

Howardian Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Joint Advisory Committee

The Minutes of the meeting held at Barton-le-Street Village Hall on 4 April 2013, commencing at 10.00 am.

Present:-

North Yorkshire County Council: County Councillor Clare Wood in the Chair.

Ryedale District Council: Councillor Robert Wainwright.

Hambleton District Council: Councillor Christine Cookman.

North Yorkshire County Council: County Councillor Caroline Patmore.

Parish Councils: Stephen Gibson (Ryedale).

Country Land and Business Association: William Worsley.

National Farmers Union: Robert Hicks.

Natural England: Justine Clark and Rosie Eaton (substitute for Nancy Steadman).

Officers:

Howardian Hills AONB: Paul Jackson, Liz Bassindale and Maggie Cochrane.

North Yorkshire County Council Jane Wilkinson (Secretary).

Ryedale District Council: Paula Craddock.

Present by Invitation: Catriona McLees – North York Moors National Park Authority.

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

87. Apologies for Absence

Were submitted on behalf of Graham Megson (North Yorkshire County Council), Graham Banks (Hambleton District Council), David Pontefract (Parish Councils Hambleton), Geoff Eastwood (Ramblers) and Nancy Stedman (Natural England).

88. Minutes

Resolved –

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 5 November 2012, having been previously circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

89. Matters Arising

Minute No 75 – Gate Pillars at Hardy Flatts, Whitwell

Confirmation received from the Building Conservation Officer at Ryedale District Council that the protective wooden posts did not require Listed Building Consent as they were not touching the gate pillars. The AONB Manager agreed to speak with the Estate about finding a more visually appealing alternative.

Minute No 75 – Retaining Wall at Oulston Bank

Repairs to fallen sections of the wall reported at previous meetings were now complete. Members were impressed by the quality of the works and the wall's improved appearance which they said looked fantastic. Sadly however a further section of the wall towards the bottom of the bank had subsequently collapsed and Members enquired if Newburgh Priory Estate intended to carry out further repair works.

The AONB Manager said the Estate had no specific plans at present to carry out further works to the wall, as far as he was aware. However he agreed to raise the matter during the course of discussions about various other on-going projects.

Members hoped that the Estate would learn the lessons from its past experience namely that any delay in the commencement of repair works was likely to result in the situation deteriorating further.

Minute No 75 – AONB Commemorative Log Seats

Bad weather and the decision to increase the number of log seats to 25 meant that only one seat had been installed. The ideas for suggested locations received from parish councils together with those of AONB Officers exceeded 25 in number. Each location would be assessed before the final selection was made. Assurances were given that all of the log seats would be installed prior to the next meeting at which a final report would be provided.

Minute No 78 – Sustainable Development Fund – Applicant The Autism Centre

Efforts to arrange a meeting between the County Council's AONB Officers and representatives from the Autism Centre had proved unsuccessful. On three occasions the Autism Centre had withdrawn at short notice.

Minute No 78 – Wiganthorpe Wall, Scackleton

The location identified as a possible source for the stone needed to replace the missing top stones had proved unsuitable. The amount needed was not deemed "de minimis" and would require mineral planning consent. Alternative sources of stone were being sought.

Minute No 78 – Traditional Highway Direction Signs (Hambleton)

Action undertaken following the previous meeting had resulted in the remaining four signs being reinstated.

Minute No 81 – Planning Advice Fees

It was reported that discussions had taken place with Officers from Hambleton and Ryedale District Councils about the suggestion to charge applicants a fee for providing planning advice. A Protocol was now in place whereby generic advice would remain free and the District Councils notified of any advice given pertaining to specific proposals.

90. AONB Unit Activity

Considered –

The joint report of AONB Officers and the RAY Community Projects Officer detailing their activities and the progress achieved by the Unit during the period November-March 2012/13.

A slideshow of photographs of completed and on-going projects referred to in the report that included countryside management works, community projects, volunteer activity, Rural:Urban Schools Twinning project and Junior Ranger Club days was shown at the meeting.

Copies of the responses made to planning applications received since the last meeting were tabled (Appendix 3). In the light of her recorded objections to the planning application at Station Road Ampleforth the Chairman said that if any Member wished to comment on the application she would vacate the chair and the room whilst it was discussed. Members of the Committee said they did not wish to discuss/comment upon that application.

Members asked what action the Unit planned to take to counteract the threat posed by Ash die-back disease. Within the boundaries of the AONB there were a lot of ash trees which would almost certainly be affected that would alter the local landscape. Members asked for information on the number and species of field and hedgerow trees being planted.

The Committee was informed that the latest advice was that as young trees were more likely to be killed by the disease, owners should consider carefully whether to fell mature trees and woodland (as this would necessitate planting young trees to replace those felled). Studies had shown that whilst affected, mature trees stood a better chance of surviving the disease. The Unit would monitor the situation and if mature trees were lost then the Unit would seek to replace them. Approximately 50/60 individual trees would be planted this year, all of which would be oak grown from acorns at Castle Howard. Whilst it was acknowledged this was a relatively small number it represented a significant increase on the numbers that had been planted prior to the previous three years.

It was pointed out that oak trees were very slow growing and that perhaps consideration should be given to planting a greater number of different species such as sycamore and field maple. In the absence of the representative from the Forestry Commission Members requested that a report/presentation on Ash Dieback was included on the agenda of the next meeting.

County Councillor Caroline Patmore sought clarification of the reason why two mature ash trees had recently been removed from the highway verge on the road between Crayke and Oulston. The AONB Manager said he was not aware of the reason and that he would investigate and get back to her following the meeting. He suspected that the landowner and not the County Council's highways department was responsible.

Members noted the overall budget position and supported the approach adopted with regard to the use of reserves. Members were pleased to note that 65% of the funding for Sustainable Development Fund projects had already been allocated and that the impact of the secondment of Rebecca Thompson was to be reviewed the following year.

With regard to the planning application in respect of Lodge Farm, Scackleton, a Member expressed concerns about possible light pollution and pointed out that landscaping conditions attached to a previous application at the same site had not been executed. The AONB Manager took on board the comments about light pollution and confirmed that in his response he had made it clear that the

Applicant was operating in breach of planning conditions and that he would continue to pursue the matter.

On summing up the Chairman on behalf of Members of the Committee congratulated the AONB Manager and his team on their achievements and for an interesting and comprehensive presentation.

Resolved –

That the content of the report and the information provided at the meeting be noted.

That a report on Ash Dieback disease be added to the agenda of the next meeting.

91. North York Moors National Park Authority - Moors and More Project

Catriona McLees, Head of Tourism at the North York Moors National Park gave an overview of the North York Moors and More project. The Project covered the National Park and surrounding area and aimed to encourage visitors to stay longer, spend more and raise the profile of the area.

She described how by working with local tourism businesses and communities over the next 12 months aspects of the area that made it special and distinctive would be identified, developed and promoted. The three main strands to the Project were:-

- Workshops and research to identify the area's most distinctive features
- Creation of a toolkit, promotional resources, films and images for use by participating tourism, creative, food and drink retail businesses
- Development of a North York Moors Tourism Network to make it easier for businesses to work together and direct support to help them create new products, packages and experiences to make tourism more profitable.

A copy of an illustrated map of the area produced by a cartoonist that was to be circulated to participating businesses was tabled at the meeting. Members noted that Guides for the National Park and AONB were due to be launched the following month on the specialist niche Green Traveller web-site.

The Project was funded through Leader funding made available through the Rural Development Programme.

Members were enthusiastic and supportive of the Project and suggested that consideration be given to posting copies of the illustrated map on village notice boards. The ability to access films and images of the area would be a valuable and useful resource which Members said should be promoted more widely.

NOTED

92. New Agricultural Buildings Design Guidance

Considered –

The report of the AONB Manager inviting the Committee to approve the final draft of a new Agricultural Buildings Design Guidance (copy attached to report) for use within the AONB. The report also sought guidance from the Committee on how the Design Guidance should be distributed and if it should be adopted by the relevant Local Planning Authorities.

Members were pleased to see their previous concerns had been addressed and said that publication of the Design Guidance was a huge step forward. Members only criticism was that the document was lengthier than they had hoped but given its importance recognised the need for accuracy. The only amendment requested by Members was that the wording in the Glossary for 'setting' was revised.

Members noted the reasoning behind the suggestion of the Local Planning Authorities that the Design Guidance be adopted by them as a material consideration in Development Management and endorsed this approach. The AONB Manager said that as this suggestion had originated from the Districts Councils it was less likely they would then reject it.

Members debated whether the Design Guidance in its entirety or just a summary should be circulated. The consensus of the majority of Members was that the Summary together with a link to the AONB web-site where the full Design Guidance would be available along with contact details for the AONB Unit would be appropriate.

Resolved –

- (a) That following amendment of the wording used for 'setting' in the Glossary the final draft of the Design Guidance be approved and used by the AONB Manager when responding to planning application consultations.
- (b) That a summary of the Design Guidance together with a link to the AONB web-site and the contact details of the AONB Unit be printed and sent to all relevant farmers, landowners, agents and local construction companies.
- (c) That Ryedale and Hambleton District Councils be requested to adopt the Design Guidance as a material consideration in Development Management.

93. Development within the AONB

Considered –

The report of the AONB Manager presenting details of planning applications determined within the AONB during 2012.

The Committee was informed that subsequent to the report being written the applications for an agricultural workers dwelling at Scackleton had been withdrawn.

Resolved –

That the content of the report be noted.

94. AONB Action Programme 2012/13

Considered –

The report of the AONB Manager on progress achieved implementing the AONB Management Plan during 2012/13. Full details of performance against 2012/13 targets was appended to the report and illustrated in the presentation given earlier in the meeting.

The AONB Manager said that an analysis of performance revealed that 75% of specific targets had been achieved or substantially achieved and that statistically compared to the previous year performance had improved marginally.

The AONB Manager then went on to highlight key points under each of the headings in the report.

A Member referred to the concerns of his parish council in relation to the suitability of a particular timber access route. The AONB Manager advised that he was not aware of the outcome of the Timber Freight Quality Partnership consultation referred to in paragraph 10 of the report but that he would check the results following the meeting. He confirmed that his response to the consultation had been that the AONB had a continuous yield of timber which needed to be factored into their findings.

The Chairman congratulated the AONB Manager and his team on their overall performance and paid tribute to the work done by the volunteers.

Resolved –

- (a) That the progress made to date implementing the Management Plan be noted.
- (b) That the achievements against Targets for 2012/13 be noted.

95. AONB Business Plan and Action Programme 2013/14

Considered –

The report of the AONB Manager inviting the Committee to approve a programme of proposed activity designed to implement the AONB Management Plan during 2013/14.

The Chairman commented that compilation of the report required a great deal of time and effort and she questioned whether this would be better spent carrying out countryside management works.

The AONB Manager replied that the report laid down targets for the forthcoming year which then enabled performance to be monitored. He asked Members whether in the future they wanted to continue to receive the report in its entirety or would prefer instead to receive a summary with a link to the AONB website where the full document would be accessible. Members voted unanimously in favour of receiving a summary report.

With regard to the actual content of the report Members requested that the AONB Manager continued to liaise with the CE Electric and Bulmer Parish Council regarding overhead electricity cable undergrounding. Members also requested that three traditional direction signs at Terrington be added to the list of those waiting to be restored.

Resolved –

- (a) That the targets for 2013/14, contained in the Action Programme, be approved.
- (b) That the continued contribution to the Native Woodland Development Officer post is approved and noted.
- (c) That future AONB Business Plan and Action Programme reports contain only a summary of activities, targets and projects.

96. AONB Management Plan Review

Considered –

The report of the AONB Manager informing the Committee of progress of the AONB Management Plan review and highlighting the next steps to be taken.

Details of the review timetable were set out in the report.

Resolved –

That progress achieved and the next steps as detailed in the report be noted.

97. National Association for AONBs (NAAONB) Activity

Considered –

The report of the AONB Manager highlighting the current work areas of the NAAONB.

The Committee noted that the Government had subsequently adopted the recommendations from the National Growth Strategy and also noted the position with regard to future funding.

Resolved –

That the progress and issues detailed in the report be noted.

98. Reports from Partner Organisations (Oral Reports)

Ryedale District Council

Independent Planning Inspectors were due to examine the content of the Local Plan at hearings being held on 21, 22 & 23 May 2013.

The planning application in respect of dwellings at Station Road, Ampleforth was due to be determined by the Planning Committee at a meeting on 6 April 2013.

Natural England

Updated National Character Area Profiles were now available for the Vale of Pickering, North York Moors National Park and the Howardian Hills AONB on their web-site.

Four applicants had been selected for Higher Level Stewardship Schemes. The four comprised of two new applicants and two applicants who's Countryside Stewardship Schemes had expired earlier in the year.

99. Dates of future meetings

Resolved –

- (i) That the date of the annual site visit is 26 July 2013.
- (ii) That the date and time of the next meeting of the Joint Advisory Committee is 7 November 2013 at 10.00 am at a venue to be confirmed.

The meeting concluded at 12.20 pm.

JW/ALJ

**HOWARDIAN HILLS
AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY
JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
7 NOVEMBER 2013**

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 2013.

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 Officers and AONB Assistant in the period April 2013 to October 2013.
- 2.2 The final budget outturn for 2012/13 is detailed in a separate report on the Agenda. The final contribution payment has been received from Defra.
- 2.3 Work on countryside management has been proceeding. Our regular annual habitat management work on specific SINC sites has been completed, together with a fifth year of Himalayan balsam control on Wath Beck. A major wall restoration project is due to start soon near Brandsby, with a second major grant also offered for work at Oulston. The AONB newsletter has recently resulted in a number of enquiries for grants towards new hedge planting, and we are continuing work on a number of projects to plant individual in-field and boundary trees. Full details of the grants offered and projects initiated are contained in Appendix 2.
- 2.4 The Sustainable Development Fund is now fully committed and further applications are being received. Several projects had to be postponed last financial year due to the poor weather conditions – these were rolled-forward into the new financial year and are now completed. If other high-quality project applications are received it's likely that they will be funded by moving money from other Project budget heads. Full details of the grants offered are contained in Appendix 2.
- 2.5 Although the number of planning applications scrutinised has been relatively average, the large majority of them have not needed significant input or comments. New farm buildings have been the most numerous category of development, whilst the most significant development was an application for a 15m high building to house a biomass boiler at Westlers in Amotherby. Appendix 3 gives details of the Consultations that the JAC has received this financial year.
- 2.6 The Rural:Urban schools project, twinning AONB schools with ones in York and Hull and funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and LEADER continues to be delivered. Nine Round 3 twinning visits have been completed; a teachers' workshop to review progress and make plans for Round 4 was held in September; Howsham Mill was developed as a venue for Round 4 activities

and the first two twinning visits of Round 4 have been held. Due to an unforeseen and unilateral decision by Defra to alter the final Claim Date for the LEADER element of the funding it is possible that not all the Round 4 visits will be completed. A further six visits have been arranged for before the end of November (the programme indicated 12 in the autumn term), and one pair of schools has now pulled out (for reasons beyond our control). We may consider putting some additional funding in so that the programme is completed fully for the remaining 8 pairs of schools.

- 2.7 Three Junior Ranger Club sessions have been held in conjunction with the Castle Howard Arboretum, in the April, June and November half-terms. Details of the attendance at the Junior Ranger Club events already held are contained in Appendix 4.
- 2.8 The RAY Community Projects Officer has continued to work with a number of local communities to both prepare and implement Parish Plans. A full list of the work carried out by the RAY officer in the AONB is attached as part of Appendix 1.
- 2.9 A significant amount of time has been spent preparing the next revision of the AONB Management Plan – full details of the progress to date are given in a separate report on this Agenda.
- 2.10 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.
- 2.11 Twenty two of the 25th Anniversary log seats have been installed. This has entailed significant logistical organisation to co-ordinate access permissions over stubble fields, etc, but it has been aided by the dry weather. The seats were installed in a series of 1-day hits, with 4-5 seats being installed by the contractor each day.
- 2.12 The latest edition of the AONB Newsletter was prepared in September and distributed in the week commencing 21st October. The JAC's Annual Report was circulated in September to the wide range of organisations who work with the JAC to deliver our shared objectives.
- 2.13 The NAAONB Conference was held in Ipswich in July, hosted by the Norfolk Coast, Suffolk Coasts & Heaths and Dedham Vale AONBs and the Norfolk Broads National Park. The theme of the Conference was Water and some useful ideas were picked up which will be applied to initiatives that we are working on.
- 2.14 The analysis of the grant recipients questionnaire returns for the year 2012/13 is included as Appendix 5. This shows that our service is still considered to be good by grant recipients and that they find the service useful.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the report be noted.

AONB MANAGER'S REPORT

27TH MARCH 2013 – 29TH OCTOBER 2013

Work during this period has principally consisted of:

- Year-end financial close-down.
- Using up carry-forward Annual Leave.
- Holding the 8 Management Plan Topic Group meetings.
- Planning application assessments.
- Assessing the suggested locations for log seats and refining them down to 25.
- Starting preparation of the new version of the Management Plan
- Submission of 2012/13 final grant claim to Defra.
- Attending NAAONB Future Landscapes Collaboration Programme workshop.
- Preparing the draft chapters for the new Management Plan and sending them out for informal pre-consultation.
- Revising the Management Plan chapters in light of comments received and submitting the full draft Plan to the designers.
- Log seats: Contacting owners and tenants, visiting sites and engaging a new contractor.
- Preparation of the 2012/13 Annual Report.
- Sending the draft Management Plan out for formal consultation.
- Arranging the installation of 22 log seats.
- Annual Leave.

MEETINGS

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 28th March – LNP Board meeting, Northallerton. • 3rd April – Planning application advice, Hovingham. • 4th April – JAC meeting, Barton-le-Street. • 8th April – Ryedale District Council re Ampleforth Station Road planning application, Malton. • 16th April – NET meeting, County Hall. • 18th April – KIT meeting with Ian Fielding. • 22nd April – AONB Partnership Group, Appleton-le-Street. • 25th April – Forestry & Woodland Topic Group. • 30th April – Development & Rural Economy Topic Group. • 1st May – Natural Environment Topic Group. • 7th May – Roads, Transport & Traffic Management Topic Group. • 8th May – Historic Environment Topic Group. • 9th May – Communities Topic Group. • 9th May – David Renwick (NYMNP), re joint working. • 15th May – Discussing result of 360 degree appraisal with Maggie and Liz. • 17th May – Agriculture Topic Group. • 21st May – Quarterly Action Programme delivery meeting. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21st May – Coaching/discussion session with Liz and Rebecca on the next stage of the fixed point photography monitoring project. • 22nd May – Liz, to refine the suggested log seat locations down to 25. • 23rd May – Recreation, Access & Tourism Topic Group, Terrington. • 4th June – Yearsley Moor project and volunteers group next steps, Helmsley. • 20th June – Core Partners Group. • 21st June – LEADER Executive and Support Group meeting, Helmsley. • 24th June – Colin Holm, re SEA for new Management Plan. • 26th June – LNP Board, Northallerton. • 2nd July – Derry Patmore, re repairs to next sections of wall at Oulston. • 11th July – KIT meeting with Ian Fielding, teleconference. • 26th July – JAC site tour. • 5th August – Fire Service Fire Safety Audit visit. • 27th August – Quarterly Action Programme delivery meeting. • 5th September – NET meeting. • 5th September – Core Partners Group. • 10th September – VisitEngland campaign meeting, Malton. • 17th September – Local Distinctiveness Project meeting, Helmsley. • 18th September – Northern Powergrid Undergrounding Steering Group, Northallerton. |
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- 7th October – Protected Areas delivery of economic development forum, Helmsley.
- 23rd October – LEADER Executive + Steering Group meeting, Helmsley.

Project round-up meetings with Liz, Rebecca and Mark Antcliff.

Monthly AONB Team meetings.

NAAONB

- 17th April – Future Landscapes Programme workshop, Birmingham.
- 24th April – Northern AONBs Group meeting, Howardian Hills.
- 7th June – Future Landscapes Action Learning Set teleconference.
- 13th June – Biodiversity 2020 delivery workshop, London.
- 25th June – Future Landscapes Programme Action Learning Set teleconference.
- 16th – 18th July – NAAONB Conference, Ipswich.
- 19th – 20th July – NAAONB stand at CLA Game Fair, Staffordshire.
- 13th September – Future Landscapes Programme Action Learning Set teleconference.
- 1st October – Future Landscapes Programme workshop, Birmingham.
- 23rd/24th October – Northern Group meeting, Arnside & Silverdale AONB.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- 5th November – River Rye Project meeting.
- 5th November – Volunteer surveyor, re surveying the AONB.
- 6th November – Discussion on collaborative working with National Park, Helmsley.
- 7th November – JAC meeting, Amotherby.
- 10th November – Meeting with applicant re Countrysports Yorkshire SDF application.
- 10th November – KIT meeting with Ian Fielding.
- 3rd December – Quarterly Work Programme meeting.
- 11th December – LNP Board meeting, Northallerton.
- 17th December – NET meeting, County Hall.
- 19th December – Core Partners Group.

Monthly project update meetings with Liz and Mark Antcliff.

