

# Uplands Management Group

## Brief for the Sphagnum Guidance Task & Finish Group

<b>Issue</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. It has been recognised that Sphagnum mosses are an essential component of functioning blanket bog. Best practice moorland management on deep peat should aim to encourage Sphagnum mosses.</li><li>2. The Sphagnum T&amp;F Group carried out a series of six visits to different moors with deep peat in the Peak District and North Pennines and the T&amp;F Group's report has been submitted to the UMG for adoption.</li><li>3. The main recommendation from the Report is to prepare guidance, aimed at practitioners, to cover the range of techniques that are available for increasing the amount of Sphagnum mosses on deep peat. This brief establishes this Group.</li><li>4. This work is being carried out in support of the UMG's agreement to work with NE and Defra to support the implementation of the 'Strategy for the Restoration of Blanket Bog in England'.</li></ol>
<b>Objectives</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1 Produce guidance for practitioners<sup>1</sup>.</li><li>2 With reference to para 4.2 in the Sphagnum T&amp;F Group report:<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>2.1 Consider developing the guidance as a flow chart to identify the best approach to use from the six different starting points identified in the 'Strategy for the restoration of Blanket Bog in England'<sup>2</sup>.</li><li>2.2 Make recommendations about how best to disseminate the guidance after publication to the owners and managers of peatlands.</li><li>2.3 Make recommendations about how to monitor take up of the guidance after publication and how to obtain feedback to allow the guidance to be updated.</li></ol></li><li>3 Consider options for publication of the guidance and make recommendations.</li></ol>

<sup>1</sup> In this brief, practitioner refers to anyone who owns, manages or has an input into the management of peatland, regardless of their management objectives.

<sup>2</sup> Available from: [www.uplandsmanagement.co.uk](http://www.uplandsmanagement.co.uk)

	<p>4 With support from Moors for the Future, prepare a list of all related information and guidance, including the use of Sphagnum in blanket bog restoration. The aim is to make sure that we are not ‘reinventing the wheel’. Establish whether this information is already freely available, or if not, whether it could be loaded onto the UMG website.</p>
<p><b>Task Group Output</b></p>	<p>The Task Group will produce an interim report, with recommendations for further action. This will allow other members of the UMG to provide input to the process.</p> <p>A draft copy of the proposed guidance together with recommendations in response to Objectives 3, relating to publication, dissemination and monitoring.</p>
<p><b>Method</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Start with the six peatland states identified in the ‘Strategy for the Restoration of Blanket Bog in England’.</li> <li>2 Consider the best techniques to be applied to the peatland in each of these states to achieve the best possible results. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.1 It may need to be emphasised that every area of peatland is different and that there can be no single solution that will apply everywhere.</li> </ol> </li> <li>3 Consider how to present the information in a way that is easy to understand. A flow chart approach has been suggested as one option.</li> <li>4 Throughout the development process, the needs of the practitioner, target audience should be borne in mind. The language used should be easy to understand. Consider the use of photos and illustrations.</li> <li>5 Avoid including too much detail. The guidance should provide signposts to other sources of information in preference to trying to present too much information.</li> <li>6 The guidance should outline the management practices that should be avoided, and emphasise the importance of all peatland for biodiversity, as a carbon store in its own right and for other outcomes.</li> </ol>

<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Start</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2016		
	<b>Interim Report</b>	December 2016		
	<b>Finish</b>	ASAP in 2017		
<b>Targets</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Details</b>		
	31 Mar 16	Group formed and brief confirmed.		
	19 Apr 16	Verbal report given during the Upland Stakeholder Forum meeting.		
	18 May 16	Written update report given at UMG		
	13 July – Aug 9 16	Eight practitioner moorland workshops held		
	11 Oct 16	Verbal update given to USF		
	14 Nov 16	Verbal Update given to UMG		
	Early Jan 17	T&F group workshop to consider outputs		
	<b>Task Group Chairman</b>	Amanda Anderson	Moorland Association	
	<b>Task Group Members</b>	The Task Group Chairman is free to invite anyone, members or non-members of the UMG, to contribute to the Task Group's work. Initial suggestions are:		
David		Airey	Hill Farmer	
John		Barrett	Natural England	
Matt		Buckler	Moors for the Future	
Mark		Owen	Natural England	
Pat		Thompson	RSPB	
Andrew		Walker	Yorkshire Water	
James		Mawle	Moorland Manager	
<b>Non-members of the UMG</b>				
Emma		Taylor	North Pennines AONB	
Tim	Thom	Yorkshire Peat Partnership		

<p><b>Method of working</b></p>	<p>As much use as possible will be made of remote working facilities, using telephone conferences, e-mail correspondence etc.</p> <p>The Group should produce short Notes from each meeting or discussion.</p> <p>The UMG Chairman and Secretary should be copy addressees on all correspondence.</p>
<p><b>Comments</b></p>	<p>An initial action will be for the Chairman to review this brief with the members of the T&amp;F Group. Any recommendations for amendment should be agreed with the UMG Chairman &amp; Secretary.</p> <p>It is suggested that the guidance is kept as short as possible. Signposts to additional information can be incorporated, but large amounts of detail should be avoided.</p> <p>There is no budget available for printing. If printing is considered to be the best way to disseminate the information, consideration will need to be given to how this can be funded.</p>