

Nature in the Dales:

# 2020 vision

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The second Biodiversity Action Plan for the  
Yorkshire Dales National Park

## **Mammal Species Action Plans**

Yorkshire Dales Biodiversity Forum, 2011  
Amended Feb 2015

**MAMMAL SPECIES ACTION PLANS**

**DORMOUSE *Muscardinus avellanarius* SPECIES ACTION PLAN**

**TRENDS & STATUS 2011**

Population in Britain	40,000 (UK mammal trust 2004 estimate)
Population in the YDNP	Re-introduction scheme at Freeholders Wood in 2008
Conservation Status in UK	Lower Risk-near threatened by the IUCN Red List and Vulnerable in the UK
Conservation Status in Europe	Listed under Appendix III of the Berne Convention and Annex IV of the European Habitats and Species Directive
Current national population trend	Decline
Current YDNP trend	Increase

**UK BIODIVERSITY TARGETS 2011**

<b>UK BAP Targets</b>	<b>Priority Actions for YDNP LBAP</b>
Habitat management and fragmentation issues. Encourage appropriate habitat management (of woodlands and of hedgerow connectivity) including protecting, maintaining and enhancing current habitat by planting and retaining woodland edge, dense shrubbery and overgrown clearings. Offer advice and good practice information on a) habitat management, b) on relevant grants schemes (e.g. Woodland Grants Scheme, ELS/HLF/Tir Gofal), and c) on relevant legislation, current & new. Promote better consideration by Highways Agency and Local planning authorities when considering development or roads proposals to ensure fragmentation of populations does not occur.	Yes
Carry out one reintroduction a year in either a county with no known natural populations, which are adjacent to counties within the core range and are within the known historical range of the dormouse, a county with isolated populations, which require strengthening or with a county with scattered populations, where some gaps may exist (subject to suitable sites being identified and suitable captive bred dormouse availability).	No
Maintain and enhance the National Dormouse Monitoring Programme, ensuring that the data collected are representative of a range of sites in England and Wales and that there is sufficient data collected to produce population trends for each country.	Yes
Related to priority action 1 - encourage appropriate habitat management in priority BAP habitats, but note that dormice are found in a wider range of habitats and thus action should not be restricted to these BAP habitats.	No
Related to priority action 1 - increase the extent of suitably managed woodland and connective hedgerows by encouraging appropriate habitat management in priority BAP habitats, but note that dormice are found in a wider range of habitats and thus action should not be restricted to these BAP habitats.	Yes

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

**Objectives**

**DM1:** To increase the size and extent of the reintroduced population of dormice at Freeholders Wood by end of 2020.

**Actions & Targets**

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Main Delivery Mechanism</b>	<b>Lead Organisation</b>	<b>Indicator</b>
<b>DM1.1:</b> Continue with National Dormouse monitoring Programme at Freeholders Wood.	Freeholders Wood NDMP	YDNPA	% of LBAP species that are stable or increasing

**Milestones**

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>When?</b>
<b>DM1.1:</b> Continue with National Dormouse monitoring Programme at Freeholders Wood.	Stable or Increasing	Annual

**BAT SPECIES ACTION PLANS**

**TRENDS & STATUS 2011**

**NOCTULE *Nyctalus noctula***

Population in Britain	Uncommon
Population in the YDNP	Unknown
Conservation Status in UK	Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) as amended, and by the Conservation (Natural Habitats etc) Regulations (1994)
Conservation Status in Europe	Appendix II of the Convention of Migratory Species
Current national population trend	Possible increase
Current YDNP trend	Unknown

**SOPRANO PIPISTRELLE *Pipistrellus pygmaeus***

Population in Britain	Unknown
Population in the YDNP	Unknown
Conservation Status in UK	Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) as amended, and by the Conservation (Natural Habitats etc) Regulations (1994)
Conservation Status in Europe	Appendix II of the Convention of Migratory Species
Current national population trend	Stable
Current YDNP trend	Unknown

**BROWN LONG-EARED BAT *Plecotus auritus***

Population in Britain	Unknown
Population in the YDNP	Unknown
Conservation Status in UK	Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) as amended, and by the Conservation (Natural Habitats etc) Regulations (1994)
Conservation Status in Europe	Appendix II of the Convention of Migratory Species
Current national population trend	Stable
Current YDNP trend	Unknown

