

**HOWARDIAN HILLS
AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY
JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
5 NOVEMBER 2010**

AONB UNIT ACTIVITY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To receive details of the work areas and progress achieved by the AONB Unit since the JAC meeting in April 2010.

2.0 SUMMARY OF PROGRESS ACHIEVED

- 2.1 Appendix 1 gives separate details of the meetings and site visits that have been carried out by the AONB Manager, AONB Officer and AONB Assistant in the period April 2010 to October 2010. Appendix 2 gives full details of the projects that have been supported so far this year by the AONB Project Fund and the Sustainable Development Fund. Appendix 3 gives details of the Consultations that the JAC has received to date.
- 2.2 The final budget outturn for 2009/10 is detailed in a separate report on the Agenda. The final grant settlement has been received from Natural England.
- 2.3 The AONB Manager has spent significant time in running a procurement exercise to engage consultants to carry out a survey of the Registered Historic Park and Garden at Gilling Castle. This has also involved securing funding from English Heritage as part of the process. This was/is unforeseen work, since we had understood that we were simply going to provide some match funding to English Heritage, for them to run the contract...
- 2.4 Another procurement exercise has also been run, to select consultants to digitise the Phase1 habitat survey maps of the AONB. This work is part-funded by the CAN DO Partnership and will enable landscape-scale habitat re-creation modelling work as part of the Forestry Commission's habitat network study.
- 2.5 Work on countryside management has been proceeding well. A number of tree-clearance projects on lime kilns have been completed and the car park at Kirkham Priory has been re-surfaced. The restoration of the second section of the Park wall at Wiganthorpe is almost complete and the 8 tree-planting schemes carried over from last winter are ready to go. Full details of the grants offered and projects initiated are contained in Appendix 2.
- 2.6 The Sustainable Development Fund has been almost fully allocated, with a range of good projects being supported this year. Full details of the grants offered are contained in Appendix 2.

- 2.7 The AONB Officer has successfully secured the funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and LEADER (£45,500 and £37,420 respectively for the next 5 years) for the Rural:Urban schools project, twinning AONB schools with ones in York and Hull. Initial meetings have been held with our project delivery partners the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, and an initial Teachers workshop session has also been completed. A Volunteers workshop is scheduled for 9th November and twinning visits should start early next year. This is a major new project and demonstrates how staff commitment and effort can lever-in significant new funding resources for projects in the AONB.
- 2.8 Two Junior Ranger Club sessions were held at the Castle Howard Arboretum as an experiment at the end of the school summer holidays in August. 2 further full-day sessions are scheduled, again at the Arboretum, for the October half-term and Christmas week. These are very cost-effective for us, but for next year we'll need to consider perhaps moving the sessions around the AOMB a bit more. Details of the attendance at the Junior Ranger Club events already held are shown in Appendix 4
- 2.9 The RAY Community Projects Officer, supported by the SDF, has been working with a number of local communities to both prepare and implement Parish Plans. A number of villages are also looking at the possibility of preparing Village Design Statements. A community arts project was completed at Slingsby, and a community drop-in event in Oswaldkirk proved very popular.
- 2.10 The CAN DO Partnership's Lime & Ice Project has continued with one of it's key component initiatives – the community archaeological investigation work on Yearsley Moor. Volunteers have been gathering archive information and surveying features on-the-ground, with work in interpretation material due to start soon.
- 2.11 The AONB and the work of the JAC has received publicity in a variety of publications. The AONB website received its periodic maintenance and refinement, as necessary.
- 2.12 An average number of planning applications have been scrutinised, with many of these being for small-scale development and only minor comments being submitted, often on the choice of materials. Several significant farm building applications have been scrutinised, with a revised location suggested for one of these.
- 2.13 The latest edition of the AONB Newsletter was prepared in September and distributed in the week commencing 18th October. The JAC's Annual Report was produced in August and circulated in September to the wide range of organisations who work with the JAC to deliver our shared objectives.
- 2.14 The analysis of the grant recipients questionnaire returns for the year 2009/10 is included as Appendix 5. This shows that feedback is still consistently positive, although with some learning-points to take into account.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the report be noted.

AONB MANAGER'S REPORT

23rd MARCH 2010 – 29th OCTOBER 2010

Work during this period has principally consisted of:

- Wrapping-up 2009/10 projects, claims, budget sheets, accounts, etc.
- Submitting the final 2009/10 grant claim and reports to NE.
- Scoping the digitisation of the Phase I habitat survey mapping.
- Development of projects.
- Preparing the specification for the Gilling Castle study and publishing the Invitation to Quote.
- Finalising the specification for the tender for the digitisation of the Phase 1 habitat survey mapping.
- Development of projects; principally Kirkham Priory car park and lime kiln scrub clearance.
- A fair number of days of Annual Leave.
- Re-publishing the Invitation to Quote for the Gilling Castle study, after an issue with the procurement process.
- Keeping abreast of developments in the AONB funding and sponsorship situation.

MEETINGS

- 25th March – SDF Panel, Helmsley.
- 30th March – NET meeting.
- 30th March – Ryedale BAP Steering Group, Malton.
- 1st April – JAC meeting.
- 16th April – Ryedale DC, re LEADER Small-Scale Enhancements project.
- 23rd April – Appraisal.
- 26th April – AONB Partnership Group meeting.
- 29th April – CAN DO Forum, Helmsley.
- 7th May – Climate Change Land Management Forum, Leeds.
- 12th May – Lime & Ice Project Manager, re education vehicle.
- 18th May – NET meeting, Northallerton.
- 18th May – NYCC GIS Officer; scoping of Phase I digitisation project.
- 26th May – 2010 Visitors & Users Survey brainstorming.
- 16th June – BBC Countryfile Producers, to discuss possible filming locations.
- 17th June – Core Funders Group.
- 18th June – Ranger Team 3 Local Liaison Group meeting, Helmsley.
- 6th July – Native Woodland Development Project Steering Group, Helmsley.
- 9th July – York & North Yorkshire Strategy Environment Group meeting, Thirsk.
- 23rd July – JAC site visit.
- 10th August – Cliff Field House, Dalby, re. new farm building planning application.
- 11th August – Annual Action Programme update meeting.

