

The Cumbrian Dales

+ Physical Influences

The most important geological feature of the Cumbrian Dales is the Dent Fault, which runs from Kirkby Stephen to Kirkby Lonsdale, a distance of 32km. It is the best known example in the country of a reverse fault and forms a division between two contrasting types of scenery: the horizontal limestone scars of the Yorkshire Dales and the smooth, rounded Howgill Fells formed by the Silurian rock of the Lake District. The rocks on the Lake District (western) side rose up 2400m against the horizontal strata on the Pennine (eastern) side, forcing limestones into a vertical position close to the fault plane. The fault crosses Dentdale alongside Barkin Beck near Gawthrop and up Barbondale. The flat valley bottom near Gawthrop was once a lake, formed by glacial action during the Ice Age.

Sedbergh sits on top of an area of red conglomerate, a reddish rock that comprising pebbles of Silurian age mixed with weathered granite cemented together. It forms the base of the Carboniferous series of strata and is a land deposit that collected in the hollows and valleys of the desert landscape at that time. A significant area of Great Scar Limestone lies to the east of the Dent Fault and underlies Dentdale, Garsdale and the east side of the Rawthey Valley. Above the Great Scar limestone are the alternating beds of the Yoredale series of rocks, limestones, sandstones and shales. They are evident as horizontal scars along the valley sides of Garsdale and Dentdale. Thin beds of limestone form platformed steps down the riverbed over which the River Dee flows. Often the bed is dry and the water flows through underground caverns.

Below the Main Limestone, near the top of the Yoredale Strata, coal occurs and evidence of old pits and shafts can be seen at Garsdale Common. The former workings are scattered near the Galloway Road between Garsdale and Dent stations. Limestone was extracted from small quarries in Dentdale from the Yoredale Series, and cut and polished to produce Dent marble.

During the Ice Age, Cautley Crags on the eastern edge of the Howgills were exposed by the gouging effect of the ice creating the beginnings of a corrie. The valley bottoms adjacent to the Howgills received thick deposits of boulder clay. The Lune gorge was deepened by ice moving from north to south and the western dales also had glaciers that stripped off soil cover and revealed the scars typical of the Yorkshire Dales. Combe Scar to the west of Dent shows the outline of a small corrie with its own moraine of glacial debris.

Dentdale, Garsdale, the Rawthey Valley and Lune Valley are west facing dales in contrast to all the other dales within the National Park. Their rivers, the Dee, Clough and Rawthey, all flow into the River Lune that flows west into the Irish Sea.

+ Historical and Cultural Influences

There are few prehistoric remains in this area. At Abbot Holme Bridge near Catholes at the lower end of Dentdale, there are several mounds and hut circles indicating ancient settlement possibly of the Iron Age.

The first road system was constructed by the Romans from Ribchester to Carlisle passing through the Lune valley, with a branch road from Sedbergh up the Rawthey Valley, illustrated by names such as Bluecaster Side, Borwens and the Street. For hundreds of years the Lune Valley route became a highway for raids from the north.

In the sixth century a Celtic kingdom of ruled by Donatus existed in Dentdale. A Christian community was recorded at Dent until the 7th century when the Celtic clergy of the kingdom were driven out by the Anglo Saxons.

Anglian influence from the 7th century is evident in the names "ton", a farmstead, and "-ing" the "place of" (a named occupant) and occurs mainly in the Lune Valley, for example Killington.

In the 10th century the Norsemen arrived from Scandinavia. Vikings from Norway landed on the coast of Cumbria and Lancashire, acquired large areas of grazing land and lived in longhouses. Their

language forms an important part of the Yorkshire dialect, "thwaite" meaning a clearing, "garth" an enclosure, "holme" an island, "scar" a rocky outcrop and "wath" a ford. In Dentdale and Garsdale Norse settlements are typically isolated farmhouses situated on both sides of the valley adjacent to gills or springs. Dent is the only village of significant size in these two dales. Names such as Swarthwaite, Hackgill, Dandra Garth, Birkrigg and Tofts illustrate the Norse influences.