Monthly AONB Team meetings.

FUTURE NAAONB

- 14th November – NAAONB AGM, London.

SITE VISITS

- 8th April – Planning applications site visits; Gilling, Crayke x 2.
- 11th June – log seats scoping visits – Maidensworth, Crayke, Oulston x 2.
- 29th June – Planning application site visit, Ampleforth College.
- 30th June – Planning application site visit, Coulton.
- 26th July – Planning application site visit, Amotherby.
- 7th August – Log seats visits – Welburn x 2, Huttons Ambo.
- 7th August – Planning application site visit, Welburn.
- 16th August – Log seats visits – Coxwold, Husthwaite, Oulston.
- 10th September – Log seats site visits – Coxwold, Husthwaite, Oulston, Terrington x 2.
- 16th September – Log seat meeting, Sproxtion. Log seat site inspections – Coxwold, Husthwaite, Oulston.
- 17th September – Log seat site visit, Nunnington.
- 26th September – Log seat site meetings, Kirkham, Crambe. Log seat site visits – Welburn x 3, Low Hutton, Slingsby x 2, Terrington.
- 27th September – Log seat site inspection, Sproxtion.
- 6th October – Log seats site visits – Terrington x 2, Grimston.
- 11th October – Log seat site visit, Husthwaite.

FUTURE SITE VISITS

- Log seat site inspections – Hovingham x 2, Grimston, Terrington, Low Hutton, Kirkham, Crambe, Howsham.
- Planning application site visit, Yearsley.

PROJECTS

- Completion of 2012 State Aids returns to Defra.
- 2012/13 Year-end financial shut down.
- Starting re-write of AONB Management Plan.
- Management Plan revision.

- Analysis of the Historic Landscape Characterisation information and incorporation into the Management Plan Local Landscape Priorities sections where appropriate.
- 25th July – Volunteers task, re-gravelling City of Troy Maze.
- 27th September – Compiling documents and sending out Annual Report 2012/13 and draft Management Plan for consultation.
- SEE SEPARATE TABLE FOR LIST OF PROJECTS GRANT AIDED

FUTURE PROJECTS

- Install the remaining 3 log seats.
- Compile responses from draft AONB Management Plan consultation.
- Agree proposed changes to the Management Plan with the Core Partners Group, JAC and finally the JAC Chairman.
- Prepare a text-only version of the Management Plan, for adoption by the three Local Authorities.
- Complete the Equalities Impact Assessment of the new Management Plan.

CONSULTATIONS

- SEE SEPARATE TABLE FOR FULL DETAILS OF CONSULTATIONS RECEIVED.

COMMUNITIES

PROMOTION/PUBLICITY/ INTERPRETATION

- Log seats installation – writing to owners and tenants; appointing contractor.
- 30th July – Ryedale Show.
- Preparation of the 2012/13 Annual Report.
- Log seats installation – liaising with owners and tenants; visiting sites; appointing new contractor.
- Distribution of the 2012/13 Annual Report.
- Distribution of 2013 AONB Newsletter.

FUTURE PROMOTION/PUBLICITY/ INTERPRETATION

TRAINING

- 29th April – Customer Care e-learning.
- 12th August – E-learning courses – Data Protection; Information Security.
- 27th August – E-learning courses – Freedom of Information; Attendance Management.

FUTURE TRAINING

MISCELLANEOUS

- 11th April – Maggie Cochrane Appraisal.
- 19th April – Appraisal.
- 23rd April – Liz Bassindale Appraisal.
- 15th May – Introducing NYCC Area Ranger Andrew Hall to AONB office set-up, as he will be hot-desking there more often.
- Annual Leave – 30th Sept – 4th Oct.
- 9th October – Maggie Cochrane Appraisal.
- 11th October – Liz Bassindale Appraisal.
- 18th October – Appraisal.

FUTURE MISCELLANEOUS

- Christmas close-down, 25th December – 2nd January.

AONB OFFICER'S REPORT

27th MARCH 2013 –6th NOVEMBER 2013

Work during this period has principally consisted of:

- Completion of Projects at Snargate Farm, Greets Farm and Rose Cottage Farm
- Progressing of Projects at Brandsby and Oswaldkirk
- Completion of scoping visits for Fixed Point Photography project
- Assessing options for protecting Long Barrow at Grimstone
- Initial drafting of 2012/13 Annual Report
- Interpreting and presenting statistics for inclusion in Evidence Base of Management Plan
- Site visits to Littledale and Cawton Fen SINCS to assess effect of pony grazing
- Continued rationalisation of project files
- Continued digitisation of past projects

MEETINGS

- 2nd April – internal meeting to discuss Log Seat Project
- 21st May – Project up-date meeting, Quarterly Work Programme meeting and internal meeting to discuss Fixed Point Photography project
- 9th July – River Rye Project Meeting
- 27th August – Quarterly Work Programme meeting
- 24th September – meeting with representatives of Oswaldkirk Parish Meeting to discuss potential application to Ryedale Small Scale Enhancements Scheme for works at Chestnut Bank
- 27th October - Quarterly Work Programme meeting

NAAONB

FUTURE MEETINGS

- 5th November – River Rye meeting
- 3rd December – Quarterly Work Programme meeting
- 24th February – Quarterly Work Programme meeting

FUTURE NAAONB

SITE VISITS

- 2nd April – Snargate Farm & Greets Farm to inspect completed works and visit to log seat at Castle Howard to attach 25th Anniversary plaque
- 7th & 14th May – take scoping photos for Fixed Point Photography project
- 11th June – proposed wall restoration at Brandsby with prospective contractor
- 9th July – Chestnut Bank, Oswaldkirk to look at proposed restoration of path.
- 20th August – long barrow, Grimstone to discuss proposals with NYCC Highways
- 10th September – Chestnut Bank to meet representatives of Parish Meeting to discussed proposed works and visit to Littledale SINC to assess impact of pony grazing
- 17th September – inspect SDF funded works at Huttons Ambo, Kirkham Priory carpark, proposed tree planting site at Firby, walling works at Rose Cottage Farm and potential site for log seat at Coulton
- 8th October – Cawton Bank and Cawton Fen to assess effect of pony grazing

FUTURE SITE VISITS

PROJECTS

- Submitting details of historic projects completed in 2012/13 to NYCC for inclusion on Historic Environment Record.
- Continued rationalisation of project files
- Digitisation of past projects
- Completion of projects at Snargate Farm, Greets Farm & Rose Cottage Farm
- Initial drafting of 2012/13 Annual Report
- Commissioning contractor for walling work at High Farm, Brandsby

- Assessing options for protection of long barrow at Grimstone
- Finalising & distributing Gilling Castle RPG Study
- Interpreting and presenting agricultural statistics and data provided by 'Framework for Monitoring Environmental Outcomes in Protected Landscapes' Project for inclusion in Evidence Base of new Management Plan

FUTURE PROJECTS

- Continued rationalisation of project files
- Continued digitisation of past projects
- Restoration of traditional direction signs
- Restoration of 'City of Troy' interpretation panel
- Assessment of threats to Scheduled Ancient Monuments within AONB and prioritisation of works to be undertaken by volunteers

CONSULTATIONS

COMMUNITIES

- Securing future maintenance of car park at Kirkham Priory by Parish Council
- Working with Oswaldkirk Parish Meeting to secure improvements to improve amenity space at Chestnut Bank

PROMOTION/PUBLICITY/
INTERPRETATION

FUTURE PROMOTION/PUBLICITY/
INTERPRETATION

TRAINING

FUTURE TRAINING

MISCELLANEOUS

FUTURE MISCELLANEOUS

AONB OFFICER'S REPORT
21ST MARCH – 31ST OCTOBER

This report summarises the work completed over this 7 month period:

- **Projects Fund 2012/13/14:** Completed projects include hedge planting at Stearsby and Oswaldkirk, wellhead repairs in Crayke, community noticeboard in Oswaldkirk and cutting of Special Interest Verges. Conservation cuts of Amotherby and Appleton le Street Churchyards have taken place. The search for topstones for Wiganthorpe Park Wall continues. The second stage of the hedge restoration at Stearsby has been discussed with the landowner.
- **SDF 2013/14:** The work of the Rural Action Yorkshire Community Development Officer is progressing well; Terrington have committed to completing a Parish Plan and Oswaldkirk are reviewing theirs. Building work at Husthwaite Village Hall is underway. The offer letter to Gilling East Church for noticeboards and porch repairs has been revised. Offer letters have been issued to North East Yorkshire Geology Trust to launch Geonauts at Ampleforth St Benedict's School and to Terrington Village Hall for a walkers/cyclists toilet. Composting toilets at Howsham Mill, the outdoor classroom at Crayke School, bus shelters at Huttons Ambo and explorer backpacks at the Arboretum have been completed. A Project Ideas Form has been received from Sight Support Ryedale – they are working up the full Application Form, probably for submission to the 2014/15 SDF.
- **Rural:Urban Schools Twinning Project:** The first two months of this period were focused on developing the activities to be delivered in Hull in June and York in July and negotiating a new school to become involved after the withdrawal of one Hull school (due to factors beyond our control). Seven visits to Hull, one to York and one to the AONB took place during a busy three month period. In Hull the children worked on a 140 square foot mural which covers the front of three former fruit warehouses on Humber Street and which interprets marine life off the Humberside coastline. The mural was seen by 24,000 people who attended the Humber Street music festival on 3rd August. Look North and BBC Radio Humberside interviewed children from Husthwaite and Cavendish Schools and the School Twinning Project Officer. In York we visited St Nicholas Fields and learnt about its transition from waste disposal site to urban nature reserve – hunting for minibeasts and playing environmental games as we learnt.
- **Volunteers:** Volunteers have helped to deliver Junior Ranger Club and School Twinning sessions. They have also undertaken Himalayan balsam clearance at Jeffry Bog SINC and followed this up with strimming along the PROW. AONB volunteers worked alongside YWT volunteers leading some School Twinning activities. Volunteer tasks clearing rhododendron are scheduled for November and December at Yearsley Moor.
- **Junior Ranger Club:** In May half term the children enjoyed making shoe box ponds, pond dipping and butterfly activities at The Yorkshire Arboretum. The next session will be in Autumn half term in Ampleforth.
- **Promotional activity:** The Great Outdoors Guide for the North York Moors, Coast and Howardian Hills was well received at Ryedale Show and Hovingham Market. Copies are available from local outlets and accommodation providers. Two routes in the AONB feature in the guide, which also has some background information about the area. The Annual AONB newsletter, incorporating articles by both the AONB Team and partner organizations, has been produced and distributed.

MEETINGS

- April 4th – Barton le Street – JAC
- April 11th – York – NYBAG
- April 22nd – Appleton le Street – Partnership Group
- April 25th – Hovingham – Management Plan review topic group – Forestry and Woodland
- April 30th – Hovingham – Management Plan review topic group – Development and Rural Economy
- May 1st – Hovingham – Management Plan review topic group – Natural Environment
- May 7th – Hovingham – Management Plan review topic group – Roads and Transport
- May 8th – Hovingham – Management Plan review topic group – Historic Environment

- May 7th – Hovingham – Management Plan review topic group – Communities
- May 7th – Hovingham – David Renwick (NYMNP)
- May 15th – Malton – Ryedale LBAP
- May 16th – Hovingham - 360° appraisal review with PJ
- May 17th – Hovingham – Management Plan review topic group – Agriculture
- May 21st – Hovingham – Projects update with PJ and RT
- May 21st – Hovingham – Work Programme – PJ, MC and RT
- May 23rd – Terrington – Management Plan review topic group – Recreation and Access
- May 24th – Northallerton – Hambleton LBAP
- May 30th – Northallerton – Natural Environment Team and Ecology Team meetings
- June 20th – Hovingham – Core Partners
- July 9th – Hovingham – River Rye group
- July 31st – Phone interview – LEADER feedback opportunity
- Sept 5th – Hovingham – NET
- Sept 5th – Hovingham – Core Partners
- Sept 24th – Northallerton – SIV group
- Oct 8th – Hovingham – Projects update
- Oct 9th – York – NYBAG
- Oct 10th – Flamingo Land – Ryedale (and Scarborough?) LBAP
- Oct 11th – Hovingham – Appraisal
- Oct 11th – Hovingham – NE Yorkshire Geology Trust
- Oct 15th – Northallerton - NET
- Oct 16th – Fountains Abbey – LEADER LAG
- Monthly - Howardian Hills AONB Unit meeting

FUTURE MEETINGS

- Nov 5th – Hovingham – River Rye group
- Nov 6th – Helmsley – David Renwick re future joint working with NYMNP
- Nov 7th – Amotherby Village Hall – JAC
- Nov 12th – Malton – Ryedale/Scarborough LBAP sub-meeting
- Dec 5th – Helmsley – Development Officers Network
- Dec 19th – Hovingham – Core Partners
- Monthly - Howardian Hills AONB Unit meeting
- Approx every 4-6 weeks - Project updates with Paul and Rebecca
- Approx every 4-6 weeks – Natural Environment Team Meetings

- Quarterly – work programme meeting with Paul and Maggie

SITE VISITS

- April 25th – Hovingham – Village wall repairs site meeting
- July 25th – Jeffry Bog – site visit before volunteer task
- July 26th – AONB – JAC projects tour
- August 7th – Ampleforth to Wass – Himalayan balsam check on Special Interest Verges
- August 13th – Gilling East – church porch
- August 16th – Stearsby – hedge planting
- Sept 4th – Terrington – wall repairs

FUTURE SITE VISITS

-

PROJECTS

- April 12th – Yearsley – Grassland restoration project grant meeting
- May 8th – Thirsk – Exmoor Pony grazing planning meeting
- May 21st – Hovingham - Fixed Point Photography planning session with PJ and RT
- May 28th – Hovingham – SDF – Park House Farm
- May 28th – Hovingham – Briefing RT on running the Himalayan balsam cutting programme this year
- June 21st – Hovingham – Discussion with local botanist about writing a flora of the Howardian Hills
- August 6th – Jeffry Bog – Himalayan balsam pulling with volunteers
- August 16th – Dalby Maze – clean information board
- SDF Projects – advice during delivery and checking completed projects. Direct involvement with the majority of those on 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 6th – Yearsley Moor – Volunteers clearing rhododendron

- Dec 4th – Yearsley Moor – Volunteers clearing rhododendron

Projects include:

- Completion of 2013 Exmoor Pony Grazing

RECREATION/ACCESS

- April 2nd – Hovingham – Planning 25th Anniversary log seat project
- May 22nd – Hovingham – 25th Anniversary log seats site selection
- Oct 22nd – Castle Howard – Off-road cycling and walking promotion meeting
- Offer made to contribute towards a re-print of the road cycling leaflet in conjunction with Sustrans, Welcome to Yorkshire, Ryedale DC

FUTURE RECREATION/ACCESS

- Identify a method to complete the remaining two off-road cycle leaflets (discussion underway with Castle Howard and Rupert Douglas/Ryedale DC)

COMMUNITIES

- April 9th – Hovingham – Meeting with Community Development Officer
- April 10th – The Yorkshire Arboretum – Junior Ranger Club
- 29th May – The Yorkshire Arboretum – Junior Ranger Club
- July 2nd – Helmsley Walled Garden – Ryedale Voluntary and Community Sector Forum
- August 7th – Arboretum – planning Junior Rangers
- August 7th – Ampleforth – initial visit to determine whether Ampleforth is a suitable venue for Junior Rangers.
- August 22nd – Malton – Ryedale Rural Awards judging
- August 27th – Arboretum – Planning Autumn JRC session
- August 27th – Ampleforth – plan treasure hunt/local area quiz for the Junior Rangers
- Oct 2nd – Ampleforth – JRC walk through with Arboretum Education Officer in Ampleforth
- Oct 24th – Barton le Street – Parish network forum
- Oct 30th – Ampleforth – Junior Rangers

FUTURE COMMUNITY WORK

- Feb 19th – Yorkshire Arboretum – Junior Rangers
- April 16th – Yorkshire Arboretum – Junior Rangers
- Build on links with schools, parishes and community groups.

PROMOTION/PUBLICITY/INTERPRETATION

- March 27th – Display put up at Ampleforth Abbey about the School Twinning Project; display remains in place now
- April 2nd – Kirkbymoorside – slides to CD for Great Outdoors Guide
- April 26th – Outdoor Guide update meeting
- May 14th – Helmsley – Outdoor Guide proofs check
- May 22nd – Delivery taken of the Great Outdoors Guide.
- May 23rd – Terrington – meeting with Castle Howard and Sustrans re. leaflet printing and producing additional walking/cycling information
- May 23rd – Slingsby and Hovingham – Promoting/distributing new Outdoors Guide
- June 25th – Malton – Meeting to discuss Outdoor Guide distribution and future projects
- July 6th – Hovingham – Stall at market with Maggie Farey (RAY)
- July 25th – Pickering – Tour de France Roadshow
- July 30th – Ryedale Show – promotional stand
- August 16th – Terrington and Arboretum – leaflet delivery and discussion about what leaflets we offer
- Oct 23rd – Malton – Access/tourism/ promotion group meeting
- Dec 10th – Castle Howard – promotional market stall (tbc)
- July – Discussions with Green Traveller about a theme for Howardian Hills on their website
- Production of content for AONB Newsletter and gathering articles from external contributors. Text and images supplied to designers. Newsletter printed and distributed.

FUTURE PUBLICITY/INTERPRETATION

- Displays in community spaces about the Schools Twinning Project

EDUCATIONAL/RAISING AWARENESS

- March 28th – Hull – School Twinning planning and update meeting
- April 5th – Howsham Mill – Planning School Twinning sessions for Autumn 2013
- May 1st – Foston on the Wolds – School Twinning planning and update meeting
- June 4th – School twinning – Cottingham Croxby to Welburn

- Humber Street, Hull – School Twinning visits:
 - June 14th – Terrington, Foston & Gillshill
 - June 17th – Hovingham, St Hilda's and Neasden
 - June 18th - Amotherby & Hall Road
 - June 19th – St Benedict's and Wansbeck (attended)
 - June 24th – Welburn and Cottingham Croxby
 - June 26th – Husthwaite and Cavendish (attended)
 - July 3rd – Sheriff Hutton and Ings (attended)

- July 5th – St Nicholas Fields – Tang Hall and Crayke
- June 28th – Howsham Mill – twinning days planning meeting
- July 31st – Howsham Mill – twinning days planning meeting
- August 8th – Near Wetwang – feedback/planning meeting with Twinning Project Officer
- August 20th – Howsham Mill – meeting with Trustees to discuss twinning project
- August 30th – Hull – Visit mural in place with volunteers then discuss teachers workshop
- Sept 10th – Skidby Mill – Teachers workshop
- Oct 1st – Hovingham – LEADER monitoring visit
- Oct 3rd – Howsham Mill – planning, walk-through and prep
- Oct 5th – Helmsley – Drill corks for school twinning models
- Oct 17th – Crayke – Display for school parents evening
- Oct 23rd – Sheriff Hutton – Display for Harvest Festival
- Oct 23rd – Howsham – site visit with teacher
- October 24th – Howsham Mill – Hovingham, Neasden and St Hilda's visit
- October 25th – Howsham Mill – Terrington, Foston and Gillshill visit

- Continue to develop projects with local schools through working with them both in their school grounds and on field-trips.

FUTURE EDUCATION/AWARENESS

- Nov 5th – Howsham Mill – Amotherby and Hall Road visit
- Nov 12th – Howsham Mill – Tang Hall and Crayke visit
- Nov 15th – Howsham Mill – St Benedict's and Wansbeck visit
- Nov 20th – Husthwaite – Cavendish and Husthwaite visit
- Nov 26th – Cottingham – Welburn and Cottingham visit

- Oct and Dec - Interim and Final LEADER claims
- HLF interim claim

- Developing the skills of the Volunteers on a variety of tasks including Educational Activities, Community Events and Habitat Management.

TRAINING

- May 14th – Helmsley – Moors and More marketing session

FUTURE TRAINING

-

MISCELLANEOUS

- March 19th – 22nd – Annual leave
- April 24th – Northern AONBs Group
- June 4th – 14th – Annual leave
- July 16th – 18th – Ipswich and Norfolk Broads – NAAONB Conference
- Sept 16th-20th – On leave

FUTURE MISCELLANEOUS

AONB ASSISTANT'S REPORT 22 MARCH – 25 OCTOBER 2013

My main duties over the period have been:

- Preparation for and assisting with delivery of Junior Rangers' sessions on 10 April and 29 May, and planning, promotion and preparation for upcoming session on 30 October.
- Assisting with planning and delivery of two Schools Twinning days at Hull and St Nicholas' Fields, York and preparation for sessions at Howsham Mill.
- Organising the update and reprint of the HHAONB general leaflet, incorporating the Landscapes for Life logo.
- Assisting with delivery of the annual Partnership Group meeting and Northern Group Staff meeting.
- Assisting with planning, preparation and delivery of the HHAONB stand at Ryedale Show.
- General admin tasks for the unit eg taking minutes, dealing with orders, invoices, post, file management.
- Updating the AONB website, with news and information.
- Handling telephone and email enquiries to the Unit.
- Dealing with IT issues.

