

DALES LAKES & PONDS HABITAT ACTION PLAN

AIMS

- To maintain and, where necessary, enhance the biodiversity value of ponds and lakes in the dales of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority.
- To restore or replace ponds and oxbows that have been lost or damaged.

OBJECTIVES

To achieve these aims we need to:

- determine the current biodiversity value of lakes and ponds in the dales of the Yorkshire Dales National Park;
- maintain and enhance, where necessary, the nutrient status of lakes and ponds in the Yorkshire Dales National Park;
- maintain water quality other than nutrient status by preventing pollution incidents;
- maintain water levels and natural flow patterns within and around existing dales lakes and ponds;
- ensure that adjacent land-use does not adversely affect the biodiversity status of dales lakes and ponds;
- maintain fish populations at sustainable population levels, and;
- restore or create backwaters, oxbows and ponds where these have been lost or damaged through development, river engineering works, agricultural management or silting up.

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 dales lakes and ponds in the dales of the Yorkshire Dales National Park.	2003	10,000
Prevent slurry and untreated sewage effluent from entering dales lakes and ponds.	ongoing	3,000
Reduce fertiliser run-off by encouraging limits on use through management grant schemes.	ongoing	30,000
Reduce nutrient enrichment from animal faeces by agreeing watering sites and bank side protection within management grant schemes.	2005	15,000
Establish and maintain buffer strips through advice and management grant schemes	2010	60,000
Prevent toxic incidents from sheep dip, spoil tips or bracken spraying.	2010	3,000
Encourage good practice in the disposal of sheep dips including the provision of mobile facilities and dip collection schemes.	2010	60,000
Develop and implement catchment-wide water abstraction management plans	2005	See Rivers & Streams
Encourage the maintenance of more natural flow patterns on agricultural land within the catchments of dales lakes and ponds through management grant schemes.	ongoing	30,000
Ensure that development on land adjacent to dales lakes and ponds does not have an adverse effect on flow patterns and biodiversity	ongoing	3,000
Ensure that some ponds remain fishless to conserve invertebrate and amphibian diversity	ongoing	0
Encourage landowners and managers to restore or create 10 new ponds through advice and management grant schemes.	2010	30,000
Consider, where appropriate, the management of existing or newly created ponds as local nature reserves	2003	0

WHO WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ACTION PLAN?

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