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Howardian Hills

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

AONB NEWS

Issue 18

October 2018

Rare Plants in Unexpected Places

Rare arable plants are flourishing on sites in the Howardian Hills AONB. Plants with extraordinary names such as Weasel snout, Field cow-wheat and Toadflax. Others, such as the Corn buttercup, with fascinating seeds that look like childhood stickle bricks. Some are so tiny it's very easy to completely overlook them. But they are increasingly rare treasures that can be found on field edges and amongst crops in corners of the AONB.

A group of farmers are working together with support from Natural

England's Facilitation Fund to raise awareness of these plants and seek to establish them more widely across North Yorkshire. There will be workshops, farm walks, ID training and advice sessions, all welcome - farmers, landowners, anyone with an interest in plants and wildlife.

If you would like more information please contact the AONB Unit and you will be kept regularly updated. Events will be posted on the Howardian Hills AONB website and on Twitter.

Inside this Issue

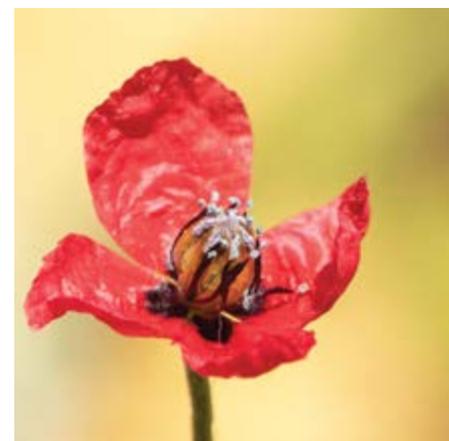
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▲ *Hairy buttercup*



▲ *Yellow juiced poppy*



▲ *Hairy buttercup seedhead*



▲ *Scarlet pimpernel*

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

- 500m of hedge planting/gapping-up; 100m of hedge laying
- 324m of wall restoration
- 1 copse and 4 in-field or boundary trees planted/replaced
- Overhead electricity cable undergrounding completed at Nunnington and Ganthorpe

Biodiversity and Geodiversity

- Himalayan balsam controlled at three SINC; one SSSI and along Wath Beck
- Scrub management at 5 SINC
- Conservation grazing of 4 sites by Exmoor ponies
- Management works on 34 Special Interest Road Verges
- Commissioned a Geodiversity Audit to survey and map the AONB's most important geodiversity sites.
- Developed and started delivering the HLF-funded Turtle Doves Project in partnership with NYMNP
- Organised a Farmers Update event in Helmsley jointly with the NYMNP
- Attended the first meeting of the Ryevitalise Lowland Farmer Cluster, looking at training needs for local farm businesses
- Assisted with development of the Ryevitalise application documents and individual projects

Historic Environment

- Continued survey and management works on Scheduled Monuments supported by funding from Historic England
- Grant assistance towards lake restoration at the Yorkshire Arboretum (part of the Grade I Registered Park of Castle Howard)
- Restored 7 traditional village name signs and cast 6 replicas to replace modern signs

Planning Issues

- 5 Felling Licence Applications and 1 Woodland Management Plan appraised
- 97 planning applications scrutinised in detail in 2017/18, comments submitted on 29 schemes
- Comments submitted on the Ryedale Local Plan: Local Sites Consultation; Hambleton Local Plan: Easingwold Area Plan Alternative Sites and Local Green Spaces; North Yorkshire Minerals & Waste Joint Plan: Addendum of Proposed Changes
- New Farm Buildings & Infrastructure Design Guidance circulated to local farm building construction companies
- Updated the AONB Design Guidance for Highways Works and presented it to the NYCC Highways Asset Management Team for discussion and adoption

