

# Heather Moorland Management

## Introductory Pack



Image provided by Neville Turner.

### Key Themes:

- Location and characteristics of heather moorland
- Flora and Fauna found on heather moorland

This pack is the first in a series of packs investigating the issues surrounding heather moorlands.

Themes explored in the other packs include

- Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust
  - Overview of Hen Harriers
    - Otterburn
- PACEC – The value of shooting
  - The value of Peatscapes

As you leave the valleys of Wales, Northern England and Scotland and climb out above the natural tree line you enter the British Uplands. These are areas of outstanding natural beauty, dramatic skylscapes, sunsets and magical ghylls. These are also areas where severe weather conditions can be life threatening to 'man and beast'.

This pack will explore and expand on your current knowledge of the heather moorland habitat.



### Activity 1

Snowballing activity 'Starting off small and getting bigger and bigger'

In the box below spend 1 minute writing down anything you already know about heather moorlands. After 1 minute has passed share your ideas with your partner. Note down anything that they have thought of or expand your points using their ideas. Your teacher will then put you and your partner into a group with another pair and you must do the same again. Nominate a speaker to share your main ideas with the rest of the class. Your teacher will use ICT to create a class mind map containing your initial ideas about heather moorlands.

## Activity 2

Watch the video – ‘A Big Little Business’ on the following link. Note down anything that you feel is important about it in the box below. These points should be followed up in this and the following teaching packs. Write down any questions you would like to have answered about this topic by the end of this teaching unit at the bottom of the box in a different colour.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=45R9e9QM6Bw>



# What is Heather Moorland?



## Activity 3

Use the weblink [http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/heather\\_moorland\\_cmb.pdf](http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/heather_moorland_cmb.pdf) to complete the boxes below to distinguish between different types of heather moorland.



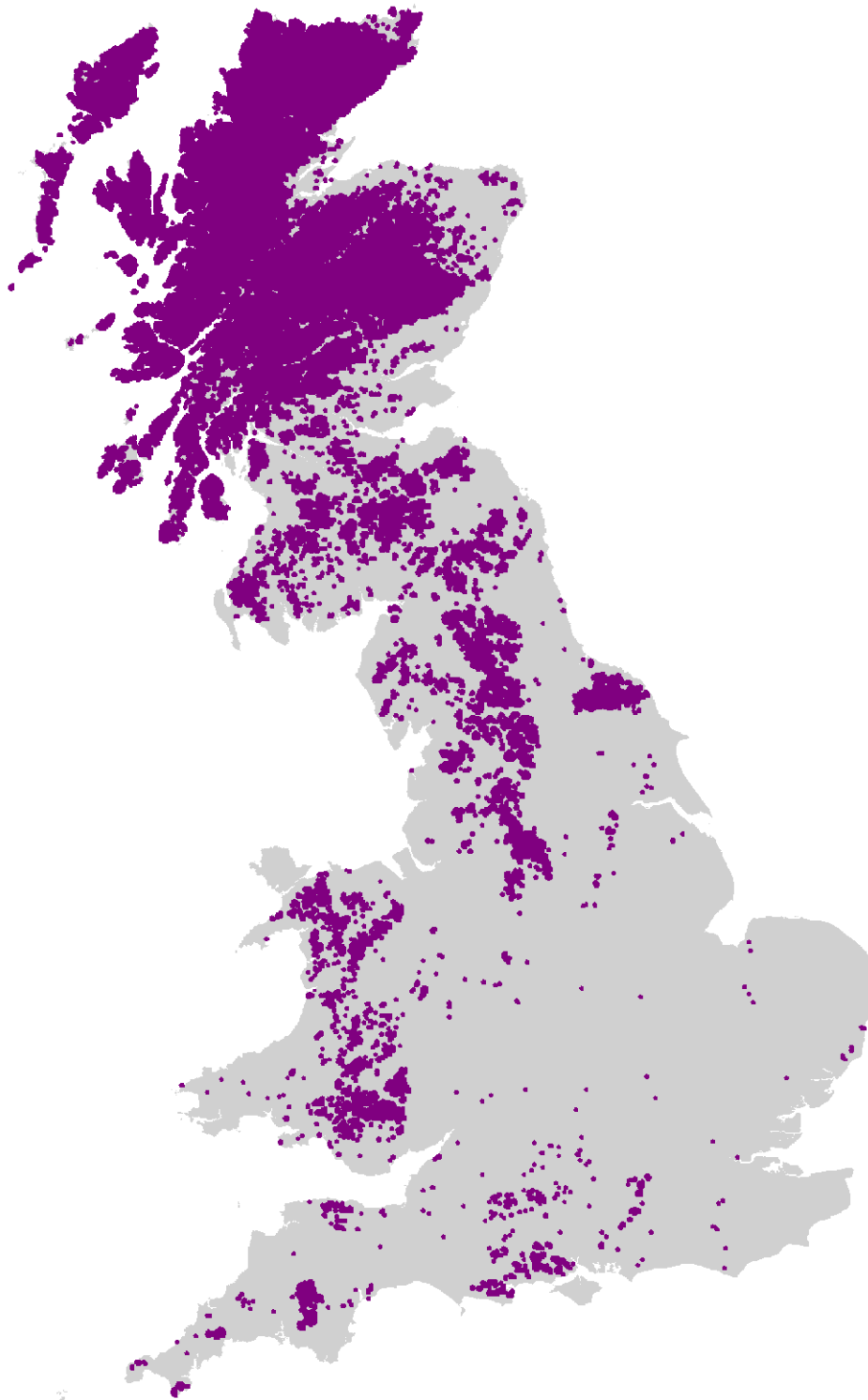
What is a heather moorland?

