Woodland Siting and Design Guide



YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park Authority

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About the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

The Yorkshire Dales National Park is one of 15 National Parks in the UK.

It is administered by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, which has two main purposes: "to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage" and “to promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the National Park". In carrying out these purposes, the Authority has a duty "to seek to foster the economic and social well being of local communities".

The National Park Authority comprises 22 members, made up of county and district councillors and members appointed by the Secretary of State for the Environment to represent parishes or in recognition of their specialist skills or knowledge.

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Front cover image:
Stands Wood, Langstrothdale
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Introduction

The purpose of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA) *Woodland Siting and Design Guidance* is to encourage the creation of woodlands and plantations that contribute positively to the landscape character and scenery of the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

An understanding of landscape character underpins the document, both at the broader scale of landscape character types, and recognising the finer grain that creates local distinctiveness and sense of place for the Yorkshire Dales. Information for this has been drawn from the published YDNPA Landscape Character Assessments (2001), alongside further landscape development work.

The Yorkshire Dales landscape has an unusually fine grain of character. Conserving and enhancing the patterns of woodland is important for maintaining this diverse scenery, as well as being beneficial to biodiversity.

This guidance aims to help those considering planting a woodland or making alterations to existing woodlands to ensure that the woodland design fits into the existing landscape.

Information sources

In developing this woodland guidance, key reference has been made to the Forestry Commission's *Consultative Draft Forests and Landscape Guidelines (2009)*, circulated as part of the review of the UK Forestry Standard. The Forestry Commission's *Small Farm Woodlands Design Guidance* has also been referred to, and the principle of developing guidance based on landscape character is fundamental to this guidance.

Section one: overview of woodland contributions

This section provides an overview of the contributions woodland planting, commercial plantations and individual trees and hedges can have on the landscape.

How does woodland enhance the Dales landscape?

Trees and woodlands make a significant contribution to the landscape character, the scenic quality and the local distinctiveness of the Dales landscape.

Establishing new woodlands has the potential to both reinforce and extend existing woodland patterns, as well as create new patterns that are well sited and enhance the landscape.

The main factors in establishing good 'landscape fit' in the Dales are:

- topography and the relationship to slopes, outcrops and features
- existing woodland character and pattern
- field and enclosure pattern.

A good woodland is...

attractive in its own right and contributes to visual diversity and to people's enjoyment of the seasons

great for providing shelter and improving general amenity

beneficial in scenic compositions, framing views, providing a visual accent for features such as waterfalls and as a backdrop to buildings and other structures

useful for providing a setting for developments and softening their impacts.

A poor woodland can...

if planted in large blocks, detract from the open scenery and unspoilt qualities of the uplands, which contribute to the sense of wildness

simplify landscapes by obscuring or coalescing landscape pattern, hiding smaller scale intricate landscapes such as those found along dale floors and adjacent to villages

obscure historic patterns and features that are often important to local distinctiveness and contribute to landscape character

screen significant views or obscure landmark features and their settings.

Current motivations for woodland creation

Agri-environment schemes – Woodland planting, including gill and riverside planting, is encouraged to strengthen habitat networks and to act as buffer strips to reduce nutrient run off.

To achieve the local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) targets. In order to meet habitat targets in the LBAP, there is a need to expand native woodland including upland mixed Ashwood, wet woodland, upland Oak and lowland mixed deciduous woodland, along with Juniper. Two specific LBAP species that benefit from woodland creation are:

Black Grouse – Planting scrub and creating open tree cover is encouraged.

Red Squirrel – Planting of small-seeded and cone-bearing species is encouraged in Red Squirrel areas.

Climate change adaptation and mitigation – Reinforcing and extending woodland networks to benefit wildlife and allow adaptation to changes in the climate is becoming increasingly important.

Flood mitigation – Gill and riverside planting improves bank stabilisation, helps to slow flood waters and reduces in-channel particle deposition.

Quarry restoration – New woodlands are part of plans to reduce the visual impact of quarry activity and enhance the landscape.

Community woodlands – for recreation, wildlife or woodfuel.

Setting for developments – appropriate woodland planting softens the impacts of development.

Sporting interests – encourages planting of shelter woodland at the moorland transition.

Many larger commercial forestry plantations are currently undergoing or approaching felling and restock, therefore there are some opportunities to review plantations within the landscape.

A summary of existing woodland and its contribution to the landscape

TABLE 1	Contribution of semi-natural and native woodland types to landscape
Valley/ dale side/ scar woodlands	Valley-side woodlands tend to be occasional features that give diversity to the landscape character and scenery. Where they are more extensive, as occurs over some locally 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 common features of the dale and valley sides, emphasising gills and their incised slopes. Gill woods enhance the vertical drainage features and lead the eye up the slopes between the dale floors and uplands. As part 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 follow river courses and strengthen these linear river features that lead the eye through the valleys and dales.
Wet woods	Wet woods are relatively infrequent features of the dales and occur over wet dale floors, often associated with water bodies, rivers and occasional lakes. As such, where they occur they are features of local distinctiveness. Generally organic in shape and relating to river and lake banks, fens and wet areas, they contribute to the apparent naturalness of areas.
Scrub	Scattered scrub and scrub woodland occur 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 is of special biodiversity interest due to its national rarity and occurs as juniper scrub in a few specific locations, creating areas of local distinctiveness. Juniper scrub woodlands are often single species and with individual trees of sculptural forms.
Wood pasture and coppice	Wood pasture and coppice are infrequent woodland types that occur, for the most part, as a historic relict and often as a component of other dale and valley side woodlands. They are features of local distinctiveness and woodland diversity, which create particular woodland scenery.
New native woodlands	New native woodlands have been established in the farmed dales and valleys, mostly in association with gills and steeper slopes. The new woodlands are able to make a positive contribution to the landscape where they conserve and enhance the existing pattern of woodland and when they follow the good principles of siting and design in relation to topography and the pattern of enclosure.

TABLE 2	Contribution of long-established and commercial plantations to the landscape
'Historic' plantations and estate woodlands	There are concentrations of ornamental and woodland plantings associated with estates and grand 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.
Sycamore groups and trees	Sycamore plantations and groups, including individual trees, are features commonly associated with traditional upland and hill farmlands of the mid and upper dales and upland fringes. Often on their own or planted in small groups, sycamore are valued for the shelter they offer against rain, sun and wind. Their tight-twigged canopies and crisp outline have a unique sculptural quality in the landscape. The isolated farmhouse and stand of sycamore trees are 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.
Farm woodlands, shelter belts	Farm woodlands and shelter belts are common features. Mixed broadleaf and/or coniferous plantations that generally run along field boundaries are components of the mosaic of fields, woodlands and settlement in the farmed mid and lower dales. Note: In upper dales and at the transition to uplands, such woodlands often align with gills and reinforce existing gill woodlands.
Commercial plantations	Medium to larger scale commercial conifer plantations are features of some dales and upland watersheds. Where they do occur they are prominent in the landscape and can become defining landscape characteristics. They are usually considered detractors from landscape character and scenic qualities – geometric in shape, generally poorly integrated with the lie of the land, obscuring patterns of former land use and detail landscape features. However, a number of commercial plantations are valuable as habitats and reserves for red squirrels.
Black grouse and game cover	Small shelter plantations of mixed tree and shrub species 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 aren't sited in relation to local topography and can be small scale isolated blocks.

A summary of existing woodland and its impression on the landscape continued

TABLE 3 Contribution of trees and hedges to the landscape

Whilst not the subject of this siting and design guidance, the contribution of trees and hedges to the landscape is considerable and must be considered alongside woodlands. Woodlands are often appreciated as part of a mosaic of woodland cover, which is likely to include trees and hedges.

In some areas, the use of hedges as boundaries, or the specific planting of feature boundary trees, may be possible within new schemes, or as existing features to retain and manage, for their contribution to the landscape.

Yew trees	Yew trees are occasional features of limestone scars, which make a strong and picturesque contribution to the scenery as isolated and dark trees clearly visible seen in silhouette against the outcrops. The trees introduce scale elements and enhance the drama of scars and cliffs, where they cling on crevices and in cracks.
Hedges with in-field and boundary trees	Hedges and associated boundary trees are locally common features of the valleys, delineating the field pattern and contributing to a well-wooded character. With a distinct distribution pattern, hedges often relate to the enclosure of historic fields. As components of the enclosed dale sides and floors, hedges tend to create a highly patterned mosaic of fields, woodlands and settlement.
Parkland, avenues, veteran trees	Parkland, avenues and veteran trees are infrequent features but are associated, where they occur, with grand houses and formal farmsteads, more usually of the mid and lower dales. These contribute a significant designed quality and ornamentalisation of the countryside, and setting of buildings, villages, and towns. Where they occur along roadsides they create a formal quality.
Sycamore trees	Sycamore trees are features that are commonly associated with the traditional upland and hill farmlands of the mid and upper dales and upland fringes. See also above: Sycamore groups.
Ornamental trees	Specimen trees 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 and planted as specimen trees such as on village greens.

