

HOWARDIAN HILLS AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the meeting held at Oswaldkirk Village Hall on 1 April 2010.

PRESENT:-

Ryedale District Councillor Robert Wainwright in the Chair.

Hambleton District Council: Councillors Christine Cookman and Percy Featherstone.

North Yorkshire County Council: County Councillors Clare Wood and Caroline Patmore.

Parish Councils: Tony Cowan (Hambleton).

Country Land and Business Association: Dorothy Fairburn.

Natural England: Eifon Jones, Brian Davies and Clare Storey.

Officers:

Paul Jackson and Maggie Cochrane – Howardian Hills AONB.

Jane Wilkinson (Secretary), Graham Megson and Richard Walker – North Yorkshire County Council.

Anne Cooper – Hambleton District Council.

Paula Craddock – Ryedale District Council.

COPIES OF ALL DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED ARE IN THE MINUTE BOOK

15. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Were submitted on behalf of Justine Clark (Natural England), Vince Carter (Forestry Commission) and Liz Bassindale (AONB).

16. MINUTES

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 5 November 2009, having been previously circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

17. MATTERS ARISING

Minute Number 6 – AONB Unit Activity

It was reported that the payback period on the Castle Howard Ground Source Heat Pump was originally estimated as seven years but this had subsequently been revised to five years. Members noted that during the winter period following installation of the ground source heat pump no oil had been used at Castle Howard.

18. AONB UNIT ACTIVITY

CONSIDERED –

The joint report of AONB Officers detailing their activities and progress achieved by the AONB Unit since the previous meeting.

The Committee received a power-point presentation of photographs of completed and on-going projects referred to in the report, together with on-going countryside management works, community projects, volunteer activity and Junior Ranger Club days.

Members noted that on account of the severe weather experienced during the previous winter the starting date for several projects had been deferred. Assurances were given that in all instances where this had occurred the project monies would be carried forward into the next financial year when the works would commence and the projects be completed as planned. A further update on this would be provided at the November meeting.

In response to questions about the follow up work at Dalby Bush Fen SSSI the AONB Manager said that ideally the site should be grazed. The AONB Manager said that he knew that the local ranger had a spraying ticket and he agreed to provide details of what was planned at the site following the meeting. On behalf of the Country Land and Business Association Dorothy Fairburn said that she would provide the AONB Manager with a copy of advice that had been prepared on the sustainability of clearance works that also included best practice guidance.

The Chairman referred to the restoration of the traditional village sign at Hovingham and said that the self-cleaning paint used on the sign appeared to be working well. Members were informed that the paint developed for use in Boulby Potash Mine had been used on other traditional signs both in the AONB and National Park and was proving to be very robust. It was the intention that the same paint would also be used to restore traditional finger-post signs in the AONB.

RESOLVED –

That the report be noted.

19. AONB ACTION PROGRAMME 2009/10

CONSIDERED –

The report of the AONB Manager on implementation during 2009/10 of the AONB Management Plan. Details of performance against original targets were appended to the report. Analysis of performance revealed that 84% of specific targets had been achieved and/or exceeded.

Members were pleased to see that activity and negotiations surrounding improvements to Kirkham Car Park were progressing and looked forward to completion of the much needed works.

In response to questions about how many SINC sites within the AONB were under active management it was reported that the current figure was somewhere between 60/70%. Most of the grassland SINC's were being actively managed, the situation was less clear however with regard to woodland sites. Many of the ancient woodland sites were covered by conifer plantations which were not at various stages in their rotations and may not be due for felling for some years.

In response to a request from Claire Storey, the AONB Manager agreed to consult Natural England on the content of advice he was preparing on basic design guidance for farm buildings.

Recent activity and the problems encountered surrounding undergrounding overhead electricity lines were reported and Members asked to be kept informed of progress.

Members asked if it was possible to capture the number of hits to the web-site to see how the information was being used. The AONB Manager reported that data from the previous financial year was available. Hits to the web-site were already routinely monitored to record trends following the publication of new material. This information was not actively reported but he was happy to include it in future reports.

It was suggested that in order to reduce the carbon footprint consideration be given to the timing and venue of future meetings so that they coincided with access to and public transport timetables. In doing so the Committee would demonstrate its commitment and act as a role model. Members debated the proposal and whilst supporting the principle expressed doubts about whether it would be practical or even possible. The AONB Manager agreed to give further thought to the matter.

It was reported that the Walks leaflet for Nunnington was almost complete but would not be available for Easter.

RESOLVED –

- (i) That the progress made to date in implementing the Management Plan be noted.
- (ii) That the achievements against Targets for 2009/10 be noted.

20. AONB BUSINESS PLAN AND ACTION PROGRAMME 2010/11

CONSIDERED –

The report of the AONB Manager inviting the Committee to approve a programme of proposed activity to implement the AONB Management Plan during 2010/11. The Action Programme and Targets for 2010/11, together with a timetable for completion of the tasks was appended to the report.

The Committee was informed that following talks with the County Council's GIS team it was hoped that digitisation of all practical countryside management work completed with JAC assistance would be complete by 2012. Further information on this subject would be reported to the next meeting.

A further visitor and user survey was planned. The survey would take place in late summer and be conducted by the volunteers. It was not proposed to employ consultants. The new survey would repeat the questions asked in the previous survey that was carried out in 2004.

At the request of Members the AONB Manager provided an update on the wide area initiative for breeding waders in the Newburgh/Coxwold area.

It was agreed that the production of design advice on farm buildings be included in the activities listed under 'Development' heading in the Management Plan.

Members were advised that publication of information collected under the North Yorkshire Historic Landscape Characterisation Project was imminent. The Committee noted that information from the Project would be used to support the content of future Management Plans. With regard to the current Management Plan the AONB Manager said that the document was continually being developed. Information from the Historic Landscape Characterisation Project once available would be utilised with immediate effect although this would not be formally documented until a new Management Plan was printed.

Claire Storey referred to the 5 Farm Environment Plans and asked if maps held by Natural England showing educational access land could be updated as currently there was no educational access recorded within the AONB area. The AONB Manager said that he knew of one site of educational access within the AONB but was not sure if this had lapsed. He gave assurances that all opportunities for educational access within the AONB were fully explored.

Members expressed support for the activities described in the report and for the recommendations attached to the report.

RESOLVED –

- (i) That the Targets for 2010/11 as contained in the Action Programme be approved.
- (ii) That the continuation of administrative arrangements with the North York Moors National Park Authority for the Sustainable Development Fund scheme be approved and noted.
- (iii) That the continuation of the contribution to the Native Woodland Development Officer post be approved and noted.

21. NATURAL ENGLAND/LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The AONB Manager gave an oral progress report on finalisation of the new Memorandum of Understanding Natural England had asked constituent local authorities of the AONB to enter into.

It was reported that negotiations surrounding the clauses to be included in the final document had delayed its completion. Following a national-meeting in December 2009 a copy of the final document had been sent to constituent local authorities for signature.

The Memorandum of Understanding had been signed by Hambleton District Council the previous day and representatives of North Yorkshire County Council had agreed to sign the document immediately after the close of the meeting of the Committee that day. The document had now been approved by legal services at Ryedale District Council and was due to be presented to a meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee later that evening. Final approval would be given at a meeting of full Council on 20 May 2010.

Claire Storey said that the Management Team at Natural England would in the interim period seek a letter of comfort from Ryedale District Council.

RESOLVED –

That progress towards completion of the Memorandum of Understanding be noted.

22. STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT MONITORING STATISTICS

CONSIDERED –

The report of the AONB Manager presenting information gathered as part of the monitoring process for the Strategic Environmental Assessment carried out on the AONB Management Plan.

RESOLVED –

That the report be noted.

23. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR AONB'S (NAAONB) ACTIVITY

The AONB Manager gave an oral report.

The Committee was advised that in July 2009 Howard Davies was appointed as the new Chief Executive of the NAAONB. Since taking up his new position in January Mr Davies had proved to be an excellent choice and had reinvigorated the organisation. Traditionally the AONB Manager and Chairman of the Committee met on an annual basis during February/March the Chief Executive of the NAAONB. To date this had not occurred due to his recent appointment.

Work on branding had been delayed to allow input from the new Chief Executive. Proposals had now been agreed and would be rolled out shortly.

The NAAONB had declared that the International Year of Biodiversity would be its campaign theme for 2010. The AONB Unit had agreed to promote this at various events and through a number of initiatives.

RESOLVED –

That the information provided at the meeting be noted.

24. DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE AONB

CONSIDERED –

The annual report of the AONB Manager on the number and type of planning applications determined within the AONB during the previous year.

Members noted the 50% reduction in the number of applications determined in 2009 compared to 2008. The AONB Manager said that the AONB continued to remain under little development pressure with no major contentious schemes being submitted.

Members asked if it was possible to measure the effectiveness of the comments submitted. The AONB Manager said that often the comments submitted related to the colour and type of materials to be used. These were usually incorporated into the standard conditions attached to the consent. Until a development was actually built it was impossible to tell if comments submitted by AONB had been taken on board.

RESOLVED –

That the report be noted.

25. JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE PLANNING CONSULTATIONS

CONSIDERED –

The responses submitted by the AONB Manager to Hambleton and Ryedale District Councils in respect of planning applications received within the area of the AONB since the previous meeting.

Members endorsed the responses made by the AONB Manager in respect of the 7 applications appended to the agenda.

The AONB Manager advised that results of applications already determined were available upon request.

RESOLVED –

That the responses attached to the agenda be noted.

26. ORAL REPORTS FROM PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

Hambleton District Council

Local Development Framework – it was reported that the Allocations submission was completed in December 2009. A pre-hearing meeting took place on 10 March 2010. Examinations were due to start on 12 May 2010 and would be heard over a period of ten days. Hambleton District Council was the first local authority in the country to reach this stage. It was hoped that the final report would be available in July 2010.

Natural England

The 'All Landscapes Matter' position statement was now published.

A report was being prepared on utilisation of SDF monies by AONBs – further information on this would be provided as and when it became available.

A new temporary nine month contract was about to be created. The post-holder would analyse the performance and delivery against Natural England condition indicator targets of all AONBs.

Forestry Commission

The Yorkshire Forward funded 3 year capital programme had been approved and was due to start on 1 June 2010. Three hundred and twenty hectares of woodland would be created to reduce flood risk and 800ha of under-managed woodland brought into management. The programme also included work to improve understanding of the region's woodlands including an Ancient Woodland condition assessment programme. Habitat network research was to be taken forward by Forest Research, and a trees and urban climate project would be based at Manchester University.

Government departments have now published plans to show how they propose to tackle climate change. The Defra plan can be found at www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climate/documents/climate-change-plan-2010.pdf the forestry section is on pages 103-105. The proposals include the establishment of a Woodland Carbon Task Force.

The Government has now published its policy on restoring open habitats from forests. The policy can be found at www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/eng-oh-policy-march2010.pdf

Ryedale District Council

Local Development Framework – it was reported that the timetable had been revised following a decision of full council on 15 December 2009 not to approve the final Core Strategy document. Consequently the document had been revised to take account of the many responses received to the consultation. It was hoped that a draft Core Strategy would be published in July 2010 subject to agreement by full council.

North Yorkshire County Council

Second year Local Area Agreement targets have been published. The performance of SINC sites had exceeded the target (this includes a SINC within the AONB). Performance against national indicator 197 in North Yorkshire was 20%. This figure did not compare favourably nationally. The figure reflected the rurality of North Yorkshire where many sites are privately owned and are not subject to active management. Approximately 146 sites out of a total of 735 are in active management.

