

MOORS MESSENGER

News from Moor, Coast, Forest and Dale

www.northyorkmoors.org.uk

THE Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has awarded a £2.8m grant to protect and raise awareness of one of the unique landscapes of the North York Moors National Park.

And with match funding from ourselves, the David Ross Foundation and other partners it takes the total budget for this project, entitled 'This Exploited Land', to £3.5m!

This Exploited Land tells the story of the pioneering ironstone and railway industry in an area stretching from Grosmont, through Eskdale to Kildale and then on through Rosedale to Rosedale Abbey. At its peak, in the mid 1870s-mid 1880s, the local ironstone industry including the Cleveland Hills provided 38% of Britain's need for iron, which equated to 20% of world demand. And local technological developments in blast furnaces (such as the Cleveland Practice used at Grosmont ironworks) were, for a time, the most advanced in the world.

However, it's a heritage that

National Park wins Lottery award



Rosedale East Mines

is being eroded over time. This funding will allow us to work on 46 individual projects from 2016-2021, including conservation of the iconic structures, such as ironstone kilns in Rosedale and mines in Kildale, reconnecting habitats and restoring ancient woodlands,

the removal of fish barriers along the River Esk, and working with schools to encourage children to connect with and learn more from the landscape.

The project is really exciting as it brings together industrial archaeology and the natural environment - Ring ouzels

(mountain blackbirds) are an example of how the former industrial heritage has shaped the landscape for wildlife today. These birds, which are a national conservation priority, can be found around the disused railway and kilns in Rosedale.



Patdy Chambers

Dear Residents,

THERE IS now an 8 Point Plan for England's National Parks.

Defra's Secretary of State, Liz Truss, launched this in March. It is exciting. And it is great to have this level of support and interest from central Government. Many of the points in the Plan were generated locally from the 10 English National Parks.

Here are some of the main points in the Plan:

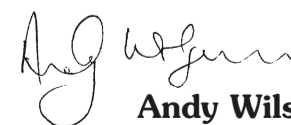
- Connect young people with nature
- Create thriving natural environments
- National Parks to drive growth in international tourism
- Deliver new apprenticeships in National Parks
- Promote the best of British food from National Parks
- Promote National Parks better
- Promote landscape and heritage in National Parks
- Use National Parks to promote health and wellbeing

It is particularly welcome to see the emphasis on involving more young people with the National Park. As many of you will know, here in the North York Moors we have an education service which helps more than 12,000 children a year learn about the countryside. We are also particularly pleased to see apprentices feature prominently in the Plan and this National Park is leading on this aspect.

Defra's National Park Plan will work with other plans covering food and wildlife, etc. Together with the extension of the Yorkshire Dales and Lake District National Parks there is great momentum here...but there is a but.

Further moves to deregulate the planning system across the country are all too often being applied equally across National Parks too. We can do much to accommodate sympathetic development in the National Park, but either the place is special or it isn't. Joined up thinking at a national level on appropriate planning rules for National Parks which recognise that they are Protected for a reason is an essential part of the mix which will guarantee the Parks' long term beauty and prosperity.

The eight point plan was signed by SoS Liz Truss, Parliamentary Under-Secretary Rory Stewart and National Park Authority Chair Jim Bailey.



Andy Wilson
Chief Executive
(National Park Officer)

HELPING OUR FARMERS



FARMING MADE the National Park what it is today. While our rolling moorland, ancient woodlands and dramatic coastline provide most of the iconic images of the North York Moors, it's farmland that stitches the National Park together.

Not only does it account for the biggest use of land in the North York Moors, but farming has shaped the landscape over thousands of years and forms a significant part of the local economy.

Farmers themselves have a key role in looking after the environment as well as producing food. They do much of the work needed in the National Park, looking after wildlife habitats, maintaining traditional boundaries such as hedgerows, planting native trees and managing species-rich grasslands - it's a partnership that works for all of us, by bolstering those special qualities that make the National Park a unique corner of England. Of course being in a National Park brings some constraints. Most of the land is less fertile and the planning rules are tougher.

