

Scottish Borders  
**FENS, MARSH, SWAMP AND REEDBED**  
HABITAT ACTION PLAN



# FENS, MARSH, SWAMP AND REEBED in Scottish Borders

## Current Status

These habitats include vegetation that is ground water fed; and occur on permanently, seasonally or periodically waterlogged peat, peaty or mineral soils where grasses do not predominate. They also include emergent vegetation or frequently inundated vegetation occurring over peat or mineral soils.

## National Vegetation Classification (NVC) communities associated with this habitat include:

M25 *Molinia caerulea*-*Potentilla erecta* mire  
S4 *Phragmites australis* swamp and reedbeds  
S9 *Carex rostrata* swamp  
W1-*Salix cinerea*-*Galium palustre* woodland

## Other fen, marsh, swamp and reedbed NVC Communities found in Scottish Borders include:

M4,M6,M7,M8,M9,M10,M13,M23,M26, M27,M32,S3,S5,S7,S8,S10,S11,S25, S26, S27,S28,W2,W3,W4,W5

## Key Species (Species of Conservation Concern SoCC)

Otter *Lutra lutra*, reed bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*, grasshopper warbler *Locustella naevia*, a reed beetle *Donacia aquatica*, a large number of red data and nationally notable beetles, crane fly, hoverfly and moths, greater tussock sedge *Carex paniculata* alpine rush *Juncus alpinus*, tall bog sedge *Carex magellanica*, cowbane *Cicuta virosa*, coralroot orchid *Corallorhiza trifida*, holygrass *Hierochloa odorata* and narrow small reed *Calamagrostis stricta*

For full list of SoCC see:

<http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/>

## Key Issues

- drainage
- nutrient enrichment and diffuse pollution
- inappropriate or lack of management
- habitat loss and fragmentation
- grazing and poaching
- natural succession

## Opportunities

- designated sites including SSSI Management agreements
- Rural Development Contracts
- sustainable flood management
- Water Framework Directive

## Current Action

- Borders Wetland Vision LBAP project, led by Scottish Borders Council, has been developing since 2005 a strategic approach to wetland conservation in Scottish Borders by identifying opportunity areas for wetlands including fen, marsh, swamp and reedbed. It is proposed to develop a wetland restoration project out of this Vision.
- Whitlaw mosses SAC/SSSI/NNR - SNH have been monitoring this international important basin fen for many years and have been conducting experimental management such as reed cutting and removal to maintain hydroseral stages of succession, silt trapping to remove nutrient enrichment, and diffuse pollution control in the surrounding catchment. Initiatives to enhance public access and interpretation are currently being developed.
- Tweed Wetland Initiative - Tweed Forum, FWAG, SEPA and SNH have been implementing since 2006, a project for farm-constructed wetlands to control diffuse pollution off farms. Sixteen farms will have

wetlands constructed by 2007, mostly reedbeds although some will create ponds.

- Selkirk Racecourse Moss - SNH have been controlling water levels via sluices to maintain the wetlands.

## Objectives

1. determine status of habitat
2. restore and where appropriate enhance existing habitat
3. increase area of habitat
4. maintain an appropriate range of seral stages
5. promote education and awareness

## Targets

1. identify distribution of fen, marsh, swamp and reedbed by 2008
2. restore and where appropriate enhance 20ha of fen, marsh, swamp and reedbed by 2011
3. create an additional 20ha of fen, marsh, swamp and reedbed by 2011
4. ensure that the appropriate seral stages are maintained in restoring, enhancing and creating fen, marsh, swamp and reedbed by 2011
5. initiate one major education and awareness initiative focussed on fen, marsh, swamp and reedbed by 2010

## Key Actions

1. continue to develop the Borders Wetland Vision models to identify opportunity areas for restoration, enhancement and creation of fen, marsh, swamp and reedbed
2. determine status, extent and condition of existing sites through additional surveys and Aerial Photographic Interpretation project
3. maximise opportunities for protection and enhancement under Rural Development Contracts, Water Framework Directive initiatives and the biodiversity duty

