

Appeal Reference APP/D2320/W/20/3247136

Pear Tree Lane Euxton

LANDSCAPE STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND

13th May 2020

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2.0 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

Location

- 2.1 The site location is described in the overarching Statement of Common Ground.

Site Description

- 2.2 The Site comprises five field compartments, all of which are currently grazed and typically bound by well-established tall hedgerows with trees. Along the western boundary, formed by neighbouring properties along the existing settlement edge there are a number of mature trees towards the southern end. A narrow strip of land flanking School Lane includes roughly two lines of well-established trees; one to the lane, and one along the field boundary.
- 2.3 The Site is flanked to the west by existing residential development on School Lane. To the north the Site boundary meets the well treed School Lane and a cluster of buildings (including Houghton House) around the School Lane / Pear Tree Lane Junction. Newly built houses at Peacock Grove and Broxop Place lie north of School Lane. To the east, the boundary is defined by Pear Tree Lane and individual properties and farmsteads along it. The southern boundary is formed by a well-established hedgerow and woodland leading to the Chapel Brook. Beyond the brook, further residences are situated.
- 2.4 Within the Site boundary there are four existing hedgerow sections: two crossing east-west from the residential edge; one north-south from Houghton House; and a short hedge / tree line from the latter hedgerow connecting with the eastern boundary. A small portion of the Chapel Brook Valley Park extends into the Site across the Site boundary. There is no existing public access to the Site.

3.0 PUBLISHED LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENTS

National Landscape Character

- 3.1 At this very broad landscape scale, the site, lies along the south western limits of Natural England's National Character Area Lancashire Valleys Character Area (NCA35). Extracts from the study are included at Appendix 1.
- 3.2 Under Key Characteristics the NCA description includes the following references (not all are repeated);
- *Field boundaries are regular to the west and more irregular to the east. They are formed by hedges with few hedgerow trees and by stone walls and post-and-wire fences at higher elevations*
 - *Agricultural land is fragmented by towns, villages and hamlets, industry and scattered settlement, with pockets of farmed land limited to along the Ribble Valley, the fringes of Pendle Hill, the area west of Blackburn, and in the north around Skipton*
 - *The many towns, including Blackburn, Accrington and Burnley, which developed as a result of the Industrial Revolution give the area a strong urban character.*
- 3.3 The Statements of Environmental Opportunity (SEO) include the following points of relevance to the Site and Euxton;

SEO2: "Increase the resilience and significance of woodland and trees and manage and expand existing tree cover to provide a range of benefits, including helping to assimilate new infrastructure; reconnecting fragmented habitats and landscape features; storing carbon; and providing fuel, wood products, shelter and recreational opportunities"

SEO4: "Conserve and manage the distinction between small rural settlements and the densely urban areas and ensure that new development is sensitively designed to contribute to settlement character, reduce the impact of the urban fringe and provide well-designed green infrastructure to enhance recreation, biodiversity and water flow regulation"

Lancashire Landscape Character

3.4 This is described in "A Landscape Strategy for Lancashire" (made up of two reports, Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Strategy). Extracts from the Strategy are included at Appendix 2.

3.5 The Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) divides the county into Landscape Character Types (LCTs), and further into Landscape Character Areas (LCAs). The Site is located entirely within the 'Undulating Lowland Farmland' Landscape character Type (LCT5), and the Landscape Character Area 5K "Cuerden-Euxton". The description for the character area states;

"The rural character of this landscape is largely obscured by built development which has taken place since the late 1970s. Motorways and motorway junctions dominate the northern sector. The principal landscape feature is Cuerden Valley Park, based upon the woodland and valley of the river Lostock. The park is managed for nature conservation and recreational use and is an important local resource. Pockets of farmland and vernacular buildings survive as a reminder of earlier land use and settlement pattern."

