

# The Craven Dales

## + Physical Influences

Craven, one of the few remaining Celtic names within the dales, is derived from 'land of the crags'.

The landscape of the Craven Dales, together with the Three Peaks of Wharfedale, Pen-y-ghent and Ingleborough, is dominated by the influence of limestone, and includes some of the best examples of this type of scenery within the Yorkshire Dales National Park and within the United Kingdom as a whole.

The Three Peaks are composed of a succession of rocks that lie in almost level layers. Virtually all of the rocks (with the exception of some outcrops of the Ingletonian series in the Ingleton Glens and Silurian rocks in areas of Crummackdale and Ribblesdale) are of the Carboniferous age, 360-290 million years old.

The Great Scar limestone dominates the scenery around Ingleton and Settle, attaining a thickness of over 200m. The Yoredale series lies above the Great Scar limestone, with a total thickness of some 300m, and comprises bands of limestone along with layers of shale and sandstone in a repeating succession. Because the various layers have different degrees of resistance to erosion the slopes are stepped, as for example on the sides of Pen-y-ghent. Above the Yoredale series lies Millstone Grit, which is represented by small impervious dark caps on the principal hills.

Thin seams of coal occur within the shale of the Yoredale series. Coal has been extracted on the summit of Fountains Fell, and a number of small collieries and one large colliery were worked in the Ingleton area.

The presence of faultlines creates dramatic variations in the scenery. At Buckhaw Brow near Settle, on the line of the South Craven Fault, there is a striking contrast between limestone and gritstone scenery. The change in geology is also reflected in the composition of the drystone walls across the faultline.

The landscape was shaped by the Ice Ages. Ice covered the whole of the Dales, shaped the valleys into their current u-shaped form and lined the valley sides and bottoms with boulder clay. Glacial features of special interest include the Norber Erratics, to the north of Austwick, where boulders of Silurian slate broken by ice from Crummackdale were deposited on the limestone at a higher elevation. Some boulders retarded the process of erosion of the limestone below and now sit on small limestone plinths. North Ribblesdale, to the south of Gearstones, has a notable drumlin field. Glacial retreat moraines occur, for example within Kingsdale, where the moraine impounded meltwater to form a temporary lake which is evidenced by the very flat valley floor within this dale and the shallow but steep banks at what would have been the lake's margins.

Limestone pavements are a particularly well-developed feature within the Craven Dales and their surrounding uplands, examples occurring in many areas including on the side of Ingleborough. Further conspicuous surface features include the funnel-like depressions known as shakeholes, swallowholes or sinks, which are particularly well marked on the Ingleton side of the Ribblesdale Viaduct.

In addition to the above ground landscape, an extensive underground landscape of cave systems exists in the Great Scar limestone. Water, sinking into the ground within the Great Scar limestone, re-emerges above the impervious slate layer below. Some caves are accessed by large open shafts, such as those at Gaping Gill and Alum Pot. At Gaping Gill, Fell Beck plunges 103m into the shaft, creating one of the highest waterfalls in the UK.

The principal rivers of the Craven Dales include the River Ribblesdale, flowing north to south from the head of Ribblesdale, where Gayle and Cam Beck join just below Selside, falling over Catrigger Force at Stainforth, to the edge of the National Park at Langcliffe and from there flowing south into Lancashire. Kingsdale Beck, which rises just above Kingsdale Head and which becomes the River Twiss, and the River Doe, which rises at the head of Chapel-le-Dale both flow in a south westerly direction, meeting at Ingleton close to the National Park boundary to form the River Greta, a tributary of the River Lune.

The course of the latter two rivers is marked by a number of spectacular waterfalls, including Thornton Force, Pecca Falls, Beezley Falls and Snow Falls.

## † Historical and Cultural Influences

Limestone, with its light covering of woodland, supported hunter-gatherers and early farming. Evidence of Mesolithic and Iron Age man has been found at Victoria Cave at Langcliffe, at Trow Gill above Clapham and at Kinsey Cave on Giggleswick Scar.

The Mesolithic period (8000-2500 BC) saw the beginnings of more permanent settlement and early woodland clearance, although the Neolithic period (3000-1500 BC) marked the beginnings of farming. Bronze Age settlement (2000-600 BC) was not extensive in the Craven district.

The Iron Age (Brigante) settlement occurred in 750 BC, much later than in many other parts of the country. The Brigantes came under pressure from the Romans who arrived in the region in the first century AD, and controlled movement within the dales through a system of forts and roads, one of which extended between Bainbridge and the head of Ribblesdale and traversed Chapel-le-Dale towards a fort at Barrow by the Lune. The hill fort at Ingleborough is thought to be of Brigantine origin, and included a 915m long wall of 4m thickness enclosing an area of 6 hectares.

Good examples of early Iron Age enclosures and numerous huts are visible in Crummackdale.

The lower dales were settled by Angles and later by Danes. The last major period of settlement came in the 10<sup>th</sup> century with the arrival of the Norse Vikings, who spread themselves out thinly at the dale heads and who had a strong influence on language, being responsible for many of the topographic names currently used in the dales including fell, dale, beck, clint, gill, rigg, moss, scar and tarn. The name Kingsdale means 'Valley of the Vikings.'

Following the Norman Conquest, much of the land was rendered 'waste' and certain dale heads (excluding Ribblesdale) were set aside for hunting by the nobility. Some upland areas were in due course granted to the monasteries. Fountains, Furness, Jervaulx, Sawley and Bylands Abbeys had territorial interests in High Craven. The Cistercians were noted for keeping sheep; sheep kept on Fountains Fell by the monks of Fountains Abbey were driven to the monastic grange at Kilnsey in Wharfedale for washing and clipping. The wool was then transported to Fountains, from where some of the wool was exported to the continent.

Within Ribblesdale, virtually all land was in the control of the monasteries. Furness owned all of the southern slopes of Ingleborough including Selside, and much of the head of the valley east of the Ribble to the watershed; Jervaulx had been given the manor at Horton and bred horses at Studfold, near Helwith Bridge; the property of Fountains lay along the eastern boundary and part of the lower dale belonged to Sawley. It was a partition fraught with difficulty and a source of dispute. Virtually all the villages and hamlets belonged at least in part to the abbeys and many of the farmhouses such as Colt Park, Nether Lodge, Ingman Lodge, Cam Houses and Newby Hall near Clapham stand on the site of monastic granges.

A need for more farmland in the Middle Ages led to further cultivation of the hillsides creating strip lynchets. The majority of parliamentary enclosures were carried out between 1760 and 1830. Fields were improved by the spreading of lime, burnt in the kilns before spreading over the fields. The kilns tended to be built near limestone outcrops and within carting distances of supplies of coal from the Yoredale seams.

Industrial development in the 18<sup>th</sup> century took the form of cotton mills using waterpower. High Mill at Langcliffe is one of the few remaining Arkwright Mills.

Superimposed on the erratic lines of prehistoric footpaths, the first proper roads, built to last, were made by the Romans. The road between Bainbridge and Ingleton was the major Roman road in the area and is still recognisable in places by its straight lines. Rising from Bainbridge to Dodd Fell as a green track (known as the Cam High Road), from Sleddale Head it crosses to Cam Houses and Gearstones and to Ingleton beneath Twisleton Scars.

