



## Annual Review 2006/07

## AONB FACTS & FIGURES

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- The AONB covers 603 km<sup>2</sup> of land in the foothills of the Pennines in North Yorkshire;
  - Nidderdale AONB shares its western boundary with the Yorkshire Dales National Park;
  - 95% of the AONB falls within Harrogate District with a smaller share in Richmondshire and Hambleton Districts. The AONB is wholly within the County of North Yorkshire;
  - The AONB is administered by Harrogate Borough Council in conjunction with North Yorkshire. It is overseen by a Joint Advisory Committee that comprises 28 members of the local authorities, Parishes, landowning bodies, community groups, business interests and Government Agencies;
  - The six member AONB Team is based in Pateley Bridge, the largest town in the AONB;
  - 20,534 hectares (34%) of the AONB is moorland dominated by heather;
  - There are 5,946 hectares of upland heath and blanket bog;
  - 16,612 hectares of the AONB's moorlands are of international importance and designated as a Special Protection Area and candidate Special Area of Conservation;
  - The Fountains Abbey World Heritage Site is within the AONB's boundary;
  - There are 14 Conservation Areas, 126 Scheduled Ancient Monuments and 545 Listed Buildings in the AONB;
  - An estimated 1,329 people are employed on 840 farms covering 75% of the AONB;
  - There were 200,000 sheep on farms in the AONB in 2003;
  - 7% of the AONB is woodland including 1,200 hectares of Ancient Woodland, 2,450 is planted conifer woodland and 1,400 is broadleaved;
  - The population of the AONB is 15,671. 68% is in employment, 12% is aged between 16-29 and 15% is retired;
  - 20% of the households in Pateley Bridge do not have access to private transport; there has been a 13% increase in traffic flow on 'C' roads in the AONB since 2001;
  - 30% of towns and villages have access to a bus service providing four journeys per day;
  - There are 820 kms of public rights of way in the AONB;
  - An estimated 35% of the AONB is subject to the new right of access to open country;
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## foreword



Welcome to the fifth Annual Review of work carried out by the Nidderdale AONB Joint Advisory Committee and the AONB Team.

I am pleased to take this opportunity to highlight some of the projects, events and achievements of the past year. What has particularly impressed me is the way in which the funding available has been used so creatively and effectively to deliver so many projects.

This also seems a good time to mention some matters in which I am involved. These include working with partner organisations such as NYCC's Countryside Services on, for example, ensuring improvements to the Public Rights of Way network and with Harrogate Borough Council's Planning Department on the decision making process. Recently I took part in the Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal Site Management Plan Review and I regularly meet with Yorkshire Water to discuss topics of mutual interest.

The role of Chairman of the JAC together with the role of Historic Environment Champion for NYCC have provided me with a number of opportunities to demonstrate the many examples of good practice amongst the work undertaken in the AONB, for instance in publications and at conferences both within the county and further afield.

A current example is a request from English Heritage to put on, in the AONB, a Yorkshire and the Humber regional event for Members of the Historic Environment Forum and Historic Environment Champions.

A further opportunity to raise awareness of rural issues on a more general basis comes through my recent appointment to the Yorkshire and the Humber Regional Affairs Forum Steering Group. The role of the Forum is to assist with the delivery of the Y & H Rural Framework. Through the Chairman the views of the Forum have direct feedback to a DEFRA minister which must be one of the most direct routes to Government of any organisation.

Finally I would like to thank Paul Burgess and his team for the excellent progress made in delivering the Management Plan. During the next year an important task will be the development of the second Five Year Management Plan.

