

## IMPROVED GRASSLAND HABITAT STATEMENT

### Conservation Objectives

- To convert areas of improved grassland to other more important wildlife habitats where possible.
- To maintain a significant proportion of the existing area of improved grassland to support a less-intensively managed sustainable agricultural industry managing land for nature conservation, multi-purpose forestry and tourism as well as for food production.

### Conservation Measures

- Provide advice and incentives to landowners and managers through agri-environment schemes to convert appropriate areas of improved grassland to low-intensity management and / or other more important wildlife habitats.
- Encourage, through advice and incentives, landowners and managers to farm in a sustainable, less intensive manner.
- Support schemes that assist farmers and landowners to develop higher value markets for less-intensively produced premium products.

## ARABLE LAND HABITAT STATEMENT

### Conservation Objectives

- To protect important wildlife habitats from conversion to arable land.
- To investigate whether a small increase in arable crops on land of low nature conservation importance would be beneficial to wildlife (particularly birds).

### Conservation Measures

- Protect important wildlife habitats from conversion to arable land by ensuring that agricultural support systems take these into account.
- Research the benefits to wildlife of a limited increase in the area of arable land in the Yorkshire Dales National park.
- Where arable crops are grown provide advice and incentives to encourage farmers to carry out sustainable (preferably organic) farming methods.
- Support schemes that assist farmers and landowners to develop higher value markets for less-intensively produced premium products.

