

Natural Area: North York Moors

Mountain and Moorland Significance:

Description: The North York Moors stretch from the Vale of York in the west to the coast in the east. The underlying geology is of Jurassic sandstone and shale with a belt of limestone exposed along the southern edge. These rocks form an upland plateau which is dissected by numerous valleys. Open moorland largely dominated by dry heath extends across the upland plateau, while the valleys support a mosaic of grasslands, woodlands, fast-running rivers and bracken on the steeper slopes.

Habitat	NVC present	Extent in Natural Area (1-fragmented, 2-frequent, 3-extensive)	Significance (1-internationally scarce with U.K. representation, UK-well developed in U.K. but represented elsewhere, L-Widely developed in Europe)
Blanket mire and wet heath (including Bog pool and flush and valley mires).	M6c	2	I
	M10	1	UK
	M13	1	?
	M15, M15a	2	UK
	M16	2	I
	M20b	2	UK
	M21	2	L
	M22	1	?
	M23	1	I
	M25b M27	2	I ?
Dry heath	H9	3	UK
	H10	1	UK
	H12	2	UK
	H18	1	L
	H21a	1?	I
Grassland and tall herb communities	U4	2	L
	U5	2	L
	U6	1	I
	U20, U20c	3	I
Scrub			

Nationally Rare and Scarce Plant Species:

None recorded

Key Issues	
Habitat	Issue
Blanket mire and wet heath	Burning, moor gripping/drainage?, adjacent forestry, grazing levels?
Dry heath	Access? Extent and frequency of burning. Bracken control. Pond creation for grouse management. Stock feeding and shepherding. Woodland regeneration.
Grassland and tall herb communities	Agricultural improvement? Afforestation/tree planting. Scrub encroachment and lack of traditional management.
Scrub	

Objective	
Habitat	Objective
Blanket mire and wet heath	
Dry heath	
Grassland and tall herb communities	
Scrub	

Significance: Important for holding the largest continuous tract of heather moor in England and probably the largest continuous area of H9 in Britain. Also important for good examples of wet heath (M16) and valley mire (M21).

Natural Area: Oswestry Uplands

Mountain and Moorland Significance:

Description: The Oswestry Uplands is one of the smallest Natural Areas and has affinities with areas in Wales. The Natural Area lies on Carboniferous rocks including limestone and millstone grits, along with coal measures and shales. The landscape is intricate and set in a complex of rolling hills and supports fragmented areas of mire and semi-natural grasslands.

Habitat	NVC present	Extent in Natural Area (1-fragmented, 2-frequent, 3-extensive)	Significance (1-internationally scarce with U.K. representation, UK-well developed in U.K. but represented elsewhere, L-Widely developed in Europe)
Blanket mire and wet heath (including Bog pool and flush and valley mires).	M9	1	L
	M22	1	?
	M27	1	?
Grassland and tall herb communities	CG2	2?	?
	MG8	1?	?
Scrub			

Nationally Rare and Scarce Plant Species:

(*Gymnocarpium robertianum*, *Hornungia petraea*, *Potentilla neumanniana*, *Sedum forsterianum*, *Sorbus rupicola*.)

Key Issues	
Habitat	Issue
Blanket mire and wet heath	Inappropriate grazing, lack of management, fragmentation and land reclamation for agriculture.
Grassland and tall herb communities	Inappropriate grazing, lack of management, quarrying, land improved for agriculture.
Scrub	-

Objective	
Habitat	Objective
Blanket mire and wet heath	
Grassland and tall herb communities	
Scrub	

Significance: This Natural Area does not hold any particularly significant areas of mountain and moorland vegetation.

Natural Area: Shropshire Hills
Mountain and Moorland Significance:

Description: The Shropshire Hills Natural Area lies between the Midlands Plain to the east and the Welsh hills to the west. It has a more varied geology than any other area of comparable size in Britain which includes volcanic and sedimentary rocks. The latter have given rise to the characteristic hog-back hills and deeply dissected moorland plateau of Long Mynd. The Shropshire Hills hold extensive tracts of moorland and other upland habitats, often showing transitions between southern lowland and northern upland types, managed within a farming regime.

