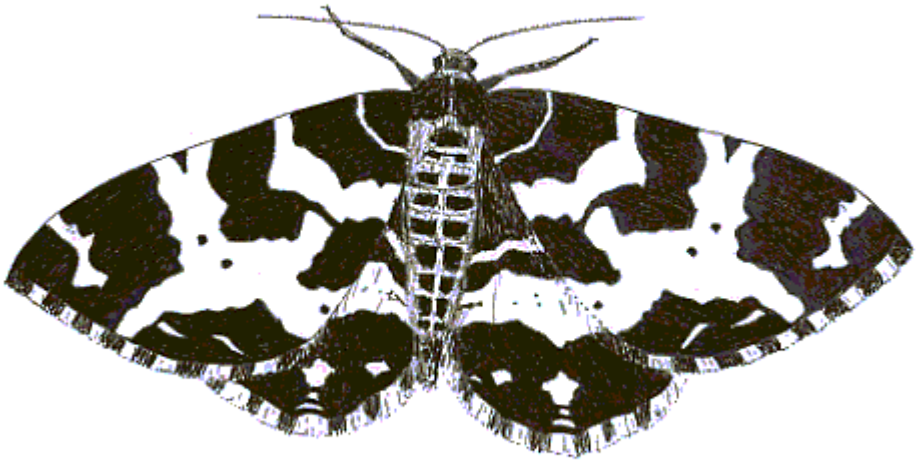
The Selby Biodiversity Action Plan



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North Yorkshire County Council, Selby District Council and the Selby BAP Partnership

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Selby BAP

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Introduction

1. The term 'biodiversity' was coined at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992. At this summit many of the World's governments recognised the importance and the decline of global biodiversity, and signed up to a programme of biodiversity conservation. Biodiversity encompasses the whole variety of life on Earth. It includes not only all species of plants and animals, but also their genetic variation, and the complex ecosystems of which they are all part. It is not restricted to rare or threatened species but includes the whole of the natural world from the commonplace to the critically endangered. Biodiversity includes the wide range of habitats that these animals and plants live in and depend upon.

2. The intricate network of ecosystems, habitats and species that comprises biodiversity provides the support systems that sustain human existence. It provides many of the essentials of life – our oxygen, water, soil, food, clothing, health and recreational opportunities. The value of biodiversity extends from the spiritual benefits gained from contact with nature, to the economic potential of wild species for new sources of food or medicines. In a local context, biodiversity has particular importance in giving a distinctive character to an area, whether it is estuary, woodland or moorland. Even in towns and villages, oases of wildlife habitat make an important contribution to the quality of life.

3. The world is losing biodiversity at an increasing rate mainly as a result of human activity. In the UK alone, 100 species became extinct in the twentieth century, with many more species and habitats in danger. Local extinctions are also at a high level. On a world scale, the rate of loss is now recognised to be a cause for serious concern, requiring international action to prevent continued loss of biodiversity.

4. We need to restore habitats, and populations of some species, because mankind has adversely affected them. We have an obligation to future generations, to act sustainably.

5. The UK Government published:

   - Biodiversity: The UK Action Plan, 1994 (UKBSG[1]).
   - Biodiversity: the U.K. Steering Group Report Volume 1: Meeting the Rio Challenge, 1995 (UKBSG[2a]).
   - Biodiversity: The UK Steering Group Report Volume 2 (UKBSG[2b]),
   - UK Biodiversity Group Tranche 2 Action Plans, Volumes 1 to 6, referred to as the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP) (UKBSG[3]).
   - UK Biodiversity Group: Index to the Steering Group Reports and Tranche 2 Action Plans (UKBSG[4]).

6. Together these are referred to as the UK BAP and to date 45 habitat and 391 species plans have been written. Each plan has a nominated lead partner.

7. However the UK BAP recognised the fact that much biodiversity conservation would have to be delivered on a local basis, so a suite of county and district plans, referred to as Local BAPs, have been produced.

8. The Selby Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) is one such plan and closely links to many neighbouring LBAPs.

9. The target audience for the Selby BAP is landowners and land managers, policymakers and policy implementers, developers, individuals in the wider community and businesses, their employees and customers.

The need to conserve biodiversity

- Ecosystem services – natural systems provide our basic life-support structures, based on air, soil and climate. These provide our food, oxygen and materials, act as carbon sinks to process carbon, mitigate pollution and can reduce flooding.
- Products – sustainably harvested, natural products such as food, fuel, medicines, cosmetics and construction materials.
- Economic development – eco-tourism.
- Quality of life – the natural world offers enjoyment, health, spiritual enrichment, learning, cultural diversity and artistic inspiration.
- Knowledge – the pursuit of scientific discoveries.
- Wildlife has an intrinsic value.

Quality of life

10. Quality of life is important to us all, and is dependent on a number of factors. Amongst others, these include access to a decent home, work, education and health. It also depends on a healthy environment – clean air and water, and a rich and diverse natural world. In the UK the destruction of the countryside and the loss of wildlife has been such that a rich and healthy natural environment is no longer guaranteed. For example, 98% of wildflower meadows, 448,000 kilometres of hedgerows, over two million skylarks and 95% of high brown fritillary butterflies have been lost in less than a lifetime (UKBSG[1]). We need to halt decline and put back, where we can, what has been lost, not just in protected areas or nature reserves, but in the wider countryside too. Neither the scale of the task nor the need for urgent action should be underestimated.

Sustainability

11. The principles of Local Agenda 21 are for a sustainable lifestyle and cover the following:

- We must hand over to the next generation a world no less rich than the one we inherited.
- The culture of a nation - music, literature and visual art – is inspired by its landscape and wildlife.
- Respect for the environment encourages respect for ourselves.
- Power over other organisms confers responsibility.
- Life takes time to evolve but can be lost quickly and is impossible to replace.
- Our environment's health determines our own.
- Some organisms are useful to us but we should not limit our efforts to these - we must conserve all those about which we still know little.

12. Biodiversity is not only significant for those who have a direct interest in nature conservation. It has much wider impact on our daily lives and sustainable development in general:

    - Our rich wildlife heritage encourages people to get out and take exercise, helping to improve the health of society and reduce the impacts on the health service.
    - It is important to people's mental and physical health and well being.
    - Wildlife-rich landscapes have economic benefits. For example, environment-related economic activity contributes jobs and income to the economy.

13. The conservation of our natural resources, including wildlife, is a key test of sustainable development, and is of relevance to us all. The threats to biodiversity cannot be dealt with by targeted species or habitat recovery work alone. Many of the threats and constraints to protecting biodiversity arise from broader issues relating, for example, to the unsustainable use of land, air and water. An integrated approach is needed if positive impacts are to be made, for example through:

    - Support for environmentally friendly agricultural methods, and the protection of the rural economy.
    - Development Planning to have a clear approach to the avoidance or mitigation of adverse impacts on habitats as a result of development.
    - Controls on water management and pollution.
    - Protection of areas of high biodiversity interest (e.g. Sites of Special Scientific Interest) (SSSI).
    - Action on climate change, through wiser energy and transport use.
    - Enlightened management of publicly owned land.

Planning context for biodiversity

14. Planning Policy Guidance 9: Nature Conservation, (DoE[5]), (PPG9) advises how the Government's policies for the conservation of our natural heritage are to be reflected in land use planning. It embodies the Government's commitment to sustainable development and to conserving the diversity of our wildlife. Regional Planning Guidance for Yorkshire and The Humber to the year 2016 (RPG12, published October 2001) now requires local planning

authorities to identify and develop policies for areas important to the conservation of biodiversity. This is to be done by drawing on Local Biodiversity Action Plans and by reference to the Regional Biodiversity Audit and the national UK BAP Habitat and Species Action Plans (Policy N1).

15. The Selby District Council Community Strategy (2002 – 2005) incorporates environmental and biodiversity concerns.

16. The North Yorkshire County Structure Plan (Alteration Number 3, October 1995) contains policies stating that development will normally be permitted only where it would not harm the character and appearance, general amenity value or nature conservation interests of the surrounding area.

17. The Deposit Draft Selby District Local Plan (1997[6]), as amended by modifications, contains policies with clear objectives to:

- Protect sites and habitats of nature conservation interest from inappropriate development.
- Protect the nature conservation heritage of the District wherever it is found.
- Improve the number and diversity of sites and habitats of nature conservation value in the District.

18. The preparation and use of the Selby Biodiversity Action Plan is an important part of the planning process because, in addition to providing valuable information and supplementary planning guidance, it also identifies specific and positive actions that can be undertaken to conserve the District's biodiversity.

Legal context for biodiversity

19. Biodiversity Action Plans are not a statutory requirement of the Local Planning Authority. However, Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) 1 advises that detailed issues may best be considered by preparing Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG). The content of the BAP has been kept consistent with Local Plan polices, and was formally adopted as SPG on the 3 August 2004. It is a material consideration in determining planning applications.

20. Further, PPG9 directs that Local Authorities should understand their nature conservation resource.

21. The Local Government Act 2000, places a statutory duty on local authorities to prepare Community Strategies, and Biodiversity Action Plans have been recognised as examples of 'good practice'.

22. The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 places a duty on local authorities to conserve biodiversity (Section 74). Section 78 (amended) deals with duties in relation to Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The Act recognises biodiversity as part of 'natural beauty'.

23. The European Communities Council Directive on nature conservation, the Habitats Directive, has been translated into UK law and is referred to as the Habitat Regulations in this document.

24. There is a whole suite of relevant legislation. Some, which are relevant to wildlife, are noted below.

Primary legislation:

- Ground Game Act 1880
- The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949.
- The Allotment Act 1952.
- The Control of Weeds Act 1959.
- The Forestry Act 1967 (amended).
- The Countryside Act 1968.
- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, (Schedule 5 – relates to protected animals, Schedule 8 to plants).
- Town and Country Planning Act 1990.
- The Planning and Compensation Act 1991.
- The Land Drainage Act 1994 (chapter 24).
- The Environment Act 1995.
- The British Waterways Act 1995
- The Local Government Act 2000.
- The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.
- Ragwort Control Act 2004

Secondary legislation:

- The Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 (referred to as the Habitat Regulations). These are the Regulations that put the Habitats Directive into UK law.
- The Environmental Protection (Duty of Care) Regulations 1995.
- The Hedgerow Regulations 1997.
- The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999.
- Plans to bring uncultivated and semi-natural land into intensive agricultural use, require assessment for significant environmental effects (based on UK BAP priority habitats), under the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) (Uncultivated Land) Regulations (2003).

Policy guidance:

- The UK Biodiversity Action Plan 1994.
- Biodiversity: The UK Steering Group Report 1995.
- Planning Policy Guidance N^{o} 9 Nature Conservation 1994.
- Mineral Planning Policy Guidance N^{o} 7 The Reclamation of Mineral Workings 1996.

- Preparing Community Strategies: Government Guidance to Local Authorities (2000).

Others:

- Some species, such as bats and great crested newt, are protected by Appendix 3 of the Bern Convention (Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats), expressed in UK Law as The Conservation (Natural Habitats, & c.) Regulations 1994.
- The Local Authority can issue Tree Preservation Orders (TPO) to protect amenity trees.
- Common ragwort is notified as a noxious weed under the Weeds Act (1959) and Ragwort Control Act (2003).
- There is a duty for landowners to control rabbits and brown hares that are affecting neighbours' land, (Game Laws 1880).
- Felling licences required under Forestry Regulations.
- The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 includes restrictions on Japanese knotweed and giant hogweed.
- Selby District Council is the regulating authority under various legislation components affecting the environment and proactively enforces this legislation.

The UK Biodiversity Action Plan

25. The UK BAP is the UK's initiative to maintain and enhance biodiversity. Through this plan, the Government committed itself to a process designed to conserve and enhance:

- The range and numbers of wildlife species and the quality and extent of wildlife habitats.
- Species and habitats that are internationally important or characteristic of local areas.
- Species and habitats that have declined significantly over recent decades.

26. English Nature (EN) and other organisations from across all sectors are committed to achieving the Plan's conservation goals over the next 20 years and beyond. Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAP) form part of this structure.

27. The UK BAP aims to achieve conservation in three ways:
    - Protect the existing resource.
    - Restore the degraded resource.
    - Re-create the resource.

Regional Biodiversity

28. Local BAPs are being prepared across the Yorkshire and The Humber region, based on administrative boundaries and are at various levels of completion.

They are complimentary to one another in terms of their priority habitats and species. This is important for species such as the otter, which is best looked at on a river catchment scale, which covers more than one local authority area. The North Yorkshire Biodiversity Co-ordinators Group brings together those involved with Local BAPs in North Yorkshire, the two National Parks and the City of York.

Regional Wildlife Audit

29. Work published by the Yorkshire and Humber Biodiversity Forum in 1999 (YHBF[7]) provides a best account of the status of all UK BAP priority habitats and species occurring in the region. The 'Regional status' accounts in the Selby BAP are largely based upon this work.

30. As an addition to the Biodiversity Audit, the YHBF has produced a report on species and habitats of regional importance (YHBF[8]). Unfortunately the tables in this document are incorrect but this is currently being addressed through a consultation process.

31. This document gives lists of the habitats and species considered by local naturalists to be definitive to the Region and they now form the Regional Biodiversity Indicators for Yorkshire and The Humber Region. In April 2003 Yorkshire Forward adopted these as the key regional species with which to measure biodiversity progress in the region.

Habitats and species of regional importance

32. The report (YHBF[8]) identifies 33 habitats of regional importance. Of these six are represented in Selby District.

Table 1. Regionally important habitats.

Regionally Important Habitats	**Link to Selby BAP**
Wet woodland	Woodland HAP
Cereal field margins	Arable farmland HAP
Lowland meadows	Grazing marsh HAP
Magnesian Limestone grassland	Unimproved grassland HAP
Lowland acid grassland	Unimproved grassland HAP
Reedbeds	Reedbeds HAP

33. The 2003 report (YHBF[8]) identifies 288 species of regional importance. Of these, the North and East Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre (NEYEDC) has Selby District records for 92 of them. Others will have been recorded but are not on the NEYEDC database, for example the forester moth. A few of the birds have only been recorded in Selby as vagrants, whereas their regional importance lies in their status as either breeding or wintering birds. Species marked with * have been adopted by the Regional Assembly as biodiversity indicators. Also grayling * and adder *.

Table 2. Regionally important species.

Regionally Important Species recorded in the Selby District.		
Vertebrates		
Water vole *	Red kite *	Beetle Pryopterus nigroruber
Brown hare *	Northern gannet *	Beetle Rhizophagus picipes
Otter *	Yellow wagtail	Depressed river mussel
Brandt's bat	Curlew *	Cylindrical whorl snail
Daubenton's bat	Bearded tit	Scarce vapourer moth
Whiskered bat	Willow tit	Argent and sable moth
Natterer's bat	Marsh tit	
Water shrew	Tree sparrow	**Lower plants**
Noctule bat	Grey partridge	Moss Aloina brevirostris
Pipistrelle bat *	Ruff	Moss Hennediella stanfordensis
Brown long-eared bat	Black redstart	
Skylark	Redstart	
Kingfisher	Golden plover	**Vascular plants**
Shoveler	Grey plover	Sand leek
Teal	Black-necked grebe	Fingered sedge
Wigeon	Spotted crake	Rare spring-sedge
Gadwall	Avocet	Yellow star of Bethlehem
Short-eared owl	Sand martin	Marsh gentian
Pochard	Whinchat	Mudwort
Bittern	Woodcock	Tasteless water pepper
Brent goose	Turtle dove	Pillwort
Sanderling	Redshank	Greater water parsnip
Dunlin	Song thrush	
Knot	Ring ouzel	
Nightjar	Barn owl	
Linnet	Lapwing *	
Twite	Great crested newt *	
Little ringed plover	Palmate newt	
	Bullhead fish	
Corncrake		
Reed bunting	**Invertebrates**	
Merlin	Bee Andrena humilis	
Peregrine	Bee Andrena nigriceps	
Snipe	Wasp Ectemnius ruficornis	
Swallow	Wasp Nysson trimaculatus	
Bar-tailed godwit	Aquatic beetle Agabus ulignosus	
Woodlark	Tansy beetle	
Goosander	Beetle Corticeus unicolor	
Corn bunting	Beetle Hypera diversipuctata	

Local Biodiversity Action Plans

34. One of the important facets of the UK's approach to biodiversity has been the production of Local BAPs (LBAPs). These plans are being developed to help foster action for UK priority species and habitats at a local level, but also to determine and take action for wildlife of local importance. LBAPs have been produced at a number of administrative levels including parish, district, county and region.

35. The LBAP can help integrate biodiversity action into the decision making of statutory and non-statutory bodies at a local level. For example, planners can use LBAPs to influence planning decisions, both to avoid harming wildlife and to encourage the restoration of habitats through after-use conditions.

36. Business and industry can use LBAPs to highlight the biodiversity priorities, which should be taken into account in their environmental management systems, such as ISO 2001 (International Organisation for Standardisation, for businesses). This is an audit that businesses can be accredited with, to demonstrate good environmental practice.

37. A Local Biodiversity Action Plan is both a product and a process and it should include the following:

- Establish a plan partnership.
- Review wildlife resource.
- Identify priorities within the national and local context.
- Prepare action plans, which set specific targets, identify partners and list actions.
- Publish the BAP.
- Identify and co-ordinate delivery mechanisms, funding and advice.
- Implement action.
- Establish a long term monitoring programme.
- Feed information back to national lead agencies.

The Selby District Council Approach

38. North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) has provided the lead for the preparation of a Local Biodiversity Action Plan for Selby. A full time biodiversity officer employed by NYCC (part funded by District Council's, including Selby) has led the project throughout. The Selby District Council's Planning Policy team have provided a facilitator role. The Selby BAP is part of a larger initiative to prepare Local BAPs for all of the North Yorkshire districts.

39. A Selby Local BAP steering group has been established. Membership is given in Annex A.

40. The Selby Biodiversity Action Plan seeks to achieve the following:

- Ensure national targets for species and habitats (in the UK BAP) are translated into effective action at the local level.
- Identify targets for species and habitats of local value.
- Develop effective, long-term local partnerships.
- Raise awareness of the need for biodiversity conservation.
- Consider opportunities for conservation of the whole biodiversity resource.
- Set up a monitoring programme for local priorities.
- Set up a reporting programme.

41. The Selby Biodiversity Action Plan will tackle wildlife conservation issues. Habitat classification work has shown that the habitats that are of highest value for wildlife are scarce in the District. Referred to as semi-natural habitats, these cover just 3.7% of the District land area (Warburton[9]), (BioDAT[10]), (Baker[11]), (Megson[12]), (Weston[13]) and (Phillips[14]).

42. The Selby Biodiversity Action Plan aims to safeguard and enhance these rare habitats and their wildlife. Many are being lost through neglect and the Plan will encourage their management in order to keep them in favourable condition for wildlife. It may also be possible to restore habitats lost to recent changes in land use, or to create new habitats, but these measures are inferior to the adequate safeguarding of our existing resources. A rich and varied countryside benefits wildlife by sustaining the habitats they need and also by providing corridors between these key sites.

43. The Selby BAP will achieve this in three ways:
    - Co-ordinate direct action.
    - Inform Development Control planning.
    - Give general conservation advice.

Biodiversity actions and developers

44. The principle of biodiversity action is one that developers can incorporate into their development proposals when seeking planning permission from the local planning authority, and it is hoped that through the Selby BAP, Selby District Council will encourage this. There are a number of easy, biodiversity-based actions, which developers can include in development proposals, and which council planners can encourage. Architects, engineers, landscape architects and other professionals should consider these at the design stage. Some examples of actions that developers could consider are given below, and others appear in the list of generic actions on pages 25 to 27:
    - Conserve existing wild-space and create new wild-space, such as scrub, rough grassland, ponds, bogs, species-rich hedges. For larger areas create wetland with reedbeds.
    - For large schemes that will be reverted back to land at the end of their working period, such as mineral extraction and landfill, design ambitious habitat creation schemes principally to benefit biodiversity. These to include significant wetlands, reedbeds, species-rich grassland and woodland as appropriate.

- Seek strong mitigation with mineral extraction companies for the much more strategic creation of semi-natural habitat, for the after use of mineral sites.
- Incorporate cavities into buildings, to be used by bats.
- Incorporate a bat home, which is a large construction with multiple compartments, into development schemes.
- Incorporate swift bricks into the roof spaces of buildings, to be used by swifts.
- Incorporate small cavities in brick or stonework for masonry bees, especially on south-facing walls.
- Erect artificial, house martin nesting boxes onto buildings.
- Leave points of access for swallows into buildings, such as in barn conversions.
- Erect secure, nest platforms for kestrels.
- Incorporate barn owl nest sites into buildings.
- Erect multiple tree sparrow nest boxes onto buildings, especially on east facing walls.
- Design balancing ponds that maximise marginal habitats such as bare ground, emergent vegetation and bank-side scrub and provide habitat for great crested newt and water vole.
- Avoid the culverting of streams.
- Use native species of local provenance to create plant communities typical of the area, in landscaping schemes.
- Include flowering plants and shrubs in landscaping schemes.
- Use berry-producing species in landscaping schemes.
- Use climbers in landscaping schemes.
- Use 'green roofs', made of species-rich turf.

Selby Wildlife Audit

45. The Selby BAP is complimented by the Selby Wildlife Audit (in prep), (Megson[10]), which gives information on the district status of priority habitats and species. This document covers all semi-natural habitat types and all scarce species.

46. The audit demonstrates the importance of designated sites for protecting semi-natural habitats. These include SSSIs. Notified by English Nature, these sites have statutory protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1982 (amended) (W&CA) and the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW Act).

47. Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) are non-statutory sites that are ratified by the SINC Panel and are listed in district Local Plans, where they receive policy protection. SINC information is managed in a database called BioDAT[10], which is held by members of the SINC Panel. Most sites were surveyed at Phase 2 Habitat Survey standard by qualified ecological surveyors, between 1998 and 2001. There are currently 187 existing and potential SINCs listed for Selby District. Survey findings are currently being matched to the SINC criteria guidelines to prepare a definitive list (Baker[11]).

48. The entire district was surveyed in 1993 to Phase 1 Habitat Survey standard. This survey was the first time that good ecological sites were identified. Many of these sites went on to be designated as SINCs (Warburton[9]).

49. The Selby Wildlife Audit (Megson[12]) reviews scarce and threatened species in Selby District. It is based on a review of published records and some unpublished reports together with information from specialist recorders.

50. Other species of conservation concern will occur in the district but records are widely dispersed amongst various data holders. Records remain the intellectual property of recorders unless previously published. There is a lack of records for many species and a general need to undertake baseline surveys.

51. The Red Data Book (RDB) and Nationally Scarce (NS) designations are based on inventories published by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) or its predecessor, using the most up-to-date account available. In the case of moths and butterflies, aquatic beetles and flies, updated status designations awaiting publication have been used because these are considered more accurate than those initially published. Lists of Red Data and Nationally Scarce plants (including vascular plants, bryophytes and lichens) and Red Data fungi are available on the JNCC website ([15]).

52. Criteria for inclusion in this report are as follows:

    1. UK BAP priority species.
    2. Red Data Book species.
    3. Nationally Scarce species.
    4. Species identified in published Red Data Books for the Yorkshire region.
    5. Birds of Conservation Concern, including species on the red list (highest concern) and on the amber list.

    1. The UK BAP priority species were initially published as the short, medium and long lists.

    2. Red Data Book species are those considered to be nationally:

    Endangered (RDB1) – species considered to be in serious danger of extinction in Great Britain.

    Vulnerable (RDB2) – species believed to be declining throughout their British range and which may become endangered.

    Rare (RDB3) – species which are not endangered or vulnerable but are extremely localised in Britain and believed to occur in fewer than 15 OS hectads (ten km squares).

    Insufficiently Known (RDBK) – species, which are believed to merit Red Data listing but which are insufficiently known to determine their status more accurately.

The new criteria categorise RDB species as Critically Endangered, Endangered, Vulnerable and Near Threatened (see JNCC website for definitions[15]).

3. Nationally Scarce species are considered to have a very localised distribution in Great Britain and are estimated to occur in fewer than 100 hectads (out of a total of 2,877 hectads). For some of the better-known invertebrate groups, this category has been subdivided into Nationally Scarce A [Na] (very scarce species estimated to occur in fewer than 30 hectads) and Nationally Scarce B [Nb] (those estimated to occur in 31-100 hectads). For others the category has not been subdivided. The category Nationally Scarce replaces the term Nationally Notable.
It should be recognised that assessments of conservation status are based on constantly changing knowledge. In some cases, species identified as Nationally Scarce may no longer merit a national conservation status, whilst others may merit Red Data listing.

4. Yorkshire Red Data inventories have been published for land & freshwater molluscs (Norris[16]) and bees, wasps & ants (Archer[17]) These include regionally rare or threatened species as well as those of national conservation concern.

5. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) has lead on the publication 'The Population Status of Birds in the UK, Birds of Conservation Concern', Anon, 2002[18]. This lists 40 birds of primary conservation concern (the red list), 121 birds of secondary concern (the amber list) and 86 others of concern (the green list). A full report on the breeding population status of UK birds occurs in Gregory[19].

The criteria for including species in this audit inevitably exclude many which may be of more local conservation concern. An important part of the Local BAP process will be to identify these in consultation with local experts.

Selby BAP priority habitats and species

53. Although all species of wildlife are important, LBAPs concentrate on priority habitats and species. Priorities are selected by the steering group, based on the following recognised criteria.

Criteria for selecting habitats

- Any habitat for which a UK BAP has been prepared that occurs in the Selby District.
- Any semi-natural habitat that occurs in the Selby District.
- Any habitat that is characteristic of the Selby District.
- Any habitat that is locally distinctive within the Selby District.
- Any habitat that supports a priority species and occurs in the Selby District.
- Some habitats are grouped into broad habitat types, such as 'farmland'.

Criteria for selecting species

- Any species (not including vagrants) that has recently occurred in Selby, and for which a UK BAP has been prepared.
- Any species that has been issued with a status showing that it is of conservation concern (such as Red Data Book listing, Nationally Scarce or red/amber listed birds) and regularly occurs in Selby.
- Any species that has statutory protection under The Habitats Directive or the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and has recently occurred in Selby.
- Any species occurring in the District that is considered by experts to be regionally rare.
- Any species that is considered to be locally distinctive.
- Any species that is considered to be locally valued.
- Any species that is considered likely to make a good flagship species for promoting action plans.

54. The habitats and species were evaluated against the above criteria, discussed by experts on the steering group and priorities were selected. Baseline information, where available, is given in the Selby Wildlife Audit (Megson[12]).

55. The Selby Wildlife Audit has identified the need for on going survey work. This is required to enable the partnership to establish the status of both habitats and species. Surveys are also needed to monitor change. Although the Selby BAP sets out to monitor biodiversity gain, there is no mechanism for measuring and recording biodiversity losses. This may lead to misleading statements concerning the state of biodiversity.

56. The Yorkshire Naturalists' Union intends to arrange its future field excursions to sites containing semi-natural habitats, to undertake field recording. Some of these will be in Selby District over the next five years.

57. There is also a continuing need for research, especially in to the ecological requirements of priority species. The Selby BAP occasionally makes assumptions that habitat conservation measures will benefit species. This may not always hold true.

58. Many organisations are currently undertaking research, which will inform the BAP process. This includes the Game Conservancy Trust (GCT) (grey partridge and brown hare), the RSPB (farmland birds), the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) (breeding birds, wintering birds), Froglife (great crested newt, adder, slow worm) and many others.

59. Monitoring should be undertaken by those agencies with the capability, for example the monitoring of river biology by the Environment Agency (EA).

Priorities covered by the 25 habitats and species action plans

60. The Selby BAP steering group selected 13 habitats and twelve species for the Selby BAP. An individual action plan has been prepared for each. These are referred to as Habitat Action Plans (HAP) and Species Action Plans (SAP).

61. Farmland is a major broad habitat in the District and consequently supports populations of farmland birds, a group that is nationally declining. There have been many effective conservation projects on farmland in the last twenty years and there is high potential for further initiatives.

62. The largely urban habitats around towns and villages are significant in terms of both wildlife and the involvement of local communities. The plan for Towns and villages gives the main opportunity by which Selby District residents, planners and developers can participate in the process. In urban areas the importance of the phrase 'all biodiversity' is seen, as very common species are valued.

63. The total land area of the District is 60,190 hectares. Of the semi-natural habitats, only fragments remain. Figures below are taken from Warburton[10] and are based on the pre-boundary change area of Selby District, which was 72,486ha. Although now slightly inaccurate, the data emphasise the scarceness of semi-natural habitat in the District.

Percentage land area of semi-natural habitat types

Semi-natural habitat	**%**	**ha**
Woodland	1.7	1,023
Scrub	0.4	241
Neutral grassland	0.8	482
Calcareous grassland	0.05	30
Acidic grassland	0.2	120
Marsh	0.3	181
Swamp	0.2	120
Heathland	0.05	30
Total	3.7%	2,227

64. Species are dealt with in two ways:

1. Some, such as tansy beetle, are so rare that they require a dedicated plan. Others, such as bats, do not fit easily into one habitat plan, because they utilise a mosaic of habitats. These have dedicated Species Action Plans.

