

## AONB Contacts

### AONB Manager

**Paul Jackson**

paul.jackson@northyorks.gov.uk

### AONB Officer

**Liz Bassindale**

liz.bassindale@northyorks.gov.uk

### AONB Assistant

**Maggie Cochrane** (part-time)

maggie.cochrane@northyorks.gov.uk

The Mews, Wath Court  
Hovingham  
York  
YO62 4NN

Telephone 0845 034 9495  
[www.howardianhills.org.uk](http://www.howardianhills.org.uk)

# Howardian Hills

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

# AONB NEWS

Issue 14

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## Photography Competition

Amateur photographers are invited to take part in a competition to capture the special qualities of the Howardian Hills AONB. There are junior and adult categories, great prizes and all finalists' work will be displayed at The Yorkshire Arboretum, Castle Howard, next spring.



*Hoverfly*

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### Printed on paper from

sustainably managed forests

Photos: Page 1 - Liz Bassindale

Page 5 (top) - Howsham Mill

Page 5 (bottom) - Maggie Farey

All others - AONB Unit



*Castle Howard*



*The Yorkshire Arboretum*

The adult competition is divided into four themes:

1. The Landscape
2. People in the AONB – living, working and enjoying
3. History & Heritage
4. Flora & Fauna

Whilst younger competitors are welcome to enter the adult competition we also have one category especially for you. If you were 17 or under on 31st August 2014 please submit one or two images to us on the topic:

5. "Why the Howardian Hills AONB is special to me"

All photographs must be taken within the Howardian Hills AONB; a map of the area is available to view on [www.howardianhills.org.uk](http://www.howardianhills.org.uk). Each entry must have a title and location and may include an optional description.

*Continued on page 3 ...*

# Annual Report April 2013 – March 2014

In this regular feature we tell you about some of the work that the AONB Unit funded or facilitated during the last financial year.

## Landscape

- 710m of hedge planting/gapping-up and 4 new in-field/hedgerow trees
- 328m of wall restoration

## Landscape/Biodiversity

- 1 farmer/land manager advised about Entry Level or Higher Level Stewardship and comments submitted on 4 Higher Level Stewardship applications. 2 SINCs entered into new Higher Level Stewardship agreements
- 1 English Woodland Grant Scheme application consultation appraised

## Biodiversity

- Control of Himalayan balsam along 5.8km of Wath Beck
- Clearance of rhododendron in and adjacent to Park Wood Fishponds SINC
- Conservation grazing of 5 SINCs or other important sites by Exmoor Ponies
- Management of species/vegetation on or affecting 2 other SINCs or SSSIs (by volunteers or contractors)
- 1 site surveyed, to create a major new SINC at Yearsley
- Management works on 45 Special Interest Road Verges

## Historic Environment

- Listed Buildings at Risk Survey in the Hambleton area of the AONB
- Renovation of the City of Troy turf maze, near Dalby
- Restoration of 2 traditional direction signs

## Enjoying the AONB

- Contributed to the 2014 VisitEngland "English Countryside" marketing initiative
- A Great Outdoors booklet was produced in partnership with the North York Moors National Park and Welcome to Yorkshire
- The Green Traveller Guide to the Howardian Hills, including information on walk routes and public transport, went live on the internet
- 1 evening talk
- A team of at least 2 volunteers working on path maintenance in the AONB at least every other week
- Removing litter from at least 10 sites in the AONB on a regular basis

## Communities, Schools & Education

- Our 4-year project to twin primary schools in the AONB with schools in Hull and York continued. 14 visits took place

- 4 Junior Rangers activity sessions were held during the school half-terms and holidays. Attendance ranged from 18 to 23 children per session.
- Projects funded in 5 villages, including 1 Village Hall project
- Winter Warmth events held at Husthwaite and Slingsby
- Supported the Ryedale Rural Community Awards

