Semerwater SSSI

Whole Feature Condition Assessment 2023

Gordon Haycock & Associates

7 features
17 Units
13 Owner-occupiers



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Features

- Wet Woodland
- Mesotrophic Lake
- Fen Marsh and Swamp
- Upland Neutral Grassland (MG3)
- Lowland Neutral Grassland (MG5)
- Lowland Neutral Grassland (MG8)
- Lowland Wet Neutral Grassland (MG11 & MG13)





Results

Wet Woodland

- ***Favourable***
- **Mostly willow scrub**
- **Some Ash Dieback**
- **Some geese issues**



Results

Mesotrophic Lake

- ***Unfavourable***
- **Too few aquatic plants**
- **Erosion of shore-line**
- **Cattle poaching**
- **Lots of sediment – poor water clarity**
- **Geese?**
- **Water quality – Semerwater Project**
- **Invertebrates – Survey 2024**



Results

Fen, Marsh and Swamp

- ***Unfavourable***
- **Low species diversity**
- **Lack of mosses**



Results

Grasslands

- **Upland Neutral Grassland (MG3) – *not found***
- **Lowland Neutral Grassland (MG5) - *Unfavourable***

  Due to water-logging, lack of cutting/grazing, weeds, scrub
- **Lowland Neutral Grassland (MG8) - *Unfavourable***

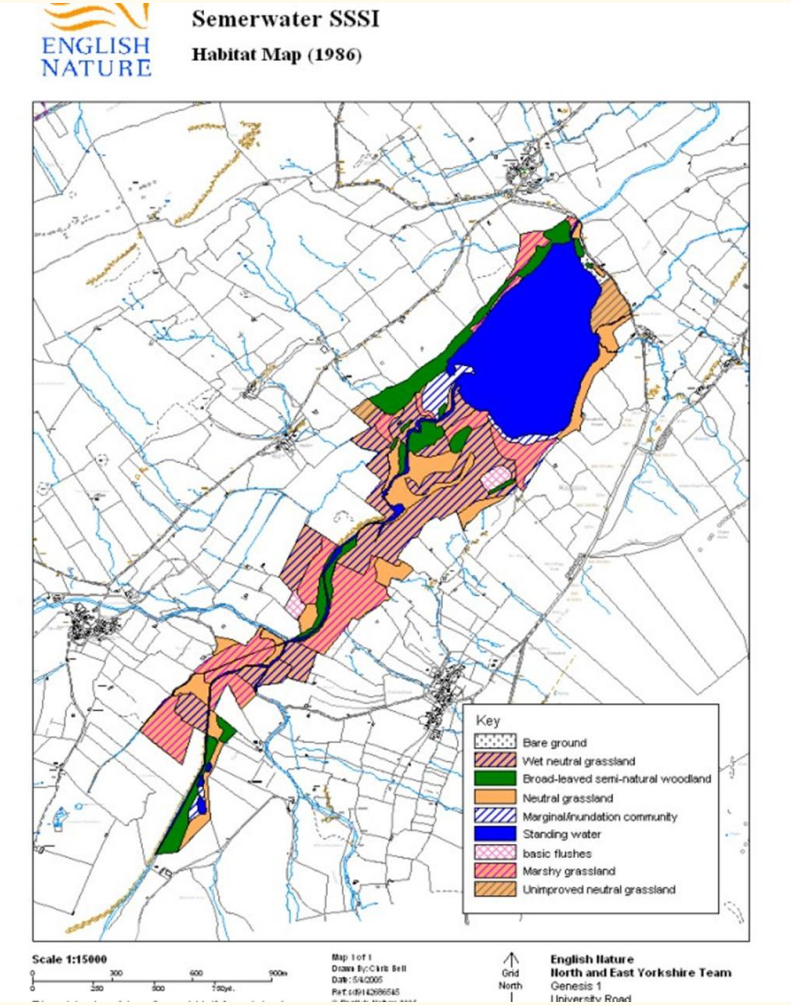
  Due to water-logging, lack of grazing
- **Lowland Wet Neutral Grassland (MG11&MG13) – *Unfavourable***

