

**HOWARDIAN HILLS
AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY
JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
3 NOVEMBER 2011**

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 2011.

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 2011 to October 2011.
- 2.2 The final budget outturn for 2010/11 is detailed in a separate report on the Agenda. The final grant settlement has been received from Natural England.
- 2.3 A recruitment exercise was run to appoint Maternity Cover for Liz Bassindale, to cover the period between mid-October 2011 and August 2012. Francesca Pert was appointed and will take up her duties on 14th November. (*Footnote: Liz gave birth to Lauren Elizabeth, 8lb 2oz, on Thursday 19th October*).
- 2.4 Work on countryside management has been proceeding well. Our regular annual habitat management work on specific sites has been completed, together with a third year of Himalayan balsam control on Wath Beck. A bat survey/habitat modelling project in the CAN DO area is on-going, whilst a second small phase of work was completed at the limekilns near Gilling. Full details of the grants offered and projects initiated are contained in Appendix 2.
- 2.5 The Sustainable Development Fund has been half allocated, with a range of good but smaller projects being supported this year. Full details of the grants offered are contained in Appendix 2.
- 2.6 A higher-than-average number of planning applications have been scrutinised, although many of these were for small-scale development and only minor comments were submitted. Several farm building applications have been scrutinised, with a revised location suggested for one of these and comments made on the colour of material finishes. The most significant development was the erection of seven piggery buildings 500m outside the AONB boundary but in an overlooked position near Crayke. Appendix 3 gives details of the Consultations that the JAC has received to date.
- 2.7 The Rural:Urban schools project, twinning AONB schools with ones in York and Hull and funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and LEADER, has finished its first full year of activities. Sixteen twinning visits have been completed; a teachers' workshop to review progress and make plans for next year was held in September; and the first two twinning visits of the next 'round' have also been held.

- 2.8 Three Junior Ranger Club sessions have been held in conjunction with the Castle Howard Arboretum, in the April, June and October half-terms. A further day is planned for the Christmas week. Details of the attendance at the Junior Ranger Club events already held are shown in Appendix 4.
- 2.9 The RAY Community Projects Officer has continued to work with a number of local communities to both prepare and implement Parish Plans. Two ‘Good Life’ events, at Slingsby and Husthwaite, have proved to be particularly successful. A full list of the work carried out by the RAY officer in the AONB is attached as part of Appendix 1.
- 2.10 The CAN DO Partnership’s Lime & Ice Project has continued with one of its key component initiatives – the community archaeological investigation work on Yearsley Moor. The volunteers have been working on locations, content and style of interpretation material.
- 2.11 The AONB and the work of the JAC has received publicity in a variety of publications. The AONB website continues to be refined and kept up-to-date.
- 2.12 The latest edition of the AONB Newsletter was prepared in September and distributed in the week commencing 17th 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. Good local publicity was also achieved for our Good Life event in Slingsby and the Rural Ryedale Awards, which we helped to arrange and judge.
- 2.13 Following the move to Defra sponsorship in April, the NAAONB and AONB Family have received an unprecedented level of attention from high-ranking people. Prince Charles recorded a welcome message for the NAAONB Conference in Cornwall, in which the Howardian Hills AONB got a direct mention (see <http://www.landscapesforlifeconference.org.uk/2011/07/a-message-from-his-royal-highness-the-prince-of-wales/>). Richard Benyon, Defra Parliamentary Under-Secretary, recorded presentations for both the NAAONB Conference (see <http://www.landscapesforlifeconference.org.uk/2011/07/richard-benyon-mp-defra-message-to-the-naaonb-conference/>) and the NAAONB AGM (see <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7MCSeGswqCc>). He has also visited numerous AONBs and referred to the work of AONB partnerships at events such as the Game Fair. The Secretary of State Caroline Spelman visited the Howardian Hills in May and saw some of the initiatives we are involved in for managing the AONB landscape and biodiversity. This was particularly relevant as the National Ecosystems Assessment and Natural Environment White Paper were launched three weeks after the visit.
- 2.14 The analysis of the grant recipients questionnaire returns for the year 2010/11 is included as Appendix 5. This shows that our service is still considered to be consistently high, apart from in the ‘Response and Availability of Staff’ category. The lower score here reflects the continued high workload of the AONB staff unit and the inevitable knock-on effect of that on the timeliness of paperwork associated with grants.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the report be noted.

AONB MANAGER'S REPORT

24TH MARCH 2011 – 26TH OCTOBER 2011

Work during this period has principally consisted of:

- Keeping abreast of developments in the AONB funding and sponsorship situation.
- Completing Financial Year-end tasks – List Creditors/Debtors, etc.
- NAAONB work – Conference 2011, Board meeting Isles of Scilly, Game Fair.
- Progressing projects for 11/12 implementation.
- Organising and hosting the Caroline Spelman visit.
- Submission of end-of-year grant claim.
- Keeping abreast of developments in the formation of Local Nature Partnerships and Nature Improvement Areas.
- Planning application assessments.
- Recruitment of Maternity Cover for the AONB Officer post.

MEETINGS

- 29th March – Gilling Castle RPG study consultants.
- 31st March – JAC meeting, Brandsby.
- 12th May – Annual Action Programme team meeting.
- 13th May – NET meeting, County Hall.
- 5th May – Ryedale DC Building Conservation Officer, Malton.
- 23rd May – YEPT pony grazing schedule, Sutton Bank.
- 27th May – Ranger Team 3 Local Liaison Group, Helmsley.
- 7th June – JAC Chairman re various matters.
- 13th June – NET meeting.
- 16th June – Core Funders Group.
- 12th July – YMAP meeting, Sutton Bank.
- 15th July – NE update meeting, York.
- 27th July – Discover Yorkshire & Castle Howard; future promotional possibilities.
- 29th July – JAC site visit.
- 10th August – Annual Action Programme team meeting.
- 11th August – CAN DO Executive Group meeting, Helmsley.
- 16th August – Schools Twinning project – planning Teachers' Workshop.
- 18th August – felling/replanting, high ropes course, RPG study – Ampleforth Abbey.
- 31st August – Jeff Evans, NYCC Waste Partnership, re partnership working.
- 1st September – Southern Green, telemeeting for final draft of Gilling Castle RPG study.
- 2nd September – Southern Green, telemeeting for final draft of Gilling Castle RPG study.
- 7th September – Rick Walker & Graham Megson – MoU/ways of working.

