

LCT 2: Moorland Dales Landscape Character Type



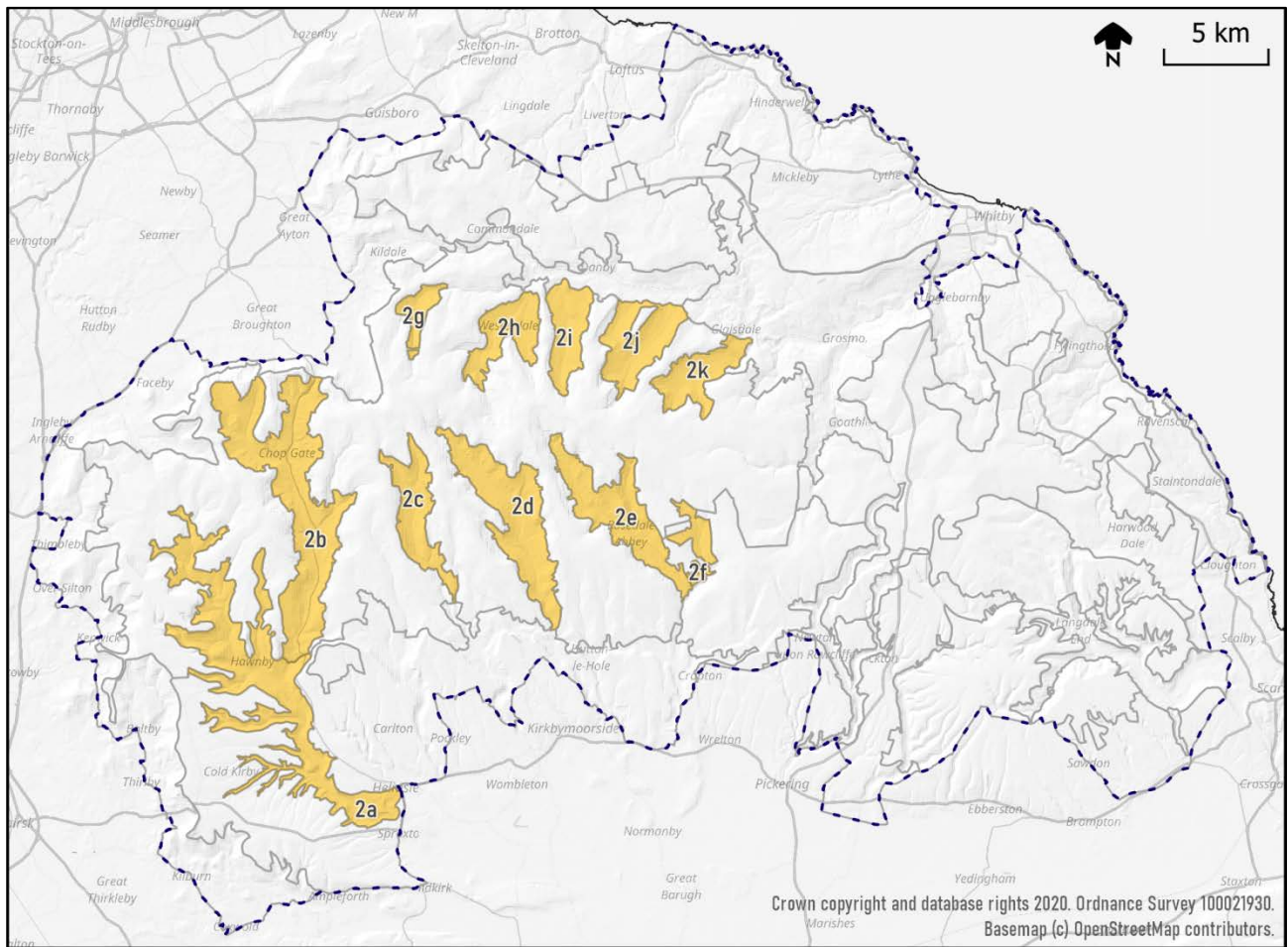
Fig.38 A typical scene within the Moorland Dales Landscape Character Type, Great Fryup Dale

Location, Context and Setting

This Landscape Character Type (LCT) is located in the centre and west of the North York Moors National Park, and comprises a series of separate farmed dales cut into the surrounding moorland. They form two rows, running north and south from the central watershed. Most settlements within the Moorland Dales are farms and hamlets, but there are a few villages, including Rosedale Abbey and Chop Gate. The character of all the Moorland Dales is strongly influenced by the surrounding Moorland (LCT 1) which forms their setting, horizons, and often the upper Dale sides above the enclosed fields. There are also localised influences from other surrounding LCTs: Forest (LCT 3); Limestone Hills (LCT 5) and Central Valley (LCT 8).

Summary Description

The Moorland Dales LCT comprises a series of narrow, farmed, dales incised into the moorland. Their irregular mosaics of small green fields, divided by stone walls or hedgerows, create a marked contrast with the colour, texture and scale of the surrounding open moorland. Historic winding lanes connect farms and hamlets, passing over narrow bridges and through bands of woodland on valley sides and alongside streams. The lack of main roads and traffic creates a sense of isolation and tranquillity, despite the settled and managed feel of the Dales. There is a strong sense of continuity with the past, which is further enhanced in places by large historic buildings and estates, such as Rievaulx Abbey. The surrounding moorland is ever-present in views, sometimes forming the skylines of the dales, and sometimes dropping right down into them. Often there is a gradual transition between the farmland and the moorland, with rough grassland, forest planting, scrub or crags above the enclosed fields of the valley floor and lower sides. The Dales are often seen from above, looking like landscapes in miniature.



Location map for Moorland Dales Landscape Character Type (LCT) 2a = Ryedale; 2b = Bilsdale; 2c = Bransdale; 2d = Farndale; 2e = Rosedale; 2f = Hartoft; 2g = Baysdale; 2h = Westerdale; 2i = Danby Dale; 2j = Fryup Dale; 2k = Glaisdale

Key Characteristics

- Deltaic sandstones eroded to reveal underlying Lias mudstones and Cleveland ironstone.
- Topography of shallow V-shaped valleys incised into surrounding moorland/ limestone hills, often with tributary valleys. Steep crags often visible at top of dale sides.
- Fast-flowing streams and tributaries flowing from springs or moorland mires.
- Land use is predominantly pasture, with patches of rough grass, meadow, arable and trees.
- Semi-natural habitats include patches of woodland, meadows, flushes, moorland and streams.
- Trees primarily found in forestry blocks, valley-side woodlands, hedgerows and along streams.
- Field patterns vary in size and irregularity, and are important to character, creating mosaic patterns. May be hedges, stone walls or occasional fences.
- Settlement mostly isolated farms or hamlets, with a small number of villages. Usually constructed of local stone in traditional styles, with fine examples of vernacular farms.
- A network of lanes, generally narrow and winding in valleys, running between walls or hedges. Few main through routes, so generally little traffic. Lanes popular for walking and cycling.
- Many historic buildings, and a sense of continuity in the landscape. Larger historic sites and designed landscapes include Rievaulx Abbey and Duncombe Park, both in Ryedale.
- Striking views into the dales from surrounding high land, and long views within enclosed dales.
- Contrasts between the open, smooth heather moorland and the green mosaic of fields.
- Strong sense of tranquillity away from busier roads and villages.

Natural landscape features

In the Moorland Dales, the Deltaic sandstone rocks which cover most of the surrounding moorland have been eroded to reveal the underlying soft Lias mudstones and Cleveland ironstones with bands of thin limestone. In some Dales the sandstone is visible as crags around the tops of the valley sides.



