



**Coarse.
Kempy.
Insulating.**

Wool Characteristics

35µm +
Micron

MOUNTAIN WOOL

Breeds

Blackface
Dalesbred
Rough Fell
South Wales Mountain
Swaledale
Welsh Mountain



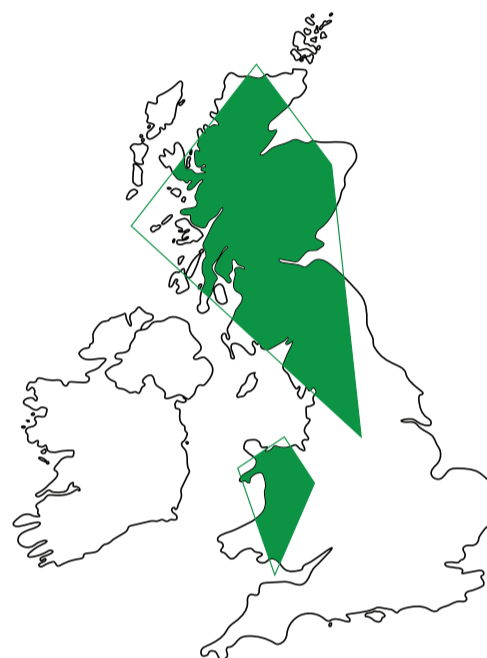
Biodiversity Benefits

Through their grazing, mountain sheep help maintain open moorlands and heathlands by preventing the encroachment of scrub, bracken, and invasive species like gorse, which can otherwise dominate and reduce habitat diversity. This grazing activity supports a range of native plants adapted to harsh upland conditions, including heather, bilberry, and alpine grasses. In turn, these habitats provide nesting and feeding grounds for species such as the red grouse, golden plover, meadow pipit, and ring ouzel. By preserving the structure and openness of these ecosystems, mountain sheep contribute to the survival of rare and specialised flora and fauna, while also helping to maintain peatland edges, which are important for carbon storage and water regulation.

Landscape symbiosis

In the Lake District, the traditional grazing of Herdwick sheep, a hardy regional breed native to the area, has been central to maintaining the region's upland biodiversity and cultural landscape. Following the foot-and-mouth outbreak in 2001, when many flocks were culled, parts of the fells saw reduced grazing pressure. As a result, bracken and scrub quickly encroached and the condition of some species-rich upland habitats quickly declined.

However, the restoration of Herdwick grazing, through agri-environment schemes, helped reverse this trend. The control of these invasive species is also crucial for accessibility as well as lowering the risk of wildfire and ticks- a hazard to both livestock and people.



Landscape & Habitat

These sheep roam harsh, mountainous terrain: Lake District, Scottish Highlands, and Snowdonia.

Sheep's role in Landscape

Prevent land abandonment

Integral to fell management

Represent centuries of local adaptation