- 7th September – DPCR5 (electricity cable undergrounding), Northallerton.
- 7th September – Liz, projects handover meeting.
- 12th September – NET meeting.
- 27th September – Rural Archaeologists' Group meeting, Skidby.
- 28th September – Countryside Services re-structure meeting, County Hall.
- 10th October – SDF Steering Group.
- 20th October – Invasive Species project meeting, Malton.
- 21st October – Jeff Evans, NYCC Waste Partnership, re partnership working.

Monthly project update meetings with Liz and Mark Antcliff.

Monthly AONB Team meetings.

NAAONB

- 14th April – Council for National Parks event, York
- 19th April – Conf11 Steering Group, Cornwall.
- 20/21st April – NAAONB Board meeting, Isles of Scilly.
- 19th May – Caroline Spelman visit to Howardian Hills AONB.
- 9th June – Conf12 teleconference.
- 29th June – Conf12 Steering Group, York.
- 4th – 7th July – National NAAONB Conference, Cornwall.
- 14th July – NAAONB Board, Birmingham.
- 21st – 24th July – CLA Game Fair, Oxfordshire.
- 25th July – National Training Steering Group skype.

- 20th September – Conf12 Steering Group, York.
- 13th October – NAAONB Board, London.
- 14th October – NAAONB AGM, London.
- 17th October – GWCT Liaison meeting, Leicestershire.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- 2nd November – NYBAG meeting, York.
- 3rd November – JAC meeting, Hovingham.
- 16th November – Ranger Team 3 Local Liaison Group, Helmsley.
- 23rd November – Annual Action programme team meeting.
- 24th November – SDF Panel, Helmsley.
- 8th December – Core Partners Group.
- 22nd February – Annual Action programme team meeting.
- 14th March – DPCR5 (electricity cable undergrounding), Northallerton.
- 15th March – LEADER Support Group, Helmsley.
- 20th March – NYMNP/HHAONB Highways Liaison Group meeting, Helmsley.
- 5th April – JAC?

Monthly project update meetings with Liz/Francesca and Mark Antcliff.
Monthly AONB Team meetings.
Quarterly – work programme meeting with team.

FUTURE NAAONB

- 9-10th November – Northern AONBs Group meeting, North Pennines.
- 9th November – Conf12 Steering Group, North Pennines AONB.

SITE VISITS

- 24th March – Planning application site visits – Crayke, Hushwaite, Oulston, Dalby.
- 1st April – Planning application site visit, Coulton.
- 5th April – Planning application pre-visit, Welburn.
- 27th April – Check condition of round barrows, Fryton Moor.
- 4th May – Condition surveying of round barrows, Yearsley; scoping potential hedge planting projects, Hushwaite.
- 6th May – Trial spraying of Himalayan balsam, Nunnington.
- 6th May – Planning application advice, Yearsley.

- 9th June – Planning application site visit, Crayke; locate rare plant species prior to FC felling operations, Oulston.
- 15th June – Planning application site visit – Amotherby.
- 11th July – Planning application site visit – Hovingham.
- 27th July – knapweed broomrape survey, Broughton Lane SINC.
- 2nd August – FEP surveying, Dalby.
- 4th August – Bell Bottom Wood car park; knapweed broomrape surveys – Amotherby Lane SINC, Swinton Lane.
- 8th August – Hildenley – meet contractor to agree scrub regrowth spraying.
- 9th August – Planning application site visits – Ampleforth, Crayke; hedge condition, Stearsby; proposal for stile, Stonegrave.
- 10th August – knapweed broomrape survey, Broughton Lane SINC.
- 16th August – kerbing project at long barrow, Grimston.
- 21st August – Car park monitoring, western half of AONB.
- 2nd September – NYCC, traditional direction signs in Hambleton area.
- 30th September – choose oak branches for 25th Anniversary benches, Brandrith Wood, Castle Howard.

FUTURE SITE VISITS

- 27th October – Discuss possible repairs schedule for the Mausoleum, Castle Howard.

PROJECTS

- Conference 2011 organisation.
- Defra Secretary of State visit – 19th May.
- Submission of final grant claim – 31st May.
- 26th August – Short-listing for AONB Officer Maternity Cover post.
- 6th September – Interviews for AONB Officer Maternity Cover.
- Paperwork associated with recruitment and selection process for AONB Officer Maternity Cover.
- Preparation of October JAC papers.
- SEE SEPARATE TABLE FOR LIST OF PROJECTS GRANT AIDED

FUTURE PROJECTS

- Induction of Francesca Pert as AONB Officer Maternity Cover.

- Digitisation of JAC-funded work since 1997.

CONSULTATIONS

- SEE SEPARATE TABLE FOR FULL DETAILS OF CONSULTATIONS RECEIVED.

COMMUNITIES

- 6th April – The Good Life event, Slingsby.
- 21st October – Rural Ryedale Awards ceremony, Terrington.

PROMOTION/PUBLICITY/ INTERPRETATION

- Preparation, publication & distribution of 2010/11 Annual Report.
- 26th July – Ryedale Show.
- Preparation of AONB News 2011.
- 11th October – assist filming for BBC Escape to the Country, Terrington & Kirkham.
- Distribution of AONB News 2011.

FUTURE PROMOTION/PUBLICITY/ INTERPRETATION

TRAINING

- 26th May – Recruitment & Selection training, Bedale.

FUTURE TRAINING

- 1st December – NAAONB training event – future AONB funding sources, Birmingham.

MISCELLANEOUS

- 10th May – Appraisal, County Hall.
- 24th May – AONB Team Appraisals.
- 14th September – Liz Bassindale Appraisal Review.
- 28-30 December – mandatory Christmas shut-down.
- 20-31st January – Annual Leave.

FUTURE MISCELLANEOUS

- 1st November – Maggie Cochrane Appraisal Review.
- 3rd November – Appraisal Review.

