

HOWARDIAN HILLS AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Date: Thursday 19 November 2020 at 10.00 am

Business

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Minutes of the Joint Advisory Committee meeting held on 7 November 2019 **(Pages 3 to 6)**
- 3 JAC Virtual Site Tour of 2019/20 work
- 4 AONB Unit Activity **(Pages 7 to 54)**
- 5 AONB Key Performance Indicators **(Pages 55 to 58)**
- 6 AONB Budget **(Pages 59 to 72)**
- 7 Glover Review of Protected Landscapes **(Pages 73 to 86)**
- 8 National Activity and Initiatives **(Pages 87 to 106)**
- 9 Reports from Partner Organisations (oral reports)
- 10 Dates of next JAC meetings
- 11 Such other business as, in the opinion of the Chairman should, by reason of special circumstances, be considered as a matter of urgency

Howardian Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Advisory Committee

Membership

| | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| North Yorkshire County Council (2) | |
| 1 | GOODRICK, Caroline |
| 2 | PATMORE, Caroline (Vice-Chairman) |
| Ryedale District Council (2) | |
| 3 | DOCWRA, Claire |
| 4 | GRAHAM, Susan |
| Hambleton District Council (2) | |
| 5 | WATKINS, Di |
| 6 | Vacancy |
| Parish Councils (2) | |
| 7 | PICKLES, Chris (Ryedale) |
| 8 | ELEANOR, Nick (Hambleton) |
| Country Land and Business Association (1) | |
| 9 | WORSLEY, Sir William (Chairman) |
| National Farmers Union (2) | |
| 10 | ARNETT, Poppy |
| 11 | Vacancy |
| Forestry Commission (1) | |
| 12 | SHALLCROSS, James |
| Ramblers (1) | |
| 13 | WHITEHOUSE, Harry |
| Natural England (2) | |
| 14 | KIRKUP, Ailsa |
| 15 | Vacancy |

Enquiries relating to this agenda please contact Kate Arscott Tel: 01609 532834
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Howardian Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Advisory Committee

The Minutes of the meeting held at The Village Hall, Husthwaite on 7 November 2019, commencing at 10.00 am

Present

Members:

North Yorkshire County Council: County Councillors Caroline Goodrick and Caroline Patmore

Ryedale District Council: Councillor Claire Docwra and Councillor Susan Graham

Hambleton District Council: Councillor Di Watkins

Parish Councils: Christopher Pickles (Ryedale), Nick Eleanor (Hambleton)

Country Land and Business Association: Sir William Worsley

Forestry Commission: James Shallcross

Officers:

Howardian Hills AONB team: Paul Jackson and Liz Bassindale

North Yorkshire County Council: Kate Arscott and Liz Small

Ryedale District Council: Howard Wallis

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

138. Apologies

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Poppy Arnett (National Farmers Union), Harry Whitehouse (Ramblers) and Ann Stewart (Hambleton District Council).

139. Minutes of the Joint Advisory Committee meeting held on 11 April 2019

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 11 April 2019, having been previously circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

With regard to minute 131, James Shallcross reported that the farmer in question was to be issued a restocking notice following the felling of trees north of Whenby.

140. JAC Virtual Site Tour of 2018/19 Work

JAC members were given a slide presentation of examples of work undertaken in 2018/19.

The Chairman congratulated officers on the work undertaken. It was noted that the AONB annual report would go to all Parish Councils and a copy would also go to all local newspapers, to promote the work of the AONB locally.

Members noted that the publication "The Lost Words" was available to the public.

141. 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 Appendices to the report set out the following:-

Appendix 1 - details of the work, meetings and site visits that had been carried out by the AONB Manager and AONB Officers in the period April to October 2019.

Appendix 2 - full details of the grants offered and projects developed to date during the financial year

Appendix 3 - details of the planning consultations that the JAC had received during the year and the AONB Manager's detailed responses to specific applications

Appendix 4 – full details of the activities and attendance for the 2019 Junior Rangers activity sessions

The AONB Manager drew attention to the publication of the final version of the new AONB Management Plan, printed copies of which had been provided for all JAC members.

Members raised concerns about heavy vehicles being diverted into the AONB area due to road closures, with difficulties exacerbated if several roads were closed at the same time.

It was suggested that the AONB identify a suitable site for tree planting during the forthcoming National Tree Planting week, with publicity if possible. In light of his national role, the Chairman agreed to try and help identify a suitable location. He indicated that there were already plans in Hovingham.

Members discussed Superfast North Yorkshire and issues of undergrounding of cabling.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

142. AONB Key Performance Indicators

Members noted a report detailing performance against selected indicators used to measure AONB performance annually. The AONB Manager drew Members' attention to the work he had been involved with over the last two years nationally to develop a new set of key performance indicators which more accurately reflected the variety of work delivered by AONB partnerships, and which were reported on for the first time here.

49 hectares of land had been conserved or enhanced; 37 monuments had been worked on; 18 partnerships and 370 people engaged with; 135 consultations appraised or developed by the team; and £191,000 worth of work delivered or secured through the AONB team.

Resolved

That the Performance Indicator results contained in Appendix 1 be noted.

143. AONB Budget

Members noted a report detailing final income and expenditure during 2018/19, setting out the current position with the 2019/20 budget and considering the anticipated budgetary requirement for 2020/21.

Resolved

- (a) That the details of final income and expenditure during 2018/19 be noted for information.
- (b) Partner authorities be asked to make appropriate provision in their revenue budgets for the work of the JAC in 2020/21, in line with Appendix 2 and section 4 of the report.

144. Glover Review of Protected Landscapes

Members discussed a report giving details of the recent Landscapes Review and its Proposals. Appendix 3 of the report contained the AONB Manager's initial thoughts on what each proposal might involve and its potential relevance/effect in relation to the Howardian Hills AONB and its partnership.

The JAC recognised the significance of the review as probably the most fundamental development for AONBs since the Countryside and Rights of Way Act in 2000. However, it was recognised that, in light of the current period of purdah in advance of the forthcoming General Election, it was inappropriate for the JAC to discuss this issue in detail at this meeting.

Resolved

That the Proposals contained in the Landscapes Review be noted.

145. National Activity and Initiatives

The Committee received an update on current national issues and the work of the National Association for AONBs (NAAONB) covering the following topics:

- The Colchester Declaration
- The Agriculture Bill
- The Environment Bill
- The National Moment/Landscapes for Life Week

The AONB Manager reported that the Agriculture and Environment Bills had fallen following the announcement of the General Election.

The JAC noted the value of the National Association to its work, particularly as a small AONB with a limited capacity for in depth work on every topic or consultation of significance.

Resolved

That the work being carried out on national initiatives be noted for information.

146. Reports from Partner Organisations

Members of the Committee shared the following information not already covered elsewhere on the agenda:

Hambleton District Council – The Hambleton Local Plan – Publication Draft (July 2019) is the version of the Plan which the Council considers to be its final version. Following a 7 week consultation period which ended on 17 September 2019, the Council is now in the process of uploading and reviewing over a thousand comments received. These will be submitted alongside the Publication Draft Plan and supporting documents to the Planning Inspectorate for the purpose of independent examination.

Ryedale District Council – The Site Allocation Plan has been adopted and the Council is now starting the process of reviewing the Local Plan. A member working group is in place, but the timetable for the review has yet to be finalised.

Ryedale District Council has also declared a climate emergency and is developing an action plan for the Council and its partners. This is likely to add weight to environmental factors in the Local Plan review.

Members generally remarked very positively on their experience of the value of the work carried out by the AONB team, and the very significant incremental impact on the AONB landscape.

Resolved

That the updates be noted.

147. Date of next JAC Meetings

Resolved

That the next meetings of the Joint Advisory Committee be held on Thursday 16 April and 19 November 2020 at 10 am. The venues of the next meetings are to be confirmed. Members reaffirmed their commitment to meet in different venues around the AONB area.

The meeting concluded at 11.55am.

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**HOWARDIAN HILLS
AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY
JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
19 NOVEMBER 2020**

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 April 2020.

2.0 SUMMARY OF PROGRESS ACHIEVED

- 2.1 Appendix 1 gives details of the principal tasks that have been carried out by the AONB Manager and AONB Officers in the period April 2020 to November 2020. All staff have principally been working from home since 17th March, although the office became available for limited use again in early September.
- 2.2 The final budget outturn for 2019/20 is detailed in a separate report on the Agenda.
- 2.3 The COVID-19 pandemic has clearly had a significant impact on some work areas, as well as diverting staff resources. Messaging around access to the countryside once travel restrictions were lifted, as well as providing advice to residents and visitors, was a significant new area of work.
- 2.4 Work on countryside management was able to continue, principally using contractors as they were able to work during the lockdown period. The regular annual summer/autumn habitat management work on specific SINC sites was able to take place, with Himalayan balsam control using contractors and scrub management using Volunteers being the most significant. Full details of the grants offered and projects developed are contained in Appendix 2.
- 2.5 The Moorswork organisation, who led our volunteer tasks, closed almost immediately after the start of the first lockdown. Intensive work followed to identify and set up a new mechanism, using a suitably qualified contractor, for use when volunteering was able to start again. Several tasks have now taken place and the new arrangements are working well.
- 2.6 The Monument Management Scheme has been extended by Historic England until March 2021 to enable us to complete the project as planned. Site work was planned and delivered by contractors during the summer, using a combination of strimming and spraying to control brambles and crushing and spraying to control bracken. The paperwork for the end-of-project surveys has been delivered to the volunteers and around half of all Scheduled Monuments were surveyed before the second lockdown started. Surveys will be completed either by staff during November or volunteers during December.

- 2.7 The Ryevitalise Project has not been able to deliver some of its main projects as planned this year, due to the lockdown. These were primarily associated with community engagement and site survey work by volunteers. We have however been inputting into Steering Groups, supporting non-native invasive species work and playing a coordinating role in the Evaluation and Monitoring Group.
- 2.8 Some work was able to take place on the Turtle Doves project, in partnership with the North York Moors National Park. Survey work was able to re-commence after lockdown, in both existing and new survey squares. A successor project, focusing on the wider 'farmland bird' suite of species, is on hold until the National Lottery Heritage Fund grant scheme re-opens to applications.
- 2.9 Works under the Public Rights of Way Improvement Project, in partnership with NYCC's Countryside Access Service, were delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Three new kissing gates were installed at Hovingham when restrictions eased, together with 29 new or replacement roadside fingerpost signs and the surfacing of a popular link path near Crayke Church.
- 2.10 Work has started to address some of the pollution issues caused by plastic tree protection. Recycling schemes have been investigated and hedge planting schemes funded by the AONB Project Fund this year will be using biodegradable guards.
- 2.11 Appendix 3 gives details of the more significant planning application Consultations that the JAC has received so far this financial year, as well as the AONB Manager's detailed responses (batched where applicable).
- 2.12 All three Junior Ranger Club sessions that would have been held in conjunction with the Castle Howard Arboretum, in the April, May and October school holidays, were cancelled. A booklet of ideas for Junior Ranger families was produced in May, which also helped with home schooling.
- 2.13 The Community First Yorkshire Projects Officer has continued to advise and assist a number of local communities, although this has inevitably been curtailed by COVID-19. A full list of the work carried out by the CFY officer in the AONB is attached as part of Appendix 1.
- 2.14 Events cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which we would have attended, included the NAAONB Conference, Ryedale Show, International Sheepdog Trials and two Northern AONB Group meetings.
- 2.15 The latest edition of the AONB Newsletter was prepared in September and distributed in the week commencing 19th October. The JAC's 2019/20 Annual Report has also been produced and distributed.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the report be noted.

AONB MANAGER'S REPORT Paul Jackson

APRIL – NOVEMBER 2020

Work during this period has principally consisted of:

- Planning application consultations scrutiny and responses
- Monitoring developments in the COVID-19 pandemic, restrictions, etc and providing opinion on rural economy impacts and subsequent recovery
- Developing new working methods and Team support whilst home-working
- NAAONB Comms Leads video calls, particularly after travel restrictions were eased
- Keeping up-to-date with the latest developments in the Agriculture Bill, Environment Bill and Glover Review of Protected Landscapes
- Visiting all Scheduled Monuments in our current management programme and organisation of MMS work programme for 2020/21 season
- Organisation and delivery of summer MMS tasks – bracken and bramble control
- Engaging in possible NAAONB initiatives via the Green Recovery Challenge Fund
- Developing the preparation methodology for our Nature Recovery Plan
- Preparation and submission of 2019/20 NAAONB KPIs
- Preparation and submission of quarterly MMS grant claims and reports to HE
- Starting preparation of the MMS Final report to HE
- Photo-recording of new PRow roadside fingerpost signs
- Preparation and submission of Defra Claim 1

Other work:

- Local Nature Partnership Board meetings
- Trial 5G projects within the AONB
- Farmer Clusters & agri-environment schemes – regular catch-ups with NYMNPA staff
- Regular catch-ups with the JAC Chairman
- Colchester Declaration briefing sessions
- Native Woodland Partnership Group meetings
- Knapweed broomrape surveys
- Working with NYCC Property Services and H&S Teams to get the Old Vicarage office approved as Covid Secure
- Maintaining up-to-date messaging on the AONB website for visitors in relation to COVID-19 restrictions
- Preparation and distribution of the 2019/20 Annual Report
- Assistance with preparation of the 2020 AONB Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2020 – APRIL 2021

Work during this period will principally consist of:

- Planning application consultations scrutiny and responses
- Keeping up-to-date with the latest developments in the Agriculture Bill, Environment Bill and Glover Review of Protected Landscapes, and reacting to any Government announcements

- Preparation and submission of quarterly and Final MMS grant claims to HE
- Preparation and submission of MMS Final Report to HE
- Preparation of our Nature Recovery Plan map
- Delivery of Farmer Cluster/ELMS development work funded as a one-off by Defra
- Condition Assessments of selected Local Geological Sites, old limekilns and other Historic Environment Priority Sites contained in the Management Plan

Other work:

- Farmer Clusters & agri-environment schemes – regular catch-ups with NYMNPA staff
- Regular catch-ups with the JAC Chairman
- Preparation and submission of Defra Claim 2
- Preparation and submission of the 2021/22 Grant Allocation proposal and Action Programme to Defra
- Completing MMS surveys on selected Scheduled Monuments
- Delivering restoration projects for traditional village name signs and traditional direction signs
- Supporting development of outreach activities to under-served communities that might use the AONB more

AONB OFFICER'S REPORT

Liz Bassindale

APRIL – NOVEMBER 2020

Work during this period has principally consisted of:

- Providing Project Fund applicants with application guidance, making grant offers, checking completed projects and making grant payments
- Ryevitalise – inputting into Steering Groups, supporting INNS work and having a coordinating role in the Evaluation and Monitoring Group
- AONB Newsletter – gathering and writing articles, editing text and liaising with the designer
- Monitoring developments in the COVID-19 pandemic, restrictions, etc and relating them to the AONB Volunteer activities. Setting up new Health and Safety procedures and identifying task sites suitable for socially distanced working. Organising some tasks prior to the latest lockdown
- NAAONB Volunteer Officers working group video calls – working our way through the rules, regulations and public perceptions together
- Organising Himalayan balsam clearance on six areas including SINC's and a section of the River Derwent SSSI
- MMS – preparing survey packs for the volunteers and AONB Team members, organising volunteers, training Francesca in the survey method and surveying a selection of sites as part of the end of HE funding monitoring
- NLHF Turtle Dove Project – inputting into Steering Group meetings, producing survey packs, liaising with landowners and assisting with coordination of volunteers once surveying became possible
- Working with communities – working with NYCC Public Rights of Way on improvements to Love Lane in Crayke and funding a community COVID-19 arts project in Welburn

Other work:

- Starting development of outreach activities to under-served communities that might use the AONB more
- Supporting promotional work during Landscapes for Life Week
- Production of a booklet of ideas for Junior Ranger families in place of running the May Junior Ranger Club; this also helped with home schooling
- Discussions with NYMNPAs about the successor to the Turtle Dove Project – likely to be a 'Birds on the Edge' project
- Inputting into Cornfield Flowers Project Steering Groups and linking the Project Officer with communities and individuals interested in becoming involved
- NAAONB - Nature Recovery Workshop and research into map layers. Widening Diversity Workshop
- Starting to work with Ampleforth Abbey Estate to discuss potential for restoration of the Top Lake
- Assisting with the production of the next edition of the Outdoors Guide
- Assisting with the production of the next edition of a 'Sit Back and Enjoy the Ride' leaflet
- Advice to several communities and village hall committees about possibly applying to the AONB Project Fund

NOVEMBER 2020 – APRIL 2021

Work during this period will principally consist of:

- Providing Project Fund applicants with application guidance, making grant offers, checking completed projects and making grant payments
- Carrying out MMS surveys and collating MMS survey reports and photos submitted by volunteers
- Maintaining contact with Community First Yorkshire about future community projects in the AONB
- Sending the results of the turtle dove surveys out to landowners
- Re-starting the volunteers again when it becomes possible to do so and continuing to identify suitable tasks
- Communication with St Benedict's Primary School about enhancing their outdoor learning/Forest Schools space

Other work:

- Ongoing work with Ampleforth Estate about involvement with Ryevitalise, walking routes and Top Lake restoration
- Community First Yorkshire Loneliness Project webinar
- Inputting as required into the final MMS report
- Supporting the Ryevitalise Team when required including coordinating the Evaluation and Monitoring Group
- Possible re-start for Junior Rangers depending on COVID-19 situation
- Supporting the preparation of the HHAONB Nature Recovery Plan
- Supporting delivery of Farmer Cluster/ELMS development work funded as a one-off by Defra
- Meeting with Ryedale District Council, Local Nature Partnership and Cornfield Flowers Officer to discuss possible future links into communities including local market towns
- Possibly start to develop links with urban areas and/or Hovingham Primary School in Leeds depending on the COVID-19 situation

AONB OFFICER'S REPORT

Francesca Pert

APRIL – NOVEMBER 2020

Work during this period has principally consisted of:

- Monitoring developments in the COVID-19 pandemic, restrictions & messaging & assisting PJ in updating the HHAONB website to communicate these
- Attending regular NAAONB Comms Leads video calls, and reporting back to the team on national developments
- Providing Project Fund applicants with application guidance, making grant offers, checking completed projects and making grant payments
- Assisting in managing the AONB Exmoor Pony Grazing schedule
- Organising contractors to manage Himalayan Balsam on Wath Beck
- Developing and working on a strategy for reducing the amount of plastic tree protection waste in the HHAONB
- Engaging in NAAONB Landscapes for Life Week on behalf of the team, especially on Twitter
- Engaging with the Ryevitalise team, Nunnington Hall and the NAAONB to develop an Art in the Landscape strategy
- Updating the HHAONB website with new documents and posts as they become available

Other work:

- Maintaining up-to-date messaging on the AONB website for visitors in relation to COVID-19 restrictions
- Assistance with preparation of the 2020 AONB Newsletter
- NAAONB - Nature Recovery Workshop, Colchester Declaration and Widening Diversity Workshop.
- Ordering new clothing for the volunteers and AONB staff
- Writing an information leaflet for the Ryedale Environment Fair

NOVEMBER 2020 – APRIL 2021

Work during this period will principally consist of:

- Continuing to develop a strategy for reducing the amount of plastic tree protection waste in the HHAONB including producing a new information leaflet and investigating a simple AONB-wide collection and recycling system
- Developing thinking around linking with urban areas and outreach to under-served audiences
- Providing Project Fund applicants with application guidance, making grant offers, checking completed projects and making grant payments
- Completing selected MMS site surveys
- Investigating updates required to the AONB website to comply with accessibility legislation
- Continuing to participate in the NAAONB comms' meetings
- Attending NAAONB Art in the Landscape training

Community First Yorkshire officer - 1 April 2020 to 31 October 2020

- Attended Ryedale Charter group meetings remotely and provided support and information
- Attended Ryedale Development Officer meetings
- Represented CFY on Ryevitalise Landscape Partnership Board and on the Evaluation and Monitoring Group
- Helped Tees University to promote and engage residents in the Ryeflections project
- Carried out asset mapping in the Derwent, Ryedale SW, and Helmsley Wards
- Compiled a list of defibrillators and their locations in the AONB
- Wrote a Guest Blog on the CFY website regarding Slingsby's response to Covid-19 - see link below:
<https://communityfirstyorkshire.org.uk/blogs/the-power-of-community-action-how-slingsby-pulled-together-in-the-face-of-a-pandemic/>
- Worked on a Community Engagement Toolkit that will be available on-line for groups to use and with information to download
- Continued to have regular meetings with Liz Bassindale
- Continued to work with the NYCC Stronger Communities Officer to help to identify HHAONB communities who would qualify and benefit from support and funding.
- Had regular contact with the Communities Team
- Responded to e-mails/telephone calls from residents/PC's/community groups in the AONB as required, including Hovingham PC – funding advice for Village Hall car park wall; Easingwold Bowling Club – funding advice for a Defibrillator; and Moorsbus – IT support & advice

