

CONTENTS	Page
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	
PART ONE: LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT	
1.0 INTRODUCTION	
<i>Background to this Report</i>	1
<i>The Yorkshire Dales National Park</i>	1
<i>Context and Scope of this Study</i>	1
<i>The Study Area</i>	2
<i>Relationship to Previous Studies</i>	3
<i>Relationship to Studies Undertaken by Neighbouring Authorities</i>	5
<i>Methodology</i>	7
<i>Structure of this Report</i>	7
2.0 THE YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK	
<i>Key Characteristics</i>	9
<i>Landscape Character</i>	9
<i>Physical Influences</i>	11
<i>Historical and Cultural Influences</i>	12
<i>Buildings and Settlement</i>	13
<i>Land Cover</i>	14
3.0 LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPES	15
4.0 LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS	21
DALES AND DALES FRINGE CHARACTER AREAS	
Swaledale and Arkengarthdale	22
1. Upper Swaledale	29
2. Arkengarthdale	32
3. Mid Swaledale	35
The Cumbrian Dales	37
4. Dentdale and Deepdale	42
5. Garsdale	45
6. Rawthey Valley	47
7. Lune Valley	49
Wensleydale	51
8. Upper Wensleydale	57
9. Mid Wensleydale	59
10. Lower Wensleydale	61
11. Cotterdale	63
12. Widdale	65
13. Sleddale	67
14. Raydale	69
15. Bishopdale	71
16. Waldendale	73
17. Coverdale	75

The Craven Dales	77
18. Kingsdale	83
19. Upper Chapel-le-Dale	85
20. Lower Chapel-le-Dale	87
21. Ingleton Glens	89
22. Upper Ribblesdale	91
23. Mid Ribblesdale	93
24. Lower Ribblesdale	95
25. Crummackdale	97
Malhamdale and Southern/South Western Dales Fringes	99
26. Malhamdale	104
27. Newton and Otterburn Moor	106
28. The Southern Valleys Enclosed by Winterburn Moor, Rylstone Fell and Flasby Fell	107
29. South Western Dales Fringe	109
30. The Southern Dales Fringe	111
Wharfedale and Littondale	113
31. Langstrothdale	119
32. Upper Wharfedale and Littondale	121
33. Wharfedale-Craven Fault Area	124
34. Mid Wharfedale	127
UPLAND CHARACTER AREAS	
The Southern Howgill Fells	130
35. Southern Howgill Fells	133
The Yorkshire Moors and Fells	135
36. Northern Gritstone Moors and Fells	146
37. Three Peaks & Central Moors and Fells	149
38. Eastern Gritstone Moors and Fells	152
39. Limestone Moors	155
40. Southern Gritstone Moors and Fells	159

PART TWO: QUALITY OF LIFE CAPITAL ASSESSMENT

5.0 QUALITY OF LIFE CAPITAL ASSESSMENT	
<i>Methodology</i>	162
<i>Change In The Landscape</i>	164
<i>Result of Past Forces for Change on Landscape Elements</i>	165
<i>Current Trends/ Future Pressures</i>	165
<i>Agricultural Practice</i>	166
<i>Upland Management Pressures</i>	169
<i>Return to a More Natural Landscape</i>	170
<i>Trees, Woodland and Commercial Forestry</i>	171
<i>Recreation and Tourism</i>	172
<i>Public Rights of Way</i>	174
<i>Settlement Change and Expansion</i>	174
<i>Communications, Power Generation and Distribution</i>	175
<i>Roads and Traffic</i>	176
<i>Quarries</i>	177
<i>External Influences</i>	177
<i>Aerial Pollution and Climate Change</i>	177
<i>Geological and Archaeological Features</i>	178
<i>Public Opinion</i>	178

FIGURES

- Figure 1 Study Area
- Figure 2 Regional Landscape Character Areas
- Figure 3 Character Assessments Undertaken by Neighbouring Authorities
- Figure 4 Character Area Boundaries Map

