

UPLAND MIXED ASHWOODS HABITAT ACTION PLAN

AIMS

- To ensure that there is no further loss in the area and biodiversity value of upland mixed ashwoods in the Yorkshire Dales National Park.
- To enhance and restore, where necessary, the biodiversity value of upland mixed ash woods.
- To increase the area of upland mixed ashwoods in the Yorkshire Dales National Park, ideally by natural regeneration or, by planting with trees of local provenance where natural regeneration is not possible or is inadequate.

OBJECTIVES

To achieve these aims we need to:

- determine the current biodiversity value of upland mixed ashwoods in the Yorkshire Dales National Park;
- protect existing areas of upland mixed ashwoods from damage, neglect or inappropriate management;
- promote the conservation management of existing upland mixed ashwoods including measures to encourage regeneration, a diverse age structure, retention of mature and veteran trees and both standing and lying deadwood.
- reduce fragmentation and increased the area of upland mixed ashwoods, ideally through natural regeneration or, where this is not possible or is inadequate, by planting with trees of local provenance. Much of this new woodland should extend and reconnect existing woodlands.

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 upland mixed ashwoods in the Yorkshire Dales National Park.	2008	20,000
Include objectives to support biodiversity conservation targets for upland mixed ashwoods in the Dales Woodland Strategy	2000	0
Ensure no new planning permissions (or extensions to existing ones) are granted which will result in the loss of upland mixed ashwoods.	ongoing	0
Encourage landowners and managers, through the use of advice and management grants, to conserve the biodiversity value of the remaining upland mixed ashwoods including stockproofing, rabbit control, planting of native species, retention of veteran trees, standing and lying deadwood.	2010	110,000
Where semi-natural and ancient upland mixed ashwoods have been planted with non-native species encourage landowners and managers to restore them through advice and incentives.	2010	50,000
Increase the area of upland mixed ashwoods by 400 ha ideally through natural regeneration or where this is not possible or is inadequate, by planting native species of local provenance. Most of this planting should be adjacent to and or connecting existing semi-natural woodlands particularly in the limestone country.	2010	600,000

WHO WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ACTION PLAN?

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