

# **‘The Science and Economics of Sustainable Farm Business Opportunities on Lowland Agricultural Peat’**

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

**Regional Food Academy, Harper Adams University**

- 9:30 Coffee & networking
- 10:15 Welcome, Harper Adams University Deputy Vice Chancellor, Professor Michael Lee.
- 10:25 Introduction, Professor Jim Monaghan
- 10:30 Global Peatlands Initiative, Professor Mark Reed, SRUC\*
- 11:00 Shropshire Lowland Agricultural Peat (LAP), patchy or just buried? Dr Julia Casperd, Professor Simon Jeffery, Dr Anthony Millington and Josie Harman, Harper Adams University.
- 11:30 Rewetting lowland peat: impacts on soil greenhouse gas fluxes and soil biodiversity, Professor Simon Jeffery, Harper Adams University.
- 12:00 Myth busting around the UK Peatland Code, Dr Reneé Kerkvliet-Hermans, IUCN Peatland Code\*
- 12:30 Can Nature Really Pay for Itself? Myths and Market Realities in Natural Capital, Richard Maryniak, Aqualate Castle Holdings Ltd.
- 13:00 Managing and monetising water resources for paludiculture and peatland restoration, Professor Jerry Knox, Cranfield University.
- 13:30 Lunch
- 14:20 Harper Adams University STEM Climate Change Ambassadors
- 14:30 What about the nutrients? How water quality and paludiculture interact, Dr Lucy Crockford, Harper Adams University.
- 15:00 Developing Costed Water Management Plans for Rewetting Peat, Professor Karl Behrendt, Harper Adams University and Dr Rob Low, Rigare Ltd.
- 15:30 Managing expectations on Lowland Agricultural Peat – the role of a Decision Support System, Professor Karl Behrendt, Iona Huang, Elias Maritan and Yaw Sarfo, Harper Adams University.
- 15:30 Nationwide Survey of farming opportunities on lowland agricultural peat, Dr Iona Huang, Harper Adams University.
- 16:00 Water Management - Delivering for Farmers, Kate Mayne and Sarah Faulkner, Faulkner & Mayne Ltd.
- Discussion panel: Breaking down the barriers to water resource management with Kim Owen (NE), Scott Kirby (HAU), Ben Naylor (Frontierag) and James Copeland (NFU Flood Advisor).
- 17:00 Closing remarks, Professor Jim Monaghan

Key: \* online presentation

Video credits: LAPWDP Harper Adams University STEM Climate Change Ambassadors' & Fenland Soil