



# ICASP Confluence 2022 Summary



## Key Points

The iCASP team were very humbled by the positive and kind words received both on the day and after the event. All of you are part of iCASP and the successes showcased have only been possible through your continued engagement in developing and delivering projects in partnership.

Your input was extremely insightful and stimulating, and has highlighted the need for further partnership work via follow-up discussions and workshops on a variety of topics, including:

- **Green Financing and Nature Recovery** – look to support *Financing Nature Recovery UK* (FNRC) roadmap
- **Geothermal energy** – project co-design workshop to generate innovative ideas
- **Flood risk and drought** – support the *Floods and Droughts Research Infrastructure* (FDRI) work across the region

The iCASP team will look to address these needs through an integrated approach, by identifying synergies and impact opportunities. Once completed the team will be in touch with further details of when and where these events will take place.

## Presentations

The following presentations were given on the day

- The direction of iCASP - *Prof Joe Holden*
- Making a difference in our region and further afield - *Duncan Fyfe*
- Flood and Drought Research Infrastructure - *Dr Gareth Old, Senior Hydrologist from UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology*
- Waterlands - *Dr Richard Grayson*
- Communicating Flood Risk – *Dr Sam Ramsden, Farhana Naz, Juliet de Little*
- West Yorkshire Flood Innovation Programme (WY FLIP) - *Cllr Jane Scullion, Deputy leader of Calderdale Council*
- Connected by Water Action Plan - *Helen Batt, Yorkshire Area Flood Risk Manager, Environment Agency*
- Upper Rother - *Dr Debbie, Don Catchment Rivers Trust and Dr Janet Richardson*
- Swinton Estate - *Dr Stephanie Bond*
- Backstone Beck - *Dr Tom Willis*
- Climate and Net Zero – *Amelia Duncan, Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission*
- Considering the potential for clean, sustainable geothermal energy in Yorkshire – *Dr Emma Bramham*
- Nature Recovery – *Dr Steve Carver*
- Nature-based solutions and Green Finance – *Prof Iain Clacher*

These presentations can be accessed from our website here:

<https://icasp.org.uk/2022/10/11/confluence-2022/>

The videos that supplemented these presentations are viewable on the iCASP YouTube channel, as well as the footage that was capture on the day:

<https://tinyurl.com/YorkshireiCASPYouTube>

## Newsletter

We will be featuring a report about Confluence in the Autumn edition of the iCASP Bulletin which will be available on our website <https://icasp.org.uk/category/news/bulletins/> If you'd like to subscribe to receive our newsletters direct to your inbox please email [icasp@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:icasp@leeds.ac.uk)

## Workshops

Your input during the four different breakout workshops was captured on a digital whiteboard and the common themes have been identified and summarised below.

If you feel that there are any important elements missing please don't hesitate to contact [icasp@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:icasp@leeds.ac.uk) to share your thoughts and insights.

### 1 Climate & Net Zero

#### 1.1 Presentation Reflection

- Delegates felt that the work of the Yorkshire Climate Commission was positive and there are lots of tree planting and peatland restoration organisations and projects present in the room.
- Request to also include soil health in the YCC plan.

#### 1.2 Challenges & Solutions

The main challenges can be broadly summarised into five areas:

1. **Knowledge sharing** – specifically around bringing experts together to resolve land use conflicts
2. **Soil health** – use of integrated farming solutions and further understanding how organo-mineral soils can be used
3. **Environmental Trade-offs** – Need to understand how net zero interventions influence water quality, biodiversity, carbon storage etc.
4. **Integration** – Net zero initiatives must have multiple benefits such as flood mitigation and work in combination with ongoing projects (housing, transport etc.)
5. **Cost** – Policy and targets are not aligned with funding. Need for cost benefit analysis of ecosystem valuation.

#### 1.3 What support is required

Two areas, which are closely linked, were identified

1. **Knowledge sharing** – Collating views from across Yorkshire and different disciplines, to give to policy makers. Sharing existing research and highlighting gaps.
2. **Evidence and Analysis** – Providing values on multiple benefits. Spatial analysis on priorities areas and current activity. Collate evidence base.

## 2 Energy - Geothermal

### 2.1 Presentation Reflection

- Several delegates felt this was a new area to them but very useful to consider. Question around viability, cost and maintenance.

### 2.2 Challenges and Solutions

The main challenges can be broadly summarised into five areas:

1. **Law** – Who owns the land underground, can anyone extract the energy from below their own property. What regulation and planning laws are there?
2. **Political/Public appetite** – How to convince people of the potential of geothermal and its incorrect association with fracking
3. **Integration** – Integration of multiple-sectors as well as other private energy suppliers
4. **Multiple Benefits** – Could flood infrastructure be twinned with geothermal energy solutions? How best to merge with other infrastructure projects
5. **Knowledge gaps** – A need to understand the knock-on impacts of geo-thermal infrastructure on aquifers, biodiversity, water quality, recharge rates, sustainability, maintenance etc.

### 2.3 What support is required

Two areas, which are closely linked, were identified:

1. **Collaboration** – Request for further workshops to generate innovative ideas in this area. Collate resources. Develop a regional ambition of work in this area to attract funding
2. **Communication** – How to engage with the public and local energy groups.

## 3 Nature Recovery

### 3.1 Presentation Reflection

- Emotive topic, PR issue and the term rewilding is potentially problematic and confusing (how does it differ from nature recovery, habitat creation etc.). Most organisations are delivering some sort of nature recovery project/target
- Need to establish baselines first to understand the changes measures bring.

### 3.2 Challenges & Solutions

There were many different points raised in this area. The most common themes that reoccurred were:

1. **Conflict / Perception** – Lots of competing land-use pressures. Polarising topic. Hard to deliver for different landscapes
2. **Evidencing Benefits** – Need for narratives around benefits. Need for monitoring benefits and to quantify to secure funding.
3. **Biodiversity Net Gain** – Ethics behind offsetting. New policy and organisations unclear how to navigate.
4. **Ownership** – ownership of benefits, landownership, urban v rural areas.

5. **Funding/Policy** – Policies are at odds with each other, funding streams focus on one issue not multiple benefits.

### 3.3 What support is required

Three areas were identified:

1. **Communication** – change public perception, rebrand terminology and more palatable language.
2. **Integration** – Identify synergies between current works on nature recovery in region. Help project be flexible to address cross-discipline issues.
3. **Knowledge Sharing** – Controversial topic would benefit from independent body to bring stakeholders together, including land agents.

## 4 Green Financing

### 4.1 Presentation Reflection

Risk, resilience, return on investment (timeline and value) and private vs public funding were all raised.

### 4.2 Challenges & Solutions

Lots of challenges were raised regarding this:

1. **Financial skill set** – Disconnect between the environmental sector and experts and the financial sector. Need for common understanding and collaborative working beyond the traditional skill set.
2. **Risk/engagement** – Risk on return, hesitance to engage, risk of double counting benefit.
3. **Scale of investment** – Private vs public investment, SME local investment vs big corporations. Timescale of return on investment.
4. **Quantifying benefits** – How to measure benefits to provide evidence for return (*'you don't notice when you haven't been flooded'*) – ties into risk.

### 4.3 What support is required

Two key areas that were often repeated were:

1. **Collaboration** – Pulling different organisations together for a workshop to understand different points of view and bridge the gap between financial and environmental sectors.
2. **Evidence and Analysis** – Providing advice on the best places and types of intervention for green financing schemes, develop financial values, embed climate resilience and projects into the assurance process.