

The Demonstration Moors Project (May 01 - Apr 06)

In May 2001, the Trust started a 5 year contract with DEFRA to set up 4 demonstration moorland sites in England & Wales which finished at the end of April 2006. The demonstration moors were at:

- Molland Moor, South Devon
- Gwerclas Mountain, Corwen, North Wales
- Faulds Brow, Caldbeck Common, Cumbria
- Marsden Moor, near Huddersfield, Yorkshire

Management objectives for the Demonstration Moors

- Enhance sustainable dwarf shrub heath communities
- Achieve better all-year grazing
- Maintain and improve bio-diversity
- Maintain and improve the productivity of domestic animals using heathland
- Maintain/create "real" [unsubsidised] jobs in the countryside
- Address cattle/sheep ratios where appropriate
- Demonstrate on a farm scale how to convert *Molinia* and *Nardus* to grass/heath mixtures
- Improve the standards of pest control insofar as they affect moorland vertebrates
- Change the sheep and cattle systems - where appropriate - in order to disadvantage sheep ticks *Ixodes ricinus* and put in hand a revised programme against ticks and tick-borne diseases where possible and appropriate
- Monitor populations of selected vertebrate species - according to site
- Monitor gross vegetation changes by fixed point photography
- Demonstrate accepted best practices of heather burning and cutting
- Address the problem of loss of heath land from outbreaks of heather beetle *Lochmaea suturalis*
- Build up dialogue with stakeholders to facilitate information transfer