Enjoying the AONB

- Uploaded the Easy Countryside Trails leaflets to the AONB website. Grant support provided to Sight Support Ryedale to test and review the Trails
- Removed litter from at least 10 sites in the AONB
- Delivered a new project to assist NYCC with resolving Public Rights of Way issues in the AONB including recording 99% of roadside fingerposts, installing 24 new/replacement fingerposts, 18 further fingerposts due for installation Summer 2018 and packages of work completed by the NYMNP Modern Apprentices Team at Bulmer and Welburn

Communities, Schools & Education

- 4 Junior Ranger sessions held
- Continued liaison with the principal organisations involved in community work in the AONB
- Held a meeting with North Yorkshire Police to discuss establishing a Rural Watch Initiative
- Provided funding for nature areas at Amotherby Churchyard and Slingsby School

Publicity

- Maintained the 14 AONB Gateway Signs
- Produced 7 new display banners
- Published and distributed our annual Newsletter (October 2017) and 2016/17 Annual Report
- Managed and developed the new AONB website
- Maintained a presence on Twitter
- Mailed out our 'Rides & Rambles' leaflet to local accommodation providers
- Attended the Ryedale Show
- Gave presentations to the York Ornithological Club and Welburn Gardening Club

Sustainable Development

- Continued a Sustainable Rural Communities project run by Community First Yorkshire
- Supported refurbishment of the Slingsby maypole
- Wall restoration at Hovingham Village Hall
- Support for printing the Swinton Parish Plan

Financial Statement 2017/18

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Defra	120,138	Staffing	89,013
North Yorkshire CC	32,300	Office costs	6,806
Ryedale DC	6,566	Partnership running costs	3,715
Hambleton DC	7,300	Publicity/Research	4,635
Historic England	0	Management Plan	0
Donations	50	Natural Environment projects	35,199
		Historic Environment projects	18,063
		Sustainable Development & Rural Economy	15,565
		Young People (JRC, etc)	182
In-year	£166,354	In-year	£173,178
Brought forward – General Fund	(66,868)	Carried forward – General Fund	(63,173)
Brought forward – Historic England	(4,206)	Carried forward – Historic England	(1,077)
Total	£237,428	Total	£237,428
		(Resources from grant recipients, volunteers, etc)	142,119
		Total Value of AONB Unit Activity in 2016/17	£315,297

LEADER Update

What a couple of years it's been! 2017 and 2018 have been two of the busiest years for the North York Moors, Coast and Hills LEADER Programme ever, with over £1.6 million being allocated to more than 60 projects and businesses from across the area, creating between them more than 43 new full time equivalent employment opportunities.

LEADER funding for our area has been secured from the EU via the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) and Defra and is being used to support local activity which will help to generate economic benefits for the area, for example through creating new employment opportunities, supporting businesses to start-up and grow, and encouraging visitors to spend more!

Applicants have been supported with grants of between 40% and 95% depending on whether they were commercial businesses or community ventures. We are really pleased to have been able to provide assistance to a diverse range of projects from an outdoor pool, farm shops and equestrian

centres, to village halls, local ice cream producers and outdoor pursuits centres!

As part of the collection of projects supported, the Howardian Hills AONB can now boast an improved village hall in Oswaldkirk, a number of farms with new pieces of kit to help improve the productivity of the business and increase turnover, and a forestry business which now has a suitable environment for dry processing and the seasoning of timber.

Due to the high demand we have experienced, the Programme is now closed to new applications and we expect the remaining funds to be committed by the end of the summer. At this stage it is uncertain if there will be a future scheme to replace LEADER but should the situation change, any developments will be shared through the AONB newsletter, or alternatively please feel free to contact me on 01439 772700 or email a.thomas@northyorkmoors.org.uk

Amy Thomas
North York Moors, Coast and Hills LEADER Programme



▲ *Forestry forwarder*



▲ *Mobile sheep handling system*

AONB Project Fund – 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 £3,000 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 repairs, pond restoration, 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, managing conservation churchyards, creating environmental education resources and village arts projects with a heritage focus.

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.



