

Nature in the Dales:

2020 vision

The second Biodiversity Action Plan for the
Yorkshire Dales National Park

Lowland Fens Habitat Action Plan

Yorkshire Dales Biodiversity Forum, 2011
Amended Feb 2015

LOWLAND FENS HABITAT ACTION PLAN

DEFINITIONS

The UK is thought to host a large proportion of the fen surviving in the EU. As in other parts of Europe fen vegetation has declined dramatically in the past century. Fens are peatlands which receive water and nutrients from the soil, rock and ground water as well as from rainfall. Two types of fen can broadly be distinguished: topogenous and soligenous.

Topogenous fens are those where water movements in the peat or soil are generally vertical. In the lowlands they include basin fens and floodplain fen.

Soligenous fens are those where water movements are predominantly lateral and include valley mires, springs and flushes in the lowlands.

Fens can also be described as `poor-fens` or `rich-fens`. Poor-fens, where the water is derived from base-poor rock such as sandstones and granites occur mainly in the uplands, or are associated with lowland heaths. They are characterised by short vegetation with a high proportion of bog mosses *Sphagnum* spp. and acid water (pH of 5 or less). These are covered by the Upland Fens, Flushes & Swamps Habitat Action Plan. Rich-fens are fed by mineral-enriched calcareous waters (pH 5 or more), and are mainly confined to the lowlands and where there are localised occurrences of base-rich rocks such as limestone in the uplands. The latter are covered by the Upland Fens, Flushes & Swamps Habitat Action Plan.

STATUS IN YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK 2011

To be quantified

ESTIMATED AREA IN THE YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK IN "GOOD CONDITION"

SSSI (Favourable, Unfavourable-recovering):	Unknown
Non-SSSI (Condition A):	Unknown
Total (SSSI Favourable, Unfavourable-recovering, Non-SSSI A):	Unknown

UK & REGIONAL BIODIVERSITY TARGETS 2011

UK BAP Targets	Priority Actions for YDNP LBAP
Maintain the current extent of the UK fen resource and diversity of fen types. This target represents a "no loss" of habitat.	Yes
Maintain condition of fen habitat where already favourable and establish by 2010, management to secure favourable condition for all areas of fen currently judged as unfavourable. The target condition for all such areas should be favourable or	Yes

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unfavourable recovering by 2020.	
Initiate by 2020, the restoration of 2,800ha of former fen habitat across the UK.	No
Establish eight new landscape scale wetland complexes by 2020, at least one in each country in which fen is a major component along other wetland types and in which successional processes within the fen are allowed to proceed unchecked.	No

Regional Biodiversity Targets	Priority Actions for YDNP LBAP
Restore 105ha (target exceeded)	No

NATURE IN THE DALES: 2020 VISION OBJECTIVES, ACTIONS, TARGETS & MILESTONES

Objectives

LF1.1: Complete survey of lowland fens in Craven & South Lakeland by 2016.

LF1.2: Complete survey of lowland fens in Craven, South Lakeland & Richmondshire by 2020.

Actions & Targets

Actions	Main Delivery Mechanism	Lead Organisation	Indicator
LF1.1: Complete survey of lowland fens in Craven & South Lakeland by 2016.	Habitat Survey	YDNPA	Area of habitat in "Good Condition"
LF1.2: Complete survey of lowland fens in Craven, South Lakeland & Richmondshire by 2020.	Habitat Survey	YDNPA	Area of habitat in "Good Condition"

Milestones

Actions	Target	When?
LF1.1: Complete survey of lowland fens in Craven & South Lakeland by 2016.	Report	2016
LF1.2: Complete survey of lowland fens in Craven, South Lakeland & Richmondshire by 2020.	Report	2020

Nature in the Dales: 2020 Vision was written and co-ordinated by Tim Thom, Ian Court, Frances Graham & Hannah Fawcett of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority in 2011, following consultation. The production of the plan was steered, advised and supported by the Yorkshire Dales Biodiversity Forum who will be responsible for ensuring that the actions and targets in *Nature in the Dales: 2020 Vision* are achieved. Minor revisions made Feb 2015.

The Yorkshire Dales Biodiversity Forum wishes to acknowledge the financial support from the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority in the production of *Nature in the Dales: 2020 Vision*.

For citation purposes please use the following format:
Yorkshire Dales Biodiversity Forum, 2011. *Nature in the Dales: 2020 Vision*, Local Biodiversity Action Plan.

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