



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

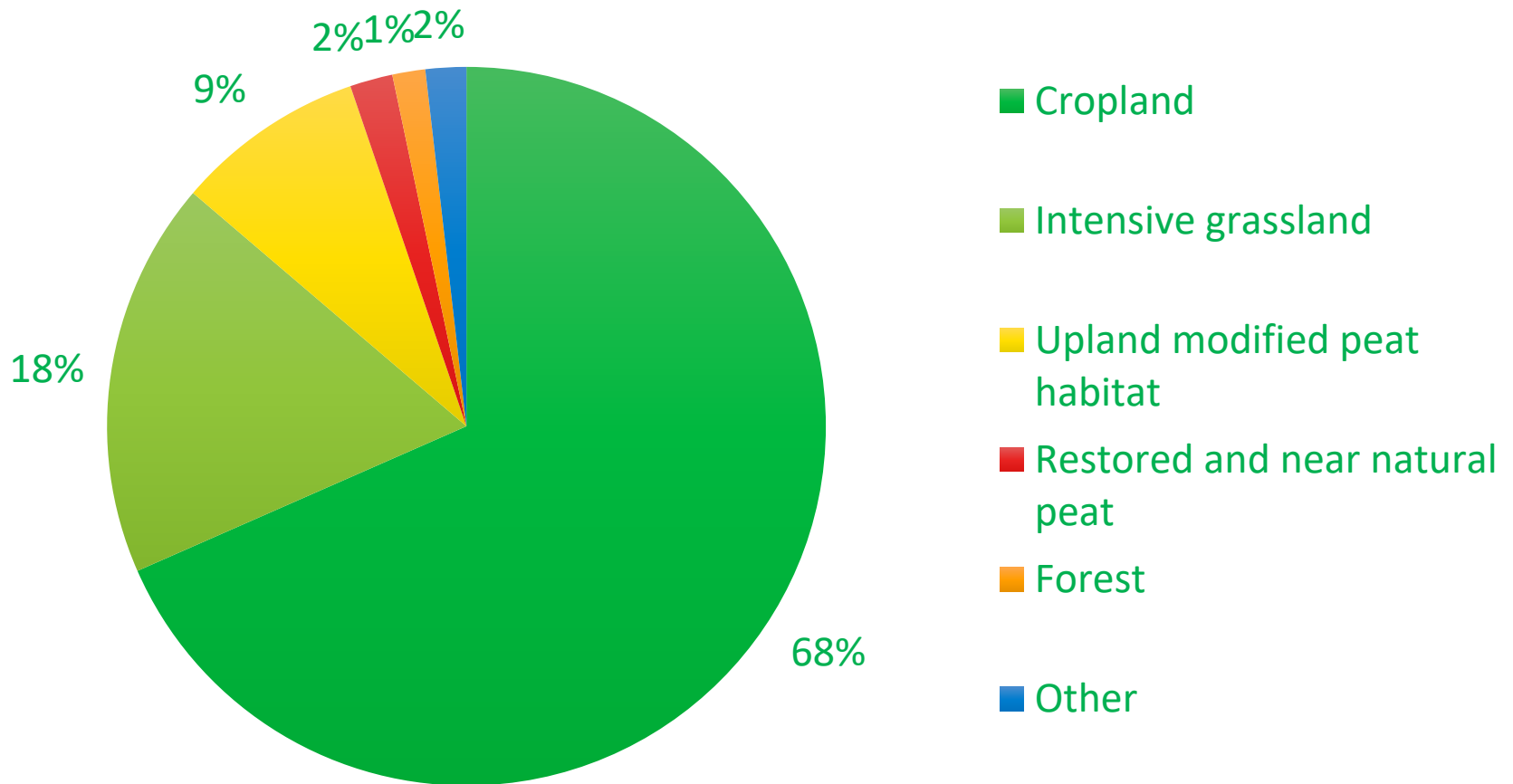
Lowland Peat Policy and Paludiculture

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Peat Policy

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Greenhouse gas emissions from peat



Lowland agricultural peatlands

Area

	Deep peat	Wasted peat	Total (ha)
Cropland	48,330	132,180	180,510
Grassland	26,880	35,280	62,160
Total	75,210	167,460	242,670

Emission factors (latest)

	Deep peat EF (tCO ₂ e ha ⁻¹ yr ⁻¹)	Wasted peat (tCO ₂ e ha ⁻¹ yr ⁻¹)
Cropland	37.17	26.09
Grassland		22.00
Average upland		3.19

Lowland Agricultural Peat Task Force

- Established to explore how emissions from farmed lowland peatlands can be reduced and profitable agriculture can continue.
- Dedicated paludiculture subgroup to develop a roadmap.
- Work completed Summer 2022.



