

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: 01609 536778
www.howardianhills.org.uk

Howardian Hills

AONB NEWS

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Issue 19

October 2019

Ryevitalise!

Ryevitalise is an exciting new £3.4 million National Lottery Heritage Fund-supported programme which has recently got underway on much of the River Rye and several of its tributaries.

The ambition for Ryevitalise is that it will work towards **“conserving, enhancing and restoring the natural and cultural heritage of the area, enabling people to reconnect with the history, wildlife and landscapes of the River Rye and its tributaries.”**

Inside this Issue

Ryevitalise!	1
Annual Report 2018/19	2
Ryevitalise!	3
Turtle doves	4
Farming in the Howardian Hills	4
Community spaces for wildlife	5
Ampleforth Plus	5
Side By Side volunteering	6
Howardian Hills AONB Fact File	6

Photos:

- Page 3 White-clawed crayfish:
Dan Lombard
- Page 3 River Rye near Low Locker:
Liz Bassindale
- Upper Rye Catchment: **North York Moors National Park Authority**
- Page 4 Turtle dove:
Richard Bennett
- Page 5 Group from Community First Yorkshire: **Autism Plus**
- Page 6 Side By Side volunteering:
Alzheimer's Society
- All others: **AONB Unit**



▲ River Rye at Nunnington bridge



▲ Junior Rangers finding out about the creatures of the River Rye

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

- 128m of hedge planting/gapping-up and 12 in-field or boundary trees
- 25m of wall restoration
- Continuing liaison with Northern Powergrid on overhead electricity cable undergrounding. Schemes finalised for Grimstone Top and Oswaldkirk. Partial undergrounding schemes for BT overhead lines at Nunnington and Cawton implemented

Biodiversity

- Himalayan balsam control at Fairy Dell SINC, Mugdale/Barker Woods SINC, Crambeck (River Derwent SSSI) and along Wath Beck
- Scrub and tree management works on Peel Wood & Grasslands, Littledale, Amotherby Lane, River Rye and Foss Spring Mire SINCs. Control of rhododendron at Coulton Moor
- Conservation grazing of 6 SINC or other important sites by Exmoor ponies
- Management works on 45 Special Interest Road Verges
- Involvement with the North Yorkshire Local Geological Sites Partnership, completing a Geodiversity Audit with 16 sites identified as worthy of designation as Local Geological Sites
- NLHF-funded Turtle Doves Project - spring 2018 surveys completed, seeding work carried out at Coulton, Sproxton and Terrington and a presentation given to the Northern AONBs Group
- Reporting potential illegal felling activity near Whenby

Historic Environment

- Monument Management Scheme - bracken controlled on 24 SMs; bramble/brash/scrub regrowth treated on 13 SMs; 1 SM re-seeded
- Restored 1 traditional village name sign and cast 7 replicas to replace modern signs

Planning

- 126 applications scrutinised; comments submitted on 36 schemes
- Comments submitted on the Ryedale Local Plan; North York Moors National Park Local Plan; Minerals & Waste Joint Plan: Call for further evidence on the Hydrocarbons policies; Defra Health & Harmony and Protecting & Enhancing England's Trees and Woodlands consultations and the MHCLG revisions to the NPPF

Enjoying the AONB

- Removed litter from at least 10 sites in the AONB, on a regular basis
- Continued a project with NYCC to resolve Public Rights of Way issues - installing 15 roadside fingerposts
- Work completed by the NYMNP Modern Apprentices Team at Crambe/Kirkham, Hovingham and Gilling

Communities, Schools and Education

- 4 Junior Ranger activity sessions in partnership with The Yorkshire Arboretum
- Liaison with the principal organisations involved in community work in the AONB, via the regular Community Development Officers' Group
- Supported the development of a Rural Watch Initiative in the Howardian Hills
- Provided funding for a nature area at Slingsby School and start-up of a community wildlife project in Crayke
- Provided funding towards roof repairs and a defibrillator at Hovingham Village Hall

Publicity

- Maintained the 14 AONB Gateway Signs
- Published and distributed our annual Newsletter and 2017/18 Annual Report
- Managed the AONB website and maintained a presence on Twitter
- Input to the development of the educational strand of the Ryevitalise project by: helping deliver the Countryside Learning Day at Duncombe Park, visiting Slingsby, Terrington, Hovingham & Terrington Hall Schools and holding a river creatures day at Hovingham School
- Attended the Ryedale Show
- Gave presentations to the Kirkdale Gardening Club and NYCC Growth, Planning & Trading Standards section

