VOICE
OF THE MOORS

NYMA – PROTECTING THE NORTH YORKSHIRE MOORS FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS

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Cover: Brimstone Butterfly on frosted twig – © Eberhard Pfeuffer

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CHAIR'S FOREWORD

I'VE BEEN trying to get to grips with the Government's Local Nature Recovery strategy, which emerged from the 2021 Environment Act.

So, for the purposes of the strategy: "The main purpose of the strategies is to identify locations to create or improve habitat most likely to provide the greatest benefit for nature and the wider environment". And some definitions: "Actions which support and draw on nature to provide wider environmental or societal benefits are called 'nature-based solutions'. Having both actions for nature recovery and nature-based solutions will help join up work to improve how land is managed for different environmental reasons and find activities that have multiple benefits."

Does that bother you? If you can get past the woolliness, is it really saying that we should use nature to solve social problems? It sounds that way. Let's look at it the other way round. 'Human-based problems' not 'nature-based solutions' may be a better starting point. Unintended side-effects of human activities have led to outcomes which are systematically destroying the natural systems on which human life depends - a vicious circle. Habits and expectations underpin these damaging behaviours. Changing these habits is more important in the long run but far more difficult to achieve in the short-term - a classic 'Catch-22' situation.

CHANGING FOR THE BETTER

Perhaps we could start to change habits by being less aggressive to nature. For instance, why are pesticides and herbicides still prominently displayed in shops, giving a tacit message that it is still acceptable to use them on your garden (if you are fortunate enough to have one)? Is it really necessary to rake up the leaves from your garden lawn, when by leaving them you encourage the worms to do the work of getting rid of them for you and improve the soil at the same time? Why do people still kick back against those who ask for roadside verges to be left uncut, or cut less often? Elsewhere in this issue of Voice, Anne Press writes about the importance of hedges for maintaining biodiversity, and she'll write about verges in the Spring issue. And why do people 'tidy' their gardens in late autumn, when dead vegetation can provide over-wintering shelter for insects and other animals? To my personal dismay I remember carelessly digging a rhubarb patch only to find that I had disturbed a nest of hedgehogs and their hoglets. We've never seen any hedgehogs in our garden since. All of these are instances of behaviours which are often needlessly aggressive towards nature, often unwittingly, and which occur in our everyday lives.

Any of the above could be dismissed as inconsequential in the greater scheme of things, but all contribute to a 'tyranny of small decisions', where collective effects add up to something very damaging indeed. Our behaviours are often unthinkingly cruel and oppressive towards nature. It is at this commonplace, everyday level that the greatest progress can be made with nature recovery We should be looking for reparation by small actions, spread by the power of example and word-of-mouth amongst ordinary people in their local communities and everyday lives.

This is why NYMA has been supporting the 'Harleston model', covered on pages 4 and 5. In autumn 2023 NYMA hosted a presentation of the thinking behind it. The invited audience were asked whether the idea would work in the communities of the North York Moors.

Settrington Plantation in winter

© Ray Clarke

This behaviour-targeted approach has three essentials:

- It galvanises individuals and small organisations to support the 'WeCan' badge, a declaration of their willingness to improve the environment by their own initiatives, however small-scale.
- These activities are then fed into the local neighbourhood plan via the local Parish or Town Council, which makes their commitment to nature recovery more formally as part of local democratic processes.
- Outcomes and intentions then become obvious locally (failures as well as successes), and should contribute to self-fulfilling betterment and restitution. The Harleston Town Council's website describes some of their efforts. https://harleston-tc.gov.uk/nature-recovery-celebrating-success/.

Other towns and villages in Norfolk and – closer to home - in the Lower Derwent Valley are taking up the idea. In the North York Moors and its vicinity, places such as the Esk Valley, Hinderwell and Loftus already have the willingness and enthusiasm to commit to such an approach, or something similar.

All this can be achieved without the pompousness of bureaucracy and straightjackets of project funding programmes. It should be about ordinariness, simplicity and good intentions contributing to the common good as part of our everyday lives. Nature recovery is not someone else's problem, it's everyone's problem.

ADRIAN LEAMAN

MONK HOLME WOOD

© Ray Clarke

OUR PRACTICAL work this time was to clear an overgrown public right-of-way just north-east of Helmsley, a path leading into Riccaldale. This was a project stretching approximately 300 metres. Initial reconnaissance established that - for the first time in our programme - a power brush-cutter would be needed as the entrance to the path was completely covered in brambles and other creeping vegetation, impenetrable to the usual shears and loppers.

Several hours later the way ahead was cleared and the rest of the task could be assessed. Then the question arose as to how much or little to cut back to facilitate easy movement for other bridleway users as well as walkers, in other words mountain-bikers and horse-riders: this isn't straightforward for a person unaccustomed to visualising the overall height of horse and rider! Nevertheless this part of the task was accomplished with judicious coppicing of the predominantly elder trees. The latter stage of the project involved severely cutting back a shrubbing beech tree that was extremely hazardous as it overhung the bridleway on a sharp corner.

Walking back along the route was a tidying up exercise, and at this point I observed that a cock pheasant was following me. Every time I stopped to add a finishing touch it stopped too. This continued for about fifty metres; a lovely 'feel good' experience to end a busy day.

DIGGER & CUTS

Monk Holme Wood 'before' and 'after'.

'Voice' Editor Janet adds: 'as a rider, I can confirm that it's lovely when enthusiastic volunteers clear bridleways – but 'challenging' when they do so only to a height of 2 metres or so, not appreciating that a horse plus rider can be up to 3 and a half metres tall!'

NATURE RECOVERY FROM THE BOTTOM UP

YOU ARE probably aware that more and more initiatives are concerned with nature recovery, biodiversity and reversing the alarming deterioration of the natural world. NYMA's President, Ian Carstairs, and Chair, Adrian Leaman, have been working to promote and establish the Nature Recovery 'WeCan' concept, and here explain some of the thought processes leading into the scheme and the actions which are starting to implement it.

Among the growing list of initiatives you will find:

- The UK Government's Local Nature Recovery Strategy, which has an overarching requirement for local authorities in England to examine what they can do to enhance biodiversity.
- Schemes implemented by the North York Moors National Park Authority to support wilder and more natural spaces for wildlife to thrive, soon to be supplemented by a public consultation on their strategy.
- Charities such as Garden Organic and the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust raising funds for new projects and consolidating or expanding their long-standing programmes.
- Many other organisations and pressure groups such as Friends of the Earth, the Countryside Management Association, and Campaign for National Parks, with different and sometimes conflicting agendas, but pulling in the same direction on major topics such as nature recovery.

Such organisations have many characteristics in common:

- a 'nature-based approach' (using nature to help solve wider social and environmental problems)
- an ability to draw on their own strengths and resources
- professional staff and a strong base of volunteers
- reliance on long-term funding continuity
- funding from membership subscriptions and donations
- philanthropy and cooperation of (some) landowners
- access to mapping and database systems
- monitoring and assessment frameworks for successes and failures over time
- defined project areas, designated on maps and/or physically fenced
- either 'strategic', in the sense of an enabling plan possibly with targets, and/or more hands-on conservation and restitution.

These moves towards nature recovery have produced a formidable body of knowledge, often from engaging case studies, many of them well-known. In the UK some of the best-known successes are the Boat of Garten Ospreys reintroduction, and the widespread repopulation by Red Kites. White-tailed eagles are doing well too.

The limitation of a nature-based approach however is evidenced by continuing species decline and habitat loss, as documented in the annual State of Nature report in 2023. The picture presented is detailed and thorough, with statistics based on reliable monitored evidence. A headline fact is that the UK Priority Species Indicator of relative abundance, based on 228 priority species (103 bird species, 88 moths, 24 butterflies, 13 mammals) has declined to 37 per cent of the 1970 baseline indicator (100). Similarly, vascular (veined) plant distributions had declined to 84 percent of the 1970 baseline by 2021, and bryophytes (ferns etc.) to 81 percent of the baseline. Only lichens have shown an increase (15 percent higher than the 1970 baseline). The full report can be found at https://stateofnature.org.uk/ .

Would we have more success if we now added a more concerted behaviour-based approach? That is, paying more attention to the root of the problem, which is human behaviour? What might that look like?

- It would involve raising awareness so that individuals from all walks of life routinely consider the environmental consequences of their lifestyles, and change their everyday behaviours for the better.
- Their awareness and actions would depend on where they lived and their personal circumstances, especially their income and who they knew.
- Many people would encourage each other by word of mouth and shared examples.
- Some might declare their allegiances and commitment, others may prefer to keep things to themselves.
- The emphasis would be on individuals, their local community and their everyday lives.
- Importantly, most would be people who do not wish to be involved with anything too organised or bureaucratic. In other words, their actions would fall below a bureaucratic threshold. This also applies to smaller local organisations which do not have the financial resources, skills or personnel available to procure and manage funded projects or engage with complex processes.
- Added to this, there would be some light-touch acknowledgment at local levels of democracy - Town and Parish Councils in England, for instance - of their commitment to nature recovery and environmental improvement in their own localities.

