

## UPLAND HEATH HABITAT ACTION PLAN

### AIMS

- To maintain and where necessary, enhance or restore, the biodiversity value of upland heath within the Yorkshire Dales National Park

### OBJECTIVES

To achieve this aim we need to:

- determine the current biodiversity value of upland heath in the Yorkshire Dales National Park;
- promote the conservation management of upland heath habitats, and;
- increase the structural diversity of upland heath by encouraging the growth of native broad-leaved woodland and scrub in gills and on the moorland edge and reducing burning intensity in small areas.

### 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 heath in the Yorkshire Dales National Park.	2005	10,000
Ensure that inappropriate development does not lead to loss or damage of important upland heath habitats.	ongoing	0
Ensure that at least 90 % of upland heath (11433 ha) is in appropriate management through advice and management grant schemes. This will be achieved by reducing stocking rates where necessary and encouraging landowners to maintain a low burning intensity on some areas of heath and leave some areas of heath unburnt ( at least 5 %, 635 ha )	2010	20,000
Encourage, landowners and managers, through the use of advice and management grants, to restore at least 10 % of dry acidic grassland to woodland and scrub, heath and wetland.	2010	100,000
Encourage landowners and managers, through the use of advice and management grants, to control rabbits where they are having a significant negative impact on the biodiversity value of upland heath.	ongoing	30,000
Consider the potential for restoring one or two large blocks of moorland to an essentially unmanaged series of habitats, principally open woodland and scrub in mosaics with heath, bog and wetland.	2003	0

## WHO WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ACTION PLAN?

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