

Nature in the Dales:

# 2020 vision

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The second Biodiversity Action Plan for the  
Yorkshire Dales National Park

## **Upland Calcareous Grassland Habitat Action Plan**

Yorkshire Dales Biodiversity Forum, 2011  
Amended Feb 2015

**UPLAND CALCAREOUS GRASSLAND HABITAT ACTION PLAN**

**DEFINITIONS**

Upland calcareous grasslands occur on lime-rich soils situated above the upper limit of agricultural enclosure, both in the sub-montane and montane zones. Most examples occur above 250-300m but the habitat is also found within unenclosed moorland at lower elevations and descends to sea level in north-west Scotland. Upland calcareous grasslands typically occur as components of habitat mosaics, which are generally managed as rough grazing land for domestic livestock. These are relatively rare upland vegetation types which support a wide range of uncommon species.

This habitat comprises various forms of grassland characterised by the prominence of calcicolous ('calcium-loving') grasses and herbs. Six communities defined in the National Vegetation Classification are represented (CG9 to CG14). These include upland forms of *Sesleria albicans* swards (CG9), *Festuca ovina* - *Agrostis capillaris* swards (CG10, CG11 and CG12), and *Dryas octopetala* communities (CG13 and CG14). This habitat also includes examples of CG1, CG2 that clearly occur in an upland setting (i.e. above the level of agricultural enclosure).

**STATUS IN YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK 2011**

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

SSSI (Favourable, Unfavourable-recovering):	94%
Non-SSSI (Condition A):	62%
Total (SSSI Favourable, Unfavourable-recovering; Non-SSSI A):	80%

**UK & REGIONAL BIODIVERSITY TARGETS 2011**

<b>UK BAP Targets</b>	<b>Priority Actions for YDNP LBAP</b>
A total of 13,000 ha of upland calcareous grassland within A/SSSIs, in the UK, to be in favourable or unfavourable recovering condition by 2015.	Yes
Achieve a measurable increase in the extent of upland calcareous grassland outside A/SSSIs in favourable or unfavourable recovering condition by 2015.	Yes

  

<b>Regional Biodiversity Targets</b>	<b>Priority Actions for YDNP LBAP</b>
Achieve Condition of 5602ha of SSSI by 2015 (requiring 4515.51ha additional gain)	Yes
Non-SSSI – area not yet specified.	Yes

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

**Objective**

- UC1:** To have 95% of Upland Calcareous Grassland in “Good Condition” (Favourable, Unfavourable-recovering in SSSI, A outside SSSI) by 2020.
- UC2:** To move 25% of SSSI Upland Calcareous Grassland in Unfavourable-Recovering Condition to Favourable Condition by 2020.

**Actions & Targets**

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Target (% of total target)</b>	<b>Main Delivery Mechanism</b>	<b>Lead Organisation</b>	<b>Indicator</b>
<b>UC1.1:</b> Maintain existing area of SSSI Upland Calcareous Grassland in “Good Condition”.	94%	Agri-environment schemes	Natural England	Area of habitat in “Good Condition”
<b>UC1.2:</b> Maintain existing area of non-SSSI Upland Calcareous Grassland in “Good Condition”.	62%			
<b>UC1.3:</b> To enhance degraded SSSI Upland Calcareous Grassland to “Good Condition”.	6%			
<b>UC1.4:</b> To enhance degraded non-SSSI Upland Calcareous Grassland to “Good Condition”.	10%			
<b>UC2.1:</b> To move 25% of SSSI Upland Calcareous Grassland in Unfavourable-Recovering Condition to Favourable Condition by 2020.	25%			

**Milestones**

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>When?</b>
<b>UC1.1:</b> Maintain existing area of SSSI Upland Calcareous Grassland in “Good Condition”.	94%	Ongoing
<b>UC1.2:</b> Maintain existing area of non-SSSI Upland Calcareous Grassland in “Good Condition”.	62%	Ongoing
<b>UC1.3:</b> To enhance degraded SSSI Upland Calcareous Grassland to “Good Condition”.	3%	2016
	6%	2020
<b>UC1.4:</b> To enhance degraded non-SSSI Upland Calcareous Grassland to “Good Condition”.	5%	2016
	10%	2020
<b>UC2.1:</b> To move 25 % of SSSI Upland Calcareous Grassland in Unfavourable-Recovering Condition to Favourable Condition by 2020.	12%	2016
	25%	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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For citation purposes please use the following format:

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