

Upper Nidderdale Landscape Partnership

Landscape Conservation Action Plan

Part 1

January 2014



Supported by
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Contents

1	Executive Summary	1
2	Introduction	3
2.1	The Landscape Partnership	3
2.2	Development	5
2.3	Using this document	6
3	Understanding Upper Nidderdale	8
3.1	Introduction	8
3.2	Landscape Character Assessment	8
3.2.1	Broad Landscape Character Assessments	9
3.2.2	Detailed Upper Nidderdale Landscape Character Assessment	10
3.3	The Evolution of Upper Nidderdale's Heritage Landscape	12
3.3.1	Geological make-up	12
3.3.2	Biodiversity	13
3.3.3	Historical Development	18
3.3.4	Land Use	22
3.4	Upper Nidderdale's People and Places	22
3.4.1	Cultural and Built Heritage	22
3.4.2	Today's Upper Nidderdale	24
3.5	The Landscape Partnership Area	25
3.5.1	Defining the Landscape Partnership boundary	25
3.5.2	Upper Nidderdale in context	25
3.5.3	Managing Upper Nidderdale's Heritage Landscape	26
4	Statement of Significance	30
4.1	Geological Heritage	30
4.2	Natural Heritage	30
4.3	Industrial Heritage	31
4.4	Archaeological Heritage	32
4.5	Built Heritage	32
4.6	Cultural Heritage	33
5	A Landscape under Threat	35
5.1	Introduction	35
5.2	Risks and Opportunities for Change	35
5.2.1	Rural Policy	35
5.2.2	Climate Change	35
5.2.3	Disconnection from Landscape	37

5.2.4	Land Management Pressures	38
5.2.5	Resources	40
5.2.6	Skills and People	41
6	Our Vision, Aims and Objectives	42
6.1	The Vision for Upper Nidderdale	42
6.2	Our Long Term Aims	42
7	The Scheme Plan	45
7.1	Introduction	45
7.2	Themes and Projects Overview	45
7.3	Project Detail	47
7.3.1	Connections between Project	55
7.4	Programme Delivery	55
7.5	Delivering Landscape Partnership Outcomes	55
8	Sustainability, Evaluation and Review	57
8.1	The Landscape Partnership's Legacy for Upper Nidderdale	57
8.2	Monitoring and Evaluating the Partnership	58
8.3	Adoption and Review	59
9	Sources of Information	60
9.1	References	60
9.2	Reports	60
9.2.1	Landscape	60
9.2.2	Historic Environment	61
9.2.3	Biodiversity	61
9.2.4	Community and Tourism	61
9.2.5	Interpretation	61
9.2.6	Management	61



1 Executive Summary

The Upper Nidderdale Landscape Partnership, centred on the distinctive and deeply rural Upper Nidderdale valley in North Yorkshire, brings together a wide range of organisations who share a collective vision that:

Upper Nidderdale will continue to be a remote and special place, where the quality of the natural environment is an inspiration to all, where heritage features are cherished and displayed, where visitors will find a welcoming local community who are immensely proud of their surroundings and are full of stories that bring the landscape to life.


The starting point for the Partnership's work is the area's heritage landscape, which underpins all of the projects that will be delivered through the scheme. Upper Nidderdale is characterised by the contrasting nature of the vast, windswept high moorlands and the narrow dale below, with its patchwork of fields enclosed by dry stone walls, small stone-built villages and the imposing reservoirs at Angram, Scar and Gouthwaite. The underlying geology, with gritstone overlaying limestone, has played a fundamental role in the area's development, most noticeably where lead veins are also present providing opportunities for lead mining that have been exploited since Roman times and for quarrying – an industrial activity that continues to the present day.

Situated entirely within the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and with numerous ecological designations, including large areas that are Special Area of Conservation and Special Protection Area, Upper Nidderdale is home to a wide variety of nationally and internationally important habitats and species. The high heather moorland with its pockets of blanket bog, combined with rare upland hay meadows in the dale bottom, support significant upland breeding bird populations. Land use is predominately livestock farming in the dale bottom, with the moorlands managed for grouse shooting alongside extensive grazing.

The area's rich history remains visible in today's landscape, from mysterious prehistoric cup and ring marked rocks, through the impact of Fountains and Byland Abbeys on farming and land use, to the industrial hey-day with its lead mines, quarries and water-driven textile mills. Reservoir construction in the late 19th and early 20th century to supply water to nearby cities has arguably had the most significant impact on Upper Nidderdale's landscape and people. Following the conclusion of this industrial period, Upper Nidderdale is now one of England's most tranquil areas with tourism, alongside farming and grouse shooting, as its main economic focus.

This important natural, historic and cultural heritage is, however, under threat from a combination of interlinked pressures that are resulting in the fragmentation of wildlife habitats, deterioration of historic environment features and loss of Upper Nidderdale's rich cultural heritage. Factors at play range from changes in rural policy to a lack of resources; from climate change to a disconnection between people and landscape.

The Landscape Partnership will address these challenges by delivering a range of landscape-scale projects that record and conserve Upper Nidderdale's historic environment; restore and enhance wildlife habitats; provide education and learning opportunities to a diverse range of people of all ages to understand the area's heritage landscape; improve access to and interpretation of this heritage landscape; and create provision for heritage training to provide local people with new skills and to increase the capacity for heritage conservation work in Upper Nidderdale. Community involvement and encouraging people to engage with Upper Nidderdale's heritage landscape are a



central part of the Partnership's approach. Specific projects include restoring flower-rich upland hay meadows, linking the dale with north Leeds through an outreach project, conserving an 18th century lead mining smelt mill and opening a Centre of Excellence for Heritage to provide heritage training in Upper Nidderdale. The Landscape Partnership will deliver these projects over a 4 year period through the Heritage Lottery Fund Landscape Partnership programme. From the outset the scheme's legacy has been a key consideration and all of the projects have been planned with their long term sustainability in mind. As such, it is hoped that the Partnership can continue to enhance both the area's heritage and peoples' understanding of it well beyond the life of the HLF funded scheme.



2 Introduction

This is the Landscape Conservation Action Plan (LCAP) for the Upper Nidderdale Landscape Partnership. It forms the main part of the Partnership's stage 2 submission to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) Landscape Partnership programme.

The LCAP was prepared during 2013 by the Landscape Partnership Development Officer at Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), with support from other officers in the AONB Team and from officers and volunteers at the many partner organisations.

The Landscape Partnership's work focuses on Upper Nidderdale, a distinctive, deeply rural, upland valley of 158km² in North Yorkshire on the eastern flank of the Pennines. The area is wholly within the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, to the west of the lowland areas around Ripon and some 25 miles north of the Leeds-Bradford conurbation. Pateley Bridge, a small market town of 1,140 people, is the largest settlement in the dale. The map at Figure 1 shows the Landscape Partnership area.

2.1 The Landscape Partnership

The Landscape Partnership has brought together a wide range of community representatives, statutory agencies, businesses and third sector rural affairs and environmental organisations, which all have an interest in Upper Nidderdale's heritage landscape. As set out in detail in the LCAP, this landscape is undergoing a long-term decline as a result of many interlinked pressures that are resulting in habitat fragmentation, disintegration of historic environment features and loss of cultural heritage. The organisations who have come together to form the Landscape Partnership recognise the need for action in Upper Nidderdale. They share a collective view that by working together in partnership they will be able to effectively tackle the decline in Upper Nidderdale's heritage landscape, through practical conservation measures that engage and involve the community.

The Partnership aims to operate at a landscape scale to enhance Upper Nidderdale so that:

- the area's rich historic environment and cultural heritage is conserved and enhanced for current and future generations;
- Upper Nidderdale supports a diverse and resilient network of wildlife habitats through the efforts of the dale's sustainable upland farming community;
- a wide range of people of all ages discover, appreciate and enjoy Upper Nidderdale's special qualities;
- visitors are easily able to access, on the ground and online, Upper Nidderdale's natural environment and heritage features; and
- Upper Nidderdale's communities take inspiration from the area's heritage past to help to develop a sustainable rural future.

These aims have been developed so that their delivery will achieve HLF's 4 Landscape Partnership outcomes of conserving or restoring the built and natural features that create the historic landscape character; increasing community participation in local heritage; increasing access to and learning about the landscape area and its heritage; and increasing training opportunities in local heritage skills.

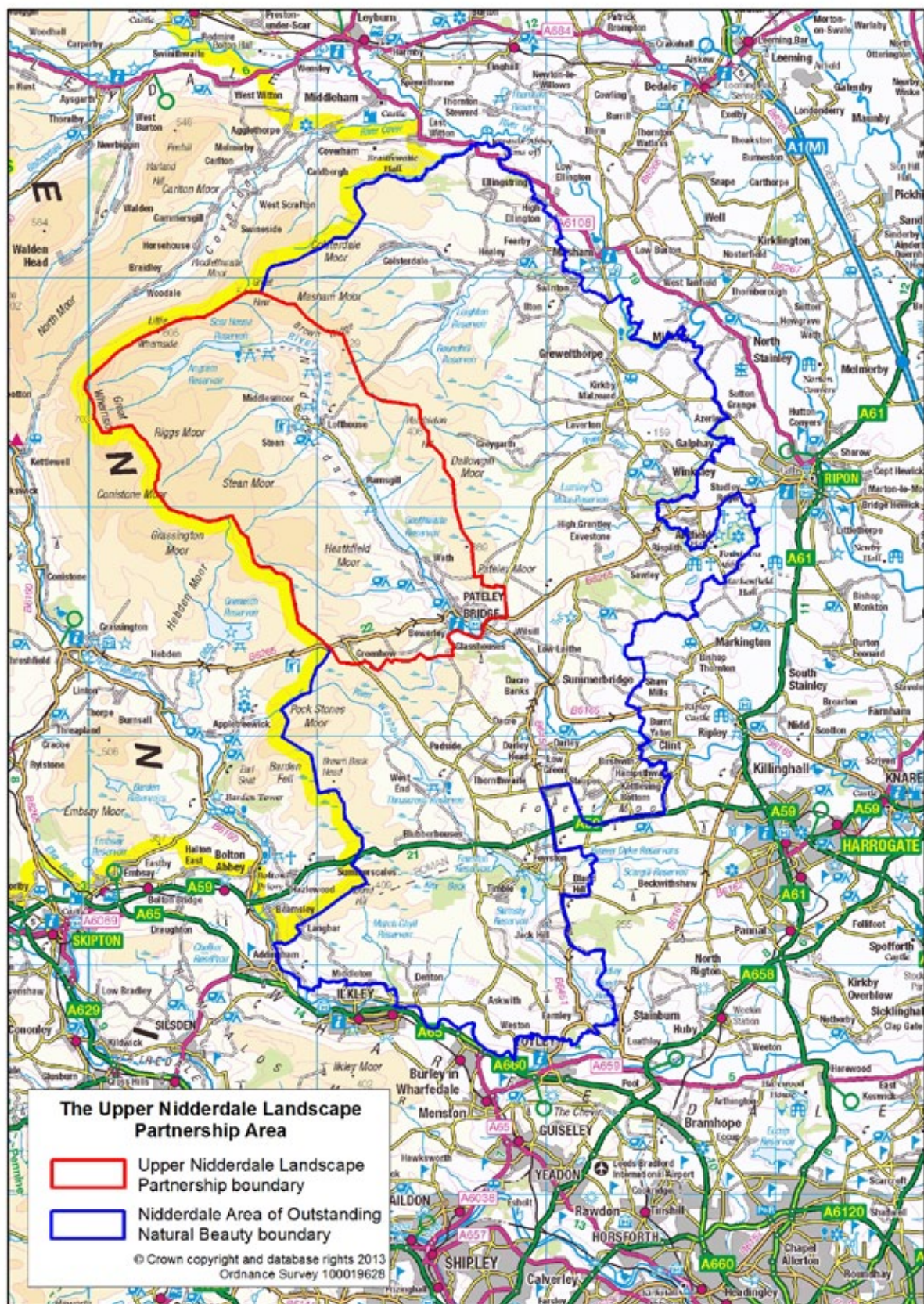


Figure 1: The Landscape Partnership area.

The work of the Partnership is overseen by the Landscape Partnership Board whose membership is set out in Table 1.

Bewerley Parish Council	Bewerley Park Centre for Outdoor Education
Country Land & Business Association	Diocese of Ripon and Leeds
English Heritage	Forestry Commission
Friends of Nidderdale AONB	Harrogate Borough Council
Moorland Association	Natural England
Nidderdale AONB Heritage Steering Group	Nidderdale AONB Joint Advisory Committee
Nidderdale Plus	North Yorkshire County Council Adult Learning & Skills
Pateley Bridge Town Council	Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings
Upper Nidderdale Parish Council	Yorkshire Dales Farmers Network
Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust	Yorkshire Water
Yorkshire Wildlife Trust	

Table 1: Landscape Partnership Board members.

The Board is responsible for guiding and monitoring the development and implementation of the scheme. The Partnership has sought to involve a wide range of organisations, recognising that different organisations will be able to contribute to the partnership in different ways.


2.2 Development

Following the appointment of a Development Officer after the successful stage 1 bid to HLF, the Partnership developed the scheme through a series of public consultation events, stakeholder workshops and meetings, summarised as follows:

- 4 open to the public community drop-in events, advertised in local press and online
- Online consultation on projects proposals, running for 2 months
- Council meetings with Upper Nidderdale Parish Council, Bewerley Parish Council and Pateley Bridge Town Council
- Farmer / land manager liaison meetings
- Flagship Heritage Sites identification and selection process, involving professional and voluntary heritage organisations
- 4 stakeholder workshops: enjoying & learning, biodiversity, heritage, skills & training
- One-to-one meetings between Development Officer and current and prospective partners

Alongside the consultation phase, various pieces of work were commissioned to fill gaps in the Partnership's knowledge. These reports have informed the project development and LCAP:

- Flagship heritage sites historic environment surveys: *Scar Navy Camp, Prosperous Lead Mine and Smelt Mill and Fishpond Wood & Bewerley Grange Chapel* by John Buglass Archaeological Services provide a detailed survey of these locations, combining a summary of background sources with a walk-over survey. The Partnership was able to benefit from a previous historic



environment survey of Wath Mill carried out by the Nidderdale Chase Heritage Group.

- Flagship heritage sites condition surveys: *Lodge Village, Scar Navvy Camp, Prosperous Lead Mine & Smelt Mill, Wath Mill and Fishpond Wood* by Structural & Civil Consultants Ltd uses the above historic environment surveys as a starting point for assessing the condition of the historic environment features at the flagship heritage sites and identifying a prioritised list of consolidation works.
- *Upland Bird Habitat Restoration Plan for Upper Nidderdale* by Yorkshire Wildlife Trust uses a remote sensing technique to generate habitat maps for the area and then to target the best locations for habitat restoration work.
- *Upper Nidderdale Visitor Survey Research Report* by QA Research surveyed visitors to the area during summer 2013 and recorded visitor demographics and perceptions.
- *Upper Nidderdale Interpretative Systems Plan* by Heritage Destination Consulting provides a strategy for interpreting the Upper Nidderdale heritage landscape alongside a series of site specific plans.

Using the information, advice and suggestions generated from the consultations and research, the projects put forward at stage 1 were refined to arrive at 15 projects across 5 themes. The Landscape Partnership Board formally reviewed these revised stage 2 scheme plans in September 2013 (which are set out in detail in Section 7, *The Scheme Plan*).


Development of the scheme particularly benefited from the strong links between the different partner organisations and the AONB Team that are the result of the long-standing wider AONB partnership. The AONB Team has developed good working relationships with farmers and landowners in Upper Nidderdale, again over the course of many years, and this has also been an important factor in developing a widely supported scheme. These working relationships are one of the key strengths of the Landscape Partnership scheme and will continue to be crucial throughout the delivery period.

The philosophy throughout the development of the scheme has been that landscape is the means to bring together the many diverse elements that have created Upper Nidderdale. The different projects that will be delivered through the Landscape Partnership are interconnected and synergistic, so that the area's heritage will be enhanced at a landscape scale.

2.3 Using this document

This document is set out to allow quick navigation to different aspects of the Landscape Conservation Action Plan, as follows:

- Understanding Upper Nidderdale (Section 3) provides a description of the Landscape Partnership area's heritage landscape, building up a picture of the physical landscape, biodiversity, historic environment and cultural heritage that together characterise Upper Nidderdale. This section also sets out the rationale for the area that is included in the Landscape Partnership and reviews the management of this area from a local, regional and national perspective.
- Statement of Significance (Section 4) describes the importance of Upper Nidderdale's heritage landscape in terms of its overall significance and also in more detail in terms of geology, biodiversity, historic environment and cultural heritage.

