HOWARDIAN HILLS AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE 8 APRIL 2021

AONB ACTION PROGRAMME 2020/21

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To receive details of progress made on implementing the AONB Management Plan during 2020/21. The Action Programme for 2021/22, incorporating business planning requirements, is covered under a separate Report on this agenda.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The Action Programme table contains full details of the progress made.
- 2.2 A detailed Red/Amber/Green system is used to monitor progress against targets throughout the course of the year. Analysis shows that 78% of the specific targets were fully achieved, 10% were 25-75% achieved, 7% were less than 25% achieved and 5% were not progressed at all.
- 2.3 Statistically this is a lower performance than the previous year and is primarily due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Activity in some areas of work, such as the Junior Ranger Club sessions and volunteer tasks, was severely curtailed. Many areas of work progressed reasonably well during the summer and autumn periods and we would have expected to have fully completed these if it hadn't been for the post-Christmas lockdown. This is shown most clearly in the figure of 10% of actions that were partially completed (25-75%) in a normal year this would be around 3%.
- 2.4 The principal targets that we had hoped to achieve more progress on were the restoration of a couple of traditional direction signs and examining the package of Public Rights of Way Diversions and Creations on the Castle Howard Estate to see if any of them could be publicly funded.

3.0 THE ECOSYSTEM APPROACH

- 3.1 Achievements this year included:
 - Participating in and contributing to NAAONB, LEP and LNP initiatives to evaluate natural capital.
 - Starting preparation of a 'nature recovery map' as part of the AONB Network's delivery of the Colchester Declaration, to show where land management changes could help with biodiversity recovery, climate change adaptation and future farm business resilience.

4.0 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

- 4.1 Achievements this year included:
 - Carrying out 4 workdays with volunteers on 4 sites.
 - Carrying out management work on a total of 13 grassland sites (all SSSI/SINC bar four).

- Managing 45 Special Interest Road Verges.
- Carrying out Himalayan balsam control works at Pretty Wood and Mugdale & Barker Woods SINCs, River Derwent SSSI and along Wath Beck.
- Carrying out scrub removal/management works on Coulton Fen SINC, Slingsby Quarry LGS and a grassland site at Bulmer.
- Visiting Thorpe Grange SINC and Hovingham Park Quarry LGS in order to monitor condition.
- Carrying out a thorough survey at all known sites for knapweed broomrape.
- Delivering the ELM Advocacy Project, funded by Defra. 165 land managers contacted and advice given to farmers at Yearsley, Hovingham x 3, Coxwold, Ampleforth, Barton-le-Street, Cawton, Crayke, Wiganthorpe, Terrington, Stittenham, Gilling and Welburn.
- Delivery of the NLHF-funded Ryevitalise Project, although this was seriously affected by Covid-19. Contributed to development of the Evaluation & Monitoring framework and put Ryevitalise staff in touch with landowners and other useful contacts; delivered geomorphology training to Ryevitalise and AONB staff.
- Contributing significantly to the delivery of the NLHF-funded Turtle Doves Project within the AONB, with the Spring 2020 surveys (monitoring visits to previous squares) completed; early-flowering seed plots maintained at Fryton and Coneysthorpe; paperwork prepared for the Year 4 survey.
- Providing funding for managing community nature areas at Autism Plus (Gilling), Appleton-le-Street, Amotherby and Husthwaite; supporting provision of 50 swift boxes at Castle Howard and Coneysthorpe.
- Attending meetings of the North Yorkshire & York Local Nature Partnership.

5.0 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

- 5.1 Achievements this year included:
 - Completing work on 5 Local Priority Sites, and 1 other site/feature.
 - Restoring traditional village name signs in Foston, Grimston and Gilling with the refurbishment of 1 old sign and the erection of 5 new replicas.
 - Visiting limekilns at New Piece Moor, Maidensworth Farm and Hovingham Spa to assess condition. Scrub removal works carried out on limekilns at Hovingham Spa and Maidensworth.
 - Visiting the moated site at Wath, Swinton Grange Park and Low Gaterley bone-grinding mill & outbuildings to assess condition.
 - Completing Year 6 of the Monument Management Scheme, which was principally funded by Historic England. Bramble sprayed on 12 SMs; bracken crushed on 5 SMs; bracken sprayed on 6 SMs; brash cleared from 1 SM; 2 SMs re-seeded. 76 SMs surveyed by volunteers or AONB Team. Final Report and Grant Claim prepared and submitted.

6.0 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

- 6.1 Achievements this year included:
 - 5 community projects funded in 5 villages.
 - Community First Yorkshire project supported with grant aid (see separate report for work achieved by the CFY project officer).
 - Continued liaison with the principal organisations involved in community work in the AONB, via the regular Community Development Officers' meetings.

- Promoting a series of events to address Loneliness issues.
- Participating in the Rural Watch Initiative in the Howardian Hills.

7.0 AGRICULTURE

7.1 Achievements this year included:

- Contacting 165 land managers and giving advice to farmers at Yearsley, Hovingham x 3, Coxwold, Ampleforth, Barton-le-Street, Cawton, Crayke, Wiganthorpe, Terrington, Stittenham, Gilling and Welburn as part of ELM Advocacy Project.
- Completing 4 landscape enhancement schemes at Stittenham, Grimston, Coneysthorpe and Terrington: 1 pond restored; 212m of new hedge/gaps replanted; 18m of roadside wall restored; 18 new individual trees planted.
- Developing a waste plastic tree protection project, to identify collection and recycling options for redundant tree tubes and spiral guards.
- Inputting to NAAONB discussions on Brexit issues, the Agriculture Bill and Glover Review of Protected Landscapes. Discussing these issues in regular meetings with NYMNP staff.
- Scrutinising planning consultations for 12 new agricultural buildings or items of infrastructure.

8.0 FORESTRY AND WOODLAND

8.1 Achievements this year included:

- Scrutinising 5 Forestry Commission Felling Licence consultations and 5 Woodland Management Plans.
- Monitoring the situation with tree diseases, particularly in relation to Yearsley Woods and Phytophthora ramorum.

9.0 DEVELOPMENT & THE RURAL ECONOMY

9.1 Achievements this year included:

- Monitoring and inputting as necessary to national policy consultations and requests for information received by the NAAONB.
- Inputting to important national and local plans to assess conformity with the AONB Management Plan, including the Environmental Land Management Policy Discussion paper, England Tree Strategy and MHCLG consultation on Planning for the Future.
- Scrutinising a total of 128 development control consultations across all categories – full details of Development statistics for the AONB in 2020 are given in a separate Report on the agenda.
- Continuing liaison with Northern Powergrid on overhead electricity cable undergrounding. Schemes completed at Grimstone Top and Oswaldkirk.
- Scrutinising 13 planning consultations relating to small business (nonfarm) development in the AONB.

10.0 ROADS, TRANSPORT AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

10.1 Work this year included:

Trying to progress the restoration of traditional direction signs.

11.0 RECREATION, ACCESS AND TOURISM

11.1 Achievements this year included:

- Scrutinising 11 relevant development control consultations.
- Monitoring on-going issues: trail-building in Yearsley Moor woodlands by mountain bikers; verge damage by parking at the top of Fryton Lane. Issues exacerbated by Covid-19 and increased levels of activity following releases of lockdown restrictions.
- Contributing funding towards the reprint of the North York Moors area
 Outdoor Guide and Sit Back & Enjoy The Ride leaflet.
- Considering an idea for working more closely with the St Nicholas Fields project in York, possibly in relation to recycling of plastic tree protection waste.
- Developing an idea for a 'Sounds in the City' project, for possible implementation at Monks Cross Shopping Centre, to appeal to underrepresented audiences who may not have experience of the AONB.
- Continuing a project to assist NYCC with resolving Public Rights of Way issues in the AONB:
 - o Photographing 30 new/replacement roadside fingerposts.
 - Popular village loop path at Crayke re-surfaced.
 - Steps repaired at Stonegrave.
 - o 2 stiles replaced with kissing gates at Hovingham.
 - o 3 stiles replaced with kissing gates at Oulston.
 - o Route cleared at Newburgh.

