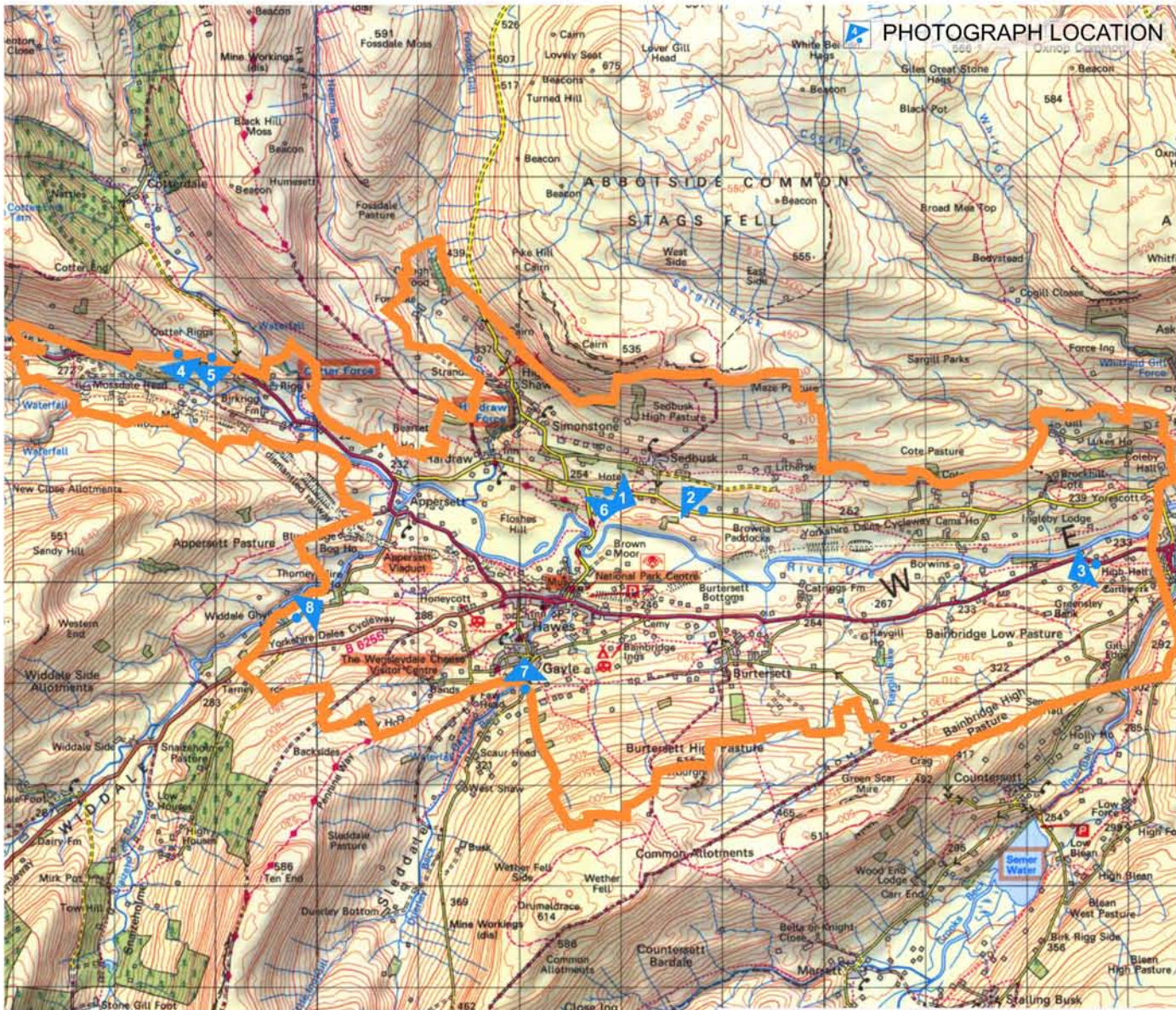
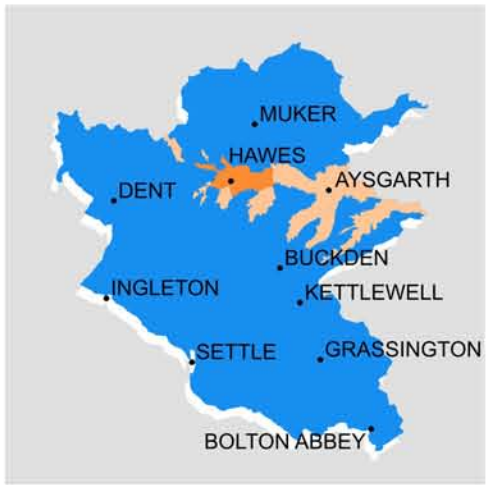


**YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK**



**KEY CHARACTERISTICS**

- Broad, open u-shaped glacial valley, overlying Great Scar limestone and with valley sides formed by rocks of the Yoredale series, forming the middle reaches of Wensleydale.
- Valley sides are unevenly stepped with sloping bands of outcropping rock. Limestone scars are visually important focal points, highly visible due to lack of vegetation cover.
- Glacial features such as drift tails and moraines form a rolling, undulating valley floor, which becomes flatter locally around Burtersett and Hawes.
- River broad and gently meandering with a stony channel and low grassy banks, generally hidden by undulating landform.
- Four tributary valleys forming distinctly separate character areas (Widdale, Sleddale, Raydale and Cotterdale) and a fourth (Hardraw Beck) forming part of this character area. Significant falls occur where some of these tributaries enter the main valley.
- Smaller gills and waterfalls are present higher up the valley slopes but are not visually significant, being lost within the overall grand scale of the valley.
- Sparse vegetation cover comprises of small mixed woodland blocks, scattered copses and trees in clumps across the valley floor, on top of hillocks and on the lower valley slopes. Scrub and scree occur higher up valley sides. Some areas open and exposed with very little vegetation.
- Main settlement is market town of Hawes, tourist centre for the whole of Wensleydale. Many other significant villages of typical linear form and numerous farmhouses of traditional construction in local stone with stone flagged roofs. Evidence of modernisation and tourist pressures with many Bed and Breakfasts and holiday cottages.
- Field pattern a strong visual feature defined by drystone walls in good condition, slightly diluted by undulating landform. Around Hawes fields are small becoming larger higher up the valley sides. Barns located mainly on field boundaries are a strong visual element.
- The majority of pastures are improved although hay meadows are well represented.

