

7: Derwent Valley

July 2009

Peak District

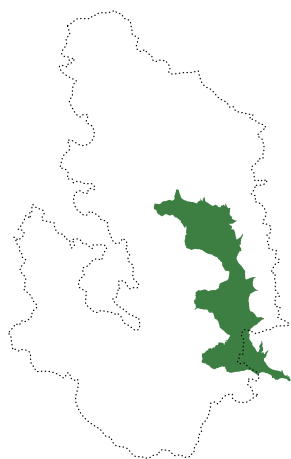
Landscape Character Assessment



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,

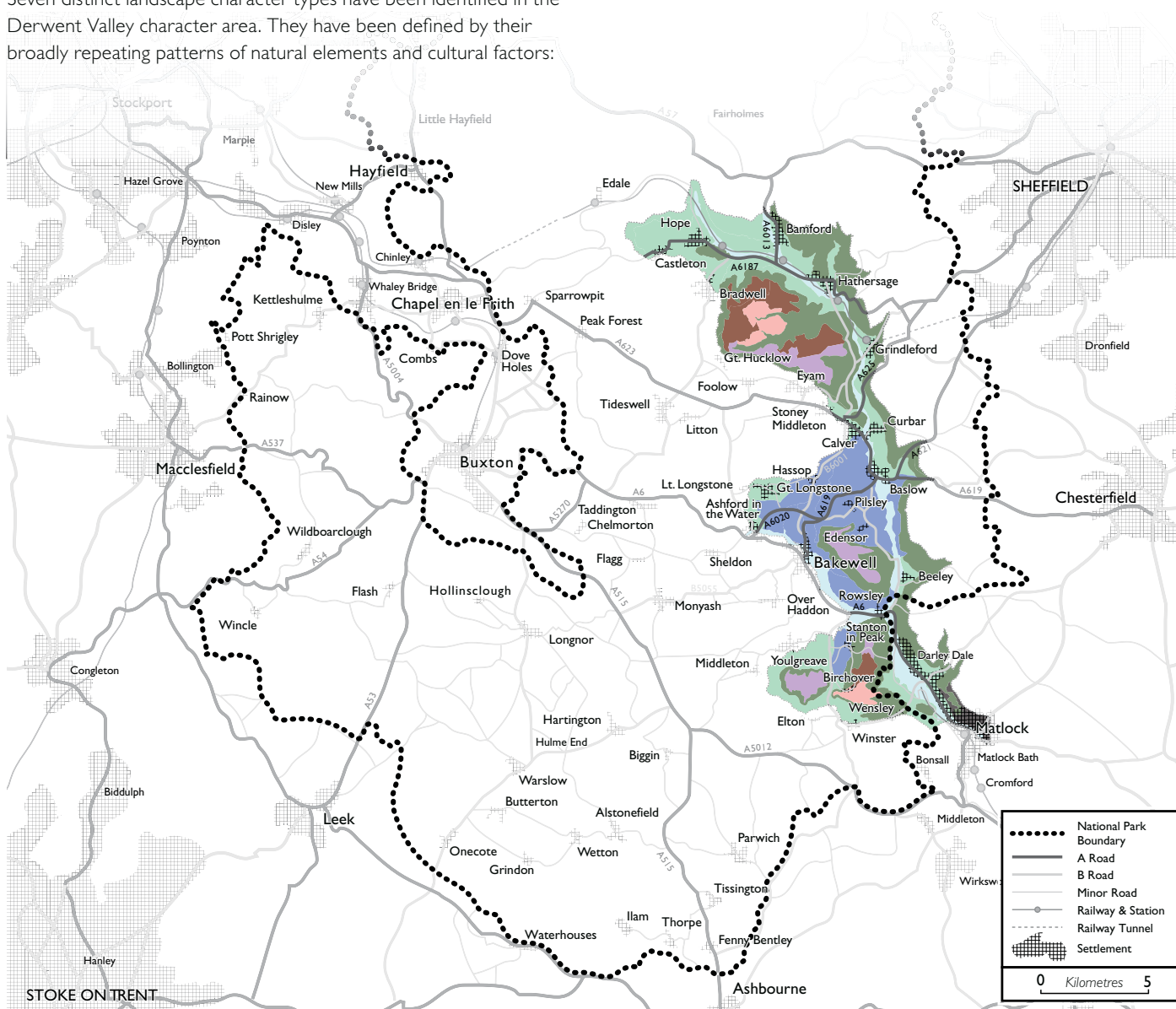
Eastern Moors and hills down to the small pastoral fields with filtered views between scattered hedgerow trees.