Fig.39 Scene in Rosedale, showing upper valley side crags and tree-lined tributary streams.

The Moorland Dales are deeply incised into the surrounding Moorland and Limestone Hills LCTs. Their topography has some local variation, but in general they are V-shaped in profile, with valley sides getting steeper towards the top. The Moorland Dales have been (and continue to be) eroded by the becks which flow through them, sometimes joined by tributary streams from side valleys. Some of the becks are meandering within flatter valley floors, whilst others have straighter courses. Waterfalls are common, especially on steeper valley sides. The becks are either spring fed within the Dales, or have their origins in the surrounding moorland. They can often be identified by the lines of trees which follow their courses.

Other trees occur in hedgerows, alongside rivers, around buildings and settlements, and in larger patches of valley-side woodland. There are numerous veteran and parkland trees, as well as patches of Ancient Woodland such as Ashberry Wood. The ancient trees and woodlands are important for their

biodiversity and aesthetic value, and also provide a living link with the past and a sense of longevity and permanence in the landscape.

Coniferous planting has taken place on Dale sides, particularly on steeper land, although some is now being felled and/ or replanted. There is a small amount of Plantation on Ancient Woodland Sites.

In some Dales, the transition between farmland and the surrounding moorland is abrupt, and in others it is more gradual. The moorland edge habitats (including heather, rough grass, crags, bracken and scrub) around the tops of the Dales are important semi-natural habitats, and some are included in the SSSI/ SPA/ SAC designation which covers much of the Moorland LCT. Occasionally moorland extends down the dale sides. Other semi-natural habitats include meadows, hedgerows, riparian habitats, flushes, streams, woodland, veteran trees and verges.



Fig.40 Caydale, a tributary of Ryedale, is designated SSSI for its diverse habitats including grassland, mires, fen, heathland and woodland

Farndale is famous for its wild daffodils, and almost the entire Dale is a Local Nature Reserve. Duncombe Park, at the southern end of Ryedale, contains numerous veteran trees which provide habitats for many birds, bats, insects and fungi. The River Rye is home to otters, trout, and rare birds including kingfisher, grey heron and sand martin.

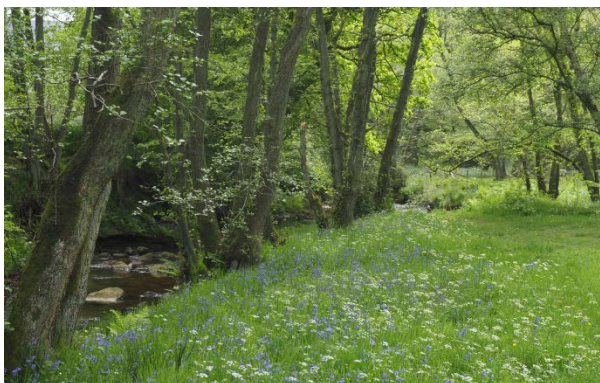


Fig.41 Riverside bluebells, Upper Ryedale

Designation	Sites
SSSI, SPA & SCA	Parts of the North York Moors designations spill over the valley sides into the Moorland Dales LCT.
SSSI	Spring Wood Hawnby; Low Pasture; Noddle End; Peak Scar; Caydale; Ashberry and Reins Wood; Rievaulx Wood; Castle Hill Deer Park Windy Pits; Duncombe Park; Farndale
NNR	Duncombe Park
LNR	Farndale Birch Wood (YWT) Ashberry Wood (YWT)

Key designated nature conservation sites

Cultural landscape features

Land use within the Moorland Dales is predominantly improved pasture/silage, some arable, rough ground, meadow, and woodland/ forestry. Fields may be bounded by hedges or stone walls, or occasionally post and wire fencing. Fields are generally small in size, but vary in shape from regular ‘ladder pattern’ fields to irregular enclosures with no straight boundaries. The local variations in field patterns, and the proportions of arable and grazing land, can contribute to each Dale’s unique sense of place.

Settlement usually takes the form of isolated farms or hamlets, although there are some villages such as Rosedale Abbey, Chop Gate and Westerdale. The vast majority of houses are vernacular in style, constructed of local stone with pantile roofs (originally thatched).



Fig.42 Traditional farm, Low Mill, Farndale

There are also many fine traditional examples of farm buildings. Spout House in Bilsdale is a rare example of a cruck-framed building.

Few of the Dales contain main through roads (Bilsdale is an exception), and the lanes which connect the farms and hamlets are usually narrow and winding, running between walls or hedges. Occasionally Dales have a stronger influence of estate ownership, which subtly influences their character.

The pattern of lanes, fields, farms and bridges is likely to have remained largely unchanged for centuries, and this is reflected in the number of Listed Buildings and Scheduled Monuments present in the Moorland Dales LCT. Other medieval sites include ecclesiastical sites (Rievaulx Abbey is the largest, with smaller sites at Baysdale Abbey and Laskill former monastic grange).



Fig.43 Rievaulx Abbey, Ryedale

Industry (particularly mineral extraction) also took place within the dales and left its mark

on the landscape. Spoil tips from the quarrying of ironstone, coal and jet are often seen on dale sides. Trackways used to transport quarried material can be seen in some dales, as well as the buildings used by 19th Century miners and their families: terraced houses, chapels, schools and pubs. The large, arched, processing kilns above Rosedale, although within the Moorland LCT, sit impressively above the valley.



Fig.44 Methodist chapel, Hartoft

Duncombe Park Estate, at the southern end of Ryedale, includes a neo-classical mansion set within parkland grounds incorporating ornamental trees, an earlier medieval deer park, woodland, garden structures including gatehouses, ionic and Tuscan temples, and the old castle as a ‘romantic ruin’. Carriage drives around the estate connect viewpoints. Rievaulx Terrace also contains designed landscape elements, and both sites are Registered Historic Parks and Gardens.



Fig.45 Parkland scene, Duncombe

Designation	Sites
Scheduled Monuments	Rievaulx Abbey; Helmsley Castle; Laskill Monastic Grange; Rosedale Mines; Baysdale Abbey Bridge; Round Hill Hillfort (Westerdale); Cairnfield (Danby Dale)
Conservation Areas	Rievaulx; Hawnby; Rosedale Abbey; Helmsley (part)
HPG	Duncombe Park, Rievaulx Terrace
Listed Buildings	Numerous, including houses, farms, churches, school, mills, pubs, keeper’s cottages.

Key designated heritage conservation sites

Perceptual qualities and views

One of the most striking things about the Moorland Dales are the patterns of walls and hedges dividing the mosaic of fields which cover the valley floors and lower sides. The size and regularity of the field patterns vary, but everywhere they provide a marked contrast to the surrounding unenclosed moorland. The green colour of the fields, and the rough textures of the walls, contrast with the purple/ brown colour and smooth texture of the heather moorland above.



Fig.46 View of Great Fryup Dale from Glaisdale Rigg, showing the contrasts between heather moorland and the mosaic field patterns of the Moorland Dales

Another striking characteristic is the peacefulness and tranquillity which is experienced in the Moorland Dales, although it is occasionally broken by through routes or busier villages, such as Rosedale Abbey. Usually, though, the Moorland Dales are quiet

and tranquil, with little traffic, few visitors (particularly in the northern Dales) and a very strong sense of history. Some scenes hardly seem to have changed in hundreds of years, although of course changes are happening, particularly with regard to forestry and land management.