Sustainable Development

- Continuation of a Sustainable Rural Communities project run by Community First Yorkshire
- Provision of wildlife information boards at Castle Howard and education resources at Terrington
- Support for sustainability sessions and a bike shelter made from recycled materials at Amotherby School
- Commissioned a STEAM Report on the visitor economy of the AONB and incorporated the data into the new Management Plan

Financial Statement 2018/19

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Defra	122,204	Staffing	101,677
North Yorkshire CC	34,300	Office costs	6,845
Ryedale DC	5,066	Partnership running costs	4,699
Hambleton DC	5,800	Publicity/Research	5,467
Historic England	631	Management Plan	4,525
Donations	25	Natural Environment projects	22,655
		Historic Environment projects	10,964
		Sustainable Development & Rural Economy	21,278
		Young People (JRC, etc)	677
In-year	£168,026	In-year	£178,787
Brought forward – General Fund	(64,727)	Carried forward – General Fund	(55,043)
Brought forward – Historic England	(1,077)		
Total	£233,830	Total	£233,830
		(Resources from grant recipients, volunteers, match funding, etc)	134,391
		Total Value of AONB Unit Activity in 2018/19	£313,178

Ryevitalise!

With its origins in the uplands of the North York Moors National Park the River Rye and its tributaries meander through a variety of landscapes; starting in the moorland and upland farmland headwaters and gaining

in volume as they flow toward the National Park boundary and onwards into the rolling farmland and woodlands of the Howardian Hills and the lowland agricultural landscape of the western section of the Vale of Pickering.



▲ *White-clawed crayfish*

▲ *Upper Rye catchment through which flows Arden Beck*

▲ *The Ryevitalise area*

What will Ryevitalise be doing?

The three key themes that form the framework for Ryevitalise are:

- Water quality and the environment – restoring and conserving the aquatic habitats of the Rye and the rare and threatened species that the river and wider landscape supports;
- Water Level Management – harnessing natural flood processes to create a more naturally functioning river; and
- Reconnecting people – improving understanding of the river landscape by telling the story of its evolution and encouraging people to protect their heritage.

Work towards achieving these themes will be coordinated by a staff team based within the North York Moors National Park Authority and delivered by a partnership of over 15 organisations working together to reach their common goals across this part of the River Rye catchment.

The Programme Manager, Alex Cripps, has recently been appointed; “I’m really excited about this amazing opportunity to share my enthusiasm

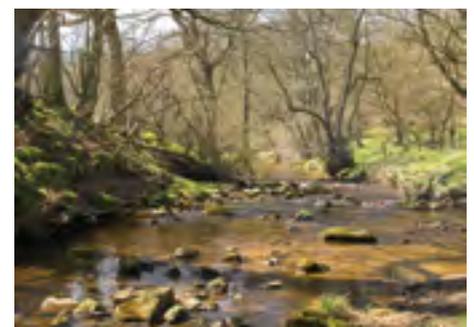
for rivers and the fascinating wildlife that the freshwater habitats and the surrounding areas support. One of the main goals is to reconnect people with nature and our river environments. I am keen to raise the profile of rivers by looking at how valuable these ecosystems are, and how important they are to people both within the Ryevitalise area itself and also beyond. Over the next four years we will be working alongside local communities, including land managers and young people, exploring how simple everyday actions can help care for our rivers to make a huge, positive difference.”

If you are interested in becoming involved keep an eye out for the volunteering opportunities that Ryevitalise will be offering; practical conservation tasks, researching local history, assisting with activities in schools, species monitoring and helping at events will be amongst those available.

To find out more about Ryevitalise please contact the Ryevitalise Team, ryevitalise@northyorkmoors.org.uk



▲ *Rievaulx Abbey in the Rye valley*



▲ *Upper waters of the River Rye near Low Locker*



▲ *Hovingham Beck, Hovingham*



North Yorkshire Turtle Dove Project – summer 2019 update



▲ *Turtle dove*

Time flies but not as fast as a migrating turtle dove! In this, the third year of our project, we were all set for fewer turtle doves arriving back in the spring. However much to our surprise and joy we have received more reports in the Howardian Hills this year than in spring 2018. There are still very few birds out there but we were particularly pleased when a turtle dove was reported in Coulton. This was very close to a farm where a special flower mix had been

sown by the farmer in 2018 funded by our Turtle Dove Grant. This was great news for our team, the farmer and our volunteer surveyor who recorded the sightings. I am now busy signing up new farms to the scheme.

