

# Lowland heathland in England

A Natural Areas approach

No. 170 - English Nature Research Reports



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**ENGLISH NATURE RESEARCH REPORTS**

**NUMBER 170**

**LOWLAND HEATHLAND IN ENGLAND:  
A NATURAL AREAS APPROACH**

**NICK MICHAEL**

**Heathland Project Manager  
Lowlands Team**

**ISSN 0967-876X  
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## PART II LOWLAND HEATHLAND PROFILES FOR ENGLAND'S NATURAL AREAS

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English Nature Research Reports

Supplement to Number 170

**Lowland heathland in England: a Natural Areas approach**

Nick Michael

English Nature  
Lowlands Team

## 1. Introduction

Since the above document was published in 1996, the Natural Areas map has been revised following further analysis in tandem with the Countryside Commission (Figure 1). Each new Natural Area (NA) coincides with one or more of the Countryside Commission's Character Areas.

The new map is not radically different from the first version but there are nonetheless a number of changes which include:

- a. boundary changes to the original NAs;
- b. the appearance of new NAs which either fall wholly within the boundary of an original NA (e.g. 96 - West Penwith from Cornish Killas & Granites) or cross cut a number of old NAs (e.g. 44 Midland Clay Pastures from Severn Valley, Greater Cotswolds and Middle England);
- c. name changes e.g. Central Marches is now known as Clun and North West Herefordshire Hills (58).

In view of these changes it was felt desirable to provide revised lowland heathland significance assessments for the new Natural Areas to ensure that national priorities for heathland conservation are fully up to date.

## 2. Methodology

Since ENRR 170 was published, the joint English Nature/RSPB project (English Nature/RSPB 1994, 1995, 1996) to produce Lowland Heathland Inventories for all counties in England has been completed and this allows a revised assessment of the significance of NAs to be made in this supplement. It should however be emphasised that the figures taken from the lowland heathland inventories are provisional. In particular it should be noted that survey coverage of the area of open heath (ie. the combined area of dry, wet, chalk/limestone and lichen heath) is incomplete for all *except* the following NAs: 1, 25, 29, 30, 38, 41, 45, 53, 61, 78, 79, 84, 88, 114. Figures for the remaining NAs are therefore likely to be underestimates.

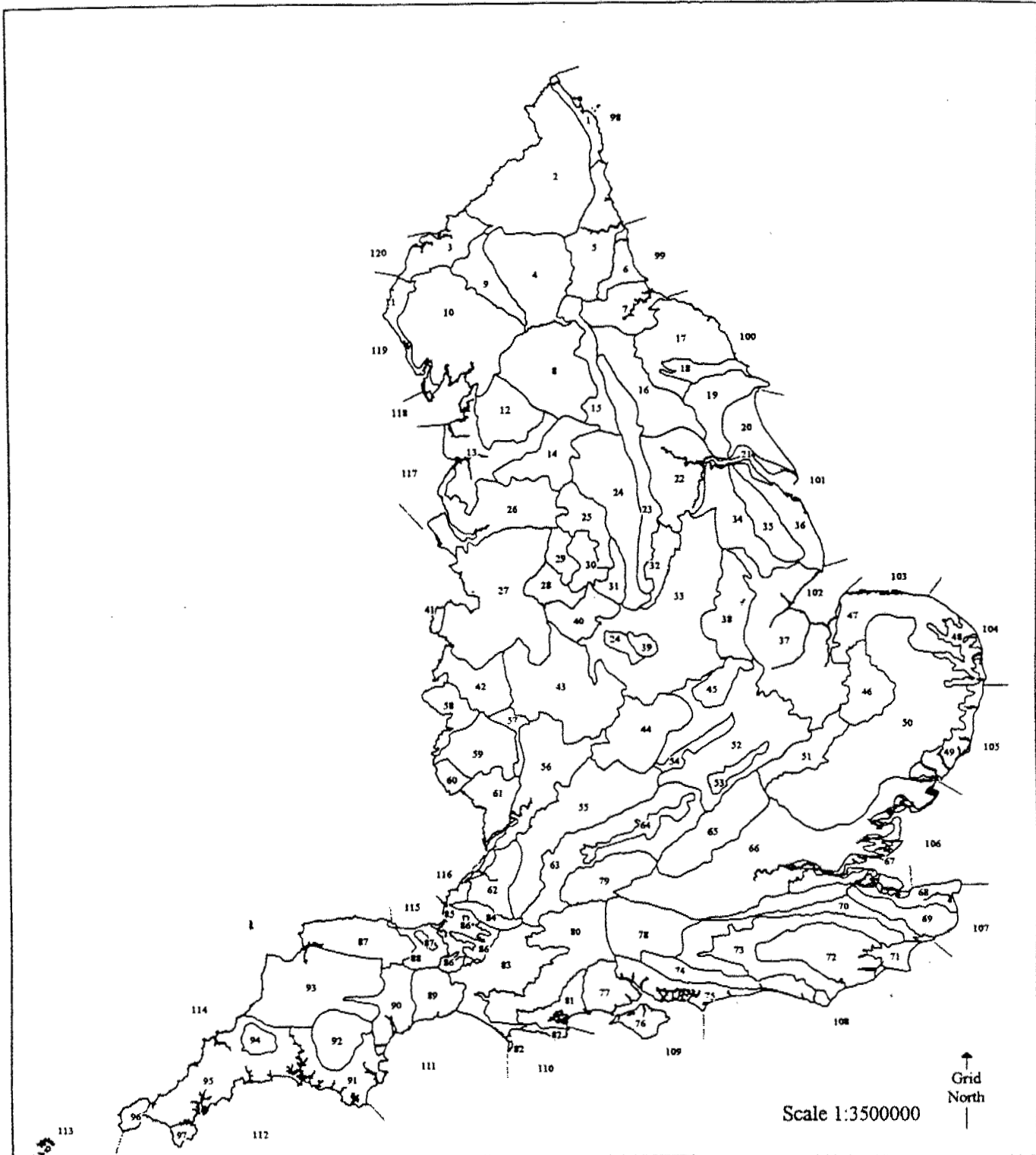
Table 1 lists the new NAs with the revised significance assessments. The third column provides provisional figures in hectares for the area of open heath in a NA (ie. the combined area of dry, wet, chalk/limestone and lichen heath) taken from the English Nature/RSPB Lowland Heathland Inventory.