## Publicity

- Maintained the 14 AONB Gateway Signs
- Obtained at least 31 known press mentions for projects/AONB, equivalent to at least £46,200 of advertising space
- TV & radio coverage of the Rural: Urban Schools Twinning project activities
- Produced a display about the Rural: Urban Schools Twinning project which was exhibited at numerous schools and public locations
- Mounted a display about the AONB at 5 events
- Continued to manage the AONB website (8,880 Visits by 7,400 Unique Visitors)

- Attended the Ryedale Show
- Completed installation of 22 of the 25th Anniversary log seats, with the remaining 3 locations identified

## Sustainable Development

Our Sustainable Development Fund provided support towards:

- Construction of an outdoor classroom at Crayke School, for school and community use
- A Geonauts Club at Ampleforth School, to develop understanding of AONB geology
- Installation of 2 wooden bus shelters at Huttons Ambo
- Installation of 2 composting toilets at Howsham Mill, to facilitate educational visits
- Installation of energy efficiency measures at the new Husthwaite Village Hall
- Creation of 12 children's explorer backpacks at The Yorkshire Arboretum
- A Sustainable Rural Communities project run by Rural Action Yorkshire, assisting with community planning
- Provision of a new public toilet in the extended Terrington Village Hall

## Financial Statement 2013/14

INCOME	£	EXPENDITURE	£
<b>Defra</b>	125,578	Staffing	92,702
<b>North Yorkshire CC</b>	38,675	Office costs	19,176
<b>Ryedale DC</b>	5,684	Partnership running costs	4,467
<b>Hambleton DC</b>	5,800	Publicity/Research	5,210
Heritage Lottery Fund (balance in-hand)	10,596	Management Plan	2,157
<b>LEADER</b>	10,398	Sustainable Development Fund	22,647
Donation	8	Natural Environment projects	18,170
		Historic Environment projects	12,014
		Enjoying the AONB	6,060
		Young People (JRC, etc)	317
		Young People (Schools Twinning)	24,306
	<b>£196,739</b>		<b>£207,226</b>
Brought forward	(57,734)	Carried forward	(47,247)
	<b>£254,473</b>		<b>£254,473</b>
		(Resources from grant recipients, volunteers, etc)	130,320
<b>Total Value of AONB Unit Activity in 2013/14</b>			<b>£337,546</b>

## Action on the River Derwent

The Catchment-Based Approach for the Derwent is being led by the East Yorkshire Rivers Trust in conjunction with the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust. The Derwent catchment has been highlighted as a "European improvement site" and is being used for pilot studies. To date 12 reaches have had restoration work undertaken, with 18 different projects and improvements made to 85 miles of water course. Grant applications to SITA and Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF) have been successful, to fund projects on Pickering and Costa Becks and at Howsham.

On the River Rye redundant fencing which was resulting in poaching was removed by the landowner. The damaged area of parkland has greened up well and the landowner is delighted with the result. He is also keen to remove Himalayan balsam on his land to reduce sediment contamination. Giant hogweed treatment has been undertaken on the Derwent at Menethorpe Beck and downstream from Kirkham, where both giant hogweed and Himalayan balsam have been treated.

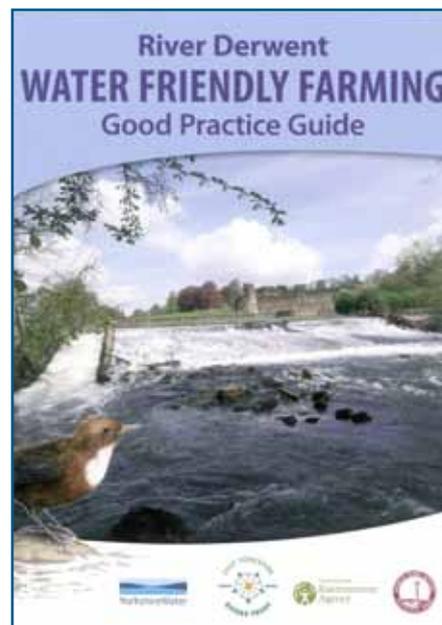
The Environment Agency own a number of structures between Malton and Barmby Barrage and over the next few years will be deciding their future. This autumn they will be focusing on Kirkham Weir. Rosa Foster is the Project Manager; she can be contacted on 0113 8196939 or e-mail [rosa.foster@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:rosa.foster@environment-agency.gov.uk)

