



**HOWARDIAN HILLS  
AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY**

**TEXT-ONLY VERSION**

**MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**2014 – 2019**



# Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

## Ministerial Foreword

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) are some of our finest landscapes. They are cherished by residents and visitors alike and allow millions of people from all walks of life to understand and connect with nature.

I am pleased to see that this management plan demonstrates how AONB Partnerships can continue to protect these precious environments despite the significant challenges they face. With a changing climate, the increasing demands of a growing population and in difficult economic times, I believe AONBs represent just the sort of community driven, collaborative approach needed to ensure our natural environment is maintained for generations to come.

AONB Partnerships have been the architects of a landscape-scale approach to land management. This approach is a key feature of the Government's Natural Environment White Paper and emphasises

the need to manage ecosystems in an integrated fashion, linking goals on wildlife, water, soil and landscape, and working at a scale that respects natural systems.

This management plan also makes the important connection between people and nature. I am pleased to hear that local communities have been central to the development of the plan, and will be at the heart of its delivery. From volunteers on nature conservation projects, to businesses working to promote sustainable tourism, it's great to hear of the enthusiasm and commitment of the local people who hold their AONBs so dear.

AONBs are, and will continue to be, landscapes of change. Management plans such as this are vital in ensuring these changes are for the better. I would like to thank all those who were involved in bringing this plan together and I wish you every success in bringing it to fruition.

Lord de Mauley MP  
Minister for Natural Environment and Fisheries

## **CONTENTS**

	<b>Page</b>
<i>Foreword</i>	
<b>Part One</b>	
<b>Introduction</b>	
1.1 <i>The Howardian Hills AONB</i>	
1.2 <i>Special Qualities</i>	
1.3 <i>The AONB Partnership</i>	
1.4 <i>The AONB Management Plan</i>	
1.5 <i>Landscape character</i>	
<b>Part Two</b>	
<b>Achieving a Vision</b>	
2.1 <i>A Vision for a Living Landscape</i>	
2.2 <i>The Ecosystem Approach</i>	
2.3 <i>A Rich Heritage</i>	
2.3.1 <i>Natural Environment</i>	
2.3.2 <i>Historic Environment</i>	
2.4 <i>Living and Working in the Howardian Hills</i>	
2.4.1 <i>Local Communities</i>	
2.4.2 <i>Agriculture</i>	
2.4.3 <i>Forestry and Woodland</i>	

2.4.4 *Development & the Rural Economy*  
2.4.5 *Roads, Transport and Traffic Management*

2.5 *Enjoying the AONB*

2.5.1 *Recreation, Access and Tourism*

2.6 *Awareness and Promotion*

**Part Three**     **Implementation**

3.1 *Putting the Plan into Action*

3.2 *Monitoring*

3.3 *Action Programme*

**Glossary**

**Landscape Management & Priority Sites**

***[The Evidence Base and Priority Sites descriptions & map are on the CD on the inside of the back cover]***



## 1.1 THE HOWARDIAN HILLS AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

---

The Howardian Hills is one of 46 areas in England, Wales and Northern Ireland that have been designated as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). AONBs, together with National Parks and Heritage Coasts, cover some of the most spectacular and unspoilt landscapes in the country. The designation was confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Environment on 19<sup>th</sup> October 1987. As one of seven protected landscape areas in North Yorkshire, the Howardian Hills AONB plays an important role in both local and regional landscape and wildlife conservation, as well as in tourism, leisure and the rural economy. It also ranks alongside some of the world's best-known landscapes, such as the USA's National Parks and the Amazon Rainforest, as part of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's family of Protected Areas.

### The Howardian Hills AONB

Lying between the Vale of Pickering and the Vale of York, the Howardian Hills AONB forms a clearly defined geographical area of well-wooded rolling countryside (see Figure 1). In the north west the AONB abuts the North York Moors National Park; in the east, along the

Derwent Valley, it extends to the rising ground of the Yorkshire Wolds. Roughly rectangular in shape and up to 16 miles (25km) long by 6 miles (10km) wide, it covers 79 square miles (204 sq. km). Section 2.3 (A Rich Heritage) describes the landscape and its characteristic features in more detail.

Administratively, the AONB falls within the County of North Yorkshire and is divided between the Districts of Ryedale and Hambleton. Containing all or part of 44 Parishes, which are administered by 29 Parish Councils or Meetings, the designated area has a population of approximately 6,100 people. A further 3,200 live in villages just outside the designated boundary (1).

### The purpose of designation

Government guidance (2) describes the purpose of designation as follows:

- **The primary purpose of designation is to conserve and enhance natural beauty.**
- **In pursuing the primary purpose of designation, account should be taken of the needs of agriculture, forestry, and other rural industries and of the economic and social needs of communities.**

---

(1) Mid-Year Estimates for 2010; ONS; Crown Copyright

(2) **Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty: A Policy Statement**, Countryside Commission, CCP 352, 1992

**Particular regard should be paid to promoting sustainable forms of social and economic development that in themselves conserve and enhance the environment.**

- **Recreation is not an objective of designation, but the demand for recreation should be met so far as this is consistent with the conservation of natural beauty and the needs of agriculture, forestry and other uses.**

**Natural beauty** is defined as including flora, fauna and geological as well as landscape features. The conservation of archaeological, architectural and vernacular features is also important, since the landscape is continually being shaped by human influence. Whilst the character of AONBs often differs from that of National Parks, in landscape and legal terms they have equal status and protection.

Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000 places a 'duty of care' on relevant bodies, by stating that:

**"In exercising or performing any function in relation to, or so as to affect, land in an area of outstanding natural beauty, a relevant authority shall have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area of outstanding natural beauty."**

Central to the management of the AONB is the concept of sustainable development, as defined in the Brundtland Report:

*“development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”*

In order to satisfy both the Section 85 CRow Act Duty to Have Regard and the principles of sustainable development, all policies within other plans, strategies and programmes should adequately reflect the national importance of the AONB.

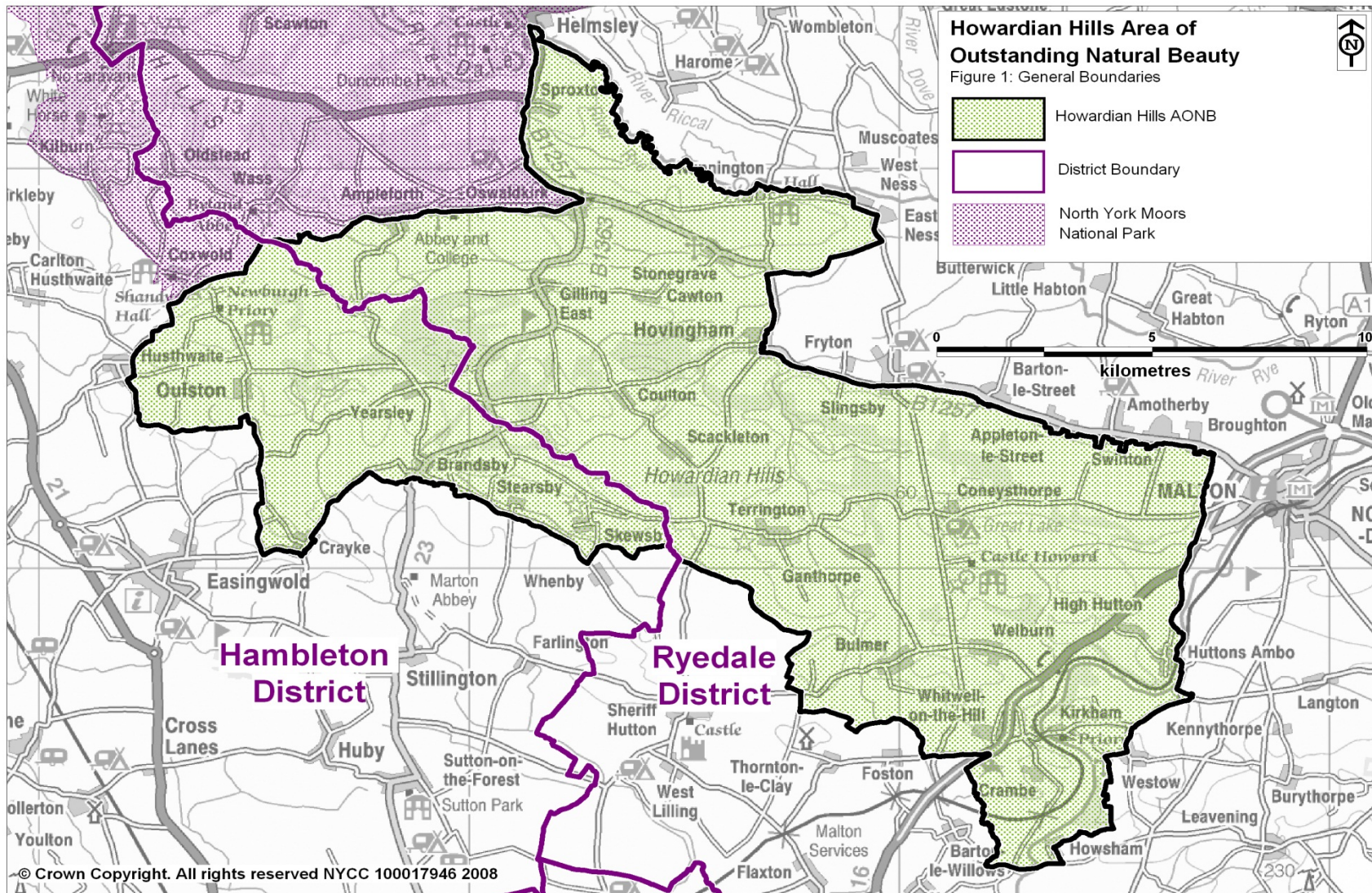


Figure 1: AONB general area

## 1.2 SPECIAL QUALITIES

---

The primary purpose of AONB designation is “to conserve and enhance natural beauty”. It is therefore essential to define as clearly as possible the character of the landscape, recognising both its Special Qualities and the forces for change that act upon it.

Although the Howardian Hills landscape is heavily-wooded it is essentially a farmed landscape, so agricultural and forestry practices play a dominant role in shaping its appearance.

The evolution of the landscape of the area since prehistoric times, and the forces for change which continue to shape it, are described in detail in The Howardian Hills Landscape, a report prepared by consultants in 1995 (3). The report summarised the Special Qualities of the AONB as follows:

**“The Howardian Hills have a strong unity of visual character, not least because they are physically separated from the surrounding countryside, but also because there are a number of common characteristics which bind**

**the landscape together. The strongest of these is the dominance of woodland, which seems to form a green web across the whole area. The open sweeping views from the ridge tops and the quiet intimacy of the enclosed valleys are experiences which constantly recur whilst travelling through the area. The sheer complexity of the land cover, with its rich patchwork of crops, pastures, woods, trees and hedgerows is another consistent quality across most of the area.”**

More specifically, the key Special Qualities are considered to be:

- **An unusual landform**  
The Howardian Hills is the only area of Jurassic limestone landscape in the north of England to be designated as an AONB. The deeply incised Kirkham Gorge is a unique glacial overflow channel of great scientific importance.
- **A richly varied landscape**  
The landform consists of a complex system of ridges, hills and valleys (see Figure 2). These are clothed with a mosaic of woodland, rolling arable fields, small-scale pasture, fens, hedges and walls, formal parkland and scattered settlements.

- **A landscape of high visual quality**  
The variety of landform and land use produces a contrast in scale, colour, texture and form. The settings of the historic houses, the extensive woodlands, the broad sweeping views and the unspoilt farming landscapes and traditional building styles have a special aesthetic appeal.
- **A remarkable heritage**  
The Howardian Hills has a concentration of archaeological and historic features, ranging from Iron Age earthworks on prominent hilltops to the castles and monasteries of the medieval period. The numerous grand houses and designed landscapes, such as Castle Howard, Newburgh Priory, Hovingham Hall, Gilling Castle and Nunnington Hall, have a dramatic effect upon the landscape.
- **An important wildlife resource**  
The AONB contains a section of the unique River Derwent, with its outstanding wild plants and animals. Other habitats of national importance include fens and relatively extensive remnants of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland.

Whilst each of these attributes is important in its own right, it is their combination in a

---

(3) The Howardian Hills Landscape, Cobham Resource Consultants, Countryside Commission, 1995



relatively small area that has produced a landscape of national significance.

### Tranquillity

AONBs and National Parks are increasingly seen as calm and tranquil areas, where people can relax and get away from the rush of modern life.

Whilst agricultural and forestry operations are generally seen as being part of rural life, features such as traffic noise, minerals workings, excessive lighting and aircraft noise can all be detrimental to the feeling of tranquillity.

Although the Howardian Hills are not especially tranquil in national terms, this means it is particularly important to protect those parts of the AONB that do still have relatively high levels of tranquillity. In 2006 55% of the AONB was categorised as having a relatively High or Very High level of tranquillity for its area. (4)

---

(4) CPRE/Natural England, 2013

## Designated Sites

<b>SITE DESIGNATION</b>	
<i>European significance</i>	
Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	<b>1</b>
<i>National significance</i>	
Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	<b>8</b>
Scheduled Monument (SM)	<b>79</b>
Registered Park and Garden (RPG)	<b>5</b>
Listed Building	<b>373</b>
<i>Local significance</i>	
Conservation Area	<b>11</b>
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)	<b>70</b>

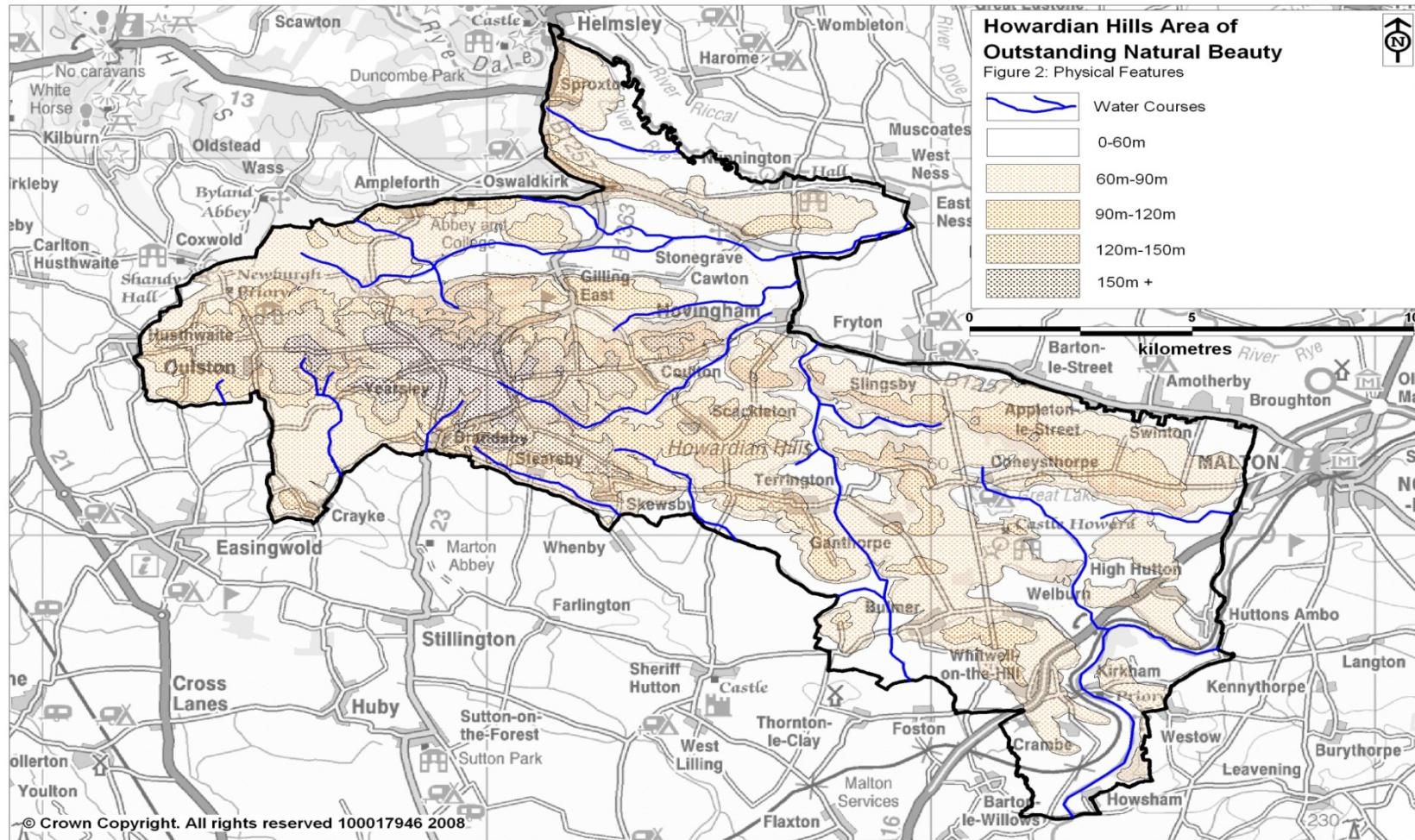


Figure 2: Topography

## 1.3 THE AONB PARTNERSHIP

---

A Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) was established for the Howardian Hills AONB in 1992 to help agree a co-ordinated approach. Its members include representatives of the following organisations:

**North Yorkshire County Council**

**Ryedale District Council**

**Hambleton District Council**

**Ryedale Parish Councils**

**Hambleton Parish Councils**

**Natural England**

**Forestry Commission**

**National Farmers Union**

**Country Land and Business Association**

**Ramblers**

The main work of the JAC is to:

- **Advise and steer** the preparation and implementation of a Management Plan;
- **Promote** awareness and understanding of the AONB for the purposes for which it was designated;
- **Advise** local authorities and other bodies on countryside conservation, informal

recreation and environmental management issues affecting the AONB;

- **Consider and advise** on development and spatial plan policies, proposals and reviews as they relate to the AONB;
- **Discuss** major issues affecting the character of the AONB and, where appropriate, make recommendations;
- **Act as a forum** where the three local authorities can discuss and co-ordinate their activities;
- **Suggest priorities** for action, **agree and monitor** an annual work programme and **identify** the resources required to carry out the work.

The Joint Advisory Committee normally meets three times a year, in order to make formal policy decisions and monitor the work of the AONB Unit and AONB Partnership.

A small Working Group of officers from the local authorities and Natural England meets regularly with the AONB Unit and also provides the JAC with support. This Core Funders Group considers budget and policy issues on a day-to-

day basis, as well as monitoring the allocation of grants from the JAC's various grant schemes.

The AONB Partnership Group involves a wider range of organisations and specialisms not currently represented on either the JAC or Core Funders Group. It acts as a co-ordinated delivery and monitoring mechanism for the Management Plan at officer level. It also provides a forum for Parish Councils to engage with the AONB Unit and other organisations in the wider AONB Partnership.



## 1.4 THE AONB MANAGEMENT PLAN

---

### The basis for the Management Plan

The Howardian Hills contains a wide range of features – woodland, parkland, farmland, rivers and lakes; all of which provide a variety of wildlife habitats.

Changing demands on agricultural land, the economics of woodland management and a variety of environmental factors constantly alter the relationship between different land uses, bringing changes to the landscape. A number of tourist attractions lie within the AONB and it also has many villages, large country houses and Estates that are popular with visitors. Several tourist routes cross the area, whilst the major attractions of York, the North York Moors National Park and the coast are also nearby. In the past there have been few threats from major development proposals. With development of the rural economy, increased levels of traffic and pressure for housing, there is no guarantee that this fortunate situation will continue. The Management Plan, in combination with the spatial plans covering the area, provides a useful means for ensuring that the problems

and opportunities that these pressures bring are addressed and guided in a way that conserves and enhances the landscape of the AONB.

The Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000 placed a statutory duty on all local authorities to prepare and adopt Management Plans for AONBs within their areas. The Plan must provide a Vision, together with a set of Objectives and Actions, which formulate the local authority policies for the AONB and help to define their functions in relation to it. It should also raise the profile of AONB management issues and demonstrate the commitment of all public bodies, statutory undertakers and other interested organisations to the management of the area. The constituent local authorities agreed that the Joint Advisory Committee should co-ordinate the preparation of the Management Plan on their behalf. The three local authorities must adopt this revised Plan by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014.

Although the Management Plan is written specifically for the designated area of the AONB, activities adjacent to the formal boundary can have an impact on the AONB itself or its setting. The work of the Joint Advisory Committee may therefore take it outside the formal boundary when this would

benefit AONB objectives, particularly in relation to work with communities, countryside management advice and development control.

### The policy and strategy context

There are a large number of plans and strategies that impact on the landscape, economy and communities of the Howardian Hills. They operate at an international level, e.g. the European Landscape Convention, national level e.g. National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), a county level e.g. Minerals and Waste Local Development Frameworks and a local level e.g. Local Development Frameworks, Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs), and Community Strategies.

The important focus of the AONB Management Plan, and what differentiates it from these other plans and strategies, is the primary purpose to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the Howardian Hills. The Management Plan ‘adds value’, by informing other plans and indicating how their policies can be implemented within the AONB.

In terms of development control, the AONB lies within areas covered by the Ryedale and Hambleton District Councils, who are responsible for local planning matters. The area is also covered by North Yorkshire County

Council, which has responsibility for minerals and waste planning. The formal plans that guide the day-to-day planning decisions taken by these Councils can be obtained from them.

### **The Howardian Hills AONB Management Plan**

As described above, the AONB Management Plan has a clearly defined purpose and role within the suite of other plans and strategies. It provides a framework for partnership, by helping all those who have an interest and involvement in the AONB to see ways in which their individual or collective efforts and decisions can contribute to looking after the area. A primary aim is to gain their support and to this end the Plan provides a focus for:

- Drawing together up-to-date information on the AONB.
- Considering conflicting pressures and issues.
- Establishing clear and practical Objectives and Actions to guide integrated decision-making and progress on the ground.
- Recommending priorities for action.
- Identifying the resources and funding required.

Because many of the activities which can radically alter the character of the landscape do not fall within planning control, the AONB Management Plan provides an essential tool to help guide future land management activity, funding, development and recreational use.

Achieving a consensus for this type of approach naturally involves all who own or work the land, as well as the local authorities, Government departments and agencies, voluntary groups, local residents and the many individuals who enjoy the area.

For this review of the Management Plan a series of Topic Groups considered how well the 2009-2014 Plan had performed and identified the issues likely to be encountered over the next five years. The information was then used to revise and update the Objectives and Actions for the 2014-2019 Plan.

A number of technical research documents and statistics were also used – these can be found in the Evidence Base under the respective chapter headings.

The policies and priorities of other organisations are constantly evolving and the AONB Management Plan doesn't aim to reference or summarise all of them. Likewise,

the situation within the AONB is constantly changing and the Management Plan can only be a 'snap-shot' of the time at which it was written.

The Plan therefore will be under constant review to ensure that its overall aims are being achieved, and the next formal review will take place in 2018/19.

## 1.5 LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

---

### Variations in landscape character

By analysing various landscape elements, a number of broad landscape character types have been identified. Each has its own unique combination of characteristics which give it a special sense of place. A full description of the individual landscape types is contained in The Howardian Hills Landscape report. (5)

The landscape character types are illustrated in Figure 3. The AONB has seven types with, in places, local sub-divisions:

1. Plateau
2. Upland Fringes
  - a. Northern Plateau Fringe
  - b. Western Plateau Fringe
  - c. Southern Plateau Fringe
  - d. Southern Moors Fringe
  - e. Eastern Moors Fringe
3. Ridges
  - a. South Ridge
  - b. South East Ridge

- c. North Ridge
- d. Caulkleys Bank

4. Vales
  - a. Vale of York
  - b. Vale of Pickering
  - c. Crayke
5. Castle Howard Basin
6. Central Hills and Valleys
7. Derwent Gorge

**As these landscape character types reflect differences in landform, vegetation and land management, they have been used as a basis for dividing the AONB into the Management Zones referred to in the Landscape Management & Priority Sites section of the Plan.**

---

(5) The Howardian Hills Landscape, Cobham Resource Consultants, Countryside Commission, 1995

**Figure 3: Landscape character areas**



## 2.1 A VISION FOR A LIVING LANDSCAPE

---

Section 2.3 (A Rich Heritage) describes the physical character of the AONB landscape and the elements that contribute to its Special Qualities. Apart from the geology and natural landform of the Howardian Hills, all the other factors that influence the way the AONB looks and feels are largely governed by human activity (past and present). It is the actions of people, acting as both individuals and communities, which shapes the area and gives it its 'sense of place'.

All the issues and factors described in subsequent sections of this Plan combine in a constantly variable pattern to define the character of the Howardian Hills. It is therefore the activities, hopes and aspirations of the people who live and work in the area or enjoy it for leisure and recreation that will ultimately determine its future.

