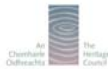


# Priorities to 2005



Encouraging landowners into the new Higher Level Environmental Stewardship Scheme. The new agri-environment package in England will provide opportunities to secure beneficial management of pavements.



An action plan for pavement conservation in Wales, including better legal protection for the most important areas through Limestone Pavement Orders.

Producing more leaflets about areas of limestone pavement which are accessible to the general public. By encouraging visitors and through interpretation, public awareness of the importance of limestone pavement will be raised.



Achieving closer working with the authorities in Ireland to discourage exploitation of Irish limestone pavement to supply water-worn limestone for sale in the UK.

Maintaining and adding to the information held on the Limestone Pavement Action Group's website as the central resource for all things related to limestone pavements.



Carrying out a survey of garden centres to establish which ones are still selling limestone pavement, and seeking agreements with retailers to cease trading in water-worn limestone.

Holding an event in 2005 to mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Limestone Pavement Action Group and promoting achievements in delivering the targets in the Habitat Action Plan.



## The Limestone Pavement Habitat Action Plan at Exchange Fair—Delivering England's Biodiversity 2 & 3 March 2004



**This leaflet contains information about the issues raised in the Limestone Pavement Habitat Action Plan, objectives achieved and priorities to 2005 for limestone pavements**

### For more information:

See Kate Willshaw or Richard Lloyd on the stand at the Exchange Fair  
Visit the website at [www.limestone-pavements.org.uk](http://www.limestone-pavements.org.uk)  
Contact the Limestone Pavement Action Group  
c/o Cumbria Wildlife Trust  
Crook Road, Kendal, LA8 8LX





# Limestone pavement - Issues



The most important issue is securing appropriate levels of grazing.

Inappropriate grazing is a particular problem on open limestone pavement sites, where high densities of stock can deplete the characteristic flora. Problems may be exacerbated by excessive rabbit numbers.



In-filling of grikes to remove a perceived threat of injury to grazing animals is a problem in some areas leading to a loss of biodiversity.

The cessation of management on wooded pavement, leading to a reduction in grike flora diversity, is a feature of many wooded limestone pavements.



Whilst much reduced, illegal removal of stone for garden rockeries and landscaping schemes is still a problem. Enforcement of the current legislation is difficult, as an offender needs to be "caught in the act" to be prosecuted.

Garden centres continue to sell 'water-worn limestone'; relative lack of public awareness of its ecological importance perpetuates the demand.



Demand for water-worn limestone is increasingly being met by imports from Ireland, as protection of pavement areas in the UK has become more effective.

The issue of trade in water-worn limestone needs to be addressed - where it comes from, who supplies it and where it is going. International cooperation to ensure pavement conservation needs to be encouraged.

The public needs to be better informed about limestone pavement issues. This needs to be addressed by continuing to publish information about limestone pavements, highlighting the damage caused by the removal of stone for rockeries and landscaping schemes.



# Achievements of the action plan to date



Limestone Pavement Orders have been placed on all significant areas of pavement in England.

Grazing schemes have been put in place through the Limestone Country Project in the Yorkshire Dales and through the LIFE project on Morecambe Bay pavements. These have provided incentives to encourage beneficial grazing, using cattle instead of sheep.

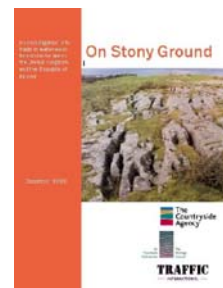
Advice to farmers in Cumbria on pavement management is being provided through Cumbria Farm Link, including assistance with applications to enter the Countryside Stewardship Scheme. This work is funded through the RMC Environment Fund.



Wooded limestone pavement managers in Cumbria are getting advice through Cumbria Woodlands supported by the RMC Environment Fund.

A range of publications have been produced, including a general information booklet (in English and Welsh), a booklet about managing pavements, and a series of leaflets about particular limestone pavements in Cumbria, Lancashire and Yorkshire which are accessible to the public.

Conditions on planning permissions for quarrying limestone have secured protection for several pavement areas.



An investigation into trade in water-worn limestone was carried out by TRAFFIC International in 1999. This found that illegal extraction is still taking place in the UK, but the majority of water-worn limestone now comes from Ireland, where suppliers have noticed a substantial increase in demand. Many suppliers have said that they will continue to extract stone until they are legally prevented from doing so.

Pledges not to use water worn limestone in landscaping schemes have been received from a number of local authorities.



A comprehensive website about limestone pavement and the issues surrounding it has been set up.

[www.limestone-pavements.org.uk](http://www.limestone-pavements.org.uk)

The site is aimed at students, the public, gardeners and those who would like to visit a limestone pavement. The site includes pages about geology and ecology and links to organisations involved in pavement conservation.