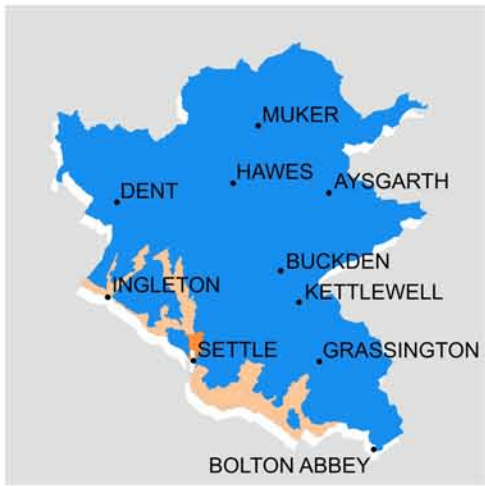


**YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK**



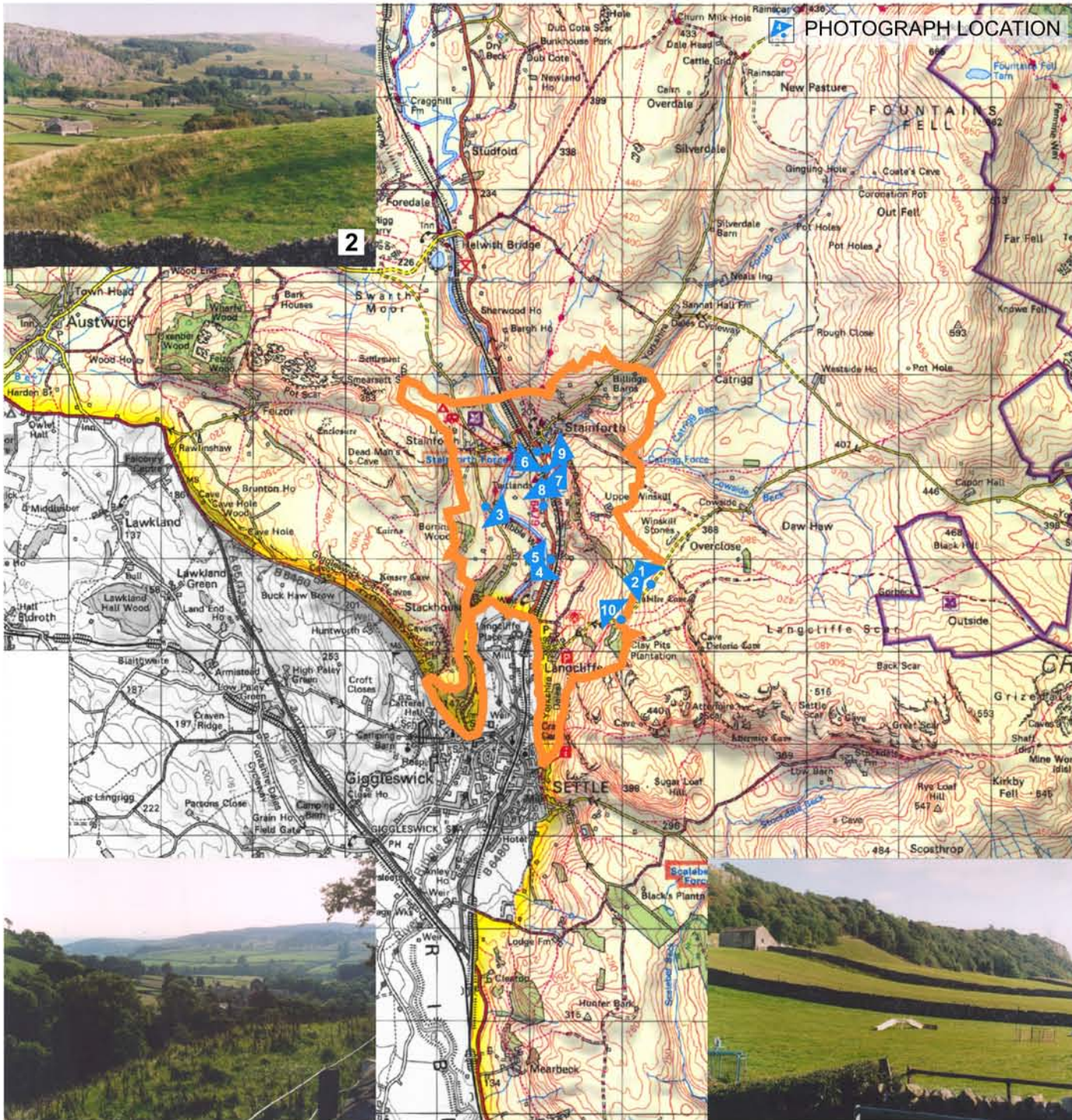
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**KEY CHARACTERISTICS**

- Broadly u-shaped lower dale overlies limestone bedrock, the northern part of the character area being defined by the line of the North Craven Fault, where the valley sides close in limiting views up the valley and giving Lower Ribblesdale a separate visual identity.
- Skyline views dominated by the limestone upland of Moughton, to the north west; the prominent upswept form of Smearsett Scar above Little Stainforth; distant views to summit of Pen-y-ghent and the ridge of Fountains Fell to the north east; and the notched horizon of Langcliffe Scar to the south east.
- The lower valley sides slope gently down to the river; upper dale sides slope steeply towards the enclosing limestone uplands marked by patterns of outcropping rock. The prominent, wooded Stainforth Scar and an exposed quarry face punctuate the upper, eastern valley side.
- The river cuts a deep course through the upper part of the character area, often enclosed by steep well wooded banks, following a strongly meandering course across the valley floor and dropping dramatically at Stainforth Force. The packhorse bridge at Stainforth is an attractive focal point.
- Well wooded, with often linear ancient woodland following the contours of the riverbanks, beck sides and extending high up to the valley side scars. Individual trees mark field boundaries and occur as specimens within fields.
- The pattern of limestone and gritstone walls forms a strong component of the dale character. The pattern of fields extends onto the adjacent fell tops generally as large regularly shaped enclosures.
- Fields mainly cropped for silage although a concentration of hay meadows occurs around Langcliffe and are scattered throughout the dale. Steeper slopes by the river or on the valley sides often remain uncultivated, the variation land cover serving to emphasise the topographic variety of the dale.
- The villages of Stainforth and Langcliffe, constructed in mixed materials and sited on west facing slopes, face their counterparts, the smaller hamlets Little Stainforth and Stackhouse on the opposite side of river crossing points. Small terraces of mill workers cottages occur in rural locations and there is one farm house. Modern development occurs on the northern edge of Giggleswick.
- The dale forms an important transport corridor for both the B6475 and railway. Routeways combine with other significant detractors within the dale, including the mill and disused quarries, to create local pockets of a strong industrial feel, the tree cover limiting the extent of these effects. The caravan site at Little Stainforth, on a terrace above the river, detracts from views.



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**PHOTOGRAPH LOCATION**



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