AONB PROJECTS 2020/2021

1st April 2020 – 31st March 2021

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

AONB Enhancement – Natural Environment

| APPLICANT/ (CONTRACTOR) | LOCATION | PROJECT | LOCAL PRIORITY | OBJECTIVE | SCHEME VALUE | JAC ASSISTANCE |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|---------------------|--------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Ryevitalise Partnership | Ryevitalise HLF bid area | Contribution to Project Implementation phase | - | NE3.5 | c.£60,000 | £7,500 |
| S Hemingway | High Stittenham | Restoration of 1 pond | - | AG2.2, NE8.3 | £3,620 | £1,810 |
| J Pilling | Grimston | Repair of 18m of roadside wall | Zone 1 Landscape | AG2.2 | £2,880 | £1,900 |
| Castle Howard Estate Ltd | Coneysthorpe | Planting 12 individual in-field trees | Zone 5 Landscape | NE3.4 | £2,500 | £1,875 (75%) |
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| APPLICANT/ (CONTRACTOR) | LOCATION | PROJECT | LOCAL PRIORITY | OBJECTIVE | SCHEME VALUE | JAC ASSISTANCE |
|--|---|---|--|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| (AONB Unit – P & A Gospel Landscapes) | Husthwaite | Grassland management – 3 cuts | - | NE3.1 | c.£550 | c.£450 |
| (AONB Unit – Yorkshire Exmoor Pony Trust) | Cawton (2), Terrington (2), Coulton (2) | Conservation grazing of 6 SINC's or other important sites | Sites 1.41, 1.47, 1.66, 1.20, 1.59 | NE3.1 | c.£1,016 | c.£596 |
| (AONB Unit – P & A Gospel Landscapes) | Littledale SINC | Clearance of fallen tree across PRow to enable pony access to site | Site 1.20 | NE3.1 | £100 | £100 |
| (AONB Unit – P & A Gospel Landscapes) | Cawton (2), Terrington (2), Coulton (2) | Checking fencing on conservation grazing sites and repairing as necessary | Sites 1.41, 1.47, 1.66, 1.20, 1.59 | NE3.1 | £430 | £430 |

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|---|------------------------------------|---|------------------------|--------------|----------|----------|
| (AONB Unit – 4Nature) | Pretty Wood SINC | Cutting/pulling Himalayan balsam | Site 1.52 | NE6.2 | £660 | £660 |
| (AONB Unit – 4Nature) | Mugdale & Barker Woods SINC | Cutting/pulling Himalayan balsam | Site 1.58 | NE6.2 | £495 | £495 |
| (AONB Unit – 4Nature) | River Derwent SSSI, Crambeck | Cutting/pulling Himalayan balsam | Site 1.73 | NE3.1, NE6.2 | £825 | £825 |
| (AONB Unit – village volunteers) | River Derwent SSSI, Crambeck | Cutting/pulling Himalayan balsam | Site 1.73 | NE3.1, NE6.2 | £100 | £0 |
| (AONB Unit – The Conservation Vounteers) | Jeffry Bog SINC | Cutting/pulling Himalayan balsam | Sites 1.70 & 1.73 | NE3.1, NE6.2 | £1,200 | £1,200 |
| (AONB Unit – M Aconley) | River Derwent SSSI; Kirkham | Cutting/pulling Himalayan balsam | Site 1.73 | NE3.1, NE6.2 | £450 | £450 |
| (AONB Unit – P & A Gospel Landscapes & DMD Contracting) | Wath Beck | Cutting/pulling Himalayan balsam | Inc. Sites 1.33 & 1.65 | NE3.1, NE6.2 | £1,520 | £1,520 |
| (AONB Unit – 4Nature, P & A Gospel Landscapes + Volunteers) | Appleton-le-Street Churchyard SINC | Grassland management | - | NE3.1 | £800 | £650 |
| Amotherby Churchyard Conservation Group | Amotherby Churchyard | Habitat management | - | NE5.1 | £180 | £130 |
| (AONB Unit – 4Nature + Volunteers) | Coulton Fen SINC | Coppicing/scrub clearance | Site 1.61 | NE3.1 | c.£755 | £165 |
| (AONB Unit – 4Nature + Volunteers) | Bulmer | Scrub management on semi-improved grassland | - | NE3.3, NE8.3 | c.£1,120 | £670 |
| (AONB Unit – P & A Gospel Landscapes) | Slingsby Quarry LGS | Clearance of scrub from rock faces | Site 1.88 | NE7.2, NE8.3 | c.£550 | c.£550 |
| (AONB Unit – P & A Gospel Landscapes) | Amotherby Lane SINC | Grassland/scrub management | Site 1.38 | NE3.1 | c.£125 | c.£125 |
| (AONB Unit – J R Clifford & Sons) | Various | Management of 45 Special Interest Road Verges | - | NE3.1 | c.£1,600 | c.£1,600 |

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| Eaton & Hugill | River Rye SINC, Sproxton | Coppicing bankside alder trees | Site 1.16 | NE3.1, NE8.3 | £1,700 | £1,200 |
| Castle Howard Estate Ltd | Castle Howard | Erection of 50 swift boxes | - | NE5.1 | £2,530 | £1,250 |
| Autism Plus | Gilling | Meadow management after Covid-19 shutdown | - | NE3.4 | £1,130 | £680 |
| (AONB Unit – 4Nature + Volunteers) | Littledale SINC | Scrub management | Site 1.20 | NE3.1 | c.£755 | £505 |
| (AONB Unit – P & A Gospel Landscapes) | Littledale SINC | Fencing repairs and bridge modifications | Site 1.20 | NE3.1 | £170 | £170 |
| AONB Unit – Eaton & Hugill | AONB | ELM and Farmer Clusters Advocacy Project | - | NE3.5, NE8.1, AG1.1 | £7,202 | £7,202 |
| (AONB Unit – 4Nature + Volunteers) | Stearsby | Scrub management on semi-improved grassland | Site 1.19 | NE3.3, NE8.3 | c.£730 | c.£330 |
| Castle Howard Estate Ltd | Fryton/ Coneysthorpe | Re-cultivating 3 x Turtle Dove seed plots (2.25ha) | - | NE4.2, NE4.3 | £1,150 | £1,150 |
| (Volunteers) | AONB | New equipment, including COVID-19 PPE | Misc | IM1.3 | £971 | £971 |
| | | | | | | |

AONB Enhancement - Historic Environment

| APPLICANT | LOCATION | PROJECT | LOCAL PRIORITY | OBJECTIVE | SCHEME VALUE | JAC ASSISTANCE |
|--|---------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| (AONB Unit – P & A Gospel Landscapes) | City of Troy Maze, Dalby | Regular maintenance | Site 2.25 | HE2.8 | £300 | £300 |
| (AONB Unit – P & A Gospel Landscapes) | Mileposts | Regular maintenance | Site 2.63 | HE2.8, RT4.5 | £200 | £200 |
| Castle Howard Estate Ltd | Castle Howard | Reinstatement of 125m of parkland fencing | Zone 5 Landscape, Site 2.74 | HE2.8 | £25,000 | £1,750 |
| (AONB Unit – P & A Gospel Landscapes) | Maidensworth | Remove scrub from limekiln | Site 2.88 | HE2.8 | c.£250 | c.£250 |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------|--|-----------|---------------|----------|----------|
| (AONB Unit – Cleveland Corrosion Control) | Gilling & Grimston | Restoration of 1 village name sign; recreation of 4 village name signs | - | HE2.8, LC1.4 | c.£5,300 | c.£5,300 |
| (AONB Unit – Cleveland Corrosion Control) | Foston | Recreation of 1 village name sign | - | LC1.4 | c.£1,200 | £860 |
| (AONB Unit – Cleveland Corrosion Control) | Bulmer | Restoration of 1 traditional roadsign | - | HE2.8, RTT4.5 | c.£1,300 | c.£1,300 |
| Ampleforth Abbey & College | Gilling Castle Park | Management Plan for restoration of top pond | Site 2.16 | HE2.8 | c.£1,200 | c.£1,200 |
| | | | | | | |

| MONUMENT MANAGEMENT SCHEME | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|---|-------|--------|--------|
| <u>Historic England funded</u> | | | | | | |
| (AONB Unit – Volunteers) | Hovingham | Moving brash from 1 Scheduled Monument | Site 2.37 | HE2.4 | £100 | £0 |
| | | | | | | |
| <u>AONB funded</u> | | | | | | |
| (AONB Unit – 4Nature) | Hovingham | Re-seeding part of 1 Scheduled Monument | Site 2.36 | HE2.4 | £295 | £295 |
| (AONB Unit – Mark Aconley) | Hovingham, Coneysthorpe | Spraying bramble on 4 Scheduled Monuments | Sites 2.36, 2.37, 2.40 | HE2.4 | £225 | £225 |
| AONB Unit | Maidensworth, Brandsby, Fryton | Crushing bracken on 3 Scheduled Monuments | Sites 2.3, 2.4, 2.39 | HE2.4 | - | - |
| (AONB Unit – TCV) | Oulston | Crushing bracken on 1 Scheduled Monument | Site 2.12 | HE2.4 | £800 | £800 |
| (AONB Unit – Mark Aconley) | Hovingham, Fryton, Coneysthorpe, Castle Howard, Stearsby | Spraying bramble on 10 Scheduled Monuments and bracken on 3 Scheduled Monuments | Sites 2.24, 2.36, 2.37, 2.39, 2.40, 2.69, | HE2.4 | £860 | £860 |
| (AONB Unit – P & A Gospel Landscapes) | Hovingham | Re-treating stump regrowth on 1 Scheduled Monument | Site 2.36 | HE2.4 | c.£125 | c.£125 |

| | | | | | | |
|---|-----------|--|-----------|-------|--------|--------|
| (AONB Unit – Mark Aconley) | Hovingham | Removing fallen tree from 1 Scheduled Monument | Site 2.36 | HE2.4 | c.£160 | c.£160 |
| (AONB Unit – P & A Gospel Landscapes & Moorswork) | Stearsby | Removing scrub and treating stumps on 1 Scheduled Monument | Site 2.24 | HE2.4 | c.£225 | c.£225 |
| | | | | | | |

AONB Enhancement – Sustainable Development & Rural Economy

| APPLICANT | LOCATION | PROJECT | LOCAL PRIORITY | OBJECTIVE | SCHEME VALUE | JAC ASSISTANCE |
|--|---|---|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Rural Action Yorkshire | AONB | Sustainable Rural Communities project, working with communities on community planning | - | LC1.3, LC1.4 | £18,788 | £5,000 |
| Yorkshire Arboretum | Castle Howard | Climate change/sustainability resources | - | AP2.3 | £1,722 | £1,300 |
| Scarborough BC | AONB, NYMNP, Vale of Pickering, Scarborough Borough | 'Sit back and enjoy the ride' leaflet (walking routes accessed by bus) | - | RAT5.1 | £6,135 | £500 |
| Crayke PC | Crayke | Community wildlife project - completion | - | LC2.1 | £500 | £500 |
| Castle Howard Estate Ltd | Coneysthorpe | New birdsmouth fencing to protect village green | - | HE2.8, LC1.5 | £4,500 | £1,000 |
| H Mahoney | Welburn | Temporary Covid-19 outdoor arts exhibition | - | LC1.5 | £1,602 | £200 |
| NYCC | Crayke | Surface improvements to Love Lane and PROW circular route | - | LC2.1, RAT3.3 | £4,355 | £1,428 |
| Autism Plus | Gilling | Installation of 2 composting toilets | - | RAT2.2 | £3,220 | £2,370 |
| | | | | | | |
| <u>Recreation</u> | | | | | | |
| (AONB Unit – Moorswork) | Various | Litter picking (5 visits) | Sites 3.8, 3.14, 3.19 | RAT4.5 | c.£520 | c.£520 |
| (AONB Unit – P Gospel) | Gateway signs | Strimming | - | AP1.1 | £650 | £650 |
| (AONB Unit/NYCC Countryside Access Service) | AONB | PRoW Improvement Project – 29 replacement roadside fingerposts (Installation) | - | RAT3.1 | £1,595 | £0 |

| | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|---|---------|---------------|--------|--------|
| (AONB Unit/NYCC Countryside Access Service) | Hovingham | PRoW Improvement Project – replacing 1 stile with a kissing gate; improving 2 kissing gates | - | RAT3.1 | £1,500 | £1,500 |
| | | | | | | |
| <u>Promotion/Rural Economy</u> | | | | | | |
| (Scarborough BC) | AONB/National Park | Contribution to Outdoors Guide reprint | - | AP2.1, RAT2.1 | £5,000 | £1,000 |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| <u>Volunteering</u> | | | | | | |
| (AONB Volunteers) | Misc | Volunteer input – shows, Junior Ranger Club, etc | Various | Various | £0 | - |
| (Yorkshire Wildlife Trust Tomorrow's Natural Leaders) | Misc | Junior Ranger Club | - | AP2.3 | £0 | - |

Young People's activities

| APPLICANT | LOCATION | PROJECT | LOCAL PRIORITY | OBJECTIVE | SCHEME VALUE | JAC ASSISTANCE |
|-------------|------------|------------------------|----------------|-----------|--------------|----------------|
| (AONB Unit) | Arboretum, | Junior Ranger Club x 2 | - | AP2.3 | £0 | £0 |
| | | | | | | |

AONB CONSULTATIONS (SPECIFIC DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS) 2020/2021

1st April 2020 – 31st March 2021

| CONSULTING ORGANISATION | LOCATION | PROJECT | SITE VISIT | COMMENTS | DECISION |
|----------------------------|------------|--|--------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| Q1 | | | | | |
| Ryedale District Council | Low Hutton | Planning Application (Raising of roof height to create work room above garage) | Yes | Concern at visual impact on streetscene; delete big dormer and cupola | Refused |
| Ryedale District Council | Nunnington | Planning Application (Erection of extension) | No | Concern at porch extension | Refused |
| Hambleton District Council | Yearsley | Planning application (Conversion of stableblock to annex) | Yes | Condition restricting separate sale | Granted (Condition attached) |
| Ryedale District Council | Low Hutton | Planning Application (Erection of replacement extensions) | Yes | Object (Height of proposed extension, extensive first floor glazing) | Withdrawn |
| Ryedale District Council | Ampleforth | Planning application (Erection of agricultural storage building - revised) | (Previously) | Significant concerns (raised ground levels; correction of factual errors; colour of roof sheets; lighting) | Granted (Conditions x 2 attached) |
| Ryedale District Council | Ampleforth | Planning Application (Erection of extension and garage) | Yes | Render colour and external lighting to be covered by Condition | Granted (Conditions attached) |

| CONSULTING ORGANISATION | LOCATION | PROJECT | SITE VISIT | COMMENTS | DECISION |
|--|------------|---|--------------|---|---|
| Hambleton District Council | Crayke | Planning Application (Siting of mobile home for two years) | No | Object | Refused |
| North York Moors National Park Authority | Oswaldkirk | Planning Application (Erection of extension and garden room; extension of terrace) | Yes | Concerns (decking area, extent of glass, raised steps, render colour, lighting) | Amended (See below) |
| Ryedale District Council | Nunnington | Planning Application (Erection of extension - revised) | No | None | (Granted) |
| Q2 | | | | | |
| Hambleton District Council | Crayke | Agricultural Prior Notification (Erection of barn) | No | Concerns on siting | Withdrawn |
| Ryedale District Council | Ampleforth | Planning Application (Erection of dwelling and change of use of agricultural barn – Para 79 house) | Yes | Doesn't meet criteria of significantly enhancing vicinity | Granted |
| North York Moors National Park Authority | Oswaldkirk | Planning Application (Erection of extension and garden room; extension of terrace - revised) | (Previously) | None | Granted (Condition attached) |
| Ryedale District Council | Terrington | Planning Application (Erection of extensions and conversion of outbuildings) | No | Object (Front extension inappropriate) | Partially Granted (front extension Refused) |
| Ryedale District Council | Ampleforth | Planning application (Erection of replacement dwelling) | (Previously) | Type of stone to be used; protection of existing trees; external lighting | Granted (3 x Conditions attached) |
| Environment Agency | Gilling | Renewal of Abstraction Licence (Taking of water from the Holbeck and Gilling Fishponds for agricultural irrigation) | No | Alder carr needs to be protected from low water levels | Granted (Conditions attached) |

| CONSULTING ORGANISATION | LOCATION | PROJECT | SITE VISIT | COMMENTS | DECISION |
|----------------------------|----------|--|--------------|--|----------|
| Hambleton District Council | Oulston | Planning Application (Erection of 9 dwellings – revised) | (Previously) | Restoration of hardstanding to pasture and rigg-and-furrow | Pending |
| Ryedale District Council | Gilling | Planning Application (Extension to Golf Club car park) | Yes | Object – impact on Registered Park & Garden | Pending |
| PREAPPS | | | | | |

AONB CONSULTATIONS & NOTIFICATIONS (STRATEGIES, ETC) 2020/2021

1st April 2020 – 31st March 2021

| ORGANISATION | AREA | DOCUMENT | COMMENTS | OUTCOME |
|--------------|---------|--|---|---------|
| Defra | England | Environmental Land Management Policy Discussion document | Hedge restoration to be included in Tier 1 | ? |
| Defra | England | England Tree Strategy | Funding for lower density woodland within other habitat/land management types | ? |
| MHCLG | England | Planning for the Future | Three Zone system too simplistic; Calculation of housing targets; public engagement compromised | ? |
| | | | | |

Paul Jackson

From: dm@ryedale.gov.uk
Sent: 08 April 2020 15:26
To: Paul Jackson
Subject: Consultee Comments for Planning Application 20/00255/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 3:25 PM on 08 Apr 2020 from Mr Paul Jackson (paul.jackson@northyorks.gov.uk) on behalf of Paul Jackson AONB Manager.

Application Summary

Reference: 20/00255/HOUSE
Address: The Manor House Main Street Bulmer Malton YO60 7BW
Proposal: Alterations to dwelling to include the erection of single storey rear extension and part two storey link building following demolition of existing extensions, installation of dormer window to front elevation and erection of detached triple garage
Case Officer: Emma Woodland

[Click for further information](#)

Comments Details

Comments: I have the following comments to make in relation to these revised plans:
1) Although my concerns in relation to the rear extension elements were not as significant as those of other consultees, nonetheless the revised plans better suit the form of built development in Bulmer, with the original principal house retaining its dominance and the extensions forming a 'wing' to the rear.
2) My main concern with the original plans had been the location and associated lack of screening for the proposed triple garage. I can confirm that the retention of the existing lilac trees, together with the planting of a new tree, has mitigated this concern. I therefore have no further observations to make on this element of the scheme.
Paul Jackson



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Paul Jackson

From: dm@ryedale.gov.uk
Sent: 08 April 2020 15:38
To: Paul Jackson
Subject: Consultee Comments for Planning Application 20/00332/AGNOT

Mr Paul Jackson,

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

Comments were submitted at 3:38 PM on 08 Apr 2020 from Mr Paul Jackson (paul.jackson@northyorks.gov.uk) on behalf of Paul Jackson AONB Manager.

Application Summary

Reference: 20/00332/AGNOT
Address: Home Farm Hildenley Amotherby Malton North Yorkshire YO17 6QU
Proposal: Erection of roof structure over existing farmyard manure (FYM) heap
Case Officer: Niamh Bonner
[Click for further information](#)

Comments Details

Comments: I have the following comments to make in relation to this application:
1) No comments on siting
2) No colour has been specified for the roof sheets. As the new structure is likely to be visible in views from a Public Bridleway to the west, and will be back-dropped by a woodland area that will be dark in colour at all times of the year, then a light coloured roof would be particularly conspicuous. The colour of the box-profile sheet roof should therefore be specified as RAL 7016 Anthracite Grey.
Paul Jackson



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Paul Jackson

From: Paul Jackson
Sent: 23 April 2020 11:48
To: 'dm@ryedale.gov.uk'
Subject: 0/00317/HOUSE: Erection of a single storey rear and part side extension; East Barn, Nunnington

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

1. The extension will not be visible from any public viewpoints so these comments relate to the proposed form of the extension in relation to the building's origins and its contribution to the character of the Nunnington Conservation Area and thus the historic environment of the Howardian Hills AONB.
2. No objections to the addition of a lean-to extension. This type of feature is in keeping with the vernacular character of farm buildings in the AONB.
3. I do however have some concerns about the rearward-extending 'porch' for the utility room. This appears rather incongruous and breaks the smooth lines of the roof of the lean-to extension. The utility room is a useful addition to the property, making good use of the protruding space provided by the external steps, but it would be more sympathetic to the character of the building if the door was flush with the face of the extension.

Paul Jackson
Howardian Hills AONB Manager
The Old Vicarage
Bondgate
Helmsley
York
YO62 5BP
Office: 01609 536778
Mob: 07715 009426



Paul Jackson

From: dm@ryedale.gov.uk
Sent: 23 April 2020 12:31
To: Paul Jackson
Subject: Consultee Comments for Planning Application 20/00327/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 12:30 PM on 23 Apr 2020 from Mr Paul Jackson (paul.jackson@northyorks.gov.uk) on behalf of Paul Jackson AONB Manager.