After the defeat of Harold in 1066, the Normans spread north and built many Castles to maintain order and check incursions from Scotland. One example of is Castlehaw Tower in Sedbergh, a well-preserved motte and bailey (early timber castle on a mound). The Normans also founded or rebuilt churches for example those in Sedbergh and Dent. The constant threat of raids from the north led to the fortification of houses an example being Middleton Hall near Sedbergh.

As in many of the dales, the monastic influence was strong within the Cumbrian dales until the dissolution of the monasteries in the 1530's.

In the 17th century the Cumbrian Dales became an important are for wool and Dent in particular, became famous for hand knitting which developed in the 17th century with the making of good quality stockings and gloves. Knitting flourished because it was a suitable way of using the rather coarse local wool, because the pastoral farming required little or no female or child labour except at hay time and because partible inheritance had led to numerous small family farms. Water powered mills, such as those at Farfield, Hebblethwaite Hall, Arten Gill, Stone House and Rash carded and spun the yarn.

Between the head of Garsdale and Dentdale there was a thriving coal mining industry from the 17th century to the 1870s, which considerably improved the economy of the two dales. Today there is little evidence of the old pits and mine shafts.

There is a packhorse route from Dent to Ingleton, Craven Old Way, which climbs over Whernside and a second route to Ingleton that follows Deepdale into Kingsdale. The walled track of Occupation Road to the south of Dent was used by small quarries and may also have followed an older packhorse route.

Over the centuries farming has governed the changes in the landscape. The enclosures of 1859 in Dentdale were some of the last in the Yorkshire Dales. Most farms have a mixture of permanent pasture and moorland. Many farms rear beef cattle although sheep farming is the most widespread.

Adam Sedgwick (1785-1873), a pioneer of British geology, was brought up in Dent. His work led to the identification of the Dent fault and his memory is preserved by a fountain in Dent's main street.

The Settle to Carlisle railway opened in 1875 and skirts the head of both Garsdale and Dentdale en route between the Eden and Ribble valleys. The stations that serve both Garsdale and Dent are high up and far from the villages themselves. Dent station is 5 miles from the village. The coming of the railway to these two dales brought an increase in trade to the two isolated dales.

The area is attractive to visitors although facilities are of a low key nature. Dent has a number of craft shops and an art gallery, teashops and pubs and campsites. The National Park has an information centre at Sedbergh and there are two camping/caravanning sites close to the town. Further campsites are found in the Rawthey valley and at Ewesdale in upper Dentdale. There is a rare breeds centre at High Hall in Dentdale. The Dales Way Long Distance Footpath passes through Dentdale, the Rawthey and Lune valleys. The 259 mile long circular Cumbria Cycleway passes through Sedbergh and Garsdale and the Yorkshire Dales cycleway passes through Dentdale.

+ Buildings and Settlement

Lower Dentdale is situated upon Great Scar Limestone where the Yoredale Limestones are thin. There is a fine series of flags and slates above the Middle Limestone that was extensively quarried at High Pike Quarries at the head of Deepdale, and also at Scotcher Gill just north of Dent. The only Millstone Grit in this area is to be found on Baugh Fell, north of Garsdale, with quarries at the western side overlooking the Rawthey Valley. The stone for Sedbergh was supplied from these quarries and the largest quarry in the north western Yorkshire Dales – Rawthey Quarry in Uldale.

Buildings in Dentdale are characterised by the use of abundant cut flags and slates quarried from Scotcher Gill. The absence of Millstone Grit in the area has meant that two or three of these flags were used for window lintels in many of the smaller buildings. For the larger, and better houses stone was brought from the Baugh Fell quarries.

There are two viaducts; Dent Head Viaduct was built from Simonstone Limestone that was based upon the Hardraw Scar Limestone, and quarries up the adjacent gill. Artengill Viaduct was also made from the local limestone and some of the parapets made from Penrith (Permian) Sandstone brought from the Vale of Eden.

Dentdale or Simonstone Limestone was exploited as Dent Marble, and often used for fireplaces and kerbs for railway stations. In Arten Gill in Upper Dentdale, quarrying started in 1770 and High Mill was converted from carding and spinning yarn to cutting and polishing marble. The finer black and white stone was often cut into flooring tiles and a large amount exported, particularly to Australia. A fine example of this marble is in the chancel of Dent Church.