Section two: siting and design of woodlands in typical Dales landscapes

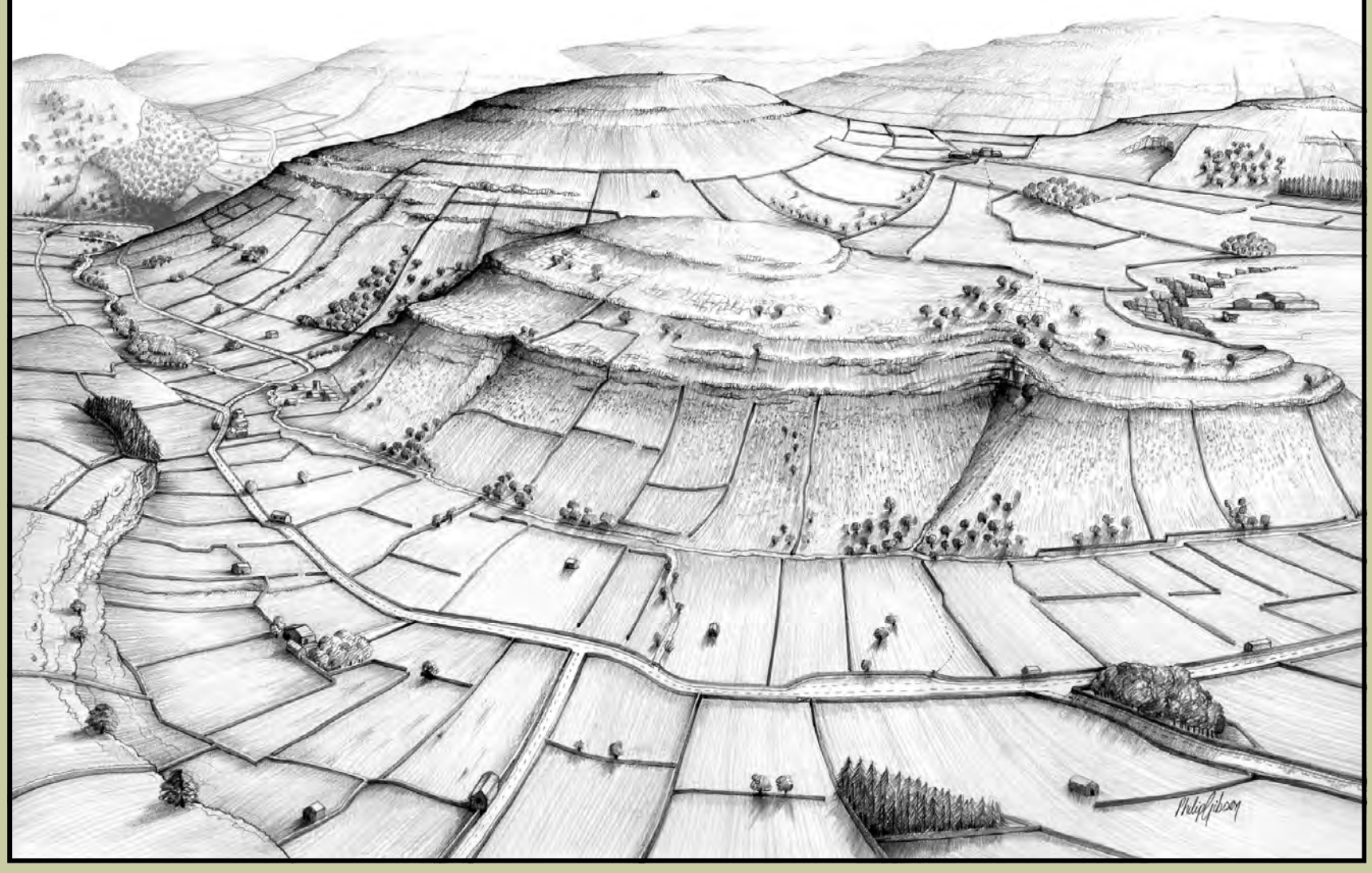
Through the use of illustrations of ‘typical landscapes’, good locations for planting have been highlighted. These ‘typical landscapes’ are based on: limestone fells and dales, main and tributary dales, moors and upland dales, Howgill Fells, fringe farmland and valleys.

Limestone fells and dales

Woodlands and the landscape character

Woodlands and scrub are an important component of landscape and scenic diversity and as features of local distinctiveness. Woodlands can enhance the composition of landscape features and add visual definition to topographic structures. The limestone fells and dales are characterised by the predominance of karst landscapes and features. These include expansive fell tops and pavements, limestone pastures, limestone benches, scars and screes around dale sides, limestone gills and dry valleys, and smaller features such as shake holes, potholes, and caves. Historic and active quarries are significant landscape features in the limestone fells and dales. These limestone landscapes are more typically open, which allows outcropping limestone to make a dominant visible contribution.

Limestone fells and dales pre-planting



Limestone fells and dales post-planting



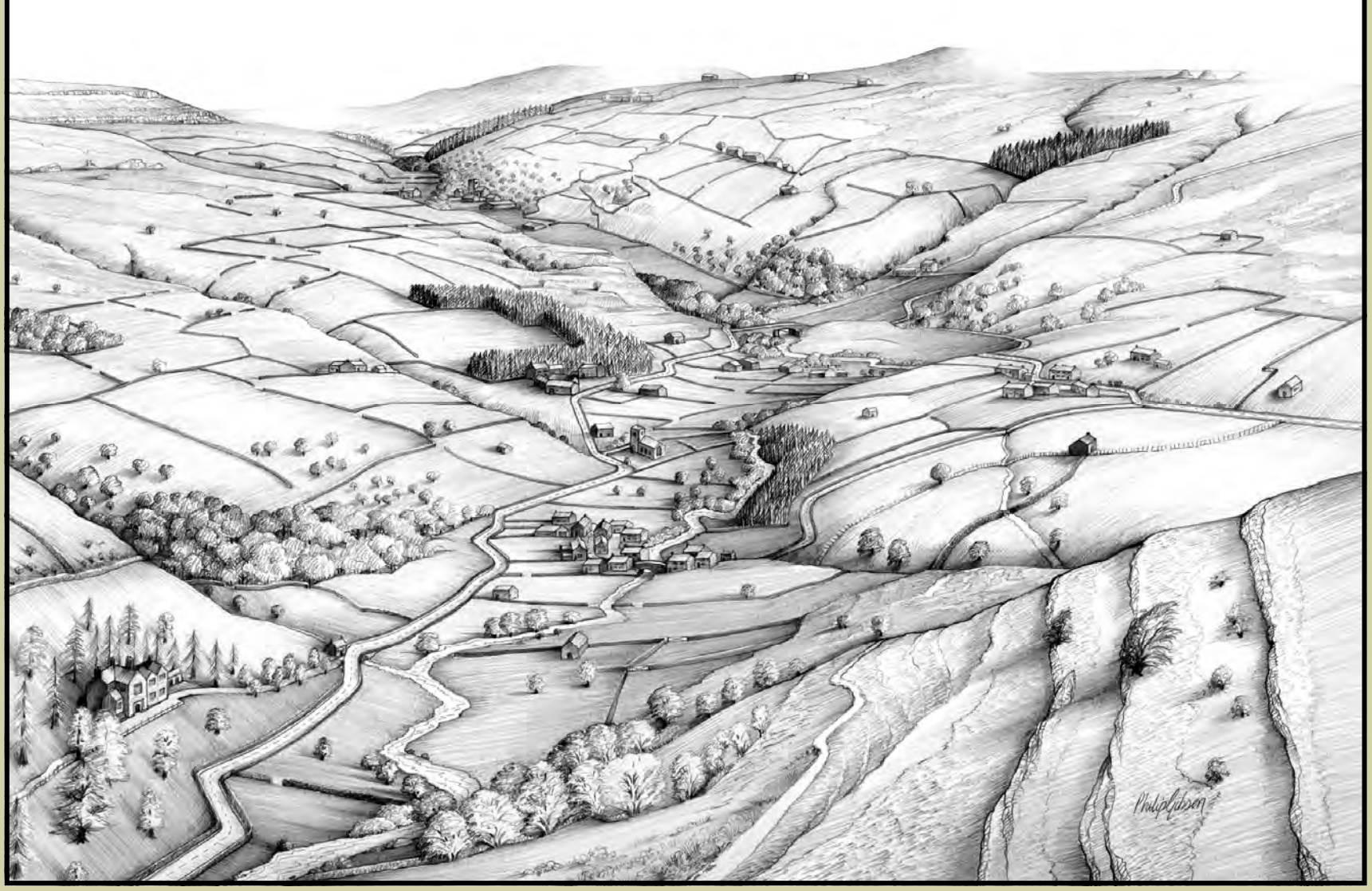
D	**Fell tops and pavements – open with occasional scrub** Aim: Maintain the expansive qualities and visible contribution of limestone/karst features to landscape character and the distinctive scenery.	**D1** Manage and extend natural areas of scrub, juniper, and open woodlands. **D2** Encourage regeneration of scrub, juniper, and open woodland that relate to locally-enclosed landform or is sited off visually prominent edges.
E	**Limestone allotment and fell pastures – open with historic shelter and coniferous plantations** Aim: Conserve the patterned quality of the enclosed farmland. Conserve and enhance the naturalness of open pastures.	**E1** Manage existing historic shelter belts and plantings and maintain drystone enclosures. **E2** Remove or restructure more recent coniferous plantations: naturalise margins, incorporate broadleaves, scrub and open ground. **E3** Establish new small-scale shelter planting associated with existing plantations and farmsteads. Preferably enclose with drystone walls. **E4** Manage and extend natural areas of scrub where it occurs.
F	**Limestone benches, scars and screes – occasional native scrub and woodland** Aims: Maintain the visible contribution of limestone/karst features to landscape character and the distinctive scenery. Conserve and enhance the natural qualities of dale side scrub and woods.	**F1** Manage and extend natural areas of scrub, juniper, and open woodlands where they occur. **F2** Encourage regeneration of scrub, juniper, and open woods that visually emphasise the striated character of limestone bedding and are sited off visually prominent edges and scars. **F3** Protect special landmark yew trees and encourage regeneration where possible.
G	**Limestone gills, gorges, dry valleys, reef knolls – open with gill woodlands** Aim: Conserve and enhance the visible contribution of limestone/karst features to landscape character and the distinctive scenery. Conserve and enhance the natural qualities of gill woodlands.	**G1** Manage and extend existing gill woodlands and establish new ones. Avoid limestone cliffs, scars, screes and other karst features when they are significant landmarks **G2** Enhance the visibility and visual composition of landscape features with sensitive planting.
H	**Historic and active quarries** Aim: Re-integrate large-scale, engineered landforms into the lie of the land. Maintain visible features of geodiversity, historic interest and landscape diversity, such as cliff faces, special outcrops and limekilns.	**H1** Manage and extend existing areas of ancient or naturally regenerated woodland as a setting for quarries, screening any obtrusive elements, controlling access, and re-integrating the quarry within the surrounding topographic structures or land-use pattern. **H2** Site and design new woodland elements of quarry restoration plans to re-integrate the quarries within the existing pattern of woodland distribution and distinctive types, or, in predominantly open landscapes, to fit with the local topography and land-use pattern.
I	**Farmed and enclosed limestone dales – occasional farm woodlands** Aim: Conserve and enhance the patchwork visual quality of the farmland, the barns and walls scenery where it occurs.	**I1** Introduce new, small-scale plantings that sit within the existing field pattern. **I2** Concentrate new riparian woodlands adjacent to the river banks. Avoid river meadows.