AONB OFFICER'S REPORT 29TH MARCH TO 26TH OCTOBER 2011

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

- **Rural:Urban School Twinning Project:** Regular update e-mails and meetings with the Project Officer and his line manager to ensure that the project stays on track. Organised the volunteer rota. Attended some twinning sessions and obtained feedback on others from the Project Officer and volunteers. Submitted an interim grant claim to LEADER. Delivered the second teachers' workshop, reviewing progress and planning for second phase of project.
- **Projects Fund:** Agreed funding to repair fallen sections of Stonegrave Minster boundary wall, repairs completed in July. Advice given about management of vegetation along southern edge of Welburn Churchyard. Conservation cutting at Amotherby, Appleton le Street and Huttons Ambo churches done in August/September 2011. Himalayan balsam strimming along Wath Beck completed. Grant offered for stone wall repairs at Scackleton.
- **Recreation and Access** – Three off-road cycle route leaflets progressing. Circular walk leaflets for Terrington completed and delivered to the village shop.
- **Exmoor Pony Grazing** – Discussions with YEPT about organisation of grazing this year. Grazing schedule agreed with YEPT. Strimming of bramble at Littledale SINC and fence repairs at Terrington Moor completed.
- **SDF 2011/12:** Grants offered to The Arboretum Trust, Kew at Castle Howard for resources to use in their outdoor classroom, Scackleton Village Action Group for restoration of the traditional phone box and turning it into a children's book exchange, and Hovingham Wildlife Group for purchase of bee hives and bee-friendly planting around the village. Applications developed with Barton le Street Village Hall, Barton le Willows Village Hall, Sustrans and Yorkshire Energy Partnership.
- **ELS and HLS** – FEP for Cliff House, Dalby underway. Surveys completed and written up. Meeting with Natural England Advisor for feedback on last year's FEPs and update on changes to HLS process.
- **Volunteers:** Volunteer tasks completed managing rhododendron at Yearsley Moor and western hemlock at Grimston Moor. Volunteer task at Dalby Bush Fen SSSI – managing scrub and trees in tussock sedge area. Volunteers helping to deliver the school twinning project and Junior Ranger Club. Volunteers assisted with Ryedale Show. Volunteers are also surveying Himalayan balsam, Special Interest Verges and Rights of Way condition.
- **Events:** Ryedale Show attended and the trees quiz was very successful. Promotional stands at Terrington Feast and Hovingham Village Market. Bat walk/nocturnal nature event on August bank holiday weekend at The Arboretum.
- **Junior Ranger Club:** Easter Junior Ranger Club delivered at The Arboretum, Kew at Castle Howard and June half-term session delivered at Welburn Village Hall. Dates set for Junior Ranger Club in October and December. Activities planned for 24th October session.
- **RAY in the AONB:** Regular up-date meetings re parish plans and on-going projects. Crayke Community Arts Project, a community drop-in event at Ampleforth, "The Good Life 2011" at Slingsby and The Good Life 'Hambleton' in Husthwaite all delivered. Funding secured for Amotherby Community Arts Project. Village Hall 'Funding and Legal Issues' session very successful (35 people).
- **Fixed point photography:** Continued scoping sites in the central and western parts of the AONB.
- **Publicity** – Article for NYCC Countryside Volunteers Newsletter. Articles in the Gazette and Herald about The Good Life 2011, Easter Junior Ranger Club, Schools Twinning Project and Rural Ryedale Awards. Planned and edited AONB Newsletter.

MEETINGS

- March 31st – Brandsby – JAC
- April 5th – Brompton by Sawdon – LEADER LAG
- April 12th – Helmsley – SDF Steering Group
- April 12th – Hovingham – Natural England Advisor – HLS processes
- April 18th – Appleton le Street – AONB Partnership Group
- April 19th – Hovingham – Twinning visits project update/planning
- May 4th – Helmsley - Development Officers
- May 5th – Hovingham – Himalayan Balsam

catchment area project discussion

- May 10th – Helmsley – Grassland Forum
- May 12th – Hovingham – Annual Action Programme
- May 20th – Northallerton – Road verges NYBAG sub-group
- May 26th – York – NYBAG
- May 31st – Hull – YWT – Twinning Project update
- June 2nd – Helmsley – SDF Steering Group
- June 16th – Hovingham – Core Partners Group
- June 27th – Helmsley – Development Officers
- July 13th – Helmsley – SDF Steering Group
- May 23rd – Sutton Bank – YEPT – Pony Grazing 2011

- July 14th – Foss House – Helen Phillips briefing
- July 18th – Hull – Twinning update meeting
- July 19th – Barton le Street – meeting to develop village hall grant application.
- July 21st – Helmsley – LEADER LAG support group
- July 21st – Hovingham – River Rye invasive species
- Aug 1st – Northallerton - Natural Environment Team
- Aug 4th – Hovingham – Projects update meeting
- Aug 10th – Hovingham – work programme meeting
- Aug 11th – Helmsley - SDF Steering Group
- Aug 15th – Hovingham - Development Officers
- Aug 16th – Hovingham – Schools twinning update
- Aug 26th – Hovingham – Maternity cover short-listing
- Sept 2nd – Northallerton – Hambleton BAP
- Sept 5th – Hovingham – River Rye invasive species
- Sept 7th – Helmsley – SDF Steering Group
- Sept 7th – Hovingham – handover info to Paul and Maggie
- Sept 9th – Dalby – FEP and HLS application with owner and Natural England
- Sept 12th – Hovingham – Natural Environment Team
- Sept 12th – Malton – Rural Ryedale Awards judging
- Monthly - Howardian Hills AONB Unit meeting

FUTURE MEETINGS

- Monthly – SDF Steering Group Meetings
- Approx every 6 weeks – Project updates with Paul and Mark Antcliff
- Approx every 6 weeks – Natural Environment Team Meetings
- Quarterly – work programme meeting with Paul and Maggie
- Bi-monthly – SDF Panel Meetings

SITE VISITS

- April 7th – Gilling East – pond creation
- April 14th – Dalby – Pre-FEP meeting and visit
- April 15th – Castle Howard woodlands – photos for Forester's Partnership Group talk
- April 20th – Terrington Moor SINC – fence repairs/replacement – contractor and owner
- May 6th – Welburn – Church boundary habitats and walls assessment
- May 19th – Yearsley Moor/Gilling Woods with FC – planning vols tasks for

autumn/winter 2011/12

- May 26th – Ampleforth – Millennium Green with Parish Clerk
- June 22nd – Cawton – stone wall repairs – site meeting with contractor
- July 15th – Dalby – meeting with landowner, then FEP.
- June 21st – Hovingham – Bees project discussion and visit to hives.
- July 25th – High Baxton Howe – hedge planting grant site meeting with landowner
- July 29th – JAC site visit
- July 27th & Aug 3rd – Cawton and Stonegrave walling project checks
- Several days FEP survey near Dalby
- Fixed point photography – several sessions of taking scoping photos

FUTURE SITE VISITS

PROJECTS

- April 7th – Terrington – Wall repairs
- April 14th – Dalby Bush Fen SSSI – vols task
- April 21st – Stonegrave – Church wall repairs
- May 8th – Volunteer task – Grimston Moor SINC
- May 23rd – Northallerton – Planning volunteers road verge survey locations and method
- June 30th – Littledale SINC – cutting and raking of bramble.
- SDF Projects – advice during delivery and checking completed projects. Direct involvement with the majority in the form of advice on delivery/minor changes to conditions.
- Schools grounds projects –
 - pondliner for Welburn School - fitted as part of parent workday sorting out wildlife area and carrying out other tasks in the grounds.
 - wildflower plants to support the Year 6 pupils at Ampleforth St Hilda's with the creation of a wildflower bed for insects.

