

RIVERS AND STREAMS HABITAT ACTION PLAN

AIMS

- To maintain and enhance, where necessary, the biodiversity value of Yorkshire Dales rivers and streams.
- To restore the biodiversity value of rivers and streams in the Yorkshire Dales National Park where this has been lost.

OBJECTIVES

To achieve these aims we need to:

- determine the current biodiversity value of rivers and streams in the Yorkshire Dales National Park;
- maintain and enhance, where necessary, the nutrient status of rivers and streams in the Yorkshire Dales National Park;
- maintain water quality other than nutrient status within Yorkshire Dales rivers and stream by preventing pollutants from entering the watercourse;
- maintain water levels and natural flow patterns within river catchments in the Yorkshire Dales National Park;
- ensure that adjacent land-use does not adversely affect the nature conservation status of rivers and streams;
- maintain fish populations at sustainable levels, and;
- restore the biodiversity status of riverine and riparian habitats that have been lost or damaged due to river engineering works, agricultural management, development or other inappropriate activities.

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 rivers & streams in the Yorkshire Dales National Park.	2008	30,000
Prevent pollutants from entering rivers & streams.	ongoing	6,000
Reduce fertiliser run-off by encouraging limits on fertiliser use and the establishment and maintenance of buffer strips through advice and management grant schemes.	2010	30,000
Reduce nutrient enrichment from animal faeces by agreeing watering sites and bankside protection within management grant schemes	2010	15,000
Develop and implement catchment-wide abstraction management plans.	2010	3,000
Encourage landowners and managers to maintain natural flow patterns on agricultural land and carry out sustainable land management practices within river catchments through advice management agreements.	2010	30,000
Reduce erosion by fencing against stock and constructing vegetated revetments where necessary. Retain areas of brash and deadwood as habitat for fish, otters and riverside birds.	2010	60,000
Consider the use of fisheries management plans to ensure that fish populations are maintained at appropriate levels.	2010	0
Diversify marginal and riparian habitats by retaining brash, deadwood and overhanging tree cover along riverbanks.	2010	30,000
Restore or create new shoals, islands, backwaters and oxbows where appropriate.	2010	30,000
Carry out in-stream habitat improvement works where necessary.	2010	30,000
Control and remove non-native invasive species of plants, invertebrates and vertebrates.	ongoing	60,000

WHO WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ACTION PLAN?

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