



Campaign to Protect
Rural England
Standing up for your countryside

NORTH YORKSHIRE

The Annual Report of the North Yorkshire Branch of the
Campaign to Protect Rural England 2014



Yorkshire dales National Park, Craven District

What we do and why we do it!

North Yorkshire is home to some of the most outstanding landscapes in England. We're all so very lucky to live here! Our Branch area is quite enormous with some saying it is 'three times the size of Belgium! We have two national parks, three AONB's along with numerous conservation areas and SSSI's to protect.

'The North Yorkshire Branch is divided into nine districts which run as sub committees of the Branch, they are the eyes and ears of our group and campaign on locally important issues.

What do we do in North Yorks and how do we want to achieve it?

We campaign for a sustainable future for the English countryside, a vital but undervalued environmental, economic and social asset to the nation. We highlight threats and promote positive solutions. Our in-depth research supports active campaigning and through being 'impossible to ignore' we seek to influence public opinion and decision-makers at every level.

how are we structured?

Managing the affairs of the Branch and administering its funds and assets is the responsibility of the trustees who meet four times during the year. The officers provide leadership and support. The burden of CPRE's campaigning continues to fall mainly to our districts, some of whom work tirelessly to meet the goals of CPRE and work to ensure we have the right kind of development in the right place at the right time for the right reasons!

Trustees serve a maximum of six years.

In the future, we hope to bring in new trustees with key skills onto the committee to support and encourage local districts campaign work.

Who's who in North Yorkshire Branch

President: The Lord Crathorne KCVO

Chair Elect: Jules Marley

Trustees: Roger Bennett, Stuart White, Dalton Peake Paul Whitaker (co-opted April 2015)

Retiring May 2015 Linda Potter, Julie Hepworth, Guy Woolley, John Gill (Treasurer & Secretary) & Kristen Whalley

Dates for your Diary >

29 May 2015 : **AGM, Golden Fleece, Thirsk 19.00h**

Please RSVP to cprecraven@me.com or by post to: CPRE North Yorkshire (AGM)
Bendgate House, Long Preston, Near Skipton BD23 4QR to ensure a seat

key campaigns 2014/15



North York Moors National Park Coastal, R&C, Hambleton & Ryedale Districts

The great Potash Debate

The Potash Application affects Coastal district primarily, However, the impact of the Potash Application spreads to Hambleton & Redcar & Cleveland. CPRE North Yorkshire responded to the application and Coastal submitted a more local response.

A revised planning application to build a potash mine in North Yorkshire at a cost of £1.7 billion was submitted. The project has much wider significance as decisions made on it will be an important test of the protection National Parks are afforded in the NPPF.

The site is inside the National Park, close to the popular Coast to Coast trail which was considered in 2014 to be the second best walk in the world by one body of experts!

Planning history

York Potash originally submitted a planning application to NYMNP in February 2013. The application was withdrawn early 2014, a second revised application was submitted in September 2015.

The application covers both the mine head and the mineral transport system or MTS. The MTS is a tunnel which needs 3 access shafts, one in the national park with another just outside which increases the potential impact on the 'Park'. Two planning authorities are involved: Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council and the NYMNP authority.

The purpose of our National Parks

The first national park in England was the Peak District NP designated in 1951. The North York Moors National Park was created in 1952.

The statutory purpose of National Parks are:
To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Parks
To promote opportunities for the public understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the Parks.

Sometimes, conflict exists between the two purposes. Where reconciliation is impossible, the first purpose should take precedence, this is known as the Sandford Principle.

90 million (yes, 90 million!) people visit the national parks and the surrounding areas every year. These visitors spend over £4 billion pounds in the local area, illustrating that that the Parks are an important area for recreation and tourism.

Within the parks there are rural communities and local business who all work and live within the constraints of planning in relation to national parks.

