

Nature Friendly Villages and Towns with active Dark Skies Conservation

Mike Hawtin – Head of Nature Recovery Projects

Nature Friendly Villages

Obligations and Targets

(the boring bit)

Includes

Protected landscapes Management Plans

Protected landscapes Business Plans

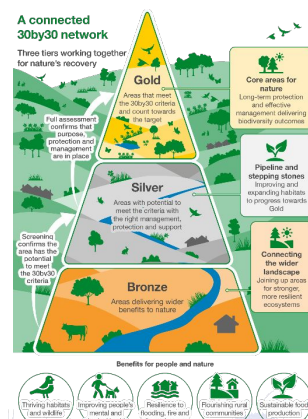
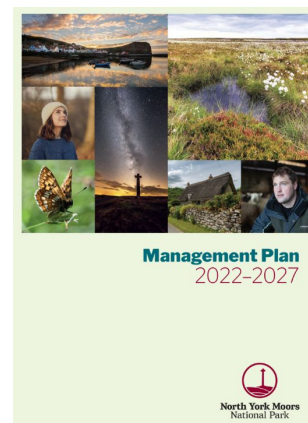
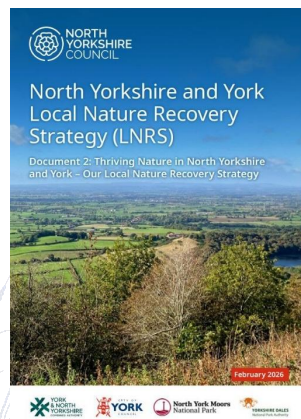
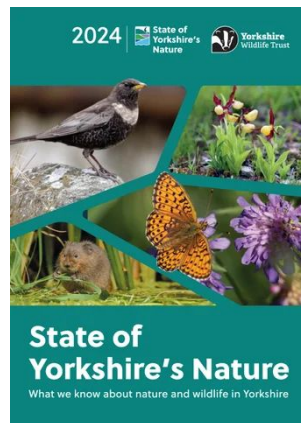
Yorkshires State of Nature report (YWT)

Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)

30 by 30

Biodiversity duty

Levelling Up and Regeneration Act



Nature Friendly Villages

Obligations and Targets

Biodiversity duty. Environment Act 2021

All public bodies to consider what actions you can take to conserve and enhance biodiversity. Identify the areas where you can best conserve and enhance biodiversity.

You could consider:

- Updating internal policies and processes to better conserve and enhance biodiversity
- actions for managing your land to conserve and enhance biodiversity
- actions for educating, advising and raising awareness of biodiversity

Small changes to how you manage these areas could create habitats for wildlife and 'nature corridors' that connect existing habitats. This allows species to move between habitats, maintain or increase populations and be more resilient to climate change.

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Obligations and Targets

Levelling Up and Regeneration Act (LURA)

“The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 (LURA) places a strict legal duty on public bodies to actively "seek to further" the conservation and enhancement purposes of England's National Parks and National Landscapes”

“Public bodies must consider how decisions and developments outside park boundaries affect the setting, dark skies, and tranquillity of protected areas”



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Obligations and Targets

Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). York and North Yorkshire

is a legally mandated, locally-led plan designed to halt and reverse the ongoing decline of biodiversity. It must include a statement of biodiversity priorities and a local habitat map showing areas of high value and opportunity areas

“Public authorities must actively consider relevant LNRSs when planning policies, managing land, or making operational decisions”

“Public bodies must consider relevant LNRSs in decision-making, such as granting funding for environmental schemes, tree planting, or natural flood management”



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Partnerships and Collaboration so far



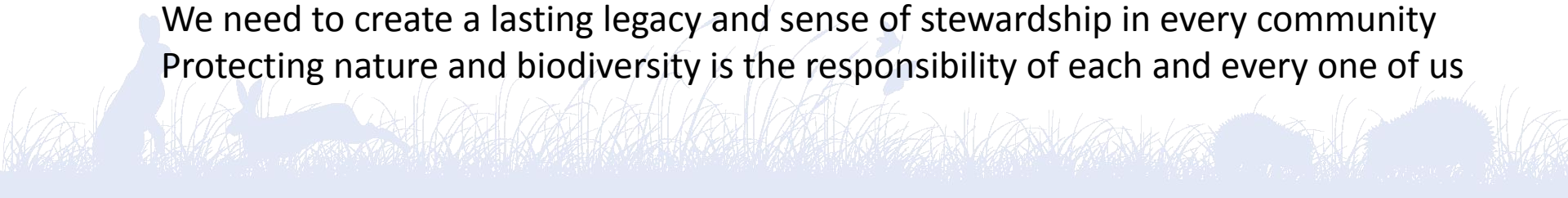
Nature Friendly Villages

Partnerships and Collaboration so far

National Park and Howardian Hills support, advice and grants
for hedgerows, meadow creation, verge management, orchards, ponds/scrapes

Project focus so far has been ‘mainly’ within the protected landscape boundaries
Nature doesn’t stick to boundaries, and neither should we
“Nature starts at home”

