

TABLE 6: Q o L ASSESSMENT OF PARK-WIDE LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS

BENEFITS

<i>Landscape Feature</i>	<i>Scale of benefit (national/ regional/ local)</i>	<i>Recent/ current trend/ enough of feature?</i>	<i>Possible future trend and forces</i>	<i>Substitutable?</i>	<i>Priority</i>	<i>Management prescription (conserve/ enhance/ restore)</i>
GEOLOGY, TOPOGRAPHY & HYDROLOGY						
Limestone pavement	International/ National	Stable – loss in past for rockery stone but now protected by statute. Pressure on flora from visitors and grazing. Erosion of surface by visitor pressure (eg at Malham Cove).	Protection is expected to continue. Increasing visitor pressure is predicted. Habitat will be monitored/ managed through Yorkshire Dales BAP.	No – intrinsic natural feature of the Dales.	1	Conserve
Limestone gorge/ cliffs	National	Stable	Increasing visitor pressure may increase erosion and pressure on vegetation. Increasing sporting pressure eg climbing, using new crags or intensifying use of existing climbs.	No – intrinsic natural feature of the Dales.	1	Conserve
Limestone/ gritstone outcrops & exposures, moraine fields, erratics, geomorphological deposits.	National	Stable	May be subject to erosion impact adjacent to watercourses or to highway improvement where close to roads. Visitor pressure may degrade/erode feature. Potential impact by quarrying.	No – where natural feature. Yes – where rock exposure is man-made (quarrying).	1	Conserve
Valley/ topographical form	National	Stable – only subject to very large scale influences such as quarrying.	Pressure for quarrying may increase in long term.	No – intrinsic natural feature of the Dales.	1	Conserve
Watercourses	National/ Regional	Stable	Potential impact from flood defence measures, water extraction, erosion due to increased rainfall patterns, pollution from runoff or disruption of bankside areas.	No – intrinsic hydrological/topographical features. Sympathetic design could reduce impact of changes.	1	Conserve/enhance (make more natural)

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GEOLOGY, TOPOGRAPHY & HYDROLOGY (CONTINUED)

Tarns	International (Malham Tarn) National/ Regional (others)	Stable – but sensitive to changes in drainage pattern.	Targeted for conservation in Yorkshire Dales BAP, particularly lime rich waterbodies.	No – small scale features sensitive to change in drainage pattern/ water quality.	1	Conserve
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HISTORIC/ CULTURAL INFLUENCES

Drystone walls	National	Declining – loss/degradation resulting from intensification of agricultural practice and lack of maintenance. Some materials sold off to building trade as source of income.	Decline will continue unless agricultural practice/policy changes. Barns and Walls Conservation Scheme, Pennine Dales ESA Scheme and Countryside Stewardship Scheme should halt/reverse decline in some areas.	Yes – but only through appropriate repair and restoration in accordance with historic pattern/style and using traditional materials, combined with field barns creates unique Dales character.	1	Conserve and restore.
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Field barns	National	Declining – loss/degradation resulting from intensification/ changes in agricultural practice and lack of maintenance. Some materials sold off to building trade as source of income.	Decline will continue unless agricultural practice/policy changes. Pressure may increase for conversion to dwellings which may ‘urbanise’ character. Pennine Dales ESA Scheme and Countryside Stewardship Scheme will help to halt/reverse decline in some areas.	Yes – but only through appropriate repair and restoration. Density and pattern of field barns, combined with drystone walls creates unique Dales character.	1	Conserve and restore.
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Historic agricultural/ settlement features (eg lynchets/ ridge and furrow/ earthworks)	National/ Regional	Declining – some loss/degradation has resulted from intensification of agricultural practice or inappropriate planting.	Decline will continue unless agricultural practice/policy changes. Pennine Dales ESA Scheme and Countryside Stewardship Scheme will help to halt decline in some areas.	No – these are historic features.	1	Conserve
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HISTORIC/ CULTURAL INFLUENCES (CONTINUED)						
Historic mining features (eg structures, waste tips)	National/ Regional	Stable – some areas subject to earlier reworking, some pressure from visitors/mineral collectors, removal for surfacing of moorland tracks or trial bike disturbance.	Pressure may continue/increase to rework tips for secondary aggregates (eg for use in maintenance or construction of moorland tracks). Visitor pressure may impact on features. The more unsightly features may be subject to future restoration.	No – these are historic features.	1	Conserve
Settlements	Regional/ National	Stable/ declining – some inappropriate development has occurred in the past but most settlements retain strong dales character, infill development has affected settlement form within villages, mix of uses has reduced.	Increasing lack of affordable homes, pressure for second homes, gentrification effects that are outside planning control, potential adverse density effects resulting from broad scale Government guidance (eg PPG3) may result in future decline.	Yes – with sympathetic design reflecting local vernacular construction and settlement form.	2	Conserve/enhance (eg through Conservation Area schemes, undergrounding of cable etc)
Farmsteads	Local	Stable – changing agricultural practice has led to need for larger farm buildings. Some farms being sold off separate to land, followed by request for adjacent new farm building or agricultural workers dwellings.	Changing agricultural economics may increase pressure for farmers to diversify, which could impact on farm buildings and land use close to farmsteads, or reinforce pressure to realise capital assets (eg selling off farmhouses).	No – for buildings or building groups of historic value and character. Yes – other buildings can be removed and replaced with new buildings designed to follow local vernacular in terms of scale and materials. Historic buildings may be subject to sensitive conversion to other uses.	1 (historic) 2 (others)	Conserve

