

# Howardian Hills



Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

The Old Vicarage  
Bondgate  
Helmsley  
North Yorkshire, YO62 5BP

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

**Venue:** North York Moors National Park Authority Office,  
The Old Vicarage, Bondgate, Helmsley, YO62 5BP  
(see attached location plan)

**Date:** Thursday 10 November 2016 at 10.00am

### Business

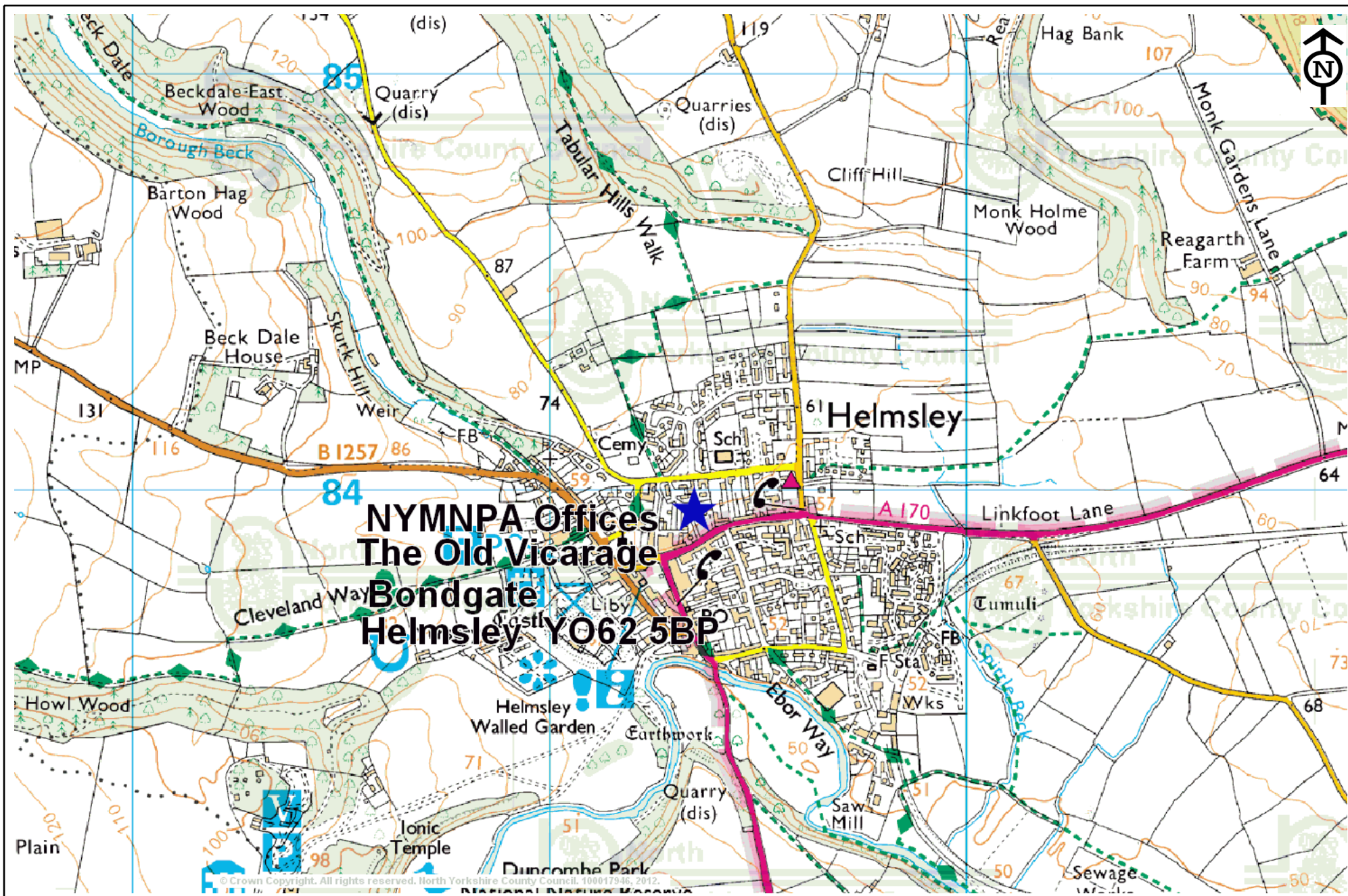
- 1 Election of Chair
- 2 Apologies
- 3 Minutes of the Joint Advisory Committee meeting held on 14 April 2016 **(Pages 5 to 10)**
- 4 Election of Vice Chair
- 5 JAC Virtual Site Tour of 2015/16 work
- 6 AONB Unit Activity **(Pages 11 to 40)**
- 7 JAC Planning Consultations **(Pages 41 to 67)**
- 8 AONB Indicators **(Pages 68 to 72)**
- 9 AONB Budget **(Pages 73 to 86)**
- 10 NAAONB Update **(Pages 87 to 92)**
- 11 Reports from Partner Organisations (oral reports)
- 12 Date of next JAC meeting
- 13 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

## Membership

<b>North Yorkshire County Council (2)</b>	
1	PATMORE, Caroline
2	WOOD, Clare
<b>Ryedale District Council (2)</b>	
3	FARNELL, Fiona
4	WAINWRIGHT, Robert
<b>Hambleton District Council (2)</b>	
5	COOKMAN, Christine
6	Vacancy
<b>Parish Councils (2)</b>	
7	BROWN, Sally (Ryedale)
8	STRATTON, Chris (Hambleton)
<b>Country Land and Business Association (1)</b>	
9	WORSLEY, Sir William
<b>National Farmers Union (2)</b>	
10	HICKS, Robert
11	Vacancy
<b>Forestry Commission (1)</b>	
12	SMITH, Jim
<b>Ramblers (1)</b>	
13	CATTERALL, Philip
<b>Natural England (2)</b>	
14	KIRKUP, Ailsa
15	CRAVEN, Jenny

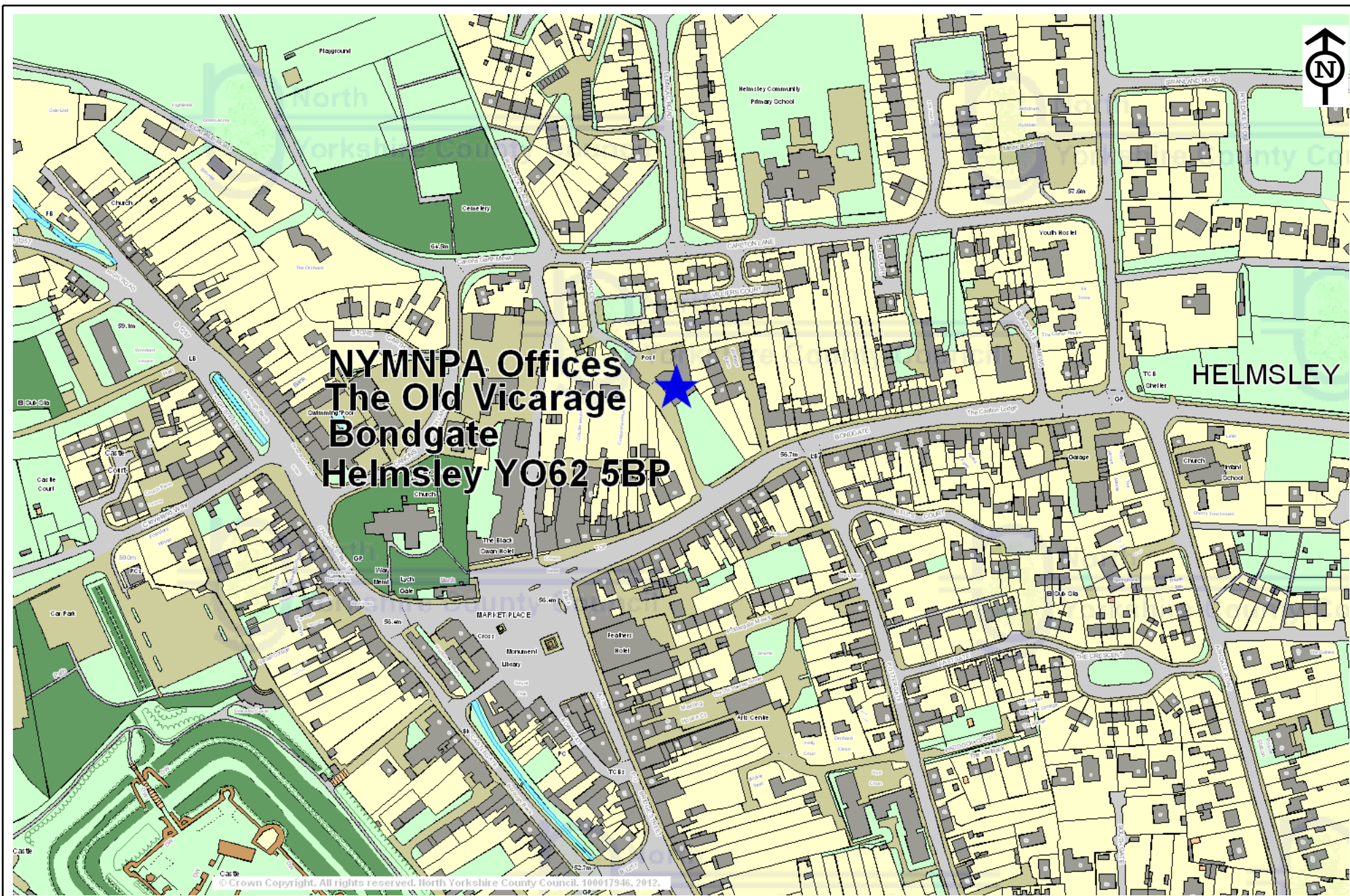
Enquiries relating to this agenda please contact Kate Arscott Tel: 01609 532834  
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**NYMNP Offices, The Old Vicarage, Bondgate, Helmsley YO62 5BP**

Map scale: Scale 1/12261  
 Date: Date 17/10/2012  
 Created by: ALJ  
 Grid Ref: Centre = 461315 E 484086 N





**NYMNP Office, The Old Vicarage, Bondgate, Helmsley YO62 5BP**

Map scale: Scale 1/3065  
 Date: Date 17/10/2012  
 Created by: ALJ  
 Grid Ref: Centre = 461352 E 483913 N

## Howardian Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Advisory Committee

The Minutes of the meeting held at Hovingham Village Hall on 14 April 2016, commencing at 10.00 am

### Present

#### Members:

Hambleton District Council: Councillor Christine Cookman in the Chair  
 North Yorkshire County Council: County Councillor Caroline Patmore  
 Ryedale District Council: Councillors Fiona Farnell and Robert Wainwright  
 Parish Councils: Chris Stratton (Hambleton) and Sally Brown (Ryedale)  
 Country Land and Business Association: Sir William Worsley  
 The Ramblers: Philip Catterall  
 Natural England: Margaret Trigg

#### Officers:

Howardian Hills AONB team: Paul Jackson, Liz Bassindale and Maggie Cochrane  
 North Yorkshire County Council: Kate Arscott (Secretary) and Liz Small (Heritage Services Manager)  
 Hambleton District Council: Peter Jones  
 Ryedale District Council: Paula Craddock

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

### 64 Apologies

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of County Councillor Clare Wood, Jim Smith (Forestry Commission) and Justine Clark and Rosy Eaton (Natural England)

### 65 Minutes of the Joint Advisory Committee meeting held on 29 October 2015

#### Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 29 October 2015, having been previously circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

### 66 Matters Arising

#### Minute 56 – AONB Unit Activity

The AONB Manager advised that action to tackle the problem of Himalayan Balsam had moved forward significantly in partnership with the North York Moors National Park, River Rye Partnership and others, and a bid was being made to the Heritage Lottery Fund, which would include public engagement.

#### Minute 60 – National Association for AONBs (NAAONB) – Activity Update

The AONB Manager confirmed that he would be liaising with The Ramblers regarding the offer to arrange events during Outstanding Week 2016.

## Minute 61 – Reports from Partner Organisations

Liz Small, Heritage Services Manager, NYCC, reported that she had passed on to the Public Rights of Way team the comments made at the previous meeting and that it was hoped that a faster response could be provided in future due to improved communications and joint enabling work between NYCC Public Rights of Way and the AONB team.

She also reported that recruitment was underway for a 2 year joint post to support the North Yorkshire and York and the East Riding Local Nature Partnerships.

### **67 AONB Unit Activity**

Members considered a detailed report of the work areas and progress achieved by the AONB Unit since the last meeting of the Joint Advisory Committee. This was accompanied by a slide presentation showcasing some of the work undertaken.

The Committee sought assurance regarding the effectiveness of action to control Rhododendron growth, and also to tackle Phytophthora in the AONB area. Members also queried whether forestry harvesting was likely to be impacted by the Drax power station increased use of biomass. It was explained that there were a range of reasons for felling, including disease control. However, much felling was likely to be related to the age of woodland rather than economic factors.

The Committee welcomed the support and opportunities being provided to people on the autistic spectrum.

Members queried the level of underspend during 2015/16, whilst recognising that there was an element of providing a buffer against the risk of future reduction in funding. The AONB Manager confirmed the strategy behind maintaining a reserve, but also reassured the Committee that appropriate projects would also be brought forward for funding.

Members thanked the AONB Manager for keeping the website up to date with regard to the progress of the Minerals and Waste Joint Plan and associated fracking issues.

The Committee noted that this was Maggie Cochrane's last meeting, and thanked her very much for her work for the AONB over the last eight years.

### **Resolved**

That the report be noted.

### **68 Development within the AONB**

Members considered a report from the AONB Manager giving details of the number and type of planning applications determined within the AONB during 2015. It was reported that data this year was more accurate than had been possible previously as the data for Hambleton was now able to distinguish between parts of parishes that lie within or outside the AONB boundary.

The report outlined the main conclusions to be drawn from the 121 applications received during 2015/16, and members were made aware of the impact this level of applications had on the team's workload.

Peter Jones, Hambleton District Council, reported a 20% increase in applications this year to the authority. He also indicated that the new Local Plan currently being developed was likely to include a policy on tourism.

Members asked whether it was possible to differentiate between applications that had been refused and ones that had been withdrawn before a likely refusal and the AONB Manager undertook to check this.

The Committee also commented on the recent development of solar farms which are visible from the AONB area, and issues associated with glare which had not been anticipated from the initial applications. Peter Jones encouraged members to provide photographic evidence of any issues in order that the Council can build up a picture of the visual impact to influence future policy and decision making. Members asked the AONB Manager to gather photographic evidence where applicable.

The Committee noted the relevance of the colour of materials selected and their appearance in different weather conditions as a pertinent issue in relation to protecting the character of the AONB, an issue which the AONB Manager had highlighted in commenting on individual applications.

### **Resolved**

That the report be noted.

## **69 AONB Action Programme 2015/16**

Members considered details of progress made on implementing the AONB Management Plan during 2015/16. A detailed summary of progress against each objective was provided in an annex circulated separately to the agenda.

The AONB Manager reported that a detailed red/amber/green system was used to monitor progress against annual targets. Analysis showed that 80% of specific targets were fully achieved; 5% were 25-75% achieved; 7% were less than 25% achieved; and 8% were not progressed at all, a similar performance to the previous year.

Progress was reported under the headings of:

- The ecosystem approach
- Natural environment
- Historic environment
- Local communities
- Agriculture
- Forestry and woodland
- Development and the rural economy
- Roads, transport and traffic management
- Recreation, access and tourism
- Awareness and promotion
- Implementation
- Monitoring
- National Association for AONBs

Members raised the issue of tourists and road safety, especially the increasing number of cyclists. Whilst very welcome, the Committee expressed concern that visitors can have a lack of awareness of how dangerous the roads can be within the AONB area, particularly in relation to narrow carriageways, blind spots and HGVs.

There was also concern about the condition of verges in some areas with encroachment and erosion, whilst kerbing was not always the ideal response. Members asked whether weight restrictions could be considered on some routes, although it was acknowledged that this may not be a practicable solution if it only shifted a problem to another area.

The Committee recommended that the Hambleton and Ryedale Area Committees be asked to give consideration to road safety issues in considering the minutes of the Joint Advisory Committee meeting.

**Resolved**

- a) That the achievements against targets for 2015/16 be noted.
- b) That the Hambleton and Ryedale Area Committees be asked to consider road safety issues in the AONB area when considering the minutes of the JAC meeting.

**70 AONB Business Plan and Action Programme 2016/17**

Members considered details of proposed activity to implement the AONB Management Plan during 2016/17. A detailed set of proposed targets against each objective was provided in an annex circulated separately to the agenda.

**Resolved**

That the targets for 2016/17 as contained in the Action Programme be agreed.

**71 Business Planning for the Future**

Members received details of the recent restructure of the Howardian Hills AONB team, and of potential future mechanisms for project delivery.

The Heritage Services Manager explained the process of the restructure and thanked staff for their engagement with the review process. She explained that it was planned to use the savings from the restructure to employ project staff for fixed term or specialist projects. The AONB Manager highlighted the potential for some staff sharing with the National Parks team following the relocation to the National Park Offices in December.

Members looked forward to hearing how the new more flexible arrangements worked out in practice. They also reiterated the Committee's thanks and best wishes to Maggie Cochrane as she left the team.

**Resolved**

- a) That the report be noted
- b) That an evaluation of the types and efficiency of new project delivery/support mechanisms be reported to the Joint Advisory Committee in April 2017.

**72 National Association for AONBs Activity**

The Committee received an update on activity by the National Association for AONBs. The AONB Manager particularly highlighted work around the theme of health and wellbeing, which would be the focus of the Landscapes for Life conference in June. It was hoped that there would be opportunities arising from this for the AONB to explore.



It was noted that Outstanding Week – the national celebration of AONBs - would take place from 17-25 September 2016. Philip Catterall confirmed that the Ramblers would input to the local programme this year.

### **Resolved**

That the report be noted

## **73 Reports from Partner Organisations**

Members of the Committee shared the following information:

### Ryedale District Council

The Ryedale Local Plan Sites document is now expected to go out for consultation in the late summer. The Slingsby Design Statement will also be going out to consultation for a 6 week period, and will influence responses to future planning applications.

### Hambleton District Council

The Hambleton Local Plan is moving forward. 462 responses had been received in response to the call for sites, and these were now being filtered for preferred options to go out to consultation.

Two new posts had been advertised in the planning service following a reorganisation. A recent recalculation of the housing land supply had shown the figure to be nine years now. The authority was also experiencing a significant pressure for housing, including a number of planning appeals.

### North Yorkshire County Council

Following a small restructure, the AONB team now comes under Trading Standards and Planning Services.

### Forestry Commission

On behalf of the Forestry Commission, the Secretary reported that the Countryside Stewardship Woodland Improvement Grant was currently open for applications. The Woodland Creation Grant had recently closed, with 48 applications being received for Yorkshire and the North East (the largest number of any Forestry Commission area in England).

### Country Land and Business Association

Sir William Worsley reported that he had taken on the role of Chair of the National Forest Company. Over a 25 year period the planted area had risen from 6% to 21%, and tree planting had led to regeneration and increased tourism as well as helping to raise the aspirations of local people. It was interesting to consider the experience gained here might be relevant to the AONB area.