CPRE Coastal District

Dalton Peake is the current chairman of Coastal. They have responded to the planning application and objected because they fear the mine would have an adverse impact on the character and appearance of the area and the harm to the tourism industry during construction would be devastating. contact daltonpeake@gmail.com

Further information

THE CAMPAIGN FOR NATIONAL PARKS have objected to the proposal. They have submitted their objection to both NYMNP and Redcar & Cleveland Authorities. The CNP have also called for the whole project to be 'called in' for determination by the Secretary of State following a single inquiry to enable the full impact of ALL parts of the project to be considered together.

CPRE North Yorkshire have objected on the issues of impact on the character and appearance of the countryside to support the local district's campaign.

John Roger Forshaw, a man who loved the North York Moors

Roger moved to North Yorkshire in the late 60's and became the Solicitor to NYCC, offering legal support to the North York Moors National Park. This meant he was closely involved in the creation of the NYM railway and establishing the Coast to Coast long distance foot path among other issues.

Roger loved the moors and was a keen walker and amateur archaeologist and knew the hills and dales of the North Yorkshire Moors National Park well. Roger Forshaw's family were therefore glad to be able to support our charity in their loved one's name. Following discussions with the family it was agreed to donate the monies collected at Roger's funeral to the Coastal District. CPRE North Yorkshire are honoured that the family should think about us at such a sad time.

Redcar & Cleveland District

District Chair: Stuart White

Redcar & Cleveland are the newest district in the Branch, joining us in 2013. They respond to applications within Redcar & Cleveland Local Planning Authority Area and the North York Moors National Park.

Local Plan: was due to be effective by Summer 2015.

The proposed plan however was rejected by the Council's Cabinet committee in 2014. It will be now around 2017 before the plan is represented to the Council illustrating that the district remains vulnerable.

R&C committee have been involved in numerous housing applications with varying degrees of success: The most significant being:

Marske Road, Saltburn 130 Home development refused. A large campaign by residents and CPRE R&C resulted in 200 objections being lodged with the LPA.

Longbank Farm, Omesby: repeat application for 320 homes produced yet another massive campaign. The application was refused for a second time. CPRE R&C worked to protect the Eston Hills a local beauty spot and recreational area.

Windy Hill Marske: 100 homes - refused 2014

Long Beck Marske: following a three year campaign, the application for 1000 property estate plus shops, hotel the application was refused and the main cause of the rejection of the local plan. CPRE R&C await the appeal!

Windfarms & Turbines: Kilnthorpe Lane Brotton - in November, the LPA refused an application for a 100m turbine however the decision has been appealed

Eston Hills: two major applications for five 135m turbines at Kirkleatham and two 140m turbines at Yearby are at a standstill. The council is mindful to refuse the proposal at Kirkleatham.

editor's note 140m is 459 feet or just 18 metres short of the Blackpool Tower!

and of the course, **the York Potash Project**, although the Branch has responded on landscape issues to the application, the project impacts on R&C at Lockwood Beck and Tocketts Lythe, near Guisborough where they will be access points to the Mineral Transport system. In these areas excavated materials would be retained and landscaped over an area of approx 20 hectares.

Stuart White Chairman Redcar & Cleveland District
contact skeltonman19@hotmail.com

Redcar & Cleveland District and Swaledale District

Swaledale District Chair - John Gill

Swaledale is our smallest district. They respond to planning applications within Richmondshire and the Yorkshire Dales National Park authority area .

Local Plan status: The Core Strategy has been approved by the Planning Inspector. The YDNP Local Plan is out for consultation on housing issues.