In addition to 'everyday' human factors there are the unpredictable impacts of climate change. Invasive species of plants and animals, new diseases affecting tree species, and the impact of severe/prolonged localised weather

conditions are beginning to influence management decisions that affect the AONB.

Of vital importance are the local communities within the AONB, as only by acting jointly can any significant progress be made on some issues. The work of community development organisations has led to a noticeable increase in community activity over the last five years. Affordable/local needs housing for key local workers and providing services to the relatively dispersed communities of the Howardian Hills remain as significant challenges however.

The Vision for the Howardian Hills must therefore recognise that the landscape will change, but it needs to ensure that it does so in a way that conserves and enhances its Special Qualities. This will be a particular challenge over the next 5-year period, given the difficult economic conditions and the Government's likely policies in response to that.

### The Vision

The policies in the AONB Management Plan need to be guided by a long-term goal. The Vision for local people and partner organisations to work towards for **2035** is:

**The Howardian Hills will continue to be a tranquil and well-managed rural area. It will**

**still be notable for its extensive woodland, rolling agricultural fields, large country houses and designed parklands. The threats to the natural and cultural resources of the AONB will have been addressed and these assets will be sympathetically managed within a diverse and prosperous rural economy. Active and resilient communities will have increased opportunities for people of all ages to live and work in the area. Residents and visitors alike will be able to enjoy and appreciate the AONB in an environmentally sustainable way.**

### Key Vision Aims:

- Farming, forestry and local businesses will be environmentally, socially and economically sustainable, thriving and developing due to the Special Qualities of the AONB.
- All SSSIs will be in Favourable Condition, with the long-standing water quality issues on the River Derwent resolved.
- All Ancient Woodland SINC's will have been restored, or be in the process of restoration, to native broadleaves.
- All grassland SINC's will be in sustainable grazing/cutting management regimes.
- Habitats within the AONB will be linked to the wider landscape, to form a coherent network of green infrastructure.

- Designated Heritage Assets (Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Registered Parks & Gardens, etc) will be in sustainable management, in the Low/Not at Risk category as defined by English Heritage.
- There will be a more diverse mix of housing units/tenures and more services will be delivered at community level or remotely e.g. via the internet, thereby reducing the need to travel.
- Where travel is necessary, a network of public and community transport links will

be in place to cater for the majority of needs.

- Personal transport is still likely to be important, but will be powered by more sustainable fuels.
- All Rights of Way will be easy to use, with the minimum of barriers to all types of user.
- A wide cross-section of society will enjoy and appreciate the Special Qualities of the AONB, for their intrinsic value and for the

physical and mental stimulation they provide.

**The Management Plan contains Objectives and Actions for the period 2014-2019 under three broad themes: A Rich Heritage; Living and Working in the Howardian Hills; and Enjoying the AONB. Achievement of the Objectives and Actions for this 5-year period should contribute to the ultimate achievement of the Vision.**

## 2.2 THE ECOSYSTEM APPROACH

---

One of the key documents guiding this revision of the AONB Management Plan is *Biodiversity 2020: a strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services*.

Outcome 1C is of particular relevance to AONBs and sets out the challenge that we are helping to meet:

**Outcome 1C:** *By 2020, at least 17% of land and inland water, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, [will be] conserved through effective, integrated and joined up approaches to safeguard biodiversity and ecosystem services including through management of our existing systems of protected areas and the establishment of nature improvement areas.*

The milestone for this action is that Biodiversity 2020 and ecosystem targets will be integrated into AONB Management Plans by March 2014.

In 2010 Defra published six principles which underpin an Ecosystem Approach.

1. Taking a more holistic approach to policy-making and delivery, with the focus on maintaining healthy ecosystems and ecosystem services.
2. Ensuring that the value of ecosystem services is fully reflected in decision-making.
3. Ensuring that environmental limits are respected in the context of sustainable development, taking into account ecosystem functioning.
4. Taking decisions at the appropriate spatial scale, while recognising the cumulative impacts of those decisions.
5. Promoting adaptive management of the natural environment to respond to changing pressures, including climate change.
6. Identifying and involving all relevant stakeholders in the decision and plan-making process.

The 2009-2014 Management Plan was already built on these principles. One of the key tasks for the 2014-2019 Plan period however is to better understand how individual projects and developments impact on the various ecosystem services that the AONB provides.

The National Character Area (NCA) profile produced by Natural England for NCA 29 (the

Howardian Hills) contains a list of the ecosystem services that the NCA provides. 75% of the AONB is within NCA 29, with 10% in the Vale of Pickering NCA, 8% in the Vale of York NCA and 2% in the North York Moors & Cleveland Hills NCA.

The principal ecosystems services provided by NCA 29, and their condition/issues, are considered to be:

### **Provisioning services (food, fibre and water supply)**

- **Food provision:** Over 82% of the NCA is cultivated – mostly crops and fallow, with smaller areas of permanent grassland. The fertile soils are mostly grade 2 or 3 agricultural land. Holdings are largely given over to the production of cereals, mixed and general cropping, lowland sheep and cattle.
- **Timber provision:** The NCA has a high proportion of woodland cover and includes substantial areas of timber production, much of it from conifer plantation.
- **Biomass energy:** Defra maps show a medium potential yield for short rotation coppice and miscanthus.
- **Water availability:** The NCA overlies a minor post-Carboniferous rock aquifer. Land management practices influence the

extent to which water at the surface will infiltrate and recharge groundwater supplies. There is no water available for further abstraction from the River Derwent, largely to protect downstream flow levels outside the NCA.

### **Regulating services (water purification, air quality maintenance and climate regulation)**

- **Climate regulation:** The soils tend to have a low carbon content, of between 0 and 5%. There is a higher carbon content in the woodland soils and in semi-natural habitats (particularly wetlands), with opportunities to increase carbon storage/sequestration through enhanced management of these.
- **Regulating soil erosion:** In over 50% of the area the soils are classed as being prone to erosion. The NCA straddles two of Defra's priority catchments (Yorkshire Derwent and Yorkshire Ouse, Nidd & Swale), where the sedimentation of watercourses as a result of soil erosion is an identified problem. The problem can be regulated through appropriate land management practices.
- **Regulating soil quality:** Free-draining soils cover 44% of the NCA and play a valuable role in groundwater recharge. This enhanced infiltration is achieved through

good soil management practices to maintain soil structure. The NCA's slowly permeable soils are at risk of suffering compaction and reduced infiltration, which can result in diffuse pollution/sedimentation.

- **Regulating water quality:** The NCA straddles two of Defra's priority catchments (Yorkshire Derwent and Yorkshire Ouse, Nidd & Swale), with only 'moderate' water quality and identified problems of diffuse agricultural pollution from phosphates and nitrates from areas under cultivation. These issues can be addressed through good nutrient and soil management, and through measures to buffer watercourses and trap sediment, including appropriately sited woodland creation.
- **Regulating water flow:** There is some flood risk associated with the River Derwent and its tributaries. Land management within the wider catchment (woodland planting, wetland restoration/creation) can significantly reduce this risk by increasing the land's capacity to hold rainfall and by slowing its flow into watercourses.

### **Cultural services (inspiration, education and wellbeing)**

- **Sense of place/inspiration:** The sense of place is framed by the landform – a belt of complex rounded limestone and calcareous sandstone ridges rising above the surrounding vales. The landscape is a diverse mosaic of sheltered valleys, woodland, parkland and villages, with open arable and large-scale plantations on the intervening ridges and plateaux, offering extensive views over the vales. The extent of designed parkland is a defining characteristic.
- **Sense of history:** A sense of history is evident in the remains of Bronze Age burial mounds, Iron Age earthworks circling prominent hills, and deserted medieval settlements. There is significant evidence of Roman occupation, and a strong pattern of medieval nucleated settlement in the valleys. Historic designed parkland associated with country houses is a strong feature of the landscape.
- **Tranquillity:** The area is an important resource for tranquillity, with 85% of it classed as 'undisturbed'.
- **Recreation:** Recreation and access are supported by the Ebor Way long distance route, a network of footpaths and



bridleways, and a small amount of open access land.

- **Biodiversity:** There is 1 internationally designated site within the NCA, part of the River Derwent Special Area of Conservation (SAC) – 75 ha of which lies within this NCA. There are 8 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in the NCA, making up less than 1% (142 ha) of the area. These designated sites, and other areas of priority habitat (such as ancient woodlands), will be at the core of efforts to increase the resilience of native flora and fauna to future environmental change. There are 70 locally designated Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC).
- **Geodiversity:** There are 3 geological SSSIs within the NCA. Kirkham Gorge is of scientific importance as a renowned example of a glacial overflow channel.

Many of the ecosystem services that the AONB provides are closely linked to the Special Qualities for which the area was originally designated.

### Climate Change

One over-arching factor that has the potential to impact heavily on the Special Qualities of the AONB, and the ecosystem services it provides,

is climate change. The general long-term prediction is for hotter drier summers and warmer wetter winters, with more frequent and extreme weather events. Some of the effects could include more frequent and severe flooding of farmland, damage to archaeological remains by soil erosion and weathering, loss of fertile topsoil from fields, windblow of mature trees, new species moving in, or extinction of existing species unable to move within the landscape. Both research information and practical observations will be important in deciding how to manage these impacts. [For the period 2009-2014 patterns of prolonged and extreme weather, e.g. snow/frost, drought, cold easterly winds and heavy rainfall have been experienced].

### Key Issues 2014 – 2019

- Improvement in the understanding of the ecosystem services that the AONB provides, the impact of management/development decisions and the interactions with the AONB's Special Qualities.
- Observation of weather patterns, to assess possible long-term implications and any changes to the AONB.
- Partnership working with the North York Moors National Park, given the overlap of farmland types and habitats between the

two areas, to maximise the area covered by an ecosystem approach.

### OBJECTIVES – THE ECOSYSTEM APPROACH

Please see the Action Programme for details of specific Actions for each Objective.

- ES1 Gain a better understanding of the AONB's contribution to ecosystem services.**
- ES2 Promote sustainability and support appropriate projects that benefit the AONB's ecosystems services and Special Qualities.**
- ES3 Understand potential climate change trends and scenarios and monitor impacts on the AONB.**

## 2.3 A RICH HERITAGE

---

Photos

## 2.3.1 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

---

### Key Facts

- The AONB is a key area for a number of nationally important Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Priority Habitats including lowland broadleaved woodland, wood pasture and veteran trees, limestone and neutral grasslands and fen meadows.
- Characteristic species include brown hare, lapwing, tree sparrow and barn owl, as well as several local rarities such as knapweed broomrape and baneberry.
- Nearly 80% of the habitats in the AONB are either farmland or are associated with human settlement. BAP Priority Habitats (which show the strongest semi-natural characteristics) represent only 8% of the total area of the AONB. (6)
- A habitat survey in 1992 recorded 362ha of high quality neutral grassland, 11.5ha of unimproved calcareous grassland and

---

(6) Natural England, 2011

761ha of botanically much poorer semi-improved grassland. (7)

- It also recorded 14.5ha of mire. Most of this habitat type is found along streams and rivers, particularly near Coulton and in the Derwent Valley.
- 85ha of open water was recorded, with the largest water bodies being the lakes at Castle Howard, Wiganthorpe, Newburgh Priory and Pond Head (Oulston) Reservoir.
- A survey of road verges in 1997 found nearly 38ha of species-rich grassland habitat on 132 separate stretches of verge. (8)
- In 2013 there was 3,332ha of woodland in the AONB; 1,532ha was classified as Ancient, with 163ha classified as Ancient Semi-Natural. (9)
- In 2013 8% of the AONB's rivers and streams and 50% of its groundwater bodies were classified as being in Good Ecological Status. (10)

---

(7) Southern Ryedale and Howardian Hills AONB Phase I Survey, A Weston, University of York/English Nature, 1992

(8) Howardian Hills AONB Roadside Verge and Hedgerow Survey, Bullen Consultants, Howardian Hills AONB Joint Advisory Committee, 1998

(9) Forestry Commission, 2013

(10) Environment Agency, 2013

- Both Ryedale and Hambleton Districts have Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs) in place, although they are both due for review.
- The AONB contains: 1 Special Area for Conservation (SAC); 8 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) (5 Biological, 3 Geological); 70 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC).
- The AONB is a Priority Area in the North Yorkshire & York Local Nature Partnership (NY&Y LNP) Strategy.
- Further information and statistics can be found in the Evidence Base.

### General Principles

- National Character Area (NCA) 29 Statement of Environmental Opportunity: Support sustainable management of the agricultural landscape to retain important rates of food provision, while enhancing the network of semi-natural habitats within pastoral and arable landscapes, protecting the wildlife and water quality of the River Derwent, optimising carbon storage, soil quality and regulation of peak flow events, and strengthening the sense of place. (11)

---

(11) National Character Area 29 Profile: Howardian Hills, Natural England, 2012

- Biodiversity 2020 (BD2020) objectives for the AONB's SSSIs, Priority Habitats and Species should be promoted and delivered.
- The principle of bigger, better, more and joined-up, as developed in Prof. Sir John Lawton's report (12), should be used to guide habitat management action and create a more wildlife-friendly matrix of habitats across the wider countryside, including within villages and gardens.
- An Ecosystem Approach to delivery of projects and consultation responses should be developed, in line with Biodiversity 2020 Outcome 1C.
- The North Yorkshire & York Local Nature Partnership (NY&Y LNP) should be used as a forum to develop and deliver integrated projects both within the Howardian Hills and linking outwards.
- Partnership working with the North York Moors National Park should be encouraged, given the overlap of farmland types and habitats between the AONB and National Park.
- Knowledge about habitat and species status within the AONB, particularly for farmland birds, should be improved.

---

(12) Making Space for Nature: A review of England's Wildlife Sites and Ecological Network, Prof. Sir John Lawton, Defra, 2010

- The status of the AONB's water bodies, as measured by the Environment Agency's Water Framework Directive (WFD) indicators, should be improved.
- Awareness and understanding amongst local people and visitors of how important the AONB is as a biodiversity and geodiversity resource should be increased.
- Advice, assistance and (where appropriate) grant aid should be provided to help land managers improve biodiversity and geodiversity on their land.
- The incidence of invasive non-native species should be monitored and management action taken where appropriate.

#### Key Issues 2014 – 2019

- The continued management of SINCs, as they form the AONB's principal network of important biodiversity sites.
- The progression of river catchment-based partnerships, to provide an integrated framework for action in delivering mutual objectives.
- How well the new agri-environment scheme can improve the biodiversity value of both important sites and the wider farmed landscape of the AONB.
- The availability of other funding to supplement/fill any gaps within the new

agri-environment scheme, to maximise action for biodiversity in the AONB.

- The continued spread, and as yet unknown impact, of infectious plant diseases and non-native plant/animal species.

#### OBJECTIVES – NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Please see the Action Programme for details of specific Actions for each Objective. For Actions relating to community involvement please see **Objective LC2**; for skills training see **Objective D6**; for promotion and raising awareness see **Objective AP2**.

**NE1 Continually improve knowledge of the wildlife resources in the AONB.**

**NE2 Ensure that appropriate protection is given to the best nature conservation sites in the AONB.**

**NE3 Assist with the implementation of LBAP/BD2020/WFD targets for priority habitats in the AONB (broadleaved woodland; grasslands; wetlands) to improve condition and increase network connectivity.**

**NE4 Assist with the implementation of LBAP/BD2020 targets for priority**

**species for which the AONB is important.**

- NE5 Assist with the implementation of LBAP/BD2020 targets for wildlife within villages.**
- NE6 Monitor and where appropriate support control of invasive non-native species in the AONB.**
- NE7 Encourage the identification and conservation of important geodiversity sites and features in the AONB.**
- NE8 Provide assistance to farmers and land managers, to help them manage their land sympathetically.**
- NE9 Ensure continued recognition of the Howardian Hills as a priority area for biodiversity in North Yorkshire, as part of the NY&Y LNP.**

**Figure 4 (Natural Environment Priority Sites)**



## 2.3.2 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

---

### Key Facts

- A rich history of human activity is evident in the Howardian Hills, from Mesolithic flint scatters to Roman bath houses to medieval monasteries to railways. The area has good soils for farming, with the geology and extensive woodlands providing stone and timber for building. The area's proximity to Malton with its fort means that some of the Roman remains are likely to be from villas or farming communities. These would have provided food and other goods, such as pottery from Crambeck, to the fort.
- A strong theme of the Howardian Hills is the scatter of nucleated medieval villages, which place name evidence shows originated in the Saxon and Scandinavian periods. The Saxon minster at Stonegrave and the open strip fields of ridge and furrow still visible at Crambe are some of the best preserved remains.
- Monastic orders were drawn to the area, with monasteries established at Kirkham and Newburgh. The tradition continues today with Ampleforth Abbey.

- The monasteries were important landowners with widespread farms, so at the time of the Dissolution in 1537 land and building materials were sold cheaply. This enabled the rise of landed gentry whose big estates and country houses form arguably the most visible theme of the Howardian Hills today. Estates and grand houses at Castle Howard, Gilling, Hovingham, Howsham, Nunnington, Brandsby, Kirkham, Whitwell, High Hutton, Ganthorpe, Swinton, Hildenley, Wiganthorpe, Dalby and Sproxton are all still recognisable to a greater or lesser extent today.
- The complex geology allowed only small-scale operations of extractive industries such as stone quarrying, coal mining, lime burning (for building mortar and land improvement), brick and tile making and pottery manufacture. The Derwent is the only navigable river in the AONB and provided limited use for transport of goods owing to poor access. Three railways served the area, with only the York to Scarborough line now remaining open.
- Agricultural improvement changed the landscape significantly, with the old common fields enclosed and the land improved for the production of sheep and crops. Woodland is still important,

consisting of both broadleaved Ancient Woodland and more recent conifer plantations on former heathland. As unploughed heathland that survived agricultural improvement, a wealth of prehistoric burial mounds and other features are now preserved within the plantations.

- The history of religious and private Estates in the Howardian Hills has resulted in a large stock of traditional stone-and-pantile farmhouses, farm buildings, cottages and village houses, many of them in 'estate villages'.
- As well as the physical remains there are also the cultural traditions that have developed over the centuries. Traditional values associated with a long history of religious activity and farming are still strong.
- An archaeological survey of the AONB was carried out in 1993 and a Historic Landscape Characterisation survey was completed in 2011. A community archaeology group working on Yearsley Moor have demonstrated the wealth of features from all periods that can be found when focus is tightly concentrated on a specific area.
- The AONB contains: 373 Listed Buildings; 11 Conservation Areas; 79 Scheduled

Monuments. The 5 Registered Historic Parks and Gardens comprise 11% of all North Yorkshire's registered parks (outside the two National Parks), demonstrating how important they are to the character of the AONB.

- The 2013 English Heritage 'Heritage at Risk Register' identified the following nationally significant assets as being At Risk in the AONB: 4 Listed Buildings, 27 Scheduled Monuments and the Registered Historic Park and Garden at Castle Howard (13). A further 10 Grade II Listed Buildings at Risk are recorded on District Council registers.
- Further information and statistics can be found in the Evidence Base.

### General Principles

- National Character Area (NCA) 29 Statement of Environmental Opportunity: Protect the geological and historic landscape features that are characteristic of the area, including its distinct landform, prehistoric earthworks, medieval monasteries, grand houses with designed parkland, and settlement pattern. Manage these features to provide diverse public benefits, enhancing the sense of place and

history, and protecting natural resources. (14)

- Community groups and other researchers should be supported in discovering and understanding the heritage of the AONB, and feeding the results into the North Yorkshire Historic Environment Record (HER).
- All nationally important heritage assets in the AONB should be appropriately conserved and enhanced.
- The significance of all aspects of the historic environment should have a high profile amongst residents, land managers and visitors, to ensure that it is respected.
- Advice, assistance and (where appropriate) grant aid should be provided to help owners recognise and better manage historic environment features on their land.
- Designated Heritage Assets on English Heritage's 'Heritage at Risk Register' should be priorities for management action, to ultimately ensure that no Assets appear on the Register and that a sustainable future has been secured for all designated and non-designated heritage assets in the AONB.

- Conservation/management plans should be prepared for all designed landscapes, to help develop a better understanding and appreciation of their significance and to guide their future management.

### Key Issues 2014 – 2019

- The unpredictable availability of resources for historic environment conservation work, from both the public and private sectors, particularly with the ending of the Environmental Stewardship Scheme.
- Small but incremental changes to heritage assets, due to amendments to Permitted Development Rights and potentially fewer resources for Planning Enforcement work.
- The condition of sites on English Heritage's 'Heritage at Risk Register', particularly Scheduled Monuments affected by arable cultivation or damaging plant growth, the Registered Park & Garden at Castle Howard and the Grade I Listed structures at Castle Howard. Proposals for Enabling Development may come forward to address the latter issue.
- The condition of non-designated sites, particularly designed landscapes not on the English Heritage Register.
- The length of time since the last comprehensive survey of archaeology in the AONB in 1993. Current data sources

---

(13) English Heritage, 2013

---

(14) National Character Area 29 Profile: Howardian Hills, Natural England, 2012

need to be thoroughly assessed, to draw out themes where there is a lack of knowledge and where they contribute to the overall understanding of history and significance in the Howardian Hills.

## **OBJECTIVES – HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT**

Please see the Action Programme for details of specific Actions for each Objective. For Actions relating to community involvement please see **Objective LC2**; for skills training see **Objective D6**; for promotion and raising awareness see **Objective AP2**.

- HE1 Improve understanding of the AONB's historic environment and its significance.**
  
- HE2 Sustain and enhance the significance of the AONB's historic environment.**
  
- HE3 Help local people to identify the non-designated heritage assets which contribute to the character of their area and support the development of management strategies for their conservation and enhancement.**

**Figure 5 (Historic Environment Priority Sites)**

## **2.4 LIVING AND WORKING IN THE HOWARDIAN HILLS**

---

Photos

## 2.4.1 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

---

### Key Facts

- The Howardian Hills is sparsely populated, with approximately 6,100 people living within the AONB boundary itself, and 9,400 when the villages within its 'socio-economic envelope' immediately adjacent are included. (15)
- The majority of the population is concentrated within a number of small villages and hamlets. Ampleforth (including the Abbey and College) is the largest village, with 1,400 residents. Only four other villages contain more than 500 people. The scattering of villages is interspersed with numerous individual farms.
- Many villages are 'estate villages', where the principal estates still own a significant proportion of the properties (e.g. Coneysthorpe, Welburn, Hovingham and Nunnington).
- The percentage of people aged 20-44 (21.2%) is significantly lower than for the

---

(15) Mid-Year Estimates for 2010; ONS; Crown Copyright

Yorkshire & Humber region (33.5%) and England as a whole (34.3%). (16)

- The percentage of people aged 65-84 (20%) is higher than for the Yorkshire & Humber region (14.4%) and England as a whole (14.1%).
- The market towns of Easingwold, Malton and Helmsley provide the main focus for local employment, shopping, health facilities and recreational activity, with only limited services available in individual villages.
- The main issues that emerge from community consultations are volume of traffic (particularly HCVs), speeding traffic, declining services within villages, housing (lack of affordable, but also new Local Plan targets for house building), lack of local employment and lack of public transport. There is also recognition however of the tranquillity and natural beauty of the AONB.
- The number of communities with Parish Plans has significantly increased in the last 5 years, as has the number of community projects that have been instigated as a result of them.
- At least 35% of the village halls serving AONB communities have undergone

---

(16) Census 2011, ONS, Crown Copyright

substantial improvements recently to make them more useable and sustainable.

- The LEADER Local Action Group and AONB Sustainable Development Fund have been significant sources of funding for these projects.
- Significant programmes of education work have been completed with the 10 primary schools covering the AONB.
- The Key Facts on employment and the economy of the AONB are contained in the Development & Rural Economy section of the Management Plan.
- Further information and statistics can also be found in the Evidence Base.

### General Principles

- The AONB should have flexible and resilient communities that are better placed to adapt to the evolving challenges they face.
- Knowledge-sharing should be encouraged, to help communities to develop and potentially collaborate on projects.
- Parish Planning should be supported as a useful way of developing projects that have buy-in from all sections of the community.
- Advice, assistance and (where appropriate) grant aid should be provided for appropriate community projects.



- The continued coverage of the AONB by initiatives such as LEADER should be a high priority, as they can provide significant social and economic benefits for communities.
- The linkages between the local market towns and their hinterland in the AONB should be developed, to maximise the social and economic development opportunities they bring.

#### Key Issues 2014 – 2019

- An ageing population profile, potentially resulting in fewer economically active people.
- Service provision linked to the ageing population profile, with potentially greater reliance on services being delivered by communities themselves rather than by the public sector.
- The increasing importance of environmental sustainability as a way of reducing living costs, for example by energy conservation and waste reduction.
- The potential loss of rural skills.
- The possible loss of identity and community cohesion for some rural communities, due to the turnover rate of house occupation.

