

# ASSISTANT AONB OFFICER'S REPORT

## 3<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER 2007 – 26<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2008

Some of my main duties over the past three months have been:

- **Job Evaluation** – Results for Asst. AONB Officer post confirmed February 2008.
- **Projects** 2007/08 Fund: Delivery of autumn/winter season projects: Husthwaite community areas, walling, hedging, barn owl boxes, SINC grassland (Littledale and Amotherby Lane), etc. Checking and paying grants.
- Updating and maintaining the **Countryside Management Budget**.
- **SDF 2007/08**: Projects supported through the delivery stages include; a mower and mini-baler (Basics Plus), Churchyard Conservation Project (Yorkshire Wildlife Trust), GLOBE Project (BTCV), Compost Bins and Information displays and interpretative material (Castle Howard Arboretum.), Interpretation of Renewable Energy features (Howsham Mill) and a Hedge Laying Course (FWAG).
- **Volunteers**: content for volunteer newsletter, liaison with PRoW and Ranger Service and planning of tasks. Volunteer tasks at Littledale SINC to prepare site for Exmoor Pony Grazing.
- **Welburn Walk Leaflet**: Launch event carried out with Castle Howard, Welburn School and Crown and Cushion Pub. Press coverage achieved in three local papers.
- **Events**: Planning 2008 events programme . Events to include Bat Walks (x2), Ryedale Show and Walk for Nepal. Provisional discussions with Partners re. BAP Fair.
- **Hedge Management Leaflets**: Joint working with Sue Bragg and NYCC to produce a leaflet promoting hedges as habitats and hedgerow guidance notes (planting and managing). Glossy 'value of hedges' leaflet with same partners.
- **Discovery Project**: Planning of 2008 Discovery Project which will include; Pilot twinning project between Welburn School and Longhill School (Hull), two day JRC activity comparing Hovingham and Filey (geology and water-life), launch of YWT Wildlife Watch Group in the AONB (Ampleforth or Husthwaite), 12x Junior Ranger Club Sessions (May in Husthwaite (x4), October in Gilling (x4) and December at Castle Howard Arboretum (x4).
- **Exmoor Pony Project** – newsletter for site owners and other individuals involved with the project, contracting fencing repairs, adapting schedule and supporting delivery of YEPT Trailer (SDF Project).
- Continued liaison with Highways and H&S re. **Road Verge** Management. CHAS Assessment of Road Verge Contractor and planning and contracting of verge cutting project for March 2008.
- **Northern Group AONB Calendar** – distribution.
- **CAN DO** – ongoing input including into AONB components of HLF bid, community grants scheme (development).
- **Management Plan/Parish Plans** – 4x drop-in sessions for communities planned with YRCC (to be carried out May/June 2008).
- Supply of text and information to Sue Wright for **website** (ongoing)
- **Newsletters** etc: Supply of material for Countryside and Volunteer Newsletters.

### MEETINGS

- Nov – 5<sup>th</sup> – Castle Howard – Walk Leaflet
- Nov 7<sup>th</sup> – Sutton Bank – North Yorkshire Grassland Forum
- Nov 8<sup>th</sup> – Hovingham – YWT – HLF Project – Development of 2008 'extras'.
- Nov 9<sup>th</sup> – Swinton – PLB – Final design edits for walk leaflet.
- Nov 15<sup>th</sup> – Hovingham – SDF Steering Group.
- Nov 16<sup>th</sup> – Hutton Le Hole – Cornfield Flowers Project.
- Nov 19<sup>th</sup> – Hovingham – Management Plan Review
- Nov 20<sup>th</sup> – Northallerton (NYCC) – Hedge leaflet progression, NET round-up and Heritage Unit Mtg.
- Nov 27<sup>th</sup> – Hovingham – Appraisal Review
- Nov 29<sup>th</sup> – Helmsley – NYMNPA – SDF Panel
- Dec 4<sup>th</sup> – Northallerton – NYCC – NET round-up and Heritage Unit Meeting.
- Dec 4<sup>th</sup> – Northallerton – HDC – Hambleton BAP Group
- Dec 7<sup>th</sup> – Northallerton – LAA and NYBAG combined meetings
- Dec 11<sup>th</sup> – Helmsley – Verges Project Development
- Dec 13<sup>th</sup> – Hovingham – Core Funders Group
- Dec 14<sup>th</sup> – Helmsley – SDF Steering Group
- Jan 17<sup>th</sup> – Hovingham – SDF Steering Group
- Jan 24<sup>th</sup> – Hovingham – YRCC – Parish Plan/Management Plan Consultation Events
- Jan 25<sup>th</sup> – Helmsley – CANDO small grants fund
- Feb 14<sup>th</sup> – Helmsley – SDF Steering Group
- Feb 19<sup>th</sup> – Hovingham – Natural Environment Team meeting
- March 3<sup>rd</sup> – Northallerton – Heritage Unit Meeting
- March 11<sup>th</sup> – Helmsley – SDF Steering Group

- March 11<sup>th</sup> – Northallerton – Countryside Strategy Consultation/Workshop
- March 13<sup>th</sup> – Hovingham – Core Funders Group
- Monthly – AONB Unit Meetings
- When required – Project Meetings with Paul.