The National Park Authority believes therefore that farmers in the National Park should be properly rewarded for looking after this special place. For many years we have supported local farmers by offering financial assistance, to do the work that is crucial to the future of the National Park as a protected place for all to enjoy. From a pioneering farm conservation scheme in the 1990s to the ongoing Traditional Boundary Scheme, there's always help available for projects such as re-building dry stone walls and restoring or planting new hedgerows. There's also a shared interest between National Park and farmer in helping wildlife move more freely across the countryside. Connecting existing habitats is vital if wildlife is to thrive - from bats to beetles, and voles to birds of prey - and the National Park offers grants to farmers to manage important grasslands, restore ancient

woodland and plant new trees. Linking landscapes like this, from farm to forest and dale to moor, results in a natural richness that we can all enjoy and benefit from. Roll on the wildlife super highways!

Of course, there are challenges for upland farmers right across the UK that can only be addressed by national measures such as Countryside Stewardship, the new Defra national agri-environment scheme, launched in 2015. It is particularly important this scheme works well in the North York Moors.

Positive changes

We have pushed for a review of how Countryside Stewardship is working in the uplands. We believe the options for managing grasslands and other habitats are too limited and pay too poorly, and that the small holdings we have in the North York Moors are disadvantaged by the minimum payment level. We are pleased that the government has listened to our and other's concerns and that some positive changes are being proposed to help upland farmers, including the removal of the minimum payment level and the use of additional 'supplement' payments to help farmers deliver additional benefits on grassland

areas. These 'in-bye' grasslands are important for wading birds and other special wildlife. We wait to see if these will have the desired effect on the environment and in support of the farming sector. We're also pleased that the scheme guidance and administration have been amended to be more farmer and user friendly.

The prices for most farm products from the National Park remain low however, putting pressure on farm incomes. Hundreds of farmers came together at three meetings organised by the National Park in February, and as a result two groups are developing special local schemes which should boost their Stewardship payments.

So there's a positive message in the work that farmers and the National Park Authority continue to do together. We can, hopefully, keep our communities, maintain the beauty of the North York Moors and continue to produce great Yorkshire food.

● *If you are a land manager in the National Park and would like to be included on our contact list to receive environmental and rural development information and invitations to associated events in the future, please get in touch with Rachel Smith at conservation@northyorkmoors.org.uk or on 01439 772700.*



PARISH FORUM 2016 DATES

NORTHERN
Tuesday 4 Oct @ 7pm

SOUTHERN
Tuesday 11 Oct @ 7pm

WESTERN
Thursday 13 Oct @ 7.15pm

COASTAL
Thursday 20 Oct @ 7pm

Venues for all meetings to be confirmed. These meetings are open to all.



Taking the MICCI

THROUGH an innovative project we're enabling young people from all over Britain to be real scientists and gather valuable scientific data which will help to inform future plans for how our uplands are managed.

Science students from over 50 schools have been out in 11 different UK National Parks to find out whether our upland moorlands are storing carbon (good for climate change) or releasing carbon (bad for climate change).

The 'Moorlands as Indicators of Climate Change Initiative' was started by the Peak District National Park Education Service in partnership with their 'Moors for the Future' Project. The results gathered from the students are being used by climate scientists as part of the Moors for Future Partnership, as well as by the schools as part of their science curriculum.

Science and geography students from Caedmon College in Whitby have participated in this project for several years and have enjoyed getting up close and personal with peat bogs in the North York Moors.

● To find out more about MICCI go to www.nationalparks.gov.uk/students/micci-project.

CATCHING THEM EARLY

We believe National Parks are a perfect place to understand and explore the natural environment. By working at an early stage with young people it gives us the best chance to help promote these unique spaces by providing education on nature-based activities. Here at the North York Moors National Park, we engage with around 12,000 young people a year, and we are working hard to increase this number. We have a dedicated education team based at The Moors National Park Centre in Danby, who regularly provide 'outside the classroom' opportunities across the North York Moors. Here are just a few of the projects we've been involved in.



