

Landscape Strategy

and European Landscape Convention Action Plan



Peak District National Park Landscape Strategy and Action Plan 2009 – 2019

July 2009

Final Report

Acknowledgements

This strategy has been jointly produced by Countryside and the Peak District National Park Authority.

The Strategy has been produced under the guidance of a Steering Group comprising representatives from the following organisations: Peak District National Park Authority, The University of Sheffield, Natural England, Derbyshire County Council and Friends of the Peak District.

We would also like to thank the many organisations and individuals who attended workshops and/or commented on the draft document.



Foreword

Our national parks were designated for their high landscape value – a value which we, the people of this nation, put on them – and the first of two statutory purposes is to conserve and enhance their natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage; but that task cannot be ideally and fully carried out until one is sure one knows where that beauty lies and what the heritage is that requires protection.

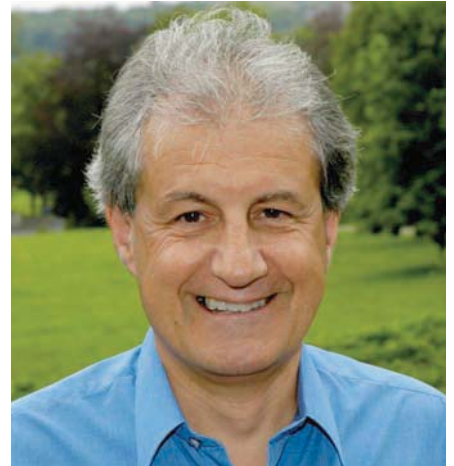
We achieved an important milestone in upholding that designation and in pursuing that purpose for this national park when in March 2008 we published our first comprehensive Landscape Character Assessment. No longer would the beauty of the Peak District's landscapes remain unarticulated, other than in poetry and art; now the glorious variety of the national park's landscapes are systematically identified, described and mapped.

It would be easy now to be complacent and to put the Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) on a shelf and to take it down from time to time to admire the job we did; but we all know that landscapes are not static, however much we might idealise them and hope to freeze-frame time itself. Our diverse Peak District landscapes have been shaped through history by the interaction between people and nature, and they will continue to change in response to natural processes and the needs and priorities of communities.

Maintaining a past physical landscape is virtually impossible, but maintaining the key characteristics which create a sense of place in each distinct landscape and are valued by people is within the art of the possible. Hence the importance of capturing those key characteristics in the LCA. Now we must set out to protect our cherished landscapes by maintaining those characteristics whilst accommodating changes arising from social, economic and environmental necessity.

This document – the Peak District National Park Landscape Strategy and Action Plan - provides a broad framework to guide future landscape change. It helps to fulfil the National Park Management Plan and works alongside a wide range of the Authority's plans and strategies. It also places the Peak District National Park at the forefront of practical action to make a reality of the European Landscape Convention in England.

The landscape guidelines are not prescriptive. They need to be applied with a careful eye for the local circumstances and the views of local and wider communities about landscape change. However, the combined impact of the LCA and this document is to give all the Authority's staff a spatial lodestone for their work and all our stakeholders and the public who love the park a source of inspiration for what we mean by the importance of a sense of place.



Christopher Pennell

© Peak District National Park Authority

Christopher Pennell

Member Representative for Natural Beauty

Document Structure

The landscapes of the Peak District National Park have been mapped, with eight landscape character areas representing broad areas of landscape which share a common identity, e.g. the White Peak. Within each area a number of landscape character types have been defined based upon the pattern of natural and cultural characteristics, e.g. Open Moors or Riverside Meadows. The following documents comprise the Landscape Strategy and Action Plan:

Section 1. Introduction and Overview:

A section that sets out the context and rationale behind the Landscape Strategy and Action Plan and links to the European Landscape Convention.

Section 2. Landscape Character Assessment, Strategy and Guidelines:

A report for each of the eight landscape character areas which have been identified in the Peak District. Each report contains information from the Landscape Character Assessment, which describes the landscapes identified in the area, together with the Landscape Strategy and Guidelines¹.

Section 3. European Landscape Convention Action Plan:

A plan which sets out how the Landscape Strategy and Guidelines will be delivered across the National Park as a whole over the next 10 years.

Contents

Section 1. Introduction & Overview

Introduction	5
European Landscape Convention	6
What is Landscape?	7
Landscape Change	8
Policy Context	9
Stakeholder Consultation	15
How to Use the Landscape Strategy and Action Plan	17
Map of Landscape Character Areas	18
Map of Landscape Character Types	19

Section 2. Landscape Character Assessment, Strategy and Guidelines

2. White Peak	20
3. Dark Peak	40
4. Dark Peak Western Fringe	64
5. Dark Peak Yorkshire Fringe	84
6. Derbyshire Peak Fringe	102
7. Derwent Valley	122
8. Eastern Moors	148
9. South West Peak	166

Section 3. European Landscape Convention Action Plan

10. European Landscape Convention Action Plan	198
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¹The Landscape Character Assessment has previously been published separately in March 2008.

Introduction



Hurdlow, looking south © Peak District National Park Authority

The Peak District National Park is Britain's first National Park. Taken as a whole, it is a treasured landscape that has been shaped and continues to evolve through the interaction of natural and cultural forces. It is a landscape of exceptional natural beauty that provides opportunities for outdoor recreation to millions of people.

At a local scale, the Peak District National Park consists of many individual landscapes, each valued for their particular characteristics. These landscapes contrast with surrounding industrial and urban landscapes, enriching the lives of everyone who visits, lives and works in them. They also provide many other essential services to support life and economic activity, including fresh water supply, carbon storage, farming and tourism.

The overall management of the National Park is guided by the National Park Management Plan. This Strategy and Action Plan forms one of several strategies which set out in more detail how the National Park Management Plan will be delivered. The Strategy and Action Plan will only be successful through strong partnership working in the Peak District, building on existing links between stakeholders.

This Landscape Strategy and Action Plan demonstrates how the obligations of the European Landscape Convention will be fulfilled within the Peak District National Park. The Strategy and Action Plan is effective from 2009 to 2019, when a review will take place. The Action Plan will be valid for this period but also establishes timescales for all of the actions defined.

European Landscape Convention

The European Landscape Convention (ELC) came into force in the UK in March 2007. The Convention establishes the need to recognise landscape in law; to develop landscape policies dedicated to the protection, management and planning of landscapes; and to establish procedures for the participation of the general public and other stakeholders in the creation and implementation of landscape policies. It also encourages the integration of landscape into all relevant areas of policy, including cultural, economic and social policies.

The European Landscape Convention defines landscape as:

“an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors”

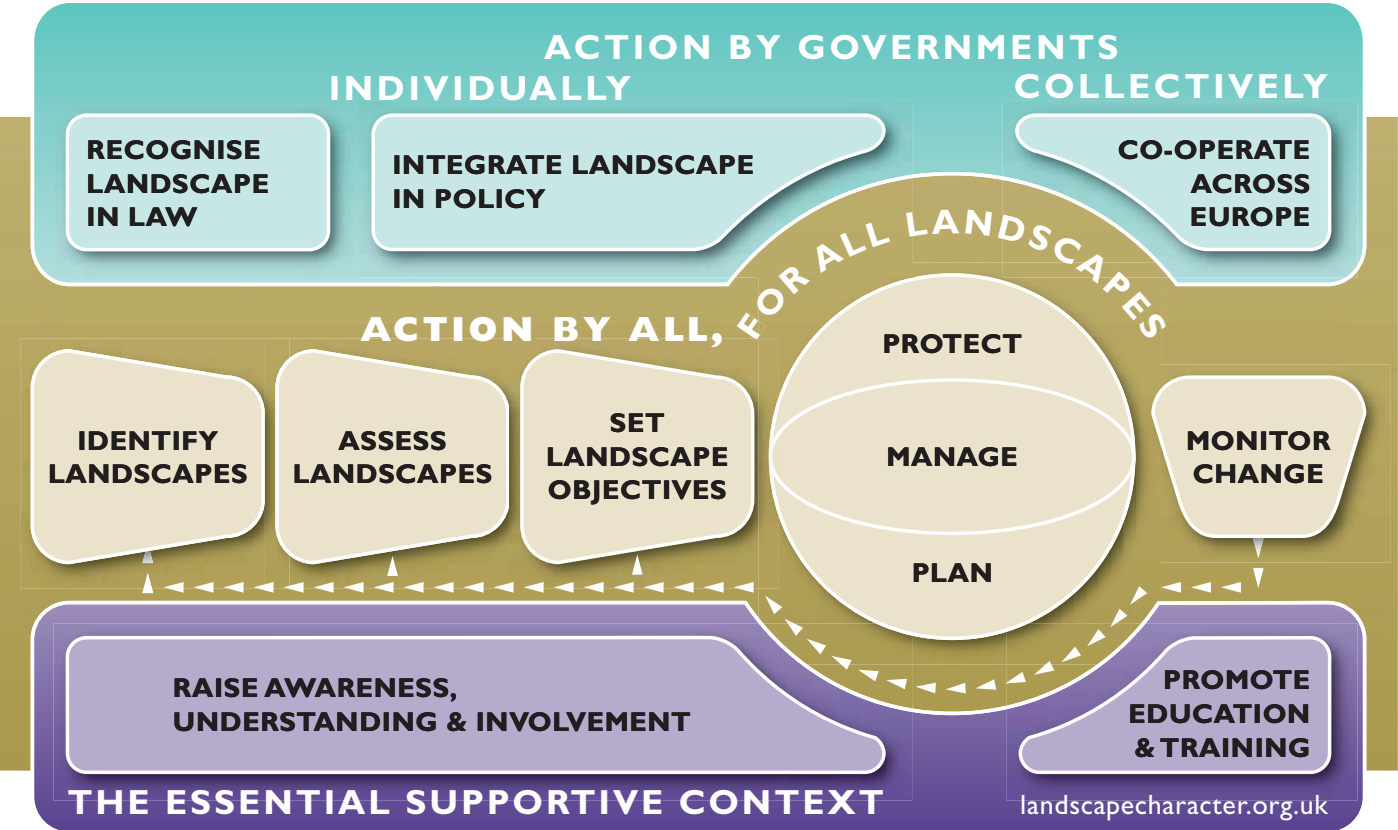
The diagram below illustrates the practical steps needed to implement the European Landscape Convention:

Implementing the European Landscape Convention

Defra has charged Natural England with leading the implementation of the European Landscape Convention in England, working in partnership with English Heritage. An implementation framework has been published in 2007 and revised in 2009. The framework seeks to further strengthen the protection, management and planning of landscape in England by providing a structure for the Action Plans of partners and stakeholders. European Landscape Convention Action Plans have been produced by Natural England and English Heritage, providing a national steer:

Implementing the ELC in the Peak District National Park

The Peak District Landscape Strategy and Action Plan will form a key contribution to the implementation of the ELC in the Peak District National Park. The Landscape Strategy builds on the Landscape Character Assessment completed in 2008, and provides information regarding landscape change, a vision for the future and landscape guidelines for the distinctive landscapes of the Peak District. The Landscape Action Plan will reaffirm the importance of landscape, co-ordinate existing work and guide future work to protect, manage and plan the landscapes of the Peak District, as embodied within the purposes of the National Park Management Plan.

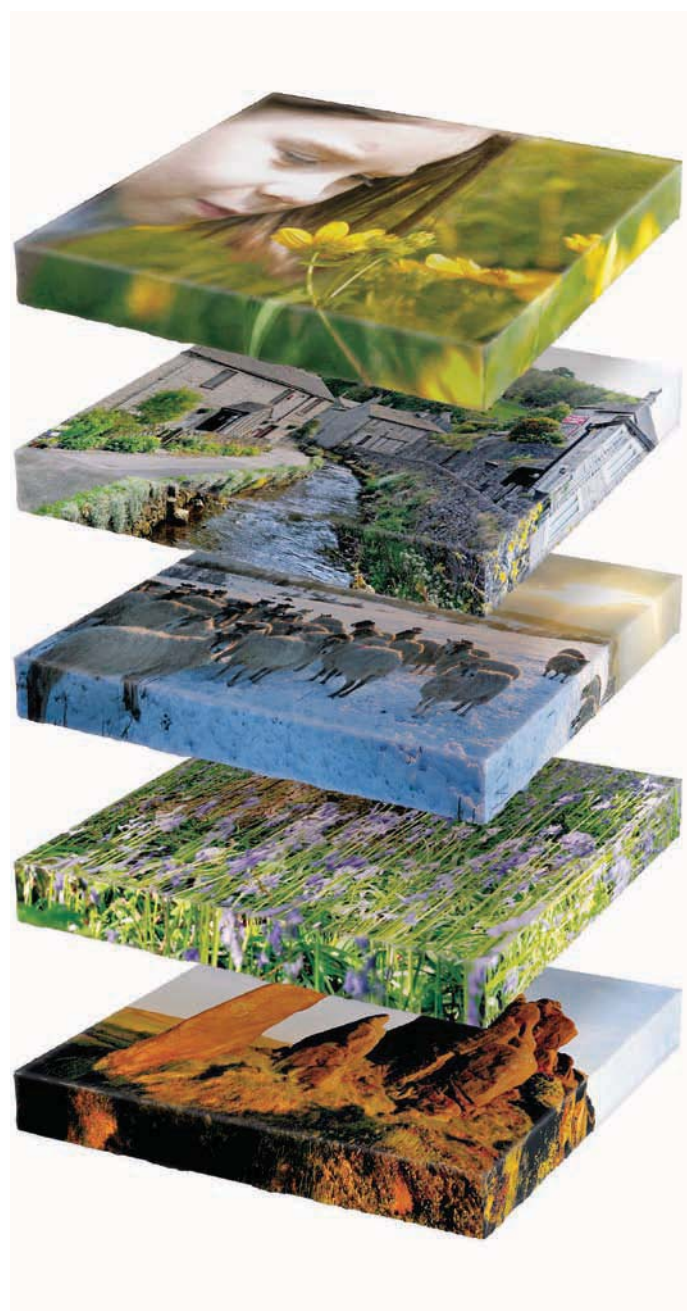


Making a reality of the European Landscape Convention

What is Landscape?

Landscape is more than just 'the view'. It is about the relationship between people, place and nature. It is the ever-changing backdrop to our daily lives. It can mean a small patch of urban wasteland as much as a mountain range, and an urban park as much as a lowland plain.

Landscape results from the way that different components of our environment – both natural and cultural – interact together and are perceived by us. People value landscape for many different reasons. It is therefore important to understand what the landscape is like today, how it came to be like that and how it may change in the future



Experience:

Landscape is more than the sum of physical features that make up our environment. How we perceive the landscape can have an important influence on how we use or value its character and resources.

History:

The landscapes of the Peak District have been shaped by human activity throughout history. It is therefore important to understand past patterns, the extent to which they have survived and how different stages in history have contributed to the character of today's landscape.

Land Use:

Land use includes all of the various uses that people make of the landscape, such as settlement, farming and field enclosure, energy production and forestry. The character of the English landscape is particularly influenced by the present-day pattern of these features, as well as their historical legacy.

Wildlife:

The variety of plants and animals in the English landscape has been shaped over thousands of years by a complex set of social, historical and economic factors, all operating against the physical backdrop of the landscape itself. The types and abundance of wildlife and the habitats of which they form a part can play a significant role in shaping the character - and in some cases the function - of each particular landscape.

Natural Form:

Natural form includes geology, landform, river and drainage systems, soils and vegetation cover. The shape of the land, or landform, is often the main influence on the character of the landscape, especially in upland areas. Rivers and drainage systems also have an important part to play in shaping the landscape, whilst geology, soils and vegetation cover can determine the 'usefulness' of the land for agriculture, settlement and other functions.

Landscape Change

In the 1970 book 'New Lives New Landscapes' Nan Fairbrother² explained:

"Landscape... is not a static background which we inhabit, but the interaction of a society and the habitat it lives in, and if either man or the habitat changes then so inevitably must the resulting landscape."

Landscape = habitat + man

...the natural environment changed by a creature who is himself constantly changing. It is thus the result of an equation which can never be stable, and if it has seemed so in the past it is because the pace of landscape change has been slow compared with our brief human generations."

Maintaining a past landscape is not possible. Landscapes are not fixed, and are subject to constant and unpreventable forces of change which apply pressures and have different impacts upon landscapes, so that they change in response to both human practices and changing natural processes. The aim is not to preserve a landscape created from past processes, but to ensure that valued and key characteristics which create a sense of place are maintained and enhanced into the future. There is a need to protect the cherished landscapes of the Peak District whilst accommodating necessary changes arising from social, economic and environmental necessity.

The European Landscape Convention identifies three principles of landscape action:

- **Landscape protection:** action to conserve and maintain the significant or characteristic features of a landscape, justified by their natural or cultural value
- **Landscape management:** action to ensure sustainable development and ongoing upkeep of a landscape, guiding changes arising from social, economic and environmental necessity
- **Landscape planning:** means strong forward-looking action to enhance, restore or create landscapes

In a National Park, designated for the national importance of the landscape, there must be a strong emphasis on landscape protection. The Landscape Strategy and Action Plan reflects this priority. However, many landscapes will require a mixture of protection, management and planning. In such cases some aspects of the landscape are so valued that they must be protected, others must be allowed to evolve in a sustainable manner, whilst there may be opportunities to introduce new elements in the landscape. The landscape guidelines have been structured to clearly identify priorities for landscape protection, management and planning.



Trees play an important role in how we perceive the landscape
© Peak District National Park Authority

Future Landscapes in the Peak District

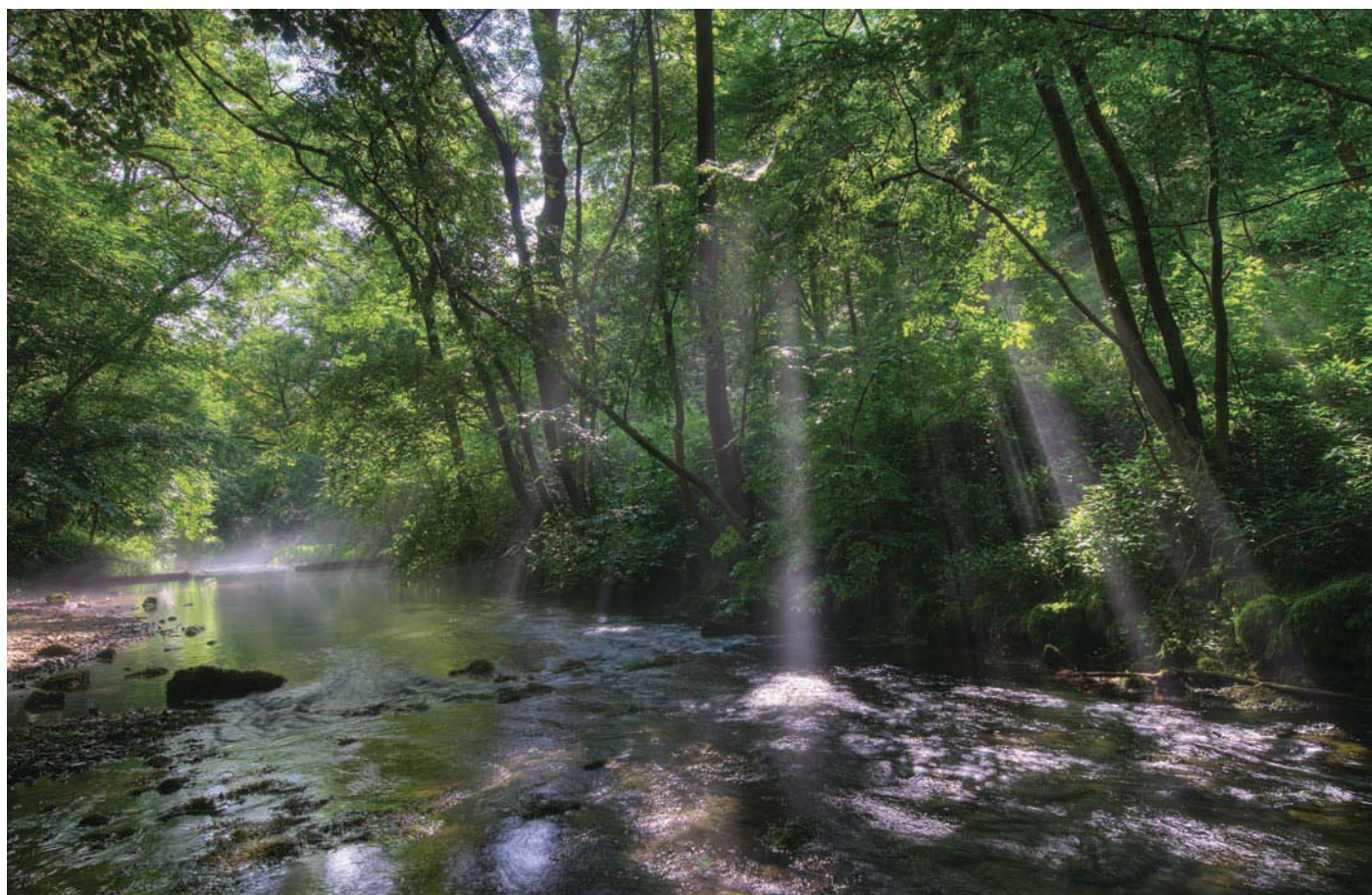
There are many possible future directions for landscapes and there are particular challenges in the Peak District National Park. The Landscape Strategy and Action Plan has taken account of the need to maintain functional ecosystems that provide services to support life and the economy. The need to protect the tranquillity and dark skies that are so valued in the Peak District has also been recognised.

As well as protecting valued characteristics of the Peak District, the Landscape Strategy and Action Plan proposes changes to some landscapes to enhance them and ensure that they are more resilient to climate change. Such changes include the rewetting of moorland to protect blanket bog and maximise carbon storage. Actions to reconnect rivers to more natural flood plains are also proposed to mitigate the impacts of the anticipated increase in flooding and storm events. There are also proposals for the re-wilding of some landscapes which will provide landscapes for recreation, whilst creating opportunities to expand valuable semi-natural habitats such as limestone heath. Such proposals, whilst likely to make a significant contribution to the valued characteristics of the National Park, are likely to be relatively modest in scale given the existing high landscape quality and the strong contribution that cultural heritage features make to the landscape across much of the National Park.

This is a 10-year plan, which identifies opportunities for new directions for some landscapes and is realistic about what can be achieved within this timescale. There are many alternative directions in which landscapes might change, and it is essential that changes are made with meaningful dialogue with people who live in, work in and visit the valued landscapes of the Peak District. Partnership working and the development of local landscape visions with stakeholders is the essence of this approach to landscape planning.

² Fairbrother, N., New Lives, New Landscapes, Pelican Books, London, 1970. p12.

Policy Context



Lathkill River mist © Peak District National Park Authority

National and Regional Policy Context

Statutory Purposes of the National Park³

The Environment Act 1995 defined the purposes of National Parks as:

- conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage
- promoting opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of their special qualities

In addition to the above purposes, National Parks have a duty to:

- seek to foster the economic and social well-being of local communities within the National Park with regard to the statutory purposes

³ www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/designatedareas/nationalparks/

The Landscape Strategy and Action Plan contributes to the first purpose of National Parks by providing a context and direction for actions to conserve and enhance natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage within the Peak District National Park. In the context of a National Park there is a direct relationship between the terms of the Environment Act and those in the European Landscape Convention. The term 'protect' in the European Landscape Convention is equivalent to 'conserve' in the Environment Act. The terms 'manage' and 'plan' describe actions to 'enhance' the landscape through guiding necessary change and strong forward-looking action.

The Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Strategy contribute to the second purpose by providing tools for enhancing awareness, enjoyment and understanding of the special qualities of the National Park. The Landscape Action Plan includes specific actions related to landscape education and to communicating the special qualities of the landscape.

The Landscape Strategy and Action Plan provides a framework for considering future landscape change in the different landscapes of the Peak District. The documents recognise the need to accommodate necessary landscape change to foster the economic and social well-being of local communities, whilst conserving and enhancing the landscape.



Traditional field barn and wall patterns © Peak District National Park Authority

Natural England Landscape Policies

The Landscape Strategy and Action Plan respond to Natural England's Framework for Delivery of the ELC⁴, and their emerging landscape policies⁵. The Landscape Strategy and Action Plan considers all of the landscapes that are characterised by the Landscape Character Assessment (LCA), aiming to provide a robust context for managing landscape change in a sustainable manner which will reinforce character and local identity. The Peak District National Park Authority has created one of the first ELC Action Plans produced in England, leading the way in the sustainable use and management of landscapes. The Landscape Strategy and Action Plan places an understanding of landscape, including its associated natural and cultural heritage and landscape dynamics, at the core of sustainable resource management and planning. They establish a landscape perspective for integrated land use planning and land, water and resource management.

East Midlands Regional Plan, March 2009⁶

The National Park spans four government regions but, for the purposes of planning policy, the whole of the National Park is covered by the East Midlands Regional Plan. The Landscape Strategy and Action Plan complies with the policies in this Plan:

- **Policy 8** (Spatial priorities in and around the Peak sub-area)

The Landscape Strategy and Action Plan complies with this policy by working to reinforce the statutory designation, helping secure conservation and enhancement efforts. It also enables more focused understanding and management of cultural and natural heritage resources.

⁴ www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/tcm232117_tcm6-8169.pdf

⁵ www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/Landscape Policy- final_tcm6-9279.pdf

- **Policy 26** (Protecting and enhancing the region's natural and cultural heritage)

The Landscape Strategy and Action Plan promotes sustainable development and appropriate management, and provides an approach to the enhancement of natural and cultural heritage.

- **Policy 30** (Priorities for managing and increasing woodland cover)

The Landscape Strategy and Action Plan will be able to identify areas for woodland creation and feed this information into the review of the current regional target for increasing woodland cover.

- **Policy 31** (Priorities for the management and enhancement of the region's landscape)

The Landscape Strategy and Action Plan will provide a means of understanding, protecting and enhancing National Park landscapes in a sustainable manner and to a high standard. It also provides a strong context for future policies and projects.

A Regional Landscape Character Assessment is currently being produced for the East Midlands Region. This regional assessment will be a key reference for regional spatial planning. It has built on the results of the 2007 Peak District Landscape Character Assessment.

Local Policy Context

Peak District National Park Management Plan (2006-2011)⁷

The Landscape Strategy and Action Plan provides an important tool to deliver the vision of the published National Park Management Plan 2006-2011:

- a conserved and enhanced Peak District where the natural beauty and quality of its landscapes, its biodiversity, tranquillity, cultural heritage and the settlements within it continue to be valued for their diversity and richness.
- a welcoming Peak District where people from all parts of our diverse society have the opportunity to visit, appreciate, understand and enjoy the National Park's special qualities.
- a living, modern and innovative Peak District that contributes positively to vibrant communities for both residents and people in neighbouring urban areas, and demonstrates a high quality of life whilst conserving and enhancing the special qualities of the National Park.
- a viable and thriving Peak District economy that capitalises on its special qualities and promotes a strong sense of identity.

⁶ www.gos.gov.uk/497296/docs/229865/East_Midlands_Regional_Plan2.pdf

⁷ www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/npmp.pdf

The Landscape Character Assessment establishes a spatial context for considering issues, policies and actions from the Management Plan. An understanding of the diversity of landscapes across the Peak District, will make it easier to interpret and implement the Management Plan.

The current National Park Management Plan establishes a specific landscape outcome:

- a clear characterisation of the whole of the landscape and it is conserved and enhanced in accordance with that characterisation.

The Landscape Character Assessment⁸ (2008)⁸ provides a clear characterisation of the landscape. It has identified, mapped and described landscape character types and areas, capturing the variation of the landscapes of the Peak District. The Landscape Strategy and Action Plan provides the means to ensure that the whole landscape is conserved and enhanced in accordance with that characterisation. The Landscape Character Assessment also provides a framework to support spatial planning and other outcomes of the Management Plan, including those related to planning policy, cultural heritage, and biodiversity. The Landscape Strategy and Action Plan is part of a suite of strategies for the Peak District National Park. The text below highlights links with key policies, plans and strategies.

Local Development Framework⁹

The 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act established far-reaching changes for the English planning system, the most significant being the replacement of the Development Plan with a Local Development Framework, which requires an evidence-based and spatial approach to planning for sustainable development. The Peak District National Park Authority is currently preparing a Local Development Framework. The Local Development Framework must reflect the valued characteristics of the Peak District. The Landscape Character Assessment provides a valuable spatial context for planning and a description of the character of the landscape. The Landscape Strategy provides information on landscape change and guidelines that can inform policy development. However, the Local Plan and emerging Local Development Framework provide the definitive policy position with regard to planning matters in the Peak District National Park.

Cultural Heritage Strategy¹⁰

The Landscape Strategy and Action Plan integrates cultural heritage management into a wider landscape context. They promote sustainable planning and management of all landscape characteristics, and an understanding of interactions which may affect cultural heritage elements, therefore supporting the existing Cultural Heritage Strategy.

Biodiversity Action Plan¹¹

The Landscape Strategy and Action Plan aids in identifying actions to restore and (re-)create landscapes. They provide understanding of condition, driving forces and interactions which may affect biodiversity. The Strategy and Action Plan helps to reinforce social, cultural and economic benefits of actions to enhance biodiversity resources. They also provide a basis for monitoring biodiversity and other landscape elements.

Peak District Design Guide (Supplementary Planning Document)¹²

The Landscape Strategy and Action Plan provides a point of reference for design, complementing the existing National Park Design Guide. The landscape guidelines do not provide detailed design guidance, but inform understanding of the landscape context of a proposed development and the implications of any landscape schemes associated with development.

⁸ www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/index/pubs/lca.htm

⁹ www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/index/looking-after/plansandpolicies/ldf.htm

¹⁰ www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/chstrategy.pdf

¹¹ www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/bap.pdf

¹² www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/designguide.pdf



Hathersage Moor- Heather moorland is particularly characteristic of the British uplands © Peak District National Park Authority

Conservation Area Appraisals

A Conservation Area is defined as an area of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance. There are 109 Conservation Areas in the Peak District National Park. Conservation Area Appraisals are currently being completed to identify the special qualities that make a place worthy of designation as a Conservation Area, and to look at ways in which the character of a place can be conserved or enhanced through future changes.

Village Plans

Many communities in the Peak District have researched and written Village Plans. Writing a Village Plan can be an excellent way for residents to think about what they value in the landscape, and how they can work together with outside agencies to look after it, understand it better and make sure that visitors are well informed. The Landscape Strategy and Action Plan contains information about the character and priorities for different landscapes, providing a strategic context for local studies.

Climate Change Action Plan¹³

There is now an overwhelming body of scientific evidence highlighting the serious and urgent nature of climate change. It is recognised that the impacts of climate change will result in changes to the landscapes of the Peak District, with particular impacts affecting some landscapes more than others. A Climate Change Action Plan has been produced that considers the response to climate change across the Peak District National Park. The Landscape Strategy and Action Plan can be used to enhance the spatial understanding of climate change mitigation and adaptation programmes, existing and new. It will aid in monitoring which landscapes and associated elements are being affected by climate change and thus help to ensure an appropriately focused response.

Renewable energy is important in helping to combat the effects of climate change. There are many opportunities within the National Park to develop small-scale renewable energy for local needs. These include the current technology of solar power; ground source heat pumps, anaerobic digesters, wind and water power and others. This list is not comprehensive and new technologies are being developed. Some of these renewable energy technologies have a landscape scale impact; these particularly include water power, wind power and wood fuel projects. The Strategy identifies the landscape character types which could potentially accommodate water and wood fuel schemes, either by utilising existing landscape features, such as rivers and woodland, and helping to maintain them, or by creating new features where appropriate.

¹³ www.peakdistrict.org/peakdistrict-climate-change-action-plan.pdf



Landform and farming shape the distinctive features of Rushup Edge © Peak District National Park Authority

Recreation Strategy

The Landscape Strategy and Action Plan will help to provide a spatial dimension for understanding how landscape character contributes to opportunities for, and is affected by, actions associated with recreation.

Minerals Strategic Action Plan

The Minerals Strategic Action Plan expresses how some of the actions identified in the National Park Management Plan with respect to minerals will be achieved. In addition, it states how the Authority's statutory duties regarding minerals will be carried out. The Landscape Strategy and Action Plan provides general actions and specific guidelines to reduce the landscape impacts of minerals operations.

Sustainable Transport Action Plan

The Sustainable Transport Action Plan is currently being prepared. It will take forward and build on the actions of the National Park Management Plan to improve traffic, travel and accessibility for residents and visitors to the National Park. The Landscape Strategy and Action Plan provides general actions and specific guidelines to reduce the landscape impacts of transport and its associated infrastructure on the National Park.

Sustainable Tourism Strategy

The Sustainable Tourism Strategy is currently under review. It seeks to capitalise on the Peak District's rural environment, underpinned by the quality of the landscape, to provide socio-economic benefits to local communities through tourism. The Landscape Strategy and Action Plan will help to guide opportunities to use landscape as a means of enhancing tourism in the Peak District, and to ensure that sustainable tourism development enhances the landscape.

Strategy for Working with People and Communities

The landscapes of the Peak District are managed largely by local people and communities who live and work in the area. The Landscape Strategy and Action Plan is very much concerned with the relationship of people and place. It will be a useful document to help guide the implementation of projects and plans which strengthen this relationship and increase the role of people and communities in planning and managing Peak District landscapes. By this means, it will help implement and reinforce the Strategy for Working with People and Communities.

Land management and grant schemes

Agri-Environment Schemes

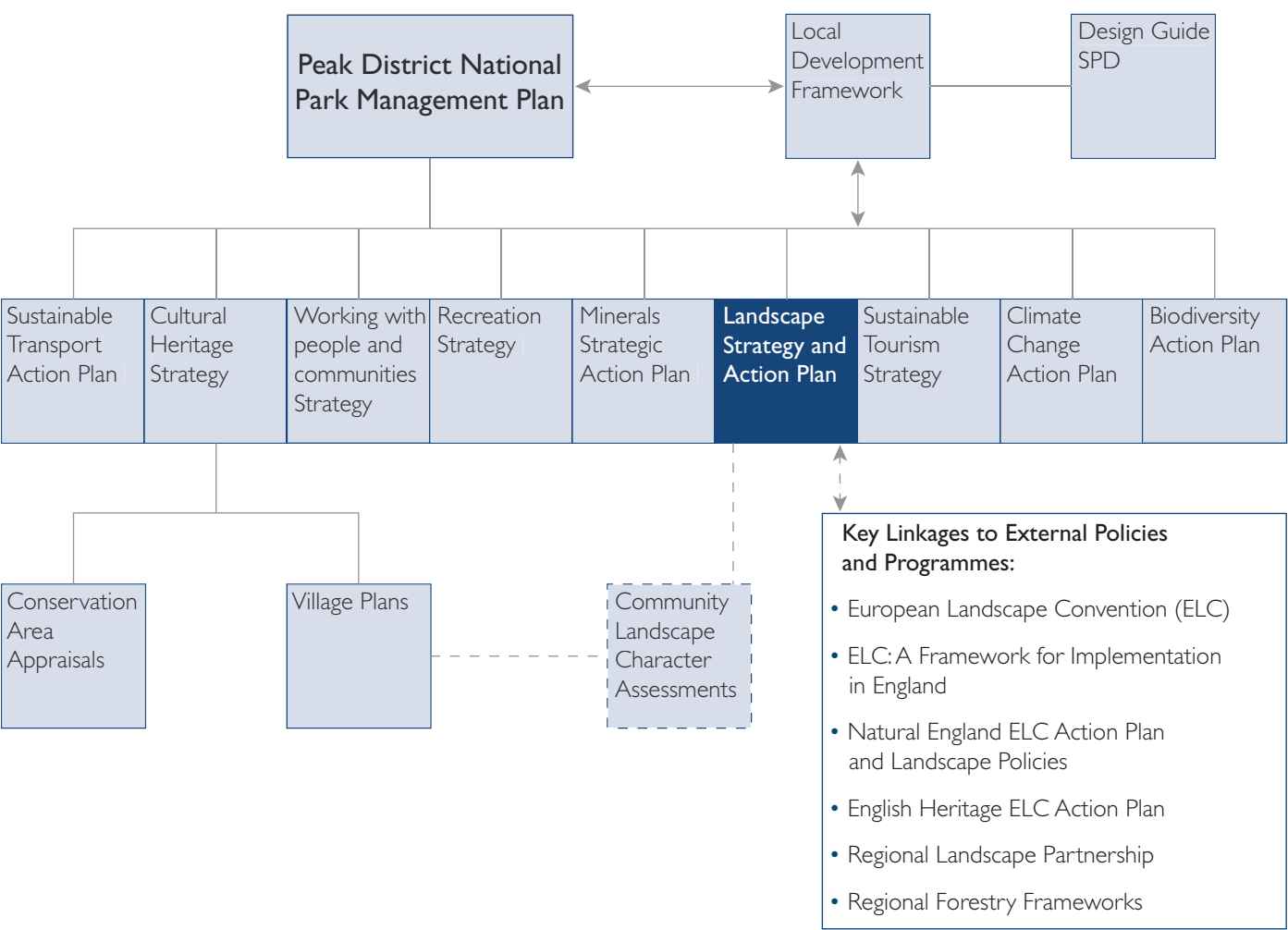
Landscape Character Assessment has a key role to play in targeting agri-environment payments to farmers, because a main objective of the scheme is to maintain and enhance landscape quality and character. Agri-environment schemes are not part of the policy context, and instead represent a delivery mechanism to achieve the objectives of the Landscape Strategy and Action Plan. The Landscape Strategy and Action Plan will enhance the evidence base and understanding regarding local landscape character and landscape change for agri-environment scheme targeting.

The Landscape Strategy and Action Plan provides a robust evidence base and context for identifying all environmental assets on a farm. The Landscape Strategy and Action Plan will enable better analysis of the presence and condition of assets and how these are changing. They will also provide detailed advice on appropriate management strategies for maintaining or enhancing assets at a landscape scale in a manner that will support or enhance landscape character.

English Woodland Grant Scheme

The English Woodland Grant Scheme consists of six grants for the creation and stewardship of woodlands, and is operated by the Forestry Commission. Understanding how woodland contributes to landscape character will inform work associated with the different grant schemes. It helps to inform landscape design plans, ecological assessments, and historical and cultural assessments. Similarly, it can inform work for the Woodland Regeneration Grant and the Woodland Improvement Grant, both of which aim to manage changes in existing woodlands, and the Woodland Creation Grant, which seeks to enhance the landscape through woodland creation. The Landscape Strategy and Action Plan can also inform the production of Woodland Management Plans under the Woodland Management Grant by helping to provide context and directions for future woodland management.

How the Landscape Strategy and Action Plan link to other strategies and action plans



Castleton Valley © Peak District National Park Authority

Stakeholder Consultation



Rainbow, Morridge © Peak District National Park Authority

Consultation has been an essential process in the preparation of the Peak District Landscape Strategy and Action Plan. A series of consultation events were carried out with a range of stakeholders, aimed at enhancing understanding of how the Peak District landscapes are changing and how they may change into the future from many different perspectives. The purpose was to capture an understanding of the landscape from people who live in, work in and shape it and to ensure that the resulting publication was realistic, useful and applicable to the work of the stakeholders. These consultation events are summarised below. Following preparation of the first draft of the Landscape Strategy and Action Plan, a web based consultation was carried out in order to provide people with an opportunity comment upon the content of the documents and thus refine them further:

Your Vision: Your Peak District National Park

Seven community consultation events were held during autumn 2008 to inform the production of the Landscape Strategy and Action Plan and the Peak District National Park Local Development Framework. Events were held in Kettlethulme, Hathersage, Hayfield, Warslow, Bakewell, Bradfield and Holme, with participants invited from local community organisations, such as parish councils, civic societies and local forums as well as members of the National Park Authority.

The aims of the events were:

- to inform local community champions and local stakeholders about the Local Development Framework (LDF) and Landscape Strategy
- to engage local community champions and local stakeholders in defining the key issues relevant to their local area affecting Peak District landscape and planning policies
- to identify landscape quality objectives that should appear in the Landscape Strategy and in LDF policies

The events used Ketso mind maps to capture information about: Energy and Natural Resources; Farming and Land Use; History and Heritage; Jobs and Business; Recreation and Tourism; Sense of Community; Traffic and Transport; and Wildlife and Nature.

Officer Workshop: Issues of change

On 1 December 2008 a workshop was held at Aldern House, Bakewell. Participants were members of the National Park staff. The purpose of the workshop was to gain understanding of how officers perceived landscape change through their work. Participants considered landscape change through a range of driving forces recognised as attributable for landscape change. These were: Conservation; Climate change implications; Demography, housing and employment; Tourism and recreation; Resource and land use; Transport and infrastructure; and Energy. Data was collected spatially using large format maps and tables enabling officers to record information for each landscape character area or specific locations.

Officer Workshop: Landscape visions and the ELC

On 12 February 2009 a workshop was held at Aldern House, Bakewell. Participants were National Park staff and members. The purpose of the workshop was to consider landscape futures. Participants were asked to consider innovative future visions based on their understanding of landscapes and the issues of change acting upon them. Participants were also asked to consider which current policies, plans and programmes could be linked to the European Landscape Convention (ELC) Action Plan and any new policies, plans and programmes which could help to strengthen activity associated with the ELC Action Plan.

Results were collated for the different landscape character areas using large format maps and tables.

Communities of Interest Workshop

On 13th February 2009 a workshop was held at Losehill Hall, Castleton. Participants were regional stakeholders with an interest in the Peak District and how it may be shaped in the future. The purpose of the workshop was to gain understanding from the stakeholders regarding landscape change and landscape futures from their work perspectives. Participants were asked to discuss and describe issues of landscape change for each landscape character area. They were then asked to consider innovative future visions based on their understanding. Participants also considered which current policies, plans and programmes could be linked to the ELC Action Plan and new policies, plans and programmes which could help to strengthen activity associated with the ELC Action Plan.

Findings from all of the above events are detailed in individual reports produced for each workshop. Data is also recorded in a series of overviews where information from all of the workshops is collated and combined for each landscape character area.

Web- based Consultation

Following the production of the draft Peak District Landscape Strategy and Action Plan, a web-based consultation was undertaken to provide opportunity for people to comment on the draft documents. The consultation ran from 21 April to 29 May 2009. Many comments were received and these were used to further enhance the content and focus of the documents, their robustness and applicability.



Snow transforms the landscape. The Roaches.
© Peak District National Park Authority

How to Use the Landscape Strategy and Action Plan

When considering a possible landscape change, it is important to consider the valued characteristics of the landscape and how they will be affected by the change. The Landscape Strategy and Action Plan helps to raise an understanding of the character and dynamics of the different landscapes of the Peak District National Park. There are many local variations in landscape and it is essential that site-based decisions take account of local circumstances.

Decisions about landscape changes should, wherever possible, be made through discussion and partnership amongst people who live in, work in and visit an area. The steps below describe how to use information from the Landscape Strategy and Action Plan to inform decisions about landscape change.

- I Use the Landscape Character Assessment map overleaf or the web link, to locate which landscape character area is relevant to the proposal for landscape change

www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/lcamap

- II Refer to the chapter of the Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Strategy to gain an understanding of how the landscape has developed

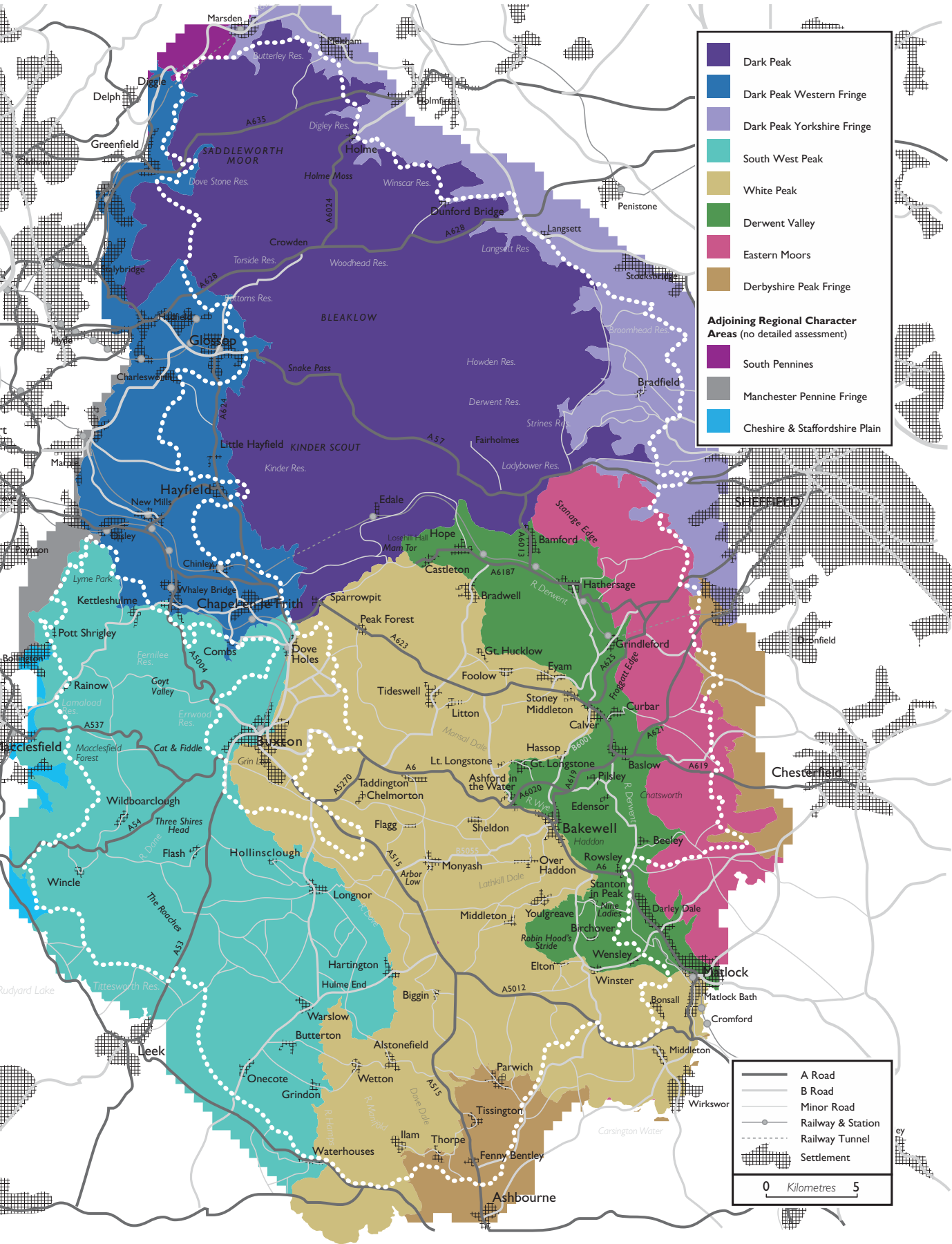
www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/lca

- III Using the Landscape Strategy, consider which of the landscape guidelines are relevant to the proposal for landscape change

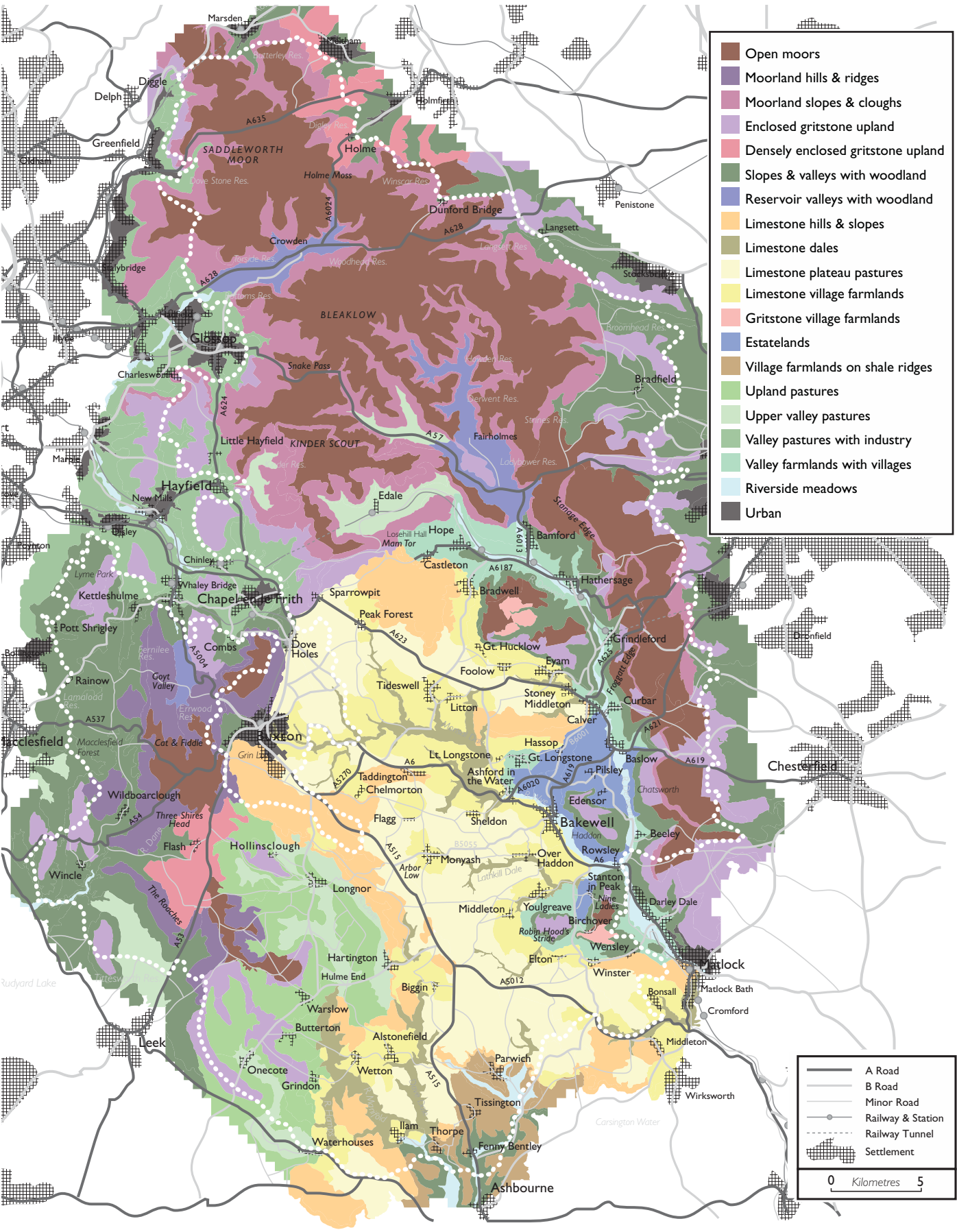
www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/landscapestrategy

- IV Assess the effect that the proposal will have on the landscape and, if appropriate, modify the proposal to ensure a positive contribution to landscape character and sense of place

Landscape Character Areas



Landscape Character Types



White Peak



Looking towards Foolow © Peak District National Park Authority



Introduction

The White Peak is an area of settled uplands lying on both sides of the boundary between Derbyshire and Staffordshire at the southern end of the Pennine Hills. The term derives from the limestone geology which provides the distinctive grey and white stone used extensively for building and walling materials. The region comprises an elevated limestone plateau dissected by deeply cut dales and gorges, which contrast strongly with the adjoining landscapes of the Dark Peak, South West Peak and Derbyshire Peak Fringe.

Physical influences

The physical structure of the White Peak is strongly influenced by weathering and erosion of the underlying Carboniferous limestone. This can be subdivided into three distinct types of rock, each producing a different shape to the land surface. The most common type over much of the central plateau, the so-called 'shelf' limestone, is pale grey in colour and thickly bedded in gently dipping layers, giving a gently rolling topography. In the south-west of the region is the 'basin' limestone, which is darker grey in colour and occurs in thinner, more strongly folded beds. The least common is the 'reef' limestone, which is rich in fossils and largely devoid of bedding. The last, which is a hard, fine-grained rock, resists weathering and produces conical hills, known as 'reef knolls', around the plateau edge, for example at Thorpe Cloud and Wetton Hill.

Two belts of dolomitized limestone occur in the south-east of the region. The most distinctive landscape features associated with these limestones are the prominent dolomite tors, notably Rainster Rocks and Harboro Rocks. Volcanic rocks, locally termed 'toadstones', also commonly occur interbedded within the limestone in the White Peak and were traditionally important because they were associated with spring lines.

The movement of mineralizing fluids through faults during deep burial of the sediments, probably at the end of the Carboniferous period, has left large mineral deposits of lead, copper and zinc ores, as well as fluorspar, calcite and barytes, which often run in veins through the limestone bedrock. These deposits have been worked extensively in the White Peak, leaving many disused mines, linear rakes and spoil heaps throughout the landscape.

The gently rolling plateau of the limestone is deeply dissected by the rivers Manifold, Hamps, Dove, Lathkill, Wye and Derwent, along with their associated network of tributary valleys which are often dry for some or all of the year. Some dales, such as Dovedale and Monsal Dale have impressive gorge-like incisions created by glacial meltwaters, which cut into the limestone plateau in a series of tight loops. Some of the main gorges have rivers and streams flowing through them, but the Manifold, Hamps and the upper Lathkill gorges are seasonal, with the water passing through the underground cave systems in summer. Locally at the edge of the White Peak a number of sinkholes drain water directly into the cave system.

Ecological influences

For the most part the soils in the White Peak are derived from loess, a fine silty sediment that was deposited during the final phase of the last glacial period by cold icy winds sweeping across the limestone plateau. This helps to explain how, despite the moderately high altitude, agriculturally productive pastures on rich loamy soils predominate over extensive areas. Although the majority of this land has been agriculturally improved to varying extents, a limited number of flower-rich hay meadows survive in places and typically support species such as oxeye daisy, knapweed, yellow rattle and lady's bedstraw. Skylarks are widespread, and curlew breed in small

numbers. Where soils are shallow, especially on crests and steep slopes, occasional flower-rich pastures and calcareous grasslands survive. Limited areas of arable land occur in places, but can be important for brown hares and birds such as lapwing, yellowhammer and, rarely, yellow wagtail. Small shelter belt plantations provide habitat for commoner woodland birds and other animals, and the network of dewponds is particularly important for great crested newts. Road verges can support important relics of formerly more widespread vegetation, ranging from characteristic swathes of meadow cranesbill to relic patches of heather. A small number of silica sand pits support several important species such as clubmosses.

On higher ground, the soils are often poorer and leached, giving rise to acid grassland and heath. These habitats were once widespread across much of the limestone plateau. Above 350 metres the cooler climate favours the development of peaty topsoils and ironpans with impeded drainage. Such factors limit the agricultural potential of the land in these areas and in places, a few small relics of the original limestone heath survive. More commonly, patches of hilltop rough grazing land occur, often supporting acid grassland with species such as mountain pansy and bilberry in the sward.

On the steeper slopes of the dales and around the edge of the limestone plateau, shallow soils with dark, humose surface layers predominate. As these slopes are often too steep for pasture improvement they commonly support strikingly species-rich calcareous grassland with early purple orchids, cowslips, wood anemones, rockrose, wild thyme and an abundance of other lime-loving plants, with a correspondingly rich insect life. On deeper soils in the dales neutral species-rich grassland is widespread, and on ungrazed or lightly grazed north-facing slopes a particular type rich in tall herbs such as valerian and ferns has developed very locally. This provides the British stronghold for the elegant jacob's ladder. Towards the top of the slopes, where loess has washed down from the plateau above, more acid grassland often occurs. Limestone cliffs and scree are a common feature throughout the dales. They provide nesting sites for birds such as raven, and are important for their plantlife, mosses, liverworts and lichens, and specialised invertebrates.

Semi-natural ash woodland, much of it ancient, clothes extensive areas of steep slopes on many dalesides. Wych elm and hazel are typical associates, and the ground flora is very varied with ramsons often dominating the heavier soils on lower slopes, and dog's mercury and woodland grasses dominating shallower soils and stony ground on the higher slopes. These woodlands support a large number of rare and scarce plants and invertebrates, and typical birds include marsh tit, redstart and a variety of warblers. Areas of scrub are also widespread in many dales: both species-rich hazel scrub which can be particularly important for plants such as globeflower and for butterflies such as dark green fritillary, and more invasive hawthorn scrub. Many dales are dry, but others carry winterbourne streams or more substantial rivers such as the Wye and Dove famed for their trout fishing. Beds of water-crowfoot are typical of permanent sections, whilst reed canary-grass is common along the edges. Large beds of butterbur are particularly characteristic along ungrazed riverbanks. In a few places springs emerge on the lower dalesides, giving rise to basic flushes rich in sedges and other plants, and with an important invertebrate fauna.

Lead mining has had an important influence across much of the White Peak. Remnant spoil heaps frequently occur as linear features across the landscape, and support a mosaic of important grassland types including specialised metal-tolerant plant communities characterised by species such as spring sandwort ('leadwort'). Both lead mine shafts and natural caves can be important for various bat species.



Green Well in Alstonfield © Peak District National Park Authority

Human influences

The White Peak has been a focus for settlement since prehistoric times and numerous surviving monuments indicate the extent of former settlement and land use. These include Neolithic ritual monuments such as chambered tombs, long barrows and henges, as for example Arbor Low and Minninglow. Most of the monuments of this period are confined to the limestone plateau, reflecting a significant historic landscape component for this part of the National Park. Bronze Age round barrows are also commonly found in the White Peak, often forming obvious hilltop landmarks. Earthworks relating to Romano-British farmsteads also survive on the limestone plateau.