A REAL-LIFE EXAMPLE

We are not dreaming. As we outlined in the Foreword to this issue, the 'bottom-up' approach has already been adopted in Harleston, Norfolk, and is becoming recognised as the

Gardening for Wildlife

© Ian Carstairs

Grass management by scything

Matthew Eluwande's Nature Recovery hat, modelled by Hai Anh

© Ian Carstairs

'Harleston model'. It galvanises local people to act in the best interests of environmental improvement and nature recovery, puts real action first (the behaviour change stimulated by individuals and local organisations), then recognises their best efforts in the local neighbourhood plans of Town and Parish Councils ('strategy'). This feeds a virtuous circle which becomes obvious over time as natural life returns and people can see the improvement for themselves. This is action first, strategy second, with minimum call on resources but with the potential for wide outreach and effect.

So, how has the idea progressed and what are the practical experiences in Harleston? What has been achieved already? This starts from the will of committed individuals and local organisations, their spontaneity and vision, and their recognition of local needs that should be met. Through their example, this reaches others locally, eventually penetrating into behaviour change by example and word-of-mouth. Much of this is simple, obvious and common sense. The outcomes become clear to all, failures as well as successes.

It is perhaps surprising that one of the hardest things to explain is that this is a very simple idea. Perhaps we are all too used to initiatives being driven by organisations, or we are just used to complication.

Having fronted the concept and been closely involved in nurturing its early life, it is pleasing to see that the Harleston Model has now been approved by South Norfolk Council to be promoted to all parishes throughout the District. There is even the possibility that this 'bottom-up approach' could be adopted into the formal framework of Norfolk and Suffolk's Coordinated Local Nature Recovery Strategy. And ways are now being investigated by the District Council by which funds can be trickled down to support delivery without the dead hand of bureaucracy. Already one group of volunteers who undertake habitat management has been grant-aided to buy a power scythe, an essential piece of equipment to ease the burden of cutting vegetation.

In Yorkshire, discussions have taken place with Doncaster City Council to apply the model as an umbrella embracing all relevant local projects. A presentation has been made to the East Riding Local Nature Partnership suggesting that this approach might be of interest; time will tell if they will follow suit. Following a separate event in Elvington, near York, several parishes have signed up to the idea and others are considering the proposals. A meeting in the North York Moors in October, hosted by NYMA, saw individuals and community organisations from the Esk Valley and beyond come together to network and discuss the model, with several examples of inspiration and collaboration resulting from the event.

On practical delivery, St Nick's Environment Centre (which manages a 24-acre Local Nature Reserve in the heart of York) is taking the ideas forward to enhance biodiversity through a programme of 'green corridors' within the city, and on the Norfolk-Suffolk border a local trust is working to acquire The Ocean Lake, a flooded former gravel pit. Much loved for low-impact angling and sailing and with a wide range of wildlife, this County Wildlife Site must be protected as a core site from which nature can be built back across the landscape. Safeguarding the best places for wildlife in every parish is going to be critical for success in meeting the challenges ahead.

THE MESSAGE SPREADS

On a completely different tack, a chance meeting saw acclaimed London hat designer, Matthew Eluwande, using the Nature Recovery symbol as an inspiration to create a magnificent hat, modelled at a community nature recovery event. It's certainly the kind of creation which would get you noticed!

There is a long way to go with the Nature Recovery 'WeCan' principles, but now the approach has been endorsed at Parish and District level in East Anglia, with the support of Natural England, there is a solid pattern developing that can be replicated anywhere by anyone who wishes to follow suit.

Returning to the emphasis on individuals and their everyday lives, what they choose to do and why they should do it, we remember the response of a student from Harleston Sancroft Academy to a request directed at the whole school to complete two sentences: 'We should look after wildlife because .....' followed by 'The best way to help wildlife is ......'

To the first sentence the student answered: '.... because it is good'; and to the second he wrote ' ...by doing good things'; perfect, uncomplicated guidance for everyone to follow.

IAN CARSTAIRS AND ADRIAN LEAMAN

Bullfinch at St Nick's Nature Reserve in York

© Lewis Outing

PLANT COMMUNITIES – ANCIENT HEDGEROWS

Blackbird and berry

© Sharon Artley

I N THE second part of our discussion of the plant communities within the North York Moors, I am going to focus on the hedges along the smaller roads, lanes and tracks, which are habitats of vital importance. The older ones may be remnants of ancient woodlands and many others still contain the remains of the original flora of the area, left on the sides of the old tracks and drove roads when the centres were hardened by stone and, later, tarmac. They are often all that we have left of the local natural pastureland, trees and accompanying flora; the equivalent of our 'rainforests'. As such, they deserve protection and appropriate management. They act as vital wildlife corridors, not only for plants, but for the dependent insects, birds and small mammals, as well as being useful carbon capture areas.

Although winter may seem an odd season to study hedgerows, it is a good time to observe their structure and realise the essential part they can play in protecting and feeding our native wildlife as well as overwintering migratory birds, if they are managed sympathetically.

HISTORIC REMNANTS OF EARLY AGRICULTURE

There have probably been some sort of hedgerows in Britain since prehistoric times, certainly since Anglo-Saxon times. They started with the use of dead, often thorny, branches, cut and stacked together to form a barrier round people and their animals for protection from adverse weather conditions and predators. Nomadic herdsmen still practise this in some countries, the thorny 'kraals' of Africa, for example. Gradually, with a more settled way of living, these 'dead hedges' were used more widely for marking boundaries, for containing livestock, or for deer parks. But they also provided an ideal growing place for native trees and shrubs, as seeds were dropped by visiting wildlife seeking shelter too. Thus, rough hedges of many species developed in addition to those created from remnants of old woodland as fields were carved out of them.

To us, these highly diverse areas would appear more as thickets than our 'tidy' hedges, but they were extremely useful for timber, firewood, winter fodder, and food – berries, nuts, fungi, small birds, and mammals.

Over time, many were removed to make larger and more open fields as farming methods changed, but vast lengths of new hedges were planted after the Enclosure Acts of the 18th and 19th centuries. These Acts stipulated that lands should be enclosed by a boundary of ditches with hedgerows planted on the resulting soil. Although this created a lot more hedging, they were usually predominantly of hawthorn, with some blackthorn and maybe a few larger trees, which resulted in a huge decrease in the diversity of species in them.

Countrywide, the timing of this process varied, as did the species used, and the number of species and their composition can often give an estimate of a hedge's age – there is roughly one new species every 100 years over a 30-metre length. Some species indicate older hedges, e.g. dogwood, field maple, spindle, hazel, and, locally, gooseberry and redcurrant, with predominantly hawthorn indicating newer hedges, although this was also used as in-fill between the trees of older hedges.

HEDGEROWS FOR WILDLIFE

A feature along some of our larger hedges are trees, including some very old oaks and limes, but there could be so many more. If you study many hedges, about every ten to twenty metres there will be a tree – oak, ash, rowan, beech, cherry, crab apple, elder, birch, holly, sycamore, willow – but taking the form of coppiced stumps or 'laid' lengths, still growing new shoots each year, but cut back with the rest of the hedge. How easy it would be to fill our quota of new trees to help sequester more carbon if many of these were allowed to grow! Much quicker than planting new 'whips' and costing nothing, and without using valuable farmland.

And what of the maintenance of the hedges between them? Hedges should be about 2½ metres tall, and 2 metres wide. Many of them are currently cut in an 'H' shape, with a flat top, but it is accepted that those cut to an 'A' shape are more natural, and more hardy in adverse weather. If the tops can be left as wispy or waving, there is the advantage too that this will trap more road pollution, preventing it from contaminating fields, crops, and stock – something I learnt in India 30 years ago!

It is unlawful to disturb nesting birds during the breeding season, so hedge-cutting should be carried out between

Typical tarmac lane with verges, hedges and trees

© Anne Press

© Janet Cochrane

September 1st and March 1st. Unfortunately it is commonly done in autumn at the beginning of this period, which means that most berries and seeds are removed, leaving little food and shelter for wildlife over winter. The hedges will not grow over this period, so the simple change to cutting in late winter or very early spring would give a huge boost to wildlife.

The other question is, do hedges actually need cutting every year? The advice now is to do it every two or three years, in a rotation, as many of the hedging plants flower and fruit on second-year wood, which increases this natural harvest tremendously – both flowers for insects, and fruit for birds and mammals. In other words doing less, not more.

What is needed is a change of mindset, to look upon rural hedgerows as an asset of importance for carbon capture and wildlife biodiversity, not as a nuisance to be controlled yearly and reduced to a bare minimum, with no use for their original design, or our present needs. We need maybe smaller, not larger, but more versatile and adaptable machinery, and operators who are more thoughtful – using their knowledge of the countryside and its flora and fauna.

We are part of the natural world, it's our common home; we can't live without it, so we need to care for it, hear the birds sing again, see the butterflies and other insects, smell the flowers – and be able to pass it on to our children and grandchildren to inhabit intact. At this celebratory time of year, we bring it into our houses in the form of the Christmas tree, holly, ivy, and mistletoe – but for how much longer?

