

NATURAL AREA: **61 Dartmoor**WETLAND SIGNIFICANCE: **HIGH**

DESCRIPTION:

Dartmoor is the largest granite outcrop in England. It has an important range of upland wetland habitats including blanket bog, valley mire, raised mire, river valleys and alder and willow carr.

WETLAND SSSI COVERAGE:

<i>SSSIs CONTAINING WETLAND HABITATS</i>	14/34 (41.2%)
<i>SSSIs DOMINATED BY A WETLAND HABITAT</i>	6 (17.6%)
<i>SSSI WETLAND DOMINANTS</i>	mire (5), wet heath (1), spring fen/flush (1)
<i>SSSI NUTRIENT STATUS</i>	12 oligotrophic, 4 mesotrophic

KEY WETLAND TYPES: mire (M1, M2, M3, M17a, c, M21); spring fen/ flush (M29); river (no data); wet heath (M15, M16); wet grassland (M23a); ponds and reservoirs (no data); wet woodland (W1, W4a, W7b, c); fen (M4, M6, M10, M24c, M25a, b, c)

LENGTH OF RIVERS: 533 km

KEY WETLAND SITES: Dartmoor
NCR 2, SAC 3

NATIONALLY RARE AND SCARCE WETLAND PLANT SPECIES:

<i>Hammabrya paludosa</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>Chamaemelum nobile</i>	<i>S</i>
<i>Lycopodiella inundata</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>Elatine hexandra</i>	<i>S</i>
<i>Spiranthes romanzoffiana</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>Pilularia globulifera</i>	<i>S</i>
<i>Isoetes echinospora</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>Viola lactea</i>	<i>S</i>

ASSOCIATED INTERESTS:

- 1) breeding waders and other species associated with wet moorland habitats
- 2) invertebrate assemblages associated with mire, wet woodland temporary pond habitats
- 3) lower plants associated with mire and river habitats
- 4) fish assemblage, otter and pearl mussel associated with river systems

KEY ISSUES: military use, burning, grazing, abstraction, eutrophication, acidification, low river flows, agricultural improvement, lack of knowledge, neglect, retention of temporary pools

WETLAND SSSI ISSUES: Pollution 1 (7%) Water levels 1 (7%) Recreation 3 (21%)

KEY OBJECTIVES:

- 1) Maintain and enhance the current extent, diversity and condition of the wetland habitats through appropriate monitoring and subsequent management, particularly the important mire, fen and wet heath communities.
- 2) Meet all the requirements of international treaties relating to wetland conservation, namely the Ramsar convention, Birds Directive and Habitats and Species Directive.
- 3) Restore and enhance the hydrology, water quality and management of wetland sites that are currently in sub-optimum condition, particularly relating to appropriate grazing regimes.
- 4) Seek opportunities for habitat creation of wetland habitats.
- 5) Maintain and enhance important populations of wetland plants and animals and carry out appropriate monitoring to determine their status, particularly species associated with mire, fen and wet heath.
- 6) Liaise with the Environment Agency and other government bodies over policy issues and planning.

NATURAL AREA: **62 Culm Measures**WETLAND SIGNIFICANCE: **HIGH****DESCRIPTION:**

The Culm Measures derives its name from the Carboniferous slates, shales and sandstones of the area. The species rich culm grasslands are important for wet grassland communities and invertebrates including the marsh fritillary. There are some good examples of willow and alder carr and the Taw, Torridge and Tamar river valleys provide a range of wetland habitats, supporting a particularly high density of otters.

WETLAND SSSI COVERAGE:

<i>SSSIs CONTAINING WETLAND HABITATS</i>	34/62 (54.8%)
<i>SSSIs DOMINATED BY A WETLAND HABITAT</i>	20 (32.3%)
<i>SSSI WETLAND DOMINANTS</i>	mire (4), fen (3), wet woodland (1), wet heath (10), swamp (1), wet grassland (1), flood meadow (1), culm grassland (6)
<i>SSSI NUTRIENT STATUS</i>	20 oligotrophic, 23 mesotrophic, 2 unknown

KEY WETLAND TYPES: wet woodland (W1, W6, W7b); wet heath (M16b); wet grassland (M23a, b); fen (M24c, M25a, b, c, M27a); rivers and streams (no data)

LENGTH OF RIVERS: 2,222km

KEY WETLAND SITES: Culm grasslands
SAC 5

NATIONALLY RARE AND SCARCE WETLAND PLANT SPECIES:

<i>Hypericum undulatum</i>	S	<i>Juncus acutus</i>	S
<i>Cicendia filiformis</i>	S	<i>Potamogeton trichoides</i>	S
<i>Hammarbya paludosa</i>	S	<i>Elatine hexandra</i>	S
<i>Viola lactea</i>	S	<i>Chamaemelum nobile</i>	S

ASSOCIATED INTERESTS:

- 1) important lower plant and fungi assemblages associated with wet woodland
- 2) invertebrate assemblages associated with culm grasslands
- 3) otter, bats, pearl mussel, fish and breeding birds associated with river systems

KEY ISSUES: air pollution, agricultural improvement, management mechanism implementation, fragmentation, lack of knowledge, grazing, pond construction, windfarms, gravel extraction, fisheries, alien species, modification of water courses and water tables, abstraction, diffuse fertilisers, diffuse slurries, tipping

WETLAND SSSI ISSUES: Pollution 5 (15%) Water levels 2 (6%) Recreation 3 (9%)

KEY OBJECTIVES:

- 1) Maintain and enhance the current extent, diversity and condition of the wetland habitats through appropriate monitoring and subsequent management, particularly wet heath, fen, mire and wet grassland communities.
- 2) Meet all the requirements of international treaties relating to wetland conservation, namely the Ramsar convention, Birds Directive and Habitats and Species Directive.
- 3) Restore and enhance the hydrology, water quality and management of wetland sites that are currently in sub-optimum condition.
- 4) Seek opportunities for habitat creation of wetland habitats.
- 5) Maintain and enhance important populations of wetland plants and animals and carry out appropriate monitoring to determine their status, particularly species associated with wet heath, fen, mire and wet grassland.
- 6) Liaise with the Environment Agency and other government bodies over policy issues and planning.

NATURAL AREA: **63 Exmoor and The Quantocks**WETLAND SIGNIFICANCE: **HIGH****DESCRIPTION:**

Most of Exmoor and The Quantocks is underlain by Devonian slates, shales, sandstones and grits. The Quantocks are separated from Exmoor by the Vale of Taunton. There are numerous streams forming deeply incised valleys, draining to larger river systems to the north and south. There are good examples of upland wetland habitats such as blanket bog, valley mire, wet heath and wet grassland habitats.