The area has a number of large houses. The broad Lune Valley proved to be an attractive location to build a stately home. Examples include Ingmire Hall in the Lune Valley and Stone Hall in the Rawthey Valley.

Early farmhouse dwellings had thatched roofs with high pitched gables, a style that was also seen incorporated into later buildings such as Low House in Garsdale. From 1650 stone flags started to replace thatch as the main roofing material. Porches were typically central, occasionally with a gabled upper storey. Wooden galleries used for spinning and weaving in the 18th century were common and examples have survived at Sedbergh today. A frequent feature of the area is the painting of stone buildings white.

At Brigflatts, in the Lune Valley, is the oldest Quaker meeting house in the North of England, dating from 1675, and which still has its original oak interior.

Dent town was once more important than Sedbergh. It used to have six inns and alehouses near the market place and as late as 1906 there were three banks, a blacksmith, six shoemakers, three butchers, two carters, four joiners, four tailors and twelve grocers, bakers and provision dealers. A century earlier there were even more rural craftsmen.

Sedbergh is set at the confluence of four valleys and four rivers where ancient trade routes from Kendal to York and Lancaster to Newcastle merged. Dating back from the Roman times, the name derives from the Norse "setberg" meaning a flat-topped hill, which along with other names in the area demonstrate the overwhelming Norse influence. The town was granted a market charter in the 13th century and still holds a Wednesday market. It was important for the woollen and Knitting trades and is well known for its public school, founded in 1525. The population of Sedbergh increased significantly during the 150 years up to the last war, and after the opening of the railway in 1861 many houses were built in a style typical of the Lake District.

Others settlements within the Cumbrian Dales are limited to small villages and hamlets.

† Land Cover

The western dales tend to be generally lush and greener than the east facing Yorkshire Dales, mostly due to the milder winters experienced in the location.

The richest Grade 3 farmland is in the lower Lune Valley below Sedbergh and good meadow and pasture land (Grade 4) reaches up all the branching dales.

The Cumbrian Dales include a wide variety of habitats that support a diverse range of plant and wildlife. Habitats include broad-leaved woodland with species including ash, oak, sycamore, hazel, hawthorn, blackthorn, bird cherry, wild cherry, willow, elder, alder, rowan, crab apple and dog rose; coniferous plantations; hay meadows; rough grassland and limestone pastures and scars.

There are no large areas of broadleaved woodland although the dales have a generally well-wooded appearance. There are areas of ancient woodland on the eastern side of the Rawthey Valley and

smaller areas higher up both the valley sides of Dentdale mainly associated with the gills. A few coniferous plantations at the eastern end of Garsdale and Dentdale detract from the overall character.

Dentdale with Deepdale, the Rawthey Valley and Garsdale fall within the Pennine Dales Environmentally Sensitive Area. There are four Sites of Special Scientific Interest within the area. Deepdale Meadows SSSI consists of six unimproved, traditionally managed hay meadows located 2km south east of Dent. They represent one of only four remaining examples of the south Cumbria northern hay meadow plant community. Cautley Thwaite Meadows and Ecker Secker Beck SSSIs consists of four traditionally managed grasslands 5km north east of Sedbergh overlying the Cautley Mudstones. Combe Scar SSSI situated at the head of Barbondale was formed by the Dent Fault bringing Upper Silurian Coniston Grits into contact with Coniston Flags (Lower Silurian) and volcanic Ordovician age rocks. The overlying soils provide base-rich and base-poor conditions due to the variety of rocks influencing them. The Upper Dentdale Cave System SSSI located 3km east of Dent comprises an underground cave system with a number of entrances and resurgences.

