

# North Yorkshire

## Personal Details:

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**Organisation Name:** Nidderdale National Landscape Joint Advisory Committee (Representative of a local organisation)

## Comment text:

Please find attached a response to the North Yorkshire Council boundary review consultation from Joanna Wright, Vice-chair, on behalf of the Nidderdale National Landscape Joint Advisory Committee.

Regards  
Iain Mann.

## Attached Documents:

- nnl\_jac\_letter\_nyc\_boundary\_review.pdf

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**Nidderdale  
National  
Landscape**

Review Officer (North Yorkshire)  
The Local Government Boundary Commission for England  
7th Floor, 3 Bunhill Row  
London, EC1Y 8YZ

9 December 2024

### **Consultation on the electoral review of North Yorkshire**

Dear Review Officer

This letter sets out the significant concerns of the Nidderdale National Landscape Joint Advisory Committee on the proposed division boundary changes for North Yorkshire Council in relation to the National Landscape and its communities.

Nidderdale National Landscape is a designated area of outstanding natural beauty whose boundary is wholly within North Yorkshire. The National Landscape covers 601km<sup>2</sup> and its designation means that this is one of the country's finest landscapes whose special qualities are embedded in the working nature of the landscape, which supports a wide range of nationally and internationally important habitats and wildlife, and a strong cultural heritage with deep community ties. The statutory purpose of the National Landscape is 'to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area', and the work of the National Landscape Partnership reflects not only conservation but also the fact that Nidderdale National Landscape is a place where people live, work, farm and visit.

The Nidderdale National Landscape Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) is an independent committee that oversees the development and delivery of the National Landscape's statutory [Management Plan](#). Membership of the JAC consists of 3 North Yorkshire Councillors, 4 Parish Council representatives and 14 special interest group representatives (representing conservation, landowner, community and access interests). The Nidderdale National Landscape boundary coincides with 3 current North Yorkshire Council divisions and it is these local councillors who are members of the JAC on behalf of North Yorkshire Council. The divisions are: all of Pateley Bridge & Nidderdale; and the majority of both Masham & Fountains and Washburn & Birstwith.

The Committee notes that the revised electoral divisions as proposed by North Yorkshire Council (NYC) would see a new "Nidderdale" division that covers the part of Nidderdale south-east of Pateley Bridge, while Pateley Bridge and the Upper Nidderdale area would be amalgamated with Wharfedale to the west to create a very large division called "Wharfedale".

The consultation (see [LGBCE website](#)) makes clear that the new divisions should reflect local communities and identities. The Committee's view is that the current NYC proposal for the Nidderdale area does not reflect the local community and its identity.

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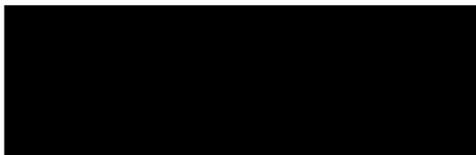
The Nidderdale valley and its communities are a core part of the Nidderdale National Landscape area and are intimately connected to each other through the area's long shared cultural heritage. The market town of Pateley Bridge is the principal town in the area, siting approximately halfway along the Nidd valley. To the town's north-west the river Nidd connects the small villages of Wath, Ramsgill and Lofthouse to Middlesmoor at the head of the valley. Travelling downstream from Pateley Bridge leads to Glasshouses, Summerbridge, on towards Darley and then to Birstwith and the south-eastern boundary of the National Landscape. Uphill from the valley floor on the dale sides, tiny hamlets and isolated farmsteads make up the wider community.

By contrast, the communities in Wharfedale are separated from Upper Nidderdale by an imposing and rarely crossed area of rugged moorland some 10km wide. Travelling by road from Middlesmoor at the head of Nidderdale to Buckden (towards but not actually at the head of Wharfedale) is an hour-long car journey of 45km. In other words, there is a distinct separation which is imposed by the landscape itself, rather than any manmade boundaries.

The Committee therefore is opposed to a change in electoral divisions that seeks to include the communities of Pateley Bridge and Upper Nidderdale with those from the Wharfedale area and requests that the Boundary Commission ensures that the North Yorkshire Council representation for the Upper Nidderdale and Pateley Bridge area remains in Nidderdale.

Since the Chair of the JAC is the current North Yorkshire Councillor for the Pateley Bridge & Nidderdale division, this letter is signed by the Committee's Vice-chair to make clear that this is the view of the Committee as a whole and does not represent a partisan view of a single councillor.

Yours sincerely

A large black rectangular box redacting the signature of the Vice-chair.

Joanna Wright  
Vice-chair of the Nidderdale National Landscape Joint Advisory Committee