## 3. Reference

English Nature/RSPB (1994, 1995, 1996) The Lowland Heathland Inventory. English Nature, Peterborough.

Figure 1.

Natural Areas



- |                                       |  |  |  |                                  |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|--|----------------------------------|--|
| 1. North Northumberland Coastal Plain | 11. West Cumbria Coastal Plain               | 21. Humber Estuary                       | 31. Derbyshire Peak Fringe and Lower Derwent     | 41. Dorset Uplands               | 51. East Anglian Clunk                       |
| 2. Border Uplands                     | 12. Forest of Bowland                        | 22. Hamblehead Levels                    | 32. Sherwood                                     | 42. Shropshire Hills             | 52. West Anglian Plains                      |
| 3. Solway Basin                       | 13. Lancashire Plains and Valleys            | 23. Southern Magnesian Limestone         | 33. Trent Valley and Rises                       | 43. Midlands Plateaus            | 53. Bedfordshire Greensand Ridge             |
| 4. North Pennines                     | 14. Southern Pennines                        | 24. Coal Measures                        | 34. North Lincolnshire Cooresands and Clay Vales | 44. Midlands Clay Pastures       | 54. Yardley-Whittlewood Ridge                |
| 5. Northumbria Coal Measures          | 15. Pennine Dales Fringe                     | 25. Dark Peak                            | 35. Lincolnshire Wolds                           | 45. Rockingham Forest            | 55. Cotswolds                                |
| 6. Durham Magnesian Limestone Plateau | 16. Vale of York and Mowbray                 | 26. Urban Mersey Basin                   | 36. Lincolnshire Coast and Marshes               | 46. Breckland                    | 56. Severn and Avon Vales                    |
| 7. Tees Lowlands                      | 17. North York Moors and Hills               | 27. Moors and Mars                       | 37. The Fens                                     | 47. North Norfolk                | 57. Malvern Hills and Teme Valley            |
| 8. Yorkshire Dales                    | 18. Vale of Pickering                        | 28. Fosses and Charvat Valley            | 38. Lincolnshire and Rutland Limestone           | 48. The Brecks                   | 58. Churn and North West Herefordshire Hills |
| 9. Eden Valley                        | 19. Yorkshire Wolds                          | 29. South West Peak                      | 39. Cherrwood                                    | 49. Suffolk Coast and Heath      | 59. Central Herefordshire                    |
| 10. Cumbria Fells and Dales           | 20. Holderness                               | 30. White Peak                           | 40. Needwood and South Derbyshire Claylands      | 50. East Anglian Plain           | 60. Black Mountains and Golden Valley        |
| 61. Deen Plateaus and Wye Valley      | 71. Romney Marshes                           | 81. Dorset Heaths                        | 91. South Devon                                  | 101. Bridlington to Skegness     | 111. Lyme Bay                                |
| 62. Bristol, Avon Valleys and Ridges  | 72. High Weald                               | 82. Inlet of Portland and Purbeck        | 92. Dorsetmoor                                   | 102. The Wash                    | 112. Start Point to Land's End               |
| 63. Thames and Avon Vales             | 73. Low Weald and Percepsay                  | 83. Wessex Vales                         | 93. The Culm                                     | 103. Old Hamarston to Sheringham | 113. Isles of Scilly                         |
| 64. Midvale Ridge                     | 74. South Downs                              | 84. Mendip Hills                         | 94. Bodmin Moor                                  | 104. Sheringham to Lowestoft     | 114. Land's End to Minstead                  |
| 65. Chilterns                         | 75. South Coast Plain and Hampshire Lowlands | 85. Somerset Levels and Moors            | 95. Cornish Killas and Granite                   | 105. Suffolk Coast               | 115. Bridgewater Bay                         |
| 66. London Basins                     | 76. Isle of Wight                            | 86. Mid Somerset Hills                   | 96. West Pennine                                 | 106. North Kent Coast            | 116. Severn Estuary                          |
| 67. Greater Thames Estuary            | 77. New Forest                               | 87. Enmore and the Quantocks             | 97. The Lizard                                   | 107. East Kent Coast             | 117. Liverpool Bay                           |
| 68. North Kent Plains                 | 78. Hampshire Downs                          | 88. Vale of Taunton and Quantock Fringes | 98. Northumberland Coast                         | 108. Folkestone to Sealee Bill   | 118. Morecambe Bay                           |
| 69. North Downs                       | 79. Berkshire and Marlborough Downs          | 89. Blackdowns                           | 99. Tyce to Tees Coast                           | 109. Solent and Poole Bay        | 119. Cumbrian Coast                          |
| 70. Wealden Greensand                 | 90. South Wessex Downs                       | 90. Devon Redlands                       | 100. Saltham to Bridlington                      | 110. South Dorset Coast          | 120. Solway Firth                            |