† The Cumbrian Dales Landscape Character Areas

Landscape Character Types (Draft National Types in brackets)	Landscape Character Areas	Location
VLA (upland dales and valleys, shallow soils over limestone, wooded-ancient woods)	Dentdale and Deepdale	Dent Head Viaduct to Abbot Holme Bridge
VLA (upland dales and valleys, shallow soils over limestone, wooded-ancient woods)	Garsdale	Dandymire Viaduct to Low Fores
VPA (upland vales valleys, gleyed soils over hard rock, wooded-ancient woods) VPD (upland vales and valleys, gleyed soils over hard rock, dispersed, unwooded)	Rawthey Valley	Dale head (Low Haygarth area) to Marthwaite
VPD (upland vales and valleys, gleyed soils over hard rock, dispersed, unwooded)	Lune Valley	National Park boundary north of Midgehole to National Park boundary at Middleton Bridge

4. Dentdale and Deepdale

+ Key Characteristics

- West facing sinuous, shallow, u-shaped glacial valley located in the north western part of the National Park.
- Crossed by the Dent Fault in the Gawthrop area, the valley overlies Great Scar limestone to the east, with valley sides formed by Yoredales; to the west the valley overlies grey turbidite sandstones and slates of the Silurian period.
- Shallow, gently undulating valley sides with a predominantly narrow valley floor, except to the west of Dent where it widens out significantly, and the valley becomes broader and more open in character.
- Outcropping limestone of Combe Scar and associated corrie below form a prominent feature.
- River has a smooth, platformed bed with steps or ledges, and extensive tree cover on riverbanks.
- Frequent tributary gills giving valley side a folded, indented appearance, their winding form picked out by abundant tree cover.
- Lush, green, extremely well-wooded valley with linear lines of hedgerows appearing to tumble down the valley sides to connect with densely wooded river banks.
- Picturesque, traditional stone-built village of Dent with narrow, cobbled streets. Many houses within Dent, and other farmsteads scattered throughout the dale, have been rendered and painted white.
- Medium to large sized fields with hay meadows, mainly enclosed by hedgerows and some drystone walls.
- Two local stone viaducts form dominant features at the head of Dentdale. Visual influence of railway slightly exacerbated by unusual use of sleepers as crude fencing.
- Few detractors.

+ Landscape Character

The main valley of Dentdale is a sinuous, u-shaped glacial valley with an east to west orientation. Deepdale is a major tributary valley with similar characteristics that branches off to the south of Dentdale. Both valleys have a shallow sloping profile with smooth, gently undulating valley sides and a narrow valley floor. However to the west of Dent the valley floor becomes much broader and flatter, giving the dale a more open character in this area.

Crossed by the Dent Fault in the Gawthrop area, the valley overlies Great Scar limestone to the east, with valley sides formed by Yoredales; to the west the valley overlies grey turbidite sandstones and slates of the Silurian period.

The character area is contained by the coniferous plantations of Mossy Bottom and Hazel Bottom at the head of Dentdale, and also partly by the railway to the east. At the lower end of the valley it merges with the broader, more open Rawthey Valley landscape.

There are numerous caves, shakeholes and swallowholes high up on the valley sides but these are not obvious features. Combe Scar to the north west of Dent is a prominent feature displaying a band of outcropping rock with a corrie below scoured out by glacial erosion. Its presence dominates this part of the dale.

There are many tributary gills occurring frequently on both sides of the valley. They have a distinctive, winding form that is picked out by the abundant tree cover within them. Their frequency gives an indented gently folded appearance to the valley sides.

The River Dee runs through Dentdale with its source at the dale head. It eventually merges with the River Rawthey just north of Abbot Holme. Deepdale Beck runs through Deepdale and joins the River Dee just below Scotchergill. Both rivers are shallow and meandering with stepped and platformed beds and abundant tree cover on both banks making the rivers hard to distinguish on the valley floor.

Dentdale and Deepdale have numerous woodland copses, hedgerows and individual trees, with a diverse range of species present. The hedgerows form linear features that appear to tumble down the valley sides slopes to meet with the densely wooded riverbanks. The rich diversity of species and ample tree and shrub coverage combine to form a rich visual tapestry, giving the dale its renowned lush and very green appearance. At the valley head in the higher reaches of Dentdale, the vegetation reduces to scattered clumps of hawthorn, giving the area a wilder appearance as it merges with the adjacent moorland.

