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Executive summary

The Lime & Ice project has sought to provide quality opportunities for people to understand, explore and enjoy the landscape heritage of the south-west corner of the North York Moors National Park and the northern part of the adjoining Howardian Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The project ran from 2008 to 2013. There is much to celebrate as the project comes to a close and lessons to share and learn from. This report is intended to be a summary and brief assessment of the project’s activities.

- The structure of the project – to involve groups of people at a higher level of engagement in the beginning stages of the project followed by greater numbers at a lesser level of engagement has proved a successful strategy.
- Focus has been on promoting the activities and not on the project itself has ensured that there was a continuity and strength of focus on the aims of the project.
- The volunteering effort has been tremendous and proved a major contribution to the project. 2650 volunteer days have been achieved - twice the original volunteering target.
- The most impassioned initiatives which would not have been possible without volunteers have been the Boltby Scar excavations, the Yearsley Moor project (both of which achieved far more than originally planned and drew in additional funding) and the Drovers’ Road community play (see Appendix 4 for details).
- As well as acquiring knowledge and understanding of the area’s heritage the volunteers have experienced notable social, personal, learning and practical benefits.
- 86 varied events were held over the course of the project which were attended by approximately 4000 people.
- Events enabled the project to reach many different audiences including families, young people, older people, local people and visitors. Offering specialist or highly knowledgeable event leaders generated a high satisfaction among attendees. Family events around the area have contributed to the sense of being out in the landscape and learning about and enjoying it.
- Over 600 school children have been involved with the project under two different formal education programmes, helping children to engage with the landscape in a many ways.
- A permanent Lime and Ice exhibition has been installed at the Sutton Bank National Park Centre inspiring people about the landscape heritage.
- Five archaeological excavations have taken place.
- Thirteen circular walks around villages have been upgraded and two ‘easy access’ trails created.
- High media coverage with approximately eighty print media articles, twelve radio interviews plus online articles, videos and blogs generated.
- Adding value to local events such as the ‘Wass Environmental Weekend’ organised by the villages residents was successful and took place several times during the course of the project. This could be a model for the NPA and AONB to consider in terms of creating events which ‘put across’ the desired messages by supporting and enabling communities to undertake their organisation and delivery.
1. Background

The geographical project area

The Lime & Ice area spans the south-west corner of the North York Moors National Park and the northern part of the adjoining the Howardian Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) – see appendix 1 for map detail.

The area’s characteristic limestone geology and later shaping by the ice of powerful glaciers has rendered a landscape of dramatic escarpments, sweeping upland plateaus and tranquil dales. This landscape has dictated human activity in the area since prehistory. The area’s natural and cultural landscape heritage are almost always intrinsically linked.

Project theme

The geological and glacial history of the area has created a unique landscape resulting in a strong influence over the nature and development of human activity.

Aims

1. enjoyment (a) of and high quality opportunities for learning about (b) the geological and glacial history and the interaction between topography and human activity

2. management of the distinctive heritage by existing and new audiences, groups and volunteers

3. and to enable communities, organisations and groups to sustain active input to and benefits from the heritage

Development background

Initially this project was to be developed as a Heritage Lottery Fund’s (HLF) Landscape Partnership scheme bid. On advice from the HLF, approximately half way through the process the scale and type of the project was revised. This resulted in the majority of proposed land conservation measures being removed, along with some aspects relating to heritage skills training.

The revised project scope involved people in exploring the area’s landscape heritage through a sequence of interpretive and engaging interventions. The project was therefore considered and ultimately funded under the HLF Heritage Grants scheme.

CAN DO Partnership

The CAN DO Partnership was established in 2004 and was created with the intention of bringing together a range of organisations with similar intents to work more closely on a specific geographic area. The CAN DO Partnership has ten strategic aims and the activities of the Lime & Ice project were designed to meet the aspirations of the aims associated with Information, Partnership and Access (see appendix 2 for further detail).
2. Project delivery

**Project staff**

The Project Officer’s role was always to be associated with budget management, coordination, promotion, main point of contact and direct delivery of some initiatives.

The Assistant Project Officer’s role has been more associated with volunteer management and events organisation.