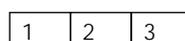
4. develop projects under the Borders Wetland Vision project and Tweed Catchment Management Plan to restore, enhance and create fen, marsh, swamp and reedbed in core areas in Scottish Borders
5. further develop the Tweed Wetland Initiative to create new wetlands to manage diffuse pollution and point source pollution, but also ensure that there are no significant impacts on the existing wetland resource
6. increase the number of sites designated as Local Wildlife Sites for fen, marsh, swamp and reedbed wetlands
7. develop and adopt robust guidance for management of fen, marsh, swamp and reedbed and ensure that targeted advice is provided to landowners, farmers and their advisers, particularly for Local Wildlife Sites
8. survey and monitoring of priority invertebrates and plant species on SSSI and Local Wildlife Sites plus other non-designated fen, marsh, swamp and reedbed sites
9. ensure that all relevant species and habitat data are made available to Scottish Borders Biological Records Centre and the Council's Ecology Officer
10. develop and initiate education and awareness projects, including events to improve biological recording, focussed on fen, marsh, swamp and reedbed.

## Linkage to other plans and strategies

Rivers and burns HAP  
Standing open water HAP  
Lowland raised bog HAP  
Native woodland HAP  
LBAP Information Action Plan  
Tweed Catchment Management Plan  
Solway-Tweed River Basin Management Plan  
Scottish Biodiversity Strategy

### Front Cover Photos:

1. SNH
2. SNH
3. SNH



#### Alternative format/language paragraph

You can get this document on tape, in large print, and various other formats by contacting us at the address below. In addition, contact the address below for information on language translations, additional copies, or to arrange for an officer to meet with you to explain any areas of the publication that you would like clarified.

#### 其他格式 / 外文譯本

這份資料冊另備有錄音帶、大字體版本以及多種其他格式。你可以透過以下地址與我們聯絡，索取不同版本。此外，你也可以聯絡以下地址索取本資料的中文和其他外文譯本或索取更多拷貝。亦可要求我們做出安排，由我們的工作人員當面為你解釋你對這份出版物中的不明確之處。

#### [Alternatywny format/język]

Aby uzyskać kopię niniejszego dokumentu w formie audio, dużą czcionką, oraz innych formatach prosimy o kontakt na poniższy adres. Używać tam można również informacje o tłumaczeniach na języki obce, otrzymaniu dodatkowych kopii oraz zaaranżowaniu spotkania z urzędnikiem, który wyjaśni wątpliwości i zapytania związane z treścią niniejszej publikacji.

#### Parágrafo de formato/língua alternativos

Pode obter este documento em cassete audio, impressão aumentada e vários outros formatos contactando a morada indicada em baixo. Pode ainda contactar a morada indicada em baixo para obter informações sobre traduções noutras línguas, cópias adicionais ou para solicitar uma reunião com um funcionário para lhe explicar quaisquer áreas desta publicação que deseje ver esclarecidas.

#### Параграф об альтернативном формате/языковой версии

Чтобы получить данный документ в записи на пленке, в крупношрифтовой распечатке и в других различных форматах, вы можете обратиться к нам по приведенному ниже адресу. Кроме того, по данному адресу можно обращаться за информацией о переводе на различные языки, получении дополнительных копий а также с тем, чтобы организовать встречу с сотрудником, который сможет редставить объяснения по тем разделам публикации, которые вам хотелось бы прояснить.

**Business Services, Planning and Economic Development Department, Council Headquarters, Scottish Borders Council, Newtown St Boswells, Tel: 01835 825060, Fax: 01835 825158, email: [ped@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:ped@scotborders.gov.uk) to discuss your needs.**

**It is also available on our website:**

**[www.scottishborders.gov.uk/life/environment/naturalheritage/2715.html](http://www.scottishborders.gov.uk/life/environment/naturalheritage/2715.html)**



Designed by Scottish Borders Council Graphic Design Section.  
Printed in the Scottish Borders by Kelso Graphics.