12.0 AWARENESS AND PROMOTION

12.1 Achievements this year included:

- Maintaining a neat appearance around the AONB gateway signs.
- Publishing AONB News and our Annual Report for 2019/20.
- Maintaining the AONB website, particularly with information in relation to visiting the AONB during the Covid-19 pandemic and after lockdowns.
- Maintaining a presence on Twitter, publicising the practical work being carried out in the AONB and re-Tweeting as appropriate.
- Countryfile Live cancelled due to lack of trade stand bookings; Ryedale Show cancelled due to Covid-19 pandemic.
- All Junior Ranger Club sessions cancelled due to Covid-19 pandemic; emailed a 12-page activities booklet, linking to activities being delivered by other organisations.

13.0 IMPLEMENTATION

13.1 Achievements this year included:

- Inputting to NAAONB discussions on Brexit issues, the Agriculture Bill, Environment Bill and Glover Review of Protected Landscapes.
- Joint working on: Native Woodland Partnership; Dark Skies Reserve status; delivery of the Ryevitalise Landscape Partnership Scheme; NLHF Turtle Doves Project; developing a NLHF bid for a Farmland Birds project; post-Brexit agri-environment scheme development.
- Part-time AONB Project Officer post to be made Permanent, at 7.5krs/week, from 1st April 2021.
- No reserves used in 2020/21; £10k grant from 2010/11 returned as a condition of Renewable Heat Incentive application.

- An additional £4,300 received from Historic England due to extension of the Monument Management Scheme as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Moorswork ceased to operate due to the Covid-19 pandemic; 4Nature engaged as replacement leaders for volunteer tasks; mobile handwashing kit purchased.
- Achieving volunteer assistance with 5 projects or tasks, worth at least 70 days (£6,200 at HLF volunteering rates). Severely reduced due to Covid-19 pandemic. 16 days-worth on site management tasks; 0 days on Junior Ranger Club, shows, etc; 54 days-worth on Turtle Dove surveying.

14.0 MONITORING

No activity this year.

15.0 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR AONBS

- 15.1 Achievements this year included:
 - Inputting to NAAONB discussions on Brexit issues, the Agriculture Bill, Environment Bill and Glover Review of Protected Landscapes.
 - Participating in peer-to-peer and on-line collaborative working initiatives, to share and receive knowledge around the AONB Network, including attending a Lead Officers' meeting.
 - Reporting on AONB Network Key Performance Indicators.
 - The Northern Group meetings, national Conference, Chairmen's Conference and Lead Officers' meeting were all cancelled as face-to-face meetings due to the Covid-19 pandemic. A Northern Group Lead Officers' meeting, project officers' meetings and the national Lead Officers' meeting took place by video conference.

16.0 MANAGEMENT PLAN

No work this year.

17.0 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the achievements against Targets for 2020/21 be noted.

HOWARDIAN HILLS AONB ACTION PROGRAMME

2020/21

= Not started = Started - up to 25% = 26-75% completed = 76-100% completed 100% completed

144 separate Targets/Actions (N.B. some Targets may be duplicated under different Objectives – N/A is used where applicable to minimise double-counting)

Q1 – 19 (13%) Not Started; 115 (80%) Started – up to 25% completed; 10 (7%) 26–75% Completed; 0 (0%) 76–100% Completed; 0 (0%) 100% Completed 0 (0%) Unknown Q2 – 9 (9%) Not Started; 18 (12%) Started – up to 25% completed; 101 (72%) 26–75% Completed; 14 (4%) 76–100% Completed; 2 (3%) 100% Completed 0 (0%) Unknown Q3 – 8 (5%) Not Started; 15 (11%) Started – up to 25% completed; 105 (73%) 26–75% Completed; 5 (3%) 76–100% Completed; 11 (8%) 100% Completed; 0 (0%) Unknown Q4 – 7 (5%) Not Started; 10 (7%) Started – up to 25% completed; 14 (10%) 26–75% Completed; 2 (1%) 76–100% Completed; 11 (77%) 100% Completed; 0 (0%) Unknown Q4 – 7 (5%) Not Started

	OBJECTIVE (Summarised)	SPECIFIC TARGET 20/21	APRIL - JUNE	JULY - SEPT	OCT - DEC	JAN - MAR	ACHIEVEMENTS 20/21
NCES1	The AONB's natural capital assets and their relative roles/significance in the provision of ecosystem services						
NCES1.1	Monitor and engage in development of the natural capital approach, both nationally and within the AONB.	# Participate and contribute to initiatives initiated by the NAAONB, the LEP and LNP.					# Natural Capital handbook now published by Natural England. # Grant provided to Castle Howard Estate for natural capital mapping project.
NCES1.2	Develop/adopt condition assessment techniques to gain a better understanding of the quality of the AONB's natural capital assets.	# Evaluate the various mechanisms developed by NE, to assess suitability for HHAONB circumstances.					# Attended NAAONB webinar on the species recovery element of the Colchester Declaration # Favourable Condition assessments of selected species and habitats published by Natural England.
NCES1.3	•	# Produce the matrix.					# No progress
NCES1.4	•	# Produce the 'opportunity map' as part of the AONB Network's delivery of the Colchester Declaration.					# Methodology established and map production started – c.5% completed. Move to 2021/22.

	OBJECTIVE (Summarised)	SPECIFIC TARGET 20/21	APRIL - JUNE	JULY - SEPT	OCT - DEC	JAN - MAR	ACHIEVEMENTS 20/21
NCES2.1 NCES2.2 NCES2.3	project that could impact on the AONB, whether positively or negatively, is assessed for compliance with the AONB Management Plan. Use matrix referred to in NCES1.3 above to guide consultation responses and assess projects that receive assistance from the JAC.	# On-going. # Input to continuing development of the new scheme, both locally and nationally as appropriate.					# Defra: Environmental Land Management Policy Discussion; England Tree Strategy. MHCLG: Planning for the Future. # 133 planning/development proposals scrutinised (see DRE1.2). - # Policy announcements and scheme progress monitored and evaluated. # Held regular update and discussion meetings with North York Moors National Park staff on scheme development. # Submitted comments to NAAONB discussions on Tests & Trials and development of Farming in Protected Landscapes programme.
NCES3.1 NCES3.2	Climate change trends/scenarios and potential future impacts on the AONB Keep up-to-date with climate change information and scenarios. Monitor the potential impacts of climate change on the AONB's natural capital and ecosystem services.	# On-going. # On-going.	=				# Continual evaluation of events and predictions to inform possible future scenarios. # Continued observation of impact of weather events and climate change on habitats, species, land-based industries and communities.

	OBJECTIVE (Summarised)	SPECIFIC TARGET 20/21	APRIL - JUNE	JULY - SEPT	OCT - DEC	JAN - MAR	ACHIEVEMENTS 20/21
NE1.1 NE1.1	Knowledge of the biodiversity resources of the AONB Carry out monitoring surveys on Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs). Carry out detailed surveys of specific Priority Habitats and Priority Species as necessary, to fill identified gaps in knowledge.	# Support 2020 survey of Turtle Doves within the AONB (Covid-19 dependent). # Continue to support development of successor 'Birds on the Edge' NLHF bid.					# Carried out 2 rounds of monitoring visits using a small group of volunteers working in a Covid-secure way. Surveyed the same squares as in 2020 as well as several new squares. # Survey packs prepared for 2021 monitoring visits. # Early flowering seed plots re-sown at Castle Howard. # Birds on the Edge bid to be submitted by North York Moors Trust when NLHF application window re-opens after Covid-19.
NE1.3	Encourage farmers, land managers and communities to monitor wildlife and report sightings. Gain a better understanding of the Priority Habitat area and Priority Species populations in the AONB, and their trends.	# Use knowledge gained from researching data availability as part of developing an 'opportunity map' (NCES1.4).	-	-	•	-	# See NCES1.4.
NE2 NE2.1	Appropriate protection for the best nature conservation sites Maintain and regularly update a register of key nature conservation sites.	# Continue involvement in supporting/developing data management and SINC designation/monitoring systems within North Yorkshire. # Continue involvement in the Local Biodiversity Action Partnership covering the AONB.	_		_	_	# No input required this year. # eInfo bulletin being published occasionally, including information provided by AONB Team.
NE2.2 NE2.3	Ensure effective protection (via designation) for the best nature conservation sites. Resist development proposals that may adversely affect key nature conservation sites.	# Check for inclusion of Special Interest Road Verges data on the National Street Gazetteer. # Comment as necessary, via JAC consultations.					# Not completed. # 2 relevant planning applications.

