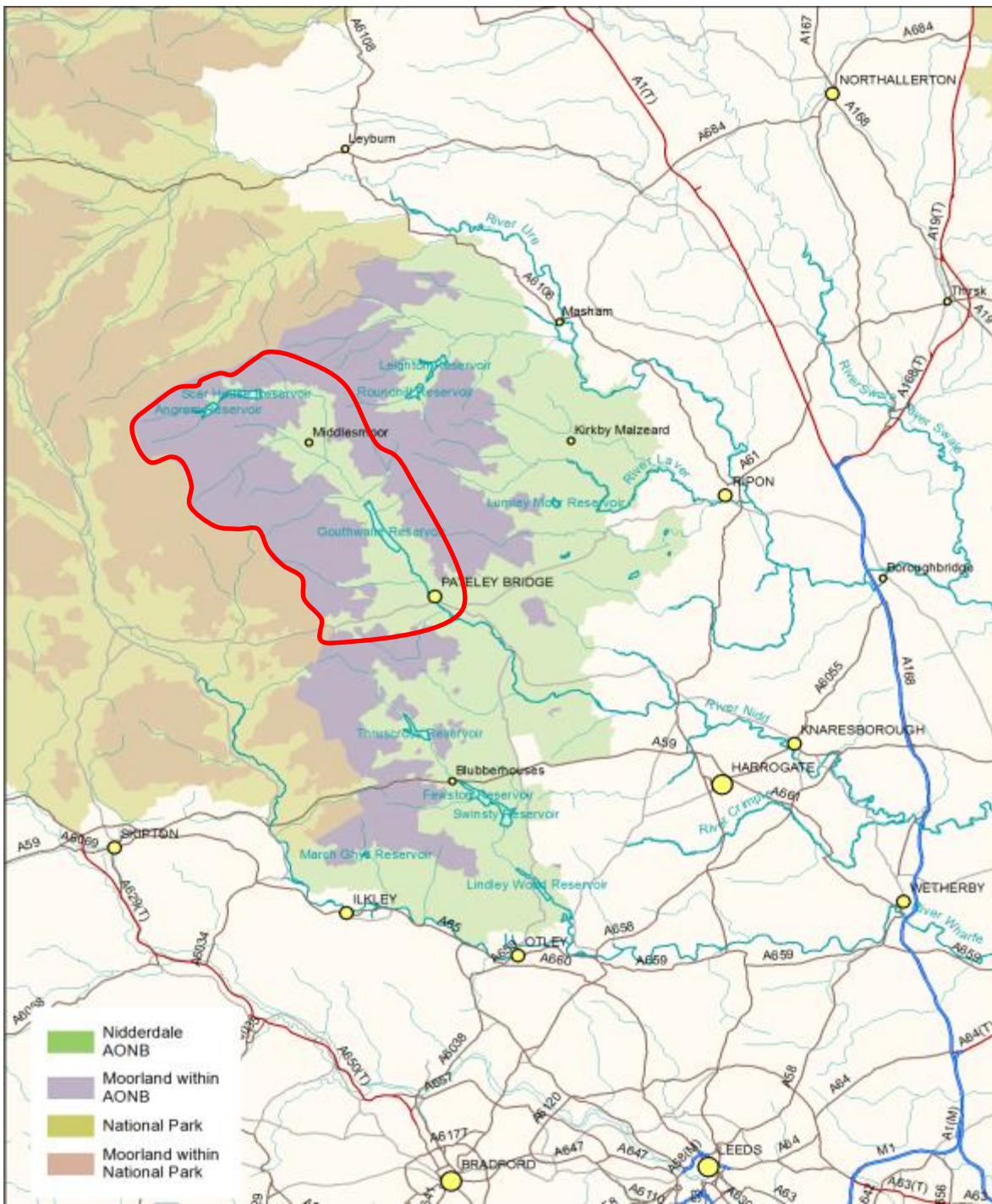




Upper Nidderdale Facilitation Fund

Tara Challoner

NIDDERDALE AONB









Countryside Stewardship Priorities:

Priority Habitats to be maintained/restored within Upper Nidderdale:

Blanket bog } YPP
Upland heathland }
SSSI

Ancient and native woodland
Upland hay meadows

Priority Species:

Black grouse
Great crested newt
Breeding wader assemblage

Water quality:
Address phosphate and sediment in River Nidd

What has helped shape our group?