3.6 Recommendations for this landscape type under the LCA's strategy include (relevant ones repeated):

- *encourage continued hedgerow management, re-planting gaps and planting of a new generation of hedgerow saplings to conserve the hedgerow network;*
- *ensure new development on the edges of villages reflects the characteristic clustered form; development should be sited to retain views to landscape features and landmarks;*
- *encourage tree planting as an integral part of new development, creating links with existing farm woodlands and the network of hedgerows;*

3.7 It is agreed that the scheme provides opportunities for new planting and hedge replanting.

3.8 Relevant extracts from the Landscape Strategy for Lancashire are included at Appendix 1.

4.0 POLICY

4.1 Policy is dealt with in the Overarching Statement of Common Ground. The following policies have the most relevance to landscape and visual matters;

Central Lancashire Core Strategy 2012

4.2 Policy 21, Landscape Character Areas. The Council agrees that the appeal proposals do not raise conflict with this policy.

Chorley Local Plan 2015

- 4.3 The parties agree that the site is designated as '*Land safeguarded for future development needs*' under Policy BNE.3 (BNE3.9).
- 4.4 Policy BNE2, is of relevance and covers Development in the Area of Other Open Countryside.
- 4.5 Compliance with these policies is covered in the overarching Statement of Common Ground.

Emerging Central Lancashire Local Plan

- 4.6 The appeal site is identified as a potential allocation for housing in the Issues & Options draft of the plan. This is dealt with in the Overarching Statement of Common Ground.

5.0 MATTERS OF AGREEMENT

LVA and Methodology

- 5.1 It is agreed that the LVA (Rev E) submitted with the application follows recognised guidelines (The Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, third edition (GLVIA3), published by the Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, in 2013), and that this provide appropriate guidance for the determination of landscape and visual effects.
- 5.2 The parties agree that the LVA submitted with the planning application provides a robust analysis of the landscape and visual impacts of the appeal proposals.

Baseline Visual Analysis

- 5.3 It is agreed that the viewpoints shown in the LVA provide a fair and representative range of viewpoints for the purpose of appraisal.

Designations and Landscape Value

- 5.4 No landscape designations apply to the site or its immediate context with regard to landscape value or character.
- 5.5 It is agreed that the site does not form part of a "Valued Landscape" as paragraph 170a of the NPPF.

Residential Amenity

- 5.6 It is agreed that, at reserved matters stage, it would be possible to lay out the development to avoid any overshadowing or overbearing impacts on existing properties, accepting that the visual amenity (overall pleasantness of views enjoyed) from the properties would inevitably change.

Overall Landscape and Visual Harm arising

- 5.7 It is agreed that the scheme will result in some adverse landscape and visual effects, as is the case with all greenfield development.
- 5.8 It is agreed that the impact is considered to be minor to moderate adverse. Measures mitigating the impact of development are appropriate to be conditioned and can be dealt with at reserved matters stage to integrate open space within the development and secure implementation of a landscape strategy within the built form of the development.

5.9 The parties agree that the harm resulting from the impact of development upon the character of the open area is not considered of itself to be so significant as to warrant the refusal of the application on this ground alone.

6.0 MATTERS OF DISAGREEMENT

6.1 The weight attached to the landscape and visual harm in the planning balance.

Landscape Statement of Common Ground

Appendix 1

Extracts from: **NCA 35 Lancashire Valleys**



Introduction

As part of Natural England's responsibilities as set out in the Natural Environment White Paper¹, Biodiversity 2020² and the European Landscape Convention³, we are revising profiles for England's 159 National Character Areas (NCAs). These are areas that share similar landscape characteristics, and which follow natural lines in the landscape rather than administrative boundaries, making them a good decision-making framework for the natural environment.