These new flower-rich plots not only provide food for turtle doves they also provide new habitat for a range of other farmland birds from grey partridge to yellowhammers.

Our project area extends from the Howardian Hills across the southern forests and villages of the North York Moors National Park, eastwards to the edges of Scarborough. Most sightings over the past three years have come from forests with a mosaic of habitats which include nesting habitat, flower-rich grasslands or nearby arable farmland and water sources. We estimate our population to be in the region of 50-100 pairs which is up to 5% of the UK population.

Education is an important part of our work and thanks to a local author Susanna O'Neill we now have an exclusive children's story 'Titan's Big Adventure'. The AONB Junior Rangers were the first people to hear the story in May this year. Look out for a future book release!

Richard Baines, Turtle Dove Project Officer, r.baines@northyorkmoors.org.uk

The breadth of farming in the Howardian Hills

During early summer a number of farmers took up an opportunity to have a free two hour farm advice visit from the Howardian Hills team. These visits provided advice on current Countryside Stewardship options and support available from the Howardian Hills AONB Partnership through our Project Fund grants and team of countryside volunteers.

Countryside Stewardship is available as Higher Tier, Mid Tier, Wildlife Offers and Capital Grants. These different levels vary in complexity, application process and length of agreement. Many farmers have chosen to apply for Mid Tier or the Wildlife Offers this year, which will support them in protecting and enhancing the natural environment, in particular the diversity of wildlife and water quality, and provide a guaranteed income for the next five years.

The Howardian Hills have a wide breadth of farming enterprises, wildlife habitats and glorious pockets of spectacular countryside, all maintained by farmers. We've got rare species such as the turtle dove, orchids galore, beautiful meadows and important arable plant populations. Enterprises include an egg hatchery, goat meat, strawberries, rare breed cattle and glamping. Farmers are always looking for ways to reduce their impact and farm more efficiently, to learn new techniques and look to the future.

With some uncertainty looking forward we will be seeking to support farming in the Howardian Hills to ensure food production, buoyant communities and nature conservation go hand-in-hand.



▲ *Hedge planting supported by AONB Project Fund*

Community spaces for wildlife



▲ *Bug hotel at Dutch House Wildlife Garden, Crayke*

Community areas can be important places for wildlife. Spaces such as village playing fields, churchyards and public rights of way come to mind, but some potentially valuable areas are less obvious like road verges, community planters and village hall car parks. It's possible to provide for

nature in all sorts of ways, even small changes can make a difference.

Churchyards can be places for wildflowers, invertebrates and small mammals to flourish. An annual cut in late summer maintains food sources for invertebrates, allows plants to set seed and creates good habitat for small mammals while the grass is long. Appleton-le-Street and Amotherby churchyards are managed in this way and have reaped the benefits.

Bug hotels are great fun to make and create a place for invertebrates to overwinter. The bug hotel at Dutch House uses layers of pallets that are filled with materials such as twigs, sheeps wool, hollow cow parsley stems, broken terracotta and dried grass. How about creating one in your school grounds or community space?

Leaving longer grass around greens and playing fields will help wildlife and road verges can be havens for nature with orchids appearing on some. Cutting later in the summer where possible will help these plants to prosper.

Boxes, tubs, pots and disused plots in village centres could be sown with rare annual arable plants to create an unusual display and help support these at risk species. Tall corn marigold or pretty blue cornflowers could take centre stage, with tiny weasel snout or treacle mustard hiding for keen eyes!

The Howardian Hills AONB may be able to help projects which seek to support nature in your community - contact us to find out more or for practical guidance about creating a wildlife space.

Ampleforth Plus

Ampleforth Plus at Park House Barns is an Autism Plus social enterprise providing a supportive environment within an idyllic rural setting for young people with Autism and associated learning disabilities. Autism Plus is a charity that supports adults and young people with autism, learning disabilities and mental health conditions across Yorkshire and Humber.