- 7th September – Gilling Castle RPG study meeting, with EH and YMAP volunteers.
- 9th September – DPCR5 Steering Group, Northallerton.
- 14th September – NET meeting, Northallerton.
- 23rd September – Core Funders Group.
- 28th September – NE Rural Archaeology Group, York.
- 28th September – Schools twinning meeting, YWT, York.
- 29th September – Gilling Castle study site visit with tenderers.
- 11th October – Smiths Gore, re proposed planning application at Leysthorpe.
- 25th October – YMAP volunteers meeting.

Monthly project update meetings with Liz and Mark Antcliff.

Monthly AONB Team meetings.

Quarterly – work programme meeting with team.

NAAONB

- 21st April – Conference 2010 teleconference.
- 22nd April – NAAONB Board meeting, Birmingham.
- 27th April – NAAONB Development teleconference.
- 21st May – Defra Indicators pre-meeting teleconference.
- 25th May – Defra Indicators meeting, Reading.
- 14/15 June – Northern AONBs Group meeting, Forest of Bowland AONB.
- 7th July – National Training Programme

- Steering Group meeting, Birmingham.
- 12th – 15th July – NAAONB Conference, Folkestone.
- 29th July – NAAONB Board meeting, London.
- 18th August – NAAONB Funding Sub-Group meeting, Birmingham.
- 21st October – NAAONB Board meeting, London.
- 22nd October – NAAONB Funding Sub-Group, London.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- 3rd November – CAN DO Executive Group meeting, Sutton Bank.
- 4th November – Future regional structure of Natural England, York.
- 5th November – JAC meeting.
- 9th November – Hambleton BAP meeting, Northallerton.
- 10th November – Annual Action Programme update meeting.
- 18th November – Gilling Castle RPG study inception meeting, Ampleforth.
- 25th November – Ranger Team 3 Local Liaison Group meeting, Helmsley.
- 7th December – NET meeting, Northallerton.
- 15th December – LEADER Support Group meeting, Helmsley.
- 16th December – Core Funders Group.

Monthly project update meetings with Liz and Mark Antcliff.

Monthly AONB Team meetings.

FUTURE NAAONB

- 4th November – Conference 11 teleconference.
- 29th November – Business Plan meeting, Reading.
- 14th December – National Training Programme Steering Group meeting, Birmingham.

SITE VISITS

- 24th March – Westow PC; management of car park area at Kirkham Priory.
- 23rd April – Littledale SINC.
- 27th April – BT, re overhead pole route; Dalby.
- 14th April – Planning application site visit, Huttons Ambo.

- 17th May – NYCC, installation of refurbished mileposts.
- 18th May – Planning application site visits; Sproxton x 2.
- 24th May – Planning application site visits; Grimstone x 2.
- 24th May – Woodland management site visit; Yearsley.
- 2nd June – Ampleforth Abbey & College; management of Park Wood Fishponds SINC.
- 2nd June – Planning application site visit; Gilling.
- 8th June – Limekilns, Scar Wood, Gilling.
- 9th June – Investigate possible kerbing works for long barrow, Grimstone.
- 24th June – Advice on farm wind turbine, Terrington.
- 7th July – Planning application site visit, Dalby.
- 22nd July – Broughton Lane SINC; 27 knapweed broomrape spikes.
- 5th August – Swinton Lane (6 knapweed broomrape spikes) and Amotherby Lane SINC (1 spike).
- 2nd September – Scar Wood lime kilns, Gilling, with tree and building restoration contractors.
- 3rd September – Ice house and lime kiln, Hildenley, with tree contractor.
- 3rd September – Development consultation site visits – 24m Network Rail mast at Crambe; cycleway crossing on A64 at Whitwell.
- 21st September – Grimston Moor & Piper Hill SINC, to assess volunteers tasks of Western hemlock and rhododendron clearance.
- 22nd September – FEP surveying, Whitwell.
- 14th October – Lake restoration works, Gilling/Yearsley Moor.

FUTURE SITE VISITS

- 12th November – Newburgh Priory projects.

PROJECTS

- 25th March – Volunteers rhododendron clearance, Piper Hill Plantation SINC.
- 28th March – Volunteers rhododendron clearance, Piper Hill Plantation SINC.
- **Submission of final grant claim and reports to Natural England.**
- Obtaining signatures on The Agreement and returning it to Natural England.
- Revision of 2010/11 budget, following 5% in-year cut in Natural England funding.

- **Preparation of specification and paperwork for the Gilling Castle RPG study contract.**
- **Preparation of specification and paperwork for the contract to digitise the Phase 1 data for the AONB.**
- 28 October – Poul Christensen site visit to NYMNPA and HHAONB.
- **7th October – Evaluation of Quotes – Gilling Castle RPG study.**
- **13th October – Evaluation of Quotes and awarding of contract – Phase 1 digitisation.**
- October – Preparing 2011/12 budget and writing JAC papers.
- **29th October – Evaluation of Quotes and awarding of contract – Gilling Castle RPG study.**
- SEE SEPARATE TABLE FOR LIST OF PROJECTS GRANT AIDED

FUTURE PROJECTS

- **Running contract – Gilling Castle RPG study.**
- **Running contract – Phase 1 habitat survey map digitisation.**
- Digitisation of JAC-funded work since 1997.

CONSULTATIONS

- SEE SEPARATE TABLE FOR FULL DETAILS OF CONSULTATIONS RECEIVED.

PROMOTION/PUBLICITY/ INTERPRETATION

- 19th April – Evening talk, Welburn Local History Society.
- 21/22nd June – BBC Countryfile filming.
- 27th July – Ryedale Show.
- August/Sept – Preparation, printing and distribution of 2009/10 Annual Report.
- 17th August – Radio York interviews; Hovingham, Stonegrave, Cawton, Caulkleys Bank, Castle Howard.
- September – Assisting with preparation of AONB News 2010.
- Distribution of AONB Newsletter.

FUTURE PROMOTION/PUBLICITY/ INTERPRETATION

TRAINING

- 29th March – Management Development Course, Easingwold.
- 3rd June – Fire Warden training, Northallerton.
- 9th June – FWAG/EA workshop on controlling invasive & non-native weeds, York.
- 23rd June – NAAONB Adaptive & Resilient Landscapes workshop, Manchester.
- 2nd August – NYCC SCMS on-line tendering system.

FUTURE TRAINING

- 2nd November – NAAONB Funding workshop, Birmingham.