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

FUTURE PROJECTS

- Continuation of involvement with development of the River Rye non-native species initiative.

RECREATION/ACCESS

- March 29th – Hovingham – PRoW Condition

survey data entry with volunteer

- April 13th – Hovingham – Sustrans re. Wolds Route and Easingwold Loop
- May 16th – Ryedale House – Raising cycling in Ryedale
- July 17th – Jeffrey Bog SINC – boardwalk building with volunteers
- Four new walk leaflets completed in-house on Publisher for downloading from our website. Copies delivered to village shop and pub.
- Three off-road cycle leaflets ongoing.

FUTURE RECREATION/ACCESS

- Complete the three off-road cycle leaflets.

COMMUNITY WORK

- March 29th – Ampleforth – Community drop-in event
- April 6th – Slingsby “The Good Life 2011” – sustainable gardening for the 21st century
- Slingsby Allotments Group completed SDF funded project.
- Crayke Community Arts project completed. A series of mosaic floor tiles installed around the village depicting local images/features.
- July 28th – Kendal – planning for low carbon living
- Sept 12th – Malton – Rural Ryedale Awards judging.
- Yearsley Moor Lime and Ice Volunteers

FUTURE COMMUNITY WORK

- Nov 18th – Ryedale House – Funding Fair video link and local small grants promotion
- Amotherby Community Arts Project
- 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

- April 4th – Malton – Malton and Norton Gardening Club evening talk
- April 11th – Castle Howard Arboretum – Junior Ranger Club
- April 20th – Northallerton – Ryedale Show planning with NYCC
- June 1st – Welburn – Junior Ranger Club
- June 19th – Terrington – Terrington Feast
- August 6th – Hovingham – market stall
- Aug 18th – The Arboretum – JRC planning for

Oct and Dec

- Articles in the Gazette and Herald about The Good Life 2011, Junior Ranger Club, Schools Twinning Project and Ryedale Rural Awards
- Preparation and editing of AONB Newsletter
- Ongoing contribution to AONB website
- Content supplied for NYCC Volunteer Newsletter.

FUTURE PUBLICITY/INTERPRETATION

EDUCATIONAL/RAISING AWARENESS

Twinning visits attended:

- May 17th – Hall Road (Hull) to Amotherby
- May 18th – Ings (Hull) to Sheriff Hutton
- May 24th – Wansbeck (Hull) to Ampleforth St Benedict's
- May 25th – Neasden (Hull) to Hovingham and Ampleforth St Hilda's
- June 20th – Longhill to Welburn
- June 22nd – Hovingham and St Hilda's to Neasden
- June 28th – Welburn to Longhill

Twinning visits not attended:

- May 26th – Park Grove (York) to Slingsby
- June 9th – Slingsby to Park Grove
- June 16th – Sheriff Hutton to Ings
- June 21st – St Benedict's to Wansbeck
- June 24th – Cavendish to Husthwaite
- July 1st – Tang Hall to Crayke
- July 8th – Crayke to Tang Hall

- April 6th – Slingsby – The Good Life 2011
- July 9th – Husthwaite – The Good Life 2011
- July 25th – Collecting hedge samples for Ryedale Show quiz
- July 26th – Ryedale Show
- August 27th – The Arboretum, Kew at Castle Howard – Bat walk / nocturnal nature evening
- Sept 13th – Hovingham – School Twinning Workshop

FUTURE EDUCATION/AWARENESS

- Continue to develop projects with local schools through working with them both in their school grounds and on field-trips
- Developing the skills of the Volunteers on a variety of tasks including ongoing PROW Condition Assessment Training, Community Events and Habitat Management

TRAINING

- June 23rd and 24th – First Aid at Work – re-qualification

FUTURE TRAINING

MISCELLANEOUS

- June 3rd to 13th – Holiday
- July 4th to 8th – NAAONB Conference - Cornwall
- Aug 22nd to 25th – Annual leave
- Sept 6th – Hovingham – Maternity cover interviews
- Sept 15th – Oct 13th – Annual leave before maternity leave

FUTURE MISCELLANEOUS

AONB ASSISTANT'S REPORT

29 MARCH – 26 OCTOBER 2011

My main duties over the period have been:

- Preparation for Junior Ranger Club session on 11 April.
- Helping with delivery of community events at Ampleforth (29 March) and Slingsby (6 April).
- Assisting with planning, preparation for and attendance at Ryedale Show stand.
- Assisting with planning for The Good Life event at Husthwaite on 9 July.
- Assisting with preparation and editing of AONB Newsletter.
- Preparing new designs for letterheads etc to include NAAONB branding.
- Planning, preparation and delivery of Junior Ranger Club session on 24 October.
- 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

- 31 March – JAC meeting, Brandsby
- 18 April – AONB Partnership Group Meeting
- 19 April – Schools Twinning Project meeting with YWT
- 12 May – AONB Action Programme meeting
- 16 June – Core Partners Group meeting
- 29 June – NAAONB Scoping meeting for Conference 2012, University of York
- 10 August – AONB Action Programme meeting
- 16 August – Schools Twinning Project meeting with YWT
- 18 August – JRC planning meeting with Arboretum
- 20 Sept - NAAONB planning meeting for Conference 2012, York
- 28 Sept – WACS restructure meeting, County Hall
- 17 Oct – Development Officers' meeting, NYMNPA office, Helmsley
- Monthly AONB Unit meetings