In the spring, it will be the time to have a closer look at the roadside verges too, a further area vital for our wildlife and its biodiversity.

ANNE PRESS

Winter hedgerows provide food and shelter

75 YEARS OF NATIONAL PARKS

2024 marks the 75th anniversary of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, which secured access for everyone to the countryside while preserving and enhancing natural beauty. The Act was passed with all-party support as part of the reconstruction of the UK after the dark days of World War II. This visionary legislation has had a vast and lasting impact on our relationship with the natural environment across the UK, and is an achievement we must celebrate and not take for granted.

The 1949 Act was the result of decades of campaigning and action from groups and individuals who understood the vital importance of enshrining in law everyone's ability to access nature. By the end of the 19th century attitudes towards use of the natural world by humans were changing - people were angry about the gradual despoliation of the countryside and the lack of public access to it, which contrasted with the pre-Enclosure Acts freedoms up to the 18th century. During the early 20th century, following decades of industrialisation and the growth of urban areas, people began to demand access to open countryside.

Campaign for National Parks (formed as the Standing Committee on National Parks in 1936) was born out of this movement, and the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 was our first success. Not only did the Act enable the creation of Britain's first National Parks but it also laid out the framework for National Trails, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (renamed National Landscapes in November 2023), Sites of Special Scientific Interest and National Nature Reserves – all fundamental to creating and maintaining spaces for nature and people to thrive.

The last 75 years have seen huge changes in the landscape of the UK, some good, some bad. We've seen more National Park designations and greater protections for protected landscapes, which are key to tackling the unprecedented challenges from nature loss and climate change.

We know there is more to be done. We want 2024 to be the biggest year for national parks since the 1949 Act was passed. We have a whole host of events planned, with the aim of bringing people together and celebrating these incredible places, looking towards the future and engaging with the next generation of national park and countryside protectors.

Look out for information about events throughout the year!

CAMPAIGN FOR NATIONAL PARKS

WHAT DO MOTHS AND BUTTERFLIES DO IN WINTER?

THE colder months pose a problem for our butterflies and most of our moths in a climate such as we experience in northern England. The low temperatures, wind and rain, as well as a lack of larval and adult foodplants mean that survival is a priority. Here we explain the different strategies used by different species, and give some tips on what you can do to help.

DORMANCY, HIBERNATION OR MIGRATION

Butterflies and moths are cold-blooded, so in order to survive and thrive in climates like ours, insects have had to develop several ways to deal with the cold weather. When their surroundings are really cold, most butterflies and moths are forced to remain inactive: they go into a state of dormancy rather than hibernation, since strictly speaking insects don't hibernate.

This dormant phase can be as an egg, larva, pupa or adult insect, dependent upon species. About half of all moth species in the UK (out of a total of around 2,500) overwinter in the caterpillar stage, a third in the chrysalis or pupae stage - often buried underground - with the remaining sixth split between eggs and adult moths.

Meanwhile, the majority of butterflies overwinter in the larval stage, in other words as a caterpillar, with pupa being the next most common choice, followed by eggs and adults. A few are capable of overwintering in more than one stage. The Speckled Wood butterfly for example can overwinter either as a caterpillar or a pupa.

© Peter Eeles

Orange-tip pupa

Small pearl-bordered fritillary caterpillar, 3rd instar

Butterflies like the Large White or the Orange-Tip tend to head to the base of a food plant, the roots of a tussock of grass or just below the soil's surface to enter the chrysalis stage. The chrysalis is attached to the plant by a silken pad and a girdle, its colour varying depending on its surroundings to help camouflage it.

Whilst some species - including the Dingy Skipper, Small Pearl-Bordered Fritillary and Marbled White - will usually adopt similar tactics, they'll be in caterpillar form. The caterpillar can be in several stages of development. As they grow, they moult, and they do this several times. The stage in the life of an insect between two successive moults is called an 'instar'. Caterpillars can go dormant at different instar stages depending on the species, while some species can spend most of their lifetime as a caterpillar. In the case of the Dingy Skipper, the caterpillar constructs a tent made of leaves in which it hibernates over the winter and pupates in the spring, after 10 months in the larval stage.

The Large and Small Skippers hibernate as caterpillars hidden inside a strong silk cocoon made from grasses and silk. This is the reason why you should avoid cutting all grasses as the butterflies are at a vulnerable state at this time.

© Peter Eeles

Purple hairstreak ovum, or egg

The Purple and White-letter Hairstreaks are among those that will lay their eggs on Oak and Elm or Wych-elm respectively, whereupon a caterpillar forms inside each before winter arrives. The eggs will then weather the storm of the colder months, before warmer spring weather prompts the eggs to hatch and the caterpillars to start feeding.

An alternative strategy - employed by the Painted Lady butterfly and Silver Y moths - is to avoid winter conditions completely by migrating to warmer parts of the world.

Finally, several butterflies including the Brimstone, Comma, Peacock and Small Tortoiseshell lie dormant as adults over the winter months and seek refuges such as sheds, outbuildings, log piles and caves to remain warm and dry enough.

WHICH WILL YOU SEE DURING WINTER?

Over the winter period, the butterflies and moths you are most likely to encounter are those that are either active or dormant as adults. Eggs, larvae and pupae tend to be hidden away, though you may find Large White pupae attached to the walls of your house. (A small group of incredibly hardy moths have their main period of adult activity in wintertime, including the Winter Moth, December Moth and Spring Usher, but that's another story.)

The Red Admiral, which has become a common sight in British winters of late, doesn't enter a proper dormancy but becomes active on any suitable days.

Among the butterflies, it is only the Small Tortoiseshell and Peacock that regularly overwinter inside houses. They come in during late summer/early autumn when it is still warm outside and our houses appear to provide suitably cool,

Peacock

sheltered dry conditions. However, come Christmas, when the central heating is cranked up, such butterflies may be awoken prematurely by high indoor temperatures. This presents a major problem for the butterfly as the outside weather conditions may be very hostile and there is little nectar available in gardens.

What should you do if you encounter an active Small Tortoiseshell or Peacock in your home? If this happens in warm spring weather, release the butterfly in the knowledge that it's time to let it go. It is now ready to feed on the spring flowers and move in search of territories, breeding grounds and mates. If the butterfly wakes up in winter, place it in a dry, transparent container lined with a folded section of kitchen paper to absorb moisture and place this in the salad drawer in the fridge, where the temperature is around four Celsius. The butterfly will soon settle and can be kept there until warm, sunny weather arrives in March or April. Alternatively, remove the butterfly from the container when it is quiet and place in an unheated shed or room to complete its winter rest.

To check out each Butterfly Species in more detail, go to the Butterfly Conservation website https://butterfly-conservation.org/butterflies and look for the lifecycle part of the page to identify what life stage the species is in over the winter. Some information is also available for moths - https://butterfly-conservation.org/moths

MARTIN PARTRIDGE
CHAIR, YORKSHIRE BRANCH, BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION

Duke of Burgundy pupa

© Vince Massimo
© Peter Eeles

OFF-ROADING: ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE AND PUBLIC NUISANCE

Typical damage caused by off-road vehicles, Broxa Forest, NYM

© GLEAM

A RECENT report spells out the public nuisance and environmental and cultural damage perpetrated by recreational driving on countryside tracks by 4x4s, motorbikes and quad bikes.

'Calling Time on Off-roading', prepared by the Green Lanes Environmental Action Movement (GLEAM), also explains how and why current legislation is failing to protect 6,000 miles of green lanes in England and 1,000 miles in Wales – including in National Parks and National Landscapes (formerly Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty). The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 brought off-roading to an end on most footpaths and bridleways, but left the 7,000 miles of so-called 'green lanes' in England and Wales unprotected.

GLEAM Chairman, Dr Michael Bartholomew, says: 'The ancient tracks that thread their way through the countryside are a precious, historic feature of the landscape. The report explains how driving on them for fun with 4x4s and motorbikes is destroying them. It causes public nuisance and loss of amenity to residents and to people on foot, horse or cycle, including people who are disabled. It disrupts farming activities. It places heavy burdens on highway authorities and the public purse, and it brings noise, pollution and the depletion of nature into otherwise tranquil, unspoilt areas.'

The report clarifies that the official classification of 'green lanes' is generally either as a Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT) or an Unclassified, Unsealed Road (UUR). BOATs have proven legal rights for motor vehicles but in most cases only because they were used in the past by horse-drawn vehicles. The rights of way on UURs are uncertain, meaning that anyone can use them, even with a motor vehicle. Michael goes on to say that 'the law as it stands is failing to deal with the issue. What is needed is new legislation to bring recreational off-roading to an end – although without affecting motor vehicle use by residents, farmers and land managers, people using disability scooters or the emergency services'.

The report is available at http://gleam-org.uk under the 'News' tab.

Editor's Note: We are saddened by the occasional loss of life experienced by off-roaders, such as the 3 men who unfortunately drowned while trying to cross the River Esk in Glaisdale in December 2023.