Diagram of the Lowland Agricultural Peat Task Force, its sub-groups and secretariat.

Biodiversity goals

- Halt the decline in species abundance by 2030, and then increase abundance by at least 10% to exceed 2022 levels by 2042.
- Restore or create more than 500,000 hectares of wildlife-rich habitat by 2042, alongside our international commitment to protect 30% of our land and ocean by 2030.
 - restore or create 140,000 hectares of wildlife-rich habitats outside protected sites by 2028, compared to 2022 levels.
 - all sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs) to have an up-to date condition assessment; and for 50% of SSSIs to have actions on track to achieve favourable condition by 31 January 2028.

Environmental Improvement Plan 2023



- Published 31 January 2023
- First review of the 25 Year Environment Plan (legal commitment under the Environment Act 2021)
- Sets out the plan to deliver the framework and vision of the 25 YEP

Restore damaged peatland

- Fund over 35,000 hectares of peatlands to be restored in England by 2025, through the Nature for Climate Peatland Grant Scheme.
 - Beyond 2025, the main delivery vehicles for peat will be incentives through the government's new farming schemes:
 - From 2024, Countryside Stewardship will provide a key funding stream for wetter modes of farming.
 - Landscape Recovery will provide long-term funding to support large-scale peatland restoration projects.
 - The Farming Innovation Programme supports applications for research and development in paludiculture.
 - Continue to work with partners to develop the Peatland Restoration Roadmap, which will set out a detailed trajectory for restoration to 2050.
 - Mobilise private investment by developing the Peatland Code further.
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Support responsible management measures to improve lowland peat

- Build on the recommendations of the Lowland Agricultural Peat Task Force, setting the foundations to rewet peat soils and change the way we farm on them.
- Launch a £6.6 million lowland peat research and development programme.
- Continue to deliver the £5.6 million Paludiculture Exploration Fund.
- Develop new farming scheme options to support the restoration of lowland peat and wetter farming methods.
- Publish the new England peat map.
- Continue to implement the England Peat Action Plan, ensuring it prioritises emissions savings. We will be examining what actions are now required beyond planned incentive schemes to stop the deterioration of our peat soils and their associated emissions.

Environmental Land Management update

- Policy paper published 26 January 2023
- How government will pay farmers and land managers to protect and improve the environment alongside food production.
- Including information on:
 - the full range of actions we will pay for through the Sustainable Farming Incentive and Countryside Stewardship
 - when we plan for each action to be available through the schemes
 - the payment rates for the actions

What we will pay for on lowland peat

- We want to improve the quality and management of lowland peatlands to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase biodiversity, by providing support to manage lowland peat in a way that:
 - slows emissions of carbon dioxide that is otherwise released when peat soils are broken down
 - creates and maintains habitat for wildlife and plants that thrive in healthy, functioning lowland peat soils

Current offer under CS

- We already pay for the following options on lowland peatland:
 - creating fen, where this takes place on lowland peat soils (WT9)
 - managing reedbed (WT6), fen (WT8) or raised bog (WT10)
 - raising water levels on cropped or arable land on peat soils (SW17) or on grassland on peat soils (SW18)

Plan going forward

- Continue and expand our offer for restoring and maintaining lowland peat soils and habitat in our new schemes.
- Improve existing actions by making them more outcome focused, less prescriptive and more flexible about how to achieve the intended outcomes.
- Make improved versions of the actions available in 2024 for agreements starting from 2025.
- Explore how we can pay for actions to support paludiculture.

Summary

Action	Existing or new action	When action available	Existing actions to be updated	Payment rate (current)
Creating fen, where this takes place on lowland peat soils	CS (WT9)	Available in CS	CS option to be updated	£537 per ha
Managing reedbed	CS (WT6)	Available in CS	-	£81 per ha
Managing fen	CS (WT8)	Available in CS	CS option to be updated	£35 per ha
Managing raised bog	CS (WT10)	Available in CS	-	£185 per ha
Raising water levels on cropped or arable land on peat soils	CS (SW17)	Available in CS	CS option to be updated	£449 per ha
Raising water levels on grassland on peat soils	CS (SW18)	Available in CS	CS option to be updated	£417 per ha