FUTURE MEETINGS

- 3 Nov – JAC meeting, Hovingham V H
- 9 Nov – Conference 2012 steering group and Northern AONB Group meetings, Blanchland
- 17 Nov – NET meeting, County Hall
- 23 Nov – AONB Action Programme meeting
- 8 Dec – Core Partners Group meeting
- 12 Dec – Development Officers' meeting, Malton (and/or Francesca?)
- Monthly - HHAONB Unit meetings

SITE VISITS

- 14 April – Scar Wood Limekilns – photos for website (2nd phase)
- 2 June – Scar Wood Limekilns – photos for website (3rd phase)
- 21 June – Hovingham village – wildlife project and beehives
- 29 July – JAC site visit
- 20 Sept – Site visit to University of York as prospective location for Conference 2012

FUTURE SITE VISITS

RECREATION/ACCESS

- Continued supply of walks leaflets to local shops/outlets (ongoing)
- Technical support for volunteers undertaking footpath condition surveys ie mapping and data-inputting (ongoing)

FUTURE RECREATION/ACCESS

COMMUNITY WORK

- Planning and preparation for, and delivery of, JRC sessions at Castle Howard Arboretum in June and October
- Planning, preparation and assisting with delivery of community events at Ampleforth and Slingsby
- Planning and preparation for 'The Good Life 2011' community event at Husthwaite in July
- Preparation for Rural Ryedale Awards event

in October at Terrington Village Hall

FUTURE COMMUNITY WORK

- 18 Nov – Assist with delivery of local linkup to Yorkshire Funding Conference (Ryedale House, Malton linking with York Racecourse)
- Planning and preparation for Junior Ranger Club session on 21 December

PROMOTION/PUBLICITY/ INTERPRETATION

- Further development of Howardian Hills AONB website and links with relevant organisations
- Planning and preparation for (including liaising with NYMNPA over shared stand) and assisting with delivery of AONB stand at Ryedale Show
- Investigation of NAAONB branding guidelines for use on HHAONB publications, and production of designs for new letterheads etc
- Editing of article by YMAP volunteers for AONB newsletter
- Production of two short items for AONB newsletter
- Production of a photographic record of project at Scar Wood Limekilns, accessible from AONB website
- Distribution of HHAONB leaflet to tourism outlets etc

FUTURE PROMOTION/ PUBLICITY/INTERPRETATION

- Continued distribution of HHAONB leaflet to tourism outlets etc

EDUCATION/RAISING AWARENESS

- 26 May – Schools Twinning exchange visit at Slingsby School
- 9 June – Schools Twinning exchange visit to Park Grove, York
- 13 Sept – Schools Twinning Teachers' workshop, Hovingham Village Hall
- Planning of NAAONB Conference 2012

FUTURE EDUCATION/RAISING AWARENESS

- Continuing liaison with YWT re progression of Schools Twinning Project
- Continuing involvement with Conference 2012 steering group

TRAINING

FUTURE TRAINING

- Assertiveness Training
- Mandatory Customer Care course

MISCELLANEOUS

- 3 - 4 May – annual leave
- 19 May – annual leave
- 24 May – appraisal
- 7 – 8 June – annual leave
- 25 Aug – 1 Sept – annual leave
- 4 – 6 Oct - annual leave

FUTURE MISCELLANEOUS

- 1 Nov – 6-monthly review
- 14 Nov onwards – assist with Francesca's induction

Howardian Hills Community Engagement
April to September 2011

- 'Good Life' Event at Slingsby Village Hall on 6 April, celebrating home-grown and home-made produce including stalls from Husthwaite Orchard, Malton Beekeepers, Helmsley Walled Garden, Cornflower Project. A panel of experts answered questions on Recycling, Composting, Vegetable growing and Cooking.
- Ryedale LSP Delivery Group meeting - member for Community Engagement.
- Slingsby Village Design Statement & Village Walk.
- Supporting Thornton Le Clay & Foston, who are wanting to start a Village Design Statement.
- 'Good Life' Event at Husthwaite.
- Amotherby VH; Village Hall Training Event – a number of villages attended from HHAONB, including Oulston, Amotherby, Barton Le Street, Ampleforth.
- Ryedale Show – shared stand with HHAONB.
- Hovingham Village Market – shared stand with HHAONB.
- Ryedale Rural Awards – First year of Rural Awards to celebrate and recognise the great work that volunteers and community groups do in rural areas in Ryedale. Awards evening held in Terrington VH on 21 October.
- Planning for Low-Carbon Living Kendal – attended with colleagues from RAY and HHAONB – interesting event looking at alternative energy sources and planning in the future.
- Husthwaite Apple Fair – had a stand at this annual event.
- Fuel Poverty Event – looking at ways of reducing the affects of fuel poverty, particularly in rural areas.
- On-going support to Parish Plan groups in AONB, particularly Swinton.

AONB PROJECTS 2011/2012

1st April 2011 – 26th October 2011

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 – tint on Arable and Improved land	-	NE1.5	£168	£168
A Mosey	Sundial Farm, Cawton	Wall restoration (8m)	-	AG2.2	£490	£390
L Hickes	Scackleton	Wall restoration (76m)	-	AG2.2	c.£1,400	c.£1,300
J Rawson	Fryton	Hedge restoration (600m)	Zone 6 Landscape	AG2.2	£6,060	£1,815
(AONB Unit – Yorkshire Exmoor Pony Trust)	Coulton (3), Cawton (2), Terrington (2), Bulmer	Conservation grazing of 8 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	c.£800	c.£407
(AONB Volunteers)	Dalby Bush Fen SSSI	Grassland management - scrub control	Site 1.56	NE6.1	£450	-
P & A Gospel Landscapes	River Rye SINC	Test-spray of Himalayan balsam	Site 1.16	NE6.1	c.£15	c.£15
(AONB Volunteers)	Grimston Moor SINC	Removal of Western hemlock regeneration	Site 1.1	NE5.4, AP3.1	£150	-

