

# Howardian Hills



Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

The Mews, Wath Court  
Hovingham  
York  
North Yorkshire, YO62 4NN

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## HOWARDIAN HILLS AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Venue: **Hovingham Village Hall** (see attached location plan)

Date: **26<sup>th</sup> March 2015 at 10.00am**

### Business

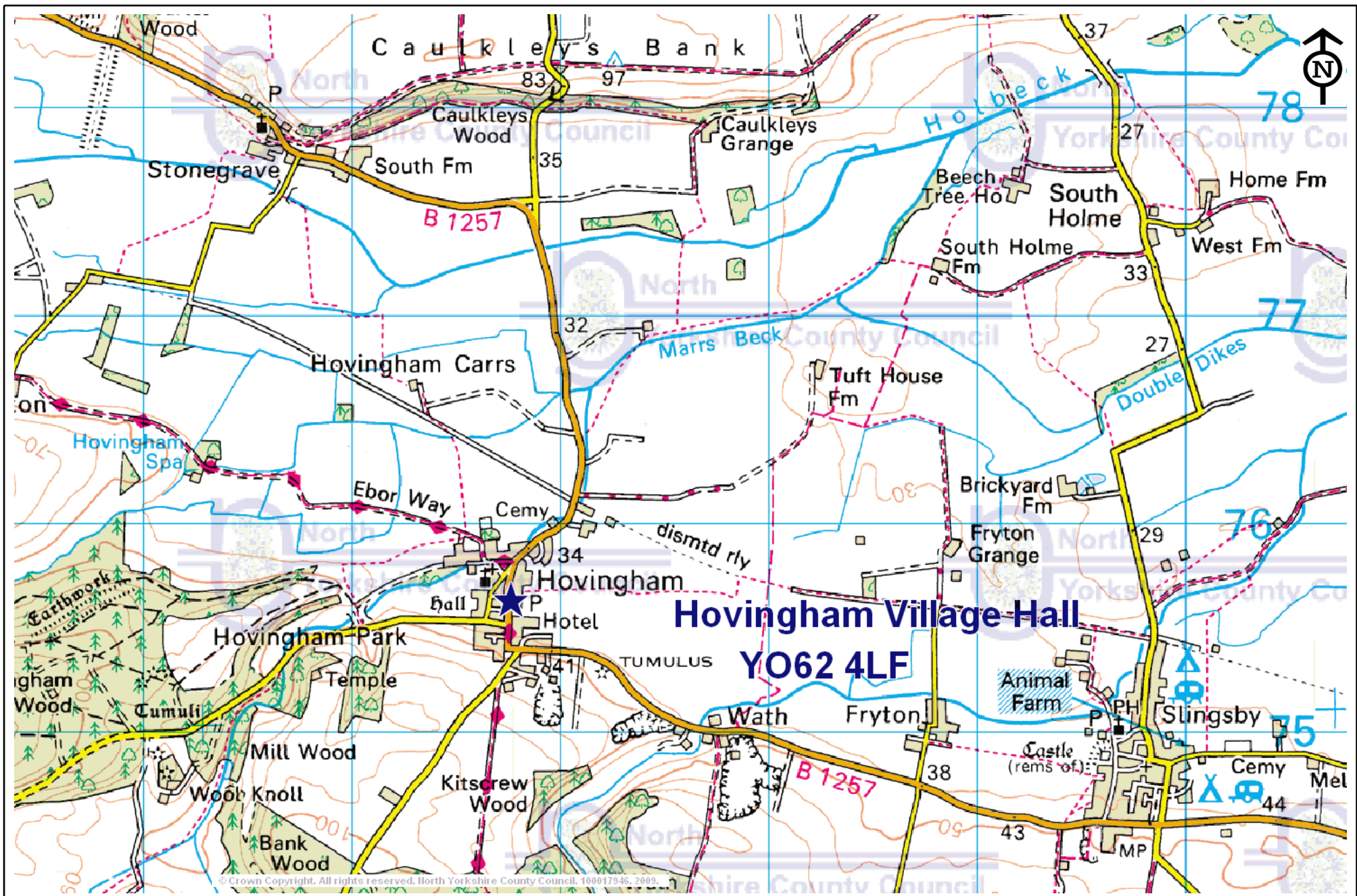
1. Apologies.
2. Minutes of the Joint Advisory Committee meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2014. (Pages 1 to 10)
3. AONB Unit Activity. (Pages 11 to 58)
4. Development within the AONB. (Pages 59 to 63)
5. AONB Action Programme 2014/15. (Pages 64 to 68)
6. AONB Business Plan and Action Programme 2015/16. (Pages 69 to 73)
7. Business Planning for the Future – AONB Unit Office Move. (Pages 74 to 80)
8. National Association for AONBs (NAAONB) Activity. (Page 81)
9. Oral Reports from Partner Organisations.
10. Dates of next JAC meetings to be agreed.
11. Such other business as, in the opinion of the Chairman should, by reason of special circumstances, be considered as a matter of urgency.

## HOWARDIAN HILLS AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

### JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS - CONTACT DETAILS

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Representative</u>	<u>Telephone</u>	<u>Fax</u>	<u>E-mail</u>
AONB Unit	P B Jackson (AONB Manager) E Bassindale (AONB Officer) M Cochrane (AONB Assistant)	0845 034 9495 " "	-	paul.jackson@northyorks.gov.uk liz.bassindale@northyorks.gov.uk maggie.cochrane@northyorks.gov.uk
North Yorkshire County Council	C Wood C Patmore G Megson (Officer) J Wilkinson (Secretary)	(01904) 489362 (01347) 868731 (01609) 533107 (01609) 533218	(01904) 488982  (01609) 532558 (01609) 532343	cllr.clare.wood@northyorks.gov.uk cllr.caroline.patmore@northyorks.gov.uk graham.megson@northyorks.gov.uk jane.1.wilkinson@northyorks.gov.uk
Ryedale District Council	J Hicks C R Wainwright (Vice-chairman) P Craddock (Officer)	(01653) 628242 (01653) 628364 (01653) 600666	(01653) 628364 (01653) 696801	cllr.john.hicks@ryedale.gov.uk cllr.robert.wainwright@ryedale.gov.uk paula.craddock@ryedale.gov.uk
Hambleton District Council	C Cookman (Chairman) A McCormack (Officer)	(01347) 810047 (01609) 767097	(01609) 767248	cllr.christine.cookman@hambleton.gov.uk andrew.mccormack@hambleton.gov.uk
Parish Councils (Ryedale)	S Brown	(01751) 430053		sbrown1140@blueyonder.co.uk
Parish Councils (Hambleton)	Vacant	-		-
Country Land and Business Association	W Worsley	(01653) 628771	(01653) 628668	office@hovingham.co.uk
National Farmers Union	(Vacant) R Hicks	- (01751) 470293		- robert_hicks@nfumutual.co.uk
Forestry Commission	K Hawley	(01904) 448778		kate.hawley@forestry.gsi.gov.uk
Ramblers	S Harness	(01653) 619858		steven.harness364@gmail.com
Natural England	J Clark	(0300) 060 2032		justine.clark@naturalengland.org.uk
Natural England	R Eaton	(0300) 060 1880		rosy.eaton@naturalengland.org.uk

- Paul Jackson, Howardian Hills AONB Unit, The Mews, Wath Court, Hovingham, York. YO62 4NN
- Liz Bassindale, Howardian Hills AONB Unit, The Mews, Wath Court, Hovingham, York. YO62 4NN
- Maggie Cochrane, Howardian Hills AONB Unit, The Mews, Wath Court, Hovingham, York. YO62 4NN
- Cllr Clare Wood, Brockfield Hall, Warthill, York. YO19 5XJ
- Cllr Caroline Patmore, The Old Post Office, Oulston, York. YO61 3RA
- Graham Megson, Natural Environment Team Leader, Waste & Countryside Services, North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Northallerton. DL7 8AH
- Jane Wilkinson, Committee Services, North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Northallerton. DL7 8AD
- Cllr John Hicks, Cockpit Farm, Cawton, Hovingham, York. YO62 4LW
- Cllr Robert Wainwright, Hall Farm, Hovingham, York. YO62 4LF
- Paula Craddock, Forward Planning & Conservation, Ryedale District Council, Ryedale House, Malton. YO17 0HH
- Cllr Christine Cookman, Cottage Farm, High Street, Stillington, York. YO61 1LG
- Andrew McCormack, Planning Policy & Conservation, Hambleton District Council, Civic Centre, Stonecross, Northallerton. DL6 2UU
- Sally Brown, West View, Queen Street, Gillamoor, York. YO62 7HU
- Sir William Worsley, Estate Office, Church Street, Hovingham, York. YO62 4LX
- Rob Hicks, National Farmers Union, Enterprise Way, Thornton Road Industrial Estate, Pickering, North Yorkshire YO18 7NA
- Kate Hawley, Forestry Commission, Room G34, Foss House, Kings Pool, 1-2 Peasholme Green, York. YO1 7PX
- Steven Harness, Orchard House, Bulmer, York. YO60 7BL
- Justine Clark, Natural England, Foss House, Kings Pool, 1-2 Peasholme Green, York. YO1 7PX
- Rosy Eaton, Natural England, Foss House, Kings Pool, 1-2 Peasholme Green, York. YO1 7PX



**Hovingham Village Hall, YO62 4LF - Road Map**

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Map scale: Scale 1/24525  
 Date: Date 28/1/2009  
 Created by: JD  
 Grid Ref: Centre = 467577 E 476337 N



## Howardian Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

### Joint Advisory Committee

The Minutes of the meeting held at Howarth Village Hall on 14 November 2014, commencing at 10.00 am.

**Present:-**

**Members:-**

Hambleton District Council: Councillor Christine Cookman in the Chair

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

Ryedale District Council: Councillor Robert Wainwright

Parish Councils: Sally Brown (Ryedale)

Country Land and Business Association: William Worsley

Natural England: Rosy Eaton

**Officers:**

Howardian Hills: Paul Jackson, Liz Bassindale and Maggie Cochrane

North Yorkshire County Council: Steve Loach (Secretary) and Graham Megson (Waste & Countryside Services)

Ryedale District Council: Paula Craddock

**By Invitation:**

Amy Thomas - Programme Manager LEADER Local Development Strategy

**Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book**

**29. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Justine Clark (Natural England), Graham Banks (Hambleton District Council) and Jane Wilkinson (Secretary - North Yorkshire County Council).

**30. Minutes**

**Resolved –**

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 3 April 2014, having been previously circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record, subject to the following alterations:-

Minute No. 27 - Reports from Partner Organisations - Natural England

The whole paragraph be amended to read as follows:-

“The structure of the local area teams was now complete. The five strong management team, headed by David Shaw, was responsible for Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire. The new Team Leader for North Yorkshire and the Howardian Hills

AONB area was Christine Robertson. Details of the new local delivery model were still being worked on and it was not anticipated that they would be finalised for another few months.”

NB – See Minute No.39 below.

### **31. Matters Arising**

#### Minute No. 24 - AONB Business Plan and Action Programme 2014/15

The AONB Manager stated that the Minute had indicated that he hoped to present a clearer position with regards to the future budget for the AONB at today's meeting, however, he noted that, at this stage, he was not in a position to provide any further details in relation to the long term funding for the AONB. He stated that he would provide budget details within the budget report.

#### Minute No. 26 - National Association for AONB's Activity

The AONB Manager referred to the DEFRA report “Maximising Revenue for Protected Landscapes”, mentioned in the Minutes. He noted that the report had not been officially released by DEFRA on a public basis as yet, with only restricted access given to that, which had allowed a copy to be provided to the Chairman of the Joint Advisory Committee. He emphasised that when that became publicly available he would circulate to the remainder of the Members.

#### Minute No. 27 - Reports from Partner Organisations - Ryedale District

In relation to the request for the Minutes and agenda papers of the JAC Committee to be made available for wider distribution it was noted that these had now been uploaded onto the County Council website and were generally available for all to view and use accordingly.

### **32. 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 April 2014 to October 2014.

A slideshow provided 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 provided at the meeting.

The following projects were highlighted in particular:

- ◆ High Farm, Brandsby.
- ◆ Wiganthorpe Wall, Scackleton.
- ◆ Acorn Hill Barn.
- ◆ Tree planting, Throstle Nest Farm, Sproxton.
- ◆ Churchyard development - Appleton le Street and Amotherby Churchyard.
- ◆ Jeffrey Bog.
- ◆ Fairy Dell.
- ◆ Exmoor Ponies.
- ◆ Bee Orchid - Yearsley Moor.
- ◆ Rhododendron clearing - Yearsley Moor.

- ◆ School twinning plus final visits.
- ◆ Junior Rangers - Howsham Mill.
- ◆ 25th Anniversary Log Seats.

Arising from the presentation the following issues and points were highlighted:-

- ◆ In terms of the repaired wall at High Farm, Brandsby it was noted that a one metre strip up to the wall was kept clear, by spraying, to prevent the reoccurrence of problems and to ensure that maintenance could be carried out.
- ◆ Congratulations were offered for the school's twinning project that had been delivered and the benefits that this had brought to the children involved.
- ◆ The importance of encouraging volunteers was emphasised and it was noted that their involvement in community projects was an essential part of the 2020 Vision for North Yorkshire County Council.
- ◆ It was noted that public access to Howsham Mill was available every Sunday, with no restrictions on the public footpath and bridge leading to the Mill.
- ◆ At the request of the Chairman the AONB Manager agreed to prepare a map providing details of the location of the 25th Anniversary log seats, and to put this on the AONB website. It was noted that a number of the seats were in very well used locations but that some were intentionally in less well used places.

The AONB Manager provided details of volunteer activity that had taken place during 2013/14. He expected even more voluntary contribution to be indicated for 2014/15.

He noted that the number of planning applications had risen substantially during the year, which had resulted in an increased workload for the AONB Team and noted that this particular aspect of the team's work was unpredictable.

A printed version of the AONB Management Plan was circulated to Members of the Committee and it was noted that this was now available on the website, with a view to reducing the number of printed copies required.

Details of a project undertaken alongside Ryedale District Council and "Visit York" which encourages people visiting York to spend some time in the Ryedale and Howardian Hills areas were outlined. The project gives publicity to the areas and also provides details of public transport links. Members queried how the economic benefit of the project to the Ryedale and Howardian Hills areas was monitored and the AONB Manager stated that he would obtain that information to demonstrate the benefits that had been obtained through the project.

#### **Resolved –**

That the report and issues raised be noted.

### **33. JAC Planning Consultations**

Considered -

Details of the response of the AONB Manager to various planning consultations that had arisen since the previous meeting. Details of the responses were set out in full in the report.

The following issues and points were raised in discussion of the report:

- ◆ It was unclear as yet as to whether the large increase in planning applications was across all Authorities and the AONB Manager stated that a clearer picture would be available at the next meeting of the JAC. Members suggested it would be interesting to compare the figures across the different Authorities to determine whether the economic upturn was a major factor in this increase. It was noted that there was a mixture of types of applications; however, there had not been a significant increase in the number of housing developments. It was suggested that a year on year analysis of the number of planning consultations undertaken within the AONB, together with planning application figures from the local authorities, be provided for consideration to determine whether there was a trend in relation to an increase in planning applications and whether this was associated with the economic upturn.
- ◆ Concern was raised regarding the planning process whereby planning applications were submitted and before they were put forward for a decision, by a Planning Committee, these were withdrawn, probably to amend the application to address issues that had arisen during the application stage, and then were dealt with through a delegated decision. This did not allow any further comment on the application from bodies, such as the AONB, on the amended application. It was asked how this could be addressed. In response the AONB Manager emphasised that comments would have been submitted on the original application submission and it was unlikely that significant changes, that were unacceptable to the AONB, would be included in a revised application that was subsequently delegated to officer decision. It was noted that some authorities had a pre-application process that allowed comments and issues to be resolved prior to the application being submitted initially, which negated the need for the withdrawal and resubmissions stage.

#### **Resolved -**

That the report and issues raised be noted.

### **34. LEADER Local Development Strategy**

LEADER Programme Manager, Amy Thomas, gave a presentation, highlighting the following:-

#### Introduction

- ◆ LEADER - Rural Development Programme for England - private/public sector partnership.
- ◆ £2.6m - Last programme - £5.6m with matched funding.
- ◆ Supported 65 projects.
- ◆ Small scale environmental schemes.

#### LEADER - 2015/2020

- ◆ Transition from one project to next.
- ◆ National Park - lead partner.



- ◆ NYCC - accountable body.
- ◆ Linked various partners.
- ◆ Consulting local partners - local consultation events.
- ◆ Local development strategy - submitted to DEFRA - decision expected shortly.
- ◆ Looking at projects, promotion, recruitment to Executive.

A map of the LEADER area was outlined.

#### Programme

- ◆ Economic in focus.
- ◆ Projects to deliver 70% direct economic benefit.
- ◆ Six priorities - set by DEFRA - determined by local need.
- ◆ Create 115 jobs f/t, 210 businesses supported, 107 projects funded.

#### Programme Priorities

##### First Year

- ◆ Agricultural productivity.
- ◆ Micro-small businesses.
- ◆ Rural tourism.

##### Following Years

- ◆ Rural services.
- ◆ Culture and heritage.
- ◆ Other projects.

##### Next Steps

- ◆ Work on projects.
- ◆ Expect decision from DEFRA.
- ◆ Updates on website.
- ◆ Recruit volunteers for Executive Group.
- ◆ Expect to have up and running from January.

It was stated that the presentation slides would be circulated to Members of the JAC.

Discussion of the presentation resulted in the following issues and points being highlighted:-

- ◆ It was expected that the three top priorities outlined would be the concentration for efforts within the first year of the programme with other priorities targeted from 2016 onwards.
- ◆ The new Executive Body would be the decision-making body that would decide on the various applications for funding that come in. Members of the Executive Body would come from the various surrounding local authority groups.
- ◆ A detailed map, outlined in the presentation, was available on the website and had a zoom facility.
- ◆ There would still be opportunities for the continuation of existing projects, however, these would have to deliver clear economic outputs.
- ◆ Consideration was being given to how to develop the Farmers' Network and Information Exchange through various partners and networks in an attempt to develop this.
- ◆ It was noted that development work was taking place on all of the priorities, not just the first three, however, the later priorities were at a less developed stage currently.
- ◆ It was emphasised that all aspects of how to deliver the priorities would be taken account of for each project to ensure delivery brought maximum benefit.

#### **Resolved -**

That Amy Thomas be thanked for her presentation, the contents of which be noted, together with the issues raised.

### **35. AONB Indicators**

Considered -

The report of the AONB Manager providing details of the indicators used to measure AONB partnership performance, annually. The results for 2013/14 were attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

The AONB Manager highlighted the financial resources indicator which showed the total income for the AONB as £207,225, with 91% of that figure being received from DEFRA and local authorities. He went on to highlight the additional resources mobilised by AONB Unit through its partnership work which totalled £ 337,545, the percentage of the figure from DEFRA in relation to that was 37% and from local authorities 18%. This demonstrated the level of financial leverage and added value obtained by the AONB Unit through its wider project programmes and partnerships.

#### **Resolved -**

That the performance indicator results contained in Appendix 1 to the report be noted.