### Hambleton Parishes

Chris Stratton reported that 3 local Parish Councils had formed a group which had done some very useful work to understand and assimilate information about shale gas extraction and potential implications for the AONB. He stressed that this was not a pressure group.

### NYCC Area Committees

Members suggested that the AONB Manager be invited to attend a future meeting of each of the Hambleton and Ryedale Area Committees, to provide the Area Committees with a better understanding and appreciation of the work undertaken in the AONB area.

### **Resolved**

That the Hambleton and Ryedale Area Committees be asked to consider inviting the AONB Manager to a future meeting to brief Members on the work of the AONB team.

**74 Date of next JAC Meeting**

**Resolved**

That the next meeting of the Joint Advisory Committee be held on Thursday 10 November at 10am at the National Park Office, Helmsley.

The meeting concluded at 12.10pm

KA

**HOWARDIAN HILLS  
AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY  
JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
10 NOVEMBER 2016**

**AONB UNIT ACTIVITY**

**1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To receive details of the work areas and progress achieved by the AONB Unit since the JAC meeting in April 2016.

**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 and AONB Officers in the period April 2016 to November 2016.
- 2.2 The final budget outturn for 2015/16 is detailed in a separate report on the Agenda. The final contribution payment has been received from Defra.
- 2.3 Work on countryside management has been proceeding. Our regular annual summer/autumn habitat management work on specific SINC sites has taken place, with Himalayan balsam control using both contractors and Volunteers being the most significant. A visually significant wall restoration project near Grimston is in its second phase and a number of hedge restoration projects are in the process of development. The City of Troy turf maze has been re-gravelled and a contract to restore 16 traditional village name signs is due to be let shortly.
- 2.4 The Monument Management Scheme has moved into its site management phase. Two large linear dykes have been surveyed in more detail by Volunteers, to ascertain the amount and type of vegetation management work needed. Bracken has been sprayed on 23 Monuments, bramble trimmed on 2 Monuments and brash cleared from 3 Monuments. Significant work is planned on other Monuments throughout the autumn and winter, and a contract has been let to obtain some external advice to help us plan and deliver some of this. Full details of the grants offered and projects developed are contained in Appendix 2.
- 2.5 A bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a major project on the River Rye was submitted in June and the result should be known soon. The project is based around four themes:
- Water habitat – restoring the riparian and aquatic habitats of the Rye and the rich wildlife it supports including bats, native crayfish and invertebrates.
  - Water quality – improving water quality through working with land owners and managers to address nutrient inputs and reduce diffuse pollution.
  - Water level management (primary focus of a flood risk management project led by NYCC) – employing natural flood risk management techniques to better regulate water quantity and reduce downstream flooding.
  - Engaging people – to better understand the services the river provides and how we use them to live, work and play. Conserving a record of the river's cultural significance to local communities and others more widely.

- 2.6 Overhead electricity lines have been undergrounded in Crambe and works are part-way through at Cawton and Nunnington. These two schemes are due to be finished before Christmas. A scheme for Ganthorpe is due to start in November, and work on obtaining wayleaves is progressing for schemes in Oswaldkirk and Easthorpe.
- 2.7 The number of planning applications scrutinised has been slightly lower than for this period in 2015/16, and most of them have not needed significant input or comments. The most significant cases have been proposals for a new agricultural building at Broughton, house extensions at Ampleforth, an extension to a Listed Building at Oulston, erection of a replacement house near Hovingham and the erection of a large garage/barn at Scackleton. The submission of a planning application for 3 new dwellings near Brandsby is currently generating correspondence with local residents. Appendix 3 gives details of the Consultations that the JAC has received this financial year.
- 2.8 A number of schemes were due to come into force or expand significantly in 2016, most notably the new Countryside Stewardship Scheme and the new LEADER Programme. These however were put on hold after the result of the EU Referendum in June and it won't be known until later this year how any new grant applications will be taken forward, if at all. Work has also been undertaken to progress the Rural Growth Programme developed by the four Protected Landscapes, involving submission of a bid for funding to further develop the Tourism Business Networks.
- 2.9 Two Junior Ranger Club sessions have been held in conjunction with the Castle Howard Arboretum and Howsham Mill, in the April and October half-terms. Details of the attendance at the Junior Ranger Club event already held are contained in Appendix 4.
- 2.10 The RAY Community Projects Officer has continued to work with a number of local communities to both prepare and implement Parish Plans. A full list of the work carried out by the RAY officer in the AONB is attached as part of Appendix 1.
- 2.11 Work is starting on preparing a new set of AONB display banners to replace our aged set, and on improving the functionality of the AONB website. The text relating to the AONB on the Visit York and Visit Ryedale websites has also been updated.
- 2.12 The latest edition of the AONB Newsletter was prepared in September and was distributed in the week commencing 24<sup>th</sup> October. The JAC's Annual Report has also been completed and was circulated to the wide range of organisations who work with the JAC to deliver our shared objectives.
- 2.13 The NAAONB Conference was held in Telford in June and was attended by the AONB Manager and AONB Officer.
- 2.14 Two part-time AONB Officers have been recruited into temporary posts and started their duties in September. Francesca Pert is working 1 day per week on projects and publicity until 31<sup>st</sup> March, with Frances Standen working 2 days per week on publicity and interpretation until Christmas.

### **3.0 RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the report be noted.

## AONB MANAGER'S REPORT

6<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2016 – 1<sup>st</sup> NOVEMBER 2016

Work during this period has principally consisted of:

- Preparation of papers for the April JAC meeting.
- Completing Closedown of the 2015/16 accounts.
- Preparing a Delivery Plan for the Annual Action Programme, to evaluate where best to target additional staff resources.
- Submitting the 2015/16 Final grant claim to Defra.
- Completing the Scheduled Monuments database with the results of the MMS surveys and submitting the revised Risk ratings to Historic England.
- Preparing the 2016/17 Monument Management Scheme (MMS) Work Plan – deciding on sites to manage, securing contractors and contacting site owners for permission.
- Preparing to recruit 2 x part time fixed term contract AONB Officers to assist with project deliver, following the Team re-structure.
- Planning application consultation scrutiny and responses.
- RIIO-ED1 undergrounding programme – liaison with Northern Powergrid and BT over schemes commencing at Nunnington, Crambe and Cawton.
- Starting delivery of the 2016/17 MMS Work Plan – applying for EA Licences for bracken spraying, preparing contract documentation and briefing contractor. Developing a database showing all site management work planned, timings and methodology. Preparing and issuing a spec for a scrub control and re-vegetation project, to engage an external consultant.
- Recruiting 2 x part-time fixed term contract AONB Officers to assist with project delivery, following the Team re-structure.
- Monitoring the progress of RIIO-ED1 undergrounding schemes underway – Crambe, Nunnington and Cawton.
- Delivery of 2016/17 MMS Work Plan – completion of bracken spraying on 23 Scheduled Monuments, strimming bramble on 2 Scheduled Monuments, clearing brash on 2 Scheduled Monuments, engaging a consultant to prepare and oversee a plan to clear scrub and re-vegetate 5 Scheduled Monuments.
- Annual Leave days.

MEETINGS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• April JAC meeting</li> <li>• Scarborough &amp; Ryedale ProW LLG</li> <li>• North York Moors National Park Awareness, Recreation &amp; Business Forum</li> <li>• Leadership 2020 seminar, County Hall</li> <li>• May Quarterly Annual Action Programme delivery update</li> <li>• NYMNP MMS Officer – survey results, database completion, site work</li> <li>• Countryside Stewardship briefing, Green Hammerton</li> <li>• RDC/HHAONB/Visit York Visitor Economy Partnership, Malton</li> <li>• NYMNP x 2 – additional staff resources for business and technical support</li> <li>• Developing an NYCC Countryside Access Service/NYMNP Modern Apprentices project to deliver PRow improvements in the AONB.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning application pre-submission, re application at Welburn</li> <li>• June Core Partners Group</li> <li>• NYMNP – Minerals &amp; Waste Joint Plan comments</li> <li>• River Rye HLF project Steering Group</li> <li>• RIIO ED1 Steering Group, York</li> <li>• Native Woodland Partnership, York</li> <li>• North &amp; East Yorkshire Geology Trust – briefing on their proposed HLF project bid, to survey sites within the AONB and prepare a Geodiversity Action Plan</li> <li>• August Quarterly Annual Action Programme delivery update</li> <li>• Local Geological Sites Partnership, County Hall</li> <li>• Lake restoration, Gilling Castle Fishponds</li> <li>• September Core Partners Group</li> <li>• LNP Board, County Hall</li> </ul>



- Inception meeting for post-grad tranquillity project
- Inception meeting for MMS scrub control and re-vegetation project
- North & East Public Rights of Way Local Liaison Group, County Hall

Monthly AONB Team meetings  
Heritage Services Team meetings, County Hall

Monthly 1:1 meetings with Liz Small

Monthly 1:1 meetings with Liz Bassindale

#### NAAONB

- National Conference, Shropshire. Theme – Natural beauty in relation to the health & wellbeing of society
- Northern Group Lead Officers' meeting, Solway Coast AONB
- Northern Group meeting, Solway Coast AONB

#### MEETINGS (FUTURE)

- NE liaison meeting
- Castle Howard – new 10-year Woodland Management Plan
- Local Geological Sites Partnership, County Hall
- North & East Yorkshire Datacentre Stakeholder meeting, York
- November JAC
- Native Woodland Partnership, Pickering
- November Quarterly Annual Action Programme delivery update
- LNP Board, County Hall
- December Core Partners Group
- February Quarterly Annual Action Programme delivery update

Heritage Services Team meetings, County Hall

Monthly 1:1 meetings with Liz Small

Monthly 1:1 meetings with Liz Bassindale

#### NAAONB (FUTURE)

- NAAONB Chairmen's Conference & AGM, London

#### SITE VISITS

- Planning application site visits – Hustwaite, Oulston x 2, Broughton, Musley Bank, Welburn x 2, Low Hutton, Terrington, Ampleforth, Brandsby x 2, Yearsley x 2, Coulton, Scackleton, Crayke, Whitwell, Gilling, Terrington x 2,

- Ampleforth, Swinton x 2, Brandsby, Scackleton, Hovingham, Malton
- Valley Farm, Grimston – joint undergrounding scheme for HV lines, with landowner
- Nunnington – undergrounding of part of BT overhead network
- City of Troy Maze; Cawton (overhead lines, village name signs)
- Coneysthorpe, Skewsby – Scheduled Monuments visits to plan future work
- Crambe – overhead lines work started
- Terrington – woodland management proposals
- Yearsley – management works proposal for Scheduled Monument
- Cawton, Yearsley, Terrington, Ganthorpe – Village name signs photos
- Broughton, Swinton – Knapweed broomrape surveys and GPS recording of colonies
- Yearsley – instruct contractor on bracken spraying on Scheduled Monuments
- Dalby Maze – instruct contractor on refurbishment work
- NYMNPA Planning Team Away-Day, Coxwold/Newburgh Priory
- Hovingham, Dalby, Huttons Ambo – Scheduled Monuments visits to plan future work

#### SITE VISITS (FUTURE)

- Fryton, Welburn - Scheduled Monuments visits to survey/plan future work

#### CONSULTATIONS

- SEE SEPARATE TABLE FOR FULL DETAILS OF CONSULTATIONS RECEIVED

#### PROJECTS

- Preparation of April JAC reports
- Closedown of 2015/16 accounts
- Implementing re-structure of AONB Team and development of new ways of working
- Preparation of June Core Partners Group papers
- Recruitment of 2 x part-time fixed term contract AONB Officers to assist with project delivery – job advert, shortlisting, interviewing, set-up and induction
- MMS – Delivery of bracken spraying on selected sites; procuring advice and assistance to plan and oversee scrub removal, stump treatment and re-

- vegetation works; planning of 2016/17 tasks, timings and delivery mechanisms
- Preparation of September Core Partners Group papers
- MMS – delivery of autumn works (bramble strimming and brash removal);
- Preparation of November JAC papers

- PROJECTS (FUTURE)**
- Pursuing undergrounding of parts of the BT overhead network as part of RIIO ED1 works in Nunnington
  - Delivery of restoration programme for 16 village name signs
  - Preparation and submission of Q2 MMS report and grant claim
  - Work on River Rye HLF project Development phase, if Phase 1 bid successful
  - Delivery of NYCC Countryside Access Service/NYMNP Modern Apprentices project to deliver PRow improvements in the AONB
  - MMS – preparation for spring works (scrub control, bramble strimming)

- RECREATION/ACCESS**
- Ryedale Show

- RECREATION/ACCESS (FUTURE)**
- Further development of Easy Access routes

- COMMUNITIES**
- 

- COMMUNITIES (FUTURE)**
- 

- PROMOTION/PUBLICITY/ INTERPRETATION**
- Presentation to North York Moors National Park staff meeting
  - Official opening of AONB Office at Helmsley by NYCC Chairman Cllr Val Arnold
  - Press release on office opening

- Tweeting nature notes, #Volunteersweek, examples of projects from 2015/16 (woodland restoration, hedge planting, wall repairs, traditional direction sign refurbishment)
- Interview by Radio York on overhead electricity line undergrounding work in Nunnington
- Production of 2015/16 Annual Report
- Writing copy for 2016 AONB Newsletter
- Distribution of 2015/16 Annual Report
- Distribution of 2016 AONB Newsletter

- PROMOTION/PUBLICITY/ INTERPRETATION (FUTURE)**
- More Tweets showcasing practical work undertaken by the AONB Team
  - Assisting in production of new AONB display banners

- TRAINING**
- Delivering a BARS2 training session to Liz Bassindale

- TRAINING (FUTURE)**
- 

- MISCELLANEOUS**
- Appraisal review
  - Liz Bassindale Appraisal review
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> October – Annual Leave

- MISCELLANEOUS (FUTURE)**
-

# AONB OFFICER'S REPORT (Liz Bassindale)

6<sup>th</sup> April – 1<sup>st</sup> November 2016

Work during this period has principally consisted of:

- Monument Management Scheme – planning and starting to carry out this years' practical work (volunteer tasks) on the monuments and completing reports for Historic England including entering the survey results into the database.
- Conservation initiatives - River Rye Group, River Derwent Partnership and Scarborough, Ryedale & Howardian Hills LBAP. The River Rye Group submitted a Stage 1 Application for a Landscape Partnership Scheme to HLF at the end of May. A significant amount of time has been spent working on the River Rye HLF bid.
- Providing Project Fund applicants with application guidance, making grant offers and checking completed work.
- Organising the Himalayan balsam cutting at five priority locations in the AONB.
- Volunteers – a combination of recreation tasks and community tasks. Planning the programme of work for summer, autumn and winter 2016.
- Junior Rangers – planning activities and overseeing delivery of the May session at Howsham Mill and October session at The Arboretum. Planning the activities for December.
- Co-ordinating and promoting a grant funding advice session with HLF, focussing on natural heritage projects.
- Interpretation – meeting with Castle Howard and Yorkshire Coast Nature to start to scope ideas for interpreting the wildlife of Castle Howard Estate.
- Communities – working with Rural Action Yorkshire and Ryedale District Council on development of the Amotherby Ward Plan and additional connected projects.
- Production of the Howardian Hills AONB Newsletter.
- Assisting with recruitment and induction of 2 x part time AONB Officers and supporting their work as they settle in.

## MEETINGS

- TCV – update on current work and discussion about joint working, Helmsley
- River Rye HLF bid development, Malton (x1), York (x1)
- River Derwent Steering Group, Helmsley (x3)
- MMS monument plotting and data entry discussion with NYMNPA MMS Officer, Helmsley
- May Quarterly Annual Action Programme delivery update
- Community projects development and Amotherby Ward level planning, RAY, Pickering
- Advisory visit – developing application to HLF for interpretation/education resources, Howsham Mill
- Ryedale, Scarborough and Howardian Hills LBAP, Scarborough (x1), Helmsley (x1) and Malton (x1)
- Development Officers, Malton (x1) and Kirkbymoorside (x1)
- Amotherby Ward Plan Steering Group, Malton (x3)

- Rural Arts, Ryedale DC and RAY, community arts project development, Malton
- North East Yorkshire Geology Trust HLF bid, Helmsley
- August Quarterly Annual Action Programme delivery update
- Volunteering update meeting (NYCC and Moorswork), Malton
- Environment Agency Medium Term Plan (links with R. Derwent Partnership), York
- School and community conservation project, Amotherby School
- Amotherby Ward Parishes Meeting (evening with Parish Councils), Swinton
- Howardian Hills Photography Competition planning with RAY, Helmsley
- MMS monument management plan scoping meeting with 4Nature, Helmsley
  
- Heritage Service planning session, Northallerton
- Heritage Service team meeting, Northallerton
- Core Partners Group, Helmsley (x2)
- 1 to 1 meetings and appraisal review with PJ

### NAAONB

- NAAONB Northern Group – Forest of Bowland AONB
- NAAONB Comms Officers teleconference (x2)
- NAAONB Conference, Shropshire
- Production of a marketplace display for NAAONB Conference, Shropshire

### MEETINGS (FUTURE)

- NE liaison meeting, Helmsley
- Amotherby Ward Steering Group, Helmsley
- River Rye Steering Group, Helmsley
- LEADER Support Group, Helmsley
- Local Authority Biodiversity Update, Northallerton
- Sight Support Ryedale possible joint projects, Helmsley
- Hovingham Ward Parish Councils meeting
- Amotherby Ward Parish Councils meeting
- York Archaeological Trust, support for Ryedale Pottery Project, Helmsley
- November Quarterly Annual Action Programme delivery update
- Ryedale, Scarborough and Howardian Hills LBAP, Helmsley
- Ryedale Development Officers, Kirkbymoorside
- February Quarterly Annual Action Programme delivery update
  
- Core Partners Group, Helmsley
- Joint Advisory Committee, Helmsley
- 1 to 1 meetings with PJ
- Work programme meeting with PJ, FP and FS
- Heritage Services Meetings

### NAAONB (FUTURE)

- Comms Officers Tele-conferences
- Comms Officers annual meeting, Birmingham

### SITE VISITS

- Planning volunteer task and Junior Rangers session, Howsham Mill
- Plotting the location of round barrows, Newburgh
- Planning Himalayan balsam clearance with Moorswork leader, Brandsby
- Pre and post Himalayan balsam clearance visits to Mugdale and Barker Woods SINC and River Derwent SSSI (Crambeck)
- Meeting with TCV to plan Himalayan balsam clearance, Jeffry Bog SINC

- Recording condition of City of Troy Maze before repair, Dalby
- Planning volunteer tasks with Natural England, Dalby Bush Fen SSSI
- Planning volunteer task delivery with Moorswork leader, Dalby Bush Fen SSSI
- Planning MMS work on tumuli with Moorswork leader, Grimston
- Planning future MMS work and meeting with volunteers with Forestry Commission Officer, Grimston Moor
- Photos to accompany River Rye bid, Nunnington and Ness