- Levels of rural crime such as illegal coursing and the theft of farm machinery, livestock, heating oil, etc.
- Perceptions of the volume and speed of traffic passing through villages.
- Less public sector support and funding for community projects, with fewer ‘development officers’ and less grant aid.
- In light of the above, the continued coverage of the AONB by a new LEADER programme for rural development.

#### OBJECTIVES – LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Please see the Action Programme for details of specific Actions for each Objective. For Actions relating to skills training please see **Objective D6**; for promotion and raising awareness see **Objective AP2**.

- LC1 Assist local communities with identifying and implementing projects that maintain and enhance their character, sustainability and sense of community.**
- LC2 Encourage voluntary and community engagement with the local natural and historic environment of the AONB.**

## 2.4.2 AGRICULTURE

---

### Key Facts

- Around 70% of the AONB is categorised as farmland and agricultural practices therefore have a major influence on the appearance of the landscape.
- Farming is a major industry and employment sector within the AONB, and many families have been farming their land for several generations.
- Around 30% of the farmed land is rented, principally from the large Estates, and this has a generally stabilising effect on major land use change.
- During the period of agricultural intensification after World War Two a significant proportion of the grassland in the AONB was converted to arable cropping. Hedgerow removal was significant in some parts of the AONB but less marked in others.
- The land is predominantly classed as Grade 3, with some areas of Grade 2 along the limestone ridge between Malton and Hovingham. Permanent pasture is now largely confined to the steeper slopes and poorer soils.

- Farming in the AONB consists overwhelmingly of arable cropping, with associated sheep and cattle enterprises. Indoor pig rearing is increasing and there are a small number of poultry farms. Dairy farming is continuing to decline. (17)
- Agri-environment schemes have generally been popular in the AONB, with the Countryside Stewardship Scheme resulting in significant restoration of hedgerows and creation of large areas of grass margins. At its height, approximately 45% of the total AONB area was covered by Countryside Stewardship Agreements.
- In 2013, 55% of the agricultural land area of the AONB was in Entry Level Stewardship and 20% in Entry Level + Higher Level Stewardship. In total these agreements, over their 10 year lifespans, will be worth over £7 million to the land management economy of the AONB. (18)
- Farm diversification enterprises within the AONB include visitor accommodation (B&B or self-catering), contracting, development of offices/workshops, specialist cropping/livestock, game shooting and energy crop production.
- Further information and statistics can be found in the Evidence Base.

---

(17) Defra June Census statistics, 2011

(18) Natural England, 2013

### General Principles

- National Character Area (NCA) 29 Statement of Environmental Opportunity: Support sustainable management of the agricultural landscape to retain important rates of food provision, while enhancing the network of semi-natural habitats within pastoral and arable landscapes, protecting the wildlife and water quality of the River Derwent, optimising carbon storage, soil quality and regulation of peak flow events, and strengthening the sense of place. (19)
- A profitable and thriving agricultural and land management industry should be encouraged, as this is vital to the economic, environmental and social wellbeing of the Howardian Hills.
- Farm diversification enterprises should be supported where possible, although in general they are likely to remain secondary to the production of livestock and arable crops for many of the AONB's farmers.
- The new agri-environment scheme in Defra's next Rural Development Plan should address the farmland conservation management issues in the AONB, particularly in relation to Biodiversity

---

(19) National Character Area 29 Profile: Howardian Hills, Natural England, 2012

Action Plan (BAP) Priority Habitats and Species.

- Advice should be available to land managers on conservation management and sources of funding, particularly the new agri-environment scheme.
- Grant assistance should be provided for conservation management tasks, where appropriate.
- Partnership working with the North York Moors National Park should be encouraged, given the overlap of farmland types and habitats between the AONB and National Park.
- New farm buildings and infrastructure projects should be supported, where they follow the principles of the AONB Farm Buildings Design Guidance.

#### Key Issues 2014 – 2019

- Continued volatility in the relative prices of inputs and crops.
- Greater pressure on land due to an increasing world population – food provision is an important ecosystem service provided by the AONB.
- The final details of the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) reforms, in particular the balance between direct support payments and rural development

measures (including the new agri-environment scheme being developed).

- The Environmental Stewardship Scheme closes to new entrants in December 2014 and no agreements under the new programme will start until January 2016. This will have implications for landscape/wildlife conservation and farming cash-flow in the AONB.
- The area coverage of the new agri-environment scheme is predicted to be much lower than for the expiring Environmental Stewardship Scheme. This again will have implications for landscape/wildlife conservation and farming cash-flow.

#### OBJECTIVES – AGRICULTURE

Please see the Action Programme for details of specific Actions for each Objective. For Actions relating to community involvement please see **Objective LC2**; for skills training see **Objective D6**; for promotion and raising awareness see **Objective AP2**.

**AG1 Encourage the development and uptake of Government support mechanisms that achieve sustainable farm and rural business development.**

**AG2 Support farm businesses in the AONB by providing advice and appropriate assistance.**

**AG3 Ensure high standards of design and careful siting of all new farm buildings and infrastructure.**

## 2.4.3 FORESTRY & WOODLAND

---

### Key Facts

- Woodland cover, at approximately 18%, is one of the defining features of the Howardian Hills landscape.
- 46% of the woodland is classified as Ancient Woodland. (20)
- There are also significant numbers of in-field and boundary trees, designed parklands and areas of wood pasture, with many veteran and ancient trees.
- The AONB, together with the adjoining south west corner of the North York Moors National Park, is the most heavily wooded area in the north of England.
- In 2013, it was estimated that the AONB's soils and biomass had a store of approximately 1.3 million tonnes of carbon, and that its land use pattern was sequestering at a rate of approximately 85,000 tonnes of carbon per year. The large majority of this is due to the significant area of woodland.
- 80% of woodland is in private ownership, with the remaining 20% owned/leased by the Forestry Commission.

---

(20) Forestry Commission, 2013

- Clearfelling rates are approximately 10-20ha per year.
- Approximately 60% of the woodland in the AONB is certified under the UK Woodland Assurance Scheme (UKWAS).
- The primary woodland management objectives are generally timber/wood production and game shooting.
- The local market for broadleaved firewood logs is good and has encouraged more management activity within woods recently.
- 70% of the woodland in the AONB is in active management. (21)
- Further information and statistics can be found in the Evidence Base.

### General Principles

- National Character Area (NCA) 29 Statement of Environmental Opportunity: Manage the wooded character of the NCA and its important historic parklands to optimise carbon storage, water quality and regulation of peak flow events, and to strengthen habitat networks, enhancing the sense of place and history. (22)
- Woodland cover should be maintained and, where possible, increased, so as to

---

(21) Forestry Commission, 2013

(22) National Character Area 29 Profile: Howardian Hills, Natural England, 2012

retain the well-wooded appearance of the AONB landscape.

- A move towards greater use of continuous cover management systems should be encouraged, where conditions are suitable.
- Multi-objective management of woodland should be encouraged, using site management plans to recognise and incorporate other conservation objectives e.g. historic environment, access, etc.
- The incidence and impact of pests and diseases should be monitored, particularly in relation to native tree species and Ancient Woodland.
- The restoration of Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) to native broadleaved species should be encouraged and supported.
- Owners should be encouraged to bring under-managed woods back into active management.
- Restocking by natural regeneration should be encouraged, where this would be appropriate and viable.
- The use of known provenance planting stock should be promoted in commercial woodlands, with local provenance material in Ancient Woodlands and for in-field/boundary trees.
- Development of the local woodfuel market should be supported.

- The new woodland grants package in Defra's next Rural Development Plan should address the management issues found in the AONB, particularly in relation to restoration of Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS).
- Advice should be available to owners on woodland management and sources of funding.
- Grant assistance should be provided for conservation management tasks, where appropriate.
- Partnership working with the North York Moors National Park should be encouraged, given the national significance of woodland within the AONB/National Park area.

#### Key Issues 2014 – 2019

- The unknown impact of *Chalara fraxinea* (Ash Dieback) on woodland and individual trees in the AONB, and its potential implications for woodland management, landscape and biodiversity.
- The unknown timescale for any arrival of *Phytophthora ramorum* (Sudden Oak Death) in the AONB. Larch species currently appear to be the most susceptible –

widespread infection would have significant implications for the AONB's landscape, biodiversity and woodland management economy.

- The impact of other infectious plant diseases and both native and non-native plant/animal species, e.g. Red Band Needle Blight, roe deer, Himalayan balsam, grey squirrel, muntjac deer, etc.
- Uncertainty over future grant incentives for woodland management in Defra's new Rural Development Programme due to begin in 2015/16.

#### OBJECTIVES – FORESTRY & WOODLAND

Please see the Action Programme for details of specific Actions for each Objective. For Actions relating to community involvement please see **Objective LC2**; for skills training see **Objective D6**; for promotion and raising awareness see **Objective AP2**.

**FW1 Ensure that all woodland felling, management and creation proposals recognise the Special Qualities of the AONB.**

**FW2 Encourage a multi-objective approach to woodland management in the AONB.**

**FW3 Monitor and manage the incidence and impacts of pests and diseases in the AONB.**

**FW4 Encourage the use of known provenance trees and shrubs when planting or re-stocking.**

**FW5 Encourage new areas of woodland where these would conserve or enhance the Special Qualities of the AONB or improve habitat networks.**

**FW6 Encourage the continued development of markets for wood and timber.**

**FW7 Encourage the development of grant and advice mechanisms that achieve AONB Management Plan objectives for woodland management and creation.**



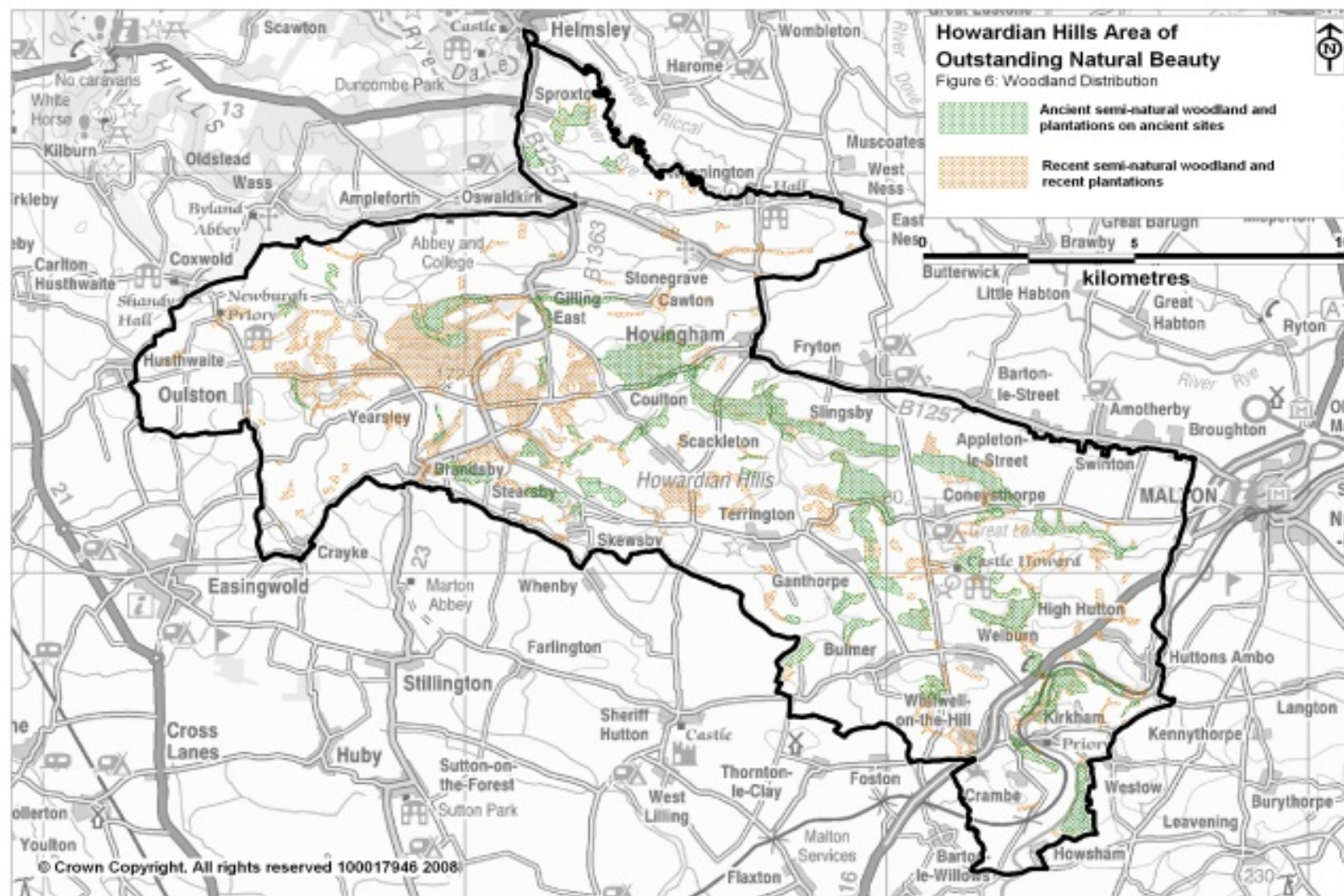


Figure 6: Distribution and type of woodland



## 2.4.4 DEVELOPMENT & THE RURAL ECONOMY

---

### Key Facts

- The primary focus of local economic activity is the market towns of Malton, Easingwold and Helmsley, all of which are in close proximity but outside the AONB. They act as the main centres for employment, shopping, leisure and health services.
- The AONB has a 'Sparse' population living in Villages and Hamlets/Isolated Dwellings, as defined by Defra's Rural Definition 2004. (23)
- There is a low unemployment rate but also a low-wage economy. Most people work within the general locality, with out-commuting also to employment centres such as the local market towns and York.
- There are high self-employment and VAT Registration rates, which is typical of sparsely populated rural areas that are dependent upon agriculture, forestry and tourism.

---

(23) <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110215111010/http://ons.gov.uk/about-statistics/geography/products/area-classifications/rural-urban-definition-and-la-classification/index.html>

- 42% of the businesses within the AONB are in the category Agriculture/Forestry/Fishing, and they account for 24% of the employment numbers. This is over twice the proportion for the Rural area of the Yorkshire & Humber region (10%). (24)
- Tourism businesses account for 8% of the total number of businesses in the AONB, and 22% of the employment numbers. Again, this is nearly twice the proportion for the Rural area of the Yorkshire & Humber region (12%). (23)
- Over half of the total employee numbers in the AONB are believed to be associated with a small number of relatively large businesses, e.g. Castle Howard, Ampleforth Abbey & College, etc. (23)
- Household income levels within the AONB are generally higher than the regional average (23), but mask low wage levels in the general locality and amongst some sectors of the workforce (notably in the primary industries).
- The housing affordability ratio in the AONB is 8.8, significantly higher than the Yorkshire & Humber regional average of 5.0. (23)
- Accessibility to services is very low, with the whole of the AONB falling into the Most

---

(24) Howardian Hills AONB Economic Profile – Revised, Defra Rural Statistics Unit, 2012

Deprived category in that section of the Index of Multiple Deprivation. (25)

- The AONB in general has not been under as much development pressure as some other AONBs, but existing and emerging issues include large new agricultural buildings, hydro-carbon exploration drilling, more extensive housing developments than in the past, upgrading of the A64, new telecommunications infrastructure and recreational developments.
- Further information and statistics can be found in the Evidence Base.

### General Principles

- All new development should be fully sustainable in environmental, economic and social terms, recognising the Special Qualities of the AONB.
- Existing intrusive features should be ameliorated where possible, such as the undergrounding of overhead electricity lines and better screening for other buildings/installations.
- High levels of tranquillity should be maintained in the AONB, by resisting increases in noise and light pollution.
- Mineral extraction in the AONB should be tightly controlled, in line with Government

---

(25) LEADER Local Development Strategy: <http://www.moors.uk.net/content.php?nID=698>

policy. Exceptions may be made where it can be shown that a local building stone is needed to facilitate the repair of buildings and structures in the local area.

- Enhancements to the A64 to improve accessibility both locally and regionally should be supported, subject to minimising impact on the AONB.
- Appropriate renewable energy installations should be supported.
- Development proposals that benefit the local economy and provide nearby employment (particularly in better paid jobs) should be supported.
- More small-scale rural business space should be provided, either by the re-use of existing buildings or by appropriate new-build.
- The visitor economy of the AONB should be developed in a sustainable way, as part of the wider North York Moors area, particularly using initiatives such as the LEADER approach.
- Access to/training in a wide variety of topics including land management, historic buildings conservation, business management and ICT skills should be supported, to provide local people with better all-round opportunities for employment.

- The current programme to roll-out high-speed broadband will be supported as a vital component of business and community development, where installations follow the agreed industry Code of Practice.
- New telecommunications masts will be supported where they are carefully sited/designed and offer benefits to the widest number of users.
- Local-needs housing (controlled via local needs occupancy conditions) should be promoted as an important component of sustainable communities. Affordable housing however is only likely to be facilitated through the limited provision of market housing.

#### Key Issues 2014 – 2019

- The balance between economic growth and conserving/enhancing the AONB's Special Qualities, within the context of an evolving planning policy framework.
- The continuing development of a high-speed rural broadband service and mobile telecommunications coverage.
- The development of a sustainable visitor economy in the Howardian Hills.
- The provision of new rural business space.
- Improvement of the A64 to enhance road safety and accessibility.

- The lack of affordable and local-needs housing for local workers.
- The pressure for significant developments of market housing, and the dilemma that affordable housing may only be provided in conjunction with market housing.
- The potential decline of villages as coherent communities in the face of conflicting pressures such as expensive market housing, poorer village and transport services and the lack of local-needs housing.
- Hydro-carbon exploration/production, particularly for gas, petroleum and possibly shale-gas.

#### OBJECTIVES – DEVELOPMENT & THE RURAL ECONOMY

Please see the Action Programme for details of specific Actions for each Objective. For Actions relating to community involvement please see **Objective LC2**; for promotion and raising awareness see **Objective AP2**.

- D1 Ensure that any new development is compatible with the aims of AONB designation and has regard to social, economic and environmental sustainability.**

- D2** Encourage high standards in both the design of new development within the AONB and the management of existing buildings/features.
- D3** Encourage the mitigation of intrusive features, to enhance the local landscape character and tranquillity of the AONB.
- D4** Support appropriate minerals-working proposals which conserve and enhance the Special Qualities of the AONB.
- D5** Support appropriate renewable energy installations that do not have adverse impacts on the Special Qualities of the AONB.
- D6** Support rural business, local employment/training and farm diversification activities that do not have adverse impacts on the Special Qualities of the AONB.
- D7** Encourage the expansion of modern telecommunications technology, whilst safeguarding the Special Qualities and tranquillity of the AONB.
- D8** Encourage the increased provision of local-needs/ affordable housing in the AONB.

## 2.4.5 ROADS, TRANSPORT AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

---

### Key Facts

- The network of roads in the Howardian Hills has evolved over many centuries, in line with the distribution of human settlement and the requirements of the population.
- The busy A64 Leeds to Scarborough Trunk Road (managed by the Highways Agency) is the only major arterial route that passes through the AONB. It plays an important role in getting people between West Yorkshire, York and the Yorkshire coast, as well as meeting local transport needs.
- Two secondary routes cross the area: the B1257 from Malton to the A170 at Sproxton and the section of the B1363 between Oswaldkirk and Brandsby.
- The remainder of the road network consists of minor roads either linking villages or crossing the AONB in a north-south direction. All the roads of B Class or lower in the AONB are managed by North Yorkshire County Council.
- Roadside boundaries are generally well-hedged, with drystone walls on the higher

open ground of the Plateau landscape character area.

- Mature trees are features of major significance on many roads, including the sycamore avenue between Caulkleys Bank and Nunnington, the four mile (6.4km) avenue of lime and beech at Castle Howard and the informal oak-lined eastern approach to Terrington.
- Some routes, particularly the Castle Howard Avenue, have significant heritage assets either within or directly adjacent to the highway boundary.
- The AONB still retains a significant number of highway structures in traditional designs such as stone bridges, direction signs and mileposts.
- Road verges within the AONB are an important resource of unimproved grassland, particularly along the B1257 between Malton and Hovingham.
- Traffic levels in North Yorkshire as a whole decreased by 3% between 2009 and 2012 (26), but a number of factors could be responsible for this including prolonged snowy winters, poor summer weather and the recession.
- The road network could generally be considered quiet in comparison to other

parts of the country, but local residents have strong concerns about through-traffic (especially HCVs) and driver behaviour (principally speeding).

- Regular daily bus services within the AONB are only found in the Malton – Helmsley corridor, and car ownership levels are significantly higher (over 90%) than the national average (75%) (27).
- Service Centre Transportation Strategies (SCTSs) were prepared for Helmsley, Malton/Norton and Easingwold as part of the second North Yorkshire Local Transport Plan (2006-2011). Implementation of transport improvements identified in these strategies is on-going.
- Car parking in the AONB is generally of an informal nature on road verges near to popular walking routes, apart from the larger car parks at attractions such as Nunnington Hall and Castle Howard.
- There is a strong local desire for improvements to the A64. Single carriageway sections have a poor safety record and significant variations in road conditions and traffic flows can cause congestion at busy times of the year. The

---

(26) North Yorkshire County Council, 2013

---

(27) Census 2011, ONS, Crown Copyright

A64 also has a number of sub-standard junctions with a history of accidents.

- Further information and statistics can be found in the Evidence Base.

### General Principles

- Inappropriate through-traffic should not be using the AONB as a short-cut.
- Considerate driver behaviour should be encouraged, particularly in relation to speeding through villages and when passing cyclists, horse riders, etc.
- Public transport provision and usage should be encouraged, but recognising that the AONB is a sparsely populated rural area and that public sector funding will be under increasing pressure.
- Alternatives to the private car such as community transport, cycling, walking, etc, should be supported.
- Sustainable linkages should be encouraged both to and within the adjacent market towns, as they are the principal focus for delivering local services.
- Maintenance and improvement works should reflect the character of the rural road network and the special status of the AONB.
- Traditional direction signs, mileposts and other historic structures within and

adjacent to the highway should continue to be maintained and restored.

- Special Interest Road Verges should be managed to maintain and improve their biodiversity value, balanced with the needs of road safety.
- Any proposals for improvement works to the A64 should take full account of the AONB designation.

### Key Issues 2014 – 2019

- Reduced funding at North Yorkshire County Council for highways management and public transport support.
- Reduced funding for community transport initiatives such as minibus brokerage and ‘Wheels to Work’ moped hire schemes.
- Funding is likely to be concentrated on the maintenance of the highway network rather than improvements, unless significant road safety issues are involved.
- Significant new house building outside the AONB may increase both commuter and visitor traffic levels.
- The Highways Agency will be preparing a Route-Based Strategy for the A64, due to be completed by March 2015. North Yorkshire and Ryedale Councils are working with other Councils to promote a number of enhancements to the A64 between York and Scarborough up to 2021

and beyond. The prioritised schemes will aim to improve road safety, journey time reliability and access to Ryedale/the Yorkshire Coast.

### OBJECTIVES – ROADS, TRANSPORT & TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

Please see the Action Programme for details of specific Actions for each Objective. For Actions relating to community involvement please see **Objective LC2**; for skills training see **Objective D6**; for promotion and raising awareness see **Objective AP2**.

- RT1 Develop solutions to specific traffic routing issues in and around the AONB, to discourage through-traffic and ensure that other traffic uses the most appropriate route.**
- RT2 Support initiatives to monitor and address traffic and driver behaviour issues in the AONB.**
- RT3 Promote the use of sustainable modes of transport as alternatives to the private car.**

**RT4** Maintain the existing rural character of the road network in the AONB.

**RT5** Ensure that any proposals for improvement of the A64 trunk road through the AONB are fully justified and adopt appropriate local standards of design. Taking account of significant safety concerns, proposals should aim to make maximum use of the existing road alignment and have minimum environmental impact.



## **2.5 ENJOYING THE AONB**

---

Photos

## 2.5.1 RECREATION, ACCESS & TOURISM

---

### Key Facts

- A wide range of outdoor recreational activities including walking, horse riding, mountain biking, country sports, road-cycle racing and touring, motorcycle scrambling and orienteering are conducted in the AONB. Activity is generally adequately dispersed or at low frequency, so serious or prolonged impact is rare.
- The area is rich in heritage and the five main historic houses open to the public attract large numbers of visitors – Castle Howard, Nunnington Hall, Kirkham Priory, Hovingham Hall and Newburgh Priory.
- The AONB has an extensive network of Public Rights of Way, with 126 miles (203km) of footpaths and 57 miles (92km) of bridleways.
- Several Long Distance walks cross the area, giving opportunities for longer walking trips.
- A comprehensive programme of improvements to path furniture throughout the AONB was carried out between 2000 and 2006, and maintenance is on-going.