The final draft of the North Yorkshire Historic Landscape Characterisation Project had been sent to local authorities in North Yorkshire for comment. The closing date for receipt of comments was the end of April 2010 after which the final report would be published.

County Councillor Caroline Patmore said that the retaining stone wall at Oulston Bank had collapsed in four places onto the adjacent highway and was hazardous to road users. The AONB Manager agreed to visit the site and to contact the owner following the meeting.

Country Land and Business Association

It was reported that the Campaign for Farmed Environment campaign had been launched in Yorkshire. The campaign was in response to the loss of compulsory set-aside. The scheme aimed to replace the environmental benefits of set-aside on a voluntary basis. Project officers had been appointed and activity was due to start soon.

Reform of the Common Agricultural Policy – the CLA was actively supporting the case for the current budget to be maintained in order to meet the challenges of food and environmental security.

27. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

RESOLVED –

- (i) That the date of the annual site visit is 23 July 2010.
- (ii) That the date of the next meeting of the Committee is the morning of Friday, 5 November 2010, the exact start time and venue to be confirmed.

JW/JD/ALJ

**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.

- 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 NYMNP 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

FUTURE MISCELLANEOUS

- 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

- 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.

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

AONB INDICATORS

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To receive details of the Indicators used to measure AONB Partnership performance and AONB Condition.

2.0 AONB PARTNERSHIP INDICATORS

- 2.1 In line with Objective MN1.2 of the AONB Management Plan, the Natural England AONB Partnership Indicators are used as the standard measure of performance. The results for 2009/10 are attached as Appendix 1.

3.0 AONB CONDITION INDICATORS

- 3.1 Appendix 2 gives details of the information collected so far. This covers 14 of the 18 Indicators and work will continue this year to research and collate values for the remainder.

4.0 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

- a) The Performance Indicator results contained in Appendix 1 be noted.
- b) The Condition Indicator data contained in Appendix 2 be noted.

AONB Partnership and Unit Indicators 2009/10

Ref	Theme	Measure for the indicator	Definition	Response	Benefits
1	AONB Management Plan	The AONB Unit has a current Management Plan which meets the requirements of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.	<p>The Plan has been reviewed within five years of the last one.</p> <p>It conforms to the guidance for AONB Management Plans provided by The Countryside Agency.</p> <p>It has been formally adopted and published by all the relevant local authorities.</p> <p>A copy has been lodged with DEFRA.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p>	Demonstrates compliance with a core statutory duty.
2	AONB Partnership	The AONB has an active and effective governance structure.	<p>Record of regular AONB Board, Joint Committee, Joint Advisory Committee, Partnership, Board Meetings.</p> <p>Record of number of active sub meetings, management groups, technical groups, public meetings, fora etc</p> <p>AONB has undertaken a formal review of its governance structures within the last 5 years.</p> <p>Has an adopted current set of terms of reference.</p> <p>Has a publicly available record of its meetings, agendas and minutes.</p>	<p>3 JACs (63%)</p> <p>4 CFGs (69%); 1 Partnership Group (26%); 9 SDF Steering Groups; 5 SDF Grant Panels.</p> <p>No (Full review October 2001). Minor review March 2004).</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes (via NYCC)</p>	Demonstrates the scale of bodies involved and that they are active.

3a	AONB Staff Unit	The AONB Unit has staff resources to undertake its work.	Total the number of AONB staff and their specialisms, in full-time equivalents, including core staff and any project staff that were directly managed and hosted by the AONB Unit, at the financial year end.	1 x AONB Manager. 1 x AONB Officer. 1 x AONB Assistant (0.5 f.t.e.) Total – 2.5 f.t.e.	Demonstrates that the AONB Unit has the staff resources and capacity to undertake management effectively.
3b		AONB Unit staff invests in continuous professional development.	Of the total in Measure 3a above, list the number who undertook and recorded a minimum of 30 hours of training, personal development or similar C.P.D. activity during the year (adjusted pro-rata for part time staff).	2 f.t.e.	
4a	Financial resources	The AONB Unit secures direct income to fund its work.	Total income received into the AONB unit's own account from all sources during the financial year.	Total £227,352	Demonstrates the level of financial resources directly secured by the AONB Unit.
4b			The percentage of the figure in Measure 4a above which was received from Natural England and Local Authorities	92%	
4c			The amount received (part of 4a) from Natural England and Local Authorities	Total £210,290	
5a	Leverage and “added value”	Additional resources mobilised by AONB unit through its partnership work.	Include the figure given in Measure 4a above. Then add in the total funding for projects and partnership programmes in that year in which the AONB Unit played a significant part i.e. where it would not have gone ahead or would have been substantially smaller without AONB input. For example include matching income for any SDF funded project; total funds for partner HLF projects involving the AONB.	Total £747,690	Demonstrates the level of financial leverage and added value obtained by the AONB Unit through its wider project programmes and partnerships.
5b			The percentage of the figure above which was received from Natural England.	21%	

6a	Financial management and reporting	Agreed timetable and requirements for financial management and reporting with Natural England met by the AONB unit	<p>The Unit submitted its final grant claim to Natural England for the preceding financial year by the stated claim date (31st May 2009).</p> <p>Published its annual report for the preceding year within six months of the financial year end.</p> <p>Submitted its business plan and grant application for the succeeding financial year by the required date (31st December 2009).</p> <p>Submitted its interim grant claim by the required date (31st January 2010).</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes. 2008/09 report published Sept 2009.</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p>	Demonstrates effective administration and management of financial affairs.
6b		Natural England met the agreed timetable and requirements for financial management and reporting with the AONB Unit.	Natural England made a written formal core and Sustainable Development Fund offers of grant aid for the succeeding financial year by 31 March.	No. Single Pot - 27 th May 2009	
7a	Partnership working with management communities	The AONB Unit is an active partner in the work of the National Association of AONBs.	<p>The AONB Unit (through its host authority or partnership organisation) was a full member of the National Association of AONBs.</p> <p>Was represented by attendance at the Annual Conference of the Association.</p> <p>All AONB Unit core staff attended at least 1 other national or regional NAAONB sponsored seminar, training event or meeting each.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p>	Demonstrates partnership working for AONB family at a national, regional and local level.

7b		The AONB Unit actively involved in partnership working at a local level.	Total number of project steering groups, research initiatives, working groups and partnerships where the AONB Unit played an active and key role (ie not just a passive member of a forum or conference).	14 (NWDO SG, CAN DO Partnership Group, CAN DO Lime & Ice SG, NYMNP/HHAONB SDF SG + Panel, Ryedale & Hambleton BAPs, North Yorks Road Verges Working Group, NYBAG, LEADER SG, Malton & Norton SCTS Working Group, NYMNP/HHAONB /NYCC Highways Liaison Group, NYCC Ranger Team 3 Liaison Group, CE Electric DPCR5 Working Group)	
7c		The AONB Management Plan is formally endorsed and supported by partner organisations.	List the number of organisations who formally endorsed the plan when written and at the last review.	6 (3 x LAs, NE; FC; EH)	

8a	Business Plan targets	Achievement of the targets set out by the AONB unit in its annual business plan or equivalent.	Include all actions set out in the annual business plan/ <u>core bid document</u> agreed with Natural England. (Milestones in bid document)	38 ex 46 (83%)	Demonstrates that the AONB Unit achieves the objectives and actions it sets itself.
8b	Management Plan progress	The AONB Management Plan actions were implemented to schedule.	Include the AONB Management Plan actions that were progressed or completed during the year, shown as a percentage of all the AONB Management Plan actions that were scheduled for action during the year. An AONB unit led actions figure and 'all partnership actions' figure.	AONB Unit-led - 75% 'All Partnership' - 85% Progress against a further 8 Objectives where no specific annual targets had been set.	

Abbreviations

CFG – Core Funders Group
 ES – Environmental Stewardship
 HLF – Heritage Lottery Fund
 NYCC – North Yorkshire County Council
 NWDO – Native Woodland Development Officer
 CAN DO – Hambleton & Howardian Hills Cultural & Natural Development Opportunity
 NYMNP – North York Moors National Park
 BAP – Biodiversity Action Plan partnership
 NYBAG – North Yorkshire Biodiversity Action Group
 SG – Steering Group
 SCTS – Service Centre Transportation Strategy

Figure 8. AONB Condition Indicators

Attribute	Indicator	2009
1. Farmed Landscape	a) % of land managed under the Countryside Stewardship Scheme (CSS) b) % of land managed under Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) c) % of land managed under Entry Level Stewardship (ELS) d) Changes in farmland type (% of permanent pasture/temporary grassland/arable land)	a) 25% b) 1.5% c) 59.8% in ELS. 1% in OELS d) 22%; 5%; 73% (June Census 2007)
2. Woodland Landscape	a) % of woodland cover b) % of woodland under management for public benefit (UKWAS Certified)	a) 3,369ha. 16.5% of total AONB land area (20,400ha) b) 65%
3. Biodiversity	a) Condition of SSSIs b) Delivery of LBAP habitat targets for AONB – Condition of SINCs	a) 72 % Favourable, 16% Unfavourable No Change 12% Unfavourable Declining b) 73% undergoing some positive management action
4. Historic and Built Environment	a) Number of SMs in the High, Medium and Low Risk categories b) Condition of Registered Parks & Gardens and historic landscapes c) Number of Listed Buildings on ‘at Risk’ registers (EH & District Council) d) Condition of non-statutory Historic Environment Priority Sites	a) 33; 24; 21 b) RPGs – 1 Improving, 1 Stable, 1 unknown, 2 Deteriorating c) 4 Grade I. 12 Grade II. d) Not assessed yet

5. Water Quality (Rivers)	Length of rivers (%) of Good or Fair chemical quality (Chemistry and biology – A to F (very good to bad); Nitrates and phosphates – 1 to 6 (very low levels to very high levels))	River Derwent: 9 locations of measurement = Chemistry A, Biology A, Nitrates 3, Phosphates 1 1 location of measurement = Chemistry B, Biology A, Nitrates 4, Phosphates 2 River Rye: 9 locations of measurement = Chemistry A, Biology A, Nitrates 3, Phosphates 2 2 locations of measurement = Chemistry B, Biology B, Nitrates 1, Phosphates 2
6. Tranquillity	a) % of AONB recorded as ‘tranquil’ b) % of AONB affected by light pollution	a) Not assessed yet b) Not assessed yet
7. Enjoying the Countryside	‘Ease of Use’ (%) of PRow	Not assessed yet
8. Village Services/Amenities	% of AONB villages that have a shop, pub, Post Office service or community building	Shop – 24% Pub – 42% Post Office service – 15% Community building – 64%
9. Awareness of the AONB designation	% of survey respondents aware of the Howardian Hills AONB designation	c.25% (2002)

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

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR AONBs (NAAONB) ACTIVITY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To receive details of the initiatives currently being carried out by the NAAONB.

2.0 AONB BRANDING

2.1 Members will recall that the issue of branding for the whole family of AONBs was discussed at the JAC meeting in April 2009. At that time it was envisaged that a suggested new branding scheme would be available for JACs to consider in autumn 2009.

2.2 The timescale was put back due to the impending appointment of a new CEO at the NAAONB – it was considered inappropriate to launch a potentially significant new initiative shortly before he started.

2.3 Work re-started on the branding initiative in spring 2010, but was then delayed again by the difficulty in getting revised drafts from the consultant designers.