▲ *Composting toilets at The Yorkshire Arboretum*

▼ *Stone wall repairs at East Newton*





▲ *Wildlife hotel*

Amotherby Churchyard Conservation Group, Amotherby Primary School and the AONB Team have joined together to survey the plants, birds and minibeasts of Amotherby Churchyard and to help its wildlife.

The children and village volunteers spent two mornings in the churchyard surveying, learning and creating features to help the wildlife that uses its habitats.

The first morning was all about birds. We completed four activities:

- Making birdcake stick feeders to take back to school

Going Wild in Amotherby

- Working in groups to build bird boxes for the churchyard
- Learning about what different birds prefer to eat
- Surveying the birds in the churchyard

The second morning started with activities to encourage the children to look more closely at the plants in the churchyard. They surveyed the plants and made 'colour palettes'.

Our other focus on the second day was the wildlife of the churchyard. The children split into two groups, both of which had the opportunity to survey the minibeasts of the flower-rich grassland and to help to build a wildlife hotel.

The planning and delivery of this project was supported by the Education Officer from The Yorkshire Arboretum. Funding was provided by Ryedale District Council and the Howardian Hills AONB Project

Fund. Thank you to the AONB Volunteers who assisted with delivery of the activities.



▲ *Going Wild information poster*



▲ *Minibeast hunting*

Introducing Community First Yorkshire

Community First Yorkshire are an independent charity here to support the voluntary and community groups across the Howardian Hills AONB and surrounding areas. We can offer advice on Funding & Fundraising, Marketing and Social Media, Governance, DBS Training and Safeguarding, Business and Finance Management and Employment. Two of our current projects at CFY are Community Led Housing and Ex-Forces Support. If you are looking for a volunteering opportunity or want to find a volunteer then we can help you with that too. For more information visit our website; www.communityfirstyorkshire.org.uk

Maggie Farey, the Community Development Officer covering Ryedale and the whole of the Howardian Hills AONB, can help you with Community Consultation and Project Development. Maggie also assists with general enquiries from groups - if we can't help we usually

know someone who can. Over the past year Maggie has also been mapping parish assets and facilities across the Howardian Hills AONB area in Ryedale and helped to organise the Ryedale Funding and Volunteering Fair. This well attended event gave an opportunity for Community and Voluntary groups to talk to the funders and to those who were looking to recruit volunteers or interested in volunteering opportunities.

Support for Village Halls is offered through our Community Building Networks - these are an ideal opportunity for those involved in running rural community buildings to get together and share their experiences, successes and discuss issues. For information and to find out the dates of the next meetings near you please contact Kathryn.chapman@communityfirstyorkshire.org.uk

Maggie Farey
Community Development Officer,
Ryedale and the Howardian Hills



▲ *Maggie Farey, Kathryn Chapman and Colleen Allwood of CFY*

School Holiday Fun



▲ *Trying orienteering*

Are you age 4-11 years old? Do you enjoy finding out about wildlife and landscape 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 the 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.

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 email liz.bassindale@northyorks.gov.uk or phone the AONB office. Our next Junior Ranger Days are on Wednesday 31st October and Wednesday 27th February.



▲ *Building a bird box for The Arboretum*



▲ *Finding out what lives in the River Rye with the Ryevitalise Project*



▲ *Identifying river creatures through the microscope*

Monument Management Scheme

Three years ago we introduced you to our Monument Management Scheme (MMS), an exciting new project aiming to survey and care for the historic monuments in the AONB. Funded by Historic England and with technical assistance provided by the North York Moors National Park, we are aiming, over a four year period, to reduce the risk status of the monuments in the AONB.

Following the initial round of surveys we've carried out detailed follow-up surveys on 2 Scheduled Monuments and prepared management plans for 7 more. Bracken control programmes are on-going on 23 Scheduled Monuments, although this was hampered in 2017 by wet weather during the autumn spraying season. Brambles and scrub have been cleared on 27 Monuments, either by contractors or our AONB Volunteers. In total, management work has been started on 38 Scheduled Monuments and these are now starting to show real improvements in condition.