The quiet lanes are popular routes for walking and cycling, and there is also a network of footpaths. The Cleveland Way passes through Ryedale, and the Esk Valley Walk includes Westerdale and Danby Dale. Some of the dale heads are Remote Areas under Policy ENV3. The lack of development and traffic means that skies are dark. Hartoft and the southern part of Rosedale are within the Dark Skies Buffer Area.

Some of the best views into the Moorland Dales are looking down into them from the high land above. In these views the Dales appear as green scoops out of the moorland, with the fields, trees and farms appearing in miniature, set within the higgledy-piggledy patterns of walls and hedges. There are many magnificent views of the Moorland Dales, but only a couple of official viewpoints shown on the OS map: Bilsdale from the Wainstones, and Danby Dale from Castleton Rigg.



Fig.47 Glaisdale from above – a ‘landscape in miniature’

From within the Dales, the valley sides enclose the views, creating a sense of

containment. This sense is particularly strong where the valley sides are treed. The surrounding LCTs contribute to views, and there are also long views across and along the Dales.

Ecosystem Services provided by the Moorland Dales LCT

Type of Ecosystem Service	Existing Contributions	Opportunities
Cultural Services	<p>This is a rich cultural landscape with many historic features such as stone walls and vernacular buildings. These contribute to the aesthetic experience of the LCT, as well as providing opportunities for research and education. Larger historic buildings and designed grounds are also popular visitor destinations.</p> <p>Quiet lanes, footpaths and public rights of way provide opportunities for quiet recreation including walking, cycling and horse riding. These promote exercise and wellbeing and opportunities to benefit from tranquillity and dark skies.</p>	<p>There are opportunities for additional research on the history of settlement in the Moorland Dales through analysis of standing buildings and the patterns of field walls.</p> <p>There may be further opportunities to create alternative walks in the vicinity of 'honeypot' sites to spread visitors and reduce pressure.</p>
Provisioning Services	<p>Farms in the Moorland Dales provide food and fibre (wool). Uses of wool include building insulation. Springs and becks are a source of fresh water. Forests and woodland provide timber, wood fibre and biomass. Building stone from underlying rocks is processed in this LCT at Hartoft.</p>	<p>Opportunities to manage farmland and woodland to enhance biodiversity and reduce pollution. Changing climatic conditions provide opportunities to experiment with growing new crops, which could also benefit biodiversity.</p>
Regulating Services	<p>Trees and woodland contribute to carbon sequestration (helping to mitigate climate change) and improve air quality by absorbing pollutants. Soils and vegetation absorb rainwater and slow water flow, helping to regulate downstream flooding. Plants provide habitats for pollinators.</p>	<p>Tree planting/ colonisation schemes have potential to increase carbon storage and reduce pollution. Trees and hedgerows can also contribute to Natural Flood Management (NFM) schemes.</p>
Supporting Services	<p>The LCT provides habitats and habitat links for many species, particularly along river valleys, hedgerow networks, woodlands and moorland fringes. It contributes to soil formation and photosynthesis</p>	<p>There are opportunities to enhance and link hedgerow networks, to increase tree cover through planting and natural colonisation, and to increase pollinator habitats.</p>

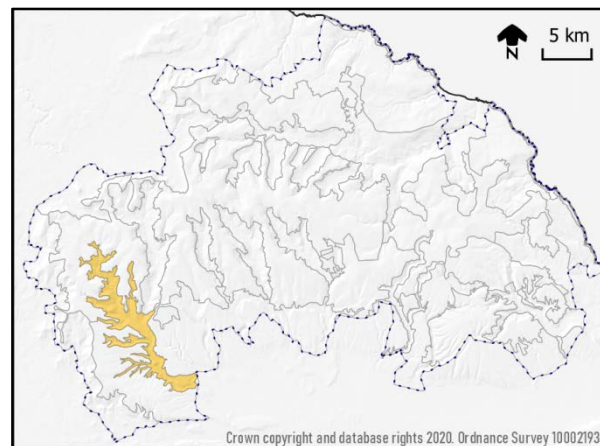
Landscape Character Area Descriptions

There are 11 distinctive Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) within the Moorland Dales LCT. These are described on the following pages. The distinctive characters of the Dales result from subtle differences in the landform, vegetation, the patterns of fields, roads and settlements, and the presence of distinctive features such as Abbeys, estates, or mining remains.

Landscape Character Area 2a: Ryedale



Fig.48 A typical scene in LCA 2a, looking north from Murton Bank towards Ryedale, Hawnby and Hawnby Hill, which forms a distinctive feature in the Dale.



Map showing the location of LCA 2a within the National Park

Ryedale is the longest of the Moorland Dales, and is located in the south-west of the National Park. It includes the traditional villages of Hawnby and Rievaulx, and adjoins the town of Helmsley, where the River Rye flows into the Vale of Pickering. Whilst the northern part of Ryedale is surrounded by the Moorland LCT (LCA 1a), the southern part is surrounded by the Limestone Hills LCT (LCA 5a to the west and LCA 5b to the east). This creates variations in character within the Dale, and is one of the several features which make Ryedale distinctive.

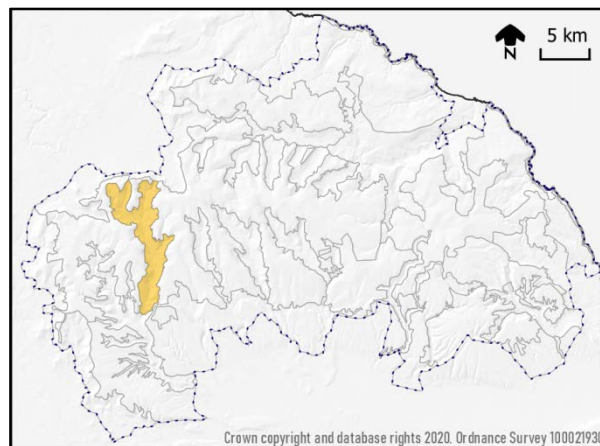
The southern part of Ryedale, cut into the Limestone Hills, is strongly influenced by the presence of Rievaulx Abbey and Duncombe Park. Both are estate landscapes, with large, impressive, historic buildings surrounded by designed grounds including extensive tree cover. Their significant historic and natural features mean that there is a concentration of cultural heritage and nature conservation designations, and also concentrations of visitors. The landscape in this part of the Dale feels relatively soft and picturesque. The landform of the southern part of Ryedale is also distinctive, with several long, branching side valleys (e.g. Nettle Dale, Caydale and Gowerdale) extending out on the western side of the main Dale and cutting steeply and deeply into the surrounding limestone. These side valleys have few roads, and feel exceptionally remote and tranquil. Distinctive conical hills on the moorland edge (Hawnby Hill and Eastside Hill) and within the Dale (Combe Hill) add to the sense of place.

The northern part of Ryedale has a stronger visual connection to the surrounding moorland, and the presence of moorland at the tops of the valley sides adds a wilder element to its character. The flat-topped steep limestone escarpment of Arden Great Moor is an imposing feature on the western side of the valley. However, compared to other Dales, Ryedale has a relatively soft and enclosed feel, largely due to the greater proportion of deciduous woodland and the number of trees. The woodland habitats, along with patches of meadows, flushes, fens and heaths, mean that it has a relatively high proportion of land within it designated SSSI.