Packhorse traffic created some of its own routes when it developed as a commercial freight service. The routes took bold high lines over the fells. The Craven Way climbs out of Dentdale to a high level route over the bleak northern slopes of Whernside before linking the line of farms down from Ellerbeck at the head of Chapel-le-Dale. At Kirby Gate it traversed the length of Scales Moor and from there to Ingleton. The whole route remains a right of way. Long Lane is part of a similar route from Clapham to Selside. Gearstones was a major centre on the western drove, by which Scottish cattle were driven south, with a weekly market until 1870.

Increasing numbers of carts, wagons and coaches demanded better road surfaces and easier gradients. In response the turnpikes were built as toll roads for wheeled traffic. The main turnpike within the National Park was from Richmond to Lancaster, authorised by Parliament in 1751. It provided a major route through Wensleydale and then followed the Roman road from Bainbridge to Ingleton via Chapel-le-Dale.

The road through Kingsdale to Deepdale was built in 1952 as an experimental route over wet ground, using cold emulsion instead of tar to bind together the stone.

Today, the Craven Dales are each accessible from the A65 Trunk road, which runs along the southern and south western fringes of the National Park and which links the towns of West Yorkshire with the Lake District. This road has been subject to a number of improvements in recent years including the bypass at Settle, and other improvements are planned.

With the arrival of the railway, first the 'Little' North Western Railway northwards from Skipton in 1847 and subsequently the Settle-Carlisle line in 1876 (which used the Ribble and Eden valleys connecting the two over the high Pennines via the sweeping lines of the famous viaduct at Ribblesdale), came the large scale development of quarrying for Great Scar limestone at Horton in Ribblesdale, at Ribblesdale and at Giggleswick. Early commercial limekilns include those at Ingleton and Craven Quarry, Langcliffe.

The quarries at Horton are extensive and lime is sent throughout the north of England, for chemical purposes and road building, creating a traffic of heavy lorries passing through settlements and a covering of dust. Further quarries of Ingletonian rock for road building occur at Skirwith near Ingleton and quarries of Silurian rock for building occur at Dry Rigg, Arco Wood and Helwith Bridge in Ribblesdale.

Pastoral farming of sheep (Swaledale and Dalesbred) and cattle is the dominant activity that shapes the present day landscape. Milk production is now absent from most of the dale head farms and sucklers (cross bred beef cattle with calves at foot) are the rule. In the lower dales Friesians are used for milk production.

Mass tourism, which began in Victorian times with the coming of the railway, forms a key part of the present day economy and is centred upon Settle and Ingleton. The Craven Dales are well placed for tourism, being easily accessible from the West Yorkshire conurbation and towns of Lancashire via the A65, A56 and A682.

Ingleton is a centre for outdoor activities, particularly walking and caving, and attractions for the visitor include the Waterfalls Walk and White Scar Cave within Chapel-le-Dale. Settle, with its market, antique shops, cafes and pubs, is an important services centre for both locals and visitors and a starting point for trips on the Settle to Carlisle railway. There is a National Park Centre at Clapham. Horton in Ribblesdale also sees a number of visitors, as it is the starting point for the Three Peaks Walk. Camping and caravanning sites are found at Langcliffe, Stainforth and Horton within Ribblesdale.

The Craven Dales have been the source of inspiration for artists. Weathercote Cave and its waterfall in Chapel-le-Dale inspired the artist J M W Turner's painting of 1808.

## **+ Buildings and Settlement**

Settlement character is influenced by the underlying geology, which in the Craven Dales provides a number of sources of rock that are used in building.

In the Ingleton Glens of Kingsdale and Chapel-le-Dale, the Ingletonian rocks are so moved and folded that they stand near vertically and are exposed beneath the limestone in a succession of bands of grit and slate more than a mile long. Quarrying of these materials occurs in the Glens, at the lower end of Baxengill Gorge and in Twisleton Glen. The slates have been used in the Ingleton area, over a large part of the south west dales and in adjacent parts of Lancashire. A large quarry of the same type of slate also occurs as a hole in the floor of the Ribblesdale limestone quarry.

Silurian rocks, also of great importance for building, are seen in the valleys of Crummackdale (above Austwick) and in Ribblesdale (below Horton). The Silurian rocks have four subdivisions: some shales; the Austwick grits; the Horton flags and the Studfold sandstone, all of which, with the exception of shales, have been quarried for building stone in what comprises one of the most quarried areas of the Yorkshire Dales. The rocks cross the valleys beneath the limestone, but are revealed where erosion removes the limestone.

The Studfold sandstone lies in a wide area to the east of the Ribble making the high, hummocky ground around Studfold just above Helwith Bridge. The sandstone is quarried here and is also exposed in many outcrops.

The largest quarries in Horton flags were those at Helwith Bridge, and in the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries these flags were widely used in Ribblesdale and were carried over into Littondale and spread west and south west over a wide part of the Craven and Lancashire border country. The thicker flags were used for building stone while the thinner flags were used to make shelves, floors etc. Horton flags can also be seen in gateposts and in some of the older clapper bridges.

In Ribblesdale, the Studfold sandstone and some of the Horton flags have been widely used creating houses of contrasting character from those of flaggy sandstone. There is much irregularity in the splitting of the stones and great skill has been exercised in their use. In many buildings, limestone rubble is used in random coursing, with throughs of Horton flags holding them.

At Settle and Ingleton, the Millstone Grit is made available by the presence of the Craven Fault.

The main settlements of the Craven dales are concentrated along the south western perimeter of the National Park. Ingleton and Settle straddle its boundaries.

Chapel-le-Dale, which takes its name from the small church at the dale head, contains only the small hamlet by the same name and scattered farmhouses of Norse origin, while Kingsdale is almost unsettled, with only two farmhouses.

Ingleton, perched high on the hillside alongside the deep valley of the River Greta, is dominated by the church and railway viaduct that crosses the ravine. It has been developed for tourism since the coming of the railway in 1849 and cafes, shops, pubs, hotels and B&Bs abound. Parts are affected by insensitive building and modern housing estates occur on the outskirts. In the past it has been partially industrialised, coal having been worked for centuries and wool, cotton and lime burning being other important industries.

Horton in Ribblesdale straggles along the road within the valley bottom, situated near bridges of the River Ribble and Brants Gill Beck. Horton, with its station situated on the hillside, is strongly influenced by the presence of the railway and the quarries on Moughton to the east, traditional farmhouses mingling with industrial style Victorian terraces of the railway era and more modern development built for quarry workers. Other important settlements in Ribblesdale include Langcliffe, Helwith Bridge, Studfold, Stainforth and Selside.

Settle, a settlement of Anglian origin on the National Park boundary within lower Ribblesdale, has been a market town since its charter was granted in 1249. It lies on the fringe of the Craven hills at the foot of the limestone crag of Castlebergh and at a bridging point of the River Ribble. The presence of the railway and the consequent industrial development of cotton mills, a paper mill and a lime mill have left their mark and the town has extended to include housing estates on the fringes. Giggleswick, a settlement of Norse origin in a valley site, lies nearby Settle and in the past provided the parish church for both settlements until a church was built in Settle in 1838; it is now the setting for a public school.

## + Land Cover

The short springy limestone pastureland, grazed by sheep, supports a great variety of flowering plants. Good examples of this type of grassland can be found at Seato Pastures, Chapel-le-Dale where flushes and seepages support species rich vegetation.

Scattered hay meadows occur within Ribblesdale and infrequently within Chapel-le-Dale, but are not of sufficient quality to receive designation, with the exception of one example close to Ribblehead. There are no hay meadows within Kingsdale, but Upper Ribblesdale was added into the Pennine Dales Environmentally Sensitive Area in 1997.