THE MOORS AND MADEIRA

Cut boulders and embankment

Foord's level

All photos © Alan Staniforth

WHAT does the island of Madeira have in common with the North York Moors? Answer: they both have manmade watercourses carrying water from its source to where it is, or was, required. The *levadas* of Madeira, first constructed in the 15th century, are still in use today bringing water from the wetter, northern part of the island to the dryer, southern areas. Flowing solely under gravity, the water runs in gullies cut along the mountain-sides or along built-up concrete channels. The technique of moving water under gravity from its source to wherever it was required is an ancient art practised by many early civilisations, notably the Romans.

WATER FROM THE MOORS

In the southwest corner of the North York Moors, between Old Byland and Lastingham, are the remains of a series of old watercourses engineered during the 18th century in order to bring water 'on its own legs', without any benefit from pumps or other machinery, from the high moorland to the dry, spring-less villages and farms on the limestone plateau of the Tabular Hills. They were a marvel of surveying and engineering carried out by the largely self-educated Fadmoor-born Joseph Foord (1714-1788).

Finding a source of water on the higher moors was not difficult and running it in a channel southwards to the foot of the Tabular Hills was relatively easy, although the levelling had to be precise: too shallow and the water would not flow under gravity, too steep and erosion would destroy the channel. Foord's genius was in getting the water to 'climb' the Tabular escarpment, often 200 feet from base to summit.

Hill End race – going uphill?

What appears at first sight to be an impossible task was solved when Foord realised that the Tabular Hills in this southwestern part of the moors are sloping gently eastwards, so the base of the escarpment gets gradually higher the further west one travels. Foord's skill was in finding the point at the base of the escarpment which was higher than the village on the top to which he wanted to supply the water. He was then able to cut his watercourse across the face of the hill until it broke the summit, from where the water could then flow down the dip slope to the village. Such is the angle of the channel and the hills that in some locations the water *appears* to be flowing uphill!

Inevitably there were obstacles to be overcome whilst constructing the races. Large boulders on the route might be levered out of the way or, alternatively, a channel cut through, underneath or alongside them. Small side valleys would be 'bridged' by a wooden trough and in many sections an embankment was built up to one side to contain the flow. Although on average only about 15 inches wide, the depth could vary dependent on the terrain. Surprisingly, given the nature of the ground over which the race flowed, there is little if any evidence of a clay lining - although clay was certainly used in some repair works. Fine silts washed from the moorland rocks appear to have formed a natural sealant. Regular inspection and maintenance were required to keep the water flowing freely.

Ryedale Folk Museum displays a short section of reconstructed race and also holds Foord's simple level he used to survey the lines of the moorland races. This was a tripod with a brass spirit-level attached together with a small brass telescope for sighting. With the aid of a helper and a couple of surveyor's ranging poles, this was all that was needed to achieve a remarkable result.

THE RIEVAULX RACE

Foord constructed about seventy miles of watercourses in the latter half of the 18th century. There were several main races, the longest being the 12.7-mile Rievaulx watercourse, probably the last he constructed in 1768, which towards its end split into three short branches to supply Stiltons Farm, Abbot Hagg,

and Griff Farm. This race started in Tripsdale at the 840-foot contour and followed a gently inclined route along the west side of the dale, continuing down Bilsdale to terminate at the 500-foot contour, having 'climbed' the escarpment at Newgate Bank and crossing the road (now the B1257) on three occasions before arriving at its destination above Rievaulx Abbey. The race functioned for over 140 years until the early years of the 20th century when the Rural District Council adopted a plan to draw water from strong springs near Sour Leys Farm by means of a hydraulic ram. Water could then be piped to all the farms in the area, not only those previously served by the gravity race.

Although long abandoned, much of the route of the Rievaulx race can still be traced by the intrepid explorer. Looking downstream from where the game track crosses the beck in Tripsdale (grid ref. SE 582988) a distinct shallow channel can be seen on the left bank a short distance above the present stream. Although the source of the race was a little further upstream no evidence remains today. Due to the shallow gradient of the race, once found it is relatively easy to follow its course southwards - although landslips have destroyed some sections.

Before reaching Tarn Hole (SE 591978) there is intriguing evidence of two short parallel trenches below the main watercourse channel. Why were these dug? Given the accuracy of Foord's levelling it seems unlikely that they were the result of his surveying. Perhaps this work had been 'put out to contract' or left to an apprentice! We shall probably never know.

On reaching Tarn Hole the race captured a powerful source of water and after some years the previous short section of the race was abandoned, possibly as a result of the new jet workings in the upper valley which disrupted the flow.

THE HILL END RACE

On the west side of Tripsdale is another watercourse, one of the shortest at just over a mile long. Whilst there is no firm evidence that this race was engineered by Foord, there is every reason to presume that it was one of his works. The race commences at Preston Spring at 950 feet and runs to Hill End Farm further down the spur at approximately 636 feet. This race has a powerful flow and runs in part over clean gravel before dropping steeply towards the farm. This is the last remaining watercourse which is continuing the job for which it was originally built in the late 18th century, namely supplying water to where it was needed - a fitting tribute to the genius of Joseph Foord. The water from the race is now directed into modern storage tanks and supplies all the water requirements of the farm, the surplus finding its way downhill and eventually into the River Seph.

Piers and stone channel, Bonfield Ghyll

IMPRESSIVE STRUCTURES

Two of the most impressive structures associated with Foord's races can still be seen near Bonfield Ghyll in Bransdale and at Roppa Sands near the foot of Rievaulx Bank. A race commencing at springs near Piethorn (SE 598929) contoured the hill and crossed the Bransdale road before making a sharp turn over Bonfield Gill. At this point a substantial aqueduct was constructed (SE 610938). Standing some 8 feet above the beck, the two piers carried the water in stone troughs leading to a ten-foot-long wooden channel bridging the stream below. Extensive repairs were carried out on the aqueduct in 1964 and again in 1982.

The Carlton race approaches the foot of Rievaulx Bank at Roppa Sands (SE 586914). In this notoriously low and wet area, Foord had to construct an embankment some five feet high and over 160 yards in length to 'float' the race over the bog. Although damaged by later forest planting and extraction the structure is still an impressive sight. The narrow channel which carried the water until 1959 can clearly be seen atop the embankment.

THE END OF AN ERA

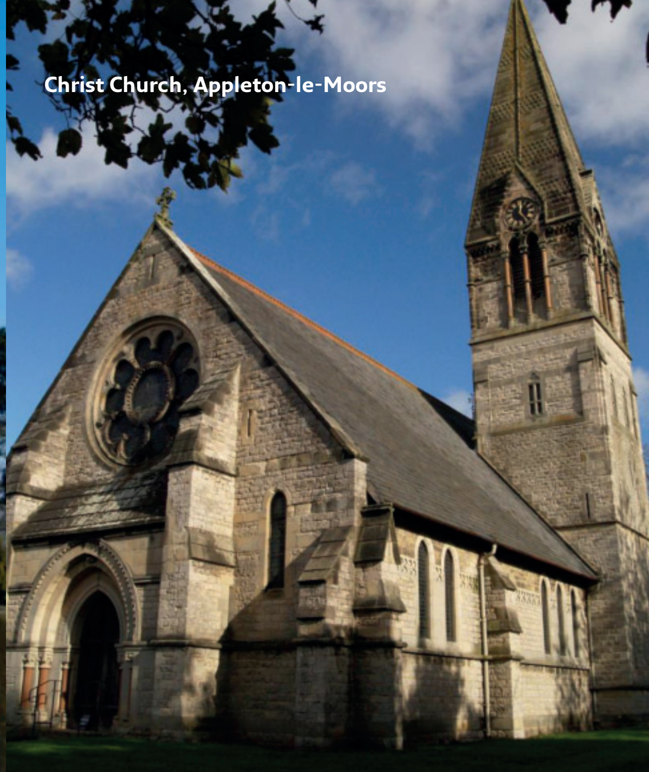
Towards the end of the 18th century the introduction of the hydraulic ram and piped water led to the gradual decline of the watercourses. Carlton was the last village to be supplied with water from a Foord watercourse and this ceased in 1959 after 200 years of operation when piped water was brought to the village. Sadly, most of the races, no longer in use, are gradually being lost to nature. Silting, collapse and overgrowth make it increasingly difficult to trace their routes on the ground. If you wish to see active water races today you will have to visit Madeira!

I am indebted to my own feet and the book 'Water from the Moors' by Isabel Anne McLean (NYMNP 2005) for much of the information in this article.

ALAN STANIFORTH

'Floating' embankment, Roppa

St. Mary's, Lastingham


Christ Church, Appleton-le-Moors

TWO MOORLAND CHURCHES: A JOURNEY IN TIME

© Phil Brown

THE North Yorkshire Moors are renowned for their beauty and the spacious grandeur of the scenery, so that it is sometimes difficult to remember that people have lived here, in isolated farmhouses or small villages, since before records began. Some of those villages still exist, and several contain churches of ancient beauty and significance; others have excellent examples of the work of renowned Victorian architects.

Here we describe two wonderful and very different churches, separated by less than two miles - and more than 1400 years - on the southern edge of the Moors.