MISCELLANEOUS

- 15th April – NYCC Countryside Service (Christmas) walk.
- 20th April – AONB Team Appraisals.
- 12/13 August – Annual Leave.
- 27/31 August – Annual Leave.
- 30th September – Economic & Rural Services Away-day, Northallerton.
- 12th October – Visit to AONB offices by Andrew Harper, Assistant Director of NYCC Business & Environmental Services.
- 28th October – visit by Poul Christensen, Chairman of Natural England.

FUTURE MISCELLANEOUS

- 11th November – PJ Appraisal.
- 16th November – AONB Team Appraisals.

AONB OFFICER'S REPORT
1ST APRIL – 22ND OCT 2010

Some of my main duties over the past 7 months have been:

- **Schools activities:** Offers of funding received from LEADER and HLF for the Rural:Urban Schools Twinning Project. Planning meeting for teachers workshop and overall project delivery with YWT. Meeting with YWT Head of Conservation, Paul Jackson and Project Manager to agree billing, budget claims process etc. First teachers workshop delivered and volunteer workshop to take place early November.
- **Projects Fund:** Grant offers, and in some cases payments, have been made for stone walling, churchyard conservation, restoration of a weather vane and Himalayan Balsam control. Research carried out into how to reintroduce greater knapweed to Amotherby Lane to support the knapweed broomrape. Discussions have taken place with one land owner about hedge planting this winter.
- **Recreation and Access** – Nunnington Walk leaflet completed and printed. Cycle Touring Club Officer introduced to some of the Mountain Biking potential in the AONB for beginner/family groups.
- Updating and maintaining the **Countryside Management Budget**.
- **Exmoor Pony Grazing** – The Exmoors have grazed seven of the eight of the sites we have had fenced for them. Coulton Fen was not grazed due to ownership change. A water trough has been installed at Littledale.
- **SDF 2010/11:** Funding for Year 2 of the Rural Action Yorkshire Community Projects Officer and Husthwaite Orchards Group. Grants awarded to The Arboretum, Kew at Castle Howard for Discovery Zone at Wild about Wood and an associated teacher's pack and the first edition of Swinton Village Newsletter.
- **ELS and HLS** – FEPs prepared for 6 farms and Applications prepared for 3 farms (one jointly with RSPB and one with land agent).
- **Volunteers:** Volunteer assistance received at Ryedale Show, Bat Walk and Junior Ranger Club. Conservation volunteer task managing western hemlock at Grimston Moor in October and date set for November task managing rhododendron.
- **Junior Ranger Club:** A successful JRC session in August but low attendance numbers. Date set for October half term JRC at The Arboretum, Kew at Castle Howard and activities prepared.
- **CAN DO/ Lime and Ice** – maintaining links with the Yearsley Moor Archaeology Project as the volunteers gather data in the field.
- **RAY in the AONB:** Developing and delivering the Slingsby Community Arts Project (Slingsby Mosaic). Planning the next community drop-in event. Regular up-date meetings re parish plans and on-going projects. Discussions with Maggie Farey about future community arts projects and securing grant funding for these.
- **Publicity** – Articles for Outstanding (NAAONB Magazine) and NYCC Countryside Volunteers Newsletter. AONB Newsletter produced on a Communities/Volunteers theme and sent to all residents.

MEETINGS

- Apr 8th – Helmsley – SDF Steering Group
- Apr 12th – Hutton le Hole – Development Officers
- Apr 21st – York – NYBAG
- Apr 26th – Appleton-le-Street – AONB Partnership Group
- Apr 29th – Helmsley – CAN DO Forum
- May 6th – Hovingham – SDF Steering Group
- May 12th – Hovingham – Team work programme meeting
- May 12th – Hovingham – Lime and Ice Education Vehicle – Lime and Ice Officer
- May 17th – Hovingham – Projects meeting
- May 18th – Northallerton – Natural Environment Team
- May 25th – Pickering – Grassland Forum
- June 17th – Moor House Farm, Hovingham – Pre-FEP/HLS meeting
- June 17th – Core Funders
- June 18th – Foxfoot Hay, Newburgh - Pre-FEP/HLS meeting
- June 2nd – Helmsley – SDF Steering Group
- June 22nd – Hovingham – Development Officers
- July 5th – Helmsley – SDF Steering Group
- July 5th – Hovingham – AONB Projects update meeting
- July 28th – Hutton le Hole – Cornfield Flowers Project Meeting
- July 28th – Hovingham – ELS advice to landowners nr Oulston/Yearsley
- July 29th – Reagarth Farm, Helmsley – SDF Panel
- Aug 11th – Hovingham – Team work programme meeting
- August 12th – Hovingham – Natural Environment Team
- August 19th – Hovingham – Development Officers Group
- August 24th – Hovingham – Project update – Mark and Paul
- Sept 1st – Whitwell on the Hill – pre-FEP meeting with landowner, NE and agent
- Sept 23rd – Hovingham – Core Funders Group
- Sept 24th – Whitwell on the Hill – FEP meeting with agent, NE and owner

- Oct 11th – Hovingham – Land agent re. Whitwell on the Hill FEP
- Oct 12th – Helmsley – SDF Steering Group
- Oct 15th – Hovingham – Askham Bryan student re. Conservation grazing dissertation
- Oct 18th – Helmsley – Development Officers Group
- Oct 22nd – Whitwell on the Hill – HLS meeting with owner, agent and NE
- Monthly - Howardian Hills AONB Unit meeting

FUTURE MEETINGS

- Oct 26th – Malton – Ryedale BAP Steering Group
- Oct 27th – Northallerton – Special Interest Verges
- Nov 1st – York – NYBAG
- Nov 4th – Lythe – LEADER LAG
- Nov 5th – JAC
- Nov 10th – Hovingham – Askham Bryan student – Road verge conservation info for dissertation
- Nov 16th – Pickering – Grasslands Forum
- Dec 13th – Hovingham – Development Officers
- Dec 16th – Hovingham – Core Funders
- Jan 11th – Hutton le Hole - Cornfield Flowers Project
- Monthly - Howardian Hills AONB Unit meeting
- Monthly – SDF Steering Group Meetings
- Approx every 6 weeks – Project updates with Paul and Mark
- Approx every 6 weeks – Natural Environment Team Meetings
- Quarterly – work programme meeting with Paul and Maggie
- Bi-monthly – SDF Panel Meetings

SITE VISITS

- Apr 6th – Todd Mill, Wiganthorpe Wall, Brierham’s Lane SINC– pre-work site visits
- Apr 12th – Littledale SINC – site meeting with YEPT and pony-checker re. water provision
- Apr 28th – Littledale SINC – site visit with contractor re. water provision and gate repairs
- May 10th – pre-FEP meeting – Home Farm, Crayke
- May 10th – pre-FEP meeting – Launds Farm, Crayke
- May 10th – pre-FEP meeting – Mount Pleasant Farm, Crayke
- May 21st – Swathgill – with landowners discussing future site management of Bull Ings, Grange Bogs and Coulton Fen (west) SINC.