	OBJECTIVE (Summarised)	SPECIFIC TARGET 20/21	APRIL - JUNE	JULY - SEPT	OCT - DEC	JAN - MAR	ACHIEVEMENTS 20/21
NE3	Targets for Priority Habitats in the AONB						
NE3.1	Ensure that all the AONB's Natural Environment Priority Sites and Special Interest Road Verges are in 'favourable' or 'recovering' condition.	# Continue to facilitate conservation management of grassland SINCs and other sites, by grazing or other means. # Encourage new management agreement for grassland in Mowthorpe Dale. # Encourage grassland management works at Stearsby Hagg Grassland. # Carry out management works on 45 SIRVs. # Re-visit Thorpe Grange, Rose Cottage Farm Meadow and Grassland adjoining Swinsey Carr SINCs to assess current condition.					# 6 sites grazed by Exmoor Ponies at Cawton (2), Coulton (2), Terrington (2); species-rich grassland on Husthwaite Village Green managed; Appleton-le-Street Churchyard cut & raked. # Scrub management carried out at Coulton Fen and Littledale SINCs; scrub management continued at Bulmer Bank (curtailed by Covid-19). # Site visit postponed to summer 2021 due to Covid-19. # 45 SIRVs cut, Feb & March '21. # Re-visited Thorpe Grange SINC. # Rose Cottage Farm Meadow SINC and Grassland adjacent to Swinsey Carr SINC evaluated as part of Countryside Stewardship application and Ryevitalise Agreement.
NE3.2	Encourage the buffering and extension of the AONB's Natural Environment Priority Sites.	# Encourage via Countryside Stewardship Scheme involvement and advice to farmers & land managers.					# Landowner of Foxfoot Hay SINC given advice as part of ELM Advocacy project.
NE3.3	Encourage the restoration of habitats that have declined in interest but still retain significant ecological potential, particularly Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites, rivers and water bodies not in Good Ecological Status and some/parts of the AONB's Natural Environment Priority Sites.	# Encourage via Countryside Stewardship Scheme involvement and advice to farmers & land managers.					# Scrub removed from grassland site at Bulmer.
NE3.4	•	# Encourage via Countryside Stewardship Scheme involvement and advice to farmers & land managers. # Maintain an involvement in the Castle Howard Conservation Steering Group.					# 212m of new hedge/gaps replanted; 18 new individual trees planted; 2.25ha of Turtle Dove seed plots reestablished at Fryton and Coneysthorpe. # Some contact during Covid-19 but YWT staff preparing report were furloughed.
NE3.5		# Continue involvement in the Yorkshire Derwent Catchment Partnership. # Contribute to delivery of 2020/21 Ryevitalise projects as appropriate.					# Attended Steering Group meetings and sent data on Invasive Non-Native Species control works. # Delivery seriously affected by Covid-19. Arts meeting at Nunnington, followed by a virtual site meeting — exhibition being planned for February 2022; contributed to development of the Evaluation & Monitoring framework; put Ryevitalise staff in touch with landowners and other useful contacts; delivered geomorphology training to Ryevitalise and AONB staff.

	OBJECTIVE (Summarised)	SPECIFIC TARGET 20/21	APRIL - JUNE	JULY - SEPT	OCT - DEC	JAN - MAR	ACHIEVEMENTS 20/21
NE4.2	Targets for Priority Species for which the AONB is important Ensure that key sites for specific species are in 'favourable' or 'recovering' condition. Encourage restoration or creation of sites where significant ecological potential exists. Identify local Target Areas and encourage co-ordinated management measures.	# Monitor and/or manage grassland for knapweed broomrape at Amotherby Lane SINC and on Swinton Lane. # Encourage via Countryside Stewardship Scheme involvement and advice to farmers & land managers. # See NE1.2 – Turtle Doves project. # Continue to support development of successor 'Birds on the Edge' NLHF bid. # Input to Cornfield Flowers & Yorkshire Farm Flora Project activities.	N/A N/A			-	# Verges left uncut on Swinton Lane via request to landowner; grazed by gypsy ponies so no spikes. # Broughton Lane SINC, Amotherby Lane SINC and Swinton Lane surveyed for dead flower spikes. # 2.25ha of Turtle Dove seed plots re-established at Fryton and Coneysthorpe. # See NE1.2. # Bid to be submitted by North York Moors Trust when NLHF application window re-opens after Covid-19. # Activities severely affected by Covid-19. Cornfield Flowers Project linked to Gilling Church; seeding promoted at Autism Plus in 2021 – grant for yellow rattle seeding to be provided in 2021. Promoted a series of walks held by Yorkshire Farm Flora Project. # See NE3.5.
NE5.1	Targets for wildlife within villages Raise awareness of wildlife within villages and assist communities with creating, managing and enhancing biodiversity within and adjacent to settlements.	# Assist with linking the Turtle Dove Project Officer to community groups. # Assist with delivery of identified habitat enhancement projects, e.g. Kendrew Green at Husthwaite, Autism Plus at Gilling, Crayke village.	П				# Events cancelled due to Covid-19. Some school assemblies attended during summer 2020. # Kendrew Green moved onto 3 cuts per year; rescue cut at Autism Plus after first Covid-19 lockdown; Crayke village activities postponed due to Covid-19.
NE6.1 NE6.2	Invasive non-native species Monitor the location and abundance of invasive non-native species. Carry out targeted partnership action to manage invasive non-native species where appropriate.	# Deliver as part of Ryevitalise Project. # Control Himalayan balsam at Wath Beck, River Derwent SSSI; Jeffry Bog, Fairy Dell and Mugdale & Barker Woods SINCs. # See NE3.5 above (River Rye, Himalayan balsam). # Control rhododendron on appropriate sites where biodiversity would be enhanced.	N/A N/A	× × × ×	-	-	# See NE3.5. # Himalayan balsam cleared at Wath Beck; River Derwent SSSI at Crambeck and Kirkham Picnic Field; Jeffry Bog, Mugdale & Barker Woods and Pretty Wood SINCs. # See NE3.5. # Coulton Moor checked and info about regrowth passed to FE for action.

	OBJECTIVE (Summarised)	SPECIFIC TARGET 20/21	APRIL - JUNE	JULY - SEPT	OCT - DEC	JAN - MAR	ACHIEVEMENTS 20/21
NE7	Important geodiversity sites and features						
NE7.1	Develop a network of Local Geological Sites (LGS).	_					
NE7.2	Ensure that sites identified as LGS are in 'favourable' or 'recovering' condition.	# Visit Hildenley Heights Quarry, Hildenley Wood Quarry, Park Quarry and Hovingham Park Quarry to assess condition and scope for management works.					# Visited Hovingham Park Quarry – no management works needed. Visits to remaining sites scheduled for April `21.
		# Carry out management works to improve the condition of 1 LGS. Priority sites potentially include Hildenley Heights Quarry, Hovingham Park Quarry and Slingsby Quarry.					# Overhanging scrub cleared at Slingsby Quarry.
NE7.3	Resist development proposals that may adversely affect sites designated as LGS.	# Comment as necessary, via JAC consultations.					# No comments submitted on 1 relevant planning application.
NE8	Assistance to farmers and land managers, to help them manage						
NE8.1	Assist farmers and land managers to enter key sites (particularly the AONB's Natural Environment Priority Sites) and other farmed land into appropriate options in the current Countryside Stewardship scheme.	# Encourage via Countryside Stewardship Scheme involvement and advice to farmers & land managers.	_				# Advice given to farmers at Yearsley, Hovingham x 3, Coxwold, Ampleforth, Barton-le-Street, Cawton, Crayke, Wiganthorpe, Terrington, Stittenham, Gilling and Welburn as part of ELM Advocacy Project.
NE8.2	Ensure that the post-Brexit environmental land management scheme can be used to conserve and enhance the AONB's habitats and landscape character.	# Input to continued development of the new scheme, both locally and nationally as appropriate.	N/A				# Policy announcements and scheme progress monitored and evaluated – see NCES2.3.
NE8.3	Provide a flexible package of assistance including advice, grant aid, direct works and management agreements, as appropriate, to assist land managers with identifying, conserving, enhancing and increasing understanding and enjoyment of biodiversity and geodiversity features on their land, particularly the AONB's Natural Environment Priority Sites.	# Support suitable projects, as appropriate.					# Advice provided on scrub management, pond restoration and woodland planting at Stittenham; 50 swift boxes erected at Castle Howard & Coneysthorpe; coppicing/scrub management carried out at Coulton Fen SINC and at a site at Bulmer; scrub cleared from quarry face at Slingsby Quarry LGS.