**Table 1. Lowland heathland significance assessments for terrestrial and maritime Natural Areas**

New Natural Area	Lowland heathland significance	Provisional currently recorded area of open heath (combined area of dry, wet, chalk/limestone and lichen heath) (has) (Source: English Nature/RSPB Lowland Heathland Inventory)
1. North Northumberland Coastal plain	SOME	6.7
2. Border Uplands	NOT APPLICABLE: UPLAND	(22.4)
3. Solway Basin	SOME	9.8
4. North Pennines	NOT APPLICABLE: UPLAND	(2.2)
5. Northumbria Coal Measures	SOME	100.8
6. Durham Magnesian Limestone Plateau	SOME	1.2
7. Tees Lowlands	NOT APPLICABLE	0
8. Yorkshire Dales	NOT APPLICABLE	0
9. Eden Valley	NOTABLE	0 (but heathland known to occur)
10. Cumbria Fells & Dales	SOME	87.7
11. West Cumbria Coastal Plain	NOTABLE	75.1
12. Forest of Bowland	SOME	1
13. Lancashire Plain & Valleys	SOME	1.1
14. Southern Pennines	NOT APPLICABLE: UPLAND	(20.5)
15. Pennine Dales Fringe	NOT APPLICABLE	0

16. Vale of York & Mowbray	CONSIDERABLE	15.6
17. North York Moors & Hills	NOT APPLICABLE: UPLAND	(0)
18. Vale of Pickering	NOT APPLICABLE	0
19. Yorkshire Wolds	NOT APPLICABLE	0
20. Holderness	NOT APPLICABLE	0
21. Humber Estuary	NOT APPLICABLE	0
22. Humberhead Levels	CONSIDERABLE	339.5
23. Southern Magnesian Limestone	SOME	1.9
24. Coal Measures	SOME	15.2
25. Dark Peak	NOT APPLICABLE: UPLAND	(3.3)
26. Urban Mersey Basin	NOTABLE	240.6
27. Mosses & Meres	SOME	183
28. Potteries & Churnet Valley	SOME	93.6
29. South West Peak	NOT APPLICABLE: UPLAND	(6.6)
30. White Peak	NOT APPLICABLE: UPLAND	(14.4)
31. Derbyshire Peak Fringe & Lower Derwent	SOME	11
32. Sherwood	NOTABLE	183.4
33. Trent Valley & Rises	SOME	6.9



34. North Lincolnshire Coversands & Clay Vales	CONSIDERABLE	362.6
35. Lincolnshire Wolds	NOT APPLICABLE	0
36. Lincolnshire Coast & Marshes	NOT APPLICABLE	0
37. The Fens	SOME	1.3
38. Lincolnshire & Rutland Limestone	SOME	1.2
39. Charnwood	SOME	31.3
40. Needwood & South Derbyshire Claylands	NOT APPLICABLE	0
41. Oswestry Uplands	SOME	21.2
42. Shropshire Hills	NOTABLE	146.1
43. Midlands Plateau	CONSIDERABLE	1372.9
44. Midland Clay Pasture	SOME	1
45. Rockingham Forest	SOME	0.1
46. Breckland	OUTSTANDING	581.7
47. North Norfolk	CONSIDERABLE	337.5
48. The Broads	SOME	4
49. Suffolk Coast & Heaths	OUTSTANDING	473.2
50. East Anglian Plain	SOME	0.9
51. East Anglian Chalk	SOME	0 (but heathland known to occur)
52. West Anglian Plain	NOT APPLICABLE	0
53. Bedfordshire Greensand Ridge	SOME	11.4

54. Yardley-Whittlewood Ridge	NOT APPLICABLE	0
55. Cotswolds	SOME	2.4
56. Severn & Avon Vales	SOME	0 (but heathland known to occur)
57. Malvern Hills & Teme Valley	NOT APPLICABLE	0
58. Clun & North West Herefordshire Hills	SOME	0 (but heathland known to occur)
59. Central Herefordshire	NOT APPLICABLE	0
60. Black Mountains & Golden Valley	NOT APPLICABLE	0
61. Dean Plateau & Wye Valley	SOME	2.8
62. Bristol, Avon Valleys & Ridges	NOT APPLICABLE	0
63. Thames & Avon Vales	NOT APPLICABLE	0
64. Midvale Ridge	SOME	10.7
65. Chilterns	SOME	37.7
66. London Basin	OUTSTANDING	3271.7
67. Greater Thames Estuary	NOT APPLICABLE	0
68. North Kent Plain	SOME	29.3
69. North Downs	SOME	36.3
70. Wealden Greensand	OUTSTANDING	1878.2
71. Romney Marshes	NOT APPLICABLE	0
72. High Weald	OUTSTANDING	665.9
73. Low Weald & Pevensy	SOME	22.3

74. South Downs	NOTABLE	19.7
75. South Coast Plain & Hampshire Lowlands	SOME	73.3
76. Isle of Wight	SOME	35.4
77. New Forest	OUTSTANDING	7871.9
78. Hampshire Downs	SOME	0.7
79. Berkshire & Marlborough Downs	SOME	5.5
80. South Wessex Downs	SOME	33
81. Dorset Heaths	OUTSTANDING	4571.3
82. Isles of Portland & Purbeck	SOME	1
83. Wessex Vales	SOME	2
84. Mendip Hills	NOTABLE	54.7
85. Somerset Levels & Moors	NOT APPLICABLE	0
86. Mid Somerset Hills	NOT APPLICABLE	0
87. Exmoor & the Quantocks	NOTABLE	454
88. Vale of Taunton & Quantock Fringes	SOME	4.7
89. Blackdowns	SOME	49.5
90. Devon Redlands	OUTSTANDING	970
91. South Devon	SOME	132.5
92. Dartmoor	NOT APPLICABLE: UPLAND	(584.9)
93. The Culm	NOTABLE	269.7
94. Bodmin Moor	NOT APPLICABLE: UPLAND	(39)

95. Cornish Killas & Granites	OUTSTANDING	1445.7
96. West Penwith	OUTSTANDING	619.2
97. The Lizard	OUTSTANDING	403.9
113. Isles of Scilly	OUTSTANDING	75.4
114. Land's End to Minehead	SOME	164.7

Not applicable: upland signifies upland Natural Areas. The areas of lowland heathland in the Lowland Heathland Inventory for upland Natural Areas will tend to be overestimates in relation to the currently recorded area. This is because in addition to heathland occurring below 250 metres in altitude some sites originate below 250 metres and extend to higher altitudes. Sites originating below 250 metres in altitude but extending above 250 metres were included in the Inventory because separate figures for the area of heathland below and above 250 metres were not necessarily available.

