


# Little Asby Scar & Potts Valley Local Geological Site A lovely limestone valley

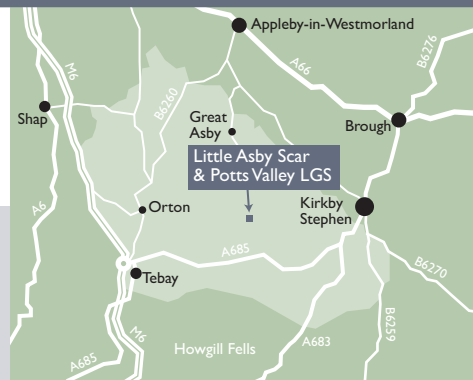
## What you can see here

- Potts Beck winding through a valley with pre-glacial origins
- Fossil-rich limestone formed in Carboniferous tropical seas
- Stunning limestone country with pavements, crags and scars

 On Access Land close to minor road north of Newbiggin-on-Lune and A685

 Please park considerably

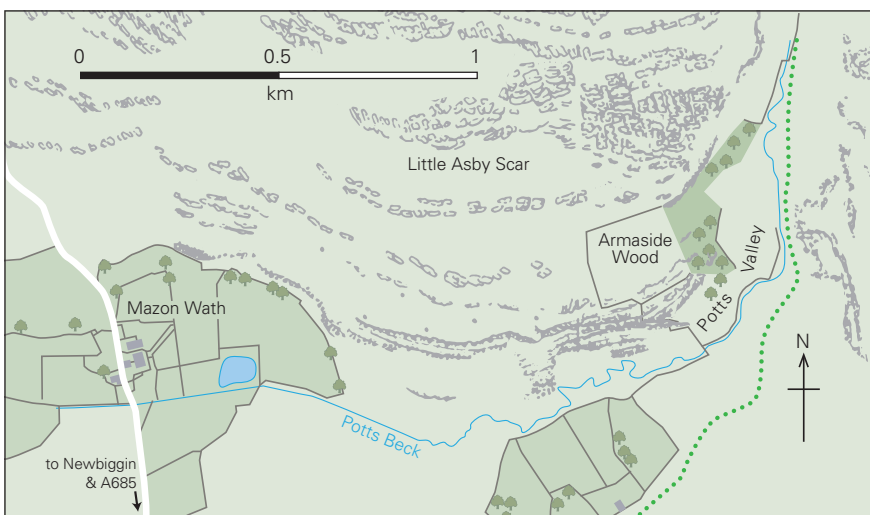
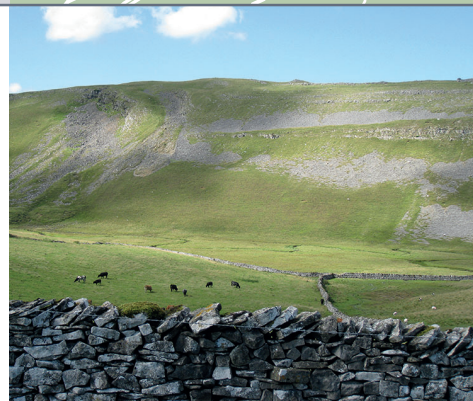
 Take care near steep stony slopes and avoid crags



This lovely area contains some superb geological features. **Limestone pavement** and crags at the southern edge of Little Asby Scar overlook Potts Valley. This area is the 'type locality' for the **Potts Beck Limestone Formation**, which overlies the Ashfell Limestone Formation. Both are part of the **Great Scar Limestone Group**, which formed in the **Carboniferous Period** when northern England was covered in shallow **tropical seas**. Limy mud on the sea floor eventually hardened into layers (beds) of limestone containing **fossils** of corals, sponges and brachiopod shells.

In one crag there is an internationally important geological site, where the boundary between two subdivisions of the Carboniferous Period has been defined in the limestone. One of these, the **Asbian substage**, is even named after this area.


Potts Valley itself has existed since before the last major **glaciation**, which was at its height around 26,000 years ago. The valley once drained the Howgills, before the upper Lune Valley formed, and is now occupied by the small 'misfit' Potts Beck.




 Public footpath

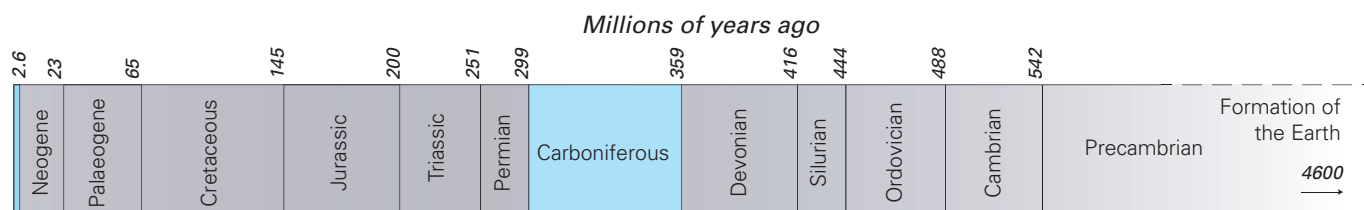
 Access Land

### Images

 View north across valley to crags and scree west of Armaside Wood. The Carboniferous boundary site is in crags to left of view

 Fossil corals and sponges

 Meandering Potts Beck viewed from north side of valley



Quaternary (a series of glaciations and warmer intervals, up to present day)

In this geological timeline the coloured intervals indicate periods represented by rocks and features at this site