sheilsflynn

Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

Search for potential housing sites: Review of landscape sensitivity assessment

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Annex 3

Landscape sensitivity study: Settlement analysis for Hawes

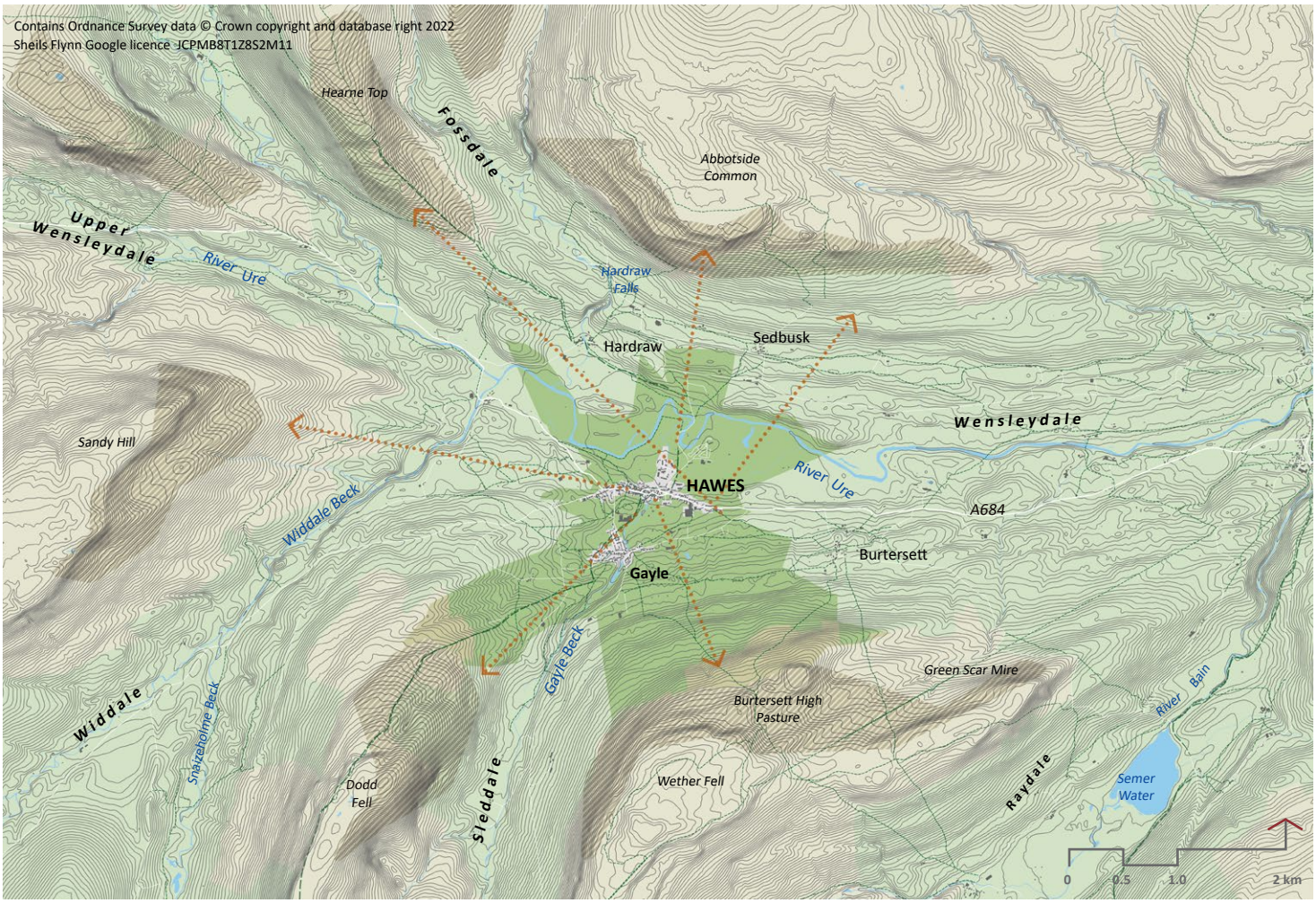
August 2024
Reference no. 497/3/03.3
Revision 3.0

YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park Authority

11 Hawes/Gayle

Figure 11.1

Hawes/Gayle - landscape setting context



Landscape setting

The small market town of Hawes is sited on the undulating southern margins of the River Ure floodplain, alongside the tributary of Gayle Beck. The village of Gayle is a historic mill settlement which developed at a fording point on Gayle Beck just to the south of Hawes. The two settlements share an attractive setting in the broad, sweeping landscape of Upper-Mid Wensleydale.

The twin settlements are at the confluence of several tributary dales: Sleddale (drained by Gayle Beck) is to the south, Widdale to the south west, Upper Wensleydale to the north west and Fossdale to the north. The resulting steep slopes and high summits that have been carved by the tributary streams in the banded rocks of the Yoredale series have created a dramatic and complex topographic setting. There are long views from Hawes-Gayle to the surrounding high fells. The stepped profiles and slab-top summits of Wether Fell and Dodd Fell to the south and Sandy Hill to the west are particularly distinctive. Abbotside Common forms a more solid massif to the north.

Figure 11.1 illustrates this landscape setting and shows the principal ridgelines which form the horizon in views from Hawes and Gayle.

Figure 11.2 provides a more detailed analysis of the landscape setting of Hawes and Gayle, taking account of views into and out from the town and its principal gateway approaches. The areas which are broadly visible in views from and to the town are shown in a darker, brighter tone.

At a local scale, views are contained by the

- Valley farmland
- Protected open upland
  Policy L10 - YDNP Local Plan 2015-2030
- Landscape setting of Hawes/Gayle
  (see Figure 11.2 for detail)
- Settlement
- Contour lines (5m interval)
- Promoted long distance footpaths
- Public rights of way
- Locally important ridgelines
- Key views which describe the overall landscape setting of Hawes/Gayle



Old Gayle Lane and the gateway to Gayle from the east.



