a National Nature Reserve.



LIFE+

The LIFE+ Programme is the European Union's funding instrument for the environment. Funding is awarded to best practice, innovative demonstration projects that contribute to the objectives of Natura 2000.



Onsite workshops

The main focus of the day are the four onsite workshops which will take place on Thorne Moors SAC. Transport to and from the site will be provided, along with a packed lunch. We advise that you dress appropriately and expect inclement weather. Suitable footwear is essential for the Moors, wellingtons are recommended. The venue where the opening and closing plenaries will take place operate a 'clean shoe' policy, so please bring a change of footwear.



Tracked chipper processing rhododendron (E Brightman, NE)

Scrub Control

Learn how we are carrying out scrub control on degraded lowland raised bog. This will cover the different methods used, including the machinery operated and the immediate results and finish, and the follow up works required. Our Estate Foreman, Ed Brightman, along with the Estate Workers and the current machinery contractor will walk you through their experiences.

Hydrology

Managing the water levels is key to facilitating recolonisation of the bare peat and the cleared areas. See how the water levels are controlled by a range of measures, including pumping station, contour bunding to reduce flows, dams and sluices on internal ditches and drains, tilting weirs on principal drains. This session will be delivered by Darren Whitaker, JBA Consulting.

Insect and spider assemblages

Don't forget Cinderella! Catering for insect and spider assemblages in lowland raised bogs. Invertebrates contribute the greatest number of species to peatlands fauna but are infrequently considered in restoration projects. This session will explain how to measure the responses of invertebrates during restoration and discuss how their needs can be met. This session will be delivered by Dr Richard Smith.

Getting to grips with the Goatsucker - Monitoring and tracking our nocturnal Nightjars

The European Nightjar is a sparsely distributed ground nesting bird, with quite specific habitat requirements for nesting. The Humberhead Peatlands is one of the few peatland sites in the country to be designated an SPA because of its nightjar population. This workshop will discuss methods for monitoring these birds during the breeding season and tracking their foraging movements. This workshop will be led by Lucy Ryan, York University.



'Rope Dragging' to detect nightjar nests (R Smith, NE)

What next?

To book a place, please email for the programme and booking form to:

humberhead.peatlands@naturalengland.org.uk

The Humberhead Peatlands LIFE+ project is generously funded by the European Union LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity Project: LIFE13NAT/UK/00451

www.gov.uk/government/publications/humberhead-peatlands-restoration-life-project