  Due to water-logging, lack of cutting/grazing, too many rushes

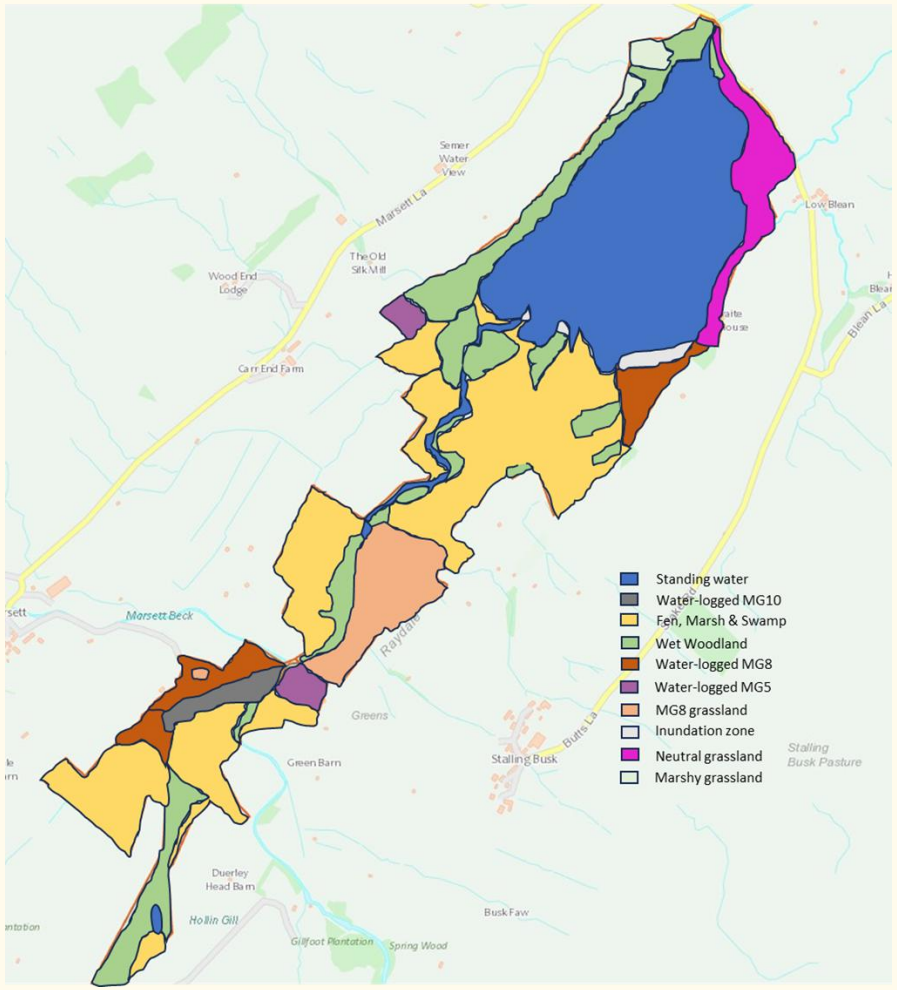


Habitats

1986



2023



Key points:

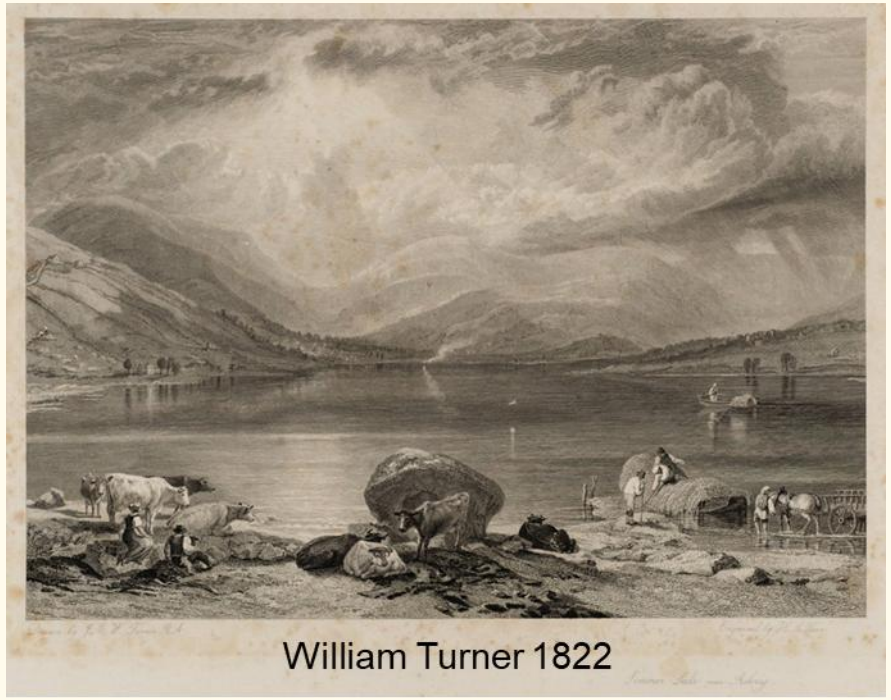
- Much of the grassland has become fen/marsh/swamp.
- Fen/marsh/swamp has increased from 2.5ha to 23 ha, but quality not good.
- Slight increase in area of wet woodland.

Going forward….

- **Address findings of Semerwater Project, especially relating to hydrology**
- **Whole site approach – Management Plan?**
- **Amend Monitoring Spec to allow for transitional and mosaic habitats**
- **Manage habitats through ELM schemes**



Thank You!



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