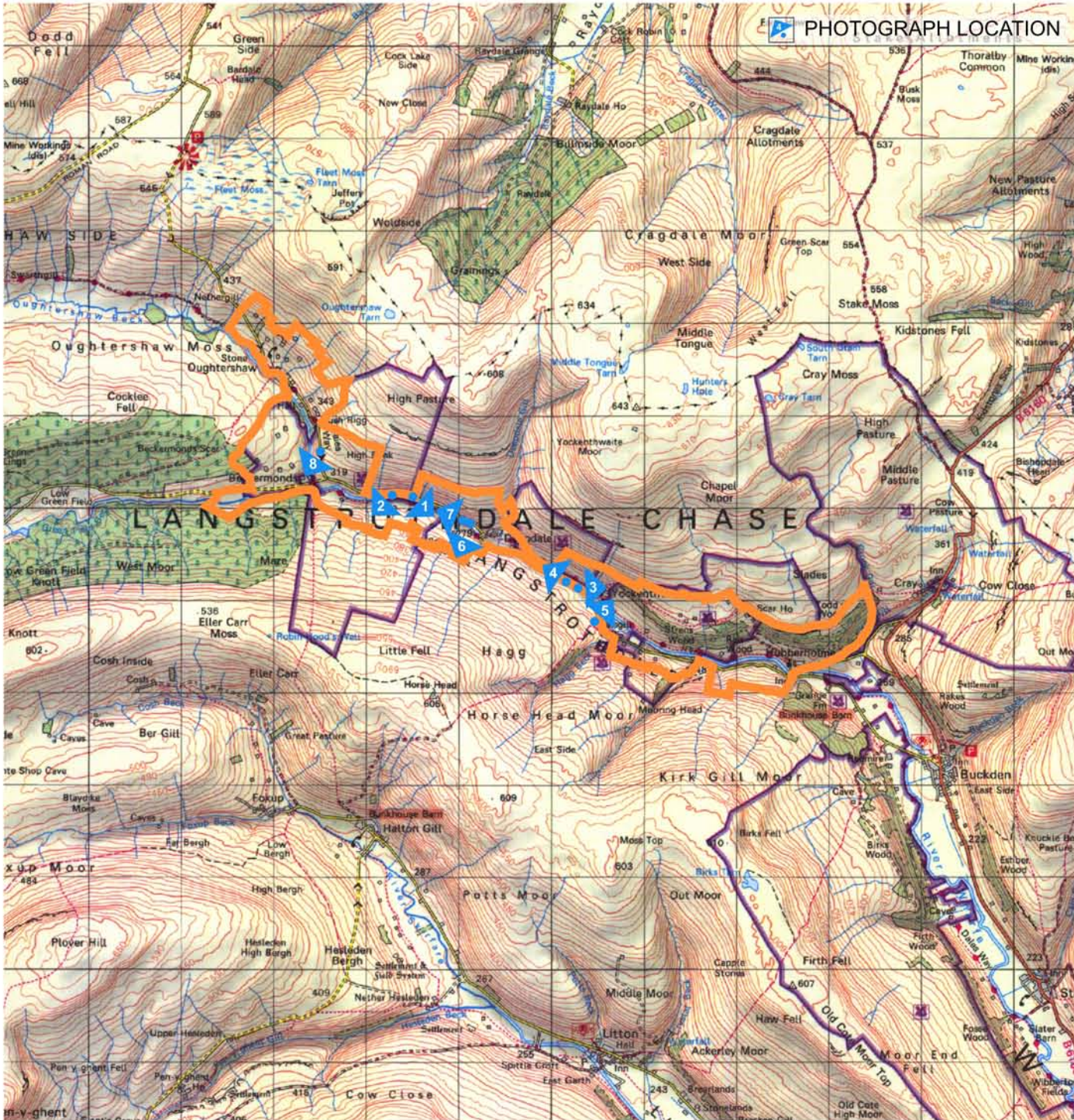


**YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK**



**KEY CHARACTERISTICS**

- Elevated winding steeply sloping v-shaped limestone dale, forming the wilder, higher reaches of Upper Wharfedale.
- Stepped rock outcrops dominate the dale sides in lower reaches, accompanied by distinctive bands of ancient woodland following line of contours.
- Pockets of limestone pavement present in upper reaches.
- Frequent loose rock and scattered boulders on moorland and rough grassland.
- River is shallow, fast flowing with a platformed rocky bed, waterfalls and smooth grassy banks and forms a focal point of the dale.
- Frequent stream valleys on southern dale side give an undulating, indented appearance.
- Trees follow the course of the river and tributaries and mark settlements, tree cover reducing with dale elevation.
- Extensive dark coniferous plantation at Langstrothdale Chase impinges upon character of upper reaches; other parts of dale affected by occasional exotic conifer plantings.
- Traditional unspoilt outward-looking hamlets near the river or tributaries on south-facing dale side.
- In the upper reaches walled sloping dale side pastures and moorland are interspersed with pockets of hay meadows, particularly around hamlets, and occasional field barns, giving way to flatter, walled valley-bottom meadows in the lower reaches.
- Moorland vegetation, including rough pasture, is increasingly dominant at higher elevations, extending down to the riverside in places.
- Sense of enclosure in lower reaches; increasingly open, remote and untouched character in upper reaches.