1. Long standing relationship with AONB
2. All inclusive group
3. Enthusiasm of farmers
4. Close knit farming community
5. Upper Nidderdale Landscape Partnership Scheme
6. Farm business sustainability comes first

Life on the Farm

with Frances
Graham



Trying to protect our endangered birds

It has been feeling like spring has arrived – the birds have come back, and the weather has been warmer and drier, well for now, but rain and snow is expected later this week when we start lambing.

The weather always seems to come worse during lambing time!

It is a lovely time of year on the farm with some of our fields literally covered with birds, including lapwings and curlew.

We love to see them come back to the farm each spring with their loud calls and swooping displays.

Many of these birds are in severe decline across the country – lapwing numbers have fallen by a third in the past 20 years, and curlew by 50%.

Our farms are very important for ground breeding waders like these and we must protect them and try to make the habitat suitable for both the birds, and for the sheep and cows that we have.

We have recently attended training meetings about these birds on our farms.

The meetings are to make farmers more aware of the threats these birds face and to demonstrate different things we can do to help protect them. We are a member of the Upper Nidderdale Facilitated group.

This is a group of farmers, from Bewerley up to Scar House Reservoir, who have



We are lucky to have curlew nesting on our farm.

agreed to work together to look after wildlife across the whole landscape. Birds don't know where one farm ends and the next begins so it is important that habitat is provided for them across all our farms.

The group has 20 members at the moment, so it shows that we are not just interested in sheep and cows, we are interested in the environment just as much.

We are lucky to have curlew nesting on our farm – these are on the red list and are in real danger as their populations

have fallen to such an extent, that now the Pennines and the Yorkshire Dales remains one of their only strongholds.

They are extinct from many areas across the country. On our farm, we also have lapwings, grey partridge, golden plover, woodcock and snipe. Lapwings we see a lot of, but the birds that we see less of are grey partridge – these are also on the red list and are becoming very rare around here compared with just a few years ago.

All these birds prefer the marginal land

between the grassland and the heather moorland. These birds don't nest on the heather, they nest in rushes and down dyke sides, they need ground where it has been grazed and it has to have a variety of cover.

We are always careful of the birds and their nests when we are moving and feeding the sheep and we only put quiet cattle in the fields where they are nesting.

Last week's meeting was all about grey partridge. These are a bird that we need to make an effort to keep in the dale.

The grey partridge live on the edge of the moorland, on the longer and rougher grazing, as this normally has rushes which provide good shelter and nesting places.

They can also nest in our meadows where the tall grass provides good cover for them. We are careful in how we mow our meadows and always try to cut from the inside out and cut them late after any chicks have fledged.

A problem they face is from pheasants released for shooting. These are having an impact on the native grey partridge, as the larger pheasants push them out. The grey partridge is also under threat from other game birds such as the French partridge.

Hopefully this spring the weather will be kind to the birds nesting on our farm so that most chicks can make it, and return here themselves to nest in years to come

Landscape Challenges

- Weather- bad summers makes hay making difficult
- Soils- susceptible to water logging and run off, easily damaged
- Countryside stewardship Mid tier- not suitable for uplands- insufficient options and payments
- Woodlands- small difficult to reach conifer plantations

Payment by Results



Woodland Management and Timber Marketing in Upper Nidderdale



An aerial photograph of a lush green valley. The landscape is characterized by rolling hills and fields, with a network of stone walls and hedgerows. A river winds through the valley, and a large lake is visible in the distance. The sky is clear and blue.

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