County Councillor Heather Garnett  
Chairman, Nidderdale AONB Joint Advisory Committee

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## *preface*

The Joint Advisory Committee's goal is to ensure that:

- Stewardship of natural beauty is a priority for everyone
- Tranquillity and opportunities for quiet enjoyment of nature are protected
- Biodiversity is valued for its own sake
- The legacy of the historic environment is celebrated
- Local distinctiveness is maintained
- The livelihoods of local communities are protected

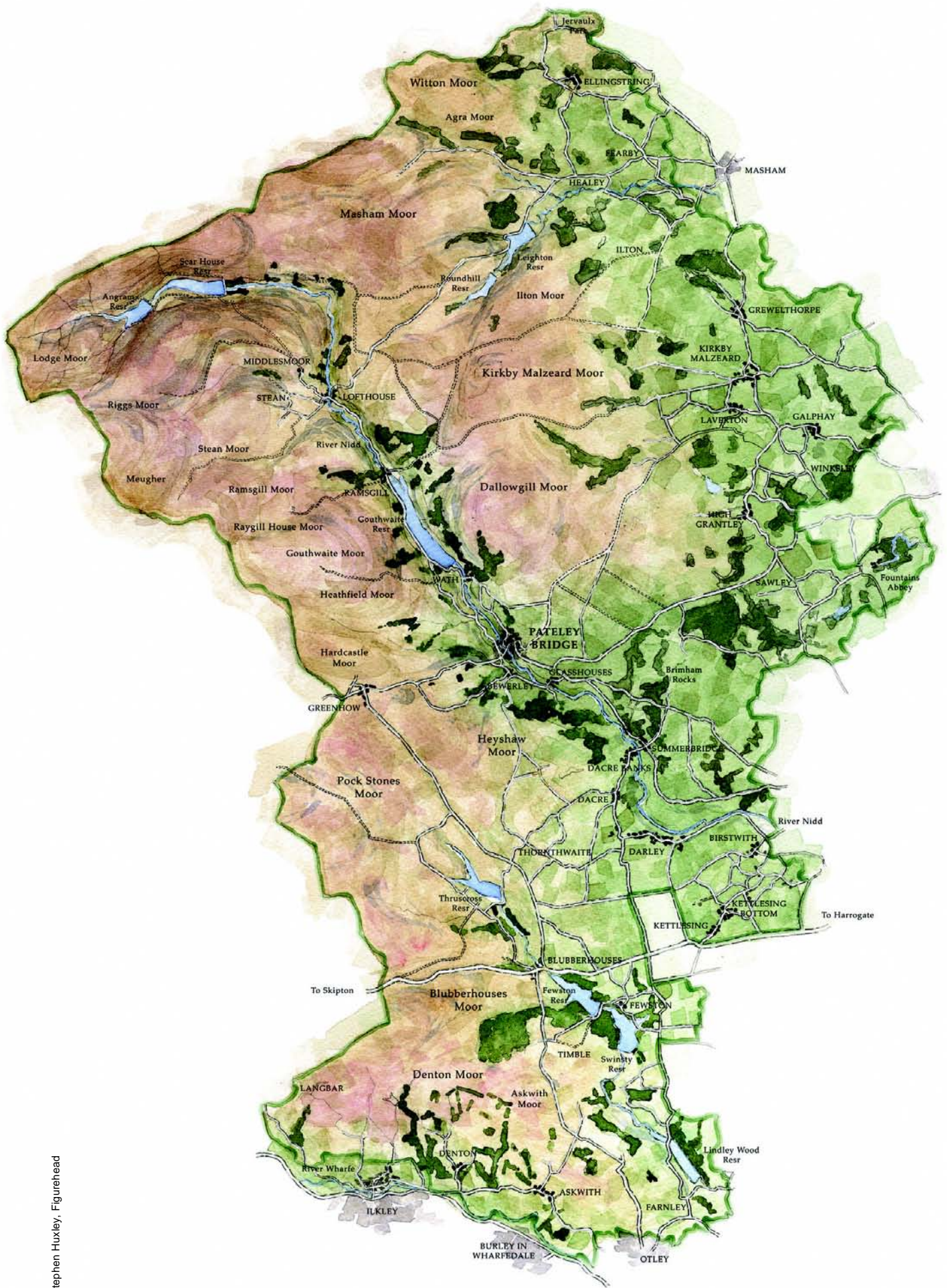
A detailed statement about the Joint Advisory Committee's ambition for the future of the AONB to 2024 is contained in the Management Plan for 2004-2009 ([www.nidderdaleaonb.org.uk/nidderdale-220](http://www.nidderdaleaonb.org.uk/nidderdale-220)).