The Barns are located on Pottergate opposite Park House on the road from The Fairfax Arms in Gilling East, and currently operate three social enterprises from the converted barn – Morris Minor classic car hire, the chocolate factory and the five acre field. Fresh produce is available daily from the field as well as artisan chocolates from the chocolate factory. The chocolate factory

is available to hire for chocolate making workshops and can produce any type and style of chocolate to order.

Fundraising is underway to convert the remaining barns on site to support more people with learning disabilities in making the transition to adulthood.

There are currently a number of volunteering opportunities available across all the activities, including helping with the classic cars and out in the horticultural field, where groups as well as individuals are welcome to help out for the day.

They are particularly keen to hear from anyone interested in bee keeping with the ever-expanding population of bees!

If you'd like more information or are interested in volunteering just call in on any weekday or contact Ilianna Evangeliou on 01439 787185 or ilianna.evangeliou@autismplus.co.uk To find out more about our work please visit www.ampleforthplus.co.uk



▲ *A group from Community First Yorkshire helping at Ampleforth Plus*

Side By Side



▲ *Enjoying a bike ride, Side By Side volunteering*

Side By Side is an Alzheimer's Society service which helps people with dementia access activities they enjoy and visit places they love, with the company of a volunteer. Our volunteers take people with dementia out and about, doing activities ranging from cups of tea (and a lot of cake!) to fish and chips. From bicycle rides, swimming, walking along the sea-front, ambling in our beautiful countryside to garden centre visits, the choices are endless!

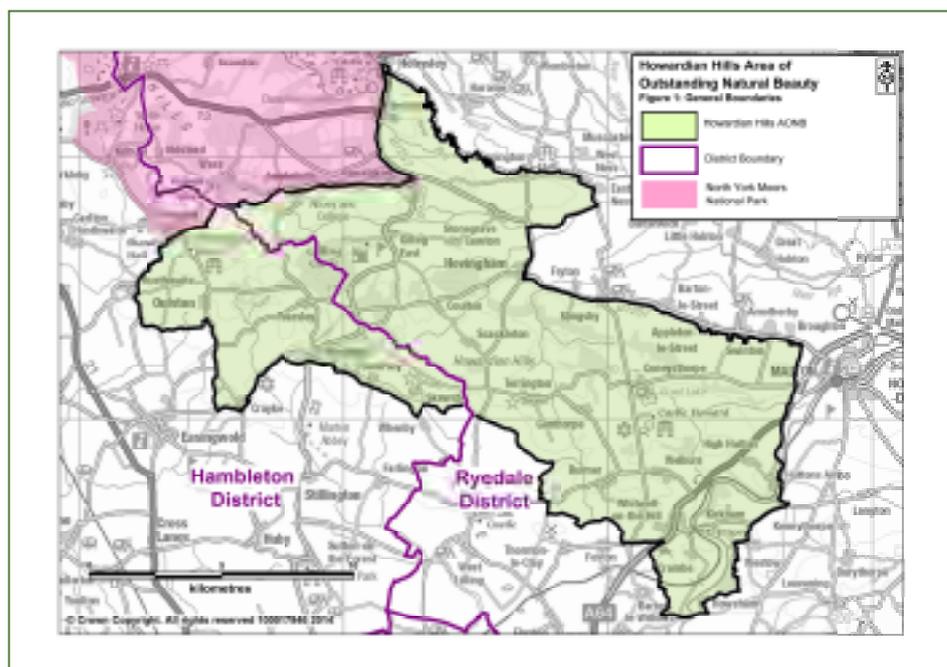
Not only has Side By Side benefitted those with dementia, our volunteers love doing it too. It makes them feel that they are giving something back to the community and having fun while they do it. Our volunteers have a really positive impact on the lives of people with dementia, and we see wonderful friendships develop.

We would love to support even more people to do the things they love but we need more volunteers to do so. By donating a few hours of your time, you would be ensuring that people living with dementia continue to gain as much pleasure from their lives as possible. So, if you enjoy rambling, cycling, swimming or simply watching sport or visiting galleries and supporting people to do the things they love, then we have a volunteering role for you. Full training and support is given and all expenses are reimbursed. It could take as little as an hour a month and fits in around you!

We are also offering a Support and Advice service at your local GP Surgery. For further details please contact our office on the number below.

If you think this might be for you, please contact Sarah at the Alzheimer's Society Scarborough Office on 01723 500958 or email volunteers@alzheimers.org.uk

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 9,150 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