WETLAND SSSI COVERAGE:

<i>SSSIs CONTAINING WETLAND HABITATS</i>	14/25 (56.0%)
<i>SSSIs DOMINATED BY A WETLAND HABITAT</i>	4 (16.0%)
<i>SSSI WETLAND DOMINANTS</i>	wet woodland (1), swamp (1), flood meadow (1), grazing marsh (1), culm grassland (1)
<i>SSSI NUTRIENT STATUS</i>	7 oligotrophic, 2 mesotrophic, 1 eutrophic

KEY WETLAND TYPES: wet woodland (W4, W7a); wet heath (M15a, b, c, d, M16d); river (river type 7); fen (M6a, b, c, d, M9, M10, M24c, M25b); mire (M1, M2, M3, M4, M17c); spring fen/ flush (M29, M32, M35); wet grassland (MG11, MG13, M23a, b)

LENGTH OF RIVERS: 913km

KEY WETLAND SITES: -

NATIONALLY RARE AND SCARCE WETLAND PLANT SPECIES:

<i>Chamaemelum nobile</i>	S	<i>Juncus acutus</i>	S
<i>Cyperus longus</i>	S	<i>Equisetum variegatum</i>	S
<i>Mentha pulegium</i>	RDB(R)	<i>Alopecurus bulbosus</i>	S
<i>Potamogeton coloratus</i>	S	<i>Potamogeton trichoides</i>	S
<i>Teucrium scordium</i>	RDB(V)		

ASSOCIATED INTERESTS: 1) breeding waders associated with mire + wet grassland habitats
2) lower plants, fish, invertebrates and otter associated with river systems

KEY ISSUES: woodland management, burning, grazing, water level control, blanket mire management, drainage, recreation, deer, lack of knowledge, pond construction, alien species, mink hunting, agricultural improvement, management mechanism implementation

WETLAND SSSI ISSUES: Pollution 6 (43%) Water levels 4 (29%) Recreation 2 (14%)

KEY OBJECTIVES: 1) Maintain and enhance the current extent, diversity and condition of the wetland habitats through appropriate monitoring and subsequent management, particularly wet heath, fen, mire and wet grassland communities.
2) Meet all the requirements of international treaties relating to wetland conservation, namely the Ramsar convention, Birds Directive and Habitats and Species Directive.
3) Restore and enhance the hydrology, water quality and management of wetland sites that are currently in sub-optimum condition.
4) Seek opportunities for habitat creation of wetland habitats.
5) Maintain and enhance important populations of wetland plants and animals and carry out appropriate monitoring to determine their status, particularly species associated with wet heath, fen, mire and wet grassland.
6) Liaise with the Environment Agency and other government bodies over policy issues and planning.

NATURAL AREA: **64 Vale of Taunton**WETLAND SIGNIFICANCE: **MEDIUM****DESCRIPTION:**

This is an area of low-lying land, with numerous stream valleys. It is largely underlain by Permo-Triassic mudstones, although Triassic and Jurassic marls outcrop along the Bristol Channel and Permian sandstones outcrop in the south-west of the area. The wetland interest is restricted to the river and stream valleys and small areas of mire, fen and swamp.

WETLAND SSSI COVERAGE:

<i>SSSIs CONTAINING WETLAND HABITATS</i>	4/7 (57.1%)
<i>SSSIs DOMINATED BY A WETLAND HABITAT</i>	3 (42.9%)
<i>SSSI WETLAND DOMINANTS</i>	fen (1), spring fen/flush (1), flood meadow (1)
<i>SSSI NUTRIENT STATUS</i>	4 mesotrophic

KEY WETLAND TYPES: wet woodland (W4a); fen (M13, M22, M24, M24c, M27); wet grassland (M23); rivers and streams (no data)

LENGTH OF RIVERS: 270km

KEY WETLAND SITES: Holme Moor and Clean Moor
NCR 1, SAC 1

NATIONALLY RARE AND SCARCE WETLAND PLANT SPECIES:

<i>Viola lactea</i>	S
<i>Chamaemelum nobile</i>	S
<i>Alopecurus bulbosus</i>	S

ASSOCIATED INTERESTS: 1) invertebrate assemblages associated with mire, fen and swamp habitats
2) fish assemblage and otter associated with river systems

KEY ISSUES: commons, grazing, isolation, lack of knowledge, lack of management, fisheries, flood defence, agricultural improvement on adjacent land, water quality

WETLAND SSSI ISSUES: Pollution 0 Water levels 1 (25%) Recreation 0

KEY OBJECTIVES: 1) Maintain and enhance the current extent, diversity and condition of the wetland habitats through appropriate monitoring and subsequent management.
2) Meet all the requirements of international treaties relating to wetland conservation, namely the Ramsar convention, Birds Directive and Habitats and Species Directive.
3) Restore and enhance the hydrology, water quality and management of wetland sites that are currently in sub-optimum condition.
4) Seek opportunities for habitat creation of wetland habitats.
5) Maintain and enhance important populations of wetland plants and animals and carry out appropriate monitoring to determine their status.
6) Liaise with the Environment Agency and other government bodies over policy issues and planning.

NATURAL AREA: **65 Mid Somerset Hills**WETLAND SIGNIFICANCE: **LOW**

DESCRIPTION:

This Natural Area is a series of steep ridges which cross the Somerset Levels and comprised of Triassic and Jurassic clays, marls and limestones. There is very little wetland interest.

WETLAND SSSI COVERAGE:

<i>SSSIs CONTAINING WETLAND HABITATS</i>	0/14
<i>SSSIs DOMINATED BY A WETLAND HABITAT</i>	0
<i>SSSI WETLAND DOMINANTS</i>	-
<i>SSSI NUTRIENT STATUS</i>	-

KEY WETLAND TYPES: wet woodland (W7)

LENGTH OF RIVERS: 246km

KEY WETLAND SITES: -

NATIONALLY RARE AND SCARCE WETLAND PLANT SPECIES:

Persicaria laxiflora S

ASSOCIATED INTERESTS:

KEY ISSUES:

WETLAND SSSI ISSUES: Pollution - Water levels - Recreation -

- KEY OBJECTIVES:
- 1) Maintain and enhance the current extent, diversity and condition of the wetland habitats through appropriate monitoring and subsequent management.
 - 2) Meet all the requirements of international treaties relating to wetland conservation, namely the Ramsar convention, Birds Directive and Habitats and Species Directive.
 - 3) Restore and enhance the hydrology, water quality and management of wetland sites that are currently in sub-optimum condition.
 - 4) Seek opportunities for habitat creation of wetland habitats.
 - 5) Maintain and enhance important populations of wetland plants and animals and carry out appropriate monitoring to determine their status.
 - 6) Liaise with the Environment Agency and other government bodies over policy issues and planning.

NATURAL AREA: **66 Mendips**WETLAND SIGNIFICANCE: **LOW****DESCRIPTION:**

This is a limestone outcrop important for its woodland and grassland habitats and geological features. Three large reservoirs and smaller ponds and pools provide the wetland interest.