ST MARY'S, LASTINGHAM

Architectural historian Simon Jenkins, who tends to be a bit flowery, excels himself in his description of St Mary's:

'The crypt at Lastingham is among England's special places. I first visited it on a damp autumn evening when the moor outside was cold and still. Solitude itself had crept into the church, descended to the crypt and knelt to pray. The ghosts were those of the age of Bede, St Cedd and St Chad and the earliest missionaries to the north ... Some churches are a challenge to the faithful; Lastingham is a challenge to the faithless.'

Belonging to the latter category, I can second that. I was fortunate, some years ago, to hear a reading in St Mary's of T.S Eliot's 'Murder in the Cathedral'. The weather was so foul that the event had to be postponed from its original date, which was, to the day, the 850th anniversary of the murder in Canterbury Cathedral of St Thomas Becket. Hearing the chorus lamenting the weather, and foretelling the coming slaughter, made the flesh creep.

The architecture of St Mary's, in conjunction with its history, means that it regularly features on the 'best of' list of Anglican churches in England. The art historian and author Nikolaus Pevsner describes the crypt as 'unforgettable'; the poet and architectural historian John Betjeman concurs, describing St Mary's as 'one of the most moving places in England'. Simon Jenkins, as we have seen, is equally effusive, awarding the church four stars out of a possible five.

The church dates back to the 7th century, but as it stands today has little real connection with the beginning of Christianity in Britain, having been demolished, rebuilt, remodelled and modernised over the years. Why is it then that it feels so special? All sacred space can feel hallowed simply by its silence, but the quality of that silence at St Mary's is unsurpassed and much commented upon by both visitors and experts.

The first church on the site was a monastery in the Celtic tradition, built in 654 by Cedd (later canonised) who came here from Lindisfarne Priory. A decade later, Cedd died of the plague and was buried at Lastingham. The original building was probably made of timber, and its fate is unknown.

Crypt of St Mary's

The first stone church on the site was built around 725 and dedicated to Our Lady. Cedd is buried 'to the right of the Altar', according to Bede. How much of that church and monastery buildings were destroyed by the Viking invasions in the 9th and 10th centuries is not known.

The existing building dates from 1078, when a Benedictine Abbey was founded by Stephen of Whitby in the aftermath of the Norman conquest, which produced a flurry of church building in the new Gothic style imported from the continent. Stephen first built the Crypt over the place where St Cedd is thought to have been buried. A substantial church was planned, with the existing two massive eastern columns designed as the eastern supports to the tower. The western ones are mostly buried in the masonry of the west wall, but parts can be seen. However, for some reason the project lasted only ten years, perhaps as a result of the 'harrying of the North' by William the Conqueror, which meant that there were simply not enough workmen available. In 1088 Stephen and his monks abandoned the site and left for York.

The unfinished building lay derelict for 140 years. In 1228 it became a parish church, and rebuilding started. An arcade of two bays was built into both the north and south walls, and the spaces between the east and west tower pillars were similarly arched. The roof had a good pitch, typical of its time. Also in the 13th century the North Aisle was built, then the South Aisle in the 14th century, and the Perpendicular tower in the 15th.

There was a substantial rebuilding in 1620, and again in 1834. Then in 1879, the Victorian architect John Loughborough Pearson (whom we shall meet again at Appleton) carried out a radical restoration, leaving the building in its present form. Betjeman describes the interior as being on a 'grand but simple scale, crowned with massive ribless groined vaults in stone by Pearson'. The presbytery, crossing, and the first bay of the nave survive from the unfinished building begun in 1078. At the west end there is the campanile-type tower. But the jewel in the crown is Abbot Stephen's crypt, beneath the nave: 'a complete church in itself, apsed, aisled and vaulted and one of the most moving places in England'.

CHRIST CHURCH, APPLETON-LE-MOORS

We now move less than 2 miles south to the tiny village of Appleton-le-Moors, to the second of our outstanding churches.

J.L. Pearson (1817-1897) designed Truro Cathedral and was responsible for repair work on Lincoln, Chichester, Peterborough, Bristol, and Exeter cathedrals; St George's Chapel, Windsor; Westminster Hall; and Westminster Abbey. Not exactly the sort of architect you would expect to find designing for a moorland village, but in fact one of his finest creations may be found here. He was already familiar with Yorkshire, having built or restored his first churches in East Yorkshire villages near Hull in the 1840s, and having been engaged by Sir Tatton Sykes to restore several of the Wolds churches around Sledmere in the 1850s.

For many years the residents of Appleton-le-Moors regarded St Mary's, Lastingham, as their parish church and made a weekly trek there for services. All that changed when Appleton got its own church.

Christ Church was built in the mid-1860s and consecrated in 1863. Betjeman describes it as 'finely conceived' and quotes an earlier, unnamed, source which calls it 'a little gem among moorland churches' (attributed to William Thomson, Archbishop of York 1862-1890).

The church and the current village hall (formerly a school) were funded by Mary Shepherd, widow of Joseph Shepherd (1804-1862) who was born in Appleton-le-Moors, went to sea, and became a shipowner and a very rich man: on his death his

© Michael Garlick / National Churches Trust

Apse of Christ Church

estate was valued at £70,000. Joseph was buried at St Mary's, Lastingham: Christ Church did not have a graveyard until 1921. Pearson was not perhaps at the height of his powers when commissioned to design the Appleton church, but he was already well known and widely admired, and charged accordingly: the church cost £10,000. The craftsmen who actually built it were local men.

If you have noticed Christ Church as you stroll through the village, you may have found the outside unexciting. It is well worth further investigation, however. It has been described as rather low and broad with a 'satisfying' exterior. It was built in the Early French Gothic style mainly of local stone, with Rosedale ironstone (and other coloured stone) used to give contrasting detail. It has an apsidal (semi-circular) chancel, a tall bell tower and a pyramid spire that stands prominently in the landscape.

Inside, the splendid hammerbeam roof soars above an elaborate interior. Magnificent pink classical sgraffito decorations (a technique of wall decoration, produced by applying layers of plaster tinted in contrasting colours to a moistened surface) adorn the walls in the Lady Chapel and apse, the reredos and the pulpit.

The beautiful west-facing rose window resembles the White Rose of York, with a 10 part 'botanical' design and panels depicting Christian virtues such as Faith, Hope, and Charity. Both sgraffiti and stained glass were made by Clayton and Bell of London, one of the most prolific workshops of stained-glass windows during the Victoria era.

An unusual feature is a west porch opening into the church by two doors, between which stands the Caenstone font. The unexpectedly ornate décor and layout include miniature pews for children on either side of the doors. They sat here for Sunday School then gradually moved up through the church as they grew older, eventually taking their place at the altar rail for full communion once they had been confirmed.

'Church crawling' across the Moors, like everywhere else, has become more difficult of late, as more churches, especially in isolated areas, are kept locked. Fortunately both St Mary's and Christ Church are not among them, being open for visitors daily during daylight hours.

JEAN RICHARDS

WHO KNOWS WHERE THE BODIES ARE BURIED?

ECHOES OF THE BATTLE OF BYLAND

IT IS hard to believe that more than a year has elapsed since the erection of the memorial stone at Sutton Bank to mark the 700th anniversary of the Battle of Byland, fought on 14th October 1322.

The impressive monument and interpretation board were the result of a partnership project between the National Park Authority and NYMA, and were unveiled as the highlight of a special 'Medieval' day at the Sutton Bank Visitor Centre, attended by an enthusiastic crowd of around 1,000 – but the story doesn't end there.

The team behind the project have not 'rested on their laurels' and are now planning the next phase, which we hope will involve archaeological investigation - but we need some help!

This will be the first time any archaeology has been undertaken specifically in relation to the Battle of Byland – an exciting prospect! But in common with all battlefields of the medieval era, the question is where do you look, and what do you look for? Although we have a very good idea of where the main fighting took place, in fact with more certainty than with most medieval battles, just walking over the ground with metal detectors is unlikely to produce much by way of artefacts. This is mainly because medieval battlefields were always thoroughly scavenged for articles of value in the aftermath (and all metal objects were deemed valuable), and items that remained - such as arrowheads - are unlikely to have survived in the ground for 700 years other than in exceptional circumstances.

However, there is a greater chance of finding the burial sites of those killed in the battle. We know that in the Middle Ages, bodies were typically interred together in pits fairly close to where they fell in battle, with the exception of high-ranking casualties. As a number of the ancient chronicles refer to heavy casualties in the Battle of Byland, it follows that there are likely to be several burial sites in the proximity of the area where the fighting took place. A complicating factor is that apart from the main action at Sutton Bank, it is believed that significant skirmishes took place further afield in the ensuing rout as the English army disintegrated, leaving bodies distributed over a wider area. It may be the case therefore that in addition to the main burial sites, there may be a number of smaller sites dotted over the landscape.

© Harry Pearson

Are burial sites to be found at the Chapel at Scotch Corner?

PLEASE HELP US FIND THE BODIES!

Unfortunately, none of the contemporary sources refer to specific burial locations, so it is difficult to know where to look. In such circumstances historians need to turn to more anecdotal evidence, such as local legend and folklore. Such oral tradition is often founded on fact, and can be invaluable in the absence of written records.