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HISTORIC/ CULTURAL INFLUENCES (CONTINUED)						
Country lanes/ minor roads	Local	Stable – but may be affected by road widening/ safety improvements.	Pressure may continue for safety improvements.	No for historic routes (eg Green Lanes). Yes – for other routes, with appropriate design.	1 (historic) 2 (others)	Conserve/enhance/restore
Bridges (road and PROW)	Regional/ Local	Stable – road bridges, but subject to traffic damage or widening proposals. Stable – PROW bridges.	Traffic or PROW damage may rise with increasing visitor numbers. Pressure may arise for improvement to meet increasing traffic volume or for flood defence alterations. Cost of repairs/replacement may affect traditional bridges.	No – some historic bridges may not be replaceable/capable of amendment without loss of character and historic value. Yes – for other bridges, with appropriate design and use of materials.	1 (historic) 2 (others)	Conserve
Footpaths and bridleways	National (Pennine Way) Regional/ Local (others)	Generally stable , but declining due to erosion in areas of high visitor pressure. Damage occurring due to off road vehicles, motorbikes and mountain bikes. Engineering works to combat erosion and sustain visitor numbers without further deterioration may lead to impact on character.	Visitor numbers may increase leading to increased levels of erosion. This may be exacerbated by large scale events (eg sponsored events). Vehicle damage should be prevented/reduced by new legislation. Use of horses and pony trekking may increase.	Yes – except where historic routes are followed.	1 (historic) 2 (others)	Conserve, restore, enhance.
LANDCOVER						
Flower rich hay meadows	International (upland hay meadows)/ National	Declining – loss/degradation resulting from intensification of agricultural practice.	Decline will continue unless agricultural practice/policy changes. Yorkshire Dales BAP and Pennine Dales ESA should lead to halt and reversal of decline.	Yes – but newly established hay meadows could only achieve diversity/ character of old meadows in very long term .	1	Conserve and restore.

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LANDCOVER (CONTINUED)						
Blanket and raised bogs/ upland heath	International/ National	Stable – reintroduction of natural drainage patterns should halt and reverse earlier declines although still large areas of grips to block. Overgrazing has changed the composition of bog/heath vegetation cover in some areas.	Future trends should reinforce conservation, eg Yorkshire Dales BAP, ECSS and WES schemes. Pressure for forestry, wind farms, masts on adjoining areas of moorland may increase.	No – intrinsic natural feature of upland areas.	1	Conserve and restore
Moorland (grass)	Local	Fluctuating –fringe areas are changing between moorland and rough pasture. Land drainage measures are now being reversed to reinstate natural drainage patterns and reduce erosion. Bracken encroachment stable. Overgrazing has changed the composition of moorland vegetation cover.	Improvement should occur as natural drainage patterns are restored. Fluctuation between moorland and rough pasture is expected to continue. Pressure for forestry, wind farms, masts on adjoining areas of moorland may increase. Yorkshire Dales BAP and Pennine Dales ESA Scheme (in moorland fringe areas), ECSS and WES schemes aim to improve management.	Yes – reinstatement of natural drainage patterns allows moorland character to redevelop over time. Erosion may be controlled. Heather and moorland grasses may be re-established blanket bog may be allowed to redevelop.	3	Restore and enhance.
Ancient semi-natural or replanted woodland	National/ Regional (note Juniper scrub is of international importance)	Declining – undergrazing pressure is preventing natural regeneration of some woodlands, others are declining through lack of management.	Wide range of policies and mechanisms (eg Yorkshire Dales BAP and Woodland Strategy) should lead to improved management and regeneration of existing woods.	No – intrinsic historic/ semi-natural feature.	1	Conserve, restore and enhance.