MEETINGS

- 4 April – JAC meeting, Barton-le-Street VH
- 10 April – JRC planning meeting with Yorkshire Arboretum Education Officer
- 22 April – AONB Partnership Group meeting, Appleton-le-Street
- 24 April – Northern Group Staff meeting, Nunnington and Gilling East
- 21 May – Quarterly Work Programme meeting
- 16 July – NET meeting, County Hall
- 7 August – JRC planning meeting with Yorkshire Arboretum Education Officer
- 27 August – Quarterly Work Programme meeting
- 5 Sept – Core Partners' Group meeting
- 19 Sept – Development Officers' meeting, Malton
- 24 October – Northern Group Staff meeting at Arnside and Silverdale AONB
- Monthly AONB Unit meetings

FUTURE MEETINGS

- 7 November - JAC meeting, Amotherby VH
- 14 November – NET meeting, Wath Court
- 3 December – Quarterly Work Programme meeting
- 19 December – Core Partners' Group meeting
- Monthly - HHAONB Unit meetings

SITE VISITS

- 7 August - scoping visit to Ampleforth church and millennium green for Junior Rangers
- 2 October – site visit to Ampleforth to finalise plans for Junior Rangers session

- 15 October – Site visit to Appleton-le-Street Churchyard to check task for volunteers

FUTURE SITE VISITS

RECREATION/ACCESS

- Research into further outlets for leaflets
- Continued supply of walks and new cycle routes leaflets to local shops/outlets (ongoing)

FUTURE RECREATION/ACCESS

- Assisting with production of new walks and cycling leaflets for Castle Howard area

COMMUNITY WORK

- Assisting with planning, preparation and delivery of JRC sessions on 10 April and 29 May
- 22 April – Attending Partnership Group Meeting at Cresswell Arms, Appleton-le-Street
- 20 September – Representing HHAONB at the Ryedale Rural Awards evening
- 17 October – Liaison with volunteers for small task at Appleton-le-Street Churchyard
- Planning, promotion and preparation for JRC session on 30 October

FUTURE COMMUNITY WORK

- Preparation and assisting with delivery of JRC session
- Develop opportunities for promotion of JRC

PROMOTION/PUBLICITY/
INTERPRETATION

- Further development of Howardian Hills AONB website and links with relevant organisations
- Assisting with publicity and promotion for the Schools Twinning Project
- Update and reprint of HHAONB general leaflet
- Continued distribution of HHAONB leaflet to tourism outlets etc
- Assisting with planning, preparation and delivery of Ryedale Show stand
- 20 September - Ryedale Rural Awards Evening

FUTURE PROMOTION/PUBLICITY

- Develop opportunities for promotion of JRC

EDUCATION/RAISING AWARENESS

- 24 April - Assisting with delivery of Northern AONBs Staff Group meeting, Nunnington, Gilling and Yearsley
- 3 July - Assisting with delivery of Schools Twinning visit to Humber Street, Hull
- 5 July – Assisting with delivery of Schools Twinning visit to St Nicholas’ Field, York
- 23 October – Attending Sheriff Hutton Community event with Schools Twinning display

FUTURE EDUCATION/RAISING
AWARENESS

- 5 November - Assisting with delivery of Schools Twinning visit at Howsham Mill
- 26 November – Assisting with delivery of Schools Twinning visit at Cottingham School, Hull
- Continued liaison with YWT and volunteers to deliver Schools Twinning Project

TRAINING

- Mandatory E-learning courses on Customer Care and Information Security
- Mandatory E-learning updates on Data Protection and Freedom of Information
- 24 October – Northern Group Staff training day at Arnside and Silverdale AONB

FUTURE TRAINING

MISCELLANEOUS

- 11 April - Appraisal
- 6-10 May – Annual Leave
- 12 – 27 June – Annual Leave
- 8 – 15 September – Annual Leave
- 9 October – Half-yearly Appraisal

FUTURE MISCELLANEOUS

Report to Howardian Hills AONB Committee 1 April 2013 to 30 September 2013

Parish Plans

Terrington Parish Plan is progressing well; held a series of meetings with the Steering Group and a consultation exercise with the Junior Children at Terrington School. The children were also asked to design the logo for the Plan and a book token was awarded to the pupil who produced the winning design.

A short 'Like it/ Don't like it' 22 questionnaire was delivered to all households in the Parish in July/ August and over 50% were returned. The information received from this is forming the basis of the main questionnaire which is currently in draft form.

Oswaldkirk Parish Plan is making progress; attended a meeting with Steering Group on 27 March and attended the Parish Council Annual Meeting on 8 May. The steering group have produced a 1st draft of the main questionnaire.

Huttons Ambo - invited to attend a Parish Council meeting 4 September to do a presentation on Parish Plans and their benefits. I have since received an e-mail from the Clerk to say they are interested in pursuing this and will be in touch again soon.

Other activity / contacts with HHAONB

- Attended Howardian Hills Partnership Meeting (22 April)
- Supported NYMNPA Small Grants and Environmental Grants – attended meeting 25 April with other Development Officers.
- Attended HHAONB Communities Topic Group meeting for Management Plan
- Hired Community Stall at Hovingham Market with Liz, to promote work of HHAONB and RAY.
- Stand at Ryedale Show; general information, a number of interesting conversations with residents from HHAONB. Carried out short survey on Rural Services and facilities in Ryedale.
- Ryedale Village Hall Networking group meeting held at Hovingham Village Hall on 10 September; presentation and training given by Village Halls Advisor Peter Bryant. In attendance were representatives from Barton Le Street, Ampleforth, Amotherby, Coneysthorpe, Terrington, Hovingham and Coxwold Village Halls.
- Ryedale Rural Awards 2013; Awards Evening held at Appleton Le Street Village Hall on 20 September.
HHAONB area winners were:
Village Hall of the Year Award - Barton Le Street
Volunteer of the Year winner - Marion Hardy of Barton le Street Village Hall
Green Award - the Renewable Heritage Trust (Howsham Mill).
They each received a cheque for £250 sponsored by Rural Action Yorkshire, Gazette & Herald and Ryedale District Council.

Other HHAONB finalists included, Gilling East Living Churchyard Project (Green Award), Terrington Village Hall (Village Hall of the Year) and Ryedale Carers Support for the 'Songs & Scones' project that meets monthly in Appleton Le Street Village Hall.

- Hovingham Ward Parishes meetings – these are a legacy of the Community Investment Fund and meetings are currently held twice a year with representatives from the Parish Councils, Hovingham, Terrington, Slingsby & Barton Le Street (Parish Meeting), the RDC Ward Cllr Robert Wainwright and NYCC Cllr Clare Wood. The next meeting is on 24 October at Barton Le Street with a presentation from Liz Bassindale HHAONB

Over the last six months some general enquiries have been received from HHAONB residents and groups and these have been addressed or signposted to the relevant officer or organisation.

Regular contact is maintained with the HHAONB Team either through face to face meetings, telephone or e-mail.

Information and relevant data is being collected to produce an up to date record of services, facilities and organisations operating within the Howardian Hills AONB. This will be completed by March 2014.

Maggie Farey

Rural Development Officer
Rural Action Yorkshire

October 2013

AONB PROJECTS 2013/2014

1st April 2013 – 29th October 2013

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
M Marshall	Brandsby	Wall restoration (topstones)	Zone 1 Landscape	AG2.2	c.£1,000	c.£650
K Snowball	High Farm, Brandsby	Repairing gaps in 250m of roadside wall	Zone 1 Landscape	AG2.2	c.£5,000	c.£4,200
Oulston Parish Meeting	Oulston	Wall restoration (33m)	-	HE4.5	£8,469	£1,800

APPLICANT/ (CONTRACTOR)	LOCATION	PROJECT	LOCAL PRIORITY	OBJECTIVE	SCHEME COST	JAC ASSISTANCE
(AONB Unit – Yorkshire Exmoor Pony Trust)	Coulton (3), 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	c.£835	c.£518
(AONB Unit – Curlew Conservation Contractors)	Wath Beck; Terrington - Howthorpe	Cutting/pulling Himalayan balsam (3.5km)	Inc. Site 1.65	NE8.2	£994	£994
(AONB Unit – Countryside Services)	Wath Beck; Howthorpe - Wath	Cutting/pulling Himalayan balsam (2.3km)	Inc. Site 1.33	NE8.2	c.£1,000	c.£1,000
Amotherby Churchyard Conservation Group	Amotherby Churchyard	Habitat management	-	NE3.1, NE5.4, NE10.1	£220	£110 (50%)
(AONB Unit – Basics Plus)	Appleton-le-Street Churchyard SINC	Grassland management	-	NE5.1	£330	£220
(AONB Unit – Basics Plus)	Amotherby Lane SINC	Grassland/scrub management	Site 1.38	NE5.1, NE7.1	£110	£110
(AONB Unit – Volunteers)	Jeffrey Bog SINC	Pulling Himalayan balsam	Site 1.74	NE6.3, NE8.2	£300	-
(AONB Volunteers)	Park Wood Fishponds/The Wilderness SINC	Rhododendron control	Site 1.6	NE4.1, NE8.2, AP3.1	c.£400	-
(AONB Volunteers)	Park Wood Fishponds/The Wilderness SINC	Rhododendron control	Site 1.6	NE4.1, NE8.2, AP3.1	c.£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.£182	c.£182
(AONB Unit – P Gospel)	Mileposts	Regular maintenance	Site 2.63	HE4.5, RT4.5	c.£70	c.£70
(AONB Unit – Volunteers)	City of Troy Maze, Dalby	Re-cutting and re-gravelling	Site 2.25	HE4.5	£233	£33
Mrs L Howard	Rose Cottage Farm, Terrington	Rebuilding 7m of Wiganthorpe Park wall	Site 2.92	HE4.5	£350	£175 (50%)

APPLICANT	LOCATION	PROJECT	LOCAL PRIORITY	OBJECTIVE	SCHEME COST	JAC ASSISTANCE
(AONB Unit – Earth, Stone & Lime Company)	Pond Farm, Crambe (Listed Building at Risk)	Repairing crack in gable wall, re-pointing, stripping/re-roofing of lean-to, fixing of rainwater goods	Site 2.104	HE4.5	c.£12,750	£2,350

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	c.£550	c.£550
(AONB Unit – P Gospel)	Gateway signs	Strimming	-	AP1.1	c.£630	c.£630
(AONB Unit – Volunteers)	Jeffry Bog SINC	Strimming along boardwalk	-	RA4.5, AP3.1	£100	-
CAN DO Lime & Ice Project	Project area	2013/14 contribution	-		£30,360	£875
(AONB Volunteers)	Various	Volunteer effort on PRoW in the AONB (2 people/week, every other week)	-	RA4.5, AP3.1	£1,600	-
Hovingham Playground Committee	Hovingham	Picnic bench - 25th Anniversary	-	AP1.5	£340	£170
Ampleforth PC	Ampleforth	Bench - 25 th Anniversary	-	AP1.5	£234	£120
(AONB Unit)	Various	Installing 25 th Anniversary log benches	-	AP1.5	c.£3,100	c.£3,100
(AONB Unit)	Wider North York Moors	VisitEngland campaign	-	AP2	£15,000	£1,000

APPLICANT	LOCATION	PROJECT	LOCAL PRIORITY	OBJECTIVE	SCHEME COST	JAC ASSISTANCE
(AONB Volunteers)	Various	Volunteer effort – Junior Ranger Club, Ryedale Show, guided walks, PRoW Condition surveying, etc.	-	AP3.1	£520	£20
(AONB Unit)	Arboretum	Junior Ranger Club	-	RA2.4	£618	£168
(AONB Volunteers)	Various	Volunteer effort - Schools Twinning Project	-	RA2.4, AP2.3, AP3.1	£2,700	-

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND GRANTS 2013/2014

1st April 2013 – 29th October 2013

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

APPLICANT	LOCATION	PROJECT	LOCAL PRIORITY	OBJECTIVE	SCHEME COST	SDF ASSISTANCE
Crayke Primary School	Crayke	Construction of an outdoor classroom, for school and community use	-	LC1.5	£15,000	£2,000
Huttons Ambo PC	Huttons Ambo	Installation of 2 timber bus shelters	-	LC1.5	£2,914	£1,300
Renewable Heritage Trust	Howsham Mill	Installation of 2 composting toilets	-	LC1.5	£2,621	£1,966
Hustwaite Village Hall Committee	Hustwaite Village Hall	Hustwaite Village Hall energy efficiency features	-	LC1.5	£31,698	£7,500 (24%)
Rural Action Yorkshire	AONB	Sustainable Rural Communities project, working with communities on community planning	-	LC1.5	£4,814	£3,610
Terrington VH Committee	Terrington Village Hall	Provision of accessible public toilet, to replace one lost during Hall extension works	-	RA11.3	£3,900	£1,950
Gilling East PCC	Gilling Church	Repairs to porch walls & door and installation of noticeboards	-	AP2	£6,327	£1,850
Yorkshire Arboretum	Arboretum	Creation of 12 children's explorer backpacks	-	AP2	£449	£342
North East Yorkshire Geology Trust	Ampleforth	Geonauts Club	-	AP2	£4,000	£2,000 (50%)

AONB CONSULTATIONS (SPECIFIC DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS) 2013/2014

1st April 2013 – 29th October 2013

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	-	-	-
Ryedale District Council	Hovingham	Planning application (Erection of timber boundary fence after demolition of wall)	Yes (in passing)	Object	Refused
Ryedale District Council	Hovingham	Planning application (Creation of new vehicular access and driveway)	Yes	Concerns – contours to be smoothed; Conservation Kerb to be used	Permitted
Hambleton District Council	Crayke	Planning application (Erection of agricultural livestock building)	Yes	Object – siting, colour of walls, landscaping	Permitted – plans transposed by HDC; materials & landscaping Conditions attached
Hambleton District Council	Crayke	Planning application (Erection of agricultural storage building)	Yes	Object – siting, colour of walls, landscaping	See above
Ryedale District Council	Gilling	Planning application (Erection of 2 silos - retrospective)	Yes	Object – not constructed as per plan; need to be painted	Plans corrected; Condition added re painted finish

CONSULTING ORGANISATION	LOCATION	PROJECT	SITE VISIT	COMMENTS	OUTCOME
Ryedale District Council	Sproxton	Planning application (Erection of 3 antennae on mobile phone mast, following removal of 3 existing antennae)	No	Minor – equipment cabinets to be dark coloured	Permitted – grey cabinets
Ryedale District Council	Huttons Ambo	Planning application (Extension of time limit to erect advertising sign for Malton events)	No	Minor – extend by further 10 days to cover May Bank Holiday weekend	Permitted
Hambleton District Council	Crayke	Planning application (Erection of glass repair workshop and studio)	No	Minor – exterior walls to be stained a dark colour	-
North Yorkshire County Council	Ampleforth	NRSA consultation (Drainage works)	No	Species-rich hedge not to be damaged	?
Ryedale District Council	Crambe	Planning application (Erection of agricultural building)	No	Timber boarding to be stained a dark colour	?
Ryedale District Council	Hovingham	Planning application (Erection of agricultural building)	(In passing)	Roof colour to be Anthracite Grey	Permitted – Condition attached
North Yorkshire County Council	Hovingham	Approval of details relating to quarry restoration, landscaping and aftercare	No	Minor	?
North Yorkshire County Council	Hovingham	Temporary exploration boreholes, associated plant, equipment and drilling rig (max height 50m)		Prefer location to the south of plantation, to screen from Caulkleys Bank	Withdrawn
Ryedale District Council	Gilling	Planning application (Erection of shooting lodge - retrospective)	Yes	Significant concerns – colour of walls and window frames; landscaping needed	Permitted – Conditions attached
Ryedale District Council	Welburn	Planning application (Construction of menage)	No	Object to floodlighting	Permitted, after floodlighting element withdrawn

CONSULTING ORGANISATION	LOCATION	PROJECT	SITE VISIT	COMMENTS	OUTCOME
North Yorkshire County Council	Cawton	NRSWA consultation (LV underground works)	No	None	-
Hambleton District Council	Brandsby	Planning application (Construction of a wildlife pond)	No	None	-
PSSL Ltd	Ganthorpe	Planning consultation (Petroleum test drilling rig)	No	Significant concerns	Withdrawn?
Ryedale District Council	Amotherby	Planning application (Erection of biomass boiler building)	Yes	Concerns re height – set into ground; landscaping; colour of materials	Permitted
Ryedale District Council	Coulton	Planning application (Erection of replacement dwelling)	Yes	Minor – no removal of mature trees	Permitted
North Yorkshire County Council	Gilling	NRSWA consultation (Replacing broken gully)	No	None	-
Ryedale District Council	Oswaldkirk	Planning application (Erection of new garage)	No	(None)	-
Ryedale District Council	Gilling	Planning application (Erection of extensions)	No	-	Withdrawn
Ryedale District Council	Scackleton	Planning application (Formation of area of hardstanding)	No	None	-
Ryedale District Council	Ampleforth Abbey	Planning application (Formation of vehicular access)	Yes	Object – landscape impact of access road – no construction details given	Withdrawn
Ryedale District Council	Malton	Planning application (Erection of factory unit, Reserved Matters)	No	Minor – roof colour to be dark grey	Permitted, with appropriate Conditions
Ryedale District Council	Oswaldkirk	Planning application (Erection of replacement garage/carport/office)	No	None	-
Ryedale District Council	Swinton	Planning application (Erection of grounds maintenance shed)	No	Colour of roof sheets to be dark	Permitted

CONSULTING ORGANISATION	LOCATION	PROJECT	SITE VISIT	COMMENTS	OUTCOME
Ryedale District Council	Cawton	Planning application (Demolition of disused barns and creation of garden)	No	None	-
Forestry Commission	Brandsby	Woodland management proposals (Felling & re-stocking; 4.1ha from conifers to 65% native broadleaves)	No	None	-
North Yorkshire County Council	Ampleforth	NRSA consultation (Installation of kerbing)	No	Harvest Buff conservation kerbing to be used	?
Ryedale District Council	Oswaldkirk	Planning application (Erection extensions, double garage & new access)	No	None	-
Ryedale District Council	Welburn	Planning application (Change of use of agricultural building; erection of extensions and sheepshed)	No	Not a stainless steel flue; sheep shed roof to be a dark colour	Permitted, with Conditions
Ryedale District Council	Welburn	Planning application (Erection of 3 dwellings and detached garage)	Yes	Minor	See below
Hambleton District Council	Stearsby	Planning application (Formation of a fenced menage)	No	Minor	Permitted
Natural England	Terrington	HLS application	No	SINC management; individual trees	Buffer strip around SINC; no trees
Natural England	Hovingham	HLS application	No	None	-
North Yorkshire County Council	Oswaldkirk	NRSA consultation (Installation of new sign post)	No	None	-
Hambleton District Council	Crayke	Planning application (Erection of replacement farm building)	No	Roof sheets to be Anthracite Grey	Plans amended
North Yorkshire County Council	Swinton	NRSA consultation (Installation of kerbing)	No	None	-
North Yorkshire County Council	Gilling	NRSA consultation (Drain investigation)	No	Lime trees covered by TPOs	-

CONSULTING ORGANISATION	LOCATION	PROJECT	SITE VISIT	COMMENTS	OUTCOME
Ryedale District Council	Bulmer	Planning application (Formation of new driveway and parking/turning areas)	No	None	-
Ryedale District Council	Scackleton	Planning application (Erection of farm workers dwelling)	Yes (previously)	None (re-iterate non-compliance with Landscaping Condition)	Withdrawn
Ryedale District Council	Swinton	Planning application (Conversion of farm buildings to annex and 2 holiday cottages)	No	Minor – protection of trees, no drive lighting, kerb material	?
Ryedale District Council	Swinton	Planning application (Conversion of farm buildings to 2 dwellings with workspace)	No	Minor – protection of trees, no drive lighting, kerb material	?
Natural England	Fryton	Energy Crops Scheme application (Miscanthus planting, 12ha)	No	None	-
Ryedale District Council	East Newton	Planning application (Formation of slurry lagoon)	No	Security fence mesh to be dark green	?
North Yorkshire County Council	Coulton	NRSWA consultation (LV underground works)	No	None	-
North Yorkshire County Council	Scackleton	NRSWA consultation (HV overhead works)	No	Will contact Northern Powergrid directly re undergrounding	?
Natural England	Coulton	HLS application	No	None	-
Ryedale District Council	Welburn	Planning application (Erection of 3 dwellings and detached garage) (Revised plans)	No (previously)	Object – ancillary buildings at front of curtilage	?
Ryedale District Council	Sproxton	Planning application (Erection of extension)	No	None	-
Hambleton District Council	Crayke	Planning application (Erection of infill farm building)	No	None	-
Hambleton District Council	Whenby	Planning application (Demolition of existing farm buildings and erection of replacement farm building)	No	Concrete wall panels to be dark grey	?

CONSULTING ORGANISATION	LOCATION	PROJECT	SITE VISIT	COMMENTS	OUTCOME
Ryedale District Council	Easthorpe	Planning application (Erection of 15m high telecommunications mast)	No	Mast and fencing to be dark colours	?
Ryedale District Council	Nunnington	Planning application (Installation of biomass boiler system)	No	Flue to be a dark colour	?
Ryedale District Council	Coulton	Planning application (Erection of potato store)	Yes	?	?

