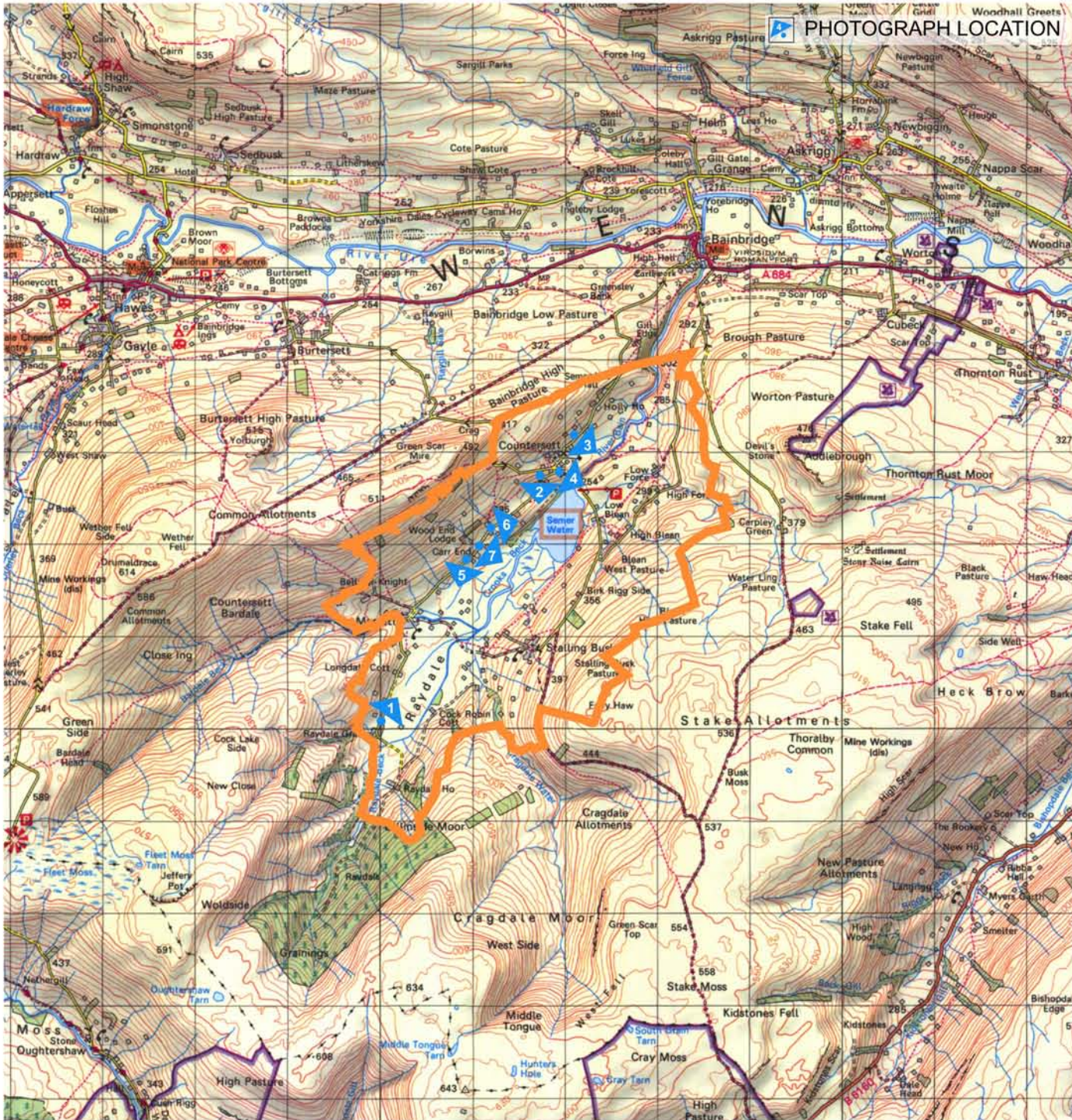
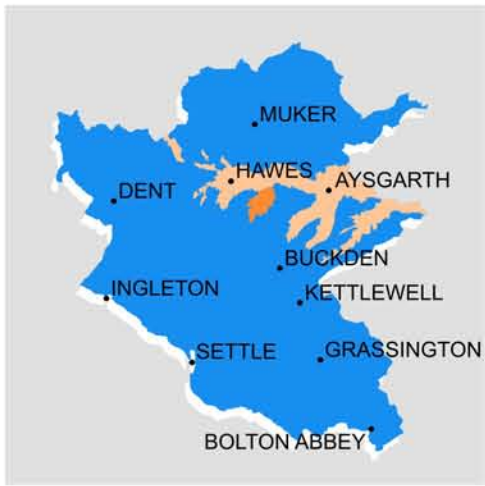


**YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK**



**KEY CHARACTERISTICS**

- Broad, flat-bottomed u-shaped tributary valley of Mid Wensleydale overlying Great Scar limestone and with valley sides formed by rocks of the Yoredale series and containing a large lake of glacial origin.
- Wide, flat valley floor with distinctive stepped profile to the valley sides, enclosed and separated from Wensleydale by the ridge of higher land to the north of Countesett, dominated by the view of Addleborough to the north.
- Bands of scree, evident at the valley crest, combine with terraces and areas of woodland to form distinctive horizontal lines traversing the valley slopes.
- The valley has a wooded character, being distinctive for the scattered tree clumps and overmature hedgerow trees that form strong parallel lines across the valley floor. Most of the tree cover is associated with the rivers with a significant area of woodland scrub adjacent to Semer Water. Large coniferous plantation forms a dark, visual stop at the head of the valley.
- Valley side gills are evident from the valley floor by the tree cover that serves to highlight their location and form.
- Strong pattern of walls and hedgerows, walls following the horizontal form of the terraces or crossing the slope at right angles giving emphasis to the stepped topography.
- Field sizes vary from small to medium on the valley floor, the smallest fields concentrated around settlements, to the large regular pattern of the enclosure period high up on the valley side, a pattern which extends onto the moorland beyond.
- Significant areas of flower-rich hay meadows around Semer Water, elsewhere pastures are mainly improved.
- Stone field barns an important visual feature.
- Traditional unspoilt nucleated hamlets on lower valley side locations.
- Recreational pressures associated with lake do not significantly detract although associated car parking areas and camp site have a visual impact.
- Semer Water combines with extensive vegetation cover to create a self-contained dale of tranquil, secluded character.