Moors and upland dales

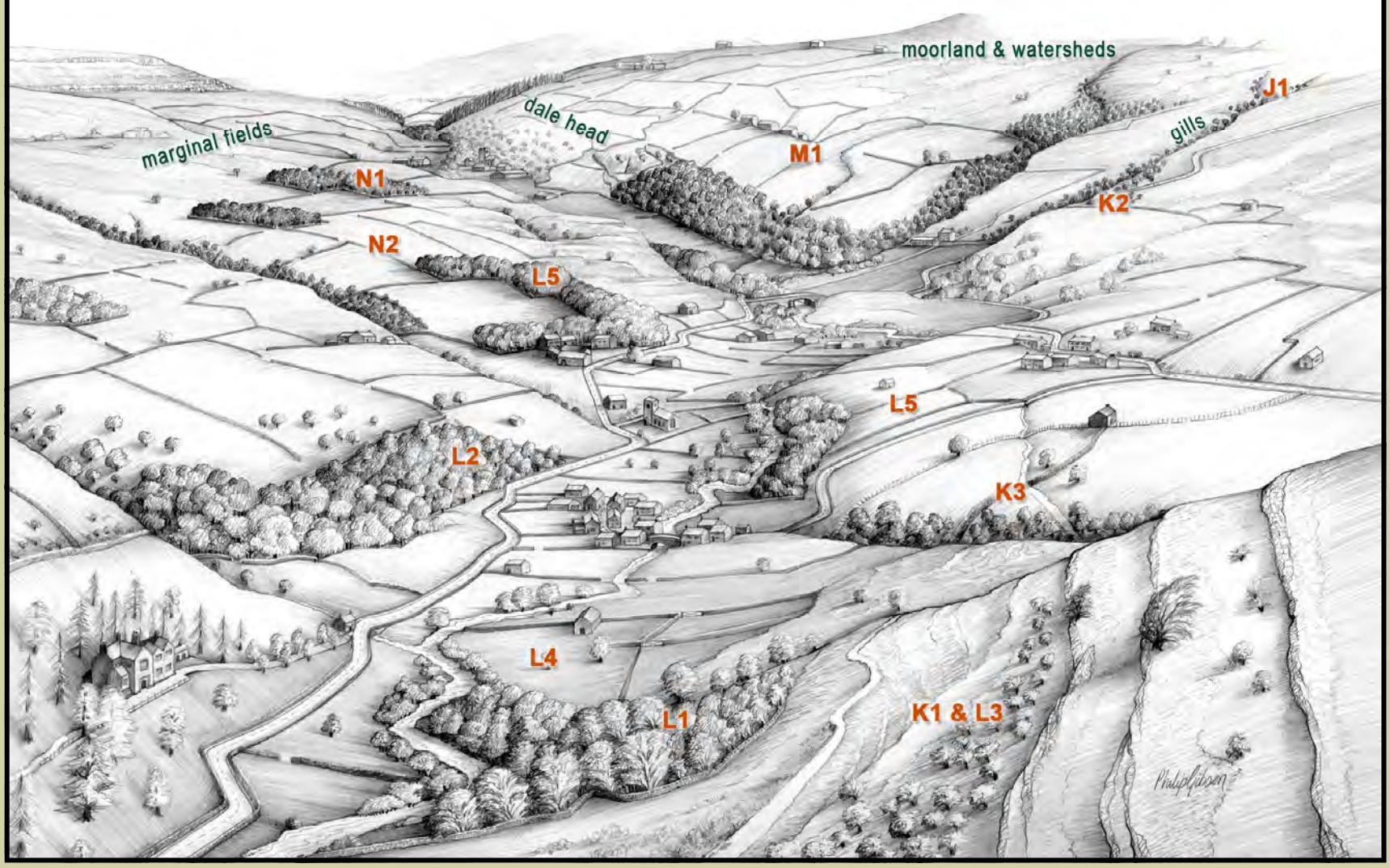
Woodlands and the landscape character

The Yorkshire moors and upland dales are elevated landscapes. The gritstone plateaux tops and broad, peaty watersheds tend to be expansive and exposed uplands. Where limestone outcrops, it tends to be in localised pockets, such as occasional pavements, or thinly-soiled limestone pastures. However, shakeholes are common features. The moorland fringe and dale heads are marginal land, with isolated hill farms, high intakes and fields. These are often sited corresponding to better limestone-related conditions. Occasional groups and belts of shelter planting are characteristic of these areas and make an important contribution to landscape character and the scenery. Gills and valleys cut back in to the uplands and provide localised shelter within which woodlands can thrive. These areas often have pockets of limestone features, cliffs and screes. Scrub and woodland areas remain as occasional relicts and regenerate over steeper slopes, where grazing pressures are less intense. Some high-level farms, units and allotments have been afforested with commercial plantations that extend over upper dale sides and across watersheds, and have an adverse impact on the landscape.