TABLES

- 1 Relationship between Countryside Character Initiative's Regional Landscape Character Areas and Draft Landscape Typology Components
- 2 Landscape Types within Cumbrian Area of National Park
- 3 Landscape Types and Landscape Character Areas on National Park Boundaries
- 4 Countryside Agency Draft National Landscape Types, Landscape Types and Character Areas Within the National Park
- 5 Q o L Assessment of Landscape Elements, Why Do They Matter?
- 6 Q o L Assessment of Park-Wide Landscape Elements
- 7 Contribution Made by Landscape Elements to Landscape Character (Dales)
- 8 Contribution Made by Landscape Elements to Landscape Character (Uplands)

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Executive Summary

This document summarises the findings of a landscape character assessment of the Yorkshire Dales National Park undertaken between April and July 2001, together with the findings of the Quality of Life (QoL) Capital assessment in relation to key elements of landscape character undertaken over the same period. The study was commissioned by the National Park Authority in March 2001 and has been prepared by Estell Warren Landscape Architects.

Landscape character is defined as a distinct and recognisable pattern of elements that occur consistently in a particular type of landscape. Patterns of geology, landform, soils and vegetation, land use, field patterns and human settlement combine together to create character. At the broad scale, landscape character makes the Yorkshire Dales distinct from other parts of Britain; at the local scale there are distinct character differences between different dales and between different areas of a single dale. The brief of this assessment has been to identify landscape character areas on a dale by dale basis in accordance with the way in which the Park is managed and the way in which the local community relates to it.

Landscape character assessment aims to record this character in an objective, value free way such that it forms a baseline assessment which can be developed into landscape strategies and guidelines, or which can be utilised to guide planning policy or inform development control decisions. This character assessment has been undertaken in accordance with published guidance.

The Quality of Life Capital Approach is being promoted jointly by the Countryside Agency, English Heritage, English Nature and the Environment Agency as a means of providing a systematic way to identify what matters in the environment and how to manage it. For the purpose of this study QoL identifies factors that provide environmental benefits and disbenefits within the landscape and identifies broad management objectives for the future. The relationship of QoL to the landscape characterisation process is straightforward; characterisation describes the landscape whereas QoL evaluates and derives aims for the landscape. Within this study QoL has been applied to the distinctive range of elements which combine to form the landscape (eg drystone walls and barns, limestone outcrops), area wide benefits which the landscape may provide (such as peace and solitude, dark skies) and detractors (eg quarries which may have an adverse effect on landscape character). The QoL Capital assessment has been undertaken in accordance with guidance provided on the website (www.qualityoflifecapital.org.uk).

This report sets out the findings of the landscape character assessment and Quality of Life Capital assessment in five sections:

An introductory section sets out the background, context and scope of study, the relationship between this study and previous studies and the relationship between this study and the studies undertaken by neighbouring authorities. The methodology is briefly described.

Section 2 describes the landscape character of the Yorkshire Dales as a whole together with the physical, historic and cultural, settlements and buildings and landcover influences that have shaped the landscape.

Section 3 summarises the landscape character types identified within the Yorkshire Dales by the Countryside Agency and the relationship between these landscape types and the character areas identified as part of this report.

Section 4, the main body of the report, subdivided for convenience into Dales and Dales Fringe character areas and upland character areas, is further divided into geographic areas as follows:

Dales and Dales Fringe Character Areas

Swaledale and Arkengarthdale
The Cumbrian Dales
Wensleydale
The Craven Dales

Malhamdale and the Southern/South Western Dales Fringes
Wharfedale and Littondale

Upland Character Areas

The Southern Howgill Fells
The Yorkshire Moors and Fells

This breakdown can be readily appreciated by reference to Figure 4.

For each geographic area the key influences that have led to the shaping of the landscape are described before each of the character areas are described in turn. Each of these character areas is accompanied by a summary colour sheet, showing the boundaries of the area in relation to an OS map, including photographs to convey the key visual qualities of the area and a summary of key characteristics. A summary map of the whole of the National Park is provided at the end of the report and the character area boundaries have also been incorporated into the National Parks Authority's GIS system. Section 4 completes the landscape characterisation section of the report which can act as a baseline from which to undertake further studies;

Section 5 considers the background to landscape change, recent pressures for change on landscapes and key features and forces for, and direction of, future changes. The Quality of Life Capital Assessment starts by identifying environmental benefits and disbenefits of key elements of character before evaluating them in order to identify the appropriate management priority and prescription. The results of these assessments are summarised in a series of tables at the end of the report.