Nidderdale National Landscape

# JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE – MINUTES

## 11.00 am, 17 July 2025, Council Chamber, NNL Office

**1.0 Attendance and notification of substitutes**

1.1 **Attendance:**
Cllr. Andrew Murday (NYC)
Cllr. Felicity Cunliffe-Lister (NYC)
Jackie Kerr (Parish Council rep)
Sheila Miller (Parish Council rep)
Paul Trewitt (Parish Council rep)
Joanne Wright (Parish Council rep)
Martin Hockey (Ramblers Association)
Claire Walker (British Horse Society)
Mark Excelby (Tenant Farmers Association)
Jon Parkes (Yorkshire Wildlife Trust)
Richard Dimon (Natural England)
Andy Croucher (NNL Volunteers)
Andrew Smith (National Farmers Union)
Richard Bruce (Nidderdale Plus)
Tom Wheelwright (Moorland Association)
Stephen Ramsden (CLA)
Lisa Harrowsmith (Yorkshire Water)
Jen Taylor (National Trust)

1.2 **Officers:**
Christy Irish (NNL)
Iain Mann (NNL)

1.3 **Apologies:**
Cllr. Nathan Hull (NYC)
Justin Scully (National Trust)
Jan Arger (CPRE)
Lindsay Wallace (YDMT)
Shaun Berry (NYC)
Jane Lurcuck (NYC)

1.4 **Substitutes:**
Jen Taylor for Justin Scully

**2.0 Declarations of interest**

2.1 No interests were declared.

**3.0 Minutes of the meeting held on 3 April 2025**

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



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**4.0 Matters arising from the minutes**

4.1 *Promoting work of NNL Team:* IM reported back on the new NNL website and comms work that will increase promotion of the range of work undertaken by the team. AM suggested that JAC Members could also help by reposting NNL social media posts via their own channels.
*Skell Valley Project celebration event:* IM thanked JAC Members who attended the successful end-of-project celebration events at Fountains Abbey in May.

Action: IM to circulate NNL social media links to JAC Members so that Members can amplify the team's work via their own channels.

**5.0 2025/26 Business Plan**

5.1 IM circulated a written report prior to the meeting.

Purpose of report: to outline to JAC Members the NNL team's 2025/26 work programme.

Recommendations: JAC Members were asked to note the planned actions in the 2025/26 Business Plan and feedback any comments to the NNL Manager.

IM highlighted the work planned by the NNL team for 2025/26, noting the ongoing work to complete the Management Plan, challenges and opportunities from the current Defra grant settlement, on-going delivery of the Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) programme, continuing farmer and land management advice, access for all work and the new A59 Kex Gill offsite landscape and biodiversity mitigation project.

5.2 AM highlighted the range of funding available via the York & North Yorkshire Combined Authority through their allocation of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural England Prosperity Fund.

**6.0 Defra Ministerial Letter**

6.1 IM circulated the letter from Mary Creagh, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Nature at Defra, prior to the meeting. The minister had requested that the letter be shared with the partnership. IM noted and welcomed the support for protected landscapes outlined in the letter, including recognition of the importance of the locally created Management Plan. IM also highlighted the Government's commitment, as set out in the letter, to "reinvigorating Protected Landscapes with new legislation, resources and tools."

6.2 ME suggested that the JAC should invite Defra ministers and/or senior officials to see the work taking place in the National Landscape. AM said that the JAC Executive would consider the best approach to securing a Defra visit.

Action: JAC Executive to identify what we are seeking to achieve by a Defra visit and how best to secure this.

6.3 MH noted the reference in the letter to the new Government guidance to relevant authorities and asked where this can be found. IM stated that the guidance is on the gov.uk website.

Action: IM to provide Members with the link to the gov.uk guidance to relevant authorities.

**7.0 NY Local Plan Issues & Options Consultation**

7.1 IM circulated the agreed JAC response to the NYC consultation prior to the meeting. The response highlights that different national planning policy applies in protected landscapes and,



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therefore, the Local Plan should reflect this by also having different policies within National Landscapes compared to outside designated areas. The response also emphasises the need for different policy in terms of housing development in the National Landscape that focuses on creating a more appropriate housing supply suited to local community housing needs.

7.2 Members discussed the emerging North Yorkshire Local Plan in the context of Nidderdale National Landscape, with a particular focus on the importance of truly affordable housing.

**8.0 Management Plan update**

8.1 IM circulated a written report prior to the meeting.

Purpose of report: to report back on the informal stakeholder consultation on the draft Management Plan objectives, update on the full draft Management Plan and seek JAC approval to carry out a public consultation on the draft Plan.

Recommendations: JAC Members were asked to:

i. Consider the proposed changes to the objectives in Part 2 following the informal stakeholder consultation and agree on their inclusion within the Management Plan.
ii. Approve the current draft Management Plan structure and text.
iii. Agree whether they wish to review the finalised document prior to the start of the public consultation and, if so, what mechanism should be used to agree the final version.
iv. Subject to the above, agree to proceed to a public consultation on the finalised draft Management Plan.

8.2 IM reported on the very helpful feedback received via the informal stakeholder consultation process. In general, it has been possible to include appropriate text to respond to most comments. IM highlighted four specific issues that were not considered appropriate to include in the revised Management Plan. Members agreed these were not appropriate for inclusion. In the context of the Living & working section, Members also discussed the importance of, and challenges in, retaining the tenanted rural housing stock on estates.

8.3 FCL suggested that action on green energy was not sufficiently prominent in the Plan. IM noted the inclusion of objective CC-6 on support for small-scale renewable energy. Members considered that green energy should be made more prominent in the introductory text to the climate change objectives section. Subject to this change, Members approved the current structure and text.

Action: IM to include appropriate reference to green energy in the climate change objectives introductory text.

8.4 IM explained that the final part of the document (Part 3 – Context and Delivery) was currently presented in outline and was still to be completed. Members decided to review the final draft by email prior to the document being issued for public consultation.

Action: IM to finalise the document and circulate by email to JAC Members for any comments.

8.5 Subject to the above, Members agreed to proceed to the public consultation on the finalised draft Management Plan.

Action: IM to run the public consultation once above actions completed.



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**9.0 Wetlands Project**

9.1 Christy Irish, NNL Wetlands Project Officer, gave a presentation on the National Landscape's Wetlands Project showing the process for selecting sites within the context of the Nature Recovery Plan wetland opportunity mapping, working with landowners to ensure all proposals suited their needs and their on-going land management, securing permissions, delivering the conservation works and providing future management advice to landowners. The project has been very successful, working across 17 sites to create 4.98 ha of new wetland habitat via 52 new ponds, 7 restored ponds, 5 new swales and 15 wading bird scrapes.

**10.0 Any other business**

10.1 There was no other business.

10.2 The formal part of the meeting closed and was followed by an afternoon site visit looking at examples of wetland habitat creation, led by Christy Irish.

10.3 The autumn meeting of the JAC (including elections) is 2 October.



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