Moors and upland dales pre-planting



Moors and upland dales post-planting



J	**Moorlands and watersheds – open with occasional commercial plantations** Aim: Conserve and enhance the apparently natural and expansive qualities of moorlands and watersheds.	**J1** Remove or restructure commercial plantations, avoid incongruous blocks on skylines and across watersheds, integrate plantations with the lie of the land, naturalise margins and incorporate broadleaves, scrub and open ground.
K	**Dale heads and moorland fringe – open, with patchy scrub, historic plantations, cover woods** Aim: Conserve and enhance the contrast between the smaller-scale, humanised dale landscapes and the more expansive and apparently natural uplands.	**K1** Manage and extend natural areas of scrub and woodland. **K2** Site new native woodlands and scrub that relate to locally-enclosed landforms and steeper slopes. If they are open in character, site with feathered upper margins to relate to the larger-scale uplands. **K3** Plant cover woodlands around gills and becks at the moorland fringe, and relate design to the local topography.
L	**Upland farmed dales, enclosed dale sides – farm shelter woodland, and occasional afforestation** Aim: Conserve the patterned, visual quality of the farmland and, in particular, the barns and walls scenery typical in the upper dales.	**L1** Manage existing historic shelter belts and plantings and maintain drystone wall enclosures. **L2** Introduce new, small-scale plantings that sit within the existing field pattern and generally adjoin existing woodlands and/or hedges. **L3** Establish new scrub and woodlands through scrubbing up or planting over steeper slopes. Avoid obscuring predominantly open, limestone cliffs, scars, screes and other karst features where they are significant landscape features. **L4** Concentrate new riparian woodlands adjacent to river banks or to relate to locally-enclosed valley landform. Avoid river meadows. **L5** Remove or restructure commercial plantations to meet siting and design guidance, avoid incongruous blocks on skylines and across watersheds, integrate plantations with the lie of the land, naturalise margins and incorporate broadleaves, scrub and open ground.
M	**Gills and valleys – gill and valley-side woods** Aim: Conserve and enhance the natural qualities of gill and valley-side woods.	**M1** Manage and extend existing gill and valley-side woodlands and establish new ones over steeper, unenclosed slopes. Avoid limestone cliffs, scars, screes, and other karst features where they are significant landscape features.
N	**Marginal and historic fields through upper dales and dale heads – loss of field pattern** Aim: Retain visual pattern and diversity in areas of agricultural extensification.	**N1** Create small woodlands within the traditional field pattern. **N2** Extend or create new gill woodlands to spread up slope.

Main and tributary dales

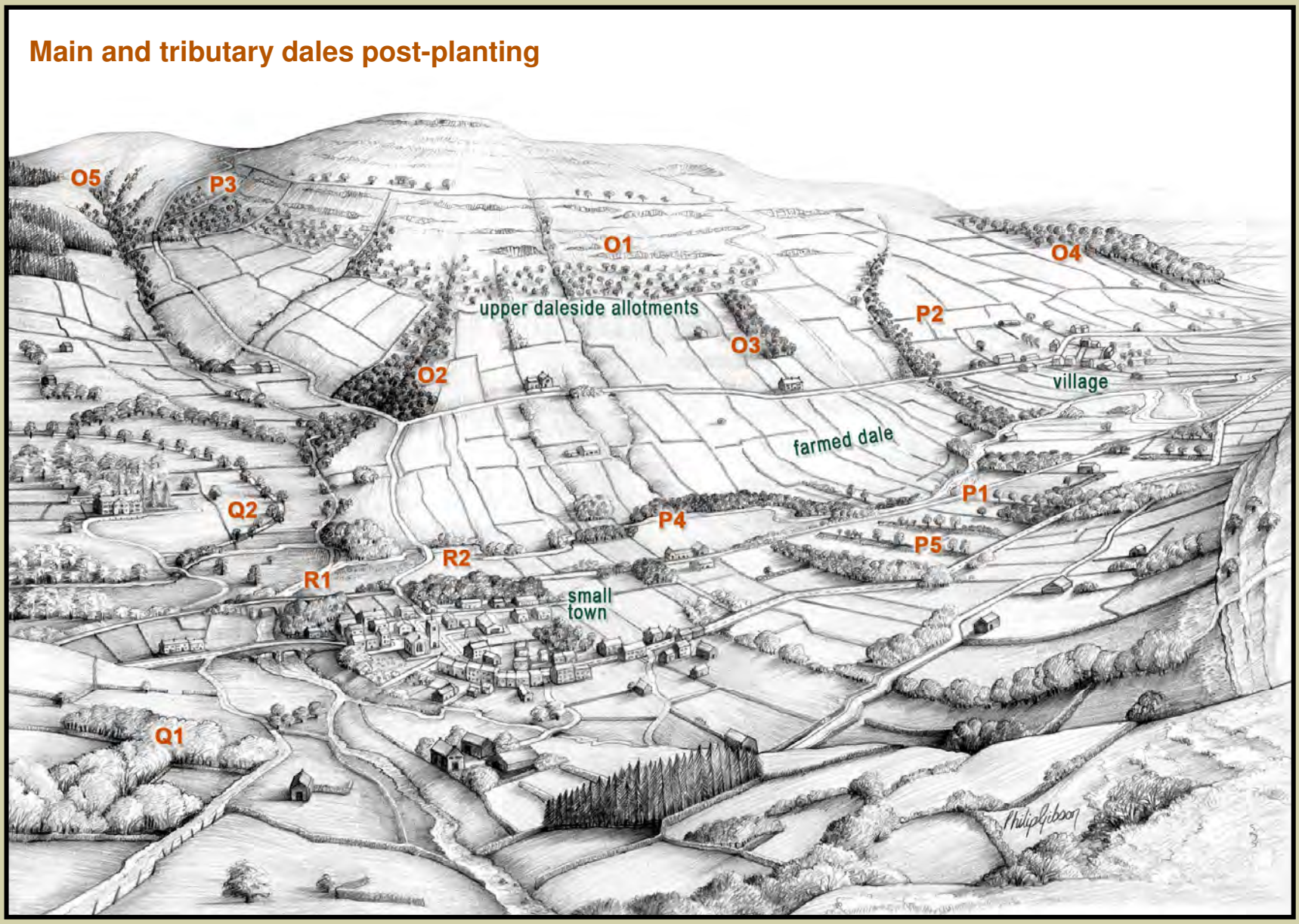
Woodlands and the landscape character

The main and tributary dales are farming landscapes but have a diverse range of tree and woodland cover, particularly over steeper dale slopes and scars, along the rivers and gills, farm woodlands, hedges, boundary and in-field trees, shelter and ornamental plantings associated with estates, and trees in and around villages. Woodlands contribute to the mosaic pattern of the enclosed and settled dales landscape. The wide variety of types and particular distribution patterns of trees and woodlands are elements of local distinctiveness.

