

Wales Upland Ecosystem Group Priority Action

Mynydd Du Peatlands (Mynydd Du SSSI)

Site Description: Mynydd Du is an extensive area of upland common extending across the Powys-Carmarthen border. It is a series of contiguous commons, much of the area designated SSSI and a large area under the ownership of the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority and Welsh Water Dŵr Cymru. SSSI features are geological and landform features; limestone grasslands, pavements and scree; glacial lakes; cliff vegetation communities; dry heath; wet flushes; rare plants including fungi and lichens. Other features of note include the areas of blanket and raised bog.

Issues

- Continued deterioration of water holding capacity of peat soils
- Quality and quantity of water leaving the hill; flood risk to Swansea Valley and settlements along southern fringe of west of Park
- Erosion and subsequent loss of peat soils
- Continuing restoration works at degraded raised bog at Waun Figen Felen (WFF)
- Registered grazing rights on individual commons of Mynydd Du
- Declining numbers of livestock.

Likely Effects of Inaction

- Continued degradation and loss of peatland habitats
- Deposition of peat and flow of acidic water into the Dan yr Ogof cave system below
- Loss of grazable common land
- Water quality issues due to soil loss
- Flood risk
- Historic effects of overgrazing alongside effects of undergrazing (positive and negative)

Actions Required

- Continue to support and work with graziers
- Continuation of restoration works at Waun Figen Felen
- Continued analysis of vegetation response at WFF restoration works
- Accurate mapping and survey of peat areas including condition monitoring
- Accurate mapping of erosion areas
- Develop and agree restoration plans for erosion areas based on survey

Longer-term actions

- Research to increase understanding of catchment hydrology and factors affecting water quality

Species Interest