

North Yorkshire

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Comment text:

Please find attached the response of the Nidderdale National Landscape to the Local Government Boundary Commission proposals.

Yours sincerely

Joanna Wright

Vice Chair of the Executive Committee of the Joint Advisory Committee of the Nidderdale Landscape

Attached Documents:

- nnl_jac_letter_nyc_boundary_review_revised.pdf

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

12th October 2025

Consultation on the electoral review of North Yorkshire

Dear Review Officer

This letter reiterates the concerns of members of the Nidderdale National Landscape Joint Advisory Committee, as expressed in our letter of 9 December 2024, on the proposed division boundary changes for North Yorkshire Council in relation to the National Landscape and its communities, following the Local Government Boundary Commission's publication of its consultation on revised proposals for the area.

As explained previously, 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 "further draft recommendations" proposed by the Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBC), while recognising a Lower Nidderdale area and, further south, Pannal & Washburn, would see Pateley Bridge and the Upper Nidderdale area being amalgamated with Wharfedale to the west to create a very large division called "Upper Wharfedale & Upper Nidderdale".

The LGBC makes clear that new divisions should reflect local communities and identities. Members of the Committee would like to re-emphasise their previous point about Nidderdale's community identity, which is shaped by the Nidderdale valley, anchored around the market town of Pateley Bridge. To the town's north-west the river Nidd connects a series of small villages to the head of the valley, while travelling downstream from Pateley Bridge leads through Glasshouses, Summerbridge, on towards Darley and then to Birstwith and the south-eastern boundary of the National Landscape.

As we have previously noted, communities in Wharfedale are in an entirely separate and distinct valley to the west. The LGBC report states that during a visit to the area it was observed that "the B6265 road provides reasonable vehicular access". We reiterate the point made in our earlier letter, that travelling by

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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 and note that this includes travelling along the B6265. Members of the Committee therefore remain of the view that there is a distinct separation between Nidderdale and Wharfedale which is imposed by the landscape itself, rather than any manmade boundaries, and which leads to distinct and separate communities.

Members of the Committee reiterate their concerns about changes in electoral divisions that seek to include the communities of Pateley Bridge and Upper Nidderdale with those from the Wharfedale area and requests that the LGBC 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 majority view of Committee members and does not represent a partisan view of a single councillor.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "J.L. Wright".

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