The production and distribution of this Annual Review is part of an ongoing process of monitoring to see how much progress the Committee is making towards its goals. The Review reflects the responsibility shared by the JAC and the AONB Team to account for their work to the local authorities that are responsible for the designation, to the AONB's funding partners, to organisations with a particular interest in the AONB and to the wider community.

It contains a summary of work carried out in accordance with priorities set out in the AONB Management Plan 2004-2009. The detailed targets which underpin this work form part of a Service Delivery Plan that was approved by the JAC in March 2006. The Committee received a detailed report on progress towards meeting these targets in March 2007.



*The road over Agill.*



# PART 1 - *Setting the Scene*

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## AONB Designation

The primary purpose of AONB designation is to conserve and enhance natural beauty - its flora, fauna and geological or physiographical features.

However, the Government's policy for AONBs states that: "In pursuing the primary purpose account should be taken of the needs of agriculture, forestry, other rural industries and of the economic and social needs of local communities. Particular regard should be paid to promoting sustainable forms of social and economic development that in themselves conserve and enhance the environment."

The formation of Natural England in October 2006 created a new parent body for AONBs. The publication of its "Strategic Direction 2006-2009" reaffirmed the importance of AONB designation but signalled a new emphasis on multi-purpose landscapes: Natural England is committed to conservation of both landscape and biodiversity for its own sake, but is also determined to show how investment in conservation can deliver public benefits such as reducing the harmful effects of climate change and improved health and well-being.

## Special qualities

Landscape Character is a distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements in the landscape that makes one landscape different from another, rather than better or worse. It gives rise to a "sense of place" that defines people's understanding and appreciation of these elements in the landscape.

Several studies contain accounts of the AONBs landscape character including the Joint Countryside Character Assessments produced by English Nature and the Countryside Agency. Harrogate Borough Council produced a detailed Landscape Character

Assessment in 2004. The Countryside Commission examined the AONBs landscape in detail in 1991 before the designation process got under way.

The Commission's report called 'The Nidderdale Landscape' identified eight landscape character types within the boundary of the designated area:

- moorland plateau
- grassland plateau
- upper valley
- middle valley
- lower valley
- vale
- upland fringe
- Wharfedaleside

The report confirmed that the Special Qualities of the landscape enclosed by the boundary of the designation originally drawn in 1949 remains of national importance.

The Special Qualities of the Nidderdale AONB include:

- Contrasting scenery with dramatic views across remote moorlands to distant horizons together with sheltered valleys and rolling farmland
- Sandstone tors like those at Brimham together with steep crags that mark the edge of many river valleys in the AONB
- Internationally important wildlife habitats characterised by birds such as red grouse, golden plover and merlin
- A rich and diverse historic environment including a World Heritage Site at Fountains Abbey, over a hundred sites contained in the Historic Environment Record and more than five hundred listed buildings

- Extensive woodland including commercial plantations and ancient broadleaved woods with a network of species-rich hedgerows on the eastern edge of the designated area
- Wetlands ranging from the eleven reservoirs with their associated dams, weirs and sluices to the three river catchments plus numerous lakes and water features associated with the numerous AONBs designed landscapes
- An extensive network of public rights of way incorporating access for people of all abilities and regional walking trails such as the Nidderdale Way and the 'Ripon Rowel'
- Over 125 square miles of open access land where walkers can explore the AONB on foot



JAONB

*A footpath near Timble*

## JAC meetings in 2006/07

The JAC's terms of reference are:

- To promote awareness and understanding of the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and the purposes for which it was designated
- To advise the local authorities and other bodies on countryside conservation, informal recreation and environmental management issues affecting the AONB
- To advise on the preparation and implementation of a Management Plan for the AONB
- To consider and offer advice on development plan policies, proposals and reviews insofar as they relate to the AONB
- To act as a forum for the discussion of major issues affecting the character of the AONB and, where appropriate, make recommendations
- To act as a forum where the local authorities can discuss and coordinate their activities in the area
- To agree and monitor an annual programme of work, within resources made available by the constituent bodies and others.

The Committee consists of 28 Members drawn from local authorities, landowning organisations, community groups, Government agencies and business. A full list of JAC Members is available from our website at: [www.nidderdaleaonb.org.uk](http://www.nidderdaleaonb.org.uk). Meetings are held in village halls and other venues across the AONB.

The Committee met three times during 2006:

### **23<sup>rd</sup> March, Darley**

The JAC approved a Service Delivery Plan for 2006/07 that contained targets for the AONB team geared to the budget for the year that had been approved in outline by the JAC in October 2005. Members also considered a report on the JAC's Constitution prompted by a debate about local authority elected member representation from outside the designated area. It was agreed that the local authorities should be consulted about the issues raised.

## 12<sup>th</sup> July, Kettleasing

Members of the JAC approved a proposal to create a new Farm Conservation Advisor role in the AONB team, to be developed in conjunction with North Yorkshire Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group. The meeting was also received a presentation from the Head of Conservation & Policy at the Yorkshire Dales National Park on the Park's new Management Plan for the period 2006-2011. The Rural Development Service gave a presentation on existing mechanisms for protecting dry stone walls, and a representative of the Hackfall Trust, who introduced plans for the restoration of Hackfall, was followed by an account of progress with Harrogate's Local Development Framework.

## 10th October, Pateley Bridge

The meeting began with annual elections for the Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the Planning Panel that had been postponed in July. Elections were followed by a further report on the JAC's Constitution led to endorsement of a proposal to set up a Business Plan Review Working Party with a remit to carry out a thorough investigation of the JAC's structure, function and way of working. The meeting also received a report on an outline budget for 2007/08, a presentation on North Yorkshire's plans for the AONB's Rights of Way network, and an account of Natural England's formation and organisational priorities.

The Committee oversees the work of the AONB team, which is funded by Natural England with support from local authorities including North Yorkshire County and Harrogate Borough Councils.

## AONB Team

In 2006/07, the Team comprised:

Paul Burgess:	AONB Officer
Sarah Kettlewell:	Assistant AONB Officer
Barry Slaymaker:	AONB Ranger and AONB Friends Co-ordinator (4 days per week)
Colin Slator:	AONB Ranger (2 days per week)
Michelle Pearson/ Mary Jones:	Administrator (job share)
Aidan Rayner/ Dave Ranner:	Access Officer (job share)
Marian Wilby:	Farm Conservation Adviser (3 days per week)
Rachel Earnshaw:	Education Officer (2 days per month)
Isobel Hall:	Sustainable Development Fund Officer (1 day per week)

## Business Plan for the AONB

The Joint Advisory Committee's work is guided by a Business Plan first produced in 2001 and amended in 2004. The purpose of the Business Plan is to describe the way forward for the AONB Team and the JAC in response to the goals set by the Management Plan. It contains a Service Delivery Plan with detailed targets designed to achieve the actions identified in the Management Plan. The Service Delivery Plan is reviewed and updated annually.



*Dallowgill Moor*

# PART 2 - Performance

## POLICY

### Business Plan Review Working Party

Convened by the JAC in October 2006 the Working Party's remit was to review governance of the Nidderdale AONB by examining:

- The key challenges facing protected landscapes including AONBs;
- The role of the JAC as a guardian or champion of the designation locally, across the region and nationally;
- The relationship between the JAC and partners;
- The composition of the JAC;
- JAC operating procedures including the Constitution and the role of sub-groups;
- The capacity and effectiveness of the AONB Team.