**UK BIODIVERSITY TARGETS 2011**

UK BAP Targets	Priority Actions for YDNP LBAP
<b>LAND USE POLICY:</b>	
<b>NOCTULE, SOPRANO PIPISTRELLE, BROWN LONG-EARED BAT:</b> Ensure the needs of the Noctule bat are considered in agri-environment, water quality, tree protection (including health and safety considerations), woodland, & wetland creation and wind farm policy.	No
<b>NOCTULE, BROWN LONG-EARED BAT:</b> Ensure the retention and protection of older trees for noctule roosts is included in land-use polices (especially woodland and planning).	No
<b>NOCTULE:</b> Take action to increase insect biodiversity in a variety of habitats benefiting this aerial hawking, fast flying species. Improved water quality and wetland creation should also enhance foraging resources.	Yes Covered by HAPs

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UK BAP Targets <i>(Continued)</i>	Priority Actions for YDNP LBAP
<b>NOCTULE:</b> Consider the impact of a potential range shift of noctule due to climate change in relevant policy.	No
<b>SOPRANO PIPISTRELLE:</b> Consider the potential for climate change effects to bats in policy making. For example the drying up of wetland habitats may be a problem for this species in the future as it is closely linked with riparian habitats.	No
<b>NOCTULE:</b> The requirements of H&S policy in relation to mature trees in many areas (e.g. parks/roads/paths etc) can impact noctule roosts. Collaborative working between bat workers, H&S inspectors and arboriculturalists is required to avoid this conflict.	Yes
<b>NOCTULE:</b> Consider impact of this high flying species in policy relating to wind turbine developments (European evidence exists of wind turbine fatalities of this species).	No
<b>ROOST PROTECTION, ADVICE AND MONITORING:</b>	
<b>NOCTULE:</b> Proactive protection of all roosts (trees and buildings) is needed including accurate recording on local and national recording schemes and local authority tree records so they are flagged up during planning searches/tree safety routines.	Yes
<b>NOCTULE:</b> Mitigation for loss of tree (and other) roosts needs to be effective to maintain populations.	Yes
<b>NOCTULE:</b> Survey should also be conducted before tree-felling, to look for roosts and potential roosts. Locating noctule roosts in trees can be difficult (depending on the size) and should be supported by training and guidance.	Yes
<b>NOCTULE:</b> Ensure provision of appropriate advice (via the volunteer network and education as well as the private consultancy sector) in relation to proposed tree work, felling and associated mitigation.	Yes
<b>NOCTULE:</b> Continue and enhance existing monitoring scheme (via the National Bat Monitoring Programme (NBMP)) in the long term to provide robust population trends. Baseline survey information has been recently aided by the newly developed car survey. (This is coordinated nationally by BCT but surveys are conducted locally by NBMP volunteers. It requires ongoing investment in national coordination, regional training and local volunteer engagement). Contrasting trends in different regions of UK need further exploration, and investment in increasing site network to provide finer resolution trends.	Yes
<b>NOCTULE:</b> Locating and recording roosts (usually in trees) can be more difficult and would need to be undertaken at a local level through local bat groups/LBAP partnerships/local records centres.	Yes
<b>SOPRANO PIPISTRELLE:</b> Ensure appropriate action is taken to protect roosts via implementing legislation and policy. This should include surveys to identify new roosts and the provision of appropriate advice in relation to proposed work and development (via the volunteer network, education initiatives as well as the private consultancy sector). Appropriate and proportionate mitigation must be implemented where required with subsequent monitoring of compliance and effectiveness.	Yes
<b>SOPRANO PIPISTRELLE:</b> The provision of on-going free advice is essential as this species often roosts in houses (in close proximity to people) and can form the largest colonies in buildings of all UK species. This can create problems of noise, smell etc. Hence appropriate advice and support are required to find solutions to help roost owners coexist happily with their bats.	Yes
<b>SOPRANO PIPISTRELLE:</b> Continue to monitor populations of soprano pipistrelle via the field survey and colony count survey of the National Bat Monitoring Programme (NBMP) (this requires on-going national co-ordination, regional training and local volunteer engagement).	Yes
<b>BROWN LONG-EARED BAT:</b> Improve mitigation in barns and lofts for BLE. Develop specific designs for BLE (distinct from other species) that have been found to be successful, (i.e. consider the need to incorporate adequate roof space; use of correct roofing materials to retain desired thermal characteristics).	No
<b>BROWN LONG-EARED BAT:</b> Ensure improvements in planning policy in relation to bat roosts in buildings, particularly for BLE bats. Early identification of actual or potential roosts that could be impacted by development is essential. (Particular consideration should be given to buildings with large roof voids often in rural areas close to woodland).	Yes