The breakdown of tasks has worked well although there was some natural overlap and switching of tasks over time. The level of working with communities and groups required the team to develop additional skills in order to successfully deliver all the elements of the project.

**Contractors and consultants**

The majority of work undertaken by consultants and contractors has been extremely high quality. This has been due to finding good contractors, thorough briefing and also the general interest of people towards the project’s work.

Carefully considered briefing, agreed with contractors and consultants was worth spending time on in every instance.

**Accountable body**

The North York Moors National Park Authority has been the accountable and administrative body for the project and their systems and processes have been used to regulate and monitor the project.

The National Park Authority Members have always been supportive (often vocally so) about the project which has been very much appreciated by the project staff.
3. Events

Event programme and attendance

A total of eighty-six free events were undertaken with around 4000 people attending. Events were continually well-received and were a ‘beacon’ of the programme. They enabled the project to reach many different audiences including families, young people, older people, local people and visitors. This was achieved with by the production of a varied annual events programme. Each event was built around a ‘learning outcome’ and a target audience (rarely were events held which were deemed to have ‘something for everyone’). Events were delivered by paid professionals (including activity leaders) and volunteers.

Adding value

Lime & Ice contributed to the Wass Environmental Weekend, which was organised by the villages residents. The contribution paid for a geology walk and display. Enabling this ‘added value’ was successful and took place several times during the course of the project. This could have been explored further and may be a model for the NPA and AONB to consider in terms of creating events which ‘put across’ the desired messages by supporting and enabling communities to undertake their organisation and delivery.

Locations

Hosting events out and about the area has, for the most part, been successful. This refers primarily to walk style events and not to workshop, talk or exhibition events in locations other than those undertaken latterly by volunteers in various villages around the area.

Family events around the area have contributed to the sense of being out in the landscape and learning about and enjoying it.

Quality information and quality ‘accessorising’

Hearing from specialists has been one of the key factors in the provision of high quality events. This has been clearly reflected in people’s feedback and quality of experiences. Specialists were used for events relating to landscape and geology, veteran trees and archaeology.

High quality information, materials and ‘props’ or accessories’ have created a sense of ‘professionalism’. They have also generated greater excitement and enthusiasm by the participants. For example, the materials provided (small rucksack, spotter guides and safari hats) to children taking part in the Little Boots Safari events added to the sense of real adventure. Positive comments from participants and staff observations support this.

Unearthing the Iron Age event, the Danelaw Living History Group
4. Community participation and volunteers

Varied opportunities

The project has created some interesting opportunities for volunteers to get involved. Volunteers have participated in the following:

- Leading guided walks
- Giving talks
- Archaeological excavation related activities
- Report writing
- Conservation tasks
- Helping at events
- Undertaking oral histories
- Historical document and associated field research

Response

The response by communities and volunteers has been varied. The volunteering target has been easily achieved but not always in the intended areas. The Yearsley Moor project, Adopt a Landscape and the Boltby Scar excavations have generated the greatest accumulations of volunteering days.

Numbers

Around 280 volunteers have volunteered for the project with 2242 volunteer days accrued.

1393 volunteer days were estimated in the project planning.

The volunteer days have equated to £69,900 in cash terms (as per the HLF guidelines). This was utilised as match funding to the project’s cash (up to the maximum value able to be claimed using volunteer time).

Comment from a Boltby Scar excavation volunteer when asked “what will you remember?”

"Learning new skills from an expert. Learning about my local area’s heritage. Being part of a dedicated and hardworking team."

Volunteer undertaking a topographical survey at Yearsley Moor
Value and benefits of volunteer participation

The value of volunteers has been significant. It has generated good will, good spirit and enthusiasm for the work of the project and the partner organisations. In addition, much has been achieved in terms of acquiring knowledge and understanding of the area's heritage. The value to the volunteers has also been quite evident. There have been notable social, personal, learning and experience benefits.

The coordination of volunteers has required time, though this was anticipated at the outset of the project.

Students from Ryedale School get involved with writing the script for the Drovers’ Road play, with playwright Peter Spafford.

