

## AONB Contacts

### AONB Manager

Paul Jackson

paul.jackson@northyorks.gov.uk

### AONB Officer

Liz Bassindale

liz.bassindale@northyorks.gov.uk

The Old Vicarage,  
Bondgate,  
Helmsley,  
North Yorkshire,  
YO62 5BP

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

## Inside this Issue

Photography Competition	1
Annual Report 2015/16	2
Grants Available!	3
Photography Competition	3
Junior Rangers	4
Intergenerational Links in Terrington	4
Exmoor Pony Grazing	5
iRecord	5
Undergrounding	6
Howardian Hills AONB fact file	6

### Printed on paper from sustainably managed forests

Photos:

Page 1 *Snowscene, Howard Wallis*

Page 3 *Magpie Fungus, Paul Rookes*

Page 4 *Intergenerational Project, RAY*

Page 5 *iRecord Images, Liz Bassindale*

All other photos, AONB Team

# Howardian Hills

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

# AONB NEWS

Issue 16

October 2016

## Photography Competition



▲ Last year's winning entry. Snowscene with Mausoleum by Howard Wallis

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.

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 are 17 & under on 31st August 2016 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/about-us](http://www.howardianhills.org.uk/about-us). Each entry must have a title and location and may include an optional description.

# Annual Report April 2015 – March 2016

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

- 265m of hedge planting/gapping-up
- 242m of wall restoration
- Continued liaison with Northern Powergrid on overhead electricity cable undergrounding

## Biodiversity

- Control of Himalayan balsam at Jeffry Bog, Fairy Dell and Mugdale and Barker Woods SINC and part of River Derwent SSSI
- Clearance of rhododendron in and adjacent to Yearsley Moor Woodlands SINC and Grimston Moor SINC
- Conservation grazing of 6 SINC or other important sites by Exmoor ponies
- Management of species/vegetation on or affecting 7 other SINC or SSSIs (by volunteers or contractors)
- Management works on 45 Special Interest Road Verges
- Continuing involvement with the North Yorkshire Local Geological Sites Partnership, encouraging progress to map the AONB's most important geodiversity sites
- Entering work carried out in 2013/14 and 2014/15 into the Government's Biodiversity Action Recording System
- Monitoring the incidence and spread of tree disease in the AONB particularly Phytophthora ramorum

## Historic environment

- Starting a targeted programme of survey and management work for Scheduled Monuments, using volunteers wherever possible. Funding received from Historic England
- Carried out bracken and scrub control on 8 Scheduled round barrows
- Restoration of 4 traditional direction signs and 2 village name signs. Casting 2 new replica village name signs to replace modern signs

## Planning

- 4 Felling Licence Applications and 1 Woodland Management Plan appraised for impact
- 121 Planning Applications scrutinised in detail by the AONB Manager; comments submitted on 55 schemes
- Comments submitted on the preparation of NYCC Local Transport Plan, the Ryedale Local Plan Strategy Sites Allocation document, the North Yorkshire Draft Minerals and Waste Joint Plan and the Hambleton Local Plan Issues and Options paper

## Enjoying the AONB

- Prepared off-road cycle route leaflet for the Coneysthorpe area and digitised the 3 remaining walks around Terrington to produce a uniform package of 12 electronic leaflets for the AONB website
- Developing Phase 2 of an initiative with Visit York, via Ryedale DC and Welcome to Yorkshire
- Finalising a package of improvements in PRoW routing on the Castle Howard Estate to be implemented Summer 2016
- Developing a new mechanism to assist NYCC with resolving Public Rights of Way issues in the AONB
- Removed litter from at least 10 sites in the AONB on a regular basis

## Communities, Schools & Education

- 4 Junior Rangers activity sessions held during the school half-terms and holidays
- Continued liaison with the principal organisations involved in community work in the AONB, via the Community Development Officers' Group