2.4 A branding scheme was ‘soft-launched’ at the NAAONB Conference in July 2010, but further development work has been hampered by the Natural England interpretation of the Cabinet Office’s clampdown on marketing and advertising activity.

2.5 The NAAONB continues to slowly develop the branding scheme, with the NAAONB staff working in their own time, until the Natural England embargo is relaxed.

2.6 Of what has been seen so far of the suggested branding (see examples attached as Appendix 1), this initiative is something that we could potentially slot into without losing our established identity. Participation will be voluntary, and it will up to each AONB to decide whether or not it joins the scheme. The coherence of the family of AONBs may however be of even more significance in the new era of government funding than it was previously.

3.0 DISCUSSIONS WITH NATURAL ENGLAND AND DEFRA

3.1 From the time of the announcement of the General Election and still on-going, parliamentary liaison activity has taken up a significant amount of the NAAONB staff’s time.

3.2 The situation as regards future funding, and who the sponsoring body for AONBs might be, has been and continues to be a fast-moving game.

3.3 Rather than attempt to explain all the activities in this covering report, Appendices 2 and 3 contain the two briefing notes that the NAAONB has issued this year. The first of these was prior to the General Election, with the second following a meeting with Defra Minister Richard Benyon on 25th October. Any further developments will be reported orally at the JAC meeting.

4.0 NAAONB STAFF STRUCTURE

4.1 Due to the likely decrease in Government funding for the NAAONB, it is likely that it will be reviewing its staff structure over the coming year. In addition to the two current staff, the 'regional co-ordinators' covering the south west and south east groupings of AONBs and National Parks have been putting significant amounts of time into national initiatives.

4.2 Because the situation changes almost from week to week it is difficult to predict how the organisation may evolve. It is however looking increasingly likely that it will look to source all its income from member bodies, rather than relying on Government grants. The issue of the communications embargo mentioned in paragraph 2.4 above brings the issue into stark relief – its member bodies want the NAAONB to be proactive on communication at this time, but its hands are tied because it receives most of its funding from Treasury sources.

4.3 Moving towards funding from its member bodies only would significantly increase the membership fee that would be sought from each AONB. Whether the funding that the NAAONB and regional co-ordinator posts currently receive would be channelled via the individual AONBs in future, to in effect offset the increase, isn't known yet. What is clear however, particularly at this current time, is that we are benefiting significantly from the national lobbying activity of the NAAONB, and that the future would be looking considerably worse if it wasn't there.

5.0 NORTHERN CHAIRMEN'S MEETING

5.1 As has been the practice for the last few years, the NAAONB Chairman and CEO will be attending a series of regional meetings around the country, to discuss the initiatives outlined above and also issues on which the NAAONB is lobbying nationally.

5.2 It is envisaged that the JAC Chairman and AONB Manager will attend the northern meeting in York, which will also have representatives from the other northern AONBs. This meeting is scheduled for 12th January 2011.

6.0 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

- a) the initiatives described above be noted, and
- b) the AONB Manager liaises with the JAC Chairman on the branding initiative described in paragraph 2.6, should decisions be required before the next meeting of the JAC.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR AREAS OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY
 ROUTE 1: Creating a hybrid structure for the organisation

Retention of the local area's individual logo
 retains their character and "uniqueness"



Selecting a unique colour also communicates independence

Lerem Ismum
Dolor Sitamet
Consectetur
GILSA 3PH
T: 01451 862035
F: 01451 862001
E: connect@landscapesforlife.org.uk
W: www.landscapesforlife.org.uk



Landscapes
for life
org.uk
CHANGING CHASE
One of the
AONB Family



Boronis Nemo
T: 01451 862035
E: nemo@nemoandnemo.org.uk
W: nemoandnemo.org.uk
Amisde and Sitende: AONB
Consectetur
GILSA 3PH

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AONB Family



NAAONB Membership Briefing

Briefing 1 – June 2010

General Election 2010

Post Election Briefing to AONB Partnerships and Conservation Boards

Introduction

This is the first formal briefing to AONBs following the general election. Briefings will be produced on an 'as needed' basis and reflect the growing need to ensure we work as a cohesive family of AONBs in representing our interests to government. Copies of this and future briefings will be available in the Reference Library of www.aonb.org.uk under Membership Briefings.

Whilst we recognise that the devolved administrations focus on their own elected bodies, there is a need to ensure that they also engage with their MPs elected to the UK parliament. The NAAONB will continue to work with the AONBs in the devolved administrations, identifying and delivering a bespoke programme of advocacy building work.

These briefings will

1. provide a concise summary of the current situation, including the wider context,
2. update members on commitments made by parliamentarians and
3. suggest some clear approaches to ensuring greater commitment at the local and national level.

Briefing One contains reference to

- **The Coalition Agenda**
- **The DEFRA Ministerial breakfast**
- **Hansard**
- **The PM's speech on the economy**
- **Key opportunities**
- **Key messages**
- **The role of the NAAONB**
- **The role of the AONB Partnership/Conservation Board**

**The National Association for
Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty**

Fosse Way
Northleach
Gloucestershire
GL54 3JH

Tel: 01451 862007
Fax: 01451 862001
Email: Jill.Smith@naaonb.org.uk

1. The context

The coalition agenda is set clearly within the wider context of deficit reduction and an agreement that economic recovery is the most urgent issue facing Britain.

There has been a distinction drawn between the cyclical deficit and structural deficit. There has also been an assertion that structural change is required, rather than placing a sole reliance on efficiency savings.

At the **DEFRA Ministerial breakfast meeting** to brief partners on responsibilities and priorities, attended by the NAAONB on Wednesday 2nd June, the Minister outlined some key points that create some 'mood music' to current decision making, namely

- there is a need to protect and enhance the natural environment
- that the UK would be at the centre of CAP reform and that Pillar 1 was unlikely to increase, but 2 could develop further.
- that Defra will lead on driving forward adaptation to Climate Change
- that a white paper on 'biodiversity' will be the only White Paper coming forward from Defra.
- that people should be able to have access to "green space"
- that the Marine Act is to be delivered (additionally recognising that fisheries are an important area of work)
- that future consultation would be real and meaningful and a move away from consultation that could be perceived as tokenism.
- there is a need to re-vitalise the food industry from field to fork.
- that decisions would be made after careful consideration of the science
- that the linkage between local and national is important and government was determined to push power down to the local level.
- that the regional strategies are to be scrapped, local plans re-instated.
- that they would be reviewing all "arms length" bodies and would expect them to do their bit in making savings; not necessarily reorganising them, as reorganisations cost money. Defra will stay as Defra.

And in response to the **NAAONB comment**: "In welcoming a White Paper on biodiversity, it is important to bear in mind biodiversity cannot be delivered without considering economies and communities. AONBs and NPAs provide good opportunities to bring those elements together; we hope this will be reflected in the White Paper."

- that they consider **the AONB Partnerships/Conservation Boards** and NPAs to be very important; and wish to work with organisations like the NAAONB to do this.

Additionally, recorded in **Hansard**, on the 27th May 2010 Hilary Benn states

"On the natural environment, we were very proud to put the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 on the statute book, and to have established two new national parks in the past five years, in the

New Forest and on the South Downs - the latter during the year in which we marked the 60th anniversary of Attlee's National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. I look forward to the creation of new places for wildlife, green corridors, bringing together the work of wildlife trusts, **areas of outstanding natural beauty**, the national parks, sites of special scientific interest and the marine conservation zones that the Marine and Coastal Access Act will create. The Lawton commission, which I established last year, will make its recommendations this summer, and we all look forward to them”.

And later on the same day, **Caroline Spelman** stated

“There is no "either/or" when it comes to climate change and biodiversity; they are interdependent and interlinked. We must act together at those conferences, because to do otherwise would be to rob future generations not only of the infinite variety of landscapes and species that we have been lucky enough to enjoy, but of the natural resources on which we depend for the quality of our lives and, indeed, our very livelihoods. We will act as a Government, with the publication of a White Paper on the natural environment to promote just that”.

The Prime Minister’s [speech](#) on the economy – Monday 7th June 2010

Whilst the focus of the speech was on reducing the burden of increasing interest payments associated with the national debt, direct reference was made to the public sector and public sector workers.

2. What are the key opportunities for AONBs following this election?

a) We should build on the commitment to protect the environment.

The Government has committed to protecting the environment for future generations. This commitment is set within the context of making our economy more environmentally sustainable, and improving our quality of life and well-being. The Government also believe that much more needs to be done to support the farming industry, protect biodiversity and encourage sustainable food production.

There is cross party support for an improved approach to biodiversity conservation and moving forward with the Marine Act.

b) We should champion our Partnerships/Conservation Boards within the context of decentralisation and democracy.

The Government believes that it is time for a fundamental shift of power from Westminster to people. They have committed to promoting decentralisation and democratic engagement, and intend to give new powers to local councils, communities, neighbourhoods and individuals.

They have also committed to promoting the devolution of power and greater financial autonomy to local government and community groups. This will include a review of local government finance.

Both commitments are highly significant for AONB Partnerships/Conservation Boards.

c) We should raise awareness of AONBs amongst new Members of Parliament.

160 new MPs have been returned to Parliament. Whilst many will inevitably be finding their feet in Government for the first few months it is essential that we engage with them. Many will have no understanding of AONBs and what we are about.

d) We should champion our AONBs as economic assets.

1:8 of MPs are from the private sector (compared to 1:25 in 1997). This fact is significant. It is essential that we engage with politicians using the right language. For some, this will be the language of the private sector, not local or central government.

It is essential that AONB Partnerships/Conservation Boards clearly articulate the major role they have in demonstrating how economic and social prosperity can be achieved through sustainable and creative resource management. High quality environment is the motive force of rural economy in AONBs. This high quality environment underpins a wide range of ecosystem services supported to great effect by AONB Partnerships/Conservation Boards.

In addition, it is important that we demonstrate not just the value of AONBs to the local economy but the cost effectiveness of our Partnerships/Conservation Boards and AONB Units.

e) We should turn stated commitment to AONBs into action.

The NAAONB has secured some commitment to AONBs nationally, voiced in the letters from the Conservative Party and Liberal Democrat Party leaders, and printed in the summer edition of Outstanding, the magazine for AONBs. In addition, the Hansard transcript cited earlier, gives a clear commitment from the Labour Party to the role of AONBs in helping conserve biodiversity.

3. What is the NAAONB doing to help AONBs?

a) Developing key messages

In the run-up to the general election the NAAONB developed three key messages which it fed out to the three main political parties in Westminster.

Key messages

- AONBs are strategic national assets
- AONBs are about managing positive landscape change
- AONBs are locally managed, nationally important areas, dealing with global issues.

These messages are framed within a few context setting statements:

- Our family of AONBs cover 8000 square miles and are governed by 700 locally elected members
- Our Partnerships are democratically accountable, have always provided value for money, and provide technical information (particularly relating to Town and Country Planning, archaeology, geodiversity and ecology) that supports our purpose.
- AONBs have a major role to play in the management of our national water resource, in managing carbon, in protecting our wildlife at a scale that is relevant in a changing climate, and in helping to keep the nation healthy and happy.
- AONBs exemplify collaborative working across the public, private and voluntary sectors, spanning multi-sectoral interests. Local farmers and landowners acknowledge the valuable advice and work of AONB Partnerships.