Volunteer excavators at the Boltby Scar excavations
The chart shows the number of volunteer days (by each financial year and a cumulative count).

NB – 08/09 = 7 month period          13/14 = 4 month period
6. Budget and budget management

General

The budget required for to deliver the project’s activities was well planned and has proved adequate. In the planning process there were some underestimates and some overestimates but neither has caused particular budgetary difficulties.

However, because some major works (often capital spend areas) have occurred towards the end of the project is has been difficult to mitigate underspend. The project budgets could have been simpler with less budget lines which would have made administration easier but no less accountable.

Cuts and regains in match-funding

In 2010, English Heritage reduced their cash contribution from £60,110 to £29,520 following the dissolution of their regional capacity fund. This left a budget deficit and it was decided to cancel a number of initiatives rather than reducing amounts against many areas of activity.

Later, the National Park Authority injected further funding for more excavation at Boltby Scar hillfort. That was utilised as match funding, along with a further £8000 contributed by the University of York to the work. This has enabled some of the HLF money which would have been lost to be drawn down (though some initiatives remained cancelled).

Claims and grants

Heritage Lottery Fund claims have been submitted for each quarter of the project. This has included progress updates on each initiative. Grant claims were also submitted to English Heritage for each financial year (up to 2010/11). All other partners contributions have been paid once per year using a simple invoice system.

Artwork undertaken by local school children who were inspired by the activities of the Children on the trail of Lime & Ice initiative, in conjunction with Rural Arts.
7. Publicity and promotion

Promotion of activities

The project has experienced good attendance at events and with its various activities. Listing of events in the NPA’s Out & About guide has undoubtedly been one of the key mechanisms for events publicity. Word of mouth about quality of events among local people has also been a pertinent factor.

Utilising the Heritage Open Days initiative to promote one of the Scotch Corner Chapel open days has been beneficial and should continue if possible.

What has been of press interest?

There has been relatively good press coverage (almost always generated by the issue of a press release) of Lime & Ice activities. The following in particular generated very good coverage:

- Scotch Corner Chapel open days
- Boltby Scar hillfort excavation (especially 2011)
- Yearsley Moor watermill discovery
- Lime & Ice exhibition at Sutton Bank

Twelve radio interviews were undertaken.

Approximately eighty print media articles were generated (known about).

There are numerous other online articles by local and regional sites and authors, bloggers etc.

The project profile

Whilst the required acknowledgements have been made (especially to the funders and partners) there was a deliberate decision not to heavily raise awareness of the ‘project’ but to keep focus on its activities and the opportunities created by it. Requests for talks or presentations on project itself have only been delivered to partner meetings.

Initially, a trial of providing information about the wider work of the project was delivered (by project staff) before specialist speakers/leaders ‘delivered’ the main event. However, this idea was not pursued. The introductions were a detraction from the main event which was clearly what the public had come for and absorbed a great deal of officer time without achieving a great deal.

The presence of comedian, writer and geology enthusiast Hugh Dennis at the opening of the Lime & Ice exhibition at Sutton Bank National Park Centre generated good press interest locally and regionally.
8. Monitoring and evaluation

Value and purpose

Monitoring evaluation exercises undertaken have been a pleasurable and very valuable component of the project.

At the most basic level, monitoring the number of volunteers, volunteer days, events attendees etc has enabled us to ensure that targets were being met and to ensure that target audiences were being engaged.

Evaluation activities were designed to provide more substantial insights into volunteers and participants experiences. This served the purpose of tailoring future activities (either keeping things the same or changing things based on feedback).

Some activities were also designed to help volunteers reflect back on their experiences. For example, the series of short films made with the Yearsley Moor volunteer group enabled the group to contemplate the work they have achieved to date and what the rest of the project might entail. The outcome was that the volunteers and project staff were left with a high-quality output (i.e. four well-shot films) which had (and will probably continue to have beyond the end of the project) a multiplicity of uses. Aside, from their evaluation purpose they have been used to support numerous talks given by the volunteers and project staff.

‘Workbooks’ used to gauge the opinions of volunteer excavators
Some useful skills to do with excavating and increased knowledge. I’ve had a lifelong interest in archaeology, so taking part in an actual dig was a dream come true. It has also strengthened an existing friendship and enabled me to make new friends.