- Visitors and Users Surveys indicate that people are attracted by the unspoilt landscape, the peace and tranquillity and the sense of ‘discovery’ of a relatively unknown area of England. (28)
- Because the Howardian Hills has not historically been a major visitor destination there is a relative lack of facilities. There are no formal country parks or picnic sites, car parking facilities are limited and toilets are only located at the village pubs/cafes, village halls or larger visitor attractions.
- Visitor accommodation is available in village hotels/pubs and in farmhouse bed-and-breakfasts. There are a number of small farm-based caravan sites, together with several larger sites for camping and both static and touring caravans. More up-market facilities such as camping pods are starting to be developed.
- Further information and statistics can be found in the Evidence Base.

### General Principles

- National Character Area (NCA) 29 Statement of Environmental Opportunity: Promote enhanced access to and enjoyment of the Howardian Hills in ways

---

(28) The Howardian Hills AONB Visitors and Users Surveys, Bowles Green Ltd, Howardian Hills AONB Joint Advisory Committee, 2003 & 2012

that will maintain and enhance the AONB’s Special Qualities and character, and its tranquillity, and that will support the essential underpinning ecosystem services, the quality of soils and water, and carbon storage. (29)

- The primary Purpose of Designation is the conservation and enhancement of the AONB’s Special Qualities, but sustainable access and recreational activities/developments should be supported where appropriate.
- Public Rights of Way should be managed to a high standard, maintaining both path furniture and condition to ensure ease of use.
- The Public Rights of Way network should be improved where appropriate, using Diversions, Creations/Deletions and permissive routes to develop a more coherent and universal network.
- All sectors of society should be able to enjoy the AONB, so constraints preventing Under-Represented Groups from visiting or using the area should be reduced as much as possible.
- Information in a variety of formats should be provided for a wide range of users, to

---

(29) National Character Area 29 Profile: Howardian Hills, Natural England, 2012

allow them to enjoy and appreciate the AONB.

- Working in partnership to promote the attractions of the wider North York Moors area should be strengthened, ensuring however that the Howardian Hills sub-identity is maintained and enhanced.
- Partnerships with local visitor attractions, accommodation providers and other public sector organisations should be further developed, to promote the Howardian Hills identity.
- Management work should be carried out where appropriate to improve the visitor experience and minimise conflict with other Management Plan Objectives or local interests. The Derwent Valley however is a particularly sensitive location due to its international nature conservation designations.
- Access to recreational opportunities using public transport or other low-impact means of travel should be promoted.

### Key Issues 2014 – 2019

- The need for improvements to the Public Rights of Way network and path condition, to make the AONB more accessible for a wider range of users.
- The significance of the next 5 year period in the run-up to the 2026 cut-off deadline

for recording all Public Rights of Way on the Definitive Map.

- Diminishing resources at North Yorkshire County Council for path maintenance and network development.
- The need to develop better links to the Howardian Hills for visitors staying in the wider local area, and to improve the identity of the Howardian Hills as a separate ‘destination sub-brand’.
- The relative scarcity of B&B, camping and other visitor accommodation within the Howardian Hills, and the lack of general facilities such as car parking and public toilets.

### OBJECTIVES – RECREATION, ACCESS & TOURISM

Please see the Action Programme for details of specific Actions for each Objective. For Actions relating to community involvement please see **Objective LC2**; for skills training see **Objective D6**; for promotion and raising awareness see **Objective AP2**.

- RA1 Encourage sustainable recreational activities that do not conflict with the Special Qualities of the AONB.**
- RA2 Promote the attractions and Special Qualities of the AONB to encourage sustainable use and support the local visitor economy.**
- RA3 Maintain and improve both the condition and network of Public Rights of Way in the AONB.**
- RA4 Carry out recreational management measures as appropriate, to enhance enjoyment by the public and address local issues.**
- RA5 Develop routes within the AONB for different user groups and provide self-guided information.**

**Figure 7 (Visitor attractions and Recreation  
Priority Sites)**

## 2.6 AWARENESS AND PROMOTION

---

### Key Facts

- The Howardian Hills AONB is still a relatively recent designation, having been confirmed in 1987. In comparison the adjacent and better-known North York Moors National Park was designated in 1952.
- The principal audiences for awareness-raising initiatives are local people living and working in the AONB, visitors (and potential visitors) to the AONB and staff in partner organisations.
- In 2003 23% of survey respondents could specifically say that they were in the Howardian Hills AONB; in 2012 this proportion had risen to 68%. (30)
- Press releases and publications such as the Annual Report and AONB Newsletter (which is delivered to 9,000 residential and business addresses within the AONB and surrounding area) are the principal methods of publicity used.

---

(30) The Howardian Hills AONB Visitors and Users Surveys, Bowles Green Ltd, Howardian Hills AONB Joint Advisory Committee, 2003 & 2012

- On average the AONB and work within it receives approximately 30-35 press mentions per year, equivalent to £40k-50k of advertising space (dependent upon publication title).

### General Principles

- The public profile of the Howardian Hills AONB should be maintained and enhanced, using a variety of mechanisms and partnerships.
- New technologies and means of communication should be adopted where feasible, bearing in mind any limitations (e.g. poor mobile telecommunications coverage, target audience, etc).
- Efforts should be made to encourage more users from currently Under-Represented Groups to visit and enjoy the AONB.
- Awareness of the AONB as a venue for quiet enjoyment and outdoor recreation should be increased.
- Events and activities should be used to make people aware of the AONB's Special Qualities and to promote appropriate management techniques.
- Working with local schools and communities should continue to be a high priority.

### Key Issues 2014 – 2019

- The decline in more traditional forms of promotional material and the need to develop information distribution tools for new audiences.
- Reduced resources for 'promotional' work, potentially leading to a loss of awareness about the AONB and hence recreational opportunities.

### OBJECTIVES – AWARENESS & PROMOTION

Please see the Action Programme for details of specific Actions for each Objective. For Actions relating to community involvement please see **Objective LC2**; for skills training see **Objective D6**.

**AP1 Maintain awareness and understanding of the AONB designation, its importance and the role of the Joint Advisory Committee.**

**AP2 Promote awareness of the Special Qualities of the AONB.**

### 3.1 PUTTING THE PLAN INTO ACTION

---

#### Co-ordination of effort

- The main purpose of the Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) is to focus attention on the needs of the AONB and to co-ordinate the efforts of local authorities and organisations representing various interests.
- Although the AONB Unit has a pivotal role to play in co-ordinating the implementation of the Management Plan, it would be inappropriate and impossible for it to directly implement all the Objectives.
- **The co-ordinated delivery of action by partner organisations and individuals is the key to success.**
- The JAC draws up an annual Action Programme each financial year to guide specific actions within that year. Progress against this is reported at the March meeting of the JAC, with new actions being set for the following year.

#### Resources

- Many of the proposals set out in the Management Plan will be achieved by influencing the efforts and resources of the

many organisations, groups and individuals already active in managing the area.

- A number of sources of grant aid and advice are already available for countryside management, farm diversification, business development, community planning and action, etc. The AONB Management Plan is the 'ground-level' plan that helps guide implementation of local and national strategies and funding programmes within the Howardian Hills AONB.
- Maintaining an adequately-staffed AONB Unit is important in ensuring that this co-ordination of effort takes place and that appropriate partnerships are developed.
- A key task of the AONB Unit is to identify individual or linked programmes of projects and lever-in funding or assistance from the most appropriate source.
- Forms of assistance can include grant funding, staff assistance or 'secondments' for specific projects or tasks, volunteering mechanisms, technical advice and in-kind contributions.
- The Howardian Hills AONB borders the North York Moors National Park and there are significant further opportunities for both joint-working and cross-boundary initiatives.

#### Key Issues 2014 – 2019

- Declining funding from central Government and local authorities.
- A possible reduction in the 'core staff' resource of the AONB Unit.
- Pressure to deliver outcomes in both current activity areas and also in new ones, e.g. health & wellbeing.

#### OBJECTIVES – IMPLEMENTATION

Please see the Action Programme for details of specific Actions for each Objective.

**IM1 Consolidate and develop funding and partnership mechanisms to achieve Management Plan objectives.**

**IM2 Ensure that the AONB partnership has a robust business model that is resilient to future challenges.**

## 3.2 MONITORING

---

The effectiveness of the Action Programme will be carefully monitored. Reliable and accurate performance information is essential to allow proper management of the Action Programme by the AONB Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) and other lead agencies, and to provide key stakeholders and the wider community with the means to evaluate progress. Performance measurement will take place on two levels.

### AONB Condition monitoring

- The condition of the AONB's environment (in its broad sense) is the key test of the Action Programme's effectiveness in implementing the Management Plan.
- Condition monitoring takes place on a 5-yearly cycle, linked to Management Plan reviews. This allows progress to be assessed and relevant new targets set.
- The list of Indicators shown in Figure 8 is used to measure the Condition of the AONB. The data for these Indicators is largely being made available as part of Natural England's Framework for Monitoring Environmental Outcomes in Protected Landscapes. In addition there

are several local Indicators for which data is gathered by the AONB Unit – volunteers could also be used to assist in this process.

- Significantly more data is now available than in previous years, cut more closely to the AONB boundaries. This will therefore allow a realistic 'State of the AONB' report to be compiled, drawing together useful and relevant statistics.

### Partnership monitoring

- An annual Action Programme is drawn-up in order to guide specific actions within each financial year. Progress against the annual Action Programme is reported at the March meeting of the JAC. A summary of achievements is also published in documents such as the Annual Report and AONB News.
- The performance of the AONB Partnership as a whole will continue to be monitored via the Partnership Indicators that were developed some years ago by Natural England. These include Indicators on the governance structure of the Partnership, staff training and development, income secured, implementation of Management Plan Actions, etc. Although these are not now a reporting requirement of Natural

England, they provide consistent data in a clear format.

### Management Plan Review

- Section 89(7) of the Countryside & Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000 stipulates that AONB Management Plans must be reviewed every five years.
- The next formal review of the Management Plan will begin in 2018, although the Plan is under constant informal review to ensure that its overall aims are being achieved, and policies are constantly evolving to reflect changing issues and priorities.

### OBJECTIVES - MONITORING

Please see the Action Programme for details of specific Actions for each Objective.

**MN1 Monitor the performance of the AONB partnership and AONB unit.**

**MN2 Monitor the condition of the AONB.**



Figure 8. AONB Condition Indicators

Attribute	Indicator	Data collection organisation
<b>1. Farmed Landscape</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) % of land managed under Countryside Stewardship (CS)</li> <li>b) % of land managed under Higher Level Stewardship + Entry Level Stewardship (HLS + ELS)</li> <li>c) % of land managed under Entry Level Stewardship only (ELS)</li> <li>d) Changes in farmland type (% of permanent pasture/temporary grassland/arable land)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Natural England</li> <li>b) Natural England</li> <li>c) Natural England</li> <li>d) Defra (June Census)</li> </ul>
<b>2. Woodland Landscape</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) % of woodland cover</li> <li>b) % of woodland under management</li> </ul>	Forestry Commission
<b>3. Biodiversity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Condition of SSSIs</li> <li>b) Delivery of LBAP habitat targets for AONB – Condition of SINCs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Natural England</li> <li>b) JAC/NYCC (LAA)</li> </ul>
<b>4. Historic and Built Environment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Number of Archaeological features in the At Risk, Vulnerable and Low/Not at Risk categories</li> <li>b) Condition of Registered Parks &amp; Gardens and historic landscapes</li> <li>c) Number of Buildings and Structures on 'at Risk' registers</li> <li>d) Number of Conservation Areas on the 'At Risk' Register</li> <li>e) Number of Places of Worship on the 'At Risk' Register</li> <li>f) Condition of non-designated Historic Environment Priority Sites</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) English Heritage</li> <li>b) English Heritage/JAC</li> <li>c) English Heritage/ District Councils</li> <li>d) English Heritage</li> <li>e) English Heritage</li> <li>f) JAC/NYCC</li> </ul>
<b>5. Water Quality (Rivers)</b>	Length of rivers (%) with 'High' or 'Good' Ecological Status (Water Framework Directive).	Environment Agency
<b>6. Tranquillity</b>	a) Maximum and minimum Tranquillity scores (CPRE/NE	CPRE/NE

	<i>study).</i> <i>b) % of AONB in the relative High or Very High categories (CPRE/NE study).</i>	
<b>7. Enjoying the Countryside</b>	<i>'Ease of Use' (%) of PRoW</i>	<i>JAC/NYCC</i>
<b>8. Village Services/Amenities</b>	<i>% of AONB villages that have a shop, pub, Post Office service or community building</i>	<i>JAC/District Councils/Local Communities</i>
<b>9. Awareness of the AONB designation</b>	<i>% of survey respondents aware of the Howardian Hills AONB designation</i>	<i>JAC</i>

### 3.3 ACTION PROGRAMME

---

The Management Plan contains a large number of Objectives and priority Actions.

A list of recommended Delivery Partner/s has been identified for each Action – if there is a clear ‘Lead’ Partner they have been put in bold. The list is not exhaustive and it is hoped that other groups will wish to join any partnerships that are formed. The table also gives a provisional timescale and priority rating for each Action. Priority 2 Actions are those that are considered to be less critical, or ones for which significant additional resources are likely to be needed. The table should be read in conjunction with the Landscape Management & Priority Sites section of the Management Plan, which is on the CD inside the back cover.

The Action Programme will form the basis of an annual work programme for the Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) and partner organisations. The March meetings of the JAC will consider work completed in the previous year, as well as approving initiatives and tasks for the next year.

Abbreviations for Delivery Partner/s listed in the Action Programme are as follows:

<i>BCU</i>	<i>British Canoe Union</i>	<i>NAAONB</i>	<i>National Association for AONBs</i>
<i>BGS</i>	<i>British Geological Survey</i>	<i>NE</i>	<i>Natural England</i>
<i>BHS</i>	<i>British Horse Society</i>	<i>NEYEDC</i>	<i>North &amp; East Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre</i>
<i>CFE</i>	<i>Campaign for the Farmed Environment</i>	<i>NEYGT</i>	<i>North East Yorkshire Geology Trust</i>
<i>CLA</i>	<i>Country Land and Business Association</i>	<i>NFU</i>	<i>National Farmers Union</i>
<i>CoYC</i>	<i>City of York Council</i>	<i>NPG</i>	<i>Northern Powergrid. The Electricity Distribution Network Operator covering the AONB</i>
<i>CPRE</i>	<i>Campaign to Protect Rural England</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>National Trust</i>
<i>CSPs</i>	<i>Community Safety Partnerships</i>	<i>NWDP</i>	<i>Native Woodland Development Project</i>
<i>CTC</i>	<i>Cyclists Touring Club</i>	<i>NYCC</i>	<i>North Yorkshire County Council</i>
<i>Defra</i>	<i>Department for Environment, Food &amp; Rural Affairs</i>		

<i>EA</i>	<i>Environment Agency</i>	<i>NYP</i>	<i>North Yorkshire Police</i>
<i>EH</i>	<i>English Heritage</i>	<i>PCs</i>	<i>Parish Councils</i>
<i>EYRT</i>	<i>East Yorkshire Rivers Trust</i>	<i>RA</i>	<i>Ramblers</i>
<i>FC</i>	<i>Forestry Commission</i>	<i>RAY</i>	<i>Rural Action Yorkshire</i>
<i>HA</i>	<i>Highways Agency</i>	<i>RDC</i>	<i>Ryedale District Council</i>
<i>H&amp;WB</i>	<i>Health &amp; Wellbeing Board</i>	<i>RFS</i>	<i>Royal Forestry Society</i>
<i>HDC</i>	<i>Hambleton District Council</i>	<i>RSPB</i>	<i>Royal Society for the Protection of Birds</i>
<i>IDBs</i>	<i>Internal Drainage Boards</i>	<i>RVA</i>	<i>Ryedale Voluntary Action</i>
<i>JAC</i>	<i>Joint Advisory Committee</i>	<i>SBC</i>	<i>Scarborough Borough Council</i>
<i>LANTRA</i>	<i>The Rural Skills Training Agency</i>	<i>TCV</i>	<i>The Conservation Volunteers</i>
<i>LEADER</i>	<i>North York Moors, Coast &amp; Hills LEADER Local Action Group</i>	<i>TFA</i>	<i>Tenant Farmers Association</i>
<i>LEP</i>	<i>Local Enterprise Partnership</i>	<i>WtY</i>	<i>Welcome to Yorkshire</i>
<i>LNP</i>	<i>Local Nature Partnership</i>	<i>WT</i>	<i>Woodland Trust</i>
<i>NYGP</i>	<i>North Yorkshire Geodiversity Partnership</i>	<i>YAS</i>	<i>Yorkshire Agricultural Society</i>
<i>NYMNP</i>	<i>North York Moors National Park Authority</i>	<i>YFWP</i>	<i>Yorkshire Farming and Wildlife Partnership</i>
<i>NYNET</i>	<i>The North Yorkshire broadband partnership</i>	<i>Yorwoods</i>	<i>The Yorkshire Woodlands Initiative</i>
		<i>YWT</i>	<i>Yorkshire Wildlife Trust</i>

**ALTHOUGH NOT SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED IN THE TABLE, ANY OBJECTIVES RELATING TO LAND MANAGEMENT WILL RELY ON THE GOODWILL AND CO-OPERATION OF FARMERS, LANDOWNERS AND LAND MANAGERS IF THEY ARE TO BE ACHIEVED**

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	DELIVERY PARTNER/S	ROLE OF JAC	FREQUENCY/ YEAR	PRIORITY
<b>AN ECOSYSTEM APPROACH</b>					
<b>ES1 Gain a better understanding of the AONB's contribution to ecosystem services</b>	<p>ES1.1 Produce a matrix of the habitats and Special Qualities of the AONB, plotted against the ecosystem services that they provide.</p> <p>ES1.2 Produce a matrix of generic types of 'project' (e.g. hedge planting grants, agri-environment schemes, land use, in-fill housing development, larger housing developments, habitat management, etc) plotted against the ecosystem services that the AONB provides.</p>	<p><b>AONB Unit, HDC, NE, NYCC, RDC</b></p> <p><b>AONB Unit, EA, HDC, NE, RDC</b></p>	<p>Lead</p> <p>Lead</p>	<p>1, 2</p> <p>1, 2</p>	<p>1</p> <p>1</p>
<b>ES2 Promote sustainability and support appropriate projects that benefit the AONB's ecosystems services and Special Qualities</b>	<p>ES2.1 Ensure that any Plan, policy or project that could impact on the AONB, whether positively or negatively, is assessed for compliance with the AONB Management Plan.</p> <p>ES2.2 Use an ecosystems services assessment to guide consultation responses and assess projects that receive assistance from the JAC.</p>	<p><b>AONB Unit, EA, FC, HDC, NE, NYCC, RDC</b></p> <p><b>AONB Unit, HDC, NYCC, RDC</b></p>	<p>Lead &amp; Advise</p> <p>Lead</p>	<p>On-going</p> <p>2 onwards</p>	<p>1</p> <p>1</p>
<b>ES3 Understand potential climate change trends and scenarios and monitor impacts on the AONB</b>	<p>ES3.1 Keep up-to-date on climate change information and scenarios.</p> <p>ES3.2 Monitor the potential impacts of climate change on the AONB.</p>	<p><b>AONB Unit, EA, FC, HDC, NE, NYCC, RDC</b></p> <p><b>AONB Unit, EA, FC, HDC, NE, NYCC, NYMNP, RDC</b></p>	<p>Lead</p> <p>Lead</p>	<p>On-going</p> <p>On-going</p>	<p>2</p> <p>2</p>

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	DELIVERY PARTNER/S	ROLE OF JAC	FREQUENCY/ YEAR	PRIORITY
<b>A RICH HERITAGE</b>					
<u>Natural Environment</u>  <b>NE1 Continually improve knowledge of the wildlife resources in the AONB</b>	NE1.1 Carry out a rolling programme of monitoring surveys on Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs). NE1.2 Carry out detailed surveys of specific BAP habitats or species as necessary, to fill identified gaps in knowledge. NE1.3 Encourage farmers, land managers and communities to monitor wildlife and report sightings. NE1.4 Commission NEYEDC to compile a report of the species records for the AONB.	AONB Unit, HDC, NE, NEYEDC, NYCC, RDC  AONB Unit, HDC, NE, NYCC, RDC  AONB Unit, CLA, HDC, NE, NFU, NEYEDC, NYCC, PCs, RDC, RSPB, TCV, YFWP, YWT, <b>AONB Unit</b> , NEYEDC, NYCC	Support  Advise & Encourage  Support  Lead	On-going  On-going  On-going  1, 2	2  2  1  2
<b>NE2 Ensure that appropriate protection is given to the best nature conservation sites in the AONB</b>	NE2.1 Maintain and regularly update a register of key nature conservation sites. NE2.2 Ensure effective protection (via designation) for the best nature conservation sites. NE2.3 Resist development proposals that may affect key nature conservation sites.	AONB Unit, HDC, NE, NYCC, NEYEDC, RDC, YWT  HDC, JAC, NE, NYCC, RDC, YWT  AONB Unit, HDC, NE, NYCC, RDC	Advise & Support  Support  Lead & Advise	On-going  On-going  On-going	1  2  1

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	DELIVERY PARTNER/S	ROLE OF JAC	FREQUENCY/ YEAR	PRIORITY
<b>NE3 Assist with the implementation of LBAP/BD2020/WFD targets for priority habitats in the AONB (broadleaved woodland; grasslands; wetlands) to improve condition and increase habitat network connectivity</b>	NE3.1 Ensure that all Special Interest Road Verges and sites identified in this Plan as Natural Environment Priority Sites are in 'favourable' or 'recovering' condition.	<b>AONB Unit</b> , CLA, EA, FC, HDC, NE, NFU, NWDP, NYCC, RDC, WT	Lead & Encourage	On-going	1
	NE3.2 Encourage the extension and buffering of sites identified in this Plan as Natural Environment Priority Sites.	AONB Unit, CFE, CLA, EA, FC, NE, NFU, NWDP, YWT	Encourage & Support	On-going	1
	NE3.3 Encourage the restoration of habitats that have declined in interest but still retain significant ecological potential, particularly Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites, rivers and water bodies not in Good Ecological Status and sites identified in this Plan as Natural Environment Priority Sites.	AONB Unit, CLA, EA, EYRT, FC, IDBs, NE, NFU, NWDP, RFS, WT, YWT	Encourage & Support	On-going	1
	NE3.4 Encourage the creation of new habitat where appropriate, in particular the less-intensive management of farmland, to create a wider network of complementary semi-natural habitats.	AONB Unit, CFE, CLA, EA, FC, IDBs, LNP, NE, NFU, NWDP, NYMNPA, WT, YWT	Lead & Encourage	On-going	1
	NE3.5 Identify and promote landscape-scale habitat corridors, particularly around the Derwent valley and linking into the NYMNP.	<b>AONB Unit</b> , CFE, CLA, EA, FC, LNP, NE, NFU, NWDP, NYMNPA, WT, YWT	Lead & Encourage	On-going	1
<b>NE4 Assist with the implementation of LBAP/BD2020 targets for priority species for which the AONB is important</b>	NE4.1 Ensure that key sites for specific species are in 'favourable' or 'recovering' condition.	AONB Unit, CFE, CLA, EA, HDC, NE, NFU, NYCC, PCs, RDC, WT, YWT	Lead & Encourage	On-going	1
	NE4.2 Encourage restoration or creation of sites where significant ecological potential exists.	AONB Unit, CFE, CLA, EA, HDC, NE, NFU, NYCC, RDC	Encourage	On-going	1
	NE4.3 Identify local Target Areas and encourage co-ordinated management measures.	<b>AONB Unit</b> , CFE, CLA, EA, FC, HDC, LNP, NE, NFU, NYCC, NYMNPA, RDC	Lead & Encourage	On-going	1