- AONB funding partnerships provide excellent value for money for funding partners. Gearing of local authority contributions is often well over 10:1, so for modest funds, local authority partners get a high profile and an authoritative stake in AONBs. AONB Partnerships have an excellent track record for attracting external project funding and are well placed for future bids.
- AONBs are not just about landscape and wildlife, they are inextricably linked to people and thriving local economies. Physical and spiritual well-being is overwhelmingly demonstrated to be positively affected by high quality natural greenspace [*Professor Jules Pretty, New Scientist Dec 2007*].

b) Challenging politicians

We publically challenged the three main parties to show a commitment to AONBs.

c) Engaging with Westminster

The NAAONB continues to engage with Westminster politicians and senior civil servants on all matters relevant to AONBs.

4. What next?

Moving on from the letters

The direct responses from the Conservative Party and Liberal Democrats are summarised below highlighting not only the support for AONBs but the challenges set out to us.

The Conservative Party Supporting statements

- AONBs are vitally important
- [AONBs are] beautiful environmental assets
- AONBs help 'unlock' value in our landscapes
- AONBs should be trusted to have a greater say in the development of local priorities
- One of an AONB most valuable assets is its partnership approach that works from the bottom up

Challenges

- [AONBs must] protect and enhance our habitats and safeguard wildlife
- [AONBs are] uniquely placed to provide effective management of important habitat, proper delivery of initiatives and targeted local funding
- [AONBs must] be cost effective
- [AONBs must] use our ability to co-ordinate activity locally to deal with the challenges facing our natural environment – in particular climate change, biodiversity loss

The Liberal Democrats Supporting statements

- Britain is blessed with many areas of outstanding natural beauty
- These areas should remain protected and enhanced
- AONBs promote biodiversity and a more sustainable Britain
- Green spaces = better health and well-being

Challenges

- [AONBs must help tackle] litter and pollution
- [AONBs must help develop] 'landscape scale' policies, agreed between local authorities – supporting environmental service provision including biodiversity conservation
- Planning systems must take account of environmental capacity

The NAAONB will continue to develop our three key messages, tailoring them to the political context.

Individual AONBs should

- Identify their local MP(s) – the NAAONB holds a full list of MPs associated with AONBs,
- Engage with them using the family of AONBs' key messages and contextual statements,
- Remind them of their Party's commitment made in the magazine, Outstanding – a copy from the NAAONB was timed to be delivered to their desk on arrival at Westminster,
- Clearly articulate the potential impact of reduced funding, either as direct grant in aid or as a result of Country Agency budget cuts, and relate this to the commitments set out in the letters and Hansard (as appropriate),
- Send them each a copy each of either the letters from the David Cameron and Nick Clegg (attached to this briefing), or the role for AONBs outlined in the speech made by Hilary Benn (as is politically appropriate),
- Invite him/her/them to your AONB to discuss how they can help deliver on their party's commitments

5. In conclusion

We have a number of significant opportunities ahead of us. If we approach these opportunities as a **cohesive family** with clearly articulated messages, we can potentially have a great impact.

There are distinct roles to be delivered locally and nationally and we will realise the potential of these roles by approaching them in a co-ordinated way.

The NAAONB recognises that this approach may not be appropriate for some of the AONBs with devolved administrations. The particular needs of these AONBs will be addressed separately.



NAAONB Membership Briefing

Briefing 2 – October 2010

Comprehensive Spending Review 2010 Discussions with DEFRA Minister, Civil Servants and Natural England.

Introduction

This briefing is to ensure that the AONB Partnerships, teams and supporters are fully aware of the developments in the funding and sponsorship of AONBs in the light of the CSR announcements, discussions with DEFRA and Natural England officials, and most recently a meeting between the NAAONB and Richard Benyon, Minister for the Environment.

The background

The coalition agenda is set clearly within the wider context of deficit reduction and an agreement that economic recovery is the most urgent issue facing Britain.

At a briefing for NGOs, Caroline Spelman, the Environment Secretary, reiterated the now familiar reasons that cuts are being made. She set out the criteria the Government had used in making the cuts: i.e. the protection of front line services through savings in back office efficiencies. However, she also confirmed that DEFRA is inevitably seeing reductions in capital (34%) and programme expenditure (29%).

For Defra, the priority was to protect capital expenditure on flood defence as a strategic need for the country. This has been achieved through a proportionally greater cut to DEFRA's programme budget.

DEFRA's priorities are

- British farming and food produced sustainably
- enhancing the environment and biodiversity
- supporting a green economy resilient to climate change

The Minister, Richard Benyon, specifically mentioned the importance of the Natural Environment White Paper in taking forward any biodiversity commitments from Nagoya and improving landscape scale conservation. He reiterated the important role AONBs and National Parks must play in this area of delivery.

Recent activity

Since June and the last briefing, the NAAONB has sought to engage with Government in many ways to present facts and figures concerning AONBs. The NAAONB has provided information to help Government make an informed decision about the future funding and sponsorship of AONBs. In detail the following has taken place:

- The NAAONB Annual Conference received a video presentation from the DEFRA Minister Richard Benyon.
- Questions in response to the Minister's video were collated and sent on to him.
- The Minister provided a written response to those questions.
- The Minister has visited the High Weald AONB.
- The Minister has made a presentation to the North Wessex Downs Annual Forum.

- The NAAONB CEO has made a presentation to the North Wessex Downs Annual Forum, for which the Minister remained.
- The NAAONB Chairman, Vice Chairman and CEO have held a meeting with the Chairman and Senior Officers from Natural England.
- The NAAONB CEO attended a DEFRA briefing immediately after the CSR announcements.
- The NAAONB officers and Chairman have met formally with the Minister.

The current context

- The Minister and DEFRA civil servants are now clearly aware of the role and current activity that AONB Partnerships play in delivering the government agenda, in particular The Big Society. In addition the Minister is very supportive of the role that AONB Management Plans play in articulating local priorities and setting out policies at the local level.
- The Minister has welcomed the way in which AONB Partnerships have responded as a collective to the issues in hand, particularly over the question of direct funding from DEFRA. He has listened closely to the arguments presented.
- The Minister has now made a decision over the role of DEFRA with regards future resourcing of AONBs.

Feedback on the meeting held with the Minister on the 25th October 2010

- The meeting was relaxed and positive
- The Minister strongly reiterated the important role of AONBs in delivering at the landscape scale
- The meeting covered the ground agreed in advance, namely
 1. DEFRA direct sponsorship
 2. The importance of a multi-year settlement
 3. The future relationship with Natural England
 4. Strengthening the role of the Management Plan, particularly Section 85 CRoW 2000
 5. Communications throughout the AONB family
- On the issue of direct funding a decision had been made in advance of the meeting. **Communication of this decision by the NAAONB however has been embargoed until DEFRA inform us otherwise.**
- DEFRA initially indicated that we should receive formal confirmation of their decision by Christmas. We pressed the need to instil confidence in Local Authorities before they set their budgets in November. This was noted and has since been reiterated by the CEO in discussions with DEFRA civil servants. We understand and accept that final settlements will not be known until December but have suggested decoupling a message of principle from that of detail. This suggestion was noted.
- We discussed strengthening the framework surrounding Section 85. We highlighted the work we are carrying out nationally on this, led by the High Weald AONB. This was noted with interest and will be followed up by DEFRA.
- We highlighted the difficulty presented by the current restriction on communications faced by the AONBs and the NAAONB. This prompted an interesting debate and will be followed up by DEFRA.

What next?

The NAAONB will

- Reiterate the need for DEFRA to issue a statement that will instil confidence in the Local Authorities supporting AONBs as a matter of urgency.
- Reiterate the importance of a multi-year settlement for AONB Partnerships.
- Maintain the close and positive working relationship with the Minister, DEFRA civil servants and Natural England Board and staff.

Individual AONBs should

- Welcome the positive way in which the discussions surrounding direct funding by DEFRA have progressed and communicate this to their partnerships.
- Reiterate to their local authorities the value DEFRA places in AONBs, and the important role that the Minister sees AONBs performing in delivery.
- Highlight the current embargo on communicating the Minister's decision.

In conclusion

We have a number of significant opportunities ahead of us. If we approach these opportunities as a **cohesive family** with clearly articulated messages, we can potentially have a great impact.

There are distinct roles to be delivered locally and nationally and we will realise the potential of these roles by approaching them in a co-ordinated way.

We have made the case for direct funding from DEFRA on behalf of the AONB Partnerships in England. Our arguments have been listened to and have informed decision making. The NAAONB is urging DEFRA to communicate the Minister's decision as a matter of urgency.

There has been much progress made in the last six months in raising the profile of AONB Partnerships as delivery mechanisms. The National Association for AONBs therefore expects to focus, over the coming year, on highlighting best practice for delivery.

Local Authority support remains vital to ensuring AONBs deliver as the Minister intends.

The NAAONB recognises that this briefing is focussed on AONB Partnerships in England. The particular needs of the AONBs in Wales and Northern Ireland will be addressed separately.

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

ITEM 9

AONB BUDGET

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To receive details of expenditure during 2009/10 and to consider anticipated budgetary needs for 2011/12.

2.0 2009/10

- 2.1 Details of the final income and expenditure account for 2009/10 are set out in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 provides a breakdown of actual expenditure. Details of countryside management projects funded are in Appendix 3, with details of Sustainable Development Fund projects in Appendix 4.
- 2.2 Appendix 1 includes the budget figures prepared in October 2008, to allow Members to compare the actual budget against that predicted. It should be borne in mind that the budget prepared in October each year is then adjusted and refined, to take account of likely changes in income and expenditure. These revisions are shown in the 'December 2008' column of Appendix 1 and formed the basis of the formal bid submitted to Natural England – no revisions from the October 2008 figures were necessary this time. The final budget, following the receipt of grant offer letters etc., is shown in the 'August 2009' column.
- 2.3 Although there were some variations between the Estimated and Actual spends on a number of budget heads, the overall profile of the budget showed a 0.1% underspend. A full claim for Natural England grant was submitted, as the Single Pot arrangement was in place for the first time.
- 2.4 Staffing:
- This budget showed an underspend, due to a saving on salary costs related to annual increments and a lower-than-predicted inflation pay award.
- 2.5 Office:
- As an underspend on Core as a whole was proving imminent, we took the opportunity to establish a new work station, with computer and GIS software, for use by volunteers, the NYCC Countryside Ranger or AONB Team members when doing mapping work.
 - This resulted in a small overspend for this particular budget head.
- 2.6 Partnership Running Costs:
- The out-turn was less than the budget provision, as we'd allowed for 3 attendees at the NAAONB Conference.

2.7 PR/Events/Research:

- As our Annual Report and AONB Newsletter have been running for a number of years, their production costs were close to the budget predictions.
- The Northern AONBs calendar was produced again this year.
- We used some underspend from other Core budget heads to update several of our display panels which had out-of-date phone numbers, etc.
- The design and artwork for the Nunnington Local Walks and Information leaflet was completed. We had originally anticipated getting the leaflet printed this year as well, but ran out of time.
- An unforeseen cost of Project Management for the production of the AONB Management Plan, Newsletter and Annual Report was also covered by this budget head, resulting in a slight overspend.

2.8 Management Plan:

- The cost of producing and distributing the final version was very close to the budget provision.

2.9 AONB Enhancement – Natural Environment:

- This budget only spent 63% of its provision.
- Nonetheless, a number of interesting and valuable projects were completed, including the planting of 3 further roadside hedges in the Yearsley/Brandsby area, control of Himalayan balsam along Wath Beck and clearance of 10ha of rhododendron on Piper Hill SINC.
- 8 schemes to plant individual in-field and hedgerow trees were prepared but had to be postponed until the current year due to the severe winter weather.
- Apart from our regular Exmoor pony grazing programme and routine annual SINC management, we've noticed that we have fewer potential projects 'on the books'. This is probably because we have largely worked our way through many of the roadside hedges that were on our target list.
- Some of the underspend was used to fund Historic Environment projects and the remainder has been rolled-forward to the current year.