2. Species that are closely linked with a major habitat type (such as farmland birds with Arable farmland), are referred to as 'associated species priorities' and so are dealt with in the appropriate Habitat Action Plan.

65. The Selby BAP covers 46 species, in the twelve SAPs, and a further 43 ‘associated species priorities’ within the 13 HAPs.

66. Of the 89 species, 21 are also UK BAP priorities. These are indicated as ‘(UK BAP)’ in the text.

67. The European otter is regularly using some river systems in Selby, and nationally threatened species such as brown hare, great crested newt and water vole occur. Eleven UK BAP priority species of bird breed. The District is important for a number of very rare invertebrates, including water beetles, moths and the cylindrical whorl snail.

Aims of the Habitat and Species Action Plans

68. Action plans have been written for the priority habitats and species and these form the bulk of this document. This gives the opportunity for a series of targets to be set.

69. Each Habitat Action Plan gives details of the habitat including an introduction, national, regional and local status, legal status, threats, requirements to maintain in favourable condition, current local initiatives, opportunities, and the priority species associated with that habitat. Brief information is given on the local status of each priority species (where known). Where the habitat is important for priority species covered by dedicated Species Action Plans, links are made. The habitat resource is illustrated on a map. Where appropriate, the key targets in the UK BAP are given.

70. For each habitat, one or more sites are listed (with OS grid reference) as local examples, where members of the public can visit. Some sites are open to the public while others can be experienced from public rights of way. It should be remembered that the majority of sites containing semi-natural habitat are in private ownership and are not accessible to the public.

71. Each Species Action Plan gives details of the priority species, including an introduction, national, regional, local and legal status, threats, ecological requirements, current local initiatives, opportunities and key UK BAP targets where applicable. A distribution map illustrates the baseline status of each.

72. UK BAP targets are given; although many of these were set in 1994 and a few have yet to be revised.

Conservation targets

73. Each action plan gives a long-term objective, which the Selby BAP partnership aspires to and one or more biodiversity targets (usually five-year targets).

74. As with the UK BAP, the Selby BAP aims to achieve conservation through targets based upon protection, enhancement and re-creation:

- The key means of conserving habitats and species is by protecting the existing resource at sites, often using designations such as: SSSI, SINC, Local Nature Reserve (LNR) and Nature Reserve (NR). Such sites require favourable management, often through Management Agreements with the owners.
- Enhancement seeks to improve existing degraded habitat to a state of favourable condition for wildlife.
- Re-creation seeks to expand the resource.

75 Most of the targets seek to increase, or at the very least maintain, the biological resource. They positively seek gains such as 'increase the area of...'; 'increase the breeding distribution of ...'and 'improve the condition of … for wildlife.*

76 **During the consultation phase, a wide range of partners formally signed up to the actions. It was noted that these organisations would not be held responsible if the stated targets were not met. This was to avoid organisations declining to agree to actions, for fear of under performing. The tables of actions, shows how targets should be met, indicating which organisations are best positioned to co-ordinate them.**

Baseline information

77. The NEYEDC is the Biological Records Centre for the Region and has prepared baseline habitat maps and species distribution maps for each action plan. These are based upon current data held by NEYEDC. The habitat maps are based upon a number of habitat surveys undertaken in the last 15 years. For each species, the maps show all records held by NEYEDC for the period 1970 to 2003.

78. The partnership is aware that the maps are missing data not held by NEYEDC, and efforts will be made to encourage the submission of such information to the Data Centre. There is a need to gather further information for all of the priority habitats and species.

79. The maps will be made available on a North Yorkshire BAPs website from 2004, with an on-line recording form to encourage members of the public to add to the database.

80. Habitat creation as a consequence of BAP actions will be recorded. However, other habitat creation schemes may not be known about by the BAP steering group and there is no current mechanism in place for recording the loss of habitat.

Monitoring

81. NEYEDC will be responsible for collating habitat change and records of priority species and updating the appropriate maps. The updating of maps will

be used to monitor progress towards the biodiversity target set for each action plan. Targets have been set, based on increases to this baseline data. This will necessitate some comprehensive field survey work.

BAP implementation

82. The most important part of the BAP process, is the co-ordination and delivery of projects that encompass the published actions and achieve the action plan targets. This will requires a high level of commitment from the partners. The co-ordination of BAP projects will require a degree of fund raising to initiate local projects. Ideally each action plan will be championed by an Organisation.

BAP co-ordination

83. The two local planning authorities, Selby District Council and North Yorkshire County Council, are in the best position to co-ordinate BAP partners, projects, fund raising and reporting. However, a formal mechanism has yet to be agreed.

Reporting

84. A key element of the BAP process is the reporting stage. Reporting on progress will be undertaken by the NEYEDC on behalf of the BAP partnership, using the software produced by English Nature called the Biodiversity Action Reporting System or BARS. Using BARS, annual progress reports will be printed off for partners and biodiversity gains for UK BAP priorities are likely to be up-loaded via the internet to the UK BAP steering group.

85. Progress towards each of the targets is likely to be assessed annually and it is anticipated that the Selby BAP will be fully reviewed after five years. The BAP is a flexible process, which is able to incorporate changes. Further habitats and species may be identified as priorities and have action plans prepared at a future stage.

86. The use of targets in the action plans is a useful tool for assessing success. If targets are not met then the BAP partnership will investigate the reasons and alter the targets as necessary. This will be done via the five-yearly reports in a five-yearly review process.

Geography of the District

87. The Selby BAP covers the area that is covered by the Deposit Draft Selby District Local Plan (1997[6]), as amended by modifications. A large proportion of the District lies within the Vale of York and is essentially low lying, fertile, land, dissected by the River Wharfe, River Aire and River Ouse and bordered by the River Derwent. Much of the area is intensively farmed as pastoral and

arable land, with fragments of unimproved grassland, heathland and woodland.

88. The undulating topography rarely exceeds 50m above sea level. Glacial deposits obscure the underlying geology, which includes the Selby coalfield. Mineral extraction in the District has mainly focused on coal, limestone and clay.

89. Magnesian Limestone (which extends from County Durham to Nottingham in a narrow band), outcrops in the west of the district where it has been quarried in a number of places. Along its length important calcareous grasslands occur. Disused quarries, often small in scale, provide thin soils and bare ground, important for many species, such as lichens, vascular plants and invertebrates.

90. Rivers in their mature, or meandering, phase dissect Selby District. Historically, wetland habitat associated with river flood plains, such as flood meadows and reed beds, were much more extensive.

English Nature Natural Areas

91. The geography of the district relates to two series of landscape maps. English Nature has divided the country into Natural Areas, based on the distribution of wildlife and natural features. The Countryside Agency (CA) has created a very similar series, called Landscape Character areas, based on landform. Neither is based on administrative areas.

92. The following EN Natural Areas cover Selby District:
- Vale of York and Mowbray (N^{o} 16)
- Humberhead Levels (N^{o} 22)
- Southern Magnesian Limestone (N^{o} 23)

93. Natural Areas offer a more effective framework for achieving nature conservation objectives than do administrative boundaries and they are recognised in Government Planning Policy Guidance.

Generic actions

94. While the individual action plans itemise targets and actions that aid specific conservation measures, the following actions demonstrate good practice and apply to all of the individual action plans.

95. Advice and expertise is available from local organisations such as the Rural Development Service (RDS Defra), Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG), Linking Environment And Farming (LEAF), Forestry Commission (FC), Forest Enterprise (FE), English Nature, Selby District Council (SDC) and North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) amongst others.

Table 3. Generic actions.

Generic action	Rational	Relevant Action Plan
Control of invasive alien species.	Alien or non-native species can have a negative impact upon native wildlife, through direct competition or predation. There are numerous species, but some of the more notorious are as follows: American mink, American signal crayfish, Japanese knotweed, Himalayan balsam, giant hogweed, Canadian waterweed, water fern and New Zealand pygmyweed. These invasive species should be controlled and if possible eradicated. Field surveys and public participation is necessary.	HAP 1-13
Wildlife gardening (including non use of peat and rock from limestone pavement).	The c.50 million domestic gardens in the UK offer a huge potential for wildlife. Wildlife gardeners should embrace two areas of best practice: 1. The use of peat alternatives to help safeguard peat bogs. Retailers should be encouraged by customers and the BAP partnership to stock a good range of peat alternatives. 2. The non-purchase of 'water worn limestone' sold as rockery stone. This product exploits limestone pavement, a scarce and irreplaceable natural habitat, which is fully protected by law. (It might be marketed under other names such as 'Cumbrian limestone'). Eire still exports this rock, so everyone should seek to reduce the demand by not using it in the garden. Pass information to the Limestone Pavement Action Group (see Annex D).	HAP 13
Publicity.	Public awareness campaigns help to spread the biodiversity message and all opportunities should be taken to further the understanding of nature conservation. Businesses should inform their employees of their environmental actions.	All
Environmental education opportunities.	Natural history is poorly represented in the National Curriculum, yet young people need to become stakeholders in the BAP process, as much as older generations. Opportunities to impart knowledge and responsibility to all age groups should be undertaken. These could be through illustrated talks, trips to sites, classroom visits, WATCH groups, after school projects, guided walks, countryside events, media exposure, etc.	All

Generic action	Rational	Relevant Action Plan
Promote and facilitate the uptake of grants.	There are opportunities for farmers, businesses, Parish Councils and community groups to undertake conservation work through charitable and other funding schemes. Grant information, advice and where appropriate, assistance should be offered to those undertaking biodiversity actions.	All
Promote the use of the North and East Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre	The North and East Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre is a key partner for data handling, especially where survey work has been identified as an action, and for the overall monitoring of action plan targets. All holders of natural history data should share their information with the NEYEDC.	All
Key partners to reflect main BAP targets in their organisation's own policies.	The Selby Biodiversity Action Plan is a partnership of organisations. Where appropriate, the key targets found within the BAP should be reflected in the internal policies of those organisations.	All
Policies and targets.	The inclusion of BAP targets into the policies of a wide range of organisations should be promoted.	
Reduced disturbance.	One of the fundamental requirements of wild animals is freedom from disturbance, so that they can concentrate resources on breeding, foraging or resting. Care should be taken to minimise disturbance, for example when exercising dogs close to a concentration of birds (e.g. at a roost or where ground-nesting birds may be present).	All
Wildlife surveys on development sites.	Where it is considered that there is wildlife interest on a site facing a change of land use, a wildlife survey should be carried out.	HAP 13
Habitat creation schemes should be carefully sited.	Nature conservation schemes should not be implemented until the site has been checked for existing wildlife interest. There are cases of habitat creation schemes, such as tree planting, being undertaken on established semi-natural habitats, to the overall detriment of biodiversity.	All
Non collection of fungi and flowers.	Many species of plant are specially protected from up-rooting or picking by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, and there is a code of conduct. Recent guidelines to protect fungi from over picking have been published. The Selby BAP promotes the non-collection or picking	HAP 1-13

Generic action	Rational	Relevant Action Plan
	of any wild plant or fungi.	
All sites of nature conservation interest to be considered as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) by the SINC panel.	The Selby BAP focuses on district-wide habitats, but recognises that sites are important biological units within the BAP process. All local authorities maintain a site-based system of non-statutory wildlife sites, which are given protection by local plan policies. In North Yorkshire this system is operated by the SINC panel. If permission from the site owner is forthcoming, sites of biological interest should be surveyed by an ecological surveyor and the NEYEDC should assess the results against the published guidelines. The SINC panel meets to discuss the ratification of sites as SINCs.	HAP 1-13
CAP reform – Environmental Stewardship (Entry Level Scheme and Higher Level Scheme).	Reforms to the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) agreed in 2004, will replace headage and production subsidies with a single farm payment based on land area and subject to cross compliance measures on land management. This will break the link between subsidies and production and will be phased in over eight years. Some of the money that would have gone to subsidy will be put into the new agri-environment scheme to be launched in 2005. In 2005 a new voluntary scheme, 'Environmental Stewardship', should replace its predecessors Countryside Stewardship Scheme (CSS) and Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA). Farmers will be rewarded for undertaking environmentally beneficial actions. It is intended that a basic 'Entry Level Scheme' (ELS) will achieve high uptake for generic measures on a land holding. Agreement holders in Environmental Stewardship ELS will be eligible to put land with current or potential wildlife value into a 'Higher Level Scheme' (HLS), Environmental Stewardship HLS, which allows more specific management or enhancement measures and capital works.	HAP 1-12, especially HAP 4
Statutory duties	Many of the Selby BAP partners undertake statutory duties, which have a direct impact upon nature conservation. These are not noted as targets or actions, as the BAP seeks to bring added value to nature conservation.	All

Selby BAP Habitat Action Plans and UK BAP lead partners

96. The following table lists the Selby Priority habitats and species and gives the UK BAP lead partners (if any). It also shows the main links between the species and habitat plans.

97. The table includes both the associated species priorities that are included within Habitat Action Plans, and those with dedicated Species Action Plans.

Table 4. Selby BAP priorities and UK BAP lead partners

Selby Habitat Action Plan and priority species	**UK BAP lead partner**	**Links to Selby Species Action Plans**
Woodland	FC	Otter, Bats, Bumble bees, Clearwing moths, Rare moths
Bluebell	-	
Primrose	-	
Spotted flycatcher	EN	
Song thrush	RSPB	
Bullfinch	RSPB	
Lowland wood pasture and parkland	EN	Bats
Ancient and / or species-rich hedgerows	Defra	Bats
Arable farmland	Partly Defra	Bats, Bumble bees
Tree sparrow	RSPB	
Corn bunting	EN, RSPB	
Grey partridge	GCT	
Turtle dove	EN, RSPB	
Starling	-	
House sparrow	-	
Yellowhammer	-	
Linnet	RSPB	
Skylark	RSPB	
Twite	-	
Brown hare	GCT, MS	
Grazing marsh	Partly EN, partly CCW	Water vole, Tansy beetle, Bats, Bumble bees
Harvest mouse	-	
Barn owl	-	
Snipe	-	
Lapwing	-	

Selby Habitat Action Plan and priority species	UK BAP lead partner	Links to Selby Species Action Plans
Redshank	-	
Yellow wagtail	-	
Unimproved grassland	EN	Dingy Skipper, Bats, Bumble bees, Rare moths
Green hellibore	-	
Lowland heathland	EN	Pillwort, An aquatic beetle *Agabus uliginosus*, Bats, Clearwing moths, Rare moths, Bumblebees
Marsh gentian	-	
Nightjar	RSPB	
Tree pipit	-	
Woodlark	RSPB	
Adder	-	
Fens	EN	Water vole, An aquatic beetle *Agabus uliginosus*, Bats, Clearwing moths, Rare moths
Aquatic beetle *Acilius canaliculatus*	-	
Aquatic beetle *Agabus labiatus*	-	
Aquatic beetle *Helophorus strigifrons*	-	
Aquatic beetle *Dryops auriculatus*	-	
Reedbeds	EN	Otter, Water vole, Bats, Rare moths
Reed bunting	RSPB	
Lakes and ponds	Partly EA, partly SEPA	Otter, Water vole, Great crested newt, Pillwort, An aquatic beetle *Agabus uliginosus*, Bats
Whooper swan	-	
Shoveler	-	
Canals	-	Otter, Water vole, Bats
Rivers, streams and ditches	-	Otter, Water vole, Tansy beetle
Allis shad	EA	
River lamprey	-	
Sea lamprey	-	
Atlantic salmon	-	
Grayling	-	

Selby Habitat Action Plan and priority species	**UK BAP lead partner**	**Links to Selby Species Action Plans**
Depressed river mussel	EA	
Towns and villages	-	Water vole, Great crested newt, Bats, Bumble bees, Clearwing moths
Sand leek	-	
Swift	-	
Selby Species Action Plan – species	**UK BAP lead partner**	**Links to Selby Habitat Action Plans**
Otter	EA, WTs	Woodland, Reedbeds, Fens, Rivers, streams and ditches, Canals, Lakes and ponds
Water vole	EA	Reed beds, Fens, Rivers, streams and ditches, Canals, Lakes and ponds
Great crested newt	F, BHC, HCT	Canals, Lakes and ponds, Towns and villages
Tansy beetle	-	Rivers, streams and ditches
Dingy skipper butterfly	-	Unimproved grassland
Pillwort	SNH	Lakes and ponds
Cylindrical whorl snail	-	-
An aquatic beetle *Agabus ulignosis*	-	Canals, Lakes and ponds
Bats		All thirteen
Whiskered bat	-	
Brandt's bat	-	
Daubenton's bat	-	
Natterer's bat	-	
Common pipistrelle bat	BCT	
Soprano pipistrelle bat	BCT	
Noctule bat	-	
Leisler's bat	-	
Brown long-eared bat	-	
Bumble bees		Arable farmland, Neutral grassland, Unimproved grassland, Lowland heathland, Towns and villages
A bumble bee *Bombus lucorum*		
A bumble bee *Bombus terrestris*		
A bumble bee *Bombus pratorum*		
A bumble bee *Bombus lapidarius*		
A bumble bee *Bombus hortorum*		
A bumble bee *Bombus pascuorum*		
A bumble bee *Bombus bohemicus*		
A bumble bee *Bombus vestalis*		
A bumble bee *Bombus campestris*		

Selby Habitat Action Plan and priority species	**UK BAP lead partner**	**Links to Selby Species Action Plans**
A bumble bee *Bombus sylvestris*		
A bumble bee *Bombus jonellus*		
A bumble bee *Bombus rupestris*		
Clearwing moths		Woodland, Lowland heathland, Fens, Towns and villages
Lunar hornet moth *Sesia bembeciformis*		
Currant clearwing *Synanthedon tipuliformis*		
Yellow-legged clearwing *Synanthedon vespiformis*		
Red-tipped clearwing *Synanthedon formicaeformis*		
Large red-belted clearwing *Synanthedon culciformis*		
Six-belted clearwing *Bembecia ichneumoniformis*		
Rare moths		Woodland, Unimproved grassland, Lowland heathland, Fens, Reedbeds
	UK BAP lead partner	
A micro moth *Monochroa suffusella*	-	
A micro moth *Crambus uliginosellus*	-	
A micro moth *Apomyelois bistriatella subspecies subcognata*	-	
Scarce vapourer moth *Orggyia recens*	-	
Triple-spotted pug moth *Eupithecia trisignaria*	-	
The forester moth *Adscita statices*	-	
Argent and sable moth *Rheumaptera hastata*	BC	
White-marked moth *Cerastis leucographa*	-	
Angle-striped sallow moth *Enargia palacea*	-	
Twin-spotted wainscot moth *Archanura geminipuncta*	-	
Dotted rustic moth *Rhyacia simulans*	-	

For abbreviations see Annex C.

HABITAT ACTION PLANS

1. **Woodland Habitat Action Plan**

Introduction

This Habitat Action Plan covers Semi-natural ancient woodland and Recent woodland.

Ancient woods are defined as 'having continuous woodland cover since1600 AD' and are listed in the Inventory of Ancient Woodland (Phillips[14]). This continuity is essential for the survival of rich ground flora communities that take millennia to develop. The IAW does not include sites smaller than two hectares, although the Selby BAP partnership believes that this is desirable.

All ancient woodlands are a priority, because they are effectively an irreplaceable resource. They cannot be re-created simply by planting trees.

High priorities for conservation action are plantations where native broadleaves have been replaced with conifers, but the ground flora persists, such as in Bishop Wood. Such woods are referred to as Plantation on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS).

Ancient woodland is covered by four UK BAP priority habitats:

- Lowland beech & yew woodland
- Upland mixed ashwoods
- Upland oakwoods
- Wet woodlands

In addition, some Lowland broadleaf woods, such as Brayton Barff, are also ancient. The UK BAP Steering Group is preparing a new UK action plan for 2005 which has relevance to the District – 'Lowland mixed deciduous woodland'. Woods such as Brayton Barff will be covered by this.

Recent woodland comprises of all other woodlands not categorised as ancient. This includes woodland that has colonised naturally, referred to as secondary woodland.

Plantations of both native and non-native tree species are important for some UK BAP species, and for landscape quality.

Sub-habitats within woodland, such as glades, rides, pools, bare ground and woodland edge are desirable, especially for invertebrates.

National status

The IAW records ' 2 million ha of woodland of which 534,000 ha are estimated to be ancient. Approximately 300,000 ha of this can be described as ancient semi-natural woodland, the balance having been converted into plantations.'

Regional status

The regional audit (Selman[7]) attributes the region with 6.7% of the ancient and natural woodland in England and Wales. The report highlights the fact that the data is very patchy and woodland classes, particularly Wet woodland, are under recorded. The figures given in the audit for the relevant types are:

UK priority habitats

- Lowland beech & yew woodland 0 ha
- Upland mixed ashwoods 2,338 ha
- Upland oakwoods 2,946 ha
- Wet woodlands 343 ha

Local status

The IAW[14] identifies the fact that very little ancient woodland survived in the flatter and more fertile areas of the region. The regional audit shows Selby District as having only Wet woodlands. The IAW lists 62 Selby woodlands covering 1,075 ha. Of this 497 ha is semi-natural ancient woodland and 578 ha is on PAWS.

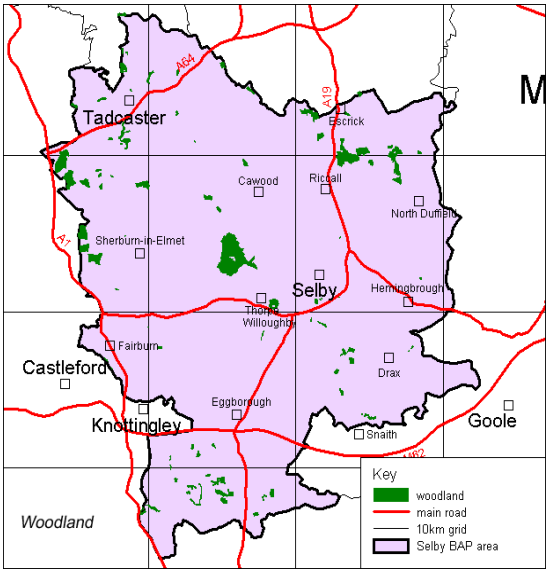
The largest site in the District is Bishop Wood, managed by Forest Commission England (FCE). This is a 330 ha PAWS site. Once restored to its original Wet woodland state, it will be of key national importance.

Brockadale YWT Nature Reserve includes an area of lowland ash woodland, which is actively managed for wildlife.

Places to visit:

Bishop Wood
Grid reference SE 561332
Coniferous plantation with wet woodland.
Brayton Barff
Grid reference SE 587308
Lowland acid oak woodland.

Woodland habitat (all types). Baseline distribution map, 2003.



Legal status

- Forestry Act 1967 (as amended).
- Felling licences required from Forestry Commission (FC) under Forestry Regulations.
- The bluebell, a key woodland plant, is legally protected from up-rooting and sale under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).
- Environmental Impact Assessments for planning applications.

Associated species priorities

- Bluebell
- Primrose
- Spotted flycatcher
- Song thrush
- Bullfinch

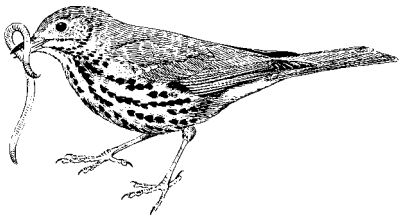
The creation of new woods and the conservation management of existing woods, will benefit all of the associated priority species.

Local status of Selby priorities

The bluebell is found in many of the District's ancient woodlands.

Bluebell

The spotted flycatcher is a local and decreasing breeding bird. (Cooper[20]) cites two to five pairs.



Song thrush

The song thrush has seen a national 25-year decline (1974 to 1999) of 53%, but no local population figures are available.

The bullfinch has seen a 57% national decline over the same period (Gregory[19]). Cooper[20] estimates 50 pairs bullfinch for the Selby District.

Threats

- Habitat Fragmentation
- Illegal up-rooting of bluebells for commercial sale.

Requirements

- No loss of ancient woodland.
- Reversion of PAWS to native broadleaved woodland.
- Conservation-minded woodland management.
- Creation of new woodland using local provenance stock.
- Retention of dead and dying timber.
- Control of invasive exotic species - Rhododendron, cherry laurel, Japanese knotweed and Himalayan balsam.
- Control of beech, sycamore and poplars in ancient woods.
- New planting to link existing semi-natural habitat.

Current action

- FCE regulates timber harvesting through felling licences.
- The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations.
- The FC has produced Forest Practice Guides for different woodland types (Forest Authority [21]).
- Woodland planting and conservation is encouraged by Woodland Grant Scheme (WGS) and Woodland Improvement Grants (WIG) available from FC.
- FC National Inventory of Woodland and Trees started in 1995.
- Data collected as part of the WGS documentation.
- FC organises breeding bird surveys.
- FC financially supports surveys in their forests.
- Local businesses promote woodland planting through the uptake of grants.

Opportunities

- FC to restore Bishop Wood to Wet woodland.
- Woodland advisory companies to secure planting schemes using FC grant aid.

- More natural regeneration and use of direct seed scattering rather than tree planting.
- Woodland creation and planting; woodland restoration and maintenance of high value woodland will be available under the proposed Environmental Stewardship Higher Level Scheme (Defra). Help with fence maintenance may also be included.
- FCE will seek to protect all ancient semi-natural woodland sites under the England Woodland Grant Scheme to be launched in spring 2005.

What you can do to help:

Enjoy woodland flowers without picking them.

Rather than burning it, leave fallen timber to decay, for fungi and insects to colonise.

UK BAP targets

Wet woodland

- Maintain total extent and distribution of 50,000 to 70,000 ha.
- Maintain current area (24,000 to 30,000 ha) of ancient wet woodland.
- Initiate management measures to achieve favourable condition in 100% of Wet woodlands within SSSIs and 80% of total resource by 2004 and to achieve that favourable condition for 70% within SSSIs and 50% of total resource by 2004.
- Achieve favourable condition of 50% of total resource and 70% of designated sites by 2010.
- Complete restoration to site-native species to 1,600 ha of PAW, by 2010 and a further 1,600 ha by 2015.
- Establish 3,375 ha of wet woodland on un-wooded sites or plantations by 2010, with a further 3,375 ha by 2015.

Links to Species Action Plans

Otter – see SAP 1.
Bats - see SAP 9.
Bumble bees - see SAP 10.
Clearwing moths - see SAP 11.
Argent and sable moth (UK BAP), **scarce vapourer moth**, **triple spotted pug** and **white-marked moth**, all recorded from Bishop Wood - see SAP 12.

Objective

To conserve and restore all ancient semi-natural woodland and to increase the number of woods under favourable management. To increase the amount of new woodland from the current 1.7% of the Selby land area to the Yorkshire average of 6.7%

Ten year targets

N^{o}.	**Biodiversity targets**
1	Restore 150 ha of coniferous plantation to native woodland, giving preference to natural regeneration wherever possible.
2	Re-create 50 ha new, native species woodland.
3	Maintain or increase the distribution of the six priority species.

ACTIONS

Raise awareness of the Forestry Act 1967, which covers the protection of trees in all situations, to landowners and planning authorities.	1	FCE	1,3
Restore 50% of Bishop Wood to native broadleaved Wet woodland.	2	FCE	1,3
Internal Drainage Board to undertake necessary ditch work in Bishop Wood in order to raise water table.	3	IDB	1,3
Continue to use grant incentives, especially the England Woodland Grant Scheme, to encourage the planting of new woods and the management and restoration of woods.	4	FCE, RDS (Defra)	2,3
Encourage the restoration of re-planted ancient woodland in private ownership.	5	FCE, FWAG	1,3
Encourage woodland owners to implement appropriate long-term management plans, particularly through the England Woodland Grant Scheme.	6	FCE	3
Erect open-fronted nest boxes in woodland areas, which may encourage spotted flycatchers and other species to breed.	7	FCE, BTCV, Groundwork Selby	3
Undertake an annual breeding survey for spotted flycatcher, song thrush, tree pipit and bullfinch at recently recorded sites.	8	Five Towns Bird Club	3
Advise landowners on grants for planting, management and restoration, especially through the England Woodland Grant Scheme.	9	FCE	1,2,3
-			

2. Lowland wood pasture and parkland Habitat Action Plan

Introduction

Lowland wood pasture and parkland is a UK BAP priority habitat. Sites are products of historic land management systems and represent a vegetation structure rather than being a particular plant community. Typically this structure consists of large, open-grown or high forest trees at various densities, in a mosaic of grazed grassland, heathland or woodland ground flora. Wood-pastures and parkland are often of archaeological, historic, cultural and landscape importance.

Wood-pastures have been managed by a long-established tradition of grazing, with the survival of multiple generations of trees, characteristically with at least some ancient trees. Parklands are more formal, but many have also developed under grazing regimes.

The tree component can occur as scattered individuals, small groups, or as more or less complete canopy cover. Abundant cavities provide for bats and nesting birds, while dead timber provides for fungi and invertebrates. The key issue is the continuity of a full age range of trees.

A wide range of tree and shrub communities may occur as part of wood-pasture systems. Exotic non-native species feature in many parks.

