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Howardian Hills

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

AONB NEWS

Issue 17

October 2017

Photography Competition Winners



▲ *'Frozen Food'* by Alice White



▲ *'A Tranquil Scene at Castle Howard'* by Adrian Clay

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CONGRATULATIONS to the winners of the 2016/17 Howardian Hills AONB Photography Competition.

After a high number of entries and a lively day of judging the winners were announced at the opening of the 2017 Howardian Hills AONB Photography Exhibition at The Yorkshire Arboretum in April. The Exhibition ran for a month and featured all of the finalists from each category and a selection of other high quality entries.

The winning photograph was this stunning image 'Frozen Food' taken by Alice White, which also won the

Flora and Fauna category. The runner-up, also winner of the Landscape category, was this striking shot captured by Adrian Clay entitled 'A Tranquil Scene at Castle Howard'.

Thank you to our partners, judges and sponsors – Community First Yorkshire, The Yorkshire Arboretum, Yorkshire Coast Nature, RJB Photographic, Ryedale District Council, Forestry Commission, Castle Howard, Joe Cornish Gallery, HPE Printing, McClarrons and Photo Studio.

Continued on Page 3...

Annual Report April 2016 – March 2017

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

Conserving and enhancing natural beauty

- 1,785m of hedge planting/gapping-up
- 1 copse and 17 trees planted
- Control of Himalayan balsam at 5 locations, rhododendron at Grimston Moor SINC and scrub at Terrington Carr SINC
- Conservation grazing of 6 SINC or other important sites by Exmoor ponies
- Management of 7 other SINC or SSSIs
- Management works on 45 Special Interest Road Verges
- Continuing involvement with the North Yorkshire Local Geological Sites Partnership
- Continuing the targeted programme of management work on Scheduled Monuments
- Re-gravelling the City of Troy turf maze
- Restoring 15 traditional village name signs
- Overhead electricity cables undergrounded by Northern Powergrid at Crambe and Cawton
- 16 Felling Licence Applications and 3 Woodland Management Plans appraised

Planning

- 110 applications were scrutinised by the AONB Manager. Comments submitted on 39 schemes
- Commented on national policy consultation documents by submitting local evidence/perspective to the National Association for AONBs
- Commented on the Ryedale Local Plan VIUA consultation; the North Yorkshire Minerals & Waste Joint Plan and Economic Growth Plan; the Hambleton Local Plan Preferred Options and Easingwold Area Plan; and the North York Moors National Park Local Plan and Management Plan
- Liaised with NYCC Highways Asset Management on road verge management, kerbing works and best practice guidance for works within the AONB

Enjoying the AONB

- Contracting iFootpath to carry out the preparation of 6 Easy Countryside Trails
- Progressing a project to assist NYCC with resolving Public Rights of Way issues
- Implementing phase 3 of an initiative with Visit York, via Ryedale DC and Welcome to Yorkshire, with the preparation of 7 'Theme/Route itineraries'

- Removing litter from at least 10 sites in the AONB

Communities, Schools & Education

- 4 Junior Ranger sessions held during the school holidays
- Participating in the project linking communities within the Amotherby Ward
- Continuation of a Sustainable Rural Communities project run by Rural Action Yorkshire
- Support for the Slingsby May Day fair and maypole refurbishment
- Creation of a Forest Schools area at Howsham Mill

Publicity

- Maintained the 14 AONB Gateway Signs
- Re-designed 7 new display banners
- Published and distributed our annual Newsletter (AONB News) in October 2016 and Annual Report 2015/16 in September 2016
- Managed and developed the new AONB website
- Attended the Ryedale Show

Partnership Working

- Participated in the North Yorkshire & York Local Nature Partnership
- Participated in the North York Moors Native Woodland Partnership
- Participated in a successful Local Growth Fund bid for development of the Tourism Business Network in the wider North York Moors area
- Arranged for Volunteers to help us with 27 projects or tasks, equating to over 182 person/days of assistance worth £10,200
- Completed a Unit re-structure, which came into effect on 1st May 2016
- Worked jointly with the North York Moors National Park on: scoping study of NP/AONB western fringe for National Grid LEI funding; development of funding bids for Turtle Doves and Cornfield Flowers; Dark Skies Week; developing the Ryevitalise project; technical help with the AONB Monument Management Scheme; article in National Park Out & About Guide

Financial Statement 2016/17

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Defra	118,106	Staffing	96,103
North Yorkshire CC	32,135	Office costs	6,305
Ryedale DC	5,066	Partnership running costs	3,766
Hambleton DC	5,800	Publicity/Research	3,888
Historic England	0	Management Plan	0
Donations	30	Natural Environment projects	19,306
		Historic Environment projects	32,032
		Sustainable Development & Rural Economy	15,681
		Young People (JRC, etc)	581
In-year	£161,137	In-year	£177,662
Brought forward – General Fund	(76,761)	Carried forward – General Fund	(66,868)
Brought forward – Historic England	(10,838)	Carried forward – Historic England	(4,206)
Total	£248,736	Total	£248,736
		(Resources from grant recipients, volunteers, etc)	72,290
		Total Value of AONB Unit Activity in 2016/17	£321,026

Ryevitalise Landscape Partnership Scheme

The Ryevitalise Landscape Partnership scheme is an exciting new project supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, North York Moors National Park Authority and partners including the AONB.

