Lowland Agricultural Peat Pilot:

Burscough & Scarisbrick

Mersey Rivers Trust

Presented by Paul Corner and Ryan Teare

Project Overview

- **Measured peat depth and quality across wetter unproductive sites**
- **Monitor the response of groundwater to rainfall events**
- **Used Martin Mere's peat depth and groundwater patterns as an unmodified comparison site**

<u>Aim:</u> to assess whether "wetter farming" is a viable option within the catchment

OR

Look at other options to manage the rising water levels

What have been doing?

- **Measured the peat depth & quality across 4 sites**
- **Installed 9 dipwells to monitor groundwater**
- **Drawing up a peat profile for each site**
- **Timeline of groundwater levels, looking at how it reacts to rainfall and how long it takes to drop back down.**

What's Next

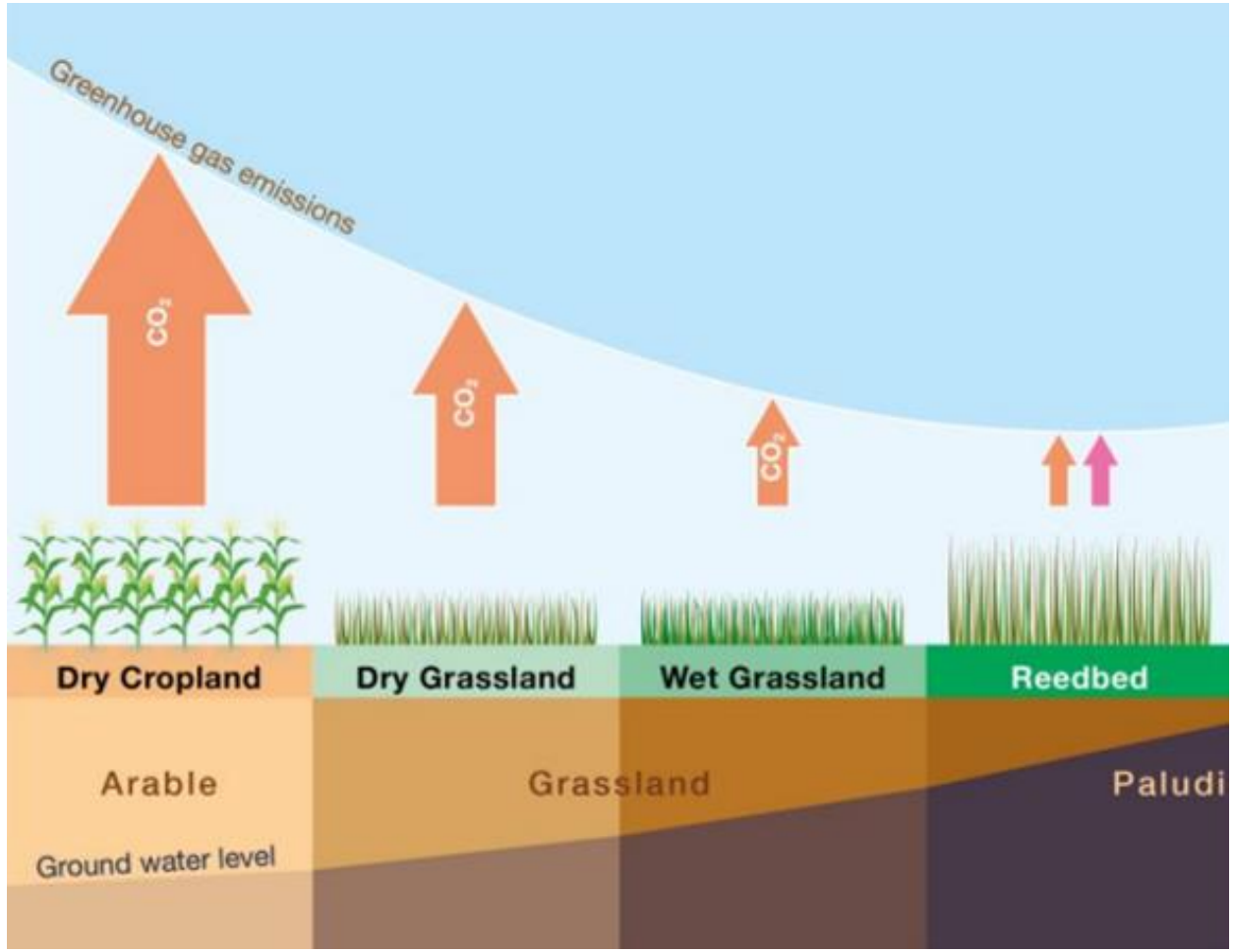
- **Produce a report and information pack for each farm**
- **Along with the data, each pack will contain:**
  - **information on wetter farming**
  - **what funding is available for managing water on farms and where to go for that information**

Beyond that:

- **Continue existing monitoring**
- **Roll the project out across the area HOPEFULLY?**

Why is there Interest ?

- **Peat soils store huge volumes of greenhouse gases**
- **Low groundwater levels on farmland contribute to the release of these gases and therefore climate change**
- **Allowing groundwater to rise by as little as 10cm can significantly reduce these emissions.**



What is Paludiculture ?

- **Is the practice of growing crops on land that has had its water table permanently raised.**
- **Crops include Typha and Sphagnum Moss**

How can this benefits farmers?

- **Can provide income sources for already unproductive fields.**
- **Typha can be sold commercially for income**
- **Helps to manage nutrient runoff.**
- **Reduces local flood risk.**

What is Coming ?

Questions ?

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