

Natural area 51:
SOUTH WESSEX DOWNS

Lowland Heathland Significance:
SOME

Description:

This Natural Area contains small areas of lowland heathland, particularly chalk heath on the top of the Downs

Key Lowland Heathland Types:

NVC H3 *Ulex minor* - *Agrostis curtisii* heath

Key Issues:

- Ensuring appropriate management of lowland heathland, particularly light grazing
- Restoring chalk heath vegetation

Key Objectives:

1. Maintain lowland heathland at favourable nature conservation status

Natural area 52:
DORSET HEATHS

Lowland Heathland Significance:
OUTSTANDING

Description:

This Natural Area is of outstanding importance for lowland heathland

Key Lowland Heathland Types:

NVC H2 *Calluna vulgaris* - *Ulex minor* heath
NVC H3 *Ulex minor* - *Agrostis curtisii* heath
NVC H4 *Ulex gallii* - *Agrostis curtisii* heath*
NVC H8 *Calluna vulgaris* - *Ulex gallii* heath*
NVC H11 *Calluna vulgaris* - *Carex arenaria* heath
NVC M16 *Erica tetralix* - *Sphagnum compactum* wet heath

*This community type is localised in distribution in this Natural Area

Key Issues:

- Reintroducing traditional heathland management, particularly light grazing
- Restoring areas of secondary woodland to lowland heathland
- Re-creating heathland on suitable soils to link up and extend heathland areas

Key Objectives:

1. Maintain lowland heathland at favourable nature conservation status
2. Restore and re-create lowland heathland

Natural area 53:
ISLES OF PORTLAND AND PURBECK

Lowland Heathland Significance:
SOME

Description:

This Natural Area includes a small area of chalk heath on one site

Key Lowland Heathland Types:

NVC H8 *Calluna vulgaris* - *Ulex gallii* heath (H8c *Sanguisorba minor* sub-community) (chalk heath)

Key Issues:

- Prevent scrub invasion by cutting and stump treatment and light grazing if practicable

Key Objectives:

1. Maintain heathland at favourable conservation status

Natural area 54:
WESSEX VALES

Lowland Heathland Significance:
SOME

Description:

This Natural Area contains only small areas of lowland heathland

Key Lowland Heathland Types:

NVC H4 *Ulex gallii* - *Agrostis curtisii* heath
NVC H8 *Calluna vulgaris* - *Ulex gallii* heath

Key Issues:

- Reintroducing traditional management of lowland heathland

Key Objectives:

1. Maintain heathland at favourable nature conservation status

Natural area 55: BLACKDOWNS	Lowland Heathland Significance: NOTABLE
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Description:

This Natural Area supports areas of lowland heathland which often occurs in association with mire communities

Key Lowland Heathland Types:

NVC H4 *Ulex gallii* - *Agrostis curtisii* heath
NVC H8 *Calluna vulgaris* - *Ulex gallii* heath

- Key Issues:
- Reintroducing traditional heathland management
 - Restoring woodland plantations to heathland

- Key Objectives:
1. Maintain lowland heathland at favourable conservation status through the Blackdown Hills ESA

Natural area 56:
DEVON REDLAND

Lowland Heathland Significance:
OUTSTANDING

Description:

This Natural Area is very important for lowland heathland

Key Lowland Heathland Types:

NVC H4 *Ulex gallii* - *Agrostis curtisii* heath

NVC M16 *Erica tetralix* - *Sphagnum compactum* wet heath

Key Issues:

- Re-introducing traditional heathland management
- Restoring areas of secondary woodland to lowland heathland

Key Objectives:

1. Maintain lowland heathland at favourable conservation status
2. Restore and re-create areas of lowland heathland to extend and link up heathland areas

Natural area 57:
SOUTH DEVON

Lowland Heathland Significance:
SOME

Description:

This Natural Area contains some areas of lowland heathland

Key Lowland Heathland Types:

NVC H4 *Ulex gallii* - *Agrostis curtisii* heath
NVC H7 *Calluna vulgaris* - *Scilla verna* heath

Key Issues:

- Reintroducing traditional heathland management

Key Objectives:

1. Maintain lowland heathland at favourable nature conservation status

Natural area 58: BODMIN MOOR	Lowland Heathland Significance: NOT APPLICABLE
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Description:

This is an upland Natural Area lacking lowland heathland

Key Lowland Heathland Types:

Key Issues:

Key Objectives:

Natural area 59:
CORNISH KILLAS AND GRANITE

Lowland Heathland Significance:
CONSIDERABLE

Description:

This Natural Area contains significant areas of lowland heathland, particularly humid and coastal heath

Key Lowland Heathland Types:

NVC H4 *Ulex gallii* - *Agrostis curtisii* heath
NVC H7 *Calluna vulgaris* - *Scilla verna* heath
NVC H8 *Calluna vulgaris* - *Ulex gallii* heath
NVC M16 *Erica tetralix* - *Sphagnum compactum* wet heath

Key Issues:

- Reintroducing traditional heathland management practices, especially light grazing and controlled burning
- Re-creating areas of lowland heathland where it will make a major contribution to reversing the effects of habitat fragmentation

Key Objectives:

1. Maintain lowland heathland at favourable nature conservation status through countryside management schemes such as the West Penwith ESA
2. Re-create heathland where it will produce the greatest benefits for nature conservation

Natural area 60:
THE LIZARD

Lowland Heathland Significance:
OUTSTANDING

Description:

This Natural Area is of outstanding importance for lowland heathland

Key Lowland Heathland Types:

NVC H4 *Ulex gallii* - *Agrostis curtisii* heath
NVC H6 *Erica vagans* - *Ulex europaeus* heath
NVC H7 *Calluna vulgaris* - *Scilla verna* heath
NVC H5 *Erica vagans* - *Schoenus nigricans* wet heath
NVC M16 *Erica tetralix* - *Sphagnum compactum* wet heath

Key Issues:

- Maintaining and reintroducing traditional management of heathland, particularly light grazing
- Re-establishing areas of heathland on suitable soils

Key Objectives:

1. Maintain heathland at favourable conservation status
2. Re-create heathland adjacent to existing heaths

Natural area 61: DARTMOOR	Lowland Heathland Significance: NOT APPLICABLE
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Description:

This is an upland Natural Area lacking lowland heathland

Key Lowland Heathland Types:

Key Issues:

Key Objectives:

Natural area 62:
CULM MEASURES

Lowland Heathland Significance:
NOTABLE

Description:

This Natural Area contains areas of lowland heathland including coastal maritime heath and wet heath associated with the Culm grassland

Key Lowland Heathland Types:

NVC H4 *Ulex gallii* - *Agrostis curtisii* heath
NVC H7 *Calluna vulgaris* - *Scilla verna* heath
NVC H8 *Calluna vulgaris* - *Ulex gallii* heath
NVC M16 *Erica tetralix* - *Sphagnum compactum* wet heath

Key Issues:

- Reintroducing traditional heathland management, particularly light grazing

Key Objectives:

1. Maintain heathland at favourable conservation status through scrub clearance and light grazing facilitated by countryside management schemes such as WES and Countryside Stewardship

Natural area 63:
EXMOOR AND THE QUANTOCKS

Lowland Heathland Significance:
NOTABLE

Description:

This Natural Area includes areas of lowland heathland on parts of Exmoor, the Quantocks and the Exmoor coast

Key Lowland Heathland Types:

NVC H4 *Ulex gallii* - *Agrostis curtisii* heath
NVC H8 *Calluna vulgaris* - *Ulex gallii* heath
NVC H10 *Calluna vulgaris* - *Erica cinerea* heath
NVC M16 *Erica tetralix* - *Sphagnum compactum* wet heath

Key Issues:

- Reintroducing traditional heathland management of lowland heathland
- Tackling the invasion of rhododendron on the Quantocks and Exmoor coastal heaths

Key Objectives:

1. Maintain heathland at favourable nature conservation status

Natural area 64: VALE OF TAUNTON	Lowland Heathland Significance: NOT APPLICABLE
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Description:

This Natural Area lacks lowland heathland

Key Lowland Heathland Types:

Key Issues:

Key Objectives:

Natural area 65:
MID SOMERSET HILLS

Lowland Heathland Significance:
NOT APPLICABLE

Description:

This Natural Area lacks lowland heathland

Key Lowland Heathland Types:

Key Issues:

Key Objectives:

Natural area 66: MENDIPS	Lowland Heathland Significance: NOT APPLICABLE
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Description:

This Natural Area lacks lowland heathland

Key Lowland Heathland Types:

Key Issues:

Key Objectives:

Natural area 67: SOMERSET LEVELS AND MOORS	Lowland Heathland Significance: NOT APPLICABLE
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Description:

This Natural Area lacks lowland heathland

Key Lowland Heathland Types:

Key Issues:

Key Objectives:

Natural area 68: AVON RIDGES AND VALLEYS	Lowland Heathland Significance: NOT APPLICABLE
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Description:

This Natural Area lacks lowland heathland

Key Lowland Heathland Types:

Key Issues:

Key Objectives:

Natural area 69: GREATER COTSWOLDS	Lowland Heathland Significance: SOME
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Description:

This Natural Area includes only one known lowland heathland site

Key Lowland Heathland Types:

NVC H8 *Calluna vulgaris* - *Ulex gallii* heath

Key Issues:

- Maintaining and restoring heathland particularly through scrub control and fencing to reduce the grazing pressure from rabbits and stock.

Key Objectives:

1. Restore heathland and maintain at favourable conservation status

Natural area 70:
SEVERN VALLEY

Lowland Heathland Significance:
SOME

Description:

This Natural Area contains only small areas of lowland heathland

Key Lowland Heathland Types:

NVC H8 *Calluna vulgaris* - *Ulex gallii* heath

Key Issues:

- Reintroducing traditional heathland management

Key Objectives:

1. Maintain heathland at favourable conservation status

Natural area 71:
MALVERN HILLS AND TEME VALLEY

Lowland Heathland Significance:
NOT APPLICABLE

Description:

This Natural Area lacks lowland heathland

Key Lowland Heathland Types:

Key Issues:

Key Objectives:

Natural area 72:
DEAN PLATEAU AND WYE VALLEY

Lowland Heathland Significance:
SOME

Description:

This Natural Area contains small areas of lowland heathland which occur in association with acidic grassland and mire communities

Key Lowland Heathland Types:

NVC H8 *Calluna vulgaris* - *Ulex gallii* heath

Key Issues:

- Reintroducing traditional heathland management
- Restoring areas of conifer and broadleaved plantation and mineral extraction sites to lowland heathland
- Managing recreational pressure

Key Objectives:

1. Restore areas of lowland heathland

Natural area 73: BLACK MOUNTAINS AND GOLDEN VALLEY	Lowland Heathland Significance: NOT APPLICABLE
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Description:

This is an upland Natural Area lacking lowland heathland

Key Lowland Heathland Types:

Key Issues:

Key Objectives:

Natural area 74: HEREFORD PLAIN	Lowland Heathland Significance: NOT APPLICABLE
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Description:

This Natural Area lacks lowland heathland

Key Lowland Heathland Types:

Key Issues:

Key Objectives:

Natural area 75:
MIDLANDS PLATEAU

Lowland Heathland Significance:
CONSIDERABLE

Description:

This Natural Area includes significant lowland heathland sites such as Cannock Chase and Sutton Park

Key Lowland Heathland Types:

NVC H8 *Calluna vulgaris* - *Ulex gallii* heath

NVC H9 *Calluna vulgaris* - *Deschampsia flexuosa* heath

NVC M16 *Erica tetralix* - *Sphagnum compactum* wet heath

Key Issues:

- Reintroducing or maintaining traditional heathland management, particularly light grazing
- Restoring areas of heathland that have been invaded by acidic grassland, bracken and secondary woodland. Restoring areas of coniferous plantation to heathland where this will enhance the conservation of existing sites
- Managing recreational pressure
- Achieving the erection of fencing on common land to enable the light grazing of heathland

Key Objectives:

1. Maintain heathland at favourable conservation status
2. Pursue opportunities for heathland restoration and re-creation in suitable locations

Natural area 76:
SHROPSHIRE HILLS

Lowland Heathland Significance:
NOTABLE

Description:

This Natural Area contains heathland that is transitional between lowland heathland and upland heather moorland

Key Lowland Heathland Types:

NVC H8 *Calluna vulgaris* - *Ulex gallii* heath
NVC H9 *Calluna vulgaris* - *Deschampsia flexuosa* heath

Key Issues:

- Ensuring appropriate traditional management of lowland heathland
- Restoring heathland from areas of secondary woodland and coniferous plantation

Key Objectives:

1. Maintain heathland at favourable nature conservation status

Natural area 77:
CENTRAL MARCHES

Lowland Heathland Significance:
NOT APPLICABLE

Description:

This is an upland Natural Area which lacks lowland heathland

Key Lowland Heathland Types:

Key Issues:

Key Objectives:

Natural area 78: OSWESTRY UPLANDS	Lowland Heathland Significance: NOT APPLICABLE
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Description:

This is an upland Natural Area lacking lowland heathland

Key Lowland Heathland Types:

Key Issues:

Key Objectives:

Natural area 79:
MOSSES AND MERES

Lowland Heathland Significance:
SOME

Description:

This Natural Area contains a number of relatively small areas of lowland heathland found on areas of sandy glacial outwash and Triassic sandstone ridges. Both dry and wet heath are found, the latter in areas where boulder clay impedes drainage through the sand, giving rise to the localised development of thin lenses of peat

Key Lowland Heathland Types:

NVC H9 *Calluna vulgaris* - *Deschampsia flexuosa* heath
NVC M16 *Erica tetralix* - *Sphagnum compactum* wet heath

Key Issues:

- Reintroducing traditional heathland management, particularly light grazing
- Restoring areas of heathland that have been invaded by acidic grassland (*Deschampsia flexuosa* and *Molinia caerulea*), bracken and secondary woodland
- Managing recreational pressure
- Achieving the erection of fencing on common land to enable light grazing of heathland

Key Objectives:

1. Maintain heathland at favourable conservation status
2. Restore areas of secondary woodland and abandoned sand and gravel workings to lowland heathland

Natural area 80:
NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE

Lowland Heathland Significance:
SOME

Description:

This is a transitional Natural Area showing both upland and lowland characteristics. Whilst the higher ground on the fringes of the Pennines supports heath which is more allied to neighbouring areas of heather moorland, lowland heath occurs at lower elevations, particularly around the Potteries conurbation on Triassic sandstones, Coal Measures and low altitude Millstone Grits

Key Lowland Heathland Types:

NVC H9 *Calluna vulgaris* - *Deschampsia flexuosa* heath (H9a *Hypnum cupressiforme* and H9e *Molinia caerulea* sub-communities)

Key Issues:

- Reintroducing traditional heathland management particularly light grazing
- Restoring areas of heathland that have been invaded by acidic grassland, bracken and secondary woodland
- Managing recreational pressure
- Achieving the erection of fencing on common land to enable the light grazing of heathland

Key Objectives:

1. Maintain heathland at favourable conservation status
2. Pursue opportunities for heathland restoration and re-creation in suitable locations

Natural area 81: UPPER TRENT VALLEY	Lowland Heathland Significance: NOT APPLICABLE
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Description:

This Natural Area lacks lowland heathland

Key Lowland Heathland Types:

Key Issues:

Key Objectives:

Natural area 82:
THE DERWENT VALLEY

Lowland Heathland Significance:
NOT APPLICABLE

Description:

This Natural Area lacks lowland heathland

Key Lowland Heathland Types:

Key Issues:

Key Objectives:

Natural area 83: WHITE PEAK	Lowland Heathland Significance: NOT APPLICABLE
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Description:

This is an upland Natural Area lacking lowland heathland

Key Lowland Heathland Types:

Key Issues:

Key Objectives:

Natural area 84: SOUTH WEST PEAK	Lowland Heathland Significance: NOT APPLICABLE
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Description:

This is an upland Natural Area lacking lowland heathland

Key Lowland Heathland Types:

Key Issues:

Key Objectives:

Natural area 85: DARK PEAK	Lowland Heathland Significance: NOT APPLICABLE
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Description:

This is an upland Natural Area lacking lowland heathland

Key Lowland Heathland Types:

Key Issues:

Key Objectives:

Natural area 86:
URBAN MERSEY BASIN

Lowland Heathland Significance:
NOTABLE

Description:

This Natural Area includes some areas of lowland heathland

Key Lowland Heathland Types:

NVC H8 *Calluna vulgaris* - *Ulex gallii* heath
NVC H9 *Calluna vulgaris* - *Deschampsia flexuosa* heath
NVC H11 *Calluna vulgaris* - *Carex arenaria* heath
NVC M16 *Erica tetralix* - *Sphagnum compactum* wet heath

Key Issues:

- Reintroducing traditional management of lowland heathland, particularly light grazing
- Restoring grazing heathland that has been invaded by areas of scrub, secondary woodland and bracken to open heath

Key Objectives:

1. Maintain heathland at favourable conservation status
2. Restore areas of scrub, secondary woodland and bracken to open heathland

Natural area 87:
LANCASHIRE PLAIN AND VALLEYS

Lowland Heathland Significance:
SOME

Description:

This Natural Area contains only small areas of lowland heathland which mostly occurs in association with other habitats or on disused quarries

Key Lowland Heathland Types:

NVC H9 *Calluna vulgaris* - *Deschampsia flexuosa* heath

Key Issues:

- Maintaining heathland through conservation management
- Explore opportunities for heathland re-creation on disused quarries

Key Objectives:

1. Maintain heathland at favourable conservation status

Natural area 88: FOREST OF BOWLAND	Lowland Heathland Significance: NOT APPLICABLE
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Description:

This is an upland Natural Area lacking lowland heatfland

Key Lowland Heathland Types:

Key Issues:

Key Objectives:

Natural area 89: CUMBRIAN FELLS AND DALES	Lowland Heathland Significance: NOT APPLICABLE
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Description:

This is an upland Natural Area lacking lowland heathland

Key Lowland Heathland Types:

Key Issues:

Key Objectives:

Natural area 90:
EDEN VALLEY

Lowland Heathland Significance:
NOTABLE

Description:

Outcrops of Penrith sandstone form low hills within the Eden Valley which support areas of lowland heathland. Smaller areas of wet heathland are found on the margins of basin mires scattered throughout the Natural Area.

Key Lowland Heathland Types:

NVC H9 *Calluna vulgaris* - *Deschampsia flexuosa* heath
NVC H12 *Calluna vulgaris* - *Vaccinium myrtillus* heath

Key Issues:

- Fragmentation and loss of non-SSSI heathland to forestry and agricultural reclamation on the Penrith sandstone.
- Quarrying of sandstone and sand.

Key Objectives:

1. Maintain heathland at favourable conservation status
2. Reverse fragmentation by encouraging the re-creation of heathland, for example where forestry has been planted on former heathland.

Natural area 91:
WEST CUMBRIA COASTAL PLAIN

Lowland Heathland Significance:
NOTABLE

Description:

This Natural Area contains significant areas of dune heath

Key Lowland Heathland Types:

NVC H11 *Calluna vulgaris* - *Carex arenaria* heath

Key Issues:

- Ensuring traditional management of dune heath

Key Objectives:

1. Maintain heathland at favourable conservation status

Natural area 92:
SOLWAY BASIN

Lowland Heathland Significance:
SOME

Description:

This Natural Area contains areas of dune heath

Key Lowland Heathland Types:

NVC H11 *Calluna vulgaris* - *Carex arenaria* heath

Key Issues:

- Ensuring traditional management of dune heath

Key Objectives:

1. Maintain heathland at favourable conservation status

Natural area MNA 17:
ISLES OF SCILLY

Lowland Heathland Significance:
OUTSTANDING

Description:

The Isles of Scilly consist of an archipelago of over 200 low lying granitic islands and rocks located about 28 miles south-west of Lands End. The extreme Atlantic influence is responsible for important stands of maritime heath whose "waved" form results from exposure to wind and salt spray from the sea.

Key Lowland Heathland Types:

NVC H7 *Calluna vulgaris* - *Scilla verna* heath
NVC H8 *Calluna vulgaris* - *Ulex gallii* heath

Key Issues:

- Reintroducing cattle grazing where appropriate
- Controlling extensive areas of bracken through swiping or spraying (although areas of bracken should be retained for their sheltering effect from strong winds)

Key Objectives:

1. Maintain heathland at favourable conservation status through cattle grazing and bracken control where appropriate