Limestone pavement is particularly well represented within the upland surrounding the Craven Dales, eg on Ingleborough side and on Scales Moor between Chapel-le-Dale and Kingsdale.

Areas of juniper occur, clinging to limestone cliffs and forming areas of scrub on limestone pavements, eg on Giggleswick Scar and at Moughton.

A number of areas of ancient woodland survive within the Craven dales, particularly in association with scars and gorges. Most of these areas tend to be relatively small in size, with concentrations in the lower dales. The most extensive example is the area of ancient wood pasture in a mosaic with limestone pavement, marsh and grass communities that occurs at Oxenburgh Wood, Crummackdale. Areas of ancient woodland in association with limestone scars include the woodland below Giggleswick and Common Scars, comprising ash, wych elm and occasional sessile oak.

Unusual subalpine ash woodland, of a type once common in the Craven area but now confined to a few locations, occurs on the steep sides of Ling Gill in Ribblesdale. The woodland is dominated by ash and wych elm, with downy birch, bird cherry, rowan, aspen, hawthorn and hazel.

Fine examples of ancient gorge woodland occur at Thornton and Twisleton Glens, below Chapel-le-Dale. Thornton Glen to the west is cut into carboniferous limestone while Twisleton Glen is underlain by Silurian slate, and the difference in the underlying geology is reflected in woodland composition. Thornton Glen is principally ash with an understorey of hazel; wych elm is frequent by the riverside and yew grows on cliffs and scars. On the acidic soils overlying slate oak-birch woodland is well developed.

The glens also include the best exposures in Britain of Ingletonian rocks. At Thornton Force the Carboniferous limestone can be seen resting upon the Ingletonian, a classic example of geological unconformity. Other sites of geological/geomorphological interest include Meal Bank Quarry near Ingleton, Giggleswick Scar and Foredale in Lower Ribblesdale.

## † The Craven Dales Landscape Character Areas

Landscape Character Types (Draft National Types in brackets)	Landscape Character Areas	Location
Limestone Dale with Ancient Woodland (VLA)	Kingsdale	From dale head south west to Raven Ray
Limestone Dale with Ancient Woodland (VLA)	Upper Chapel-le-Dale	From dale head south west to God's Bridge, south of Chapel- le-Dale hamlet
Limestone Dale with Ancient Woodland (VLA)	Lower Chapel-le-Dale	South west from God's Bridge, south of Chapel-le-Dale hamlet, to Beezleys
Limestone Dale with Ancient Woodland (VLA)	Ingleton Glens	South west from Beezleys and Raven Ray to National Park boundary north of Ingleton
Limestone Dale with Ancient Woodland (VLA)	Upper Ribblesdale	From Blea Moor Road south east to north of Horton in Ribblesdale
Limestone Dale with Ancient Woodland (VLA)	Mid Ribblesdale	North of Horton in Ribblesdale south to north of Stainforth
Limestone Dale with Ancient Woodland (VLA)	Lower Ribblesdale	North of Stainforth south to National Park boundary
Limestone Dale with Ancient Woodland (VLA)	Crummackdale	Austwick Beck Head and east of Lower Bark House to north of Austwick

## 18. Kingsdale

### + Key Characteristics

- Small enclosed and secluded limestone dale, steeply incised from surrounding limestone upland areas, enclosed at its lower end by glacial moraine.
- Steep valley sides, patterned by outcropping banded rock scars (more pronounced on the western valley side) dotted with trees and with screes and boulders below contrast with simplicity of the very flat valley floor.
- Open shallow beck, often dry, marked by large stones and boulders that make up its bed, joined by few streams.
- Expansive, smooth grassy flanks and summit of Wherside dominate views at the dale head.
- Dramatic potholes and caves are a feature of the valley side but seldom visible.
- A lonely dale, very sparsely settled and with a minor walled and gated little trafficked road running along its length.
- Valley floor crossed by straight limestone walls forming a striking pattern of large rectangular fields, cut for silage. In upper dale walls change to Yoredale sandstones or give way to post and wire fencing and rushes add texture to the flat valley floor. Walled enclosures extend up dale sides, crossing scars.
- Valley floor is open with very limited tree and woodland cover, trees forming accent features where they occur. An area of ancient woodland occurs at Braida Garth; small dark plantation woodlands are sited round gills at dale head.
- Wooden and post and wire fences, small modern bridges spanning the beck, farm sheds and electric wires are minor detractors.

### + Landscape Character

Kingsdale is a small hidden limestone dale, steeply incised from surrounding limestone upland areas, enclosed at its lower, south eastern end by the raised landform of a glacial moraine and strongly influenced by the form of the dominating scars on the lower western valley sides. There is a marked contrast between the steep valley sides strongly patterned by a complex series of outcropping rock scars and the simple very flat valley floor, formed when the moraine at the foot of the dale held back glacial meltwater to form a shallow glacial lake. The form of the lake is clearly visible in the present landscape, its steep banks forming a well-defined line along the lower valley sides.

Kingsdale Beck is open and shallow and follows a very straight course for much of its length, first on the eastern side of the flat valley floor, crossing to the western side and crossing back to the eastern side close to the raised landform of the moraine, through which the beck cuts a steeply incised, winding course before falling over a number of dramatic waterfalls including the 14m Thornton Force within the adjacent Ingleton Glens character area. Kingsdale Beck runs virtually dry for much of the year, and is visible by the line of large stones and small boulders that form the bed of the beck. In places the beck has undercut the valley sides creating low eroded banks where minor land slippages have occurred.

Few streams join the beck with the exception of the winding Gaze Gill and Buck Beck, which join Kingsdale Beck from the eastern valley side and Cluntering Gill and Backstone Gill, which join from the western valley side, close to the dale head. A number of other gills start their descent at high elevations on the adjacent fells only to disappear below ground before the top of the steep dale sides. A dramatic example of such disappearance occurs at Yordas Cave, where Yordas Gill can be seen

plunging into the cave through its roof. Springs also occur at the foot of the slope within the lower dale and flow into the beck.

To the east of the dale, the land rises via a series of minor scars to the ridge of West Fell and from there to the summit of Whernside, which dominates views to the east at the dale head. To the west, the pronounced steep white banded scars of Keld Head, Greenlaid and Shout Scars are overlooked by the steep slopes of Gragareth. Below the scars scattered rocks and scree occur. The southern end of the dale is dominated by the grassy hump of Raven Ray, the glacial moraine, which almost blocks the mouth of the dale and limits views in this direction.

The western scars contain a number of dramatic potholes, including Jingling Pot, a vertical shaft 43m deep, Rowton Pot, a sheer drop of 65m and Marble Steps Pot, which drops 60m. Although sometimes marked by a ring of trees, these potholes are not readily apparent from the valley floor. Beside the road in the valley bottom is the cave of Keld Head, visible as a shallow pool.

The valley bottom is crossed by a pattern of straight limestone walls forming large, rectangular fields of the enclosure period. From an elevated perspective, walls appear widely spaced and do not present a strong or dominant pattern; however, looking down the valley from a low elevation the repeating pattern of walls cutting straight across the floor of the lower valley is striking. Within the upper dale, walls have been replaced by post and wire fences and roadside wall material changes from limestone to Yoredales. The pattern of straight enclosures also extends straight up the valley sides and cross all apparent obstacles, including the valley side scars, to create a pattern of very large enclosures within adjacent moorland.

