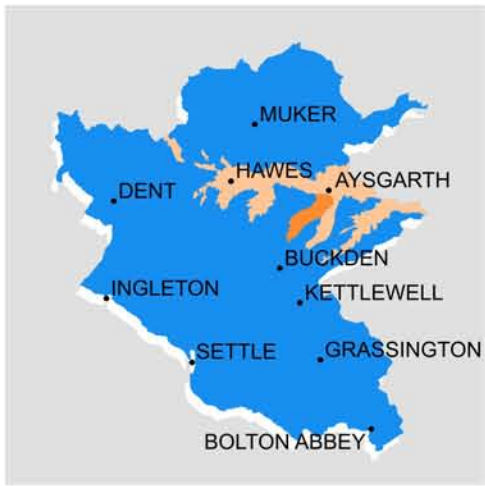


YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK



KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- Long, fairly narrow and deep low-lying u-shaped tributary valley of Lower Wensleydale overlying Great Scar limestone and with valley sides formed by rocks of the Yoredale series.
- Steeply sloping valley sides in lower dale becoming shallower and more open in character towards the dale head where there is a narrow valley floor.
- Small amount of outcropping rock mainly located at the head of the valley.
- Beck has many tributary streams meeting midway along the dale to form Bishopdale Beck. Meandering with a stony channel and well screened by associated vegetation, the beck is not an obvious feature of the dale.
- Frequent parallel springs and gills occur high up the valley sides particularly to the south east, marked by the lines of trees and woodland.
- Extensive scattered woodland blocks, groups of trees and hedgerows form strong linear pattern across valley floor reaching mid-way up valley sides.
- Strong, parkland character to the valley floor around Ribba Hall and the Rookery.
- Settlements are scattered and elongated with traditional, unspoilt local stone buildings, located at the lower end of the valley.
- Hedgerows and trees rather than stone walls define many of the field boundaries. Large fields, square-shaped, enclosed by crumbling walls and hedgerows, extend along the valley floor and part-way up the valley sides where they gradually become larger in size.
- Pastures are mainly improved although there is a concentration of hay meadows in the upper dale and south of West Burton.

