

## CALCAREOUS GRASSLAND HABITAT ACTION PLAN

### AIMS

- To ensure that there is no further loss in the area and biodiversity value of species-rich calcareous grassland in the Yorkshire Dales National Park.
- To enhance, where necessary, the biodiversity value of calcareous grassland by achieving widespread flowering and seeding of plant communities across the majority of the area.

### OBJECTIVES

To achieve these aims we need to:

- determine the current biodiversity value of calcareous grassland in the Yorkshire Dales National Park;
- protect remaining areas of species-rich calcareous grassland from loss due to quarrying;
- promote conservation management of species-rich calcareous grassland, and;
- increase the structural and botanical diversity of calcareous grassland by achieving a 'tall-growth' condition (30 cm + during the growing season) over a proportion of the area.

## ACTIONS & TARGETS

To achieve these objectives the following actions should be carried out and the targets achieved within the time-scale given:

Actions	Target date	3 year cost £
Devise and implement a survey and monitoring programme to determine the current biodiversity value of calcareous grassland in the Yorkshire Dales National Park.	2004	20,000
Ensure no new planning permissions (or extensions to existing ones) are granted which will result in the quarrying of areas of species-rich calcareous grassland.	ongoing	0
Encourage landowners and managers, through the use of advice and management grants, to conserve the biodiversity value of 95 % of the remaining area (4405 ha) of species-rich calcareous grassland through a return to less intensive mixed livestock farming.	2010	110,000
Achieve a tall-growth condition (30 cm + during the growing season) across 5 % (232 ha) of the remaining area of species-rich calcareous grassland typically adjacent to existing areas of woodland & scrub.	2010	8,000
Double the existing area of native woodland and scrub, especially upland mixed ash woods, in the limestone country, through the use of advice and management grants (a total of 500 ha , 272 ha of which would be in limestone pavement areas). New woodland should be targeted at linking and extending existing woods primarily on bracken and semi-improved more neutral grassland mosaics but with some on calcareous grassland and mire habitats.	2010	500,000

## WHO WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ACTION PLAN?

Lead Agency	Key Partners
English Nature	MAFF / FRCA Forestry Commission Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority Landowners & Managers Wildlife Charities Local Volunteers