Therefore, I would like to appeal to anyone who has any local knowledge about the Battle of Byland, particularly in relation to where bodies might be buried, to get in touch. This might be a family legend, or a folk tale, or just something you once read but can't remember where – anything really! Please don't think that anything you know is too vague or too insignificant to pass on. Every item of information is useful and worth hearing, and even the smallest clue is a valuable piece in the jigsaw of the bigger picture.

In the meantime, I have been continuing my research of historical records, and was recently granted privileged access to the archives of the Inner Temple in London to view 'Hoveden's Chronicle', a general history of England written in the late 12th century, which is known to have been in the library of Rievaulx Abbey when the battle took place.

Medieval battles were bloody affairs

© Cambridge University Library

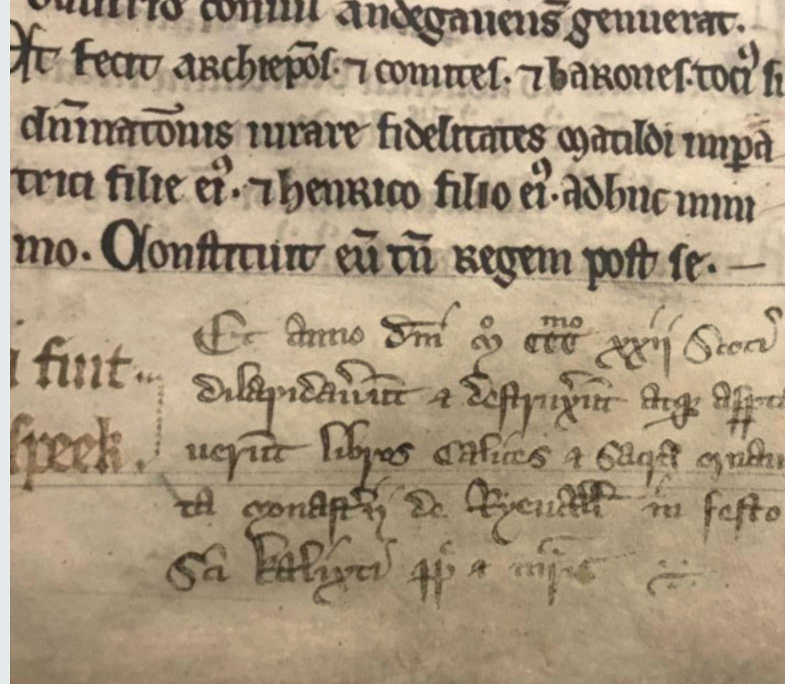
© The Masters of the Inner Temple

Not only is it remarkable that this rare manuscript has survived, but the absolutely fascinating thing is that it contains an annotation written in the margin by one of the monks, detailing the depredations of the Scots on Rievaulx in the aftermath of the battle. The medieval Latin translates as *'In the Year of Our Lord 1322 the Scots despoiled and damaged the monastery of Rievaulx, and carried off books, chalices, and the sacred ornaments, on the feast of St. Callixtus (14th of October)'.*

It was wonderful to be granted access to this ancient document, and amazing to see an account of an event relating to the Battle of Byland hand-written by an eyewitness; it's like having a time-machine!

If anything does occur to you, please pass it on to me at h.pearson@northyorkmoors.org.uk

HARRY PEARSON
PROJECT VOLUNTEER AND RESEARCHER



Marginal note in 'Hoveden's Chronicle'

HISTORIC HONEY PRODUCTION IN THE MOORS

© Jane Ellis

IN THE NYMA 'Meet the Members' session I spoke at in December, I posed the questions: 'How big an industry was the production of honey on the moors before we began importing sugar in the 16th century, and how organised was the distribution and transportation of honey?'

Humans have been taking advantage of the honey produced by bees for millennia, since in past times that was the only way to satisfy our taste for sweetness in food and drink. The oldest forms of deliberate bee-husbandry were recorded from Egypt 10,000 years ago. There is a great deal of fascinating traditional folklore on the subject, and from my reading on the subject, I suspect that apiarists gently elicit the co-operation of their bees, rather than attempting to exert mastery over them. Having once been caught in the midst of an angry swarm made me realise that such a force of nature can be a killer, and there needs to be a certain amount of deference to the bees.

There are many indications of the importance of bee-production in the North York Moors. For instance, within living memory a licensed hawker travelled around the Colne Valley near Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, selling heather honey from hives kept around Saltersgate, so clearly he had available large quantities of the product, with a demand which made it feasible (and presumably profitable) to travel such distances with it.

There is evidence for the production of honey on an almost industrial scale on the ridge above Bank House Farm, Glaisdale, where a line of several dozen 'bee boles' was built (with a considerable investment in labour) into a long drystone wall on the edge of the moor. These recesses gave shelter for bee skeps - hives made from woven straw, wicker or whatever else was available, including heather. This structure is the largest example of its kind in England! The boles probably date back to the time of the Enclosure Acts in the 17th and 18th centuries and are carefully sited; whilst they are on exposed moorland they have been positioned with their back walls more or less towards the northwest, hence giving them some shelter from the worst of the weather, and allowing the warmth of the sun into the openings at the front. This would not only have given the bees shelter from the extremes of weather suffered on the high moors at any time of the year, but also encouraged them to work harder and for longer because of the additional warmth created at the start and end of the day.

Westerdale bee house

Part of a line of 77 bee boles above Glaisdale

In another part of Eskdale, Dale Head Farm in Westerdale has a Grade II* 'bee house', a much finer piece of work with six alcoves and with a known construction date, 1832. Described in the Historic England listing as being made of sandstone with a purple Lakeland slate roof, this was viewed as important enough for the National Park Authority to carry out a full restoration in 1983.

Both examples can be visited and viewed from public rights-of-way. There are around eight others known from the Moors or nearby, listed in The Bee Boles Register (https://www.beeboles.org.uk/), and perhaps there are more in other locations, since honey and beeswax were such valued commodities in the past.

The tradition of bee-keeping in the Moors to take advantage of the opportunity offered by the annual blooming of heather continues, fostered by enthusiasts such as members of the Ryedale Beekeepers Association and enterprises such as Westfields Honey, based in Fadmoor, while replicas of traditional bee-boles are being created in the drystone wall maze currently being built in Dalby Forest.

JANE ELLIS

MOOR TO RESTORE: PEAT HABITATS IN THE MOORS

PEATLANDS are incredibly special habitats. They are characterised by wet, waterlogged soils where vegetation is not able to decay fully and so builds up over time, eventually forming a layer of peat. As well as supporting many internationally significant species, undamaged peatlands can lock away more carbon than the equivalent area of rainforest. However, if they are drained or otherwise damaged, peatlands become a major source of greenhouse gas emissions. Any loss of peat habitats is therefore potentially detrimental to the environment.

The North York Moors has seen significant peat loss over the last 200 years. The digging of peat for fuel, drainage for agricultural improvement, and wildfires have all contributed all to this. Unfortunately, once peat becomes degraded and the surface vegetation is lost, further erosion occurs quickly as water runs downhill over the exposed earth, forming gullies. Carbon from the peat dissolves in the rainwater and contributes to poorer water quality (and the characteristic brown colour) which is high in dissolved organic carbon (DOCs). This then flows directly into watercourses.

The Moor to Restore project, which received funding from 1 September 2023, will see areas of blanket bog restored or re-established across nine sites, totalling more than 1,100 hectares.

Edward March-Shawcross measures peat depth

© Charlie Fox

Three of these sites are owned by Forestry England (at Cropton, Langdale Forest and Harwood Dale) and until recently were commercial conifer plantations. The work to be carried out represents a return to a native habitat lost more than 70 years ago. The restoration of boggy, species-rich habitats where sphagnum moss and cotton grass thrive will help our populations of Golden Plover and Merlin - two species for which the North York Moors is designated as a Special Protection Area - as well as threatened species of wading birds such as Curlew.

The project will run until April 2025 and has been made possible thanks to a grant of more than £1.25 million from Natural England's Climate Peatland Grant Scheme to the North York Moors National Park Authority. It's important to say that prior to the project, a 20-month preliminary scheme allowed for evaluation of the feasibility of restoration and the formation of detailed plans. This initial work was carried out in close collaboration with Yorkshire Peat Partnership, alongside The Palladium Group. (The Palladium Group works to bring public bodies such as the National Park Authority together with the private sector to fund programmes that will have a long-lasting and positive impact on climate change and environmental recovery.)

RESTORATION

In restoring bog habitats, the first task is to raise the water table so that the ground is suitably wet and waterlogged to support the appropriate community of plants. This will be achieved by blocking erosion gullies and building 'leaky dams' that use natural materials to slow water drainage and help the formation of small pools. The pools created behind the leaky dams stay wet even after long periods without rain, keeping the surrounding habitat wetter and providing food and water for wildlife in periods of drought. This is acutely important in the North York Moors National Park as it sits in a rain shadow in the east of the country and has significantly lower rainfall than other peat-forming habitats in the UK, making any water that can be held in the blanket bog systems valuable. Re-vegetation will be kick-started through planting large numbers of sphagnum moss plugs as well as cotton grass plugs and other peat-forming species.