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- A Landscape Under Threat (Section 5) looks at the risks to the area's heritage and identifies opportunities to address these risks.
 - Our Vision, Aims and Objectives (Section 6) sets out how the Landscape Partnership will work to conserve Upper Nidderdale's heritage through a series of aims and objectives that deliver the HLF Landscape Partnership outcomes.
 - The Scheme Plan (Section 7) is a description of the suite of projects that the Partnership will deliver in order to achieve the aims and objectives. The programmes focus on built and cultural heritage recording and conservation; wildlife habitat restoration; providing increased opportunities to access, understand and enjoy Upper Nidderdale's heritage landscape; and skills training to ensure the future sustainability of the area's heritage assets.
 - Legacy, Evaluation and Review (Section 8) describes how the Partnership will ensure the long-term legacy and sustainability of the different projects; and how the success of the scheme will be monitored and reviewed during and after the delivery period.
 - Bibliography (Section 9) outlines the various reports, policies and plans that have fed into the preparation of the LCAP, or that complement its delivery. Important supporting documentation, for example the detailed landscape character assessments for the area, are included as annexes to the LCAP and also referenced to their online source.



3 Understanding Upper Nidderdale

3.1 Introduction

The Upper Nidderdale valley sits on the eastern flank of the Yorkshire Dales in the county of North Yorkshire. The valley forms the upper catchment for the River Nidd and is part of the wider Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty protected landscape. It is a glacial valley within an enclosure of high moorland to the west, north and east, including Great Whernside, which at 704m is the highest summit in the eastern Dales. Below the moorland line, the dale is characterised by a mosaic of fields with dry stone wall boundaries associated with upland hill farming, areas of broadleaf and conifer woodland and a series of small stone-built villages and hamlets. At the very head of the dale, and again between the hamlets of Ramsgill and Wath, reservoirs linked with the water supply for Leeds and Bradford dominate the valley floor. Starting as a steep-sided and narrow valley, the dale progressively opens out as it runs southwards to the market town of Pateley Bridge, which marks the transition from Upper Nidderdale to the 'lower' dale. Despite being less than 25 miles from the outskirts of Leeds, Upper Nidderdale retains a feeling of remoteness and tranquillity.



Figure 2: Photograph looking south from the village of Middlesmoor down Upper Nidderdale.

This chapter describes in detail the varied aspects of Upper Nidderdale's landscape, looking at both its physical characteristics and the way humans have and continue to influence the landscape. The initial section provides an explanation of the area's key features using the landscape character assessment process. The next section examines the evolution of the landscape in greater detail, including geology, biodiversity, historical development and land use. The section on Upper Nidderdale's people considers the area's cultural heritage from early influences to the present day. A final section defines the Landscape Partnership area and looks at the Partnership in the context of local, regional and national management plans.

3.2 Landscape Character Assessment

As demonstrated by Figure 3, landscape is shaped by a combination of many different physical

characteristics and human influences, from the underlying geology through to how people use and experience it. A landscape character assessment is a way to describe the contribution of these various factors to explain how the landscape has changed over time to become what we see today.

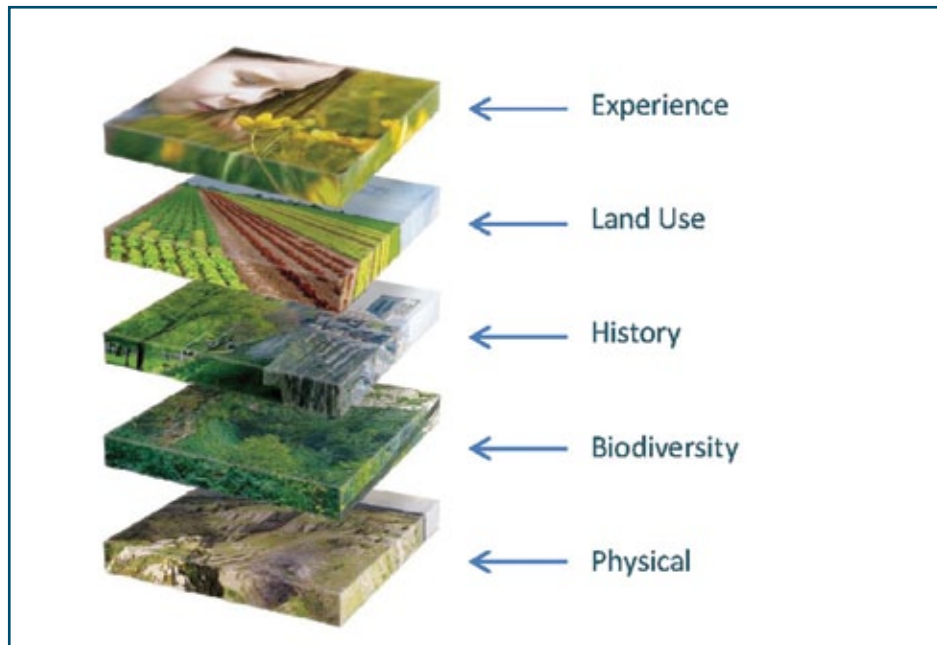



Figure 3: The Components of Landscape.

3.2.1 Broad Landscape Character Assessments

Upper Nidderdale falls within the boundary of Natural England's National Character Area profile 21: Yorkshire Dales, which provides an assessment of the Yorkshire Dales landscape as a whole. This is a very useful starting point to gain a general sense of the important characteristics of this large upland area:

- The landscape is characterised by contrasts, especially between the dales below and the moors above.
- In the dales the environment is more sheltered and there are intricate patterns of walled fields, containing meadow grasses and wild flowers.
- Small villages and farmsteads, built of local stone, are tucked into sheltered corners, often with clumps of trees protecting them from the worst of the elements.
- On the dale sides, the network of walls continues with scattered stone field barns often appearing as distinctive features.
- The steepest slopes are frequently marked by the presence of sparse woodlands or sometimes open rock scree.
- There are large areas of actively managed grouse moorland.

Upper Nidderdale is also characterised within North Yorkshire County Council's North Yorkshire



and York Landscape Characterisation Project, which covers the whole of North Yorkshire. Upper Nidderdale is identified as part of two landscape types: *Gritstone High Moors and Fells* and *Gritstone Valley*. Although these landscape types also apply to other areas within North Yorkshire outside Upper Nidderdale, the descriptions nevertheless provide a strong sense of the dale's key characteristics:

Gritstone High Moors and Fells

- A series of pronounced upland hills which support characteristic moorland vegetation including dwarf shrub heather, neutral and acid grassland and blanket bog;
- These habitats support a diverse range of bird species;
- A strongly rural, undeveloped character with associated strong sense of tranquillity;
- Large-scale, expansive landscape which facilitates extensive open, panoramic views across surrounding lowland landscapes;
- The landscape displays a range of muted colours and there are generally few signs of human influence.


Gritstone Valley

- A series of relatively narrow valleys which cut through adjacent Gritstone Moors and Fells;
- A patchwork of species rich grasslands with a diverse range of ecological habitats along the valley floors;
- Rich legacy of agriculture, quarrying, mining, textiles and water supply activities;
- Network of minor roads connecting villages, hamlets;
- Predominantly rural landscape with associated sense of tranquillity;
- Tree cover is generally sparse within the Upper Nidderdale Valley Reservoirs;
- Reservoirs and conifer plantations are key landscape features which impart a human influence;
- Predominantly rural landscape with an associated strong sense of tranquillity.

3.2.2 Detailed Upper Nidderdale Landscape Character Assessment

A more detailed landscape character assessment for Upper Nidderdale is provided by the Harrogate District Landscape Character Assessment, which divides Upper Nidderdale into distinct character areas, each of which has its own significant characteristics. This assessment (set out in full in the annex) was completed in 2004 and then reviewed between November 2011 and February 2012; it has been complemented by community workshops, which have explored in more detail those features that most matter to local people.

High above the valley floor, the *Gritstone Moor* is a vast open upland landscape, which is today managed for grouse shooting. The heather moorland has a remote feel, far removed from the modern world. The colour changes with the season – dark and forbidding in winter, against a burst of



purple as the heather comes into flower in summer. This landscape provides peace, tranquillity and a sense of being able to explore a 'wild' landscape for those who venture into it. Features such as the eroded rocks called 'Jenny Twigg and her Daughter Tib' are important in local folklore.

At the head of the dale, the *Upper Nidderdale Valley Reservoirs* is dominated by Angram and Scar House Reservoirs, water supply reservoirs constructed in the early 20th century by the Bradford Water Corporation. Tree cover is sparse and there are spectacular, if perhaps bleak, views across the reservoirs to the surrounding upland moors. The area is popular with visitors. Recollections of 'Scar Village', the large camp constructed for the workers who built the reservoirs, have only recently passed out of living memory and remain a strong touchstone for local people.

Below the two reservoirs, the *Upper Nidderdale Valley* heads first east before turning south where the Blayshaw Gill and How Stean Beck side valleys converge with the main Nidd valley. The valley is narrow and steep-sided, with dense woodland cover along the river corridor and up the gills. Dry stone walls form the boundaries for the grass fields managed for livestock and there are a number of small, regularly shaped conifer plantations along the valley sides. Middlesmoor occupies a prominent position on the broad ridge formed by the convergence of the two side valleys. Along with the other Upper Nidderdale villages, it is home to an active, tight-knit local community, where annual events such as the Bell Festival are important dates in the social calendar.

The *Nidderdale Valley (Low Sikes to Pateley Bridge)* character area describes the U-shaped valley from the Nidd-Blayshaw confluence south-eastwards to the outskirts of Pateley Bridge. The many small to medium sized fields are used for grass for livestock production. These are interspersed by areas of woodland, both broadleaf and conifer. The hamlets of Ramsgill and Wath, built from local sandstone with stone slate roofs, bookend Gouthwaite Reservoir, which extends over much of the valley floor. The significance of grouse to the area is very evident during the shooting season with shooting parties at the Yorke Arms in Ramsgill and the Sportsman's Arms in Wath.

Pateley Bridge is the main service centre for Upper Nidderdale and lies in the northern part of the *Nidderdale Valley (Pateley Bridge to Summerbridge)* character area. The town is very visible from many vantage points, but generally fits well in the landscape due to the use of traditional building materials. Fields in this area often have hedge boundaries in the valley bottom, with more dry stone wall boundaries up the valley side. There is more woodland cover in this area than higher up the dale, with conifer plantations less in evidence. Local people value many aspects of the town, from its old-fashioned high street where traditional butchers supply the world's best pork pies (allegedly!), to the annual Nidderdale Show.

East of Pateley Bridge, the *Bishopside Upland Fringe Grassland* is an area of improved and semi-improved grass fields which has an open aspect and a uniform appearance. There are a few dispersed farmsteads but no other settlements. Dry stone wall boundaries are rectilinear; woodland is limited to small copses associated with farmsteads and field corners.

Punctuating the gritstone moorland that runs along the western flank of Upper Nidderdale is the *Bewerley Moor Grassland and Historic Industrial Area*, notable for its diverse landscape which is due to the historic land use, field size and pattern, disused lead mines and quarries. Perched high above the dale floor at 402m, Greenhow is an atmospheric village whose industrial past is very evident. Coldstones Quarry is the last remnant of the once widespread quarrying that took place throughout Upper Nidderdale. The Coldstones Cut, a spectacular viewing platform overlooking the otherwise well-hidden working quarry, allows visitors an insight into quarrying and the area's geology.

3.3 The Evolution of Upper Nidderdale's Heritage Landscape

3.3.1 Geological make-up

The land forms visible today in Upper Nidderdale are the result of millions of years of geological change, dating back to a time when the entire area was beneath a tropical sea. Charting this evolution provides an understanding of why Upper Nidderdale's landscape looks as it does.

Tropical Seas

Around 335 million years ago, warm tropical Carboniferous seas covered the area. They were full of life and as these creatures died, the calcium carbonate from their shells and the sea was deposited on the sea-bed to form the horizontal layers, or beds, of Carboniferous limestone (the Danny Bridge Limestone Formation of the Great Scar Limestone Group). These beds are only exposed in the south of the area, in the centre of the Greenhow Anticline, where they are currently worked at Coldstones Quarry, and were formerly worked at Duck Street Quarry (now designated a geological SSSI, since the quarry exposes significant mineral veins and provides a cross-section of the Greenhow Anticline).

Tropical Swamps and Deltas

By 330 million years ago mud and sand was periodically being washed into the tropical sea from huge river deltas. Over millions of years, changes in sea level produced repeated cycles of alternating beds of limestones, mudstones, sandstones and coals, forming the Yoredale Group (*Alston Formation*). Exposures of the Yoredale Group are confined to the Greenhow Anticline and, further north, inliers where rivers and/or melt water erosion or faulting have exposed the sequence. As time progressed, the extent of the river delta systems became greater, and thick beds of sandstones and mudstones were laid down forming the Millstone Grit Group. Preserved now as the gritstone moors, these rocks dominate Upper Nidderdale, with the youngest of these sandstone rocks being around 317 million years old.

Earth Movements

The southern part of Upper Nidderdale is at the boundary of two geological structures, the Askrigg Block and, to the south, the Craven Basin. The boundary is the North Craven Fault system, a complex series of faults, folds and mineral veins. Movements of the system have played an important part in the geological history of the area. During the Variscan mountain building period, at the end of the Carboniferous, and the beginning of the Permian, the rocks were faulted and folded, forming the Greenhow Anticline, and injected with mineral veins, producing deposits of lead, fluorite and other minerals.

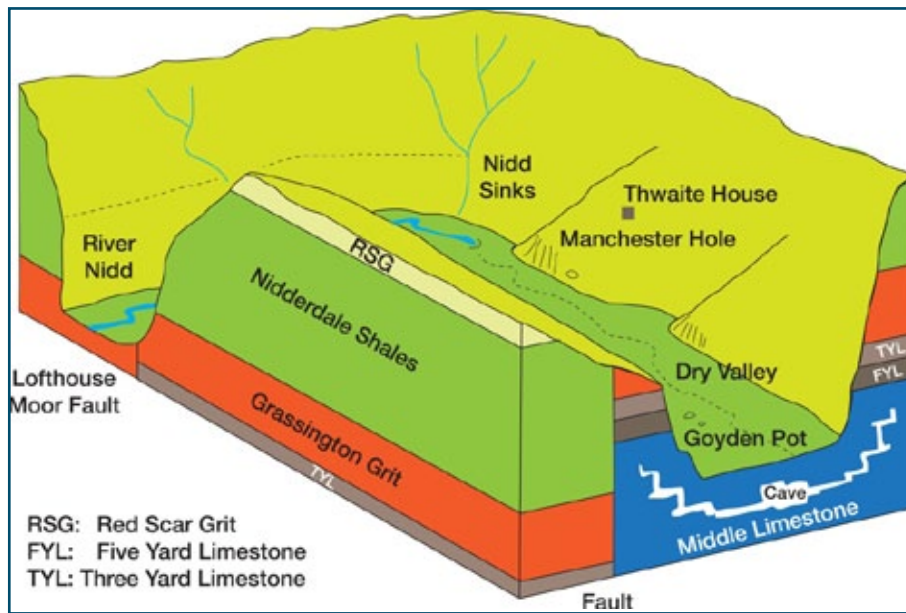


Figure 4: Cross section at Limley, showing Upper Nidderdale's complex geology.

Unconformities

At various times during the area's geological history, uplift of the land and/or a fall in sea-level has exposed the land surface to erosion and/or has interrupted the deposition of sediment resulting in a break in the geological sequence, called an unconformity. An example is the major unconformity which occurs between the Yoredale Alston Formation and the Pendleton Formation of the Millstone Grit. The youngest beds of the Alston Formation, together with all of the overlying Stainmore Formation, and the oldest beds of the Pendleton Formation are missing, representing a period of approximately 2 million years.


Glacial Action

Taking a giant leap forward in time, to between 478,000 and 423,000 years ago, the whole area was buried in ice. Massive erosion occurred and much of the landscape was shaped; this sculpting continued during another, more recent ice age (30,000 to 12,000 years ago) when the Nidderdale glacier moved down the valley. As it melted and retreated up-valley it deposited glacial till, or boulder clay, and recessional moraines e.g. at Gouthwaite (which was used as the foundation for the present day reservoir dam). More recently, peat deposits have accumulated on the poorly drained sandstone upland watersheds, and alluvium has been deposited along the river flood-plains.

The 137ha Upper Nidderdale SSSI recognises the particular geo-diversity of the area around Lofthouse, as shown in Figure 4. Here the River Nidd flows in large passages at the exceptional depth of 30 metres beneath the valley floor, with, uniquely, the cave originating in one limestone outcrop then emerging from another, having passed below a sandstone outcrop. The adjacent How Stean Gorge is a remarkable example of the surface stream capture of cave drainage.

3.3.2 Biodiversity

The valley is home to a wide variety of habitats and species, from high moorland to dale-bottom hay



meadow and from lapwing to frog orchid, with significant areas recognised for their ecological value through designation at European, UK or local level.

Ecological Designations

Large areas of Upper Nidderdale are recognised for their importance for biodiversity. The majority of moorland (4,450ha) is both a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and a Special Protection Area (SPA) as part of the vast North Pennine Moors Natura 2000 site. The SPA designation signifies the international importance of the area for birdlife, with strategically important populations of birds including merlin and golden plover as well as significant populations of waders such as curlew, snipe, oyster catcher and lapwing. The SAC designation demonstrates the same level of importance for habitats, with the area's upland heath and blanket bog both important examples of this upland habitat in northern England.