### **36. Business Planning for the Future**

Considered -

The report of the AONB Manager requesting the Joint Advisory Committee to consider the next steps for improving the efficiency of the AONB Unit processes and also potential options for future office accommodation. The report set out the issues to be taken account of in relation to the business planning, highlighting the following:-

- ◆ The DEFRA grant had declined by 21% over the previous four financial years and was likely to continue in that manner.
- ◆ NYCC, the largest local authority contributor, was looking to reduce its budget in the future and, although there were no reductions planned for 2015/16, there was the potential for reductions in funding provided in the future.
- ◆ The budget for 2015/16 worked on an assumption of a 2% reduction in budget from DEFRA.
- ◆ The main areas that require consideration in relation to future challenges, to be worked on over the next six months, were highlighted as the processes for distributing money to projects and the possible relocation of the AONB Unit office.
- ◆ In terms of the processes for distributing money to projects, details of the proposed changes were provided within the report.
- ◆ In terms of the potential relocation of the AONB Unit office it was noted that three potential alternative sites had been considered these being Ryedale House, the Area Highways Office at Kirby Misperton and the North York Moors National Park Authority Office in Helmsley. It was also noted that there was some potential for the use of the library at Easingwold, but that was subject to other factors at the moment, therefore, may be too early for consideration as a site. The potential of locating on the Sheriff Hutton Industrial Estate had also been considered. The various pros and cons of the sites highlighted were outlined.
- ◆ It was noted that the relocation option could utilise the two year break clause in the current lease for the Wath Court Offices, should it be desirable to relocate the AONB Unit in December 2015. It was noted that relocation could save in the region of £6,500 per annum.

Members discussed the issues raised in the report and the following points and issues were highlighted:-

- ◆ The potential new office locations would enable some shared services to be developed which could be of benefit to the AONB.
- ◆ The relocation of the Unit office would see one-off costs being incurred, which would have a slightly detrimental effect on the budget for the forthcoming year.
- ◆ Members suggested that the current location of the AONB Unit office was appropriate and it would be beneficial if the Unit could remain there.
- ◆ It was noted that funding from NYCC and DEFRA would be subject to variation in the future and the situation as to how much the AONB would receive remained volatile. It was considered appropriate, therefore, that

consideration be given to how best to save resources in terms of the AONB Unit and that relocation would need to be a factor to be taken account of. It was suggested that talks be held with NYCC Property Services in respect of potential office locations and that a report be submitted to the next meeting of the JAC providing details of potential cost savings alongside various venues, to allow Members to make an informed decision on this matter.

- ◆ It was noted that other cost factors relating to a relocation would also need to be taken account of when determining the overall costs of relocating.
- ◆ It was noted that there was a potential for remaining at the current location, in a smaller unit, but that was yet to be investigated and that could be included in the report to the future meeting.
- ◆ It was suggested that all potential funding sources be considered in terms of the location of the Unit as there was a potential for low cost office space to be obtained in the area which could be of benefit and help to reduce costs.
- ◆ It was recognised that the possible relocation of the Unit was a complex issue, but emphasised that this had to be undertaken by December 2015, otherwise the lease would have to continue until December 2017. It was noted that the issue was made more difficult because the funding allocation from DEFRA for the AONB would not be determined until probably December 2015, however, notice to quit to the landlord for the current office location would have to be provided by June 2015. It was necessary, therefore, for any decision on a move by the Unit to be made at the next meeting.

#### **Resolved -**

- (i) That the efficiency changes proposed for the project funding processes be noted; and
- (ii) That work be undertaken to scope options for changing the location of the AONB Unit office, as outlined in section 4 of the report, and that a further report be submitted to the next meeting of the JAC for a decision to be made on those options.

### **37. AONB Budget**

Considered -

The report of the AONB Manager providing details of expenditure during 2013/14 and requesting Members to consider anticipated budgetary needs for 2015/16.

Details of the final income and expenditure accounts for 2013/14 were set out in Appendix 1 to the report and details of countryside management and Sustainable Development Fund projects supported were detailed in Appendix 2 to the report.

The final analysis of the budget saw little variation from the original budget and gave a projected carry forward of £45,000, with £9,300 having been allocated to projects in 2014/15.

Details of the 2014/15 budget were provided in Appendix 3 to the report, which amounted to £176,026 but did not include the balance of reserves of £45,689 from 2013/14. Details of potential underspends and overspends on the budget were outlined.

The proposed budget for 2015/16 was also provided in Appendix 3 to the report and was expected to be £ 168,129 although it was noted that it would be late in the current financial year before the exact position of any of the funding partners was known.

It was noted that staffing costs had been reduced slightly in the figures provided and that the proposed 2.2% pay award to April 2016 had been factored in.

It was noted that, in view of the decision made on the previous item, the office costs were not yet known.

The AONB Manager provided highlights of the proposals within the proposed 2015/16 budget.

It was suggested that the terminology used in terms of the carry forward should not be described as reserves as this was not always considered appropriate, in terms of carrying (reserves) forward by Central Government. It was therefore suggested that this be referred to in future as carried forward budget.

#### **Resolved -**

- (i) That the details of the JAC expenditure during 2013/14 be received for information; and
- (ii) That partner authorities be requested to consider making financial contributions towards the work of the JAC in 2015/16, in line with the details set out in Appendix 3 and section 4 of the report.

### **38. National Association for AONBs (NAAONB) - Activity Update**

Considered -

The report of the CEO for the NAAONB from October 2013 to October 2014. The report set out the work completed for the NAAONB Business Plan during the timeframe highlighted.

Highlights included:

- ◆ The work undertaken by the NAAONB to ensure that no in-year cuts in budget were implemented by DEFRA.
- ◆ Meetings had been held with both Chambers of the Parliament in England, the Assembly Members in Wales, Senior Civil Servants and Board Members of both Natural England and Natural Resources Wales, to raise the importance of the AONBs and the challenges they are facing.
- ◆ The individual financial contributions to the National Association from the AONBs was substantial but not set to rise; however, the Association provided an ability to be represented at a national level and on a national stage and was of great importance to the AONBs.
- ◆ The papers for the Annual General Meeting of the NAAONB were published on the national website and the Chairman and AONB Manager would be attending that meeting on behalf of the JAC.

Members welcomed the report and emphasised the importance of being a part of the national body that was able to negotiate on their behalf at a national level.

**Resolved -**

That the report be noted.

**39. Reports from Partner Organisations**

Ryedale District Council

It was noted that the Minutes of the previous meeting referred to a final document to be submitted in terms of site selection for the Council's core strategy. This, however, should have been referred to as a draft document which would be submitted for consultation in the New Year. A meeting to consider the draft document would take place at Ryedale District Council on 27 January 2015. Paula Craddock requested that the Minutes of the previous meeting be amended to read "...and the draft document for consultation was due to be approved by Full Council in January 2015."

It was noted that Ms Craddock had arrived late at the Meeting and, therefore, had been unable to raise this issue when the Minutes were signed as a correct record. It was accepted that the amendment highlighted was appropriate and could be included as an amendment to the previous minutes.

Natural England

The representative of Natural England highlighted the New Countryside Stewardship Scheme and noted that details would be available in relation to this shortly.

Hambleton District Council

Details would be available shortly on the New Single Local Plan which the District Council was developing and would be looking to adopt. It was noted that consultation had taken place with all partners on planning and land development in relation to this. Local communities had benefited from being able to submit into that consultation process and further consultation would take place once the Local Plan had been developed and adopted.

It was noted that Hambleton District Council's officer representative, Graham Banks, was to leave the local authority shortly.

**40. Dates of Future JAC Meetings**

**Resolved -**

- (i) That the date and time of the next meeting of the Joint Advisory Committee be Thursday 26 March 2015 at 10.00 am.
- (ii) That consideration be given to whether to undertake an annual site visit at the next meeting of the JAC.

The meeting concluded at 12.30pm

SL/JR

**HOWARDIAN HILLS  
AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY  
JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
26 MARCH 2015**

**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 last meeting of the JAC.

**2.0 SUMMARY OF PROGRESS ACHIEVED**

- 2.1 Appendix 1 gives separate details of the meetings and site visits that have been carried out by the AONB Manager, AONB Officer and AONB Assistant in the period 6<sup>th</sup> November 2014 to 18<sup>th</sup> March 2015. Appendix 2 gives full details of the wide range of projects that the AONB Project Fund has assisted during the year. Appendix 3 gives details of the Consultations that the JAC has received during the year.
- 2.2 Countryside management work has been continuing, through the AONB Project Fund. Several significant wall and hedge restoration projects have come forward for consideration – some of these are due to be completed this financial year with others scheduled for next year. The Sustainable Development Fund projects are progressing and are on course for completion.
- 2.3 Volunteer activity on practical tasks during the last six months has focussed on completing rhododendron clearance work in Park Wood adjacent to the Yearsley Moor Woodlands SINC and starting work on a cross dyke Scheduled Monument at Newburgh.
- 2.4 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. An AONB Photography Competition has also been organised as part of the RAY programme this year, which resulted in some high quality photographs that we will also be able to use ourselves in publicity material.
- 2.5 Work with Castle Howard, Sustrans, Welcome to Yorkshire and Ryedale District Council has progressed production of a leaflet and web-based information/printable walking and cycling route guides based on the wider Castle Howard Estate.
- 2.6 An initiative with Visit York in partnership with Ryedale DC has resulted in a promotional programme to encourage visitors to stay an extra night and visit the area north of York. Statistics on the impact of this are expected to be received later in the Spring.
- 2.7 A February Junior Ranger Club was delivered, with planning for the next one at Easter 2015 now being undertaken. Full details of the activities and attendance for the 2014/15 activity sessions are shown in Appendix 4.
- 2.8 Photographs from all the chosen Fixed Point sites have now been taken, to provide the baseline dataset for photographic monitoring of the Condition of the AONB landscape.
- 2.9 Copies of the 16 planning/agri-environment scheme consultation responses made since the last meeting of the JAC are attached for information as part of Appendix 3.

- 2.10 A brief for a Monument Management Scheme was prepared and submitted to English Heritage for potential funding. In early March we were invited to submit a full application for funding for a 4-year project, which will pay for a specified amount of AONB staff time to organise volunteers to survey and carry out management works on Scheduled Monuments in the AONB.
- 2.11 Detailed investigation and analysis was carried out to scope alternative locations for the AONB Unit office, to inform a separate report on this agenda.
- 2.12 NAAONB work has principally involved participating in on-line discussions and information-sharing, and attending the national Chairmen and Lead Officers seminar and AGM in November.
- 2.13 The Joint Advisory Committee's annual budget is projected to be fully spent this year. The balance carried forward into 2015/16 is therefore predicted to be approximately £41,700. £5,500 of reserve has been allocated within the 2015/16 budget, but this will be adjusted as necessary once the final grant application is submitted to English Heritage for the Monument Management Scheme and it becomes clearer how much should be allocated to this element of the work programme.
- 2.14 A grant allocation proposal for 2015/16 was submitted to Defra in February and the formal Offer Letter is awaited. The Defra contribution for 2015/16 was confirmed later than usual but encouragingly is at the same level as for 2014/15, in line with the Minister's aspirations expressed at the NAAONB Conference in July 2014. The interim claim for payment of the 2014/15 grant was also submitted on schedule in January and payment is awaited.

### **3.0 RECOMMENDATION**

That the report be received for information.



## AONB MANAGER'S REPORT

6<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2014 – 18<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2015

Work during this period has principally consisted of:

- Planning application consultation responses.
- Gathering information to prepare a scoping report for possible new locations for the AONB office.
- Developing a Project Brief for a Monuments Management Scheme for submission to English Heritage.
- Becoming involved in the NYCC/RDC Jacobs Study on possible dualling of the A64.
- Answering queries and negotiating with English Heritage to secure funding for a Monument Management Scheme.
- Annual Leave (1 day/wk) and 1-week holiday.

MEETINGS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• November JAC meeting</li> <li>• November Quarterly Work Programme update</li> <li>• Planning applications - Sproxton; Gilling; Malton (x2)</li> <li>• SEP Upland Landscapes priority projects, Harrogate</li> <li>• LEADER - Forestry &amp; Woodland Productivity baseline report; Agri-network development, Helmsley</li> <li>• WACS full departmental meeting, County Hall</li> <li>• Potential office space, North York Moors National Park, Helmsley</li> <li>• Training Skills project, Harrogate (x4)</li> <li>• December Core Partners Group</li> <li>• NY Geodiversity Partnership, Northallerton</li> <li>• A64 dualling study, Malton</li> <li>• SINC Steering Group, Northallerton</li> <li>• RDC Public fracking debate, Malton</li> <li>• DPCR5 / RIIO-ED1 Steering Group, Northallerton</li> <li>• Training Skills project farm business advisor Tenders selection, Helmsley</li> <li>• A64 dualling study final report</li> <li>• NE/FC/AONB joint working on Countryside Stewardship, York</li> <li>• March Quarterly Work Programme update</li> <li>• March Core Partners Group</li> <li>• R. Derwent Catchment Partnership, York</li> </ul>

Project round-up meetings with Liz.  
Monthly AONB Team meetings.

NAAONB
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NAAONB Chairmen's Conference, London.</li> <li>• NAAONB AGM, London.</li> </ul>

MEETINGS (FUTURE)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training Skills project, Harrogate (x4)</li> <li>• LNP Board, Northallerton</li> <li>• March JAC</li> <li>• Ryedale PROW Local Liaison Group, Helmsley</li> <li>• NYBAG, York</li> <li>• Northern Powergrid RIIO-ED1 teleconferences</li> <li>• Northern Powergrid RIIO-ED1 Steering Group (x3)</li> <li>• AONB Partnership Group meeting</li> <li>• LEADER Support Group (x2)</li> <li>• June Core Partners Group</li> <li>• North Yorkshire Geodiversity Partnership, County Hall</li> </ul>

Project update meetings with Liz.  
Monthly AONB Team meetings.

NAAONB (FUTURE)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communications teleconference(s)</li> <li>• National Lead Officers' Meeting, Birmingham</li> <li>• Northern Group AONB Lead Officers' meeting, Northumberland Coast AONB</li> <li>• Northern Group AONB meeting, Northumberland Coast AONB</li> <li>• National Conference, Winchester</li> <li>• Game Fair, Harewood House</li> </ul>

<b>SITE VISITS</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning application site visits – Scackleton ( x3); Bulmer; Sproxton; Gilling; Gilling (x2 visits); Coulton; Crambe; Wiganthorpe; Stonegrave; Newburgh; Kirkham; Hovingham; Oulston; Ampleforth; Cawton</li> <li>• Rhododendron removal on Scheduled Monument, Oulston</li> <li>• Land use on Scheduled Monuments, Grimston</li> <li>• Lake restoration, Gilling Castle Park</li> </ul>

<b>SITE VISITS (FUTURE)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lake restoration, Gilling Castle Park</li> </ul>

<b>CONSULTATIONS</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SEE SEPARATE TABLE FOR FULL DETAILS OF CONSULTATIONS RECEIVED</li> </ul>

<b>PROJECTS</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Printing and distribution of formal version of AONB Management Plan</li> <li>• Preparation of November JAC papers.</li> <li>• NELMS Targeting Statement appraisal and comments</li> <li>• Preparing an Options spreadsheet for potential new AONB office locations</li> <li>• Answering queries and negotiating with English Heritage to secure funding for a Monument Management Scheme</li> <li>• SEE SEPARATE TABLE FOR LIST OF PROJECTS GRANT AIDED</li> <li>• Volunteers –</li> </ul>

<b>PROJECTS (FUTURE)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of a bid to English Heritage for a Monument Management Scheme, assuming that the Project Brief is accepted.</li> <li>• Preparing JAC papers for March meeting.</li> <li>• Volunteers –</li> </ul>

<b>RECREATION/ACCESS</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>

<b>RECREATION/ACCESS (FUTURE)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>

<b>COMMUNITIES</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>

<b>COMMUNITIES (FUTURE)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>

<b>PROMOTION/PUBLICITY/ INTERPRETATION</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Production &amp; distribution of 2013/14 Annual Report</li> <li>• AONB website re-fresh</li> <li>• AONB Photo Competition prize-giving, Yorkshire Arboretum</li> </ul>

<b>PROMOTION/PUBLICITY/ INTERPRETATION (FUTURE)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AONB website re-fresh</li> <li>• Ryedale Show, Kirkbymoorside</li> </ul>

<b>TRAINING</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legionella Awareness, Northallerton</li> <li>• Emergency First Aid, Easingwold</li> <li>• Fire Warden, County Hall</li> </ul>

<b>TRAINING (FUTURE)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of Twitter</li> </ul>

<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> February – Annual Leave</li> </ul>

<b>MISCELLANEOUS (FUTURE)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>

# AONB OFFICER'S REPORT

14<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2014 – 26<sup>TH</sup> March 2015

Work during this period has principally consisted of:

- Howardian Hills AONB Photography Competition – planning, promotion, gathering photos, judging, exhibition and launch event.
- Project work including visits to assess possible hedge planting and stone walling schemes.
- Volunteers – devising a programme of activities and working with NYCC Volunteer Coordinator to deliver them.
- Howardian Hills Rides and Rambles Leaflet – coordinating the partners to produce the leaflet.
- River Derwent Catchment Partnership Strategy meetings

MEETINGS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• R. Derwent Partnership meeting</li> <li>• R. Derwent workshop, Sutton on Derwent</li> <li>• LEADER exchange with other LEADER areas, Helmsley</li> <li>• LEADER Agriculture and Tourism, Helmsley</li> <li>• LEADER Support Group, Helmsley</li> <li>• Work programme meeting, AONB Office</li> <li>• LBAP (x2)</li> <li>• Development Officers, Helmsley (x2)</li> <li>• WACS Full staff briefing, Northallerton</li> <li>• Core Partners (x2)</li> <li>• NYCC Volunteer procedures</li> <li>• Website improvements, AONB Team</li> <li>• Website improvements with Bronco, Ripon</li> <li>• Yorkshire Exmoor Pony Trust – review of 2014 grazing and planning 2015, Thirsk</li> <li>• Raising Cycling in Ryedale</li> <li>• Natural England and FC update meeting, York</li> </ul>

Project round-up meetings with Paul.  
Monthly AONB Team meetings.

NAAONB
•

MEETINGS (FUTURE)
•

Project update meetings with Liz.  
Monthly AONB Team meetings.

NAAONB (FUTURE)
• Northern Group, Northumberland Coast

SITE VISITS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roman Plantation monument works (x2)</li> <li>• Wool Knoll barrow, Hovingham</li> <li>• Planning volunteer work - Dalby Bush Fen SSSI with Natural England</li> <li>• Hedge planting/restoration – Firby/Westow, Yearsley, Newburgh, Scackleton</li> <li>• Stone walling – Yearsley, East Newton</li> <li>• Exmoor pony sites – assessing fencing repairs needed – Coulton and Terrington</li> </ul>

SITE VISITS (FUTURE)
•

CONSULTATIONS
• SEE SEPARATE TABLE FOR FULL DETAILS OF CONSULTATIONS RECEIVED

PROJECTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meetings with a volunteer flora surveyor compiling a Flora of the Howardian Hills</li> <li>• Roman Plantation monument scrub clearance – (joined volunteer task for 1.5 hours)</li> <li>• Assistance to SDF projects including Terrington Village Hall and Playground and Coneysthorpe Village Hall.</li> </ul>

- SEE SEPARATE TABLE FOR LIST OF PROJECTS GRANT AIDED
- Volunteers – organisation of rhododendron clearance from wood pasture at Park Wood and scrub clearance from Monument at Roman Plantation

**PROJECTS (FUTURE)**

- 

**RECREATION/ACCESS**

- Howardian Hills Rides and Rambles leaflet – progressed with National Trust, Castle Howard, The Yorkshire Arboretum and RDC – nearing completion.