The main settlement in this character area is Dent, known as Dent Town, located in the middle of the dale on the valley floor, close to the river. It has narrow, cobbled streets and traditional stone houses, many rendered and painted white. Building materials include local limestone with stone flag and slate roofs and occasional red sandstone. Some unsympathetic modern housing occurs on the western edge of the village. The only other settlement of any significance is Gawthrop, a hamlet situated 1km to the west of Dent at the lower end of Barbondale, a tributary valley.

All of the farmhouses situated within Dentdale and Deepdale are traditionally styled; many painted white with stone flag roofs. They tend to be nestled mid-way up both valley sides amongst extensive tree cover associated with tributary gills. The scattered stone barns are not a strong visual feature due to the extent of vegetation cover. Many barns have collapsed, or are crumbling and dilapidated. Drystone walls are also a minor boundary feature overshadowed by the numerous well developed and well treed hedgerows within the dale. Many walls have collapsed and been replaced with hedgerows or post and wire fencing.

Field sizes range from medium to large, with the smaller fields concentrated around Dent. There are abundant, traditionally managed hay meadows, amongst improved pastureland with some rough pasture higher up the valley sides.

At the crest of the valley the presence of the adjacent moors is reinforced by the moorland vegetation spilling over the tops into the dale itself.

There is one main road running through the valley from Sedbergh in the Rawthey valley to Dent. East of Dent it splits into two minor roads each running along either side of the River Dee to meet at Ewegales Bridge, and continue to the dale head where it links eventually with the B6255 to the east. The road through Deepdale traverses the western valley side to the head of the valley linking with Kingsdale to the south. All roads within this character area are narrow and winding with numerous trees and woodland areas on either side, reinforcing the generally well-wooded character of the dale.

The Dales Way footpath runs through Dentdale almost entirely alongside the River Dee. Views out of the valley are well contained by the topography and to a lesser extent the vegetation cover. However, at the lower western end of Dentdale the valley becomes much more open, allowing views into the Rawthey valley beyond. Combe Scar, Gragareth and Whernside to the south are particularly dominant visual features and add to the sense of enclosure within this part of the valley. To the north west, the hilly outline of the Frostrow Fells forms an attractive skyline feature contrasting with the smoother, gently undulating valley skylines elsewhere.

At the head of Dentdale is the Settle to Carlisle railway line that traverses the north eastern valley side for approximately 3km. There are two viaducts, Artengill Viaduct and Dent Head Viaduct, both prominent features constructed in local limestone and nestled amongst the adjacent landform and vegetation. Beneath Dent Head Viaduct, and in marked contrast, is an attractive packhorse bridge, grassed over and blending perfectly into its backdrop of trees.

From the valley floor the line of the railway can be picked out high up on the valley side, becoming slightly incongruous where old railway sleepers have been used on end as a crude form of track side

fencing. Other local detractors within the area such as electricity poles and old quarries generally blend in to the abundant vegetation cover. There are also campsites located in and near Dent which would be intrusive on busy summer weekends. Dent itself has succumbed to tourist pressures with several bed and breakfasts, teashops, craft shops and a large car park, although not to the detriment of its character.

5. Garsdale

+ Key Characteristics

- Long, curved, narrow u-shaped glacial valley overlying Great Scar limestone, orientated from east to west. Valley sides formed by rocks of the Yoredale series.
- Relatively, broad and flat valley floor with steeply sloping valley sides. Open and exposed dale head and lower reaches with more enclosed central area.
- Meandering, visually insignificant river hidden by extensive tree cover and vegetation with shallow, stony channel. Outcropping rock and associated trees located adjacent to river at Garsdale.
- Frequent tributary gills on both sides of the valley give an indented, folded appearance to side slopes. Scattered trees and areas of scrub mark gills and waterfalls are numerous.
- Vegetation generally quite scattered and scrubby except on valley floor where a more significant, wider woodland belt is associated with the river.
- Settlements comprise hamlets and many farmsteads, some dilapidated, and mainly located on the valley floor adjacent to the river.
- Field sizes irregular and generally elongated up the valley sides, wall pattern evident and walls generally in good condition.
- Overall character of dale compromised by strong suburban elements; railway and associated terraced cottages and bridge, improved fast, wide road with white lining and concrete kerbs, dilapidated farmhouses and occasional concrete post fencing adjacent to road.

