Swaledale & Arkengarthdale Barns & Walls Conservation Area Appraisal

Adopted Document



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Executive Summary

This is the first detailed appraisal of the Swaledale & Arkengarthdale Barns & Walls Conservation Area, one of 37 conservation areas in the Yorkshire Dales National Park. It has been written for the residents of the area, the wider public and other stakeholders and is intended to:

- provide an accurate description of the conservation area,
- identify the key elements of its character,
- highlight what makes the cultural landscape of Swaledale & Arkengarthdale so important,
- identify the processes which combine to give the conservation area its current 'at risk' status, and
- stimulate discussion about its future management

The Swaledale & Arkengarthdale Barns & Walls Conservation Area is the largest conservation area in the country. A dominant feature of the two valleys is the intricate pattern of drystone walls and dense network of traditional stone-built field barns, in some places almost one to every field, which are all built out of locally quarried stone. The majority of these traditional farm buildings were constructed during the nineteenth century, a period when the population of the area was at a maximum due to the local lead industry, and represent a labour-intensive response to the challenges of pastoral farming in this upland landscape. There are now over 1,000 traditional farm buildings which are a major contributor to its landscape quality and one of the special features of the Yorkshire Dales National Park, attracting visitors from all over the world.

As farm sizes increased during the latter half of the twentieth century, farming became more mechanised and animal husbandry standards improved, the dispersed field barns became less suitable for housing livestock and hay during the winter, and resources for their maintenance declined creating trends towards redundancy and dereliction. However, Swaledale & Arkengarthdale is still a working agricultural landscape and farming is the main activity managing the landscape.

Designation of the Conservation Area in 1989 enabled the introduction of the National Park's Authority Barns and Walls Conservation Scheme which provided grants to farmers and landowners for the repair of traditional farm buildings and walls and, subsequently, to the introduction of grants for farm buildings through agri-environment schemes such as the Pennine Dales Environmentally Sensitive Area and Environmental Stewardship. Unfortunately, this funding is no longer available which means that some of the conservation gains of the last 25 years are now 'at risk'.

The Conservation Area includes not just isolated traditional farm buildings but also farmsteads and many of the settlements which lie within the two valleys. The larger villages were excluded from the boundary, although some of them have been designated conservation areas in their own right. As with the traditional farm buildings, the majority of other buildings in the Conservation Area follow vernacular building styles and were constructed and roofed with local stone. There are, however, now no working stone quarries in the area to provide material for new construction and repair, which means that much new building risks diminishing the character of the conservation area.

The appraisal proper, particularly section 4.0, assesses the ***special interest*** of the Conservation Area by

- analysing its rural character and landscape setting

- outlining its historic development including the archaeology of the area
- looking at the interrelationships of spaces and key views
- defining eight different character zones
- explaining the influence of mining and farming
- pointing out the quality and condition of listed buildings, and encouraging involvement of the public to make nominations for locally listed structure
- describing the fourteen main settlements within the boundary
- looking at traditional building materials, local details and the public realm
- explaining the contribution made by green spaces and its biodiversity value
- pointing out the values attributed by the local community and other stakeholders
- discussing the 'at risk' condition of the conservation area whilst also looking at pressures, problems and opportunities

Objective A4 of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Management Plan 2013-2018, supported by all Members of the Management Plan Steering Group, is to

> *Secure the contribution that traditional field barns and drystone walls make to the National Park, including establishing a local partnership to identify and implement positive measures to enhance the Swaledale-Arkengarthdale Barns and Walls Conservation Area so that by 2016 it is no longer considered 'at risk'.*

Any proposed management strategy for preserving and/or enhancing the character of the conservation area will be the subject of further consultation.

The appraisal was released for public consultation from 17 January to 02 March 2014 and has been reviewed in the light of comments received before being adopted by the Authority on 30 March 2015.

1.0 Introduction

> *The* ***historic environment*** *provides a tangible link with our past and contributes to our sense of national, local and community identity. It also provides the character and distinctiveness that is so important to a positive sense of place. […]* The historic environment is a **unique**, **fragile** and **non-renewable** resource which contributes to the economy, society and daily life. Once lost, it cannot be replaced [1].

This document provides the first detailed appraisal of the Swaledale & Arkengarthdale Barns & Walls Conservation Area. Although the appraisal tries to cover the main aspects of the designated area, it cannot be completely comprehensive; omission of particular buildings, features or spaces should not be taken to imply that they are of no interest [2].

1.1 The Area

The Swaledale & Arkengarthdale Barns & Walls Conservation Area was designated in 1989. It is now one of thirty-seven such designations within the Yorkshire Dales National Park. With an area of 7,078.95 hectares it is the largest conservation area in the country. It encompasses some of the villages in the two valleys although others are excluded. The overall character of the place is very rural within a magnificent, remote landscape setting and has some of the most iconic sceneries in the Yorkshire Dales. Moreover, it has an exceptionally high density of traditional farm buildings, in particular field barns, which is part of the special qualities of the National Park [3] and of international importance; however, it is now considered to be 'at risk' **(see 4.4.h)**.

1.2 The Appraisal

Purpose. Every conservation area has a distinctive character which has been shaped over time by its natural and man-made surroundings. This appraisal is an opportunity to re-assess the Swaledale & Arkengarthdale Barns & Walls Conservation Area, to evaluate and record its special interest **(see 3.0-4.0)**. It will set out how the place has evolved, draw out the key elements of its character and quality as it is now, and define what is positive and negative, and opportunities for beneficial change. However, neither the designation nor appraisal should be seen as an end in itself, but as a step towards the preservation and enhancement of Swaledale & Arkengarthdale's character and appearance, providing a basis for making sustainable decisions about its future. Conservation areas can be susceptible to incremental and dramatic change due to neglect caused by economic decline, as well as over-investment and pressure for development. Hence the appraisal aims to counteract threats which would alter what made the area attractive and unique in the first place, and to help promote positive change.

The appraisal provides information about the Swaledale & Arkengarthdale Barns & Walls Conservation Area for residents, the wider public and other stakeholders. However, it is always advisable to contact the National Park Authority before undertaking any work on or within the vicinity of designated heritage assets.

Scope. The character appraisal highlights what is architecturally and historically important about the Swaledale & Arkengarthdale Barns & Walls Conservation Area, identifies any problems within it and assesses whether its boundary is still appropriate.

1 DCLG *et al.* 2010, paragraphs 5, 6 & 8.
2 English Heritage 2006b, paragraph 3.5.
3 YDNPA 2013, 14.

Any proposed management strategy for preserving and/or enhancing the character of the conservation area will be the subject of further consultation.

The appraisal is based on site visits undertaken between July 2010 and December 2013, primary sources including historical maps and aerial photographs from the Authority's Historic Environment Record as well as secondary sources. Literature and websites which may be of further interest are listed at the back **(see 7.1)**.

A draft version of this document was available for public consultation from 17 January to 2 March 2014 **(see 5.0)**. The comments received during that period were reviewed by the Authority and used to inform this appraisal which was adopted on 30 March 2015.

The Swaledale & Arkengarthdale Barns & Walls Conservation Area at a Glance:

Date of designation:	1989	
Date of last review:	none	
Current size:	7,078.95 hectares	
Location:	Richmondshire, North Yorkshire	**see 4.1.a**
Current boundary:	see map	**see 7.4.a**
General character:	rural, linear form	**see 4.1.b**
Special interest:	Main special interest – barns & walls:	
	* remarkably high density of traditionally stone-built field barns	**see 4.4.b**
	* complex historic landscape displaying intricate patterns of drystone walls of different ages	**see 4.1.c**
	* unusual pastoral farming system	**see 4.4.b**
	* pastoral landscape of international importance	**see 4.4.h**
	Other special interest:	
	* isolated linear farmsteads	**see 4.4.b**
	* impact of former mining activities	**see 4.4.b**
	* area rich in archaeological remains	**see 4.2**
	* scenic/landscape values attract visitors & provide desirable place to live and work	**see 4.1.c, 4.3 & 4.4.h**
General condition:	at risk	**see 4.4.i**
Scheduled monuments:	9	**see 4.2.b**
Listed buildings:	131 (1 x Grade I, 5 x Grade II*, 125 x Grade II)	**see 4.4.c**
Listed buildings 'at risk':	8	**see 4.4.d**
Negative factors:	* loss of barns, walls & other unoccupied, often remote, historic buildings	**see 4.4.i**
	* telegraph poles and overhead line	
	* geometric coniferous woodland plantations	
	* detrimental treatment of historic buildings	
	* unsympathetic recent development	
	* unsightly street furniture	

2.0 Planning Policy Framework

The YDNP Authority's policies for conservation areas, along with other related policies concerning the development and use of land, are set out in the *Yorkshire Dales Local Plan 2006*, which is currently (2014) under review. The policies contained within chapter '10 Built heritage and the historic environment' – which were saved in April 2009 and which last until they are replaced by a new Local Development Framework – are particularly relevant:

- Policy B1: Historic landscapes
- Policy B2: Scheduled Monuments and other nationally important sites
- Policy B3: Other sites of archaeological significance
- Policy B4: Historic parks and gardens
- Policy B5: Open spaces in settlements **(see 4.3.a)**
- Policy B6: Streets and plots
- Policy B7: Building design
- Policy B8: Conservation areas
- Policy B9: Demolition within conservation areas
- Policy B10: Shop fronts
- Policy B11: Development within barns and walls conservation areas
- Policy B13: Listed buildings **(see 4.4.c)**
- Policy B14: Extensions and alterations to buildings
- Policy B15: Conversion of traditional buildings
- Policy B16: Re-occupation of former houses
- Policy B17: Changing land to domestic use
- Policy B18: Signs and advertisements
- Policy B19: Advance signs and advertisements

The Local Plan is in compliance with national legislation, policy and guidance which include the *National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)* and *PPS5 Planning for the Historic Environment: Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide*, the latter also being currently (2014) under review. All national legislation, policy and guidance are material to individual planning and heritage consent decisions.

2.1 What Is a Conservation Area?

Section 69(1)(a) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 defines a conservation area as:

> *an area of **special architectural or historic interest** the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance*

The conservation area boundary is not the same as any development or housing boundary identified in the Local Plan and has a different function, although in places they may coincide.

Designation. It is the duty of the Authority to designate such areas [1], preferably with input from the local community. This should never be undertaken solely in response to local pressure, to provide an additional control to actual or perceived threats to the character of an area or to secure the future of a particular building, but only if an area is of sufficient special interest [2]. The quality and interest of the overall built historic environment rather than of individual buildings should be the prime consideration. Whilst the *immediate setting of the area also needs to be considered carefully and within reason, included in the boundary[, …*

[1] Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, section 69(1)(b).
[2] English Heritage 2006b, paragraph 3.14.

c]onservation area designation is not generally an appropriate means of protecting the wider landscape [3].

Review. It is also the duty of the Authority to regularly review its conservation areas and, where appropriate, designate new parts [4]. Likewise, if the original interest is so eroded by subsequent changes that it is no longer special, boundary revisions or cancellation should be considered.

Swaledale & Arkengarthdale, like most of the conservation areas within the Yorkshire Dales National Park, was designated prior to 1990 when there was no statutory requirement for an in-depth character appraisal. The opportunity has consequently been taken to review and appraise the area in accordance with current guidance from English Heritage [5]. This has the additional advantage of producing a robust and consistent document that can be of greater influence in the planning process.

Performance. Further duties of the Authority comprise, in consultation with the public, formulating and publishing proposals for the preservation and enhancement of conservation areas [6]. It will also seriously consider the desirability of preserving or enhancing their character or appearance when exercising planning powers [7]. National Park family indicators provide a tool to monitor the National Park Authority's performance regarding these functions.

Implications. Conservation area designation may result in resource implications for owners, developers and residents because of the increased statutory controls and particular requirements for the repair and alteration of existing, or the construction of new, buildings. Although restrictions on permitted development rights (i.e. minor works that do not require planning permission) are only very limited inside the National Park, Article 4 directions have the power to withdraw them **(see 2.2)**.

2.2 Benefits of Designation

Conservation area status offers advantages to both the public and the Authority.

The public. Conservation areas can enhance economic well-being and quality of life, as well as offer a certain amount of continuity and stability in a rapidly changing world. At the same time, conservation-led change can make a positive contribution enabling communities to regenerate. Appraisals should help guide the form and content of development, enhancement of the public realm, traffic management and outdoor advertisement. The value of an area is beneficial to both owners and developers, and estate agents are likely to put increasing emphasis on such a location when advertising properties.

Conservation area appraisals are intended to be informative and educational documents about our cultural inheritance and to raise public awareness and support upon which the prosperity of an area is sustained. They will assist if funding is sought for grant-aid and financial assistance for owners to encourage repairs and preventative maintenance. For example, designation of the Swaledale & Arkengarthdale Barns & Walls Conservation Area enabled the establishment of grant funding schemes which invested over £1.53 million in projects to conserve some 400 traditional farm buildings and 20km of drystone walls between 1989 and 2001.

The Authority. Designation helps us to manage change by applying robust conservation policies to an area.

3 *ibid,* paragraphs 3.15 & 3.16.
4 Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, section 69(2).
5 English Heritage 2006a & b.
6 Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, section 71.
7 *ibid,* section 72.
8 Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, section 72. This duty also applies to the Planning Inspectorate when determining planning appeals or conducting examinations into the soundness of development plans.

Decision-making – In exercising any planning functions affecting land or buildings within a conservation area, the Authority has a general duty [8] to pay *special attention* to the *desirability of preserving or enhancing the character and appearance of that area*. Planning functions include both the formulation of planning policies and the determination of planning applications. In order to be able to assess the impact of a planning policy or application upon a conservation area, the Authority needs to understand what the special architectural or historic interest of that area is. Conservation area designation statements and character appraisals help to do this and are therefore used inform decisions about the impact that a planning policy or proposal will have.

Although conservation area designations and character appraisals help to inform planning decisions, they alone do not determine whether development will or will not be acceptable. The impact of development upon the special architectural and historic interest of a conservation area needs to be weighed against other planning considerations in reaching a decision. In the National Park the 2006 Local Plan currently forms the basis for most planning decisions and its policies (90 out of the original 98 policies were saved in April 2009) allow a variety of development types within conservation areas. The Local Plan policies will be gradually replaced in coming years by the Local Development Framework, starting with a review of housing policy.

Planning control – Designation automatically brings additional safeguards, such as the need for planning permission when demolishing unlisted buildings and walls [9] or lopping and felling trees [10]. Within the National Park conservation area status only has a very limited effect on 'permitted development'. This is because the National Park designation already restricts permitted development rights [11].

Article 4 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 enables local planning authorities to further withdraw permitted development rights. This would be justified *where there is firm evidence to suggest that permitted development which could damage the character or appearance of a conservation area is taking place or is likely to take place, and which should therefore be brought into full planning control in the public interest* [12]. In the Yorkshire Dales National Park there are currently only two conservation areas which have Article 4 directions: the Settle-Carlisle Railway on the erection of telecommunication masts and Castle Bolton in relation to agricultural permitted development rights.

Management plans – Neither the designation of a conservation area or the preparation of a character appraisal is an end in itself. The Authority is also required, in consultation with the public, to formulate management plans for each conservation area to help preserve and enhance them [13]. These management plans may set out a variety of measures designed to help safeguard, manage and improve the area within its historic context.

Objective A4 of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Management Plan 2013-2018 sets out for the Swaledale & Arkengarthdale Conservation Area:

> *Secure the contribution that traditional field barns and drystone walls make to the National Park, including establishing a local partnership to identify and implement positive measures to enhance the Swaledale-Arkengarthdale Barns and Walls Conservation Area so that by 2016 it is no longer considered 'at risk'.* [14]

[9] Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, section 74(1).
[10] Town and Country Planning Act 1990, section 211(3).
[11] Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995, schedule 2 part 1.
[12] *ibid,* Article 4.
[13] Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, section 71.
[14] YDNPA 2013, 8.

3.0 The Special Interest

The purpose of this appraisal is to define the special interest of the Swaledale & Arkengarthdale Barns & Walls Conservation Area that warrants its designation, as summarised below. A detailed analysis is provided in the next chapter **(see 4.0)**.

3.1 General

> The special architectural or historic interest of a conservation area is reflected in its **character or appearance** which it is **desirable to preserve or enhance**.

When defining the special interest of the Swaledale & Arkengarthdale Barns & Walls Conservation Area its significance and distinctiveness is judged alongside local and regional criteria, while also recognising values attributed to the area by the local community and all those with a legitimate interest in it [1]. The more clearly special interest is defined, the sounder will be the basis for local policies, development control decisions and management proposals. This helps reduce the potential uncertainty for owners and others when investment or development in the area is considered [2].

The significance of a place embraces all cultural and natural heritage values. These are:

- ***Evidential value:*** the physical remains of past human activity. In the absence of written records, the material record provides the only evidence about the distant past.
- ***Historical value:*** the ways in which past people, events and aspects of life can be connected through a place to the present.
- ***Aesthetic value:*** the sensory and intellectual stimulation people draw from a place. It can be the result of the design of a place or its (often seemingly organic) development over time.
- ***Communal value:*** the meanings of a place for the people who relate to it [3].

3.2 Summary of the Special Interest of the Swaledale & Arkengarthdale Barns & Walls Conservation Area

The special character of Swaledale & Arkengarthdale lies in the following:

- ***Evidential value:***
  - > remarkably high density of traditionally stone-built field barns dating mainly from the late-eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, as well as isolated farmsteads often with a strong linear arrangement which are largely untouched by modern development, including some formerly thatched buildings which retain their steep gables **(see 4.4.b)**
  - > complex historic landscape displaying intricate patterns of drystone walls of different ages which represent different phases of enclosure and land management **(see 4.1.c)**
  - > area rich in archaeological remains dating from the Bronze Age onwards, many of which are visible on the

1 English Heritage 2006a, paragraph 4.3.
2 English Heritage 2006b, paragraph 4.1.
3 English Heritage 2008, 21 & 28-32.

ground as earthworks such as the Grinton-Fremington Dykes **(see 4.2)**

- ***Historical value* (see 4.4.b):**
  - > unusual pastoral farming system
  - > the impact that mining had on the living and working population in one of the most important lead-mining areas of the Yorkshire Dales during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries
- ***Aesthetic value:***
  - > the combination of differently shaped field patterns and high density of isolated barns within an outstanding topographical setting **(see 4.1.c)** as well as the evocative 'ruin aesthetic' presented by the many abandoned buildings in this exposed landscape, which are often put in the spotlight by several attractive views both from within the conservation area and when viewing it from hillside above the narrow valleys **(see 4.3.b)**
  - > the experience of the conservation area as a sequence of local landscapes **(see 4.3.a + 4.4a)**
- ***Communal value* (see 4.4.h):**
  - > the fine landscape setting and attractive historic environment draw walkers and other visitors into the conservation area and provide a desirable place to live and work for permanent residents
  - > field barns and drystone walls are an integral part of the special qualities of the Yorkshire Dales National Park, especially Swaledale, and represent a historic pastoral landscape of international importance

3.3 Summary of Issues Threatening the Special Interest of Conservation Area

The main detractors, problems and pressures threatening the special interest of the Swaledale & Arkengarthdale Barns & Walls Conservation Area are listed below. They will be discussed in more detail in the next chapter **(see 4.4.i)**.

- Decline of field barns, drystone walls and other unoccupied (often remote) historic buildings is the main factor for putting the conservation area 'at risk'
- Telegraph poles and overhead lines
- Geometric coniferous woodland plantations
- Detrimental treatment of historic buildings, in particular traditional farm buildings
- Unsympathetic recent development
- Unsightly street furniture

4.0 Assessing Special Interest

This chapter comprises a detailed analysis of the special interest of the Swaledale & Arkengarthdale Barns & Walls Conservation Area with regard to its location and setting, historic development and archaeology, spatial issues, and character. A summary of the special interest has already been provided **(see 3.2)**.

4.1 Location and Setting

This section describes the location and context, general character and plan form, and landscape setting of the Swaledale & Arkengarthdale Barns & Walls Conservation Area.

a) Location and Context

The Swaledale & Arkengarthdale Barns & Walls Conservation Area lies in Richmondshire, North Yorkshire, in the north-eastern corner of the Yorkshire Dales National Park **(figure 01)**. The two dales converge east of Reeth (national grid reference SE 043 985). Swaledale & Arkengarthdale encompass a remote upland area where access can be problematic, especially in winter. The B6270 traverses the entire length of Swaledale, leading to Richmond (12 kilometres from the eastern boundary of the conservation area) and Kirkby Stephen (10 kilometres from the western boundary) outside the National Park. A minor road passes through Arkengarthdale towards the A66 either south of Barnard Castle or east of Brough, both also outside the National Park.



Figure 01: Location maps (left @ 1:400,000, conservation area boundary in pink, National Park boundary in yellow © Crown copyright and database rights 2010 Ordnance Survey 100023740; right – graphics © Gaby Rose, YDNPA, 2010)

A detailed map of the Swaledale & Arkengarthdale Barns & Walls Conservation Area, as designated in 1989, can be found at the back **(see 7.4.a)**. The boundary essentially comprises the majority of the enclosed dale land, following the wall line between the pastures and open moorland or allotments on higher ground. The following settlements, parts of four of which are designated conservation areas in their own right, are **excluded** from the conservation area:

- Feetham – small village contiguous with Low Row (H3)
- Grinton – service village (H2)
- Gunnerside (separately designated) – service village (H2)
- Healaugh – small village (H3)
- Langthwaite – small village (H3)
- Low Row – small village (H3)

- Keld – small village (H3)
- Muker (separately designated) – small village (H3)
- Reeth (separately designated) – key service centre (H1)
- Thwaite (separately designated) – small village (H3)

Today the economy of the Swaledale & Arkengarthdale Barns & Walls Conservation Area mainly consists of tourism and pastoral farming, but it is also closely linked to grouse shooting, most of which takes place on the moors just outside the conservation area **(see 4.4.h)**. The decline of the traditional farm buildings and boundary walls in the conservation area has had hardly any impact on the local economy – in fact, modern farming practises are the reason for their demise – so the conservation of these heritage structures presents complex challenges both in terms of the physical works involved and philosophical issues **(see 4.4.i)**.

b) General Character

> *Swaledale in Yorkshire is a little country in itself. Once there, shut in by barriers of hills, one is satisfied: shrouded in its mystery, the rest of the world seems unimportant and unreal. One gets this feeling in all the Yorkshire dales […] [b]ut it is strongest in Swaledale, exaggerated perhaps by its remoteness, cut off by hills which are not single peaks but unbroken mountain ranges. […] It is not, however, the contentment of stagnation which Swaledale gives, but the joy of adventure in a country which is ever changing. With each curve of the road there are new outlines to the hills, new becks and ravines to be discovered, new villages to surprise one suddenly over the brow of a hill. This valley is unlike anywhere else in England. The springy turf, made up of innumerable wild flowers, on its meadows reminds one of the lower slopes of Swiss mountains […] The grey houses perched on the very edge of the fells have a suggestion of mountain huts about them. This Alpine character is especially felt on the lonely stretch between Keld and Muker, where the river, cut off from the rest of the valley by the hill of Kisdon, carves its way in falls and curves through one of the grandest pieces of country in England*[1]. – quoted in 1934

[1] Pontefract & Hartley 1988, 1-4.

The Swaledale & Arkengarthdale Barns & Walls Conservation Area is fairly linear in shape as it follows much of the length of the two narrow dales, with the built historic environment loosely dispersed within a magnificent upland setting. Designated primarily for its distinctive barns and drystone walls associated with pastoral upland farming – Swaledale has the highest concentration of field barns in the National Park, with an average of fourteen per square kilometre – and their contribution to the scenery, the conservation area is unusual in its landscape scale. It is predominantly rural in character and a living, farmed and cultural landscape of great beauty and historic significance. Besides the distinct field patterns, isolated field barns and remote often linear-shaped farmsteads – many of which are untouched by modern development but steadily decaying – there are several intertwined settlement patterns: A handful of nucleated settlements of varying size which are excluded from the boundary as designated in 1989 (such as Keld, Reeth and Langthwaite – although some are conservation areas in their own right) are complemented by a wider distribution of farming hamlets (such as Crackpot and Whaw) and settlement sometimes loosely arranged around the edge of old common land (such as Blades and Booze) inside the conservation area boundary **(see 4.4.e)**.

The character of Swaledale & Arkengarthdale has changed throughout history. What is today regarded as a quiet pastoral landscape was once the seat of a polluting lead industry **(see 4.4.b)**, and at its peak the area

was much more densely populated. Also, many of the field barns and boundary walls only date from the late-eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, well after the first phase of rebuilding farmhouses and other dwellings in stone and slate that commenced in the 1660s throughout the Dales [2]. The picture of the barns-and-walls landscape we see today is not as 'historic' as often thought [3] although this does not diminish its significance. To this day, the combined contribution of barns and walls has created a landscape of inestimable quality, making up a distinctive, man-made environment of international importance.

[2] Lake 2011.
[3] Fleming 1998, 1-2.

c) Landscape Setting

The outstanding landscape setting of Swaledale & Arkengarthdale provides both an *aesthetic* and a *communal value* by attracting walkers and visitors from all over the world into this upland dale scenery and providing a high-quality place to live for residents. Furthermore, the complex historic landscape displaying an intricate pattern of drystone walls of different ages representing different phases of enclosure and land management provides an *evidential value*. These values are all part of the special interest of the conservation area **(see 3.0)**.

Landform. The River Swale, along with its tributary Arkle Beck, is the northernmost catchment of the Yorkshire Dales. Both watercourses run through narrow valleys which bear their name. The conservation area encompasses the dale-floor hay-meadows and drystone-walled pastures on the dale slopes and terminates at the enclosure line to the open moorland. Some of the enclosed land and former meadows have now reverted to rougher pastures and in places walls are in poor condition. Unenclosed common land, with historic rights separate from the ownership of the land, still reaches down the dale-sides to encompass areas of former wood pasture (such as Ivelet Wood) and into some of the settlements (like Low Row and Gunnerside). Along the moorland fringes are a number of discreet **intakes**.