Main and tributary dales pre-planting



Main and tributary dales post-planting



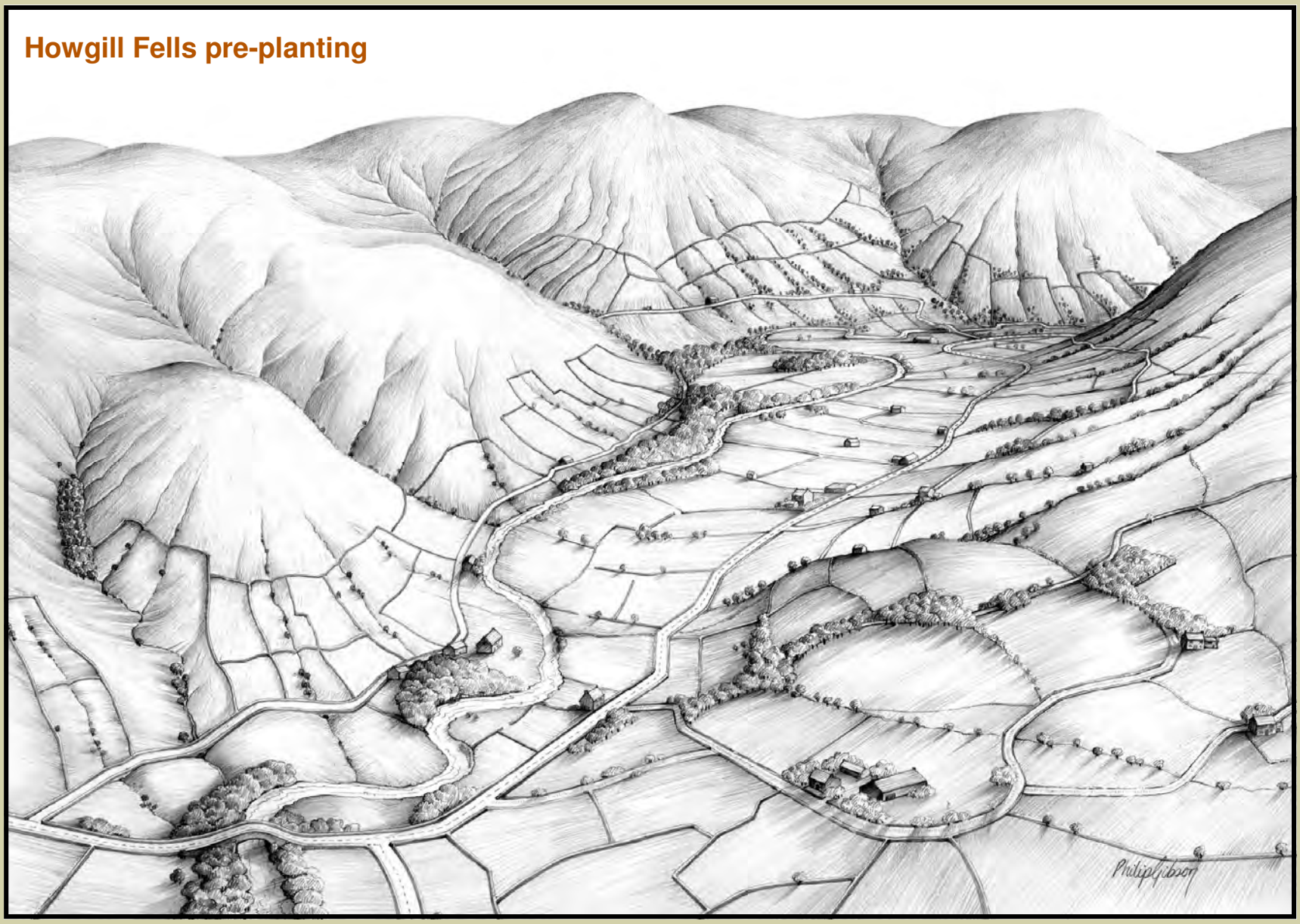
O	**Upper dale-side allotments and open moorland fringe – patchy scrub, historic plantations, commercial plantations, cover woods** (see also moors and upland dales for more detail). Aim: Conserve and enhance the contrast between the smaller-scale, humanised dale landscapes and the more expansive uplands. Naturalise the moorland fringe.	**O1** Manage and extend natural areas of scrub and woodland where it occurs. **O2** Potential to site new native woodlands and scrub that either relate to locally enclosed landforms or are open in character and with feathered upper margins to relate to the larger-scale uplands. **O3** Manage existing, historic shelter belts and maintain drystone wall enclosures. **O4** Remove or restructure commercial plantations, avoid incongruous blocks on skylines and across watersheds, integrate plantations with the lie of the land, naturalise margins and incorporate broadleaves and open ground. **O5** Site cover woodlands around gills and becks at the moorland fringe and relate design to the local topography.
P	**Farmed and enclosed main and tributary dale sides and floors – farm woodland and hedges** Aims: Maintain and enhance the visible contribution of the distinctive, stepped landform of the Yoredale Series to wider landscape character. Conserve and enhance the patchwork landscape of the farmland and the barns and walls scenery, where it occurs. Stabilise river banks and maintain the visibility of the natural river forms and any 'fossil' channels.	**P1** Introduce new, small-scale plantings that sit within the existing field pattern and generally adjoin existing woodlands and/or hedges. **P2** Manage and extend existing gill woodlands and establish new ones. **P3** Manage existing dale side and dale side scar woodlands, including wood pasture and coppice. Establish new woodland areas through scrubbing up or plantings over steeper less intensively managed slopes. Avoid meadow land. **P4** Concentrate new riparian woodlands adjacent to the river banks, or to relate to locally-enclosing valley landform. Stabilise natural banks and maintain the natural river form through 'bio-engineering' and/or land use options, including riparian woodland and bank trees. Avoid river meadows. **P5** Manage existing, and, where appropriate to local landscape character, establish new hedge rows, boundary and in-field trees. Retain trees as standing and fallen deadwood habitats and landscape features.
Q	**Estate wood and farmed lands – estate woodlands, ornamental plantings** Aim: Conserve and enhance the designed and ornamentalised visual qualities of estate lands.	**Q1** Manage existing estate woodlands and historic plantations and maintain drystone wall enclosures. **Q2** Manage trees of ornamental avenue and parkland plantings and initiate phased replacement planting and felling when required. Retain trees as standing and fallen deadwood habitats and landscape features.
R	**Community/amenity woodlands – shelter and ornamental plantings** Aim: Manage existing and establish new woodlands and trees as landscape features in and around villages, hamlets and farms where appropriate to landscape character.	**R1** Manage existing woodlands and historic plantations and maintain drystone wall enclosures. **R2** Where appropriate to local landscape character and scenic qualities, establish new woodland of a suitable type.

Howgill Fells, fringe farmland and valleys

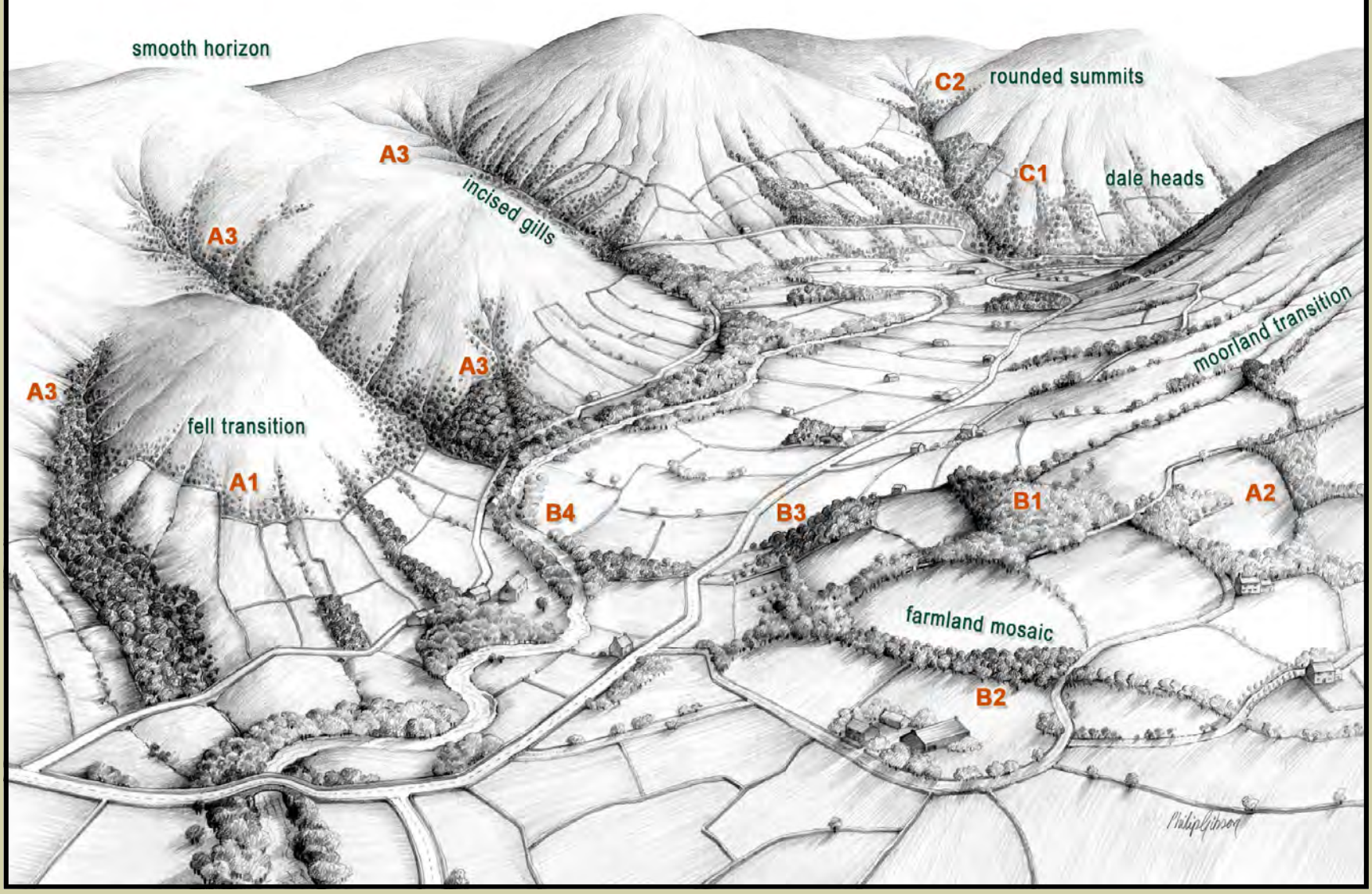
Woodlands and the landscape character

A key characteristic of the Howgill Fells and their surrounding fringe farmlands is the strong contrast. There is sharp definition between the simple, larger-scale, exposed fell landscape dominated by smooth convex landforms and more complex and humanised enclosed valley and drumlin landscapes with mosaics of fields, woodlands and dispersed farms. Woodland contributes to this clear distinction through a marked absence in the fells and relative density and diversity of types through the valleys.

