

LIMESTONE PAVEMENT HABITAT ACTION PLAN

AIMS

- To ensure that there is no further loss in the area and biodiversity value of limestone pavement in the Yorkshire Dales National Park.
- To enhance, where necessary, the biodiversity value of limestone pavement habitats.

OBJECTIVES

To achieve these aims we need to:

- determine the current biodiversity value of limestone pavement in the Yorkshire Dales National Park;
- protect all existing areas of limestone pavement from development, removal or damage;
- promote the conservation management of all existing limestone pavement habitats;
- increase the structural diversity of limestone pavement habitats by encouraging the growth of native broad-leaved woodland, particularly upland mixed ash, and scrub, and;
- restore native broad-leaved woodland, particularly upland mixed ash, to limestone pavement planted with non-native trees.

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 limestone pavement in the Yorkshire Dales National Park.	2001	5,000
Ensure no new planning permissions (or extensions to existing ones) are granted which will result in the loss or damage of limestone pavement.	ongoing	0
Enforce existing Limestone Pavement Order legislation, where necessary.	ongoing	5,000
Support moves to improve legislation to protect limestone pavement including pressing for a ban to the trade in water worn limestone.	2005	5,000
Encourage landowners and managers, through the use of advice and management grants, to conserve the biodiversity value of all existing limestone pavement through a return to less intensive mixed livestock farming.	2008	45,000
Encourage landowners and managers, through the use of advice and management grants, to exclude stock from 20 % (272 ha) of limestone pavement to enable the development of scattered native tree and shrub cover.	2008	10,000
Encourage landowners and managers, through the use of advice and management grants, to control rabbits where they are having a significant negative impact on the biodiversity value of limestone pavements.	2008	30,000
Consider the need and feasibility of managing key sites as nature reserves where necessary.	2003	0

WHO WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ACTION PLAN?

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