For information about slug control on farmland please visit [www.getpelletwise.co.uk](http://www.getpelletwise.co.uk). It is not possible for Yorkshire Water to remove metaldehyde during the water treatment process, so please can land managers:

- Avoid using metaldehyde products if the field drains are running or if rain is forecast
- Talk to your agronomist about best practice measures of slug control
- Consider using products with ferric phosphate active ingredient

Duncan Fyfe, Environment Agency, has produced the excellent Water Friendly Farming Good Practice Guide for the River Derwent, with the aid of partner funding. The guide is available on the East Yorkshire Rivers Trust website [www.eastyorkshireriverstrust.org.uk](http://www.eastyorkshireriverstrust.org.uk)

**David Rees, Catchment Sensitive Farming Advisor (River Derwent)**



*Water Friendly Farming Good Practice Guide*

## PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

### How to enter

Entries can be submitted via email to [photocomp@howardianhills.org.uk](mailto:photocomp@howardianhills.org.uk). Please consult the AONB website for rules relating to file size and image usage rights prior to emailing. The closing date for entries is **Friday 9th January 2015**.



*Small skipper*

### Prizes include:

- A season ticket donated by Castle Howard
- A printing voucher donated by HPE
- A book donated by Joe Cornish
- Voucher prizes funded by McLarron's Insurance and Rural Action Yorkshire
- A season ticket for Dalby Forest
- Printing and Framing by Fruit Photo Art (Norton Framing)

For a full list of prizes please visit the AONB website.

### Exhibition

The top five photographs from each category in the adult competition, and the top 10 from the children's competition, will be displayed at The Yorkshire Arboretum in Spring 2015. There will be a launch evening on 18th March 2015, with the prize-giving to celebrate the start of the exhibition.

## Hydrocarbons in the Howardian Hills

**Exploration drilling has taken place sporadically in the AONB for approximately 20 years, and there is a natural gas field in the nearby Vale of Pickering that produces gas for electricity generation.**

In addition to the proximity of existing natural gas-producing wells, a British Geological Survey report published last year indicated that the geology beneath the AONB may also contain shale gas. It suggested that shale rock which may be suitable for hydraulic fracturing (fracking) is likely to exist between 1,500 and 4,000 metres below the ground surface. This in effect means that the rocks below the AONB could contain reserves of petroleum, natural gas or shale gas.

The extent of these reserves, and whether they would be commercially viable or not, is likely to be tested via a series of steps. The first is a 3D seismic survey, as has been carried out locally by Tesla Exploration Ltd in recent months. This would need to be followed by an exploration/appraisal well. This would assess the composition of the rock and any hydrocarbon reserves present. If this indicated a potentially economically viable reserve, full production well/s would be the final step. The size and local impact of a production well/s would depend on whether the target was natural gas, petroleum or shale gas (via fracking). Both exploration/appraisal and production wells require full planning permission, together with permits from the Environment Agency and Health & Safety Executive. It can't automatically be assumed that each step would proceed, or that planning permission/other consents granted for one phase would be granted for subsequent phases.



*Seismic survey in the Howardian Hills*

The regulatory framework for UK shale gas operations is more stringent than the framework in the USA, but it hasn't been fully tested yet.

Because the issue is too complex to cover fully in this short article, a number of detailed Information Notes, presentations and links to other relevant websites are available on the AONB website at [www.howardianhills.org.uk/5/Publications\\_&\\_Links.html](http://www.howardianhills.org.uk/5/Publications_&_Links.html)

## Volunteering Opportunities

**The work of the AONB Unit is supported by a dedicated team of volunteers who help us with a wide variety of activities. Over the past twelve months volunteers have, amongst other tasks, cleared rhododendron to restore woodland habitats, made bat boxes with children, managed species-rich conservation grassland in a churchyard, assisted with Junior Rangers sessions, pulled Himalayan balsam and represented the AONB on our stand at the Ryedale Show.**