The Working Party met on 4 occasions during 2006/07. Two workshops were organised in March to survey stakeholder views on the JAC's performance, and a questionnaire survey of wider public opinion attracted over a 1000 responses.

### Planning Policy

The JAC commented on emerging Local Development Framework policies in Harrogate and Hambleton Districts. The Committee's comments emphasised the importance of conserving the AONB's landscape while making appropriate provision for the following categories of new development:

- Affordable housing;
- Small-scale renewable energy installations;
- New land-based enterprise;
- Tourism.

The JAC also submitted evidence to the public inquiry into the draft Regional Spatial Strategy. The comments welcomed environmental protection policy but argued that the sub regional boundaries underpinning sub-regional policy prescriptions should be amended to ensure that all of the AONB is covered by policies geared to the Remoter Rural parts of the region. The JAC reiterated its position in respect of provision for sustainable development in the AONB.

The JAC commissioned consultants to prepare guidance for individuals and businesses contemplating equestrian development in the AONB. Harrogate Borough Council agreed to adopt the guidance as a Special Planning Document.

### Planning Applications

The local planning authorities consult the JAC about large-scale residential or commercial development, waste disposal, minerals and telecommunications applications, and about major highway schemes. The JAC can also request details of development proposals that fall outside these categories but may have an impact on the AONB nonetheless. Responsibility for the JAC's response to planning matters is delegated to the AONB Officer in consultation with a four member Planning Panel. The Planning Panel responded to 32 consultations on applications for planning permission in the AONB 2006/07.



Pateley Bridge

## Rural Practitioners Group

The AONB is represented in a regional forum of senior staff working for organisations that form part of the DEFRA network. Convened by the Government Office's Rural Directorate, in 2005/06 it included representatives of the Regional Development Agency, Forestry Commission, Natural England, Countryside Agency, Environment Agency, National Parks and Third Sector bodies such as the Yorkshire Rural Community Council. The Group met three times in 2006/07 to consider a range of issues:

- Regional recycling initiatives;
- Water Framework Directive;
- Local Area Agreements;
- RDPE delivery.

## National Association for AONBs & the Northern Group of AONBs

The AONB was represented at the 2006 annual conference of the Association in Swansea in July, and at two meetings of the Northern Group of AONBs at the Northumberland Coast in September and in Leeds to review arrangements for the proposed northern AONB coordinator role.

## PEOPLE & PARTNERSHIPS

### AONB Funding Partners Group

This Group consists of representatives from the 3 organisations who contribute directly towards meeting both core and project costs associated with maintaining the AONB Team: the Countryside Agency, Harrogate Borough Council and North Yorkshire County Council. Its purpose is to provide funding bodies with feedback on progress, to monitor budgets and determine new policy directions for consideration by the Joint Advisory Committee. The Group met on 3 occasions during 2005/06.

### 2006 Nidderdale AONB Annual Conference

This year's Conference took place on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November at Fountains Abbey. Attended by over 100 people, delegates were welcomed by JAC Chairman Heather Garnett. The event was an opportunity to share knowledge and to listen to interesting talks from guest speakers. Two of these were from Dr Frances Drake, who delivered a presentation on the science of

climate change and Yorwoods Director Will Richardson, who focussed on the new AONB - Dales National Park Conference biomass heating project. Andrew Ellis of Harrogate Borough Council rounded off the presentations by highlighting measures individuals can take to reduce their Carbon footprint.

The Conference concluded with workshops where delegates pledged actions that will save an estimated 5000kg of CO<sup>2</sup>.

### Friends of the AONB

The Friends Organisation has grown from strength to strength and has achieved charitable status enabling the group to extend the potential for funding projects.