Intake: Isolated enclosed field on the higher unenclosed ground dating from the enclosure of common land from the late-sixteenth century onwards



Intake on Ivelet Side northeast of Muker (photo © Gaby Rose, YDNPA, 2013)

The landscape of the Swaledale & Arkengarthdale Barns & Walls Conservation Area can roughly be divided into the following character types **(figure 02)**, see also the map at the back **(see 7.4.b)**:

- ***(1) Enclosed and improved dale heads and rims:*** transitional land between enclosed dales and expansive moorland, with fields often of a larger scale, more regular later allotments (generally unsettled, less improved and without field barns) and intakes with drystone-wall boundaries; where intakes relate to single farms, a dispersed pattern of isolated hill farms, meadows and field barns extends up to the moorland edge
- ***(2) Enclosed and improved dale sides and floors:*** narrow, generally U-shaped dale, with steep stepped sides and a flat well-defined dale floor; pattern of small-scale and irregular historic fields, typically enclosed with drystone walls and occasional hedge banks; complex dispersed pattern of buildings, field barns and farmsteads alongside more nucleated farming hamlets and villages
- ***(3) Gills and steeper dale sides:*** narrow, deep V-shaped tributary valleys and steepened U-shaped dale slopes; isolated enclosure and intakes of rougher and stony ground, scrub and woodland; some distinctive areas of enclosed and improved naturally stony ground, with small-scale and irregular intakes and fields, sometimes with **consumption walls**; occasional isolated hill farms and barns, but now largely unsettled; the presence of mining is evident as landscape features

Consumption walls: Thick stone walls created as a consequence of field clearance



Consumption wall in Arkengarthdale (photo © Robert White, YDNPA, 2009)

- ***(4) Rougher enclosed lands:*** outlying, part of transitional, areas between dale and moorland where land has either been historically less improved or is now less intensively managed and of similar character to surrounding rougher moorlands; unsettled and without field barns
- ***(5) Enclosed heather moorland:*** the Kisdon plateau summit; managed but unsettled and without buildings

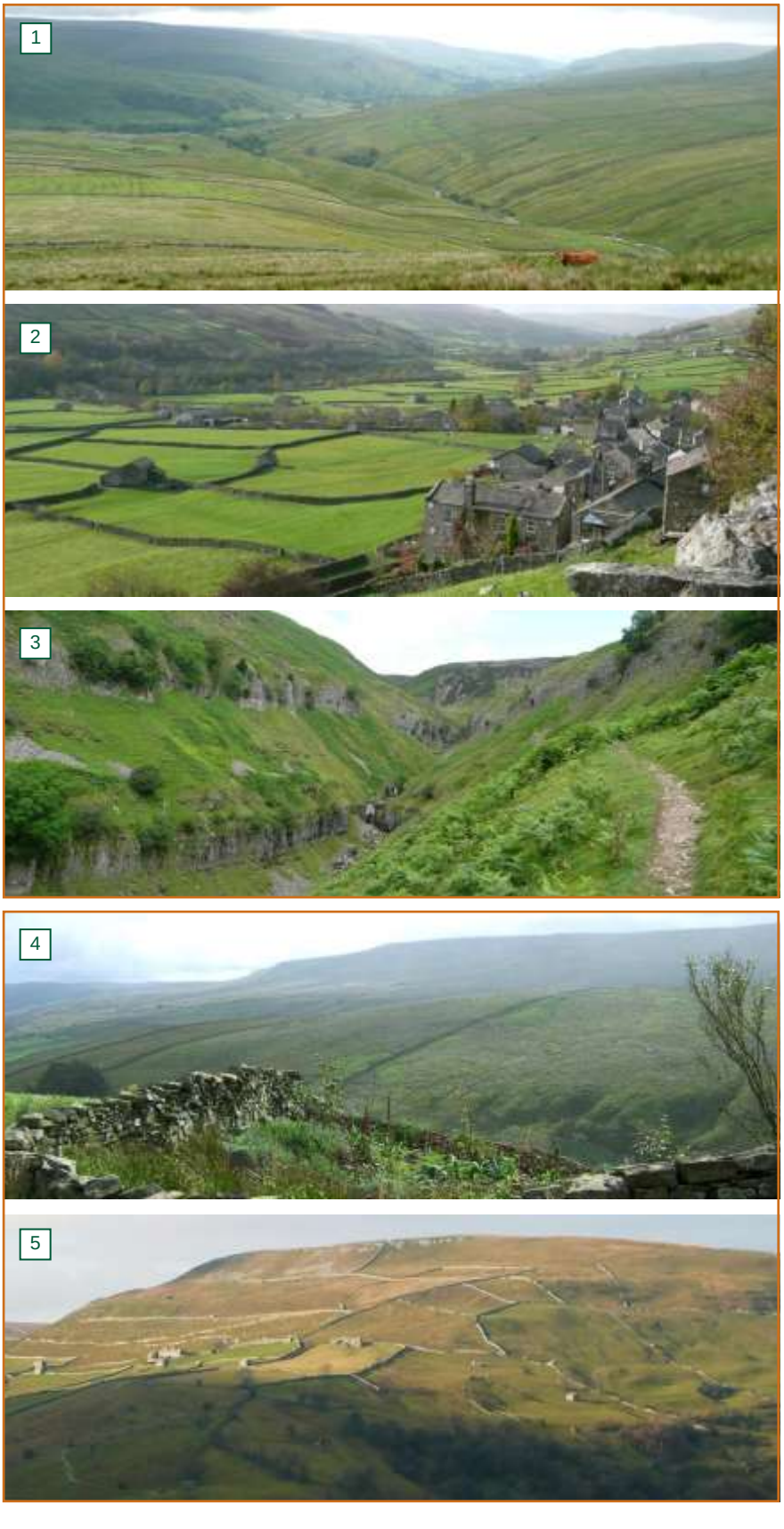


Figure 02: Landscape character types within conservation area: **1.** Enclosed and improved dale heads and rimes at Muker Side; **2.** Enclosed and improved dale sides and floor around Gunnerside; **3.** Gills and steeper dales sides at Swinner Gill; **4.** Rougher enclosed land at Thwaite Side (in the middleground); **5.** Enclosed heather moorland on the Kisdon plateau (photos 1, 2, 4, & 5 © Gaby Rose, YDNPA, 2010 & 2013; photo 3 © Katrien Schäfer, 2011).

Mining-influenced landscapes are mostly outside the conservation area but still visible from within and include: zones of extensive hushing and spoil heaps, visible over upper slopes and as skyline features; a number of significant mining-related monuments and other features of local distinctiveness **(figure 23)**; and a network of underground-mining remains which manifest as surface entrances and related features.

Geology. The geology of the Swaledale & Arkengarthdale Barns & Walls Conservation Area is dominated by the Carboniferous rocks of the Yoredale series. Around 240-250 million years ago, alternating layers of limestone, shales and sandstone were laid down in a marine basin. These layers can be clearly seen where they have been exposed by subsequent rivers cutting through (e.g. at Muker and Gunnerside Gills), and their marine origins are revealed by occasional bands of fossil shells and corals. In the upper dale, the Yoredale series is capped by Millstone Grit which derives from coarse deltaic sands. As the marine basin silted up submerged tropical vegetation in the estuaries and swampy regions was transformed to peat and later coal.

In time, the Carboniferous deposits were uplifted to form what we now know as the Pennines. Wind and water erosion shaped the mountainous landscape whilst minerals, in particular lead, were forced into the vertical fractures in the limestone from deep inside the earth. The landscape was further modified by glaciation which transformed the steep V-shaped valleys into flat-bottomed U-shape ones. The limestone strata were laid bare, forming long lines of cliffs or scars in many places (e.g. Fremington Edge). As the ice sheets retreated, rocky debris was deposited as drumlins and moraines. These dammed the glacial melt waters, forming lakes which gradually infilled with alluvial deposits of clay, gravel and sand. Most of these have now been drained, forming some of the best meadows and pastures (e.g. at Grinton, Low Whita, Ivelet and Keld) [4, 5].

Historic landscape character. Dry-stone walls are the most extensive man-made feature in the National Park (stretching over 8,689km [6]) and make a significant visual impact on the conservation area. They convey an extremely complex historic landscape, its appearance influenced by both modern and historical factors. In some areas, present-day field walls sit atop of boundaries that probably date to the Iron Age – now only visible as low earth-covered banks – fossilising and arguably consciously reusing ancient land divisions. In other areas, the field pattern was only established during the nineteenth century. Nevertheless, in many areas it is difficult to identify the origins of a field pattern, partly because of a paucity of historic sources and partly because the landscape has seen so much incremental change.

The historic landscape character themes presented here **(figure 03)** are deliberately simple and accompanied by a map at the back **(see 7.4.c)**. They have been developed out of the North Yorkshire Historic Landscape Characterisation and from a preceding partial characterisation exercise that was carried out as a prelude to the Historic Landscape Management Characterisation project [7]. However, it must be remembered that this is a characterisation – based on an informed opinion of the appearance of the landscape, not on in-depth research.

- ***(1) Anciently enclosed land:*** Great diversity of historic landscapes and field patterns, but generally smaller fields with irregular or regular (but not ruler-straight) boundaries; generally improved pasture or cut for silage or hay; some field patterns indicate incremental development and growth of enclosed land, others of more wholesale enclosure (areas of former common meadow or former arable strip farming); field boundaries

4 Fieldhouse & Jennings 1978, 1-2.
5 Cooper 1962, 2-3.
6 Courtney, Gaskell, Mills & Edwards 2007, 4.
7 YDNPA 2007.

vary significantly, with some potentially ancient walls, perhaps rebuilt many times, and some relatively recent.

- ***(2) Common land or unenclosed moorland:*** Larger parcels of land that were subdivided from the main block of higher common ground during the later medieval or early post-medieval period (e.g. Lodge Green and Low Row Pastures) and subsequently managed as stinted (i.e. with regulated livestock allowances) pastures, sometimes called cow or ox pastures.
- ***(3) Parliamentary and large-scale late enclosure:*** Also known as allotments; very large areas, often with geometric boundaries, of more marginal land along the dale sides that were enclosed from former common grazing land during the eighteenth or nineteenth centuries **(see 4.4.b)**; often associated with a set of historic features relating to their creation (e.g. trackways, quarries for limestone and walling stone, lime kilns, field drains) and to related attempts to improve the land (in some cases, such as Fremington Edge, the terrain was so difficult that it could not economically be further improved).
- ***(4) Other late enclosure:*** More marginal land enclosed from common grazing, probably by small private agreements, during the post-medieval period; in some cases the enclosures were likely to be created contemporaneously with an associated farmstead (e.g. Bouldershaw in Arkengarthdale), in others they may represent subdivision of a formerly shared intake or the rationalisation of an older field layout; regular fields, significantly smaller and slightly less regular than those of parliamentary enclosure, often semi-improved or with a reverting trajectory of management.



Figure 03: Historic landscape character – **1.** Ancient enclosed land at Gunnerside Bottoms; **2.** Common land or unenclosed moorland at Low Row Pasture (with intakes); **3.** Parliamentary and large-scale late enclosures above Low Whita; **4.** Other late enclosures at Hill Top Farm, Arkengarthdale (photos 1-2 © Gaby Rose, YDNPA, 2010; photos 3-4 © Robert White, YDNPA).



Variations in the appearance of the boundary walls can be recognised **(figure 05)**; some relate to the underlying geology, others to the date of construction: they vary in size, type, shape, pattern and detail (e.g. through-stones, copings) as well as the stone used. The use of large field boulders and orthostats (i.e. very large slab-like stones) often indicates an early wall but may also relate to the availability of stone [8]. The wall height can also vary according to its intended function; walls designed for cow husbandry were normally lower than those for preventing movement of more agile sheep.

[8] White 1997, 72-74.

Stone clearance was sometimes a factor in determining the size of fields. Very stony ground that has only been partially cleared can be seen in the fields at Fremington Edge and Seal Houses in Arkengarthdale **(figure 04)**. The fact that these areas were worth clearing indicates the pressure for land when the local population was at its highest in the nineteenth century.



Figure 04: Stony fields, with some of the walls also functioning as linear dumps for stone cleared from the fields (photo © Janet Swailes, YDNPA, 2010)

Walls of the ***parliamentary enclosure*** period **(figure 03.3)** dating from c1750 to 1850 were often built according to a detailed specification set out in an Enclosure Award and constructed with stone from shallow quarries beside the walls, whilst earlier walls were often built with stone collected from adjoining land. Landowners petitioned Parliament for local Enclosure Acts, and the previously open common grazing ground or moorland would then be enclosed in return for individual rights for allotments, improved (i.e. paring and burning of old surface vegetation, draining, and liming to reduce soil acidity) or sold on. Large and independent farmers and landowners benefited as they could afford the costs for building field walls and to improve pastures and stock breeds, dispossessing small-holders by depriving them of their grazing rights [9, 10].

[9] White 1997, 72-73.
[10] Cooper 1962, 53-54.

Boundary walls include distinctive 'furniture' such as stiles, troughs, and ground-level openings – sheep creeps – to let livestock pass through to get to the water. Gate stoups and wall ends are often single stones or carefully walled **(figure 05)**. Pole gate stoups – with slots or holes to take poles rather than a hinged gate – are rare in the conservation area. Many gateways have been enlarged to allow tractors and other machinery to pass through. Gates are now mainly of commercially available styles, so a harr-hung gate (without hinges but pivoting at the top and bottom) is a very unusual survival.



Figure 05: Boundary walling types and features: **1.** Drystone wall above Gunnerside made of various stone shapes and sizes including large field boulders at the base; **2.** A different drystone wall above Gunnerside made of slim almost slate-like stone and incorporating an unusual and carefully constructed stile; **3.** Drystone wall above Grinton made of rounded stone and including a passage for the watercourse (photos © Gaby Rose, YDNPA, 2010).

In addition to providing tangible evidence for the development of the enclosed landscape and giving a distinct character to the area, drystone walls have also more practical advantages over fencing [11]:

- they are durable, can be made stock-proof and provide shade and shelter for stock
- they use local materials which are often ready to hand
- they require few or no tools and equipment for repairing
- they provide a valuable habitat for wildlife

[11] British Trust for Conservation Volunteers 1977, 29-30.

4.2 Historic Development and Archaeology

This section describes the origins, archaeology and historic development of the Swaledale & Arkengarthdale Barns & Walls Conservation Area, which is rich in archaeological remains visible as earthworks dating from the Bronze Age onwards, thus providing an *evidential value* that is part of the special interest of the conservation area **(see 3.0)**.

a) Historic Development of the Area

The earliest evidence for human activity in Swaledale & Arkengarthdale are stray finds of flint and chert tools, left by Mesolithic hunter-gatherers in the centuries after about 8,000 BC, but no structural remains of their camp sites have yet been found. There is also an absence of definite Neolithic (3,499 – 2,500 BC) settlement remains. However, a couple of barrows near Maiden Castle and even Maiden Castle itself have been suggested as being of this period, as has a large circular earthwork on Calver, all just outside the conservation area.

The Bronze Age (2,499 – 500 BC) is represented within the conservation area by a round barrow near Swale Hall and two ring cairns on Fremington Edge, all of which are scheduled monuments **(see 4.2.b).** This period probably saw the first significant agricultural activity in the two valleys. By the late Iron Age there were extensive co-axial field systems on what is now moorland, particularly the lower flanks of Harkerside and Calverside, although they probably continued into the upper dale sides. Two co-axial field systems are known on Calverside, the earlier aligned approximately parallel with the Arkle Beck, the later at ninety degrees to the Swale. This later alignment is followed by the dominant field walls east of Healaugh, some of which overlie earlier field banks, although any direct connection has been broken by a present-day head wall [12].

The scheduled How Hill settlement near Scabba Wath probably dates from the Iron Age (499 BC – 71 AD). West of Reeth, particularly in the enclosed fields on the north side of the dale, earthworks of circular platforms of various sizes, partly terraced into the hillside, were first identified by the Swaledale Ancient Land Boundaries Project SWALB between 1984 and 1993 and are possibly contemporary with the Scabba Wath settlement. Another site near Healaugh consists of six building platforms, one of which was partly excavated between 1988 and 1990 revealing oval and circular building footprints spanning the Iron Age-Roman transitional period [13, 14].

No Roman (43 – 419 AD) military sites have been identified in the two dales but there is some indirect evidence for Roman lead mining, including a possible Roman road between Wensleydale and the Hurst area, just outside the conservation area. The massive cross-valley earthworks of the Grinton-Fremington Dykes were at one time suggested as being part of a defence system against the Romans, but are now interpreted as boundaries between a post-Roman polity or a kingdom based in Upper Swaledale and the Anglian-controlled land to the east. Two sections of the dykes, on either side of Dike House at Grinton, are designated as scheduled monuments but similar protection has not yet (2013) been given to the sections on the north side of the valley. Old English place names such as at Grinton, Fremington, Reeth and Healaugh suggest that this polity was later absorbed into the area of Anglian influence. Significantly these are also areas where there was subsequent arable cultivation, the lynchet field systems around Reeth **(figure 06)** and Fremington being the most prominent remains [15].

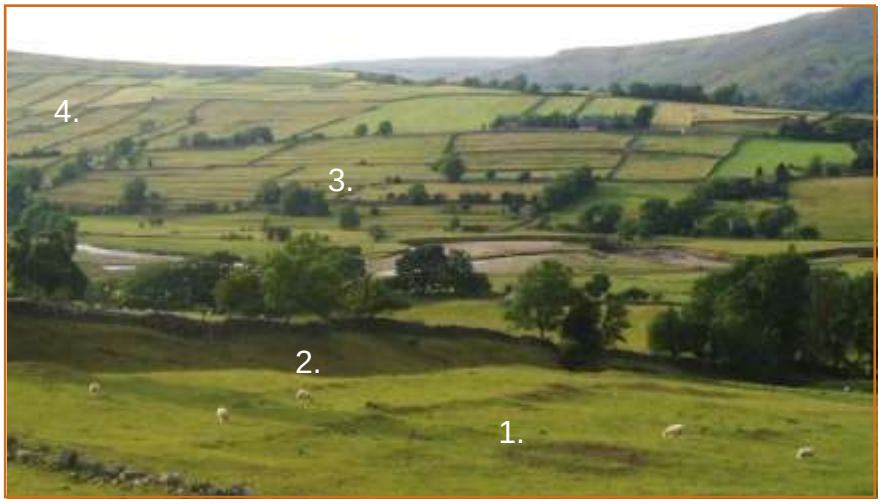


Figure 06: Multi-period landscape west of Grinton and Reeth: **1.** Probable Romano-British settlement; **2.** Large earth bank surmounted by drystone wall, one of the cross-valley Grinton-Fremington Dyke earthworks which are believed to be of post-Roman date; **3.** Remains of lynchet field system formed by (early) medieval arable cultivation (similar lynchets once existed in adjoining fields which now show bright green because of pasture improvement); **4.** Drystone walls have different alignment, their main axis at ninety degrees to the contours, which are the result of enclosure of an area of wood pasture (part of the township of Healaugh), and contain earthwork remains of Romano-British farmsteads (photo © Yvonne Luke, YDNPA, 2007).

The abundance of Old Norse place names and place-name elements in Upper Swaledale like Thwaite, Muker, Smarber, Satron, Gunnerside and Melbecks, as well as Langthwaite and Whaw in Arkengarthdale suggests that the area was later extensively occupied by Norse settlers who arrived from the northwest (500 – 1,065 AD). Significantly these are also

12 Laurie *et al.* 2010.
13 Fleming & Laurie 1984-1993.
14 Fleming 1998, 148-152.
15 Fleming 1994, 17-30.

areas of pastoral agriculture. However, no Norse settlement remains have been positively identified, possibly because they lie underneath today's dispersed farms and hamlets.

Only Grinton, Fremington and Reeth (Rie) are named in the Domesday survey of 1086. These manors had been in separate ownership prior to the Norman Conquest but were granted to Count Alan, one of William the Conqueror's kinsmen, as a reward for his services. Count Alan's main landholding, the Honour of Richmond, initially included all of Swaledale & Arkengarthdale. While successive lords of Richmond kept Arkengarthdale in their own possession, mainly for hunting, Swaledale was gradually carved into subordinate lordships and large areas granted to the church, particularly Bridlington Priory and Rievaulx Abbey. In 1086 Grinton, Fremington and Reeth were described as waste, probably more a result of the Harrying of the North rather than a deliberate policy to convert the area into forest, although Arkengarthdale, the Manor of Healaugh and occasionally Swaledale itself were subsequently referred to as 'forests'. These were not necessarily woodland but areas subject to special laws for the preservation of beasts of the chase. Population growth led to much of this hunting landscape subsequently being developed for pastoral farming and a number of vaccaries, i.e. specialised cattle farms, being established, particularly by the monastic institutions.

Grinton was the ecclesiastical centre for the area. Grinton parish originally included all of Swaledale above the confluence with the Arkle Beck as the ecclesiastical parish of Melbecks was not formed until 1841. The Church of St Andrew at Grinton, including the right to the tithes from the whole Manor of Healaugh, was granted to the Augustinian Bridlington Priory in the early-twelfth century.

The early-fourteenth century was marked by famine, disease and death. As the tide of monastic economic expansion began to ebb, lands were let to tenants for money rents. After the Dissolution of the Monasteries (1536 – 1541), the Crown sold or leased much of the former monastic estates to private individuals. Many of the former monastic granges continued to be farmed by their former tenants or their descendants who gained in status and power, particularly as none of the holders of the manorial rights were resident in the area. Although the local practice of partible inheritance led to the often uneconomical subdivision of land holdings, the development of the mining industry provided dual incomes and enabled population growth **(see 4.4.b)**.

b) Archaeology

Swaledale & Arkengarthdale is rich in archaeological remains, some of which have already been mentioned **(see 4.2.a)**. Many are very visible in the landscape and therefore a key contributor to the scenic qualities of the area. There are nine scheduled monuments (see list below) within or partly within the conservation area. These range in size from the small Bronze Age ring cairns on Fremington Edge to the sixty-seven-hectare lead-mining complex west of Langthwaite (although most of this lies outside the conservation area). The designated monuments represent only a very small proportion of the important archaeological resource of the two dales. Much of it has not been fully documented yet and requires in-depth research.

Arkengarthdale: Lead Mines and Smeltmills at Moulds Side west of Langthwaite (NY 996 035) (NM28902) **(figure 31)**

- ***Grinton:*** Bronze Age bowl barrow (SE 0399 9852) (NM 24557); Dyke 220 yards west of Dike House (SE 036 983) (NY 1212) **(figure 06)**; Dyke 270 yards east of Dike

House (NY 1213); How Hill settlement (SE 0025 9832) (NY 1051)

- ***Melbecks:*** Sir Francis Level Ore Works (part only) (SD 9417 9965) (NM 29005)
- ***Muker:*** Beldi Hill Low level Lead Mine and Ore Works (NY 9029 0073) (NM 28248)
- ***Reeth, Fremington & Healaugh:*** Ring cairn on Fremington Edge 650m north east of White House (NZ 0465 0029) (NM 27926); Ring cairn on Fremington Edge top (NZ 0370 0122) (NM 24538)

Information about individual historic environment features and surveys can be found on the Yorkshire Dales National Park Historic Environment Record (HER), a dynamic computer database linked to a Geographic Information System (GIS).

4.3 Spatial Analysis

This section describes the character and interrelationship of spaces, as well as the key views and vistas of Swaledale & Arkengarthdale. The sequence of local landscapes and the spectacular views – often 'enhanced' by evocative ruins of abandoned buildings in this exposed landscape – both from within and when viewing the conservation area from the slopes of the narrow valleys provide an *aesthetic value*. The combination of the fine landscape setting and attractive historic environment also offers a *communal value* by drawing walkers and other visitors into the conservation area and providing a desirable place to live and work for permanent residents. These values are all part of the special interest of the Swaledale & Arkengarthdale Conservation Area **(see 3.0)**.

a) Character and Interrelationship of Spaces within the Area

Swaledale & Arkengarthdale can be experienced as a sequence of local landscapes, defined by the enclosure of the dale topography, and in segments along the dales, with changing orientation and elevation. The character of the dales is broadly transitional between the dale heads and rims where moorland and fell are strong influences, and the lower reaches of the dales and main dale slopes where the pattern of enclosed and improved farmland dominates. The nature of the contribution of the built heritage varies although its significance remains high throughout. In addition to the distinctive field barns and drystone walls, stone-built farmsteads, hamlets, and villages (although most of the latter are excluded from the conservation area as designated in 1989) are components within the farmed landscape that contribute to its character. Isolated barns and farmsteads create a pattern of dispersed settlement which contrasts with the more nucleated pattern of hamlets and villages landscape.

b) Key Views and Vistas

Appreciation of the visual qualities of the Swaledale & Arkengarthdale Barns & Walls Conservation Area is significantly facilitated by the good physical and visual access. Overall it is a very open, publicly viewable space, with enclosed and private areas mainly found in the backyards and gardens of the settlements. The B6270 and minor roads into the dales provide scenic routes while the two valleys have the greatest concentration of public rights of ways in the Yorkshire Dales National Park, offering a great variety of outlook opportunities.

A selection of key views is pictured here; their locations are identified on the map at the back **(see 7.4.d)**.

(1) View from the Buttertubs road towards the road to Angram, with Kisdon hill above Thwaite to the right, and barns dotted in the landscape.

Figure 07: View 1 (photo © Gaby Rose, YDNPA, 2010)



(2) Close-up view of the classic barns-and-walls scenery along the road to Angram with hay meadows in full bloom.

Figure 08: View 2 (photo © Robert White, YDNPA, 2009)



(3) Classic barn scenery at the foot of Kisdon (left) looking down (eastwards) Swaledale.

Figure 09: View 3 (photo © Robert White, YDNPA, 2009)



(4) View from the attractive ruin of Crackpot Hall onto the River Swale towards Muker, with Kisdon to the right and Black Hill to the left.

Figure 10: View 4 (photo © Gaby Rose, YDNPA, 2010)



(5) View from the Pennine Bridleway from Kisdon onto the Muker hay meadows with the village to the far right.



Figure 11: View 5 (photo © Katrien Schäfer, 2011)

(6) View from the B6270 towards Gunnerside with traditional farm buildings dispersed on the slope above, many of them now abandoned.



Figure 12: View 6 (photo © Gaby Rose, YDNPA, 2010)

(7) View onto the classic barns-and-walls scenery at Gunnerside Bottoms with the roofscape of Gunnerside in the foreground.



Figure 13: View 7 (photo © Katrien Schäfer, 2011)

(8) View from the Askrigg moor road across the other side of Swaledale onto a very distinct field pattern, just west of Reeth.



Figure 14: View 8 (photo © Gaby Rose, YDNPA, 2010)

(9) View from the Askrigg moor road across the other side of Swaledale to the nucleated settlements of Low Row and Feetham, with dispersed traditional farm buildings in the foreground.



Figure 15: View 9 (photo © Gaby Rose, YDNPA, 2010)

(10) View up Arkengarthdale with Arkle Town in the foreground and Langthwaite in the bottom centre.



Figure 16: View 10 (photo © Gaby Rose, YDNPA, 2010)

(11) View down Arkengarthdale in the area south of Whaw with traditional farm buildings lining the road in the distance.



Figure 17: View 11 (photo © Gaby Rose, YDNPA, 2010)

Views are often 'enhanced' by ruinous structures left abandoned in this exposed landscape **(figures 10 & 18)**. Despite their reduced form many are landmarks and contribute significantly to the character of their surroundings. Decaying buildings can have a strong aesthetic appeal and have fascinated people throughout history, such as during the Romantic movement, inspiring poets, artists and scholars. Ruins can seem out of time and out of place, evoking feelings of a lost world and adventure. They portray an 'inner conflict' and 'survival spirit' which we can relate to: A building which has been abandoned is entering the final stage of its 'life'; but it refuses to vanish completely and lingers on, becoming archaeologically interesting and a space of common access – it now 'belongs' to us all. Although ruins are *useless and stranded* [16] objects they are also memorials of our past, and to lose them would mean to lose our roots and identity. They are both fragile and strong – slowly being reclaimed by nature but still resisting their final demise – not static like a

[16] Ruin Memories 2011.

cared-for building, but a dynamic and transforming character that breathes some kind of life into them, making them almost human and us connect to them on an emotional level. And they do remind that nothing lasts forever – not even solid structures made of stone.



Figure 18: Riddings, an abandoned linear farmstead of probable late-eighteenth-century date west of Reeth (photo © Robert White, YDNPA)

4.4 Character Analysis

This section is key to the appraisal. It considers the character of the Swaledale & Arkengarthdale Barns & Walls Conservation Area: its different character zones, land uses, buildings and other heritage assets, traditional materials, local details and the public realm, biodiversity, as well as its general condition.

a) Definition of Character Zones

The experience of Swaledale & Arkengarthdale as a sequence of local landscapes provides an *aesthetic value* which is part of the special interest of the conservation area **(see 3.0 & 4.3)**.

Swaledale & Arkengarthdale tend to be experienced – when walking or driving – in segments with views unfolding sequentially, although transitions between character zones tend not to be fixed lines but are determined by the containment of topography and changes in the dominance of particular patterns or features. A map showing the eight character zones is at the back of the document **(see 7.4.e)**.

(1) Swaledale dale heads. Isolated hill farms like Ravenseat **(figure 19)**, barns and ruins dot the improved and rougher enclosed fields, suggestive of the marginal nature of human occupancy in the landscape. The white limestone cliffs of Cotterby Scar form a striking backdrop to the river running over a series of cascades and waterfalls through small-scale meadows.



