

LANCASHIRE BAP TEMPLATE FOR HABITAT ACTION PLANS

DUN (Derelict, Underused or Neglected) LAND

(Line Drawing of Habitat)

Summary

Providing areas of importance in the urban landscape derelict, underused or neglected land can offer a rare combination of habitat characteristics which enables important invertebrate fauna to develop. Often associated with dereliction, this habitat is significant as a refuge for regionally rare and localised species.

Often thought to represent a visual intrusion DUN Land is affected by factors such as development, neglect, abuse and unsympathetic landscaping.

Action Plan Aim

To assess, manage and promote biodiversity in DUN (Derelict, Underused or Neglected) Land throughout Lancashire.

Habitat Description

Derelict, underused or neglected land may be characterised by vegetation in the early stages of succession, from a thin covering of pioneer plant species through to dense swards of tall herbs with the occasional shrub or small tree. The term 'wasteland' is often applied. It has many negative connotations, implying land of no intrinsic ecological, environmental, social or economic value; land which is expendable; and land that may represent a visual intrusion into an ordered landscape. It is often associated with dereliction, dumping and danger. In terms of actual biodiversity, however, and with regard to their potential as a 'social positive', these are areas of importance in the urban landscape.

DUN Land and Invertebrates **need also to link to refugia for flora**

What are commonly called "brownfield" sites (more on this point under "National Status" below) may collectively contain as many Red Data and Nationally Scarce invertebrate species as ancient woodland (12-14% of the recorded species present). Whilst the majority of "brownfield" sites have little or no value for invertebrate biodiversity, three main categories are likely to contain significant resources:

1. Remnant sites - sites that have been partially developed previously, but still contain significant areas of comparatively undisturbed and biodiversity-rich habitat.

LANCASHIRE BAP TEMPLATE FOR HABITAT ACTION PLANS

DUN (Derelict, Underused or Neglected) LAND

2. Refuge sites - sites that have contained significant areas of wild habitats, that may be disturbed and altered, but which invertebrate species have colonised and occupied while their more natural habitat is destroyed or 'improved'.

3. Colonising sites - sites often associated with mineral extraction, industrial waste dumps, or areas of disintegrating concrete or brickwork that, because of their low nutrient status, unimproved fringes, sunny or sheltered aspects and location have developed a fauna of great note and significance, e.g. limestone pits, sand quarries, slag heaps, abandoned industrial sites or brick pits.

Many invertebrate species have a complex life cycle, with different specific requirements at different stages. In many cases invertebrates require two or more habitats or microhabitats coexisting in close proximity. The existence of such habitat mosaics is essential to the survival of many species, especially the more exacting, rare and scarcer species.

Most flying insects require a foraging area where nectar and pollen may be gathered. The size and nature of the foraging area needed is dependent on the species: some forage on flowers of many different plant species, others are highly plant species-specific.

Predatory invertebrates require a sufficient area for hunting. Different species have different requirements. Open, flower-rich vegetation, bare ground, grassland and scrub all provide different vegetation architecture and associated ecological niches for given prey species.

Open, bare areas are an important and often undervalued resource. Bare ground offers a number of benefits. In particular, it warms up rapidly in sunshine, it is used for egg-laying and by burrowing and ground-nesting invertebrates, and it provides a clear visual field for predators.

Many invertebrate larvae require specific plants to feed on, wet areas to develop in, or the presence of a specific host animal.

Herbivorous invertebrates often live inside leaves, stems, flower-heads and seeds, and plants stressed by drought and mineral deficiency often seem to be preferred. They may also over-winter in such places, or under logs or stones, or in ground litter. For these species it is critical that their over-wintering sites persist from one generation to the next. If those sites are destroyed then the species and its cleptoparasites are likely to become locally extinct. Management that completely removes dead wood or herbaceous stems on a regular basis is therefore a potentially very harmful practice.

DUN land sites may offer a now rare combination of the habitat characteristics listed above that enables an important invertebrate fauna to develop. These can be summarised as follows:

- rich diversity of plant species and forage resources
- structural vegetation mosaics
- vegetation stressed by high levels of mineral and water deficiencies
- bare and sparsely vegetated ground

LANCASHIRE BAP TEMPLATE FOR HABITAT ACTION PLANS

DUN (Derelict, Underused or Neglected) LAND

- wet areas
- a continuity of resources
- a lack of damaging management

Notable species????