There are 6 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in the dale. The Upper Nidderdale SSSI and Greenhow Quarry SSSI, as described above, are notified because of the area's geology. The remaining 4 SSSI are notified because of their important habitats and/or species:

- The West Nidderdale SSSI and East Nidderdale Moors SSSI cover the same area as the SAC/SPA and are UK-level designations that also recognise the importance of these areas for their moorland habitat and the breeding bird populations that they support.
- Gouthwaite Reservoir SSSI (148 ha) is an important site for breeding birds, as well as providing a stopping point for wintering birds, including significant populations of teal and mallard. Its northern end is a large shallow area of mudflats well suited to ducks and waders. Over 200 bird species have been recorded.
- Greenhow Pasture SSSI is a much smaller site (7 ha) on the moorland fringe that is noted for its neutral grassland flowers, such as cowslip, ox-eye daisy and lady's mantle, coupled with the flora – including frog orchid and moonwort – that is found on the spoil heaps and in the hollows associated with past lead mining activity.

Alongside these national and international designations, North Yorkshire County Council also recognises Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) – sometimes known as local wildlife sites – which, although not a statutory designation, are nevertheless important areas for biodiversity. Within Upper Nidderdale, there are 15 SINC's covering over 250ha, including wetlands, oak woodland and calcareous grassland.

Figure 5 shows a map of the different designated nature conservation sites, demonstrating how these sites form a mosaic of high quality habitat, covering approximately 30% of the project area.

Habitats and Species

Upper Nidderdale's habitats, and the species found within these habitats, are linked directly to the underlying geology and historic land use. The Partnership has mapped the habitats from aerial photography using remote sensing technology, as shown in Figure 6.

Above the moorland line – the boundary between more intensively managed land at lower levels and the wilder-looking moorland found higher up – upland heathland and blanket bog habitats are found.

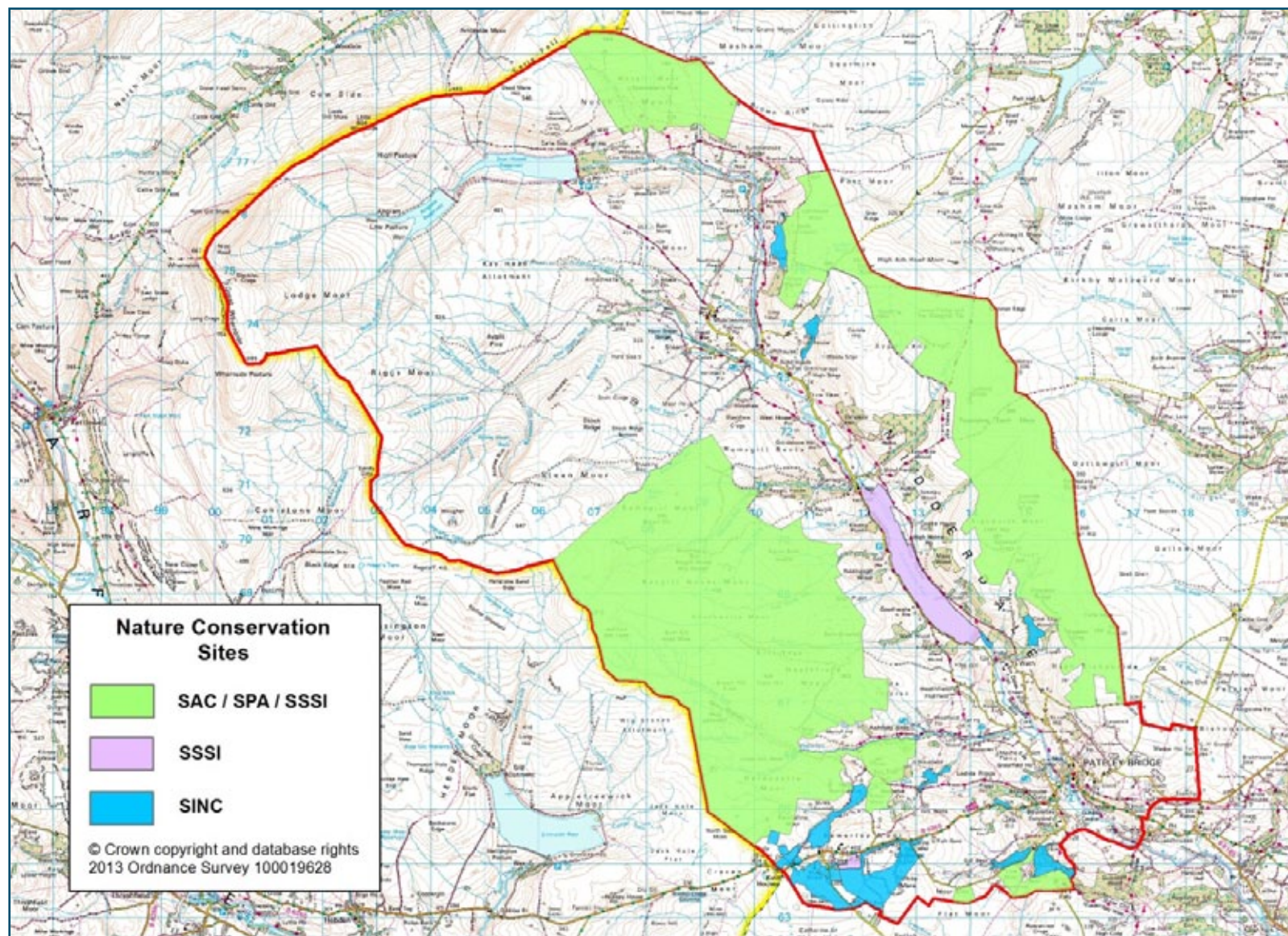


Figure 5: Map showing designated nature conservation sites in Upper Nidderdale.

Upland heathland, where it is managed for raising grouse for shooting, is largely heather which is burnt in patches to create a variety of different sward heights to benefit grouse for both breeding and feeding. Other rare ground-nesting birds also benefit from this management. Overgrazing by sheep can destroy this delicate balance with heather being replaced with tough moorland grasses – so-called ‘white’ heath. In the less heavily managed places, a more diverse range of mini-habitats can be found with other dwarf shrubs like bilberry and crowberry, wetter areas with mosses and lichens and scrub or even oak trees in sheltered gills.

Areas of blanket bog are found across the moorland, supporting hosts of insects and other invertebrates which provide food for ground nesting birds. This fragile habitat is formed from Sphagnum moss. In the cool, wet, acidic conditions found high on the moors, thick layers of dead moss have built up over thousands of years to form deep deposits of peat.

Below the moorland line, most of Upper Nidderdale is grassland, although woodlands and water also form important habitats. Semi-improved grassland and rough pastures provide a range of mini-habitats, although in places soft rush has become dominant. The moorland fringe, which marks the transitional zone from moorland to more heavily managed in-bye land, is an important area for wildlife, particularly for upland wading birds.

Large areas of grassland have been intensively improved for farming, through the use of fertilizers and ploughing and reseeded. These fields, often cut several times a year for silage, are dominated by a few vigorous species like rye grass. Over the last 60 years, most of Upper Nidderdale’s wildflower-rich meadows have been lost, converted to this intensive silage production.

The small number of traditionally managed hay meadows that remain are able to support a wide range of species of wildflowers and other plants. These plants attract many different kinds of insect and these, together with plant seeds, provide food for birds and small mammals.



Figure 7: Photograph of a species rich wildflower meadow.

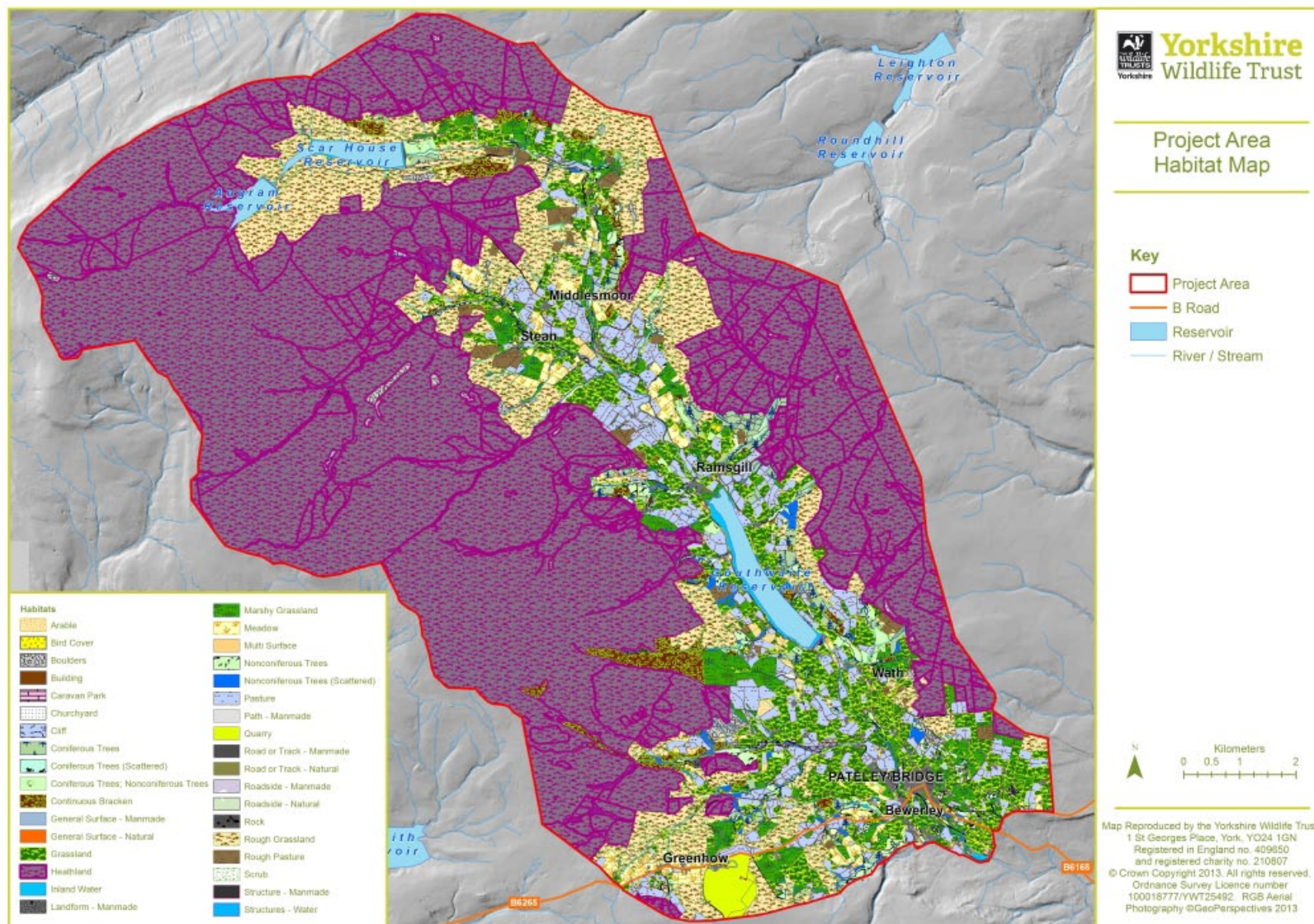



Figure 6: Upper Nidderdale habitat map.



The small areas of carboniferous limestone support upland calcareous grassland. Within this habitat are patches of calaminarian grassland which grows on the waste from the once extensive lead-mining industry centred on Greenhow. These spoil heaps support a range of rare heavy metal-tolerant plant species such as alpine pennycress and spring sandwort.

Most field boundaries within Upper Nidderdale are dry stone walls, however some hedgerows remain, particularly around Pateley Bridge, where they provide a complex series of mini-habitats within their narrow margins. These mini-habitats range from streams and wet ditches to grassy banks as well as the woody species, trees and climbing plants in the hedge itself. The oldest hedges were often left along fields and lanes after surrounding woodland was cleared and many woodland plants like wood garlic and bluebells can be found along them still. More recently planted hedges may have fewer plant species in them but they provide linear woodland corridors along which birds and other animals may move from place to place in safety.

Ancient woodland (defined as having had continuous cover since at least 1600AD) makes up 28% of the area's woodland. Woodland which has clearly not been planted and which has indicator species such as dog's mercury and Herb Paris are classed as ancient semi-natural woodland. Upper Nidderdale's upland oak woods are particularly important habitats, where the cool, wet conditions favour the growth of rare ferns, mosses and lichens. Upland ash and rowan woods are found in the steep gills in Upper Nidderdale while wet woodland consisting of alder and willow are found in area of poor drainage. This can be in the gills or the dale bottom, sometimes within other woodland types. They host sedges and ferns along with several rare insect species.

Coniferous plantations were planted during the 20th century for commercial timber. Although this type of woodland does not support a wide range of species, it can provide a refuge for rarer bird species such as goshawk and long-eared owl. Conifer woods in the early stages of growth also provide habitat for black grouse.

The standing water of Upper Nidderdale's three reservoirs is unusual in the Yorkshire Dales whose underlying limestone geology means that there are few natural lakes. All three are important for birdlife, particularly for migrating ducks and geese. Gouthwaite Reservoir is one of the few places in England where still water grayling are found. Alongside these large bodies of still water, the River Nidd and its tributaries provide important riparian habitats for invertebrates, fish, birds and mammals including otter.

3.3.3 Historical Development


Humans have influenced Upper Nidderdale's landscape since at least the Bronze Age, with successive generations finding different ways to use the area's resources to make their living.

Early Settlement

Among the earliest and most mysterious evidence for people living in Upper Nidderdale is the small number of cup and ring marked rocks found west of Gouthwaite Reservoir, which date from late Neolithic to early Bronze Age times. While we can only speculate on their meaning, Dr Keith Boughey, a specialist on prehistoric rock art, captures their appeal to us:

"The carvings remain as silent, enigmatic, yet enduring reminders of a vanished world – the world of our prehistoric ancestors."

Other signs of early settlement are the archaeological 'lumps and bumps' still visible in the landscape,



including the Colt Plain Bronze Age settlement west of Gouthwaite Reservoir (where there is evidence of hut circles, enclosures, pits, co-axial wall foundations and ancient trackways) and the Iron Age / Romano-British settlement at Ashfoldside Plantation (which also shows evidence of hut circles, enclosures and dry stone walled folds and pens). Although the locations and general outlines of these settlements have been recorded for some time, little detail is known about them. It is also likely that lead and iron mining began in Upper Nidderdale in the Roman period, as witnessed by the discovery of two Roman lead ingots in the Greenhow area in 1735. However later mining activity has removed evidence for these earlier mines.

Towards the end of the sixth century, English people are thought to have moved into Upper Nidderdale, absorbing or driving out the British and clearing an area around Pateley for farming – the “ley” being derived from “leah”, meaning a woodland glade or clearing. Although we do not know when large-scale woodland clearance began, it seems likely that outside this small farmed zone, the dale sides and bottom would still at this time have been a dense forest of oaks with alder and willow thickets.

The ninth and tenth centuries saw the arrival of first Danish and then Norse settlers, the latter leaving their mark particularly in place names with Scandinavian roots, such as Bouthwaite and Ramsgill. However, following the Norman Conquest, much of the north was laid waste by William the Conqueror in 1069 to subdue a Northumbrian rebellion. Although difficult to imagine now, it appears that – either by the sword or through the famine that followed – the population of a huge area north of York, including Nidderdale, was all but wiped out. Upper Nidderdale, all but empty of people, became a royal hunting forest, Nidderdale Chase.

Medieval and Monastic Period

During the twelfth century, the monasteries at Fountains and Byland gradually acquired Nidderdale Chase from its noble owner, Roger de Mowbray, and began to create the medieval monastic agricultural estates of Upper Nidderdale that flourished for over 300 years. The dale was repopulated as land was cleared and enclosed around monastic grange farms. Alongside farming, lead and iron mining was expanding in terms of both the level of extraction and the areas exploited, with important sites in the Greenhow / Ashfoldside area and at Blayshaw Gill.

Today, the influence of the abbeys is still felt, for example through the parish name of Fountains Earth, whose boundary with the parish of Stonebeck Up marks the boundary between lands controlled by Fountains Abbey and the land controlled by their rivals at Byland Abbey. The village of Lodge, the remains of which are still visible above Scar House Reservoir, is first mentioned as a grange of Byland Abbey. Bewerley Grange Chapel, now a Grade II* listed building and a scheduled ancient monument, was built in the early sixteenth during the abbotship of Marmaduke Huby, the last abbot of Fountains Abbey, as part of the grange established at Bewerley.

Following the dissolution of the monasteries, ownership of the two large monastic estates in Upper Nidderdale fragmented although farming, lead mining and small-scale quarrying continued. The land associated with Bewerley Grange, for example, passed through a series of owners before being acquired by the Yorke family who then held it into the 20th century.