AONB CONSULTATIONS & NOTIFICATIONS (STRATEGIES, ETC) 2012/2013

1st April 2013 – 29th October 2013

ORGANISATION	AREA	DOCUMENT	COMMENTS	OUTCOME
Law Commission, via NAAONB	England & Wales	Consultation on creation of Conservation Covenants	None	
North Yorkshire County Council	North Yorkshire, York & North York Moors National Park	Minerals & Waste Joint Plan	None - at initial consultation stage and adequate comments submitted previously	
North Yorkshire County Council	North Yorkshire, York & North York Moors National Park	Sites Identification and Assessment methodology for Minerals & Waste Joint Plan	Minor – include reference to Local Nature Partnership	
NAAONB – Accord with BT on broadband roll-out	England			
(NAAONB)	England	Consultation on response to Greater Flexibilities for Change of Use proposals	Support NAAONB position on exemption for Article 1(5) land	

TECHNICAL DOCUMENTS RECEIVED 2012/2013

1st April 2013 – 29th October 2013

ORGANISATION	DOCUMENT
AONB Units	Annual Reports, Newsletters, etc
Rural Economy & land Use Programme (RELU), Newcastle University	Policy & Practice Note: Rural areas as engines of economic growth

2013/14 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.

April 2013 :

Ranger Day	Activities	No of children attending
Wednesday 10 th April Springtime Fun	<p>A bit of a chilly day but the children made the most of the outdoor environment. They found out about composting with the help of the Yorkshire Rotters, the session culminated in making wormeries.</p> <p>They also played the Decomposing Detectives game – running about warmed them up as they learnt about different composting creatures.</p> <p>In the afternoon we went on a bird watching walk with the children using the Arboretum’s supply of small binoculars.</p> <p>Indoor craft activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wooden egg painting • Listening ears • Spring pictures • Hat decorating • Finger puppets 	18

May 2013 :

Ranger Day	Activities	No of children attending
Wednesday 29 th May See in the Summer in the Howardian Hills	<p>Outdoor activities included pond dipping and a pond creature relay game.</p> <p>Indoor craft activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stained glass butterflies • Shoebox ponds • Puzzle sheets • Concertina caterpillars • Acetate and pipe cleaner dragonflies 	22

October 2013 :

Ranger Day	Activities	No of children attending
Wednesday 30 th October	<p>Activities planned for October 2013 include: Treasure Hunt around Ampleforth to discover facts about the village.</p>	

Amazing Autumn in the Howardian Hills	Tree quiz – outdoors fact finding activity. Leaf collages, clay pots with Autumn imprints, card lanterns, getting to know orienteering, hedgehogs and a seasonal door hanger.	
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Grant recipients questionnaire results 2012/13

9 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
8 (89%)	1 (11%)			

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
6 (67%)	2 (22%)			

*One response left blank

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

Excellent		Satisfactory		Poor
1	2	3	4	5
7 (78%)	2 (22%)			

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

Simple			Difficult	
1	2	3	4	5
7 (78%)	1 (11%)	1 (11%)		

(Continued overleaf)

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

- Previous contact **5 (55%)**
- Leaflet
- Local paper/publicity
- Telephoned or wrote to Council
- Friend or other personal contact **2 (22%)**
- Other (*please specify*) **2 (11%)**
 - 1 – Website**
 - 1 – Meet the Funders Event**

7. Was the grant rate for your project:

- More than you expected **2 (22%)**
- About what you expected **7 (78%)**
- Less than you expected

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

- All of it **2 (22%)** Some of it **5 (55%)** None of it **4 (44%)**

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

1. Rebecca was brilliant, extremely helpful, efficient and prompt, and really good to deal with (Joanna Royle, Snargate Farm)
2. Maintain and if possible increase excellent flexible approach. (Mike Windle, NEYGT)
3. The service was excellent; the staff were professional and friendly. (Peter Egan, St Martin's School, Ampleforth)
4. Very helpful service provided by the team, thank you. (Mrs Gail Brown, Headteacher, Crayke CE Primary School)
5. As far as my involvement is concerned, the service I received was excellent. AONB is an essential service to assist and advise in the future of our beautiful countryside. (B Gilbert, Stearsby Lodge)
6. Service, advice and feedback and professionalism was excellent. Staff were approachable, fair and interested. (Michael Fram, Oswaldkirk)
7. Satisfied with service. (Anonymous)
8. A more secure post box at the office as my initial application acceptance could not be left safely as the office was shut. (David Badham, Oswaldkirk Parish Meeting)

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

Only 1 questionnaire returned anonymously.

**HOWARDIAN HILLS
AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY
JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
7 NOVEMBER 2013**

AONB INDICATORS

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

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

2.0 AONB PARTNERSHIP INDICATORS

- 2.1 In line with Objective MN1.2 of the AONB Management Plan, the former Natural England AONB Partnership Indicators are used as the standard measure of performance. The results for 2012/13 are attached as Appendix 1.
- 2.2 Natural England no longer require the compilation and submission of these Indicators, as they are not responsible for monitoring the performance of AONB Partnerships since AONB sponsorship moved to Defra in April 2011. The results have however been collated for 2012/13, to continue this dataset for comparison purposes.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Performance Indicator results contained in Appendix 1 be noted.

AONB Partnership and Unit Indicators 2012/13

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 (61%)</p> <p>4 CPGs (87%); 1 Partnership Group (22%); 2 SDF Steering Groups; 1 SDF Grant Panel.</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).	1 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 £215,644	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 Defra and Local Authorities	86%	
4c			The amount received (part of 4a) from Defra and Local Authorities	Total £186,325	
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 £401,491	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 Defra.	33%	
			The percentage of the figure above which was received from Local Authorities.	13%	

6a	Financial management and reporting	Agreed timetable and requirements for financial management and reporting with Defra met by the AONB unit	<p>The Unit submitted its final grant claim to Defra for the preceding financial year by the stated claim date (31st May 2011).</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 January).</p> <p>Submitted its interim grant claim by the required date (31st January).</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>No. 2011/12 report published Dec 2012.</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p>	Demonstrates effective administration and management of financial affairs.
6b		Defra met the agreed timetable and requirements for financial management and reporting with the AONB Unit.	Defra made a written formal core and Sustainable Development Fund offers of grant aid for the succeeding financial year by 31 March.	Yes.	
7a	Partnership working with management communities	The AONB Unit is an active partner in the work of the National Association for AONBs.	<p>The AONB Unit (through its host authority or partnership organisation) was a full member of the National Association for 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 (CAN DO Lime & Ice SG, NYMNP/HHAONB SDF SG + Panel, Ryedale & Hambleton BAPs, River Rye project Working Group, NYBAG, LEADER Support Group, LEADER LAG, NYCC Ranger Team 3 Liaison Group, Development Officers Group, Northern Powergrid DPCR5 Working Group, Rural:Urban Schools Twinning Project, North Yorkshire & York Local Nature Partnership)	
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 Defra. (Milestones in bid document)	50 ex 67 (75%)	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 - 71% 'All Partnership' - 75% Progress against a further 0 Objectives where no specific annual targets had been set.	

Abbreviations

CPG – Core Partners Group
ES – Environmental Stewardship
HLF – Heritage Lottery Fund
NYCC – North Yorkshire County Council
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

**HOWARDIAN HILLS
AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY
JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
7 NOVEMBER 2013**

AONB BUDGET

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To receive details of expenditure during 2012/13 and to consider anticipated budgetary needs for 2014/15.

2.0 2012/13

- 2.1 Details of the final income and expenditure account for 2012/13 are set out in Appendix 1. Details of countryside management projects funded are in Appendix 2, with details of Sustainable Development Fund projects in Appendix 3.
- 2.2 Appendix 1 includes the budget figures prepared in October 2011, 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 2011' column of Appendix 1 and formed the basis of the grant allocation proposal submitted to Defra. The final budget, following the receipt of grant offer letters etc., is shown in the 'September 2012' column.
- 2.3 There were some significant variations between the Estimated and Actual spends on a number of budget heads, particularly the Project ones, with the overall profile of the budget showing a 6.5% underspend. This calculation excludes the income and expenditure associated with the Rural:Urban Schools Twinning Project, as the claims/payments schedule for this project does not easily fit into the standard financial year format. Despite the reduced expenditure, we still managed to submit a full claim for the Defra grant, under the Single Pot arrangement.
- 2.4 Staffing:
- This budget showed a small underspend, due to the savings accrued from the period between Liz Bassindale returning from Maternity Leave and Rebecca Thompson starting as a secondee to fill the 1 day/week shortfall in the AONB Officer post created by Liz going down to 4 days/week.
- 2.5 Office:
- No significant deviation from budget provision.
- 2.6 Partnership Running Costs:
- No significant deviation from budget provision.
- 2.7 PR/Events/Research + Management Plan:
- This budget was overspent by £1,600 (25%), principally because we had to commission the Visitors & Users Survey from external contractors rather than carrying it out in-house/with volunteers, as had originally been planned and budgeted for.

2.8 Sustainable Development Fund:

- This budget only spent 40% of its provision (£7,920 ex £20,000).
- This was principally due to three major projects which had to be postponed to next financial year due to either the wet/cold winter weather or match funding problems. These projects totalled a further £5,300.
- A number of larger projects were also worked-up and approved during this year, for implementation in 2013/14.

2.9 AONB Enhancement – Natural Environment:

- This budget spent 170% of its provision (£35,550 ex £21,000). It is very difficult however to predict the balance between Natural Environment projects and Historic Environment ones and this figure should be compared to the underspend shown in paragraph 2.11 below.
- Four hedgerow restoration schemes were completed, at Welburn, Stearsby, Brandsby and Oswaldkirk. In total 700m of hedgerow was planted, either as completely new hedges or as gapping-up. Sixty one individual hedgerow or in-field trees were also planted.
- Two major wall restoration schemes were completed at Brandsby and Oulston, with scrub clearance for another project near Brandsby also undertaken. A total of 199m of wall was refurbished.
- The routine Exmoor pony grazing programme and annual SINC management tasks were completed.
- Volunteers carried on with significant rhododendron removal in Park Wood Fishponds SINC, whilst contractors were brought in to chip the resultant brush to allow the ground flora to recover.

2.10 AONB Enhancement – Historic Environment:

- This budget only spent 36% of its provision (£9,240 ex £25,280), but this should be compared to the overspend shown in paragraph 2.10 above.
- The largest single project was restoration work to the wall of the ha-ha at Gilling Castle.
- £2,500 match funding was given to the Ryedale LEADER Small Scale Enhancements Scheme, which yielded 11 community-led heritage restoration or interpretation projects worth a total of £31,520.
- Likewise, a contribution of £2,300 unlocked a further £3,700 from the CAN DO Lime & Ice Heritage Lottery Fund project, which allowed excavation of two historic sites within the old Deer Park of Gilling Castle. The volunteers who carried out this work have now progressed to forming a new self-supporting group that will continue the excavation work.

2.11 Enjoying the AONB:

- Our final annual contribution to the CAN DO Lime & Ice Project resulted in the production of an interpretation board near Yearsley, an information leaflet and 5 sculptural seats within the Yearsley Moor woodland. A last-minute excavation project was also developed and completed, as described above.
- The programme of litter picking carried out around the AONB during the summer months was completed by the Basics Plus team, and the gateway signs were kept clear and tidy.
- A new Great Outdoors Guide was produced in association with Welcome to Yorkshire and the North York Moors National Park (10% contribution from AONB) and the Sustrans cycling routes leaflet produced the previous year proved so popular that a re-print was needed.
- Two Good Life events were held, and grant was provided towards a new locally-made village notice board for Oswaldkirk.

2.12 Young People's Activities:

- Full-day Junior Ranger Club sessions were held in April, June and November.
- The second full year of the Rural:Urban Schools Twinning Project was completed, with 15 Round 2 visits and 8 Round Three visits held.

- 2.13 Summarising the budget position at the end of 2012/13:
- Overall, the AONB budget was underspent by approximately £9,000 (4%) – the Core element was underspent by £2,100 (2%) and the Project element by £6,900 (7%).
 - Although it had been budgeted to use £7,000 of our Reserves we actually *increased* them by a similar figure. This increase corresponds quite closely to the value of the Sustainable Development Fund projects which had to be postponed principally due to the adverse weather conditions, as explained in paragraph 2.8 above.
 - At the end of the financial year 2012/13 there was a carry-forward into 2013/14 of £57,734.
 - £12,375 has been allocated to projects in 13/14.
 - The remainder will be safeguarded for use in future years, to off-set what will be declining resources from the principal funders – further details of potential future budget scenarios are contained in a separate Report on this Agenda. In line with the JAC’s views expressed in April 2012 however, the Reserves will be used in combination with funds from other bodies wherever possible, to ensure maximum leverage and efficiency.
- 3.0 2013/14**
- 3.1 The agreed budget for the current year amounts to £216,031. Details of this are set out in Appendix 4 and all the major partners’ contributions to the budget have been confirmed. The budget does not include the balance of the Reserves of £57,734 from 2012/13, although Members will note that £12,375 has already been allocated, as described in paragraph 2.13 above.
- 3.2 As usual it is too early in the financial year to make any reliable prediction of anticipated final expenditure during 2013/14:
- The figures presented in Appendix 4 are where we stand at the minute, although we will continue to take new funding opportunities if they arise and are appropriate.
 - Following the small underspend in 2012/13, a realistic strategy to use our Reserves wisely to offset reducing Defra and NYCC funding over future years is being followed. This aims to balance project resources with available staff resources, to maintain as far as possible the funding available to complete on-the-ground projects. £12,375 of Reserves is therefore earmarked for use in 2013/14.
 - The Single Pot arrangement means that Defra funding is spread across nearly all the budget heads, but we are free to move it around as the year goes on.
- 3.3 Staffing:
- It is anticipated that the out-turn will be close to the budget provision.
- 3.4 Office and Partnership Running Costs:
- It is anticipated that the out-turns will be close to the budget provisions.
- 3.5 PR/Events/Research:
- The AONB Newsletter and Annual Report have been completed.
 - There may be a small underspend on this budget head, if the anticipated commissioning of three updated display banners does not take place before the end of the financial year.
- 3.6 Management Plan:
- Expenditure on this item will be considerably higher than budgeted for, with estimated commitments of £2,700 against a budget of £1,250.
 - The original budget provision however has proved to be an unrealistic under-estimate and was an error in the original budget setting process.

- For comparison, the production of the consultation draft of the revised Management Plan in 2008 cost £8,350 so a significant cost reduction has still been achieved.

3.7 Sustainable Development Fund:

- The £22,000 budget is currently over-committed by £500.
- This is principally because the three projects postponed from 2012/13 have now been completed and several other ones have also been funded.
- If further high-value grant applications are received then it is likely that we will move money from the Historic Environment budget in order to be able to support them.

3.8 AONB Enhancement (Natural Environment):

- £12,000 of the £19,000 budget has been allocated, with other anticipated projects accounting for a further £16,000 in possible expenditure. It is however unlikely that all these projects will be completed during this financial year, although we believe the majority will be. Any overspend will be balanced against an anticipated underspend on the Historic Environment budget.
- The most significant projects so far this year include a major wall restoration project at Brandsby and further wall repairs in Oulston.
- Projects in the pipeline include in-field and boundary tree planting at a variety of locations, a variety of hedge restoration schemes, further chipping of rhododendron cut by the volunteers and possible re-fencing of one of the best grassland SINC's in the AONB.

3.9 AONB Enhancement (Historic Environment):

- £2,800 of the £15,000 budget has been formally allocated, with a further £6,850 of projects in the pipeline.
- These include works to protect the long barrow at Grimston (for which English Heritage funding may also be available) and restoration of a further tranche of traditional direction signs.
- The main project allocated funding so far this year is guttering repairs to a Listed Building at Risk in Crambe, whilst a major renovation of the City of Troy turf maze was carried out by volunteers.

3.10 Enjoying the AONB:

- £5,500 of the £6,500 budget has already been allocated. A small part of this is our contribution to the final year of the CAN DO Lime & Ice Project, for the community archaeological research project centred on Yearsley Moor.
- The Basics Plus group are continuing to clear litter from well-used lay-bys and the AONB Gateway Sign locations are being strimmed regularly.
- £1,000 has been contributed to a VisitEngland project to promote the visitor economy in the wider North York Moors area, continuing our partnership working with the North York Moors National Park, Welcome to Yorkshire and Ryedale District Council.
- The most significant item of expenditure has been for the installation of the 25th Anniversary logs seats around the AONB.

3.11 Young People's Activities:

- This primarily consists of the Rural:Urban Schools Twinning project. Because the LEADER years run as calendar years, and we have elected to only do 6-monthly claims, and because the Heritage Lottery Fund provide 50% of their total grant up-front, it is difficult to present figures that compare realistically with the rest of the AONB annual budget. The project however is on-track in delivering its programme of activities, and expenditure is following the agreed budget profile.
- A programme of Junior Ranger Club events is being delivered very cost-effectively, either in partnership with the Castle Howard Arboretum or on our own at Ampleforth Village Hall.

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 Defra for their contribution.

4.0 2014/15

4.1 An estimate of anticipated expenditure during the next financial year is shown in Appendix 4. Although the anticipated level of graduated cut in Defra and NYCC funding is known for the forthcoming year, it will be late in the current financial year before the exact position of all the funding partners is known.

4.2 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 4 to enable the JAC to see the split between Staff/Office costs and project work. It should however be noted that Defra will only fund a maximum of 75% of the Core Costs, and so this distinction must still be borne in mind during the budget-setting process.

4.3 Staffing:

- Staff costs are predicted to reduce slightly. The AONB Officer post will be filled by Liz Bassindale (0.8 FTE) and Rebecca Thompson seconded from the North York Moors National Park Authority (0.1 FTE). Whilst the secondment was initially scheduled to finish on 31st March 2014, budget provision has been made for a 6-month extension in order to provide some flexibility should the need arise.
- A 1% inflation pay award has been factored-in.

4.4 Office costs:

- The running costs for the office are predicted to decrease slightly in comparison to 2013/14.
- This is because the new office lease maintains the current rent level for the next 2 years, and 2013/14 included the Agent's fees necessary for negotiating the new lease.

4.5 Partnership Running Costs:

- A decrease in budget provision compared to 2013/14, on the assumption that the national NAAONB Conference will have a changed format and reduced attendance costs.

4.6 PR/Events/Research:

- A 25% budget provision compared to 2013/14 is proposed.
- The AONB Newsletter and Annual Report will continue to be published and distributed – we feel that this is good value for money in keeping local residents and partner organisations informed of opportunities to become involved in AONB management. Production costs could however be trimmed by changing from colour to black-and-white and/or by bringing the design and production work back in-house with the County Council Print Unit.
- A small provision has been made for the production of local information/self-guided leaflets. Over the last few years these have been produced in conjunction with various external partners, which enables much more to be achieved for a relatively modest input of cash.

4.7 AONB Management Plan:

- A sum broadly comparable to the production costs of the draft Plan has been allocated, on the assumption that design costs will be lower but production costs will be slightly higher (depending upon the final colour/black-and-white format chosen).

4.8 Sustainable Development Fund:

- An allocation of £20,000 is proposed.

4.9 AONB Enhancement:

- An allocation of £20,000 has been made for Natural Environment Enhancement projects.
- The budget allocation for Historic Environment projects has been reduced to £10,000. This reflects the number of projects we currently have in the pipeline, and the possibility of accessing other funding such as from English Heritage for work on Scheduled Monuments.
- Both of these budget allocations are made possible by the use of £9,300 from our Reserves, to maintain work on-the-ground at a level only slightly lower than 2013/43 despite decreased Defra funding.
- The current funding arrangement for the Native Woodland Development Officer post, with the costs borne by the North York Moors National Park with a small contribution from the AONB JAC, is proposed to continue for at least this financial year.

4.10 Access/Recreation and Communities:

- The budget for recreation management work, and for work with communities and volunteers, has been reduced to bring it into line with anticipated demand.
- The CAN DO Lime & Ice Project and 25th Anniversary log seats were significant elements of expenditure during 2013/14 but will not be applicable in 2014/15.

4.11 Children and Young People's Activities:

- Budget provision has been made to continue running the popular programme of Junior Ranger Club days. These will be run principally in partnership with the Castle Howard Arboretum, although they will also be rotating around AONB village venues too.
- The Rural:Urban Schools Twinning project will complete its final part-year by August 2014. The large majority of funding comes from the Heritage Lottery Fund for this final period, with £1,000 budgeted as our match-funding contribution and to cover any final wrap-up costs.

5.0 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

- (a) The details of JAC expenditure during 2012/13 be received for information;
- (b) Partner authorities be asked to consider making financial contributions towards the work of the JAC in 2014/15, in line with Appendix 4 and section 4 of this report.
- (c) The JAC requests that North Yorkshire County Council renew the lease on the AONB Team office at Hovingham, with all costs continuing to be funded by the AONB Partnership.