The Ryevitalise landscape incorporates the main upper Rye catchment, including the river Seph and the river Riccal. The scheme aims to protect, enhance and improve the natural and cultural heritage of the area, resulting in a better functioning, understood and appreciated landscape.

Ryevitalise scheme staff and partners are currently developing a number of specific projects that fit under three main themes;

- **Water Quality and Environment**
 - enhancing the riparian and aquatic habitats of the Rye, protecting rare and threatened species and working with land managers to improve water quality;

- **Water Level Management** - working alongside our delivery partners to harness natural processes to manage the sources and pathways of flood waters; and
- **Reconnecting People** - improving the understanding of the river landscape by telling the story of its evolution and encouraging people to protect their heritage.

As we are currently in the development phase of the scheme we are really keen to hear your views on the area, so please have your say by

completing the Ryevitalise survey available online at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Ryevitalise> - it won't take long to complete and we would love to hear from you!

If you farm in the area there are also opportunities such as potential third party grants which will be available if the second application is successful - the delivery phase will be from spring 2019.

Alex Cripps, Ryevitalise Catchment Restoration Officer

The River Rye at Nunnington ▼



Photography Competition Winners

Continued from front cover...

The winner of the History and Heritage category was Julie Cowdy with her detailed photograph 'Close-up Cupola at Castle Howard'.

Harry Kingman won the Living and Working category with his image of the Sheepdog Trials at Castle Howard.

Alexandra Wallis won the Young Photographer category with her festive shot taken inside Castle Howard entitled 'Floral Lady'. The judges liked the composition of the shot and how Alexandra had coped with the limited light available.



1. 'Close-up Cupola at Castle Howard'

2. 'Sheepdog Trial'

3. 'Floral Lady'

Turtle Doves in the Howardian Hills

The beautiful Turtle Dove is our smallest European dove. This tiny power-house of a bird flies 11,200km to reach the Howardian Hills from Mali each spring. Unfortunately Turtle Doves are in big trouble; their population has declined in both the UK and Europe to such an extent that there may now be fewer than 100 birds nesting in the whole of Yorkshire.

The new North Yorkshire Turtle Dove Project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, North York Moors National Park, Forestry Commission and Howardian Hills AONB in partnership with RSPB, Scarborough Borough Council and North and East Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre, aims to help these birds.

What are the project aims?

1. Provide advice, training, support and small-scale capital works.
2. Train keen farmers about Turtle Dove conservation so they

can spread the word.

3. Recruit volunteers to conduct surveys.
4. Deliver talks and guided walks for local residents, schools and community groups.
5. Create publicity and display material for key locations.

How can you help?

If you have a farm or are in control of land, big or small, and you have areas which could be managed to improve feeding and/or habitat, we need to hear from you. Turtle Doves love feeding on native seed from autumn-sown pollen & nectar mix, flower-rich arable field margins or wildflower grasslands.

Howardian Hills Turtle Dove Survey 2018

We are launching a new volunteer survey. This exciting project will also record other important species in our area such as Tree

Sparrow.

To find out more please email liz.bassindale@northyorks.gov.uk

We would also like to know about any sightings in or close to the Howardian Hills or National Park. Please email these to conservation@northyorkmoors.org.uk or phone the National Park office at 01439 772700.

Richard Baines, Turtle Dove Project Officer

Turtle Dove ▼



LEADER – Grants Available

After a slow start to the current North York Moors, Coast and Hills LEADER Programme, we are finally underway and picking up speed! With around £400,000 of funding already allocated to a range of projects and businesses across the area, we are keen to see even more projects come forward.

We are ideally looking for projects which are seeking a contribution towards capital work and which can spend by March 2019. Applications should result in the creation of new employment opportunities, help an existing business to grow, support the visitor economy, or help a new business to get started. Recently supported projects range from a whisky distillery to a mobile sheep handling unit, and from a new coffee shop to a robotic milking machine.

The best place to start is our Programme website – www.moorscoastandhills.org.uk. Here you'll find more information on the types of farming and forestry, micro / small business, tourism, rural services and culture and heritage projects we can support.

Businesses are likely to be eligible for up to 40% of costs, whilst projects which are for a wider public benefit could receive more.