Danby Common – a great learning resource

NATIONAL PARKS provide a wonderful backdrop for education and learning. And thanks to The Viscount Downe and Dawnay Estates, Danby Common, a beautiful area of heather moorland, primarily managed for grouse shooting and sheep grazing, has also been made available for 'outside the classroom' learning. Several years ago the local farmers (graziers), the landowner and the Danby Court Leet entered into a Higher Level Stewardship Scheme, called the Danby Moors

Environmental Stewardship Scheme, and as part of the project funds have been allocated by Natural England for the promotion of access and education to both adults and schools. Our Education Service has since been working with a group of local schools and has enabled around 500 young people a year to benefit from the tremendous learning opportunities that the moorland offers. One pupil commented "The best thing was learning to do geocaching, it was pretty fun" – high praise from a 15 year old!



One Snowy Night...

IT'S never too soon to start inspiring very young children to take an interest in wildlife and the environment, even in the depths of winter.

Last year during the weeks leading up to Christmas the Education Service offered an activity day for infant school groups based on one of Nick Butterworth's popular 'Percy the Park Keeper' stories called 'One Snowy Night'. Groups of 5 to 7 year olds visited The Moors National Park Centre and followed an animal themed activity trail around the grounds, collecting toy characters from the story in a little

wooden sledge. The children finished the trail in a magical looking yurt hidden in the woods, complete with log burning stove, for story time and hot chocolate.

A total of 1300 children from schools in and around the Park participated in this exciting activity day and had lots of fun learning about wildlife of the North York Moors. Teachers from Caldicotes Primary Academy in Middlesbrough said: "We had a super visit which really enthused our children and we have lots we can do back at school to follow on from this."

Reaching Out

WE'RE always keen to help children who would not normally get the chance to visit and experience our fantastic National Park landscape first hand.

Last year our Education Service was able to offer transport grants to enable schools from disadvantaged areas of Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland and Scarborough to bring groups of children to the National Park. Almost 2,500 children benefited from these grants and participated in valuable learning outside the classroom experiences based at The Moors National Park Centre or on the coast.

Education Manager Sue Wilkinson says "Surveys frequently show that transport costs are one of the main barriers to school visits so we are delighted to be able to offer transport grants again this year. We're looking forward to working with schools in these areas that have not been able to visit us in the past".

We also offer targeted transport to under-represented groups, such as ethnic minorities, those with disabilities and special needs, and people from socially deprived areas. Maryam Farahani is the BME Community Links Officer at the National Park and works with various community groups to ensure they are aware of this service, enabling them to access the beautiful North York Moors.



PEOPLE IN THE PARK

BAGGINS ME A ROOM

STEPPING INTO Potts Corner is a truly magical experience. The holiday let cottage is so enchanting that you are transported to another world where the stresses and realities of everyday life seem to melt away.

Potts Corner is the first of Carol Hopkinson's and partner Karl Wragg's 'North Shire' Houses at Golden Hill Farm in the National Park.

From the moment the large round green door is opened and the beautiful cosy rooms are revealed you can't wait to enter inside and snuggle up by the fire with tea, cake and a good book. Carol's attention to detail is second to none, from exquisite stained glass windows that provide a kaleidoscope of colour through to antique and bespoke furniture that captures the dreamlike feel of this hidden gem, which has been carefully concealed under a grass roof.

Owners Carol and Karl created the 'North Shire' cottage with the

help of £15,000 of tourism-related funding from the North York Moors National Park Authority and Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council's Coastal Community Fund, plus a start-up loan from Teesside charity Five Lamps.

Carol said: "My vision was to provide a place that would enable both adults and children alike the opportunity to escape from reality and spend time in their own adventure. There's so much on offer in this part of Yorkshire, with our beautiful coastline, hidden coves, fossils, beaches and surfing, country shows and walks, as well as The Moors National Park Centre in Danby being on our doorstep, so there's lots of activities for all ages." Potts Corner is the first in a



number of Carol's ideas for Golden Hill Farm where she moved with her family six years ago. There are also Shepherds' Huts and Gypsy Caravans to rent on site and Carol is hoping to create a fairy-tale based wedding venue with blossom trees, fairy-lights and lanterns along with building more shire houses, camping pods, a dragon trail and medieval inn on the farm.

