

Nature in the Dales:

2020 vision

The second Biodiversity Action Plan for the
Yorkshire Dales National Park

Limestone Pavement Habitat Action Plan

Yorkshire Dales Biodiversity Forum, 2011
Amended Feb 2015

LIMESTONE PAVEMENT HABITAT ACTION PLAN

DEFINITIONS

Limestone pavements are a scarce and non-renewable resource. They were exposed by the scouring action of ice sheets during the ice age which ended some 10,000 years ago. Since then water action has widened the cracks in the pavements to form a complex pattern of crevices known as *grikes*, between which are massive blocks of worn limestone called *clints*.

The habitat is widely scattered in Britain, on Carboniferous limestone in Wales, Northern England and Northern Ireland, and Durness limestone in Scotland.

Limestone pavements are of both geological and biological importance. The vegetation is rich in vascular plants, bryophytes and lichens, and varies according to geographical location, altitude, rock type and the presence or absence of grazing animals. Limestone pavement vegetation may also contain unusual combinations of plants, with woodland and wood-edge species well-represented in the sheltered grikes. The clints support plants of rocky habitats or are often unvegetated. In the absence of grazing, scrub may develop. In oceanic areas scrub over limestone pavement is important for epiphytes.

STATUS IN YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK 2011

ESTIMATED AREA IN THE YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK IN "GOOD CONDITION"

SSSI (Favourable, Unfavourable-recovering):	97%
Non-SSSI (Condition A):	0%
Total (SSSI Favourable, Unfavourable-recovering, Non-SSSI A):	92%

UK & REGIONAL BIODIVERSITY TARGETS 2011

UK BAP Targets	Priority Actions for YDNP LBAP
Ensure that there is no loss to the extent of limestone pavement in the UK.	Yes
Ensure there is no further deterioration in the quality of geodiversity of limestone pavement by 2010.	Yes
Ensure there is no further deterioration in the quality of biodiversity of limestone pavement by 2010.	Yes
In key locations, where limestone pavement is degraded initiate projects to restore the biodiversity value of the habitat by 2015.	Yes

Regional Biodiversity Targets	Priority Actions for YDNP LBAP
Achieve Condition of 1359ha by 2015 (requiring 1262.17ha additional gain).	Yes
Restoration: two sites.	Yes

**NATURE IN THE DALES: 2020 VISION
OBJECTIVES, ACTIONS, TARGETS & MILESTONES**

Objective

- LP1:** To have 95% of Limestone Pavement in “Good Condition” (Favourable, Unfavourable-recovering in SSSI, A outside SSSI) by 2020.
- LP2:** To move 25% of SSSI Limestone Pavement in Unfavourable-Recovering Condition to Favourable Condition by 2020.
- LP3:** To restore two sites as part of the Ingleborough Dales Landscape Partnership (subject to successful funding bid) by 2020.

Actions & Targets

Actions	Target (% of total target)	Main Delivery Mechanism	Lead Organisation	Indicator
LP1.1: Maintain existing area of SSSI Limestone pavement in “Good Condition”.	97%	Agri-environment schemes	Natural England	Area of habitat in “Good Condition”
LP1.2: To enhance degraded non-SSSI Limestone Pavement to “Good Condition”.	3%			
LP2.1: To move 25% of SSSI Limestone Pavement in Unfavourable-Recovering Condition to Favourable Condition by 2020.	25%			
LP3.1: Restore two sites as part of the Ingleborough Dales Landscape Partnership (subject to successful funding bid) by 2020.	2 sites	IDLP	Natural England	

Milestones

Actions	Target	When?
LP1.1: Maintain existing area of SSSI Limestone pavement in “Good Condition”.	97%	Ongoing
LP1.2: To enhance degraded non-SSSI Limestone Pavement to “Good Condition”.	2%	2016
	3%	2020
LP2.1: To move 25% of SSSI Limestone Pavement in Unfavourable-Recovering Condition to Favourable Condition by 2020.	12%	2016
	25%	2020
LP3.1: To restore two sites as part of the Ingleborough Dales Landscape Partnership (subject to successful funding bid) by 2020.	Report	2020

Nature in the Dales: 2020 Vision

Nature in the Dales: 2020 Vision was written and co-ordinated by Tim Thom, Ian Court, Frances Graham & Hannah Fawcett of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority in 2011, following consultation. The production of the plan was steered, advised and supported by the Yorkshire Dales Biodiversity Forum who will be responsible for ensuring that the actions and targets in *Nature in the Dales: 2020 Vision* are achieved. Minor revisions made Feb 2015.

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