WETLAND SSSI COVERAGE:

<i>SSSIs CONTAINING WETLAND HABITATS</i>	7/29 (24.1%)
<i>SSSIs DOMINATED BY A WETLAND HABITAT</i>	3 (10.3%)
<i>SSSI WETLAND DOMINANTS</i>	mire (2), fen (1)
<i>SSSI NUTRIENT STATUS</i>	1 oligotrophic, 6 mesotrophic, 2 eutrophic

KEY WETLAND TYPES: wet woodland (W7a, b, c); aquatic (A9, A24); swamp (S3, S4, S10a, S12); fen (S25b)

LENGTH OF RIVERS: 77km

KEY WETLAND SITES: Priddy Pools
NCR 1

NATIONALLY RARE AND SCARCE WETLAND PLANT SPECIES:

ASSOCIATED INTERESTS:

- 1) lower plants and fungi associated with wet woodland
- 2) amphibians, bats and invertebrates associated with ponds and pools

KEY ISSUES: woodland management, agricultural improvement, heavy metal contamination, recreation, water level control

WETLAND SSSI ISSUES: Pollution 2 (29%) Water levels 2 (29%) Recreation 0

KEY OBJECTIVES:

- 1) Maintain and enhance the current extent, diversity and condition of the wetland habitats through appropriate monitoring and subsequent management.
- 2) Meet all the requirements of international treaties relating to wetland conservation, namely the Ramsar convention, Birds Directive and Habitats and Species Directive.
- 3) Restore and enhance the hydrology, water quality and management of wetland sites that are currently in sub-optimum condition.
- 4) Seek opportunities for habitat creation of wetland habitats.
- 5) Maintain and enhance important populations of wetland plants and animals and carry out appropriate monitoring to determine their status.
- 6) Liaise with the Environment Agency and other government bodies over policy issues and planning.

NATURAL AREA: 67 Somerset Levels and Moors

WETLAND SIGNIFICANCE: **OUTSTANDING****DESCRIPTION:**

This Natural Area contains the largest area of lowland wet grassland and associated wetland habitat in Britain, lying in the flood plains of the Axe, Brue, Parrett, Towe and their tributaries. There is an important network of rhynes and ditches draining into the rivers.

WETLAND SSSI COVERAGE:

<i>SSSIs CONTAINING WETLAND HABITATS</i>	23/32 (71.9%)
<i>SSSIs DOMINATED BY A WETLAND HABITAT</i>	21 (65.6%)
<i>SSSI WETLAND DOMINANTS</i>	open water - natural (1), open water - reservoir (1), mire (2), wet woodland (1), ditch (1), swamp (1), grazing marsh (15)
<i>SSSI NUTRIENT STATUS</i>	2 mesotrophic, 23 eutrophic, 1 brackish

KEY WETLAND TYPES:

wet grassland (MG4, MG6, MG7, MG8, MG9, MG10, MG11, MG13); fen (M22, M23, M23a, M24a, b, c, M25a, b, c, M27, S23, S25, S26, S28a, b, c); aquatic (A1, A2a, b, c, A3, A12, A13, A15, A21); wet woodland (W5b, W6e); swamp (S4, S5a, S6, S12a, c, S13, S14a, b, S16, S17, S19, S20, S21a, S22a, b, S23); willow carr (no data)

LENGTH OF RIVERS:

356km

KEY WETLAND SITES:

Somerset Levels grazing marsh and mire
RAM 12, SPA 12, NCR 1

NATIONALLY RARE AND SCARCE WETLAND PLANT SPECIES:

<i>Lathyrus palustris</i>	S	<i>Pericaria laxiflora</i>	S	<i>Equisetum variegatum</i>	S
<i>Peucedanum palustre</i>	S	<i>Potamogeton coloratus</i>	S	<i>Alopecurus bulbosus</i>	S
<i>Althaea officinalis</i>	S	<i>Potamogeton trichoides</i>	S	<i>Puccinellia rupestris</i>	S
<i>Cyperus fuscus</i>	RDB(E)	<i>Sium latifolium</i>	S	<i>Callitriche truncata</i>	S
<i>Myriophyllum verticillatum</i>	S	<i>Wolffia arrhiza</i>	S	<i>Juncus acutus</i>	S
<i>Thelypteris palustris</i>	S				

ASSOCIATED INTERESTS:

- 1) breeding and wintering waders and wildfowl associated with wet grassland
- 2) invertebrate assemblages associated with wet grassland, rhynes and ditches
- 3) fish assemblage, crayfish and otter associated with river and ditch systems
- 4) lower plants associated with raised mire

KEY ISSUES: agricultural improvement, archaeology, wet grassland management, development, habitat recreation, water level control, wildfowling, rehabilitation of peat workings, grazing, scrub encroachment, fragmentation of raised mire, fisheries, river management, abstraction, use of pesticides on withies, lack of withy management, water quality

WETLAND SSSI ISSUES: Pollution 18 (78%) Water levels 19 (83%) Recreation 6 (26%)

KEY OBJECTIVES:

- 1) Maintain and enhance the current extent, diversity and condition of the wetland habitats through appropriate monitoring and subsequent management, particularly the wet grassland, fen, aquatic and swamp communities.
- 2) Meet all the requirements of international treaties relating to wetland conservation, namely the Ramsar convention, Birds Directive and Habitats and Species Directive.
- 3) Restore and enhance the hydrology, water quality and management of wetland sites that are currently in sub-optimum condition, particularly related to drainage and agricultural pollution.
- 4) Seek opportunities for habitat creation of wetland habitats.
- 5) Maintain and enhance important populations of wetland plants and animals and carry out appropriate monitoring to determine their status, particularly species associated with wet grassland, fen, aquatic and swamp communities.
- 6) Liaise with the Environment Agency and other government bodies over policy issues and planning, particularly river and rhyme management.

NATURAL AREA: 68 Avon Ridges and Valleys	WETLAND SIGNIFICANCE: MEDIUM
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DESCRIPTION:

This Natural Area is underlain by Carboniferous and Jurassic limestone, supporting important woodland and grassland habitats and geological features. The wetland interest is limited to riparian habitats and a small number of open water sites.