Carol is very keen to help people and is hoping to expand her apprenticeships by giving more youngsters the opportunity to train in the tourism, horticulture, business and catering sectors. Lauren has been an apprentice with Carol and Karl for nearly a year and added: "I really enjoy working at Golden Hill Farm, it has given me the opportunity to learn new skills and seeing the delight and enjoyment

from guests is a real pleasure. I love being outdoors and the views here are spectacular. We have horses, chickens, cats, dogs and even two peacocks 'Merlin' and 'Guinevere' on the farm so there's always something different to get involved in."

With its low light pollution, Golden Hill Farm is also very well positioned for stargazing, either from the 6.5 acre farm itself or by visiting the Dark Skies Discovery site at The Moors National Park Centre, Danby. Carol added "The skies are so captivating, you can relax and gaze into the Milky Way, it's truly breathtaking".

● For more information on Potts Corner and Golden Hill Farm, or to book a stay contact Carol on 01287 642228 or visit www.northshire.co.uk.

HERE AT the National Park we get involved in a variety of projects including planning, conservation and Rights of Way maintenance.

Each day can bring a number of different tasks and challenges and sometimes unforeseen work needs to be done due to the forces of nature. This was the case for our staff and volunteers on the coast, when flash floods unexpectedly hit the northern part of the National Park. Becks were transformed into raging torrents with ensuing destruction as the substantially swollen water courses powered their way to the sea. Rights of Way that cross both Easington and Roxby becks were severely affected as bridge crossings were either damaged or, in the case of five bridges, completely ripped out and washed away.

What greeted National Park Rangers after the storm was devastation – not to mention the job of fully assessing the damage, estimating the cost of repairs and replacement, and of course the practical work needed to reinstate the bridges and make available the Rights of Way.

The costs were not insignificant but with the help of a flood recovery grant from Defra the cost of materials could be met.

Rangers from the National Parks coast area set about planning the works and how the job would be done. Bridges by their very nature are often in very

BUILDING BRIDGES



Volunteers standing on one of the bridges at Roxby beck

inaccessible places and this case was no exception – access and getting materials to site was not going to be easy.

Undaunted by this, National Park Maintenance Ranger, Martyn Williams, with the help of dedicated volunteers, set about the task one bridge at a time. Martyn said: "Working with volunteers is very rewarding but does bring with it the responsibility for the volunteers in your charge. On a job such as this the health and safety of all concerned is paramount, not least in moving and manoeuvring heavy bridge beams and working near and above water courses."

With plans finalised and materials transported safely to site, with the help of a local farmer, the work of building the bridges could begin. Firstly, before the bridge beams could be set in place, abutments to support the beams and bridge woodwork had to be constructed. Getting this right is essential, not only in supporting the bridge but also in withstanding the beck as it passes underneath. Reinforced concrete abutments were constructed for most of the five bridges after which the metal beams and larch woodwork, sourced from Duncombe Sawmill, were positioned and assembled, using winches and jacks to get the beams across safely.

One after the other the five bridges were replaced – with a lot of sweat and no lack of skill. All five bridges are now in place thanks to the coast area team of volunteers and staff.

Royal visit to the Park

IN FEBRUARY, HRH Prince of Wales visited the innovative Slowing the Flow flood defence project around Pickering and Sinnington.

The scheme, completed in 2015, was a pilot project funded by Defra, led by Forest Research and closely supported by various organisations including the Forestry Commission, Environment Agency and the North York Moors National Park (NYMNP).

The project used the natural environment to slow the flow of water run-off and reduce flood risk, which included planting trees, constructing 'woody debris dams' in becks and streams, and tackling erosion of moor and footpaths.

The scheme has received immense interest following flooding across Yorkshire in December 2015 and January 2016, and HRH Prince Charles was accompanied by Jeremy Walker, Chair of the project, on his visit in February.

Jim Bailey, Chair for the North York Moors National Park Authority was also in attendance with Jordan Horsfall, NYMNP Apprentice, showing HRH Prince of Wales some of the wood debris dams and timber bunds which were created to help to protect



Sinnington from flooding a few miles downstream. Jim Bailey said: "It was a great pleasure to be able to welcome HRH Prince of

Wales to the 'Slowing the Flow' project. Although it was very wet weather during the visit, it gave us the opportunity to show the dams

and timber bunds in action and we're now hoping that we may be able to create similar flood defences elsewhere".