Figure 19: Ravenseat (photo © Janet Swailes, YDNPA, 2010)

(2) Kisdon. Topped unusually with an area of enclosed heather moorland **(figure 02)**, Kisdon Hill is a feature of local distinctiveness between iconic

'barnscapes' **(figures 07-09)**. The villages of Keld, Thwaite and Muker (all outside the conservation area as designated in 1989) are each seen within its context. From Kisdon, Angram hamlet **(see 4.4.e)** can be appreciated in a 'clover-leaf' pattern of intake fields, which contrasts with the larger scale and regular geometries of Angram Pasture. The ruins of Crackpot Hall **(figure 10)** are set dramatically between the steep slopes of Swinner Gill **(figure 02)** and where the Swale issues from Kisdon Gorge over a flat area of meadows. Kisdon Gorge is edged with limestone cliffs and screes, its wooded rocky slopes concealing dramatic waterfalls and the consolidated ruins of Beldi (Plate Level) dressing floor which appear as a mysterious feature. Southeast of Kisdon, the Muker hay meadows form an important habitat within a dense pattern of drystone walls and field barns **(figure 11)**.

(3) Ivelet, Satron & Gunnerside. The dale is deeply incised, with steep sides and tributary gills. Woodland, such as Rowleth Wood, is an important characteristic. The dale floor remains narrow and the pattern of drystone walls and field barns a dominant feature. The 'barnscape' of Gunnerside Bottoms **(figures 02 & 13)** rivals that of Kisdon, framed by the village and a bend in the river. Towards the dale rims and over steeper stony slopes, like above Gunnerside **(figure 12)** and at Winterings, are dense mosaics of small-scale irregular fields and intakes, areas of marginal farming with long-abandoned buildings becoming ruinous. Ivelet, Satron **(see 4.4.e)** and Gunnerside (the latter is outside the conservation area as designated in 1989) are the main settlements, but there are also isolated higher-level farmsteads.

(4) Low Row & Feetham. The dale continues deeply incised, with steep dale sides, almost entirely enclosed with small-scale and irregular fields up to the dale rims, an intricate pattern of high-level and isolated intakes to the north, and allotments to the south. The linear villages of Low Row and Feetham (outside the conservation area as designated in 1989), spread along the lower south-facing dale slope **(figure 15)**, interplay with a pattern of dispersed hamlets, hill farms and barns **(figure 20)**. Plenty of viewing opportunities make possible a full appreciation of the quality of the field patterns and the density of scattered traditional farm buildings from dale floor to rim. Individual and groups of (mainly) sycamore planted for shelter around buildings are important landscape features in this more open landscape.



Figure 20: Field pattern, barns and isolated abandoned farmsteads above Feetham, with the linear former farmstead of Brownberry Barn at the top just right off the centre and Cantrell's Barn to the far left of it; also note the earthworks which contribute to the landscape character (photo © Janet Swailes, YDNPA, 2010)

(5) Healaugh & Reeth. The dale floor broadens and its sides become less steep. The presence of heather moorland is more prominent and the contrast between its colours and textures and the enclosed and improved fields is of important scenic quality. Relict settlements, lynchets and the

remains of even older field systems **(figure 06)** contribute significantly to the ancient character of the landscape. The main settlements are the historic market town of Reeth, Healaugh, Grinton (all outside the conservation area as designated in 1989) and Fremington **(see 4.4.e)**. There are hedge remnants around the historic town fields and the boundary trees at Healaugh are landscape features that add to the field pattern **(figure 21)**.

Figure 21: Landscape setting around Healaugh with many trees lining the boundary walls and intakes on the marginal land above (photo © Janet Swailes, YDNPA, 2010)



(6) Langthwaite, Arkle Town, Booze & Castle. Fremington Edge is an imposing landmark which encloses the lower section of Arkengarthdale, with scattered yew trees growing along the top and standing out against the scars. The steep slopes descend almost to the dale floor, with enclosed and improved farmland in abrupt juxtaposition along the lower slopes and rising up to edge the road **(figure 22)**. The intricate net of walls around Castle Farm outlines the landform, and a mosaic of small-scale meadows and woodlands creates an intimate river scenery that contrasts with the imposing Fremington Edge. The Slei Gill and Fell End hushes add to the mining character, while Langthwaite (outside the conservation area as designated in 1989), Arkle Town and Booze **(see 4.4.e)** create a well-settled appearance to this section of the dale **(figure 16)**. Langthwaite has a fine roofscape seen from the access road to Booze, while the latter has an elevated position around the dale rim, its scattered buildings being landmarks in their own right.

Figure 22: Fremington Edge with isolated yew trees against the scar and only a few barns scattered beneath (photo © Gaby Rose, YDNPA, 2010)



(7) Whaw, Seal Houses & Scar House. Lead mining hushes and spoil heaps are a stark backdrop to the dale scenery, and other mining-related structures occur as features, such as the lead smelt mill and flue above CB Yard **(figure 23)** and the hexagonal powder house of the Octagon Mill. Across the lower dale slopes, the fields and woodlands of the farmed landscape dominate. Scar House is highly distinctive within an ornamentalised setting **(see 4.4.g)**, and the beech woodlands behind it

are notable for their striking autumn colour. There are also formal avenues and parkland trees towards Langthwaite Church. Kitley Hill is a local landmark, the field pattern of Seal Houses being notable as an area of enclosure and improvement of unusually stony ground, resulting in a dense mosaic of small-scale irregular fields with thick consumption walls **(figure 04)**. Elsewhere the enclosures are larger and more regular intakes of moorland transition. Isolated hill farms and field barns occur throughout and are important features in the exposed landscape.



Figure 23: Landscape around the grade-II-listed CB Yard, which comprises two late-C18/early-C19 rows of houses and stables forming a right angle. It is an unusual example of purpose-built industrial housing in the conservation area. There are spoil heaps in the background and the smelt mill flue is just visible to the far right (photo © Gaby Rose, YDNPA, 2010).

(8) Arkengarthdale dale head. Enclosure and improvement of large and regular fields have taken in moorland-proper, but reversion to rougher pastures means that the transition to moorland is indistinct in places. A series of individual farm intakes in part amalgamate around the dale floor and in part are isolated up gills. The absence of trees and woodlands emphasises the significant contribution of isolated hill farms, enclosure pattern and occasional barns to this open landscape **(figure 17)**.

From the above descriptions and imagery it becomes apparent that some areas fit better into the 'barns & walls' bracket than others. A re-evaluation of the conservation area boundary may therefore be considered.

b) Activity and Prevailing or Former Uses and Their Influence on Plan Form and Buildings

Within the conservation area there were two main historic uses: farming (present to this day) and mining, with Swaledale & Arkengarthdale being one of the most important lead-mining areas of the Yorkshire Dales during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. While farming left an unmistakable impression on the landscape – the remarkably high density of isolated field barns dating mainly from the late-eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the remote farmsteads which are largely untouched by modern development and the intricate pattern of drystone walls of different ages provide an *evidential value* – the visual influence of mining is more prominent just beyond the conservation area boundary. However, mining had a significant impact on the living and working population thus providing a *historical value*. All of this is part of the special interest of the conservation area **(see 3.0)**.

Farming. The two dales are topographically and climatically more suited to pastoral farming than arable agriculture. Nevertheless, the well-preserved lynchets around Reeth **(figure 06)** and Fremington show that there were once extensive open arable fields at the eastern end of the conservation area [17]. Arable farming was practised before the Norman Conquest, as evident from the Domesday survey of 1086 which lists *possible* ploughland (1 *carucate* equals around 120 acres, an area which could be ploughed by an eight-oxen team during the agricultural year) at Reeth (3 *car.*), Grinton (1 *car.*) and Fremington (1 *car.*), the plough teams probably having disappeared with the Harrying of the North in 1069. By

[17] White *et al* 2004, 145.

the end of the sixteenth century, most of the open arable land was divided into enclosed meadow and pasture fields, with an increasing number becoming individually owned. Continuing subdivision – e.g. through ***partible inheritance*** where property was divided between a number of heirs instead of descending to the eldest son – and intaking from the fell sides during the next two centuries eventually resulted in the small drystone-walled fields which now typify the agricultural landscape of Swaledale & Arkengarthdale [18].

[18] Fieldhouse & Jennings 1978, 143-144 & 149.
[19] Long and Davies 1948, 17 & 60-61.
[20] Cooper 1962, 102.
[21] Lake & White 2011, 8.

The general layout of farms was based on the topography – narrow dale with steep sides, hence only a small portion of good meadow land – with most of them having some enclosed meadow land, some poorer enclosed land and rights of grazing (gaits) on the open moor. Rarely the holdings run from the river/beck up the side of the dale to the moor, as originally planned, but more often are fragmentised over an area [19]. The average holding until the latter part of the twentieth century was quite small, but some of the more isolated farms were larger with extensive pasture lands reclaimed from the moor. Except for the higher-level farms, the home of the farmer was usually in one of the villages or hamlets, sometimes with an adjacent stable, rarely with the full range of typical farmstead buildings attached. Instead the farm buildings, the field barns, are found amongst the enclosed meadows and pastures, separate from the farmsteads **(see below)** [20].

The linear shape of the typical farmstead (farmhouse or cottages with outbuilding attached) **(figures 18 & 24)** is a prominent characteristic of the conservation area. Those located around the moorland edge relate to the eighteenth and nineteenth-century establishment of very small farms and smallholdings whose occupants combined farming with incomes from lead mining or quarrying [21]. Farmsteads are also often in a linear arrangement to each other, such as along a footpath (often an important earlier routeway), like between Hollins Farm (SD 9845 9726) and Bushes House (SD 9962 9802), or along the edge of the commons, like at Dyke Heads **(see 4.4.e)** where families once settled on marginal land and gained access to common grazing.



Figure 24: Linear farmsteads west of Blades adjoining marginal land, many of them abandoned, with Green Sike farmhouse in the top right corner (photo © Janet Swailes, YDNPA, 2010).

However, there is a significant difference between the two building groups just mentioned as the farmsteads between Hollins Farm and Bushes House are all now abandoned. In fact, the concentration of abandoned farmsteads in Swaledale & Arkengarthdale is probably the highest in the Park (followed closely by Dentdale) **(Figure 25)** following the collapse of the mining industries, the national agricultural depression of the 1930s, poor-quality land which is difficult to access [22] and the amalgamation of farms. In the past communities used to be self-sufficient but today they import goods and farmers, now much fewer in numbers, produce for the (inter-)national market instead of self-supply [23]. Nevertheless, several farmsteads which were abandoned forty years ago have now been re-occupied, such as Feetham Holme, Plaintree House and Bushes House in Grinton, and Yellow Houses in Arkengarthdale.

[22] LeCoque 2008.
[23] Long and Davies 1948, 9-10.

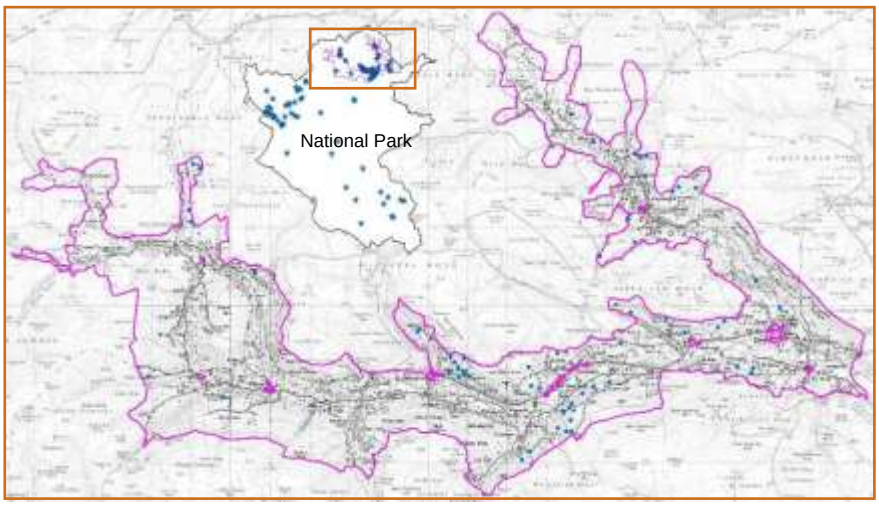


Figure 25: Distribution of abandoned farmsteads in the conservation area and in the whole National Park (conservation area boundary in pink; © Crown copyright and database rights 2010 Ordnance Survey 100023740; graphics © Gaby Rose, YDNPA, 2012)

The ***field barns*** – also known as cow houses or field houses – are a key characteristic of the Swaledale & Arkengarthdale landscape due to their sheer numbers and the effect on the landscape they create. A Use and Condition Survey (1990-93) by the Authority of 1,442 traditional farm buildings in the conservation area identified 1,044 field barns [24]. However, the map of their distribution **(figure 26)** is slightly misleading in so far that all barns do not get experienced equally in terms of their contribution to the wider landscape. For example, despite their ubiquity in Arkengarthdale they are not as prominent as they are around Gunnerside, Muker or between Thwaite and Keld where there are very high densities, as well as good viewing opportunities. Like the farmstead buildings, many barns have been abandoned **(see 4.4.i)**.

[24] Darlington 1993, 2.

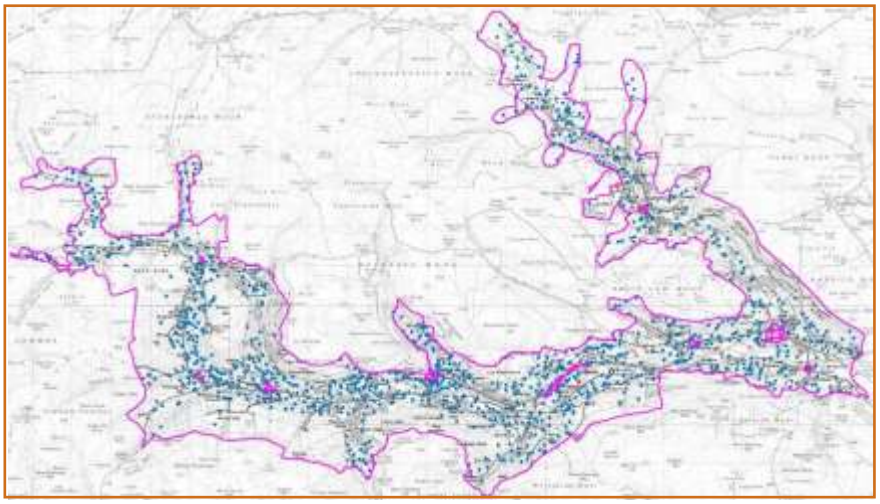


Figure 26: Distribution of field barns in 1989 (conservation area boundary in pink; © Crown copyright and database rights 2010 Ordnance Survey 100023740; graphics © Gaby Rose, YDNPA, 2010)

Historically, farming practises in Swaledale & Arkengarthdale revolved around the annual hay meadow field barn cycle, a response to the difficulties of keeping cattle over winter in the harsh upland environment and a specialised dairying (cheese and butter) economy. In spring, the stock was excluded from the meadows, instead grazing the unenclosed upland pastures and moorland, and the grass allowed to grow almost to seed. In July, it was cut and left in the sun. When dry, the hay was swept up and stored in a field barn within the enclosed meadow. In November, the cattle were brought down into the meadow where they lived within the byre of the barn. The farmer visited them daily, milking, watering and feeding them with the hay stored in the mew. In May, the cattle were led upland again, and the manure which had accumulated in the byre spread on the meadows to fertilize the next grass crop.

The field barn system differed from the usual agricultural practice (where the hay was brought to the farmstead and the manure transported into

the fields), with the farmer walking around his barns in winter. Time was minimised for transporting hay and manure, an important factor due to the vagaries of the Swaledale climate and access problems due to the topography and fragmented farm layouts. The practice of partible inheritance meant that holdings were typically scattered and intermixed, so field barns also dispensed with the need to bring cattle in to be milked on the farmstead and the tensions that could arise when cattle needed to be herded in different directions across the landscape to different farms.

Few of the field barns are distinguished architecturally, yet in terms of overall pattern these humble but well-crafted buildings and their associated drystone walls have a major collective importance **(figures 07-09, 11-14 & 17)**. Most are located either inside the field or built onto a boundary wall, sometimes adjoining two or more meadows, or lining a road or track. Some are built into or across the hillside to make loading hay into the upper storey easier. Just when these barns became a common feature of the landscape is unclear although it is likely that they developed in conjunction with the gradual enclosure of open fields in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries (N.B. the 1614 survey of the manor of Wensleydale lists 38 fieldhouses). Despite their ubiquity, relatively little architectural or historical research has been done on them [25, 26].

Field barns are predominantly simple, two-storey vernacular buildings, generally compact in size (in average about four to five by eight to ten metres due to the local shortage of long timbers; they are also rectangular unlike many Craven buildings which have projecting bays or outshots), becoming smaller when going up Swaledale. Larger barns are usually of a later date. Many have been extended, either by adding on at one end under the same roofline or by addition of outshots. Most of the extant barns were probably built or rebuilt between 1750 and 1850, although some retain evidence of earlier structures. None have been found that are of cruck construction, but there are several that had their eaves raised and their roof pitches altered at some stage, suggesting that they once had been ling (heather) thatched **(figure 27)** [27, 28]. Evidence of former construction like this is very vulnerable to being lost during repair and especially conversion works.

[25] White *et al.* 2004, 147, 150 & 152.
[26] White 1988, 7-8.
[27] White 1997, 75-77.
[28] Gamble *et al.* 2010, 57 & 63-66.



Figure 27: Field barn at Haverdell near Crackpot shows steeper thatch lines on both gable walls. It may have late C17 origins and was probably reroofed in late C19 (photo © Gaby Rose, YDNPA, 2010).

Watershot masonry: A technique widely used between the late-eighteenth and mid-nineteenth centuries, with dressed stones laid at a slight angle to shed rainwater outwards from the joints.



(photo © Gaby Rose, YDNPA, 2010)

Field barns are normally constructed of random or roughly coursed sandstone or limestone, usually bonded with lime mortar, although some early barns are of dry-stone construction. The walls are two skins of stone with a rubble infill, bound together with larger through-stones which sometimes protrude externally, giving a distinct vernacular character to a building, sometimes randomly but often in rows on all elevations **(figure**

27). More than a quarter of the barns are recorded to have **watershot masonry**. Roofs are covered with locally quarried sandstone slates and laid in diminishing courses. The occurrence of architectural detail is rare, being mostly confined to carved stone kneelers or simply moulded door surrounds in sandstone or gritstone [29]. Further design details and the use of traditional materials on barns will be discussed later **(see 4.4.f)**.

[29] White *et al.* 2004, 152.

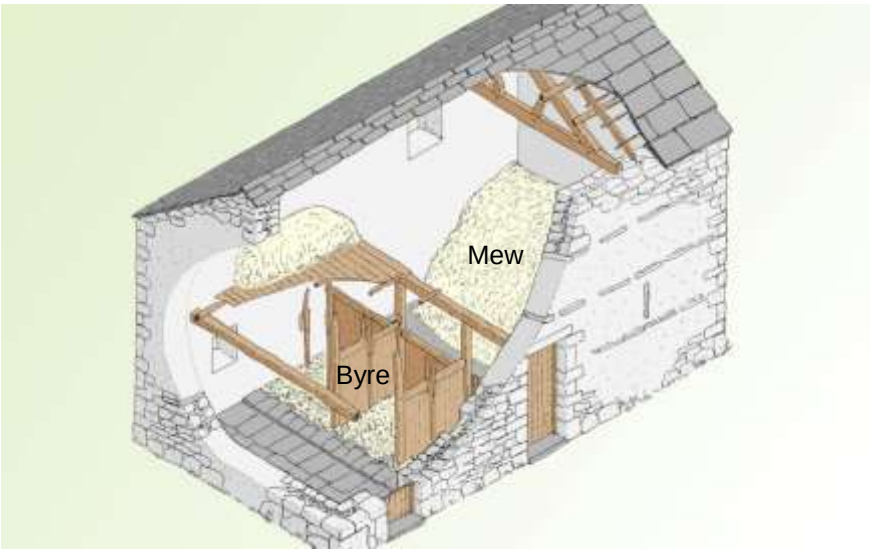


Figure 28: Typical field barn (line drawing © Robert White, 1997; graphics Gaby Rose, 2010)

The interior of a typical field barn is divided into two sections **(figure 28)**:

- The mew, a large open space used for storing loose hay brought in through the forking hole, a high-level opening that also provides light and ventilation. Further ventilation may be provided by putlog holes or vertical slits in the wall. The hay filled the mew up to the roof and often extended over the byre as well.
- The byre with four or five cattle stalls – *boskins* – made of timber or flagstone and usually a stone floor. The manure which accumulated in a channel behind the stalls *(groop)* was removed through the door or a low-level muck hole and might be stored outside before being spread on the hay meadows.

The 1990-93 Use and Condition Survey identified the internal arrangements and plan forms of 723 field barns. The most common plan form in the conservation area, Type C, has a partition between the byre and mew and an access door to each section **(figure 29)**. Earlier barns tend to have one opening serving both mew and byre, with cattle facing the gable wall instead of the partition to the mew, although many of these were subsequently re-arranged or extended.

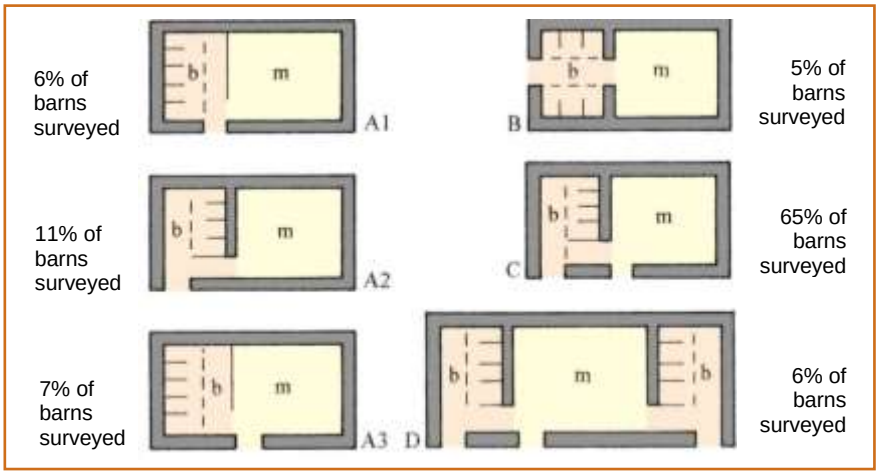


Figure 29: Field barn plan types (line drawing © White *et al.* 2004, 152; graphics Gaby Rose, 2010)

Although most of the field barns were used for housing cattle, there are also hogg-houses for overwintering young sheep between their weaning and first shearing **(figure 30)**. Many of these are single-storey buildings, but around Muker there is a group of two-storey hogg-houses, mainly sited on the fell edge and bearing similarities to the bank barns of Cumbria. Sheep gain access to the first floor from the moor while hay, swept up from the meadows below, is stored underneath [30]. Many of these hogg houses are quite late buildings (e.g. c1900).

[30] Menuge *et al.* 2004, 157-172.



Figure 30: Unusually small late-C19 hogg house near Pry House Farm, Birkdale, with prominent rows of throughs. The barn is gabled along its short axis, which is a reversal of the normal practice of placing gables at either end of the long axis but which reduces the amount of timber required. A short external ramp leads to the upper level. The stone flag ceiling is, unusually, carried by stone joists (photo © Robert White, YDNPA, 2007)

Mining. Although farming has always been the main occupation in Swaledale & Arkengarthdale, economic life received its most violent jolts form the lead-mining industry [31]. Reputed finds of Roman lead ingots attest to a probable Roman lead-mining industry, and it is likely that some small-scale extraction also took place in the pre-Norman-Conquest period. Radiocarbon dates from smelting sites – *bales* which were structured open fires – indicate a medieval industry [32], as do occasional documentary references, but no early extraction sites have been positively identified, possibly because ore was collected from stream deposits or, more likely, because early workings have been covered over by later workings or reworked as a result of technological innovations.

[31] Long & Davis 1948, 18.
[32] Smith R 2006, 94-110.
[33] Long & Davis 1948, 20.

The Dissolution of the Monasteries resulted in a temporary over-supply in lead by stripping the former monastic buildings of their materials. The industry expanded again in the seventeenth century due to a rise in demand for lead to create various building parts (e.g. roofs, gutters), weaponry and sometimes coffins. It reached its peak in the mid-nineteenth century, yet went into a steep decline in the 1860s, mainly due to cheaper imports from Spain and the Americas, but also because the lead ore had to be won from deeper veins which were more expensive to work [33]. Some lead mining continued until the First World War while reprocessing of old spoil heaps, mainly for barite, flourished for a period in the second half of the twentieth century.

In Arkengarthdale the lead veins between Booze and Moulds are cut by the valley of the Arkle Beck (the veins outcrop again towards the western end of the conservation area, between Swinner Gill and Keldside), so most of the mining activity took place on the unenclosed moorland outside the conservation area. However, in a few places mining also extended into the enclosed pastures, mainly through shallow shaft working, but also through level working (Booze Wood, Moulds, Smarber, and the Beldi area), while there is also evidence for open-cast working or hushing (a form of open-cast-working where water was used to wash away debris) in Tottergill Pasture, Arkengarthdale. Most of the processing, whether dressing (i.e. the separation of the lead ore – *galena* – from other minerals) or smelting (i.e. the conversion of galena into metallic lead), also took place outside the conservation area. However,

there are some extensive remains inside the designated area, including large dressing floors (e.g. Booze Wood), smelt mills (Beldi, Keldside, and the Octagon and New Mill **(figure 31)**), and a number of levels and their associated spoil heaps, including part of the massive spoil heaps associated with Moulds Old Level.



Figure 31: The New Mill complex, constructed in 1822, lies within the extensive scheduled monument Lead Mines and Smeltmills at Moulds Side West of Langthwaite. The ruins were consolidated in 2013 as part of the National Park Authority's Industrial Monument Management Scheme, partly funded by English Heritage (photo © Robert White, YDNPA, 2011).

The lead-mining industry had its effect on the agriculture of Swaledale & Arkengarthdale as many miners acquired plots of land – often too small to provide a living [34] – and combined farming with mining, resulting in a considerably larger population than would otherwise have been the case. By the end of the eighteenth century the population was growing rapidly. Dwellings were dotted around the countryside, partly because of the character of the mining operations, partly because of the dual activity of the miners/famers. Agricultural buildings were sometimes attached to houses **(figure 32)**. Furthermore, numerous very small miners' cottages were constructed, often one-unit two-storey buildings with a small outshot at the back and of inferior quality, little different from those occupied by other workers, but often in higher densities. They were either scattered in isolated groups over the fellsides – many now in ruins – or clustered together within the villages [35]. At the opposite end of the social spectrum was Draycott Hall **(figure 35)**, home of the mineral-rights-owning Denys family.

[34] Long & Davis 1948, 24.
[35] Fieldhouse & Jennings 1978, 258-259.



Figure 32: The grade-II-listed Birds Nest at Feetham is an early-C18 pair of cottages flanked by animal houses with hay lofts above. It was enlarged and used by lead workers during C19. The layout reflects the former dual occupation of farming and mining (photo © YDNPA, 2009).

The mining industry also had indirect impacts on the landscape. The Reeth-Tan Hill-Brough and the Reeth-Richmond turnpikes were a response to the need to transport lead and raw materials of the industry, while many trackways and bridleways on the moors initially served the lead mines. Medieval and early-post-medieval lead smelting used such vast quantities of timber, diminishing the local woodlands so much that by the sixteenth century that wood was being imported into the area. Furthermore, some mining and processing practices in Swaledale & Arkengarthdale resulted in huge quantities of heavy-metal-rich gravel, sands and silts entering the river system and poisoning habitats and the flood plain along their course.

As the industry declined in the later nineteenth century there was extensive emigration from the two valleys. For example the population of Grinton and Arkengarthdale parishes, which had peaked at 6,207 in 1851, gradually declined to 2,305 in 1901. This led to virtual abandonment of many buildings, particularly those in the more isolated settlements (e.g. Booze), although others survived to support the tourism and second-home industries of the later twentieth century.