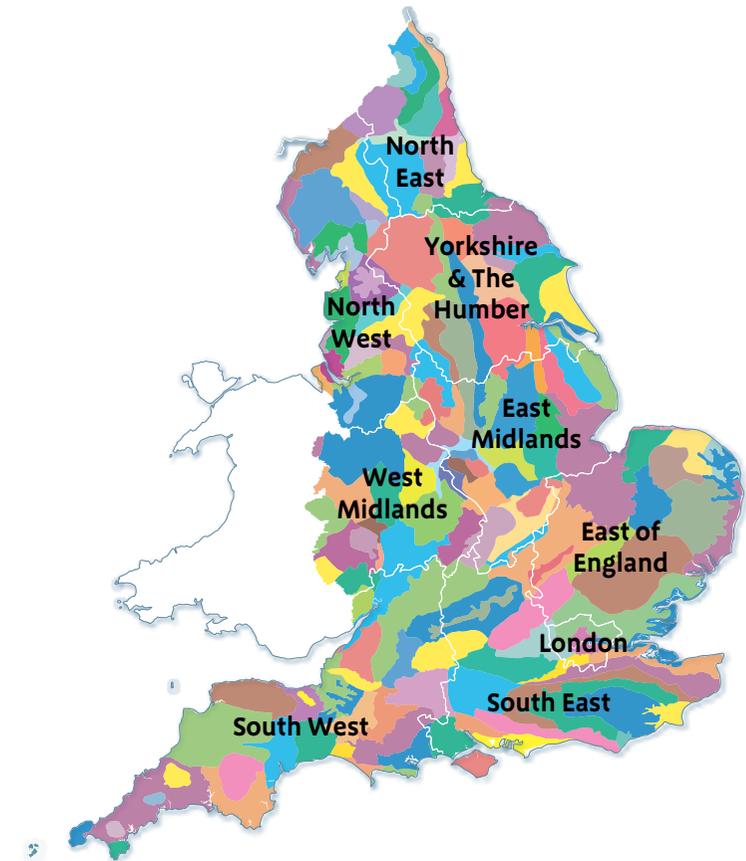
NCA profiles are guidance documents which can help communities to inform their decision-making about the places that they live in and care for. The information they contain will support the planning of conservation initiatives at a landscape scale, inform the delivery of Nature Improvement Areas and encourage broader partnership working through Local Nature Partnerships. The profiles will also help to inform choices about how land is managed and can change.

Each profile includes a description of the natural and cultural features that shape our landscapes, how the landscape has changed over time, the current key drivers for ongoing change, and a broad analysis of each area's characteristics and ecosystem services. Statements of Environmental Opportunity (SEOs) are suggested, which draw on this integrated information. The SEOs offer guidance on the critical issues, which could help to achieve sustainable growth and a more secure environmental future.

NCA profiles are working documents which draw on current evidence and knowledge. We will aim to refresh and update them periodically as new information becomes available to us.

We would like to hear how useful the NCA profiles are to you. You can contact the NCA team by emailing ncaprofiles@naturalengland.org.uk

National Character Areas map



¹ The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature, Defra (2011; URL: www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm80/8082/8082.pdf)

² Biodiversity 2020: A Strategy for England's Wildlife and Ecosystem Services, Defra (2011; URL: www.defra.gov.uk/publications/files/pb13583-biodiversity-strategy-2020-111111.pdf)

³ European Landscape Convention, Council of Europe (2000; URL: <http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/en/Treaties/Html/176.htm>)

Summary

The Lancashire Valleys run north-east from Chorley through Blackburn and Burnley to Colne. The National Character Area (NCA) lies mainly in east Lancashire and is bounded to the north-west by the Bowland Fells fringe and the Millstone Grit outcrop of Pendle Hill, and to the south by the Southern Pennines. A small proportion of the area (5 per cent) lies in the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The Lancashire Valleys broadly consist of the wide vale of the rivers Ribble and Calder and their tributaries, running north-east to south-west between the natural backdrops of Pendle Hill and the Southern Pennines. This visually contained landscape has a strong urban character.

The Lancashire Valleys are underlain by Carboniferous rocks including limestone, Millstone Grit, shales and Coal Measures. The bedrock is largely covered by glacial and post-glacial deposits of sands, gravels, clays and alluvium. Localised surface exposures of bedrock have given rise to extractive industries, including stone quarrying and coal mining.