<b>OBJECTIVE</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>DELIVERY PARTNER/S</b>	<b>ROLE OF JAC</b>	<b>FREQUENCY/ YEAR</b>	<b>PRIORITY</b>
<b>NE5 Assist with the implementation of LBAP/BD2020 targets for wildlife within villages</b>	NE5.1 Raise awareness of wildlife within villages and assist communities with creating and managing community areas for biodiversity.	AONB Unit, HDC, NYCC, RDC, TCV, WT, YWT	Lead & Support	On-going	2
<b>NE6 Monitor and where appropriate support control of invasive non-native species in the AONB</b>	NE6.1 Monitor the location and abundance of invasive non-native species.	<b>AONB Unit</b> , CLA, EA, FC, HDC, IDBs, NE, NFU, NYCC, NYMNP, RDC	Lead & Encourage	On-going	1
	NE6.2 Carry out targeted partnership action to manage invasive non-native species where appropriate.	<b>AONB Unit</b> , CLA, EA, HDC, IDBs, NFU, NYCC, NYMNP, RDC, RFS	Lead & Encourage	On-going	1
<b>NE7 Encourage the identification and conservation of important geodiversity sites and features in the AONB</b>	NE7.1 Develop a network of Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS).	BGS, HDC, JAC, NEYGT, NYCC, NYGP, RDC	Support & Encourage	On-going	1
	NE7.2 Ensure that sites identified as RIGS are in 'favourable' or 'recovering' condition.	AONB Unit, HDC, RDC, NEYGT, NYGP	Lead & Encourage	On-going	2
	NE7.3 Resist development proposals that may affect key geodiversity sites.	AONB Unit, HDC, RDC	Lead & Advise	On-going	1
<b>NE8 Provide assistance to farmers and land managers, to help them manage their land sympathetically</b>	NE8.1 Assist farmers and land managers to enter key sites, particularly those identified in this Plan as Natural Environment Priority Sites, and other farmed land into appropriate agri-environment schemes.	<b>AONB Unit</b> , CFE, CLA, HDC, NE, NFU, NYCC, RDC, TFA	Lead & Support	On-going	1
	NE8.2 Provide a flexible package of assistance including advice, grant aid, direct works and management agreements, as appropriate, to enable owners to identify, manage or enhance biodiversity on their land.	<b>AONB Unit</b> , HDC, NYCC, RDC	Lead	On-going	1

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	DELIVERY PARTNER/S	ROLE OF JAC	FREQUENCY/ YEAR	PRIORITY
<b>NE9 Ensure continued recognition of the Howardian Hills as a priority area for biodiversity in North Yorkshire, as part of the NY&amp;Y LNP</b>	NE9.1 Participate in the LNP, to identify opportunities for integrated projects that achieve LNP and AONB Management Plan objectives.	<b>AONB Unit, HDC, LNP, NYCC, NYMNPA, RDC</b>	Lead	On-going	1
<b><u>Historic Environment</u></b>  <b>HE1 Improve understanding of the AONB's historic environment and its significance</b>	HE1.1 Re-assess the archaeology of the AONB to create an up-to-date evidence base, better understand significant sites and inform a research agenda.  HE1.2 Consider preparing a Statement of Significance for the AONB.  HE1.3 Carry out research projects to address identified gaps in knowledge, including rural industries, prehistoric burials, patterns of medieval settlement & farming and historic parklands.  HE1.4 Carry out regular surveys of built heritage to identify important or distinctive building groups, individual structures, architectural features and Buildings at Risk.  HE1.5 Promote the recording of local history and traditions.  HE1.6 Encourage information to be recorded in the North Yorkshire Historic Environment Record.	AONB Unit, EH, NYCC  EH, NYCC  Community groups, EH, NYCC, Universities  AONB Unit, HDC, NYCC, RDC  AONB Unit, HDC, LEADER, RDC  AONB Unit, HDC, NYCC, RDC	Support & Encourage  Support & Encourage Support & Encourage  Advise & Support  Support  Support & Encourage	2, 3  3 On-going  On-going  On-going  On-going	2  2 2  2  2  1

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	DELIVERY PARTNER/S	ROLE OF JAC	FREQUENCY/ YEAR	PRIORITY
<b>HE2 Sustain and enhance the significance of the AONB's historic environment</b>	HE2.1 Resist development proposals that would be likely to harm the significance of the AONB's heritage assets.	AONB Unit, EH, HDC, RDC	Lead & Advise	On-going	1
	HE2.2 Consider introducing Article 4 Directions for Conservation Areas in the AONB, to preserve historic character and prevent incremental damaging change.	HDC, JAC, RDC	Support & Encourage	2 onwards	2
	HE2.3 Establish a project to survey and manage Heritage at Risk in the AONB.	<b>AONB Unit</b> , EH, HDC, NYCC, RDC	Lead	1	1
	HE2.4 Prepare conservation/management plans for all designed landscapes.	AONB Unit, EH, NYCC	Support & Encourage	On-going	2
	HE2.5 Provide a flexible package of assistance including advice, grant aid and direct works, as appropriate, to assist owners with understanding and conserving the historic environment, particularly those features identified in this Plan as Historic Environment Priority Sites.	<b>AONB Unit</b> , EH, HDC, NYCC, RDC	Lead	On-going	1
	HE2.6 Encourage farmers and land managers to enter archaeological features and other historic assets into appropriate options in agri-environment schemes.	<b>AONB Unit</b> , EH, HDC, NE, NYCC, RDC	Lead & Support	On-going	1
	HE2.7 Monitor developments in the understanding of potential climate change impacts on historic environment features.	<b>AONB Unit</b> , EH, HDC, NYCC, RDC	Lead	On-going	2
<b>HE3 Help local people to identify the non-designated heritage assets which contribute to the character of their area and support the development of management strategies for their conservation and enhancement</b>	HE3.1 Publish criteria and provide assistance to enable local communities to identify the non-designated heritage assets which contribute to the character of their area.	EH, HDC, JAC, RDC	Lead & Support	2, 3	2
	HE3.2 Support the development of site-based management strategies to conserve and enhance important non-designated heritage assets identified by local communities.	AONB Unit, EH, HDC, RDC	Support & Encourage	3 onwards	2

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	DELIVERY PARTNER/S	ROLE OF JAC	FREQUENCY/ YEAR	PRIORITY
<b>LIVING AND WORKING IN THE HOWARDIAN HILLS</b>					
<b><u>Local Communities</u></b>					
<b>LC1 Assist local communities with identifying and implementing projects that maintain and enhance their character, sustainability and sense of community</b>	LC1.1 Lobby Government on relevant national rural issues, via the NAAONB.	NAAONB, JAC, NYCC	Lead	On-going	1
	LC1.2 Work as appropriate with partner organisations to develop innovative projects for delivering services to local communities.	AONB Unit, CSP H&WB, NYCC, RAY, RVA	Lead & Advise	On-going	1
	LC1.3 Prepare/review Parish Plans for AONB villages.	HDC, JAC, RAY, RDC, RVA	Encourage & Support	On-going	1
	LC1.4 Implement projects contained in Parish Plans or identified by communities.	AONB Unit, HDC, LEADER, RDC	Encourage & Support	On-going	1
<b>LC2 Encourage voluntary and community engagement with the local natural and historic environment of the AONB</b>	LC2.1 Work with communities, local groups, businesses and land managers to encourage partnership action for identifying, monitoring, managing, raising awareness of, accessing and enjoying the natural and historic environment.	AONB Unit, CLA, HDC, NEYEDC, NFU, NYCC, PCs, RDC, Schools, TCV, Volunteers, YWT	Lead & Encourage	On-going	1
<b><u>Agriculture</u></b>					
<b>AG1 Encourage the development and uptake of Government support mechanisms that achieve sustainable farm and rural business development</b>	AG1.1 Lobby Government, via the NAAONB, to ensure that satisfactory rural support mechanisms and agri-environment schemes emerge from CAP reform.	CLA, JAC, NAAONB, NFU, NYCC, TFA	Lead	1	1
	AG1.2 Investigate Payment for Ecosystems Services schemes and assess their potential for the AONB.	AONB Unit, CLA, NE, NFU, NYMNP, TFA	Lead	On-going	2
	AG1.3 Lobby to ensure that the Howardian Hills AONB remains a priority area for funding from Government agencies.	HDC, JAC, NYCC, RDC	Lead	On-going	1

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	DELIVERY PARTNER/S	ROLE OF JAC	FREQUENCY/ YEAR	PRIORITY
<b>AG2 Support farm businesses in the AONB by providing advice and appropriate assistance</b>	AG2.1 Provide specialist advice and 'sign-posting' on conservation grants and countryside management within the AONB.	<b>AONB Unit</b> , HDC, NYMNPA, RDC, YFWP	Lead	On-going	1
	AG2.2 Provide a flexible package of assistance including advice, grant aid and direct works, as appropriate, for landscape conservation projects.	<b>AONB Unit</b> , HDC, NYCC, RDC	Lead	On-going	1
<b>AG3 Ensure high standards of design and careful siting of all new farm buildings and infrastructure</b>	AG3.1 Support the construction of new farm buildings and infrastructure where these follow the principles set out in the AONB Farm Buildings Design Guidance.	<b>AONB Unit</b> , CLA, CPRE, HDC, NFU, RDC	Lead & Advise	On-going	1
<u>Forestry and Woodland</u>  <b>FW1 Ensure that all woodland felling, management and creation proposals recognise the Special Qualities of the AONB</b>	FW1.1 Continue the consultation procedure between the JAC and Forestry Commission.	FC, JAC	Lead	On-going	1

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	DELIVERY PARTNER/S	ROLE OF JAC	FREQUENCY/ YEAR	PRIORITY
<b>FW2 Encourage a multi-objective approach to woodland management in the AONB</b>	FW2.1 Encourage woodland owners to manage their woodlands in accordance with the UK Forestry Standard.	AONB Unit, FC, NWDP, RFS	Support & Encourage	On-going	2
	FW2.2 Encourage woodland owners and managers to enter national grant schemes, to access the full range of appropriate grants.	AONB Unit, CLA, FC, NE, NFU, NWDP, RFS, WT	Support & Encourage	On-going	1
<b>FW3 Monitor and manage the incidence and impacts of pests and diseases in the AONB</b>	FW3.1 Keep up-to-date with information on invasive woodland pests and diseases, in particular <i>C. fraxinea</i> , <i>P. ramorum</i> and muntjac deer.	<b>AONB Unit</b> , FC, HDC, NYCC, RDC, NWDP	Lead	On-going	1
	FW3.2 Encourage vigilance and reporting of suspected sightings.	AONB Unit, CLA, FC, HDC, NFU, NYCC, RDC, RFS, WT	Lead & Encourage	On-going	1
	FW3.3 Carry out appropriate mitigation strategies to manage the impacts of pests and diseases.	AONB Unit, CLA, FC, HDC, NFU, NYCC, RDC, RFS	Support	On-going	1
<b>FW4 Encourage the use of known provenance trees and shrubs when planting or re-stocking</b>	FW4.1 Promote the incorporation of natural regeneration of appropriate native tree and shrub species into restocking plans.	AONB Unit, FC, HDC, NYCC, NWDP, RDC	Advise & Encourage	On-going	2
	FW4.2 Promote the use of appropriate provenance nursery stock when restocking.	AONB Unit, FC, HDC, NYCC, NWDP, RDC	Advise & Encourage	On-going	1
	FW4.3 Work with local forest nurseries to ensure that adequate quantities of local provenance material are available.	AONB Unit, Castle Howard, NWDP, RDC	Support	On-going	1
<b>FW5 Encourage new areas of woodland where these would conserve or enhance the Special Qualities of the AONB or improve habitat networks</b>	FW5.1 Use forestry grant procedures to advise on the siting and design of new areas of woodland, within the guidance provided by the Landscape Management & Priority Sites section of this Plan.	<b>AONB Unit</b> , FC, HDC, NWDP, RDC	Advise	On-going	1

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	DELIVERY PARTNER/S	ROLE OF JAC	FREQUENCY/ YEAR	PRIORITY
<b>FW6 Encourage the continued development of markets for wood and timber</b>	FW6.1 Support the development of a local woodfuel market.	AONB Unit, FC, HDC, LEP, NYCC, RDC, RFS, Yorwoods	Support & Encourage Support & Encourage	On-going	1
	FW6.2 Encourage the use of timber from the AONB in local industries, e.g. furniture making, traditional building restoration, etc.	AONB Unit, LEP, RFS, Yorwoods		On-going	2
<b>FW7 Encourage the development of grant and advice mechanisms that achieve AONB Management Plan objectives for woodland management and creation</b>	FW7.1 Lobby for grant incentives that realistically assist with priority work within the AONB to be included in the next Rural Development Programme.	Defra, FC, JAC, NAAONB	Advise & Support	1	1
	FW7.2 Support the continuation and evolution of the Native Woodland Development Project.	FC, JAC, NYMNP, RFS, WT	Support & Encourage	On-going	1
<b><u>Development &amp; Rural Economy</u></b>					
<b>D1 Ensure that any new development is compatible with the aims of AONB designation and has regard to social, economic and environmental sustainability</b>	D1.1 Ensure that all relevant Plans, Strategies and Policies recognise, protect and, where appropriate, enhance the Special Qualities of the AONB and its setting.	AONB Unit, Defra, HDC, NE, NYCC, RDC	Lead & Advise	On-going	1
	D1.2 Maintain effective consultation arrangements between Local Planning Authorities and the Joint Advisory Committee.	HDC, JAC, NYCC, RDC	Lead & Advise	On-going	1



OBJECTIVE	ACTION	DELIVERY PARTNER/S	ROLE OF JAC	FREQUENCY/ YEAR	PRIORITY
<b>D2 Encourage high standards in both the design of new development within the AONB and the management of existing buildings/features</b>	D2.1 Ensure consistent high-quality rural design standards covering the whole AONB, including building design, materials and green infrastructure.	AONB Unit, HDC, RDC	Advise	On-going	1
	D2.2 Encourage communities to prepare Village Design Statements, to guide the design of future development.	AONB Unit, HDC, PCs, RAY, RDC	Encourage & Support	On-going	2
	D2.3 Provide guidance on sustainable building restoration techniques, including energy conservation measures.	AONB Unit, HDC, RDC	Support	On-going	2
	D2.4 Consider undertaking appraisals to enable the designation of new Conservation Areas and the enhancement of existing ones.	Community groups, HDC, PCs, RDC	Encourage & Support	On-going	2
<b>D3 Encourage the mitigation of intrusive features, to enhance the local landscape character and tranquillity of the AONB</b>	D3.1 In co-operation with landowners and developers, encourage local enhancement works to mitigate the impact of visually intrusive developments.	AONB Unit, HDC, RDC	Lead & Encourage	On-going	2
	D3.2 Continue liaison arrangements with Northern Powergrid, to prioritise and implement the undergrounding of electricity cables in prominent locations.	AONB Unit, HDC, NPG, NYCC, RDC	Lead & Advise	On-going	1
	D3.3 Maintain links with BT Openreach, to encourage the undergrounding of telephone cables in prominent locations.	AONB Unit, NAAONB, Openreach	Lead & Encourage	On-going	1
	D3.4 Resist developments that increase the impact of light or noise pollution on the AONB or its setting.	AONB Unit, CPRE, HDC, NYCC, RDC	Lead & Advise	On-going	1

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	DELIVERY PARTNER/S	ROLE OF JAC	FREQUENCY/ YEAR	PRIORITY
<b>D4 Support appropriate minerals-working proposals which conserve and enhance the Special Qualities of the AONB</b>	D4.1 Resist any large-scale minerals-working operations which are not compatible with AONB objectives.	CPRE, HDC, <b>JAC</b> , NYCC, RDC	Lead & Advise	On-going	1
	D4.2 Support appropriate proposals for small-scale quarrying of stone for local uses and to assist with repairs to heritage assets.	AONB Unit, BGS, EH, HDC, NYCC, RDC	Advise & Support	On-going	1
	D4.3 Safeguard/obtain supplies of suitable local stone for drystone wall restoration.	<b>AONB Unit</b> , NYCC	Lead	On-going	1
<b>D5 Support appropriate renewable energy installations that do not have adverse impacts on the Special Qualities of the AONB</b>	D5.1 Provide advice and guidance on renewable energy technologies and installations likely to be appropriate in the AONB.	<b>AONB Unit</b> , HDC, RDC	Lead & Support	On-going	1
	D5.2 Support appropriate proposals that follow the '4 Rights' – Technology, Scale, Place and Design.	AONB Unit, CPRE, HDC, NYCC, RDC	Advise & Support	On-going	1
	D5.3 Promote the benefits of appropriate renewable energy developments and demonstrate examples of 'best practice' projects.	AONB Unit, HDC, RDC	Lead	On-going	2
<b>D6 Support rural business, local employment/training and farm diversification activities that do not have adverse impacts on the Special Qualities of the AONB</b>	D6.1 Promote access to and the provision of ICT, business and rural skills advice, courses, demonstrations, etc.	AONB Unit, HDC, LANTRA, LEADER, LEP, RDC, YAS	Support	On-going	1
	D6.2 Encourage local businesses to develop appropriate new enterprises.	AONB Unit, LEADER, LEP, HDC, RDC	Encourage & Support	On-going	1
	D6.3 Maintain a positive approach to planning control for appropriate farm diversification projects.	AONB Unit, HDC, NYCC, RDC	Lead & Advise	On-going	1
	D6.4 Support appropriate proposals to re-use both traditional and modern farm buildings, where their historic and wildlife value can be safeguarded.	AONB Unit, HDC, NYCC, RDC	Advise & Support	On-going	1
	D6.5 Support appropriate proposals for developing new workspace within the AONB.	AONB Unit, HDC, NYCC, RDC	Advise & Support	On-going	1

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	DELIVERY PARTNER/S	ROLE OF JAC	FREQUENCY/ YEAR	PRIORITY
<b>D7 Encourage the expansion of modern telecommunications technology, whilst safeguarding the Special Qualities and tranquillity of the AONB</b>	D7.1 Support the provision of high-speed broadband and mobile phone installations that do not have adverse impacts on the Special Qualities of the AONB.	AONB Unit, CPRE, HDC, NYNET, RDC	Advise & Support	On-going	1
<b>D8 Encourage the increased provision of local-needs/affordable housing in the AONB</b>	D8.1 Maintain up-to-date information on housing needs within the AONB. D8.2 Promote the potential benefits of local-needs housing to AONB farmers, landowners and residents.	HDC, RDC AONB Unit, HDC, RDC	Support Lead & Support	On-going On-going	1 2
<b><u>Roads, Transport and Traffic Management</u></b> <b>RT1 Encourage solutions to specific traffic routing issues in and around the AONB, to discourage through-traffic and ensure that other traffic uses the most appropriate route</b>	RT1.1 Support appropriate proposals for a full-movement interchange at the A64/B1257 junction. RT1.2 Monitor freight issues in the AONB, to identify any patterns in HCV through-traffic. RT1.3 Encourage measures to address any issues raised during freight monitoring.	AONB Unit, HA, NYCC, RDC AONB Unit, Communities, HDC, NYCC, RDC AONB Unit, HDC, NYCC, RDC	Encourage & Support Support & Encourage Advise & Support	On-going On-going On-going	2 2 2
<b>RT2 Support initiatives to monitor and address traffic and driver behaviour issues in the AONB</b>	RT2.1 In line with the Road Safety Partnership speed management protocol, carry out speed-checks in identified locations to investigate reported issues. RT2.2 Consider organising local events that examine and address traffic and driver behaviour issues, in identified problem locations.	CSPs, NYCC, NYP AONB Unit, NYCC, NYP, RAY	Encourage Encourage & Support	On-going On-going	2 2

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	DELIVERY PARTNER/S	ROLE OF JAC	FREQUENCY/ YEAR	PRIORITY
<b>RT3 Promote the use of sustainable modes of transport as alternatives to the private car</b>	RT3.1 Identify transport service, infrastructure and accessibility improvements.	AONB Unit, Communities, HDC, NYCC, RAY, RDC	Advise & Support	On-going	1
	RT3.2 Develop and implement identified measures as appropriate.	Communities, HDC, NYCC, RAY, RDC	Encourage	On-going	1
	RT3.3 Promote the availability of alternative transport services in AONB literature, in local villages and at visitor attractions.	AONB Unit, HDC, NYCC, NYMNPA, RDC	Lead & Support	On-going	1
	RT3.4 Ensure that the next Local Transport Plan for North Yorkshire contributes to the implementation of AONB Management Plan Objectives, where appropriate.	AONB Unit, NYCC	Advise	2 onwards	1
<b>RT4 Maintain the existing rural character of the road network in the AONB</b>	RT4.1 Continue liaison arrangements between the Joint Advisory Committee and highway authority (and its agents) for all proposals in the AONB.	AONB Unit, NYCC	Lead & Encourage	On-going	1
	RT4.2 Distribute the Howardian Hills Area Profile to relevant teams within the highway authority.	<b>AONB Unit, NYCC</b>	Lead	1	1
	RT4.3 Identify examples of road sign clutter and seek improvements.	<b>AONB Unit, NYCC</b>	Lead & Encourage	On-going	2
	RT4.4 Ensure that the specific locations of historic roadside furniture are recorded on the National Street Gazetteer.	<b>AONB Unit, HDC, NYCC, RDC</b>	Lead & Support	1	1
	RT4.5 Ensure that traditional direction signs, mileposts and other historic structures within and adjacent to the highway are maintained and appropriately managed.	AONB Unit, EH, HDC, NYCC, RDC	Lead & Support	On-going	1

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	DELIVERY PARTNER/S	ROLE OF JAC	FREQUENCY/ YEAR	PRIORITY
<b>RT5 Ensure that any proposals for improvement of the A64 trunk road through the AONB are fully justified and adopt appropriate local standards of design. Taking account of significant safety concerns, proposals should aim to make maximum use of the existing road alignment and have minimum environmental impact.</b>	RT5.1 Ensure that improvements to the A64 (to enhance road safety, accessibility and journey-time reliability) have regard to the Special Qualities of the AONB.	CoYC, JAC, NYCC, RDC, SBC	Support	On-going	1
	RT5.2 Monitor future proposals and provide comments to the Highways Agency.	<b>AONB Unit</b> , NYCC, RDC	Advise	On-going	1
<b>ENJOYING THE AONB</b>					
<b><u>Recreation, Access &amp; Tourism</u></b>					
<b>RA1 Encourage sustainable recreational activities that do not conflict with the Special Qualities of the AONB</b>	RA1.1 Use planning policies to support appropriate recreational business developments.	AONB Unit, HDC, RDC	Advise & Support	On-going	1
	RA1.2 Monitor the levels and sustainability of recreational activities within the AONB.	<b>AONB Unit</b> , HDC, RDC	Lead & Encourage	On-going	2
<b>RA2 Promote the attractions and Special Qualities of the AONB to encourage sustainable use and support the local visitor economy</b>	RA2.1 Work with local partner organisations to promote sustainable tourism and recreational activities in the Howardian Hills.	AONB Unit, HDC, LEADER, NYMNPA, RDC	Lead & Support	On-going	1
	RA2.2 Develop and implement initiatives to encourage Under-Represented Groups to enjoy the AONB.	<b>AONB Unit</b> , HDC, H&WB, LEADER, RA, RDC	Lead & Support	On-going	1

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	DELIVERY PARTNER/S	ROLE OF JAC	FREQUENCY/ YEAR	PRIORITY
<b>RA3 Maintain and improve both the condition and network of Public Rights of Way in the AONB</b>	RA3.1 Ensure the maintenance and improvement of path furniture in the AONB, as appropriate.	AONB Unit, CLA, NFU, NYCC	Encourage & Support	On-going	1
	RA3.2 Liaise with local landowners to quickly rectify identified path condition problems, including seasonal overgrowth and ploughing/cropping.	AONB Unit, CLA, NFU, NYCC	Encourage & Support	On-going	1
	RA3.3 Carry out path improvements, particularly via management measures such as ride-widening and the use of alternative routes.	AONB Unit, FC, HDC, NYCC, RDC	Advise & Support	On-going	2
	RA3.4 Ensure the correct identification of all Public Rights of Way routes on the Definitive Map by 2026.	NYCC	Encourage & Support	On-going	2
	RA3.5 Bring 'missing routes' and 'route status inconsistencies' to the attention of the highway authority and lobby for action.	AONB Unit, BHS, HDC, NYCC, RA, RDC	Lead & Support	On-going	1
	RA3.6 Support appropriate Public Rights of Way diversion, creation and extinguishment orders/agreements in response to particular local issues or to improve the local network.	AONB Unit, BHS, NYCC, RA	Advise & Support	On-going	2
	RA3.7 Encourage the creation of new access routes/areas where the Public Rights of Way network is less developed.	AONB Unit, BHS, HDC, NYCC, RA, RDC	Advise & Support	On-going	1

