

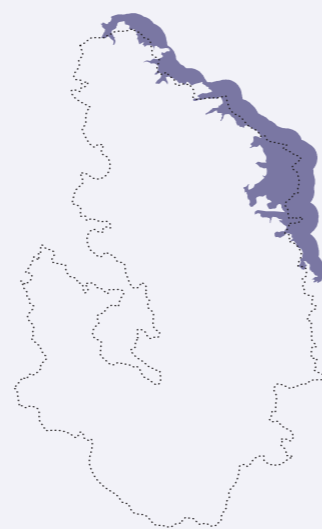
The Dark Peak Yorkshire Fringe



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 this character area displays many of the characteristics of its neighbouring LCAs. It is also strongly influenced by the more settled areas to the north and east, including the urban areas 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. The more rolling Yorkshire Coalfield lies along the eastern edge of the Dark Peak Yorkshire Fringe. The distinctive geology of the area has influenced the development of Sheffield as 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.

The soils in this area are variable, reflecting differences in the underlying geology. Shallow, and 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.

Ecological influences

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, while 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. 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. There is an important concentration of cruck- framed barns in the Bradfield area.

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.

Between the 17th and 20th centuries water in the Rivelin and Porter Valleys was harnessed to power numerous forges and grinding workshops, and extensive remains of dams, leats and buildings are visible today.

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 and there are some relict agricultural landscapes that were 'cleared' from the water catchments. 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.

The moorland edges have historically been used for extensive military training. Close to Redmires Reservoirs are the well preserved remains of a large camp that was initially built as a WWI training barracks, but later functioned as prisoner of war camp in both World Wars.

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.

and more pastoral, with gritstone walled and hedged enclosures and woodlands. 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.

Today the sparsely settled and largely pastoral slopes and valleys contrast with their industrial past. Some valleys have altered significantly with the establishment of reservoirs and plantation woodland but generally today this LCA is a peaceful, tranquil landscape. This

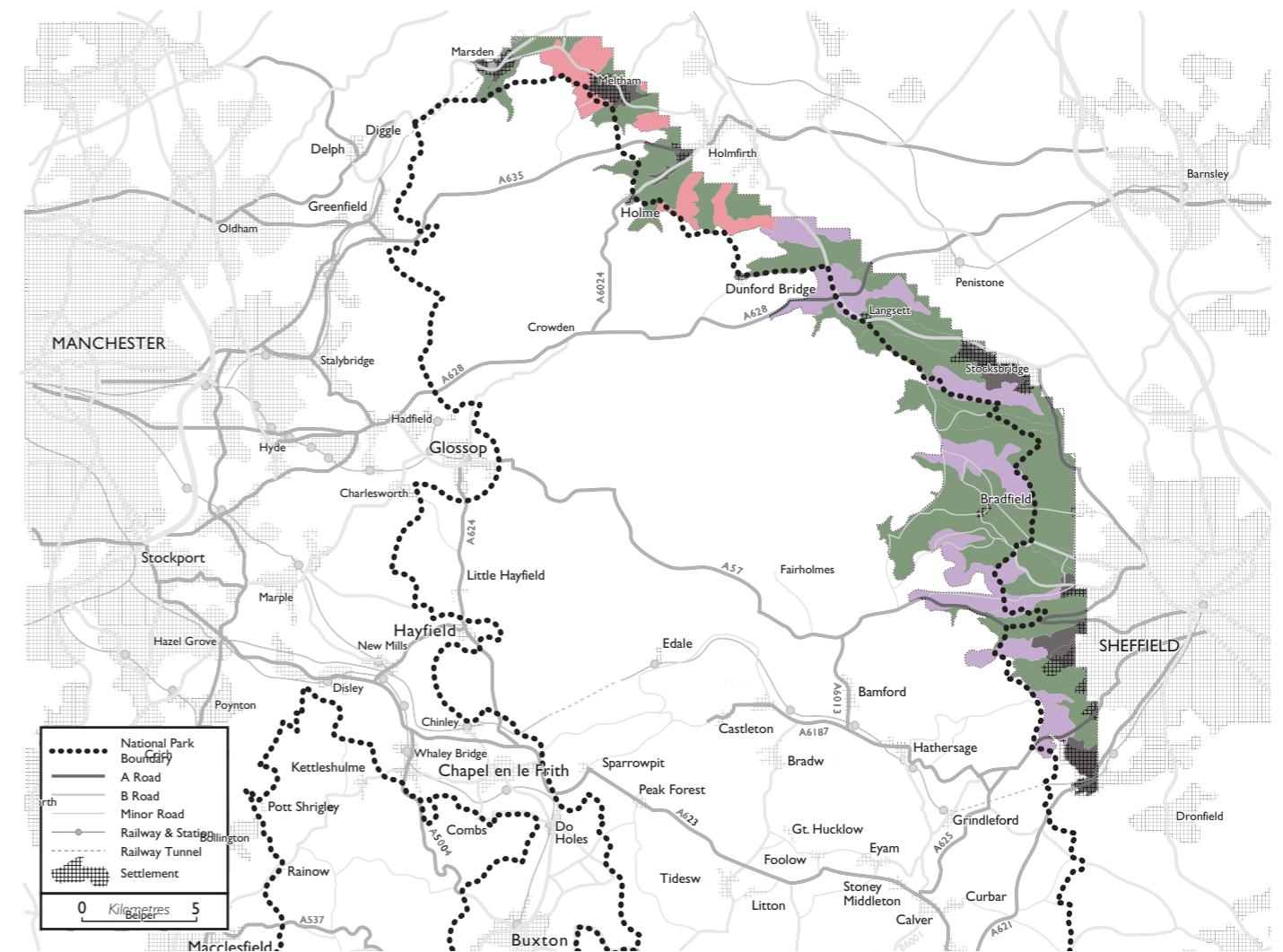
pastoral landscape offers a striking contrast to the surrounding urban areas and forms an important 'buffer' between them and the Park.