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NE9 NE9.1	Recognition of the Howardian Hills as a priority area for biodiversity Participate in the Local Nature Partnership, to identify and develop opportunities for integrated projects that achieve LNP and AONB Management Plan objectives.	# Attend Board meetings and continue developing joint initiatives with other partners in the LNP or LEP areas.	_				# Attended Board meetings and input to online discussions on LNP initiatives.
HE1	Understanding of the AONB's historic environment and its significance						
HE1.1	Re-assess the archaeology of the AONB to create an up-to-date evidence base, better understand significant sites and inform a research agenda.	_					_
HE1.2	Consider preparing a Statement of Significance for the AONB.	_					_
HE1.3	3	_					
HE1.4	Carry out regular surveys of built heritage to identify important or distinctive building groups, individual structures, architectural features and Buildings at Risk.	_					
HE1.5	Promote the recording of local history and traditions.	# Deliver as part of Ryevitalise Project.					# Articles placed in village Newsletters and promoted via Twitter. Community First Yorkshire assisting with delivery of the Paradise Initiative element.
HE1.6	Encourage information to be recorded in the North Yorkshire Historic Environment Record.	# Pass information on 2019/20 projects to NYCC Historic Environment Record Officer.					# Completed.

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HE2	Significance of the AONB's historic environment						
HE2.1	Resist development proposals that would be likely to harm the significance of the AONB's heritage assets.	# Comment as necessary, via JAC consultations.					# 21 cases. Comments submitted on 3 proposals: 1 modified. Objections or Significant Concerns with 6 proposals: 1 Refused; 2 Withdrawn; 2 pending.
HE2.2		# Comment as necessary, via JAC consultations.					# No relevant cases.
HE2.3	5	_					_
HE2.4		# Implement final year of the Monument Management Scheme, organising and implementing programme of follow-up surveys and management work on prioritised sites.		XXXXXX	XXXXXX		# Historic England extended project deadline to 31/3/21. Bramble sprayed on 12 SMs; bracken crushed on 5 SMs; bracken sprayed on 6 SMs; brash cleared from 1 SM; 2 SMs re-seeded. 76 SMs surveyed by volunteers or AONB Team. Final Report and Grant Claim prepared and submitted.
		# Carry out extensive scrub management works on 1 SM - moated site at Low Hutton.					# Not achieved.

	OBJECTIVE (Summarised)	SPECIFIC TARGET 20/21	APRIL - JUNE	JULY - SEPT	OCT - DEC	JAN - MAR	ACHIEVEMENTS 20/21
HE2.5 HE2.6	Prepare conservation/management plans for all designed landscapes. Assist farmers and land managers to enter key archaeological features (particularly the AONB's Historic Environment Priority Sites) and other heritage assets into appropriate options in the current Countryside Stewardship scheme.	# Encourage via Countryside Stewardship Scheme involvement and advice to farmers & land managers.	-			-	
HE2.7	Ensure that the post-Brexit environmental land management scheme can be used to conserve and enhance the AONB's historic environment features and landscapes.	# Input to continued development of the new scheme, both locally and nationally as appropriate.					# Policy announcements and scheme progress monitored and evaluated – see NCES2.3.
HE2.8	Provide a flexible package of assistance including advice, grant aid, direct works and management agreements, as appropriate, to assist	# Carry out management or repair works on at least 3 Historic Environment Priority Sites or historic features (exc. sites covered by HE2.4 above).					# Work completed on 5 Local Priority Sites, at Dalby, Coulton, Gilling, Cawton, Maidensworth.
	land managers with identifying, conserving, enhancing and increasing understanding and enjoyment of historic environment features on their land, particularly the AONB's Historic	# Re-visit Limekilns at New Piece Moor, High Wood (Brandsby), Maidensworth Farm, Hildenley Wood, Hovingham Spa and Limekiln Plantation (Nunnington) to assess current condition.					# Visited New Piece Moor, Maidensworth Farm, Hovingham Spa. Visits to remaining sites scheduled for April '21. Scrub clearance work completed at Maidensworth Farm and Hovingham Spa.
	Environment Priority Sites.	# Visit boundary banks at Brick Kiln Plantation and Cum Hag Wood; moated site at Wath; Swinton Grange parkland; bone-grinding mill & outbuildings at Low Gaterley; field system at Hildenley to assess current condition.	-				# Visited moated site at Wath, Swinton Grange Park, Low Gaterley bone-grinding mill & outbuildings. Visits to remaining sites scheduled for April '21.
		# Re-visit Mill in Todd Wood to assess condition following work carried out winter 2019/20.					# Completed. Regrowth treatment needed; Estate to carry out.
HE2.9	Monitor developments in the understanding of potential climate change impacts on historic environment features.	# On-going.					# Achieved.

	OBJECTIVE (Summarised)	SPECIFIC TARGET 20/21	APRIL - JUNE	JULY - SEPT	OCT - DEC	JAN - MAR	ACHIEVEMENTS 20/21
HE3	Non-designated heritage assets and development of management strategies						
HE3.1	Publish criteria and provide assistance to enable local communities to identify the non-designated heritage assets which contribute to the character of their area.	_					_
HE3.2	Support the development of site-based management strategies to conserve and enhance important non-designated heritage assets identified by local communities.	_					_
LC1	Retention of village services and						
LC1.1	implementation of projects Make representations to Government on relevant national rural issues, via the NAAONB.	# As necessary, via input to NAAONB consultations.					# Consultations monitored and input to NAAONB responses submitted as appropriate.
LC1.2	Resist policy or development proposals that may adversely affect key village services.	# Comment as necessary, via JAC consultations.					# 1 relevant planning application.
LC1.3	Work as appropriate with partner organisations to develop innovative projects for delivering services to local communities.	# Continue to liaise with Development Officers in other organisations, and participate in new initiatives as appropriate.					# Activity severely affected by Covid-19. Briefing session on Lottery grants held as part of a large forum event, Jan '21.
		# Continue involvement in community energy use reduction/sustainability projects, working with RDC and CFY.					_
LC1.4	Support communities in developing beneficial projects, e.g. via new or reviewed Parish Plans.	# Support CFY/District Council/Stronger Communities initiatives, as appropriate.					# Promoted Loneliness events, Feb/Mar `21.
LC1.5	Implement projects that support the character, sustainability, economy or sense of community of villages.	# Input to Derwent Villages Natural Flood Management Project, to reduce flooding impact on Gilling and Hovingham villages.					# Sent details to landowner at Gilling.
	Solution of Thingson	# Support the Rural Watch Scheme which covers the AONB.					# Discussed potential AONB funding for barriers. Posted to WhatsApp group about AONB grants for hedges. # Nunnington Village Hall Committee referred to Ryedale DC for potential funding for secondary glazing. # Worked with St Benedict's Ampleforth on Forest School idea.