WETLAND SSSI COVERAGE:

<i>SSSIs CONTAINING WETLAND HABITATS</i>	4/36 (11.1%)
<i>SSSIs DOMINATED BY A WETLAND HABITAT</i>	3 (8.3%)
<i>SSSI WETLAND DOMINANTS</i>	open water - reservoir (2), swamp (2), ditch (1) flood meadow (1)
<i>SSSI NUTRIENT STATUS</i>	2 mesotrophic, 3 eutrophic

KEY WETLAND TYPES: open water and riparian habitats (no data); fen (M22, M24); wet grassland (M23)

LENGTH OF RIVERS: 226km

KEY WETLAND SITES: Chew Valley Lake, Blagdon Lake, Gordano Valley
SPA 1, NCR 3

NATIONALLY RARE AND SCARCE WETLAND PLANT SPECIES:

<i>Potamogeton nodosus</i>	<i>RDB(R)</i>	<i>Alopecurus bulbosus</i>	<i>S</i>
<i>Cuscuta europaea</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>Puccinellia rupestris</i>	<i>S</i>
<i>Persicaria laxiflora</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>Wolffia arrhiza</i>	<i>S</i>
<i>Myriophyllum verticillatum</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>Potamogeton trichoides</i>	<i>S</i>
<i>Potamogeton coloratus</i>	<i>S</i>		

ASSOCIATED INTERESTS: 1) breeding, wintering and migratory birds associated with open water and riparian habitats
2) invertebrate assemblages associated with aquatic habitats

KEY ISSUES: management of adjacent land, cormorants, crayfish plague, declines in breeding wildfowl, lack of knowledge, recreation, water level control, water quality

WETLAND SSSI ISSUES: Pollution 1 (25%) Water levels 1 (25%) Recreation 2 (50%)

KEY OBJECTIVES: 1) Maintain and enhance the current extent, diversity and condition of the wetland habitats through appropriate monitoring and subsequent management.
2) Meet all the requirements of international treaties relating to wetland conservation, namely the Ramsar convention, Birds Directive and Habitats and Species Directive.
3) Restore and enhance the hydrology, water quality and management of wetland sites that are currently in sub-optimum condition.
4) Seek opportunities for habitat creation of wetland habitats.
5) Maintain and enhance important populations of wetland plants and animals and carry out appropriate monitoring to determine their status.
6) Liaise with the Environment Agency and other government bodies over policy issues and planning.

NATURAL AREA: 69 Greater Cotswolds

WETLAND SIGNIFICANCE: **LOW****DESCRIPTION:**

This Natural Area is largely associated with an area of Jurassic limestones and their associated clays. The southern boundary is clearly defined by the scarp slope, but the northern boundary merges into the clay and is less clear. The wetland interest is restricted to the river valleys and their associated riparian habitats.

WETLAND SSSI COVERAGE:

<i>SSSIs CONTAINING WETLAND HABITATS</i>	26/119 (21.8%)
<i>SSSIs DOMINATED BY A WETLAND HABITAT</i>	3 (2.5%)
<i>SSSI WETLAND DOMINANTS</i>	open water - gravel pit (1), fen (1), flood meadow (1)
<i>SSSI NUTRIENT STATUS</i>	10 oligotrophic, 14 mesotrophic, 3 eutrophic

KEY WETLAND TYPES: river (river type 3); marginal vegetation (no data)

LENGTH OF RIVERS: 1,665km

KEY WETLAND SITES: -

NATIONALLY RARE AND SCARCE WETLAND PLANT SPECIES:

<i>Fritillaria meleagris</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>Carex filiformis</i>	<i>RDB(R)</i>
<i>Oenanthe silaifolia</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>Ranunculus ophioglossifolius</i>	<i>RDB(E)</i>
<i>Cuscuta europaea</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>Potamogeton compressus</i>	<i>S</i>
<i>Persicaria laxiflora</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>Myriophyllum verticillatum</i>	<i>S</i>

ASSOCIATED INTERESTS:

- 1) Atlantic stream crayfish, otter and breeding birds associated with river systems
- 2) breeding waders associated with riparian grassland

KEY ISSUES: river low flows, drainage, restoration of wet grassland, fisheries, fish farming, discharge, crayfish plague, water quality

WETLAND SSSI ISSUES: Pollution 3 (12%) Water levels 3 (12%) Recreation 11 (42%)

KEY OBJECTIVES:

- 1) Maintain and enhance the current extent, diversity and condition of the wetland habitats through appropriate monitoring and subsequent management.
- 2) Meet all the requirements of international treaties relating to wetland conservation, namely the Ramsar convention, Birds Directive and Habitats and Species Directive.
- 3) Restore and enhance the hydrology, water quality and management of wetland sites that are currently in sub-optimum condition.
- 4) Seek opportunities for habitat creation of wetland habitats.
- 5) Maintain and enhance important populations of wetland plants and animals and carry out appropriate monitoring to determine their status.
- 6) Liaise with the Environment Agency and other government bodies over policy issues and planning.

NATURAL AREA: 70 Severn Valley

WETLAND SIGNIFICANCE: HIGH

DESCRIPTION:

This Natural Area includes the majority of the River Severn catchment. The rich soils of the low-lying plain are intensively farmed. The principal bedrocks are Keuper marls and Liassic clays, with small outcrops of Jurassic and Rhaetic limestone. Large sand and gravel deposits and unusual salt deposits near Droitwich are also present. The main wetland sites are the river valleys and associated wet grassland. Brine pools are associated with the salt deposits.

WETLAND SSSI COVERAGE:

<i>SSSIs CONTAINING WETLAND HABITATS</i>	42/100 (42.0%)
<i>SSSIs DOMINATED BY A WETLAND HABITAT</i>	18 (18.0%)
<i>SSSI WETLAND DOMINANTS</i>	open water - natural (2), open water - gravel pit (3), fen (2), flood meadow (8), ditch (1), canal (1), river (1), grazing marsh (2), wet grassland (1)
<i>SSSI NUTRIENT STATUS</i>	20 mesotrophic, 26 eutrophic, 2 brackish

KEY WETLAND TYPES: wet grassland (MG4, MG6, MG8, MG9, MG10, M23); wet woodland (W5, W7)

LENGTH OF RIVERS: 1,879 km

KEY WETLAND SITES: Walmore Common, Combe Hill Canal
RAM 1, NCR 1

NATIONALLY RARE AND SCARCE WETLAND PLANT SPECIES:

<i>Oenanthe silaifolia</i>	S	<i>Lythrum hyssopifolia</i>	RDB(V)	<i>Elatine hydropiper</i>	S
<i>Alopecurus bulbosus</i>	S	<i>Alisma gramineum</i>	RDB(E)	<i>Cuscuta europaea</i>	S
<i>Puccinellia rupestris</i>	S	<i>Myriophyllum verticillatum</i>	S	<i>Althaea officinalis</i>	S
<i>Limosella aquatica</i>	S	<i>Potamogeton trichoides</i>	S	<i>Persicaria laxiflora</i>	S
<i>Carex vulpina</i>	RDB(R)				

ASSOCIATED INTERESTS:

- 1) breeding and wintering wildfowl and waders associated with riverine and wet grassland habitats
- 2) invertebrate assemblages associated with riverine and wet grassland habitats
- 3) important fish assemblage and otter associated with river systems