Some NAs which support relatively small areas of lowland heathland may have a higher significance assessment than would otherwise be the case purely on the grounds of areal extent because of the particular rarity of certain heathland types such as dune heath (NVC H11 and sometimes H1d) and calcareous heathland (chalk/limestone heath, including H8c) which they support.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

During 1995/96 English Nature's Lowlands Team produced individual profiles of Natural Areas for a range of habitats including lowland heathland. The format that has been used here for lowland heathland largely follows that of Grice *et al.* (1994) in *Birds in England: a Natural Areas approach*.

## 2. METHODS

### 2.1 Data sources

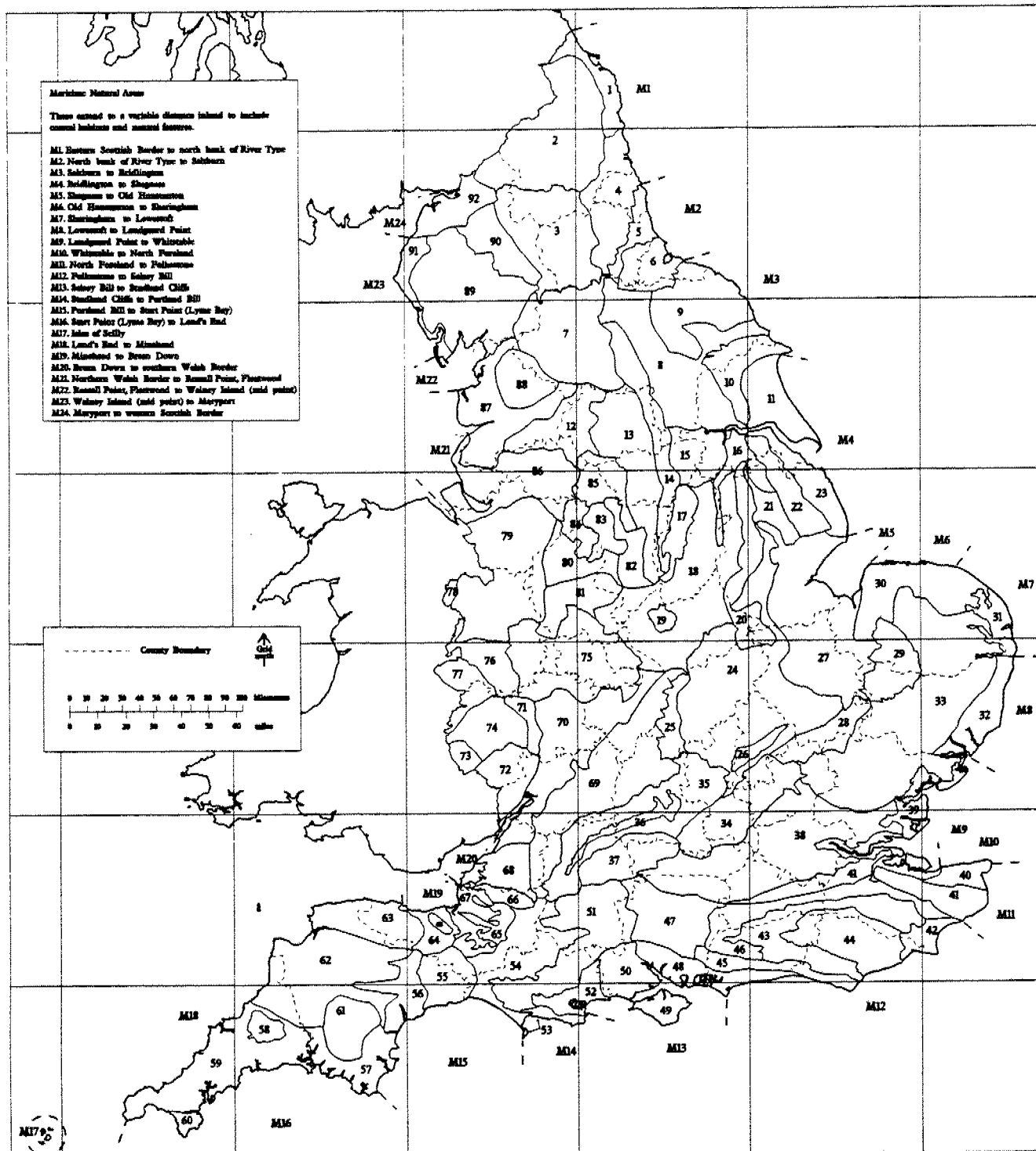
The principal data sources used in preparing the profiles were:

1. Joint English Nature/RSPB lowland heathland county inventories.
2. The initial Natural Area profiles produced by English Nature Local Teams.
3. Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) citations.
4. British Plant Communities: volume 2: mires and heaths (Rodwell, J.S. (*Ed.*) 1991).

### 2.2 Classification of the profiles

At the time of preparing the lowland heathland profiles, joint English Nature and RSPB lowland heathland inventories had only been prepared for 13 key counties. This meant it was not possible to make a purely objective assessment of the relative significance of different Natural Areas based on the extent of lowland heathland present in different Natural Areas. Accordingly the ranking system that has been used relies on expert best judgement. In addition to the four categories used by Grice *et al.* (1994) namely, 1. "outstanding" (the highest), 2. "considerable", 3. "notable" and 4. "some" (the lowest), an additional category of 5. "not applicable" has been used in the case of Natural Areas in which lowland heathland is absent.

