

“We only wanted a koi carp pond!”



Managed by a local couple, North Yorkshire Water Park Fisheries offers many types of freshwater fishing. “I loved fishing here as a boy,” says Scarborough-born James Sixsmith.

“We were considering a koi carp pond, but ended up leasing these lakes instead!”

The three fishing lakes span more than 10 acres and included a Coarse Lake, a crystal clear Trout Lake and Predator Lake. The Sixsmiths relaunched the Fisheries in 2024, building a new reception with fishing essentials. They added more carp to the coarse lake, as well as Blue, Rainbow and other varieties to the trout lake. They offer a welcoming fishing experience for anglers of all abilities. Guests can fish from the bank, wading bars, or hire a rowing boat.

“As well as coarse matches and competitions, we host non-mainstream schools from Bridlington and elsewhere, get-togethers for The Fostering Network and coaching sessions for juniors,” explains Lauren Sixsmith. An upcoming Angling Trust grant of £5,000 will part-fund improvements to 28 fishing jetties and pathways.

“If you want a relaxing hobby, this is the perfect spot,” says James “Apart from the odd squeal from the Water Park’s zip wire, it’s quiet down here!” Find out more at: northyorkshirewaterparkfisheries.co.uk

Sweat. Reset. Repeat.



Tired muscles from Water Park activities can now be soothed by a trip to the popular Seacret Sauna, which opened back in January. This hand-made wooden sauna is tucked away with views across the swimming and paddleboarding lake. Guests can stay inside or cool off with a dip in the lake.

This summer has already seen many special group bookings, including a Summer Solstice Guided Swim & Sauna by Soulful Swimming and Coaching. As well as a Women’s Only Sauna & Swim packages led by local florist and sea swimmer Jo Purdy.



Pre-book your session at:
wunderbook.link/seacrets



Sessions can be booked Aquatic Jetpacks Ltd.
Find out more at: northyorkshirewaterpark.co.uk

Goodbye to three true gentlemen

Three men who put their lives into the Dawnay Estates have sadly passed away this year.



Dave Milner first worked on the Wykeham Estate in 1977, sawing pit props. He stayed on, working within the Environmental Services team maintaining Wykeham’s forestry and the general upkeep of the Estate. Dave could turn his hand to anything and would never see anyone stuck for help, often putting himself out to do so. His name can hardly be mentioned without that of Ron Peacock, with whom he worked for many years.

Retiring in 2022 aged 81, he concentrated on farming around his home at Snainton and tinkering with machinery. He would still return in a consultant’s role if there was a difficult tree to fell or to sort out Lady Downe’s Christmas trees! Working at Wykeham Estate was more than just a job to him. He influenced every corner of the Estate, and left Wykeham in a better place.



Allan Bowes worked as a postman before joining Danby Estate as a beat keeper in 1969. Married to Ann, they brought up their four children at Fairy Cross Plain. Allan eventually worked his way up to Head Keeper, striving to improve the moor and bring it through difficult times. Allan and his team broke the moors record in his retiring season in 2003.

Allan continued to live on the Estate and to help out on shoot days. For 56 years, he did not miss a shoot day on the moor at Danby. He manned the game cart right up until the end of last season, with no intention to retire. A keen hunting man and follower of Fryup cricket club, Allan will be fondly remembered by those in the area.



Andrew Kelly arrived at Stonebeck Gate Farm in 1996 with his wife Jill. Andrew had previously attended agricultural college at Cirencester and was managing Ballinacor Estate in Co Wickow when they were awarded the tenancy of Stonebeck Gate. Andrew set about creating a sustainable farming business while at the same time founding a dynasty with the birth of his five sons, Jack, Patrick, Arthur, Nick and Joesph at Stonebeck Gate and all very much involved in the local community. We’re pleased to say that Arthur will be taking on the reins at Stonebeck Gate in partnership with Jill, and no doubt with the help of his brothers. Andrews overwhelming popularity in the area as evidenced by the presence of over 600 people at his funeral was a fitting tribute to a man who made Danby his home.

The Wykeham Charity Clay Shoot

SAVE THE DATE

The Wykeham Charity Clay Shoot returns on **Thursday 27th May 2027**. Teams of four compete across the Wykeham Estate, followed by a champagne reception and buffet lunch in the grounds of Wykeham Abbey.