Blanket Bog Moorland Characteristics?



Dry Heath Moorland Characteristics?

Britain has approximately 75% of all the heather moorland found anywhere in the world. This is shown on the map below.



#### Activity 4

Label onto the map some well known locations which are dominated by heather moorlands. You could label towns, counties or national parks. Briefly describe the distribution of heather moorlands.

### Activity 5

Heather moorland is a unique and scarce habitat that is recognized to be potentially under serious threat.

In the box below create a spider diagram outlining the potential threats to heather moorland. Be prepared to feedback to the class. Use the pictures at the bottom of the page to help you.



The heather moorland uplands are home to a wide variety of unique flora and fauna. Most of the Uplands are designated areas of SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest), SPA (Special Protection Area – birds) or SAC (Special Area of Conservation – flora).

The flora and fauna of the heather moorland will be explored on the following pages.





## Flora found on heather moorlands

### Activity 6



Below are the names and pictures of the flora that is commonly found on heather moorlands. Imagine you are creating something to be used in a visitor centre. Use this information as a starting point to construct a poster detailing the varied flora found on heather moorlands. This should be able to inform members of the public of all ages about this habitat.



Cotton Grass flowers in heavy pollen



Cotton Grass seed head



Bee And Purple Orchids



Gentian  
(only found on limestone outcrops)



Cowberry



Deergrass

Try to categorise the flora into the sub categories of

- Shrubs
- Mosses
- Grasses



Teesdale Violet



Meadow Saxifrage



Birdseye Primrose



Oval & Round-leaved Sundew in Sphagnum



Sundew with Cross-leaved Heath and Tormentil in background



## Fauna found on heather moorlands - insects



### Activity 7

Complete the table below to construct a one page summary about the insects found on heather moorlands.

Name of insect	Habitat	Food?	Type of moorland?

# Fauna found on heather moorlands – ground nesting birds and waders

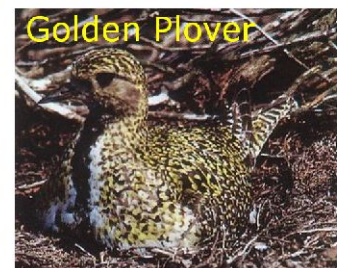


## Activity 8

Your teacher will allocate one of the birds from below to you and your partner. You have the lesson to research this and to prepare a form of presentation to share this with the class next lesson. You could create a poster, a leaflet or a power point presentation (or something even more exciting!)