Application Summary

Reference: 20/00327/HOUSE

Address: The Redings The Green Low Hutton Malton YO60 7HF

Proposal: Raising of roof height of existing triple garage to create a first floor workshop/hobby room to include the installation of 2no. dormer windows, 2no. rooflights and 1no. cupola together with the construction of an external staircase

Case Officer: Laura Eddey

[Click for further information](#)

Comments Details

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

- Comments:**
- 1) The dwelling of The Redings is set back from the road frontage of the Village Green at Low Hutton, following the building line of the neighbouring three properties below it (two of which are Listed). These properties have large front gardens with no significant structures, whilst The Redings has the existing triple garage block in the front garden. The house and garage were developed in a former agricultural field, the level of which I recall was lower than the current site levels.
 - 2) The current garage block is a low structure and I don't feel that it is unduly significant in the current street-scene, nor does it impact on the setting of the more traditional properties lower down the street.
 - 3) Bearing the above in mind, I have significant concerns that raising the height of the garage block will have a negative visual impact on the character of the village green area of Low Hutton, which itself is highly characteristic of villages within the Howardian Hills AONB.
 - 4) The increased visual impact of the proposed garage block would be exacerbated by two features that increase its perceived height - namely the cupola and the large dormer extension to the southern elevation.
 - 5) The cupola is a non-vernacular feature that would appear particularly incongruous in this setting and it should be deleted from the design.
 - 6) Likewise, the overly large dormer extension on the

southern elevation, which I note doesn't contain a window, unbalances the otherwise symmetrical roof design. I can only presume that it is being included with some future development purpose in mind. If that dormer is retained it should be reduced in size to match the dormers on the other roofslope elevations.

7) In conclusion, I have significant concerns about the adverse visual impact of the proposal on the landscape character of the Howardian Hills AONB.

Paul Jackson



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RYEDALE
DISTRICT
COUNCIL

The logo for Ryedale District Council features the text 'RYEDALE DISTRICT COUNCIL' in a blue, sans-serif font, stacked in three lines. To the right of the text is a crest depicting a red brick wall with a crenelated top, from which several golden wheat stalks with green stems emerge.

Access your council services online, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at www.ryedale.gov.uk

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Chief Planning Officer
Ryedale District Council

Contact: Paul Jackson

My Ref:

Date: 28th April 2020

Dear Sirs

20/00336/HOUSE: Demolition of existing single storey extensions to the side and rear and erection of two storey extension and link structure to the side; 3 Low Hutton Park, Low Hutton

I have the following comments to make in relation to this scheme:

1. The principle of re-developing the property to create a more coherent living space constructed to modern standards of insulation and to meet the needs of the occupants is recognised, but **the design proposed is wholly inappropriate, excessive in scale and massing, and designed with non-vernacular materials. It's adverse visual impact on the landscape of the nationally protected Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty would be significant, contrary to local and national planning policies and completely unacceptable.**
2. Low Hutton Park is a low-density development of 8 dwellings, constructed in the mid/late 1960s using the vernacular materials of limestone and clay pantiles. All the dwellings follow the same basic design, of three bedroom houses with attached single storey double garages. Some design differences exist within the double garage layout, and subsequent additions have been single storey extensions (No 4) or half-storey additions over the flat-roofed garages (Nos 2 and 7). Each property is sited close to the centre of its generous plot, thereby creating significant gaps between the houses. [4 Low Hutton Park was my family's home from 1966 until 2000].
3. The low-density layout and gaps between the dwellings provide extensive views both from the public highway out to the landscape beyond, and from the local Rights of Way network into and through the development. The visual impression is one of modest-sized dwellings, somewhat suburban in design, but sitting within a framework of both retained hedges and trees and now-mature garden landscaping.
4. The current proposals for 3 Low Hutton Park consist of a two storey extension to the existing dwelling, culminating in a two storey wing at approximately right angles to that alignment. Materials are proposed as timber cladding over a stone plinth, with full-height wall and gable-end glazing at first floor level on the northern elevation. Substantial two storey glazing is also proposed for the southern elevation.

Cont'd...

5. **Extent, scale and mass:** In my view the proposed extension is excessively large for its situation. As detailed above, the existing houses sit at the centre of large plots, with significant spaces between each one. The proposed extension would in effect completely fill the visual gap between Number 3 and Number 4. This would adversely impact on the view from both the public road (inhibiting external views from the cul-de-sac out into the open countryside) and from the Public Footpath through the field to the rear (significantly impacting on the perceived density of the development). It would also significantly unbalance the existing development, both in terms of size and form.
6. **Design and materials:** Whilst the use of modern designs and materials in residential construction within the AONB is not necessarily precluded, their use needs to be in carefully considered and appropriate situations. This is not one of those situations, and the failure to recognise Local Plan Strategy Policy SP13 (Landscapes) as a relevant policy indicates that the potential impact of this development on the nationally protected landscape of the AONB hasn't been carefully considered either. The existing dwellings of Low Hutton Park, including extensions, are uniformly constructed from limestone with clay pantile or flat roofs. Although agricultural buildings are present on the nearby site of the now disused Netherby Farm, they play no part in the visual appearance or design palette of Low Hutton Park. Timber cladding and seamed metal sheet roofing would therefore be inappropriate materials, whilst the full-height wall and gable-end glazing at first floor level would have a significant adverse visual impact on the AONB landscape when viewed from the Public Footpath to the north.
7. **Light and noise pollution:** In addition to the adverse visual impact of the large areas of glazing, they would also cause significant light pollution. It is unlikely that any of this glazing would be shielded by blinds, and even if it were then the visual impact of a full wall and gable-end of shielded light would still be unacceptable. In addition, the protruding balcony area would put the prolonged everyday movement and noise of the occupants at a level that would project out across the adjacent landscape, adversely impacting on the quiet enjoyment of users of the nearby Public Footpath.

In conclusion, whilst the principle of a re-development may be acceptable, the submitted design falls far short of the standard that is required in a nationally protected landscape and I therefore wish to lodge the strongest possible **OBJECTION** to the current proposal.

Yours sincerely

PAUL JACKSON
Howardian Hills AONB Manager

Paul Jackson

From: dm@ryedale.gov.uk
Sent: 30 April 2020 16:09
To: Paul Jackson
Subject: Consultee Comments for Planning Application 20/00298/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 4:08 PM on 30 Apr 2020 from Mr Paul Jackson (paul.jackson@northyorks.gov.uk) on behalf of Paul Jackson AONB Manager.

Application Summary

Reference: 20/00298/FUL

Address: Wood Cottage Scackleton Lane Scackleton North
Yorkshire YO62 4NB

Proposal: Erection of detached single storey double garage with store and self-contained annexe accommodation to include removal of existing detached garage (revised details to refusal 19/01225/FUL dated 20.12.2019)

Case Officer: Niamh Bonner

[Click for further information](#)

Comments Details

I have the following comments to make on this proposal:

1) The revised plans are for a low single storey building which I feel will sit well within the site.

2) The applicant has clearly wished to replicate a vernacular style rather than using a more modern design, and I think that the reference building chosen has exactly the right level of status in terms of size and design to complement the main dwelling.

3) I note the landscaping plan, which will enhance the landscape and wildlife value of the vicinity.

Paul Jackson



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Chief Planning Officer
Ryedale District Council

Contact: Paul Jackson

My Ref:

Date: 30th April 2020

Dear Sirs

20/00099/FUL: Erection of general purpose domestic outbuilding/machinery storage outbuilding; Beckside Cottage, Ampleforth

Before moving on to comments on the revised set of plans, there are a number of inaccuracies in the Additional Supporting Justification document which need to be clarified:

Status of Colley Broach Road

There is a belief on the part of the applicants that the Colley Broach Road is not an Adopted road, maintainable at public expense. Unfortunately, this is incorrect.

- The Colley Broach Road forms part of the historic valley route between Thirsk and Malton. It is traceable on Ordnance Survey maps, from Coxwold, via Thorpe Lane, Redcar House, Gilling East, Cawton and finally Hovingham. It exists in the modern day as a combination of public road, Public Bridleway and Public Footpath, but all of it is a public route.
- Colley Broach Road is listed as Highway SL9R on the NYCC List of Streets. For ease of reference I have attached the screenshots of the List of Streets entries for the Parishes of Yearsley and Newburgh to the end of this letter. I have also attached a screenshot of the Map of Streets. These have been taken from the NYCC website, where the information is easily accessible.
- This proposal must therefore be judged against the criterion of the application site being clearly visible from a public road some 150m to the south.

Farm building design guidance

It is stated that there is no adopted design guidance for new farm buildings within the AONB. Again, this unfortunately is incorrect.

- In 2013 the AONB Committee prepared and approved a New Agricultural Buildings & Infrastructure Design Guide. This was based on the North York Moors National Park Authority's guidance document, so as to ensure a degree of consistency between the two adjoining Protected Landscapes.
- The Design Guide was Adopted in 2015 by both Hambleton and Ryedale District Councils, as a material consideration in the development management process.
- The Guide has been freely available since then on the AONB website, on the following page:
<http://www.howardianhills.org.uk/library/guidance-and-information-notes/>
- All new agricultural-style buildings are assessed against the principles contained in the Guide.

Cont'd...

Figure 4

It should be noted that this uses an out-of-date aerial photograph, taken before a significant amount of the tree cover was removed. The trees to the north of the former railway line have been removed, meaning that much of the landscape screening intimated by the topmost green rectangle in the photo doesn't exist anymore. Likewise, the level of tree cover on other parts of the site is less than shown in the illustration. If it would assist the LPA with the determination of this application, and the one for the replacement dwelling, then I would be able (subject to Covid-19 restrictions) to arrange a drone flight to provide accurate and up-to-date aerial images.

Figure 7

The caption for Figure 7 is slightly ambiguous. Colley Broach Road is the dark green line separating the light green field from the rising ground and woodland beyond it – it is behind the beck but not behind the woodland.

Bearing the above clarifications in mind, I have the following comments to make on the revised plans:

Size

- Reference is made to the group of farm buildings nearby at Thorpe Hall Farm. Whilst it would not be normal to use existing development as a justification for new development, the comparison has been raised so needs to be addressed. An approved planning application in 1994 allowed the conversion of an existing grain store to what became the Farming Flashback museum. Given that the AONB was designated in October 1987, it is almost certain that the grain store was constructed before the Howardian Hills was designated as an AONB. To the best of my knowledge and recollection, no new farm buildings have been built at Thorpe Hall Farm since I commenced my role at the AONB Unit in 2002.
- Notwithstanding the above, large farm buildings continue to be built in the AONB, determined either under the Agricultural Prior Notification or full planning permission procedures. All applications for new agricultural buildings and farm infrastructure are assessed against the AONB Design Guidance.
- I note that the dimensions of the proposed building have been reduced so as to reduce its footprint. A 12m x 10m building is still however a not-inconsiderable size for this location.

Screening

- As noted above, it is unfortunate that much of the backdrop screening (principally the vegetation to the north of the railway line) has been removed. This would have provided a dense screen to the rear of the building, thereby helping it to sit better within the landscape.
- Whilst the new hedge planting is noted, this is all to the rear of the proposed building when viewed from the public road and will not therefore have any screening effect.

Site levels

- From the section drawings now supplied, it is clear that my previous response misunderstood the relative levels across the site of the proposed storage building and its access. It now appears that the 5m difference in levels originally mentioned in the Design & Access Statement refers to the difference between the bed of the beck and the top of the cutting to the north of the property.
- Notwithstanding that, my concern originally was that the building should be sited at the lower, natural, ground level rather than on a platform at the same level as the former railway line. I mistook 5m for the 1.61m now shown on the section drawing (from the top of the bank of the beck to the former railway line), but the principle remains the same.
- Given the removal of the backdrop screening, the level at which the proposed building will sit becomes even more critical. As indicated in my previous response, I would wish the building to be sited at a lower level so as to make maximum use of the screening that does remain. I would therefore prefer to see the building sited a further 0.61m lower than is now proposed, i.e. at 48.24m AOD. This would also appear to enable the development to comply with the Condition stipulated by the Environment Agency, for the building to be built at ground level.

Cont'd...

Materials

- Although I don't object to the use of reclaimed West Yorkshire sandstone for the plinth of this storage building, it should not be assumed that this will match the stone used in the replacement dwelling, should that separate application be Approved. As indicated in my separate response to that application, West Yorkshire sandstone is not vernacular to the Howardian Hills and would not be an acceptable stone to use for a new dwelling in the AONB. Reclaimed stone is even less acceptable, because as indicated in Figure 3 it includes stone that is black in colour.
- The use of green-stained timber boarding is noted.
- Paragraph 7.5 of the Design & Access Statement indicates that the roof sheets will be dark grey in colour – this should be secured by Condition if Approval is granted.
- Lighting – this should be restricted (by Condition) to the north (i.e. entrance) elevation of the building and be on passive infra-red movement sensors so as to minimise light pollution.

In conclusion, I feel overall that the reduced size of the building and the proposed materials are acceptable. I still however have **significant concerns** about the level at which the building is proposed to be constructed – in my view locating it at the actual ground level would maximise the screening effect afforded by the backdrop of the former railway line and minimise the visual impact as seen from the public road.

Yours sincerely

PAUL JACKSON
Howardian Hills AONB Manager

Paul Jackson

From: Paul Jackson
Sent: 12 May 2020 12:30
To: 'dm@ryedale.gov.uk'
Subject: 20/00350/MFUL | Erection of a purpose built production facility; Cherry Farm Close, Malton

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

1. The roof colour should be the same grey as that used for the other new units recently constructed on this development site.
2. The western elevation should be uniform colour RAL 9007, rather than being half white/half dark grey. This elevation faces out onto the AONB and the proposed half-and-half colour scheme would potentially make the building more visually prominent within the setting of the AONB.

Paul Jackson
Howardian Hills AONB Manager
The Old Vicarage
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Helmsley
York
YO62 5BP
Office: 01609 536778
Mob: 07715 009426



Paul Jackson

From: Paul Jackson
Sent: 12 May 2020 13:04
To: 'planning@hambleton.gov.uk'
Subject: 20/00741/FUL: Change of use of agricultural buildings to commercial dog boarding kennels; Pond Head Farm, Oulston

I have the following observations to make on these proposals:

1. The internal kennel fittings are specified as being modular and hence should involve minimal intervention with the historic fabric of the Listed stables.
2. The change of use is supported, as an appropriate re-use of a range of traditional buildings for which there hasn't been significant purpose for some while.
3. The intention to use the traditional Newburgh Priory colour scheme for the windows and doors is encouraged, so as to conserve local distinctiveness.
4. The level of traffic using the access drive, and consequently conflicting with users of the Public Right of Way, should be minimal and therefore present few issues.

Paul Jackson
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-----Original Message-----

From: planning@hambleton.gov.uk <planning@hambleton.gov.uk>
Sent: 24 April 2020 09:29
To: info@howardianhills.org.uk
Subject: Consultation 20/00741/FUL

See attached document.

Paul Jackson

From: dm@ryedale.gov.uk
Sent: 18 May 2020 17:30
To: Paul Jackson
Subject: Consultee Comments for Planning Application 20/00331/HOUSE

Mr Paul Jackson,

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

Comments were submitted at 5:29 PM on 18 May 2020 from Mr Paul Jackson (paul.jackson@northyorks.gov.uk) on behalf of Paul Jackson AONB Manager.

Application Summary

Reference: 20/00331/HOUSE

Address: Mariefield Back Lane Ampleforth YO62 4DE

Proposal: Erection of single storey side extension and erection of double garage, rendering of external elevations and replacement windows and doors together with the formation of new vehicular access off Back Lane and erection of timber gates

Case Officer: Alan Goforth

[Click for further information](#)

Comments Details

I have the following comments to make on these proposals:

- 1) No objections to the proposed double garage.
- 2) No objections to the re-location of the access driveway and formation of a new gateway off Back Lane.
- 3) No objections to the proposed single storey extension. Although this contains significant glazing on the southern and western elevations, and will potentially be more visible due to the removal of part of the hedge for the formation of the new access gateway, I don't feel that the visual impact would be unacceptable.
- 4) No objections to the rendering of the property, subject to the colour of the render being controlled by a separate Condition. Paragraph 6.9 of the Design & Access Statement refers to the render of the proposed extension as being a "natural stone colour", and the elevation drawings imply that the existing house will be the same colour. This element of the design should be controlled by Condition to ensure that a colour appropriate to the property's location on the southern edge of the village, facing the open countryside of the Howardian Hills AONB, is used.
- 5) Similarly, I would wish for any new domestic lighting scheme to be controlled by a specific Condition. The fashion for significant numbers of up/downlighters, such that the building in effect becomes flood-lit, can lead to significant light pollution issues in edge-of-village

Comments:

locations.
Paul Jackson



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Paul Jackson

From: Paul Jackson
Sent: 17 June 2020 13:15
To: 'planning@hambleton.gov.uk'
Subject: 20/00969/FUL: Installation of sewage treatment system and temporary siting of static caravan; OS Field 4049, Crayke

Importance: High

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

1. The site is outside the AONB, the Crayke Conservation Area and the Crayke Development Limit, within an area consisting of a remnant cultivation pattern of strip fields that still exists around Crayke village. A Public Footpath passes along a hedge boundary one field removed to the south west of the site, with a popular permissive path the same distance away to the north east.
2. As a new residential dwelling proposed for an 'Open Countryside' location, planning policy would normally restrict this very tightly to dwellings for workers employed in a rural industry. Any new dwelling associated with agricultural buildings would be expected to demonstrate why stock management requirements necessitated an on-site dwelling, as opposed to one within the village.
3. No supporting evidence has been put forward as to why the temporary dwelling is needed in the proposed location. It doesn't appear that the buildings are used for livestock-keeping purposes, no rural industry justification has been put forward and, although some relaxations to planning regulations have been brought in as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, as far as I'm aware these do not extend to temporary dwellings within Open Countryside.
4. The 'reason' put forward as justification is extremely vague – it doesn't explain why mobile home accommodation is required in this specific location, as opposed to the key worker staying in a hotel or other accommodation as is currently permitted by the Regulations. It also doesn't explain why the accommodation is so far away from the application address, which presumably is where the other family members are shielding?
5. Notwithstanding the lack of detail submitted as justification, I feel that the mobile home would have a detrimental visual impact on the settings of both the AONB and the Crayke Conservation Area. The justification put forward does not comply with the stringent planning policy requirements for new dwellings in open countryside locations. Moreover, as the Government has recently announced that shielding requirements are currently only extending until the end of July 2020, the justification for the proposal could soon become superfluous. Exerting future planning control over the site and securing removal of the mobile home could then become extremely problematic. I'm afraid that in my view this appears to be an attempt to secure a new dwelling in a location where one would not normally be permitted, using the Covid-19 pandemic as a cover. Other more orthodox options clearly exist but no appraisal of these has been put forward.
6. For the reasons outlined above I therefore **OBJECT** to the proposal.

Paul Jackson
Howardian Hills AONB Manager
The Old Vicarage
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Office: 01609 536778
Mob: 07715 009426

Paul Jackson

From: dm@ryedale.gov.uk
Sent: 09 July 2020 18:04
To: Paul Jackson
Subject: Consultee Comments for Planning Application 20/00574/AGNOT

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 6:03 PM on 09 Jul 2020 from Mr Paul Jackson (paul.jackson@northyorks.gov.uk) on behalf of Paul Jackson AONB Manager.

Application Summary

Reference: 20/00574/AGNOT

Address: Hagyards Riders Lane Crambe

Proposal: Erection of steel framed multi purpose agricultural building to include the storage of machinery, fodder and livestock

Case Officer: Niamh Bonner

[Click for further information](#)

Comments Details

Comments: I have the following comments to make on this proposal:
1) The building appears to be a replacement for a semi-derelict corrugated iron sheet building of approximately the same dimensions.
2) The roof sheets should be a dark grey colour, in order that the new building does not stand out in the landscape in longer distance views.
Paul Jackson



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Paul Jackson

From: Paul Jackson
Sent: 20 July 2020 17:09
To: 'dm@ryedale.gov.uk'
Subject: 20/00547/FUL: Erection of 4no business starter units, Land To The South Of Cherry Farm Close, Malton

Apologies for the last comments in relation to this scheme.

The roof colour should be the same dark grey as that used for the other new units recently constructed on this development site. Given the number of phases of construction that have now taken place, I would be expecting the roof colour to now be specified on new plans, in the same way that uniform/co-ordinated wall colours are being.