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	DELIVERY PARTNER/S	ROLE OF JAC	FREQUENCY/ YEAR	PRIORITY
<b>RA4 Carry out recreational management measures as appropriate, to enhance enjoyment by the public and address local issues</b>	RA4.1 Carry out small-scale management works as necessary, particularly on sites used for car parking and those identified in this Plan as Recreation Priority Sites.	<b>AONB Unit</b> , HDC, NYCC, RDC	Lead	On-going	1
	RA4.2 Use planning and other policy controls to discourage unsustainable recreational use of the Derwent valley.	AONB Unit, BCU, RDC	Advise & Support	On-going	1
	RA4.3 Encourage low-key countryside management works to improve recreation management on Forestry Commission land.	AONB Unit, FC, LEADER	Advise & Support	On-going	2
	RA4.4 Encourage the development/use of designated village parking areas and toilet facilities by recreational visitors.	<b>AONB Unit</b> , HDC, NYP, PCs, RDC, Village Halls	Lead	On-going	1
	RA4.5 Monitor the levels of litter and fly-tipping within the AONB and take action as appropriate.	AONB Unit, HDC, RDC	Advise & Support	On-going	1
<b>RA5 Develop routes within the AONB for different user groups and provide self-guided information</b>	RA5.1 Identify appropriate routes, linked to public transport where possible.	AONB Unit, HDC, NYCC, RA, RDC	Lead & Support	On-going	1
	RA5.2 Identify and develop easy-access paths to enable less agile users to access the countryside in the AONB.	<b>AONB Unit</b> , HDC, NYCC, RA, RDC	Lead & Support	On-going	1
	RA5.3 Publish guide leaflets and information in a variety of formats as appropriate, to encourage usage.	<b>AONB Unit</b> , BHS, HDC, H&WB, NYCC, RA, RDC	Lead & Support	On-going	1

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	DELIVERY PARTNER/S	ROLE OF JAC	FREQUENCY/ YEAR	PRIORITY
<b>AWARENESS AND PROMOTION</b>					
<b>AP1 Maintain awareness and understanding of the AONB designation, its importance and the role of the Joint Advisory Committee</b>	AP1.1 Maintain the existing 'gateway signs' on roads entering the AONB and seek to install signs on the A64.	<b>AONB Unit</b> , HA, NYCC	Lead	On-going; 2	1
	AP1.2 Provide information on the work of the JAC via various publicity mechanisms, as appropriate.	<b>AONB Unit</b> , HDC, NYCC, RDC	Lead	On-going	1
	AP1.3 Maintain a public profile in the local media and at appropriate local events/shows.	<b>AONB Unit</b> , HDC, NYCC, RDC	Lead	On-going	1
<b>AP2 Promote awareness of the Special Qualities of the AONB</b>	AP2.1 Publish and distribute information about the AONB at popular visitor destinations, in village shops and in visitor accommodation.	<b>AONB Unit</b> , Communities, HDC, Local businesses, RDC, WtY	Lead	On-going	1
	AP2.2 Deliver guided walks, talks and demonstrations to explain the Special Qualities of the AONB and promote appropriate management techniques.	<b>AONB Unit</b> , CLA, FC, NE, NFU, RFS, TFA, YAS	Lead & Support	On-going	1
	AP2.3 Continue a programme of activities with local schools, young people and communities.	<b>AONB Unit</b> , YAS, YWT	Lead & Support	On-going	1
<b>PUTTING THE PLAN INTO ACTION</b>					
<b><u>Implementation</u></b>					
<b>IM1 Consolidate and develop funding and partnership mechanisms to achieve Management Plan objectives</b>	IM1.1 Seek appropriate sources of funding and assistance to implement Management Plan Objectives.	<b>JAC</b> , HDC, NYCC, RDC	Lead	On-going	1
	IM1.2 Continue partnership arrangements with the North York Moors National Park Authority, as appropriate.	<b>JAC</b> , HDC, NYCC, NYMNPA, RDC	Lead	On-going	1
	IM1.3 Involve volunteers wherever possible, to assist with the delivery of appropriate tasks and activities.	<b>AONB Unit</b> , Community Groups, HDC, H&WB, NT, NYCC, PCs, RDC	Lead	On-going	1



OBJECTIVE	ACTION	DELIVERY PARTNER/S	ROLE OF JAC	FREQUENCY/ YEAR	PRIORITY
<b>IM2 Ensure that the AONB partnership has a robust business model that is resilient to future challenges</b>	IM2.1 Monitor the business requirements and model of the AONB partnership and identify improvements as appropriate.	AONB Unit, NYCC	Lead	On-going	1
	IM2.2 Incorporate suggested improvements into the annual Action Programme and Budget approval processes.	JAC	Lead	Annual	1
<b><u>Monitoring</u></b>					
<b>MN1 Monitor the performance of the AONB partnership and AONB unit</b>	MN1.1 Report annual progress on achievement of Management Plan Objectives to the JAC, AONB Partnership and public.	<b>AONB Unit</b> , EA, FC, HDC, NE, NYCC, RDC	Lead	Annual	1
	MN1.2 Monitor the performance of the AONB Partnership using the Natural England Partnership Indicators.	JAC	Lead	Annual	2
<b>MN2 Monitor the condition of the AONB</b>	MN2.1 Develop a robust mechanism for assessing the Condition of the non-designated Priority Sites identified in this Plan.	<b>AONB Unit</b> , EH, HDC, NEYEDC, NYCC, RDC	Lead	1, 2	1
	MN2.2 Establish baseline data for the AONB Condition Indicators.	<b>AONB Unit</b> , HDC, NYCC, RDC	Lead	2	1
	MN2.3 Compile a 'State of the AONB' Report, including the AONB Condition Indicators, the Framework for Monitoring Environmental Outcomes in Protected Areas and any other relevant statistics.	<b>AONB Unit</b> , Communities, HDC, NYCC, PCs, RDC	Lead	2	1
	MN2.4 Maintain a 'fixed-point photography' system for monitoring visual landscape change.	<b>AONB Unit</b> , Volunteers	Lead	1, 2	1

## **DATA SOURCE COPYRIGHT STATEMENTS**

Where statistics are credited in the Management Plan as Natural England, Forestry Commission, Environment Agency or English Heritage 2013, these are supplied under the Framework for Monitoring Environmental Outcomes in Protected Landscapes project, to further the statutory purposes of National Parks, AONBs and the Broads. They are subject to the terms of use of the Natural England Open Government Licence, as published at:

[http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/open-government-licence-NE\\_tcm6-30744.pdf](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/open-government-licence-NE_tcm6-30744.pdf)

In addition:

- Natural England statistics are © Natural England copyright 2013.
- Forestry Commission statistics are © Forestry Commission copyright [2013].
- Environment Agency statistics are supplied under the terms of the Environment Agency Standard Notice. Contains Environment Agency information © Environment Agency and database right.

## LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT & PRIORITY SITES

---

### Management Zones

The landscape character areas identified in Section 1.5 form a convenient framework for considering specific parts of the AONB in more detail.

The Landscape Management sub-sections deal with the issues in each particular landscape character area. The specific Priority Sites have been included because each of them makes a particularly important contribution to the conservation and enhancement of the AONB's Special Qualities. As such they are key sites for management or restoration (as applicable). The management priorities and suggested actions are not however intended to be prescriptive or exclusive. They should be viewed as strategic recommendations intended to guide the activities of farmers, landowners and the various agencies that have an influence upon the management of the Howardian Hills. It is hoped that they will help local communities, organisations and individuals to work together to improve their own environment within an agreed framework. In combination with the Objectives, they will also be used to determine priorities for local funding and to decide where additional financial incentives might be needed.

### Condition/Risk

An assessment of the Condition or Risk category of each site is given, where this is known:  
SSSI – Natural England information.  
SINC – Assessment criteria to be agreed.  
SM – English Heritage information.  
Other Historic Environment Priority Sites – Assessment criteria to be agreed.

Condition assessments allow the monitoring of site condition over time, as well as providing information for the Condition Indicators that measure the overall health of the component features that make up the AONB's Special Qualities.

Reference numbers in this part of the Plan refer to sites located on the large map, which can be found on the CD on the inside of the back cover. ***It should be noted that nearly all these sites are on private land and access is only available via existing Public Rights of Way or by express permission of the landowner.***

#### Site designations:

SSSI – Site of Special Scientific Interest. (National importance)

SINC – Site of Importance for Nature Conservation. (Local importance)

SM – Scheduled Monument. (National importance)

RPG – Registered Park and Garden. (National importance)

## PLATEAU (Zone 1)

---

### Landscape Management

Retain and reinforce the 'isolated almost upland' character, resist unsympathetic development and explore opportunities to diversify and soften the impact of 'hard-edged' woodlands:

- As opportunities arise, encourage diversification and re-design of conifer plantations, to increase variety and reflect local characteristics and topographical features. Give priority to open space, natural regeneration or broadleaved planting along woodland edges and roadsides; also natural regeneration or broadleaved planting adjacent to existing fragments of semi-natural broadleaved woodland.
- Encourage sensitive felling operations in terms of scale and phasing, especially in visually prominent locations.
- Discourage large-scale extensions to existing woods.
- Retain fragments of former heathland vegetation and encourage regeneration wherever possible during future woodland management operations.
- Encourage appropriate planting to integrate the more prominent buildings and structures into the landscape.
- Encourage maintenance and, where appropriate, the rebuilding of traditional drystone walls where these form a characteristic feature.

### **Natural Environment Priority Sites**

Encourage the creation of broadleaved riparian corridors and restoration of heathland habitats within existing conifer plantations.

**Grimston Moor (1.1)** – SINC. Extensive areas of heathland vegetation under pine plantations. Encourage management as more open heathland habitat mosaic.

**High Lions Wood (1.2)** – SINC. A mature secondary birch woodland with an acidic heath flora. Ensure retention as native broadleaved woodland.

**Yearsley Moor Woods (1.5)** – SINC. An extensive site with a patchwork of both semi-natural and heavily modified habitats, arising from afforested open heathland/designed landscape (Gilling Castle). Habitats include calcareous ash woodland, open water, fen, wet alder woodland, calcareous and neutral grasslands, flushes, a sphagnum mire, sessile oak woodland, wood 'pasture', veteran Scots pines and coniferised oak/birch woodland. Conifer regeneration removed from oak woodland in 2003. Significant on-going removal of rhododendron since 2011. Ensure retention and appropriate management of existing semi-natural habitats and encourage restoration of appropriate areas to heathland and broadleaved woodland.

### **Historic Environment Priority Sites**

Many prehistoric burial mounds, most of which are Scheduled Monuments, lie in this Zone. Evidence also of an extensive system of hollow-ways. Opportunities to encourage greater public appreciation of the historic landscape.

**Neolithic long barrow, Black Hill (2.1)** – SM. Vulnerable. Install protective roadside kerbing.

**Round barrows, Yearsley (2.2)** – SM. Vulnerable & Low/Not at Risk. Reduce erosion by stock.

**Round barrows, Black Moor (2.3)** – SM. At Risk. Control bracken and establish a benign vegetation cover.

**Round barrows, Grimston Moor (2.4)** – SM. At Risk, Vulnerable & Low/Not at Risk. Control tree and scrub growth. Control bracken and establish a benign vegetation cover.

**Round barrows, Coney Hills (2.5)** – SM. At Risk & Vulnerable. Reduce impact of arable ploughing. Control scrub growth. Reduce impact of burrowing animals.

**Field system, Swathgill (2.6)** – Encourage sympathetic management of prehistoric field system & barrow and seek to improve condition within an agricultural regime.

**Limekiln, Blackdale Plantation (2.7)** – Keep structure clear of vegetation and produce management plan.

**Cropmarks of Iron Age/Roman field systems and enclosures, Grimston Howl (2.8)** – Encourage continuation of sympathetic management agreement (ELS) and seek to improve condition within an agricultural regime. Detailed survey of woodland fringes required to identify whether cropmarks survive as upstanding features.

**Hollow-ways, Grimston Moor, Black Moor and Yearsley Moor (2.9)** – Community survey work completed 2012. Avoid damage by heavy machinery.

### **Recreation Priority Sites**

**Yearsley Moor (3.1)** – A popular car parking area for walkers. Parking area expanded and re-surfaced 2012. Information board installed 2013 as part of Lime & Ice Yearsley Moor project. Monitor condition.

**Grimston Grange (3.2)** – A County Council chippings dump to the north-west of Grimston Grange crossroads. Monitor usage and condition.  
**High Lions Lodge (3.3)** – An area of Common Land formerly used as tipping area for soil and rubble. Explore opportunities for restoration to more appropriate use/appearance.  
**Grimston Moor (3.4)** – Private road leading to Forestry Commission woodland. Improve entrance gate arrangement/signage to facilitate access.

## **NORTHERN PLATEAU FRINGE (Zone 2A)**

### **Landscape Management**

Seek opportunities to diversify and soften the impact of woodlands and restore key elements of the former historic parkland character:

- As opportunities arise, encourage diversification and re-design of conifer plantations, to increase variety and reflect local characteristics and topographical features. Give priority to open space, natural regeneration or broadleaved planting along woodland edges and roadsides; also natural regeneration or broadleaved planting adjacent to existing fragments of semi-natural broadleaved woodland.
- Encourage sympathetic felling operations in terms of scale and phasing, especially where visually prominent.
- Encourage preparation/implementation of long-term landscape management plans for the historic grounds of Newburgh Priory and Gilling Castle.
- Where appropriate, maintain and restore landscape features associated with former parkland, e.g. estate walls, avenues, parkland copses/trees and lakes.

- Discourage new woodland planting proposals that detract from the character of the historic parklands.
- Work with the North York Moors National Park to develop integrated cross-boundary habitat/landscape corridors.

### **Natural Environment Priority Sites**

Encourage the creation of broadleaved riparian corridors and restoration of heathland habitats within existing conifer plantations.

**Colley Broach Road Pasture** (1.3) – SINC. A large field of mainly unimproved neutral and marshy grassland. Encourage continuation of existing management agreement (HLS) to safeguard interest.

**Boggs Plantation** (1.4) – SINC. The best example of a semi-natural valley alder wood in the AONB. Ensure retention as native broadleaved woodland.

**Yearsley Moor Woods** (1.5) – SINC. An extensive site with a patchwork of both semi-natural and heavily modified habitats, arising from afforested open heathland/landscape (Gilling Castle). Habitats include calcareous ash woodland, open water, fen, wet alder woodland, calcareous & neutral grasslands, flushes, a sphagnum mire, sessile oak woodland, wood 'pasture', veteran Scots pines and coniferised oak/birch woodland. Conifer regeneration removed from oak woodland in 2003. Significant on-going removal of rhododendron since 2011. Ensure retention and appropriate management of existing semi-natural habitats and encourage restoration of appropriate areas to heathland and broadleaved woodland.

### **Historic Environment Priority Sites**

A variety of prehistoric and later earthwork features are present in this Zone.

**Round barrows, Four Acre Wood and adjacent** (2.11) – SM. At Risk & Low/Not at Risk. Control scrub growth. Control bracken and establish a benign vegetation cover. Reduce impact of arable ploughing. Reduce erosion by stock.

**Cross dyke, Roman Plantation** (2.12) – SM. At Risk & Low/Not at Risk. Control scrub growth. Control bracken and establish a benign vegetation cover.

**Round barrow, Yearsley Moor** (2.13) – SM. Low/Not at Risk. Minimise impact of forestry.

**Hollow-ways, Grimston Moor, Black Moor and Yearsley Moor** (2.9) – Community survey work completed 2012. Avoid damage by heavy machinery.

**The Stripe, Mount Plantation, Roman Plantation & Heron Lye Gill, Newburgh** (2.14) – Reduce impact of forestry, encourage more sympathetic management and improve understanding of features in woodland, initially through a management plan (see below).

Encourage preparation and implementation of management plans that identify opportunities for conserving, enhancing and restoring elements of the historic landscape, both within and beyond the registered parkland:

**Newburgh Priory** (2.15) – RPG. Not at Risk

**Gilling Castle** (2.16) – RPG. Not at Risk

In liaison with owners, encourage repair of Listed Buildings at Risk using grant resources available from local authorities and Government agencies. Where appropriate, explore opportunities for suitable

changes of use to ensure their long-term contribution to the cultural heritage of the area:

**Mill, Newburgh Park** (2.17)

**The Mount, Newburgh Park** (2.105)

**Park House, Newburgh Park** (2.106)

### **Recreation Priority Sites**

**Newburgh Priory Lake** (3.5) – A popular surfaced roadside lay-by giving views over Newburgh Priory Lake. Monitor level of use at peak periods.

**Yearsley Moor and Gilling Castle** (3.6) – A large area of principally conifer woodland, much of which once formed the designed landscape associated with Gilling Castle. The majority of the woodland is leased by the Forestry Commission and well-used public footpaths link Yearsley Moor with the Park Wood fishponds. Extensively used by mountain bikers, walkers and horse riders. Information board and sculpture seats installed in 2013 as part of Lime & Ice Yearsley Moor project. Liaise with Forestry Commission on issues/conflicts as appropriate.

## **WESTERN PLATEAU FRINGE (Zone 2B)**

### **Landscape Management**

Strengthen the existing landscape framework of hedges and hedgerow trees. Protect the open character of the higher ground and encourage greater tree cover on steeper slopes:

- Encourage planting of new small to medium-sized areas of broadleaved or mixed woodland on steeper slopes and valley shoulders. Discourage

woodland planting on higher flatter ground and protect long-distance views.

- Encourage planting of hedgerow trees and copses using native species, to strengthen existing landscape pattern.
- Promote the retention, restoration and sympathetic management of hedges, particularly those in the most visible locations and those associated with the remnant strip field system at Oulston.

### **Historic Environment Priority Sites**

A variety of prehistoric and later earthwork features are present in this Zone.

**Medieval village & field system, Thornton-on-the-Hill (2.18)** – Manage the whole area of earthworks under a stable grass sward.

**Lynchets, ridge and furrow field system and other earthworks, Oulston (2.19)** – Manage the whole area of earthworks under a stable grass sward.

## **SOUTHERN PLATEAU FRINGE (Zone 2C)**

### **Landscape Management**

Strengthen the framework of hedges and encourage woodlands on steeper slopes and valley shoulders:

- Encourage planting of trees and copses using native species, to strengthen existing landscape pattern.
- Promote the retention, restoration and sympathetic management of hedges, particularly those in the most visible locations and those associated with the remnant strip field system near Hardy Bank.

- Conserve areas of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland and promote appropriate forms of management.
- Encourage small-scale extensions of existing valley woodlands and new woodlands on the steeper slopes of the scarp face and valley shoulders, using native species or mixtures where plantations are already varied in character.
- In the valleys, maintain the more diverse landscape by retaining the small-scale field pattern and areas of semi-improved pasture along streams and on steeper slopes.

### **Natural Environment Priority Sites**

**Hardy Bank (1.8)** – SINC. A small area of Ancient woodland with an open canopy, reputed to be a remnant of the Forest of Galtres. Ensure retention as native broadleaved woodland.

**Moorside (Black Fir) Plantation (1.9)** – SINC. A mature oak woodland, probably on an Ancient site. Ensure retention as native broadleaved woodland.

**Oulston Reservoir (1.10)** – SINC. Two artificial lakes. The lower one is mesotrophic and has extensive areas of adjacent fen meadow. The upper lake is more eutrophic. Discourage practices that would damage or pollute aquatic habitats. Encourage sympathetic management of adjacent semi-natural fen and grassland habitats.

**Peel Wood and Grassland (1.11)** – SINC. An interesting complex of habitats including broadleaved woodland, scrub and grassland. Native woodland area extended by new planting in 2005. Encourage continuation of existing management agreement (HLS) on part of site to safeguard interest.

**Dale Wood (1.12)** – SINC. One of the largest areas of semi-natural woodland in the AONB, with a variety of different plant communities. Ensure

retention of native broadleaved woodland and **Banks, Holloway & Coustway** of replanted sections.

### **Historic Environment Priority Sites**

Archaeological survey to identify features related to woodland management would be highly worthwhile in this Zone and would aid understanding of the origins of the woods. Elsewhere, retain surviving earthworks under a stable grass sward.

**Cross dyke, Roman Plantation (2.12)** – SM. At Risk & Low/Not at Risk. Control scrub growth. Control bracken and establish a benign vegetation cover.

**Round barrows, Oulston Moor (2.20)** – SM. Vulnerable. Control tree & scrub growth and bracken. Establish a benign vegetation cover.

**Limekiln, New Piece Moor (2.21)** – Trees and scrub removed in 2000. Monitor condition.

### **Recreation Priority Sites**

**Oulston Moor (3.7)** – A popular starting point for circular walks around Pond Head and Oulston. Monitor usage and condition.

## **SOUTHERN MOORS FRINGE (Zone 2D)**

### **Landscape Management**

Conserve the ‘traditional’ landscape character, reinforce the existing framework of hedges, trees and woods and soften the impact of discordant features:

- Maintain the diverse character of the landscape by retaining the small-scale field pattern and areas of pasture.

- Encourage planting of hedgerow trees and copses using native species, to strengthen existing landscape pattern.
- Promote the retention, restoration and sympathetic management of hedges associated with the extensive remnant strip field systems near Ampleforth.
- Promote sympathetic management of watercourses to enhance their visual and wildlife value.
- Try to integrate modern developments into the landscape through appropriate forms of tree planting.
- Encourage small-scale extensions of existing woods on the steeper slopes of spurs.
- Work with the North York Moors National Park to develop integrated cross-boundary habitat/landscape corridors.

#### **Natural Environment Priority Sites**

**Thorpe Spring Wood (1.13)** – SINC. A largely semi-natural ash and oak woodland. Ensure retention as native broadleaved woodland.

#### **Historic Environment Priority Sites**

**Medieval field system, Oswaldkirk Hall (2.22)** – Manage under a stable grass sward.

### **EASTERN MOORS FRINGE (Zone 2E)**

#### **Landscape Management**

Strengthen the existing framework of hedges and hedgerow trees and promote appropriate forms of woodland management:

- Conserve areas of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland and promote appropriate forms of management. In Ancient replanted woodland, encourage greater use of native broadleaves. Elsewhere retain mixture of woodland types.
- Promote the retention, restoration and sympathetic management of hedges, particularly those in the most visible locations and those associated with the remnant strip field system near Sproxton.
- Encourage planting of hedgerow trees, copses and small woods using native species to reinforce existing landscape pattern, especially in association with streams and areas of pasture.
- Promote sympathetic management of watercourses to enhance their visual and wildlife value.
- Work with the North York Moors National Park to develop integrated cross-boundary habitat/landscape corridors.

#### **Natural Environment Priority Sites**

**Robson’s Spring (1.14)** – SINC. An area of calcareous ash woodland with a rich ground flora and forming part of a larger woodland complex. Some parts have been replanted with conifers. Ensure retention of native broadleaved woodland and encourage restoration of replanted sections.

**East Plock Woods (1.15)** – SINC. A plantation of beech, sycamore and larch on an Ancient site. Encourage restoration to native broadleaved woodland.

**River Rye, Helmsley Bridge to West Ness (1.16)** – SINC. A stretch of ‘natural’ river, the banks of which support a varied flora and fauna. Discourage management practices that would damage or pollute the river system and associated habitats. Manage tree canopy to benefit river ecosystem

and manage invasive non-native species (mink, Himalayan balsam).

#### **Historic Environment Priority Sites**

**Cropmarks of field system, Grange Farm (2.23)** – Seek to improve condition within an agricultural regime.

### **SOUTHERN RIDGE (Zone 3A)**

#### **Landscape Management**

Conserve the landscape balance between broadleaved woodland and farmland and restore those features which have declined or been lost:

- Retain broadleaved character of woodlands and encourage greater use of native broadleaves wherever possible.
- Encourage planting of hedgerow trees and copses using native species, to strengthen landscape pattern.
- Promote the retention, restoration and sympathetic management of hedges, particularly those in the most visible locations and those associated with the remnant strip field system at Skewsby.
- Promote sympathetic management of watercourses to enhance their visual and wildlife value.
- Continue restoration of character of highway corridor along foot of scarp.

### Natural Environment Priority Sites

**Fairy Dell (1.17)** – SINC. A species-rich unimproved pasture with a spring, stream and pond.

Encourage negotiation of management agreement to safeguard remaining interest.

**Stearsby Hag (1.18)** – SINC. A large plantation of beech and sycamore on an Ancient site. Encourage restoration to native broadleaved woodland.

**Stearsby Hag Grassland (1.19)** – A small fragment of semi-improved neutral grassland on a steep bank. Encourage sympathetic management to safeguard interest.

### Historic Environment Priority Sites

**Round barrow, Stearsby Hag (2.24)** – SM. At Risk. Control tree and scrub growth. Control bracken and establish a benign vegetation cover.

**City of Troy Maze, Stearsby Hag (2.25)** – Continue with current sympathetic management regime.

**Limekiln, High Wood (2.26)** – Keep structure clear of vegetation and prepare management plan.

**Ice house, Brandsby Hall (2.27)** – Assess condition and if necessary prepare management plan to guide future management.

**Cropmarks of prehistoric dyke and triple bank, Cop Howe (2.28)** – Seek to improve condition within an agricultural regime. Survey adjacent woodland fringes for upstanding remains and seek to manage sympathetically.

**Ridge and furrow field system, Brandsby (2.29)** – Very good surviving remains of a medieval field system. Manage under a stable grass sward.

