

## Public Event, Workshop & Networking

Generously hosted by Hill Dickinson LLP, The Balance, Pinstone Street, Sheffield S1 2GU.

Thursday 27th June 2013

Registration: 3.15pm

Prompt Start: 3.35pm - 7.00pm

### About Us

An independent, apolitical think tank, Action for Involvement was founded in 2006 to bring people in our communities together with policy-makers and stakeholders.

We create space often in a workshop format to pool ideas, develop networks and tackle hot topics. Since 2009, we've focused on the sustainability agenda such as: climate change, energy, housing, technology, transport with interest in: education, health, welfare, regulation and enforcement.

The Royal Academy of Engineering is funding our project *Getting Engineers out There and Out on the Street*.

Most of our activities, such as this event, are unfunded so we rely on the generosity of Sheffield's leading firms to host us under their CSR budgets and your event donations to help us pay cover other costs.

#### For our latest news visit us on our:

Blog: [actionforinvolvement.wordpress.com](http://actionforinvolvement.wordpress.com)

Twitter: @Acting2Involve

Facebook: Facebook/actionforinvolvement

#### Event Donations:

Regular: £5; Concessions £1.50 (unwaged, full-time students and pensioners)

£15 Standard charge for booking without turning up. We need at least 48 hours notice to waive this charge. Information you give us is for our use only; it is never shared and may be aggregated for funding applications. Images may be used in our newsletters, newsblog or website or other publicity.

#### Photo credit:

Cover of George Monbiot's latest book, *Feral: Searching for enchantment on the frontiers of re-wilding*.

**ONLY 50 places**

Book NOW with our **NEW Online Booking Form**

**FREE Refreshments AND Programme**

**How can we manage a site's landscape, ecological and human history and safeguard our archaeological and natural heritage?**

**Workshop:** In small groups with our speakers, you'll identify your values for the Moors and give feedback to our Speakers' on their visions.

**Chairman:** John Grant, Action for Involvement

#### Speakers:

Liz Ballard, Chief Executive, Sheffield Wildlife Trust;

Lynn Crowe, Sheffield Hallam University;

Mark Fisher, Wildland Research Institute;

George Monbiot, Guardian Columnist and Writer;

Jon Stewart, General Manager, National Trust;

Roy Taylor, Royal Society for Protection of Birds (RSPB).

#### Facilitators:

Perry Walker, New Economics Foundation (nef) Fellow

Wendy Stern, Founder, Action for Involvement

For more details call Wendy on 07946 453 258 or email: [events@actionforinvolvement.org.uk](mailto:events@actionforinvolvement.org.uk)





## Blackamoor – Who decides?

In 1933 Alderman Graves wrote to the Sheffield Daily Telegraph:

“...I have now the pleasure of offering Black Moors as a gift from the Graves Trust to the City of Sheffield, with the condition that the moor will be allowed to remain in its present natural state, with such pathways to be provided in accord with the character of the estate, as will make the moor accessible to all who desire to visit it for health-giving exercise and pleasure.”

Sheffield City Council owns Blackamoor and leases the site to the Wildlife Trust for Sheffield and Rotherham. Many people visit and enjoy Blackamoor today which is recognised by wildlife experts as nationally important for its moorland habitat.

So who should decide how the future landscape of Blackamoor should look like?



### **Liz Ballard, Chief Executive, Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust**

After completing a Geology degree, Liz began her career as a BTCV volunteer co-ordinator for Leicestershire & Rutland Wildlife Trust. She went on to develop Local Agenda 21 community projects before moving to the Peak District National Park Authority in 1996 to ultimately lead the Education Service. Taking up a policy role after completing her MBC, Liz led on the Authority's People & Communities Strategy. In 2009, Liz joined a team of 6 tasked by DEFRA to set up the new South Downs National Park Authority. Following the project's successful completion, Liz took up her role as Chief Executive of the Wildlife Trust for Sheffield and Rotherham in April 2012.

## Our vision for the uplands: ecosystem services and spiritual nurture

Our uplands are a highly valued, precious resource; important for food production, water catchment, carbon sequestration and timber. We value their unique, fragile wildlife habitats, reservoirs of cultural heritage and glorious landscapes for recreation and spiritual inspiration. They act as important environmental regulatory systems with impacts felt far beyond their limited geographical area. Public benefits of our uplands are increasingly recognised as vital ecosystem services face threats:

- climate change,
- the impact of globalisation on local economies and livelihoods,
- pressures to implement unsustainable development,
- inappropriate management.

So what is our long term vision for our uplands? And how do we evaluate the impact of decisions about the future management of our uplands to protect and enhance all these benefits?

### **Lynn Crowe, Prof Environmental Management, Sheffield Hallam University**



An ecologist and planner by training, Lynn's interests are landscape management, access and public benefits by enhancing the natural environment. She has been involved with many public agencies: founder Board Member of Natural England and English Nature. She advised Defra on public benefits of national parks and protected landscapes, involved in Defra's evidence review on the value of the public forest estate. Lynn was a Member of the Peak District National Park Authority for ten years, chaired its Park Management committee and Moors for the Future project. Until recently, Lynn managed the Countryside Recreation Network- a professional network of 26 governmental and non-governmental bodies in the UK and Ireland working to promote good practice and co-ordinate research in the countryside recreation sector.

