



North Yorkshire Council

Working with the wider community

Jos Holmes, Climate Change Strategy Manager
February 2026

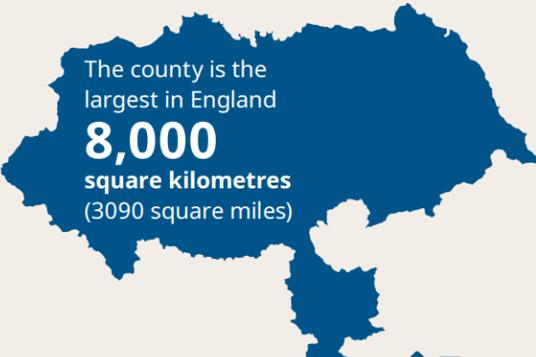
What we'll cover

- Intro to North Yorkshire and our community engagement journey
- Top Tips from our examples*
 - ❖ Support your volunteers
 - ❖ Understand local needs and priorities
 - ❖ Harder to reach groups
- Adaptation – how to broach?

* Warning – stealing with pride included!

It's a discussion workshop! Please jump in with questions, comments or your own examples to share

North Yorkshire became a unitary in April 2023, following LGR, bringing together 8 local authorities and also forming York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority.



The county is the largest in England

8,000 square kilometres
(3090 square miles)

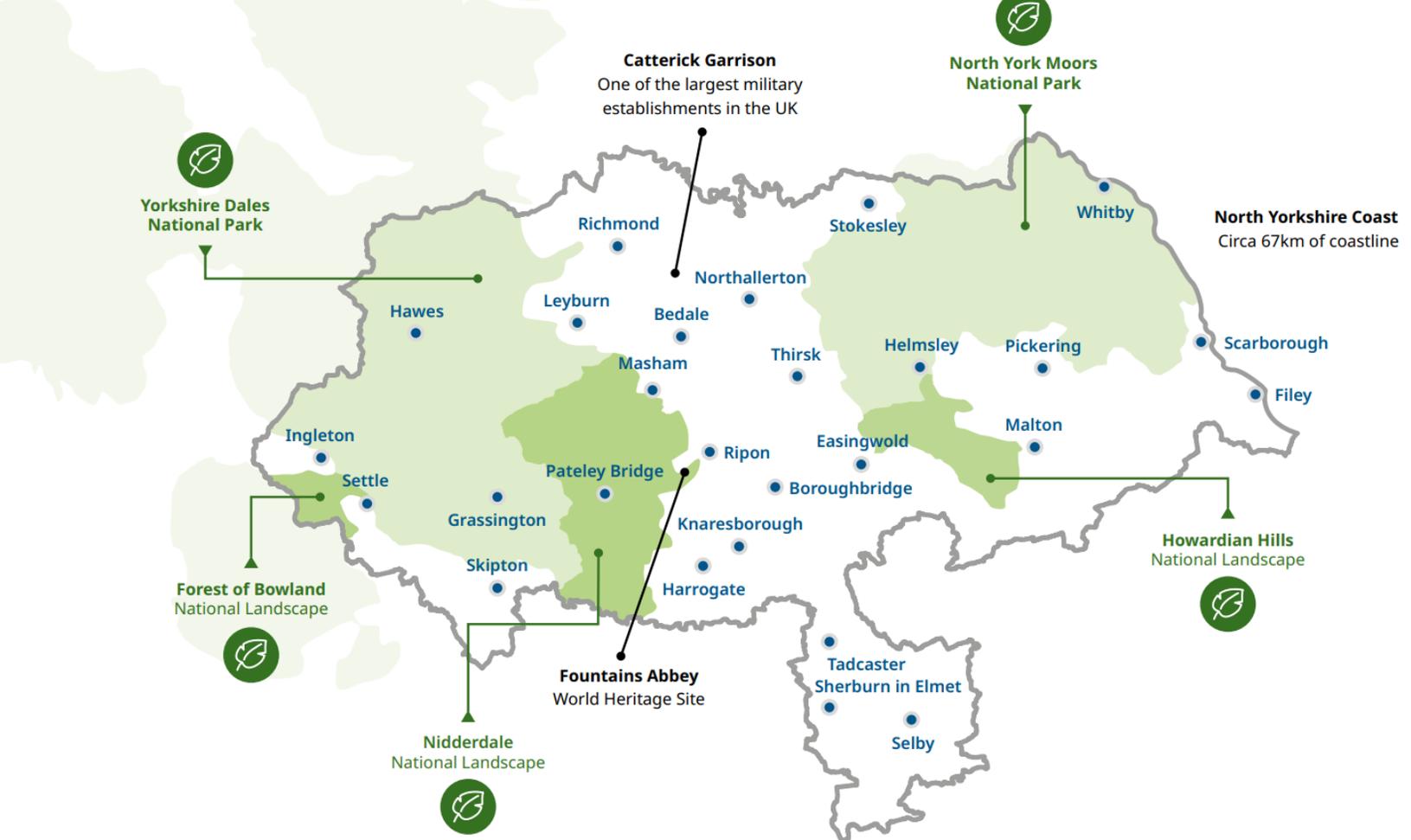
Average House Price:
£278,447
(England average= £308,781)