Post-Medieval

From the early 17th century, the valley became increasingly industrialised through lead mining, quarrying, lime-burning and coal mining.

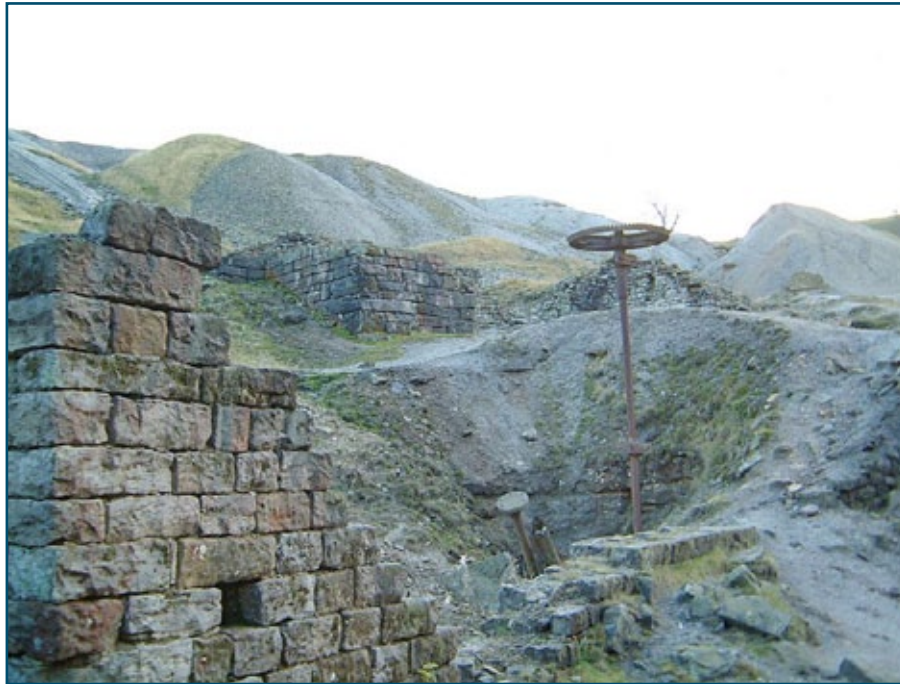


Figure 8: Spoil heaps at Prosperous Lead Mine.

Lead mining reached a peak in the early 19th century. The area around Greenhow, stretching north to Ashfoldside, was the main focus for this activity with numerous levels such as Cockhill and Gillfield driven by local families. Two smelt mills, Providence and Prosperous, were constructed to process the lead ore. Spoil heaps stretched far and wide and remain the most visible reminder of this industry today.

Quarrying took place throughout the dale and at a variety of scales. Sandstone quarries provided the building materials for houses and mills, as well as for the huge programme of dry stone walling following the Enclosure Acts of the 18th and 19th century (see below). Limestone was quarried where geology made it accessible and used for building, walling and lime-burning. Scot Gate Ash, overlooking Pateley Bridge, was the largest quarry in the area and was worked up to the 20th century. With ramps, machine beds, 10m high spoil heaps and cliff-like working faces, it demonstrates the impact of mechanised industry on Upper Nidderdale.

Limekilns were built across the area to burn lime which was now recognised as a fertilizer to improve acidic soils. Coal – a vital part of the lead smelting process – was also mined from three large colliery sites at the northern end of the dale, the most significant of which was on Woogill Moor where coal was extracted from the four large shafts by horse-gins.

The textile industry brought a further change to Upper Nidderdale with water mills that had previously ground corn now adapted to power-driven spinning frames for flax. Foster Beck Mill and Wath Mill are both largely intact today.

One of the most striking changes during the Georgian period, still highly visible, was the enclosure of common pasture land with dry stone walls between 1757 and 1876 through a series of acts of parliament. This completed the various phases of agricultural enclosure that had started in medieval times, creating the distinctive field patterns that characterise the area today. Whereas the field boundaries from earlier enclosures in the dale bottom are of many different shapes and sizes, these

later parliamentary enclosures tended to create large, rectilinear field patterns along the valley sides.

The dry stone wall enclosures reached up onto the high moorland and privatised land that was previously accessible to all, with the landowners developing lucrative grouse shoots. This led to important employment opportunities for local people as gamekeepers and beaters, but also cultural changes with the influx of the governing classes during the shooting season into previously isolated rural communities.

In the 18th century, wealthy landowners also began to develop 'picturesque landscapes', parks and gardens with designed features including lakes and carefully laid out walks. Eagle Hall Gardens and the landscape at Fishpond Wood, both near Pateley Bridge, both survive as examples of these designed landscapes.

Modern Era

The expansion of nearby Bradford and Leeds led the Bradford Corporation to begin construction of Scar House and Angram Reservoirs in 1904 to provide drinking water for the increasing urban populations. Before this work could start, Gouthwaite Reservoir was first constructed (at the end of the 19th century) as a compensation reservoir to ensure that the water-driven textile mills downstream on the River Nidd always had sufficient water to operate. This large scale reservoir building programme brought about arguably the most significant man-made change in Upper Nidderdale's landscape, with considerable sections of the dale lost beneath the waters.



Figure 9: Construction workers at Scar Village.

Construction was an enormous task over many years and involving thousands of workers, most of whom lived at Scar Village, a specially built navvy camp at the top of the dale. The corporation built the Nidd Valley Light Railway from Pateley Bridge to Angram, which transported workers and materials, as well as tourists. The works were completed in 1936 and have provided Leeds and Bradford's water supply ever since, although Scar Village and the railway were removed once they were no longer required.

3.3.4 Land Use

Upper Nidderdale today is a much quieter place than during its industrial heyday. Mining has long ceased and there is only one active quarry, Coldstones at Greenhow. Farming and land management for grouse shooting are the main land use, with the reservoirs retaining their important water supply role. This means that Upper Nidderdale is now one of England's most tranquil areas.

Below the moorland line, the majority of Upper Nidderdale's land is farmland, made up of improved, semi-improved and rough grassland for livestock farming. The majority of field boundaries are dry stone walls, although hedges are also found towards Pateley Bridge. The valley bottom is the highest quality land and is managed intensively to produce silage as winter fodder, although many species-rich meadows remain which are managed with a traditional single cut for hay. There are 66 farms in Upper Nidderdale, with a total labour force of just 154 people to farm in excess of 4000 cattle and 38,000 sheep.

Above the moorland line, the heather, cotton grass, bilberry and bracken moorland and mire plus rough grassland is predominately managed for grouse shooting, as well as being used for low density livestock grazing.

Woodland cover stands at 3%, made up of both deciduous woodlands and coniferous plantations. The conifer woodland is mainly planted in geometric blocks, with small square blocks higher up the dale and larger plantations further south. Native woodland is found in the narrow gills descending from the moorland edge, in small areas along streams and the river, as larger woodland blocks, and as individual veteran trees within fields or at field boundaries.

The three reservoirs associated with water supply are a significant part of the area's land use, particularly when considered in terms of the more productive, populated land below the moorland line, where they account for almost 5% of land cover.

3.4 Upper Nidderdale's People and Places

3.4.1 Cultural and Built Heritage

Town, Village and Hamlet

Upper Nidderdale contains 5 Conservation Areas:

- the market town of Pateley Bridge, which has always been an important centre for Upper Nidderdale, historically providing a place to cross the River Nidd;
- Wath is an estate village that has seen little development since World War I;
- Ramsgill has developed around the site of the monastic grange;
- a collection of small farms merged to become Lofthouse Village in the late 18th century; and
- Middlesmoor, at the head of the dale, can trace its origins back to the Bronze Age.

The majority of buildings, whether within the Conservation Areas, isolated farmstead, or part of one of the other hamlets, are constructed in the vernacular style of local sandstone with stone slate roofs.

Churches are an important part of the dale's built and cultural heritage; St Chad's at Middlesmoor houses a 7th century Anglo-Saxon cross; the tiny Methodist Chapel at Wath is a reminder of John Wesley's strong influence in the dale in the 18th century; the ruins of St Mary's church above Pateley Bridge are a Scheduled Ancient Monument and a Grade II listed building.

Community

The annual Nidderdale Show, which takes place at the Pateley Bridge showground every September, has its origins in the 1319 charter for a weekly market to be held in the town, which also allowed for "one fair there every year, lasting five days to whit, for three days before the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and on the day and the morrow of the same feast". Although the modern show lasts just one day, it regularly attracts crowds of 20,000. Smaller events, such as Updale Day and the Middlesmoor Bell Festival, also play an important part in the Upper Nidderdale year, with their success dependent on the community spirit that is linked to the area's remoteness.

A strong community engagement with the area's heritage can be traced back to a Workers' Educational Association local history class in Pateley Bridge in 1958, from which emerged first the in depth research that makes up the volume, "A History of Nidderdale", edited by Professor Bernard Jennings; then the formation of the Nidderdale Museum Society; and then, in 1975, the opening of the Nidderdale Museum, staffed and managed by volunteers from the Society. Today, alongside the museum which continues to be run entirely by volunteers, there are a number of other active volunteer heritage groups.




Figure 10: Middlesmoor Bell Festival.

Perceptions of Upper Nidderdale

Early impressions of Upper Nidderdale were not always favourable. Daniel Defoe found the area in winter to have an "air of solitary grimness that pervades this dark, wild and almost treeless expanse." Evidently his journey through the dale was a difficult one, since he records that Upper Nidderdale was "a waste of black, ill looking, desolate moors, over which travellers are guided, like racehorses, by posts set up for fear of bogs and holes."

But once Pateley Bridge was connected to the nearby town of Harrogate by rail, the area witnessed a



Victorian tourism boom. These visitors saw Upper Nidderdale in a very different light, as described by a contemporary tourist:

“Sunlight and shadow sweep over the billowy expanse, and the lapwing, snipe, curlew and grouse make the lonely heights resound with their calls. This expansive nature garden impresses us with an air of freedom and grandeur.”

Many of the early tourism developments are still much in evidence today, such as Panorama Walk above the town.

Artists, from Turner onwards, have captured Nidderdale on canvas. David Rose, an engineer involved in the construction of Upper Nidderdale’s reservoirs who was also a talented amateur artist, painted and sketched both the reservoirs and the men who built them. His watercolours are in the collection of the Mercer Gallery in Harrogate. Rudyard Kipling also found inspiration from the area and the local dialect for his story ‘On Greenhow Hill’.

3.4.2 Today’s Upper Nidderdale

3,300 people live in Upper Nidderdale, the majority in Pateley Bridge. Around 6% of the population is employed in agriculture or forestry. The area is characterised by socio-economic disadvantages where, for example, average weekly income in the area in 2010 was more than £100 lower than the average across Harrogate District, while house prices are some 20% higher than the national average. Despite this seemingly gloomy picture, community spirit in the area is strong, independent and resilient. Anecdotal evidence suggests that people feel they enjoy a good quality of life, with the heritage landscape an important factor in this, as expressed by a local resident when asked what they value about Upper Nidderdale:

“The landscape, the people, and the wildlife all make the Dale such a wonderful place to live.”¹

Tourism brings many visitors to the area, estimated for 2012 to be more than 120,000 people who stay in the area (in B&Bs, holiday cottages, caravans, etc.) and over 347,000 day visitors. These visitors bring important economic benefits to the area. There is, however, a noticeable lack of diversity in the area’s visitors, with 97% from a white background and 68% from the ABC1 social grades, although around 10% of visitors have some form of disability that limits their daily activity. Young people (aged 24 and under) account for 22% of visitors to Upper Nidderdale and 25% of visiting parties come as a family group.

There is a good public right of way network that allows visitors to discover the dale, including the final section of the popular Nidderdale Way. The relatively new Six Dales Trail also passes through the area. The moorland areas are designated as Access Land. While the rights of way network is extensive, including routes for horse riders and mountain bikers as well as walkers, options are much more limited for less-able people to enjoy the area away from Pateley Bridge and the villages. A large majority of visitors arrive in the area by private car, but 75% do explore the area further on foot for at least some of their visit.

¹ Response to question “What do you value about Upper Nidderdale and what makes it a special place for you?” as part of Landscape Partnership’s 2013 online partnership development survey.

3.5 The Landscape Partnership Area

3.5.1 Defining the Landscape Partnership boundary

Upper Nidderdale is a very clearly defined area, both in geographical and cultural terms. The watershed formed by the high moorland summit ridge – reaching 704m at Great Whernside – cups the valley to create a natural barrier from Wharfedale to the west, Coverdale to the north and the gentler arable landscape to the east. Farmers in Middlesmoor may only be a few miles as the crow flies from their neighbouring farmers above Kettlewell in Wharfedale, but must travel more than 25 miles by road if they want to come face to face. This isolation gives the people of Upper Nidderdale a strong cultural identity. The boundary as defined by the watershed has a long history, forming the outer part of Fountains Earth, Stonebeck Up, Stonebeck Down and Beverley parish boundaries which originate from monastic times.

Moving south, there is a transition from ‘upper’ to ‘lower’ dale. This change is more gradual than the sharp divide formed by the watershed in other directions, but is nevertheless clearly identifiable. The Landscape Partnership area includes the market town of Pateley Bridge as the key service centre for Upper Nidderdale. To the town’s west, the boundary traces a line south of Greenhow, which is inextricably linked to Upper Nidderdale’s lead mining past and defined in landscape terms by the *Beverley Moor Grassland and Historic Industrial Area* landscape character area. It then follows the moorland fringe east before descending into the valley bottom, encompassing modern day Beverley and the site of the former monastic grange, to cross the River Nidd at Glasshouses Bridge, before re-joining the eastern watershed above Pateley Bridge. The map at Figure 11 shows the Landscape Partnership area, which covers an area of 158km².

3.5.2 Upper Nidderdale in context

The Upper Nidderdale Landscape Partnership area is entirely within Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, covering the north-western part of the AONB. The primary purpose of AONB designation is to conserve and enhance natural beauty; national AONB policy acknowledges the importance of people in creating and maintaining landscapes: *“The natural beauty of AONBs is partly due to nature, and is partly the product of many centuries of human modification of ‘natural’ features. Landscape encompasses everything - ‘natural’ and human - that makes an area distinctive: geology, climate, soil, plants, animals, communities, archaeology, buildings, the people who live in it, past and present, and the perceptions of those who visit it.”* Immediately to the west and north is the Yorkshire Dales National Park, so the Landscape Partnership area is within and surrounded by landscapes protected under statute for their special qualities. This protected landscape status, however, does not automatically translate to the investment required to maintain the fabric of the heritage landscape. The Landscape Partnership’s landscape-scale approach is vital to address the issues caused by the limited, piece-meal investment in the area in recent times that is leading to a gradual decay in the fabric of the landscape:

- A decline in the skills and labour needed to maintain landscape infrastructure caused by a shrinking workforce, and an increasingly elderly farmer population without enough income to fund alternative accommodation for retirement;
- Two decades of cost-reductions and efficiency gains by the water industry since privatisation in 1991 have eliminated a Nidderdale-based workforce that was once dedicated to maintenance and repair of the elaborate networks of spillways and valve houses, tracks and signs associated with the water supply reservoirs;

- Ancient field patterns are disappearing as dry stone walls are neglected, and even patterns in the landscape created by more recent walls put up during the period of enclosure have become harder to discern;
- Conifer plantations originating in the 1950's are still standing long after the end of their rotation due to the high cost and difficulties of extraction;
- Intensification of grassland management has led to the disappearance of hay meadows and improvement of upland grazing causing a reduction in diversity with adverse impacts for upland birds in particular;
- Failed attempts at moorland drainage during past decades have reduced conservation value, caused erosion of peat and have resulted in the release of carbon previously sequestered by upland bogs, siltation of water courses and colouration of drinking water.

Upper Nidderdale is less than 25 miles from the urban fringe of Leeds and Bradford, which includes some of the most socio-economically deprived areas in Britain. Data from the Office for National Statistics shows that 29% of Super Output Areas in Leeds are in the most deprived in the country, while 27% of Bradford's residents live in the most deprived Super Output Areas in England. Making links with these urban communities is an important part of the Landscape Partnership's programme.

3.5.3 Managing Upper Nidderdale's Heritage Landscape

AONB Management Plans

The Nidderdale AONB Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) oversees the development of the AONB's policy and implementation of the programme of work, which is delivered through the AONB partnership by the AONB Team in conjunction with a number of partners. The Committee is made up of representatives from local authorities, parish councils, community groups, businesses, farming and landowner organisations and government agencies. Harrogate Borough Council is the accountable body for Nidderdale AONB. The council is responsible to Defra for employment of staff within the AONB Team, financial control and for administering the JAC.

