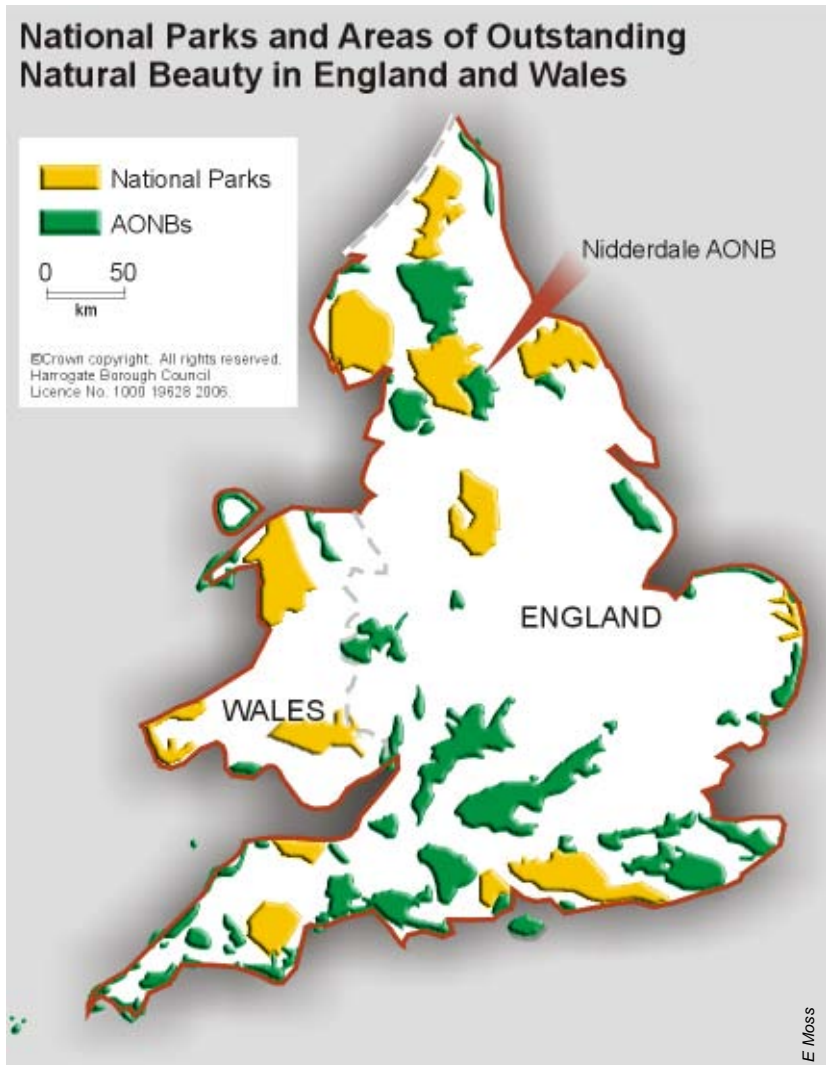


Protected Landscapes - Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks

In the late 1940s it was decided that the nation's finest landscapes should be safeguarded so that future generations would be able to enjoy them. Beautiful wild spaces were to be protected from encroachment by new development needed to provide homes and workplaces for the country's growing population.

The result was the "National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949" which led to the creation both of National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Over a period of 50 years 12 National Parks and 41 AONB's 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 - there is no distinction drawn regarding landscape quality.

To learn more about the designation of protected landscapes visit the Countryside Agency's website: www.countryside.gov.uk and search for "Designated Landscapes".



Also visit the AONB website: www.aonb.org.uk for general information on AONBs.

Roundhill reservoir: E Moss

Nidderdale AONB

Nidderdale AONB was designated in 1994 and covers 603sq km (233sq miles). The designation aims to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area. This not only covers natural features but also the villages, towns (and livelihoods) of those who live and work in the area.

What makes Nidderdale AONB so special:

- The contrasting scenery, which includes vast areas of moorland, river valleys, reservoirs, ancient woods and traditional farmland.

- The mixture of many plants and animals, many of which are protected by law.
- The wealth of historical sites and archaeological remains, including the World Heritage Site of Fountains Abbey.
- Generations who have created the beautiful landscape with villages and dry stone walls.