From digging itself you have the prospect of constantly being surprised; you never know what you’re going to find next. I was excitedly going to dig each day, eagerly looking forward to finding out what would be uncovered next.

A greater respect for local history. Realisation of how much we take for granted. A sense of great achievement. A greater interest in archaeology and preservation.

View from a participant on a guided walk lead by a volunteer. This was one of the best and most interesting events of its type that I have ever taken part in. I am local and walk frequently in the area and know it well but still learnt a lot from the enthusiastic and knowledgeable guides. Even the poor weather – torrential rain from beginning to end – didn’t dim their enthusiasm, or that of the hardy members of the public who turned up.

Some activities undertaken:
- Formative evaluation for the L&I exhibition i.e. visitors thoughts on the original arrangement at Sutton Bank National Park Centre
- Summative evaluation on the L&I exhibition i.e. what visitors thoughts were on the L&I exhibition against the aims set out
- Insights from those involved in the Boltby Scar excavations – a workbook format asking probing questions
- Use of feedback forms at events
- Production of four short films to capture and reflect on the experiences of the volunteers involved in the Yearsley Moor project
- Observations of activity leaders
- Detailed feedback from participants in the Drovers Road play

See appendix 3 for more from the exhibition evaluation.

We’re interested in what impact the experience had on you... Thinking back to the dig, what do you feel you’ve gained from it?

Stills from the video diaries made with the Yearsley Moor volunteers, reflecting on what had been achieved.
9. Facts and figures

- Around two hundred and eighty people have volunteered for the project
- In the region of four thousand people have attended Lime & Ice events
- All events have been free of charge
- 2242 volunteer days have been accumulated (with 1393 days as the original target)
- Nine leaflets have been produced
- Thirteen circular trails have been upgraded
- Five archaeological excavations have taken place (three at Boltby Scar and two at Yearsley Moor)
- One iPhone app has been developed and so far downloaded 1517 times
- The permanent L&I exhibition has been installed at Sutton Bank National Park Centre, inspiring people about the landscape heritage
- Two easy-access trails have been completed
- The scheduled archaeology at Hood Hill has been secured for the future with path protection and upgrading works
- Twenty-five hidden gem events have taken place
- Eighteen talks have taken place covering a range of topics
- Twenty-two guided walks have happened
- Five films have been made chartering the story of the volunteers involved with the Yearsley Moor initiative
- Around sixty basic conservation tasks have been carried out by volunteers
- Thirty events have been undertaken for children and families
- One community play has been written and performed with forty-five local people and a dog in the cast
- Six hundred school children from local schools have been engaged
- A report has been produced by volunteers documenting the history of the Yearsley Moor area, which will exist as an archive
- A pack has been produced to assist ESOL students language skills – with the area’s landscape heritage as a backdrop for learning
10. Sharing and learning from the Lime & Ice experience

There is a great deal to learn from the Lime & Ice experience for the North York Moors National Park Authority, the Howardian Hills AONB and the other partners. There is a significant amount of detail and consideration behind each of following statements, which is in part backed up by comment elsewhere in this report:

- The structure of the project and general set-up has worked well
- Calculated risks have been taken to try new and different things. The net result has been of benefit for the project and its participants.
- Ensure that other activities being run/managed in the same geographical area by partners are communicated to staff in order to reduce duplication and provide a consistent and understood approach for communities
- Partners could have worked more closely together to achieve more though it is recognised that the funding cuts of recent years have impacted on organisations delivery potential
- Reduced activity within the CAN DO Partnership generally has led to perhaps less linkages with other areas of work than expected.
- The withdrawal of some of the match-funding by English Heritage in 2010 led to some changes and cancellations of initiatives
- It is important to ensure that flexibility is retained in project plans to allow for changes as new technologies or ideas come forward. This was done and worked to the project’s advantage
- It would be very helpful and practical in future projects to create a miscellaneous budget heading for small expenditure within the budget instead of needing to attribute small spend to specific project areas and ensuring there is a budget for volunteer expenses
- Greater consultation with delivery staff during the planning phase should ensure that there is a greater ‘buy-in’, a direct commitment to the activities planned and a mechanism to ensure that those delivering on behalf of the project do so in a timely and planned manner
- Even more activity could have been achieved through local communities and interest groups if better connections had been made earlier on in the project.
- Always ensure that activities you are delivering are true to the aims and aspirations of the project
- Don’t plan activities and events that ‘cater for all’ – consider the audience you want to target and plan appropriately
- Get good, high quality and professional photos taken along the way
- Create carefully considered briefs for those delivering information on behalf of the project
- Don’t be afraid of asking – it’s amazing what people will do when you ask them
- If there is a desire to raise awareness of the ‘project’ or the ‘partner’ delivering it this should be done sensitively
- Celebrate achievements especially with volunteers - homemade cakes, biscuits and hot tea go a long way in helping motivate volunteers (and staff!)
- Ensure appropriate effort is put into marketing the activities – this could have generated even more visitors to the Lime & Ice exhibition
- Tapping into other mechanisms such as Heritage Open Days to help publicise some events has proved helpful.
11. Conclusions

The Lime & Ice project was developed to fulfil some of the CAN DO Partnership’s aspirations in the themes of information, interpretation, communities and access. A range of activities was developed, during the planning phase to target specific audience groups with different methods.

The project has had both a breadth and depth to its activities. The evaluation activities, the staff and delivery personnel’s own observations have shown that the project can be regarded as successful, against its original ambitions. Almost all of the activities have been met with a warm response and good feedback from the people involved. This applies to the volunteers, participants on events, people making use of the circular trails or those using the smartphone app.

The volunteering effort and enthusiasm has been fantastic – not only in terms of numbers but in terms of the range of tasks carried out from excavating, to archival research and leading events. It is felt that closer working could have taken place with communities and Parish Councils. Although approached, consulted and involved when required, with hindsight more could have been done to enable and empower such collectives to have undertaken some of the project’s work. Time, capacity and experience to organise this were probably the key factors in it not being achieved.

Adding value to local events such as the ‘Wass Environmental Weekend’ organised by the villages residents was successful and took place several times during the course of the project. This could be a model for the NPA and AONB to consider in terms of creating events which ‘put across’ the desired messages by supporting and enabling communities to undertake their organisation and delivery.

This five year programme has created lasting benefit not only with some of the on the ground works it has undertaken, but for the people involved through the building of their skills, memories, experiences and community spirit.
Appendices

Appendix 1  Map of the area
Appendix 2  CAN DO Partnership – background and aims
Appendix 3  Evaluation and feedback selected comments
Appendix 4  List of activities and brief reviews
Appendix 5  Acknowledgements
Appendix 1 Map of the area
Appendix 2 CAN DO Partnership – background and aims

The CAN DO Partnership is based around a common vision and shared aims to develop:

**An area of landscape, cultural heritage and biodiversity excellence benefiting the economic and social well-being of the communities who live within it.**

The organisations and agencies which make up the partnership have defined a geographical area which covers the south-west corner of the North York Moors National Park and the northern part of the Howardian Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The individual organisations recognise that by working together resources can be used more effectively, achieving greater value overall.


The area was selected because of its natural and cultural heritage diversity which includes the highest concentration of ancient woodland in the region, a nationally important concentration of veteran trees, a range of other semi-natural habitats including some of the most biologically rich sites on Jurassic Limestone in the county, designed landscapes, nationally important ecclesiastical sites and a significant concentration of archaeological remains from the Neolithic to modern times. However, the area has experienced the loss of many landscape character features over the last fifty years including the conversion of land from moorland to arable and the extensive planting of conifers on ancient woodland sites.

### Aims – agreed by the CAN DO Partnership

**Biodiversity** Encourage management in the area that delivers the maximum possible bio and geo-diversity

**Cultural Environment** Characterise, conserve and enhance the cultural environment of the area

**Landscape** Improve the landscape to develop the character & distinctiveness of the area

**Information** Provide a high standard of information and interpretation so as to enhance understanding of the area’s cultural and natural heritage and of how they are linked.

