

AGRICULTURAL RECLAMATION

- Overgrazing by sheep may destroy the vegetation
- Undergrazing may allow succession through to bracken
- Land is reclaimed for farming and grasslands are improved by seeding
- Draining bog areas reduces wetland habitats
- Application of lime and fertilizer for agriculture improves the soil fertility and alters the ecosystem

BRACKEN ENCROACHMENT

- Bracken may invade if the succession is allowed to continue or if the heather is destroyed
- This would limit the biodiversity, but may produce new habitats for some species

POLLUTION

- Industrial pollution from nearby cities puts SO₂ and NO into the atmosphere
- Acid rain that forms can damage some species such as mosses, leading to a rapid decline in Sphagnum

AFFORESTATION

- Planting of commercial coniferous woodlands
- Reduces plant / animal biodiversity

HEATHLAND / MOORLAND / SCRUBLAND ECOSYSTEM

THREATS

NORTH YORK MOORS

CLIMATE CHANGE

- Global warming makes Moorland fires more common
- Increase in both storms and droughts puts pressure on delicate ecosystems
- New species may invade

RECREATIONAL PRESSURE

- North York Moors National Park encourages tourism
- Walkers / Ramblers / 4x4 / Cyclists and other outdoors sports
- Litter
- Noise
- Negative impact on fauna
- Footpath erosion
- Destroys vegetation and increases erosion
- Stimulates new development such as roads, information centres and education centres

MILITARY USE

- RAF, Fylingdales; RAF station and early warning site
- Army, Catterick; training areas and live firing site at Stainton Moor
- Ecosystem damage

FIRE

- Accidental summer fires set by tourists
- Burning regimes (winter) on grouse moors to inhibit succession and renew heather
- Peat fires may last for years