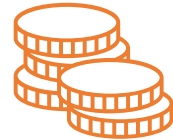




Boggy bulrushes to BioPuff®



Developing a productive, economically viable paludiculture crop for farmers on peat soils.



Field scale trial of growing a typha (bulrush) crop on a re-wetted agricultural peatland.



The fluffy seed heads will be used to create BioPuff® – a sustainable eco textile used as a filling for padded jackets.



The Wildlife Trust for
**Lancashire
Manchester &
North Merseyside**



Aims & objectives



Trail Typha growing

Develop our understanding of Typha growing methods through small scale field trials.



Develop mechanised growing of Typha at scale

Develop the mechanised production of Typha at scale. Trial different methods of sowing, managing and harvesting a Typha crop. Adapt existing farm machinery to work in paludiculture fields and ensure maximum yield without impacting the integrity of the crop for the end user.



Provide data on environmental impacts of Typha farming

Collect baseline and long-term data on a variety of environmental variables to quantify the benefits of paludiculture compared to business as usual.



Develop the business case for Typha farming

Gain a greater understanding of the business case for growing Typha including costs of ground preparation, sowing, crop management and harvesting of a Typha crop. This includes using different parts of the crop for different markets, maximising profitability. Develop the case for a blended finance approach to increase financial viability of paludiculture. Explore the potential for new markets for the Typha crop.



Increase interest in paludiculture as a viable farming method on peat soils

Promote the project through a series of events and integration with other projects. Increase interest in paludiculture as a viable farming method on peat soils

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Challenges



Train line

Additional line of bunding installed to avoid water movement onto train line that runs along the field's eastern boundary.



Tractors

To allow access by standard farm machinery, 4m wide bunds will be installed dividing the field into compartments which can be covered by standard spray arms. These will also contain deep trench bunds, irrigation/drainage pipes and gate vales/weirs.

Still to overcome...



How to harvest the seed heads but also other parts of the plant at the right time



Keeping weeds in check during establishment



Ensuring enough water storage/access for e.g prolonged dry periods, esp when seed establishing

Thank you

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