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LANDCOVER (CONTINUED)						
Broadleaved woodland	Local	Declining – undergrazing pressure is preventing natural regeneration of some woodlands, others are declining through lack of management.	Policies (Yorkshire Dales BAP and Woodland Strategy) are promoting increase in woodland cover across the park. Significant range of mechanisms (eg Pennine Dales ESA Scheme), should lead to improved management and regeneration of existing woods and enable planting of new broadleaved woods.	Yes – through replanting or management which allows regeneration and over the long term.	2	Conserve, restore and enhance.
Individual/ small groups of broadleaved trees/ hedgerow trees	Local	Declining – removal or non-replacement due to changing agricultural practice (eg field amalgamation) and lack of need for tree management or wood products.	Wide range of policies and mechanisms (eg Yorkshire Dales BAP and Woodland Strategy) should lead to improved management and regeneration of existing tree cover.	Yes – through replanting/management and over the long term.	2	Conserve, restore and enhance.
Hedgerows	Local	Declining – due to changing agricultural practice (eg removal for field amalgamation, modern cutting methods).	Yorkshire Dales BAP and Woodland Strategy and Pennine Dales ESA and Countryside Stewardship Schemes should halt decline by improving management of existing hedgerows and encouraging planting of new hedgerows.	Yes – through replanting and improved management of existing hedgerows. No – ancient hedgerows (Historic and ecological value of ancient hedgerows can only be replaced over the long term)	1 (ancient) 3 (others)	Conserve, restore and enhance.

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AREA-WIDE BENEFITS						
Unspoilt character/sense of historic continuity	National	Declining – due to modern needs/facilities and changing economic pressures.	Increasing pressure to modernise buildings, diversify farm activities, provide tourist facilities, loss of traditional farming practices, inappropriate planting, may combine to erode unspoilt character.	No – it would be technically possible to undo these forms of change but would be impractical to achieve in reality.	1	Conserve and enhance
Dark skies	National/ Regional	Stable – changes have had a localised effect but are not of sufficient scale to undermine the area wide benefit.	Existing pressure may increase for 'gentrification', eg garden lighting/floodlights or from road improvements/street lighting in villages.	No – it would be technically possible to undo these forms of change but would be impractical to achieve in reality.	2	Conserve
Tranquillity, solitude and 'wilderness'	National	Stable – changes have had a localised effect but are not of sufficient scale to undermine the area wide benefit.	Potential pressure may arise in remote uplands for wind farms, communications masts or increased commercial forestry. CROW Act 2000 may increase number of visitors in remote areas. Potential for increased use/construction of grouse tracks. National trend of increasing traffic and possible increased tourist traffic in the National Park.	No – it would be technically possible to undo these forms of change but would be impractical to achieve in reality.	1	Conserve

TABLE 6: Q o L ASSESSMENT OF PARK-WIDE LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS

DETRACTORS

<i>Landscape Feature</i>	<i>Scale of impact (national/ regional/ local)</i>	<i>Recent/ current trend/ enough of feature?</i>	<i>Possible future trend and forces</i>	<i>Substitutable?</i>	<i>Priority</i>	<i>Management prescription (conserve/ enhance/ restore)</i>
Quarries	National (large-scale within National Park)	Stable – existing quarries have not expanded laterally to a significant degree in the recent past.	Pressure for quarrying activity is expected to continue, for roadstone, use in the chemical industry and in power station desulphurisation plants, but is likely to be resisted by YDNP. Potential increased use of specialist quarries supplying local building materials, limited effect on landscape character however.	Yes – although minerals can only be worked where they are found there are choices (eg minerals with a specialist end-use may not be substitutable but those with a general aggregate end-use do not need to come from the National Park).	1	Restore to appropriate afteruse following negotiated end to working.
Economic development	Local	Stable/increasing – rural diversification and employment needs have led to increasing economic development as reliance on agricultural employment has reduced.	Shift from agriculture to other industries may continue, leading to further pressure for provision of employment uses in rural communities.	Yes – technically many forms of economic development do not need to be located in YDNP. In reality, however, economic development provides ideal job opportunities for local people.	3	Enhance
Settlement expansion and character change	Local	Stable/declining – many settlements have seen changes in the last few decades, including an increase in the number of dwellings, a reduced mix of uses, infill changing settlement form.	Demand for low cost housing and second/holiday homes may lead to increasing settlement expansion pressure in towns and villages.	Yes – technically many people do not need to live in YDNP. Set against this local people need a supply of locally affordable housing.	3	Enhance (supply of affordable housing for local people but resist further speculative development or second homes).
Suburban influences in countryside	Local/regional	Increasing – creeping suburbanisation has led to cumulative effects in some areas, causing loss or erosion of traditional character in some places.	Cumulative effect of numerous small changes is expected to continue and increase, particularly within dales.	Yes – in that it does not need to happen a) at all or b) in the open countryside.	1	Conserve open countryside.