Paul Jackson
Howardian Hills AONB Manager
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Paul Jackson

From: Paul Jackson
Sent: 21 July 2020 17:10
To: 'planning@hambleton.gov.uk'
Subject: 20/01427/APN: Construction of an agricultural building, OS Field 4434, Easingwold Road Crayke

I have the following comments to make on this proposal:

1. In a response to a previous similar proposal I indicated that this location would make it very difficult to assimilate a building of the size proposed into the landscape. This was due to the gently sloping topography and the very open nature of the landscape. I indicated this to the Agent in a subsequent conversation, also adding that colour of materials and landscaping measures would be important in any revised application.
2. Although the site isn't within the AONB it is very much within the setting of the AONB and development in this location could have a significant detrimental impact on views into the AONB from the surrounding lower ground. The factors to consider are very similar to those pertaining to the development of the new complex of farm buildings at nearby Rose Cottage.
3. In a similar case in the Ryedale District a compromise solution was found whereby the building was located further back into the field, making it much less prominent in views from the adjacent road. I note that the ground slopes down somewhat to the south and the field comes to a narrower point where there are also a few trees. I feel that this would be a preferable location to consider, although I accept that it would be less convenient from a farming perspective. It would however take the building away from the very prominent location currently proposed.
4. The proposed hedgerow planting is noted, as well as the use of Juniper Green wall and roof sheeting. I feel however that further landscaping much closer to any proposed building would be needed, in order to assimilate it into the landscaping.
5. In conclusion, I have serious concerns about the proposed siting of such a significant building in an area of open landscape. Should the LPA be minded that the principle of a building in this general vicinity is acceptable then Prior Approval should be required in order to exercise additional control over siting and other mitigation measures.

Paul Jackson
Howardian Hills AONB Manager
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Paul Jackson

From: dm@ryedale.gov.uk
Sent: 05 August 2020 17:11
To: Paul Jackson
Subject: Consultee Comments for Planning Application 20/00626/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 5:10 PM on 05 Aug 2020 from Mr Paul Jackson (paul.jackson@northyorks.gov.uk) on behalf of Paul Jackson AONB Manager.

Application Summary

Reference: 20/00626/FUL

Address: Knoll Hill Farm Carr Lane Ampleforth YO62 4DL

Proposal: Erection of 1no. four bedroom single storey dwelling, partial conversion and alterations to existing steel framed agricultural building to form workshop together with associated agricultural access track, landscaping and parking

Case Officer: Alan Goforth

[Click for further information](#)

Comments Details

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

- Comments:**
- 1) The Design and Access Statement contains illustrations of a number of other Para 79 (or 55) houses, without indicating whether any of them are also located within/adjacent to two nationally protected landscapes. Para 172 gives great weight to conserving and enhancing natural beauty in AONBs and National Parks and thus any examples from non-designated areas are not relevant in this context.
 - 2) In my view this proposal should not be considered compliant with sub-section c) of Para 79. The existing agricultural building is not being converted into a dwelling, which it is clear is the meaning of sub-section c) (given that Para 79 is concerned with the creation of new DWELLINGS and the sub-sections outline the various permissible circumstances). In addition, the condition of the existing barn, and its location behind a significant mature hedgerow, do not make it such a significant visual detractor in a landscape where modern agricultural buildings in various states of repair and disrepair are common. I don't therefore believe that it can be argued that its renovation, and its use as an ancillary agricultural building to a separate new dwelling, would bring it within the scope of sub-section c).
 - 3) Despite the addition of the timber lattice screens, which I accept in their closed position would significantly

reduce any reflections from the windows during the day, I still have significant concerns about night-time light pollution from not only the house but the whole development itself. Being moveable, the position of the lattice screens is solely at the occupants' discretion and the LPA is unlikely to be able to control the proportion of time that the screens are closed and thus performing their stated function. It is conceivable that they may never be closed - the living accommodation is not overlooked and it will have significant panoramic views to the south, so this is not an unreasonable hypothesis. I also note that, in comparison to the original design, the glass façade is approximately twice its original length and on a different alignment. In my view the substantially increased length of the glass façade would warrant fixed timber screens along a much greater proportion than currently proposed, in order to mitigate the potentially significant adverse impact.

4) The colour of the new roof sheets on the agricultural barn should be a dark anthracite grey, approximating to RAL 7016.

5) The proposed flue in the agricultural barn should be a black anodised finish, not stainless steel.

6) I'm unclear as to why the landscaping plan indicates that all the boundary hedges are outside the blue line boundary and hence the applicants' control. The hedge to the north forms the legal boundary of the applicant's land, and, if the normal convention applies, then either the eastern hedge or the western hedge will also belong to the holding. Responsibility should be indicated via the T marks on the property deeds. This clarification is important in establishing responsibility for control of the boundary hedges and any stipulations the LPA may wish to place on them. [Ownership would not extend to the areas of self-sown hawthorn scrub on the roadside verge, but these do not form part of the boundary hedge.]

7) I note the intention to plant the lower two fields with cricket bat willows. I wouldn't consider this to be an enhancement in terms of either biodiversity or the landscape, as these willows have a generally low wildlife value and the rows of widely-spaced trees would be an incongruous feature in an otherwise relatively natural-looking landscape. A more appropriate option would be to manage/revert these to wet grassland for the benefit of wading birds, with the creation of pools or shallow scrapes combined with light seasonal grazing.

8) The conclusions of the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment are generally Minor Adverse or Neutral impacts from the majority of viewpoints in the medium and long terms, and I would concur with that analysis. The LVIA has chosen appropriate viewpoints, not excluded any obvious ones, and has come to the conclusions I would expect. The bar set by sub-section e) of Para 79 is however very high, requiring significant enhancement not merely 'little or no adverse impact'.

9) Sub-section e) of Para 79 requires four conditions to be met, contained in two bullet points. All the separate conditions are linked by the word 'and', indicating that proposals must satisfy ALL of them.

Outstanding or innovative design - I don't feel qualified to make a judgement on this criteria.

Would raise the standard of design in rural areas - Because this scheme incorporates a modern agricultural building into the curtilage, as well as using details and materials that could be transferable to other schemes in a rural setting, then I agree that the proposal meets this criteria to some extent.

Would significantly enhance the immediate setting - As the LVIA conclusions are generally Minor Adverse or Neutral, and the required standard would be Moderate or Major Beneficial, then I don't feel that the scheme meets this test.

Sensitive to the defining characteristics of the local area - The design respects the local landform, and uses earthworks to enhance and integrate with that landform. It also includes a programme of planting to re-construct the landscape framework, so I agree that it meets this criteria.

10) In conclusion, I have serious concerns about this proposal, in relation to light pollution from the dwelling and the curtilage as a whole. I don't believe that these concerns are adequately mitigated by a system of occupant-controlled screens, especially given the large area of glass frontage. Experience indicates that properties largely unnoticed during daylight hours can become particularly prominent at night, especially given the dark skies experienced in the Howardian Hills and when dwellings are in locations separated from existing light sources (villages). Longer distance Viewpoints such as number 17 can become much more significant at night.

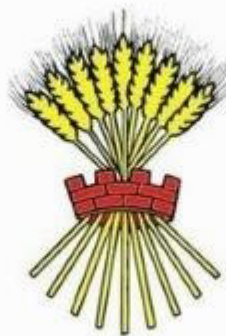
In addition, I don't feel that the scheme satisfies all the requirements of NPPF Para 79 e), given that the LVIA doesn't record any Major or Moderate Beneficial effects.
Paul Jackson



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DISTRICT
COUNCIL**



Paul Jackson

From: Paul Jackson
Sent: 14 September 2020 17:10
To: 'Alan Goforth'
Subject: RE: 20/00626/FUL Knoll Hill Farm, Ampleforth

Hi Alan

In response to the Agent's comments, I have the following observations to make:

1. My original Point 3 (screens). Response noted. This should be confirmed via either amended drawings or a Condition, as it appears that all 4 bedrooms (Rooms G10, G12, G14 and G15) adjoin the central axis?
2. My original Point 7. The willow plantation is outside the red line boundary, but so are all the other landscape and habitat improvements proposed. As this can't cut both ways, it must follow that any potential benefits accruing from wider landscape enhancements on the holding must be discounted in determining the application, since they're outside the red line boundary and are thus not enforceable. The only way to bring these into the equation as material considerations, and hence potentially counting towards delivery of AONB Management Plan objectives, would be to have them included in their entirety as a Landscaping Condition imposed on any Consent.
3. My original Points 8 and 9. I do feel that the wording in Para. 79 of "would significantly enhance its immediate setting" has to have a public dimension to it, in that any enhancement should be at least reasonably discernible from a public viewpoint (as opposed to simply from within the confines of private land). I don't accept that either the existing farm building or the area of cattle holding land are significant local eyesores, nor that they in effect 'require' a large Para 79 house to be constructed in order to address them. The applicants have owned and been managing the land for the last 4 years, so presumably they haven't addressed any issues around the 'unkempt cattle holding area'? In the same vein, refurbishment of the existing barn (even combined with a partial Change of Use application to enable development of a craft workshop), wouldn't require the construction of a new dwelling. I'm having difficulty putting my thoughts into words, but I feel that this wording of "significantly enhance its immediate setting" must relate principally to the design and form of the proposed dwelling, rather than mainly relating to the mitigation of perceived 'eyesore' issues on adjacent land, which is how it seems to be being portrayed.

In addition to the responses above, I would also make the following comments in relation to Section 4.4 of the Design & Access Statement, which covers the suggested 'compliance' of the proposal with the AONB Management Plan:

1. The policies quoted are from the 2009-14 AONB Management Plan, which dates from 10 years ago and which has been superseded twice. The current 2019-24 Management Plan came into force on 1st April 2019 and is readily available on the AONB website.
2. Notwithstanding the above, the wording of many of the Objectives quoted is still similar (even if the Objective reference numbers have changed) so I'm able to offer comments in response.
3. As the overwhelming majority of the points made relate to habitat and landscape improvements, none of these are within the red line boundary and hence they must be discounted unless the proposals put forward are translated in their entirety into a Landscaping Condition.
4. The applicants' objective of creating a small 'cottage industry' based around blanket weaving, and using wool produced on-site, would certainly be supported by AONB Management Plan policies. As indicated above, this does not however necessarily require the construction of a new dwelling in open countryside, as such a Business use would potentially be supported by existing Local Plan Strategy and AONB Management Plan policies.
5. I think we can all be in agreement that the proposed dwelling does **not** conform with the accepted definition of Local Needs housing. It cannot therefore be said to be in accordance with AONB Management Plan policies that encourage the provision of more of such housing.

Paul

Paul Jackson

From: Paul Jackson
Sent: 07 July 2020 15:58
To: 'planning@northyorkmoors.org.uk'
Subject: NYM/2020/0353/FL: Alterations, construction of extension, creation of raised terrace, etc; 39 Steps, Oswaldkirk

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

1. No objection to the removal of the existing conservatory and the erection of the two storey rear extension.
2. I have significant concerns however in relation to the proposed raised and extended terrace. In my view this would be a significantly intrusive feature in the streetscene of Oswaldkirk, with a negative impact on the Oswaldkirk Conservation Area and the historic vernacular properties situated below the application site on the crossroads. The current terrace is noticeable, but the proposed one would extend outwards significantly, with visually intrusive steel pillars (notwithstanding any climbing vegetation) and a much increased visual bulk. It is also clear from the proposed layout that the raised terrace will form a significant part of the living area of the property. As such it might be expected that various items of domestic paraphernalia such as an outdoor dining table and chairs, etc, will become permanent features of the terrace. Combined with use of this area on a much more frequent basis than currently, this would lead to increased visual intrusion and potential noise issues. All of the above would I believe have a negative impact on the Howardian Hills AONB and its setting.
3. Allied to the roof terrace, I have significant concerns about the amount of glass proposed for the southern elevation of the property – new Velux windows, glass balustrading to the terrace and large sliding doors to the garden room. In my view this is excessive and would lead to significant visual impact both from reflections during the day and light pollution at night. The property on the hill above the application site is cited as an example of a development that uses significant areas of south-facing glass. Observations last winter indicated that this property creates significant light pollution which can be seen from the double bend on the Gilling road three quarters of a mile to the south and which adversely impacts a wide area of the AONB in this vicinity. A repeat or addition to this source of light pollution must not be permitted.
4. I note that through-coloured render is proposed for the walls. Such wall finishes are often associated with excessive external lighting schemes that use large numbers of up/downlighters which in effect floodlight the building. Should the application be Approved then a separate Condition must be imposed so to ensure that only an appropriate external lighting scheme is installed.
5. In conclusion, I feel that the potential adverse visual impact of the much-enlarged terrace, combined with the large areas of glass proposed, would have a significant negative impact on the Howardian Hills AONB and its setting. As such I therefore **OBJECT** to the scheme in its current form.

Paul Jackson
Howardian Hills AONB Manager
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Paul Jackson

From: dm@ryedale.gov.uk
Sent: 14 August 2020 15:34
To: Paul Jackson
Subject: Consultee Comments for Planning Application 20/00656/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 3:33 PM on 14 Aug 2020 from Mr Paul Jackson (paul.jackson@northyorks.gov.uk) on behalf of Paul Jackson AONB Manager.

Application Summary

Reference: 20/00656/HOUSE

Address: The Pheasantry Main Street Terrington Malton YO60 6PU

Proposal: Alterations to dwelling to include the erection of single storey extension to the front elevation, erection of garden room extension to the rear elevation following removal of existing conservatory and alterations to the store building to include the erection of single storey link extension to allow formation of additional living accommodation

Case Officer: Ellie Thompson

[Click for further information](#)

Comments Details

Comments: I have the following comments to make in relation to these proposals:

- 1) No objection to the replacement of the conservatory with a garden room.
- 2) No objection to the re-purposing of the existing garage block.
- 3) No objection to the extension of the accommodation, via a linking corridor, into the existing wooden storage shed. The use of external wooden cladding, including Yorkshire boarding over large glazed openings, is an appropriate way to marry a modern-style building with a traditional vernacular one. The flue for the woodburning stove should have a black anodised finish, not a stainless steel one.
- 4) Although the timber cladding works for the ancillary elements of the property, I'm afraid that I don't think it does for the proposed extension to the front elevation. The Pheasantries has a very strong local vernacular form and appearance, within a Conservation Area which the Design & Access Statement acknowledges is largely un sullied by modern developments. The property is viewed at close quarters from the Public Footpath that passes around three sides and therefore its appearance, and its contribution to the Terrington Conservation Area, is very much in the public domain. The existing building has a strong double-fronted character, flanked by

subsidiary ancillary buildings which, even in amended form, accentuate the very strong character of the front elevation. In my view the proposed single storey extension would completely destroy this strong vernacular character. The artist's impression on the final page of the Design & Access Statement shows that the front elevation would be significantly adversely affected by the proposed extension, such that the dwelling loses all of its natural grace and proportions. The timber-clad extension appears to be simply clagged on the front, obscuring the strong visual element of the existing front door and thereby accentuating the visual prominence of the dormer windows. The dormers, former garage and proposed extension jar in a series of mis-matching angles and alignments which destroy the simple vernacular architecture of the existing building.

5) In conclusion, whilst some of the proposed new elements are thoughtfully designed and use complementary materials, the proposed front extension is a discordant and jarring element that destroys the existing vernacular character of the building. I therefore wish to OBJECT to the proposals on the grounds of significant adverse visual impact on the Terrington Conservation Area and the Howardian Hills AONB.
Paul Jackson



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Paul Jackson

From: dm@ryedale.gov.uk
Sent: 20 August 2020 16:01
To: Paul Jackson
Subject: Consultee Comments for Planning Application 20/00068/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 4:00 PM on 20 Aug 2020 from Mr Paul Jackson (paul.jackson@northyorks.gov.uk) on behalf of Paul Jackson AONB Manager.

Application Summary

Reference: 20/00068/FUL

Address: Becks Cottage Thorpe Lane Ampleforth YO62 4DL

Proposal: Demolition of existing three bedroom dwelling and attached double garage and erection of a four bedroom replacement dwelling and attached 6no. bay garage with two bedroom self contained annexe above, undercroft to house and outdoor swimming pool together with timber entrance gates and 1.8 metre high stone wall at the site entrance from the public highway

Case Officer: Rachael Balmer

[Click for further information](#)

Comments Details

I have the following comments to make in relation to the revised plans:

- Comments:**
- 1) I generally concur with the conclusions of the LVIA. The viewpoints chosen are representative, with Viewpoints 8, 9 and 10 from the Colley Broach road being the closest and most significant from a public perspective. Even allowing for the fact that the proposed new dwelling is slightly off-set from the current dwelling, the intermittent nature of the tree cover along Thorpe Beck means that if the perspective from one viewpoint is slightly more open than indicated, then the perspective from another one will be less open. It is perhaps a moot point as to whether a substantial new dwelling, even in a vernacular style, would "improve the character of the view", leading to a conclusion of "moderate beneficial effect", as that to some extent is a subjective judgement.
 - 2) In relation to this last point, the LVIA references the existing dwelling and the proposed dwelling in relation to vernacular character. The proposed dwelling would be an appropriate modern vernacular style for a large country house in the Howardian Hills, but the strict vernacular for this specific site would be a long dwelling of red brick, mimicking the current dwelling's origin as a row of railway cottages.
 - 3) Given that the new dwelling would move away from

this site-specific vernacular, it's important to ensure that the stone used is appropriate for the area. In my response to the previous proposal I indicated that reclaimed West Yorkshire sandstone is not a vernacular material in the Howardian Hills and that new stone from an appropriate quarry would need to be used. There aren't any quarries locally that can supply appropriate stone, but new houses built within the AONB over the last few years have found a suitable alternative - Creeton Hard White Jurassic limestone from a quarry in Lincolnshire. If Approved, the exact type and origin of the stone should be controlled by way of Condition.

4) I note the substantial changes to the design from that originally submitted. The single storey garage and ancillary block is now of a more appropriate size and proportion in relation to the main dwelling. The extent of glazing on the eastern and southern elevations has been substantially reduced, and inappropriate design features have been removed. Although the glass-fronted dining and sitting area will still present a significant area of glazing for daytime reflections and night time light spillage, the extent of this feature is now more proportionate to the more vernacular 'host' dwelling. I note that the terrace has been reduced in extent and the windows in the undercroft removed.

5) The design still however maintains a high degree of glazing at ground floor level, with the dining and sitting area and the (presumed) glass balustrade to the terrace. The trees along Thorpe Beck will play a significant role in mitigating the visual impact of these features and consideration should therefore be given to protecting these trees via either a Condition or a TPO.

6) The proposed dwelling would represent a significant presence in the landscape. Whilst an appropriate level of external lighting will be needed for domestic purposes, the type and extent of external lighting should be controlled by Condition to ensure that a significant new source of light pollution in open countryside is not created.

Paul Jackson



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Paul Jackson

From: Paul Jackson
Sent: 08 September 2020 16:01
To: 'planning@hambleton.gov.uk'
Subject: RE: Consultation 18/00144/OUT

I have the following comments to make in relation to this revised scheme:

1. The revised layout plan is much more sympathetic to the form of the Conservation Area and the character of the AONB (which it should be noted includes all of Oulston village rather than just the countryside around it). The revised edge of the development on the eastern side much better reflects the existing hard edge of Oulston, whilst the indicative layout of the proposed dwellings reflects the vernacular of local farmsteads. The scheme as shown would I feel enhance both the Conservation Area and its setting, as well as the AONB, in comparison to the current large modern agricultural buildings (subject to the Reserved Matters details).
2. As the current hardstanding area to the east is no longer within the developed area, I would wish to see this restored to agricultural pasture. The area should be re-profiled under the supervision of an archaeologist or similarly qualified person to match any remaining rigg-and-furrow pattern in the vicinity, which would have been destroyed when the hardstanding was created. This should be required by way of a Condition, to fully restore the interface between open countryside and built development which is such a defining feature of Oulston.
3. Should the application be Approved, an appropriate Condition should be imposed to indicate that this is Enabling Development to assist with the conservation of Newburgh Priory.

Paul Jackson
Howardian Hills AONB Manager
The Old Vicarage
Bondgate
Helmsley
York
YO62 5BP
Office: 01609 536778
Mob: 07715 009426

-----Original Message-----

From: planning@hambleton.gov.uk <planning@hambleton.gov.uk>
Sent: 02 September 2020 16:14
To: info@howardianhills.org.uk
Subject: Consultation 18/00144/OUT

See attached document.

Paul Jackson

From: dm@ryedale.gov.uk
Sent: 30 September 2020 13:38
To: Paul Jackson
Subject: Consultee Comments for Planning Application 20/00829/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 1:37 PM on 30 Sep 2020 from Mr Paul Jackson (paul.jackson@northyorks.gov.uk) on behalf of Paul Jackson AONB Manager.

