



KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- Four outlying islands of elevated gritstone moorland set within and overlooking the Craven and southern dales, falling gradually south and south east from high points on the northern and western sides.
- Landform comprises gently rounded hills with occasional stepping. Flasby Fell comprises a distinctive series of small conical peaks.
- Winterburn Moor and Barden Moor drain internally, feeding three man-made reservoirs with grass covered dams.
- Dark, blocky, gritstone crags and screes punctuate Barden Moor, most noticeably on the edges, but are less prominent or are absent from the other moors.
- Streams are shallow and rocky with steep, eroded sides of grass/heather covered banks, broadening to small rocky rivers at lower elevations.
- Landcover varies between the four areas with acid grassland and rough pasture dominating Scosthrop Moor, Winterburn Moor and Flasby Fell and upland heath (of international conservation value) dominating Barden Moor. Occasional walled upland hay meadows are found in isolated positions within the open moors.
- Tree cover is generally absent from the open moors, with copses and larger mixed ancient semi-natural woodland and conifers on the lower slopes of Winterburn Moor, Flasby fell and Barden Moor.
- Dark, alien blocks of conifer plantations encroach on to the edges of Scosthrop Moor, Flasby Fell and Barden Moor with smaller plantations at higher levels on the sides of Scosthrop Moor and Winterburn Moor.
- Settlement is sparse primarily comprising farmsteads around reservoirs and within the sheltered valley between Winterburn Moor and Threshfield Moor. Buildings are a mixture of traditional and modern with associated tree cover, walled pasture and meadow and infrequent field barns.
- Minor roads cross parts of the moors impinging locally on solitude but with little effect on wider character. White, limestone surfaced tracks are prominent against the darker heather on Barden Moor.
- Drystone walls enclose the dale fringes giving way to larger areas of moorland enclosure across Scisthrop Moor, Winterburn Moor and Flasby Fell. Walls are constructed from gritstone except where exposed limestone geology is crossed where limestone is used. The main body of Barden Moor remains unenclosed.
- Lower areas of Winterburn Moor contain smaller fields, meadows, pasture, trees and occasional barns forming a transition between the open moor and sheltered dales.
- An extensive rights of way network crosses the moors. The main body of Barden Moor is open access land, which is heavily used during the summer months.