HOWARDIAN HILLS AONB**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2012/13****1. INCOME 2012/13**

(a) BUDGET PROVISION	Estimated (Oct. 2011)	Defra Bid (Jan. 2012)	Final (Sept. 2012)	Actual (Year end) £
NE/Defra	133,617	133,636	133,636	133,636
North Yorkshire County Council	37,870	37,870	39,410	40,205
Ryedale District Council	5,684	5,684	5,684	5,684
Hambleton District Council	5,800	5,800	5,800	6,800
Heritage Lottery Fund (<i>in-year</i>)	9,304	9,304	9,304	14,361
LEADER	12,211	12,211	12,211	12,448
CAN DO	0	0	0	0
FEP preparation fees	4,215	4,215	2,465	2,465
Forestry Commission	0	0	0	0
English Heritage	0	0	0	0
Donations	0	0	0	45
Reserves (Income in Advance)	[20,778]	[20,759]	[7,000]	[-8,850]
(b) TOTAL (ESTIMATED) INCOME	(229,479)	(229,479)	(215,510)	206,526

2. EXPENDITURE 2012/13**Core Expenditure**

(a) Staffing	94,666	94,666	94,666	91,133
(b) Office	17,348	17,348	17,348	17,136
(c) Partnership running costs	2,950	2,950	2,950	2,984
(d) PR, Events, Research, etc.	5,350	5,350	5,350	7,957
(e) Management Plan	1,000	1,000	1,000	0

Project Expenditure

(f) Sustainable Development Fund	20,000	20,000	20,000	7,920
(g) AONB Enhancement (Natural environment)	22,750	22,750	21,000	35,548
(h) AONB Enhancement (Historic environment)	37,500	37,500	25,281	9,244
(i) Enjoying the AONB	5,000	5,000	5,000	6,765
(j) Young People's Activities	22,915	22,915	22,915	27,839
(k) TOTAL (ESTIMATED) EXPENDITURE	(229,479)	(229,479)	(215,510)	206,526

3. 2012/13 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

	Income £		Expenditure £
Brought forward from 2011/12	48,616	Expenditure	206,526
Local Authority Partners	52,689	Balance c/f to 2013/14	57,734
Defra	133,636	Heritage Lottery Fund c/f to 2013/14	1,344
CAN DO	0		
Heritage Lottery Fund (in-hand)	15,705		
LEADER	12,448		
Forestry Commission	0		
English Heritage	0		
FEP preparation fees	2,465		
Donations	45		
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	265,604		265,604

(All figures rounded to the nearest £)

AONB PROJECTS 2012/2013

1st April 2012 – 31st March 2013

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
M Marshall	Brandsby	Wall restoration (150m)	Zone 1 Landscape	AG2.2	c.£7,000	£5,850
A Mosey	Sundial Farm, Cawton	Wall restoration (2m)	-	AG2.2	£175	£130
Newburgh Priory Estate	Oulston	Wall restoration (38m)	-	HE4.5	£13,884	£6,942 (50%)
K Snowball	High Farm, Brandsby	Clearing scrub from 280m of roadside wall	Zone 1 Landscape	AG2.2	£1,275	£1,275
B Gilbert	Stearsby	Hedge planting/gapping (185m); 3 individual boundary trees	Zone 3A Landscape	AG2.2	£1,842	£921 (50%)
M Fram	Oswaldkirk	Hedge planting (150m); 1 individual boundary tree	-	AG2.2	£1,492	£746 (50%)
M Lyon	Greets Farm, Welburn	Hedge planting (215m); 2 individual boundary trees	Zone 5 Landscape	AG2.2	£1,122	£750
J Royle	Snargate, Brandsby	Hedge planting (150m); 4 individual boundary trees	Zone 3A Landscape	AG2.2	£1,964	£982 (50%)

APPLICANT/ (CONTRACTOR)	LOCATION	PROJECT	LOCAL PRIORITY	OBJECTIVE	SCHEME COST	JAC ASSISTANCE
(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	£835	£718
(Arbortech)	Park Wood Fishponds/The Wilderness SINC	Rhododendron control (chipping piles of brash)	Site 1.6	NE4.1, NE8.2	£2,750	£2,750
(AONB Unit – Countryside Services)	Scar Wood, Gilling	Treat sycamore re-growth, beat-up planting areas, chemical weed control	Site 1.25	NE4.1	£910	£910
(AONB Unit – Curlew Conservation Contractors)	Wath Beck; Terrington - Howthorpe	Cutting/pulling Himalayan balsam (3.5km)	Inc. Site 1.65	NE8.2	£797.50	£797.50
(AONB Unit – Countryside Services)	Wath Beck; Howthorpe - Wath	Cutting/pulling Himalayan balsam (2.3km)	Inc. Site 1.33	NE8.2	£564	£564
(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
(AONB Unit – J R Clifford & Sons)	Various	Management of 45 Special Interest Road Verges	-	NE5.3	£1,239	£1,239
Amotherby Churchyard Conservation Group	Amotherby Churchyard	Habitat management	-	NE3.1, NE5.4, NE10.1	£210	£110 (50%)
(AONB Unit – P&A Gospel Landscapes)	Bull Ings SINC, Coulton	Install pony handling pen	Site 1.60	NE6.1	£535	£535

APPLICANT/ (CONTRACTOR)	LOCATION	PROJECT	LOCAL PRIORITY	OBJECTIVE	SCHEME COST	JAC ASSISTANCE
(AONB Unit – Forestry Commission)	Park Wood, Gilling	Brushcut Western hemlock regeneration	Adj Site 1.6	NE4.2	£200	£200
Mrs Cranfield	Burton House, Oulston	Planting 14 individual in-field trees	Zone 2C Landscape	NE4.4	£700	£700
(Leeds University)	AONB	Bat transects and refining habitat suitability model	All Nat Env Priority Sites	NE1.2, NE7.3	£3,300	£300
(Arbortech)	Park Wood Fishponds/The Wilderness SINC	Rhododendron control (chipping piles of brash)	Site 1.6	NE4.1, NE8.2	£2,200	£2,200
(AONB Volunteers)	Park Wood Fishponds/The Wilderness SINC	Rhododendron control	Site 1.6	NE4.1, NE8.2, AP3.1	£450	-
Huttons Ambo Churchyard group	Huttons Ambo Churchyard	Habitat management	-	NE3.1, NE5.4, NE10.1	£60	£30
G Armstrong	Cliff Field House, Dalby	Planting 10 individual in-field and 15 boundary trees	Zone 3A Landscape	NE4.4	£515	£515
L Thompson	Pond Farm, Crambe	Planting 7 individual in-field and 5 boundary trees	-	NE4.4	£355	£355
(AONB Volunteers)	Park Wood Fishponds/The Wilderness SINC	Rhododendron control	Site 1.6	NE4.1, NE8.2, AP3.1	£400	-
(Arbortech)	Park Wood Fishponds/The Wilderness SINC	Rhododendron control (chipping piles of brash)	Site 1.6	NE4.1, NE8.2	£3,300	£3,300

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	£182	£182
(AONB Unit – P Gospel)	Mileposts	Regular maintenance	Site 2.63	HE4.5, RT4.5	£70	£70
(AONB Unit – Cleveland Corrosion Control)	Husthwaite /Oulston /Yearsley	Restoration of 5 traditional direction signs	-	RT4.5	c.£1,429	£679
Ryedale DC	Ryedale	LEADER Small Scale Enhancements Scheme	-	LC1.5, RT4.5	£31,520	£2,500
(AONB Unit – M Aconley)	Wiganthorpe Park, Scackleton	Repairing 2m hole in roadside wall	Site 2.92	HE4.5	£130	£130
Crayke PC	Village Green, Crayke	Repair well-head	-	HE4.5	£470	£352 (75%)
Gigi Signorelli/ AONB Volunteers	Yearsley Moor	Lime & Ice research excavation of section of park pale and possible water mill	Site 2.16	HE1.5	£6,000	£2,280
(AONB Volunteers)	Yearsley Moor	Clearance of Western hemlock regeneration from Gilling Castle park pale	Site 2.16	HE4.5	£200	£0
Ampleforth Abbey Trust	Gilling Castle	Rebuilding 35m of ha-ha wall	Site 2.16	HE4.5	£2,500	£1,850
Mrs L Howard	Rose Cottage Farm, Terrington	Rebuilding 7m of Wiganthorpe Park wall	Site 2.92	HE4.5	£300	£150 (50%)

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	£630	£630
(Welcome to Yorkshire)	AONB & NYMNP	Great Outdoors booklet	-	RA9.3	£10,000	£1,000
Sustrans	AONB & Yorks. Wolds	Re-print of Touring cycle routes leaflet	-	RA9.3, AP2	£2,500	£300
(AONB Volunteers)	Various	Volunteer effort on PRoW in the AONB (av. 4 people/week, every other week)	-	RA4.5, AP3.1	£3,000	-

APPLICANT	LOCATION	PROJECT	LOCAL PRIORITY	OBJECTIVE	SCHEME COST	JAC ASSISTANCE
Rural Voice	Amotherby	Good Life event	-	SF2.2, LC1.5	c.£650	£72
Rural Voice	Gilling	Good Life event	-	SF2.2, LC1.5	c.£650	£76
Oswaldkirk Parish Meeting	Oswaldkirk	Replacement village notice board	-	LC1.5	£1,250	£625 (50%)

APPLICANT	LOCATION	PROJECT	LOCAL PRIORITY	OBJECTIVE	SCHEME COST	JAC ASSISTANCE
(AONB Volunteers)	Various	Volunteer effort – Junior Ranger Club, Ryedale Show, guided walks, PRoW Condition surveying, etc.	-	AP3.1	£650	-
(AONB Unit)	Arboretum	Junior Ranger Club	-	RA2.4	£480	£30

(AONB Volunteers)	Various	Volunteer effort - Schools Twinning Project	-	RA2.4, AP2.3, AP3.1	£7,200	-
CAN DO Lime & Ice Project	Project area	2012/13 contribution			£170,060	£3,500

APPENDIX 3

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND GRANTS 2012/2013

1st April 2012 – 31st March 2013

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

APPLICANT	LOCATION	PROJECT	LOCAL PRIORITY	OBJECTIVE	SCHEME COST	SDF ASSISTANCE
Appleton-le-Street Parish Hall	Amotherby	Village hall refurbishment (phase 2)	-	LC1.5	£72,769	£6,840
North & East Yorkshire Geology Trust	Amotherby, Ampleforth, Nawton Primary Schools	Geonauts pilot sessions	-	AP2	£1,180	£580 (50%)

	2013/14	2014/15
BUDGET ESTIMATES	(October 2013)	
Core Costs		
Staffing	94,070	91,916
Office	18,826	17,575
Partnership running costs	4,200	3,650
PR, Events, Research	5,710	4,385
Management Plan	1,250	3,000
Total Core Costs	124,056	120,526
Project Costs		
Sustainable Development Fund	22,000	20,000
AONB Enhancement – Natural Environment	19,000	20,000
AONB Enhancement – Historic Environment	15,000	10,000
Access/Recreation & Communities (inc Lime & Ice)	6,475	3,000
Young People's activities	29,500	7,500
Total Project Costs	91,975	60,500
TOTAL COSTS	216,031	181,026
FUNDING CONTRIBUTIONS		
North Yorkshire CC	38,595	36,500
Ryedale DC	5,684	5,684
Hambleton DC	5,800	5,800
Defra	125,578	117,519
Forestry Commission	0	0
English Heritage	0	0
FEP preparation fees	0	0
Heritage Lottery Fund	c.15,000	c.6,200
LEADER	c.13,000	0
Reserves	12,374	9,323
TOTAL	216,031	181,026
Reserves b/f from 2012/13	57,734	
<i>Reserves c/f to 2015/16</i>		<i>c.35,700</i>

**HOWARDIAN HILLS
AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY
JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
7 NOVEMBER 2013**

BUSINESS PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To request a broad steer on future priorities and options for the AONB Unit, in the face of the prospect of unknown but probably significant reductions in funding from both Local Authorities and Defra for 2015/16 and beyond.

2.0 CONTEXT

- 2.1 Defra is by far the largest single contributor to the funding partnership. It provides a maximum of 75% assistance towards Core costs (staff, office, promotional work, Management Plan production, etc), with the remainder of its grant available for use on Projects at a rate of up to 100%. The Defra grant has declined by 21% over the four financial years 2011/12 to 2014/15. The most recent CSR announcement made a further 10% cut to Defra's budget as a whole for 2015/16 – we hope to hear in December how much of that will be passed on to AONBs.
- 2.2 North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) is the largest Local Authority contributor, providing approximately £35,000 in 'cash', a further £4,000 in grant-eligible centralised services (where the costs were original de-centralised) and also financial and HR services. Some decrease in the NYCC 'cash' contribution has been experienced since 2011/12, but not as significant as was originally indicated (21%, to match Defra profile). A £28m budget shortfall exists for 2015/16 onwards however, with services currently being asked to scope cuts of 20% - 40%, although some services will receive lower cuts and other services are likely to be significantly reduced or may be stopped altogether.
- 2.3 Ryedale and Hambleton District Councils contribute nearly £6,000 each to the AONB budget. This amount has neither increased nor decreased in recent years – it hasn't been subject to yearly inflation increases as NYCC's contribution once was, but neither has it been reduced since 2011/12. Future indications are not clear, but it is hoped that this relatively modest contribution will continue at an approximately similar level.
- 2.4 Conclusion: The two largest contributors to the AONB budget (Defra and NYCC) are the ones that appear to be under most budgetary pressure and the ones where even a 10% cut in contribution could have a significant effect on the overall AONB budget. Because the Core costs of the AONB operation are principally supported by NYCC, and a minimum of 25% match funding is currently required by Defra for these, it is particularly in this area that expenditure needs to be closely examined.

3.0 PRIORITIES - RISKS

- 3.1 In developing a strategy for the future it is clearly necessary to identify the main areas of work which are a priority for the AONB and its principal funding bodies, and particularly those which may risk a decrease in funding contributions if they aren't carried out.

- 3.2 High priority tasks which risk a loss of funding or a significant loss of function if not carried out:
- **Management Plan review.** The Local Authorities have a Statutory Duty to review the Management Plan at 5-yearly intervals. Loss of Defra funding would be likely to follow if this is not completed.
 - **Delivery of Biodiversity 2020 targets.** Biodiversity 2020 (BD2020) is Defra's key strategy for increasing biodiversity by the year 2020, in line with its internationally agreed obligations. AONB partnerships are already identified as significant delivery bodies in this process. Although no link has yet been mentioned between Defra grants to individual AONB partnerships and their delivery of the BD2020 targets set for their areas, it would be unwise to ignore the possibility.
 - **Responding to Planning Applications.** This is one of the more significant areas of work of the AONB Unit, without which the AONB landscape (and any economy dependent upon it) may suffer. In addition, the impact of new development is one of the principal measures by which both local people and visitors judge the 'condition' of the AONB.

4.0 PRIORITIES - OPPORTUNITIES

- 4.1 There are also areas of work that can be seen as either highly desirable or carrying income-generating possibilities.
- **Delivery of sustainable rural economic growth.** Although this is the secondary purpose of AONB designation it has always been an objective for AONB Partnerships because of the Statutory Duty placed on Local Authorities. It is clearly a significant priority for Government and Local Authorities at the current time. Potential funding of AONB Unit staff by the LEP could be explored further.
 - **LEADER Programme for local communities.** The North York Moors, Coast and Hills LEADER Local Action Group has obtained transition funding from Defra to prepare its next Local Development Strategy. Learning from the previous LEADER programme it is clear that the AONB Unit could play a stronger role in direct delivery, potentially earning financial support for staff time by delivering a grant programme.
 - **Educational activity with local primary schools.** This has traditionally been the area where we have been most successful in accessing grants from LEADER and the Heritage Lottery Fund. They provide good funding leverage ratios, provided that AONB Unit staff time input can be kept to reasonable levels.

5.0 PERMUTATIONS

- 5.1 The AONB budget is made up of a number of 'jigsaw pieces' which it is theoretically possible to put together in a wide variety of combinations. The main items of expenditure are covered individually in the following paragraphs, together with an indication of future options that could be used to adjust overall expenditure in light of declining income. The base year for calculations has been taken as 2014/15.
- 5.2 **Staffing.** The most significant element of the AONB budget is staff costs. With only 3 members of staff the opportunities for making savings are relatively limited (discounting full redundancy) but options do still exist:
- **AONB Manager.** This post is principally responsible for preparing strategy, providing planning advice and ensuring that the Local Authorities meet their Statutory Duty to review the AONB Management Plan. Undertakes a limited amount of project work, so has limited opportunities to generate external income to support staff time. *Each half-day reduction in the AONB Manager's working week would result in a saving of approx. £4,600pa.*
 - **AONB Officer.** This post is principally responsible for the delivery of project and community enhancement work. This includes the preparation of bids for external funding so this post has more opportunities to earn income not only to carry out significant

programmes of work (e.g. from Heritage Lottery Fund, SITA, LEADER) but also to support itself (e.g. Local Enterprise Partnership, LEADER). The principal post-holder is already on a 4-day per week contract following return from Maternity Leave. For 2013/14 a 1-day per week secondment arrangement has been negotiated with the North York Moors National Park – this is due to finish on 31st March 2014. *Each half-day reduction in the AONB Officer's working week would result in a saving of approx. £3,000pa.*

- **AONB Assistant.** This post is principally responsible for supporting the two other members of staff in an administrative and technical role. Some of the duties are associated with running the AONB office, whilst others involve maintaining the AONB website and preparing literature/materials for schools and promotional work. *Reducing the AONB Assistant's working week from three 6-hour days to two (e.g. as a result of giving up an out-posted AONB office) would result in a saving of approx. £3,600pa. It would however have to be considered whether this would make the post substantially redundant, which would then incur the cost of redundancy payments in addition to re-employment costs. Conversely, not having a separate office could free-up more staff time to support the other Unit members in the delivery of projects and initiatives.*

5.3 **AONB Office.** The AONB Unit is currently housed in private rented accommodation leased by North Yorkshire County Council as the host authority for the AONB Partnership. This is in a central location relative to the AONB and also allows members of the public to call in easily. The current lease on the building expires on 9th December 2013 and the County Council has recently negotiated the terms of the next lease period. The rent and all running costs for the office are in the region of £18,000pa. A number of options for accommodation would seem to be available:

- **Remain in Unit 1a at Wath Court.** No change to current arrangement, but little opportunity to reduce costs.
- **Move to Unit 1b at Wath Court.** This room is two thirds the size of Unit 1a and hence could be expected to result in a reduction in costs by approximately the same ratio. It has been vacant for approximately 60% of the time during the past 10 years.
- **Rent accommodation at the North York Moors National Park headquarters in Helmsley.** This would put the AONB Unit close to a significant external partner organisation, but rental costs are currently unknown.
- **Use NYCC or RDC space at Ryedale House, Malton (if available).** This location would not be central to the AONB and Unit would be located directly with one of the partner organisations. Nil cost?
- **NYCC Area Office, Kirby Misperton.** This location would not be linked to the AONB and the Unit would be located directly with one of the partner organisations. Assumed to be nil cost.
- **Hambleton DC buildings, Easingwold.** No specific information, but options may be available.
- **County Hall, Northallerton.** A significant separation distance from the AONB. Would be likely to result in some home-working given the travel distances, where AONB Unit staff currently live, and hence efficient use of time. Nil cost.

5.4 **Projects.** This area of work has the second largest allocation within the total AONB budget and is one on which significant cash and staff resources have been expended in the past. To some extent it is the backbone of the Joint Advisory Committee's approach to managing the AONB, i.e. providing grant assistance to as many projects 'on the ground' as possible.

- Under Defra's Single Pot funding arrangement no match funding from other partners (e.g. Local Authorities) is required. All projects however have some contribution from the owner/applicant (ranging from 5% to 70%), which consequently increases the total value of the projects that are delivered.
- This area of work offers the greatest potential for leveraging-in money to deliver practical projects in the AONB.

- It may be possible to deliver some programmes of project grants by ‘commissioning’ the delivery of them from other organisations on our behalf, although they would charge a fee for providing that service and local knowledge of the AONB by the delivery staff would be likely to be less than currently.
- ‘Reserves’. The AONB budget has a ‘reserve’ (more correctly termed Income in Advance) which at the end of 2014/15 is anticipated to be in the order of £35,000. This has been given for AONB purposes so cannot be used on non-AONB expenditure. It is gradually being used to buffer the Projects budget from declining Defra grant contributions and therefore continue providing grants for work on the ground.

5.5 **Publicity and Information.** Although a relatively small area of expenditure, this is the one most directly linked to the local visitor economy. Visitor information and walks guides have been produced in the past and new ones are being developed. Whilst more use could be made of technology, much of the demand from the AONB’s principal audience is printed materials (i.e. leaflets) which cost money to print and re-print.

- This area of work provides significant opportunities for tapping into external sources of funding, for minimal financial outlay.

5.6 **Partnership running costs.** This small amount of approximately £3,800 covers the costs associated with membership of the National Association for AONBs and running the Joint Advisory Committee meetings (village hall hire, etc).