KEY ISSUES: agricultural improvement, grazing, horsiculture, fragmentation, management mechanism implementation, succession, work of regulatory authorities, control of hydrology, riparian habitat re-creation, water quality, flood defence, agricultural improvement, abstraction, angling, navigation, recreation, maintenance of natural processes, lack of knowledge, river engineering, commons

WETLAND SSSI ISSUES: Pollution 26 (62%) Water levels 29 (69%) Recreation 12 (29%)

KEY OBJECTIVES:

- 1) Maintain and enhance the current extent, diversity and condition of the wetland habitats through appropriate monitoring and subsequent management, particularly wet grassland communities associated with the River Severn.
- 2) Meet all the requirements of international treaties relating to wetland conservation, namely the Ramsar convention, Birds Directive and Habitats and Species Directive.
- 3) Restore and enhance the hydrology, water quality and management of wetland sites that are currently in sub-optimum condition, particularly drainage, water abstraction and agricultural pollution.
- 4) Seek opportunities for habitat creation of wetland habitats.
- 5) Maintain and enhance important populations of wetland plants and animals and carry out appropriate monitoring to determine their status, particularly species associated with wet grassland.
- 6) Liaise with the Environment Agency and other government bodies over policy issues and planning, particularly with regard to the management of the River Severn.

NATURAL AREA: **71 Malvern Heights and Teme Valley**WETLAND SIGNIFICANCE: **MEDIUM****DESCRIPTION:**

This Natural Area has a varied geology, with the granite of the Malverns, Silurian limestone of the hills to the west and north, old red sandstones and Keuper marls. Wetlands are largely restricted to the valleys of the River Teme and its tributaries.

WETLAND SSSI COVERAGE:

<i>SSSIs CONTAINING WETLAND HABITATS</i>	6/21 (28.6%)
<i>SSSIs DOMINATED BY A WETLAND HABITAT</i>	1 (4.8%)
<i>SSSI WETLAND DOMINANTS</i>	river (1)
<i>SSSI NUTRIENT STATUS</i>	1 oligotrophic, 2 mesotrophic, 3 eutrophic, 1 unknown

KEY WETLAND TYPES: wet woodland (W7); river (river types 6, 8); wet grassland (MG5)

LENGTH OF RIVERS: 217 km

KEY WETLAND SITES: -

NATIONALLY RARE AND SCARCE WETLAND PLANT SPECIES:

Oenanthe silaifolia 8

ASSOCIATED INTERESTS: 1) important invertebrate assemblages, fish and Atlantic stream crayfish associated with the river systems

KEY ISSUES: water quality, flood defence, angling, agricultural improvement on adjacent land, change from hay to silage, grazing, horsiculture, fragmentation, management mechanism implementation, succession, commons, neglect

WETLAND SSSI ISSUES: Pollution 5 (83%) Water levels 3 (50%) Recreation 2 (33%)

KEY OBJECTIVES:

- 1) Maintain and enhance the current extent, diversity and condition of the wetland habitats through appropriate monitoring and subsequent management.
- 2) Meet all the requirements of international treaties relating to wetland conservation, namely the Ramsar convention, Birds Directive and Habitats and Species Directive.
- 3) Restore and enhance the hydrology, water quality and management of wetland sites that are currently in sub-optimum condition.
- 4) Seek opportunities for habitat creation of wetland habitats.
- 5) Maintain and enhance important populations of wetland plants and animals and carry out appropriate monitoring to determine their status.
- 6) Liaise with the Environment Agency and other government bodies over policy issues and planning.

NATURAL AREA: **72 Dean Plateau and Wye Valley**WETLAND SIGNIFICANCE: **LOW****DESCRIPTION:**

The geology of this Natural Area is dominated by old red sandstone with coal measure, Carboniferous limestone and Silurian limestone outcrops, and alluvium deposits. The wetland interest is found in the river and stream valleys and in some upland wetland habitats.

WETLAND SSSI COVERAGE:

<i>SSSIs CONTAINING WETLAND HABITATS</i>	5/51 (9.8%)
<i>SSSIs DOMINATED BY A WETLAND HABITAT</i>	3 (5.9%)
<i>SSSI WETLAND DOMINANTS</i>	open water - pools (1), wet woodland (1), marsh (1), river (1)
<i>SSSI NUTRIENT STATUS</i>	1 oligotrophic, 2 mesotrophic, 1 eutrophic, 2 unknown

KEY WETLAND TYPES: wet woodland (W5, W6, W7); river (river type 6); fen (M25, M27);
wet grassland (MG5, MG6, M23a, b)

LENGTH OF RIVERS: 458 km

KEY WETLAND SITES: River Wye
SAC 1

NATIONALLY RARE AND SCARCE WETLAND PLANT SPECIES:

<i>Oenanthe gilaifolia</i>	S
<i>Ranunculus tripartitus</i>	S

ASSOCIATED INTERESTS: 1) invertebrate assemblages, fish, otter, pearl mussel and Atlantic stream crayfish associated with river systems

KEY ISSUES: water quality, navigation, recreation, angling, water sports, fisheries, control of fish predators, river engineering, discharge, abstraction, floodplain management, bankside management, fragmentation, grazing, agricultural improvement, management mechanism implementation, lack of knowledge

WETLAND SSSI ISSUES: Pollution 3 (60%) Water levels 1 (20%) Recreation 2 (40%)

KEY OBJECTIVES:

- 1) Maintain and enhance the current extent, diversity and condition of the wetland habitats through appropriate monitoring and subsequent management.
- 2) Meet all the requirements of international treaties relating to wetland conservation, namely the Ramsar convention, Birds Directive and Habitats and Species Directive.
- 3) Restore and enhance the hydrology, water quality and management of wetland sites that are currently in sub-optimum condition, particularly agricultural pollution.
- 4) Seek opportunities for habitat creation of wetland habitats.
- 5) Maintain and enhance important populations of wetland plants and animals and carry out appropriate monitoring to determine their status.
- 6) Liaise with the Environment Agency and other government bodies over policy issues and planning.

NATURAL AREA: **73 Black Mountains and Golden Valley**WETLAND SIGNIFICANCE: **MEDIUM****DESCRIPTION:**

This Natural Area forms the north-eastern end of an extensive dissected plateau which continues westwards into Wales. There are a number of good quality rivers and streams which drain into the River Wye.