+ Landscape Character

Garsdale is a winding, long, narrow dale overlying Great Scar limestone, with a u-shaped valley profile extending from east to west. The valley sides are formed by rocks of the Yoredale series. The dale is located north of Dentdale in the north west corner of the National Park, and like Dentdale, it is orientated in an east-west direction and is west facing. To the north is East Baugh Fell and to the south, Widdale Fell, Rise Hill and Aye Gill Pike.

At the head of the valley the landscape is bleak and barren with a very open, exposed character with a strong moorland influence. The railway and associated cottages appear incongruous within the exposed upland landscape. Mid-way along the dale, the valley becomes more contained and enclosed, widening again in its lower reaches where moorland encroaches on either side contributing to the sense of exposure in this area. Generally, the valley floor is quite broad and flat, and the valley sides steeply sloping with gentle undulations.

The Clough River has its source at Garsdale Head and joins the River Rawthey at Garsdale Bridge in the Rawthey Valley. It is a gently meandering river with a shallow, stony channel, very well hidden from the nearby road by trees and shrubs outcropping rock occurs on the river bank to the east of Garsdale.

There are frequent winding gills on both sides of the valley that give an indented, folded appearance to the valley sides. Waterfalls are frequent within the gills. Some gill erosion is evident and, combined with the associated scattered, sparse tree cover, the gills have a more open and barren appearance than those within Dentdale.

Vegetation is mainly concentrated on the valley floor where narrow belts of woodland and riverside trees mark the river. Higher up the valley sides vegetation becomes more scattered, scant and

scrubby in appearance although occasional coniferous plantations on the valley sides frame the valley and add to the sense of enclosure in the narrower stretches.

There is one main road, the A684, which is an improved road following the line of the river along the valley floor. It crosses the river numerous times by means of bridges of mixed styles, some with a strong railway influence, which are unsympathetic to the natural character of the valley and the river. Downstream of Bellow Hill the road divides and the main road follows the north facing slope while a minor road follows the south facing slope. There are a few footpaths within the valley, mainly traversing the valley slopes.

Buildings within Garsdale vary from traditional farmsteads, often rendered and painted white, to a row of visually prominent terraced railway cottages situated at Garsdale Station. Some properties are pebbledashed. There are several empty, derelict houses. Unlike Dentdale, there is little evidence of tourist pressure upon the valley. Barns tend to be scattered infrequently and are often dilapidated, in contrast to the drystone walls, which have a strong pattern and are generally in good condition. Field sizes are irregular and tend to be elongated up the valley sides.

The overall character of Garsdale is much harsher than the soft lush appearance of Dentdale and Deepdale. The urbanised elements such as the railway, the improved main road (allowing faster traffic movements) and concrete post fencing serve to fragment the valley, reducing its natural harmony.

6. Rawthey Valley

+ Key Characteristics

- Wide, broad u-shaped valley overlying sandstones and slates of the Silurian period, with younger sandstones and conglomerates in the Sedbergh area. Hummocky valley floor, valley sides shallow becoming steeper and more enclosed towards the head of the dale.
- Valley dominated by presence of smooth-flanked and rounded Howgill Fells to the west, their form influenced by their Silurian geology, contrasting with the eastern valley side crossed by the Dent Fault and rising up to lower elevations of Baugh Fell, underlain by Yoredale series.
- Cautley Craggs are a prominent visual feature situated to the west within the Howgill Fells. Bare rock, scree and erosion contrasts with lush green of the valley.
- River is rocky and shallow with boulders within the channel, well screened by associated trees and shrubs.
- Frequent tributary gills with associated vegetation on both sides of the valley.
- Valley contains many trees and hedgerows with a wide variety of species. Strong parkland character dominates, particularly in the lower reaches of the valley near Sedbergh.
- Fields are irregular sized, enclosed mainly by hedgerows and drystone walls. Wall pattern hidden by combination of vegetation and topography.
- One main settlement, Sedbergh, a traditional market town with many historical features located at the lower end of the valley adjacent to the river.