Through the JAC, a statutory management plan for the AONB is prepared every 5 years. The current management plans covers the period 2009 – 2014 and was published following extensive consultation with local people and partner organisations from across the public, private and third sectors in April 2009. It contains an analysis of key issues facing the environment, the rural economy and rural communities, brought together in five main themes, and translated into a set of policies. The principal Management Plan themes are:

- Importance of Landscape
- Climate Change
- Ecosystem Services
- Sustainable Development
- Farming and Land Management

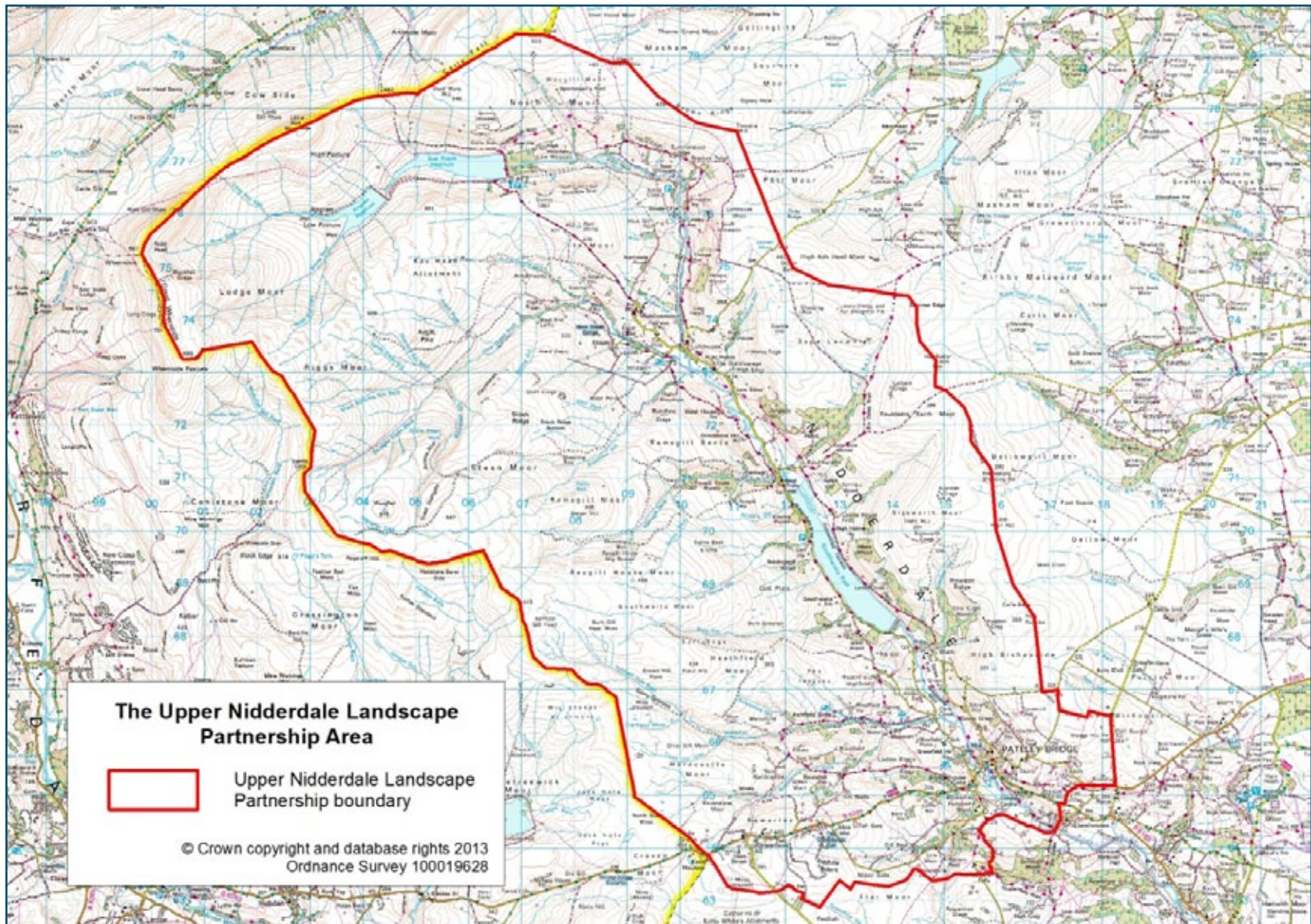



Figure 11: Map of the Upper Nidderdale Landscape Partnership area.



The Plan provides a framework for concerted action by all sections of the community, supported by Defra and local authorities, on landscape, natural environment, heritage, opportunities for enjoyment, and living and working.

The new 2014 to 2019 Management Plan for the AONB is being produced in parallel to the Upper Nidderdale Landscape Partnership's Landscape Conservation Action Plan. The principal themes set out in the 2009 – 2014 Plan remain at the core of the plan, with policies and objectives updated to reflect emerging issues and challenges. Many of the objectives relate directly to Landscape Partnership objectives and so provide a policy legacy for the Partnership's plans by embedding them into the long-term management plan process. Work on the 2019 – 2024 AONB Management Plan will commence in 2018, which will coincide with the evaluation stage of the Landscape Partnership, providing a further link to ensure the sustainability of the Landscape Partnership's work in Upper Nidderdale.

The AONB Heritage Strategy, published alongside the 2009 Management Plan, highlights the contribution made by volunteers to our understanding of Nidderdale's heritage and historic environment. It calls for a strengthening of the evidence base and the Historic Environment Record, better managed archives, ways to celebrate heritage through open days and events aimed at visitors. The strategy also recommends support for volunteer activity, and notes that funding for heritage conservation projects is needed to ensure that the strategy is implemented.

European Policy Framework

European legislation adopted by the UK Parliament on the protection of biodiversity includes the Habitats and Birds Directives, which confer internationally important conservation status on most of Upper Nidderdale's moorlands. Along with the international Convention on Biodiversity, the Water Framework Directive and the European Landscape Convention, they provide an international dimension for the Landscape Partnership's programme.


UK Policy Framework

The *Natural Choice: securing the value of nature* White Paper contains the UK Government's vision for the natural environment over the next 50 years. Many of its key themes, such as 'Protecting and improving our natural environment' and 'Reconnecting people and nature' are also reflected in the Landscape Partnership's objectives. The wildlife habitat enhancement projects that will be delivered as part of the Landscape Partnership align with the priorities for habitat creation identified in Biodiversity 2020 (the England Biodiversity Strategy).

Much habitat conservation work is supported through the Environmental Stewardship agri-environment scheme and the English Woodland Grant Scheme, both of which are part of the Rural Development Programme for England delivered through Natural England and the Forestry Commission. Both schemes play an extremely important role in delivering habitat enhancements in Upper Nidderdale. Following the reforms to the Common Agricultural Policy, these schemes (or their successors) will be re-launched from 2015, although land managers who joined a scheme before December 2013 will continue to operate within and receive payments under the earlier scheme regulations.

Local Policy Framework

Harrogate Borough Council is the local planning authority for Harrogate Borough, which includes all



of the Upper Nidderdale area. The Council's planning policy includes using the landscape character assessments for the area to ensure planning development is appropriate. North Yorkshire County Council is responsible for the Minerals and Waste Plan for the county, which sets out policies for mineral and waste development. These local plans are consistent with national guidance which identifies a strong presumption against harmful development in protected landscapes such as AONBs.

Harrogate Borough Council has also published a Harrogate District Biodiversity Action Plan. This sets out habitat action plans and species action plans for the range of habitats and species found across the district. The Landscape Partnership projects are consistent with the actions identified within the Harrogate BAP for the habitats and species found in Upper Nidderdale.

Land Managers

Policy, whether at EU, national or local level, tells only one part of the story of managing Upper Nidderdale's heritage landscape. On the ground, it is the day-to-day actions of the many land managers that have a direct impact on the area and its heritage. Land ownership is diverse, ranging from large companies and estates to small holdings and Church of England churchyards.

Yorkshire Water is one of the largest landowners in the area. Their Asset Management Plan, regulated by OfWat, sets out the company's plans. A high quality water supply is a primary objective but, in achieving this, the company – in conjunction with its tenant farmers – also looks after habitats, historic environment and recreational facilities. Yorkshire Water is working closely with the AONB to also produce a Heritage Asset Management Plan which will provide a detailed picture of how historic environment structures on land owned by the company will be managed into the future.

The other large landowners in Upper Nidderdale manage their estates through leasing farms to tenant farmers alongside managing the moorland for grouse shooting, a setup unchanged for generations. A number of farmers own their farms rather than tenantry them.

Publicly owned land is limited to small areas owned by parish or the district council. As such, much of the built and natural heritage conservation work that will be carried out through the Landscape Partnership will take place on privately owned land. Discussion and liaison with all land managers has been an important part of the scheme's development, which has been made simpler by the relationships developed over many years between the AONB Team and Upper Nidderdale's land managers. This is reflected by the presence of local landowner, tenant farmer and business representative on the Landscape Partnership Board.



4 Statement of Significance

Upper Nidderdale is a remote upland valley on the eastern flank of the Pennines, running from the headwaters of the River Nidd beneath Great Whernside down to the market town of Pateley Bridge. The area is entirely within the larger Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, but has its own distinct sense of place. Its high moorlands are home to a wide range of internationally important birdlife, while the lower land in the dale is a mosaic of grassland farmed for livestock, interspersed with areas of broadleaf and conifer woodland and small stone-built villages and hamlets. Fields – some still managed as flower-rich hay meadows – are enclosed by dry stone walls, which run from valley bottom to high onto the moorland. Isolated farmsteads and barns are scattered across the lower in-by-land. The area's geology, where the Mill Stone Grit layer is punctuated in places by the underlying Great Scar Limestone, gives rise to spectacular features such as a unique limestone gorge and underground river system. Upper Nidderdale's industrial lead mining and quarrying past remains prominent in today's landscape with disused quarries, spoil heaps and mine workings very visible throughout the area. Reservoir construction at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th century was the most recent large-scale development in the dale and the one that has made the greatest impact on the heritage landscape, mainly through the creation of the huge bodies of water at Angram, Scar House and Gouthwaite reservoirs, but also with the built and cultural heritage that are the result of the long construction process. Those who live in the dale are intensely proud of the area and treasure the close-knit community spirit that is found here. Visitors come for many reasons, from walking to wildlife, but all are drawn just as much by the dale's tranquillity and sense of remoteness which sets it apart from the more popular visitor destinations in the Yorkshire Dales.

The remainder of this section explores these special qualities in more depth.

4.1 Geological Heritage

The dale's underlying rocks and soils have heavily influenced how man has interacted with the landscape, from farming to mining and quarrying. Upper Nidderdale's geology, however, includes other significant features that amazed the first Victorian tourists who visited the area and continue to draw people today. These features are part of the extensive and impressive Upper Nidderdale geological SSSI, for example the spectacular limestone gorge at How Stean and the exposed limestone fault at Limley, where the River Nidd disappears underground to flow 30 metres below the surface before reappearing three kilometres downstream at another fault. How Stean Gorge is easily accessible to all visitors. Descending Manchester Hole or Goyden Pot to see the underground Nidd requires specialist instruction, but is a regular trip for the many students staying at Bewerley Park Centre for Outdoor Education – a rite of passage for all North Yorkshire schoolchildren.

4.2 Natural Heritage

The moorland that encloses Upper Nidderdale, with its triple SAC/SPA/SSSI designation, is among the most important in the country for its blanket bog and heather habitats and the breeding populations of wild birds that these support, particularly merlin, snipe, curlew, lapwing and black grouse. Blanket bog is one of the rarest habitats in the world and is a priority habitat in the EU Habitats Directive. Many upland bird populations are nationally in decline, with lapwing and black grouse on the red list of Birds of Conservation Concern. Conserving this habitat is also a priority for combatting climate change because of the large quantities of carbon that are locked away in the moorland's deep peat. A functioning moorland ecosystem also provides important recreational services – visitors and local people alike value the wide open moorland space and the experiences gained there, from the haunting sound of the first curlew in spring to the sight of the purple blooms of heather in summer.



Figure 12: Lapwing - one of the many important bird species in Upper Nidderdale.

Below the moorland line, there are many other significant habitats in the valley, including 2 biological SSSI and 14 locally recognised Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation. Gouthwaite Reservoir SSSI is an important location for many breeding birds, in particular providing a winter stopping point for migrating ducks. The remaining species-rich hay meadows – which were common across the dale until the move to silage in the 1970s – are valued for the range of flowers and grasses that are only found in upland meadows, and which in turn support invertebrates and birds. Recent estimates put the area of upland hay meadow now left in England at less than 1000ha, although older members of the community retain strong memories of the traditions associated with ‘hay time’.

4.3 Industrial Heritage

Lead mining has been important in Upper Nidderdale since Roman times and had its heyday during the 18th and 19th centuries. The industry has left a dramatic mark on the landscape, particularly around Greenhow and Ashfoldside, and its national significance is recognised by the five Scheduled Monuments associated with lead mining in this area. The mine shafts, spoil heaps and ruined smelt mills are powerful reminders of this industrial past which need to be conserved so that future generations are able to understand this period of the dale’s history.

The three reservoirs are a striking element in the heritage landscape, highly visible reminders not only of the important ecosystem services such as drinking water provided by the uplands to nearby cities, but also of the cultural impact of their construction on Upper Nidderdale. Scar Village, the temporary camp built to house construction workers for Scar House Reservoir, housed over 1200 people in the early 20th century – a huge population influx into a sparsely populated dale. Lodge Village, a hamlet first recorded as a monastic grange farm on the opposite side of Scar House Reservoir, was abandoned when the dale bottom was flooded for the reservoir. Disused sandstone quarries mark where the huge volumes of rock were extracted to build the spectacular reservoir dams. From Pateley Bridge to the top of the Dale, the route taken by the Nidd Valley Light Railway is still visible and is accessible in places as a public bridleway. These interrelated features are not widely

known, but are very significant in understanding the recent history of Upper Nidderdale.



Figure 13: The Scar House Reservoir dam.

4.4 Archaeological Heritage


Upper Nidderdale has a wealth of archaeological features that provide important evidence for the different stages of human development in the area. Several prehistoric sites have been identified, including the Scheduled Ancient Monument at the northern edge of Middlesmoor and an extensive area west of Gouthwaite Reservoir that has interesting features including cup and ring marked rocks and hut circles. Many of these sites have had little or no detailed investigation.

The monastic period is particularly significant in Upper Nidderdale, which found itself divided between the rival powers of Fountains Abbey and Byland Abbey. The sites of a number of grange farms which formed the basis of the monks' system for managing the area remain, either as ruins and abandoned farms, or through being incorporated into existing modern-day farms. Medieval enclosures and field systems can also be found, for example the coaxial field system at Blayshaw, although a more systematic investigation across the whole of Upper Nidderdale would allow these types of feature to be better recorded and protected.

Industrialisation has been mentioned as a period that had a profound impact on Upper Nidderdale's physical landscape and cultural heritage. It is worth also noting the effect of the final stage of agricultural enclosures that took place at the same time, which had an equally long-lasting impact on the area through the creation of the mosaic of fields and dry stone walls that are now valued as a highly important element of the landscape.

4.5 Built Heritage

The hamlets, villages and town of Upper Nidderdale are important examples of upland settlements that fit harmoniously into the landscape through the historic use of locally quarried stone for their construction. Middlesmoor, Lofthouse, Ramsgill and Wath are all designated as Conservation Areas,



as is a large part of Pateley Bridge. Many buildings date from the 18th century or early 19th century and 70 buildings are included on the National Heritage List for England, including Grade II farmsteads and a 19th century watermill. Most of the villages' architectural features remain intact and show good examples of domestic, agricultural, religious and commercial buildings. Similarly, the high street and surrounding area in Pateley Bridge retains its historic character.

The dale's churches have been a focal point for communities over the centuries, but are also important buildings themselves, including St Chad's at Middlesmoor with its iconic outlook over the valley, the tiny end-of-terrace Methodist chapel at Wath and the standing ruins of St Mary's above Pateley Bridge. The other significant built features in the dale are the two watermills at Foster Beck and Wath, both of which have their waterwheels still intact.

4.6 Cultural Heritage

The combination of industry, farming and moorland management has created a unique cultural heritage in the Upper Nidderdale area. Memories of the construction of the three reservoirs and lead mining at Greenhow are still kept very much alive, while quarrying, farming, game-keeping and grouse shooting continue to be important activities in the dale today as they have been for generations before. While it is difficult to record, many local people clearly feel a very strong connection to the area which they express in different ways, for example being part of longstanding community events such as the Middlesmoor Bell Festival; remembering folktales like Jenny Twigg and her daughter Tib; or listening out for the first Curlew call each spring.

A central part of the area's cultural heritage is linked to the dale's remoteness and tranquillity. With its small market town and few villages, surrounded by vast areas of moorland, Upper Nidderdale is one of England's most tranquil places as can be seen from the Campaign to Protect Rural England's tranquillity map at Figure 14. It is significant that this quietness, intimately linked to a sense of 'getting away from it all' that is greatly valued by visitors, has been preserved in an area so close to major urban settlements.