Application Summary

Reference: 20/00829/FUL
Address: Land Off Pottergate Gilling East Helmsley
Proposal: Change of use of wasteland and replacement with stone chippings to provide parking area (retrospective)
Case Officer: Niamh Bonner

[Click for further information](#)

Comments Details

Comments: I have the following comments to make in relation to this retrospective proposal:

- 1) The application site, and indeed the existing parking area and clubhouse, are situated within the Grade II Registered Park and Garden of Gilling Castle. Far from being "wasteland", the application site is an important part of the avenue of trees that forms the second principal approach to Gilling Castle. When first developed, the main approach to Gilling Castle was from the south (York) direction, and carriage-borne visitors would have approached through a 'wild' designed landscape of heathland, woodland and lakes (Yearsley Moor), followed by the formal beech avenue that still exists to the west of the Castle. Following the arrival of the railway at Gilling, the Lodge on Gilling main street was constructed, together with a second tree-lined approach that includes the avenue of (TPO'd) lime trees on Station Road and the avenue leading from the Lodge to the foot of the hill on which the Castle sits (where the more formal gardens originally started).
- 2) Although the avenue is not a public right of way, it is well-used by local people with the benign consent of the landowner, and has been for many years. The application site is therefore readily visible to users of the avenue.
- 3) The site is readily visible from the public highway of Pottergate, from where it adversely impacts on both the natural and visual amenity of the historic landscape. This is evident not only when the unauthorised car park is in its 'unoccupied' state, but particularly when it is full of parked vehicles.

4) I would therefore OBJECT to the proposal, on the grounds of adverse visual impact on the Gilling Castle Grade II Registered Park and Garden, and therefore on the special qualities of the Howardian Hills AONB. The unauthorised area should be removed and reinstated to its former condition.

Paul Jackson



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**HOWARDIAN HILLS
AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY
JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
19 NOVEMBER 2020**

AONB KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

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

2.0 AONB KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- 2.1 In line with Objective MN1.2 of the AONB Management Plan, Indicators have been used for a number of years to provide a measure of our performance.
- 2.2 The Indicators were originally those used by Natural England but are now a new set of Key Performance Indicators developed by the National Association for AONBs and Defra, which more accurately reflect the variety of work delivered by AONB Partnerships.
- 2.3 The statistics for the Howardian Hills AONB for 2019/20 are attached as Appendix 1 and these have been submitted to the NAAONB for inclusion in their Annual Report. This will be presented to Defra Ministers later in the year and will also be circulated to Members when it becomes available.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

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

HOWARDIAN HILLS

1. Land where natural beauty has been conserved or enhanced through the work of AONB Teams

Apr '19 to Mar '20

| | |
|---|-------------|
| a) Hectares of habitat conserved or enhanced for biodiversity | 41.0 |
| b) Hectares of land conserved for geodiversity | 0.3 |
| c) Hectares of land where the heritage asset condition or setting has been conserved or enhanced | 11.1 |
| d) Hectares of landscape enhanced via the removal of overhead cables | 0.0 |
| TOTAL hectares of land where natural beauty conserved or enhanced through work of AONB Teams | 52.4 |

4. Partnerships / initiatives influenced by the AONB Team to deliver AONB Management Plan objectives

Apr '19 to Mar '20

| | |
|---|-------------|
| a) Number of partnerships where the AONB Team is part of the project / team / steering group lead | 10.0 |
| b) Number of partnerships where the AONB Team is a supporting partner | 7.0 |
| TOTAL number of partnerships / initiatives influenced by AONB Teams | 17.0 |

Please note you cannot edit this sheet. Numbers will update automatically

2. Heritage assets where the condition or setting has been conserved or enhanced through the work of AONB Teams

Apr '19 to Mar '20

| | |
|---|-------------|
| a) Number of SMs where the condition or setting has been conserved or enhanced | 20.0 |
| b) Number of other designated sites where the condition or setting has been conserved or enhanced | 10.0 |
| c) Number of non-designated heritage assets where the condition or setting has been conserved or enhanced | 10.0 |
| TOTAL number of heritage assets where condition or setting has been conserved or enhanced through work of AONB Teams | 40.0 |

5. Strategies, plans, policy, guidance documents, development and land management schemes appraised or developed by AONB Teams

Apr '19 to Mar '20

| | |
|--|--------------|
| a) Number of strategies, plans, policy or guidance documents appraised or developed by the AONB Team | 5.0 |
| b) Number of Major 'development schemes' appraised – LPA planning applications | 3.0 |
| c) Number of non-Major 'development schemes' appraised – LPA planning applications | 115.0 |
| d) Number of other 'development schemes' appraised – Highways, Environment Agency, BT, DNO, private sector, etc. | 2.0 |
| e) Number of National Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) appraised | 0.0 |
| f) Number of 'land management schemes' appraised – woodland management, Catchment Sensitive Farming, Countryside Stewardship, Natural Flood Management, etc. | 6.0 |
| TOTAL number appraised or developed by AONB Teams | 131.0 |

Will be automatically updated as you fill in each Metric tab.

3. People directly engaged through the work of AONB Teams

Apr '19 to Mar '20

| | |
|--|--------------|
| a) Number of volunteers | 28.0 |
| b) Attendance at events convened / organised by AONB Teams | 0.0 |
| c) Number of young people (<18yo) engaged with via school visits, activities, etc. | 74.0 |
| d) Number of farmers/land managers engaged with | 20.0 |
| e) Number of people engaged with via activities linked to the Health & Wellbeing agenda | 70.0 |
| f) Number of members of the public engaged with during Management Plan review | 0.0 |
| g) Number of people engaged with via AONB promotional publications –eNews, Mailchimp distributions, etc. | 167.0 |
| TOTAL number of people engaged with through work of AONB Teams | 359.0 |

6. Total value of work delivered directly or secured by the work of AONB Teams

Apr '19 to Mar '20

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| a) Amount of Defra funding spent (Core funding) | 124306.0 |
| b) Amount of Local Authority funding spent (Core funding) | 47612.0 |
| c) Amount of non-Local Authority funding spent (Core funding) | 0.0 |
| d) Value of other 'external' grants or contributions spent for projects/non-core activity | 155384.0 |
| e) Value of external projects substantially influenced / generated by the AONB Team | 0.0 |
| f) Value of volunteer days | 14650.0 |
| TOTAL value of work delivered directly or secured by work of AONB Teams | 341952.0 |

**HOWARDIAN HILLS
AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY
JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
19 NOVEMBER 2020**

AONB BUDGET

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To receive details of expenditure during 2019/20 and to consider anticipated budgetary needs for 2021/22.

2.0 2019/20

- 2.1 Details of the final income and expenditure account for 2019/20 are set out in Appendix 1. Details of countryside management and Sustainable Development & Rural Economy projects supported are in Appendix 3.
- 2.2 Appendix 1 includes the budget figures originally prepared in October 2018, to allow Members to compare the final budget as at October 2019 and the outturn against predicted expenditure.
- 2.3 The budget was re-structured part-way through the year (using money from our Income in Advance balance) to accommodate an increase in the number of projects predicted to come forward for funding under the Sustainable Development strand. This increased demand didn't really materialise, with some of the projects obtaining funding from other sources, so at year-end our expenditure was almost equal to our income for the year.
- 2.4 Staffing:
- No significant variation from budget.
- 2.5 Office:
- On budget.
- 2.6 Partnership Running Costs:
- A small overspend.
- 2.7 PR/Events/Research:
- A 17% underspend, as the cost of our stand space at Countryfile Live was not as high as anticipated.
- 2.8 AONB Management Plan
- A 40% overspend, due to the design costs of the final document being higher than budgeted for.
- 2.9 AONB Enhancement – Natural Environment:
- This budget underspent by 15%.
 - The largest contribution was to the Ryevitalise National Lottery Heritage Fund Landscape Partnership. Details of other projects are contained within Appendix 3.
- 2.10 AONB Enhancement – Historic Environment:
- This budget overspent by 8%.

- One of the most significant projects funded was stabilisation work to Coulton Mill, which had been added to Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register but has just been removed following our grant-aided work. Details of other projects are contained within Appendix 3.

2.11 Sustainable Development & Rural Economy:

- This budget underspent by 18%.
- The main areas of grant were support to the Helmsley Mobile Rural Watch scheme to buy equipment, and to a number of village halls for a variety of minor repair and improvement works. Details of other projects are contained within Appendix 3.

2.12 Young People's Activities:

- Full-day Junior Ranger Club sessions were held in April (Easter), May, November and February.

2.13 Summarising the budget position at the end of 2019/20:

- Overall, the AONB budget was underspent by £8,186 (4.5%).
- It had been budgeted to use £8,859 of our Reserves; by the end of the financial year £154 had been added to the Reserve, with the draw-down not having proved to be needed.
- As described above, the main reason for drawing down from Reserves mid-year was to meet an expected increase in demand for project funding which didn't then materialise.
- At the end of the financial year 2019/20 there was a total carry-forward into 2020/21 of £55,194.
- The remaining 'Reserves' will be safeguarded for use in future years, particularly to bolster project delivery in the coming years as nature recovery becomes an even more significant area of work.
- Volunteers assisted with 16 tasks or projects, worth at least 217 days or £14,650.

3.0 2020/21

3.1 The budget for the current year amounts to £192,314. Details of this are set out in Appendix 2. The budget doesn't include the unallocated balance of the 'Reserves' brought forward from 2019/20.

3.2 It is too early to make a reliable prediction of anticipated final expenditure for 2020/21, particularly as the year has been heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and strategy announcements arising from this. Points to note include:

- An increased sum expected from Historic England, due to the extension of the end-date of the Monument Management Scheme from 31st May 2020 to 31st March 2021. This will result in the drawdown of approximately £3,250 of unplanned additional funding.
- An unexpected re-payment of a £10,000 grant originally awarded to Castle Howard in 2009/10 as a contribution towards their ground source heating system. An application by the Estate for a Renewable Heat Incentive grant to extend the system has required them to re-pay any public sector grants given for the previous scheme.
- An unexpected allocation of £7,202 from Defra and the NAAONB in October, to fund work to develop Farmer Clusters and Countryside Stewardship/ Environmental Land Management Scheme awareness within the AONB. This is a national programme for all AONBs and National Parks.

- 3.3 Core costs:
- It is anticipated that the out-turns will be close to the budget provisions, which have been reduced to account for the widespread cancellation of events that we would have paid to attend (e.g. national AONBs Conference).
- 3.4 AONB Enhancement (Natural Environment):
- £27,800 of the £38,000 budget has been formally allocated, with a further £12,000 of potential projects. The majority of this has been committed to summer habitat management projects that have already been completed, as well as to an expansion of our programme of winter habitat management work. Any overspend can be balanced against managed underspends on the other AONB Enhancement budget heads.
 - As mentioned above, an additional sum has been received unexpectedly to fund development work on Farmer Clusters. An external contractor will be engaged to deliver this work for us.
- 3.5 AONB Enhancement (Historic Environment):
- Only £4,500 of the £19,500 budget has been formally allocated, but with a further £11,000 of potential projects identified, including restoration of traditional village name signs and further works to restore Coulton Mill. There is some doubt whether all these projects will or can be delivered this financial year.
 - Projects completed to date include bracken and bramble control on Scheduled Monuments as part of the Monument Management Scheme.
 - Any underspend could be balanced against overspends on the other AONB Enhancement budget heads.
- 3.6 AONB Enhancement (Sustainable Development & Rural Economy):
- £16,000 of the £20,750 budget has been formally allocated, with a further £4,700 of potential projects identified.
 - Projects supported include Public Rights of Way improvement works around Hovingham and Crayke, where a popular path at the edge of the village has been resurfaced, as well as regional promotional walking leaflets to guide visitors.
- 3.7 Young People's Activities:
- All the planned Junior Ranger Club sessions to-date this year have been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic and it seems unlikely that the final one could be held safely in February 2021. The small budget provision is however being maintained in case any activities can be delivered.
- 3.8 With the unexpected receipt of more income, particularly from Historic England, and the ongoing uncertainties presented by the COVID-19 pandemic in relation to project delivery, there is currently felt to be a possibility of an underspend on the 2020/21 budget. Additional projects are however being developed and the final out-turn will depend upon the progress and deliverability of these.
- 3.9 With the 'Reserves' balance brought forward from 2019/20, combined with the windfall £10,000 grant repayment and additional funding from Historic England, the total carry-forward into 2021/22 could be in the region of approximately £65,000.
- 4.0 2021/22**
- 4.1 An estimate of anticipated income and expenditure during the next financial year is shown in Appendix 2. It will be late in the current financial year before the exact position of many of the funding partners is known.

- 4.2 A number of factors make the setting of a realistic budget for 2021/22 particularly difficult. These include:
- The COVID-19 pandemic and its potential negative impact on grants from both Defra and the constituent local authorities.
 - The Comprehensive Spending Review and associated Government response to the Glover Review of Landscapes (which called for a doubling of funding for AONBs).
 - Local Government Reorganisation in North Yorkshire, with the potential formation of 'shadow authority/ies' in April 2021.
 - The results of various bids for funding submitted by the National Association for AONBs on behalf of the whole AONB network, principally to Defra, for initiatives such as a renewed Sustainable Development Fund (£100K per AONB), a National Landscapes Ranger Service and support for Environmental Land Management Scheme facilitation.
- 4.3 The most significant of these is the amount of grant aid that will be made available by Defra. It is extremely difficult to predict what our settlement will be, with a number of Government policy areas (e.g. nature recovery, Glover Review) supporting an upward trend but clearly a number of factors indicating a stable or even declining trend. For budgeting purposes it has been assumed that the Defra funding will be at the current 2020/21 level of grant, including the additional £5,200 recently received. Our understanding is that it will be a 1-year settlement only.
- 4.4 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.
- 4.5 Staffing:
- The basic staffing level until 31st March 2022 is proposed to remain as a 1.0 FTE AONB Manager, a 0.8 FTE AONB Officer and a 0.3 FTE AONB Officer. A small amount of administrative and technical support will be sourced from the North York Moors National Park Authority.
 - Staff costs will increase due to salary increments and inflation pay awards. A 2% national inflation pay award has been factored-in.
- 4.6 Office costs:
- These are predicted to be at a similar level to 2020/21, although the lease on the office space in the National Park headquarters is due for renewal in December 2021 and a small increase in rent is therefore likely. It has been assumed that the same amount of space will be leased, as even with increased home-working there will still be a need for workspaces, meeting space and printers.
- 4.7 Partnership Running Costs:
- A broadly similar provision to that originally proposed for the current financial year has been made. NAAONB contribution fees are expected to rise slightly in line with inflation, and it is expected that the national NAAONB meetings cancelled this year will be reinstated again next year.
- 4.8 PR/Events/Research:
- A return to the normal level of provision is proposed, on the assumption that shows and events will resume in 2021.

- The AONB Newsletter and Annual Report will continue to be published and distributed in paper format, as the most effective way of reaching their audience.

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

- An allocation of £32,500 has been made for Natural Environment Enhancement projects, continuing our focus on nature recovery management works.
- The budget allocation for Historic Environment projects has been reduced to £10,582, reflecting the end of Monument Management Scheme funding from Historic England.
- £19,500 has been allocated to Sustainable Development & Rural Economy projects.
- Funds can be moved between budgets, in line with Defra's Single Pot allocation rules.
- Should additional projects come forward, particularly in the Historic Environment sector, then money could be taken from 'Reserves' in order to fund these.

4.10 Young People's Activities:

- Provision has been made to re-start the popular programme of Junior Ranger Club days. These will be run principally in partnership with the Yorkshire Arboretum, and continue making more use of external venues such as village halls.

4.11 None of the significantly increased 'Reserves' balance, caused by 'windfalls' in the current financial year, has been allocated for use in 2021/22. If no drawdown was made part-way through the year then the carry-forward into 2022/23 would be approximately £70,000.

4.12 The National Association for AONBs has been pressing Government, via Defra, to commit significant additional resources to AONBs in line with the recommendations of the Glover Review. Without the COVID-19 pandemic it would have been hoped that an announcement of a 3-year settlement would have been made in the Comprehensive Spending Review this autumn. It is understood that only a 1-year settlement will be given, perhaps with an indication of a 3-year settlement from 1st April 2022, linked to Glover Review recommendations. A new budget will be presented to the JAC in April 2021 if there are any significant changes to our current predictions.

5.0 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

- (a) The details of JAC expenditure during 2019/20 be received for information;
- (b) Partner authorities be asked to make appropriate provision in their revenue budgets for the work of the JAC in 2021/22, in line with Appendix 2 and section 4 of this report.

HOWARDIAN HILLS AONB**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2019/20****1. INCOME 2019/20**

| (a) BUDGET PROVISION | Estimated (Oct. 2018) | Defra Bid (Jan. 2019) | Final (Oct. 2019) | Actual (Year- end) |
|---|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Defra | 124,306 | 124,306 | 124,306 | 124,306 |
| North Yorkshire County Council | 35,050 | 34,300 | 36,900 | 36,900 |
| Ryedale District Council | 5,066 | 5,066 | 5,066 | 5,066 |
| Hambleton District Council | 5,800 | 5,800 | 5,800 | 5,800 |
| Historic England | 4,375 | 4,375 | 3,825 | 4,647 |
| Donations | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Taken from Income in Advance balance | 121 | 2,639 | 8,859 | 0 |
| (b) TOTAL (ESTIMATED) INCOME | (174,718) | (176,486) | (184,756) | 176,724 |

2. EXPENDITURE 2019/20**Core Expenditure**

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| (a) Staffing | 96,588 | 99,406 | 99,406 | 98,694 |
| (b) Office | 6,950 | 6,950 | 6,950 | 6,949 |
| (c) Partnership running costs | 4,150 | 4,150 | 4,150 | 4,303 |
| (d) PR, Events, Research, etc. | 3,330 | 3,500 | 4,200 | 3,514 |
| (e) Management Plan | 1,600 | 1,880 | 1,700 | 2,395 |

Project Expenditure

| | | | | |
|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| (f) AONB Enhancement (Natural environment) | 29,000 | 27,500 | 27,500 | 23,523 |
| (g) AONB Enhancement (Historic environment) | 17,500 | 15,500 | 12,750 | 13,706 |
| (h) AONB Enhancement (Sustainable development & rural economy) | 15,000 | 17,000 | 27,500 | 22,609 |
| (i) Young People's Activities | 600 | 600 | 600 | 877 |
| (j) TOTAL (ESTIMATED) EXPENDITURE | (174,718) | (176,486) | (184,756) | 176,570 |

3. 2019/20 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

| | Income | | Expenditure |
|--------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| | £ | | £ |
| Local Authority Partners | 47,766 | Expenditure | 176,570 |
| Defra | 124,306 | | |
| Historic England | 4,647 | | |
| Donations | 5 | | |
| | | | |
| Balance b/f from 2018/19 | 55,040 | Balance c/f to 2020/21 | 55,194 |
| | | | |
| | 231,764 | | 231,764 |

(All figures rounded to the nearest £)

| | 2020/21 | 2021/22 |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| BUDGET ESTIMATES | (October 2020) | |
| | | |
| Core Costs | | |
| Staffing | 100,700 | 104,829 |
| Office | 6,800 | 7,200 |
| Partnership running costs | 3,190 | 5,175 |
| PR, Events, Research | 2,550 | 3,630 |
| Management Plan | 0 | 0 |
| | | |
| Total Core Costs | 113,240 | 120,834 |
| | | |
| Project Costs | | |
| AONB Enhancement – Natural Environment | 38,020 | 32,500 |
| AONB Enhancement – Historic Environment | 19,504 | 10,582 |
| AONB Enhancement – Sustainable Development & Rural Economy | 20,750 | 19,500 |
| Young People's activities | 800 | 800 |
| | | |
| Total Project Costs | 79,074 | 63,382 |
| | | |
| | | |
| TOTAL COSTS | 192,314 | 184,216 |
| | | |
| FUNDING CONTRIBUTIONS | | |
| Defra | 131,248 | 131,250 |
| Defra (via NAAONB) | 2,000 | 0 |
| North Yorkshire CC | 41,200 | 42,100 |
| Ryedale DC | 5,066 | 5,066 |
| Hambleton DC | 5,800 | 5,800 |
| Historic England | 7,000 | 0 |
| Income in Advance | 0 | 0 |
| | | |
| TOTAL | 192,314 | 184,216 |
| | | |
| Income in Advance b/f from 2019/20 | 55,549 | |
| Reimbursement from 2009/10 grant recipient | 10,000 | |
| Income in Advance c/f to 2022/23 | | c.65,000 |
| | | |

AONB PROJECTS 2019/2020

1st April 2019 – 31st March 2020

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

AONB Enhancement – Natural Environment

| APPLICANT/ (CONTRACTOR) | LOCATION | PROJECT | LOCAL PRIORITY | OBJECTIVE | SCHEME VALUE | JAC ASSISTANCE |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|--|-------------------|--------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Ryevitalise Partnership | Ryevitalise HLF bid area | Contribution to Project Implementation phase | - | NE3.5 | c.£60,000 | £7,500 |
| Local Nature Partnership | York, North Yorkshire | Contribution to continuation of Co-ordinator post – 2 yrs | - | NE9.1 | c.£22,500 | £0 (contribution paid last year) |
| A Dransfield | Stearsby | Planting 131m of new hedgerow + 11 in-field/hedgerow trees | Zone 3A Landscape | AG2.2, NE8.2 | £825 | £370 |
| N & A Hammond | High Stittenham | Planting 162m of new hedgerow + 4 hedgerow trees | Zone 3B Landscape | AG2.2 | £1,101 | £550 |
| A Mosey | Sundial Farm, Cawton | Restoring 10m of gaps in roadside wall | - | AG2.2 | £800 | £680 |
| Hovingham Estate | Hovingham | Planting 1 individual parkland tree | Site 2.54 | NE8.3 | £535 | £200 |

| APPLICANT/ (CONTRACTOR) | LOCATION | PROJECT | LOCAL PRIORITY | OBJECTIVE | SCHEME VALUE | JAC ASSISTANCE |
|---|------------|------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------|-----------------|-------------------|
| (AONB Unit – Moorswork + Volunteers + NYMNP Volunteers) | Gilling | Scrub planting at Autism Plus site | - | NE3.4 | £630 | £130 |
| (AONB Unit – Moorswork + Volunteers) | Husthwaite | Grassland management | - | NE3.1 | £440 | £390 |