Figure 1.



**Maritime Natural Areas**

These extend to a variable distance inland to include coastal habitats and natural features.

M1. Eastern Scottish Border to north bank of River Tyne  
M2. North bank of River Tyne to Saltburn  
M3. Saltburn to Reddingham  
M4. Reddingham to Skegness  
M5. Skegness to Old Embsayton  
M6. Old Embsayton to Easingham  
M7. Easingham to Lowestoft  
M8. Lowestoft to Landguard Point  
M9. Landguard Point to Whitstable  
M10. Whitstable to North Foreland  
M11. North Foreland to Falmouth  
M12. Falmouth to Salway Hill  
M13. Salway Hill to Studland Cliff  
M14. Studland Cliff to Portland Bill  
M15. Portland Bill to Start Point (Lyons Bay)  
M16. Start Point (Lyons Bay) to Land's End  
M17. Isles of Scilly  
M18. Land's End to Minstead  
M19. Minstead to Devon Down  
M20. Devon Down to southern Welsh Border  
M21. Northern Welsh Border to Ramall Point, Pembrokeshire  
M22. Ramall Point, Pembrokeshire to Walsay Island (mid point)  
M23. Walsay Island (mid point) to Aberystwyth  
M24. Aberystwyth to western Scottish Border

- |                                  |                                 |                                   |                                       |                                  |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Northumberland Coastal Plain  | 19. Cherrwood Forest            | 38. London Basin                  | 56. Devon Redland                     | 74. Hereford Plain               |
| 2. Border Uplands                | 20. Lincolnshire Limestone      | 39. Thames Marshes                | 57. South Devon                       | 75. Midlands Fescue              |
| 3. North Pennines                | 21. Lincolnshire Clay Vales     | 40. North Kent Plain              | 58. Bodmin Moor                       | 76. Shropshire Hills             |
| 4. Northumbrian Coal Measures    | 22. Lincolnshire Wolds          | 41. North Downs                   | 59. Cornish Kilns and Granite         | 77. Central Marches              |
| 5. Durham Magnesian Limestone    | 23. Lincolnshire Wolds          | 42. Romney Marsh                  | 60. The Lizard                        | 78. Cotswold Uplands             |
| 6. Lower Tarn                    | 24. Middle England              | 43. Low Weald                     | 61. Dartmoor                          | 79. Mendips and Mynydd           |
| 7. Yorkshire Dales               | 25. Northamptonshire Uplands    | 44. High Weald                    | 62. Culm Measures                     | 80. Staffordshire Uplands        |
| 8. The Vales of Yorkshire        | 26. Bedfordshire Greensand      | 45. South Downs                   | 63. Exmoor and the Quantocks          | 81. Upper Trent Valley           |
| 9. North York Moors              | 27. Fenland                     | 46. Greensand                     | 64. Vale of Tees                      | 82. The Derwent Valley           |
| 10. Yorkshire Wolds              | 28. East Anglian Southern Clink | 47. Hampshire Chalk               | 65. Mid Somerset Hills                | 83. White Peak                   |
| 11. Plain of Holderness          | 29. Breckland                   | 48. South Coast Plain             | 66. Mendips                           | 84. South West Peak              |
| 12. Southern Pennines            | 30. North Norfolk               | 49. Isle of Wight                 | 67. Somerset Levels and Moors         | 85. Dark Peak                    |
| 13. Coal Measures                | 31. Broadland                   | 50. New Forest                    | 68. Avon Ridges and Valleys           | 86. Urban Mersey Basin           |
| 14. Southern Magnesian Limestone | 32. Suffolk Coast and Heaths    | 51. South Wessex Downs            | 69. Greater Cotswolds                 | 87. Lancashire Plain and Valleys |
| 15. Humberhead Levels            | 33. East Anglian Plain          | 52. Dorset Heaths                 | 70. Severn Valley                     | 88. Forest of Bowland            |
| 16. Coverlands                   | 34. Chilterns                   | 53. Isles of Portland and Purbeck | 71. Malvern Hills and Teme Valley     | 89. Cumbrian Fells and Dales     |
| 17. Sherwood Forest              | 35. Oxford Clay Vales           | 54. Wessex Vales                  | 72. Dean Flats and Wye Valley         | 90. Eden Valley                  |
| 18. Trent Valley and Levels      | 36. Oxford Heights              | 55. Blackdowns                    | 73. Black Mountains and Golden Valley | 91. West Cumbria Coastal Plain   |
|                                  |                                 |                                   |                                       | 92. Solway Basin                 |

### 3. RESULTS

The individual profiles are presented in the form of tables. At the end of the individual profiles there is a table which summarises the evaluation of lowland heathland Natural Areas.

### References

GRICE, P.V., BROWN, A.F., CARTER, I.C. and RANKINE, C.A. 1994. Birds in England: a Natural Areas approach. *English Nature Research Report No 114*. English Nature, Peterborough.

RODWELL, J.S. (Ed.) 1991. *British Plant Communities: Volume 2: mires and heaths*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

### Acknowledgements

These profiles were circulated to each Natural Area lead contact in English Nature's Local Teams. I am grateful to all those who commented on and helped refine the profiles.