**Access** Demonstrate this linkage by improving sustainable access to the area.

**Best Practice** Establish the area as a national model for the management and presentation of natural and cultural heritage.

**Integration** Use the area’s special qualities to foster Integrated Rural Development, recognising, balancing and delivering environmental, economic and social benefits.

**Partnership** Demonstrate that a wide variety of public bodies can work effectively together and with the private sector and local communities in pursuit of a common purpose.

**Sustainability** Encourage high standards of environmental good practice in terms of resource protection, renewable energy, waste management and minimising resource inputs

**Co-ordination** Ensure that no actions are implemented in isolation and that consideration is given to linking other aims, objectives and actions and to the environmental, social and economic impacts as far as possible.
Appendix 3  Lime & Ice exhibition evaluation

Headline results from the exhibition evaluation were:

**Not the only reason to visit but a strong factor** – 29% of visitors said the existence and awareness of the exhibition influenced the decision to visit. However, it is important to view the exhibition in the context of the wider National Park Centre; its contribution to the overall visitor experience makes the Centre become more than the sum of its parts.

**Invitation to engage** - 36% of Centre visitors entered the Lime and Ice exhibition suggesting that improvements could be made to the ‘welcome’ and personal recommendation of the exhibition by staff. Visitors are more likely to enter if other visitors are already in the exhibition.

**A social experience** - One of the excellent merits of the exhibition is that it can be used by social groups; social motives are a key driver for many leisure time visitor segments. Visitors valued the opportunity to get ‘hands-on’ and these were also the most memorable elements of the exhibition.

**An enjoyable experience** - 96% of visitors rated their visit to the Sutton Bank National Park Centre and the Lime and Ice exhibition enjoyable or very enjoyable.

**Delivering the themes** – the exhibition themes were to varying extents successfully delivered. The CGI was a key element in delivering these themes and was also noted as both very enjoyable and memorable by visitors.

**Accessible** - overall, the exhibition is very physically accessible for visitors. Several intellectual, physical and technological barriers to access were noted however, these are not insurmountable.

**Underutilised resources** - The app is an excellent resource that could also be more strongly promoted to support the visitor journey from the Centre.

Visitor comments from the evaluation exercise.

‘I found the potted history shown on the video display to be both interesting and informative’.  

‘Wow, I didn’t know about the slip gill holes and the murders that may have taken place, also I found the potted history shown on the video display to be both interesting and informative.’

Word cloud generated through visitor comments from the L&I exhibition evaluation.
Appendix 4 List of activities and brief reviews

At the outset of the project there were twenty-two planned initiatives, grouped into four programmes. The withdrawal of some of the match-funding by English Heritage in 2010 led to some changes and cancellations of initiatives. The following is a brief overview and analysis of each of the initiatives which proceeded.

Programme 1a Enjoying the heritage

Lime & Ice online

Resources relating to the project have been made available via the NPA’s website since September 2012. Originally, the project should have had its own site but providing resources by the NPA’s site was deemed to be better in terms of long-term sustainability and budget efficiency.

In addition a Lime & Ice app for iPhone, iPads and iPod touch was developed during the early part of 2012. It features four walking trails around the area with interpretive text and a quiz feature attached to each. It was been downloaded 1517 times since its launch in August 2012. Two iPod touches have been made available for visitors to borrow from Sutton Bank National Park Centre for those without access to an iPhone. Visitors seem to be enjoying access the information in this interesting way as well as using the ‘send a postcard’ from your trip feature.
**Lime & Ice exhibition**

The exhibition installed at Sutton Bank National Park Centre has been the largest single initiative with the single largest spend. The exhibition has been the key mechanism in the latter stages of the project to help reach out and engage with high numbers of people.

New research and information generated by the wider project (e.g. the Boltby Scar excavations) was effectively utilised to create the exhibition content – which is translated using a variety of high-tech and low-tech methods. Formal evaluation undertaken showed that the exhibition was a very good addition to the overall site. More than 100,000 people have visited since the exhibition opened.

The exhibition contains three ‘islands’ where people can access the content in different ways (i.e. by RFID triggered touch-screen information, by low-tech hands-on interactives and interpretive panels). This format has created a very social experience for those visiting in groups.