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|---|---|--|------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|--------|
| Castle Howard Estate Ltd | Castle Howard | Erection of 5 barn owl boxes | - | NE4.2 | £1,835 | £900 |
| Autism Plus | Gilling | Creation of wildlife pond | - | NE3.4 | £4,300 | £2,200 |
| (AONB Unit – Yorkshire Exmoor Pony Trust) | Cawton (2), Terrington (2), Coulton (1) | Conservation grazing of 5 SINCs or other important sites | Sites 1.41, 1.47, 1.66, 1.20, 1.59 | NE3.1 | £1,041 | £621 |
| Turtle Doves Project | Turtle Doves HLF project area | Contribution to Project | - | NE4.3 | £7,100 (Year 3) | £1,000 |
| (AONB Unit – 4Nature) | Mugdale & Barker Woods SINC | Cutting/pulling Himalayan balsam | Site 1.58 | NE6.2 | £495 | £495 |
| (AONB Unit – Moorswork + Volunteers) | River Derwent SSSI, Crambeck | Cutting/pulling Himalayan balsam | Site 1.73 | NE3.1, NE6.2 | £1,920 | £520 |
| (AONB Unit – village volunteers) | River Derwent SSSI, Crambeck | Cutting/pulling Himalayan balsam | Site 1.73 | NE3.1, NE6.2 | £200 | £0 |
| (AONB Unit – The Conservation Volunteers) | Jeffry Bog SINC | Cutting/pulling Himalayan balsam | Sites 1.70 & 1.73 | NE3.1, NE6.2 | £1,600 | £1,600 |
| (AONB Unit – 4Nature) | River Derwent SSSI; Kirkham | Cutting/pulling Himalayan balsam | Site 1.73 | NE3.1, NE6.2 | £577 | £577 |
| (AONB Unit – DMD Contracting) | Wath Beck | Cutting/pulling Himalayan balsam | Inc. Sites 1.33 & 1.65 | NE3.1, NE6.2 | £1,000 | £1,000 |
| (AONB Unit – Moorswork + Volunteers) | Appleton-le-Street Churchyard SINC | Grassland management | - | NE3.1 | £610 | £260 |
| Amotherby Churchyard Conservation Group | Amotherby Churchyard | Habitat management | - | NE5.1 | £180 | £130 |
| (AONB Unit – Moorswork + Volunteers) | Coulton Fen SINC | Coppicing/scrub clearance | Site 1.61 | NE3.1 | £1,335 | £260 |
| (AONB Unit – P & A Gospel Landscapes) | Amotherby Lane SINC | Pruning overhanging ash tree | Site 1.38 | NE3.1 | £230 | £230 |

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| (AONB Unit – Moorswork) | Amotherby Lane SINC | Grassland/scrub management | Site 1.38 | NE3.1 | £130 | £130 |
| (AONB Unit – Moorswork + Volunteers) | Peel Wood & Grasslands SINC | Burning previously cleared piles of gorse | Site 1.11 | NE3.1 | £480 | £130 |
| (AONB Unit – Moorswork + Volunteers) | Grange Farm, Bulmer | Scrub management | - | NE8.3 | £480 | £130 |
| (AONB Unit – J R Clifford & Sons) | Various | Management of 45 Special Interest Road Verges | - | NE3.1 | £1,512 | £1,512 |
| (AONB Unit – Moorswork + Volunteers) | Slingsby East Quarry LGS | Clearance of scrub from rock faces | Site 1.89 | NE7.2 | £680 | £130 |
| (AONB Unit – Moorswork + Volunteers + NYMNP Volunteers) | Gilling | Meadow creation at Autism Plus site | - | NE3.4 | £630 | £130 |
| Castle Howard Estate Ltd | Fryton/ Coneysthorpe | Establishing 3 x Turtle Dove seed plots (2.25ha) | - | NE4.2, NE4.3 | £563 | £563 |
| Autism Plus | Gilling | Planting 130m of new hedge and 6 individual trees – National Tree Week | - | NE3.4 | £1,024 | £549 |
| (AONB Volunteers) | Dalby Forest | FC Centenary tree planting event | - | - | £125 | £0 |
| (AONB Unit – Moorswork + Volunteers) | Gilling | Hedgerow management at Autism Plus site | - | NE3.4 | £580 | £130 |

AONB Enhancement - Historic Environment

| APPLICANT | LOCATION | PROJECT | LOCAL PRIORITY | OBJECTIVE | SCHEME VALUE | JAC ASSISTANCE |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| (AONB Unit – P & A Gospel Landscapes) | City of Troy Maze, Dalby | Regular maintenance | Site 2.25 | HE2.8 | £270 | £270 |
| (AONB Unit – P & A Gospel Landscapes) | Mileposts | Regular maintenance | Site 2.63 | HE2.8, RT4.5 | £180 | £180 |

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| (AONB Unit – Cleveland Corrosion Control) | Barton-le-Street | Restoration of 1 village name sign | - | HE2.5, LC1.4 | £950 | £950 |
| (AONB Unit – Moorswork + Volunteers) | Todd Wood, Welburn | Scrub clearance from disused mill site | Site 2.73 | HE2.6 | £1,060 | £260 |
| (AONB Unit – P & A Gospel Landscapes) | Kitscrew Wood, Hovingham | Scrub clearance from disused limekiln | Site 2.48 | HE2.6 | £250 | £250 |
| (AONB Unit – P & A Gospel Landscapes) | Quarry Plantation, Ness | Scrub clearance from disused limekiln | Site 2.60 | HE2.6 | £125 | £125 |
| Castle Howard Estate Ltd | Ganthorpe Gate | Re-building of 13m of Park Wall | Site 2.74 | HE2.6 | £12,200 | £5,000 |
| N Burrows | Coulton Mill | Emergency stabilisation works | Site 2.111 | HE2.8 | £4,612 | £3,912 |
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MONUMENT MANAGEMENT SCHEME

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|---------------------------------------|--------------|--|--|-------|--------|------|
| <u>Historic England funded</u> | | | | | | |
| (AONB Unit – Moorswork + Volunteers) | Hovingham | Removing scrub on 1 Scheduled Monument | Site 2.36 | HE2.4 | £1,190 | £390 |
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| <u>AONB funded</u> | | | | | | |
| (AONB Unit – TCV) | Coneysthorpe | Crushing bracken on 2 Scheduled Monuments | Site 2.40 | HE2.4 | £800 | £800 |
| (AONB Unit – TCV) | Oulston | Crushing bracken on 1 Scheduled Monument | Site 2.12 | HE2.4 | £800 | £800 |
| AONB Unit | Various | Crushing bracken on 8 Scheduled Monuments | Sites 2.3, 2.4, 2.11, 2.20, 2.24, 2.37, 2.39, 2.69 | HE2.4 | - | - |
| AONB Unit | Oulston | Spreading heather seed on 1 Scheduled Monument | Site 2.20 | HE2.4 | - | - |
| (AONB Unit – P & A Gospel Landscapes) | Hovingham | Treating cut stumps on 1 Scheduled Monument | Site 2.36 | HE2.4 | £200 | £200 |

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| (AONB Unit – Mark Aconley) | Hovingham, Coneysthorpe | Strimming bramble on 6 Scheduled Monuments | Sites 2.36, 2.37, 2.39, 2.40 | HE2.4 | £280 | £280 |
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AONB Enhancement – Sustainable Development & Rural Economy

| APPLICANT | LOCATION | PROJECT | LOCAL PRIORITY | OBJECTIVE | SCHEME VALUE | JAC ASSISTANCE |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|--|----------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|
| Rural Action Yorkshire | AONB | Sustainable Rural Communities project, working with communities on community planning | - | LC1.3, LC1.4 | £17,280 | £3,975 |
| F & J Standen | Terrington | Farm wildlife interpretation resources | - | AG2.2, RAT2.1 | £495 | £248 |
| Project Smart | Amotherby School | Construction of bike shelter from recycled materials and delivery of sustainability sessions | - | LC1.4 | £3,987 | £1,500 |
| Slingsby Church | Slingsby | Interpretation board and village wildlife afternoon | - | LC2.1 | £3,553 | £2,000 |
| Crayke PC | Crayke | Community wildlife project | - | LC2.1 | £326 | £26 |
| Oswaldkirk Village Hall | Oswaldkirk | Fitting out new kitchen area | - | LC1.5 | £29,977 | £2,000 |
| North Yorkshire Police | Helmsley Rural Watch area | Thermal imaging binoculars | - | LC1.5 | £2,068 | £2,000 |
| Helmsley Mobile Rural Watch | Helmsley Rural Watch area | Dash cams, mobile ANPR, notebooks, torches, radios, etc | - | LC1.5 | £3,002 | £3,002 |
| Appleton-le-Street Parish Hall | Amotherby | Roof repairs | - | LC1.5 | £725 | £500 |
| Autism Plus | Gilling | All-ability access track | - | LC2.1, RAT2.2 | £10,800 | £3,975 |
| Hovingham Village Hall | Hovingham | Renovation of Ladies toilets | - | LC1.5 | £4,710 | £250 |
| Appleton-le-Street Parish Hall | Amotherby | Floor repairs | - | LC1.5 | £1,915 | £747 |

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| <u>Recreation</u> | | | | | | |
| (AONB Unit – Moorswork) | Various | Litter picking (5 visits) | Sites 3.8, 3.14, 3.19 | RAT4.5 | £650 | £650 |
| (AONB Unit – P Gospel) | Gateway signs | Strimming | - | AP1.1 | £675 | £675 |
| (AONB Unit/NYCC Countryside Access Service) | AONB | PRoW Improvement Project – 30 replacement roadside fingerposts (Supply) | - | RAT3.1 | £2,867 | £1,036 |
| <u>Promotion/Rural Economy</u> | | | | | | |
| <u>Volunteering</u> | | | | | | |
| (AONB Volunteers) | Misc | Volunteer input – shows, Junior Ranger Club, etc | Various | Various | £1,400 | - |
| (Yorkshire Wildlife Trust Tomorrow's Natural Leaders) | Misc | Junior Ranger Club | - | AP2.3 | £900 | - |

Young People's activities

| APPLICANT | LOCATION | PROJECT | LOCAL PRIORITY | OBJECTIVE | SCHEME VALUE | JAC ASSISTANCE |
|-------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|----------------|-----------|--------------|----------------|
| (AONB Unit) | Arboretum, Terrington, Welburn | Junior Ranger Club x 4 | - | AP2.3 | £1,477 | £877 |
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**HOWARDIAN HILLS
AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY
JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
19 NOVEMBER 2020**

THE GLOVER REVIEW OF PROTECTED LANDSCAPES

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update the JAC on the Protected Landscapes Review and its Proposals. This report was first presented to the JAC in November 2019 but purdah for the General Election prevented detailed discussion and there has been little significant progress on the main Proposals since.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In January 2018 the Government published its 25 Year Environment Plan. One of the significant proposals to emerge was a Review of Protected Landscapes, to be led by journalist Julian Glover. This was launched in May 2018 with a timescale of reporting to Government in September 2019. Full details of the Panel members and the Review's Terms of Reference can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/national-parks-review-launched>
- 2.2 The Panel launched a public consultation/Call for Evidence and the National Association of AONBs (NAAONB) organised a meeting for AONB Lead Officers in late September 2018, to discuss the issues arising from the Review and to formulate a suggested response. The most consistent points emerging were that:
- o AONB protection and enhancement would best be boosted if bodies were made more directly responsible for implementing the AONB Management Plan. There is a Statutory Duty to prepare and review an AONB Management Plan, but not a Duty to then implement it. Likewise, the Duty to 'have regard to AONB Purposes' (s.85, Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000) is somewhat dated and felt to be weak.
 - o AONB Teams should have a stronger/more formal role in the land use planning system.
 - o Stability of funding settlements for AONB Teams was fundamental to drawing down significant external resources.
 - o AONB Teams have a huge potential to deliver more landscape and biodiversity enhancement, but over recent years much of the responsibility for implementation has appeared to fall back from Government bodies and onto our shoulders. A change in emphasis, focusing on the 'designated landscape' rather than on the 'managing organisation', could bring about a significant step-change.
- 2.3 The NAAONB subsequently produced a 20-page Prospectus to assist AONB Partnerships in engaging with the Glover Review. We quoted the Prospectus extensively in our response to the Call for Evidence.
- 2.4 The Review Panel visited all AONBs and National Parks in England, with Sarah Mukherjee visiting the Howardian Hills in March 2019.

The Chairman and AONB Team took her to a variety of sites across the AONB where she spoke to farmers, landowners and trainees at an environmental centre run by Autism Plus. The Review Panel's final Report was published in September 2019.

3.0 LANDSCAPES REVIEW PROPOSALS

- 3.1 The full Review can be found at:
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/833726/landscapes-review-final-report.pdf
- 3.2 Appendix 1 contains the AONB Manager's initial thoughts from 2019 on what each Proposal might involve and its potential relevance/effect in relation to the Howardian Hills AONB and its Partnership. It is reproduced a year later as it is still valid.

4.0 CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 In the intervening year there has been significant contact and in-depth discussions between Defra and the NAAONB/National Parks England but as yet the Government has not published a formal response to the Proposals put forward in the Review. The NAAONB and NPE feel that the Glover Proposals should be introduced as a comprehensive package, as Julian Glover recommended, but currently it appears that Defra are focusing on only a few of the Proposals.
- 4.2 The principal Proposals being discussed currently are the National Landscapes Service and the name-change from AONB to National Landscape. The NAAONB and AONBs generally are concerned about the first proposal of a National Landscapes Service for the reasons set out in Appendix 1. The Cotswolds AONB has rebranded as a National Landscape, and a few other AONBs are using it in email straplines, but general feeling is that any name change should be part of a wider package including such changes as Statutory Consultee status in the land use planning system and increased funding resources.
- 4.3 The formal Government response to the Review was originally scheduled for Autumn 2020. An announcement may be linked to the Comprehensive Spending Review this month, although as this is expected to be a 1-year settlement rather than the 3-year one that might have been envisaged had the COVID-19 pandemic not occurred, then this may map-out a phased route.
- 4.4 Many of the Proposals from the Review will require primary legislation – the Environment Bill had originally been seen as one possible opportunity to facilitate this but the timescales no longer appear to be synchronised.

5.0 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

- a) The Proposals contained in the Landscapes Review be noted as still current.
- b) The AONB Manager reports future progress and announcements to the Chairman and JAC when available.

| Proposals in the report | Comments |
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| <p>Proposal 1: National landscapes should have a renewed mission to recover and enhance nature, and be supported and held to account for delivery by a new National Landscapes Service</p> | <p>Supported. The recent review of the AONB Management Plan has helped clarify exactly how the Howardian Hills could become a more resilient landscape – recovering nature, improving the landscape and boosting ecosystem services, all within a landscape that is essentially still managed for food and timber production. This vision will be used to develop Nature Recovery maps for the Colchester Declaration, input to Nature Recovery Network development, help develop local strategies for the Environmental Land Management System, etc, etc.</p> |
| <p>Proposal 2: The state of nature and natural capital in our national landscapes should be regularly and robustly assessed, informing the priorities for action</p> | <p>Data gathering is a significant problem, and our data in the latest State of the AONB Report (updated every 5 years as part of the Management Plan review process) is a mixture of several-years-old Government data and anecdotal evidence from the AONB Team members.</p> <p>Notwithstanding that, the HHAONB Management Plan is believed to be one of the most detailed in the country when it comes to specifying what actions need to happen where, via its Landscape Management & Priority Sites section. The Review Panel proposals are arguably what we would ideally like to see, but they would require a significant injection of resources, both financial and staff time. This would seem to be something that the proposed National Landscapes Service could usefully organise/procure at a national level, with additional staff resources at local level to provide analysis and interpretation into action.</p> |

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| <p>Proposal 3: Strengthened Management Plans should set clear priorities and actions for nature recovery including, but not limited to, wilder areas and the response to climate change (notably tree planting and peatland restoration). Their implementation must be backed up by stronger status in law</p> | <p>The HHAONB Management Plan already fulfils a lot of these functions, most notably the detailed framework of suggested actions, including tree and hedge planting, contained in the Landscape Management & Priority Sites section. We have deliberately retained and updated this section over the years, despite the effort it takes, when many other AONBs have followed the general trend for public bodies to publish slimmer and more easily digestible plans. This approach has arguably only been possible due to having long-serving AONB Team members who know a small AONB, its farms and habitats and all its land managers very well. ‘Wildness’ is a subjective term, defined by the viewer, and what countryside professionals feel isn’t particularly wild may be perceived very differently by less experienced countryside users. The Howardian Hills arguably already offers some areas where people can experience a ‘wilder’ countryside – the large Yearsley Moor woodlands are frequently described to us as being quite intimidating (and therefore fulfilling some of the attributes of a ‘wild’ landscape). Given the secluded nature of many of the intimate valleys in the AONB, and the existence of Public Rights of Way through many of them, adjusting land management practices to enhance biodiversity, the landscape, and the ‘wild experience’ could be relatively easy to achieve. The suggestions of strengthening the requirement to ‘have regard’ to AONB purposes, and a new requirement to implement as well as prepare/review AONB Management Plans, is strongly supported.</p> |
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| <p>Proposal 4: National landscapes should form the backbone of Nature Recovery Networks – joining things up within and beyond their boundaries</p> | <p>As indicated above, the HHAONB Management Plan already provides a blueprint for a NRN in the Howardian Hills and potentially beyond, into the Vales of York & Pickering, the Yorkshire Wolds and most notably (due to many cross-border initiatives) the North York Moors National Park.</p> |
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| <p>Proposal 5: A central place for national landscapes in new Environmental Land Management Schemes</p> | <p>This is absolutely critical. The support system of agricultural payments has arguably been the one factor that has had the single biggest impact on biodiversity loss and landscape degradation within both national landscapes and the wider countryside over the last 50 years. We have made good use of agri-environment schemes in the past, with up to 70% of land at one time being within an ELS agreement. Although these ELS agreements sometimes provided limited environmental improvement, they would have been a useful stepping stone for going on to provide greater benefits on Agreement land. Reductions in funding schemes have led to a much lower area of land now being in agreements, and nature recovery simply won't happen unless an adequately funded and locally targeted scheme is available to ALL land managers via a series of tiers, thus enabling everyone with any land to potentially become involved. Having the resources to employ a full-time Farm Adviser would enable us to maximise the opportunities that ELMS could offer.</p> |
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| <p>Proposal 6: A strengthened place for national landscapes in the planning system with AONBs given statutory consultee status, encouragement to develop local plans and changes to the National Planning Policy Framework</p> | <p>In practice, Ryedale and Hambleton DCs already consult via an agreed framework and treat the AONB Team’s comments on planning applications as ‘honorary’ Statutory responses. Making this arrangement formal would however put the responses on a proper legal footing and is to be welcomed. Given the current level of development within the AONB, and the excellent working relationships with the three LPAs, a move to formal Statutory consultee status should see very little change to current arrangements. The AONB Manager already uses the expertise of full-time Planning Officers within the AONB Network, as well as North York Moors National Park staff, to provide advice and guidance as necessary. As regards a dedicated Local Plan for the AONB area, it is felt that co-ordination, liaison and most importantly consistency of policy between the two Local Plans covering the Howardian Hills would be the most appropriate approach for this AONB. Better guidance on the weight to be afforded to national landscapes by the policies in the NPPF would be welcomed. Even though not under significant local pressure there have been cases where the national status of the landscape hasn’t been afforded the weight that it ought to have been. Permitted Development Rights are also important in this context, particularly those relating to new farm buildings (recently increased from 465m² to 1,000m²) and mobile telecommunications masts (current Government consultation on new/higher 5G masts).</p> |
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| <p>Proposal 7: A stronger mission to connect all people with our national Landscapes Service</p> | <p>This is broadly welcomed, but it must not be a blanket approach. The Howardian Hills AONB doesn't contain any towns, whilst public transport access from even those on its immediate boundaries is patchy. Our biggest nearest large urban area (York) is between 30 and 45 minutes distant, even by car. BAME residents make up less than 2% of North Yorkshire's population. As well as holding national landscapes to account, the National Landscapes Service (via the proposed Rangers) must play a key role in helping national landscapes deliver on this objective, by leveraging-in national funding and providing an overall menu of engagement mechanisms that individual national landscapes can adopt as agreed appropriate for their local circumstances.</p> |
| <p>Proposal 8: A night under the stars in a national landscape for every child</p> | <p>As for Proposal 7. The 'backwoods' experience offered by the facility at Castle Howard already attracts children from schools all over northern England and delivering on this proposal would need us to engage a local delivery partner to provide it.</p> |
| <p>Proposal 9: New long-term programmes to increase the ethnic diversity landscapes, supported and held to account by the new National Landscapes Service</p> | <p>As for Proposal 7. This seems to take a more realistic approach to delivering on this important area of work. A National Landscapes Service would be the ideal vehicle for establishing mechanisms into which we could 'bid' to host programmes or projects that stand the best chance of success in relation to our local circumstances.</p> |
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| <p>Proposal 10: Landscapes that cater for and improve the nation's health and wellbeing</p> | <p>This is an area of work we have been expanding on but we are restricted by lack of staff resources for development. Our six Easy Countryside Trails have been well-received by people with disabilities and those new to countryside walking, and our Sustainable Development Fund provided support for a Trammer all-terrain mobility scooter at the Yorkshire Arboretum. Again, developing a framework of co-operation with NHS providers is best done at a national level by the National Landscapes Service, with that expertise and contact information then being disseminated down to individual national landscapes teams.</p> |
| <p>Proposal 11: Expanding volunteering in our national landscapes</p> | <p>Although our volunteers group is good it could be expanded. More staff resource (either in the local team or via the National Landscapes Service) would allow better recruitment and co-ordination of volunteering opportunities across the AONB, National Park and beyond. Administration is currently via NYCC, for legal and H&S reasons, but this could potentially transfer to a National Landscapes Service in the future.</p> |
| <p>Proposal 12: Better information and signs to guide visitors</p> | <p>We know that our gateway signs significantly improved public awareness of the AONB designation when they were put up. We're working hard with NYCC to maintain the high standard of signage of Public Rights of Way where they leave metalled roads, to maintain the improvements achieved at the turn of the century. The AONB website already sits under the umbrella of the National Association for AONBs website, so doing the same via a National Landscapes Service one would be logical. There could be much to commend a National Landscapes Service that was in effect a 'Tourist Board', dealing with enquiries centrally so that anyone from anywhere in the country (or world) could be given information about their nearest national landscape, choices for UK holidays/weekend breaks, etc.</p> |