Village of Gayle, looking north from Beggarman's Road on the slopes of Wether Fell Side

numerous steep rounded drumlins and post-glacial landforms that are scattered along the River Ure floodplain and lower valley slopes. These rounded landforms, the sequence of waterfalls along Gayle Beck, as it steps down the valley side slopes, and the pepperpot form of Hawes church tower add layers of complexity to local views.

The whole settlement is visible, within its landscape setting, in long, cross dale views southwards from the minor roads between Sedbusk and Hardraw. The Church of St Margaret is a focus in these views, which show the principal clusters of built development, separated by drumlins, along the lower fell slopes.

Gayle Beck bisects and links the two settlements. The open landscape alongside the beck, which is visually contained by several drumlins, is a distinctive and critically important component of the landscape which separates the two settlements of Gayle and Hawes. The Pennine Way follows the lower contours of this central drumlin alongside Gayle Beck to its confluence with the River Ure at Haylands Bridge to the north. This well traversed pedestrian thoroughfare provides a popular connection between the two settlements, with a distinctive sequence of views. The tower of the Church of St Margaret is a frequent visual focus within these views. The local landscape setting of Hawes-Gayle can be subdivided into three distinct components:

The floodplain of the River Ure to the north of Hawes. There are striking views to the meandering river from the A684, but the river channel can only be glimpsed in views from the town as it is contained by a series of drumlins which form an intimate 'landscape edge'.

The former railway line, which follows the southern margins of the floodplain, also contributes to a subtle sense of separation between the main settlement and the industrial area and caravan site on the edge of the floodplain to the north. Two of the floodplain drumlins are distinctive local landmarks - Floshes Hill to the west and The Knolls to the east.

The southern valley edge and the green space which separates Hawes and Gayle - The landscape setting of Hawes is dominated by drumlin-type landforms and influenced by the large buildings associated with the Wensleydale Cheese Factory (which are cut into the side of a drumlin which lies immediately to the south of the town centre) and the livestock market, to the south of the A684. The historic pattern of stone walled fields is a distinctive feature of this central valley side landscape.

The slopes of Wether Fell to the south - Wether Fellside, and the deep open 'bowl' of Sleddale form an upland landscape setting to the hamlet of Gayle. There are stunning long views northwards from the slopes of Wether Fell to the two settlements in which Gayle Beck is visible as a prominent silvery thread as it cuts down, winding through the undulating lower valley slopes, across a broad stone ford in the historic centre of Gayle before stepping down via a sequence of falls en route to Hawes and the River Ure. The pocked and flat broken slabs of limestone bedrock beneath Gayle Beck are exposed when water levels are low.

Analysis

Box 11 sets out the most important (and sensitive) landscape features and elements which contribute to the landscape setting and distinctive character of Hawes and Gayle.

Alongside analysis of the settlements' landscape setting, Figure 11.2 shows the possible development sites which were included in the landscape sensitivity assessment and which were considered to merit further consideration. With reference to these possible development sites, there are opportunities to integrate carefully designed residential development in the following areas:

- The remaining part of the existing Kirkbrides Way development, where development would be well integrated within the existing mix of buildings that front this northern part of Gayle Lane.
- The eastern gateway to Hawes from the A684, where southward views are contained by the steep slopes of a long drumlin and there is an

BOX 11

Valued landscape features and elements within Hawes and Gayle are:

- The sweeping slopes of Wether Fell and Dodd Fell, to the south and west, which form the backdrop to local views and the immediate topographical context for Hawes and Gayle
- The slopes and rounded ridgetops of the drumlins that enclose and frame local views from within the two settlements, particularly Floshes Hill and the Knolls on the River Ure floodplain to the north and the central drumlin that lies between the two settlements.
- The sequence of informal green spaces alongside the Gayle Beck, which are also the setting for the Pennine Way and which provide critically important separation between the two settlements
- The landmark buildings and bridges, which form a sequence of views along the Gayle Beck, including Gayle Bridge, Gayle Mill (a scheduled monument) the Church of St Margarets and Haylands Bridge
- The historic pattern of walled fields on the undulating lower fell slopes
- The groups of mature trees along Gayle Beck, on the slopes of local drumlins and along some local tracks and lanes, which help to contain and structure local views, diminishing the visual impact of the larger buildings on the southern fringes of Hawes



The small walled lanes and cottages in Garris, the western part of Gayle



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Land within broad landscape setting of Hawes and Gayle

Valley farmland (outside landscape setting)

Settlement

Contour lines (5m interval)

Water courses

Structuring drumlin landform which contributes to the character and quality of the landscape setting of Hawes/Gayle

Church tower (upstanding landmarks)

Key views which describe the overall landscape setting of Hawes and Gayle

Promoted long distance routes

Public rights of way

Yorkshire Dales National Park Boundary

Principal vehicular route gateway

Principal recreational route gateway

Important open spaces
Yorkshire Dales Local Plan 2015-2030, Adopted 2016

Potential residential development - landscape sensitivity scores

Search for potential housing sites: landscape sensitivity assessment, Sheils Flynn/YDNPA, March 2022

Sites scored as moderate-high* sensitivity

Sites scored as moderate sensitivity

Sites scored as moderate-low sensitivity

Sites scored as low sensitivity

Sites scored as high or moderate-high sensitivity which have subsequently been excluded from the search for potential housing sites

Former extent of those housing sites scored as moderate-high* in the Landscape Sensitivity Assessment which have been reduced to reflect their partial suitability for development

Figure 11.2

Hawes/Gayle - Settlement analysis

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August 2024