Ilkley Moor Management Plan

Summary sheet

The table below details in summary the main issues which are addressed in the updated version of the Ilkley Moor Management Plan:

Section	Summary
Ecosystem Services	Recognises the range of services that the moor provides and which will form the focus of future management: • Biodiversity • Carbon storage • Flood mitigation and water quality • Recreational opportunity • Agriculture (grazing) • Economic (tourism) • Cultural and heritage
Habitat and species management	Sets out the key habitats and species: • Wet and dry upland heath • Blanket bog • Woodland and scrub
Management of upland heath	Describes why upland heath is important for a range of species and why it needs management. Outlines the general approach to management: • Shift away from rotational burning and clarifies preferred option is cutting/flailing where necessary • Retains burning as a management tool on limited occasions (eg. To create fire breaks) and where other habitat (blanket bog) will not be adversely affected
Management of blanket bog	Overall aim is to conserve existing blanket bog and expand area of active blanket bog. This will be achieved by: • Re-wetting areas (blocking drains, slowing the flow etc) • Encouragement and translocation of peat-forming plants (sphagnum mosses) • Avoidance of burning on blanket bog (see above) • Re-vegetate bare peat
Management of bracken	Recognises that there will always be area under bracken on the moor and that this has conservation value for certain species of birds, mammals, reptiles and insects. Identifies areas on the moor/circumstances

	where bracken control will be attempted: • Alongside main walking routes • On edges of bracken beds where it threatens other habitat or where coverage is such that other species could recover following control Outlines the main approaches to control – chemical and mechanical and the limitations of each.
Management of trees, woodland and scrub	Identifies the main area of woodland on or adjacent to the moor and outlines the management plans associated with them. Acknowledges that natural regeneration of trees and scrub, especially on the moor's lower slopes is occurring and that complete control of this is both undesirable and unrealistic. Recognises that increased woodland cover on the moor can contribute to biodiversity. Main effort to control regeneration will focus on upper slopes – to retain the "openness" associated with upland moors, and in areas where the archaeological interest, or key views may be compromised by tree cover.
Natural Flood Management	One of the key sections in the plan is the one which recognises the moor's potential role in flood mitigation and sets out plans to implement "natural flood management" projects on the streams (notably Backstone Beck) which flow from the moor and into the River Wharfe. This will include slowing the flow through installing leaky dams, blocking man-made drainage channels, encouraging surface "roughness" (through less intense vegetation management) and allowing an expansion of tree cover in gullies.
Climate Change	Recognises that this is a process which may result in changes in habitat and species on the moor over time. Outlines the possibility of increased risk of flooding and wildfire as a result – so the Management Plan must aim towards a sustainable moor that can withstand such long-term trends.
Supporting habitat	Recognises the importance of protecting, as far as possible, the habitats which lie adjacent to the moor (eg. in-bye fields), because they provide essential foraging and feeding habitat for the protected bird species which breed on the moor.
Recreation and access	Outlines the patterns and types of recreational activity which take place on the moor – based on

	visitor survey information. Set out the rights of access on the moor and how both formal and informal access is to be managed.
Formal access	This includes a range of pre-planned activity and sets out the management approaches of such: • organised events (eg sponsored walks) • filming • military training • formal facilities management (eg. Car parks, structures, tarn and pond, White Wells, benches and memorials)
Informal access	Sets out approaches to the management of day to day access on the moor and how visitor behaviour may be influenced. Covers issues such as: • trampling and erosion and approaches to path repair • disturbance by dogs • horse riding and mountain biking • information
Archaeology	Recognises the moors importance as a historic landscape and details the range of archaeological and historic interest. Sets out approaches to managing impacts on these features.
Partners and funding	Sets out the key partners with whom the Council will work to manage the moor and some of the key sources of funding which may be available to do so.