Landscape Character Area 2b: Bilsdale



Fig.49 A typical scene in LCA 2b, looking North along Bilsdale from the B1257



Map showing the location of LCA 2b within the National Park

Bilsdale is located towards the south-west of the National Park, and is a major tributary valley of Ryedale. LCA 1a (Western Moorland) is to the west, LCA 1b (Central Moorland) is to the east and LCA 2a (Ryedale) is to the south. It is a long and deep dale with a double head separated by Cold Moor. The settlement of Chop Gate, although not large, is a focus for local services, supporting farms and hamlets. Spout House, a former inn, is a fine and rare example of a cruck-framed house.

Bilsdale is the only Dale to contain a relatively busy through road – the B1257 - which links Helmsley and Stokesley via Clay Bank. It runs the full length of the Dale, using the eastern dale head. Raisdale Road, joining the B1257 at Chop Gate, uses the western dale head and descends the Western Escarpment to Carlton in Cleveland. The presence of the B1257 gives Bilsdale a busier feel than other dales, and the sound and movement of traffic is often noticeable. Bilsdale TV transmitters, on the moorland above the western side of the Dale, form a prominent landmark and orientation point. There is evidence of past jet and colliery workings, and iron-working sites. A much older prehistoric linear boundary runs along the top of the valley below Urra Moor.

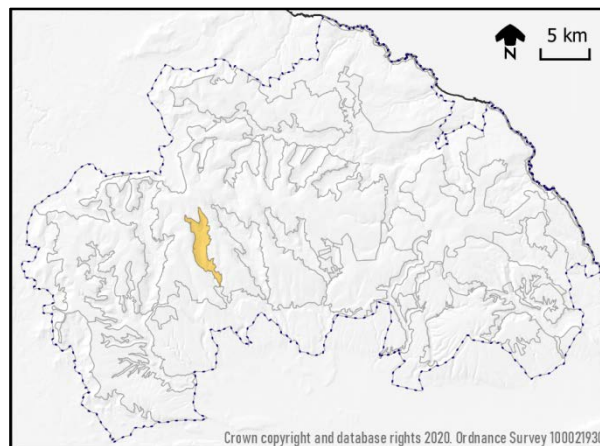
The valley sides are steep, with some cliffs around the top of the Dale. There are several blocks of coniferous plantations on valley sides, particularly in the north of the Dale. Generally their edges are not straight lines, which help them to fit into the surrounding landscape. The presence of stone walls and gorse hedges enhances the wilder character of the northern part of Bilsdale. Towards the south, mixed hedges become more frequent, and the coverage of deciduous woodland also becomes greater. This increases the sense of enclosure, and gives the landscape a more gentle character. Ancient Woodland at Birch Wood is a Local Nature Reserve. The River Seph follows an increasingly meandering course down the dale as the valley floor widens.

The length and straightness of Bilsdale means that there are long views along the Dale, including from the Wainstones viewpoint which looks down into the Dale from the north. In the south of Bilsdale there are also splendid views into and across Ryedale, including from the B1257.

Landscape Character Area 2c: Bransdale



Fig.50 A typical scene in LCA 2c, near the hamlet of Cockayne. Note St Nicholas' church on its treed mound



Map showing the location of LCA 2c within the National Park

Bransdale is located to the south of the centre of the National Park surrounded by LCA 1b (Central Moorland). Its southern tip adjoins LCT 5b (Central Limestone Hills). Settlement within the Dale comprises isolated farms, and the hamlet of Cockayne. Cockayne is located on a mound overlooking the valley at the northern end, and includes Bransdale Lodge and the church of St Nicholas. Bransdale is an exceptionally tranquil part of the National Park, with few visitors.

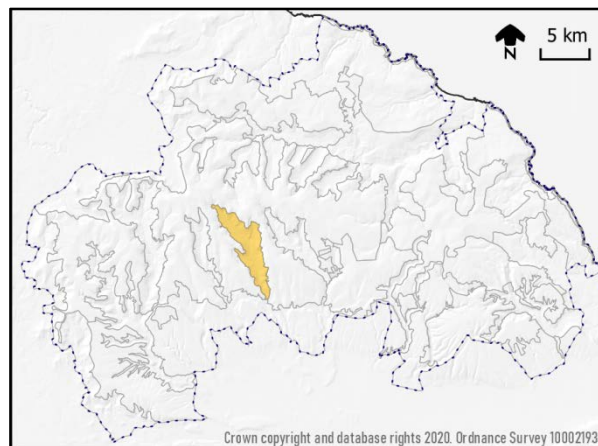
Bransdale is relatively wide and shallow, although the valley sides are very steep at the top, with dramatic crags. At Cockayne the Dale splits, creating a double dale head, separated by Bransdale Moor. The western dale head is drained by Badger Gill, and the eastern by Blowworth Slack. They join south of Cockayne to create the Hodge Beck, which flows south into the Vale of Pickering. A line of trees follow the meandering course of Hodge Beck within its narrow valley floor.

Much of Bransdale is in National Trust ownership, which influences its character, particularly in the consistency of management of walls, field boundaries and buildings. It also has many mature deciduous trees (including ancient oaks, holly pollards, ash and sycamore) and a parkland influence on its character, especially around Bransdale Lodge. The field pattern is very strong in Bransdale, with small fields creating an intricate mosaic. Variations in the shapes of fields (from irregular to regular) suggest different periods of enclosure, with some almost certainly dating back to the medieval period. Farms are set mid-way up the valley sides, following the circular road within the Dale. Bransdale Mill, miller's house and outbuildings (all Listed) is a fine example of a corn mill, located at the confluence of the Badger Gill and Blowworth Slack. There is no public road access to the southern part of the Dale, which has a much lower density of settlement and a stronger presence of moorland extending down the valley sides. Some farms here are derelict. There has been considerable establishment of conifer plantations on the valley sides and dale heads in the 20th Century. Some of these have recently been felled, opening up views to the valley sides and recreating the visual and functional connection between Bransdale and the surrounding moorland.

Landscape Character Area 2d: Farndale



Fig.51 A typical scene in LCA 2d, on the eastern side of Farndale looking north.



Map showing the location of LCA 2d within the National Park

Farndale is located to the south of the centre of the National Park, surrounded by LCA 1b (Central Moorland). Its southern tip adjoins LCA 5b (Central Limestone Hills). It contains the hamlets of Church Houses and Low Mill, as well as numerous traditional farms and isolated houses which are spread fairly evenly around the Dale.

Farndale is famous for its wild daffodils, which grow in profusion in spring, and have flourished in the Dale for centuries. The river banks, damp meadows and open woodland provide ideal conditions for the daffodils to thrive. Much of the Dale was designated a Local Nature Reserve in 1955 in order to safeguard the flowers, which attract many visitors. The Farndale SSSI includes a range of habitats, including broadleaved woodland, unimproved grassland and marsh which extend along the dale bottom, and for dwarf-shrub heath, acid grassland and flush communities found on the upper dale sides. Together these habitats support a wide range of animals, birds, insects and plants.

The Dale is a broad and deep U-shaped valley, becoming narrower and more V-shaped in its southern reaches. The River Dove meanders within a relatively wide floodplain on the floor of the Dale, lined by trees and woodland. Blakey Gill and West Gill form its main tributaries.