### SITE VISITS (FUTURE)

- Wildlife/heritage trail at Swinton Playground – site-based ideas meeting with Parish Clerk
- Hedge planting, Bulmer
- Hedge planting and pond creation, Hovingham

### CONSULTATIONS

- SEE SEPARATE TABLE FOR FULL DETAILS OF CONSULTATIONS RECEIVED

### PROJECTS

- MMS – entering survey results into databases
- Yorkshire Exmoor Pony Trust – fence repairs and start of grazing
- River Rye consultation event, Nunnington
- Planning work for the volunteers group for summer and autumn 2016
- Managing the 2016 Himalayan balsam control programme
- Coordinating volunteers – Bracken clearance at bee orchid site, Yearsley Moor Woodlands SINC
- Visit to volunteers at Appleton-le-Street Churchyard SINC
- Visit to volunteers to check brash location (MMS), Grimston Moor
- Working with Amotherby School, RAY and Amotherby Churchyard Conservation Group on a bid for environmental projects in the conservation churchyard
- River Rye – assisting with development and delivery of AONB elements of the HLF site visit
- River Rye – organising and taking more images to support the HLF bid
- MMS – survey of linear ditch with volunteers and NYMNP MMS Officer, Coneysthorpe

- Advice to Project Fund applicants – application process and making grant offers.
- SEE SEPARATE TABLE FOR LIST OF PROJECTS GRANT AIDED

<b>PROJECTS (FUTURE)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to development Amotherby conservation projects with local schools and conservation group</li> </ul>

<b>RECREATION/ACCESS</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Repairs to set of steps near Terrington (volunteers)</li> <li>• Organisation of volunteers to walk three circular routes near Nunnington to feed in to HLF bid.</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>• Co-ordination and delivery of HLF Natural Heritage grants advice event, Kirkbymoorside</li> <li>• May Junior Rangers, Howsham Mill – preparation and delivery</li> <li>• October Junior Rangers, The Yorkshire Arboretum – preparation and delivery</li> <li>• Terrington Intergenerational Project display community event, Terrington Village Hall</li> <li>• North Yorkshire Wider Partnership Conference (health focus), Harrogate</li> <li>• Planning joint activity for AONB volunteers, Moorswork, Terrington Hall School and Terrington and Foston Primary Schools, RHS Bug Hotel theme, Howsham Mill</li> </ul>

<b>COMMUNITIES (FUTURE)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• December and February Junior Rangers activities – plan, prepare and deliver</li> <li>• Delivery of joint activity for AONB volunteers, Moorswork, Terrington Hall School and Terrington and Foston Primary Schools, RHS Bug Hotel theme, Howsham Mill</li> </ul>

<b>PROMOTION/PUBLICITY/ INTERPRETATION</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of Castle Howard natural heritage interpretation including meetings (x2) at Castle Howard and emailed advice</li> <li>• Evening talk, Marton</li> <li>• Ryedale Show, Welburn – preparation and delivery</li> <li>• AONB Photography Competition – planning meeting, preparation of poster, promotion on Twitter and to local camera clubs</li> <li>• AONB awareness raising and LBAP stand with pond dipping at Scarborough Mere Open Day, Scarborough</li> <li>• Gathering of content for AONB Newsletter and sending it to designer</li> <li>• Use of Twitter</li> </ul>

<b>PROMOTION/PUBLICITY/ INTERPRETATION (FUTURE)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promotion of AONB Photography Competition then organising and judging images</li> <li>• Photography competition display and launch evening</li> <li>• Continue to use Twitter</li> </ul>

<b>TRAINING</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HLF Landscape Partnership briefing, Leeds</li> <li>• Mid-tier Countryside Stewardship briefing, Northallerton</li> <li>• Biological Action Recording System II – trained by PJ</li> </ul>

<b>TRAINING (FUTURE)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skype for Business, Northallerton</li> <li>• Writing skills workshop, Howsham</li> </ul>

<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On leave – 2<sup>nd</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> June</li> <li>• On leave – 4<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> August</li> <li>• Assisting with candidates on AONB Officer interview day</li> <li>• Modern Office IT session, Northallerton</li> <li>• Supporting 2 x new team members</li> </ul>

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



# AONB OFFICER'S REPORT (Francesca Pert)

6<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2016 – 1<sup>st</sup> NOVEMBER 2016

Work during this period has included:

- Induction to NYCC and HHAONB completed including mandatory training packages, setting up IT accounts etc.
- Identifying individual tree planting projects completed in last 5 years, sending letters to grant recipients requesting information about the condition of the trees and guards; communicating with Castle Howard Tree Nursery to arrange a contractor to survey and beat-up failed trees and replace guards.
- Providing Project Fund applicants with application guidance.
- Familiarisation with AONB position on hedge restoration grants.
- Collating and reporting 2015/16 projects to the NYCC Historic Environment Record
- Communities – contributed ideas at a meeting with Rural Arts working with Rural Action Yorkshire on development of the Amotherby Ward Plan.
- Proof reading of the Howardian Hills AONB Newsletter.

## MEETINGS

- Rural Arts, Ryedale DC and RAY, community arts project development, Malton

- Individual tree planting project discussion with Newburgh Priory

## NAAONB

- 

## CONSULTATIONS

- 

## MEETINGS (FUTURE)

- 1 to 1 meetings with PJ
- December Quarterly Annual Action Programme delivery update
- December Core Partners Meeting

## PROJECTS

- Initial communications sent to landowners to inform them of a check of individual trees planted in the last 5 years. Co-ordinated with Castle Howard Tree Nursery to complete survey and beating-up work
- Initial site visit with landowner at Crambe about re-instating traditional boundaries with new hedge planting, hedge laying and coppicing work
- Reporting 2015/16 projects to the Historic Environment Record
- SEE SEPARATE TABLE FOR LIST OF PROJECTS GRANT AIDED

## NAAONB (FUTURE)

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## SITE VISITS

- Crambe hedge planting scheme advisory visit

## PROJECTS (FUTURE)

- Barn Owl box replacement site visit – Littledale, Terrington
- Check of individual tree planting scheme beating-up.
- Hedge planting grant application site visit, Kilburn House, Bulmer
- Hedge planting and pond creation grant application site visit, Moor House Farm, Hovingham
- Work with landowner at Littledale to replace barn owl boxes
- Hedge planting and pond creation scheme at Moor House Farm, Hovingham
- Hedge planting scheme at Kilburn House, Bulmer
- Work on River Rye HLF project Development phase, if Phase 1 bid successful

- Investigate a leaflet distribution system for HHAONB information
- Farm Infrastructure Design Guidance distribution to building companies commonly contracted in the local area

**MISCELLANEOUS (FUTURE)**

- 

**RECREATION/ACCESS**

- 

**RECREATION/ACCESS (FUTURE)**

- 

**COMMUNITIES**

- 

- COMMUNITIES (FUTURE)**
- Help AONB Officer with December and February Junior Ranger Clubs promotion, planning and prep, The Yorkshire Arboretum?

- PROMOTION/PUBLICITY/ INTERPRETATION**
- Gathering of content for North York Moors Out and About publication.
  - Proof reading of AONB Newsletter

- PROMOTION/PUBLICITY/ INTERPRETATION (FUTURE)**
- Refinement and updating of AONB website

- TRAINING**
- NYCC Induction
  - Customer Care Essentials e-learning
  - Equalities and Diversity e-learning
  - Voice Connect system e-learning
  - Introduction to Health and Safety e-learning
  - Compliments, Comments and Complaints e-learning

- TRAINING (FUTURE)**
- Familiarisation with Wordpress website tools

**MISCELLANEOUS**

-

# AONB OFFICER'S REPORT (Frances Standen)

19<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2016 – 1<sup>st</sup> NOVEMBER 2016

Work during this period has included:

- Induction to NYCC and HHAONB completed, including mandatory training packages, setting up IT accounts etc.
- Assessed existing display banners, identified themes for new banners, written text, collated photos and logos, researched banner systems, ready to submit to designer.
- Updated Annual Action Programme.
- Assessed Howardian Hills content on Visit York and Visit Ryedale websites, suggested changes, written copy, sourced photos, submitted to Craig Nattress for updating websites.
- Carrying out surveys of sites grazed by Exmoor ponies.
- Examining the Howardian Hills website, checking links, suggesting changes.

MEETINGS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• September Core Partners Group</li> </ul>

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

MEETINGS (FUTURE)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• November Quarterly Annual Action Programme delivery update</li> </ul>

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

SITE VISITS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Four Exmoor pony site visits (Cawton Bank and Fen SINC, Terrington Moor SINC, Littledale SINC)</li> </ul>

SITE VISITS (FUTURE)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three Exmoor pony site visits (Coulton)</li> </ul>

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

PROJECTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessment of Exmoor pony sites – production of report giving recommendations on future management</li> <li>• Produce seven new display banners</li> <li>• Update Visit York and Visit Ryedale website content</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review HH website content, links, etc</li> </ul>
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PROJECTS (FUTURE)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>

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

RECREATION/ACCESS (FUTURE)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact iFootpaths to discuss the possibility of creating some Easy Access routes in the AONB</li> </ul>

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

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

PROMOTION/PUBLICITY/ INTERPRETATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Written content, sourced images, prepared submission to design team to produce a series of seven new pop-up banners</li> <li>• Assessed existing HH material on Visit York and Visit Ryedale websites, suggested changes, written new copy and sent new images to increase profile of the HH on both websites through use of strong seasonal images</li> </ul>

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

- Refinement and updating of AONB website

**TRAINING**

- NYCC Induction
- Customer Care Essentials e-learning
- Equalities and Diversity e-learning
- Voice Connect system e-learning
- Introduction to Health and Safety e-learning
- Compliments, Comments and Complaints e-learning

**TRAINING (FUTURE)**

- 

**MISCELLANEOUS**

- 

**MISCELLANEOUS (FUTURE)**

-

## **RURAL ACTION YORKSHIRE**

### **Report to Howardian Hills AONB Committee 1 April 2016 to 30 September 2016**

#### **Parish Plans**

**Amotherby:** Parish plan document should be published shortly.

**Slingsby: Complete** – report to go out shortly

**Swinton:** Data collation should be complete by early November; approx 60% return rate on questionnaires

#### **Howardian Hills AONB Intergenerational Project**

This project was successfully completed in June and consisted of four sessions involving nine older residents and twenty four Key Stage Two children from Terrington Primary School. They each did a series of workshops which looked at the preconceptions they had about each other, their hobbies and interests, their hopes and fears and how rural life has changed for the better and worse. A number of visual displays were produced and the children took 'selfie' photos of themselves and the older residents.

The findings showed a great deal of respect between the two generations and the older residents said they thought the youngsters of today are generally better behaved than they were.

The 'tea party' where the children and older residents shared their stories and asked each other questions was very popular, and the homemade buns and cakes were enjoyed by all.

#### **Amotherby Ward Pilot Project**

A new one-year pilot project covering the Amotherby Ward of Ryedale District Council commenced on 1 April. It covers the parishes of Broughton, Swinton, Amotherby, Appleton-le-Street, Habton and Kirby Misperton. This project is a partnership between RDC, HHAONB and RAY. A number of officers from RDC, Liz Bassindale and Cllr Fiona Farnell (Ward Cllr for Amotherby Ward) attend monthly steering group meetings.

The parishes meet four times/year to discuss common issues and ideas for future projects, and to indicate the help and support needed. Officers from other agencies attend to explain help/services available.

Phase one of the project has been to identify and record all the assets, facilities, resources, community groups, etc in each parish. This information is then put on to a series of digital maps that will be available via the web.

Phase two is to look at the way the parishes can work more closely together to share resources, expertise and what help and support they need to overcome reductions in some services, etc.

Phase Three will look at projects and actions that can deliver this support and help. Examples of some already identified are to produce a ward level emergency/resilience plan and activities for older residents such as luncheon/ socials in local pubs.



Other wards in Ryedale have expressed an interest if this project proves to be successful and a template for this will be produced at the end. Amotherby School are involved in three activities that will feed into the project. Reception and Years 1 & 2 children will be looking at the buildings and heritage in the area; Years 3 & 4 will be doing a plant and bird survey in Amotherby Conservation Churchyard; and Years 5 & 6 will be debating the problem of car parking around the school. It is also planned to do an Inter-generational art-based project across the ward with Rural Arts North Yorkshire in March 2017

### **Howardian Hills AONB Photographic Competition 2016**

Following the success of the first competition in 2014 it was decided to run this again – the competition is now open for entries and closes on 10 January 2017. Information on the categories and how to enter are on the Rural Action Yorkshire website [www.ruralityorkshire.org.uk](http://www.ruralityorkshire.org.uk)

### **Other activity / contacts with HHAONB**

- Continuing to work with Sarah Robinson (NYCC Stronger Communities) to identify HHAONB communities who would qualify and benefit from support and funding.
- Hovingham Ward Parishes meeting was held on 24 March 2016, at Terrington Village Hall. Hovingham and Terrington PCs attended, as did Cllr Robert Wainwright and Liz Bassindale. Clare Slater from RDC explained how RDC can help the parishes. Another meeting is planned for 24 November 2016.
- Attend and support Swinton Action Group meetings.
- Met with Coleen Allwood (Alzheimer's Society) to further develop the 'Side by Side' project covering Ryedale.
- Attended Heritage Lottery funding event at Kirkbymoorside Library.
- Attended RDC Parish Liaison Meeting on 8 June. Did short presentation on the Amotherby Ward Project.
- Attending Ryedale Development Officer meetings.
- Attended Ryedale Village Hall Network meeting.

## AONB PROJECTS 2016/2017

1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 – 1<sup>st</sup> November 2016

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
J Pilling	Grimston	Repair of 54m of field wall	Zone 1 Landscape	AG2.2	£6,625	£3,375
Ryevitalise Partnership	Ryevitalise HLF bid area	Contribution to Project Development phase	-	NE9.1	£339,600 (2 years)	£1,500 (Year 1)

APPLICANT/ (CONTRACTOR)	LOCATION	PROJECT	LOCAL PRIORITY	OBJECTIVE	SCHEME COST	JAC ASSISTANCE
(AONB Unit – Yorkshire Exmoor Pony Trust)	Coulton (2), Cawton (2), Terrington (2)	Conservation grazing of 6 SINC's or other important sites	Sites 1.59, 1.41, 1.47, 1.66, 1.20	NE3.1	£916	£551
<b>(AONB Unit – 4Nature)</b>	<b>Mugdale &amp; Barker Woods SINC</b>	<b>Cutting/pulling Himalayan balsam</b>	<b>Site 1.58</b>	<b>NE6.2</b>	<b>£750</b>	<b>£750</b>
<b>(AONB Unit – The Conservation Volunteers)</b>	<b>Jeffry Bog SINC</b>	<b>Cutting/pulling Himalayan balsam</b>	<b>Site 1.74</b>	<b>NE6.2</b>	<b>£1,750</b>	<b>£1,750</b>
<b>(AONB Unit – Moorswork + Volunteers) + village volunteers</b>	<b>River Derwent SSSI</b>	<b>Cutting/pulling Himalayan balsam</b>	<b>Site 1.73</b>	<b>NE6.2</b>	<b>£1,930</b>	<b>£480</b>
<b>(AONB Unit – 4Nature)</b>	<b>River Derwent SSSI</b>	<b>Cutting/pulling Himalayan balsam</b>	<b>Site 1.73</b>	<b>NE6.2</b>	<b>£750</b>	<b>£750</b>

<b>(AONB Unit – Moorswork + Volunteers)</b>	<b>Fairy Dell SINC</b>	<b>Cutting/pulling Himalayan balsam</b>	<b>Site 1.17</b>	<b>NE6.2</b>	<b>£620</b>	<b>£120</b>
(AONB Unit – Don Davies)	Wath Beck	Cutting/pulling Himalayan balsam	Inc. Sites 1.33 & 1.65	NE6.2	£675	£675
<b>(AONB Unit – Moorswork + Volunteers)</b>	<b>Yearsley Moor Woodlands SINC</b>	<b>Cutting bracken on semi-improved grassland site (July &amp; August)</b>	<b>Site 1.5</b>	<b>NE3.3</b>	<b>£540</b>	<b>£240</b>
<b>(AONB Unit – Moorswork + Volunteers)</b>	<b>Appleton-le-Street Churchyard SINC</b>	<b>Grassland management</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>NE3.1</b>	<b>£640</b>	<b>£120</b>
(AONB Unit – Moorswork)	Amotherby Lane SINC	Grassland/scrub management	Site 1.38	NE3.1	£120	£120
Amotherby Churchyard Conservation Group	Amotherby Churchyard	Habitat management	-	NE5.1	£420	£120 (25%)
North & East Yorkshire Geology Trust	AONB, Ryedale & Scarborough	HLF project – survey of potential RIGS in AONB, work with schools, preparation of draft Local Geodiversity Action Plan	-	NE7.1, NE7.2	£7,500	c.£40,000
(AONB Unit – Moorswork + Volunteers)	Terrington Carr SINC	Birch management (2 days)	Site 1.67	NE3.1	c.£840	£240
(AONB Unit – Moorswork + Volunteers)	Dalby Bush SSSI	Bramble cutting (2 days)	Site 1.56	NE3.1	c.£1040	£240
The Yorkshire Arboretum	Arboretum/ Visitor Centre	Bird, owl & bat boxes; camera system	-	LC2.1, AP2.3	c.£1,420	c.£900
Moorswork	AONB	Strimmer training for 3 of Moorswork team	-	D6.1	£480	£160
(AONB Unit – Castle Howard Estate)	Various	Beat-up failed trees and repair tree guards	-	NE8.2	c.£1,750	c.£1,750
(AONB Unit – J R Clifford & Sons)	Various	Management of 45 Special Interest Road Verges	-	NE3.1	c.£1,400	c.£1,400

## AONB Enhancement - Historic Environment

APPLICANT	LOCATION	PROJECT	LOCAL PRIORITY	OBJECTIVE	SCHEME COST	JAC ASSISTANCE
(AONB Unit – P & A Gospel Landscapes)	City of Troy Maze, Dalby	Regular maintenance	Site 2.25	HE2.5	c.£200	c.£200
(AONB Unit – P & A Gospel Landscapes)	Mileposts	Regular maintenance	Site 2.63	HE2.5, RT4.5	c.£170	c.£170
<b>(AONB Unit – 4Nature)</b>	<b>City of Troy Maze, Dalby</b>	<b>Re-cutting &amp; re-gravelling</b>	<b>Site 2.25</b>	<b>HE2.5</b>	<b>£339</b>	<b>£339</b>
(AONB Unit – Cleveland Corrosion Control)	Oswaldkirk	Fabrication of 1 modern replica village name sign	-	HE2.5, LC1.4	£1,150	£1,150
(AONB Unit – Cleveland Corrosion Control)	Crayke	Restoration of 1 traditional village name sign; fabrication of 3 modern replicas	-	HE2.5, LC1.4	£3,800	£3,400
(AONB Unit – Cleveland Corrosion Control)	Ganthorpe	Restoration of 1 traditional village name sign	-	HE2.5, LC1.4	£800	£700
(AONB Unit – Cleveland Corrosion Control)	Terrington	Fabrication of 2 replica village name signs	-	HE2.5, LC1.4	£2,100	£1,900
(AONB Unit – Cleveland Corrosion Control)	Crambe	Restoration of 1 traditional village name sign	-	HE2.5, LC1.4	£800	£800
(AONB Unit – Cleveland Corrosion Control)	Cawton	Restoration of 2 traditional village name signs	-	HE2.5, LC1.4	£1,600	£1,600
(AONB Unit – Cleveland Corrosion Control)	Yearsley	Restoration of 1 traditional village name sign; fabrication of 1 modern replica	-	HE2.5, LC1.4	£1,850	£1,850
(AONB Unit – Cleveland Corrosion Control)	Oulston	Restoration of 2 traditional village name signs	-	HE2.5, LC1.4	£1,600	£1,600
(AONB Unit – Cleveland Corrosion Control)	Kirkham	Restoration of 1 traditional village name sign	-	HE2.5, LC1.4	£800	£800