© Beatrix Elke Kaye

Mist, snow and moorland in Bilsdale

The long-term aim for the National Park is that all areas of degraded deep peat habitat (approximately 4,500 hectares) will be under active restoration by 2032. To achieve this ambition the National Park is working closely with landowners and land managers to identify further areas for restoration and explain how healthy peatlands provide carbon storage, improved water quality and benefits to biodiversity.

For more information about climate change and nature recovery projects in the North York Moors, please visit https://northyorkmoors.org.uk/caring

EDWARD MARCH-SHAWCROSS
MOOR TO RESTORE PROJECT OFFICER, NYMNPA

A WALK IN HUTTON LOWCROSS WOODS, GUISBOROUGH

Entrance to ironstone drift mine

Carved owl

© All photos © T&J Dunn

THE walk starts at the Walkway Visitor Centre just outside Guisborough, on the site of the former goods yard and sidings of Pinchinthorpe Railway Station, which closed in 1951. There is ample parking which can be paid for by cash or card, and toilets and refreshments are available here.

This is a circular walk of just under 6 miles covering an area with a significant industrial history. It starts in an easterly direction, initially along the track bed of the Guisborough section of the North Eastern Railway which transported iron ore and minerals from East Cleveland to the blast furnaces in Middlesbrough.

Soon after setting off look out for carvings of animals, a children's trail, an area of wetland with facilities for pond dipping, and birdwatching hides. Our walk leaves the main track before the wetland to go right into woodland then immediately left and climbs up to reach Bousdale Cottage. Follow this path into open country and take the left track between fields until you reach Home Farm, a collection of converted farm buildings. Continue to join the minor road and turn right towards Hutton Village. In 100m you pass through a metal gate onto a field path on your right. Follow the path round to another gate and climb uphill: the path levels out shortly and continues through woodland, gradually reaching a viewpoint of Roseberry Topping.

'LOOK FOR JOY'

[About 100m before the viewpoint, those who want a shorter walk can take a path to the right which follows a track marked by notices produced by the Wellbeing Project which promote greater enjoyment of the woodland and how it can contribute to better health and wellbeing. This walk has a lesser gradient and takes you close to Home Farm from where you can retrace your steps past Bousdale Cottage and back to the Visitor Centre.]

Our main walk, however, does not go towards Roseberry, but follows the path on the left which rises to a clearing where there has been recent forestry work. From here you can enjoy views over Guisborough to Errington Woods and in the far distance the North Sea.

Continue along the forestry path and, where it begins to rise, look to the right for the stone-faced remains of the entrance to an ironstone drift mine. There were seven of these mines within this area of Guisborough Woods, operating between 1850 and 1865, and jet was also mined in the vicinity. Several railway lines were laid from the hills to link the mines to the main railway line and on to Middlesbrough.

Follow the path along to a crossroads and go straight over, continuing past a metal gate and green barriers bordering the path. Look to the right for some strong metal gates blocking off the entrance to another old mine, possibly Hutton Mine, which closed in 1867. The inclined railway track from this mine ran down into Hutton village.

At the end of this path we reach a junction and turn left down a steep hill following the incline to the village which in 1851 was home to 49 ironstone miners, rising to 271 in 1861. The Lord of the Manor, Sir Joseph Whitwell Pease, was also the mine owner, and had a Mission Hall and a School Room built for the community in 1857. There were 146 children attending the school in 1871, which gives an indication of how busy the area was at the time. You can see these buildings up a road on the right as you walk through the village.

Further down the minor road is Hutton Hall, built by the Pease family in 1864. This had its own private railway station at Hutton Gate which is at the end of the minor road. The stations at Hutton Gate and at Guisborough survived for longer than Pinchinthorpe, closing when the branch line service ended in 1964. The platform can still be seen and the track bed is now a footpath. During the Spanish Civil War 20 Basque children lived at the Hall, along with other refugees, and soon afterwards, during World War II, it was requisitioned by the military.

However, we do not go that far but turn left onto the Private Road past Home Farm and retrace our steps to the Visitor Centre.

TIM & JANE DUNN

Forestry England wellbeing sign

LAY TRUSTEES AND FAMILY LAW

Belinda Poulter, Director in Crombie Wilkinson's Private Client team

TRUSTS are typically used to preserve assets for loved ones in private client estate planning. All trusts will have trustees, some of whom are professionals (such as a solicitor or accountant), while others have Lay Trustees. These are people such as family members or friends who take responsibility for the estate themselves rather than acting in a professional capacity. Lay Trustees are not entitled to be paid for their services but can receive out-of-pocket expenses. They are required to exercise such skill and care as is reasonable in managing assets on behalf of the beneficiaries. That standard of care is not as high as for a professional who has specialist knowledge, but there are nevertheless certain requirements that they must adhere to.

WHEN SHOULD A LAY TRUSTEE CONSULT A SOLICITOR?

Trusts are typically used to preserve assets for loved ones in private client estate planning, and many trusts are fairly inactive a lot of the time. Often action is only required when the trust is first set up, when assets are distributed, or when the trust needs to be wound up. These events involve strict legal requirements, and you must fulfil your obligations as a trustee, so obtaining advice from a solicitor at key times will help you to ensure full compliance with these duties.'

REQUIREMENTS DURING THE TRUST PERIOD

When a trust is set up, or if changes are made to it during its term, you must register the trust or update the trust registration. The Trust Registration Service is a legal requirement and it is the trustees' duty to register the trust, failing which you may have to pay a fine for which you would be personally liable. If you have been appointed as a trustee for a new trust, or if you are a trustee of an existing trust which has not yet been registered, you should contact a solicitor to help you navigate the Trust Registration Service.

If the trust is subject to income or capital gains tax, you will need to submit an annual tax return to report the tax due to HMRC. Tax returns should be completed carefully, and you should seek advice as to any tax mitigation that might apply to the specific trust for which you are acting as trustee. It may be that the type of trust or the assets held within it have special tax benefits, and you could find yourself personally liable to beneficiaries if tax is overpaid as a result of failing to obtain legal advice.

Inheritance tax should also be considered when setting up a trust, paying in further monies, or paying money out. Our solicitors can help to ensure that inheritance tax is fully considered and reported.

Whenever you make a decision as a trustee, for example deciding to distribute assets, to add discretionary beneficiaries, or to change the trustees, that decision must be recorded. This might take the format of straightforward trustees' minutes, or it may require a formal legal document.

Once a decision has been reached, and recorded, the implementation of that decision will usually require a deed. A deed is a specific formal legal document, and it needs approval from and signature by all relevant parties. The trustees will need to sign, and in certain circumstances so will beneficiaries and/or the person who originally set up the trust, as well as any new parties who are being added. A solicitor can help to draft the deed and ensure that it is legally compliant.

REQUIREMENTS WHEN THE TRUST ENDS

When a trust ends, the Trust Registration Service needs to be notified and any final tax return submitted to HMRC. This will probably be the time when further inheritance tax is triggered, which again must be separately reported to HMRC.

Much like when a key decision is made during the trust period, a deed is required to formally wind up the trust and bring it to an end, so it is advisable to consult a solicitor on this final step.

HOW CAN WE HELP?

It is relatively straightforward to be a trustee while the trust is simply accumulating income, but when action is required, matters become far more complex. As a trustee, you are obligated to adhere to certain rules and requirements, and your decisions should be recorded and actioned appropriately.

Our solicitors can help you to ensure compliance in your role, to accurately draft relevant documentation, and to liaise with relevant organisations. For further information, please contact a legal advisor in the Private Client team at Crombie Wilkinson Solicitors on 01751 472121. Don't forget to mention that you're a NYMA member to benefit from a 12.5% discount on legal fees.

CROMBIE WILKINSON

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS: 7 curlew, 8 merlin, 10 Alabama, 11 Chess, 12 crow, 13 adder, 17 scrap, 18 snag, 22 offal, 23 kitchen, 24 iconic, 25 Sherpa. **DOWN**: 1 scratch, 2 treason, 3 medal, 4 beaches, 5 fleet, 6 anise , 9 aardvarks, 14 acclaim, 15 anchors, 16 agendas, 19 robin, 20 afoot, 21 itchy.