2.10 AONB Enhancement – Historic Environment:

- This budget overspent by 285% in comparison to its original provision.
- The principal project was the re-building of the roadside section of the Wiganthorpe Park wall near Scackleton – laying topstones on the section completed last year, clearing scrub from the next section and then starting restoration of that section.
- Other projects included repairs to a section of the Newburgh Park wall near Ampleforth Station and the re-casting of 3 mileposts.

2.11 Sustainable Development Fund:

- A 109% spend was achieved, with a small amount of budget being transferred from the Natural Environment projects heading.
- The majority of the grant went to four large projects, two of which were in the first year of 2-year programmes of work.
- A payment was made to the North York Moors National Park Authority for their administrative services in running the SDF Panel, as part of the on-going arrangement.

2.12 Enjoying the AONB:

- On-going maintenance/improvement work was carried out on Rights of Way furniture by the County Council, but without any recourse to JAC funds.

- The other main areas of expenditure were the programme of litter picking carried out around the AONB during the summer months by the Basics Plus team, our annual contribution to the CAN DO Lime & Ice Project and the replacement of 3 traditional-style village name signs.
- A small surplus from the AONB Discovery Project was used to run 8 Junior Ranger Club sessions in the spring, with a further 8 sessions run in autumn and winter using our own resources.

2.13 At the end of the financial year 2009/10 there was a carry-forward into 2010/11 of £34,871:

- £1,754 has been allocated to Historic Environment projects.
- Some of the carry-forward may be used for other major projects that arise in 2010/11, provided that the Natural England funding is fully committed and the project presents an opportunity that may not arise again in the future.
- The remainder will be kept for use on projects in future years, to bolster what will be declining resources for projects and therefore hopefully achieve some of the 'iconic' projects on our target list, e.g. the Gate Lodges at Howsham Hall.

3.0 2010/11

3.1 The agreed budget for the current year amounts to £241,921. Details of this are set out in Appendix 5 and all the major partners' contributions to the budget have been confirmed. The budget does not include the balance of the carry-forward of £34,871 from 2009/10, although Members will note that £1,754 has already been allocated, as described in paragraph 2.13 above.

3.2 The most significant point to note is that the budget has been reduced by £7,883 in comparison to the budget that we started the financial year with. An in-year cut of 5% in the Natural England funding required us to prepare a new budget. This was agreed by the JAC Chairman in late August and was achieved by cutting out several projects that were either low priority or which were not predicted to be achievable in the current year.

3.3 The budget includes a significant contribution from the CAN DO Partnership. This is for the control of Himalayan balsam along Wath Beck, the digitisation of the Phase 1 habitat survey maps, restoration work on the lime kilns at Scar Wood near Gilling and the planting of individual in-field and boundary trees.

3.4 As usual it is too early in the financial year to make any reliable estimate of anticipated final expenditure during 2010/11:

- The figures presented in Appendix 5 are where we stand at the minute, although we continue to take new funding opportunities if they arise and are appropriate.
- Figures for Core Costs should however be fairly accurate, as the latest budget revision was completed in August and the figure for the annual inflation pay award has been confirmed.
- The Single Pot arrangement means that Natural England funding is spread across nearly all the budget heads, but we are free to move it around as the year goes on.

3.5 Staffing:

- It is anticipated that the out-turn will be close to the budget provision.

3.6 Office and Partnership Running Costs:

- It is anticipated that the out-turns will be close to the budget provisions.

- 3.7 PR/Events/Research:
- The AONB Newsletter and Annual Report have been completed and should be close to budget predictions.
 - We are likely to need a re-print of the local information/circular walks leaflet for Welburn, as stocks are running low.
 - There is likely to be a small underspend, as the Northern Group AONBs calendar will not now be going ahead this year.
- 3.8 Sustainable Development Fund:
- £45,900 of our £50,000 budget has been formally allocated, but there are no other known projects as yet coming forward for the remainder.
- 3.9 AONB Enhancement (Natural Environment):
- £9,882 of the £23,500 budget has been formally allocated, with further projects accounting for the balance in the process of being worked-up.
 - Two major projects are being completed with CAN DO funding – Himalayan balsam control on Wath Beck and the digitisation of the Phase 1 habitat survey mapping covering the AONB.
 - The postponed schemes for planting in-field and boundary trees will be carried out this year, together with a number of others that have come forward. Several of these are supported by CAN DO funding as well.
- 3.10 AONB Enhancement (Historic Environment):
- £15,240 of the £32,009 budget has been formally allocated, with a further £27,000 of projects either very close to receiving offers or likely to be completed this year. The main projects allocated funding so far are the completion of the Wiganthorpe Park wall restoration programme at Scackleton and the restoration of at least 4 traditional direction signs in the Oulston/Yearsley area.
 - The two largest schemes we are pursuing this year are a study of the Registered Park and Garden at Gilling Castle and the stabilisation of the 3-pot lime kiln near Gilling, both of which are attracting significant match-funding.
 - Allowing for underspends on other budget heads, the programme of projects detailed above will involve use of our reserves by approximately £4,200 additional to that indicated in Appendix 5 below.
- 3.11 Enjoying the AONB:
- £6,683 of the £8,750 budget allocation has been committed. £2,500 of this is our contribution to the CAN DO Lime & Ice Project this year, for the community archaeological research project centred on Yearsley Moor.
 - The main item of work completed has been the rationalisation and re-surfacing of the car park at Kirkham Priory.
 - The Basics Plus group are continuing to clear litter from well-used lay-bys and the AONB Gateway Sign locations are being trimmed regularly.
- 3.12 Wherever an underspend is indicated in the above paragraphs, money will be moved as necessary to ensure that it is used to best effect and that a full claim can be submitted to Natural England for their contribution. As indicated in paragraph 3.13 below however, the emergence of various opportunities to carry out work using match-funding means that we are more likely to overspend than underspend on our agreed budget this year.
- 3.13 If all the projects we are working on come off, or we decide that opportunities need to be taken this year whilst they are available, we would need to use approx £5,950 of

our £34,871 reserves. Experience indicates however that project work rarely pans-out as expected and the budget will be managed in order to achieve a balance of project implementation and prudence. The Single Pot arrangement is of great assistance in this respect.

4.0 2011/12

- 4.1 An estimate of anticipated expenditure during the next financial year is shown in Appendix 5. Although the level of cuts at Natural England is now clearer, we are unsure as to the position of the three local authorities and therefore making an accurate prediction at this moment in time is virtually impossible. The use of variable amounts of our reserves could make a difference, but it is almost certain that the level of activity funded by our in-house grants will be significantly lower than in the current year.
- 4.2 The year-on-year profile of the cuts from Natural England is also unknown but, as our principal funding source, this is clearly the one that will have the most significant impact. The figures in Appendix 5 assume a 20% cut from Natural England for 2011/12 and 10% cuts from each of the local authorities. It is hoped however that this might be a worst-case scenario...
- 4.3 The Natural England 3-year grant commitment finishes on 31st March 2011 and it is of course difficult to predict when or whether a new 3-year agreement will be offered.
- 4.4 Although the Single Pot arrangement means that strictly there is no longer any distinction between Core and Project budgets, those terms have been used in Appendix 5 to enable the JAC to see the split between Staff/Office costs and project work 'on the ground'.
- 4.5 Staffing:
- No changes are proposed to the staff structure. Support services are about at the minimum needed to make best use of the professional officers' time, and our success with leveraging-in match funding (most recently the HLF and LEADER grants) demonstrates the need to maintain the professional officer resource. Our ability to maintain our range of activity will also rely on us doing more tasks in-house, rather than contracting external providers.
 - No inflation pay award has been factored-in.
- 4.6 Office costs:
- The running costs for the office have been reduced slightly in comparison to 2010/11.
- 4.7 Partnership Running Costs:
- A small decrease in budget provision compared to 2010/11.
- 4.8 PR/Events/Research:
- Under the budget scenario presented we would not be publishing the Annual Report. The information will be compiled but distributed via the AONB Newsletter only.
 - The AONB Newsletter will continue to be published and distributed – we feel that this is good value for money in keeping local residents informed of opportunities to become involved in AONB management.

- The next in our series of local information/walks leaflets will be started. Information will be gathered but will be published as simple A4 sheets which can be run-off on our printer.
- Should the budget scenario change, we would consider publishing the Annual Report in its current format again and working towards a local information/walks leaflet that fitted the format of the existing three publications.

4.9 Sustainable Development Fund:

- Based on known and potential projects, £17,500 has been allocated.
- We are not aware of any major projects in the offing, and the current batch of 2-year projects will have finished.

4.10 AONB Enhancement:

- The budget for Natural Environment projects will be significantly less than that for the current year, which again has benefited from a high level of contribution from the CAN DO partnership. If all planned projects are completed in 2010/11 then that will have used all the CAN DO resources available. As indicated above, we have completed many of the major hedge planting projects we had identified, so an allocation of £15,621 has been made.
- The budget for Historic Environment projects will also be significantly less than that for the current year, at £17,638.
- By their very nature Historic Environment projects tend to be much more expensive than Natural Environment ones, so fewer are likely to be completed.
- It is anticipated that we will continue to make a contribution towards the cost of the Native Woodland Development Officer post, although at a slightly reduced level.
- Should the budget scenario change, we believe that it is the Historic Environment element that would most benefit from an increase in resources.

4.11 Access/Recreation and Communities:

- The budget for recreation management work, and for work with communities and volunteers, has been kept at a similar level to 2010/11. This maintains a measure of parity across all our areas of work activity, taking into account the decrease in the Sustainable Development Fund.
- The provision for this budget heading also includes our contribution to the fourth year of the CAN DO Lime & Ice Project, which is principally funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The main activity for this year will be the continuation of the community archaeology project on Yearsley Moor, with interpretive material and trail routes being developed.

4.12 Children and Young People's Activities:

- Budget provision has been made to continue running the popular programme of Junior Ranger Club days using our own resources. These are likely to be run in partnership with the Castle Howard Arboretum, although if more money became available we would look to rotate them around the AONB villages again.
- The Rural:Urban Schools Twinning project will have its first full year, with the large majority of funding coming from the Heritage Lottery Fund and LEADER Programme. £1,000 has been budgeted as our match-funding contribution.

4.13 As indicated in paragraph 4.1 above, the budget in Appendix 5 is the best-guess at the current time. It is possible that AONBs will move to being funded directly by Defra, rather than via Natural England, which could significantly affect the rate at which our budget is cut. Any update to that situation will be reported verbally at the JAC meeting. Should more funding become available, this would be used to restore the Projects budgets and continue with our high level of activity on-the-ground.

5.0 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

- (a) The details of JAC expenditure during 2009/10 be received for information;

- (b) Partner authorities be asked to consider making financial contributions towards the work of the JAC in 2011/12, in line with Appendix 5 and section 4 of this report.