In liaison with owners, encourage repair of Listed Buildings at Risk using grant resources available from local authorities and Government agencies. Where appropriate, explore opportunities for suitable

changes of use to ensure their long-term contribution to the cultural heritage of the area:

### **Witherholme Hall, Whenby (2.107)**

### **SOUTH EAST RIDGE (Zone 3B)**

#### **Landscape Management**

Try to restore a more strongly hedged landscape framework with a higher density of tree cover and promote more woodland planting to integrate the area more closely with adjoining landscapes:

- Encourage appropriate management of Ancient Woodland Sites, with greater use of native broadleaves.
- Encourage planting of new small to medium-sized areas of broadleaved or mixed woodland at locations which do not interrupt long-distance views, particularly on the more open scarp slopes and valley sides towards the south of the area and in association with farmsteads.
- Encourage planting of hedgerow trees and copses using native species, to reinforce landscape pattern.
- Promote the retention, restoration and sympathetic management of hedges, particularly those in the most visible locations and those associated with the remnant strip field systems at Ganthorpe, Bulmer and Crambe.
- On scarp slopes, tributary valleys and around villages, maintain the more diverse character by retaining the small-scale field pattern and areas of pasture.
- Conserve and enhance areas of parkland.
- Ensure any upgrading of the A64 trunk road respects the character and high quality of the

landscape and find opportunities for new planting in the highway corridor.

### **Natural Environment Priority Sites**

**Little Dale, Mowthorpe (1.20)** – SINC. An area of unimproved marshy grassland with a varied flora. Scrub control and fen cutting in 2007; scrub control and site fenced in 2008 and grazing by Exmoor ponies introduced. Encourage continuation of management agreement (AONB) to safeguard interest. Continue scrub control and habitat management.

**Bulmer Beck Mire (1.21)** – SINC. An area of rank fen grassland and marshy flushes. Re-fenced in 2002 and grazing by Exmoor ponies introduced. Encourage new management agreement to safeguard interest, as site has been withdrawn from HLS.

**Bulmer Mire (1.22)** – SINC. An area of marshy grassland at the foot of a small valley. Encourage sympathetic management to safeguard interest.

**Bulmer Hag (1.23)** – SINC. An area of oak woodland on an Ancient site, much of which has a semi-natural appearance. Sections have been replanted with conifers. Ensure retention of native broadleaved woodland and encourage restoration of replanted sections.

### **Historic Environment Priority Sites**

**Round barrow, Terrington (2.30)** – SM. Vulnerable. Control tree and scrub growth.

**Earthworks of ridge and furrow & settlement shrinkage, High Stittenham (2.31)** – Manage the whole area of earthworks under a stable grass sward.

**Field system, Mill Fields (2.32)** – Encourage removal of tipped infill material. Manage the



whole area of earthworks under a stable grass sward.

**Earthworks of medieval field system, lynchets and possible enclosure, Whitwell-on-the-Hill (2.33)** – Manage the whole area of earthworks under a stable grass sward.

## **NORTH RIDGE (Zone 3C)**

---

### **Landscape Management**

Maintain the contrast between the wooded scarp slope and open dip slope, reinforce the framework of hedges and encourage sensitive woodland management:

- Discourage new isolated woodland planting proposals on northern dip slope, to retain open landscape character.
  - Encourage sensitive felling operations in terms of scale and phasing, especially where visually prominent.
  - Conserve areas of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland and promote appropriate forms of management. In Ancient replanted woodland, encourage greater use of native broadleaves, especially towards prominent skylines and in association with parklands.
  - Promote the retention, restoration and sympathetic management of hedges, particularly those in the most visible locations and those associated with the remnant strip field systems near Swinton, Easthorpe, Barton-le-Street, Slingsby and Hovingham.
  - Conserve historic linear field pattern and network of ancient trackways.
- Discourage extension of limestone quarries beyond existing permitted areas and try to reduce impact through planting.

### **Natural Environment Priority Sites**

**Wath Quarry (1.24)** – SSSI. A quarry face of geological interest. Support continued

sympathetic management through agreement with Natural England. Condition – Favourable.

**Scar Wood (1.25)** – SINC. One of the three best ash woodlands in the AONB, with a rich flora.

Sections have been replanted with non-native species. Two areas of young sycamore plantation restored to native broadleaves in 2007 & 2008. Ensure retention of native broadleaved woodland and encourage restoration of replanted sections. Discourage extension of quarrying activity.

**Grange Farm, Gilling (1.26)** – SINC. A small area of unimproved calcareous grassland, including the site of a former quarry. Encourage negotiation of agreement to ensure sympathetic management.

**Mill Wood (1.27)** – SINC. An area of semi-natural oak/birch woodland with ash on the upper slopes. Ensure retention as native broadleaved woodland.

**Calf Close Wood (1.28)** – SINC. An area of oak/ash woodland on an Ancient site, much of which has a semi-natural appearance although some areas originate from planting. Ensure retention of native broadleaved woodland and encourage restoration of replanted sections.

**Horse Coppice (1.29)** – SINC. An area of mainly mature oak woodland on an Ancient site, although probably originates from planting. Hazel partially re-coppiced in 2000. Ensure retention as native broadleaved woodland.

**Disused Quarry at Wath (1.30)** – SINC. An area of calcareous grassland in a disused quarry. Carry out

survey to identify areas of conservation value and management priorities.

**Wath Wood Boundary (1.31)** – SINC. A small area of unimproved calcareous grassland on the northern edge of Wath Wood. Invading scrub removed in 2000. Sward maintained by rabbit grazing. Encourage continuation of existing management agreement (HLS).

**Wath Wood & Hollin Hill Plantation (1.32)** – SINC. A large area of Ancient woodland, sections of which retain a semi-natural character with a notable flora. Other sections have been replanted with conifers. Ensure retention of native broadleaved woodland and encourage restoration of replanted sections.

**Hollin Hill Bogs (1.33)** – SINC. A relatively large area of spring-fed semi-natural alder carr of high conservation interest. Ensure retention as native broadleaved woodland. Manage invasive non-native species (Himalayan balsam).

**Slingsby Banks Wood (1.34)** – SINC. An area of oak woodland on an Ancient site, although originating from replanting. Contains several recent plantings of conifers. Ensure retention of native broadleaved woodland and encourage restoration of replanted sections.

**Slingsby Bank Verges (1.35)** – SINC. A length of species-rich calcareous grassland on a roadside verge. Encourage continuation of sympathetic management.

**Slingsby Disused Quarry (1.36)** – SINC. Unimproved and semi-improved calcareous grassland on an old quarry site. Invading scrub cleared in 2007. Encourage continuation of sympathetic grassland management.

**Coneysthorpe Banks Wood (1.37)** – SINC. A large plantation of mainly larch, sycamore and Norway spruce on an Ancient site. Ensure retention of

native broadleaved woodland and encourage continuing restoration of replanted sections.

**Amotherby Lane (1.38)** – SINC. A small patch of calcareous grassland containing knapweed broomrape, within an area of scrub. Rabbit fenced in 1998 and cut rotationally. Greater knapweed planted in 2012, to augment natural population. Encourage continuation of existing management to safeguard interest.

**Hildenley Top Reservoir (1.39)** – SINC. Species-rich calcareous grassland on a covered reservoir. Managed by Yorkshire Water and generally cut sympathetically. Encourage continuation of existing management.

**Broughton Lane (1.40)** – SINC. Species-rich verges along a green lane, containing a significant population of knapweed broomrape. Encourage sympathetic management by gypsy pony grazer, to safeguard interest.

**Cawton Bank (1.41)** – An area of semi-improved neutral grassland on a steep bank. Fenced in 2003 and grazing by Exmoor ponies introduced. Encourage continuation of existing management agreement (HLS) to safeguard and maintain interest.

### **Historic Environment Priority Sites**

High priority area within the arable land of the scarp slope, with many nationally important cropmarks of prehistoric land use, both scheduled and unscheduled, needing further investigation and conservation. Initiate a programme of work to characterise the type and extent of remains as well as degree of preservation. Use as the basis for advising on programmes of management to fully protect important features.

**Linear dyke, Coneysthorpe Banks Wood (2.34)** – SM. Vulnerable. Control tree & plant growth and bracken. Establish a benign vegetation cover.

**Round barrow, Hovingham (2.35)** – SM. Vulnerable. Reduce impact of arable clipping. Encourage continuation of existing management agreements (EH & HLS) to safeguard interest.

**Round barrows, Hovingham High Wood (2.36)** – SM. At Risk & Vulnerable. Control tree & scrub growth and bracken. Reduce impact of forestry. Establish a benign vegetation cover.

**Round barrows, Hovingham South Wood (2.37)** – SM. At Risk & Low/Not at Risk. Control bracken and reduce impact of forestry. Establish a benign vegetation cover.

**Linear dyke, Fryton & Slingsby Banks Wood (2.38)** – SM. Vulnerable. Control tree & scrub growth and bracken. Establish a benign vegetation cover.

**Round barrows, Fryton East & West Woods (2.39)** – SM. Vulnerable. Control tree & scrub growth and reduce impact of forestry. Establish a benign vegetation cover.

**Round barrow & cross dyke, Scarrish Wood (2.40)** – SM. Vulnerable. Reduce impact of forestry. Control bracken and establish a benign vegetation cover.

**Cross dyke, Coneysthorpe Banks Wood (2.41)** – SM. Low/Not at Risk.

**Round barrows, Easthorpe (2.42)** – SM. At Risk. Reduce impact of arable ploughing. Establish a benign vegetation cover.

**Cropmarks of ancient trackways and settlements, Barton and Slingsby Heights (2.43)** – Seek to improve condition within an agricultural regime.

**Probable Roman camp, Diana Hill (2.44)** – Seek to improve condition within an agricultural regime.

**Moated site, Wath (2.45)** – Carry out further investigation to assess historic value.

**Field systems, Easthorpe Hall (2.46)** – Manage the whole area of earthworks under a stable grass sward.

**Field systems, Hildenley Hall Estate (2.47)** – Manage the whole area of earthworks under a stable grass sward.

**Limekiln, Kitscrew Wood (2.48)** – Encourage control of scrub and consolidation works as necessary.

**Limekiln and bridge, Hildenley Wood (2.49)** – Scrub and trees removed from limekiln in 2010. Keep structures clear of vegetation, survey area to check for other features and prepare management plan.

**Limekiln, Scar Wood (2.50)** – Trees removed 2006. Front wall consolidated and re-built in 2011. Monitor condition.

**Cropmark complex of square barrows, double-ditched trackway and enclosures, Cawton (2.51)** – Seek to improve condition within an agricultural regime.

**Orchard, Slingsby (2.52)** – Historic orchard, containing many old species of apple tree. Encourage implementation of management plan.

**Limekiln, Hovingham Spa (2.53)** – Control scrub growth and clear tipped debris to establish how much of original structure remains.

Encourage the preparation and implementation of management plans that identify opportunities for conserving, enhancing and restoring elements of the historic landscape:

**Hovingham Park (2.54)**

**Swinton Grange (2.55)**

## **CAULKLEYS BANK (Zone 3D)**

---

### **Landscape Management**

Strengthen the framework of hedges and seek opportunities to extend woodland and tree cover while retaining the essentially open character of the dip slope:

- In existing woodlands, encourage sympathetic felling operations in terms of scale and phasing, especially where visually prominent.
- Promote the retention, restoration and sympathetic management of hedges, particularly those in the most visible locations and those associated with the remnant strip field systems at Nunnington and near West Ness.
- Encourage planting of hedgerow trees and copses using native species, to reinforce landscape pattern.
- Conserve and reinforce linear tree belts, avenues and other parkland features.
- Encourage planting of new small areas of broadleaved or mixed woodland towards the foot of the dip slope, in locations that do not interrupt long-distance views.

### **Natural Environment Priority Sites**

**Nunnington Cutting & Quarries** (1.42) – SSSI. Two disused quarries and an adjacent railway cutting of geological interest. Support continued sympathetic management through agreement with Natural England. Condition – Favourable.

**River Rye, Helmsley Bridge to West Ness** (1.16) – SINC. A stretch of ‘natural’ river, the banks of which support a varied flora and fauna. Discourage management practices that would damage or pollute the river system and associated habitats.

Manage tree canopy to benefit river ecosystem and manage invasive non-native species (mink, Himalayan balsam).

**Caulkleys Bank** (1.43) – SINC. Species-rich unimproved calcareous pasture on a steep hillside. Encourage continuation of sympathetic management and negotiation of new agreement (HLS).

**Caulkleys Wood** (1.44) – SINC. A calcareous ash woodland on an escarpment, parts of which have been replanted with non-native species. Ensure retention of native broadleaved woodland and encourage restoration of replanted sections.

### **Historic Environment Priority Sites**

This area has many similarities with Zone 3C, having many cropmarks of prehistoric landscape features, although none are scheduled.

**Earthworks, Stonegrave Church & adjacent** (2.56) – SM. Low/Not at Risk.

**Earthworks, East Newton Hall** (2.57) – Encourage continuation of existing management agreement (ELS) to safeguard interest.

**Cropmarks of prehistoric/Roman enclosures and trackways, Caulkleys Bank** (2.58) – Seek to improve condition within an agricultural regime.

**2/3 limekilns, Limekiln Plantation** (2.59) – Keep structures clear of vegetation, survey area to check for other features and prepare management plan.

**Limekiln, Quarry Plantation** (2.60) – Trees removed 2004 & 2006. Encourage continued control of scrub and consolidation works as necessary.

**Cropmarks of probable Iron Age square barrow cemetery, Caulkleys Bank** (2.61) – Seek to improve condition within an agricultural regime.

Encourage the implementation of the management plan to conserve, enhance and restore elements of the historic landscape:

**Nunnington Hall** (2.62) – RPG. Not at Risk

### **Recreation Priority Sites**

**Caulkleys Bank** (3.8) – A popular gravelled roadside lay-by, giving panoramic views over the Vale of Pickering. Provides access to well-used Public Rights of Way to east and west. Encourage appropriate maintenance to provide a level surface suitable for a wide range of users. Maintain informal provision of information and landscape interpretation.

**Nunnington Hall** (3.9) – 17th century manor house owned by the National Trust and attracting around 60,000 visitors annually. The Hall is served by a large landscaped car park and an additional overflow car park. Monitor ability of overflow car park to cope with peak demands.

**Nunnington** (3.10) – A large informal parking area on the site of former sawmill. Monitor current ad hoc usage.

## **VALE OF YORK (Zone 4A)**

---

### **Landscape Management**

Strengthen the landscape framework by restoration of hedges, hedgerow trees and copses while retaining the contrast with more heavily wooded areas to the north and south:

- Encourage planting of hedgerow trees and copses using native species, to reinforce landscape pattern.

- Promote the retention, restoration and sympathetic management of hedges, particularly those in the most visible locations.
- Encourage planting of new small areas of broadleaved or mixed woodland.
- Promote sympathetic management of watercourses to enhance their visual and wildlife value. Encourage retention of semi-natural vegetation on remaining sections of disused railway.
- Work with the North York Moors National Park to develop integrated cross-boundary habitat/landscape corridors.

#### **Natural Environment Priority Sites**

**Foxfoot Hay (1.45)** – SINC. A wide ditch with semi-natural marginal vegetation. Encourage continuation of existing management agreement (HLS) on adjacent land.

**Thorpe Grange (1.46)** – SINC. An area of neutral grassland with patches of scrub, on a disused railway. Fenced in 2004, to allow introduction of conservation grazing. Encourage continuation of sympathetic management.

#### **Historic Environment Priority Sites**

Where pockets of ridge and furrow survive, retain the whole area under a stable grass sward.

Where cropmark features of prehistoric date have been identified, explore options to remove from cultivation, reduce plough depth or similar options.

**Monastic precinct and water management earthworks, Byland Abbey (2.108)** – SM. Low/Not at Risk. Reduce erosion by stock.

### **VALE OF PICKERING (Zone 4B)**

#### **Landscape Management**

Strengthen the landscape framework by restoration of hedges, hedgerow trees and copses while retaining the contrast with more heavily wooded slopes to the north and south:

- Encourage planting of hedgerow trees and copses using native species, to reinforce existing landscape pattern.
- Promote the retention, restoration and sympathetic management of hedges, particularly those in the most visible locations and those associated with the remnant strip field systems at Ampleforth, Stonegrave and Hovingham.
- Encourage planting of new small areas of broadleaved or mixed woodland.
- Promote sympathetic management of watercourses to enhance their visual and wildlife value.

#### **Natural Environment Priority Sites**

**Thorpe Grange (1.46)** – SINC. An area of neutral grassland with patches of scrub, on a disused railway. Fenced in 2004, to allow introduction of conservation grazing. Encourage continuation of sympathetic management.

**Cawton Fens (1.47)** – SINC. Two areas of calcareous fen, abandoned as arable land in 1985. Eastern area fenced in 2003 and grazing by Exmoor ponies introduced. Encourage continuation of existing management agreement (HLS) to safeguard interest.

### **Historic Environment Priority Sites**

Two areas of cropmarks of prehistoric enclosures at Hovingham Carrs and north of Mill Holm Plantation would be suitable for exploring options to remove from cultivation, reduce plough depth or similar options.

**Cross in Churchyard, Gilling (2.64)** – SM. Vulnerable. Consolidate to prevent collapse.

### **CRAYKE (Zone 4C)**

#### **Landscape Management**

Retain and enhance the strong hedge and hedgerow tree pattern and encourage new areas of small-scale woodland:

- Promote the retention, restoration and sympathetic management of hedges, particularly those in the most visible locations and those associated with the extensive remnant strip field system at Crayke.
- Encourage planting of hedgerow trees and copses using native species, to reinforce existing pattern.
- Encourage new small-scale plantations using native species or mixtures.
- Promote sympathetic management of watercourses to enhance their visual and wildlife value.

#### **Historic Environment Priority Sites**

Where pockets of ridge and furrow survive, particularly around Crayke Manor and Crayke Castle, retain the whole area under a stable grass sward.

Where cropmark features of prehistoric date have been identified, explore options to remove from cultivation, reduce plough depth or similar options.

**Crayke Castle (2.66)** – SM. Low/Not at Risk. Reduce impact of animal burrowing.

## **CASTLE HOWARD BASIN (Zone 5)**

---

### **Landscape Management**

Conserve and enhance the integrity of the historic designed landscape:

- Continue to update and implement the landscape restoration and management plan, to safeguard the integrity of the historic landscape.
- Where appropriate, maintain and restore landscape features associated with former parkland, e.g. parkland trees, walls and avenues.
- Discourage new woodland planting proposals that would detract from the landscape character of the historic parkland. Encourage retention of strong broadleaved woodland character through long-term conversion of conifer plantations.
- In the outer basin, promote the retention, restoration and sympathetic management of existing hedges, particularly those associated with the remnant strip field systems near Coneythorpe and Easthorpe, and encourage planting of hedgerow trees.

### **Natural Environment Priority Sites**

**Castle Howard Avenue and Park (1.48)** – SINC. The older parts of the Avenue and the car park contain many trees that are now of a considerable age. Survey work in 2003 confirmed that these

support invertebrate populations of County importance. Encourage retention and appropriate management of veteran trees wherever possible. **Castle Howard Great Lake (1.49)** – SINC. A wetland of ornithological interest, particularly for wintering wildfowl and passage birds. Encourage preparation of management plan, to maximise conservation interest and define future priorities. Discourage practices that would damage or pollute aquatic habitats.

**Brandrith Wood (1.50)** – SINC. An oak woodland, mostly on an Ancient site but probably originating from plantation. Areas have been replanted with non-native species. Ensure retention of native broadleaved woodland and encourage restoration of replanted sections.

**Castle Howard Terrace, Temple and New River (1.51)** – SINC. A complex of mown, improved and unimproved grassland, a landscaped pond and an area of mire. Assess conservation management priorities.

**Gillylees and Pretty Woods (1.52)** – SINC. A large woodland complex with a mosaic of habitat types including areas of Ancient woodland, although much replanted with non-native species. Ensure retention of native broadleaved woodland and encourage restoration of replanted sections.

**Nova Scotia (1.53)** – SINC. A large mainly semi-natural secondary woodland of ash and birch with an interesting flora. Some sections have been replanted with conifers. Ensure retention of native broadleaved woodland and encourage restoration of replanted sections.

**Horse Close Rush (1.54)** – SINC. A plantation of oak, beech and sycamore with high invertebrate value, on an Ancient site. Ensure retention of native broadleaved woodland and encourage restoration of replanted sections.

### **Historic Environment Priority Sites**

Although this Zone already has considerable protection due to the inclusion of Castle Howard and its grounds in the Register of Parks and Gardens, this should not hinder greater understanding of the complexity of the landscape, which includes much earlier and pre-parkland features such as the round barrow in The Avenue. Conservation of such complementary features is needed.

Initiate further survey of historic structures and landscape features, including veteran trees, to explore the detailed chronology of the landscape. Encourage enhanced or continued high-quality management measures, and encourage greater public appreciation of the historic landscape.

**Round barrow, Castle Howard Avenue (2.67)** – SM. Low/Not at Risk.

**Round barrow, Welburn (2.68)** – SM. Low/Not at Risk. Reduce impact of arable clipping. Encourage continuation of sympathetic management agreement (ELS) to safeguard interest.

**Round barrow, Pretty Wood (2.69)** – SM. Vulnerable. Reduce impact of forestry.

**Ice House, Castle Howard (2.70)** – Monitor condition.

**Medieval ridge and furrow field systems, Coneythorpe (2.71)** – There are indications that these may have been deliberately incorporated into the park. Manage the whole area of earthworks under a stable grass sward.

**Parish boundary, Brick Kiln Wood (2.72)** – This survives as an upstanding earthwork. Seek to maintain visibility and prevent damage.

**Mill, Todd Wood (2.73)** – Trees and scrub removed in 2000 & 2005. Remains of buildings consolidated in 2002. A number of associated

structures and the mill race also identified and suitable for survey. Encourage continued scrub control, building restoration where appropriate, management of ruined features and appropriate public interpretation.

Encourage the continued implementation of the management plan to conserve, enhance and restore elements of the historic landscape:

**Castle Howard (2.74) – RPG. At Risk**

In liaison with owners, encourage repair of Listed Buildings at Risk using grant resources available from local authorities and Government agencies. Where appropriate, explore opportunities for suitable changes of use to ensure their long-term contribution to the cultural heritage of the area:

**The Stray (Mock Fortifications), Castle Howard (2.75) – Grade I.**

**The Pyramid, St Anne’s Hill, Castle Howard (2.76) – Grade I.**

**The Mausoleum, Castle Howard (2.77) – Grade I.**

**Walls to walled garden, Castle Howard (2.78) – Grade I.**

**Former bone grinding mill, stables, hayloft and smithy, Low Gaterley (2.79)**

**Recreation Priority Sites**

**Castle Howard Lake (3.11) –** One of the most popular car parks in the AONB, serving as a base for walks around the lake and providing one of the ‘classic’ views of Castle Howard. The current car park is unsurfaced and in places very eroded. Planning consent was granted in 2001 to create a new car park on the eastern side of the road but never implemented. If new proposals come

forward, encourage sensitive restoration of the former car park site and appropriate management of trees to ensure continued views of house/lake. Consider scope for the provision of AONB information.

**Castle Howard (3.12) –** The historic house and parkland of Castle Howard attracts around 215,000 visitors a year and is easily the most popular site within the AONB. Served by a large car park with capacity for several hundred vehicles. As the principal focal point for visitors within the AONB, there is considerable scope for the provision of information. Consider providing interpretation material that helps to raise awareness of the AONB and management issues affecting it, as well as encouraging exploration of the wider estate area.

**Sheep Walk (3.13) –** Parking facilities at the crest of the hill were closed in 1999, due to highway danger and vehicles blocking access tracks. These were used as a base for popular walks along the ridge top and an informal parking area has now developed at the foot of the Sheep Walk hill. Encourage provision of sensitively designed but hard-surfaced parking area for 3/4 cars, to maximise parking opportunity and prevent verge damage/blocking of access tracks.

**CENTRAL HILLS AND VALLEYS (Zone 6)**

**Landscape Management**

Maintain the balance between woodland and farmland, strengthen the existing framework of hedges and hedgerow trees and promote appropriate forms of woodland management:

- Conserve areas of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland and promote appropriate forms of management. In Ancient replanted woodland, encourage greater use of native broadleaves.
- Try to diversify pure conifer plantations with broadleaved planting, natural regeneration and open space on woodland edges, rides, streambanks and in positions overlooked by higher ground.
- In more extensive woodland blocks, encourage sympathetic felling operations in terms of scale and phasing, especially where visually prominent.
- Encourage planting of new small to medium-sized areas of broadleaved or mixed woodland as extensions of existing woods, in valley bottoms, on lower slopes and in association with farmsteads.
- Promote the retention, restoration and sympathetic management of hedges, particularly those in the most visible locations and those associated with the remnant strip field systems at Hildenley and High Hutton.
- Encourage planting of hedgerow trees and copses using native species, to strengthen landscape pattern.
- Conserve and enhance areas of parkland.
- Ensure any upgrading of the A64 trunk road respects the character and high quality of the landscape and seek opportunities for new planting in the highway corridor.