Types of wood-pastures and parkland include:

- Remnant medieval hunting forests and deer parks.
- Wooded commons.
- Parklands with their origins in the 18th century, but with much older trees from an earlier landscape.
- Under-managed and unmanaged wood-pastures with ancient trees.
- Surviving ancient trees following conversion to other land uses such as arable or forestry.
- Ancient trees that originated as hedgerow standards.

English Heritage (EH) has sought to conserve important parkland and designed landscapes for their historic value. Parks of national importance are recorded on the register of Parks and Gardens of National Historic Interest. These are graded in terms of their importance. Many parks not included on the register are also important for their historical and ecological qualities.

This is a key habitat for dead wood invertebrates and fungi of veteran trees and pasture. However, surveys for these groups have not been undertaken in Selby and the BAP has identified this need. No target has been set for ancient trees due to the lack of a comprehensive register.

Ancient (or veteran) trees are found in a wide range of habitats and each one is valuable. These are trees that are of interest biologically, aesthetically or culturally because of their age, size or condition. Important characteristics include:

- Large girth.
- Trunk cavities or hollow trunk.
- Water pools.
- Decay holes.
- Sap runs.
- Physical damage to trunk.

- Bark loss.
- Large quantity of dead wood in the canopy.
- Fungal fruiting bodies.
- Ferns and mosses growing on the tree.

National status

There are no reliable statistics on the extent of the overall resource, or on historical and current rates of loss or degradation of this type of habitat. The figure of 10-20,000 ha 'currently in a working condition' given in the 'habitat statement' of the UK BAP is the current best estimate. The habitat is most common in southern Britain.

Ancient trees are of European importance.

Regional status

There are scattered examples, with Duncombe Park in the North York Moors National Park identified as nationally important (Selman[7]).

Local status

Sites in the District have not been investigated for their biodiversity interest. If arranged this would provide useful information.

Two sites are on the national register – Nun Appleton Hall, which is described as 'well wooded', with new planting in 1893 and Moreby Hall near Stillingfleet, which is in woodland.

Other sites include Byram Hall (belts of woodland, but very open), Carlton Towers (in woodland, with lake), Grimston Park (woodland belts, ancient limes and mature beech trees), Hazelwood Castle (ancient woodland and parkland), Monk Fryston Hall, Newton Kyme Hall (with over-mature lime trees and pasture), Queen Margaret's School, Escrick, and Scarthingwell Park.

Places to visit: Hazelwood Castle Grid reference SE 450400

Habitat distribution map
This habitat has not been mapped.

Legal status

- Forestry Act 1967 as amended.
- Some sites protected by Deposit Draft Selby District Local Plan (1997), as amended by modifications policy.
- Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) administered by Selby DC.

Associated species priorities

None.

Threats

- Loss of trees, especially ancient ones, because of public safety fears.
- Skewed age structure leading to a break in the availability of old trees for invertebrates.
- Removal of dead wood needed by some species.

Requirements

- Long-term management plans.
- Appropriate grazing regimes for open ground (grassland or heath).

- Planting of specimen trees to maintain continuity of ancient trees.
- Conservation of individual ancient trees.
- Reinstating pollarding where this form of traditional management has stopped.
- Presence of varied nectar sources for invertebrates.
- Network of sites, to off set poor powers of dispersal of many specialist animals.
- Extension planting adjacent to sites.
- Research in to history and ecology of sites.
- A register of ancient trees.

Current action

- The Ancient Tree Forum (hosted by the Wildlife Trusts) promotes identification and conservation of lowland wood pastures, parkland and veteran trees.
- The District Council can protect locally valued trees through Tree Preservation Orders.

Opportunities

- Identification and conservation of ancient trees within hedges.
- Conservation options under the proposed Environmental Stewardship Higher Level Scheme (Defra), to include creation, restoration and maintenance of wood pasture.

What you can do to help:

Leave fallen timber to decay naturally, for the benefit of insects and fungi.

UK BAP targets

- Maintain the current extent and distribution of all, and the condition of all that is in favourable ecological condition.
- Initiate, in areas where there are derelict examples, a programme to restore 2,500 ha to favourable ecological condition by 2010.
- By 2002 initiate the expansion of 500 ha in appropriate areas to help reverse fragmentation and to reduce the generation gap between veteran trees.

Links to Species Action Plans

Bats - see SAP 9.

Objective

Ensure positive conservation management of all key sites. In the long term, double the area of wood pasture by reinstating the habitat on sites where it occurred historically. Retain veteran trees wherever they occur.

Five year targets

N^{o}.	**Biodiversity targets**
1	No net loss of the current resource of Lowland wood pasture and parkland.
2	Maintain or increase the breeding population and distribution of spotted flycatcher.

ACTIONS

Raise awareness of the Forestry Act 1967, which covers the protection of trees in all situations, to landowners and planning authorities.	1	FCE	1,2
Continue placing TPOs on appropriate trees.	2	SDC	1
Prepare a register of identified ancient trees, including ones within woodland, parkland and isolated trees.	3	NEYEDC	1
Undertake condition surveys, subject to landowner permission.	4	NEYEDC	
Establish ownership of ancient trees and seek access permission. Arrange for tress to be surveyed either for features indicative of veteran tree interest, or by specialist ecologists for their invertebrate or fungi interest	5	NYCC	1
			1
Give advice to interested parties on management and grants.	6	RDS (Defra), FWAG	1,2
Publish articles promoting this habitat and ancient trees.	7	NYCC	1
Encourage management or restoration under the proposed Environmental Stewardship Higher Level Scheme.	8	RDS (Defra) FWAG	1
Identify owners and raise awareness of the BAP.	9	NYCC	1
Set up a tree warden scheme.	10	NYCC	1

Identify ancient tree champions, particularly from the business community.	11	NYCC	1

3. **Ancient and/or species-rich hedgerows Habitat Action Plan**

Introduction

This is a UK BAP habitat. Ancient hedgerows, which tend to be those that support the greatest diversity of plants and animals, are defined as those that were in existence before the Enclosure Acts of 1720 to 1840. Some derive from early woodland clearance, which left a narrow strip of 'wildwood'. These can retain ancient woodland indicator species like wood anemone, ramsons and primrose. Ancient hedgerows should be considered as being irreplaceable.

This HAP includes hedges failing to meet the above criteria but which have a rich basal flora of herbaceous plants, and recently planted species-rich hedges.

The straight hawthorn hedges that characterise later parliamentary enclosures and single species hedges of privet, yew, beech or non-native species are excluded.

In addition to their wildlife value, hedges have farming, landscape, cultural and archaeological importance.

Hedges form a significant wildlife habitat, being a refuge for many species and also a wildlife corridor allowing migration and dispersal. Hedge management is important, for example hawthorn only flowers on second year growth. Different species of bird require different types of hedge management.

Between 1947 and 1985 about 22%, or 300,000 km, of hedgerows were lost in England and Wales. Between 1984 and 1990 there was an estimated loss of 21% of English hedges. Prior to the 1997 Hedgerow Regulations the net loss of hedges was 1.7% through removal and 3.5% through neglect per annum (UK BAP). The 1997 Hedgerow Regulations make it an offence to remove a hedge without permission from the local planning authority. The key issue is neglect.

National status

In 1995 the UK total for all hedges was estimated at 450,000 km. Analysis of data from 1978 and 1990 indicates that about 42%, or 154,000 km, of British hedges are ancient and/or species-rich. These are concentrated mainly in south-west England and south Wales. About 33%, or 41,000 km, of hedges in Northern Ireland are ancient and/or species-rich, giving a combined UK total resource of 195,000 km (UK BAP).

Regional status

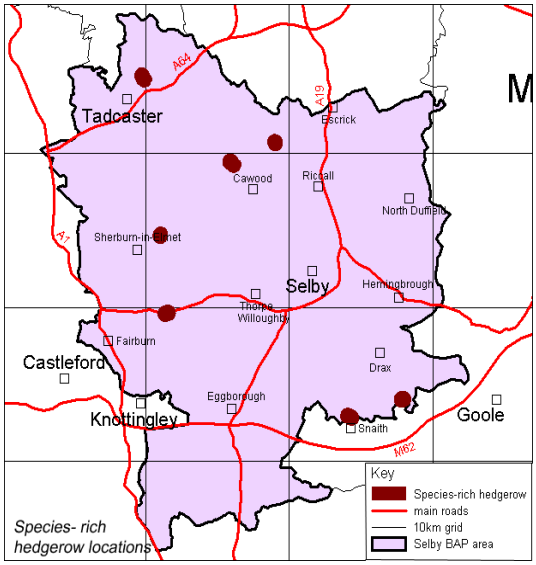
The Countryside Agency (CA) estimated in 1990, that the region had 10% of England's hedgerows and gave the North Yorkshire stock as 18,000 km (all types).

Between 1991 and 1998 123.5 km of native species hedge was planted in North Yorkshire with aid from the Countryside Stewardship Scheme (CSS) (Selman[7]).

Local status

No information on the amount or quality and none on locally important plants or invertebrates.

Ancient &/or species-rich hedgerow. Baseline distribution map, 2003.



Legal status

This habitat is protected under the Hedgerow Regulations 1997. Defra is currently revising the Regulations.

Associated species priorities

None

Threats

- Lack of knowledge regarding the resource.
- Illegal removal of hedges.
- Neglect of hedge management.
- Unsympathetic hedge management.
- Agricultural spray drift killing hedge species.
- Preference for alternative methods of stock control, such as wire fencing.

Requirements

- Sympathetic management of both hedge and hedge bottom, including traditional hedge-laying.
- Protection from agricultural spray drift through creation of adjacent grass margins.
- Planted trees should be of local provenance.
- Hedges to be left uncut for two or more years. Hawthorn flowers grow on second year growth.
- A variety of hedge shapes and sizes.
- Hedge junctions uncut to create scrub cover in field corners.
- Trim after berries have been eaten but before nesting season.
- Trim hedges on rotation around farm to provide a continuous food source.
- Hedge planting to connect semi-natural habitats.

Current local action

- Selby District Council (SDC) implements the Hedgerow Regulations, which safeguard this habitat.
- Training by FWAG, LEAF and others for farmers.
- Linking Environment And Farming (LEAF) demonstration farms.
- BTCV development of local provenance tree nurseries.
- Yorkshire Hedgerow Campaign run by BTCV.
- Management of existing and neglected hedges can be funded through defra schemes.

Opportunities

- Conservation options under the proposed Defra schemes, including management under the Environmental Stewardship Entry Level Scheme and planting under the

Environmental Stewardship Higher Level Scheme.
- Hedgerow survey and database to be organised through the BAP.

What you can do to help:

Avoid severe cutting of garden hedges during the bird-nesting season, from March to the end of July.

UK BAP targets

- Halt the net loss through neglect and removal by 2000 and all loss by 2005.
- Achieve the favourable management of 25% (47,500 km) by 2000 and of 50% (95,000 km) by 2005.
- Maintain the overall number of hedgerow trees within each county or district at least to current levels and ensure a balanced age structure.

Links to Species Action Plans

Bats - hedgerows provide corridors between suitable habitats. See SAP 9.

Objective

To retain and manage all Ancient and species-rich hedgerows, and to double the amount of species-rich hedgerow, using plants of local provenance.

Five year targets

1	Protect all Ancient and/or species-rich hedgerows qualifying under Hedgerow Regulations from removal.
2	Restore 10km of neglected Ancient and/or semi-natural hedge.
3	Increase the number of species-rich hedgerows by 50km.

ACTIONS

Assess Hedgerow Removal Notices under the Hedgerow Regulations 1997.	1	SDC	1
Raise awareness of the Forestry Act 1967, which covers the protection of trees in all situations, to landowners and planning authorities.	2	FCE	1

Plant new species-rich hedges.	3	FWAG, RDS (Defra)	3
Work with landowners to manage hedges, especially neglected ones.	4	FWAG, RDS (Defra)	2
Encourage the planting of ash trees in hedges, to provide trees with cavities in the long term, for nesting birds and invertebrates.	5	FWAG	-
Research and monitoring			
-			
Advisory			
Training / advice for farmers, contractors and Local Authority staff in traditional hedge management techniques.	6	FWAG, BTCV, LEAF	2,3
Sympathetic hedge management.	7	FWAG, BTCV, LEAF	1,2,3
Advise landowners on grants and current research.	8	RDS (Defra), FWAG	2,3
Promote Environmental Stewardship schemes to landowners and land managers.	9	RDS (Defra), FWAG, LEAF	1,2,3
Communications and publicity			
-			

4. **Arable Farmland Habitat Action Plan**

Introduction

It has been established through long-term research that the farmed countryside is important for biodiversity. However, many species, particularly flowering arable annual plants and farmland birds, have declined and are the focus of UK BAP Species Action Plans.

The decline in biological value has largely been due to production-orientated agricultural policies and technological advances since 1945. A change in arable cropping patterns has led to a switch from spring sown to autumn sown crops. In the Selby area, the land is predominantly in intensive arable cultivation.

However, many farmers manage their land for wildlife as well as crop production to the benefit of both habitats and species. Chemical use on farmland has fallen and has become more targeted in recent years and many farmers typically farm in an environmentally friendly way.

Under the England Rural Development Plan, Defra is delivering biodiversity conservation through its agri-environment schemes and its Rural Development Service. Defra is also responsible for EN.

Under the IACS scheme the amount of set aside can be anything from 10% up to 50% of the total arable area on a farm. This provides a huge opportunity to manage a significant area of normally cultivated land for wildlife benefit.

Where specific species are already known to exist, derogation from the normal set aside management rules can be obtained to create ideal breeding/feeding conditions for these species. For example in areas where lapwing are known to breed or are frequent visitors, set aside land can be ploughed in early spring to create bare ground ideal for nesting, alongside short grassland it provides the ideal feeding ground for young chicks. The sowing of wild bird cover mixtures is also encouraged. Set aside strips of 20 m or 10 m wide, can be created to buffer other existing wildlife habitats such as woodland and watercourses.

Cereal field margins encourage wildlife on intensive arable farms and this man-made habitat has become a UK BAP priority. Defra has supported field margin creation, through the Countryside Stewardship Scheme (CSS). This ten-year payment scheme has a diverse range of options for the whole farm including 2m and 6m arable grass margins and beetle banks. Field margins can buffer watercourses.

From 2005, Environmental Stewardship in the farming industry will be determined by Defra in a new way, and CSS will be phased out as ten-year agreements run their course. A wide suite of Environmental Stewardship Entry Level Scheme (ESELS) and Environmental Stewardship Higher Level Scheme (ESHLS) options will succeed CSS arable options. There will be around 17 arable options for ESELS and about 19 different options within the ESHLS.

Stubble is the remains of a cereal crop after harvest. The CSS can pay farmers

for the retention of stubble until February through the Arable options package, with further financial incentives if this is followed by a period of fallow or low input crop. Wildlife seed mixtures and pollen and nectar mixes are also part of the arable options. Arable land is a refuge for seriously declining arable flowers, such as cornflower. However, none of the UK BAP arable weed species are known to grow in the District.

A number of key farmland birds are associated with this habitat. These are species that have undergone a severe decline in the UK over the last 50 years. Research suggests that this is due to changing farming practices, usually referred to as intensification. Birds have been adversely affected by the loss of nest sites, winter seed and summer invertebrates. The latter are essential for the chicks of some species, such as tree sparrow.

The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) researches changes in the population of wild birds through national recording schemes.

Bats and the bumble bees group are associated with farmland and have dedicated SAPs.

The aim of this action plan is to increase cereal field margins and over-winter stubbles and it is assumed that in doing so, the target species will benefit. Additional actions, such as winter bird feeding, will be pursued. No opportunities for re-introducing 'arable weeds' have been identified.

National status

Cereals cover about 51% of arable land in Great Britain and 63% in England. Information on stubble has never been collected.

Regional status

The regional audit (Selman[7]) gives figures on lengths of arable field margins in the CSS in 1998, for North Yorkshire (excluding the National Parks). This gives 72.7 km of 'un-cropped arable margins' and 207 km of '2m grass margins and beetle banks'. These are added to give a total of 279.7 km of the UK BAP priority habitat Cereal field margins for north Yorkshire in 1998.

Local status

The Phase 1 habitat survey report (Warburton[9]) gives a total for arable land/urban land of 61,446ha or 85% of the total land area (NB: this figure is for the 72,486ha land area of the pre 1996 local government boundary changes). No figures are available for current areas of cereal field margin or winter stubble.

Habitat distribution map
This habitat has not been mapped.

Legal status

- The Environment Protection (Duty of Care) Regulations 1995.
- Defra - good agricultural practice guidelines.

Associated species priorities

Nine species of breeding bird, one species of non-breeding bird and one mammal - brown hare.

Recent BTO and RSPB analysis (Gregory[19]) gives the following national population declines for the nine birds, for the period 1974 - 1999:

Tree sparrow	95%
Corn bunting	89%
Grey partridge	84%
Turtle dove	69%
Starling	66%
House sparrow	62%
Linnet	55%
Skylark	55%
Yellowhammer	54%

Twite (passage and wintering)

Status of Selby priorities

The tree sparrow (UK BAP) is an uncommon resident and local breeder. From a limited study, four small colonies and declining (Cooper[20]). The species is still found in the parish of Escrick.

The corn bunting (UK BAP) is also an uncommon resident and local breeder, with larger winter flocks recorded than the previous species. Declining and probably about 25 pairs (Cooper[20]).

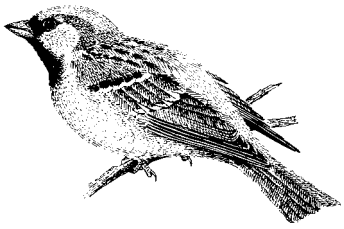
Grey partridge (UK BAP) is an uncommon resident and local breeder, with about ten pairs reported by Cooper[20] from a few regularly watched sites. Declining dramatically. A grey partridge re-introduction scheme has been instigated on the Escrick Estate, through the Farm Conservation Officer.

Grey partridge

Turtle dove (UK BAP) local breeding summer visitor, declined to about 10 pairs (Cooper[20]). Faces threats on migration through southern Europe. The main local issue is loss of weedy arable land.

The starling is a resident and widespread breeder and winter visitor. No assessment of local breeding population has been attempted, but the national decline is reflected by loss of large winter roosts.

The house sparrow is a resident and widespread breeder. No assessment of breeding population, but declining, particularly in rural areas.



House sparrow

The yellowhammer is a locally declining resident and widespread breeder and winter visitor, but no local estimate of breeding pairs is available.

Yellowhammer

The linnet (UK BAP) is a resident and widespread breeder and winter visitor, but no local data is available.

The skylark (UK BAP) is a resident and widespread breeder and winter visitor, but it is declining dramatically locally as well as nationally.

Twite is a declining breeding finch of the uplands. It has been found on passage or wintering at Beal Carrs.

The brown hare (UK BAP) has a widespread distribution, and its population is possibly stable.

Threats

- Field management is greatly influenced by European Agricultural policy through the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP). Farmers are therefore directed in how they can work their land.
- The environmental impact of Genetically Modified (GM) crop technology requires further research.

Requirements

- A wide variety of countryside features.
- Rotational cutting of cereal field margins.
- Retention of grassland with tussocks and nectar sources.
- Use of targeted pesticides.
- Planting of low input crops or summer fallow following winter stubble.
- Winter-feeding and nest box schemes benefit some birds.
- Protection of water quality.
- Good hedgerow management.

Current local action

- Many farmers have entered the ten year CSS and most of the Skipwith estate in the parish of Escrick is in a scheme.
- Training for farmers and agronomists by FWAG and others.
- Linking Environment and Farming (LEAF) demonstration farms in Ryedale and Hambleton.
- FWAG/ Yorkshire Agricultural Society Demonstration Farm at Hopewell House, Knaresborough.
- RSPB run the Volunteer Farmer Alliance, to increase breeding bird surveys on farms.
- Nest boxes and bird feeding can be funded through Defra schemes.

Opportunities

Environmental Stewardship (see above).

- Voluntary Agreements on pesticide use.
- RSPB Bird Aid Scheme, targeting winter bird feeding at sites in the region.
- Development of conservation measures for arable weeds through the BAP. Corn marigold has been reported on the Escrick Estate.

What you can do to help:

Follow the Country Code on farmland.

Keep dogs on a lead during the breeding season (mid-March to end June).

Farmers can help seed-eating birds by winter-feeding with waste corn.

UK BAP targets

- Maintain, improve and restore the biodiversity of 15,000 ha of cereal field margins on appropriate soil types by 2010.

Links to Species Action Plans

Ancient &/or species-rich hedgerows – see HAP 3.
Lakes and ponds – see HAP 10.
Rivers, streams and ditches – see HAP 12.
Bats - see SAP 9.
Bumble bees - see SAP 10.

Objective

Increase the biodiversity potential of all arable farmland by appropriate cropping practices and conservation management, thereby helping to restore recent losses of farmland wildlife.

Five year targets

1	Increase the area of winter stubble year on year.
2	Increase the area of cereal field margins year on year.
3	Increase the distribution of the ten priority species.

ACTIONS

-			
Set up community projects to produce tree sparrow nest boxes.	1	BTCV, RSPB, NYCC	3
Undertake the erection of nest boxes on local farms populated by tree sparrows (especially where few suitable trees are available).	2	RDS (Defra), FWAG, BTCV, RSPB	3
Farmers to set up winter bird feeding stations using waste cereal (tailings).	3	RDS (Defra), FWAG	3
Encourage the planting of ash trees, which provide nesting cavities when mature.	4	FWAG	3

Undertake grey partridge conservation measures, such as not shooting unless the population is viable.	5	Landowners	3
Promote the retention of areas of scrub, especially gorse, for nesting by linnets.	6	NYCC	3
Working with interested farmers, undertake breeding bird surveys as part of the RSPB Volunteer Farmer Alliance.	7	RSPB	3
Monitor success of nest box schemes.	8	NYCC	3
Establish the wintering status of twite.	9	Five Towns Bird Club	3
Support farmers in applying for Environmental Stewardship schemes.	10	Defra, FWAG	1,2,3
Arrange training days for farmers or agronomists, on arable field margins and arable options.	11	FWAG	1,2,3
Support farmers in the setting up of winter bird feeding.	12	FWAG, RSPB	3
Work with the Farm Conservation Officer of the Forbes-Adam estate on farm wildlife conservation, especially the grey partridge, and use guidance from the Game Conservancy Trust, the lead agency for the UK BAP grey partridge SAP.	13	FWAG, NYCC	3
-			

5. **Grazing marsh Habitat Action Plan**

Introduction

This action plan covers those Neutral grasslands that have significant bird interest. These are chiefly the wetter grasslands.

Less botanically interesting grassland, with some marshy vegetation is important for declining breeding waders, including birds such as redshank, snipe and lapwing.

One UK BAP priority habitat is covered - Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh (here referred to as Grazing marsh).

Grazing marsh is pasture or meadow that occasionally floods and is dissected by ditches. The ditches are often permanently wet and can be rich in plants and invertebrates.

The RSPB, EN and EA are undertaking a Geographical Information System (GIS) feasibility study for flood plain habitat restoration. This may identify habitat opportunities for the BAP to adopt.

National status

The exact amount of Grazing marsh in the UK is not known but was estimated in 1994 to be about 300,000 ha, including 290,000 ha of marshy grassland and 10,000 ha of herb-rich. The UK has seen severe declines in the last fifty years due to conversion to arable or re-seeding and annual fertiliser input, to support intensive grazing or silage production.

Regional status

In the Yorkshire and The Humber region, the majority of Neutral grassland survives in the Derwent Valley and on the Humberhead Levels. Regional figures are not available.

Local status

The local resource has been estimated from the phase 1 habitat survey (Warburton[9]), the phase 2 habitat survey, (BioDAT[10]), the English Nature (EN[22]) Grassland Inventory and the EN Grazing marsh inventory. Most sites are less than 2.6 ha in size.

There are 1,500 ha of Grazing marsh in Selby District.

Places to visit:
North Duffield Carrs, Derwent Ings Grid reference SE 697367

Habitat distribution map

No map currently available.

Legal protection

Includes sites protected through the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the Deposit Draft Selby District Local Plan (1997), as amended by modifications.

Associated species priorities

Harvest mouse
Barn owl
Snipe
Lapwing
Redshank
Yellow wagtail

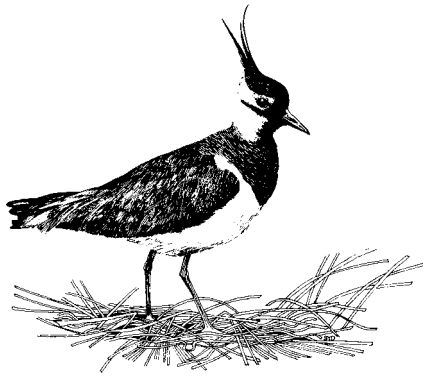
Status of Selby priorities

Little information is available on the status of the harvest mouse and further research is needed.

Barn owl is a local resident breeder, with probably 20 – 30 pairs and stable. The snipe is a winter visitor and localised resident breeder, with probably 10 – 20 pairs, especially in the Lower Derwent Valley and Fairburn Ings. Probably stable (Cooper[20]).

The lapwing is a winter visitor in sizeable numbers. Cooper[20] mentions a dramatic decline over the last ten to 15 years and estimates that at least ten pairs still breed.

Lapwing



The redshank is a passage migrant and localised resident breeder, especially in the Lower Derwent Valley and at Fairburn Ings, but with no definite breeding data. Declining.

The yellow wagtail is a passage migrant and localised breeder, with probably ten pairs. Declining dramatically, for example there were 80 pairs in the Lower Derwent Valley in 1994 (Cooper[20]). Faces severe threats from hunting during migration through the Mediterranean region.

Threats

- Housing and industrial development.
- Disturbance to breeding animals by people and dogs.

Requirements

- Traditional agricultural management, including hay cutting or grazing. Use of organic herbicides and fertilisers.
- Seasonally high water table for Grazing marsh.
- Bare ground is important for many invertebrates.

Current local action

- This is a target agri-environment scheme habitat, with options for the management, restoration and re-creation of wet grassland for breeding or wintering waders and wildfowl.
- The Environment Agency (EA) produce Catchment Flood Management Plans (CFMP) that provide a strategic planning framework for the integrated management of flood risks to people and the developed and natural environment in a sustainable manner.
- EN SSSI management plans.
- EN has published the Lower Derwent Valley agri-environment information pack.
- RSPB run the Volunteer Farmer Alliance, to increase breeding bird surveys on farms.
- Advice from RDS (Defra) and FWAG.

Opportunities

- Creation, restoration and management options available under the proposed Defra schemes, due to start in 2005. These include the Environmental Stewardship Entry Level Scheme and the Environmental Stewardship Higher Level Scheme.
- Identify potential land suitable for habitat re-creation in Humberhead Levels and lower Aire valley.
- Manage best road verges.

What you can do to help:

Keep dogs under control when walking in meadows and along riverbanks in the breeding season.

UK BAP targets

Floodplain grazing marsh

- Maintain existing quality and extent of 30,000 ha.
- Rehabilitate 10,000 ha that is too dry or is intensively managed by 2000.
- Begin creating 2,500 ha from arable land by 2000.

Links to Species Action Plans

Water vole - see SAP 2.
Tansy beetle - see SAP 4.
Bats - see SAP 9.
Bumble bees - see SAP 10.

Objective

Maintain the extent and quality of remaining remnants of Floodplain grazing marsh. Double the existing resource, which will benefit birds in particular.

Five year targets

1	Re-create and manage 25 ha of carefully targeted, Grazing marsh for its bird interest.
2	Maintain current distribution of harvest mouse.
3	Increase distribution of five target species.

ACTIONS

-			
Re-create floodplain grazing marsh in the Lower Aire Valley.	1	EA, RDS (Defra)	1,2,3

Re-create this habitat in the Selby part of the Humberhead Levels Natural Area.	2	RDS (Defra), EN	1,2,3
Landowners to use Environmental Stewardship schemes to re-create this habitat.	3	RDS (Defra), FWAG, NFU, CLA	1,2,3
Landowners to enter Environmental Stewardship schemes to manage existing habitat.	4	RDS (Defra), FWAG, NFU, CLA	1,2,3
Assist hay meadow owners with clearing river-born debris prior to cutting.	5	BTCV	-
Increase the area of reed canary grass habitat, favoured by harvest mouse.	6	RDS (Defra)	2
Undertake work to identify potential areas for habitat re-creation.	7	EA, RSPB	1,2,3
Investigate breeding bird populations, possibly through Volunteer Farmer Alliance.	8	RSPB, local bird clubs	3
Erect barn owl nest boxes.	9	NYCC	3
Pro-actively advise landowners and funding opportunities.	10	RDS (Defra), FWAG, NFU, CLA, EN, EA	1,2,3
-			

6. **Unimproved grassland Habitat Action Plan**

Introduction

Unimproved grassland can be described as acid, calcareous or neutral, depending on the underlying soil conditions, each type being characterised by specific plant species.

This action plan considers important botanical grasslands, which are un-improved or semi-improved in agricultural terms. They are generally herb-rich and low input management is the key to their conservation. Some conservation organisations own their own stock – often including rare breeds of cattle and sheep – to manage nature reserves. Nearby meadows are also needed for winter grazing.

