Metadata Elements

Title *	Inventories for the Alkaline Fen and Transition Mire and Quaking Bog Annex 1 habitats in England
Alternative Title	Alkaline Fen and Transition Mire inventories
Dataset Language *	eng
Abstract *	This is a new stand-alone inventory that incorporates all vegetation types that fit within the EC Habitats Directive Annex 1 habitats 'Alkaline Fens' (AF) and 'Transition Mires and Quaking Bogs' (TMQB). Alongside this GIS inventory of Annex 1 habitats, the project produced a list of source documents and datasets, a description of the meta-data, an overview of wetland sites that were considered (in the first phase of the project), and a summary report.
Resource Locator	n/a
Data Format	shapefile
Resource Type *	dataset
Unique Resource Identifier	n/a

Classification of Spatial Data & Services

Topic Category *	biota
INSPIRE Themes	Habitat and biotopes
Spatial Data Service Type	n/a
Coupled Resource	n/a

Keyword

Keyword	Geographic Information
Originating Controlled Vocabulary	Natural England Corporate Vocabulary

Geographic Location

Extent *	England
West Bound Longitude *	55.81
East Bound Longitude *	1.77
North Bound Longitude *	51.81
South Bound Longitude *	-6.42
Vertical Minimum Extent	0m
Vertical Maximum Extent	0m
Spatial Reference System *	British National Grid

Temporal Reference

Temporal Extent - Start Date of Data Capture *	01/01/1903
Temporal Extent - End Date of Data Capture *	01/01/2013
Date of Creation *	28/03/2013
Date of Last Revision *	n/a
Dataset Reference Date *	n/a
Dataset Reference Type *	creation

Quality & Validity

Lineage *	A list of known locations of vegetation types which can be categorised as AF or TMQB was generated using existing national and local datasets from Natural England and partner organisations, in conjunction with additional information held at Sheffield. Existing datasets and site knowledge were used together with aerial photography to compile GIS boundaries of stands or vegetation mosaics supporting target vegetation types. Where possible, the existing Natural England National Fen Inventory GIS polygons were reviewed and refined, and where qualifying vegetation occurs but does not coincide with existing National Fen Inventory polygons, new polygons have been digitised. The polygons have been captured as a stand-alone GIS layer. The attributes attached to each polygon include NVC type and notes relating to the vegetation (where information exists), as well as information about relevant meta-data. In addition, point data have been captured where grid references were available but where there was not enough additional information to delimit vegetation stand boundaries. There are several other additional categories included in the Annex 1 Habitat dataset; “Mollinia Meadows”, “Petrifying springs with tufa formation” & “Calcareous fen with Cladium”, these are not comprehensive categories and are mapped as a result of the other Annex 1 types. Several Annex 1 habitats categories have also been sub-categorised into “former”, “remnant” and “degraded” habitats. The category “Not assigned to Annex 1 habitat” are wetland habitats, but not of Annex 1 habitat quality.
Spatial Resolution	0 - 100m
Additional Information Source	0
Frequency of Update *	not Planned
Equivalent Scale	n/a

Conformity

Specification	0
Degree	0
Explanation	0

Constraints Related To Access & Use

Use Constraints *	No Conditions Apply
Limitations on Public Use *	Publicly accessible NE Terms of Use

Responsible Organisation

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Metadata on Metadata

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Responsible Party Role *	custodian
Metadata Date *	06/11/2013
Metadata Language *	eng

