

AONB OFFICER'S REPORT
1ST APRIL TO 23RD OCTOBER 2009

Some of my main duties over the past 6 months have been:

- **Projects Fund:** Grants offered for diverse range of projects and summer projects completed and checked (including 3x Churchyard Conservation cut and rakes, 2x Himalayan balsam clearance projects, 1x knapweed broomrape site managed and further walling at Wiganthorpe). Grants offered for clearance of scrub from next section of Wiganthorpe Wall and walling at Pilfit Farm. Rhododendron clearance at Gilling and birch management at Terrington Carr both arranged to take place in near future.
- **Exmoor Pony Grazing:** Access to sites agreed by all eight landowners and eight sites grazed (two of them very briefly due to land being put up for sale).
- Updating and maintaining the **Countryside Management Budget**.
- **SDF 2008/09:** Final checks to enable grant payment for: Howsham Mill (RHT), mobility buggy and storage (Castle Howard Arboretum), Apple Recipe book to raise funds for Community Orchard (Ampleforth Abbey), traditional direction sign restoration (NYCC) and Farm Carbon Audits (FWAG).
- **SDF 2009/10:** Applications for ground-source heat at Castle Howard and ground-source heat at Gilling Village Hall taken to SDF Panel on 28th May and agreed. Castle Howard installation complete and information board underway. Funding granted to Rural Action Yorkshire for Community Projects Officer covering the AONB and to Amotherby Village Hall. Application pending from Hovingham Wildlife Group.
- **Community Projects Officer:** Working with Rural Action Yorkshire on the development and launch of the initiative in the AONB.
- **Biodiversity:** North Yorkshire Biodiversity Action Group, Hambleton Biodiversity Action Plan Steering Group and Ryedale Biodiversity Action Plan Steering Group. Working with Castle Howard to determine future management of Terrington Carr SINC. Working with Hovingham Village Wildlife Group. Advice to Swinton Village re. habitats around community field.
- **Volunteers:** content for volunteer newsletter. Volunteer tasks completed at Foss Spring Mire in May, Airyholme/Hollin Hill Bogs SINC in June and Peel Wood and Grasslands SINC in October. Vols assisted with preparation for and delivery of Junior Ranger Club in Easter holidays. Involvement with NYCC IIV process. PROW surveying undertaken by volunteers this spring. Volunteers contacted for help at Ryedale Show and Helmsley Walled Garden Green Day.
- **Discovery Project:** Preparation for and delivery of Junior Ranger Club in Easter holidays at Nunnington (x2), Hovingham (x4) and Welburn (x2). Sessions planned for Nunnington and Slingsby in October half-term.
- **Discovery Project:** Final claim for grant submitted to HLF end-May 2009.
- **Children's activities post-Discovery Project:** Junior Ranger Club sessions organised for October 2009. Discussions with AONB, Hull and York schools re. twinning project.
- **CAN DO** – ongoing input into AONB related aspects of the project and discussions with the member of staff at NYMNPA about projects in the AONB part of the area.
- **Lime and Ice:** Project development and planning of delivery with Lime and Ice Project Officers. Specifically working towards a community history project (images and spoken) and Yearsley Moor community archaeology (with English Heritage). Community archaeology introductory day planned for 14th November.
- **RAY in the AONB:** working with the Community Project Development Officer to develop her role in the AONB and hosting the first two Parish Meetings. Planning stages of community recycling/composting workshop.
- **Publicity** - Inputting news, events, text and photos for website. Articles for NYCC Countryside News, Outstanding and NYCC Countryside Service Volunteer Newsletter. Preparation and drafts to designers of Annual Newsletter. Preparation of Howardian Hills pages for NAAONB Northern Group Calendar.

