



KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- Small, hidden and remote forked u-shaped valley overlying rocks of the Yoredale series, forming a northern tributary of Mid Wensleydale, dominated by adjacent moorland character.
- Narrow and steep-sided with an open flat valley floor, strongly contained by vegetation and topography and entirely enclosed by surrounding moorland which spills over onto valley sides.
- Shallow, stony, fast-flowing meandering beck, often walled, with grassy banks interrupted occasionally by clumps of trees.
- Limestone scars are a feature of the eastern valley crest; other smaller areas of exposed rock occur on the eastern valley sides.
- Two large coniferous plantations enclosing the northern valley sides are alien to the character of the dale but add to the strong sense of containment.
- Scattered tree cover, mainly associated with the beck and Cotterdale hamlet, interrupts the open valley floor and contrasts with the open and largely featureless south western valley slopes.
- Strong moorland influence, enhanced by distant views to the north of adjacent moor tops and moorland vegetation spilling over the valley sides often down to the valley floor.
- Cotterdale hamlet, located on the river banks at the head of the valley is unspoilt and traditional, constructed from local stone.
- The field pattern is almost entirely lost on the valley sides. On the valley floor, walls, constructed with local limestone, are largely intact. Fields here are small to medium sized and of a regular pattern enclosing a mixture of improved and rough pasture with sedges.
- The few barns are an important visual feature due to the very open nature of the valley floor.