**Natural Environment Priority Sites**

**Horse Field, Gilling (1.55) – SSSI.** A formerly unimproved hay-meadow, now much degraded. Support restoration management through agreement with Natural England. Condition – Unfavourable, no change.

**Dalby Bush Fen (1.56) – SSSI.** A diverse complex of fen and wet woodland. Support continued

sympathetic management through agreement with Natural England. Condition – Favourable.

**Toft Wood (1.57)** – SINC. An Ancient woodland containing semi-natural sections with a rich flora, but the majority replanted with conifers. Ensure retention of native broadleaved woodland and encourage restoration of replanted sections.

**Mugdale and Barker Woods (1.58)** – SINC. A complex of Ancient woodland habitats with an interesting flora. Some hazel coppicing carried out in 2001. Native woodland area extended by new planting on Mugdale Hill in 2002. Himalayan balsam control carried out in 2009. Ensure retention as native broadleaved woodland. Control invasive non-native species (Himalayan balsam).

**Grange Bogs (1.59)** – SINC. A complex of fen, unimproved pasture and marshy woodland. New fencing installed on northern part of site in 2003 and grazing by Exmoor ponies introduced. Encourage continuation of sympathetic conservation grazing of fen and pasture. Ensure retention of native broadleaved marshy woodland.

**Bull Ings (1.60)** – SINC. A complex of fen, wet grassland and unimproved pasture. New fencing installed on western part of site in 2003 and grazing by Exmoor ponies introduced. Encourage continuation of sympathetic conservation grazing of fen and pasture.

**Coulton Fen (1.61)** – SINC. A narrow strip of valley bog mire and wet woodland. New fencing installed in 2003 and grazing by Exmoor ponies introduced. Encourage continuation of sympathetic conservation grazing and management agreements where applicable (HLS).

**Rose Cottage Farm Meadow (1.62)** – SINC. A small area of unimproved calcareous grassland. Encourage negotiation of management agreement

to secure continuation of sympathetic grassland management.

**Swinsey Carr (1.63)** – SINC. An Ancient woodland, predominantly ash, with a good flora. Ensure retention as native broadleaved woodland.

**The Hag, Wiganthorpe Wood (1.64)** – SINC. Ancient semi-natural alder wood with a rich flora. Ensure retention as native broadleaved woodland.

**Howthorpe (1.65)** – SINC. Two areas of unimproved calcareous and marshy grassland. Himalayan balsam controlled since 2008.

Encourage continuation of existing management agreement (HLS) to safeguard interest. Manage invasive non-native species (Himalayan balsam).

**Terrington Moor (1.66)** – SINC. A small area of acid fen, abandoned as arable land in 1985. Fenced in 2001 and grazing by Exmoor ponies introduced. Scrub control carried out in 2006.

Encourage continuation of existing management agreement (HLS) to safeguard interest.

**Terrington Carr (1.67)** – SINC. A small area of acid peat bog, the remnant of a much larger site (afforested in the 1800s). Water levels raised on southern part of site in 2000 and shallow pools created in 2001. Water levels raised on northern part of site in 2002. Encourage continuation of existing management agreement (HLS) and birch coppicing cycle to maintain open habitat.

**Grassland adjacent to Swinsey Carr SINC (1.68)** – SINC. An area of semi-improved neutral, acid and marshy grassland on a steep bank. Encourage introduction of grassland management.

**Fens below Coulton Mill (1.69)** – SINC. Areas of fen and semi-improved neutral and marshy grassland along a beck. Encourage continuation of existing management agreement (HLS).

### Historic Environment Priority Sites

An important and almost continuous prehistoric and Roman landscape under arable cultivation on the high ground from Scackleton westwards, which would benefit from improvements within an agricultural regime. Initiate further archaeological survey and encourage greater public appreciation of the historic landscape.

**Enclosures/field system, Potter Hill (2.81)** – SM. Low/Not at Risk. Reverted to pasture in 2001. Encourage continuation of existing sympathetic management to safeguard interest.

**Round barrows, Fryton & Hall Moors (2.82)** – SM. At Risk & Low/Not at Risk. Reduce impact of arable ploughing. Encourage management to prevent gradual deterioration.

**Moated site & ridge and furrow, Scackleton (2.83)** – SM. At Risk. Reduce erosion by stock.

**Round barrow, Wiganthorpe (2.84)** – SM. Vulnerable. Control tree and scrub growth.

**Round barrows, Moor House Farm, Hovingham (2.85)** – SM. At Risk & Low/Not at Risk. Reduce impact of arable ploughing and encourage continuation of existing management agreement (HLS).

**Field system, Swathgill (2.6)** – Encourage sympathetic management of prehistoric field system & barrow and seek to improve condition within an agricultural regime.

**Field systems, Hildenley Hall Estate (2.47)** – Manage the whole area of earthworks under a stable grass sward.

**Park or parish boundary banks, Cum Hag Wood (2.86)** – These survive as upstanding earthworks. Seek to maintain visibility and prevent damage. Research and survey would aid understanding.

**Ridge and furrow field system, High Hutton (2.87)** – Manage the whole area of earthworks under a stable grass sward.

**Limekiln, Maidensworth Farm (2.88)** – Trees removed 2005. Encourage continued control of scrub and consolidation works as necessary.

**Limekiln, Toft Hill (2.89)** – Scrub removed 2001 & 2005. Encourage continued control of scrub and consolidation works.

**Limekiln, Stone Flint Wood (2.90)** – Scrub removed 2001. Monitor condition.

**Enclosures and field system, Scackleton (2.91)** – An extensive complex of prehistoric enclosures and field systems. Seek to improve condition in an agricultural regime.

Encourage the preparation and implementation of management plans which identify opportunities for conserving, enhancing and restoring elements of the historic landscape:

#### **Wiganthorpe Hall (2.92)**

In liaison with owners, encourage repair of Listed Buildings at Risk using grant resources available from local authorities and Government agencies. Where appropriate, explore opportunities for suitable changes of use to ensure their long-term contribution to the cultural heritage of the area:

#### **Ice house, Wiganthorpe Hall (2.93)**

**Moor House cow byre, stables, granary & cart shed, Hovingham (2.94)** – Granary re-roofed 2008. The other buildings require some attention.

#### **Recreation Priority Sites**

**Bell Bottom Wood (3.14)** – A small informal gravelled lay-by used as a base for forest walks.

Encourage landowner to maintain capacity of parking area, thereby reducing parking on adjacent verges.

#### **DERWENT GORGE (Zone 7)**

##### **Landscape Management**

Conserve and restore the ‘traditional’ landscape character of broadleaved woodland, small-scale fields and waterside habitats:

- In existing woodlands encourage sympathetic felling operations in terms of scale and phasing, especially where visually prominent.
- Conserve areas of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland and promote appropriate forms of management. In Ancient replanted woodland, encourage greater use of native broadleaves.
- Promote the retention, restoration and sympathetic management of hedges, particularly those associated with the extensive remnant strip field system at Crambe.
- Conserve or re-create riverside wetland habitats and flood plain meadows at appropriate locations.
- Conserve and enhance areas of parkland.
- Ensure any upgrading of the A64 trunk road respects the character and high quality of the landscape and seek opportunities for new planting in the highway corridor.

##### **Natural Environment Priority Sites**

**Jeffry Bog (1.70)** – SSSI. A complex of neutral grassland, marsh and wet woodland adjacent to the River Derwent, owned by the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust. Condition – 48% Favourable; 52% Unfavourable recovering.

**Kirkham Park and Riverside (1.71)** – SSSI. A site noted for its geomorphological interest as well as its complex of riverside communities including woodland, grassland, fen and marsh. Support continued sympathetic management through agreement with Natural England. Manage invasive non-native species (Himalayan balsam). Condition – 65% Favourable; 35% Unfavourable recovering.

**Mount Pleasant Quarry (1.72)** – SSSI. A disused quarry face of geological interest. Support continued sympathetic management through agreement with Natural England. Condition – Favourable.

**River Derwent (1.73)** – SSSI. Also of international importance and designated a Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Part of an extensive river system, considered to be one of the best British examples of an unpolluted lowland river with a ‘classic’ river profile, and supporting diverse communities of aquatic flora and fauna. Address diffuse pollution issues through partnership work with Natural England. Condition – 2% Favourable; 94% Unfavourable recovering; 4% Unfavourable declining.

**Jeffry Bog (Pt) (1.74)** – SINC. An area of marshy grassland close to the Jeffry Bog SSSI. Encourage continuation of existing management agreement (HLS) to safeguard interest.

**Ox Carr and Ben Woods (1.75)** – SINC. An Ancient woodland much of which has been replanted, although semi-natural sections remain. Ensure retention of native broadleaved woodland and encourage restoration of replanted sections.

**Ice House and Giff Wood (Pt) (1.76)** – SINC. The area between the railway and the river is a small Ancient semi-natural ash wood with a rich flora. Ensure retention as native broadleaved woodland.

**Howsham Wood (1.77)** – SINC. A large woodland of very high conservation interest, containing the



largest area of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland in the AONB. Other sections have been replanted with non-native species. Encourage the preparation and adoption of a comprehensive management plan, ensure retention of native broadleaved woodland and encourage restoration of replanted sections.

**Sandlands Meadow (1.78)** – SINC. A species-rich unimproved hay meadow adjacent to the River Derwent. Encourage continuation of existing sympathetic management.

**Adjacent to Sandlands Meadow SINC (1.79)** – SINC. An area of marshy grassland and mire, restored from conifer plantation from 2003 onwards. Willow cut in 2006 & 2007; Himalayan balsam controlled in 2006. Control willow regrowth and invasive non-native species (Himalayan balsam).

**Far Wood Close (1.80)** – SINC. An area of mainly unimproved neutral grassland adjacent to the River Derwent and Howsham Wood. Encourage sympathetic management.

**Grassland between Jeffry Bog SINC and Kirkham Park SSSI (1.81)** – SINC. An area of semi-improved neutral grassland next to the River Derwent SSSI. Encourage continuation of existing management agreement (HLS) on part of site to safeguard interest, and manage invasive non-native species (Himalayan balsam).

#### Historic Environment Priority Sites

A number of nationally important sites such as the Crambeck Roman potteries and Kirkham Priory lie in this Zone. Encourage enhanced or continued high-quality management of monuments and monitor their condition.

**Moated site, Low Hutton (2.95)** – SM. At Risk. Reduce erosion by stock. Encourage continuation of existing management agreement (HLS) to safeguard interest.

**Kirkham Priory – SM & medieval village, Kirkham (2.96)**. Low/Not at Risk. The Priory is managed by English Heritage but features on the north side of the road and elsewhere around the hamlet need to remain in sympathetic management. Manage the whole area of earthworks under a stable grass sward.

**Roman pottery kilns, Crambeck (2.97)** – SM. Low/Not at Risk. Reduce impact of forestry.

**Kirkham Bridge (2.98)** – SM. Vulnerable. Reduce damage by vehicles.

**Earthworks of medieval village, Crambe (2.99)** – Nationally important but unscheduled site that occupies a wide area around village, including house platforms, fields, trackways and ridge and furrow. Manage the whole area of earthworks under a stable grass sward. Consider further survey and encourage greater public appreciation of the village history.

Encourage the preparation and implementation of management plans which identify opportunities for conserving, enhancing and restoring elements of the historic landscape:

**Howsham Hall (2.100)** – RPG. Not at Risk. Encourage reversion of ploughed parkland back to grass and new tree planting appropriate to design.

In liaison with owners, encourage repair of Listed Buildings at Risk using grant resources available from local authorities and Government agencies. Where appropriate, explore opportunities for suitable

changes of use to ensure their long-term contribution to the cultural heritage of the area:

**Gate Lodges, Howsham Hall (2.102)**

**Folly, Howsham Hall (2.103)**

**Pond Farm, Crambe (2.104)** – Temporary roof consolidated 2005. Trees removed 2010. Southern gable consolidated 2012. Rainwater goods repaired 2013.

#### Recreation Priority Sites

**Kirkham Priory (3.15)** – The scenic remains of the Priory are managed by English Heritage and attract around 4,800 visitors a year. Served by an informal gravelled parking area that is generally adequate except at peak times. Parking area restored to original full extent and re-gravelled in 2010. Monitor usage and ensure maintenance so as to retain capacity and reduce overspill parking on adjacent road.

**Kirkham Bridge (3.16)** – The public footpath beside the river at Kirkham is very popular. The first field through which it passes is frequently used for picnicking and the river for swimming. The landowner has experienced problems caused by litter, trespass and conflict with livestock. Monitor situation.

**Badger Bank (3.17)** – A small but popular informal gravelled lay-by used as a base for walks in Howsham Wood. Local consultations in 1999 showed that proposed minor upgrading works were not supported. Area currently managed by low-key grass cutting operations. Consider alternative options, to define parking area better and prevent obstruction of adjacent access.

**Howsham Wood (3.18)** – A large riverside wood with a network of well-used tracks. Previously owned by the Forestry Commission, the wood was

sold to a private consortium in 1996 and a management agreement concluded to safeguard public access rights. Consider opportunities for interpretation material and extending access through agreement with adjacent landowners.

**Howsham Bridge** (3.19) – Two informal gravelled lay-bys at either end of the bridge, used by fishermen, visitors to Howsham Mill and as a base for riverside walks. Area at eastern end fenced in 2006, to create parking area for Howsham Mill. Monitor use of site at peak periods, to evaluate the need for future action.

**Huttons Ambo** (3.20) – A small informal tarmacked parking area used by fishermen and as a base for riverside walks. Planted willow saplings have now grown up and the unsightly sheet metal fence has been removed.

## Glossary

<b>Term used</b>	<b>Definition / Explanation</b>
Affordable Housing	Low cost housing for sale or rent, often from a housing association, provided to meet the needs of local people who cannot afford accommodation through the open market.
Agri-environment Schemes	A generic term for schemes operated by Defra, designed to encourage environmentally friendly farming and public enjoyment of the countryside.
Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW)	An ancient woodland site, believed to have had continuous woodland cover since 1600 AD, composed principally of native tree species that have not obviously been planted.
Ancient tree	An 'Ancient' tree will display many of the wildlife and habitat features of a 'veteran' tree but is in the third and final stage of its life. It will have passed beyond full maturity and the crown will be reducing in size, shedding redundant parts and accumulating dead wood.
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)	An area designated under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 where the primary purpose is the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty including flora, fauna, geology and landscape.
Biodiversity	The common term for "biological diversity", the variety of life and the natural processes of which living things are a part. The term includes living organisms, the genetic differences between them and the communities in which they occur.
Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs)	A plan, programme or strategy for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Biodiversity Action Plans are a key means by which the UK Government commitment to the Convention on Biological Diversity at Rio de Janeiro (1992) is to be met.
Biodiversity 2020 (BD2020)	The UK Government's strategy for implementing international and EU commitments on biodiversity in England. Prepared in 2010, it sets out the strategic direction for biodiversity policy for the next decade on land (including rivers and lakes) and at sea.
Climate change	The anticipated impact of modern human activity on the global environment, leading to a rise in temperatures in the UK, with additional environmental consequences.
Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)	European Union-wide policy that supports agriculture through price support, market management and measures to improve the agriculture industry
Condition monitoring	Monitoring the condition of the AONB to assess changes over time. Differs from performance monitoring that monitors completion of actions, etc within the Plan.
Conservation Area	Defined by section 69 of the Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as an area of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which is desirable to preserve or enhance.
Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act (2000)	Contains measures to improve public access to the open countryside and registered common land while recognising the legitimate interests of those who own and manage the land concerned; it amends the law relating to rights of way; it amends the law relating to nature conservation by strengthening protection for Sites of Special Scientific Interest including tougher penalties and by providing extra powers for the prosecution of wildlife crime; it provides a basis for the conservation of biological diversity; and it provides for better management of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, including the requirement for local authorities to produce AONB management plans every five years and places a duty on public bodies to have regard to the purposes of AONB designation.

Term used	Definition / Explanation		
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)	Central government body with the aim of sustainable development, which means a better quality of life for everyone, now and for generations to come, including: a better environment at home and internationally, and sustainable use of natural resources; economic prosperity through sustainable farming, fishing, food, water and other industries that meet consumers' requirements; thriving economies and communities in rural areas and a countryside for all to enjoy.	Highway Authority	The Highways Act 1980 defines a Highway Authority as the body responsible for maintaining all highways maintainable at public expense and keeping them free of obstruction, including responsibility for public rights of way. The Highway Authority in the Howardian Hills is North Yorkshire County Council.
Ecosystems services	Can be simply described as the benefits people obtain from ecosystems. These include: provisioning services (food and water); regulating services (flood and disease control); cultural services (such as spiritual and cultural benefits); and supporting services (such as nutrient cycling that maintains conditions for life on Earth).	Heritage asset	A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest. Heritage assets include both designated heritage assets and also assets identified by the local planning authority (including via local listing).
Geomorphology	The branch of physical geography which deals with the form of the earth, the general configuration of its surface and the distribution of land and water etc. together with the natural processes that contribute to the evolution of landscapes.	Historic environment	All aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time, including all surviving physical remains of past human activity, whether visible, buried or submerged, and landscaped and planted or managed flora.
Geodiversity	The variety of rocks, minerals, fossils, soils, landforms and natural processes.	Historic Parks and Gardens	Parks and Gardens containing historic features dating from 1939 or earlier and Registered by English Heritage in three Grades, as with historic buildings.
Green infrastructure	A network of multi-functional green space, both new and existing, both rural and urban, which supports the natural and ecological processes and is integral to the health and quality of life of sustainable communities. Green Infrastructure includes parks, open spaces, playing fields, woodlands, allotments and private gardens.	Invasive non-native species	Plant or animal species that has either been transported accidentally through human activity, or purposefully introduced, from their historically known native ranges into new ecosystems where they did not evolve, and which subsequently have adverse impacts on native flora and fauna.
Habitat	A place in which a particular plant or animal lives, or the wider interaction of plants and animals that are found together.	Landscape	An area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors.
		Landscape Assessment	Non-statutory document setting out the special qualities of the landscape, tracing its evolution and forces for change.

<b>Term used</b>	<b>Definition / Explanation</b>		
Landscape Character	A distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements in the landscape that makes one landscape different from another, rather than better or worse.	Local Nature Partnership (LNP)	Partnerships of a broad range of local organisations, businesses and people who aim to manage and bring about improvements in their local natural environment.
Landscape Character Area	A unique individual geographical area in which landscape types occur, which share generic characteristics with other areas of the same type but have their own particular identity.	Local Planning Authority (LPA)	The Local Authority, normally the local borough or district council, which is empowered by law to exercise planning functions.
Landscape character assessment (LCA)	The process of identifying and describing variation in the character of the landscape, and using this information to assist in managing change. The assessment seeks to identify and explain the unique combination of elements and features that make landscapes distinctive. The process results in the production of a Landscape Character Assessment (also shortened to LCA).	Local Transport Plan	A plan produced by the Highway Authority setting out future proposals for transport infrastructure over the following 5 years and attracting possible Government funding.
Landscape Feature	A prominent eye-catching element, e.g. wooded hill top or church spire.	National Character Area (NCA)	Developed by Natural England, these divide England into 159 distinct natural areas. Each is defined by a unique combination of landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity and cultural and economic activity. Their boundaries follow natural lines in the landscape rather than administrative boundaries, making them a good decision-making framework for the natural environment.
Listed Building	A building of architectural or historical importance, graded according to its merit (I, II*, II) and subject to special controls.	Natural England	The non-departmental public body of the UK government responsible for ensuring that England's natural environment, including its land, flora and fauna, freshwater and marine environments, geology and soils, are protected and improved. It also has a responsibility to help people enjoy, understand and access the natural environment.
Local Authority	An administrative unit of local government, specifically any body listed in section 270 of the Local Government Act 1972 or section 21(1) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.	National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)	Published by the Department of Communities and Local Government in March 2012 for use in England. A 65 page document, with a 27 page Technical Guidance appendix, it replaced nearly thirty Planning Policy Statements (PPS) and Planning Policy Guidance Notes (PPG) running to over 1300 pages.
Local Distinctiveness	Essentially the sum of points of connection between the place and the person. It is an expression of how landscapes are valued as places which have a distinctiveness and significance that communities cherish as their own and seek to find alternatives to the spread of uniformity in the countryside.	Parkland	A large piece of ground usually comprising woodland, pasture and formal gardens, currently or once attached to a country house or mansion.
Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)	Partnerships between local authorities and businesses. They aim to determine local economic priorities and undertake activities to drive economic growth and create jobs.	Permanent pasture	Any pasture composed of perennial or self-seeding annual plants kept indefinitely for grazing.

<b>Term used</b>	<b>Definition / Explanation</b>		
Permissive path	A route where the landowner has granted permission for public use, usually for foot access but occasionally for horse riders, but which is not dedicated as a public right of way.	Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	Area identified by Natural England under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 for protection by reason of the rarity of its nature conservation, wildlife features or geological interest.
Planted Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS)	Ancient Woodland Sites in which the former tree cover has been replaced, often with non-native trees. PAWS often retain important ancient woodland features including characteristic flora, fauna and archaeology.	Sites and Monument Record (SMR)	A database of sites of archaeological interest and potential within a particular area, usually a county.
Priority Habitats and Species	Habitats and species listed under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006.	Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	Site designated according to the Habitats Directive 93/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and wild fauna and flora. SAC defines a site of Community Importance designated by member states through a statutory, administrative and/or contractual act, where the necessary conservation measures are applied for the maintenance or restoration, at a favourable conservation status, of the natural habitats and/or the populations of the species for which the site is designated. All SACs in the UK are SSSIs.
Public Right of Way (PRoW)	A route where the public has a right to walk, and in some cases ride horses, bicycles, motorcycles, wheeled carriages or drive motor vehicles which is designated either a footpath, a bridleway, Restricted Byway, Carriage or Cart Road used mainly as a Footpath or Bridleway or a byway open to all traffic (BOAT). These are shown on the 'Definitive Map' held by the Highway Authority. A route may also have higher rights eg. be a County Road or other Highway; or simply be incorrectly signed or waymarked and/or have private rights of access.	Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)	A site which is important due to the presence of notable species or an important habitat. SINCs form part of a wider national network of non-statutory locally valued wildlife sites and are generally administered by local authorities in partnership with conservation organisations.
Public Transport	Methods of transporting passengers including buses, trains and taxis but not car passengers.	Special Qualities	The unique set of characteristic features/landscape character for which an area of countryside is deemed worthy of designation as an AONB or National Park. The Special Qualities of the Howardian Hills AONB are fully described on p8 of the Management Plan.
Renewable energy	Energy generated from resources that are non-fossil fuels, and are unlimited, rapidly replenished or naturally renewable such as wind, water, sun, wave and refuse. Thus the technology includes wind turbines, wave generators, biofuels, solar power, wood fuel burners and boilers etc.		
Scheduled Monument (SAM)	A structure identified by English Heritage for protection under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.		
Setting	The surroundings in which a valued area, site, building or feature is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve.		

Term used	Definition / Explanation		
Statutory Undertaker	<p>Statutory undertakers are organisations authorised by statute or licensed by central government to perform various public undertakings. Section 98 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 defines a statutory undertaker as any person authorised by any enactment to carry out any railway, light railway, tramway, road transport, canal, inland navigation, dock, harbour or pier undertaking or any relevant airport operator.</p> <p>The New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 defines as Statutory Undertakers all utilities namely electricity, gas, water, telephone, cable telephone, television and other telecommunications companies.</p>	Utilities	Organisations performing a public service i.e. Water, gas, electricity etc.
		Veteran Tree	<p>A 'veteran' tree is usually in the second or mature stage of its life, generally with a full crown but also having important wildlife and habitat features such as hollowing or associated decay fungi, holes, wounds and large dead branches. The term 'veteran' generally refers to old trees but can also include younger, middle aged trees where premature aging characteristics are present.</p>
Sustainable Development	<p>The widely used definition is "Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs".</p>	Village Design Statement	<p>A document produced by a community to identify local character and set out design guidance for new development.</p>
Tranquillity	<p>Composite feature which seeks to characterise elements of wildness, solitude, peace and quiet, relating principally to low levels of built development, traffic, noise and artificial lighting.</p>		

*Produced on behalf of  
North Yorkshire County Council, Ryedale District Council  
and Hambleton District Council by:*

**HOWARDIAN HILLS AONB  
JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

*The Mews, Wath Court, Hovingham, York. YO62 4NN*