Habitat	NVC present	Extent in Natural Area (1-fragmented, 2-frequent, 3-extensive)	Significance (1- internationally scarce with U.K. representation, UK -well developed in U.K. but represented elsewhere, L - Widely developed in Europe)
Blanket mire and wet heath (including Bog pool and flush and valley mires).	M6a, M6b, M6c, M6d	1	I
	M10	1	UK
	M11b	1	UK
	M19	1	UK
	M20a	1	UK
	M23	1	I
	M25	1	I
	M29	1	I
	M32	1	L
	M35	1	L
M36	1	L	
Dry heath	H8	1	I
	H9	1	UK
	H10	1	UK
	H12	1	UK
	H18	3	L
	H21a	2	I
Grassland and tall herb communities	U1b, U1e	1	L
	U4, U4a	3	L
	U5	1	L
	U6	2	I
	U20, U20c	2	I
	CG10	1	UK
Scrub			

Nationally Rare and Scarce Plant Species:
(*Dianthus deltoides*.)

Key Issues	
Habitat	Issue
Blanket mire and wet heath	Inappropriate grazing, inappropriate/excessive supplementary feeding, habitat fragmentation, land reclaimed for agriculture.
Dry heath	Inappropriate grazing, lack of burning, inappropriate/excessive supplementary feeding, habitat fragmentation, bracken invasion, land reclaimed for agriculture.
Grassland and tall herb communities	Inappropriate grazing, habitat improvement/reclaimed for agricultural purposes.
Scrub	

Objective	
Habitat	Objective
Blanket mire and wet heath	
Dry heath	
Grassland and tall herb communities	
Scrub	

Significance: The most significant feature of the Shropshire Hills is the transitional mix of upland and lowland dry heath communities (H8, H9, H12, H18, H21), managed within the upland sheep regime. U4, U6 and U20 are also frequent.

Natural Area: Southern Pennines

Mountain and Moorland Significance:

Description: The Southern Pennines Natural Area is that part of the Pennines chain found between the Yorkshire Dales and the Peak District. The Millstone Grit series of coarse pebbly gritstones with finer grained flagstones gives the rock outcrops of this area their typical profile. The landscape is characterised by deeply incised river valleys and flat moorland plateaux which reach their highest point at 517 metres at Lad Law above Colne.

Habitat	NVC present	Extent in Natural Area (1-fragmented, 2-frequent, 3-extensive)	Significance (1- internationally scarce with U.K. representation, UK -well developed in U.K. but represented elsewhere, L - Widely developed in Europe)
Blanket mire and wet heath (including Bog pool and flush & valley mires)	M2b	1	L
	M3	2	L
	M6a, M6c	2	I
	M10	2	UK
	M19b	3	UK
	M20a, M20b	3	UK
	M25, M25b	2	I
Dry heath	H9a, H9b, H9c, H9e	3	UK
	H12a	2	UK
	H18c	?	L
	CG9b	1	I
Grassland and tall herb communities	U2	2	L
	U4b	2	L
	U5d	2	L
	U6	1	I
	U20, U20a, U20c	3	I
Scrub			

Nationally Rare and Scarce Plant Species:

None recorded

Key Issues	
Habitat	Issue
Blanket mire and wet heath	Windfarms, access and recreation, gripping and burning.
Dry heath	Inappropriate grazing, burning, farm abandonment, access and gripping.
Grassland and tall herb communities	Overgrazing, bracken invasion, improvement, access and recreation.
Scrub	

Objective	
Habitat	Objective
Blanket mire and wet heath	
Dry heath	
Grassland and tall herb communities	
Scrub	

Significance: The Southern Pennines are of particular importance for their northern blanket bogs (nearing the edge of their range in the south) and dry heaths. They hold extensive areas of M19 and M20 along with large areas of the upland heathlands H9 and H12.

Natural Area: South West Peak

Mountain and Moorland Significance:

Description: This Natural Area lies between the Cheshire Plain to the west and the outcropping limestone of the White Peak to the east. The geology is of Carboniferous millstone grit and coal measures. The landscape character is of open moorland separated by small, enclosed rush pastures and improved grasslands. The moorland holds blanket mire and dry heath.