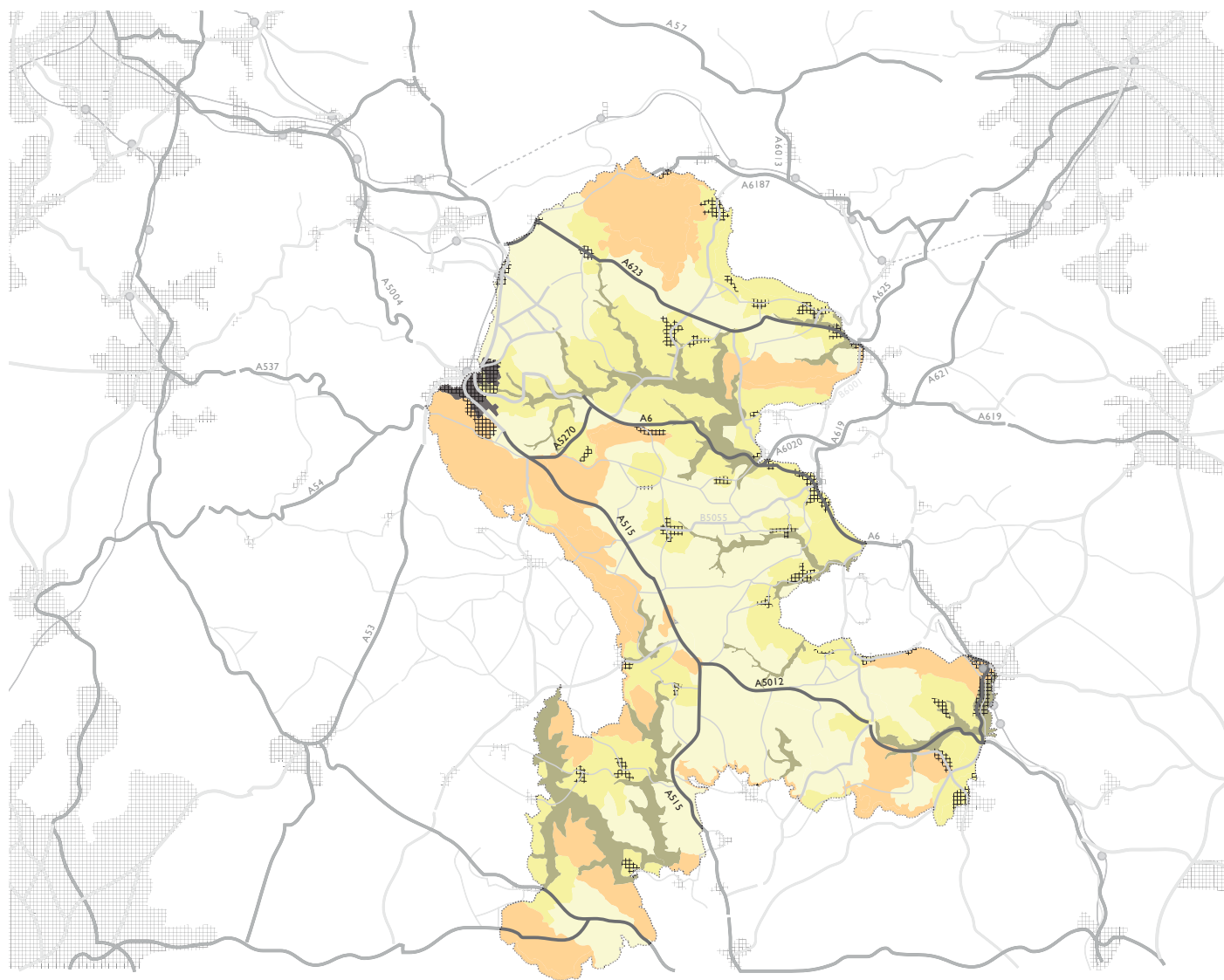
Today, although not a densely settled region, the White Peak has a very definite nucleated pattern of small rural villages with medieval origins, typically situated at the centre of their former open fields. Beyond the open fields, isolated farmsteads occur. While some of these farms have origins as medieval monastic granges, most reflect the post-medieval enclosure of the once extensive commons that formerly covered much of the limestone plateau. The widespread use of place names ending in moor, heath and common, and extensive historical documentation for rights of turbary (the stripping of soils to use as fuel), indicate the former extent of semi-natural vegetation and peaty soils in this landscape.

Field patterns within the White Peak, although not as diverse as those in neighbouring regions, are very distinctive due to the widespread occurrence of drystone walls, constructed from the local limestone. Small narrow fields, indicating the piecemeal enclosure of earlier open field strips, are a characteristic feature around villages. There are also sub-rectangular fields, often quite large with somewhat sinuous boundaries, particularly around granges.

Elsewhere, the enclosure is mostly later, either private or late 18th to early 19th century Parliamentary Enclosure of former wastes and commons, distinguished by a more regular pattern of medium to large sized fields, with ruler-straight boundaries, dissected by straight roads. Regular field boundaries have generally been built using quarried stone and tend to be neater in appearance than the more random rubble walls of earlier periods. Isolated stone field barns, often of 18th and 19th century date and incorporated within the pattern of stone walls, form a distinctive landscape feature in many places and are concentrated in some areas, for example around Bonsall, Winster and Bakewell.

Two minor but important types of agricultural feature which add significantly to local character are dewponds and field kilns. With the enclosure of most of the commons in the 18th and early 19th century, farmers lost easy access to streams and natural meres for their stock, thus many small circular lined ponds were constructed within the fields. When the commons were first improved large quantities of lime produced by individual farmers was spread on the newly allocated land to burn back the rank vegetation before reseeded. Afterwards, lime often continued to be added in smaller quantities to counteract the natural acidity of soils on the plateau. The kilns were small and either circular or oval in plan and several hundred still survive next to their associated field quarries.

Naturally occurring minerals in the limestone, in particular lead ore, have been exploited in the White Peak since at least the Roman period and at times, particularly between 1650 and 1850, brought significant wealth to the area. Although lead mining is now a defunct industry, the remaining evidence of past workings is often marked by distinctive linear features, known as lead rakes, which are typically associated with waste heaps, pits and shafts, sometimes with much rarer features such as derelict engine houses. Quarrying has also been a feature from the 17th century onwards, often for lime production, but latterly also for roadstone and cement, and continues today on a huge scale in certain parts of the White Peak. These industrial features are very important aspects of the White Peak landscape character.

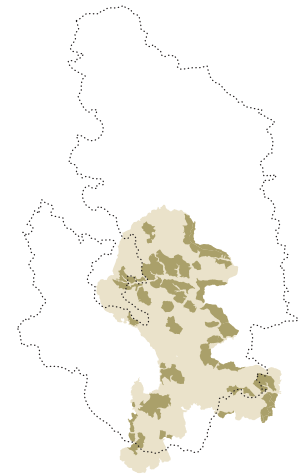


Limestone Village Farmlands

A small-scale settled agricultural landscape characterised by limestone villages, set within a repeating pattern of narrow strip fields bounded by drystone walls.



Fields nr Foolow © Peak District National Park Authority



Key characteristics

- A gently undulating plateau
- Pastoral farmland enclosed by drystone walls made from limestone
- A repeating pattern of narrow strip fields originating from medieval open fields
- Scattered boundary trees and tree groups around buildings
- Discrete limestone villages and clusters of stone dwellings
- Relict mine shafts and associated lead mining remains
- Localised field dewponds

The Limestone Village Farmlands has a scattered distribution, occurring throughout the White Peak as a series of small, but discrete units, typically located in lower, more advantaged parts of the limestone plateau. This landscape largely exists on the land above either side of the Wye valley as well as along the eastern fringe of the plateau. Several other more isolated areas occur in the northern and south-western parts of the White Peak.

Geology and landform

This settled agricultural landscape is closely associated with deeper patches of wind blown drift that have been deposited across the limestone plateau. For the most part the plateau has a gently rolling landform and the villages here not only take advantage of the best agricultural land, but each is also sited where there was a secure supply of water, often at spring lines or the edge of the plateau where there were running streams. In places, notably at Winster, Youlgreave, Little Longstone and Bradwell, this landscape is associated with more sloping or undulating ground that lies along the edge of the plateau.

Soils and vegetation

The wind blown drift with which this landscape is associated, gives rise to patches of relatively deep and fertile soils and together with the secure access to drinking water, explains why people settled and started farming the surrounding land in the first place. There are also patches of poorer, thin soils with some rock outcrops. As a result of the long history of continual farming in close proximity to the village there is little surviving semi-natural vegetation within this settled pastoral landscape.

Tree cover

Tree cover is largely restricted to small groups of trees and a scattering of trees along boundaries around village margins, often creating quite intimate rural scenes. Elsewhere the landscape is often more open, but even here more distant views are typically framed by surrounding hills, or rising ground.

Land use

Although it has a largely pastoral character today, dominated by stock rearing and dairying, historically this landscape had once a more mixed farming character. Dewponds which provided a source of water are a relatively common historical feature.

A significant amount of lead mining has taken place, particularly in the areas in the northern and eastern parts of the plateau, and in places historic features are still extensive.

Enclosure

The farmed landscape is characterised by a sub-regular pattern of small to medium sized fields enclosed by drystone walls built out of the local pale coloured limestone. Large areas of narrow fields exist in many places, reflecting piecemeal enclosure of strips in the former open fields from late medieval times onwards. Field pattern tends to be a fairly prominent element in this landscape, creating a strong sense of scale and visual unity.



Drystone walls near Litton © Peak District National Park Authority

Settlement and buildings

The present settlement pattern is long established within this landscape, with origins before the Norman Conquest, and tends to be strongly nucleated, with most farmsteads and dwellings concentrated into a central village within each parish, reflecting historic townships. Today's buildings, with the exception of some medieval churches, date mostly from the 17th century onwards. These buildings are typically constructed from the local Carboniferous limestone, often with random rubble constructed walls and stone tile, or Welsh slate roofs. This creates a very distinctive and unified settlement character. The use of gritstone is also common, but tends to be restricted to features such as lintels and window surrounds.

Transport and access

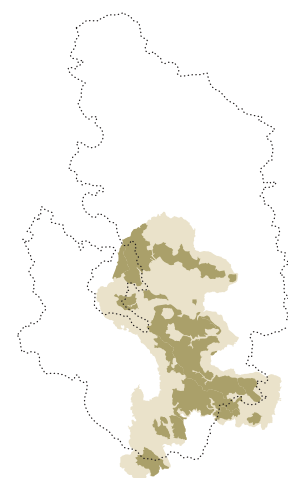
In this landscape there is often a network of narrow lanes defined by stone walls. The lanes were originally created to give access to the former open fields and commons and other villages beyond, while the walls were added later when the open fields were enclosed. Today these lanes are linked by a network of tracks and field footpaths, generally enabling good access throughout this landscape.

Limestone Plateau Pastures

An upland pastoral landscape with a regular pattern of straight roads and small to medium sized rectangular fields bounded by limestone walls. Tree cover is mostly limited to occasional tree groups, or small shelter belts, allowing wide views to the surrounding higher ground.



Field barn on the Limestone Plateau © Peak District National Park Authority



Key characteristics

- A rolling upland plateau
- Pastoral farmland enclosed by limestone walls
- A regular pattern of small to medium sized rectangular fields
- Localised field dewponds and farm limekilns
- Discrete tree groups and belts of trees
- Isolated stone farmsteads and field barns
- Medieval granges surrounded by older fields
- Relict lead mining and quarrying remains
- Prehistoric monuments, often on hilltops
- Open views to surrounding higher ground

The Limestone Plateau Pastures is a planned agricultural landscape, derived from the enclosure of former commons around and beyond the older settled core of the village farmlands. The largest area of this landscape occurs in the central part of the limestone plateau from Flagg to Bonsall Moor. Another large area occurs to the north from Fairfield to Calver, and there are several smaller areas, such as Calton Moor to the south.

Geology and landform

Like the Limestone Village Farmlands, this landscape is mostly associated with the more gently rolling central and eastern parts of the limestone plateau. Much of this area is overlain by wind blown drift.

Soils and vegetation

The shallow free-draining soils which characterise the main part of the limestone plateau were reserved as common land and utilised as rough grazing until relatively recent times. However, much of this land was enclosed in the 18th and 19th centuries, when it was ploughed and reseeded to improve the pasture. Today, only small relics of unimproved grassland survive, in areas where the ground is unsuitable for cultivation, such as along lead rakes and on the more exposed crests close to rock outcrops, where the soils are particularly thin.

Tree cover

For the most part the Limestone Plateau Pastures have a fairly open character where tree cover is largely restricted to discrete groups of trees, often around farmsteads. In places, larger coverts and occasional belts of sycamore, beech or ash trees, often planted on abandoned lead rakes, provide a stronger sense of enclosure. These linear or rectangular shelter belts are a distinctive feature of the White Peak landscape.

Land use

In relation to the surrounding upland landscapes in the Peak District, this is an intensively farmed agricultural landscape where stock rearing and dairying are the primary land uses. Two types of historical feature that are relatively common are dewponds and field kilns.

Large amounts of lead mining have also taken place in the past, particularly in the northern and eastern parts of the plateau, and historic features are still extensive in places. The landscapes around Dove Holes and Peak Forest are exceptional for the large number of early industrial limekilns and shallow quarries, dating from the 17th to the early 19th centuries.

Enclosure

Enclosure is characterised by small to medium sized fields defined by stone walls. The straight boundaries and regular enclosure pattern are strong and very distinct features of this landscape, reflecting the relatively late enclosure from common and waste. Many of the enclosures were the result of later 18th and earlier 19th century Parliamentary Enclosure Awards, others were enclosed by private agreement. There are also other areas, such as between Meadow Place Grange and One Ash Grange, where there is significantly earlier sub-rectangular and irregular enclosure associated with medieval monastic granges.

Settlement and buildings

This is a landscape of isolated stone farmsteads and scattered stone field barns, mostly dating from the period of Parliamentary Enclosure in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. There are also medieval granges, although today's buildings are mostly later rebuilds from the 17th century onwards.

There is also a scattering of prehistoric monuments including the henges at Arbor Low and the Bull Ring, Neolithic chambered tombs and round barrows on hilltops.

Transport and access

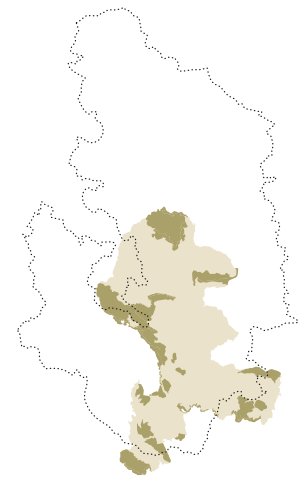
This is a planned landscape, with a pattern of straight roads defined by stone walls, reflecting the late enclosure of the land from common and waste. Some roads were created as turnpike routes. Occasional tracks and field footpaths are also present in places.

Limestone Hills & Slopes

A high pastoral landscape with a varied undulating topography and some steep slopes. This is a remote, sparsely populated landscape with a regular pattern of mostly medium to large walled fields, interspersed in places with extensive patches of rough ground and elsewhere by smaller regular fields. There are wide open views to distant skylines, especially around the edges of the White Peak.



Chrome Hill © Peak District National Park Authority



Key characteristics

- High, undulating, in places steeply sloping topography
- Frequent rock outcrops on steeper ground
- Rich wildlife habitats including large patches of limestone grassland and limestone heath on the highest ground
- A regular pattern of medium to large walled fields
- Occasional groups and belts of trees
- Prehistoric monuments, often on hilltops
- Relict lead mining remains
- Wide open views to distant skylines

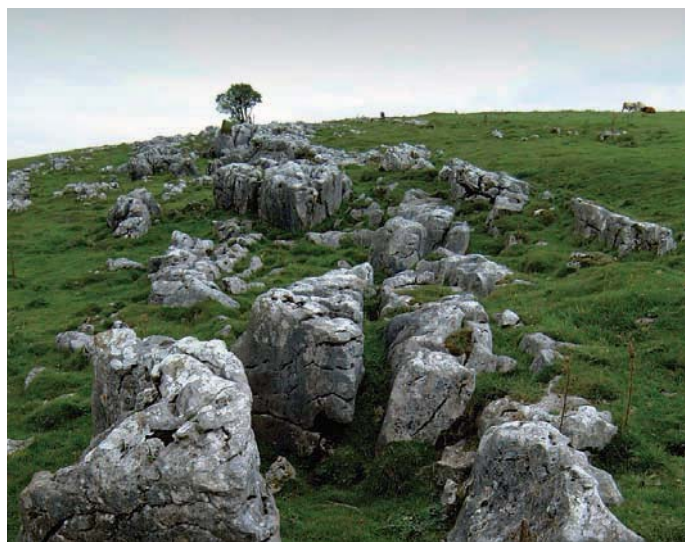
The Limestone Hills & Slopes is a visually prominent landscape which, where high, can be seen from most places within the White Peak. In other places it forms the steep edges to the plateau and can be seen from extensive adjacent areas of shale valley and gritstone upland. It occurs in a series of discrete units around the northern, western and southern edge of the White Peak and in two smaller outlying areas at Longstone Moor and South Darley.

Geology and landform

The underlying Carboniferous limestone strongly influences the nature of the landform in the Limestone Hills & Slopes, creating a high, in places steeply sloping topography and allowing wide views to distant skylines. This landscape forms the most elevated part of the White Peak, rising to over 470 metres at Bradwell Moor. The limestone bedrock is hard and slowly eroded, giving rise to a moderately undulating landform with numerous hill summits and many patches of exposed rock. Distinctive tors are found in the areas of dolomitic limestone. Where reef limestone predominates, landform is commonly one of discrete, steep hills rising above the surrounding land.

Soils and vegetation

Soils are variable with generally thin, often stony soils associated with limestone outcrops, peaty soils on the highest, leached ground, and patches of deeper soils elsewhere. These soils support a range of vegetation types. Of special importance are the relatively rare remaining areas of limestone heath, largely consisting of heather, with bilberry and western gorse, associated with poorer soils developed on acidic wind blown silt. On hilltops and steep slopes a mosaic of semi-natural vegetation can be found including patches of both calcareous and acid grassland. Where grazing no longer takes place, localised patches of gorse, bracken and scrub are found. Elsewhere improved grassland dominates over deeper soils with isolated hay meadows and unimproved pastures.



Limestone outcrops © Peak District National Park Authority

Tree cover

This is a fairly exposed, and in places treeless landscape with open views. In some more sheltered areas with deeper soils, small plantations and tree groups associated with farmsteads can be found.

Land use

For the most part this is a pastoral landscape with improved grassland and localised hay meadows but in places, notably on the steeper slopes and higher summits, large tracts of rough grazing land have survived.

A significant amount of lead mining has taken place, particularly in the northern and eastern areas, often following linear rakes; in places historic features are still extensive. This landscape has also been heavily influenced in places by quarrying, with large active quarries near Buxton and above Hope. Grin Hill near Buxton is exceptional for its large number of early industrial limekilns and shallow quarries which date from the 17th century to the early 19th century.

Enclosure

Predominantly medium to large sized fields are defined by stone walls. In places, the topography defines the enclosure pattern. The straight boundaries and regular enclosure pattern reflect the late enclosure of this landscape from common and waste in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Many of the enclosures were the result of Parliamentary Enclosure Awards; some areas were enclosed by private agreement. Unusually, parts of the Castleton commons around Dirlow Rake were enclosed using long ruler-straight boundaries as early as the 1691. There are also other areas, such as around Cronkstone and Cotesfield Granges, where there is significantly earlier sub-rectangular and irregular enclosure associated with medieval monastic granges.

Settlement and buildings

This is a sparsely settled landscape with only occasional, large, isolated stone farmsteads, many of which were first established in the 18th or 19th centuries. The higher parts of the limestone plateau is also characterised by a scattering of older medieval granges, although today's buildings are later rebuilds, dating from the 17th century onwards. There is a large number of surviving prehistoric monuments, often prominently sited on the highest hilltops.

Transport and access

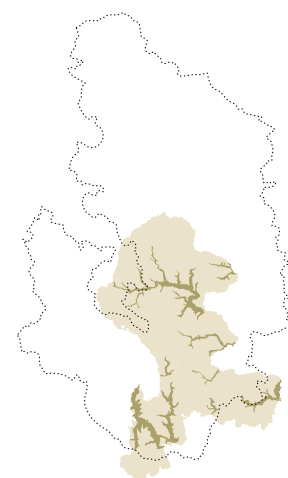
There are fewer roads in this sparsely settled landscape than across much of the limestone plateau, leaving large areas that are only accessible by foot. Most of the roads are straight and defined by stone walls, reflecting the late enclosure from common and waste; others are determined by the topography and some cut across areas of unenclosed land. Some of these roads were created as turnpikes.

Limestone Dales

A steeply sloping dale landscape with limestone outcrops and extensive tracts of woodland and scrub intermixed with limestone grassland. In some smaller dales this is an intimate, secluded landscape where views are tightly controlled by landform and tree cover; in others the dales are wild and open.



Peter's Stone, Cressbrook Dale © Peak District National Park Authority



Key characteristics

- Steep sided Limestone Dales
- Craggy outcrops, cliffs and scree slopes
- Extensive patches of limestone grassland
- Interlocking blocks of ancient semi-natural woodland, secondary woodland and scrub
- Largely unsettled, apart from occasional small mill settlements
- Historic mineral working (quarrying, lead mining)

The Limestone Dales is distinctive, but localised landscape type. Because of the way in which they are deeply cut into the limestone, they are more or less hidden from view from within the adjoining plateau landscapes. The rivers Wye, Dove, Manifold, Hamps, Lathkill and Derwent flow through well developed dale landscapes. There are also a number of associated smaller, outlying dry valley dales.

Geology and landform

This is a landscape with a prominent topography, characterised by steeply sloping, in places vertical, valley sides cut deeply into the underlying limestone bedrock. Many of the dalesides have frequent outcrops of greyish white limestone, sometimes forming precipitous rock buttresses with scree slopes. Most of the larger dales have fast moving rivers flowing within rocky river beds. The smaller dales tend either to be dry, or have only winterbourne streams, owing to the fact that water percolates through the bedrock.

Soils and vegetation

The limestone is overlain by very shallow, in places strongly calcareous, upland soils. These soils are thinnest on the steeper rocky slopes and deeper along the valley floor. Extensive areas of unimproved limestone grassland are a feature of this landscape, the grasses being characterised by fine-leaved fescues and quaking grass, along with many small herbs like common rockrose and wild thyme. The abundance of early purple orchids and cowslips in the spring is a striking feature of many dale sides. Where grazing is restricted, the grasslands are commonly mixed with other semi-natural habitats such as deciduous woodland and scrub. Of particular note are the daleside ash woods, dominated by ash, but also including oak, hazel and wych elm.



Cowslip © Peak District National Park Authority

Tree cover

Tree cover is a key feature of the dales, although in places its extent is limited. Some dalesides, like those in the Wye and Manifold valleys, are extensively wooded with large tracts of semi-natural woodland dominated by ash and hazel. Deciduous plantations also occur in some dales. In other dales, woodland cover is more sporadic and tends to be associated with scrub dominated by hawthorn. Overall the woodland cover, coupled with the steep valley sides, can create a strong sense of visual containment.

Land use

As the slopes in the dales are too steep for agricultural improvement, this landscape still retains extensive areas of unimproved grassland and semi-natural woodland, with the former used mainly for rough grazing by sheep. In parts of the Wye Valley, Lathkill Dale and the Via Gellia the remains of past lead mining and quarrying are important features.

Enclosure

This is essentially a 'wild', unenclosed landscape, although the valleys are subdivided, by occasional drystone walls, into large enclosures related to land ownership and woodland management.

Settlement and buildings

Human habitation is not a feature of this landscape owing to the topographical inaccessibility of the Limestone Dales. Some man-made activities do impact on this character including the large water powered textile mills at Cressbrook and Litton Mills in the Wye valley, and smaller mills such as the corn mill at Wetton Mill, and the lead processing and other mills in the Via Gellia.

Transport and access

Roads are generally not a feature of this landscape, except where the dale is used as an access route into the White Peak, such as in the Wye valley east of Buxton, at Middleton Dale and the Via Gellia. These are late 17th to early 19th century turnpike roads. Elsewhere access is by foot, often by way of a well defined path along the valley bottom. Some dales were affected by the mid 19th century construction of railways, although some routes are no longer in use and form popular walking routes such as the Monsal Trail.

Overall Strategy



Chrome Hill © Peak District National Park Authority

The underlying limestone geology has a dominant and unifying effect on the character of the White Peak. This unity is emphasised by the recurrent visual themes of the high open plateau, stone walls, pastoral farmland and villages built of local stone, to create a strong regional character. The condition of the landscape is variable, with a generally well maintained and intact historic settlement and field pattern. There is, however, evidence of a substantial historic loss of semi-natural habitats; a loss or deterioration of some features such as lead mining remains, dewponds and traditional plantation woodlands; and dereliction in some of the wilder parts of the region. The limestone villages and dales are an important focus for many visitors to the National Park, and strengthening their character will ensure this focus can continue into the future.

The overall strategy for the White Peak should therefore be to:

Protect and manage the distinctive and valued historic character of the settled, agricultural landscapes, whilst seeking opportunities to enhance the wild character and diversity of remoter areas.

This can be achieved by ensuring that

- there is a sustainable land management system to uphold the existing settled, agricultural landscapes
- there is a network of vibrant communities sustaining traditional buildings and settlements
- there are innovative and proactive schemes to restore and create distinctive White Peak habitats on suitable sites



Hill near Longnor in snow © Peak District National Park Authority

To achieve this strategy there are particular priorities for each of the different landscape character types in the White Peak.

Limestone Village Farmlands

This is a historic landscape and the most settled agricultural landscape of the White Peak, characterised by repeating patterns of narrow strip fields usually resulting from the enclosure of Medieval open fields. These field systems surround associated limestone villages with traditional stone-built buildings. The priority should be to protect the historic pattern of enclosure, the nucleated settlement pattern and the integrity and setting of traditional buildings, whilst restoring the biodiversity of the pastoral farmland within a sustainable farming system.

Limestone Plateau Pastures

This is a more recent, planned agricultural landscape with a regular pattern of historic, small to medium sized, rectangular fields, usually resulting from the enclosure of Medieval wastes and commons, and discrete groups/blocks of trees. The priority should be to protect the historic pattern of enclosure and the wooded character, whilst restoring the biodiversity of the pastoral farmland and expanding boundary trees where appropriate, within a sustainable farming system.

Limestone Hills & Slopes

This is a higher, more remote landscape with frequent, and in places extensive, patches of rough ground. The priority is to protect and restore the diversity of the more remote landscapes and, where possible, to create a mosaic of extensive areas of unenclosed limestone grassland, heath, scrub and woodland.

Limestone Dales

This is an intimate, secluded and largely semi-natural landscape, where views are often tightly controlled by landform and tree cover. The priority in this landscape is to protect and manage the mosaic of internationally important grassland, scrub, woodland, rock and river habitats, and the cultural heritage features, while seeking opportunities to enhance diversity and opportunities for people to enjoy the landscape.

Issues of change

Conservation

The White Peak is a pastoral landscape dominated by historic patterns of settlement and enclosure with relics of its post-industrial heritage. Semi-natural landscapes are largely confined to the areas with steeper slopes or poorer soils, most notably in the Limestone Dales, whilst large parts of the plateau have been agriculturally improved with only relic areas of limestone heathland surviving. These components are all essential for the character of the landscape. Important cultural heritage and historic landscapes, including field patterns, industrial heritage and mineral remains, are in poor condition or threatened by the reworking of mineral resources and agricultural improvement. Field barns are now often redundant and are at risk from abandonment and material robbing. Animal welfare standards mean that they are no longer appropriate for housing stock. Scrub is an important transitional landscape between the open grasslands and enclosed woodlands in the dales, but changes in agriculture have altered the balance, increasing the quantity of scrub.

Climate change implications

With drier summers predicted, the water flow in limestone rivers and streams may become more seasonal. It is likely that increased temperatures will lead to change in the composition of woodlands, limestone grasslands, and limestone heath. It may also result in agricultural changes such as increased suitability for arable crops or, with wetter winters, increased demand for winter housing for livestock. All these issues pose a threat to the character and visual diversity of the landscape.

Demography, housing and employment

The number and size of existing settlements have created a demand for new housing and commercial development in the White Peak. There is very limited potential for opportunistic or large scale sites which could provide for this. Further development could affect the character of the historic settlement pattern and its associated field boundaries. The White Peak is, in parts, well settled with villages, and it is a popular area, often for people who commute outside the area and people who work from home. The impact of this is that house prices are relatively high and affordable housing is in short supply. Some parts of the area, such as Litton and Tideswell, are popular locations for second homes and this further affects demand and pricing. In recent years, there has been an increase in planning applications to convert existing traditional buildings into housing. If this trend continues it could affect the character of the landscape, particularly the more sparsely settled areas where evidence of the effects of residential properties, such as car parking or lighting, is currently very limited.

Tourism and recreation

Specific locations within the White Peak meet the recreational needs of large numbers of people. These areas, particularly the Limestone Dales, are cherished and valued by the residents and visitors. There is localised heavy recreational pressure for active sports such as mountain biking and driving or use of motorised off-road vehicles.

Farming and forestry

The White Peak is a largely traditional pastoral landscape, where land is managed at a moderate intensity, allowing occasional patches or fields of more species-rich grassland to survive in places. There has been significant intensification of use, mainly in the Plateau Pastures, which has probably resulted in a substantial loss of natural landscapes. Generally this has not had an impact on the historic stone walled field pattern, which is a significant feature of the area. In places, however, the boundaries are less well maintained, particularly on some of the higher and more steeply sloping ground, where grazing has sometimes ceased. Agricultural intensification has been accompanied by dereliction of traditional stone field barns and an increase in large modern agricultural buildings for housing livestock. Changes to the agricultural economy have resulted in farm diversification. A landscape such as the White Peak, with strong visitor numbers, provides opportunity for tourism-based diversification. Such changes to agricultural practices could result in landscape change.

Both scrub and secondary woodland have increased extensively in the Limestone Dales over the last 100 years, resulting in a more wooded landscape but with the loss of valued views and species-rich grassland in places. In the Plateau Pastures many of the characteristic linear shelterbelts, small plantation woodlands and boundary trees are threatened by neglect, with ageing trees and little replacement planting.

Minerals and resources

Quarries in the White Peak serve local and national demand for limestone used by the construction, cement and chemical industries. In addition, there is a national demand for vein minerals, e.g. fluorspar, used by the chemical industry. There are many landscape impacts associated with these sites, including visual intrusion, adverse effects on the historic landscapes and cultural heritage features, wildlife habitats, associated infrastructure and transportation of products, and tranquillity. There is also pressure to extend the size of the quarries and prolong quarrying beyond the dates of current planning permissions. In places quarrying has gone below the water table, resulting in an entirely new landscape.

Energy and infrastructure

There is an increasing national demand for renewable energy schemes, particularly wind power. In addition there is increasing potential for solar and water power, and other renewable energy sources. Inappropriate wind generation projects could adversely impact on landscape character, the setting of historic features and landscapes, amenity value and tranquillity. Appropriately sited and designed small-scale hydroelectric schemes could provide opportunities for the restoration of historic features such as mills, ponds and leats. There is a visual impact of existing infrastructure associated with power supply, e.g. overhead electricity cables. There are limited opportunities for woodland management to diversify and provide local wood fuel.

Road safety is a major issue in the White Peak, leading to an increase in number and size of road signs. High levels of vehicle use are increasing damage to roads, walls and verges, leading to a loss of historic features, and creating an increased demand for parking.



Drystone wall and wild flowers Sheldon © Peak District National Park Authority

Landscape guidelines

White Peak

Limestone Village Farmlands	Limestone Plateau Pastures	Limestone Hills & Slopes	Limestone Dales
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Protect

Protect the strongly nucleated settlement pattern of villages and scattered farms	●	◐	◑	◒
Protect and maintain the historic field pattern	●	●	◐	◒
Protect and maintain historic drystone walls	●	●	◐	◐
Protect and maintain historic field barns	●	●	◐	◒

Manage

Manage and enhance surviving areas of natural landscapes	◐	◐	●	●
Enhance the diversity of agricultural grassland	◐	◐	●	●
Manage traditional plantation woodlands	◐	◐	◑	◒
Manage and enhance woodlands	◑	◑	◑	●
Manage and enhance linear tree cover and amenity trees	◐	◐	◑	◒
Manage the network of tracks and footpaths to maximise opportunities to enjoy the landscape	◒	◒	◐	◐
Manage the network of minor roads to maintain character and local access	●	●	◒	◒
Manage historic mineral landscapes	◐	◐	◐	◒

Plan

Create areas of limestone grassland and heath	◒	◒	●	●
Create new native broadleaved woodland	◒	◒	◐	◒
Develop appropriate landscapes from mineral workings	◒	◐	◐	◒
Develop small-scale renewable energy for local needs	◒	◒	◑	◒



This is a priority throughout the landscape character type



This is a priority in some parts of the landscape character type, often associated with particular conditions/features



This is not a priority but may be considered in some locations

This will generally be inappropriate in this landscape character type

Landscape guidelines explanation

Protect

Protect the strongly nucleated settlement pattern of villages and scattered farms

The character of the White Peak is typified by the historic pattern and distinctive vernacular style of its small limestone villages. In order to maintain the integrity of the historic fabric, character and setting of settlements and buildings, new development and conversions should respond positively to the historical settlement pattern, density, local materials and building traditions. Traditional buildings are an important feature and their renovation and maintenance should be encouraged. Locating new agricultural buildings can also impact on landscape character and opportunities should be taken to guide site selection.

Protect and maintain the historic field pattern

Field pattern is a prominent feature in the Limestone Village Farmlands and Plateau Pastures, reflecting the historic character of these landscapes. It is important that these field patterns are protected, particularly in the Limestone Village Farmlands where the enclosure reflects the earlier, Medieval, open field system. Where the field pattern has become fragmented through the removal of field boundaries it is important to avoid further loss and to look for opportunities to restore primary boundaries along highways, footpaths and farm and parish boundaries.

Protect and maintain historic drystone walls

Drystone walls, and associated features such as gateposts, are an important historic feature in the limestone landscapes of the White Peak. In places the standard of walls is declining and there is a need to enhance their maintenance.

Protect and maintain historic field barns

Traditional farm buildings are of significant value to the character of the landscape and it is important to maintain the fabric and appearance of such buildings. Isolated field barns are a special cultural feature in the White Peak, especially in the Plateau Pastures. Where they can no longer be maintained in agricultural use, careful consideration needs to be given to appropriate alternatives. Changes to the appearance of either the building or its surroundings should be avoided, especially where these are not in keeping with the rural character of the landscape. Conversion to residential use would be particularly inappropriate in a region where settlement is strongly nucleated in small villages.



Lathkill Dale © Peak District National Park Authority

Manage

Manage and enhance surviving areas of natural landscapes

Extensive areas of semi-natural grassland and more localised patches of heath are landscape features of the Limestone Dales and Limestone Hills & Slopes. These areas support diverse plant and animal communities and they should be conserved as a priority. Lack of grazing has resulted in some areas reverting to scrub and woodland. There is a need to identify areas that are a priority for scrub clearance and others where retention of scrub or woodland regeneration will be more appropriate and will provide habitat diversity. Appropriate grazing and scrub control should be carried out as a priority to maintain a mosaic of diverse landscapes whilst respecting cultural heritage.

Enhance the diversity of agricultural grassland

Many of the enclosed grasslands in the Limestone Village Farmlands and Plateau Pastures have been improved and reseeded with a consequent loss of species and visual diversity. There is a need to manage these pastures in a more sustainable way that restores or conserves species diversity whilst supporting productive agriculture. Opportunities to extend and enhance the management of unimproved pastures should also be sought, particularly in the Limestone Village Farmlands.

Manage traditional plantation woodlands

In the Limestone Village Farmlands and Plateau Pastures there are linear or rectangular shelterbelts and groups of trees around farmsteads and settlements, and on the site of old lead mine workings. These are often not managed and suffering from dereliction. Opportunities should be sought to ensure their continuity, enhance diversity and improve woodland productivity, whilst conserving cultural heritage features. There may be opportunities to link woodland management to local wood fuel schemes and reduce reliance on traditional carbon-based energies. To mitigate new development, new plantation woodlands may be appropriate in localised areas where they maintain or enhance existing landscape character. Increased woodland cover creates areas of shelter and shade, and may be useful for mitigating the impacts of climate change.

Manage and enhance woodlands

Larger woodlands are only a feature in the Limestone Dales, where there is a mixture of both ancient and secondary woods. Many of these woods are neglected or would benefit from enhanced management. Some have been recently managed under the Ravine WoodLIFE Project, and further opportunities should be sought to increase diversity and improve woodland productivity whilst conserving cultural heritage features. Plantation woodlands in the Limestone Dales should be managed to create a more semi-natural structure and composition, and extended through natural regeneration. There may be opportunities to link woodland management to local wood fuel schemes and reduce reliance on traditional carbon-based energies. A balance will need to be reached between woodland expansion and the retention of important open landscapes and vistas.

Manage and enhance linear tree cover and amenity trees

Individual and groups of linear boundary trees are important landscape features in localised areas of the Limestone Plateau Pastures, e.g. along existing and historic transport routes. There is a need to manage these trees to ensure a balanced age structure whilst seeking opportunities, where appropriate, to extend and replace boundary trees. Individual or groups of trees within settlements also contribute significantly to village landscapes. These should be managed to ensure their continuity whilst addressing health and safety issues and residents' amenity.

Manage the network of tracks and footpaths to maximise opportunities to enjoy the landscape

The network of tracks and footpaths should be managed to maximise opportunities for healthy recreation and to enjoy the landscape. This can be achieved easily by landscape management measures such as surfacing, and by controlling inappropriate use to retain the character, cultural heritage and biodiversity interests.

Manage the network of minor roads to maintain character and local access

The network of minor roads should be managed to maintain their local, small-scale and rural character to ensure good local access whilst discouraging inappropriate driving. Verges and cultural features should be maintained and enhanced, and the impact of signage minimised.

Manage historic mineral landscapes

An important characteristic feature which runs throughout all landscape character types are the historic mineral workings, particularly the remains of lead working. Landscapes associated with historic mineral extraction should be retained and managed, including, where appropriate, providing interpretation of their history.

Plan

Create areas of limestone grassland and heath

Since the 1940s the trend in agriculture has been towards more intensive farming methods. This trend has been especially marked on the poorer land of the Limestone Hills & Slopes. To a lesser extent this has also occurred in the Limestone Dales, where patches of formerly rough land have been converted to improved pasture. This has resulted in a gradual decline in the diversity of the region, including the loss of many cultural heritage features. There are opportunities to create extensive areas of unenclosed limestone grassland and heath, and to extend and link existing patches, particularly within the Limestone Hills & Slopes, by natural regeneration and creation. In places, there may be localised opportunities to create grassland or heathland habitats above dale brows in the Limestone Village Farmlands and Plateau Pastures areas. Expansion should not occur where this would adversely impact on cultural heritage features and historic landscapes.

Create new native broadleaved woodland

There are localised opportunities to extend woodland cover, without affecting cultural heritage and biodiversity features and historic landscapes, within the Limestone Hills & Slopes. There are opportunities to extend woodland by natural regeneration and by planting, although a balance will need to be reached between woodland expansion and the retention of limestone grassland/heath and scrub. In places there may be localised opportunities to extend Limestone Dales woodland over the dale brow into the Limestone Village Farmlands and Plateau Pastures. This should be done where it would not adversely impact on important cultural heritage features and historic landscapes. Increased woodland cover creates areas of shelter and shade and may be useful for mitigating the impacts of climate change.

Develop appropriate landscapes from mineral workings

Parts of the White Peak have been heavily influenced by vein mineral extraction and limestone quarrying, with large active quarries in the Limestone Hills & Slopes and Limestone Plateau Pastures. Modern mineral workings should be restored to maximise visual amenity, biodiversity, recreational, educational and heritage value. The aim should be to use the land to create semi-natural landscapes, which blend into the surrounding landscape.

Develop small-scale renewable energy for local needs

There are localised opportunities for the development of water power, solar power, local wood fuel supplies, anaerobic digestion and other renewable energy sources. Opportunities should be sought within new development and management of woodland to increase local renewable energy supply, where it would have a neutral impact on the character of the area and its component parts. Where appropriate seek positive measures to reinforce the local landscape character as part of the new development.

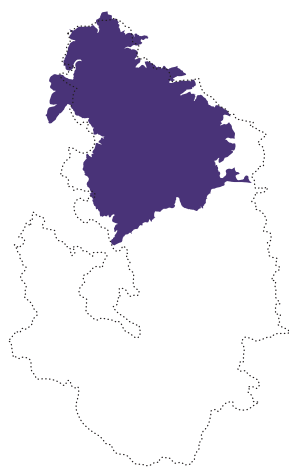


Bradford River, Youlgrave © Peak District National Park Authority

Dark Peak



Dark Peak open moorland © Peak District National Park Authority



Introduction

The Dark Peak is a sparsely settled area of gritstone uplands lying at the southern end of the Pennine Hills. The area comprises an extensive upland plateau with steep gritstone slopes, sometimes with rocky edges, that drop away to lower lying slopes, wooded cloughs and deep valleys, some of which have been flooded to create large reservoirs. It contrasts sharply with the adjoining limestone uplands of the White Peak and is named on account of the dark hues created in the landscape by the peat moors and exposed gritstone. Whilst this landscape character area contrasts with the White Peak, the transition to other landscape character areas such as the Dark Peak Eastern and Western Fringe landscapes is much more gradual; these are landscapes of similar character but tend to be lower lying, more settled and more intensively managed than the Dark Peak with enclosed farmland rather than open moorland predominating. The Eastern Moors to the south-east of the Dark Peak are similar to it in character but lower lying with less deep peat creating a landscape that has been more obviously modified by people than the Dark Peak generally has. In the north, the moorland plateau of the Dark Peak continues into the Southern Pennines.

Physical influences

The Dark Peak is an extensive area of high moorland and adjacent in-bye land that owes much of its character to the underlying coarse sandstones from the Millstone Grit series of the Carboniferous period. As the process of sedimentation that formed the limestones of the White Peak was taking place, a land mass to the north (now Caledonia in Scotland) was shifting: uplifting, folding and tilting towards the south. This created rivers and deltas carrying sediments of fine silt, pebbles and sand into the shallow sea creating mudflats and low lying sand banks. The material that was deposited by these rivers compressed through sedimentation to create the shales, siltstones and sandstones of the Dark Peak, known as Millstone Grit.

The hard gritstone of the Millstone Grit is interspersed with beds of softer shales and together these have given rise to a distinctive topography of high moors dissected by narrow rocky cloughs and broader valleys. Gritstone outcrops, creating rocky tors, often punctuate these extensive areas of upland plateau which define the Open Moors. Vertical cliff faces occasionally define the 'edges' of the moorland summits, where the land falls away into the moorland fringe.

The plateaux tops, rising to 636 metres at Kinder Scout, are mostly covered in blanket peat, usually between 2 and 4 metres in depth, but in places somewhat more. The blanket peat landscapes have a smooth, gently sloping ground surface which, over extensive areas, has been subject to gully erosion and become dissected by a dense network of drainage channels, locally known as 'grouches'. Drainage from the moorland summits often passes into deep, steep sided cloughs within the surrounding slopes, which in turn eventually drain into larger rivers like the Goyt, Etherow and Derwent. The rivers have eroded through the gritstone to form broad, often steep sided, upland valleys, which historically have provided the focus for settlement and farming. Sometimes boulder fields and exposed rock located within these valleys provide a link to the wild moorland character above the valley sides.

Ecological influences

For the most part the soils of the Dark Peak are impoverished and a substantial area in the core of the region is covered in blanket peat. The remaining areas have a mixture of damp humic gleys, humic podzols, podzolic, or at best, shallow brown soils. As a result, semi-natural vegetation is a key characteristic of many Dark Peak landscapes, especially on the Open Moors and moorland slopes, where there are extensive areas of blanket bog, heather and grass moorland.

Extensive tracts of blanket bog on deep peat cover much of the highest plateaux of the Dark Peak. Here cottongrasses dominate, often with heather or with bilberry and crowberry. Natural erosion has been greatly exacerbated by human influences such as air pollution, heavy grazing, fire and drainage, resulting in an extensive network of peat gullies or grouches and, in the most degraded areas, bare peat and peat hags. These blanket bogs support breeding birds

such as the golden plover and the dunlin. On the lower moorland slopes heather dominates, with varying amounts of bilberry, cowberry and crowberry. These upland heaths support birds such as red grouse, meadow pipit, curlew, merlin and short-eared owl. Associated areas of bracken are important in places for breeding twite and whinchat. Acid flushes have developed locally, with carpets of sphagnum moss, sedges and rushes, with local plants such as cranberry, bog asphodel and sundew. Where gritstone crags, tors and boulder slopes occur the exposed rock supports a lichen flora impoverished by air pollution, though relict species of importance can occur locally. Peregrine, raven and ring ouzel breed on some crags. Mountain hares, introduced in the late 19th century, are commonly seen throughout the moors. In the other former moorland landscapes such as Rushup Edge, where much of the land has now been enclosed and heavily grazed, the heathland has been replaced by rough grazing land dominated by grasses such as mat grass or wavy hair-grass, often in association with areas of bracken. Relic moorland species such as bilberry may be present in the sward.

Fast flowing streams have created deeply incised cloughs and valleys whose sides are clothed with heathland often with frequent bilberry, acid grassland and bracken. The numerous flushes and springs arising at the junctions of gritstone and shale on clough sides support particularly botanically rich communities whose species composition varies according to water chemistry. The banks of clough streams and upland rivers support small numbers of dipper, grey wagtail and common sandpiper, whilst wet streamside shale crags are often rich in mosses, liverworts, ferns and insect life. Some cloughs and moorland slopes support areas of upland sessile oak wood. Associated species include birch with holly or hazel in the under storey. On the more base rich soils these woodlands can support a variety of ground flora, including dog's mercury and yellow archangel on shale soils and wavy hair-grass and bilberry on the more base poor soils. Characteristic birds of these woodlands include pied flycatcher, redstart and wood warbler.

In lower areas, as the cloughs widen, the lower valley slopes are characterised by enclosed land on slowly permeable, seasonally waterlogged soils that support some unimproved pastures and hay meadows. The former typically comprise acid grassland dominated by fescues and bents, with herbs such as tormentil and heath bedstraw and patches of gorse and bracken, whilst the hay meadows provide a range of flora such as yellow rattle, knapweed, great burnet, bird's foot trefoil and common cat's ear. On less well drained land, where the ground is wetter, the pastures often support soft rush and can provide a breeding ground for wading birds, notably lapwing, curlew and snipe.

Large valley reservoirs support small numbers of wintering ducks, and common sandpipers breed along the shorelines in summer. The drawdown zones of these reservoirs can be of importance for their flora with species such as mudwort and shoreweed present. Conifer plantations are often, though not exclusively, associated with reservoir valley sides, and may have patches of semi-natural woodland or broadleaf plantation within them. The flora is generally limited but can be of importance for fungi. Several birds of note are associated with the plantations, such as goshawk and crossbill.

Human influences

The Dark Peak is now relatively unsettled, due to the harsh climate. However the landscape has been managed for the needs of humans since prehistoric times. The northern Dark Peak has extensive evidence of Mesolithic hunter-gatherers, with stone tools uncovered when peat is disturbed or eroded. There is little other evidence of early human activity. The Dark Peak is a higher landscape and was too exposed and boggy for the kind of later prehistoric settlement found on the Eastern Moors. The Later Prehistoric hillfort on Mam Tor lies on a prominent hill at the edge of the Dark Peak; the occupants probably grazed the high uplands although their main focus is thought to be the adjacent limestone plateau and the Hope and Edale valleys.

The deep valleys which cut into the Dark Peak have been used for agriculture from later prehistory to the present. In the last few hundred years the land use within enclosed fields around each farmstead has been mainly pastoral. The limited arable farming practices on the more favourable soils has declined significantly in the 20th century. The uplands have long been used for rough sheep grazing which, where prolonged, has reduced the dwarf shrub cover, replacing it with cottongrass bog or grass. Some of the upland moors were managed as heather moorland by the large private estates to provide a habitat for grouse. The semi-natural heather moorland and the more closely managed grouse moors give rise to the summer purple moorland tops typical of the Dark Peak.

Before the widespread availability of coal, the uplands provided fuel in the form of peat. Once, peat cutting on the high wastes and commons was a communal right, but when the land was privately owned, landowners gave the right to cut peat, usually from a designated location, to tenants. Domestic scale cutting often took place above farm properties and was of a much smaller scale. This activity was carried out on the moorland tops near to settlements in the lower valleys and the results are still visible in the landscape such as above both Edale and the Upper Derwent Valleys. Tracks and sled runs to peat cutting sites are also still visible in the landscape.

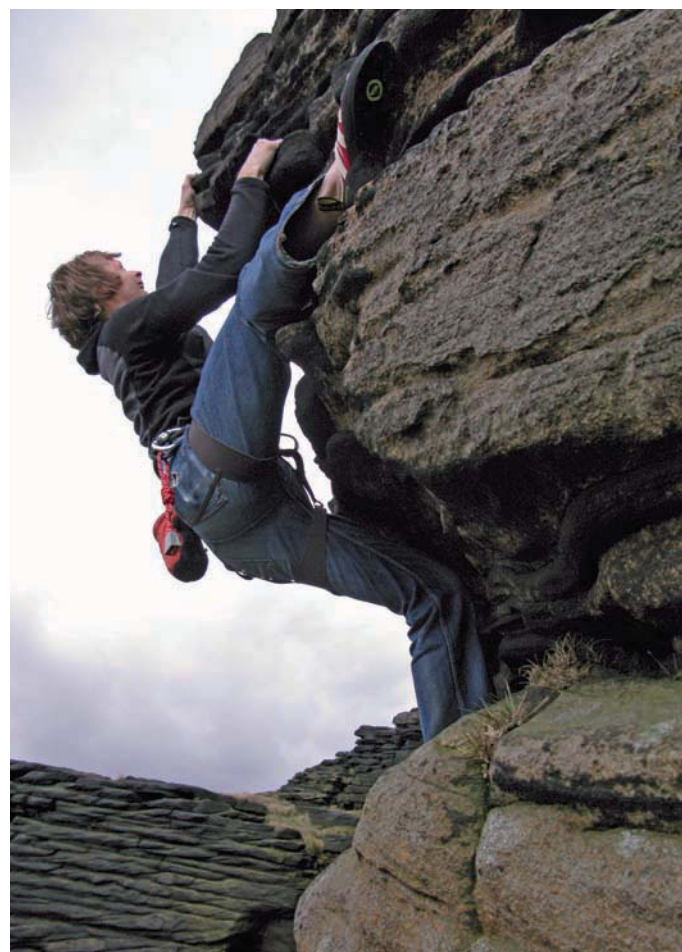
Tracks and braided hollow-ways are also found running to pastures, water sources and quarries. Some are relict trade and commerce routes over the moors, generally running east to west in and out of the Peak District. Transport routes have always crossed the Dark Peak, although these are relatively rare when compared with those that cross the gritstone uplands further south. Some are famed, such as Jacob's Ladder, a packhorse route from Edale up Kinder Scout. Some routes have been formalised into roads whilst others have become relict features in the landscape. Later routes became more innovative, such as the Woodhead Railway tunnels which connected Manchester and Sheffield by rail and went under the landscape; they were the longest railway tunnels in England when completed.

The valleys of the Dark Peak have been used for water catchment with the construction of several reservoirs that were built to supply water to the surrounding urban settlements. The Longdendale Reservoir, built in 1840, supplies water to the Manchester conurbation whilst the Howden and Derwent Reservoirs, built in the early 1900s, and the later Ladybower Reservoir, supply the

East Midlands and Sheffield. Along with the large valley reservoirs are a number of smaller reservoirs within the moorland landscape, such as Winscar and Chew reservoirs. The reservoirs support water supply, recreation and forestry as well as some grazing.

The Dark Peak has a very important role in recreational and access history, which began by providing royal hunting grounds and much later becoming an important location in the fight for socially equitable access rights. During medieval times much of the Dark Peak, and the Dark Peak Western Fringe lowlands to the west, made up part of the Royal Hunting Forest of the Peak, with severe penalties for poaching and access limited to a privileged few. By contrast, on 24th April 1932 the right of public access was fought for in the Dark Peak with the famous Kinder Trespass which was instrumental not only in gaining public access to areas of previously private land but also added to the debate that led to the creation of national parks.

The Dark Peak has another, less well known role in the development of rock climbing as an accessible sport to all social classes. Prior to the 1950s rock climbing was a socially elite pastime with expensive gear and difficulties accessing rock faces. Climbers such as Joe Brown and other working class men from Manchester and Sheffield developed a new, less formal approach to climbing with a focus on the Dark Peak and the Eastern Moors. Eventually these climbers evolved the sport, developing gear and climbing styles that are still used today.



Climbing in the north of the Dark Peak © Jemma Simpson, Countryside

Sense of place

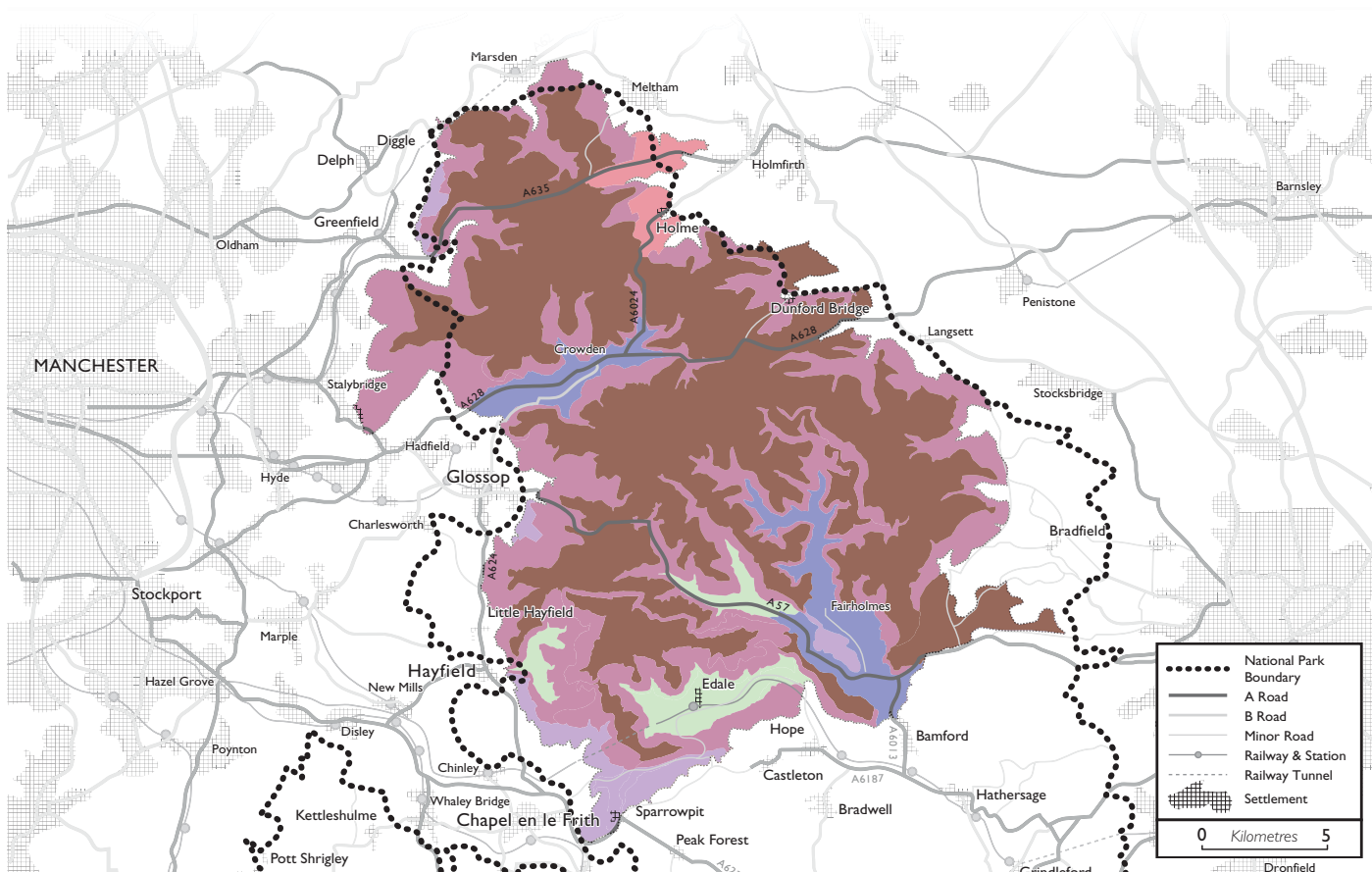
The Dark Peak is famed for its desolate and exposed tracts of moorland top that stretch great distances and create a sense of remoteness. The moorland tops appear dark due to the weathered gritstone bedrock, exposed and blackened in places, and the dark oranges and browns of heather foliage and the grasses and patches of exposed peat in places. During the summer months extensive tracts of blanket bog on the high moors are dominated by the white heads of cottongrasses giving rise to distinctive place names such as 'Featherbed Moss' whilst in the late summer the lower moorlands change to a brighter landscape with the purple heather dominating. The lack of settlement or intensive farming activity ensures that the sense of remoteness prevails; the plaintive calls of the golden plover on the high moors and the 'go-back go-back' call of grouse enhance the sense of wildness.

The moorlands are dissected in places by steep cloughs and slopes, with gritstone outcrops, tors and scree slopes and sometimes supporting streams. These slopes and cloughs are often too steep for agricultural improvement and so support wild, unsettled landscapes. Further down the valleys and slopes the landscape changes, generally becoming enclosed and pastoral. The peacefulness remains but the landscape becomes more intimate and settled with gritstone drystone wall enclosures and isolated gritstone farm properties. The enclosed fields and increased tree cover make the landscape varied in both texture and colour. Moorland vegetation such as bilberry remains along field boundaries and verges.

Some areas supported limited industry, including quarrying, mining and textile production. Now there is no major industry reliant on the landscape and the valleys tend to be a mosaic of woodland and pastoral fields. Some valleys have altered significantly with the building of the reservoirs, creating large human-made features but generally resulting in peaceful, tranquil landscapes. In some valleys the reservoirs are associated with extensive woodland cover, with many coniferous plantations, which provide further recreation opportunities.