	This is a spatial dataset that describes the geographic extent and location of the Annex 1 habitats H7230 'Alkaline Fens' and H7140 'Transition Mires & Quaking Bogs' in England. Vegetation types representing these habitats are not equivalent to specific BAP habitats and overlap several BAP habitats, so this is a 'stand-alone' inventory. Some of the survey data examined included samples referable to H6410 Molinia Meadows on Calcareous, Peaty or Clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) ('Molinia Meadows') and these polygons have also been captured and included in this dataset. However, the 'Molinia Meadows' data listed here are incomplete and do not represent the full extent of this habitat in England. Other notable wetland vegetation associated with Annex 1 habitats was also captured where the data were readily available (mainly vegetation transitional between M6, M10 and M14; M22; M37 & M38). These points and polygons have been attributed 'not assigned to Annex 1 habitat' because they do not fall within the current interpretation of 'Alkaline Fen', 'Transition Mire & Quaking Bog' or 'Molinia Meadows' Annex 1 habitat. Other Annex 1 habitats occurring on wetlands that overlap BAP habitat inventories are H7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion ('Rhynchosporion'), H7210 ‘Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the Caricion davallianae’ ('Calcareous fens with Cladium'), H7220 Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) ('Petrifying springs'). These have not been included in this dataset, although some of the records for M37 and M38 would qualify as 'Petrifying springs'. Annex 1Habitat definitions Annex 1 habitats are represented by particular UK National Vegetation Classification (NVC) plant communities. Some related vegetation types which have strong affinities to the 'core' NVC plant communities have also been included in the Annex 1 habitats. H7230 'Alkaline Fen' (core NVC communities:M10, M11, M13; related communities: species-rich M22, M9/M22). H7140 'Transition Mire & Quaking Bog' (M2, M4, M5, M8, M9, M21, S27). H6410 'Molinia Meadows' (core communities: M24, M26; related communities: species-rich fen meadow with affinities to M24/M26). Full details are provided in the project report (Tratt, R., Parnell, M., Eades, P. & Shaw, S. 2013. Development of inventories for Annex 1

Additional Info For Abstract	Eades, P & Shaw, S. 2013. Development of inventories for Annex 1 habitats 'Alkaline Fen' and 'Transition Mire & Quaking Bog' in England. Unpublished report to Natural England.) Data sources incorporated into the inventories FenBase: FenBase is a database of wetland sites and habitats. Records from extensive quadrat surveys carried out By Dr Bryan Wheeler and Dr Sue Shaw from 1970's onwards are stored on this database. The database was used to generate a list of locations (as site names and/or grid references) of target NVC types. ENSIS & SSSI unit boundaries: ENSIS is the Natural England's SSSI database. This lists vegetation interest features on SSSIs in England. All sites with target plant communities listed were reviewed, alongside the FenBase data. Where the location of a particular habitat was known this was mapped, otherwise the SSSI unit or an intersecting polygon from the National Fen Inventory was used as a habitat polygon. National Fen Inventory (version supplied December 2011): Polygons with target NVC communities listed in 'source 1 habitat type' were reviewed. If possible, the original source data were checked, however in many cases this was not possible so the reliability of the information could not be verified. Where grid references or site names from FenBase overlapped polygons from the National Fen Inventory, these polygons were used in the Annex 1 inventories. NVC surveys & Phase 2 surveys: Survey data for several sites was available. GIS polygons were available for many surveys which have been carried out within the last 10 years. In other cases, the most recent available data was from the 1980s. Polygons representing target NVC communities were added to the inventory. However some NVC survey datasets did not have accompanying species data (map or GIS layers only). Target notes often highlighted small patches of target vegetation, and these were added as grid references to the points layer. Phase 2 surveys and target notes often only listed vascular plants, so the bryophyte composition of the vegetation was not recorded. Survey datasets are listed in 'Annex 1 habitat inventory sources list V1' spreadsheet. The report that accompanies this project gives more detail about the habitat definitions, data quality and extent and distribution of Alkaline Fen and Transition Mire & Quaking Bog habitats in England. In total 3778 polygons were captured, covering approximately 5897 Ha. In addition, 952 points were captured from target notes and quadrat records. There was no 'minimum mappable unit' for this project because the target habitats typically occur as very small stands, sometimes just a few square metres in extent. The data were compiled and captured using ESRI ArcGIS 10. Polygons were snapped to MasterMap where the data intersected, otherwise they were drawn freehand over aerial imagery.