At the end of the four years a follow-up survey of the monuments will be carried out by the Volunteers to assess the full impact of the work.

If you would be interested in volunteering to help with practical work on the monuments please contact the AONB Unit by email info@howardianhills.org.uk or phone 0845 0349495/01609 536775.



▲ *Clearing trees and scrub from a triple bank-and-ditch monument near Coneysthorpe*

Volunteering in the Howardian Hills

Over the past twelve months the Howardian Hills (North Yorkshire County Council) Volunteers have continued to team-up with Moorswork to deliver conservation work in the AONB. The summer months see the group clearing Himalayan balsam from Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation and cutting and raking the botanically rich churchyards and grasslands.

In the autumn and winter we move on to mostly fen cutting and scrub clearance. We are planning fortnightly tasks from the start of October to the end of March.

If you are interested in joining the Volunteers please email Liz (liz.bassindale@northyorks.gov.uk) or phone the AONB office to find out a bit more about what we get up to.



▲ AONB Volunteers and Moorswork

AONB Management Plan review – your comments needed



▲ Draft Management Plan cover

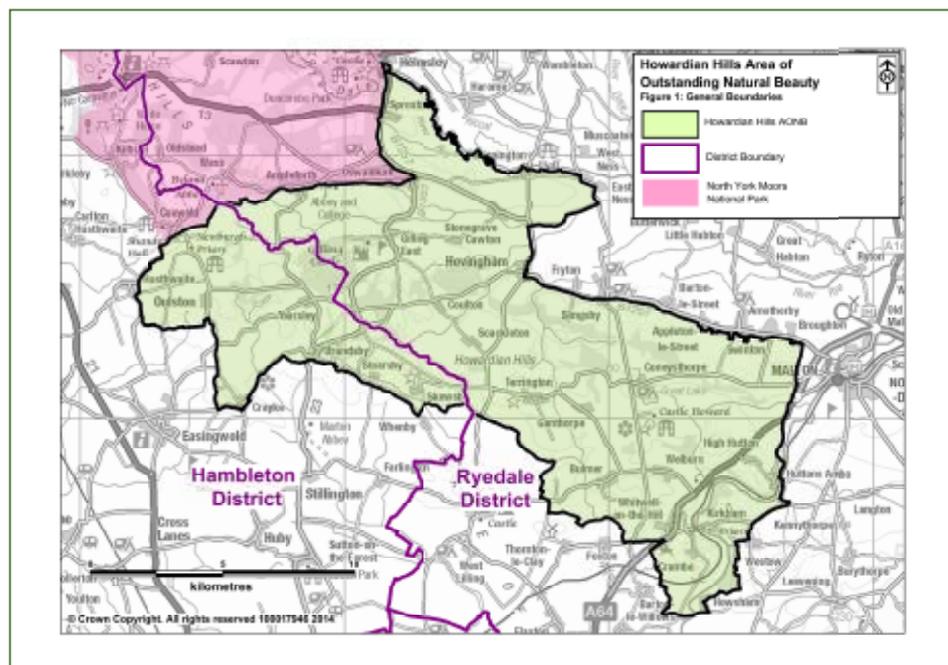
By law, the AONB Management Plan has to be reviewed every five years. The existing Plan is currently under review, to come into effect on 1st April 2019. We've brought together the latest evidence and statistics and a draft of the new Plan has

been prepared. We're inviting comments from a wide range of organisations and taking into account what local people have already told us about what's important in the AONB. The consultation is open for comments until Sunday 11th November – the draft

Plan and all the associated documents can be viewed at <http://www.howardianhills.org.uk/about-us/management-plan-and-work-programme/>

We look forward to receiving your comments!

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](http://www.howardianhills.org.uk) } HOWARDIAN HILLS One of the AONB family

This Newsletter has been produced by the Howardian Hills AONB JAC