Nidderdale National Landscape

JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE - MINUTES

10.30 am, 16 April 2026, Council Chamber, NNL Office

1.0 Attendance and notification of substitutes

1.1 **Attendance:**
Jackie Kerr (Parish Council rep)
Sheila Miller (Parish Council rep)
Joanna Wright (Parish Council rep)
Martin Hockey (Ramblers Association)
Jon Parkes (YWT)
Richard Dimon (Natural England)
Andy Croucher (NNL Volunteers)
Andrew Smith (NFU)
Stephen Ramsden (CLA)
Lisa Harrowsmith (Yorkshire Water)
Jan Arger (CPRE)
Justin Scully (National Trust)
Claire Walker (British Horse Society)

1.2 **Officers:**
Jane Lurcuck (NYC)
Iain Mann (NNL)

1.3 **Apologies:**
Cllr. Andrew Murday (NYC)
Cllr. Felicity Cunliffe-Lister (NYC)
Paul Trewitt (Parish Council rep)
Lindsay Wallace (YDMT)
Richard Bruce (Nidderdale Plus)
Shaun Berry (NYC)
Sarah Hart (Community First Yorkshire)

1.4 **Substitutes:**
There were no substitutes.

1.5 It was noted that no North Yorkshire Council members were in attendance, although a NYC officer was present. Section 3.8 of the JAC constitution states that: "No business shall be transacted at a meeting unless North Yorkshire Council is represented and unless there are a minimum of six members of the Committee present." It was agreed that the meeting would go ahead but the report requiring a decision (agenda item 7) would be revisited at the next meeting of the JAC with NYC members present for a formal decision to be made.

2.0 Declarations of interest

2.1 No interests were declared.

3.0 Minutes of the meeting held on 2 October 2025

OFFICIAL

3.1 The minutes were accepted as an accurate record (proposed by LH, seconded by SM).

4.0 Matters arising from the minutes

4.1 *NNL Management Plan (item 6):*
The new National Landscape Management Plan was adopted by North Yorkshire Council on 16 December 2025 using the text that was agreed by the JAC at the October meeting. The Plan is now live, has been circulated to partners and is available on the NNL website.

Nidderdale Community Partnership (item 7):
IM has been attending the Executive of the Nidderdale Community Partnership. The main focus is the development of a Nidderdale Investment Plan. Members were alerted to a meeting of the wider Community Partnership on 21 April, organised by Nidderdale Plus.

Boundary Commission (item 8)
JW confirmed that a letter was sent to the Boundary Commission representing the views of the majority of the JAC. The matter is now closed with the creation of the new Upper Wharfedale & Upper Nidderdale division. It was noted that there may be implications for the NYC membership of the JAC, as the National Landscape will be covered by 4 divisions from May 2027.

NYM Wildfire Update (item 11)
The intention had been for a review of the lessons learnt from the 2025 North York Moors wildfire incident to be part of the April meeting however the report has not yet been published and is now due in June. This will therefore be covered at the July meeting of the JAC.
Action: IM to schedule an agenda item for the July JAC to cover lessons learnt from the NYM wildfire incident.

5.0 Review of delivery against 2025/26 Business Plan

5.1 IM circulated a written report prior to the meeting.

Purpose of report: to provide JAC Members with a summary of delivery against the 2025/26 Business Plan.

Recommendations: JAC Members were asked to note the report on 2025/26 delivery and feedback any comments to the NNL Manager.

IM provided an overview of the actions by the NNL team during the 2025/26 financial year. He highlighted:

- Completion of new Management Plan
- Delivery of Defra-funded capital projects, including agricultural roof-top solar pilot project, wetland habitat creation and species-rich grassland enhancement
- Farming in Protected Landscapes programme Year 5, including innovative projects such as Nidderdale Feast and research into Sheepfix peatland restoration technique
- Farm conservation advice and support
- Woodland and hedgerow advice and support
- Delivery of Access for All project, including enhanced path surfaces, creation of 2 new 'tramper' hubs and promotion of suitable routes
- Work of volunteers, particularly the Nidderdale Conservation Volunteers and Walling Group, whose efforts contribute significantly to many conservation projects

5.2 The poor condition of the surface of the Nidderdale Way just to the south of Gouthwaite Reservoir was raised as an issue.
Action: IM to follow up with NYC Public Rights of Way team.

OFFICIAL

6.0 Management Plan Delivery Framework

6.1 IM circulated a written report prior to the meeting.

Purpose of report: to set out the delivery framework and monitoring approach for the 2025-2030 Management Plan.

Recommendations: JAC Members were asked to note the proposed delivery framework and feedback any comments on the framework or monitoring to the NNL Manager.

IM highlighted the wide range of organisations who have come forward as Delivery Organisations to take a leadership role in delivering Management Plan objectives. It is very heartening to see the level of support. IM also noted the important role of the National Landscape team is collating information on what is being achieved so that it is possible to publish a concise summary report that provides a commentary on progress against each objective.