## Lost opportunities

I will look at the lost opportunities during 1990s and 2000s that may have prevented nature conservation and its funding from becoming a rigid orthodoxy, divorced from the public, and increasingly carried out on public land by NGOs and private companies. Publicly owned land in National Parks could have played a significant role through the public's will and ability to forgo commercial exploitation, in realising these opportunities:

- National Parks Review Panel proposal from 1991 of experimental schemes where farming was withdrawn, allowing the natural succession of vegetation to take its course;
- Natural Areas Programme of English Nature in the 90s that sought out areas with similar types of wildlife and natural features and, through engagement with local people, identified its distinctive features and agreed long term visionary objectives;
- Wild by Design in the National Parks of England and Wales from 1997 that explored the potential for creation of wilder areas in the national parks, and argued for a commitment to leave minimal intervention areas on a large scale and over long time periods;
- Vital uplands, Natural England's vision for the upland environment in 2060, developed in 2009 through stakeholder processes, ambitions for "closer to nature" grazing systems and more woodland.

### **Mark Fisher, Hon. Research Fellow, Wildland Research Institute University of Leeds & PAN Parks Foundation, Hungary**

Mark's recent work has been on the effect of visual and audio stimuli for perceptions of landscape; a review of the conservation and status of wildland in Europe for the Scottish Government; options for protecting wildland in Scotland for the John Muir Trust; and guidelines for the management of wilderness in the Natura 2000 system and a register of wilderness areas in Europe for EC Directorate-General for the Environment.



## What can ecology teach us about our eco-systems?

My focus is the way current ecological findings teach us how to treat our eco-systems: trophic cascades - an ecological phenomenon triggered by adding or removing top predators with reciprocal changes in populations of predator and prey through a food chain leading to major changes in eco-system structure and nutrient cycling;

- keystone species, often compared to the keystone in an arch which collapse without its keystone known to disproportionately affect its environment relative to abundance in a critical role to maintain an ecological community's structure affecting an ecosystem's many other organisms to determine the types and numbers of species in a community.
- Strong circumstantial evidence suggest we have an elephant-adapted eco-system.
- These findings create the impression that current conservation policy is unambitious, irrational and ecologically illiterate. Conversely re-wilding and re-introduction of missing species could greatly enhance the diversity and dynamism of our eco-systems.

### **George Monbiot, Writer, Academic, Guardian Columnist**

Launching his BBC Radio career in 1985, Penguin financed his first book on indigenous people defending their lands. He traced stolen mahogany to Britain and investigated assaults on Kenyan and Tanzanian nomads. Returning to the UK in 1995 he revitalised public engagement of land use, had a regular Guardian column since 1996, written on UK politics, possible solutions, carbon emissions without destroying our quality of life, a collection of essays and now has turned to re-wilding.



## Conservation & Management - A Step Change

From the start of 2012, the National Trust has been working with our farming and other game managing tenants as well as a wide range of stakeholders, including local communities and users of the area to produce the 'High Peak Moors Vision and Plan' which will create a vision and guide the management of the High Peak Moors in the Peak District over the next 25 years. The talk will explore how we are seeking to deliver a step change in high quality conservation and access management and the broader range of ecosystem services with and through traditional land management interests.



### **Jon Stewart, Peak District General Manager, The National Trust.**

My professional journey began with a degree in Ecology, Conservation Officer for Nature Conservancy Council in Scotland and English Nature in Cornwall followed by the Peak District. Specialising in team, upland and Sites of Special Scientific Interest management led to a wide range of programmes for English Nature and Natural England in the Peak District and East Midlands. More recently I became General Manager responsible for over 12% of the Trust's varied and special landscapes

## Re-wilding the Eastern Moors: Is it achievable? Is it desirable?

Our delivery of landscape scale management – its understanding of re-wilding, partial or phased “re-wilding” while reflecting implications to manage a site's landscape, ecological, and human history, protect and conserve our archaeology and heritage? Issues to consider include:

- Effect of national/international conservation designations on land management.
- Is the landscape intact and natural processes function with hydrology/large herbivore grazing?
- How would the habitat and landscape look with a full non-intervention approach?
- Do we need intensive capital restoration to restore natural process for extensive re-wilding?
- Do we need “re-wilding” and can rapidly declining, priority species wait?
- Is interventionist action required to accelerate “re-wilding” now while respecting our responsibilities to safeguard archaeological sites, ecological and human heritage?

### **Roy Taylor, Peak District Reserves Area Manager, RSPB.**

On completing an MSc in Conservation and 2 years conservation projects around the world including Africa, Roy joined RSPB in 1995 as a Research Biologist to identify the cause in decline of priority bird species and developing species recovery projects. He then became Conservation Officer for Chester, Shropshire and Staffordshire until becoming Conservation Manager for Northern England Region. Roy was then seconded to United Utilities to project manage RSPB's side of SCaMP after which he became Conservation Programmes Manager to develop landscape scale restoration projects with partner organisations United Utilities, Yorkshire Water and National Park Authority.



**Credits:** We are indebted to Hill Dickinson LLP for their generous hospitality, Andy Mayfield and Nick Wilkes of Design 101 for all things online. Grateful thanks to all of our speakers Liz Ballard, Lynne Crowe, Mark Fisher, George Monbiot, Jon Stewart, Roy Taylor, my co-facilitator, Perry Walker and our Event Chairman, John Grant who have made this event possible. Ian Rotherham's invaluable guidance on issues raised is greatly appreciated as is Friends of Blackamoor's inputs. Jane Godfrey's meticulous attention ensures our events run smoothly. Management Committee colleagues John Grant and Anne Wilson have been, as always, highly supportive given the many technical constraints. Wendy Stern for event research, organisation, administration, general pot washer and event leaflet design.

**Photo credits:** Watermark on front page is copyright George Monbiot's new book: Feral - Searching for the frontiers of enchantment on re-wilding. Our speakers supplied their own respective images.