<b>MONUMENT MANAGEMENT SCHEME</b>						
<b>Historic England funded</b>						
<b>(AONB Unit – Volunteers)</b>	<b>Fryton/ Coneysthorpe</b>	<b>Surveying 2 Scheduled Monuments</b>	<b>Site 2.34 &amp; 2.38</b>	<b>HE2.3</b>	<b>£450</b>	<b>£0</b>
<b>(AONB Unit – Moorswork + AONB staff)</b>	<b>Yearsley</b>	<b>Brash and seedling clearance on 1 Scheduled Monument</b>	<b>Site 2.13</b>	<b>HE2.3</b>	<b>£50</b>	<b>£0</b>
<b>(AONB Unit – Moorswork + Volunteers)</b>	<b>Grimston</b>	<b>Brash clearance on 2 Scheduled Monuments</b>	<b>Site 2.4</b>	<b>HE2.3</b>	<b>£1,290</b>	<b>£240</b>
(AONB Unit – 4Nature)	Oulston, Coneysthorpe	Advice on scrub clearance and re-vegetation options on 5 Scheduled Monuments	Sites 2.12, 2.20, 2.40	HE2.3	c.£2,000	c.£2,000
(AONB Unit – Moorswork + Volunteers)	Grimston	Brash clearance on 3 Scheduled Monuments	Site 2.4	HE2.3	c.£1,040	£240
(AONB Unit – Volunteers)	Fryton	Raking bramble brash off 1 Scheduled Monument	Site 2.39	HE2.3	c.£220	£120
(AONB Unit – Moorswork + Volunteers)	Scackleton	Brash & scrub clearance on 1 Scheduled Monument	Site 2.84	HE2.3	c.£520	£120
(AONB Unit – Moorswork + Volunteers)	Hovingham	Brash clearance on 4 Scheduled Monuments	Site 2.36	HE2.3	c.£520	£120
(AONB Unit – Volunteers)	Fryton	Raking bramble brash off 2 Scheduled Monuments	Site 2.39	HE2.3	c.£220	£120
(AONB Unit – Volunteers)	Welburn	Raking bramble brash off 1 Scheduled Monument	Site 2.69	HE2.3	c.£220	£120
(AONB Unit – Moorswork + Volunteers)	Coneysthorpe	Raking bramble brash off 1 Scheduled Monument	Site 2.34	HE2.3	c.£1,240	£240
(AONB Unit – Volunteers)	Welburn	Brash clearance on 1 Scheduled Monument	Site 2.68	HE2.3	c.£100	£0
(AONB Unit – Volunteers)	Brandsby	Brash clearance on 1 Scheduled Monument	Site 2.3	HE2.3	c.£100	£0

<b>AONB funded</b>						
(AONB Unit – Reeves Forestry & Fencing)	Various	Spraying bracken on 20 Scheduled Monuments	Sites 2.3, 2.4, 2.11, 2.12, 2.24, 2.34, 2.36, 2.37, 2.39, 2.40, 2.68, 2.69	HE2.3	£1,364	£1,364
(AONB Unit – Forestry Commission)	Oulston, Grimston	Spraying bracken on 3 Scheduled Monuments	Sites 2.12, 2.20	HE2.3	c.£250	£0
(AONB Unit – Reeves Forestry & Fencing)	Dalby, Hovingham	Strimming bramble on 2 Scheduled Monuments	Sites 2.24, 2.35	HE2.3	£180	£180
(AONB Unit – Castle Howard Estate)	Fryton	Strimming bramble on 2 Scheduled Monuments	Site 2.39	HE2.3	c.£120	£0
(AONB Unit – Moorswork)	Hovingham	Raking bramble brush and re-seeding on 1 Scheduled Monument	Site 2.35	HE2.3	£240	£240
(AONB Unit – A Johnson)	Yearsley	New water pipe connection and stoning to move water trough and feeder off 1 Scheduled Monument	Site 2.2	HE2.3	c.£2,700	c.£1,600
(AONB Unit – Reeves Forestry & Fencing)	Hovingham	Strimming bramble on 1 Scheduled Monument	Site 2.37	HE2.3	c.£60	c.£60
(AONB Unit – Castle Howard Estate)	Fryton, Welburn, Coneysthorpe	Strimming bramble on 4 Scheduled Monuments	Sites 2.39, 2.34, 2.69	HE2.3	c.£360	c.£180
(AONB Unit – ?)	Oulston	Scrub clearance from 1 Scheduled Monument	Site 2.12	HE2.3	c.£2,000	c.£2,000
(AONB Unit – ?)	Coneysthorpe	Scrub clearance from 2 Scheduled Monuments	Site 2.40	HE2.3	c.£1,000	c.£1,000

## AONB Enhancement – Sustainable Development & Rural Economy

APPLICANT	LOCATION	PROJECT	LOCAL PRIORITY	OBJECTIVE	SCHEME COST	JAC ASSISTANCE
Rural Action Yorkshire	Amotherby Ward & AONB	Sustainable Rural Communities project, working with communities on community planning; also work on Amotherby Ward plan	-	LC1.2, LC1.3	£11,000	£5,750 (52%)
Slingsby May Day Committee	Slingsby	May Day and community events resources	-	LC1.4	£2,750	£1,000
<b>Howsham Mill</b>	<b>Howsham Mill</b>	<b>Environmental/sustainable power educational resources</b>	-	<b>LC2.1</b>	<b>£288</b>	<b>£288</b>
<b>Howsham Mill</b>	<b>Howsham Mill</b>	<b>Creating Forest Schools and recreation areas</b>	-	<b>LC2.1</b>	<b>£720</b>	<b>£120</b>
Rural Action Yorkshire	Hovingham & Ampleforth	Inter-generational project	-	LC2.1	£1,300	£925 (70%)
<b><u>Recreation</u></b>						
(AONB Unit – Moorswork)	Various	Litter picking (5 visits)	Sites 3.8, 3.14, 3.19	RA4.5	£600	£600
(AONB Unit – P Gospel)	Gateway signs	Strimming	-	AP1.1	c.£650	c.£650
<b>(AONB Unit – Moorswork + Volunteers)</b>	<b>Terrington</b>	<b>Repairs to 2 sets of steps</b>	-	<b>RA3.1, IM1.3</b>	<b>£470</b>	<b>£120</b>
(AONB Unit/NYCC Countryside Access Service)	AONB	PRoW Improvement Project across 5 parishes, delivered by NYMNPA Modern Apprentices	-	RA3.1	c.£10,000	£7,500
<b><u>Promotion/Rural Economy</u></b>						
(AONB Unit)	Howardian Hills/Ryedale	Promotional campaign with Visit York & Ryedale DC	-	RA2.1	c.£10,500	£1,500
<b><u>Volunteering</u></b>						
	Misc	Volunteer input – shows, Junior Ranger Club, etc	Various	Various	£1,000	-

## Young People's activities

APPLICANT	LOCATION	PROJECT	LOCAL PRIORITY	OBJECTIVE	SCHEME COST	JAC ASSISTANCE
(AONB Unit)	Arboretum	Junior Ranger Club x 2	-	AP2.3	£814	£285



## AONB CONSULTATIONS (SPECIFIC DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS) 2016/2017

1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 – 1<sup>st</sup> November 2016

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	-	-	-
Ryedale District Council	Broughton	Planning application (Erection of agricultural storage building)	Yes	Object – inappropriate siting in a garden	Permitted
Hambleton District Council	Crayke	Planning application (Installation of replacement glazing)	No	None	-
Ryedale District Council	Amotherby	Planning application (Erection of 17 dwellings)	Yes (in passing)	None	-
Forestry Commission	Castle Howard	Felling proposals (0.65ha larch to NS/SS/DF)	No	None	-
Hambleton District Council	Crayke	Certificate of Lawfulness (Retention of timber barn)	Yes	Does existing stables block have Consent?	-
Hambleton District Council	Husthwaite	Planning application (Temporary storage of log cabins and mobile homes, for repairs)	Yes	None	(Refused)
Ryedale District Council	Bulmer	Planning application (Erection of 2-storey extension)	No	None	-
Ryedale District Council	Huttons Ambo	Planning application (Erection of extension to Village Hall)	No	None	-
Ryedale District Council	Welburn	Planning application (House alterations)	No	None	-
Hambleton District Council	Brandsby	Planning application (Conversion of farm buildings to residential units)	No	None	-

CONSULTING ORGANISATION	LOCATION	PROJECT	SITE VISIT	COMMENTS	OUTCOME
Hambleton District Council	Whenby	Agricultural Prior Notification (Erection of an agricultural building)	No	None	-
Ryedale District Council	Sproxton	Planning application (Conversion of outbuildings to form additional accommodation)	No	None	-
Ryedale District Council	Hovingham	Planning application (House alterations and erection of timber fence)	No	None	-
Hambleton District Council	Yearsley	Planning application (Erection of car port link)	No	None	-
Hambleton District Council	Yearsley	Planning application (Variation of design of new barn)	No	Roof colour to be darker shade than proposed	Permitted, with revised colour
Ryedale District Council	Welburn	Planning application (Erection of agricultural building for sheep)	Yes	None	-
Ryedale District Council	Welburn	Planning application (Erection of 12.5m mobile phone mast)	Yes	Antennae to be a dark colour	Permitted, with Condition on colour
Ryedale District Council	Malton	Planning application (House alterations)	Yes (in passing)	Prefer windows in blank gable wall	Permitted, with revised design
North Yorkshire County Council	Ampleforth	NRSWA (Drainage investigation works)	No	Species-rich hedge on western side	?
Forestry Commission	Brandsby	Woodland management proposals (0.4ha mixed woodland to broadleaves)	No	None	-
Ryedale District Council	Welburn	Planning application (Erection of garage)	No	None	-
Ryedale District Council	Scackleton	Planning application (Erection of extensions)	Yes (in passing)	None	-
Ryedale District Council	Ampleforth	Planning application (Demolition of barns and erection of extensions)	Yes	Significant concerns about gate & piers	Plans revised
Hambleton District Council	Brandsby	Planning application (Erection of barn and sheep building)	Yes	Agricultural justification?	Plans revised
Ryedale District Council	Malton	Planning application (Erection of business units)	No	Roof colour to be dark grey	Permitted, with Condition

CONSULTING ORGANISATION	LOCATION	PROJECT	SITE VISIT	COMMENTS	OUTCOME
Hambleton District Council	Crayke	Certificate of Lawfulness (Retention of a stable block and barn - revised)	Previously	None	-
Ryedale District Council	Low Hutton	Planning application (House alterations and extension)	Yes (in passing)	None	-
Forestry Commission	Terrington	Woodland management proposals (Fell 3.5ha larch PAWS and replant with evergreen conifers)	Yes	Objection - landscape and biodiversity impact. UKFS compliant?	Species mix amended to 100% broadleaves
Hambleton District Council	Yearsley	Planning application (Erection of extensions)	Yes	Minor – design details	Permitted, no changes
Ryedale District Council	Ampleforth Abbey	Planning application (Erection of lobby and link bridge)	No	None	-
Hambleton District Council	Oulston	Planning application (Erection of extension)	Yes	Concerns about size and scale	Plans revised
Hambleton District Council	Crayke	Agricultural Prior Notification (Erection of agricultural building extensions/links)	Yes	None	-
Ryedale District Council	Ampleforth	Planning application (Demolition of barns and erection of extensions - revised)	Previously	Continuing concerns about gate & piers	Permitted
Ryedale District Council	Coulton	Agricultural Prior Notification (Erection of agricultural building)	Yes	Roof colour to be dark grey; requires full planning application?	Full planning application required
Forestry Commission	Coneysthorpe	Woodland management proposals (Fell 3.3ha larch PAWS and replant with 100% broadleaves)	No	Support	-
Forestry Commission	Coneysthorpe	Woodland management proposals (Thin 4ha larch PAWS to encourage natural regeneration of broadleaves)	No	No brash to be deposited on Scheduled Monument	-
Forestry Commission	Coneysthorpe	Woodland management proposals (Thin 4ha larch PAWS to encourage natural regeneration of broadleaves)	No	No brash to be deposited on Scheduled Monument	-
Forestry Commission	Coneysthorpe	Woodland management proposals (Thin 4ha larch PAWS to encourage natural regeneration of broadleaves)	No	No brash to be deposited on Scheduled Monument	-

CONSULTING ORGANISATION	LOCATION	PROJECT	SITE VISIT	COMMENTS	OUTCOME
Forestry Commission	Terrington	Woodland management proposals (Thin 10ha larch to remove nurse crop and encourage broadleaves)	No	Avoid damage to ancient/veteran trees	-
Forestry Commission	Terrington	Woodland management proposals (Thin 5ha broadleaved PAWS to encourage natural regeneration)	No	None	-
Forestry Commission	Barton-le-Willows	Woodland management proposals (Fell 1.2ha conifers and replant with 100% broadleaves)	No	None	-
Hambleton District Council	Yearsley	Planning application (Erection of extensions)	Yes	Minor – design details	Permitted, Informative re non-reflective glass
Hambleton District Council	Brandsby	Planning application (Erection of barn and sheep building - revised)	Previously	Change in size and roof colour noted	Refused
Ryedale District Council	Gilling	Planning application (Erection of stable block and gate)	Yes	Colour of roof; details of gateway	Permitted, with Condition
Ryedale District Council	Hovingham	Planning application (Erection of replacement dwelling)	Yes	Concerns – incongruous design features	Amended (see below)
Hambleton District Council	Oulston	Planning application (Erection of extension)	Previously	Reduction in size noted	Permitted
Ryedale District Council	Terrington	Planning application (Erection of dwelling)	Yes	None	-
Ryedale District Council	Terrington	Planning application (Erection of dwelling)	Yes	None	-
Ryedale District Council	Swinton	Planning application (Erection of livestock building)	Yes	Colours, cladding, landscaping	Permitted, with amendments & Conditions
Ryedale District Council	Swinton	Planning application (Erection of agricultural workers dwelling)	Yes	Landscaping needed	Withdrawn
Forestry Commission	Stittenham	Woodland management proposals (Convert 1.2ha conifer PAWS to native broadleaves; Thin 27ha of mixed conifer/broadleaved PAWS)	No	None	-

CONSULTING ORGANISATION	LOCATION	PROJECT	SITE VISIT	COMMENTS	OUTCOME
Tilhill Forestry	Oswaldkirk & Stittenham	Woodland Management Plan	No	None	-
Forestry Commission	Bulmer	Woodland management proposals (Thin 12.5ha of broadleaved PAWS)	No	None	-
Ryedale District Council	Coulton	Planning application (Erection of agricultural building)	Previously	Roof colour to be dark grey	Permitted, with Condition
Ryedale District Council	Whitwell	Planning application (Conversion of outbuildings to holiday accommodation)	Yes	None	-
Hambleton District Council	Brandsby	Planning application (Erection of extension)	Yes	Query current domestic use of agricultural land	Amended (see below)
Environment Agency	Howsham	Fish passage proposals for Howsham Weir	No	None	-
Ryedale District Council	Oswaldkirk	Planning application (Erection of double garage)	Yes	None	(Refused)
Ryedale District Council	Oswaldkirk	Planning application (Insertion of new windows in Village Hall)	Yes	None	-
Ryedale District Council	Welburn	Planning application (Erection of extension)	No	None	-
Hambleton District Council	Brandsby	Planning application (Erection of extension - revised)	Yes	None	Permitted
Forestry Commission	Howsham	Woodland management proposals (Thin 48ha of broadleaved & mixed PAWS)	No	None	-
Ryedale District Council	Hovingham	Planning application (Erection of replacement dwelling - revised)	Previously	None	?
Ryedale District Council	Terrington	Planning application (Erection of extensions)	No	No garage facility	?
Ryedale District Council	Malton	Planning application (Erection of new buildings to create racing yard - retrospective)	Yes	None	-
Hambleton District Council	Husthwaite	Planning application (Temporary storage of log cabins and mobile homes, for repairs - revised)	Previously	Suggested improvements to landscaping scheme	?
Ryedale District Council	Hovingham	Planning application (Conversion of barn to dwelling - revised)	Yes	?	?
Hambleton District Council	Newburgh	Planning application (Alterations, conversion & erection of extension to form function suite and accommodation)	Yes	?	?

<b>CONSULTING ORGANISATION</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>PROJECT</b>	<b>SITE VISIT</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>	<b>OUTCOME</b>
Hambleton District Council	Brandsby	Planning application (Erection of 3 dwellings)	Yes	Object – contrary to national and local planning policy	?
Ryedale District Council	Swinton	Planning application (Erection of agricultural workers dwelling – re-submission)	Previously	Landscaping needed	?
Ryedale District Council	Scackleton	Planning application (Erection of 2 storey barn/garage)	Yes	Object – excessive size and scale	?
Ryedale District Council	Gilling	Planning application (Erection of 15m mobile phone mast)	Yes	?	?
Ryedale District Council	Gilling	Planning application (Erection of extensions)	?	?	?

## **AONB CONSULTATIONS & NOTIFICATIONS (STRATEGIES, ETC) 2016/2017**

1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 – 1<sup>st</sup> November 2016

<b>ORGANISATION</b>	<b>AREA</b>	<b>DOCUMENT</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>	<b>OUTCOME</b>
Ryedale District Council	Slingsby, South Holme & Fryton Parishes	Draft Village Design Statement	Query description of limestone as 'Magnesian'	?
DCLG (via NAAONB)	England	Rural Planning Review call for evidence	Support retention of current planning safeguards for Protected Areas	?
North York Moors National Park Authority	North York Moors National Park	Management Plan 2012 - 2027	Minor, re landscape connectivity	?
North York Moors National Park Authority	North York Moors National Park	Local Plan	?	?
Hambleton District Council	Hambleton District	Local Plan – Preferred Options	?	?

## 2016/17 Junior Ranger Activities

The Junior Ranger sessions this year have been delivered with the Education Officer from The Yorkshire Arboretum at Howsham Mill and The Yorkshire Arboretum.