Paludiculture Roadmap

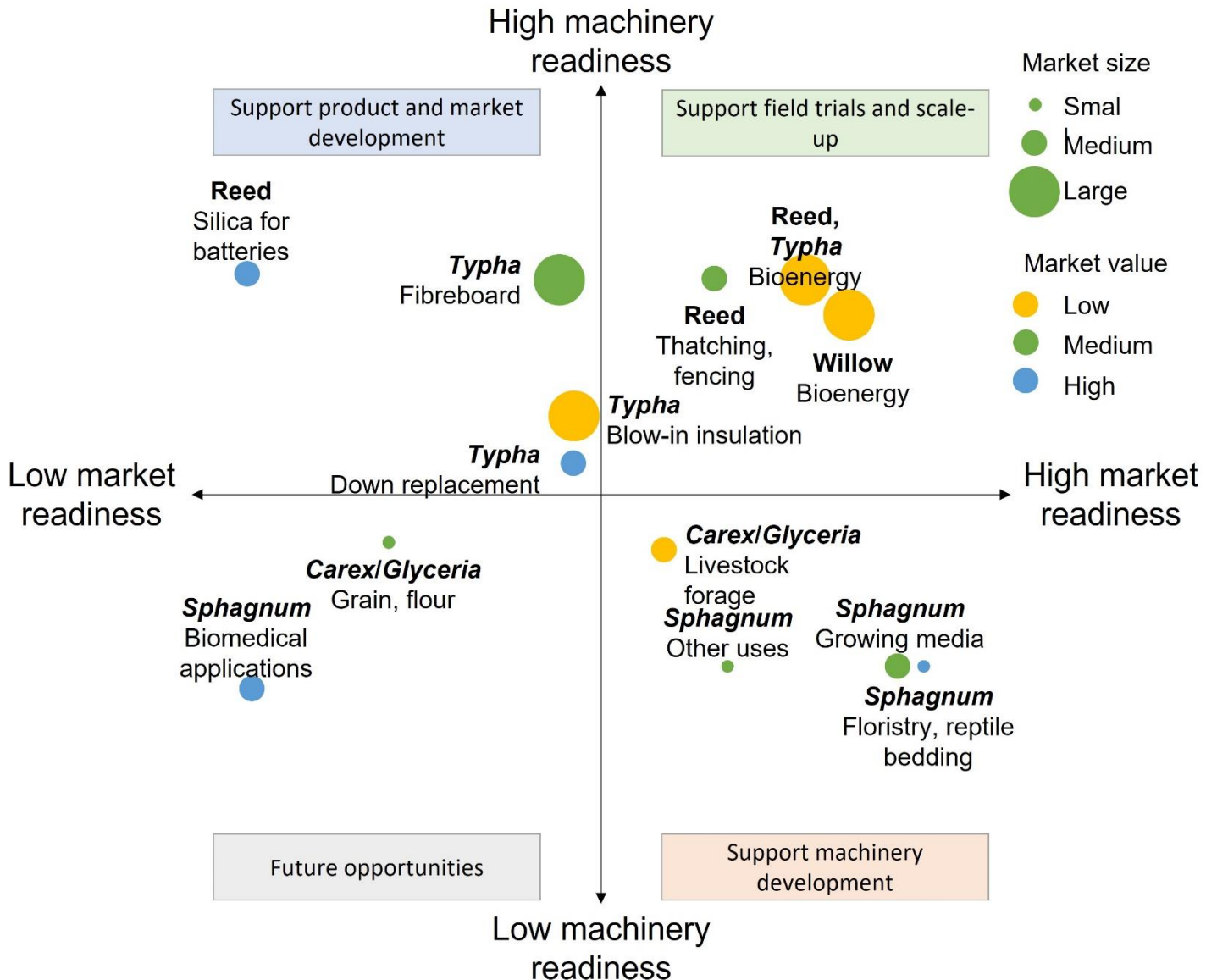
Called for action to:

- Secure funding for innovation, research and trials
- Ensure paludiculture is in scope of the objectives for new farming support schemes
- Establish collaboration space with community events
- Develop scheme to secure carbon finance for paludiculture
- Undertake a gap analysis of machinery for paludiculture

Our action:

- £5m Paludiculture Exploration Fund
- Completed. Now working on developing options
- Paludiculture Community established
- Future within the Peatland Code
- Completed, finalising report for publication on the Paludiculture Community website

Machinery gap analysis – sneak preview



Thank you