Protected landscapes have so far provided funding, advice, volunteers, staff time
Starting to develop lasting partnerships and collaboration with community groups
This needs to be the model we all adopt
We need to create a lasting legacy and sense of stewardship in every community
Protecting nature and biodiversity is the responsibility of each and every one of us



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Partnerships and Collaboration so far



ESK & COASTAL STREAMS
CATCHMENT PARTNERSHIP

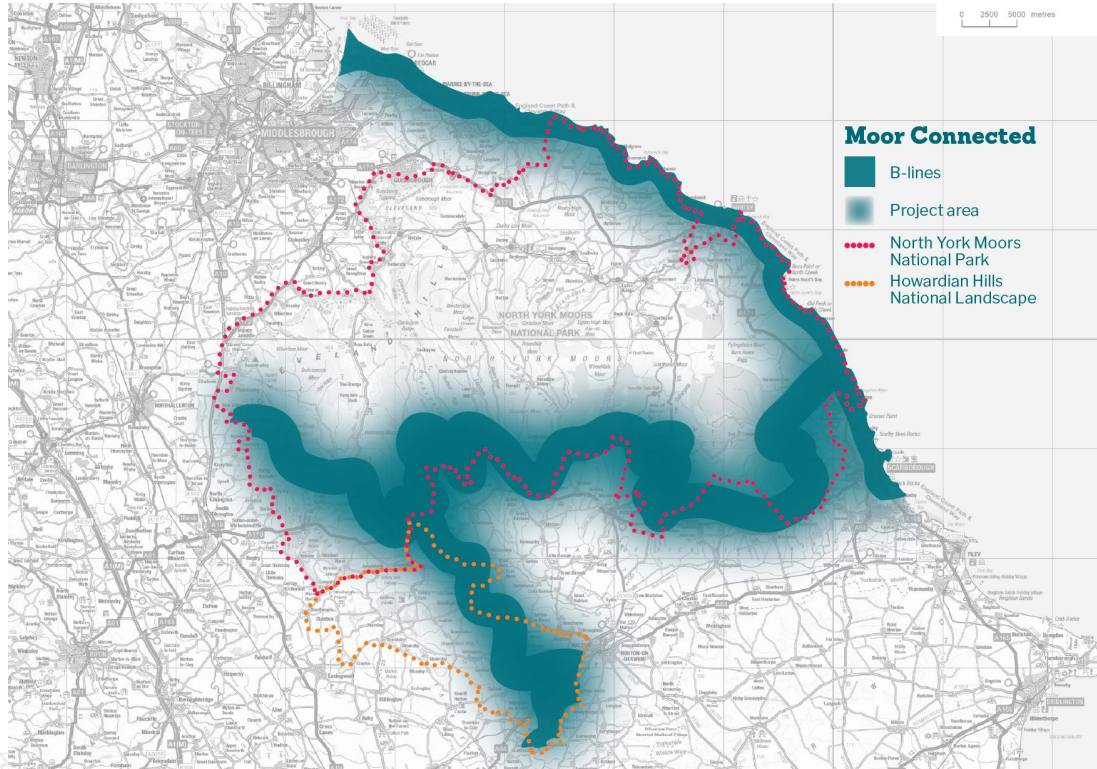


REConnect



Nature Friendly Villages

The future...



Moor Connected

Linear connectivity project

Primarily pollinator habitat

Wider species benefits

Create stepping stones for nature

Join them up

Partnership project

Community led

Working beyond boundaries

Rural and urban

“Nature starts at home”

Dark Skies Conservation recap

Community led



Dark Skies Conservation

Dark skies - more than 'just' stargazing



CULTURE & HERITAGE

Special qualities
of protected
landscapes



EDUCATION

Gateway
science for
young people



WILDLIFE

Nature Recovery,
don't neglect
the night!



RURAL ECONOMY

Significant uplift
in the shoulder
season



ENERGY USAGE

Increased global
focus on carbon
emissions



HEALTH & MINDFULNESS

Reconnecting
us with the
natural world



Dark Skies Conservation

Don't neglect the night!



