

Company: Lafarge

Location: Dark Peak Hay Meadows, Peak District, United Kingdom

Objective Creation and management of a Hay Meadow

Context Hay meadows make an important contribution to the landscape of the Peak District. Hay meadows can support 50 plant species per metre square. The management of the meadow is essential as it takes many years for the various species to inhabit the meadow. This is due to the different growth and development rates of each species in the meadow. The meadow also provides habitats for many different animal species including the brown hare, insects such as the great yellow bumble bee, and birds such as the skylark, curlew, lapwing and twite.

Solution The site has been carefully managed by the National Park Authority, owned and funded by Lafarge.

Result The site is now a Site of Special Scientific Interest indicating it is nationally an regionally recognised as one of the best examples of wildlife habitat.

Dark Peak Hay Meadows is also different to hay meadows found in the White Peak area, the soils being more neutral or acidic. Many species have been found in the meadows including marsh orchids, ragged robin and marsh valerian. Many species found are listed as a UK BAP target species.

Partners National Park Authority