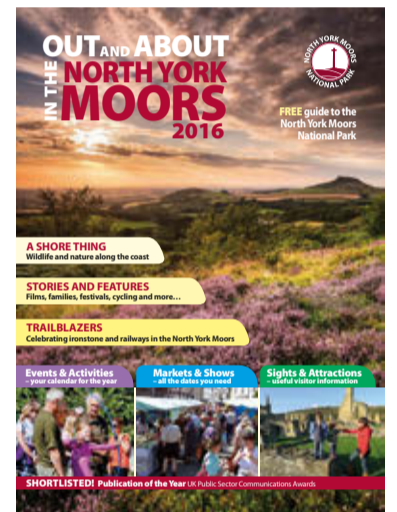
Tony Bartholomew

NEWS IN BRIEF

Your FREE guide

OUT and About in the North York Moors, the free 2016 visitor guide to the National Park, outlining activities, walks and events in the National Park is out now. Get your free copy from our National Park Visitor Centres at Sutton Bank and Danby, or request a copy from our website.

It also includes information on exhibitions at the Inspired by... gallery, features on the area's wildlife and heritage, plus details of many attractions and sights of the North York Moors. Out and About has also been shortlisted for the 'Magazine of the Year Award' at the Prolific North Awards and at time of going to print we eagerly await the outcome!



Reach for the stars

IN FEBRUARY we hosted our first visitor-focused joint event with the Yorkshire Dales National Park to celebrate our 'dark skies'. Thousands of visitors came to view the night skies and take part in various events and activities themed around the wonders of the celestial world. Activities included telescope making, night-vision wildlife tours, night hikes and talks from the Astronomical Society. The Moors National Park Centre at Danby, which includes our Inspired by... gallery, also received dark skies status this year, being identified as a Milky Way Class Dark Skies Discovery site by the Dark Sky Discovery Initiative. This means we now have three fantastic official sites in the North York Moors that people can easily reach to view the beauty of the stars – Sutton Bank National Park Centre, Dalby Forest and now Danby.



Russ Norman Photography

Milky Way and Perseid Meteor shower at Sutton Bank

Help us plan for the future

WE are now working on a new 'Local Plan' which will eventually form the basis of how we decide planning applications. It will also identify areas of land for new housing, employment and open space. Any plan is only as good as the expertise that goes into it, so we want to hear from anyone with an interest in the National Park and its future. Please keep an eye on our planning policy web pages for updates or if you want to be informed of next steps please let us know by emailing policy@northyorkmoors.org.uk.

Annual report

THE National Park Authority's annual report for 2015/16 will be available in July, outlining key achievements and providing information on our expenditure and performance. As this edition will include a Residents' Survey, where we ask as many residents in the National Park as possible to send in their feedback on the Authority and the work we do, this year's publication will be a paper copy. An electronic version of the report will also be made available from July in the 'About Us' section of our website at northyorkmoors.org.uk.

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The North York Moors National Park Authority,
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Bondgate, Helmsley,
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YO62 5BP
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WHAT TO SPOT

TURTLE DOVES

THESE beautiful but unfortunately nationally declining birds are now on the 'Red List' of conservation concern. They are mainly found in south eastern England but can also be seen occasionally on the southern edges of the National Park. They like woodland/scrub edges, overgrown hedgerows and the edge of disturbed ground such as arable fields. Turtle doves, often seen in pairs so fondly referred to as the 'bird of love', are only around for a short time, usually in late April/May through to mid-August before they migrate. They eat small seeds, mainly of agricultural 'weeds' such as knotgrass and fumitory. Our National Park Centres at

Danby and Sutton Bank have bird watching facilities, with turtle doves seen regularly over the last few years at Sutton Bank. So do give them a visit over the coming months to see if you can spot these delightful birds. You can also help. If you see turtle doves – and people have spotted them in their gardens – then let us know, as recording bird sightings and behaviours helps in the battle to save one of the most cherished of birds.

If they do visit your bird feeders, please make sure that the seed is fresh and dry and the feeders are disinfected frequently, as these birds are prone to fungal disease that can be caught from feeders.