**RECREATION/ACCESS (FUTURE)**

- Complete the 12 x route pdfs to go with the above leaflet

**COMMUNITIES**

- NYCC Introduction to Stronger Communities, Dishforth
- Animal prints education session, Wath Court Nursery
- Junior Rangers planning of sessions (x2)
- Junior Rangers preparation and delivery of session (x1), The Yorkshire Arboretum
- Planning and delivering LBAP Communities and Education Topic Group, Howsham Mill
- Meeting with potential student volunteer, AONB Office

- MSc student working with the AONB Team for 15 days as part of her course
- Meeting with potential student volunteer, AONB Office

**COMMUNITIES (FUTURE)**

- Easter Junior Rangers, The Yorkshire Arboretum

**PROMOTION/PUBLICITY/ INTERPRETATION**

- Photo competition – promoting, gathering images, short-listing and judging, organising venue, preparing exhibition and holding the launch event at The Yorkshire Arboretum

**PROMOTION/PUBLICITY/ INTERPRETATION (FUTURE)**

- 

**TRAINING**

- Social media, York (½ day free course)

**TRAINING (FUTURE)**

- Use of Twitter

**MISCELLANEOUS**

- Volunteers social and briefing, Appleton le Street

**MISCELLANEOUS (FUTURE)**

- Annual leave – 2 weeks, early June

# AONB ASSISTANT'S REPORT

6<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2014 – 18<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2015

Work during this period has principally consisted of:

- Completing audit of the HHAONB website, in preparation for a refresh in the next financial year.
- Planning, promotion and delivery of Junior Rangers session in February and planning of next session in April.
- Assisting with distribution of the Management Plan and Annual Report.
- Assisting with planning, promotion and delivery of Photographic Competition and Exhibition Opening.
- General admin and facilities management for the AONB Unit.
- Annual and compassionate leave.

MEETINGS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• November JAC meeting</li> <li>• November Quarterly Work Programme</li> <li>• Volunteers' annual update meeting</li> <li>• December Core Partners Group</li> <li>• January NET</li> <li>• March Quarterly Work Programme</li> <li>• March Core Partners Group</li> </ul>

Monthly AONB Team meetings.

NAAONB
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>

MEETINGS (FUTURE)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• March NET, Northallerton</li> <li>• March JAC, Hovingham</li> </ul>

Monthly AONB Team meetings.

NAAONB (FUTURE)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Northern Group AONB meeting, Northumberland Coast AONB</li> </ul>

SITE VISITS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Photographic Exhibition set up, Yorkshire Arboretum</li> </ul>

SITE VISITS (FUTURE)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>

CONSULTATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>

PROJECTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volunteers – Hovingham Walks leaflet labelling</li> </ul>

PROJECTS (FUTURE)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further rationalisation of project files</li> </ul>

RECREATION/ACCESS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>

RECREATION/ACCESS (FUTURE)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assist with promotion of new walks/cycling leaflets</li> <li>• Reprint of Nunnington Walks leaflet</li> </ul>

COMMUNITIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Junior Rangers planning and delivery</li> <li>• LBAP Communities topic group workshop</li> </ul>

**COMMUNITIES (FUTURE)**

- Preparation and delivery of Easter Junior Rangers

**PROMOTION/PUBLICITY/  
INTERPRETATION**

- AONB website audit and refresh

**PROMOTION/PUBLICITY/  
INTERPRETATION  
(FUTURE)**

- AONB Photo Competition prize-giving, Arboretum
- AONB website audit and refresh

**TRAINING**

- 

**TRAINING (FUTURE)**

- Mandatory refresher courses:  
Compliments, comments and complaints;  
Equality and Diversity
- Servicing HHAONB Twitter Account

**MISCELLANEOUS**

- 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> November – Annual Leave
- Early December – Compassionate Leave
- 24<sup>th</sup> Dec – 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan – Annual Leave

**MISCELLANEOUS (FUTURE)**

-

## Report to Howardian Hills AONB Committee 1 October 2014 to 31 March 2015

### Parish Plans

**Terrington Parish plan:** Plan progress slowed down due to workload of Chairman, contact made with PC Chairman to encourage them to help with Action Plan etc. Hopefully meeting to be arranged in March 2015.

**Oswaldkirk Parish Plan** The plan is now complete and a copy is available to view on the Oswaldkirk website, [www.oswaldkirk.org](http://www.oswaldkirk.org)

**Huttons Ambo** – Plan progressing. Advice given by e-mail and attending meetings when requested.

**Amotherby:** They are doing a refresh of the 2008 plan - questionnaire sent out to all households, response rate around 60%. Collation of results October 2014. Work ongoing on action plan etc.

**Slingsby:** They are doing a refresh; had 1<sup>st</sup> steering group meeting 27 Oct 2014, putting together a questionnaire which is now almost complete to go out to residents in March 2015. Attended all Steering Group meetings.

**Swinton:** Attended Action Group AGM meeting on 26 January 2015. They want to refresh parish plan, Parish Council supportive, next meeting 9 March. To be advertised and a feature put in Swinton Newsletter to get volunteers for Steering Group.

### Other activity / contacts with HHAONB

- In partnership with the Local Enterprise Partnership & HHAONB organised a Business Pop up Café (11 October 2014). Attended by a number of Business advisors and 10 residents wanting information.
- Attended Northern Ryedale Public Transport Group meeting (10 Feb 2015). General discussion about services etc and alternatives.
- 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. Spring meeting on hold until after the RDC Elections.
  - Attended Swinton PC meeting 3 Dec 2014. They had distributed a survey, based on the last parish questionnaire, mainly to gain opinions on further housing proposals for the village. They received a poor response mainly due to lack of information to residents and the short timescale they had to do this. Suggested that they update their parish plan and involve Action Group.
  - Information and possible sources of funding forwarded to Swinton Action Group on Defibrillators for village.
  - Funding Advice to Barton Le Willows VH (forwarded by Liz B).
  - 17 Dec attended HHAONB event at Howsham Mill covering Environment and Eco systems within AONB; well attended by Parishes and partner organisations. Useful networking opportunity.

- Putting together a Directory of Services in villages within HHAONB; almost complete.
- Planned with Liz & Maggie C. the HHAONB Photographic Competition, in order to promote the special qualities of the area. Also helping to organise the Presentation Evening at the Yorkshire Arboretum March 18 2015.

Dealt with general enquiries which 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.



## AONB PROJECTS 2014/2015

1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 – 18<sup>th</sup> March 2015

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
K Snowball	High Farm, Brandsby	Stone supply and walling topstones to finish section of roadside wall	Zone 1 Landscape	AG2.2	£2,600	£2,600
K Snowball	High Farm, Brandsby	Repair of 40m of field wall	Zone 1 Landscape	AG2.2	£1,500	£1,200
Newburgh Priory Estate	Malton Street, Hustwaite	Gapping 75m of roadside hedge	Zone 2B Landscape	AG2.2	£450	£450
Lord St Oswald	East Newton Hall	Repair of 225m of field wall	-	AG2.2, HE2.5	£15,520	£2,000
Kirkham Estate	Westow	Replanting 314m of roadside hedge	Zone 1 Landscape	AG2.2	£1,510	£1,510
V Provins	Scackleton	Restoring 60m of roadside hedge	Zone 6 Landscape	AG2.2	c.£1,250	£300

APPLICANT/ (CONTRACTOR)	LOCATION	PROJECT	LOCAL PRIORITY	OBJECTIVE	SCHEME COST	JAC ASSISTANCE
(AONB Unit – Yorkshire Exmoor Pony Trust)	Coulton (3), Cawton (2), Terrington (2)	Conservation grazing of 7 SINCs or other important sites	Sites 1.59, 1.60, 1.41, 1.47, 1.66, 1.20	NE3.1	£1,023	£474
Ampleforth Abbey & College	Ampleforth	Planting 7 black poplars	-	NE4.2	£46	£28 (EA funded)

(AONB Volunteers)	Yearsley Moor Woodlands SINC	Cutting bracken on semi-improved grassland site (May)	Site 1.5	NE3.3	£125	-
(AONB Volunteers)	Yearsley Moor Woodlands SINC	Cutting bracken on semi-improved grassland site (July)	Site 1.5	NE3.3	£150	-
(AONB Volunteers)	Yearsley Moor Woodlands SINC	Cutting bracken on semi-improved grassland site (Aug)	Site 1.5	NE3.3	£500	-
(AONB Unit – Curlew Conservation Contractors)	Wath Beck; Terrington - Howthorpe	Cutting/pulling Himalayan balsam (3.5km)	Inc. Site 1.65	NE6.2	£965	£965
(AONB Unit – Countryside Services)	Wath Beck; Howthorpe - Wath	Cutting/pulling Himalayan balsam (2.3km)	Inc. Site 1.33	NE6.2	£932	£932
(AONB Volunteers)	Jeffry Bog SINC	Cutting/pulling Himalayan balsam	Site 1.74	NE6.2	£500	-
Amotherby Churchyard Conservation Group	Amotherby Churchyard	Habitat management	-	NE5.1	£520	£120 (25%)
(AONB Unit – Moorswork + Volunteers)	Appleton-le-Street Churchyard SINC	Grassland management	-	NE3.1	£690	£120
(AONB Unit – Moorswork)	Amotherby Lane SINC	Grassland/scrub management	Site 1.38	NE3.1	£120	£120
(AONB Unit – Volunteers)	Fairy Dell SINC	Cutting/pulling Himalayan balsam	Site 1.17	NE6.2	£450	-
F Hugill & R Eaton	Throstle Nest, Sproxton	Planting 30 in-field and boundary trees	-	NE3.4	£1,310	£1,310 (EA funded)
Westow Cricket Ground	Westow Cricket Ground	Native bulbs for insects	-	NE5.1	£740	£200
(AONB Volunteers)	Adj. Yearsley Moor Woodlands SINC (Oct#1)	Rhododendron control	Site 1.5	NE3.3, NE6.2	£450	-

(AONB Volunteers)	Adj. Yearsley Moor Woodlands SINC (Oct#2)	Rhododendron control	Site 1.5	NE3.3, NE6.2	£700	-
(AONB Volunteers)	Adj. Yearsley Moor Woodlands SINC (Nov#1)	Rhododendron control	Site 1.5	NE3.3, NE6.2	£500	-
(AONB Volunteers)	Adj. Yearsley Moor Woodlands SINC (Nov#2)	Rhododendron control	Site 1.5	NE3.3, NE6.2	£450	-
(AONB Volunteers)	Adj. Yearsley Moor Woodlands SINC (Jan)	Rhododendron control	Site 1.5	NE3.3, NE6.2	£700	-
Ampleforth Abbey & College	Ampleforth	Planting 10 black poplars	-	NE4.2	£150	£100 (EA funded)
(AONB Unit – J R Clifford & Sons)	Various	Management of 45 Special Interest Road Verges	-	NE3.1	£1,454	£1,454
(Natural England – AONB Volunteers)	Dalby Bush Fen SSSI	Bramble & scrub management	Site 1.56	NE3.1	£600	-
(AONB Volunteers)	Adj. Yearsley Moor Woodlands SINC (Feb)	Rhododendron control	Site 1.5	NE3.3, NE6.2	£500	-
R. Derwent Partnership	River Rye SINC	Production of strategy for the R. Derwent catchment project	Site 1.16	NE3.5	c. £17,000	c.£1,000

### 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	HE2.5	£182	£182

(AONB Unit – P Gospel)	Mileposts	Regular maintenance	Site 2.63	HE2.5, RT4.5	£168	£168
F Peckitt	North Park, Newburgh Priory	Erection of new fence, to bring new trees into grazed parkland	Site 2.15	HE2.5	£1,612	£806 (50%)
Slingsby Local Heritage Group	Slingsby	Producing local history DVDs	-	HE1.5	£3,400	£150
(AONB Unit – M Aconley)	Wiganthorpe Park, Scackleton	Stone supply and walling topstones onto 250m of Park wall	Site 2.92	HE2.5	£1,760	£1,760
(AONB Volunteers)	Hovingham	Cutting bracken on round barrows (May)	Sites 2.36 & 2.37	HE2.5	£175	-
(AONB Volunteers)	Hovingham	Cutting bracken on round barrows (July)	Sites 2.36 & 2.37	HE2.5	£150	-
(AONB Volunteers)	Hovingham	Cutting bracken on round barrows (Aug)	Sites 2.36 & 2.37	HE2.5	£150	-
Oswaldkirk PC	Oswaldkirk	Restore 1 traditional village name sign and install 2 new ones made in the traditional style	-	LC1.4, HE2.5	£2,850	£1,500
(AONB Unit – P Gospel)	City of Troy Maze, Dalby	Repair broken fence (damaged by local farmer)	Site 2.25	HE2.5	£210	£35
P Turnbull	Newburgh	Repairs to Listed traditional agricultural building	-	HE2.5	£6,162	£1,000
(AONB Unit – Cleveland Corrosion Control)	Bulmer, Firby, Howsham, Crambe	Restoration of 4 traditional direction signs	-	RT4.5	£6,500	£6,000
(AONB Volunteers)	Newburgh	Removing rhododendron from cross dyke	Site 2.12	HE2.5	£650	-

## Enjoying the AONB

APPLICANT	LOCATION	PROJECT	LOCAL PRIORITY	OBJECTIVE	SCHEME COST	JAC ASSISTANCE
Slingsby PC	Slingsby	Installation of new bench	-	RA4.1	£782	£140
Bulmer PC	Bulmer	Replacement of 2 modern village name signs with traditional look-alike ones	-	RA4.1	£1,000	£792

<b>(AONB Unit – Moorswork)</b>	<b>Various</b>	<b>Litter picking (5 visits)</b>	<b>Sites 3.8, 3.14, 3.19</b>	<b>RA4.5</b>	<b>£600</b>	<b>£600</b>
<b>(AONB Unit – P Gospel)</b>	<b>Gateway signs</b>	<b>Strimming</b>	-	<b>AP1.1</b>	<b>£644</b>	<b>£644</b>
(Sustrans/Ryedale DC/AONB Unit)	AONB + Vale of Pickering	Production of pdfs of 12 guided route leaflets (walking, road cycling, mountain biking)	-	RA5.3	£2,000	£1,700
(Ryedale DC/Castle Howard/AONB Unit)	Castle Howard area	Production of pdf of 'Hub' leaflet for Castle Howard area	-	RA5.3	£1,510	(within £1,700 above)
(Ryedale DC/Castle Howard)	Castle Howard area	Printing of 'Hub' leaflet for Castle Howard area	-	RA5.3	£650	(within £1,700 above)
<b>(NYMNP/Ryedale DC/AONB Unit)</b>	<b>North York Moors area</b>	<b>Printing of updated Great Outdoors leaflet</b>	-	<b>RA5.3</b>	<b>c.£13,000</b>	<b>£1,000</b>
<b>(AONB Unit)</b>	<b>Howardian Hills</b>	<b>Promotional campaign with Visit York</b>	-	<b>RA2.1</b>	<b>£5,000</b>	<b>£1,250</b>
<b>(AONB Unit – Beecroft Plant)</b>	<b>Various</b>	<b>Installing 3 x 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary log benches</b>	-	<b>AP1.3</b>	<b>£460</b>	<b>£447</b>
<b>(AONB Volunteers)</b>	<b>Various</b>	<b>Volunteer effort on PRow in the AONB (2 people/week, every other week)</b>	-	<b>RA3.1, RA3.2</b>	<b>£2,400</b>	-
<b>(AONB Volunteers)</b>	<b>Various</b>	<b>Volunteer effort – Junior Ranger Club, Ryedale Show, guided walks, PRow Condition surveying, etc.</b>	-	<b>IM1.3</b>	<b>£2,000</b>	-
<b>(AONB Unit)</b>	<b>Howsham Mill; Arboretum</b>	<b>Junior Ranger Club x 4</b>	-	<b>AP2.3</b>	<b>£745</b>	<b>£143</b>
<b>(AONB Volunteers)</b>	<b>Various</b>	<b>Volunteer effort - Schools Twinning Project</b>	-	<b>AP2.3</b>	<b>£2,100</b>	-

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND GRANTS 2014/2015

1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 – 18<sup>th</sup> March 2015

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

APPLICANT	LOCATION	PROJECT	LOCAL PRIORITY	OBJECTIVE	SCHEME COST	SDF ASSISTANCE
Rural Action Yorkshire	AONB	Sustainable Rural Communities project, working with communities on community planning	-	LC1.2, LC1.3	£4,948	£3,711
Coneysthorpe VH Committee	Coneysthorpe Village Hall	Refurbishment including insulation and lowered ceilings	-	LC1.4	£11,317	£8,150
Terrington Village Hall	Village Hall	Enhancement of outdoor areas – veg growing, artwork with AAONB theme, water butts and composting facilities	-	LC1.4	£11,708	£3,480

## AONB CONSULTATIONS (SPECIFIC DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS) 2014/2015

1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 – 18<sup>th</sup> March 2015

CONSULTING ORGANISATION	LOCATION	PROJECT	SITE VISIT	COMMENTS	OUTCOME
Ryedale District Council	Various	Weekly Lists of Planning Applications and Decisions	--		-
Hambleton District Council	Various	Weekly Lists of Planning Applications and Decisions	--		-
North Yorkshire County Council	Various	Weekly list of Planning Applications	-	-	-
North York Moors National Park Authority	Various	Weekly Lists of Planning Applications and Decisions	--		-
Forestry Commission	Various	Grants & Licences Public Register	-	-	-
Hambleton District Council	Crayke	Planning application (Change of use of garage/workshop to a dwelling)	No	Significant concerns – outside Development Limit	?
Ryedale District Council	Kirkham	Planning application (Erection of a replacement dwelling)	Yes	Object – impact on setting of designated and non-designated heritage assets	Withdrawn
Hambleton District Council	Yearsley	Planning application (Variation on Condition – change of use from agricultural to garden and erection of extension)	No None		-
Hambleton District Council	Brandsby	Planning application (Scale of soil excavation to implement approved development, retrospective)	No Minor		Permitted
Hambleton District Council	Newburgh	Planning application (Creation of camp site with ancillary toilets and car parking area)	Yes	Landscaping of car parking area; access	Permitted, with Condition re access
Ryedale District Council	Hildenley	Planning application (Erection of extension – revised plans)	No None		(Permitted)

CONSULTING ORGANISATION	LOCATION	PROJECT	SITE VISIT	COMMENTS	OUTCOME
Ryedale District Council	Welburn	Planning application (Erection of 3 dwellings and detached garage) (Re-revised plans)	No (previously)	Object – ancillary building still at front of curtilage	Permitted
North Yorkshire County Council	Cawton	NRSWA consultation (LV underground works)	No None		-
Forestry Commission (FE)	Coulton/Yearsley	Woodland management proposals (Felling & thinning)	No	Yes (ride widening; avoid heritage features)	All comments taken on board
Ryedale District Council	Gilling	Planning application (Change of use of agricultural barn to day centre with car parking, etc)	Yes Significant	concerns. Traffic generation; Car park needs landscaping	Permitted, with Conditions
Ryedale District Council	Welburn	Planning application (Erection of 2 holiday lodges)	Yes Minor		Permitted
Ryedale District Council	Broughton	Agricultural Notification (Erection of new farm building)	Yes	Colour of roof sheets; landscaping needed	Permitted, with Conditions
Ryedale District Council	Welburn	Planning application (Erection of 2 houses)	Yes	Object	Refused
Ryedale District Council	Stonegrave	Planning application (Variation of Conditions, Birch Farm)	No None		-
North Yorkshire County Council	Cawton	NRSWA consultation (Replace gullies in verge)	No None		-
Ryedale District Council	Little Edstone	Planning application (Erection of wind turbine 30m to hub)	No None		(Refused)
Ryedale District Council	Ampleforth	Agricultural Notification (Erection of new farm building)	Yes Planning	permission needed?	Permitted
Ryedale District Council	Hovingham	Planning application (Erection of a dwelling – renewal of existing consent)	No None		-
Ryedale District Council	Cawton	Planning Application (Erection of new farm building)	Yes Roof	colour; Landscaping needed – strip of trees and shrubs	Permitted, with Conditions