We have recently established a pattern of working through which we have a practical conservation or Rights of Way task every other Tuesday throughout the year. This is thanks to the support of North Yorkshire County Council and their recently appointed Volunteer Task Leader for the east of the County. If you would be interested in joining this group, or assisting us with any of the other activities mentioned above, please contact [liz.bassindale@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:liz.bassindale@northyorks.gov.uk)



*Volunteers removing rhododendron at Yearsley Moor*

## A NEW LEASE OF LIFE FOR HOWSHAM MILL

There has been a mill on the island, near Howsham, for over 900 years (it was recorded in the Domesday Book). Designed as a folly, the current mill was built in 1755 and for nearly 200 years it ground corn for flour and animal feed. In 1947 the mill ceased operating and the building very quickly fell into disrepair. Fast forward to 2003 when Dave Mann, who was canoeing on the river, came across the ruin of the mill. He embarked with his wife and family on a turbulent ten year journey to restore the building. The work could not have been completed without the help of 200 volunteers and the expert craftsmanship of Stephen Pickering Ltd and Stephen Drake.



*Howsham Mill*

The Mill's new role is as a centre for education about the environment, history and hydro-power. Instead of the millwheel turning stones to grind corn it now generates electricity. With the combined installation of an Archimedean Screw on the weir we generate approximately 30Kw (enough to power 50 houses). We accommodate school visits focusing on the topics of Climate Change, Energy, Natural Environment, Green Building, Water, Historical Interpretation and Bread Making.

We also offer a range of Art and Craft Workshops. Topics include: painting and drawing, willow weaving, mosaics and wire sculpture. If you would like to find out more about the project and about upcoming activities, please visit our website: [www.howshammill.org.uk](http://www.howshammill.org.uk), HowshamMillEvents on Facebook and HowshamMill on Twitter.

**Jen Wakefield – Education and Events Officer,  
Howsham Mill**

## Introducing CaVCA

**On 1st April this year Ryedale Voluntary Action and Seachange Community Trust merged to become Coast and Vale Community Action (CaVCA). The newly formed organisation continues to offer free advice and support to the voluntary and community sector in Ryedale, Scarborough and Whitby with the Ryedale team now operating from a new office at Stanley Harrison House in Malton.**

We have worked with a number of charities and community groups in the Howardian Hills AONB. The level of support for these groups will remain and there will be the welcome addition of support from CaVCA's Social Enterprise Advisor, David Stone, now funded to support Social Enterprises in Ryedale.

Coast and Vale Community Action are passionate about supporting thriving local communities and since the merger we have become a much stronger organisation and can offer a wider range of support to voluntary, community, social and micro enterprise organisations.

We are here to support all aspects of community activity - whether that's advice on funding the refurbishment of a village hall or helping to set up a village community enterprise. Over the years I have found that the communities of the Howardian Hills AONB have often led the way on delivering fantastic community projects and I am looking forward to continuing to support their work.

I can be contacted by phone on 01653 600120 or by email at [sarahlm@cavca.org.uk](mailto:sarahlm@cavca.org.uk). For advice on setting up and running a Social Enterprise contact David Stone on 01723 362205 or email [David.Stone@cavca.org.uk](mailto:David.Stone@cavca.org.uk). Further information about CaVCA can be found at [www.cavca.org.uk](http://www.cavca.org.uk)

**Sarah Lally-Marley, Funding and  
Development Officer, CaVCA**



*Ryedale Rural Awards 2013*

## North York Moors, Coast and Hills LEADER Programme 2015–2020

Plans are well underway for a new North York Moors, Coast and Hills (NYMCH) LEADER Programme. The proposed LEADER area will incorporate the Howardian Hills AONB and the south western corner of Ryedale, the North York Moors National Park, the Vale of Pickering, East Cleveland and the Heritage Coast. Our application for funding to deliver the Programme was submitted to Defra in early September; a decision is expected in December.