#### FUTURE MEETINGS

- April 3<sup>rd</sup> – JAC
- April 7<sup>th</sup> – Swinton – AONB Partnership Group
- April 10<sup>th</sup> – Northallerton – Hambleton BAP
- April 16<sup>th</sup> – Malton – Ryedale BAP
- April 15<sup>th</sup> – Barlow Common – Nat. Env. Team
- April 16<sup>th</sup> – Malton – Ryedale BAP
- July 18<sup>th</sup> – JAC Projects Tour
- May 21<sup>st</sup> – Sutton Bank – North Yorkshire Grassland Forum
- June 12<sup>th</sup> – Hovingham – Core Funders Group
- June 27<sup>th</sup> (am) – Northallerton – North Yorkshire Biodiversity Action Group (Implementation Group)
- June 27<sup>th</sup> (pm) – Northallerton – North Yorkshire Biodiversity Action Group (Steering Group)
- Monthly – Howardian Hills AONB Unit meeting
- Monthly – SDF Steering Group Meetings
- Bi-Monthly – SDF Panel Meetings
- Monthly (as required) – Heritage Unit
- Every 6wks (as required) – Nat. Env. Team
- As required – Project updates with Paul.

#### SITE VISITS

- Nov 12<sup>th</sup> – Cawton – stone walling project
- Nov 22<sup>nd</sup> – Kirkham/Firby – site meeting with land agent re. hedge planting
- Dec 20<sup>th</sup> – Oldstead – Expansion of Exmoor Grazing into NYMNP – YEPT & NYMNPA
- Dec 20<sup>th</sup> – Hovingham Quarry – scoping usability for Junior Ranger Club
- Jan 16<sup>th</sup> – Littledale – Exmoor Pony Site with YEPT
- Jan 16<sup>th</sup> – Swinton – Sports Club as venue for Partnership Group Meeting etc
- Feb 21<sup>st</sup> – Littledale SINC – Fencing contractor
- Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> – Grimston – Hedge planting

All special interest verges and managed verges assessed.

#### FUTURE SITE VISITS

- April 2<sup>nd</sup> – YEPT – Coulton Fen, Grange Bogs and Bull Ings.

#### PROJECTS

- Jan 27<sup>th</sup> – Littledale – scrub management volunteer task
- Feb 2008 – Terrington Carr Birch Cutting
- Feb 11<sup>th</sup> – FEP for land near Yearsley completed
- Feb 12<sup>th</sup> – Verge cutting plan issued to contractor
- Feb 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> – Littledale SINC – AONB and NYCC vols – scrub clearance
- Walling Grants checked and paid: large project at Grimston and small section at Cawton
- Grants offered for hedging at Barton Le Street, Hovingham Lodge, Hovingham Estate, Thornton Hill and Firby. Several of these checked and paid.
- Barn owl box project promoted in AONB newsletter. Surveys going to Wolds Barn Owl Group.
- Wood pasture creation sites – visits with Native Woodland Development Officer.
- SDF – Delivery of churchyards project by YWT (underway)
- SDF – Basics Plus mini-baler

**SEE SEPARATE TABLE FOR FULL DETAILS OF PLANNED/DELIVERED PROJECTS.**

#### FUTURE PROJECTS

- Wood pasture creation and infield trees – Brandsby.
- Hedge planting – Grimston & more sites in the Fryton to Broughton area
- Black poplar cuttings (March 2008) and planting out (March 2009)

#### RECREATION/ACCESS

- Dec 12<sup>th</sup> – Launch of History and Habitats Walk Leaflet – Welburn
- Dec 18<sup>th</sup> – Welburn Walk Leaflet – delivery to all properties in Welburn, Coneysthorpe and Bulmer – Basics Plus
- Jan 11<sup>th</sup> – Coneysthorpe – ‘Walk for Nepal’ walk through – NYCC Ranger and Event organiser
- Jan 11<sup>th</sup> – Castle Howard – Bat walk meeting with Estate Events Officer and PR Officer

- Jan 27<sup>th</sup> – Littledale SINC – volunteer task including PROW maintenance.
- AONB volunteers continue to survey condition of PROW in the area. Feeding back to Countryside Ranger. New methods under development.
- AONB volunteers working alongside Countryside Ranger on maintenance tasks.