The Industrial Revolution saw the development and expansion of the major settlements, which include Blackburn, Accrington, Burnley, Nelson and Colne. A small 'cottage' cotton and textile industry developed, first drawn to the area for its available water power. It developed rapidly but has been in steady decline since the 1920s. The towns are dominated by mills and Victorian-stone terraced housing. Numerous examples of the area's industrial heritage remain, and are matched today by substantial areas of contemporary industrial development.

Agriculture, once the major source of income before industrialisation, is now fragmented by the built environment, industry and housing. The remaining pockets of farmed land, used for extensive livestock rearing, are concentrated along the Ribble Valley, the fringes of Pendle Hill, the area to the west of Blackburn, and in the north around Skipton.

Opportunities for recreation activities are provided by a network of public rights of way, including key routes along the Pennine Bridleway and Pennine Way National Trails, while a series of country parks and local nature reserves also provide quality green space to encourage visitors to engage with and enjoy the local environment.

Click map to enlarge; click again to reduce.



A former mill lodge - Big Lodge, Yarrow Valley Country Park.

Statements of Environmental Opportunity

- **SEO 1:** Conserve and manage the Lancashire Valleys' industrial heritage to safeguard the strong cultural identity and heritage of the textile industry with its distinctive sense of place and history.
- **SEO 2:** Increase the resilience and significance of woodland and trees, and manage and expand existing tree cover to provide a range of benefits, including helping to assimilate new infrastructure; reconnecting fragmented habitats and landscape features; storing carbon; and providing fuel, wood products, shelter and recreational opportunities.
- **SEO 3:** Manage and support the agricultural landscape through conserving, enhancing, linking and expanding the habitat network, and manage and plan for the associated potential impact of urban fringe development, intensive agriculture and climate change mitigation.
- **SEO 4:** Conserve and manage the distinction between small rural settlements and the densely urban areas and ensure that new development is sensitively designed to contribute to settlement character, reduce the impact of the urban fringe and provide well-designed green infrastructure to enhance recreation, biodiversity and water flow regulation.

Description

Physical and functional links to other National Character Areas

The Lancashire Valleys National Character Area (NCA) broadly consists of the wide vale of the rivers Calder and Ribble and their tributaries, running north-east to south-west between Pendle Hill, the Bowland Fells and the Southern Pennines. Although similar in nature conservation terms to the Lancashire and Amounderness Plain and the Morecambe Coast and Lune Estuary NCAs, the landscape here has a contrasting, intensely urban character.

The Millstone Grit outcrop of Pendle Hill, which forms part of the northern boundary to this area, and the fells of the Southern Pennines to the south create enclosure and serve as a backdrop to the settlements in the valley bottom. Similarly, there are views out from the higher land to the north and south over the NCA.

The north-west of the NCA contains part of the middle section of the River Ribble, which has its source in the adjacent Yorkshire Dales NCA, as well as the Ribble's confluence with the River Hodder, which drains the southern slopes of the Bowland Fells NCA. In the south, the River Yarrow rises on Rivington Moor in the Southern Pennines NCA before joining the River Douglas in the Lancashire and Amounderness Plain NCA to the west. A number of reservoirs lie on or close to the boundary with adjacent NCAs.

Many important communication routes pass through the NCA, including the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, the Preston–Colne rail link and the M6, M61 and M65 motorways.



River Ribble at Salmsbury Bottoms.