- June 21st – Wass Grange – hedge planting
- June 28th – Lowna Mill – hydro project site visit
- July 8th – Home Farm, Crayke – HLS application – NE and landowner
- July 8th – Mount Pleasant Farm, Crayke – HLS application – NE and landowner
- July 21st – Foxfoot Hay – landowner site meeting re. HLS
- July 23rd – JAC site visits
- August 2nd – Moor House Farm – HLS application with landowner
- August 5th – Foxfoot Hay – HLS application with landowner and RSPB
- August 12th – Moor House Farm – HLS application with landowner (final meeting)
- August 18th – Hovingham – HLS application with Foxfoot Hay landowner
- 21st Sept – Grimston Moor and Yearsley Moor – Paul and Steve Green – vols task sites
- FEP survey of Cliff House Farm, Whitwell on the Hill (400ha)
- June-October – FEP surveys at:
 - Foxfoot Hay, Newburgh
 - Home Farm, Crayke
 - Launds Farm, Crayke
 - Mount Pleasant Farm, Crayke
 - Moor House Farm, Hovingham
 - Cliff House Farm, Whitwell on the Hill

FUTURE SITE VISITS

- Nov 3rd – Exmoor Pony Grazing sites with YEPT

PROJECTS

- May 19th – Slingsby – Potential Dew Pond restoration with site owners
- June 27th – Hovingham area – vols task on bridleway
- June 28th – Swathgill, Coulton – pond restoration advice site visit with FWAG
- Oct 10th – Conservation volunteer task
- May-Oct – Exmoor Pony grazing of 7 wetlands and grasslands.
- 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 7th – Conservation volunteer task

RECREATION/ACCESS

- April – ongoing communication with designer for Nunnington walk leaflet then working with Paul to finalise design.
- May 14th – Nunnington – Photos of church for walk leaflet
- AONB Countryside Volunteer Tasks:
 - June 27th – Centenary Way – path drainage
- July 26th – Cycle Touring Club Officer – routes in AONB – map-based then site visit

FUTURE RECREATION/ACCESS

- Start work on revised version of Terrington Walk Leaflet

COMMUNITY WORK

- Apr 20th - Huttons Ambo – site visit with Community Projects Officer and LEADER Officer – collection of community projects ideas
- July 5th to 7th – Slingsby Community Arts Project – village mosaic
- August 26th – The Arboretum Castle Howard – Junior Ranger Club
- Sept 8th – Hovingham – Ryedale Family History Group – guidance on HLF application
- Oct 18th – Ampleforth – Millennium Green Group – possible conservation work
- Yearsley Moor Lime and Ice Volunteers

FUTURE COMMUNITY WORK

- Rural Arts Projects – work with RAY to investigate options elsewhere in AONB, support RAY and Rural Arts on a bid for LEADER funding
- Build on links with schools, parishes and community groups.
- Continue to build links with existing volunteer schemes in the locality and to develop joint tasks

PROMOTION/PUBLICITY/ INTERPRETATION

- July 2nd – Arboretum – JRC planning
- August 25th – e-mail – 1st draft of AONB Newsletter text to PLB
- August 26th – Castle Howard Arboretum – Junior Ranger Club
- Sept 27th – The Arboretum – planning Oct JRC
- Completion and distribution of Junior Ranger Club fliers for October sessions.
- Ongoing contribution to AONB website.
- Content supplied for NYCC Volunteer Newsletter.

FUTURE PUBLICITY/INTERPRETATION

- Oct 29th – The Arboretum – Junior Ranger Club – ‘Amazing Autumn’
- Dec 20th – The Arboretum – Junior Ranger Club – ‘Festive Fun’
- Articles for NYCC Volunteer Newsletters.

EDUCATIONAL/RAISING AWARENESS

- April 21st – Sheriff Hutton – evening talk
- May 5th – Castle Howard – additional walk leaflet supply
- May 10th – Northallerton – completed LEADER application for schools twinning submitted
- May 18th – Helmsley – LEADER Programme Manager
- June 29th – Confirmation of LEADER funding for Schools Twinning Project
- July 5th-7th – Slingsby Community Arts Project
- July 27th – Ryedale Show
- July 29th – Confirmation of HLF funding for Schools Twinning Project
- August 20th – Hull – YWT Schools Twinning Project planning meeting
- August 29th – The Arboretum – Bat walk evening for the public – 37 attendees
- Sept 9th – Hovingham – YWT Project Manager – Schools Twinning Project Teachers Workshop planning
- Sept 28th – York – YWT – Community Projects Manager, Conservation Manager and Paul – Schools Twinning Project
- Oct 13th – Market Weighton – Schools Twinning Project – Teachers workshop

- Oct 21st – York – YWT School Twinning Project Officer and Manager – planning volunteer workshop
- Production of fliers for Sustainable Living pages of website –
 - Heat production
 - Energy generation

FUTURE MISCELLANEOUS

- Nov 2nd – Birmingham – NAAONB – Funding workshop
- Nov 12th – Leeds – HLF grant claim advice session

FUTURE EDUCATION/AWARENESS

- Nov 9th – York – Schools Twinning Project – Volunteer workshop
- 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.
- Continue producing content for sustainable living section of the website.