#### FUTURE RECREATION/ACCESS

- June 21<sup>st</sup> – Castle Howard – ‘Walk for Nepal’
- Compile and publish a walk leaflet 2008/09
- Continue supply of existing leaflets to outlets

#### COMMUNITY WORK

- Nov 27<sup>th</sup> – Gilling Castle – Potential JRC venue site visit.
- Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> – NYCC – Dave Ranner and Steve Green – volunteer management meeting.
- Dec 20<sup>th</sup> – Hovingham – Meeting with YWT re. Discovery Project 2008
- Feb 5<sup>th</sup> – Husthwaite – Baxby Manor Farm – with YWT – JRC venue scoping
- Feb 20<sup>th</sup> – Terrington – Evening seminar re. Churchyard Conservation with YWT (SDF)

#### FUTURE COMMUNITY WORK

- May 13<sup>th</sup> - Welburn – with YRCC - Parish Plan / Community Consultation Event
- May 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> – Husthwaite - Junior Ranger Club
- June 2<sup>nd</sup> - Hovingham – with YRCC - Parish Plan / Community Consultation Event
- June 9<sup>th</sup> – Barton Le Street – with YRCC - Parish Plan / Community Consultation Event
- June 17<sup>th</sup> - Ampleforth – with YRCC - Parish Plan / Community Consultation Event
- Prep for JRC in October and Dec half-terms.
- Prep for two-day JRC activity at Filey and Hovingham taking place in August
- Build on links with schools, parishes and community groups
- Continue to build links with existing volunteer schemes in the locality (including PROW Vols, National Park etc) and to develop joint tasks

#### PROMOTION/PUBLICITY/ INTERPRETATION

- Nov 21<sup>st</sup> – Hovingham - AONB Newsletter – packing for distribution
- Nov 22<sup>nd</sup> – Welburn - Visit all Walk Leaflet outlets to brief re. launch
- Feb 11<sup>th</sup> – Joint press release to ‘outdoors/countryside’ magazines with Castle Howard – promote walking in the wider Estate.
- Feb 16<sup>th</sup> – Northallerton - NYCC Historic Environment Day – displays sent
- March 5<sup>th</sup> – Thirsk – Literature Exchange (Tourism Fair)
- March 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> – Birmingham – Outdoors Show

Ongoing contribution to the development of Howardian Hills AONB website.

Fliers and posters drafted for 2008 Ranger Club events. Poster for Churchyard Project.

Walk leaflet launch press releases sent to all local newspapers. Launch featured in three local papers.

Content for AONB, NYCC volunteer and Countryside Service Newsletters and Outstanding.

NAAONB Comms Officer Meetings.

#### FUTURE PUBLICITY/INTERPRETATION

- Produce an A3 laminated poster about the AONB for Howsham Mill info board.
- Finalise Junior Ranger Club Fliers and issue press release for May JRC.

#### EDUCATIONAL/RAISING AWARENESS

- Nov 27<sup>th</sup> – NYMNPA – Annual Biodiversity Fair – Development Meeting
- Nov 30<sup>th</sup> – Hovingham School – GLOBE Sustainability Plan Development with children.
- Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> – Hovingham School – GLOBE ‘Water Unit A’ delivery
- Jan 14<sup>th</sup> – Welburn School – GLOBE ‘Intro Session’ delivery
- Jan 15<sup>th</sup> – Ryedale DC – Annual Biodiversity Fair – Development Meeting
- Feb 6<sup>th</sup> – Hovingham and Ampleforth – Led North York Moors National Park Information Staff away day – including guided walk.
- March 6<sup>th</sup> – Welburn – Longhill and Welburn Schools twinning Meeting

- BTCV – SDF Project Delivery Grant for GLOBE Project – assisting BTCV with delivery of this Project.
- Project development with Yorkshire Wildlife Trust for successor to Discovery Project
- Twinning Welburn School with Longhill School (Hull) – exchange visits.

#### FUTURE EDUCATION/AWARENESS

- March 30<sup>th</sup> – Amotherby – Open Churchyard Event with YWT (SDF)
- April 30<sup>th</sup> – Stillington – Talk to Gardening/Wildlife Club
- May/June – Welburn and Longhill Schools twinning visits
- June 3<sup>rd</sup> – Crayke School – Discovery Day
- June 4<sup>th</sup> – Hovingham School Discovery Day
- June 4<sup>th</sup> – St Hilda’s School Discovery Day
- June 10<sup>th</sup> – Sheriff Hutton School Disc. Day
- June 11<sup>th</sup> – Amotherby School Discovery Day
- June 16<sup>th</sup> – Terrington School Discovery Day
- June 21<sup>st</sup> – Castle Howard – Stand at ‘Walk for Nepal’ Event with PRow
- Prep for Ryedale Show (29<sup>th</sup> July)
- Prep for Bat Walks (Castle Howard August 24<sup>th</sup> and Welburn School Sept 13<sup>th</sup>)
- Prep for talk to Terrington Gardening/Wildlife Club (Oct)
- Continue to develop projects with local schools through working with them both in their school grounds and on field-trips.
- Developing the skills of the Volunteers on a variety of tasks including ongoing PRow Condition Assessment Training, Community Events and Habitat Management.

#### TRAINING

- 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov – Harrogate – Away Day
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan – Romanby (Northallerton) – DCS Away Day
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan – London – NAAONB Sustainability Skills Workshop

#### FUTURE TRAINING

- April 2<sup>nd</sup> – Bristol – Diversity Workshop

#### MISCELLANEOUS

- Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> 2008 – Holiday
- Jan 29<sup>th</sup> – Feb 1<sup>st</sup> – Holiday
- March 17<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> – Holiday

#### FUTURE MISCELLANEOUS

- March 27<sup>th</sup>, 28 & 31<sup>st</sup> - Holiday
- April 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> - Holiday
- May 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> – Holiday