The 2015-2020 NYMCH LEADER Programme will have a strong economic focus and will be looking to support projects, communities and businesses that contribute to Defra's national priorities of creating jobs and supporting growth in the local economy. Proposed areas of activity include:

- Farm productivity
- Micro and small enterprise and farm diversification
- Rural tourism
- Rural services
- Culture and heritage
- Forestry productivity

If you are interested in the Programme and some of its potential opportunities, becoming a member of our Local Action Group (LAG) will ensure you stay up to date with all the latest news. The LAG registration form is available on our website:

[www.moorscoastandhills.org.uk/how-to-get-involved](http://www.moorscoastandhills.org.uk/how-to-get-involved)

For more information please visit:

[www.moorscoastandhills.org.uk/2015-2020-leader-programme](http://www.moorscoastandhills.org.uk/2015-2020-leader-programme)

or contact Amy Thomas on 01439 772700 or email

[a.thomas@northyorkmoors.org.uk](mailto:a.thomas@northyorkmoors.org.uk)

**Amy Thomas, Programme Manager,  
Moors, Coast and Hills LEADER**

## AONB Management Plan review

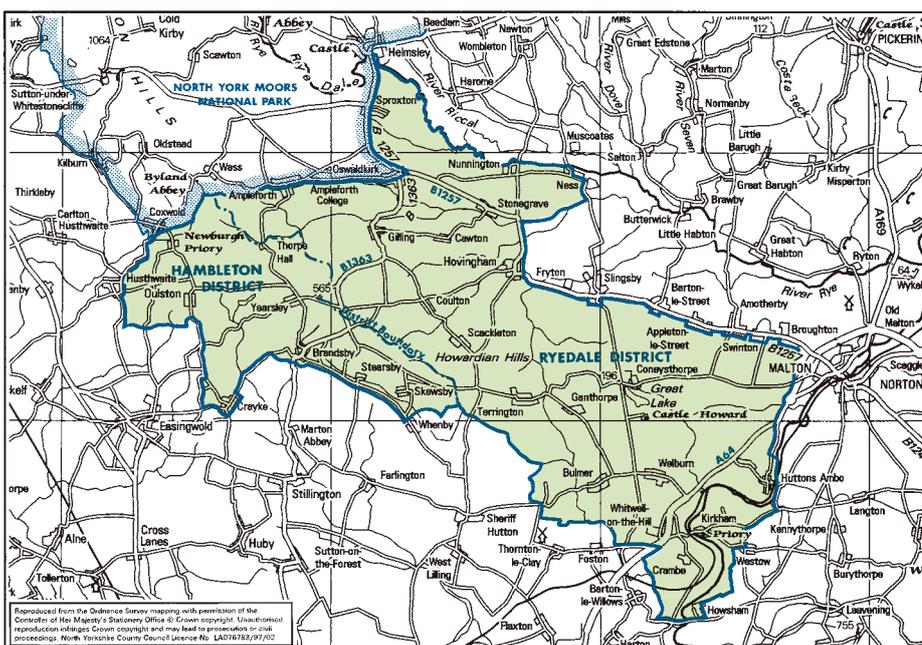
By law, the Management Plan for the AONB has to be reviewed every five years. The Plan has just completed its latest review and came into effect on 1st April 2014.

Taking into account the latest available evidence and statistics relating to the AONB, the Objectives and Actions from the previous Plan were updated as necessary. As might be expected, some haven't changed very much but others have altered considerably. Five years might not seem that long, but many new Policies and Strategies have been launched since 2009, when the previous Plan was written, and new issues have emerged. The new Plan can be viewed at [www.howardianhills.org.uk/11/Management\\_Plan.html](http://www.howardianhills.org.uk/11/Management_Plan.html)



*AONB landscape viewed from above Stonegrave*

## HOWARDIAN HILLS AONB FACT FILE



- The Howardian Hills covers 204 sq. km (79 sq. miles).
- The area was confirmed as an AONB in 1987.
- About 9,300 people live in or immediately adjacent to the area.
- Around 18% of the area is wooded.

Landscapes  
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.org.uk

HOWARDIAN  
HILLS  
One of the  
AONB family

This Newsletter has been produced by the Howardian Hills AONB JAC