Five distinct landscape character types have been identified in the Dark Peak. They have been defined by their broadly repeating patterns of natural elements and cultural factors:

- Open Moors
- Moorland Slopes & Cloughs
- Enclosed Gritstone Uplands
- Reservoir Valleys With Woodland
- Upper Valley Pastures

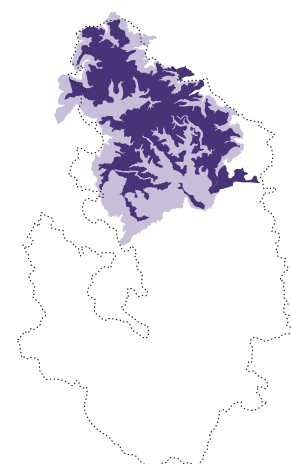


Open Moors

An open undulating high gritstone plateau with extensive blanket peat covered by cottongrass bog and heather moorland. This is a wild, unsettled landscape with wide views to distant surrounding hills.



Wessenden Head Moor © Peak District National Park Authority



Key characteristics

- Undulating high gritstone plateau
- Localised rock outcrops and boulders, in the form of rocky edges and tors
- Thick deposits of peat with incised groughs (drainage channels)
- Unenclosed heather and grass moorland and extensive areas of blanket bog
- Rough grazing land
- Wild, unsettled landscape with vast panoramas over surrounding hills and lower ground

This is a visually prominent landscape which covers more than half the area of the Dark Peak and is associated with the blanket peat on the higher summits at the core of the region.

Geology and landform

The open moorland is a large-scale, exposed landscape where the underlying Millstone Grit strongly influences the nature of the landform, creating a high, undulating topography allowing wide views to distant skylines. The gritstone bedrock is hard and slowly eroded, giving rise to a moderately undulating landform of highland summits and ridge lines, with occasional rocky outcrops and tors, rising to 636m at Kinder Scout. For the most part, the thick covering of blanket peat gives this landscape a smooth, gently sloping ground surface extensively dissected by a network of drainage channels or groughs, which feed into small rocky clough heads.

Soils and vegetation

Most of the open moorland is underlain by thick deposits of blanket peat. These have developed during the last 10,000 years, with the maximum growth during a warmer period 8,000 to 6,500 years ago, and are, for the most part, between 2 and 4 metres thick. Much of this landscape is covered by blanket bog dominated by cottongrass or a mixture of cottongrass and dwarf shrubs (heather, bilberry and crowberry), which supports northern species such as cloudberry locally. Shallow bog pools occur sporadically, but gulying of the peat is extensive across much of the blanket bog, resulting in drainage and erosion. On shallower peat, or where the land is managed more intensively for grouse shooting, dwarf shrub heath dominated by heather tends to replace the blanket bog, with variable quantities of crowberry and bilberry. Where the peat is wetter, other species such as deergrass and bog asphodel can become more prevalent. Sphagnum mosses, essential to the formation of peat are now not as widespread as they used to be.



Cottongrass © Peak District National Park Authority

Tree cover

The high moors are generally an open, treeless landscape with expansive views. The elevation, wetness of the soils and harsh climate make tree growth difficult. This landscape was more wooded in the past, as indicated by many ancient tree stumps buried under the peat. The evidence suggests that these trees were removed, or died out due to climatic changes, during the Later Mesolithic to Bronze Age.

Land use

This landscape generally has a low agricultural value being used predominantly for sheep grazing, or grouse rearing. Some areas of heather moorland are maintained through regimes of cutting and burning to aid regeneration and management of the heather. The associated infrastructure including grouse butts and occasional shooting lodges is visible in places. Past peat cutting has resulted in areas of moorland where much of the peat has been stripped away. There are some small reservoirs in this landscape character type, they tend to be associated with the edges of the Open Moors and support some recreation. Recreation is an important land use in the Dark Peak with the majority of the character type designated as open access land.

Enclosure

This is a largely unenclosed landscape where the lack of enclosure creates dramatic and expansive open views. On the fringes of the type there is occasional enclosure associated with the adjacent landscapes with gritstone drystone walls surrounding regular medium to large fields.

Settlement and buildings

This is an unsettled landscape with built features existing only locally. There are occasional grouse butts and shooting cabins, and isolated farm buildings built from local gritstone. There are occasional other features such as the War Memorials on top of Pots and Pans Hill in Saddleworth, Lady Cross, a medieval monastic boundary marker close to Round Hill, and prehistoric barrows as at Kinder Low.

Transport and access

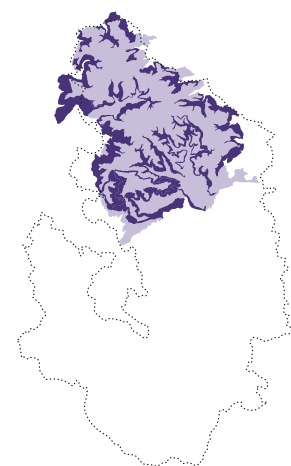
Transport is a limited feature of this landscape character type, however, some of the historic routes continue as important routes through the landscape. A small number of significant trans-pennine roads cross the open moorland. Some were built as turnpike roads, formalised from the pre-existing trackways over the moors. Old tracks are often still evident in the landscape as hollow-ways – sometimes braided where routes were modified to avoid wet areas caused by erosion through frequent use. There are also numerous local tracks and hollow-ways that link old upland grazing sites, water sources and peat cutting areas to settlements in the lower areas. Today, most of the open moorlands are open access land and are only accessible on foot.

Moorland Slopes & Cloughs

Steep slopes and cloughs rising to open moorland on the high plateaux above, with widespread rough grassland and heather moor, grazed by sheep. This is a wild unsettled landscape with exposed views over lower ground.



Alport Castles- the largest inland landslide in England © Peak District National Park Authority



Key characteristics

- Steep slopes and cloughs rising to the moorland plateaux above
- Prominent gritstone outcrops, boulders and scree slopes
- Thin soils over gritstone bedrock
- Rough acid grassland, bracken and heather moorland grazed by sheep
- Exposed views over lower ground, sometimes limited by clough sides
- Numerous springs and flushes arising on slopes and clough sides
- Relict areas of oak-birch woodland in cloughs

This is a landscape with a scattered distribution, often occurring as a series of narrow strips around the edge of the open moorland core. A number of larger units occur along the north-western edge of the Peak District.

Geology and landform

This is a sloping landscape that is strongly influenced by the underlying Millstone Grit geology and defined by the steep upper slopes and edges that fringe the open moorland plateaux. The resulting landform creates a strong sense of elevation with distant and panoramic views over surrounding countryside. There are frequent outcrops of gritstone, most notably at the break of slope where the slopes meet the open moorland plateaux above. Cloughs are a common feature in this landscape, formed by the incision and deep erosion of fast flowing streams.

The slopes and valleys eroded out by freeze-thaw, rock fall activity and down washing from streams create edges often with boulder fields below. Landslips have long occurred in this landscape type: at the end of the late Devensian glacial period, as ice was retreating, glacial modification and over-steepened slopes resulted in landslips. Other causes, more common recently, are water over-saturation that reduces the rock's shear strength and the location of high mass strength rocks, such as the gritstone, overlying weaker rock layers such as shales. Landslips are a local feature here and vary in scale; the landslip at Alport Castles is over 1km in extent: the largest inland slip in England. Mam Tor is known as the Shivering Mountain because of its repeated landslips.

Soils and vegetation

Soils are coarse, loamy and very acid over the gritstone bedrock. Surface water drainage is often impeded by the formation of a thin ironpan and in less steeply sloping areas the soils often have a wet peaty surface horizon. Owing to the poor quality soils, this is a landscape with widespread patches of semi-natural vegetation, usually comprising a mixture of heather and bilberry moorland, with areas of acid grassland. Patches of bracken are regularly extensive.

Where the upper slopes form edges to the moorland and on the sides of steep cloughs, there are frequent extensive amounts of bare rock and scree, which can provide for a range of valuable habitats. Some cloughs support fern banks including beech fern and oak fern, while on land that is inaccessible to grazing, such as ledges, tall vegetation species such as goldenrod may flourish.

The interleaving of permeable gritstone with less permeable shales gives rise to numerous springs and flushes on slopes and clough sides at the junction of the rock types. These often support a particularly diverse flora and insect fauna.

Tree cover

The wet soils, exposure and open grazing on the moorland slopes restrict tree growth, resulting in an essentially treeless landscape. However, scattered trees and patches of scrub often occur within cloughs, while occasional small plantation woodlands can sometimes be found on moorland slopes. Clough woodlands can be wet or dry. Wetter woods tend to be associated with alder, or birch and willow,

whereas the drier woodlands are dominated by sessile oak and pedunculate oak, with birch and holly, or hazel in the under storey. Localised 20th century conifer plantations occur in this landscape character type.

Land use

Owing to its elevation and poor quality soils, this is a very marginal agricultural landscape, used primarily as rough grazing for sheep. The slopes support a range of recreation including hang gliding, paragliding and walking. Rock climbing is popular on the craggy outcrops such as at Shining Clough on Bleaklow, Kinder Downfall, Laddow Rocks and Wimberry Stones Brow and also in the many relict gritstone quarries. There was a limited amount of coal mining carried out on the moorland slopes in the north-east of the area on Meltham Moor. There are some coniferous plantations, for example at Bradfield and beside the Snake Pass.

Enclosure

Large areas of this landscape character type remain unenclosed. Occasional drystone walls define ownership boundaries. There are areas of enclosure, particularly around Saddleworth, where much land was already enclosed by 1770 and was further sub-divided prior to the Parliamentary Enclosure Award map of 1834. However, there are many areas where proposed Parliamentary Enclosure did not occur: the land was allotted but remained open and unenclosed. Where field boundaries exist, they are gritstone drystone walls and are localised features in the landscape often defining ownership boundaries.

Settlement and buildings

This is a very sparsely settled landscape with occasional isolated gritstone farmsteads and cottages with stone slate roofs. Some of these farmsteads date from the medieval period but the buildings have been subsequently rebuilt. There are also occasional field barns and stock pens within the landscape, associated with sheep farming and constructed from the local gritstone.

Transport and access

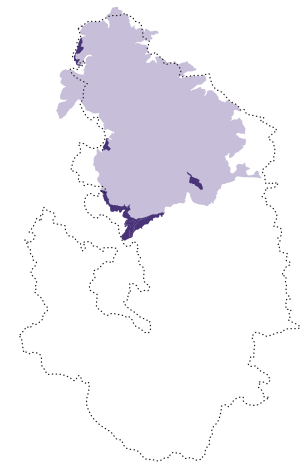
The Moorland Slopes & Cloughs are largely inaccessible to transport with the exception of routes that cross the moors such as the Woodhead Pass. There are smaller tracks throughout the landscape largely providing access to farms. Braided hollow-ways provide evidence that this landscape was once more widely travelled through both for trade and commerce outside of the area and to access pasture, water supplies and peat cuttings locally. These hollow-ways can sometimes be highly visible on the Moorland Slopes & Cloughs. Much of this landscape is designated open access land.

Enclosed Gritstone Uplands

An enclosed upland pastoral landscape associated with high uplands, ridge tops and slopes. This is a landscape of isolated stone farmsteads, straight roads and regular fields enclosed by drystone walls, largely reclaimed from moorland during Parliamentary Enclosure. Localised boulder fields and rocky outcrops are a feature in places, often associated with patches of remnant moorland vegetation.



Windy Knowl, above Winnats Pass © Peak District National Park Authority



- High uplands and ridge tops with some steeper slopes
- Thin soils over gritstone bedrock with localised pockets of peat
- Permanent pasture and rough grazing enclosed by gritstone walls
- Remnant patches of rough land with bracken and gorse, some heather and bilberry
- Regular pattern of medium to large fields
- Straight roads with wide verges of grass and, in some places, heather
- Isolated gritstone farmsteads with stone slate roofs
- Tree groups around farmsteads providing shelter

This landscape occurs in discrete areas primarily on the western side of the Dark Peak, on lower land running down from the open moorlands. There are two areas in the north, and there is a larger area on the lower south-western flanks of Kinder and the southern slopes of Rushup Edge, as well as an isolated area above Ladybower Reservoir.

Geology and landform

This landscape is associated with high and broad gently undulating gritstone plateaux, in places rising steeply to higher open moorlands. The underlying bedrock is Millstone Grit.

Soils and vegetation

The variable nature of the geology and landform give rise to a variety of soil types ranging from free-draining podzols on steeper slopes to wetter, peatier soils on gentler summits. All the soils are characterised by their impoverished, acidic origin and although most of the land is now improved to varying degrees for pasture, many patches of semi-natural vegetation still exist along verges, on steeper slopes and even as isolated patches within some fields. Heath-associated species, such as heather, bilberry and gorse are a common feature in many places. Where the soils are wetter species such as purple moor grass tend to be more common and there are some patches of soft rush, which often support small populations of breeding birds such as snipe.

Tree cover

The sheep grazing, poor soils and exposure restrict tree growth so this is essentially a treeless landscape. However, there are occasional tree groups, generally adjacent to farmsteads and planted to create shelter around properties, using broadleaved species such as oak, ash and sycamore. There are also some shelterbelts and occasional blocks of 19th or 20th century coniferous woodland.

Land use

This is a landscape of mostly improved or semi-improved permanent pasture with sheep and cattle grazing and some rough grazing. There are some reseeded grass leys and very occasional arable fields. Soils are mostly of poor quality and some fields are dominated by rushes or are reverting to moorland, providing habitat diversity.

Enclosure

This is a landscape dominated by Parliamentary Enclosure of open moorland and commons dating from the late 18th and early 19th centuries creating medium to large regular fields. There is some ancient enclosure and some piecemeal and private enclosure which tends to have a slightly smaller and more irregular form than Parliamentary Enclosure. Drystone gritstone walls enclose most fields but there are occasional hedgerows on lower ground.

Settlement and buildings

Settlement tends to consist of isolated gritstone farmsteads with stone slate roofs often dating from the time that the landscape was enclosed from the 18th century. Although isolated properties are the dominant settlement type there are some small groups of settlement, as at Moorfield, adjacent to Glossop. Settlements often use the natural landform for weather protection. Higher up, towards where the enclosure gives way to the open moorland, the landscape is largely unsettled.

Transport and access

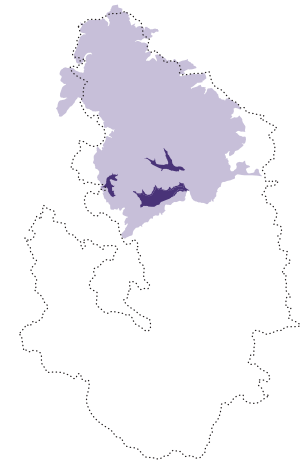
This is a remote landscape. Where roads exist they tend to be straight with even verges, created from the 18th century onwards as part of the enclosure programme. In places larger, busier roads cross the landscape and these tend to be locally dominant features. Within this landscape type there are some older routes, such as packhorse routes. Small, discreet areas of this landscape are designated as access land.

Upper Valley Pastures

A pastoral landscape with a low lying, undulating topography, rising more steeply in places towards nearby hills. Settlement is restricted to dispersed gritstone farmsteads set within a well defined pattern of small to medium sized fields, mostly bounded by hedgerows, but with some walls. Views are enclosed by valley sides and filtered through scattered hedgerow and streamline trees.



Edale Valley © Peak District National Park Authority



Key characteristics

- A low lying gently undulating topography, rising towards adjacent higher ground
- Network of streams and localised damp hollows
- Pastoral farmland enclosed by hedgerows
- Small to medium sized fields
- Dense streamline and scattered hedgerow trees
- Narrow, winding lanes, sunken on slopes
- Dispersed settlement with isolated farmsteads and small clusters of farms and dwellings

This landscape occurs in three locations at the centre of the Peak District: at Ashop Valley, in Edale and near Kinder Reservoir east of Hayfield.

Geology and landform

This is a moderate to steeply sloping valley bottom landscape where rivers have eroded through the Millstone Grit creating an undulating topography in the underlying shale. Further variation is created by small streams which dissect the main valleys as they drain the surrounding high moors. In places landslips on higher ground have created a very distinctive hummocky landform which becomes flatter towards the valley bottom.

Soils and vegetation

Slowly permeable, seasonally waterlogged soils are characteristic of the lower lying ground in this landscape, with more free-draining soils on the steeper slopes over gritstone bedrock. For the most part this is a moderately intensively farmed pastoral landscape with some ecologically interesting grasslands, particularly in the Edale valley. Biodiversity value is found mainly in surviving unimproved pastures and hay meadows, which can provide a range of flora such as bird's foot trefoil and common cat's ear. On less well drained land, where the ground is wetter, the pastures often support soft rush and can provide a breeding ground for wading birds.

On sloping ground flushes create wetter areas that can have a significant influence over biodiversity. Flushes differ in character depending on the flow of water, but they generally support a range of species including mosses, sedges and soft rush.

Tree cover

Despite the lack of larger woodlands, tree cover is generally well represented throughout this landscape due to the scattered hedgerow and watercourse trees. Tree cover is densest adjacent to watercourses and through cloughs, where it is often dominated by alder with birch and willow.

Scattered trees also exist adjacent to settlements and along field boundaries. Linear woodlands along watercourses are a feature in places and are sometimes linked to a network of thorn hedgerows. There is plantation woodland associated with Kinder Reservoir.

Land use

This is a pastoral landscape used mainly for sheep and cattle rearing which has been a traditional land use since at least medieval times. Land is managed to maintain water quality around Kinder reservoir. These valleys are also popular for walking, often used as starting locations for walks on the moors. The popular Pennine Way walking route begins in the Edale Valley and leads to the famous Jacob's Ladder, an old packhorse route, up onto the plateau above.

Enclosure

Enclosure is very varied within this landscape character type. Field sizes vary from small to large but are generally not regular or geometric. Enclosure usually pre-dates Parliamentary Enclosure and there is evidence that some pre-dates the mid 17th century. Enclosure is often piecemeal and may sometimes represent assarted enclosure, where the enclosure is created from woodland clearance or taken in from moorland. Thorn and some more mixed species hedgerows and drystone walls enclose fields, with some scattered boundary trees, typically oak and ash.

Settlement and buildings

Settlement is of dispersed gritstone farmsteads with stone slate roofs. Much of this dispersed pattern originates from the medieval period if not before. In the Edale Valley there are distinctive small clusters of the oldest properties: a mixture of farmsteads and cottages known as Booths. This was the name given to the pasturage units that were defined as part of the medieval Royal Forest and let out by bailiffs to villagers and foresters although settlement may have already existed prior to this time.

Other more scattered but post-medieval farmsteads are also common, particularly on the less favourable north-facing slope of the valley. The Woodlands Valley and the Kinder Valley both have a similar dispersed settlement pattern with farmsteads and cottages located along the valley bottoms and lower slopes. Some of these are known to have medieval origins and appear to have grown up as individual farms. There is a Victorian nucleated settlement in the centre of the valley which grew up in association with the creation of the railway station and Edale Mill.

Transport and access

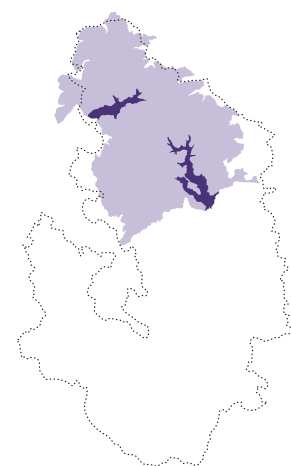
This landscape has varied road access, the Snake Pass road runs through the Upper Derwent Valley and the Kinder Road gives local access through the valley adjacent to Hayfield. There are other routes including narrow winding lanes that provide access to dwellings and farmsteads as well as older routes, such as packhorse routes. The railway line through Edale, completed in 1894, forms the main route between Manchester and Sheffield. Very limited areas of this landscape character type are designated as access land. Vehicular access within the valleys tends to be limited and they are popular for walking.

Reservoir Valleys With Woodland

Steep sided valleys dominated by large reservoirs. Some of the steep valley slopes have been planted with interlocking blocks of coniferous and mixed plantation woodland while others support acid grassland and clough woodlands. Views along the valleys are framed by woodland and the slopes rising to moorland.



Howden Reservoir © Peak District National Park Authority



This landscape occurs in Longdendale and the Upper Derwent Valley.

Key characteristics

- Interlocking coniferous and mixed plantation woodland with some limited semi-natural woodland
- Large reservoirs providing water supplies to adjoining urban areas
- Steep valley slopes, dissected by cloughs
- Land was largely cleared of settlement during reservoir construction leaving occasional isolated gritstone farmsteads
- Pastoral fields bounded by gritstone walls with many relict boundaries

Geology and landform

This is a landscape with a prominent, sloping topography cutting into the gritstone moorland. The underlying geology is mainly hard interbedded gritstones with, in places, softer mudstones which give rise to a fairly unified, steeply sloping landform with narrow valley bottoms. In places the slopes are dissected by deep cloughs.

Soils and vegetation

The soils tend to be shallow and free-draining over gritstone bedrock. Surface water drainage is often impeded by the formation of a thin ironpan and in less steeply sloping areas the soils frequently have a wet peaty surface horizon. Owing to the poor quality of the soils, this was a landscape with widespread patches of semi-natural vegetation, much of which has now been planted with conifer woodlands. In places patches of ancient semi-natural woodland exist, supporting a range of ground flora species including bilberry and dog's mercury. There is bracken associated with acid grassland on the sloping land in these landscapes.

Tree cover

This landscape is extensively wooded, mostly recent conifer plantations of pine, spruce and larch planted on land that was previously open heath, or grassland. Some of the plantations were planted on the site of ancient woodlands that were cleared of native trees. Patches of ancient semi-natural woodland are now linked by the areas of plantation woodland to create a heavily wooded landscape. In Longdendale, woodland is patchier and there are fewer coniferous plantations.

Land use

Although there is some low intensity pastoral farming, water supply with forestry and recreation around the reservoirs are the dominant land uses in this landscape. The valleys have long been exploited for industry. The Upper Derwent Valley was an important location for charcoal production with burning taking place in many locations on the lower slopes. In the 18th century much of this was produced on an industrial scale and used for iron smelting around Sheffield. Quarrying was carried out at several sites in Longdendale, particularly towards the west. Several mills were established in Longdendale using the fast flowing River Etherow for power.

The reservoirs which now occupy the earlier mill sites in Longdendale were built in the 1840s to supply water to Manchester. In the Upper Derwent Valley the Howden and Derwent reservoirs, constructed in the early 1900s, were built to supply water to nearby settlements in the East Midlands. The construction of the later Ladybower Dam led to the flooding of Derwent and Ashopton villages, which were small agricultural settlements. The village of Birchinlee was constructed on the banks of the reservoir as a temporary settlement for construction workers; it was commonly known as Tin Town. The foundations of many of the temporary buildings still survive today.

Enclosure

Enclosure pattern is variable in this landscape character type. In the Longdendale Valley enclosure is characterised by small fields enclosed by drystone walls, whilst in the Upper Derwent Valley walls are often now redundant, within or more commonly at the edges of the plantation woodlands. Much of the enclosure in the Upper Derwent Valley has been modified following the establishment of the reservoirs; prior to this much of the Upper Derwent Valley was deciduous woodland. Enclosure which pre-dates the reservoirs may be ancient although here there are no early historical maps to confirm this in Longdendale.

Settlement and buildings

This is not a significantly settled landscape with just occasional isolated gritstone farmsteads. These are more prevalent in the Longdendale Valley than the Upper Derwent Valley which has a more unsettled character. However, this landscape was formerly more densely settled but was deliberately de-populated in order to establish the reservoirs.

Transport and access

There are roads within this landscape, which tend to run alongside the reservoirs; the road through Longdendale is an old turnpike road. The Longdendale Valley has a historical association with the railway which was completed in 1854 creating the first direct rail link between Manchester and Sheffield via the 3-mile Woodhead Tunnel. The railway line has since been dismantled and is now a popular recreational route. Historically, this character type contained packhorse routes and tracks through the landscape used for trade into and out of the Derwent Valley and across the Dark Peak moorlands. There are areas of access land and many popular walking trails around the reservoirs.

Overall Strategy



Ashop Moor in cloud © Peak District National Park Authority

The underlying geology of the Dark Peak creates a dramatic, upland landscape. The Dark Peak has long been influenced by human activity but retains a distinctly tranquil and remote character; despite intervention it is still a vital landscape. The character contrasts significantly with the more settled landscapes which surround it and this valued contrast should be maintained or, where appropriate, enhanced. In places transportation routes affect tranquillity. There is an opportunity to enhance condition, ensuring ecological integrity and robustness in all of the landscape types. Moorland landscapes in the Dark Peak are likely to be particularly vulnerable to climate change. However, restoring blanket bog to an active healthy condition does provide opportunities for the Dark Peak moors to contribute significantly to carbon sequestration rather than contributing to net carbon release, as in some areas at present. Any changes must be integrated with land uses such as water management, agriculture, grouse moor management and recreation, as appropriate.

The overall strategy for the Dark Peak should therefore be to:

Protect the remoteness, wildness, open character and tranquillity of the Dark Peak landscapes, and manage these landscapes to mitigate the impacts of climate change.

This can be achieved by ensuring that there is:

- sustainable land management systems capable of supporting appropriate land uses linked to the needs of both moorland and enclosed land
- measures to restore degraded moorland landscapes to good condition, delivering effective public benefits including carbon sequestration, water supply, flood risk control and access
- appropriate measures to enhance the recreational and educational value of these landscapes



Derwent Reservoir in the mist © Peak District National Park Authority

To achieve this strategy there are particular priorities for each of the different landscape character types in the Dark Peak.

Open Moors

This is the most open and unsettled landscape in the Peak District, characterised by expansive open views with blanket bog and upland heath. Priorities are to protect or enhance the integrity of moorlands, which are currently in poor condition; to manage obvious linear features such as fencing to enhance the open character; and to maintain the character of the landscape and its component parts within a sustainable upland management system, integrating land uses such as livestock farming, water supply and grouse shooting with carbon sequestration, recreation and amenity.

Moorland Slopes & Cloughs

This is a steeply sloping landscape with dramatic geology such as scree slopes and gritstone outcrops, as well as a diversity of other features including flushes, springs, rush pastures and clough woodlands. Priorities for this landscape character type should be to enhance landscape integrity and connectivity, particularly of the clough woods. This should be achieved through woodland expansion and conservation, whilst maintaining the valued recreational and cultural heritage resources and controlling associated localised impacts such as footpath erosion, within a sustainable land management system.

Enclosed Gritstone Uplands

This is a sparsely settled pastoral upland landscape. Priorities for the landscape include maintaining the historic pattern of sparse settlement and enclosure, and protecting and managing the enclosed character of the landscape, whilst enhancing the ecological value and connectivity of wet pasture in a mixed farming regime.

Upper Valley Pastures

This is a lower lying pastoral landscape with dispersed gritstone farmsteads and cottages as well as a small nucleated settlement. Priorities for this landscape are to protect this historical settlement and enclosure pattern and the views into and out of settlements, whilst enhancing and increasing the extent of habitats within a sustainable farming system.

Reservoir Valleys With Woodland

This landscape has been heavily influenced by human activity with reservoirs, transport routes and large plantation woodlands. The priorities for this landscape include protecting and enhancing the connectivity between semi-natural woodland, replacing coniferous woodland with native, broadleaved species where appropriate; and enhancing recreation and educational opportunities, climate mitigation and the existing, historical enclosure patterns.



Farm below Rushup Edge © Peak District National Park Authority

Issues of change

Conservation

The Dark Peak is a relatively 'wild' upland landscape dominated by large expanses of unenclosed moorland dissected by steep narrow cloughs, with both broader farmed valleys and wooded reservoir valleys in places. The extensive blanket bogs over deep peat have, in particular, been significantly degraded over a considerable period of time through impacts such as atmospheric pollution, wildfires and historic management practices such as heavy grazing and burning. Where upland pastoral landscapes exist, such as the Enclosed Gritstone Moor, management regimes and grazing have left species-poor grass moorland, signalling a loss of heath species and of wet rush habitats. Since the early 1980s these trends have been slowed and even reversed to some extent by measures such as the Peak District Moorland Restoration Project (and more latterly Moors for the Future), the introduction of the North Peak Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) in 1988 and more sustainable management by moorland owners. Changes in agricultural practice have led to a simplification of landscapes. Woodlands are generally limited within this landscape, although clough woods in the Moorland Slopes & Cloughs provide unique habitats. In the Reservoir Valleys With Woodland, the associated woodland planting often tends to be coniferous, and in some places this can isolate broadleaved and ancient woodland resources.

The altitude, topography and associated climate of the Dark Peak have resulted in its particular past human use. This is evidenced by extensive early prehistoric (Mesolithic) landscapes underlying the peat cover of the high moors, along with more visible examples of past human activity such as peat cutting relics, tracks, hollow-ways and other routes across the moors. All of these features are threatened by extensive peat erosion, wildfires and inappropriate moorland management. Away from the moors the historic settlement and enclosure patterns, such as the Booths at Edale, remain relatively intact.

Climate change implications

The Open Moors and the Moorland Slopes & Cloughs are likely to be particularly vulnerable to climate change through increased fire risk; increased drying, desiccation and erosion of the peat; increased flash floods; vegetation changes such as possible bracken spread; and loss of upland species (many of the characteristic moorland birds are likely to decline). There may also be changes in moorland management as a result of increased water demand, decline in grouse numbers and changes in recreational pressure. These changes can affect the overall landscape character, biodiversity, and the cultural heritage component within and beneath the peat. Down slope, changes are likely to adversely affect water quality and flood risk. More positively, there is potential for this landscape to be a key resource for dealing with climate change; rewetted uplands could sequester carbon efficiently alongside other land uses. The Reservoir Valleys With Woodland may be affected by changing management approaches as water catchment and management become national and international priorities.

Demography, housing and employment

The Dark Peak is characterised by very limited settlement with historic farmsteads and small clustered settlements off the main plateau. Changes in the farming economy and farming population coupled with the attraction of a rural lifestyle have meant that some farm properties, particularly on the peripheries of the Dark Peak, are no longer exclusively working farms. Instead, they exist as large domestic properties at times associated with small-scale, part time or 'hobby' farming, and sometimes with horse pasturing. Such ownership changes can be associated with separation of farmstead and land holdings, resulting in increased trends to isolated, large modern agricultural buildings. These large, agricultural buildings can be of a scale at odds with the surrounding buildings and landscape, particularly when located away from farmsteads. In some cases these have been screened with tree planting, although such mitigation is not always appropriate, particularly in the more open landscapes. The unsettled nature of the landscape means that views from Dark Peak settlements, such as Edale, are important for continuing the relationship between landscape and settlement. Despite this unsettled nature, the proximity of settled, urban areas to the Dark Peak means that light pollution is having significant consequences on dark skies.

Tourism and recreation

The Dark Peak is a landscape of extremes with the wild Open Moors, the enclosed farmlands and the Reservoir Valleys With Woodland. Each landscape is valued and cherished by those who visit and live there. The Dark Peak can offer opportunities for solitude and tranquillity that surrounding, more settled landscapes, cannot offer. These are highly valued characteristics, providing an important cultural resource. In some areas there is often high recreational demand for the more active sports of mountain biking, sailing, climbing and motorised off-road driving. There is also increasing pressure to stage more sponsored or themed events in the wilder, more challenging areas. A range of opportunities are available for different levels of use, meaning that the Dark Peak has accessibility to a wide range of users.

Farming and forestry

The tradition of upland grazing in the Dark Peak has been the main force in shaping the current character of the area. Whilst the grazing of agricultural livestock was almost certainly a key influence in creating the current open moorland landscapes, high levels of grazing and associated practices such as extensive burning have subsequently contributed to the degradation of the moors. This has resulted in heather loss and erosion, and gullyng of the underlying peat. This process largely accelerated throughout the 20th century until 1988, when the North Peak Environmentally Sensitive Area was introduced and started to encourage a reduction in grazing levels and restoration of eroding areas. Away from the moors, agricultural intensification of farmland has resulted in the loss and decline of semi-natural grasslands and associated wetland habitats. Future drivers for agriculture in the Dark Peak are likely to include Common Agricultural Policy reform, climate change, food security issues, environmental issues (water quality, biodiversity) and the growing demand for local food products.

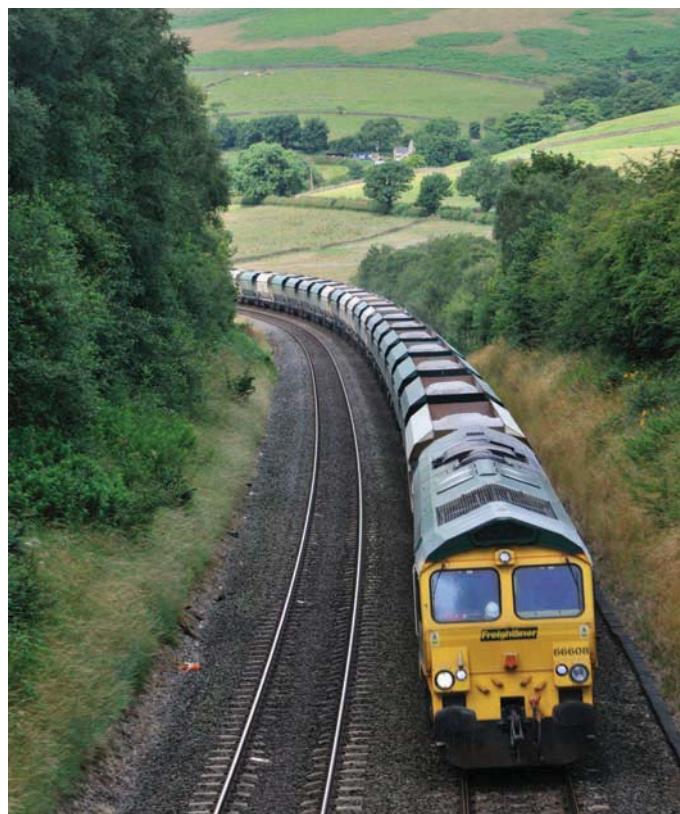
Grouse moor management has been another important influence on the moorland landscapes of the Dark Peak for approximately the last 150 years, originally by encouraging reduced grazing levels and diversifying the age structure of heather stands, helping to prevent the degradation of areas of heather moorland to grass moor. However, inappropriate burning in some areas, particularly on the blanket peats and on more intensively managed moors, has led to a decline in their condition. Moorland management practices have been increasingly influenced over the last few years by the SSSI status of most of the moorland and other environmental factors such as water quality. Climate change may render grouse shooting unviable in the Peak District by the late 21st century.

Conifer plantations associated with the main valleys and reservoirs form the bulk of woodland cover in the Dark Peak and also occur very locally on the moorland edge. Fluctuations in the timber market, and increased emphasis on the environmental and amenity benefits of forestry over the last decade or more, have led to restructuring of some conifer plantations to favour broadleaved trees and create more varied structure and landform. There are major proposals to convert plantations to native woodland and open habitats in the Alport Valley. Within some moorland cloughs relics of native woodland survive, though these are often grazed and in poor condition.

Minerals and resources

There are no active quarries within the Dark Peak but there are remains of old quarries, which form an important part of the character of the area. They are a valued cultural heritage, biodiversity, educational and, particularly, recreational resource, with many old quarries being used for rock climbing and bouldering. There is a demand for local stone for building, in particular for roofing stone, which has the potential to generate conflicting building and landscape conservation issues.

This is an important water catchment area, providing both drinking water to the surrounding urban areas and a potential future energy source.



Freight Train, Edale © Peak District National Park Authority

Energy and infrastructure

There is an increasing national demand for renewable energy schemes, in particular wind power. The impact of inappropriate wind generation projects could lead to a reduction of amenity value and tranquillity. There may be scope for the development of hydroelectric power schemes, of appropriate siting, scale and design, in some locations where it would not impact significantly on the landscape. There is a visual impact of existing infrastructure associated with power supply, e.g. overhead electricity cables, most notably the grid transmission lines in Longdendale.

Road safety is a major issue in the Dark Peak, leading to an increase in the number and size of road signs. High levels of vehicle use are increasing damage to roads, walls, and verges, and creating an increased demand for parking. An increase in all forms of transport have visual and tranquillity impacts, particularly from the amount of air traffic associated with Manchester Airport and the number of cross-park vehicular journeys. Plans for the construction of a Mottram - Tintwistle bypass have recently been postponed but may arise again in the future, with impacts both directly on the landscape and potentially on the volume of vehicle traffic along the A628, A57 and related roads.

In recent years there has been an increase in visual intrusion of communications infrastructure, particularly telecommunication masts, which can impact on landscape character and the setting of cultural heritage features, buildings and historic landscapes.

Landscape guidelines

Dark Peak





Open Moors	Moorland Slopes and Cloughs	Enclosed Gritstone Uplands	Upper Valley Pastures	Reservoir Valleys with Woodland
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Protect

Protect and maintain historic drystone walls					
Protect and maintain historic hedgerows					

Manage

Manage the sparse and historical patterns of development					
Manage the network of tracks and footpaths to maximise opportunities to enjoy the landscape					
Manage and enhance woodlands					
Manage and enhance plantation woodlands					
Manage and enhance the diversity of agricultural grasslands					
Enhance and restore moorland landscapes					
Manage relict quarries for recreation					
Encourage diverse approaches in moorland management					
Restore clough woods					
Manage the network of minor roads to maintain character and local access					
Manage and enhance semi-natural grassland and wetland landscapes					
Manage and enhance landscape around reservoirs					

-  This is a priority throughout the landscape character type
-  This is a priority in some parts of the landscape character type, often associated with particular conditions/features
-  This is not a priority but may be considered in some locations
-  This will generally be inappropriate in this landscape character type

Landscape guidelines

Dark Peak

Plan

	Open Moors	Moorland Slopes and Cloughs	Enclosed Gritstone Uplands	Upper Valley Pastures	Reservoir Valleys with Woodland
Create clough woodlands		●◐			
Develop small-scale renewable energy for local needs				○	○
Create and link patches of wetland farmland habitats	●	●◐	●◐	○	○
Consider the reopening of small-scale quarries for local stone supply		○			
Create, extend and link areas of heath/moor	●◐	●◐	●◐		

- This is a priority throughout the landscape character type
- ◐ This is a priority in some parts of the landscape character type, often associated with particular conditions/features
- This is not a priority but may be considered in some locations
- This will generally be inappropriate in this landscape character type

Landscape guidelines explanation

Protect

Protect and maintain historic drystone walls

Drystone walls and associated features such as gateposts are an important historical feature in the enclosed landscapes of the Dark Peak, in particular the Enclosed Gritstone Uplands and Longdendale (Reservoir Valleys With Woodland). Walls and hedges will often appear together; with walls predominating in many areas. In places the management of walls is declining and there is a need to enhance their management in order to protect the historic field pattern.

Protect and maintain historic hedgerows

Hedgerows are an important historical feature within the Upper Valley Pastures, many representing assarted enclosure. The hedges often occur in conjunction with gritstone walls, especially on the upper valley slopes. Many boundaries are gappy and in poor condition, and there is a need to enhance their management to maintain the historic field pattern.



Derwent Reservoir © Peak District National Park Authority

Manage

Manage the sparse and historical patterns of development

The Dark Peak contrasts with surrounding landscapes due to the very limited settlement; this plays a vital role in the character of the landscape. It is important that future development remains very limited in order to maintain this sense of place, which is valued and enjoyed by the surrounding communities and visitors. New development should respond positively to the historic settlement pattern, density, local materials and building traditions. Similarly, where settlement does exist, the views into and out of the settlement should be protected, as they can be important to historical character and sense of place. Traditional buildings are an important feature and their renovation and maintenance should be encouraged. Locating new agricultural buildings can impact on landscape character, and opportunities should be taken to guide site selection.

Manage the network of tracks and footpaths to maximise opportunities to enjoy the landscape

The network of tracks and footpaths should be managed, especially within the Open Moors and Reservoir Valleys With Woodland, to enhance the capacity to provide healthy recreation for a wide range of users. This can be achieved through appropriate low-key landscape management measures which minimize impact on the “wilderness” qualities of the area, and by controlling inappropriate use to retain character, cultural heritage and biodiversity interests.

Manage and enhance woodlands

Woodland in the Dark Peak is not widespread; where it is a landscape feature it needs to be well managed. Some woodland is neglected or would benefit from enhanced management. Opportunities should be sought to enhance diversity and improve woodland productivity, whilst conserving cultural heritage features. There may be opportunities to link woodland management to local wood fuel schemes and reduce reliance on traditional carbon-based energies.

Manage and enhance plantation woodlands

Within the Reservoir Valleys With Woodland, large coniferous plantation woods form a distinctive landscape feature. Plantation woods can also be found to a lesser extent within the Moorland Slopes & Cloughs, for example the Snake woodlands. Opportunities should be sought to integrate them into the wider historic landscape through improved management, including felling and increasing appropriate native tree species, whilst conserving cultural heritage features. This work is already being carried out within the Alport valley, where the technique ‘wild by design’ is being used.

Manage and enhance the diversity of agricultural grasslands

Many grasslands have been improved and reseeded with a consequent loss of species diversity. There is a need to manage these grasslands in a more sustainable way that restores or protects species diversity whilst supporting productive agriculture. Opportunities to extend and enhance the management of unimproved grasslands should be sought.

Enhance and restore moorland landscapes

Opportunities should be sought for the restoration of degraded moorland landscapes through the re-vegetation of bare peat and rewetting of blanket bog. This could provide a valuable resource in mitigating climate change through carbon sequestration and increased water storage capacity.

Manage relict quarries for recreation

Quarries provide a very important and highly valued recreation resource for climbing and bouldering in the Dark Peak. They also provide habitat to nesting birds, and other flora and fauna. There needs to be a balance between the value and use of quarries as a recreational and/or biodiversity resource using education and partnership working. In many quarries a balance is already evident, with many routes being overgrown and unused, and climbing concentrating on a few, favoured routes.

Encourage diverse approaches in moorland management

The Open Moors are an important national and international landscape that needs to be protected and managed. There is an increasing emphasis on multi-purpose land use for the moors, including recreation, biodiversity and the ecosystem services of flood control, water quality and carbon sequestration. The variety of land uses will require innovative management techniques to ensure that the landscape and its component parts can robustly absorb different pressures. This can be achieved through different cutting and burning regimes, gully blocking, flagging paths as appropriate and reducing fire risk. On the Open Moors, wire fencing defines land ownership and can be an important management tool to control grazing. However, removal of these boundaries, when no longer required or where appropriate, would enhance the moorland character by strengthening the openness and thus enhancing the sense of remoteness and 'wildness'.

Manage clough woods

On the Moorland Slopes & Cloughs, clough woods are an important landscape feature. Opportunities should be sought to enhance the management of these woods, preferably by natural regeneration, without affecting cultural heritage features, historic landscapes and existing ecological features. This would help to reduce erosion caused by increased rainfall run off associated with climate change by stabilising soils, and may help reduce flood risk in lower landscapes by slowing rainwater run off from the uplands.

Manage the network of minor roads to maintain character and local access

The network of minor roads should be managed to maintain their local, small-scale and rural character to ensure good local access whilst discouraging inappropriate driving. Verges and cultural features should be maintained and enhanced, and the impact of signage minimised.

Manage and enhance semi-natural grassland and wetland landscapes

The pastoral landscapes of the Enclosed Gritstone Uplands and the Upper Valley Pastures have seen a reduction in the number and quality of wet pastures. Those that remain provide an important resource which should be managed and enhanced. An increase in horse pasturing is creating particular pressures which need to be addressed. On the Moorland Slopes & Cloughs there is a need to ensure that flush, spring and rush pasture associated habitats are robust and capable of maintaining integrity during periods of heavy water run off, which may become more frequent with climate change.

Manage and enhance landscape around reservoirs

The reservoirs of the Dark Peak offer opportunities for landscape enhancement and improved recreational and educational opportunities. This could be achieved by restructuring existing plantation woodland; establishing small-scale scrub, woodland or linear tree features; diversifying associated grassland or heathland areas; and enhancing provision of recreational and educational facilities where appropriate.

Plan

Create clough woods

Opportunities should be sought to extend and create clough woodlands within the Moorland Slopes & Cloughs, preferably by natural regeneration, without affecting cultural heritage features, historic landscapes and existing ecological features.

Develop small-scale renewable energy for local needs

There are many opportunities to develop small-scale renewable energy schemes within the fringe areas of the Dark Peak. In particular, there are opportunities in the Reservoir Valleys With Woodland to develop hydroelectric schemes and local wood fuel projects. The Upper Valley Pastures of Edale could support other renewable energy sources, including local wood fuel projects. Opportunities should be sought within new development and management of woodland to increase local renewable energy supply where it would have a neutral impact on the character of the area and its component parts. Where appropriate seek positive measures to reinforce the local landscape character as part of new development.

Create and link patches of wetland farmland habitats

The Dark Peak has strong association with wetland habitats. Pastoral landscapes in particular have seen a reduction in the number and quality of wet pastures. These are important landscapes that need to be protected and managed. Opportunities should be sought to extend and link wet pasture and flushes together, whilst protecting cultural heritage features. There may also be opportunities within the flatter pastures of the Upper Valley Pastures to create flood meadows, helping to reduce flood risks downstream.

Consider the reopening of small-scale quarries for local stone supply

Where environmentally appropriate, and when demand can justify supply, it may be acceptable to open up some relict quarry sites over a limited extent and duration to enable restoration of local, vernacular buildings. Such decisions must be made on a site basis and consider all economic, landscape and environmental needs and issues.

Create, extend and link areas of heath/moor

There are opportunities within the Enclosed Gritstone Uplands of the Dark Peak to diversify the existing grassland-based landscapes. This can be achieved by creating new moorland/heath and extending and linking existing patches of moor/heath.

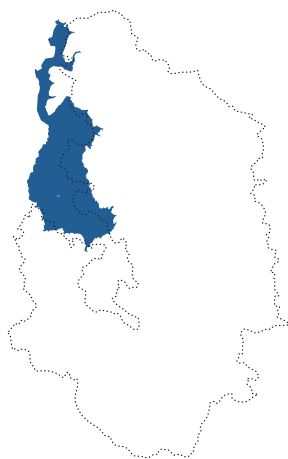


Stream at Ladybower © Peak District National Park Authority

Dark Peak Western Fringe



Pob Green Uppermill © Peak District National Park Authority



Introduction

The Dark Peak Western Fringe comprises the sloping and lower lying landscapes of the Goyt, Etherow and Tame valleys. It contrasts with the Dark Peak in that, although it includes enclosed moorland landscapes, it is more settled and has been cultivated to a much greater degree than is the case in the adjoining wilder uplands. Equally, the early industrial character of the former mill settlements is very different from that of the adjoining coalfields in the Manchester Pennine Fringe. Mills are a prominent feature of this area exploiting local power sources: firstly employing the streams running off the Dark Peak for power and from the 18th century using some of the coal mined locally.

Physical influences

As in the other areas surrounding the Dark Peak, the physical structure of the Dark Peak Western Fringe is strongly influenced by the underlying geology. This comprises a sequence of shales and gritstones belonging to the Millstone Grit series, which have been eroded in different ways to produce a distinctly undulating topography. The upstanding, higher ground tends to be formed from gritstone, while the valleys and other lower lying areas are cut into the underlying, softer shales. These beds then pass beneath the more rolling Lancashire Coal Measures that extend from the west towards the lower slopes of the Dark Peak particularly between Glossop and Whaley Bridge. The Coal Measures consist of interbedded grey shales, siltstones and sandstones with occasional beds of coal and ironstone.

The steep slopes of the adjoining Dark Peak give way to lower lying valleys and adjoining floodplains in the valley bottoms of the Dark Peak Western Fringe. Deep and narrow, steep sided cloughs, often a characteristic feature within this sloping ground, carry water that has drained off the moorland summits down into larger rivers, such as the Goyt, Tame and Etherow.

Glaciation had a strong impact on the form of this landscape. During the last ice age, the Devensian, the Peak District was a peri-glacial tundra with snowfields and frozen ground. The Peak District Western Fringe was influenced by the Devensian glaciation with the erosion of ice stream valleys and the deposition of significant deposits of glacial till. During the tundra peri-glacial conditions wind erosion damaged the Millstone Grit creating a dust, known as loess, which was deposited across the Peak District.

Ecological influences

For the most part the soils of the Dark Peak Western Fringe are seasonally waterlogged, gleyed soils found over the shale beds on lower lying land, where they are used for improved permanent pasture. These are often associated with deep, loamy and clayey soils that have developed on glacial deposits and in places on alluvial deposits on the valley floors. On the upper slopes of the gritstone hills shallow, in places impoverished, mineral soils can be found which tend to produce agriculturally poor pasture land containing occasional rough patches and remnant moorland vegetation that reflect the original semi-natural character of these landscapes. On hill summits such soils are often impoverished and have peaty topsoils, giving rise to patches of enclosed acid grassland and moor often used for rough grazing.

On the enclosed moorland heather dominates, with varying amounts of bilberry, cowberry and crowberry. These upland heaths support birds such as red grouse, meadow pipit and curlew. Where there has been prolonged grazing acid grassland has replaced the heathland. Associated areas of bracken are important in places for breeding whinchats. Acid flushes have developed locally, with carpets of sphagnum moss, sedges and rushes.

Fast flowing streams have created deeply incised cloughs and valleys whose sides are clothed with acid grassland and bracken, with occasional relic heathland vegetation such as bilberry. The numerous flushes and springs arising at the junctions of gritstone and shale on clough sides support particularly botanically rich communities whose species composition varies according to water chemistry. The banks of clough streams and upland rivers support small numbers of grey wagtail, whilst wet streamside shale crags are often rich in mosses, liverworts, ferns and insect life. Some cloughs and moorland slopes support areas of upland sessile oak wood. Associated species include birch with holly or hazel in the understorey. On the more base rich soils these woodlands can support a variety of ground flora, including dog's mercury and yellow archangel on shale soils and wavy hair-grass and bilberry on the more base poor soils. Characteristic birds of these woodlands include pied flycatcher, redstart and wood warbler.

In lower areas, as the cloughs widen, the lower valley slopes are characterised by enclosed land on slowly permeable, seasonally waterlogged soils that support some unimproved pastures and hay meadows. The former typically comprise acid grassland dominated by fescues and bents, with herbs such as tormentil and heath bedstraw and patches of gorse and bracken, whilst the hay meadows provide a range of flora such as yellow rattle, knapweed, eyebright, bird's foot trefoil and common cat's ear. On less well drained land, where the ground is wetter, the pastures often support soft rush and can provide a breeding ground for wading birds, notably lapwing, curlew and snipe.

Human influences

The Dark Peak is renowned for its remote, isolated moorland summits, however, the lowlands of the Western Fringe have been settled for a long time: land has been cultivated for agriculture, mainly pastoral land uses with some small scale quarrying and coal mining. Fast flowing rivers have been used as both water supply and to power early industry.

There is a Roman fort at Melandra Castle, to the north of Gamesley, and no doubt there were Romano-British farmsteads scattered in the valley around, but little archaeological evidence for these has been found. During medieval times, much of the Dark Peak Western Fringe was managed as a Royal Hunting Forest with severe penalties for trespass or poaching. The Royal Forest of the Peak ran through the southern parts of this fringe area, from the Etherow southwards and the Goyt eastwards, and was managed as a hunting forest with Chapel-en-le-Frith as one of the administration centres for this. Indeed, the name means Chapel in the Forest and reflects the building of a chapel by foresters during the medieval period.

The upper slopes of the landscape are settled with occasional, dispersed gritstone farmsteads associated with pasturing, with improved pastures and enclosure, while small hamlets are found further down in the less exposed, but wetter, valleys. Dispersed farmsteads were common here prior to industrialisation and are sometimes located close to coal mining and small scale quarrying which would presumably have played a part in the local economy.

before the 19th century. Relatively large scale quarrying was carried out on the moorland and slopes, such as at Chinley Churn and Cown Edge, whilst coal mining was widely carried out in the area, from Saddleworth southwards through Glossop and New Mills to Whaley Bridge, with particularly important evidence surviving from early mines at Ollersett Moor.

The river valleys, that higher up the slopes consist of relatively undisturbed clough heads, widen out into land that has long been managed for both stock pasturing, settlement and industry. The valley slopes and bottoms have been used as a resource for grazing and stock rearing. The fast flowing rivers provided power and water for, at first small scale and then larger, industrial sites. Such was the case around Uppermill and New Mills where, over time, many mills were eventually located along the riverbanks and included cotton mills, woollen mills, dyeing and bleaching works, paper mills and print works. As urban populations surrounding the Dark Peak increased, people settled mainly around the lower lying land of the valleys near the larger mills, with hamlets growing into towns associated with the growing industry. For example, Glossop originated as one of several closely-spaced but small medieval hamlets with open fields which were partly subsumed in the 19th century by urban development. Routes cross over the moorland through this fringe landscape and other routes run along the valleys, joining up fringe settlements and providing access to wider markets outside of the area.

Although these lower lying areas are on the fringe of the Dark Peak, the development which has taken place here is closely linked to the opportunities provided by the Dark Peak landscapes, for instance building materials from gritstone, and water power. The adjacent coal measures meant that these settlements were ideally placed to exploit two resources: the water running off the Dark Peak and the coal that existed around the mills and in mines further west in the lowlands, particularly to the north-west around Bolton and Oldham. This location, at the interface between two significant topographical regions, gives these fringe landscapes a unique character different from those further east within the Dark Peak and those further west.

Sense of place

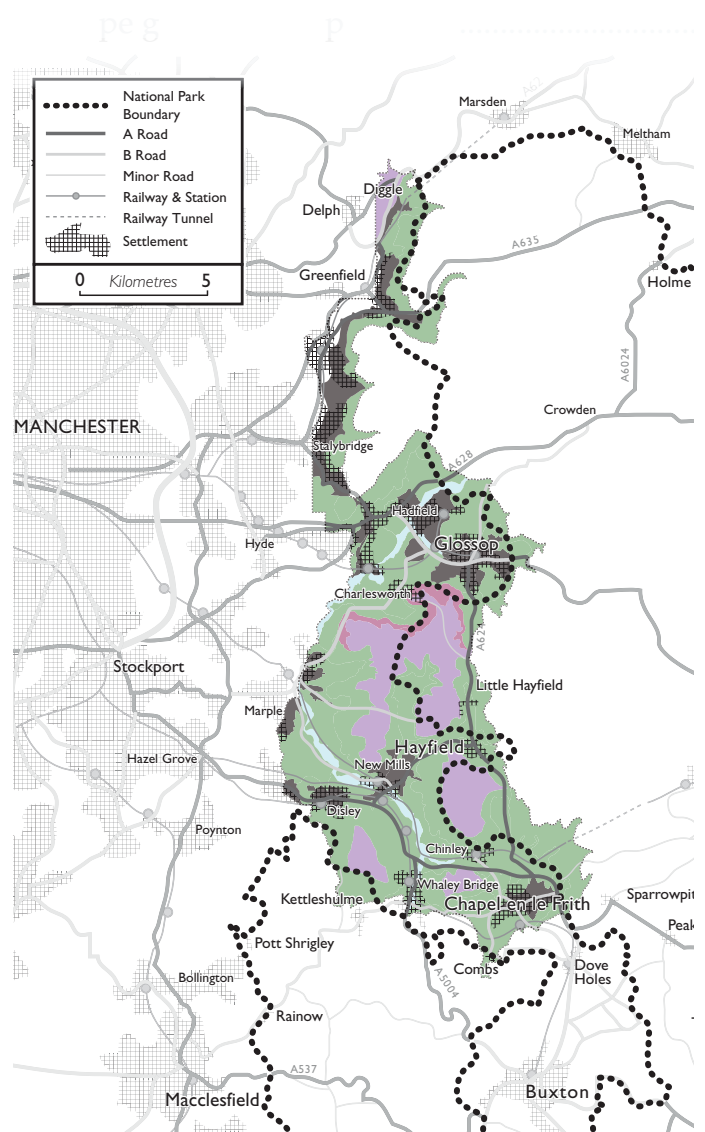
The landscape becomes more enclosed and pastoral away from the remote moorland tops of the Dark Peak. Within the national park the landscape remains peaceful but the isolation diminishes as the landscape becomes more intimate and settled with gritstone walled enclosures and isolated gritstone farmsteads, often with associated field barns and sheep pens. The improved fields and tree cover increase towards the valley bottoms creating variety in the landscape and intermingling with gritstone buildings that become more dominant towards the main areas of settlement. Relict moorland vegetation, such as bilberry, is often found along field boundaries and verges.

In places the landscape remains unsettled, particularly on steeper ground and up into the narrow, steep cloughs where access is limited. These locations can be important habitats for nesting birds and other species. Settlements tend to be larger here than in the core of

the Dark Peak, with several small urban centres including Glossop, Stalybridge and New Mills. These settlements are strongly associated with past industry, and include old mills, old industrial sites, railways and dense settlement, often with characteristically small gritstone terraced properties. Although these settlements often have an industrial association they also have a strong link with the Dark Peak.

The Dark Peak Western Fringe can be sub-divided into a number of different landscape types, each of which is characterised by a particular aspect of the wider Dark Peak Western Fringe character. They have been defined by their broadly repeating patterns of natural elements and cultural factors:

- Moorland Slopes & Cloughs
- Enclosed Gritstone Uplands
- Valley Pastures With Industry
- Riverside Meadows





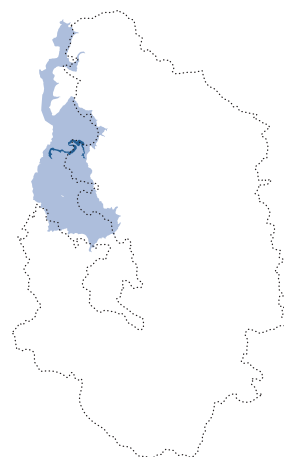
Dipper © Peak District National Park Authority

Moorland Slopes & Cloughs

Steep slopes and cloughs rising to precipitous gritstone edges and scree slopes, with rough grassland and heather moorland grazed by sheep. This is largely an exposed, unsettled landscape with views over lower ground.