Average Household Income:
£51,217
(England average= £52,216)

615,490 people (*Census 2021)

16.1% Under 16	(England average= 18.6%)
58.9% aged 16-64	(England average= 63%)
25% aged 65+	(England average= 18.4%)



Yorkshire Dales National Park

Catterick Garrison
One of the largest military establishments in the UK

North York Moors National Park

North Yorkshire Coast
Circa 67km of coastline

Forest of Bowland National Landscape

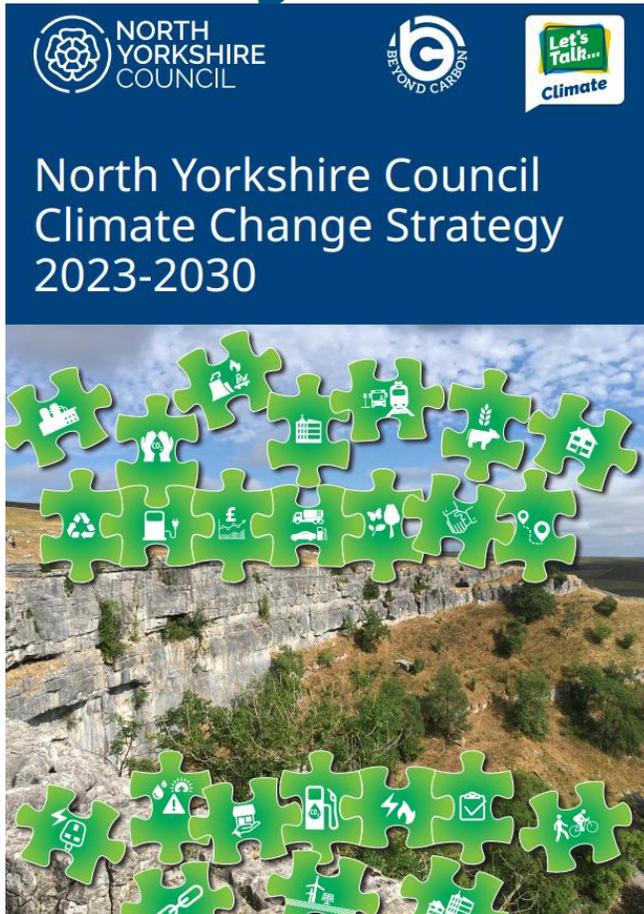
Nidderdale National Landscape

Howardian Hills National Landscape

Fountains Abbey
World Heritage Site

Richmond, Northallerton, Stokesley, Whitby, Scarborough, Filey, Pickering, Helmsley, Thirsk, Masham, Bedale, Leyburn, Hawes, Ripon, Easingwold, Malton, Pateley Bridge, Boroughbridge, Harrogate, Knaresborough, Skipton, Grassington, Ingleton, Settle, Tadcaster, Sherburn in Elmet, Selby

Climate Change Policy Context



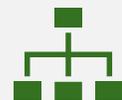
Routemap to Carbon Negative (York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority)- ***currently being refreshed***



