

WET WOODLAND HABITAT ACTION PLAN

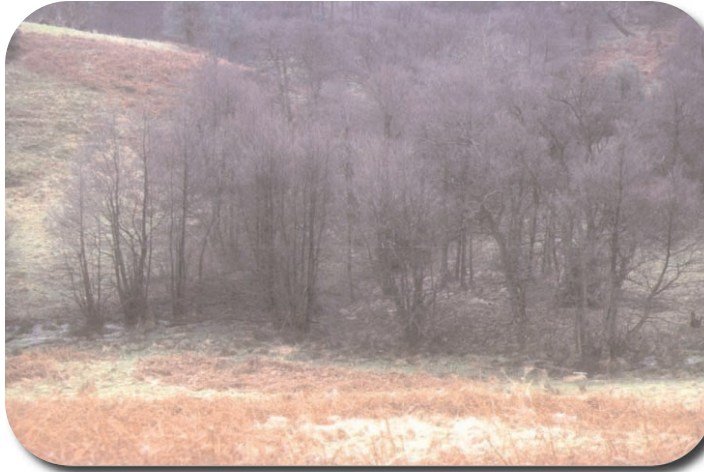


Introduction

'Wet woodland' is a UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Priority Habitat.

Such woodland is found on poorly drained

and/or seasonally wet soils, with alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), willow species and



Alder woodland: Ian Dormor

hairy birch (*Betula pubescens*) dominating the woodland canopy and understorey.

Wet woodland has a rich diversity. Wet conditions encourage ferns

and mosses, while decaying wood is good for fungi and invertebrates.

Status

National

The national resource includes 25,000 to 30,000 hectares of established semi-natural wet woodland and 25,000 to 40,000 hectares of recently developed wet woodland, giving 50,000 to 70,000 hectares in total.

Regional

The regional resource is thought to be a minimum of 343 hectares, some 0.5% of the upper value of the UK resource. This is probably a great underestimation.

This is a characteristic habitat of the North York Moors and Hills and Southern Magnesian Limestone Natural Areas.

Local

The exact amount of Wet woodland in Hambleton is not known. For the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty portion of Hambleton, some 15 hectares occur and there is an estimated 15 hectares elsewhere (only 0.03% of the Biodiversity Action Plan area). Examples can be found at Dalby Bush Fen Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Pilmoor SSSI.

Hambleton Priority Species

None