APPLICANT/ (CONTRACTOR)	LOCATION	PROJECT	LOCAL PRIORITY	OBJECTIVE	SCHEME COST	JAC ASSISTANCE
T Berriman	Gilling	Pond creation	-	NE6.4	£2,500	£625 (25%)
(AONB Unit – Basics Plus)	Appleton-le- Street Churchyard SINC	Grassland management	-	NE5.1	£220	£110 (50%)
(AONB Unit – Basics Plus)	Amotherby Lane SINC	Grassland/scrub management	Site 1.38	NE5.1, NE7.1	£110	£110
Amotherby Churchyard Conservation Group	Amotherby Churchyard	Habitat management	-	NE3.1, NE5.4, NE10.1	£210	£110 (50%)
Huttons Ambo Churchyard group	Huttons Ambo Churchyard	Habitat management	-	NE3.1, NE5.4, NE10.1	£120	£60
P A Gospel Landscapes	Terrington Moor SINC	Re-fence landslip area	Site 1.66	NE6.1	c.£350	£205
(AONB Unit – Curlew Conservation Contractors)	Wath Beck; Terrington - Howthorpe	Cutting/pulling Himalayan balsam (3.5km)	Inc. Site 1.65	NE8.2	£761	£761
(AONB Unit – Countryside Services)	Wath Beck; Howthorpe - Wath	Cutting/pulling Himalayan balsam (2.3km)	Inc. Site 1.33	NE8.2	£1,287	£1,287
(Leeds University)	AONB	Bat survey transects	-	NE1.2	£600	£100
(Leeds University)	AONB	Bat habitat suitability modelling	All Nat Env Priority Sites	NE1.2, NE7.3	£6,000	£1,010
St Hilda's School	Ampleforth	Wildflower plug plants, bird box & camera and bird feeding station	-	NE10.1	£360	£260
Welburn School	Welburn	Repairs to vandalised pond liner		NE10.1	£900	£450
(AONB Volunteers)	Wath Beck	Himalayan balsam survey	Sites 1.63, 1.64, 1.68	NE3.1, NE8.1	£300	-

APPLICANT/ (CONTRACTOR)	LOCATION	PROJECT	LOCAL PRIORITY	OBJECTIVE	SCHEME COST	JAC ASSISTANCE
(AONB Unit – Countryside Services)	Scar Wood, Gilling	Treat sycamore re-growth, beat-up planting areas, chemical weed control	Site 1.25	NE4.1	£740	£740
(AONB Unit – Basics Plus)	Littledale SINC	Cutting brambles	Site 1.20	NE5.1	£110	£110
(AONB Volunteers)	Park Wood Fishponds/The Wilderness SINC	Rhododendron control	Site 1.6	NE5.4, AP3.1	£900	-

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.£160	c.£160
(AONB Unit – P Gospel)	Mileposts	Regular maintenance	Site 2.63	HE4.5, RT4.5		Included in cost of Gateway signs
Mrs L Howard	Rose Cottage Farm, Terrington	Re-building 4m of gaps in Park wall	Site 2.92	HE4.5	£390	£195 (50%)
Stonegrave PCC	Stonegrave Minster	Repair 9m of churchyard wall	-	HE4.5	£460	£360
(AONB Unit – Sam Baxter)	Lime kilns, Scar Wood, Gilling	Consolidation of kilns – phase 2 (repair of ivy damage and re-build of brick fire arch)	Site 2.50	HE4.5	c.£2,000	£1,843

APPLICANT	LOCATION	PROJECT	LOCAL PRIORITY	OBJECTIVE	SCHEME COST	JAC ASSISTANCE
(AONB Unit – Bayes Tree Services)	Lime kilns, Scar Wood, Gilling	Treatment of stumps	Site 2.50	HE4.5	£60	£60
NYCC	Hovingham	Replacement arm for traditional direction sign	-	HE4.5, RT4.5	£500	£250
(Nunnington PC)	Nunnington & East Ness	Refurbish traditional direction signs & village name signs	-	HE4.5, RT4.5	£5,600	£600
(Castle Howard Estate Ltd)	Hardy Flatts, Whitwell	Restore gate pillars	-	HE4.5	£2,660	£0 (Ryedale LEADER)
(AONB Unit – Bayes Tree Services)	Lime kiln, Hildenley	Treatment of stumps/re-growth and cutting ivy stems	Site 2.49	HE4.5	£150	£150
(AONB Unit – Bayes Tree Services)	Ice house, Hildenley	Treatment of stumps/re-growth	-	HE4.5	£60	£60
(AONB Unit – Countryside Services)	Wiganthorpe Park, Scackleton	Spraying scrub regrowth	Site 2.92	HE4.5	£40	£40
(Amotherby PC)	B1257, Amotherby	Refurbish traditional direction signs & village name signs	-	HE4.5, RT4.5	£5,500	£500
(AONB Unit – Cleveland Corrosion Control)	Husthwaite /Oulston /Yearsley	Refurbish traditional direction signs	-	RT4.5	£8,800	£8,800

APPLICANT	LOCATION	PROJECT	LOCAL PRIORITY	OBJECTIVE	SCHEME COST	JAC ASSISTANCE
(AONB Unit – David Bayes)	Pond Farm, Crambe	Stump treatment following tree removal (Listed Building at Risk)	Site 2.104	HE4.5	c.£280	c.£280
Castle Howard Estate Ltd	Welburn	Restore White Gate (aka Exclamation Gate) gate pillar (Listed Building at Risk)	Site 2.80	HE4.5	£2,340	£0 (Ryedale LEADER)

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	£550	£550
(AONB Unit – P Gospel)	Gateway signs	Strimming	-	AP1.1	c.£575	c.£575
(AONB Volunteers)	Jeffry Bog SSSI	Constructing boardwalk	Site 1.70	RA4, AP3	£700	-
Rural Action Yorkshire	Ryedale	Rural Ryedale Awards	-	LC1	£2,450	£300
(AONB Volunteers)	Various	Volunteer effort on PRoW in the AONB (av. 4 people/week, every other week)	-	RA4.5, AP3.1	£3,000	-
(AONB Volunteers)	Various	Volunteer effort - Schools Twinning Project	-	RA2.4, AP2.3, AP3.1	£3,000	-
(AONB Volunteers)	Various	Volunteer effort – Junior Ranger Club, Ryedale Show, guided walks, PRoW Condition surveying, etc.	-	AP3.1	£1,550	-
CAN DO Lime & Ice Project	Project area	2011/12 contribution			£176,980	£4,500