Coombes Edge, Charlesworth © Peak District National Park Authority



Key characteristics

- Steep slopes and cloughs, in places rising to precipitous edges
- Prominent gritstone outcrops, boulders and scree slopes
- Thin soils over gritstone bedrock
- Rough acid grassland and heather moorland grazed by sheep
- Exposed views over lower ground, sometimes limited by clough sides

This landscape occurs in one location within the Dark Peak Western Fringe, in the west of the area, along Coombes Edge and around Long Clough.

Geology and landform

This is a sloping landscape, strongly influenced by the underlying Millstone Grit which forms the upper slopes fringing the moorland summits. The resulting landform creates a sense of elevation with panoramic views over surrounding countryside and settlements. The slopes were eroded by freeze-thaw processes, land slips and down washing from streams. There are some outcrops of gritstone, on steeper slopes most notably where it forms distinct edges with precipitous rock faces as at Coombes Edge.

Soils and vegetation

Soils are coarse, loamy and very acid over the gritstone bedrock. Surface water drainage is often impeded by the formation of a thin ironpan and in less steeply sloping areas the soils can have a wet peaty surface horizon. Owing to poor quality soils, this is a landscape with patches of semi-natural vegetation with a mixture of heather and bilberry, and acid grassland where mat grass and purple moor grasses are dominant.

Upper slopes and steep clough sides have gritstone outcrops. Some support fern banks while on land that is inaccessible to grazing, such as ledges, tall vegetation species such can flourish.

Tree cover

The poor soils, exposure and grazing on these moorland slopes restrict tree growth, resulting in an essentially treeless landscape over much of the type. However, scattered trees and patches of scrub occur within cloughs and occasional small coniferous plantation woodlands are found on moorland slopes.

Land use

Owing to its elevation and poor quality soils, this is a marginal agricultural landscape used primarily as rough grazing for sheep; there are some improved pastures but these tend to be small and localised. The slopes support a range of recreation such as walking on footpaths and bridleways that cross this character type, particularly along Coombes Edge.

Enclosure

Not all of this landscape character type is enclosed reflecting its steep nature. Of the areas that are enclosed, their date is uncertain as there is no map coverage before the 19th century. Fields are generally irregular in shape and enclosed by gritstone drystone walls.

Settlement and buildings

This is a very sparsely settled landscape with only occasional isolated gritstone farmsteads with stone tile roofs on lower slopes.

Transport and access

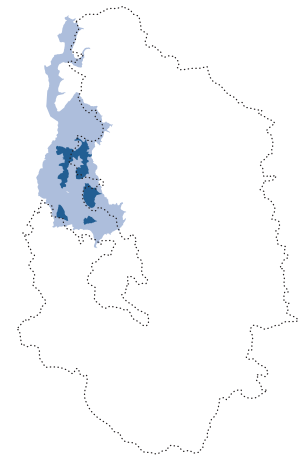
The Moorland Slopes & Cloughs are largely inaccessible to transport with the exception of routes that cross over the moors, such as Monks Road. There are smaller tracks throughout the landscape mainly providing access to farms. Braided hollow-ways provide evidence that this landscape was once more widely travelled through. There are pathways and bridleways, often following the contours, particularly around the western facing slopes. Some of this landscape character type is access land.

Enclosed Gritstone Uplands

An enclosed upland landscape associated with high, gently undulating upland tops. This is a landscape of isolated stone farmsteads, straight roads and regular fields enclosed by drystone walls. Patches of remnant moorland vegetation are a feature in places within this landscape character type.



Knarrrs Nook nr Hollingworth Head © Peak District National Park Authority



Key characteristics

- High rolling upland with some steeper slopes
- Thin soils over gritstone bedrock with localised pockets of peat
- Remnant patches of rough land with bracken and gorse, some heather and bilberry
- Permanent pasture and rough grazing enclosed by gritstone walls
- Regular pattern of medium to large fields
- Straight roads with wide verges of grass and, in some places, heather
- Scattered gritstone farmsteads with stone slate roofs and some relict quarry and coal mining sites
- Trees grouped around farmsteads for shelter

This landscape occurs on the edge of the moorland core, on the western margin of the Peak District, on the uplands centred on New Mills and to the west of Hayfield.

Geology and landform

This landscape is associated with a high, gently undulating gritstone upland top. The underlying bedrock is Millstone Grit, which is often exposed as rock outcrops particularly on the steeper slopes where it sometimes forms small gritstone edges.

Soils and vegetation

The variable nature of the geology and landform gives rise to a variety of soil types ranging from free draining podzols on steeper slopes to wetter, more peaty soils on gentler summits. All the soils are characterised by their impoverished, acidic origin and although most of the land is now improved for pasture, many patches of semi-natural vegetation still exist along verges, on steeper slopes and even as isolated patches within some fields. There is moorland vegetation in some locations, in places on Marley Moor. Heath-associated species, such as heather, bilberry and gorse, are a common feature in places. Where the soils are wetter, species such as purple moor grass tend to be more common. There are some patches of soft rush on the wetter soils, which often support small populations of breeding birds such as snipe.

Tree cover

The sheep grazing, poor soils and exposure restrict tree growth so this is essentially a treeless landscape. However, there are occasional tree groups of mainly broadleaved species such as oak, ash and sycamore. Tree groups are planted adjacent to some farmsteads to create shelter around properties. There are some shelterbelts and occasional blocks of 19th or 20th century coniferous plantation woodland within this type.

Land use

This is a landscape of mostly improved permanent pasture with sheep and cattle grazing and some rough grazing. There are some reseeded grass leys and very occasional arable fields. However, the soils are mostly nutrient poor. Acid grassland exists where the soils have not been improved and some fields are dominated by rushes or are reverting to moorland habitats providing ecological interest.

Historically, there was quarrying and mining associated with this landscape. At Chinley Churn there are particularly extensive relict quarries where surface quarrying and underground stone extraction was carried out. Historically, the landscape would also have supported coal mining as around Whaley Moor, Aspenshaw and Ludworth Intakes. There are extensive mining remains at Ollersett Moor dating from the early 18th to late 19th century.

Enclosure

The land here was enclosed from upland waste and commons. The date of the enclosure in this landscape varies with some ancient, irregular enclosure that predates mid 17th century historical mapping, as for example to the north-west of Hayfield. Later enclosure is more common. Some was probably enclosed prior to the late 18th century as part of private agreements, other areas could well have been enclosed as late as the 19th century.

Drystone gritstone walls are the prominent enclosing element, particularly on higher ground, although in some places enclosure is created by hedgerows and fencing; this tends to occur towards the fringes of the landscape and not on the higher ground.

Settlement and buildings

Settlement tends to consist of isolated gritstone farmsteads with stone slate roofs often dating from the time that much of this landscape was enclosed from the 18th century onwards. Settlements often use the natural land form for weather protection. Higher up, towards where the enclosure gives way to the open moorland, the landscape is largely unsettled.

Transport and access

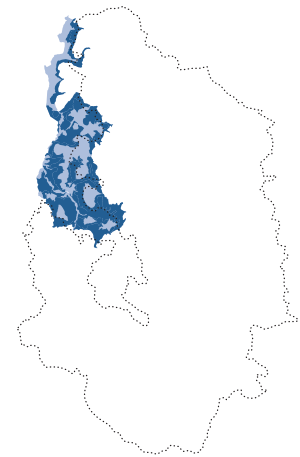
This is a landscape with limited vehicular access with a few roads and tracks associated with farmsteads. Within this landscape type there are older routes and names such as Monks Road suggest historical context associated with landowners such as those at medieval abbeys. There is a network of footpaths throughout this landscape including the Pennine Bridleway and some small areas of access land.

Valley Pastures With Industry

A small scale, settled pastoral landscape on undulating lower valley slopes. There are filtered views through scattered hedgerows and dense streamside trees. Stone built terraced housing on lower slopes is associated with historic mills. There are dispersed gritstone farmsteads as well as small clusters of farms with associated dwellings. Pastoral farmland is bounded by hedgerows and drystone walls.



Pastoral valleys with industry © Ivan Gajos, Countryscape



Key characteristics

- A low lying undulating valley topography, rising towards adjacent higher ground
- Network of streams and localised damp hollows with millponds and leats
- Pastoral farmland enclosed by hedgerows and drystone walls
- Small to medium sized fields
- Trees are dense along watercourses and scattered along hedgerows and around settlement
- Dispersed settlement with isolated farmsteads and small clusters of dwellings
- Stone built terraced housing associated with historic mills
- Narrow winding lanes, sunken on slopes

This landscape character type exists as a large area running from the north to the south of the Dark Peak Western Fringe running from Bleak Hey to Stalybridge and from Arnfield to Chapel-en-le-Frith.

Geology and landform

An undulating lower valley floor landscape with rounded hills and shallow to steep valley sides, incised by steeper cloughs in places. The underlying geology is of interbedded Millstone Grit combined with shales and siltstones. To the south of the area, below Glossop and westwards, the coal measures influence the underlying geology. The coal measures consist of interbedded grey shales, siltstones and sandstones with occasional beds of coal and ironstone (the latter dispersed through particular beds of other rocks). The valley is mostly covered with glacial till deposits. Where the river level has altered, a series of terraces have been cut into alluvial deposits.

Soils and vegetation

Soils are characterised by base poor, gleyed soils which are waterlogged, lacking oxygen and nutrients. Where the soils are permanently wet the horizons tend to be rich in organic matter and often intergrading into peat deposits. Along river channels soils tend to be alluvium, created and carried by relict rivers. This is an agricultural landscape with limited biodiversity value as much of the land is improved, although there are occasional, isolated patches of unimproved grassland which enhances biodiversity. Mixed species hedgerows provide an important habitat linking woodland and other habitats. In wetter fields there are rushy pastures which provide diversity as do the heath species such as heather and bilberry that are often located along verges.

Tree cover

Woodland exists as shelterbelts and often densely along streams and tributaries giving the impression of a well wooded landscape even though much farmland exists. There are scattered ancient woodlands throughout the character type such as around the western side of Shire Hill; these further contribute to the wooded nature of the landscape. Most woodlands are broadleaved and contain species such as oak, ash and sycamore. There is some coniferous plantation woodland such as around Dovestones Reservoir in the North of the area.

Land use

This is a pastoral landscape of cattle and sheep grazing. In some areas, agriculture is more intensive with dairying and stock rearing. There are reservoirs in this landscape, such as the Coombes Reservoir, the Bottoms Reservoir and the Dovestone Reservoir. There are also some industrial mills surviving in the valley bottoms, as for example around Birch Vale, Chinley and Uppermill.

Areas such as Whaley Bridge and New Mills were also historically important for coal mining and the coal extracted was very important in the 19th and early 20th centuries to provide fuel for local manufacturing and industry. While not much remains at surface of these once important mines, there are rare examples of Cornish steam engine houses and other colliery structures still standing.

Enclosure

This is a landscape of small to medium fields, many of which are known to pre-date the first historical mapping of the mid 17th century. Other enclosures are also irregular but undated, while there are examples of regular enclosure such as to early 19th century Parliamentary Enclosure fields to the south-east of Glossop. Within this landscape character type there are several small areas of narrow fields that reflect piecemeal enclosure of strips on medieval open fields associated with the settlements, to the east of Hadfield, around Padfield, and to the south of Glossop at Charlesworth, Whitfield and Chunal.

Settlement and buildings

This is a settled landscape with distinctive gritstone mill settlements and dispersed outlying settlement. Beyond the urban centres, such as Glossop, New Mills and Whaley Bridge, there are three distinctive forms of settlement in the landscape: dispersed farmsteads, farmsteads clustered with other dwellings in hamlets, and terraces associated with historic mills.

Transport and access

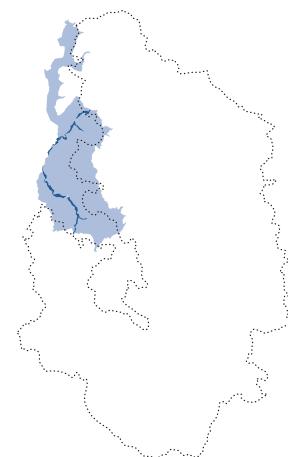
This landscape has a relatively strong network with some busy roads and many smaller winding lanes that connect areas of settlement. There are two train lines running through this landscape. There were once further railway branches in this landscape character type that have now closed, some now forming recreational routes such as the Sett Valley Trail.

Riverside Meadows

A small scale pastoral landscape characterised by a meandering river channel in a flat alluvial floodplain. Views are often tightly framed by lines of riverside trees. Patches of wetland vegetation are a distinctive feature associated with the river channel.



River Goyt Furness Vale © Peak District National Park Authority



Key characteristics

- A flat alluvial river corridor
- Meandering river channel with shingle beds and marginal vegetation
- Seasonally waterlogged alluvial soils
- Grazing meadows, often with patches of wet grassland
- Dense waterside and scattered hedgerow trees

This landscape character type exists in two locations within this fringe landscape along the River Etherow and further south along the River Goyt.

Geology and landform

This is a river valley bottom landscape and has a narrow almost flat floodplain. There are deposits of alluvial silts sands and gravels. Hollows within the floodplain reflect the past courses of the river.

Soils and vegetation

The floodplain is characterised by gleyed soils that are either continuously or seasonally waterlogged. The river enhances the fertility of the soil when flood water deposits nutrients that replenish the wet soils. The meadows are either seasonally or permanently wet, creating wet pastures which support soft rush and some sedges.

Tree cover

The river banks are densely lined with alder and some willow. This creates an intimate landscape where views are filtered by watercourse trees and framed by the adjacent wooded slopes. In places there are small copses of willow carr and poplars.

Land use

This is a pastoral landscape with permanent pasture dominating due to heavy soils and seasonal waterlogging. There is some semi-improved grassland. In the past, land uses have been more industrial, the fast flowing rivers were used to power industry. Away from the urban areas on the narrow floodplain some mills still survive and are often converted to other uses, while other mills have been demolished and only remnant mill ponds and races give evidence of this past industry in this tranquil landscape.

Enclosure

Enclosure in this landscape is often irregular, particularly along the River Goyt where its origin is unknown. Generally, small fields are bound by mixed species thorn dominated hedgerows creating a sense of enclosure adjacent to the river; the presence of riverside trees enhances this sense of enclosure.

Settlement and buildings

This is a largely unsettled landscape where the wet ground and risk of flooding make development difficult. There are occasional gritstone farmsteads on the higher ground above the valley bottoms and several sites of former mills.

Transport and access

There are few roads within the character type due to the wet nature of the soils creating limited opportunity for road building. In places roads and the railway line cut through the landscape to cross over the river. Crossing points vary with some gritstone bridges and, later, metal bridges. The Peak Forest Canal follows the floodplain in places. The Bugsworth Canal Basin was an important transport hub created in the late 18th century that today forms an important leisure resource.

Overall Strategy



Chinley Churn & Cracken Edge from Eccles Pike © Peak District National Park Authority

The Dark Peak Western Fringe consists of sloping and lower lying land adjacent to the Dark Peak, more settled in character than the Dark Peak landscapes. The settlements have a strong historical and visual association with the Dark Peak and represent a wealth of cultural heritage resources. This character and link to the Dark Peak should be protected and managed in order to maintain the distinctive character. The landscapes of the Dark Peak Western Fringe provide an important resource and transition between the more settled and urban areas associated with Manchester in the west and the Dark Peak in the east. There is a need to enhance condition, ensuring ecological and cultural integrity and robustness in all of the landscape character types, and to manage the existing small-scale character of settlements, maintaining density in order to prevent significant urbanisation of character. The transitional nature of this landscape means that good partnership working with neighbouring authorities is important.

The overall strategy for the Dark Peak Western Fringe should therefore be to:

Protect and manage the settled, cultural character and the biodiversity and recreational resources of these landscapes through sustainable landscape management, whilst maintaining strong cultural associations with the Dark Peak landscapes.

This can be achieved by ensuring that there is:

- a land planning and management system capable of maintaining and enhancing the settlement patterns and cultural landscape resources
- a sustainable land management system capable of supporting the retention and expansion of habitats



Bugsworth Basin © Peak District National Park Authority

To achieve this strategy there are particular priorities for each of the different landscape character types in the Dark Peak Western Fringe.

Moorland Slopes & Cloughs

Within the National Park this landscape character type is restricted to a small area around Coombes Edge and Long Clough, to the south of Glossop. This is a steeply sloping landscape with dramatic geology such as scree slopes and gritstone outcrops, as well as flushes, springs, rush pastures and clough woods. Priorities for this landscape character type should be to maintain open views of the dramatic gritstone edges and the mosaic of small-scale semi-natural grassland, heath and woodland/scrub mosaics within a sustainable land management system.

Enclosed Gritstone Uplands

This is a sparsely settled pastoral upland landscape largely restricted, within the National Park, to two areas around Ollersett Moor/Chinley Churn and Cowan Edge/Motley Moor/Lantern Pike. Priorities for this landscape character type include managing the sparsely settled character and protecting or enhancing the historical enclosed character of the landscape, whilst enhancing the ecological value and connectivity of wet pastures and heath in a sustainable farming system.

Valley Pastures With Industry

This is a lowland, settled, pastoral landscape with settlement often associated with gritstone-built mills. The priority in this landscape character type is to protect the existing historical settlement and enclosure pattern within a sustainable farming system. This includes retaining the pastoral land uses which are, in places, being significantly altered by horse pasturing activities through the introduction of new boundaries, often post and wire fencing, field shelters and other associated infrastructure.

Riverside Meadows

Within the National Park only Bottoms Reservoir falls within this landscape character type. There are no strong landscape priorities other than ensuring any infrastructure development is minimised and in keeping with the local building styles and materials. Opportunities for hydroelectric power could be considered.

Issues of change

Conservation

The Dark Peak Western Fringe has cultural value largely associated with industrial heritage features including mills and their infrastructures, trackways and small scale remnant quarries and canals (e.g. the Peak Forest Canal), often linked with coal mines. These cultural features are essential to the character of the landscape. In the south of the area the relict Royal Hunting Forest landscapes leave an important influence.

The Dark Peak Western Fringe is largely a pastoral landscape. The higher landscapes, such as the Enclosed Gritstone Uplands, have seen heathland vegetation reduced to isolated patches and road verges. This loss is generally associated with agricultural improvement and overgrazing. In the lower lying landscape character types, changing agricultural practices have seen a reduction in wet pastures and flood meadows, which provide ecological diversity and potential flood alleviation resources, particularly in the Riverside Meadows landscape character type. Hedgerows in the lower lying landscapes provide links with woodland but are often degraded and in poor condition; this limits their ecological value and visual unity within the landscape.

Climate change implications

If landscapes are not sufficiently managed and 'climate proofed', issues such as erosion and habitat loss, particularly in the uplands and on sloping land most affected by heavy rainfall run off, will be exacerbated with the changing climate. This could cause significant landscape change. The Riverside Meadows may provide a useful flood water storage resource, which could mitigate the impacts of heavy, energetic rainfall events that may become more regular as the climate changes.

Features of these landscapes, such as faster flowing rivers, have in the past been used to generate energy and provide power to mills. Opportunities to reapply such power sources should be considered as a means of reducing reliance on carbon-based energies and thus mitigating the landscape impacts of climate change.

Demography, housing and employment

The landscapes of the Dark Peak Western Fringe have a settled character in comparison with the Dark Peak. In places, there is an urban fringe character. The drive to meet national housing targets brings the potential for development pressures adjacent to the National Park boundary, and this could impact on the surrounding landscapes and their historical settlement patterns and densities. As with other landscapes associated with the National Park, in some areas, changes in the agricultural sector have led to farms being bought as domestic properties rather than as working entities. In the Dark Peak Western Fringe, this change in the agricultural character of the area is associated with the introduction of horse pasturing, which can affect the historical agricultural character of the area through changes in the pattern and nature of field boundaries and through damage to pastures and to soil integrity.

Tourism and recreation

The less settled landscapes of the Dark Peak Western Fringe are valued for the opportunities to experience solitude and tranquillity due to their close proximity to existing and historical industry and settlement. The recreational opportunities that are provided by these landscapes are highly valued by local communities and represent an important resource. Honey-pot areas are currently small, but there is a growing demand from horse riding and mountain biking.

Farming and forestry

Much of the agricultural land in the Dark Peak Western Fringe is used for permanent pasture, generally managed at a low to moderate level of intensity. Occasional patches of rougher ground survive in places such as Ollersett Moor, with remnants of heather moor elsewhere (Coombes Rocks, Matley Moor and Lantern Pike). The field pattern is generally in decline, with a loss of boundaries in places, whilst many of the drystone walls that define the pattern are in poor condition, representing a loss of this cultural heritage resource. There has been a move from agricultural production to the use of land for horse pasture in many places, often associated with the development of stabling and post and rail fences. In places, this introduction of uncharacteristic field boundaries is degrading the historical enclosure pattern.

Woodland is not a significant feature inside the National Park within the Dark Peak Western Fringe, where tree cover is largely restricted to small woods, plantations and scattered trees and scrub along watercourses. There is a variable scattering of trees along some field boundaries and groups of trees around farmsteads and other dwellings. Many of these woods and trees are of a similar age and are declining due to lack of management.

Minerals and resources

There is only one active gritstone quarry within the Dark Peak Western Fringe, which lies on the edge of the National Park at Glossop. There are landscape impacts associated with this site, including visual intrusion, adverse effects on wildlife habitats, roads and tranquillity. There are the remnants of former quarries, reflecting the former industrial nature of the area; these relics contribute to the cultural heritage resource of the landscape and as a recreational resource, as many old quarries are used for rock climbing and bouldering.

In the northern part of the area, small reservoirs are a significant cultural feature, where streams descending from the Dark Peak moorlands have been dammed. These provide opportunities for landscape enhancement and recreation.

Energy and infrastructure

There is an increasing demand for national renewable energy schemes, in particular wind power. There is also increasing potential for solar power, water power, and other renewable energy sources. The impact of inappropriate wind generation projects could lead to a reduction of historic landscape character, amenity value and tranquillity. Historical exploitation of hydroelectric power has been an important influence in this area since the industrial revolution and there are opportunities to revive this resource. There is a visual impact of existing infrastructure associated with power supply, in particular overhead electricity cables. There are opportunities for planting native woodland and improved woodland management linked to local wood fuel usage.

High levels of vehicular use is increasing damage to roads, walls and verges and creating an increased demand for parking. Traffic routes that cross the Park can be very busy and become congested. This affects the 'gateways' in and out of the Park, reducing the visitor experience and causing problems for local people.



Church Inn, Pobgreen, Saddleworth © Peak District National Park Authority

Landscape guidelines

	Moorland Slopes & Cloughs	Enclosed Gritstone Uplands	Valley Pastures with Industry	Riverside Meadows

Dark Peak Western Fringe

Protect

Protect and maintain features associated with the historic industrial character				
Protect and maintain drystone walls, hedgerows and historical enclosure patterns				

Manage

Manage the historical patterns of development				
Maintain the network of minor roads to maintain character and local access				
Manage and enhance woodlands				
Manage and enhance semi-natural grassland and wetland landscapes				
Manage and enhance the diversity of agricultural grassland				
Manage and enhance areas of heath/moor				
Manage and enhance landscape around reservoirs				

Plan

Create new native broadleaved woodland				
Create, extend and link areas of heath/moor				
Develop small-scale renewable energy for local needs				

- This is a priority throughout the landscape character type
- This is a priority in some parts of the landscape character type, often associated with particular conditions/features
- This is not a priority but may be considered in some locations
- This will generally be inappropriate in this landscape character type

Landscape guidelines explanation

Protect

Protect and maintain features associated with the historic industrial character

Whilst most of the 19th century mills in the area lie outside the National Park, there are one or two mills, mill ponds and mill leats present. Small gritstone quarries are also a feature of the higher ground within the Valley Pastures With Industry, and in the Enclosed Gritstone Uplands. These features should be protected and maintained for their cultural heritage significance and, where appropriate, their educational and recreational potential.

Protect and maintain drystone walls, hedgerows and historical enclosure patterns

Enclosure is an important cultural feature of the Dark Peak Western Fringe, although it is not always evident on the Moorland Slopes & Cloughs, largely due to gradient. In some places, such as the Enclosed Gritstone Uplands, the historical enclosure pattern has declined and is not always evident. This historical enclosure pattern needs to be enhanced, particularly the enclosures which pre-date parliamentary enclosure. Equally, where drystone walls are in declining condition these would benefit from enhanced management to maintain this cultural heritage resource and the recognisable landscape character. Hedgerows in the lower lying landscape can often be in poor condition and require enhanced management to ensure good condition and visual unity within the landscape.

Manage

Manage the historical patterns of development

The mill towns and terraced houses so characteristic of the Valley Pastures With Industry in this area fall outside the National Park. Within the National Park, the settlement pattern consists of small hamlets and dispersed settlements associated with the older historic agricultural landscapes. It is important that future development respects and maintains this valued sense of place and historical development patterns. Similarly, where settlement does exist, the views into and out of the settlement should be protected, as they are important to character and sense of place. Opportunities should be sought to influence potential future development that lies outside the National Park boundary but could impact on the National Park. Traditional buildings are an important feature and their renovation and maintenance should be encouraged. Locating new agricultural buildings can impact on landscape character and opportunities should be taken to guide site selection.

Manage the network of minor roads to maintain character and local access

The network of minor roads should be managed to maintain their local, small-scale and rural character to ensure good local access whilst discouraging inappropriate driving. Verges and cultural features should be maintained and enhanced, and the impact of signage minimised.

Manage and enhance woodlands

Woodland in the Dark Peak Western Fringe is limited; where it is a landscape feature, it needs to be well managed. This Dark Peak Western Fringe is largely treeless: there are patches of scrub within cloughs that would benefit from linking to the wider landscape mosaic. There are a few relatively small coniferous plantation woodlands in places, and these would benefit from removal or replacement with broadleaved woodland as appropriate. In the lower landscapes, woodland tends to be associated with boundaries or watercourses; there are patches of ancient woodland and small broadleaved plantations which would benefit from enhanced management.

Manage and enhance semi-natural grassland and wetland landscapes

The pastoral landscapes of the Enclosed Gritstone Uplands and the Valley Pastures With Industry have seen a reduction in the number and quality of wet pastures. Those that remain provide an important resource which should be managed and enhanced. An increase in horse pasturing is creating particular pressures which need to be addressed. On the Moorland Slopes & Cloughs there is a need to ensure that flush, spring and rush pasture associated habitats are robust and capable of maintaining integrity during periods of heavy water run off which may become more frequent with climate change.

Manage and enhance the diversity of agricultural grassland

Many grasslands have been improved and reseeded with a consequent loss of species and visual diversity. There is a need to manage these grasslands in a more sustainable way that retains diversity, whilst supporting productive agriculture. Opportunities to extend and enhance the management of unimproved grasslands should be sought.

Manage and enhance areas of heath/moor

The Dark Peak Western Fringe has areas of enclosure from moorland. In such locations, there are often patches of relict heath/moor habitat. Opportunity should be sought to manage and enhance their condition in order to create a more robust and connected ecological resource.

Manage and enhance landscape around reservoirs

The series of generally small historic reservoirs in the northern part of the area offer opportunities for landscape enhancement and improved recreational and educational opportunities. This could be achieved by restructuring existing plantation woodland; establishing small scale scrub, woodland or linear tree features; diversifying associated grassland or heathland areas and enhancing provision of recreational and educational facilities where appropriate.



Eccles Pike and Chapel en le Frith © Peak District National Park Authority

Plan

Create new native broadleaved woodland

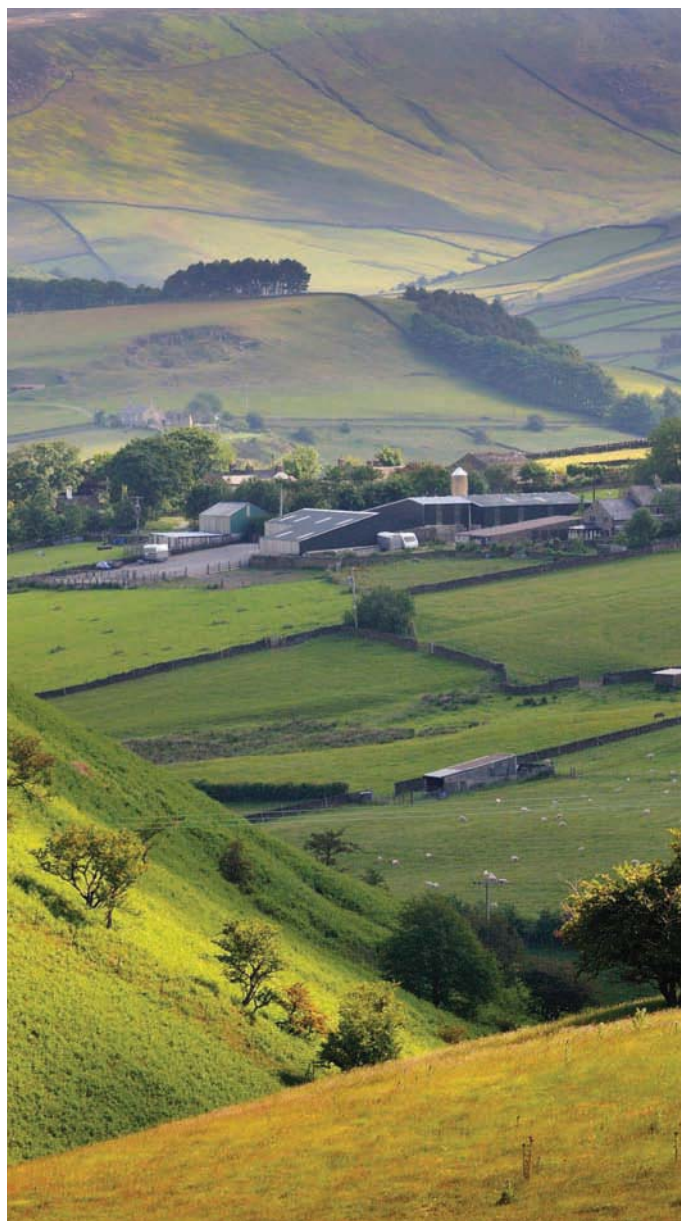
In the Dark Peak Western Fringe, small blocks of mainly broadleaved plantations, clough woods, linear streamside and field boundary trees are important features. This woodland network would be enhanced by managing the age structure of existing trees, creating new small-scale woods and managing hedgerows to provide linkages between existing sites. Increased woodland cover creates areas of shelter and shade and may be useful for mitigating the impacts of climate change; on slopes it also reduces water flow and can reduce flood damage to lower lying landscapes.

Create, extend and link areas of heath/moor

There are opportunities within the Enclosed Gritstone Uplands of the Dark Peak Western Fringe to diversify the existing grassland-based landscapes. This can be achieved by creating new moorland/heath and extending and linking existing patches of moor/heath.

Develop small-scale renewable energy for local needs

There are many opportunities to develop small-scale renewable energy schemes within the Dark Peak Western Fringe: there are opportunities in the Valley Pastures With Industry to develop hydroelectric schemes linked to the historic use of water power. Opportunities should be sought within new developments and through the management of woodlands to increase local renewable energy supply, where it would have a neutral impact on the character of the area and its component parts. Where appropriate seek positive measures to reinforce the local landscape character as part of new development. Renewable energy can help to reduce reliance on traditional carbon-based energy.

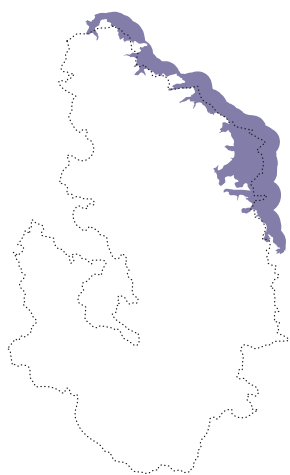


Long Clough, South of Glossop © Peak District National Park Authority

Dark Peak Yorkshire Fringe



Cartworth nr Holmfirth © Peak District National Park Authority



Introduction

The Dark Peak Yorkshire Fringe lies to the east of the Dark Peak and Eastern Moors and while this character area displays many of the characteristics of the Peak District it is also strongly influenced by the more settled areas to the north and east, associated with the urban settlements of Sheffield and Huddersfield. The landscape comprises upland areas that have largely been enclosed. In places, settlement is associated with industry as well as agriculture including localised wool manufacturing, coal mining and iron production. Sloping land is often well wooded and it is this characteristic that defines the upland edge along the margin of the Dark Peak. Much of this land still retains a strong pastoral character despite the urban and, in some cases, industrial influences of the towns and villages. Settlements such as Penistone, Holmfirth and Stocksbridge have a strong industrial heritage often relating to wool, cotton and cloth production as well as mining and engineering industries. Other settlements have remained much smaller such as Bradfield with its two castles and Ewden despite their past industrial heritage.

Physical influences

The Dark Peak Yorkshire Fringe comprises an extensive area of Carboniferous rocks along the eastern fringe of the Derbyshire Dome. A major part of this sequence is made up of a mixture of shales and gritstones belonging to the Millstone Grit series, which have been eroded to produce a distinctly undulating topography. The upstanding, higher ground tends to be formed from gritstone, while the valleys and other lower lying areas are cut into the underlying, softer shales. These beds pass beneath the more rolling Yorkshire Coalfield that lies along the eastern edge of the Dark Peak Yorkshire Fringe but in some places impinge well within it. The Coal Measures consist of interbedded grey shales, siltstones and gritstones with occasional beds of coal and ironstone (the latter dispersed through particular beds of other rocks). Past soil surfaces (paleosols) with high kaolinite content exist within the Coal Measures. The coal, ironstone and paleosols in the form of ganister and fireclay have all influenced the development of Sheffield as an iron and later a steel making city.

The landscape falls away from the higher summits of the Dark Peak into the lower lying valleys and floodplains in the valley bottoms. Deep, narrow, steep sided cloughs within this sloping ground carry water from the moorland summits into the River Don and Rother via a number of tributaries including the Sheaf, Porter, Loxley and Rivelin. These east flowing rivers reflect the fact that the Anglian ice sheets melted in the east first and so influenced post-glacial drainage patterns and the main ice streams that flowed on either side of the Peak District. During tundra peri-glacial conditions wind erosion damaged the Millstone Grit, creating a dust, known as loess, which was deposited across the Peak District.

Ecological influences

The soils in the Dark Peak Yorkshire Fringe are variable, reflecting differences in the underlying geology. Shallow, in places impoverished, mineral soils can be found on the gritstone hills and slopes, which tend to produce agriculturally poor land dominated by permanent pasture with patches of rough land containing scattered relict heather and bilberry reflecting the previous moorland character.

The steep sided cloughs tended to remain unimproved due to their steep topography and can provide variation between damp and dry habitats. Woodland in these cloughs tends to be broadleaved and a combination of oak mixed with ash, hazel, rowan, birch and, in wetter areas, alder. The floors of woodlands are often carpeted with bluebells, dog's mercury and yellow archangel. Conifer plantations are often, though not exclusively, associated with reservoir valley sides, and may have patches of semi-natural woodland or broadleaf plantation within them. The flora is generally limited but can be of importance for fungi. Several birds of note are associated with the plantations, such as goshawk and crossbill.

In lower areas, as the cloughs widen, the lower valley slopes are characterised by enclosed land on slowly permeable, seasonally waterlogged soils that support some unimproved pastures and hay

meadows. The former typically comprise acid grassland dominated by fescues and bents, with herbs such as tormentil and heath bedstraw and patches of gorse and bracken, whilst the hay meadows provide a range of flora such as yellow rattle, knapweed, oxeye daisy, bird's foot trefoil and common cat's ear. On less well drained land, where the ground is wetter, the pastures often support soft rush and can provide a breeding ground for wading birds, notably lapwing, curlew and snipe.

Human influences

The Dark Peak Yorkshire Fringe has a close association with pastoral agriculture and early industrial activity. The location at the junction between the Millstone Grit uplands of the Peak District and the Yorkshire Coalfields made it a good location from which to exploit the resources of both. This location in between two significant regions gives these fringe landscapes a unique character different from the higher land further west within the Dark Peak and the lower ridges and valleys further east within the Coalfields.

The settled enclosed moorland in the north has long been managed for sheep rearing; there are records of wool production there in the 12th century. It provides suitable conditions for the rearing of sheep, while springs produce softer water which is ideally suited to the processing of wool into cloth. These activities have strongly influenced the character of the landscape and in places they culminated in the development of unusual upland settlement and enclosure patterns. These continued to exist after early industrialisation had increased the scale of cloth production and moved much of it to larger mills, which were more conveniently situated near fast flowing rivers in the valley bottoms. Larger populations grew up, associated with the mills and cloth production.

The steeper slopes of the Dark Peak Yorkshire Fringe are more sparsely settled with many large areas of ancient semi-natural woodland. Pastoral farming is now a dominant land use in these more wooded landscapes. Some settlements, including the village of Bradfield and many smaller hamlets and farms, have a history going back to the medieval period, if not before, and are primarily agricultural in character. In the past the woodlands were often associated with charcoal, white coal (kiln dried wood) and timber production supporting industry. The landscape was a hive of early industrial activity: Woodland was a valuable resource for charcoal production and was used for iron smelting, continuing in use until the 19th century. Equally important, to the west of Sheffield, was the production of white coal, which was produced in vast quantities in the 16th to 18th centuries to provide fuel for lead smelters located on the west side of the city. In both cases, woodland was coppiced to increase yield to maximise fuel production.

Coal for domestic and industrial use was mined in many shallow mines near the outcrop of several seams within the Yorkshire Fringe. There are records of small scale mining in the 12th century. From the 16th and 17th centuries, the growth in early industrial activity increased coal production. Mining grew exponentially from the 18th century to meet the demand for local coking coal for large scale iron and steel

smelting as well as steam power. As easily won resources became rarer, the focus of mining moved eastwards into the lowlands, with large mines developed to reach coal at depth. Griststone and, in soft form, fireclay was also mined but on a much smaller scale, mainly in the Porter valley and near to Penistone. These deposits which have a high kaolinite content are used in the production of fire bricks, refractory moulds, furnace linings and are essential to iron and steel production.

Many transport routes cross through this moorland fringe area, these are characterised by former packhorse routes and turnpike roads. In turn, these have influenced some of the settlements which capitalised on their location adjacent to the open moors to provide resting opportunities for travellers before and after the ordeal of crossing the inhospitable open moors. At Ringinglow, a toll house and inn developed at the junction of two major turnpike roads, one which ran from Buxton to Sheffield and the other from Chapel-en-le- Frith to Sheffield. The small village of Bolsterstone is located on a salt route from Cheshire to Yorkshire.

Later human influences on the Dark Peak Yorkshire Fringe include the construction of reservoirs to provide water for the rapidly growing settlements such as Sheffield and Holmfirth. Reservoir construction started in the late 1830s and varies in scale. The reservoirs are often associated with plantation woodlands around their shores with gritstone walling and dams. They now offer opportunities for recreation, often having tracks through the woodlands for cycling or walking.

Although the large settlements within or at the edge of the Dark Peak Yorkshire Fringe are often based around, or influenced by, industry and production, today these have only a limited influence on the surrounding landscape which is now largely rural and agricultural in character.

Sense of place

As the landscapes fall away from the open moorlands of the Dark Peak they include exposed upland settlements of farmsteads with gritstone weavers' cottages in the north. Moving down from the uplands on to the valleys and slopes, the landscape becomes less wild and more pastoral, with walled and hedged fields and extensive woodlands. The Yorkshire Fringe landscapes are often sparsely settled, with a strong sense of remoteness and tranquility. The landscape is settled with gritstone walled enclosures and isolated gritstone farm properties. Improved grassland and the patches of woodland create variety in both texture and colour. Moorland vegetation, such as bilberry, still exists along field boundaries and verges. In places the landscape remains unsettled, particularly on steeper ground and up into the cloughs, where access is limited.

Some places, such as the settled enclosed moorland and the larger settlements in the northern valleys below these enclosed moors, were once heavily populated and supported pre-industrial wool production. The landscape still supports wool production but processing is no longer carried out locally. Today the slopes and valleys contrast with their industrial past which is sometimes hard to identify in the landscape where natural elements such as streams and woodland are now the identifying features.

No major industry is now reliant on this landscape within the National Park and the landscape is once again mainly pastoral.

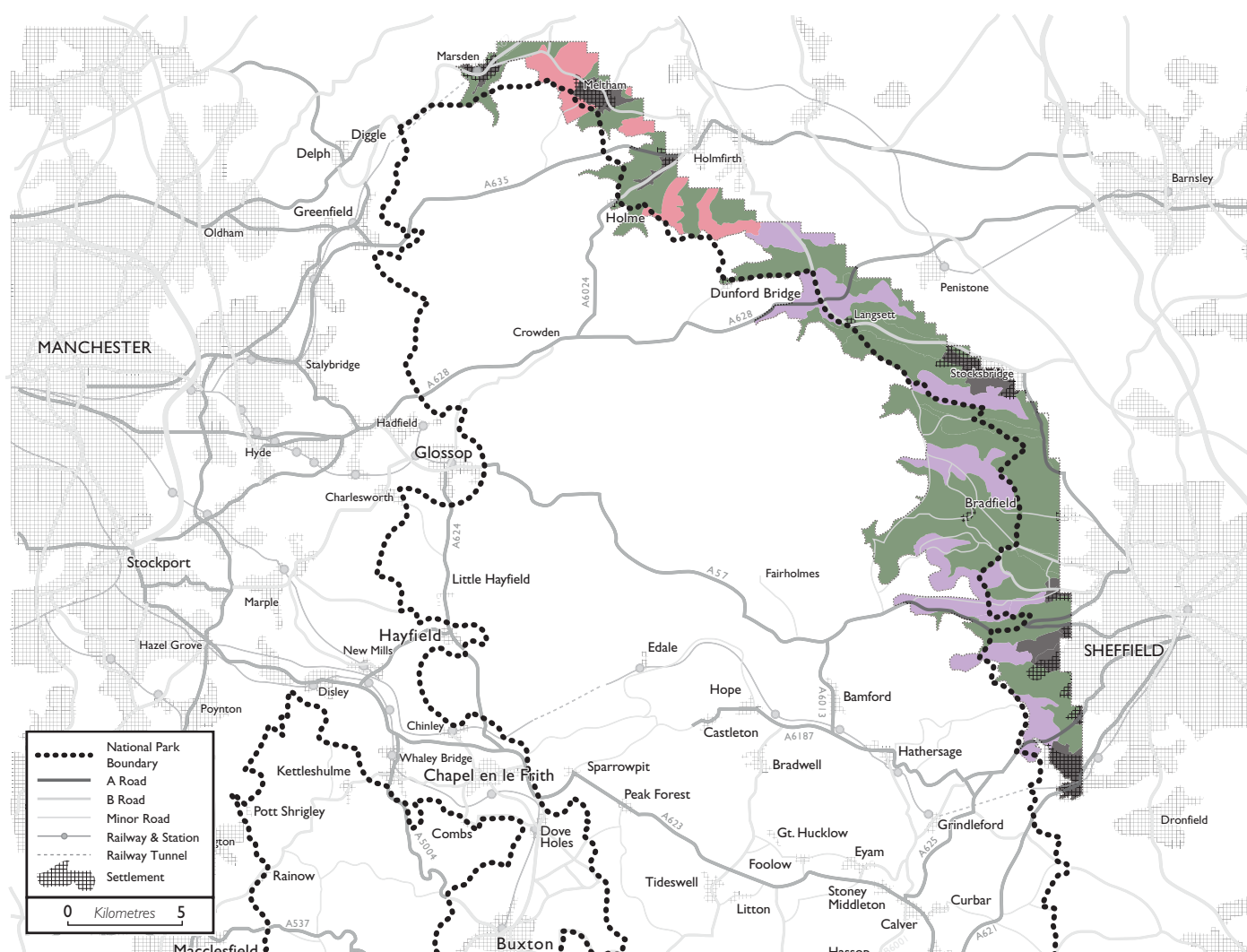
The slopes tend to be a mosaic of woodland and pastoral fields. Some valleys have altered significantly with the establishment of reservoirs and plantation woodland but generally today these are also peaceful, tranquil landscapes.



Langsett reservoir © Peak District National Park Authority

The Dark Peak Yorkshire Fringe can be sub divided into a number of different landscape types, each of which is characterised by a particular aspect of the wider Dark Peak Yorkshire Fringe character. They have been defined by their broadly repeating patterns of natural elements and cultural factors:

- Enclosed Gritstone Upland
- Densely Enclosed Gritstone Upland
- Slopes & Valleys with Woodland

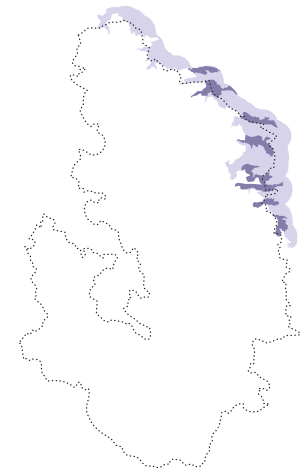


Enclosed Gritstone Upland

An enclosed upland landscape associated with high, gently undulating uplands and broad ridge summits which radiate from the Dark Peak core, sloping in places up to higher ground. This is a landscape of isolated stone farmsteads, straight roads and regular fields enclosed by drystone walls.



Enclosed Gritstone Upland on Crow Edge © Peak District National Park Authority



This landscape occurs on the edge of the moorland core, as a series of discrete areas along the eastern fringe of the Dark Peak between Penistone and Sheffield.

Key characteristics

- Rolling uplands and broad ridge summits with some steeper slopes
- Thin soils over gritstone bedrock with localised pockets of peat
- Remnant patches of rough land with bracken and gorse, some heather and bilberry
- Permanent pasture and rough grazing enclosed by gritstone walls
- Regular pattern of medium to large fields
- Straight roads with wide verges of grass and, in some places, heather
- Isolated gritstone farmsteads with stone slate roofs
- Trees grouped around farmsteads to provide shelter

Geology and landform

This landscape is associated with high, gently undulating gritstone uplands, in places rising steeply to higher open moorlands. The underlying bedrock is Millstone Grit and is often exposed as rock outcrops, particularly on the steeper slopes where it sometimes forms small gritstone edges. Towards the east there are outcrops of Coal Measures, including interbedded sandstones and shales and some seams of coal.

Soils and vegetation

The variable nature of the geology and landform give rise to a variety of soil types ranging from free draining podzols on steeper slopes to wetter, peatier soils on gentler summits. All the soils are characterised by their impoverished, acidic origin and although most of the land is now improved for pasture, many patches of semi-natural vegetation exist along verges, on steeper slopes and even as isolated patches within some fields. Heath-associated species, such as heather, bilberry and gorse are a common feature in many places. Where the soils are wetter species such as purple moor grass tend to be more common. There are some patches of soft rush on the wetter soils, which often support small populations of breeding birds such as snipe.

Tree cover

Sheep grazing, poor soils and exposure restrict tree growth so this is essentially a treeless landscape. However, there are occasional tree groups, generally adjacent to farmsteads and planted to shelter properties, using broadleaved species such as oak, ash and sycamore. There are also some shelterbelts and occasional blocks of 19th or 20th century coniferous woodland.

Land use

This is a pastoral landscape of improved or semi-improved permanent pasture with sheep and cattle grazing and some rough grazing. There are some reseeded grass leys and very occasional arable fields. However, the soils are mostly of poor quality and some fields are dominated by rushes or are reverting to moorland habitats, providing habitat diversity.

Enclosure

This land was waste and commons prior to enclosure. This is a landscape with a mixture of enclosed moorland, such as on Dore Moor and Stone Moor, south of Deepcar, as well as smaller improved fields. Much of the latter is Parliamentary Enclosure, for example near Rivelin Rocks, south of Dore Moor and east of Houndkirk Moor. Most enclosure comprises regular, rectangular fields. Drystone gritstone walls are the prominent enclosing element, particularly on higher ground although in places there are hedgerows and fencing. This tends to be further towards the lower fringes of the landscape and not on higher ground.

Settlement and buildings

Settlement tends to consist of scattered isolated gritstone farmsteads with stone slate roofs often dating from the time that the landscape was enclosed. These scattered settlements are sometimes associated administratively with nearby villages and hamlets. Although isolated properties are the dominant settlement type there are some loosely-nucleated 'hamlets'. Settlement often uses the natural landform for weather protection. Along the busier roads running through the landscape there are occasionally some modern, infill developments; these tend to be in the lower lying areas.

Transport and access

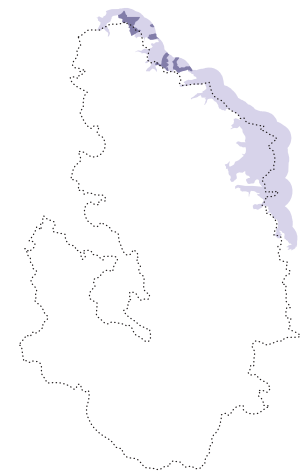
This is a remote landscape. Where roads exist they tend to be straight with even verges, laid out when the land was enclosed. In places larger, busier roads cross the landscape and these are more dominant features. Within this landscape type there are some older and now redundant packhorse routes visible as earthworks.

Densely Enclosed Gritstone Upland

An undulating upland landscape with a strong pattern of small rectangular fields. Settlement is scattered but often associated with hamlets and villages such as Meltham and Holme on lower ground. Many of the small gritstone farmsteads and cottages are associated with the former woollen industry as evidenced by the characteristic weavers' windows lighting the top floors of buildings. This is a predominantly pastoral landscape enclosed by gritstone walls, with outlying patches of remnant heather moorland.



Hade Edge © Peak District National Park Authority



Key characteristics

- High rolling hill summits
- Thin soils over gritstone bedrock
- Permanent pasture with patches of heather moorland
- A regular pattern of small rectangular fields enclosed by gritstone walls
- Scattered settlement of small gritstone farmsteads and cottages
- Open views over surrounding landscape and to adjacent hills

This landscape occurs as a single cluster of discrete areas on the edge of the moorland core, in the north eastern margin of the Peak District in the Dark Peak Yorkshire Fringe around Meltham and Holmfirth.

Geology and landform

This is an upland landscape with an undulating topography that rises to higher open moorland summits. Across much of the area, the underlying bedrock is Millstone Grit and on rising ground there are a number of deeply incised cloughs formed by fast flowing streams. Towards the east there are outcrops of Coal Measures, including interbedded sandstones and shales and some seams of coal.

Soils and vegetation

The variable nature of the geology and landform give rise to a variety of soil types ranging from free draining podzols on steeper slopes to wetter, peatier soils on gentler summits. All the soils are characterised by their impoverished, acidic nature and although most of the land is now improved or semi-improved for pasture, many patches of semi-natural vegetation still exist along verges, on steeper slopes and as isolated patches within some fields. There are some patches of soft rush on the wetter soils, which can support small populations of breeding birds such as snipe.

Tree cover

This is essentially a treeless landscape with land predominantly managed for pasture. However, there are occasional solitary trees beside field boundaries and small patches of thorn scrub on rough ground.

Land use

The main land use within this landscape is improved pasture for sheep grazing; there is some cattle grazing. This enclosed agricultural landscape exists adjacent to open moorland and in places exists close to the moorland summit. However, the soils are mostly of poor quality and some fields are dominated by rushes or are reverting to moorland habitats, providing habitat diversity.

Historically, the area supported a community based on wool textile production with sheep rearing and subsistence farming in this upland setting. The land was suited to sheep rearing and the water supply was soft making this an ideal location for early wool production, generally as a home-based industry. There are records of wool production in the 12th century. There are also some relict quarries which presumably provided stone for local use.

Enclosure

This landscape is enclosed using drystone walling to create very small fields, sometimes interspersed with small areas of enclosed moorland. This enclosure is associated with the woollen industry combined with small land intakes to enable sheep rearing and subsistence farming.

Some enclosure possibly relates to the establishment of the early wool producing communities in the uplands. Other enclosure is much later, taking place in the 19th century as Parliamentary Enclosure but is still linked with the distinctive related land uses as an element of a local dual economy of agriculture and woollen textile production.

When there was a higher density population living in the valleys than on the agricultural uplands then each moor was divided according to the number of people who had traditional grazing rights. The result of this division was many particularly small parcels of land. Some of the woollen workers probably took advantage of the newly allocated land on the uplands and created smallholdings here rather than selling on their parcels.

Settlement and buildings

There are scattered gritstone farmsteads throughout most of the landscape. Those that are adjacent to reservoirs tend to be inactive. The building form tends to be simple, built using local gritstone and either stone slate or blue slate roof tiles. Weaver's cottages are a particular local feature here with distinctive rows of long, vertical upper windows designed to maximise light for weaving. Isolated weaver's cottages tend to be associated with the earlier wool industry. As the industry grew this type of window became more common and was often incorporated into three storey terraced properties, found both on these uplands and in the valleys below. These cottages still stand as testament to the historical importance of wool production in the area.

Transport and access

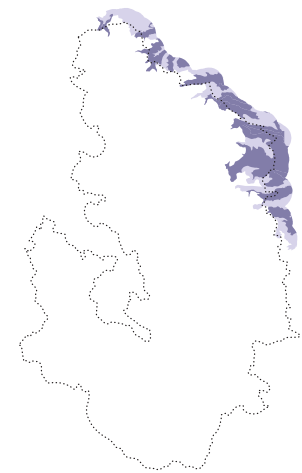
Roads generally tend to be small straight lanes running between settlements. There are some significant roads, such as the A635 along Turton's Edge. Historic inns are found relating to longer distance routes linked the communities to the markets and settlements in the lower lying areas. There are smaller roads within the landscape; some are Parliamentary Enclosure roads dating from when the landscape was enclosed from wastes and commons. Small tracks are used for access to fields and farms.

Slopes & Valleys with Woodland

A small scale but extensive pastoral landscape which is heavily wooded in places. There is a varied undulating, often steeply sloping topography. Interlocking blocks of ancient semi-natural and secondary woodland are a characteristic feature of this landscape, together with patches of acid grassland and bracken on steeper slopes.



Near Brightholmlee © Peak District National Park Authority



Key characteristics

- Steeply sloping and undulating topography
- Gritstone edges characterise the tops of some steeper slopes
- Patches of acid grassland and bracken
- Irregular blocks of ancient semi-natural and secondary woodland
- Permanent pasture in small fields enclosed by hedges and gritstone walls
- Narrow winding, often sunken lanes
- Scattered gritstone farms and loose clusters of dwellings

This landscape character type exists as a series of interlinked areas along the eastern fringe of the Peak District running from Holmfirth to south of Sheffield. It forms a natural border between the Peak District and the more densely settled landscapes to the north and east associated with Huddersfield, Barnsley and Sheffield.

Geology and landform

This is a landscape with a prominent, sloping topography lying on the edge of the gritstone moorland and sloping towards the lower lying rolling land associated with the Coal Measures geology, to the east. The underlying geology is a mixture of shales and interbedded gritstones giving rise to a dissected, undulating landform. In places the slopes are dissected by deep cloughs often containing streams established during the last ice age as the ice sheet melted. There are Coal Measures outcrops near to Penistone and Totley.

Soils and vegetation

The soils are varied, reflecting the mix of rock types, and comprise both slowly permeable, gleyed soils with localised shallow and rocky patches over shale and shallower, free draining soils with patches of impoverished land over the gritstone. There is extensive deciduous woodland cover throughout the landscape. This is often made up of ancient semi-natural woodland comprising both sessile and pedunculate oak, usually with a mixture of downy and silver birch, holly, rowan and hazel. There is often a good woodland ground flora, with species such as bluebell being widespread in some woods. Patches of acid grassland and bracken can often be found on the steeper slopes, in places associated with patches of relict dwarf shrub heath, supporting heather, bilberry and gorse. Some grasslands contain wet flushes supporting a range of damp loving species such as mosses and ferns.

Tree cover

This landscape has a strongly wooded character, defined by hillside woodlands, wooded cloughs, scattered trees along field boundaries and watercourse trees. Tree groups exist around settlements and associated with the steeply sloping topography, creating a series of framed and enclosed views throughout the landscape. There is a mixture of broadleaved semi-natural woodland and coniferous plantations. Many of the woodlands were previously utilised for white charcoal production and were often historically coppiced. 20th century plantation woodlands are often planted on slopes above reservoirs, such as around Langsett Reservoir.

Land use

This is a well wooded landscape interspersed with broad areas of pastoral agriculture: mostly a low intensity, pastoral landscape, used principally for stock rearing. As the landscape rises up to the moorland edge rough grazing tends to predominate. Pasturing is an established land use that has occurred here for a significant period of time.

This pastoral character belies an industrial past. Mining was undertaken within this landscape character type: small scale but relatively extensive coal mining was common intermittently in the hills and valleys west of Sheffield and Barnsley. Around Bradfield and west of Sheffield mining was carried out not only for coal but also

for fireclay and ganister which supported the iron and then steel industries. Gritstone quarrying was also carried out locally, particularly around Bradfield. There is evidence in the woodlands of coppicing for charcoal and white coal production, much of which presumably dates to the 17th and 18th centuries. There are reservoirs within this landscape including Langsett Reservoir, Dale Dike Reservoir, Damflask Reservoir and Rivelin Dams. The reservoirs were built from the 1830s onwards and illustrate a changing relationship to the landscape as they were built to meet the growing needs of urban settlements such as Sheffield. The reservoirs and plantations are popular destinations for recreation.

Enclosure

Enclosure within this landscape is a complex patchwork of irregular fields of unknown date, some no doubt with medieval origin but with no early maps to confirm their date, and in a similar amount 18th or 19th century enclosures, mostly brought in from patches of moorland after Parliamentary Enclosure. There is a small area of fossilised medieval strip fields a short distance to the west of Bradfield, which was once part of the village's open fields. Fields are generally enclosed by drystone walls with some mixed species and thorn hedgerows on lower slopes.