Quarrying. Within the conservation area are several quarries which have left a mark on the landscape. The most obvious remains are the former quarries on Fremington Edge **(figure 33)** where chert was quarried for use in the pottery industry. There are also numerous small pits or delves, where stone was extracted for constructing drystone walls, in particular parliamentary enclosure walls. Sandstone and limestone were both quarried for building materials.



Figure 33: Chert quarries on Fremington Edge (photo © Yvonne Luke, YDNPA, 2007)

The limestone quarries, sometimes just worked outcrops, are often adjacent to small field kilns where the quarried stone was burnt to produce lime, partly for building purposes (mortars and plasters), but also to spread on the land (lime reduces the acidity of the soil and improves drainage through flocculation [36]) particularly for newly enclosed fields. 113 lime kilns or lime kiln sites are recorded within the conservation area, most of them dating from the period 1750-1850, some of them now completely ruined. They are mainly small stone-built field kilns, either free standing or built into a hillside, with a single bowl in which the stone was burnt. An arched passage to a draw hole at the base of the bowl enabled easy removal of the burnt lime. Five of these lime kilns are listed as being of special architectural or historic interest **(figure 34) (see 4.4.c)**.

[36] Johnson 2002, 32.



Figure 34: Mid-C18 lime kiln south of Gunnerside, after careful consolidation funded by YDNPA. The kiln is paraboloid in plan and the quarry is immediately behind kiln, with a ramp to the top of the bowl (photo © Gaby Rose, YDNPA, 2010)

c) Quality of Buildings and Their Contribution to the Area

Field barns and farmsteads are discussed earlier **(see 4.4.b)**. The following section looks generically at building types and construction

styles in the Swaledale & Arkengarthdale Barns & Walls Conservation Area.

Overview. The great majority of buildings in the conservation area were not designed by architects and can be classed as *vernacular* architecture. These buildings are often orientated away from the weather, with the main façade facing south, regardless of the view it provided. Nevertheless, the large Georgian Draycott Hall **(figure 35)** and mid-nineteenth-century Scar House are exceptional examples of *polite* architecture, although other smaller cases can be found in the villages outside the conservation area as designated in 1989. Much of the more polite architecture of Swaledale & Arkengarthdale – reading rooms, non-conformist churches and chapels, etc. – is related to the wealth generated by the mining industry.



Figure 35: Draycott Hall at Fremington, a late-C18 grade-II*-listed former country house has been converted into flats. It was built for Sir George Denys, owner of Old Gang Smelt Mill. Polite features shown in the photo include the Venetian window on the left and the central classical entrance portico with Doric columns (photo © YDNPA, 2013).

An extensive survey of much of the conservation area was carried out by the Yorkshire Vernacular Buildings Study Group between 1988 and 1995. Their initial analysis suggests there is no surviving evidence of early ***medieval*** houses in Swaledale & Arkengarthdale other than the much altered Blackburn Hall **(figure 36)** where the earlier range is thought to be of medieval date. The medieval long-house form, with animals and people sharing the same entrance into a building, exerted a strong influence on later house plans – especially when buildings were rebuilt to the same footprint, sometimes in stages – but it is noticeable how few hearth-passage plans there are in Swaledale & Arkengarthdale when compared with other upland areas.



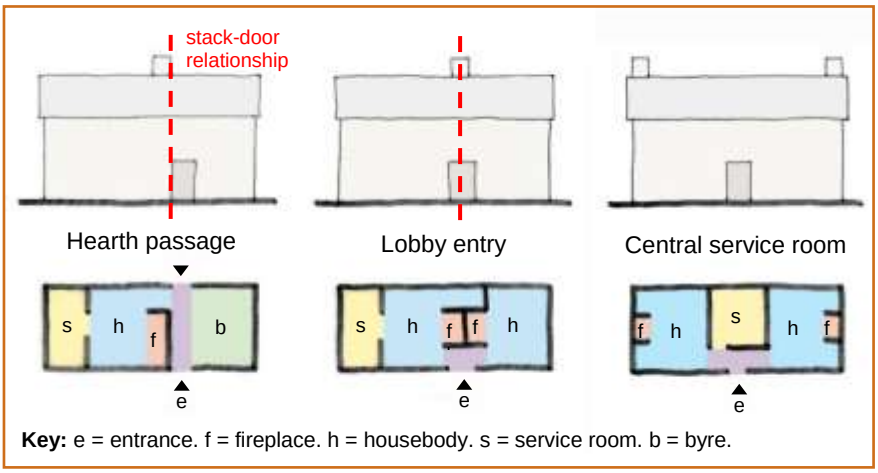
Figure 36: Blackburn Hall at Grinton, a grade-II*-listed former manor house, was remodelled and enlarged in 1635. The potentially medieval range may have provided lodgings for the canons of Bridlington Priory who administered Grinton Church. The building was acquired for Elizabeth Hutton of Marske-in-Swaledale in C17 who married into the Blackburn family of Richmond and Swaledale. (photo © YDNPA, 2006).

Within the conservation area there is little obvious evidence for buildings more than four hundred years old, indicating that only few houses have survived from before the Great Rebuilding which gathered momentum in

[37] Fieldhouse & Jennings 1978, 237.
[38] McLellan 2000, 33.
[39] Harrison 2007, 4-28.

the 1660s [37]. In Swaledale only seven buildings with ***post-medieval*** (i.e. pre-Great Rebuilding) plan forms **(figure 37)** are known [38]:

- hearth-passage: Summer Lodge Farm, Sorrell Sykes & Wellbecks and 11 & 12 Silver Street in Reeth [39]
- lobby-entry: Swale Hall, Neddy House, and Fremington Grammar (end stack) – all are in or near Grinton
- central-service-room (fairly uncommon in Yorkshire): Stone House (eastern section) at Birkdale



Key: e = entrance. f = fireplace. h = housebody. s = service room. b = byre.

Figure 37: Post-medieval plans and elevations, not to scale (drawings © Gaby Rose, YDNPA, 2010)

[40] Harrison & Hutton (1984), 8.
[41] Fieldhouse & Jennings 1978, 244.
[42] McLellan 2000, 33.

The ***Great Rebuilding*** brought a change of materials and construction methods as timber cruck structures were replaced with stone houses, as well as an improved comfort of living [40]. A fine example from this period is Oxnop Hall, dated 1685. Generally, though, the houses rebuilt were smaller and less decorative but still substantial, such as Rash Grange, also of 1685 and identical plan, and within a mile of Low Oxnop [41].

(Post-)Rebuilding plan forms **(figure 38)** are the vast majority in Swaledale. The principal forms are (percentage of all 241 surveyed houses in brackets):

- direct-entry axial-stack (14.5%)
- direct-entry end-stack (69%) – this type is the most common and about half of them are two-unit houses; an additional unit was often later added on to the chimney gable wall
- secondary axial stack (hybrid of the two-unit end stack with an additional axial stack) (2.5%) – fairly rare and mostly found near Healaugh
- double-pile (11.5%) – most of them are 1.5 rooms deep

Two-unit houses are the most common (66%), followed by single-unit (24%) and then three-unit houses (10%) [42].

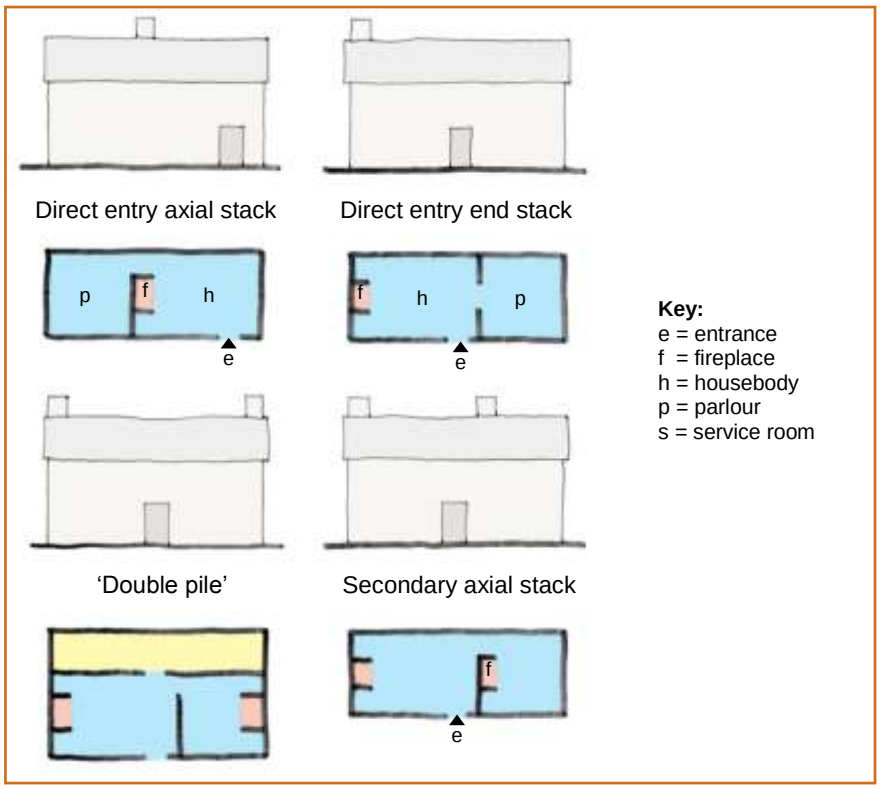


Figure 38: (Post-)Rebuilding plans and elevations (i.e. after the Great Rebuilding), not to scale (drawings © Gaby Rose, YDNPA, 2010)

In 1673, 774 houses in Swaledale & Arkengarthdale were assessed for the hearth tax. More than three quarters had only one hearth and were small, simple dwellings made of rough stone walls and thatched roofs. Towards the end of the seventeenth century they were gradually being extended and enlarged, and thirteen houses had five or more hearths. These bigger buildings were mainly concentrated from Reeth westwards (e.g. Park Hall, Swale Hall, Blackburn Hall **(figure 36)** and Cogden Hall). On average, however, the houses above Keld tended to be bigger and have more ornamental detail than those in Melbecks township.

A wave of further modifications and improvements occurred during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, particularly in connection with the replacement of the ***thatched roofs***. Hops House on Whitaside is an example. It was built as a one-and-a-half storey thatched house and byre in 1684, and then remodelled and extended into a two-storey building with stone slate roof sometime after 1778. No original thatched roofs survive in the conservation area, although two hogg houses **(see 4.4.b)** above Healaugh have recently been completely re-roofed **(figure 44)**. Most were rapidly replaced by stone slate, although thatch continued to be used for outbuildings (barns) and some small houses until the beginning of the twentieth century [43]. A steep pitch of around sixty degrees was required as ling does not repel rainwater easily [44]. Evidence of this can still be seen on the 'thatch lines' **(figure 27)**, traces of former steeper and slightly convex roof pitches on gable walls: such evidence is very vulnerable to being lost during repair and especially conversion works. The lines indicate a building which had been modified to accommodate an additional floor level as well as a shallower roof pitch suitable for carrying heavy stone slates. Front and rear elevations may also show evidence of a former lower eaves height. There are some ruined buildings within the conservation area – most notably at Birks End **(figure 39)** and Seal Houses – which still retain their steep gable walls. The latter is an unusually late example of a heather-thatched house [46].

[43] Fieldhouse & Jennings 1978, 243-245 & 248-250.
[44] White 1997, 103.
[45] Ryder 1996.

Figure 39: The house at Birks End was possibly built in 1730-40 and consists of a two-cell direct entry plan including a rectangular stair turret and fire hood (photo © Gaby Rose, YDNPA, 2010).



Like the linear arrangement of farmstead buildings **(see 4.4.b)**, a distinct building type of the hamlets and villages along the valley road between Healaugh and Keld are ***rows of cottages***, many of which are just outside the conservation area boundary as designated in 1989 **(figure 40)**. Although under one roof, the units may have been built over a period of up to two-and-a-half centuries. Rows of cottages began to make their appearance in the eighteenth century when owners altered or extended their property, either to lease them to poorer husbandmen or the growing number of miners, or to accommodate relatives. Buildings also often became divided by the practice of partible inheritance. In the nineteenth century, these rows of small cottages sheltered the bulk of the population, housing landless miners with no farming interests [46].

[46] Fieldhouse & Jennings, 1978, 254, 257 & 259.

Figure 40: Row of cottages at Feetham outside the conservation area as designated in 1989 (photo © Gaby Rose, YDNPA, 2010)



There are also ***semi-detached houses***, both mirrored and non-symmetrical examples, like Loaning House near Gunnerside (the second unit may have been added later) **(figure 41)**. Higher up the hill is another non-symmetrical pair of now ruined cottages at Barf End from 1731, the oldest dated pair within the conservation area. In the 1720s, first developments towards semi-detached living in Swaledale can be seen at Raisebeck House/Lea House in Healaugh and Brass Nappa Hall in Low Row (both listed but just outside the conservation area boundary as designated in 1989). Shaw House, a reflected pair of cottages approximately 230 metres north-west of Loaning House, provided housing for miners with part-time farming [47].

[47] Fieldhouse & Jennings, 1978, 258.



Figure 41: Loaning House near Gunnerside (photo © Gaby Rose, YDNPA, 2010)

Listed buildings. Listed buildings are *buildings of special architectural or historic interest* designated under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 and are formally listed on the National Heritage List for England maintained by English Heritage. There are over 1,800 listed buildings in the National Park. Details of all listed buildings can be found in the Authority's Historic Environment Record and on the National Heritage List for England website. The designation protects the inside as well as the outside of a listed structure, even though interiors are not always featured in the list description. Furthermore, structures fixed to it or within the curtilage of a listed building and pre-dating 1948, such as boundary walls, outbuildings, enclosures and gates, are also protected by the listing.



Figure 42: Cantrells Barn, Blades: C18 byre on the left and C19 barn on the right. It is the only listed field barn inside the conservation area (photo © Gaby Rose, YDNPA, 2010).

The Swaledale & Arkengarthdale Barns & Walls Conservation Area contains 131 listed buildings **(see 7.5.a)**, but only one of them is a field barn **(figure 42) (see 4.4.i)**. Because of the large number of listed buildings, only a small selection is individually mentioned in this appraisal. Details of all listed buildings can be found in the Authority's Historic Environment Record and on the Heritage List for England website.

Unlisted buildings & local listing. The majority of unlisted buildings and other historic features, such as bridges **(see 4.4.f)** or guide stones, contribute positively to the character of a conservation area. Structures that are not nationally listed but are significant may receive some protection by being designated as locally listed buildings. *Local heritage listing is a means for a community and a local authority to jointly identify heritage assets that are valued as distinctive elements of the local historic environment* [48]*. Though lacking the statutory protection of other designations, formal identification […] is material in planning decisions* [49]*.*

[48] English Heritage 2012, 7.
[49] DCLG *et al.* 2010, paragraph 15.

Objective F6 of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Management Plan 2013-18 promotes the creation of local heritage lists:

> *Help local people to look after and make use of locally-important heritage features by publishing criteria that communities can use to identify, assess and record such features, and use the Local Plan to put in place appropriate measures for their management by 2015* [50].

[50] YDNPA 2013, 13.
[51] English Heritage 2012, 16.

If such a list was prepared for the Swaledale & Arkengarthdale Barns & Walls Conservation Area, it would need to include heritage structures that contribute positively to the special character or appearance and comply with some of the following selection attributes [51]:

- Age
- Rarity
- Aesthetic value
- Group value
- Evidential value
- Historic association
- Archaeological interest
- Designed landscape
- Landmark status
- Social and communal value

The following buildings are only a very few examples of structures that make a particular positive contribution to the conservation area which should be considered for inclusion on a local list. The first two are ruined formerly thatched buildings that still retain their steep gable walls.

- Birk's End **(figure 39)**
- Isaiah's Farmhouse, Seal Houses, Arkengarthdale (consolidated in 2011)
- Isles Bridge **(figure 64)**
- Petrol pumps at Arkle Town **(figure 48)**
- Scar House **(see 4.4.g)**

The residents of Swaledale & Arkengarthdale and other interested parties are invited to suggest other heritage assets that should be included on a local list. If you have any suggestions please phone 0300 456 0030 or send an email to herinfo@yorkshiredales.org.uk, and give appropriate reasons, evidence or references for your nomination(s).

Contemporary architecture. Modern buildings, too, can play an important role in the conservation area. Their design should be of high quality and be able to integrate with the historic environment in harmony.

The Fremington Bike Centre **(figure 43)**, a mixture of conversion and new build, won the Energy/Sustainability category of the Yorkshire Dales National Park *Best Building Design Awards 2010*. It includes a ground-source heating system, an innovative heat-exchange kitchen ventilation system, and a bike-washing facility using an advanced water-recycling system. These and other features have been incorporated without detriment to the overall appearance of the development in which creativity and care has been taken to achieve harmony with its setting.

Figure 43: Fremington Bike Centre; the barn on the right is converted, the other one is a new build (photo © Gaby Rose, YDNPA, 2010)



The Restoration category was won by another building within the Swaledale & Arkengarthdale Barns & Walls Conservation Area: the Hogg House at Daggerstones **(figure 44)** which was restored from a derelict ruin. The walls were rebuilt in random drystone walling, using the fallen stone, and the gable ends rounded for the ling thatch. The construction of the roof framework was also by traditional methods using green oak timber, sawn and morticed by hand, with wooden pegs and dowels to fit the irregular shape of the building. It was then covered with turf, bundles of reed and a considerable thickness of heather, and finally secured with hazel wands and split hazel staples. The roof pitch, however, is now less steep than it was prior to the restoration.

Figure 44: Newly re-thatched former hogg house at Daggerstones (photo © Gaby Rose, YDNPA, 2010)



d) Audit of Listed Buildings

The Authority carries out a regular condition survey of all 1,800+ listed buildings structures in the National Park – the 'Buildings at Risk' survey. This survey was first done in 1991 and is now carried out on a rolling five-year basis with help provided by the Dales Volunteers. If you own or occupy a listed building you will receive a notification letter when the survey is taking place in your area.

During the 'Buildings at Risk' survey three categories are identified: 'not at risk', 'vulnerable and 'at risk'. Criteria for assessing the condition of each listed building include:

- Roofs: slipping slates or tiles, sagging 'wobbly' roof, visible hole(s) or loss of roof surface, structural instability or collapse of timbers, wet/dry rot to historic timbers
- Walls: areas of mortar/render/plaster erosion, minor cracking or bulging masonry, water ingress/damp, stone

decay (erosion or lamination), structural instability or collapse
- Windows and doors: non-traditional replacements (e.g. plastic windows), rotting frames or door leafs, missing frames or door leafs or glazing
- Miscellaneous: vegetation growth on/near structure, demise of related buildings (e.g. outbuildings), damage to ironwork (e.g. boundary railings), missing features

In May 2014 there were 65 Buildings at Risk in the entire National Park. Objective A2 of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Management Plan 2013-18 aims to reduce the numbers:

> Help people to conserve, enhance and bring back into use the most important historic sites, buildings and structures in the National Park so that no more than 55 listed buildings, 15 scheduled monuments, and no conservation areas are 'at risk' by 2020 [52].

[52] YDNPA 2013, 8.

A detailed prioritisation exercise of all vulnerable listed buildings and Buildings at Risk throughout the National Park has been carried out by the Authority, establishing a priority scoring (= condition + 2x significance) for each building. The higher the priority scoring the lower the priority number with 1 being of highest priority and 43 being the lowest (May 2014). In the lists below the rank of each individual listed building is indicated in brackets [shared numbers indicate the same priority scoring].

In May 2014 the Swaledale & Arkengarthdale Barns & Walls Conservation Area contained eight (out of 131) listed structures which were 'at risk', of which High Smithy Holme at Muker has the highest priority ranking:

- Barn north of Ravenseat Farm, Muker [13]
- Brownberry Barn, Melbecks [23] **(figure 45)**
- Former house and cottage east of Rash View, Muker [23]
- Garden wall to east, north and west of Draycott Hall, Reeth, Femington & Healaugh [16]
- **High Smithy Holme, Muker [6]**
- Lime kiln near Blackburn Beck, Muker [37]
- Pratt's House and attached byre, Melbecks [21]
- Stable block to The Hagg, Reeth, Femington & Healaugh [26]



Figure 45: Brownberry Barn near Blades shows development from C17, C18 and early C19, including remnants of a C17 smokehood. The building was first identified as being 'at risk' in 2008 (photo © Don McLellan, YDNPA, 2009).

There are currently nine 'vulnerable' (out of 131) listed buildings within the conservation area:

- Clarkson Memorial, Grinton [31]

- Brockma Gill East, Melbecks [25]
- Fremington Mill, Reeth, Fremington & Healaugh [21]
- Gate piers west of Draycott Hall, Reeth, Fremington & Healaugh [29]
- Green Sike Farmhouse, Melbecks [32]
- Grinton Bridge, Grinton [21]
- K6 telephone kiosk in West Stonesdale, Muker [31]
- Moor Close, Muker [27] **(figure 46)**
- Reeth Bridge, Reeth, Fremington & Healaugh [20]



Figure 46: Moor Close near Thwaite provided a setting of the 2012 movie 'Wuthering Heights' in exchange for repair works to the dilapidated building which dates from the mid C18 (photo © YDNPA, 2013).

The Authority works with owners of 'vulnerable or 'at risk' structures with a view to improving their condition. This may be through repairs, consolidation or re-use, and normally revolves around a process of negotiation. If you own a listed building and wish to improve its condition, please phone 0300 456 0030 or send an email to herinfo@yorkshiredales.org.uk.

e) Settlements

Although villages and hamlets are a prominent feature of the Swaledale & Arkengarthdale landscape, the main settlements were not included in the conservation area boundary in 1989 **(see 7.4.a)**, although some have since been designated in their own right. As part of the appraisal process a rapid on-site assessment was undertaken **(see 7.5.b)** of the fourteen main villages and hamlets within the conservation area, including those loosely arranged around the edge of old common land (like Blades and Booze), which often have their roots in the earlier dual economy where families worked in the lead industry as well as farming. All settlements have different histories which have affected their layouts, constituent parts and how they have developed over the centuries.

Angram. (Muker) Angram is a compact small-size settlement with a linear yet informal layout which is emphasised by the rise or fall of topography, with buildings lining both sides of the B6270 in a staggered fashion. There are only few views into immediately surrounding landscape from the hamlet. Remnants of cobbled areas and flag paving survive. Vernacular buildings comprise working farms, barns, outbuildings and cottages, some with shallow front gardens. Twentieth-century structures are set back from the road. Of particular interest are an early-eighteenth-century formerly heather-thatched house remodelled as a combination of byre and domestic accommodation with good-quality watershot masonry and raised eaves level **(figure 47)**, and a listed building with an inscribed and dated classical door surround. A former dwelling opposite Angram Farmhouse [53] had its gable wall almost completely rebuilt for conversion, losing much archaeological evidence including its thatch-line. At the fork in the road is a small public space

[53] Ryder 2005.

including a listed phone box and a stone memorial. No uPVC windows were noticed during the appraisal site visit in 2010.



Figure 47: Angram: **1.** Streetview looking north with buildings lining the road in a staggered fashion; **2.** Early-C18 formerly heather-thatched house remodelled as a combination of byre and domestic accommodation (photos © Gaby Rose, YDNPA, 2010)

Arkle Town. (Arkengarthdale) Arkle Town is a compact small-size settlement with a linear yet fairly informal layout, with buildings lining both sides of a lane which now ends by a disused eighteenth-century graveyard, its church long gone. Some buildings also line the east side of the main dale road, opposite which is an abandoned filling station, still with a set of petrol pumps, a very rare survival. There are some views into the surrounding landscape from the hamlet. Vernacular buildings are a mixture of working farms, barns, outbuildings and cottages, some with small walled front gardens. Remnants of cobbled areas and flag paving survive. Numerous uPVC windows detract from the character of the place **(figure 48)**.



Figure 48: Arkle Town: **1.** View down the main road looking north; **2.** View down the lane looking east with uPVC windows clearly detracting; **3.** National Benzole Company petrol pumps and millstone; **4.** Disused graveyard (photos © Gaby Rose, YDNPA, 2010)

Blades. (Melbecks) Blades is a dispersed small settlement on the edge of common land on the upper valley-side, with buildings informally clustered around a large communal green and facing south. The hamlet communicates extremely well with the wider landscape. Vernacular buildings comprise a working farm, barns, outbuildings, cottages and conversions, as well as front gardens. Most of the buildings – eight – are listed. Remnants of flag paving survive. An isolated sheepfold is a distinct feature. Telegraph poles are a major detractor **(figure 49)**.



Figure 49: Blades: **1.** View down onto the hamlet from the north; **2.** View looking north; **3.** Isolated sheepfold with Cantrell's Barn above; also note the detracting telegraph poles (photos © Gaby Rose, YDNPA, 2010)

Booze. (Arkengarthdale) Booze is a compact small settlement set high on the moorland edge with superb views into lower Arkengarthdale and onto Fremington Edge. It has a clustered, fairly informal layout with south-roughly facing buildings along the tracks which fork off the main lane. Vernacular buildings comprise working farms, barns, outbuildings and cottages. Some of the twentieth-century structures attract attention while others imitate vernacular styles. An element of decay is a characteristic of the place, with several buildings having become ruined or been largely demolished since the decline of lead mining **(figure 50)**.



Figure 50: Booze: **1.** View over hamlet towards Fremington Edge with forking lane in the foreground; **2.** View up to Fairhaven amidst ruination (photos © Gaby Rose, YDNPA, 2010)

Crackpot. (Grinton) Crackpot is a very small compact settlement with elements of a small green at the east end and only few views into immediately surrounding landscape. The approach from the south is marked by modern farm buildings. Vernacular buildings, mainly butting up to the narrow road in a fairly ordered and linear arrangement, comprise working farms, barns, outbuildings and cottages. The listed Cedar House and properties to the northeast of it are set back from the road and have front gardens. A consolidated former farmhouse, surviving to first-floor height, is now a prominent garden feature **(figure 51)**.

Figure 51: Crackpot: **1.** Streetview looking southwest; **2.** View towards Cedar House with ruined farmhouse in the foreground (photos © Gaby Rose, YDNPA, 2010)



Dyke Heads. (Melbecks) Dyke Heads is a small-size settlement comprising a series of linear farmsteads and former miners' cottages set on the boundary between enclosed pasture fields and Gunnerside Pasture in a fairly ordered arrangement yet at a distance to the road. There are superb views into the wider landscape **(figure 52)**. Domestic buildings have south-facing gardens. Modern farm buildings are small scale. A stationary caravan detracts from the character of the place. A churn stand survives.

Figure 52: Dyke Heads: **1.** Appleton House looking towards Gunnerside; **2.** Strong linear element looking west (photos © Gaby Rose, YDNPA, 2010)



Eskeleth. (Arkengarthdale) Eskeleth comprises a small group of farmsteads and cottages on the north side of the dale loosely strung out along a minor road and intermixed with areas of common land. There are superb views into the surrounding landscape. Notable elements include the formal boundaries of now demolished Eskeleth Hall, remnants of its landscaped grounds **(figure 53)** and a converted chapel. The approach from the east is dominated by views of large twentieth-century agricultural sheds which contrast with the formal former stable block of Eskeleth Hall.

Figure 53: Eskeleth: **1.** View looking southeast; **2.** Former grounds of Eskelth Hall (photos © Gaby Rose, YDNPA, 2010)



Fremington. (Reeth, Fremington & Healaugh) Fremington is a medium-sized loosely-clustered settlement with buildings generally informally arranged and facing south-west, dominated by the late-eighteenth-century Draycott Hall **(figure 35)** and its formal grounds which are partly surrounded by a listed crenellated garden wall and folly-like garden house. There are a few views into immediately surrounding landscape. The eastern Fremington Dyke **(see. 4.2.a)** runs along the western edge of the Hall's grounds, cutting the settlement in half. The grounds separate High Fremington – mainly two-storey vernacular cottages with front gardens – from Low Fremington which fronts the B6270 and includes a former chapel with a series of cottages, a small farm group which

incorporates the listed Corn Mill and a Sunday School building. There are altogether thirteen listed buildings. The narrow lanes leading to High Fremington are a notable feature **(figure 54)** as are the mature trees on the boundary of the Draycott Hall grounds and flanking the western lane.