The fields in the lower dale are of improved pasture cut for silage; hay meadows are completely absent from the dale. In the upper dale, valley bottom fields become less intensively farmed and less well drained, evidenced by the presence of rushes adding texture to the flat valley floor. Rough grassland and areas of bracken occur on the valley side.

Although a minor, narrow and very straight road from Thornton in Lonsdale to Dentdale passes through the dale on its western side (forming part of the Yorkshire Dales Cycleway), it is little trafficked and gated at its northern end, which adds to the peaceful, lonely qualities of the dale. Moving through the dale, the road is traced by the bright white limestone walls which enclose it and which accentuate the rhythm of the gently undulating lines as the road passes over small rises and falls in the contours. Just above Raven Ray at the foot of the dale a walled green lane (Twisleton Lane) with wide grass verges crosses the valley at right angles to Twisleton Hall at the head of the Ingleton Glens.

The lonely qualities of the dale are compounded by the almost complete absence of settlement, the only buildings being at Braida Garth Farm in the centre of the dale and at Kingsdale Head Farm (including one recently renovated cottage) at the dale head.

Woodland and tree cover are very limited within the open dale, however woodland and trees, where they occur, serve as accent features against the simple form of the dale and are key to its visual qualities. Braida Garth Wood, an ancient woodland on the central mid valley sides is very important in this respect, and a single sycamore tree on the valley floor in the same area is a focal point in a valley floor almost totally devoid of vertical features. Some new planting has been undertaken at Braida Garth. Small areas of dark plantation woodland also occur around the steep sided gills at the dale head, including Yordas Wood, Gill Wood and the woodland on Buck Beck, each of which contain a high proportion of conifers. A single pine tree stands out at Kingsdale Head. Tree cover, including sycamore, ash, thorn and rowan dot the valley side scars.

Moving towards the dale head, the dominance of scars diminishes and gives way to expansive featureless smooth and grassy moorland slopes rising to adjacent moor tops. Close to the dale head on the flanks of Whernside an ancient burial place marked by a mound of stones, known as the Apron Full of Stones, can be seen from the road. At the dale head, views to the farm at Kingsdale Head and to the summit of Whernside draw the eye.

Views of the beck are marred in part by the wooden fences spanning the beck to act as traps for debris brought down the beck, and by a recent replacement steel bridge adjacent to the traditional double arch stone bridge to Braida Garth Farm. Similar flat bridges of modern construction appear

elsewhere. Other detractors to the dale include the agricultural sheds at Braida Garth Farm and the line of electricity poles that run up the dale.

## 19. Upper Chapel-le-Dale

### + Key Characteristics

- Broad u-shaped dale over limestone, complexity added by undulations, small ridges and hillocks within valley floor; dale narrows to a v-shape enclosed by limestone scars above Chapel-le-Dale hamlet.
- Broad, gently farmed slopes on northern valley side, southern valley side has obvious scars and a moorland character.
- Winding beck rarely visible and disappears below ground leaving a narrow dry valley. Waterfalls occur within beck and tributaries.
- Shakeholes, potholes and caves create interest and variation.
- Regular pattern of stone walls enclosing mainly improved pasture extends across the area and onto moorland; a more irregular pattern around hamlets.
- Well treed, particularly around Chapel-le-Dale hamlet; open groups of trees line valley sides and mark scars. Trees also on roadside, by beck, on field boundaries and within fields. A distinctive line of trees links a series of hamlets along former packhorse route on northern valley side.
- Large regular conifer block in centre of dale detracts.
- Settlements include hamlets, scattered farms and remains of ancient settlements.
- Views to Ingleborough and Whernside dominate particularly from more open dale head. The Ribblesdale Viaduct is a dramatic feature of the dale head.

### + Landscape Character

Upper Chapel-le-Dale, extending north east from God's Bridge (below the hamlet of Chapel-le-Dale) towards the viaduct at Ribblesdale, overlies limestone and as a result is distinctly different in character from the lower part of the dale. Above God's Bridge the dale narrows as the limestone scars enclosing the dale draw together and the roads running either side of the valley in the lower dale converge at the hamlet of Chapel-le-Dale where the valley becomes v-shaped over a short distance. Above Chapel-le-Dale, the dale broadens out and becomes more open as the scars on the lower northern valley sides are replaced by broad, gently farmed slopes, while the southern valley side retains its scars and a moorland character extends towards the valley bottom. The dale head is enclosed by the impressive Ribblesdale Viaduct.

The valley, although a broad u-shape, has no clear form and complexity is added by the undulations, small ridges and hillocks within the valley floor. The valley floor drops sharply just north of Chapel-le-Dale hamlet, and the valley sides steepen over this section to become more v-shaped.

Winterburn Beck, which drains the upper dale, follows a winding course within the valley bottom, although rarely visible except at close quarters. The beck disappears below ground at Haws Gill, leaving a narrow dry valley as far as Chapel-le-Dale. Just below this hamlet, the beck re-emerges as Chapel Beck. Falls occur on Winterburn Beck and within the minor tributaries that join it, a number of which also follow courses underground for part of their length.

A regular pattern of limestone walls extends across the area and up onto the moorland sides. Smaller, older and more irregular field patterns occur around the hamlets of Ivescar, Bruntscar, Ellerbeck and Chapel-le-Dale. Hay meadows have almost disappeared from the dale.

Features of limestone scenery including shakeholes, potholes and caves occur in the area and create local interest and variation.

The dale is well treed (ash, sycamore and hawthorn being the principal species), particularly in the vicinity of Chapel-le-Dale where tree planting has occurred in association with Weathercote House. Trees surround the hamlet and open groups of trees, undergrazed by sheep, line the valley sides and mark the scars. Trees also occur along the roadside, on field boundaries, along the beck and as scattered specimens within fields.

The lines of trees which links the hamlets of Ellerbeck, Bruntscar, Broadrake and Ivescar along the former packhorse route over Whernside is a distinctive feature within the upper part of the dale, a large regular block of conifer planting on West Moss in the central part of the dale detracts.

Settlement within the upper dale comprises the small hamlet of Chapel-le-Dale, with its chapel and inn, strongly influenced by the presence of Weathercote House, and the unusual line of hamlets previously mentioned together with scattered farms mainly constructed in limestone with stone slate roofs. The area also contains the remains of a number of ancient settlements.

To the north of Chapel-le-Dale, the B6255 road continues up the valley crossing onto the open moorland to the south from where there are extensive views across the dale and to Whernside. Minor dead end lanes provide access to the properties within the valley. Towards the dale head the landscape becomes more open and the influences of moorland and the summits of Whernside and Ingleborough dominate. The Ribblehead Viaduct cuts across the dale head limiting distant views in this direction from the valley floor.

## 20. Lower Chapel-le-Dale

### + Key Characteristics

- Open straight and relatively featureless u-shaped valley underlain by Ingletonian rocks, deeply incised between the looming summits of Ingleborough and Whernside that lend grandeur to the dale.
- Prominent outcropping stepped limestone scars and screes line the valley sides.
- Lower dale falls away into Ingleton Glens allowing distant views to lowlands beyond.
- Meandering river rarely visible and often below ground is marked by occasional spotty tree cover.
- The straight lines of valley are emphasised by the pattern of regular straight limestone walls enclosing improved pasture and by the parallel straight roads on each side of the valley.
- Tree cover sparse with occasional trees on field boundaries, on the river's edge or by farmsteads.
- Sparsely settled by a few houses and scattered farms.
- Detractors, including the prominent disused quarry, B road traffic and the buildings at White Scar Caves have a significant influence due to the open nature of the landscape.

