

Heathland: UK BAP Priority Species & Habitat Restriction

What is the UK Biodiversity Action Plan?

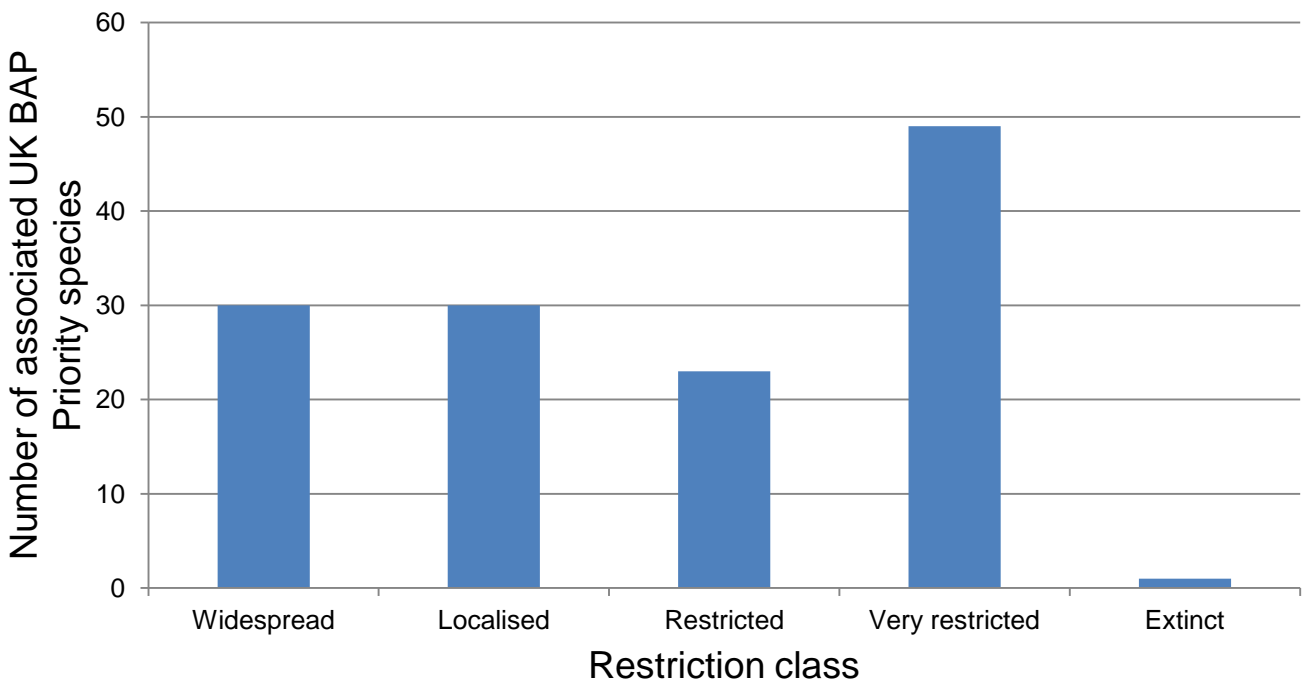
The UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) sets out a programme for conserving the UK’s biodiversity. The UK BAP has published lists of species and habitats that are conservation priorities due to either their rarity or rate of decline: these are called Priority Habitats and Priority Species.

What is habitat restriction?

BAP species can be classified according to their distribution. Whereas some species may be widespread, the distribution of other species may be very restricted. Species that are widespread may be found in several habitats and therefore have a large distribution. Species that are ‘restricted’ or ‘very restricted’ have narrow distributions, often only being found in certain habitats. These species will consequently be badly affected by the loss or damage to these habitats.

What does the graph show?

The graph below shows the restriction class of the 133 BAP species associated with lowland heathland habitats. It is interesting to note that 47 of the species with a ‘restricted’ or ‘very restricted’ distribution are invertebrates.



Sources: <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-2>, www.naturalengland.org.uk