

Nature in the Dales:

# 2020 vision

---

The second Biodiversity Action Plan for the  
Yorkshire Dales National Park

## **Ponds Habitat Action Plan**

Yorkshire Dales Biodiversity Forum, 2011  
Amended Feb 2015

## **PONDS HABITAT ACTION PLAN**

### **DEFINITIONS**

Ponds, for the purpose of UK BAP priority habitat classification, are defined as permanent and seasonal standing water bodies up to 2 ha in extent which meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Habitats of international importance: Ponds that meet criteria under Annex I of the Habitats Directive.
- Species of high conservation importance: Ponds supporting Red Data Book species, UK BAP species, species fully protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act Schedule 5 and 8, Habitats Directive Annex II species, a Nationally Scarce wetland plant species, or three Nationally Scarce aquatic invertebrate species.
- Exceptional assemblages of key biotic groups: Ponds supporting exceptional populations or numbers of key species. Based on (i) criteria specified in guidelines for the selection of biological SSSIs (currently amphibians and dragonflies only), and (ii) exceptionally rich sites for plants or invertebrates (i.e. supporting  $\geq 30$  wetland plant species or  $\geq 50$  aquatic macroinvertebrate species).
- Ponds of high ecological quality: Ponds classified in the top PSYM category (“high”) for ecological quality (i.e. having a PSYM score  $\geq 75\%$ ). [PSYM (the Predictive SYstem for Multimetrics) is a method for assessing the biological quality of still waters in England and Wales; plant species and/or invertebrate families are surveyed using a standard method; the PSYM model makes predictions for the site based on environmental data and using a minimally impaired pond dataset; comparison of the prediction and observed data gives a % score for ponds quality].
- Other important ponds: Individual ponds or groups of ponds with a limited geographic distribution recognised as important because of their age, rarity of type or landscape context e.g. pingos, duneslack ponds, machair ponds.

Priority habitat ponds can be readily identified by standard survey techniques such as those developed for NVC, Common Standards Monitoring, the National Pond Survey or for specific species groups. Ponds will need to be distinguished from other existing priority habitat types. The general principle to be applied is that where the standing water element is functionally a component of another priority habitat and that priority habitat definition takes account of the standing water element then it should be treated as part of that habitat. For example small waterbodies within blanket bog should be considered as part of the blanket bog priority habitat, but ponds in heathland (which are not dealt with through the heathland HAP) should be considered under the pond priority habitat.

**STATUS IN YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK 2011**

To be quantified

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

**UK & REGIONAL BIODIVERSITY TARGETS 2011**

<b>UK BAP Targets</b>	<b>Priority Actions for YDNP LBAP</b>
New UK Habitat therefore no current targets identified	N/A

  

<b>Regional Biodiversity Targets</b>	<b>Priority Actions for YDNP LBAP</b>
No Targets	N/A

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

**P1.1:** Complete survey of ponds in Craven & South Lakeland by 2016.

**P1.2:** Complete survey of ponds in Craven, South Lakeland & Richmondshire by 2020.

**Actions & Targets**

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Main Delivery Mechanism</b>	<b>Lead Organisation</b>	<b>Indicator</b>
P1.1: Complete survey of ponds in Craven & South Lakeland by 2016.	Habitat Survey	YDNPA	Area of habitat in "Good Condition"
P1.2: Complete survey of ponds in Craven, South Lakeland & Richmondshire by 2020.	Habitat Survey	YDNPA	Area of habitat in "Good Condition"

**Milestones**

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>When?</b>
P1.1: Complete survey of ponds in Craven & South Lakeland by 2016.	Report	2016
P1.2: Complete survey of ponds 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.

Contact: [wildlifeconservation@yorkshiredales.org.uk](mailto:wildlifeconservation@yorkshiredales.org.uk)