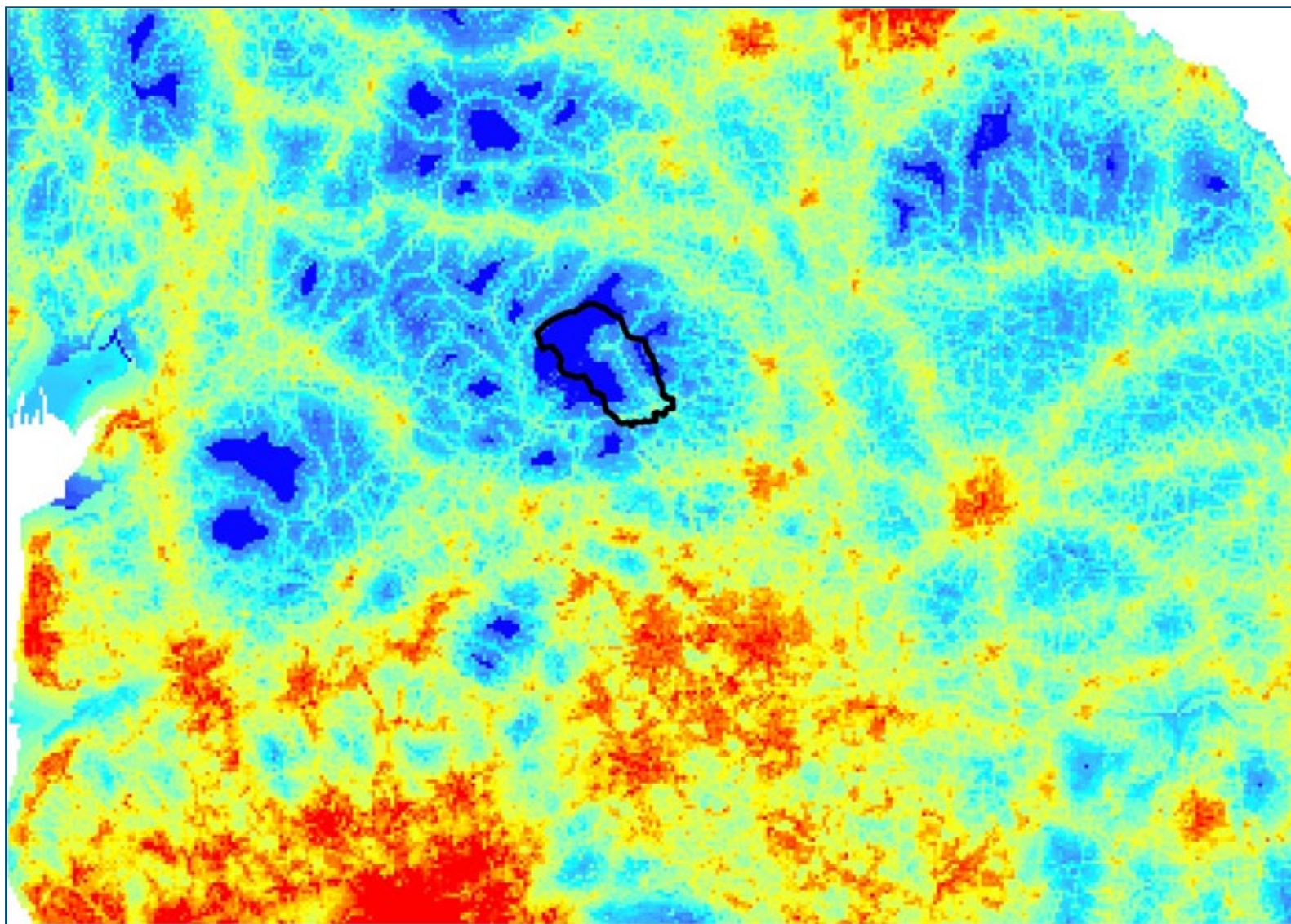


Figure 14: CPRE tranquillity map of the north of England. Deeper blue represents greater tranquillity and brighter reds represent the least tranquillity. The Landscape Partnership boundary is shown in black, with the Leeds/Bradford conurbation clearer visible just to the south.



5 A Landscape under Threat

5.1 Introduction

Upper Nidderdale has changed gradually over centuries to become the landscape that we treasure today. As set out in the *Statement of Significance*, much of what we attach importance to is linked to how the landscape is managed now. Just as the combination of Upper Nidderdale's special qualities define the significance of the area's heritage landscape, so the cumulative effect of many, often seemingly unconnected, changes are slowly leading to a long-term decline in the very landscape qualities that we value.

This chapter looks at the risks to Upper Nidderdale's heritage landscape, charting where the area is vulnerable to changes that will cause negative effects. Alongside this risk analysis, opportunities for positive action are identified. Some of these actions are already taking place; others have become the basis for the projects that the Landscape Partnership will deliver.

5.2 Risks and Opportunities for Change

5.2.1 Rural Policy

The reform to the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) has formed a backdrop to the Landscape Partnership's development year. The national agri-environment scheme, Environmental Stewardship, is now closed to new applications and the detail of the new scheme that will replace it is not yet known. Environmental Stewardship has been the primary mechanism to incentivise land managers to protect the natural and historic environment, for example paying farmers to maintain species-rich wildflower meadows or habitat suitable for breeding birds. If the new scheme does not provide the same levels of support to upland farming areas, the risk in the short term is that habitats maintained via Environmental Stewardship will decline. However the greater long term risk is that upland farm businesses may not be able to survive without the financial support provided by CAP subsidy. A 2009 report showed that all upland farms in Nidderdale are losing money and only survive through the support from CAP. Since Upper Nidderdale's heritage landscape is a farmed landscape, the loss of upland farming businesses in the dale would lead to a dramatic landscape change.

High Nature Value farming offers a new way to think about upland farming. This approach recognises the value of these extensive farming systems beyond simple economics, taking into account the valuable heritage landscape that upland farming sustains. Putting farmers at the centre of decision-making about the actions they can take to deliver environmental benefits has to be a key component of any new scheme, as does helping farmers to work together at a landscape scale. Equally important is to understand how delivering environmental gains fits with the other parts of a farm business, so that upland farming is environmentally and economically sustainable.

5.2.2 Climate Change

The main impact of climate change in the UK has been an increase in extreme weather events and this trend is projected to continue. Heavy rainfall, late snowfalls, extended periods of drought – all are becoming more common, with one often coming shortly after the other. For example, in 2012 the driest spring for over a century gave way to the wettest April to June on record. These changes give rise to difficulties for the natural environment, historic structures and people. In Upper Nidderdale, these extreme events can affect:

- wildlife, for example through extended cold weather in Spring delaying the bird breeding season, leading to a shorter breeding period and potentially a population reduction;
- historic buildings, where heavy rainfall can penetrate structures that are not completely weather-tight, which can be followed by a rapid deterioration in their fabric if the problem is not addressed;
- the farming community, for example through a late snowfall badly disrupting lambing time or extended rainfall preventing hay making, both adding to the pressure of maintaining a viable business for farmers; and
- tourism businesses, such as when long periods of poor weather in the summer keep tourists away from the area and some businesses are unable to survive the out-of-season winter period.

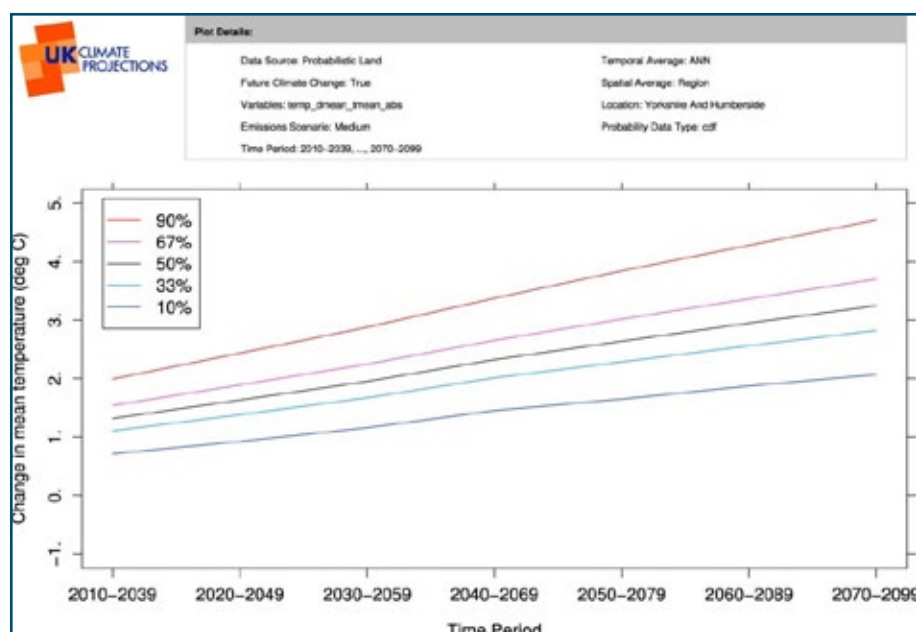



Figure 15: UKCP09 climate projections, showing projected change in average annual temperature in Yorkshire and Humberside during the 21st century under a “medium” emissions scenario. The change is very unlikely to be less than the 10% line and very unlikely to be more than the 90% line, with the 50% line showing the most likely change in temperature.

The less immediately noticeable effects of climate change, such as the gradual long-term temperature rise, will also have an impact on biodiversity. Defra’s climate change projections estimate the most likely increase in average annual temperature in the area by the end of the century will be 3°C, assuming a medium greenhouse gas emissions scenario. The geographical range of species will change in response to these changing temperatures, so over the coming century Upper Nidderdale may lose some species but may gain others.

The response to climate change is taking place across all levels of society. Specific action in Upper Nidderdale needs to address both adapting to the changes that are likely to occur as well as seeking where possible to mitigate activities that produce greenhouse gas emissions.

The moorland that makes up such a significant part of Upper Nidderdale is made up of peat soils that in places reach several metres in depth. When the moorland is in good condition, peat actively accumulates, locking away carbon. However when the moorland dries out, the peat erodes releasing



this important carbon store. The Yorkshire Peat Partnership works with landowners to carry out peatland restoration works through blocking the drainage ‘grips’ that were cut in the decades following WWII in an attempt to increase the moorland’s agricultural productivity. This rewetting process is coupled with work to restore bare peat through reseeded with heather and sphagnum. As well as preventing the release of carbon, peatland restoration can help to regulate river flow and reduce water colouration. These moorland areas also provide an important, largely un-fragmented habitat for wildlife.

Efforts to reduce the fragmentation of wildlife habitats are also important below the moorland line. By creating more habitats, which are better interlinked, for different species of flora and fauna, we will provide the space for nature to move and adapt to a changing climate.

The historic buildings that make such an important contribution to Upper Nidderdale’s heritage landscape are also notoriously difficult to heat efficiently, meaning that per capita energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions are considerably higher than for easier-to-heat modern homes. English Heritage provide guidance on energy efficiency for traditional buildings and it is important that repairs and energy efficiency improvements to traditional buildings are carried out carefully to maintain the special qualities of the building and to ensure that the changes do not accidentally introduce problems that may damage the building in the long term.

Many features of the wider historic environment are vulnerable to weathering effects, which will be exacerbated by climate change. The structure of traditional field barns will deteriorate rapidly once the roof is no longer weather-tight, but the high cost and difficulty in sourcing traditional stone roof slates can make a sympathetic repair difficult. Other historic features, for example the remains of buildings associated with lead mining, can be conserved through measures such as turf-topping walls to prevent them from being lost forever.

Upper Nidderdale’s communities pride themselves on their resilience, but their isolation can make them more vulnerable to direct impacts of climate change (e.g. flooding) as well as indirect issues (e.g. volatile fuel prices) than urban communities. Providing support for local people, such as helping tourism businesses work together or working with farmers to critically examine their farm business, will make them better able to adapt to these changes.

5.2.3 Disconnection from Landscape

Recent national studies by organisations such as the National Trust have highlighted the disconnection between many people, particularly urban, young people, and the natural world. Although Upper Nidderdale is on the doorstep of Leeds, Bradford as well as other smaller towns, many people are unaware of what its heritage landscape has to offer. This means that many people do not understand:

- how they can explore, enjoy and benefit from the Upper Nidderdale landscape;
- how the landscape is managed by farmers and other land owners;
- that the area provides important national resources, such as drinking water, food, space for recreation and carbon sequestration (the area’s ‘ecosystem services’);
- the significance of the area’s built and cultural heritage, and how this can help them appreciate today’s Upper Nidderdale; and
- the area’s biodiversity and the importance of conserving and enhancing habitats.

Without this awareness, it is impossible for people to enjoy, appreciate and ultimately value the landscape. This can lead to issues on the ground such as where potential visitors may lack the confidence to come to the area at all (resulting in a missed opportunity for the visitor and a loss to the local economy); or where visitors lack the information or skills to find sites that they can enjoy and engage with (meaning they are unlikely to repeat their visit to Upper Nidderdale or recommend it to others). There is also the potential for conflict between land managers and visitors through a misunderstanding or lack of knowledge about access to the countryside.



Figure 16: Raising awareness of the heritage landscape through events for children.

Educational programmes, both formally within primary and secondary schools, as well as informally for people of all ages through workshops and training events, is one approach to raise awareness about Upper Nidderdale's heritage landscape. Equally important is a wider interpretative strategy that can explain to people in an engaging way the many different facets of the area's heritage. This will reach people through way-marked trails, events, leaflets, interpretation panels at important sites and online via the web and social media. A crucial aspect of all these approaches is to not only increase access and learning among existing visitors to Upper Nidderdale, but also to find ways to engage new audiences.

5.2.4 Land Management Pressures

Changes in agricultural practices have led to the intensification of farming in Upper Nidderdale:

- many meadows that were cut for hay in late summer have been converted to a rye grass monoculture to produce multiple cuts for silage;
- areas of wet pasture have been drained to bring more land into agricultural use or simply to allow passage for heavier modern farm machinery;
- fertilizer has been applied to many areas of in-bye land to increase productivity; and
- grazing increased numbers of sheep on the moorland, combined with the practice of digging grips for drainage, has turned some areas into less bio-diverse white heath.

All of these changes have been as a result of the economic pressures on farmers and have taken place piecemeal over many years. Although some practices no longer take place, for example gripping moorland, the cumulative impact has been a widespread loss of wildlife habitat and declines in species numbers. Hay meadows, which once dominated the valley bottom landscape, now cover less than 150ha. Wild bird populations have declined over the last 30 years and two species (black grouse and hen harrier) no longer breed in the area.

Despite the intensified approach, upland farms in Upper Nidderdale are unable to survive without support through the Common Agricultural Policy as described in the section on rural policy above. A 2009 report on future prospects for the farming industry in the Yorkshire Dales showed that the average income for most farming families was under £10,000 per year.

As the number of people working on each farm has steadily declined, the time-intensive maintenance of dry stone wall field boundaries has become more difficult. Where smaller fields are now run together for livestock grazing, the reason for maintaining the internal field boundaries is lost, meaning that these walls may be left to become derelict. Post and wire fencing is often a more economical solution to stock control than repairing a slumped dry stone wall, but causes a very visible change in the local landscape character. Many field barns have also become redundant in modern farming, especially those in isolated fields far from the main farm buildings, so farmers may be less willing to spend time and money on their maintenance; however it is these barns that often make some of the most important heritage landscape features.



Figure 17: Volunteers can make an enormous contribution to heritage landscape conservation, for example through gaining skills in dry stone walling.

Addressing these risks means working closely with farmers to raise awareness about and find ways to reverse habitat and historic environment loss, which will be closely linked to the reforms to agri-environment schemes. Groups of farmers will need to come together to ensure that these issues are addressed at a landscape scale. Equally important will be to ensure that funding towards habitat and historic environment restoration is considered within the context of the whole farm business. This

means integrating business development with heritage conservation to address the underlying issues around the sustainability of upland farming. Local Enterprise Partnerships have an important role to play in this approach.

Decisions made by farmers and other landowners can result in accidental damage to the heritage landscape where the land managers are unaware of the significance (or even existence) of certain historic features. For example, archaeology such as prehistoric hut circles can be damaged through inappropriately locating cattle feeding stations within the circles. Raising levels of awareness and understanding about the historic environment among land managers is the most effective way to halt this unintended damage.

The angular conifer plantations that were planted during the 1960s to 1980s are considered by most people as detrimental to Upper Nidderdale's landscape. Many of the trees in these plantations have now come to maturity, but have not been felled for timber because of the difficulties and cost associated with extraction. As time passes there is the risk that plantations will be damaged during storms, leaving a more unsightly and difficult to clear mass of windblown trees. However the maturing plantations also offer an opportunity for replanting these areas with broadleaf woodland (or a broadleaf – conifer mix) that have much greater biodiversity and whose boundaries are less angular.


5.2.5 Resources

Funding for public sector bodies has been significantly reduced in the last four years. The impact on organisations which help conserve the heritage landscape has been profound. Major government agencies including Natural England, English Heritage, the Environment Agency and the Forestry Commission now have less resource in terms of staff and spending budget. Inevitably the pressure of reduced resources means these organisations are unable to contribute to the management of the natural and historic environment as they did in the past.

Landowners do not always have sufficient resources to maintain all of the heritage assets on their land. Where a heritage feature no longer has a direct economic benefit for the landowner, they may not wish or not be able to justify spending money on maintenance. This has led to a gradual decline in the condition of much of Upper Nidderdale's historic environment. The economic downturn has exacerbated this situation.



