



North York Moors National Park Education Service
Activities for KS 3 and above

Impacts of Heather Burning on a Moorland Environment

This session includes a fieldwork survey and an indoor presentation.

The fieldwork survey entails students working in small groups to assess vegetation cover in three areas of moorland that have been burnt at different times. Techniques include random sampling, use of point quadrats, plant identification and measurement of plant height, soil depth, soil pH, slope angle and aspect. Back at school results can be collated and statistical tests applied to find out if there are any significant differences in vegetation cover between the three sites.

The presentation (up to an hour) provides an introduction to the North York Moors National Park and covers how humans influenced the development of the moorland environment and how and why it is now being maintained by human activity. We look at why upland areas are important to people, ways in which they are being threatened and examples of how the National Park Authority is working to alleviate these threats and manage this area sustainably.

Duration: about 3 ½ hours plus a lunch break
Max group size: 50
Location: The Moors National Park Centre
Your transport: needed to take students to study site, 10 mins.



Curriculum / Syllabus Links

Specific learning objectives will be discussed and agreed with you on booking.

- **GCSE Science**
Biology - environmental change / distribution of organisms in an environment
- **A and AS level Science**
Biology: measuring biodiversity;
ecosystems - managing the conflict between human needs and conservation
- **Geography:**
understanding how human and physical processes interact to influence and change landscapes

Ideas for Extending Learning around this Activity

- Tables for collating data provided plus optional guidance on using statistical tests to analyse results.
- See '*Investigating Moorland*' and '*The English Uplands as a Natural Resource*' in our resources section. Designed to increase students' understanding of upland environments in the UK, these resources include factsheets and worksheets on biodiversity, sustainability, management, conservation, environmental change, climate change and upland farming.
- Find out more about moorland at: <http://www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/discover/moorland>