6.2 Members considered that an annual report to be presented at the summer JAC would be ideal, with Delivery Organisations prompted to provide an update in March/April to feed into this.

7.0 Motorised recreational vehicles on sensitive routes

7.1 IM circulated a written report prior to the meeting.

Purpose of report: to provide members with information about motorised recreational vehicles on sensitive 'green lane' routes; and seek members views on how any adverse impacts from such use should be managed.

Recommendations:

- Decide how they want the JAC to respond to the upcoming consultations by North Yorkshire Council on definitive map modification orders to define routes across Blubberhouse Moor, Denton Moor and Langbar Moor as byways open to all traffic.
- Decide whether they consider any management options are needed for the sensitive routes identified in this report and, if so, what options the JAC should recommend to North Yorkshire Council.

7.2 As noted at 1.5, due to no North Yorkshire Council members being in attendance, it was agreed this report would be revisited at the next meeting of the JAC with NYC members present for a formal decision on the recommendations to be made.

7.3 IM explained the issues associated with motorised vehicles on sensitive routes (both unsurfaced, unclassified roads and byways open to all traffic) and presented example photographs for some routes within the National Landscape.

7.4 Members discussed the issue:

- Concerns were raised around impacts caused by motorised recreation vehicles including potential loss of priority habitat, exacerbating water erosion and increasing overland sediment flow, damage to routes, challenges of on-going maintenance, damage to scheduled monuments.
- Consideration was given to inviting vehicle user groups (Trail Riders Fellowship and Land Access & Recreation Association) to talk to the JAC, although there was concern these groups might not represent those actually using the routes.
- Monitoring usage will be important.
- General view (to be revisited at future meeting for a formal decision) was that the sensitive routes crossing Blubberhouses, Denton and Langbar Moors require some

OFFICIAL

form of traffic regulation order to manage use; whereas the route along In Moor Lane requires maintenance.

8.0 Community Led Housing

8.1 Sarah Hart, Nidderdale Community Led Housing Officer from Community First Yorkshire, was due to present her work on identifying opportunities for community-led housing in the National Landscape but was unable to attend the meeting. This item was therefore not discussed.

9.0 Summary of planning application responses

9.1 A summary of planning consultation responses was circulated prior to the meeting, showing that in the period October 2025 to March 2026, the JAC (via the JAC Executive) commented on 45 planning applications, with a total of 85 applications scrutinised during this period.

10.0 Reports from partners

10.1 RD noted the launch of the new Natural England strategy; on-going work to improve joint working between NE staff and the NNL team; and NE's proposal to give "earned autonomy" to trusted partners to reduce bureaucratic load.

JP noted a new report that builds on from the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust *State of Yorkshire's Nature*, which is called *Bringing Yorkshire's Nature Back, a blueprint for nature's recovery.* YWT have convened a meeting with a wide range of conservation partners to discuss how this can be implemented.

SM noted that Joseph Haywood, NNL Grassland Officer, had met with Azerley Parish Council to discuss delivering wildflower restoration on parish council land.

JA noted that the Campaign to Protect Rural England was celebrating its 100th anniversary. Locally, CPRE is doing a lot of work on land use planning. JA noted the emerging Harrogate Town Neighbourhood Plan which could see urban expansion into surrounding rural areas.

AS noted the National Farmers Union's concerns about inappropriate tree planting and large-scale solar farms on productive land.

MH noted the work of the Ramblers Association rights of way maintenance team in the Lower Wharfedale area. They are already doing lots of good work and are looking to expand the area they cover and to do more.

AC noted the work of the Nidderdale Conservation Volunteers, with a significant amount of tree and hedgerow planting completed over the winter. There has been an increase in the number of volunteers, with the potential for an extra group.

JL noted the work of the NYC Planning Policy team who are currently working through the new regulations from government in order to put together a timetable for the North Yorkshire Local Plan. This will be published shortly.

JS noted that the National Trust has been working closely with NYC Tourism on the economic impact of tourism. The NT are hosting landscape artist of the year at Brimham Rocks.

LH noted the work of Beyond Nature Farming Officers who have been very busy working with Yorkshire Water tenants, including supporting them to access Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier, hedgerow creation and woodland management and new wildlife pond creation. There has also been lots of work at the Timble Ings Biohub. Yorkshire Water's CEO, Nicola Shaw, and the York & North Yorkshire Mayor, David Skaith, visited Scow Hall Farm.

OFFICIAL

SR noted the installation of vehicle width limit signage at Wath to try to prevent damage to Wath Mill bridge. SR expressed concern that wind turbines are not part of permitted development in protected landscapes. SR noted the increase in beef and sheep prices. SR expressed concern about understocking on moorlands and wildfire risk.

11.0 Any other business

11.1 There was no other business.

The summer meeting of the JAC is 16 July and will include an afternoon site visit.
The autumn meeting of the JAC (including elections) is 8 October.

OFFICIAL