



**YORKSHIRE DALES**  
National Park Authority

**Executive Summary - The state of Local Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitats & species in the Yorkshire Dales National Park in 2010.**

The Trends and Status Report covering the *Nature in the Dales - a Local Biodiversity Action Plan for the Yorkshire Dales National Park* presents a mixed picture of the condition of the priority habitats and species populations.

For Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI's) major progress has been made in bringing sites into positive management through agri-environment schemes such as Environmentally Sensitive Area, Countryside Stewardship and the more recent Environmental Stewardship. These schemes are the main factor in explaining the large number of sites in Unfavourable-recovering condition. This effort now needs to be consolidated to ensure that these sites continue their recovery to Favourable condition.

Outside the SSSI series, however, habitats do not appear to have fared so well and a targeted effort is needed to restore these if we do not want to be in a situation where SSSI's are left as "islands" surrounded by poor quality habitat. It may well be that this effort is already underway through the continued implementation of agri-environment schemes. Analysis is needed to determine how much of this wider countryside habitat is under positive management.

Targeted species conservation action has largely been successful with only a handful of the most difficult species still in decline. However, the UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species list has been reviewed and the number of species requiring concerted conservation effort has increased dramatically. Many of these species occur in the Yorkshire Dales National Park and represent a greater conservation challenge over the next 10 years.

In conclusion, the implementation of *Nature in the Dales - a Local Biodiversity Action Plan for the Yorkshire Dales National Park* from 2000 to 2010 has been largely beneficial to the conservation of biodiversity in the Yorkshire Dales National Park. However, more needs to be done to consolidate the work undertaken over the last 10 years and the expanded list of priority species provides a significant conservation challenge for the next 10 years.