

A Landscape that Resonates: *What Ullswater can teach – and learn - about land use in a protected landscape*

April 28-29: Ullswater in Cumbria will provide the venue for a 2-day conference bringing expert stakeholders from research, farming and policy to discuss land management and land use change in the uplands and protected landscapes. It will explore how farm scale or catchment scale actions in one region can provide lessons and inspiration for change elsewhere.

The event takes place under the umbrella of the Land Use for Net Zero, Nature and People Hub, a government funded initiative that looks to bridge the gap between UK researchers, land managers and policy-makers as they explore how land use can support the transition to Net Zero while reflecting on the economic and social needs of land managers and their communities.

Rob Fraser from the Place Collective, a member of the LUNZ Hub, explained why Ullswater was chosen for the event– and why it is so timely.

“Our uplands and protected landscapes account for more than a quarter of England's land cover. These are special places, steeped in cultural history, and loved and visited by many millions of people – but they also represent a unique challenge in how they can deliver for nature, climate and people.”

“Participants are joining us from across sectors and across the UK, and the title we have chosen - 'Resonance' will help them to focus on ways we may work together and how actions across multiple scales affect one another. It suggests a passing on of energy - we're looking forward to seeing what resonates for each delegate, how their learning relates to their own personal and professional situations”

“It's an interesting time to be considering change, with a need across the sector to adapt to complex and multiple challenges, with lots of uncertainty within the farming community in particular as policies change at a rapid pace. We hope this event will help how might 'good' practices be replicated and scaled up, and deliver positive actions. It also looks at how the stories we tell about places and the people who care for them impact decision making – and ask what do we need to do differently.”

The two-day event, with site visits and a conference day, will focus on key themes of enabling just transitions; improving exchange of knowledge and insights; and ensuring the best possible evidence is available to policy makers. It will also consider the interplay of nature, people and climate, and approaches to land use in ‘multifunctional’ landscapes. In this context, the LUNZ Hub is feeding evidence to policy makers as they develop the Land Use Framework for England, which is open for consultation until April 25th, 2025.



Looking over Glecoyne farm towards Ullswater. Credit: Rob Fraser

Editors Notes

- This Land Use for Net Zero, Nature and People (LUNZ) Hub gathering, led by the PLACE Collective in collaboration with the Centre for National Parks and Protected Areas, will focus on land use, landscapes, livelihoods and cultures in the UK's uplands and protected landscapes. It will bring people together from across the UK, to share perspectives from farming, forestry, peatland restoration, conservation, land management, economics, science, community initiatives and policy; and it will make space for listening to the land, plants and critters we humans live alongside.
- The wider Resonance project has been conceived by PLACE Collective co-founders Harriet Fraser and Rob Fraser through their work within the LUNZ Hub. The project centres around the co-creation of a living tree sculpture - seven circles of seven birch trees in a constellation across the Lake District National Park - with events bringing people together for planting and to discuss issues of land use. Resonance is being developed and run with support from Natural England, National Trust, Lake District National Park Authority, University of Cumbria, CNPPA, Forestry England, Friends of the Lake District and several farming families.
- The Land Use for Net Zero (LUNZ) Hub is a consortium of 34 organisations that aims to provide the UK government and devolved administrations with the rapid evidence they need to develop policies that will drive the land use transformation required to achieve Net Zero and other environmental and social targets by 2050.
- LUNZ Hub is co-funded for 40 months from 13th November 2023 by UK Research and Innovation, the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (on behalf of England and Wales), the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology, and the Scottish Government. It has been co-designed with Defra and the Welsh and Scottish governments.
- The Centre for National Parks and Protected Areas (CNPPA) delivers and promotes research and knowledge exchange relevant to national parks and protected areas, facilitating change by shaping policy, practice and perceptions. The centre is part of the University of Cumbria.
- The PLACE Collective - People, Land, Art, Culture, Ecology - has been set up within CNPPA to bring artists into transdisciplinary research and engagement. PLACE has more than 40 environmentally focused artists working in a range of creative media. Most PLACE Collective artists are from the UK, with members also in Ireland and the USA. The site visits on Day 1 are being supported by the National Trust, Ullswater Catchment Management CiC, and farmers Candida and Sam Hodgson.



Goldrill Beck in Ullswater. Credit: Rob Fraser

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For more general information on the LUNZ Hub please visit lunzhub.com or email info@lunzhub.com.