### + Landscape Character

The lower part of Chapel-le-Dale, extending from God's Bridge in the central part of the dale to the Beezleys (marking the edge of the Ingleton Glens character area) in the lower dale is an open, straight and relatively featureless u-shaped valley deeply incised between the looming steep upland ridges and summits of Ingleborough to the south and Whernside to the north which, together with the outcropping bands of limestone on the valley sides, lend a sense of grandeur to the dale. The lower dale falls away rapidly into the Ingleton Glens giving a sense of space and openness and allowing distant views towards the lowlands beyond.

Unlike the upper part of the dale, which is underlain by limestone, the lower dale is underlain by rocks of the Ingletonian series, the change in geology being visible in the landscape as a change between the well-treed character of the limestone areas to the stark open quality of the Ingletonian areas.

The Ingletonian rocks, a greenish grey slate of the Precambrian period, are exposed below the natural limestone bridge known as God's Bridge. However, while these exposed rocks give local variation, it is the dominating stepped limestone scars and screes of the upper valley sides that influence the valley character, together with the limestone that can be seen in the light pattern of walls and occasional buildings of the dale.

The River Doe meanders across the valley bottom, disappearing and re-appearing beneath its bed, rarely visible as a feature within the landscape and marked only very occasionally by spotty tree cover. Its shallow course is crossed by stepping stones at a number of points. The spring line is at a low elevation, approximately along the road line along the lower valley sides, and as a result these minor watercourses are not visible as valley side features.

Superimposed upon this landscape is the pattern of straight walls of the enclosure period enclosing generally medium to large fields of improved pasture. These walls extend up and across near vertical scars. The walls serve to emphasise the straight lines of the valley sides which are given further emphasis by the straight roads which run either side of the valley; to the east, the B6255 road and to the west the Roman road, now a minor road that is unwallled to one side over much of its length. The small areas of irregularity in the field pattern at the lower end of the dale provide welcome relief to the overall regularity of the dale, and in this area a few barns, which are largely absent from the rest of the dale, provide interest. Hay meadows are very infrequent. Species rich examples of limestone

pastureland grazed by sheep can be found at Seato Pastures, where flushes and seepages support a varied flora.

Tree cover within the dale is very sparse. A small plantation occurs to the north of Springholme, otherwise tree cover is limited to occasional trees along field boundaries or by the river, or trees associated with farmsteads. Species include ash, sycamore and hawthorn. Occasional ash, thorn and yew cling to valley side scars.

The dale is settled only by scattered farms and one or two grander houses including Dale House and Twisleton Dale House. Two suburban style bungalows near the latter appear out of keeping with the valley's character. The buildings at White Scar Cave, an important tourist attraction, appear particularly prominent, especially as the roof of the main building is painted with giant white lettering to advertise its presence.

There are a number of features within the valley, which because of its open character, detract significantly from it. The large disused quarry south of Dale House has left a substantial open scar on the lower valley side. Other detractors include the fast traffic visible on the B road, the buildings at White Scar Caves, some untidy farm buildings, post and wire fences, overhead electric lines and the breeze block walls which have been built at intervals along the minor road to enclose cattle grids.

## 21. Ingleton Glens

### + Key Characteristics

- Diverse, varied faultline landscape of steep wooded glens interspersed by contrasting elevated farmland and quarries, overlying limestone and Ingletonian bedrock.
- Two rivers follow winding courses through steeply incised wooded valleys and gorges and over a series of spectacular waterfalls, only visible on foot, the valleys increasingly steep and narrow above Ingleton.
- Ancient woodland lines the deep glens, species variation reflecting varied geology, and are supplemented by coniferous and mixed plantations.
- Open elevated pasture farmland, divided into medium sized irregularly shaped fields with scattered trees and hay meadows, enclosed by steeper slopes of banded limestone scars. The summit of Ingleborough projects above valley side scars.
- Large working quarry below Skirwith Bridge detracts significantly from elevated areas; the landscape is also peppered with the remains of many smaller disused quarries.
- Settlement and roads occur within elevated areas; settlement limited to a hamlet, a farm and a manor house.

### + Landscape Character

The Ingleton Glens form the lower part of Chapel-le-Dale at its junction point with Kingsdale, extending down to the National Park boundary immediately north of Ingleton. The North Craven Fault cuts across this landscape such that the underlying rock changes abruptly from the Ingletonian series in the north of the area to limestone in the south, giving variety and diversity to the landscape. The steeply incised wooded valleys and gorges of the River Twiss and Doe cut winding courses through the area, the rivers crossing the faultline via a series of spectacular waterfalls including Thornton Force, Hollybush Spout and Pecca Falls on the River Twiss and Beezley Falls, Rival Falls, and Snow Falls on the River Doe. The elevated parts of the valley are dominated by the banded limestone scars of Twisleton Scar End at its northernmost point, White Scars on Ingleborough Side and the imposing summit of Ingleborough projecting above the scars to the east. To the west North End Scars on the flanks of Gragareth are visible.

The character area adjoins the area identified within the Craven Landscape Assessment as type 13b Bentham Clapham Drumlin Field.

The glens become increasingly narrow and deep at their southern end above Ingleton, with a greater degree of enclosure provided here by the adjacent upland areas of Helks Mount and the easternmost edge of Ingleborough.

This is a landscape that can only be appreciated through walking along the wooded valleys and gorges, as much of its interest is in the detail of the woodland, waterfalls and rock formations of the glens, which are largely invisible from the more accessible elevated viewpoints, except as a deep, wooded valley. Within the glens, the contrast in underlying geology is reflected in the plant communities: on limestone the woodland is dominated by ash with an understorey of hazel, and wych elm frequent by the riverside and yew on the scars. On the more acidic soils over slate, oak-birch woodland is well developed. The ancient broadleaved woodland of the glens has been supplemented by coniferous and mixed plantations that extend up the dale sides. Tree cover on the more elevated farmed areas is limited to scattered trees on field boundaries and around buildings.

The landscape is peppered with the remains of former quarries, including those at Meal Bank, Storrs Common and close to Snow Falls; an unsightly large active quarry remains below Skirwith. Between the quarries and wooded glens the remaining land, that is limited in area and mostly steeply graded,

is given over to the grazing of sheep and cattle. Fields of medium size and irregular shape enclosing improved pasture and hay meadows are divided by drystone walls with occasional post and wire fences. Strip lynchets are visible on the valley side below Scar End. Small areas of bracken and rough pasture occur.

Ingleton, with its steep gorge and railway viaduct, is sited just beyond the southern boundary of the character area; but settlement within the area is limited to the small hamlet of Scar End, including Twisleton Hall below Twisleton Scar End, a farm (Beezleys) and Twisleton Manor House. There are also a number of buildings and structures relating to the quarrying industry.

Two roads run through the Glens to Chapel-le-Dale; the minor (Roman) road follows the open ridge between the two valleys and the B6255 road follows the valley side to the east on the lower slopes of Ingleborough.

The main detractor within the area is the working quarry below Skirwith, with its stepped ledges, structures and piles of grey Ingletonian roadstone, visible as a massive scar on the side of Ingleborough when viewed from the opposite valley side. It has not been possible to screen the quarry and the lines of trees along its boundaries are unsympathetic to the character of the surrounding landscape.