Key characteristics

- Broad valleys of the rivers Calder and Ribble and their tributaries run north-east to south-west between the uplands of Pendle Hill and the Southern Pennines.
- A Millstone Grit ridge extends between the Ribble and Calder catchments (including the Mellor Ridge and part of Pendle Hill).
- A broad trough underlain by Carboniferous Coal Measures provided the basis for early industrialisation.
- Field boundaries are regular to the west and more irregular to the east. They are formed by hedges with few hedgerow trees and by stone walls and post-and-wire fences at higher elevations.
- Agricultural land is fragmented by towns, villages and hamlets, industry and scattered development, with pockets of farmed land limited to along the Ribble Valley, the fringes of Pendle Hill, the area to the west of Blackburn, and in the north around Skipton.
- Farmed land is predominantly pasture for grazing livestock, with areas of acid and neutral grassland, flushes and mires. There is some upland heath and rough pasture on Pendle Hill and the higher land to the south.
- Small, often ancient, broadleaved woodlands of oak, alder and sycamore extend along narrow, steep-sided cloughs on the valley sides – for example, at Priestley Clough, Spurn Clough and south of Blackburn.

- There are numerous large country houses with associated parklands, particularly on the northern valley sides away from major urban areas.
- There are many examples of proto-industrial heritage, including lime hushings, important turnpike and pack-horse routes involved in the early textile trade, and rural settlements with handloom weavers' cottages.

Continued on next page...



Traditional stone-built weavers' cottages.

Key characteristics continued

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- There is evidence of a strong industrial heritage associated with the cotton weaving and textile industries, with many common artefacts such as mill buildings, mill lodges and ponds, and links to the Leeds and Liverpool Canal.
- The many towns, including Blackburn, Accrington and Burnley, which developed as a result of the Industrial Revolution give the area a strong urban character.
- Robust Victorian architecture of municipal buildings contrasts with the vernacular sandstone grit buildings of the quiet rural settlements on the valley sides.
- Numerous communication routes run along the valley bottoms, including the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, the Preston–Colne railway and the M65 motorway.

Lancashire Valleys today

The Lancashire Valleys are concentrated in a broad trough that runs north-eastwards from Chorley to Skipton.



Leeds to Liverpool Canal, passing through agricultural land near the M61, Chorley.

This is a visually contained landscape that would have once shared many characteristics with the rural valley of the River Ribble in the north. However, the development of industry and settlements has created a landscape with a strongly urban character. Agricultural land is now heavily fragmented by towns, associated housing, industry and scattered development.

Major settlements occur within the Lancashire Valleys. There is a high proportion of built-up land which includes the towns of Blackburn, Accrington, Burnley, Nelson and Colne. The rapid expansion of these towns following the Industrial Revolution has also been aided by the development of dense transport and communications networks following the valley bottoms. These include the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, the Preston–Colne rail link, the M65 and the M6/M61 motorways running north–south at the western end. The towns are dominated by a robust Victorian architecture with stone terraces and municipal buildings generally in good condition. Numerous artefacts and buildings associated with the area’s development and industrial heritage remain and are reminders of the historical importance of local industrial development to the character of the landscape. There are substantial areas of contemporary industrial development which have replaced the traditional textile industries.

Scattered villages and hamlets on valley sides are comprised of older sandstone grit buildings, often of the longhouse type, and isolated rows of stone terraced houses are perched at precarious angles on the steep slopes. There are several large country houses with associated parkland built for wealthy mill owners of the textile industry. These are mainly located on south-facing slopes in the Calder Valley away from major urban areas, including those at Read Park Huntroyde Demesne, Gawthorpe, Dunkenhall and Towneley Halls.

The remaining fragmented farmland is a mix of pasture with scattered areas of acid and neutral grassland and areas of semi-natural woodland/scrub. Wet grasslands are common on the flood plains and river banks of the Ribble and Calder, and provide valuable habitat for populations of butterflies and birds, including snipe, curlew, redshank and lapwing. Species-rich hay meadows are becoming less common throughout the area with the application of modern agricultural techniques. Lowland field boundaries are marked by hedgerows with few hedgerow trees, which give way to stone walls and fencing on higher ground. The higher land along the southern slopes of the NCA and Pendle Hill in the north includes small but valuable areas of upland heath and acid grassland.