PART II LOWLAND HEATHLAND PROFILES FOR ENGLAND'S  
NATURAL AREAS



Natural area 1:  
NORTHUMBERLAND COASTAL PLAIN

Lowland Heathland Significance:  
SOME

Description:

A low-lying coastal plain with small areas of coastal heathland

Key Lowland Heathland Types:

NVC H7 *Calluna vulgaris* - *Scilla verna* heath

Key Issues:

- Need to ensure light grazing of the heathland to maintain it against successional change

Key Objectives:

1. Maintain heathland at favourable conservation status through traditional management particularly grazing
2. Expand the heathland area through heathland re-creation on suitable soils adjacent to existing sites, especially where this creates new links between them

Natural area 2: BORDER UPLANDS	Lowland Heathland Significance: NOT APPLICABLE
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**Description:**

An upland Natural Area lacking lowland heathland

**Key Lowland Heathland Types:**

**Key Issues:**

**Key Objectives:**

Natural area 3: NORTH PENNINES	Lowland Heathland Significance: NOT APPLICABLE
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Description:

An upland Natural Area lacking lowland heathland

Key Lowland Heathland Types:

Key Issues:

Key Objectives:

Natural area 4: NORTHUMBRIAN COAL MEASURES	Lowland Heathland Significance: SOME
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**Description:**

This Natural Area contains small areas of lowland heathland

**Key Lowland Heathland Types:**

NVC H12 *Calluna vulgaris* - *Vaccinium myrtillus* heath  
NVC M16 *Erica tetralix* - *Sphagnum compactum* wet heath

**Key Issues:**

- Need to ensure light grazing and controlled burning of the heathland to maintain its nature conservation value. Undertake additional mechanical management such as scrub control where light grazing and controlled burning are not feasible

**Key Objectives:**

1. Maintain heathland at favourable conservation status through traditional management particularly light grazing and controlled burning. Undertake additional mechanical management such as scrub control where light grazing and controlled burning are not feasible
2. Expand the heathland area through heathland re-creation on suitable soils adjacent to existing sites, especially where this creates new links between them

Natural area 5:  
DURHAM MAGNESIAN LIMESTONE

Lowland Heathland Significance:  
SOME

Description:

Lowland heathland is scarce in this Natural Area because of the predominantly calcareous geology but some heathland occurs on areas capped by drift

Key Lowland Heathland Types:

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

Key Issues:

- Need to ensure light grazing and controlled burning of the heathland (or a rotational programme of heather cutting if this not feasible) to maintain its nature conservation value

Key Objectives:

1. Maintain heathland at favourable conservation status through traditional management particularly light grazing and controlled rotational burning or heather cutting

Natural area 6: <b>LOWER TEES</b>	Lowland Heathland Significance: <b>NOT APPLICABLE</b>
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Description:

This Natural Area lacks lowland heathland

Key Lowland Heathland Types:

Key Issues:

Key Objectives:

Natural area 7: YORKSHIRE 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 8:  
THE VALES OF YORKSHIRE

Lowland Heathland Significance:  
CONSIDERABLE

Description:

A large and flat Natural Area consisting of the Vales of York, Pickering and Mowbray which contains a few sizeable lowland heathland sites

Key Lowland Heathland Types:

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

Key Issues:

- Need for the continuation of the Coversand heathland and peatlands WES to ensure conservation management of heathland sites
- Effects of subsidence caused by coal mining operations on Skipwith Common SSSI
- Reversal of afforestation on former heathland which is not SSSI

Key Objectives:

1. Maintain heaths at favourable conservation status and continue to restore heathland where it has been invaded by secondary woodland
2. Agree mitigation for mining subsidence at Skipwith Common SSSI
3. Agree a heathland strategy with Forest Enterprise and the Forestry Authority



Natural area 9: NORTH YORK MOORS	Lowland Heathland Significance: NOT APPLICABLE
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Description:

This is an upland Natural Area. The North York Moors consist of upland heather and moorland rather than lowland heathland

Key Lowland Heathland Types:

Key Issues:

Key Objectives:

Natural area 10:  
YORKSHIRE WOLDS

Lowland Heathland Significance:  
NOT APPLICABLE

**Description:**

This Natural Area lacks lowland heathland

**Key Lowland Heathland Types:**

**Key Issues:**

**Key Objectives:**

Natural area 11: PLAIN OF HOLDERNESS	Lowland Heathland Significance: NOT APPLICABLE
---	---

Description:

This Natural Area lacks lowland heathland

Key Lowland Heathland Types:

Key Issues:

Key Objectives:

Natural area 12: SOUTHERN PENNINES	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 13:  
COAL MEASURES

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 conservation management, especially scrub control
- Re-creating heathland adjacent to existing heathland
- Managing re-recreational pressure

Key Objectives:

1. Maintain heathland at favourable conservation status
2. Re-create lowland heathland where it is feasible to increase the size of existing sites

Natural area 14: SOUTHERN MAGNESIAN LIMESTONE	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 15: HUMBERHEAD LEVELS	Lowland Heathland Significance: SOME
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Description:

There is little lowland heathland in this Natural Area

Key Lowland Heathland Types:

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

Key Issues:

- Ensuring traditional management of lowland heathland

Key Objectives:

1. Maintain existing heathland areas at favourable conservation status

Natural area 16: COVERSANDS	Lowland Heathland Significance: NOTABLE
--------------------------------	--

**Description:**

This Natural Area contains relatively small areas of lowland heathland but these are nonetheless important in a national context.

**Key Lowland Heathland Types:**

NVC H1 *Calluna vulgaris* - *Festuca ovina* heath

- Key Issues:**
- Reintroducing traditional management to lowland heathland
  - Re-creating areas of lowland heathland

- Key Objectives:**
1. Continue to reintroduce traditional heathland management as in the heathland and peatland Coversands WES.
  2. Re-create heathland in areas that were formerly heathland to expand the overall area and create links between sites.



Natural area 17:  
SHERWOOD FOREST

Lowland Heathland Significance:  
NOTABLE

Description:

This Natural Area contains limited areas of lowland heathland but these are important in a national context

Key Lowland Heathland Types:

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

Key Issues:

- Lack of heathland management

Key Objectives:

1. Reintroduce traditional heathland management.
2. Restore areas of conifer plantations and secondary woodland to lowland heathland.