MEETINGS

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• April 1st – Northallerton – Hambleton LBAP Steering Group• April 2nd – Brandsby – JAC• April 14th – Hovingham – Richard Flinton visit• April 14th – Hovingham – SDF Steering Group• April 20th – Appleton le Street – AONB Partnership Group• April 21st (am) – York – NYBAG – Verges working group | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• April 21st (pm) – NYBAG – Steering Group• April 29th – Malton - Ryedale LBAP Steering Group• May 6th – Hovingham – Work programming• May 7th – Helmsley – SDF Steering Group• May 18th – Hovingham – Lime and Ice Project Officers – AONB L&I projects• May 18th – Hovingham – Projects and grants update with PJ• May 28th – Helmsley – SDF Panel• June 2nd – Northallerton – Working with communities meeting |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

- June 2nd – Northallerton – Heritage and Environment Meeting
- June 3rd – Hovingham – SDF Steering Group
- June 4th – Hovingham – Core Funders
- June 11th – Hovingham - Lime and Ice – re. Yearsley Moor community archaeology
- June 15th – Church Farm, Scackleton – HLS - pre-FEP meeting with Nat Eng and landowner
- June 16th – Helmsley – Mark Antcliff – woodland assessment results for Church Farm
- June 30th – Northallerton - Natural Environment Team
- July 2nd – Hovingham – SDF Steering Group
- July 15th – Church Farm, Scackleton – HLS Application Form meeting – landowner and Natural England.
- August 4th – Ryedale House – Development Officers Group
- August 6th – Helmsley – SDF Steering Group
- August 12th – Hovingham – work programme update
- Sept 3rd – Hovingham – SDF Steering Group
- Sept 10th – Hovingham - Core Funders
- Sept 21st – Helmsley – Lime and Ice 2010 – events and continuing projects
- Sept 29th – Hovingham – Natural Environment Team
- Sept 29th – Hovingham – AONB Unit work programme update meeting
- Oct 14th – Northallerton – Hambleton BAP Steering Group
- Oct 15th – Helmsley – Development Officers Group
- Oct 15th – Helmsley – SDF Steering Group
- Oct 20th – York – Road verges working group
- Oct 20th – York – NYBAG – Steering Group
- Monthly - Howardian Hills AONB Unit meeting

FUTURE MEETINGS

- Oct 28th – Ryedale House – Ryedale BAP Steering Group
- Nov 3rd – Hovingham - Appraisal
- Nov 5th – Hovingham – JAC
- Nov 10th – Pickering – North Yorkshire Grassland Forum
- Dec 8th or 15th – Hovingham – Core Funders
- Dec 14th – Helmsley – Development Officers
- Monthly - Howardian Hills AONB Unit meeting
- Monthly – SDF Steering Group Meetings
- Approx every 6 weeks – Project updates with Paul.
- Approx every 6 weeks – Natural Environment Team Meetings
- Quarterly – work programme meeting with Paul and Maggie

- Bi-monthly – SDF Panel Meetings

SITE VISITS

- April 23rd – Littledale SINC – Basics Plus pony grazing prep
- April 24th – Snargate – Salt bins
- April 29th – Amotherby – Churchyard habitats
- April 29th – Huttons Ambo – churchyard conservation advice and grant assessment
- May 2009 – All bus stops in AONB - info fed back to Integrated Transport Team at NYCC
- May 9th - Wiganthorpe Park Wall – with landowner – scrub clearance at northern end
- June 4th – Snargate verges – NYCC Highways re. salt bins.
- June 4th – Howthorpe Farm – site meeting with landowner re. fencing and water supply
- June 9th – Howthorpe Farm – site meeting with contractor re. fencing and water supply
- June 9th - Wiganthorpe Wall northern section with landowner
- June 15th – Howthorpe/Wath Beck – contractor re. balsam strimming
- June 16th – Mugdale and Barker Woods SINC – site meeting with landowner re. Himalayan balsam control
- June 18th – Mugdale and Barker SINC – agreeing work with Basics Plus Team Leader
- June 25th – Natural England site visits
- June 29th – Wiganthorpe Park Wall northern section – Arbortec – blackthorn clearance and road signage – pre-quote site meeting.
- July 2nd – SDF - Castle Howard – ground-source heat – interim check and photos
- July 13th – Pilfit Farm, Newburgh – Landowner and contractor – determining staged approach to work and obtaining cost estimate
- July 17th – JAC fieldtrip
- July 30th – Dalby Bush SSSI – site visit/work needs assessment with Natural England Advisor
- August 12th – Swinton – Village openspace – conservation/habitat enhancement advice
- August 17th – Grimston walling – site meeting with contractor re. bracken control
- August 18th – Airyholme/Hollin Hill Bogs SINC – site meeting re. extending balsam strimming.
- August 19th – Coulton Fens and Swinsey Carr SINC
- August 24th – Terrington Carr – meeting with Estate forester re. birch control options
- Sept 7th – Broughton Lane knapweed broomrape site, Whitwell gate pillars, Bulmer Bank grassland and Sproxton dew pond
- Sept 21st – Boltby – Lime and Ice - Hill Fort investigation
- Oct 1st – Gilling Wood – Rhododendron clearance scoping with FC