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND GRANTS 2011/2012

1st April 2011 – 26th October 2011

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

APPLICANT	LOCATION	PROJECT	LOCAL PRIORITY	OBJECTIVE	SCHEME COST	SDF ASSISTANCE
Hovingham Action Group	Hovingham village	Bee projects (bee-friendly planting, bee homes & bee hive)	-	LC1.5, NE10.1	£1,950	£800
The Arboretum Trust	Castle Howard Arboretum	Resources for Outdoor Classroom	-	AP2, SF2.4	£2,990	£1,490
Scackleton Action Group	Scackleton	Post box and telephone box	-	LC1, HE3, HE4	£645	£400
Barton-le-Willows VHC	Barton-le-Willows Village Hall	Install insulation	-	LC1	£3,355	£1,000
Barton-le-Street VHC	Barton-le-Street Village Hall	Install log-burning stove	-	LC1	£4,768	£2,000
Sustrans	AONB & Yorks. Wolds	Touring cycle routes leaflet	-	RA9.1	£5,280	£3,100
Swinton In Bloom	Swinton	Wildflower and shrub planting; stone drinking trough outside old forge	-	LC1	£2,390	£1,500

AONB CONSULTATIONS (SPECIFIC DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS) 2011/2012

1st April 2011 – 26th October 2011

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	Yearsley	Agricultural Prior Notification (Erection of agricultural building)	Yes	Strong concern over siting; dark grey roof sheets and walls to be used	Refused
Hambleton District Council	Oulston	Planning application (Installation of photo voltaic cells)	No	None	(Permitted)
Ryedale District Council	Gilling	Planning application (Erection of link extension; change of windows)	Yes	Serious reservations about window – recommend Refusal	Permitted
Forestry Commission	Yearsley/Oulston	Woodland management proposals (Felling & thinning, FC land)	No	Open-up by round barrow, protect colony of scarce species	Agreed
Ryedale District Council	Stittenham	Planning application (Erection of single storey extension)	No	No spoil disposal on adjacent historic site	Permitted, with Condition
North Yorkshire County Council	Coulton-Grimstone	NRSWA consultation (haunching works)	No	Species-rich road verges – avoid damage	?
North Yorkshire County	Bulmer	NRSWA consultation (CE Electric overhead	No	None	-

Council		HV works)			
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CONSULTING ORGANISATION	LOCATION	PROJECT	SITE VISIT	COMMENTS	OUTCOME
Ryedale District Council	Amotherby	Planning application (Conversion of water storage reservoir to 3 bed holiday cottage)	Yes	Strong reservations	Refused
North Yorkshire County Council	Terrington	Installation of storm sewer control cabinet	No	None	-
Hambleton District Council	Crayke	Planning application (Construction of agricultural building & retrospective application for construction of agricultural building)	Yes	Dark grey roof sheets and dark stained boarding to be used	Permitted, with Condition
Hambleton District Council	Yearsley	Agricultural Prior Notification (Erection of agricultural building – re-submission)	No	Support	Permitted
Ryedale District Council	Flaxton	Planning application (Erection of 20m wind turbine)	Yes (in passing)	None	(Withdrawn)
Ryedale District Council	Gilling	Planning application (Non-compliance with Condition on volume of feed production)	No	Re-iterate significance of AONB	Permitted
Ryedale District Council	Welburn	Planning application (Erection of agricultural workers dwelling)	Pre-application	None	(Permitted)
Ryedale District Council	Whitwell	Planning application (Change of use of former agricultural buildings to 3 dwellings & 1 holiday cottage – re-submission)	No	Colour of window frames to be ‘agricultural’	Permitted, with Condition
Ryedale District Council	Hovingham	Planning application (Erection of agricultural workers dwelling – re-submission)	No	Support	Permitted
Hambleton District Council	Stearsby	Planning application (Demolition of agricultural building, alterations & extensions to dwelling)	No	No lighting along access track	Permitted, with Condition
Forestry Commission	Cawton	Woodland management proposals (Felling & compensatory re-planting)	No	None	-
Forestry Commission	Ampleforth/Gilling	Woodland management proposals (Felling & compensatory re-planting)	Yes	Felling area is PAWS; planting area is semi-natural grassland	?
Natural England	Gilling	Disposal of former water pumping station	Yes (in passing)	Parcel on N side of road is SINC	-

CONSULTING ORGANISATION	LOCATION	PROJECT	SITE VISIT	COMMENTS	OUTCOME
Ryedale District Council	Hovingham	Agricultural Prior Notification (Erection of agricultural building)	Yes	Wall sheets to be dark grey	?
Ryedale District Council	Terrington	Agricultural Prior Notification (Erection of agricultural building)	No	None	(Permitted)
Ryedale District Council	Nunnington	Telecoms Notifications x 3 (Erection of telegraph poles)	(in passing)	Strongly prefer undergrounding	Permitted
Ryedale District Council	Whitwell-on-the-Hill	Planning application (Installation of roof-mounted solar PV panels on farm buildings)	No	None	(Permitted)
Forestry Commission	Scackleton	Woodland management proposals (Felling & re-planting; 2.0ha conifer to native broadleaves)	(in passing)	Minor	-
North Yorkshire County Council	Various	NRSA consultations x 6 (installation of replacement mileposts)	No	2 species-rich road verges. Backfill method.	OK
North Yorkshire County Council	Hovingham	NRSA consultation (LV underground works)	No	None	-
Hambleton District Council	Crayke	Planning applications x 7 (Construction of agricultural piggery buildings)	Yes	Objection - Dark grey roof sheets to be used; landscaping needed	Amended
CE Electric	Hovingham	Consultation (Erection of pole-mounted transformer)	Yes	None	-
North Yorkshire County Council	Hovingham	NRSA consultation (Carriageway patching works)	No	None	-
North Yorkshire County Council	Hovingham to Slingsby	NRSA consultation (Carriageway patching works)	No	None	-
North Yorkshire County Council	Ampleforth	NRSA consultation (Drainage investigation)	No	None	-
Ryedale District Council	Ampleforth	Planning application (Erection of extension)	Yes	Concerns about proportion of chimney stack	Amended; Permitted