	OBJECTIVE (Summarised)	SPECIFIC TARGET 20/21	APRIL - JUNE	JULY - SEPT	OCT - DEC	JAN - MAR	ACHIEVEMENTS 20/21
LC2.1	Voluntary and community engagement with the local natural and historic environment of the AONB Work with communities, local groups, businesses and land managers to encourage partnership action for identifying, monitoring, managing, raising awareness of, accessing and enjoying the natural and historic environment.	# Support the continued development and delivery of a wildlife-focussed project in Crayke. # Support delivery of the Ryevitalise Education, Paradise Initiative and Citizen Science projects, as appropriate.					# Postponed due to Covid-19. # Activities severely affected by Covid-19 but River Flylife training and some surveys completed. Paradise Initiative proceeding well.
AG1 .1	Government support mechanisms that promote sustainable farm and rural business development Assist farmers and land managers to enter key sites (particularly the AONB's Natural and Historic Environment Priority Sites) and other farmed land into appropriate options in the current Countryside	# Encourage via Countryside Stewardship Scheme involvement and advice to farmers & land managers.					# 165 land managers contacted and advice given to farmers at Yearsley, Hovingham x 3, Coxwold, Ampleforth, Barton-le-Street, Cawton, Crayke, Wiganthorpe, Terrington, Stittenham, Gilling and Welburn as part of ELM Advocacy Project.
AG1.2	Stewardship scheme. Make representations to Government, either individually and/or via the NAAONB, to ensure that a far-sighted and integrated rural support mechanism and environmental land management scheme emerges from the Brexit process.	# Participate via the NAAONB in work to develop new mechanisms for land management and rural business support post-Brexit.					# Policy announcements and scheme progress monitored and evaluated. # Submitted comments to NAAONB discussions on Tests & Trials and development of Farming in Protected Landscapes programme.
AG1.3	Make representations to ensure that the Howardian Hills AONB remains a priority area for funding from Government agencies.	# Ensure that the AONB is included as a Target Area within any relevant new/updated strategies/Schemes.					# No action required this year.
AG1.4	Consider bidding for a Pilot of the new environmental land management scheme to run in the AONB, possibly in partnership with the North York Moors National Park.	# Continue dialogue with the North York Moors National Park Authority on potential joint working opportunities, e.g. Farmer Clusters, Environmental Land Management scheme design & delivery, etc.					# Regular update meetings held every 6-8 weeks with National Park staff. # Delivered ELM Advocacy project funded by Defra. # Participated in discussions to develop the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme.

	OBJECTIVE (Summarised)	SPECIFIC TARGET 20/21	APRIL - JUNE	JULY - SEPT	OCT - DEC	JAN - MAR	ACHIEVEMENTS 20/21
AG2 AG2.1	Provide a flexible package of assistance including advice, grant aid, direct works and management agreements, as appropriate, to assist land managers with identifying, conserving, enhancing and increasing understanding and enjoyment of landscape features on their land.	# Provide advice to farmers & land managers, as appropriate. # Subject to a successful application to NLHF, promote the 'Birds on the Edge' grant scheme and Officer advice. # Assist as appropriate with promotion of the Ryevitalise grants programme. # Assist 3 landscape conservation projects with AONB funding.					# Advice given to farmers at Yearsley, Hovingham x 3, Coxwold, Ampleforth, Barton-le-Street, Cawton, Crayke, Wiganthorpe, Terrington, Stittenham, Gilling and Welburn as part of ELM Advocacy Project. # Grant application delayed by Covid-19. # Landowner contacts and specialist local advice provided as required. # Schemes completed at Stittenham, Grimston, Coneysthorpe and Terrington. 1 pond restored; 212m of new hedge/gaps replanted; 18m of roadside wall restored; 18 new individual trees planted. # Plastic tree protection project developed, to identify collection and recycling options for redundant tree tubes and spiral guards.
AG3 AG3.1	Design and siting of new farm buildings and infrastructure Support the construction of new farm buildings and infrastructure where these follow the principles set out in the AONB New Farm Buildings & Infrastructure Design Guidance.	# Comment as necessary, via JAC consultations.					# 12 cases. Comments submitted on 3 proposals: 3 Granted with suggested amendments/Conditions. Objections or Significant Concerns with 1 proposal: 1 Withdrawn.
	Woodland felling, management and creation proposals Ensure that all proposals take account of the Special Qualities of the AONB. Use consultation procedures to ensure that all proposals are in accordance with Management Plan Objectives.	# Comment as necessary, via the FC Public Register. # Comment as necessary, via the FC Public Register.					# 5 specific woodland management/planting schemes and 5 Woodland Management Plans scrutinised.
FW2 FW2.1	Multi-objective approach to woodland management Encourage owners and managers to prepare FC-approved Woodland Management Plans for their woodlands.	-					-

	OBJECTIVE (Summarised)	SPECIFIC TARGET 20/21	APRIL - JUNE	JULY - SEPT	OCT - DEC	JAN - MAR	ACHIEVEMENTS 20/21
FW3.2	Incidence and impacts of pests and diseases Keep up-to-date with information on invasive woodland pests and diseases, in particular H. fraxineus, P. ramorum and muntjac deer. Encourage vigilance and reporting of suspected sightings. Deliver appropriate mitigation strategies to manage the impacts of	# Monitor Chalara Ash Dieback and P. ramorum disease situations and respond as necessary.				_	# Increase in Chalara Ash Dieback not as significant as noted in 2019/20. No P.ramorum noted at Gilling Woods during fly-over surveys. -
FW4	pests and diseases. Trees and shrubs of climate- appropriate provenance when						
FW4.1	Planting or restocking Promote the incorporation of natural regeneration of appropriate native tree and shrub species into restocking plans.	# Promote as appropriate, via the FC Public Register.					# No relevant schemes.
	Promote the use of climate- appropriate provenance nursery plants when restocking.	# Promote as appropriate, via the FC Public Register.					# No relevant schemes.
FW4.3	Encourage local forest nurseries to make adequate quantities of local provenance material available.	-					-
FW5 FW5.1	New areas of woodland Use consultation procedures to advise on the siting and design of new areas of woodland, within the guidance provided by the Landscape Management & Priority Sites section of the AONB Management Plan.	# Comment as necessary, via the FC Public Register.				-	# 3 cases. 7.8ha total woodland creation.
FW6 FW6.1	Local and regional markets for timber and woodland products Encourage the use of timber from the AONB in local industries, e.g. furniture making, traditional building restoration, etc.	-					_

	OBJECTIVE (Summarised)	SPECIFIC TARGET 20/21	APRIL - JUNE	JULY - SEPT	OCT - DEC	JAN - MAR	ACHIEVEMENTS 20/21
FW7	Grant and advice mechanisms that achieve AONB Management Plan objectives for woodland management and creation						
FW7.1	Assist owners and managers to enter their woodlands into appropriate options in the current Countryside Stewardship scheme.	# Encourage via Countryside Stewardship Scheme involvement and advice to farmers & land managers.					# Advice provided to land manager at Wiganthorpe as part of ELM Advocacy project.
FW7.2	Ensure that the post-Brexit environmental land management scheme can be used to assist with priority woodland management work within the AONB.	# Input to continued development of the new scheme, both locally and nationally as appropriate.	N/A				# Policy announcements and scheme progress monitored and evaluated – see NCES2.3.
FW7.3	Provide a flexible package of assistance including advice, grant aid, direct works and management agreements, as appropriate, to assist land managers with identifying, conserving, enhancing and increasing understanding and enjoyment of landscape features on their land.	_					_
FW7.4	•	# Continue attendance at Partnership meetings.					# May '20 meeting cancelled due to Covid-19 pandemic. Attended Dec '20 meeting.