*"There are thirty five conservation areas in Richmondshire outside the National Park. The Authority are starting to update them. Concern has been expressed that local conservation groups and that includes the CPRE, should be consulted before these updates become official. Currently there are four being brought forward - two in Swaledale and two in Leyburn/Wensleydale which are very controversial.....On the edge of Richmond, just outside the existing but old definitive limits, an application has been made for a house. This is beside an existing barn conversion. It may be turned down but I fear the result of an appeal.....Application for lodges on a derelict wooded site, again just outside Richmond. It may well go ahead. There are now a significant number of these lodge sites. Some are now in the ownership of large companies. An application to allow permanent occupation as opposed to holiday occupation was refused by the YDNP last year.
John Gill March 2015*

Editors Note: lodge parks morphing from tourism into permanent or residential use are an identified threat in the county. National CPRE have identified and highlighted this threat. Craven District continues to lobby and campaign to prevent the loss of tourism sites to 'back door housing' in areas where housing would not normally be permitted.

Whitby by night Coastal District



Chairman's report

In January 2015, I was honoured to be unanimously elected by the trustees as the Chair of our Branch. North Yorkshire has, over the past five years, had a series of chairmen and even a period with no chairman at all! It's time to refocus, remotivate and reinspire!

The first and most important job is to bring good governance to the Branch. We're currently working with our national office to ensure that CPRE NY complies with the check list for charity requirements. A new format for clearly identifying expenditure will be created with more accountability and transparency.

Strong links have been forged with CPRE Lancashire who have assisted us in matters of governance, publicity and campaigning.

Our finances are in a good position but we will be working to reduce admin costs to enable more planning advice.

The long awaited North Yorkshire web site is now ready to go and will be live in summer 2015. We now have a facebook page and we're creating strong links with the media in the branch area.

As we ensure good governance is in place, we can focus on doing what CPRE branches are supposed to do and campaign to protect rural England, specifically, North Yorkshire!

We have several districts whose work requires note: Harrogate, Coastal, Redcar & Cleveland, Hambleton, Craven and York & Selby each dedicate countless man hours responding to innumerable contentious planning applications. On behalf of the Branch, I thank them all for their dedication and determination to ensure we have the right kind of development in the right place for the right reasons!

It's the future intention of the trustees that we bring in new trustees with key skills to the committee to enable us to meet the needs of our members facing controversial planning applications that impact adversely on our countryside. We need to refocus, reunite and support the districts who are constantly under pressure from developments that threaten our North Yorkshire countryside and the communities within.

With a happy, united and focussed trustee group, I am convinced that 2015/16, whilst challenging, will be a positive year for CPRE North Yorkshire. We kick off the new format with the presence of our national CEO Shaun Spiers, our guest speaker this year.

CPRE has always been about positive solutions. we are passionate about protecting our countryside and green spaces.

The continued existence and quality of so much of the English countryside is testament to almost 90 years of campaigning by CPRE and a tribute to our county branch network, But the countryside continues to face a multitude of threats. CPRE campaigns effectively to protect and enhance our landscape heritage for the benefit of all and remains the most respected credible voice on the protection of the countryside. Jules Marley
April 2015

AGM Agenda May 29 2015 7.00 pm

- 1 Welcome and Introduction
- 2 Approval of minutes AGM 2013 and matters arising
- 3 Treasurer annual report John Gill
- 4 Chairman's report
- 5 Election of trustees and officers 2015/16
Nomination received by due date:
 - 1 Jules Marley Chair Elect
 - 2 Paul Whitaker Treasurer (co-opted April 2015)
 - 3 Rober Bennett (proposed as Vice Chair)
 - 4 Stuart White (proposed as Vice Chair)
 - 5 Dalton Peake
- We also have a proposal from York & Selby that Ron Healey become a trustee
- 6 CPRE moving towards 2026 - Shaun Spiers CEO CPRE
- 7 Vote of thanks to retiring trustees
- 8 Close and farewells.



'Madge Bank' Cononley saved 2015

North Yorkshire Branch Membership 2014

Districts such as York, Harrogate, Craven, Redcar & Cleveland and Ryedale have shown positive growth.

Branch income in 2014 was £7,076 and District £6,710. When added to the £416 investment income from the IP legacy, our total income for 2014 was £14,202. Almost £12,000 of this represented our share of CPRE subscriptions. Most of the balance comprised fundraising by the Branch and a few districts.