Unimproved grassland is a fragile habitat that has declined severely in the UK.

Three UK BAP priority habitats are covered - Lowland calcareous grassland, Lowland dry acid grassland and Lowland meadows.

Lowland calcareous grassland
In Selby all of the calcareous grassland is found on shallow, lime-rich soils over Magnesian Limestone. Much has been lost to land use change, with remnants restricted to steep valleys, old quarries and on rail and road embankments.

Nationally, Magnesian Limestone grassland has a unique assemblage of plant and invertebrate species, including over 13 Nationally Scarce plants and 84 Nationally Scarce invertebrates (UK BAP).

Local indicator species include quaking grass, bird's-foot trefoil, lady's bedstraw, bloody cranesbill and wild carrot. Insects include common blue butterfly and yellow meadow ant.

Lowland dry acid grassland
Sites tend to be isolated, occurring on heaths and along forest rides. Plant species include wavy hair-grass, heath bedstraw, sheep's sorrel and tormentil. Animal species include small copper butterfly and birds include meadow pipit and green woodpecker.

Lowland meadows (neutral grassland)
Lowland meadows are neutral, herb-rich grasslands, such as unimproved meadows, churchyards and road verges. These support plant species such as meadow barley, sweet vernal grass, great burnet, pignut and betony. Breeding birds are represented by skylark, and non-breeding birds by invertebrate feeders such as starlings. There is a considerable invertebrate interest.

Road verges
Some of the surviving remnants of good grassland are found on road verges. North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) undertakes some verge cutting, salt storage and gritting.

National status

There is between 33,000 and 41,000 ha of Lowland calcareous grassland of all types in the UK, (some 78% is on chalk). The UK total for Magnesian Limestone is between 1,000 and 4,000 ha (UK BAP).

There are 30,000 ha of Lowland dry acid grassland in the UK (UK BAP).

The Lowland meadows resource in England and Wales is less than 12,000 ha and declined by 97% between 1930 and 1984 (UK BAP).

Regional status

The Yorkshire and The Humber Region has Upland calcareous grassland (on limestone) and Lowland calcareous grassland (on chalk and Magnesian limestone).

A total of 642 ha of Magnesian Limestone grassland is given for the region (Selman[7]).

Between 160 and 750 ha of Lowland dry acid grassland is given for the region (Selman[7]).

No regional figure for Lowland meadow is available.

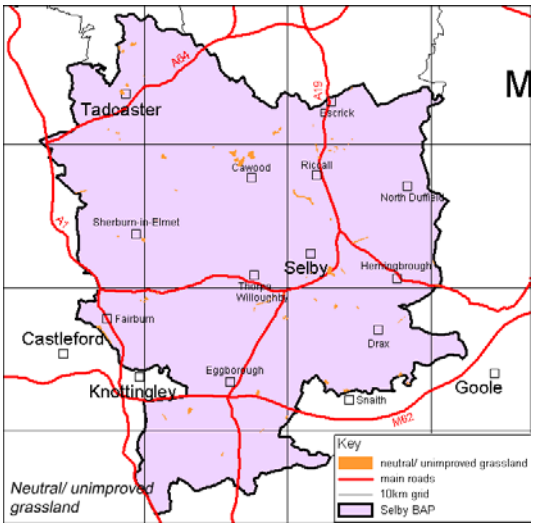
Local status

The local resource has been estimated from the phase 1 habitat survey (Warburton[9]), BioDAT[10] and the English Nature (EN) Grassland Inventory.

Lowland calcareous (Magnesian limestone) grassland

Just 0.05% of the Selby land area contains this habitat. This is a total of 31 ha, of which some is within Sherburn Willows SSSI, some is within Brockadale SSSI and 0.7 ha is within seven SINC sites (Warburton[9] and BioDAT[10]).

Unimproved grassland. All types). Baseline distribution map, 2003.



Places to visit:

Brockadale YNT Nature Reserve.
Grid reference SE 508168

Stutton disused railway track.
Public footpath at SE 478411

A63 road embankment at Selby Fork Hotel junction.
Access from lay-by at SE 470299

Lowland dry acid grassland

Just 0.2% of the Selby land area is this habitat. This is a total of 126 ha, some of which occurs at Skipwith common SSSI and 5.2 ha within seven SINC sites. (Warburton[9] and BioDAT[10]).

Places to visit:
Barlow Common LNR.
Car park at SE 638281

Lowland meadow

There is 127 ha of Lowland meadow, including 104ha within Sites Important for Nature Conservation (SINC) (Warburton[9] and BioDAT[10]).

Legal status

Magnesian Limestone grassland is listed on the EC Habitats Directive.

Associated species priorities

Green hellebore

Status of Selby priorities:

Green hellebore has occurred at a single site on the Magnesian Limestone since 1888. Although it may have come from a herb garden, it is suspected of being native. Good number of plants at this site in 2002.

Threats

- Loss of habitat to development, road building, farm diversification.
- Habitat degradation through inappropriate management, such as lack of grazing or over grazing.
- Inappropriate cutting regimes on road verges.

Requirements

- Grazing at appropriate levels and time of year.
- Mowing at sites where grazing is impractical.
- Scrub management.
- Some bare ground for insects.
- Use of appropriate conservation wildflower seed mixes (of local provenance) for re-instatement after engineering works.

Current local action

- Skipwith Common SSSI management plan (acid grassland).
- YWT management plan and Countryside Stewardship Scheme in place for Brockadale Nature Reserve, including scrub control (Magnesian Limestone grassland).
- North Yorkshire County Council Road verge strategy.

Opportunities

- Favourable management of road verges by the highways authority.
- Review of restoration schemes for active mineral sites by NYCC, should identify opportunities for restoration of Unimproved grassland.
- Creation, restoration and management options available under the proposed Defra schemes, due to start in 2005. These include the Environmental Stewardship Entry Level Scheme and the Environmental Stewardship Higher Level Scheme.
- Parish road verge management projects.
- Conservation grazing project, links to rare breed trusts and machine rings to share stock and equipment.
- Discourage the planting of garden plant varieties, such as daffodil, outside of the urban aea.
- Arable land with low fertility levels is ideal for habitat re-creation under Environmental stewardship.

What you can do to help:

Enjoy wild flowers, but leave them for others to enjoy.

Seek owner consent and BAP partnership advice to manage a road verge for wildlife.

UK BAP targets

Lowland calcareous grassland:
- Arrest depletion.
- Within SSSIs start rehabilitation management for significant stands in unfavourable condition by 2005, to get favourable status by 2010.
- For other sites, secure favourable condition over 30% of resource by 2005 and 100% by 2015.
- Re-establish 1,000 ha at targeted sites by 2010.

Lowland dry acidic grasslands:
- Arrest depletion.
- Within SSSIs start rehabilitation management for significant stands in unfavourable condition by 2005, to get favourable status by 2010.
- For other sites, secure favourable condition over 30% of resource by 2005 and 100% by 2015.
- Re-establish 500 ha at targeted sites by 2010.

Lowland meadows
- Arrest the depletion.
- Within SSSIs initiate rehabilitation management for all significant stands in unfavourable condition by 2005, to achieve favourable status by 2010.
- For stands elsewhere, secure favourable condition over 30% of the resource by 2005 and near to 100% by 2015.
- Re-establish 500 ha at targeted sites by 2010.

Links to Species Action Plans

Bats - see SAP 9.
Bumble bees - see SAP 10.
The forester moth - see SAP 12.

Objective

To conserve and enhance all remaining areas of species-rich, unimproved grassland. Doubling of the resource through restoration and re-creation.

Five year targets

N^{o}.	**Biodiversity targets**
1	Enhance 0.5ha of calcareous grassland.
2	Enhance 0.5ha of acid grassland.
3	Enhance 0.5ha of neutral grassland.
4	Re-create 5 ha of acid grassland.
5	Maintain the current population of green hellebore.

ACTIONS

Set up maintenance schedules for roadside verges, based on favourable management for wildlife.	1	NYCC	1,2,3,4
Integrate appropriate verge management practice into NYCC road verge policy and focus upon Special Interest Verges as a priority	2	NYCC	1,2,3
NYCC in conjunction with the mineral planning authority to seek strong mitigation for much more strategic habitat creation, for the after use of mineral sites. Biodiversity gains to be based on the historic losses of habitats from the District as shown by BAP priorities. Conservation decisions to be based on the principle of prioritising as follows: Protection and favourable management of the existing resource, enhancement of the existing resource where it is degraded and re-creation of lost resource.	3	NYCC	
Cut Special Interest Verges to benefit nature conservation	4	NYCC	1,2,3
Management of scrub encroachment at Brockadale YWT Reserve.	5	YWT, RDS (Defra), EN	1
Establish ownership of Magnesian Limestone grassland near Selby fork hotel and seek access permission. SINC Survey Steering Group to undertake botanical survey to identify potential for SINC designation by North Yorkshire SINC Panel	6	NYCC	1
Organise the management of scrub encroachment at calcareous grassland site near to the Selby Fork Hotel.	7	NYCC	1
Involve community groups in management work.	8	Selby Groundwork, BTCV	All
Re-creation of acidic grassland as part of the restoration of working sand quarries.	9	NYCC	4
Utilise local knowledge to identify and record Special	10	NYCC	1,2,3

Interest Verges			
Advise landowners on nature conservation value, management and funding opportunities.	11	FWAG, RDS (Defra)	1,2,3,4
Offer advice to mineral extraction companies and landowners regarding strategic habitat creation, especially species-rich grasslands.	12	NYCC	1,2,3
Discourage the planting of garden plant varieties outside of the urban envelope, through publicity material.	13	NYCC	

7. **Lowland Heathland Habitat Action Plan**

Introduction

Lowland Heathland is characterised by the presence of plants such as heather, cross-leaved heath and gorse. It is generally found below 300m. Good quality heathland includes a mosaic of heather ages, with scattered trees, scrub, bare ground, wet heaths, bogs and open water. Associated with these habitats is a rich and varied fauna with many characteristic species of birds, reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates.

Lowland heathland is a UK priority BAP habitat. In England, only one sixth of the heathland present in 1800 now remains. This loss is reflected internationally with the British heaths now representing around 20% of the remaining habitat on a global scale.

Large areas of heathy commons were once a feature around many towns and villages in the Vale of York. It has been estimated that heathland once covered between 4,000 – 20,000 ha in the region. Only a fraction of this now remains.

Heathland losses have resulted from changes in agricultural practice, afforestation and urban development.

National Status

The UK has some 58,000 ha of this habitat, of which about 55% is found in England. The most significant concentrations of the habitat are in the southern counties of England and South Wales (UK BAP).

Regional Status

Although reduced in extent, heathland covers at least 1,100 ha in the region, with about 950 ha in the Vale of York (Selman[7]).

Local Status

Approximately 300 ha occur in Selby District. The most significant site is Skipwith Common SSSI. At 293 ha this site represents over 95% of the local heathland resource. Smaller fragments of heathland remain elsewhere, for example near the villages of Hambleton and Hensall (Warburton[9] and BioDAT[10]).

Places to visit:

Skipwith Common
Park at grid reference SE 644374 or access from Skipwith Village SE 665384.

Legal status

Skipwith Common, the key site, is a candidate SAC and a SSSI.

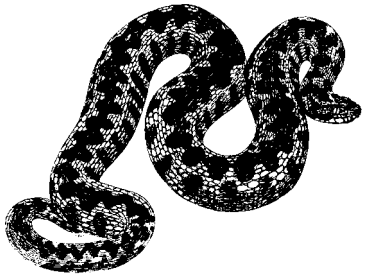
Associated species priorities

Marsh gentian
Nightjar
Woodlark
Tree pipit
Adder

Status of Selby priorities

The breeding nightjar population had a high of 17 pairs in 1990, but there have been only two or three pairs in recent years (Cooper[20]). Up to six pairs of tree pipit nest (Cooper[20]). Although found in other habitats the adder is closely associated with heathland habitats, with Skipwith Common thought to be a stronghold for the species. Marsh Gentian is found at a single site and its status is consequently vulnerable.

One site – Skipwith Common – supports the UK BAP plant pillwort. This has a dedicated Species Action Plan.



Adder

Threats

- Small fragments of heathland may be vulnerable to changes in land use.
- Lack of management. A lack of management has resulted in remaining sites becoming dominated by scrub and woodland, decreasing the area supporting heathland.
- Fragmentation and isolation. The above factors and historical losses mean that remaining heathlands are often isolated, being surrounded by improved agricultural land or forestry. This can make management difficult and can often resulting in the diversity of individual sites decreasing.
- Recreation use. Although not a major problem at present motor cycle use at Skipwith Common does have the potential to damage the heathland present and disturb wildlife.
- Trespass and fly tipping. Both these activities can physically damage sites and result in them becoming unsightly and dangerous.

Requirements

- No loss of the remaining heathland resource.
- Appropriate management of existing sites.
- Restoration of neglected sites.
- Re-creation of heathland from forestry plantations or through arable reversion – following careful targeting to identify suitable low fertility sites.
- Site management plans to include prescriptions for priority Selby species.

Current local action

- A partnership between EN, Forestry Commission (FC), Ministry of Defence (MOD), Escrick Park Estate and Yorkshire Wildlife Trust (YWT) (on land outside the District) has been awarded a 347k Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) grant for the 750k Tomorrow's Heathland Heritage project. This will manage and restore existing heathland in the Vale of York, look at opportunities for the expansion of the heathland resource and promote public appreciation and understanding of the habitat. This project will deliver many of the Heathland BAP targets.
- Skipwith Common has been designated a SSSI and receives international protection through its classification as a candidate SAC. The site is covered by an EN management agreement ensuring sympathetic management
- Land adjoining Skipwith Common is being managed for heathland re-creation under the CSS.
- Reversion, restoration and management options available under the proposed Environmental

Stewardship Higher Level Scheme (Defra) due to start in 2005.

Opportunities

- Delivery by EN of substantial conservation work through the Tomorrow's Heathland Heritage (THH) HLF award.
- Agri-environment scheme options to allow the reversion of arable, improved pasture and forestry to Lowland heath.
- Defra may fund feasibility studies.

What you can do to help:

Keep dogs under control when visiting heathland sites.
Ensure that fires are not started.

UK BAP targets

- Maintain and improve by management, all 58,000 ha.
- Re-establish 6,000 ha, especially in southern England and southern Wales by 2005.

Links to Species Action Plans

Pillwort - see SAP 6.
A water beetle, *Agabus uliginosis* - see SAP 8.
Bats - see SAP 9.
Bumble bees - see SAP 10.
Clearwing moths (at least one species) - see SAP 11.
Rare moths (six species) - see SAP 12.

Objective

Double the Lowland heathland resource, through re-creation, restoration and management, and manage it for priority Selby species.

Five year targets

1	Re-create 50 ha of heathland.
2	Restore 100 ha of heathland.
3	Maintain or increase distribution of five priority species.

ACTIONS

Policy and Legislation			
-			
Pro-actively identify suitable areas and implement heathland re-creation, through the THH project.	1	THH	All
Remove scrub and woodland at Skipwith Common.	2	THH	2,3

Pro-actively identify sites requiring favourable grazing regimes and implement through the THH scheme.	3	THH	2,3
Provide appropriate habitat management for marsh gentian at Skipwith Common and other appropriate sites.	4	THH	3
Provide appropriate habitat management for nightjar at Skipwith Common and other appropriate sites.	5	THH	3
Provide appropriate habitat management for woodlark at Skipwith Common and other appropriate sites.	6	THH	3
Provide appropriate habitat management for tree pipit at Skipwith Common and other appropriate sites.	7	THH	3
Provide appropriate habitat management for adder at Skipwith Common and other appropriate sites.	8	THH	3
Provide appropriate habitat management for the bumble bee (*Bombus jonellus*) at Skipwith Common and other appropriate sites.	-	THH	See SAP10
Provide appropriate habitat management for priority moths at Skipwith Common and other appropriate sites.	-	THH	See SAP 11 & SAP 12
Identify suitable areas for heathland restoration schemes.	9	THH	2,3
Undertake research, where necessary, into the habitat management requirements of priority Selby species.	10	THH	3
Establish status of adder.	11	THH, NEYEDC	3
Advise land managers on potential of agri-environment schemes to re-create, restore or manage heathlands.	12	THH, RDS (Defra)	All
Development of visitor infrastructure at Skipwith Common and the running of heathland events for the public.	13	THH	All

8. **Fens Habitat Action Plan**

Introduction

Four similar habitats are categorised by their wetness and in order of wetness these are swamp, fen, bog and marsh.

Fen is a type of mire, which receives at least part of its water and nutrients from soil, rock or groundwater, as well as rainfall. Fens contrast with bogs, which mainly receive water and nutrients from rainfall alone. Fens are commonly divided into 'rich-fen', which is fed by calcium-rich water, and 'poor-fen' which is typically acid and has low fertility.

Fen vegetation succeeds from aquatic plants through reed beds to sedge beds. Over time the build up of plant material raises the level of the ground leading to drier conditions and Wet woodland.

Fen communities, along with other floodplain wetland habitats, were historically a major landscape component in the District.

Fens support a large range of invertebrates including nationally rare beetles and flies.

The RSPB, EN and EA are undertaking a Geographical Information System (GIS) feasibility study for flood plain habitat restoration. This may identify habitat opportunities for the BAP to adopt.

National status

The UK once had vast tracts of fens, long since converted to rich farmland. However, the UK is still thought to hold a large proportion of the European resource. Eighty fen sites are listed in the UK BAP action plan.

Regional status

Fens are concentrated in the Yorkshire Dales, the North York Moors and the Humberhead Levels (Selman[7]).

Local status

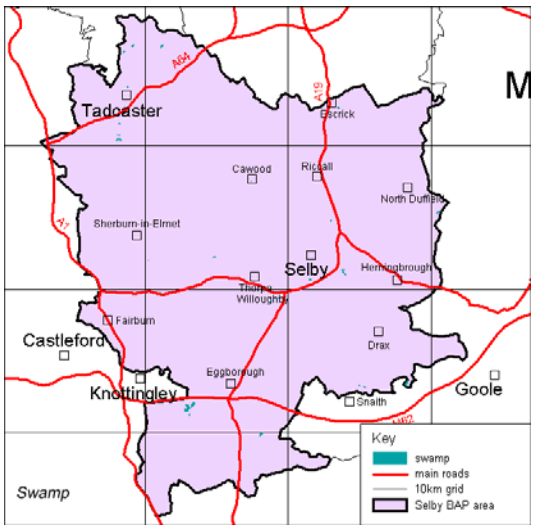
Fen communities occur at Fairburn Ings SSSI and on Skipwith Common SSSI.

There are 25 ha of swamp (defined as swamp, fen, bog and marsh) on 24 sites in the BioDAT database. The fen resource in Selby is therefore very small (Warburton[9] and BioDAT[10]).

Places to visit:

Fairburn Ings RSPB Reserve.
Park in Fairburn Village at grid reference SE 471279 and follow the track to the south, or at the car park at grid reference SE 452278.

Swamp/fen habitat. Baseline distribution map, 2003.



Legal status

Fairburn Ings and Skipwith Common are SSSIs.

Associated species priorities

Aquatic beetle - *Acilius canaliculatus*
Aquatic beetle - *Agabus labiatus*
Aquatic beetle - *Helophorus strigifrons*
Aquatic beetle - *Dryops auriculatus*

Status of Selby priorities

Water beetle assemblages associated with shallow fen pools are particularly important in Selby District. Scarce or threatened species found in this habitat include *Acilius canaliculatus* (Skipwith Common), *Agabus labiatus* (Skipwith Common), *Helophorus strigifrons* (North Duffield Carrs, Skipwith Common, Camblesforth) and *Dryops auriculatus* (Skipwith Common). Many other species occur. *Agabus labiatusis* is seriously declining.

Threats

- Lack of knowledge regarding the resource.
- Nutrient enrichment.
- Most fens are small and isolated and their fragmentation has led to local extinctions.

Requirements

- Maintenance of high water table.
- Regular cropping of fen plants to slow the growth of peat and delay succession.
- Creation of new areas of open water within drying fen systems.

Current local action

- Fairburn Ings is managed for its fen and other communities by the RSPB.

Opportunities

- Habitat re-creation as part of Mineral Restoration Strategies.
- Carefully targeted creation, restoration and management options available under the proposed Environmental Stewardship Higher Level Scheme (Defra) due to start in 2005.

UK BAP targets

- Initiate restoration of priority fen sites in critical need of rehabilitation by the year 2005.
- Ensure appropriate water quality and water quantity for the continued existence of all SSSI fens by 2005.

Links to Species Action Plans

Water vole - see SAP 2.

A **diving beetle** *Agabus uliginosus* - see SAP 8.
Bats - see SAP 9.

Objective

To increase understanding of the extent, quality, ownership and current management of Fen habitat in the District, and to conserve and enhance all fen communities. To investigate techniques for fen creation and increase the resource by one site.

Five year targets

1	Create 5 ha of fen.
2	Maintain current distribution of four priority species.

ACTIONS

-			
Mineral Planning Officers to seek strong mitigation for much more strategic habitat creation, including fen, for the after use of mineral sites	1	NYCC	1,2
Provide appropriate habitat management for aquatic invertebrates at Skipwith Common.	2	EN	2
Identify suitable locations, establish land ownership and advise on appropriate habitat management for aquatic invertebrates at North Duffield Carrs, Camblesforth and other sites.	3	NYCC, RDS (Defra)	2
Liaise with conservation organisations and landowners to establish information about the fen resource.	4	FWAG, NYCC, NEYEDC	2

Advise land managers on potential of agri-environment schemes to re-create, restore or manage fens.	5	FWAG, RDS (Defra)	1,2
-			

9. Reedbed Habitat Action Plan

Introduction

Reedbeds are wetlands usually dominated by common reed, with water levels at or above ground level for much of the year.

Many specialist plants and animals are found in reedbeds, including nationally rare invertebrates. The Vale of York is a key area for scarce aquatic invertebrates due to the long presence of wetlands. For example, two rare whirligig beetles favour the fringes of reed beds (see Annex B).

Birds such as the bittern, bearded tit, and marsh harrier require reedbeds and are all potential Selby colonisers. Reed warbler and reed bunting breed at a number of sites.

The RSPB, EN and EA are undertaking a Geographical Information System (GIS) feasibility study for flood plain habitat restoration. This may identify habitat opportunities for the BAP to adopt.

National status

The UK has 5,000 ha of Reedbed, not including those found along drainage ditches. Few sites over 20 ha occur.

Regional status

The Regional audit gives 400 ha of Reedbed in the Yorkshire and The Humber region, including four over 20 ha in size (Selman[7]).

Local status

The largest resource is at the eastern end of Fairburn Ings, otherwise few small reedbeds occur, mainly on the fringes of lakes, ings (such as in the Derwent Valley), rivers and ditches. Common reed is an important species because it creates linear habitat (Warburton[9] and BioDAT[10]).

This is a habitat that is likely to have been much more extensive in historic times.

Places to visit:

Fairburn Ings RSPB Reserve.
Park in Fairburn Village at grid reference SE 471279 and follow the track to the south, or at the car park at grid reference SE 452278.

Habitat distribution map

No map available.

Legal status

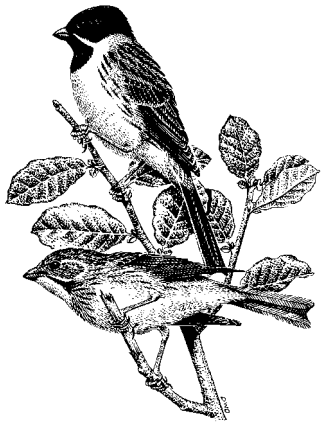
None.

Associated species priorities

Reed bunting

Status of Selby priorities

The reed bunting is a UK BAP priority species, which is a widespread resident breeder and passage migrant. Cooper[20] notes at least 25 singing males.



Reed bunting

Threats

- Hydrological changes.
- Lack of a register of sites.

Requirements

- Water level management to keep habitat in a favourable condition.
- Habitat creation as part of the restoration of mineral extraction sites.

Current local action

- Reedbeds at Fairburn Ings managed by RSPB.

Opportunities

- Creation of reedbeds following mineral extraction and as part of flood defence work. Both the Environment Agency (EA) and RSPB are investigating the potential for habitat creation in the Humberhead levels and in the Lower Aire valley.
- Creation, restoration and management options available under the proposed Environmental Stewardship Higher Level Scheme (Defra) due to start in 2005.

What you can do to help:

Visit one of the major reedbeds in the area such as Blacktoft Sands, Hornsea Mere or Fairburn Ings RSPB reserves.

UK BAP targets

- Identify and rehabilitate all priority reedbeds by 2000 and maintain condition through management.
- Create 1,200 ha of new reedbed by 2010.

Links to Species Action Plans

Otter - see SAP 1.
Water vole - see SAP 2.
Bats - see SAP 9.
Rare moths, specifically twin-spotted wainscot moth - see SAP 12.

Objective

To establish the number of reedbeds in the District and to double the resource.

Five year targets

N^{o}.	**Biodiversity targets**
1	Create 20 ha of reedbed.
2	Increase distribution the priority species.

ACTIONS

Consider reedbed creation as part of the Environment Agency's Catchment Flood Management Plan.	1	EA	1,2
NYCC in conjunction with the mineral planning authority to seek strong mitigation for much more strategic habitat creation, for the after use of mineral sites. Biodiversity gains to be based on the historic losses of habitats from the District, utilising areas such as those identified by the feasibility study for floodplain habitat restoration, undertaken by RSPB, English Nature and the Environment Agency in 2003.	2	NYCC	
Identify suitable sites, establish land ownership and work with landowners to investigate projects to create reedbeds on lake margins.	3	NYCC, FWAG	1,2
Establish a register of sites.	4	NEYEDC	-
Advise land managers on potential of agri-environment schemes to create and manage reedbeds.	5	RDS (Defra)	1,2
Promote Sustainable Drainage Schemes (SUDS), which include provision for reedbed creation, to developers.	6	EA, RSPB, NYCC	1,2

10. **Lakes and ponds Habitat Action Plan**

Introduction

This action plan covers open standing water habitat and its associated wildlife interest. It includes lakes and ponds that are either natural or man-made.

This plan covers both seasonal and permanent water bodies and a range of sizes.

Human activities can result in the creation of wetlands, such as those created through mining subsidence, and borrow pits created by the flooding of sites where material has been excavated, usually for the construction of road or rail embankments.

Wildlife interest depends upon the nutrient status of the water. This has been categorised as nutrient poor (oligotrophic), having a narrow range of nutrients (mesotrophic) or nutrient rich (eutrophic). A lake might switch from one type to another, or have two types at the same time. Most lakes are eutrophic.

Both mesotrophic lakes and eutrophic standing waters are UK BAP priority habitats (for large water bodies).

Water beetle assemblages associated with shallow pools are locally rich due to the historic abundance of this habitat.

Marginal habitats and bare ground are important for wildlife and this plan should be considered in conjunction with both the Reedbeds and Fens plans.

National status

This habitat is widespread across the UK.

Regional status

The regional habitat audit deals only with the two UK BAP priority habitats. It lists nine mesotrophic lakes and four eutrophic ones.

Local status

The Selby phase 1 habitat survey did not measure open water. However, there are numerous examples, including flooded ings, ornamental lakes, gravel pits, borrow pits and ponds. Sites include Carlton Towers, Scarthingwell Park, Fairburn Ings, Beal Carrs, Skipwith Common, and Camblesforth Common.

Places to visit:

Barlow Common LNR
Car park at grid reference SE 638281.

Lakes and Ponds habitat. Baseline distribution map, 2003.

Legal status

Defra guidelines on good agricultural practice.

Associated species priorities

Whooper swan Shoveler

Status of Selby priorities

Small numbers of whooper swans winter regularly on wetlands such as Beal Carrs and North Duffield Carrs. The shoveler is a scarce and localised duck. It is a breeding resident and winter visitor, with probably 10 to 20 pairs (Cooper[20]).

Shoveler

Threats

- Water abstraction.
- Damage and disturbance caused by recreational use.
- Radical management.
- Loss of ponds through neglect.
- Pollution.
- Nutrient enrichment from agricultural fertiliser run off.
- Introduced species of plant and animal, including, Canadian waterweed, floating pennywort, New Zealand pygmyweed, water fern, Himalayan balsam, American mink and American signal crayfish.
- Stocking of coarse fish into fisheries can affect the natural predator - prey balance in the lake.
- Overgrazing of margins can reduce water vole habitat.

Requirements

- High water quality.
- Protection from pollution.
- Buffer zones to intercept nutrient rich run off.
- Adequate water supply.
- A variety of water depths.
- A variety of aquatic and marginal sub-habitats.
- Complexes of pools (up to 400m apart and connected by good habitat) can help to safeguard against local extinctions.
- Temporary pools (some species are adapted to these conditions).
- Good quality surrounding habitat for species that leave the water, such as amphibians and dragonflies.
- Minimal disturbance from people and dogs - especially for breeding birds.
- Prevent colonisation of invasive non-native species into new areas.
- Control of established invasive non-native species of plant and animal.
- Water level management.
- Dredging of silt in some circumstances.

