

Research

Sustaining Britain's Peatlands

Sustainable Uplands was a collaborative project involving Birmingham City University and several others, to help people adapt to change in the UK's uplands, and find ways of financing the restoration of Peatland habitats.

The research led by the University resulted in the launch of the UK Peatland Code in 2013, to help preserve and restore these habitats that are crucial to our ecosystem.



Find out more >>

Background

Sustainable Uplands was a £1 million Research Council funded project, helping people to anticipate and adapt to future change across UK uplands. These uplands include places such as the Peak District and Scottish Highlands. They are crucial to our ecosystem, providing 70 per cent of the



Professor Mark Reed

UK's drinking water, and the peat soils hold a large amount of carbon that would contribute to climate change.

Method

Research on the UK's Peatlands found that around 80 percent of them are degraded. The UK Government asked the University to research the development of a UK Peatland Code that could facilitate private investment in peatland restoration.

“This research has made a considerable contribution and provided us with valuable lessons for the development of Payment for Ecosystem Service schemes in the UK.”

- Deputy Director, Sustainable Land and Rural Evidence and Analysis, Defra

Prof Mark Reed of the Birmingham School of the Built Environment worked with several other universities to research and develop a pilot UK Peatland Code. This involved case study research of uplands in England and Scotland.

Impact

The Peatland Code was launched in 2013 by the Environment Minister, and has the potential to be used as a template for similar initiatives internationally.

To find out more, visit the project page at bcu.ac.uk/research/stories

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