## Publicity

- Maintained the 14 AONB Gateway Signs
- Published our 2014/15 Annual Report
- Continued to manage the AONB website (25,694 page views by 7,947 users) and delivered a low cost refresh
- Attended the Ryedale Show
- Maintained a presence on Twitter
- Prepared a Nature Notes article for the Ramblers September Magazine
- Amended our Wikipedia entry

## Sustainable Development

Our Sustainable Development Fund provided support towards:

- Continuation of the Sustainable Rural Communities Project run by Rural Action Yorkshire
- An Intergenerational Project at Terrington, led by Rural Action Yorkshire
- Installation of composting toilets at The Yorkshire Arboretum, for use on school/group visit days

## Financial Statement 2015/16

INCOME	£	EXPENDITURE	£
<b>Defra</b>	116,109	Staffing	89,538
<b>North Yorkshire CC</b>	57,616	Office costs	35,610
<b>Ryedale DC</b>	5,066	Partnership running costs	3,485
<b>Hambleton DC</b>	5,800	Publicity/Research	5,693
Historic England	22,588	Management Plan	0
National Centre for the Uplands	2,146	Natural Environment projects	18,752
Donations	0	Historic Environment projects	11,516
		Sustainable Development & Rural Economy	10,477
		Young People (JRC, etc)	166
<b>In-year</b>	<b>£209,235</b>	<b>In-year</b>	<b>£175,237</b>
Brought forward – General Fund	(53,510)	Carried forward – General Fund	(76,761)
		Carried forward – Historic England	(10,838)
	<b>£262,835</b>	(Resources from grant recipients, volunteers, etc)	94,377
<b>Total Value of AONB Unit Activity in 2015/16</b>			<b>£269,614</b>

# Grants Available!

The **AONB Project Fund** is a grant scheme to support projects which conserve and enhance the landscape, cultural heritage, communities and biodiversity within the AONB. Grants are usually in the range of £100 to £2,000 and normally provide up to 50% funding. In exceptional circumstances higher value grants and grants of up to 100% can be given.

The Project Fund has supported a diverse range of schemes in the past including hedge planting, stone wall restoration, wood pasture

creation, village name sign repair/replacement, installation of barn owl boxes and repairs to Listed Buildings at risk.

Community projects supported by the fund include village and school wildlife areas, eco-renovation of community buildings, setting up community allotments, environmental education resources, village arts projects with a heritage focus and a mobility vehicle at The Yorkshire Arboretum.

If you have an idea that you think might be eligible please look at the grants section of the AONB website for further information or call the AONB office.

*Newly planted hedgerow near Bulmer*



## Photography Competition



▲ Previous runner-up – Magpie Fungus by Paul Rookes

### How to enter

Entries can be submitted via email to [hhaonb.photos@gmail.com](mailto:hhaonb.photos@gmail.com). Please consult the rules for file size limits prior to emailing. The closing date for entries is 10th January 2017. For a full list of the rules (including file size requirements and photographic usage rights) please visit [www.ruralityorkshire.org.uk/hhaonb](http://www.ruralityorkshire.org.uk/hhaonb)

### Prizes

The winner of each category in the adult competition will receive a prize and the overall winner will also receive a framed print of their photograph. The winner of the children's competition will also receive a prize. A season ticket to The Yorkshire Arboretum will also be awarded to one chosen image submitted to any category that has been taken when visiting The Arboretum.

### 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 The Yorkshire Arboretum

### Judging

Steve Race (Yorkshire Coast Nature) and Richard and Janet Burdon (RJB Photographic) have kindly offered to help us with judging the competition.

### Exhibition

The top five photographs from each category in the adult competition and the top 10 from the children's will be displayed at The Yorkshire Arboretum in Spring 2017.

There will be a launch evening in March 2017 with a prize-giving to celebrate the start of the exhibition.

# School Holiday Fun



Junior Rangers pond dipping

Are you aged 4-11 years old? Do you enjoy finding out about wildlife and exploring the outdoors? Do you like making things or having a go at seasonal crafts? If you do then how about coming along to one of our AONB Junior Ranger days?