**Lime & Ice festival - cancelled**

**Virtual Landscape History**

This project refers to the computer-generated film which describes the development of the area’s landscape. It is housed within the Lime & Ice exhibition. The main driver for this was to show people, perhaps with limited understanding of (or interest in) geology the story of the shaping of Sutton Bank (i.e. 500 million years in 5 minutes!). It was also intended as a brief introduction to the main premise and themes of the exhibition. The presentation is a double projection arrangement (one rear and one to a tilted downward circular surface). Bespoke CGI tells the story with narration (by earth historian Professor Aubrey Manning). So far it has proved to be a popular and powerful part of the wider
exhibition. The story was based on evidence supplied by the British Geological Survey (BGS) and developed by specialist CGI contractors.

**Programme 1b Learning about the heritage**

*Hidden Gems*

The Hidden Gems events were designed to open up places to participants which do not normally have public access or to provide a high level of specialist detail in places on topics akin to the L&I themes. This has been an extremely good initiative which (though never branded as Hidden Gems) has been exceptionally well-received by everyone who has attended an event. The series has included the open days at Scotch Corner Chapel and also the walks/trips to see veteran trees in a normally private area of the Duncombe Park estate.

*Talks*

Talks were provided on a range of topics across the project including geology, windy pits and Joseph Foord’s watercourses. Usually attended by 20-30 people, it proved that there is a market for various talks (given by specialist and knowledged speakers). Latterly, some talks were delivered by volunteers (particularly on the Yearsley Moor investigations) and attracted 50-60 people in village hall locations.

*Walks*

A varied guided walk programme was run each year with different types of walk aimed at different audiences. One of the most successful formats were the Little Boots Safaris aimed at younger children and their families. The idea was to help children explore the natural world and landscape around them in a fun and exciting way. These events were held in locations including from Rievaulx Abbey, Hovingham and from Sutton Bank National Park Centre.
**Engaging with ESOL learners**

This initiative was designed to engage with some of the area’s economic migrant population through the established mechanism of North Yorkshire County Council’s ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) learners programme. It has been fraught with difficulties and challenges. Firstly, the numbers of migrants dropped dramatically and funding was cut from NYCC’s budget for ESOL provision. However, a pack has developed by ESOL tutors from NYCC to help learners with their language skills as part of visits to Sutton Bank National Park Centre. In the last six months of the project contact is now being made with some groups (partly beyond the original scope with groups from Middlesbrough and Teesside) and it is likely the pack will be used with visits made through the summer of 2013.

**Lime & Ice mobile classroom - cancelled**

**Discovery Days**

The Discovery Days programme took place in June 2012. Four hundred and three children took part from seventeen schools. The activity was run by two trainee teachers. The activity included a walk from the Centre at Sutton Bank with various things the children were encouraged to look at and do along the way. A pre visit/post visit guide for teachers was developed. Excellent feedback was gained from the schools and it has provided some possibilities for increasing schools activities from Sutton Bank run by the NPA in the future.

**Lime & Ice performance**

The performance piece, which became the Drovers’ Road play has been one of the most impassioned parts of the whole project. With a cast of 45 local people and a dog, the play was performed at Helmsley Arts Centre on two consecutive nights in June. There was a full
audience of 140 people on each night. The themes of the play were developed by students from Ryedale School working alongside playwright Peter Spafford through a series of workshops. The themes were then expanded into a script by the playwright. Local open public auditions were held and rehearsals took place each Wednesday evening with more rehearsals in the days before the performances. The play was loosely based on some of the stories in journalist and author Madeleine Bunting’s book The Plot. Madeleine supported the project by attending the Arts Centre’s literary festival where the main promotion of the play began.

The play followed the journey of four young people walking part of the old drovers’ road across the Hambleton Hills. During a night of wild camping they were each visited by different people through history who walked and used the drovers’ road. The play executed a tale of the area’s history and landscape by the people who travelled through it over time. The photos on these pages were taken on the dress rehearsal and first night performance.