CONSULTING ORGANISATION	LOCATION	PROJECT	SITE VISIT	COMMENTS	OUTCOME
Ryedale District Council	Cawton	Planning Application (Erection of new farm building)	Yes Roof	colour; Landscaping needed – triangular copse	Permitted, with Condition re roof colour
Ryedale District Council	Howsham	Planning Application (Demolition of garage and erection of home office)	No None		-
Ryedale District Council	Welburn	Planning Application (Erection of 2-storey extension, garage and stables)	Yes	Object – impact on AONB, Conservation Area and Listed Buildings	Withdrawn
Tesla Exploration Ltd	Eastern part of AONB	3D seismic survey	No	Avoid drilling shot holes in SINCS, SIRVs or buried archaeology	Confirmed those constraints already in place
Ryedale District Council	Oswaldkirk	Agricultural Notification (Erection of grain silo)	Yes None		-
Ryedale District Council	Kirkham	Planning application (Erection of a replacement dwelling - revised)	Yes	None (scheme much improved)	(Permitted)
Ryedale District Council	Castle Howard	Planning application (Temporary siting of a holiday lodge)	No None		(Refused)
National Grid	Western side of AONB	Visual impact of HV powerlines and possible mitigation	Yes	Two locations put forward for further study	Studies carried out
Hambleton District Council	Brandsby	Planning application (Change of use of agricultural land and erection of shed)	Yes Concerns	about colour of roof materials	Permitted; roof changed to slates
Northern Powergrid	Nunnington	New u/g HV line to Nunnington Hall	No	Avoid damage to tree roots	-
Ryedale District Council	Stittenham	Planning application (Formation of ménage and installation of horse walker)	No	No spoil disposal on rigg & furrow	Permitted with Condition attached, and ditch to be restored to r+f profile

CONSULTING ORGANISATION	LOCATION	PROJECT	SITE VISIT	COMMENTS	OUTCOME
Ryedale District Council	Crambe	Planning application (Erection of a new dwelling - revised)	No None		-
Ryedale District Council	Whitwell	Planning application (Erection of a 12.1m wooden pole and broadband dish)	Yes Minor	(minimise removal of trees)	(Permitted)
Ryedale District Council	Musley Bank, Malton	Planning application (Erection of stabling buildings, office building, horse treadmill)	Yes Minor	– implementation of landscaping Condition	(Permitted)
Ryedale District Council	Hovingham	Planning application (Conversion of agricultural buildings to dwelling)	No None		(Permitted)
Ryedale District Council	Sproxton	Planning application (Erection of replacement dwelling)	Yes Minor		-
Ryedale District Council	Sproxton	Planning application (Erection of agricultural building)	Yes None		-
Ryedale District Council	Oswaldkirk	Planning application (Erection of extensions)	Yes	None	-
North Yorkshire County Council	Kirkham	Extinguishment of Public Footpath	No	None	-
Ryedale District Council	Malton	Planning application (Erection of 500 dwellings; also employment, community and retail uses)	Yes	Object – inadequate information on potential effect on AONB and its setting	?
Natural England	Crambe	Higher Level Stewardship agreement	No	Minor	-
Ryedale District Council	Hovingham	Planning application (Erection of 3 dwellings)	No	None	-
Ryedale District Council	Gilling	Planning application (Erection of new farmstead including agricultural workers dwelling)	Yes Serious	Reservations – justification; inadequate landscaping	Refused
Hambleton District Council	Brandsby	Planning application (Change of use of agricultural buildings to holiday cottages – extension of time limit)	No None		-
Ryedale District Council	Grimston	Planning application (Erection of garage/domestic annex)	Yes	Concern at height above natural ground level at northern end	Withdrawn
Hambleton District Council	Dalby	Planning application (External alterations and raising height of roof)	Yes Concerns	about glazing to apex on southern elevation	Withdrawn

CONSULTING ORGANISATION	LOCATION	PROJECT	SITE VISIT	COMMENTS	OUTCOME
North Yorkshire County Council	Terrington	DMMO to address historical mis-mapped route alignment	No None		-
Ryedale District Council	Scackleton	Planning application (Erection of agricultural building)	Yes Suggest	minor landscaping to north and east	Permitted, with Condition on landscaping
Natural England	Bulmer	Higher Level Stewardship agreement	No	Support	-
Hambleton District Council	Yearsley	Planning application (External alterations and erection of garage)	Yes None		-
Hambleton District Council	Yearsley	Planning application (Extensions and raising height of roof)	Yes None		-
North Yorkshire County Council	Castle Howard Avenue	NRSWA consultation (Drainage works)	No	No damage to be done to Special Interest Road Verges	-
Ryedale District Council	Low Hutton	Planning application (Erection of frame for temporary event signs)	Yes	Frame to be painted a dark colour	Permitted, with Conditions on painting of frame and colouring of rear face of banners
Forestry Commission	East Newton	Woodland management proposals (Felling & re-planting; selective fell 1.4ha broadleaves and mixed)	No Favour	broadleaves; open out footpath near Holbeck	?
Forestry Commission	Hovingham Estate	Woodland management proposals (Felling & re-planting; 0.5ha conifer to native broadleaves; 14.1ha of 60.27ha conifer PAWS to native broadleaves)	No Support	restoration of conifer PAWS to native broadleaves; protection of specific features; buffer Coulton Fen SINC	?
Forestry Commission	Castle Howard (Arboretum)	Woodland management proposals (Felling & re-planting; 1.0ha conifer to conifer)	No None		-
Forestry Commission	Castle Howard (Pretty Wood SINC)	Woodland management proposals (Felling & re-planting; 1.0ha conifer PAWS to conifer PAWS)	No	Restock with native broadleaves	?

CONSULTING ORGANISATION	LOCATION	PROJECT	SITE VISIT	COMMENTS	OUTCOME
Forestry Commission	Westow	Woodland management proposals (Felling & re-planting; 1.0ha broadleaves to ??)	No None		-
Ryedale District Council	Sproxton	Planning application (Erection of garden shed)	Yes (in passing)	None -	
Hambleton District Council	Yearsley	Planning application (Erection of a family dwelling)	Yes	Concerns re elevated site and potential size of dwelling	Refused
Ryedale District Council	Musley Bank, Malton	Planning application (Re-roofing of stable block)	Yes None		-
Ryedale District Council	Easthorpe	Planning application (Erection of extensions)	Yes	Suggest use of non-reflective glass	Permitted
Ryedale District Council	Castle Howard	Planning application (Installation of black flue to replace stainless steel)	No None		-
Ryedale District Council	Gilling	Planning application (Erection of new farmstead including agricultural workers dwelling – minor revision)	No	No further comments	Refused
Natural England	Scackleton	Higher Level Stewardship agreement	No	Support	-
Hambleton District Council	Oulston	Prior Notification (Change of use of agricultural building to dwelling)	No Prior	Notification process not applicable in AONB	Permitted
North Yorkshire County Council	Gilling	NRSWA consultation (Kerbing behind grates)	No	None	-
Ryedale District Council	Nunnington	Planning application (Erection of stable block)	Yes	Concerns over size, height and location	Refused
Ryedale District Council	Welburn	Planning Application (Erection of 2-storey extension, garage and stables - revised)	Yes	Still have concerns over level of glazing on first floor elevation	Permitted
Ryedale District Council	Whitwell	Planning application (Erection of two semi-detached houses)	No None		-
Forestry Commission	Westow	Woodland management proposals (Felling & re-planting; 0.6ha conifers to ??)	No None		-
Ryedale District Council	Castle Howard	Planning application (Erection of 8-bay garage)	No None		-
Ryedale District Council	Appleton-le-Street	Planning application (Erection of replacement dwelling)	No None		-

CONSULTING ORGANISATION	LOCATION	PROJECT	SITE VISIT	COMMENTS	OUTCOME
Forestry Commission	Gilling	Woodland management proposals (Felling & re-planting; 0.8ha native broadleaves to native broadleaves)	Yes (Encourage	PAWS reversion to native broadleaves)	Conditioned as requested
Hambleton District Council	Thornton-on-the-Hill	Planning application (Erection of an agricultural workers dwelling)	Yes	Object re size & scale of dwelling and highly visible location	Withdrawn
Ryedale District Council	Oswaldkirk	Planning application (Sub-division and extension of dwelling to form 3 dwellings)	(in passing)	None	-
Hambleton District Council	Dalby	Planning application (Construction of replacement ancillary building – re-submission)	Yes Minor		(Permitted)
North Yorkshire County Council	Swinton	NRSWA consultation (Drainage works)	No	Protect Special Interest Road verges	?
Hambleton District Council	Crayke	Planning application (Installation of 3 rows of ground-mounted solar PV panels)	Yes None		-
Forestry Commission	Oswaldkirk	Woodland management proposals (Selective Felling & re-planting; 1.9ha native broadleaves to ??)	No None		-
Ryedale District Council	Gilling	Planning application (Erection of wood fuel store)	Yes (in passing)	Minor (Refused)	
Ryedale District Council	Scackleton	Agricultural Notification (Erection of agricultural grain store)	Yes None		-
Ryedale District Council	Gilling	Planning application (Erection of extension)	Yes	None	-
Ryedale District Council	Broughton	Planning application (Erection of stables)	Yes (in passing)	Screening hedge needed on east side	Withdrawn
Ryedale District Council	Coulton	Planning application (Demolition of workshop and erection of lean-to extension to grain store)	Yes None		-
Ryedale District Council	Crambe	Planning application (Erection of garage with accommodation over)	Yes None		-
Ryedale District Council	Wiganthorpe	Planning application (Conversion & extension of agricultural buildings)	Yes Minor	(sustainability of location; occupancy Conditions)	(Permitted)

CONSULTING ORGANISATION	LOCATION	PROJECT	SITE VISIT	COMMENTS	OUTCOME
Ryedale District Council	Ampleforth	Planning application (Erection of garden room – re-design)	No None		-
North Yorkshire County Council	Whitwell	NRSWA consultation (Drainage works)	No	None	-
Ryedale District Council	Malton	Environmental Statement (Erection of 500 dwellings; also employment, community and retail uses)	No Object		?
Ryedale District Council	Cawton	Planning application (Creation of swimming pond)	No None		-
North Yorkshire County Council	Slingsby	NRSWA consultation (Works)	No	None	-
Ryedale District Council	Oswaldkirk	Planning application (Sub-division and extension of dwelling to form 3 dwellings - revised)	(in passing)	Minor (flue colour)	-
Ryedale District Council	Grimston	Planning application (Erection of garage/domestic annex - revised)	Yes Additional	hedge planting at northern end; black flue	Permitted; black flue, no additional hedging?
Ryedale District Council	Gilling	Planning application (Erection of 3 polytunnels)	Yes Significant	Reservations (lack of landscaping)	Withdrawn
Ryedale District Council	Fryton	Planning application (Erection of stables and garaging)	Yes	Minor – hedge to be planted on northern boundary	Permitted, with Condition on hedging
Forestry Commission	Castle Howard	Woodland management proposals (Felling 0.3ha broadleaves – Avenue restoration)	(Yes) Support		-
Forestry Commission	Castle Howard	Woodland management proposals (Felling & replanting 0.3ha broadleaves)	No None		-
North York Moors National Park Authority	Ampleforth	Planning application (Erection of new agricultural building – revised, retrospective)	(In passing)	Concerns about bigger size	Refused
Hambleton District Council	Newburgh	Planning application (Installation of 20m mobile phone mast)	Yes	Colour of mast to be dark green and fencing to be dark brown	Permitted, with Conditions on colours

CONSULTING ORGANISATION	LOCATION	PROJECT	SITE VISIT	COMMENTS	OUTCOME
North Yorkshire County Council	Brandsby	NRSWA consultation (Replacement of Ryedale boundary sign)	No None		-
Hambleton District Council	Crayke	Planning application (Installation of roof-mounted solar PV panels)	No None		-
Ryedale District Council	Kirkham	Agricultural Notification (Re-surfacing of woodland track)	No None		-
Ryedale District Council	Terrington	Agricultural Notification (Erection of agricultural building)	Yes None		-
Ryedale District Council	Ampleforth	Planning application (Construction of a new dwelling)	Yes None		-
Ryedale District Council	Scackleton	Planning application (Conversion of outbuilding to dwelling & extension to garden)	Yes	Minor – stone wall, entrance kerbing	Permitted, with Conditions on stone and kerbing
Ryedale District Council	Cawton	Planning application (Extension to agricultural building)	Yes None		-
North Yorkshire County Council	Ampleforth	NRSWA consultation (Drainage works)	No	Avoid damage to hedge and SIRV	?
Hambleton District Council	Oulston	Planning application (Construction of a manege)	Yes	No lighting to be installed	?
Ryedale District Council	Gilling	Planning application (Erection of new farmstead including agricultural workers dwelling)	No (involved in PRE-APP)	Concerns – new development in open countryside	?
Ryedale District Council	Sproxtun	Planning application (Erection of replacement dwelling – revised details)	No	Minor – flues to be black	?
Ryedale District Council	Terrington	Planning application (Erection of extensions)	Yes	Concerns about loss of form of original dwelling	?
Forestry Commission	Castle Howard	Woodland management proposals (Felling 2.25ha conifer PAWS & replanting conifer)	No	Reversion to native broadleaves adjacent to Wath Wood SINC	No amendments agreed
Ryedale District Council	Howsham	Planning application (Change of use to include social, training and corporate events)	No Concerns	at increased disturbance by visitors	?

CONSULTING ORGANISATION	LOCATION	PROJECT	SITE VISIT	COMMENTS	OUTCOME
Ryedale District Council	Ampleforth	Planning application (Erection of 6 light industrial units – revised details)	Yes M	aterials colours; holly underplanting needed	?
Forestry Commission	Brandsby Estate	Woodland management proposals (Felling & re-planting; 17.57ha conifers to conifers?; 4.94ha of conifer PAWS to ??)	No	Thin any trees off Scheduled Monuments; restore heathland on edges; protect limekilns and stone walls; restore 3.45ha of PAWS in Toft Wood SINC	?
Ryedale District Council	Grimstone	Planning application (Extensions to garage)	Yes (in passing)	None -	
Hambleton District Council	Crayke	Planning application (Removal of Condition on use of grain dryer)	No Develop	suitable substitute wording	-

## **AONB CONSULTATIONS & NOTIFICATIONS (STRATEGIES, ETC) 2014/2015**

1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 – 18<sup>th</sup> March 2015

ORGANISATION	AREA	DOCUMENT	COMMENTS	OUTCOME
Hambleton District Council	Hambleton	Settlement Hierarchy & Housing Development interim Policy Guidance Note	None	
Hambleton District Council	Hambleton	Revised Sustainable Development SPD	None	
North Yorkshire County Council	North Yorkshire, York & North York Moors National Park	Minerals & Waste Joint Plan Supplementary Sites	None	



A joint partnership funded by Defra, North Yorkshire County Council (Host Authority), Ryedale District Council and Hambleton District Council; also involving Ryedale and Hambleton Parish Councils, Natural England, Country Land and Business Association, National Farmers Union, Ramblers and Forestry Commission

Development Management  
Hambleton District Council  
Civic Centre  
Stone Cross  
Northallerton  
DL6 2UU

Contact: Paul Jackson

My Reference:

Date: 11 November 2014

Dear Sirs

## 14/01430/FUL: Construction of an agricultural workers dwelling; Thornton on the Hill

I have the following observations to make on this application:

### 1. Impact on the AONB landscape

- The proposed dwelling is large in scale and would be highly visible from the nearby Malton Street to the north – this is a well-used public road accessing the village of Husthwaite from the east.
- The ‘mature hedges’ mentioned in the accompanying documentation are relatively young and approximately 2m tall, and I don’t feel that they would provide any significant screening when the site is viewed from Malton Street.
- The accompanying documentation fails to recognise the size and scale of the proposed dwelling and its potential negative impact on the AONB landscape.

### 2. Size, scale and design

- The proposed dwelling does not follow a local vernacular tradition, contrary to the statement in the accompanying documentation. The only other square ‘farmhouse’ that I can find within the relevant vicinity is Oulston Hall, which I would suggest is not a valid comparison.
- I feel that the size and scale of the proposed farmhouse are excessive in relation to both the location and the proposed purpose. As mentioned above, the only other square building in the vicinity is Oulston Hall, and the proposed dwelling is some 2m bigger in both width and depth than the Hall. I would suggest that that is a completely inappropriate scale for a sensitive open countryside location within an AONB.
- The justification for the number of bedrooms appears to be the perceived need to accommodate temporary veterinary students within the farmhouse. I would suggest that, whilst a laudable contribution to education, this is a spurious and irrelevant factor when considering the size of dwelling necessary. It would be normal for student accommodation on farms (if proved to be essential) to be provided in the form of a mobile home or similar.
- Given that the dwelling is purportedly for a livestock farm, especially one specialising in pigs, I find it very strange that the floor plan layout appears to ignore the requirements of day-to-day farm working. I would expect to see a Boot Room, Farm Office and Toilet & Shower in a location that was easily accessible from the outside during the working day, maybe within a separate single storey wing or annex.

Cont’d...

The floor plan doesn't appear to make any concessions to farmhouse use, with the Boot Room, Toilet and 'Study' all separated by corridors and hence impracticable for accessing in dirty working clothes.

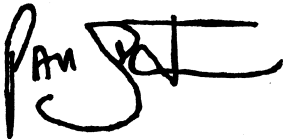
In conclusion I would wish to **OBJECT** in the strongest terms to the proposal as currently presented. Whilst the principle of a permanent farmhouse is not necessarily an issue (subject to the LPA being satisfied as to the long-term viability of the farm business, etc) the current proposals are inappropriate for the location and would have a significant detrimental impact on the AONB landscape.

In assisting the LPA with Determining this case, Officers may wish to refer to two recent cases for very similar proposals in the Ryedale District:

- 13/01246/FUL: Erection of agricultural workers dwelling; Lodge Farm, Scackleton. Ryedale District Council were particularly concerned to ensure that the size, scale and floor plan layout for this dwelling were appropriate for the proposed use and the sensitive location, and two previous schemes had been rejected before final Approval was gained.
- 14/00734/MFUL: Establishment of a farmstead, with 4 bedroom agricultural workers dwelling, barns, etc; Cawton Road, Gilling East. In this case, Ryedale District Council appointed external consultants to assess whether the significant size of farmhouse proposed was commensurate with the needs of looking after livestock on the proposed farmstead. Their conclusion that no evidence had been provided by the applicant to justify why such a significant dwelling was necessary was one of the reasons for Refusal.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

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

P B JACKSON  
AONB MANAGER

## Paul Jackson

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**From:** Paul Jackson  
**Sent:** 14 November 2014 17:05  
**To:** [planning@hambleton.gov.uk](mailto:planning@hambleton.gov.uk)  
**Cc:** Helen Laws  
**Subject:** 14/02090/FUL: Construction of a replacement ancillary building, The Old Rectory, Dalby

I have the following observations to make in relation to these proposals:

1. I welcome the re-location of the black biomass boiler flue to the outside roof slope. It will also appear less prominent than in the previous proposals, due to the higher ridge height.
2. The higher ridge height has also allowed an only slightly reduced triangular window to be incorporated, due to the fact that the glass now takes up a smaller proportion of the gable end than in the previous proposals. This revised scheme gives a better balance between brickwork wall and glazing.
3. Notwithstanding the above comments, it is important to ensure that the proposed building still retains a sub-dominant form in relation to the Old Rectory itself, to preserve the building hierarchy within the courtyard.