Branch expenditure was £4,483 with District expenditure at £5,689. The Wensleydale sub committee spent a further £15,282 of the Isabel Paton Legacy leaving a balance of £10,822 at the year end.

Finances moving forwards

The Branch therefore has the equivalent of around three years current expenditure levels in reserve and the districts have over four years. Whilst this is a healthy position, it feels as though we could be much more ambitious in the future and then seek to raise funds to make things happen!

This is particularly important given that the Paton Legacy has now been largely utilised, virtually all in the form of support for other organisations. The Committee has decided to retain all the remaining funds of nearly £11,000 pending professional advice on the current condition and future options for the barn. Similarly, we wish to understand better any special conservation value inherent in both the land and barn. This will enable us to determine the best strategy for their future in line with our desire to conserve any special conservation value whilst optimising the funds we can derive for CPRE's wider objectives throughout Wensleydale (the geographic restriction imposed by the donor).

From our retiring treasurer John Gill

"I must thank Mrs Pauline Ohr, who has been keeping our books for the past three years. She has taken on a difficult role within the CAB advising members of the public about the government's latest pension rights. I also thank Mrs Patricia Asquith for acting as our independent auditor. for the past two years. ...The county balances are in a healthy state. After ten years, the Paton Legacy has been run down to £10,800., ... I wish Paul Whitaker every success in the future, protecting rural England costs money as well as the hard volunteer work by our members. Looking after the money isn't all that difficult but it must done efficiently,"
John Gill April 2015

This report shows the abridged North Yorkshire Branch financial information however, the full report is available to members on request and will be published on our web site due to go live in summer 2015

Paul Whitaker was co-opted as Treasurer Trustee in April 2015. This instantly saves the Branch over £1000 per annum. Paul brings a wealth of experience in local government and charity work..

financial report to the membership

At 31 December 2014 the branch finances consisted of:
Unrestricted funds:

Branch Bank Accounts £16,446

District Bank Accounts £26,057

total unrestricted funds £43,403

Restricted funds - Paton Legacy
land at Horsehouse £19,500 (at valuation)

bank accounts £10,822

total restricted funds £30,222

**The North Yorkshire CPRE financial
year runs Jan 1 - Dec 31**

for full copies of the annual financial report contact
the branch

district round up



The White Horse at Kilburn

Hambleton

Chairman Roger Bennett

Committee: Miles Garnett, Secretary, Bill Longley-Cook, Treasurer, David Clarke and Robert Latter.

The committee meet every two months and have considered a wide range of planning matters within Hambleton District which includes Hambleton District Council, North York Moors National Park and the Howardian Hills. The more significant issues are summarised by their Chairman.

Wind Farms:

Bullamoor, still awaits the outcome of a study into potential interference with the radar at RAF Leeming although a scoping application has been lodged for an additional turbine which the district has opposed. No further movement on the possible scheme near Appleton Wiske has occurred during the past year.

Low Gate level crossing, North Allerton

Planning applications for the large housing development south of Brompton and the associated new road and railway bridge have not yet been submitted. We reserve our position on the overall scheme.

Bagby Airfield

The final outcome of the planning and legal fiasco over the airfield is not yet known although we are confident that any further development will be restricted.

Church Farm, Thornton Le Street

Although the application to store fairground equipment on the site was rejected, the decision of the Inspector following an appeal has proven to be rather ambiguous and the matter is still the subject of legal interpretation.

Housing

Four proposals for large scale housing developments on greenfield sites have been considered. Two in Stokesley and one each in Easingwold and Great Ayton.

We supported the White House Farm scheme in Stokesley as it was included in the Hambleton Local Development Framework; this scheme has now been granted outline approval by Hambleton District Council.

We have opposed the other three proposals. The Easingwold scheme was rejected by HDC and the Inspector on appeal. However, we understand the appellant is requesting a judicial review.