Figure 54: Fremington: **1.** View along the B6270 towards Draycott Hall looking northwest; **2.** High Fremington looking north; **3.** Home Farm Cottage in Low Fremington; **4.** Crenellated eastern garden wall to Draycott Hall – a Building at Risk – beside a narrow lane (photos © Gaby Rose, YDNPA, 2010)

Ivelet. (Muker) Ivelet is a small compact settlement forming a cluster on the steeply rising ground on the lower valley side, now mainly a grouse shooting estate. From above the hamlet there are good views into the wider landscape. The older vernacular buildings, some with front gardens, comprise three south-facing parallel rows to the eastside of the road **(figure 55)** but this ordered arrangement has been broken by modern development to the east. The hamlet has one listed building, Ivelet Farmhouse. A K6 telephone box is a feature, but telegraph poles are a major detractor. The much enlarged shooting lodge, Gunnerside Lodge, lies in landscaped grounds some 150 metres upslope.



Figure 55: Ivelet: **1.** View onto the hamlet looking south; **2.** Main road with buildings perpendicularly aligned to the east (photos © Gaby Rose, YDNPA, 2010)

Kearton. (Melbecks) Kearton is a small dispersed settlement informally aligned along the south side of a track on the upper dale side. There are good views into the wider landscape. The eastern part, which retains a strong agricultural character, lies within enclosed pastures, the western part is on the common edge. There are three listed buildings, with Pratt's House being a Building at Risk. A particularly interesting building group surrounds Peggies, a late-seventeenth century farmhouse built to a three-cell direct-entry plan which has a steep stone-flagged roof section. No uPVC windows were spotted during the site visit in 2010. An element of dereliction is a characteristic of the place, with several buildings having become ruined since the decline of lead mining **(figure 56)**.

Figure 56: Kearton: **1.** View along track towards Peggies looking east; **2.** Ruins north of the track (photos © Gaby Rose, YDNPA, 2010)



Low Whita. (Grinton) Low Whita is a small dispersed settlement on the south side of the dale with good views into the surrounding landscape. Individual building groups are spread out in a linear arrangement, yet independent and set back from the narrow walled lane. There is a strong agricultural element to the place, including some large twentieth-century sheds. Telegraph poles are a major detractor **(figure 57)**.

Figure 57: Low Whita: **1.** Low Whita Farm looking north; **2.** Agricultural outbuildings and detracting telegraph pole (photos © Gaby Rose, YDNPA, 2010)



Satron. (Muker) Satron is a small compact settlement between the B6270 and River Swale, with vernacular buildings aligned parallel to each other forming an elongated cluster facing south. It has a predominantly agricultural character with some large twentieth-century sheds. Satron Hall has more formal architectural elements and prominent roadside railings **(figure 62)**. Allotments like vegetable gardens are a feature along the main road. Remnants of cobbled areas and flagstones survive. A K6 telephone box and churn stand are features of the public realm. uPVC windows and telegraph poles are major detractors **(figure 58)**. The eighteenth-century change from heather to slate roofs is well documented in Satron but the individual buildings mentioned have not been identified.

Figure 58: Satron: **1.** View looking northwest at allotments, phone box and detracting telegraph poles; **2.** Satron Hall railings and staircase (photos © Gaby Rose, YDNPA, 2010)



Seal Houses. (Arkengarthdale) Seal Houses comprises a dispersed group of small, mainly linear farmsteads set informally along the south side of the road amongst enclosed pastures. There are superb views into the wider landscape Prominent modern agricultural buildings ensure that the area retains a dominant agricultural character, yet field barns between the farmsteads are often ruinous. Home Barn, a large cow house with two cart entrances, is an unusual building for Arkengarthdale **(figure 59)**. Some unusually thick sections of field walls and several stony fields demonstrate the effort that went into clearing this dale head area for agriculture **(figure 04)**.



Figure 59: Seal Houses: **1.** View along road looking west; **2.** Home Barn with pigeon holes over main cart entrance (photos © Gaby Rose, YDNPA, 2010)

Whaw. (Arkengarthdale) Whaw is a small valley-floor settlement, the main part of which consists of three rows of unusually west-facing buildings set back from, but aligned parallel to, the Arkle Beck, with a separate three-storey former Methodist Chapel at the northern end. The hamlet communicates extremely well with the wider landscape. A large twentieth-century shed at the opposite end merges comfortably with its surroundings. Remnants of flag paving survive. Over the beck two shorter rows front a tongue of common land leading towards the bridge. Telegraph poles are a major detractor **(figure 60)**.



Figure 60: Whaw – **1.** View from bridge looking north with linear building element of the rows clearly visible; **2.** View from west side of the beck towards Seal Houses; **3.** Former Methodist Chapel; **4.** Building with raised eaves and blocked former window surrounds (photos © Gaby Rose, YDNPA, 2010).

f) Traditional Building Materials, Local Details and the Public Realm

Historic features including traditional building materials, local details, as well as features and surfaces within the public realm can contribute positively to the significance of a conservation area as they have the potential of providing characteristic elements to the buildings and their setting, particularly when well kept and in good condition. Likewise, inappropriate materials, surfaces and street furniture as well as lost or altered details will have a detrimental effect to some extent and, in extreme cases, even put the whole conservation area at risk.

Traditional materials. In Swaledale & Arkengarthdale the main building material – for walls, roofs, boundary walls and ground surfaces (cobbles or flags inside for internal and external use **(figure 61)**) – was and is sandstone derived from the Yoredale rocks which predominate here, yet limestone can also be seen. At first much of the building stone was gathered from the fields as they were cleared **(figure 04)**, but later it was quarried throughout the dale [54]. The roofing stone is laid in a graduated fashion in thick slates (slabs) in contrast to the later imported (from Wales

[54] Fieldhouse & Jennings 1978, 235.

or the Lake District) thin slate tiles which are rarely found in the conservation area. The roofs are generally topped with stone ridge tiles although some clay ridge tiles can be seen as well. Like elsewhere in the National Park there is a relative lack of brick.



Figure 61: Externally surfaced yard at Green Sike Farmhouse near Blades; also note the kneeler to the roof of the central house and the differences in stone masonry (photo © Gaby Rose, YDNPA, 2010).

In the past, lime mortar was used for pointing the masonry joints, the mortar flush with the stonework. Unfortunately, since the twentieth century masonry has often been wrongly repointed in cement mortar which is destructive to the stonework, while joints are sometimes recessed, further accelerating the erosion of the stone. Historically, some buildings also had protective renders or lime washes, the white colour making the buildings stand out in the landscape. Today, however, the natural grey of the stonework makes them become part of their surroundings.

Other building materials in the conservation area are timber, cast or wrought iron and heather ling. Timber is externally used mainly for windows, doors and the odd porch; barn doors are often vertically boarded. Iron features are gates, railings **(figure 62)** and gutters, although the latter is not commonly seen on field barns. There has also been some recent heather-ling thatch **(figure 44)** which was used extensively throughout Swaledale & Arkengarthdale before the advent of stone slate roofs.



Figure 62: Railings at Satron Hall (photo © Gaby Rose, YDNPA, 2010).

Local details. In general the vernacular architecture is simple and mainly unadorned. The use of projecting through-stones, in particular on field barns, while probably mainly for structural reasons was also sometimes

Impost: Stone block interrupting the jamb of a door surround. It often projects into the adjoining masonry, as shown below.



Cantrells Barn, Blades (photo © Gaby Rose, YDNPA, 2013)

used for aesthetic purposes. Likewise, ventilation slits serve a function but they also add to the character of a barn. The use of watershot masonry provides a more subtle texture **(see 4.4.b)**. In contrast to Wensleydale, there is a relative lack of traditional farm buildings with arched/cart doorways in Swaledale & Arkengarthdale. Door openings have often simple lintels. It has been suggested that in Swaledale barns with through-stones, copings and rudimentary kneelers, plain-cut door surrounds with **imposts** and cut-stone surrounds to forking holes indicate eighteenth century or earlier barns [55]. Some barns also incorporate reused features such as the one with the inscribed lintel outside Keld **(figure 63)**. Datestones on barns are rare. Occasionally, graffiti can be found inside abandoned buildings, such as at Kearton.



Figure 63: Projecting through-stones and reused inscribed lintel on a field barn near Keld (photo © Robert White, YDNPA, 2007).

Variations in architectural detail occur between Reeth, Melbecks and Muker. More historic features (in terms of quantity), such as mullioned windows on domestic buildings, have survived in the upper dale than in the Reeth area, probably reflecting less comprehensive rebuilding in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries in the upper dale [56]. Some domestic buildings have hood moulds, kneelers, inscribed door lintels and pigeon holes, but on the whole it is the simplicity of the architecture that prevails.

[56] Fieldhouse & Jennings 1978, 250.

Public realm. Within the conservation area is a range of general public-realm features like street furniture and ground surfaces **(see 7.5.b)**. More interesting, though, are prominent boundary walls, isolated enclosures within settlements, churn stands, troughs, stiles and millstones. Unique appearances are made by the roadside filling station at Arkletown, the carved stone memorial in Angram **(see 4.4.e)**, and a war memorial outside Keld. There are, however, also features that do not contribute positively to the character of the conservation area such as plastic salt bins, modern street lighting and telephone boxes. Although they do serve a useful purpose their appearance could be improved.

The fast flowing River Swale and Arkle Beck – both of which are fed by numerous streams – flow through the Conservation Area which means that bridges are an important component of its infrastructure as well as visual highlights. There 65 bridges in the conservation area, 27 of which are road bridges. Most are simple, utilitarian arched stone structures with waist-high parapets and decoration, if any, limited to the treatment of coping stones and parapet ends. A fine example is the grade-II*-listed Ivelet Bridge with a high semi-circular arch of sixteenth-century date, reputedly the oldest surviving bridge. Further downstream, the width of the Swale means that all bridges are three–arched structures **(figure 64)**, as is Reeth Bridge over the Arkle Beck, designed by John Carr. Both Grinton and Reeth Bridges have pedestrian refuges. Unfortunately, historic bridges were not built with modern vehicles, in particular tractors and lorries, in mind and are very vulnerable to collision damage. Ensuring that any necessary repair and rebuilding works are carried out

in a sympathetic, conservation manner is a problem throughout the National Park.



Figure 64: Bridges – **1.** Ivelet Bridge (photo © Gaby Rose, YDNPA, 2010); **2.** Isles Bridge (photo © Robert White, YDNPA, 2008).

In contrast, recent footbridges tend to be of wooden construction.

g) Contribution Made to the Character of the Area by Green Spaces and Its Biodiversity Value

Gardens and parks. The Swaledale & Arkengarthdale Barns & Walls Conservation Area does not contain any Registered Parks and Gardens. Nevertheless, there are several private gardens which were surveyed by the Yorkshire Gardens Trust in 2004:

- ***Scar House*** (Arkengarthdale): Hunting lodge amongst tree plantations on terrace formed out of the hillside, the descent to the west grassed; Arkle Beck runs at the foot of garden; in 1842 view to wooden bridge below the house opened up by removal of trees on the advice of noted landscape gardener William Sawrey Gilpin
- ***Blackburn Hall*** (Grinton): Grade-II*-listed medieval manor house **(figure 36)** on small piece of ground; present garden created from 1986 onwards by former owners; includes box-hedge knot garden, circular yew planting, orchard and vegetable plot; interesting re-creation of garden features found in seventeenth-century gentry house in a less remote area of the country
- ***Haverdale House*** (Grinton): Late-nineteenth-century gentleman's residence and farm on steeply rising ground just above the Swale, facing away from river; raised walled terrace upon which it stands forms a ha-ha; circular pond with terracotta water-lily shaped fountain and two large fish ponds to either side.
- ***The Old Vicarage*** (Grinton): House and garden marked on 1841 tithe map; later wood with mature beech, holly and yew; mill race which ran through southern part of garden covered since late-nineteenth century; present owners discovered an ice house when landscaping and replanting the grounds
- ***The Rookery*** (Healaugh): 1786 map shows double-fronted house facing south with walled garden to the east and orchard to the west; two bee boles on the west wall; north stone wall lined with bricks in Rat Trap Bond
- ***Tiernswood Hall*** (Healaugh): Mid-nineteenth-century shooting lodge on area levelled out of the hillside which rises steeply behind; lawns and shrubs occupy garden immediately to the south while woods run behind house and to its north; visible traces of a quarry garden shown on 1912 OS Map to the north
- ***Lawn House*** (Melbecks): Grade-II-listed building on commanding site on south bank of the Swale; gardens as laid out by historical novelist Thomas Armstrong who lived here in 1950s and 60s, including well-planted enclosed garden and picturesque waterfall with four man-made steps and remains of woodland garden.

- ***Draycott Hall*** (Reeth): Grade-II*-listed building **(figure 35)** has steeply sloping garden to the back with fenced paddock which is surrounded by grade-II-listed castellated wall including a woodland garden walk; at the top of grounds the former castellated grotto was extended into a house

Trees. Woodland only forms a small portion of the Swaledale & Arkengarthdale Barns & Walls Conservation Area. That it used to be more heavily wooded in the distant past is obvious from the many place names associated with woodland, particular tree species ('hollins'), woodland clearings ('thwaite'), and types of woodland management ('stubbings') [57].

[57] Fleming 1998, 82-99.
[58] White & Darlington 2004, 147.

Woodland was clearly limited as early as the sixteenth century, probably due to the demands of the mining industry as Leland in 1540 noted that Swaledale had "litl corne and much gresse, no wodd but ling and some nutte trees" while a century later Camden mentioned that Swaledale had "grass enough but wants wood" [58].

The existing pattern and type of woodland is diverse, a key characteristic and feature of local distinctiveness and of significant complexity in Swaledale & Arkengarthdale **(see 4.4.a)**. Much woodland is restricted to the steep inclines along the banks of rivers and becks. Because of its relative inaccessibility it is frequently left 'unmanaged'. Gill woods are a distinctive part of the landscape and some of these can be comparatively large, such as Barney Beck **(figure 65)** and Shaw Gill at Eskeleth. Another interesting category is woodland growing on common land, like Great Rowleth and Little Rowleth, with their origins as wood pasture. As well as being notable for the contribution to the local scenery, the tree cover is also of historic interest, with relict wood pasture, coppice and pollards. Individual trees can be important features of local landscapes, particularly so with the veteran trees which have great character, like the yew trees along the limestone scars. Several woodland areas are also of biodiversity interest or SSSI designation **(see below)**. There are at least three populations of juniper scrub in Swaledale.



Figure 65: Woodland at Barney Beck west of Healaugh (photo © Janet Swailes, YDNPA, 2010).

The Swaledale and Arkengarthdale Archaeological Group (SWAAG) is currently undertaking a project on Woodland, Trees and Relict Hedges in Swaledale to record the distribution and composition of surviving historic woodland fragments in Swaledale, particularly those small fragments of native trees which survive on limestone scars or at locations inaccessible to grazing stock, as well as relict hedgerows and individual veteran trees to provide a baseline record of these features in their landscape setting and geological context.

New native woodlands are being established through agri-environment and woodland schemes, with gills and moorland margins the main foci. Trees are also used to combat erosion along the Swale and Arkle Beck. Sections of both rivers have been embanked and planted up during the past two-hundred years in attempts to limit erosion and the contamination of land with silts containing heavy metals [59].

[59] YDNPA 2007, 135-137 & 172.

The openness of the landscape plays an important role in Swaledale & Arkengarthdale, while the presence of woodland and tree canopies can obscure other landscape features, views and outlook. Much of the visible contribution of the barns and walls and relict field systems rely on a high degree of openness. In the less-treed upper dale slopes and dale heads where trees do occur, they tend to be as wind-sculpted and isolated groups, or as the readily identifiable clear silhouette of sycamore, the latter often associated with more remote hill farms, barns or now abandoned ruins.

Further information on trees and woodlands can be found at the back **(see 7.5.c)**.

Habitats. The main biodiversity feature which contributes to the character of the Swaledale & Arkengarthdale Barns & Walls Conservation Area is upland hay meadows. They are colourful wildlife havens **(figure 66)** which support a wide variety of plants and animals and are of very high biodiversity importance, and thus designated as BAP (Biodiversity Action Plan) habitats. Several meadows are also designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and protected by the Northern Pennine Dales Meadows Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Other BAP habitats include upland calcareous and calaminarian grasslands.



Figure 66: Hay meadows at Muker (photo © Robert White, YDNPA, 2007).

The periphery of the conservation area also incorporates moorland habitats including heath and blanket bog, which are identified as BAP habitats and often designated SSSIs. Many are also protected by the North Pennine Moors SAC and/or the North Pennine Moors Special Protection Areas (SPA) for their bird interest.

Species. The conservation area includes the following species:

- One of the core black grouse (BAP species) areas within the National Park
- Lower-ground areas are important for breeding waders including lapwing (BAP species), curlew and snipe
- Areas of Juniper scrub (BAP species)
- Barns used by nesting birds like swallows and starling and provide roosting space for bats (BAP species)

Designated sites. The conservation area incorporates several designated areas: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Protection Areas (SPA) and Special Areas of Conservation (SAC).

SSSIs are statutory designations under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) and chosen for their outstanding quality and variety of wildlife and geology. In the Swaledale & Arkengarthdale Barns & Walls Conservation Area are the following SSSIs **(figures 67)**:

(f – fully included; p – partially included within the conservation area)

- Harker's House Meadows (f), upland hay meadow
- Mallerstang – Swaledale Head (p), upland moorland habitats
- Kisdon Force Woods (f), woodland
- Angram Bottoms (f), mire and grassland habitats
- Scar Closes, Kisdon Side (f), juniper scrub and grassland habitats
- Thwaite Stones (f), juniper scrub
- Millholme Meadow, Thwaite (f), upland hay meadow
- New Close, Calvert Houses (f), upland hay meadow
- Lovely Seat – Stainton Moor (p), upland moorland habitats
- Arkengarthdale, Gunnerside & Reeth Moors (p), upland moorland habitats
- Stephen Ings, Crackpot (f), upland hay meadow
- Len Pastures, Crackpot (f), grassland habitats
- Feetham Holme (f), juniper scrub
- Park Hall Meadows, Healaugh (f), upland hay meadow
- Shaw Beck Gill (p), geological features
- Fothering Holme (f), grassland habitats
- Arkle Beck Meadows, Whaw (f), upland hay meadow
- Muker Meadows (f), upland hay meadow
- Cliff Beck Meadow, Buttertubs (f), upland hay meadow



Figure 67: SSSIs (conservation area boundary in pink; © Crown copyright and database rights 2010 Ordnance Survey 100023740; graphics © Gaby Rose, YDNPA, 2010)

SPAs **(figure 68)**: North Pennine Moors (partially included within the conservation area)

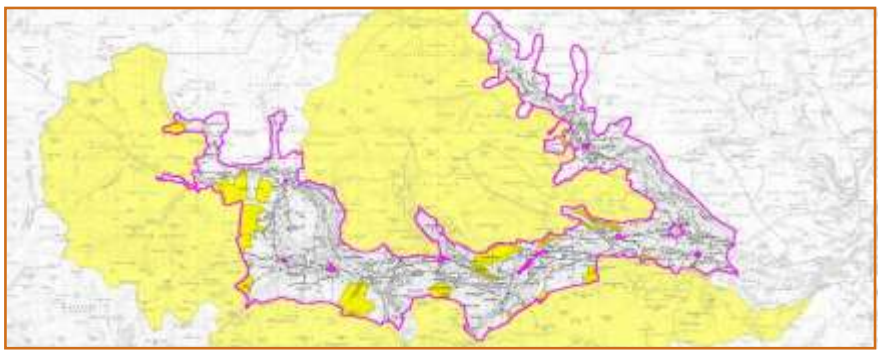


Figure 68: SPAs (conservation area boundary in pink; © Crown copyright and database rights 2010 Ordnance Survey 100023740; graphics © Gaby Rose, YDNPA, 2010)

SACs **(figure 69)**: North Pennine Moors, North Pennine Meadows (both are partially included within the conservation area)



Figure 69: SACs (conservation area boundary in pink; © Crown copyright and database rights 2010 Ordnance Survey 100023740; graphics © Gaby Rose, YDNPA, 2010)

h) Values Attributed by the Local Community and Other Stakeholders

Swaledale & Arkengarthdale's fine landscape setting and historic environment, particularly the field barns and drystone walls which attract walkers and other visitors, provide a desirable place to live and work for permanent residents and represent a unique historic pastoral landscape of international importance. All of this provides a *communal value* which is part of the special interest of the conservation area **(see 3.0)**.

Field barns and drystone walls are an integral part of the special qualities of the Yorkshire Dales National Park; they represent a *traditional pastoral landscape created by livestock farmers over several centuries* [60]. Their importance was recognised in the Hobhouse Report of 1947, which was instrumental in establishing national parks in England and Wales. This stated that *it is from the farming of the last centuries that the typical pattern of today is derived – the drystone walls which abound the innumerable fields of the valley bottoms and lower slopes, and the frequent punctuation of solid, stone built field barns* [61]. Nowhere else in Britain has a comparable density of field barns to that found in the Yorkshire Dales, particularly in Swaledale. The pattern is an essential element of the area's cultural heritage and acknowledged as being one of the most distinctive historic agricultural landscapes in Western Europe.

[60] YDNPA 2013, 14.
[61] *Report of the National Parks Committee (England and Wales)*, 1947, Cmd7121, 98.

Historically, farmland was primarily valued for its productive capability and indeed this landscape still provides a working environment for the many farmers who cultivate the land **(figure 70)**. However, Swaledale & Arkengarthdale has also become a very popular tourist destination both to people in the United Kingdom and from all over the world who value its outstanding scenic qualities. Grouse shooting on the moors just outside the conservation area also draws non-residents into the two dales and supports the local economy.



Figure 70: Harvest time in the Muker hay meadows (photo © Gaby Rose, YDNPA, 2010)

The farming community generally take pride in the appearance of their holdings. This was clearly demonstrated during the research into the

social and economic impacts and benefits of field barn and drystone wall repairs which included interviews with agreement holders who had taken up agri-environment scheme grants. The condition of buildings was a major reason for undertaking grant aided building restoration works with those buildings which were or were becoming unfit for use or structurally unsafe being targeted, particularly if they had value to the farm business, but environmental and aesthetic values were also an important factor in the decision making process for many. Nearly half (46 per cent) of the agreement holders interviewed stated that they were motivated in part by a desire to enhance the appearance of their buildings. Commonly expressed sentiments were that that derelict buildings were eyesores in the landscape and that landscape enhancement could be achieved through restoration. Two thirds of the agreement holders interviewed who had taken up walling grants specifically mentioned environmental benefits including heritage conservation, landscape enhancement and wildlife protection as reasons for carrying out work.

As part of the same study a literature review synthesising visitors' and residents' perceptions of the Yorkshire Dales was published. The greatest value was placed on the landscape and scenery, which was considered to be some of the most diverse, beautiful and dramatic in the country, and thus a unique feature of the area. Another key feature mentioned was the history, heritage and human landscape of the Yorkshire Dales. In particular, the drystone walls were valued by both visitors and residents. The public also recognised the role of the farming community in contributing to this landscape. Furthermore, the area was appreciated for its outdoor activity opportunities, particularly walking, which enables visitors to gain an intimate experience of the local landscape. There was also the feeling that the Yorkshire Dales is unspoilt and natural and a place for escapism and retreat. The survey statistics were then used to crudely calculate a total annual income effect of grant-maintained barns & walls through tourism, which was estimated at £2.44 million (2004 prices) [62]. The idea that the public, who come to visit the landscape of which the barns & walls are an essential part of, should contribute to their upkeep is not unjustified, once they have gone out of good use. In many other parts of the world there are visitor taxes although these are not necessarily linked to conservation expenditure.

[62] Courtney, Gaskell, Mills & Edwards 2007, 51-57 & 18-29

In March/April 2012, the public consultation for the new Yorkshire Dales National Park Management Plan showed similar attitudes to the 2007 literature review. Out of 535 individual responses, 229 residents and visitors ranked the 'historic environment – barns, walls, buildings and archaeology' amongst the top five most important issues. Clearly, the retention of these features is of ongoing public interest. 79.2% of the 53 individual comments regarding the historic environment specifically mentioned the barns and/or walls. Moreover, 7.5% raised concern for using the term 'natural beauty and landscape' in the questionnaire as the Yorkshire Dales is largely a man-made landscape, which needs to be recognised and protected as such. Protection, however, could be in conflict with the 9.4% who did not want the National Park to be turned into a 'museum' or 'theme park', rather supporting development for a thriving living area. Consequently, a very careful balance between the protection of the historic environment and its development will need to be struck.

i) General Condition of the Swaledale & Arkengarthdale Barns & Walls Conservation Area

Despite its value to residents and visitors from all over the world **(see 4.4.h)**, the Swaledale & Arkengarthdale Barns & Walls Conservation Area is considered by English Heritage as being 'at risk' due to the deterioration of the field barns and drystone walls **(figure 71)** which

provide a unique character to this area. Furthermore, eight listed buildings are currently ‘at risk’ and nine are ‘vulnerable’ **(see 4.4.d)**.



Figure 71: Field barn and drystone wall along a popular public footpath between Keld and Crackpot Hall, both in decay; the barn has much deteriorated since the photo was taken (photo © Janet Swailes, YDNPA, 2010)

Negative factors. As a general principle, features that harm the character or appearance of a conservation area should either make way for positive change or, if that is not possible, be excluded from the boundary. The elements which detract from the special interest of the Swaledale & Arkengarthdale are as follows:

- Loss of field barns, drystone walls **(figure 71)** and unoccupied (often remote) former domestic or farmstead buildings **(figure 18)** – a major issue and one that is very difficult to address
- Telegraph poles and overhead lines which spoil many iconic landscape views **(see below)**
- Geometric coniferous woodland plantations which are out of character with the native tree cover of the area
- Detrimental treatment of historic buildings ranging from the use of cement mortars to the introduction of poorly proportioned and designed uPVC windows and doors
- Some more recent development can be an eyesore, in particular in visible/landmark locations, when it disregards the vernacular pattern, form, scale and design of buildings in the area
- Unsightly street furniture like plastic salt bins, modern street lighting and telephone boxes – although this is only a minor issue when seen over the entire area

High-voltage overhead power lines (HVOP) are a major visual detractor in the conservation area, especially at these locations:

- line crossing from Hoggarths to West Stonesdale
- lines crossing above Low Row and from Low Whita to Stubbins
- lines from Healaugh to Reeth and Whitbeck to Grinton **(figure 72)**

Where feasible, overhead lines should be undergrounded.



Figure 72: High-voltage overhead power lines: Swaledale survey 'Section Q' Grinton Whitbecks to Grinton village (photo © Andrea Burden, YDNPA, 2013)

It is desirable that any future development enhances the conservation area, rather than just not diminishing it.

Problems, pressures & opportunities. The hay meadow field barn system **(see 4.4.b)** worked well when farm and herd sizes were small, but in the latter half of the twentieth century increasingly became an outmoded farming practice due to changes in farming technology and agricultural economics, in particular with the introduction of tractors, silage making **(figure 70)** and higher milk hygiene and animal husbandry standards. Successful hay making is very dependent upon good weather, whereas silage is not and, when combined with artificial fertilisers, enables farmers to cut two or more grass crops a year. Although flock and herd sizes have increased, agricultural employment has fallen, reducing the time and man power available for the maintenance of the field barns and drystone walls which enclose the meadows and pastures. Often only those agriculturally still useful on a holding continue to receive maintenance, while others are allowed to fall into disrepair, some being actively demolished for building materials [63]. Generally, the field barns are too small for many modern farming activities which require larger animal and storage sheds and access for heavy machinery. Some of them are also in remote locations. Most have no services.