6.0 SUGGESTED APPROACH

6.1 Taking into account all the above factors, and bearing in mind that North Yorkshire County Council is only scoping options currently and no firm decisions will be known until February 2014, a broad strategy for the next few years could take the following form.

6.2 Staffing.

- No changes suggested for 2014/15, other than the planned reduction in hours for the AONB Officer post from 1.0 FTE to 0.8 FTE (for the full or part-year).
- Staffing level for 2015/16 onwards to be reviewed in light of emerging information on Local Authority and Defra contributions and any changes to the AONB Unit office accommodation arrangements.
- The principal aim to be retention of staff who deliver Statutory Duty (Management Plan preparation) and projects, even if this means (further) reductions in hours.
- Opportunities for accessing funds to support staff posts should be explored further.

6.3 Office.

- As sufficient funding is in place for the next two financial years, and the timescale for a move is now too tight, the AONB Unit should remain in Unit 1b at Wath Court until at least December 2015.
- The lease should be renewed for a period of four years with a break option/rent review at the end of year 2 (9th December 2015). Negotiations had been proceeding on the basis of a further 6 years/3 years lease but new instructions were issued and have now been agreed by the Landlord’s Agent.
- Options for accommodating the AONB Unit should be reviewed again in October 2014, to come into effect from December 2015.

6.4 Projects.

- Funding contributions from external sources should continue to be explored, but without making long-term commitments that might prove to be restrictive in future years.

- The Income in Advance reserves should continue to be used to supplement the Projects budget, but only so far as is necessary to meet demand. Defra has encouraged AONB Partnerships to develop ‘Reserves’, in order to give them more flexibility. It also doesn’t feel prudent in the current financial climate to attempt to spend as much of the reserve as possible in order to reduce it, as might have been the case a few years ago.
- Because the AONB Unit is small and its individual grant programmes (e.g. Sustainable Development Fund) are themselves relatively small, each individual programme in itself may not be cost-effective to out-source. There is often a large amount of synergy between our different grant programmes and this might be lost in any out-sourcing arrangements. Commissioning delivery from other organisations will however be kept under review, to see whether it has a part to play.

6.5 **Publicity and Information.**

- This area of work should continue to be supported, given its close links to economic activity within the AONB.
- New sources of funding (e.g. from the Local Enterprise Partnership) should be explored.
- It would theoretically be possible to transfer some of this expenditure to the Projects category, which would then eliminate the need to find 25% match funding for it (which it currently requires when categorised as Core).

7.0 **RECOMMENDATION**

Members’ views are requested, to assist the AONB Manager with future business planning.

**HOWARDIAN HILLS
AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY
JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
7 NOVEMBER 2013**

AONB MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To receive details of the progress of the AONB Management Plan review and next steps.

2.0 PROGRESS TO DATE

- 2.1 The formal notification of the intention to review the Management Plan was sent to the constituent local authorities and relevant organisations, as required by the Countryside & Rights of Way Act, on 25th January.
- 2.2 Eight Topic Group meetings, with a total membership of 75 participants, were held between 25th April and 23rd May, to discuss the relevant chapter issues.
- 2.3 Draft text for the individual chapters was prepared, following the Topic Group meetings. Each chapter is laid out with short sections entitled Key Facts, General Principles, Key Issues 2014-2019 and finally Objectives. Each chapter is approximately 2 sides long – a significant reduction on the current Management Plan. Actions under each Objective are contained within the Action Programme section, whilst tables of supporting data are included as the Evidence Base.
- 2.4 The revised chapters were sent back to the Topic Group members, to ensure that their input has been accurately represented and that nothing had been missed. These revised chapters were also circulated to JAC members.
- 2.5 Following some significant and extremely useful comments, the chapters and supporting information (Local Priority Sites section, Action Plan, etc) were further revised and the document prepared for public and stakeholder consultation. At the same time the Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report of the new Plan and the Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report were also prepared.
- 2.6 The draft Plan was sent out for formal public consultation on 27th September, with a closing date for comments of 15th November. The Plan was sent to relevant organisations, Parish Councils, local farmers & landowners, local schools and all members of the Topic Groups, to ensure as wide a coverage as possible. The launch of the plan was accompanied by a press release and a Tweet from North Yorkshire County Council.
- 2.7 The AONB Newsletter, which is delivered to all addresses within and on the vicinity of the AONB, included an article on the review of the Management Plan, together with a link to an internet-based survey form. This provides a different avenue for local residents to provide information and suggestions on the priorities and what should be included in the Plan, again to ensure that no issues are missed.

3.0 NEXT STEPS

- 3.1 The Equalities Impact Assessment of the draft Plan will be completed, to identify any issues that ought to be addressed in the final version of the Plan.
- 3.2 Following the end of the consultation period all the comments received will be compiled into a table, showing the comment and the amendments proposed to the Plan (if applicable). This table will be circulated to the JAC and Core Partners Group in December for their comments, with subsequent discussion at the Core Partners Group meeting on 19th December.
- 3.3 Following any comments received from this consultation, the final revisions will be made to the Plan. These will be discussed with the JAC Chairman, who will provide the final sign-off of the revised Plan, in mid-January 2014.
- 3.4 The Plan will then be sent to the three constituent Local Authorities by 7th February 2014, for formal adoption by 31st March 2014. It will also be sent to Defra.
- 3.5 The final publication version of the Plan, complete with all photos and maps, will be produced in June/July and circulated to all relevant partner organisations and individuals.

4.0 RECOMMENDATION

That the progress and next steps detailed above be noted for information.

AONB News – October 2013 – e-news from the National Association for AONBs

Produced by the NAAONB – 18th October 2013. This edition and previous editions can be found in word format by clicking [AONB News](#)

In this edition

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Cabinet Reshuffle – new Minister for AONBs in England

Following the recent UK cabinet reshuffle, the new Parliamentary Under Secretary at Defra is Lord de Mauley. He is a Conservative member of the House of Lords.

Lord de Mauley was previously a Government Lord-in-Waiting (a position in the Royal Household given to Government Lords whips) and also served as a Shadow Minister for Children, Schools and Families and Energy and Climate Change. He was an Opposition Whip from 2009 to 2010.

The minister is responsible for the business of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in the House of Lords. Other responsibilities include:

- Biodiversity (domestic and international, including international forestry)
- Land management and soil (including commons and contaminated land)
- **National Parks and AONBs**
- Ecosystem services

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

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Fax: 01451 862001
Email: jill.smith@landscapesforlife.org.uk

- Joint Nature Conservation Committee
- Wildlife management
- Welfare of companion and wild animals (including circuses, dangerous dogs and zoos)

The NAAONB is already working with Defra to schedule meetings with AONB partnerships in the Minister’s diary.

The Value of AONB Partnerships – a report by Land Use Consultants

The National Association for AONBs was delighted with the findings of an independent assessment entitled “The Value of AONB Partnerships” published in July.

The Report, prepared by Land Use Consultants (LUC) during a period when the role and work of protected landscapes is coming under scrutiny in the run-up to the UK Government’s announcement of its Spending Round 2013 **and** during the current programme of expenditure reductions across government departments and local authorities, shows that

- **AONB partnerships are embedded within, and trusted by, local communities.**
The mix of locally accountable elected members with members of local interest groups and officers from national agencies provides an effective structure for deciding local priorities and co-ordinating shared programmes of action.
- **AONB partnerships excel at using small sums of public money to draw extra money and resources into rural communities**
AONB partnerships are highly successful at using the core funding they receive from central government and constituent Local Authorities to lever other income. The diversity of AONB partnerships’ membership gives them the ability to turn small individual contributions, which would on their own achieve little, into significant shared endeavours. Without core funding the ability of the AONB partnership to lever in money and in-kind support will disappear.
- **AONB partnerships are flexible, adaptable and respond to change**
The work being undertaken by AONB partnerships is of growing relevance to national and local policy objectives. Concepts such as sustainable development, the ecosystems approach and the environment as an economic driver and determinant of health and wellbeing, all of which are core tenets of the AONB purpose, now have widespread acceptance in national and local policy. This has meant that the work of AONB partnerships is of mainstream interest to many partners in a way that would not have been the case ten years ago.
- **AONB partnerships are helping facilitate new ways of working in the public sector**
AONB Partnerships and their staff are actively involved in a range of delivery projects, often taking responsibility for leading projects where there are gaps in the capacity of partners to do so. This is seen as a key strength of the AONB Partnership approach and is increasingly relevant to the way most Local Authorities are operating more as commissioning bodies

- **AONB partnerships work together and recognise the benefits of acting together as a Family**

The potential for sharing best practice and using a collaborative ‘action learning’ approach to build the institutional capacity of AONB Units has been shown through the NAAONB Future Landscapes Programme. The 36 Lead Officers that participated in the Programme continue to work together at a national level to address key issues facing AONBs.

Richard Benyon MP, then Minister for Food and Fisheries, who had a preview of the Report at the recent Landscape for Life Conference 2013 was impressed with its findings and during his presentation highlighted the importance of partnership-working and the key role that AONB partnerships have as intermediaries, facilitating the right conditions and trust.

Howard Davies, CEO, NAAONB said

“LUC’s work has recognised the true value of AONB partnerships and has also highlighted concerns about their future funding. All AONB partnerships are keen to use their influence to support the current drive for economic recovery and growth. The high landscape quality of AONBs, articulated in terms of their natural beauty, is now recognised as a key economic driver and the greatest opportunities for AONB partnerships are likely to lie in those sectors that manage or derive their business from this natural beauty - such as food, drink, forestry and tourism.

He added

“It is important that AONB partnerships are well equipped to continue their important work at a local community level and the NAAONB will continue to work with Defra and Natural Resources Wales to ensure this.”

For a copy of the report click

<http://www.aonb.org.uk/wba/naaonb/naaonbpreview.nsf/bde8521bf448d64080256ceb004a1670/4a688a8114934c9380257bb3005d23d8!OpenDocument>

AONBs and IUCN Category V Compliance

The National Association for AONBs was delighted to receive confirmation from the IUCN UK Committee (International Union for Conservation of Nature) of Category V status for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in July.

The confirmation follows three years of work with the IUCN UK by the NAAONB consisting of input to developing IUCN’s guidance on categorisation (The Putting Nature on the Map Project), open forum discussion and the drawing up of a Statement of Compliance, supported by evidence from across the AONB Family. This statement was accepted by the IUCN panel in June and places AONBs firmly on the global map when it comes to biodiversity delivery.

Each individual AONB partnership provided further evidence to demonstrate that they meet the high standards demanded by the IUCN.

The NAAONB compiled all evidence and presented this as an accompaniment to the Draft Statement of Compliance to the World Commission on Protected Areas UK Protected Areas Assessment Panel.

Chris Mahon, Chief Executive, IUCN National Committee UK informed the NAAONB that, “We considered that the evidence was persuasive and that each manager had demonstrated a full understanding of the IUCN definition of a protected area, fully supported the generic statement and had plans to strengthen the place of nature conservation in future”. He added, “We were agreed that all the AONB partnerships had demonstrated to our satisfaction that they should retain their status as IUCN Category V protected areas and will accordingly so recommend to UNEP/WCMC”.

Howard Davies, CEO, NAAONB said, “This is the culmination of three years’ work by the NAAONB and we are indebted to Paul Tiplady from Craggatak for his pro-bono work on the Statement of Compliance. Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty make a significant impact to conserving the UK’s biodiversity and the reaffirmation of their Category V status is a great recognition that AONBs remain the UK’s Landscapes for Life”.

See <http://www.iucn-uk.org/projects/protectedareas/tabid/65/default.aspx> for further information.

Landscapes for Life Conference 2013

The theme for **Landscapes for Life Conference 2013** was water. Management of water is one of the most important challenges that the global economy will face over the next decade and **Landscapes for Life Conference 2013** brought together over 120 delegates to discuss the part that the UK’s Protected Landscape Family has in ensuring that our water systems are well managed and our environment is safeguarded for future generations. Sponsored by **Adnams of Southwold, Anglian Water, The Environment Agency, Green Traveller, St Edmundsbury Borough Council and Suffolk County Council**, the three days of presentations, discussion, networking and site visits looked at the links between water and natural beauty and set out the challenges and changes ahead. National issues were addressed and the way Protected Landscape teams are working in partnership with local authorities, government bodies, landowners, utility providers, regulators and others to develop innovative solutions to manage our most precious resource were shared.

Landscapes for Life Conference 2013 was opened by then **Defra Minister, Richard Benyon MP** who as well as praising the work of the NAAONB and the AONB Family was delighted to sign a Sustainable Tourism Joint Accord between Defra, VisitEngland and the AONB Family. For full details of the Accord click on <http://www.landscapesforlifeconference.org.uk/2013/07/signing-of-the-tourism-accord-working-towards-sustainable-tourism-in-england>

Other speakers included academics, water companies, the Environment Agency, Natural England, National Farmers Union and local partnerships who assisted in the discussion and development of a vision for the future where Protected Landscapes play an important and integral role in the stewardship of our water.

Site visits to the iconic lowland landscape of Constable Country, the "fossilised" dune systems of the Norfolk Coast and Suffolk Coasts, and the stunning waterways which make up the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads highlighted the work that local people are undertaking to help manage our water systems.

Philip Hygate, NAAONB Chairman said, "We were delighted to bring delegates to the East of England and are extremely grateful to our generous sponsors. The lively debate and discussion will without doubt result in useful practical action throughout the UK's Protected Landscapes. I am sure that delegates left the conference with the knowledge that the AONB Family is working hard to protect our most valuable resource.

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The Bowland Award

The Bowland Award is presented annually by the National Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (NAAONB) for "the best project, best practice or outstanding contribution to the wellbeing of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty".

The Award provides a platform to highlight the range of activity taking place across the country and the variety of AONB landscapes.

Linked with the Landscapes for Life Conference 2013, theme of water, this year nominations were invited for "the best project, best practice or outstanding contribution to the wellbeing of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty" that promotes the landscape scale conservation or celebration of the water environment.

Promoted through the media and direct through member organisations, two nominations came from non NAAONB members demonstrating recognition for this Award outside the NAAONB.

There was an excellent geographical spread in the 8 nominations received including the Solway Coast, the Wye Valley and across to the Suffolk Coast and a diverse range of projects.

Voting took place by the membership and at Landscapes for Life Conference 2013, Mike Fox and Steve Rodrick, respectively Chairman and Chief Officer of the Chilterns Conservation Board were delighted to accept the Bowland Award for the work done by the **Chilterns Chalk Stream Project**.

For further information click <http://www.landscapesforlifeconference.org.uk/2013/07/bowland-award-2013-chiltern-chalk-streams-project>

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NB: A discussion about future training and conferences will shortly take place on Basecamp.

AONB Family at the CLA Game Fair

The National Association for AONBs was delighted to secure an invitation from the Game and Wildlife Conservancy Trust (GWCT) to share their stand at the CLA Game Fair in July.

The small team from the AONB Family (Philip Hygate, Howard Davies, Jill Smith, Jason Lavender and Paul Jackson) who attended the three day event were kept busy by running a raffle which enticed visitors to the stand and previously arranged appointments. Some of the highlights of the weekend were

- Teresa Dent, CEO, GWCT welcoming the AONBs as an important part of the GWCT stand in her opening address to Richard Benyon MP
- Jason Lavender's contributions to the GWCT Debate on whether "Reared Pheasant shoots can make a valuable contribution to nature conservation"
- Paul Jackson's contributions to The Country Life Debate "Nature – Should we interfere?"
- Discussion over how the AONB Family might be involved with GWCT landscape-scale research pilots with Nick Sotherton of GWCT
- Philip Hygate and Howard Davies meeting with Rene Olivieri and Paul Wilkinson to discuss how to take the NAAONB/Wildlife Trusts Accord forward and the development and recording of results with related joint internal and external communication on this
- Howard Davies and Jill Smith meeting with Poul Christensen and Dave Webster and being able to convey the positive feedback on Maddy Jago's input to L4LConf2013 and confirm the strength of the tripartite relationship.
- Howard Davies meeting with Joe Dimpleby, editor of Shooting Times, to discuss a potential article relating to landscape.
- Howard Davies meeting with Richard Benyon MP, Teresa Dent and Ian Coghill, GWCT Chairman who welcomed the plans for a Management Plan workshop at Loddington.
- Howard Davies meeting with Richard Ali, CEO, BASC furthering previous conversations to discuss relationship between BASC's "Green Shoots" campaign and the AONB Family.
- A chance meeting with Dorothy Fairburn, Northern Region CLA who indicated that CLA recognise the popularity of the AONB Family and NAAONB with the coalition government.

If you would be part of the team for next year's event please contact

jill.smith@landscapesforlife.org.uk

And then there were five...

We are well into the first year of the two year secondments which have allowed Richard Clarke and Dave Dixon join Howard Davies, Jill Smith and Amber Livingston as part of the core NAAONB Team.

The secondments mean that Richard and Dave can continue the outstanding work they have been doing in the southern regions on a nationwide-scale which is greatly assisting the NAAONB and the AONB Family in going from strength to strength.

A clarification of team member roles can be seen by clicking [NAAONB Core Team](#)

Monitoring Protected Landscapes

Representatives from AONB partnerships and NPAs were invited to attend a webinar hosted by Natural England on the 'Framework for Monitoring Environmental Outcomes in Protected Landscapes'.

The purpose of the webinar was to discuss how to access the statistics and use the framework and was chaired by Andy Nisbet, Natural England's Principal Adviser of Monitoring in their Evidence Function. Liz Bingham (the Framework's Project Manager) also gave a short presentation, followed by an opportunity for discussion and questions.

For those who missed it a recording of the webinar can be heard by clicking on <https://cc.callinfo.com/play?id=66mhd7>.

Information on spatial data: Natural England publishes much of its geographic information in the form of Geographic Information System (GIS) datasets. People can download the GIS digital boundary datasets from Natural England's website

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/publications/data/default.aspx>

If you would like to download Environmental Stewardship options spatial data online, please contact Natural England's Geographic Information mailbox –

NaturalEnglandGIDataManagers@naturalengland.org.uk. Natural England will send English Heritage's spatial data on heritage at risk (with its associated licence) separately to all AONB partnerships who have requested it.

Training

Management Plan Workshops

The new area set up on Basecamp to facilitate the sharing of learning and resources around the review of Management Plans is being populated with useful documents from members of the AONB Family

Information is currently being shared by Lead Officers and staff who attended the recent NAAONB MP Review workshops in Birmingham. If you would like to nominate an alternative or additional person to this area please contact Amber.Livingston@landscapesforlife.org.uk

The workshop report and presentations have been added to <http://www.landscapesforlifeconference.org.uk/management-plan-review-workshop/> .

The Role of AONB Designation in the Planning Process Workshop

The workshop report and presentations have been added to

<http://www.landscapesforlifeconference.org.uk/the-role-of-aonb-designation-in-the-planning-process-workshop/>

Social Forestry Technical Workshop

The workshop report and presentations will be uploaded to the events website shortly.

Consultation Responses

For details of the latest NAAONB Consultation Responses on behalf of the AONB Family please click on the appropriate link(s) below

[NAAONB Response to DCLG Consultation on Greater Flexibilities for Change of Use](#)

[NAAONB Response to Defra's Triennial Review of the MMO](#)

[NAAONB Response to National Grid's Consultation on its Visual Impact Provision Policy](#)

[NAAONB Response to The National Assembly for Wales' Environment and Sustainability Committee Inquiry into Sustainable Land Management](#)

[NAAONB Response to the Commission on Public Service Governance and Delivery](#)

News from our Partners

Europarc Federation News

Click [Europarc Federation News](#) for information about our European colleague's activities.

EAI News

Click [EAI News](#) for information about EAI activities.

Hidden Britain

The latest edition of Hidden Britain News can be viewed by clicking on [Hidden Britain](#)

IUCN

Click [IUCN News](#) for news from IUCN

LIFE News

Click [LIFE News](#) for information from LIFE.

NFU Bulletin

The latest edition of the NFU Bulletin can be viewed by clicking on [NFU News](#)

Sustrans

The latest edition of Sustrans News can be viewed by clicking on [Sustrans News](#)

Dates for your diary

NAAONB AGM

Date: 14th November 2013

Venue: London

Please submit any articles for AONB News to jill.smith@landscapesforlife.org.uk

Jane.1 Wilkinson

From: Paul Jackson
Sent: 02 April 2013 12:29
To: dm@ryedale.gov.uk
Subject: 13/00263/HOUSE: Erection of timber fence to replace wall, Corona Cottage, Hovingham

Importance: High

Although this may only be a short length of fence, and in itself the change might be relatively small, the impact on the streetscene of the Hovingham Conservation Area has I think been quite significant.

The original stone wall can be seen on Google Streetview, as those images date from March 2009. This not only shows the comparison in terms of materials but also indicates that the replacement fence is higher than the original wall (thereby increasing its impact).

In my view this alteration has had a significantly detrimental impact on the AONB and the Hovingham Conservation Area and should therefore be **Refused**.

