

APPENDIX 2: KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF THE COUNTRYSIDE CHARACTER AREAS COVERING WEST YORKSHIRE (Source: Countryside Agency, www.countryside.gov.uk)

Southern Magnesian Limestone	Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Yorkshire Coalfield
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elevated ridge with smoothly rolling landform, dissected by dry valleys. • Predominantly Magnesian Limestone geology which influences soils and ecological character. • Long views over surrounding lowland. • Fertile, intensively farmed arable land. • Large fields bounded by low cut thorn hedges creating a generally large scale, open landscape. • Large number of country houses and estates with parkland, estate woodlands, plantations and game coverts. • Woodlands combining with open arable land to create a wooded farmland landscape in some parts. • Unifying influence of creamy white Magnesian Limestone as a building material often combined with red clay pantile roofing. • River valleys and gorges cutting through the ridge exposing the underlying rock. • Industrial influences, especially in the Aire and Don Valleys and other central valleys and along the coal measures fringe, with mines, shale tips, transport routes, power lines and industrial settlements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Widespread evidence of industrial activity including mine buildings, former spoil tips, and iron and steel plants. • Complex mix of built-up areas, industrial land, dereliction and farmed open country. • Many areas affected by urban fringe pressures creating fragmented and downgraded landscapes. • Substantial areas of intact agricultural land in both arable and pastoral use. • Small, fragmented remnants of pre-industrial landscape and semi-natural vegetation, including many areas of woodland, river valley habitats, subsidence flashes and other relict habitats. • Ever present urban influences from major cities, smaller industrial towns and mining villages. • Widespread influence of transport routes, including canal , road (M1, M62) and rail, with ribbon developments emphasising the urban influence in the landscape. • Rolling landforms with hills, escarpments and broad valleys. • Local variation in landscape character reflecting variations in underlying geology. • Strong cultural identity arising from history of coal mining and other heavy industry.
Yorkshire Southern Pennine Fringe	Dark Peak
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eastern slopes of the Pennines, dropping from upland in the west down to the east, and dissected by numerous steep-sided valleys. • Extensive urban influences from the matrix of large and small towns. • Close conjunction of large scale industry, urban areas and transport routes with open countryside. • Predominance of local sandstone and ‘gritstone’ as a building material, notably in large and dominant industrial buildings. • Urban development mainly confined by valleys creating dramatic interplay of views between settlements and the surrounding hillsides. • Predominantly broadleaved woodlands on steep valley sides forming important backdrops to industrialised areas. • Impression of a well wooded landscape even though tree cover is relatively sparse overall. • Dense network of roads, canals and railways. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dramatic character created by sharply defined, elevated and vast plateaux with ‘gritstone ridges’ and edges and long uninterrupted views. • Wild and remote semi-natural character created by blanket bog, dwarf shrub heath and heather moorland with rough grazing and a lack of habitation. • Contrasting valley heads created by a combination of sheltered, deeply-incised cloughs with fast-flowing streams around margins of plateaux and greater diversity of vegetation including semi-natural broadleaved woodland. • Cultivated character of margins created by in-byes with dispersed farmsteads, gritstone wall boundaries and hedgerows in valley bottoms and small scale of enclosure. • Major valleys, some of which are dominated by coniferous woodland and reservoirs. • Durable and stocky architectural style to dispersed buildings and settlements constructed from local gritstone with typical blackened appearance.

Southern Pennines	Pennine Dales Fringe
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large scale sweeping landform with an open character created by exposed gritstone moors at an altitude of 400-450m, deeply trenched by narrow valleys and wooded cloughs. • Mosaic of mixed moorland and blanket bog with enclosed pasture of varying qualities at lower elevations, largely defined by drystone walls. • Valuable wildlife habitats on the open moorland and the moorland fringe including the semi-natural boggy mires, acid flashes and wooded cloughs. • Reservoirs, common throughout the area. • Densely populated valley bottoms with stone buildings extending along valley sides, set against the backdrop of the moorland tops. • Gritstone towns centred around key features of industrial heritage such as textile mills and other industrial development mainly in the valleys but with a group of older settlements on the moorland fringe. • Main road, rail and canal routes located along valley bottoms, with historic packhorse trails traversing the exposed moorland tops. • Intrusive features, including windfarm developments, numerous transmission masts, overhead power lines and sandstone, gritstone and clay quarries, mainly on the fringe of the area. • Extensive views from elevated locations in all directions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Side slopes of Dales uplands, predominantly sloping down to east, but with locally varied topography formed by several significant river valleys running from west to east, including the Washburn, Nidd, Ure, Swale and the broad vale of the Tees. • Transitional landscape lying between the upland, predominantly grassland landscape to the west and arable land to the east. • Variation in enclosure patterns arising from different historic periods – small scale irregular field patterns, often of medieval origins, close to villages. Elsewhere larger scale enclosures, sometimes creating very strong patterns. • Transitions in type of field enclosure, from drystone walls in the west to hedges at lower elevations to the east. • Moderate density of small villages and large farmsteads, linked by a network of minor roads. • Millstone Grit predominantly used for buildings and walling, giving strong visual unity to villages, but mingling with Magnesian Limestone as a building material to the east. • Well-wooded character, with wooded valley slopes, small woodlands, plantations and hedgerow trees. • Generally tranquil and undeveloped, though with several notable historic market towns and with development pressures occurring in the south and east, around Harrogate and the northern fringes of Leeds.