OBJECTIVE (Summarised)	SPECIFIC TARGET 20/21	APRIL - JUNE	JULY - SEPT	OCT - DEC	JAN - MAR	ACHIEVEMENTS 20/21
DRE1 New development DRE1.1 Ensure that all relevant Plans, Strategies and Policies recognise, protect and, where appropriate, enhance the Special Qualities of the AONB and its setting.	# Monitor all new Policies and Strategies, submitting comments individually or via the NAAONB as appropriate, to ensure that the national significance of the AONB is safeguarded. # Input to the Ryedale and Hambleton Local Plan Strategies processes as applicable. # Input to the North Yorkshire Minerals &					# Consultations monitored and responses submitted as appropriate. Environmental Land Management Policy Discussion paper; England Tree Strategy; Planning for the Future. # No inputs required. —
DRE1.2 Maintain effective consultation arrangements between the Local Planning Authorities and the Joint Advisory Committee.	Waste Joint Plan as applicable. # Maintain relationships and respond to JAC consultations as necessary and within specified time frames.					# 128 consultations received from NYCC, RDC, HDC or external agencies/contractors. Comments submitted on 19 proposals: 11 Granted with suggested amendments/Conditions. Objections or Significant Concerns with 16 proposals: 2 Granted, 2 Granted with suggested amendment/Condition, 2 Refused, 3 Withdrawn, 2 Decisions pending.
DRE2 Standards in design of new development and the management of existing buildings/features						
DRE2.1 Ensure consistent high-quality rural design standards covering the whole AONB, including building design, materials and green infrastructure.	_					_
DRE2.2 Encourage communities to prepare Village Design Statements, to guide the design of future development.	-					_
DRE2.3 Provide guidance on sustainable building restoration techniques, including energy conservation measures.	_					
DRE2.4 Consider undertaking appraisals to enable the designation of new Conservation Areas and the enhancement of existing ones.	_					

OBJECTIVE (Summarised)	SPECIFIC TARGET 20/21	APRIL - JUNE	JULY - SEPT	OCT - DEC	JAN - MAR	ACHIEVEMENTS 20/21
DRE3. Mitigation of intrusive features DRE3.1 Encourage local enhancement works to mitigate the impact of existing visually intrusive developments. DRE3.2 Continue liaison arrangements with Northern Powergrid, to prioritise and implement the undergrounding of electricity cables in prominent locations. DRE3.3 Encourage Openreach to underground telephone cables in prominent locations, primarily in conjunction with electricity cable undergrounding. DRE3.4 Resist developments that increase the impact of light or noise pollution on the AONB or its setting.	# Continue to attend Liaison Group meetings. # Encourage implementation of at least 1 new scheme in the AONB – Grimstone Top and Oswaldkirk schemes due to commence. # Continue to liaise with BT Openreach over burying cables, at Oswaldkirk and any other electricity cable undergrounding schemes as necessary. # Comment as necessary, via JAC consultations.			××××		# No meetings held due to Covid-19. Catch-up phone call - confirmed next schemes. # Grimstone Top fully completed; Oswaldkirk underground network completed. Submitted extra scheme in case any windfall ED1 funding becomes available. # No response to request to discuss options for Oswaldkirk. # 9 relevant cases. Comments made on 4 proposals; 4 Granted with suggested amendments/Conditions; Objections or Significant Concerns with 3 proposals: 2 Granted with suggested amendment/Condition, 1 Withdrawn.
DRE4 Minerals-working proposals DRE4.1 Resist any minerals exploration or production proposals which are not compatible with AONB Purposes of Designation or Management Plan Objectives. DRE4.2 Support appropriate proposals for small-scale quarrying of stone for local uses and to assist with repairs to heritage assets. DRE4.3 Safeguard/obtain supplies of suitable local stone for drystone wall restoration.	# Comment as necessary, via JAC consultations. # Monitor the situation relating to hydraulic fracturing, both at Kirby Misperton and in the southern part of the AONB in relation to potential seismic surveying. # Comment as necessary, via JAC consultations.					# No relevant planning applications. # No developments since Government moratorium imposed. # No relevant planning applications.

OBJECTIVE	SPECIFIC TARGET 20/21	APRIL	JULY -	OCT -	JAN -	ACHIEVEMENTS 20/21
(Summarised)		- JUNE	SEPT	DEC	MAR	
DRE5 Renewable energy installations DRE5.1 Provide advice and guidance on the type of renewable energy technologies and installations likely to be appropriate in the AONB.	# Provide advice and guidance, as required.					# Provided advice to landowner at Whitwell.
DRE5.2 Support appropriate proposals that follow the 'Four Rights' – Technology, Scale, Place and Design. DRE5.3 Promote the benefits of appropriate renewable energy developments and demonstrate examples of 'best practice' projects.	# Comment as necessary, via JAC consultations.					# 3 relevant planning applications. —
DRE6 Rural business, local employment, training & skills and farm diversification activities						
DRE6.1 Promote the provision of accessible ICT, business and rural skills advice, training, courses, demonstrations, etc.	# Continue to promote as part of LEADER and YNY&ER LEP initiatives as applicable, in particular the GROW Yorkshire initiative.					# 5G and fixed line broadband meeting with NYCC and other NY AONBs. # Delivered ELM Advocacy project funded by Defra.
DRE6.2 Encourage businesses to develop appropriate new enterprises within or close to the AONB.	# Continue to promote as part of LEADER and YNY&ER LEP initiatives as applicable. # Continue involvement in tourism development initiatives.					# LEP concentrating on post-Covid-19 recovery this year. # Promotion of businesses for post-Covid-19 recovery; contributed to reprint of North York Moors area Outdoor Guide and Sit Back & Enjoy The Ride leaflet.
DRE6.3 Maintain a positive approach to planning control for appropriate farm diversification and rural employment projects.	# Comment as necessary, via JAC consultations.					# No Objection in 2 planning application responses.
DRE6.4 Support appropriate proposals to re- use traditional and modern farm buildings, where their historic and wildlife value can be safeguarded or the AONB landscape enhanced.	# Comment as necessary, via JAC consultations.					# No Objection in 7 planning application responses.
DRE6.5 Support appropriate proposals for developing new workspace within the AONB.	# Comment as necessary, via JAC consultations.					# 4 relevant cases. Comments made on 2 proposals; 2 Granted with suggested amendments/Conditions; Objections or Significant Concerns with 1 proposal: 1 Decision pending. # 1 Objection in 13 planning application responses to all non-farm business-related development.
DRE7 Modern telecommunications infrastructure DRE7.1 Support the provision of high-speed broadband and mobile phone infrastructure that does not have adverse impacts on the Special Qualities of the AONB.	# Comment as necessary, via JAC consultations.					# No relevant planning applications.

OBJECTIVE (Summarised)	SPECIFIC TARGET 20/21	APRIL - JUNE	JULY - SEPT	OCT - DEC	JAN - MAR	ACHIEVEMENTS 20/21
DRE8 Provision of local needs/ affordable housing DRE8.1 Maintain up-to-date information on housing needs within the AONB. DRE8.2 Promote the potential benefits of local needs housing to AONB farmers, landowners and local communities.						# 11 cases of new housing development: 27 Open Market units, 0 Affordable units, 1 x Para 79 house. Comments submitted on 6 proposals. Objections or Significant Concerns with 2 proposals: 1 Withdrawn.
RTT1 Solutions to traffic routing issues in and around the AONB RTT1.1 Support appropriate proposals for full-movement interchange arrangements at the A64/B1257 junction. RTT1.2Monitor freight movement issues in the AONB, to identify any patterns in HGV usage. RTT1.3 Encourage measures to address any issues raised during freight monitoring.	# Monitor associated development proposals and input as necessary. -					# No relevant schemes. # Communities continue to raise issues around HGV movements in the Coulton and Hovingham area. —
RTT2 Traffic and driver behaviour issues RTT2.1 In line with the Road Safety Partnership speed management protocol, carry out speed-checks in identified locations to investigate reported issues. RTT2.2 Support local events that examine and address traffic and driver behaviour issues, in identified problem locations.	# Monitor information provided via traffic speed surveys carried out in AONB villages.					# Unable to access data; 2 permanent checks – B1257 Broughton Road Malton, A170 Sproxton. # Hovingham Action Group carrying out community speed monitoring. -
RTT3 Sustainable modes of transport RTT3.1 Identify transport service, infrastructure and accessibility improvements. RTT3.2 Develop and implement identified measures as appropriate. RTT3.3 Promote the availability of alternative transport services in AONB literature, in local villages and at visitor attractions. RTT3.4 Ensure that implementation of the Local Transport Plan 4 for North Yorkshire contributes to the implementation of AONB Management Plan Objectives, where appropriate.	-					