+ Landscape Character

The Rawthey Valley is a broad u-shaped valley with a hummocky undulating valley floor. It overlies sandstones and slates of the Silurian period, with younger sandstones and conglomerates of Silurian rock and granite in the Sedbergh area. The valley sides are shallow in the lower reaches becoming steeper and more enclosed towards the dale head. It is located in the north west corner of the National Park and is oriented with the dale head to the north, curving to the south west to meet with the Lune Valley. The character area is contained by the Howgill Fells to the west, the National Park boundary to the north (which the valley extends beyond), the moorland edges of Baugh Fell to the east and Garsdale and Dentdale to the south east.

The whole valley is dominated by the overwhelming presence of the Howgill Fells. The smooth-flanked and steep rounded fells to the west, their form influenced by their Silurian geology, contrast sharply with the eastern valley side crossed by the Dent Fault and rising gradually up to lower elevations and flatter profile of Baugh Fell, underlain by Yoredale series.

Features within the Howgills are very prominent when viewed from the Rawthey Valley. Cautley Craggs and Cautley Spout are focal points at the head of the valley, due to the exposure of bare rock with associated scree that contrasts with the surrounding lush, green pastures and meadows within the valley. Views to the south are dominated by the sharper outline of the Frostraw Fells between Garsdale and Dentdale.

The River Rawthey becomes significantly broader where it merges with the Clough River from Garsdale, and has a rocky and shallow channel with stones and boulders. The valley floor is well vegetated and numerous bank side trees and shrubs screen the river from general view. Well-defined well vegetated tributary gills line the valley sides many containing waterfalls not visible from the valley floor.

The valley contains many individual trees, woodland copses and hedgerows and also has a strong parkland character, particularly around Sedbergh, where the amount of vegetation cover is enhanced by the gently rolling topography. There is a wide variety of woodland species including ash, sycamore, alder, hawthorn and hazel. Moorland influences are more evident to the south east close to lower Garsdale, and at the dale head where moorland vegetation encroaches significantly on both sides of the valley. At the head of the dale, there is an increase in scrub vegetation with gorse and bracken appearing on the Howgill Fells.

There is one main road, the A683, a wide and busy road which runs along the valley floor from Sedbergh and to Kirkby Stephen north of the Park boundary. Footpaths mainly traverse the western valley slopes and others cross the eastern valley side to the moors beyond. Part of the Dales Way emerges from Dentdale and, following the river, proceeds into the Lune Valley.

Sedbergh is the main settlement within the valley and is situated in the lower reaches adjacent to the river. It is a traditional market town, quite dispersed, with many buildings of historical importance including a Norman motte and bailey. Buildings are mainly constructed of gritstone or sandstone with flagged roofs. Sedbergh School, founded in 1525 occupies a significant proportion of the town and is set against Winder (473m) on the south edge of the Howgills. Elsewhere settlement is limited to isolated farmsteads that are located mainly on the valley floor and on the lower side slopes.

Field sizes within the valley are variable and irregular, enclosed by a mixture of drystone walls and hedgerows. The wall pattern is not strongly evident due to the screening effect of both vegetation and landform.

There are three campsites within the Rawthey Valley located close to the main road and potential detractors during busy periods. Other minor detractors include agricultural sheds and overhead electricity poles although these tend to merge into the backdrop of the gently undulating and well-vegetated landscape.

7. Lune Valley

+ Key Characteristics

- Very broad u-shaped valley with undulating, rolling valley floor overlying sandstones and slates of the Silurian period and shallow, gently sloping valley sides with local enclosure provided by topography and vegetation..
- Valley separated from the rest of the Park by the indomitable mass of the Howgill Fells.
- The Howgill Fells and their associated features such as exposed bands of outcropping rock and indentations caused by tributary gills, visually dominate the valley.
- River Lune is broad and gently meandering with frequent trees on the bank side. It is rocky and cuts through a gorge for much of its length with numerous stones, boulders and rocky platforms within the channel.
- Well-developed tributary gills from the east are winding and generally well vegetated contrasting with the smooth outline of the adjacent Howgill Fells.
- Valley is extremely lush and green with many trees, woodland copses and hedgerows. Hedgerow pattern extends high up the valley sides and combines with undulating landform to create a soft, gentle character.
- The Roman road, Howgill Lane, runs north to south mid-way up the eastern valley side.
- Frequent traditional farmsteads and large manor houses located on the lower valley slopes. No larger settlements within character area.
- Hedgerows are main boundary feature and form strong pattern of enclosure around medium to large sized, irregularly shaped fields.
- Detractors include M6 motorway and line of dismantled railway forming dominant visual features situated high up on the western valley side.