TRAINING

- June 23rd – Manchester – NAAONB – Adaptive and Resilient Landscapes workshop
- July 12th to 15th – NAAONB Conference

FUTURE TRAINING

MISCELLANEOUS

- Apr 15th – Sutton Bank/Kilburn – NYCC Countryside Service away day
- Apr 20th - Appraisal
- June 15th – Forest of Bowland – Northern Group AONBs meeting
- July 12th to 15th _ NAAONB Conference
- July 23rd – JAC Fieldtrip
- June 3rd to 11th – On leave
- Sept 13th to 17th – On leave
- Sept 30th – NYCC Countryside Service and Economic Development awayday
- Oct 1st to 6th – On leave
- Oct 19th – Ravenscar – Sustainable living in protected landscapes

AONB ASSISTANT'S REPORT

20 MARCH – 29 OCTOBER 2010

My main duties over the period have been:

- Assisting with organisation and attending Natural England team awayday at Wath Court and Piper Hill Plantation.
- Attending JAC meeting on 1 April and site visit on 23 July.
- Assisting with Slingsby School mosaic.
- Organisation and assisting with delivery of Junior Ranger Club session on 26 August.
- Distribution of NE publication on England's Statutory Landscape Designations to local parish councils.
- Distribution of Spring edition of 'Outstanding' magazine, HHAONB Annual Report and Newsletter.
- Preparation of a new leaflet on HHAONB Project Fund.
- Delivery of HHAONB general leaflet to TICs, local outlets and accommodation providers (ongoing).
- Attending Countryside Services Awayday at Sutton Bank.
- Preparation for and manning our stand at Ryedale Show.
- General admin tasks for the unit eg taking minutes, dealing with orders, invoices, post, both incoming and out, file management.
- Uploading and amending of text and information to website.
- Handling telephone and email enquiries to the Unit.
- Dealing with IT issues.

MEETINGS

- 1 April – JAC meeting
- 12 May - AONB Unit Action Programme meeting
- 18 May – NET meeting (and meet Andrew Harper), County Hall
- 15 June – Northern Group Staff Mtg – Forest of Bowland
- 17 June – Core Funders' Group
- 12 August – NET meeting, Wath Court
- 11 August - AONB Unit Action Programme meeting
- 9 September – Schools Twinning Project meeting, Wath Court
- Monthly AONB Unit meetings

FUTURE MEETINGS

- 2 November - NET meeting, County Hall
- 5 November – JAC meeting, Hovingham
- 10 November – AONB Unit Action Programme meeting
- 16 December – Core Funders' Group
- Monthly - HHAONB Unit meetings

SITE VISITS

- 23 July – JAC site visit

FUTURE SITE VISITS

RECREATION/ACCESS

- Input into new walks leaflet for Nunnington
- Continued supply of walks leaflets to local shops/outlets (ongoing)

FUTURE RECREATION/ACCESS

- Research local information for revised Terrington walks leaflet

COMMUNITY WORK

- 25 March – Volunteer Task at Piper Hill
- Planning, preparation and assisted with delivery of JRC sessions at Castle Howard Arboretum on 26 August and 29 October
- July/August – took part in Rural Arts event at Slingsby School (community mosaic)

FUTURE COMMUNITY WORK

- Preparation for Christmas session of JRC

PROMOTION/PUBLICITY/ INTERPRETATION

- Distribution of 'Outstanding' magazine
- Distribution of NE Statutory Landscape Designations guidelines
- Distribution of HHAONB general leaflet
- Preparation for Ryedale Show including devising quiz for International Year of Biodiversity
- 27 July – attended Ryedale Show
- Distribution of HHAONB Annual Report and Newsletter
- Further development of Howardian Hills AONB website
- Article on Slingsby School mosaic for newsletter

FUTURE PROMOTION/ PUBLICITY/INTERPRETATION

- Ongoing updating of AONB website

PROJECTS

- IYB – publicised on Partnership Working page on website
- Assisted in organising and attended initial workshop for Schools Twinning Project

TRAINING

- 19 May – Loneworker Voiceconnect e-learning
- 14 September – Emergency First Aid

FUTURE TRAINING

- 6 December - Assertiveness Training
- Mandatory Customer Care course

MISCELLANEOUS

- 30 March – Annual leave
- 15 April – Countryside Services Awayday
- 20 April – Annual appraisal
- 26-30 April – Annual leave
- 9/10 June – Annual leave
- 15 June – Forest of Bowland – Northern Group AONBs meeting
- 14/15 July – Annual leave
- 18/19 August – Annual leave
- 22/23 September – Annual leave
- 30 September – ERS Awayday, Northallerton
- 28 October – lunch for NE Chairman, WathCt

FUTURE MISCELLANEOUS

AONB PROJECTS 2010/2011

1st April 2010 – 29th October 2010

Projects that have received formal offers of assistance; **Completed projects.**

AONB Enhancement – Natural Environment

APPLICANT/ (CONTRACTOR)	LOCATION	PROJECT	LOCAL PRIORITY	OBJECTIVE	SCHEME COST	JAC ASSISTANCE
~	AONB-wide	Native Woodland Development Officer post	-	FW6.5	£32,360	£2,500
RPS Group Ltd	AONB-wide	Digitisation of Phase 1 habitat survey maps	-	NE1.5	£6,650	£6,650
(AONB Unit – Yorkshire Exmoor Pony Trust)	Coulton (2), Cawton (2), Terrington (2), Bulmer	Conservation grazing of 7 SINC's or other important sites	Sites 1.59, 1.60, 1.41, 1.47, 1.66, 1.20, 1.21	NE5.1, NE6.1	£1,315	£923
(NYCC Area Rangers)	Piper Hill Plantation SINC	Rhododendron & Western hemlock control	Site 1.7	NE5.4	£500	-
(NYCC Ranger + volunteer)	Hildenley	Clearance of vegetation from 2 quarry faces, to assist with educational activities	-	NE11.2, AP2	£300	-
(AONB Unit – P Gospel)	Cawton Bank	Fence repairs & installation of stile	Site 1.41	NE5.1	£95	£95
(AONB Unit – P Gospel)	Littledale SINC	Modifications to water trough, etc	Site 1.20	NE5.1	£129	£129
(AONB Unit – Curlew Conservation Contractors)	Wath Beck; Terrington - Howthorpe	Cutting/pulling Himalayan balsam	Inc. Site 1.65	NE8.2	£1,071	£1,071

