



Upland Hydrology Group



Exmoor Mires Project Conference

Celebrating 5 years of research

Wednesday 18th & Thursday 19th March 2015

Dulverton Town Hall, 27 Fore Street, Dulverton, Somerset, TA22 9EX

The Exmoor Mires Project is holding a two day conference to showcase their monitoring and research programme findings. The project has been working in partnership to restore degraded peatland on Exmoor since 1998. Alongside this restoration work there has been a comprehensive monitoring programme set up to understand the effects of peatland restoration. The conference will present findings which show positive changes to peatland biodiversity, hydrology and carbon storage alongside the extensive palaeo-environmental and geo-archaeological research that has been carried out. The findings are focused on the last 5 year of the project which has been led by South West Water as the major funder in a partnership with local and national stakeholders and Exmoor's moorland farmers. The conference is supported and co-hosted by The Heart of Exmoor Project and the Upland Hydrology Group.

PROGRAMME

Wednesday, 18 th March	
0900 – 0930	Registration and coffee on arrival
0930 – 0940	Conference Chair and Opening Address David Mount – Upland Hydrology Group
0940 – 0950	Development of the Exmoor Mires Restoration Partnership and its Monitoring Programme Dr David Smith – Project Manager
Session 1	Biodiversity and Agriculture
0950 – 1010	16 years of Exmoor mires vegetation surveying; a volunteer's perspective Andy Glendinning and Anne Hand – EMP
1010 – 1020	Breeding birds of Exmoor's Mires Helen Booker – RSPB
1020 – 1030	Changes in the invertebrate fauna of Exmoor's mires in response to restoration works David Boyce – Independent Ecologist
1030 – 1050	Assessing the impact of mire restoration on agricultural productivity Guy Freeman – University of Exeter
1050 – 1100	Session 1 – Q & A
1100 – 1130	Coffee break
Session 2	Hydrology
1130 – 1150	Ecohydrological monitoring of the Exmoor Mires project Prof Richard Brazier – University of Exeter
1150 – 1210	Effect of restoration on baseflows Kate Bowers – Environment Agency
1210 – 1230	Four years of water quality measurements on Exmoor – Initial changes in water quality after-restoration Dr Emilie Grand-Clement – South West Water/University of Exeter
1230 – 1250	Understanding the ecohydrology of Exmoor's peatlands before and after restoration Dr David Luscombe – University of Exeter
1250 – 1300	Session 2 – Q & A
1300 – 1350	Lunch



ENGLISH HERITAGE





Wednesday, 18th March cont . . .

Session 3	Greenhouse Gases
1350 – 1410	Greenhouse gas overview and carbon storage in mires Dr Ed Hornibrook – University of Bristol
1410 – 1430	Methane emissions from Exmoor mires Adam McAleer – University of Bristol
1430 – 1450	Carbon Dioxide fluxes from a drained Molinia caerulea dominated bog – how damaged was it, and has ditch blocking made a difference? Naomi Gatis – University of Exeter
1450 – 1500	Session 3 – Q & A
1500 – 1530	Break and Refreshments
Session 4	Historic Environment
1530 – 1550	Archaeological Science and the Exmoor Mires Project Dr Lee Bray – EMP Historic Environment Officer
1550 – 1610	Volcanic ash in Exmoor’s mires Dr Alison MacLeod – Royal Holloway University of London
1610 – 1630	Geoarchaeological investigations on Exmoor; reconstructing the human-environmental dynamic of Early Holocene Exmoor Dr Chris Carey – University of Brighton
1630 – 1640	Session 4 – Q & A
1640 – 1650	Summing up and closing remarks
1700	Break and freshening up before Buffet Supper
1900 – 2100	Buffet Supper with Guest Speakers: Martin Ross, Director, Rainstorms Devon Ltd – ‘How SWW got into Mires management’ Monica Read, Business Services and Sustainability Director, South West Water ‘South West Water investment in catchment management’ Clifton Bain, Director, IUCN UK Peatland Programme - ‘A new era for peatlands’
2100 – 2300	Local pubs in Dulverton

Thursday, 19th March – Field Trip

0930 – 1015	Depart from Dulverton and Travel to Site
1015 – 1230	Spooners Dr David Smith and Prof Richard Brazier and various research students
1230 – 1330	Lunch in Simonsbath
1330 – 1345	Travel to Site
1345 – 1530	Lanacombe Dr Lee Bray and Morag Angus
1530 – 1600	Site to Dulverton and Site to Tiverton Parkway