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

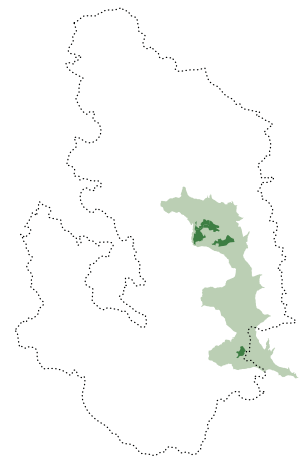


Open Moors

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

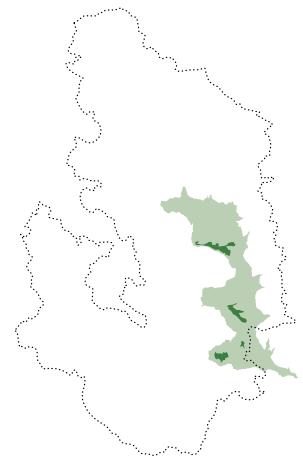
Transport is a limited feature of this landscape character type. This enhances the sense of remoteness because of the absence of roads running through the landscape and the need to access the area on foot. Braided hollow-ways, often deeply eroded into the land, can be seen running across the moorlands, 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

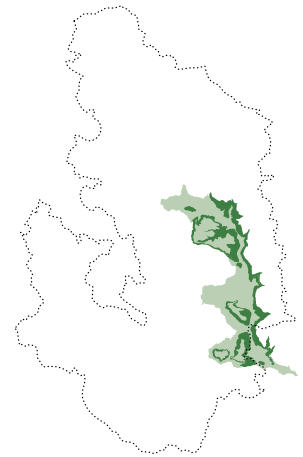
There are a few minor roads that run through several of these areas. The Sir William Hill road is part of an important 1758 turnpike road that followed an earlier hollow-way route. The new road was superseded by more convenient turnpike roads in the valley below in the early 19th century. There are numerous 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 overlies 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

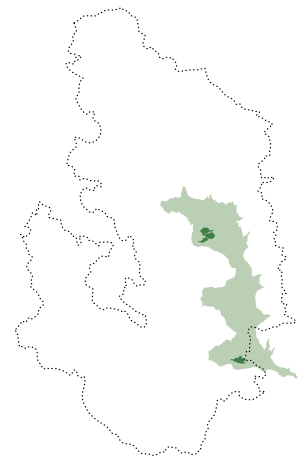
There is a network of narrow winding lanes, often sunken, linking the isolated farmsteads and dwellings. Some of these roads, in particular on the western edge of the Eastern Moors, were important former packhorse and cart routes to Sheffield, Chesterfield and beyond. Several main roads cut up the slopes 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

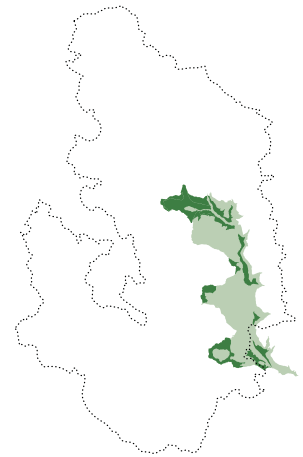
Access within this landscape is limited to narrow winding roads linking the villages to adjacent settlements. There is a well established network of footpaths and historic tracks which connects the villages to outlying farmsteads, fields and moors beyond.

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

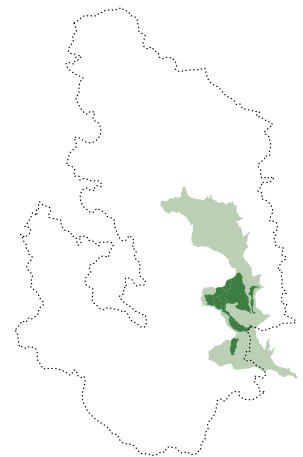
There is a comprehensive network of major and minor roads as well as public footpaths and bridleways linking the settlements together. An unusual feature of some of the paths around Winster, linking to Birchover, is that they are paved with gritstone flags. Additionally, the main railway line between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

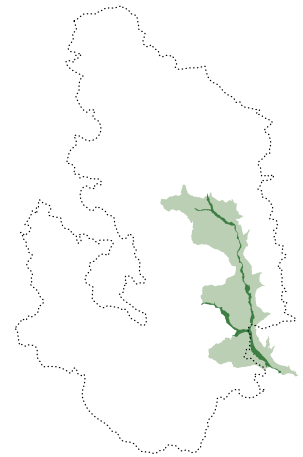
There is a network of narrow winding lanes and footpaths linking settlements. Major routes also cross the valley in places and were often first created as turnpike roads, linking the Eastern Moors landscapes in the east with the White Peak landscapes to the west. The former railway line between Buxton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

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

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

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