CONSULTING ORGANISATION	LOCATION	PROJECT	SITE VISIT	COMMENTS	OUTCOME
Hambleton District Council	Newburgh	Planning application (Erection of 5 camping tents and solar panels)	Yes	Minor	(Permitted)
Ryedale District Council	Howsham	Planning application (Installation of roof-mounted solar PV panels on farm buildings)	No	None	(Permitted)
Hambleton District Council	Crayke	Planning applications x 7 (Construction of agricultural piggery buildings – amended details)	No	Dark grey roof sheets noted; assistance offered with landscaping plan	Permitted, with Conditions
Ryedale District Council	Gilling	Planning application (Erection of single storey extension)	No	None	(Permitted)
Ryedale District Council	East Newton	Agricultural Prior Notification (Erection of agricultural building)	Yes	None	-
Hambleton District Council	Crayke	Discharge of Conditions – landscape planting (Construction of agricultural piggery buildings)	No	Number of plants, species, timescale for planting	?
Hambleton District Council	Skewsby	Planning application (Extension to annex and conversion of barn to residential)	No	Minor - colour of window frames to be ‘agricultural’	?
Ryedale District Council	Coulton	Planning application (Amendment to garage windows)	Yes	Large window out of proportion to building	Refused
Ryedale District Council	Ampleforth	Planning application (Lean-to extension to agricultural building)	?	?	?
Ryedale District Council	Huttons Ambo	Planning application (Erection of permanent frame for sign)	Yes	?	?
Forestry Commission	Huttons Ambo	Woodland management proposals (Felling & re-planting; 1.3ha conifer PAWS to conifer PAWS, 0.2ha conifer/broadleaf to conifer/broadleaf)	(in passing)	Minor	-
Halcrows	A64, Whitwell	Alterations to pedestrian crossing point			

AONB CONSULTATIONS & NOTIFICATIONS (STRATEGIES, ETC) 2011/2012

1st April 2011 – 26th October 2011

ORGANISATION	AREA	DOCUMENT	COMMENTS	OUTCOME
NYCC	Ryedale	Renewal of bus contracts and Home to School transport contracts	Not scrutinised	
NYCC	North Yorkshire, York & Tees Valley	Historic Landscape Character Assessment report	None	
NYCC	North Yorkshire	Countywide civil parking Enforcement	Not scrutinised	
NYCC	North Yorkshire	Minerals & Waste Development Framework Core Strategy	?	
(NAAONB)	England	Position Statement on In-field Solar PV arrays	Amendments suggested	
(NAAONB)	England	Draft National Planning Policy Statement	Input into NAAONB response	

TECHNICAL DOCUMENTS RECEIVED 2011/2012

1st April 2011 – 26th October 2011

[illegible]

2011/12 Junior Ranger Club

All Junior Ranger Club sessions this year have been delivered with the Education Officer from The Arboretum Trust, Kew at Castle Howard, with all sessions taking place at the Arboretum except for 1 June, when it was at Welburn Village Hall.

April 2011 : Amazing April in the Howardian Hills

The Easter holiday session was carried out using the visitor centre at The Arboretum.

Ranger Day	Activities	No of children attending
Biodiversity and Easter crafts Monday 11 th April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Texture trail/scavenger hunt – collecting natural materials of different textures. ▪ Wild relay game – team game involving learning about different animal groups and habitats. ▪ Egg decorating – using wax as colour resistant material ▪ Finger print sheep mural – using variety of materials and design ideas. ▪ Nest building – using natural materials collected in scavenger hunt. ▪ Clay fridge magnets of flowers/animals. ▪ Orienteering in the Arboretum. 	16

June 2011 : See in the Summer in the Howardian Hills

The half-term holiday session was carried out at Welburn Village Hall and surroundings with assistance from the Education Officer from The Arboretum.

Ranger Day	Activities	No of children attending
Biodiversity and Landscape 'Caterpillars and Butterflies' Wednesday 1 st June	<p>A collection of activities looking at how caterpillars and butterflies develop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Papier mache caterpillars. ▪ Butterfly kite-making. ▪ Bug hunting using nets, identification cards and magnifying jars. ▪ Picnic lunch in the woods. ▪ Wild flower relay game. ▪ Treasure hunt around Welburn village using maps and question sheets. 	17

October 2011 : Amazing Autumn in the Howardian Hills

The October half-term holiday session was again held at the Arboretum.

Ranger Day	Activities	No of children attending
Biodiversity and Landscape 'Wild Senses' Monday 24 th October	<p>A collection of activities investigating autumnal changes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Glass painting autumn leaves and fungi.▪ Texture scavenger hunt looking for leaves, twigs, seeds and fruits of different textures.▪ Mirror walk – how do rabbits and hares, crocodiles and alligators see the world?▪ Sound maps – listening to the natural sounds of the arboretum.▪ Shelter-building – weaving in the willow branches planted three years ago to make a shelter.▪ Halloween lanterns – the effects of light.▪ Colour palettes – collecting as many different autumn colours as possible.▪ Autumn woodland collage – designing and making a collage using a variety of materials.	13

December 2011 : Festive Fun in the Howardian Hills

Outline plans for this session – again to take place at the Arboretum.

Ranger Day	Activities	No of children attending
Wednesday 21st December	<p>Outdoor activities (weather permitting) – collecting twigs and pine cones for natural Christmas tree decorations.</p> <p>Indoor craft activities – decorating Yule logs and willow wreaths. Making twig star decorations and pine cone baubles.</p>	

2010/11**10 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

10 (100%)

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

9 (90%)

1 (10%)

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

Excellent		Satisfactory		Poor
1	2	3	4	5

6 (60%)

4 (40%)

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

Simple				Difficult
1	2	3	4	5

9 (90%)

1 (10%)

(Continued overleaf)

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

- ☐ Previous contact **6 (60%)**
- ☐ Leaflet
- ☐ Local paper/publicity
- ☐ Telephoned or wrote to Council
- ☐ Friend or other personal contact **2 (20%)**
- ☐ Other (*please specify*) **2 (20%)**
1 – Maggie Farey – Community Development Officer
1 – North York Moors National Park Authority

7. Was the grant rate for your project:

- ☐ More than you expected **2 (20%)**
- ☐ About what you expected **8 (80%)**
- ☐ Less than you expected

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

- ☐ All of it ☐ Some of it **5(50.0%)** ☐ None of it **5 (50%)**

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

1. Suggest sending BACS details when approving grant so that bank details can be completed and returned to make payments from NYCC quicker. (Brian Clarke, Slingsby)
2. Faster payment of invoice would help as I paid out of my own pocket! (Jan Anderson, Swinton)
3. Perhaps provide a basic template for the reports. (Unknown)
4. Grant administration can place a heavy burden on small organisations and so it is great when you feel that the grant provider is really prepared to work with you as was the case here. (Gillian McIntosh, Rural Action Yorkshire)
5. All of the communication and process management was timely, accurate and everyone at the AONB was extremely helpful and supportive. (Cameron Smith – Husthwaite Orchards)

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

Only 2 questionnaires returned anonymously.