## 22. Upper Ribblesdale

### + Key Characteristics

- Broad, exposed and shallow sided u-shaped valley overlying limestone located north of Horton in Ribblesdale between the distinctive stepped upland forms of Ingleborough and Pen-y-ghent.
- Large, expansive drumlin field forms valley floor giving it a distinctive, hummocky appearance contrasting with gently stepped, shallow valley sides. Valley sideteps become more pronounced further south.
- Significant bands of outcropping rock located on both sides of the valley, often with associated woodland, particularly evident on the western valley side.
- River Ribble is a small, insignificant stream with low, open grassy banks, winding between the drumlins in the north, becoming wider and more defined further south, with a platformed, stepped bed, stony beaches and riverside trees.
- The few tributary gills present are particularly well-defined on the eastern valley side with waterfalls and associated woodland.
- Woodland vegetation very sparse at the northern end of the valley, limited to scattered, individual trees and woodland forming part of limestone scars on the valley sides. Further south vegetation cover increases particularly adjacent to the river and near settlements.
- Sparsely settled; two hamlets; Selside (small and traditional) and New Houses (modernised) and a terrace of railway cottages forming a prominent feature within the upper dale. Many isolated farmsteads located mainly on the valley floor and lower side slopes.
- Wide range of field sizes; small around settlements, especially at dale head and Selside and very large on the western valley side. Wall pattern evident but more pronounced further south.
- Land cover a mixture of improved and rough pasture with some hay meadows. Significant areas of sedge present.
- Horton Quarry, a very large quarry in an elevated valley side location, dominates views to the south west of the character area.

### + Landscape Character

Upper Ribblesdale is an very broad and expansive, shallow sided u-shaped valley overlying limestone located to the north of Horton in Ribblesdale between Ingleborough and Pen-y-ghent; Whernside is located to the north west of the dale head.

The character area is bounded to the north by the B6255, Blea Moor Road, Park Fell to the west and an extensive drumlin field to the east that reaches up to Cam Fell. The area extends south to Horton in Ribblesdale and has a spur to the north east that extends up to Ling Gill Bridge.

At its northern end the valley is very broad and exposed with rolling a valley floor comprised of drumlins and gently stepped, shallow valley sides. The smooth egg-shaped mounds dotted with sheep contrast with the distant stepped profile of Pen-y-ghent to the east. The rounded form of Park Fell and the stepped profile of Ingleborough dominate views to the north west and the flanks of Whernside are visible to the north. Further south, the stepped valley side profile becomes more pronounced, although the valley floor remains hummocky and the sides very shallow.

There is a prominent limestone Scar (Ashes Shaw Pasture Rocks) on the west valley side, above Selside and also other areas of banded outcropping rock on both sides of the valley and close to the

valley floor. These scars are particularly important north of Horton Quarry where they form visually prominent terraces high up on the valley sides.

At the head of the valley the River Ribble is a small, visually insignificant stream with low, open grassy banks winding between the many drumlins. Further south, it becomes wider and more defined, notched into the valley floor with steep, tree-lined banks on either side. It has a platformed, stepped bed with stony beaches and boulders in its channel. The few tributary gills are particularly well-defined on the eastern valley side where they are well-wooded and contain waterfalls.

Woodland cover is generally sparse and limited to the limestone scars on the valley sides, with scattered individual trees occurring occasionally on the valley floor. A small area of ancient woodland is associated with the valley side scars to the west of Selside and a further small area at Birkwith. Moving south woodland cover increases and significant groups of trees are associated with the river and settlements.

Field sizes vary considerably within Upper Ribblesdale, being very small around settlements, particularly at the head of the dale and near Selside, and much larger in size on the western valley side where they are elongated towards the scar. The wall pattern and occasional associated barns are often masked by the undulating topography but becomes much more pronounced further south, north of Horton in Ribblesdale, where walls cross the valley floor forming strong, parallel lines. Land cover is a mixture of improved and rough pasture with some hay meadows. Significant areas of sedge are present. An area of common land occurs on the valley floor and lower valley side south of Selside.

The two hamlets within Upper Ribblesdale, Selside and New Houses, are located on opposite sides of the valley. Selside is a traditional, unspoilt hamlet, with many longhouses built with locally quarried sandstone and limestone, and with stone flagged roofs, adjacent to the railway. New Houses appears modernised with holiday cottages present, perhaps due to its proximity to the Pennine Way Footpath. A row of visually prominent Victorian railway cottages is sited at the head of the valley between Gauber Road and the railway line. A number of properties in the area are painted white and some are pebbledashed.

One main road, the B6479, runs along the lower western slopes to Horton in Ribblesdale, following a similar alignment to the railway line which it crosses twice. The railway is a prominent linear feature, alternately sited on raised embankment and in cutting as it crosses the undulating valley side. Its level, straight course contrasts dramatically with the undulating landscape through which it passes. The Ribblehead viaduct is a prominent feature just north of the character area boundary within the upper dale. The Pennine Way and Ribble Way pass along the upper western valley side.

The main detractor within the valley is Horton Quarry, a very large quarry in an elevated valley side location which dominates views to the south west of the character area. Other detractors include the railway and large agricultural sheds such as those at High Birkwith.

## 23. Mid Ribblesdale

### + Key Characteristics

- Broad u-shaped valley with gently undulating or flat valley floor and gently terraced valley sides overlying sandstones and slates of the Ingletonian series, narrowing both at its northern end around Horton in Ribblesdale and to the south of Helwith Bridge.
- The domed summit of Pen-y-ghent overlooks the dale.
- High, hummocky ground adjacent to Studfold has the effect of narrowing the eastern side of the valley, creating a sense of enclosure.
- Limestone pavements of Moughton are a very prominent visual feature, particularly on the western valley side.
- River open broad and meandering and partially screened by undulating topography, with few tributary gills. South of Helwith Bridge, the river cuts a winding narrow course through glacial deposits with the effect of enclosing and limiting views down the valley.
- Generally open, vegetation mainly confined to lower valley slopes, with bands of woodland associated with outcropping rock. Large parkland trees and small copses scattered on valley floor and lower slopes give a parkland character to the area around Studfold.
- Horton in Ribblesdale, a straggling dispersed settlement with railway station located on the valley side, dominates the upper valley floor, strongly influenced by the presence of the railway and the quarries to the west.
- Strong field pattern especially evident where the valley floor is flat, with drystone walls in good condition. Occasional barns located at field corners.
- Fields are of mixed sizes and shapes enclosing mainly improved pasture with scattered hay meadows on the valley floor and lower slopes.
- Valley profile altered by the three large quarries, Horton quarry, Arcow Quarry and Dry Rigg Quarry, which dominate the upper western valley side of the character area.

### + Landscape Character

Mid Ribblesdale is a broad, u-shaped glacial valley overlying sandstones and slates of the Ingletonian series with a gently undulating or flat valley floor and gently terraced valley sides narrowing both at its northern end around Horton in Ribblesdale and to the south of Helwith Bridge.

The northern character area boundary extends from north of Horton in Ribblesdale south to north of Stainforth. It is bounded to the west by the limestone pavements of Moughton, and to the east by moorland rising to the domed summit of Pen-y-ghent, which overlooks the dale.

South of Horton the valley floor is very wide and flat, reflecting its origins as a postglacial lake that would have been impounded south of Helwith Bridge. The valley becomes narrower and more enclosed around Studfold, where there is high, hummocky ground associated with the underlying Studfold sandstone to the east of the B6479 road. South of Helwith Bridge, the river cuts a winding narrow course through the area of glacial moraine that would have impounded the lake, with the effect of enclosing and limiting views down the valley.

