

Peatland-ES-UK

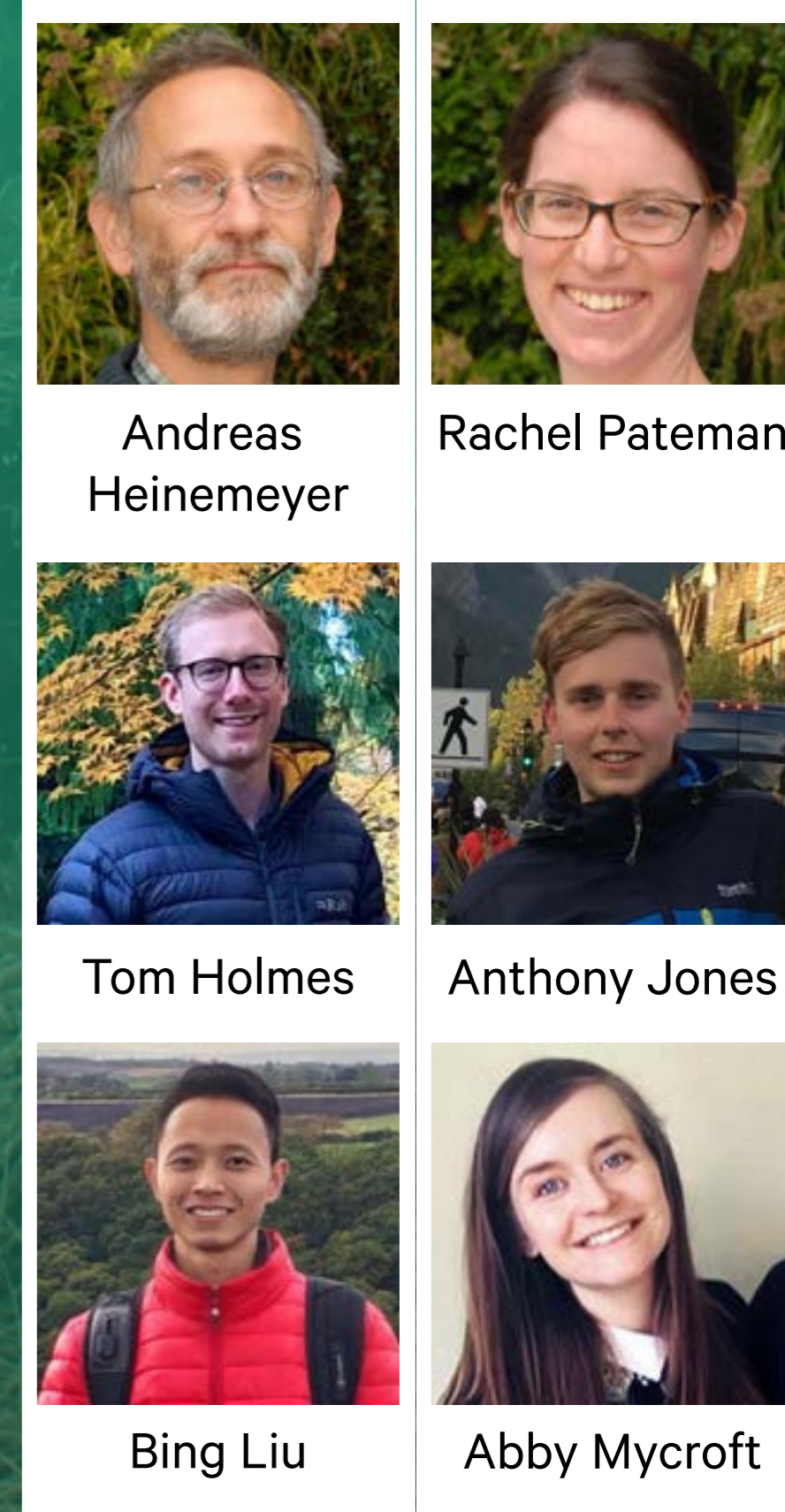
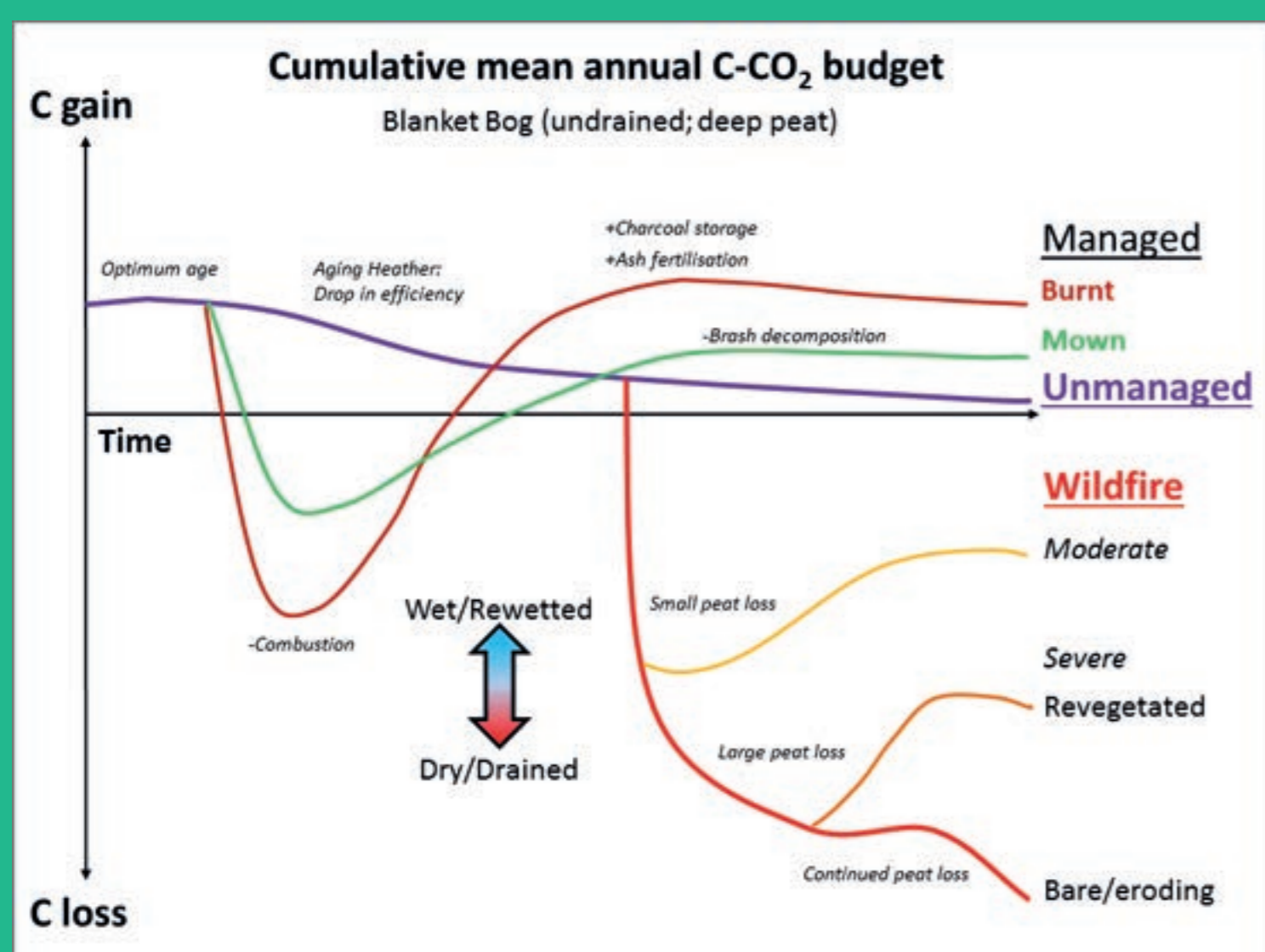
Assessing heather management options on UK peatlands for ecosystem services (ES)

Peatlands

provide many **ecosystem services (ES)** to society such as **reducing flood risk**, offering a **valuable habitat for biodiversity** and **storing carbon**. Their underpinning ecological functions rely on peat wetness and an intact bog vegetation to ensure the continuation of carbon sequestration and peat formation. However, **climate change threatens this functioning** due to increased drought and fire.

Management could be a useful tool to address this threat but there can be trade-offs. **Prescribed burning** has been used for centuries on heather-dominated peatlands. Recently, **mowing** and **no management** have been proposed as alternatives, as **burning on peatlands is seen as damaging to bog functions**.

However, the evidence base for this is very weak or non-existent. The Peatland-ES-UK project was initiated by Defra (and extended by a multi-stakeholder consortium) to **field-test these three scenarios** (i.e. burning, mowing, no management) and provide **policy-relevant long-term data on the impacts** of these management techniques on carbon sequestration, water quality and biodiversity.



Read more



This project is supported by Defra; Natural England; Yorkshire Water; United Utilities; Moorland Association; British Association for Shooting and Conservation; Heather Trust; Yorkshire Wildlife Trust (Peat Partnership); Moorland Conservation Trust; and Ecological Continuity Trust.