



# Habitat Name

## Local Biodiversity Action Plan

### Associated Species Action Plans:

- [Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary](#),



### Current status

Lowland fens are peatlands that receive water and nutrients from the soil, rock and ground water as well as from rainfall: they are minerotrophic. Fens are dynamic semi-natural systems requiring appropriate management in order to maintain the open fen communities and associated species richness. Two main types of fen occur: Topogenous fens where water movement in the peat or soil is generally vertical (e.g. basin fens and floodplain fens) and Soligenous fens where water movements are lateral (e.g. mires associated with springs, rills and flushes and valley mires). Lowland fens can also be described as poor fens and rich fens dependent on the chemical properties of the water that feeds them.

In the Cheshire region lowland fens are often found in a complex of habitat types associated with the meres and mosses as part of the hydrosere succession, e.g. at Hatchmere or as fen woodland or fen pasture. Petty Pool valley SSSI contains an extensive mosaic of poor and rich fen and is considered as the best example of these communities in Cheshire. Locally rare species are often associated with fens, such as tufted sedge (*Carex elata*) at Chapel Mere and the small pearl-bordered fritillary (*Boloria selene*) at Bagmere.

A national BAP for lowland fens is included in the UK Biodiversity Steering Group report HMSO



# Lowland Fens

## Local Biodiversity Action Plan

(1995). Roger Meade (Natural England) is the co-ordinator for the UK Lowland Fens BAP.

### Threats

- \* Lack of understanding of this habitat within the region.
- \* Drainage and conversion to intensive agriculture.
- \* Excessive water abstraction.
- \* Habitat fragmentation and isolation.
- \* Lack of/or inappropriate management leading to drying up, scrub encroachment, succession to woodland.
- \* Agricultural run off.
- \* Pollution of freshwater supplies to fens.
- \* Eutrophication leading to alteration in plant communities.
- \* Afforestation.
- \* Inappropriate development.
- \* Pond creation.

### How are we helping to conserve lowland fens in the Cheshire region?

- \* Bagmere SSSI, Betley Mere SSSI (part in Cheshire), Flaxmere Moss SSSI, Quoisley Meres SSSI, Hatchmere SSSI and Wybunbury Moss SSSI are included within the Midlands Meres and Mosses (phase 1) Ramsar Site, designated on 9 May 1994.
- \* Abbots Moss SSSI, Chapel Mere SSSI, Oakhanger Moss SSSI, Linmer Moss SSSI and Oakmere SSSI are included in the Midlands Meres and Mosses (phase 2) Ramsar Site, designated on 2 February 1997.
- \* Abbots Moss SSSI, Oakmere SSSI and Wybunbury Moss SSSI are submitted as candidate Special Areas for Conservation under the EC Conservation (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1994.
- \* Aggregates Levy funded project to carry out baseline survey and prepare restoration plans for the meres and mosses sites in Delamere Forest.
- \* EN provides advice to landowners on appropriate management, rehabilitation, extension and creation of all fen habitats.
- \* EN/EA-led bid to the NW ERVNE Project for strategic study of wetland sites.
- \* CWT, EN monitor key fen species on non-statutory and statutory fen sites.
- \* Management Plan being prepared for Hatchmere.
- \* EN Natural Area Profiles include fens as key habitats and identify issues relating to this habitat.
- \* At Bagmere work is being carried out to increase open areas of fen by coppicing scrub for the small pearl-bordered fritillary as part of the BAP.



## Objectives, targets and actions

Objectives, targets and actions to help conserve fens in the Cheshire region can be found on the [Biodiversity Action Reporting System \(BARS\)](#) along with full details of our progress so far.

## How to find out more about lowland fens

[UK BAP Definition](#)

[www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/designatedareas/nnr/1006162.aspx](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/designatedareas/nnr/1006162.aspx)

## Contact details

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## References and Glossary

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