Current local action

- Fairburn Ings is a managed SSSI and RSPB reserve.
- Creation, restoration, management and resource protection options available under the proposed Environmental Stewardship Higher Level Scheme (Defra) due to start in 2005.

- Lakes and ponds are considered in water-level management plans, initiated by Defra and delivered by local drainage authorities.
- Funding for pond creation work is available from Yorkshire Water.

Opportunities

- Creation of wildlife ponds in gardens and on farms.
- Undertake survey to identify ponds and develop a register.
- Undertake survey of established non-native species and develop a register.
- Management of wetland created by subsidence.
- Favourable wildlife management of water bodies by angling clubs.
- Pond creation on business premises.
- Creation of ponds as mitigation within development schemes and as part of Sustainable Drainage Schemes.
- Better conservation of the resource e.g. borrow pits.

What you can do to help:

Keep dogs under control.

Dispose of discarded fishing tackle safely.

Create a garden pond for wildlife.

UK BAP targets
Same for both Mesotrophic lakes and Eutrophic standing waters:

Maintain the condition of all important sites in favourable condition.
By 2005 initiate action to restore to favourable condition other important sites damaged by human activity.
Ensure that no further deterioration occurs to remaining sites.

Links to Species Action Plans

Arable farmland - see SAP 4.
Otter - see SAP 1.
Water vole - see SAP 2.
Great crested newt - see SAP 3.
Pillwort - see SAP 6.
A diving beetle *Agabus uliginosus* - see SAP 8.
Bats - see SAP 9.

Objective

Carefully target the creation of hundreds of water bodies for wildlife and bring all existing water bodies into favourable conservation management.

Five year targets

N^{o}.	**Biodiversity targets**
1	Create ten new water bodies, targeted for particular biodiversity gain.
2	Enhance ten water bodies, including borrow pits, for conservation.
3	Maintain current wintering distribution of Whooper swan.
4	Maintain current breeding and wintering distributions of shoveler.

ACTIONS

-			
Work with developers to create wildlife wetlands as part of new developments, where appropriate, for example as part of Sustainable Drainage Schemes.	1	NYCC	1
Liaise with businesses to create ponds on site for wildlife, which will also improve the quality of life of employees	2	GS, NYCC	1
Encourage landowners to create wildlife ponds within agri-environment agreements.	3	FWAG, DEFRA	1,3,4
Encourage creation of ponds in gardens or public open space.	4	GS, NYCC	1
Establish ownership of borrow pits and seek agreements on favourable management.	5	NYCC	2
Create temporary pools within Bishop Wood. See SAP 8.	6	FE	2
Support efforts to manage Beal Carrs in a favourable condition for wildlife.	7	NYCC	2,3,4
-			
Provide advice to site owners on agri-environment schemes, grants, pond management and pond ecology.	8	FWAG	All
Encourage angling clubs to further recognise the desirability of wildlife conservation.	9	NYCC	3,4

11. **Canal Habitat Action Plan**

Introduction

This section of the action plan covers canals and navigable rivers. Canals are man-made waterways originally constructed for the transport of goods and people. A small amount of freight is still carried on some canals, but their primary use is recreational, attracting many users including boaters, anglers, walkers and cyclists. Navigable rivers are rivers that are accessible to boat traffic.

Canal and river corridors provide a mosaic of habitats.

Canal corridors can support a large number of key species and groups, including representatives from the following:

- aquatic plants
- ferns
- native trees
- mammals – otter, water vole, bats
- birds
- amphibians
- reptiles
- fish
- butterflies & moths
- dragonflies & damselflies
- molluscs – depressed river mussel
- crustacae - white-clawed crayfish
- freshwater sponges

Canals can be very important for wildlife, providing a combination of terrestrial and freshwater habitats and often forming a 'green' corridor into urban areas.

The movement of migratory fish is important and the weir at Chappel Haddlesey on the River Aire has been identified as a barrier. This issue is covered in the Rivers, streams and ditches HAP.

National status

The canal network, which includes navigable rivers, amounts to a total length of 3,200 km, the majority of this is owned and managed by British Waterways (BW).

Regional status

The region has a good canal network. There is 450km of canals and navigable rivers in the region.

Local status

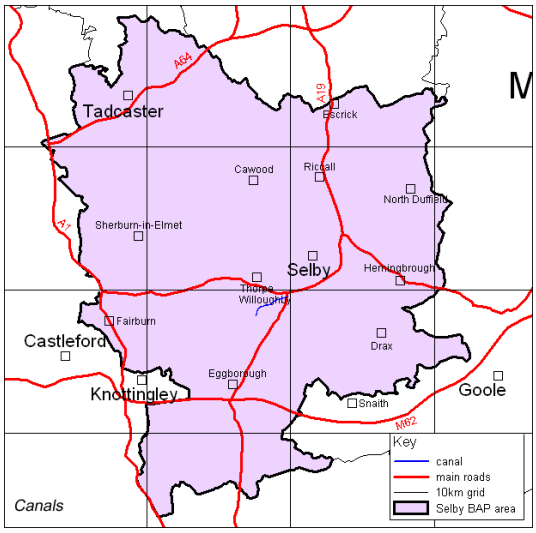
Within the District of Selby there are four main canals and rivers. These are:

- the Selby Canal which runs for 8.5 km from West Haddlesey on the River Aire and joins the River Ouse at Selby Lock.
- the navigable River Ouse which runs through the District for approximately 39 km.
- the Aire and Calder Navigation which runs through the south of Selby District for just over 6 km.
- the River Aire Navigation which runs for 9.5 km.

Places to visit:

Selby canal
Grid reference SE 617314.

Canal habitat. Baseline distribution map, 2003.



Legal status

British Waterways (BW) is the navigation authority for the canals and navigable rivers in the Selby District and has statutory obligations to maintain the canal to defined navigable standards. The British Waterways Act 1995 also obliges BW to 'further the conservation of flora, fauna…of special interest' in carrying out these duties and also to take into account the effect that any proposals relating to its functions have on the environment.

Associated species priorities

None.

Threats

Threats to the various habitats and species within the canal corridors include:

- Pollution from surface water run-off, storm overflows, agri-chemicals and fertilisers.
- Lack of, or inappropriate, habitat management.
- Hard engineering to maintain the canal and associated structures.
- Unsympathetic dredging and engineering works.
- The introduction and spread of invasive species such as American signal crayfish, floating pennywort, Japanese knotweed.
- Recreational pressures in sensitive areas.

Requirements

- To identify key species and habitats along the canals and navigable rivers and to take these into consideration when planning any capital works or maintenance programmes.

Current local action

All works carried out by BW are subject to an environmental appraisal. This ensures that protected sites and species are identified and appropriate consultation and mitigation is undertaken. The work can be carried out taking opportunities to improve the biodiversity of the waterway whilst minimising environmental damage.

Opportunities

- For partners to work together to remove barriers to fish migration.
- Undertake surveys to identify established non-native species and develop a register.

What you can do to help:

Keep dogs under control.

Dispose of discarded fishing tackle safely.

UK BAP targets
No specific UK BAP plan.

Links to Species Action Plans

Otter - see SAP 1.

Water vole - see SAP 2.
Bats - see SAP 9.

Objective

To improve the biodiversity of the canal and navigable river corridors.

Ten-year targets

1	Enhance four lengths of navigation by producing a BAP for each.

ACTIONS

-			
Prepare a BAP for each of the BW navigations.	1	BW	1
Undertake an environmental appraisal prior to any works and consult with the relevant authorities.	2	BW	1
Ensure that maintenance works on the waterways do not compromise the conservation status of key habitats and species.	3	BW	1
Identify and implement opportunities to enhance populations of key species and key habitats.	4	BW, EA	1
Identify invasive non-native species in the waterway corridor, draw up plans for eradication where possible and implement plans.	5	BW, EA	1
Identify the presence and distribution of UK and local priority species within the canal and navigable river corridors and report to the appropriate Lead Partner organisation.	6	BW, EA, EN	1

Identify and map key habitats.	7	BW	-
Undertake surveys for invasive species and monitor eradication programmes.	8	BW	1
Following works on the waterways monitor to ensure benefits to species and habitats.	9	BW	1
Advise riparian landowners on the value of buffer zones which protect the waterway from diffuse pollution and provide a valuable habitat.	10	BW	1,2
Advise boaters and other users on good practice to reduce pollution, littering etc.	11	BW	1,2
Develop links and work with local groups to promote good management practices, e.g. traditional hedgerow management etc.	12	BW	1,2

12. **Rivers, streams and ditches Habitat Action Plan**

Introduction

In their natural unmodified condition rivers are dynamic systems that are continually creating, maintaining and eroding a complex of habitats. Such features include ox-bow lakes, banks, shores, riffles, exposed shingle bars, shoreline debris and mud banks.

This plan includes both the actual watercourse and also the riparian corridor, including banks and marginal habitat.

Such are the demands made upon rivers that they are now highly modified and managed for a range of interests, many of which are incompatible with their natural biodiversity. Indeed certain of these interests conflict with each other.

These interests include flood alleviation, drainage, sewage disposal, water extraction, fisheries, recreation and transport.

Selby's rivers are migration routes for a number of fish species. Fishes must pass through the District in order to reach large areas of Yorkshire. The weir at Chapel Haddlesay has been identified as a major barrier for fish migration on the River Aire. This was built to back up water for the Selby canal. The estimated cost for its alteration is £80,000.

Ditches are straightened streams or artificially created and maintained drainage channels, usually associated with local agricultural land drainage. They may be permanently wet. There is a large network of ditches in Selby. The maintenance of ditches is a statutory duty, administered by the Internal Drainage Boards (IDB).

National status

Whilst rivers in general are important habitats for a range of wildlife, only substantially unmodified examples or particular types of river are regarded as worthy of special status, such as SSSI designation.

Chalk rivers is the only type specifically recognised as a UK BAP priority, but none occur in Selby District.

Regional status

The Yorkshire Region has one of the widest range of river types in Britain The River Derwent, is of international importance and designated as a SPA and candidate SAC. Its associated wetlands are designated for bird interest.

Local status

Being a low-lying area all the rivers in Selby District are lowland rivers and all but the Derwent are tidal. The Derwent was tidal until the mid-1970s when the Barmby Barrage was built. The River Ouse is tidal as far as Naburn weir.

Other main rivers include sections of the Ouse, Aire and Wharfe and a number of smaller streams.

Places to visit:

Public Rights of Way along R Wharfe from Tadcaster, R Ouse from Cawood and Selby town centres and R Aire from Beal village.

Legal status

- The Water Framework Directive.
- Both the Environment Agency (EA) and the Internal Drainage Boards have relevant statutory duties, such as promoting and furthering conservation while undertaking flood defence, water management and pollution prevention duties.
- An 8m strip on either side of a watercourse has to be considered for flood defence.

Associated species priorities

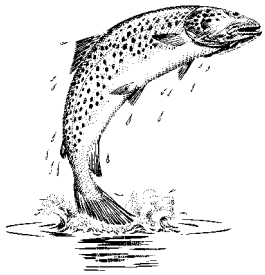
Allis shad – a fish
River lamprey – a fish
Sea lamprey – a fish
Atlantic salmon – a fish
Grayling – a fish
Depressed river mussel – a mollusc

Status of Selby priorities

A specimen of allis shad (UK BAP) was recently caught in the River Wharfe, so must have migrated via the River Ouse.

The River Wharfe at Tadcaster is a regionally important site for spawning sea lamprey and a locally important site for river lamprey. The river lamprey also breeds in the River Derwent. Both species migrate along the River Ouse.

Atlantic salmon migrate through the River Ouse to spawning grounds in the River Ure. It is rare in the River Derwent.



Atlantic salmon

The grayling breeds in the River Wharfe upstream of the weir at Tadcaster.

The depressed river mussel (UK BAP) has been recorded by the EA in the section of the River Derwent from Low Hutton to Barmby Barrage.

Threats

- Pressure to implement short-term flood alleviation measures such as wholesale dredging and flood defences.
- Increased urban development resulting in increased urban run off.
- Increasing demand for water for domestic, industrial & agricultural use.
- Chemical pollution.
- Invasive non-native species.
- Pressure to increase recreational access and use.

Requirements

- Buffer zones between arable land and watercourses, especially for higher risk soils.
- Reduction of grazing adjacent to riverbanks to prevent erosion.
- Fencing to exclude stock from key banks.
- Identification of areas suitable for wetland restoration and creation, and subsequent delivery.

- Production and implementation of Catchment Flood Management Plans (EA statutory duty).
- Identification of areas suitable for flood water storage.
- Undertake sympathetic management of riparian trees and woodlands.
- Increase in the scale and scope of nature conservation after use for aggregate sites and maximising of biodiversity gain.
- Re-wetting of agricultural land using existing grants.
- Re-wetting of washlands on former quarry sites.
- Greater use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS) in new developments.
- Compliance with and enforcement of Farm Waste Regulations 2004.
- Compliance with and enforcement of Nitrate Vulnerable Zones.
- Detection and remedy of point sources of pollution (EA statutory duty).
- Evaluation of river abstractions and ground water abstractions (EA statutory duty).
- Review and continue invertebrate monitoring.
- Surveying and research of riparian woodlands for invertebrates and birds.
- Identification and protection of all sand martin colonies.
- Investigate and devise control programmes for invasive species.
- Assessment of levels of fish re-stocking and impacts upon wildlife.
- Assessment of abundance of key insect and plant species associated with fish.
- Survey of all fish species and their access to required sub-habitats.
- Research and reduce impacts of pollution, flow rates, physical barriers, re-stocking, etc on priority fish species.
- Habitat improvements in areas of featureless flows.
- Research, surveys and management to benefit otter, water vole, water shrew and bats.
- Monitor water quality (used in Government's State of the Environment Report) (EA statutory duty).
- Identification and conflict resolution of adverse recreational impacts.
- Promotion of EA leaflet 'Best Farming Practice'.
- Identification of honeypot sites and collation of all projects planned in the river corridor.
- Dissemination of information and partner working.
- Accommodation of erosion in dynamic river systems.
-
-
- An integrated approach to flood defence provision taking environmental considerations and opportunities for enhancement into consideration.
- Surveys for species of conservation concern, including white-clawed crayfish (no Selby records).
- Improvements in fish passage facilities at key points.
- Survey for UK BAP plant greater water parsnip along former course of River Aire.
- Fence of key sections of riverbank and protect from adverse effects of farm animals.

Current local action

- Development of Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies

(CAMS) to ensure sustainable abstraction of water.
- EA Fisheries Dept. and British Waterways have identified barriers to fish migration.
- Aire and Calder Rivers Group (voluntary) set up to promote fish migration.
- Water quality improvement targets set by EA.

Opportunities

- Opportunities for habitat restoration may arise through Flood Defence Management Plans.
- Partnership working, to re-open fish migration passed the Chapel Haddlesay weir.
- Flood defence works to counter the effects of mining subsidence and increased flood risk.
- British Waterways enforce navigation speed limits, to prevent bank erosion and protect nesting birds.
- University of York research into tansy beetle ecology.
- Riverbank management through proposed Environmental Stewardship Scheme.

What you can do to help:

Avoid pouring car engine oil down the drain.

Dispose of discarded fishing tackle safely.

UK BAP targets
None applicable.

Links to Species Action Plans

Arable farmland – see SAP 4.
Otter - see SAP 1.
Water vole - see SAP 2.
Tansy beetle - see SAP 4.

Objective

To ensure an integrated and sustainable approach to river management with the key aims being environmental improvements and increased biodiversity.

Five year targets

N^{o}.	**Biodiversity targets**
1	Increase species diversity in all four major rivers.
2	Enhance river ecology by removing one barrier to fish migration.
3	Enhance the wildlife value of 25km of the ditch network.
4	Maintain current distribution of five priority species.

ACTIONS

Implement CAMS to ensure sustainable water abstraction.	1	EA	1,4
Undertake work to meet EA water quality targets for appropriate rivers.	2	EA	1
Identify barriers to fish migration.	3	EA, BW	2
Undertake feasibility study and then bypass the Chapel Haddlesey weir to re-open fish migration.	4	EA, Aire and Calder Rivers Group	2,4
Through Development Control planning functions, mitigate for ditch enhancement, as part of housing developments applications. See SAP 2.	5	SDC	3,4
Manage ditches to a high nature conservation standard. See SAP 1 and SAP 2.	6	IDB	3,4
Establish ownership of riverbank at Barlow Grange, where sand leek occurs and liase with landowner to offer conservation advice.	7	NYCC	4
Monitor water quality.	8	EA	1,4
Undertake surveys to record species of conservation concern.	9	NEYEDC	4
Monitor the status of priority species through current monitoring initiatives.	10	EA	4
Monitor species diversity.	11	EA	4
-			
Provide a point of contact for riparian owners and river users.	12	NYCC	All

13. **Towns and Villages Habitat Action Plan**

Introduction

Although Selby District is largely rural, it contains a substantial built up area of towns and villages. The wildlife that survives in these areas and the potential for conservation are considerable.

Urban greenspace and accessible wildlife have an important role in increasing the quality of life of residents, and this is the area where local people can directly help wildlife.

Wildlife in towns and villages is not isolated and many species move through habitat corridors and into the wider countryside. Urban features such as river and rail corridors, factory grounds, 'wasteground', churchyards and residential gardens provide special opportunities for some species.

In many parishes the only flower and invertebrate-rich grassland is within churchyards. Walls and gravestones can support rich lichen and fern floras. The ferns wall rue and black spleenwort occur on two or three churches. Typical churchyard maintenance does not favour wildlife, so there are opportunities to agree some wildlife friendly management, including:

- Give whole grassed area a late summer hay cut and remove cuttings.
- Avoid spraying flower-rich grass swards with herbicide.
- Hand pull undesirable weeds.
- Avoid excessive tree planting, to favour grassland.
- Encourage composting.
- Avoid spraying walls and gravestones with pesticides.
- Leave a pile of cut branches for wildlife shelter.
- A small patch of stinging nettle, and thistles provides habitat for insects.
- Avoid disturbing butterflies hibernating inside churches.
- Keep entranceway and paths tidy.

Although often referred to as 'green deserts', playing fields and other amenity grassland provides foraging areas for some birds of conservation concern, including song thrush, blackbird, fieldfare, redwing, starling and golden plover.

A number of locally important bird species are found in towns and villages, including song thrush, bullfinch and more rarely tree sparrow and spotted flycatcher. Bumble bees, which have been identified as a priority for Selby, are often attracted to gardens, and garden ponds are known to support newts, frogs and toads.

The swift is a common and widely distributed bird that has decreased in numbers, possibly due to the reduction in aerial insects and loss of nesting opportunities. They nest in high buildings where they can gain access to roof spaces or similar. However, swifts rarely nest in post-1944 buildings, nor in re-furbished older buildings, as they cannot gain access. The species would benefit from the provision of cavities in new buildings. This can be achieved with minimum cost through the installation of ready-made concrete Swift Bricks.

Recent work by Sheffield University has shown that gardens are very good for invertebrates, including some scarce species. Micro-habitats such as bare ground and decaying timber are desirable. Invertebrates are a key link in the food chain.

This action plan covers:

Private gardens, school and hospital grounds
Village Greens
Churchyards
Parks, open spaces
Allotments
'Brownfield' sites

These can be in private, municipal or institutional ownership.

National Status

There are around 50 million gardens in the UK.

Regional Status

Widespread.

Local Status

No comprehensive information is held on this habitat, but it is locally important, due to the cumulative total of habitat.

Legal status

- Town and Country planning Act 1990.
- Allotment Act 1952.
- National Planning Policy Guidance.
- The Local Authority can issue Tree Preservation Orders to protect amenity trees.
- Restrictions under the CROW Act on the spreading of Japanese knotweed and giant hogweed.

Associated species priorities

Sand leek Swift

Status of Selby priorities

The sand leek is a rare species, which in Selby occurs on the riverbank near Barlow Grange and in Cawood churchyard.

The swift is declining locally. Selby town has about 18 pairs (Cooper[20]).

Threats

- Change of land use.
- Intensive or inappropriate management, which suppresses wildlife.
- Use of peat, which is contrary to good environmental practice.
- Dominant stands of non-native, invasive plants, which reduce biodiversity.
- Use of environmentally damaging products such as pesticides.

Current local action

- Selby Countryside Management Project (SCMP) and Groundwork Selby (GS) offer advice and assistance with environmental schemes within the District.
- Management plan for sand leek in operation.
- National recording schemes such as Garden Bird Watch, butterfly reporting and phenology (timing of natural events).
- Local Agenda 21 initiatives, such as green waste collection and composting.
- Yorkshire Wildlife trust Living Churchyards Project.

Opportunities

- Initiatives with those responsible for the upkeep of areas, community groups and churches to create wildlife areas.
- Initiatives with garden centres.

- Survey of vacant industrial land ('brownfield' sites).

What you can do to help:

Buy only, peat free compost.
Use alternatives to slug pellets.
Tie a bell to your pet cat.
Put up an open-fronted nest box.
Feed the birds.
Grow flowers favoured by bumble bees.
Grow a dense shrubbery for nesting birds.
Plant fruit trees, currant bushes and berry-bearing shrubs.
Leave fallen timber to decay.
Create a wildlife pond, avoiding the use of non-native aquatic plants.

Links to Species Action Plans

Water vole - see SAP 2.
Great crested newt - see SAP 3.
Dingy skipper - see SAP 5.
Bats - see SAP 9.
Bumble bees - see SAP 10.
Clearwing moths (specifically currant clearwing) - see SAP 11.

Objective

To maximise the wildlife value of Selby District's greenspace, through education and encouraging management practices sympathetic to wildlife.

Five year targets

1	Create five community wildlife areas.
2	Maintain or increase the distribution of the two priority species.

ACTIONS

Seek biodiversity gains when determining planning applications.	1	SDC (Planning)	1,2
Create wildlife areas.	2	GS	1,2
Provide practical help on creating and managing small wildlife areas.	3	SCMP and GS	1,2
Engage with local community and follow management plan for sand leek in Cawood churchyard.	4	GS	2
Control invasive, non-native plants and animals where applicable to conservation projects.	5	EA, GS, NYCC	2
Encourage grounds maintenance committees of	6	NYCC	2

institutions to adopt a habitat.			
Continue to run and expand a green waste collection and composting scheme.	7	SDC	-
Recommend the installation of Swift Bricks to new and re-furbished buildings.	8	SDC	2
Work with church communities to manage churchyards for wildlife.	9	YWT	1,2
Promote participation in national surveys e.g., garden butterflies count, garden bird survey.	10	SCMP	2
Provide advisory leaflets on best practice, sources of environmentally friendly products etc.	11	SCMP and GS	2
Investigate local sources of environmentally friendly gardening products.	12	GS	2
Offer advice to institutions on landscaping and management for wildlife.	13	NYCC	1,2
Produce Towns and Villages HAP display material.	14	SCMP	2
Produce advisory leaflets.	15	SCMP and GS	1,2
Run media campaigns to raise awareness and promote involvement.	16	SCMP and GS	1,2
Organise a training event for Parochial Church Councils and those responsible for churchyard maintenance, on wildlife management of churchyards.	17	FWAG	2

SPECIES ACTION PLANS

1. **Otter Species Action Plan**

Introduction

As a top predator, the otter is recognised as a flagship species that reflects the health of our rivers and wetlands.

The otter is a key target species in the UK BAP with the Environment Agency (EA) and The Wildlife Trusts (WTs) as joint lead partners.

National status

Formerly widespread throughout the UK, the otter underwent a rapid decline from the 1950s to 1970s, leaving fragmented populations and absence from much of England. Otters are now returning to many areas through natural re-colonisation, with the expansion of populations from Scotland, Wales, north and west England. This has been assisted in some parts by re-introductions, however these are now not thought to be appropriate in the light of national survey results indicating natural expansion. The fourth national survey took place between 2002 to 2004 and 34% of sites surveyed were positive for otter, an increase from the previous survey.

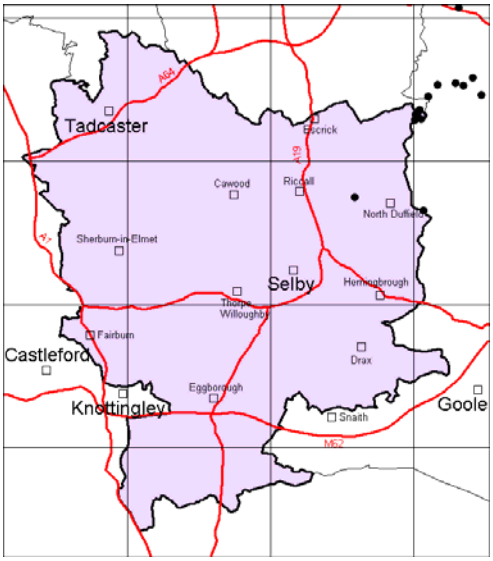
Regional status

Historically otters were found throughout Yorkshire but by the 1980s were lost from most of the county. Increases in evidence of otter activity have been recorded by the Yorkshire Wildlife trust (YWT) on the lowland stretches of the Rivers Wharfe, Swale, Nidd and Ouse in North Yorkshire, and more recently on the Don, Aire and Calder. A small breeding population exists on the River Ure as well as the River Hull in East Yorkshire. The Rivers Derwent and Esk were the subject of a successful otter release programme by the Vincent Wildlife Trust and English Nature in the early 1990s. It is hoped that these breeding populations will provide a source of otters for neighbouring catchments.

Local status

it is currently not known if the otter breeds in the District. The majority of recorded otter activity is on the lower Derwent and the Wharfe. There is some evidence of activity on the Aire and Went, with otters possibly resident in the Lower Aire. The Ouse and the Selby canal act as the main corridors linking the other river systems.

Otter (*Lutra lutra*) Baseline distribution map, 2003.



Legal status

The otter is listed under two schedules of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981. Schedule 5, makes it an offence to intentionally or recklessly kill, injure, take or sell the animal or parts of it, or to damage, destroy or obstruct access to its resting places. Schedule 6 restricts certain methods of killing taking or injuring. The European sub-species is listed as globally threatened on the Red Data List (Joint Nature Conservancy Committee, 1996).

The otter is listed on Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, Annex II of the Bern Convention and Annexes II and IV of the EC Habitats Directive (EC/92/43). It is classified by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as 'vulnerable' due to the declining or endangered status of many of its populations.

Threats

- Pollution, impacting both directly on individual otters and indirectly on food supply.
- Lack of prey, which may be affected by reduced water quality, poor in-channel and bank habitat management and flow regimes affected by land drainage.
- Degraded bankside habitat.
- Accidental death, particularly on roads, and in traps.
- Development affecting rivers and bankside habitat.
- Access and recreational disturbance, particularly an issue for breeding sites but also affects watercourses where bankside habitat is poor and human activity high.
- Otter predation at fish farms. There may be a conflict of interests where fish-farm management fails to take recommended precautionary measures.
- Persecution.

Requirements

- The linear nature of the majority of the habitats used by otters and the limiting factor of food availability within that habitat means that otters can have very large home ranges. A male otter may use up to 40km of watercourse, including main rivers, becks, ditches, ponds, lakes, riverside woodland and wetlands. This use of a wide geographical area and habitat type range means that a catchment-wide approach is essential to otter conservation. The needs of otters should be taken into account when planning developments and recreational facilities.
- Safeguard existing otter populations in Selby District, and allow consolidation and expansion

through natural colonisation (NOT through introductions).

Main requirements are:

- Plentiful food supply, predominantly fish (often minor species such as bullheads), but amphibians and crustaceans may be seasonally important, as well as the occasional small mammal or bird.
- Secure undisturbed breeding sites, with associated food resource, are essential if otters are to establish and maintain sustainable populations.
- Secure undisturbed lying-up/resting sites. One site is needed approximately every kilometre of watercourse.
- Clean water. Water quality sufficient to support food supply and without pollutants which may accumulate in otter tissues and impact on breeding and/or life expectancy.

Current local action

- YWT plays the major part in delivering the UK BAP on regional and local levels. YWT advise on and carry out habitat enhancement; advise and comment on wider otter, river and wetland related issues; carry out and co-ordinate otter and habitat surveys; is a point of contact for otter records, otter issues and co-ordinates information.
- National surveys undertaken every seven years, the last one carried out by WTs.
-
- Conservation management led by WWP and including involvement by Yorkshire Water, EA, FWAG, Regional Development Agency, landowners and farmers.
- Research into road mortality, funded by EA nationally with WWP as official first contact.
- Collation of records by WWP and the regional data centre, NEYEDC.

Opportunities

- Project delivery through the Water for Wildlife Project (WWP), formerly the Yorkshire Otters And Rivers Project, (YOARP), delivered by the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust (YWT), if funding can be secured.
- Specific habitat work for otters has been undertaken on agreement land under current CSS schemes and will be available under the proposed Environmental Stewardship schemes due to start in 2005, if the otter is named as a target species in the Defra targeting statement..

What you can do to help:

Report otter sightings or dead otters as promptly as possible to YWT or the EA.

Keep to marked footpaths along rivers and keep dogs on leads near water.

