

UPLAND OAKWOODS HABITAT ACTION PLAN

AIMS

- To ensure that there is no further loss in the area and biodiversity value of upland oakwoods in the Yorkshire Dales National Park.
- To enhance and restore, where necessary, the biodiversity value of upland oakwoods.
- To increase the area of upland oakwoods 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 oakwoods in the Yorkshire Dales National Park;
- protect existing areas of upland oakwoods from damage, neglect or inappropriate management;
- promote the conservation management of existing upland oakwoods including measures to encourage regeneration, a diverse age structure, retention of mature and veteran trees and both standing and lying deadwood, and;
- reduce fragmentation and increase the area of upland oakwoods, 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

In order 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 oakwoods in the Yorkshire Dales National Park. | 2003 | 5,000 |
| Include objectives to support biodiversity conservation targets for upland oakwoods 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 oakwoods. | ongoing | 0 |
| Encourage landowners and managers, through the use of advice and management grants, to conserve the biodiversity value of the remaining upland oakwoods including stockproofing, rabbit control, planting of native species, retention of veteran trees, standing and lying deadwood. | 2010 | 156,000 |
| Increase the area of upland oakwoods by 300 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 upland oakwoods. | 2010 | 500,000 |

WHO WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ACTION PLAN?

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