The aims of the charity are:

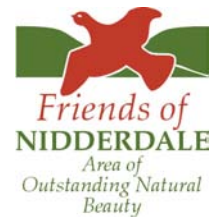
- To promote, enhance and conserve the physical and natural environment and its natural beauty for the public benefit within the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
- To advance the knowledge and understanding of the public in the physical and natural environment including but not limited to the management of natural resources and local economic development that is environmentally sustainable.

It currently has over 400 members and has received donations in excess of £8,000. These donations are available to worthy projects in the AONB that help to further the designated aims and objectives.

In 2006/2007 three projects were supported by the Friends:

- improvement works at Picking Gill in Sawley
- tree planting
- Fellbeck Archaeology Group.

In association with the Nidderdale Agricultural Society, the Friends have initiated an Enterprising Farm Award to recognise and encourage 'full time' farmers who employ innovative and sustainable practices. This award is funded by Carter Jonas and in 2006 was presented to Robert Greensit of Ellingstring.



In 2006 over 300 members attended Friends events held throughout the year, with over 50 people turning out on the 6<sup>th</sup> of January to plant trees at Thruscross.

## Young Rangers

The AONB Young Rangers group for children aged between 7 and 13 was launched in early 2004 and continues to grow. Developed and supervised by BTCV on behalf of the AONB, it quickly became established in the AONB. Activities during 2006 include:

- Pond dipping
- Introduction to geology
- Bird box making
- Tree planting

A Young Rangers Newsletter was produced and members of the Group attended country shows to represent the Group and the AONB. Nine Young Rangers successfully took part in the John Muir Award scheme, an environmental award that encourages young people to learn about conservation of wild places, from a mountain top to an urban garden. It focuses on awareness and responsibility for the natural environment, in a spirit of fun, adventure and exploration.

The Education Officer produced recommendations for new Young Rangers pages on the AONB website, and helped a local farmer develop pages for schools on his organic milk website.

## AONB Website

The AONB's website was reviewed and updated on a weekly basis through the year, with new items posted on the front page on a regular basis alongside reports and information about the AONB's work, including application forms for the new Greenhow Landscape and Biodiversity Conservation grant scheme, and notice of consultation on the Equestrian Development Design Guide SPD.

The number of hits recorded between April 2006 and March 2007 show an increase in visitors to the website from just under 22,000 a month to a high of 36,500. The total number of hits over that 12 month period was 322,200.

## Newsletters

Two editions of the AONB's newsletter for residents were produced in autumn 2006 and spring 2007 and delivered direct to 13,500 homes in the AONB by Royal Mail. The newsletters convey key messages to local people about the benefits of living in a nationally protected landscape and the role they can play to help protect it.

20,000 copies of a summer tabloid style newsletter for visitors was also produced and distributed to hotels, bed and breakfasts, campsites, visitor attractions, shops, pubs and tourist information centres. This newsletter contains information about places to visit, walks, and events and encourages sustainable tourism.

## Events

The AONB ran a full programme of summer events aimed primarily at visitors to the AONB. The 47 activities, attended by over 500 people, were led by local volunteers on behalf of the AONB, and an AONB representative attended every event to welcome the group with a brief overview of the AONB. A programme of ten events were arranged for Spring 2007. They covered a diverse range of subjects from butterflies to birds of the Washburn Valley.



AONB stand at the Nidderdale Show

/AONB



Red Grouse

## CONSERVING NATURAL BEAUTY

### The Historic Parks and Gardens Group

This volunteer group was established in 2006 following the award of LHI funding. The Group of up to 25 volunteer researchers met twice a month from autumn 2006, and established close links with York University's Department of Archaeology and the Gardens Trust.

The Group's objective is to identify the historic parks and gardens in the Nidderdale AONB and to record the results on a database.

### The AONB Environmental Enhancement Scheme

£15,000 was available from the AONB Environmental Enhancement Scheme to assist projects which help to conserve the special qualities of the AONB.