The sites highlighted in this pack were chosen because they illustrate some of the important features of this protected landscape but also lend themselves to education and new learning experiences.

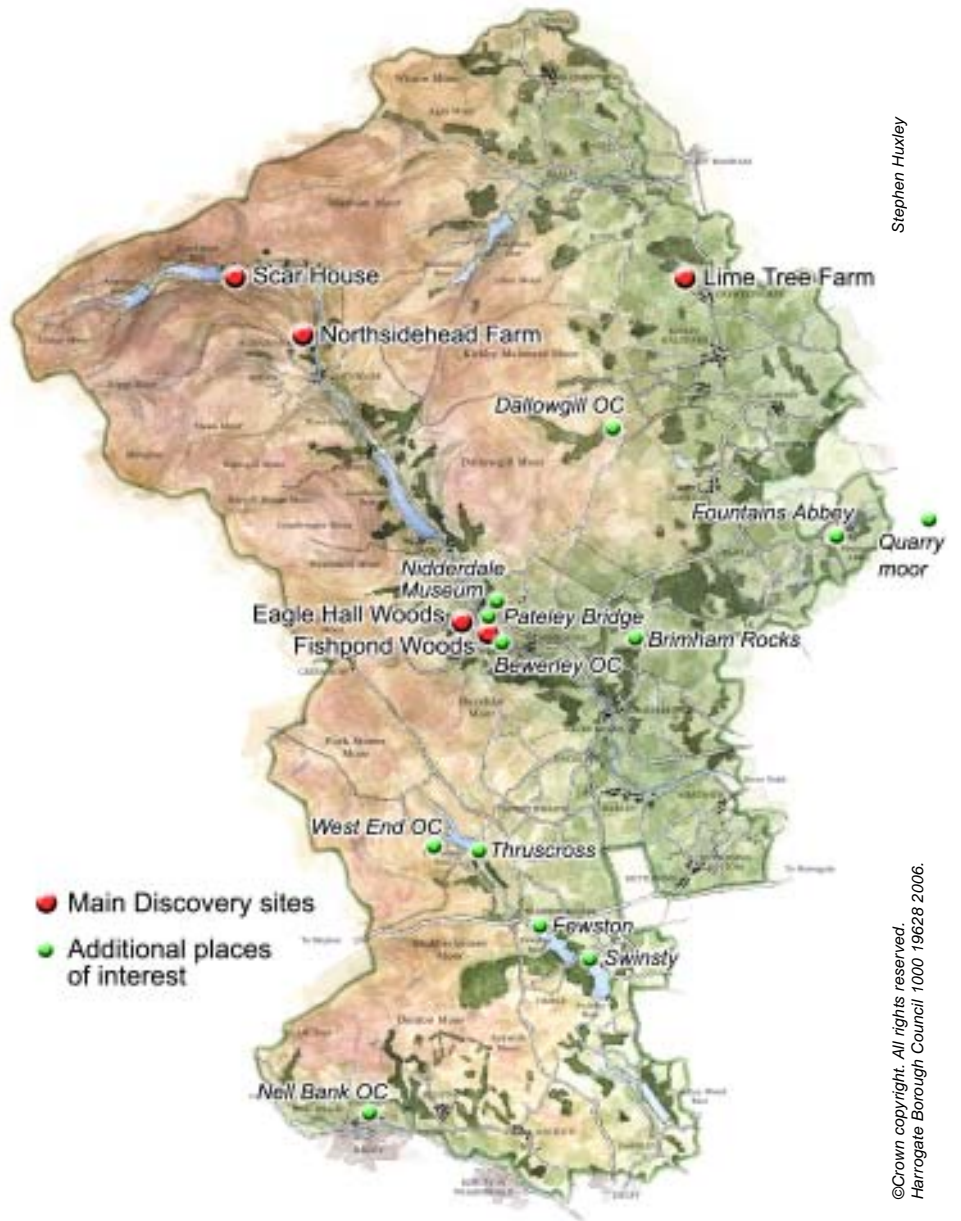


AONB

E Moss

AONB

T Burney



Stephen Huxley

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