

### 3 LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPES

- 3.1 The Countryside Agency's new Draft Landscape Typology for England subdivides the 159 regional character areas within England into their component landscape types, based on the three determinants of physiography, soils/surface cover and cultural patterns. These draft landscape types have been utilised as a basis for this study and equate to landscape types within the Yorkshire Dales National Park as set out in the summary table below. The landscape types are further subdivided into the constituent landscape character areas which form the core of this study in the right hand column.

**Table 4: Countryside Agency Draft National Landscape Types, Landscape Types and Character Areas within the National Park**

<i><b>Countryside Agency Draft National Landscape Types</b></i>	<i><b>Landscape Types within Yorkshire Dales National Park</b></i>	<i><b>Landscape Character Areas within Yorkshire Dales National Park</b></i>
<p><b>HDO</b> (high hills, impoverished soils, unsettled/open land) High land, mainly over 1000 ft, including descriptive landform classes 'high hills &amp; ridges' and 'mountains' (see below) - associated with Palaeozoic (Permian, Carboniferous, Devonian, Ordovician, Silurian &amp; Cambrian) and earlier Pre-Cambrian.</p> <p>Nutrient poor (podzolic), usually sandy or coarse loamy, mineral soils supporting dwarf shrub heath, acidic grassland, or relic heathy vegetation (bracken, gorse, etc.) - associated normally with sandstone, or sandy drift, but also developed on mixed sedimentary and igneous rocks in hard rock areas.</p> <p>Extensive areas of uncultivated, mainly unenclosed land (including moorland, heath and coastal grazing marsh) characterised by the virtual absence of human habitation.</p>	<p>Moors and Fells Upland landscape, mainly over 1000 ft, including fells, moors and ridges - associated with Carboniferous period (Carboniferous limestone and Millstone Grit) and Ordovician/Silurian Periods (grey turbidite sandstones and slates).</p> <p>Nutrient poor (podzolic) usually sandy or coarse loamy mineral soils supporting upland heath, acidic grassland, or relic heathy vegetation (bracken etc.) - associated mainly with drift from Palaeozoic sandstone, mudstone and shale, carboniferous mudstone and blanket peat.</p> <p>Extensive areas of uncultivated land, including moorland, heath and acidic grassland (partly unenclosed and partly enclosed by large rectilinear enclosures), characterised by the virtual absence of human habitation.</p>	<p>Southern Howgill Fells Northern Gritstone Moors and Fells</p> <p>Three Peaks &amp; Central Moors and Fells</p> <p>Eastern Gritstone Moors and Fells</p> <p>Southern Gritstone Moors and Fells</p>

YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY  
YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

<p><b>HLO</b> (high hills, shallow soils over limestone, unsettled/open land) High land, mainly over 1000 ft, including descriptive landform classes 'high hills &amp; ridges' and 'mountains' (see below) - associated with Palaeozoic (Permian, Carboniferous, Devonian, Ordovician, Silurian &amp; Cambrian) and earlier Pre-Cambrian.</p> <p>Free draining loamy, or clayey soils developed directly on chalk or limestone bedrock - frequently distinguished by stoney soils in soft rock areas and rock outcrops/limestone pavement in hard rock areas.</p> <p>Extensive areas of uncultivated, mainly unenclosed land (including moorland, heath and coastal grazing marsh) characterised by the virtual absence of human habitation.</p>	<p><b>Limestone Upland</b> Upland landscape, mainly over 1000 ft, including fells and moors - associated with Carboniferous period (Carboniferous limestone).</p> <p>Free draining loamy soils developed directly on limestone bedrock - frequently distinguished by rock outcrops/limestone pavement.</p> <p>Extensive areas of uncultivated land, including moorland, heath and acidic grassland, (partly unenclosed and partly enclosed by large rectilinear enclosures) characterised by the virtual absence of human habitation.</p>	<p>Limestone Moors</p>
<p><b>VLA</b> (upland vales and valleys, shallow soils over limestone, wooded-ancient woods) Low-lying areas including descriptive landform classes 'upland vales &amp; valleys' and 'rolling lowland' (see below) - associated mainly with Palaeozoic (Permian, Carboniferous, Devonian, Ordovician, Silurian &amp; Cambrian) and earlier Pre-Cambrian rocks of sedimentary origin.</p> <p>Free draining loamy, or clayey soils developed directly on chalk or limestone bedrock - frequently distinguished by stoney soils in soft rock areas and rock outcrops/limestone pavement in hard rock areas.</p> <p>Settled agricultural landscapes (dispersed or nucleated settlement) characterised by an assarted pattern of ancient woodlands which pre-date the surrounding enclosure pattern - in places associated with densely scattered hedgerow trees (typically oak).</p>	<p><b>Limestone Dale with Ancient Woodland</b> Dales within upland landscape - associated mainly with Carboniferous period (Carboniferous limestone).</p> <p>Free draining loamy soils developed directly on limestone bedrock - frequently distinguished by rock outcrops/limestone pavement.</p> <p>Settled agricultural landscapes (dispersed or nucleated settlement) characterised by an assarted pattern of ancient woodlands which pre-date the surrounding largely walled enclosure pattern.</p>	<p>Dentdale Garsdale</p> <p>Kingsdale</p> <p>Upper Chapel-le-Dale</p> <p>Lower Chapel-le-Dale</p> <p>Ingleton Glens</p> <p>Upper Ribblesdale</p> <p>Mid Ribblesdale</p> <p>Lower Ribblesdale</p> <p>Crummackdale</p> <p>Upper Swaledale</p> <p>Arkengarthdale</p> <p>Mid Swaledale</p> <p>Upper Wensleydale</p> <p>Mid Wensleydale</p> <p>Lower Wensleydale</p> <p>Cotterdale</p>

YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY  
YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

		<p>Widdale</p> <p>Sleddale</p> <p>Raydale</p> <p>Bishopdale</p> <p>Waldendale</p> <p>Coverdale</p> <p>Langstrothdale</p> <p>Upper Wharfedale and Littondale</p> <p>Wharfedale-Craven Fault Area</p>
<p><b>VPA</b> (upland vales and valleys, gleyed soils over hard rock, wooded-ancient woods)</p> <p>Low-lying areas including descriptive landform classes 'upland vales &amp; valleys and 'rolling lowland' (see below) - associated mainly with Palaeozoic (Permian, Carboniferous, Devonian, Ordovician, Silurian &amp; Cambrian) and earlier Pre-Cambrian rocks of sedimentary origin.</p> <p>Greyish, slowly permeable clayey and loamy soils, developed on hard rocks. Seasonal waterlogging is the main constraint to agricultural production, and these soils are mainly under permanent grassland.</p> <p>Settled agricultural landscapes (dispersed or nucleated settlement) characterised by an assarted pattern of ancient woodlands which pre-date the surrounding enclosure pattern - in places associated with densely scattered hedgerow trees (typically oak).</p>	<p>Poorly Drained Dale with Ancient Woodland Dales within upland landscape - associated mainly with Carboniferous (Yoredales and Millstone Grit), Ordovician/Silurian periods (grey turbidite sandstones and slates).</p> <p>Greyish, slowly permeable clayey and loamy soils, developed on hard rocks. Seasonally waterlogged soils under permanent grassland.</p> <p>Settled agricultural landscapes (dispersed or nucleated settlement) characterised by an assarted pattern of ancient woodlands which pre-date the surrounding largely walled enclosure pattern.</p>	<p>Mid Wharfedale</p> <p>The Southern Valleys Enclosed by Winterburn Moor, Rylstone Fell and Flasby Fell.</p> <p>Part of Upper Rawthey Valley</p>

YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY  
 YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

<p><b>UDW</b> (low hills, impoverished soils, wetland/waste unwooded)        Upstanding areas, mainly below 1000 ft, including descriptive landform class 'low hills - sloping' (see below) - associated with Palaeozoic (Permian, Carboniferous, Devonian, Ordovician, Silurian &amp; Cambrian) and Mesozoic rocks (mainly sandstones &amp; limestones) of sedimentary origin.</p> <p>Nutrient poor (podzolic), usually sandy or coarse loamy, mineral soils supporting dwarf shrub heath, acidic grassland, or relic heathy vegetation (bracken, gorse, etc.) - associated normally with sandstone, or sandy drift, but also developed on mixed sedimentary and igneous rocks in hard rock areas.</p> <p>Open, sparsely settled agricultural landscapes characterised by a surveyor-enclosed pattern of large rectilinear fields and isolated farmsteads. Tree cover is usually restricted to watercourses, or groups of trees around buildings.</p>	<p><b>Sparsely Settled Upland Margins</b>        Low hills, mainly below 1000ft associated with Carboniferous period (Carboniferous limestone and Millstone Grit) and glacial deposits.</p> <p>Nutrient poor (podzolic) fine loamy mineral soils supporting upland heath and acidic grassland- associated mainly with drift from Palaeozoic sandstone, mudstone and shale and blanket peat.</p> <p>Open, sparsely settled agricultural landscapes characterised by a pattern of large rectilinear fields and isolated farmsteads. Broadleaved tree cover is generally restricted to watercourses, or groups of trees around buildings, but is supplemented by areas of coniferous plantation.</p>	<p>Newton and Otterburn Moor        Malhamdale</p>
--	---	--

YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY  
YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