Plants

National Status

A key objective of the Government's recently produced England Biodiversity Strategy is that "*Key brownfield biodiversity species (should be) conserved through site protection, mitigation and habitat creation*" (<http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/ewd/biostrat/>).

Regional Status

In total, 3,800 'DUN' sites of more than one hectare in size have been identified across England's Northwest. At least 3,000 of these sites are unsuitable or not ready for hard development. Of these sites, 1,600 are 'brownfield' - previously developed land.

Local Status

"Greenwood & Gemmell (1976) commented on the diversity of derelict land sites in Lancashire and their significance as refuges for regionally rare and localised species. These authors noted that many of these plants were species of coastal habitats, particularly sand dunes, and that sites often carried several species of orchid" (Kelly & Harwood 1993).

A number of DUN land sites identified by Lancashire County Council for action under its REMADE programme are wholly or partly identified as Biological Heritage Sites.

Current factors affecting the habitat

The current factors affecting this habitat are:

- Development
- Neglect
- Abuse
- Unsympathetic Landscaping
- Competing or incompatible uses

Development

Sites of existing or potential value for biodiversity, either directly or as part of a network of corridors and links, may also be suitable for economic development of a type that would degrade or even destroy this value. Alternatively, partial development might fund management planning and enable improvement and ecological management of the remainder.

LANCASHIRE BAP TEMPLATE FOR HABITAT ACTION PLANS

DUN (Derelict, Underused or Neglected) LAND

Neglect

The absence of land management may lead to progressive loss of valuable wildlife habitats and mosaics and their replacement with those of lesser value. This may be associated with localised extinction of key species.

Abuse

Neglect may lead in turn to contempt and abuse through vandalism, fire-setting, illegal use by motorised vehicles and more general criminal and anti-social activity. This can be directly damaging to the site's biodiversity resource and also lead to pressure from the local community for its "erasure".

Unsympathetic landscaping

If existing or potential biodiversity value is not taken into account, the regeneration of DUN land may result in well-intentioned landscaping proposals that would actually prove deleterious to a site's biodiversity resource rather than maintaining or improving it – for example, through tree-planting at locations important for their grassland flora and/or ground-nesting birds; or incidental drainage of good quality wetland habitat in the course of installation of public access tracks.

Competing or Incompatible Uses

DUN sites, like any other piece of land, are subject to competing potential uses. Owners may wish to see development, the community may have aspirations for re-use of the site for recreation or leisure. Local authorities, NWDA and others may see sites as providing an opportunity for improvement of the image of the area through landscaping *etc.* There may be safety hazards to be resolved. The site's ecological value and potential is one of many factors that must be considered by owners, planning authorities and others when determining the use, treatment and management of a DUN site.

Important Sites

Cottam Hall Brickworks BHS & PLNR, Ingol, Preston City;
Ellerbeck Colliery BHS, Chorley Borough;
Fishwick BHSs & PLNR, Preston City;
Darwen Valley Parkway BHS & PLNR, Ewood, Blackburn with Darwen Borough;
Eccleshill Old Iron Works BHS, Blackburn with Darwen Borough;
Middleton Wood BHS, Lancaster City;
Iron waste heaps, Warton saltmarsh, Fylde Borough;
Salt workings, Preesall, Wyre Borough

Current Action / Mechanisms

- *Policy*

Government guidance (**PPG3 Housing**) states that local authorities should, "*provide sufficient housing land but give priority to re-using previously-developed land within urban areas... in preference to the development of greenfield sites*".

LANCASHIRE BAP TEMPLATE FOR HABITAT ACTION PLANS

DUN (Derelict, Underused or Neglected) LAND

However, it also states that the definition of previously-developed land excludes, “*land that was previously developed but where the remains of any structure or activity have blended into the landscape in the process of time (to the extent that it can reasonably be considered as part of the natural surroundings), and where there is a clear reason that could outweigh the re-use of the site - such as its contribution to nature conservation - or it has subsequently been put to an amenity use and cannot be regarded as requiring redevelopment*”.