North Yorkshire Council Climate Change Strategy



Climate Change Delivery Pathway (Action Plan)



Directorate Action Plans



[Climate change strategy 2023 to 2030 | North Yorkshire Council](#)

- Mitigation: Reducing our impact on the climate by decreasing greenhouse gas emissions
- Adaptation: Preparing for the climate to change
- Supporting Nature: Helping the natural world, on which we depend, to thrive
- NYC: Becoming a climate responsible council and achieving net zero by 2030

The Journey

- 2022/23 District & County based close relationships with communities and parish councils – ensure these are maintained through LGR
- 2023/24 Essential starting point with community based grant programmes such as Community Renewal Fund and Shared Prosperity Fund – getting investment right into communities
- 2024/25 Continue developments through new programmes such as Mayoral funds, Net Zero Hub Community Energy and National Lottery Climate Action Fund
- 2025/6 Now, changing the narrative on Net Zero to focus on co benefits and place shaping



Support your volunteers

- ❖ Public sector and other organisations.. Co-ordinate!
- ❖ Longevity of support
- ❖ Put in time commitment

Public sector – please co-ordinate!

- ❖ Communities are usually represented by a small number of dedicated volunteers. So need to get one message from ‘support agencies’ and co-ordinated engagement activities
- ❖ Don’t duplicate or overload groups with events, consultations and other ‘asks’



Longevity of involvement

- ❖ Groups take time to form and become established
- ❖ Long term support and commitment is needed to create genuine relationships to sustain and develop
- ❖ There isn't always an immediate return on investment in terms of carbon savings
- ❖ Capacity building support is required from outset and through project development, funding applications and delivery, so advocate for volunteer and community group support from your organisation
- ❖ Be prepared to listen to community groups ideas that might be radical, expensive, not statutory etc. Enable discussion with Councillors and senior leaders

Share Skipton

North Yorkshire Council Support:

Officer support to hold initial community meeting

Funding from North Yorkshire Council Community Climate Action Grant for set up

Rent a space in council building

Led to:

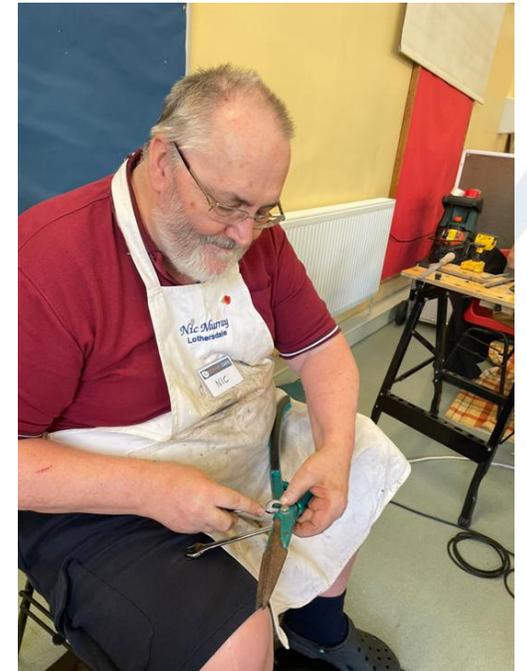
Subsequent success with other funding, including National Lottery – employ 2 part-time staff

Community Impact award - [Skipton Repair shop](#)

Library of things launched September 2024 – 590 customers, 653 items in stock, 2,000+ loans

Repair Café launched June 2025 – 500+ customers, 550+ successful repairs

60+ volunteers



Put in the time for Community Events

Ryedale Environment Group's Eco Fairs, Give or Take days and 'supporting nature' conference





TADCRAFTERS  "How might local businesses, community groups and organisations work together to make Tadcaster more economically, ecologically and socially resilient to the impacts of climate change?" 

