

LIFE+ Project – Restoring the Humberhead Peatlands

“Making Moor Space”

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

Aim of the day

Natural England, through the EU LIFE+ funded project - Restoring the Humberhead Peatlands, is hosting a workshop, in collaboration with our partners entitled “Making Moor Space”. The event is aimed at conservation practitioners, researchers and anyone interested in the practicalities of restoring lowland raised bog habitat.

Programme

Through a series of four onsite workshops, hosted on Thorne Moors, you’ll learn about the techniques being used, the lessons learned to date and the results so far. The onsite workshops will cover:

- **Insect and spider assemblages** – Contributing the greatest number of species to peatlands fauna they are infrequently considered during restoration projects. We’ll explain how to measure the responses of invertebrates during restoration and discuss how their needs can be met. This session will be led by our monitoring officer, Dr Richard Smith.
- **Scrub control** – In the last winter season 268 hectares of scrub were cleared from the Humberhead Peatlands NNR, comprising birch and rhododendron. We’ll explain the methods used, dependent on the ground conditions and scrub encountered, the results we achieved and the follow-up works required. Our Estate Foreman, Estate workers and machinery contractor will lead you through their experiences.
- **Monitoring and tracking our nocturnal nightjars** – These sparsely distributed ground nesting birds have quite specific habitat requirements for nesting. The Humberhead Peatlands NNR is one of the few peatland sites in the country to be designated an SPA because of its nightjar population. We’ll discuss the methods we’re using for monitoring these birds during the breeding season and how we’re tracking their foraging movements. Our partners, York University, through Lucy Ryan, doctoral student, will lead this workshop.
- **Hydrology** - Managing the water levels is key to facilitating recolonisation of the bare peat and the cleared areas. You’ll be able to 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. Our partner, Doncaster East Internal Drainage Board, through Darren Whitaker of JBA Consulting will take you through how the water levels are being managed across the site.

You’ll have the opportunity to attend all four workshops.

At the start of the day there will also be a chance to meet researchers and local amateurs who have contributed and shaped the Humberhead Peatlands.

How to book

As the workshop is being generously funded by the European Union LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity Project we are able to offer this event at no charge.

If you would like to attend, please email humberhead.peatlands@naturalengland.org.uk to obtain a programme and booking form.