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| <p>Proposal 13: A ranger service in all our national landscapes, part of a national family</p> | <p>Nationally funded and equipped Rangers, 'out-posted' to the Howardian Hills AONB and carrying out a range of duties such as visitor interaction, PRow improvements, habitat management work and landowner liaison, would be a significantly beneficial resource. They could liaise with tourism businesses in a way that we currently don't have the resources to, and could carry out many small-scale countryside management works that we currently have to procure contractors to do.</p> |
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| <p>Proposal 14: National landscapes supported to become leaders in sustainable tourism</p> | <p>It isn't felt that Tourism Zone status would be suitable for the Howardian Hills AONB. The area isn't a traditional tourist destination, linked to a large urban and industrial area in the way that for example the Yorkshire Dales NP, Peak District NP, North York Moors NP, Nidderdale AONB or North Pennines AONB are. Tourist activity is relatively sustainable at present (other than in transport terms) and is generally constrained by the lack of formal facilities such as visitor centres, visitor car parks, public toilets, etc.</p> |
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| <p>Proposal 15: Joining up with others to make the most of what we have and bringing National Trails into the national landscapes family</p> | <p>This makes sense, although we have very little public land in the Howardian Hills and no National Trails (although we could link with the Cleveland Way which starts in Helmsley).</p> |
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| <p>Proposal 16: Consider expanding open access rights in national landscapes</p> | <p>This appears to relate principally to extending the right of access on existing Open Access Land to other user groups other than just walkers. As the Howardian Hills doesn't have any Open Access land this isn't relevant, although any proposals to open-up access rights on rivers could impact on the River Derwent SSSI.</p> |
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| <p>Proposal 17: National landscapes working for vibrant communities. There is a need to better understand the challenges and develop solutions where possible based on successful work elsewhere</p> | <p>This is already the second purpose of AONBs, although it only comes from Government guidance rather than via legislation. Our AONB Management Plan contains Objectives for fostering economic and community vitality and over the years we have devoted significant financial and staff resource to this area of work, most notably via the Sustainable Development Fund. Having it as a statutory purpose would be welcomed.</p> |
| <p>Proposal 18: A new National Landscapes Housing Association to build affordable homes</p> | <p>This is a welcome idea on a national scale but may have relatively little impact in the Howardian Hills, where Local Plan policies already enable the development of new homes for local workers. It may however have a useful role to play in developing small sites of say 4-8 properties, in the way that the Council House building programmes of the 1960s and '70s did. Almost all villages in the Howardian Hills have developments of former Council Houses, but a large proportion of these are now believed to be in private ownership via Government Right-to-Buy schemes.</p> |
| <p>Proposal 19: A new approach to coordinating public transport piloted in the Lake District, and new, more sustainable ways of accessing national landscapes</p> | <p>Noted. The Howardian Hills is a sparsely populated rural area with a relatively low number of visitors, and as such a widespread local public transport service is probably unrealistic. Work could most usefully concentrate on visitors coming to the most popular 'honey-pot' destination – Castle Howard, and then possibly leading out from there into the wider landscape.</p> |
| <p>Proposal 20: New designated landscapes and a new National Forest</p> | <p>Only relevant to the Howardian Hills in the sense that we are probably the best example in the UK of two adjoining national landscapes working together in an integrated way, particularly demonstrated by the joint National Lottery Heritage Fund-supported Ryevitalise project.</p> |
| <p>Proposal 21: Welcoming new landscape approaches in cities and the coast, and a city park competition</p> | <p>No comments.</p> |

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| Proposal 22: A better designations process | No comments. |
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| Proposal 23: Stronger purposes in law for our national landscapes | See Proposal 17 above. We are in essence already doing carrying out work to achieve the three proposed Purposes, so recognising it in law would provide the underpinning and legal basis for all our work areas. |
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| Proposal 24: AONBs strengthened with new purposes, powers and resources, renamed as National Landscapes | This is probably one of the most significant proposals relating to AONBs, bringing together a number of other Proposals under one umbrella. The most eye-catching is probably the proposal to re-name AONBs as National Landscapes. There have been calls from some AONB Lead Officers over many years to ditch the term AONB because although absolutely descriptive it is unwieldy and often misused for non-designated areas of land. "The Howardian Hills National Landscape" has a certain ring to it and although I have never been one of those strongly pressing for change, I feel that this proposal should be supported. It's somewhat unclear what will happen with National Parks however, as they will also be re-named National Landscapes but will also retain the title of National Park. |
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| <p>Proposal 25: A new National Landscapes Service bringing our 44 national landscapes together to achieve more than the sum of their parts</p> | <p>If funded and set up properly, a National Landscapes Service could be a real game-changer for national landscapes, and particularly AONBs like the Howardian Hills with very small staff teams. We have always played a strong role in the National Association for AONBs, because we lack the finance and hence staff resources to do as much as we would like. We make good use of the extensive knowledge base out in the wider AONB family, because we can't hope to have it all in-house. So a national campaigner encouraging all UK residents to use National Landscapes; an umbrella body seeking commercial and grant funding monies that could be available to the whole national landscapes family; a knowledge and expertise hub; and a centrally funded but out-posted Ranger Service, would all be significant benefits. A small, poorly funded unit that dictated national priorities with no regard to local circumstances, which set prescriptive roles for the Rangers, which then took national landscapes to task for not delivering (and then withheld funding as a result) would be a scenario to dread.</p> |
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| <p>Proposal 26: Reformed governance to inspire and secure ambition in our national landscapes and better reflect society</p> | <p>The Howardian Hills AONB JAC technically has 15 members, although three organisations with places for two representatives have chosen to take up only one of those places. So to bring the JAC down to the recommended 9-12 members would require some consolidation, particularly among the Local Authorities which it is suggested should reduce to only one place (we currently have five). It would also require the identification of relevant new organisations who could be invited to join the JAC, to broaden its diversity. Although Glover recommends that this should happen, and it's undoubtedly a laudable aim, our experience has been that it is difficult to get smaller organisations, who might nonetheless have much to contribute, to become involved. Perhaps this is because they may see the JAC as a bureaucratic body and not a worthwhile use of their scarce time resources - a situation which may change in a new era? Our Partnership Group was dissolved a few years ago due to dwindling numbers, but this could be resurrected. Given the level and nature of planning applications seen in the Howardian Hills a Planning Sub-Committee isn't felt to be appropriate, although a more accountable mechanism than the one used currently would be needed.</p> |
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| <p>Proposal 27: A new financial model – more money, more secure, more enterprising</p> | <p>The recognition that all national landscapes, but in particular AONBs, must be funded properly is welcomed. The proposal to double funding for AONBs (although this can't be assumed as a doubling for every AONB as the distribution may not be proportionate) is very much welcomed. The proposed new formula may however hold some concerns for the Howardian Hills, as a small, low resident population, low visitor area with few SSSIs and under relatively little development pressure. This will need to be watched. The Report suggests that the Local Authority element of the funding should be retained but doesn't specify at what percentage this should be. If it remains at 25% then a doubling of Government funding would be meaningless if we couldn't also double the level of local government or other external funding to match it. There is no specific mention of how AONB Teams should be employed or hosted - it doesn't appear to be being suggested that this should be via the National Landscapes Service. The proposal to create a separate fund-raising wing of the National Landscapes Service, or a linked charity, is the only cost-effective way many national landscapes could diversify their income streams without massive duplication of staff and effort.</p> |
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**HOWARDIAN HILLS
AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY
JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
19 NOVEMBER 2020**

NATIONAL/NAAONB ACTIVITY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To receive details of current national issues and the work of the National Association for AONBs (NAAONB).

2.0 INITIATIVES

- 2.1 As Members will appreciate this has been a tumultuous year, dominated by the COVID-19 pandemic and the Government's response to it. The situation as regards most of the topic areas described below changes constantly, with new initiatives, Challenge Funds and strategies announced almost continuously. Keeping abreast of all these opportunities, and evaluating how or whether we should try to take advantage of them, has been extremely time consuming. On the other hand, the AONB landscape has provided respite and connection with nature for many people over the months since March, either for local residents or those from further afield once travel restrictions were eased. Apart from a few locations that we would expect to be busy anyway, thankfully we haven't seen the significant issues with litter and anti-social behaviour that many other areas have experienced.
- 2.2 As described in another Report on this Agenda, the Proposals contained in the Glover Review of Protected Landscapes are still being considered by Defra. The NAAONB Chairman Philip Hygate has recently written to Neil Parish MP, Chairman of the EFRA Committee, to seek his assistance in eliciting a positive Government response to the Glover Review.
- 2.3 Work on Nature Recovery, driven by the AONB network's Colchester Declaration, has been progressing. A series of on-line seminars has been held over the summer to help AONBs select their Target Species and prepare their Plans. A Nature Recovery opportunity map for the Howardian Hills AONB is in the process of being prepared.
- 2.4 A group of AONB Lead Officers prepared a bid on behalf of the NAAONB to the Green Recovery Challenge Fund, for a Nature Recovery Officer and Nature Recovery Fund for every AONB. This would have been a massive boost to our work in the Howardian Hills but unfortunately the bid wasn't successful (the fund of £40million was over-subscribed almost 10-fold). As noted in the Budget Report, Defra has however made a total of £7,200 available to every AONB and National Park this year, for work on developing farmer clusters and engagement with Countryside Stewardship and the Environmental Land Management Scheme. We hope that this funding will continue into 2021/22.

- 2.5 The Agriculture Bill has returned to Parliament and opportunity for input is now limited. One of the main points of contention is around food standards, which could have far-reaching consequences for agricultural producers within the AONB.
- 2.6 The Environment Bill has also returned to Parliament, with the main areas of interest being the environmental standards body and the Environmental Land Management Scheme.
- 2.7 The Environmental Land Management Scheme continues to be developed by Defra and we believe that an announcement is anticipated following the Comprehensive Spending Review in late November. Indications are that there may be a 'base level' scheme somewhat akin to the old Entry Level Stewardship, which the majority of farmers might be expected to enter. More comprehensive farm conservation plans would access a 'middle tier' and there would also be a fund available for groups wishing to work at a landscape scale. As detailed in the Budget item on this agenda, all AONBs and National Parks have received additional one-off funding to carry out work before April 2021 to engage farmers and land managers with ELMS (and the current Countryside Stewardship Scheme).
- 2.8 In response to a request from Defra for information to feed into the Comprehensive Spending Review, the NAAONB prepared a Prospectus (attached as Appendix 1). This brought together many of the strands outlined above, centred on some of the key Proposals contained in the Glover Review. As an example of the frenetic nature of Government at the moment, this was requested with only a few days' notice.

3.0 OTHER NATIONAL NEWS/ACTIVITY

- 3.1 A summary of the activity of the NAAONB from the perspective of the CEO Howard Davies is attached as Appendix 2, being his Address to the Virtual AGM unfortunately being held at the same time as this JAC meeting.

4.0 RECOMMENDATION

That the work being carried out on national initiatives be noted for information.

Landscapes
for life
.org.uk



Prospectus for the AONB Network **An Offer to the Nation**



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Introduction

This prospectus has been designed to support Defra during this spending review and will not be formally published. It is set within the context of the current coronavirus pandemic and seeks to build on the important role that AONB partnerships and conservation boards can play in supporting economic and social recovery. It is also designed to support delivery of the 25 Year Environment Plan and responds in part to the recommendations of the Glover Review. It represents a collation of offers from the AONB network, some of which may be communicated separately.

The NAAONB welcomes the recommendations of the Glover Review, recognising it as the most thorough and insightful, evidence led appraisal of the AONB designation in a generation.

Julian Glover's recommendation that funding to AONBs be doubled immediately was, of course, welcomed by the AONB network, but we understand current constraints – this is why every costing in this prospectus is related directly to challenge funding and specific current government priorities. It is worth noting that funding for AONB teams in 2005/6 was £11,054,571. In 2019/20, the figure was £6,807,451, representing a real-term reduction in budget of 60%. However, agile AONB teams have continued to demonstrate their ingenuity and versatility, leveraging non-exchequer funding and creating partnerships that deliver projects which make a genuine difference to the lives of people and nature.

This spending round provides an opportunity to address the statement made by the Glover Review panel that 'the national zeal of the founding mission for landscape protection has been eroded'. We agree with this assertion and consequently every part of our offer is designed to support the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty and and make sure that AONBs can be enjoyed more equitably, used by and cared for by everyone.

Additionally, our collective response to the recovery phase of the coronavirus pandemic is critical. We must generate momentum and align our activity to ensure that the recovery is genuinely green. Our contribution to economic recovery must support the delivery of our purposes and

- Reduce the impact of climate change
- Support nature recovery
- Promote more sustainable patterns of consumption and production

This will involve driving long term changes in behaviours.

The AONB network is ready and willing to progress these agendas, delivering not just for current generations, but for those in the future. We cannot do this, however, without an investment of resources. This is the time to strengthen the AONB designation with new purposes, powers and resources, and in doing so support them in the delivery of their offer to the nation. AONB teams have demonstrated time and again that they have delivered more with less, but with an average of four full time members of staff in each AONB team, we are now at full capacity. Defra funding for all AONBs is less than that for a single National Park, at less than 20p per taxpayer per year, yet we are geographically more accessible to a much wider section of the population. This is an enormous opportunity for government to deliver far more to society for a comparatively small investment.

Protecting and recovering nature

The Issues

There is a global ecological crisis. Society has a wide range of dependencies on nature and nature recovery is a global priority. There is public and Government expectation that our National Landscapes, as IUCN Category V Protected Areas, should be at the heart of nature recovery, with the Teams working closely with farmers, landowners, other partners and communities to protect what remains and recover what has been lost.

The AONB Teams have an outstanding track record of delivery on nature recovery, their capacity to draw in more resources and deliver even more ambitious programmes is hampered by extremely limited resources at their core. 'Shovel-ready projects' can only happen with the resources to do the spade-work that underpins them.

Flooding costs the UK £1.3bn per year, and the floods during winter 2015/16 cost £1.6bn alone.

Peat holds up to 20 times its own weight in water and 1,450 tonnes of carbon per hectare, helping flood management and carbon capture. AONB teams have restored 50,000 hectares of peat bog in areas across the UK since 2010.

The Offer

Taking forward the stretch targets of the Colchester Declaration (page 5) and the 25 Year Environment Plan through ambitious expansion of delivery for nature recovery in each AONB, working closely with the farming and landowning community, to arrest and reverse the decline in nature. We will make a significant contribution to increasing national tree cover and managing our woods better, restoring grasslands, peatlands, heathlands and wetlands and delivering AONB landscapes with greater connectivity and ecological integrity and where more and larger areas of land are better managed for nature. These more biodiverse landscapes, with regenerative agriculture at their core, will be more climate resilient, and more economically robust, delivering more for people and nature.

The Resources Required

Increased professional staff capacity in each AONB team, to engage with the farming and landowning community and with other partners to devise, develop and deliver landscape-scale programmes of nature recovery, to support locally agreed nature recovery plans, including raising additional resources to increase action and ambition. £5,100,000 pa.

A modest **fund to support delivery**, especially with individual landowners and communities. £2,040,000 pa.

The Outcomes

- Measurable impact towards arresting, and ultimately reversing, the decline of nature in AONBs and using them as a platform for national nature recovery.
- Conserving and enhancing natural beauty
- Increasing action to improve the environment from all sectors of society.
- Safeguarding and enhancing the beauty of our landscape and improving its environmental value, while being sensitive to considerations of its heritage.
- Placing AONBs at the heart of developing a Nature Recovery Network.

The Colchester Declaration 2019

Set against a backdrop of unprecedented concern for the future of the natural world, and intergovernmental reports that the current global response to the effects of human impact on nature is insufficient – the National Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty believes that now is the time to significantly increase the scale and pace of nature conservation activity in AONBs. Using our unique network and partnership model, we are making a collective Declaration on Nature in AONBs, setting out our strategy for change.

With many AONB host authorities having taken the step of declaring a Climate Emergency we are demonstrating our readiness to act to redress declines in species and habitats within the context of a wider response to climate change.

We believe

1. Natural Beauty has intrinsic value and means so much to people
2. AONBs should be places of rich, diverse and abundant wildlife
3. Nature recovery is central to the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty
4. Climate change is the biggest threat to humanity and one of the greatest threats to biodiversity. Designated landscapes offer some of the most powerful solutions to the challenges of climate change
5. The network of AONBs and National Parks, their teams, partnerships, authorities and stakeholders offer a unique solution to tackling environmental challenges

We pledge

By July 2020

1. To enable an approach that creates opportunities within AONBs for people to make an emotional connection with nature.
2. To prepare a Nature Recovery Plan for each AONB

By 2024

1. To embed an ecosystems services approach into all AONB Management Plans
2. To ensure all AONB management plans include meaningful measures around climate change mitigation and adaptation, including clear, measurable targets to support Net Zero

By 2030

1. That at least 200,000 ha of SSSIs in AONBs will be in favourable condition
2. That at least 100,000 ha of wildlife-rich habitat outside of protected sites will have been created/ restored in AONBs to further support the natural movement of plants and animals
3. That at least 36,000 ha of new woodland will have been planted or allowed to regenerate in AONBs following the principle of the right tree in the right place
4. That, by each AONB immediately adopting a species on the threatened list and by preparing and delivering a Species Action Plan, at least thirty species relevant to AONBs will be taken off the list by 2030

We call on Westminster and Welsh Governments to provide the power and resources to make these targets achievable

Protecting and recovering nature – our track record



Common terns are on the UK Amber list, showing a general decline in population in recent years. Terns in Chichester Harbour have a very limited number of sites on which to breed, and those sites are often threatened by tidal flooding, predation or human disturbance; all 2017 nesting attempts failed.

To address this, in 2018 Chichester Harbour Conservancy AONB team installed a series of tern rafts, which were being used by terns within three days of being floated, giving terns a safe place to breed.

Eels have been at the core of the River Glaven ecology and local culture for hundreds of years but have suffered a steep decline in numbers. The Norfolk Coast AONB project increased scientific knowledge about the critically-endangered species, improved eel habitat and re-connected current generations with the eel, its folklore and traditions, and with the few remaining eel catchers, who made their living from the eel - before these connections are lost forever.



[Click to see the short film](#)

The North Pennines AONB has 40% of all the UK's species rich upland hay meadows. The Haytime and Nectarworks projects have seen 1120 upland hay meadows surveyed, leading to almost 300 management agreements with farmers and almost 400 hectares of habitat restoration.

