



## North Yorkshire Moors Association Trustees' Report 2024-2025

1 October 2024 – 31 August 2025

Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

Registered Charity Number 1169240

Address: c/o Blamire House, Everingham, York YO42 4LQ

President: Ian Carstairs OBE

### Trustees as at 31 August 2025

- Tom Chadwick
- Ray Clarke (Vice-Chair)
- Albert Elliot
- Tom Gillum
- Helen Gundry
- Roma Haigh
- Brian Pearce (Hon. Treasurer)
- Tom Ratcliffe
- John Ritchie
- Jamie Savile
- Andy Wilson
- George Winn-Darley (Chair)
- Elaine Wisdom

### Executive Secretary:

- Janet Cochrane

### Council of Trustees

The 'Council' is the body which manages NYMA. In addition to the Trustees, the Executive Secretary (who is not a Trustee) helps to manage the charity. Council members are elected at the AGM for a three-year term of office, along with the Chair and Vice-Chair who are elected annually. During 2024-25 two additional Council members were recruited, Jamie Savile and Roma Haigh, while Adrian Leaman and Colin Speakman resigned, bringing the total number as of August 31 to 13.

The Chair is George Winn-Darley, while Ray Clarke is Vice-Chair. Brian Pearce is Hon. Treasurer and has been working with Bridget Holmstrom to hand over some of his responsibilities. Janet Cochrane is Editor of Voice of the Moors and Membership Secretary. Another important (non-Council) role is filled by Wendy Smith, who coordinates NYMA's monthly walks throughout the year. All the roles are voluntary except for the Executive Secretary, who receives a small honorarium.

### WHAT WE DO

- As 'Friends of the North York Moors', NYMA works to safeguard the landscapes, biodiversity and culture of the North York Moors National Park and surrounding areas.
- We carry out projects which foster understanding of the history, culture and environment of the Moors, including publication of the quarterly magazine 'Voice of the Moors'.
- We encourage land-use policies that favour biodiversity and natural beauty and support campaigns for the protection and enhancement of landscapes in National Parks and beyond.

- We scrutinise and influence planning applications for developments in the National Park and campaign against inappropriate ones.
- We support sustainable means of transport.

## **PLANNING AND POLICY**

NYMA continues to contribute to national debate on the countryside and rural affairs, and in particular on the management of the North York Moors and other National Parks. For example:

- We have highlighted the need to optimise solar PVs on modern shed roofs as well as houses and gardens. Whilst we do not want to see industrial-scale wind farms or solar farms, individual householders inside the National Park can still do their bit to meet the national challenge of energy security and climate change.
- We are starting to examine housing issues, and to identify how the national challenge to house a growing UK population can be responded to within the North York Moors in a way which is appropriate to the values of the National Park, while also highlighting the fact that many homes within the Park are second homes or holiday lets.
- We objected to the proposal for Burniston gas exploration on the grounds of landscape, traffic, climate change and a waste of resources.
- We continue to liaise with CNP (the Campaign for National Parks) but consider that their views and policies are not always grounded in the practicalities of management of extended areas of land. We are trying to put forward a NYMA view based on knowledge and pragmatism.

In January we attended a liaison meeting with the National Park Authority to discuss matters of common concern such as NPA's strategy, government policy and implications for national parks, the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme, and activities of the North York Moors Trust. The NP's CEO, Tom Hind, was invited to NYMA's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration and paid tribute to the Association during his speech.

## **FINANCE AND MEMBERSHIP**

Brian Pearce has continued ably managing and reporting on NYMA's finances over the year, supported in the last few months by Bridget Holmstrom.

**Treasurer's Report (for the year ended 31 March 2024):** The year ended with a surplus of £6,790, largely thanks to a grant of £10,000 for the Soft Retrofit Project (restricted funds) and a donation of £2,500 from the Tinsley Charitable Trust (unrestricted).

Expenditure meeting our charitable objectives amounted to £5,500, consisting of £2,352 to the Soft Retrofit Project, £2,000 to Moorbus, £1,682 to the printing of 'Voice of the Moors', and £1,000 to the Friends of Helmsley Railbed.

Reserves carried forward amount to £50,491, including restricted funds as previously mentioned.

We are grateful that many members generously add donations when they renew their memberships, and for the support of local legal firm Crombie Wilkinson Solicitors, who made a quarterly financial contribution to 'Voice of the Moors' over two years (ending in Spring 2025). We also thank the North York Moors National Park Authority for their support, including allowing use of the lecture theatre at Danby Lodge free of charge for our AGM.

**Membership:** Member numbers are currently 339 in total, a slight increase on the previous year (331), due to recruitment of new members.