Settlement and buildings

Settlement is scattered throughout this landscape with isolated gritstone farmsteads and occasional large houses with stone slate roofs. These scattered settlements tend to lie within traditional townships which have villages such as Bradfield and Bolsterstone, and Dore, the last now subsumed within Sheffield. These were focal points for local communities and the settlement pattern was thus not dispersed in a true sense. In places there are also small clusters of farms and cottages, such as at Wigtwizzle, Midhopestones and Upper Midhope.

Transport and access

This is a generally peaceful landscape with small lanes, often sunken, providing access to settlement. There are some larger and busier roads, particularly in the east towards the nearby urban settlements. Many routes have evolved from packhorse routes. Others result from rationalisation at the time of Parliamentary Enclosure and the building of turnpike roads in the 18th and 19th centuries. Some turnpikes are today's main roads but not all proved to be successful: Mortimer Road at Penistone is a failed turnpike route.

Overall Strategy



Near Bradfield © Peak District National Park Authority

The Dark Peak Yorkshire Fringe is a pastoral landscape of valleys and slopes, enclosed fields and woodland, between the high open moors of the Dark Peak and the lower lying land to the east. This landscape is often sparsely settled, with a sense of remoteness. Cultural heritage is evidenced by the field and settlement patterns and local traditional building style. There is a need to retain and enhance these features to maintain strong landscape character in the future. This landscape provides an important recreational resource for the surrounding urban populations, particularly the series of reservoirs and surrounding plantation woodlands. This recreational use should be encouraged into the future. The transitional nature of this landscape means that good partnership working with neighbouring authorities is important.

The overall strategy for the Dark Peak Yorkshire Fringe should therefore be to:

Protect and manage the tranquil pastoral landscapes and the distinctive cultural character through sustainable landscape management; seek opportunities to enhance recreation opportunities, woodlands, wildness, and diversity of more remote areas.

This can be achieved by ensuring that there is:

- a sustainable land management system capable of supporting appropriate land uses whilst enhancing the network of habitats
- an approach that conserves or enhances the distinctive dispersed settlement pattern, field pattern and other cultural landscape features
- an enhanced structure and extent of woodland and tree cover in appropriate locations
- appropriate maintenance of infrastructure to enable continued public enjoyment of the landscape



Broomhead reservoir © Peak District National Park Authority

To achieve the above strategy there are particular priorities for each of the different landscape character types in the Dark Peak Yorkshire Fringe.

Enclosed Gritstone Uplands

This is a pastoral upland landscape with drystone walls, straight roads and isolated farmsteads. Agricultural improvement and grazing have reduced the ecological diversity of the pastures. The priority should be to protect the historic field pattern and conserve or restore the biodiversity of pastoral farmland. Where opportunities arise, consideration should be given to the creation of an open landscape, restoring and creating heathland.

Densely Enclosed Gritstone Uplands

Within the National Park this landscape character type comprises a small area around Meltham. This is an open settled historic landscape with a strong pattern of small and large fields enclosed by drystone walls, with scattered farmsteads and cottages. The priority should be to protect the historic field pattern and distinctive dispersed settlement pattern, whilst conserving or restoring the biodiversity of pastoral farmland and patches of semi-natural vegetation.

Slopes and Valleys with Woodland

This is a small scale pastoral landscape which is heavily wooded in places. Woodland cover varies with irregular woodland hillside blocks, woods along cloughs, around buildings and reservoirs, and scattered trees along boundaries. There are patches of acid grassland on steeper slopes. The priority is therefore to protect the mosaic and diversity of existing woodlands, boundary trees, grasslands, cultural heritage components and semi-natural habitats. Opportunities should be sought to enhance the integrity of the woodland resource by restructuring plantation woodlands and creating new woodland where appropriate.



Agden reservoir from near Bradfield © Peak District National Park Authority

Issues of change

Conservation

The Dark Peak Yorkshire Fringe is a pastoral landscape with a strong cultural heritage, particularly that associated with past industry. Some valued cultural heritage features such as drystone walls are, in places, deteriorating in condition and require efforts to conserve and maintain them, including reducing loss through theft of stones for domestic use and through vandalism. Other changes to the cultural heritage resource include the loss and deterioration of historic buildings through disuse. There has been an increase in urbanising elements in the landscape, most often associated with housing development.

In places, the semi-natural habitats associated with the landscape have deteriorated and opportunity exists to extend and restore these habitats, particularly heathland, unimproved grasslands and wet pastures.

Climate change implications

This is an upland pastoral landscape where sloping land may be affected by more extreme rainfall run off, particularly through the winter months, causing problems including downstream flooding of urban areas, erosion and habitat loss. These could lead to significant landscape character change. The uplands are more susceptible to moorland fire risks, which can be exacerbated by periods of sustained dry periods, particularly through the summer months. Climatic changes may affect the species composition of habitats, including the wet and dry clough woodlands. The area is an important water supply resource for adjacent urban areas, with most of the rivers coming off the Dark Peak moors being dammed to form a series of reservoirs. Increased water demand, water quality standards and reduced supply associated with climate change may have a significant effect on future management of the landscape for water supply. The need for less polluting energy sources could increase pressure for energy generation including wind power, solar power and hydroelectric power. This change could impact on the character, cultural heritage and biodiversity of the landscape.

Demography, housing and employment

The Dark Peak Yorkshire Fringe has a strong association with Sheffield and, consequently, it has a character that reflects the proximity of a major settlement. With the closure of much of the historic local industry, many people now commute from this area to Sheffield for work. There may be opportunities to increase local employment by developing opportunities for recreation and tourism. The demand for local affordable housing and national housing targets mean that there could be pressure to increase development in the area. This would affect the character of the landscape, both those areas within the National Park and those outside of the Park boundary. The integrity of historic buildings is, in some cases, affected by modernisation, such as the replacement of traditional windows with UPVC windows, and this can impact on landscape character. In some locations, such as the Rivelin Valley, there has been a trend for horse pasturing on small pockets of land; this is associated with changes to the agricultural character of the landscape. The location close to Sheffield also means that fly tipping is not uncommon, and although this does not generally have a permanent landscape impact, it can have an urbanising effect on the landscape character.

Tourism and recreation

Whilst the Dark Peak Yorkshire Fringe has few facilities for recreation and tourism, this is an area that is heavily used by people from adjacent urban areas and as such is highly valued. This is an important recreational transition zone between the tranquil moorland and the neighbouring urban areas. Opportunities should be sought to improve recreational facilities and opportunities within the area, without affecting the landscape character.

Farming and forestry

The landscapes in the Dark Peak Yorkshire Fringe are used mainly for permanent pasture, generally managed at a moderate level of intensity. Occasional patches of rougher ground survive in places. The historic field pattern is largely intact but many of the drystone walls that define the pattern are in poor condition. In localised areas around the urban fringes, in particular the Rivelin Valley, there has been a move from agricultural production to the use of land for horse pasture. Agricultural improvement, including the ploughing of semi-natural areas and the spreading of paper pulp, has resulted in loss and decline of unimproved grasslands and wetlands.

Small woods are a characteristic feature of the Dark Peak Yorkshire Fringe, particularly in the Slopes and Valleys with Woodland. Much of the woodland is of ancient origin with more recent secondary woodland, and in places there are larger blocks of plantation woodlands, mainly on reservoir slopes. Many of these woods are threatened by neglect, and opportunities should be sought to bring them under management.

Minerals and resources

There is an active permission for a granite quarry within the Dark Peak Yorkshire Fringe. Opportunity should be sought to minimise any adverse effects of the single quarry site.

This is an important water supply area for adjacent urban areas, with most of the rivers coming off the Dark Peak moors being dammed to form a series of reservoirs.

Energy and infrastructure

There is an increasing national demand for renewable energy, particularly wind power. In addition there is increasing potential for solar and water power, and other renewable energy sources. The impact of inappropriate wind generation projects could adversely impact on historic landscape character and on the setting of historic landscape features, amenity value and tranquility. There is a visual impact of existing infrastructure associated with power supply, e.g. overhead electricity cables. There are opportunities for the development of local hydropower schemes, to plant native woodlands and improve woodland management linked to local wood fuel production and usage. These could help reduce reliance on traditional carbon-based energies.

High levels of vehicular use are increasing damage to roads, walls, hedges and verges, creating an increased demand for parking, particularly in Bradfield.

In recent years there has been an increase in the visual intrusion of communications infrastructure, particularly telecommunication masts, which can impact on landscape character and the setting of cultural heritage features, buildings and historic landscapes.



Mast near Bradfield © Peak District National Park Authority

Landscape guidelines

Dark Peak Yorkshire Fringe

Enclosed Gritstone Uplands	Densely Enclosed Gritstone Uplands	Slopes and Valleys with Woodland
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Protect

Protect and maintain historic dry stone walls			
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Manage

Manage and enhance woodlands			
Manage and enhance plantation woodlands			
Manage and enhance the diversity of agricultural grasslands			
Manage the built environment to enhance landscape character			
Manage historic mineral landscapes			
Manage the network of tracks and footpaths to maximise opportunities to enjoy the landscape			
Manage the network of minor roads to maintain character and local access			
Manage and enhance clough woodlands			
Manage and enhance areas of heath/moor			

Plan

Create new native broadleaved woodland			
Create clough woodlands			
Create, extend and link areas of heath/moor			
Develop small-scale renewable energy for local needs			
Develop appropriate landscapes from mineral workings			

- This is a priority throughout the landscape character type
- This is a priority in some parts of the landscape character type, often associated with particular conditions/features
- This is not a priority but may be considered in some locations
- This will generally be inappropriate in this landscape character type

Landscape guidelines explanation

Protect

Protect and maintain historic drystone walls

Drystone walls are an important historical feature in the more upland landscapes in the Dark Peak Yorkshire Fringe, e.g. the Enclosed and Densely Enclosed Gritstone Uplands. In places, the management of walls is declining and there is a need to enhance their management in order to conserve and retain the cherished historic field pattern.

Manage

Manage and enhance woodlands

Some woodland is neglected or would benefit from enhanced management. Opportunities should be sought to enhance diversity and improve woodland productivity, whilst conserving heritage features. There may be opportunities to link woodland management, to local wood fuel schemes and reduce reliance on traditional carbon-based energies.

Manage and enhance plantation woodlands

Coniferous plantation woodlands form significant landscape features, particularly around the reservoirs within the Slopes and Valleys with Woodlands. Opportunities should be sought to integrate them into the wider historic landscape through improved management using methods such as felling and replacement with appropriate native tree species, whilst conserving cultural heritage features.

Manage and enhance the diversity of agricultural grasslands

Many grasslands have been improved and reseeded with a consequent loss of species diversity. There is a need to manage these grasslands in a more sustainable way that retains species diversity whilst supporting productive agriculture. Opportunities to extend and enhance the management of unimproved grasslands should be sought, mainly in the Enclosed Gritstone Upland.

Manage the built environment to enhance landscape character

The scattered settlement pattern of farmsteads and houses lying within traditional townships and villages is a unique feature of the Dark Peak Yorkshire Fringe landscapes. New development should respond positively to the historic settlement pattern, local materials and building traditions. Opportunities should be sought to influence potential future development that lies outside but has an impact on the National Park, considering siting, layout, design and materials. Traditional buildings are an important feature and their renovation and maintenance should be encouraged. Locating new agricultural buildings can impact on landscape character and opportunities should be taken to guide site selection.

Manage historic mineral landscapes

Characteristic features are the historic quarries which provided local building stone within the Densely Enclosed Gritstone Upland landscape type. Within the Slopes and Valleys with Woodland there are the remains of coal mining, ganister, fireclay and gritstone quarries. Landscapes associated with historic mineral extraction should be retained and managed, including, where appropriate, providing interpretation of their history.

Manage the network of tracks and footpaths to maximise opportunities to enjoy the landscape

The network of tracks and footpaths should be managed to enhance capacity for providing healthy recreation and enjoyment of the landscape for a wide range of users. This can be easily achieved through landscape management measures such as surfacing, signage, and by controlling inappropriate uses to retain the character, cultural heritage and biodiversity values.

Manage the network of minor roads to maintain character and local access

The network of minor roads should be managed to maintain their local, small-scale and rural character to ensure good local access whilst discouraging inappropriate driving. Verges and cultural features should be maintained and enhanced, and the impact of signage minimised.

Manage and enhance clough woodlands

In some areas clough woods are important landscape features as well as being important habitats. Opportunities should be sought to enhance the management of these woods, preferably by natural regeneration, without affecting cultural heritage features, historic landscapes and existing ecological features.

Manage and enhance areas of heath/moor

Areas that have been enclosed from former historic moors have, in places, remnant patches of moorland habitat. Opportunities should be sought to manage and enhance areas of existing patches of moor and heath in the Enclosed Gritstone Uplands, enhancing habitat and biodiversity potential.

Plan

Create new native broadleaved woodland

There are opportunities to extend woodland cover without affecting cultural heritage features and historic landscapes in the Slopes and Valleys with Woodland. There are opportunities to extend woodland by natural regeneration, although a balance will need to be reached between woodland expansion and the retention of acid grassland. Increased woodland cover creates areas of shelter and shade which may be useful for mitigating the impacts of climate change; on slopes it also reduces water flow and can reduce flood damage to lower lying landscapes.

Create clough woods

Opportunities should be sought to extend and create clough woodlands within the Moorland Slopes and Cloughs, preferably by natural regeneration, without affecting cultural heritage features, historic landscapes and existing ecological features. In wet cloughs, increasing woodland cover can lead to slower water flow at times of heavy rainfall and thus help to reduce flood risks in lower lying landscapes.

Create, extend and link areas of heath/moor

There are opportunities within the Enclosed Gritstone Uplands of the Dark Peak Yorkshire Fringe to diversify the existing grassland based landscapes. This can be achieved by creating new moorland/heath and extending and linking existing patches of moor/heath, enhancing moorland landscapes.

Develop small-scale renewable energy for local needs

The Slopes and Valleys with Woodland are particularly suitable for the development of water power and local wood fuel supplies. Opportunities should be sought to develop small hydroelectric schemes and manage woodland to increase local renewable energy supply, thus reducing reliance on traditional carbon-based energies, where it would have a neutral impact on the character of the area and its component parts. Where appropriate seek positive measures to reinforce the local landscape character as part of new development.

Develop appropriate landscapes from mineral workings

Modern mineral workings should be restored to maximise visual amenity, biodiversity, recreational, educational and heritage value. The aim should be to use the land to create semi-natural landscapes, which blend into the surrounding landscape.

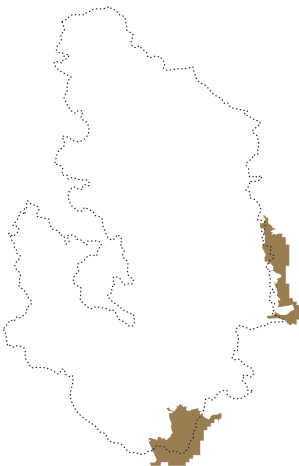


Crops near Bradfield © Peak District National Park Authority

Derbyshire Peak Fringe



Looking towards Minninglow © Peak District National Park Authority



Introduction

The Derbyshire Peak Fringe has an intermediate character and occupies a transitional zone, between the uplands of the Peak District to the north and west and the rural lowlands of Derbyshire with small parts of North Staffordshire to the south and east. The eastern parts are strongly influenced by settled areas to the east associated with the urban centres of Chesterfield and Sheffield. There is particular association with the historical coal mining and iron making industries of the settlements. The region has a distinctly undulating topography and contains the upper part of the River Dove.

Physical influences

The physical structure of the Derbyshire Peak Fringe is strongly influenced by the underlying geology, which comprises a sequence of rock types along the southern and the lower eastern flank of the Derbyshire Dome and in the south rock types associated with the Widmerpool Gulf. This gives rise to a mixed geology around Parwich and Tissington comprising a mixture of banded shales and limestones, with very limited outcrops of gritstones belonging to the Millstone Grit series. The Bowland Shale formation also outcrops and consists of a mixture of shales, siltstones and sandstones. There are a variety of limestones in this area; Widmerpool formation predominates consisting of a mixture of limestones and shales. Also evident are Hopedale limestones, Milldale limestones and Bee Low limestones which provide local variations in geology. Around Tissington there is a discrete patch of volcanic geology known as the Tissington Volcanic Member, which contains hydrated tuff-like breccia. This southern area of the Derbyshire Peak Fringe consists of rolling uplands with steep sided valleys and broad floodplains in places.

East from Holymoorside and northwards to Totley the shales give way to a mixture of Millstone Grit and Coal Measures along the eastern fringe of the Derbyshire Dome. This consists of an undulating, in places steeply sloping, topography with steep valley sides created by moorland streams that have eroded through the softer geology and carry water drained off the moorland upland in the west down to rivers like the Rother. A major part of this area is underlain by gritstones and shales belonging to the Millstone Grit series, which have been eroded to produce a distinctly undulating topography. The upstanding, higher ground tends to be formed from gritstone, while the valleys and other lower lying areas are cut into the underlying, softer shales. These beds pass beneath the more rolling Coal Measures that lie along the eastern edge of the Derbyshire Peak Fringe. The Coal Measures consist of inter bedded grey shales, siltstones and sandstones with subordinate amounts of coal and ironstone. The coal and ironstone have all influenced the development of settlements such as Sheffield and Chesterfield as industrial settlements.

Ecological influences

The soils in the Derbyshire Peak Fringe are variable, reflecting differences in the underlying bedrock and the presence of glacial and alluvial drift deposits, particularly in the south. Shallow mineral soils can be found on the gritstone hills and slopes; these tend to produce agriculturally poor pasture land dominated by woodland and rough or permanent pasture. Seasonally waterlogged, gleyed soils overlie the shale beds on lower lying land, where they are used for improved permanent pasture. Occasional deposits of fine loamy soils, derived from till deposited during the last ice age, produce some higher quality pasture and occasional arable fields. Deep, loamy and clayey soils have developed on alluvial deposits on the southern valley floors.

Deciduous ancient semi-natural woodlands are a prominent feature on the steep slopes. Around Holymoorside and north towards Chesterfield the woodlands tend to be upland oakwoods, supporting

pedunculate and sessile oaks along with a hybrid of the two. Other tree species present in these upland woods include downy and silver birch, rowan, holly and hazel. These woods can also support honeysuckle and bluebells and are important for bat species and birds, including the redstart which uses holes in trees for nesting sites. Lower woodlands in the south of the area support ash, birch and hazel intermixed. Alder and willow are key tree species in wetter areas. On flushed slopes, woodlands can support a range of mosses, sedges, ferns and horsetails. Wet woodlands on floodplains support a range of ground flora, including meadowsweet, nettle, marsh marigold and large bitter-cress.

The sloping land tends to support permanent pasture and some rough grazing. In thin soils in more upland locations acid grassland predominates and can support harebells, heath bedstraw, and tormentil along with occasional patches of gorse, bilberry and heather. Improved agricultural land on these lower slopes can have limited ecological diversity, however, where hay meadows are remaining these can support a range of grass species mixed with flowering species including bird's foot trefoil, oxeye daisy, knapweed, self-heal and ribwort plantain. Grasslands in association with the ridge and furrow topography round Parwich and Tissington can be particularly diverse. Verges, when infrequently managed, can be flower rich and include species such as red campion, meadow cranesbill and knapweed. Wet pasture and hay meadows on lower slopes and on floodplains contain various rushes and sedges, meadowsweet and ragged robin and often support small populations of breeding birds such as snipe. The pastoral farmland, including species rich hedges, supports a wide range of bird species including yellowhammer, skylark, linnet and goldfinch.

Human influences

There is a very variable settlement pattern within the Derbyshire Peak Fringe. Nucleated villages, such as Tissington, Brassington and Bradbourne are features of the more productive land in the south of the area. These settlements are often associated with a scattering of farms and roadside dwellings nearby; in more dissected areas and on steeper slopes to the south, there are higher numbers of scattered farmsteads. Tissington, although similar to the other settlements in form, has the added influence of the estate associated with Tissington Hall. Villages are found both in valley bottoms, such as Parwich, and on broad ridgetops, such as at Bradbourne, and are often medieval in origin. The location of former open fields around settlements can often be clearly seen in the remaining ridge and furrow.

On the higher land, in the dissected areas south-west of Sheffield and west of Chesterfield, pastoral agriculture and early industrial activity were the predominant land uses. Here there is a mixture of scattered farmsteads, hamlets and small traditional villages with occasional modern housing development. Although many places have medieval origins, with the exception of some churches, most buildings existing today date from the 17th century onwards when stone became a more commonly available building material. The predominant traditional vernacular building material in the Derbyshire Peak Fringe is gritstone with stone or Welsh slate roofs. Where the

Derbyshire Peak Fringe abuts the White Peak there is often a mixture of limestone and gritstone buildings with stone, slate, or clay tiled roofs reflecting the changing geologies.

The area west of Chesterfield has long been important for industry. Industries here frequently had medieval origins but most increased in scale and impact from the 17th century onwards. There were many local coal mines with shallow workings at various seams. From the 19th century onwards coal mining gradually migrated eastwards away from the Derbyshire Peak Fringe as the coal seams that were being mined ran deeper underground. Local coal supported lead smelting particularly from the 18th century onwards. Other mining included that for fireclay, ganister and ironstones which supported the iron and later the steel industries. There were many lead and iron smelting hearths in the landscape from the 16th century onwards, together with manufacturing sites for early iron tools and implements. These took advantage of the extensive local woodlands which were coppiced for charcoal and white coal (kiln dried wood), the latter used specifically for lead smelting. Many of the woodlands have earthworks at the sites of earthen kilns for charcoal and white coal production. The vestiges of mining, smelting hearths and a variety of small industrial workshops and mills remain in places.

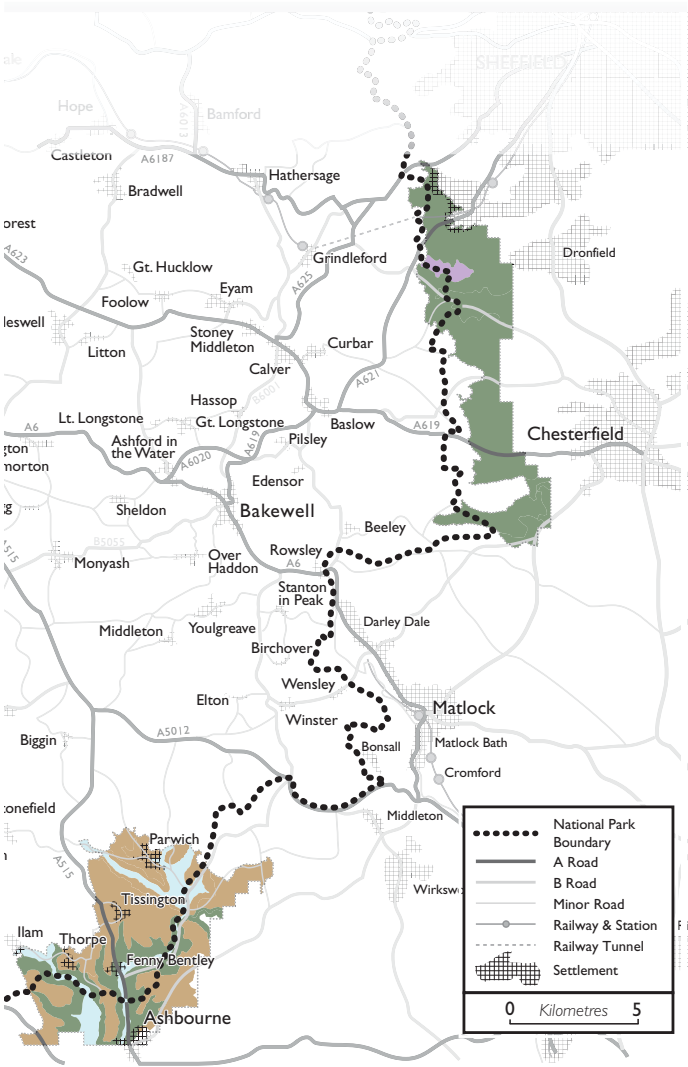
Sense of place

The character of the Derbyshire Peak Fringe is more transitional to that found in other surrounding areas. It includes landscapes that reflect those of the higher Peak District, as well as those that have more in common with the settled lowlands of Derbyshire. The landscape feels more peaceful and less industrialised than the areas further east towards Chesterfield and Sheffield which are more strongly influenced by large scale industrialisation of the 19th and 20th centuries. This level of industrialisation did not occur in the Derbyshire Peak Fringe to the same extent. Away from the urban centres, as the landscape begins to rise up to the moorlands of the Eastern Moors, the landscape is one of enclosed, pastoral agriculture with woodland elements and much less wild in contrast with the moorland uplands of the Eastern Moors.

Around the Parwich and Tissington area, the landscape subtly changes from the limestone plateau. Drystone walls are a feature along with steep slopes which appear wooded because of the hedges and trees that exist there. In the lower parts of this Landscape Character Area there are broad river valleys with floodplains supporting marshland habitats and wet grasslands.

The Derbyshire Peak Fringe can be sub divided into a number of different landscape types, each of which is characterised by a particular aspect of the wider regional character:

- Enclosed Gritstone Upland
- Slopes and Valleys with Woodland
- Village Farmlands on Shale Ridges
- Riverside Meadows





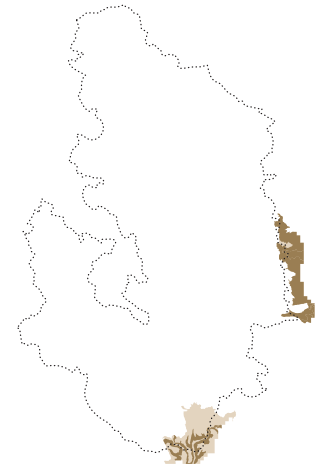
Cyclists on the Tissington Trail © Peak District National Park Authority

Slopes & Valleys With Woodland

An undulating, in places steeply sloping, topography with an interlocking pattern of fields and blocks of woodland both ancient and secondary. There are patches of semi-improved and acid grasslands on steeper slopes with permanent pasture in small fields.



Near Owler Bar © Peak District National Park Authority



Key characteristics

- Undulating, in places steeply sloping, topography
- Irregular blocks of ancient and secondary woodland
- Patches of semi-improved and acid grassland and bracken
- Permanent pasture in small fields enclosed by hedgerows
- Narrow winding, often sunken lanes
- Scattered gritstone farms and loose clusters of dwellings
- Remains of historic coal mining, smelting and other industrial sites

This landscape is found in two locations. In the south it is closely associated with the steep valley sides of the River Dove and its tributary the Bradbourne and Bletch Brooks. In the east the landscape forms a series of interlinked areas along the eastern fringe of the Peak District and creates a natural border between the Peak District and the more urban landscapes to the east.

Geology and landform

This is a landscape with a prominent sloping topography, dissected by stream valleys. To the south of Bradbourne and Tissington the geology consists of interbedded limestone and shales from the Widmerpool formation giving way to the Bowland Shale group, a combination of shales, siltstone and sandstone. West of Chesterfield and Dronfield the landscape is shaped by the underlying Millstone Grit and Coal Measures giving rise to undulating steep slopes.

Soils and vegetation

The soils are varied, reflecting the mix of rock types. They comprise both slowly permeable, base poor gleyed soils with localised shallow or rocky patches over shale and limestone as well as shallower, free draining soils over gritstone. There is widespread pasture in this landscape, including some unimproved grassland. Wetter grasslands support patches of soft rush. Higher up in this landscape character type grassland tends to be acidic and can support patches of bilberry and gorse along with species such as harebell and tormentil.

To the west of Chesterfield, there is significant deciduous woodland cover, made up of some ancient semi-natural woodland interlinked with more recent woodlands. These woodlands often support a good ground flora resource including bluebells and honeysuckle.

Oak woodland predominates, supporting both pedunculate oak and sessile oak with other species including birch, rowan, holly and hazel. Around Fenny Bentley the woodland tends to be associated with the lower slopes. Lower woodlands can have a wet association and support more ash and alder than upland woods. Ground flora also varies to favour more hydrophilic species including meadowsweet and marsh marigold.

Tree cover

This landscape has a strongly wooded character with extensive broadleaved semi-natural woodland, including upland oak wood on the higher slopes. There are patches of wet woodland with alder in flushes. There are some 20th century plantation woodlands, usually coniferous, and there are tree groups around settlements, providing shelter to properties. To the west of Chesterfield many of the woodlands were managed to maximise fuel production for industry and were coppiced, particularly in the 16th to 18th centuries to provide white coal (kiln dried wood) and charcoal. These woodlands included both ancient semi-natural woodland and plantation woodland.

Land use

This is a well wooded pastoral landscape and land use is characterised by permanent pasture for sheep and cattle. As the landscape rises up to higher areas the permanent pastures tend to give way to rough grazing land. North of Holymoorside the remains of old industries, are still evident in places, including mining remains, smelting hearths and mills.

Enclosure

On the slopes between Thorpe and Bradbourne there is a pattern of mostly medium size fields defined by hedgerows. West of Chesterfield and Dronfield the landscape has small to medium sized irregular shaped fields enclosed by mixed species hedgerows, with gritstone walls found on higher slopes. Some fields with irregular boundaries may be associated with assarting: the clearance of wooded land, in order to cultivate land for agriculture. These fields may be historic in that they have marked boundaries for a significant period. Although map evidence is often lacking, the evidence which does exist suggests that some boundaries may be of later medieval or earlier post-medieval date. Gradual modifications to layouts from the 17th to 19th centuries are likely to have taken place.

Settlement and buildings

Between Thorpe and Bradbourne the steep slopes have only a few scattered gritstone-built farmsteads and dwellings with stone slate roofs. The farmsteads on the slopes are probably post-medieval in date and part of a predominantly nucleated settlement pattern with the village sited on nearby better land. Limestone from the adjacent White Peak is the common building material around Parwich. West of Chesterfield and Dronfield settlement varies, consisting of scattered farmsteads mixed with villages and hamlets. Some of the scattered farmsteads are historic monastic granges in origin such as at Harewood. Some of settlements have medieval origins but most buildings date from the 17th century onwards. The traditional building style is gritstone, with stone tile or Welsh slate roofs.

Transport and access

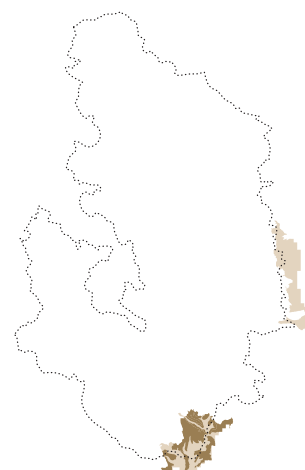
To the south and east there is a network of narrow winding lanes, often sunken, linking the isolated farms and dwellings together. There are some larger roads, some of which were formalised as turnpike roads in the 18th and early 19th centuries.

Village Farmlands on Shale Ridges

A small scale, settled pastoral landscape associated with gently rolling shale uplands, where views are typically filtered through scattered mature trees in field boundaries.



Parwich © Peak District National Park Authority



Key characteristics

- Rolling plateau summits
- Pastoral farmland
- Small to medium sized fields and strip fields, enclosed by hedgerows
- Filtered views through scattered mature hedgerow trees
- Clustered pattern of villages and scattered farms
- Buildings are a mixture of limestone and gritstone

This landscape occurs on five discrete uplands in the south of the Derbyshire Peak Fringe, around Brassington and Bradbourne, at Kniveton, near Parwich, at Tissington and Thorpe, and to the west of the Dove at Blore in Staffordshire.

Geology and landform

This is a landscape of a mixed geology. It is predominantly interbedded limestones and shales from the Widmerpool formation and the Boland Shales formation. The shales are more dominant to the south of Brassington whilst the limestone is more dominant to the west of Tissington. Around Tissington is an area of volcanic rock from the Tissington Volcanic Member which contains hydrated tuff-like breccia. The combination of this geology gives rise to a landscape with an upland rolling topography. In places there is a covering of glacial till.

Soils and vegetation

Soils are mostly slowly permeable or gleyed clay soils with patches of till (glacial clays). Well drained fine loamy soils, shallow in places, over localised outcrops of limestone, occur west of Tissington and elsewhere. This is a largely pastoral landscape that has been improved and farmed for many years. The habitat network is relict with isolated patches of semi-improved grassland and occasional hay meadows. Hay meadows provide an important habitat for a range of grasses and flower species including oxeye daisy and knapweed. Verges that receive infrequent management can sometimes support flowering species including meadowsweet, red campion and meadow cranesbill.

Tree cover

This is an enclosed landscape where views are often filtered through densely scattered hedgerow trees in field boundaries. Tree species include ash and oak with some alder on wetter areas. There is an avenue of lime trees along the main road to Tissington village possibly associated with the estate influence on the local landscape here.

Land use

Permanent pasture dominates this landscape with a mixture of improved fields and occasional semi-improved fields. Much of the land around Tissington is still managed by the Fitzherbert's Tissington Hall Estate.

Enclosure

There is a well defined pattern of small to medium sized fields bounded mainly by mixed species hedgerows. The fields often overlay extensive surviving ridge and furrow and in addition, around Brassington, Parwich and Thorpe there are fossilised strip fields. Much of the enclosure was probably created in post-medieval times, whereas in the medieval period there were extensive open fields. The contrasting enclosure patterns reflect a complex intermixture: some communities retained traditional rights to open field strips and therefore the patterning was fossilised, and in other communities the links to the open fields were lost and so the patterning was not fossilised. In some cases, as at Tissington, the loss may be related to estate control, which enabled tenanted farmlands to be reorganised more readily.

Settlement and buildings

Settlement consists of a clustered pattern of villages within a scattering of outlying farmsteads. The villages all have medieval origins, while many of the outlying farmsteads may have been established after the medieval period. One notable exception is Lea Hall near Tissington where there are earthworks of a deserted medieval village. Although buildings may have a medieval origin all of today's buildings, except some churches, date from the 17th century onwards and are built in stone. Buildings are simple and robust in design, being a mixture of either gritstone or limestone, with stone slate or Staffordshire blue tiled roofs.

Tissington Hall was built in 1609 since when it has been modified several times. There is a unity to the buildings in the village here, giving it the feel of a quintessential English village because in its present form design has been controlled by the estate.

Transport and access

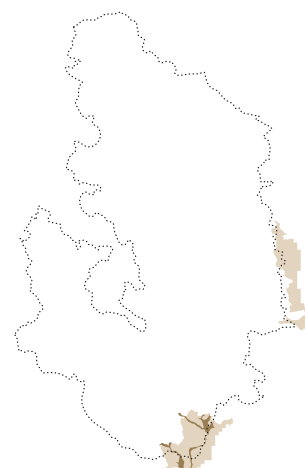
Settlement in this landscape is well connected by a network of minor and major roads, narrow trackways and footpaths. The former Tissington railway line is now an important recreational route for walking and cycling. A small area of this character type, north of the settlement of Thorpe, is open access land.

Riverside Meadows

This is a pastoral landscape characterised by a meandering river channel in a flat alluvial floodplain. Views are often tightly framed by lines of riverside trees. Patches of wetland vegetation are a distinctive feature associated with the river channel.



River Manifold nr Ilam © Peak District National Park Authority



Key characteristics

- A flat alluvial river corridor
- Meandering river channel with shingle beds and marginal vegetation
- Seasonally waterlogged alluvial soils
- Grazing meadows, often with patches or extensive areas of wet grassland
- Dense waterside and scattered hedgerow trees
- Regular pattern of small to medium sized fields divided by hedges

Riverside Meadows occur on all the valley bottom areas of the Derbyshire Peak Fringe including the lower valley of the River Dove and those at Bradbourne and Bletch Brooks.

Geology and landform

A key feature of this landscape is the flat alluvial floodplain across which the rivers meander. These rivers have developed on a number of different geological formations, in the north this is mainly the relatively soft Namurian shales from the Bowland Shale formation. The shales give way, below Bradbourne, to limestone interbedded with shales from the Widmerpool formation. Further south from Fenny Bentley, the geology changes again to a sandstone interbedded with conglomerate formation (the Hawksmoor formation).

In places the rivers have cut through the harder gritstone, resulting in a much narrower alluvial floodplain defined by steeper valley sides. This is particularly noticeable in part of the Dove Valley and the lower stretch of the Bradbourne Brook. As a result the width of the floodplain can vary from more than half a kilometre to less than 50 metres at its narrowest point.

Soils and vegetation

The soils are clayey loams, derived from the underlying alluvial deposits which have built up over time as rivers have flooded and deposited material they have carried. Patches of wet grassland are a feature throughout much of this landscape. Where the floodplain retains flood water for long periods of time extensive areas of wetland and marshy riverside vegetation can sometimes be found and support specialist species including ragged robin, common marsh bedstraw and occasionally the common spotted orchid.

Tree cover

Tree cover is extensive throughout the landscape. It is made up of densely scattered riverside trees, primarily of alder and willow, with scattered hedgerow trees of oak and ash across the floodplain. In places there are small copses of willow carr.

Land use

Due to heavy soils and seasonal waterlogging the main land use in this character type is permanent pasture, grazed by cattle and sheep.

Enclosure

The river is fringed by a regular pattern of small to medium sized fields, normally one and in places two fields deep. Fields are mainly enclosed by straight thorn hedges. Some fields have irregular boundaries, these may be associated with the process of assarting where forested land was cleared in order to cultivate land for agriculture. These fields may be historic in that they have marked boundaries for a significant period. A major exception to this character exists in the broad valley bottom downstream from the village of Parwich. Here, there are many small and narrow fields that fossilise parcels of medieval open field strips, together with the actual ridge and furrow which frequently survives here and in nearby areas of the valley.

Settlement and buildings

Historically settlement did not develop on floodplains, due to possible flooding risks. However, in parts of the Dove Valley and Bletch Brook areas the underlying geology of shales gives rise to gently sloping land with reduced flood risk enabling the establishment of some isolated farmsteads. In addition to isolated scattered farmsteads, parts of the villages of Fenny Bentley and Mapleton have developed on the edge of the floodplain. Buildings are predominantly a limestone rubble construction with gritstone detailing and stone slate roofs. Modern development can be found in isolated locations.

Transport and access

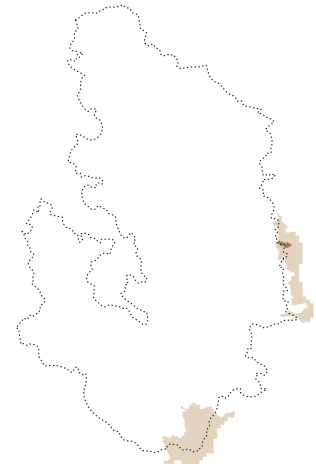
Most historic routes avoided the floodplain and the wet boggy treed landscape, moving through the landscape on higher and drier land. Roads often follow the edge of the floodplain, especially along the Bradbourne Brook. There are numerous footpaths along the Riverside Meadows.

Enclosed Gritstone Upland

An enclosed landscape on former moorland, associated with a high, gently undulating ridge summit. This is a landscape of isolated stone farmsteads, straight roads and regular fields enclosed by drystone walls.



Looking towards Harewood Grange © Peak District National Park Authority



This landscape occurs on the edge of the Eastern Moors character area in one location at Lidgate near Holmesfield.

Key characteristics

- Rolling uplands
- Thin soils over gritstone bedrock
- Remnant patches of rough land
- Permanent pasture and rough grazing enclosed by gritstone walls
- Regular pattern of medium to large fields
- Straight roads with wide verges of grass
- Isolated sandstone farmsteads and cottages with stone slate roofs

Geology and landform

This landscape is associated with broad, gently undulating gritstone uplands, in places rising steeply to higher open moorlands. The Yorkshire Coalfield underlies much of this landscape character type, although sandstone formations also exist here. To the east, near to Owler Bar there is Loxley Edge Rock formation consisting of undifferentiated sandstones. In the west, around Lidgate, Greenmoor rock is the underlying geology, associated with the coalfields; this is a weakly micaceous distinctively green sandstone.

Soils and vegetation

Soil types range from free draining podzols on steeper slopes to wetter soils on gentler summits. All the soils are characterised by their impoverished, acidic origin. There is little semi-natural vegetation; fields are mainly improved grasses, but there is some bracken and gorse on the edge of the area providing local variation. Verges occasionally support relict heath vegetation including bilberry and heather. There are some patches of soft rush on the wetter soils, which often support small populations of breeding birds such as snipe.

Tree cover

The sheep grazing, poor soils and exposure restrict tree growth making this an essentially a treeless landscape. There are some trees associated with settlement, these are mainly scattered oak, ash and sycamore.

Land use

This is a pastoral landscape of improved or semi-improved permanent pasture with sheep and cattle grazing and some rough grazing. There are some reseeded grass leys, however, soils are mostly of poor quality and some fields are dominated by rushes.

Enclosure

Land was enclosed from moorland that was waste and commons prior to enclosure. The western half of this ridge has Parliamentary Enclosure fields dating from the early 19th century creating a grid of medium to large rectangular fields enclosed by gritstone drystone walls. The enclosure at the eastern end of the ridge is less regular and possibly pre-dates the Parliamentary Enclosure, being created earlier in the post-medieval period.

Settlement and buildings

Settlement is restricted to the hamlet of Lidgate and wayside farmsteads and cottages which are dated from the time the landscape was enclosed. Buildings are gritstone with stone tiled roofs. There has been some modern infill development.

Transport and access

This is a remote landscape with only three roads running through it. The roads are relatively straight with even verges. One road is a main road crossing through the landscape and connecting places such as Sheffield and Chesterfield with the Peak District. Such routes may have medieval origins, having been improved into turnpike roads before being further formalised into the roads of today. There is no open access land in this character type.

Overall Strategy



View from Tissington Trail © Peak District National Park Authority

The Derbyshire Peak Fringe is a transitional landscape that reflects both the higher landscapes of the Peak District and the lower settled landscapes of Derbyshire. This undulating pastoral landscape of slopes and valleys with clustered settlements, scattered farmsteads and fields enclosed by hedges and drystone walls has a strong cultural heritage, evidenced by the extensive ridge and furrow system in the fields surrounding villages. Fragmentation of field boundaries, tree and woodland cover and a further loss of diversity would have a detrimental impact on landscape character. Therefore, there is a need to protect and manage these features to maintain a strong landscape character in the future. The transitional nature of this landscape means that good partnership working with neighbouring authorities will ensure a successful outcome.

The overall strategy for the Derbyshire Peak Fringe should therefore be to:

Protect and manage the tranquil pastoral landscapes and the distinctive cultural character through sustainable landscape management, seeking opportunities to enhance woodlands, wetlands, cultural heritage and biodiversity.

This can be achieved by ensuring that there is:

- an approach of conserving or enhancing the distinctive clustered settlement pattern, field pattern and other cultural landscapes
- enhanced structure and extent of tree and woodland cover in appropriate locations
- a linked network of habitats and a more diverse river corridor within a sustainable land management system



Cyclists near Parwich © Peak District National Park Authority

To achieve this strategy there are particular priorities for each of the different landscape character types in the Derbyshire Peak Fringe.

Slopes and Valleys with Woodland

This is a small-scale pastoral landscape on the valley sides of the Dove and Bradbourne Brook and tributaries. There are three other small outliers within the National Park, at Harewood Grange, Smeely Woods and Blacka Moor. It is heavily wooded in places, with a mixture of wet and dry woodland. There are groups of trees around buildings, with scattered trees along boundaries and patches of acid grassland on steeper slopes. The priority is to protect the mosaic and diversity of existing woodlands, boundary trees, grasslands, cultural heritage components and semi-natural habitats and seek opportunities to create new woodland where appropriate.

Village Farmland on Shale Ridges

This is the settled pastoral landscape of the Derbyshire Peak Fringe around Tissington and Thorpe. It consists of a clustered pattern of villages and outlying farmsteads with strip fields of Medieval ridge and furrow, enclosed by hedges. The field systems surround their associated limestone/gritstone villages with traditional stone-built buildings. The priority should be to protect the historic pattern of field boundaries, the distinctive historic, clustered settlement pattern and the quality and setting of traditional buildings, whilst restoring the biodiversity of the pastoral farmland and providing resources for visitors within sustainable farming systems.

Riverside Meadows

This is a pastoral landscape of small fields and isolated farmsteads, characterised by a meandering river channel with scattered riverside trees, historic meadows and patches of wetland vegetation. The priority is to restore the diversity of the river corridor landscape and manage it to provide flood water storage and help prevent flooding elsewhere along the river corridor.

Enclosed Gritstone Uplands

This is a very small area of pastoral upland landscape near Owlter Bar, with drystone walls, straight roads and isolated farmsteads. Agricultural improvement and grazing have reduced the ecological diversity of the pastures. The priority here is to protect the historic field pattern.

Issues of change

Conservation

The Derbyshire Peak Fringe comprises the lower lying landscapes around Tissington/Fenny Bentley in the south and a few fragments of higher land to the east of the National Park, i.e. Holmesfield.

There has been a decline in the condition of boundaries: hedgerows can be gappy at the base and overgrown, whilst drystone walls are sometimes in poor condition through the removal of stones and a lack of maintenance. In some places, there is evidence of hedgerow removal. This erosion of boundary features has resulted in a damaged cultural pattern which compromises the visual unity of the historic landscape; hedgerows in a poor condition also reduce ecological value.

The historic ridge and furrow, often associated with Medieval open field systems and located close to settlements, is being damaged on a piecemeal basis by modern agricultural practices such as ploughing. This represents a loss of a valuable cultural heritage resource. In places, permanent pasture is being ploughed up, reducing the ecological character and value of the landscape.

There is a need to ensure that the cultural heritage resources of the built environment are recognised and celebrated into the future, e.g. older buildings including those associated with Medieval granges and occasional field barns. Equally, historical features and landscapes require enhanced management, as some are being overwhelmed by bracken and scrub growth.



Field near Parwich © Peak District National Park Authority

Climate change implications

Climate change may affect these landscapes in a number of ways. Increased rainfall and increases in the energy of rainfall are likely to exacerbate flood risk and the impacts of flooding events. Increased rainfall will also exacerbate erosion, damage to soils and to infrastructure such as footpaths and roads. Flooding and erosion may increase silt deposition on land which is of value for conservation. There has been an increase in the number of floodplain ponds in the area, and this may help to mitigate flooding through water storage; equally, the Riverside Meadows, if appropriately managed, may provide a resource for storing flood water and reducing flood risks further down the river corridor.

Demography, housing and employment

As with other fringe landscapes, there is concern that the national housing targets could impact on the landscapes around the boundaries of the National Park and thus affect the setting of the Park. The design of newer housing around the Derbyshire Peak Fringe does not always respond to the design of traditional older properties, and this could lead to a fragmentation and homogenisation of the settlement character of the area. There is a shift associated with the changing agricultural sector, with some farms being bought as large domestic properties rather than as working entities. This ownership change is regarded as creating a landscape which is 'tidied' as opposed to a working landscape. Such ownership changes can also be associated with separation of farmstead and land holdings, resulting in increased trends to isolated, modern farm buildings sited away from farmsteads.



Tissington farming © Peak District National Park Authority

Tourism and recreation

This is a valued landscape that provides opportunities for a large number of visitors to enjoy activities including family walks, bike rides and visiting historic villages.

Farming and forestry

The landscapes in the Derbyshire Peak Fringe tend to be intensively managed, with a consequent loss of cultural features, historic landscapes and natural landscapes. There is some evidence of a decline in agricultural activity along the eastern fringe of the Park near Dronfield. This is indicated by the presence of horse pastures with post and rail fences.

Ancient woodland cover is well established in the Slope and Valleys with Woodland landscapes along the eastern fringe of the Park. It is much less established in the southern area along the valley sides of the Bradbourne and Bletch Brooks. In the latter area, tree cover consists of patches of secondary woodland and scrub, with only localised ancient woodlands. Woodland becomes more significant again to the west, in the Dove Valley. Elsewhere in the Derbyshire Fringe, tree cover is more or less restricted to scattered, mature hedgerow trees.

Minerals and resources

There are no active quarries in the area although there are the historic remnants of small gritstone quarries. These are seen as an integral part of the cultural landscape.

Energy and infrastructure

There is an increasing national and local demand for renewable energy schemes, in particular wind and water power sources. The impact of inappropriate wind generation projects could adversely affect the setting of historic landscape features, amenity value and tranquillity. There is a visual impact of existing infrastructure associated with power supply, e.g. overhead electricity cables. In places there may be opportunities for developing renewable energy supplies, including local small hydroelectric schemes, planting native woodland and improving woodland management linked to local wood fuel usage and other renewable energy sources.

Road safety is a major issue in the Derbyshire Peak Fringe, leading to an increased number of larger road signs. High levels of vehicular use are increasing damage to roads, walls and verges, and creating an increased demand for parking, particularly at honey-pot areas such as Tissington.

In recent years there has been an increase in the visual intrusion of communications infrastructure, particularly telecommunication masts. This can impact on the setting of archaeology, historic features, buildings and landscapes.

Landscape guidelines

Derbyshire Peak Fringe

Slopes and Valleys with Woodland	Village Farmlands on Shale Ridges	Riverside Meadows	Enclosed Gritstone Uplands
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Protect

Protect historic parkland landscapes				
Protect and maintain historic field barns				
Protect and maintain drystone walls, hedgerows and historical enclosure patterns				

Manage

Manage the historical patterns of development				
Manage the network of minor roads to maintain character and local access				
Manage and enhance woodlands				
Enhance the diversity of agricultural grasslands				
Manage and enhance linear tree cover and amenity trees				
Manage and enhance wetland landscapes				

Plan

Create new native broadleaved woodland				
Develop small-scale renewable energy for local needs				
Create, expand and link wetland landscapes				

- This is a priority throughout the landscape character type
- This is a priority in some parts of the landscape character type, often associated with particular conditions/features
- This is not a priority but may be considered in some locations
- This will generally be inappropriate in this landscape character type

Landscape guidelines explanation

Protect

Protect historic parkland landscapes

Historic parkland is an important localised feature of the Derbyshire Peak Fringe, particularly at Tissington. There is a need to conserve the cultural integrity of these landscapes whilst enabling them to evolve. Opportunities should be taken to work with landowners to enhance the biodiversity of historic parklands where the structure and character can be appropriately maintained. The production of management plans and partnership approaches with landowners should be considered to achieve these objectives.



Tissington Trail © Peak District National Park Authority

Protect and maintain historic field barns

Traditional farm buildings are of significant value to the local character of the landscape and it is important to maintain the fabric and appearance of such buildings. Isolated field barns are a special cultural feature in the Derbyshire Peak Fringe, especially in the Riverside Meadows and the Village Farmlands on Shale Ridges around Parwich. Where they can no longer be maintained in agricultural use (animal welfare standards mean that they are no longer appropriate for housing stock), careful consideration needs to be given to appropriate alternatives. Changes to the appearance of either the building or its surroundings should be avoided, especially where these are not in keeping with the rural character of the landscape. Conversion to residential use would be particularly inappropriate.

Protect and maintain drystone walls, hedgerows and historical enclosure patterns

There is a mixture of enclosure by drystone walls and hedgerows in the Derbyshire Peak Fringe. Enclosure by drystone walls is more common in the upland landscapes of the Derbyshire Peak Fringe. These are often in a declining condition leading to a loss of the historic field pattern, and these walls would benefit from enhanced management. Hedgerows predominate in the lower lying landscapes. These can often be in poor condition and require enhanced management to ensure good condition, which improves their ecological functions and ensures retention of the cultural and visual pattern.

Manage

Manage the historical patterns of development

The clustered settlement pattern with scattered outlying farms is a unique feature of the Village Farmlands on Shale Ridges. It is important that future development protects the sense of place and historical development patterns where possible. New development should respond positively to the historic settlement pattern and density, local materials and traditions and opportunities sought to mitigate the urbanising character of some past development. In addition, opportunities to influence potential future development that lies outside but has an impact on the National Park, considering siting, layout, design and materials should be taken. Traditional buildings are an important feature and their renovation and maintenance should be encouraged. Locating new agricultural buildings can impact on landscape character and opportunities should be taken to guide site selection.

Manage the network of minor roads to maintain character and local access

The network of minor roads should be managed to maintain their local, small-scale and rural character to ensure good local access whilst discouraging inappropriate driving. Verges and cultural features should be maintained and enhanced, and the impact of signage minimised.

Manage and enhance woodlands

Some woodland is neglected or would benefit from enhanced management. Opportunities should be taken to enhance diversity and improve woodland productivity, whilst conserving cultural heritage features. There may be opportunities to link woodland management to local wood fuel schemes and reduce reliance on traditional carbon-based energies.

Enhance the diversity of agricultural grasslands

Many grasslands have been improved and reseeded with a consequent loss of species diversity. There is a need to manage these grasslands in a more sustainable way that retains species diversity whilst supporting productive agriculture. Opportunities to extend and enhance the management of unimproved grasslands should be sought; the grasslands of the Riverside Meadows could be enhanced for use as a flood water storage resource and to help prevent flooding elsewhere along the river corridor.

Manage and enhance linear tree cover and amenity trees

On the Village Farmlands on Shale Ridges and in the valley landscapes, linear trees along field boundaries and stream-lines form an important component of the tree cover. There is a need to manage these trees to ensure a balanced age structure. Groups of amenity trees are often associated with settlement and the use of appropriate species should be encouraged.

Manage and enhance wetland landscapes

Within the pastoral landscapes of the Riverside Meadows, there has been a decline in the wetland landscapes. Where these habitats occur they are an important landscape resource. It is therefore important that the remnants of semi-natural vegetation are managed and enhanced.



Pasture near Parwich © Peak District National Park Authority

Plan

Create new native broadleaved woodland

There are opportunities to extend woodland cover without affecting cultural heritage features and historic landscapes within the Slopes and Valleys with Woodland. In places there are opportunities to extend woodland by natural regeneration, although a balance will be needed between woodland expansion and the retention of unimproved grassland. Increased woodland cover creates areas of shelter and shade and may be useful for mitigating the impacts of climate change. In the Riverside Meadows there are only limited opportunities for wet woodland creation due to potential impacts to flooding severity of increased woodland cover on the floodplain.

Develop small-scale renewable energy for local needs

The Slopes and Valleys with Woodland and Riverside Meadows are suitable for the development of water power and local wood fuel supplies, helping to reduce reliance on traditional carbon-based energy. Opportunities should be sought within new built development and management of woodland to increase local renewable energy supply, where it would have a neutral impact on the character of the area and its component parts. Where appropriate seek positive measures to reinforce the local landscape character as part of new development.

Create, expand and link wetland landscapes

There has been a decline in the wetland habitats within the pastoral landscapes of the Riverside Meadows. Opportunities should be sought to create and expand wetland landscapes and linking existing features. In addition opportunities should be sought to create diverse flood meadows with natural, dynamic rivers and streams. Such reintroduction would enhance the ecological character of the landscape whilst providing flood management services, helping to reduce flooding elsewhere along the river corridor.

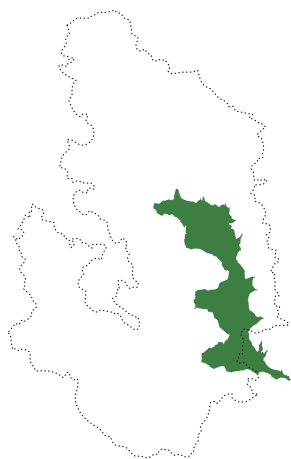


Farms near Tissington © Peak District National Park Authority

Derwent Valley



The Derwent Valley © Peak District National Park Authority



Introduction

One of the more conspicuous features of the Peak District is the lower lying landscapes associated with the valley of the River Derwent and its tributaries the Wye and Noe. The Derwent Valley character area separates the limestones of the White Peak from the prominent gritstone edges of the Eastern Moors to the east and high moorland of the Dark Peak to the north. These areas include the broad Hope Valley with the River Noe before flowing southward to pick up the Wye Valley on its route through to Matlock. The Derwent Valley character area also includes the discreet areas of low gritstone uplands and ridges that lie between the Derwent and Wye rivers between Stanton and Hassop. It also includes a much higher and larger gritstone influenced area centred on Abney which is identical in character to the Eastern Moors.

Physical influences

The physical character of the Derwent Valley is strongly influenced by areas to either side of the river: the Millstone Grit and the underlying shale-dominated beds. The sediments that formed the Millstone Grit were laid down in the Middle Carboniferous period by a series of rivers flowing from the north creating large river deltas. These rivers deposited a cyclic succession of shales, siltstones, and cross-bedded sandstone. The upstanding, higher ground is formed from gritstone, while the valleys and other lower lying areas are cut into softer shales. The higher ground to the eastern side of the Derwent Valley includes the lower gritstone edges such as Curbar and Froggatt Edges. There is also a series of outlying smaller gritstone hills, ridges and shelves to the west. These include Eyam and Abney area, Offerton, Calton Pastures, Stanton Moor and Harthill Moor. The remainder of the area has a lower lying, undulating topography within which lie the alluvial floodplains of the River Derwent and its tributary streams. Evidence of a much earlier course of the River Derwent can be seen in the arc of old river terraces that lie between Pilsley, Bakewell and Rowsley. These are thought to have been formed before the last ice age. Below Matlock, where the river cuts through the eastern edge of the White Peak limestone, the Derwent Valley narrows and the geology changes to a steep sided limestone gorge.

Ecological influences

The soils in the Derwent Valley character area are variable, reflecting differences in the underlying bedrock and in parts the presence of the glacial and alluvial drift deposits laid down in more recent times. On the gritstone summits of Offerton and Abney, Eyam, Stanton and Hartill Moors, rising above the western side of the valley, shallow mineral soils are often impoverished and have either peaty or sandy topsoils. This has given rise to heather and bilberry heathland on Stanton, Eyam and Offerton Moors, with associated areas of bracken and birch scrub. On Abney Moor the heathland has given way to acid grassland and bracken as a result of prolonged grazing. Gritstone tors are a feature of the southern summits around Stanton, Birchover and Robin Hood's Stride, and in places support a lichen and moss flora of local importance.