I also however need to clarify three things in relation to the points of justification put forward in paragraph 10.6 of the Design & Access statement, comparing the glazing proposed for the southern gable with the fenestration in the adjacent Dalby Hall.

1. Dalby Hall was re-built in the 1960s but the AONB wasn't designated until 1987, so the comparison is invalid because the work was carried out under a completely different planning policy framework.
2. The photo shown on the right is taken from private land within the grounds of Dalby Hall. A full-on frontal view such as this is not seen from the adjacent Public Footpath, nor in such detail in long distance views.
3. Even with only a glancing view of the frontage as is obtained from the Public Footpath, if the substantial demolition and re-build in the current format had been proposed now it would have elicited a strong objection on the grounds of significant detrimental impact on the historic heritage of the AONB and the AONB landscape.

Paul Jackson  
Howardian Hills AONB Manager  
The Mews, Wath Court  
Hovingham  
York  
YO62 4NN

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Mob: 07715 009426  
Web: [www.howardianhills.org.uk](http://www.howardianhills.org.uk)



## Paul Jackson

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**From:** Paul Jackson  
**Sent:** 13 November 2014 15:35  
**To:** [planning@hambleton.gov.uk](mailto:planning@hambleton.gov.uk)  
**Subject:** 14/02111/FUL: Installation of 3no rows of ground mounted solar panels; Daffy Lodge, Crayke

I have the following observations to make on these proposals:

- Although not within the Howardian Hills AONB, the proposed development is of a nature that could potentially impact on the setting of the AONB.
- The principal public viewpoint from the AONB is likely to be the well-used seat near Crayke Castle, which gives wide-ranging views south over the Vale of York. Any ground-level views from the roads in the vicinity are obscured by existing trees and hedges, combined with the low height of the installation and a slight dip in the topography.
- Although the application site will be partially visible from the seat by Crayke Castle, with the western end obscured by topography and a mature oak tree, I don't feel that it will form a significant detrimental element within the wide view available from this point. I don't therefore feel that the proposal will have a significant adverse impact on the setting of the AONB.

Paul Jackson  
Howardian Hills AONB Manager  
The Mews, Wath Court  
Hovingham  
York  
YO62 4NN

Tel: 0845 034 9495 / NYCC ext 6775

Mob: 07715 009426

Web: [www.howardianhills.org.uk](http://www.howardianhills.org.uk)



## Paul Jackson

---

**From:** dm@ryedale.gov.uk  
**Sent:** 10 December 2014 10:41  
**To:** Paul Jackson  
**Subject:** Consultee Comments for Planning Application 14/01159/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 10:41 AM on 10 Dec 2014 from [paul.jackson@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:paul.jackson@northyorks.gov.uk).

### Application Summary

**Reference:** 14/01159/FUL

**Address:** Gayle House Broughton Road Broughton  
Malton North Yorkshire YO17 6QG

**Proposal:** Erection of detached block of 2 no. stables,  
tractor store, hay store and general  
storage area for private domestic use.

**Case Officer:** Rachel May

[Click for further information](#)

### Comments Details

**Comments:** I have the following observations to make in relation to these proposals: 1) I would like to see a new mixed hedge planted along the east side of the stables area as well, to screen views of the development from the westbound B1257. If only one hedge was deemed to be a proportionate requirement, then I feel that an east side one would provide the more significant screening. 2) It appears that the applicant has purchased a section of the adjoining arable field which will then be fenced and turned into pasture. If the applicant wished to plant new native mixed hedging (not subject to any Planning Condition) along either the roadside boundary fence and/or the new dividing fence then there may be some AONB grant available to support this. Email [info@howardianhills.org.uk](mailto:info@howardianhills.org.uk). Paul Jackson

## Paul Jackson

---

**From:** dm@ryedale.gov.uk  
**Sent:** 23 December 2014 15:55  
**To:** Paul Jackson  
**Subject:** Consultee Comments for Planning Application 14/01260/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 3:55 PM on 23 Dec 2014 from [paul.jackson@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:paul.jackson@northyorks.gov.uk).

### Application Summary

**Reference:** 14/01260/FUL  
**Address:** Gardeners Cottage Wiganthorpe Terrington Malton  
**Proposal:** Change of use and alteration of agricultural outbuildings to form additional domestic accommodation and domestic storage to include erection of 2 no. single storey extensions

**Case Officer:** Rachel May

[Click for further information](#)

### Comments Details

**Comments:** I have the following observations to make on these proposals: 1) The external elevation of the walled garden is only visible in long distance views from near the southern end of New Road in Terrington. Significant screening is provided by mature trees from the majority of viewpoints. 2) The visual impact on the AONB would I feel be minimal, as the only external element is the new glass-fronted extension on the footprint of the former greenhouse. The large majority of the development, including parking and domestic curtilage, would be inside the walled garden. 3) I do however have some concerns about the sustainability of the location for the proposed occupant, and how the dwelling might be used in future years. The location is very isolated, when it might be supposed that the proposed occupant would need to be closer to sources of emergency help if needed? A dwelling adapted in the way proposed could be an asset in a rural area such as the Howardian Hills, enabling someone to live as part of the local community, but I'm not sure that this would be the correct place for such a dwelling. Local Plan Strategy policy

indicates that a dwelling such as this would only be permitted for Local Needs Occupancy, but it doesn't appear that any information has been put forward on this aspect. Paul Jackson

A joint partnership funded by Defra, North Yorkshire County Council (Host Authority), Ryedale District Council and Hambleton District Council; also involving Ryedale and Hambleton Parish Councils, Natural England, Country Land and Business Association, National Farmers Union, Ramblers and Forestry Commission

Development Management  
Ryedale District Council  
Ryedale House  
Malton  
North Yorks  
YO17 7HH

Contact: Paul Jackson

My Reference:

Date: 8 January 2015

Dear Sirs

**14/00678/MOUT: Outline application for the demolition of outbuildings and erection of mixed use residential-led development; Castle Howard Road, Malton**

I have the following observations to make in relation to the Environmental Statement and Planning Statement Addendum:

1. After spending a considerable amount of time engaging in the process, I'm rather disappointed by these reports. It is my belief that the photomontage from the particularly important Viewpoint 7 has been 'altered' so as to hide the 'tower/orientation feature' behind existing trees, and I cannot accept the conclusions that the overall residual impact is Minor Adverse and that the site is not highly visible from the AONB.
2. There appears to be a significant under-representation of how the AONB landscape is experienced in this location. Repeated reference is made to "*glimpsed*" views, the "*peripheral nature*" of viewpoints and the site only being "*clearly visible from one location on the boundary of the AONB*". Para 2.18 states that "*it is not possible to simultaneously view both the AONB and the proposed development site at any of the viewpoints. In fact to view the site one has to turn one's back on the AONB*". Given that Viewpoint 7 is 450m inside the AONB, and therefore one has to look *over* the AONB to view the application site, it is difficult to give any credence to this last statement.
3. The reports consistently fail to recognise that the AONB and the application site are viewed as a continuum as users make their way along the Public Rights of Way network. The views of the application site are not experienced solely from single viewpoints, nor do users look at the ground in front of them the whole time whilst walking. The 'experiential' dimension of how the AONB and its adjoining area are perceived by users has therefore been overlooked. Whilst going south towards Braygate Street, walkers experience the wooded boundary of the AONB and the arable landscape with trees and hedges running up to the treed western boundary of Malton town (the 'setting' of the AONB). Likewise when going eastwards from Viewpoint 7 towards Middlecave Road, users experience a changing panoply of the AONB's fields and belts of trees, looking beyond these towards the edge of Malton (and thus the application site).

Cont'd...

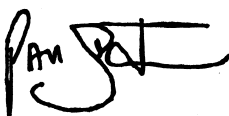


Whilst the Viewpoints by their very nature have to be specific, they are not exclusive and the application site is viewed along a much wider front than is implied in the reports or can be represented by the Viewpoints.

4. I'm afraid that I do not accept that the photomontage showing the proposed development from Viewpoint 7 is an accurate representation of the indicative layout that has consistently been presented by the applicants. Careful examination of both documents shows that, in relation to the two immovable reference points of the electricity pylon and Tree Group 4 (see Tree Survey), the main tower/orientation feature should be visible in the photomontage almost directly behind the pylon. The fact however is that, even if the photomontages were proved to be accurate representations of the indicative layout, the tower/orientation feature would still be clearly visible (and skylined) when viewed from much of the Public Right of Way route that goes eastwards from Viewpoint 7, past Viewpoint 4 and thence to Middlecave Road.
5. I do however feel that the photomontages in Plates 9 and 11 give a good representation of the adverse visual impact that would be created by a near continuous skyline of houses higher than two storeys. I cannot however concur with the assessment that the scale of change between 'Existing' and 'After 10 years' growth', as shown in Plates 9 and 11, is only 'Moderate'. Plate 11 gives a particularly stark demonstration of the adverse visual impact of buildings higher than two storeys, and it should also be remembered that views from the edge of Malton towards the AONB (Viewpoints 14 to 12 and onwards towards VP11), will be completely blocked. This would constitute further significant adverse visual impact on the setting of the AONB, as observers gain the impression of entering the AONB before they cross the formal boundary line.
6. The overall conclusion of Minor Adverse impact would, with reference to Table 3 on p.4 of the Environmental Statement, in essence reduce the potential impact on the nationally designated AONB landscape to one of significance in only a "local context". Taking into account Point 5 above in relation to the impact of the buildings higher than two storeys, I don't consider that, even after 10 years of growth with the landscaping, the significance of the impact is any less than **Moderate Adverse**.
7. Many of the points made above, e.g. in relation to impact on the setting of the AONB when viewed from both the AONB and Malton directions, could be mitigated to some extent by amendments to the heights of the proposed dwelling units and omission of the 'tower' structures. It's unfortunate that the Environmental Statement has sought to downplay the potentially very real adverse impacts of the development, rather than give any proper consideration to amending the building heights as a mitigation strategy.

In conclusion, the applicants have in my view failed to provide a fully accurate document, or one that adequately assesses the potential impact of the development, and I therefore feel that the **Objection** lodged in my letter of 30<sup>th</sup> July 2014 must still stand. Although the application is only in Outline, the slavish adherence to the indicative layout really gives me no option other than to consider this as if it were a Full application. Contrary to the conclusions of the Environmental Statement, I believe that the photomontages (even allowing for any possible inaccuracies) indicate that this development would have a major adverse impact on the AONB and its setting.

Yours sincerely



P B JACKSON  
AONB MANAGER

## Paul Jackson

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**From:** dm@ryedale.gov.uk  
**Sent:** 08 January 2015 13:06  
**To:** Paul Jackson  
**Subject:** Consultee Comments for Planning Application 14/01364/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 1:06 PM on 08 Jan 2015 from [paul.jackson@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:paul.jackson@northyorks.gov.uk).

### Application Summary

**Reference:** 14/01364/FUL

**Address:** Grimston Lodge Moor Lane Gilling East  
Helmsley YO62 4HR

**Proposal:** Erection of detached building comprising  
single garage and additional domestic  
accommodation with demolition of existing  
single garage

**Case Officer:** Helen Bloomer

[Click for further information](#)

### Comments Details

**Comments:** I have the following observations to make in relation to these proposals: 1) The removal of the unsightly modern garage from the frontage of the vernacular lodge dwelling is supported. 2) The change in material finish on the eastern elevation, from part stone/part timber cladding to all stone, is welcomed. 3) The reduction in overall height of the building is also welcomed, as I feel it will sit better within its setting than the previous design. 4) The flue pipe for the log burning stove should have a black anodised finish rather than stainless steel, so as not to detract from the vernacular character of the main house. 5) Although the reduction in height of the proposed building will help to bed it into the site better, I still feel that it is rather open to views when approached from the north. This is due to a slight westwards bend in the road, which gives views straight onto the northern elevation, combined with the open metal railing fence and the lack of vegetation during the winter months. I would therefore like to see some consideration given to extending the beech hedge northwards to the northern garden boundary, to provide some mitigation. Paul Jackson

## Paul Jackson

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**From:** dm@ryedale.gov.uk  
**Sent:** 16 January 2015 16:45  
**To:** Paul Jackson  
**Subject:** Consultee Comments for Planning Application 14/01210/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 16 Jan 2015 from [paul.jackson@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:paul.jackson@northyorks.gov.uk).

### Application Summary

**Reference:** 14/01210/FUL  
**Address:** Land At Gilling East Helmsley North  
Yorkshire  
**Proposal:** Erection of 3no. polytunnels for  
horticultural use  
**Case Officer:** Matthew Mortonson

[Click for further information](#)

### Comments Details

**Comments:** I have the following observations to make in relation to these proposals: 1) I'm afraid that the Design & Access Statement is very poor in three specific areas, leading to a potential mis-representation of the existing site and also a failure to consider important planning policies that relate to the site in general. 2) The application site is NOT hedged on the east and west boundaries, as stated. It is hedged to the north along the old railway, and the former farm buildings occupy most of the southern boundary. The western boundary has a strip of mature trees along most of its length, but otherwise it and the eastern boundary are open post and wire fences. These provide no visual screening to the application site when viewed from the public road to the east or the Public Footpath to the west. 3) The Design & Access Statement fails to identify that the application site is within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and as a consequence any potential visual impact on the nationally designated landscape cannot have been assessed adequately. 4) Likewise, the DAS fails to indicate that the wooded bank to the south of the application site is a Grade II Registered Park & Garden (Gilling Castle) and again as a consequence the potential impact on the setting of the

historic parkland cannot have been assessed adequately. 5) Despite these significant shortcomings, I don't have an objection to the proposals in principle. I don't however consider that they are acceptable in their current format, with no screening landscape proposals for a site that is significantly visible from close public viewpoints both to the east and the west. 6) As such therefore I consider that a southwards extension to the belt of trees on the western boundary (to seal off views from the west) and a new hedge planted along the length of the eastern boundary are the minimum landscaping measures needed. By their nature and positioning these would not have an adverse impact on light reaching the proposed polytunnels. 7) In conclusion I have Significant Reservations about this scheme in its current format, due to the open nature of the current site boundaries, the lack of any proposed screening landscaping and consequently an adverse visual impact on the AONB landscape. Paul Jackson

## Paul Jackson

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**From:** Paul Jackson  
**Sent:** 16 January 2015 17:08  
**To:** 'dm@ryedale.gov.uk'  
**Subject:** 14/01372/FUL: Erection of detached stabling, etc; High Baxton Howe, Fryton

I have the following observations to make on these proposals:

1. The most significant views of the proposed development are likely to arise from the east, from both the Public Bridleway directly adjacent to the site and in longer views from the Public Bridleway approaching from Hall Moor.
2. The proposed structure is however sunk approximately 1m below the surrounding general ground level, so will benefit from some screening due to differential ground levels.
3. On consideration I feel that the proposed natural slate is the better roof covering, despite this often being used in the AONB for principal houses rather than outbuildings. The majority of the house and all the former foldyard are roofed in pantiles and a further area of pantiles might be too much. The use of slate would therefore reduce the visual impact of the proposed building and blend it better into the surrounding land and vegetation.
4. I would however like to see a new native species hedgerow planted along the northern boundary of the proposed new curtilage as a Condition of any Approval, as this would in time significantly screen the new building from views from the east.

Paul Jackson  
Howardian Hills AONB Manager  
The Mews, Wath Court  
Hovingham  
York  
YO62 4NN

Tel: 0845 034 9495 / NYCC ext 6775  
Mob: 07715 009426  
Web: [www.howardianhills.org.uk](http://www.howardianhills.org.uk)



## Paul Jackson

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**From:** Paul Jackson  
**Sent:** 16 January 2015 16:03  
**To:** 'Conservancy, Yorkshire and North East'  
**Subject:** 12/120/14-15: FLA, Castle Howard Estate

I have the following observations to make on these proposals:

1. This scheme is part of the major restoration proposals for The Avenue at Castle Howard and would remove two areas of nondescript broadleaved planting that are somewhat at odds with the highly designed nature of the parkland in this location.
2. The details of the restoration scheme were explained to me at a meeting at which Chris Waterfield was also present, so I have a fairly good understanding of the overall design concept.
3. At the above meeting it was also indicated that the compensatory planting could comprise, at least in part, restoration of former parkland landscape features such as copses and individual trees to the west of The Avenue. Given the significant improvement to the Grade I Registered Park and Garden that would accrue from this I hope that the FC will be able to look favourably on a more 'extended' spacing for replacement tree planting, should this be necessary to achieve an appropriate parkland restoration scheme.
4. In conclusion I support this proposal, as it offers very significant improvements to the AONB landscape for minimal loss in biodiversity value.

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

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**From:** Paul Jackson  
**Sent:** 02 February 2015 15:00  
**To:** [planning@hambleton.gov.uk](mailto:planning@hambleton.gov.uk)  
**Cc:** Helen Laws  
**Subject:** 14/02605/FUL: Installation of 20m high mobile phone mast; High Leys, Newburgh

I have the following observations to make on this application:

1. The proposed mast will be visible in long distance views from the Coxwold/Husthwaite road and in medium distance views from the Coxwold/Oulston road. Whilst skylined in views from the former position, the proposed mast will be more back-dropped by vegetation when viewed from the second location, making the colour of the mast particularly important.
2. The proposed mast will sit within a 'line' of trees consisting of the group of trees adjacent to High Leys Farm and the edge of Beacon Banks Wood to the south west. The closest tree to the application site in the High Leys clump is approximately 20m tall, with the tallest tree in that clump being approx. 24m tall. The individual trees to the southwest are somewhat shorter, until the height increases again on the edge of Beacon Banks Wood.
3. Although the drawings show the outline of the mast in green I'm unclear as to what colour the mast is proposed to be. Other masts in the AONB have a dark green finish and this has been particularly effective in preventing contrast with surrounding vegetation. When viewed from longer distances even light grey finishes appear as very dark when viewed against a backdrop of sky, so if Approved I would wish to see the mast colour Conditioned as a dark green as this is a more natural colour than galvanised grey and would help the mast blend into the landscape when viewed from the east.
4. For a similar reason, the close-boarded timber fence of the equipment compound should be stained in a dark brown colour, so as to ensure it blends with the hedgerow behind it.
5. In conclusion, I have some concerns about the open nature of the site and the relative scarcity of nearby trees to provide some better screening/disruption of views. The application of Conditions on the colour of materials, as outlined above, would however be a significant measure to mitigate this negative visual impact.

Paul Jackson  
Howardian Hills AONB Manager  
The Mews, Wath Court  
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## Paul Jackson

---

**From:** dm@ryedale.gov.uk  
**Sent:** 18 February 2015 12:58  
**To:** Paul Jackson  
**Subject:** Consultee Comments for Planning Application 15/00042/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 12:57 PM on 18 Feb 2015 from [paul.jackson@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:paul.jackson@northyorks.gov.uk).