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<b>UK BAP Targets</b> <i>(Continued)</i>	<b>Priority Actions for YDNP LBAP</b>
<b>BROWN LONG-EARED BAT:</b> Reduce levels of exclusions/roost destruction (i.e. via barn conversions, loft conversions and demolition for redevelopment) through tighter planning controls, legal enforcement. Ensure building regulations consider impacts to bats that roost in buildings including the brown-long-eared bat.	Yes
<b>RESEARCH:</b>	
<b>NOCTULE:</b> There has been some research into this species (including a recent study on how habitat use varies with reproductive status). However more information is required on this species particularly to understand other conservation actions needed.	No
<b>NOCTULE:</b> It is unclear which priority habitats this species definitively requires (noctules are known to use numerous habitats for foraging, see comments section).	No
<b>NOCTULE:</b> Research into the affects of climate change and roost availability on range change.	No
<b>NOCTULE:</b> A greater understanding of the types of roosts used is needed (what species, ages of trees, number of roosts required by colony, what buildings, and how often, throughout the year).	No
<b>NOCTULE:</b> Survey for new roosts is required throughout its range to better understand the distribution of this species (particularly in Scotland).	No
<b>SOPRANO PIPISTRELLE:</b> Research is required to understand the effectiveness of mitigation proposed and on specific management recommendations. Research should also aim to provide habitat groups with suggestions for targets to increase extent and quality of habitat for soprano pipistrelles, which could contribute to future success criteria for the species.	No
<b>SOPRANO PIPISTRELLE:</b> Research on the potential impact of wind farm developments on bats. There are mortality records of this species under micro-generation turbines in the UK and there is also a single incident of a pipistrelle (probably soprano pipistrelle) fatality at a wind turbine in Scotland. Research abroad suggests quantification of mortality effects should receive greater attention in the UK. (Some research has recently taken place into the ecological differences between this species and common pipistrelle regarding roost and foraging habitat preferences, see comments section).	No
<b>BROWN LONG-EARED BAT:</b> Impacts of light pollution on BLEs.	No
<b>BROWN LONG-EARED BAT:</b> Effectiveness of different conservation management on BLEs.	No
<b>BROWN LONG-EARED BAT:</b> Fine level understanding of habitat use allowing more accurate designation of priority habitats and better guidance for land managers on required habitat structure/features.	No
<b>HABITAT BASED ACTION – CREATION:</b>	
<b>NOCTULE:</b> Habitat improvement should focus on woodland and lowland agriculture habitats at the landscape level.	No
<b>NOCTULE:</b> Increasing the quality of existing habitats (e.g. insect-rich wetlands) will probably aid noctules but it is of note that they are mosaic species (see comments section).	No
<b>NOCTULE:</b> Recent research by Mackey & Racey 2007 recommends farming practices promoting insect diversity should be encouraged by reduction of practices that reduce the number and diversity of insects (e.g. reseeded, applying fertilisers, hedge removal and use of systemic endectocides).	No
<b>SOPRANO PIPISTRELLE:</b> Promote the creation, expansion and improvement of key habitats including wetland and features such as hedgerows and woodland edges.	Yes covered by HAPS
<b>ALL SPECIES:</b> Increase habitat connectivity between roosts and foraging areas by reducing habitat fragmentation (especially of woodlands, tree lines and high hedgerows).	Yes Covered by HAPS

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<b>UK BAP Targets</b> <i>(Continued)</i>	<b>Priority Actions for YDNP LBAP</b>
<b>DESIGNATION:</b>	
<b>NOCTULE</b> Consider designating areas of woodland that encompass several tree roosts used by a colony (a method used for other species including barbastelle). Identification of good foraging areas could be subject to specific action for improvement for this species.	No
<b>SOPRANO PIPISTRELLE</b> The biggest roosts could be notified and protected, however this is a widespread species requiring conservation planning at the landscape scale as well as at roosts.	No
<b>SOPRANO PIPISTRELLE, BROWN LONG-EARED BAT:</b> Consider designating the larger roosts as SSSIs.	No
<b>HABITAT MANAGEMENT:</b>	
<b>NOCTULE:</b> Improved management of urban, suburban, rural, riverine and woodland landscapes for insect production and roost protection.	Yes covered by HAPs
<b>SOPRANO PIPISTRELLE:</b> All habitat-based action should ensure maximal foraging opportunities (e.g. species rich hedgerows and diverse wetlands).	Yes covered by HAPS
<b>SOPRANO PIPISTRELLE:</b> Ensure adequate consideration of a landscape approach to the conservation of soprano pipistrelle. The species utilises more habitats than those listed (see comments section above) and delivery through habitats alone will not deliver the entirety of conservation required for the soprano pipistrelle.	Yes covered by HAPS
<b>BROWN LONG-EARED BAT:</b> Protection of critical resources at the landscape level through the protection of all types of roosts and important foraging and commuting routes. This requires provision of appropriate landscape features, which encompass habitats which are not UK priority habitats but are important for connectivity and foraging resources.	Yes covered by HAPS
<b>MONITORING:</b>	
<b>SOPRANO PIPISTRELLE, BROWN LONG-EARED BAT:</b> Continue to monitor populations of soprano pipistrelle via the field survey and colony count survey of the National Bat Monitoring Programme (NBMP) (increased investment in volunteer recruitment and retention is required to be able to verify all roosts to species, ensure repeat surveys are conducted and increase sample sizes that would enable country and regional level trend reporting).	Yes
<b>BROWN LONG-EARED BAT:</b> Promote the survey and recording of BLE roosts by local bat groups/LBAPs/local records centres/consultants and appropriate sharing of information (these roosts could then be recruited into the NBMP colony count/hibernation survey as appropriate).	Yes
<b>BROWN LONG-EARED BAT:</b> All records of bat roosts should be recorded on local and national databases, so they can be retrieved during planning searches and given early consideration (this should include records from all surveys including bat groups, NBMP and consultant surveys).	Yes