APPLICANT/ (CONTRACTOR)	LOCATION	PROJECT	LOCAL PRIORITY	OBJECTIVE	SCHEME COST	JAC ASSISTANCE
(AONB Unit – Countryside Services)	Wath Beck; Howthorpe - Wath	Cutting/pulling Himalayan balsam	Inc. Site 1.33	NE8.2	£1,230	£1,230
Wath Court Nursery	Hovingham	Bird feeder & bird box camera	-	NE10	£478	£300
Mrs R Watson	Ganthorpe	Planting 15 in-field/boundary trees	Zones 3B & 6 Landscape	NE4.4	£750	£750
M Naylor	Huttons Ambo	Planting 5 in-field/boundary trees and 1 copse (100 trees & shrubs)	-	NE4.4	£1,225	£475
Mr & Mrs G McHarg	Crambe	Planting 23 in-field/boundary trees	-	NE4.4	£1,150	£1,150
Mrs E Walker	Yearsley	Planting 5 in-field/boundary trees	-	NE4.4	£250	£250
D W Armitage & Sons	High Stittenham	Planting 10 in-field/boundary trees	Zone 3B Landscape	NE4.4	£500	£0 (CSS)
R Hall	Terrington	Planting 5 in-field/boundary trees and 1 copse (25 trees & shrubs)	Zone 3B Landscape	NE4.4	£338	£270 (80%)
M Cranfield	Oulston	Planting 2 copses (150 trees & shrubs)	Zone 4C Landscape	FW6.4	£340	£340
(FWAG)	Swathgill, Coulton	Pond restoration advice and management plan	-	NE6.3, AG2.1	£700	£200
Amotherby Churchyard Conservation Group	Amotherby Churchyard	Habitat management	-	NE3.1, NE5.4, NE10.1	£200	£100 (50%)
(AONB Unit – Basics Plus)	Appleton-le- Street Churchyard SINC	Grassland management	-	NE5.1	£200	£100
(AONB Volunteers)	Grimston Moor SINC	Removal of Western hemlock regeneration	Site 1.1	NE3.1, NE5.4, AP3.1	£400	-

AONB Enhancement - Historic Environment

APPLICANT	LOCATION	PROJECT	LOCAL PRIORITY	OBJECTIVE	SCHEME COST	JAC ASSISTANCE
(AONB Unit – P Gospel)	City of Troy Maze, Dalby	Regular maintenance	Site 2.25	HE4.5	c.£170	c.£170
(AONB Unit – P Gospel)	Mileposts	Regular maintenance	Site 2.63	HE4.5, RT4.5	c.£125	c.£125
(AONB Unit – NYCC Ryedale Area)	Mileposts	Installing 3 posts in verges	Site 2.63	HE4.5, RT4.5	£952	£952
(AONB Unit – Castle Howard)	Wiganthorpe Park, Scackleton	Spraying scrub regrowth	Site 2.92	HE4.5	£225	£225
(AONB Unit – M Aconley)	Wiganthorpe Park, Scackleton	Re-building c.250m of Park wall	Site 2.92	HE4.5	£4,500	£4,500
Mrs L Howard	Rose Cottage Farm, Terrington	Re-building 22m of gaps in Park wall	Site 2.92	HE4.5	£1,300	£650 (50%)
NYCC	Various, Hambleton	Restoring 5 traditional direction signs	-	HE4.5, RT4.5	£5,850	£3,850
Hovingham Estate	Hovingham Bakery	Restoration of weathervane and wind direction clock	-	HE4.5	£5,000	£1,500
(AONB Unit – Bayes Tree Services)	Lime kiln, Hildenley	Removal of tree and shrub growth	Site 2.49	HE4.5	£220	£220
(AONB Unit – Bayes Tree Services)	Ice house, Hildenley	Removal of tree and shrub growth	-	HE4.5	£220	£220
(AONB Unit – Bayes Tree Services)	Lime kilns, Scar Wood, Gilling	Removal of tree and shrub growth	Site 2.50	HE4.5	£430	£430
(AONB Unit - ??)	Gilling Castle Registered Park & Garden	Preparation of a Conservation Management Plan	Site 2.16	HE4.4	c.£19,500	£5,000

APPLICANT	LOCATION	PROJECT	LOCAL PRIORITY	OBJECTIVE	SCHEME COST	JAC ASSISTANCE
(AONB Unit – P Gospel)	Gateposts, Whitwell-on-the-Hill	Cutting back of hedge and ivy	(Site 2.74)	HE4.5	c.£100	c.£100
Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group	The Heights, Slingsby	Orchard management training course	Site 2.52	HE4.7	£1,701	£800

APPLICANT	LOCATION	PROJECT	LOCAL PRIORITY	OBJECTIVE	SCHEME COST	JAC ASSISTANCE
P Tate	Cawton	Restoration of limekiln (Listed Building at Risk)	Site 2.65	HE4.5	c.£1,500	£0 (LEADER funded)

Enjoying the AONB

APPLICANT	LOCATION	PROJECT	LOCAL PRIORITY	OBJECTIVE	SCHEME COST	JAC ASSISTANCE
(AONB Unit – Basics Plus)	Various	Litter picking (5 visits)	Sites 3.8, 3.14, 3.19	D3.5	£500	£500
(AONB Unit – P Gospel)	Gateway signs	Strimming	-	AP1.1	c.£550	c.£550
(NYCC)	Caulkleys Bank, Nunnington	Fill potholes in informal parking area	Site 3.8	RA11.1	£200	£0
Westow Parish Council	Kirkham Priory	Restoration/re-surfacing of car park	Site 3.15	RA11.2	£4,112	£3,112

APPLICANT	LOCATION	PROJECT	LOCAL PRIORITY	OBJECTIVE	SCHEME COST	JAC ASSISTANCE
Slingsby Primary School	Slingsby Primary School	Create mosaic panel	-	AP2.3	£2,126	£448
(AONB Unit – P Gospel)	Brandsby	Re-bedding stone and re-pointing sign plinth, Brandsby	-	RT4.5	£78	£78
-	Various	Volunteer effort with Junior Ranger Club, Ryedale Show, guided walks, etc.	-	AP3.1	£500	-
-	Various	Volunteer effort on PRow in the AONB (av. 4 people/week, every other week)	-	RA4.5, AP3.1	£3,000	-
-	Wath	Volunteers task – path clearance	-	RA4.5, AP3.1	£100	-
CAN DO Lime & Ice Project	Project area	2010/11 contribution			£152,985	£2,500

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND GRANTS 2010/2011

1st April 2010 – 29th October 2010

Projects that have received formal offers of assistance; **Completed projects.**

APPLICANT	LOCATION	PROJECT	LOCAL PRIORITY	OBJECTIVE	SCHEME COST	SDF ASSISTANCE
Rural Action Yorkshire	AONB-wide	Community Planning, Engagement & Development Project (Year 2)	-	LC1	£34,000 (Year 1)	£20,000
Orchards of Husthwaite	Husthwaite	Orchard development and apple processing equipment	-	NE10, HE4.5, SF2.4, LC1.5	£12,259	£7,759
The Arboretum Trust	The Arboretum, Kew at Castle Howard	Discovery Zone at the Wild about Wood festival	-	RA2.4, AP2.3	£50,355	£8,000
Sustainability 4 Yorkshire	LEADER area	Sustainable Communities project (1 of villages to be within HHAONB)	-	SF1, SF2.3, SF2.4	£76,258	£5,000
Swinton Parish Plan Group	Swinton	Establishing Village Newsletter	-	LC1.5	£486	£236 (50%)
The Arboretum Trust	The Arboretum, Kew at Castle Howard	Outdoor classroom shelters and equipment for proposed Schools Officer	-	AP2.3	£11,250	£1,900
(AONB Unit – NYMNPA)		Administrative services	-	-	£3,000	£3,000