Funding was awarded to 18 separate projects during 2006 with a total value in excess of £22,700. The projects include:

- assisting in funding a number of local country shows and events
- producing an interpretation board in Darley on the bank of Fringill Beck
- being involved in the production of a programme of walks that are all accessible through public transport
- regenerating an old hedge
- helping to enhance a school garden to encourage biodiversity and education

## Sustainable Development Fund

The Nidderdale AONB had a budget of £80,000 available to the Sustainable Development Fund for the financial year 2006/2007. Ten percent of this can be used for administration, with the remainder being available as grant aid for projects which further AONB purposes. This has been successfully administered through the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust by Isobel Hall. The full budget was allocated and the total combined project value was £150,000.

8 projects were grant aided through this fund covering a wide range of activities from assisting with a local organic dairy to helping a Community Centre renovation install energy saving features, such as ground source heating.

## Built Environment Initiative

£20,000 of Built Environment Initiative funding was committed by Harrogate Borough Council to the AONB Enhancement Scheme in 2006/07, which was used to draw match funding of £15,000 from the (former) Countryside Agency. £20,000 was awarded to three projects, these being:

- The repair of the roof of the Robinson Library at Timble
- The restoration of Robin Hoods Well at Studley Royal
- The restoring of the yorkstone paving to Kings Court, Pateley Bridge

Also some funds allocated, but not spent, in the previous year were reallocated to other schemes:

- Supplementary grant for the Deer House, Swinton
- Supplementary grant for the paving at Kings Court, and
- Allocation for repairs to Fewston Cemetery Chapel

The other projects from previous years are complete except the repairs to the ancient monument at Providence Smelt Mill, where it is hoped that work will start on site later this year, or early next spring.



*Hansons' staff at the Coldstones observation platform.*

## Greenhow Landscape & Biodiversity Enhancement Fund

In 2005, Hanson was awarded planning consent by North Yorkshire County Council to extend the earth mound that screens the quarry workings from surrounding views. As a condition of planning consent, Hanson were obliged to set up an environment fund to mitigate the impact of the extension on the surrounding landscape, which is part of the AONB.

The new Fund is worth £130 000 in total from now until the end of the quarry's life in 2027. The Fund will be administered by Trustees drawn from the Nidderdale AONB Joint Advisory Committee, North Yorkshire County Council, Harrogate Borough Council, and Hanson together with representatives of Thornthwaite, Thruscross and Bewerley Parish Councils.

The objectives of the Fund are to:

- Maintain and enhance habitats, species and landscape features
- Create new habitats and buffer areas
- Restore linkages between habitats
- Monitor existing, restored, newly created and translocated habitats

Awards totalling more than £9 000 were made by the Trustees from the 2006 budget to three projects in Greenhow (walling on Duck Street, alongside the B6265 through the village and, on land behind the Church, tree planting plus more walling and pond construction).

## Parish Caretakers

Parish Caretakers are employed by the Parish to improve the rural environment by managing roadside verges, public open spaces and rights of way.

A total of eleven Caretakers were funded in 2006/2007 using grant aid totalling £16,733. The Parishes involved provided a match of at least 20% of the funds giving a total project value in excess of £20,050. They are Bewerley, Dacre, Grantley, Grewelthorpe, Hartwith, Lower Washburn, Masham, Menwith/Darley, Pateley Bridge, Thruscross and Upper Nidderdale.

A further two parishes expressed a desire to join the scheme. The Caretaker's work programme is decided by the Parishes who submit monthly work plans to the AONB Office for prior approval. North Yorkshire County Council identified the AONB Caretaker scheme as a 'good practice' example of devolved service provision.