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

Sense of place and special qualities

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. The Yorkshire Fringe landscapes are often sparsely settled with isolated gritstone farm properties, with a strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity. The slopes tend to be a mosaic of woodland and pastoral fields which offer a striking contrast with the higher moorland to the west and the more settled landscapes outside the Park boundary. Moving down from the uplands on to the valleys and slopes, the landscape becomes less wild



Enclosed gritstone upland LCT



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

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.

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 landscape characteristics

- Rolling uplands and broad ridge summits with some steeper slopes
- Localised pockets of peat which support remnant patches of semi-natural habitats with bracken and gorse, some heather and bilberry.
- Small remnant woodlands and scattered trees, often in cloughs and along some field boundaries, and some coniferous plantations.
- A regular pattern of medium to large fields of permanent pasture and rough grazing enclosed by gritstone walls
- Scattered trees along boundaries, streams / ditches and grouped around farmsteads
- Straight roads with wide verges of grass and some heather
- Isolated gritstone farmsteads with stone slate roofs

Geology, landform and soils

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.

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.

Species and habitats

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

Historic management practices have reduced tree cover in this landscape to low levels. 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 small remnant broadleaved woodlands and scattered trees, often in cloughs and along some field boundaries. 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, buildings and monuments

There is a cluster of prehistoric activity on the moorland edges, as seen on the Eastern Moors further south. This includes monuments, field systems, enclosures and settlement at Cowell Flat, and a major bank and ditch land division, the Bar Dyke.

Today, 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. Evidence of historic quarrying exists on the moorland edges.

Transport, access and recreation

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.

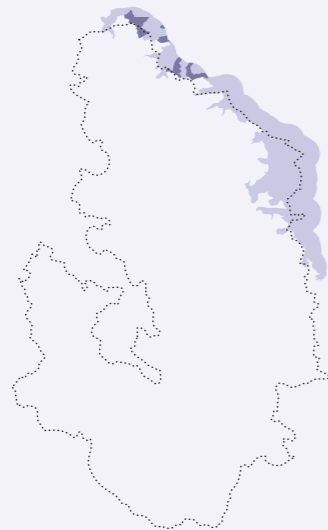
Densely enclosed gritstone upland LCT



Hade Edge © Peak District National Park Authority

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 and some small woodlands.

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.



Key landscape characteristics

- High rolling hill summits and open views over surrounding landscape and to adjacent hills
- A regular pattern of small fields of permanent pasture and rough grazing enclosed by gritstone walls
- Remnant patches of semi-natural habitats with bracken and gorse, some heather and bilberry.
- Small remnant woodlands and scattered trees, often in cloughs and along some field boundaries, and some coniferous plantations.
- Scattered settlement of small gritstone farmsteads and cottages

Geology, landform and soils

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.

Species and habitats

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, curlew and lapwing.

Tree cover

Historic and ongoing management practices have reduced tree cover in this landscape to low levels. 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 small remnant broadleaved woodlands and scattered trees, often in cloughs and along some field boundaries. There are also some shelterbelts and occasional blocks of 19th or 20th century coniferous woodland.

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.

Enclosure

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

The medieval and later farming landscape above the Digley reservoir was cleared to protect the catchment area, and now exists as a tranquil relict farming landscape.

Settlement, buildings and monuments

Several significant prehistoric enclosures have survived despite being overlain by post-medieval field systems. Flint scatters and find spots show prehistoric activity along the moorland fringes.

There are scattered gritstone farmsteads throughout most of the landscape. 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 proper ties, 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, access and recreation

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 that 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.

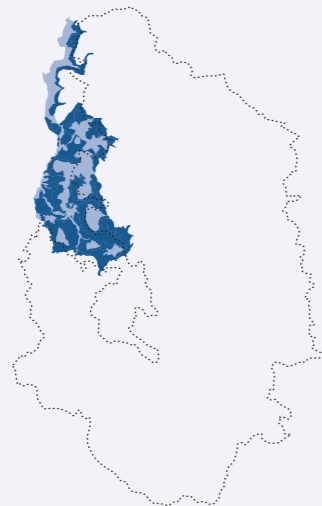
Slopes & valleys with woodland LCT



Near Brightholmlee © Peak District National Park Authority

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.

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.



Key landscape characteristics

- Steeply sloping and undulating topography with gritstone edges characterising the tops of some steeper slopes
- Irregular blocks of ancient semi-natural and secondary woodland with patches of acid grassland and bracken
- Permanent pasture in small, often irregular, fields enclosed by hedges and gritstone walls
- Narrow winding, often sunken lanes with scattered gritstone farms and loose clusters of dwellings
- Historic industries and numerous reservoirs

Geology, landform and soils

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.

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.

Species and habitats

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 coal 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.

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. To the north there are some rare field walls formed of huge upright stone slabs.

The parkland around Broomhead Hall forms a solitary piece of loosely designed landscape, sitting at the moorland edge.

Settlement, buildings and monuments
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. The medieval motte and bailey at High Bradfield sits in a strategic valleyside location. These places 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. There is a significant concentration of cruck barns and dwellings in the Bradfield area.

Transport, access and recreation
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.