AONB CONSULTATIONS (SPECIFIC DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS) 2010/2011

1st April 2010 – 29th October 2010

CONSULTING ORGANISATION	LOCATION	PROJECT	SITE VISIT	COMMENTS	OUTCOME
Ryedale District Council	Various	Weekly lists of Planning Applications and Decisions	-	-	-
Hambleton District Council	Various	Weekly web lists of Planning Applications and Decisions	-	-	-
North Yorkshire County Council	Various	Weekly list of Planning Applications	-	-	-
Hambleton District Council	Whenby	Planning application (Erection of extension to agricultural building)	No	Dark grey roof sheets	Unsure whether darker colour specified
Hambleton District Council	Whenby	Planning application (Creation of an agricultural pond)	No	Native tree and shrub species to be used	Withdrawn?
Ryedale District Council	Nunnington	Planning application (Erection of electricity pole)	No	None (AONB Manager's suggestion)	-
Forestry Commission	Oswaldkirk	Woodland management proposals (Coppicing of riverside trees)	No	None	-
Forestry Commission	Huttons Ambo	Woodland management proposals (Fell poplars & replant)	No	None	-
Hambleton District Council	Crayke	Planning application (Installation of solar panels to roof)	No	None	-
Hambleton District Council	Yearsley	Planning application (Erection of an agricultural building)	No	None	-
Ryedale District Council	Sproxtton	Planning application (Erection of an agricultural building)	Yes	Colour of roof panels; paint side wall panels	Agreed by applicant

CONSULTING ORGANISATION	LOCATION	PROJECT	SITE VISIT	COMMENTS	OUTCOME
Ryedale District Council	Sproxton	Planning application (Erection of stainless steel flue for biomass boiler)	Yes	Flue to be dark-coloured, or visible length to be less	Condition – dull-coloured finish
North Yorkshire County Council	Hovingham	NRSWA consultation (verge planting)	No	Native species of plants or trees to be used	-
North Yorkshire County Council	Slingsby	NRSWA consultation (re-location of milepost)	No	One of our projects	-
Ryedale District Council	Oswaldkirk	Planning application (Erection of 4 bedroom dwelling – revised details)	No	None	-
Ryedale District Council	Gilling	Planning application (Erection of an agricultural building)	Yes	Minor – colour of roof sheets, landscaping	Agreed by applicant
Ryedale District Council	Grimstone	Planning application (Erection of single storey extension)	Yes	None	(Approved)
Ryedale District Council	Grimstone	Planning application (Erection of single storey extension to form groom's accommodation)	Yes	None	(Refused)
North Yorkshire County Council	Gilling/Grimstone	NRSWA consultation (re-new 2 gullies)	No	None	-
North Yorkshire County Council	Gilling	NRSWA consultation (install new gully)	No	None	-
North Yorkshire County Council	Nunnington	NRSWA consultation (CE Electric undergrounding works)	No	None	-
Forestry Commission	Yearsley	Woodland management proposals (Felling & thinning, FC land)	Yes	Suggested actions to promote heathland regeneration	Felling suggestions accepted; Replanting ?
Hambleton District Council	Yearsley	Planning application (Siting of a wind turbine – 15m mast)	Yes	Colour of mast & blades	Condition attached
Ryedale District Council	Huttons Ambo	Planning application (Erection of extension to stable block and formation of menage)	Yes	Colour of roof sheets; landscaping	Refused

CONSULTING ORGANISATION	LOCATION	PROJECT	SITE VISIT	COMMENTS	OUTCOME
Ryedale District Council	Grimstone	Planning application (Erection of eco-centre and manager's house – re-submission)	No	None (Previous comments accepted in revised scheme)	?
Hambleton District Council	Dalby	Planning application (Erection of an agricultural building)	Yes	Strong Objection – inappropriate siting & colour of materials	Refused
Forestry Commission	Howsham	Woodland management proposals (Selective felling of poplars, 2.0ha broadleaf PAWS to native broadleaves)	No	None	-
North Yorkshire County Council	Oswaldkirk	NRSWA consultation (re-laying kerbs)	No	None	-
Hambleton District Council	Dalby	Planning application (Erection of stables and extension)	(Yes)	None	-
Ryedale District Council	Ampleforth College	Planning application (Erection of extensions – House Masters' houses, dormitory, Common Rooms)	No	None	(Approved)
Ryedale District Council	Huttons Ambo	Planning application (Erection of extension to stable block and formation of ménage – re-submission)	No	None (Previous comments accepted in revised scheme)	(Approved)
Ryedale District Council	Nunnington	Planning application (Erection of an agricultural storage building and feed store)	Yes	Colour of roof and wall materials; landscaping	Condition attached
North Yorkshire County Council	Terrington	NRSWA consultation (kerbing & haunching)	No	None	-
North Yorkshire County Council	Coneysthorpe	NRSWA consultation (kerbing & haunching)	No	Species-rich road verges – avoid damage	?
North Yorkshire County Council	Whitwell	NRSWA consultation (kerbing & haunching)	No	None	-
Network Rail	Crambeck	Erection of 24.5m train communication mast	Yes	Colour of mast, antennae & control cabinet	?