A Nectar Source Network Map has been produced and a successor project worked with hundreds of volunteers planting and managing key sites and creating nectar gardens in schools and care homes. Almost 2000 children were engaged in educational programmes focused on flora and pollinator art, fun and discovery. This work more than doubled the resource of species rich-hay meadow in the AONB and made a national-scale contribution to this Biodiversity Action Plan habitat.



[Click for more information on just 70 of the Nature Recovery Solutions AONBs we have delivered](#)

Safeguarding and enhancing landscapes

The Issues

The AONB Family shares the Government's ambition to help the natural world regain and maintain good health. In AONBs, and arguably elsewhere, it is important that measures to support sustainable farming are aligned with the need to conserve and enhance natural beauty. We are currently trialling new approaches to this alignment whilst, at the same time, delivering across all the goals and policies in the 25 YEP. We are testing new ways of working with land managers that will put the environment first and fully utilise the opportunities afforded by the AONB designation to deliver integrated, place-based solutions. There is a clear, emerging need for AONB convenors to align the work of farm advisors with the objectives to conserve and enhance the special qualities of the landscape.

AONBs need a stronger voice in planning. The pressures on AONBs are often greater than National Parks, especially in the south east, and their voice is not always heard. The Glover Review recommended, therefore, that AONBs are given greater status in the planning system. They should become statutory consultees, and we set out later how we think this can work. They should also, where appropriate, be supported to work towards local plans for their areas, prepared in conjunction with local authorities.

AONB partnerships and conservation boards have universal interests in their localities, so are ideally placed to ensure that health and wellbeing interests, the private sector, cultural and heritage organisations and economic partnerships can get the most from an improved environment and can participate fully in both its conservation and enhancement. AONBs are a key national asset that can unlock these opportunities and realise the Government's high ambitions for the future.

The Offer

The Environmental Land Management scheme

AONBs are already working with Defra and other stakeholders to progress 'Farming for the Nation'. More information is available on our [website](#).

The NAAONB is coordinating an ELM Test and Trial across 12 AONBs, looking at how the scheme might work in a wide range of settings including, vineyards in the Kent Downs, collaboration between small-scale farms in Devon, and High Nature Value Farming in the Northern Uplands.

AONBs are working with farmers and land managers to identify key elements of a successful ELM scheme, building on existing strong relationships with local communities.

The trial is defining how to effectively connect with farmers and land owners/farmers to promote ELMs, how AONB Management Plans can be used in the production of farm-scale ELM Land Management Plans, and how through the use of "convenors" activity is integrated to deliver landscape-scale priorities

Safeguarding and enhancing landscapes

The Offer

The Environmental Land Management scheme (cont)

The AONB network is ready and able to support **nationwide advocacy** across all National Landscapes: National Landscapes are intimately linked with farmers and land managers and are well positioned to spread the word about ELMs and thereby increase engagement. Working collaboratively, there is huge potential to work with farmers to engage them in ELMs, and then provide support and information during the pilot phase and beyond. The NAAONB has bid for £171k to establish programmes in this financial year. Additional funding could allow continuation throughout the ELMs pilot phase, moving from engagement into advice and guidance.

The Tests and Trials process has highlighted the need to develop spatial prioritisation in National Landscapes. Currently, the direction of travel is to develop “spatial” plans from scratch using County Council geographies. This proposed plan process has direct parallels to development of AONB Management Plans. The proposals present two major concerns to National Landscapes and contradict the Landscape Review. Those concerns are:

- a. Using a county council geographies will undermine the coherence of a landscape approach in National Landscape.
- b. There will be an unnecessary duplication of effort.

The solution is to use the existing AONB Management Planning process and plans to develop farm-scale ELMs plans.

It is becoming clear from the Tests and Trials that there will potentially be a plethora of farm advisors working throughout National Landscapes. Their advice will vary and may not always be aligned with the policies and approaches set out in AONB ELMs management plans. The NAAONB suggests that there is a need for **convenors in AONBs**. There will be a need for AONB convenors to align the work of farm advisors with the objectives to conserve and enhance the special qualities of the landscape.

A National Landscape Service

The Landscapes Review recommended that “we need a new National Landscapes Service to drive ambition, collaboration and delivery”, and in coming to this, and other, conclusions regularly remarked on how the culture of the AONB network differed, in a positive way, from that of the National Parks.

The National Association for AONBs is justifiably proud of the role it has played in promoting and supporting collaboration across the AONB network. It is equally proud of the energy, commitment, skills, and experience that AONB staff have applied to making it come to life. The collective impact has been inspirational and impactful.

Safeguarding and enhancing landscapes

The Offer

A National Landscape Service (cont)

We are, however, just part of the complex system that has formed around the delivery of the AONB purpose. Consultants, contractors, civil servants, politicians, NGOs, corporate business, grant funding bodies, and the public have all been instrumental in working with us to achieve our objectives. We have worked collectively to recruit many others to the cause.

A recommendation to improve collaboration across a complex network is straightforward. Making it happen, less so. A simple answer to a complex challenge is invariably wrong.

In designing a new National Landscape Service these issues of complexity, culture, and systems thinking should be considered. The NAAONB is keen to **continue working with Defra** on developing the best possible outcome and asks that Defra maintains an open and transparent dialogue with stakeholders to this effect.

The NAAONB has already put considerable effort into supporting the national conversation in this area, providing professional advice, opinion, technical insight, and evidence, and intends to continue to play a key part in this discussion. The NAAONB will support further discussion across the AONB network, and work with stakeholders to help ensure that the AONB network receives the national delivery service it requires to flourish in line with the aspirations of the Review.

Supporting a strengthening of the Duty of Regard

The Duty of Regard is a central pillar in the delivery of the AONB purpose(s). The NAAONB has long advocated for a strengthening of the Duty of Regard defined under Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 by becoming a Duty of Due Regard. This was echoed in the recommendations of the Glover Review.

Over the course of the Glover Review of AONBs and National Parks, the NAAONB and National Parks England have been in regular communication. Effort has been made to agree on the most effective way to improve protection to designated landscapes and articulate this as one united voice. The issue of both the duty of Regard and the duty of Due Regard have been considered by both parties in detail.

The NAAONB therefore concludes that **s.85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act should be amended** to include reference to 'special regard' and 'furthering the purpose of designation'. This would ensure that any relevant authority would, in its decision making, have to give greater importance and weight to the furthering of the AONB purposes.

Safeguarding and enhancing landscapes

The Offer

Statutory Consultee Status

Statutory consultee status would speed up the planning process within AONBs. AONB teams could provide detailed advice to developers, local authorities, and other stakeholders ensuring that best use is made of the AONB management plan and its underpinning democratic principles. Statutory consultees status would also reduce the risk of conflicting opinion and the need for public inquiries. Local Authorities could also be reassured that their duty of regard to the AONB purpose is expedited, reducing potential tension between AONB partnerships, local authorities, and wider stakeholders.

Statutory consultee status would be welcomed by many AONBs. Whilst the level of resource required to deliver this function is dependent the kinds of applications that would be covered by statutory consultee status, the magnitude of development pressure, and the role of Natural England, our estimated costs are realistic.

The Resources Required

The Environmental Land Management Scheme

To continue nationwide advocacy across all National Landscapes for the pilot phase will cost £2.7 m over 3 years (21/22 – 23/24). This equates to £20k per National Landscape plus £20k national coordination per year.

To undertake the additional work to fine-tune AONB Management Plan to be fit for purpose at the farm-scale would cost on average £25k per AONB equating to £850k in total.

An ELMs Convenor in each AONB, to align advice with policy, coordinate farm advisors and review delivery of ELMs against national and local objectives. Cost £1.36m per annum.

Statutory Consultee Status

Experienced planning staff capacity in each relevant AONB team, to manage caseload, support public inquiries, and progress, where appropriate, the design, consultation, and publication of the AONB Development Plan.

£1,400,000 in year one, followed by £1,250,000 annually thereafter.

The Outcomes

- Conserving and enhancing natural beauty
- Measurable impact on protecting and recovering nature
- Safeguarding and enhancing the beauty of our landscapes and improving their environmental value while being sensitive to considerations of its heritage.

Connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing

The Issues

All AONBs are within half an hour travel time of large towns and cities, so AONBs are perfectly located to support their local communities, yet for some people access is an issue – either the practicalities of visiting the countryside or feeling welcome and/or confident are barriers.

The Glover Review recognised what we instinctively know – that designated landscapes are the preserve of white, middle aged, middle class people and AONBs are actively seeking to expand this audience to fully represent the variety of citizens in the UK today.

The legislation that paved the way for the designation of AONBs was sister legislation to that which set up the NHS – AONBs were conceived as spaces for people to seek exercise and care for their mental and spiritual health, while the NHS was there to care for them if they became sick. We have seen more than ever during the Covid pandemic that people need green and blue spaces to stay healthy and we know that people have found renewed solace in nature through this time of national hardship.

We have commissioned the University of Winchester to carry out a literature review on the barriers to accessing green and blue spaces faced by people from ethnic minority backgrounds, those from deprived areas, people with chronic conditions and people from LGBTQ+ groups. We would like to be able to explore this more with a full research project incorporating household surveys with our 'Missing People'.

The Offer

AONBs have a strong track record of engaging with people. In 2018/19 alone AONBs engaged with half a million people.

With more specialist community engagement staff and improved transport, AONBs could make a significant impact on the health and wellbeing and educational outcomes of their local areas and nearby urban centres.

AONB teams have expertise in:

- providing volunteering opportunities which bring physical and mental health benefits to attendees as well as providing work experience and maximising the conservation work we are able to deliver on the ground. All AONBs have volunteer programmes, some engaging as many as 250 people on a regular basis,
- engaging with local healthcare providers to create social prescribing or self referral opportunities
- supporting people living with dementia and their carers, through dementia friendly walks programmes and art sessions,
- creating self-guided walks of varying distances and levels of difficulty, many accessible from public transport links and some specially created for people with mobility issues,

Connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing

The Offer (cont)

AONB teams have expertise in:

- supporting visits by people from ethnic minority and refugee backgrounds through events, guided walks and the provision of signposting for independent visits.
- work with schools, one AONB's education service engaged 8000 school children in onsite visits during 2018/19 alone, other AONBs specifically target those schools with high pupil premium rates (over 50%) in their nearby urban settings,
- working with artists on projects to attract and engage new audiences, these range from large scale installations to projects with school children inspired by landscape,
- piloting 'A Night Under the Stars for every schoolchild' as recommended in the Glover Review.

The Resources Required

For a minority of AONBs, working with their nearby communities is an aspiration due to lack of resources, for many others it has been a bolt-on to an existing member of staff's responsibilities. We can demonstrate the benefits of people accessing green and blue spaces, and we can demonstrate how these benefits are maximised when specialist members of staff are employed. Where resources can be found to employ specialist community officers, these are multiplied in some cases by an order of magnitude due to the grant funding these officers are able to secure. This would enable us to develop closer relationships with community groups to improve community cohesion, increase our social prescribing offer to improve health outcomes and reduce costs to the local NHS and build relationships with local schools to improve educational outcomes.

An expansion of the pilot scheme for the Night under the Stars for every schoolchild to build this into a 'tried and true' funding package to take to local grant providers will enable us to collaborate and develop a model that can be flexed to work in most areas of England.

£500,000 per year for twenty new community officer posts.

£500,000 for an expansion of the Night Under the Stars pilot scheme, more comprehensive research targeting underserved groups specifically to better understand the barriers to accessing the countryside and a project to boost social prescribing provision within AONBs.

The Outcomes

- Conserving and enhancing natural beauty
- Helping people improve their health and wellbeing by using green spaces
- Helping children and young people from all backgrounds to engage with nature and improve the environment
- Increasing action to improve the environment from all sectors of society.
- Safeguarding and enhancing the beauty of our landscapes and improving its environmental value while being sensitive to considerations of its heritage.

Connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing – case study

The Forest of Bowland AONB Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership

Forest of Bowland AONB has demonstrated the clear benefits of recruiting Jayne Ashe, a project officer focussed on community engagement, to create new opportunities for engaging individuals and local groups from under-served communities as part of the AONB's Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership Project. By 'under-served' we mean those sectors of the community who we as landscape professionals need to do more to engage with and welcome into the countryside. (see blog by Dr Anjana Khatwa, <https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/blogs/black-and-brown-faces-green-spaces>)

The Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership is a four year project designed to conserve this landmark hill, re-connect people with the nature and rich history on their doorstep, and to bring together the two contrasting sides of the hill.

Pendle Hill has always been an iconic sight, dominating the East Lancashire landscape, and is within easy travelling distance of the former mill towns of Nelson, Colne and Burnley on the south side, and the rural towns and villages of Downham, Clitheroe and Sawley in the north.

Broadly, the former mill towns are home to working class communities and large South Asian communities; while the towns and villages in the north are mainly home to white people, some of whom commute into the closest cities of Manchester and Leeds. However, this diversity in the local population is not always reflected in the mix of people who visit and benefit from the countryside around Pendle Hill: missing, and therefore target audiences for the LPS to encourage are the young, BAME and people dealing with mental health and social isolation.

The stories associated with Pendle Hill are a key starting point for engagement. The most well known historical link to the hill is that of the Pendle witches, a group of (mainly) women accused of witchcraft and tried at Lancaster Castle in 1612, but there is more to the hill. In 1652 George Fox had the vision that drove him to set up the Quaker movement – a moment that links directly to the drafting of the constitution of the US. This is not the only example of radical thinking that links directly to the hill – Selina Cooper, a hero of the suffrage movement lived in the shadow of the hill, as did numerous dissenters and reforming socialists, and Tom Stephenson, architect of the Pennine Way came from one of the surrounding villages. The area has a lot to be proud of, but communities have suffered from multiple deprivation as mills began to close from the 1960s.

The team at Forest of Bowland AONB have worked with and alongside existing community organisations to reach more and a wider variety of people.

Connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing – case study



Working with organisations which had already built trusted relationships with the South Asian (largely Pakistani) community has meant that events designed as stepping stones to get families out into the countryside take account of any cultural aspects which the AONB team may not have been aware of. Some families were already regular visitors to the hill, but many have not been able to venture into their local countryside. Creating a series of fun events, sometimes with transport provided meant that families could start building their own relationship with the green spaces nearby, gaining confidence from which to begin visiting independently.

Additionally, Jayne created links with a local mental health and social inclusion service, enabling people to be referred or to self-refer to the People Enjoying Nature programme. The people accessing the programme faced mental health challenges including depression, anxiety and agoraphobia. Getting outdoors in a no-pressure environment gave them the opportunity to engage as much or as little as they wanted, but attendees said they felt huge benefits of being outdoors, carrying out meaningful work and building friendships with other attendees. For the People Enjoying Nature Programme, Jayne runs weekly activities including conservation work such as brash clearance on the hill, and art activities – painting pebbles for a children's trail. As there is very little public transport provision in the area and very few attendees have their own cars, a minibus was commissioned to collect people from central points and bring them onsite.

Volunteering opportunities have also delivered benefits for people and the landscape. A variety of volunteering opportunities are available, from physical outdoor work carrying out footpath maintenance and helping with peat restoration work; to researching local history and archaeology or planning local walking routes. Volunteering opportunities are advertised through the normal AONB routes, but they team also run an initiative for existing local community organisations to 'Get Into Volunteering' as a group. Existing activity and support groups such as Young Carers, Police Cadets, Princes Trust, inter-faith projects, women's and family support groups have engaged with the AONB and Landscape Partnership Scheme in this way. The overall aim is to increase the number of volunteers from all backgrounds, and the benefits to mental and physical health as well as the sense of pride in the local area are enormous.

Photos: 1. Peat Engagement Day, 2. Get Into Volunteering, 3. Meet you at the top. Groups from either side of the hill at the Landscape Partnership launch event, preparing to hike up the hill.

Strengthening Economic Recovery

The Issues

The likely trajectory of the economic and social impact of the Covid pandemic is becoming clearer. Unemployment, mental ill health, economic decline with particular impact on rural and coastal areas is already hitting home.

The Government is committed to a green recovery and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) stand ready to support this. AONBs have an important role to play in supporting a fair and equitable recovery as they are in predominantly rural areas, but often close to large centres of population. A significant proportion of the UK's rural coastline is covered by the AONB designation; areas that have already experienced disproportionate economic and social impacts from the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Offer

AONB Green Recovery Fund

Establish an AONB Green Recovery Fund; in terms of practical delivery at pace, we see an immediate opportunity to re-ignite and expand the 'Sustainable Development Fund' (SDF) which has been successfully delivered across the National Landscapes for many years.

The AONB Green Recovery Fund would be a light touch delegated grant, driven by the agreed priorities of the statutory AONB Management Plans, nature and carbon targets and the need for economic and social recovery in and beyond the AONBs. The approach is driven by community engagement (most grant panels were delivered in collaboration with the community representative) and is willing to take a managed risk to secure green recovery investments amongst rural business (for example food and visitor sector), public bodies and charities.

The Sustainable Development Fund model, on which we aim to build, is an acknowledged success, typically securing significant match funding in cash and effort from partner organisations and subject to rapid delivery. Many of the AONB teams and partnerships have been partners or have run LEADER rural development schemes and, in re-igniting the SDF, we would draw lessons from these schemes but not repeat the administrative burden.

The National Landscapes have an existing management and delivery system for the SDF and so the AONB Green Recovery Fund could be either re-established or geared up quickly. If funding confirmation were given this financial year, we could start generating schemes this year and deliver in year or in 21/22 and in subsequent years

Strengthening Economic Recovery

The Offer

Create 1000 new jobs

The Glover Review proposed 1000 new rangers for the English AONBs and National Parks. We welcome this proposal and are in a position, across the country, to start recruitment for new staff to deliver a green recovery on the ground service. Our aim would be to include rural business support, nature connection and mental health, diversity and inclusion, farmer and land management support, nature recovery and support for the critical visitor economy.

AONB teams have experience of creating **traineeships and apprenticeships** and, given the likely impact of Covid-19, this would be a focus of recovery - particularly in new traineeships in nature-based jobs. Apprentices would receive additional training support from existing Apprenticeship Levy funds, strengthening the skillset in the green sector.

Assuming the recommendations above are supported, the AONB teams would increase the number of traineeships and apprentices.

The Resources Required

Green Recovery Fund

Our initial proposal would be to seek £100K funding per AONB initially, plus £10K towards scheme management, monitoring and reporting. The grant can be geared up over subsequent years. We suggest making the grant available to spend across financial years which would greatly improve its effectiveness and makes sense given the current substantial uncertainties for all sectors.

Create 1000 new jobs

Scope, define and begin the programme of recruiting the 1000 new staff for AONBs and National Parks allowing local determination of the appropriate roles to support the visitor economy, health and well-being, diversity and inclusion, nature recovery and climate emergency. Scope/workforce plan agreed in 2020/21 - £60,000 and 100 new staff in AONBs recruited in 2021/22 - £1,200,000 per annum.

The Outcomes

- Conserving and enhancing natural beauty

Summary

As the nation recovers from the Covid pandemic and its effects on individuals and the economy, and the government remains committed to a green recovery, England's Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are able to offer ideal solutions to many government priorities.

Furloughed workers, families and staycationers have had the opportunity to rediscover the natural beauty around them and the incredible effect it has on their wellbeing, even in challenging times.

But more than this, AONBs are places of innovation. They are the bustling factory floor of the UK food industry as well as places where conservation brings research science to life.

AONB teams have a proven track record of delivery, and maximising their funding through collaborative partnership working, leveraging of non-exchequer funding and the development of strong volunteer groups which benefit attendees and the landscape.

From 'public money for public goods' farming solutions that work in every landscape type, to social prescribing targeting key health and wellbeing issues such as obesity and mental ill health; from meaningful social inclusion work to climate solutions to counter the annual multi-billion pound cost to the nation of flooding and soil erosion; AONBs are the answer on the nation's doorsteps.

We are now working at full capacity. A comparatively modest investment of resources would enable AONB teams to quickly ramp up their work and deliver more of government's priorities for the wellbeing of nature, people and all our futures.

Summary

| Headline Offer | Activity | Year one investment | Annual resource requirement |
|--|---|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| Protecting and Recovering Nature | Taking forward the Colchester Declaration | £5,100,000 | £5,100,000 |
| | Supporting delivery | £2,040,000 | £2,040,000 |
| Safeguarding and enhancing landscapes | Statutory consultee status for AONB partnerships/conservation boards | £1,400,000 | £1,250,000 |
| | ELM nationwide advocacy programme | £900,000 | £900,000 |
| | ELM convenors | £1,360,000 | £1,360,000 |
| | AONB management plan fine-tune | £850,000 | - |
| Connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing | Recruitment and retention of twenty community engagement officers | £500,000 | £500,000 |
| | Expansion of Night Under the Stars project, research into underserved groups, expansion of social prescribing | £500,000 | £400,000 |
| Strengthening Economic Recovery | Green Recovery Fund | £3,740,000 | £3,740,000 |
| | Create 1000 jobs | £60,000 | £1,200,000 |
| | Totals | £16,450,000 | £16,490,000 |