+ Landscape Character

The Lune Valley is located on the outer north western edge of the National Park and is orientated north to south, adjoining character areas identified by Cumbria County Council as Main Valleys, sub types 8b broad valleys and 8c valley corridor. The character area boundary is defined by the River Lune to the west which is the National Park boundary, and the Howgill Fells to the east, with the Rawthey Valley to the south east. As the National Park boundary follows the River Lune only the eastern side of the valley falls within the character area.

The valley is extremely broad with a shallow u-shaped profile and a rolling, undulating valley floor and overlies sandstones and slates of the Silurian period. The valley sides are also undulating with gentle slopes and seem to blend naturally with the smooth, rounded profile of the adjacent Howgill Fells. The hummocky valley floor, caused by glacial deposition features, gives a strong local sense of enclosure, which contrasts with the overall large scale of the valley. Towards the head of the valley the landscape becomes more exposed being influenced by the moorland vegetation encroaching from the adjacent Howgill Fells.

The Howgill Fells have a very strong visual presence along the whole length of the valley that is exaggerated by their lack of vegetation cover, occasional outcropping rock and areas of scree contrasting with the richly vegetated Lune Valley. This tapestry of hedgerows, trees and woodland copses extends up to the higher slopes of the western side of the valley.

The river is broad and gently meandering with stones and boulders within the channel. It cuts through a gorge for much of its length, deepened during the Ice Age by ice moving from north to south, and has a rocky platformed bed. Its banks are lined by trees and shrubs that tend to screen it in wider views.

There are a few well-defined tributary gills that have their source in the Howgill Fells. The gills are generally wooded in their lower reaches and as a result they stand out against the smooth profiles of the Howgills eg Chapel Beck with its gently, winding stream and well vegetated river banks. The road crosses the river by an old stone bridge with a streamside house and church tucked into the tributary valley below.

The vegetation within the valley is one of its main features contributing to the overall lush, green character of the area. There are many woodland copses, trees and hedgerows with a great variety of species including oak, sycamore, rowan, holly, ash, pine, hawthorn and hazel. Roadside hedgerows are often on earth banks and include species such as dog rose and blackthorn. There are medium to large areas of woodland adjacent to the River Lune and its tributary gills, and many scattered trees, mixed woodland pockets and copses within the farmland. There is also some unsympathetic shelterbelt planting.

The main road through the valley is the A6257 but this falls outside of the character area being on the west side of the river. The old Roman road, Howgill Lane runs north to south on the east side of the river, mid-way up the valley side. This road was built to link Ribchester with Carlisle and was a highway for raids from the north. Access tracks to nearby farmsteads branch off to the east and west. The Dales Way runs alongside the River Lune linking with many other footpaths from the Howgill Fells.

There are no main settlements within the character area. Buildings consist of isolated farmsteads and manor houses that are all located on the lower valley slopes. They have generally retained their traditional character although there is some evidence of modern extension and rendering. Ingmire Hall is associated with areas of parkland that have a strong influence on the immediately surrounding landscape.

Although there are drystone walls present they are not a strong feature, being overshadowed by a strong pattern of hedgerows that enclose medium to large sized, irregular fields. Fields are mainly improved pasture with many hay meadows and a very small amount of rough pasture along the eastern edge of the valley adjacent to the Howgills.

The main detractor within the valley is the M6 motorway that traverses the higher slopes of the western valley side beyond the character area boundary. It exerts both a visual and audible influence that becomes stronger at the northern end of the valley where it is physically closer. A dismantled railway, railway viaduct and prominent railway cottages situated to the east of the motorway which contribute urbanising elements in this area. detract locally along with distant views of wind turbines to the west. However, generally these detracting elements do not compromise the overall character of the valley.