Engagement

Scale is needed

Parish councils

Community groups

Environmental groups

Landowners

Business groups

Tourism Network

Farmers

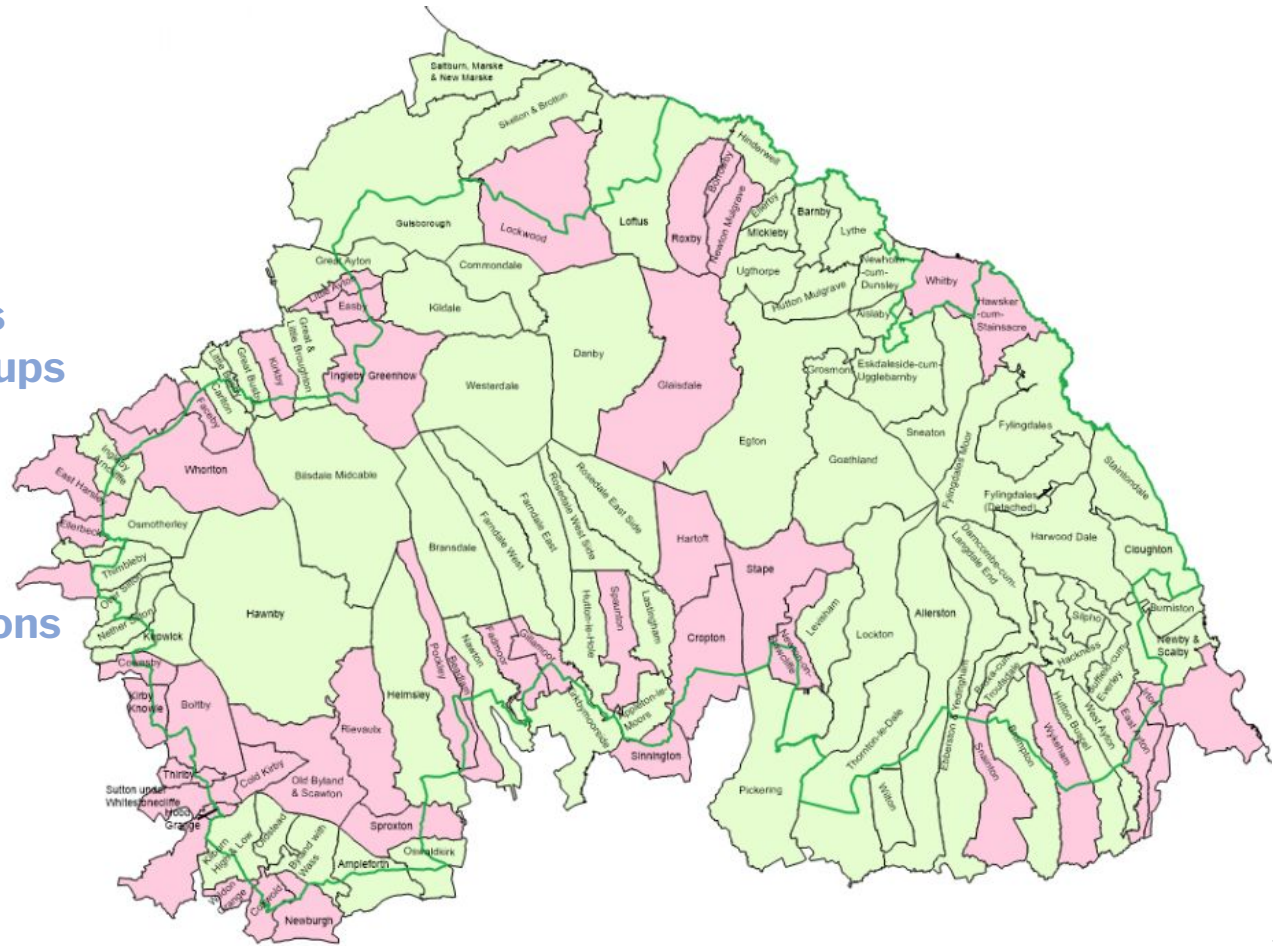
Academic institutions

Planners

Installers

Manufacturers

Suppliers



Dark Skies Conservation

Improvement projects – Bulmer village hall



Dark Skies Conservation

Improvement projects – Small farms



Dark Skies Conservation

Improvement projects – Sutton Bank National Park Centre



Dark Skies Conservation

Improvement projects – Hawnby village



Dark Skies Project Area

MIDDLESBROUGH

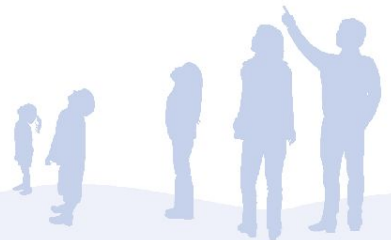
WHITBY

SCARBOROUGH

THIRSK

MALTON

-  North York Moors National Park
-  Howardian Hills National Landscape
-  Farndale Dark Skies Community
-  Bransdale Dark Skies Community
-  Coxwold Dark Skies Community
-  Other Dark Skies Communities
-  Number of Dark Skies Projects
-  TESS Dark Sky meter locations
-  Esk Valley Railway
-  North York Moors Railway



Dark Skies Conservation

Progress so far > 1500 fixtures replaced



COMMUNITIES

● x7 completed
● x8 in progress



VILLAGE HALLS

● x4 completed
● x2 in progress



CAR PARKS

● x6 completed



VISITOR CENTRES

● x4 completed



HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

● x5 completed
● x2 in progress



RESTAURANT

● x1 in progress



PROMINENT PUBS & INNS

● x1 completed
● x2 in progress



FARMS

● x10 completed
● x10+ in progress



COASTAL SETTLEMENTS

● x2 in progress



Dark Skies Conservation

Keeping the advice simple

It's not about banning light, it's about encouraging responsible use of light.



Light only what you need



Light only when you need it



Light at a suitable level to the need

Dark Skies Conservation

Engagement.



Beneath the hush of silver
beams the world remembers
how to dream;
In every star a whispered
plea to guard the night and
let it be

Source unknown





Help us to help you



Thank you

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