Shallow mineral soils are also found on the upper slopes descending from the western gritstone summits, and occur much more extensively as a continuous band along the steep upper eastern slopes of the Derwent Valley, where they often descend from massive gritstone edges dropping from the moorland above. These soils tend to produce agriculturally poor land dominated by woodland and rough or permanent pasture. Steep pastures supporting species-rich acid fescue-bent grassland, bracken, and hawthorn and gorse scrub are typical of Eyam, Hucklow, Bretton and Bradwell Edges, and also occur on the upper slopes on the eastern side of the Derwent valley where they are accompanied by extensive areas of semi-natural upland oak and birch woodland below the gritstone edges. Conifer and mixed plantations occur in places.

Shale-grit tributary valleys on lower lying land around the western gritstone summits, as at Bretton and Abney Cloughs, support a mosaic of habitats including acid and neutral grassland rich in plants and fungi, semi-natural oak-birch woodland, wet alder woodland and wetlands associated with springs, flushes and landslips.

Seasonally waterlogged, gleyed soils are found over the mudstone beds on lower lying land and are utilised as permanent pasture and mowing land. Occasional deposits of fine loamy soils, from till deposited during the last ice age (the Devensian), produce some higher quality pasture. Whilst much of this land in the valley bottoms and gentle lower valley slopes has been heavily improved, particularly in the Hope Valley, remnants of unimproved species-rich neutral pastures and hay meadows survive in places. Species such as yellow rattle, knapweed and oxeye daisy are typical, with sedges, rushes, meadowsweet and marsh marigold in wetter areas. The parklands in the central reaches of the valley are of importance for their mature and veteran trees and associated fungi, lichens and insect life, whilst ornamental lakes support more typically lowland wildlife. Localised deposits of glacial boulder clay occur between Longstone and Harthill, providing further variation to the floral composition of unimproved grasslands.

Deep, loamy soils have developed over the alluvial deposits on the valley floors. This land is mainly used for permanent pasture, with seasonal flooding allowing the survival of species-rich marshes in places. The main rivers of the Derwent and the lower reaches of the Noe and Wye support birds such as goosander, and an important fish fauna including brown trout, grayling, bullhead and more localised brook lamprey. Alder-lined banks, deeper slower-flowing reaches and shingle beaches all add to the diversity.

Human influences

The Open Moors of the Derwent Valley character area contain examples of important Later Prehistoric archaeological remains. These include field boundaries and clearance cairns around farmstead sites; and monuments such as stone circles, barrows, ring cairns and standing stones. Eyam, Offerton and Abney Moors contain typical evidence of these features. Stanton Moor is unusual in having many small funerary cairns as well as a small number of larger monuments, including stone circles, such as the Nine Ladies stone circle, and barrows. These features have survived relatively undisturbed on the moors because there has been upland grazing throughout history, unlike much of the surrounding lower levels where the ground has been disturbed by cultivation. On the lower valley slopes only larger historic features have survived, including Navio ('place by the river'), a Roman fort at Brough and the medieval fortified town of Castleton.

There is no consistent settlement pattern within the Derwent Valley character area. It is as diverse as the soils and geology on which it is founded. Most of the current basic pattern of villages and smaller settlement was established by the time of the Norman Conquest. Whilst the moorlands have not been settled since prehistory, and there are some isolated farms in more upland landscapes, these areas all lie within traditional townships which have villages on better land

below, and the farmsteads are therefore not truly dispersed but part of a mixed settlement pattern. The density of settlement increases as the agricultural viability of land improves and in the valleys there is a mixture of villages, hamlets and scattered farmsteads in a complex interspersed pattern.

This is an ancient farmed landscape. Some of the dispersed farms on lower land have enclosed fields with medieval origins, while many villages had open fields which were gradually enclosed from later medieval times onwards. Many parts of the farmland continued to evolve through the post-medieval period with field patterns regularly modified by individual farmers and estates in response to changing farming needs. There is a mixed field pattern of small to medium sized fields. Fields on the lower slopes are often enclosed by a mixture of thorn hedges and walls, whilst on the higher land local gritstone is used in drystone walls. The gritstone moors and parts of the slopes and valleys form large, unenclosed landscapes supporting rough grazing and patches of secondary woodland.

On the upper valley slopes, some areas were taken in from common, but often these were long established woodlands which have survived because the land is steep and boulder strewn, and because woodland has always been an important resource. Historically, woodland was important to communities for grazing and firewood, while later woodlands provided a long-term cash crop for estates. In the 16th to 18th centuries many woodlands were maintained as coppices to provide white coal (kiln dried wood) for the lead smelting industry. The Derwent Valley has long supported a range of industrial activities including quarrying, lead mining and smelting along with harnessing water to power mills.

The gritstone scarps at the top of the Derwent Valley slopes were of particular importance for millstone making from at least the 13th century through to the 20th century. Domed millstones, for grinding wheat, were made along most of the main edges of the Derwent Valley. In the 19th and 20th centuries production changed and stones of different form were produced for milling animal feed, as pulpstones for paper manufacture and as grindstones. Broken and unfinished millstones, pulpstones, troughs and gateposts are still visible in quarries and at the scattered boulders below many of the escarpments. From the 18th century to the present, gritstone quarries around Stanton, Birchover and Stoke Hall have produced high quality building stone, including dressed ashlar, sills and lintels, quoins, troughs and gateposts.

The gritstone scarps were not only used for quarrying gritstone: the high gritstone scarp slope of Hucklow Edge and Eyam Edge contained some of the richest lead mines in the orefield. These were developed from the early 18th century onwards, as one of the major vein complexes was followed eastwards at depth beneath the shale and gritstone. The large waste heaps were extensively reworked for fluorspar in the 20th century. Underground fluorspar mining took place at Glebe Mine, Eyam, Ladywash Mine on the enclosed upland above and at Milldam Mine, Great Hucklow. Further south, Millclose Mine, north-west of Darley Bridge, was one of the richest mines in the world in the first half of the 20th century.

Water was used as a form of power for hundreds of years in the Derwent Valley; the Domesday Book records flour mills at Bakewell and Ashford. During the 18th century demand for water power increased and several large mills were constructed on the rivers Wye and Derwent. These mills included those at Hathersage and Calver, and Arkwright's mill at Bakewell.

In contrast to this industrial working landscape the Derwent Valley also contains most of the few parkland landscapes that are found within the Peak District. The designed parkland at Chatsworth makes an impact at a landscape scale, transforming this part of the Derwent Valley, while much smaller examples are found at Haddon, Hassop, Thornbridge, Ashford and Stanton. These parks are associated with halls and grand houses dating from the medieval period to the 19th century. Haddon Hall and Chatsworth House are particularly important for their historical and architectural interest, and their surrounding gardens; both are major tourist attractions. Both Chatsworth and Haddon had large medieval deer parks which were removed in the 18th century. At Chatsworth, the medieval deer park to the east of the house was replaced from 1759 by a landscape park in the valley to the west, designed by Capability Brown. This park was created from agricultural land and contains extensive earthworks, making it one of the most important archaeological landscapes in Britain. At Haddon the small park around the hall was not redeveloped until the later 19th century with tree screens added in the 20th century. Hassop and Thornbridge parks were created in the 19th century as much more private places than 18th century Chatsworth, reflecting changing aesthetic fashions.

Braided hollow-ways, often deeply eroded into the land, are visible running up the scarp slopes and across the moorlands, especially across Eyam Moor. While a few of these gave local access to commons, quarries and mines, the majority were through routes of medieval to late 18th century date from the Peak District, across the Eastern Moors, to the lowlands to the east. There were many such routes, for exporting products including lead, millstones and cheese, and for cross-Pennine trade of salt, ceramics and products of the iron and steel centres around Sheffield and Chesterfield. These traditional routes, many with their distinctive early 18th century waymarkers, were replaced in the 18th and 19th century by the turnpike road network, the basis of the main modern routes in the Derwent Valley character area. Hedges are common alongside some roads, often because these were created as early 19th century turnpikes and hedging was the trust's favoured way of bounding their roads.

Sense of place

This is a varied landscape of broad meandering rivers with riverside trees, wet meadows, hedges and drystone walls, which contrast with the high open rolling moorland of gritstone hills where open views predominate. Plantations, historic halls, manor houses and parkland are all hidden amongst the main valleys and lowlands of undulating uplands and ridges. The rolling open summits are predominantly divided into regular fields by gritstone walls, the exception being Birchill which has hedges. Dense ancient woodlands and plantation woodlands carpet the steep slopes from the Dark Peak plateau,

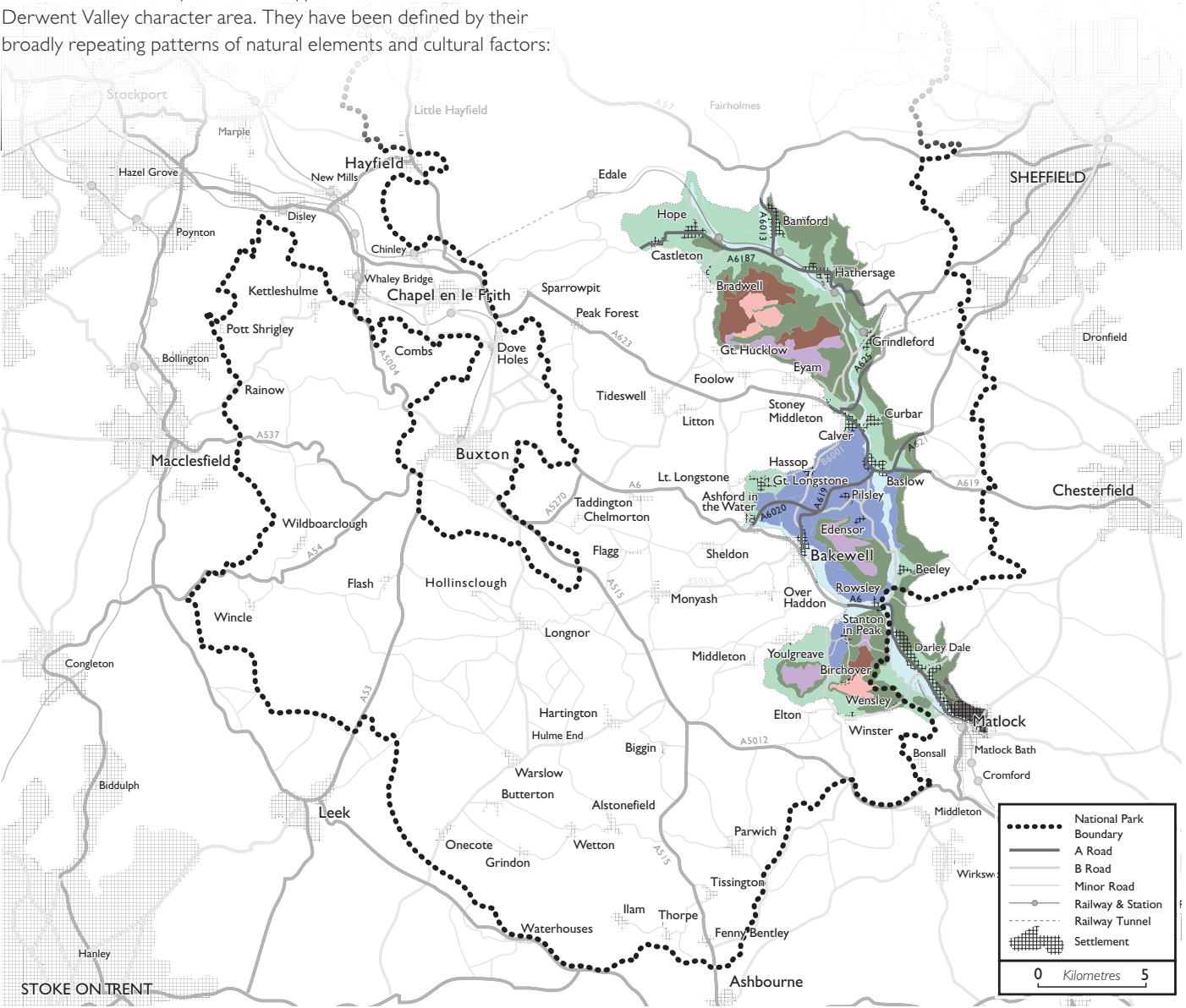
Eastern Moors and hills down to the small pastoral fields with filtered views between scattered hedgerow trees.

The landscapes of historical wealth and power are seen in the open parks and gardens, and well managed estates which dominate the central area of the valley. The largest number of halls and houses including Chatsworth and Haddon can be found in the valley, controlling and defining the landscape.

The one consistent landscape feature running throughout the Derwent Valley character area is its rivers. These include the broad main rivers of the Derwent, Noe, Wye and Lathkill, as well as the smaller streams, which have helped create and define the landscape that we see today. They provide refuges for wildlife, contain historic features and are a major tourist attraction. The rivers provide constant movement and change: one day being sleepy and slow the next raging torrents, bursting their banks. No other character area within the Peak District is as heavily influenced by water.

Seven distinct landscape character types have been identified in the Derwent Valley character area. They have been defined by their broadly repeating patterns of natural elements and cultural factors:

- Open Moors
- Enclosed Gritstone Uplands
- Slopes and Valleys with Woodland
- Gritstone Village Farmlands
- Valley Farmlands With Villages
- Estatelands
- Riverside Meadows

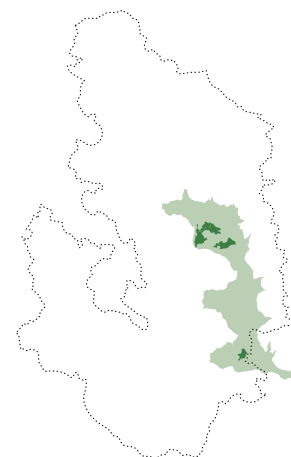


Open Moors

An open rolling moor and heathland landscape associated with gritstone summits. This is an unsettled landscape with wide views and a sense of remoteness and space.



Eyam Moor © Peak District National Park Authority



Key characteristics

- Rolling gritstone summits
- Thin impoverished soils over gritstone bedrock
- Unenclosed heather moor extensively grazed by sheep
- Patches of secondary birch woodland and bracken
- Wide views to distant hilltops
- Scattered rock outcrops and tors
- Extensive archaeological evidence from prehistoric and later activity

The Open Moors are to be found on the highest land within the Derwent Valley character area. They are found at the tops of three gritstone hills: two in the north at Abney and Offerton and Eyam whilst the third is found near Birchover.

Geology and landform

This is a landscape with a high, flat topped topography, associated with gritstone summits. In the Derwent Valley character area these occur as western outliers of the more extensive Eastern Moors. The elevation of these uplands allows for wide open views to distant hills. The underlying bedrock of predominantly Millstone Grit is exposed in places, creating occasional gritstone tors and scarps, especially around the edges of this landscape, where the land often drops away steeply revealing prominent rocky edges.

Soils and vegetation

Impoverished, shallow soils over gritstone bedrock predominate, sometimes with a peaty surface layer. This gives rise to extensive, dry moorland or heath habitat with heather as the dominant species; rocks and boulders are a feature locally. Where areas of the moor have been grazed, grazing tolerant shrubs such as bilberry, crowberry and grasses are more dominant. In places, on the steeper slopes around the edges of the moors, some bracken is found, elsewhere, for example on Stanton Moor, birch woodland has developed.

Tree cover

On Abney, Eyam and Offerton Moors this is generally an open, treeless landscape with expansive views owing to the elevation: historical grazing pressures and climate have inhibited tree growth. By contrast, on Stanton Moor, there are extensive areas of mature and secondary birch woodland interspersed with oaks.

Land use

Due to poor soils and vegetation, the land has low agricultural value and rough grazing predominates with extensive grazing by sheep. In addition on Stanton Moor there are extensive relict gritstone quarries dating from the 18th to 20th centuries.

Enclosure

This is a largely unenclosed landscape. Where gritstone dry stone walls do occur they have divided the moorland into large moors defined by ownership boundaries.

Settlement and buildings

Although now an unsettled landscape, there is much evidence of later prehistoric settlement and monuments, particularly on Offerton Moor, Highlow Bank and Eyam Moor. These are features which are more commonly found on the Eastern Moors. These include field boundaries and clearance cairns around farmstead sites, and monuments such as stone circles, barrows, ring cairns and standing stones.

Transport and access

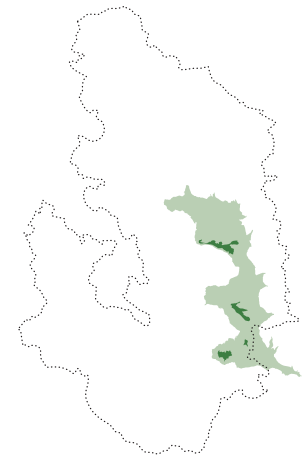
Transport is a limited feature of this landscape character type. This enhances the sense of remoteness because of the absence of roads running through the landscape and the need to access the area on foot. Braided hollow-ways, often deeply eroded into the land, can be seen running across the moorlands, especially across Eyam Moor. These gave local access to commons, quarries and mines and linked settlements to the main packhorse routes to Sheffield and Chesterfield. Large parts of the open moorland are open access land.

Enclosed Gritstone Uplands

An enclosed upland landscape associated with high ridges, shelves and former moortops. This is a landscape of isolated stone farmsteads with regular and irregular fields enclosed by drystone walls with patches of acid grassland. There are scattered mature boundary trees and groups of trees.



Drystone walls near Abney © Peak District National Park Authority



Key characteristics

- Rolling uplands
- Thin soils over gritstone bedrock
- Scattered mature trees in field boundaries and some tree groups
- Remnant patches of rough land with bracken
- A pattern of small to medium sized fields of regular and irregular shapes
- Straight roads with wide verges
- Isolated gritstone farmsteads with stone slate roofs with tree groups for shelter
- Important historic monuments

Enclosed Gritstone Uplands can be found in four discrete blocks on hilltops and are, but not exclusively, associated with areas of Open Moors. They can be found above Stanton, Harthill Moor, around Bretton and on Calton Pastures.

Geology and landform

This is a landscape with a high, rolling topography associated with gritstone ridges, shelves and former moortops. The underlying bedrock of Millstone Grit and some shales is exposed in places to give occasional gritstone tors. The high topography allows wide views to surrounding hills.

Soils and vegetation

The shallow, in places impoverished, loamy soils over gritstone bedrock have determined that land use is mainly permanent pasture with a few isolated fields of ley grassland. There is a mixture of trees including oak, ash and sycamore with thorn scrub. There are isolated patches of acid grassland on the steeper areas and heather is found in old quarries, whilst bracken is found within roadside verges.

Tree cover

Sheep grazing, poor soils and exposure restrict tree growth making this essentially a treeless landscape. However, there are occasional tree groups, generally adjacent to farmsteads and planted to create shelter around properties using broadleaved species such as ash and sycamore. There are thinly scattered mature trees and scrub within some field boundaries. At Calton there are large blocks of woodland within and around the edge of the area, primarily coniferous, whilst around old quarries on Harthill Moor secondary birch woodland is developing.

Land use

This is a landscape of mainly permanent pasture grazed by sheep. Although sometimes of a similar elevation to the Open Moors, these former moorlands have mostly been enclosed and farmed from the 18th or 19th centuries, while small areas around Bretton for example have medieval origins. The remains of the 18th century lead mining industry can be seen at Ladywash Mine and nearby New Engine Mine, above Eyam. The local gritstone is prized as a building material and quarrying has taken place from the 18th century to the present day.

Enclosure

For the most part the landscape is enclosed into a pattern of small to medium sized regular and irregular fields divided by gritstone walls of varying ages. For example, many of those close to Bretton and on Shatton Moor are the result of 19th century Parliamentary Enclosure. However, Calton Pastures was landscaped in the 1760s to create an open outer park contemporary with the main park in the valley below, both designed by Capability Brown for the Duke of Devonshire. This involved the removal of original field boundaries on Calton Pastures.

Settlement and buildings

Settlement is confined to a few scattered isolated farmsteads. While Bretton has existed since the medieval period the buildings have been rebuilt in stone in post-medieval times; other farmsteads are likely to be post-medieval in date. Buildings are gritstone with stone slate roofs.

Transport and access

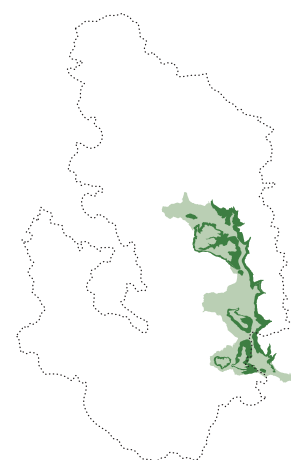
There are a few minor roads that run through several of these areas. The Sir William Hill road is part of an important 1758 turnpike road that followed an earlier hollow-way route. The new road was superseded by more convenient turnpike roads in the valley below in the early 19th century. There are numerous public footpaths and bridleways linking farmsteads, and historic trackways giving access to local quarries and fields.

Slopes & Valleys With Woodland

A pastoral landscape with interlocking blocks of ancient and secondary woodland. On the tops of steeper slopes gritstone edges with boulder slopes below are a prominent feature and there are patches of semi-improved and acid grasslands with bracken on steeper slopes.



Near Birchover © Peak District National Park Authority



Key characteristics

- A steeply sloping landform with gritstone edges characterising the tops of steeper slopes
- Patches and extensive areas of semi-improved and acid grasslands with patches of bracken and gorse
- Irregular blocks of ancient and secondary woodland
- Permanent pasture in small fields enclosed by hedges and gritstone walls
- Narrow winding, often sunken lanes
- Scattered gritstone farmsteads and loose clusters of dwellings

Wooded slopes and side valleys can be found on most of the steep gritstone slopes throughout the Derwent Valley character area. They are most common on the west facing slopes that form the eastern edge of the Derwent Valley and run in a continuous strip from the Derwent reservoirs to Matlock. They are also found below Stanton, Eyam and Abney Moors. In the latter area they include Abney and Bretton Clough.

Geology and landform

This is a landscape with a prominent, sloping topography on the edge of the Eastern Moors and around the series of outlying gritstone uplands and ridges within the Derwent Valley character area. The underlying geology is a mixture of shales and interbedded gritstone, this gives a mixture of dissected, undulating landforms with, in places, long continuous sweeps of landform. Sometimes, along the upper edge of the valley side, gritstone outcrops form a series of vertical cliff-like faces, known as edges. Some of these edges have been modified by quarrying; this occurs particularly between Chatsworth and Hathersage. Locally the failure of the interbedded shales has given rise to characteristic landslip landscapes, for example in Bretton Clough. On Eyam and Bradwell Edge the shales overlie limestone that contain a series of mineral veins.

Soils and vegetation

Soils are varied within this character type, reflecting the mix of underlying rock types. They comprise both slowly permeable, gleyed soils containing localised rocky patches over shale and shallower, free-draining soils, including patches of impoverished land, over gritstone. Small streams and wet flushes often occur at the junction of shales and gritstone. Boulder strewn areas are features of the upper slopes.

Main tree species are ash and oak with a few blocks of coniferous woodland planted on estate land. There is often good woodland ground flora reflecting continuous woodland cover for hundreds of years. There are frequent fields of semi-improved and acid grasslands, with bracken and gorse on steeper slopes. Fields of improved grassland are found on the easily accessible areas.

Tree cover

Large interlocking, in places extensive, blocks of woodland and mature boundary trees are a continuous feature throughout this landscape type. Woodland is predominantly secondary and ancient with some blocks of coniferous plantation. There is evidence that these woodlands were important for high quality timber and as coppiced woodland for white coal (kiln dried wood), used for lead smelting from the 16th to 18th centuries. The influence of the estates on the wooded slopes is extensive; much is still owned by Chatsworth, Haddon and Stanton estates. Interlocking blocks combine with the sloping landform to frame views within this landscape character type.

Land use

The combination of steep, often boulder strewn, slopes and poor soils mean that much of this land has never been suitable for arable or intensive pastoral farming: woodland and rough grazing has dominated the landscape for centuries. Occasionally, due to land ownership and better ground conditions, there are a few improved fields where the intensity of use increases. Many of the edges, in particular Gardom's and Froggatt Edges, have relict gritstone quarries that produced millstones and other items from the medieval period

to the 19th and 20th centuries.

Enclosure

There is a mixture of small to medium sized regular and irregular shaped fields in small areas between woodlands. In places, particularly above Bamford, Hathersage, Baslow and Beeley Hilltop, larger areas of fields can be found. Many of these fields are essentially unimproved, potentially of medieval or early post-medieval date. On steeper slopes some of the irregular enclosures may be ancient, associated with scattered individual medieval farmsteads rather than the villages with a more communal form of agriculture. Fields are enclosed by a mixture of thorn hedges and gritstone walls.

Settlement and buildings

Settlement generally consists of scattered or isolated gritstone farms and dwellings with stone slate roofs. Some of the farmsteads have medieval origins, while others were built later; all have been rebuilt in stone from the 17th century onwards. To the south, around Upper Hackney, Darley Hillside and Northwood, there is a more dense and clustered pattern of hamlets on the slopes with wayside dwellings and scattered farms, together with 20th century housing.

Transport and access

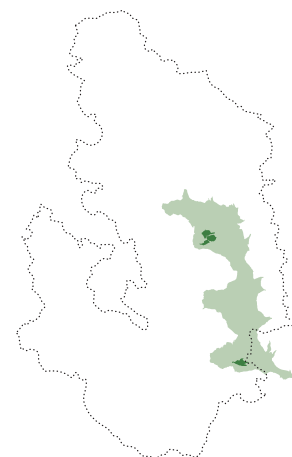
There is a network of narrow winding lanes, often sunken, linking the isolated farmsteads and dwellings. Some of these roads, in particular on the western edge of the Eastern Moors, were important former packhorse and cart routes to Sheffield, Chesterfield and beyond. Several main roads cut up the slopes of the Derwent Valley going eastwards. These were first built as turnpike roads in the 18th and early 19th centuries although some have earlier origins as hollow-way routes. In places the only means of access is on foot via the extensive network of footpaths. There are small areas of access land, including land below Bamford and Froggatt Edges.

Gritstone Village Farmlands

A small-scale, settled pastoral landscape associated with gently rolling gritstone uplands. The landscape is enclosed by a pattern of small to medium sized fields bounded by gritstone walls. Views are open and wide, framed by surrounding higher land.



Looking towards Bretton © Peak District National Park Authority



Key characteristics

- Rolling gritstone upland
- Pastoral farmland enclosed by drystone walls
- Small to medium-sized fields
- Gritstone villages with outlying farms and dwellings
- Wide views to surrounding high hills

The Gritstone Village Farmlands are long established agricultural landscapes, each associated with a central village. They are found in two locations around the villages of Abney and Birchover.

Geology and landform

This is a landscape with a high, rolling topography associated with broad gritstone uplands. The high topography enables wide views to distant surrounding hills.

Soils and vegetation

There are well drained fine loamy soils over gritstone bedrock that are shallow in places. These soils enabled the land to be used for agriculture and has been maintained in this land use over many years. There is little ecological interest over most of the area because pasture predominates. Around Birchover there are localised semi-improved meadows. Bracken is occasionally found in verges.

Tree cover

This is an open landscape with trees confined to small groups around settlements and as mature trees within boundaries. Sycamore, ash and oak are the predominant species.

Land use

The land here mainly consists of permanent pasture of moderate to high intensity, grazed by sheep and cattle.

Enclosure

There is a mixed pattern of small fields bounded by somewhat sinuous gritstone drystone walls. To the north of Abney, walls have fossilised a medieval open field system creating distinctive small and narrow fields. Around Birchover similar fossilisation took place but this has become less obvious in the 20th century because of field boundary removals.

Settlement and buildings

The nucleated villages of Abney and Birchover lie at the cores of the two small areas of this landscape type. There are several isolated outlying farmsteads within the two traditional townships. Buildings are simple and robust in design; predominantly gritstone with traditional stone slate roofs and some later blue slate roofs. Birchover was associated with the nearby gritstone quarries and benefited from good building stone.

Transport and access

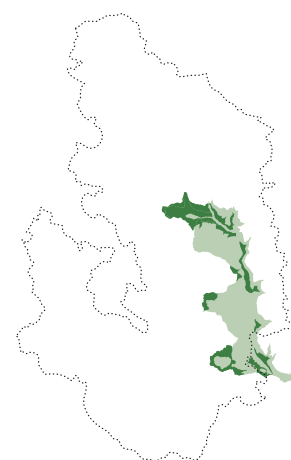
Access within this landscape is limited to narrow winding roads linking the villages to adjacent settlements. There is a well established network of footpaths and historic tracks which connects the villages to outlying farmsteads, fields and moors beyond.

Valley Farmlands With Villages

A settled pastoral landscape, often with a low lying topography associated with a network of streams and damp hollows. This is an enclosed landscape, with views filtered through scattered hedgerow and streamline trees. Gritstone-built villages with outlying farms and dwellings are set within small to medium fields that are often bound by hedgerows.



Valley farmlands near Hope © Peak District National Park Authority



Key characteristics

- A low lying, gently undulating topography
- Network of streams and localised damp hollows
- Pastoral farmland enclosed by hedgerows and some drystone walls
- Small to medium sized fields
- Dense streamline and scattered hedgerow trees
- Gritstone villages and outlying farms with associated dwellings and field barns

Valley Farmlands With Villages can be found throughout the Derwent Valley character area, the largest area being centred on Hope and Castleton. Other areas where this type occurs are Calver, Froggatt to Baslow, Over End, Great Longstone, Beeley, Two Dales and Harthill.

Geology and landform

This is largely a low lying landscape with a rolling, in places undulating, topography, associated with the lower lying ground of the Derwent Valley and its tributary watercourses. These rivers have eroded through the Millstone Grit, exposing the softer underlying shales to create a suite of broader valleys.

Soils and vegetation

This is a landscape that has been improved and farmed for many hundreds of years. The soils are mostly slowly permeable or clay soils over shales, with occasional patches of shallower soils over localised outcrops of gritstone. Heavy gleyed soils over shales are often seasonally waterlogged in hollows and depressions.

Largely improved reseeded grassland with isolated patches of semi-improved grassland and occasional hay meadows. Seasonal waterlogging and wet flushes mean that soft rush can be found in places. Mixed hedges include hawthorn, blackthorn, hazel and holly as the main species. Ash and oak are the principle tree species, giving way to willow and alder in the wetter areas whilst on drier ground, bracken and birch can be found. Secondary planting of ancient woodland sites with broadleaved trees or conifers is common but the original ground flora of wood anemone and bluebells is still evident in places.

Tree cover

The density of trees varies throughout this landscape. There is a mixture of mature hedgerow trees, mainly ash, oak and sycamore, as well as small blocks of woodland, both broadleaved and coniferous, which filter views. There are occasional isolated, discreet blocks of ancient semi-natural woodland.

Land use

Land use is determined by the heavy soils and permanent pasture dominates the landscape. There is a mixture of improved fields with a moderate to high intensity of usage for dairying and silage. The modern manufacturing and ancillary buildings associated with cement works is a prominent atypical feature within the Hope Valley.

Enclosure

Fields are enclosed by a mixture of hedges and gritstone drystone walls. Hedgerows beside roads are often mixed species, while internal boundaries tend to be thorn hedgerows. This is a landscape that has been farmed for hundreds of years and the enclosure pattern has developed and been modified to meet changing farming needs over a long period. There are areas of fossilised medieval open fields, with particularly broad extents in the Hope Valley and around Great and Little Longstone. Ridge and furrow is present in some of these fields. The majority of enclosure away from these specific areas is

of unknown date: some parts are dominated by irregular fields that are likely to be early, whilst other areas have a mixture of sinuous and straight boundaries. This indicates gradual changes on a field by field basis rather than the sweeping changes to whole areas after Parliamentary or Private Enclosure agreements.

Settlement and buildings

This is a landscape that has been settled and worked for millennia but has only limited evidence of prehistoric activity due to intensive historical land use. The density of settlement varies over the landscape, but is predominantly a mixture of villages, hamlets and scattered farmsteads, many of which have medieval origins. Villages, including Castleton, Hope, Hathersage, Calver, Baslow and Beeley, are scattered through the valley. The predominant building material is gritstone with stone or blue slate roofs. The exception to this is Great Longstone, where buildings are predominantly limestone with gritstone detailing, reflecting the use of the nearest available good building stone. With the exception of some medieval churches, buildings are normally of 17th century and more commonly later date. Occasional simple stone field barns with stone slate roofs are found in field corners.

Transport and access

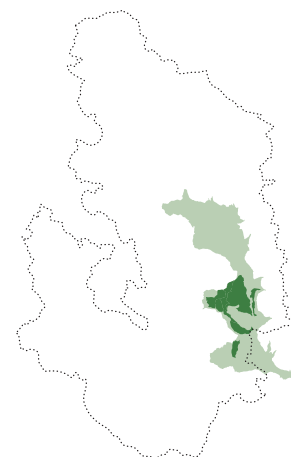
There is a comprehensive network of major and minor roads as well as public footpaths and bridleways linking the settlements together. An unusual feature of some of the paths around Winster, linking to Birchover, is that they are paved with gritstone flags. Additionally, the main railway line between Sheffield and Manchester runs through the Hope Valley.

Estatelands

An enclosed, estate landscape where views of agricultural land are framed by discrete blocks of woodland and scattered field boundary trees set within a varied, undulating topography. This is a landscape of villages, with historic halls and houses surrounded by parkland.



Chatsworth Park © Peak District National Park Authority



Key characteristics

- A varied undulating topography with steep slopes in places
- Large historic halls and houses set in parkland
- Villages and outlying estate farmsteads and field barns
- Regular pattern of medium large sized fields
- Large blocks of plantation woodland
- Patches of acid grassland and bracken on steep slopes

This landscape is found in three blocks, the largest centred on Pilsley, Haddon and Hassop. The remaining two areas include Chatsworth House and gardens east of the Derwent and Stanton Hall in the south.

Geology and landform

This is a landscape where the underlying geology, mainly a mixture of shales and interbedded gritstone, gives rise to a dissected, undulating and, in places sloping, landform with low ridges. A small isolated limestone ridge at Cracknowl Pasture, to the north of Bakewell, forms part of this character type.

Soils and vegetation

The pattern of soils is varied, reflecting the mix of rock types that define the character of the landscape in this area. Soils comprise a mixture of slowly permeable, gleyed soils overlying the shales and shallower, free-draining soils over gritstone.

This is an area of improved permanent pasture with mature hedgerow trees, drystone walls and hedges. In places, on the poorer soils, there are remnants of acid grassland with patches of bracken; in particular this can be found on northern slopes around Pilsley. Elsewhere there are isolated patches of semi-improved grassland alongside tracks and edges of fields. Woodland is a mixture of conifers and broadleaved species.

Tree cover

Views are filtered by the extensive tree cover throughout the area. This is found as a mixture of large plantation coniferous woodlands, discrete linear shelter belts, tree screens and scattered mature boundary trees. Ash is the dominant native tree along with oak, sycamore, beech and hawthorn. Spruce, pine and larch are to be found in the plantations.

Land use

This is a landscape of intensively managed permanent pasture in a regular pattern of fields with extensive coniferous woodlands and parkland. Stock rearing for beef and, in particular, dairying is an important land use. Much of this landscape is still owned and managed by the estates. Parkland is one of the key features of the estatelands, with important designed landscapes at Chatsworth, Haddon, Hassop and Thornbridge.

Enclosure

This is a landscape of medium to large sized fields enclosed and frequently modified at a variety of dates from at least the 17th century. This has formed a complex mosaic of features. Often changes were somewhat greater than in other landscapes because estates had the wealth to make 'improvements' in line with contemporary thinking on good agricultural practice. Perhaps the most changed landscape is at Birchill where fields have come and gone on a regular basis, with the current large-scale open landscape created in the 19th century. Boundaries are variable throughout this landscape being a mixture of limestone or gritstone walls and thorn hedges.

Settlement and buildings

There is a strongly nucleated pattern of discrete villages, large halls and outlying farms. The villages and several of the smaller settlements and halls have medieval origins, although the majority of today's buildings date from the 17th century onwards. Most vernacular buildings are constructed of sandstone or gritstone except where relatively close to the limestone outcrop. There are large numbers of estate buildings, both in the villages and in the countryside, which have architectural details beyond the local vernacular styles, including houses, lodges and outbuildings. Edensor was extensively remodelled in the 1830s-40s to create an architect-designed model village. Impressive estate-designed buildings are also found at Hassop and Pilsley.

The large halls and houses in the area were built using the materials available locally and in styles popular at the time. Construction of Haddon Hall started in the late 12th century and was added to at various dates; Chatsworth House has fronts dating from the late 17th to 19th centuries; Hassop Hall was rebuilt in the 19th century. These were all constructed using locally quarried and dressed sandstone. However, Thornbridge Hall, extensively modified in the 19th century, was constructed using limestone, reflecting the easy access to nearby limestone quarries.

Transport and access

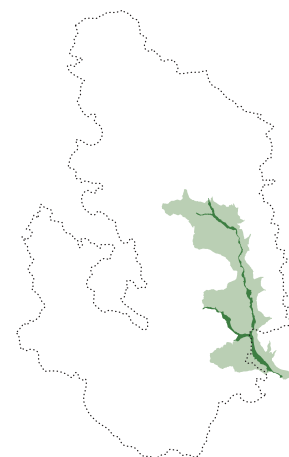
There is a network of narrow winding lanes and footpaths linking settlements. Major routes also cross the valley in places and were often first created as turnpike roads, linking the Eastern Moors landscapes in the east with the White Peak landscapes to the west. The former railway line between Buxton and Matlock has been converted into the Monsal Trail, an important recreational route.

Riverside Meadows

This is a small-scale pastoral landscape characterised by a meandering river channel in a flat alluvial floodplain. Views are often tightly framed by lines of riverside trees. Patches of wetland vegetation are a distinctive feature associated with the floodplain.



Riverside Meadows Haddon © Peak District National Park Authority



Key characteristics

- A flat alluvial river corridor
- Meandering river channel with shingle beds and marginal vegetation
- Seasonally waterlogged alluvial soils
- Grazing meadows, often with patches of wet grassland, marsh and fen
- Dense waterside and scattered hedgerow trees
- Regular pattern of small to medium sized fields divided by hedges
- Mills with mill races, weirs and ponds

The Riverside Meadows form a narrow continuous strip of floodplain, one to two fields wide, adjacent to the rivers. This landscape stretches from just below the Ladybower reservoir on the River Derwent in the north, includes Hope on the River Noe and Bakewell on the River Wye to the west, down to Matlock in the south.

Geology and landform

A key feature of this landscape is the flat alluvial floodplain across which the rivers Derwent and Wye meander as they flow downstream. These rivers have developed mainly on the relatively soft shales but in places flow across harder gritstones. There are hollows within the floodplain which reflect the past courses of the river.

Soils and vegetation

The soils are clayey loams, derived from the underlying alluvial deposits. These have built up over many years as the river has flooded and deposited the material it had been carrying. Some areas on the floodplain are permanently waterlogged and some wet hollows retain flood water for long periods of time. These have created linked patches of wetland and marshy riverside vegetation associated with the meandering river although much of the land has been improved.

Tree cover

Although tree cover is relatively extensive throughout the landscape type, it is only a small percentage of the land cover but has a high visual impact. It is often confined to river banks which are densely lined with alder and some willow. This almost continuous belt of riverside trees creates an intimate landscape when combined with scattered hedgerow trees of oak and ash across the floodplain. In places there are small copses of willow carr and some poplars.

Land use

Because of heavy soils and seasonal waterlogging land use is permanent pasture, grazed by cattle and sheep. Part of Chatsworth Park with its weir, mature trees and derelict mill sits within the floodplain. A series of historic mills, mill races, ponds and weirs are also found along the rivers.

Enclosure

The river is fringed by a regular pattern of small to medium sized fields, often in places only one to two fields wide. Fields are enclosed by mainly straight thorn hedges.

Settlement and buildings

This is mainly an unsettled landscape with occasional farmsteads and some modern development. Historically, settlement would have been restricted on the floodplain due to seasonal flooding, but a series of local water-powered flour mills were built, as at Bakewell and Ashford, in the medieval period. This was supplemented during the Industrial Revolution with large textile mills at Bakewell, Calver and Bamford, although these have now been converted into apartments, modern industry or other uses. Where there is settlement it is usually

farmsteads, and buildings are predominantly gritstone with stone slate roofs. In places there are limestone rubble constructed buildings with blue slate roofs

Transport and access

Most historical routes following the valleys avoided the floodplain and the wet boggy treed landscape. However, routes do go across the floodplains; crossing the rivers at traditional bridges, sited where flooding problems were least acute.

Overall Strategy



Hathersage Moor sunrise © Peak District National Park Authority

The key characteristics of the Derwent Valley are its settled, well-wooded agricultural character. In places this character has been degraded by poorly sited and designed development, and there are opportunities to reduce these impacts through good design. Fragmentation of field boundaries, tree and woodland cover and further loss of natural landscapes would have a detrimental impact on landscape character. Woodland creation and enhancement of habitats will strengthen existing landscape character, whilst in the future lower lying landscapes adjacent to the river could provide significant flood water storage services.

Therefore the overall strategy for the Derwent Valley is to:

Protect and manage the settled, agricultural character of these landscapes seeking opportunities to enhance wooded character, cultural heritage and biodiversity; manage floodplain landscapes to increase flood water storage and enhance biodiversity.

This can be achieved by ensuring that there are:

- vibrant local settlements where development is well designed and integrated into the surrounding landscape
- enhanced structure and extent of tree and woodland cover in appropriate locations
- a linked network of habitats and a more diverse river corridor



Nine Ladies © Peak District National Park Authority

To achieve the above strategy there are particular priorities for each of the different landscape character types in the Derwent Valley.

Open Moors

This is an open, unsettled, largely unwooded landscape with extensive remains of prehistoric settlement and semi-natural habitats. The priority should therefore be to protect the open character and diversity of moorland landscapes.

Enclosed Gritstone Uplands

This is an open landscape with a well defined pattern of drystone walls. The priorities should therefore be to protect the historic pattern of field boundaries and to protect and manage the biodiversity of pastoral farmland.

Slopes and Valleys with Woodland

This is a pastoral landscape with interlocking blocks of ancient and secondary woodland, interspersed with patches of acid grassland. The priority is therefore to protect the mosaic and diversity of woodlands, grasslands, and associated cultural heritage features, seeking opportunities to create new woodlands and restore or create acid grassland where appropriate.

Gritstone Village Farmlands

This is an open, settled landscape with a well defined pattern of small fields enclosed by drystone walls often resulting from the enclosure of Medieval open fields. The priorities should therefore be to protect the pattern of field boundaries and the distinctive historic nucleated settlement pattern, whilst restoring the biodiversity of the pastoral farmland.

Valley Farmlands With Villages

This is a historic, settled, pastoral landscape of villages, outlying farmsteads, and ancient enclosure patterns, with a network of streams, and damp hollows. Tree cover is mainly restricted to stream-line and hedgerow trees. The priorities, therefore, are to protect and manage linear tree cover, whilst seeking opportunities to restore biodiversity and enhance the contribution of built development, and field boundaries, to landscape character.

Estatelands

This is an enclosed estate landscape with nucleated villages and historic halls, surrounded by parkland and discrete blocks of woodland. The priority is to protect the historic estate character of the landscape, and maintain and enhance parkland and veteran trees whilst seeking opportunities to create broadleaved woodland where compatible with the historic designed pattern.

Riverside Meadows

This is a small-scale pastoral landscape characterised by a meandering river channel with scattered riverside trees, historic meadows and patches of wetland vegetation. The priority is therefore to restore the diversity of the river corridor landscape and manage the landscape to provide flood water storage.

Issues of change

Conservation

Patches of moorland, e.g. on Stanton Moor, have in places fallen into lack of management, and birch scrub is encroaching. Scrub, which is also encroaching on steeper slopes, may adversely affect important archaeological features and landscapes. There has been a general decline in the extent and diversity of unimproved grassland, particularly on the upper valley slopes. The extensive areas of upland oak and birch woodland on the valley slopes have, in places, fallen into poor management. Scattered trees in historic parklands and in field boundaries are a key characteristic of the Derwent Valley and there is a need to manage and replace veteran trees. Habitats associated with rivers require an enhancement in quality and better linkages in order to develop robust aquatic wildlife corridors.

Climate change implications

There is likely to be an increase in flooding due to wetter winters and more extreme rain events, creating a demand for flood water storage in the Riverside Meadows. Increased temperatures are likely to have an impact on the structure and species composition of habitats and soils. Summers may be drier, so there is likely to be an increased potential fire risk in the areas of Open Moors, and peat may become more friable and therefore prone to erosion and gullyng. All these issues pose a threat to the character, cultural heritage and biodiversity of the landscape.

Demography, housing and employment

Demand for new housing and commercial development could affect the character of the landscape. There is a demographic change taking place, with an increase in the number of people wanting to live in the area and commute away to work and/or work from home. The changing population and increased desirability of the area is affecting the way the landscape is used for living and working. This is causing a shortage of affordable, local needs housing in some parishes. There has also been an increase of urbanising elements in the landscape, most often associated with housing development, including post-war ribbon development and more recent conversion and enlargement of properties.

Demand for new development could impact on the character of the historic settlement pattern and its associated field boundaries; careful management and design is required to prevent this. Industrial units can have a localised negative impact on the surrounding landscape if they are not well designed. Larger settlements within the Derwent Valley and at the edge of the National Park, e.g. Darley Dale and Matlock, have a localised negative impact on the landscape.

There is some horse pasturing within the Derwent Valley, which in places has a visual impact, often where there is associated equipment in the fields.

Tourism and recreation

This is a cherished and valued landscape that provides opportunities for the recreational needs of large numbers of people. There are increasing visitor numbers to the Derwent Valley, as it provides many opportunities for accessible and affordable recreation. In localised areas motorised off-road vehicles are causing physical damage to the infrastructure of historic rights of way.

Farming and forestry

There has been an intensification of agricultural land use in the Estatelands and Valley Farmlands With Villages, leading to a decline in traditional management of field boundaries and the degradation of historic field patterns. Elsewhere, this historic field pattern is generally well maintained, except on the slopes around Abney/Eyam Moors, where the farmland is often abandoned and reverting to rough grassland and scrub. There has been some recent management of the moorland vegetation for grouse shooting on the higher land on Eyam, Abney and Offerton Moors.

Woodland in the Derwent Valley is located mainly in the Estatelands and Slopes and Valleys with Woodland. The larger estate woodlands are often well managed, unlike the smaller, less accessible woodlands. There are opportunities for enhancing the structure and diversity of woodland blocks. In places, only relics of ancient woodland now remain and there is scope for expansion of woodland where this will not adversely affect other priority habitats, cultural heritage and key viewpoints.

Minerals and resources

Modern quarries in the Derwent Valley serve local and national demands for gritstone and shale for use in the construction and cement industries. There are many landscape impacts associated with these sites and the transportation of their products. These include visual intrusion, adverse effects on the historic landscapes, wildlife habitats, tranquillity and road traffic. There is pressure to extend the size of the quarries and to prolong quarrying beyond the end dates of current planning permissions.

Energy and infrastructure

There is an increasing demand for local and national renewable energy schemes, in particular wind power. The impact of inappropriate wind energy generation projects could lead to a reduction of historic landscape character, amenity value and tranquillity. There is a strong history of using water as an energy source within the Derwent Valley, and there are opportunities to reconnect to this cultural heritage by developing new forms of hydroelectricity schemes. There are opportunities for planting native woodland and improved woodland management linked to local wood fuel usage and developing other renewable energy sources.

Road safety is a major issue in the Derwent Valley, leading to an increased number of larger road signs. High vehicle use is also associated with increasing damage to roads, walls, hedges and verges, leading to the loss of historic features and creating an increased demand for parking.

Existing infrastructure associated with power supply has a visual impact, e.g. overhead electricity cables. In recent years there has been an increase in the visual intrusion of communications infrastructure, particularly telecommunication masts, which can impact on landscape character and the setting of cultural heritage features, buildings and historic landscapes.



Hope Valley Pasture © Peak District National Park Authority

Landscape guidelines

Derwent Valley

Open Moors	Enclosed Gritstone Uplands	Slopes and Valleys with Woodland	Gritstone Village Farmlands	Valley Farmlands With Villages	Estatelands	Riverside Meadows
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Protect

Protect historic parkland landscapes			●			●	○
Protect historic hedgerows			●		●	●	○
Protect historic drystone walls		●	●	●	○	●	

Manage

Manage and enhance woodlands			●		○	●	○
Manage and enhance plantation woodlands			●			●	
Manage and enhance linear tree cover and amenity trees			●	○	●	●	●
Manage the extent of birch scrub to maintain a diverse landscape mosaic	○	○	●				
Enhance the diversity of agricultural grassland		●	●	●	●	○	●
Enhance the diversity of arable farmland					●	●	
Manage the built environment to enhance landscape character		○	●	○	●	○	
Manage the network of tracks and footpaths to maximise opportunities to enjoy the landscape	●	●	●	●	○	○	
Manage the network of minor roads to maintain character and local access		●	●	●	●	●	
Manage historic mineral landscapes	○	●	●				

- This is a priority throughout the landscape character type
- This is a priority in some parts of the landscape character type, often associated with particular conditions/features
- This is not a priority but may be considered in some locations

This will generally be inappropriate in this landscape character type

Landscape guidelines

Derwent Valley

Plan

	Open Moors	Enclosed Gritstone Uplands	Slopes and Valleys with Woodland	Gritstone Village Farmlands	Valley Farmlands With Villages	Estatelands	Riverside Meadows
Create new native broadleaved woodland			●		◐	◐	○
Create, extend and link areas of heath/moor	●	○	○				
Develop small-scale renewable energy for local needs			●		◐	●	○
Develop appropriate landscapes from mineral workings	◐			◐			

- This is a priority throughout the landscape character type
- ◐ This is a priority in some parts of the landscape character type, often associated with particular conditions/features
- This is not a priority but may be considered in some locations
- This will generally be inappropriate in this landscape character type

Landscape guidelines explanation

Protect

Protect historic parkland landscapes

Historic parkland is an important feature of the Derwent Valley. There is a need to protect the historic integrity of these landscapes whilst allowing them to evolve. Opportunities should also be sought for enhancing the biodiversity of historic parklands where structure and character can be appropriately maintained. The production of management plans should be considered to achieve these objectives.

Protect historic hedgerows

Hedgerows are an important historical feature in many of the lower lying landscapes in the Derwent Valley. Many boundaries are gappy and in poor condition, and there is a need to enhance their management to maintain the historic field pattern. Riverside Meadows are open landscapes and the management of internal hedgerows is less of a priority.

Protect historic drystone walls

Drystone walls are an important historical feature in the upland landscapes of the Derwent Valley. In places the management of walls is declining and there is a need to enhance management in order to protect and retain the historic field pattern.

Manage

Manage and enhance woodlands

Some woodland is neglected or would benefit from enhanced management. Opportunities should be sought to enhance diversity and improve woodland productivity, whilst protecting cultural heritage features. There may be opportunities to link woodland management to local wood fuel schemes, which would reduce reliance on traditional carbon-based energies. Opportunities should be taken to remove coniferous woodland, replacing it, where appropriate, with native, broadleaved species.

Manage and enhance plantation woodlands

Coniferous plantation woodlands form significant landscape features, particularly within the Slopes and Valleys with Woodlands. Opportunities should be sought to integrate them into the wider historic landscape through improved management, using methods such as felling and replacement with appropriate native tree species, whilst conserving cultural heritage features.

Manage and enhance linear tree cover and amenity trees

In the valley landscapes, linear trees along field boundaries and stream-lines form an important component of the tree cover. There is a need to manage these trees to ensure a balanced age structure and to reinforce the historic field pattern. Groups of amenity trees are often associated with settlement and the use of appropriate species should be encouraged.

Manage the extent of birch scrub to maintain a diverse landscape mosaic

Birch scrub is encroaching in some areas of the Open Moors and Slopes and Valleys with Woodland, causing damage to cultural heritage features and historic landscapes. There is a need to identify areas that are a priority for scrub clearance and others where woodland regeneration will be more appropriate.

Enhance the diversity of agricultural grassland

Many of the grasslands have been improved and reseeded with a consequent loss of species diversity. There is a need to manage these pastures in a more sustainable way that restores or protects species diversity whilst supporting productive agriculture. Opportunities to extend and enhance the management of unimproved grasslands should be sought, particularly in Riverside Meadows where grasslands could enhance their role for flood water storage, helping to reduce flood impacts further downstream.

Enhance the diversity of arable farmland

There are localised areas of arable farmland in the Estatelands and the Valley Farmlands With Villages landscape character types. Where these occur, measures to enhance diversity, such as uncropped margins or reversion to grassland, should be considered.

Manage the built environment to enhance landscape character

Some past development has had an urbanising influence in the Derwent Valley, particularly in the more settled lower lying landscapes. New development should respond positively to the historic settlement pattern and density, local materials and traditions. Opportunities should be sought to mitigate the urbanising character of some past development. This may be achieved through good design, removal or reducing the impacts, based upon consideration of local character, condition and viewpoints. Opportunities should be sought to influence potential future development that lies outside but has an impact on the National Park. Traditional buildings are an important feature and their renovation and maintenance should be encouraged. Locating new agricultural buildings can impact on landscape character and opportunities should be taken to guide site selection.

Manage the network of tracks and footpaths to maximise opportunities to enjoy the landscape

The network of tracks and footpaths should be managed to enhance its capacity to provide healthy recreation for a wide range of users. This can be achieved through landscape management measures including surfacing and signage, and by controlling inappropriate use to retain the character, cultural heritage and biodiversity interests.

Manage the network of minor roads to maintain character and local access

The network of minor roads should be managed to maintain their local, small-scale and rural character to ensure good local access whilst discouraging inappropriate driving. Verges and cultural features should be maintained and enhanced, and the impact of signage minimised.

Manage historic mineral landscapes

Characteristic features of the Open Moors, Enclosed Gritstone Uplands and the Slopes and Valleys with Woodland, are the historic quarries which provided local building stone and millstones. Landscapes associated with historic mineral extraction should be retained and managed, including, where appropriate, providing interpretation of their history and developing their recreation and habitat potential.

Plan

Create new native broadleaved woodland

There are opportunities to extend woodland cover, without affecting cultural heritage features and landscapes, particularly in those landscape character types in which woodland is a key characteristic. In the Slopes and Valleys with Woodland there are opportunities to extend woodland by natural regeneration, although a balance will need to be reached between woodland expansion, the retention of acid grassland/heath and the visibility of gritstone edges. In the Estatelands there are opportunities to expand plantation woodlands. There are localised opportunities to create new woodlands within the Valley Farmlands With Villages to help integrate new and existing development. Increased woodland cover creates areas of shelter and shade and may be useful for mitigating the impacts of climate change. On slopes, woodland planting can also decelerate water flow and reduce flood damage to lower lying landscapes. In the Riverside Meadows there are only limited opportunities for wet woodland creation, because increasing woodland cover on the floodplain can exacerbate flooding potential.

Create, extend and link areas of heath/moor

Dry heath is a priority landscape feature and is a product of historic and current management regimes. Opportunities should be sought to create and expand small patches of heath/moor in the Enclosed Gritstone Uplands and the Slopes and Valleys with Woodland.

Develop small-scale renewable energy for local needs

Several of the landscape character types within the Derwent Valley are suitable for the development of water power, local wood fuel supplies and other appropriate renewable energy schemes. Opportunities should be sought within new development and management of woodland to increase local renewable energy supply, where it would have a neutral impact on the character of the area and its component parts. Where appropriate seek positive measures to reinforce the local landscape character as part of new development.

Develop appropriate landscapes from mineral workings

Modern mineral workings should be restored to maximise visual amenity, biodiversity, recreational, educational and heritage value. The aim should be to use the land to create semi-natural landscapes, which blend into the surrounding landscape.

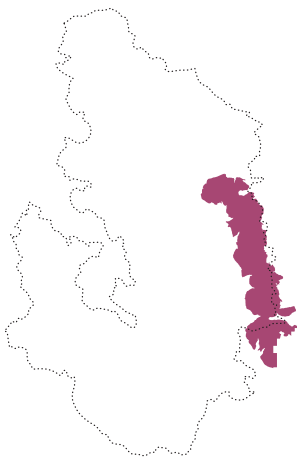


Hathersage Moor © Peak District National Park Authority

The Eastern Moors



Higger Tor © Peak District National Park Authority



Introduction

The Eastern Moors is a sparsely settled area of gritstone uplands lying to the south-east of the Dark Peak plateau. The area is a continuation of these Dark Peak uplands but the broad, upland plateau character associated with the Dark Peak alters to a somewhat lower landscape with a narrower moorland top and main western shelf, and a greater proportion of enclosed moorland. Edges are a characteristic of the area, mostly running along the north-south axis of the Moor's western edge. This is an elevated landscape that drops away to the Derwent Valley to the west, the Derbyshire Peak Fringe to the south and the Yorkshire Peak Fringe to the east. The Eastern Moors provides a number of vantage points over the city of Sheffield in the lower lying eastern landscape.

Physical influences

The Eastern Moors is an area of moorland and owes much of its character to the underlying coarse sandstones from the Millstone Grit series of the Carboniferous period. As the process of sedimentation that formed the limestones of the White Peak was taking place, a land mass to the north (now Caledonia in Scotland) was shifting: uplifting, folding and tilting towards the south. This created rivers and deltas carrying sediments of fine silt, pebbles and sand into the shallow sea creating mudflats and low lying sand banks. The material that was deposited by these rivers compressed over mudstones through sedimentation to create the shales, siltstones and sandstones known as Millstone Grit. Chatsworth Grit dominates the Eastern Moors but is interspersed with other gritstone from the Millstone Grit series. To the south, and more significantly, in the eastern parts of the Eastern Moors the Coal Measures overlie the gritstone and consist of grey shales, siltstones and sandstones interspersed with thinner beds of coal and ironstone.