Small broadleaved woodlands, often ancient, are scattered throughout the remaining farmland associated with rivers, field boundaries and cloughs. The wooded, steep-sided and narrow cloughs are a characteristic feature of the Lancashire Valleys – for example; Priestly Clough, Accrington; Spurn Clough, Burnley; and lower Darwen Valley which comprises of oak, alder and sycamore with areas of grassland flushes and wetland. Wood anemone, herb Paris and small-leaved lime are all typical species in these areas. Wet woodlands dominated by alder occur on the flood plains and river banks. There are also small areas of woodland/scrub associated with abandoned or reclaimed industrial land and several small conifer plantations, the largest being Standrise Plantation associated with Elslack Reservoir to the north-east of Colne.

The rivers Calder and Ribble and their tributaries, along with the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, support valuable plant communities as well as populations of birds. The goosander, coot, grebe and warbler are all common; and rare, great crested newt and otter can also be found. The Ribble catchment, including the Calder, is a major salmonid river, one of a top handful in England

and Wales. River quality and associated biodiversity have improved over recent years, but parts of the Calder and lower Darwen, in particular, are still affected as a result of sewage and pollution incidents.

Localised surface exposures of bedrock gave rise to many mineral extractive industries in the area, including stone quarrying and coal mining, although many have now declined in importance or ceased. These abandoned mining areas are now generally well vegetated, and grazed by sheep. Most of the more conspicuous dereliction has undergone land reclamation, with some reclaimed by domestic waste landfill such as at Rowley, Brandwood, Whinney Hill and Accrington. Remaining quarry faces, Carboniferous Millstone Grit outcrops and clough exposures of bedrock create distinctive features in the landscape and provide valuable access for further geological study.

Pendle Hill and the Southern Pennines provide a natural backdrop to this visually contained NCA and offer extensive views across the lower valleys from their higher points. There is a lack of tranquillity within the lower valleys linked to towns, development and transport corridors, but in the undisturbed areas on higher land there is less light and noise pollution.

In recent years there has been an increase in the demand for recreational activities such as walking, cycling and horse riding. The majority of land within this NCA is not publicly accessible, but there is a very high density of footpaths, two National Trails, a number of national and regional cycle routes, and many country parks, local nature reserves and woodlands open to the public through the 'Woods for People' initiative.

The landscape through time

The Lancashire Valleys occupy a broad trough lying between the higher land of the Yorkshire Dales to the north, the Southern Pennines to the east and south, and the Forest of Bowland on the west and north. The higher land is underlain by Carboniferous Millstone Grit, formed by large river deltas building out into shallow, tropical marine waters. Millstone grit also forms a sandstone ridge between the Ribble and Calder catchments, which includes the Mellor Ridge and part of Pendle Hill.

The trough is underlain by Carboniferous Coal Measures, which represent the compressed remains of lush swamp vegetation and were formed by the periodic flooding of the extensive low-lying swamps that formed on top of deltas. It is the presence of coal that accounts for the early industrialisation of the area and it has been worked at depth and by open casting at the surface, although this has now declined in importance.

The bottom of the trough is covered in till, deposited beneath glaciers during the last ice age. In the Feniscowles/Pleasington area, west of Blackburn, extensive sand deposits impart a special landscape character. Bedrock resources have been quarried where the drift cover is thin. The main materials extracted were sandstone, worked on a small scale for local building, and mudstone worked for brick making in large pits at Accrington.

The character of the area is strongly dominated by a long history of access and movement along the valleys (for example, Roman roads and forts exist at Burwen Castle to the north-east near Elslack and at Ribchester in the Ribble Valley to the west), and by increasing industrial development of the valleys from the 16th century onwards.