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Agricultural development	National (effect on wider park character)	Increasing – economic pressure on farmers and tighter environmental legislation has led to increased construction of larger buildings and slurry tanks.	Pressure for intensification and change of farming practice may increase or decrease, depending on the rate of change promoted by future Government/ EU agricultural policy.	Yes – technically, an area of marginal food production viable only because of subsidies, but no in reality – an important part of the Dales economy plus farming has and will always shape landscape character.	1	Enhance and restore.
Telecommunication masts/ windfarms	Local	Stable/increasing – National Park is mostly unaffected by windfarm development, wireless telephony effects are increasing. Potential impact from windfarms in areas adjacent to the National Park.	Global warming and increasing reliance on wireless telephony may increase pressure for new structures within or adjacent to the National Park. Pressure for windfarms in sensitive areas is resisted in PPG22.	-Yes – for windfarms. Do not need to be locate in YDNP. No – for telecommunications as part of socio-economic fabric of Dales communities.	2	Conserve open countryside, restore redundant sites.
Electric/ telephone poles	Local	Stable – existing infrastructure has not changed significantly in the recent past.	Significant future change is not anticipated unless settlement or industrial growth occurs.	No – essential infrastructure element., but potential to underground.	2	Enhance (by undergrounding worst-case examples).
Camping/ caravan sites	Local	Stable – existing facilities have not changed significantly in the past. Improved design/mitigation has reduced adverse visual effects.	Demand for facilities is expected to continue but may be contained by planning controls.	Yes – technically, but contributes to Dales economy and range of accommodation available.	2	Conserve (from further development) Enhance existing sites (layout, landscaping).
Traffic/ road improvements	Local	Stable/increasing – rising visitor numbers and safety improvements have led to some erosion of country road character. Access tracks have been constructed for forestry and moorland management.	Increasing visitor numbers may lead to increased pressure for road safety/ capacity improvements. Need to extract timber and to support economic use of moorland.	No – the alternative is to do nothing which may not be acceptable in terms of safety. Feature is location specific. Increased availability and use of public transport and new approaches to traffic management may reduce problems.	2	Enhance through sensitive design.

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Tourist pressure	National	Increasing – rising car ownership, increased leisure time and a rise in the elderly population have contributed to rising visitor numbers in the National Park.	Pressure from tourism is expected to increase further, may become a major threat to National Park character.	No – Dales economy needs tourism and National Parks are for people but must be balanced with impact on National Park character.	2	Conserve existing character of YDNP. Enhance areas where tourism has had adverse impacts.
Wire/ timber fences	Local/regional	Increasing – economic pressures and changing farm practices has led to a decline in drystone walls and hedgerows and increasing provision of cheaper, easier to maintain fences. New woodland may be fenced.	Pressure for intensification and change of farming practice may increase or decrease, depending on future Government/ EU agricultural initiatives. New woodlands, protected areas of limestone pavement or heath may all be fenced.	Yes – through restoration of drystone walls and hedgerows.	2	Restore
Extensive/ medium scale coniferous forest	Local/regional	Stable/declining – established plantations are not being increased in size, cropping offers the opportunity to replant with broadleaved species, reducing adverse effects on landscape character.	Current practice, guidance and regulations presumes against large scale afforestation in sensitive areas, increased pressure is therefore unlikely. Forest design plans may lead to visual improvement of existing plantations after felling and restocking.	Yes – through replanting with broadleaved species.	1	Enhance/restore
Scattered smaller conifer plantings	Local	Stable/declining – established plantations are not being increased in size, cropping offers the opportunity to replant with broadleaved species, reducing adverse effects on landscape character.	Dales Woodland Strategy encourages replacement with broadleaves. However, controls on smaller scale conifer plantings are less stringent than for large scale schemes, therefore pressure may remain.	Yes – through replanting with broadleaved species.	2	Enhance/restore (original landscape character)