Habitat	NVC present	Extent in Natural Area (1-fragmented, 2-frequent, 3-extensive)	Significance (1-internationally scarce with U.K. representation, UK -well developed in U.K. but represented elsewhere, L - Widely developed in Europe)
Blanket mire and wet heath (including Bog pool and flush and valley mires).	M2b		L
	M3		L
	M6c, M6d	3	I
	M15a, M15b, M15d		UK
	M16	1	I
	M19, M19a, M19b	1	UK
	M20, M20a, M20b	3	UK
Dry heath	M23b	1	I
	M25b	2	I
	H8		I
	H9, H9a, H9b, H9c	3	UK
	H12, H12b, H12c	2	UK
Grassland and tall herb communities	H18	2	L
	U2	2	L
	U4, U4a, U4b	3	L
	U5, U5a, U5b, U5c	2	L
	U6a, U6c		I
Scrub	U20, U20a, U20b, U20c	3	I

Nationally Rare and Scarce Plant Species:

Myosotis stolonifera.

(*Luronium natans**)

Key Issues	
Habitat	Issue
Blanket mire and wet heath	Overgrazing, drainage, burning, improvement.
Dry heath	Bracken encroachment, overgrazing, burning.
Grassland and tall herb communities	Improvement, liming.
Scrub	

Objective	
Habitat	Objective
Blanket mire and wet heath	
Dry heath	
Grassland and tall herb communities	
Scrub	

Significance: Although the extensive blanket bogs are largely of the degraded, species-poor form (M20), the South West Peak is of some significance for its extensive dry heath (H9, H12 and H18).

Natural Area: Staffordshire Uplands

Mountain and Moorland Significance:

Description: The Staffordshire uplands occupy the undulating, rising ground between the upper Trent Valley and the Pennines of the South West Peak. The Natural Area is located on the Carboniferous coal measures which are sandwiched between sandstones and millstone grits. The low-lying hills support areas of dry heathland and blanket bog.

Habitat	NVC present	Extent in Natural Area (1-fragmented, 2-frequent, 3-extensive)	Significance (1- internationally scarce with U.K. representation, UK-well developed in U.K. but represented elsewhere, L - Widely developed in Europe)
Blanket mire and wet heath (including Bog pool and flush and valley mires).	M6c	2	I
	M15	2	UK
	M16	2	I
	M19	3	UK
	M20	2	UK
	M25	2	I
Dry heath	H8	3	I
	H9a, H9e		UK
Grassland and tall herb communities	U4a, U4b	3	L
	U5	2	L
Scrub			

Nationally Rare and Scarce Plant Species:

None recorded

Key Issues	
Habitat	Issue
Blanket mire and wet heath	Inappropriate grazing, scrub invasion.
Dry heath	Inappropriate grazing & burning, land reclamation for agriculture, scrub and bracken invasion, habitat fragmentation.
Grassland and tall herb communities	Grazing and stock type, scrub and bracken invasion.
Scrub	

Objective	
Habitat	Objective
Blanket mire and wet heath	
Dry heath	
Grassland and tall herb communities	
Scrub	

Significance: The Staffordshire uplands are important for the most southerly extensive area of northern blanket bog (M19) along with wet heath (M15, M16) and northern heath (H9).

Natural Area: White Peak

Mountain and Moorland Significance:

Description: This Natural Area lies at the southern end of the Pennine chain and is mostly within the Peak District National Park. The White Peak is one of the most important exposures of Carboniferous limestone in Britain. The landscape is formed by a plateau which is dissected by numerous valleys or dales. The plateau is dominated by improved pasture with only a vestige of semi-natural heathlands remaining. The dales hold unimproved calcareous grasslands, woodlands and limestone rivers.

Habitat	NVC present	Extent in Natural Area (1-fragmented, 2-frequent, 3-extensive)	Significance (I-internationally scarce with U.K. representation, UK-well developed in U.K. but represented elsewhere, L-Widely developed in Europe)
Dry heath	H8	1	I
	H9, H9c	1	UK
	H12	1	UK
Grassland and tall herb communities	U4b, U4c, U4e	2	L
	U5d	1	L
	CG2	2	?
	CG10a, CG10b	1	UK
Scrub			

Nationally Rare and Scarce Plant Species:

Dryopteris submontana, *Potentilla crantzii*.

(*Carex ornithopoda*, *Dianthus deltoides*, *Draba muralis*, *Epipactis atrorubens*, *Gymnocarpium robertianum*, *Hornungia petraea*, *Minuartia verna*, *Potentilla neumanniana*, *Sesleria caerulea*, *Sorbus rupicola*, *Thlaspi caerulescens*.)