HOWARDIAN HILLS AONB**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2009/10****1. INCOME 2009/10**

(a) BUDGET PROVISION	Estimated (Oct. 2008)	NE Bid (Dec. 2008)	Final (Aug. 2009)	Actual (Year end) £
Natural England	157,666		157,666	157,666
North Yorkshire County Council	39,090		39,140	39,140
Ryedale District Council	5,684		5,684	5,684
Hambleton District Council	5,800		5,800	5,800
Heritage Lottery Fund (balance in-hand)	0		2,297	2,297
CAN DO	5,000		11,000	9,000
FEP preparation fees	0		0	715
Forestry Commission	0		0	0
English Heritage	0		0	0
Donations	0		0	50
Brought forward	[2,212]		[2,212]	[3,204]
(b) TOTAL (ESTIMATED) INCOME	(215,452)	(215,452)	(223,799)	223,556

2. EXPENDITURE 2009/10
(see Appendix 2 for full details)**Core Expenditure**

(a) Staffing	97,494		97,494	93,692
(b) Office	14,400		14,400	15,913
(c) Partnership running costs	2,150		2,150	1,838
(d) PR, Events, Research, etc.	6,500		6,500	7,992
(e) Management Plan	7,000		7,000	6,669

Project Expenditure

(f) Sustainable Development Fund	45,000		45,000	49,089
(g) AONB enhancement (Natural environment)	30,908		36,958	23,086
(h) AONB enhancement (Historic environment)	5,000		5,000	14,399
(i) Enjoying the AONB	7,000		7,000	9,079
(j) Discovery Project	0		2,297	1,799
(k) TOTAL (ESTIMATED) EXPENDITURE	(215,452)	(215,452)	(223,799)	223,556

3. **2009/10 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT**

	Income £		Expenditure £
Brought forward from 2008/09	39,015	Expenditure	223,556
Local Authority Partners	50,624	Balance c/f to 2010/11	35,811
Natural England	157,666		
CAN DO	9,000		
Heritage Lottery Fund (in-hand)	2,297		
FEP preparation fees	715		
Donations	50		
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	259,367		259,367

(All figures rounded to the nearest £)

HOWARDIAN HILLS AONB**CORE EXPENDITURE: 2009/10****(a) Staffing (inc. Travelling, Subsistence, Training & Recruitment costs)**

AONB Manager	44,621
AONB Officer	38,229
AONB Assistant	10,842
TOTAL	93,692
Estimated	97,494
Underspend (-) / overspend (+)	-3,802

(b) Office costs

Rent/Service Charge & Insurance	6,805
Business Rates	2,061
Utilities (Electricity, water, oil, waste)	1,178
Cleaning	1,055
Telephones & internet	616
Photocopier	439
Furniture/equipment	2,258
Stationery	22
Postage	460
Miscellaneous	1,019
TOTAL	15,913
Estimated	14,400
Underspend (-) / overspend (+)	+1,513

(c) Partnership running costs

JAC Meetings & room hire	473
NAAONB (subs, Conference)	1,248
Miscellaneous	117
TOTAL	1,838
Estimated	2,150
Underspend (-) / overspend (+)	-312

(d) PR, Events, Research, etc.

AONB Newsletter	2,541
Annual Report	867
AONB Website	60
Ryedale Show	482
Local information & interpretation material	1,200
Northern AONBs calendar	271
Miscellaneous	2,571

TOTAL **7,992**

Estimated 6,500

Underspend (-) / overspend (+) +1,492

(e) Management Plan

Design & printing	6,368
Miscellaneous	301

TOTAL **6,669**

Estimated 7,000

Underspend (-) / overspend (+) -331

PROJECT EXPENDITURE: 2009/10

(f) Sustainable Development Fund

Projects	48,089
Administration	1,000

TOTAL **49,089**

Estimated 45,000

Underspend (-) / overspend (+) +4,089

(g) AONB enhancement (Natural environment)

Native Woodland Development Project	2,500
Projects	20,586

TOTAL **23,086**

Estimated 36,958

Underspend (-) / overspend (+) -13,872

(h) AONB enhancement (Historic environment)

Projects	14,399
TOTAL	14,399
Estimated	5,000
Underspend (-) / overspend (+)	+9,399

Please see Appendices 3 and 4 for full details of the projects completed under each of the 3 above programmes, together with their priority in the Action Programme of the Management Plan

(i) Enjoying the AONB

CAN DO Lime & Ice Project	4,000
Recreation management	500
Volunteer tasks, community work, miscellaneous projects	4,579
TOTAL	9,079
Estimated	7,000
Underspend (-) / overspend (+)	+2,079

(j) Discovery project

Junior Ranger Club	1,799
TOTAL	1,799
Estimated	2,297
Underspend (-) / overspend (+)	-498

(k) TOTAL EXPENDITURE 2009/10 £223,556

AONB PROJECTS 2009/2010

1st April 2009 – 31st March 2010

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

AONB Enhancement – Natural Environment

APPLICANT	LOCATION	PROJECT	LOCAL PRIORITY	OBJECTIVE	SCHEME COST	JAC ASSISTANCE
~	AONB-wide	Native Woodland Development Officer post	-	FW6.5	£34,375	£2,500
~	AONB-wide	Graduate volunteer – Naomi Cox	-	AP3	£4,750	-
G Horsfield	Yearsley	Planting 323m of new hedge	Zones 1 & 2C Landscape	AG2.2	£3,556	£2,000
Forestry Commission	Coulton Moor Plantation	Repairing 4m of roadside stone wall	Zone 1 Landscape	AG2.2	£130	£130
J Butler	Valley Farm, Grimstone	Repairing 2m of roadside wall	Zone 1 Landscape	AG2.2	£65	£65
J Butler	Valley Farm, Grimstone	Spraying bracken along roadside wall	Zone 1 Landscape	AG2.2	£375	£375
Mr & Mrs G McHarg	Crambe Grange	Planting 350m of hedge gaps	-	AG2.2	£1,371	£648
E Swiers	Brandsby/ Yearsley	Planting 510m of new roadside hedge and gaps	Zone 1 Landscape	AG2.2	£2,793	£2,250
C Woolley	Dale Plantation House, Grimstone	Planting 132m of new roadside hedge	Zone 1 Landscape	AG2.2	£660	£495 (75%)

APPLICANT	LOCATION	PROJECT	LOCAL PRIORITY	OBJECTIVE	SCHEME COST	JAC ASSISTANCE
R Hall	Thorn Tree Farm, Gilling	Repairing 9m of gaps in roadside wall	Zone 1 Landscape	AG2.2	£480	£225
A Glaister	Garbutts Ghyll, Husthwaite	Laying 150m of hedge (inc. hedgelaying course)	Zone 2B Landscape	AG2.2	£2,176	£800

APPLICANT	LOCATION	PROJECT	LOCAL PRIORITY	OBJECTIVE	SCHEME COST	JAC ASSISTANCE
(AONB Unit – Yorkshire Exmoor Pony Trust)	Coulton (1), Cawton (2), Terrington (2), Bulmer	Conservation grazing of 6 SINC's or other important sites	Sites 1.59, 1.41, 1.47, 1.66, 1.20, 1.21	NE5.1, NE6.1	£1,180	£787
(AONB Unit – Basics Plus)	Littledale SINC	Habitat management	Site 1.20	NE5.1, NE6.1	£100	£100
(AONB Volunteers)	Foss Spring Mire, Yearsley	Removal of Western hemlock saplings	-	NE6.3, AP3.1	£250	-
Huttons Ambo Churchyard group	Huttons Ambo Churchyard	Habitat management	-	NE3.1, NE5.4, NE10.1	£60	£30
Amotherby Churchyard Conservation Group	Amotherby Churchyard	Habitat management	-	NE3.1, NE5.4, NE10.1	£200	£100
(AONB Unit – Basics Plus)	Appleton-le-Street Churchyard SINC	Grassland management	-	NE5.1	£200	£100

APPLICANT	LOCATION	PROJECT	LOCAL PRIORITY	OBJECTIVE	SCHEME COST	JAC ASSISTANCE
(FWAG - J Wilkins)	Hovingham	Grassland creation advice	-	NE5.5	£215	£215
(AONB Volunteer)	Dale Wood SINC	Botanical survey	Site 1.12	NE3.1, AP3.1	£300	-
(AONB Unit – Curlew Conservation Contractors)	Wath Beck; Terrington - Howthorpe	Cutting/pulling Himalayan balsam	Inc. Site 1.65	NE8.2	£1,960	£1,960
(AONB Unit – Countryside Services)	Wath Beck; Howthorpe - Wath	Cutting/pulling Himalayan balsam	Inc. Site 1.33	NE8.2	£1,056	£1,056
(AONB Unit – P Gospel Landscapes)	Terrington	Installing fencing and water trough on ‘spare’ land for Exmoor pony grazing	-	NE5/NE6	£271	£271
(AONB Unit – Basics Plus)	Mugdale & Barker Woods SINC	Cutting/pulling Himalayan balsam	Site 1.58	NE8.2	£300	£300
(AONB Unit – Basics Plus)	Park Wood, Gilling	Removal of Western hemlock saplings	Adj. Site 1.6	NE4.1	£100	-
(AONB Unit – NYCC)	Snargate Bank, Brandsby	Installation of 2 salt bins to protect ancient oak tree	-	NE4.2	£260	£160
AONB Unit (Forestry Commission)	Piper Hill Plantation SINC	Control of rhododendron in heathland and Ancient Woodland areas	Sites 1.7 & 1.6	NE5.4	£11,500	£7,332
(AONB Unit – Castle Howard Estate)	Terrington Carr SINC	Cutting birch and then chipping	Site 1.67	NE4.1, NE12.2	£450	-
(AONB & NYCC Volunteers)	Terrington Carr SINC	Moving cut birch off-site for chipping	Site 1.67	NE4.1, NE12.2, AP3.1	£300	-
(AONB Volunteers)	Dalby Bush Fen SSSI	Grassland and fen management	Site 1.56	NE5.4, NE6.3, NE12.2,	£750	-

				AP3.1		
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APPLICANT	LOCATION	PROJECT	LOCAL PRIORITY	OBJECTIVE	SCHEME COST	JAC ASSISTANCE
(AONB Volunteers)	Peel Wood & Grassland SINC	Scrub control	Site 1.11	NE3.1, NE5.1, NE12.2, AP3.1	£700	-
(AONB and Lime & Ice Volunteers)	Piper Hill Plantation SINC	Rhododendron control	Site 1.7	NE5.4, AP3.1	£800	-
(AONB Volunteers)	Dalby Bush Fen SSSI	Scrub control	Site 1.56	NE5.4, NE12.2, AP3.1	£500	-
(AONB Unit – J R Clifford & Sons)	Various	Management of 44 Special Interest Road Verges	-	NE5.3	£987	£987
(AONB Unit – Basics Plus)	Amotherby Lane SINC	Grassland/scrub management	Site 1.38	NE5.1, NE7.1	£100	£100
(AONB Unit – Basics Plus)	Littledale SINC	Burning cut bramble prior to grazing	Site 1.20	NB5.1, NB6.1	£100	£100
(AONB & NYCC Volunteers)	Moorside (Black Fir) Plantation SINC	Rhododendron control	Site 1.9	NE5.4, AP3.1	£225	-
(AONB, NYCC & NE Volunteers)	Piper Hill Plantation SINC	Rhododendron & Western hemlock control	Site 1.7	NE5.4, AP3.1	£500	-
(AONB & NYCC Volunteers)	Piper Hill Plantation SINC	Rhododendron control	Site 1.7	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	£168	£168
(AONB Unit – Castle Howard)	Wiganthorpe Park, Scackleton	Spraying scrub regrowth	Site 2.92	HE4.5	£75	£75
(AONB Unit – M Aconley)	Wiganthorpe Park, Scackleton	Re-building 70m of Park wall	Site 2.92	HE4.5	£1,300	£1,300
(AONB Unit – Arbortec)	Wiganthorpe Park, Scackleton	Clearing scrub from 330m of Park wall	Site 2.92	HE4.5	£3,000	£3,000
(AONB Unit – Clarkes)	Wiganthorpe Park, Scackleton	Top-stones for 330m of Park wall	Site 2.92	HE4.5	£820	£820
(AONB Unit – M Aconley)	Wiganthorpe Park, Scackleton	Laying top-stones on 330m of Park wall	Site 2.92	HE4.5	£2,470	£2,470
S Scott	Low Lions Lodge, Ampleforth	Re-building 35m of Park wall	Site 2.15	HE4.5	£1,370	£1,096 (80%)
(AONB Unit – Basics Plus)	Todd Wood Mill, Welburn	Scrub control	Site 2.73	HE4.5	£175	£100
(AONB Unit – Cleveland Corrosion Control)	Slingsby	Restoring Milepost and taking mould for future castings	-	HE4.5, RT4.5	£1,000	£1,000
(AONB Unit – Cleveland Corrosion Control)	Oswaldkirk	Re-casting Listed Milepost	-	HE4.5, RT4.5	£1,000	£1,000