HOW MIGHT WE ...?
REVITALISE TADCASTER HIGH STREET
 COMMUNITY POOL HAS 4-5000 VISITORS A WEEK
 DIS-LOYALTY CARD
 USE LOCAL BE REWARDED: FREE SWIM, COFFEE, CLASS
 ENGAGE, EDUCATE AND INSPIRE VIA A DEMO/COMMUNITY HUB
 RETROFIT
 EDUCATE INSPIRE
 CELEBRATE PLACE
 POP UPS AND A HUB
 SUSTAINABILITY MODEL
 START IN EXISTING BUILDINGS
 DIGITAL HIGH STREET
 SUCCESS CHANGE THE NARRATIVE OF TADCASTER
 VIBRANT POSSIBILITIES PRIDE
 LOCAL BUSINESS CONSORTIUM
 ATTRACT TO TADCASTER
 SELBY

USE ROOFTOPS FOR COMMUNITY ENERGY
 ENGAGE WITH LOCAL BUSINESSES
 LOCAL HOUSING
 SCHOOL
 COUNCIL BUILDINGS
 DON'T INVENT THE WHEEL
 START SMALL
 COMMUNITY ENERGY CO-OPERATIVE
 SCALE UP
 REDUCE CARBON EMISSIONS
 BOOST RESILIENCE
 STORE EXCESS ENERGY

CREATE A BROKERAGE SYSTEM TO REUPGRADE WASTE
 ONE PERSON'S WASTE IS ANOTHER'S TREASURE
 WEEKLY COLLECTION FREQ.
 AD-HOC LTD PCA COLLECTION
 GATHER DATA OVER 6 MONTHS TO SUPPORT PLAN B:
 NATURE BASED SOLUTIONS
 VOLUNTEER
 MAP WASTE - ACT NOW
 ENGAGE BUSINESSES
 TALK TO PARTNERS
 TADCASTER NEWS WASTE NOT WHO'S IN.
 RECYCLE SHEET
 VISIT

USE THE RIVER TO CREATE HYDRO POWER
 TADCASTER WEIR
 LINK POWER
 ARCHIMEDEAN SCREEN TRIED AND TESTED
 365 DAYS OF POWER
 FEASIBILITY STUDY
 1. EMPLOY ENGINEER
 2. DRAW UP MODELS
 3. DECISION POINTS
 4. ACTION
 WORK WITH GREAT BRITISH ENERGY
 PITCH FOR SMALL GRANTS
 FOR SOLD WHO OWNS THE RIVERS?
 VISIT EXISTING HYDRO

PROVIDE ON-DEMAND, SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT OPTIONS
 OUTLYING VILLAGES
 ENCOURAGE SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL
 TIMETABLES INFO BOOKING
 FREE UP PARKING
 COASTLINER LINKS NEXT BUS STOP
 LINK UP TO BUS ROUTES
 MAKE PUBLIC TRANSPORT ACCESSIBLE TO ALL

Illustration: Amanda Steer

Tadcaster Climate Change event

Understanding the issues – use your existing trusted networks to talk with your client groups to identify their priorities

Very often not vocalised as ‘climate change’

For Community Transport – CTOs fed back it was about fuel costs and volunteer drivers not wanting to use their own cars

For Care Homes – ICG fed back it was about residents’ comfort, air quality and energy costs

For small businesses – YNYCA SPF engagement events outlined financial viability constraints of SMEs

For Farms – Grow Yorkshire sessions it was about viability and energy costs



Harder to reach groups

Don't just go for 'easy wins'. Seek support from your local 'anchor' engagement partners in VCSE and existing networks such as youth forums.. and advocate for their support!



For North Yorkshire, based on evaluation of engagement activities, we've prioritised

- Young People
- Coastal areas
- Selby



Q HOME CURRENT PROJECTS OUR SITES STREET ROCKS WHAT'S ON ROOM HIRE & WORKSPACE KEY PAST PROJECTS ABOUT CaVCA NEWS & BLOG CONTACT