Likewise, many drystone walls have now fallen into disrepair **(figure 71)** or occasionally, as farms amalgamate, been pulled down to create larger fields and improve access for heavy machinery, particularly that used by silage contractors. Walls, in particular their copings, are vulnerable to a variety of decay processes: They are very susceptible to change due to geomorphic factors (such as soil creep – particularly on steep slopes), climatic factors (particularly freeze-thaw processes affecting foundation stability), and biological factors (such as rabbit burrowing and sheep jumping/climbing) as well as vibration from vehicles and repair works, so many have changed from their original appearance [64]. As drystone wall maintenance is a labour-intensive skill the use of wire is the quickest and easiest way to close gaps formed through collapse of walling.

Drystone walls are intimately linked to the use of the land they bound and former efforts at enclosing have often been succeeded by periods of reversion. While much land has been successfully improved and still remains for farming, some parliamentary enclosures have hovered on the edge of economic viability. These are likely to have a very different future to the more intensely farmed land in the valleys below. Also, the management of some land has changed in recent years with efforts being made to increase the heather cover at the expense of pasture [65]. Here, the retention of the drystone walls – such as on Fremington Edge – will be an even bigger challenge, and they are more likely to be engulfed by the open moorland again.

63 White *et al.* 2004, 150.
64 Lord 2004, 175-179.
65 YDNPA 2007, 117-118.

If funding was available it could be targeted at either many small-scale maintenance exercises or fewer but more expensive restoration projects. The former option would secure the future of a greater number of buildings (or walls), but divert resources away from any more important structures that are in much poorer condition which are likely to deteriorate further until repair will no longer be feasible. The latter option, however, would only secure the future of a very selected number of buildings, ideally those with the greatest architectural, historic or landscape merit. Alternatively cheaper methods of repair, particularly the use of artificial sheeting for roofs to temporarily secure a building while allowing the unique character of the wider landscape to survive could be considered **(figure 73)**. However, any investment raises the question whether large sums of money should be spent on repairing buildings and walls that are not in use, as they are likely to deteriorate faster than those that serve a purpose. Finding a new sympathetic use is often not possible.



Figure 73: Gunnerside Bottoms: the metal roofs catch more sunlight and thus merge less with the landscape than the stone slates, but they do secure the shape and protection of the field barns (photo © Robert White, YDNPA, 2006)

Current (2014) National Park planning policies [66] set the framework for deciding which re-uses of barns are likely to be acceptable. They are relatively flexible when it comes to a range of economic and low-impact visitor accommodation re-uses. They are, however, far less flexible on residential re-uses, whether this be for holiday, second home or permanent occupation.

There is high demand for residential conversion, which delivers a substantial uplift in the value of these barns as assets, ensures buildings are retained in the landscape, and is capable of providing accommodation to fulfill local housing needs and to support the tourist economy. Conversion is by no means a recent phenomenon, with many now domestic buildings documenting evidence of a change from agricultural use in previous centuries.

Residential uses are however particularly intensive uses that can significantly and irreversibly alter the character of buildings and their surrounds. This can be the case at a purely individual level, but there is a very clear risk that cumulative and indiscriminate residential conversion could seriously compromise the landscape character of the National Park and therefore undermine one of the area's special qualities. The degree to which residential conversion should be permitted is therefore a contentious issue and a difficult dilemma to solve.

The challenge lies in finding a middle ground where re-use potential is maximised without compromising the very important contribution barns make to the National Park's special qualities. This requires recognition that different buildings have different capacities for change, so there is a need to look at the particular constraints and opportunities each one offers. The benefit of having such a huge resource of buildings is that it

[66] YDNPA 2006, 85.

offers scope for choice, often even within single ownerships, to select only the most suitable buildings for conversion.

Barns that are situated at the roadside or within existing groups of buildings offer obvious practical advantages, and often threaten less in the way of wider landscape impacts arising from new accesses and curtilages. They can however be among some of the more historically and architecturally significant buildings, so may still require very sensitive treatment of openings and incorporation of other important features, such as roof timbers, in any conversion. While planning policies have tended to favour buildings in settlements or building groups, this has at times come at a cost where the often delicate balance of agricultural and domestic character is disrupted.

Remoter field barns often lack the practical advantages of roadside or farmstead barns, and conversion will often pose a far greater risk of landscape impacts if the conversion is to offer the conveniences that are generally expected of most modern residential accommodation. 'Stone tent' uses, generally comprising basic 'bothy'-type accommodation, provide an established solution, requiring minimal investment, yet offering only modest financial returns. This prompts the need to find low-impact uses, capable of generating a level of accommodation and revenue generation to justify a financial investment, without unduly compromising character.

One such solution is offered by the 'barn-pod' concept, pioneered by Feilden Clegg & Bradley Architects. This sees an independent timber structure inserted within barns with minimal disruption to the existing fabric, but capable of providing comfortable living accommodation for a range of uses. A prototype pod was developed at How Beck Barn at Barden, Wharfedale, and won the 'innovation' category in the 2010 Design Awards **(figure 73)** [67]. It provides an example of what could be achieved throughout the Dales, since one of the concept's strengths is its adaptability.

[67] YDNPA 2010a, 4-7.



Figure 74: Interior of How Beck Barn at Barden: the exterior shell of the field barn has been left intact whilst inserting a timber pod (YDNPA 2010a, 6-7)

Field barns in Swaledale & Arkengarthdale receive little statutory protection through listed-building status. Only seven barns within the conservation area (one of them a field barn **(figure 43)**) are listed, yet most of them lie within the eligibility criteria, dating from between 1700 and 1840. Field barns were deliberately excluded from consideration during the listing review in the 1980s. It was then thought that they would be adequately protected through agri-environment schemes (the Pennine Dales Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) agreements initially included a requirement to maintain weather-tight field barns [68], but this requirement was subsequently dropped). Listing alone would not provide a solution for safeguarding most barns, firstly as not all barns could be listed – it is often the collective (not individual) value of these buildings in the landscape that is significant – and secondly as the listed status would not necessarily encourage owners to make repairs and would more likely

[68] White *et al.* 2004, 150-152.

increase the number of listed Buildings at Risk. However, the exclusion from the listing review means that there has been little systematic assessment of barns of potential special architectural or historic interest.

Assessing the resource. The *dereliction of the characteristic stone field barns was identified as a landscape problem* [69] in the North Pennines Study Report of 1974. This suggested six options; three of them (a-c) involved removal, whilst the remainder included d) residential conversion, e) the introduction of amenity grants to secure retention and f) the acceptance of dereliction within the landscape.

A more detailed study of the field barn resource in the Yorkshire Dales National Park was undertaken by Robert White in 1988. It recognised these buildings as one of the special qualities of the National Park which are in demise but which the Authority has a statutory duty to preserve. The report concluded with several recommendations such as a study into the special architectural and historic significance of field barns, funding opportunities including an extension of the Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA), residential/industrial/commercial conversion, development of a camping/bunkhouse barn network, creation of a farm museum and other public-awareness-raising campaigns, and the designation of a barns & walls conservation area [70].

A partial solution was offered by the creation of the Pennine Dales ESA in 1986 which provided financial assistance to support traditional environmentally-friendly farming practices. Initially this did not fund repairs to non-weather-tight barns so the National Park Authority designated the Swaledale & Arkengarthdale Barns & Walls Conservation Area in 1989 and, in partnership with English Heritage, and for the first year additional support from Richmondshire District Council and the Countryside Commission, set up a Barns & Walls Conservation Scheme. It offered up to eighty percent grants to farmers and landowners for the consolidation and repair of traditional farm buildings and walls. Between 1989 and 2001 the scheme provided £1.53 million in grants, enabling conservation works to almost 400 traditional farm buildings and approximately 20km of drystone walls [71]. The scheme was subsequently extended into Littondale, another conservation area but closed as grants for conservation work became more widely available through the Pennine Dales ESA (following modifications to the initial scheme) and because of concerns over state aid. Conservation area status alone does not offer much long-term protection for buildings, except against demolition (Policy B11 in the YDNPA Local Plan 2006) [72].

A pre-requisite for the successful establishment of the Swaledale & Arkengarthdale Barns & Walls Conservation Scheme was a more detailed understanding of the barn population which resulted in a ***Use and Condition Survey*** (1990-93) of 1,442 traditional farm buildings in the conservation area, 1,044 of which were field barns. It was found that the main former use as a hay mew/cow byre (65% of all field barns) had now often been replaced by them being either unused, ruinous or used as a sheep run. 35% of all former hay mews/cow byres field barns were still in their original use at the time of survey. Regarding their condition, it was found that a quarter of all field barns were ruinous or in imminent danger of becoming so, half of them were expected to require remedial action in the following two to ten years, and the remaining quarter were likely to survive into the foreseeable future – although a later investigation regarded some of the predicted survival times as 'grossly pessimistic' [73]. Moreover, 86 barns were noted as having architectural interest, 81 of having historic interest and 96 of having special landscape interest [74], with a few of them possessing more than one interest **(figure 75)**.

69 Hallas & Roberts 1975, 42.
70 White 1988, 106-107.
71 White *et al.* 2004, 151-152.
72 Courtney, Gaskell, Mills & Edwards 2007, 11.
73 YDNPA 2007, 147.
74 Darlington 1993, 2-4 & 9-10.

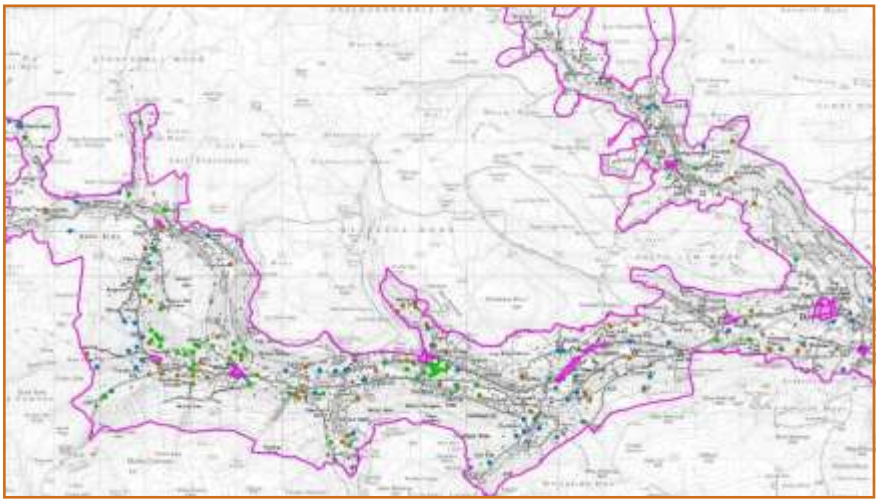


Figure 75: Field barns of architectural, historic and landscape interest identified in 1990-93 (conservation area boundary in pink; © Crown copyright and database rights 2010 Ordnance Survey 100023740; graphics © Gaby Rose, YDNPA, 2012)

In 2006 the Authority, with funding from Defra and English Heritage, commissioned a study of the social, economic and public benefits of agri-environment schemes with respect to works on traditional farm buildings (TFBs) and drystone walls in the National Park, focusing on the period 1998 to 2004 during which investment in grants totalled over £6.71 million. Some of the key findings were:

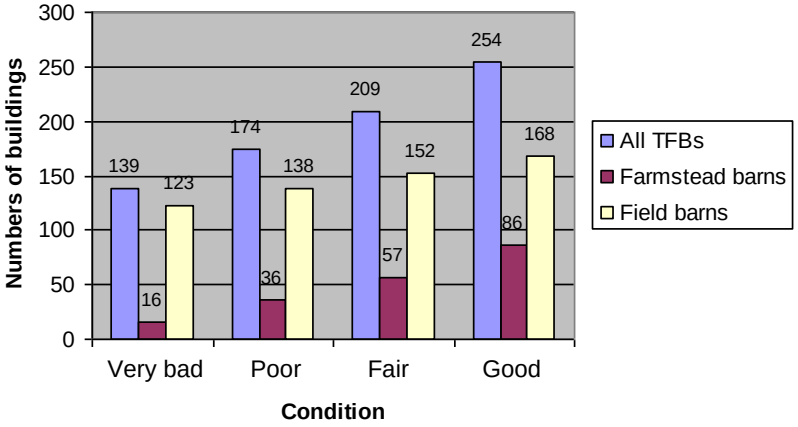
- Without the injection of funding, over three quarters of the TFBs were likely to become derelict
- Prior to restoration a third of the buildings were not used; after renovation ninety-five percent were in productive use mainly for agricultural purposes
- Building and walling work was carried out by local firms and it is estimated to have created seventy-four jobs in the National Park and wider local area
- Every £1 expenditure on building repair work resulted in a total output of £2.48 in the wider local area
- The schemes helped maintain the barns and walls landscape [75]

Recommendations arising from the research included:

- Grant schemes are crucial to ensuring that TFBs and field boundaries are restored and maintained
- The repaired drystone walls and TFBs should be seen for their wider socio-economic value to the local economy
- Walling schemes are likely to underpin employment in this part of the construction sector, and their demise may mean that traditional rural skills come under threat
- A greater understanding is required of the value placed by the general public on specific landscape features within the National Park [76]

In 2006-07 the Authority with the help of the Dales Volunteers carried out a ***Rapid Condition Survey*** of a random sample of 776 TFBs throughout the Yorkshire Dales National Park. Survey results are shown in the chart below. Seventy-five percent of the buildings surveyed were field barns, demonstrating that most traditional farm buildings stand in the wider landscape. Only half of them but almost three quarters of the farmstead buildings were in favourable condition, indicating that buildings close to farmsteads are more likely to benefit from regular maintenance. Thus field barns are generally more at risk and, without funding, many will continue to deteriorate unhampered. Furthermore, those found in very bad condition (around twenty percent of the field barns surveyed) may already be beyond repair and written off.

[75] English Heritage & Defra 2007.
[76] Courtney, Gaskell, Mills & Edwards 2007, 4.



The 119 barns surveyed in Swaledale in 2006-07 were in better condition than the overall picture: 70% were in favourable condition (as opposed to the sample average of 60%) and only 30% were in unfavourable condition (as opposed to 40%). This probably reflects the impact of the Authority's Barns and Walls Grant schemes, although the sample of 119 out of overall 1,442 traditional farm buildings in the conservation area may not represent a precise picture of the situation.

In order to gain a better understanding and produce a basic record of field barns throughout the entire National Park the Authority is currently undertaking a ***Traditional Farm Building Census***, again with the help of Dales Volunteers.

5.0 Community Involvement

Purpose. Although there is no statutory requirement to consult prior to designation or cancellation of designation, the Authority considers it highly desirable that there should be consultation with local residents, businesses and other local interests such as amenity bodies. It is required by law to publish any proposals for the preservation and enhancement of conservation areas, and submit these for consideration to a public meeting [1]. We appreciate that what is valued by the community may add a new perspective to what is considered special by the Authority. The greater the public support and 'ownership' that can be enlisted the more likely it is that property owners are encouraged to take the right sort of action for themselves and that conservation policies succeed.

[1] Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, section 71(2).

Formal public consultation took place between the 17 January and the 2 March 2014.

Scope. As part of the consultation process, a draft appraisal and management plan outline was available on the Authority's website, together with a feedback form which allowed for detailed comments.

In addition, the county, district and parish councils were approached together with groups and organisations that were likely to have a special interest in the Swaledale & Arkengarthdale Barns & Walls Conservation Area. Paper copies of the draft appraisal and feedback form were made available at Hudson House in Reeth, and at the National Park Offices in Grassington and Bainbridge.

Findings. Altogether, ten people filled out the questionnaire. In addition, we received a number of letters, emails and phone calls with more detailed comments. The main issues raised were:

- The barns & walls landscape was unanimously recognised as being of unique architectural, historic and landscape importance which needs to be protected
- Two main threats were considered as to this special area:
  a) The physical decline of the barns & walls
  b) Development pressures including 'suburban creep' and unsympathetic barn conversions

  Highways clutter was also mentioned, but it is of a less permanent nature and therefore a comparatively minor issue
- The following suggestions were offered halting negative impacts:
  a) Educating both visitors and locals to encourage thought before altering properties
  b) Recording and reassessing the area to determine which barns & walls are of most significance and to put them into context with the surrounding archaeology
  c) Setting up or expanding local groups to apply for grant-aided projects
- Ideas for managing the area included:
  a) Potential for controlled conversion of road-side barns
  b) Providing bunk barns on popular footpaths or creating a barns & walls art trail
  c) Making better (targeted) use of farming grants
  d) Using construction/repairs on barns & walls as a training ground for traditional craft skills to boost the local economy
- The following suggestions were made for local listing:

a) Barns with little, if any, modern interventions and of high heritage or landscape significance
b) The built structures at Jabz' Cave below Fremington Edge

- There were mixed opinions regarding potential changes to the conservation area boundary **(see 6.0)**

6.0 Boundary Changes

Issues raised for consultation. The boundary of the Swaledale & Arkengarthdale Barns & Walls Conservation Area is very unusual in that it is a designation of an extensive rural landscape which specifically excludes several settlements within its boundary **(see 7.4.a)**. The larger of these omitted villages – Thwaite, Muker, Gunnerside and Reeth – have since been designated as conservation areas in their own right (although the conservation area boundaries are not necessarily coterminous). This still leaves a number of holes within the conservation area occupied by smaller settlements: Feetham & Low Row, Grinton, Healaugh, Langthwaite, and Keld. These settlements generally sit harmoniously within the landscape **(figures 19 & 20)** and include several buildings still in agricultural use **(see 7.5.b)**, while some also have strong links to the former mining industry. However, what sets them apart from the settlements within the conservation area is their 'larger' size and greater degree of modification and their inclusion under housing policies H1 to H3 in the Local Plan **(see 4.1.a)**. Should these settlements be included in the conservation area or should some of the smaller hamlets and villages **(see 4.4.e)** be excluded? The size of the Swaledale & Arkengarthdale Barns & Walls Conservation Area as designated in 1989 is already a challenge to deal with so any additions would complicate matters further, especially as these settlements would add different character traits.

Another anomaly is the inconsistent inclusion of enclosures. The pattern of enclosure at the dale heads and dale rims becomes more broken where intakes sit within the open moorland. For the most part, such as Shaw Intake (Arkengarthdale) and the intakes along the northern Swaledale rim between Gunnerside and Healaugh, these have been included. On occasion, however, such as Stang House (Arkengarthdale), Crook Seal (Birkdale) and Sleddale Pasture (Great Sleddale), these were omitted, probably because of a wish to create a broadly contiguous boundary without outlying sections. It was questioned whether these isolated enclosures should be included in the conservation area boundary although Inclusion would increase the size of the conservation area, already the largest in the country.

An alternative posed was whether the boundary should be reduced to those areas, notably Upper Swaledale, where the barns are the dominant cultural feature in the landscape. This would enable resources to be clearly concentrated on the most iconic areas. Or, a decision to concentrate resources on areas within the present boundary could be made without altering the conservation area.

The flue of the Octagon and CB Smelt Mills was included in the 1989 designation, an important industrial landmark but not of barns-and-walls character. Furthermore, it has since been given a higher level of protection by designation as a scheduled monument. It could thus be excluded from the conservation area without any impact on its long term protection. But should the boundary be extended to include other contiguous lead mining and processing sites which are not protected through scheduling?

Post-consultation. The consultation responses were mixed regarding the ideas outlined above. Most people preferred to keep the current boundary as it is, whilst others suggested enlarging it in various ways. Only one response was in favour of concentrating on the key valley-bottom areas. The Authority has decided to keep the boundary unchanged, although further consideration should be given in due course to incorporating the settlements as distinct character areas as recommended by English Heritage.

7.0 Useful Information, Appendices and Contact Details

This section comprises references to principal sources of information, a short glossary of architectural and geological terms, as well as useful names and addresses of both national and local organisations for enquiries and comments.

7.1 References and Further Reading

Note: All internet sources were accessed December 2010 and December 2013, unless stated otherwise.

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e) Websites

Adopted conservation area appraisals: http://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/index/lookingafter/caringfor/historicfeaturesbuildings/conservationareas.htm

Open Domesday, a free online copy of the Domesday Book: http://domesdaymap.co.uk/

SWAAG – Swaledale and Arkengarthdale Archaeological Group: http://www.swaag.org

The Heritage List for England: www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/protection/process/nationalheritage-list-for-england

7.2 Glossary of Terms and Abbreviations

Common land	Land subject to rights, e.g. to graze animals, to collect fuel etc.
Dale head	Highest point in a valley.
Designation	The way of marking that a building, monument or landscape has special interest in the national context,

	and protecting it by law. In the United Kingdom, there are currently seven historic environment categories: listed buildings, conservation areas, scheduled monuments, registered parks and gardens, registered historic battlefields, protected wreck sites, and World Heritage Sites.
Direct-entry plan	A building plan in which the main entry is directly into a room without being situated opposite a fireplace.
Domesday	The Domesday Book is the record of the great survey of England, which was completed in 1086. To achieve this, William the Conqueror sent men all over the country to find out what or how much each landholder had in land and livestock, and what it was worth. Mention in 'Domesday' implies that a settlement has existed since at least 1086 but not necessarily in the same location.
Double-pile plan	A seventeenth-century house plan consisting of a rectangular block two rooms deep, the rooms sometimes separated by a passage.
Drip mould	See 'hood mould'.
Earthworks	Archaeological remains which are visible as above ground features. They may stand only a few centimetres above the natural ground level or be large constructions like the Grinton dykes.
Grade I, II*, II	Within the listed buildings designation, there are three rankings. The highest is grade I, which applies to buildings with *exceptional interest,* followed by grade II*, which are particularly important buildings of *more than special interest*. However, the vast majority of listed buildings are grade II, which are of *special interest*.
Hearth-passage plan	A house plan in which the chimney stack backs onto a cross passage between a building's two entrances.
Hood mould	Horizontal moulding or string course for throwing water off and thus protecting windows below.
Intake	A pasture field generally enclosed from common land
Heritage asset	Building, monument, site or landscape of historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic significance, whether designated or not. Conservation areas are designated groups of heritage assets where the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.
Listed building	Structure or feature designated by the Secretary of State for its special historic and/or architectural interest.
Lynchet	Feature of old field systems: earth bank that has built up on the slope of a ploughed field. The disturbed soil slipped down the hillside creating a positive lynchet, while the area reduced in level became a negative lynchet. Some believe they were passively formed under the long-term action of gravity and weathering on the loosened soil of a ploughed slope, while others think they may

	have been intentionally formed to prevent erosion and slippage of the field.
Lobby-entry plan	A house plan in which the front entrance opens into a lobby opposite to an axial chimney stack.
Manor	Estate over which the owner ('lord') had jurisdiction, exercised through a manor court.
Mullion	Upright (stone) member dividing the lights of a window.
Shippon	The part of a farm building used to tether cattle
Slobbered rubble	Mortar splattered over stonework, instead of neatly filled joints.
Spoil heap	Soil, dirt and rubble resulting from an excavation discarded off site onto large heaps.
Watershot masonry	Dressed stone or squared rubble, laid with sloping beds and faces tilted slightly over toward the ground so that water does not penetrate the joints.

7.3 Contacts

Arkengarthdale Parish Council (Clerk)
Address: Miss K Willkomm, Fountain Farm, Booze, Arkengarthdale, Richmond, North Yorkshire
Phone: 01748 884 389

English Heritage (Yorkshire regional office)
Address: 37 Tanner Row, York, North Yorkshire, YO1 6WP
Phone: 01904 601 901
Email: yorkshire@english-heritage.org.uk
Web: http://www.english-heritage.org.uk

Grinton Parish Council (Clerk)
Address: Mrs M Porter, Moorlands, Reeth, Richmond, North Yorkshire, DL11 6TX
Phone: 01748 884 799

Melbecks Parish Council (Clerk)
Address: Mrs Jacqueline Pealing, Pursglove Cottage, Blades, Low Row, Richmond, North Yorkshire, DL11 6PS
Phone: 01748 886 767
Email: jacqueline@pealing.com

Muker Parish Council (Clerk)
Address: Mrs Jacqueline Pealing, Pursglove Cottage, Blades, Low Row, Richmond, North Yorkshire, DL11 6PS
Phone: 01748 886 767
Email: jacqueline@pealing.com

North of England Civic Trust
Address: The Schoolhouse, 12 Trinity Chare, Quayside, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 3DF
Phone: 0191 232 9279
Email: admin@nect.org.uk
Web: http://www.nect.org.uk

Reeth, Fremington & Healaugh Parish Council (Clerk)
Address: Mr Ian Scott, Telfit Bowl, Marske, Richmond, North Yorkshire, DL11 7NG
Phone: 01748 884 799
Email: ics@scottswright.com

Richmondshire District Council
Address: Swale House, Frenchgate, Richmond, North Yorkshire, DL10 4JE
Phone: 01748 829 100
Email: enquiries@richmondshire.gov.uk
Web: http://www.richmondshire.gov.uk

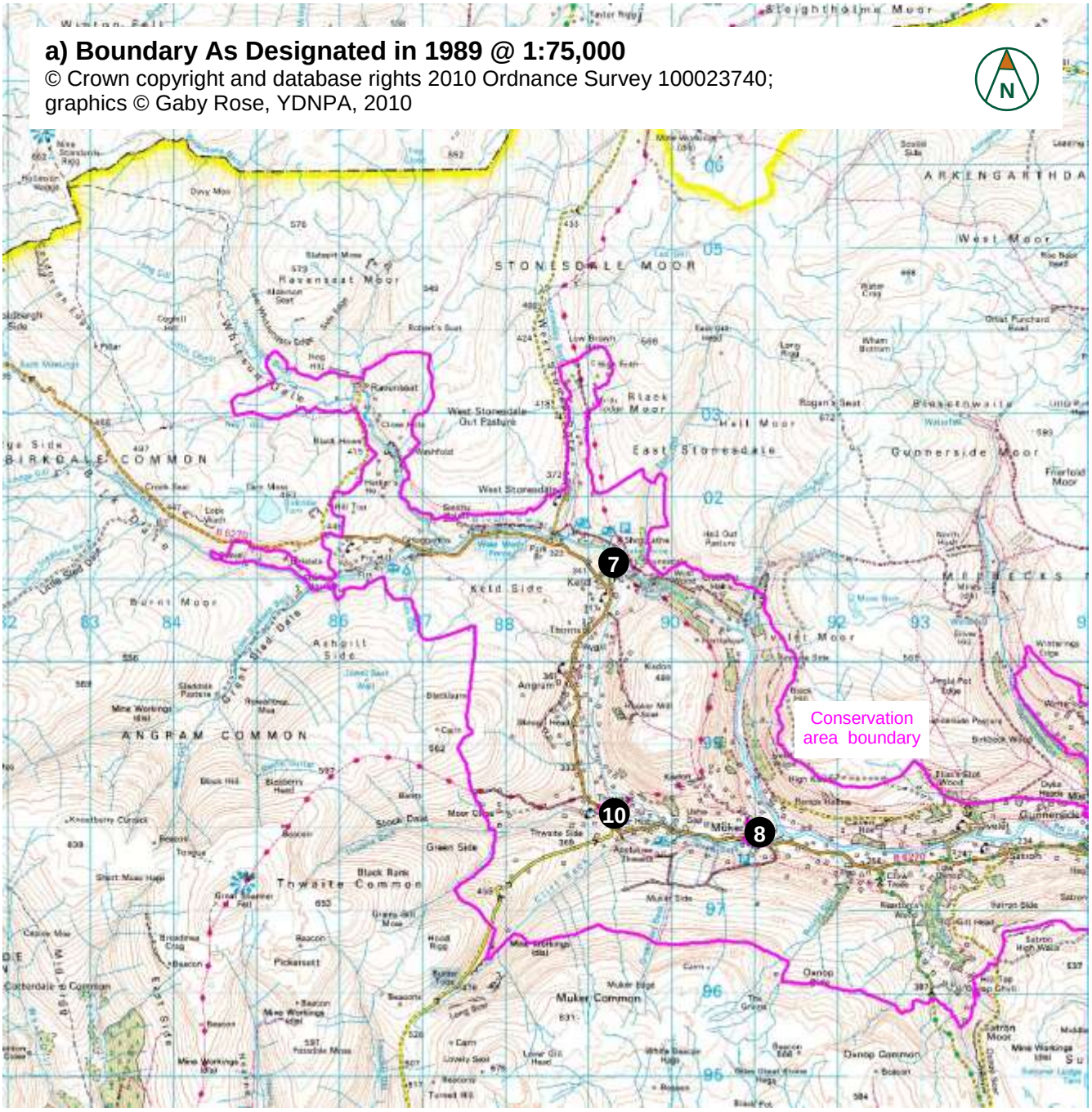
Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB)
Address: 37 Spital Square, London, E1 6DY
Phone: 020 7377 1644
Email: info@spab.org.uk
Web: http://www.spab.org.uk

Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority
Address: Yoredale, Bainbridge, Leyburn, North Yorkshire, DL8 3EL
Phone: 0300 456 0030
Email: info@yorkshiredales.org.uk
Web: http://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk, http://www.outofoblivion.org.uk

Yorkshire Vernacular Buildings Study Group
Address: 11 Hall Park, Heslington, York YO10 5DT
Email: enquires@yvbsg.org.uk
Web: http://www.yvbsg.org.uk

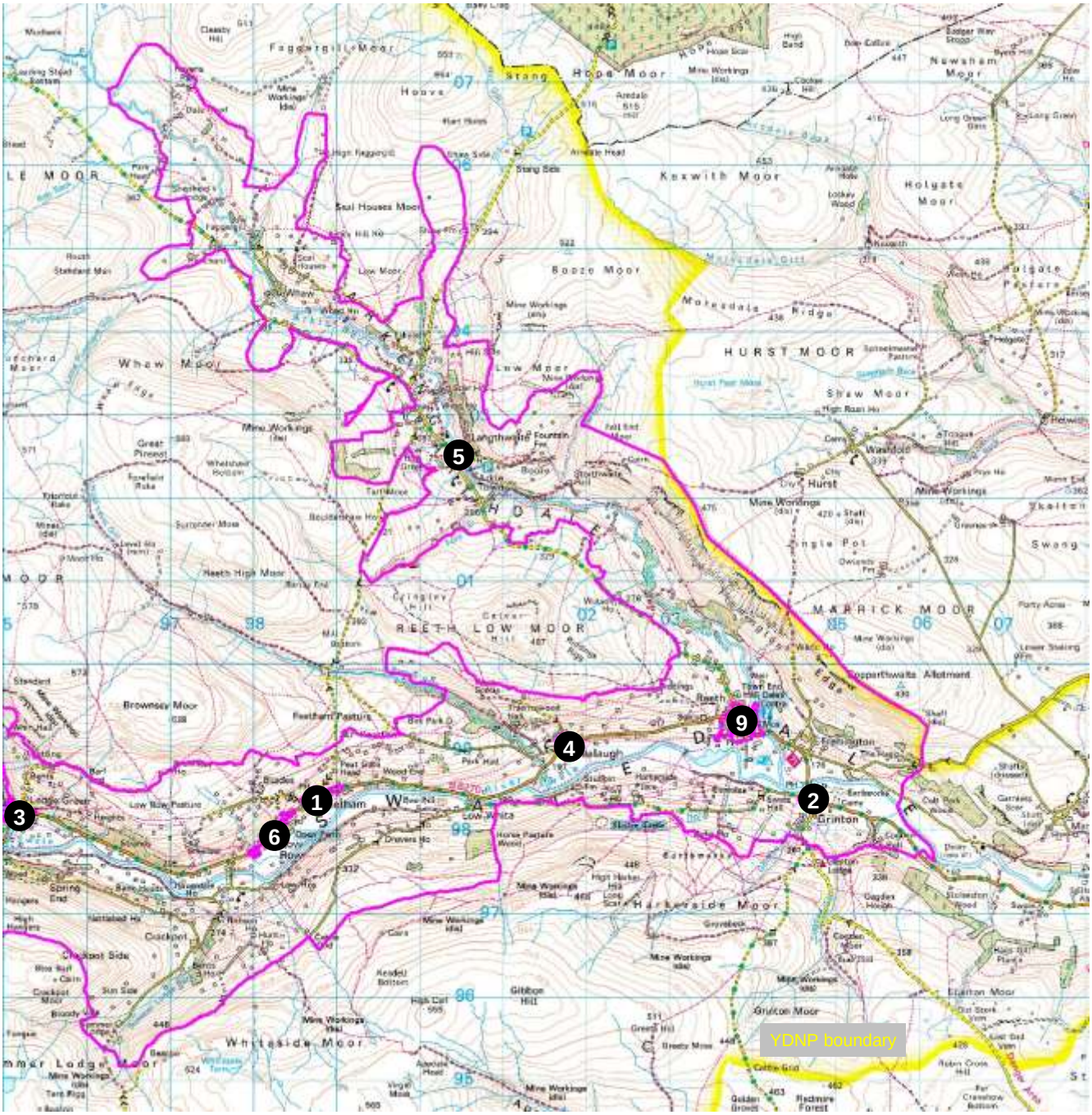
7.4 Maps of Swaledale & Arkengarthdale

See following pages



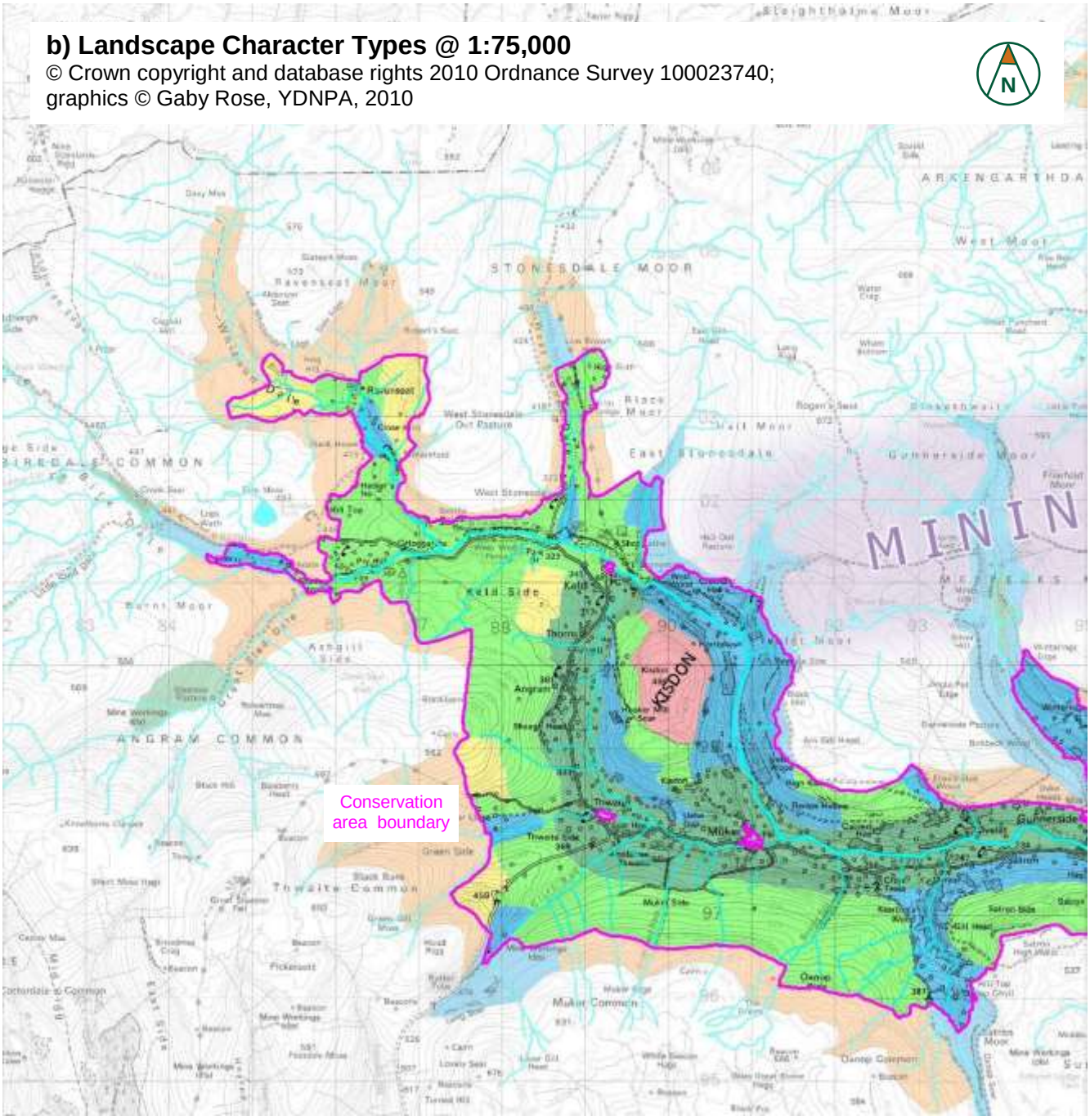
Villages **excluded** from the Swaledale& Arkengarthdale Barns & Walls Conservation Area:

- Feetham (1)
- Grinton (2)
- Gunnerside (3) - separately designated
- Healaugh (4)
- Langthwaite (5)
- Low Row (6)
- Keld (7)
- Muker (8) - separately designated
- Reeth (9) - separately designated
- Thwaite (10) - separately designated


1
2
3
4
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9
YDNP boundary

b) Landscape Character Types @ 1:75,000

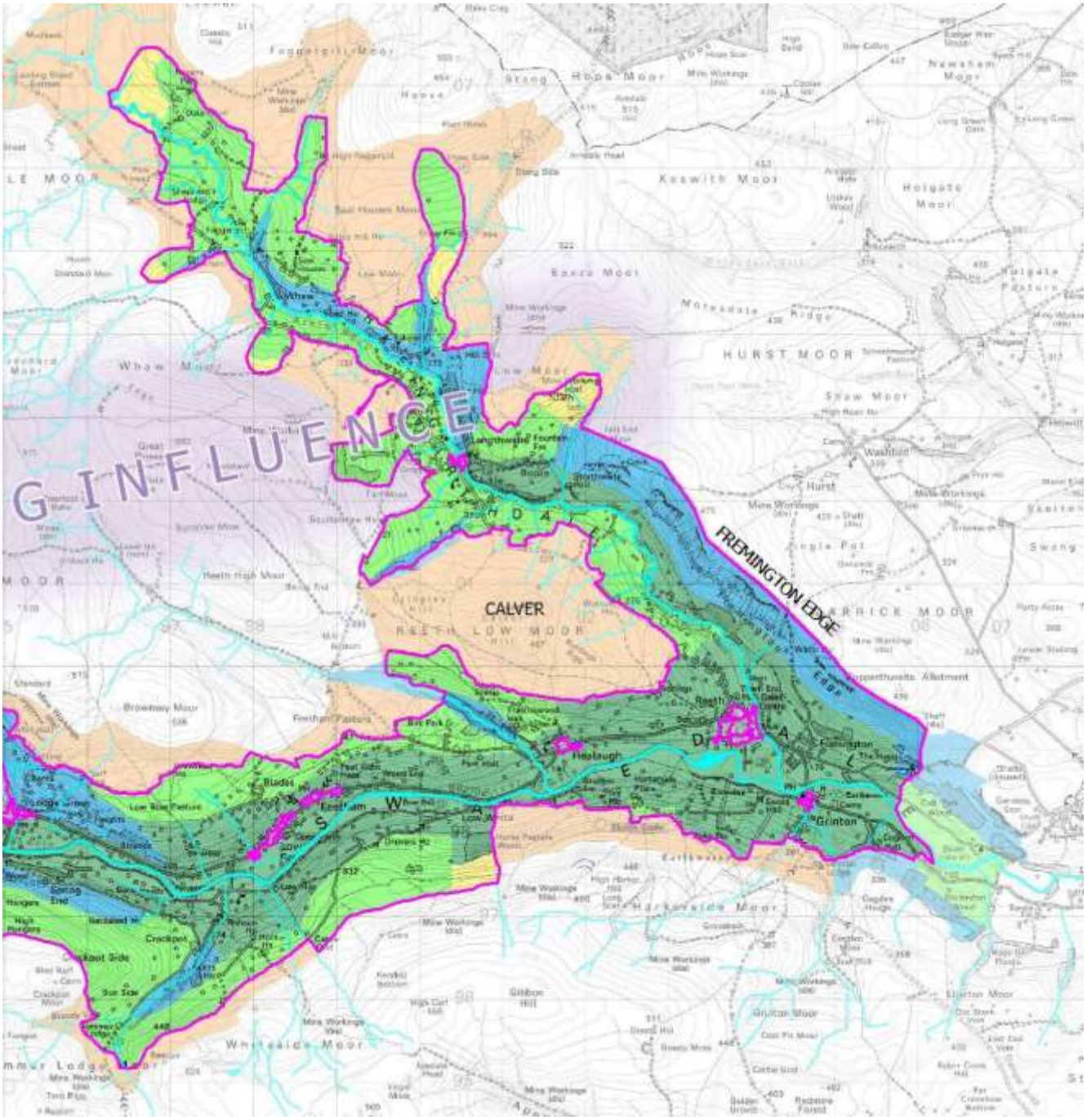
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Key:

Within the conservation area:

- Enclosed and improved dale sides and floors
- Enclosed and improved dale heads and rims
- Gills and steeper dale sides
- Rougher enclosed lands
- Enclosed heather moorland

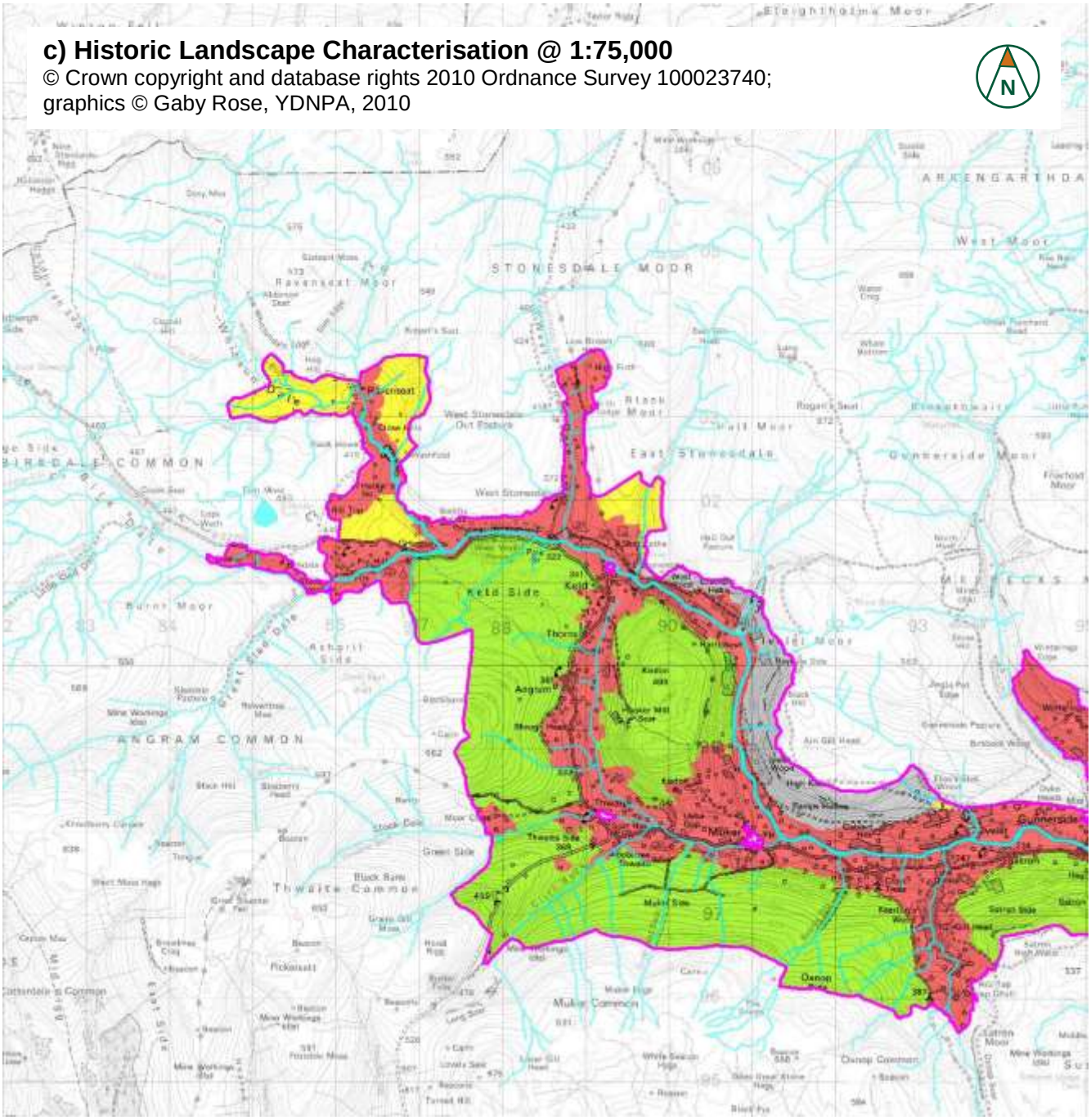


Within conservation area setting:

- Unenclosed moor and fell
- Gills and steeper dale sides
- Outlying enclosed and improved farmland
- Enclosed and improved dale heads and rims

c) Historic Landscape Characterisation @ 1:75,000

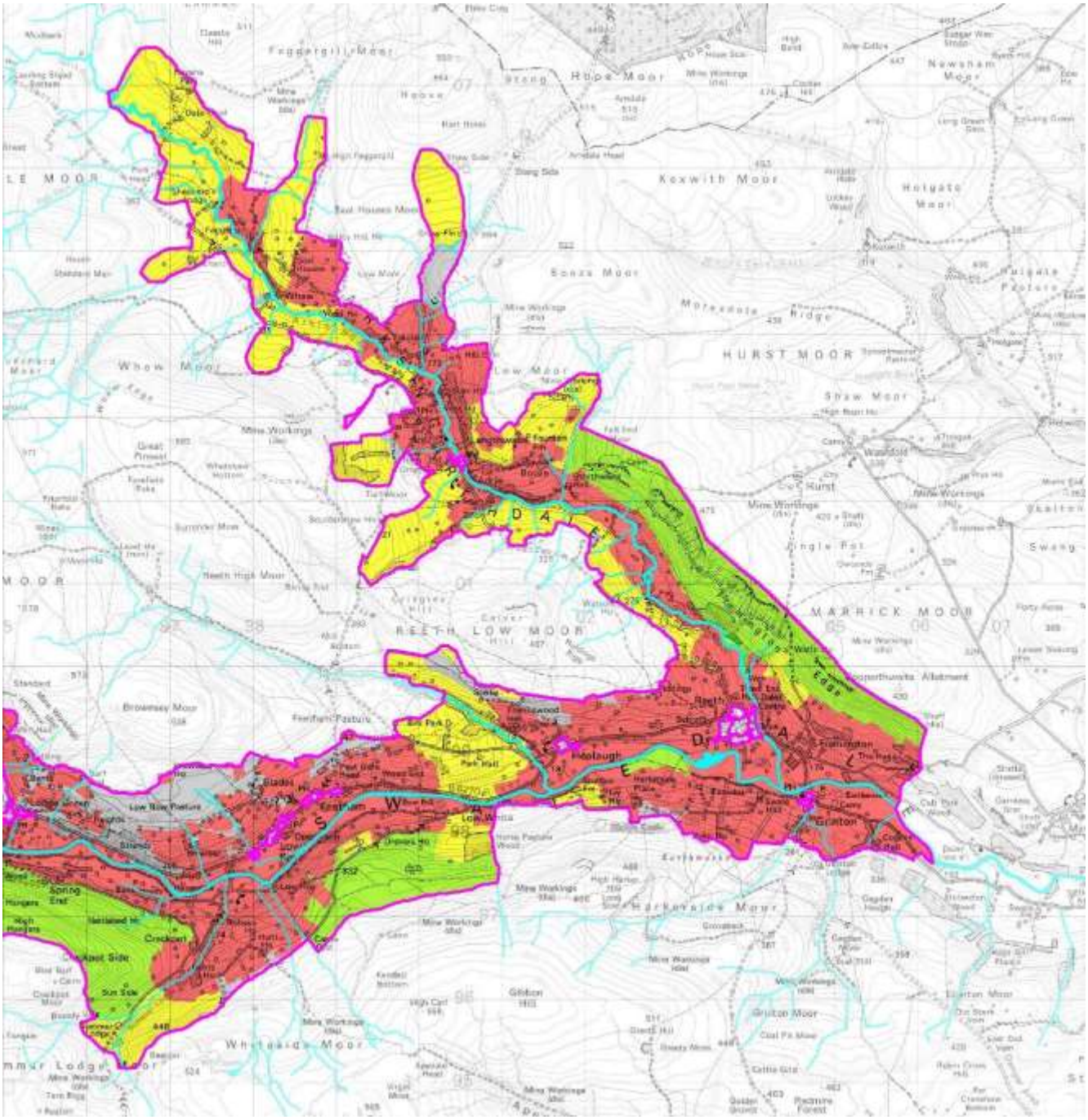
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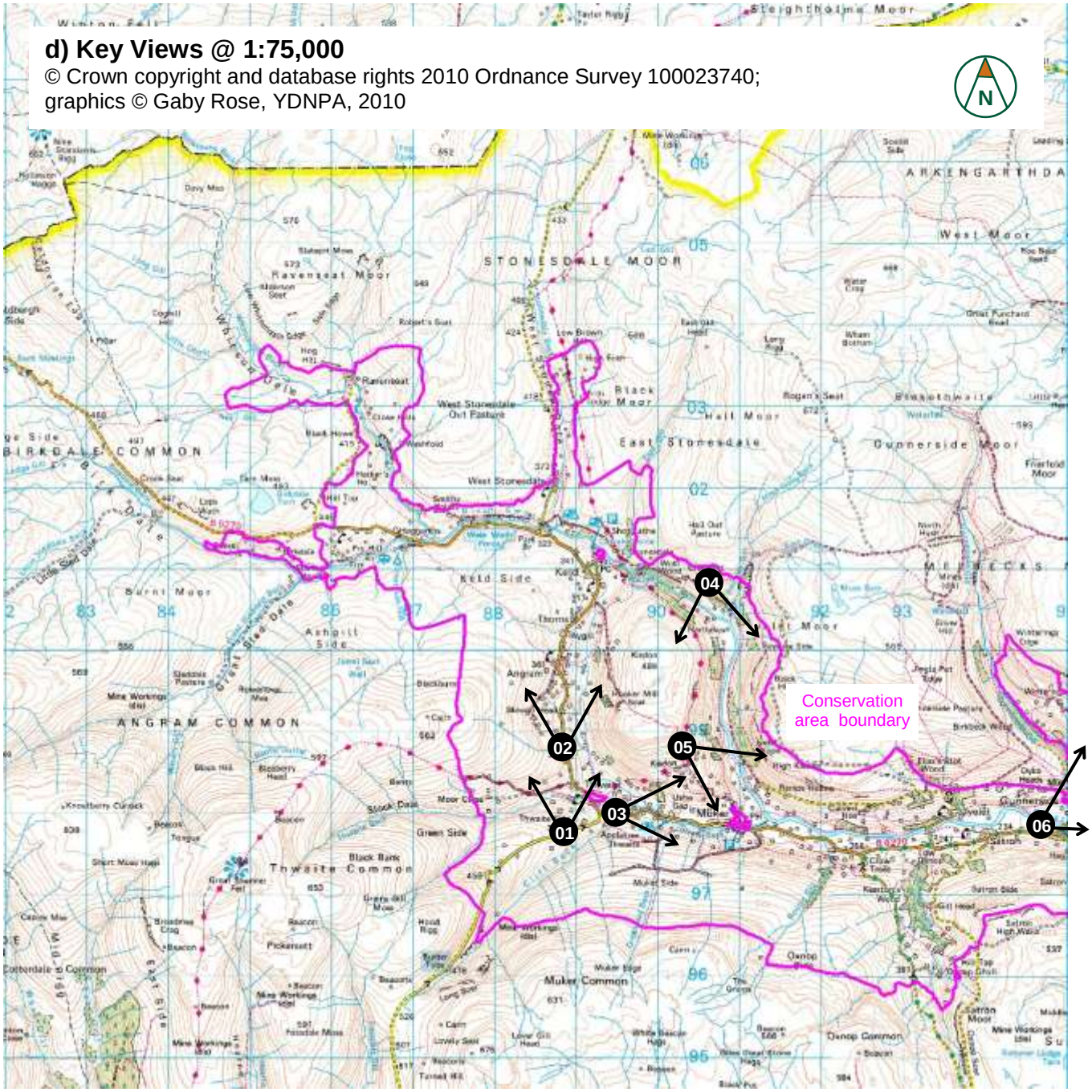


Key:

Within the conservation area:

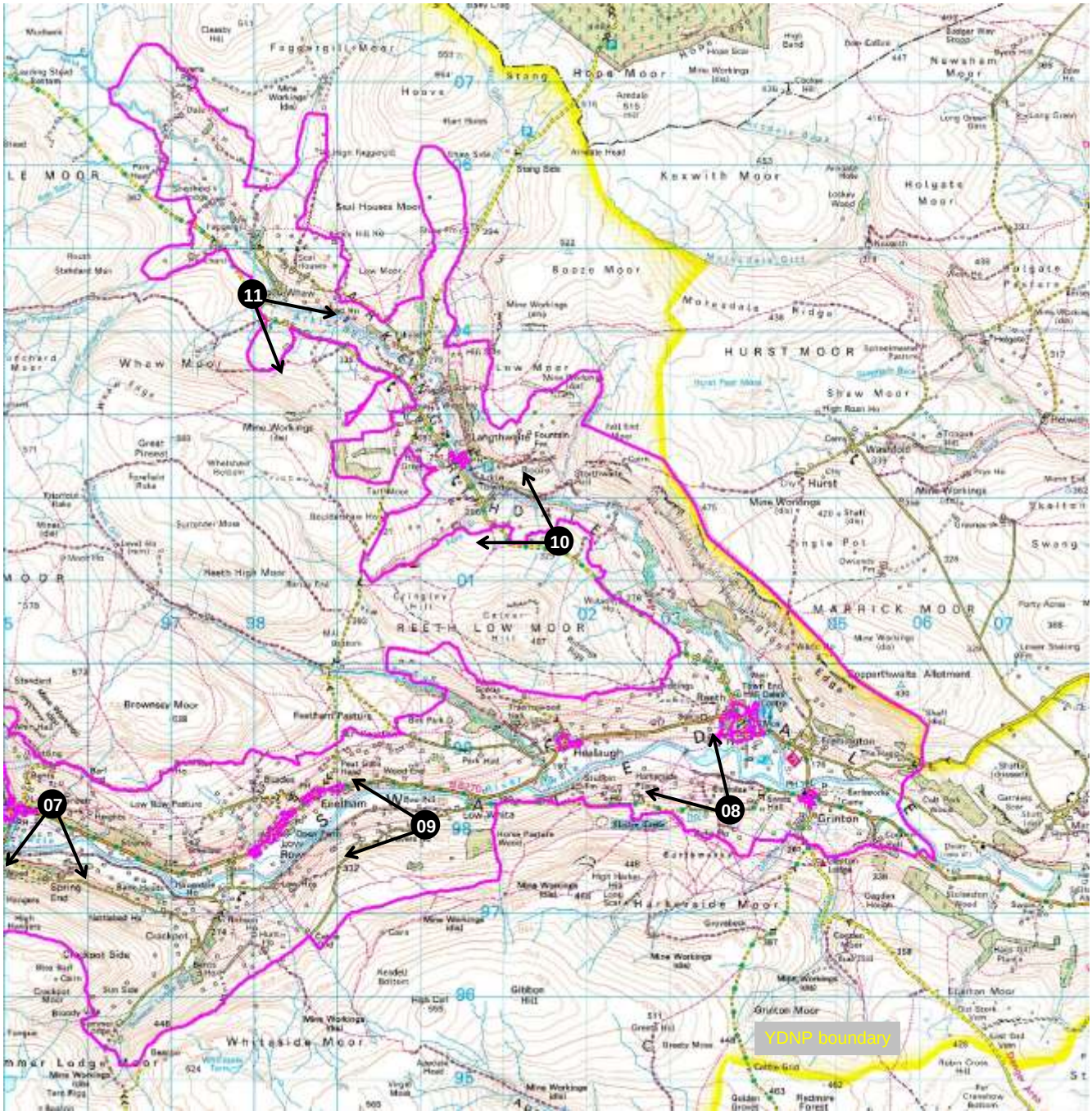
- Common land or unenclosed moorland
- Ancient enclosed land
- Parliamentary enclosure or large-scale late enclosure
- Other late enclosed farms