### Application Summary

**Reference:** 15/00042/FUL

**Address:** Building At Town End Farm Scackleton  
Lane Scackleton

**Proposal:** Change of use and alteration of agricultural building and land to form a three bedroom dwelling with garden areas and parking (part retrospective application)

**Case Officer:** Helen Bloomer

[Click for further information](#)

### Comments Details

I have the following observations to make in relation to these proposals: 1) The new boundary wall of the proposed extended domestic curtilage should be of the same stone type and construction as the existing wall that is to be demolished. Any new stone should match the reclaimed stone and the construction should ideally be dry-stone rather than mortared, to reflect its heritage as a field wall. 2) The entrance kerbing should be Conditioned as Conservation kerbing (with Harvest Buff being the most appropriate colour) so as to harmonise with the natural stone construction of the garden walls and converted agricultural building. Standard concrete kerbing would create a significant adverse visual impact. 3) The woodwork on the remaining stone barns appears to have been a dark red colour and it may be applicable to consider this for the windows of the external facing elevations, to reflect the agricultural heritage of the building. Paul Jackson



## Paul Jackson

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**From:** dm@ryedale.gov.uk  
**Sent:** 16 March 2015 17:25  
**To:** Paul Jackson  
**Subject:** Consultee Comments for Planning Application 15/00144/HOUSE

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 5:24 PM on 16 Mar 2015 from [paul.jackson@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:paul.jackson@northyorks.gov.uk).

### Application Summary

**Reference:** 15/00144/HOUSE

**Address:** Flat Top Cottage Flat Top Farm Road  
Terrington Malton YO60 6PB

**Proposal:** Erection of a part two storey/part single storey rear extension following removal of existing single storey rear flat roof extension together with installation of 3no. additional first floor windows to west elevation

**Case Officer:** Charlotte Cornforth

[Click for further information](#)

### Comments Details

**Comments:** I have the following observations to make on these proposals: 1) The most visible external aspect when viewed from adjacent public roads is the north westerly one. Although the existing extensions may not be particularly sympathetic, the strong visual profile of the western gable wall and catslide roof of the original dwelling are still easily distinguishable. 2) I'm concerned that the new extensions, and in particular the 'wrap-around' single storey extension, will rather cut through the remaining vernacular features of the original dwelling so that there will be few traces of any original form left. The catslide appearance of the rear roofslope will be lost and in addition the strong visual element of the western gable wall will be cut by a part-length single storey lean-to extension. 3) Should the scheme be Approved the colour of the painted render finish should be Conditioned to ensure that it is sympathetic to the natural stone construction of the original building. Paul Jackson

## Paul Jackson

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**From:** dm@ryedale.gov.uk  
**Sent:** 18 March 2015 16:40  
**To:** Paul Jackson  
**Subject:** Consultee Comments for Planning Application 15/00146/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 4:39 PM on 18 Mar 2015 from [paul.jackson@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:paul.jackson@northyorks.gov.uk).

### Application Summary

**Reference:** 15/00146/FUL

**Address:** Howsham Mill Howsham Hall Road  
Howsham Malton YO60 7PA

**Proposal:** Extension of approved uses to include hire of building for social events, corporate meetings and training courses in addition to existing use as educational resource centre with bunking facility

**Case Officer:** Helen Bloomer

[Click for further information](#)

### Comments Details

**Comments:** I have the following observations to make on these proposals: 1) Whilst we have been heavily involved at certain stages of the rescue of Howsham Mill, and have provided grant aid for certain projects such as the restoration of the waterwheel, provision of interpretive panels and construction of the composting toilets, I have some concerns about the extent to which the proposed change of use may lead to increased disturbance in an open countryside location adjacent to the generally very tranquil River Derwent SAC. This encompasses an increased number of visitors, together with increased pressure on relatively limited car parking space. 2) In principle however I would support the broadening of the range of uses to which the building can be put, in order to ensure its future viability and to allow more people to enjoy its unique setting. I therefore wonder whether quotas for a certain number of specified types of event might be applied by way of a Condition on any Approval, so as to reach a sustainable compromise. Paul Jackson

## Paul Jackson

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**From:** dm@ryedale.gov.uk  
**Sent:** 17 March 2015 16:00  
**To:** Paul Jackson  
**Subject:** Consultee Comments for Planning Application 15/00153/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 3:58 PM on 17 Mar 2015 from [paul.jackson@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:paul.jackson@northyorks.gov.uk).

### Application Summary

**Reference:** 15/00153/FUL

**Address:** Land North Of Sewage Works Mill Lane  
Ampleforth

**Proposal:** Erection of 6no. light industrial units (Use Class B1) with associated parking and alterations to access track to include widening of the entrance and formation of passing places (revised details to refusal 14/00114/FUL dated 16.09.2014).

**Case Officer:** Alan Hunter

[Click for further information](#)

### Comments Details

**Comments:** I have the following comments to make on these proposals. My comments are in essence a repeat of those submitted in response to the previous proposals: 1) Whilst it would be normal to expect units such as these to be directly adjacent to or within a settlement, in this instance the main issue is whether they would have a significantly detrimental impact on the AONB landscape in the proposed location. 2) The main view from adjacent public viewpoints is likely to be from Mill Lane directly to the west, near the entrance drive to Watergate House. From here the units will be on a ridge with sky behind (accepting that the view currently is during winter and without any leaf on the tree belt within which the units would sit). Nevertheless, the visual impact of the two rows of units, together with the adjacent car parking, should be considered from the perspective of all the seasons, as it will appear to be in 'open' countryside (i.e. detached from any other current development). This is especially important given that the elevation of the units viewed from the west will be

considerably taller than that viewed from the east, due to the design/fall in ground level, and that at one point the screening tree belt will be reduced to one row only. 3)

Notwithstanding the above concerns, I feel that the impacts could be mitigated to a satisfactory level by careful choice of materials colour and additional underplanting of native evergreen shrubs within the woodland areas directly to the west of the proposed units and car parking area. 4) In conclusion, I don't feel that the development would have a significant visual impact on the AONB, subject to Conditions relating to materials colour and woodland management, and small units such as these would diversify the range of business premises available within the AONB. 5)

Suggested materials colours. Roof sheets - dark grey, dark green or dark brown. Walls - timber boarding stained a dark brown colour. Doors - dark grey. 6) Woodland management. A Condition relating to the future management of the woodland area should be imposed, including the requirement to underplant significant areas of holly within the woodland in order to screen it from Mill Lane. The hedge to the east of the access track/site should also be covered by Condition if possible, as this provides significant screening of the site from views within and around Ampleforth village. Paul Jackson

## 2014/15 Junior Ranger Club

Most of the Junior Ranger Club sessions this year have been delivered with the Education Officer from The Yorkshire Arboretum at Castle Howard. One was delivered at Howsham Mill with their Education and Events Officer.

### Easter 2014 :

Ranger Day	Activities	No of children attending
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> April  The Yorkshire Arboretum	<b>Springtime fun</b> Egg marbling, pond dipping, minibeast trail, spring wordsearches, spring blossom tree pictures (spring colours), rabbits and hares, colour palettes (spring greens), spring themed iced biscuits, growing grass in CD cases (roots and shoots demo to take home).	21

### May 2014 :

Ranger Day	Activities	No of children attending
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> May  Howsham Mill	<b>Island explorers</b> Howsham Mill wordsearch, nature walk around the island, intro to the Mill and renewable energy, water wheel building team challenge, glass painting (creatures found in the River Derwent), chapatti making (linking with flour production), giant Howsham Mill collage.	15

### October 2014 :

Ranger Day	Activities	No of children attending
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> October  The Yorkshire Arboretum	<b>Amazing Autumn</b> Fantastic fungi – fungi foray, spore prints, balloon fly agarics. Apple tree art – bark rubbings and apple prints. Autumn leaves – acetate framed pictures. Nuts and seeds relay. Weather – plastic bag kites, wind socks and plastic bottle rain gauges. Rain sticks. Thunder game – cloud attack. Pond dipping.	18

**February 2015 :**

Ranger Day	Activities	No of children attending
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> February  The Yorkshire Arboretum	<b>Winter Discovery</b> Making a small bird drinking scrape by the bird hide. Birdwatching walk. Stick men. Winter-themed crafts – tree skeletons, snowflakes, plaster of Paris animal prints, printing, peppermint cream snowflakes. Water/snow cycle – relay game.	12

**HOWARDIAN HILLS  
AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY  
JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
26 MARCH 2015**

**DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE AONB**

**1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To receive details of planning applications determined within the AONB during 2014.

**2.0 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 At the spring meeting, the JAC receives an annual report on the number and type of planning applications determined within the AONB during the previous year. This procedure was started for the first time in 1998 and gives an impression of the degree of development pressure within the AONB.
- 2.2 At the specific request of Members, information has also been included this year on the total number of applications received over the past 5 years by Ryedale District Council, Hambleton District Council and the North York Moors National Park Authority, for comparison purposes.

**3.0 DEVELOPMENT DURING 2014**

- 3.1 A summary of planning applications determined during 2014 appears in Appendix 1. Details have been included of all applications within the period which were approved or refused by the two principal local planning authorities – Hambleton and Ryedale District Councils. Details have not been included of applications which were withdrawn or where a decision was still pending at the end of the year.
- 3.2 It is important not to read too much into this information. Nothing can be deduced about the scale of development or its visual impact. Nevertheless the following appear to be the most significant conclusions:
- The AONB is still under relatively little development pressure, certainly when compared to many other AONBs. The number of applications in 2014 was a significant decrease on the previous two years, but the reason for this is unknown. This illustrates the difficulty in trying to draw any comparisons or firm conclusions about the pattern or pressure of new development.
  - 88% of applications determined were approved, a figure that is lower than the 5-year average of 92%. This is a slight decrease on the figure for 2013, but the most significant conclusion is probably that planning control in the AONB is still allowing the vast majority of applications to proceed, whilst also preventing those that are not of the highest quality necessary to be permitted within an AONB.
  - Development continues to be spread across nearly all villages, but with higher numbers of applications understandably being seen in the larger villages. Activity in most villages in 2014 has been fairly consistent with the 5-year average, albeit at a generally lower level, although Terrington experienced a significantly lower-than-normal level of activity.
  - Most pressure was for small-scale householder applications e.g. residential extensions. No categories of development showed any significant variation from the 5-year average.

- The AONB continues to be under relatively little tourism and recreational development pressure, with the number of applications in 2014 being consistent with the 5-year average, although again at a reduced level.
- A number of significant applications and cases can be highlighted from the past year – erection of 3 houses in Welburn, construction of a replacement dwelling close to Kirkham Priory, substantial extensions to a house at Welburn, construction of 500 dwellings on the western edge of Malton, erection of a new farmstead at Gilling, erection of an agricultural workers dwelling at Husthwaite and erection of 3 polytunnels at Gilling.

3.3 In the financial year 2014/15, which does not quite overlap with the calendar year 2014, 87 applications were scrutinised, having either been referred in accordance with the agreed consultation procedure or called-up by the AONB Manager:

- The AONB Manager submitted comments on 38 of these consultations.
- Objections/strong reservations were lodged in 14 of those responses.
- The District Council followed the JAC's recommendations of refusal, or the applicants Withdrew the plans, in 5 out of the cases where a decision was required (2 cases still pending a Decision).
- 3 schemes were approved following re-submission/amendment in line with the AONB Manager's comments.
- For the 2013 year, the AONB Manager scrutinised 65 applications out of a total of 133 (49%). For the 2014 year the comparable figures are 87 out of 91 applications (96%). This explains the significant workload on planning application scrutiny during 2014/15.

In many cases the comments submitted were relatively minor in nature, but nonetheless important in order to ensure that the AONB landscape, wildlife and historic heritage is conserved appropriately. Many of the comments made relate to the colour of materials and wall/roof finishes. Although a Condition is often placed on the development by the District Council, it is only once the development takes place that we can see whether our comments have truly been successful or not. Members should note that we have very little control over the workload generated by this area of our work, as it is dependent upon the number and type of applications submitted.

#### 4.0 DEVELOPMENT TRENDS IN A LOCAL CONTEXT

4.1 As requested, information has also been gathered from the three Local Planning Authorities in relation to the total number of applications Validated in the last 5 years. This information is shown in the table below.

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	5-year average
Ryedale District	671	736	665	677	650	679
Hambleton District	1,926	1,772	1,623	1,542	1,573	1,687
North York Moors National Park	915	803	782	807	706	803
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,512</b>	<b>3,311</b>	<b>3,070</b>	<b>3,026</b>	<b>2,929</b>	<b>3,170</b>

4.2 The figures for the Hambleton District are considerably higher than for the other two LPAs because these include all applications for the Discharge of Conditions. If these were stripped out then the number of applications would be of the same sort of order as the other two areas.

4.3 The figures were gathered to test the hypothesis that the increase in the number of



planning consultations being received by the AONB Manager was mirrored by an increase in applications District-wide. This has not proved to be the case, as the total number of applications in all three areas has generally been falling since 2011.

- 4.4 The hypothesis that an increase in the number of planning applications was a possible indicator of an increase in economic growth is also not proven, as the number of applications has fallen since 2011.
- 4.5 As indicated in section 3.2 above, it is important not to make too many assumptions about development trends based on the number of applications/consultations. It is therefore difficult to know, based on this dataset, whether economic growth in the AONB has been increasing over the last few years.
- 4.6 Given the statistics in the final bullet point in paragraph 3.3 above, it appears that the significant workload of planning application consultation responses during 2014/15 has been due to the need to examine almost every planning application submitted in the AONB this year. This is unprecedented and, because there isn't the time to look at applications purely out of interest, there must have been some aspect of every application that it was felt necessary to scrutinise.

## **5.0 RECOMMENDATION**

That the report be received for information.

## Appendix 1

<b>Howardian Hills AONB</b>						
<b>Applications Determined by Parish</b>						
						<b>5yr Average</b>
<b><u>Ryedale Parishes</u></b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2010-2014</b>
Ampleforth	8	10	7	12	5	<b>8</b>
Bulmer	2	3	0	2	2	<b>2</b>
Cawton	1	3	3	4	4	<b>3</b>
Coneysthorpe	0	0	1	0	0	<b>0</b>
Coulton	0	3	5	3	1	<b>2</b>
Crambe	1	0	2	4	3	<b>2</b>
Gilling East	10	9	10	8	6	<b>9</b>
Grimstone	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Henderskelfe	0	0	1	0	2	<b>1</b>
Hovingham	3	9	10	9	4	<b>7</b>
Howsham	2	2	0	3	1	<b>2</b>
Huttons Ambo	6	1	6	7	3	<b>5</b>
Nunnington	4	4	3	5	4	<b>4</b>
Oswaldkirk	8	9	2	10	3	<b>6</b>
Scackleton	2	0	2	1	3	<b>2</b>
Sheriff Hutton (High Stittenham)	0	0	0	1	0	<b>0</b>
Sproxtton	6	1	4	4	3	<b>4</b>
Stonegrave	0	2	6	1	0	<b>2</b>
Terrington	12	5	10	4	1	<b>6</b>
Welburn	5	11	6	14	7	<b>9</b>
Whitwell-on-the Hill	0	1	2	0	2	<b>1</b>
<b>Total Ryedale</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>74</b>
<b><u>Hambleton Parishes</u></b>						
Brandsby-cum-Stearsby	0	7	12	14	7	<b>8</b>
Coxwold	1	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Crayke	8	17	8	12	6	<b>10</b>
Dalby-cum-Skewsby	5	2	3	3	2	<b>3</b>
Hustwaite	2	5	14	5	6	<b>6</b>
Newburgh	0	1	2	0	1	<b>1</b>
Oulston	3	3	1	1	0	<b>2</b>
Thornton-on-the-Hill	1	0	0	0	1	<b>0</b>
Whenby	0	1	0	3	2	<b>1</b>
Yearsley	2	1	6	1	4	<b>3</b>
<b>Total Hambleton</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>TOTAL HOWARDIAN HILLS AONB</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>108</b>

<b>Howardian Hills AONB</b>										
<b>Applications Determined by</b>										
<b>Type of Development</b>										
(Number of applications and % approved)										
<b>Ryedale Parishes</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>5yr Average 2010-2014</b>				
Residential - New Build	5	4	2	7	9	5				
	100%	100%	100%	71%	78%					
Residential - Conversions	1	3	9	2	0	3				
	100%	100%	100%	0%	~					
Holiday - Conversions	0	0	1	0	0	0				
	~	~	100%	~	~					
Householder	38	34	43	42	21	36				
	87%	88%	98%	93%	90%					
Retail	0	0	0	0	0	0				
	~	~	~	~	~					
Business & Commercial	4	1	1	6	1	3				
	100%	0%	100%	100%	0%					
Minerals & Waste	0	0	0	0	0	0				
	~	~	~	~	~					
Tourism & Recreation	1	1	2	3	1	2				
	100%	0%	100%	100%	100%					
Community Facilities	0	1	1	0	1	1				
	~	0%	100%	~	100%					
Agriculture	2	4	8	7	3	5				
	50%	75%	87%	100%	66%					
Agricultural Prior Notifications	N/A	3	3	2	5	3				
Other	15	20	12	24	18	18				
	100%	100%	100%	92%	88%					
Equestrian	4	0	1	1	0	1				
	75%	~	100%	100%	~					
<b>Total Ryedale</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>75</b>				
	<b>90%</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>85%</b>					
<b>Hambleton Parishes</b>										
Residential - New Build	0	0	2	0	1	1				
	~	~	100%	~	0%					
Residential - Conversions	0	2	4	2	1	2				
	~	100%	100%	100%	100%					
Holiday - Conversions	0	2	2	2	1	1				
	~	100%	100%	50%	100%					
Householder	15	18	20	19	22	19				
	100%	94%	90%	100%	100%					
Retail	0	0	0	0	0	0				
	~	~	~	~	~					
Business & Commercial	0	0	4	3	0	1				
	~	~	100%	100%	~					
Minerals & Waste	0	0	0	0	0	0				
	~	~	~	~	~					
Tourism & Recreation	0	4	1	1	2	2				
	~	75%	100%	100%	100%					
Community Facilities	0	0	1	0	0	0				
	~	~	100%	~	~					
Agriculture	5	8	3	10	4	6				
	80%	100%	100%	100%	75%					
Agricultural Prior Notifications	N/A	3	6	0	1	3				
Other	2	0	3	2	0	1				
	100%	~	100%	100%	~					
<b>Total Hambleton</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>35</b>				
	<b>95%</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>94%</b>					
<b>TOTAL HOWARDIAN HILLS AONE</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>111</b>				
	<b>91%</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>92%</b>				

**HOWARDIAN HILLS  
AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY  
JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
26 MARCH 2015**

**AONB ACTION PROGRAMME 2014/15**

**1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To receive details of progress made on implementing the AONB Management Plan during 2014/15. The Action Programme for 2015/16, incorporating business planning requirements, is covered under a separate Report on this agenda.

**2.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 At each Spring meeting the JAC considers a report detailing the progress achieved on the Management Plan objectives. The Action Programme contains details of the progress made against the previous year's targets. The Action Programme covering detailed progress against 2014/15 targets has been circulated to Members by email.
- 2.2 A detailed Red/Amber/Green system is used to monitor progress against annual targets, and analysis shows that 80% of the specific targets were fully achieved, 4% were substantially achieved, 3% were 25-75% achieved, 3% were less than 25% achieved and 10% were not progressed at all.
- 2.3 Statistically this is a very similar performance than the previous year. Targets where no action was completed were largely those that were overtaken by events, relied heavily on action from partner organisations or were/became lower relative priorities for the AONB Unit during the year.
- 2.4 Targets that we had hoped to achieve better progress on included entering details of hedges planted, etc onto a GIS database; compiling a matrix of the habitats and Special Qualities of the AONB, plotted against the ecosystem services that they provide; geodiversity management and a Condition Assessment mechanism for non-statutory Natural and Historic Environment Priority Sites.