**Tales from the Edge**

This initiative was part of the event programme and involved the creative telling of stories in different locations including Hovingham village market, Helmsley Walled Garden, Shandy Hall, Rievaulx Abbey, English Heritage’s archaeology store at Helmsley and Sutton Bank National Park Centre. The stories were performed by storytellers and artists. The full day of storytelling in 2012 at Sutton Bank worked exceptionally well owing to an extremely good group of storytellers.
**Lime & Ice Finds**

A simple archaeological digging interactive was designed for this initiative. It provided children and families with the idea of what archaeologists do during an excavation. The event was put on several times, sometimes linked to other events that were happening. A range of materials for participants to follow were produced. Although there was effort in setting up the activity (a sandpit organised to be like an excavation trench) it proved very popular and was worth the effort on each occasion.

**Programme 2 Managing the heritage**

**Hood Hill**

In order to protect the medieval archaeology on the top of Hood Hill path works were undertaken across the area of the scheduled monument. The works were carried out by a contractor and included the need to helicopter materials in due to the nature of the site.

**Boltby Scar Excavations**

At the outset of project, one archaeological excavation was proposed at Boltby Scar hillfort. Three have been achieved over the course of the project. This has been possible because of on-going volunteer enthusiasm, utilisation of underspend from the first excavation and additional funds provided by the NPA and the University of York. The excavations were managed by the Landscape Research Centre to an extremely high and professional standard. The two latter excavations also provided opportunities for archaeological undergraduates to gain experience. The excavations have been a beacon of excellence in terms of establishing information about the historical and climatic environment in the past and as an excellent volunteer project. Public
open days were held in conjunction with each excavation and proved popular on each occasion.

**Circular Trails**

This initiative sought to provide circular interpreted walking routes starting and ending in village locations (plus a revamp to those around Sutton Bank National Park Centre). This was as a direct result of community consultation. It also included the provision of two easy-access trails. Village trails were completed around; Kilburn/Oldstead, Ampleforth/Oswaldkirk, Coxwold/Husthwaite and Sutton Bank. Two easy access trails were completed – one in Cliff Plantation and one up to Boltby Scar hillfort site. Excluding the easy-access trails an interpretive leaflet with maps and directions was completed for each set of walks. Works to paths included the upgrading of routes by improving surfaces, adding gates and addressing wet areas etc.

**Sculptures for Sitting – cancelled**

**Adopt a Landscape**

Volunteers have undertaken numerous conservation related tasks throughout the area associated with improving the landscape or wildlife habitat based on the area’s distinctive geology. They have usually been carried out in a group format with a volunteer leader.

**Programme 3 Active Involvement in the heritage**

**Children on the Trail of Lime & Ice**

Children from local schools, under the guidance of the NPA’s education team have walked the circular trails (developed under the circular trails initiative). They explored stories of the landscape and heritage, and then their thoughts/reflections were translated into a
piece of artwork undertaken with supervision by Rural Arts. Some of the artwork was used in the Ampleforth interpretive leaflet.

**Lime & Ice Legends**

Part of the events programme, this has been a simple children’s activity where they are inspired by the landscape and the area’s folklore and legends to produce poems, stories and artwork. On two occasions drop-in group activities were carried out in association with the national Big Draw campaign.

**Landscape Explorers**

Oral history interviewing was part of this initiative and was successful to a limited degree. Despite organising professional training for ten volunteers (which we understand was used by people in different capacities i.e. their own village projects) only one volunteer pursued the undertaking of interviews. This was difficult as even finding people to interview proved difficult. Several interviews were undertaken but nothing has been done with them except for their storage as a record.

**Yearsley Moor explorations**

The initiative’s aim was to investigate, record and report on the history of the area. This was achieved using a small group of dedicated local volunteers. This initiative has been very successful and more far-reaching than the brief. Two small excavations have been undertaken, which were not in the original plan. The volunteers have spent many days researching the area both via documentary evidence at the and out in the field. The output from the project is a final report. A number of interpretative works have been carried out to raise awareness of the information discovered primarily with the aim of providing more information to the existing visiting public. This has included an orientation/information panel onsite, a leaflet and five sculptured benches – each focussing on a different aspect of the area’s history.
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