The hard Millstone Grit is most influential on the land form and is interspersed with beds of softer shales. The erosion of these rocks has given rise to a distinctive topography of high moors with gritstone outcrops, and 'edges', such as Stanage. These edges are thought to have developed through freeze-thaw, rock fall activity and down washing from streams during peri-glacial times.

The upland tops are covered in peaty mineral soils and occasionally blanket peat although the Eastern Moors generally has a much thinner peat layer, contrasting with the Dark Peak where blanket bog is more dominant. Hence the extensive peat gullies and hags characteristic of the Dark Peak are largely absent here. There are localised patches of thicker peat on the Eastern Moors, mainly in shallow basins such as on Topley Moss. On the Eastern Moors there is some peri-glacial head deposit formed through freeze-thaw activity on wet surface material, eroding it and ensuring that its constituent parts become intermingled before sliding down slopes over hard frozen surfaces. During tundra peri-glacial conditions wind erosion damaged the Millstone Grit, creating a dust, known as loess, which was deposited across the Peak District.

Ecological influences

For the most part the soils of the Eastern Moors are impoverished with a mixture of damp humic gleys, humic podzols, podzolic, or at best, shallow brown soils. As a result, semi-natural vegetation is a key characteristic of many Eastern Moors landscapes, especially on the Open Moors and moorland slopes. Here the shallower peats and mineral soils mean that heather and grass moorland predominate; this is in contrast to the Dark Peak where deeper peats are far more widespread giving rise to extensive areas of blanket bog. Only on Ringinglow Bog in the north is cottongrass-dominated blanket bog extensive, and this lacks the network of drainage channels or 'groughs' so typical of the Dark Peak moors. Heather moorland was typically managed for grouse shooting in the 19th and 20th centuries but this is now much less prevalent. Other Dwarf shrubs such as bilberry and cowberry can co-dominate with heather. Areas of grass moorland

dominated by purple moor grass occur in places and may reflect past heavy grazing or even agricultural treatment. Moorland birch and willow scrub, largely absent from the more exposed Dark Peak moorlands, occur locally, and birds such as woodcock, tree pipit and redpoll favour such areas.

Gritstone rock outcrops on the moors occur either as massive gritstone edges, as at Stanage, Burbage and Birchen Edges, or as smaller outcrops and boulder strewn slopes. These can support a lichen flora of some importance locally, and also provide nesting sites for birds such as ring ouzel. Bracken is often particularly extensive on sloping ground below the edges, as well as being present elsewhere on the moors. Whinchat and, increasingly, stonechat, are found in such areas.

Moorland basins ('sitches' or 'sicks') are drained by streams which flow off gently in shallow valleys to the coal measures to the east, or to the west where they drop more rapidly as fast flowing streams where they descend into the Derwent Valley. Bogs and flushes associated with streamhead basins and streamside flushes often support a varied flora including species which are typically scarce in the Dark Peak, such as greater tussock sedge, bogbean and marsh cinquefoil, whilst rushy areas are important for reed buntings.

At the southern end of the area large blocks of enclosed pastureland and conifer plantation occur around Matlock Moor. The enclosed pastureland extends northwards along the eastern edge of the moors from Gladwin's Mark to Freebirch, interspersed with pockets of arable land and relics of heathland vegetation. These areas are of particular value for birds such as lapwing, curlew and yellowhammer.

Human influences

The Eastern Moors is now relatively unsettled due, in part, to the altitude but also because of the setting aside of this land in the 19th century, by large estates, for grouse shooting. It has been managed for the needs of humans, mainly as rough grazing, since prehistoric times.

Well preserved archaeological remains of Bronze Age and Iron Age settlements and ritual monuments are common, located extensively across the Eastern Moors; these are a nationally important resource. The moors are lower than the Dark Peak moors further north and thus were more suitable for farming in prehistory, although the soils later deteriorated due to climatic change, possibly combined with over-farming. Evidence of settlement and farming is widespread at altitudes between 250 and 350 metres: radiocarbon dating from a number of sites, combined with culturally-distinct artefacts, show that sustained activity took place over much of the last two millennia BC. The upstanding remains often comprise low heaps of stone cleared into cairns and along the courses of past field hedges and fences; these stony remains can be difficult to find where heather and bracken is high.

There are many small prehistoric ritual monuments of a variety of types on the Eastern Moors, presumably built by the local farming population. These include stone circles, ring cairns and other stone settings, all found close to the settlements and prehistoric fields.

A large number of round barrows and smaller funerary cairns are scattered more widely. There are also two small but rare funerary cairnfields on Gibbet Moor and Ravens Tor, which are very different in character to the many agricultural cairnfields.

On Gardom's Edge there is a big enclosure with a large but low stone bank. While similar in character to Neolithic sites elsewhere, radiocarbon dating shows that it is Later Bronze Age in date and contemporary with one phase of the prehistoric farming; it is not defensive and its purpose is unknown. Carl Wark, between Burbage and Stanage Edges, is a smaller but undated monument, with a high rampart suggesting it is an unusual hill fort.

Since the end of prehistory most parts of the Eastern Moors have not been used agriculturally except for rough grazing, leaving soils undisturbed, which explains why so much from prehistory has survived. Only restricted parts of the Eastern Moors were farmed more intensively in the medieval period. Important abandoned settlements survive at Lawrence Field and Sheffield Plantation, while at the southern end of the Eastern Moors, adjacent to Fallinge, Burley Fields and Farley, there are three areas of enclosed land that were farmed in medieval times and are still in use today.



Packhorse route © Peak District National Park Authority

Braided hollow-ways, often deeply eroded into the land, are visible running across the moorlands. Some of these were specifically for local traffic to commons, quarries and mines but the majority were through routes of medieval to late 18th century date, from the Peak District to the lowlands to the east. There were many such routes and they were used for exporting products such as lead, millstones and cheese, and for cross-Pennine trade in commodities such as salt, ceramics and industrial products from the iron and steel centres around Sheffield and Chesterfield. These traditional routes, many with their distinctive early 18th century waymarkers, were replaced in the 18th and 19th century by the turnpike road network, which formed the basis for the main modern routes that now cross the Eastern Moors. Not all turnpikes and similar industrial roadways are still in use, as for example the 18th century paved cartway running across Stanage Edge. In several places routes were diverted from the straight 18th century roads to more sinuous roads with lesser gradients that could be passed in winter.




Millstones were made at many sites along the main scarps of the Eastern Moors for a national market from at least the 13th century through to the 20th century. There were important production centres of domed millstones, made until the 18th century, above Baslow and Hathersage. In the 19th and 20th centuries production changed and stones of different form were used for milling animal feed, as pulpstones for paper manufacture and as grindstones. Good examples of such quarries exist at Stanage Edge and on Bole Hill above Hathersage. Other quarries, such as those above Beeley, were primarily used to supply building stone. Broken and unfinished millstones, troughs and gateposts are still visible in quarries and amongst scattered boulders below many of the escarpments.

Coal mining took place on the Eastern Moors from the 16th century, and possibly earlier, until the 19th century. Many shaft mounds for shallow mines exist around Robin Hood, close to Beeley Warren and near Owler Bar. In the medieval period and into the 16th century the Eastern Moors was extensively used for lead smelting in bole hearths. Despite their frequency, there is little to see today of these 'bonfire' sites except the occasional scatter of slag in patches of polluted poorly-vegetated ground.

The edges of the Eastern Moors are famed for their extensive rock climbing routes and are often busy with climbers. The Peak District, including the Eastern Moors, played an important role in its development as a sport accessible to all social classes. Prior to the 1950s rock climbing was a socially elite pastime with expensive gear and difficulties accessing rock faces. Climbers such as Joe Brown and other working class men from Manchester and Sheffield developed a new, less formal approach to climbing with a focus on the Dark Peak and the Eastern Moors. Eventually these climbers evolved the sport, developing gear and climbing styles that are still used.

The Eastern Moors has a similar sense of place to the Dark Peak but the sense of remoteness and isolation, though sometimes present, is weaker as the moorlands here often afford wide views over the adjacent settled landscapes of the Derwent Valley to the west and the Derbyshire Peak Fringe and urban Sheffield to the east. The proximity of large urban areas, including Sheffield, Chesterfield and Matlock, and the frequent roads crossing the Eastern Moors further reduce the sense of isolation and remoteness compared with much of the Dark Peak. The edges, such as Stanage and Burbage, are celebrated climbing spots, often providing expansive vistas.

The moorland tops have dark hues due to the weathered gritstone bedrock, exposed in places along the edges, and the dark purples, oranges and browns of heather so important for grouse management. This creates a sense of wildness that contrasts with the brighter greens of improved land in the landscapes to either side of the moors. The lack of settlement or activity ensures that the sense of remoteness prevails in most locations, although the edges are popular destinations for climbers and walkers.

-  Open Moors
-  Moorland Slopes & Cloughs
-  Enclosed Gritstone Uplands

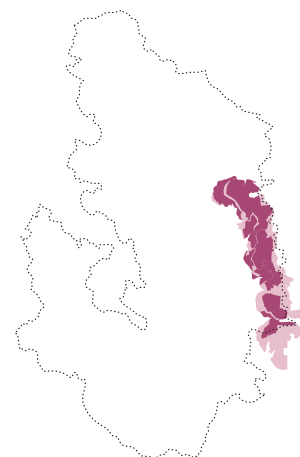


Open Moors

An open, undulating gritstone moor and heathland landscape with mineral soils and shallow blanket peat covered by heather moorland and grass moor. This is an unsettled landscape with wide views to distant surrounding hills and valleys and a sense of remoteness and space.



Totley Moor © Peak District National Park Authority



Key characteristics

- Undulating unsettled gritstone summits
- Thin impoverished soils with some deposits of peat
- Extensive archaeological evidence from prehistoric and later activity
- Unenclosed heather and grass moorland, with birch and willow scrub locally
- Large gritstone edges, scattered rock outcrops and tors

This is a visually prominent landscape which covers a large area of the Eastern Moors, with heather moorland and localised thick blanket peat such as at Totley Moss and Leash Fen.

Geology and landform

The open moorland is a large scale, moderately high and exposed landscape where the underlying Millstone Grit strongly influences the landform. The gritstone bedrock is hard and slowly eroded, giving rise to the moderately undulating landform of the highland summit separated from the lower western shelves by steep edges. To the south and, more significantly, in the eastern parts of the area the Yorkshire Coal Measures overlie this gritstone bedrock. There are areas of head deposits (a mixture of clay and boulders) created during peri-glacial periods by the freeze-thaw of surface material.

Soils and vegetation

Much of the open moorland is underlain by impoverished shallow mineral soils and thin, dark peaty soils down to an ironpan overlying podzolised sands. Deep peat has accumulated in shallow basins as at Leash Fen, Lucas Moss and Ringinglow in contrast to the Dark Peak where it occurs as extensive deep blanket peat deposits subject to gulleys and haggings as a result of erosion.

Much of this landscape is covered by dwarf shrub heath dominated by heather but including variable quantities of crowberry, cowberry and bilberry, particularly on more mineralised soils where the peat is thinner. Here, past grazing and burning management mean that heather tends to be the dominant species on the moorland. Where the peat is wetter, other species such as cottongrass and purple moor grass are more prevalent. Flushes and bogs associated with headwater basins ('sitches' or 'sicks') and moorland streamsides often support a rich flora with a number of local species typically rare or absent in the higher Dark Peak.

Tree cover

This is generally an open, treeless landscape with expansive views over the adjacent valleys. Historic grazing pressures and climate have inhibited tree growth. There are some localised patches of birch and willow scrub on lower lying moors. There are also a number of localised plantation woodlands, possibly associated with past industrial needs. Sheffield Plantation, on the western edge of the area near to Longshaw Lodge, was planted prior to 1840 and established by the Sheffield Planting Company. Other woodland, as on Ramsley Moor, Birchen Edge and Gardom's Edge, is not planted but the result of natural regeneration from seed sources on lower adjacent ground.

Land use

This landscape generally has a low agricultural value being used predominantly for rough grazing, and in places grouse rearing. Areas of heather moorland are maintained through regimes of cutting, burning and grazing by sheep and sometimes cattle.

Historically this landscape would have supported a range of industrial processes including coal mining, quarrying and bole hearths for smelting lead. This would have resulted in a landscape very different to that of today. There is still much evidence of these past medieval and post-medieval industries, of prehistoric settlement and monuments across the Eastern Moors. This makes the area a nationally important archaeological resource. The area is now also important for recreation on open access land. Significant areas of this landscape are owned and managed by the Peak District National Park Authority, Sheffield City Council, Chatsworth Estate and the National Trust.

Enclosure

This is a largely unenclosed landscape where the lack of enclosure creates dramatic and expansive open views. Historically this landscape would have consisted of open wastes and commons. Some parts of the moorland, as below Harland Edge, are subdivided by 19th century walls which divide it into ownership and management units. Smaller regularly laid out enclosures of similar date are found occasionally, as for example on the western edge of Gibbet Moor and around Fox House. Occasional isolated, and now often ruined, rectangular enclosures surrounded by moorland were used for stock gathering and growing oats.

Settlement and buildings

This is a largely unsettled landscape with built features existing only locally, often as infrastructure for shooting and stock management. Some are simple livestock barns, ruined shooting cabins and gamekeepers' lodges; but Longshaw Lodge is exceptional, built as a comfortable shooting lodge by the Duke of Rutland to offer hospitality to guests. A similar example of guest accommodation is hidden away in plantations above Redmires Reservoirs at Stanage Lodge. Another atypical building is the reservoir keeper's lodge next to the old Barbrook Reservoir. There is also a memorial to the Duke of Wellington, adjacent to Baslow Edge, matched by another to Nelson on Birchin Edge, both above Baslow, erected in 1866. There is extensive evidence of past settlement on the Open Moors dating to later prehistory and occasionally to the medieval period.

Transport and access

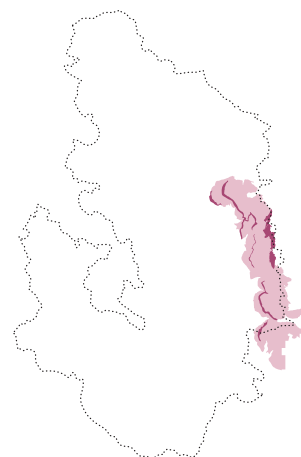
Transport is a relatively limited feature of this landscape character type, although several main roads cross from east to west connecting places such as Sheffield and Chesterfield with the Peak District. A complex infrastructure of routes once crossed the moorland and can still be identified as earthworks. Much of the open moorland is open access land and only accessible on foot.

Moorland Slopes & Cloughs

Steep slopes and dramatic gritstone edges rising to Open Moors, with widespread rough grassland, bracken and heather moor, grazed by sheep. This is a wild unsettled landscape with exposed views over lower ground.



Stanage Edge © Peak District National Park Authority



Key characteristics

- Steep slopes rising to precipitous edges
- Prominent gritstone outcrops and spreads of boulders beneath these
- Thin soils over gritstone and coal measure bedrock with relict quarries, mining and hollow-ways
- Rough acid grassland, bracken and heather moorland grazed by sheep
- Exposed views over lower ground

This landscape occurs as a series of narrow strips around the edge of the open moorland core, on both the west and the east.

Geology and landform

This is a sloping landscape that is strongly influenced by the underlying Millstone Grit geology and defined by steep upper slopes and edges that fringe the open moorland, such as at Burbage and Stanage Edges. The resulting landform creates a sense of elevation with distant and panoramic views over surrounding countryside. There are outcrops of gritstone, most notably where it forms distinct edges with precipitous rock faces and boulder strewn slopes. Several fast flowing streams draining the moorlands above have incised into the slopes where they descend into the Derwent Valley to the west, forming short side valleys as at Burbage Brook and Upper Hurst Brook. The Millstone Grit is interspersed with beds of softer shales which erode to leave the upstanding gritstone edges and sloping land. On the east of the moors the coal measures influence this landscape character type, particularly below Ramsley Moor and Blacka Hill.

Soils and vegetation

Soils are coarse, loamy and very acid over the gritstone bedrock. Surface water drainage is often impeded by the formation of a thin ironpan and in less steeply sloping areas the soils can have a wet peaty surface horizon. There are areas of head deposit along some of the edges such as White Edge, Harland Edge and Birchen Edge. Because of poor soils, this is a landscape with widespread patches of semi-natural vegetation, usually comprising a mixture of heather moorland, with areas of purple moor grass and bilberry, or acid grassland. Extensive areas of bracken are often associated with the moorland slopes, and springs and flushes, important for their plant and insect life, are frequent.

Tree cover

The wet soils, exposure and open grazing on these moorland slopes restrict tree growth. However, scattered trees and scrub sometimes occur on moorland slopes as at White Edge. Plantation woodlands can sometimes be found on the moorland slopes, such as Stanage Plantation. Bunkers Hill Wood is a plantation woodland dating from the early 18th century that was associated with Chatsworth's former deer park.

Land use

Owing to its elevation and poor quality soils, this is a very marginal agricultural landscape used primarily as rough grazing. The slopes are of outstanding importance for a range of recreation activities including rock climbing on the gritstone edges, bouldering, paragliding and walking. Historically, quarrying would have been a major activity to the west, with coal mining on the eastern side of the moors and on some edges in the west. Quarried stone would have been used for millstones, pulpstones, grindstones, and as a building resource, both for blocks and detailing, such as lintels.

Enclosure

Large areas of this landscape character type remain unenclosed. There are some areas where enclosure was planned but did not occur: the land was allotted but remained open and unenclosed. Where enclosure has taken place it tends to have been undertaken during the 18th century. Plantation woodland on the slopes first occurred around the time of enclosure, although this was not the case with Bunkers Hill Wood (see above). Where boundary features exist they are gritstone drystone walls.

Settlement and buildings

This is a sparsely settled landscape with very occasional buildings, including Bolehill Lodge, and isolated gritstone farmsteads, and cottages or inns, such as the Peacock Inn above Owlbar Bar, along historic transport routes as the only forms of settlement. Some of these date from the medieval period. There are some field barns and stock pens within the landscape, associated with sheep farming and constructed from the local Millstone Grit. Although very sparsely settled there is more settlement on the eastern than the western slopes of the Eastern Moors.

Transport and access

Transport is a relatively limited feature of this landscape character type, although several main roads cross through it connecting to places such as Sheffield and Chesterfield. These may have medieval origins, having been improved into turnpike roads before being further formalised into the present roads. Today, most of the slopes are open access land and are only accessible on foot.



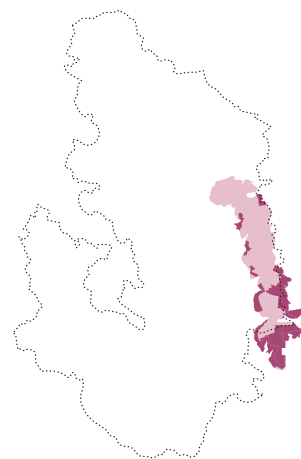
Climbers on Stanage Edge © Peak District National Park Authority

Enclosed Gritstone Uplands

An enclosed upland pasture landscape associated with high, gently undulating moortops, sloping in places to higher ground. This is a landscape of isolated stone farmsteads, regular fields with patches of acid grassland enclosed by drystone walls, and straight roads. Boulder fields and rocky outcrops are a feature in places, often associated with patches of remnant moorland vegetation. Plantation woodland is also a localised feature.



Fields at Bole Hill © Peak District National Park Authority



Key characteristics

- Rolling uplands with some steeper slopes
- Thin mineral soils over gritstone bedrock
- Remnant patches of rough land with bracken and heather
- Permanent pasture and rough grazing enclosed by gritstone walls
- Regular pattern of medium to large fields
- Straight roads with wide verges of grass and, in some places, heather
- Isolated gritstone farmsteads with stone slate roofs with tree groups for shelter
- Extensive conifer plantations around Matlock Moor

To the north this landscape occurs in discrete blocks on a similar elevation or on lower land running down from the open moorland. However, it is the dominant character type in the lower lying southern area of the Eastern Moors.

Geology and landform

This landscape is associated with broad, gently undulating gritstone uplands in places rising steeply to higher open moorlands. The underlying bedrock is Millstone Grit, which is sometimes exposed as rock outcrops particularly on the steeper slopes where it sometimes forms small gritstone edges. The Coal Measures also outcrop in this landscape in the east particularly over Grange Hill and to the east of Hare Edge.

Soils and vegetation

The variable nature of the geology and landform gives rise to a variety of soil types ranging from free draining podzols on steeper slopes to wetter, more peaty soils on gentler summits. All the soils are characterised by their impoverished, acidic origin and although most of the land is now improved for pasture, many patches of semi-natural vegetation still exist along verges, on steeper slopes and even as isolated patches within some fields. Heath-associated species such as heather, bilberry and gorse are a feature in many places. Where the soils are wetter species such as purple moor grass can exist. There are some patches of soft rush on the wetter soils, which often support small populations of breeding birds such as snipe. In the south, on Matlock Moor there are extensive areas of coniferous plantation woodland which can support limited plant life due to the shading created by conifers.

Tree cover

Tree growth tends to be limited to, in places extensive, plantation woodlands around Matlock Moor (Farley Moor, Upper Moor, Bottom Moor and Flash Lane), to the south. Elsewhere grazing, poor soils and exposure restrict natural tree generation. However, there are occasional tree groups, generally adjacent to farmsteads and planted to create shelter around properties, using broadleaved species such as oak, ash and sycamore. There are also some shelterbelts and occasional blocks of 19th or 20th century coniferous woodland. Plantation woodlands are a strong characteristic in some areas, such as at Stand Wood above Chatsworth.

Land use

This is a landscape of mostly improved or semi-improved permanent pasture with sheep and cattle grazing and some rough grazing except in the south, on Matlock Moor where plantation woodland is the dominant land use. Soils are mostly impoverished and some fields are dominated by rushes or are reverting to moorland habitats. Historically, this landscape has supported coal mining and small scale quarrying in some areas. Baslow Colliery, near Robin Hood, was the largest mine and may have been worked from medieval times, but was at its height during the 18th and early 19th centuries. The coal is likely to have been used for local industrial and domestic markets.

Enclosure

Land was enclosed from moorland that was often waste and commons prior to enclosure. This is a landscape where much enclosure followed Parliamentary Enclosure Awards dating from the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Here there are medium to large regular fields enclosed by gritstone drystone walls. There are some areas of more ancient enclosure, such as around Robin Hood and to the south, around Fallinge, Burley Fields and Farley where there are areas of enclosed land that was farmed in medieval times. This type of enclosure tends to have a slightly smaller and more irregular form than land created through Parliamentary Enclosure. Some private enclosures were also created, such as the large fields above Chatsworth, that were created in about 1800 when the old deer park was enclosed, and immediately to the north when fields were re-organised in the 19th century.

Settlement and buildings

Settlement is dispersed within this landscape. Gritstone farmsteads with stone slate roofs, often dating from the time that the landscape was enclosed from the 18th and 19th centuries, are the most frequent settlement type. Higher up, towards the open moorland, the landscape is often unsettled. In some areas, such as Fallinge, Burley and Farley, the hamlets have medieval origins but the buildings are later replacements in stone dating from the 17th century onwards.

Transport and access

This is a remote landscape. Where roads exist they tend to be straight with even verges, often a characteristic of roads associated with Parliamentary Enclosure. In places larger, busier roads cross the landscape, which are often former turnpikes. Often little now remains of the older packhorse routes that crossed these areas before they were enclosed.

Overall Strategy



Stanage © Peak District National Park Authority

The Eastern Moors is an upland landscape crossed by historic transport routes, with expansive views over the more settled landscapes in the lowlands and valleys, and is lower lying than the Dark Peak to the north. This lower plateau has a rich cultural heritage, with significant evidence of different periods of human activity. There is a need to ensure that this resource is maintained and also enhanced into the future. The landscape provides an important ecological and a valued recreational resource for the surrounding populations. These resources need to remain strong and valid into the future. Climate change may affect this landscape, both through damage associated with changing weather patterns and as a limited carbon sequestration resource; such use can be integrated with current land uses. The strong relationship of this landscape with surrounding urban areas means that good partnership working with neighbouring authorities is important.

The overall strategy for the Eastern Moors should therefore be to:

Protect and manage the open upland landscapes; seek opportunities to manage and enhance cultural heritage, biodiversity, recreational opportunities and tranquillity whilst maintaining the open character.

This can be achieved by ensuring that there is:

- a sustainable land management system capable of supporting existing land uses and activities whilst also enabling potential services, such as climate change mitigation measures
- a diverse ecological resource in good condition with connections between the different habitats enabling continued robustness
- celebrated cultural heritage in good condition, sustainably managed



Hathersage Moor Heather © Peak District National Park Authority

To achieve this strategy there are particular priorities for each of the different landscape character types in the Eastern Moors.

Open Moors

This is the most open and unsettled landscape in the Eastern Moors, characterised by expansive open views, dwarf shrub heath and grass moorland. Priorities should be to protect and manage the open character and diversity of the moorland landscapes, the cultural heritage components and historic landscapes, and to protect and manage the ecological integrity of heath with an associated reduction in the area of grass moorland. These priorities should be carried out within a sustainable upland management system capable of integrating existing land uses such as agriculture and amenity with potential land uses such as carbon sequestration.

Moorland Slopes & Cloughs

This is a steeply sloping landscape with dramatic geology including scree slopes and gritstone outcrops, which are popular as a recreational resource. The priority is to protect and manage cultural heritage components and landscapes, whilst protecting or managing biodiversity and enabling the continuation of recreational uses. These resources need to be protected and managed within a sustainable land management system.

Enclosed Gritstone Uplands

This is pastoral upland landscape with drystone walls, straight roads and isolated farmsteads. Agricultural improvement and grazing have reduced the ecological diversity of the pastures. The priority should be to protect the historic field pattern and to protect or restore the diversity of pastoral farmland.

Issues of change

Conservation

The Eastern Moors is a similar but lower lying landscape to the Dark Peak. The lower altitude means that this landscape, unlike the Dark Peak, has been settled or worked for many years. The result is a landscape rich in cultural heritage such as prehistoric monuments, Medieval settlements, industrial heritage and historic parkland features. These elements are at risk from a range of current management practices. It is important that the cultural heritage resource of the Eastern Moors is conserved within any land management regime.

The Eastern Moors is an important and diverse natural landscape resource. The integrity of the natural landscape needs to be supported within any land management regime and alongside other pressures such as recreation.

Climate change implications

The Eastern Moors may provide a resource with which to sequester carbon. However, limited blanket bog cover means the potential for this is less significant than in the Dark Peak. The upland landscapes associated with the Eastern Moors are vulnerable to extreme weather events such as prolonged dry periods. This will increase the vulnerability of soils to erosion, whilst heavy, energetic rainfall may exacerbate such problems. Climatic changes pose a threat to the character, cultural heritage and biodiversity of the landscape. Drier, hotter summers may also be associated with increased fire risk, particularly from accidental fires.

Demography, housing and employment

The Eastern Moors is a largely unsettled landscape character area, with evidence of historic settlement. However, settlement and development are now confined to occasional stone farmsteads or shooting lodges, and there are currently no significant identified pressures which may lead to changes.

Tourism and recreation

This is a cherished and valued landscape that meets the recreational needs of large numbers of people, in particular from Sheffield. The Eastern Moors is a transition zone, providing many opportunities for accessible and affordable recreation, and is a cherished and often tranquil contrast with urban areas. Certain recreation pressures have a localised impact on tranquillity, e.g. active sports such as the use of motorised off-road vehicles.

Farming and forestry

Like the adjoining Dark Peak, the Eastern Moors consists mainly of wild moorland landscapes, which are managed mainly for rough grazing, amenity and grouse shooting. There are also some enclosed moorland landscapes, particularly in the south of the area, where the land is managed as improved permanent pasture. The stone walls that define fields in these landscapes are often in poor condition, and in places there has been an associated degradation of historic field patterns.

The Eastern Moors are mainly open and un-wooded, but there is encroaching birch scrub and a number of medium sized conifer plantations on the Open Moors.

Grouse shooting occurs locally on the Eastern Moors. The intensity of moorland management and the density of grouse can affect the ecological integrity of the moors. The management approaches associated with moorland management can affect the archaeology, other cultural heritage features, landscapes and ecology.

Minerals and resources

The historic remains of former quarries can be found along most of the edges, particularly those where mill stones were manufactured; these are now often important wildlife habitats, recreational resources and cultural heritage features in their own right. Although there are no modern quarries, there is a pressure to open up some old quarries to meet the needs of local, vernacular building repairs.

Energy and infrastructure

There is an increasing demand for local and national renewable energy schemes, particularly wind power. In addition there is increasing potential for solar, water, and other renewable energy sources. The impact of inappropriate wind energy generation projects could lead to a reduction of historic landscape character, amenity value and tranquillity. There is a visual impact from existing infrastructure associated with power supply, e.g. overhead electricity cables.

Road safety is a major issue in the Eastern Moors, leading to an increased number of larger road signs. High levels of vehicular use are increasing damage to roads, walls and verges, leading to a loss of historic features and creating an increased demand for parking. Traditional road usage has altered, with increasing daily traffic on minor roads affecting the visual amenity and tranquillity of the area.

In recent years there has been an increase in the visual intrusion of communications infrastructure, particularly telecommunication masts, which can impact on landscape character and the setting of cultural heritage features, buildings and historic landscapes.



Stanage © Peak District National Park Authority

Landscape guidelines

The Eastern Moors

Open Moors	Moorland Slopes & Cloughs	Enclosed Gritstone Uplands
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Protect

Protect historic drystone walls			
Protect and maintain cultural heritage resources			

Manage

Manage and enhance woodlands			
Manage and enhance plantation woodlands			
Manage the extent of birch scrub to maintain a diverse landscape mosaic			
Manage the sparse and historic pattern of development			
Manage the network of minor roads to maintain character and local access			
Manage and enhance the diversity of agricultural grassland			
Encourage diverse approaches to moorland management			
Manage the network of tracks and footpaths to maximise opportunities to enjoy the landscape			

Plan

Create, extend and link areas of heath			
Consider the reopening of small-scale quarries for local stone supply			
Develop small-scale renewable energy for local needs			

- This is a priority throughout the landscape character type
- This is a priority in some parts of the landscape character type, often associated with particular conditions/features
- This is not a priority but may be considered in some locations
- This will generally be inappropriate in this landscape character type

Landscape guidelines explanation

Protect

Protect historic drystone walls

Enclosure is a localised feature on the Eastern Moors. However, in some places, such as the Enclosed Gritstone Uplands, the maintenance of walls, and associated fixtures such as gateposts, is declining. There is a need to enhance their maintenance in order to protect and maintain the historic field pattern. This is particularly true for the boundaries that pre-date parliamentary enclosure.

Protect and maintain cultural heritage resources

This is particularly important on the Eastern Moors where the cultural heritage resource is significant but not always immediately evident. Efforts should be made to ensure that the resource is considered and protected when any management decisions or new practices are being considered or carried out. Appropriate opportunities for education/interpretation should also be developed.

Manage

Manage and enhance woodlands

Woodland on the Eastern Moors is not widespread; where it is a landscape feature, it needs to be well managed. The wet and dry clough woods of the Moorland Slopes & Cloughs provide vital habitats for moorland birds and invertebrates, and may help reduce flood risk in lower landscapes by slowing rainwater run off from the uplands. Opportunities should be taken to extend and enhance the management of these woods, preferably by natural regeneration, without affecting cultural heritage features and historic landscapes.

Manage and enhance plantation woodlands

Coniferous plantation woodlands form unnatural landscape features within the Open Moors and Moorland Slopes & Cloughs, such as at Burbage. These woodlands often cause damage to cultural heritage features and historic landscapes. Opportunities should be sought to integrate them into the wider landscape through improved management, including felling and replacement with appropriate native tree species, or complete removal where appropriate.



Higger Tor © Peak District National Park Authority

Manage the extent of birch scrub to maintain a diverse landscape mosaic

Birch scrub is encroaching in some areas of the Open Moors, causing damage to cultural heritage features and historic landscapes. There is a need to identify areas that are a priority for scrub clearance and others where it should be retained to enhance ecological and visual diversity.

Manage the sparse and historic pattern of development

The Eastern Moors contrast with surrounding landscapes due to the very limited settlement, which plays a vital role in the character of the landscape. It is important that future development is limited and responds positively to the historic settlement pattern and density, local materials and traditions in order to protect this sense of place. Similarly, where settlement does exist, the views into and out of the settlement should be protected, as they can be important to character and sense of place. Opportunities should be sought to influence potential future development that lies outside but has an impact on the National Park, considering siting, layout, design and materials. Traditional buildings are an important feature and their renovation and maintenance should be encouraged. Locating new agricultural buildings can impact on landscape character and opportunities should be taken to guide site selection.

Manage the network of minor roads to maintain character and local access

The network of minor roads should be managed to maintain their local, small-scale and rural character to ensure good local access whilst discouraging inappropriate driving. Verges and cultural features should be maintained and enhanced, and the impact of signage minimised.

Manage and enhance the diversity of agricultural grassland

Many grasslands have been improved and reseeded with a consequent loss of species diversity. There is a need to manage these grasslands in a more sustainable way that restores or protects species diversity, particularly wet, rushy pastures, whilst supporting productive agriculture. Opportunities to extend and enhance the management of unimproved grasslands should be taken.

Encourage diverse approaches to moorland management

There is currently a diversity of approach to moorland management associated with the relatively high number of landowners in the area. Opportunities should be sought to further diversify the management of moors, developing varied cycles of management. This will enable a structurally diverse age range of stands of heather, thus enhancing the range of habitats which consequently may enhance the biodiversity of moorland. There is currently limited co-ordination of land management between the different owners. A co-ordinated approach could enhance the ecological, social and economic value of the moor.

Manage the network of tracks and footpaths to maximise opportunities to enjoy the landscape

The network of tracks and footpaths should be managed to enhance capacity and provide opportunities for healthy recreation to a wide range of users. This can be achieved through landscape management measures such as surfacing and signage, and by controlling inappropriate uses to retain the character, cultural heritage and biodiversity interests. The edges of the Eastern Moors are an internationally acclaimed rock climbing resource.

Plan

Create, extend and link areas of heath

Opportunities to extend heathland within the Open Moors should be sought, whilst safeguarding cultural heritage features and historic landscapes. There may be further opportunities to create, expand and link heath patches in the Enclosed Gritstone Uplands and the Slopes and Cloughs where appropriate, within a sustainable upland management system.

Consider the reopening of small-scale quarries for local stone supply

Where environmentally appropriate, and when demand can justify supply, it may be acceptable to open up some relict quarry sites over a limited extent and duration to enable restoration of local, vernacular buildings. Such decisions must be made on a site basis and consider all economic, landscape and environmental needs and issues.

Develop small-scale renewable energy for local needs

There are limited opportunities for small-scale renewable energy sources within the Eastern Moors but they should be sought as appropriate, within any new development. Management of woodland for wood fuel may increase local renewable energy supply, where it would have a neutral impact on the character of the area and its component parts, reducing reliance on traditional carbon-based energies. Where appropriate seek positive measures to reinforce the local landscape character as part of new development.

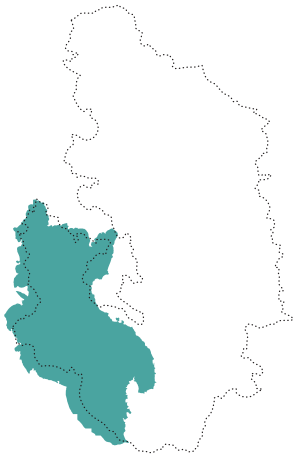


Curbar © Peak District National Park Authority

South West Peak



The Roaches © Peak District National Park Authority



Introduction

The South West Peak is an area of upland and associated foothills in the south-west part of the Peak District National Park. It is bounded by the distinctly different limestone landscapes of the White Peak to the east and the extensive lowlands of the Cheshire and Staffordshire Plain to the west and the Churnet Valley to the south. To the north is the more industrial landscapes of the Dark Peak Western Fringe.

Physical influences

The landscape of the South West Peak has been shaped by the structure and erosion of the underlying Millstone Grit. The sediments were laid down in the Carboniferous era and consist of a cyclic succession of shales, siltstones, and cross-bedded sandstones (locally called gritstones). These represent river sediments deposited in a large delta complex, akin to the Nile Delta today. Sediments were deposited on the summit of the delta and on its moving flanks. As sea level rose and currents shifted, the delta sediments were re-deposited in large gritstone masses which can be seen in the area.

The Millstone Grit is strongly folded in the South West Peak; the dipping beds of gritstone create variation in the landform and define rocky ridges and slopes. The great folds in the rocks have left exposed Coal Measures in some areas, notably in the Goyt Valley and basins such as Goldsitch Moss.

Although the South West Peak was almost certainly covered by glaciers in the early Quaternary (the last two million years), there is little evidence in the landscape today. During the last (Devensian) glaciation, the area was not covered by ice but was strongly affected by the cold conditions on the edge of the ice sheet. These conditions led to rapid erosion of the landscape giving rise to the steep slopes, rocky tors and edges that we see today such as at Ramshaw Rocks and the Roaches. Sediments eroded during these cold conditions were deposited on the valley slopes.

With a rainfall of over 140 cm a year, Axe Edge is one of the major watersheds of England. It is the source of five rivers – the Dove, Manifold, Goyt, Dane and Wye. The rivers and their fast flowing tributaries have cut steep sided rocky cloughs through the upland landscape which broaden into alluvial valleys in the lowlands. Much of the highest land in the upland area of the South West Peak is covered by deposits of blanket peat, which give a smooth rounded appearance to the landscape. The peat is cut by narrow groughs at the heads of streams.

Ecological influences

The high altitude and heavy rainfall on the moorland hills has created acidic soils dominated by moorland vegetation. On the high moorland plateau of Axe Edge and parts of Goyt's Moss in the north, large areas are covered by blanket bog. The thick peat, which is between 0.5 metres and 2 metres thick, developed during the last 10,000 years, with the maximum growth during a warmer period, 8,000 to 6,500 years ago. Human induced clearance of the landscape and the introduction of grazing animals also played their part. The blanket bogs are characterised by cottongrasses with patches of heather, bilberry and crowberry and support breeding birds such as the golden plover. On the lower moors, where the peat is thin, or there are peaty mineral soils, dry heath is the characteristic habitat with a mixture of dwarf shrubs, especially bilberry and heather. In areas managed for grouse shooting the heath is dominated by heather. These upland heaths support birds such as red grouse, curlew, merlin and short eared owl. Gritstone edges and tors are locally important

features of the Open Moors, most notably along the prominent gritstone ridges of The Roaches and Ramshaw Rocks/Gib Torr; and there are also outcrops of gritstone on steep clough sides. The exposed rock supports important habitats for lichens and ferns. The rocky outcrops support breeding birds including raven and small numbers of ring ouzel, with wheatear and winchat on the slopes below. Small patches of willow scrub occur locally in wetter areas on the lower moors, and support a rich flora.

On better land, and where the moorlands have been enclosed and heavily grazed, acid grassland is more common. This is particularly characteristic of the Cheshire hills in the north-west, such as Shutlingsloe, Midgley and Birchenough Hills, Bosley Minn and Sponds Hill. A range of types of acid grassland can be found, with sheep's fescue, common bent and mat grass dominating better-drained slopes. Other grasslands dominated by purple moor grass occur in wetter areas, with extensive examples at Lyme Park. Bracken beds are frequent features of the acid grassland, particularly on dry slopes. The acid grasslands support a range of bird species including curlew, snipe and skylark. Mires are associated with the gently sloping land and of upland enclosed pastures.

The steep sided cloughs that cut through the landscape are often characterised by scattered trees or linear woodland. Woodlands are also found in blocks on the slopes in the west of the area and tend to be oak dominated, with some downy birch, silver birch and rowan. Holly and hazel are found in the under storey in the more lowland woodlands. The ground flora includes wavy hair-grass and bilberry. On mineral-rich soils on the lower slopes, a more diverse flora is found with ash in the canopy and a rich ground flora including ramsons, wood anemone and bluebell. Alder occurs along streams. The woodlands support breeding redstart, tree pipit, wood warbler, lesser spotted woodpecker and pied flycatcher. There are also large plantation woodlands that occur in the Goyt Valley and Macclesfield Forest; these were often planted on former open heath or grassland, although some have replaced semi-natural woodlands and retain natural wooded character in patches near flushes and streams.

In the enclosed farmlands on lower slopes and valleys, there is a strong pastoral character which includes some areas of interesting neutral grasslands. Wet rush-pasture with soft rush and Yorkshire fog is particularly widespread and characteristic, and is important for ground-nesting waders such as curlew, snipe and lapwing. Many areas of pasture have been reseeded and are managed intensively for silage production so unimproved grasslands and hay meadows are relatively rare. The meadows have a range of grasses mixed with oxeye daisy and knapweed, as well as species typical of more northerly meadows such as great burnet and lady's mantle. Acid fescue-bent pastures can support a rich flora including local species such as moonwort and mountain pansy. Fields are often enclosed by hedgerows on the lower slopes, including some mixed species hedgerows with holly.

Acid and basic flushes occur as small features in the cloughs and along the river valleys of the main moorland areas and can support very diverse plant assemblages. Many upland streams with rocky beds rise on moorland edge, some with rich moss and lichen communities. These streams broaden as they reach the lower slopes and are

associated with streamline alder. In places large reservoirs have been established that can often be associated with marshes around inlet streams associated with various rushes, tufted hair-grass, marsh bedstraw and water mint

Human influences

Archaeological evidence suggests occupation of the area from prehistoric times. There is evidence of Neolithic settlement from excavations at Lismore Fields near Buxton. A few Bronze Age barrows survive on hill tops and other high ground, usually above the range of prehistoric cultivation.

Today, settlement is dispersed throughout the landscape and this is undoubtedly an ancient pattern established in medieval times or perhaps earlier. However, it is often difficult to date individual farmsteads and their fields. It would not be surprising if there are an equal number of farmsteads newly established as populations grew in post-medieval times, both near the older ones and on less advantageous ground. Irrespective of date, the farmsteads are usually surrounded by irregular and sub-rectangular fields which have been created and modified over the generations by individual farmers rather than having been planned communally or by large estates.

Although medieval farmsteads would originally have been cruck-framed buildings, these were normally rebuilt during the 17th to 19th centuries, usually using local gritstone and stone tiled or thatched roofs. Staffordshire blue clay tiles are an important roofing material in the more lowland landscapes to the west. The rebuilding in stone often makes it difficult to establish which farmsteads have medieval origins given the frequent absence of historical documentation.

In the northern half of the South West Peak, settlement may well have been inhibited until later medieval times, because of the existence of three medieval hunting forests: Macclesfield Forest in Cheshire, Malbanc Frith in Staffordshire, and part of the Royal Forest of the Peak in Derbyshire. Nucleated villages are not common, with only the old market village of Longnor and the small settlement of Sheen to the north and a series of four larger villages further south at the edge of the limestone plateau. All but Sheen have field walls that define once open strips within medieval open fields but each of these village areas also has outlying farmsteads of a variety of dates.

Throughout the majority of the South West Peak fields tend to be small to medium in size and irregular to sub-rectangular in shape, reflecting piecemeal development over time by individual farmers rather than planning by village communities and large estates. Piecemeal enclosure presumably began in medieval times and continued to encroach onto the former open moorlands in particular in the 18th century and sometimes the 19th century.

Roads and tracks cross the landscape and in places rise to cross the high upland core. Some tracks link upland grazing to lowland settlements, while others are former transport routes. Some old disused tracks can be seen as braided hollow-ways cutting across slopes. In places 18th century roads follow almost direct routes,

while elsewhere such roads were abandoned and more sinuous replacements were built in the early 19th century to avoid steep gradients which wagons could not negotiate in winter.

Large tracts of the South West Peak were owned by major estates, notably the Harpur-Crewe family, the Earls of Derby and the Dukes of Devonshire. Much of the Harpur-Crewe Estate passed into the ownership of the Peak District National Park Authority in the early 1980s. There is a large military training area on the sloping moorland to the south east of the Roaches.

Coal mining took place in this area from the medieval period to the early 20th century and there are extensive 17th to 19th century remains in the northern half of the South West Peak. The coal seams were thin and of poor quality, and while extensively worked for local industrial and domestic markets, the mines tended to be relatively shallow and accessed by a multitude of small shafts, with less common adits and short drainage levels. It was not normally economic to install expensive infrastructure to remove significant amounts of water to enable mining at greater depth. One exception was the Duke of Devonshire's mines south-west of Buxton, at Goyt's Moss and Thatch Marsh, which were accessed by both deep shafts with steam engines, and long drainage and haulage tunnels driven from Burbage; these provided coal for the lucrative lime burning industry at nearby Grin Hill. Occasional quarries for building stone and roofing slates can also be found through the area, often in remote moorland locations. These industries shaped the patterns of settlement: the additional livelihoods from mining and quarrying allowed much denser settlement of agriculturally poor land, particularly in the area around Flash.

The current agricultural economy of the area is based upon stock rearing of sheep and cattle, with dairying more common on the lower land. On the high upland plateau, there are extensive areas of rough grazing with some areas managed for grouse shooting. Where the moorland has been enclosed there is a complex mosaic of rough grazing and improved permanent pasture. The enclosed farmland on the lower hills is predominantly permanent grassland which varies in intensity of use from long term leys to unimproved rough grazing. The complex pattern of different agricultural management regimes is a key aspect of the South West Peak landscape.

Sense of place

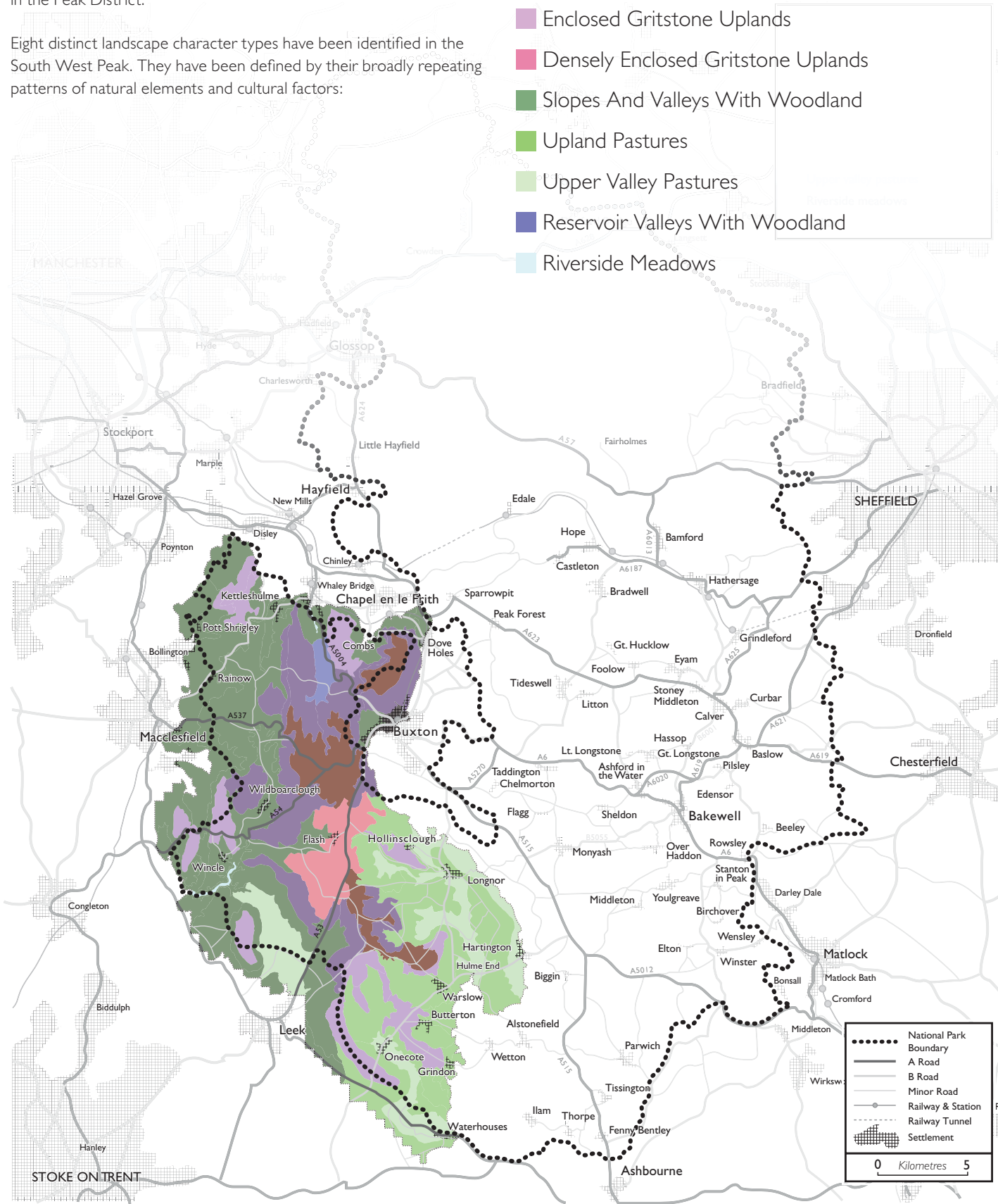
The South West Peak is a diverse landscape with a high, moorland core which is flanked by sloping landscapes, dissected by cloughs that broaden into more lowland pastoral landscapes. The strong contrast between the upland and lowland landscapes creates a distinctive sense of place. The high moorland landscapes are dominated by wild exposed blanket bog and dry heath which has, in places, been enclosed by gritstone walls, often into large parcels. There are distant views from the hills, both into the Peak District and over the adjoining lowlands to the west.

Lower slopes and valleys are more settled with dispersed gritstone farmsteads, occasional small villages and smaller fields enclosed by

gritstone walls and some hedgerows. There is a strong pastoral character in the lowlands to the west, the scattered trees along watercourses and boundaries create a sense of enclosure that is rare in the Peak District.

Eight distinct landscape character types have been identified in the South West Peak. They have been defined by their broadly repeating patterns of natural elements and cultural factors:

- Open Moors
- Moorland Hills And Ridges
- Enclosed Gritstone Uplands
- Densely Enclosed Gritstone Uplands
- Slopes And Valleys With Woodland
- Upland Pastures
- Upper Valley Pastures
- Reservoir Valleys With Woodland
- Riverside Meadows

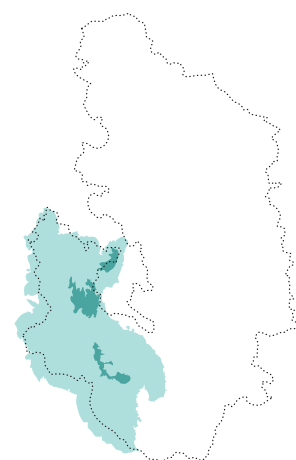


Open Moors

An open, rolling moorland landscape associated with high gritstone hill summits and broad upland basins. This is a wild, unsettled landscape with extensive areas of blanket bog and patches of dry heath. There are wide views across these moorlands and to surrounding hills. The moorland is crossed by historic transport routes.



Goyt's Moss © Peak District National Park Authority



Key characteristics

- Rolling hill summits extending to rounded ridges
- Extensive deposits of blanket bog and some thinner peaty mineral soils
- Unenclosed heather moorland extensively grazed by sheep
- Wide views to distant hilltops
- Historic transport routes, including packhorse tracks and turnpike roads
- Coal mining remains

This landscape character type occurs in extensive tracts on the highest hill summits and broad upland basins of the South West Peak, including Axe Edge Moor, Shining Tor, Combs Moss and Swallow Moss.

Geology and landform

This is a landscape of high undulating moorland summits. The high ground is underlain by the massive beds of hard Millstone Grit, which is more resistant to weathering than the shales that form the surrounding lower ground.

Soils and vegetation

Blanket bog covers much of this landscape type with peat lying as a mantle over the gently sloping land. The peat is at least half a metre deep and can be up to 2 metres deep in places. This landscape is dominated by wild, unenclosed heath and blanket mire. Dwarf shrub heath dominated by heather and bilberry, together with cottongrass blanket mire, provide habitat for the curlew and many other upland birds. On lower ground the peat is thinner and the peaty mineral soils result in dry heath vegetation. Parts of the moorland are managed for shooting through a combination of regular burning and low level grazing which leads to a dominance of heather.

Tree cover

This is mostly an open, treeless landscape. There are some patches of scrub encroaching on the open moorland which tends to be dominated by birch, grey willow and some rowan.

Land use

This is a rough grazing landscape that supports extensive stock rearing. There are some enclosed pastures on lower land, many reverting to moorland but there are also areas of improved land in enclosures near to farmsteads. Moorland management for shooting is also practiced in parts of the area. Extensive relics of past coal mining exist on Combs Moss, Goyt's Moss and west of Axe Edge.

Enclosure

This landscape is characterised by extensive areas of unenclosed moorland with only occasional gritstone drystone walls defining ownership boundaries. There are occasional areas of enclosed land that encroach onto the moorland from adjacent landscapes, including Parliamentary Enclosure and older enclosure.

Settlement and buildings

This is a largely unsettled landscape, except for occasional isolated roadside dwellings or inns. These are robust buildings constructed of local gritstone with stone slate roofs.

Transport and access

Although a very remote and largely unsettled landscape there are several major roads crossing the landscape. In places 18th century turnpike roads follow almost direct routes, while elsewhere such roads were abandoned and more sinuous replacements were built in the early 19th century to avoid steep gradients which wagons could not negotiate in winter. There are also remains of many older historic tracks and braided hollow-ways across the moorland marking former transport routes.

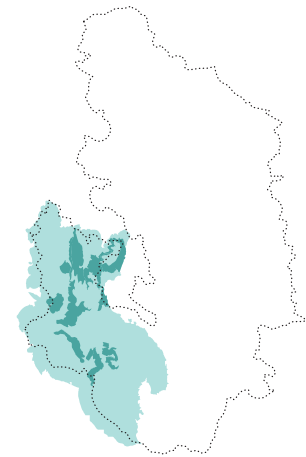
Moorland Hills And Ridges

This is a landscape of steep hill slopes and high ridges with heathland vegetation and prominent outcrops of steeply dipping gritstone.

This wild, sparsely settled landscape has panoramic views to surrounding hills and over the lowlands to the west. Drystone walls define large enclosures.



The Roaches © Peak District National Park Authority



Key characteristics

- Steep hills, slopes and ridges with narrow summits
- Prominent outcrops of steeply dipping gritstone
- Thin impoverished soils over gritstone bedrock
- Rough grassland and dry heath extensively grazed by sheep
- Panoramic views to surrounding hills and over the lowlands to the west
- Occasional historic stone quarries and coal mining remains

This landscape character type occurs on high hills and slopes along the central spine of the South West Peak. It includes distinctive hill and ridge summits, the steep slopes of the Roaches, Ramshaw Rocks, Shuttlingsloe, Morridge and the steep slopes above the Goyt Valley.

Geology and landform

Steeply dipping beds of Millstone Grit create steep slopes and ridges with prominent rocky exposures. These outcrops are most noticeable at the Roaches and Ramshaw Rocks where they form dramatic features against the skyline. This landscape type includes the steep slopes that rise up to the open moorland summits.

Soils and vegetation

This landscape is characterised by poor peaty soils. In places the soils are sandy and free draining. The dominant vegetation is dwarf shrub heath with heather and bilberry. Elsewhere there are poorly drained areas, some of which have thicker deposits of peat and there are some areas characterised by cottongrass blanket mire.

Tree cover

There is very little tree cover in this exposed landscape. Thorn bushes mark the course of some former hedgerows and there are occasional patches of willow scrub.

Land use

This is a pastoral farming landscape with patches of rough grazing on heathland. Stock rearing of sheep and cattle predominates. Areas of smaller fields often have improved permanent grassland although some fields are reverting to heathland habitats. There is a large military training area on the sloping moorland to the south east of the Roaches that has controlled access. There are several sites of historic stone and roof slate quarries, while important examples of former coal mines are restricted to the upper Dane Valley, parts of the Goyt Valley and Burbage. There are popular climbing routes on the steep rocky outcrops at the Roaches, Hen Cloud and Ramshaw Rocks.

Enclosure

This landscape was once largely unenclosed moorland but has since been divided by large enclosures bounded by gritstone walls. This is thought to have mostly occurred during the 18th and 19th centuries. As well as the large areas of moorland divided into large parcels, there are areas of smaller fields, some relatively old and others created after Parliamentary Enclosure. Many surviving walls define ownership boundaries and internal walls are often ruinous.

Settlement and buildings

This is a sparsely settled landscape with only occasional isolated farmsteads set into the hill slopes for shelter. Farmsteads are constructed from local gritstone and are roofed with stone slates or Staffordshire blue clay tiles. Presumably most if not all were constructed in the 18th and 19th centuries when the landscape was enclosed.

Transport and access

The few roads that cross this landscape often follow historic routes and run at an angle to the slopes, to give a gentler incline. These include roads first built as 18th and 19th century turnpike roads, again with re-routing to avoid earlier un-passable gradients. Some of the initial turnpike roads follow earlier hollow-way routes. There are patches of open access land associated with the areas of heathland.

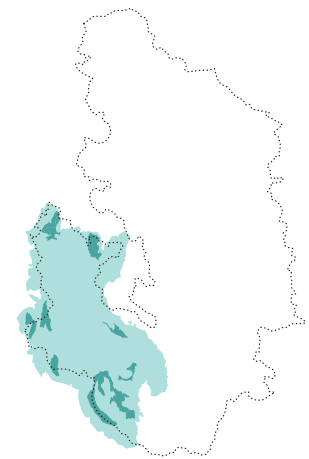
Enclosed Gritstone Uplands

An open landscape associated with broad, rolling hill summits.

This is a landscape of isolated stone farmsteads, straight roads, regular fields of variable sizes enclosed by drystone walls and patches of remnant dry heath.



Near Wainstones © Peak District National Park Authority



Key characteristics

- High rolling hill summits
- Thin soils over gritstone bedrock
- Permanent pasture enclosed by gritstone walls
- Remnant patches of rough land with bracken and gorse and some heather
- Regular patterns of different sized fields
- Straight roads with wide grass verges
- Isolated gritstone farmsteads with stone slate roofs

This landscape character type occurs on the lower hill summits across the South West Peak around the fringes of the highest upland core, including Sponds Hill, Gun Hill, Butterton Moor and the southern part of Morridge.