Membership falls into the following categories (the last 2 years' totals in brackets – 23-24, 22-23):

- Life: 79 (78, 98)
- Annual: 156 (148, 169)
- Annual Digital: 39 (44, 26)
- 10-Year: 59 (55, 57)
- Organisations and Businesses: 3 (4, 5)
- Honorary: 3 (2, 4)

## ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

**Voice of the Moors:** Janet Cochrane has continued to edit 'Voice of the Moors', distributed to NYMA members and to Members and staff of the National Park Authority, which purchases 50 copies from us each quarter. Copies are on sale to members of the public through the National Park shops at Sutton Bank and Danby Lodge, with back copies available online.

'Voice' only exists because of the many people who kindly contribute articles and photographs on a voluntary basis: in 2024-25 contributors included Ian Andrews, Bill Bordass, Andrea Brew, Phil Brown, Ian Carstairs, Ray Clarke, Janet Cochrane, Tim & Jane Dunn, Albert Elliot, Jane Ellis, Mike Gray, Andrew Grayson, Jonathan Green, Ione Harrison, Adrian Leaman, David Lewis, Edward March-Shawcross, Pip Mead, Pete Nelson, Martin Partridge, Anne Press, Robyn Pender, Jean Richards, John Roberts, David Smallwood, Colin Speakman, Alan Staniforth, Mel Ullswater, George Winn-Darley. We continue to be extremely grateful to Pascal Thivillon, of Basement Press, for his pro bono work on the graphic design of 'Voice'.

**Walks & Events:** Wendy Smith took over from Dave Moore as Walks Coordinator in December 2024, and the monthly programme of guided walks continued throughout the year. Walks take place on the first Saturday of each month, supplemented by occasional 'non-walk' visits to places of interest, coordinated by Janet Cochrane.

The walks and events included a Christmas tea-party at the Sun Inn / Spout House in Bilsdale, with an opportunity to visit the historic Sun Inn next door to the modern one; a birding walk along from the Sutton Bank Visitor Centre led by Andy Wilson; a foraging walk led by Anne Press; a visit to parts of the Hawnby Estate not normally accessible to visitors, led by Jamie Savile; a guided visit to the Georgian home of George and Sara Winn-Darley, near Stamford Bridge; and a party to celebrate NYMA's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at the Millennium Stone attended by around 40 members of NYMA as well as the National Park CEO Tom Hind, and the owner of the Dawnay Estate Lord Downe.

We thank all the leaders for their time in leading walks and in checking the routes in advance to ensure interesting and varied walks: Jane Dunn, Albert Elliot, Kath Mair, Anne Press, John Roberts, Jamie Savile, Kate Senior, Wendy Smith. We are particularly pleased that several new leaders have proposed and led walks over the past year. Roma Haigh and Sara Winn-Darley deserve a special mention for providing refreshments at events.

**Nan Sykes Memorial:** In February, several members of NYMA attended the installation of a memorial stone to botanist Nan Sykes, set up on the edge of a flower meadow at Silpho. The stone was funded by the Carstairs Countryside Trust and created by local sculptor Pete Coates.

## PROJECTS

We have initiated the **Botton Orchard Project** as a 40th anniversary project this year. It has been expertly pulled together and guided by Tom Gillum, who is taking an overall coordinating role. The project will introduce and engage young people in the beauty, biodiversity and conservation needs of the National Park. The focus is the orchard (with the walled garden) at Botton Village, home to people assisted because of their particular needs. Other partners are the National Park, whose Youth Engagement Officer, Mary-Jane Alexander, is identifying and liaising with the school (or schools) concerned, and the Yorkshire branch of Butterfly Conservation, which is providing advice on breeding and encouraging butterflies.

Wildflowers to attract pollinators will be planted in the apple orchard to attract butterflies and insects for the fruit trees and more generally. Over at least three visits a year to Botton, young people will be involved in activities including collecting wildflower seeds in the autumn, propagating and then planting out the wildflowers, raising butterflies at school and introducing them to the site, looking for invertebrates. The activities are designed to support the National Curriculum in upper years of Key Stage 2 (Years 5/6) and is being funded by NYMA, although we are also seeking additional funding to ensure that our resources can be stretched as far as possible.

For several decades, Tom Chadwick, Albert Elliot, Alan Ayres and others have helped to manage **Corbett's Copse**, a three-quarters of an acre plot above Danby Park Wood, on behalf of the owner Charles Kidd, who plans to bequeath it to NYMA. There are 78 trees already well established, including 10 Juniper propagated from locally sourced seed. There is now significant work needed to exclude sheep from the plot and reduce unwanted vegetation, including bracken spraying, fence repairs and drystone wall restoration on the two sides adjoining Danby Low Moor Common. We are delighted that long-standing NYMA members Tim and Gill Redman have stepped forward to sponsor the costs of repairs and maintenance in memory of their son, Jonathan Redman, who died in 2009.

The **Soft Retrofit Project** continues in Castleton, managed by Dave Moore and Bill Bordass. This is looking at ways of managing traditional houses in a more energy efficient way without altering their character. Sophisticated monitoring equipment installed in a number of homes has been gathering data and during the next year results should be available.