APPLICANT	LOCATION	PROJECT	LOCAL PRIORITY	OBJECTIVE	SCHEME COST	JAC ASSISTANCE
(AONB Unit – M Aconley)	Wiganthorpe Park, Scackleton	Re-building 100m of Park wall	Site 2.92	HE4.5	£1,950	£1,950
Mr & Mrs G Simm	Slingsby	Pollarding 130m of overgrown hedge, adjacent to historic orchard	Site 2.52	HE4.5	£240	£120

APPLICANT	LOCATION	PROJECT	LOCAL PRIORITY	OBJECTIVE	SCHEME COST	JAC ASSISTANCE
(AONB Unit – Cleveland Corrosion Control)	Leysthorpe	Re-casting Milepost (Listed Building at Risk)	Site 2.63	HE4.5, RT4.5	£1,000	£1,000

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)	Badger Bank car park	Strimming	Site 3.17	RA11.1	c.£50	c.£50
(AONB Volunteers)	Howthorpe	Removal of Himalayan balsam from Public Bridleway	-	RA4.5, NE8.2, AP3.1	£250	-
Hovingham PC	Hovingham	Restore village name sign	-	HE4.5	£800	£400 (50%)
(Coxwold PC)	Coxwold	Restore village name signs	-	HE4.5	£4,000	£550

APPLICANT	LOCATION	PROJECT	LOCAL PRIORITY	OBJECTIVE	SCHEME COST	JAC ASSISTANCE
(Dalby-cum-Skewsby PC)	Dalby	Restore village name sign	-	HE4.5	£800	£800
(Brandsby PC)	Brandsby	Restore village name sign	-	HE4.5	£800	£800
(Hovingham PC)	Hovingham	Restore village name sign	-	HE4.5	£800	£800
Hovingham Playground Group	Hovingham	Plant 274m of hedge around new play area	-	NE10, LC1.5	£1,590	£540
-	Various	Volunteer effort with Junior Ranger Club, Ryedale Show, Walk for Nepal, Green Day, etc.	-	AP3.1	£2,250	-
-	Various	Volunteer effort on PRoW in the AONB (av. 4 people/week, every other week)	-	RA4.5, AP3.1	£5,200	-
CAN DO Lime & Ice Project	Project area	2009/10 contribution			£194,000	£4,000

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND GRANTS 2009/2010

1st April 2009 – 31st March 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 1)	-	LC1	£27,000 (Year 1)	£15,000
Gilling Village Hall	Gilling East	Ground-source heat pump	-	SF2.4, D5.2	£28,485	£13,103
Castle Howard Estate Ltd	Castle Howard	Ground-source heat pump	-	SF2.4, D5.2, D5.3	£179,010	£10,000
Appleton-le-Street Parish Hall	Village Hall, Amotherby	Refurbishment of Village Hall	-	SF2.4, LC1.5	£46, 653	£1,050
Orchards of Huthwaite	Huthwaite	Orchard development and apple processing equipment	-	NE10, HE4.5, SF2.4, LC1.5	£32,791	£8,600
Hovingham Wildlife Group	Hovingham & Scackleton	Erection of bird and bat boxes	-	NE3.1, NE10.1, LC1.5	£946	£336
(AONB Unit – NYMNP)		Administrative services	-	-	£1,000	£1,000

	2010/11	2011/12
BUDGET ESTIMATES	(August 2010)	
Core Costs		
Staffing	95,237	94,662
Office	14,225	13,500
Partnership running costs	2,150	2,000
PR, Events, Research	7,100	4,500
Total Core Costs	118,712	114,662
Project Costs		
Sustainable Development Fund	50,000	17,500
AONB Enhancement – Natural Environment	23,500	15,621
AONB Enhancement – Historic Environment	32,009	17,638
Access/Recreation & Communities (inc Lime & Ice)	8,750	8,000
Children & Young People's activities	8,950	22,120
Total Project Costs	123,209	80,879
TOTAL COSTS	241,921	195,541
FUNDING CONTRIBUTIONS		
North Yorks CC	41,400	35,460
Ryedale DC	5,684	5,115
Hambleton DC	5,800	5,220
Natural England	149,783	119,826
CAN DO	13,000	0
Forestry Commission	5,000	0
English Heritage	5,000	0
FEP preparation fees	7,000	2,200
Heritage Lottery Fund	4,839	10,170
LEADER	2,661	10,550
b/f	1,754	7,000
TOTAL	241,921	195,541
Total b/f from 2009/10	34,871	
<i>c/f to 2012/13</i>		<i>c.28,000</i>

From: Paul Jackson
To: planning@hambleton.gov.uk
Date: 15/04/2010 15:31
Subject: 10/00643/FUL; formation of pond, Whenby Grange

Although this site isn't within the AONB, it's impact on the AONB is mentioned in the Design and Access Statement and I would therefore offer the following comments:

~ Ponds look most natural in the landscape when excavated spoil is not banked in steep-sided bunds immediately around the pond. Sometimes this isn't always possible, but spoil should be levelled to create as natural an appearance as possible.

~ Any tree planting should take place on the lower levels around the pond, i.e. not right on the top of any retaining banking. Not only does this look incongruous in the landscape but it also gives much less room for adequate root systems to develop and therefore creates a future wind-blow risk.

~ Whilst silver birch would be an acceptable 'open countryside' species to plant, laurel is not a native shrub and should not be included in the planting mix. Beech will not do at all well on heavy damp ground and again would not be an appropriate species to use. My suggestion would be a few pedunculate oaks, a few silver birches, then a mix of hazel, dogwood, guelder rose and hawthorn for the remaining areas. It is also important not to plant too close to the water's edge, or too densely, otherwise in a few years time the pond will be completely shaded-out and full of leaf debris, particularly as the planting areas are to the south and west of the pond.

Paul Jackson

Paul Jackson
Howardian Hills AONB Manager
The Mews, Wath Court
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Mob: 07715 009426

Website: www.howardianhills.org.uk (<http://www.howardianhills.org.uk/>)

From: Paul Jackson
To: planning@hambleton.gov.uk
Date: 15/04/2010 15:38
Subject: 10/00746/APN; Erection of agricultural building, Witherholme Farm, Whenby

This farmstead is close to the boundary of the AONB and, although the building is an extension to an existing group of buildings, I have the following comment to make:

~ The colour of the roof sheeting is given as "grey". In my experience this often means a light grey colour, which can be intrusive in the landscape. I would like to see the colour specified as "dark grey" - Marley Eternit Farmscape sheets in the Anthracite colour (or a similar material in a similar colour) would be an appropriate choice.

Paul Jackson

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Website: www.howardianhills.org.uk (<http://www.howardianhills.org.uk/>)

From: Paul Jackson
To: dm@ryedale.gov.uk
Date: 17/05/2010 17:57
Subject: 10/00392/FUL: Extension of stable block, menage; Huttons Ambo

I visited the site on 14th May and have the following observations to make:

- ~ The new extension are should have dark-coloured roof sheets to match the existing stable block and adjacent field shelter. This will help prevent reflections of light when viewed from a distance.
- ~ In comparison to adjacent hedges, the ones around the paddock are rather low and do not offer a significant degree of screening. If the development is Approved then a Landscaping Condition should require the hedges on all 3 sides of the field in which the development is proposed to be grown up to a height of at least 2 metres. I would consider this to be more important than the ability to view the landscape when looking 'over and beyond' the development site and it would help to integrate it better into the landscape.
- ~ Absolutely no lighting of any sort should be installed around the menage area.

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From: Paul Jackson
To: david.butt@ryedale.gov.uk
CC: dm@ryedale.gov.uk
Date: 04/06/2010 15:46
Subject: 09/01275/AGNOT - Erection of agricultural building, Cawton Rd, Gilling

David

Please see below for my minor comments, most of which Ian Mosey is aware of because he was chasing me on the same day that your letter arrived!

I visited the site on 2nd June and have the following comments to make:

~ The demolition of the dilapidated building on the south side of the road should also include the removal of the concrete pad. A new length of hedge should then be planted along the roadside, using a similar native species mix to that of the existing hedge.

~ I have no comments to make on the length, height or location of the proposed building.

~ The reclaimed natural stone walls should be constructed with the stone in courses, not in a random pattern. The vernacular style in the Howardian Hills is coursed rubble stone, so using a random walling style would spoil the commendable principle of re-using the stone from the old building.

~ The tanalised Yorkshire boarding is I believe going to be creosoted, which will give it a darker and therefore more preferable colour.

~ I have seen thrutone blue sheets on other buildings at Ian Mosey's sites and am happy that that is an appropriate colour for the roof sheets.

~ Because the new building will be overlooked from the B1363 on the other side of the valley, a belt of tree planting (or scattered trees and shrubs) should also be installed on the north side of the building. In addition to the proposed ash, oak and silver birch, smaller trees and shrubs such as field maple, crab apple, dogwood and guelder rose would also be suitable.

I hope that you will find these comments of use.

Paul

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From: Paul Jackson
To: dm@ryedale.gov.uk
Date: 04/06/2010 16:30
Subject: 10/00463/FUL - Erection of agricultural building, Sproxton Hall

I visited the site on 18th May and have the following comments to make:

- ~ I don't have any comments to make on the length, height or location of the proposed building.
- ~ The roof sheets should be a matt dark grey colour. In the Big 6 colour range Gunmetal Grey would probably be the most appropriate choice, although this is a gloss finish and a matt finish would be much more preferable (to prevent reflection of light). Eternit Marley provide a wide range of colours and options, so the applicant may need to discuss with suppliers in order to find the best solution to achieve the objective of a matt dark grey colour.
- ~ The use of anthracite grey wall cladding is welcomed.
- ~ Concrete grain walling panels (in standard finish) are very white and these should therefore be painted an appropriate dark grey colour, to approximately match the wall cladding sheeting above.
- ~ Adequate screening is provided by the existing farm building to the west and the mature trees and hedgerow to the east. The AONB Team is already working with the applicant on a project to plant more individual oak trees on the farm (as future replacements for the existing mature oaks) and I don't consider that a landscape scheme for this proposed building is therefore necessary.

Many of these suggestions were discussed on site with the applicant during my visit and no objections were raised at that time.

Paul Jackson

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From: Paul Jackson
To: dm@ryedale.gov.uk
Date: 04/06/2010 16:05
Subject: 10/00495/FUL - Erection of flue, Middle Farm, Sproxton

I visited the site on 18th May and have the following comments to make:

~ I spoke to the applicant and understand that the flue is for a new biomass boiler that he plans to install within the existing farm building. As such I have no problem with the principle of a flue being needed.