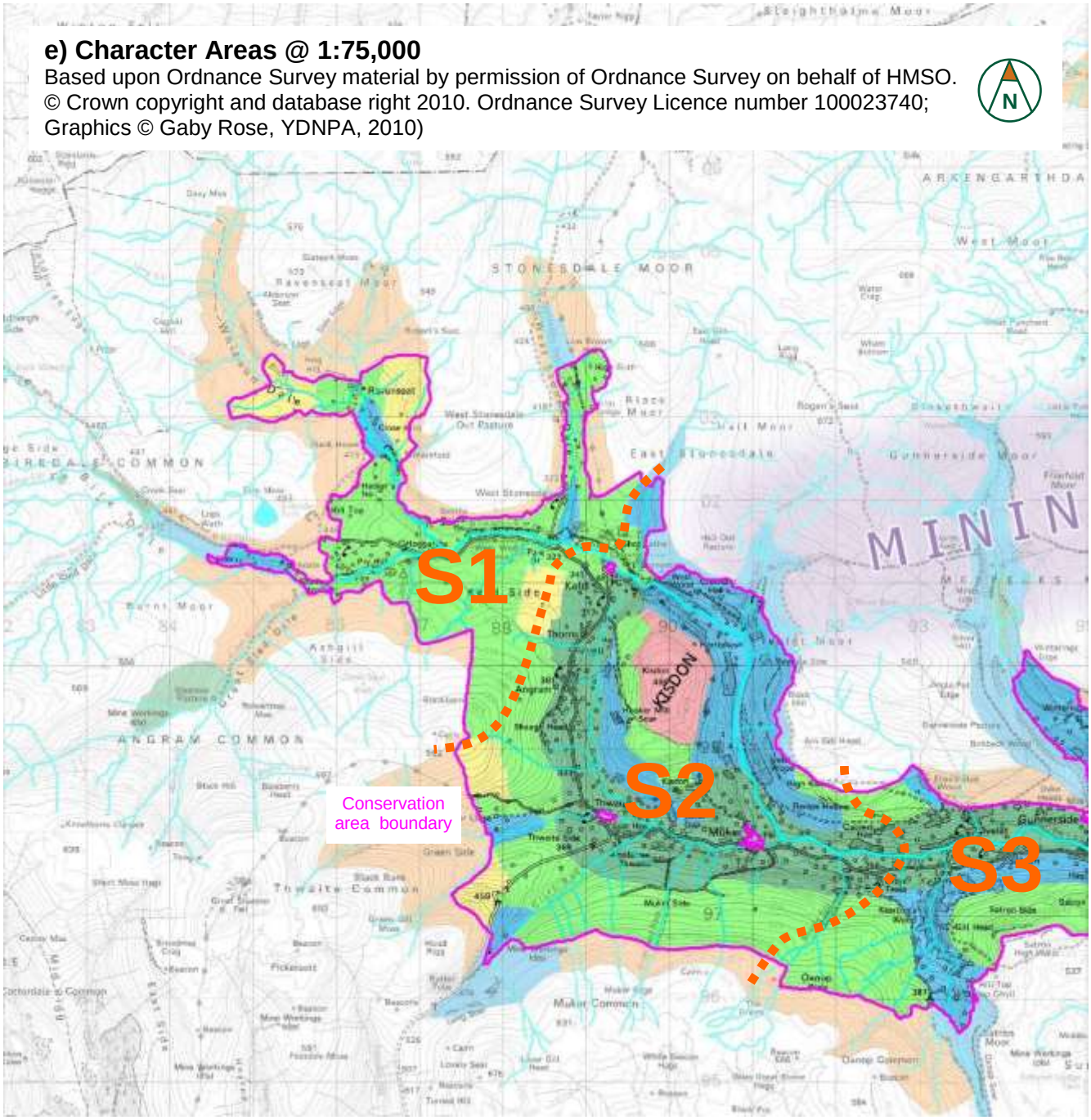

HURST MOOR
Shaw Moor
Kexwith Moor
Holgate Moor
Soaza Moor
Morrendale Ridge
Hope Moor
Newsham Moor
Whow Moor
Low Moor
Reeth High Moor
REETH LOW MOOR
MARRICK MOOR
Harkerside Moor
Grutton Moor
Whitaside Moor
Brownsey Moor
Summer Moor
Feggergill Moor
Swaledale
Reeth
Low Row
Crackpot
Spring End
Hoolaugh
Fremington
Marrick
Arkle Beck
Swale



View points:

01 View from Buttertubs road to Angram
02 Close-up view of barns-and-walls scenery at Angram
03 Classic barn scenery at foot of Kisdon
04 View from Crackpot Hall towards Muker
05 View from Pennine Bridleway/Kisdon on Muler hay meadows
06 View from B6270 to Gunnerside
07 Classic barns-and-walls scenery at Gunnerside Bottoms
08 View from Askrigg Moor Road to west of Reeth
09 View from Askrigg Moor Road to Low Row and Feetham
10 View up Arkengarthdale
11 View down Arkengarthdale


11
10
07
09
08
YDNP boundary



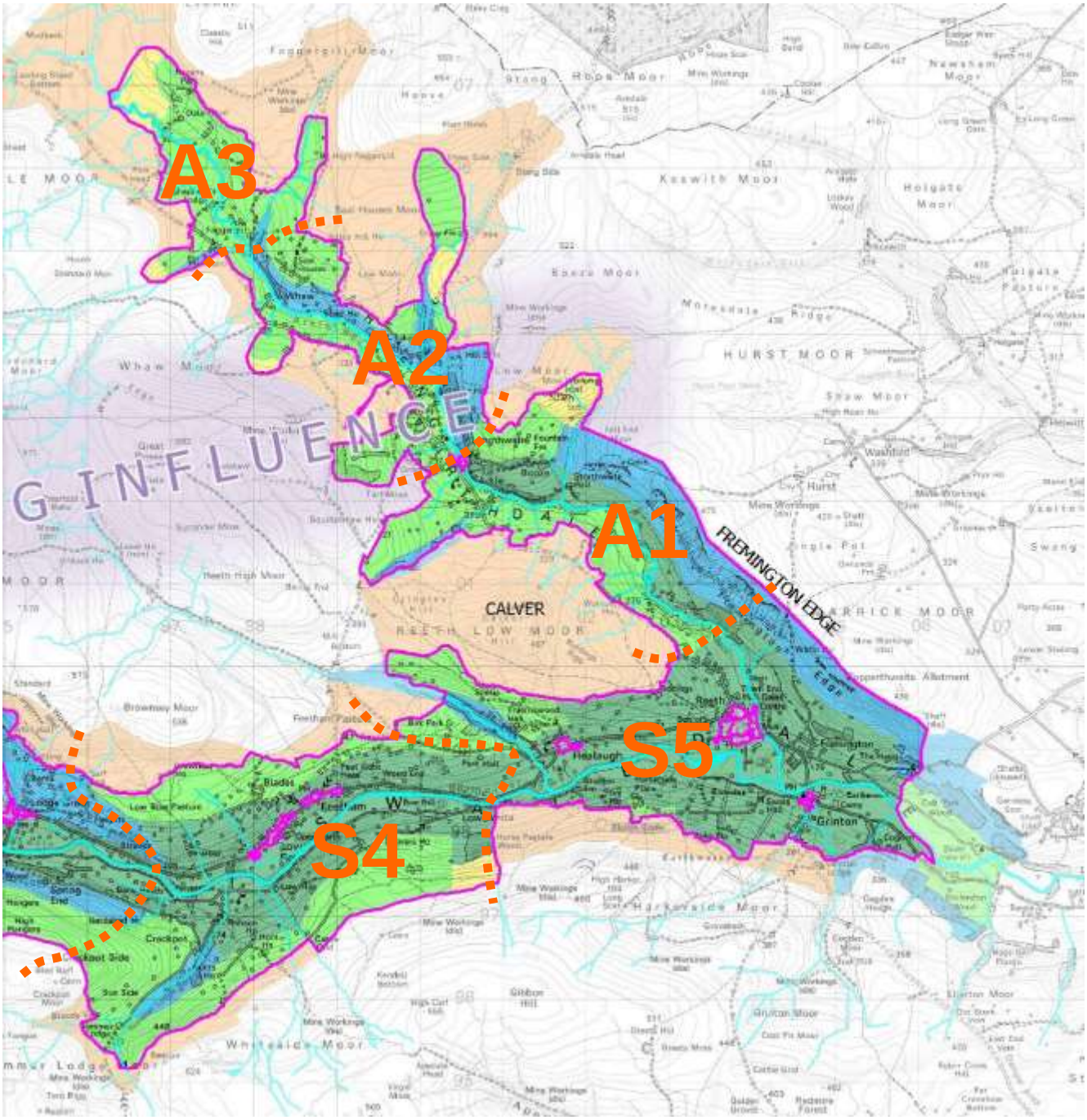
Character areas:

Swaledale:

S1 Swaledale dale heads
S2 Kisdon
S3 Ivelet, Satron, Gunnerside
S4 Low Row and Feetham
S5 Healaugh and Reeth

Arkengarthdale:

A1 Arkengarthdale dale heads
A2 Whaw, Seal Houses, Scar House
A3 Langthwaite, Arkle Town, Booze, Castle


A3
A2
A1
S5
S4
INFLUENCE
CALVER
FREMINGTON EDGE
HURST MOOR
Kaswick Moor
Harkerside Moor
Whitaside Moor

7.5 Appendices

a) Listed Buildings

Arkengarthdale:

- Barningham Memorial, Grade II (NZ 0027 0269)
- CB Yard, Grade II (NY 9976 0347) **(figure 23)**
- Church of St Mary, Grade II (NZ 0030 0270)
- Church of St Mary: gate & piers, Grade II (NZ 0027 0270)
- Lime kiln near Seal Houses, Grade II (NY 9891 0446)
- Old Powder Magazine, **Grade II*** (NY 9986 0342)
- Plantation Houses, Grade II (NY 9992 0338)
- Punchard Toll House, Grade II (NY 9726 0528)
- West House & cottage, Grade II (NZ 0018 0318)
- West House: stable block, Grade II (NZ 0019 0317)

Grinton:

- Bank Heads East house & barn, Grade II (SD 9628 9726)
- Bank Heads West & byre, Grade II (SD 9624 9727)
- Blackburn Hall, **Grade II*** (SE 0462 9845) **(figure 36)**
- Cedar House, Grade II (SD 9792 9662)
- Church of St Andrew, **Grade I** (SE 0461 9842)
- Clarkson Memorial, Grade II (SE 0463 9840)
- Cogden Hall: coach house & stables, Grade II (SE 0548 9780)
- Cogden Hall & railings, Grade II (SE 0552 9789)
- Dike House, Grade II (SE 0379 9801)
- Drovers House, Grade II (SD 9950 9796)
- Grinton Bridge, Grade II (SE 0465 9852)
- Hunt House, Grade II (SD 9832 9659)
- Joe House & outbuilding, Grade II (SD 9563 9743)
- Feetham Holme East, Grade II (SD 992 980)
- Feetham Holme South, Grade II (SD 9921 9793)
- Feetham Holme West, Grade II (SD 9921 9794)
- Hops House & byre, Grade II (SD 983 969)
- Lawn House, Grade II (SD 9819 9732)
- Low Houses farmhouse & dairy, Grade II (SD 9825 9733)
- Manor House (SE 0472 9816)
- Nettlebed house & byre, Grade II (SD9667 9700)
- Plaintree House, Grade II (SE 0287 9843)
- Robson House, byre & dairy, Grade II (SD 9800 9672)
- Scabba Wath Bridge, Grade II (SE 0061 9832)
- Scarr House, Grade II (SE 0398 9834)
- Spring End East farmhouse & byre, Grade II (SD 9565 6743)
- Summer Lodge farmhouse & outbuildings, Grade II (SD 9643 9570)
- Swale Hall, Grade II (SE 041 985)
- The Grange, outbuilding, railings & gate piers, Grade II (SD 0460 9807)
- Usha Top, Grade II (SD 9927 9788)

Melbecks:

- Barf End, Grade II (SD 9594 9865)
- Barf Side Farmhouse, Grade II (SD 9701 9801)
- Belle Isle, wall, gate pier & railings, Grade II (SD 9779 9766)
- Birds Nest, Grade II (SD 9879 9871) **(figure 32)**
- Birds Nest Close, Grade II (SD 9883 9876)

- Brockma Gill East, Grade II (SD 9990 9900)
- Brownberry Barn, Grade II (SD 9825 9877) **(figure 45)**
- Byre to west of Simon's Garth, Grade II (SD 9805 9845)
- Cantrells Barn, Grade II (SD 9805 9870) **(figure 43)**
- Farm building, wall & gate pier near Old Post Office, Grade II (SD 9844 9801)
- Fair Acre, Grade II (SD 9942 9900)
- Farm buildings southwest of Park Hall, Grade II (SE 0073 9888)
- Gate pier west of Park Hall, Grade II (SE 0072 9890)
- Glory Be & outbuildings, Grade II (SD 9800 9845)
- Green Sike farmhouse, cottage & outbuilding, Grade II (SD 9753 9840)
- Gunnerside New Bridge, Grade II (SD 9498 9779)
- High Cottage, Grade II (SD 9797 9856)
- High Roof, Grade II (SD 9798 9857)
- House of Guisborough Grammar School, cottage & outbuilding, Grade II (SD 9808 9850)
- House to east of Moorland Cottage, Grade II (SD 9802 9852)
- Methodist church: wall, railings, gates & piers, Grade II (SD 9508 9813)
- Moorland Cottage, cart-shed & stable, Grade II (SD 9800 9852)
- Park Hall, Grade II (SE 0075 9889)
- Pratt's House & byre, Grade II (SD 9966 9894)
- Ridings West, Grade II (D 9817 9829)
- Shoregill Head Farmhouse, Grade II (SD 9364 9828)
- Staining farmhouse & byre (SD 9759 9818)
- Turnip House & byre, Grade II (SD 9781 9812)

Muker:

- Aygill Farmhouse, Grade II (NY 8892 0023)
- Barn north of Ravenseat Farm, Grade II (NY 8624 0339)
- Barn west of Ravenseat Cottage, Grade II (NY 8630 0335)
- Bridge between Ravenseat farmhouse & cottage, Grade II (NY 8628 0337)
- Bridge east of Firs Farmhouse, Grade II (NY 8644 0116)
- Bridge east of Stone House, Grade II (NY 8592 0093)
- Byre southwest of Ravenseat barn, Grade II (NY 8629 0335)
- Coffin stone northeast Ivelet Bridge, Grade II (SD 9330 9781)
- Cow byre southeast of West Calverts House, Grade II (SD 9249 9799)
- Crow Trees house & cottage, Grade II (SD 9251 9739)
- East Calverts House, Grade II (SD 9250 9797)
- Former house & cottage east of Rash View, Grade II (SD 9209 9744)
- Gill Head farmhouse, stable & byre, Grade II (SD 933 968)
- Greens North farmhouse, stable, byre & railings (NY 8884 0007)
- Greens South farmhouse, byres, stable & cart shed, Grade II (NY 8884 0000)
- High Smithy Holme, Grade II (NY 8728 0172)
- House east of telephone kiosk, Grade II (SD 8876 9976)
- House south of junction with B6270, Grade II (NY 8929 0085)
- Ivelet Bridge, **Grade II*** (SD 9330 9780) **(figure 63)**
- Ivelet Farmhouse, Grade II (SD 9364 9799)
- K6 telephone kiosk at junction with road to Keld (NY 8926 0091)

- K6 telephone kiosk at junction with track to Skengh Head, Grade II (SD 8876 9978)
- K6 telephone kiosk north of West View Cottage, Grade II (NY 8874 0211)
- Lime kiln at track to Smithy Holme, Grade II (NY 8776 0161)
- Lime kiln east of junction with B6270, Grade II (9496 9768) **(figure 34)**
- Lime kiln east of Satron, Grade II (SD 9453 9774)
- Lime kiln near Blackburn Beck, Grade II (NY 8826 0152)
- Long Close Bridge, Grade II (SD 9004 9794)
- Moor Close, Grade II (SD 8792 9818) **(figure 46)**
- Oxnop Hall, **Grade II*** (SD 9309 9738)
- Pack Horse Bridge, Grade II (NY 8626 0329)
- Rash Grange, Grade II (SD 9198 9744)
- Ravenseat Cottage, Grade II (NY 8632 0335)
- Ravenseat Farmhouse, Grade II (NY 8626 0336)
- West Calverts House, Grade II (SD 9246 9800)
- West View Cottage, Grade II (NY8877 0208)

Reeth, Fremington & Healaugh:

- A D Cottage, Grade II (SE 0462 9892)
- A D House, Grade II (SE 0463 9892)
- Barney Beck High Bridge, Grade II (SE 0135 9889)
- Draycott Hall, **Grade II*** (SE 0459 9895) **(figure 35)**
- East Raw Croft Farmhouse, Grade II (NZ 0242 0152)
- Fremington Mill, Grade II (SE 0433 9900)
- Garden House northeast of Draycott Hall, Grade II (SE 0468 9904)
- Garden wall to east, north & west of Draycott Hall, Grade II (SE 0461 9903) **(figure 54)**
- Gate piers southeast of Draycott Hall, Grade II (SE 0461 9891)
- Gate piers 10m west of Draycott Hall, Grade II (SE 0456 9895)
- Gate piers 20m west of Draycott Hall, Grade II (SE 0454 9896)
- High Bank House, Grade II (SE 0475 9956)
- Lea House, Grade II (SE 0168 9899)
- Old Castle farmhouse & byre, Grade II (NZ 0310 0098)
- Raw Bank House, Grade II (NZ 0086 0170)
- Reeth Bridge, Grade II (SE 0413 9918)
- Spring Field, Grade II (SE 0451 9897)
- Stable & storage range south of Wood Yard Farmhouse, Grade II (SE 0412 9921)
- Stable block northwest of Draycott Hall, Grade II (SE 0455 9897)
- Stone House & barn, Grade II (NY 8485 0090)
- The Hagg, Grade II (SE 0579 9883)
- The Hagg: stable block, Grade II (SE 0580 9884)
- Townend Hall Farmhouse, Grade II (SE 0380 9965)
- Upnadown, Grade II (SE 0446 9899)
- Weighill's Garage, Grade II (SE 0411 9928)
- West Raw Croft Farmhouse, Grade II (NZ 0229 0161)
- Wing north of Draycott Halll, Grade II (SE 0458 9897)

b) Village Evaluation Sheet

See following pages (also refer to **4.4.e Settlements**)

PLACE	SIZE			VIEW				PLAN & CHARACTER						LAYOUT						ARCHITECTURE							BUILDING TYPES & USES														
	small	medium	large	short distance	long distance	part of landscape	stands out	linear	cluster	compact	dispersed	rural	urban	buildings lining road	front gardens	communal greens	housing estates	buildings ordered	informal arrangement	1 storey	2 storeys	3 storeys	vernacular	polite	town houses	C20	farm	barn	outbuilding	bungalow	semi-detached	cottages	terrace/row	conversion	pub/café/restaurant	church/chapel	community centre	school	shop/retail	other types & uses
Angram	x			x		x		x		x		x		x	x				x	x	x		x			x	x	x	x			x								
Arkle Town	x			x		x		x		x		x		x	x				x	x	x		x				x	x	x			x								
Blades	x				x	x			x		x	x			x	x			x	x	x		x				x	x	x			x		x						
Booze	x				x	x			x	x		x			x				x	x	x		x			x	x	x	x			x								
Crackpot	x			x		x		x		x		x		x	x			x		x	x		x			x	x	x	x	x		x								
Dyke Heads	x				x	x		x			x	x				x		x		x	x		x			x	x	x	x			x								x
Eskeleth	x				x	x		x			x	x			x				x	x	x		x			x	x	x	x		x	x		x						
Feetham	x				x	x		x			x	x		x	x	x		x		x	x	x	x			x	x	x	x			x	x	x	x	x				x
Fremington		x		x		x			x		x	x		x	x				x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x			x		x	
Grinton		x		x		x		x		x		x		x	x			x		x	x		x			x	x		x	x		x		x	x	x				
Gunnerside			x		x	x	x		x	x		x		x	x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x		x		x
Healaugh		x		x		x			x	x		x		x	x	x			x	x		x				x	x	x	x	x		x		x						
Ivelet	x			x		x			x	x		x			x			x		x	x		x			x	x	x	x			x								x
Kearton	x			x		x		x			x	x						x		x	x		x				x	x	x			x								
Keld		x		x		x			x	x		x		x	x				x	x	x		x			x	x	x	x			x	x		x	x				
Langthwaite		x			x	x			x	x		x		x	x	x			x	x	x		x	x		x	x		x		x	x	x	x	x	x				
Low Row		x			x	x		x			x	x		x	x	x		x		x	x		x	x		x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x						x
Low Whita	x				x	x		x			x	x			x			x		x	x		x			x	x	x	x			x								
Muker		x		x		x			x	x		x		x	x	x			x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x	x			x		x	x	x	x		x	x
Reeth			x		x	x	x		x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x
Satron	x				x	x			x	x		x		x				x		x	x		x			x	x	x	x			x		x						
Seal Houses	x				x	x		x			x	x		x	x				x	x	x		x			x	x	x	x			x								
Thwaite		x			x	x			x	x		x		x	x			x		x	x		x	x		x	x	x	x			x	x	x				x	x	
Whaw	x			x		x		x		x		x		x	x			x		x	x	x	x			x	x		x			x	x	x						

currently included in conservation area boundary; currently not included in boundary; *currently not included but conservation area in its own right*

	SURFACES								PUBLIC REALM FEATURES																				NEGATIVE		
PLACE	tarmac	cobbles	flags	(road) kerbing	grass verges	tracks	public footpaths	pavements	phone box	bus shelter	car park	public toilets	war memorial	bridge	milestone/guidepost	street lamp	bench	litter bins	letter box	notice board	mill stone	churn stand	water pump	lime kiln	isolated enclosure	trough/basin	triangular coping	stile	prominent boundary walls	other features	upvc windows/doors	salt bin	telegaph poles
Angram	x	x	x		x		x		x								x		x							x				x			x
Arkle Town	x	x	x	x	x	x	x							x		x			x		x					x	x	x		x	x	x	x
Blades	x		x		x	x	x																		x			x			x		x
Booze				x	x	x																									x		x
Crackpot	x				x																						x				x		x
Dyke Heads	x				x	x											x					x									x		x
Eskeleth	x				x	x	x																					x			x	x	x
Feetham	x	x	x	x	x	x	x									x	x		x								x	x	x		x		x
Fremington	x	x		x	x	x		x		x						x									x		x		x		x		x
Grinton	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x		x		x	x		x		x							x	x	x			x	x	x
Gunnerside	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x		x	x		x		x	x	x	x	x	x					x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Healaugh	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x								x			x						x	x	x	x		x		x
Ivelet	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x																x				x		x		x
Kearton					x	x	x																					x					x
Keld	x	x	x	x	x		x				x	x					x	x	x	x		x									x	x	x
Langthwaite	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x		x	x	x	x		x	x		x	x		x				x					x	x	x
Low Row	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x							x	x		x	x		x				x	x		x		x		x
Low Whita	x	x	x		x	x	x																			x		x	x		x		x
Muker	x	x	x	x	x		x		x		x	x		x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x				x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Reeth	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x					x			x	x		x		x	x	x
Satron	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x													x					x		x		x		x
Seal Houses	x		x		x		x																	x		x	x				x	x	x
Thwaite	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x					x		x	x	x		x						x				x	x	x	x
Whaw	x		x		x	x	x							x					x							x					x	x	x

currently included in conservation area boundary; currently not included in boundary; *currently not included but conservation area in its own right*

c) Contributions of Woodland, Plantations and Trees to the Conservation Area

Blue indicates occurrence as typical landscape characteristics in the Swaledale & Arkengarthdale Barns & Walls Conservation Area; otherwise occurrence as occasional features of local distinctiveness.

	Contribution of semi-natural and native woodland types to landscape
Valley / dale side / dale side scar woodlands	Valley-side woodlands tend to be occasional features that contribute diversity to the landscape character. Where they are more extensive, as over some steeper slopes, they become features of local distinctiveness. Typically dale-side woodlands can appear horizontally banded as they follow the steeper slopes and scars associated with the Yoredale Series of rocks.
Gill woodlands	Gill woods are locally common features of the dale and valley sides, delineating gills and their incised slopes. Gill woods enhance the vertical drainage features, and lead the eye across the slopes between the dale floors and uplands. As components of the usually enclosed dale sides, gill woodlands tend to contribute to a highly patterned mosaic of fields, woodlands and settlement.
Riparian woods and trees	River woodlands, bank scrub, and trees are locally common features of dale and valley floors. Steeply river cut slopes are frequently wooded. Riparian woodlands delineate river courses strengthening these linear features that lead the eye through the valleys and dales.
Scrub	Scattered scrub and scrub woodland occurs frequently over steeper slopes, including scree slopes, and at transitions to upland areas. Scrub contributes diversity to the landscape character and scenery. Scrub also contributes to the apparent naturalness of the landscape.
Juniper scrub	Juniper scrub, which is of special biodiversity interest, occurs in a few specific locations and creates areas of local distinctiveness. Juniper scrub woodlands are often single species and with trees of sculptural forms.
Wood pasture and coppice	Wood pasture and coppice occur for the most part as a historic relict, and often as a component of other dale and valley side woodlands. Wood pasture and coppice are features of local distinctiveness and woodland diversity, which create particular woodland scenery.
'Historic' plantations and estate woodlands	There are concentrations of ornamental and woodland plantings associated with estates and large houses, which are occasional features, usually of the mid and lower dales. These contribute designed quality and ornamentalisation of the landscape and setting of buildings, villages, and towns. The woodlands are often enclosed by estate walls and can be associated with other designed features.

	Contribution of long established and commercial plantations to the landscape
Sycamore groups (and trees)	Sycamore plantations and groups, (and individual shelter trees) are features that commonly associate with the traditional upland and hill farmlands of the mid and upper dales and upland fringes. Often planted as single species groups, (and also specimen trees), sycamore are valued for the shelter they offer against rain, sun, and wind. Their tight-twigged canopies and crisp outline have a uniquely sculptural quality in the landscape. The isolated farmhouse and stand of sycamore trees is a distinctive and iconic landmark of 'classic Dales scenery'.
Settlement shelter plantations, ornamental trees	Specimen trees, tree groups and shelter plantations are common features planted in association with buildings. Trees in and around settlements are important visually: in the setting and composition of buildings in the landscape, back-clothing roofscapes and landmark buildings, and on occasion screening obtrusive elements.
Infield, roadside, boundary trees	Infield, roadside and boundary trees are common features, although tend to occur in particular localities, sometimes in association with formal plantings, or as part of designed or laid out landscapes. Such trees can be of great antiquity, sometimes planted in association with older boundaries, such as ancient hedge banks, or for fodder, such as ash pollards.
Black grouse and game cover	Small shelter plantations of mixed tree and shrub species occur throughout the dales and have been established more recently on the moorland fringe for conservation and sporting interests. These tend to be located in gills. However they can appear incongruous in open upland landscapes, where they are not sited in relation to local topography, and can be small scale isolated blocks.



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