Based at The Yorkshire Arboretum or a local community building these action-packed days provide opportunities for young people to learn about their local environment whilst making new friends and running off a bit of energy.



Junior Rangers craft activity

If the activities in these photos look like good fun and you would like to be added to the mailing list to receive information about future sessions, all of which take place in the school holidays, please contact the AONB Office. Our next Junior Ranger Day is on Thursday 21st December.



Junior Rangers collecting autumn leaves

## Intergenerational Links in Terrington



What the children of Terrington enjoy

Rural Action Yorkshire received funding from the Howardian Hills AONB and NYCC Stronger Communities Programme to run an inter-generational project in Terrington. Key Stage Two children from Terrington Primary School and older residents from in and

around Terrington were invited to take part. They exchanged ideas on what they thought the different age groups do and what they think of each other. These were gathered using visual techniques and the children took 'selfies' of themselves with the older residents.

Stories from life in Terrington in the 1940's and 50's were shared with the children and it was said that the children in Terrington are better behaved than they were at the same age! The children designed posters to show what they enjoy about Terrington and what they like doing. A 'tea party' was held at Terrington Village Hall and lovely homemade cakes and scones were enjoyed by all, along with lots of chat and fun.

Finally an exhibition displaying all the work produced during the project was held in Terrington Village Hall. Everyone who participated said it was a great opportunity to share experiences and find out more about each other and they really enjoyed the sessions.

*Maggie Farey, Rural Action Yorkshire.*



▲ Redpoll

iRecord is a new wildlife sightings recording system that has been developed to make it simpler for you to report any wildlife that you observe. It aims to make it easier for wildlife sightings to be collated, checked by experts and made available to support research and decision-making at local and national levels.

Key Features of iRecord are that you can:

- Record all the wildlife you see
- Securely store and keep track of your records
- Benefit from automatic data checks and review by experts

- Share your sightings with the recording community
- Explore dynamic maps, reports and graphs of your data
- Explore data shared by other recorders in your area and/or for species groups you are interested in
- Contribute to science and conservation



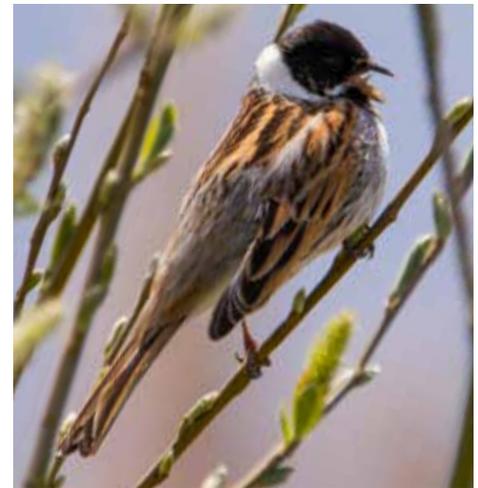
▲ Tree sparrow

Your sightings can be recorded on your phone as you see things or once you return home. Anything can be recorded – from dragonflies and butterflies to mammals and plants. You don't need to have spotted a rarity, records of more common species are equally

valuable, and you have the option to submit a photo with your records.

iRecord has been developed by Biodiverse IT and the Biological Records Centre on behalf of the National Biodiversity Network (NBN), through funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund project OPAL and the NERC Centre for Ecology & Hydrology.

More information, including how to register, can be found at <http://www.brc.ac.uk/irecord/>.



▲ Reed bunting

## Exmoor Pony Grazing



Exmoor ponies have once again spent the summer grazing for conservation in the AONB. The ponies, provided by Yorkshire Exmoor Pony Trust, eat the vigorous grasses, shrubs and trees which would otherwise overpower the more delicate wildflowers.

If the ponies were not employed, the excess growth would have to be removed using a mechanical method such as strimming or topping.

They do the job of several people in an eco-friendly way.

