

Distribution & Conservation Value:

M22 is widely distributed throughout lowland Britain. The *Iris* sub-community can occur frequently within topogenous mires in East Anglia but is scarcer elsewhere (Rodwell, 1991). This version of M22d is fairly species-rich (27 species per quadrat) and contains several species of note (see below).

*Oenanthe lachenalii*, *C. elata*, *Epipactis palustris*, *Pedicularis palustris*, *Chiloscyphus polyanthus*, *Sanguisorba officinalis*, *Schoenus nigricans* and *Dactylorhiza praetermissa*.

It is therefore of moderate conservation value.

Condition & Changes Since 1991 Survey:

Stand 2 is the amalgamation of stands J, G and I recorded in 1991 as M22a, M22a and M27b respectively. Stands J and G have subtly altered through the increase in species such as *C. disticha*, *Succisa pratensis*, *Iris pseudacorus* and the emergence of *Equisetum palustre*, *Cladium mariscus* and *C. acutiformis*. Thus the vegetation is now more akin to M22d than M22a.

In 1991 the northern part of Stand 2 was classified as M27b due to the dominance of *Filipendula ulmaria* and *Carex acutiformis*. Since then there has been an increase in species such as *Mentha aquatica*, *Lythrum salicaria*, *Cirsium palustre*, *Juncus subnodulosus* and *Carex panicea* at the expense of drier and more nutrient demanding species previously recorded (including *Cirsium arvense* and *Galium aparine*). In this part of the stand, species-richness has increased from 16 species per quadrat to 24 sp per quadrat, despite the loss of drier plants. It is therefore likely that the increased moisture within this part of the fen since 1991, combined with regular mowing, has allowed the convergence of all three stands in the past 12 years to a single relatively diverse form of M22d.