~ I am however concerned that the relatively long visible length of the flue and its stainless steel finish will stand out when viewed from the south (i.e. down-sun). Sproxton is a village of attractive stone houses that is viewed from quite a long stretch of the B1257 near Newton Grange Farm and this would introduce a potentially discordant element.

~ I would therefore be happier if more of the flue length could be contained within the building (as with the existing flue, which exits much nearer the roof ridge line), or if it could be finished in a darker and non-reflective colour.

Paul Jackson

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Chief Planning Officer
Hambleton District Council
Civic Centre
Stone Cross
Northallerton
DL6 2UU

Contact: Paul Jackson

My Reference: 3.1

Your Reference: 10/01290/FUL

Date: 1st July 2010

Dear Sir

Siting of a wind turbine (15m mast); Manor House Farm, Yearsley

I am responding on behalf of the Howardian Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Advisory Committee to your consultation regarding the above proposal.

The application involves the erection of a wind turbine.

I visited the site on 5th March for a pre-application meeting with the applicant, and again on 24th June to assess these proposals, and have the following comments to make:

- Objective D5 of the 2009-2014 AONB Management Plan states that the Joint Advisory Committee will: "SUPPORT APPROPRIATE RENEWABLE ENERGY INSTALLATIONS THAT DO NOT HAVE ADVERSE IMPACTS ON THE SPECIAL QUALITIES OF THE AONB". More specifically, Objective D5.2 indicates that we will: "Support appropriate proposals that follow the '4 Rights' – Technology, Scale, Place and Design." These four aspects are considered in the paragraphs below.
- Technology – The location is at a high point on the western side of the AONB and is one that could be expected to be potentially suitable for a wind turbine development.
- Scale – A 15m tower is standard size for a single-turbine development. We anticipate that small 'domestic' turbines may be more easily accommodated in the AONB landscape than commercial windfarm-scale turbines. The tallest tree in the group near the farm buildings is approximately 14m high.
- Place – The site contained in the application is slightly different from the one shown to me by the applicant in March, which was approximately 70m north east of the proposed location. That site was slightly higher but was 'set back' from the road a bit more and would have been screened to some extent by the hedge. The new location is in front of the aforesaid hedge (when viewed from the road to the west of Yearsley) but is set slightly lower in the landscape. Seasonality has a significant impact on how visually connected the proposed turbine would be with the existing development of the farm yard and Yearsley village itself.

Cont'd...

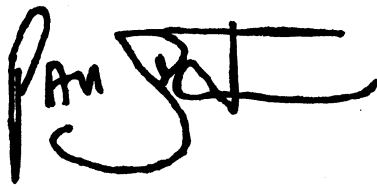
During the summer months the turbine would appear less visually connected, as there are many tall trees that hide Yearsley village. With no leaves during the winter months however, the turbine would appear to be much more a part of the settlement. This observation is derived from my two visits – March and June.

On balance I feel that the proposed turbine is in an appropriate location in relation to other built development, subject to sympathetically-coloured materials being used.

- Design – Having considered the various options, and taking into account the amended location from my first site visit, I feel that a dark-coloured mast would be the most appropriate. Galvanized steel does eventually fade to a dull grey but it can be visually intrusive until it does so. The mast will also have the hedge as an adjacent backdrop, which will principally be a dark colour throughout the year. Although the turbine head and blades will be viewed against the sky for the large majority of the time, dark-coloured materials I believe tend to attract the eye less and therefore would be my strong preference.
- There are no direct impacts on any nature conservation value, historic environment value or recreational activity of which we are aware.
- Should the development be Approved, a Condition requiring full removal at the end of its working life should be imposed.

In conclusion, the AONB Committee does not object to the proposed development, although the mast, turbine head and blades should be of a dark-coloured finish.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Jackson'.

PAUL JACKSON
AONB Manager
Howardian Hills AONB Joint Advisory Committee

Chief Planning Officer
Hambleton District Council
Civic Centre
Stone Cross
Northallerton
DL6 2UU

Contact: Paul Jackson

My Reference: 3.1

Your Reference: 10/01489/FUL

Date: 19th July 2010

Dear Sir

Construction of an agricultural building; The Avenue, Dalby

I am responding on behalf of the Howardian Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Advisory Committee to your consultation regarding the above proposal.

The application involves the erection of a building for the housing of cattle.

I visited the site on 5th March and again on 7th July and have the following comments to make:

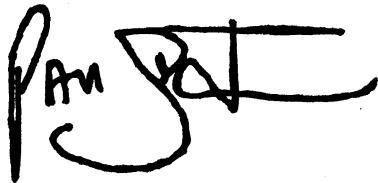
- Objective AG4.1 of the 2009 – 2014 AONB Management Plan states: “Support the construction of new farm buildings and infrastructure where these are appropriate in scale and use high standards of design, careful siting and good landscaping measures”. We judge all proposals against this policy, looking at potential impacts on the landscape, biodiversity, historic environment and recreation value both within the AONB and beyond its boundaries if appropriate.
- At a pre-application site meeting on 5th March I indicated that I would be unhappy with a building sited as was proposed, and also that the colours of the walls and roof sheets would be inappropriate, needing to be a darker grey colour. The application has now proceeded as originally planned, without those comments being taken on board.
- I consider that the visual impact of the development would be highly intrusive in the AONB landscape. The proposed development would block-out an important viewpoint (from the road, out of the AONB), impact on the enjoyment of the adjacent Public Footpath, compromise the integrity of the remnant small-scale designed landscape of Dalby Hall and sit prominently on the crest of the ridge when viewed from outside the AONB. It is not visually associated with any other built development and would appear as a highly intrusive new element in what is now open countryside.
- Whilst I of course accept the technical expertise contained in the letter from the applicant’s veterinary surgeon, I do not believe that it supports the construction of a building in this precise location.
The two issues of handling facilities and shelter can be seen as separate ones. Many farmers construct in-field handling pens and races to handle, test and treat cattle, without the need for a building. I am also baffled by the apparent argument that, because the cattle have been over-wintered in this field in the past, then that is where a new building to house them in the winter (and for calving) should be built. If a building in this field is essential, that would imply that a building in every pasture field is essential, which is clearly not the case.

Cont’d...

- The established norm is to over-winter and calve livestock in buildings close to the farmstead, where there is ready access to water, electric light, feed and supervision. The location of the building as proposed would still necessitate the transport of feedstuffs to the building and would not be close to any supervision. It is also understood that the building may only be used in the most severe weather, which would tend to undermine the objective of reducing poaching of the grassland. The applicant has indicated that cattle are already walked back to the farmstead for veterinary treatment, which indicates that they could be moved there at the beginning of winter and then turned-out to graze again in the spring.
- Although subsidiary in this case to the principal issue of siting, the proposed colours of the materials are also inappropriate. Roof sheets should be in a DARK grey colour (Marley Eternit Farmscape sheets in the anthracite colour being an example of a suitable tone). Natural grey concrete wall panels are also too light in colour and should be painted a dark grey so as to be less intrusive. These points should also be taken into account should the applicant choose to withdraw the application and propose a new location.

In conclusion, the AONB Committee **STRONGLY OBJECTS** to the proposed development, on the principal issue of inappropriate siting but also on the subsidiary issue of inappropriate colour of materials. For the avoidance of any doubt, since our principal concern is one of siting, it should not be inferred that we would withdraw our objection if the colour of the materials was changed.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Jackson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

PAUL JACKSON
AONB Manager
Howardian Hills AONB Joint Advisory Committee

From: Paul Jackson
To: dm@ryedale.gov.uk
Date: 10/08/2010 16:14
Subject: 10/00717/MFUL - Erection of agricultural storage building, Harome

Although this application is situated outside the designated boundary of the AONB, it is a major development and would be significantly visible in medium-distance views from above Nunnington village.

I have the following comments to make:

- ~ The proposed building is large, replacing a range of traditional stone buildings that at present appear subservient to the adjacent farmhouse.
- ~ The material finishes currently proposed are generally very light in colour and consequently are likely to be visible for significant distances, as a number of new farm buildings in the Vale of Pickering are. Dark finishes to walls and roofs help to integrate new farm buildings into the landscape more successfully.
- ~ In other instances the stone from demolished traditional buildings has been used to clad the walls of new buildings, to ameliorate the visual appearance of white concrete wall panels. If this proves to be impractical in this case, the wall panels should be painted in a dark grey colour to reduce their visual impact. A similar approach has been taken recently with a substantial new farm building at Middle Farm (Sproxton).
- ~ Creosote treatment of the Yorkshire boarding would be preferable, as it will help to darken the colour. The tanned finish fades to a pale colour as it weathers, but this is a common enough material/finish for the walls of farm buildings and so is not a significant issue.
- ~ The roof sheets should be a dark matt grey colour, not natural grey which is very light (and appears white in bright sunlight). Marley Eternit Farmscape Anthracite sheets are an example of an appropriate colour, although other similar products are also likely to be available.
- ~ Some consideration may need to be given to landscaping measures in the pasture field to the south - a number of individual trees in stock-proof guards may be more appropriate than a solid belt of trees or shrubs.

In conclusion, I have no objections to the building per se but its visual impact on the landscape and when viewed from the AONB could be significantly mitigated by the use of dark-coloured finishes on walls and roof.

Paul Jackson

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From: Paul Jackson
To: dm@ryedale.gov.uk
Date: 10/08/2010 15:29
Subject: 10/00905/FUL; Extension to stables and formation of menage, Huttons Ambo

The comments I made in response to the previous application (10/00392/FUL) have been addressed and can be stipulated in the form of Conditions on the colour of materials, landscaping (hedge growth) and lighting.

Paul Jackson

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From: Paul Jackson
To: dm@ryedale.gov.uk
CC: rachel.smith@ryedale.gov.uk
Date: 16/09/2010 17:16
Subject: 10/00980/FUL; extensions to visitor centre, Terrington Lavender

The principal public viewpoint of the visitor centre is when approaching the AONB from the south, on the road between Sheriff Hutton and the foot of Terrington Bank. It is prominent enough to still elicit comments to us about it, when applications for other buildings along the southern ridge of the AONB are mooted.

When first proposed there was considerable concern that the visitor centre would appear as an isolated development on the crest of the ridge of the AONB, visible from a long distance to the south. The AONB Joint Advisory Committee's comments at the time I believe included a request that the building be constructed in such a way that it could be dismantled if the fledgling business should prove unviable. Whilst this has clearly not been the case, and Terrington Lavender allows wide-ranging views of the AONB landscape, the issue of visibility from a long distance still applies. The visitor centre has now become established as a feature of the landscape, with the hedge to the north providing complete screening. The birch trees to the south of the car park however have a minimal impact on the long-distance views from the south, and any more substantial screening belt would negate one of the main attractions of this location - its long-distance views.

Notwithstanding the fact that it has become an established feature, the visitor centre still occupies a sensitive location in the AONB, visually separated as it is from the adjacent settlement of Terrington. It is therefore appropriate that any proposals to extend the building on the site are carried out in a sensitive manner, to respect this.

I have no observations to make on the eastern extension - the roofline is of the same height as the existing building and will not alter the profile when viewed from the south.

The western extension however has a proposed higher roofline and I am concerned that this will increase the apparent visual bulk of the building. I have no objection to the principle of the western extension, but would much prefer it to follow the same roofline as the existing building.

Paul Jackson

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