

Nature in the Dales:

# 2020 vision

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The second Biodiversity Action Plan for the  
Yorkshire Dales National Park

## **Upland Flushes, Fens and Swamps Habitat Action Plan**

Yorkshire Dales Biodiversity Forum, 2011  
Amended Feb 2015

## UPLAND FLUSHES, FENS & SWAMPS HABITAT ACTION PLAN

### DEFINITIONS

Upland flushes, fens and swamps are defined as peat or mineral-based terrestrial wetlands in upland situations, which receive water and nutrients from surface and/or groundwater sources as well as rainfall. The soil, which may be peaty or mineral, is waterlogged with the water table close to or above the surface for most of the year. This includes both soligenous mires (springs, flushes, valley fens), and topogenous mires (basin, open-water transition and flood-plain fens), as well as certain *Molinia* grasslands and rush pastures. However this habitat excludes ombrotrophic bogs and associated bog pools and seepages which are blanket bog priority habitat. Also excluded are species-poor *Molinia* swards (M25 except M25c) and species-poor or 'weedy' *Juncus effusus* swards (M23b and MG10). Swamps are included except for those forming a fringe less than 5m wide adjacent to standing waters, which are included in the relevant standing water priority habitat type; and those reedbeds (S4) which qualify as the reedbed priority habitat.

This priority habitat is restricted to upland areas, i.e. above the limit of agricultural enclosure, so complementing but not overlapping the fens priority habitat. This 'upland/lowland' boundary definition is intended to match that for grassland and heathland priority habitats. For consistency with the Broad habitat definitions, upland flushes, fens and swamps includes montane/alpine springs and flushes, but not snowbeds (U11-14) which are part of the mountain heaths and willow scrub proposed priority habitat.

This is a varied habitat category but is typically dominated by sedges (and allies), rushes, grasses (e.g. *Molinia*, *Phragmites*), and occasionally wetland herbs (e.g. *Filipendula ulmaria*), and/or a carpet of bryophytes (e.g. *Sphagnum* spp., *Cratoneuron* spp.).

**STATUS IN YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK 2011**

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

SSSI (Favourable, Unfavourable-recovering):	90%
Non-SSSI (Condition A):	16%
Total (SSSI Favourable, Unfavourable-recovering, Non-SSSI A):	38%

**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**

**Objective**

- UF1:** To have 95% of Upland Flushes, Fens & Swamps in “Good Condition” (Favourable, Unfavourable-recovering in SSSI, A outside SSSI) by 2020.
- UF2:** To move 25% of Upland Flushes, Fens & Swamps in Unfavourable-Recovering Condition to Favourable Condition by 2020.

**Actions & Targets**

Actions	Target (% of total target)	Main Delivery Mechanism	Lead Organisation	Indicator
<b>UF1.1:</b> Maintain existing area of SSSI Upland Flushes, Fens & Swamps in “Good Condition”.	90%	Agri-environment schemes	Natural England	Area of habitat in “Good Condition”
<b>UF1.2:</b> Maintain existing area of non-SSSI Upland Flushes, Fens & Swamps in “Good Condition”.	16%			
<b>UF1.3:</b> To enhance degraded SSSI Upland Flushes, Fens & Swamps to “Good Condition”.	1%			
<b>UF1.4:</b> To enhance degraded non-SSSI Upland Flushes, Fens & Swamps to “Good Condition”.	59%			
<b>UF2.1:</b> To move 25% of SSSI Upland Flushes, Fens & Swamps in Unfavourable-Recovering Condition to Favourable Condition by 2020.	25%			

**Milestones**

Actions	Target	When?
<b>UF1.1:</b> Maintain existing area of SSSI Upland Flushes, Fens & Swamps in “Good Condition”.	90%	Ongoing
<b>UF1.2:</b> Maintain existing area of non-SSSI Upland Flushes, Fens & Swamps in “Good Condition”.	16%	Ongoing
<b>UF1.3:</b> To enhance degraded SSSI Upland Flushes, Fens & Swamps to “Good Condition”.	1%	2016
	1%	2020
<b>UF1.4:</b> To enhance degraded non-SSSI Upland Flushes, Fens & Swamps to “Good Condition”.	30%	2016
	59%	2020
<b>UF2.1:</b> To move 25% of SSSI Upland Flushes, Fens & Swamps in Unfavourable-Recovering Condition to Favourable Condition by 2020.	12%	2016
	25%	2020

## *Nature in the Dales: 2020 Vision*

*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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