

As a landowner in the AONB, you are the guardian of a landscape which is steeped in history. However, you may have archaeological remains on your land or in your buildings that you are not aware of. This leaflet will help you identify archaeological sites and offers simple and practical advice on how they can be managed. By following these steps you will play a vital role in protecting the heritage of the AONB.



Advice on all types of archaeology can be obtained from:

**Nidderdale AONB**  
Council Offices  
King Street  
Pateley Bridge  
HG3 5LE  
Tel: 01423 712950

**English Heritage**  
37 Tanner Row  
York  
YO1 6WP  
Tel: 01904 601901

**Heritage Unit**  
Environmental Services  
North Yorkshire County Council  
County Hall  
Northallerton  
DL7 8AH  
Tel: 01609 780780

**Museum and Arts**  
(Harrogate Borough Council)  
Royal Pump Room Museum  
Crown Place  
Harrogate  
HG1 2RY  
Tel: 01423 556188



Bordered by Harrogate and Ripon to the east, and Ilkley and Otley to the south, Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is one of 41 landscapes in England and Wales recognised by Government for their special qualities.

The aims of the AONB designation are to:

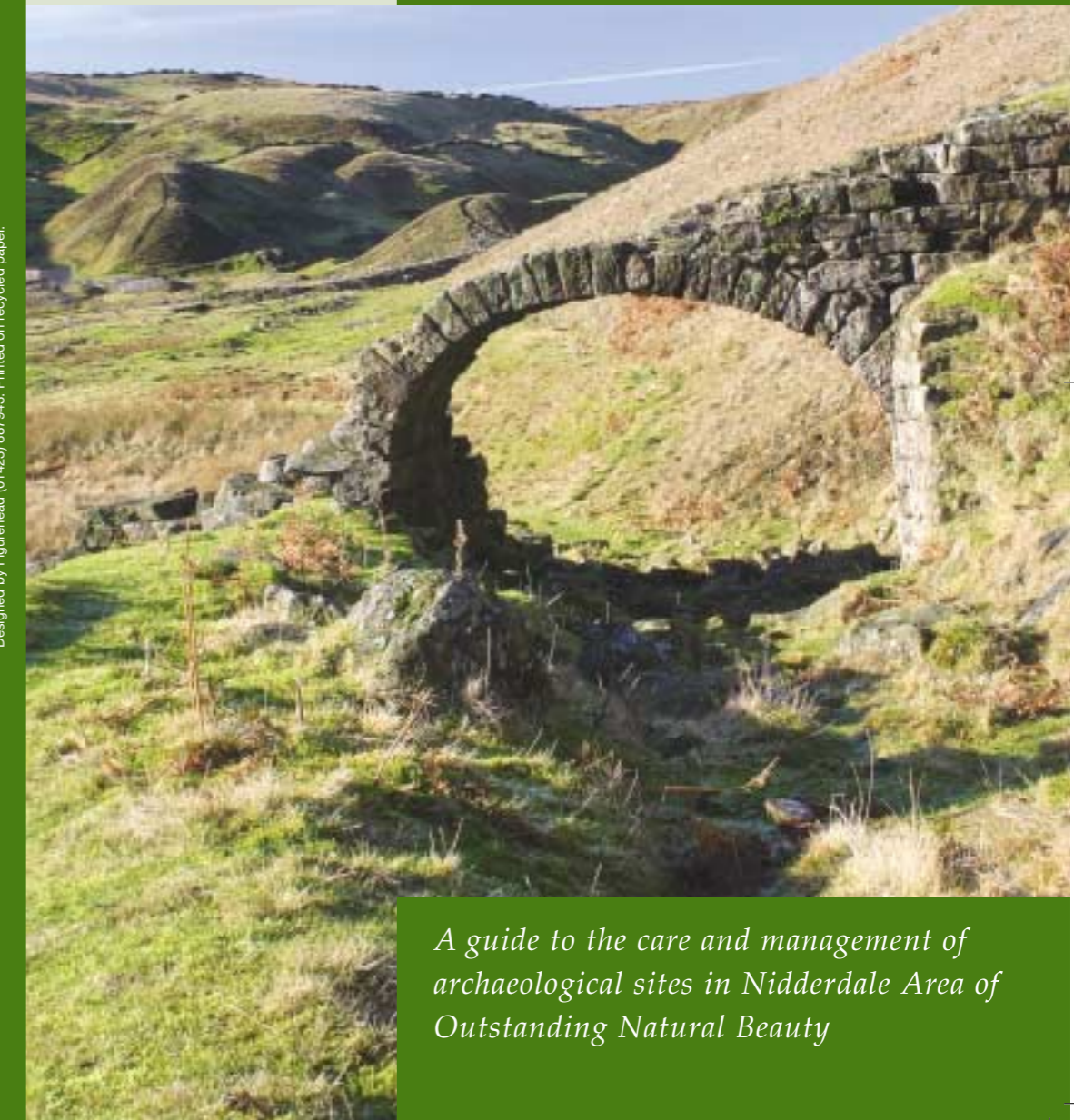
- conserve and enhance natural beauty
- encourage social and economic development which contributes to the AONB's natural beauty
- improve the management of recreation and tourism

Nidderdale AONB is overseen by a Joint Advisory Committee: membership includes Parish, Borough and County Councillors alongside representatives from landowners, farmers and conservation bodies.

