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### Friends of the AONB

Friends is a membership organisation dedicated to supporting the aims of the AONB. Subscription is by financial donation or by an environmental pledge. The organisation is administered by a committee of volunteers elected at an Annual General Meeting. In addition to conservation work by individual members, Friends provide financial support for environmental projects. The Friends are represented on the JAC.

### Joint Advisory Committee

The work of the AONB Team is managed by members of a Joint Advisory Committee (JAC). Their role is to advise local authorities and other agencies about how to best achieve AONB objectives. Their terms of reference are to:

- ▶ promote awareness and understanding of Nidderdale AONB;
- ▶ advise local authorities, and other bodies, on conservation, informal recreation and environmental management in the AONB;
- ▶ advise on the preparation, implementation and review of a Management Plan for the AONB;
- ▶ consider and offer advice on development plan policies, proposals and reviews insofar as they relate to the AONB;
- ▶ act as a forum for discussion of major issues affecting the character of the AONB and, where appropriate, make recommendations.

The JAC also receive an annual review of work undertaken by the AONB team.

The JAC has a maximum membership of 28 including representatives of County, District and Parish Councils, landowning bodies, Government agencies, community organisations and business.



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### The AONB Team

The AONB Team is funded by Natural England, Harrogate Borough Council, North Yorkshire County Council and a number of other organisations. The Team provides advice, practical help and funding for:

- ▶ conservation projects including Environmental Stewardship;
- ▶ community initiatives that help further AONB objectives;
- ▶ improvements to access and projects that increase people's enjoyment of the AONB;
- ▶ volunteer and young people's groups working on the AONB's environment and heritage;
- ▶ education and training programmes that increase environmental awareness;
- ▶ information and interpretation projects that contain AONB messages.

Image credits: 'TC' = © & with kind permission of Tristan Campbell see more of his work at: [www.absolutely-nothing.co.uk](http://www.absolutely-nothing.co.uk) 'TB' = Tessa Bunney. 'RH' = Robert Hudson, Masham Camera Club. 'AONB' = Nidderdale AONB

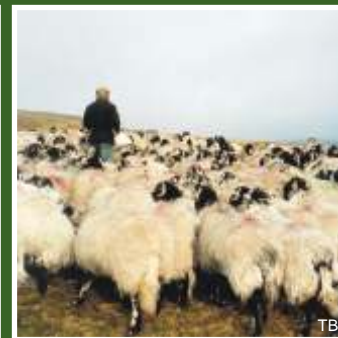
# Nidderdale AONB: Understanding the Designation



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Front page: main picture, purple heather-clad moorland is just one of the AONB's characteristics. Insets l-r: a farm track over the moor; sheep follow the shepherd; River Skell near Sawley; Fountains Abbey World Heritage Site. Inner spread, l-r: Derelict millpond seen from its sluice house window. Gritstone outcrops surround Brimham Rocks visitor centre. Pastureland. This page: Oyster catchers patrol Gouthwaite Reservoir. Afternoon sun over Scar House Reservoir. A tranquil view of Thruscross Reservoir. Centuries of agricultural practice helped create this landscape.

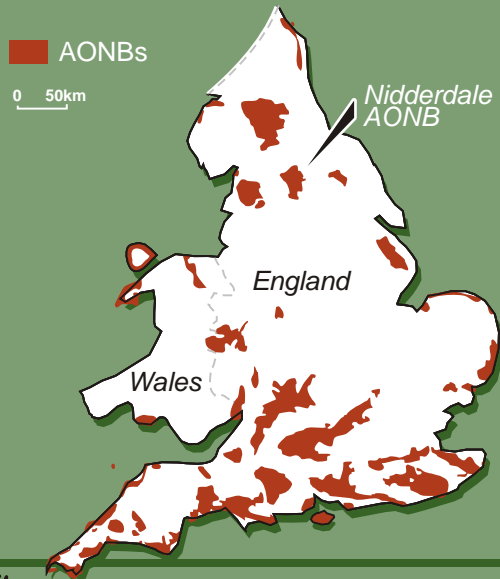
# Outstanding Landscapes

In 1949 the Government decided that the nation's finest landscapes should be safeguarded so that future generations would be able to enjoy them. The result was the "National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949" which led to the creation of both National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

Over a period of 50 years 12 National Parks and 41 AONBs were designated. The key difference between the two designations is that the provision for recreation implicit in National Park designation was not made a specific purpose of AONBs - no distinction is drawn in terms of landscape quality.