Figure 18: Photographs of Prosperous Smelt Mill, left 1950s, right 2013, showing the long term deterioration of the site.



A further risk is that the rate at which the area's heritage deteriorates will increase because of the dual loss of resources from public and private sector.

The Landscape Partnership offers an opportunity to address this decline by identifying some of the most important heritage features and then bringing together a partnership involving landowners, public sector and volunteers to make the most impact with the pooled resources. It will also be important to investigate the wider historic environment across the area to form a fuller picture of Upper Nidderdale's heritage and which aspects are most at risk.

5.2.6 Skills and People

Capacity and resources to maintain Upper Nidderdale's heritage landscape have been explored in previous sections, but it is equally important that people have the right skills required to carry out maintenance and restoration work. This applies to those who may need to undertake this work now, as well as the next generation.

There is a profound lack of knowledge among homeowners, land managers and tradesmen about appropriate techniques for historic building maintenance. Modern construction techniques can cause long term harm to historic buildings and so there is a need to raise awareness among those who own properties alongside improving skills among those who carry out maintenance works.

Nidderdale High School & Community College, based in Pateley Bridge, provides a secondary education for students up to sixteen. To continue in education and to pursue a vocational course in heritage skills, students have to travel long distances to the nearest provider. There is a risk that some young people, rather than gaining training, will resort to low-paid, unskilled work that does not contribute to the area's heritage landscape. Other young people may leave the area to gain training with the result that they never apply their skills in Upper Nidderdale. If businesses and education providers are able to work together to provide vocational training opportunities for young people within the area, then there is an opportunity to train the next generation of people who will look after Upper Nidderdale.

Volunteers are an extremely important part of the solution to heritage landscape conservation. They are enriched by their voluntary experience while making a real and lasting impact on the landscape. To be able to succeed, volunteers need training, support and resources. Without this, volunteers' enthusiasm may be lost and successful voluntary groups may fade away as they are unable to attract new members to inject fresh ideas. The Landscape Partnership provides an opportunity to focus existing and new volunteering effort in Upper Nidderdale, translating the pride for the area among local residents into voluntary action.

A successful tourist industry is also important to Upper Nidderdale to provide the structure for visitors as they explore the area. However many tourism businesses lack the skills and capacity to look at the 'big picture' of tourism across the dale. There is also a tendency to view other tourism businesses within the dale as competitors, rather than working together to create a network of high quality tourism products that can compete successfully with other destinations. Other organisations, for example Pateley Bridge Town Council and the Nidderdale Plus, are also concerned about the local tourism economy, so there is an opportunity for public, private and third sectors to work together to improve Upper Nidderdale's tourism offer.



6 Our Vision, Aims and Objectives

6.1 The Vision for Upper Nidderdale

The Landscape Partnership's vision for Upper Nidderdale is that:

Upper Nidderdale will continue to be a remote and special place, where the quality of the natural environment is an inspiration to all, where heritage features are cherished and displayed, where visitors will find a welcoming local community who are immensely proud of their surroundings and are full of stories that bring the landscape to life.

6.2 Our Long Term Aims

To achieve the vision, the Partnership has developed 5 long term aims that define the landscape-scale approach taken throughout the delivery period and beyond. These aims are informed by the risks to Upper Nidderdale's heritage landscape as discussed previously in *A Landscape under Threat* and set out a positive response to those risks by the Partnership:

1. The area's rich historic environment and cultural heritage is conserved and enhanced for current and future generations.
2. Upper Nidderdale supports a diverse and resilient network of wildlife habitats through the efforts of the dale's sustainable upland farming community.
3. A wide range of people of all ages discover, appreciate and enjoy Upper Nidderdale's special qualities.
4. Visitors are easily able to access, on the ground and online, Upper Nidderdale's natural environment and heritage features.
5. Upper Nidderdale's communities take inspiration from the area's heritage past to help to develop a sustainable rural future.

Our vision and aims are closely linked to Heritage Lottery Fund's 4 Landscape Partnership programme outcomes:

- Outcome A: *Conserving or restoring the built and natural features that create the historic landscape character* is delivered through Aims 1 and 2, which together will conserve the built historic environment and natural heritage. In addition, Aim 2 recognises the contribution made by the continuity of a sustainable upland farming community to the heritage landscape as a whole.
- Outcome B: *Increasing community participation in local heritage* is implicit in the Partnership's vision for an inspiring natural environment, cherished heritage features and welcoming local community. Much of the delivery of Aims 1 and 2 will be through community engagement and participation, for example with the farming community and new heritage volunteers. Aim 3 will, for some people, go far beyond simply discovering Nidderdale and will

also provide opportunities for active participation in heritage conservation.

- Outcome C: *Increasing access to and learning about the landscape area and its heritage* will be delivered through Aims 3 and 4. The Partnership will use a variety of projects to tell many different audiences about Upper Nidderdale's special heritage landscape qualities, while ensuring that the locations that show these special qualities to best effect are accessible and understandable.
- Outcome D: *Increasing training opportunities in local heritage skills* directly relates to Aim 5, where heritage skills training will provide opportunities for local people to gain valuable new skills while at the same time increasing the resource available for heritage conservation work in Upper Nidderdale.

The Landscape Partnership's 5 aims will be delivered through a series of SMART objectives as set out in Table 2. The projects set out in Section 7 relate directly to these top-level objectives, although many projects contribute to more than one of the Partnership's aims (and consequently help to deliver more than one of Heritage Lottery Fund's Landscape Partnership programme outcomes).

Aims	Objectives
1. The area's rich historic environment and cultural heritage is conserved and enhanced for current and future generations.	<p>1.1: Safeguard Upper Nidderdale's historic environment by restoring at least 4 large-scale 'flagship' heritage features.</p> <p>1.2: Identify future restoration priorities through the production of at least 15 farm heritage plans.</p> <p>1.3: Capture the cultural history of 20th century grouse moorland management through the delivery of a community-led oral history project.</p>
2. Upper Nidderdale supports a diverse and resilient network of wildlife habitats through the efforts of the dale's sustainable upland farming community.	<p>2.1: Support sustainable upland farming by identifying heritage and business improvements through at least 15 whole farm plans.</p> <p>2.2: Contribute to the delivery of Biodiversity 2020 through the creation and restoration of at least 100ha of connected, resilient habitats.</p> <p>2.3: Improve understanding of the natural environment among land managers to develop a long-term commitment to conservation by running 16 training events.</p>

<p>3. A wide range of people of all ages discover, appreciate and enjoy Upper Nidderdale's special qualities.</p>	<p>3.1: Inspire the next generation by running at least 20 workshops and events for schoolchildren, supported by the production of an online heritage resource for schools.</p> <p>3.2: Increase awareness of Upper Nidderdale's heritage among audiences who have not visited the area through an outreach programme that includes 2 'Upper Nidderdale in the City' events.</p> <p>3.3: Enhance the understanding and appreciation of Upper Nidderdale's landscape by organising and promoting at least 90 events per year.</p>
<p>4. Visitors are easily able to access, on the ground and online, Upper Nidderdale's natural environment and heritage features.</p>	<p>4.1: Encourage more people to visit heritage features in Upper Nidderdale by creating an accessible 'Travel through Time' trail to link the flagship heritage sites.</p> <p>4.2: Provide a dedicated website that interprets the area's natural and built heritage for local residents and visitors.</p> <p>4.3: Install at least 10 outdoor interpretation points, distribute 12 e-newsletters and produce 3 full colour souvenir guides covering the restoration and conservation work accomplished by the project.</p>
<p>5. Upper Nidderdale's communities take inspiration from the area's heritage past to help to develop a sustainable rural future.</p>	<p>5.1: Support young people beginning a heritage-skills-based career by opening a Heritage Centre of Excellence to deliver vocational training courses to at least 6 students per year.</p> <p>5.2: Increase the capacity for managing heritage features by organising at least 150 training events for heritage industry employees, local residents and volunteers.</p> <p>5.3: Raise awareness of Upper Nidderdale's heritage with visitors by developing 4 new heritage tourism products in conjunction with local tourism businesses.</p>

Table 2: Aims and objectives.



7 The Scheme Plan

7.1 Introduction

This section provides a detailed description of the different projects that together will deliver the Partnership's aims and objectives. At the stage 1 bid, the projects were grouped under the 4 HLF Landscape Partnership outcomes (A: conserving/restoring, B: community participation, C: access & learning, D: training), however as the projects have been worked up in more detail during the development stage it has become clear that each project delivers more than one of these outcomes. To reflect the cross-cutting nature of the projects, they are now presented within a framework of 5 themes that correspond to the long term aims set out in Section 6. An analysis that shows the contribution towards the HLF Landscape Partnership outcomes by the suite of projects is presented at the end of this section.

The initial set of projects was developed during 2010 and 2011. During the development phase, these projects were scrutinised via a series of workshop events that brought together the wide range of organisations and individuals with an interest in the scheme (a full list of those individuals and organisations involved in project development can be found in the annex). This development phase consultation confirmed the support for the proposed projects, as well as providing a wealth of information and suggestions about the best way to implement them. Some projects have been modified as part of this 'light touch' review to improve what they will deliver and the consultation process also resulted in the addition of one new project. The selection of historic environment sites to be included in the Flagship Heritage Sites project involved a shortlisting process to identify the most worthwhile sites from the more than 30 possibilities suggested during the stakeholder consultation. Shortlisting was carried out by local heritage experts (from both professional and voluntary organisations) and the Landscape Partnership Board.

7.2 Themes and Projects Overview

Theme 1: Historic Nidderdale

HN1 - Flagship Heritage Sites

To conserve and enhance 4 significant historic environment sites which are representative of the area's heritage.

HN2 - Our Farm Heritage

To better understand the area's archaeology through volunteer-led historic environment surveys on a farm-by-farm basis.

HN3 - Moorlands: People, Places & Stories

To research, record and tell the history of moorland management through the ages, in particular through a community oral history project.



Theme 2: Wildlife & Farming

WF1 - Whole Farm Plans

To help farmers integrate heritage conservation into their farm business to ensure the long-term survival of sustainable upland farming.

WF2 - Wildflower Nidderdale

To restore and enhance wildflower hay meadows and other grasslands to provide a wildflower network throughout the area.

WF3 - Upland Bird Habitat

To improve habitat for upland birds by creating wet scrapes, controlling soft rush, restoring moorland and planting woodland.

Theme 3: Discovery & Learning

DL1 – Uplands Watch

To provide opportunities for schoolchildren to learn about the heritage landscape and become involved in its conservation.

DL2 – Nidderdale Connections

To use community arts and outreach work to make links with new audiences so a greater range of people can access the area's heritage.

DL3 – Celebrating Upper Nidderdale

To deliver a series of events, including a nature-writing literary festival, to allow people to understand and enjoy the area's landscape.

Theme 4: Visit Nidderdale

VN1 – Travel Through Time

To provide improved access to the flagship heritage sites and interpretation at the sites so they can be better understood.

VN2 – Website

To set up a complimentary online resource for interpretation and to host heritage research findings.

VN3 – Information Points

To put in place a number of strategically sited information points to help orientate visitors so they have the information they need to be able to access the features of the heritage landscape.



Theme 5: Our Rural Future

RF1 – Centre for Heritage Excellence

To provide a new heritage training centre for young people to gain vocational training in heritage skills.

RF2 – Heritage Skills for All

To increase the number of people who are trained in heritage skills and contributing to heritage conservation.

RF3 – Heritage Tourism

To support tourism providers in using the heritage landscape as part of their tourism offer to visitors.

7.3 Project Detail

Table 3 provides a more detailed description of the projects, including the expected outputs and the project budgets.

Project	Description	Outputs	Budget	Lead Partner
Historic Nidderdale				
HN1 Flagship Heritage Sites	The project will conserve and enhance a number of significant historic environment features at 4 sites across the area, which have been chosen to represent important aspects of Upper Nidderdale's heritage: Fishpond Wood (a designed landscape near Bewerley), Prosperous Smelt Mill and Lead Mines (a lead mining site above Heathfield), Wath Mill (a watermill in the centre of Wath), Scar and Lodge Villages (abandoned settlements – one modern, one of medieval origins – both linked to the construction of the reservoir).	Fishpond Wood: 1 ice house consolidated, 400m of historic pathway restored; 1 pond restored Prosperous Smelt Mill: 1 smelt mill consolidated, 1 mine shaft conserved Wath Mill: 1 floor structurally stabilised, 1 milling machinery consolidated Scar and Lodge: 1 repair to remains of foundations; 1 farm building complex consolidated	£106,223	UNLP
HN2 Our Farm Heritage	Gaining a more in depth understanding of the area's archaeology is the principal aim of this project. Volunteers will carry out historic environment surveys on a farm-by-farm basis, to inform future heritage conservation and assist land managers in understanding and protecting the heritage features on their land. Farmer / landowner training days and an information leaflet will complement the heritage plans produced through the project. Public access will be increased by creating 2 new trails to interpret historic features that people may otherwise be unaware of.	10 surveying techniques training days 20 historic environment support days Volunteer surveys of 15 farm holdings 15 farm heritage plans 1 landowner information leaflet 4 farmer / landowner training events 2 farm heritage trails (access for all if possible) Develop downloadable trail audio interpretation and leaflet Distribute 6 e-newsletters	£98,560	IAN

Project	Description	Outputs	Budget	Lead Partner
HN3 Moorlands: People, Places, Stories	This project will research and tell the story of moorland management through the ages, by supporting a new volunteer group who will research moorland history and organise oral history recordings with gamekeepers, landowners, beaters and others to provide a variety of perspectives on moorland management and grouse shooting. The project will raise awareness and understanding of grouse moorland management among local residents and visitors through information, access and events.	20 volunteer heritage training days Fortnightly meetings of volunteer group 10 oral history recordings collected and made available with transcripts through LP website Moorlands: People, Places, Stories booklet and 6 e-newsletters produced and distributed Moorland festival delivering 12 events Create 2 new moorland trails Develop downloadable trail audio interpretation and leaflet	£51,558	UNLP
Wildlife & Farming				
WF1 Whole Farm Plans	This project will help maintain a long term sustainable upland farming community by helping farmers look holistically at their farms, so that they can plan to integrate wildlife habitat enhancements, historic environment conservation, farm business improvement and farm diversification on their farm holding for the benefit of both the business and the heritage landscape.	4 whole farm plan workshops held, reaching 60 farmers / landowners 15 whole farm plans produced 8 successful farm business development grant applications supported	£19,000	YDFN

Project	Description	Outputs	Budget	Lead Partner
WF2 Wildflower Nidderdale	<p>This project takes a landscape-scale approach to grassland restoration and enhancement to create a network of wildflower habitats across Upper Nidderdale. These habitats are now rare due to the proliferation of intensive rye grass monocultures cropped for silage. Work will restore and enhance traditional species-rich wildflower hay meadows; and enhance other grassland habitats.</p> <p>Alongside the habitat improvement work, the project will increase understanding and enjoyment of hay meadows and wild flower biodiversity among local people and visitors by running events, creating a new meadow trail and through a volunteer research group who will investigate meadow folklore.</p>	<p>Restore / enhance 80 ha of species-rich hay meadow sites</p> <p>Create 10 ha of species-rich buffer strips</p> <p>Develop 1 downloadable information leaflet</p> <p>Run 4 farmer / landowner training events</p> <p>Run 4 training days for volunteer surveyors</p> <p>Survey 80 ha of meadow / grassland</p> <p>Volunteer research into meadow folklore</p> <p>Run 1 'Meadows Memories' day</p> <p>Create 1 new hay meadow trail</p> <p>Install 3 interpretation points along route</p> <p>Develop downloadable trail interpretation</p>	£97,124	YWT
WF3 Upland Bird Habitat	<p>To address the on-going decline in upland bird populations, this project will improve habitat for threatened species such as black grouse, curlew, lapwing, ring ouzel, snipe and twite. Work will focus on habitat enhancements including wet scrape creation, soft rush control, peatland restoration and gill woodland planting.</p> <p>The project will also raise awareness and understanding of upland bird conservation among land managers, local residents and visitors through information, access and events.</p>	<p>Restore 500ha of moorland and 120ha of rough grazing; maintain 30ha of rough grazing; restore 112ha of habitat, including creating wetland sites, rush management and gill woodland planting</p> <p>Develop 1 downloadable information leaflet</p> <p>Run 4 farmer / landowner training events</p> <p>4 volunteer bird survey training days</p> <p>Annual upland bird survey carried out by volunteers</p> <p>Create 1 new upland bird trail</p> <p>Install 3 interpretation points along route</p> <p>Develop downloadable trail interpretation</p>	£232,935	YWT