CONSULTING ORGANISATION	LOCATION	PROJECT	SITE VISIT	COMMENTS	OUTCOME
Ryedale District Council	Terrington	Planning application (Erection of extensions to visitor centre)	(in passing)	Height of western extension	Approved
Highways Agency	Whitwell	Re-alignment of cycle track	Yes	Keep sign clutter to minimum	?
North Yorkshire County Council	Gilling	NRSWA consultation (LV underground works)	No	None	-
Ryedale District Council	Howsham	Planning application (Change of use of outbuilding to form holiday cottage)	No	None	-
Ryedale District Council	Gilling	Planning application (Erection of greenkeepers equipment shed)	?	?	?
Hambleton District Council	Husthwaite	Planning application (Erection of a wind turbine – 18m mast)	Yes	Colour of blade	?
North Yorkshire County Council	Terrington	NRSWA consultation (drainage investigation works)	No	None	-
North Yorkshire County Council	Coulton	NRSWA consultation (erect signpost)	No	Size	-
Hambleton District Council	Stearsby	Planning application (Change of agricultural land to a campsite)	Yes	?	?
Ryedale District Council	Crambeck	Planning application (Erection of 24.5m train communication mast)	Already been	?	-
Hambleton District Council	Dalby	Planning application (Erection of an agricultural building – re-submission)	Yes	?	?
Ryedale District Council	Huttons Ambo	Planning application (Erection of permanent frame for sign)	?	?	?
Ryedale District Council	Bulmer	Planning application (Change of use of land and erection of stables/feed store)	?	?	?
Hambleton District Council	Skewsby	Planning application (Erection of extensions)	?	?	?

AONB CONSULTATIONS & NOTIFICATIONS (STRATEGIES, ETC) 2010/2011

1st April 2010 – 29th October 2010

ORGANISATION	AREA	DOCUMENT	COMMENTS	OUTCOME
NYCC	County	Draft North Yorkshire & York Landscape Character Assessment	Various detailed points	?
NYCC	County	Minerals & Waste Core Strategy	Various minor points	?
NYCC	County	Local Transport Plan 3	None	?
Ryedale DC	Ryedale District	LDF Draft Core Strategy	?	

TECHNICAL DOCUMENTS RECEIVED 2010/2011

1st April 2010 – 29th October 2010

ORGANISATION	DOCUMENT
AONB Units	Annual Reports, Newsletters, etc

2010/11 Junior Ranger Club

All Junior Ranger Club sessions this year have been delivered with the Education Officer at The Arboretum Trust, Kew at Castle Howard.

August 2010 : Summer Fun in the Howardian Hills

The summer holiday sessions were carried out using the outdoor classroom at The Arboretum.

Ranger Day	Activities	No of children attending
Biodiversity and Sustainable living 'Composting creatures' Thursday 26 th August (am)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Story sticks – collecting items from around the Arboretum to attach to their sticks so they can tell the story of their day. ▪ Minibeast hunt – under wood piles and in fallen leaves – finding creatures that compost. ▪ Compost creatures – making habitats for compost creatures in trays – what do they need to survive? ▪ Composting relay – relay race of greens, browns and 'no-no's'. 	10
Biodiversity and Landscape 'Wet and Wild' Thursday 26 th August (pm)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Meet a tree and ephemeral art – making large pictures on the ground from natural objects. ▪ Pond dipping – discovering what lives in the main lake, identifying the creatures with key wheels and FSC cards. 	10

October 2010 : Amazing Autumn in the Howardian Hills

The following activities have been arranged for October half-term. The bookings for the summer holidays were low so we have decided that it is time to carry out some promotion of the Junior Ranger Club. Fliers (made in-house and reproduced in A6 on our photocopier to minimise costs) have been sent to all of the primary schools in the AONB. Posters have been sent to primary schools in the surrounding market towns. Bookings, with over a week to go, are already considerably higher than for the summer: to date 22 children have reserved places.

Ranger Day	Activities	No of children attending
Biodiversity and Landscape 'Amazing Autumn' Friday 29 th October	<p>A collection of activities celebrating autumn in the AONB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Seed creatures and cards with seed pictures on them. ▪ Colour change game – why do leaves change colour in the autumn? ▪ Shelter building/hibernation – making child-sized hibernation areas. ▪ Sky/mirror walk – different creatures have eyes in different places in their heads – what different perspectives does this give them on the world? ▪ Back up plans for wet weather – autumn tree and bat cards, clay fungi, pom-pom spiders webs. 	

December 2010 : Festive Fun in the Howardian Hills

Date set as Monday 20th December; activities to be confirmed closer to the time.

2009/10**14 RESPONSES RETURNED** (percentages are approximate)

1. **How satisfied were you overall with the grants/advice service provided by the AONB Team?**

Please circle a number

Excellent		Satisfactory		Poor
1	2	3	4	5
13 (92.8%)		1 (7.2%)		

2. **If you were 'Unsatisfied', was this because the AONB Team was unable to provide grant aid for your project?**

Yes No **N/A**

3. **If you received information and guidance from the AONB Team, was it?**

Excellent		Satisfactory		Poor
1	2	3	4	5
11 (79.2%)		3 (20.8%)		

4. **Speed of response and availability of staff. Was this?**

Excellent		Satisfactory		Poor
1	2	3	4	5
11 (79.2%)		3 (20.8%)		

5. **If you received a grant, was the scheme easy to use?**

Simple				Difficult
1	2	3	4	5
11 (79.2%)		3 (20.8%)		

(Continued overleaf)

6. How did you find out about our grants/advice scheme?

- Previous contact **10 (72.0%)**
- Leaflet
- Local paper/publicity
- Telephoned or wrote to Council
- Friend or other personal contact **2 (14.0%)**
- Other (*please specify*) **2 (14.0%)**
1 – Letter to landowners from AONB
1 – via suppliers and internet

7. Was the grant rate for your project:

- More than you expected **2 (14.0%)**
- About what you expected **12 (86.4%)**
- Less than you expected

8. Would the work have been carried out without a grant?

- All of it **1(7.0%)** Some of it **7(50.0%)** None of it **6 (43.0%)**

8. Could we make any improvements to the service, or do you have any other comments to make?

1. We value your service highly. Thank you. (D M Naylor – Huttons Ambo Church)
2. It would be easier if the office were open all the time, but the staff have been very helpful. (C Pickles – Gilling East Village Hall)
3. Liz was extremely helpful and very patient, as our project took longer than we anticipated. Thank you for making the process so simple! (Clare Wilson – Hovingham Playing Fields)
4. The original letter was slightly misleading in that it offered “the full cost of trees, guards and planting” and then we were asked to find over £300 (which was subsequently retracted). Perhaps it should read that farmers will be given a “grant offer”. (Mr and Mrs G MacHarg, Crambe Grange Farm)
5. I was very impressed with Liz and Paul’s support, quality advice and efficient admin. (Cameron Smith – Husthwaite Orchards)

9. Name and address (OPTIONAL), but helpful if there are case-specific issues we could tackle)

Only 3 questionnaires returned anonymously.