Howgill Fells pre-planting



Howgill Fells post-planting



A	**Howgill Fells and valley moorland transitions – open landscapes** Aim: Retain the bold simplicity of uplands where landform dominates landscape character.	**A1** Potential to site native woodlands and scrub of an open character: relate the scale of woodland to broad, sweeping lower and mid slopes and feather upper margins of open woodland or scrub. **A2** Plant cover woodlands around gills and becks at the moorland fringe and relate design to the local topography. **A3** Extend existing and establish new gill woodlands up slopes, incised gills and the valleys that cut back in to the Howgill massife 'interior'.
B	**Fell fringe farmland and valley – mosaic of woodland and hedges** Aim: Conserve and enhance the patchwork landscape of the farmland.	**B1** Introduce new, small-scale plantings that sit within the existing field pattern and generally adjoin existing woodlands and/or hedges. **B2** Plant up gills and becks that cross fields to reinforce the small-scale grain of the landscape. **B3** Establish new woodlands through scrubbing up, natural regeneration or plantings over steeper slopes. **B4** Concentrate new riparian woodlands adjacent to the river banks, or to relate to locally-enclosing valley landform. Avoid river meadows.
C	**Upper slopes, valley and dale heads – loss of field pattern** Aim: Retain visual pattern and diversity in areas of agricultural extensification.	**C1** Create small woodlands within the traditional field pattern. **C2** Extend or create new gill woodlands to spread up slope.

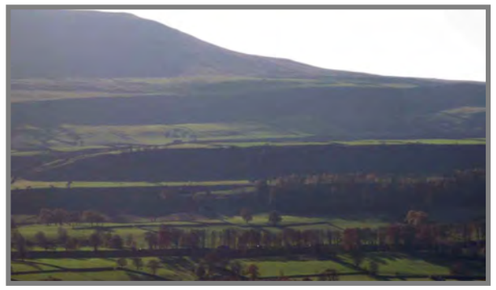
Section three: sensitivities to forestry and woodlands

This section shows aspects of topography and existing woodland character. It also considers field patterns, the historic environment and important views that would be sensitive to woodland planting, and sets out scenarios to avoid.

Topography and geodiversity

Maintain the visible contribution of distinctive geomorphological landscapes and features to the landscape character, visual and scenic quality.

Stepped Yoredale Series, dale sides and upper slopes



Avoid large scale and dense woodlands that obscure the distinctive landscape grain.

Avoid woodlands that are not sited in response to breaks of slope – favour wooded, steeper slopes.

Summits, moors and watersheds



Avoid interrupting simple sweeping slopes, summits and horizon lines.

Specifically avoid breaking the skyline with plantation margins.

Avoid introducing scale references that could diminish the grandeur and expansiveness of the open uplands and moors.

Restructure existing, and avoid introducing, geometric blocks over unenclosed slopes, watersheds and summits.

Drumlin fields and local moraine features

Avoid large areas of new woodland that extend across drumlin fields, where they are key landscape characteristics or features of local distinctiveness, or where woodland would obscure specific local details.

Waterfalls

Avoid planting that either obscures the immediate setting of waterfalls or screens views from roads or footpaths.

Local geological and geomorphological sites

Avoid woodland and scrub that obscure features of specific geodiversity interest or that have conservation value.

Natural river forms and 'fossil' river channels



Avoid woodland planting that obscures the immediate setting or views over dale floors where natural or 'fossil' channels make a contribution to landscape character and the scenery.

Limestone/karst landscapes: limestone fells and pavements, limestone benches and dale-side scars



Avoid large-scale and dense woodland establishment that obscures the distinctive landscape character.

Avoid scrub or woodland cover/establishment over significant, visually-exposed slopes and edges where limestone outcrops are landmarks and features of local distinctiveness.

Avoid extensive and dense scrub or woodland cover/establishment that obscures visually significant outcropping limestone pavements.

Limestone/karst features: limestone cliffs, scars, screes, gorges, reef knolls and dry valleys

Avoid dense woodland establishment that obscures limestone and karst features.

Maintain important local open landscapes.

Avoid woodland planting that extend over reef knolls and their surroundings.

Existing woodland character and pattern

Maintain diverse woodland types and distinctive patterns that contribute to the landscape character and its visual and scenic qualities. Conserve important open landscapes.

Predominantly open landscapes

Avoid extensive woodland cover in open landscapes valued for their scenic qualities and expansive character.



Predominantly open landscapes

Avoid geometric plantations that appear incongruous in predominantly open landscapes.



Mosaics of fields and woodlands

Avoid areas of woodland that coalesce the pattern of fields and woodlands and that obscure the contribution of individual woodland types to landscape character and local distinctiveness.



Field and enclosure pattern

Maintain the contribution of field and enclosure patterns to the landscape character and its visual and scenic qualities.

Upper dale-side allotments, intakes, and moorland fringe

Avoid plantations or woodlands that obscure traditional features of the farmed landscape.

Avoid geometric plantations that extend on to the moorland fringe.

Avoid incongruous, small-scale and geometric woodlands on the moorland fringe.



Enclosed dale side and dale floor farmlands

Avoid large areas of new woodland that extend across fields and obscure the pattern of enclosure, in particular the contribution of barns and walls scenery where it occurs, and details of local topography.

Avoid areas of new woodland that infill small-scale fields and meadows along rivers.



Marginal fields over dale sides, moorland transitions, valley and dale heads

Avoid large-scale plantations or woodland blocks through marginal areas that would obscure the historic pattern of land use and traditional boundary features.



Historic environment

Maintain the integrity of larger-scale, historic landscapes and distinctive historic patterns that contribute to landscape character, visual and scenic qualities. Conserve open settings to individual monuments and historic remains and maintain their visibility as landmarks.

Historic fields as part of today's farmed landscape

Avoid extensive woodland planting through landscapes where historic fields define the landscape character or local distinctiveness.

Avoid planting that obscures cultivation strips, such as lynchets, and rig and furrow.



Fields associated with historic villages

Avoid woodland planting that coalesce the pattern of historic fields around villages where they are landscape characteristics, or features of local distinctiveness.



Designed landscapes and ornamental plantings

Avoid woodland that obscures either the pattern or detail features of designed and laid out landscapes, or Improvement Landscapes.



Mining landscapes and features

Avoid extensive woodland that obscures historic mining landscapes, or smaller areas that screen spoil heaps, individual features, structures and their settings.



Historic quarries and limekilns

Avoid new woodland planting or scrubbing up of quarries that will obscure visible features of historic or geodiversity interest.

Avoid scrubbing up over visible historic structures, such as limekilns.

Other historic monuments and their settings

Avoid planting that either obscures the immediate setting of historic monuments or screens views from roads or footpaths.

Relict land use and settlement patterns

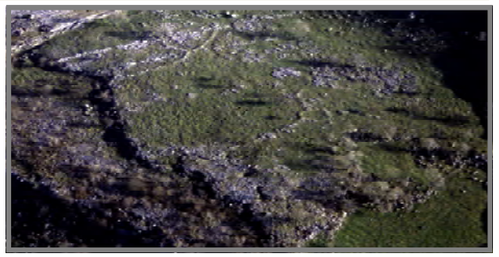
Avoid extensive woodland planting in landscapes where relict land use and settlement patterns (and associated historic features such as hollow ways) are defining landscape characteristics or features of local distinctiveness.

Avoid scrubbing up of limestone pavements through relict field systems and settlements and their settings.



Historic routes, hollow ways

Avoid woodland planting that obscures hollow ways or interrupts their integrity as features in the landscape.







Important views

Maintain important open views that contribute to people's access to and experience of landscape character, visual and scenic quality.

Iconic and other significant viewpoints

Avoid new woodland planting or scrubbing up that obscures significant viewpoints.



Outlook from routes

Avoid extensive new woodland planting or scrubbing up that screens the outlook from routes either along significant stretches or from key points.



Setting of landmarks and other landscape features

Avoid planting that either obscures the immediate setting of regional or local landmarks or screens views from roads or footpaths to them.



Section four: other design issues

This section includes information on how fences, ground preparation and tree guards can have negative impacts on the landscape if not taken into consideration.

Fencing and walls

Existing woodlands are usually enclosed by the traditional boundary features of the farmed landscape, predominantly drystone walls, with hedges locally. More recent plantations additionally have deer fencing, although they are usually sited within the former pattern of fields or upland allotments.

New fencing for woodland areas, during establishment and in to the longer term, can have a significant impact on the landscape. However, there are some simple siting and design principles that can reduce the visual impact.