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

**Objectives**

**BAT1.1:** To continue protection of roost sites through Development Control consultation.

**BAT1.2:** To maintain the area of suitable habitat for Soprano Pipistrelles and Noctule.

**Actions & Targets**

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Main Delivery Mechanism</b>	<b>Lead Organisation</b>	<b>Indicator</b>
<b>BAT1.1:</b> Protection of known roosts.	Development Control consultation	YDNPA	None
<b>BAT1.2:</b> To maintain the area of suitable habitat for Soprano Pipistrelles and Noctule.	Habitat suitability model	Biodiversity Forum	

**Milestones**

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>When?</b>
<b>BAT1.1:</b> Continued protection of known roosts.	No roost loss	Ongoing
<b>BAT1.2:</b> To maintain the area of suitable habitat for Soprano Pipistrelles and Noctule.	Report.	2020

**RED SQUIRREL *Sciurus vulgaris* SPECIES ACTION PLAN**

**TRENDS & STATUS 2011**

Population in Britain	Last population estimate 161,000 in GB with approximately 30,000 in England
Population in the YDNP	Present in at least 87 1km squares 2000-2006
Conservation Status in UK	Vulnerable
Conservation Status in Europe	Not threatened
Current national population trend	Unknown
Current YDNP trend	Stable

**UK BIODIVERSITY TARGETS 2011**

UK BAP Targets	Priority Actions for YDNP LBAP
Prepare and implement site management plans for key sites (squirrel reserves, priority sites and strongholds), covering the whole range of site based measure, to safeguard long-term viability of the species.	Yes
Improve understanding of the transmission and mode of action of SQPV and develop ways of reducing its impact on red squirrel populations.	No
Develop a suite of best practice survey and monitoring methods and use these to determine the status and trends in red (and grey) squirrel populations throughout the UK.	Yes

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

**Objective**

**RS1.1:** To maintain the population of red squirrel by end of 2020.

**Actions & Targets**

Actions	Main Delivery Mechanism	Lead Organisation	Indicator
<b>RS1.1:</b> Maintain the population of red squirrel.	Implement Red Squirrel Reserve Strategy at three reserves in YDNP	YDNPA	% of LBAP species that are stable or increasing

**Milestones**

Actions	Target	When?
<b>RS1.1:</b> Maintain the population of red squirrel.	Annual report	2020

**OTHER MAMMAL SPECIES ACTION PLANS**

**TRENDS & STATUS 2011**

**WEST EUROPEAN HEDGEHOG *Erinaceus europaeus***

Population in Britain	Unknown
Population in the YDNP	Unknown
Conservation Status in UK	Least Concern (IUCN 3.1)
Conservation Status in Europe	Least Concern (IUCN 3.1)
Current national population trend	Probable decline
Current YDNP trend	Probable decline

**BROWN HARE *Lepus europaeus***

Population in Britain	Between 817,500 and 1,250,000 (UKBAP)
Population in the YDNP	Unknown
Conservation Status in UK	Least Concern (IUCN 3.1)
Conservation Status in Europe	Least Concern (IUCN 3.1)
Current national population trend	Probable decline
Current YDNP trend	Probable decline

**OTTER *Lutra lutra***

Population in Britain	12,900 (2005) Mammal Society
Population in the YDNP	Present on all river catchments
Conservation Status in UK	Near Threatened (IUCN 3.1)
Conservation Status in Europe	Near Threatened (IUCN 3.1)
Current national population trend	Increase
Current YDNP trend	Stable or increasing