## Farm Advice

Management of the AONB's special qualities is inextricably linked to farming, and the JAC decided to appoint a part-time Farm Conservation Advisor under contract to North Yorkshire Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group to provide support for farming and farmers. From July 2006 to March 2007, 38 farm visits were undertaken, resulting in:

- 23 Entry Level Scheme agreements covering 2273ha of land;
- six Higher Level Schemes agreements covering over 1198ha;

The full-term value of these agreements for the farmers involved is £822 753.



*Tree planting maintenance at Bewerley.*

## Tree Wardens

Tree Wardens are an enthusiastic group of volunteers who work with their local parishes throughout the AONB to promote trees and woodland, and assist with tree-related issues.

The group were successful in attracting a Local Heritage Initiative Fund grant to help to establish a project to survey veteran trees and ancient woodland in the AONB. The initial phase of the project was completed with all objectives having been met. The project has shared results with the North and East Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre in York.

A leaflet has been produced to explain to landowners, farmers and other interested parties the importance of ancient trees and why they need to be recorded.

A Blubberhouses tree walk leaflet was produced, incorporating a tree identification key showing winter twigs and summer leaves. A walk around the highlighted route was organised to launch the leaflet and proved so popular that it was oversubscribed.

Various talks and identification sessions were organised throughout the year to help develop the volunteers. Along with tree planting sessions at various locations throughout the AONB, a community woodland was established on land owned by Yorkshire Water at Thruscross.

### **Nidderdale Countryside Volunteers**

The Nidderdale Countryside Volunteers meet fortnightly throughout the year doing practical conservation work in a variety of locations in the AONB. The main focus is the improvement of wildlife habitats and includes scrub clearance to protect grassland flora, the creation of forest rides to encourage invertebrates such as butterflies, control of ragwort and balsam, hedgelaying and the repair of dry stone walls. Future sessions include tuition on the traditional management technique of heather burning.

Each year the Volunteers have an annual away day. This year it was arranged for late June at Roudsey Woods National Nature Reserve in south Cumbria, in the company of the site manager and an arachnid expert, to observe a rare fen spider.

### **Nidderdale Dry Stone Walling Group**

This small but enthusiastic group meet weekly to repair walls in the AONB that are associated with conservation schemes, particularly Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC), and where the integrity of the wall boundary is an important element in the preserving both the natural and cultural heritage.

A number of sites were worked on in 2006 including the completion of a project to repair a boundary wall at Thornthwaite Common, the construction of two training walls at Bewerley Park Centre for Outdoor Education and the repair of a retaining wall alongside a bridleway near Wilsill. A taster day and two team building activities were also organised.

## **MANAGING ACCESS**

### **Access to Open Country in the AONB**

2006/07 saw the pilot year of a project to improve the public rights of way network within the AONB working in partnership with NYCC. Over the course of the year over 20km of paths were upgraded to high standard and over 200 AONB design signposts were installed. 2007/08 will see this work continued in the parishes of Menwith, Dacre and Bewerley.



*Gouthwaite reservoir.*

T. Bunney

## PART 3 - Financial Summary

<i><b>Expenditure</b></i> <i>(2006/07 Financial Year)</i>	<b>£</b>	<i><b>Income</b></i> <i>(2006/07 Financial Year)</i>	<b>£</b>
Salaries (including National Insurance, Superannuation, Overtime, Travel and Training) .....	134,407	North Yorkshire County Council .....	17,860
Accommodation and Office costs .....	27,417	Natural England .....	254,555
Partnership budget for promotion(PR) & Events ..	16,953	Second Homes Tax grant .....	1,050
Partnership Running Costs .....	7,587	BTCV (Young Rangers) .....	3,737
AONB Conference .....	1,286	Misc Income inc Events income .....	8,949
Farm Conservation Project .....	11,064	Harrogate Borough Council.....	53,658
Summer Events .....	3,804		
Young Rangers .....	8,264		
AONB Education Project .....	3,566		
Parish Caretakers .....	10,330		
AONB Enhancement Scheme .....	35,131		
Sustainable Development Fund .....	80,000		
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>339,809</b>	<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>339,809</b>