If you are interested in making an application please have a look at our website, or alternatively feel free to get in touch for a chat. I can be contacted on 01439 772700 or via email a.thomas@northyorkmoors.org.uk

Amy Thomas, North York Moors, Coast and Hills LEADER Programme Manager

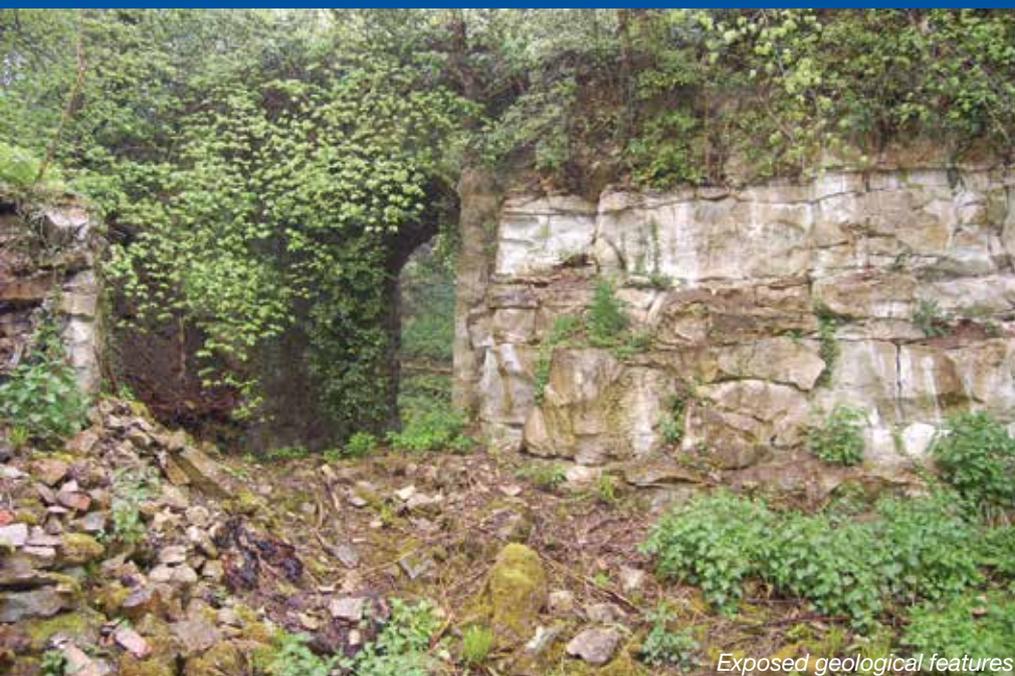


▲ Mobile sheep handling unit



▲ LEADER-supported local whisky

Geodiversity Survey



Exposed geological features

We have just commissioned a major survey of geodiversity features in the AONB, supported by additional funding from Ryedale, Hambleton and North Yorkshire Councils.

Geodiversity is a relatively new term and includes the variety of rocks, minerals, fossils, landforms, etc in an area, together with natural processes such

as erosion and landslips. Biodiversity is the equivalent term for describing ecological habitats and species.

The Howardian Hills is the only area of Jurassic limestone landscape in the north of England to be designated as an AONB. As well as important rock formations in old limestone quarries (a few of them designated

as Sites of Special Scientific Interest) the area also has landscape-scale features such as the glacial meltwater channel of Kirkham Gorge. The rich arable soils, woodland, large country houses and pretty villages all overlay a landscape shaped by ice and water. This geodiversity also underpins most of the industrial and cultural heritage of the area including farming patterns, limekilns, railways and settlement pattern.

An initial study by the geologist has identified approximately 100 sites in the AONB that are felt to merit detailed survey. We're writing to the landowners to seek permission to survey these in more detail, to record the rock type, classification and any formations of note. The survey will be finished by summer 2018, and we hope that in future we'll be able to manage some of the best sites by, for example, clearing scrub to keep the exposed rock faces free of vegetation.

Ryedale Interactive Mapping

Changing the way we do things is at the heart of why we've been creating new interactive Ward maps, with Amotherby and nearby villages the first area of Ryedale to be covered.

The maps are designed to pinpoint all the amenities in a particular area – points of interest and facilities such as litter bins and playgrounds, for example.

The aim is to create an online resource that can benefit lots of different people: people living in the area can use the map to report problems with something in their community; visitors can find out more about what's on offer in a particular area. Community groups and organisations delivering local services can also benefit from more

accurate information about facilities in the areas they cover, as it can benefit the way in which services are planned.