This development began as a cottage industry during the 16th century with weaving rather than spinning. Traditionally, wool came from the Southern Pennine hillsides and flax from the low-lying country of the Lancashire and Amounderness Plain around Rufford and Croston. By 1700 each district was specialising in the production of one type of cloth. Blackburn was a centre for fustians, and most woollens and worsteds were manufactured in Burnley and Colne. The textile industry grew rapidly and, with new machines, the domestic system was replaced by factory systems which further accelerated the growth of these weaving communities. Nucleated settlements, developed from the late 18th century, were built around factory locations. These dominate the main north-east to south-west route alongside the Ribble flood plain and between the forests of Pendle and Trawden. Regular, imposing stone terraces were built to accommodate textile workers in the 19th century.



Pendle Hill from Copster Green.

The proliferation of mills and associated residential development has created a fragmented landscape with a heavily industrialised character. Since the 1920s the textile industry has been in steady decline with many mills becoming derelict or being converted to other uses. Numerous large country houses with ornamental settings occur, particularly along the northern valley sides away from industrial towns. These substantial houses, parklands and barns, dating from the 16th century, attest to the wealth generated by the textile industry. Traditional building materials used are sandstone grit and timber frame, brick was used from the 19th century with stone flag, and from the late 18th century Welsh slate roofs. In some areas, historic parklands have been subsumed within later enclosed farmland. Private and public parks and gardens are also a significant feature of the more urban landscapes (for example, the many parks at Burnley).

The landscape of well-spaced, nucleated villages and medium densities of smaller hamlets and farmsteads was transformed in the 18th and 19th centuries, and further fragmented by the modern transport networks along the valley floors. However, the foundation of later industrial expansion – the improved pastoral economy of the 15th and 16th centuries – is still visible in the dispersed pastoral farmlands of the Ribble Valley flood plain and the later (1600–1850) enclosure of the low moorlands either side of the A56 north of Burnley. Scattered settlements on the valley sides are comprised of older stone buildings, often the longhouse type.

Historic farm buildings are still visible today. They either remain in their original isolation or have been subsumed in later urban growth. Linear and dispersed farmstead groups predominate, with some courtyard steadings developed from the late 18th century when arable farming increased. There are field barns for cattle on higher ground. Aisled barns date from the 16th century and combination barns with cattle housed at storeyed ends were associated with larger farms from the early 17th century and in general use by the 19th century.

There are fragments of former strip-field agriculture alongside northern villages (Foulridge, Kelbrook, and Earby). The Ribble Valley flood plain to the south and west is dominated by irregular pasture fields dating from before 1600. These appear to have been created mainly through processes of assartment – leaving occasional fragments of former woodland along boundaries. To the north-east the field patterns are more planned and rectilinear, reflecting episodes of moorland and Parliamentary enclosure along the fringes of the forests of Trawden and Pendle in the period 1600–1850. Hedges give way to stone walls on rising ground. Except around the fringes of the urban settlements, there is very little evidence of post-1850 enclosure patterns.

Recent developments include the expansion of towns and residential areas, light industry and the road and motorway network, all of which are contributing to and consolidating the urban character of the area. Many redundant mills and associated buildings have been converted into other uses, such as retail and housing. In many areas, farming is now giving way to livery and horseculture, particularly around the fringes of towns and villages. The rivers that helped to facilitate the Industrial Revolution and, as a result, became polluted with industrial waste, devoid of fish have since been subject to a number of improvement initiatives. Many of the rivers are now host to recreational activities such as angling and canoeing, while the Leeds and Liverpool Canal provides additional opportunities for multi-user pursuits including walking, cycling and horse riding.

Landscape Statement of Common Ground

Appendix 2

Extracts from: **Landscape Character Assessment**

(A Landscape Strategy for Lancashire)

A Landscape Strategy for Lancashire



*Landscape
Character Assessment*

**Lancashire
County
Council**
Environment Directorate



3.

Lancashire's Landscape Character

Since the Industrial Revolution, Lancashire has been a county of contrasts; large urban centres with a legacy of historic industrial buildings are juxtaposed with the exposed uplands of the West Pennine Moors and the expansive, wild mudflats of Morecambe Bay. The county's agricultural landscapes include marginal upland pastures, the extensive grasslands and wooded river corridors of the Ribble Valley, the arable fields of the Fylde and the drained horticultural landscape of the mosslands.