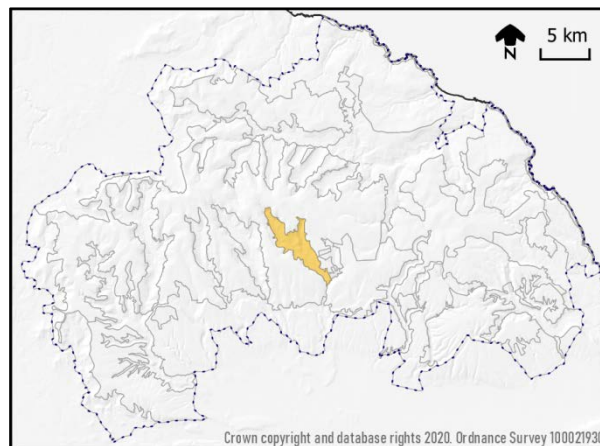
Stone walls form a striking rectilinear pattern on the hillside, contrasting with the smooth open moorland above which spills over into the Dale. There are some small conifer plantations on the valley sides, but fewer than in many other Moorland Dales.

There are basic visitor facilities at Low Mill, which enable people to park and access the riverside path or explore the dale on foot. However, the lack of roads in/out of Farndale, together with its strongly rural feel, means that it feels tranquil and secluded. Farndale is one of the few dales with a riverside path, enabling people to enjoy the beauty and tranquillity of the dale, and to feel close to nature.

Landscape Character Area 2e: Rosedale



Fig.52 A typical scene in LCA 2e, looking down on Rosedale from spoil tips at Bank Top kilns.



Map showing the location of LCA 2e within the National Park

Rosedale is located to the south of the centre of the National Park and is the valley of the River Seven. It is largely surrounded by LCA 1b (Central Moorland), but a small part to the south east adjoins LCA 3a (Cropton Forest) and LCA 2f (Hartoft). The forest dominates the entrance to the Dale when approaching from the south. The largest settlement is the nucleated village of Rosedale Abbey in the centre of the Dale, but there are farms and hamlets throughout.

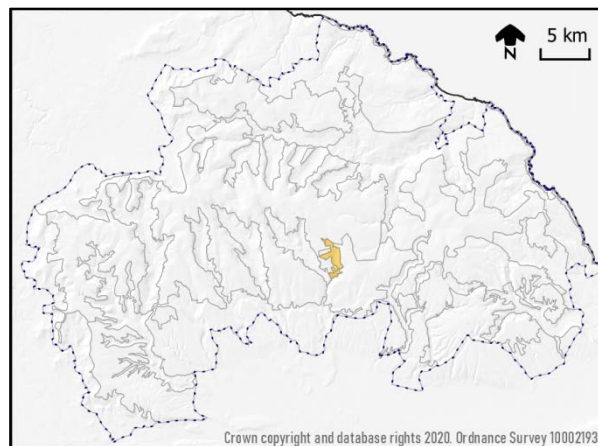
Rosedale has two main tributary valleys – Northdale and Hartoft. Hartoft is a LCA in its own right. A round knoll north of Rosedale Abbey, and an oval-shaped hill further to the north, are prominent features within the Dale. The surrounding moorland spills over into the Dale, and creates smooth, strong horizons. Below the moorland is a mosaic of enclosed fields bounded by walls or hedges. Trees alongside the becks, on the Dale sides, and lining the fields, add softness to its character. Rosedale has more access roads than many of the Dales. There are roads leading out of the Dale and over the surrounding moors to the north, north-east and west, as well as along the valley to the south. The road on the west side of Rosedale past Bank Top kilns towards Hutton-le-Hole is known as ‘Rosedale Chimney Bank’, and is one of the two steepest surfaced roads in Britain. It is a popular but incredibly difficult challenge for cyclists, with an average gradient of 13%.

There are a number of distinctive buildings, reflecting different stages of Rosedale’s history. Little remains of Rosedale Priory, which was dissolved by Henry VIII, but remnants of a 16th Century Huguenot glassworks have been found. Many of the buildings in Rosedale Abbey village date from the 1830s and are neo-gothic in style. Between c.1850-c.1920, Rosedale was a centre for iron working and processing, employing 3000 people at its peak, and this mining legacy is still very apparent in Rosedale’s landscape. Within the Dale there are terraces of miners’ cottages, a chapel and school. High above the Dale are the magnificent remains of ironstone kilns, together with large spoil tips, and the paths of railways which took the processed stone to Teesside. Stretches of the former railway now form a walking route with splendid views down into the Dale. Rosedale is a popular destination for visitors and it therefore often has a slightly busier feel than other Dales.

Landscape Character Area 2f: Hartoft



Fig.53 A typical scene in LCA 2f, looking south in Hartoft towards Cropton Forest



Map showing the location of LCA 2f within the National Park

Hartoft is the smallest of the Moorland Dales, and is one of the most easterly. It is located to the south of the centre of the National Park, and is bordered to the north by LCA 1b (Central Moorland), and to the east and west by LCA 3a (Cropton Forest). Hartoft is a tributary valley of Rosedale (LCA 2e) which adjoins it to the south.

The Hartoft Beck flows through a V-shaped valley largely surrounded by forest. This gives Hartoft a more enclosed character than many of the other Moorland Dales, with less moorland influence. There are deciduous trees along the beck, and along field boundaries on the valley floor and lower sides. It is an exceptionally out-of-the-way valley, with only one road in - at the southern end - giving access to the isolated farms scattered over the Dale. A tiny Methodist chapel dated 1865 sits next to the road.

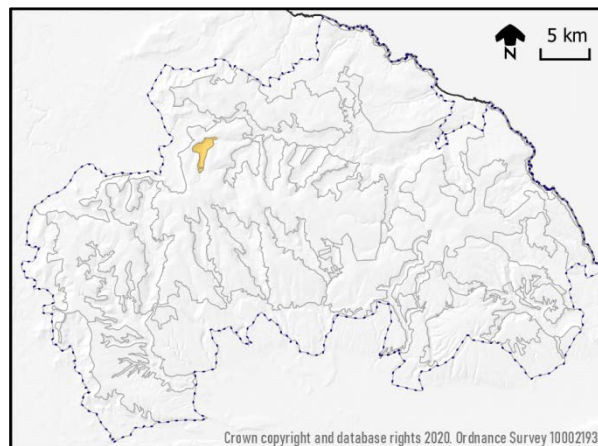
There is a striking regular pattern of straight stone walls rising up the eastern side of the Dale, separating pastures. Rough ground makes up a relatively high proportion of the land cover.

The stone yard at the southern end of the Dale increases traffic and creates a localised industrial influence. Elsewhere the Dale is exceptionally quiet and tranquil, with few visitors. It is within the Dark Skies Buffer Area.

Landscape Character Area 2g: Baysdale



Fig.54 A typical scene in LCA 2g, looking down into Baysdale from the west.



Map showing the location of LCA 2g within the National Park

Baysdale is located towards the north-west of the National Park, and is surrounded by LCA 1b (Central Moorland) on all sides. It is unusual in that the upper part of the Dale is in agricultural and forestry use, but the lower part of the Dale is moorland (and therefore within the Moorland LCT). It contains the Black Beck and Grain Beck, which meet in the centre of the Dale to form Baysdale Beck, one of the upper tributaries of the River Esk. Settlement comprises isolated farms.

The upper part of the Dale forms a tight V-shape, becoming slightly shallower in the central section where the softer rocks of the Lias beds are more easily eroded. Forestry planting has taken place in the southern end of the Dale (in the Grain Beck valley), and on the eastern Dale side, but it is being felled in some areas. Open oak woodland occurs on the Dale floor, alongside the becks, and also on the middle valley sides, for example at Baysdale Wood and Whinny Bank. The valley floor and lower sides are divided into a series of fairly large, regular fields divided by stone walls.