### May/June Half Term 2016:

Ranger Day	Activities	No of children attending
<b>Island Explorers</b> Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> May Howsham Mill	Forest Schools shelter building Cooking over open fires (led by Forest Schools leader) Tansy Beetle activities (led by Tansy Beetle Officer) Waterwheels Otter masks Cut out beetles Stained glass dragonflies	31

### October 2016:

Ranger Day	Activities	No of children attending
<b>Amazing Autumn</b> Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> October The Yorkshire Arboretum	Autumn leaf collecting Dissecting owl pellets Plaster of Paris animal prints Owls on a plate Owl biscuits Leaf printing Leaf bugs Minibeast hunting	27

### December 2016:

Ranger Day	Activities	No of children attending
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> December The Yorkshire Arboretum		

### February 2017:

Ranger Day	Activities	No of children attending
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February		



The Yorkshire Arboretum		
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**Paul Jackson**

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**From:** Paul Jackson  
**Sent:** 07 April 2016 13:35  
**To:** 'dm@ryedale.gov.uk'  
**Subject:** 16/00338/FUL: Change of use of garden and erection of replacement storage building; Flowery Bank, Broughton

I have the following observations to make on this application:

- 1) The boundary of the Howardian Hills AONB follows the western hedge of Broughton Lane and the southern edge of the gardens of Flowery Bank, and Broughton Lane itself is a Public Bridleway that is heavily used as an access into the AONB. The Design & Access Statement makes no mention of the AONB and doesn't therefore make any assessment of the potential impact of the proposal on the setting of the AONB or people's enjoyment of it.
- 2) The application site consists of a residential garden and I feel that it is inappropriate to site what is in essence a substantial industrial-style building in such a setting so far away from the existing house/storage sheds. Although not a matter for comment in respect of the AONB, I would have thought that a building of the size proposed would have a considerable adverse impact on the amenity of the neighbouring gardens.
- 3) At present, users of Broughton Lane start to experience the 'open countryside' of the AONB once they reach the access track to the rear of Flowery Bank. On the east side the gardens are open greenspace and on the west side open countryside can be glimpsed through the substantial hedge. The proposed shed is located at the south of the garden, pushing it towards the AONB boundary, whilst the site itself is some 2m above the level of the bridleway. This will have the effect of making the building seem substantially taller, given the 4.2m height to the eaves plus the c.2m ground level difference.
- 4) Although the application only seems to relate to the change of use of the part of the garden underneath the proposed shed, it is unrealistic to think that the whole garden won't in effect become a site with business-related use. No access track is shown to the proposed shed, and it's not hard to see that a hardstanding/storage area won't develop to the north of the shed, in effect taking up the entire garden in due course.
- 5) Although the AONB Management Plan is supportive of infrastructure developments that enable the local agricultural industry to thrive, these need to conform with the Design Guidelines that have been developed and Adopted by the local planning authorities for use in the development management process. In this instance I feel that the development is poorly sited, with a relatively large building proposed for a prominent location. Given the potential adverse visual impact on the setting of the AONB unfortunately I must register an **Objection** to the proposal as currently framed.
- 6) The proposed building uses a sympathetic colour scheme and I believe that a new building on the area currently occupied by the buildings earmarked for demolition would (although potentially not the same size as the proposed building) make better use of the space available without impacting adversely on either the AONB or the streetscene.

Paul Jackson  
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Howardian Hills AONB  
The Old Vicarage  
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YO62 5BP

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

## Paul Jackson

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**From:** Paul Jackson  
**Sent:** 19 April 2016 15:45  
**To:** 'planning@hambleton.gov.uk'  
**Subject:** 16/00628/FUL: Retrospective application for a timber barn

I have the following observations to make on this application:

- 1) The building is low in height, screened from the public road by tall hedges and uses materials of a sympathetic colour. I don't therefore have any concerns about any potential adverse visual impact on the AONB landscape.
- 2) From my site visit I noted that the barn that is the subject of this application wraps around another, earlier, barn building. This earlier barn isn't included in this application, nor does it appear from the plans to have been included in the Certificate of Lawfulness application (16/00471/CLE) for the other structures?
- 3) Irrespective of the result of this application, any unauthorised structures should be removed from the site following the conclusion of the planning application processes. The 'menage' is a grass paddock and hence no remedial action would be needed, but I noted that the static caravan was still present on the site.

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## Paul Jackson

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**From:** Paul Jackson  
**Sent:** 19 April 2016 16:00  
**To:** 'planning@hambleton.gov.uk'  
**Subject:** 16/00639/FUL: Change of use from agriculture to mixed use; Sunley Woods Farm, Husthwaite

I have the following observations to make on this application:

1. The Howardian Hills AONB Management Plan supports agricultural diversification activities where these do not have adverse impacts on the Special Qualities of the AONB.
2. The yard area appears tidy and well-run, and the log cabins are dark-coloured and therefore relatively unobtrusive.
3. The static holiday homes are light in colour and these are the most noticeable features. I feel however that the proposed hedge will screen the site adequately, particularly given the height it is proposed to grow it to. The site is overlooked by users on the public bridleway on the top of Beacon Banks, but the views are long-distance and the proposed screening would mitigate any adverse impacts.
4. I would like the hedge mix to be more diverse than is currently proposed, to offer some additional biodiversity benefit. Given that the primary purpose is to act as a dense visual screen, the most appropriate other species that should be incorporated is blackthorn.

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## Paul Jackson

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**From:** dm@ryedale.gov.uk  
**Sent:** 20 May 2016 12:24  
**To:** Paul Jackson  
**Subject:** Consultee Comments for Planning Application 16/00813/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 12:22 PM on 20 May 2016 from [paul.jackson@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:paul.jackson@northyorks.gov.uk).

### Application Summary

**Reference:** 16/00813/FUL  
**Address:** Land West Of Greets House Road Welburn  
Malton North Yorkshire  
**Proposal:** Erection of a 12.5m high slim-line column to include 3no. antennas and 3no. RRUs together with installation of 2no. ground based equipment cabinets all within a compound formed from a 1.6m high timber post and rail fence.

**Case Officer:** Charlotte Cornforth

[Click for further information](#)

### Comments Details

**Comments:** I have the following comments to make on this proposal: 1) The mast is relatively low in height and uses a monopole construction which should minimise its visibility. Painting the mast brown will reduce the visibility in the landscape. 2) I would however also like to see the three TEF antennae painted in a dark colour. Minimising visual intrusion by painting masts a sympathetic colour is often compromised by the white antennae. This should be technically possible as far as I'm aware, as the monopole mast on the northern edge of Sheriff Hutton village has green-painted antennae. Paul Jackson

## Paul Jackson

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**From:** dm@ryedale.gov.uk  
**Sent:** 27 June 2016 13:04  
**To:** Paul Jackson  
**Subject:** Consultee Comments for Planning Application 16/00813/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 1:01 PM on 27 Jun 2016 from [paul.jackson@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:paul.jackson@northyorks.gov.uk).

### Application Summary

**Reference:** 16/00813/FUL  
**Address:** Land West Of Greets House Road Welburn  
Malton North Yorkshire  
**Proposal:** Erection of a 12.5m high slim-line column to include 3no. antennas and 3no. RRUs together with installation of 2no. ground based equipment cabinets all within a compound formed from a 1.6m high timber post and rail fence.

**Case Officer:** Charlotte Cornforth

[Click for further information](#)

### Comments Details

**Comments:** I have the following additional comments to make on this application: 1) The applicant has indicated that the antennae can be painted in a brown/green colour tone as specified by myself, and this addresses the issue raised in my previous response. 2) Given that the materials colours are now of a hue that would enable the mast to blend into the landscape, and that the mast will help to fill a dead-spot in mobile telecommunications coverage, I believe that the application meets Objective D7 of the current AONB Management Plan. 3) In coming to this view, and particularly with the agreement on materials colours, I have felt that the mast would not have an adverse visual impact on Castle Howard or it's parkland, which are both Listed and Registered respectively as Grade I. The mast is in the foreground of views from the A64 towards Castle Howard, which is the on-the-ground juxtaposition identified by Historic England's desk-based assessment, which led them to request the preparation of a Heritage Statement. Despite HE listing the heritage assets found within 2.5km of the

application site, the submitted Heritage Statement does not include the built structures at Castle Howard nor its parkland as Heritage Assets. The LPA will need to decide whether the submitted Heritage Statement fulfils the purpose required of it by Historic England's first response, or whether the omission of Castle Howard requires additional assessment work to be carried out. Paul Jackson

## Paul Jackson

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**From:** dm@ryedale.gov.uk  
**Sent:** 10 June 2016 16:41  
**To:** Paul Jackson  
**Subject:** Consultee Comments for Planning Application 16/00900/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 4:38 PM on 10 Jun 2016 from [paul.jackson@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:paul.jackson@northyorks.gov.uk).

### Application Summary

**Reference:** 16/00900/HOUSE

**Address:** Fairfax House Mill Lane Ampleforth YO62 4EJ

**Proposal:** Erection of two storey extension to rear elevation, single storey extension to side elevation and detached two storey garage/workshop to include ancillary accommodation above together with installation of electric entrance gates following demolition of existing extension and outbuildings.

**Case Officer:** Charlotte Cornforth

[Click for further information](#)

### Comments Details

**Comments:** I have the following observations to make on these proposals: 1) No objections to the demolition of the existing barns and sheds and erection of a granary-style garage block. 2) No objections to the alterations to the main house. The largely glazed gable wall of the rear extension faces away from the road and should not be prominent in views from local footpaths, provided that the current level of tree cover around the property is maintained at approximately the same level. 3) I have significant concerns however about the adverse visual impact of the proposed entrance gate and piers. The substantial brick piers (with presumably permanent lighting) would be an inappropriate and incongruous suburban feature in what is a relatively rural setting within the AONB. Watergate House on the direct opposite side of the road has managed to create a secure, intercom-controlled entrance which is much more discreet. Paul Jackson



## Paul Jackson

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**From:** Paul Jackson  
**Sent:** 23 June 2016 15:35  
**To:** 'planning@hambleton.gov.uk'  
**Subject:** 16/01084/FUL: Construction of three bay field shelter, Westfield, Brandsby

I have the following observations to make in relation to this proposal:

1. The field shelter sits in a small field which I presume is within the applicant's ownership. Given that the building comprises of a barn and animal shelter, it would appear that it is of a substantial size in comparison to the agricultural land which it would service. It appears from the Parish Council response that the applicant rents other land in the vicinity. This does not however appear to be connected to the paddock in which the proposed building is sited, making its use as a shelter somewhat problematic if it is separated from the grazing land by the Village Hall car park.
2. I have significant concerns about the size of the building and its proximity to the Village Hall. Although not Listed, the Village Hall is a vernacular building of some age and might be considered to be an undesignated heritage asset. I don't feel that the proposed building would enhance either the Village Hall itself or its setting, which are easily viewed from both the Public Footpath that runs between the B1363 and the Village Hall, through the field to the south of the application site, and from the B1363 itself.
3. Should the Local Planning Authority be minded to approve the application, then the roof colour should be specified as a dark grey, approximating to BS4800 10A11 Charcoal Grey, rather than the light grey currently indicated on the plans.

Paul Jackson  
AONB Manager  
Howardian Hills AONB  
The Old Vicarage  
Bondgate  
Helmsley  
York  
YO62 5BP

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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:** 08 July 2016 17:02  
**To:** 'planning@hambleton.gov.uk'  
**Subject:** 16/01305/FUL: Alterations & extensions, Cherry Trees, Yearsley

I have the following observations to make on this application:

1. The dwelling is modern and doesn't have any vernacular design features. The current front elevation has some awkward roof slopes, roof heights and dormer on its right hand half and would benefit from some tidying-up and coherence in design.
2. The area of glazing on the proposed single storey extension facing the road is substantial but not overpowering and hence I don't have any objection to that part of the scheme.
3. Creating a single main roof line by raising the roof on the eastern half of the house will help to create a better balance, whilst extending the western half of the front elevation with a single storey extension is also acceptable.
4. I do however feel that the central section of the front elevation is a mis-match of roof slopes, stepped wall and gutter lines and an awkward small dormer. To my mind this section is completely at odds with the design on either side and is a not-very-successful attempt to keep the small window yet at the same time extend forwards towards the road. The end result is a chaotic mix of stepped wall and gutter lines, with the small dormer also set back from the main one.
5. The re-modelling of this dwelling gives the opportunity to iron-out the design anomalies from the original house and create something more in keeping with the AONB, but still accepting that it's a modern house. The single storey extensions add significantly to its modern day purpose, but I don't believe that the central section of the front elevation will enhance the appearance of the dwelling and I feel that this should be amended to create a much less 'fussy' façade facing the road.

Paul Jackson  
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## Paul Jackson

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**From:** Paul Jackson  
**Sent:** 15 July 2016 17:50  
**To:** 'planning@hambleton.gov.uk'  
**Subject:** 16/01126/FUL: Alterations to outhouse and two storey extensions, Gardeners Cottage, Oulston

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

1. I have concerns regarding the size and scale of the proposed two-storey timber-clad extension, in comparison to the Listed Gardener's Cottage. The proposed extension is of a height and scale that is barely subservient to the main Listed dwelling and is therefore likely to overpower the setting of the Listed Building.
2. Contrary to the Agent's assertion, the proposed two storey extension will be seen from the road, footpath and property opposite. Simple use of a ruler between the corner of the Parish Room and the north west corner of Gardener's Cottage, and the corner of Gardener's Cottage/corner of proposed extension indicates that, at its greatest extent, approximately 50% of the extension will be visible from the road. The existing mature shrubs currently screen the views but they will be removed to accommodate the parking area.
3. The visibility of the extension through this 'window' from the road may be exacerbated by the timber-clad construction, which is not commonly seen in the Howardian Hills, thereby potentially making it more prominent.



## Paul Jackson

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**From:** Paul Jackson  
**Sent:** 01 August 2016 12:01  
**To:** 'planning@hambleton.gov.uk'  
**Subject:** 16/01126/FUL: alterations & construction of extensions

**Importance:** High

I have the following comments to make on the revised plans pertaining to this application:

- 1) I welcome the reduction in height of the main extension from two storey to single storey, together with the stepped roof line. I feel that this will create an extension that is much better proportioned in relation to the existing Listed Building. As it is lower in height, any views from the main road through the access gate will be significantly less than with the original proposal.
- 2) Although vertical slit windows are not a vernacular feature, external views of them (if any) will be minimal. I also feel that they suit the overall design concept of the glass linking-atrium and timber-clad walls. The extensions will be clearly different from the original dwelling, without detracting or over-powering it, and I now feel that we have a high quality scheme that will complement the Listed Building and Conservation Area setting.

Paul Jackson  
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## Paul Jackson

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**From:** dm@ryedale.gov.uk  
**Sent:** 22 August 2016 16:49  
**To:** Paul Jackson  
**Subject:** Consultee Comments for Planning Application 16/01257/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 4:45 PM on 22 Aug 2016 from [paul.jackson@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:paul.jackson@northyorks.gov.uk).

### Application Summary

**Reference:** 16/01257/FUL

**Address:** Lodge Farm 1 Scackleton Lane Scackleton  
YO62 4NA

**Proposal:** Erection of a 4 bedroom detached dwelling and attached double garage with additional domestic living space above, following the demolition of existing dwelling and associated outbuildings

**Case Officer:** Rachel Smith

[Click for further information](#)

### Comments Details

I have the following observations to make on this proposal: 1) No objection to the principle of demolishing the existing house and erecting a replacement dwelling. 2) I do however have significant concerns about many of the design features of the proposed dwelling and how visible these would be once completed. The existing garden trees/shrubs and boundary hedges are overgrown and will be substantially cut back to let light in. This will also mean that the new house will be substantially more visible from adjacent public roads and Rights of Way than the current dwelling is. The Design & Access Statement quotes the Ryedale Rural Design Guide but the design then appears to ignore significant parts of it. The local vernacular style is for simple, rectangular houses, with smaller subservient extensions, either in-line or at right angles to the principal house. There are several good examples of new farmhouses in the AONB which have achieved the effect very successfully, the closest being the new dwelling at Newstead Farm. Unfortunately this design displays many features which are simply not found on houses within the

Howardian Hills. It has a complicated multi-rectangular footprint with numerous protuberances that create a real 'hotch-potch' of a design - bay window; ill-proportioned eastern 'extension'; full-height Hall window with asymmetric glazing bars; complicated 'extensions' on the western elevation linking to the garage. The multitude of external chimney stacks rising from side walls is also particularly incongruous - as the Rural Design Guide states, chimneys should emerge from the ridge of the roof. The design is so complicated that the two-storey northern 'mini-extension' for the Family Space/Bathroom appears to have been missed-off the North East Elevation drawing, as does the Dining Room bay window. The South West Elevation drawing amply demonstrates the multitude of clashing roof lines, ridge heights and mis-alignments, and that is without the afore-mentioned Family Space/Bathroom 'mini-extension' which again is not shown. Overall, I'm afraid that the design is more applicable to an upmarket suburban housing estate than an open-country location within a nationally designated landscape. 3) In conclusion, I feel that the design is dis-jointed and fussy, displaying many design features that are not vernacular within the Howardian Hills AONB. As I feel that the current design would have a significant adverse visual impact on the AONB I therefore wish to lodge an Objection to the proposal. Paul Jackson

## Paul Jackson

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**From:** dm@ryedale.gov.uk  
**Sent:** 17 October 2016 16:16  
**To:** Paul Jackson  
**Subject:** Consultee Comments for Planning Application 16/01257/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 4:15 PM on 17 Oct 2016 from [paul.jackson@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:paul.jackson@northyorks.gov.uk).

### Application Summary

**Reference:** 16/01257/FUL

**Address:** Lodge Farm 1 Scackleton Lane Scackleton  
YO62 4NA

**Proposal:** Erection of a 4 bedroom detached dwelling and attached double garage with additional domestic living space above, following the demolition of existing dwelling and associated outbuildings

**Case Officer:** Rachel Smith

[Click for further information](#)

### Comments Details

**Comments:** Having checked my comments on the previous design, I'm pleased to note that the new design addresses almost all of the design issues that I raised. It also has a significantly better arrangement for the garage, and I'm therefore pleased to be able to say that I have no further observations or comments to make. Paul Jackson

## Paul Jackson

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**From:** dm@ryedale.gov.uk  
**Sent:** 19 August 2016 15:01  
**To:** Paul Jackson  
**Subject:** Consultee Comments for Planning Application 16/01225/FUL

Mr Paul Jackson,

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

Comments were submitted at 2:57 PM on 19 Aug 2016 from [paul.jackson@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:paul.jackson@northyorks.gov.uk).

### Application Summary

**Reference:** 16/01225/FUL

**Address:** Bridge Farm Station Road Gilling East  
Helmsley YO62 4JW

**Proposal:** Erection of a block of 3no. timber stables  
and retention of an existing mobile field  
shelter for private use

**Case Officer:** Tim Goodall

[Click for further information](#)

### Comments Details

**Comments:** I have the following comments to make on these proposals: 1) The roof should be a dark grey colour rather than light grey, so as to be in accordance with the Agricultural Buildings design guidance for the AONB and hence blend better with the surroundings. 2) No details are given for the proposed gateway. If this is to be of an 'agricultural' type, with simple posts and a field-type gate, then I don't have any concerns. If however the gateway is planned to be more substantial, with brick or stone piers and taller wrought iron gates, then further details need to be supplied. Paul Jackson



## Paul Jackson

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**From:** dm@ryedale.gov.uk  
**Sent:** 26 August 2016 17:27  
**To:** Paul Jackson  
**Subject:** Consultee Comments for Planning Application 16/01278/OUT

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 5:23 PM on 26 Aug 2016 from [paul.jackson@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:paul.jackson@northyorks.gov.uk).