**3.0 THE ECOSYSTEM APPROACH**

- 3.1 Achievements this year included:
- Monitoring information on climate change scenarios and possible impacts.

**4.0 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT**

- 4.1 Achievements this year included:
- Participating in groups developing a new Biodiversity Action Plan for Ryedale, Scarborough and the AONB, and exploring options for ecological data storage and handling within North Yorkshire.
  - Carrying out 11 workdays with volunteers on 4 SINCs.
  - Managing a total of 12 grassland sites (all SINC's bar one).
  - Managing 45 Special Interest Road Verges.
  - Completing clearance of rhododendron in Park Wood adjacent to Yearsley Moor Woodlands SINC, with volunteers.
  - Controlling Himalayan balsam along approx. 5.8km of Wath Beck, at Jeffry Bog SINC and at Fairy Dell SINC.
  - Planting 37 individual or in-field trees, with all the costs subsequently recouped via a grant from the Environment Agency.

- Continuing to participate in the partnership focussed on the River Rye, to develop a project to tackle Himalayan balsam, river quality and sedimentation on a catchment scale. This is now part of the Yorkshire Derwent Catchment Partnership, principally lead by the East Yorkshire Rivers Trust and North York Moors National Park, and a comprehensive Strategy is being prepared.
- Supporting the management or creation of village wildlife areas at Amotherby and Westow.
- Becoming involved with the North Yorkshire Local Geological Sites Partnership for the first time, to progress survey and management work on the AONB's most important geodiversity sites.

## **5.0 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT**

### **5.1 Achievements this year included:**

- Developing a targeted programme of survey and management work for Scheduled Monuments, particularly those which are At Risk, utilising volunteers wherever possible. Submitted a 4-year programme brief to English Heritage for funding.
- Carrying out bracken and rhododendron control works on Scheduled Monuments at Hovingham and Newburgh.
- Completing work on 12 Local Priority Sites or other historic features. The most significant of these were the works on Scheduled Monuments described above, repairs to a Listed field barn and restoration of 4 traditional direction signs.
- Supporting the restoration of the Castle Howard Avenue, with a mixture of selective felling, replanting, woodland clearance and parkland re-creation.

## **6.0 LOCAL COMMUNITIES**

### **6.1 Achievements this year included:**

- Continuing involvement in the North York Moors, Coast and Hills LEADER Transition phase, participating in development of a new Local Development Strategy.
- Community projects funded in 2 villages, including 1 Village Hall project supported.
- Rural Action Yorkshire project supported with an SDF grant (see separate report for work achieved by project officer).
- Supporting an AONB Photographic competition and prize-giving event, principally organised by RAY.
- Continued liaison with the principal organisations involved in community work in the AONB, via the regular Community Development Officers' meetings.

## **7.0 AGRICULTURE**

### **7.1 Achievements this year included:**

- Participating in the local NELMS verification process, to ensure that all information on species, habitats, heritage assets, etc was correctly identified.
- Completing 6 landscape enhancement schemes involving 449m of hedge planting/gapping-up and 265m of field wall restoration.
- Submitting responses to planning consultations for 18 new agricultural buildings or infrastructure.
- Responding to HLS consultations and requests for advice, as appropriate.

## **8.0 FORESTRY AND WOODLAND**

### **8.1 Achievements this year included:**

- Scrutinising 13 Forestry Commission English Woodland Grant Scheme consultation.
- Monitoring the situation with tree diseases.
- Responding to consultations and requests for advice, as appropriate.

## **9.0 DEVELOPMENT & THE RURAL ECONOMY**

### 9.1 Achievements this year included:

- Monitoring and inputting as necessary to national policy consultations received by the NAAONB.
- Scrutinising a total of 90 development control consultations across all categories – full details of Development statistics for the AONB in 2014 are given in a separate Report on this agenda.
- Scrutinising 7 planning consultations related to small business development in the AONB.
- Continuing liaison with Northern Powergrid on overhead electricity cable undergrounding, particularly in Bulmer. Developing a framework for implementation of the next 8-year programme, as part of RIIO-ED1.
- Surveying National Grid overhead power lines close to the AONB and submitting these for potential mitigation as part of the RIIO-T1 Visual Improvement Project being run by National Grid.
- Carrying out site visits with the contractors during the seismic survey in autumn 2014, to understand the process.
- Attending meetings and debates to learn more about fracking.
- Continuing to explore options to support jobs, skills and sustainable economic growth locally, as part of the joint Protected Landscapes Growth Plan submitted to the Local Enterprise Partnership.
- Participating in the partnership set up to run the Dales & Moors Farmer Innovation Project, with at least 1 farmer from the AONB participating.
- Supporting new mobile phone masts proposed as part of the Government's Mobile Infrastructure Programme to tackle 'not-spots'.

## **10.0 ROADS, TRANSPORT AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT**

### 10.1 Achievements this year included:

- Scrutinising 9 development control consultations.
- Renovating 4 traditional direction signs in the Bulmer, Crambe, Firby and Howsham areas. Highways Agency approached about the sign at Barton Hill, to ensure protection during proposed works.
- Involvement in the NYCC/RDC study to identify improvements to the A64, which may ultimately involve full dualling of the remaining single carriageway section within the AONB.

## **11.0 RECREATION, ACCESS AND TOURISM**

### 11.1 Achievements this year included:

- Scrutinising 3 development control consultations.
- Publishing a hub leaflet promoting routes in the wider Castle Howard area.
- Re-printing the Great Outdoors leaflet with the North York Moors National Park and Welcome to Yorkshire, featuring some more of our walking and cycling routes.
- Developing and implementing an initiative with Visit York, via Ryedale DC and Welcome to Yorkshire.
- Utilising the new Volunteer Task Leaders to run tasks on PRoW maintenance within the AONB.
- Continuing to negotiate a package of improvements in PRoW routing on the Castle Howard Estate.
- Continuing input into the 'Moors and More' local distinctiveness project and other similar tourism business initiatives with Ryedale DC, Welcome to Yorkshire and Visit York.
- Litter picking at 'hot-spots' throughout the AONB.
- Digitising the remaining 3 walks routes around Terrington, to make a uniform package of 12 electronic leaflets for the whole AONB.

## **12.0 AWARENESS AND PROMOTION**

### **12.1 Achievements this year included:**

- Maintaining a neat appearance around the AONB gateway signs.
- Approaching the Highways Agency to enquire about installing brown tourism gateway signs on the A64.
- Publishing AONB News and our Annual Report for 2013/14.
- Attending the Ryedale Show.
- Installing the remaining three 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary log seats.
- Distributing AONB literature to outlets in the AONB.
- Maintaining the AONB website – 48,201 Page Views by 13,731 Users. Scoping options for a low-cost re-refresh of the website's appearance.
- Giving 2 evening talks.
- Holding 4 Junior Ranger Club sessions throughout the year, with 66 children attending.
- Completing 6 Round 4 visits of the LEADER and Heritage Lottery Fund-supported Rural:Urban Schools Twinning Project, to finish the programme. Wrapping-up of final project reports and finances.

## **13.0 IMPLEMENTATION**

### **13.1 Achievements this year included:**

- Utilising the Defra Single Pot funding arrangements to ensure maximum leverage of funds into the AONB.
- Participating in the local NELMS verification process, to ensure that all information on species, habitats, assets, etc was correctly identified for use in the new scheme.
- Continuing our involvement with the LEADER Transition Steering Group, preparing a new Local Development Strategy. Approval received from Defra, with funding of £2.34m.
- Successfully applying for funding for treeplanting schemes from the EA Mitigation Fund; applying for NYCC funding for geodiversity survey work in 2015.
- Developing a targeted programme of survey and management work for Scheduled Monuments, particularly those which are At Risk, utilising volunteers wherever possible. Submitted a 4-year programme brief to English Heritage for funding, which was approved and a full application submission invited.
- Continuing to participate in the partnership focussed on the River Rye, to develop a project to tackle Himalayan balsam, river quality and sedimentation on a catchment scale. This is now part of the Yorkshire Derwent Catchment Partnership, principally lead by the East Yorkshire Rivers Trust and North York Moors National Park, and a comprehensive Strategy is being prepared.
- Continuing to balance our Reserves position against new information being received on likely future levels of Government and local authority funding, so as to utilise our resources most efficiently in delivering Management Plan Objectives and practical conservation projects.
- Rebecca Thompson was seconded from the North York Moors National Park Authority for 1 day per week until November 2014, to backfill the reduction in Liz Bassindale's hours.
- Reviewing the AONB grant processes in order to maintain effectiveness and efficiency.
- Continuing to explore options to support jobs, skills and sustainable economic growth locally, as part of the joint Protected Landscapes Growth Plan submitted to the Local Enterprise Partnership. Dales & Moors Farmer Innovation Project established.
- Achieving volunteer assistance for 25 tasks or projects, worth at least 193 days or £13,400.

## **14.0 MONITORING**

14.1 Achievements this year included:

- Continuing the digitisation of practical conservation work completed/funded by the JAC.
- Completing the fixed-point photography monitoring project and compiling a set of baseline photos.

## **15.0 AONB MANAGEMENT PLAN**

15.1 Achievements this year included:

- Producing the final version for printing, followed by publication and circulation.

## **16.0 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR AONBs**

16.1 Achievements this year included:

- Attending the national AONB Forum in Penrith.
- Attending 1 x Northern AONBs Group meetings.
- Attending the NAAONB Chairmens' seminar and AGM event.
- Participating in peer-to-peer and on-line collaborative working initiatives, to share and receive knowledge around the AONB Family.

## **17.0 RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the achievements against Targets for 2014/15 be noted.



**HOWARDIAN HILLS  
AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY  
JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
26 MARCH 2015**

**AONB BUSINESS PLAN AND ACTION PROGRAMME 2015/16**

**1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To agree details of proposed activity to implement the AONB Management Plan during 2015/16.

**2.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 The AONB Management Plan contains a detailed Action Programme that lists each Objective and Action and identifies a suggested lead agency and partner organisations for implementation.
- 2.2 In addition to setting targets for 2015/16 this report also details some of the mechanisms for achieving the proposed targets, as well as indications of some of the individual projects that may be implemented.
- 2.3 The Action Programme and Targets for 2015/16, together with an indicative timetabling of tasks, has been circulated to Members by email.

**3.0 THE ECOSYSTEM APPROACH**

- 3.1 Principal activities for the year include:
- Compiling a matrix of the habitats and Special Qualities of the AONB, plotted against the ecosystem services that they provide.
  - Compiling a matrix of generic types of 'project', plotted against the ecosystem services that the AONB provides.
  - Starting to utilise the matrix of 'projects' when assessing grant requests, planning applications, etc.

**4.0 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT**

- 4.1 The proposed budget for landscape and biodiversity works is £15,000, although there would also be additional funds available from Reserves if necessary. Potential projects to be funded include:
- Continuing restoration of roadside drystone walls in the Yearsley/Grimstone area (subject to integration with grants available from the Countryside Stewardship Scheme).
  - Hedge restoration at Ampleforth (subject to integration with grants available from the Countryside Stewardship Scheme).
  - Planting of new in-field and boundary trees.
  - Continued control of rhododendron in Park Wood (adjacent to Yearsley Moor Woodlands SINC).
  - Control of Himalayan balsam along Wath Beck and at Jeffry Bog, Fairy Dell and Mugdale & Barker Woods SINCS.
- 4.2 Other activities for the year include:
- Setting up sites in BARS2 and inputting habitat management activities.
  - Scoping options and costs for preparing a report on the species records for the AONB.

- Contributing to discussions to develop a sustainable future for the North & East Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre and the North Yorkshire Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation system.
- Working in partnership with Ryedale DC, Scarborough BC and Hambleton DC to continue development a new Biodiversity Action Plan for the joint area.
- Continuing our programmes of Exmoor pony grazing, SINC management and road verge management.
- Continuing our programme of planting individual hedgerow and in-field trees.
- Carrying out targeted control of Himalayan balsam, Western hemlock, rhododendron and bracken on various SINC and other sites.
- Promoting the new Countryside Stewardship Scheme to farmers and land managers and identifying new opportunities and methods for assisting them with conservation works.
- Implementing Year 1 works on the River Rye project, as part of the Yorkshire Derwent Catchment Partnership Strategy.
- Progressing initiatives to identify and conserve features of geodiversity interest in the AONB.
- Continuing to participate in the North Yorkshire & York Local Nature Partnership (LNP).

## **5.0 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT**

- 5.1 The proposed budget for works to conserve and enhance historic environment features is currently £9,000, although there would also be additional funds available from Reserves if necessary. Potential projects to be funded include:
- Restoring traditional direction signs.
  - Carrying out management works on Scheduled Monuments. This may take more or less of the budget (which may also be increased from its current proposed level), dependent upon the amount of work proposed for the first year of the new Monument Management Scheme.
- 5.2 Other activities for the year include:
- Delivering the first year of the new Monument Management Scheme, funded by English Heritage, utilising volunteers wherever possible.
  - Promoting the new Countryside Stewardship Scheme to farmers and land managers and identifying new opportunities and methods for assisting them with conservation works.
  - Monitoring the re-organisation of English Heritage and its National Heritage Protection Plan.

## **6.0 LOCAL COMMUNITIES**

- 6.1 The budget for small-scale works in local villages is included within the £22,000 earmarked for projects supporting Sustainable Development and the Rural Economy.
- 6.2 Other activities for the year include:
- Participation in the new North York Moors, Coast and Hills LEADER Programme, to promote and develop activities within the AONB.
  - Continued liaison with the principal organisations involved in community work in the AONB, via the regular Community Development Officers' meetings.

## **7.0 AGRICULTURE**

- 7.1 The proposed combined budget for both landscape and biodiversity works is £15,000, although there would also be additional funds available from Reserves if necessary. See paragraph 4.1 above.

- 7.2 Other activities for the year include:
- Promoting the new Countryside Stewardship Scheme to farmers and land managers and identifying new opportunities and methods for assisting them with conservation works.
  - Responding to consultations and requests for advice, as appropriate.

## **8.0 FORESTRY AND WOODLAND**

- 8.1 Principal activities for the year include:
- Promoting the new Countryside Stewardship Scheme to farmers and land managers and identifying new opportunities and methods for assisting them with conservation works.
  - Monitoring the incidence of Ash Dieback Disease and other plant health issues.
  - Exploring options to support the woodfuel market locally, as part of the joint Protected Landscapes Growth Plan submitted to the Local Enterprise Partnership.
  - Continuing to provide advice and, where appropriate, financial assistance to woodland managers.
  - Responding to consultations and requests for advice, as appropriate.

## **9.0 DEVELOPMENT & THE RURAL ECONOMY**

- 9.1 Principal activities for the year include:
- Monitoring and inputting as necessary to national policy consultations received by the NAAONB.
  - Responding to consultations received from the Local Planning Authorities and other bodies on development proposals. The amount of work arising from planning consultations is impossible to predict, as our input is entirely reactive, but this is an important area of work and is a high priority.
  - Inputting to the continuing development of the Ryedale Local Plan, as applicable.
  - Continuing liaison with Northern Powergrid on overhead electricity cable undergrounding, to ensure a swift start to projects in the new RIIO-ED1 period.
  - If appropriate, taking advantage of landscape mitigation funds provided by National Grid to minimise the visual impact of high voltage overhead powerlines.
  - Exploring options to support jobs, skills and sustainable economic growth locally, as part of the joint Protected Landscapes Growth Plan submitted to the Local Enterprise Partnership.

## **10.0 ROADS, TRANSPORT AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT**

- 10.1 Principal activities for the year include:
- Responding to consultations received from the Highway Authority on works within the carriageway that might have biodiversity, historic environment or landscape implications.
  - Participating in the next review of the North Yorkshire Local Transport Plan.
  - The repair and restoration of at least 2 traditional direction signs.
  - Participating in the development of the Jacobs study on a road improvement package for the A64, particularly with reference to dualling the remaining section within the AONB.

## **11.0 RECREATION, ACCESS AND TOURISM**

- 11.1 The budget for recreation and access works is included within the £22,000 earmarked for projects supporting Sustainable Development and the Rural Economy.

- 11.2 Principal activities for the year include:
- Involvement in discussions on future changes to Public Rights of Way maintenance procedures, as a result of the Countryside Service re-structure at North Yorkshire CC.
  - Continuing input into the 'Moors and More' local distinctiveness project and other similar tourism business initiatives with Ryedale DC, Welcome to Yorkshire and Visit York.
  - Implementation of Public Rights of Way route creation/diversion packages at Castle Howard and Howsham.
  - Continuing to control litter at 'hot-spots' and reporting fly-tipping incidents.

## **12.0 AWARENESS & PROMOTION**

12.1 The budget for awareness and promotion work is included within the £22,000 earmarked for projects supporting Sustainable Development and the Rural Economy.

- 12.2 Principal activities for the year include:
- Further developing circular routes for off-road cyclists, particularly in partnership with the Castle Howard Estate
  - Ensuring that the gateway signs are maintained and that outlets are supplied with copies of our leaflets when requested.
  - Approaching the Highways Agency to further discuss the installation of Gateway Signs on the A64.
  - Publishing our 2014/15 Annual Report and AONB News 2015.
  - Refreshing our website, attending Ryedale Show and distributing information/ promoting the AONB via Twitter.
  - Scoping options for preparing a leaflet about the geodiversity of the AONB.
  - Holding at least 3 Junior Ranger Club days, taking the project around the AONB where possible.

## **13.0 IMPLEMENTATION**

- 13.1 Principal initiatives this year include:
- Participating in any work needed to promote the importance of AONB management and ensure the continuation/maximisation of grant support from Defra.
  - Participating in the new North York Moors, Coast and Hills LEADER Programme, to promote and develop activities within the AONB.
  - Taking in-year opportunities where appropriate to obtain small amounts of grant support for specific projects.
  - Delivering the first year of the new Monument Management Scheme, funded by English Heritage.
  - Implementing Year 1 works on the River Rye project, as part of the Yorkshire Derwent Catchment Partnership Strategy.
  - Continuing input into the 'Moors and More' local distinctiveness project and other similar tourism business initiatives with Ryedale DC, Welcome to Yorkshire and Visit York.
  - Utilising Reserves appropriately, to supplement the annual projects budget and maintain an AONB Unit resource commensurate with future work priorities and income.
  - Reviewing all AONB grant processes and assistance options once agri-environment scheme, LEP and LEADER programmes are fully finalised, in order to maintain effectiveness and efficiency.
  - Exploring options to support jobs, skills and sustainable economic growth locally, as part of the joint Protected Landscapes Growth Plan submitted to the Local Enterprise Partnership.

- Exploring future options for the Native Woodland Development partnership with the North York Moors National Park and other organisations, to make best use of new opportunities presented in the Countryside Stewardship Scheme, LEADER Local Development Strategy, etc.
- Using volunteers to help deliver AONB Management Plan Objectives wherever possible and appropriate.
- Move the AONB Unit office to the North York Moors National Park Authority premises in Helmsley.

#### **14.0 MONITORING**

14.1 Principal activities for the year include:

- Further developing an assessment mechanism for non-designated Natural and Historic Environment Priority Sites.
- Revising the 2014 data for the relevant AONB Condition Indicator, following any changes to the assessment mechanism described above.
- Continuing the digitisation of practical conservation work completed/funded by the JAC.

#### **15.0 AONB MANAGEMENT PLAN**

15.1 No activity planned for this year.

#### **16.0 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR AONBs**

16.1 Principal activities for the year include:

- Continuing to participate in lobbying, peer-to-peer learning projects, sharing of information, etc.
- Attending seminars, Northern Group meetings, AONB technical events, etc.