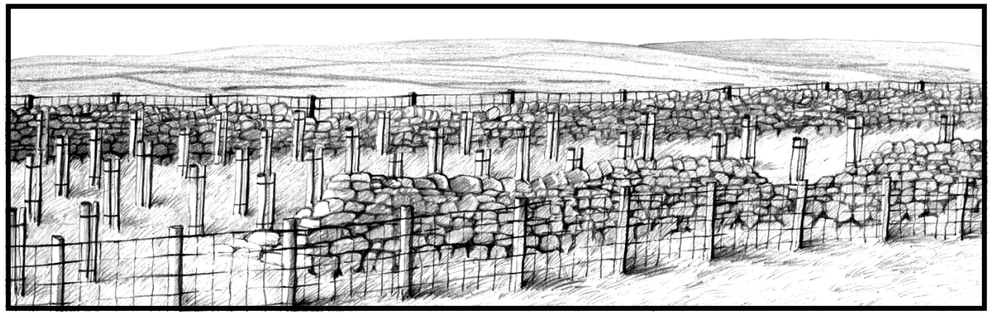
The following principles are illustrated with scenarios to be avoided.

Fencing and existing boundaries

Where possible site and design new woodlands to take best advantage of existing walls and hedges. Repair walls and build new walling to extend any areas where appropriate. Supplement height of walls with wall top fencing where appropriate. Avoid new fence lines, where an existing traditional boundary feature can be used or reinstated.

Fence lines detract from the contribution that existing boundaries, particularly drystone walls, make to landscape character and the scenery. Drystone walls are a defining characteristic of the Dales' *Barns and Walls Scenery* and are one of the Park's special qualities. Walls are also a characteristic of most landscape character areas of the Dales.

New fences obscure existing traditional boundaries and detract from the character of both intact and ruinous walls. Once a fence line is in place a wall will not continue to be maintained or repaired.



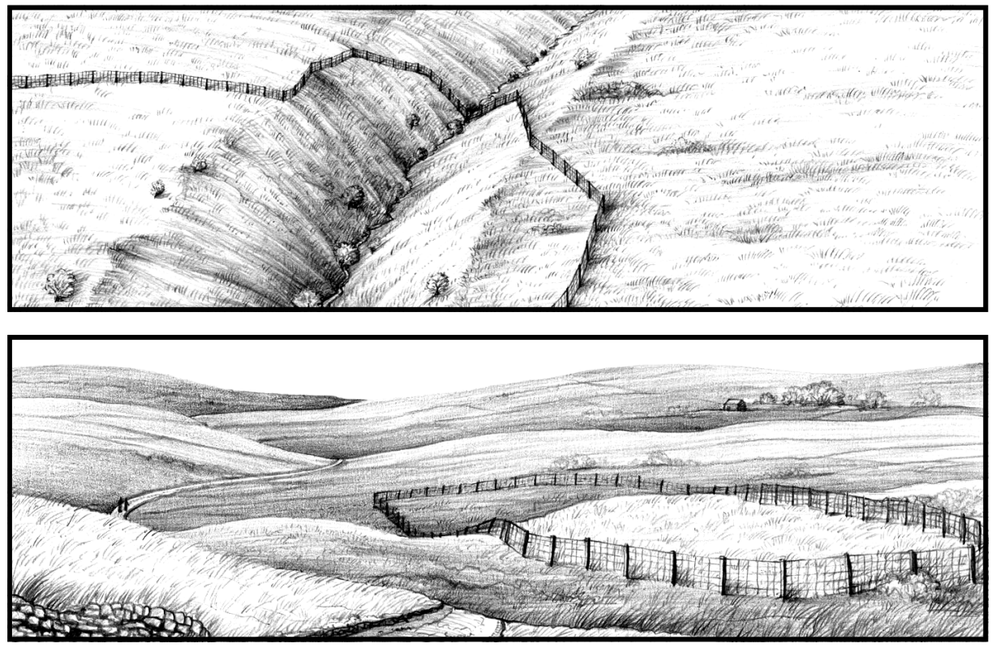
Fencing and landform

Fences must be sited to relate to the lie of the land. Follow breaks of slope, such as at gill edges or between upper and lower dale sides. Avoid introducing new lines across unbroken slopes, or upland plateaux. Avoid apparently arbitrary lines that cross slopes in a discordant manner.

Fence lines are visible crossing unbroken slopes and, being linear, they tend to lead the eye. The dales tend to have slopes that break horizontally between upper and lower slopes. Distinct gills intersect the dale sides with vertical breaks of slope. Upland plateaux undulate with gentle horizontal ridgelines.

If sited away from natural breaks of slopes, the fence line will look out of place and will create an additional landscape feature.

If crossing natural ridges and breaks of slope or striking out across unbroken plateaux, fence lines will catch the eye and appear incongruous.

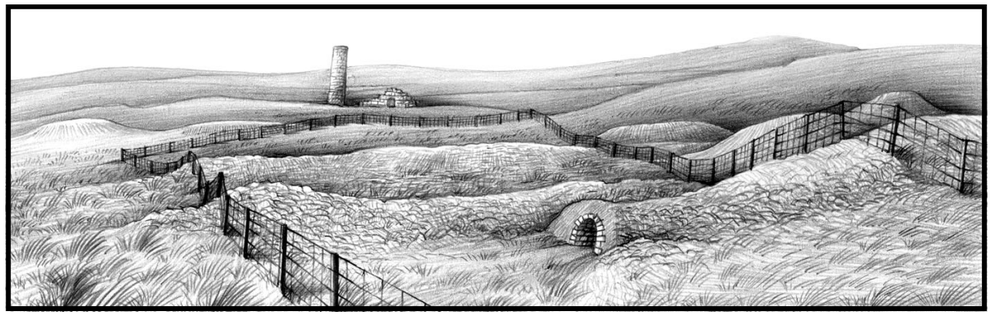


Fencing and historic features

Site fences to avoid the disturbance of historic sites and features. Avoid lines that subdivide the integrity of sites or disrupt their reading and interpretation.

Fencing introduces dominating and strong lines in the landscape. Historic features, such as relict settlements and cultivation patterns occur in the dales and uplands, but can be unobtrusive visually. In the uplands there are extensive areas of mining landscapes that are complex and unclear sites.

Fencing that cuts across historic sites makes them more difficult to access and interpret and causes damage.



Fencing and skylines

Site fences off skylines prominent in the wider landscape or horizons that will appear sky-lined from viewpoints, such as paths, roads, or settlements. Avoid visually-exposed ridges.

Fencing creates a strong and artificial image when seen in silhouette, particularly back-dropped by sky. Simple and unbroken extending horizontals are a feature of the Dales' uplands and are particularly sensitive to the visual impact of structures. Features appear larger on horizons.

Fence lines are highly visible when seen against the sky, either in wider or local views.

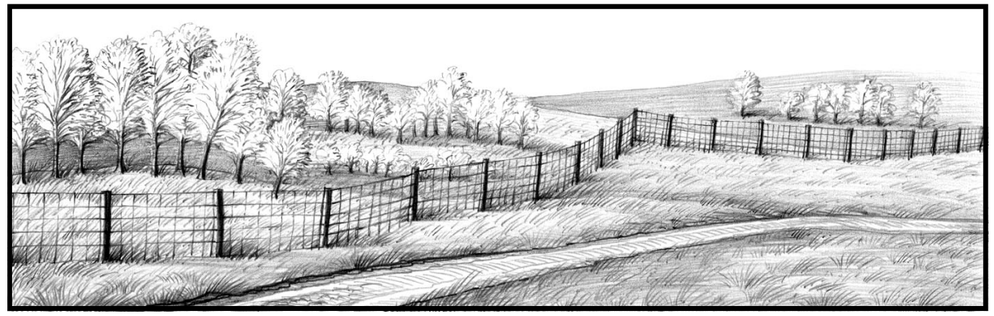


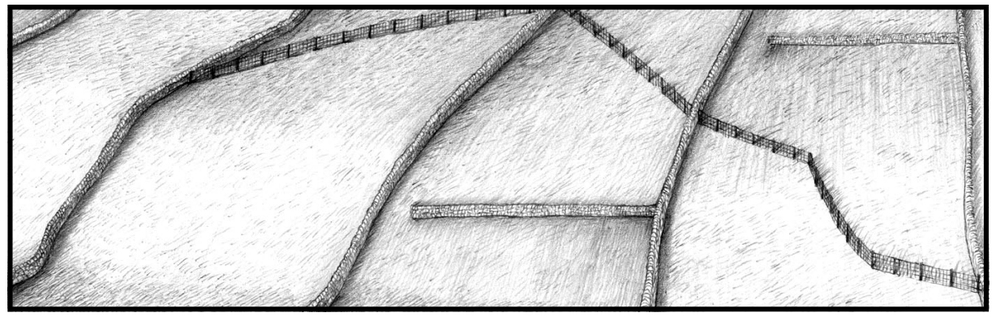
Fencing and other landscape features

Align fence lines with other landscape elements. Avoid apparently arbitrary lines, and where an alternative line is required site fence in relation to other features, such as a local breaks of slope.

In the Dales, field enclosures contribute to the linear patterns in the landscape. Upland roads, tracks and paths tend to be unenclosed and are therefore read as independent, linear landscape elements. As such, a fence line will appear incongruous if it takes a discordant line in relation to a track or other such linear features.