To reserve your team, contact:
hannah.wright@dawnay.co.uk

You are receiving this Newsletter as you have expressed an interest in Dawnay Estates. If you do not wish to receive future copies please email hannah.wright@dawnay.co.uk

A Golden Achievement

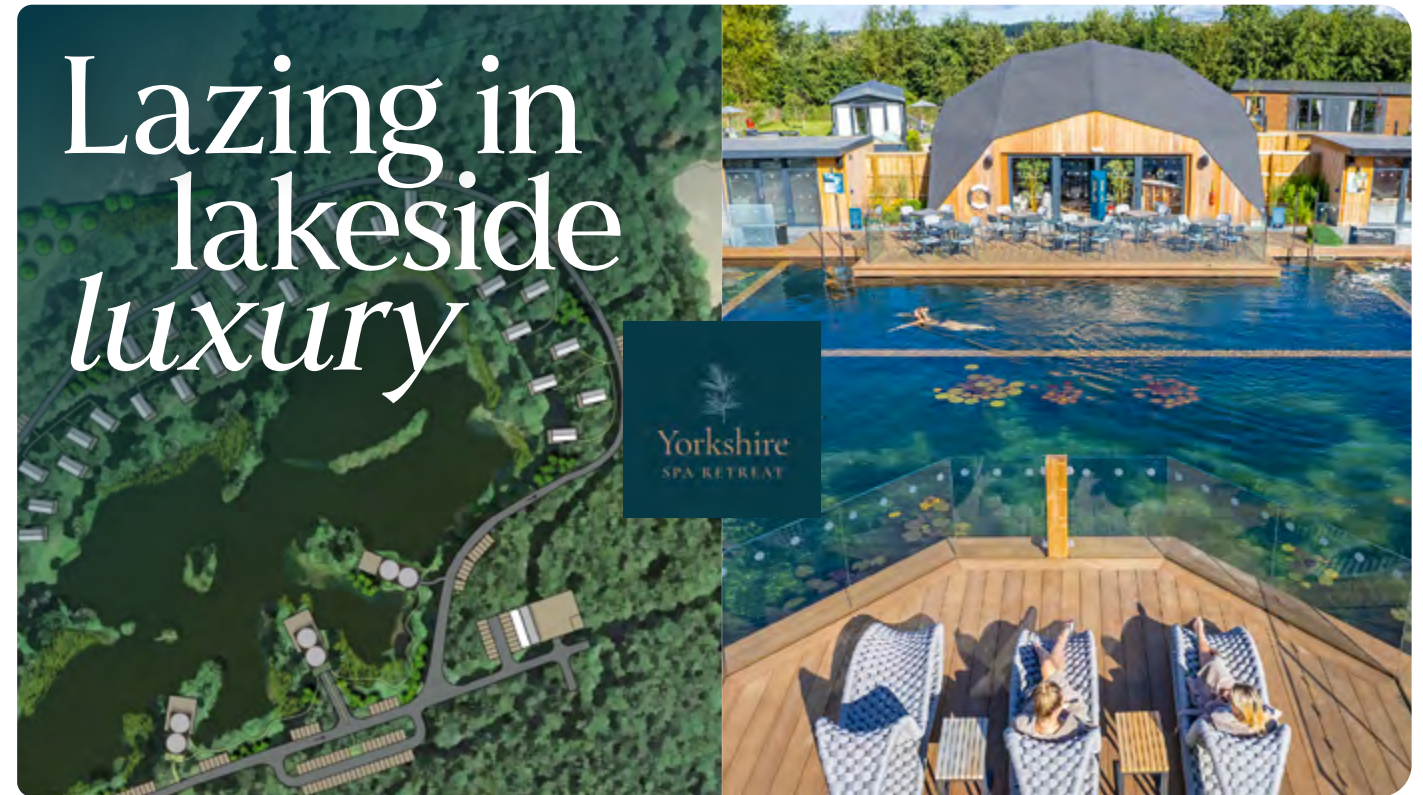


Congratulations to our Danby grouse keeper, Dan Marwood, who has been crowned champion of the National Gamekeepers’ Organisation’s annual Golden Grouse Clay Shoot. Dan beat a field of 115 competitors to claim the title in this prestigious competition, which is open exclusively to working grouse keepers. Congratulations, Dan, on a fantastic achievement!



DAWNAY NEWS

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A laid-back neighbour will join North Yorkshire Water Park near Scarborough in 2027. Planning permission has been granted for a spa retreat with a restaurant, treatment rooms, saunas, steam rooms, hydrotherapy and even an ice room. 40 luxury woodland lodges, hidden around an eight acre lake, will accommodate overnight guests.

“The aim is for the water park’s energy and the spa’s calmness to complement each other,” says project partner Miles Dewhurst, CEO of Spa Retreats Ltd. “Some lodges will be for short stay spa breaks, with others part of a quarter share co-ownership model. This quadruples the average caravan or lodge owner’s occupancy of 60 nights a year, leading to more visitors interacting with the local economy. It’s been a long time in the planning, but working with the Dawnay Estates team has been an absolute pleasure. We

look forward to continuing our journey together.”

Building work will be minimised through the STAYGROUNDED™ siting system. Rather than pouring concrete slabs, heavy-duty steel screws anchor structures. Hot tubs and outdoor kitchens are then added to these pre-built lodges. Three dome-like ‘quadrospheres’, the same as those at Yorkshire Spa Retreat near Helmsley, will house communal areas.

“This is a pivotal moment for the Estates and the local area,” says David Steel, Chief Executive of Dawnay Estates. “We aim to partner with the best, as we already do with wedding specialists The Gilchrist Collection at Danby Castle. Miles and his team are hugely respected in the industry, and we can’t wait to see this hugely exciting game changer of a destination spa take shape.”