Paul Jackson
Howardian Hills AONB Manager
The Mews, Wath Court
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Landscapes
for life
.org.uk



HOWARDIAN
HILLS
One of the
AONB family

Jane.1 Wilkinson

From: Paul Jackson
Sent: 03 April 2013 15:53
To: dm@ryedale.gov.uk
Subject: 12/01126/FUL: Formation of vehicular access and driveway, Mount Pleasant, Hovingham

Importance: High

I have the following comments to make in respect of this application:

- As I understand it, the current access to Mount Pleasant, and the footway continuing to the north, are the original alignment and road surface of York Hill prior to the construction of the new 'off-set' crossroads in presumably the 1950s/60s. A photo in Hovingham village hall shows the original road alignment, with a steep grassed bank where the area of green now is.
- This section of 'village green' is particularly important for the setting and feel of Hovingham Conservation Area, and the AONB, and any proposal to alter the current arrangement would need to be carefully executed.
- One of the primary views of the site is when approaching from the north, from about the Worsley Arms Hotel onwards. From here it is clear to see the historic origin of the old road and the sharply-angled bund at the edge of the new road, with concrete railings on top.
- As such there is already an element of disharmony in the slopes of the green, but I am concerned that this proposal could exacerbate the situation rather than improve it, by creating a 'causeway' across the green.
- Careful use of fill and harmonising of slopes could however create a more smooth-flowing area of green, commensurate with its important location at the entrance to the village from both the south and east.
- I would not therefore wish to object to the proposal, but only subject to the following Conditions:
 1. The highway access splay must use Harvest Buff Conservation Kerbing, not standard concrete kerbing, in order to match the stone of the adjacent houses.
 2. The grassed area to the **north** of the new driveway should be graded into the existing village green area (as is indicated on the plan), to create a smooth slope.
 3. The area to the **west** of the new driveway, where the white wooden railings are, should be filled in and grassed-over so as to create a smooth slope between the edge of the driveway and the existing bank/hedge.
 4. The area to the **east** of the new driveway should be filled and re-graded, as far as is practicable, to tie in with the bund with the concrete railings on.
 5. The former driveway to the **south** should be filled in and grassed-over so as to create a smooth slope between the bund with the concrete railings on and the existing grass bank. I note that it is proposed to create a new footpath here rather than use the former driveway as currently.
 6. The aim of the above works should be to (as far as possible) create a flowing area of greenspace within which the new driveway sits, rather than an area of awkward and conflicting slopes. I hope that this was the applicant's intention, but it hasn't come out too clearly from the supporting documentation.

In summary I have some concerns with this proposal, but feel that they could be mitigated by way of further detail on proposed ground levels and then subsequent Conditions.

Paul Jackson
Howardian Hills AONB Manager
The Mews, Wath Court
Hovingham
York

From: dm@ryedale.gov.uk
Sent: 09 April 2013 10:55
To: Paul Jackson
Subject: Consultee Comments for Planning Application 13/00378/73A

Mr Paul Jackson,

You have been sent this email because you or somebody else has submitted a consultee comment on a Planning Application to your local authority using your email address. A summary of your comments is provided below.

Comments were submitted at 10:46 AM on 09 Apr 2013 from paul.jackson@northyorks.gov.uk.

Application Summary

Reference: 13/00378/73A
Address: OS Field 3286 High Hutton Malton
Variation of Condition 01 of Consent
Proposal: 11/01059/ADV dated 16.03.2012 to allow
the sign to be displayed until 01.05.2014.
Case Officer: Alan Hunter
[Click for further information](#)

Comments Details

I submitted comments on this application originally (11/01059/ADV) on 8th November 2011, indicating that I had strong concerns about the size of the proposed sign when considered in the context of the AONB landscape. Given however that the LPA approved the scheme for a 1-year trial period, and also that the sign has not yet been erected, it would seem unreasonable to object to the time extension. This would allow the impact of the sign to be assessed, as originally intended by the Committee. As

Comments: the principal aim of the proposal is to bring events in Malton to the attention of passing motorists, I would however suggest that the extension be granted until 10th May 2014. The Early May Bank Holiday is on 5th May in 2014, meaning that any approval for the sign would expire 2 days before the Bank Holiday Weekend. If the sign is to be erected then another 10 days would not make a significant difference and would give the Town Council the opportunity to publicise any event that may be scheduled for that Bank Holiday Weekend. Paul Jackson

From: dm@ryedale.gov.uk
Sent: 09 April 2013 10:57
To: Paul Jackson
Subject: Consultee Comments for Planning Application 13/00324/TELE

Mr Paul Jackson,

You have been sent this email because you or somebody else has submitted a consultee comment on a Planning Application to your local authority using your email address. A summary of your comments is provided below.

Comments were submitted at 10:47 AM on 09 Apr 2013 from paul.jackson@northyorks.gov.uk.

Application Summary

Reference: 13/00324/TELE

Address: Vodafone One Site No 6844 At Low Woods Farm Sproxton Helmsley

Proposal: Installation of 3 no. multi band antennas mounted to the existing antenna headframe following removal of 3 no. existing antennas together with installation of 3 no. 300mm microwave dishes and 1 no. ground mounted radio equipment cabinet

Case Officer: Matthew Mortonson

[Click for further information](#)

Comments Details

Comments: The only observation I would wish to make is that equipment cabinets should be a dark colour wherever possible.

Jane.1 Wilkinson

From: dm@ryedale.gov.uk
Sent: 09 April 2013 12:24
To: Paul Jackson
Subject: Consultee Comments for Planning Application 13/00278/FUL

Mr Paul Jackson,

You have been sent this email because you or somebody else has submitted a consultee comment on a Planning Application to your local authority using your email address. A summary of your comments is provided below.

Comments were submitted at 12:15 PM on 09 Apr 2013 from paul.jackson@northyorks.gov.uk.

Application Summary

Reference: 13/00278/FUL
Address: Black Dale Farm Hovingham York YO62
4NQ
Proposal: Erection of 2no. grain silos with associated
gantry (retrospective application).
Case Officer: Edward Senior
[Click for further information](#)

Comments Details

Comments: I visited the application site on 8th April and have the following comments to make: 1) I don't think I have much option other than to OBJECT to this proposal, on the grounds that (even though it is a retrospective application) the plans and dimensions do not correspond with what has already been constructed on the site. If this application is Approved, it will immediately be in contravention of its Approval! 2) The Design & Access Statement indicates that the height of the silos will be 16.5m (including the gantry), in comparison with the ridge height of the mill building at 18.6m. The plans as submitted also clearly show the silos and gantry as being below the ridge height of the mill. Observation on site (see photo submitted separately) shows that (even allowing for the perspective in the photo) the silos are some 2m higher than indicated in the plans. I believe that this may have allowed them to be wider too, as the relative dimensions on the plan do not seem to accord with the observations on site - the silos just seem bigger all round. 3) It has been pointed out that approval had already been given for two silos prior to the construction of an extension to the mill building. A significant new grain store has also however been constructed since the last

approval for two silos, and no indication is given as to why the two silos are now needed, either for further grain storage or as an improvement in the efficiency of the milling process. 4) The 'mature woodland' referred to in some sections of the application is mostly replanted woodland in which the trees are less than 5 years old. The principal viewpoints are from the public road adjacent to the site and the Unsurfaced County Road that runs over Cawton Heights to the north east of Syke Gate Farm. Both of these views will eventually be screened by the woodland area, but only in some 10-15 years time when the trees start to reach an appreciable size in relation to the mill building. 5) The AONB Joint Advisory Committee has recently approved Design Guidance for the construction of new agricultural buildings and associated infrastructure, which in due course it is intended will be adopted by the LPAs as a material consideration in the development management process. The Guidance indicates that silos should not be in a galvanised finish but should be painted in dark, muted colours. Much discussion on colour of materials has taken place as part of previous applications for buildings on this site, in particular the grain store, and these silos should be finished in a colour that complements the existing buildings. Whilst the conical roofs of the silos are weathering down, vertical surfaces take far longer to weather and I consider that they are having a detrimental impact on the AONB whilst unpainted. Paul Jackson

Jane.1 Wilkinson

From: Paul Jackson
Sent: 12 April 2013 17:06
To: planning@hambleton.gov.uk
Cc: Helen Laws
Subject: 13/00381 & 00382: Erection of agricultural buildings, Water Hall Farm, Crayke

I have submitted comments on these applications as a package, as their impact (if both are permitted) will be cumulative.

I visited the site on 8th April and have the following comments to make:

1. Because of the amendments that I would like to see to the proposals, in particular the colour of materials and the switching of the siting, I think that in order for this to be discussed I need to technically **OBJECT** to both applications.
2. I don't have an objection in principle to the developments, but I'm unhappy about the details as they currently stand.
3. This farm was the subject of an application in 2011 for retrospective planning permission for one farm building and the construction of another (new) building. Condition 2 of that permission (11/00539) stipulated that the existing building should have its timber walls stained a dark colour and that the new building should have its wall stained a dark colour when constructed. I noted on my site visit that the new building has **not** had its walls stained (after an acknowledged weathering period) and hence it is technically in breach of its Consent. Irrespective of the decisions on these two applications, that building should have its walls treated a dark colour in order to bring it into line with its Consent.
4. My principal concerns are that the Dutch barn (00382) is a large structure in a visually exposed open location on the edge of the farmstead, whilst the storage building (00381) extends the steading quite a way out from its existing area.
5. Having looked at the site and the dimensions of the various existing buildings, I note that the new livestock building mentioned above constructed under permission 11/00539 is 4.8m high, 9.1m wide and 24.3m long. In comparison the Dutch barn (00382) proposed for a site just to the south is 7.3m high, 13.7m wide and 30.5m long, with the proposed storage building (00381) being 5.5m high, 9.1m wide and 24.4m long.
6. On balance I feel that, given the existing layout of the farmstead, and if both buildings are to be permitted, then their locations should be switched. In this way the lower storage building would sit more comfortably next to the existing building on the open side of the farmstead, whilst the larger Dutch barn would be at the back of the steading and better screened by buildings/ landform/hedges.
7. In addition, all timber on both buildings must be treated with a dark stain, as was done retrospectively with the building permitted under 11/00539. Allowing the buildings to weather for a while before the stain is applied would be acceptable, but this finish must be Conditioned in order to ensure that it is carried out in due course (reference para no. 3 above...)
8. As well as the dark finish I feel that some tree planting needs to be carried out to break-up the profile of these new buildings, as they will be on the external sides of the farmstead area. If the grass field to the south west is in the applicant's control then individual trees should be planted in this field. The hedge to the south west of the site proposed in 00381 should also be strengthened and a copse of trees planted in this vicinity. I have not had an opportunity to look at the site in great detail and suggest a comprehensive landscaping scheme, but would be able to offer more advice in due course if necessary.
9. In conclusion, I Object to both applications on the basis of impact on the AONB landscape due to their siting, colour of materials and lack of proposed landscaping. I do however feel that these issues might potentially be resolved if amendments were made to the proposals.

Paul Jackson

Jane.1 Wilkinson

From: Paul Jackson
Sent: 02 May 2013 16:13
To: planning@hambleton.gov.uk
Cc: Helen Laws
Subject: 13/00381 & 382: Erection of agricultural buildings; Water Hall Farm, Crayke
Importance: High

Helen

Further to your email of 26th April.

- I'm pleased that this can be fairly easily put down to an administrative error, as Mr Garbutt in the past has been very willing to accommodate my opinions on his proposals and I don't like objecting outright to things if I can help it.
- His explanation for the delayed creosoting of the new building is fair enough, given the terrible wet summer last year and now lambing. I would however expect to see it done as soon as possible this year. I had a quick look on Street View just to double check on adjacent hedges and the images on there are from 2011. They show only the 'retrospective' building, prior to creosoting/painting. Viewing that same building now after treatment shows what a difference it can make.
- The use of Anthracite Grey roof sheets for both buildings is noted.

13/00381, agricultural storage building (Dutch barn WB2904GA)

- The timber boarding should be treated with a dark stain in due course after weathering, so that it matches the other buildings on the farmstead.
- Landscaping should be provided to bolster the hedges to the south west and north east of the site, as well as along the north western elevation so as to break up the profile when viewed from the north and the Public Footpath to the north west. I would be happy to help Mr Garbutt prepare an appropriate scheme, taking into account any future expansion proposals he may have.

13/00382, agricultural building for storage and livestock (WB2905GA)

- The timber boarding should be treated with a dark stain in due course after weathering, so that it matches the other buildings on the farmstead.
- Landscaping should be provided in the adjacent field to the south west, if it is in Mr Garbutt's control, or along the external edge of the farmstead, to break up the outline of the new building. As above, I would be happy to assist Mr Garbutt with designing this.

Paul Jackson
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YO62 4NN

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Jane.1 Wilkinson

From: dm@ryedale.gov.uk
Sent: 02 May 2013 16:27
To: Paul Jackson
Subject: Consultee Comments for Planning Application 13/00391/FUL

Mr Paul Jackson,

You have been sent this email because you or somebody else has submitted a consultee comment on a Planning Application to your local authority using your email address. A summary of your comments is provided below.

Comments were submitted at 4:18 PM on 02 May 2013 from paul.jackson@northyorks.gov.uk.

Application Summary

Reference: 13/00391/FUL

Address: Land Off South Side Of Riders Lane
Crambe Malton

Proposal: Erection of agricultural building for the
storage of machinery and housing of
livestock

Case Officer: Edward Senior

[Click for further information](#)

Comments Details

I don't have any objection to the principle of the building or its siting. I note that a dark green roof is proposed and this will blend well with adjacent vegetation. As the building is isolated however (i.e. not adjacent to any other buildings in a farmstead for example) then I would like the Yorkshire boarded walls to be stained in a dark colour. Tanalised timber fades from a golden colour when new to a pale cream and can then be quite prominent in the landscape. Experience with other new farm buildings indicates that, following this weathering period, the application of a dark coloured stain can significantly reduce landscape impact. Should the building be Permitted therefore, I would wish to see a Condition attached stipulating the treatment of the timber boarding with a dark stain within a period of say 2 years from completion of construction. Paul Jackson

Jane.1 Wilkinson

From: dm@ryedale.gov.uk
Sent: 14 May 2013 16:20
To: Paul Jackson
Subject: Consultee Comments for Planning Application 13/00340/FUL

Mr Paul Jackson,

You have been sent this email because you or somebody else has submitted a consultee comment on a Planning Application to your local authority using your email address. A summary of your comments is provided below.

Comments were submitted at 4:11 PM on 14 May 2013 from paul.jackson@northyorks.gov.uk.

Application Summary

Reference: 13/00340/FUL
Address: Land Adj To Spring Wood York Road
Oswaldkirk Helmsley
Proposal: Erection of single storey detached shooting lodge (retrospective application)
Case Officer: Alan Hunter
[Click for further information](#)

Comments Details

Comments: I have examined this development from a variety of viewpoints in its vicinity and have the following comments to make: 1) The Design & Access Statement argues that this is a sustainable development and should therefore be permitted under the provisions of the NPPF. Paragraph 14 of the NPPF however indicates that the presumption in favour of sustainable development does NOT apply in those areas specified in Footnote 9, which includes Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. These are subject to restrictions, as outlined in NPPF para 115, in relation to impact on the landscape, scenic beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage. 2) The current visual impact of the building is affected by the row of bales (now disintegrating) that has been placed in front of it. Assuming that these will rot down further, the impact of the building needs to be assessed on the basis of them not being present at all. 3) With that in mind, I feel that the building does have a negative impact on the AONB landscape, in terms of being a new building in an isolated location and the colour of materials used. It is visible in fleeting views from the B1363 but also in middle-distance views from the Cawton-Gilling road. As such therefore I feel the building currently is contrary to the NPPF. 4) I don't however

have any objection to the principle of the shooting lodge, as part of a farm diversification operation, but its location and/or appearance are currently unsatisfactory. 5) My first preference would be to have the lodge sited within the wood. It relates to activities primarily connected to the woodland and therefore should be sited within it. This may however involve the felling of woodland to accommodate the development, and part of Spring Wood is classed as Ancient Woodland. 6) The alternative would be to permit the development in its current location but significantly improve its appearance and screening by way of Conditions: # The light-coloured timber cladding is an inappropriate finish. All exterior walls should be stained a dark colour so as to minimise their visual impact. # White window frames are also inappropriate. The window frames should be painted in a dark colour. # A SUBSTANTIAL landscaping scheme should be implemented in order to integrate the building into the landscape. This should consist of a thick belt of broadleaved trees and shrubs planted to principally the south and west of the new building, to in effect extend the woodland area to encompass the building. In conclusion, I have SIGNIFICANT CONCERNS about the impact of this development in its current form. The imposition of Conditions as outlined in paragraph 6 above would however mitigate the development to a level which I feel would be acceptable. Paul Jackson

Jane.1 Wilkinson

From: dm@ryedale.gov.uk
Sent: 15 May 2013 16:53
To: Paul Jackson
Subject: Consultee Comments for Planning Application 13/00442/FUL

Mr Paul Jackson,

You have been sent this email because you or somebody else has submitted a consultee comment on a Planning Application to your local authority using your email address. A summary of your comments is provided below.

Comments were submitted at 4:44 PM on 15 May 2013 from paul.jackson@northyorks.gov.uk.

Application Summary

Reference: 13/00442/FUL

Address: Welgarth Welburn Malton North Yorkshire
YO60 7EP

Proposal: Change of use of land to form a 42m x
26m menage with 4 no. floodlights for
private domestic use

Case Officer: James Parkin

[Click for further information](#)

Comments Details

I have no objection to the formation of the menage, with agricultural fencing surrounding as shown on the plans. Floodlighting however has not been permitted for other menages constructed in the AONB recently (due to policies preventing the spread of light pollution) and this aspect of the scheme should be refused.
Paul Jackson

Jane.1 Wilkinson

From: Paul Jackson
Sent: 06 June 2013 10:22
To: James Parkin
Subject: RE: 13/00442/FUL Welgarth Welburn

James

I'm afraid that the EHO's comments and mine are coming from different perspectives.

Mine relate to the spread of point-sources of light pollution out from established dwellings into the open countryside. In essence, the AONB generally becoming a place where light sources are observed throughout the whole landscape at night, as opposed to there being concentrated sources in villages with dark countryside in between. This topic is regularly referred to by our Joint Advisory Committee during meetings, and my response is that we have an Objective in the AONB Management Plan that aims to minimise the spread of light pollution. The implementation of this Objective manifests itself in my opposition to all proposed or potential sources of new lighting in the open countryside, such as ménages, driveways, etc when I submit comments on planning applications.

Welgarth is situated on its own in the open countryside between Chestnut Avenue and Holmes Crescent. Although there are other properties such as the Greets Farm complex nearby, they are all separated development and at night would appear as such. The proposed ménage is some 90m from the dwelling house of Welgarth, so could not be said to be closely visually associated with it, either during the day or at night.

The most recent similar case I would refer you to is 12/00299/FUL at Cold Harbour, Coulton. I submitted comments in a similar vein (although the applicants had recognised the constraints imposed by the location within the AONB and had not proposed any lighting). Nonetheless Matthew Mortonson applied a Condition (Number 6) relating to lighting, as I had requested, citing Policy ENV2 of the Ryedale Local Plan. Although this is now largely superceded by the NPPF and the emerging Local Plan Strategy, Policy ENV2 is Saved and therefore still a material consideration. Even if relying only on the NPPF, the AONB is protected by paras 14 and 115 and they are more than adequate for dealing with this case – the presumption in favour of sustainable development doesn't apply automatically in the AONB, and I believe it would have a detrimental impact on the AONB so it's contrary to NPPF 115.

I'm afraid that my comments still stand therefore, in that whilst I have no objection to the ménage itself, I believe that the lighting would have a detrimental impact on the AONB and is therefore contrary to both local and national planning policy.

Paul

Paul Jackson
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The Mews, Wath Court
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York
YO62 4NN

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Mob: 07715 009426



From: James Parkin [mailto:james.parkin@ryedale.gov.uk]
Sent: 05 June 2013 16:19
To: Paul Jackson
Subject: 13/00442/FUL Welgarth Welburn

Hi Paul,

I write with regard to the above planning application which you have commented on. In your comments you state that floodlighting has not been permitted on ménages in other parts of the AONB due to the spread of light pollution. The Environmental Health Officer has suggested a condition is attached and her comments are as follows

My concerns regarding the above are related to loss of amenity to neighbouring residents from light impact. I would therefore recommend a condition which requires that the lighting be sufficiently shielded such that light does not encroach onto neighbouring land, and that it be turned off at 10pm.

I was emailing you to enquire whether you would be willing to consider the above condition as a compromise to your original concerns? If so issues relating to wild life disturbance will be addressed with consultation with the Ecology Officer.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

James Parkin
Development Management Assistant

Development Management
Ryedale District Council
Ryedale House, Old Malton Road, Malton, North Yorkshire, YO17 7HH
Tel: 01653 600666 Ext: 325
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Jane.1 Wilkinson

From: dm@ryedale.gov.uk
Sent: 17 May 2013 15:05
To: Paul Jackson
Subject: Consultee Comments for Planning Application 13/00389/FUL

Mr Paul Jackson,

You have been sent this email because you or somebody else has submitted a consultee comment on a Planning Application to your local authority using your email address. A summary of your comments is provided below.