### Application Summary

**Reference:** 16/01278/OUT  
**Address:** Land Off Malton Road Swinton Malton  
North Yorkshire  
**Proposal:** Erection of an agricultural workers dwelling  
(site area 0.063ha)  
**Case Officer:** Tim Goodall  
[Click for further information](#)

### Comments Details

**Comments:** I have the following comments to make on this proposal: 1) With the existing grain store on the site, and the concurrent application 16/01277/FUL for a new livestock building, consideration of this proposal for an agricultural workers dwelling needs to take into account some element of cumulative impact. 2) The proposed dwelling would be seen most significantly in short-distance views from the north on Swinton Lane, and in longer-distance views from the Public Right of Way between Broughton Lane and Close Farm to the south east. 3) It is unclear whether the proposed dwelling would sit at the current ground level or at the level of the existing grain store, which is some 2m lower. 4) The eastern end of the northern limestone ridge of the Howardian Hills is characterised by scattered farmsteads or other groups of buildings, with attendant copses of trees. Examples include Swinton Grange, Home Farm, Close Farm and the houses on Laundry Lane. Any new farmstead should therefore look to emulate this character and a comprehensive landscaping scheme would therefore be needed. Because of the nature of the landform and existing hedges and trees, some of the landscaping needed could be achieved by changing the management of

existing assets, e.g hedges. 5) Suggested landscaping measures needed therefore include: allowing the roadside hedge on Swinton Lane to grow to a minimum height of 2.5m, between the farm entrance and the informal parking area; allowing the hedge on the southern side of the site (if it is in the applicant's control) to grow to a minimum height of 2m and also planting some individual trees; allowing the hedge on the eastern side of the site (if it is in the applicant's control) to grow to a minimum height of 2m and also planting some individual trees; planting a landscape strip of trees and shrubs along the northern boundary of the site, to link with landscaping proposed as mitigation for the new livestock building (16/01277/FUL). 6) A site meeting might be beneficial to discuss some of these proposals. Paul Jackson

## Paul Jackson

---

**From:** dm@ryedale.gov.uk  
**Sent:** 26 August 2016 17:16  
**To:** Paul Jackson  
**Subject:** Consultee Comments for Planning Application 16/01277/FUL

Mr Paul Jackson,

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

Comments were submitted at 5:13 PM on 26 Aug 2016 from [paul.jackson@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:paul.jackson@northyorks.gov.uk).

### Application Summary

**Reference:** 16/01277/FUL  
**Address:** Land At Malton Road Swinton Malton North  
Yorkshire  
**Proposal:** Erection of an agricultural building for the  
housing of livestock  
**Case Officer:** Tim Goodall  
[Click for further information](#)

### Comments Details

**Comments:** I have the following comments to make on this proposal: 1) With the existing grain store on the site, and the concurrent application 16/01278/OUT for an agricultural workers dwelling, consideration of this proposal for a new livestock building needs to take into account some element of cumulative impact. 2) The proposed building will be seen most significantly in short-distance views from the north on Swinton Lane, and in longer-distance views from the Public Right of Way between Broughton Lane and Close Farm to the south east. 3) It is assumed that the proposed building will have the same floor level as the existing grain store, as part of the site is already excavated and levelled. 4) The design of the building uses normal modern methods and materials. Concrete wall panels can however appear very stark and the most prominent elevation will be the northern one, visible from Swinton Lane. For this reason, I would like to see the Yorkshire Boarding on this elevation extending over the concrete panels to ground level to provide a better external appearance. [It is assumed that the North Elevation and South Elevation labels have been transposed on the plans, with the door actually proposed to be facing the 'hardstanding area']. 5) The use of

anthracite grey roof panels is noted. As 'Anthracite' however appears to be more of a brand name rather than a specific colour, and the shade can vary between manufacturers, the colour should approximate to BS4800 10A11 Charcoal Grey. The existing grain store has a roof of an acceptable colour that conforms to this specification. 6) The eastern end of the northern limestone ridge of the Howardian Hills is characterised by scattered farmsteads or other groups of buildings, with attendant copses of trees. Examples include Swinton Grange, Home Farm, Close Farm and the houses on Laundry Lane. Any new farmstead should therefore look to emulate this character and a comprehensive landscaping scheme will therefore be needed. Because of the nature of the landform and existing hedges and trees, some of the landscaping needed could be achieved by changing the management of existing assets, e.g hedges. 7) Suggested landscaping measures needed therefore include: allowing the roadside hedge on Swinton Lane to grow to a minimum height of 2.5m, between the farm entrance and the informal parking area; allowing the hedge on the southern side of the site (if it is in the applicant's control) to grow to a minimum height of 2m and also planting some individual trees; planting a landscape strip of trees and shrubs along the northern boundary of the site, extending as far as the existing square of trees planted as part of the approval for the grain store building. 8) A site meeting might be beneficial to discuss some of these proposals. Paul Jackson

## Paul Jackson

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**From:** dm@ryedale.gov.uk  
**Sent:** 31 August 2016 13:20  
**To:** Paul Jackson  
**Subject:** Consultee Comments for Planning Application 16/01309/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 1:16 PM on 31 Aug 2016 from [paul.jackson@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:paul.jackson@northyorks.gov.uk).

### Application Summary

**Reference:** 16/01309/FUL  
**Address:** Coulton House Farm Coulton Lane Coulton  
Helmsley YO62 4NE  
**Proposal:** Erection of an agricultural building for the  
housing of pigs  
**Case Officer:** Joshua Murphy  
[Click for further information](#)

### Comments Details

**Comments:** I have the following comments to make on this proposal: 1) The existing farm buildings occupy the flatter ground adjacent to the main street of the village and hence any new building is inevitably going to have to be somewhat separated from the main yard. The chosen location is however in a small hollow on the sloping ground and views of it from the Public Footpaths to the east will be relatively limited. 2) The use of dark grey roof panels is noted. 'Anthracite' is often used to describe a dark grey colour but this appears to be more of a brand name rather than a specific colour. As the shade can vary between manufacturers, the colour used for the roof sheets should approximate to BS4800 10A11 Charcoal Grey. Paul Jackson

## **Ox Pasture Wood felling licence application 5 Years**

### **Introduction**

Ox Pasture Wood is 16ha in size, of which 14ha is an ancient woodland site (site assessment carried out by Andrew Weston on 20<sup>th</sup> June 1991). The Ancient Woodland Inventory categorises the wood as 17ha of Ancient Semi-Natural woodland.

Andrew Weston described the wood as:

“Plantation, mainly of larch and sycamore, with occasional oak (*Q. robur*) and Norway spruce. Some ASNW on the northern central boundary with hazel coppice and small wetland. Flora generally moderately uninteresting”.

The site was rated by Andrew Weston as C/D in terms of conservation status (range A – E, high to low) and it is not designated as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation.

Nonetheless, the survey species list notes some of the more common Ancient Woodland Indicator plants such as bluebell, dog’s mercury and male fern as being Frequent, with others such as wood sorrel being Occasional. Out of the 46 native ground flora species found by Weston, he considered 8 of them to be ‘notable’.

My site visit on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2016 confirmed the basic description, although with some easily visible species such as bluebell, male fern and wood sorrel being more generally abundant now than when Weston conducted his survey. This is likely to be due to the change in canopy light conditions since Weston’s survey 25 years ago. There are occasional semi-mature oaks in the canopy, with a small amount of elder in the understorey.

### **Remnant features (as per UKFS)**

The Biodiversity Guidelines contained in the UK Forestry Standard state that:

“All plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS) are likely to have retained at least some features of ecological and cultural interest and provide valuable opportunities for restoration. The minimum required by the UKFS is to ensure these remnant features are retained. The highest priorities for restoration are sites where irreplaceable features and vulnerable species survive.”

In order to assess whether proposals might meet this UKFS requirement it is necessary to define the “remnant features” for the proposed felling area.

As regards this compartment of Ox Pasture Wood, I consider the following description to constitute the Remnant Features:

“The ground flora characteristics divide into three basic types. The southern third of the compartment consists principally of bramble with occasional wood sorrel and bluebell. The central third is a transitional zone between the dense bramble in the southern part and the fern-dominated northern section. The northern third of the compartment consists of abundant male fern, bluebell and wood sorrel.”





Northern section, showing male fern, bluebell and wood sorrel



Central section, showing transition to more frequent bramble and occasional bracken

**In order to be compliant with the UKFS, the proposals will need to demonstrate that the ground flora currently present in this stand (the Remnant Features) will be retained under the proposed replacement tree species.**



### **Proposed works**

Clear fell larch, presumably retaining any broadleaves.  
Replant with the following:

- 30% Norway spruce
- 30% Sitka spruce
- 10% Western red cedar
- 30% Douglas fir

Trees to be planted in a regular pattern at a density of 2250 trees/ha.

**Comment:** The high survival rate of ancient woodland ground flora means that the effect of restocking with 100% evergreen conifers will seriously impact on the current and potential ecological value of the site through shading and changes to soil biochemistry. Some small sections of Ox Pasture wood have been planted with Norway spruce and the effect on the woodland ground flora is marked (see photo below).

**I'm afraid that I cannot conclude that such a proposal will satisfy the UKFS requirement to retain the remnant features of this PAWS woodland.**



Negligible ground flora under Norway spruce canopy



## Landscape impacts

Ox Pasture Wood is prominent in the AONB landscape and is viewed from a variety of points on the extensive network of Public Rights of Way to the south of Terrington. The Centenary Way regional route passes close by and the Public Footpaths and Bridleways are also utilised for a number of locally promoted AONB self-guided routes.

The landscape character of the remainder of Ox Pasture wood is principally broadleaved, as is Mowthorpe Dale Wood to the north and Stittenham Wood to the south west. In many ways the view from the top of the hill on the Birkdale Farm access drive is one that typifies the Howardian Hills AONB landscape - low rolling hills with arable and pasture fields on the flatter ground and significant woodland cover on the valley sides.

The proposed felling coupe is of a reasonably large size, but I'm happy that it's within the general scale of the woodland in the vicinity and that the size of the felling area itself would not have an unduly large landscape impact.

I do however feel that the conversion of this section of Ox Pasture Wood from deciduous larch to evergreen conifers would have an adverse visual impact on the AONB landscape. The surrounding woodland is almost entirely broadleaved plantation or mixed conifer/broadleaved plantation. As such, a significant block of evergreen conifers would create a discordant visual feature that would draw the viewer's eye.



View of felling coupe from Birkdale Farm access drive (The Centenary Way)



Mowthorpe Dale Wood



Stittenham Wood



## Conclusions

The Forestry Commission is under two obligations in this instance – to ensure that the proposals meet the requirements of the UK Forestry Standard, and that regard is paid to conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the AONB, as required by Section 85 of the Countryside & Rights of Way Act (2000).

Objective NE3.3 of the Howardian Hills AONB Management Plan 2014-19 states: “Encourage the restoration of habitats that have declined in interest but still retain significant ecological potential, particularly Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites...”

Given that a number of potentially suitable restock species such as ash and larch are unavailable due to current or potential tree disease restrictions, the alternative options might include:

1. Restoration to native broadleaved woodland. As a PAWS site on the Ancient Woodland Inventory such a proposal should be eligible for funding under the Countryside Stewardship Scheme.
2. Restoration to broadleaved woodland. Species observed already growing on the site include sycamore, oak and beech, which could provide the basis for a more commercial broadleaved crop.
3. Planting a conifer/broadleaved mix. The choice and proportions of species would need to ensure that the remnant features of the PAWS site are not lost.

In relation to Option 3, some useful observations were made in adjacent parts of Ox Pasture Wood. As already noted, a small stand of Norway spruce has suppressed the ground flora almost entirely (see below).



Ground flora under Norway spruce



Turning through 180 degrees on the same spot however shows a small mixed stand of Norway spruce, larch and sycamore. Native woodland ground flora survival is significantly better, even though clearly suppressed to some degree.



Ground flora under Norway spruce, larch and sycamore

Given that the spread of *Phytophthora ramorum* is likely to lead to an increased incidence of replacing larch crops on PAWS sites with evergreen conifers, it would seem that there is an urgent need to identify potential new crop mixtures that provide an economic return for woodland owners whilst still retaining 'remnant features' as required by the UK Forestry Standard.

The AONB is keen to work with both the Forestry Commission and woodland managers to identify solutions in cases such as this.

Whilst we believe that funding should generally come from national grant schemes or economic activity, the AONB does have some grant resources that it can deploy to assist with conservation management operations. In the past this has included help with uneconomic work such as hazel coppicing, but more recently has included top-up payments to cover the increased costs of planting native broadleaves as opposed to conifers. The list of eligible items is extensive and grant can be considered for all operations and/or capital items that would contribute to the delivery of the agreed outcome for the particular scheme.

Paul Jackson  
21 June 2016

**HOWARDIAN HILLS  
AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY  
JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
10 NOVEMBER 2016**

**AONB INDICATORS**

**1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

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

**2.0 AONB PARTNERSHIP INDICATORS**

- 2.1 In line with Objective MN1.2 of the AONB Management Plan, the former Natural England AONB Partnership Indicators are used as the standard measure of performance. The results for 2015/16 are attached as Appendix 1.
- 2.2 Natural England no longer require the compilation and submission of these Indicators, as they are not responsible for monitoring the performance of AONB Partnerships since AONB sponsorship moved to Defra in April 2011. Some of the statistics are not considered to be relevant any longer, but a number (where data is also easy to collect) still allow useful comparison between years. Some of the data might also be used in the future to feed into national Key Performance Indicators being developed by the National Association for AONBs to feed back to Defra.

**3.0 RECOMMENDATION**

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

**AONB Partnership and Unit Indicators 2015/16**

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

3a	AONB Staff Unit	The AONB Unit has staff resources to undertake its work.	Total the number of AONB staff and their specialisms, in full-time equivalents, including core staff and any project staff that were directly managed and hosted by the AONB Unit, at the financial year end.	1 x AONB Manager. 1 x AONB Officer (0.8 FTE). 1 x AONB Assistant (0.5 FTE.) <b>Total – 2.3 FTE</b>	Demonstrates that the AONB Unit has the staff resources and capacity to undertake management effectively.
3b		AONB Unit staff invests in continuous professional development.	Of the total in Measure 3a above, list the number who undertook and recorded a minimum of 30 hours of training, personal development or similar C.P.D. activity during the year (adjusted pro-rata for part time staff).	<b>0 FTE</b>	
4a	Financial resources	The AONB Unit secures direct income to fund its work.	Total income received into the AONB unit's own account from <b>all</b> sources during the financial year.	<b>Total £198,487</b>	Demonstrates the level of financial resources directly secured by the AONB Unit.
4b			The percentage of the figure in Measure 4a above which was received from Defra and Local Authorities	<b>93%</b>	
4c			The amount received (part of 4a) from Defra and Local Authorities	<b>Total £184,591</b>	
5a	Leverage and “added value”	Additional resources mobilised by AONB unit through its partnership work.	Include the figure given in Measure 4a above. Then add in the total funding for projects and partnership programmes in that year in which the AONB Unit played a significant part i.e. where it would not have gone ahead or would have been substantially smaller without AONB input. For example include matching income for any SDF funded project; total funds for partner HLF projects involving the AONB.	<b>Total £292,864</b>	Demonstrates the level of financial leverage and added value obtained by the AONB Unit through its wider project programmes and partnerships.
5b			The percentage of the figure above which was received from Defra.	<b>40%</b>	

6a	Financial management and reporting	Agreed timetable and requirements for financial management and reporting with Defra met by the AONB unit	<p>The Unit submitted its final grant claim to Defra for the preceding financial year by the stated claim date (31<sup>st</sup> May).</p> <p>Published its annual report for the preceding year within six months of the financial year end.</p> <p>Submitted its business plan and grant application for the succeeding financial year by the required date (31<sup>st</sup> January).</p> <p>Submitted its interim grant claim by the required date (31<sup>st</sup> January).</p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p><b>Yes.</b> 2014/15 report published Sept 2015.</p> <p><b>Yes</b></p> <p><b>Yes</b></p>	Demonstrates effective administration and management of financial affairs.
6b		Defra met the agreed timetable and requirements for financial management and reporting with the AONB Unit.	Defra made written formal core and Sustainable Development Fund offers of grant aid for the succeeding financial year by 31 March.	<b>Yes</b>	
7a	Partnership working with management communities	The AONB Unit is an active partner in the work of the National Association for AONBs.	<p>The AONB Unit (through its host authority or partnership organisation) was a full member of the National Association for AONBs.</p> <p>Was represented by attendance at the Annual Conference of the Association.</p> <p>All AONB Unit core staff attended at least 1 other national or regional NAAONB sponsored seminar, training event or meeting each.</p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p><b>Yes</b></p> <p><b>Yes</b></p>	Demonstrates partnership working for AONB family at a national, regional and local level.



7b		The AONB Unit actively involved in partnership working at a local level.	Total number of project steering groups, research initiatives, working groups and partnerships where the AONB Unit played an active and key role (ie not just a passive member of a forum or conference).	<b>16</b> Ryedale/Scarborough/AONB BAP, River Derwent Partnership, River Rye project Working Group, LEADER Support Group, NYCC Scarborough & Ryedale PRoW Liaison Group, Development Officers Group, Northern Powergrid RIIO-ED1 Working Group, North Yorkshire & York Local Nature Partnership, Protected Landscapes/LEP group, Minerals & Waste Joint Plan, Cycling in Ryedale, Dales & Moors Farm Innovation Project, North Yorkshire Geodiversity Partnership, North York Moors Native Woodland Partnership, Jacobs A64 Report, Cycling in Protected Landscapes	
7c		The AONB Management Plan is formally endorsed and supported by partner organisations.	List the number of organisations who formally endorsed the plan when written and at the last review.	<b>6</b> (3 x LAs, NE; FC; EH)	
8a	Business Plan targets	Achievement of the targets set out by the AONB unit in its annual business plan or equivalent.	Include all actions set out in the annual business plan/ <u>core bid document</u> agreed with Defra. (Milestones in bid document)	<b>21 ex 24 (87%)</b>	Demonstrates that the AONB Unit achieves the objectives and actions it sets itself.
8b	Management Plan progress	The AONB Management Plan actions were implemented to schedule.	Include the AONB Management Plan actions that were progressed or completed during the year, shown as a percentage of all the AONB Management Plan actions that were scheduled for action during the year.	<b>85%</b>  Progress against a further 5 Objectives where no specific annual targets had been set.	