Project	Description	Outputs	Budget	Lead Partner
Discovery & Learning				
DL1 Uplands Watch	<p>This is an educational project aimed at both children attending school within the Landscape Partnership area and those from schools further away. There are 3 sub-projects that cover different aspects of the Landscape Partnership work.</p> <p>Food, Farming & Landscape explores the intimate links between the landscape we see, the food we eat and the farmers who produce our food through farmer-led workshops.</p> <p>Uplands Wildlife Watch will allow students to learn about the area's biodiversity and natural environment through hands-on experience of the area's rich wildlife. It is linked to the construction of a new sand martin wall and wildlife hide at Gouthwaite Reservoir, which will provide a focus for wildlife education.</p> <p>Upper Nidderdale Big Dig will give students an understanding of Upper Nidderdale's past through a series of community archaeology excavations and associated workshops.</p>	<p>Food, Farming & Landscape: 4 school workshops, including farm visits; 1 upland farming blog</p> <p>Uplands Bird Watch: 1 sand martin wall constructed; 1 wildlife hide constructed; 2 wildlife webcams installed and accessed by at least 10 schools; 4 bird watching and recording school workshops</p> <p>Upper Nidderdale Big Dig: 2 community archaeology excavations; 4 archaeology school workshops</p> <p>3 heritage films produced by schools</p> <p>150 local children engaged with project</p> <p>Interactive heritage resources for schools</p> <p>3 urban schools (300 children) actively involved in project</p>	£83,140	UNLP
DL2 Nidderdale Connections	<p>The project focuses on the link between people and landscape through two sub-projects:</p> <p>Source to City is an outreach project that will make links to nearby urban populations in north Leeds through working with a Leeds-based community organisation.</p> <p>Reconnecting to the Landscape uses community creative activities to help people reflect on Upper Nidderdale's special landscape qualities.</p>	<p>30 community arts workshops, 4 exhibitions / talks</p> <p>2 short films based on community arts projects</p> <p>6 focus groups events with groups from North Leeds</p> <p>50 young people from North Leeds and 30 people from North Leeds BME community actively engaged with Upper Nidderdale</p>	£112,925	CC NVA

Project	Description	Outputs	Budget	Lead Partner
DL3 Celebrating Upper Nidderdale	<p>A series of events, from the small-scale (e.g. heritage guided walks) to the large-scale (a nature writing literary festival in Pateley Bridge and festivals based in Leeds Upper Nidderdale) will take place during the delivery phase.</p> <p>The events will be open to the public and their goal will be to inform and inspire local people and visitors about Upper Nidderdale's landscape, wildlife, cultural and built heritage.</p> <p>The project will also run several events to bring together other Landscape Partnerships and interested stakeholders to look at issues relevant to Landscape Partnerships</p> <p>A film will be made that celebrates Upper Nidderdale's heritage landscape and the work of the Partnership.</p>	<p>12 training workshops for heritage event leaders</p> <p>3 nature writing literary festivals</p> <p>45 public events over project period</p> <p>3 Landscape Partnership stakeholder events</p> <p>Production of 1 Upper Nidderdale film (distributed to local attractions, schools and online, plus screenings at Landscape Partnership events)</p> <p>2 'Upper Nidderdale in the City' festivals</p>	£92,850	UNLP with NiF
Visit Nidderdale				
VN1 Travel Through Time	<p>The project will provide innovative, robust interpretation at the flagship heritage sites (Fishpond Wood, Prosperous Smelt Mill and Lead Mines, Wath Mill, Scar & Lodge Villages) so that people who visit the sites are able to understand the sites' historic significance and fully enjoy their visit to them. To make accessing the sites are easy as possible for as wide a range of people as possible, 2 new easy to follow trails will give improved walking (and where possible cycling and horse riding) access to the flagship heritage sites.</p>	<p>Interpretation at Fishpond Wood</p> <p>Interpretation at Prosperous Smelt Mill and Lead Mines</p> <p>Interpretation at Wath Mill</p> <p>Interpretation at Scar & Lodge Villages</p> <p>2 'Travel through Time' trails</p>	£51,117	UNLP

Project	Description	Outputs	Budget	Lead Partner
VN2 Website	The provision of an online focus for the Landscape Partnership will bring different strands of the scheme's work together in one place on the web, including interpretation for visitors and local people about Upper Nidderdale's landscape, wildlife and history; provision to upload and search through heritage research; news and events; virtual heritage training; and details of Landscape Partnership project delivery.	1 website 1 web-based information storage system for research generated by volunteer research projects 1 smartphone app	£50,045	UNLP
VN3 Information Points	Visitor orientation is the focus of this project, so that tourists have the opportunity to find out about a range of possible places to visit, encouraging them to spend longer in the area and discover its heritage landscape in more depth. The information points will include details of existing tourist attractions (e.g. Studfold Farm and How Stean Gorge) alongside the flagship heritage sites and other points of interest. The information points will be located strategically through the Landscape Partnership area, with a central hub at Pateley Bridge Tourist Information Centre. The project will also analyse and improve tourist signage.	3 partnership information points 1 interactive hub (at Pateley Bridge Tourist Information Centre) Orientation signage	£62,100	UNLP with HBC
Our Rural Future				
RF1 Centre for Heritage Excellence	This project will create a new heritage/uplands skills-based course in Upper Nidderdale, centred at the High School with delivery led by North Yorkshire County Council's Adult Learning Service. The course will lead to a recognised qualification in countryside management or heritage skills and will be completed over one academic year. Much of training will take place during work placements with local small and micro businesses, including farmers, shooting estates, arboriculture contractors and heritage construction companies.	32 students achieving NCFE level 2 in heritage craft skills 20 small and micro businesses providing 32 work placements for students delivering 2000 days of practical heritage skills training	£100,150	NYCC

Project	Description	Outputs	Budget	Lead Partner
RF2 Heritage Skills for All	<p>This project is made up of 3 sub-projects: Practical skills for community payback, Skills for Trades and Heritage Skills School. Offenders who are carrying out their sentence through the Community Payback scheme will have the opportunity to learn dry stone walling and work towards a basic level qualification.</p> <p>Skills for Trades increase the heritage skills among professionals who work in the area by offering tradesmen the opportunity to refresh or learn skills for historic building maintenance, including lime mortaring, roofing and stone masonry. The best heritage skills will be recognised through an annual competition. Heritage Skills School complements Skills for Trades by providing hands-on short courses in historic environment conservation and dry stone walling for interested individuals.</p>	<p>96 practical skills development days (576 training places, 3,456 training hours)</p> <p>80 Community Payback participants achieving Craven College Beginners Certificate in dry stone walling</p> <p>1,000 m dry stone wall repaired</p> <p>8 historic buildings training courses delivered to 10 tradesmen</p> <p>4 'Caring for Historic Buildings' downloadable information leaflets12 general public practical heritage conservation workshops</p> <p>66 heritage skills for schools workshops</p>	£97,432	UNLP
RF3 Heritage Tourism	<p>Four new heritage tourism products will be developed through this project, which local tourism providers will then be able to use to provide visitors with an improved experience that better allows them to understand Upper Nidderdale's heritage landscape. This work will bring tourism providers together through a series of workshops where they can examine how to better work together to provide a joined-up Upper Nidderdale heritage experience for their visitors</p>	<p>4 new heritage tourism based products</p> <p>8 training workshops for tourism businesses (attended by 30 businesses / 90 training hours)</p>	£13,200	NP

Table 3: Projects detail. Key to lead partners: UNLP – Upper Nidderdale Landscape Partnership team; IAN – Iron-Age (Nidderdale); YWT – Yorkshire Wildlife Trust; YDFN – Yorkshire Dales Farmer Network; CC – Cardigan Centre; NVA – Nidderdale Visual Arts; NiF – NiddFest; HBC – Harrogate Borough Council; NYCC – North Yorkshire County Council Adult Learning & Skills Service; NP – Nidderdale Plus.

7.3.1 Connections between Project

The 15 projects presented above have been designed to be highly interconnected to produce an integrated scheme that delivers a landscape scale programme. Conservation work in the built and natural environment, for example the Flagship Heritage Sites project and Wildflower Nidderdale project, is linked to understanding and learning such as through community events (Nidderdale Connections, Celebrating Upper Nidderdale), visiting the area (through trails and interpretation, such as the Travel Through Time project) and training (Centre of Excellence for Heritage, Heritage Skills for All, Heritage Tourism). The orientation and information provided online by the Website project and on the ground by the Information Points project provides a backbone for people to navigate around Upper Nidderdale. The Whole Farm Plans project connects together historic environment surveying (Our Farm Heritage project), habitat restoration (Wildflower Nidderdale and Upland Bird Habitat projects). Many other connections between projects exist and the Partnership plans to expand and maximise these links during project delivery.

7.4 Programme Delivery

A small team, made up of a Scheme Manager, two Project Officers and a part-time Administrator, will lead the delivery phase of the Landscape Partnership. A number of the projects will be delivered through lead partner organisations using their staff (or volunteers). The Scheme Manager will be line managed by the Nidderdale AONB Manager. The Landscape Partnership Board will provide oversight of the scheme by:

- reviewing and assessing the performance of the scheme, and recommending changes if required; and
- by receiving and commenting on reports on the scheme's work programmes.

The Scheme Manager will be responsible for providing the Landscape Partnership Board with the reports and assessments necessary for the Board to undertake their oversight role. The Scheme Manager will also provide regular updates to the Nidderdale AONB Joint Advisory Committee.

7.5 Delivering Landscape Partnership Outcomes

As noted in the introduction to this section, all of projects that will be delivered through the scheme will achieve more than one of the HLF Landscape Partnership outcomes. These are the nationally defined outcomes that HLF uses to set out what all Landscape Partnerships need to accomplish:

- A: Conserving or restoring the built and natural features that create the historic landscape character.
- B: Increasing community participation in local heritage.
- C: Increasing access to and learning about the landscape area and its heritage.
- D: Increasing training opportunities in local heritage skills.

Table 4 demonstrates the contribution to these outcomes made by the various projects within the scheme, by setting the outputs from each project against the relevant HLF Landscape Partnership outcome. Where a project contributes to an outcome in some other way (not measured directly by the project outputs), this is also highlighted. The information in the table shows that the projects are delivering in equal balance across the 4 outcomes.

	Flagship Heritage Sites	Our Farm Heritage	Moorlands: People, Places, Stories	Whole Farm Plans	Wildflower Nidderdale	Upland Bird Habitat	Uplands Watch	Nidderdale Connections	Celebrating Upper Nidderdale	Travel Through Time	Website	Information Points	Centre for Heritage Excellence	Heritage Skills for All	Heritage Tourism
Conserving or restoring	✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓	✓ ✓		✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓ ✓	✓		✓ ✓			✓ ✓	✓ ✓	
Community participation	✓	✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓	✓ ✓	✓	✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓	✓ ✓	✓ ✓	✓	✓ ✓	✓ ✓	✓
Access and learning		✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓ ✓	✓	✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓ ✓			✓ ✓
Training opportunities	✓ ✓	✓ ✓	✓ ✓	✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓	✓ ✓	✓		✓ ✓	✓		✓	✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓ ✓

Table 4: Contribution to HLF Landscape Partnership outcomes. 3 ticks: project outputs significantly contribute to this outcome; 2 ticks: project outputs contribute to this outcome; 1 tick: project contributes to this outcome, although not through a measured output.

8 Sustainability, Evaluation and Review

8.1 The Landscape Partnership's Legacy for Upper Nidderdale

Planning the long term legacy of the Landscape Partnership's work has been an important component of the development phase. During the project planning process, careful consideration has been given to how each project can deliver sustainable outcomes that will continue to resonate beyond the 4 years of HLF investment, as summarised in Table 5. The Partnership's legacy ambitions, however, are also more holistic, in the sense that we aim to create a more vibrant understanding and appreciation of Upper Nidderdale and its heritage among the local community, visitors and organisations who operate in the area. One noticeable aspect of the Partnership's development has been how many different organisations have come to work together, where they may not previously have considered doing. Sustaining this cultural shift of closely joined up working – with the heritage landscape as the focus for bringing people together – will be another significant legacy.

An important part of the scheme's sustainability is the close link between the Landscape Partnership and the Nidderdale AONB Joint Advisory Committee. The Landscape Partnership Board was initially convened by the JAC, and is chaired by the Chair of the JAC; and the Scheme Manager will provide regular update reports to the Committee. The establishment of this formal link between the Landscape Partnership Board and the AONB Joint Advisory Committee is another mechanism to safeguard the long-term future of the work carried out through the Landscape Partnership by closely integrating it into the on-going management of the wider AONB. Of particular relevance is the almost parallel AONB Management Plan process: work on the 2019 – 2024 AONB Management Plan will commence in 2018, which will coincide with the evaluation stage of the Landscape Partnership, providing a further link to ensure the sustainability of the Landscape Partnership's work in Upper Nidderdale.

Project Theme	Principal Legacy
Historic Nidderdale	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Historic environment features including an ice house, lead mine smelt mill, ruined farm complex and watermill consolidated to halt further deterioration• First-hand accounts of 20th century moorland management recorded and available for public to listen to online• Historic environment better recorded and 'at risk' features prioritised for future investment• Volunteer groups with interest and skills in heritage conservation• Improved access for the public to experience moorlands and farm heritage
Wildlife & Farming	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Habitat restoration works have contributed to on-going effort to reduce fragmentation and build a resilient habitat network• Sustainable upland farming in the dale strengthened through farmers having an improved understanding of their business• Improved access for public to experience hay meadows and upland birds• Local memories of traditional hay time recorded

Discovery & Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students in local and nearby urban schools have gained a greater understanding of the heritage landscape • Focus for wildlife learning created at Gouthwaite Reservoir • New, urban audiences engaged with Upper Nidderdale • People more interested in and understanding of Upper Nidderdale's landscape through their participation in events, workshops and festivals
Visit Nidderdale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved access for the public to experience the area's important historic environment sites • Interpretation – on the ground at key sites, in publication and online – enabling a deeper understanding of Upper Nidderdale's heritage • Improved orientation facilities providing visitors with information needed to access key sites
Our Rural Future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vocational heritage skills course providing training for local students through work experience with heritage businesses • Improved understanding and skills among tradesmen and homeowners about maintaining the historic built environment • Improved life chances for Community Payback offenders through gaining skills and a qualification in dry stone walling • Tourism businesses working together more closely to provide visitors with a coherent Upper Nidderdale experience

Table 5: Project legacies.

The Partnership recognises that the 4 year investment through the Landscape Partnership scheme is only a part of the story of the securing the long term future of Upper Nidderdale's heritage. Management and Maintenance Agreements will be used to set out, for example, a landowner's maintenance responsibilities for works carried out on their land. The Partnership will also investigate a scheme-wide Management and Maintenance Plan that would bring together all long term maintenance into one overarching plan. This plan would then address issues ranging from long-term maintenance of interpretation panels and website to on-going support for volunteer groups.

8.2 Monitoring and Evaluating the Partnership

Each of the 15 projects in the scheme has a clear set of outputs that help deliver the Partnership's aims and objectives. These outputs are listed in Table 3 of section 7. The principal mechanism for monitoring and evaluating the scheme's success at a project level will be to develop indicators for each of these outputs; annual targets will then be set, which will be tracked and reported. This numerical type of monitoring may, however, not adequately reflect all of the things that the Partnership has achieved. One way to address this problem will be to look at the performance of the Partnership as a whole through formal evaluations. These are planned at mid-delivery phase and at the end of the delivery phase and will include an independent review by external auditors.

Measuring progress will be achieved through a variety of different techniques, such as:

- Volunteer surveys of, for example, flora before and after meadow restoration; breeding bird



numbers;

- Photographic ‘before and after’ records of maintenance to historic environment features or repairs to dry stone walls;
- Visitor surveys to record visitors’ impressions of heritage, interpretation, etc.;
- Recording the number of hours that volunteers have contributed;
- Recording the number of training days undertaken.

As much as possible of this information will also be captured in the output datasheets that HLF collects for all Landscape Partnerships, so will be available to demonstrate the Upper Nidderdale Landscape Partnership’s contribution to the wider national programme.

The Partnership also wants to be able to demonstrate its achievements to a wide audience, which is the rationale for the Upper Nidderdale film (part of the Celebrating Upper Nidderdale project strand). This film about Upper Nidderdale will celebrate the area’s many points of interest, feature interviews with local people and visitors and, importantly, chart the progress of the Landscape Partnership’s work to provide a visual record of the area and the impact the Landscape Partnership has had upon it.

8.3 Adoption and Review

The Upper Nidderdale Landscape Partnership Board reviewed the draft Landscape Conservation Action Plan at their meeting on 19 November 2013. After due consideration, the Board formally adopted the Plan.

The finalised version of the LCAP is kept at the Nidderdale AONB office in Pateley Bridge. Additionally, all of the Landscape Partnership Board members have received copies. Part 1 of the LCAP will be published on the Landscape Partnership website and will be available to download to any interested individuals and organisations.

The LCAP, in particular the project plans, will provide the basis for the work programmes of the project officers and lead partners, coordinated by the Scheme Manager. So as to be able to react to changing circumstances, either because of issues relating to project delivery or external factors, the LCAP will be reviewed annually. The Scheme Manager will be responsible for preparing the review and proposing any changes, which will then be scrutinised by the Landscape Partnership Board.



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