Land Reclamation Programmes

REMADE, which stands for **RE**clamation and **MA**nagement of **DE**relict land, has been set up by Lancashire County Council in partnership with the North West Development Agency as part of the latter’s commitment to tackling the region’s derelict land problem. A quarter of all derelict land in England is located in the North West. It blights people’s lives, harms the image of the area and deters investment.

Lancashire has over 2,400 hectares of derelict brownfield land. This dereliction, made up of former industrial sites, old railways, disused reservoirs and tips, is very harmful to our environment. It can be a source of pollution, a hazard to people living nearby and makes an area look run down and neglected.

REMADE is a new multi-million pound project with a target to reclaim 25% of this derelict land by 2010. This means that 600 hectares of derelict, under-used and neglected land which has been left spoilt by previous development, will be cleaned up and turned into quality public spaces for people to enjoy.

REMADE will remove the physical evidence of dereliction, such as collapsed buildings and structures, old foundations, rubble and debris. It will also deal with the pollution of land and water caused by chemical contamination of the soil resulting from former tipping or industrial activity.

Sites will be put to positive uses, including landscaped open space, sports facilities, play areas, parks and gardens, nature reserves, community farms, footpaths, cycleways and bridle tracks.

New woodland creation will be the focus of another North West Development Agency funded project called **Newlands**, being set up in partnership with the Forestry Commission.

There are also a number of large scale, separately funded projects, e.g. at Fleetwood Marsh, Wyre Borough, and Middleton Wood, Lancaster City.

- *Site Safeguard*

DUN sites can be identified as non-statutory wildlife sites. Data on the names and locations of those in Lancashire is pending.

- *Land Management*

No data.

- *Advisory*

LANCASHIRE BAP TEMPLATE FOR HABITAT ACTION PLANS

DUN (Derelict, Underused or Neglected) LAND

The Lancashire BHS Project has sought to identify and contact owners and managers of all land, in Lancashire, Blackburn with Darwen Borough and Blackpool Borough that has been identified as BHS. Some of this is also DUN land. However, all of Ribble Valley Borough and most of Lancaster City District have yet to be covered, and funding for the project ceased in March 2004.

- *Research and Monitoring*

None.

- *Public Relations*

In conjunction with LCC, the relevant local authorities and English Nature, The Wildlife Trust is operating fixed term projects in the Single Regeneration Budget (SRB) areas of Blackburn with Darwen Borough, Burnley Borough and Preston City to engage, involve and assist local communities in the management of areas of DUN land for quiet recreation and nature conservation.

Indicators of Habitat Quality

The diverse nature of these sites, and the habitat mosaics they often support, precludes identification of generalised indicators of quality, other than to remark that a diversity of habitats and successional stages is often characteristic.

Habitat Targets

Target	Area	Measure	Timescale

Proposed Actions

Action (Priority: H, M, L)	Area	Measure / Milestone	Partners	Timescale
<i>Research and monitoring</i>				
<i>Site safeguard and management</i>				
<i>Habitat protection and management</i>				

LANCASHIRE BAP TEMPLATE FOR HABITAT ACTION PLANS

DUN (Derelict, Underused or Neglected) LAND

Advisory				
Publicity				

TO BE IDENTIFIED

Related Action Plans

Lancashire Biodiversity Action Plan

Broadleaved & Mixed Woodland; Species-rich Neutral Grassland, Calcareous Grassland; Reedbed; Mosslands; Arable Farmland, Sand Dune; Rivers; Skylark; Lapwing; Reed Bunting; Twite; Bats; Water Vole; Great Crested Newt; Wall Mason Bee; Large Heath; Freshwater White-clawed Crayfish; Purple Ramping Fumitory; People; all other urban HAPs & SAPs.

References and additional reading

Greenwood, E F & Gemmell, R P (1978), Derelict industrial land as a habitat for rare plants in South Lancashire (Vice-County 59) and West Lancashire (Vice-County 60). *Watsonia*, **12**, 33-40;

Kelly, P G & Harwood T R, *Wildlife Habitats in Lancashire: report of the phase 1 habitat survey of Lancashire 1988-92*, LCC & English Nature, 1993.

