

Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan 2019 - 2024 Summary



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Summary

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) status means that Nidderdale is one of the country's finest landscapes. The special qualities of Nidderdale AONB are embedded in the working nature of the landscape, which supports a wide range of nationally and internationally important habitats and wildlife, and a fascinating cultural heritage.

Nidderdale's Management Plan is a high-level strategy that provides a framework for action designed to protect the AONB's special qualities. The Plan is for everyone with an interest in the AONB.

A long term vision

Our Vision is for Nidderdale AONB to be

- A vibrant working landscape where rural communities, land managers and other rural businesses are working collaboratively together to protect natural beauty
- A place where environmental limits are widely respected and concerted effort is being made to reduce carbon emissions while seeking opportunities to increase carbon storage
- Made up of a resilient landscape renowned for its high windswept moors, ancient woodlands, livestock-grazed pasture, flower-rich meadows, historic country houses and parkland filled with veteran trees
- Home to a greater abundance and diversity of wildlife compared to the 2019 State of Nidderdale's Nature report

- A welcoming destination for people seeking opportunities for recreation
- A place where people can experience tranquility and improve their health and wellbeing

A focus for 2019 - 2024

Over the next five years work in a number of key areas aims to make significant progress towards this Vision.

Wildlife

Work with land managers and partner organisations including Natural England will focus on ensuring designated sites and getting priority habitats outside of these designations into favourable or recovering condition.

Future wildlife conservation work will be based on comprehensive and accurate data that will form the basis for targeted action on wildlife. Over the next five years the AONB will collaborate with partners including the Northern Upland Chain Local Nature Partnership to try and reverse the decline in populations of characteristic upland species, like curlew and adder for example, as well as continuing The Wild Watch and ensuring that robust wildlife data is made widely available.

Landscape

Work on the National Lottery funded Skell Valley project with the National Trust, contributing to development of the the new Environmental Land Management scheme, helping land managers to bring ancient woodlands into active management and implementing the second phase of The Wild Watch project will be priorities in the period covered by this Management Plan.

Promoting understanding of the AONB's natural beauty and landscape is also important; the emphasis will be on monitoring landscape change, safeguarding the tranquility of the AONB and increasing awareness of threats from invasive non-native species and diseases like ash die back.

The planning system has a critical role in ensuring that the openness and unspoilt character of the AONB's landscape is protected and playing an active part in the planning process will continue to be a priority for the AONB's Joint Advisory Committee.

Living and Working in the AONB

Nidderdale's farming industry is at the heart of what makes this landscape so special. At a time of unprecedented uncertainty about the future of upland farming, the Management Plan commits the AONB to work with the industry to try and increase the resilience, profitability and environmental sustainability of farm businesses.

Sustainable tourism initiatives will also be supported through AONB led events as well as through work with tourism partners including Visit Harrogate.

Climate Change

Work on climate change will focus on initiatives to reduce carbon emissions and increase the AONB's capacity for carbon storage for example through restoring its precious peat habitats, significantly increasing the amount of woodland cover and actively supporting installation of renewable energy infrastructure where this does not result in harm to landscape.

Climate change adaptation measures will include implementing a targeted habitat expansion linkage and creation programme, tackling invasive non-native species and natural flood management for example.

Heritage and the Historic Environment

Thousands of years of human activity have given rise to Nidderdale's rich industrial and agricultural heritage. Maintaining the legacy of the Landscape Partnership's work on the archaeology and heritage of Upper Nidderdale will be priority alongside a major investigation of the archaeology and heritage of the Skell Valley in conjunction with the National Trust. The AONB will also use its role in the planning process to protect heritage features from harm.

Understanding and Enjoyment

With 820km of public footpaths and bridleways, the rights of way network in the AONB is key to providing opportunities for enjoyment. A range of activities will focus on improving the quality of rights of way, making them more accessible and improving information about their condition.

Increasing the profile of the AONB; helping people to understand its designation and promoting its special qualities are fundamental to the Management Plan.



Nidderdale
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

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