The primary purpose of AONB designation is to conserve and enhance natural beauty. AONBs should safeguard agriculture, forestry, rural industries and the economic and social needs of local communities. AONBs should meet the demands for recreation without this conflicting with the conservation of their natural beauty and the needs of agriculture, forestry and other users.

## AONBs in England & Wales



## Nidderdale AONB

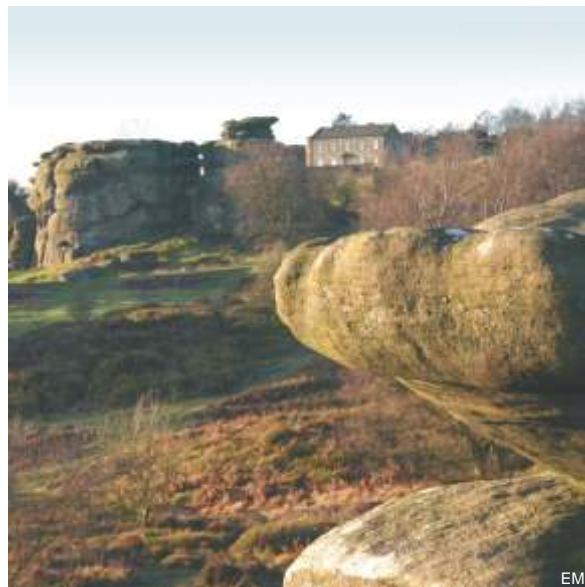
The Nidderdale AONB was formally designated by the Secretary of State on the 14th February 1994. The designated area covers 603 sq km (233 sq miles).

It is a working landscape that has evolved over centuries of human activity. The central feature of the AONB is the broad, impressive dale of the Nidd, running from the wild fells around Great Whernside, south and east towards the Vale of York. The valley has been moulded by a rich land-use history embracing agriculture, mining, quarrying, textiles and water provision. The dale edge is punctuated by craggy gritstone outcrops like those at Brimham Rocks and Guisecliffe. All of these features are echoed in the smaller dales of the Washburn, Laver, Skell and Burn.

The varied landscape has created diverse habitats supporting a wide range of flora and fauna of national and international importance. It is also a rich and complex historic environment with a wealth of medieval landscape features still visible in the more recent legacy of the AONB's industrial past.