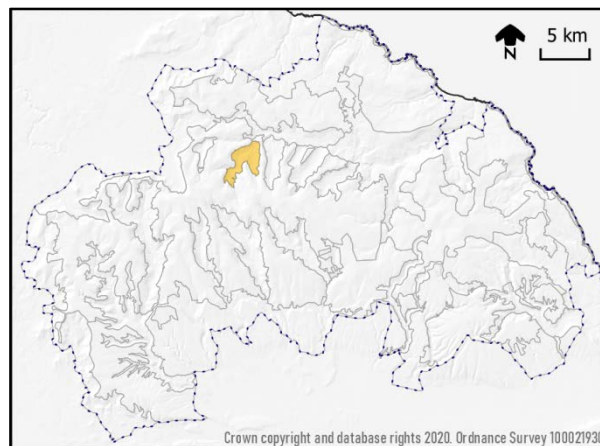
There are a few isolated parkland-style trees around Baysdale Abbey in the centre of the dale. These combine with the estate railings and substantial buildings to create an estate-influenced character in this part of the Dale. The bridge over the Black Beck at Baysdale Abbey is a rare surviving example of a medieval single-span bridge, and is a Scheduled Monument. It is likely to have been associated with the Cistercian Priory which existed here from 1139-1539. Baysdale Abbey farm was subsequently built on the site of the priory, and is a Listed Building.

Baysdale is exceptionally remote, and is only accessible on foot, or by a minor dead-end road from Battersby Moor. Its topography, and the surrounding moorland, create a sense of containment. Of all the Moorland Dales, Baysdale has the largest proportion of Remote land under Policy ENV3. It is a quiet, isolated and hidden valley, with birdsong sometimes the only sound, and has exceptionally high levels of tranquillity.

Landscape Character Area 2h: Westerdale



Fig.55 A typical scene in LCA 2h, showing Westerdale Village (in the centre of the picture) and Castleton Rigg.



Map showing the location of LCA 2h within the National Park

Westerdale is located to near the centre of the National Park, and is surrounded by LCA 1b (Central Moorland) on all sides. It contains the village of Westerdale in the centre, located at the meeting points of minor roads running North – South across the moors between Kildale/ Stokesley and Hutton-le-Hole, and the roads east to Castleton and Castleton Rigg.

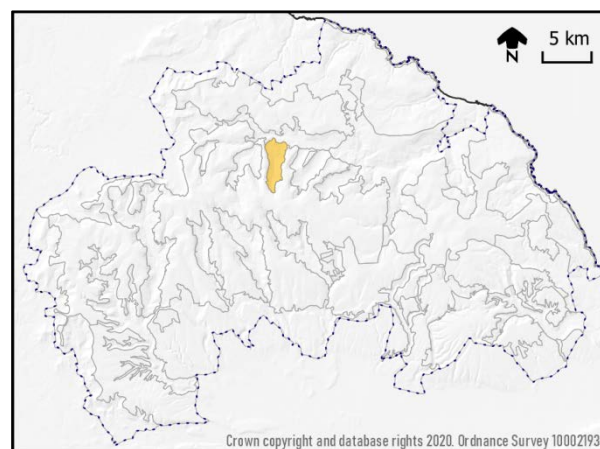
Nucleated villages such as Westerdale are unusual in the northern Moorland Dales. Westerdale village contains a church, hall, farms and houses, several of which are Listed Buildings. Most of the buildings are of vernacular style and traditional materials (stone walls and pantile roofs). The medieval arched stone footbridge crossing the River Esk to the north of the village is a Scheduled Monument. The outlying isolated farms are generally located fairly high on the valley sides, at some distance from the village. There are also small farms at the dale heads.

Westerdale is a broad and relatively shallow dale. At its northern end it is pinched by moorland to create a very narrow neck where it meets Upper Esk Dale. The presence of the surrounding moorland creates a sense of enclosure and separation. The elevated landform of Castleton Rigg to the east dominates in many views, but the topography is generally not as dramatic as in other Dales. Small pear-shaped tips and slag heaps (relics of past jet and ironstone mining) can be seen on the valley sides. Westerdale is drained by twin becks – the river Esk and Tower Beck, which form two dale heads, separated by Westerdale Rigg. Both becks are lined with trees and follow tightly meandering courses, straightening out slightly in their lower reaches. They are relatively insignificant features within the wider landscape. Field patterns vary within the Dale, suggesting different phases of enclosure. Walls dominate on the upper valley sides, but in the lower Dale hedges are more common, often thorn, with oak, ash and holly as hedgerow trees. Fields are mostly pastoral, with pockets of arable and rough pasture, and some deciduous woodland on the valley floor. Westerdale has a notable lack of conifer plantations, and the moorland drops a long way down the Dale side, enabling a strong visual connection between the farmland and moorland.

Landscape Character Area 2i: Danby Dale



Fig.56 A typical scene in LCA 2i, looking across Danby Dale from the OS Viewpoint on Castleton Rigg



Map showing the location of LCA 2i within the National Park

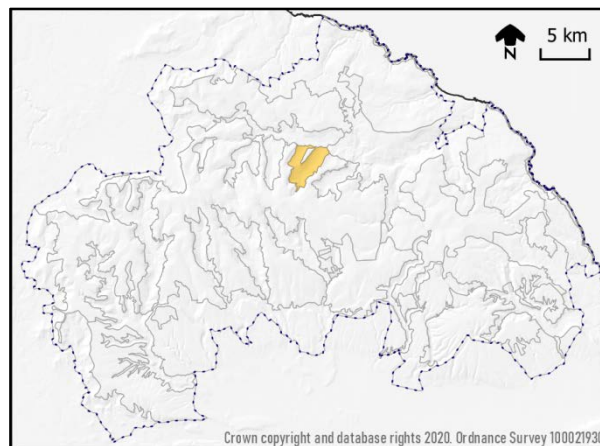
Danby Dale is located near to the centre of the National Park. It is surrounded by LCA 1b (Central Moorland) to the east, west and south, and opens out into LCA 7a (Commondale and Upper Esk Dale) to the north. The village of Castleton overlooks Danby Dale from the north, even though the village is located within the adjacent LCT. Within Danby Dale itself, settlement comprises isolated farms on the valley sides and the hamlet of Botton near the dale head, which includes residential and educational facilities. Botton's buildings are generally well-integrated into the landscape and screened by trees, but have an a-typical identity.

Danby Dale is a broad, steep valley with low, steep sides and a gently-graded valley floor. Occasional sandstone outcrops are a feature of the upper valley sides and dale head, and create a steep, imposing landform. The projecting moorland ridges of Castleton Rigg (to the west) and Danby Rigg (to the east) create a strong sense of enclosure. The eastern part of the lower dale is relatively open, allowing views into Esk Dale. Danby Low Moor is a conical hill at the northern end of the Dale which is a prominent feature in the landscape. From here there are long views south along Danby Dale. The Danby Beck is fed by a series of springs on the edge of the moor, which incise narrow tributary valleys. Deciduous woodland and trees occur along the Danby Beck and its tributaries, including some open grazed woodland. These woodlands, along with hedges and hedgerow trees give the lower part of the valley a well-wooded and soft appearance. Small conifer plantations occur higher up the valley sides and in the dale head. The middle section of the Dale has a strong linear pattern of fields, mainly lined with stone walls. The upper edge of the enclosed land is irregular, creating a distinctive uneven edge between the enclosed fields and the higher bracken-covered slopes which form the edges of the surrounding moorland. Isolated farms are linked by minor roads within the Dale. Near its centre is the isolated church of St Hilda which sits on an elevated outcrop surrounded by ancient yew trees. It is a feature in many views within and across Danby Dale, including from the OS viewpoint on Castleton Rigg which overlooks the Dale. Danby Dale feels secluded and quiet, and has a strong sense of tranquillity.