Moreover, when the fence is aligned in an arbitrary or irrational way, it is read as an additional component of the landscape. Fencing and its visual impact can be significantly reduced if it can be aligned with other landscape features.

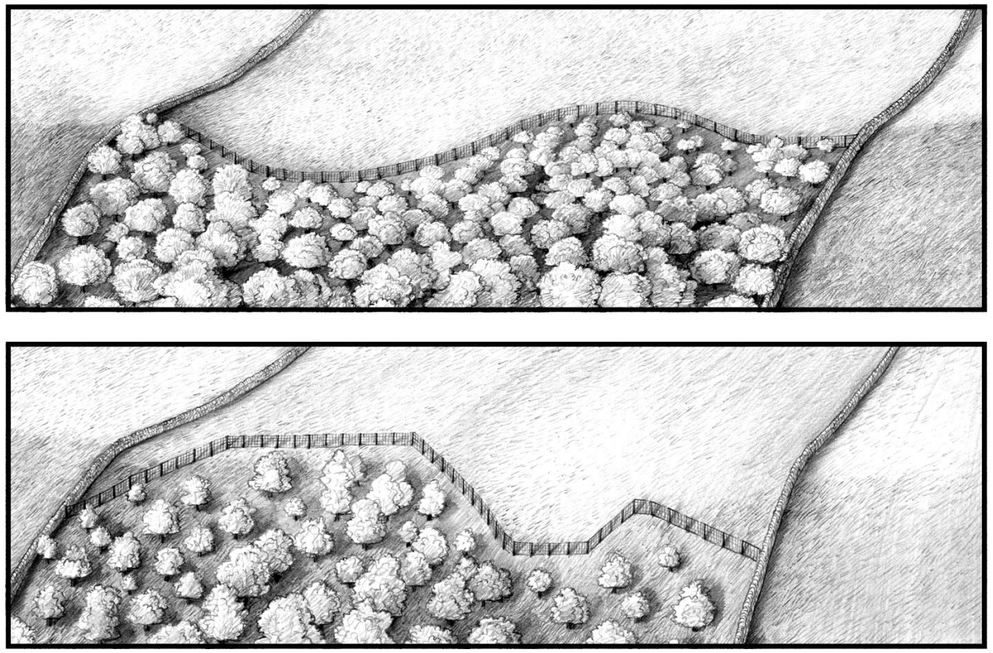




Fencing siting and design

Ensure that good fence-siting principles, as set on previous pages, are followed and considered as part of wider woodland and design guidance. Avoid fence lines that are determined solely by the woodland margin, but appear irrational as features on their own. Avoid fence lines that would be inappropriate in terms of shape or scale or that would manifest as either woodland or as distinction between vegetation types.

Fenced areas create a strong shape in the landscape, either in their own right or where woodland or other vegetation generate a distinction between the internal and external areas. In the dales, qualities of pattern and shape are important aspects of the scenery. This makes dale landscapes sensitive to the introduction of new shapes that do not relate to the existing patterns. In the uplands, the landscapes are open and simple, which makes them sensitive to the introduction of features with geometric pattern and shape, particularly of a small scale.



Fencing siting and design

Fence lines around more naturalistic upper margins are likely to appear incongruous in the short term, or if woodland doesn't establish.

Planted woodlands or naturalised woodland blocks with feathered margins or organic shapes are likely to spread to fill the fenced off area in time, therefore inorganic shaped enclosures should be avoided.

Vegetation within grazing exclosures will become more rank or change, and the shape of the fenced area will be picked out with texture and colour contrasts.



Ground preparation, drainage and tree guards

Ground preparation, drainage and the use of tree guards can have a significant impact on the landscape, particularly while the trees are establishing. However, there are some simple siting and design principles that can reduce the visual impact. The following principles are illustrated with scenarios to avoid.

Plant tree species suited to local ground conditions, without significant cultivation being required. Use approaches to woodland establishment that do not require extensive ground preparation or disturbing and invasive cultivation techniques. Favour notch planting and, where some drainage is required, use mounding. Avoid contour ploughing because it stands out against dale sides and open slopes. Where ground preparation is required, avoid geometric lines in the landscape.

Ground preparation techniques, such as ploughing, detract from the landscape in the short term and have a range of other potential negative environmental impacts. The dale sides are generally highly visible in the landscape and are sensitive to the visual impacts. Contour ploughing may be favoured to reduce run off over slopes, but is unsightly. Other geometric solutions are also problematic to landscape character and the scenery.

Geometric ground preparation, such as linear mounding patterns, establishes geometric planting patterns that will be further emphasised by tree guards.



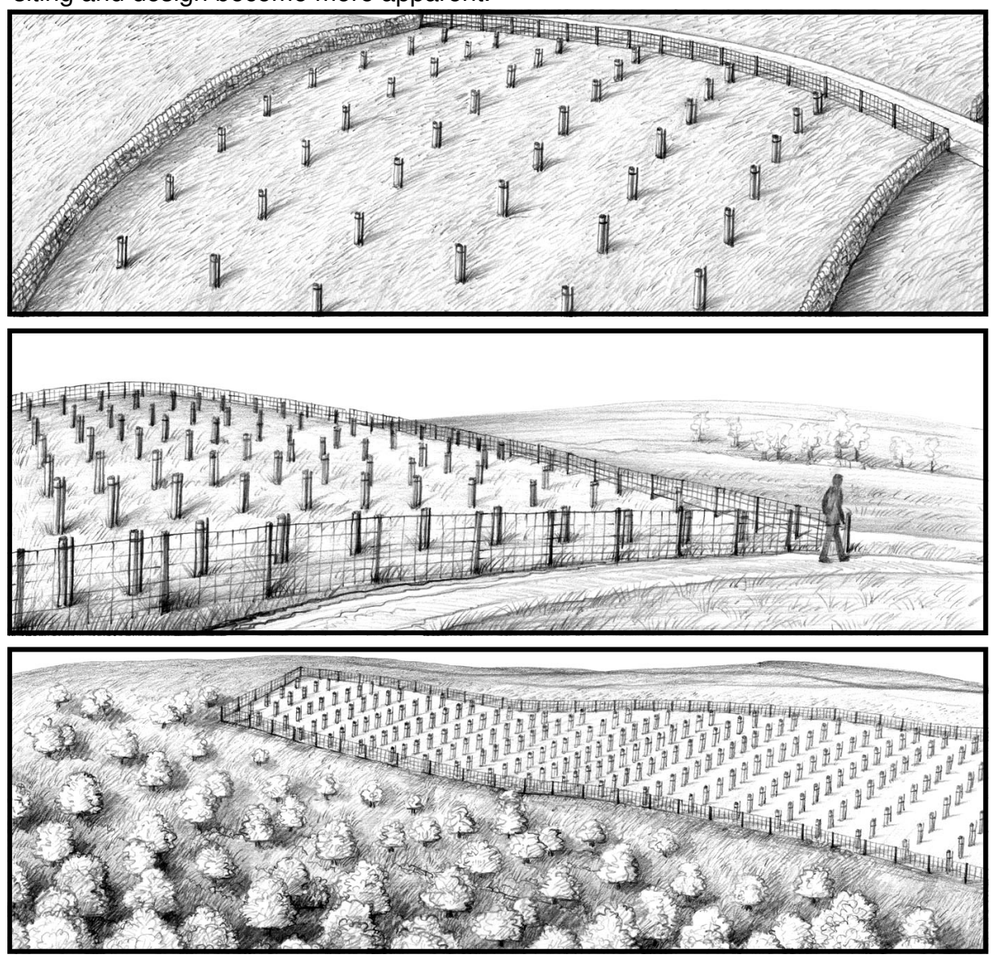
Tree guards

Tree guards can be intrusive in visually-exposed locations or in areas that are natural and unspoilt in character. Dale sides, and in particular dale rims, are generally highly visible in the landscape and are sensitive to the visual impacts. So are areas that are seen in overviews, occupy the setting of landmark features, or are otherwise close to viewpoints.

Plant trees in groups that will appear random or natural. Use tree guards that are coloured to blend in with the landscape – not necessarily green. Consider more muted pale browns that may be better suited to rougher ground or winter colours when the guards will be most visible. Avoid geometric planting lines.

Geometric planting patterns are emphasized by tree guards. Seen in relation to movement, geometric lines are particularly disturbing visually.

Tree guards accentuate planting blocks in visually-exposed locations. Issues of poor siting and design become more apparent.



Further information

If you require any further clarification on the content of this design guide or wish to discuss any woodland-related queries that arise, please contact the Trees and Woodlands team by emailing trees@yorkshiredales.org.uk or by phoning 01756 751600. Alternatively you can write to:

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