**Abbreviations:** CPG – Core Partners Group; HLF – Heritage Lottery Fund; NYCC – North Yorkshire County Council; NYMNP – North York Moors National Park; BAP – Biodiversity Action Plan partnership; NYBAG – North Yorkshire Biodiversity Action Group; SG – Steering Group

**HOWARDIAN HILLS  
AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY  
JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
10 NOVEMBER 2016**

**ITEM 9**

**AONB BUDGET**

**1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To receive details of expenditure during 2015/16 and to consider anticipated budgetary needs for 2017/18.

**2.0 2015/16**

- 2.1 Details of the final income and expenditure account for 2015/16 are set out in Appendix 1. Details of countryside management and Sustainable Development & Rural Economy projects supported are in Appendix 2.
- 2.2 Appendix 1 includes the budget figures prepared in October 2014, to allow Members to compare the actual budget against that predicted. It should be borne in mind that the budget prepared in October each year is then adjusted and refined, to take account of likely changes in income and expenditure. These revisions are shown in the 'January 2015' column of Appendix 1 and form the basis of the grant allocation proposal submitted to Defra. The final budget, following the receipt of grant offer letters etc., is shown in the 'October 2015' column.
- 2.3 In general 2015/16 was a much more complicated year than normal. In April 2015 the overall prognosis on future funding contributions from Defra and NYCC for 2016/17 and beyond continued to look poor, and a decision had just been taken to re-locate the AONB Unit office to Helmsley. As a result there were several significant variations between the Estimated and Actual spends, with the overall profile of the budget showing a 12% underspend.
- 2.4 Staffing:
- As this element of the budget remained constant throughout the year, there was no significant deviation from the budget provision.
- 2.5 Office:
- Having made the decision to move office location, a number of one-off but significant costs were incurred. The majority of these, such as the Cancellation Charge for the broadband connection at the Wath Court office, were met from NYCC central budgets. At the end of the year a small underspend against anticipated costs was realised.
- 2.6 Partnership Running Costs:
- No significant deviation from budget provision.
- 2.7 PR/Events/Research:
- A 12% underspend occurred on this budget head. This was mainly due to delaying the reprinting of one of the self-guided Walks leaflets and postponing the production of new display banners due to lack of staff time.
- 2.8 AONB Enhancement – Natural Environment:
- This budget overspent by a small amount.
  - Four hedgerow restoration schemes were completed, at Bulmer, Westow, Brandsby and Gilling. In total 265m of hedgerow was planted, either as completely new hedges or as gapping-up.
  - Wall restoration schemes were completed at East Newton and Grimston. A total of 242m of wall was refurbished.
  - The routine Exmoor pony grazing programme and annual SINC management tasks were completed.

- Volunteers carried out scrub clearance on a geological SSSI near Nunnington, at the request of Natural England and with all costs met by the landowner as part of their SSSI management agreement.

#### 2.9 AONB Enhancement – Historic Environment:

- This budget only spent 65% of its provision.
- The largest single project was the restoration of 4 traditional direction signs and 4 traditional village name signs.
- Work started on the 'site management' phase of the Monument Management Scheme, with brash being cleared from 4 Scheduled Monuments .
- A project to restore a significant number of traditional village name signs was started in January 2015 but couldn't be implemented before the end of the financial year.

#### 2.10 Sustainable Development & Rural Economy:

- This budget only spent 44% of its provision.
- Grants were given for the erection of three composting toilets at the Yorkshire Arboretum, to provide extra facilities during school visits, and towards the costs of an inter-generational project in Terrington.
- The programme of litter picking carried out around the AONB during the summer months was completed by the Moorswork team, and the gateway signs were kept clear and tidy.
- The last four of our self-guided route leaflets were transferred to digital template and added to the AONB website.
- A contribution was made to the second phase of an initiative with Visit York, Ryedale DC and Welcome to Yorkshire, to encourage visitors to York to stay an extra night and visit the Howardian Hills and Southern Ryedale area.

#### 2.11 Young People's Activities:

- Full-day Junior Ranger Club sessions were held in April, October, February and March.

#### 2.12 Summarising the budget position at the end of 2015/16:

- Overall, the AONB budget was underspent by £23,250 (12%) – the Core element was underspent by £5,609 (4%) and the Project element by £18,995 (32%).
- It had been budgeted to use £5,587 of our Reserves but this was not necessary due to the success of our bid to Historic England for funding for the Monument Management Scheme.
- The two significant areas of underspend were in Historic Environment and Sustainable Development/Rural Economy projects. Few sustainable development projects came forward and the gloomy financial outlook prevalent during three quarters of the year meant that AONB Unit staff were generally trying to limit expenditure on grants. In addition, the survey phase of the new Monument Management Scheme didn't incur as much expenditure on Volunteers mileage as estimated, contributing to a £4,000 underspend on the MMS scheme overall.
- At the end of the financial year 2015/16 there was a carry-forward into 2016/17 of £76,761.
- Due to the underspends on the Monument Management Scheme and general Historic Environment projects, £23,350 has been allocated to projects in 2016/17.
- The remaining 'Reserves' will be safeguarded for use in future years, to hedge against potential future reductions in grant aid from the principal funders.
- Volunteers assisted with 25 tasks or projects, worth at least 136 days or £8,425.

### 3.0 2016/17

- #### 3.1
- The agreed budget for the current year amounts to £194,560. Details of this are set out in Appendix 3 and all the major partners' contributions to the budget have been confirmed. The budget doesn't include the unused balance of the 'Reserves' of £76,761 brought forward from 2015/16.

- 3.2 As usual it is too early in the financial year to make any reliable prediction of anticipated final expenditure during 2016/17:
- The figures presented in Appendix 3 are where we stand at the minute, although we will continue to take new funding opportunities if they arise and are appropriate.
  - The strategy to use our 'Reserves' wisely to hedge against the possibility of reducing Defra and Local Authority funding over future years continues to be followed. This aims to balance project resources with available staff resources, to maintain as far as possible the funding available to complete on-the-ground projects. As outlined in paragraphs 2.3 and 2.12 above, there was a larger than normal underspend in 2015/16. As the result of lower uncertainty and increased staff resources, the underspend from 15/16 has immediately been allocated to projects in 2016/17.
  - In discussion with the Head of Heritage Services at North Yorkshire County it has been agreed to aim for a 'Reserves' balance of approximately £40,000. This would buffer the County Council against any unforeseen eventualities such as the sudden closure of the AONB Unit and redundancy of all staff. As the Accountable Body for the AONB Partnership all costs associated with terms of employment fall to the County Council.
  - The Single Pot arrangement means that Defra funding is spread across nearly all the budget heads, but we are free to move it around as the year goes on.
- 3.3 Staffing:
- It is anticipated that the out-turn will be close to the budget provision. This includes two temporary part-time AONB Officers, working 1 day per week until 31<sup>st</sup> March and 2 days per week until Christmas respectively. These posts were created as a result of the AONB Unit re-structure in February/March and the postholders started in September.
- 3.4 Office and Partnership Running Costs:
- It is anticipated that the out-turns will be close to the budget provisions.
- 3.5 PR/Events/Research:
- It is anticipated that the out-turn will be close to the budget provision.
  - Expenditure this year includes provision to replace our dated display banners. One of the part-time AONB Officers, Frances Standen, is leading on this project.
- 3.6 AONB Enhancement (Natural Environment):
- £10,800 of the £30,000 budget has been allocated, with other anticipated projects accounting for a further £20,000 in possible expenditure. It is however unlikely that all these projects will be completed during this financial year, although we believe a significant number will be. Any overspend could be balanced against underspends on the other AONB Enhancement budget heads.
  - The most significant projects so far this year are the continuation of a wall restoration project at Grimston and controlling Himalayan balsam on the River Derwent SSSI, and Jeffry Bog, Fairy Dell and Mugdale/Barker Woods SINC.
  - Projects in the pipeline include hedge restoration projects at Crambe and Bulmer, mechanical rhododendron control on Grimston Moor SINC, individual treeplanting schemes and the management of Special Interest Road Verges in March 2017. Contributions have also been earmarked for two Heritage Lottery Fund bids submitted by partner organisations – the RYE vitalise project centred around the River Rye and a geodiversity project to survey sites within the AONB, prepare a Geodiversity Action Plan and work with local primary schools.
- 3.7 AONB Enhancement (Historic Environment):
- £18,000 of the £30,000 budget has been formally allocated, with a further £19,800 of projects in the pipeline.
  - Projects completed to date include restoration of the City of Troy Maze and bracken spraying on 23 Scheduled Monuments as part of the Monument Management Scheme. A contract to restore 16 traditional village name signs has been passed to the contractor recently.
  - Potential projects include restoration of a further batch of traditional direction signs and a management plan to guide repairs to the dams on the Fishponds at Gilling Castle Park.

Monument Management Scheme work includes significant scrub control works on two cross dyke systems, installation of a water supply pipe to prevent poaching of a round barrow and brash removal by volunteers. An external contract has been let to prepare and deliver a programme of scrub control and re-vegetation work on 5 specific monuments, with the advisory element funded 100% by Historic England, and they have also agreed to cover the £120/day cost of the Volunteers supervisor.

- Any overspend could be balanced against underspends on the other AONB Enhancement budget heads.

3.8 AONB Enhancement (Sustainable Development & Rural Economy):

- £18,500 of the £25,000 budget has been formally allocated, with a further £3,900 of anticipated projects.
- The £11,500 element formerly known as the Sustainable Development Fund has committed £7,200 to four projects.
- The Moorswork group are continuing to clear litter from well-used lay-bys, and the AONB Gateway Sign locations are being strimmed regularly.
- £1,500 has been contributed to the third phase of work under the Visit York project to promote two-centre breaks between York and the Howardian Hills/Ryedale, whilst £7,500 has been earmarked for a joint Rights of Way maintenance project with the County Council's Countryside Access Service.

3.9 Young People's Activities:

- A programme of Junior Ranger Club events is being delivered very cost-effectively, in partnership with the Yorkshire Arboretum and Howsham Mill.

3.10 Wherever an underspend is indicated in the above paragraphs, money can be moved as necessary to ensure that it is used to best effect and a full claim can be submitted to Defra for their contribution.

## 4.0 2017/18

4.1 An estimate of anticipated income and expenditure during the next financial year is shown in Appendix 3. It will be late in the current financial year before the exact position of all of the funding partners is known.

4.2 The Chancellor's Autumn Statement in 2015 unexpectedly announced that the budgets for AONBs and National Parks would be protected for the next four years, until 2019/20. Whilst the Committee's budget has been prepared on that basis, it must be recognised that the new Government may take a different view of funding levels. If there is to be a reduction in the contribution from Defra for future years then an indication of this would probably emerge at the Autumn Statement this November/December.

North Yorkshire County Council reduced its contributions to External Partnerships with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016, in line with its NY2020 budget reduction programme. The cut of 20% in the Howardian Hills AONB Partnership contribution was less severe than anticipated, and this has been offset somewhat by a small inflationary increase.

4.3 Although the Single Pot arrangement means that strictly there is no longer any distinction between Core and Project budgets, it should be noted that Defra will only fund a maximum of 75% of the Core Costs and so this distinction must still be borne in mind during the budget-setting process.

4.4 Staffing:

- Staff costs are proposed to reduce slightly, with the staffing level until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 costed at a full-time AONB Manager (Paul Jackson), a 0.8 FTE AONB Officer (Liz Bassindale) and the continuation of one of the 0.2 FTE AONB Officer Relief Posts for a further year. A small amount of administrative and technical support will be sourced from the North York Moors National Park Authority.
- A 1% national inflation pay award has been factored-in, in line with the calculations being used by North Yorkshire County Council.

- Principal work tasks for this year will include providing responses to planning-related consultations, providing information material to support visitors coming to the AONB, delivering biodiversity, historic environment and community projects (utilising LEADER and Defra agri-environment grant schemes if still applicable) and continuing the Monuments Management Scheme funded by Historic England.

4.5 Office costs:

- These are predicted to be similar to the current year.

4.6 Partnership Running Costs:

- A broadly similar provision to 2016/17 has been made. NAAONB contribution fees are not set to rise for 2017/18, although this is subject to approval at the forthcoming AGM in late November.

4.7 PR/Events/Research:

- A broadly similar provision to 2016/17 is proposed.
- The AONB Newsletter and Annual Report will continue to be published and distributed.

4.8 AONB Enhancement: Natural Environment; Historic Environment; Sustainable Development & Rural Economy

- An allocation of £25,000 has been made for Natural Environment Enhancement projects.
- The budget allocation for Historic Environment projects has been set at £25,000. This includes £3,200 from Historic England for the Monument Management Scheme, which will be a significant part of the workload in 2017/18.
- £25,000 has been allocated to Sustainable Development & Rural Economy projects.

4.9 Young People's Activities:

- Budget provision has been made to continue running the popular programme of Junior Ranger Club days. These will be run principally in partnership with the Yorkshire Arboretum.

## 5.0 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

- (a) The details of JAC expenditure during 2015/16 be received for information;
- (b) Partner authorities be asked to consider making financial contributions towards the work of the JAC in 2017/18, in line with Appendix 3 and section 4 of this report.

**HOWARDIAN HILLS AONB****INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2015/16****1. INCOME 2015/16**

<b>(a) BUDGET PROVISION</b>	<b>Estimated (Oct. 2014)</b>	<b>Defra Bid (Jan. 2015)</b>	<b>Final (Oct. 2015)</b>	<b>Actual (Year end)</b>
	£	£	£	£
Defra	113,787	116,109	116,109	116,109
North Yorkshire County Council	37,865	52,436	59,865	57,616
Ryedale District Council	5,066	5,066	5,066	5,066
Hambleton District Council	5,800	5,800	5,800	5,800
Historic England	5,000	0	11,750	11,750
National Centre for the Uplands	0	0	1,250	2,147
Donations	0	0	0	0
Taken from Income in Advance balance	[611]	[5,587]	[0]	[0]
<b>(b) TOTAL (ESTIMATED) INCOME</b>	<b>(168,129)</b>	<b>(184,998)</b>	<b>(199,840)</b>	<b>198,488</b>

**2. EXPENDITURE 2015/16****Core Expenditure**

(a) Staffing	90,054	89,920	90,220	89,538
(b) Office	17,375	41,378	39,915	35,610
(c) Partnership running costs	3,400	3,400	3,350	3,485
(d) PR, Events, Research, etc.	4,000	4,000	6,450	5,692
(e) Management Plan	0	0	0	0

**Project Expenditure**

(f) AONB Enhancement (Natural environment)	18,500	15,000	17,905	18,753
(g) AONB Enhancement (Historic environment)	11,000	9,000	17,700	11,516
(h) AONB Enhancement (Sustainable development & rural economy)	23,500	22,000	24,000	10,477
(i) Young People's Activities	300	300	300	166
<b>(j) TOTAL (ESTIMATED) EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>(168,129)</b>	<b>(184,998)</b>	<b>(199,840)</b>	<b>175,237</b>

**3. 2015/16 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT**

	Income £		Expenditure £
Local Authority Partners	68,482	Expenditure	175,237
Defra	116,109		
Historic England	11,750		
National Centre for the Uplands	2,147		
Donations	0		
Brought forward from 2014/15	53,510	Balance c/f to 2016/17	76,761
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	<b>251,988</b>		<b>251,988</b>

(All figures rounded to the nearest £)



## AONB PROJECTS 2015/2016

1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016

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
Lord St Oswald	East Newton Hall	Repair of 182m of field wall	-	AG2.2, HE2.5	£13,350	£1,696
J Pilling	Grimston	Repair of 60m of field wall	Zone 1 Landscape	AG2.2	£7,318	£3,370
Mrs Staples	Bulmer	Restoring 215m of field hedge	Zone 3B Landscape	AG2.2	£2,426	£1,300
Kirkham Estate	Firby/Westow	Restoring 200m of roadside hedge	Zone 6 Landscape	AG2.2	£950	£950
K Snowball	High Farm, Brandsby	Restoring 200m of roadside hedge	-	AG2.2	£1,750	£1,225
Autism Plus	Park House, Gilling	Planting 150m of new hedge	Zone 4B Landscape	AG2.2	£710	£370

APPLICANT/ (CONTRACTOR)	LOCATION	PROJECT	LOCAL PRIORITY	OBJECTIVE	SCHEME COST	JAC ASSISTANCE
(AONB Unit – Yorkshire Exmoor Pony Trust)	Coulton (2), Cawton (2), Terrington (2)	Conservation grazing of 6 SINCs or other important sites	Sites 1.59, 1.41, 1.47, 1.66, 1.20	NE3.1	£916	£551
(AONB Unit – 4Nature)	Mugdale & Barker Woods SINC	Cutting/pulling Himalayan balsam	Site 1.58	NE6.2	£750	£750

(AONB Unit – Curlew Conservation Contractors)	Jeffry Bog SINC	Cutting/pulling Himalayan balsam	Site 1.74	NE6.2	£596	£596
(AONB Unit – Volunteers)	Wath Beck	Survey of Himalayan balsam presence/abundance	Inc. Sites 1.33 & 1.65	NE6.2	£100	£0
(AONB Unit – Moorswork + Volunteers)	River Derwent SSSI	Cutting/pulling Himalayan balsam	Site 1.73	NE6.2	£470	£54
(AONB Unit – 4Nature)	River Derwent SSSI	Cutting/pulling Himalayan balsam	Site 1.73	NE6.2	£750	£750
(AONB Unit – Moorswork + Volunteers)	Fairy Dell SINC	Cutting/pulling Himalayan balsam	Site 1.17	NE6.2	£470	£30
(AONB Unit – Moorswork + Volunteers)	Yearsley Moor Woodlands SINC	Cutting bracken on semi-improved grassland site (July)	Site 1.5	NE3.3	£420	£120
(AONB Unit – P & A Gospel Landscapes)	Terrington Moor SINC	Fence repairs before Exmoor pony grazing season	Site 1.66	NE3.1	£180	£180
(AONB Unit – Moorswork + Volunteers)	Appleton-le-Street Churchyard SINC	Grassland management	-	NE3.1	£640	£120
(AONB Unit – Moorswork)	Amotherby Lane SINC	Grassland/scrub management	Site 1.38	NE3.1	£120	£120
(AONB Unit – Moorswork + Volunteers)	Nunnington Cutting & Quarries SSSI	Scrub management	Site 1.42	NE3.1	£640	£0
Amotherby Churchyard Conservation Group	Amotherby Churchyard	Habitat management	-	NE5.1	£520	£120 (25%)
(AONB Unit – Moorswork + Volunteers)	Raincliffe Woods, for Potter Hill Farm	Coppicing hazel binders for hedgelaying training course	-	AG2.2, D6.1	£570	£120