<p><b>RCD</b> (intermediate physiography, Clay/gley soils over soft rock, dispersed unwooded) Rolling/undulating areas, below 1000 ft, including descriptive landform classes 'low hills - plateau' and 'rolling lowland' (see below) - associated mainly with Mesozoic (Cretaceous, Jurassic, Triassic &amp; Permian) or Tertiary rocks of sedimentary origin and glacial till.</p> <p>Greyish, slowly permeable clayey and loamy soils, developed on glacial tills and soft clays. Seasonal waterlogging is the main constraint to agricultural production mainly under permanent grassland.</p> <p>Settled agricultural landscapes characterised by a moderate to high level of dispersal, comprising scattered farmsteads and frequent clusters of wayside dwellings. Although typically unwooded, hedgerow, streamside and other trees are often a prominent feature.</p>	<p>Poorly Drained Unwooded with Glacial Deposition Undulating areas (mainly drumlin fields) below 1000 ft, associated with glacial deposits.</p> <p>Greyish, slowly permeable loamy soils, developed on glacial tills and soft clays. Seasonally waterlogged soils under permanent grassland.</p> <p>Settled agricultural landscapes characterised by a moderate to high level of dispersal, comprising scattered farmsteads and frequent clusters of wayside dwellings. Although typically unwooded, hedgerow, streamside and other trees are a prominent feature.</p>	<p>Southern Dales Fringe South Western Dales Fringe</p>
<p><b>UPA</b> (low hills, gleyed soils over hard rock, wooded-ancient woods) Upstanding areas, mainly below 1000 ft, including descriptive landform class 'low hills - sloping' (see below) - associated with Palaeozoic (Permian, Carboniferous, Devonian, Ordovician, Silurian &amp; Cambrian) and Mesozoic rocks (mainly sandstones &amp; limestones) of sedimentary origin.</p> <p>Greyish, slowly permeable clayey and loamy soils, developed on hard rocks. Seasonal waterlogging is the main constraint to agricultural production, and these soils are mainly under permanent grassland.</p> <p>Settled agricultural landscapes (dispersed or nucleated settlement) characterised by an assarted pattern of ancient woodlands which pre-date the surrounding enclosure pattern - in places associated with densely scattered hedgerow trees (typically oak).</p>	<p>Poorly Drained Lower Hills and Dales Sloping dale sides mainly below 1000 ft, associated with Carboniferous Period (Carboniferous Limestone and Yoredales) and glacial deposits.</p> <p>Greyish, slowly permeable clayey and loamy soils, developed on hard rocks. Seasonally waterlogged soils under permanent grassland.</p> <p>Settled agricultural landscapes (dispersed or nucleated settlement) characterised by an assarted pattern of ancient woodlands which pre-date the surrounding walled enclosure pattern.</p>	<p>Small areas of Lower Wensleydale and Coverdale are included within these character areas</p>

YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY  
 YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

<p><b>VPD</b> (upland vales and valleys, gleyed soils over hard rock, dispersed unwooded)          Low-lying areas including descriptive landform classes 'upland vales &amp; valleys and 'rolling lowland' (see below) - associated mainly with Palaeozoic (Permian, Carboniferous, Devonian, Ordovician, Silurian &amp; Cambrian) and earlier Pre-Cambrian rocks of sedimentary origin.</p> <p>Greyish, slowly permeable clayey and loamy soils, developed on hard rocks. Seasonal waterlogging is the main constraint to agricultural production, and these soils are mainly under permanent grassland.</p> <p>Settled agricultural landscapes characterised by a moderate to high level of dispersal, comprising scattered farmsteads and frequent clusters of wayside dwellings. Although typically unwooded, hedgerow, streamside and other trees are often a prominent feature.</p>	<p>Poorly Drained Unwooded Dale Dales within upland landscape - associated mainly with Carboniferous/Devonian (sandstones and conglomerates), Ordovician/Silurian periods (grey turbidite sandstones and slates).</p> <p>Greyish, slowly permeable clayey and loamy soils, developed on hard rocks. Seasonally waterlogged soils under permanent grassland.</p> <p>Settled agricultural landscapes characterised by a moderate to high level of dispersal, comprising scattered farmsteads and frequent clusters of wayside dwellings. Although typically unwooded, hedgerow, streamside and other trees are often a prominent feature.</p>	<p>Lune Valley          Rawthey Valley</p>
--	---	--

## 4 LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS

4.1 The section below describes the landscape character areas in detail together with a summary of their key characteristics. The 40 landscape character areas identified are presented under two main headings:

*Dales and Dales Fringe Character Areas* (34 character areas);

*Upland Character Areas* (6 character areas).

4.2 The *Dales and Dales Fringe Character Areas* have been grouped geographically into:

- Swaledale and Arkengarthdale (3 character areas);
- Cumbrian Dales (4 character areas);
- Wensleydale (10 character areas);
- Craven Dales (8 character areas);
- Southern/South Western Dales Fringe (5 character areas);
- Wharfedale and Littondale (4 character areas).

4.3 The *Upland Character Areas* have been grouped geographically into:

- Southern Howgill Fells (1 character area)
- Yorkshire Moors and Fells (5 character areas)

4.4 A description of the influences that have lead to the development of character, including physical, historical and cultural influences, buildings and settlement and land cover is provided for each geographical grouping of dales and for the upland character areas.