1. Meadow Pipit
2. Yellow Wagtail
3. Skylark
4. Black Grouse
5. Ring Ousel



The bird I am researching is:

The way we are presenting our data is:

### Activity 9

Use the table below to compile a summary of information presented to you by your classmates about the ground nesting birds found on heather moorland.

Bird Name	Information?
Meadow Pipit	
Yellow Wagtail	
Skylark	
Black Grouse	
Ring Ousel	
Snipe	



Lapwing	
Redshank	
Oyster Catcher	
Curlew	
Golden Plover	
Red Grouse	

## Fauna Spotlight – Red Grouse



The Red Grouse and its successful management play an important part in heather moorland conservation and management. They are also classified as a priority species in the UK Biodiversity Action plan. Therefore it is vital that numbers of red grouse are maintained. **This will be revisited in more detail in a later unit.**

It is a plump gamebird about the same size and shape as a partridge. It feeds on heather and can be found on upland heathlands and moorland; it's often spotted as it's flushed from the heather, suddenly flying upwards with rapid, whirring wing-beats. There are actually two subspecies of red grouse: *Lagopus lagopus scotia* (the red grouse of the British Isles) and *Lagopus lagopus lagopus* (the willow grouse of Scandinavia and Alaska).

### How to identify

Unmistakeable: red grouse are entirely rich gingery-brown in colour with a black tail and red eyebrows.

### Where to find it

Lives on heather moorlands in North and South West England, Wales and Scotland.

#### Species information

**i** **Common name**  
Red Grouse

**Latin name**  
*Lagopus lagopus*

**Category**  
Birds  
Gamebirds

**Statistics**  
Length: 40-43cm  
Wingspan: 60cm Weight:  
600g

**Conservation status**  
Classified in the UK as an Amber List species under the Birds of Conservation Concern review and as a Priority Species in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.

# Fauna found on heather moorlands – birds of prey and raptors

## Activity 10

In groups, use the box below to list reasons why birds of prey and raptors are found in heather moorlands.

What are the positives about these birds being found within this ecosystem? What are the negatives? Overall, do you think that these birds play an important role in this ecosystem or in nature in general? Create a mind map in the box below.



# Fauna found on heather moorlands – birds of prey and raptors



## Activity 11

Your group will be allocated one of the different types of fauna below to research. You will produce a poster about these in order to be replicated and distributed to your classmates or displayed on the classroom wall. You are free to use the internet, the library and any other types of research to create this factfile.



Eagle



Merlin



Short  
Eared  
Owl



Peregrines

Peregrines and Hen Harriers are an integral part of the image of the high moor.

Both species are legally protected

They both predate on high numbers of grouse and other upland prey species



Hen Harriers



## Fauna found on heather moorlands – mammals

### Activity 12

Now that you have developed your research skills you should have the skills and knowledge in order to research the mammals found on heather moorlands – both high and low. Working independently, with a partner or in a group of up to 4 people use this lesson to create a pack of flash cards to inform people about the different mammals found in heather moorland environments. You can produce these by hand or create them digitally on the computer. You can use the box below as thinking space and to jot down any important information that you find out.

Many of the fauna examined in this unit will be examined in more detail in the further units in this topic series.

### Activity 13

Use the box below to draw together all of your knowledge about the flora and fauna which is found in a heather moorland. Create a food web to show the relationship between everything. What feeds on what? Are there any predator – prey relationships?



**Activity 14**

## Summary Activity

Now that you have some understanding about the location, characteristics and flora and fauna of heather moorlands it is a good idea to construct a fact file about this type of ecosystem. Working with a partner use your completed packs to create a summary in the box below. You will refer back to this when you are working on your other units.

### Activity 15

Use the table below to create a key word table for this unit. Then, transfer this to a quizlet quiz by following the link <http://quizlet.com>. Follow the step by step instructions to set up a quizlet account and let your teacher know your username so that they, and your classmates, can access your keywords and test themselves.

Key word	Definition

**Activity 16**

In the box below devise two questions and answers that can be emailed to your teacher. Your teacher will then create a test to ascertain your knowledge of this topic in a later lesson.

**Question 1****Answer 1****Question 2****Answer 2****Activity 17**

Complete the test about heather moorland management in the box below. Record your score and set yourself a target.

**Test**