## Management of the AONB

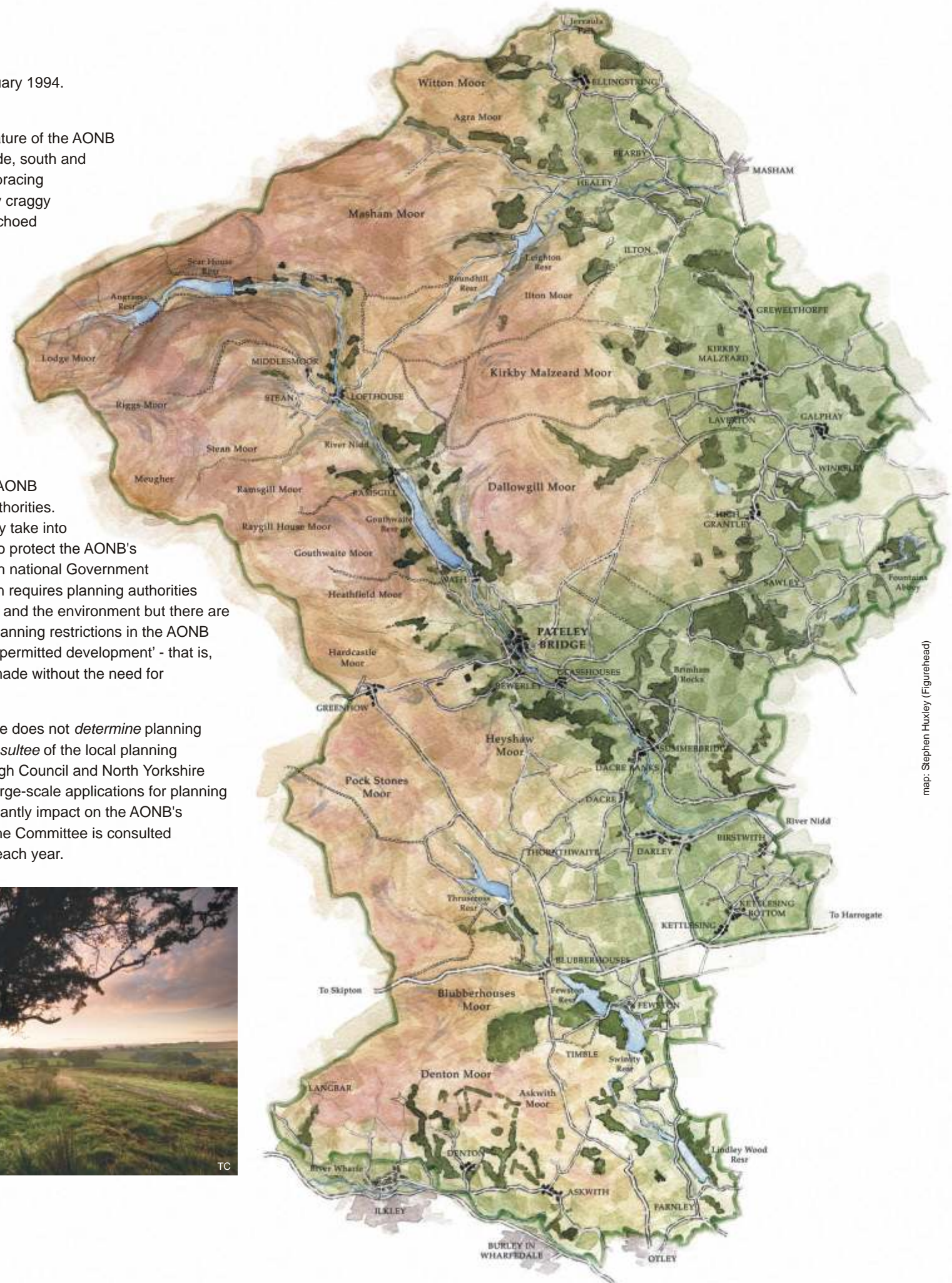
Management of the AONB's nationally important landscape is carried out on a day-to-day basis by farmers, sporting estates, individual householders and many others. Their work, together with the legacy left by generations of land managers, is manifested in the AONB's special qualities and is the reason for the designation.



Management of the designation is about making sure that individual land management decisions, together with actions by local authorities, Government agencies and private sector organisations, can contribute to the AONB's objectives. Responsibility for managing the designation rests with the AONB's Joint Advisory Committee and the AONB Team based in Pateley Bridge. However, there are no wide-ranging statutory powers to enforce the AONB's primary objective of conserving and enhancing natural beauty so we must rely on goodwill and partnership-working to make progress.

Planning applications in the AONB are dealt with by the local authorities. In making their decisions they take into account policies developed to protect the AONB's landscape in accordance with national Government guidance. AONB designation requires planning authorities to take account of landscape and the environment but there are only very limited additional planning restrictions in the AONB which control the amount of 'permitted development' - that is, development which can be made without the need for planning consent.

The Joint Advisory Committee does not *determine* planning applications itself. It is a *consultee* of the local planning authorities (Harrogate Borough Council and North Yorkshire County Council) mainly on large-scale applications for planning permission that could significantly impact on the AONB's environment. On average, the Committee is consulted on 75 planning applications each year.



map: Stephen Huxley (Figurehead)