OBJECTIVE (Summarised)	SPECIFIC TARGET 20/21	APRIL - JUNE	JULY - SEPT	OCT - DEC	JAN - MAR	ACHIEVEMENTS 20/21
RTT4 Rural character of the road network						
RTT4.1 Continue liaison arrangements between the Joint Advisory Committee and local highway authority (and its agents) for all proposals in the AONB.	# Maintain, and comment as necessary via JAC consultations.					# No relevant schemes.
RTT4.2 Promote the usage of the Howardian Hills Area Profile by relevant teams within the local highway authority. RTT4.3 Identify examples of road sign clutter	# Check for inclusion of Special Interest Road Verges data on the National Street Gazetteer.	N/A				# Not completed.
and seek improvements. RTT4.4 Ensure that the specific locations of historic roadside furniture are recorded on the NYCC Highway Asset Management System.	# Check for inclusion of traditional direction signs on the National Street Gazetteer	N/A				# Not completed.
RTT4.5 Ensure that traditional direction signs, mileposts and other historic structures within and adjacent to the highway are appropriately maintained and managed.	# Progress restoration of 1 traditional direction sign (Brandsby).					# Approached NYCC Area Office to confirm methodology but no response received.
RTT5 A64 Trunk Road RTT5.1 Ensure that improvements to the A64 (to enhance road safety, accessibility and journey-time reliability) have regard to the Purposes of Designation and Special Qualities of the AONB.	# Monitor progress of the proposed dualling of the route through the AONB via RIS2 and the activity of the A64 Partnership.					# Little activity this year.
RTT5.2 Monitor future proposals and provide comments to Highways England, North Yorkshire County Council and Ryedale District Council.	# Respond as necessary, should any new studies be proposed.					# No relevant schemes.
RAT1 Sustainable recreational activities						
RAT1.1 Use planning policies to support appropriate recreational business developments. RAT1.2 Monitor the levels and sustainability of recreational activities within the AONB.	# Comment as necessary, via JAC consultations.					# 5 relevant cases. Comments made on 1 proposal; 1 Granted with suggested amendments/Conditions; 1 Decision pending. # On-going issues being monitored: trail-building in Yearsley Moor woodlands by mountain bikers; verge damage by parking at the top of Fryton Lane. Issues exacerbated by Covid-19 and increased levels of activity following releases of lockdown restrictions.

OBJECTIVE (Summarised)	SPECIFIC TARGET 20/21	APRIL - JUNE	JULY - SEPT	OCT - DEC	JAN - MAR	ACHIEVEMENTS 20/21
RAT2 Promotion of the attractions and Special Qualities of the AONB RAT2.1 Work with local partner organisations to promote sustainable tourism and recreational activities in the Howardian Hills.	# Continue input to joint initiatives with NYMNPA, YDNPA/Nidderdale AONB, Ryedale DC, Welcome to Yorkshire, Visit York and YNY&ER LEP. # Comment as necessary, via JAC consultations.					# Contributed to reprint of North York Moors area Outdoor Guide and Sit Back & Enjoy The Ride leaflet; 'Sounds in the City' idea being developed from NAAONB Arts Project. # 6 relevant cases. Comments made on 1 proposal; 1 Granted with suggested amendments/Conditions; Objections or Significant Concerns with 1 proposal: 2
RAT2.2 Develop and implement initiatives to encourage Under-Represented Groups to enjoy the AONB.	# Continue work with Autism Plus, to promote joint conservation tasks with Moorswork.					Decisions pending. # Grants provided for managing post-Covid-19 vegetation in summer '20 and for installation of composting toilets. # Discussions by NAAONB Communications Officers Group on initiatives to involve BAME groups better. # Considering an idea of working more closely with St Nicholas Fields project in York, possibly in relation to recycling of plastic tree protection waste. # Developed an idea for a 'Sounds in the City' project, for possible implementation at Monks Cross Shopping Centre.
RAT3 Condition and network of Public Rights of Way						
RAT3.1 Ensure that path furniture in the AONB is appropriately maintained and improved.	# Continue to address reported issues. # Continue project with NYCC to repair and upgrade path furniture within grouped Parishes/priority areas (Covid-19 dependent). # Take record photos of wording on all new roadside fingerposts.		X0.000X	X0.0000	XXXXX	# NYCC maintenance budget frozen due to summer '20 flooding in west of the County. # Popular village loop path at Crayke re-surfaced; Steps repaired at Stonegrave; 2 stiles replaced with kissing gates at Hovingham; 3 stiles replaced by kissing gates at Oulston; route cleared at Newburgh. # Photos taken and awaiting cataloguing.
RAT3.2 Liaise with local landowners to quickly rectify identified path condition problems, including seasonal overgrowth and ploughing/cropping.	# Bring individual and seasonal cutting issues to the attention of NYCC PROW staff, as necessary.					# Issues identified or reported to the AONB Team forwarded to NYCC.
RAT3.3 Implement path improvements, particularly via management measures such as ride-widening and the use of alternative routes.	# Promote as appropriate, via JAC consultations.					# No relevant consultations.

OBJECTIVE (Summarised)	SPECIFIC TARGET 20/21	APRIL - JUNE	JULY - SEPT	OCT - DEC	JAN - MAR	ACHIEVEMENTS 20/21
RAT3.4 Ensure the correct identification of all Public Rights of Way routes in the AONB on the Definitive Map by 2026. RAT3.5 Bring 'missing routes' and 'route status inconsistencies' to the attention of the local highway authority and lobby for action. RAT3.6 Support appropriate Public Rights of Way diversion, creation and extinguishment orders/agreements in response to particular local issues or to improve the local network. RAT3.7 Encourage the creation of new access routes/areas where the Public Rights of Way network is less developed.	# Assess the package of rationalisations proposed for the Castle Howard Estate and identify ones that could be publicly funded. # Progress identified individual schemes, potentially at Slingsby & Hovingham. —					# No further progress. NYCC now looking at the package again. Transfer target to 2021/22. # No progress. —
RAT4 Recreational management measures RAT4.1 Carry out small-scale management works as necessary, particularly on sites used for car parking and at the AONB's Recreation Priority Sites.	# Continue grass cutting regime at Badger Bank. # Monitor and manage overhanging trees at Bell Bottom Wood, Coneysthorpe, to maximise space available. # Ensure Kirkham Priory car park is	=	00000		=	# Completed. # Completed. # Chemical treatment in Apr '20.
RAT4.2 Use planning and other policy controls to discourage unsustainable recreational use of the Derwent valley.	appropriately maintained. # Comment as necessary, via JAC consultations.					# No relevant planning applications.
RAT4.3 Support low-key countryside management works to improve recreation management on Forestry Commission land.	_					_
RAT4.4 Encourage the development/use of designated village parking areas and toilet facilities by recreational visitors. RAT4.5 Monitor the levels of litter and flytipping within the AONB and take action as appropriate.	# Continue programme of litter clearance at car parks throughout the AONB. # Report fly-tipping incidents to the District Councils, as necessary.	=	=	=	_	# Cancelled due to Covid-19. Moorswork organisation folded and future of the group is uncertain. # No incidents noted by AONB Team (but site visits within/through the AONB severely curtailed by Covid-19).

	OBJECTIVE (Summarised)	SPECIFIC TARGET 20/21	APRIL - JUNE	JULY - SEPT	OCT - DEC	JAN - MAR	ACHIEVEMENTS 20/21
	Routes for different user groups and provide self-guided information Identify appropriate routes, linked to public transport where possible. Publish guide leaflets and information in a variety of formats as appropriate, to encourage usage.	-					- -
AP1	Awareness and understanding of the AONB designation, its importance and the role and work of the Joint Advisory Committee						
AP1.1		# Ensure the AONB 'gateway sign' sites are adequately maintained. # Promote installation of 'gateway signs' on the A64 if opportunities arise.		××××			# Achieved. # No opportunities have arisen.
AP1.2	Provide information on the work of the JAC via various publicity mechanisms, as appropriate.	# Publish 2019/20 Annual Report. # Publish AONB News 2020.		XXXXX			# Published and distributed, Sept '20. # Published and distributed, Oct '20.
AP1.3		# Continue publicising the AONB and initiatives/projects via Twitter. # Ryedale Show – cancelled due to Covid-19 outbreak.	N/A				# Achieved, including posts on safe use of the countryside following Covid-19 lockdowns. # Countryfile Live cancelled due to lack of trade stand bookings; Ryedale Show cancelled due to Covid-19 pandemic.