WETLAND SSSI COVERAGE:

<i>SSSIs CONTAINING WETLAND HABITATS</i>	5/8 (62.5%)
<i>SSSIs DOMINATED BY A WETLAND HABITAT</i>	1 (12.5%)
<i>SSSI WETLAND DOMINANTS</i>	fen (1)
<i>SSSI NUTRIENT STATUS</i>	3 oligotrophic, 3 mesotrophic, 1 eutrophic

KEY WETLAND TYPES: rivers and streams (no data); wet woodland (W7)

LENGTH OF RIVERS: 157 km

KEY WETLAND SITES: -

NATIONALLY RARE AND SCARCE WETLAND PLANT SPECIES:

<i>Pilularia globulifera</i>	S
<i>Euphrasia rostkoviana</i>	S

ASSOCIATED INTERESTS: 1) fish assemblage, otter, Atlantic stream crayfish and bryophytes associated with the river systems

KEY ISSUES: agricultural improvement, abstraction for irrigation, obstructions to migratory fish

WETLAND SSSI ISSUES: Pollution 3 (60%) Water levels 1 (20%) Recreation 1 (20%)

KEY OBJECTIVES:

- 1) Maintain and enhance the current extent, diversity and condition of the wetland habitats through appropriate monitoring and subsequent management.
- 2) Meet all the requirements of international treaties relating to wetland conservation, namely the Ramsar convention, Birds Directive and Habitats and Species Directive.
- 3) Restore and enhance the hydrology, water quality and management of wetland sites that are currently in sub-optimum condition.
- 4) Seek opportunities for habitat creation of wetland habitats.
- 5) Maintain and enhance important populations of wetland plants and animals and carry out appropriate monitoring to determine their status.
- 6) Liaise with the Environment Agency and other government bodies over policy issues and planning.

NATURAL AREA: **74 Hereford Plain**WETLAND SIGNIFICANCE: **MEDIUM****DESCRIPTION:**

This Natural Area is largely an area of low-lying land surrounded by the higher land of the surrounding Natural Areas. It is dominated by intensive agriculture, but with some extensive woodlands. The wetland interest is principally found in the riverine and wet grassland habitats of the Wye and Lugg valleys and their tributaries.

WETLAND SSSI COVERAGE:

<i>SSSIs CONTAINING WETLAND HABITATS</i>	10/14 (71.4%)
<i>SSSIs DOMINATED BY A WETLAND HABITAT</i>	5 (35.7%)
<i>SSSI WETLAND DOMINANTS</i>	open water - pools (1), flood meadow (1), grazing marsh (1), river (2), unknown (3)
<i>SSSI NUTRIENT STATUS</i>	2 oligotrophic, 5 mesotrophic, 2 eutrophic, 2 unknown

KEY WETLAND TYPES: wet woodland (W6, W7); wet grassland (MG4, MG8, M23); fen (M22, M24); river (river types 2, 6, 8)

LENGTH OF RIVERS: 579 km

KEY WETLAND SITES: River Wye
SAC 1

NATIONALLY RARE AND SCARCE WETLAND PLANT SPECIES:

<i>Fritillaria meleagris</i>	S
<i>Oenanthe silaifolia</i>	S
<i>Potamogeton trichoides</i>	S

ASSOCIATED INTERESTS:

- 1) river shingle invertebrates, fish assemblage, otter and Atlantic stream crayfish associated with river systems
- 2) invertebrate assemblages associated with wet grassland

KEY ISSUES: catchment management, abstraction, gravel extraction, pollution, drainage, navigation, control of fish predators, river engineering, maintenance of natural processes, lack of knowledge, management mechanism implementation, agricultural improvement, grazing, inappropriate tree planting

WETLAND SSSI ISSUES: Pollution 8 (80%) Water levels 3 (30%) Recreation 5 (50%)

KEY OBJECTIVES:

- 1) Maintain and enhance the current extent, diversity and condition of the wetland habitats through appropriate monitoring and subsequent management, particularly riverine wetlands.
- 2) Meet all the requirements of international treaties relating to wetland conservation, namely the Ramsar convention, Birds Directive and Habitats and Species Directive.
- 3) Restore and enhance the hydrology, water quality and management of wetland sites that are currently in sub-optimum condition, particularly agricultural pollution.
- 4) Seek opportunities for habitat creation of wetland habitats.
- 5) Maintain and enhance important populations of wetland plants and animals and carry out appropriate monitoring to determine their status, particularly species associated with river systems.
- 6) Liaise with the Environment Agency and other government bodies over policy issues and planning.

NATURAL AREA: **75 Midlands Plateau**WETLAND SIGNIFICANCE: **MEDIUM****DESCRIPTION:**

The Midlands Plateau has a very diverse geology, which has in part led to the highly industrial and urban landscape. However, semi-natural and post-industrial habitats are widespread. The river systems and associated grasslands, valley mires and ponds all provide important wetland habitats.

WETLAND SSSI COVERAGE:

<i>SSSIs CONTAINING WETLAND HABITATS</i>	43/93 (46.2%)
<i>SSSIs DOMINATED BY A WETLAND HABITAT</i>	22 (23.7%)
<i>SSSI WETLAND DOMINANTS</i>	open water - natural (1), open water - pools (6), open water - gravel pit (1), river (2), canal (1), open water - reservoir (1), fen (3), wet woodland (3), grazing marsh (3), wet grassland (1), swamp (1)
<i>SSSI NUTRIENT STATUS</i>	8 oligotrophic, 28 mesotrophic, 14 eutrophic, 1 marl

KEY WETLAND TYPES: wet woodland (W4, W5c, W6b, d, W7a, b, c); river, canal, open water (no data); fen (M4, M6c, M10, M22, M25b, M26, M27, M28, S27, S28); mire (M21b); wet grassland (MG4, MG10a, MG13, M23a); wet heath (M16a); swamp (S3, S4, S7, S10b, S12b, S13, S19)

LENGTH OF RIVERS: 1,943 km

KEY WETLAND SITES: Ensor's Pool, Cannock Extension Canal
SAC 2

NATIONALLY RARE AND SCARCE WETLAND PLANT SPECIES:

<i>Impatiens noli-tangere</i>	S	<i>Elatine hexandra</i>	S	<i>Carex elongata</i>	S
<i>Limosella aquatica</i>	S	<i>Potamogeton compressus</i>	S	<i>Cicuta virosa</i>	S
<i>Luronium natans</i>	S	<i>Thelypteris palustris</i>	S	<i>Fritillaria meleagris</i>	S

ASSOCIATED INTERESTS:

- 1) lower plants and fungi associated with wet woodland
- 2) invertebrate assemblages and breeding birds associated with reedbeds
- 3) amphibians associated with lakes, ponds and canals
- 4) invertebrate assemblage, crayfish, fish and otter associated with river systems

KEY ISSUES: woodland management, wet grassland management, drainage, grazing, development, water level control, succession on wet heath, recreation, water quality, species management, crayfish plague, canal restoration, riparian management, angling

WETLAND SSSI ISSUES: Pollution 27 (63%) Water levels 28 (65%) Recreation 23 (53%)

KEY OBJECTIVES:

- 1) Maintain and enhance the current extent, diversity and condition of the wetland habitats through appropriate monitoring and subsequent management, particularly open water, valley mire and wet grassland habitats.
- 2) Meet all the requirements of international treaties relating to wetland conservation, namely the Ramsar convention, Birds Directive and Habitats and Species Directive.
- 3) Restore and enhance the hydrology, water quality and management of wetland sites that are currently in sub-optimum condition, particularly industrial and agricultural pollution.
- 4) Seek opportunities for habitat creation of wetland habitats.
- 5) Maintain and enhance important populations of wetland plants and animals and carry out appropriate monitoring to determine their status, particularly species associated with open water, valley mire and wet grassland.
- 6) Liaise with the Environment Agency and other government bodies over policy issues and planning.