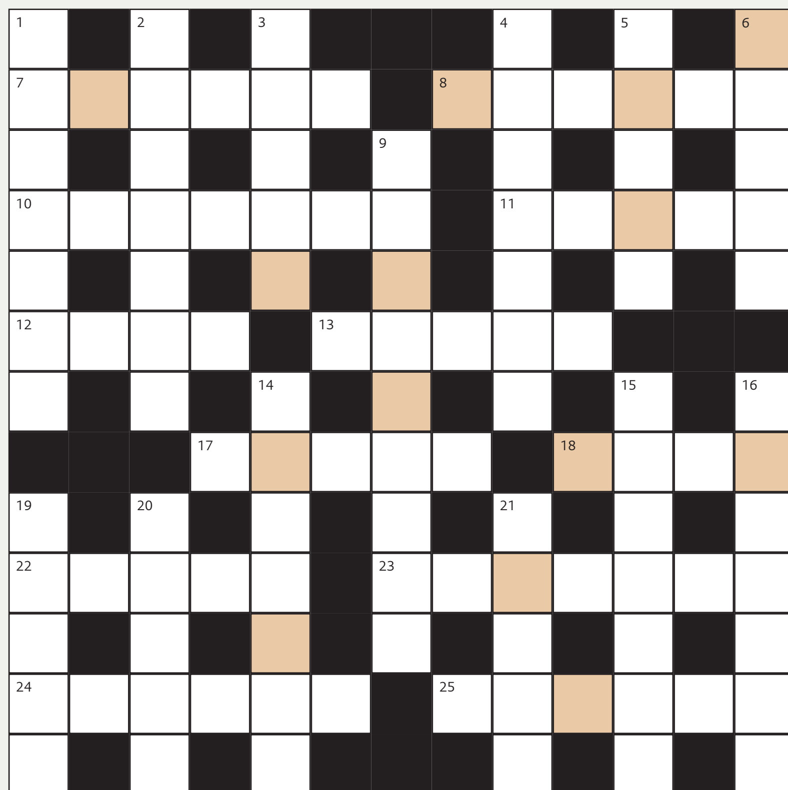
ANAGRAM: MULGRAVE CASTLE

WINTER QUIZ ANSWERS

1 Easby Moor, 324m; Roseberry Topping is 320m. 2 Caedmon. 3 William the Conqueror, 1066. 4 Boulby Cliffs, 203m. 5 Christmas card. 6 Red Grouse. 7 a) Indian Ocean and b) Australia. 8 28 miles. 9 Mistletoe. 10 Merlin. 11 366 – it's a Leap year. 12 The Adder. 13 The dragonfly. 14 Leo Walmsley, Robin Hood's Bay. 15 The Christmas cracker.

CROSSWORD 103 BY AMANUENSIS

The puzzle contains a random mix of cryptic, synonymic, anagrammatic, and general knowledge clues.



ANAGRAM: take the letters from the coloured squares and rearrange in the boxes to solve the anagram.

CLUE: Aristocratic residence near Whitby where the deposed King of the Punjab and head of the Sikh nation lived with his family and entourage for five years in the middle of the 19th century. (8, 6)

ACROSS

7 A welcome harbinger of spring (6)
8 Magician takes wing on the moors? (6)
10 What a state to be in? (7)
11 Ancient game in which one hundred join Nazi (5)
12 Brag about the bird (4)
13 Awful dread of snake (5)
17 Dispose of a fragment (5)
18 Problem arises when south with old horse (4)
22 Entrails and internal organs (5)
23 The advice is to leave here when temperature becomes unbearable (7)
24 As the tree at Sycamore Gap once was? (6)
25 Mountain guide makes garbled phrase (6)

DOWN

1 Perhaps you would if you were 21 down? (7)
2 Little time to consider betrayal of one's country (7)
3 Badly lamed, perhaps when earning this? (5)
4 Shorelines (7)
5 Fast group of ships (5)
6 Spice extracted from turbulent Parisian river (5)
9 Animals that entered the Ark first, perhaps? (9)
14 Current demand for fame (7)
15 They keep you well secured (7)
16 Sometimes these are kept secret (7)
19 According to the song, comes bob, bob, bobbin along (5)
20 Travelling twelve inches (5)
21 Restless (5)

Answers on page 18

WINTER QUIZ – WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

1. Which is the higher – the summit of Roseberry Topping or the top of Easby Moor on which Captain Cook's Monument stands?
2. What is the name of the lay brother and humble cowherd who looked after animals at Whitby Abbey in the 7th century, and is now recognised as the first known poet of sacred verse in the English language?
3. Who was crowned King of England on Christmas Day and in which year?
4. Where would you find the some of the highest sea cliffs in England and the highest on the Yorkshire coast?
5. What Christmas item did Henry Cole commission in 1843? It is now a world-wide feature of the festive season.
6. If you were out on the moors and you saw *Lagopus lagopus scotica*, what would you have seen?
7. Christmas Island, now called Kiritimati, was given its former name in1643 when a British sea-captain happened to sail past the island on Christmas Day. In which ocean is the island situated, and to which country does it currently belong?
8. The River Esk, the only Yorkshire river to empty directly into the North Sea, flows east from its source at the Esklets near Westerdale to the ancient sea port of Whitby. How long is the river's course (to the nearest mile)?
9. What is the more common name for *Viscum album*?
10. The smallest species of falcon inhabits the North Yorkshire Moors. What is the name of this beautiful bird of prey?
11. How many days will there be in the 2024?
12. What moorland animal is sometimes given the colloquial name of hagworm?
13. Which insect seen on the wetland and boggy areas of the moors is sometimes given the quaint epithet of 'The Devil's Darning Needle'?
14. Which writer gave the fictional name of Bramblewick to the small fishing village featured in his stories? What was the actual name of the village on which the stories were based, and which was also the home of this author for many years?
15. What did Tom Smith, a British baker and confectioner, invent in 1847?

Answers on page 18

NYMA NEWS

NYMA TREASURER – VACANCY AGAIN

Very sadly, Vic Worrall had to step down as our Treasurer after barely getting started, due to personal circumstances. This means we are looking for someone else, so if you have a head for figures and feel you could take on the role, please get in touch. The work isn't onerous as we're a small charity – Brian Pearce, our stalwart Treasurer for many years, reckons it takes 1-2 hours per week at most.

WALKING SURVEY – THE RESULTS

The survey we ran during the autumn gave some interesting results. Respondents said they would like to see some longer walks and more visits to places of interest, so that's exactly what we're doing! Our March walk is 7 miles in the Howardian Hills and includes a visit to Stonegrave Minster, while in April we've arranged a members-only visit to the English Heritage Archaeology Store in Helmsley. There will be more to come throughout the year.

NYMA SOCIALISING

The monthly online 'Meet the Members' socials have been hugely enjoyable, and there are more coming up before Easter. The Christmas Tea-Party was great fun, with around 20 members enjoying seasonal fare on a snowy day in Wykeham, while 15 members of the Walking Group organised a Christmas lunch in Broughton.

And finally, we welcome the news that Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (a title few people are fully conversant with) have been re-branded as National Landscapes, as recommended in the 2019 Landscapes Review. Our closest National Landscape is the Howardian Hills, with the Yorkshire Wolds under review to gain that status in the near future. However, there are many more recommendations still to be implemented to ensure that our protected landscapes fulfil their potential in the UK's response to climate change and nature recovery.

A collection of stories written by people who were born in, lived and loved the place that I have been fortunate to call home, from the first known settlement to the 21st century, its development, people, characters, and past times illustrated throughout with over 65 photographs which capture scenes of bygone days.

A fantastic book that is full of character and charm, beautifully printed on high quality satin-art paper. First printed in 2020 the book quickly sold out. After popular demand we have re-printed the hardback edition so those who missed out now have a chance to own a copy. An essential for anyone with an interest in local history or who has a love of Goathland.

All profits to support the Goathland Community Hub & Sports Pavillion

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NYMA WALKS & EVENTS

Snowy stile on Clay Bank

© Beatrix Elke Kaye

WALKS

Saturday 24 February - Ebor Way & The River Rye

Meet 10.30 at the Lord Feversham monument in Helmsley Market Place for a flat walk of 4.5 miles along a disused railway line and beside the River Rye.

Leader: Wendy Smith (01642 711980 / wpsmith7a@gmail.com)

Saturday 16 March – Nunnington & Stonegrave

Meet 10.30 on Church Street, Nunnington (YO62 5UR) for a 7-mile walk (with 4-mile option) in the Howardian Hills. The route takes us along the River Rye (a few miles downstream from February's walk) and to Stonegrave, with its fascinating Minster, then along Caulkley Bank, with glorious views over the Vale of Pickering. The walk is hilly in parts.

Leader: Janet Cochrane (secretary@nyma.org.uk / 07570 112010)

Please let the walk leaders know if you plan to come.

EVENTS

Tuesday 6 February

'Meet the Members': Our special guest for this month is the award-winning author and journalist Harry Pearson. He will talk on his childhood in Great Ayton and on the North York Moors in the 1960s, when he was growing up. Harry's writing - especially his widely-acclaimed sporting books - will also feature. 7pm on Zoom.

Tuesday 5 March

'Meet the Members': Back in December the guest speaker was lifelong Moors lover Jane Ellis, who specialises in the industrial and economic history of the area. She has a wealth of knowledge to share and the first session simply wasn't long enough, so we have invited her back for 'Part 2'! 7pm on Zoom.

Friday 12 April – Helmsley Archaeology Store

Join us for a private visit to the fascinating English Heritage store of historic artefacts from across Yorkshire. Numbers are limited to 20, so please book your place straight away with Janet Cochrane on secretary@nyma.org.uk / 07570 112010. The tour starts at 10am and is free but donations to English Heritage are welcome.

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The North Yorkshire Moors Association is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, Registration no. 1169240

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