**Talks, Presentations and Shows:** Ray Clarke has continued to deliver a successful programme of talks and presentation to groups across Northeast Yorkshire and beyond, with occasional talks by Janet Cochrane to groups closer to York.

In May we set up stands at the Kirkbymoorside EcoFair and the Malton Rotary Club's 'Involve' event, and later in the summer went to the Ryedale Show at Duncombe Park and Rosedale Show. We generated a lot of interest and recruited members at several of these events, while the speaker's fees and sale of books and magazines on these occasions provide funds for NYMA.

**NYMA Awards:** During the year the Trustees agreed to make Awards to the Community Earth Project towards the purchase of a 7-acre plot near Castleton to create a community orchard and for biodiversity expansion; to the Friends of Helmsley Railbed for installing a multi-user bridge over Spittle Beck; and to Moorsbus for their 2025 programme.

**Hands-on conservation:** Trustees (especially Ray Clarke) have continued their practical conservation work, especially in clearing and maintaining public rights-of-way for access.

**The North Yorkshire Moors Association**  
**CIO No: 1169240**

**Financial Accounts for the  
year ended 31st March 2025**

**Paul Tranter & Company**  
**Chartered Accountants**  
**Stokesley**  
**North Yorkshire**  
**TS9 5AD**



# Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts

## Section A

## Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/members of

Charity Name

THE NORTH YORKSHIRE FLOOR ASSOCIATION

On accounts for the year ended

31 03 25

Charity no (if any)

1169240

Set out on pages

3 - 4

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

### Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 43 of the 1993 Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

### Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention (other than that disclosed below):

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the 1993 Act; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed

[Signature]

Date

1 June 2025

Name

PAUL TRANTER

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any)

FCA (ICAEW)

Address

PAUL TRANTER & Co  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS  
31 HIGH STREET  
STOKESLEY  
NORTH YORKSHIRE TS9 5AD

## Section B

## Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material problems

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 01/11/2009 BY 60322  
UCBAW/BJS/STP

**The North Yorkshire Moors Association**  
CIO No: 1169240

**Receipts & Payments Account for the  
Financial year ended 31st March 2025**

			y/e 31.03.25 £	y/e 31.03.24 £
<b>Receipts</b>				
Subscriptions	Members		3,925.00	4,739.00
Book sales	History Tree		487.55	365.90
	Wild Flowers		134.95	465.70
	Voice of the Moors		357.50	375.50
Donations	Main Fund	<b>note 1</b>	14,295.50	<b>7,692.70</b>
Interest			1,206.68	895.86
<b>Total Receipts</b>			<u>20,407.18</u>	<u>14,534.66</u>
<b>Payments</b>				
Insurance			317.60	307.45
AGM			103.96	621.00
Auditor			180.00	180.00
CNP Annual Subscription			277.00	527.00
Retro Soft Fit Project			2,352.02	-
Photocopying & Stationery			58.76	78.94
Postage			422.35	1,106.92
Sundry			110.00	140.74
Secretary Fees & Expenses			4,078.90	3,705.10
Voice' Production			1,682.00	1,804.00
Bank Charges/Paypal fees			128.97	135.62
Website			705.60	676.80
Leaflets NYMA			-	42.00
Conservation Award		<b>note 2</b>	1,000.00	3,500.00
Council Meeting Costs			104.94	60.00
Moors Bus			2,000.00	2,000.00
Membermojo Annual Sub			95.00	-
<b>Total Payments</b>			<u>13,617.10</u>	<u>14,885.57</u>
<b>Surplus for the year transferred to General Funds (p/y deficit)</b>			<u>6,790.08</u>	<u>- 350.91</u>



**The North Yorkshire Moors Association**  
CIO No: 1169240

**Balance Sheet as at  
31st March 2025**

	£	31st March 2025 £	£	31st March 2024 £
<b>Current Assets</b>				
CAF Cash account (00007628)	460.88		543.45	
CAF Savings account Main Fund (000084225)	<u>49,936.80</u>		<u>41,982.92</u>	
		50,397.68		42,526.37
PayPal		<u>93.52</u>		<u>1,174.75</u>
		<u>50,491.20</u>		<u>43,701.12</u>

**Represented By:**

<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Note 3</b>		
Balance b/f		43,701.12	44,052.03
Surplus for the Year (p/y deficit)		<u>6,790.08</u>	<u>- 350.91</u>
Balance c/f		<u>50,491.20</u>	<u>43,701.12</u>

**Notes:**

**1 Donations**

Donations received included £10,000 grant for the Soft Retrofit Project, and £2,500 from Tinsley Charitable trust (unrestricted).

**2 Conservation awards (£1,000)**

Awards £1,000 to Friends of Helmsley Rail Bed

**3 Donations and Restricted Funds**

The Soft Retrofit Project Grant (note 1) is a restricted fund leaving £7,648 c/f.

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Approved by the Committee on .....