Comments were submitted at 2:55 PM on 17 May 2013 from paul.jackson@northyorks.gov.uk.

Application Summary

Reference: 13/00389/FUL
Address: Park House Farm Agricultural Buildings
Hovingham Helmsley
Proposal: Erection of agricultural building for the
storage of machinery
Case Officer: Edward Senior
[Click for further information](#)

Comments Details

The only comment I have in relation to this proposal is that the roof sheets must be Anthracite Grey, not Natural Grey, in colour. The darker shade will contrast less with the Juniper Green walls and also be less visible

Comments: when viewed from the principal viewpoint on the public road to the south. The use of Juniper Green will ensure that the new building is as unobtrusive as possible, so that principle should be extended to the roof colour also. Paul Jackson

Jane.1 Wilkinson

From: Paul Jackson
Sent: 11 June 2013 10:56
To: dm@ryedale.gov.uk
Subject: 13/00497/FUL: Erection of building to house biomass boiler; Westlers, Amotherby

I visited the vicinity of the site on 6th June and the actual site on 10th June and have the following observations to make:

1. Judging by the age and design of the buildings, the Westlers site has grown periodically in a southerly direction from a series of older buildings nearest to the B1257. The oldest part of the site could be said to be within the ribbon development of Swinton/Amotherby, with the newer buildings being developed on presumably former arable land. The field pattern in this area consists of large recti-linear fields with dividing hedges, running in a north/south direction, typical of Parliamentary enclosure and subsequent hedgerow removal. As such, the site has been expanding outwards into increasingly more open countryside.
2. When the Howardian Hills AONB was designated in 1987 the boundary was drawn so as to exclude all developed land south of the B1257, to avoid small parts of villages being inside the designated area. I assume that the current main site access road on the eastern side of the site, and the staff car park, post-date 1987 otherwise the designation boundary would have been drawn around them. It does put the site of the proposed development however within the boundary of the AONB, although even if slightly outside it would still be assessed for impact on the setting of the AONB.
3. Having measured some of the buildings on the site, the sheds are all of approximately 8m in height, with the current flue at approximately 19m high. Due to the slope of the ground however, which rises in a southerly direction, and the fact that many of the buildings are on platforms cut to well below natural ground level, the external appearance of the site and perception of building heights is very varied. The newest building on the southern boundary of the site is at natural ground level, but appears significantly taller because all the buildings to the north are on a nominally flat surface.
4. It is against this historic background of site development that I have assessed the application for the new building, and attempted to judge its height in relation to buildings already present on the site.
5. From my calculations of heights of existing structures, the new building will be approximately 4.5m lower than the top of the current flue (which sits at about the same level across the slope as the northern end of the proposed boiler house). Likewise, with the southern warehouse building at 8m tall, plus approximately 2m fall in ground level, the southern end of the boiler house will be approx. 4.5m higher than the existing warehouse building. At a stated 22m, the new flue will be approx. 3m taller than the current flue. Obviously without a full levels survey these figures are only approximate, but I feel they do give a good idea of the general size of the building and its relationship to the existing buildings.
6. It's clear from the above measurements that this building is of a substantial size, and much taller than any building currently on the site. It therefore potentially could have a significant impact on the AONB landscape. Two Public Rights of Way run in a north/south direction on either side of the Westlers site, leading from Amotherby and Swinton respectively. The Amotherby path appeared to be well-used, judging by the evidence of footprints and hoof marks (I didn't view the site from the Swinton path so can't comment on usage of that one). Even only a short way from the B1257 the open aspect of this part of the AONB takes over and one can feel further from 'civilisation' than is in fact the case.
7. Upon turning round and walking in a northerly direction, the Westlers site is laid out in front of the viewer. The most prominent features are the white roof of the western half of the warehouse building and the flue, but otherwise the site is back-dropped by the mature trees of Amotherby village and the Vale of Pickering beyond. In such an open landscape the Westlers site is a relatively small part of the overall vista and doesn't significantly detract from the overall feeling of 'airiness', which is noted in the AONB Management Plan as a significant characteristic of this part of the AONB. Clearly, the site become more sky-lined as the viewer approaches the site again, but in comparison this perspective lasts a relatively short time for recreational users.
8. As noted above, a building substantially taller than anything currently on site could have a significant impact on the AONB, and for that reason I have some concerns about its height. Against that however must be

weighed the importance of the site for the local economy, and its possible beneficial impact on woodfuel supply chains in the AONB. The availability of local markets for low-grade timber is an important factor in encouraging woodland owners to manage their woodlands. This not only supports the wider rural economy but often also increases the biodiversity and landscape value of the woods.

9. As such therefore I feel that the overall benefits of the scheme can offset some of the disadvantages, but there are a number of measures that should be incorporated to help mitigate the visual impact of the building:
- a) If the building can be constructed below the current natural ground level, as the buildings on the western side of the site road have been, that will help I feel quite considerably in reducing the visual bulk of the building. Even a relatively shallow cut would be better than none at all.
 - b) I would prefer the flue to be on the western side of the building (i.e. to the 'interior' of the site) but guess this won't be possible due to the solar panel array.
 - c) The wall and roof colour should be a dark green, similar to the walls of the warehouse building at the southern edge of the site.
 - d) Likewise, the doors should be a dark grey.
 - e) The flue can I understand be any colour and is proposed to be the same colour as the walls. This I feel will be less intrusive than a lighter colour – certainly it shouldn't be highly-reflective stainless steel.
 - f) I feel that a small amount of treeplanting at the south eastern corner of the site will help to provide some visual definition to the site. As noted above, the landscape is generally very open but there are some woods and copses, and trees become more prevalent closer to the villages. A small copse of trees in the south eastern corner would help set the visual context of the site, without interfering unduly with operational requirements.

If you have any queries about these comments please don't hesitate to contact me.

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Jane.1 Wilkinson

From: Paul Jackson
Sent: 24 July 2013 12:54
To: Shaun Robson
Cc: dm@ryedale.gov.uk
Subject: RE: Planning Application Reference 13/00497/FUL, Malton Foods Amotherby

Importance: High

Shaun

Please find below further comments on this application, as requested. I've studied the most recent Parish Council response and also the revised site layout plan posted on the website today:

1. Noise survey. Although this aspect isn't necessarily part of my principal comments, I noted that the boiler and woodchip storage are all located within the proposed building and the external gantry only carries steam. As such there is no external noise of transporting woodchips as described by the Parish Council, although whether the steam-carrying pipework is completely silent in operation I am unable to say. From an AONB perspective I don't believe that noise generation is an important aspect of this case.
2. Whilst the Parish Council might wish my first letter to be interpreted as an objection, that was not the intention and for that reason I didn't use the word in my response.
3. I do however, as previously stated, have concerns that the proposed building could have a significant impact on the AONB landscape. Whether or not the applicant originally mentioned the AONB in their application is their omission but relatively unimportant – the Local Planning Authority is bound by planning policy guidance and law to take the AONB dimension into account in reaching a decision.
4. One of the principal difficulties in coming to a view on this proposal is the varying site levels of buildings currently on the site, the lack of any levels survey as part of the application documentation and, more importantly, the lack of any elevation drawings showing how the proposed new building will appear in relation to the rest of the site. I don't feel that it is particularly unreasonable to request these before the application is determined, so that everyone knows exactly how the proposed building is going to look in relation to its current surroundings. One would not consider applying for a house extension without showing the existing main building and how the two elements relate to each other. It really shouldn't be the case that the only other comparative building height measurements that seem to exist in relation to this application are the ones that I took myself very roughly when I visited the site.
5. Treeplanting. The Parish Council has indicated that my suggestion will not work in screening the proposed building. I didn't suggest that planting should be installed to screen the building, but that a copse of trees be planted at the south east corner of the site to create a visual diversionary feature on what is otherwise a completely open site. The suggestion took its cue from the existing copses of species such as ash, oak and sycamore that are already present within the landscape nearby.
6. Woodfuel supply. Clearly it would be impossible to restrict the plant to using local woodfuel only, and at any one time varying proportions of local material might be used. However, the Agent asked me to mention this proposal to any woodland managers I knew in the Howardian Hills, so I have to assume that the intention to use local suppliers was genuine. There is softwood material currently going from the AONB and Ryedale area to Teeside and Drax which could be burnt more locally if there were any suitable plants, thus reducing transport mileage and the associated carbon emissions. Whether that would happen in practice or not would remain to be seen, but without a local biomass plant then it isn't even a possibility.
7. Having clarified some of the points raised in the Parish Council's latest letter of 16th July, I am however in full agreement with the final paragraph of their letter. Although the Agent had not heard of the AONB designation when I first contacted him, and appeared somewhat dismissive of it initially, I had hoped that my comments would result in amendments that addressed these concerns. I am however decidedly underwhelmed by the response to the concerns of both myself and the Parish Council. As explained above I didn't originally suggest that the building could be completely screened by landscaping because that would be almost impossible and at the same time draw attention to it. My proposal, in more detail than I gave

originally, was for an area of trees of such species as would grow to a substantial height, to be planted in the south east corner of the site (as extrapolated eastwards from the southern edge of the existing most southerly shed). A row of Norway maple, which at maturity will barely reach the ridge height of 14.4m, is not adequate. Likewise, although it appears that the Agent has offered the Parish Council a reduction in site levels, it doesn't appear that this has materialised as a formal amended plan.

8. In conclusion:

- I feel that there are still too many unknowns about this proposal for it to be properly decided on the basis of all the facts.
- I'm afraid therefore that, because I don't have confidence that the issues will be adequately addressed by the Agent otherwise, I feel that I need to up-grade my comments to **OBJECTION** until fuller information is provided, namely:
 1. A full levels survey showing ground level of existing buildings and datum level of proposed building.
 2. Elevation drawings from north, south, east and west so that the precise relationship of the proposed building to the rest of the buildings on the site can be accurately judged.
 3. An appropriate landscaping proposal (but accepting that different parties may have differing views on what that should comprise). The suggested scheme satisfies neither myself nor presumably the Parish Council currently.
- Because my Objection will be viewed as a retrograde step by the applicant, Agent and Economy & Infrastructure section of RDC, I will re-iterate my belief that this proposal can be amended to adequately address the issues that I've raised above. It is an exciting development for the AONB and Ryedale area, but it is also a significant building that will be much higher than anything currently on the site. As such therefore it warrants a carefully thought-out and high quality proposal that delivers what the applicant requires but with the impact on the AONB minimised as much as it practically can be. Unfortunately I don't feel we're at, or even approaching, that point yet.

Paul Jackson
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Jane.1 Wilkinson

From: Paul Jackson
Sent: 29 July 2013 10:37
To: dm@ryedale.gov.uk
Cc: Shaun Robson (shaun.robson@ryedale.gov.uk)
Subject: 13/00497/FUL; Erection of building for biomass boiler, Malton Foods, Amotherby

Importance: High

Further to my comments of 24th July I have now received further information from the Agent which has enabled both me and I believe the LPA to understand and therefore evaluate the proposal better.

To re-cap, the main issue that I highlighted in my 24th July response was that there was too much 'hearsay' and supposition about the ground level at which the new building was to be constructed and its height in relation to the existing highest building on the site (the most southerly warehouse building). Because of that I felt that an Objection was justified until (I quote) "fuller information is provided".

I spoke to the Agent twice on Friday afternoon (26th July), during the course of which it was established that:

- There was no proposal to 'cut' the building into the ground, other than what was necessary at the southern end to create a flat surface for it to sit on.
- The base course of the southern warehouse is at 53.55m OD and the base of the new building would be at 49.32m OD. With the building heights of 8m and 14.4m respectively this gave a difference of +2.17m. [This is a particularly important piece of information to have established, as my rudimentary calculations had previously given me a very rough figure of +4.5m for the new building (over the existing one) whereas the Agent believed that it was, at worst, level with the existing building.]
- The applicant was prepared to implement a substantial landscaping scheme to the south of the proposed new building, to create the landscape feature that I had previously described.
- The colour of the proposed building was not at issue as the Agent had already agreed minor colour scheme amendments and this could be covered by way of a Condition.
- I agreed to visit the site again that afternoon in light of this new information and amend my 24th July comments if applicable.

Further to those discussions and my subsequent site visit I can therefore confirm that these are my updated comments in relation to this proposal:

1. I can withdraw my formal objection, as enough of the information that it was designed to elicit is now available and the exact height of the proposed building can be ascertained.
2. I still have concerns about the height of the building however and its impact on the landscape. It will appear very tall from some perspectives (most notably the B1257 to the east of the site in the gap between Swinton and Amotherby).
3. Should the LPA be minded to approve this application then the following points should be incorporated by way of Condition:
 - The colour of the walls and roof should be dark green; the doors dark grey; and the flue dark green to match the walls.
 - A substantial landscaping scheme should be implemented to the south of the proposed building in order to disrupt views of it. This should incorporate a mix of native shrubs and trees that will grow on to be substantially taller than the proposed building in the longer term. The Revised Plan as submitted does not represent an adequate scheme for a building of this size. I would wish to be involved in the drawing-up of the landscaping scheme.
 - The LPA may wish to impose a Condition relating to ground level height OD for the new building.
 - The LPA may wish to impose a Condition relating to a timescale for removal of the existing stack, after a reasonable commissioning period for the new biomass plant.

Jane.1 Wilkinson

From: Paul Jackson
Sent: 01 July 2013 15:30
To: dm@ryedale.gov.uk
Cc: Edward Senior
Subject: 13/00452/FUL: Formation of vehicular access with internal access road and alterations to existing access; Ampleforth Abbey & College

Importance: High

Whilst I have no objection in principle to the widening of the existing access and the formation of a new access, I am extremely concerned that no details appear to have been submitted for the internal access road.

Bearing in mind that this needs to be wide enough to accommodate coaches (so is likely to need cut-and-fill), is on a steep slope (so is likely to need retaining walls of some sort), and zig-zags through an open grass field on a prominent bankside within the AONB, then the lack of information about how this is to be constructed is frankly unbelievable.

Because there seems to be no information, and this is the element that could have a significantly detrimental impact on the landscape of the AONB, then I have no alternative but to register the strongest **Objection** to this proposal at the current time. It cannot be approved in its current state, with no information about one of its potentially most significant damaging elements.

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Jane.1 Wilkinson

From: dm@ryedale.gov.uk
Sent: 15 July 2013 12:44
To: Paul Jackson
Subject: Consultee Comments for Planning Application 13/00638/FUL

Mr Paul Jackson,

You have been sent this email because you or somebody else has submitted a consultee comment on a Planning Application to your local authority using your email address. A summary of your comments is provided below.

Comments were submitted at 12:44 PM on 15 Jul 2013 from paul.jackson@northyorks.gov.uk.

Application Summary

Reference: 13/00638/FUL

Address: Pigeon Cote Farm Cottage Main Street
Welburn Malton YO60 7DZ

Proposal: Change of use, alteration and extension of an agricultural building to form a 3-bedroom dwelling with single-storey extension to the north, erection of a 3 bay car port and an agricultural building for the housing of sheep, together with demolition of existing extension, car port, lean-to and pole barn

Case Officer: Alan Hunter

[Click for further information](#)

Comments Details

Comments: Other consultees have submitted comments in relation to bringing these disused buildings in the centre of the village back into use and I would support those. My only observation would be that a boiler flue with a dark finish (not stainless steel) should be used so as not to detract from the historic building. My principal comments relate to the colour of the materials to be used for the proposed sheepshed. No colour is specified for the roof - this must be a dark colour, such as Anthracite Grey or similar. Likewise, the doors ought to be in a dark grey finish and ideally the timber boarding should be treated with a dark stain. These comments could be incorporated by way of a Condition (the most important of which is the roof colour). Paul Jackson

Jane.1 Wilkinson

From: Paul Jackson
Sent: 01 August 2013 17:12
To: planning@hambleton.gov.uk
Subject: 13/01471/FUL: Formation of fenced menage, Stearsby Hall

I have the following observations to make on this application:

1. No objections to the formation of the ménage.
2. Normally I would object to lighting, on the basis that arenas are often quite separated from existing buildings and the lighting usually consists of floodlights on metal poles. Objective D3.4 of the AONB Management Plan discourages new sources of light pollution in the AONB. In this instance however I feel that the ménage is sited close enough to existing sources of light in the village and would not therefore be viewed as a separate intrusion into open countryside. Likewise, the low-level lighting proposed should hopefully have a more diffuse effect than floodlights and therefore be less intrusive.

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Jane.1 Wilkinson

From: Paul Jackson
Sent: 07 August 2013 15:21
To: dm@ryedale.gov.uk
Subject: 13/00728/FUL: Erection of 3 dwellings following demolition of existing dwelling; The Croft, Welburn

I visited the site today and have the following minor observations to make:

1. Given that there are already two-storey buildings on both sides of the proposed dwellings, I do not feel that the proposal will result in a significantly overbearing appearance.
2. The existing ground level rises to the south however, into the property. The plans show the ridge heights of the proposed houses as being roughly comparable with those of the adjacent houses on both sides. It is not unknown for builders to raise the floor level so that the house eventually sits higher than the original ground level, generally in order to be able to secure a better view from the property. A Condition should be applied if the application is approved, to ensure that the proposed houses maintain the ridge line relationships as shown on the plans and do not 'grow' so as to become higher than indicated.
3. The plot currently has a good level of landscaping provided by garden trees and shrubs and the proposal for new/replacement planting is supported.

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Jane.1 Wilkinson

From: dm@ryedale.gov.uk
Sent: 22 October 2013 10:06
To: Paul Jackson
Subject: Consultee Comments for Planning Application 13/00728/FUL

Mr Paul Jackson,

You have been sent this email because you or somebody else has submitted a consultee comment on a Planning Application to your local authority using your email address. A summary of your comments is provided below.

Comments were submitted at 10:05 AM on 22 Oct 2013 from paul.jackson@northyorks.gov.uk.

Application Summary

Reference: 13/00728/FUL

Address: The Croft Main Street Welburn Malton
YO60 7EQ

Proposal: Erection of 3 no. 4 bedroom dwellings and
1 no. detached garage following demolition
of existing dwelling, and formation of
vehicular access.

Case Officer: Rachel Smith

[Click for further information](#)

Comments Details

Comments: Having examined the revised plans and correspondence it is clear that both the original application and the revised plans have attracted significant negative comments with regard to density and 'neighbour' issues. Whilst I had some concerns about the density proposed in the original application, I didn't feel that this was an issue that would have a significant impact in AONB terms. The proposed houses were designed to match adjacent modern houses of a similar type, and the layout of components reflected the local street scene. The revised plans however, in attempting to appease neighbour concerns (unsuccessfully it appears), have now placed the garage of Plot 3 in the front garden. Having looked at the other adjacent properties, none of them have ancillary buildings adjacent to the front boundary and hence I feel that this aspect would mar the street scene of the village and be out of keeping with the local vernacular. New development clearly needs to be acceptable in all aspects before it can be approved, particularly in an AONB. The original plans attracted significant adverse comments from neighbours and the consequent revisions have now resulted in a

proposal that I feel would have a negative impact on the visual amenity of the AONB. The revisions clearly also have not ameliorated the neighbours' concerns either. In the light of this it appears that the site is not able to satisfactorily accommodate the proposed density of development without being detrimental to either the neighbours or the AONB, and hence I feel that it should be Refused. Paul Jackson

Jane.1 Wilkinson

From: dm@ryedale.gov.uk
Sent: 10 September 2013 17:15
To: Paul Jackson
Subject: Consultee Comments for Planning Application 13/00921/FUL

Mr Paul Jackson,

You have been sent this email because you or somebody else has submitted a consultee comment on a Planning Application to your local authority using your email address. A summary of your comments is provided below.

Comments were submitted at 5:15 PM on 10 Sep 2013 from paul.jackson@northyorks.gov.uk.

Application Summary

Reference: 13/00921/FUL

Address: Close Farm Swinton Lane Swinton Malton
North Yorkshire YO17 6QR

Proposal: Change of use, alteration and partial rebuilding of barn to form 1 no. two bedroom dwelling with attached office and workshop with parking and amenity areas together with change of use and alteration of cart shed to form 1 no. three bedroom dwelling with associated workshop in adjacent steel barns and parking and amenity areas (both dwellings to be classed as live/work units).

Case Officer: Alan Hunter

[Click for further information](#)

Comments Details

Comments: Unfortunately I haven't been able to visit the actual site due to other commitments, but have done a desk-based assessment and am familiar with the general site area. I have the following observations to make: 1) There are a number of mature trees that frame this farmstead. A Condition should be imposed to ensure that mature trees are safeguarded during the restoration works. 2) It appears from the plans that a number of the buildings are to have sheet roofs, possibly replacing old materials for new ones. Any new roof sheeting should be of an appropriate color - Anthracite Grey or perhaps a terracotta colour (to mimic either slate or pantiles, as appropriate). 3) A Condition should be imposed prohibiting any lighting along the access track, which runs through open countryside for a considerable distance. 4) The junction of the access track with the public highway will require a section of kerbing and hard surfacing in order to

comply with NYCC requirements.
Consideration could be given to using
Harvest Buff conservation kerbing rather
than standard concrete kerbing. Paul
Jackson