NATURAL AREA: 76 Shropshire Hills

WETLAND SIGNIFICANCE: LOW

DESCRIPTION:

This Natural Area has an extremely varied geology, which is reflected in the landform and range of semi-natural habitats. There are extensive tracts of upland habitat which contain wetland features. A range of aquatic habitats are associated with the numerous rivers and streams.

WETLAND SSSI COVERAGE:

<i>SSSIs CONTAINING WETLAND HABITATS</i>	3/34 (8.8%)
<i>SSSIs DOMINATED BY A WETLAND HABITAT</i>	1 (2.9%)
<i>SSSI WETLAND DOMINANTS</i>	open water - pools (1)
<i>SSSI NUTRIENT STATUS</i>	3 oligotrophic, 1 mesotrophic

KEY WETLAND TYPES: wet woodland (W7); mire (no significant communities); rivers and streams (no data)

LENGTH OF RIVERS: 541 km

KEY WETLAND SITES: -

NATIONALLY RARE AND SCARCE WETLAND PLANT SPECIES:

<i>Impatiens noli-tangere</i>	S
<i>Gentiana pneumonanthe</i>	S
<i>Euphrasia rostkoviana</i>	S
<i>Persicaria laxiflora</i>	S

ASSOCIATED INTERESTS: 1) invertebrate assemblages and lower plants associated with mire habitats
2) breeding birds and otter associated with rivers and streams

KEY ISSUES: grazing, burning, moorland management, management mechanism implementation, agricultural improvement, commons, recreation, lack of knowledge, neglect of grasslands, drainage, water quality, river engineering, catchment management, management of riparian habitats

WETLAND SSSI ISSUES: Pollution 2 (67%) Water levels 0 Recreation 1 (33%)

KEY OBJECTIVES: 1) Maintain and enhance the current extent, diversity and condition of the wetland habitats through appropriate monitoring and subsequent management.
2) Meet all the requirements of international treaties relating to wetland conservation, namely the Ramsar convention, Birds Directive and Habitats and Species Directive.
3) Restore and enhance the hydrology, water quality and management of wetland sites that are currently in sub-optimum condition.
4) Seek opportunities for habitat creation of wetland habitats.
5) Maintain and enhance important populations of wetland plants and animals and carry out appropriate monitoring to determine their status.
6) Liase with the Environment Agency and other government bodies over policy issues and planning.

NATURAL AREA: **77 Central Marches**WETLAND SIGNIFICANCE: **LOW**

DESCRIPTION:

This is an area of rolling hills which continues into Wales, largely dominated by agricultural and forestry enterprises. Wetlands are found in the river valleys of the Teme, Clun and Lugg, with some upland wetland interest.

WETLAND SSSI COVERAGE:

<i>SSSIs CONTAINING WETLAND HABITATS</i>	12/22 (54.5%)
<i>SSSIs DOMINATED BY A WETLAND HABITAT</i>	5 (22.7%)
<i>SSSI WETLAND DOMINANTS</i>	open water - pools (1), river (2), wet grassland (1), grazing marsh (1), unknown (1)
<i>SSSI NUTRIENT STATUS</i>	4 oligotrophic, 6 mesotrophic, 3 eutrophic, 3 unknown

KEY WETLAND TYPES: wet woodland (W6, W6d, W7); river (river type 2, 6, 8); fen (M6, M25, M27); mire (M4, M21); wet grassland (M23)

LENGTH OF RIVERS: 405 km

KEY WETLAND SITES: -

NATIONALLY RARE AND SCARCE WETLAND PLANT SPECIES:

ASSOCIATED INTERESTS: 1) invertebrate assemblages, fish, Atlantic stream crayfish and otter associated with rivers
2) breeding waders associated with wet grassland

KEY ISSUES: crayfish plague, eutrophication, acidification, river engineering, abstraction, agricultural improvement, management mechanism implementation, declining fish stocks, drought, grazing, recreation, drainage, water quality, neglect, lack of knowledge

WETLAND SSSI ISSUES: Pollution 5 (42%) Water levels 2 (17%) Recreation 4 (33%)

KEY OBJECTIVES: 1) Maintain and enhance the current extent, diversity and condition of the wetland habitats through appropriate monitoring and subsequent management, particularly river valleys and associated wetlands.
2) Meet all the requirements of international treaties relating to wetland conservation, namely the Ramsar convention, Birds Directive and Habitats and Species Directive.
3) Restore and enhance the hydrology, water quality and management of wetland sites that are currently in sub-optimum condition.
4) Seek opportunities for habitat creation of wetland habitats.
5) Maintain and enhance important populations of wetland plants and animals and carry out appropriate monitoring to determine their status, particularly species associated with river systems.
6) Liaise with the Environment Agency and other government bodies over policy issues and planning.

NATURAL AREA: **78 Oswestry Uplands**WETLAND SIGNIFICANCE: **MEDIUM**

DESCRIPTION:

This Natural Area consists of gently rolling hills, with a complex landscape which continues westwards into Wales. It is crossed by a series of rivers and streams flowing eastwards and eventually flowing into the River Severn.

WETLAND SSSI COVERAGE:

<i>SSSIs CONTAINING WETLAND HABITATS</i>	3/5 (60.0%)
<i>SSSIs DOMINATED BY A WETLAND HABITAT</i>	3 (60.0%)
<i>SSSI WETLAND DOMINANTS</i>	fen (2), wet grassland (1)
<i>SSSI NUTRIENT STATUS</i>	3 mesotrophic

KEY WETLAND TYPES: wet grassland (MG8, M23); fen (M9, M22, M27); rivers and streams (no data)

LENGTH OF RIVERS: 46 km

KEY WETLAND SITES: -

NATIONALLY RARE AND SCARCE WETLAND PLANT SPECIES:

Potamogeton compressus S

ASSOCIATED INTERESTS: 1) invertebrate assemblages and lower plants associated with mire habitats
2) invertebrate assemblages, Atlantic stream crayfish and otter associated with rivers and streams

KEY ISSUES: agricultural improvement, grazing, commons, mire management, drainage, pollution, abstraction

WETLAND SSSI ISSUES: Pollution 1 (33%) Water levels 1 (33%) Recreation 0

KEY OBJECTIVES: 1) Maintain and enhance the current extent, diversity and condition of the wetland habitats through appropriate monitoring and subsequent management.
2) Meet all the requirements of international treaties relating to wetland conservation, namely the Ramsar convention, Birds Directive and Habitats and Species Directive.
3) Restore and enhance the hydrology, water quality and management of wetland sites that are currently in sub-optimum condition.
4) Seek opportunities for habitat creation of wetland habitats.
5) Maintain and enhance important populations of wetland plants and animals and carry out appropriate monitoring to determine their status.
6) Liaise with the Environment Agency and other government bodies over policy issues and planning.