(AONB Unit – Moorswork + Volunteers)	Potter Hill Farm	Hedgelaying training course	-	AG2.2, D6.1	£520	£120
(AONB Unit – Moorswork + Volunteers)	Cawton Fens SINC	Scrub management	Site 1.47	NE3.1	£520	£120
(AONB Unit – Moorswork + Volunteers)	Terrington Carr SINC	Birch management	Site 1.67	NE3.1	£570	£120
(AONB Unit – Moorswork + Volunteers)	Terrington Carr SINC	Birch management	Site 1.67	NE3.1	£520	£120
(AONB Unit – Moorswork + Volunteers)	Grimston Moor SINC	Rhododendron control	Site 1.1	NE3.1	£520	£120
(AONB Unit – Moorswork + Volunteers)	Grimston Moor SINC	Rhododendron control	Site 1.1	NE3.1	£370	£120
(AONB Unit – P & A Gospel Landscapes)	Cawton Fens SINC	Repair of gate and fencing, to enable continued grazing by Exmoor ponies	Site 1.47	NE3.1	£325	£325
M Marshall	Toft Wood SINC	Conversion of 3.5ha Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site to native broadleaves	Site 1.57	NE3.1	£9,526	£2,000
(AONB Unit – J R Clifford & Sons)	Various	Management of 45 Special Interest Road Verges	-	NE3.1	£1,390	£1,390
(AONB Unit – P & A Gospel Landscapes)	Bull Ings SINC SINC	Repairs to fencing, to enable continued grazing by Exmoor ponies	Site 1.60	NE3.1	£315	£315
(AONB Unit – Castle Howard Estate)	Wiganthorpe Park	Beat-up parkland treeplanting scheme	-	NE3.3, HE2.5	£100	£100
NY & Y Local Nature Partnership	NY&YLNP area	2 year contribution to co-ordinator post	-	NE9.1	£35,427 (2 years)	£1,000 (2 years)

## AONB Enhancement - Historic Environment

APPLICANT	LOCATION	PROJECT	LOCAL PRIORITY	OBJECTIVE	SCHEME COST	JAC ASSISTANCE
(AONB Unit – P & A Gospel Landscapes)	City of Troy Maze, Dalby	Regular maintenance	Site 2.25	HE2.5	£196	£196
(AONB Unit – P & A Gospel Landscapes)	Mileposts	Regular maintenance	Site 2.63	HE2.5, RT4.5	£168	£168
(AONB Unit – Cleveland Corrosion Control)	Barton Hill, Low Hutton, West Ness, Terrington	Restoration of 4 traditional direction signs	-	HE2.5, RT4.5	£6,656	£6,456
(AONB Unit – Cleveland Corrosion Control)	Huttons Ambo	Restoration of 2 traditional village name signs; fabrication of 2 modern replicas	-	HE2.5, LC1.4	£2,500	£2,100
(AONB Unit – Volunteers)	Hovingham	Cutting bracken on round barrows (June)	Sites 2.36 & 2.37	HE2.5	£50	£0
(AONB Unit – Volunteers)	Hovingham	Cutting bracken on round barrows (Aug)	Sites 2.36 & 2.37	HE2.5	£75	£0
(AONB Unit – Moorswork + Volunteers)	Four Acre Wood, Yearsley	Removing scrub and brash from Scheduled Monuments	Site 2.11	NE2.5	£470	£120
(AONB Unit – Moorswork + Volunteers)	Roman Plantation, Oulston	Removing brash from Scheduled Monument	Site 2.12	NE2.5	£520	£120
(AONB Unit – Moorswork + Volunteers)	Four Acre Wood, Yearsley	Removing scrub and brash from Scheduled Monuments	Site 2.11	NE2.5	£320	£120
Volunteers	Misc	Volunteer input – MMS surveys	Various	Various	£4,000	£0

## AONB Enhancement – Sustainable Development & Rural Economy

APPLICANT	LOCATION	PROJECT	LOCAL PRIORITY	OBJECTIVE	SCHEME COST	JAC ASSISTANCE
Yorkshire Arboretum	Arboretum	Installation of 3 composting toilets, to facilitate school visits	-	AP2.3	£5,124	£2,050
Rural Action Yorkshire	AONB	Sustainable Rural Communities project, working with communities on community planning	-	LC1.2, LC1.3	£5,116	£2,528 (50%)
Connecting for Nature partnership	Ryedale/ Scarborough/ AONB	Social media workshop	-	LC2.1	£830	£230
Rural Action Yorkshire	Terrington	Inter-generational project	-	LC2.1	£1,146	£825 (70%)
(AONB Unit – Moorswork)	Various	Litter picking (5 visits)	Sites 3.8, 3.14, 3.19	RA4.5	£600	£600
(AONB Unit – P & A Gospel Landscapes)	Gateway signs	Strimming	-	AP1.1	£644	£644
(AONB Unit – Cooper Design)	Terrington	Production of pdfs of 4 guided route leaflets (walking)	-	RA5.3	£800	£800
(AONB Unit)	Howardian Hills/Ryedale	Promotional campaign with Visit York & Ryedale DC	-	RA2.1	c.£10,500	£2,500
	Misc	Volunteer input – shows, Junior Ranger Club, office move/admin, etc	Various	Various	£2,650	-

## Young People's activities

APPLICANT	LOCATION	PROJECT	LOCAL PRIORITY	OBJECTIVE	SCHEME COST	JAC ASSISTANCE
(AONB Unit)	Arboretum	Junior Ranger Club x 4	-	AP2.3	£766	£166

	<b>2016/17</b>	<b>2017/18</b>
<b>BUDGET ESTIMATES</b>	(October 2016)	
<b>Core Costs</b>		
Staffing	94,860	88,862
Office	6,850	6,850
Partnership running costs	3,750	3,750
PR, Events, Research	3,800	3,100
Management Plan	0	0
<b>Total Core Costs</b>	<b>109,260</b>	<b>102,562</b>
<b>Project Costs</b>		
AONB Enhancement – Natural Environment	30,000	25,000
AONB Enhancement – Historic Environment	30,000	25,000
AONB Enhancement – Sustainable Development & Rural Economy	25,000	25,000
Young People's activities	300	300
<b>Total Project Costs</b>	<b>85,300</b>	<b>75,300</b>
<b>TOTAL COSTS</b>	<b>194,560</b>	<b>177,862</b>
<b>FUNDING CONTRIBUTIONS</b>		
North Yorkshire CC	31,400	31,400
Ryedale DC	5,066	5,066
Hambleton DC	5,800	5,800
Defra	118,106	120,138
Historic England	10,838	10,427
Income in Advance	23,350	5,031
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>194,560</b>	<b>177,862</b>
Income in Advance b/f from 2015/16	76,761	
<i>Income in Advance c/f to 2018/19</i>		48,380

## Item 5 - Chairman's Annual Report 2015-16

Report to	The Annual General Meeting of the National Association for AONBs
Subject	Chairman's Annual Report 2015-16
Date	24 <sup>th</sup> November 2016
Purpose	For information

### Chairman's Annual Report 2015-2016

A "...vital part of the fabric of the Nation". The words of Rory Stewart the then DEFRA Parliamentary Under Secretary of State in his letter to the Chairs of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnerships, Conservation Boards, and National Park Authorities setting out the protection of budgets for four years.

This remarkable acknowledgement of the significance of outstanding landscape and the accompanying financial security from Central Government are a profound recognition of your work, of the significance of that work, the quality of that work and, above all, the potential of that work. Your Board exists to support and celebrate your work and encourage the fulfilment of your potential.

In giving protected landscapes medium term funding security against the trend of public sector funding, Government believes it is investing in organisations capable of beneficial innovation, be it in terms of future funding or the engagement of widening sections of society in the appreciations and benefits of landscape. Your Board will continue to take every reasonable opportunity to identify and support appropriate and intelligent innovation.

Of course, a key element of that innovation will now be to make Brexit mean better protection and investment in the environment and landscape. It will most probably begin with the initial transposition of European Union regulation into United Kingdom legislation. Any review processed thereafter, while it may pose risks, equally poses real opportunities to make law and regulation tailored to more specific outcomes and aspirations.

The AONB Family has not only coped with austerity and challenge, it has proved resilient and adaptable and exhibited commendable capability and openness to cooperation. Brexit, welcome or unwelcome, can be risen to in the remarkably resourceful and focused way displayed by the AONB Family from the beginning of our active implementation of the designation.

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

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A company limited by guarantee no: 4729800  
Charity Number: 1158871  
Registered office as above



Our work in Wales, leading on the Future Landscape Wales programme has been an important milestone in improving our understanding of the barriers to collaboration, and demonstrating methods to remove them; lessons that are equally applicable to England and Northern Ireland. This work built on the Future Landscapes programme run across England and Wales but included the National Park Authorities and other stakeholders. It resulted in the design and agreement of a shared vision across the AONBs and National Parks in Wales, recommendations on governance, and a programme of work to raise resources and generate local economic growth. In addition, it has fostered extremely productive working relationships across many of the organisations involved.

In all it does your Board places you, its members, at the centre; be it at its meetings, conferences or development events. To this end, your Board has resolved to realign its direction with the rapidly changing context, most notably continued public sector reform, enhanced devolution, increasing development pressure on the AONBs, and the need for a wider funding base. This has involved a refresh of the Charity's strategic plan which will set the stage for the next business plan.

It is a privilege to chair the NAAONB Charity and advocate and celebrate your work. I am most fortunate to have the support of an enthusiastic and knowledgeable Board and Staff. Indeed both Board and Staff work well beyond their job descriptions.

I am proud of the work of the National Association for AONBs and the whole AONB Family.

You well deserve the recognition that you are a "...vital part of the fabric of the Nation."

Philip Hygate FRS

## Item 7 - Chief Executives Report of work completed for NAAONB Business Plan October 2015 - October 2016

Report to	The Annual General Meeting of the National Association for AONBs
Subject	CE's Report of work completed for NAAONB Business Plan Oct 2015 - Oct 2016
Date	24th November 2016
Author	Howard Davies - Chief Executive
Purpose	For information

Work carried out between the last AGM and this one has been driven by the delivery of the latest Business Plan and set out under four main headings - raising profile, demonstrating value and relevance, driving better delivery through collaboration, raising resources, and managing organisational change. We continue to remain flexible though, often seizing additional opportunities for action that sit outside the Business Plan but will enable us to deliver on our objects and support our membership. What follows is a brief summary of the work we have carried out; a more comprehensive account of which is set out in the RAG reports that accompany each set of Board papers and can be found on our website.

One of the areas of work that has fallen outside of planned activity is support for new member organisations that are not AONB partnerships or conservation boards, but have an interest in areas for which such designation might be pursued, for instance the South Pennines, the Churnet Valley in Staffordshire, and the Cheshire Sandstone Ridge. Whilst this doesn't represent a great deal of work in itself, the development of these organisations reflects a significant groundswell of support for the AONB designation beyond the existing Family. Likewise, our engagement in the Britain is Great campaign wasn't planned, but the opportunity to ensure the AONB Family is represented in a UK wide promotion of Britain's countryside, food, and heritage was one that couldn't be missed. Our unexpected engagement with the National Trust over their publication 'AONBs and development' ensured that we ended up with a publication that matched the often sensitive needs of the AONB Family as well as those of the National Trust.

Additional work over this period falling outside of the business plan included strengthening our relationship with academia through work on tranquillity with the University of Winchester, continued work with the IUCN to ensure governments are fully aware of the role the AONB Family can play in delivering on international biodiversity targets, contribution to a book on European Nature Parks and the second 'Outstanding Week', a week long programme of events designed to highlight the value and relevance of the AONB Family to a wide audience of stakeholders and partners. It is clear from the support this week has attracted we now have a far greater level of support from many more organisations that have a stake in the future of AONBs.

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## **Raising profile**

This area of work is about telling others what we do and why we do it – or more correctly what you do and why you do it. The foundations of this work are set out in our communications action plan which was created collaboratively with communications staff and lead officers from across the AONB Family. This isn't a static document and is kept alive, and adapted as necessary, through the continued input of AONB Family staff via drop-in sessions organised by the Charity. Activity in this area has included the production of two infographics, one for England and one for Wales, depicting key facts and data about the AONB Family, the national Landscapes for Life conference that made the link between AONBs and health and wellbeing, and formed a platform for the Bowland and Landscape for Life Awards, a complete review and revamp of our website, blog microsite, and the knowledge platform, and a new brand strategy that better reflects our status as a charity. In addition the Charity convened a face to face meeting with communication staff from across the Family, resulting in three working groups focused on campaigns, themes and statistics, a review of our websites and the collection of important case studies, and collaboration with the National Park Authorities.

## **Demonstrating value and relevance**

This area of work is essentially designed to encourage others to speak out on your behalf. It includes all of our advocacy work including our meetings with Defra and other areas of UK government, Welsh Government, Natural England, Natural Resources Wales, and other organisations that have a stake in, or influence the condition of, the AONB Family. It is based on building high quality relationships, and the provision of evidence and data to decision makers. It takes the form of evidence to committees, written consultation responses, or one to one discussions. Success in this area is linked to the use of consistent messages, reinforced across the AONB Family, underpinned by compelling evidence. It is therefore ultimately linked to our communications work.

Activity in this area has included our involvement in discussions around Defra's 25 year plan, consultation input on the Environment Bill (Wales) and surrounding legislative changes, one to one meetings with UK parliamentarians and members of the Welsh Assembly, chair level bilaterals with Natural England, Natural Resources Wales, and National Parks England, tripartite meetings with Defra and Natural England, and regular liaison meetings with partner organisations such as CPRE, CPRW, the Alliance for National Parks Cymru, and CNP. We are also supporting a more member led approach to evidence provision through the provision and maintenance of Basecamp and the promotion of collaborative behaviour. This has resulted in AONB staff taking the lead in responses such as the EAC enquiry into the future of biodiversity post Brexit.

Demonstrating your value and relevance continues to be a priority for the Charity. The favourable settlement for AONB partnerships in England resulting from this year's spending review is clear evidence of its importance and the efficacy of our approach.

## **Driving better delivery through collaboration**

This area of work is focused on working together across the AONB Family and with others to achieve better outcomes. There is a clear link between building relationships with key stakeholders as part of our demonstrating value and relevance work, and the evolution of this into collaboration.

The decision to leave the EU has impacted on our work in this area and immediately resulted in a strengthening of our relationship with organisations we have, until now, only worked alongside. Wildlife and Countryside Link, Green Alliance, and the Climate Change Coalition have teamed up to create a 'Brexit Unit'. This is supported by funding and secondments from a number of member organisations and is focusing on three work streams, each designed to send a clear message to

government on one of three subjects – legislation, climate change, and food and farming. The Charity is currently working with Wildlife and Countryside Link in order to engage with this group. All of the main environmental NGOs are members (NT, TWT, RSPB, WT etc.) and will use their combined membership numbers to influence change. We have also started working with CPRE in order to present an illustrated case to government around the 5 year housing supply issue, such that we can weave this into discussions to counter any weakening of EIA regulations that could take place.

Additionally, we have had a request from NFU Cymru to collaborate with them in developing a model for sustainable farming support post Brexit, building on some work we have already done with them. We will obviously continue with these discussions. We are also clearly working very closely with the statutory agencies to ensure maintaining landscape quality remains relevant.

With regards collaboration within the AONB Family, this has been touched on earlier in this report. Collaboration isn't an end in itself but a way of working to improve delivery. Our work in Wales, leading on the Future Landscape Wales programme has been an important milestone in improving our understanding of the barriers to collaboration, and demonstrating methods to remove them; lessons that are equally applicable to England and Northern Ireland. This work built on the Future Landscapes programme run across England and Wales but included the National Park Authorities and other stakeholders. It resulted in the design and agreement of a shared vision across the AONBs and National Parks in Wales, recommendations on governance, and a programme of work to raise resources and generate local economic growth. In addition, it has fostered extremely productive working relationships across many of the organisations involved.

Work is also starting with external consultants, on a pro-bono basis, to further test how collaboration can be better fostered within the AONB Family. This existing partnership has already led to some very positive casework at an AONB team level.

### **Raising resources**

This work is focused on ensuring the AONB Family and the Charity can do what we want to do. The Charity has been closely involved in the development of the Making Local Woodlands Work programme with the Plunkett Foundation and Big Lottery. This programme is now underway with the selection of pilot projects. The Charity is registered a delivery partner. We have a representative on the steering group working to ensure that AONB partnerships have access to the funding and learning associated with this programme. No funding for pilot projects has been awarded to groups operating in collaboration with AONB units to date. The Charity will continue to maintain a light touch approach to our engagement in this programme and support projects where the cost of engagement of the Charity is covered.

The Charity explored in depth this year the establishment of a national consultancy arm. At the time of the last AGM the business model was being tested. The principle behind the consultancy was to create added value from the skillset within the AONB Family such that small teams of AONB staff could be brought together and applied to specific, fee earning projects. Income would be directed back onto the ground within the participating AONBs, with the co-ordination and administrative costs incurred by the Charity covered in the form of a management charge. Trial projects were delivered successfully in four AONBs. There was, however, a clear indication from members of the AONB Family that there was inadequate resource within the AONB Family to direct towards consultancy work. This and other evidence gathered as the output of the exploratory work was assessed and a report on the efficacy of the consultancy model produced and presented to trustees. It was decided not to progress the idea, but the exploratory work was recognised as valuable.

We are also currently working with a number of AONB partnerships in the south, HLF, and Activate Performing Arts in order to develop a multi AONB project, coordinated by the Charity through an AONB unit. This approach is intended to add weight to grant applications through the involvement, endorsement, and support of the Charity, and lever in greater resources for the AONB partnerships involved. We believe this more joined up way of working will lead to increased resources for the AONB Family.

The Charity is moving towards a full cost recovery approach to working with partners and stakeholders. Our methodology has been endorsed by Natural Resources Wales and was used to cost the Future Landscapes Wales programme. We have also started to use this approach successfully to cost specific services we provide to others. This was tested in part during the trial of the consultancy service.

### **Managing organisational change**

This area of work covers, but is not limited to, the organisational change required within the Charity and extends to the AONB Family and its wider membership. Recognising the significant contextual changes within which the Charity and AONB Family operate, including increasing development pressure, rapidly advancing devolution, new legislation, the impact of austerity measures, the continued investment by UK and Welsh governments in the Charity and the changes we are leading, and the confidence afforded by positive outcomes clearly resulting from early change, Trustees agreed to the need for an organisational realignment. This has involved a refresh of the Charity strategic plan which will then set the stage for the next business plan. Realignment of the business with operational needs, coupled with a strong and supported strategic direction, will give the Charity the energy and focus to move the organisation forwards and better position itself and its members for the next comprehensive spending review. It will also highlight gaps in capacity and capability that will provide a focus for organisational and staff development. In addition, the Charity has continued to support the AONB Family and wider membership during this period of change. Our work in promoting the efficiency and effectiveness of those member organisations engaged in conserving and enhancing natural beauty has been focused on developing collaboration, collective action and co-operation through individual and team development.

This time last year we waited with concern for the outcome of the spending review. If I am honest, it was far more favourable than we had even dreamed. We have Defra officials and politicians to thank for this. It isn't however a signal to sit back. It is clearly an investment in change, so continue to change we must. The NAAONB remains your association and is better positioned than ever to support you over the coming months and years. We have a strong and dedicated Board of Trustees, thoroughly committed staff, and a clearly exciting agenda ahead. We are here to work with you to look after the special places we all value so highly.

As I said last year, collectively we can do it.

Howard Davies  
Chief Executive  
November 2016