Use water wisely and use 'green' cleaning products.

UK BAP targets.

Maintain and expand existing populations. By 2010 restore breeding otters to all catchments and coastal areas where they have been recorded since 1960.

Objective

A stable, resident, breeding otter populations to be present at carrying

capacity throughout all rivers and tributaries in Selby District by 2014.

Ten year targets

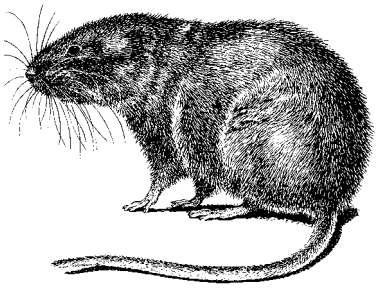
1	Increase distribution of both breeding and non-breeding otters.

ACTIONS

In reviewing Environmental Stewardship scheme targets, ensure they identify key habitats for otters and include incentives for wetland habitat enhancement.	1	RDS (Defra), RDA, FWAG, YWT	1
Ensure that otter requirements are incorporated into Deposit Draft Selby District Local Plan (1997), as amended by modifications and that they are taken into account when considering all planning applications, which may affect otters.	2	SDC, EA, YWT	1
Ensure that otter requirements are incorporated into the policies and plans of organisations (other than the District Council), operating within Selby District.	3	EA, YW, YWT, BW, IDBs, Highways Agency, YWT	1
Identify potential sites for habitat enhancement.	4	YWT, EA	1
Undertake habitat enhancement works on sites throughout Selby District.	5	YWT, EA	1
Identify potential or actual breeding sites and secure agreement for protection.	6	YWT, EN,	1
Determine baseline information on otter activity and habitat suitable for breeding where this does not already exist in the Selby District.	7	YWT	1
Identify actual and potential black spots for road and rail deaths and introduce mitigation where appropriate.	8	YWT, Highways Agency,	1

		NYCC	
Continue to send otter casualties to University College Wales in Cardiff for post mortem and analysis.	9	YWT, EA, Police, RSPCA	1
Provide information on otter requirements to key groups, especially farmers, riparian owners and managers, anglers and developers as appropriate.	10	YWT, EA	1
Promote the use of carefully sited cage (live) traps for mink to the Gamekeepers Association, Country Landowners Association and landowners, to minimise the risk of otters being caught and killed or injured in traps.	11	YWT,	1
Provide advice Local Planning Authorities to ensure otter mitigation is included in all relevant developments, especially new and re-developed road schemes, following Highways Agency guidelines.	12	YWT,	1
-			

2. **Water Vole Species Action Plan**



Introduction

The water vole was formerly common along the banks of rivers, streams, canals, ditches, dykes, lakes and ponds throughout mainland Britain.

The water vole is a priority species in the UK BAP with the Environment Agency (EA) identified as the lead partner.

During the 20th century the water vole has declined significantly in numbers and distribution, leaving populations scarce and fragmented in the north and west and strongest and most widespread in southern and eastern Britain.

The establishment of the American mink is a major factor in the decline. Due to the similarity in size water voles cannot escape predation by sheltering in their burrows.

National status

Two national surveys carried out by the Vincent Wildlife Trust in 1989-1990 and 1996-1998 have shown that this decline has now developed into a serious population 'crash' with a further loss of 60% of the occupied sites between 1990 and 1998.

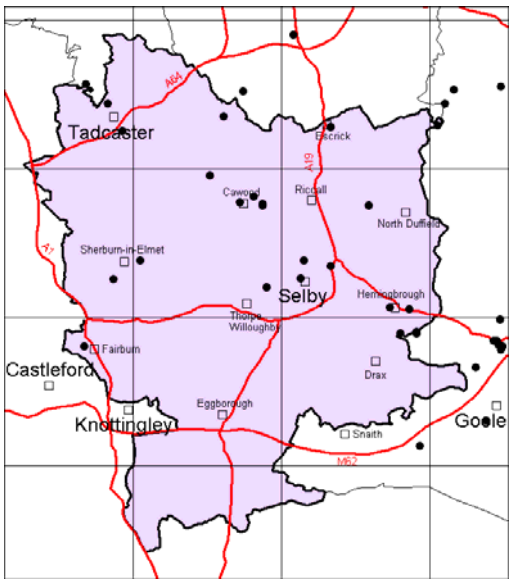
Regional status

The water vole population in Yorkshire has crashed by 97% from previously occupied sites between 1990 and 1998.

Local status

Some records exist for the District, especially on the Derwent and Ouse sub-catchments. However, there have not been any systematic surveys so the current status is unclear. Reports from Selby Dam in 2003 need verification.

Water Vole (*Arvicola terrestris*) Baseline Distribution map, 2003.



Legal status

Since 1998 the water vole has received limited legal protection under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) in respect of Section 9(4) only. This makes it an offence to intentionally or recklessly: damage, destroy or obstruct access to any structure or place which water voles use for shelter of protection; Disturb water voles while they are using such a place. A recent review has recommended giving full protection to the animal itself.

Threats

- Loss and fragmentation of habitats.
- Predation by the American mink.
- Disturbance and destruction of riparian habitats by development, unsympathetic water course management and recreational activities.
- Poisoning with rodenticides, due to confusion with brown rat.

Requirements

- Conditions preferred include slow flowing watercourses, less than three metres wide, around one metre in depth and without extreme fluctuations in water level. Canals are also favoured.
- Permanent water is essential during low flow periods in summer.
- Shore type required for burrowing is predominantly earth or clay with a stepped or steep bank (usually vegetated rather than bare).
- Dense stands of herbaceous vegetation provide cover. Sites excessively shaded by shrubs or trees are less suitable.
- Water meadows and expanses of wetland with tussocks of grass, sedge, rush or common reed can provide a more secure habitat than linear features in terms of refuge from predators.
- Protection of wetland habitat through the planning system.

Current local action

- National surveys every seven years undertaken by Vincent Wildlife Trust.
- Collation of records by YWT and regional data centre, NEYEDC.
- YWT give advice on habitat enhancement; advising and commenting on water vole and wetland related issues; carrying out surveys; point of contact for issues affecting water voles.
- Some conservation management undertaken by organisations including YWT, EA, Yorkshire Water, FWAG, IDBs and landowners.

Opportunities

- There are a large number of ditches in the District, which provide potential for expansion.
- If water vole is selected as a target species for the Environmental stewardship Scheme, conservation options will be available.

What you can do to help:

Report water vole sightings to the North and East Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre (NEYEDC).

Avoid pouring toxic chemicals down the drain.

UK BAP targets.

Maintain the current distribution and abundance.
Restore water voles to their former widespread distribution, using the Vincent Wildlife Trust survey of 1989/90 as a baseline, by the year 2010.

Objective

To identify remaining water vole populations in Selby District and to increase the number of water voles through habitat expansion, creation and management, to the 1997 level.

Five year targets

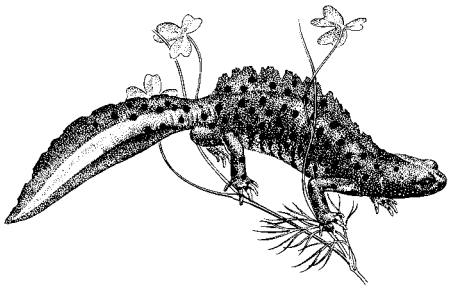
1	Increase the distribution of water vole as recorded on the baseline map.

ACTIONS

Ensure that water vole requirements are incorporated into the Deposit Draft Selby District Local Plan (1997), as amended by modifications and that they are taken into account when considering all planning applications affecting rivers and wetlands.	1	SDC	1
In developing Environmental Stewardship Scheme targets, ensure conservation options for water vole.	2	RDS Defra,	1
Secure, with landowners, the protection of key water vole sites.	3	YWT	1
Undertake habitat enhancement to allow population expansion.	4	YWT, EA	1
Promote best practice in riparian management.	5	EA, YWT, IDB.	1
Ensure water voles are not destroyed or disturbed as part of pest control programmes.	6	YWT	1
Control mink where water vole populations are threatened.	7	Landowners	1
Verify status of water vole at Selby Dam	8	YWT, NEYEDC	1
Carry out survey work to determine water vole population status and subsequently monitor colonies.	9	YWT	1
Carry out survey work on main watercourses.	10	EA	1
Record mink presence whilst surveying for water voles.	11	EA, YWT	1
Identify areas where mink are present.	12	YWT	1
Seek advice on effective mink culling, including timing and extent.	13	NYCC	1

Provide information on water vole requirements to key groups, especially farmers, riparian owners and managers, and developers as appropriate.	14	EA, YWT	1
Provide advice to ensure water voles are given consideration in all relevant developments.	15	YWT, Developers.	1
Use water vole as a flagship species for promotion of good riverside and wetland management.	16	EA	1
Sharing of water vole and mink data.	17	NEYEDC, YWT	1

3. **Great Crested Newt Species Action Plan**



Introduction

The great crested newt is Britain's largest newt growing up to 16 cm long. It has a dark upper body often speckled with tiny white spots. The underside is orange or yellow with black blotches, to warn predators that it is toxic. The skin has a warty appearance given the animal its alternative name, the warty newt. The male develops a prominent crest when breeding. Although dependant on ponds for breeding, adult newts may spend much of the year on land and will spend the winter hibernating in a sheltered, frost-free nook, often underground. They will however remain within 500m of their breeding site.

Although the species has experienced a decline in recent years, Britain still supports one of the largest populations in Europe, where it is threatened in several countries. In suitable conditions, populations can increase quickly.

It is a UK BAP priority species.

National Status

The great crested newt is widespread in Britain. It has been estimated that there are around 18,000 ponds in Britain supporting populations of the animal, but only 3,000 sites have been confirmed. In Lowland England and Wales the species may be locally numerous, but it is absent from Devon and Cornwall and from Northern Ireland. It is local in Scotland, with an estimated population of 1,000 individuals. The species is declining and the annual loss of colonies has been put at 0.4 to 2%. Assuming 18,000 populations, then between 72 and 360 are being lost each year.

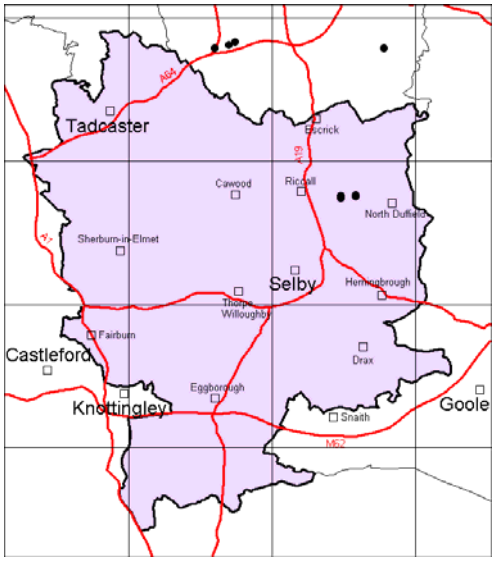
Regional Status

Great crested newts have a widespread distribution within the region with some areas supporting significant populations.

Local Status

Some records exist for the District, however, there have not been any systematic surveys so the current status is unclear. Possibly widespread in the District.

Great Crested Newt (*Triturus cristatus*) Baseline distribution map, 2003.



Legal Status

Great crested newts receive protection under national and international legislation. In the UK they are protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994. It is an offence (with certain exceptions) to:

- deliberately capture or kill great crested newts.
- deliberately disturb great crested newts.
- deliberately take or destroy eggs of great crested newts.
- damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of a great crested newt.

A license is required from Defra, for proposals likely to impact on great crested newts or their habitat.

Threats

- The loss of breeding ponds and adjacent terrestrial habitat by development; sometimes inadvertently due to their presence being unknown.
- Sites are threatened by water-borne pollution from industry and run off from roads.
- A decline in the value of breeding ponds through neglect, insensitive management and natural succession.
- Fish stocking whether licensed or illegal, threatens the viability of populations.

Requirements.

- Relatively large breeding ponds (50 – 750 sq m) - typically well established ponds in a farmed landscape.
- Breeding ponds include disused brick pits and other aggregate sites, small reservoirs, canals, ditches, water supply tanks and larger garden ponds.
- Small seasonal ponds prevent predatory fish populations becoming established.
- Clear water of high quality in breeding pond.
- Variety of aquatic vegetation.
- Good quality terrestrial habitats close to breeding pond. Great crested newts require large areas for foraging. A hectare of land supports up to 250 adult individuals.
- Good quality habitat comprises gardens, tussocky pastures, open woodlands and derelict industrial sites.

Current local action

- Local planning authority considers presence of newts when determining planning applications and developers are advised to undertake great crested newt surveys when changing land use.

Opportunities

- Creation of new ponds close to known breeding sites, in order to expand the population.

What you can do to help:

Create a fish free, wildlife pond.

UK BAP targets.

- 100 re-colonisations to offset losses, including new ponds to offset losses due to neglect.

- Prevent site loss through development.
- Restore populations to 100 unoccupied sites each year 1998 to 2002, creating new ponds.
- Maintain the range, distribution and viability of existing populations.

Objectives

Expand the great crested newt population by working with planners, developers and land managers to protect existing and create new breeding ponds and foraging habitat.

Five year targets

1	Increase the distribution of great crested newt.

ACTIONS

Local Planning Authority to require great crested newt survey information for all planning applications likely to impact on known newt sites or appropriate habitat.	1	SDC, NYCC	1
Appropriate mitigation to be included for any developments likely to impact upon great crested newts or their habitat.	2	SDC,	1
Promote favourable management of known sites by offering management advice to all landowners and advocating appropriate agri-environment and grant schemes.	3	EN, FWAG, Defra	1
Promote favourable habitat creation in locations close to existing colonies, by offering management advice to all landowners and advocating appropriate agri-environment schemes.	4	EN, FWAG, Defra	1
Develop a trained volunteer survey force and management advice for great crested newt conservation.	5	EN	1

Undertake surveys of under recorded areas.	6	NEYEDC	1
Compile all records and send to NEYEDC.	7	NEYEDC	1
-			

4. **Tansy beetle Species Action Plan**

Introduction

The tansy beetle is a sedentary leaf beetle, growing up to 1cm in size. It has iridescent green and bronze colouration and chiefly feeds on the plant tansy. Insects in the UK have never been recorded flying. Its life cycle may be well adapted to seasonal flooding of the River Ouse, but it appears to be susceptible to un-seasonal flooding events.

The Selby BAP has a national responsibility to conserve this species.

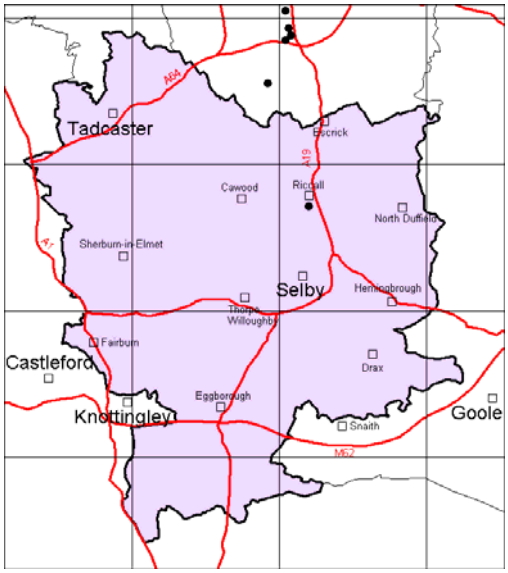
National status

Formerly more widespread in Britain, the species has become extinct over much of its range. The Vale of York population is now the species' stronghold.

Regional status

Tansy beetle occurs along the Ouse riverbank, with the majority of populations occurring in the City of York. Its northern distribution ends just north of Nether Poppleton and its southern boundary is south of Ricall. It is not found on the River Wharfe which joins the Ouse near Cawood, nor on the River Derwent.

Tansy Beetle (*Chrysolina graminis*) Baseline distribution map, 2003.



Local status

In Selby the tansy beetle occurs in the District along the eastern bank of the River Ouse as far south as Ricall at approximately SE 620358.

Legal status

None.

Threats

- Grazing and trampling of tansy by livestock.
- Trimming of vegetation at the wrong time.
- Encroachment by invasive non-native plants, especially Himalayan balsam, Japanese knotweed and giant hogweed.
- Herbicide applications on its food plant, where mistaken for common ragwort.
- Insecticide drift from arable sites.
- Un-seasonal flooding.
- Bank erosion.
- Engineering works.
- Specimen collection.

Requirements

- The ecology of this species and its rapid national decline is little understood. Its chief food plant tansy, is widespread in a variety of seemingly suitable locations where the beetle is absent, and cannot therefore be the limiting factor.
- The species would benefit from being upgraded by the JNCC to Red Data Book status. Its long-term decline could warrant RDB1.
- Favourable management of river bank.

Current local action

- The species is being extensively studied by the Department of Biology at the University of York.
- The insect has been successfully bred in captivity in order to study its ecology.
- Tansy has been planted in habitat adjacent to known populations, on sites owned by the City of York Council.

Opportunities

- Tansy is locally common along the R. Ouse, giving scope for re-introductions.
- Habitat for this species can be easily managed.
- Public rights of way allow for easy surveying.

Objective

To maintain all existing populations of tansy beetle in the Selby District and to increase its distribution, along both banks of the River Ouse.

Five year targets

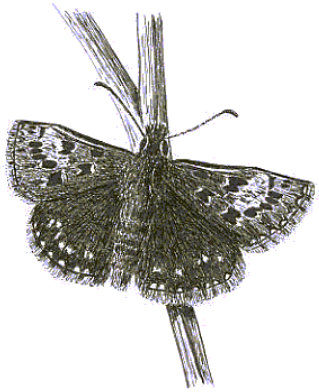
1	No loss of any population.
2	Manage 10km of riverbank on the River Ouse for tansy beetle.

ACTIONS

When consulted by the JNCC on the grading of invertebrates, recommend that tansy beetle is upgraded to Red Data Book listing.	1	NYCC	1
Any flood defence, drainage or other engineering works (including bridge works) to take account of tansy beetle requirements.	2	EA, IDB, NYCC	1,2

Identify landowners and establish agreements to fence off appropriate sections of riverbank which include patches of tansy, to protect from grazing livestock	3	NYCC	1,2
Avoid the use of herbicides, along riverbanks (including public rights of way), in areas where tansy grows and the beetle does or could occur. Manage vegetation by manual cutting instead.	4	NYCC	1,2
Control spread of invasive alien plant species from key lengths of riverbank.	5	EA, EN, NYCC	1,2
Research and report on the ecology of the species.	6	University of York	1,2
Organise within Selby District, the survey of both banks of the River Ouse, Wharfe and any appropriate tributaries, for both tansy and tansy beetle.	7	University of York, NYCC	1,2
Maintain a database of tansy beetle records.	8	NYCC NEYEDC	1,2
Produce guidance on vegetation cutting for footpaths, riverbanks and drains.	9	NYCC	1,2
Communicate the distribution pattern of tansy beetle to engineers of appropriate agencies.	10	NYCC	1
Prepare and distribute an advice sheet on the identification of tansy compared to common ragwort.	11	NYCC	1

5. **Dingy skipper butterfly Species Action Plan**



Introduction

The dingy skipper butterfly is a small well-camouflaged brown and grey butterfly and is easily overlooked. The butterfly is in flight from early May until the end of June but can emerge as early mid-April if the weather is sufficiently warm. The butterfly is often seen basking on bare ground and rests at night with its wings held over its body in a moth-like fashion, unlike all other butterflies, which rest with their wings closed. Typical habitats for this species include open sunny areas such as downland, woodland rides, heathland, disused quarries, disused railway lines, railway track verges and brownfield sites.

National status

The dingy skipper is widespread in Britain but is very localised and occurs in small colonies. It has declined in many areas. The species has been given a medium priority by the society Butterfly Conservation (BC).

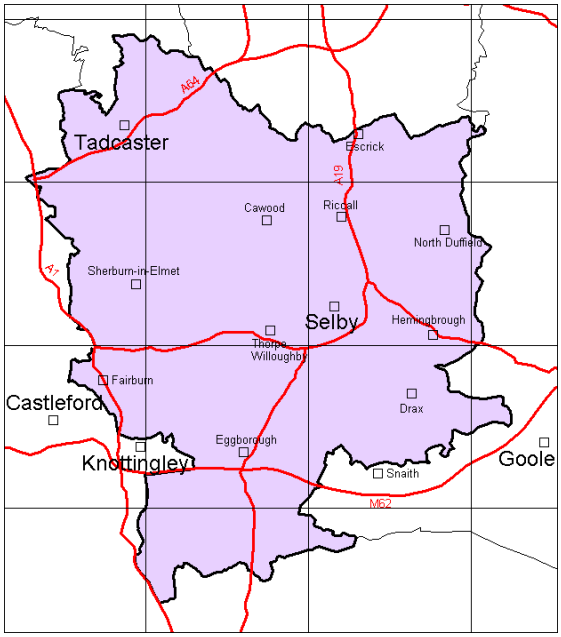
Regional status

The dingy skipper is found mainly on the southern edge of the North York Moors but is also found on the Yorkshire Wolds, the most southerly site being on the Hudson line at Kiplingcotes railway station. It is apparently absent from the Pennines and Holderness.

Local status

The butterfly is well known from Bolton Percy old railway station yard. It has also been recorded at suitable sites adjacent to the railway line between York and Bolton Percy and is likely to be thinly distributed.

Dingy Skipper (*Erynnis tages*) Baseline distribution map, 2003.



Legal status

None.

Threats

- Scrubbing over of sites leads to loss of early successional vegetation and bare ground.
- Habitat fragmentation.

Requirements

- Sparse grass sward with patches of bare ground.
- Abundant food plant – bird's-foot trefoil.
- Taller vegetation for resting.

Current local action

- The Yorkshire Naturalists' Union (YNU) maintains records of Lepidoptera and BC

specifically maintains records for butterflies.
- Regular searches by YNU members since 1945.

Objective

To establish the butterfly's distribution and increase its distribution.

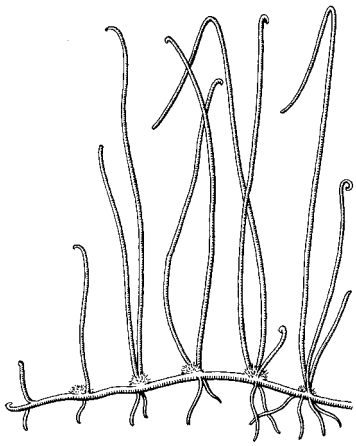
Five-year targets

1	Maintain the one population of dingy skipper.

ACTIONS

Continued management of scrub at known site.	1	YWT	1
Identify likely sites where dingy skipper could establish naturally, establish land ownership and organise or oversee specific habitat management.	2	NYCC	1
Identify suitable habitat in the District where dingy skipper could occur and organise surveys using Butterfly Conservation volunteers or other experienced individuals.	3	NYCC	1
Seek advice on dingy skipper re-introductions from Butterfly Conservation and EN.	4	NYCC	
Liase with Butterfly Conservation to produce guidance on habitat management favourable to dingy skipper.	5	NYCC	1
-			

6. **Pillwort Species Action Plan**



Introduction

Pillwort is endemic to western Europe, where it is considered to be declining throughout its range. It is an aquatic fern, which favours three distinct habitat types – open water with soft mud, mud at the edge of lakes and wet and sandy hollows in well-trampled dunes and heaths. It is a UK BAP priority species. Its status is threatened by natural changes such as shading and nutrient input from leaf litter and vegetational succession.

National status

Pillwort has declined from 230 UK locations in c.1900 to 90 by 1970.

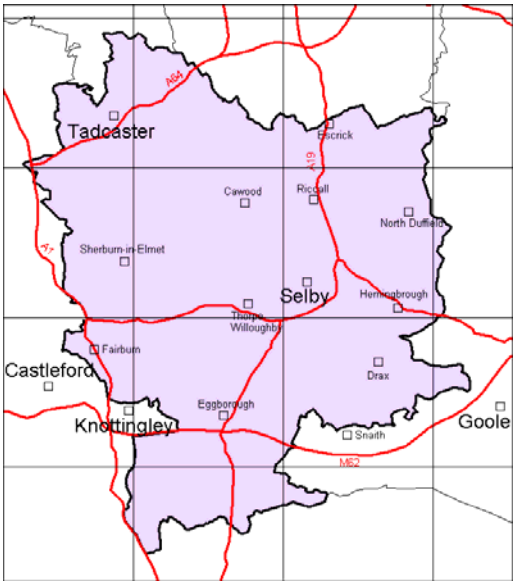
Regional status

In Yorkshire, pillwort has been recorded from 17 sites in four vice counties, but at only four sites since 1990.

Local status

There is a run of records from Skipwith Common, from 1874 to 2000, although it has not been recorded in recent years.

Pillwort (*Pilularia globulifera*)
Baseline distribution map, 2003.



Legal status

Protected from up-rooting by the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981).

Threats

- At known site, competition from other vegetation.

Requirements

- Water pH level greater than 5.5.
- As an opportunist requires bare ground, particularly that associated with falling water levels in pools and ponds, in order to colonise and thrive.

Current local action

The only known site is within a SSSI, which is currently undergoing extensive conservation management.

Opportunities

- Re-creation of suitable habitat through management, at Skipwith Common SSSI to extend or re-introduce the population.
- Ensure that the Skipwith Common SSSI management plan contains actions for this plant.

What you can do to help:

Ensure that non-native pond plants are not put into wild ponds.

UK BAP targets.

- Maintain the range and enhance the total UK population. Facilitate natural colonisation of new sites. Examine the feasibility of re-establishing at lost sites where conditions appear to be favourable. Establish an ex situ population to create a reserve population.

Objective

To maintain a population of pillwort on at least one site in Selby District.

Five year targets

1	Maintain one population of pillwort.

ACTIONS

-			
Increase the number of suitable sub-sites at Skipwith Common SSSI.	1	EN	1
Agree specific action points for inclusion in the Skipwith Common SSSI management plan. These should include protection of water levels and water quality.	2	EN	1
Follow up management plan recommendations.	3	EN	1
Re-introduce if lost at Skipwith Common SSSI	4	EN	1

Organise, with the YNU or other experts, to re-survey suitable habitat on Skipwith Common.	5	EN	1
Gather information on known site requirements for pillwort.	6	EN	1
Monitor water pH.	7	EN	1
If the re-introduction of pillwort is deemed necessary, seek agreement and advice, and prepare an implementation plan.	8	EN	1
-			
Liaise with lead partners regarding habitat requirements, management advice and re-introduction schemes (if appropriate).	9	EN	1
Liaise with Environment Agency and Internal Drainage Boards, regarding the protection of the water resource at Skipwith Common.	10	EN	1

7. Cylindrical Whorl Snail Species Action Plan

Introduction

The Cylindrical whorl snail is a tiny snail that is associated with dry calcareous grassland, old walls and rock outcrops. It is considered to be on the verge of extinction in Great Britain. It is classified as a Red Data Book species (RDB2 Vulnerable). The Selby BAP has a national responsibility to conserve this species.

National status

It has been recorded from just three sites in the last 50 years. It was previously known from 20 sites.

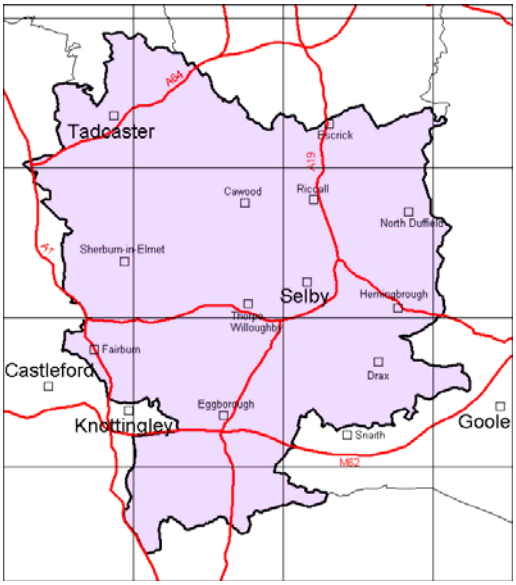
Regional status

Known from four sites in Yorkshire in the nineteenth century, but now only known from one Selby locality.

Local status

Recorded form the Went Valley at Brockadale SSSI since 1851. Rediscovered at this site in 1975, since when there has been around ten records, the last being a dead individual in 1997.

Cylindrical whorl snail (*Truncatellina cylindrica*) Baseline distribution map 2003.



Legal status

No legal protection.

Threats

- Lack of knowledge of ecological requirements.
- Microhabitat deterioration through neglect or mismanagement.

Requirements

- Magnesian limestone outcrops.
- South facing rock faces.
- Thin, dry, friable soil.

Current local action

- Brockadale SSSI is a Yorkshire Wildlife Trust (YWT) site. The management plan is being updated, taking this species fully into account.
- Yorkshire Naturalists' Union (YNU) involved in comprehensive survey in 2003.

Opportunities

- Conservation agencies may re-grade conservation status to Endangered (RDB1), prepare a UK BAP action plan and fund a species recovery programme for this snail.

Objective

Safeguard and increase population only at known sites.