NATURAL AREA: 79 Mosses and Meres	WETLAND SIGNIFICANCE: OUTSTANDING
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DESCRIPTION:
 This Natural Area is largely flat or undulating with some small hills, glacial moraine features and steep stream valleys. There are numerous, small peat and open water habitats of international importance.

WETLAND SSSI COVERAGE:

<i>SSSIs CONTAINING WETLAND HABITATS</i>	61/84 (72.6%)
<i>SSSIs DOMINATED BY A WETLAND HABITAT</i>	50 (59.5%)
<i>SSSI WETLAND DOMINANTS</i>	open water - natural (23), open water - pools (5), open water - lagoon (1), mire (6), fen (11), canal (3), wet woodland (10), swamp (1), wet grassland (2)
<i>SSSI NUTRIENT STATUS</i>	5 dystrophic, 11 oligotrophic, 25 mesotrophic, 26 eutrophic, 1 marl, 1 brackish, 1 unknown

KEY WETLAND TYPES: aquatic (A2b, A4, A5b, A7, A8a, A9b, A10, A11, A11b, A15, A16a, A22a, A24a, b); fen (M5, M22b, M25, M26, M27, S25, S27, S28); wet heath (M16a); swamp (S3, S4, S4a, b, S7, S9, S10, S12, S12c, S13, S14b, S17); wet grassland (M23a, b, MG5a, c, MG8, MG9, MG10, MG13); mire (M2, M18a, M21); spring fen/ flush (M29); wet woodland (W2, W6, W6b, W7, W7a, W4, W4c, W5, W5c)

LENGTH OF RIVERS: 1,968 km

KEY WETLAND SITES: Meres & Mosses
 RAM 30, NCR 10, SAC 5

NATIONALLY RARE AND SCARCE WETLAND PLANT SPECIES:

<i>Thelypteris palustris</i>	S	<i>Hammarbya palludosa</i>	S	<i>Luronium natans</i>	S
<i>Cicuta virosa</i>	S	<i>Lycopodiella inundata</i>	S	<i>Myriophyllum verticillatum</i>	S
<i>Elatine hexandra</i>	S	<i>Pilularia globulifera</i>	S	<i>Pyrola rotundifolia</i>	S
<i>Carex elongata</i>	S	<i>Potamogeton compressus</i>	S	<i>Persicaria laxiflora</i>	S
<i>Nuphar pumila</i>	S	<i>Calamagrostis stricta</i>	RDB(R)	<i>Nymphoides peltata</i>	S

ASSOCIATED INTERESTS: 1) invertebrate assemblages, lower plants, breeding and wintering waders and wildfowl associated with the meres and mosses

KEY ISSUES: eutrophication, angling, pollution, isolation, recreation, abstraction, lack of knowledge, siltation/declining salinity of flashes, drainage, succession, Sphagnum collecting, habitat restoration, sand and peat extraction, development, education, commons, water level control, management mechanism implementation, agricultural improvement, canal restoration, siltation of canals, dredging

WETLAND SSSI ISSUES: Pollution 34 (56%) Water levels 32 (52%) Recreation 36 (59%)

KEY OBJECTIVES:

- 1) Maintain and enhance the current extent, diversity and condition of the wetland habitats through appropriate monitoring and subsequent management, particularly the outstanding diversity of wetland habitats associated with the Meres and Mosses.
- 2) Meet all the requirements of international treaties relating to wetland conservation, namely the Ramsar convention, Birds Directive and Habitats and Species Directive.
- 3) Restore and enhance the hydrology, water quality and management of wetland sites that are currently in sub-optimum condition, particularly agricultural pollution, water abstraction and drainage.
- 4) Seek opportunities for habitat creation of wetland habitats.
- 5) Maintain and enhance important populations of wetland plants and animals and carry out appropriate monitoring to determine their status, particularly species associated with the Meres and Mosses.
- 6) Liaise with the Environment Agency and other government bodies over policy issues and planning.

NATURAL AREA: **80 Staffordshire Uplands**WETLAND SIGNIFICANCE: **MEDIUM**

DESCRIPTION:

The Staffordshire Uplands is the transition area between the Trent Valley and Shropshire/Cheshire Plain and the higher ground of the Pennines. The Churnet Valley and its tributaries have some wetland interest.

WETLAND SSSI COVERAGE:

<i>SSSIs CONTAINING WETLAND HABITATS</i>	10/14 (71.4%)
<i>SSSIs DOMINATED BY A WETLAND HABITAT</i>	1 (7.1%)
<i>SSSI WETLAND DOMINANTS</i>	swamp (1)
<i>SSSI NUTRIENT STATUS</i>	5 oligotrophic, 5 mesotrophic, 1 eutrophic

KEY WETLAND TYPES: wet woodland (W7a, b, c); wet grassland (MG8, M23); mire (M19, M20); fen (M6c, M24, M25, M27); wet heath (M15, M16); river (no data)

LENGTH OF RIVERS: 516 km

KEY WETLAND SITES: -

NATIONALLY RARE AND SCARCE WETLAND PLANT SPECIES:

Lyrium natans 8

ASSOCIATED INTERESTS: 1) invertebrate assemblages, otter and Atlantic stream crayfish associated with river systems

KEY ISSUES: wet grassland management, grazing, scrub encroachment, agricultural improvement, air pollution, commons, invasive plants, drainage, burning, fragmentation, mineral extraction, recreation, horsiculture, abstraction, sewage, fish introductions, flood control

WETLAND SSSI ISSUES: Pollution 4 (40%) Water levels 4 (40%) Recreation 5 (50%)

KEY OBJECTIVES: 1) Maintain and enhance the current extent, diversity and condition of the wetland habitats through appropriate monitoring and subsequent management.
 2) Meet all the requirements of international treaties relating to wetland conservation, namely the Ramsar convention, Birds Directive and Habitats and Species Directive.
 3) Restore and enhance the hydrology, water quality and management of wetland sites that are currently in sub-optimum condition.
 4) Seek opportunities for habitat creation of wetland habitats.
 5) Maintain and enhance important populations of wetland plants and animals and carry out appropriate monitoring to determine their status.
 6) Liaise with the Environment Agency and other government bodies over policy issues and planning.