The Great Ayton Scheme was rejected by HDC but is now awaiting the decision of the Inspector. The Tanton Road scheme in Stokesley has also been rejected by HDC but is going to appeal.

Solar Energy

Large expanses of solar panels covering agricultural land seem to be the next blight on the landscape. An application for a 5.9Mw ground mounted solar panel array to be developed north east of Ainderby Steeple has been opposed.

Minerals and Waste Site Consultation

NYCC issued a consultation document in 2014 to which we responded with respect to the four proposals for minerals extraction in Hambleton. Of particular concern to us was a proposal for very extensive gravel and sand extraction near Scruton. NYCC have now issued a supplementary consultation document which contains a much reduced proposal at Scruton. BUT an enlarged proposal at Kirkby Fleetham, It is our intention to object to the new Kirkby Fleetham proposal.

York Potash Mine

The intended development is in the Coast and R&C districts of North Yorkshire, Nevertheless, we in Hambleton have an interest in what might become a very major enterprise in North Yorkshire. Last year at our AGM, we heard a presentation which was very opposed to the mine, this year we heard a presentation which supported the development

Last year, I pointed out that your Hambleton committee urgently needed some new blood as older members retire. Well, two of our great stalwarts have now retired, namely Ken Hale and Neville Tate. Ken & Neville both gave generously of their time and wisdom to CPRE and their departure from our little committee is a sad loss. We thank them both for the tremendous work they have done on behalf of CPRE Hambleton. I make no apology for repeating myself, Without active new members, the work of CPRE in Hambleton will disappear.

Roger Bennett 2015.

contact rhbmabennett@btinternet.com

Join CPRE North Yorkshire now to help us protect our countryside

visit www.cpre.org to join on line.

Have you signed the Save Our Countryside charter? visit the CPRE website - How you can Help and join the thousands who have already signed.

Harrogate district

Chairman Linda Potter, Secretary Roger Lyn Tressurer Julie Curry

We have worked extremely hard during the past twelve months and have seen little reward due to the current planning system which seems stacked against us and what the CPRE stands for.

The NPPF states that in the absence of local plan or a five year housing land supply that unless the development is going to be extremely harmful to the landscape and does not meeting with the requirements of sustainability, then it can be approved.

Our district has no local plan in place and we do not have a 5 year land supply: we are seeing applications which have been refused historically be granted planning permission against all our wishes.

Councillors feel their backs are against the wall because if they refuse too many applications, there is the risk of costs against the council and the fear that the council can be put into special measures taking away local decision making completely.

We have tried hard to fight cases which we still maintain are entirely wrong but have lost.

We have numerous current appeals pending and several large application in the pipeline but we do not know the outcome yet.

We will see the first of two major applications at Bewerly, Pately Bridge go to Planning Committee soon.

This should be refused but an appeal will no doubt be lodged.

We attend all of these appeals, giving evidence and support to local people and council.

CPRE have always supported brownfield first but with no plan in place, large scale greenfield sites are being prioritised by the developers.

Our district is a beautiful place to live with high house values which means developers are pushing to develop in our district.

We have managed to fight off a caravan park in the Nidderland AONB at appeal. Several windturbines have been withdrawn or refused.

We continue to fight on and hope the government amends the planning system currently in place.

Linda Potter 2015

editors note: Linda reported to the committee in April 2015 that Harrogate now has a 5.25 housing land supply and that they now hope to win some appeals!

district round up

Wensleydale District report

Chairman Kristen Whalley, Treasurer Jean Buck

During 2014 Wensleydale CPRE continued the pattern of events open to members and friends. Sadly, at our AGM in March, relatively low numbers of members were present. We were joined by members of the Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust at our Summer outing, when we looked at the conservation and restoration work done on the Bishopdale Beck by YDRT, supported through the Paton Legacy. Fish stock are increasing following this work.

We had our usual stall at the Wensleydale Show in August.