Natural area 18:  
TRENT VALLEY AND LEVELS

Lowland Heathland Significance:  
SOME

Description:

This Natural Area contains little lowland heathland

Key Lowland Heathland Types:

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

Key Issues:

- Reintroduction of maintenance of traditional management of heathland

Key Objectives:

1. Maintain heathland at favourable conservation status

Natural area 19:  
CHARNWOOD FOREST

Lowland Heathland Significance:  
SOME

Description:

This Natural Area contains some lowland heathland sites

Key Lowland Heathland Types:

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

Key Issues:

- Reintroducing traditional management of heathland

Key Objectives:

1. Maintain heathland at favourable conservation status.
2. Restore heathland from secondary woodland to expand and link up areas of heathland.

Natural area 20:  
LINCOLNSHIRE LIMESTONE

Lowland Heathland Significance:  
SOME

Description:

This Natural Area contains only a little lowland heathland

Key Lowland Heathland Types:

NVC H1 *Calluna vulgaris* - *Festuca ovina* heath

Key Issues:

- Reinstating traditional management of heathland

Key Objectives:

1. Maintain heathland at favourable conservation status.
2. Re-create lowland heathland on suitable soils adjacent to heathland sites.

Natural area 21: LINCOLNSHIRE CLAY VALES	Lowland Heathland Significance: SOME
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Description:

There are some small areas of lowland heathland in this Natural Area

Key Lowland Heathland Types:

NVC H1 *Calluna vulgaris* - *Festuca ovina* heath  
NVC M16 *Erica tetralix* - *Sphagnum compactum* wet heath

Key Issues:

- Reinstating or maintain traditional heathland management
- Restoring areas of secondary woodland to lowland heathland

Key Objectives:

1. Maintain heathland at favourable conservation status.
2. Re-create lowland heathland on suitable soils adjacent to heathland sites

Natural area 22: LINCOLNSHIRE WOLDS	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 23: LINCOLNSHIRE MARSH AND COAST	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 24:  
MIDDLE ENGLAND

Lowland Heathland Significance:  
NOT APPLICABLE

**Description:**

This Natural Area lacks lowland heathland besides tiny fragments on one site

**Key Lowland Heathland Types:**

**Key Issues:**

**Key Objectives:**



Natural area 25: <b>NORTHAMPTONSHIRE UPLANDS</b>	Lowland Heathland Significance: <b>NOT APPLICABLE</b>
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**Description:**

This Natural Area lacks lowland heathland

**Key Lowland Heathland Types:**

**Key Issues:**

**Key Objectives:**

Natural area 26:  
BEDFORDSHIRE GREENSAND

Lowland Heathland Significance:  
SOME

Description:

This Natural Area contains a small area of lowland heathland

Key Lowland Heathland Types:

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

Key Issues:

- Reinstating traditional management of heathland
- Restoring areas of lowland heathland from scrub, bracken, secondary woodland and conifer plantations
- Re-creating heathland in worked-out greensand quarries
- Managing recreational pressure

Key Objectives:

1. Maintain heathland at favourable conservation status
2. Pursue opportunities to re-create heathland in worked-out greensand quarries

Natural area 27: FENLAND	Lowland Heathland Significance: NOT APPLICABLE
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**Description:**

This Natural Area lacks lowland heathland besides a very small area of lowland raised bog/dry heathland at Holme Fen

**Key Lowland Heathland Types:**

**Key Issues:**

**Key Objectives:**

Natural area 28:  
EAST ANGLIAN SOUTHERN CHALK

Lowland Heathland Significance:  
SOME

Description:

This Natural Area contains very little lowland heathland

Key Lowland Heathland Types:

NVC H1 *Calluna vulgaris* - *Festuca ovina* heath

Key Issues:

- Ensuring management of remaining lowland heathland

Key Objectives:

1. Maintain heathland at favourable conservation status
2. Restore heathland where appropriate for example through the clearance of secondary woodland that has invaded formerly open heath

Natural area 29:  
BRECKLAND

Lowland Heathland Significance:  
OUTSTANDING

Description:

This Natural Area is of outstanding importance for dry lowland heathland, which occurs in intimate mosaics with acidic and calcareous grassland

Key Lowland Heathland Types:

NVC H1 *Calluna vulgaris* - *Festuca ovina* heath

Key Issues:

- Maintaining or reinstating traditional heathland management especially sheep and rabbit grazing.
- Re-creating heathland on farmland or forestry land on suitable soils.

Key Objectives:

1. Maintain heathland and associated grassland at favourable conservation status by livestock and rabbit grazing through the Breckland ESA scheme and Countryside Stewardship.
2. Promote an increased rate of heathland re-creation to achieve the ESA target figure of 1,000 hectares through the arable reversion tier of the Breckland ESA and the restoration of forestry plantations.

Natural area 30:  
NORTH NORFOLK

Lowland Heathland Significance:  
CONSIDERABLE

**Description:**

This Natural Area contains significant lowland heathland

**Key Lowland Heathland Types:**

NVC H1 *Calluna vulgaris* - *Festuca ovina* heath  
NVC H8 *Calluna vulgaris* - *Ulex gallii* heath  
NVC M16 *Erica tetralix* - *Sphagnum compactum* wet heath

**Key Issues:**

- Need to continue to reintroduce sustainable management by light grazing to lowland heaths in combination with other conservation management such as scrub clearance

**Key Objectives:**

1. Maintain lowland heathland at favourable conservation status.
2. Restore and re-create heathland to expand the heathland area and create links between areas.