CURRENT PROJECTS



GOOD TO GROW

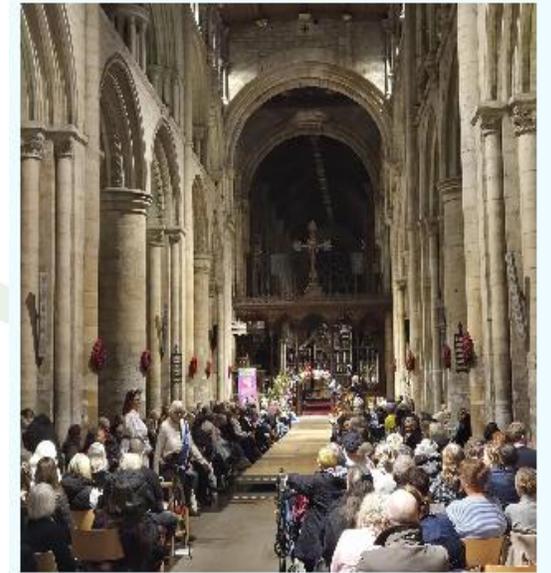


OUR BACK GARDEN



<https://www.ourzeroselby.org.uk/>

Up4yorkshire sustainable fashion show linked with charity shop trail – funded by Mayor David Skaith’s Highstreets Fund



19/11/2025

Selby’s Sustainable Fashion Show – Inspiring The Future

Our Sustainable Fashion Show was a smash hit- a celebration of preloved style and of Our Zero Selby. We are so excited to share just a few highlights from a brilliant night!



OFFICIAL

Adaptation – how do we engage?

What impact will climate change have on our communities?



Valencia, devastating flood with more than 200 fatalities in November 2024. Not a drop of rain actually fell in the city.

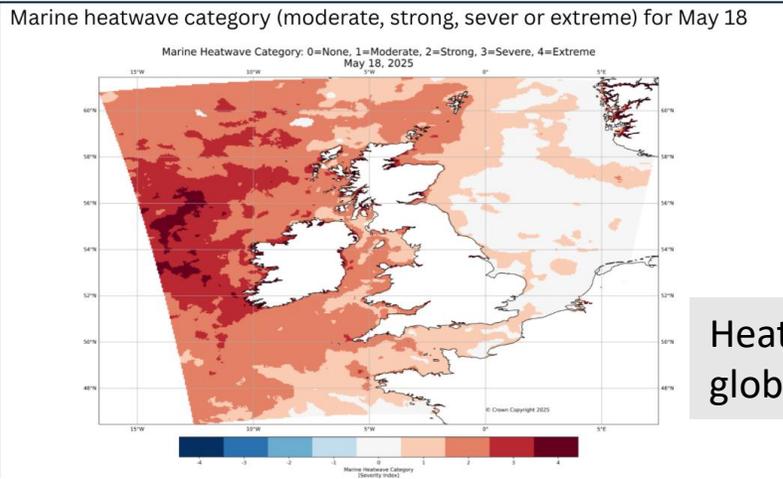
World Health Organization COP29 Baku Azerbaijan

“Health is the argument for climate action”

Humber inundation from sea level rise



Climate change impacts in 2050: economic responses matter
Average of 5 global economic models for coarse grains, rice, wheat, oilseeds & sugar



Heating oceans change global weather systems



Thruscross Reservoir, North Yorkshire. Sept 2022

<https://yorksandhumberclimate.org.uk/weather-narratives/>

YORKSHIRE
& HUMBER
CLIMATE
COMMISSION

WEATHER NARRATIVES

A workshop tool to facilitate climate adaptation and resilience planning in Yorkshire and the Humber

[HOME](#) > [WEATHER NARRATIVES](#)

This toolkit explores the impact of climate adaptation by looking through the eyes of an individual in a possible future.

Taking a first-person narrative approach, our weather narratives workshop uses the story of Pam, a fictional person living in the future. Two different versions of this future are presented through audio recordings: one where climate adaptation measures have been implemented, and one where they are lacking.

After listening to 'Pam's story', workshop participants are invited to analyse the two scenarios, and explore how climate adaptation measures can have a real impact on individuals.

Pam's Story: Fully planned and guided 45 minute workshop.

We've delivered to community groups, town and parish councils and Local Authority officers and Members. On line and in person.



YORKSHIRE AND HUMBER CLIMATE COMMISSION
Pam's Story: Preparing for possible futures



Thanks for your time and participation!

climatechange@northyorks.gov.uk