FUTURE SITE VISITS

- Bonnygate Lane Hedge
- Brierhams Lane – Rhododendron assessment

PROJECTS

- April 28th – Hovingham – SDF Officer from NYMNPA preparatory meeting re. Castle Howard SDF
- April 29th – Scackleton – project check for payment, scoping 2009/10 projects and ELS/HLS advice
- May 10th – Rutters Plantation – NYCC/AONB Volunteer task
- May 26th – Hovingham – Bill Thompson – Dale Wood SINC survey feedback
- June 14th – Hollin Hill Bogs – AONB/NYCC Volunteer task – Himalayan balsam clearance on bridleway next to SINC
- June 17th – Wiganthorpe Park Wall – southern section meeting with walling contractor
- June 18th – Park Wood, Gilling – Western Hemlock clearance – Basics Plus
- June 25th – AONB-wide – Natural England site visits
- June 29th – Pilfit Farm, Newburgh – On-site provisional discussions re. walling project
- July and August – Basics Plus Himalayan balsam management at Mugdale and Barker Woods SINC
- August – Letter to all landowners – boundary and in-field tree grants
- Sept 8th – Hovingham – Volunteer botanical surveyor feedback
- Sept 28th – Newburgh – walling progress at Pilfit Farm
- Sept 30th – Terrington Carr SINC – with NYCC Ranger – scrub removal
- Oct 11th – Countryside Volunteer Task – Peel Wood and Grasslands SINC
- Oct 15th – Helmsley – with Native Woodland Development Officer – tree planting grant responses
- Oct 19th – Wiganthorpe Wall – Paul and contractor re. capstones followed by a joint visit to stone yard
- Assist Ryedale Naturalists with data and access for complete tetrad survey of AONB
- Assist local botanical expert with SINC survey update access in exchange for data
- Spring/summer 2009 –grassland management and flora survey work.
- As the above projects have been completed they have been checked prior to grant payment.

- FEP – Church Farm, Scackleton – several days of site survey and writing-up the report
- SDF Projects – advice during delivery and checking completed projects. Direct involvement with the majority of those on the separate table in the form of advice on delivery/minor changes to conditions.

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

FUTURE PROJECTS

- Nov 3rd – Grimstone – potential hedge planting site
- Nov 22nd – Countryside Volunteer Task

RECREATION/ACCESS

- April 1st - Rural Action Yorkshire Community Officer in post with SDF support
- April 6th – Welburn Village Hall – Junior Ranger Club
- April 7th – Nunnington Village Hall – Junior Ranger Club
- April 8th & 9th – Hovingham Village Hall – Junior Ranger Club
- June 12th – York – YWT – October Junior Ranger Club
- June 20th – Walk for Nepal at Castle Howard – AONB volunteers attending
- Oct 12th – Helmsley – Planning visit for Teesside-based multi-ethnic group with NYMNPA Heritage Connections Officer

FUTURE RECREATION/ACCESS

- Walk leaflet for Nunnington
- December 2009 - Visit by Teesside based multi-ethnic group with NYMNPA Heritage Connections Officer – talk and guided walk