A fond farewell to a property mastermind

Last December, Katrina Shamel retired after 16 years as manager of The Dawnay Estates’ residential and commercial lettings. As well as being editor extraordinaire of the Dawnay Estates newsletter, she also led Scarborough and District’s Women in Rural Enterprise branch, providing a vital support network for women in the local rural business community. “Katrina is clever, thoughtful and affable,” says David Steel, Chief

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Executive. “In dealing with the chess-like demands of accommodating tenants’ needs, she was always one step ahead in anticipating what spaces would be most suitable.” “Katrina was at the very heart of the Estate,” adds Lord Downe. “Her advice was invaluable on no end of issues. In particular, it was her energy and enthusiasm which helped make both the Wykeham Business Centre and this series of newsletters such a success. She will be sorely missed.”



Significantly expanding in 2021, North Yorkshire Water Park has grown and evolved into a must-visit destination for adventure seekers. Welcoming over 100,000 visitors annually, and now with over 20 water and land based activities on offer, the park continues to grow each year. Take a look at the changes and improvements that have shaped North Yorkshire Water Park over the last five years — and discover what might be coming next!



ZIPWIRE AND CLIMBING WALL

Opened in March 2022, the 250-metre dual zipline offers thrilling races across the lake from a 13-metre-tall tower. Alongside the zipline, the 12-metre climbing wall features a range of routes suitable for all abilities.



PUZZLE/ESCAPE ROOM

Opened in October 2023, the Puzzle Rooms challenge teams to solve as many puzzles as possible against the clock, while the immersive Escape Room sends players on a thrilling World War II mission to crack codes and stop a U-boat attack.



AQUAPARK
WAKEBOARDING
PADDLEBOARDING
OPEN WATER SWIMMING

KAYAKING
MINI SHIPS
PEDALOS
SAILING



SECRET SAUNA

One of the newest additions, opened in January 2026, the Seacret Sauna is tucked away in a secluded spot with views across the swimming and paddleboarding lake.

NORTH YORKSHIRE WATER PARK PARKRUN



Since February 2022, we have hosted the North Yorkshire Water Park parkrun, a much-loved weekly event bringing together runners, joggers and walkers of all ages and abilities. Come rain or shine, participants join us every Saturday at 9am to enjoy our scenic 5km lakeside route. So far, we've hosted 224 parkruns, with an incredible 198,455km run in total by 11,584 visitors.



ADVENTURE WOOD

Bullseyes, battles and balance beams — Since opening in March 2024, Adventure Wood has welcomed visitors to enjoy exciting outdoor experiences including axe throwing, bushcraft, archery, laser tag, and a challenging low ropes course.

A regal rotation of an overnight stay

New glamping pods are on a mission to save holidaymakers from a boring sleepover. Two decommissioned RAF Sea King helicopters offer an adventurous overnight option at North Yorkshire Water Park. One was even piloted by Prince William (who can be spotted in the photo below) more than 150 times when he was based at RAF Valley in Anglesey.

There is a double bed in each tail, with bunk beds for children. The cockpit dining areas still retain some controls and switches, and the winch operator's sliding doors open onto gravel landing pads with picnic benches. Each helicopter is also equipped with a microwave, toaster, kettle and fridge.

“At North Yorkshire Water Park, we like to be a little bit different, and the helicopters are quite quirky,” explains James Whitehead, Operations Manager. “The helicopters spent decades carrying out life-saving search and rescue missions. Now they offer cosy places to relax after a day of fun on the water or on land, with as much of their original character preserved as possible.”





HELICOPTER GLAMPING



CAMPING PODS

Launching in Summer 2025, the 10 wooden camping pods have proved a popular addition to the campsite, offering year-round camping with the comfort of lighting, power and outdoor water access.



CAMPSITE

Whether you're visiting by caravan, motorhome or tent, our campsite offers a choice of 16 electric pitches and 20 non-electric pitches. The campsite is the perfect base for enjoying all the Water Park has to offer.



Reinvigorated following its relaunch in 2024, the fishing lakes are now run by James and Lauren Sixsmith. Rods have the choice of three fishing lakes spanning over 10 acres, including the Coarse Lake, Trout Lake and Predator Lake.



LAKE VIEW LODGE

Launching in Summer 2022, Lake View Lodge marked the first venture into luxury accommodation, offering guests a stylish lakeside retreat complete with a wood-fired hot tub, woodland views and adventure right on the doorstep.

WYKEHAM QUARRY

Hanson Quarry Products Europe Limited (now Heidelberg Materials UK) has extracted sand and gravel at Wykeham since the early 1980s. Before quarrying, the land was a boggy swamp. Without the extraction of sand and gravel, we wouldn't have the lakes and wetland areas that exist today.



Our next exciting development, opening in 2027, the Causeway Lake will be transformed into a peaceful spa retreat. Powered by a new solar panel array, 40 luxury woodland lodges will provide accommodation for spa guests, alongside a restaurant and full spa facilities.



Check out availability at: northyorkshirewaterpark.co.uk/helicopter-glamping