

***Vertigo alpestris* AND *Vertigo pusilla* GROUPED SPECIES ACTION PLAN**

DESCRIPTION

Although both of these species of snail are recorded from millstone grit and slate sites in other areas of the country, the majority of sites in the Yorkshire Dales National Park are on old limestone drystone walls especially where these are covered in moss or ivy. The preferred sites are dry and sheltered and are often shaded by trees.

LOCAL BIODIVERSITY IMPORTANCE

Both species are rare within the UK. *Vertigo pusilla* has a relatively widespread distribution in Cumbria but is only known from nine sites in the National Park whilst *Vertigo alpestris* is known from 19 locations within the National Park.

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL BIODIVERSITY IMPORTANCE

Vertigo alpestris and *Vertigo pusilla* are listed as Vulnerable in the Yorkshire Red Data Book for Land and Freshwater Mollusca. At least one site is in a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

CURRENT ISSUES, OPPORTUNITIES & THREATS

These two species are at risk from unsympathetic renovation, removal or cleaning of drystone walls.

Therefore it is essential that the stretches of wall where these species are present are identified. Landowners, managers and advisors need to be made aware of the presence of these species and the appropriate methods of wall maintenance to ensure their conservation. Appropriate conservation measures will need to be implemented at all other 'ground' sites.

AIMS OF THE SPECIES ACTION PLAN

- Maintain the current distribution and status of *Vertigo alpestris* and *Vertigo pusilla* in the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

OBJECTIVES

To achieve these aims we need to:

- Identify the sites where *Vertigo alpestris* and *Vertigo pusilla* are present within the Yorkshire Dales National Park by 2004.
- Ensure that landowners and managers are aware of the presence of *Vertigo alpestris* and *Vertigo pusilla* and that appropriate management advice for the maintenance and repair of drystone walls is available by 2004.

- Ensure that all other 'ground' sites are in appropriate conservation management by 2007.

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 £
Determine the distribution and status of <i>Vertigo alpestris</i> and <i>Vertigo pusilla</i> in the Yorkshire Dales National Park.	2004	1500
Devise and implement a monitoring program for <i>Vertigo alpestris</i> and <i>Vertigo pusilla</i> to assess any population changes at all known sites.	2004	1000
Produce best practice management guidelines detailing wall maintenance and rebuilding specifications that will ensure the conservation of <i>Vertigo alpestris</i> and <i>Vertigo pusilla</i> .	2004	1000
Ensure that the conservation requirements of these species are made known to all appropriate organisations and individuals (especially landowners, managers and advisors) at the locations where <i>Vertigo alpestris</i> and <i>Vertigo pusilla</i> are present.	2004	Officer Time
Ensure that all known sites of <i>Vertigo alpestris</i> and <i>Vertigo pusilla</i> are in positive conservation management.	2007	Agri-environment Scheme Funding

WHO WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ACTION PLAN?

Lead Agency	Key Partners
Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority	Landowners and managers DEFRA/RDS Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority English Nature British Conchological Society