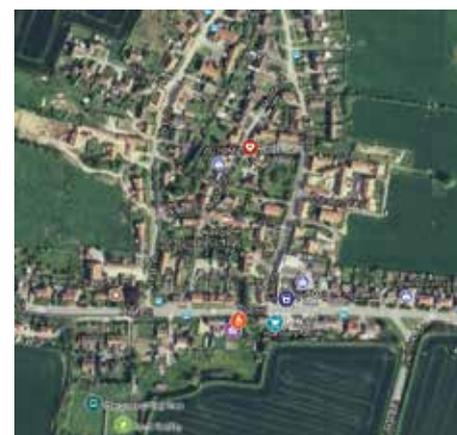
To create these maps Ryedale District Council staff and councillors have been working with Community First Yorkshire, North Yorkshire County Council, the AONB and the parishes of Amotherby, Appleton-le-Street, Broughton, Great Habton, Kirby Misperton and Swinton.

Following this initial pilot, over time it's hoped that Ward maps will be developed in conjunction with people living across all of Ryedale to support Ward planning.

You can find out more about the maps via Ryedale District Council's website:

just search 'interactive maps'. There's a presentation which explains more about the maps and how they can be used. The first interactive map is also on the site for you to take a look at.

Ryedale District Council



▲ *Snapshot of Interactive Map*

Easy Countryside Trails

Whether you're just looking for a short stroll, you use a pushchair or wheelchair or simply struggle with uneven terrain, our new Easy Countryside Trails aim to open up the Howardian Hills AONB to all. We've teamed up with iFootpath.com to develop six new Easy Countryside Trail routes available to download from either the Howardian Hills website <http://www.howardianhills.org.uk/out-and-about/walking/> or via the iFootpath.com website or app <https://www.ifootpath.com/walk-collections/howardian-hills-easy-countryside-trails>.

The trails have been selected to maximise contact with tranquil, attractive areas of the Howardian Hills AONB while minimising physical obstacles such as gates and stiles. Full descriptions of each walk are provided to help you select a route suitable for you and your walking group.

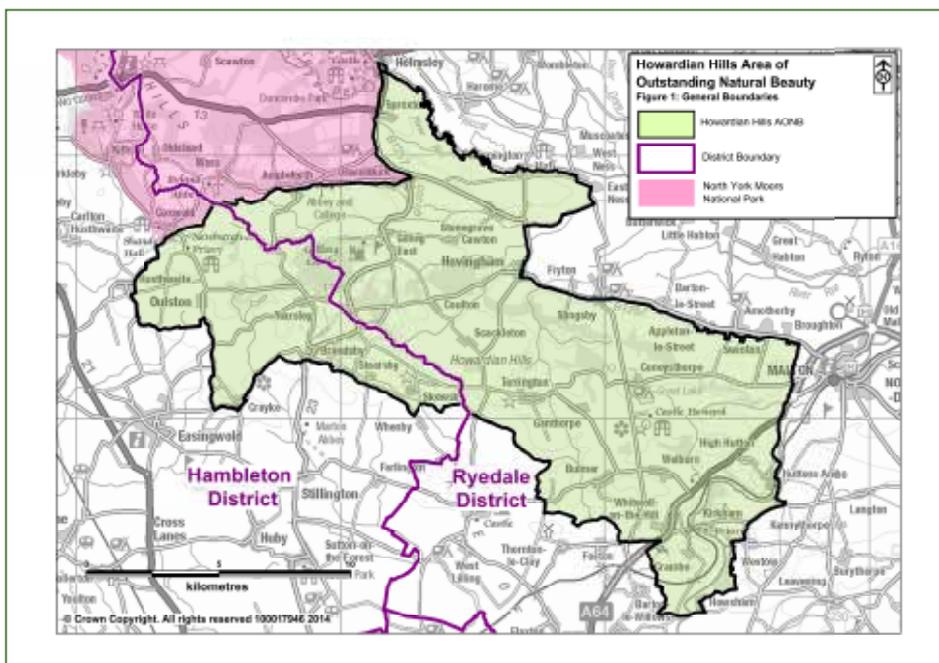
Rights of Way Improvements



A new partnership project with the NYCC Countryside Access Service and North York Moors National Park Modern Apprentices Team has just started in the AONB. Signs and gates were significantly upgraded in the early 2000s, with new fingerposts installed and many stiles replaced by kissing gates. After 15 years in the ground many of the posts are now rotten, leading to snapped fingerposts and unusable gates.

Volunteers went round and photographed the wording on the broken signs, with 24 missing ones now replaced. Analysis identified 46 broken gates or stiles in seven Parishes and these have been batched together into six weeks of work for the National Park Modern Apprentices Team. The AONB Team is photo-recording all the roadside fingerpost signs, to speed-up future maintenance work, and overgrown signs, gates and stiles are also being cleared at the same time.

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

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HOWARDIAN
HILLS
One of the
AONB family

This Newsletter has been produced by the Howardian Hills AONB JAC