To contact Nidderdale AONB: telephone (01423) 712950 or visit our website [www.nidderdaleaonb.org.uk](http://www.nidderdaleaonb.org.uk)



# Industrial Archaeology



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*A guide to the care and management of archaeological sites in Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty*

## What is Archaeology?

Archaeology is anything created or affected by humans in the past, from thousands of years ago to more recent times. It can give clues to how we used to live - particularly when written records have been destroyed or do not exist.

*Industrial archaeology* is a special term which describes the remains of former industries. It can include buildings, machinery and elements of the landscape. Within Nidderdale AONB there is a huge amount of very important industrial archaeology. This reflects the area's past where lead mining, coal mining, farming and textile production all had an important role.

To uncover industrial archaeology look out for the following:

- Former industrial buildings (both derelict and converted) can contain evidence of their past use such as fragments of machinery, holes in walls for drive shafts, or marks where machinery once stood.
- Buried deposits in and outside buildings can tell a lot about processes that have taken place on a site. Rusty old machinery may look like scrap, but to an archaeologist it could be the last surviving evidence of a lost industry.
- Shaft mounds and spoil heaps can provide information about the history of mining and often create a unique habitat for specialised and rare plants.
- Many industries used water power of which dams and leats often survive.
- The structure of dry stone walls, style of gate posts, stone steps and stone flagged paths may indicate the line of ancient boundaries.



Front cover: Remains of Providence Smelt Mill, Cockhill.

Inside flap: Toft Gate Lime Kiln chimney and flue.

Back cover: Lead mine workings.

Main pictures left to right: Weir at Summerbridge.

Stone steps, Fishpond Wood.

Glasshouses Mill.

## Threats to Industrial Archaeology

Industrial archaeology covers such a wide range of sites that it would be difficult to list every threat, so the following are general guidelines:

### Animals

Over-grazing of animals can cause damage to sites through erosion. Feeding stock in one area can also lead to erosion and damage to earthworks. Burrowing animals can cause damage to fragile earthwork features.

### Land management

Drainage works, tree or hedge planting, tipping, building roads or walls and erecting fences can all cause damage to archaeology if not carefully managed. Removing spoil to repair roads is a major threat to spoil heaps and shaft mounds.

### Building work

Demolition, reuse or insensitive conversion and renovation of buildings can result in a loss of archaeological information.

### Recreational activities

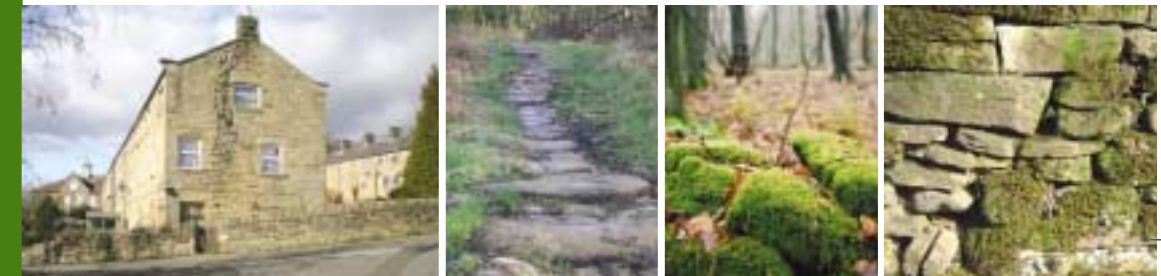
Over-use of footpaths and bridleways by walkers, horse riders, mountain bikes and motor bikes can all lead to erosion problems.

### Lack of knowledge

Many people do not realise the historic importance of disused industrial sites.

## Why should we preserve it?

- Archaeology is often our only source of information about the past and it forms an important part of the local historic environment. Within Nidderdale AONB, past industries form a major part of that archaeology.
- Many people who live in the AONB enjoy learning about their local heritage. Discovering archaeological clues in the landscape is vital to their work.
- The landscape of the AONB is a valuable historical resource, but it is like a complex jigsaw puzzle with pieces missing. The more pieces we have, the better we can understand the picture of the past. When it is destroyed, it is gone forever.
- Visitors to the area may find the industrial archaeology of the AONB as an unexpected discovery, others come just to see and study particular sites.



## How can I look after Industrial Archaeology?

- Avoid digging into shaft mounds and spoil heaps.
- Quarries and mine shafts should not be used to dump rubbish. This can damage or prevent access to the archaeology and creates an eyesore as well as creating a hidden hazard because material in the mouths of shafts can cover deep voids.
- Former industrial buildings can contain evidence of past use. Consider recording or preserving these features if any building work is planned. If in doubt, consult a local archaeologist.
- If you have old machinery on your property find out if it is important before removing it.
- Avoid making changes to water courses and dams as this may damage the archaeology and result in the erosion of features.
- Control rabbits by non-invasive methods. Badgers are highly destructive to archaeology but are a protected species. A licence is required from Defra or English Nature before trying to move them.
- Seek archaeological advice before planting trees or hedges or erecting fences. It may damage the appearance of the landscape and cause damage to underlying archaeology.
- Nationally important sites are often scheduled as Ancient Monuments, others may be designated as Listed Buildings. Harrogate Borough Council, North Yorkshire County Council or English Heritage can tell you if a site is designated and advise on permissions or consents that may be required before making changes.
- If in doubt ask!