Natural area 31:  
BROADLAND

Lowland Heathland Significance:  
SOME

Description:

This Natural Area contains areas of lowland heathland, including dune heath and heathland on valley sides

Key Lowland Heathland Types:

NVC H1 *Calluna vulgaris* - *Festuca ovina* heath  
NVC H8 *Calluna vulgaris* - *Ulex gallii* heath  
NVC M16 *Erica tetralix* - *Sphagnum compactum* wet heath

Key Issues:

- Maintaining remaining lowland heathland through sustainable conservation management
- Restoring heathland where this will enhance existing heathland areas

Key Objectives:

1. Maintain heathland at favourable conservation status
2. Restore heathland in appropriate locations

Natural area 32:  
SUFFOLK COAST AND MARSHES

Lowland Heathland Significance:  
OUTSTANDING

**Description:**

This is a key area for lowland heathland in England

**Key Lowland Heathland Types:**

NVC H1 *Calluna vulgaris* - *Festuca ovina* heath

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

**Key Issues:**

- Re-introducing traditional management to all lowland heaths
- Restoring and re-creating heathland on suitable soils adjacent to existing sites

**Key Objectives:**

1. Maintain heathland at favourable conservation status.
2. Restore and re-create heathland and secure long term funding for this objective.



Natural area 33 :  
EAST ANGLIAN PLAIN

Lowland Heathland Significance:  
SOME

**Description:**

This Natural Area contains very little lowland heathland

**Key Lowland Heathland Types:**

NVC H1 *Calluna vulgaris* - *Festuca ovina* heath

**Key Issues:**

- Reintroducing traditional management including light grazing to the heathland
- Restoring areas of bracken, scrub and secondary woodland to heathland
- Managing recreational pressures

**Key Objectives:**

1. Maintain heathland at favourable conservation status
2. Restore heathland from bracken, scrub and secondary woodland
3. Re-create heathland in suitable locations, particularly next to existing sites or fragments of heathland

Natural area 34: CHILTERN	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 35: OXFORD CLAY VALES	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 36:  
OXFORD HEIGHTS

Lowland Heathland Significance:  
SOME

Description:

This Natural Area contains very little lowland heathland

Key Lowland Heathland Types:

NVC H1 *Calluna vulgaris* - *Festuca ovina* heath

Key Issues:

- Maintaining or reintroducing traditional management of heathland

Key Objectives:

1. Maintain heathland at favourable conservation status

Natural area 37: WESSEX DOWNS	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 38:  
LONDON BASIN

Lowland Heathland Significance:  
OUTSTANDING

**Description:**

This Natural Area includes an important lowland heathland component

**Key Lowland Heathland Types:**

NVC H2 *Calluna vulgaris* - *Ulex minor* heath

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

**Key Issues:**

- Reintroducing traditional management of lowland heathland, especially light grazing
- Restoring secondary woodland that has invaded heathland to open heath
- 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. Restore heathland in suitable locations

Natural area 39: THAMES MARSHES	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 40: NORTH KENT 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 41:  
NORTH DOWNS

Lowland Heathland Significance:  
SOME

Description:

This Natural Area contains some lowland heathland including chalk heath

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 42: ROMNEY MARSH	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 43:  
LOW WEALD

Lowland Heathland Significance:  
NOT APPLICABLE

**Description:**

This Natural Area lacks lowland heathland

**Key Lowland Heathland Types:**

**Key Issues:**

**Key Objectives:**

Natural area 44:  
HIGH WEALD

Lowland Heathland Significance:  
OUTSTANDING

Description:

This Natural Area includes important lowland heathland

Key Lowland Heathland Types:

NVC H2 *Calluna vulgaris* - *Ulex minor* heath

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

Key Issues:

- Reintroducing traditional heathland management
- Restoration of lowland heathland from secondary woodland

Key Objectives:

1. Maintain heathland at favourable conservation status

Natural area 45:  
SOUTH DOWNS

Lowland Heathland Significance:  
NOTABLE

Description:

This Natural Area contains only small areas of lowland heathland but one site, Lullington Heath, is the largest example of chalk heath in southern England

Key Lowland Heathland Types:

NVC H1 *Calluna vulgaris* - *Festuca ovina* heath

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

Key Issues:

- Reinstating traditional heathland management particularly light grazing
- Restoring short chalk heath turf by scrub and litter removal, followed by sustainable management by light grazing

Key Objectives:

1. Maintain heathland (including chalk heath) at favourable conservation status

Natural area 46:  
GREENSAND

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

Key Issues:

- Re-introducing traditional heathland management
- Restoring lowland heathland from secondary woodland

Key Objectives:

1. Maintain heathland at favourable conservation status
2. Re-create heathland in suitable locations

Natural area 47: HAMPSHIRE CHALK	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 48:  
SOUTH COAST PLAIN

Lowland Heathland Significance:  
SOME

Description:

This Natural Area contains very little lowland heathland

Key Lowland Heathland Types:

NVC H1 *Calluna vulgaris* - *Festuca ovina* heath

Key Issues:

- Reintroduce traditional lowland heathland management

Key Objectives:

1. Maintain heathland at favourable nature conservation status



Natural area 49:  
ISLE OF WIGHT

Lowland Heathland Significance:  
SOME

Description:

This Natural Area contains some areas of lowland heathland

Key Lowland Heathland Types:

NVC H2 *Calluna vulgaris* - *Ulex minor* heath

Key Issues:

- Reintroducing traditional heathland management especially light grazing

Key Objectives:

1. Maintain lowland heathland at favourable nature conservation status

Natural area 50:  
NEW FOREST

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

Key Issues:

- Maintaining the traditional heathland management system practised by the commoners in the New Forest
- Restoring areas of plantation woodland to lowland heathland
- Restoring valley mire systems

Key Objectives:

1. Maintain the lowland heathland at favourable conservation status