Five year targets

1	Maintain population at the one known site.

ACTIONS

When consulted by the JNCC on the grading of invertebrates, suggest that this species be upgraded to endangered (RDB1) listing.	1	NYCC	1
Undertake habitat management at Brockadale NR	2	YWT	1
Regular or bi-annual surveys.	3	YWT, YNU	1
Liaise with YNU recorder and national experts.	4	YWT	1
Survey other likely sites on the Magnesian Limestone.	5	YNU	
-			
-			

8. **An aquatic beetle -*Agabus uliginosus* Species Action Plan**

Introduction

The aquatic beetle *Agabus uliginosus* is a medium sized diving beetle, associated with shallow, seasonal pools in woodland, unimproved grassland and fens. Most sites are remnant semi-natural habitats on former Commons.

This beetle is Nationally Scarce (NS). See page 15.

Water beetle assemblages associated with shallow fen pools are particularly important in Selby District. In addition to *Agabus uliginosus*, other scarce or threatened species found in this habitat include *Acilius canaliculatus*, *Agabus labiatus*, *Helophorus strigifrons* and *Dryops auriculatus*.

The importance of Selby District is probably due to its historic landscape of wet commons within the Vale of York. Many of the five Red Data Book (RDB) and 24 NS species, that occur in Selby, will benefit from actions in the Reedbed HAP and Fens HAP.

National status

Agabus uliginosus is very locally distributed in lowland England and southern Scotland.

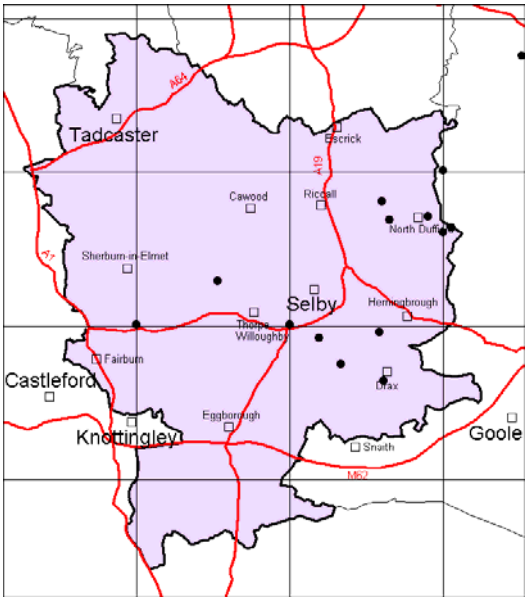
Regional status

The Vale of York is the main stronghold for this species.

Local status

Records are from: Skipwith Common, North Duffield Carrs and Ings, Barlow Common, Botany Bay (Barlow), Sand Pit Wood (Camblesforth Common), Drax, Keesbury Hall Close (Cawood) and Bishop Wood.

Aquatic beetle (*Agabus uliginosus*) Baseline distribution map, 2003.



Legal status

Although this species has no legal protection, it is classed as Nationally Scarce.

Threats

- Deepening of seasonal pools into permanent ponds.
- Pollution of pools.
- Destruction of pools.

Requirements

- Temporary pools within the lowland area and in a variety of semi-natural habitats.

Current local action

- None.

Opportunities

- Creation of carefully targeted temporary pools in Bishop Wood, to encourage colonisation and population expansion.
- Creation of carefully targeted temporary pools at Barlow Common Local Nature Reserve (LNR).

What you can do to help:

Help aquatic beetles in general, by creating a wildlife pond that does not contain fish.

Objective

Greatly increase the number of suitable pools for colonisation, and maintain one or more populations of this species in the District.

Five year targets

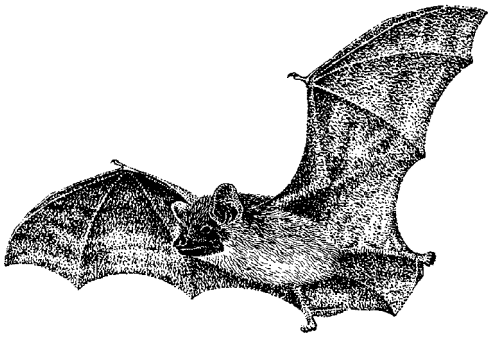
1	No net loss of occupied sites.

ACTIONS

-			
Identify suitable locations, liase with landowners and organise the appropriate creation of shallow, seasonal pools within ancient woodland, fen and unimproved grassland semi-natural habitat.	1	NYCC	1
Create shallow, seasonal pools at Barlow Common LNR.	2	SDC	1
Create shallow, seasonal pools in Bishop Wood.	3	FCE	1

Identify potential pools for this species, establish land ownership, seek access permission and organise survey for this species.	4	NYCC	1
Advise landowners on conservation options in agri-environment schemes.	5	FWAG, RDS (Defra)	1
-			

9. **Bats Grouped Species Action Plan**



Introduction

Bats are the only flying mammals. In summer, females live in colonies whilst most male bats live singly or in small groups. Summer roosts are generally in warm places to enable the animals to maintain their body temperature using the minimum amount of food energy. Roosts may be in the roofs or walls of buildings, in bridges, tunnels and other man-made structures, tree holes, behind loose bark or in caves.

Because all British bats are insectivorous, food is hard to obtain in winter, so bats hibernate. Most species choose cool, stable environments for hibernation as this minimises the risk of accidental arousal due to daily weather changes. Hibernacula are often in caves, disused mines and tunnels, but species such as the pipistrelles and noctule bats are rarely found in such places. Pipistrelles are sometimes found hibernating in the walls of derelict buildings, in piles of bricks or behind boards and downpipes in sheltered places.

Bats are long-lived animals that reproduce slowly. Females usually give birth to one young and take several years to mature. Some bats are known to be over 20 years old. During their lifetime they return annually to traditional roosting places. The loss of a roost site can be disastrous for a colony and the loss of colonies can lead to local extinction.

Bats are difficult to study. They come out at night, live in inaccessible places and are difficult to identify.

Consequently knowledge of bats, their distribution and behaviour is still far from complete. Modern technology has vastly increased our knowledge in recent years.

National status

There are 16 species of bat known to breed in the UK. Most species of bats are thought to have declined in recent decades due to loss of roost sites, agricultural changes and general persecution.

Regional status

In Yorkshire and The Humber region nine species are known to breed. These are listed below, together with their estimated UK populations.

Whiskered	70,000 combined
Brandt's	
Daubenton's	150,000
Natterer's	100,000
Common pipistrelle	2,000,000 combined
Soprano pipistrelle	
Noctule	50,000
Leisler's	10,000
Brown long-eared	200,000

Another species, Nathusius' pipistrelle has been recorded and could possibly breed in the region. Serotine and parti-coloured bat were recorded, but are not known to breed. Barbastelle and lesser horseshoe bats have been recorded during the 20th century, but are currently thought to be extinct in the region.

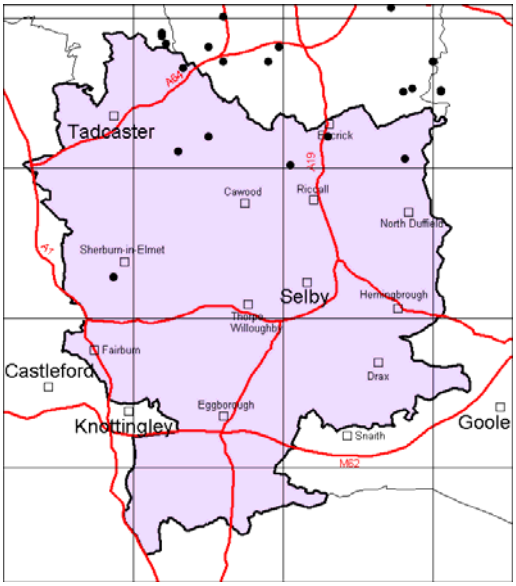
Local status

In Selby District eight species have been recorded. Their status is shown in the following table.

Species	Status
Daubenton's	Locally widespread; mainly confined to freshwater habitats.
Natterer's	Rare; few roosts known.
Whiskered	Local; few roosts known.
Brandt's	Rare; few roosts known.
Noctule	Widely but thinly distributed. Few roosts known.
Common pipistrelle	Widespread and fairly common.
Soprano pipistrelle	More local than common pipistrelle. Few roosts known.
Brown long-eared	Widespread, but local. Restricted by availability of suitable roost sites.

Knowledge of the true status of bats is restricted due to the difficulties in surveying these species. Most known roosts are in houses where bat workers have been alerted to their presence by householders.

Bats (all species). Baseline distribution map, 2003.



Legal status

All bats and their roosting places are fully protected under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Protection applies to roosts even when the bats are absent. Bats are also protected under the Habitat Regulations. Regulation 3 (paragraph 4) of European legislation (the Habitats Directive), recognised in the UK as the Habitat Regulations, gives the following duty to local authorities. Without prejudice to the preceding provisions, every competent authority in the exercise of any of their functions, shall have regard to the requirements of the Habitats Directive so far as they may be affected by the exercise of those functions'

Threats

- Loss or obstruction of traditional roost sites.

- Reduction in insect prey abundance due to largely intensive farming practice.
- Loss of insect-rich feeding habitats and flyways through loss and fragmentation of habitats.
- Loss of hibernation sites in old buildings and trees and disturbance in underground hibernacula.
- Disturbance and destruction of roosts including the loss of maternity roosts due to the use of toxic timber treatment chemicals, unsympathetic repairs, demolition of buildings, felling of trees and ungrounded fear of bats.

Requirements

- A variety of maternity and hibernation sites, including modern housing, older buildings, bridges, hollow trees, caves and tunnels.
- A mosaic of habitats to provide good sources of insects on which to feed, especially trees, hedges, unimproved grassland and freshwater.
- Continuous wildlife corridors and complete network of linear features (hedges, streams, woodland edges, etc.) for commuting between feeding and roosting sites.
- Building works in and close to roosts to be undertaken outside of breeding and hibernation periods.
- No disturbance.
- Good publicity.
- Monitoring of bats – ideally each roost owner to count their own bats twice each summer and pass the information to the North Yorkshire Bat Group (NYBG).

Current local action

- NYBG holds records of all known bat roosts within the county and provides advice to householders, landowners and others in conjunction with English Nature (EN).
- Bat Conservation Trust (BCT), with the support of Government agencies and volunteers, runs the National Bat Monitoring Programme to monitor changes in populations of various species.
- NYBG organises public walks, talks, exhibitions and surveys to foster a public understanding of bats and their conservation requirements.
- Developers wishing to carry out works which would impact on bat roosts are required to obtain a licence for such works and to provide suitable mitigation measures to enable bat populations to be maintained. Bats are considered by the Local Planning Authority as part of the planning process.
- NYCC surveys all bridges prior to maintenance work and take appropriate action.

Opportunities

- Create a ‘bat home’, which is a large bat box with multiple compartments, pioneered in the USA.
- Involve people directly in conserving the bats that roost in their property.
- Increase understanding through publicity, education and research.

What you can do to help:

Never obstruct access to or destroy a bat roost.

Encourage bats to roost in your roof by providing appropriate access.

Tell NYBG of any bat roosts you discover so that they can be monitored and protected.

Count your bats each summer and contribute your records to the National Bat Monitoring Programme.

UK BAP targets.
Maintain existing populations and range. Restore populations to pre 1970 numbers.

Objective

To increase populations and the geographical ranges of all eight species

Five year targets

1	Maintain current distribution of all bat species.

ACTIONS

Local authorities to comply with Regulation 3 (paragraph 4) of the Habitats Regulations (see Legal section in text). Planning officers to ask for bat surveys to be carried out on properties (including Council owned ones) to be repaired or renovated, in advance of granting planning permission and works commencing. Surveys to be undertaken by a qualified ecologist and at an appropriate time of year.	1	NYCC, SDC	1
Identify suitable location, on a private site, for a large 'bat home'.	2	NYBG	1
Undertake a project with permissions and funding, to erect a ‘bat home’.	3	NYBG	1
Work with development control planning officers to identify suitable opportunities to install bat roosting provision in new development projects	4	NYBG	1

Development control planning officers to seek mitigation in planning consents for the provision of bat roosts.	5	SDC	1
Bat surveys to be commissioned prior to bridge maintenance or repair work as per Habitat Regulations. Surveys to be undertaken by a qualified ecologist and at an appropriate time of year.	6	NYCC	1
Promote participation in the National Bat Monitoring Scheme to householders through enclosure in Council mailing.	7	SDC	1
Organise a survey of known pipistrelle roosts to determine species present, distribution and ecological requirements.	8	NYBG	1
Provide guidance to arboriculturalists, contractors and council staff on the importance of mature trees for roosting bats to ensure their proper maintenance.	9	NYBG	1
Liase with Education staff, Head teachers and school governors, regarding bats in school buildings, particularly where building work is planned	10	NYCC	1
-			

10. **Bumble Bees Species Action Plan**

Introduction

Not so long ago, bumble bees were prolific and a feature of the British Countryside. Today, the situation is very different. In recent decades, the disappearance of large tracts of suitable farmland habitat has increasingly put their survival under threat. Of the 23 species that used to be found in Yorkshire six have become extinct and two species may become extinct in the near future. Of the surviving species their abundance has decreased.

Bumble bee colonies are started anew during the spring by a single queen which has over-wintered in the ground. The queen seeks out a suitable location for her new colony, either underground in abandoned small mammal burrows or at ground surface under dry leaf litter. The queen rears the first workers who expand the nest and rear more workers. A queen cuckoo bumble bee may enter a young colony, kill the resident queen and use the host workers to rear cuckoo queens and males.

Whether or not the colony survives the first few weeks will depend on the quality of the surrounding forage. The colony needs nectar as fuel for the adults, and pollen for the developing larvae. Bumble bees will fly up to half a mile from the nest to find these, searching for new supplies when the old ones run out. However, a constant supply of food must always be present in the foraging area during the life span of the colony, between April and September. Fortunately the favoured forage plants are widespread and not difficult to grow. These include such common species as white deadnettle, red and white clovers, bird's-foot trefoil and black knapweed.

At the end of its life, the colony rears new males and queens; and, after mating the new queens enter over-wintering sites.

Bumble bees bring benefits to farmers in their ability to pollinate at lower temperature and in poorer weather conditions than honey bees, particularly in legume pollination and to improve seed yields of fodder beans. The benefits of flower-rich field margins are that they help to conserve bumble bees and other beneficial insects, provide habitat for threatened farmland birds and flowering plants and improve soil structure when ploughed in.

National status

The bumble bee group has declined in abundance and some species are now considered nationally extinct.

Regional status

The Regional Audit lists five UK BAP species that formerly occurred in the region, but are believed to be regionally extinct. These are *Bombus distinguendus* (great yellow bumble bee), *B. humilis* (brown-banded carder bee), *B. ruderatus* (large garden bumble bee), *B. subterraneus* (short-haired bumble bee) and *B. sylvarum* (shrill carder bee).

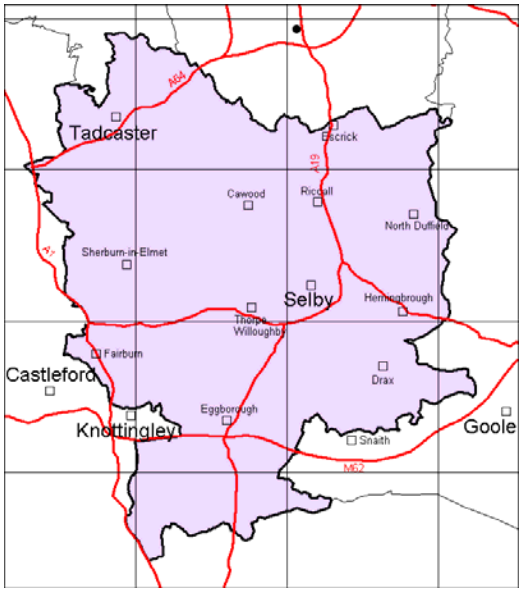
Local status

Twelve species of bumble bees are currently found in Selby District including seven host species and five

cuckoo species. All the species are widespread and common in a national context. In a regional and local context the following ten species are common: *Bombus lucorum, B. terrestris, B. pratorum, B. lapidarius, B. hortorum. B. pascuorum, B. bohemicus, B. vestalis, B. campestris* and *B. sylvestris*.

In a regional and local context the following two species are rare: *B. jonellus* known from Skipwith Common and *B. rupestris* known from Brayton Barff.

Bumblebees (*Bombus* spp.) All species. Baseline distribution map, 2003.



Legal status

None.

Selby priorities

All species, but especially: *Bombus jonellus* *Bombus rupestris*

Threats

- Loss of extensive, herb-rich grasslands through agricultural intensification.
- The use of pesticides in gardens and on publicly-owned spaces.

Requirements

- Foraging areas for pollen and nectar supplies which are continuous from early spring until early autumn, including wildflower-rich meadows, field headlands and waysides.
- Nesting locations with rough grass tussocks alongside ditches or in front of hedges.

Current local action

- The Yorkshire Naturalists' Union (YNU), via the recorder Dr. Michael Archer, maintains records of the distribution of bumble bees, noting those most at risk and in need of conservation.
- The Farmed Environment Company at Manor Farm, Eddlethorpe in Ryedale District, specialises in developing practical methods to encourage biodiversity alongside profitable farming.

Opportunities

- Encourage gardening enthusiasts to plant a range of nectar-rich flowers.
- Encourage farmers with Countryside Stewardship Scheme (CSS) agreements to sign up to the wild flower margins option.
- Work with Yorkshire Water to encourage bees and wasps at Brayton Barff.

What you can do to help:

Grow a range of nectar rich plants throughout the year.

Set up bee nesting tubes available from the Oxford Bee Company.

Objective

To greatly increase forage and nesting opportunities across the wider landscape.

Five year targets

1	No species extinctions.
2	Maintain population of *Bombus jonellus.*
3	Maintain population of *Bombus rupestris.*

ACTIONS

-			
Ensure bumble bee management is included in site management plans for relevant SSSIs	1	EN	1,2
Defra to include options in the proposed Environmental Stewardship Scheme, which will benefit bumblebees.	2	Defra	1,3
Initiate survey and research, particularly of ecology of Bombus jonellus on Skipwith Common	3	EN	1,2
Agree with Yorkshire Water Services Ltd, owners of Brayton Barff, for a survey and research programme into the ecology of the bumble bee Bombus rupestris, to be initiated.	4	NYCC	1,3

Prepare advisory document on survey and monitoring methods	5	EN, YNU	1,2,3
Prepare advisory document on habitat management.	6	EN, YNU	1
-			

11. **Clearwing Moths Species Action Plan**

Introduction

The clearwing moths are a group of transparent winged moths closely resembling wasps. Their larvae are highly specialised feeders and most bore into stems and trunks of shrubs and trees. Two species feed on the roots of thrift and bird's-foot trefoil. There are 14 species present in the UK and one considered to be extinct. All species are resident. The distribution of most species is relatively unknown mainly due to under-recording. All species are considered to be scarce. There are nine species on the Yorkshire list, two of which have not been recorded since 1900 (white-barred clearwing and red-belted clearwing) and one doubtfully recorded hornet moth. Details of the six currently recorded species are given below.

An explanation of the terms used for the Nationally Scarce system - Notable A (Na) and Notable B (Nb) is given on page 15.

Lunar hornet moth (Na)
This is one of the largest clearwing moths. It is yellow and black and closely resembles a wasp. The larvae feed in the stems of willow. It is the commonest species in Yorkshire and has been recorded in the Selby area at Fairburn Ings.

Currant clearwing (Nb)
A moth whose larvae feed in the stems of black currant and red currant. It has declined in recent years probably due to increased use of insecticides and a general decline in the number of allotments where currant bushes used to be grown. It has been recorded from the Selby District.

Threats include:
- Further loss of food plants
- Continued use of insecticides

Yellow-legged clearwing (Nb)
This species is scarce and local in Yorkshire and has been found at Brayton Barff in 1998. The larva feeds in fresh stumps of oaks and other deciduous trees.

Threats include:
- Removal of fresh stumps and lack of felling.

Red-tipped clearwing (Na)
This moth has made a sudden reappearance in Yorkshire and, whilst it has not been recorded in the Selby area, it is likely to be present. The larva feed under the bark of willow species especially osier.

Threats include:
- Removal of willow species from suitable habitats.

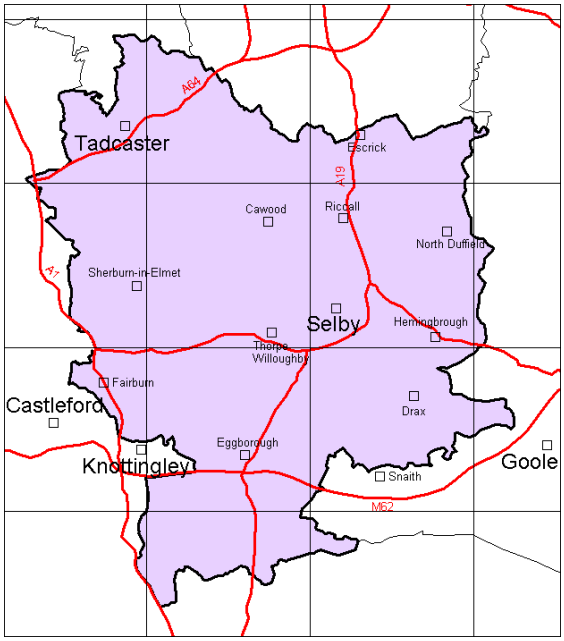
Large red-belted clearwing (Na)
The larva of this species is associated with fresh silver birch, downy birch and alder stumps. It is found at Skipwith Common.

Threats include:
- Removal of fresh stumps and lack of felling.

Six-belted clearwing (Nb)
The Six-belted clearwing differs from the other species in that the larvae feed on the roots of bird's-foot trefoil. It has been recorded at Skipwith Common, Brockadale, Sprotborough and Sherburn Willows, and should be looked for where the food plant occurs.

Threats include:
- Loss of food plant from suitable habitats

Clearwing moths. All species. Baseline distribution map, 2003.



Requirements

- This group, in common with many invertebrates, is under-recorded and the major requirement is to increase knowledge of the current distribution of all species. Key habitats need to be identified and thorough surveys undertaken.
- Appropriate management at key sites - Skipwith Common SSSI, Fairburn Ings SSSI, Brayton Barff, Brockadale SSSI, Sprotborough and Sherburn Willows SSSI.
- EN agrees management plans for SSSIs.

Current local action

Ad hoc surveys are undertaken at various sites in Yorkshire but they are not specifically for this group. The Yorkshire Naturalists' Union (YNU) maintains records of moths.

Opportunities

Survey work to better enable targeted conservation work.

What you can do to help:

Plant a currant bush in your garden.

Objective

Determine population distributions for all species and ensure no reduction in populations. Where possible increase both population and distribution.

Five year targets

1	Maintain existing populations.

ACTIONS

-			
Introduce a coppice cycle for willows at Brockadale	1	YWT	1

SSSI.			
Introduce a coppice cycle for willows at Skipwith Common SSSI.	2	EN	1
Introduce a coppice cycle for willows at Fairburn Ings SSSI.	3	RSPB	1
Introduce a coppice cycle for oaks and other deciduous trees at Brayton Barff.	4	Yorkshire Water	1
Introduce a coppice cycle for birch and alder at Skipwith Common SSSI.	5	EN	1
Establish a project to introduce coppice cycles of willows, birches, oaks and alder at other sites with potential to attract clearwing moths	6	NYCC	1
Survey all suitable habitats within the Selby District.	7	EN, YNU	1
-			
Promote the planting of red currant and black currant bushes.	8	NYCC	1

12. **Rare Moths Species Action Plan**

Introduction

There are approximately 1,800 species of moths, including 1,000 micro moths and 800 macro moths recorded from Yorkshire. Some of these are nationally rare, including two which are RDB2, four RDB3, 17 Nationally Scarce A (Na), 60 Nationally Scarce B (Nb) and 89 which are regionally notable (all macro moths). It would be difficult to provide detailed species action plans for all these species, so eleven species have been selected for consideration.

An explanation of the terms used for the RDB and Nationally Scarce systems - Notable A (Na) and Notable B (Nb) are given on page 15.

A micro moth - *Monochroa suffusella* (Nb)
A local moth in Britain where the early stages and food plant are unknown. On the continent the larva feeds in stems of common cottongrass. It inhabits fens and marshes and the only Yorkshire record is from Skipwith Common in 1967.

A micro moth - *Crambus uliginosellus* (Nb)
A moth of peat bogs and the early stages are unknown in Britain. This is a nationally local moth and the only recent Yorkshire site is Skipwith Common.

***Apomyelois bistriatella subsp. subcognata* (a micro moth)**
This is a specialist moth whose larvae feed on *Daldinia* spp (fungi) growing on burnt gorse or birch. Skipwith Common is the only site in Yorkshire and by far the most northerly in Britain.

Scarce vapourer moth (Na)
This moth is a RDB species category 3 (rare) and is associated with shrubby foodplants particularly associated with oak species and hawthorn. The female is flightless and its tendency to remain on the stems of the foodplant in all stages (ova, larva and pupa) has led to vulnerability to aggressive hedgerow management. The species is associated with lowland heath, wet woodland, and fen habitats. Sites in the Selby District from which the scarce vapourer has been recorded are Bishop Wood, Brayton Barff (last record 1956), Skipwith Common (last record 1960) and Selby Golf Links Wood (1954). A complete account of the ecology and distribution of this species in Yorkshire is found in Howes[23].

Threats include:
- Loss of hedgerows and adverse hedgerow management
- Loss of lowland heath, wet woodland and fen habitats

Triple-spotted pug moth (Na)
A local species for which there are few Yorkshire records. The only known sites in the Selby District are Bishop Wood and Skipwith Common. The larva is often found feeding on wild angelica growing under sallows in damp areas.

Threats include:
- Loss of habitat and lack of woodland management

The forester moth) (Nb)
A local moth in Yorkshire. This is a day flying moth and is often seen with burnet moths. It has been found at Selby Common and at Wistow. The larva feeds on common sorrel.

Argent and sable moth (Nb)
This is a striking day flying, black and white moth, which occurs in birch woodland, particularly in areas of re-growth, and open moorland and bogs. The foodplants are silver and downy birch and bog myrtle (which does not occur in Selby District). The moth flies on warm sunny days between May and early July. It's only known site in the Selby District is at Bishop Wood, where its foodplant is birch.

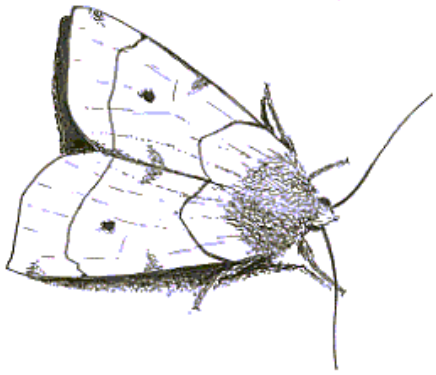
Threats include:

- Loss of habitat due to the decline of coppicing and active woodland management.

White-marked moth (Nb)
The moth is local in Yorkshire and is best known in the Selby District from Bishop Wood. The larva feeds on herbaceous plants, willow and oak species.

Threats include:
- Loss of habitat and lack of woodland management

Angle-striped sallow moth (Na)
A local moth in Yorkshire. Known sites in Selby are Henwick Hall near Selby, Skipwith Common and Barlow Ash Mound at Drax Power Station. The larva feeds on willow species, birch species and aspen.



Threats include:
- Loss of habitat and lack of woodland management

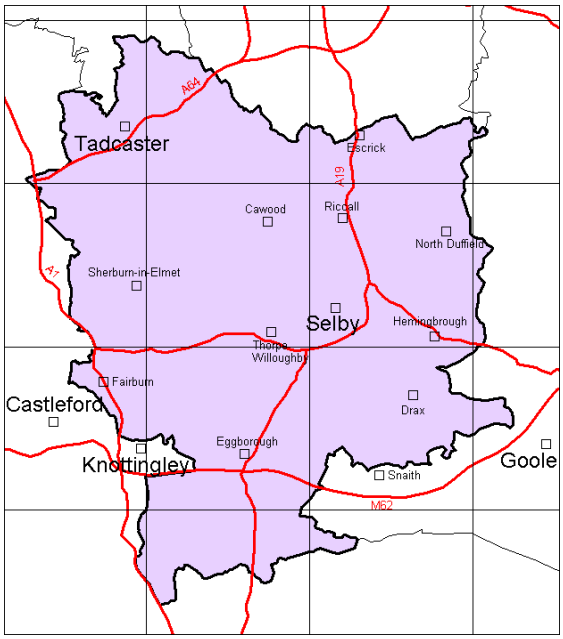
Twin-spotted wainscot moth (Nb)
The twin-spotted wainscot was first recorded in Yorkshire at Spurn Point in 1988. It has recently been expanding its range and has been recorded at Tophill Low near Driffield, Rawcliffe Bridge and Holme on Spalding Moor. In the Selby District it has been recorded from Barlow Ash Mound at Drax Power Station. The moth is associated with fens and marshes and the larva feeds in the stems of common reed.