REMADE web site: <http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/environment/REMADE/index.asp>

Newlands web site: www.forestry.gov.uk/newlands

Contacts

REMADE Team,
Lancashire County Council,
Environment Directorate,
Guild House,
Cross Street,
Preston,
PR1 8RD

Newlands Team
Forestry Commission
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Delamere
Northwich
Cheshire CW8 2JD
Tel: 01606 889 912
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Email: fc.nweng.delamere@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

LANCASHIRE BAP TEMPLATE FOR HABITAT ACTION PLANS

DUN (Derelict, Underused or Neglected) LAND

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REMADE Sites in Blackburn with Darwen Borough, Blackpool Borough, and Lancashire County

The sites listed have been identified for inclusion in the provisional REMADE programme as at 23rd July 2003.

Site Name	Borough/District	Grid Reference	Programme Area (ha)	
1	Paper Mills, Moulden Brow, Feniscowles	Blackburn with Darwen 364082	425167	2
2	Butler's Delf / Yellow Hill, Pleasington	Blackburn with Darwen 364660	427680	4
3	The Tank, Revidge	Blackburn with Darwen 367459	429444	3
4	Greenbank Terrace, Lower Darwen	Blackburn with Darwen 368000	424700	1
5	Grimshaw Park, Blackburn	Blackburn with Darwen 368903	426871	7
6	Nelson Street / Brookside BHS, Darwen	Blackburn with Darwen 369042	422759	3
7	Goose House, Darwen	Blackburn with Darwen 369074	423421	16
8	Eccleshill Old Ironworks, adjacent M65	Blackburn with Darwen 369385	424235	17
9	Marsh House, Darwen	Blackburn with Darwen 370434	422471	25
10	Knuzden Brook, Blackburn	Blackburn with Darwen 371024	427130	15
11	North Shore Cliff Tops	Blackpool 330550	437700	38
12	Central Car Park, Blackpool	Blackpool 331000	434600	14
13	Geldof Drive, Blackpool	Blackpool 331215	437780	1
14	Snipe Rake Quarry, Hapton	Burnley 378730	429373	6
15	Hameldon Scouts, Burnley	Burnley 379285	429625	21
16	Padiham Railway	Burnley 380240	432686	19
17	Sweetclough, Lowerhouse	Burnley 380961	433013	5
18	Oswald Street, Phase 1	Burnley 383955	433801	1
19	Oswald Street, Phase 2	Burnley 383955	433801	7
20	Fulledge Recreation Ground	Burnley 385165	432055	6
21	Heasandford Industrial Estate	Burnley 385870	434236	3
22	The Mosses, Charnock Richard	Chorley 356093	415615	2
23	Darlington Sidings, Coppull	Chorley 356200	415000	6
24	Big Wood, Gillibrand	Chorley 356900	417000	7
25	Copperworks Wood, Gillibrand	Chorley 357190	417080	5
26	Ellerbeck Colliery, Chorley	Chorley 358582	413812	19

