



KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- Elevated stepped hills formed by differential wear of layered Yoredale Series limestones and sandstones, often with pronounced flat plateau tops, sub-dividing and overlooking the central dales.
- Exposed peak sides demonstrate sandstone and limestone crags and screes, sometimes creating dramatic, steep-sided, upstanding plateau peaks (eg Pen-y-ghent and Ingleborough Hill).
- Deep drift deposits often mask underlying geology but are cut through by gulleys on steeper hillsides to reveal stepped rock bands which often form waterfalls.
- Isolated pockets of limestone karst scenery are exposed within the surrounding drift, creating areas of brighter grassland and typical limestone features including pavements.
- Broadleaved tree cover is confined ash clinging to cliffs and rock outcrops in gulleys or on hillsides, or occasional small woodlands. At lower elevations tree cover increases in gills and along river heads.
- Extensive coniferous plantations form dark, alien intrusions across the centre of the area.
- Moor tops are uninhabited. Occasional upland farms of traditional construction with some modern buildings are found on the dale fringes and at dale heads, usually close to rivers and roads and often associated with isolated pockets of limestone grassland.
- Drystone walls extend from the dale fringes to enclose rough pasture and sometimes sub-divide wider areas of moorland. Stone types are mixed, often changing in accordance with outcropping geology. Occasional isolated walled meadows associated with upland farms and field barns are found in limestone pockets.
- Roads and footpaths are isolated in character with panoramic views of the central dales and Three Peaks.