Threats include:
- Loss of habitat

Dotted rustic moth (Nb)
This species appeared in Yorkshire in 1980, underwent a rapid expansion in range and subsequently a dramatic reduction in range in the past ten years or so, to the extent that there were only two records in 2001. The larval foodplants are unknown but the larva will feed on dandelion and lyme grass in captivity.

Threats unknown due to lack of knowledge of foodplant and habitat.

Rare moths. All species. Baseline distribution map, 2003.



Requirements

- This group is under-recorded and the major requirement is to for further research and survey, to establish key habitat requirements, distribution and ecological requirements of all species.

Current local action

- Ad hoc surveys of moths are carried out in the Selby District but no systematic surveys have been undertaken. The Yorkshire Naturalists' Union (YNU) maintains records of moths.
- Annual 'National Moth Night' events run in the region, e.g. at Fairburn Ings.

Opportunities

- Survey work to better enable targeted conservation work.

Objective

To establish the current distribution of each species. To ensure no reduction in populations and where possible increase both population and distribution.
Five year targets

1	Maintain existing populations.

ACTIONS

Introduce a coppice cycle for an area of birch woodland in Bishop Wood, to benefit argent and sable moth.	1	FCE	1
Identify suitable habitat, establish land ownership, seek access permission and organise surveys by YNU or other experts for all of the priority species.	2	NYCC	1
-			
-			

Acknowledgements

The preparation of the Selby BAP would not have been possible without the involvement of many individuals and organisations. These include the naturalists who have recorded wildlife in the District, members of the steering group, members of the partnership who have offered advice, English Nature, North Yorkshire County Council and Selby District Council for supplying funding and the NYCC project officer.

Action Plan	**Author / contributor**
Woodland	Forest Enterprise
Lowland wood pasture and parkland	NYCC, Joyce Payne
Ancient and species-rich hedgerow	NYCC
Arable farmland	NYCC, FWAG
Grazing marsh	Bob Coursey, NYCC, EA, RDS Defra
Unimproved grassland	NYCC
Lowland heathland	EN
Fens	NYCC
Reedbed	NYCC
Lakes and ponds	NYCC
Canals	BW, NYCC
Rivers, streams and ditches	NYCC, EA, IDB
Towns and villages	NYCC, Joyce Payne, SDC
Otter	Water for Wildlife Project
Water vole	Water for Wildlife Project
Great crested newt	EN
Tansy beetle	NYCC, University of York
Dingy skipper	Dr David Chesmore
Pillwort	NYCC
Cylindrical whorl snail	NYCC
Agabus ulignosus	NYCC, Martin Hammond
Bats	John Drewett
Bumble bees	Dr Michael Archer
Clearwing moths	Dr David Chesmore
Rare moths	Dr David Chesmore

Glossary

Arable weeds.
Wild flowers, often annuals, that grow in regularly disturbed soil in an arable environment. This does not include pernicious weeds such as thistles and goosegrass.

BAP
See Biodiversity Action Plan

BioDAT
Software for recording SINC information, using a Microsoft Access database and a MapInfo, GIS mapping system.

Biodiversity
The variety of life. The term embraces the full range of habitats, species, and the variation found within species (including genetic variation).

Biodiversity Action Plan
A plan to conserve or re-create biodiversity. The term may be used to describe the whole process by which this happens, or sometimes a document that sets out how this is to be achieved.

cSAC
Candidate Special Area of Conservation.

Distribution
The extent of a species' range.

Ecosystem
A community of inter-related organisms.

Eco-tourism
The generation of income through 'green' tourism, such as wildlife holidays, bird watching.

GIS
Geographic Information System.

Habitat
A type of landscape (e.g. wet woodland, lowland heathland) characterised by particular communities of vegetation and animals.

Habitat Action Plan (or HAP)
One of two sorts of plans contained within the BAP document (see also Species Action Plan). A plan geared towards the conservation or re-creation of a particular habitat, such as Lowland heathland.

Habitats Directive
See below.

Habitat Regulations
The Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) Regulations 1994, known as 'The Habitat Regulations', are UK regulations passed to deliver the EC Council Directive 'The Habitats Directive'. They refer to planning, land use, land management and environmental regulation, with emphasis on the roles of Local Authorities (called Competent Authorities). The Regulations are the basis of the Natura 2000 series of sites known as SPAs, SACs and cSACs. The Habitats Regulations aim to protect site of European Community (EC) importance.

Invertebrate
Any animal lacking a backbone. This group include insects (e.g. butterflies, moths, flies, bees, wasps, beetles) and non-insect invertebrates (e.g. worms, molluscs such as snails and slugs and crustaceans such as crabs and crayfish).

Local Agenda 21 (LA21)
A term describing the actions that must be taken locally to promote sustainability. Local Agenda 21 has its roots in the Rio Earth Summit. Sustainability has been described as "the ability to meet our needs without compromising the needs of our children".

LNR
Local Nature Reserve. A site designated by the Local Authority under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act. A Local Nature Reserve has an educational as well as a wildlife remit.

National Vegetation Classification (NVC)
A system for surveying habitats and allocating them to a recognised scientific type. The NVC is a nationally accepted system.

Phase 1 habitat survey
A nationally recognised system for allocating land into broad habitat types.

Phase 2 habitat survey
More detailed habitat survey than phase 1, based on individual sites.

Ramsar
European system for designating internationally important bird sites, named after the town in Iran where the treaty was signed.

Range
The area across which a species can be found.

Riparian

The corridor of habitat along a water course.

SAC
Special Areas of Conservation notified under The Habitats Regulations 1994, as part of the Natura 2000 series of nature conservation sites.

Selby Biodiversity Action Plan
The Selby Biodiversity Action Plan is the plan that leads the process by which action is taken locally to conserve wildlife. It includes those habitats and species for which Selby has a special responsibility under the UK BAP.

SINC
Site of Interest for Nature Conservation. A non-statutory site designated by the Local Authority for its nature conservation interest.

SSSI
Site of Special Scientific Interest. Nationally important site given legal protection by the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981), as amended. SSSIs are designated by English Nature.

Species
A taxonomic group into which a genus is divided, the members of which are capable of interbreeding. For example, the blackbird (*Turdus merula*) and song thrush (*Turdus philomelos*) are related. They are in the same genus so share the genus name *Turdus*. However, they are different species and so have specific second names.

Species Action Plan (or SAP)
One of two sorts of plans contained within the BAP document (see also Habitat Action Plan). A plan geared toward the conservation or re-introduction of a particular species.

Steering Group.
A group formed by representatives of local authorities, conservation organisations, communities and business, who oversee the Local BAP process.

SPA
Special Protection Area, notified under The Habitats Regulations 1994, as part of the Natura 2000 series of nature conservation sites.

UK Biodiversity Action Plan
The BAP for the United Kingdom, which has its roots in the 1981 Rio Earth Summit. The UK Government has produced 391 SAPs and 45 HAPs, which detail actions necessary for a wide range of the Country's habitats and most threatened plants and animals. The UK BAP forms the basis for all Local Biodiversity Action Plans as well as other initiatives.

UK BAP - See UK Biodiversity Action Plan

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Annex A Steering group membership

1. Paul Appleton	BTCV
2. Dr Michael Archer	YNU
3. Roy Bramley	NFU
4. Jonathon Brickland	British Waterways
5. Frank Broughton	FRCA
6. Gill Cashmoor	Selby District Association for Voluntary Services
7. Sally Cawthorn	Selby DC
8. Dr David Chesmore	York University (Lepidoptera)
9. Simon Christian	EN
10. Sean Clough	Butterfly Conservation (Yorkshire)
11. Derek Cooper	Birds
12. Bob Coursey	RSPB
13. Bob Dicker	NT
14. Sonia Donaghy	Ramblers Association
15. Ian Dormor	Woodland researcher
16. John Drewett	NYBG
17. Dorothy Fairburn	CLA
18. Mark Feather	Woodland Trust
19. Eileen Fenteman	Selby Civic Society
20. Miles Foulger	Yorkshire Water
21. Martin Fuller	EA
22. Robert Goodison	RDS (Defra)
23. Mr M Grant	Ramblers Association
24. Graham Haddock	FC
25. Colin Howes	YNU
26. Alice Fox	YWT (Rivers and Wetlands)
27. Pauline Kneale	CPRE
28. Robert Knight	Five Towns Birds Club
29. Tony Lane	East Yorkshire Bat Group
30. Phil Lyth	FWAG
31. Rob Masheder	YWT
32. Graham Megson	NYCC
33. Nicola Melville	RSPB
34. Chris Meyrick	Government Office Yorkshire & The Humber
35. Mr PE Milsom	Selby Civic Society
36. Ray Mitchelson	Kellington Parish Council
37. Nigel Mowbray	AES Drax Power
38. Peter Murphy	Groundwork Selby
39. Phillip Musson	NFU
40. Alastair Nash	Woodland Trust
41. Laurie Norris	NFU
42. Mr B Nutall	Tadcaster Civic Society
43. Stuart Pasley	CA
44. David Patrick	Grantham, Brundell & Farron (IDB)

45. Joyce Payne	YNU
46. Mike Pearson	Yorkshire Water Services Ltd
47. Anne Purbrick	BTCV
48. Peter Reid	Naturalist
49. Hugh Roberts	Ponds for People Cons Trust
50. Tim Sander	FoE
51. Julia Stack	Selby DC
52. Rachel Stanhope	Selby DC
53. Karen Stanley	FWAG
54. Simon Stennett	RSPB (Fairburn Ings)
55. Mr Barry Thompson	Goole & District Naturalists' Society
56. Michael Thompson	Yorks Mammal Society
57. Brian Walker	FE
58. Steven Ward	UK Coal
59. Mr Michael J Warrington	Castleford & District Naturalists' Society
60. Alan Weekes	FoE
61. John Wint	Beal Carrs / Five Towns Bird Club
62. Dr Guy Woolley	CPRE

Annex B scientific names

(Given in order of appearance in the Selby BAP).

English name	**Scientific name**
Argent and sable moth (cover illustration)	*Rheumaptera hastata*
Common ragwort	*Senecio jacobea*
Generic actions	
American mink	*Mustela lutreola*
Ruddy duck	*Oxyura jamaicensis*
American signal crayfish	*Austropotamobius pallipes*
Japanese knotweed	*Fallopia japonica*
Himalayan balsam	*Impatiens glandulifera*
Giant hogweed	*Heracleum mantegazzianum*
Canadian waterweed	*Elodea canadenis*
Water fern	*Azolla filiculoides*
New Zealand pigmyweed	*Crassula helmsii*
Woodland	
Spotted flycatcher	*Muscicapa striata*
Song thrush	*Turdus philomelos*
Tree pipit	*Anthus trivialis*
Bullfinch	*Pyrrhul pyrrhula*
Argent & sable moth	*Rheumaptera hastata*
Bluebell	*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*
Primrose	*Primula vulgaris*
Rhododendron	*Rhododendron ponticum*
Cherry laurel	*Prunus laurocerasus*
Japanese knotweed	*Fallopia japonica*
Himalayan balsam	*Impatiens glandulifera*
Beech	*Fagus sylvatica*
Sycamore	*Acer pseudoplatanus*
Poplars	*Populus spp*
Lowland wood pasture and parkland	
Ancient and / or species-rich hedgerows	
Wood anemone	*Anemone nemorosa*
Ramsons	*Allium ursinum*
Primrose	*Primula vulgaris*
Hawthorn	*Crataegus monogyna*

English name	**Scientific name**
Privet	*Ligustrum vulgare*
Yew	*Taxus baccata*
Beech	*Fagus sylvatica*
Ash	*Fraxinus excelsior*
Brown hare	*Lepus europaeus*
Grey partridge	*Perdix perdix*
Arable farmland	
Cornflower	*Centaurea cyanus*
Tree sparrow	*Passer montanus*
Corn bunting	*Miliaria calandra*
Grey partridge	*Perdix perdix*
Turtle dove	*Streptopelia turtur*
Starling	*Sturnus vulgaris*
House sparrow	*Passer domesticus*
Yellowhammer	*Emberiza citrinella*
Linnet	*Carduelis cannabina*
Skylark	*Alauda arvensis*
Twite	*Carduelis flavirostris*
Brown hare	*Lepus europaeus*
Ash	*Fraxinus excelsior*
Gorse	*Ulex europaeus*
Grazing marsh	
Redshank	*Tringa totanus*
Snipe	*Gallinago gallinago*
Lapwing	*Vanellus vanellus*
Harvest mouse	*Micromys minutus*
Barn owl	*Tyto alba*
Yellow wagtail	*Motacilla flava*
Reed grass spp	*Glyceria spp*
Unimproved grassland	
Quaking grass	*Briza media*
Bird's-foot trefoil	*Lotus corniculatus*
Lady's bedstraw	*Galium verum*
Bloody cranesbill	*Geranium sanguineum*
Wild carrot	*Daucus carota*
Common blue butterfly	*Polyommatus icarus*
Yellow meadow ant	*Lasius flavus*
Wavy hair-grass	*Deschampsia flexuosa*
Heath bedstraw	*Galium saxatile*
Sheep's sorrel	*Rumex acetosella*
Tormentil	*Potentilla erecta*

English name	**Scientific name**
Small copper	*Lycaena phlaeas*
Meadow pipit	*Anthus pratensis*
Green woodpecker	*Picus viridus*
Woodlark	*Lullula arborea*
Meadow barley	*Hordeum secalinum*
Sweet vernal grass	*Anthoxanthum odoratum*
Great burnet	*Sanguisorba officinalis*
Pignut	*Conopodium majus*
Betony	*Stachys officinalis*
Skylark	*Alauda arvensis*
Starling	*Sturnus vulgaris*
Forester moth	*Adscita statices*
Green hellibore	*Helleborus viridis*
Lowland heathland	
Heather	*Calluna vulgaris*
Cross-leaved heath	*Erica tetralix*
Gorse	*Ulex europaeus*
Pillwort	*Pilularia globulifera*
Marsh gentian	*Gentiana pneumonanthe*
Nightjar	*Caprimulgus europaeus*
Tree pipit	*Anthus trivialis*
Adder	*Vipera berus*
An aquatic beetle	*Dryops auriculatus*
A bumble bee	*Bombus jonellus*
Fens	
Aquatic beetle	*Agabus uliginosus*
Aquatic beetle	*Acilius canaliculatus*
Aquatic beetle	*Agabus labiatus*
Aquatic beetle	*Helophorus strigifrons*
Aquatic beetle	*Dryops auriculatus*
Reedbed	
Reed bunting	*Emberiza schoeiculus*
Common reed	*Phragmites australis*
A whirligig beetle	*Gyrinus distinctus*
A whirligig beetle	*Gyrinus paykulli*
Bittern	*Botaurus stellaris*
Bearded tit	*Panurus biarmicus*
Reed warbler	*Acrocephalus scirpacues*
Marsh harrier	*Circus aeruginosus*
Lakes and ponds	

English name	Scientific name
Whooper swan	*Cygnus cygnus*
Shoveler	*Anas clypeata*
Canadian waterweed	*Elodea canadensis*
Floating pennywort	*Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*
New Zealand pigmyweed	*Crassula helmsii*
Water fern	*Azolla filiculoides*
Himalayan balsam	*Impatiens glandulifera*
American mink	*Mustella vison*
American signal crayfish	*Austropotamobius pallipes*
Canal	
Otter	*Lutra lutra*
Water vole	*Arvicola terrestris*
Depressed river mussel	*Pseudanodonta complanata*
White-clawed crayfish	*Austropotamobius pallipes*
American signal crayfish	*Austropotamobius pallipes*
Floating pennywort	*Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*
Japanese knotweed	*Fallopia japonica*
Rivers, streams and ditches	
Sand leek	*Allium scorodoprasum*
Allis shad	*Alosa alosa*
River lamprey	*Lampetra fluviatilis*
Sea lamprey	*Petromyzon marinus*
Atlantic salmon	*Salmo salar*
Grayling	*Thymallus thymallus*
Depressed river mussel	*Pseudanodonta complanata*
White-clawed crayfish	*Austropotamobius pallipes*
Greater water parsnip	*Sium latifolium*
Otter	*Lutra lutra*
Water vole	*Arvicola terrestris*
Tansy beetle	*Chyrsolina graminis*
Towns and villages	
Wall rue fern	*Asplenium ruta-muraria*
Black spleenwort fern	*Asplenium adiantum-nigrum*
Stinging nettle	*Urtica dioica*
Song thrush	*Turdus philomelus*
Blackbird	*Turdus merula*
Fieldfare	*Turdus pilaris*
Redwing	*Turdus iliacus*
Starling	*Sturnus vulgaris*
Golden plover	*Pluvialis apricaria*
Bullfinch	*Pyrrhul pyrrhula*

English name	Scientific name
Tree sparrow	*Passer montanus*
Spotted flycatcher	*Muscicapa striata*
Swift	*Apus apus*
Japanese knotweed	*Fallopia japonica*
Giant hogweed	*Heracleum mantegazzianum*
Sand leek	*Allium scorodoprasum*
Species Action Plans	
Otter	*Lutra lutra*
Bullhead	*Cottus gobio*
Water vole	*Arvicola terrestris*
Common reed	*Phragmites australis*
American mink	*Mustella vison*
Brown rat	*Rattus norvegicus*
Great crested newt	*Triturus cristatus*
Tansy beetle	*Chyrsolina graminis*
Tansy	*Tanacetum vulgare*
Himalayan balsam	*Impatiens glandulifera*
Japanese knotweed	*Fallopia japonica*
Giant hogweed	*Heracleum mantegazzianum*
Common ragwort	*Senecio jacobaea*
Dingy skipper	*Erynnis tages*
Bird's-foot trefoil	*Lotus corniculatus*
Pillwort	*Pilularia globulifera*
Cylindrical whorl snail	*Truncatellina cylindrica*
An aquatic beetle	*Agabus uliginosus*
Whiskered bat	*Myotis mystacinus*
Brandt's bat	*Myotis brandtii*
Daubenton's bat	*Myotis daubentonii*
Natterer's bat	*Myotis natteri*
Common pipistrelle bat	*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*
Soprano pipistrelle bat	*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*
Noctule bat	*Nyctalus noctula*

English name	Scientific name
Leisler's bat	*Nyctalus leisleri*
Brown long-eared bat	*Plecotus auritus*
Nathusius' pipistrelle bat	*Pipistrellus nathusii*
Serotine bat	*Eptesicus serotinus*
Parti-coloured bat	*Vespertilio murinus*
Barbastelle bat	*Barbastella barbastellus*
Lesser horseshoe bat	*Rhinolophus hipposideros*
White dead-nettle	*Lamium album*
Red clover	*Trifolium pratense*
White clover	*Trifolium repens*
Bird's-foot trefoil	*Lolium cornicatus*
Black knapweed	*Centaurea nigra*
Great yellow bumble bee	*Bombus distinguendus*
Brown-banded carder bee	*Bombus humilis*
Large garden bumble bee	*Bombus ruderatus*
Short-haired bumble bee	*Bombus subterraneus*
Shrill carder bee	*Bombus sylvarum*
A bumble bee	*Bombus lucorum*
A bumble bee	*Bombus terrestris*
A bumble bee	*Bombus pratorum*
A bumble bee	*Bombus lapidarius*
A bumble bee	*Bombus hortorum*
A bumble bee	*Bombus pascuorum*
A bumble bee	*Bombus bohemicus*
A bumble bee	*Bombus vestalis*
A bumble bee	*Bombus campestris*
A bumble bee	*Bombus sylvestris*
A bumble bee	*Bombus jonellus*
A bumble bee	*Bombus rupestris*
Thrift	*Armeria maritima*
Bird's-foot trefoil	*Lotus corniculatus*
White-barred clearwing	*Synanthedon spheciformis*
Red-belted clearwing	*Synanthedon myopaeformis*
Hornet moth	*Sesia apiformis*
Lunar hornet moth	*Sesia bembeciformis*
Willow spp	*Salix spp*
Currant clearwing	*Synanthedon tipuliformis*
Black currant	*Ribes nigrum*
Red currant	*Ribes rubrum*
Yellow-legged clearwing	*Synanthedon vespiformis*
Oak spp	*Quercus spp*
Red-tipped clearwing	*Synanthedon formicaeformis*

English name	Scientific name
Osier	*Salix viminalis*
Large red-belted clearwing	*Synanthedon culciformis*
Silver birch	*Betula pendula*
Downy birch	*Betula pubescens*
Alder	*Alnus glutinosa*
Six-belted clearwing	*Bembecia ichneumoniformis*
Bird's-foot trefoil	*Lotus corniculatus*
A micro moth	*Monochroa suffusella*
Common cottongrass	*Eriphorum angustifolium*
A micro moth	*Crambus uliginosellus*
A micro moth	*Apomyelois bistriatella subspecies subcognata*
Fungi spp	*Daldinia spp*
Gorse	*Ulex europaeus*
Scarce vapourer moth	*Orggyia recens*
Hawthorn	*Crataegus monogyna*
Triple-spotted pug moth	*Eupithecia trisignaria*
Wild angelica	*Angelica sylvestris*
Sallow	*Salix atrocinerea*
Forester moth	*Adscita statices*
Common sorrel	*Rumex acetosa*
Argent and sable moth	*Rheumaptera hastata*
Bog myrtle	*Myrica gale*
White-marked moth	*Cerastis leucographa*
Angle-striped sallow moth	*Enargia palacea*
Aspen	*Populus tremula*
Twin-spotted wainscot moth	*Archanura geminipuncta*
Common reed	*Phragmites australis*
Dotted rustic moth	*Rhyacia simulans*
Dandelion spp	*Taraxacum spp*
Lyme grass spp	*Leymus arenarius*

Annex C Acronyms

AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
AP	Action Plan
AS	Arable Stewardship
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
BARS	Biodiversity Action Reporting System
BASC	British Association of Shooting and Conservation
BBS	Breeding Bird Survey
BCT	Bat Conservation Trust
BioDAT	Database for managing North Yorkshire SINC site information
BC	Butterfly Conservation
BHC	British Herpetological Society
BTCV	BTCV
BTO	British Trust for Ornithology
BW	British Waterways
CA	Countryside Agency
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
CAMS	Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy
CBC	Common Bird Census
CCW	Countryside Council for Wales
CFMP	Catchment Flood Management Plans
CLA	Country Land and Business Association
CPRE	Council for the Protection of Rural England
CSS	Countryside Stewardship Scheme
Defra	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
EA	Environment Agency
EC	European Community
EH	English Heritage
ESELS	Environmental Stewardship Entry Level Scheme
ESHLS	Environmental Stewardship Higher Level Scheme
EN	English Nature
EU	European Union
EWGS	England Woodland Grant Scheme
F	Froglife
FC	Forestry Commission
FCE	Forestry Commission England
FE	Forest Enterprise
FoE	Friends of the Earth
FRCA	Farming and Rural Conservation Association
FWAG	Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group
GCT	Game Conservancy Trust
GIS	Geographical Information System
GM	Genetically Modified
GS	Groundwork Selby
ha	hectare
HAP	Habitat Action Plan

HCT	Herpetological Conservation Trust
HLF	Heritage Lottery Fund
IACS	Integrated Administration and Control System
IAW	Inventory of Ancient Woodland
ICT	Invertebrate Conservation Trust
IDB	Internal Drainage Boards
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservancy Committee
km	kilometre
LA21	Local Agenda 21
LBAP	Local Biodiversity Action Plan
LEAF	Linking Environment And Farming
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
LTL	Learning Through Landscapes
MOD	Ministry of Defence
MS	Mammal Society
Na	Nationally Notable category a (see page 15)
Nb	Nationally Notable category b (see page 15)
NCC	Nature Conservancy Council
NEYEDC	North & East Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre
NFU	National Farmers Union
NR	Nature Reserve
NS	Nationally Scarce
NT	National Trust
NYBG	North Yorkshire Bat Group
NYCC	North Yorkshire County Council
OS	Ordnance Survey
PAWS	Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site
PPG	Planning Policy Guidance
RDA	Regional Development Agency
RDB	Red Data Book
RDS (Defra)	Rural Development Service
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SA	Soil Association
SAP	Species Action Plan
SCMP	Selby Countryside Management Project
SDC	Selby District Council
SEPA	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
SINC	Site of Importance for Nature Conservation
cSAC	candidate Special Areas of Conservation
SNH	Scottish Natural Heritage
SPA	Special Protection Area
spp	species
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
THH	Tomorrow's Heathland Heritage
TPO	Tree Preservation Order
UK	United Kingdom

UK BAP	UK Biodiversity Action Plan
USA	United States of America
WIGS	Woodland Improvement Grant Scheme
WGS	Woodland Grant Scheme
WLO	Wildlife Liaison Officer (police)
WT	Woodland Trust
WTs	Wildlife Trusts
WWP	Water for Wildlife Project
YAS	Yorkshire Agricultural Society
YHBF	Yorkshire and Humber Biodiversity Forum
YNU	Yorkshire Naturalists' Union
YOARP	Yorkshire Otters And Rivers Project
YW	Yorkshire Water Services Ltd
YWT	Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

Annex D Useful addresses

Ancient Tree Forum c/o Woodland Trust
Autumn Park, Dysart Road, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG32 6LL.
Tel: 01476 581111
Fax: 01476 590808

BTCV
3, 5 & 7 Leake Street, off Lawrence Street, York, YO10 3BR.
Telephone: 01904 644 300
Fax: 01904 644 302

Buglife-The Invertebrate Conservation Trust
High Street, Fletton, Peterborough, PE2 8DT.
(Temporary Address)
Telephone: 01733 760881
Fax: 01733 760884

Butterfly Conservation
Manor Yard, East Lulworth, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 5QP.
Telephone: 0870 7744309
Fax: 01929 400210
Email: info@butterfly-conservation.org

English Nature
Genesis Building, 1 Science Park, Heslington, York, YO1 5DQ.
Telephone: 01904 435500

Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group
Racecourse Lane, Northallerton, North Yorkshire, DL7 8BR.
phil.lyth@fwag.org.uk

Forestry Commission
Wheldrake Lane, Crockley Hill, York, North Yorkshire, YO1 4SG
Phone: 01904 448778

The Limestone Pavement Action Group
c/o Cumbria Wildlife Trust
Plumgarths, Crook Road, Kendal, Cumbria, LA8 8LX.
Phone: 01539 816300
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The Mammal Society
2B Inworth Street, London SW11 3EP.
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North and East Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre (NEYEDC)
5 College Street, York, YO1 7JF.
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Email: info@neyedc.co.uk

North Yorkshire Bat Group
The Granary, Carlton, Leyburn, North Yorkshire, DL8 4BD.
Email: nyctalus@care4free.net

North Yorkshire County Council
Heritage Team, Countryside Services, County Hall, Northallerton, North Yorkshire, DL7 8AH.
Telephone: 01609 780780.
Fax: 01609 532558.
Email: ecologist@northyorks.gov.uk

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Email: info@oxbeeco.com

Plantlife International
14 Rollestone Street, Salisbury,Wiltshire, SP1 1DX
Tel: 01722 342730
Fax: 01722 329035
e-mail:enquiries@plantlife.org.uk

The RSPB
The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire, SG19 2DL
Tel: 01767 680551
E-mail: wildlife@rspb.org.uk

RDS Yorkshire and the Humber North Team, Defra Leeds,
Government Buildings, Otley Road, Lawnswood, Leeds, LS16 5QT.
Tel: 0113 230 3789
Fax: 0113 230 3963
General enquiries email address: enquiries.yorkshumber@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Selby Countryside Management Project

C/o Selby District Council, Civic Centre, Portholme Road, Selby, North Yorkshire YO8 0SB.

Selby District Council
Selby District Council, Civic Centre, Portholme Road, Selby, North Yorkshire, YO8 0SB.
Telephone: 01757 705101
Fax: 01757 292176
Email: info@selby.gov.uk
www.selby.gov.uk

The Vincent Wildlife Trust
3&4 Bronsil Courtyard, Eastnor, Ledbury, Herefordshire, HR8 1EP.
Phone: 01531 636441
Fax: 01531 636442
Email: vwt@vwt.org.uk

Water for Wildlife (formerly Yorkshire Otters And Rivers Project).
Hollybush Conservation Centre, Broad Lane, Kirkstall, Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS5 3BP.
Email: yorksotters@cix.co.uk

The Wildlife Trusts
The Kiln, Waterside, Mather Road, Newark, Nottinghamshire, NG24 1WT.
Telephone: 08700 367711
Fax: 08700 360101

The Woodland Trust
Autumn Park, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 6LL.
Tel: 01476 581111
Fax: 01476 590808
Dr Geoff Oxford
The University of York, Department of Biology (Area 3), P.O Box 373, York, YO10 5YW
Tel: 01904 328640
Fax: 01904 328505
Email: GS01@york.ac.uk

Yorkshire Naturalists' Union
Mr J A Newbould, Stonecroft, 3 Brookmead Close, Sutton Poyntz, Weymouth, Dorset, DT3 6RS.
Email: janewbould@aol.com

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust
10 Toft Green, York, YO1 6JT.
Telephone: 01904 659570
Email: yorkshirewt@cix.co.uk

Annex E Information Details

If you would like to discuss the content of the Selby Biodiversity Action Plan please contact:

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Or

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YO8 4SB

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