On the western valley side the exposed limestone pavements on Moughton are a very prominent visual feature forming bands of outcropping rock. Here the valley profile has been completely altered by the three large quarries, Horton quarry, Arcow Quarry and Dry Rigg Quarry, which dominate the character area. The extensive terraces of quarried rock affect the majority of the upper western valley

side and in places eat into the horizon line eg at Moughton Nab. A small disused quarry occurs on the eastern valley side near Studfold.

The River Ribble is broad and meandering with little associated tree cover and often hidden by the surrounding landform. There are few obvious tributary gills in this part of the dale, with the exception of Brants Gill Beck, which joins the Ribble at Horton Bridge, and a few springs with their source high up on the valley sides.

The valley is generally quite open with woodland vegetation mainly confined to the lower valley slopes with bands of trees associated with outcropping rock. Areas of scrub occur within and adjacent to the quarried areas. Small areas of ancient woodland occur on the western valley side above Helwith Bridge. Large, individual parkland trees and small woodland copses scattered on the valley floor and lower side slopes give a more wooded character locally, particularly around Studfold.

A strong field pattern is evident on the flat valley floor, south of Horton in Ribblesdale. Walls are generally in good condition with occasional barns located in field corners. Fields are of mixed sizes and shapes enclosing mainly improved pasture with scattered hay meadows on the valley floor and lower slopes. An area of unenclosed common occurs to the west of Helwith Bridge. The field pattern extends up the valley side and onto adjacent moorlands as a pattern of large regular enclosures.

The main settlement is Horton in Ribblesdale, a straggling dispersed village of traditional and modern buildings constructed mainly in local Studfold Sandstone, situated at the bridging point of the River Ribble. A second bridge spans Brants Gill Beck, a tributary flowing from the eastern valley side, and has a cluster of house associated with it. A station is set apart from the village centre on the western valley side and has a further cluster of houses associated with it. The settlement is strongly influenced by the presence of the railway and the quarries to the west, containing within it a mixture of farmhouses, cottages, Victorian terraces of the railway era and more modern houses built to accommodate quarry workers. It also has hotels, inns and cafes catering for the many walkers who congregate in Horton by virtue of its status as the starting point for the Three Peaks Walk, cycle and fell races and its position on the Pennine and Ribble Ways.

Isolated farmsteads are located on the valley floor close to the river, or midway up the eastern valley side.

One main road, the B6470, runs north to south from Horton in Ribblesdale to Stainforth. At Helwith Bridge it branches off to the west, into adjacent Crummackdale. The railway which runs along the lower western valley side north of Helwith Bridge and close to the eastern riverbank to the south is visible in places but not a prominent feature of the dale.

The main detractors within the valley are the three large quarries and associated dust, noise and heavy quarry traffic. Minor detractors include overhead electricity lines, which are particularly obvious south west of Helwith Bridge where the valley is more open, and the railway. A number of large modern farm sheds are scattered throughout the valley.

## 24. Lower Ribblesdale

### + Key Characteristics

- Broadly u-shaped lower dale overlies limestone bedrock, the northern part of the character area being defined by the line of the North Craven Fault, where the valley sides close in limiting views up the valley and giving Lower Ribblesdale a separate visual identity.
- Skyline views dominated by the limestone upland of Moughton, to the north west; the prominent upswept form of Smearsett Scar above Little Stainforth; distant views to summit of Pen-y-ghent and the ridge of Fountains Fell to the north east; and the notched horizon of Langcliffe Scar to the south east.
- The lower valley sides slope gently down to the river; upper dale sides slope steeply towards the enclosing limestone uplands marked by patterns of outcropping rock. The prominent, wooded Stainforth Scar and an exposed quarry face punctuate the upper, eastern valley side.
- The river cuts a deep course through the upper part of the character area, often enclosed by steep well-wooded banks, following a strongly meandering course across the valley floor and dropping dramatically at Stainforth Force. The packhorse bridge at Stainforth is an attractive focal point.
- Well wooded, with often linear ancient woodland following the contours of the riverbanks, beck sides and extending high up to the valley side scars. Individual trees mark field boundaries and occur as specimens within fields.
- The pattern of limestone and gritstone walls forms a strong component of the dale character. The pattern of fields extends onto the adjacent fell tops generally as large regularly shaped enclosures.
- Fields mainly cropped for silage although a concentration of hay meadows occurs around Langcliffe and are scattered throughout the dale. Steeper slopes by the river or on the valley sides often remain uncultivated, the variation land cover serving to emphasise the topographic variety of the dale.
- The villages of Stainforth and Langcliffe, constructed in mixed materials and sited on west facing slopes, face their counterparts, the smaller hamlets Little Stainforth and Stackhouse on the opposite side of river crossing points. Small terraces of mill workers cottages occur in rural locations and there is one farmhouse. Modern development occurs on the northern edge of Giggleswick.
- The dale forms an important transport corridor for both the B6475 and railway. Routeways combine with other significant detractors within the dale, including the mill and disused quarries, to create local pockets of a strong industrial feel, the tree cover limiting the extent of these effects. The caravan site at Little Stainforth, on a terrace above the river, detracts from views.

### + Landscape Character

Lower Ribblesdale, extending from north of Stainforth south to Settle, falls only partly within the National Park. Between Langcliffe, Stackhouse and Settle only the valley sides are included within the Park, the town of Settle and a stretch of the valley floor north of here having been excluded. The character area adjoins landscape type 11 identified in the Landscape Strategy for Lancashire (for Craven District Council) as 'Valley Floodplains' comprising the character areas 11b 'Long Preston Reaches'.

Views are dominated by the limestone upland of Moughton, to the north west; the prominent upswept form of Smearsett Scar above Little Stainforth; distant views to summit of Pen-y-ghent and the ridge of Fountains Fell to the north east; and the notched horizon of Langcliffe Scar to the south east.

This part of the dale overlies limestone bedrock, the northern part of the character area being defined by the line of the North Craven Fault that marks the transition between limestone and Silurian bedrock. Although broadly u-shaped, the river cuts a deep course through the upper part of the character area and the valley floor slopes gently down to the river which is often marked by steep wooded banks. The dale sides slope steeply towards the enclosing limestone uplands marked by patterns of outcropping rock. The prominent, wooded Stainforth Scar and the exposed face of the quarry, which interrupts the wooded form of the scar, mark the upper, eastern valley side. North of Stainforth the valley sides close in limiting views in this direction and giving this part of the dale a separate visual identity.

The river follows a strongly meandering course across the valley floor, dropping dramatically at Stainforth Force, a popular beauty spot. The river is enclosed by steep banks that are generally well wooded with deciduous trees. The Ribble Way follows the course of the river and a paper mill is sited on its banks with a further mill at Langcliffe sited just south of the Park boundary.

The dale is well wooded, with a number of areas of often linear ancient woodland following the contours of the riverbanks and valley side scars. Woodland extends high up the valley sides, some areas of woodland having been undergrazed resulting in a more open appearance. Woodland also marks the line of Stainforth Beck and individual trees mark field boundaries and occur as specimens within fields. The principal species present are ash, sycamore, elder and thorn.

The pattern of limestone and gritstone walls forms a strong component of the dale character, although because of the wooded nature of the dale the pattern is best appreciated from valley side viewpoints. The pattern of long rectangular fields crossing the slope around Borrins is particularly striking. The walls are generally in good condition although occasional breaks in the pattern occur. The pattern of fields extends onto the adjacent fell tops generally as large regularly shaped enclosures.