Key Issues	
Habitat	Issue
Dry heath	Overgrazing, improvement, bracken invasion, habitat fragmentation.
Grassland and tall herb communities	Lack of management, bracken invasion, inappropriate grazing (especially undergrazing), scrub invasion, fertiliser run-off, recreational pressure.
Scrub	

Objective	
Habitat	Objective
Dry heath	
Grassland and tall herb communities	
Scrub	

Significance: Significant rock/scree communities, some small limestone pavements.

Natural Area: Yorkshire Dales
Mountain and Moorland Significance:

Description: The Yorkshire Dales are located between the Forest of Bowland and the Cumbrian Fells to the west and the Vale of York to the east. The Natural Area comprises a glaciated upland landscape of rounded hills and moors separated by broad valleys cut into the Carboniferous strata of limestone, millstone grit and shale. To the north and east the hills are blanketed by peat, forming dry heath and bog. Further south there are extensive areas of limestone grassland and pavement.

Habitat	NVC present	Extent in Natural Area (1-fragmented, 2-frequent, 3-extensive)	Significance (1-internationally scarce with U.K. representation, UK-well developed in U.K. but represented elsewhere, L-Widely developed in Europe)
Montane	U7	1	L
	H18c	1	L
	H19	1	L
Blanket mire and wet heath (including Bog Pool and flush & valley mires)	U17	1	L
	M3	1	L
	M4	1	L
	M6, M6a, M6c, M6d	3	I
	M9	1	L
	M10, M10b	2	UK
	M17	1	?
	M18b	1	UK
	M19a, M19b, M19c	2	UK
	M20, M20a, M20b	3	UK
	M23	3	I
	M25, M25b	2	I
	M26	1	I
	M27	1	?
	M32	1	L
M37	1	L	
Dry heath	H9, H9c	2	UK
	H12a	2	UK
Grassland and tall herb communities	U2	1	L
	U4a, U4b, U4d U4e	3	L
	U5a, U5b, U5d, U5e	3	L
	U6	2	I
	U19	1	L
	U20, U20c	2	I
	U21		L
	U22		?
	U23		?
	CG9a, CG9b, CG9c	2	I
	CG10a	2	UK
MG10	3	?	
Scrub	W19a		L

Nationally Rare and Scarce Plant Species: *Alchemilla glomerulans*, *A. minima**, *A. wichurae*, *Arenaria norvegica anglica**, *Bartsia alpina*, *Carex capillaris*, *Circaea alpina*, *Dryas octapetalla*, *Dryopteris submontana*, *Equisetum pratense*, *Euphrasia rostkoviana*, *Juncus alpinoarticulatus*, *Juncus filiformis*, *Ledum palustre groenlandicum*, *Myosotis stolonifera*, *Poa alpina*, *Polygala amarella*, *Potentilla crantzii*, *Saxifraga hirculus**, *Sedum villosum*.

(*Actaea spicata*, *Alchemilla glaucescens*, *Cardamine impatiens*, *Carex ornithopoda*, *Crepis mollis*, *Draba muralis*, *Epipactis atrorubens*, *Equisetum variegatum*, *Gymnocarpium robertianum*, *Hornungia petraea*, *Minuartia verna*, *Orbanche alba*, *Polygonatum odoratum*, *Potentilla neumanniana*, *Primula farinosa*, *Ribes spicatum*, *Sesleria caerulea*, *Sorbus rupicola*, *Thlaspi caerulescens*, *Veronica spicata*.)

Key Issues	
Habitat	Issue
Montane	Overgrazing
Blanket mire and wet heath	Overgrazing, drainage, pollution
Dry heath	Overgrazing, burning, drainage, improvement
Grassland and tall herb communities	Removal of rock from pavements, quarrying, overgrazing (including rabbits), improvement.
Scrub	

Objective	
Habitat	Objective
Montane	
Blanket mire and wet heath	
Dry heath	
Grassland and tall herb communities	
Scrub	

Significance: The Yorkshire Dales has a wide range of important plant communities. The highest hills support small areas of montane vegetation, including communities that are probably at their most southerly location in Britain (19, U7 and U17). There are also extensive areas of northern blanket bog (M19, M20) and dry heath (H9, H12) along with large allotments supporting the internationally important M23. That part of the Natural Area in Craven is important for areas of calcareous grassland (CG9 at the southern limit of its range, and CG10) and its limestone pavements. A large number of nationally scarce plants are associated with these communities.