**UK BIODIVERSITY TARGETS 2011**

<b>UK BAP Targets</b>	<b>Priority Actions for YDNP LBAP</b>
<b>WEST EUROPEAN HEDGEHOG:</b> Carry out national surveys to determine where hedgehogs still occur, especially in expanding urban areas. Repeat and expand monitoring studies regularly (including: PTES` Mammals on Roads, HogWatch & Living with Mammals surveys, BTO/JNCC/RSPB`s Breeding Birds Survey (BBS) & Waterways BBS, BTO Garden BirdWatch & the NGWT National Gamebag Census) to confirm suspected decline and determine if decline is varying in different geographical areas.	Yes
<b>WEST EUROPEAN HEDGEHOG:</b> Carry out studies of habitat use and differential population densities to see which habitats are most and least suitable to sustain hedgehog populations to ensure conservation efforts are focussed in best areas.	No

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<b>UK BAP Targets</b> <i>(Continued)</i>	<b>Priority Actions for YDNP LBAP</b>
<b>WEST EUROPEAN HEDGEHOG:</b> Encourage a) conservation of hedgerow systems and wooded areas near arable fields etc; b) extensive (i.e. non-intensive) farming practices; c) smaller field sizes; d) greater field margins; and e) stop and reverse fragmentation of farmland. Raise awareness of and urge people to consider the need for providing hibernacula in otherwise "tidy" garden habitats and encourage better management of urban sites.	No
<b>WEST EUROPEAN HEDGEHOG:</b> Investigate the effect on populations of incidental take by gamekeepers (several thousand per year). If necessary, improve legal protection. Clarify and publicise legal obligations facing trappers likely to kill or injure hedgehogs in traps set for other species.	No
<b>WEST EUROPEAN HEDGEHOG:</b> Carry out a study of population genetics to discover to what extent population fragmentation is occurring, with a sub-section of the project (marking, radio tracking) determining the extent to which roads act as dispersal barriers.	No
<b>BROWN HARE:</b> Encourage appropriate habitat management in pastoral and arable areas (e.g. field margins, beetle banks, over winter stubble, ungrazed waterside and hedge strips, hay meadows and late mowing) through uptake of Entry and Higher Level agri-environment schemes.	Yes – covered by HAPs
<b>BROWN HARE:</b> Enhancement of effort in surveillance schemes to ensure population trends can be determined, particularly at the regional level.	Yes
<b>BROWN HARE:</b> CAP reform to ensure adequate conservation measures available to benefit brown hare.	No
<b>OTTER:</b> Continue to work towards meeting water quality objectives on all rivers across the UK so they can support healthy fish stocks. Ensure that riparian habitat has sufficient bankside vegetation and undisturbed terrestrial cover to provide resting and breeding sites for otters. Continue to monitor otter recolonisation across the UK in periodic national surveys, augmented with annual surveillance where possible.	No  Covered by HAPs Yes
<b>OTTER:</b> Ensure the otter continues to receive strong legal protection and advice is given about appropriate fishing methods that will not cause otter mortality. The species needs strong protection because of potential conflicts with still water fisheries interests as numbers and distribution of otters continue to increase. Advice on preventing otter access to sensitive stillwater fisheries and fish farms is also required.	No
<b>OTTER:</b> Maintain surveillance of otter health and impacts of toxic chemicals through a programme of post-mortem and tissue analysis work. Toxic bio-accumulating chemicals caused the original crash and it is imperative that this top predator is closely monitored to assess the risk from a new range of persistent chemicals.	No
<b>OTTER:</b> Develop methods for assessing the abundance of otters as well as monitoring distribution - further work is required to refine techniques using DNA fingerprinting and/or scent analysis.	No

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

**Objective**

**OM1.1:** To identify and where appropriate, appropriate national surveys applicable in the YDNP by 2016

**Actions & Targets**

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Main Delivery Mechanism</b>	<b>Lead Organisation</b>	<b>Indicator</b>
<b>OM1.1:</b> Identify and promote appropriate surveys in the YDNP.	Review	Yorkshire Mammal Group	None

**Milestones**

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>When?</b>
<b>OM1.1:</b> Identify and promote appropriate surveys in the YDNP.	Report	2016

*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.

**The Yorkshire Dales Biodiversity Forum wishes to acknowledge the financial support from the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority in the production of *Nature in the Dales: 2020 Vision*.**

For citation purposes please use the following format:  
Yorkshire Dales Biodiversity Forum, 2011. *Nature in the Dales: 2020 Vision*, Local Biodiversity Action Plan.

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