Geology and landform

This is a landscape of relatively high rolling hill summits which in places form rounded ridge summits. The high ground is underlain by the hard Millstone Grit, which is more resistant to weathering than the shales that form the surrounding lower ground. The beds of the gritstone are generally inclined and where they dip more steeply, the hill summits are narrower.

Soils and vegetation

This landscape is characterised by poor, peaty soils. In places the soils are sandy and free draining, while elsewhere there are poorly draining areas, some of which have thicker deposits of peat. There are signs of the moorland origins of this landscape in the remnant vegetation. There are occasional patches of heathland with heather, bilberry, gorse and bracken and remnants of heathland vegetation in the roadside verges. There are areas of acid grassland, the most diverse of which are dominated by sheep's fescue and common bent usually with a mixture of other species. Other areas of grassland are dominated by wavy hair-grass and are often associated with patches of heather and bilberry.

Tree cover

There is little tree cover in this landscape. Trees are mostly limited to tree groups of mature ash and sycamore that shelter farmsteads. There are occasional small blocks of post-war plantation woodland.

Land use

This is a pastoral farming landscape which supports stock rearing and some dairying. There are some areas of rough grazing associated with the areas of dry heath. Important coal mining remains are restricted to Bakestonedale Moor and Sponds Moor to the north east of Bollington.

Enclosure

Much of this landscape was once open moorland but was enclosed, probably mostly during the 18th and 19th centuries. Drystone walls and occasional hedgerows define regular patterns of fields, some of which resulted from Parliamentary Enclosure and others which were enclosed privately. There are also areas of piecemeal enclosure of the moorland from various dates which tend to be more irregular. In parts the enclosures are large and regular and there are also smaller enclosures with a mixture of regular and irregular shapes, such as those around Hollinsclough and on Butterson Moor.

Settlement and buildings

This is a sparsely settled landscape with only occasional isolated farmsteads. Farmsteads are constructed from local gritstone and are roofed with stone slate or Staffordshire blue clay tiles. Most farmsteads were presumably constructed during the 18th and 19th centuries when the landscape was enclosed.

Transport and access

The landscape is crossed by direct roads, with uniform verges often containing remnants of heathland vegetation. In areas of Parliamentary Enclosure, roads are often very straight. The road network is supplemented by a network of footpaths that link isolated farmsteads. There are some areas of access land associated with heathland.

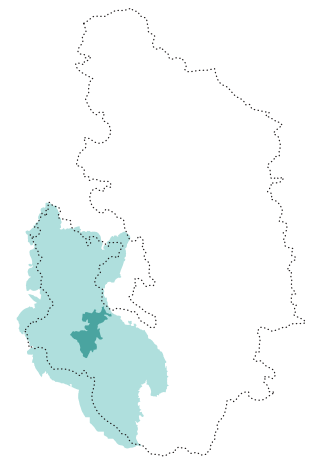
Densely Enclosed Gritstone Uplands

An undulating upland landscape with occasional rocky summits.

There are a significant number of dispersed small gritstone farmsteads and cottages in this remote landscape, some associated with the former coal mining industry. This is a landscape of rough permanent pasture enclosed by gritstone walls. There are patches of heather moorland and areas of pasture reverting to moorland.



Near Green Gutter Head © Peak District National Park Authority



Key characteristics

- Undulating upland landscape with occasional rocky summits
- Dispersed settlement of small gritstone farmsteads and cottages, some associated with former coal mining industry
- Thin soils over gritstone bedrock
- Permanent pasture enclosed by gritstone walls
- Patches of heather moorland and areas of pasture reverting to moorland
- Open views over surrounding landscape and to adjacent hills
- Coal mining remains

This landscape character type occurs in one discrete area in the area around Flash and Goldsitch Moss.

Geology and landform

This is a landscape of high rolling hill summits which, in places, rise to rocky moorland summits. The highest ground is underlain by the hard Millstone Grit. The beds of rock are folded with the younger rocks of the Coal Measures outcropping in the area around Goldsitch Moss. These interbedded gritstones, siltstones and shales have seams of coal.

Soils and vegetation

This landscape is characterised by poor peaty soils. In places the soils are sandy and free draining, while elsewhere there are poorly draining areas, some of which have thicker deposits of peat. There are signs of the moorland origins of this landscape in the remnant vegetation. There are extensive patches of heathland with heather, bilberry, gorse and bracken. Remnants of heathland vegetation are also found in the roadside verges. There are areas of acid grassland, the most diverse of which are dominated by sheep's fescue and common bent usually with a mixture of other species. Other areas of grassland are dominated by wavy hair-grass and are often associated with patches of heather and bilberry.

Tree cover

There is little tree cover in this landscape. Trees are limited to occasional trees grouped around farmsteads. There are occasional small blocks of 20th century coniferous plantation woodland.

Land use

This is a pastoral farming landscape which supports stock rearing. There are some areas of rough grazing associated with heathland. There are extensive relict coal mines in a band from Orchard Farm southwards to Blue Hills, with a particularly important concentration at Goldsitch Moss.

Enclosure

This landscape was enclosed from open moorland. Map evidence shows that it was mostly already enclosed by the mid 19th century at the latest. The enclosure is likely to be of a variety of dates, mostly in post-medieval times, but some earlier. The enclosure was mainly piecemeal or by private agreement so the field pattern is generally irregular. Gritstone walls define the field boundaries. The enclosure has strong contrasts between small enclosures around farmsteads and cottages, interspersed with larger areas of enclosed moorland and rough grazing.

Settlement and buildings

Considering the remoteness of this landscape and poor soils, this is a remarkably settled landscape with frequent dispersed small farmsteads and cottages. Buildings are constructed from local gritstone and are roofed with stone slate or Staffordshire blue clay tiles. The most likely explanation for the high density of dwellings in such a remote landscape is that a significant proportion were built to provide housing for people working in the local coal industry, which included small-scale local operations and the somewhat larger scale mines at Danebower, Orchard Common and Goldsitch Moss. The additional income associated with the mining allowed the land to support a larger population than would otherwise be possible. This industry started in the medieval period, was locally at its height in the 18th century and continued into the early 20th century.

Transport and access

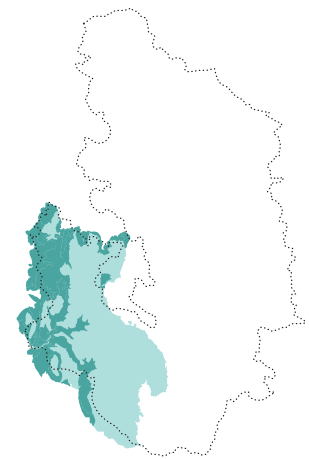
The landscape has a dense network of roads linking the dispersed settlements. Roads tend to be sinuous because the road network was influenced by the topography and the locations of enclosure, dwellings and mines. There is a dense network of footpaths that links the dispersed settlements and there are areas of access land associated with heathland.

Slopes And Valleys With Woodland

This is a pastoral landscape with a varied undulating topography of steep slopes, low ridges and incised valleys. Blocks of woodland are a characteristic feature of this landscape, together with patches of acid grassland and bracken on steeper slopes and higher ground. This is an area of traditional dispersed settlement with probable ancient origins. Views to lower ground are framed by woodlands and valley sides.



Dunge Clough © Peak District National Park Authority



This landscape covers extensive tracts of the western slopes of the South West Peak, in the landscapes rising above Macclesfield and Leek

Key characteristics

- Undulating topography with incised valleys and rounded summits
- Patches of acid grassland on steeper slopes
- Irregular blocks of ancient woodland along cloughs and valley sides
- Permanent pasture in fields enclosed by hedgerows and trees
- Narrow winding, often sunken lanes
- Scattered farms and loose clusters of dwellings
- Variable shaped, small to medium sized fields of various dates
- Coal mining remains

Geology and landform

This is an undulating landscape with steeply sloping land underlain by gritstone and incised cloughs which cut into the softer shales below. The undulating landform is shaped by the dipping beds of the Millstone Grit. The lower ground is underlain by shale with some limestone interbedded and there are also some outcrops of Coal Measures.

Soils and vegetation

This landscape is characterised by heavy soils which can be poorly draining. On steeper slopes there are more freely draining, acid soils. The oak woodland on the slopes has both sessile and pedunculate oak, mixed with downy and silver birch, holly, rowan and hazel. The acid soil supports bracken, wavy hair-grass and locally bilberry as well as an abundance of ferns. There are patches of alder dominated wet woodland along streams and in wet hollows. On flushed slopes the wet ground often has a layer of mosses, sedges, horsetails and ferns. There is unimproved grassland which can provide for a range of herbs; in places the grassland is wet, containing soft rush. There are relic patches of dry heath which support heather, bilberry and gorse with some bracken on the steeper slopes.

Tree cover

This landscape has a strongly wooded character which creates filtered views through the landscape. There are woodland blocks along cloughs and slopes, which combine with scattered trees along field boundaries and watercourses and with tree groups around settlements. A lot of the woodlands have presumably existed for many hundreds of years and may have been managed by coppicing to provide wood and charcoal. Woodland blocks, belts and specimens are a notable feature of parkland landscapes such as at Lyme Park. There are large 20th century plantation woodlands, including extensive areas of coniferous woodland at Macclesfield Forest.

Land use

This is a pastoral landscape dominated by stock rearing for sheep and cattle. Due to the often steep topography, the land is difficult to reseed so is usually managed as permanent pasture. On higher ground and on the steepest slopes there are areas of rough grazing. There is ornamental parkland in this landscape at Lyme Park and Swythamley Hall. Important coal mining and quarrying remains are restricted to Kerridge to the south east of Bollington.

Enclosure

There is limited map evidence showing that parts of this landscape were enclosed in the 17th century. Enclosure was probably relatively common by this date but for most places early maps do not exist to provide evidence of this. Evidence of tithe maps and Parliamentary Enclosure Award maps show that much of the landscape was already

enclosed by the mid 19th century, with many of these areas taken in from open common in the 17th to earlier 19th centuries, whilst remaining areas of common were enclosed during the 19th century. Fields are generally enclosed by drystone walls, with some mixed hedgerows containing holly and hazel. Hedgerows are more common on lower slopes.

Settlement and buildings

Settlement is very dispersed in this landscape consisting of farmsteads and occasional large houses. In places there are loose clusters of farms and cottages, sometimes more nucleated around a road junction. While some of these places have origins in the medieval period if not earlier, today's buildings mostly date from between the 17th to 19th centuries, are generally constructed of local gritstone and roofed with stone slates or Staffordshire blue clay tiles.

Transport and access

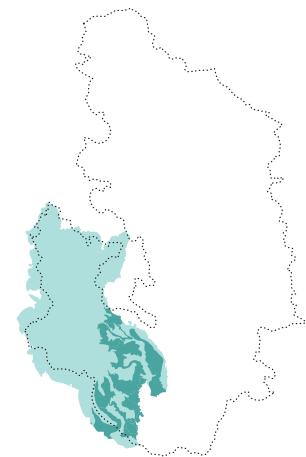
This is a generally peaceful landscape with small winding lanes which are often sunken on slopes. The lanes are supplemented by a network of footpaths that link dispersed farmsteads.

Upland Pastures

This is an upland pastoral landscape with a traditional dispersed pattern of gritstone farmsteads of probable ancient origins. There are also localised village settlements. Permanent pasture is enclosed by drystone walls and some hedgerows. Trees are scattered along incised cloughs and around dispersed gritstone farmsteads. This is a very peaceful rural landscape with open views to surrounding higher ground.



Looking towards Sheen Hill © Peak District National Park Authority



Key characteristics

- Undulating slopes with gentler summits and incised cloughs
- Dispersed gritstone farmsteads and loose clusters of dwellings, with stone slates or clay tile roofs
- Permanent pasture enclosed by gritstone walls and some thorn hedgerows
- Scattered trees along cloughs and around farmsteads
- Fields of rushy pasture and occasional patches of bracken, bilberry and heather
- Narrow winding lanes which are sunken on slopes
- Various shaped small to medium fields of various dates

This landscape character type occurs on the higher ground towards the southern part of the South West Peak, around Mixon, Warslow, Butterton, Longnor, Hollinsclough and Grindon.

Geology and landform

This undulating upland landscape is underlain by a complex mix of interbedded gritstones and shales. There are also areas where thin limestone beds are interbedded with the gritstones and shales. The higher land is defined by thicker beds of gritstone, while the valleys cut through into the softer shale-dominated rocks.

Soils and vegetation

The soils in this landscape are heavy and prone to seasonal waterlogging. In places soils are particularly impoverished or peaty which gives rise to remnant patches of wet heath and/or bog. Occasional species-rich pastures and meadows occur. The surviving hay meadows have a range of grasses mixed with oxeye daisy, knapweed, self-heal and ribwort plantain. Wet or marshy grasslands are often characterised by the grass, Yorkshire fog and have patches of soft rush. There are also occasional fields of acid grassland and localised patches of bracken. Heather and bilberry are found in patches of rough land, particularly in road verges.

Tree cover

Tree cover is fairly limited in this landscape. Trees are grouped around settlements for shelter. There are also scattered trees along some field boundaries and watercourses which filter views in places. Higher land is particularly open and un-wooded.

Land use

This is a pastoral farming landscape with stock rearing of sheep and cattle and some dairying. Many fields have been highly improved and are cut for silage. Some fields are still cut for hay while other poorer quality pasture has patches of rushes.

Enclosure

This is an enclosed landscape with irregular and sub-rectangular shaped fields enclosed by gritstone walls and some hedgerows. Map evidence shows that much of the landscape was already enclosed by the mid 19th century at latest and it is likely that a significant proportion of the enclosures are considerably older than this. However, there are no early maps to demonstrate this. In the areas less favourable for farming, which were often poorly drained, it is possible that many similar enclosures continued to be created by individual farmers well into post-medieval times as population and farming expanded into former open and wooded areas. Much of the northern half of the Upland Pastures area, on the ridges flanking the upper valleys of the Dove and Manifold, was part of the forest of Malbanc Frith and forest laws may have inhibited settlement until later medieval times. Today, there are also a few areas of narrow strip fields, always near the villages. These preserve the pattern of medieval open field farming.

Settlement and buildings

This is a settled landscape with dispersed farmsteads, sometimes in loose clusters, and a few villages. Three of the villages flank the limestone plateau and are an extension of the nucleated settlement pattern here. Further north, Longnor is probably a medieval imposition on the dispersed settlement landscape, created to provide a local market place and service centre for the farming community. Sheen is very small today and is perhaps little different from the hamlet clusters found throughout much of the South West Peak. Settlement on these uplands is often associated with springs. While some places have medieval or earlier origins, today's buildings mostly date from between the 17th to 19th centuries and are constructed of local gritstone with clay tile roofs. There is also some limestone used for the construction of buildings in the areas adjacent to White Peak landscapes.

Transport and access

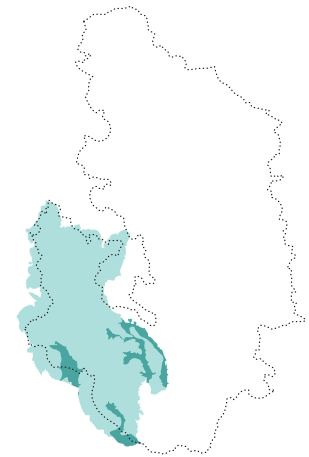
This landscape is crossed by narrow sinuous lanes with narrow verges. The lanes are enclosed by drystone walls with occasional hedgerows. Farmsteads are often set back from main through routes on tracks. Roads and tracks can be sunken where they have cut into sloping land. There is a dense network of public footpaths, providing routes through the landscape and linking farmsteads.

Upper Valley Pastures

This is a settled pastoral valley landscape with scattered trees along hedgerows, around settlements and following streams. Fields of permanent pasture are divided by hedgerows and occasional drystone walls. This is a settled landscape with dispersed gritstone farmsteads with stone or clay tile roofs. Views along the valley and to surrounding hills are filtered through scattered trees.



Underhill nr Glutton Bridge © Peak District National Park Authority



Key characteristics

- Undulating lower valley slopes with incised stream valleys
- Scattered trees along hedgerows, around settlements and alders along incised streams
- A settled landscape with dispersed gritstone farmsteads and loose clusters of dwellings with stone slate or clay tile roofs
- Permanent pasture enclosed by a mixture of drystone walls and hedgerows
- Patches of rushy pasture
- Narrow winding lanes

This landscape is found as discrete valley units in the foothills of the South West Peak. It includes the upper valleys of the River Dove and Manifold, and valleys near Kettleshulme and Combs.

Geology and landform

This is a low lying landscape of valley slopes that is framed by surrounding higher ground. The landscape is underlain by soft shale rocks and occasional pockets of sands and gravels. Incised stream valleys create local variation in the landform and in places are fringed by deposits of alluvium.

Soils and vegetation

The soils in this landscape are heavy and prone to seasonal waterlogging. There is only limited semi-natural habitat in this farmed landscape. The surviving hay meadows have a range of grasses mixed with oxeye daisy, knapweed, self-heal and ribwort plantain. Wet or marshy grasslands are often characterised by the grass, Yorkshire fog and have patches of soft rush. Alder is found fringing the watercourses, sometimes forming denser wooded belts.

Tree cover

Although there is little woodland in this landscape, there is often a well-wooded feel due to the many scattered trees along field boundaries, watercourses and around settlement.

Land use

This is a pastoral farming landscape with stock rearing of sheep and cattle and some dairying. Many fields have been highly improved and are cut for silage. There are damp hollows in some fields which have patches of rushes.

Enclosure

This is an enclosed landscape with irregular shaped fields enclosed by a mixture of hedgerows and gritstone walls. Hedgerows are mostly dominated by hawthorn and blackthorn but some are more mixed and include holly and hazel. Map evidence shows that much of the landscape was already enclosed by the mid 19th century at latest and it is likely that a significant proportion of the enclosures are considerably older than this. However, there are no early maps to demonstrate this. In the areas less favourable for farming, which were often poorly drained, it would not be surprising if many similar enclosures continued to be created by individual farmers well into post-medieval times as population as farming expanded into former open and wooded areas.

Settlement and buildings

Settlement is dispersed through the landscape with farmsteads built of local gritstone and often with stone slate roofs. There are also small clusters of farms and cottages, often found at crossing points of the many streams and rivers. Although some places have medieval if not earlier origins, the present buildings date from the 17th to 19th century. Some limestone is found in buildings and walls near to the adjacent White Peak landscapes. Those parts of the valleys of the Dove and Manifold in this character type were part of the forest of Malbanc Frith and forest laws may have inhibited settlement until later medieval times.

Transport and access

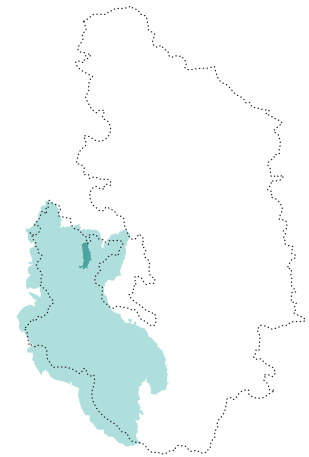
This landscape is crossed by narrow sinuous lanes with narrow verges. The lanes are enclosed by hedgerows or drystone walls. There are public footpaths running along the valleys and connecting outlying farmsteads.

Reservoir Valleys With Woodland

Steep sided valleys dominated by large reservoirs. Some of the steep valley slopes have been planted with interlocking blocks of coniferous and mixed plantation woodland while others support acid grassland and clough woodlands. Views along the valleys are framed by woodland and the slopes rising to moorland.



Fernilee Reservoir, Goyt Valley © Peak District National Park Authority



Key characteristics

- Interlocking coniferous and mixed plantation woodland with some limited semi-natural woodland
- Large reservoirs providing water supplies to adjoining urban areas
- Steep valley slopes, dissected by cloughs
- Land was largely cleared of settlement during reservoir construction leaving occasional isolated gritstone farmsteads
- Pastoral fields bounded by gritstone walls with many relict boundaries

This landscape character type occurs in the Goyt Valley.

Geology and landform

This is a landscape with a prominent, sloping topography cutting into the gritstone moorland. The underlying geology is mainly hard interbedded gritstones with, in places, softer shales which give rise to a fairly unified, steeply sloping landform with narrow valley bottoms. In places the slopes are dissected by deep cloughs. Coal Measures also outcrop in the Goyt Valley including interbedded mudstones, shales and sandstones and some coals seams.

Soils and vegetation

The soils tend to be shallow and free draining over gritstone bedrock. Surface water drainage is often impeded by the formation of a thin ironpan and in less steeply sloping areas the soils frequently have a wet peaty surface horizon. Owing to the poor quality of the soils, this was a landscape with widespread patches of semi-natural vegetation, much of which has now been planted with conifer woodlands. In places patches of ancient semi-natural woodland exist, supporting a range of ground flora species including bilberry and dog's mercury. There is bracken associated with acid grassland on the sloping land in these landscapes.

Tree cover

This landscape is extensively wooded, mostly recent conifer plantations of pine, spruce and larch, planted on land that was previously open heath, or grassland. Some of the plantations were planted on the site of ancient woodlands that were cleared of native trees. Patches of ancient semi-natural woodland are now linked by the areas of plantation woodland to create a heavily wooded landscape.

Land use

Although there is some low intensity pastoral farming, water supply with forestry and recreation around the reservoirs are the dominant land uses in this landscape. The Goyt Valley was acquired by the Stockport Corporation Waterworks in the early 20th century to construct reservoirs for drinking water. Farmsteads and cottages were cleared and demolished to protect the water catchment area. Historically, coal mining was carried out in the Goyt Valley and remains include shaft mounds, gin circles and causeways between many of the shafts to allow access across wet ground.

Enclosure

This is an enclosed landscape with irregular shaped fields enclosed mostly by gritstone walls. Map evidence shows that much of the landscape was already enclosed by the mid 19th century at latest and it is likely that a significant proportion of the enclosures are considerably older than this. The enclosure pattern was rationalised with the establishment of the reservoirs.

Settlement and buildings

This is not a significantly settled landscape with just occasional isolated gritstone farmsteads. This landscape was formerly more densely settled but was deliberately de-populated in order to establish the reservoirs.

Transport and access

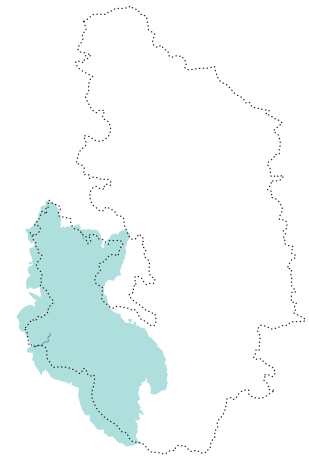
The road pattern was affected by the establishment of the reservoirs and modern lanes tend to run alongside the reservoirs. There are popular recreational routes around the reservoirs and through the woodland plantations.

Riverside Meadows

This is a pastoral landscape characterised by a meandering river channel in a flat alluvial floodplain. Views are often tightly framed by lines of riverside trees and adjacent wooded slopes. Patches of wetland vegetation are a distinctive feature associated with the river channel.



River Goyt near Taxal © Peak District National Park Authority



Key characteristics

- A flat alluvial river corridor
- Meandering river channel with shingle beds and marginal vegetation
- Seasonally waterlogged alluvial soils
- Grazing meadows, often with patches of wet grassland
- Dense waterside and scattered hedgerow trees

This landscape character type is very limited in extent, occurring only as narrow bands along the lower reaches of the River Goyt and the River Dane.

Geology and landform

This is a low lying valley floor landscape with localised hummocks and hollows. Incised, meandering streams with a rocky bed flow through the landscape. Beside the river channel the floodplain is underlain by alluvial mud lying over gravels. There are hollows in the floodplain reflecting the past course of the river.

Soils and vegetation

The floodplain is characterised by gleyed soils, that are either continuously or seasonally waterlogged, giving rise to wet pastures which support soft rush, Yorkshire fog grass and some sedges. This is a well wooded landscape with dense streamside trees and small patches of wet woodland which are dominated by alder with some willow.

Tree cover

River banks are densely lined with alder, together with some oak and sycamore. This creates an intimate landscape where views are filtered by watercourse trees and framed by the adjacent wooded slopes.

Land use

This is a pastoral landscape with improved permanent pasture dominating. There is some semi-improved grassland.

Enclosure

Thorn hedgerows and occasional gritstone walls run along the outer edge of the valley floor and divide the meadows beside the watercourses into irregular strips. Early maps show parts of the landscape were enclosed by the early 17th century while later maps shows that much of the rest of the landscape was enclosed by the mid 19th century at latest.

Settlement and buildings

This is an unsettled landscape because of the wet nature of the soils and the risk of flooding.

Transport and access

There are few roads within this landscape due the risk of flooding. Roads often run along the edge of the valley floor on higher ground and cross the meadows at historic crossing points such as at Danebridge.

Overall Strategy



Shutlingsloe © Peak District National Park Authority

The South West Peak contains a diverse range of landscapes from the unenclosed moorlands and settled uplands to the river corridors in the lower valleys. The contrast between these distinctive landscapes should be maintained and, where appropriate, enhanced to strengthen landscape character. The South West Peak is an area with a long history of human influence evidenced by the historic settlement pattern, field boundaries and other cultural heritage features. This influence is reflected in a distinctive dispersed settlement pattern of farmsteads and villages built of the local stone, and should be maintained. Although major vehicular routes have a local visual and noise impact on the area, there are extensive areas which have maintained a sense of tranquillity and remoteness. Tranquil areas are often associated with important ecological resources such as the Open Moors. This tranquillity needs to be protected and, where it is no longer evident, created or enhanced. There is a need to enhance the diversity and robustness of character throughout all landscape types of the South West Peak.

The overall strategy for the South West Peak should therefore be to:

Protect and manage the distinctive historic character of the landscapes through sustainable landscape management, and seek opportunities to value the diverse landscapes of the South West Peak whilst managing recreation opportunities, woodlands, wildness and the diversity of remoter areas.

This can be achieved by ensuring that there is:

- a sustainable land management system capable of supporting existing land uses whilst protecting the existing network of habitats
- an approach that protects and manages the distinctive dispersed settlement, field patterns and other cultural landscapes
- enhanced structure and extent of woodland and tree cover in appropriate locations
- an approach to restoring distinctive moorland landscapes



Upper Valley Pasture, Hulme End © Peak District National Park Authority

To achieve this strategy there are particular priorities for each of the different landscape character types in the South West Peak.

Open Moors

This is an open, largely unsettled landscape with prehistoric remains and extensive semi-natural habitats. The priority should therefore be to protect the open character and diversity of moorland landscapes.

Moorland Hills And Ridges

This is an open, largely unsettled landscape of steep slopes and high hills with extensive semi-natural habitats, enclosed in places with drystone walls. It also includes much of the Goyt Valley plantation woodlands. The priorities should be to protect the open landscape character and vestiges of historic field boundaries, to remove or integrate plantation woodlands into the moorland landscape, and to protect and manage biodiversity.

Enclosed Gritstone Uplands

The Enclosed Gritstone Uplands are an open landscape with a well defined pattern of drystone walls. The priority should be to protect the vestiges of historic field boundaries and to protect and manage biodiversity within the pastoral farmland. Where opportunities arise, e.g. where there are large enclosures of rough grazing land, consideration should be given to the restoration of an open moorland landscape.

Densely Enclosed Gritstone Uplands

This is an open, settled historic landscape with a strong pattern of small and large fields enclosed by drystone walls. The priority should therefore be to protect the historic field pattern and distinctive dispersed settlement pattern, whilst protecting or managing the diversity of pastoral farmland and patches of heathland.

Slopes And Valleys With Woodland

This is a pastoral landscape with a strongly wooded character of irregular woodland blocks along cloughs and around buildings, scattered trees along boundaries and patches of acid grassland on steeper slopes. It includes the extensive Macclesfield Forest plantations. The priority is to protect the mosaic and diversity of existing woodlands, boundary trees, grasslands, semi-natural landscapes and their cultural heritage components, to better integrate plantation woodlands into the landscape and to seek opportunities to create new native woodlands where appropriate.



Hedgerow, Meerbrook © Peak District National Park Authority

Upland Pastures

This is a settled upland pastoral landscape of dispersed farmsteads and a few villages, with a pattern of small to medium sized fields. The priority is to protect historic field boundaries and historic settlement patterns whilst protecting or managing the diversity of pastoral farmland.

Upper Valley Pastures

This is a settled pastoral valley landscape of dispersed farmsteads with scattered trees along boundaries and streams. The priority is to protect and diversify the historic network of boundaries and trees, and to encourage natural river processes to provide flood storage, amenity and biodiversity benefits.

Reservoir Valleys With Woodland

This is an enclosed landscape of steep sided valleys dominated by large reservoirs, with large interlocking blocks of coniferous and mixed plantation woodland, and patches of acid grassland. The priority is to enhance the diversity of woodlands, encourage a more natural landscape character, and to protect and manage semi-natural habitats.

Riverside Meadows

This is a small-scale pastoral landscape characterised by a meandering river channel with dense riverside trees, patches of wetland and predominantly hedgerow boundaries. The priority is to protect the diversity of the river corridor landscape and manage the landscape to provide flood water storage, helping prevent flooding elsewhere along the river corridor.

Issues of change

Conservation

Past drainage and agricultural improvement have reduced the extent and diversity of blanket bog and heath locally. Woodland diversity has been reduced by the isolation of woodland patches, grazing, poor management and invasion by rhododendrons. Coniferous plantations have, in places, replaced more diverse semi-natural landscapes. Grassland diversity has been reduced by agricultural improvement and methods, such as the change from hay to silage. Agricultural intensification has also led to a decrease in water quality associated with the run off of pesticides and fertilisers. Historic field boundaries, including hedgerows and drystone walls, are often in poor condition, particularly on land being used for extensive sheep grazing. Field barns, which are a localised historic feature, are now often redundant, at risk from abandonment and vandalism. Animal welfare standards mean that they are no longer appropriate for housing stock.

Climate change implications

Climate change is likely to cause an exacerbation of issues such as erosion and habitat loss, particularly in the upland and sloping landscapes. These areas could be severely impacted by increased rainfall or more energetic rainfall which may occur due to changing climatic conditions. Prolonged periods of hot and dry weather may impact on soils, leaving them dry and, where peat-based, friable and at an increased fire risk. Changing soil conditions are likely to lead to changing habitats as species move and adapt accordingly. All these issues pose a threat to the character, cultural heritage component and biodiversity of the landscape.

The landscapes of the South West Peak may also provide opportunities for mitigating climate impacts. The Riverside Meadows can provide a useful resource for combating climate change impacts as a flood water storage resource, protecting landscapes downstream. The Goyt Valley may be affected by changing management approaches as water catchment management becomes a national and international priority. Upland landscapes, with blanket bog habitats, are a key resource because if rewetted, they could sequester carbon efficiently alongside other land uses. All mitigation measures need to take into account the character, cultural heritage and biodiversity of the landscape.

Demography, housing and employment

Pressure for residential development is somewhat less intense in the South West Peak than elsewhere in the National Park. However, there is still a need to provide affordable housing for key workers and to ensure that development is sensitive and appropriate to landscape character and the historic settlement pattern. In some areas, changes in the agricultural sector have led to farms being bought as large domestic properties rather than as working entities. Such ownership changes can be associated with separation of farmstead and land holding, resulting in increasing trends to isolated, modern farm buildings, located away from farmsteads.

The adjacency of urban areas to the South West Peak means that light pollution is having significant consequences on dark skies.

Tourism and recreation

This area receives less visitor pressure than many other areas of the National Park, and is much valued by residents for its variety of landscapes and tranquillity. Most of the recreation in the South West Peak is concentrated into a few honey-pot sites, with much of the remaining area receiving relatively few visitors. There are significant opportunities for active sports such as mountain biking, climbing and motorised off-road driving, though the latter is, in localised places, causing physical damage to the infrastructure of historic rights of way.



Gritstone upland near Flash © Peak District National Park Authority

Farming and forestry

The core moorland landscapes in the South West Peak (Open Moors and Moorland Hills And Ridges) are relatively well maintained and in reasonable condition. However, there has been some historic loss/degradation of moorland and rough grazing land on higher ground in the northern half of the area. In contrast, the structure of the historic enclosed agricultural landscape is, for the most part, in decline. Grouse shooting moors exist in the South West Peak but tend to exist on a smaller scale than in the Dark Peak. The intensity of moorland management for grouse can affect the ecological integrity of the moors. Highly fragmented land ownership in the post-war era has created low viability farms with fewer opportunities to offset income from tourism. This is forcing farms to increase in size and intensity and to diversify into businesses such as haulage, which have a significant impact on the landscape locally. In addition there has been an increase in hobby farmers leading to changes in grazing management, including horses, alpacas and traditional cattle breeds. In places, most notably in the Upper Manifold Valley area, the historic field pattern has been quite heavily modified, resulting in both a loss of boundaries and development of many gappy/ overgrown hedges. Although field pattern in the Slopes And Valleys With Woodland and Enclosed Gritstone Uplands tends to be more intact, many of the hedgerows are in poor condition. This is leading to a decline in the historic field pattern throughout the area.

Most of the ancient woodland in the South West Peak is associated with the Slopes And Valleys With Woodland. In places, particularly in the Dane Valley and around Gun Hill, there is fairly consistent woodland cover. Elsewhere, however, this cover is patchy and there are larger blocks of more recent plantation woods (e.g. Macclesfield Forest). There are opportunities to enhance the structure and diversity of both semi-natural and plantation woodlands. The decline in historic land management patterns has created scope for the expansion of woodland. Expansion could occur where it will not adversely affect priority habitats, cultural heritage features and key viewpoints. Woodlands tend not to be a feature in the other South West Peak landscapes. The moorland areas are typically un-wooded and open, apart from occasional large plantations. Opportunities should be sought to diversify and modify plantation woods and, where appropriate their removal should be considered to extend moorland. In the other agricultural landscapes, scattered tree cover has, in places, a poor age structure.

Minerals and resources

There is only one small-scale active quarry within the South West Peak which provides local building stone. This is helping to conserve the local character of the historic built environment. There are the remains of former quarries throughout the area and there is pressure to open up some of these quarries to meet the needs of local building repairs.

Energy and infrastructure

There is an increasing national demand for renewable energy schemes, in particular wind power. Inappropriate wind generation projects could adversely impact on landscape character, the setting of historic features and landscapes, amenity value and tranquillity. There are opportunities for small scale hydroelectric schemes, planting native woodland, and improved woodland management linked to local wood fuel usage and other renewable energy schemes.

Road safety is a major issue in the South West Peak, leading to an increase in the number and size of road signs. High levels of vehicle use are increasing damage to roads, walls, hedges and verges, leading to a loss of historic features. In places the lack of parking is causing conflicts with residents, with access to property and roads being blocked. There is a demand for innovative methods to encourage visitors to use public transport.

There is a visual impact from the existing infrastructure associated with power supply, e.g. overhead electricity cables. In recent years there has been an increase in visual intrusion of communications infrastructure, particularly telecommunication masts, which can impact on landscape character and the setting of cultural heritage features, buildings and historic landscapes.



Heather-Bilberry-Cottongrass Moorland © Peak District National Park Authority

Landscape guidelines

South West Peak

Open Moors	Moorland Hills and Ridges	Enclosed Gritstone Uplands	Densely Enclosed Gritstone Uplands	Slopes and Valleys with Woodland	Upland Pastures	Upper Valley Pastures	Reservoir Valleys with Woodland	Riverside Meadows
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Protect

Protect historic drystone walls		●	●	●	○	●	●	○
Protect historic hedgerows			○		●	●	●	●
Protect historic parkland landscapes			○		●			

Manage

Manage and enhance woodlands					●			
Manage and enhance clough woodlands					●	○		●
Manage and enhance plantation woodlands		●		●	●	○		●
Manage and enhance linear tree cover and amenity trees					●		●	●
Enhance and restore moorland landscapes	●	●	●	●				
Encourage diverse approaches to moorland management	●	●	●	●		○		
Enhance the diversity of agricultural grasslands			●	●	●	●	●	●
Manage the network of tracks and footpaths to maximise opportunities to enjoy the landscape	●	●	●	○	●	○	●	○
Manage the network of minor roads to maintain character and local access			●	●	●	●	○	
Manage the dispersed and historic settlement patterns of development			○	●	●	●	○	
Manage intrusive features on farmland and farmsteads			○	●	○	●	○	
Manage historic mineral landscapes	○	○	○	●	○	○	○	

- This is a priority throughout the landscape character type
- ◐ This is a priority in some parts of the landscape character type, often associated with particular conditions/features
- This is not a priority but may be considered in some locations

This will generally be inappropriate in this landscape character type

Landscape guidelines

South West Peak

Plan

	Open Moors	Moorland Hills and Ridges	Enclosed Gritstone Uplands	Densely Enclosed Gritstone Uplands	Slopes and Valleys with Woodland	Upland Pastures	Upper Valley Pastures	Reservoir Valleys with Woodland	Riverside Meadows
Create new native broadleaved woodland					◐		◯	◯	◯
Create clough woods		◯	◯	◯	◐	◯	◯	●	
Create, extend and link areas of heath / moor	◯	◐	◐	◯					
Develop small-scale renewable energy for local needs		◯			◐		◐	●	◯
Develop appropriate landscapes from mineral workings					◯				

- This is a priority throughout the landscape character type
- ◐

This is a priority in some parts of the landscape character type, often associated with particular conditions/features
- ◯

This is not a priority but may be considered in some locations
- This will generally be inappropriate in this landscape character type

Landscape guidelines explanation

Protect

Protect historic drystone walls

Drystone walls, and associated features such as gateposts, are an important historical element in the more upland landscapes in the South West Peak, particularly the Enclosed and Densely Enclosed Gritstone Uplands. Walls and hedges often appear together with walls predominating in many areas. In places the management of walls is declining, and there is a need to enhance their management in order to protect and retain the historic field pattern.

Protect historic hedgerows

Hedgerows are an important historical feature on many of the gentler summits and lower slopes in the South West Peak, often occurring in conjunction with gritstone walls. Many boundaries are gappy and in poor condition, and there is a need to enhance their management to protect the historic field pattern.

Protect historic parkland landscapes

Historic parkland is an important localised feature of the South West Peak. There is a need to protect the historic integrity of these landscapes whilst allowing them to evolve. Opportunities should be sought for enhancing the biodiversity of historic parklands where the structure and character can be appropriately maintained. The production of management plans and partnership approaches with landowners should be considered to achieve these objectives.

Manage

Manage and enhance woodlands

Some woodland is neglected or would benefit from enhanced management. Opportunities should be taken to enhance diversity and improve woodland productivity, whilst conserving cultural heritage features. There may be opportunities to link woodland management to local wood fuel schemes and reduce reliance on traditional carbon-based energies.

Manage and enhance clough woodlands

In some areas clough woods are important landscape features as well as being important habitats. Opportunities should be sought to enhance the management of these woods, preferably by natural regeneration, without affecting cultural heritage features and historic landscapes and existing ecological features.

Manage and enhance plantation woodlands

Large coniferous plantation woodlands form distinctive landscape features within certain landscape character types. Opportunities should be taken to integrate them into the wider historic landscape by better management, including felling and increasing appropriate native tree species, whilst protecting cultural heritage features. In the Slopes And Valleys With Woodlands it will generally be appropriate to retain plantation woodlands but manage it through restructuring, reprofiling and increasing the area of native woodland. In other landscape character types (LCT) these measures may be appropriate, or it may be appropriate to restore open landscapes by felling areas of plantation woods.

Manage and enhance linear tree cover and amenity trees

In the valley landscapes, linear trees along field boundaries and streams form an important component of the tree cover. There is a need to manage these trees to ensure a balanced age structure. Groups of amenity trees are often associated with settlement, and the use of appropriate species should be encouraged.

Enhance and restore moorland landscapes

Opportunities should be sought for the restoration of degraded moorland landscapes through the re-vegetation of bare peat and rewetting of blanket bog. This could provide a valuable resource in mitigating climate change through carbon sequestration and increased water storage capacity.

Encourage diverse approaches to moorland management

There is currently a diversity of approach to moorland management. Opportunities should be sought to further diversify the management of moors, developing longer cycles of management enabling some stands of heather to grow much longer and older, thus enhancing the range of habitats which consequently may increase the biodiversity of moorland.

Enhance the diversity of agricultural grasslands

Many of the grasslands have been improved and reseeded with a consequent loss of species diversity. There is a need to manage these grasslands in a more sustainable way, that protects or manages species diversity whilst supporting productive agriculture. Opportunities to extend and enhance the management of unimproved grasslands should be sought, particularly in Upland Pastures and Riverside Meadows where their use for flood water storage could be enhanced.

Manage the network of tracks and footpaths to maximise opportunities to enjoy the landscape

The network of tracks and footpaths should be managed to enhance the capacity for providing healthy recreation for a wide range of users. This can be achieved through landscape management measures including surfacing and signage, and by controlling inappropriate uses to retain the character, cultural heritage and biodiversity interests of the landscape.

Manage the network of roads to maintain character and local access

The scattered settlement pattern of farmsteads and houses lying within traditional townships and villages is connected by a network of roads. These should be managed to maintain their local rural character and scale to ensure good local access, whilst discouraging inappropriate recreational driving. Opportunities should be sought to manage the increasing size and number of highway signs.

Manage the dispersed and historic settlement patterns of development

The dispersed settlement pattern with occasional small villages is a unique feature of the South West Peak landscapes. New development should respond positively to the historic settlement pattern and density, local materials and building traditions. Opportunities should be sought to influence potential future development that lies outside, but has an impact on, the National Park. Traditional buildings are an important feature and their renovation and maintenance should be encouraged. Locating new agricultural buildings can also impact on landscape character, and opportunities should be taken to guide site selection.

Manage intrusive features on farmland and farmsteads

In some areas an accumulation of agricultural scrap and building materials has occurred on a few properties, and diversification of farm enterprises into businesses such as haulage has also affected the character of some holdings. This is having a significant impact over a wider area, causing damage to archaeological features and historic landscapes; opportunities should therefore be sought for the removal of intrusive features, or their careful siting and screening where necessary.

Manage historic mineral landscapes

Landscapes associated with historic mineral extraction, in particular coal mining and stone slate quarries, should be retained and managed, including, where appropriate, providing interpretation of their history and developing their recreation and habitat potential.

Plan

Create new native broadleaved woodland

There are opportunities to extend woodland cover without affecting cultural heritage features and historic landscapes, particularly in those landscape character types where woodland is a key characteristic. In the Slopes And Valleys With Woodland there are opportunities to extend woodland by natural regeneration. However, a balance will need to be reached between woodland expansion and the retention or creation of acid grassland/moorland. There are localised opportunities to create new woodland in the Upper Valley Pastures, particularly around existing and new developments. In the Riverside Meadows there are only limited opportunities for wet woodland creation due to potential impacts on flooding of increased woodland cover in the floodplain. Increased woodland cover creates areas of shelter and shade which may be useful for mitigating the impacts of climate change.

Create clough woods

Opportunities should be sought to extend and create clough woodlands within the Slopes And Valleys With Woodland preferably by natural regeneration, without affecting cultural heritage features, historic landscapes and existing ecological features. In wet cloughs, increasing woodland cover can lead to slower water flow at times of heavy rainfall and thus help to reduce flood risks in lower lying landscapes.

Create, extend and link areas of heath/moor

There are opportunities within the Moorland Hills And Ridges, Enclosed Gritstone Uplands and the Densely Enclosed Gritstone Uplands of the South West Peak, to diversify the existing grassland-based landscapes. This can be achieved by creating new moorland/heath and extending and linking existing patches of moor/heath, enhancing moorland landscapes. Opportunities to restore large areas of grass moor in the Open Moors and Moorland Hills And Ridges should also be sought.

Develop small-scale renewable energy for local needs

Several of the landscape character types within the South West Peak are suitable for the development of water power, local wood fuel supplies and other renewable energy sources. Opportunities should be sought within new development and the management of woodlands to increase local renewable energy usage, where it would have a positive impact on landscape character and its component parts.

Develop appropriate landscapes from mineral workings

Modern mineral workings should be restored to maximise visual amenity, biodiversity, recreational, educational and heritage value. The aim should be to use the land to create semi-natural landscapes, which blend into the surrounding landscape.



Riverside Meadows Taxal © Peak District National Park Authority

Peak District National Park
Landscape Strategy
and Action Plan 2009 – 2019

10. European Landscape
Convention Action Plan

July 2009
Final Report

Contents

Introduction 199

Recognise landscape in law 200

Integrate landscape into policy 200

Identify and assess landscapes 201

Set landscape objectives 203

Protect landscapes 204

Manage landscapes 204

Plan landscapes 207

Monitor change 209

Promote education & training 209

Raise awareness, understanding & involvement ... 211

Co-operate across Europe 211

Introduction



Heather and hill near Glossop © Peak District National Park Authority

This Action Plan sets out how the Landscape Strategy and Guidelines will be delivered across the National Park as a whole. It is important that the appropriate sections of the Landscape Strategy are read to provide background information and to inform the Action Plan. The Action Plan has been produced by the Peak District National Park Authority, with input from many stakeholders, including community groups and individuals. The Action Plan is for the whole National Park, and the delivery of these actions will often require a partnership approach. Appropriate lead partners have therefore been identified for each action. Implementation of these actions will be by various means; some will be part of day-to-day work, others will be specific projects and some will be resource-reliant, both in terms of funding and staffing.

The timescale for actions have been broken down into short (2010-12), medium (2012-15) and long term (2015+). In addition, some projects will require occasional action at infrequent periods of time (as appropriate), or require continuous action at regular periods of time (continuous action).

Recognise landscape in law

Action	Lead partners	Timescale	Measures of success
1.1 Influence the UK Government to ensure that landscape is recognised in all relevant legislation	Peak District National Park Authority English National Park Authorities Association Association of National Park Authorities Natural England Campaign to Protect Rural England (national office) Campaign for National Parks English Heritage	As appropriate	English National Park Authorities Association Landscape Group has a clear remit to review national legislation
		As appropriate	Ensure that landscape is fully considered in Peak District National Park Authority responses to national legislation

Integrate landscape into policy

Action	Lead partners	Timescale	Measures of success
2.1 Ensure that the Local Development Framework Core Strategy takes full account of landscape and uses the Landscape Character Assessment and Strategy as a framework for spatial planning	Peak District National Park Authority	2009 - 2011	Local Development Framework policy based on understanding of landscape character
		2009 - 2011	Natural Zone and Section 3 map reviewed
2.2 Ensure that Natural England's emerging Protected Landscapes policy is relevant and appropriate to the Peak District	Natural England Peak District National Park Authority English National Park Authorities Association	2009 and as appropriate	Natural England Protected Landscapes policy is relevant to the Peak District
2.3 Landscape 'proof' all National Park Authority policies, plans and strategies	Peak District National Park Authority	2010 - 2012	Landscape proofing checklist agreed with Peak District National Park Authority
		As appropriate	Landscape proofing checklist applied to all policy development

Integrate landscape into policy (continued)

Action	Lead partners	Timescale	Measures of success
2.4 Influence policies and strategies of adjoining planning authorities	Peak District National Park Authority Friends of the Peak District	2010 – 2011 and as appropriate	Workshop held for senior officers and planning committee members of adjoining planning authorities
	Sheffield Area Geology Trust	As appropriate	Comments submitted for all policies and strategies affecting the Peak District
		Continuous action	Input into regional policies relevant to landscape
2.5 Ensure agri-environment and woodland management scheme targeting responds to distinctive landscape character	Natural England Forestry Commission Peak District National Park Authority	Continuous action	Targeting of agri-environment and woodland management scheme agreements responds to distinctive landscape character
2.6 Protect Peak District landscapes from inappropriate effects of major infrastructure developments and their cumulative effects	Regional Development Agencies Peak District National Park Authority Highways Agency UK Government Adjacent planning authorities Statutory undertakers	As appropriate	Peak District National Park Authority minerals, energy generation and infrastructure policies in place

Identify and assess landscapes

Action	Lead partners	Timescale	Measures of success
3.1 Review Landscape Character Assessment	Peak District National Park Authority	2018	Landscape Character Assessment updated
3.2 Facilitate Community Landscape Character Assessments	Peak District National Park Authority	2010 - 2012	Resource pack developed to support Community Landscape Character Assessments
	Friends of the Peak District Communities/Parish Councils Sheffield Area Geology Trust	2012 - 2015	Community landscape projects initiated
3.3 Work with adjacent authorities to identify continuities in landscape character types	Peak District National Park Authority Other adjacent authorities	As appropriate	Joint responses developed to European Landscape Convention – “protect, manage and plan”



Lathkill Dale © Peak District National Park Authority

Set landscape objectives

Action	Lead partners	Timescale	Measures of success
4.1 Review landscape description unit condition assessments in liaison with Area Teams and stakeholders, and identify priorities for mitigating landscape detractors and for enhancement	Peak District National Park Authority Communities	2013 – 2015	Priorities for site/feature-specific landscape enhancement/mitigation identified, e.g. field boundaries
4.2 Set climate change adaptation and mitigation objectives for all landscapes	Peak District National Park Authority Natural England	2015 +	Priorities for climate change adaptation and mitigation identified for each landscape character area
4.3 Mid-term review of Landscape Action Plan with stakeholders	Peak District National Park Authority	2013 – 2015	Mid-term review of actions completed and revised
4.4 Review Landscape Strategy and Action Plan	Peak District National Park Authority	2019	Landscape Strategy and Action Plan updated
4.5 Review outputs of Community Landscape Character Assessments and assess implications for Landscape Strategy and Action Plan	Peak District National Park Authority	As appropriate, as Assessments are completed	Implications of Community Landscape Character Assessments incorporated into mid-term review of the Landscape Action Plan

Protect landscapes

Action	Lead partners	Timescale	Measures of success
5.1 Identify priorities for protecting cultural heritage features and landscapes, and explore options for sustainable management	Peak District National Park Authority English Heritage Natural England	2010 - 2012	Clear priorities for cultural heritage features agreed
5.2 Identify priorities for protecting locally distinctive traditional farm buildings, including field barns, and initiate action	Peak District National Park Authority English Heritage Natural England	2013 - 2015	Advice note issued on sustainable future use of agricultural buildings
5.3 Implement action to protect and restore field boundaries, with a focus on those boundaries identified as priorities	Peak District National Park Authority Natural England	Continuous action	Programme of field boundary protection and restoration established and underway

Manage landscapes

Action	Lead partners	Timescale	Measures of success
6.1 Adjoining planning authorities to take due care when considering development on the fringes of the National Park to avoid adverse impacts on the National Park and its valued characteristics	Constituent and adjacent planning authorities Peak District National Park Authority	Continuous action	Annual review of significant new development on the fringes of the National Park
		2015 +	Develop sensitivity mapping to include areas beyond the edge of the National Park
6.2 Continue and expand project to underground key overhead electricity lines, and ensure new development does not result in inappropriate overhead lines	Electricity supply companies Electricity regulator English National Park Authorities Association	2009 - 2012	Current programme to underground cables implemented
	Peak District National Park Authority Friends of the Peak District	2013 – 2015	Park-wide priorities for undergrounding identified and implementation programme agreed

Manage landscapes (continued)

Action	Lead partners	Timescale	Measures of success
6.3 Reduce the landscape impacts of transport infrastructure, including road furniture and improve road safety	Highways Authorities	2013 – 2015	Road Signage Agreements established to uphold National Park purposes
	Highways Agency		
	Peak District National Park Authority	Continuous action	Annual review with Highways Authorities of problem areas and priorities for action
6.4 Manage road verges, tracks and footpaths to protect the cultural features and enhance biodiversity and attractiveness	Highways Authorities	2015 +	Priority road verges for conservation/enhancement identified and managed
	Highways Agency		
	Peak District National Park Authority	2015 +	Code of practice provided to contractors working on road verges, footpaths and tracks to ensure protection of valued features
	Wildlife Trusts		
6.5 Ensure development control decisions consider landscape character	Peak District National Park Authority	Continuous action	Regular landscape training course for all Planning Services staff and Authority members
		2010 - 2012	Forms of development requiring landscape advice agreed
		2013 – 2015 +	Priorities for planning enforcement agreed
6.6 Diversify agricultural grasslands to enhance biodiversity and enjoyment of the landscape	Peak District National Park Authority	2010 - 2012	Grassland management guidance provided to landowners and agri-environment advisers
	Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Partnership	2013 - 2015	Research conducted to identify focus areas to diversify grassland
	Natural England		
6.7 Enhance woodland management	Forestry Commission	2013 – 2015	Report developed detailing means of improving the management of small woodlands, especially in the White Peak
	BAP Partnership		
	Peak District National Park Authority	As appropriate	Management agreements established for woodlands
	Natural England		
	Small Woods Association		
6.8 Influence management of small land holdings	National Smallholders Organisation	2012	Guidelines developed for horse-owners and small-holdings in the Peak District
	Peak District National Park Authority		
	Country Land and Business Association		
	British Horse Society		



Mam Tor in early morning mist © Peak District National Park Authority

Manage landscapes (continued)

Action	Lead partners	Timescale	Measures of success
6.9 Continue restoration of blanket bog and other moorland landscapes	Moors for the Future Partnership	Continuous action	Continued funding for Moors for the Future Partnership and water companies' Asset Management Plans secured
	National Trust Water companies RSPB Large Estates and Landowners	Continuous action	Plan to apply lessons learned from Moors for the Future in other moorland landscapes developed

Plan landscapes

Action	Lead partners	Timescale	Measures of success
7.1 Address landscape impacts of coniferous woodland through a combination of reshaping/restructuring, restoration of open habitats and replacement with broadleaved woodland as appropriate	Forestry Commission United Utilities Severn Trent Water	2013 - 2015	Five year target for management of conifer woodlands established
	Yorkshire Water National Trust Wildlife Trusts	2015 +	Assess impact of conifer removal on landscape
7.2 Increase broadleaved woodland cover in appropriate locations	Forestry Commission Woodland Trust National Trust Natural England BAP Partnership	Continuous action	Sites suitable for woodland creation identified
	Country Land and Business Association Small Woods Association Larger Estates and Landowners	2013 – 2015	Appropriate new woodland creation encouraged in liaison with Forestry Commission and landowners

Plan landscapes (continued)

Action	Lead partners	Timescale	Measures of success
7.3 Ensure landscape scale perspective on any project development and implementation scheme in the Peak District	Peak District National Park Authority Natural England Friends of the Peak District The Wildlife Trusts BAP Partnership English Heritage RSPB National Trust Utility Companies	As appropriate	All appropriate projects assessed against the landscape strategy
7.4 Establish a landscape framework for the delivery of the Peak District BAP so that habitat planning is targeted at the most appropriate landscapes	Peak District National Park Authority Members of BAP Partnership Natural England	2013 – 2015	Supplementary report and table developed setting out guidelines
7.5 Ensure landscape scale perspective on any project development and implementation scheme in the Peak District	Natural England East Midlands Geodiversity Forum Sheffield Area Geology Trust British Geological Survey Peak District National Park Authority Regionally Important Geological Sites local groups	2015 +	Geodiversity Action Plan developed
7.6 Review quarry restoration methods to ensure best practice	British Aggregates Association Mineral Products Association Peak District National Park Authority Natural England Wildlife Trusts Mineral Operators Mineral Planning Authorities	2015 +	Position statement on quarry restoration published

Monitor change

Action	Lead partners	Timescale	Measures of success
8.1 Develop landscape monitoring programme, including Conservation Area Appraisals	Peak District National Park Authority	2010 - 2012	Monitoring programme established. Four Conservation Area Appraisals done each year
	Natural England English Heritage Sheffield Area Geology Trust	2015 +	Report on landscape change produced
8.2 Monitor policy	Peak District National Park Authority National Park Management Plan External Monitoring Group	Continuous action	Annual monitoring report on LDF and Management Plan takes account of landscape
8.3 Monitor people's perceptions	Peak District National Park Authority Peak Experience	As appropriate	Visitor and resident surveys consider valued characteristics of landscape and future priorities
8.4 Monitor light pollution and take action to reduce it	Peak District National Park Authority Campaign to Protect Rural England (national office)	2015 +	Annual monitoring of light pollution at fixed points across the Peak District
	Macclesfield and other Astronomical Societies	2015 +	Project to assess and reduce light pollution sources established

Promote education & training

Action	Lead partners	Timescale	Measures of success
9.1 Run training courses for professionals, land managers and farmers engaged in landscape issues	Losehill Hall	As appropriate	Landscape professionals, land managers and farmers trained in landscape issues that include biodiversity, cultural heritage and impact of climate change
9.2 Develop landscape education resources for schools, colleges and universities	Losehill Hall	2010 - 2012	Landscape educational materials linked to relevant areas of the curriculum developed
		As appropriate	Courses focussed on landscape for schools and colleges delivered
		As appropriate	Active liaison with university courses to promote understanding of landscape



Curbar Edge frosty millstone © Peak District National Park Authority

Raise awareness, understanding & involvement

Action	Lead partners	Timescale	Measures of success
10.1 Develop communications plan for Landscape Strategy and Action Plan	Peak District National Park Authority	2010 - 2012	Communications plan published
10.2 Landscape character based interpretation that takes account of geodiversity, biodiversity and cultural heritage	Peak District National Park Authority Peak District Interpretation Partnership Peak Experience	As appropriate	Approach to landscape interpretation agreed with Peak District Interpretation Partnership
10.3 Link Environmental Quality Mark and Live and Work Rural Programme to key landscape characteristics	Peak District National Park Authority	2010 - 2012	Measures to integrate landscape advice agreed with project officers

Co-operate across Europe

Action	Lead partners	Timescale	Measures of success
11.1 Share experience and good practice with other protected landscapes and public authorities in other European countries	Europarc Federation English National Park Authorities Association Peak District National Park Authority	As appropriate	Experiences shared with landscape organisations across Europe

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