Landscape Character Area 2j: Fryup Dale



Fig.57 A typical scene in LCA 2j, within Great Fryup Dale looking towards the dale head.



Map showing the location of LCA 2j within the National Park

Fryup Dale is located near the centre of the National Park. It comprises two parallel Dales – Great Fryup Dale and Little Fryup Dale, which are separated by a moorland outcrop known as Heads. Fryup Dale is surrounded by LCA 1b (Central Moorland) to the east, south and west. To the north both Little Fryup Dale and Great Fryup Dale open out into LCA 2a (Commondale and Upper Esk Dale). Danby Castle is located on the valley side near the mouth of Little Fryup Dale, and there are strong physical, cultural and visual connections between Fryup Dale and Esk Dale. Within Fryup Dale, settlement comprises fairly large isolated farms connected by a network of narrow lanes. The density of farms and lanes is greater in Great Fryup Dale than in Little Fryup Dale, and the latter is largely inaccessible by public road. The field pattern is also denser in Great Fryup Dale, with smaller and more linear fields. The variation in field patterns across the LCA suggests different phases of enclosure.

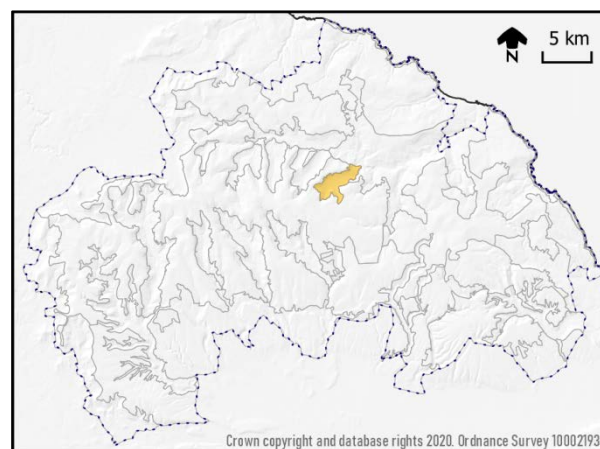
Both Dales are U-shaped, steepening towards the tops, but with lower slopes grading gently into the valley floor. The Little Fryup Beck has a relatively straight course, whereas the Great Fryup Beck is more meandering. Both are tree-lined. The upper parts of the Dale head have a striking hummocky landform caused by landslips which dominate the Dale below. Bands of deciduous woodland are found on the Dale sides, including Ancient Woodland on the eastern and northern side of Heads. There are also areas of regenerating scrub and woodland on the Dale sides and on Heads, and trees have recently been planted around Round Hill. There has been relatively little conifer planting in the past, and the lack of conifers on the valley sides contributes to the Dales' distinctive character. The range of the moorland vegetation on the upper Dale sides (including heather, bracken, rough grass and scrub) can be seen from within the Dale.

The Cycle Hub bike shop and cafe is located between Great and Little Fryup Dale. It is a popular stop for walkers and drivers as well as cyclists, and draws recreational visitors in to the Dale. Nevertheless, Great Fryup Dale remains quiet and tranquil with very little traffic or development.

Landscape Character Area 2k: Glaisdale



Fig.58 A typical scene in LCA 2k, at the southern end of Glaisdale looking north from near the Wintergill Valley



Map showing the location of LCA 2k within the National Park

Glaisdale is a relatively small dale located in the centre of the National Park. It is surrounded by LCA 1b (Central Moorland) except at its north-eastern end, where it merges into LCA 8b (Lower Esk Valley). Glaisdale village is located at the mouth of the Dale, within the Lower Esk Valley LCA. Within the Dale itself a series of farms and houses sit along the winding lane which loops around the Dale.

Glaisdale is a gently winding, steep sided dale. Its lower reaches are partially enclosed by glacial moraine deposited across the entrance to the Dale. In its upper reaches, the Hardhill Gill and Winter Gill form tributary valleys of the Glaisdale Back. These contain waterfalls where they leap down the steepest parts of the Dale sides. The valley floor of Glaisdale is exceptionally flat and contains numerous drainage ditches following field boundaries, suggesting historic drainage of a former lake. The tree-lined Glaisdale Beck follows a winding course across the valley floor.

The Wintergill Valley is densely forested with conifers. Patches of conifer plantation also occur on the eastern Dale side, although some have been felled. There are also patches of deciduous woodland, and the amount of deciduous woodland increases down the Dale, until it merges with West Arncliffe Wood at the LCA boundary with the Lower Esk Valley. Moorland vegetation extends over the dale head and spills over the upper Dale sides, and moorland forms the smooth horizons which enclose the Dale. The moorland above the western side of the Dale contains tips and quarries from ironstone extraction. Below the surrounding moorland is a varied mosaic of field patterns, ranging from straight and regular, to irregular with no straight boundaries. These variations suggest different phases of enclosure. Field boundaries comprise hedges on the valley floor, giving way to stone walls higher up. Often the change in field boundaries occurs at the road. Most fields are improved pastures, with some cut for hay, and some rough ground.

The shape and relatively small size of Glaisdale means that it can be experienced as a single visual unit. Its small scale and intimate feel creates the impression of a 'dale in miniature'. There is little though traffic, especially on the eastern side, and exceptionally high levels of tranquillity.

Forces for Change acting on the Moorland Dales LCT

Issue/ Force for Change	Landscape sensitivities and potential impacts	LCAs affected
Infrastructure and communications.	Features such as overhead wires and mobile phone masts can appear incongruous within such a strongly-rural and intricate landscape, and electricity/ telephone poles are particularly visible in some dales. Structures which appear on otherwise open skylines are prominent when seen from the dales below.	All
Settlement expansion	The existing settlements within this LCT are very small, so it is unlikely that large-scale development will take place here. Nevertheless, there is likely to be demand for occasional new buildings or extensions to existing buildings. Unless well-designed and sited, these may detract from the existing rural and small-scale landscape, where buildings fit very comfortably into the surrounding landscape. Poor detailing such as property boundaries can result in a suburban feel which is detrimental to this strongly-rural environment.	All
Abandonment of traditional agricultural buildings, and demand for new buildings	<p>Changing farming practices require larger and more modern farm buildings. Old buildings no longer serving their original purpose are often re-purposed (e.g. conversion to holiday accommodation, business premises, or 'light touch' changes of use such as. camping barns). This may result in loss of historical integrity or fittings associated with their original uses. Changes may also affect their immediate surroundings, such the creation of as outdoor seating areas or parking spaces.</p> <p>New larger agricultural buildings are likely to be much more prominent in the landscape and may also contribute to light pollution unless carefully designed. Stone walls may fall into disrepair or hedgerows become gappy if they are no longer required to fence stock, or they may be replaced with post and wire fencing.</p>	All
Tree disease and invasive species	Ash dieback is present within this LCT. There are many ash trees within this LCT, so the effects will be pronounced. It will affect ash trees in woodlands, as well as alongside streams and in hedgerows. Other tree diseases and invasive species are also threats to both the appearance of the landscape and the functioning of ecosystems.	All
Biodiversity loss	Past decades have seen a decline in biodiversity resulting from farms switching from hay to silage. Hay meadows support much richer biodiversity than grass grown for silage, and their rich variety of herbs and grasses provide habitat and food for pollinators, butterflies and birds. The 20 th century also saw some Ancient Woodland within the Moorland Dales lost to plantation.	All
Climate change	Rising temperatures will affect the range of tree and plant species which can thrive, and may affect the composition of woodlands and the viability of plantations. Increased rainfall and intensity of storms will lead to greater risks of flooding and damage to trees and buildings. Drought will affect river levels and cause problems for livestock. Warmer temperatures and longer growing seasons may affect farmers' crop choices.	All