We welcomed Major Tony Crease as our Speaker at our social evening in October. Members from the Foxglove Covert LNR spend time each year monitoring sea birds on the north coast of Scotland. Superb photographs illustrated the Major's talk We have continued to support Foxglove through the legacy. Other projects supported by the legacy in 2014 include disabled access ramps, red squirrel monitoring equipment, conservation work around Semewater, the 2014 National Parks Conference (*hosted by the Yorkshire Dales Society*)

It has been a happy and productive year with a widening variety of projects and community activities receiving grants. I thank all the committee for their hard work and commitment throughout the year, *Kristen Whalley 2015*

CPRE research illustrates that 976,000 homes could be developed on brownfield land NOW! visit www.cpre.org.uk and sign our charter!

the Nidderdale AONB in Harrogate District



District round up Craven

**Chair: Jules Marley Vice Chairman Stephen Butcher
Treasurer Paul Whitaker, Jill Wilson, Madeleine
Beaufoy, Bruce McLeod, Jan Gibson**

**Craven responds to planning applications within the
Craven District Council LPA and the Yorkshire Dales
National Park and includes the Forest of Bowland
AONB.**

Our area will be without a local plan until at least 2017 in spite of constant lobbying by Craven district! We produced in depth reports regarding the draft local plan out for consultation last year and lobbied the MP and the LPA regarding issues of great concern such as the lack of importance of food and farming .

Without a local plan in place, the district like many others has been the subject of numerous contentious planning applications. All have been fought valiantly with some degree of success. We decided that in view of the apply appeal route taken by the more predatory and determined developers. we would submit objections that could be carried forward to appeal This proved successful.

In the past year, our greatest victories have been in the villages of Embsay and Cononley where we worked closely with local people providing advocacy and support to prevent two conservation areas being degraded. It is important to note that when CPRE works with the local people and for the local people the impact is highly positive. We have now created networks in four large villages in the district which resulted in new members and volunteers.

We have successfully countered numerous contentious wind turbine applications . We liaised closely with CPRE Lancashire to object at application and appeal to a turbine presenting a threat to the AONB with success..

Two years ago we campaigned to ensure the safety of thirteen local farms by supporting the Dales Dairy application for retrospective planning in Grassington. We negotiated with the management of the Dairy that there would be no further applications on the site no matter what. This year, due to the success of the dairy, they honoured their commitment and applied to move the business to a new location whilst safeguarding the farms.

Membership is up, costs are down. New volunteers have offered their services. Links with the local press have been cultivated to ensure publicity for the district. None of the work would have been possible without the dedication of the tireless committee.

Jules Marley April 2015 cprecraven@mecom



show me the way to go home, above Settle Craven District

York & Selby

Individual members of York & Selby committee are designated to pursue a range of specific planning applications. We attend regular meetings of the planning panel which reviews the implications of applications on the natural environment.

One recent success was the Inspector's dismissal of an appeal against the refusal of an application for 102 houses at Strensall. We were disappointed that our objections to the industrial development of the North Selby mine were not upheld.

The main case work has been related to the emerging draft local plans. Our input to the Selby Local Plan was adopted but there has been a legal challenge from a local business because of inadequate consultation. Our overriding general objection to the York Draft Local Plan is that the proposed target of 22 thousand houses over the next 15 years is inappropriate, unrealistic and not supported by past performance of emerging trends. Our views are shared and we have formed, with other groups and parish councils, an apolitical York Action Group Alliance to try to influence the future development of the plan and resist inappropriate development in the Green Belt.

The York & Selby District Award for the outstanding scholar at Askham Bryan College was awarded to Chloe Watson for her dissertation on the need for the recognition and value of upland farming
Guy Woolley May 2015

**CPRE research illustrates that 700,000 homes are planned on greenbelt and open countryside..
www.cpre.org.uk**



Campaign to Protect
Rural England
Standing up for your countryside

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