

## 67. Malham Tarn

<b>Geographical Coordinates:</b>	54°06'N 2°10'W	<b>Area:</b>	289ha
<b>Location:</b>	About 17km north-west of the town of Skipton, in the county of North Yorkshire, northern England.		
<b>Date of Ramsar Designation:</b>	28 October 1993		
<b>Other International Designations:</b>	None		
<b>National Designations:</b>	Site of special scientific interest; Malham Tarn National Nature Reserve (NNR).		

**Principal Features:** Malham Tarn contains areas of open water, fen, raised bog, soligenous mire and a calcareous stream. These habitats hold important communities of rare plant species and wetland invertebrates and are of types now highly restricted due to drainage and land use changes. The Tarn is the highest marl lake in Britain (lying at an altitude of 380m), whilst the unusual combination of acidophilous bog with calcicolous fen and soligenous mire, provides a range of mire vegetation unparalleled elsewhere in Britain in areas of similar size. The site holds the nationally rare *Bartsia alpina* and *Calamagrostis stricta*, together with several nationally scarce species including *Potentilla tabernaemontani*, *Carex capillaris*, *C. appropinquata*, *Epipactis atrorubens*, *Hornungia petraea*, *Andromeda polifolia* and *Salix myrsinifolia*. An assemblage of rare wetland invertebrates is found including *Agrypnia crassicornis* which is only known in the UK from Malham Tarn. Other Red Data Book wetland invertebrate species are: *Hydrothassa hannoveriana*, *Macroplea appendiculata*, *Coenosia paludis tiensuu* and *Maro lepidus casemir*. A significant number of rare non-wetland invertebrates also occur. The Tarn and its associated habitats also support a diverse assemblage of breeding waterfowl, typical of upland wetlands, and notable small breeding numbers of *Carduelis flavirostris*. While numbers do not reach nationally important thresholds, the site has a role in maintaining the ranges of these species, which have been affected by habitat changes elsewhere in the UK. (Criteria 1a,2a).

**Conservation Issues:** The site is owned by the National Trust who are implementing a NNR management plan with the agreement of English Nature. Part of the site has been identified as part of a proposed European Union Special Area of Conservation.