Fields provide pasture for sheep and cattle, and are generally cropped for silage, although a concentration of hay meadows occurs around Langcliffe and are scattered throughout the dale. While the gentler slopes are cropped for silage or hay, the steeper slopes by the river or on the valley sides often remain uncultivated, the variation land cover serving to emphasise the topographic variety of the dale. Field barns are scattered across the area.

The principal settlements in Lower Ribblesdale are Stainforth and Langcliffe, sited on west facing slopes, the former situated at the crossing point of Stainforth Beck and close to the bridging point of the River Ribble by an attractive packhorse bridge, and the latter in an elevated valley side location around a central green. The smaller hamlets of Little Stainforth and Stackhouse occur on the east facing slopes sited facing the former settlements on the opposite side of the river crossing points. The modern development on the north edge of Giggleswick also falls within the boundary of the National Park. Small terraces of mill workers cottages occur in rural locations (e.g. north of Langcliffe) and there is one farm, Borrins. The large country house, Taitlands, is now a youth hostel.

Buildings are constructed in a variety of materials, including limestone, a mixture of limestone and gritstone for cottages and gritstone for the grander houses. Some houses are pebbledashed and roofs are generally finished in slate.

The dale forms an important transport corridor for both the B6475 sited on the eastern slopes and the railway that is crossed by the road in a number of places and both of which are sited to the river. A minor road follows the western slopes of the dale, the only bridge crossing being at Stainforth. These routeways combine with other significant detractors within the dale, especially the mill with its tall chimney north of Langcliffe and the disused quarries in this area, to create local pockets of a strong industrial feel, although generally the strong visual qualities of the dale and the extent of tree cover allow these to effects to remain localised. The caravan site at Little Stainforth, on the terrace above Stainforth Force is visible from elevated viewpoints and detracts from views although there is potential for this site to be better integrated through tree planting.

## 25. Crummackdale

### + Key Characteristics

- A quiet dale, isolated in its upper reaches, overlying Silurian rock, its dale head enclosed by an impressive amphitheatre of limestone pavement and scars of Moughton and Norber, above which the summit of Pen-y-ghent is visible.
- A shallow v-shape in the upper reaches of the dale and its main tributary, the dale broadens, opens up and flattens out to the north of Austwick into a broad u-shape.
- The dale head of the tributary has been breached and connects via a narrow gap into Mid Ribblesdale.
- The steep enclosing valley sides are strongly patterned by limestone scars and pavements and by the ancient woodlands of Wharfe Wood and Oxenburgh Wood. Upon the enclosing pavements, erratic rocks of Silurian stone are visible.
- The winding course of Austwick Beck drains the dale, following a deeply incised course above Wharfe, joined by the frequent springs that drain the dale sides, a major unnamed tributary to the east and the steeply incised, wooded Wharfe Gill Slice.
- Well treed valley floor, trees following the line of becks and gills, marking the hamlet and farms and present as individual specimens on field boundaries. Valley sides generally more open with occasional small mixed or deciduous woodlands and scattered trees present on scars.
- Strong pattern of walls, particularly in the lower dale where the valley floor is more open and expansive with simpler form. Valley floor field sizes are small to medium; in the upper dale, a more recent pattern of large enclosures extend up the valley sides.
- Settlement within the dale limited to the isolated hamlet of Wharfe and small farms situated mainly on the lower valley sides, mostly constructed in limestone rubble with gritstone cornerstones and slate roofs.
- Much of the dale is inaccessible by road; a dense network of walled green lanes and tracks provide the only access to Wharfe, the dale head and many of the scattered farms.
- Free from detractors, other than overhead electricity lines.

### + Landscape Character

Crummackdale is a quiet dale, isolated in its upper reaches, overlying Silurian shales, slates and grits, its dale head enclosed by an impressive amphitheatre of limestone pavement and scars. To the east of the hamlet of Wharfe lies a tributary valley, drained by an unnamed beck which drains the isolated area of upland to the south and the upland area of Moughton to the north and a second beck, Wharfe Gill Slice, which cuts a deeply incised course below Wharfe Wood joining Austwick Beck at Mill Bridge. The dale head of this side valley, which is formed by Moughton Nab to the north and Smearsett Copy's to the south, has been breached by the actions of water and ice such that it now connects, via a narrow gap, into Mid Ribblesdale.

The character area adjoins landscape type 11 identified in the Landscape Strategy for Lancashire (for Craven District Council) as 'Drumlin Fields' comprising the character areas 13b 'Bentham Clapham Drumlin Fields'.

A shallow v-shape in the upper reaches of the dale and its tributary, the dale broadens, opens up and flattens out to the north of Austwick to a broad u-shape at its transition point with the South Western Dales Fringe character area. The steep enclosing valley sides are strongly patterned by limestone scars and pavements and on the edges of the upland areas to the south, by the ancient woodlands of

Wharfe Wood and Oxenburgh Wood. Fine grained whetstones can be seen exposed at the dale head. Upon the enclosing pavements of Norber and Moughton, erratic rocks of Silurian stone are visible and above the scars of Moughton, the summit of Pen-y-ghent is visible. Norber Edge has a distinctive bull-nosed profile in views from the east.

Crummackdale is drained by the winding course of Austwick Beck, which emerges from a cave at the dale head and is joined by the frequent springs that drain the dale sides. Austwick Beck follows a deeply incised course above Wharfe dropping over a waterfall above the hamlet. South of this point the beck diminishes in size, flowing partly underground. The beck draining the valley to the east of Wharfe also follows an underground course for much of its length. Wharfe Gill Slice is also deeply incised, its course marked by its steep wooded banks.

Although there is little woodland, the valley floor is well treed, with trees following the line of becks and gills, marking the hamlets and farms and present as individual specimens on field boundaries, the principal species being sycamore and ash. The valley sides are generally far more open with patches of scrub above Wharfe and scattered trees present on scars. Exceptions to this general pattern include the significant area of open ancient woodland known as Oxenburgh and Wharfe Woods clothing the scars on the upland area to the south and creating a wooded horizon to views in this direction and occasional small mixed or deciduous woodlands on the valley side.

The pattern of walls plays a significant role in this landscape, particularly in the lower dale where the valley floor is more open and expansive with simpler form. In the valley floor field sizes are small to medium, often in a broad rectangular shape, either crossing or running along the line of the slope. In the upper dale, north of Sowerthwaite Farm, is a more recent pattern of large enclosures that extend up the valley sides to the foot of the scars or limestone pavement areas. Few hay meadows occur.

Settlement within the dale is limited to the isolated hamlet of Wharfe, accessible only by unmade bridleways, and the small farms situated mainly on the lower valley sides. Only one group of buildings, those at Crummack, are sited in the upper dale, adding to the sense of isolation in this area. Buildings are generally constructed in limestone rubble, with gritstone cornerstones and slate roofs. Red sandstones are also present in limited quantities.

The dale is accessed via the minor road, which is situated on the valley floor linking Austwick with Horton-in-Ribblesdale. Crummack Lane extends from Austwick in the direction of the dale head but becomes a bridleway north of Sowerthwaite Farm, leaving the dale head accessible only by foot or horseback. A feature of the dale is the dense network of walled green lanes and tracks that link the settlements and scattered farms.

The dale is generally free from detractors, other than overhead electricity lines.