#### **17.0 RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Targets for 2015/16, as contained in the Action Programme, be approved.

**HOWARDIAN HILLS  
AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY  
JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
26 MARCH 2015**

**BUSINESS PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE**

**1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To consider the options for re-locating the AONB Unit office in December 2015.

**2.0 BACKGROUND**

2.1 At the meeting of the JAC in November 2014, the AONB Manager presented a paper that asked whether Members wished for work to be carried out on scoping alternative locations for the AONB Unit office.

2.2 The issue has been driven by the probable budget scenarios for the next 3-5 years and the potential opportunity presented by a break clause in the lease on the current office at Hovingham.

2.3 Detailed information has been gathered and analysis of a number of possible alternative locations has taken place. The calculations and figures are shown in Appendix 1, with analysis of the various factors reported in Section 3.

2.4 The locations/options considered initially as part of this exercise were:

- County Hall, Northallerton.
- Area Highways Office, Kirby Misperton.
- Sheriff Hutton Industrial Estate.
- Unit 1B, Wath Court.
- Ryedale House, Malton.
- North York Moors National Park, Helmsley.
- North Yorkshire Building Control Partnership, Easingwold.
- Home-working.

2.5 As part of the analysis process the following locations/options were rejected at an early stage because of significant disbenefits in relation to one or more of the assessment factors:

- County Hall, Northallerton – too far from the AONB; significant extra costs in time and mileage payments incurred in travelling to site visits, meetings, etc in the AONB; poor public perception; low potential for synergy from partnership working.
- Area Highways Office, Kirby Misperton – extra costs in time and mileage payments in comparison to other, nearer options; low potential for synergy from partnership working.
- Sheriff Hutton Industrial Estate – no cost savings in comparison to the current office at Wath Court; no potential for synergy from partnership working.
- Home-working – lack of co-ordination/synergy for AONB Unit staff; no potential for synergy from partnership working; accommodation still needed for storage of files, displays banners, materials, etc.

2.6 The remaining options on which detailed work was then carried out were therefore:

- Unit 1B, Wath Court.
- North York Moors National Park, Helmsley.
- Ryedale House, Malton.
- North Yorkshire Building Control Partnership, Easingwold.

### 3.0 FACTORS TO CONSIDER

#### 3.1 Rent and office running costs:

- a) Please refer to Row A in the spreadsheet in Appendix 1.
- b) During the investigation work it has become clear that one of the most significant elements in the current cost of the AONB Unit office is the NYNET broadband charge, which at £6,759p.a. is 30% of the total office costs. Although this is paid centrally by North Yorkshire County Council, it is also shown in our balance sheet because it is a legitimate cost that needs to be included for accounting purposes and not 'hidden' as an in-kind contribution by NYCC. In order to balance the AONB budget an equivalent additional NYCC income figure is added each year to cover the broadband charge.
- c) Although additional income is 'received' to pay for the broadband charge, this element does significantly increase the running costs of the AONB Unit office and is therefore a significant factor when considering the balance between what the JAC spends on 'administrative costs' and what it spends on 'work on the ground'.
- d) Likewise it becomes clear that any office that the AONB Unit occupies solely (e.g. Wath Court) will incur the high broadband charge, whereas any office accommodation/organisation that already has its own NyNET link will offer significant savings. A self-contained AONB Unit 'network' can be installed in a third-party office at minimal cost, whilst the co-location host organisation would only charge the standard per-user fee.
- e) Savings made by moving to a location that already has a NyNET link would be realised by both the JAC budget *and* NYCC – NYCC reduces the number of premises with a NyNET link and the JAC budget shows a much smaller figure for broadband charges.

#### 3.2 Proximity to the AONB – impact on mileage payments and time spent travelling.

- a) Please refer to Rows C and D of the spreadsheet in Appendix 1.
- b) The current office location at Wath Court is probably as central as we could hope to find. Any move to another location would therefore have impacts on both the amount of budget needing to be allocated to Staff Mileage payments and also the additional time spent travelling to meetings or site visits.
- c) In order to assess the potential impact, all the journeys completed by the AONB Manager and AONB Officer in 2014 were analysed to calculate how much longer/shorter and cheaper/more expensive they would have been from the three principal locations being scoped.
- d) Results of the calculations show that Easingwold is the least advantageous location. Helmsley shows a potential *decrease* in mileage costs, due to the number of meetings that AONB Unit staff already attend at the National Park offices and future options for car-sharing. Helmsley also has the smallest increase in travel time.

#### 3.3 Potential for partnership working:

- a) One of the most significant opportunities offered by an office move is the potential for new synergies to be created via partnership with the organisation with whom we choose to co-locate. This covers not only the synergy between our own business objectives/activities and those of our co-location host, but also the scope that might be available to access expertise that they have but which we don't.
- b) It is very difficult to put any kind of financial value on this synergy, but it also extends as far as the AONB Unit staff feeling at least some sense of shared purpose with their co-location host, which then translates across into staff morale and productivity.
- c) Of the three 'external' options being scoped, the North York Moors National Park clearly offers the highest potential for synergy of both purpose and expertise, with the North Yorkshire Building Control Partnership offering the lowest.

#### 3.4 Scope for future re-structuring of the AONB Unit staff resource:

- a) Leading on from the potential for synergy with a co-location host is the opportunity that that organisation might offer for future sharing of staff. Any change of office location needs to consider the opportunities that could be available should the AONB Unit reduce its core staff team in order to respond to budget reductions or changes in priorities.

- b) It therefore follows that a co-location host organisation whose business is closely aligned to our own, covers the same areas of work and which has specialist staff for those areas of work is likely to offer more potential opportunities for staff/cost sharing. The capacity of the organisation to offer us staff is however also an important consideration, as organisations are generally reducing staff numbers themselves and therefore 'spare' capacity might be limited.
- c) As with the potential for partnership working synergy described above, the North York Moors National Park offers the highest potential and capacity for future staff sharing opportunities, with the North Yorkshire Building Control Partnership again offering the lowest.
- d) Row E of the spreadsheet in Appendix 1 gives an indication of the level of savings that could potentially be achieved if the AONB Assistant post was made redundant at some point in the future and tailored services (ranging from administrative support to technical specialists) were bought-in from a co-location host organisation instead.

### 3.5 Public/partner organisation perception:

- a) Whilst the four factors analysed above are clearly the most important ones with regards to potential cost savings and future flexibility, it is also important to recognise that the perception of members of the public and partner organisations is a potential 'reputational risk' for the JAC and the AONB Unit.
- b) When the AONB Unit was first established in 2001 it worked hard to build its own identity, demonstrate that it had a useful role to play within the Howardian Hills/could be of use and service to landowners and communities, and prove that it wasn't a precursor to designation of the Howardian Hills as a National Park.
- c) Fifteen years later all of those goals have been achieved and the JAC and AONB Unit is firmly established as a significant player within the Howardian Hills, as well as being an equal partner with other organisations in various partnerships.
- d) The risks around public perception are therefore different from what they were fifteen years ago, whilst the need for public sector organisations to co-operate has also significantly increased in importance. One of the principal recommendations from the Land Use Consultants report prepared for Defra in 2014 (but still embargoed) was that Protected Landscapes should look to share more 'back-office' functions.
- e) Of the three 'external' options being scoped, Ryedale District Council is felt to offer some reputational risk as it is the Local Planning Authority covering the largest percentage of the AONB area. The JAC's position offering independent comment on planning applications within the AONB might therefore be seen to be compromised if we were co-located with one of the LPAs. The North York Moors National Park might present some reputational risk, but it is felt that we have carried out enough partnership projects over particularly the last ten years where it has been shown that we are equal partners rather than having been subject to a 'take-over bid'. All work with National Park staff is very much on the basis of a 'partnership of equals' and many AONB communities and landowners have benefited from the additional skills and staff resources that these partnerships have offered. The North Yorkshire Building Control Partnership would present no reputational risks, as it has little similarity with our areas of work.

### 3.6 Transitional costs:

- a) All office relocations inevitably incur transitional costs in both financial and productivity terms. Row B of the spreadsheet in Appendix 1 details the level of financial costs involved, although some of these are general estimates.
- b) The most significant cost is the one-off cancellation fee for the broadband connection. This equates to the remaining 2.5 year period of the 5-year contract but, as described in paragraph 3.1 above, it would be covered centrally by NYCC rather than needing to come from the AONB budget.
- c) Other costs such as the early-exit fee for leaving Wath Court mid-lease, and fees/increased mileage payments for Change-in-Base, are relatively minor and would be more than outweighed by the cost savings realised.



- d) The staff time needed to clear out and pack up the furniture, files and materials in the current office and re-organise them in a new office would need to be factored into the AONB Unit work schedule over the months between April and December and would inevitably have an impact on productivity. A long lead-in time should however allow this to be fitted around other tasks so as to minimise the disruption.

### 3.7 Matrix of locations and factors:

Taking all the factors described above into account, the following table shows the comparative merits or disbenefits of the various potential alternative locations, when compared to the current office at Unit 1a, Wath Court, Hovingham.

Row G of the spreadsheet in Appendix 1 shows the level of savings potentially available on office accommodation, whilst Row H shows the level potentially achievable when a reduction in support staff costs is also factored-in.

Location	Cost	Proximity	Partnership working	Future staffing flexibility
County Hall, Northallerton	++	---	+	++/-
Area Highways Office, Kirby Misperton	++	--	+	+/-
Sheriff Hutton Industrial Estate	~	-	~	~
Unit 1B, Wath Court	+	~	~	~
Ryedale House, Malton	++	-	+	+/-
North York Moors National Park, Helmsley	+++	+	++	++
North Yorkshire Building Control Partnership, Easingwold	++	-	+/-	+/-

### 3.8 Conclusions:

1. Having examined all the costs and implications of an office move, it is apparent that significant savings can be made by moving out of Wath Court and co-locating with another organisation.
2. Of the options available, the North York Moors National Park office in Helmsley offers the best value for money in terms of reduced rental and running costs, additional travelling costs, synergy available from partnership working and scope for shared expertise/support costs. The cost comparison is summarised in the table below.
3. The AONB Team and National Park staff already work together closely on a number of initiatives and this will be likely to increase as Defra encourages more joint-working and sharing of services between adjoining AONBs and National Parks.

Item	Unit 1A, Wath Court	NYMNPA, Helmsley
Rent, rates, utilities, cleaning	£12,150	£4,420
Equipment, stationery, postage, etc	£1,050	£1,050
Photocopier, telephone charges	<u>£1,090</u>	<u>£1,300</u>
	£14,290	£6,770
Broadband fees	<u>£6,759</u>	<u>£200</u>
	£21,049	£6,970
Phase 2 – possible staff costs savings	£0	£6,700

### 3.9 Unforeseen factors:

- a) Before Notice is handed in on the current office at Wath Court (deadline 9<sup>th</sup> June), negotiations and further work will be carried out to firm-up on office rental costs/terms, ICT installation issues and transitional costs.
- b) Other risk factors potentially include the withdrawal of the offer of co-location by the National Park Authority (unlikely), de-centralisation of the broadband charges (cost/benefit analysis would still show a saving in costs within year 2 following a move), or some other factor that is currently unknown.

### 4.0 **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that:

Subject to any unforeseen developments, the AONB Manager in consultation with the JAC Chairman makes arrangements to move the AONB Unit office from Hovingham to the North York Moors National Park offices in Helmsley in December 2015.

APPENDIX 1\_March 2015

LOCATION	Wath Court Unit 1a	Wath Court Unit 1b	NYMNP, Helmsley	Ryedale House, Malton	NY BCP, Easingwold
ITEM					
Rent & Service Charge	7,150	4,750			
Business rates	2,000	1,333			
Insurance	300	200			
Utilities	1,600	1,000			
Office cleaning	1,100	750	4,420	5,500	5,500
	12,150	8,033	4,420	5,500	5,500
Broadband connection	6,759	6,759	200	200	200
Landlines, mobiles, MapInfo licences	615	615	615	615	615
Printer/photocopier/scanner (MFD)	475	475	685	200	685
	7,849	7,849	1,500	1,015	1,500
Furniture/equipment	100	100	100	100	100
Stationery	200	200	200	200	200
Postage	350	350	350	350	350
Miscellaneous	400	400	400	400	400
	1,050	1,050	1,050	1,050	1,050
<b>A Total annual cost</b>	<b>21,049</b>	<b>16,932</b>	<b>6,970</b>	<b>7,565</b>	<b>8,050</b>
<b>RE-LOCATION COSTS</b>	Wath Court Unit 1a	Wath Court Unit 1b	NYMNP, Helmsley	Ryedale House, Malton	NY BCP, Easingwold
Early exit fee - rent	0	1,625	1,625	1,625	1,625
Early exit fee - NYNet broadband connection	0	0	16,936	16,936	16,936
Re-decorating	0	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
Removals	0	200	800	800	800
New office furniture	0	200	200	200	200
ICT infrastructure installation	0	250	150	150	150
Jacobs fees	0	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
Change-in-base mileage payments	0	0	1,780	2,084	1,774
<b>B Total cost</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,275</b>	<b>24,491</b>	<b>24,795</b>	<b>24,485</b>
NYCC Central		1,500	18,436	18,436	18,436
AONB budget		3,775	6,055	6,359	6,049
2015/16 - NYCC Central		1,500	18,436	18,436	18,436
2015/16 - AONB budget		3,775	4,720	4,796	4,719
2016/17 - AONB budget		0	1,335	1,563	1,331
<b>ADDITIONAL MILEAGE COSTS</b>	Wath Court Unit 1a	Wath Court Unit 1b	NYMNP, Helmsley	Ryedale House, Malton	NY BCP, Easingwold
Paul Jackson	£ -	£ -	-£ 203.20	£ 245.60	£ 24.80
Liz Bassindale	£ -	£ -	£ 10.40	-£ 40.00	£ 384.80
<b>C Nett saving/increase</b>	<b>£ -</b>	<b>£ -</b>	<b>-£ 192.80</b>	<b>£ 205.60</b>	<b>£ 409.60</b>
Paul Jackson 2014 - £905					
Liz Bassindale 2014 - £865					
£1,770 total					
<b>ADDITIONAL TRAVEL TIME COSTS</b>	Wath Court Unit 1a	Wath Court Unit 1b	NYMNP, Helmsley	Ryedale House, Malton	NY BCP, Easingwold
Paul Jackson	0.00	0.00	0.24	3.57	1.32
Liz Bassindale	0.00	0.00	2.17	2.03	5.15
<b>D Extra time spent travelling (Days)</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>2.41</b>	<b>5.60</b>	<b>6.47</b>
Paul Jackson + Liz Bassindale = 396 days/yr					
<b>SUPPORT COSTS</b>	Wath Court Unit 1a	Wath Court Unit 1b	NYMNP, Helmsley	Ryedale House, Malton	NY BCP, Easingwold
AONB Assistant post inc on-costs	11,700	7,722	0	0	0
Call-off secondments, admin, etc	0	0	5,000	5,000	5,000
<b>E Saving</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-3,978</b>	<b>-6,700</b>	<b>-6,700</b>	<b>-6,700</b>

<b>BALANCE SHEET</b>		Wath Court Unit 1a	Wath Court Unit 1b	NYMNP, Helmsley	Ryedale House, Malton	NY BCP, Easingwold
	Annual running costs increase/saving	£ -	-£ 4,117	-£ 14,079	-£ 13,484	-£ 12,999
	One-off relocation costs - AONB budget	£ -	£ 3,775	£ 6,055	£ 6,359	£ 6,049
	Mileage costs increase/saving	£ -	£ -	-£ 193	£ 206	£ 410
<b>F</b>	Yr 1 costs increase/saving	£ -	-£ 342	-£ 8,217	-£ 6,920	-£ 6,540
<b>G</b>	ANNUAL SAVINGS FROM YR 2 ONWARDS - OFFICE ONLY	£ -	-£ 4,117	-£ 14,272	-£ 13,278	-£ 12,589
	Support costs saving	£ -	-£ 3,978	-£ 6,700	-£ 6,700	-£ 6,700
<b>H</b>	ANNUAL HHAONB SAVINGS FROM YR 2 ONWARDS - OFFICE + SUPPORT STAFF COSTS	£ -	-£ 8,095	-£ 20,972	-£ 19,978	-£ 19,289
	One-off relocation costs - NYCC	£ -	£ 1,500	£ 18,436	£ 18,436	£ 18,436
<b>I</b>	ANNUAL NYCC SAVINGS 2016/17 ONWARDS	£ -	£ -	-£ 6,759	-£ 6,759	-£ 6,759
	Takes 2.5yrs to off-set the lump-sum £16,936, after which time annual savings then accrue					

### **Social Forestry in AONBs**

See [Social Forestry in AONBs](#) for the work done by the NAAONB's Cabinet Office funded CEPM project. For more information on this, and our final CEPM event, join our conference call on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March at 11.00am on <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/205694269>. Or phone in on 20 3713 5010. Access Code: 205-694-269  
See below for booking details for our social forestry workshop.

### **Review of designated landscapes in Wales**

Phase 1 of Welsh Government's review of designated landscapes in Wales is now complete and one of the recommendations of Phase One is that there should be three interlocking statutory purposes for both the AONBs and National Parks. See [Review of designated landscapes in Wales](#) The NAAONB will be meeting with Welsh Government on 25<sup>th</sup> March to discuss this further.

### **New CEO for Historic England announced**

Duncan Wilson has been appointed as the first Chief Executive of Historic England. Historic England will come into being on 1<sup>st</sup> April when the Commission licenses the operation of the National Heritage Collection to an independent charity, the English Heritage Trust. Historic England will remain a government service championing England's heritage and providing expert and constructive advice. See [Changes to English Heritage](#)

### **Forestry Commission Woodland Capital Grants 2015 now open for applications**

The scheme is to plant and manage new woodlands in England as part of the Government's new £900m Countryside Stewardship scheme. See [FC Capital Grants](#)

### **RPA publishes guide to Basic Payment Scheme 2015**

The handbook draws together and updates the information previously released in the CAP Reform leaflets. It covers who can claim; what farmers, landowners and growers need to know before they can claim; and what they need to grow and do on their land. There is also a chapter about applying online. See [RPA Guide](#)

### **Ecosystem Approach in Marine Planning - MMO report published**

The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) has published research undertaken by the UK environmental economics consultancy, eftec and marine consultancy ABPmer into how the MMO can improve the implementation of the ecosystem approach in marine planning. See [MMO Report](#)

### **Workshop on ecosystem approach**

Defra and National Parks England (NPE) are hosting a workshop on the ecosystem approach in London on 15<sup>th</sup> April. This will share the learning and experience in applying the ecosystem approach, to an intended audience of local place-based delivery staff and managers as well as to national staff supporting them. To book a place contact Dan Hunt on 07711 285872 or [events.bowfell@gmail.com](mailto:events.bowfell@gmail.com)

### **Dates for your diary**

- **Social Forestry Workshop - Sharing learning and looking ahead to the future of woodland-based social action** Date 23<sup>rd</sup> April Location: Wyre Forest Discovery Centre. See [Social Forestry Workshop](#)
- **Landscapes for Life Conference 2015** Date: 30<sup>th</sup> June -2<sup>nd</sup> July 2015 Location: Winchester

NB If you would like to book and pay for a place for either of the above events in this financial year please contact [Jill.Smith@landscapesforlife.org.uk](mailto:Jill.Smith@landscapesforlife.org.uk) or 07969 888823