



Showcase
& Awards
2023



RIPON RACES
Yorkshire's Garden Racecourse

Racing Foundation **Green** Award



GREEN-WORK MAKES
THE DREAM WORK



RACING POST



Objectives



Through developing knowledge of Natural Capital and using the [Natural Capital Protocol Framework](#) to aid decision making we ensure a holistic, integrated and pragmatic approach, reaching better and greener business decisions and setting an example for our local community and our industry.

“The environment and the economy are really both two sides of the same coin. If we cannot sustain the environment, we cannot sustain ourselves.” – Wangari Maathai

Inspired by the RCA partnership with the Climate Coalition, with #ShowTheLove campaigns in 2018/19, we set about expanding our environmental commitments with specific focus on



Reducing Carbon Footprint



Reducing Energy Usage



Reducing Waste



Long Term Sustainability

‘Yorkshire’s Garden Racecourse’ has a unique setting. We are adjacent to and share land with Ripon City Wetlands and the River Ure and we sit alongside Ripon Canal and Marina. We therefore take account of both our local and national context in our approach to tackling environmental challenges and climate change.

We want to maximise positive impact on the environment, minimise pressures and support engagement with the natural environment. Continuing to use the [Natural Capital Protocol Framework](#) as a basis we aimed to:

- 1. Further develop and expand upon our existing projects through 2023 to continue to drive down *carbon footprint, energy usage, waste and plan for longer term sustainable solutions.***
- 2. Drive engagement with green projects; raising awareness both in our local community and on an industry level. Share best practice and encourage others to consider prioritising a greener approach.**
- 3. Use non-operational land to create safe spaces for nature and support the habitats surrounding the racecourse.**

Delivery

Reducing Energy Usage

- LED Lighting Transfer: transfer all old lighting units to LED lighting and ALL new renovations are designed with low-energy lighting and appliances.
- Installation of variable speed control to irrigation pumps to reduce power usage.
- Voluntary reduction in power supply due to reduction in operational power requirements.



Driving Engagement and Promotion

- Increased marketing of Green Scheme and Public Transport discounts in e-mail, using race titles and social media.
- Organisation and promotion of inaugural 'Ripon Green Fair' and staff litter pick in partnership with Ripon Together community group.
- Sky Sports Sustainability Feature (click [here](#) to view).



Reducing Waste

- Partnership with Waste Management Company 'Yorwaste' with 'Zero to Landfill' policy. Any non-recyclables converted to solid recovered fuel product for energy from waste.
- Adding water conditioner – [Quadrop](#) - breaking down calcium carbonate and maximising natural water resources thus reducing water consumption.
- Additional septic tanks converted for water harvesting.

Long Term Sustainability

- [Natural Capital Protocol Framework](#) signposted voluntary reduction of power supply as viable with significant beneficial long term sustainability impact.
- We have also identified switching from fuel powered stand-by generator to solar/battery UPS system as viable and to be introduced before the start of 2024 season.
- Use of greywater for toilets, additional water harvesting solutions and increased involvement with Skell Valley Project currently under research and consideration.

Reducing Carbon Footprint

- Continuation of [Green Scheme](#), [Cycling Maps](#), [Public Transport Discounts](#) and [Shuttle Bus](#).
- All Tractors Power Take-Off (PTO) now set to economy rate.
- Ongoing replacement of fossil fuel powered tools and machinery to battery power.



Wildlife and Habitats

- Managed rewilding of racecourse canalside land and strips connecting with Wetlands. Living roof on racecard huts.
- Creation of habitat poles together with bird boxes. Log and brash piles, deadwood and clippings left for invertebrates and insects supporting the habitats surrounding us in the [Ripon City Wetlands](#), canal and River Ure.



Results



Reducing Energy Usage

- LED Lighting Transfer of old lighting units to LED now at **60%** across racecourse reducing consumption by 65-70%. Aiming for complete coverage of LED by the end of 2024.
- Installation of variable speed control to irrigation pumps has reduced power usage by **52%**.
- Voluntary reduction in power supply by **58%** annually from 120kVA to 50kVA.

Driving Engagement and Promotion

- Public Transport Discounts up **5%**. Shuttle Bus users up **9%**.
- Ripon Together Green Fair Sunday 25th June est. **3500 visitors** between Market Square and Town Hall. Racecourse shared best practice presentation with environmental groups, community, local businesses & Yorkshire Rewilding Network.
- Litter pick on 24th May. Racecourse staff committed to cleaning up the waterway areas of Ripon, riverside, canalside and Hell Wath, filling 19 x 50 litre sacks.
- Sky Sports Sustainability Feature played nine times on SSR (monthly reach 2 million), social media and permanent on SkySports.com. Est. reach across all channels 750,000.

Reducing Waste

- Quadrop reduces irrigation by **33%** annually (up to 2 million litres). Converted septic tank saves additional 240,000 litres.
- **0%** to landfill with Yorwaste. We can't get less than that!

Long Term Sustainability

- The natural capital approach has led to reductions in fuel consumption and large reductions in power supply by helping us to identify where environmental benefits meet clear business benefits, such as reduced costs (fuel) and improved resilience (efficient water usage).
- Switch from fuel powered generator to solar/battery UPS system, zero fuel consumption with added benefit of no further costs. Expenditure costs covered after 2-3 years.
- Discussions with Ecoprod about viability of greywater solutions for toilets.

Reducing Carbon Footprint

- **650** Green Scheme/Transport discounts and almost **2200** Shuttle Bus users. Carbon calculator on Green Scheme page to work out individual carbon emissions saving.
- All Tractors PTO set to economy rate reduced fuel consumption by **45%**.
- Hedge-trimmers, rotavator, mowers now battery powered.

Wildlife and Habitats

- 3.5 acres of land returned to nature with managed rewilding canalside and in corridors shared with Wetlands.
- Providing habitats supporting Wetland wildlife, many of which are protected species; otters, kingfishers, herons.

Supporting Information



“Although we don’t have the budget of the bigger groups or tracks, we put sustainability at the heart of what we do day-to-day. Not only is it environmentally beneficial and the responsible way to operate but it improves resilience and there can be significant financial benefits too”. Carl Tonks, Head Groundsman.



Habitat poles, living roofs and managed rewilding provides safe spaces for nature, nesting, pollinators and supports the habitats of the Wetlands, Ripon Canal and River Ure which flank the racecourse.

“It was fantastic to work with Ripon Races to deliver the first ever Green Fair in Ripon. As a large green space in such a key area of the city, with the canal and wetlands surrounding it, their sustainability initiatives are a great example of what can be achieved by prioritising the natural environment”. Simon Hewitt, Ripon Together.

Green Savings			
LED	Est. £400/pa		£400
Variable Speed Pump	4hrs/day @ 80 days = 320hrs @ 0.36/hr x 9kw £1036 (52%)		£539
Tractor fuel	40 x cut x 2 80/w x 26w = 2080/lpa x 2 mowers = 4160/lpa @ 1.55/l		£6,448
KVA	Est reduced Standing charge/pa £200		£200
Quadrop	33% electrical		£350
		2023 Total	£7,937

“We use the shuttle bus every meeting and our friends from Harrogate love the discount for public transport. It makes racing more affordable and its greener too”. Gill Platts, Annual Member



Great work from all the team at @RiponRaces!

Yorkshire's Garden Racecourse is tackling the challenges of climate change head-on and building for a more sustainable future...



Yorkshire's garden racecourse Ripon creating a sustainable future
Ripon, famously nicknamed 'Yorkshire's Garden Racecourse', is tackling the challenges of climate change head-on and building for a more sustainable future.