Issue/ Force for Change	Landscape sensitivities and potential impacts	LCAs affected
Loss of rural character	Increased signage and 'clutter' on roads can lead to a loss of rural character. Within this LCT it is most likely to occur on through roads or outside the larger settlements, but it is not currently a big problem. Traditional signposts are sometimes in poor condition. Unsympathetic roadside property boundaries can contribute to loss of rural character.	2a, 2b, 2e
Recreation and visitor pressure	Concentrations of visitors at key destinations can lead to issues with parking, erosion of paths, trampling of sensitive habitats, wildlife disturbance, and littering. Within this LCT, visitors tend to be concentrated at 'honeypot' sites such as Rievaulx Abbey, Duncombe Park and Rosedale Abbey. There may also be seasonal pressures, for example at Farndale when the daffodils are in flower.	2a, 2d, 2e
Farming and land management	<p>The consequences of past changes in farming practices are described in 'biodiversity loss' above. In addition the artificial fertilisation of fields, and the farming of livestock, may result in nitrate enrichment and the pollution of water supplies unless carefully managed.</p> <p>Intensive pheasant-rearing impacts on landscape character and biodiversity in some parts of the LCT, with large enclosures, blue plastic feed bins, growing of feed/ cover crops such as maize and millet, and loss of woodland ground flora.</p> <p>Forthcoming changes to agricultural grant schemes will focus on payments for delivery of 'public goods' such as climate change mitigation and adaptation measures, and supporting nature recovery. This is a change in emphasis to the subsidy system which will hopefully be a positive force for change in the landscape.</p>	All
Additional tree cover	<p>There are many opportunities within this LCT to increase tree cover in a variety of ways including natural colonisation (particularly on moorland fringes), new woodlands, woodpasture, hedgerow trees, roadside trees, infield trees, riparian trees and parkland trees.</p> <p>When thinking about increasing tree cover, it is important to consider any potential impacts on distinctive field patterns; settings of Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments and Conservation Areas, and sites with existing high levels of biodiversity such as flower-rich meadows. Some existing biodiversity-rich sites may not be designated or recorded.</p>	All
Loss of tranquillity and dark skies	Dark skies are threatened by new development, traffic, street lighting, and lightspill from agricultural buildings. Only Hartoft (LCT 2f) is within the Dark Skies Buffer Area. Tranquillity may also be affected by increases in noise, people and traffic.	All
Changes in adjacent LCTs	Where the Moorland LCT extends into the upper dale sides, changes in management within the Moorland LCT will affect views and character within the Moorland Dales. This is likely to include changes in the composition of moorland vegetation, such as the increased growth of scrub and trees. This would affect the appearance of the	All

Issue/ Force for Change	Landscape sensitivities and potential impacts	LCAs affected
	upper valley sides, increase the sense of enclosure, and may result in treed rather than open horizons as seen from within the Dales. The ongoing felling of some dale-side plantations is also changing the character and views from these Dales, creating stronger visual connections with the surrounding moorland.	

Landscape Guidelines for the Moorland Dales LCT

Protect

- Protect the diverse historic field patterns, repairing stone walls where necessary, and gapping-up/ managing hedgerows.
- Protect historic buildings and the distinctive built forms of this LCT. Ensure that conversion of redundant farm buildings is sensitive to their historic character and significance, and their location.
- Protect the relationship between farms/settlements and the surrounding landscape. Where new buildings / extensions are required, maintain this relationship through careful siting, design and mitigation (see National Park Design Guide). Pay particular attention to the settings of Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas.
- Protect the smooth moorland horizons which form the skylines in views from within the Dales, avoiding siting prominent structures in sensitive locations.
- Protect the sense of tranquillity within this LCT.
- Protect archaeological sites and historic buildings, taking a proactive approach to understanding and managing archaeological sites and buildings that are affected by change.
- Protect dark night skies.

Manage

- Encourage active management of broadleaved woodland where it will provide clear landscape and biodiversity benefits alongside production of wood products where appropriate. Seek opportunities to extend and link deciduous woodland (this can include hedgerow connections), and to soften the appearance of conifer plantations with deciduous planting. Encourage replacement of inappropriate conifer blocks with native woodland, especially in Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites.
- Manage moorland, rough grassland and meadow habitats, seeking opportunities to create connections with similar habitats in this LCT and adjacent LCTs. Identify opportunities to restore flower-rich meadows.
- Manage hedgerows and dry stone walls using traditional methods where possible. Where possible allow hedgerows to become larger, richer wildlife habitats. Use hedgerows to improve habitat connectivity between woodlands, using species present in existing local hedgerows.
- Encourage good practice with regard to pheasant-rearing, to minimise landscape and biodiversity impacts.

- Manage veteran, roadside and hedgerow trees, allowing new trees to grow out as standards.
- Manage designed landscapes, promoting use of Parkland Management Plans and the planting of new trees to become the parkland and veteran trees of the future.
- Manage SSSIs and Scheduled Monuments to ensure that they remain within 'favourable' or 'not at risk' status.
- Manage popular visitor sites, taking particular care to ensure that fragile habitats are not damaged, and enable visitors to appreciate and respect the landscapes which they are visiting.

Plan

- Consider opportunities for increasing tree cover, for example through encouraging roadside and hedgerow trees, and planting new infield trees, woodpasture and native woodland. Woodland planting should avoid obliterating strong field patterns, and should follow the landform (for example parallel to the slopes on valley sides, or along watercourses). Avoid planting woodlands with straight edges, as these can look very discordant in this landscape. In some locations there may be opportunities create valley floor wet woodland, or to allow natural colonisation. Before commencing any tree planting, professional advice should be sought to ensure that there will be no negative effects on the historic environment, ecology or access.
- Promote Natural Flood Management techniques where appropriate.
- Take great care in the design and siting of new farm buildings, ensuring that they are located close to existing farm buildings, and that their design and materials will minimise their visual impact. Use native tree and hedgerow planting to help screen them, and minimise the use of cut and fill.
- Consider opportunities for increased pedestrian access into some Moorland Dales, for example through the creation of new riverside paths, where this can be done without detriment to valuable habitats.
- Consider the impacts of potential changes in moorland management on the character of the nearby Dales. For example, consider how increasing tree cover will affect the moorland horizons as seen from within the Dales.
- Seek opportunities to underground overhead wires and poles where possible.
- Where installation of communications masts or other vertical features are unavoidable, site them close to existing trees or buildings. Consider non-standard designs to minimise visual impact. Avoid siting masts on open skylines.
- Retain the rural character of settlements, avoiding unnecessary signage and urbanising features such as concrete kerbs, tarmac pavements/ driveways and close-boarded fencing. Use native tree and hedgerow planting to screen new buildings / extensions and help them integrate into the landscape.
- Ensure that change to heritage assets is informed by an understanding of their importance, and can retain and where possible enhance their significance. Provision should be made for management plans, and research into materials, where appropriate.

- Promote use of locally-produced wool for building insulation, as it is natural, local and compatible with historic building stock.