	OBJECTIVE (Summarised)	SPECIFIC TARGET 20/21	APRIL - JUNE	JULY - SEPT	OCT - DEC	JAN - MAR	ACHIEVEMENTS 20/21
AP2	Awareness of the Special Qualities of the AONB						
AP2.1	Publish and distribute information about the AONB and its Special Qualities, for example at popular visitor destinations, in community buildings, in visitor accommodation and on the AONB website.	# Ensure that TICs and local accommodation providers, shops, etc have adequate supplies of relevant AONB leaflets. # Ensure that the AONB website is running properly and is updated appropriately. # Use AONB display at 3 venues/events.					# Website information kept up-to-date; Tweeting information about visiting the countryside after lockdowns; Simon Armitage poetry leaflet sent to cafes. # Achieved; no statistics on usage available at present. # Accessibility legislation compatibility being assessed. # Banners used at Gilling Church Heritage weekend.
AP2.2	Deliver guided walks, talks and demonstrations as appropriate to explain the Special Qualities of the AONB and promote sustainable management techniques.	_					
AP2.3	Continue a programme of activities with local schools, young people and communities.	# Hold at least 2 Junior Ranger Club full-day sessions (Covid-19 dependent).					# All physical sessions cancelled due to Covid-19 pandemic. # Emailed a 12-page activities booklet, linking to activities being delivered by other organisations.
		# Assist with delivery of the schools element of the Ryevitalise project, as appropriate.					# Ryevitalise planning a March event for Nat Poetry Day.

That	Freeding and party system				
IM1	Funding and partnership mechanisms to achieve				
	Management Plan objectives				
IM1.1	Seek appropriate sources of funding and assistance to implement Management Plan Objectives.	# Participate via the NAAONB in work to ensure the future of AONB funding, in particular in follow-up to the Glover Review of Protected Landscapes.			# Input made to NAAONB liaison/feedback to Defra on their proposals for implementation of Recommendations contained in the Glover review.
		# Participate via the NAAONB in work to help develop new mechanisms for land management and rural business support post-Brexit.	N/A		# Policy announcements and scheme progress monitored and evaluated; input made to NAAONB responses as appropriate.
		# Access additional resources from County & District Councils, FC, EA, HE, etc for specific identified projects.			# No appropriate additional funding opportunities identified. # Additional £4,300 received from Historic England due to extension of Monument Management Scheme as a
		# Deliver the final year of the HE-funded Monument Management Scheme for Scheduled Monuments (see HE2.4).	N/A		result of Covid-19 pandemic. # Historic England extended project deadline to 31/3/21. Bramble sprayed on 12 SMs; bracken crushed on 5 SMs; bracken sprayed on 6 SMs; brash cleared from 1 SM; 2 SMs re-seeded. 76 SMs surveyed by volunteers or AONB Team.
		# Continue involvement in the Yorkshire Derwent Catchment Partnership (See NE3.5).	N/A		Final Report and Grant Claim prepared and submitted. # Attended Officer Development Group meetings. Made input to River Derwent Villages Natural Flood Management Project.
		# Contribute to delivery of 2020/21 Ryevitalise projects as appropriate (See NE3.5).	N/A		# Delivery seriously affected by Covid-19. Arts meeting at Nunnington, followed by a virtual site meeting — exhibition being planned for February 2022; contributed to development of the Evaluation & Monitoring framework; put Ryevitalise staff in touch with landowners and other useful contacts; delivered geomorphology training to Ryevitalise and AONB staff.
		# Continue involvement in tourism development initiatives (See DRE6.2).	N/A		# Promotion of businesses for post-Covid-19 recovery; contributed to reprint of North York Moors area Outdoor Guide and Sit Back & Enjoy The Ride leaflet.
		# Utilise Reserves appropriately, to supplement annual projects budget.	N/A		# No reserves used in 20/21; £10k grant from 2010/11 returned as a condition of Renewable Heat Incentive application.
		# Keep AONB grant processes and assistance options under review as the Government grant incentive schemes evolve, in order to maintain effectiveness and efficiency.			# Situation kept under review.
IM1.2	Continue and expand partnership arrangements with the North York Moors National Park Authority, as appropriate.	# Continue dialogue on potential joint working opportunities, e.g. Farmer Clusters, environmental land management scheme design & delivery, etc.			# Joint working on: Native Woodland Partnership; Dark Skies Reserve status; delivery of the Ryevitalise Landscape Partnership Scheme; NLHF Turtle Doves Project; developing a NLHF bid for a Farmland Birds project; post-Brexit agri-environment scheme development.

IM1.3	Involve volunteers wherever possible, to assist with the delivery of appropriate tasks and activities.	# Complete at least 1 project per calendar quarter using volunteers (Covid-19 dependent).			# Moorswork ceased to operate due to the Covid-19 pandemic; 4Nature engaged as replacement leaders for volunteer tasks; mobile hand-washing kit purchased. # Volunteers assisted with: scrub management at Coulton Fen SINC, Littledale SINC, grassland at Bulmer; grassland management at Appleton-le-Street Churchyard SINC. # 5 projects or tasks, worth at least 70 days (£6,200 at HLF volunteering rates). Severely reduced due to Covid-19 pandemic. # 16 days-worth on site management tasks; 0 days on Junior Ranger Club, shows, etc; 54 days-worth on Turtle Dove surveying.
IM2	Business model				
IM2.1	Monitor the business requirements and model of the AONB partnership and identify improvements as appropriate.	# Utilise Reserves appropriately, to supplement annual projects budget and maintain an AONB Unit staff resource commensurate with future work priorities and income.			# No reserves used in 20/21; £10k grant from 2010/11 returned as a condition of Renewable Heat Incentive application.
IM2.2	Incorporate suggested improvements into the annual Action Programme and Budget approval processes.	# Evaluate the current AONB Unit staff structure and Partnership composition and operation, if required in response to any budget and function changes introduced as a result of the Glover Review.			# Part-time AONB Project Officer post to be made Permanent, at 7.5krs/week, from 1st April 2021.
		# Prepare annual Business Plan/Action Programme for JAC.			# Completed.
MN1	Performance of the AONB				
 	partnership and AONB unit				
MN1.1	Report annual progress on achievement of Management Plan Objectives to the JAC, AONB Partnership and public.	# Report Annual Action Programme achievements to JAC.			# Completed.
MN1.2	Monitor the performance of the AONB Partnership using the Defra/NAAONB Key Performance Indicators.	# Report data on Key Performance Indicators of JAC and AONB Partnership.	XXXXX		# Completed.

OBJECTIVE (Summarised)	SPECIFIC TARGET 20/21	APRIL - JUNE	JULY - SEPT	OCT - DEC	JAN - MAR	ACHIEVEMENTS 20/21
MN2.1 Develop a robust mechanism for assessing the Condition of the locally designated and non-designated Priority Sites identified in the Management Plan. MN2.2 Update the data for the AONB Condition Indicators during Management Plan review in 2023. MN2.3 Update the 'State of the AONB' Report during Management Plan review in 2023. MN2.4 Repeat the 'fixed-point photography' monitoring of visual landscape change.	# Test Natural England methodologies on favourable conservation status, to assess the condition of non-designated biodiversity Priority Sites.				-	# No progress.
National Association for AONBs Maintain input into NAAONB Board and Association activities. Keep up-to-date with knowledge and skills in relation to AONB management.	# Continue to participate in NAAONB initiatives. # Attend training seminars, Northern Group meetings, Conferences, etc as appropriate.					# Monitored discussions on Basecamp and posted information/input to relevant ones. # Participated in Arts in the Landscape project; Communications Officers' Group; ELM Advocacy project. # Reported on AONB Network Key Performance Indicators. # National Conference and Northern AONBs Group meetings cancelled due to Covid-19 pandemic. # 1 x Northern Group Lead Officers' meeting held via video call. # National Lead Officers' Meeting held via video call. # Northern Group project officers' discussions on Volunteer management during Covid-19 pandemic.
AONB Management Plan Review AONB Management Plan.	_					_