

Links to information and maps on Rivers and Lakes, to help identify priority habitats, and restoration priorities outside of the priority habitat maps.

Biodiversity 2020 and the NERC Act (Section 41) require identification and mapping of priority habitats to help protect them from further impacts. Projects have been undertaken by Natural England in collaboration with Environment Agency and the Centre of Ecology and Hydrology, to identify priority river and lake habitat using nationally available data. The river priority habitat map has also undergone an initial process of local refinement. The project reports describe the rationale and data analysis behind these maps.

The priority habitat maps provide a focus for preventing deterioration of our most natural remaining lakes and rivers and undertaking any limited restoration of natural processes that may be desirable. The sites on these maps were selected as priority habitat based on naturalness criteria (physical, hydrological, chemical and biological).

For lakes there is also a map representing sites worthy of further investigation these are lakes where sufficient evidence was not available to classify them as priority habitat, but are considered most likely to be in good condition. These sites should be considered possible priority habitat until further investigations can be undertaken.

Maps of priority rivers and lakes for restoration are also available. These are sites which are not sufficiently natural to feature on the priority habitat map. These should be considered a priority for restoration of natural processes. Action on these rivers and lakes should be considered of equal importance to the protection and enhancement of rivers and lakes on the priority habitat map.

There is considerable scope for further local ground-truthing and refinement of these maps as they were initially generated using national data sets. Local knowledge and interpretation have an important role to play in the use of the outputs of this work. It has been recommended that these priority habitat maps continue to be updated applying the principles outlined in the reports.

- **The priority river habitat map can be found here:**
<http://defra.maps.arcgis.com/apps/OnePane/basicviewer/index.html?appid=7438df957a3847a5a4a54143136e1ee3>
- **Restoration priorities for rivers outside of the priority habitat map can be found here:**
<http://defra.maps.arcgis.com/apps/OnePane/basicviewer/index.html?appid=408a65a620bf4de6b329d6df34f77689>
- **The priority lake habitat map can be found here:**
<http://defra.maps.arcgis.com/apps/OnePane/basicviewer/index.html?appid=4681891777b844c883af0340c6ebd4c0>

- **Restoration priorities for lakes outside of the priority habitat map can be found here:**
<http://defra.maps.arcgis.com/apps/OnePane/basicviewer/index.html?appid=298ae11cb72b4fe2a15f457e6c227a95>
- **Lakes worth investigating for priority habitat status can be found here:**
<http://defra.maps.arcgis.com/apps/OnePane/basicviewer/index.html?appid=510cf1f3a3684ea894df4f30fd1c9716>
- **The supporting river priority habitat report(s) can be found here:**
<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5104941191397376?category=432368>
- **The supporting lake priority habitat report can be found here:**
<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5630174502584320?category=430388>

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