COMMUNITY WORK

- Response to Hovingham Parish Plan
- April 23rd – Eastern part of AONB – Maggie Farey familiarity tour
- April 30th – Western part of AONB – Maggie Farey familiarity tour
- May 14th – Hovingham – Maggie Farey and

- Hambleton DC community event planning
- May 28th – Hovingham – Maggie F and Hambleton DC community event preparation
- June 11th – Hovingham – Maggie F and Hambleton DC community event final prep
- June 23rd – Castle Howard Arboretum – RAY and HDC Community Event (1)
- July 11th – Husthwaite - RAY and HDC Community Event (2)
- July 29th – Magge Farey and Claire Wood – role of RAY Officer and Parish Forums.
- July 29th – Hovingham Wildlife Group – guidance re. project methods and funding sources
- Sept 30th – Hovingham – Recycling, energy saving and composting evening for AONB communities/residents.
- Oct 13th – Helmsley – meeting with Lime and Ice Project Officers planning training day for community archaeology vols

FUTURE COMMUNITY WORK

- Oct 22nd – Hovingham – Funding advice session
- Nov 14th – Yearsley – field work and mapwork introductory session for Lime and Ice (Yearsley) volunteers
- Build on links with schools, parishes and community groups.
- Continue to plan and identify potential funding for future children’s projects in AONB
- 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

- Easter Junior Ranger Club promoted in several parish newsletters.
- Easter JRC fliers to schools in and around AONB.
- June 11th – The Arboretum Kew at Castle Howard – photo for mobility vehicle press release.
- August 4th – Pickering Memorial Hall - facilities check for NYCC Nat Env Day
- August 15th – Helmsley Walled Garden – Green Day event
- August – planning October JRC and drafting fliers
- Sept 2nd – Slingsby – Village Hall check for JRC
- Completing and distributing Junior Ranger Club fliers for October sessions.

- Content supplied for NYCC Volunteer Newsletter and NYCC Countryside Service Newsletter.
- Article included in NAAONB Outstanding and material supplied for autumn/winter 2009 edition.
- Text and images sent to designer for 2009 AONB Newsletter.
- Text and images supplied for Northern Group AONB’s calendar.
- Ongoing contribution to AONB website.

FUTURE PUBLICITY/INTERPRETATION

- Oct 26th – Slingsby – Junior Ranger Club
- Oct 27th – Nunnington – Junior Ranger Club
- Oct 31st – The Arboretum at Castle Howard – Halloween event ??
- Articles for Volunteer and Countryside Service Newsletters and Outstanding.

EDUCATIONAL/RAISING AWARENESS

- May 20th – Welburn & District Horticultural Society – evening talk
- June 12th – York – YWT – Hull and AONB Schools twinning – initial discussion/planning
- July 14th – AONB Schools – meetings re. twinning ideas (with YWT and teachers)
- July 28th – Welburn – Ryedale Show
- August 2nd – Hovingham – Lime and Ice Walk
- August 26th – Hovingham and Dalby Bush SSSI – Natural England Area Team Meeting – talk about the AONB and visit to SSSI
- Sept 22nd – Hull – schools re. twinning with YWT
- Oct 19th – Slingsby – visit to orchard pre-Junior Ranger Club

FUTURE EDUCATION/AWARENESS

- 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

- June 26th – LEADER – Ryedale House - frontline officers training

FUTURE TRAINING

- First Aid – one day skills update – autumn/winter 2009

MISCELLANEOUS

- April 2nd – Solway Coast – AONB Northern Group officers meeting
- April 3rd – Solway Coast – AONB Northern Group meeting
- April 30th – Hovingham - Appraisal
- July 6th-9th – Coleraine – NAAONB Annual Conference
- July 20th-24th – Holiday
- Sept 11th – 18th – Holiday
- Oct 2nd – 9th – Holiday
- Oct 16th – Nidderdale – AONB Northern Group meeting

FUTURE MISCELLANEOUS