Yorkshire Exmoor Pony Trust are in need of volunteers who are able to offer their time to check the ponies when they are grazing in the AONB. Training will be given and you will not be required to handle the ponies unless you also opt to help move them between sites. The Secretary can be contacted by e-mail on [Chrisual@btinternet.com](mailto:Chrisual@btinternet.com).

# Overhead Electricity Cables



Work to underground unsightly electricity lines in the AONB has been progressing slowly for around 10 years but has now stepped up a gear.

The work has been part of 5-year initiatives to underground 1.5% of all the overhead electricity lines in AONBs and National Parks. The scheme is funded by a national levy on domestic electricity bills and the work is carried out by Northern Powergrid (NPG), which has 7 AONBs and National Parks within its area. A Steering Group made up of NPG and all the AONBs & National Parks oversees delivery of the scheme. Lines in Terrington were undergrounded in 2006 and since then work has been completed in Nunnington (East), Dalby, Crayke, Ampleforth

and most recently Bulmer. A new 8-year period of funding opened in April 2015 and in response the AONB Unit re-surveyed a number of existing and new proposals. Following this a prioritised list of schemes was passed to Northern Powergrid, to utilise the £668,000 budget.

In 2016 work has been progressing well in Crambe, Nunnington (West) and Cawton, with further schemes in Oswaldkirk and Ganthorpe at the advanced design stage. In addition to these schemes within villages, two proposals to tackle 11KV cross-country routes at Easthorpe and Grimston are also progressing. These lines are particularly visible from either roads or well-used Public Rights of Way, with the

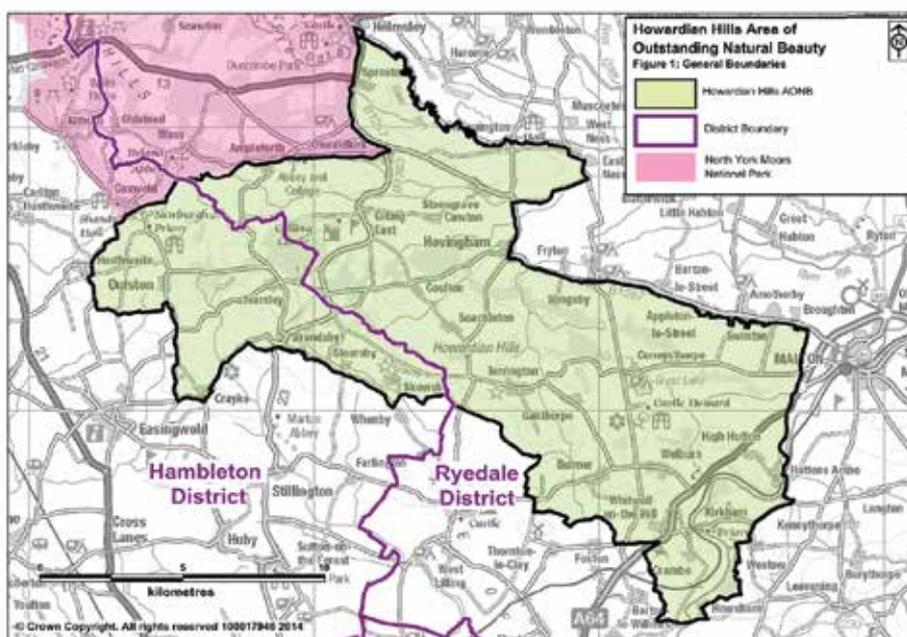
Easthorpe scheme designed to tackle a significant blight affecting fantastic views of the Castle Howard Mausoleum and Temple of the Four Winds.

▲ *Unsightly poles and overhead line due for removal, Easthorpe.*



▲ *Undergrounding in Crambe*

## 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  
for life  
.org.uk

HOWARDIAN  
HILLS  
One of the  
AONB family

This Newsletter has been produced by the Howardian Hills AONB JAC