LANCASHIRE BAP TEMPLATE FOR HABITAT ACTION PLANS

DUN (Derelict, Underused or Neglected) LAND

27	Adlington Railway	Chorley	359309	414309	3
28	Chorley-Brinscall Railway	Chorley	361515	420100	25
29	Lodge Bank, Brinscall	Chorley	362571	421078	1
30	Warton Aerodrome West	Fylde	340908	427114	7
31	Warton Aerodrome East	Fylde	342090	427172	8
32	Clifton Marsh Landfill	Fylde	346054	428542	37
33	BNFL, Salwick	Fylde	347512	431488	10
34	Star Delph Quarry, Great Harwood	Hyndburn	371700	431680	1
35	Aspen Colliery & Coke Ovens, Oswaldtwistle	Hyndburn	373716	428524	4
36	Blythe's Tip, Church	Hyndburn	373743	428709	5
37	Oakenshaw Mill, Clayton-le-Moors	Hyndburn	374185	431732	1
38	Lower Antley Reservoir, Church	Hyndburn	374437	428439	4
39	Gt Harwood to Martholme Railway	Hyndburn	374500	432360	17
40	Bradshaw Street, Church	Hyndburn	374613	428741	1
41	Platts Lodge, Accrington	Hyndburn	375864	428185	2
42	Within Grove, Huncoat, Accrington	Hyndburn	376800	430100	1
43	Peel Park / Burnley Road, Accrington	Hyndburn	377532	429460	22
44	Turkey Red, Lower Baxenden	Hyndburn	377561	425906	3
45	Port of Heysham, adjacent Port Way	Lancaster	340517	460524	1
46	Port of Heysham, adjacent Penrod Way	Lancaster	340766	460445	5
47	Heysham Moss disused railway	Lancaster	342240	460100	5
48	Hestham Crescent, Morecambe	Lancaster	343738	463640	1
49	River Lune Millenium Park: Lancaster/Aldcliffe/Glasson old railway	Lancaster	345880	460940	8
50	Freemans Wood West	Lancaster	345947	461469	10
51	Freemans Wood East	Lancaster	346163	461287	5
52	Land North of railway, Carnforth	Lancaster	350080	471148	2
53	River Lune Millenium Park: Crook o' Lune Railway, near Caton.	Lancaster	351990	464710	0
54	Waterside, South Valley, Colne	Pendle	389179	439784	2
55	North of Riversway, adjacent Finney Park Way	Preston	349790	429810	4
56	North of Riversway, adjacent Stoney Butts	Preston	349898	429882	6
57	Preston - Bamber Bridge Railway	Preston	353720	428760	13
58	Deepdale Tip	Preston	355125	431421	4
59	Fishwick Cluster West	Preston	355359	429296	17
60	Fishwick Cluster Central	Preston	355920	429493	10
61	Fishwick Farm	Preston	356094	429510	1
62	Fairfax Road, Brookfield	Preston	356253	431688	4
63	Fishwick Cluster East	Preston	356475	429826	13
64	Preston - Longridge Railway	Preston	356950	432300	10
65	North of Grange Park, Ribbleton	Preston	357085	431581	8
66	Land off Woone Lane, Clitheroe	Ribble Valley	373644	440850	1
67	Primrose Lodge, Clitheroe	Ribble Valley	373983	441045	5
68	Padiham-Read-Great Harwood Railway	Ribble Valley	376400	434000	8

LANCASHIRE BAP TEMPLATE FOR HABITAT ACTION PLANS

DUN (Derelict, Underused or Neglected) LAND

69	Holden Vale, Helmshore	Rossendale	377734	422251	6
70	Helmshore Railway	Rossendale	377810	421640	1
71	Swinnel Brook / Ogden Brook, Helmshore	Rossendale	377892	422036	6
72	Lumb Mill, Irwell Vale	Rossendale	378948	419472	16
73	Top o' Slate, Haslingden	Rossendale	379148	423649	3
74	Brow Edge Quarry, Rossendale	Rossendale	381620	421158	10
75	Rockcliffe Meadows, Bacup	Rossendale	386923	422021	13
76	Irwell Springs, Weir, Bacup	Rossendale	387370	425468	2
77	Disused railway, Much Hoole	South Ribble	345100	422790	5
78	Lostock Hall Engine Sheds	South Ribble	354581	425454	2
79	East Watkin Lane, Lostock Hall	South Ribble	354799	425514	1
80	Alty's Brickworks, Becconsall	West Lancashire	344843	422985	2
81	Alder Lane, Parbold	West Lancashire	349600	410500	3
82	Digmoor Parade, Skelmersdale	West Lancashire	349950	404730	1
83	East Quarry, Appley Bridge	West Lancashire	352600	409600	14
84	Fleetwood Promenade	Wyre	331170	447610	3
85	Cleveleys Promenade	Wyre	331250	443140	2
86	Fleetwood Marsh	Wyre	333476	446233	17
87	Former Chemical Works, Wyre Estuary	Wyre	334207	443855	20
88	Garstang Railway	Wyre	350100	445480	3
				Total:	677