Lancashire is also characterised by long views; the inter-visibility between the distinctive landscape types adds to the county's appeal. On a clear day there are views across the whole county from the high Bowland massif: north and west to the drumlins which border the North Yorkshire hills; southwards across undulating farmland to the industrial foothills which surround the conurbations of Blackburn and Burnley; and westwards to the coastal plains and mosslands which fringe the Irish Sea. Similarly, from the flat coastal mosslands, the agricultural plain or the cities of Preston and Lancaster; views eastwards to the moorland hills are a constant reminder of the contrasting landscapes which can be accessed in a thirty minute drive.

In north Lancashire, *Coastal Drumlins*, *Drumlin Fields*, *Rolling Upland Farmland* and the *Floodplain Valley* of the Lune are the predominant landscape types. These are rural areas where clipped hedges divide the landscape into a neat tapestry of grazed fields, although in the rolling upland farmland landscapes, stone walls, beech stands, knolls and rock outcrops vary the texture of the wider landscape considerably. Views of Lancaster, Morecambe and Heysham are reminders of the proximity of these landscapes to urban populations. On the coast, north of Lancaster, there is a transition from *Open Coastal Marsh* to the *Wooded Limestone Hills and Pavements* of Arnsdale and Silverdale, where dramatic cliffs, limestone pavements, and numerous archaeological sites combine to create a rare and unique

landscape. On the northern fringes of Lancashire, Leck Fell, part of the *Limestone Fells* which extend northwards and westwards into Yorkshire, is the highest point in the county.

The centre of Lancashire is dominated by the dramatic Bowland massif, where the remote and exposed *Moorland Plateaux* are surrounded by gentler *Moorland Hills* of heather moor, blanket bog and acid grassland. Here uninterrupted views across vast areas of surrounding countryside are punctuated by glacial erratics, woodland blocks, ruined farmsteads and stone walls. These also act as a reminder of the geological and human forces which have shaped what appears on the surface to be a wild and untamed landscape. The lower slopes of the *Moorland Fringes* show a gradual transition to the verdant grasslands of the *Undulating Lowland Farmland*, where there is a rich tapestry of hedged fields, farm woodlands, copses and picturesque stone villages. The *Floodplain Valley* of the Ribble weaves its way through these landscapes and contributes significantly to the aesthetic appeal of the area; the presence of numerous archaeological sites indicates its prolonged importance as a major communication route and ancient territorial boundary.

To the south of the Ribble lowlands, the urban areas of Accrington, Blackburn, Burnley, Nelson and Colne are surrounded by the small scale, complex landscape of the *Industrial Foothills and Valleys*, where remnants of mills and mill cottage terraces are a tangible reminder of the area's past. There are also large country houses and landscaped estates, which reflect the great wealth generated by entrepreneurs and patrons during the period. In south east Lancashire, the *Settled Valleys* of Rawtenstall and Bacup dissect the high plateau of the *Enclosed Uplands* and provide one of the most distinctive landscape types in the county. Along the valley floor, the dense urban development contains many clues to the area's rich industrial heritage. In the nearby *Reservoir Valleys* Victorian engineering was put to work to supply clean water to the rapidly expanding towns close by. The reservoirs and their surrounding valleys represent a valuable recreational resource. To the south east of the county, there is a steep transition to the *Moorland Hills and Moorland Plateaux* of the Pennines.

The landscape of west Lancashire is characterised by the flat or gently undulating farmland of the *Coastal Plain*. Here the large arable fields are punctuated by small deciduous woodlands and shelterbelts. These open landscapes offer a dramatic contrast to the undulating and more intimate countryside to the east. Settlement character consists of clusters of 18th and 19th century red brick farm buildings, rural villages and towns which have been heavily influenced by 20th century modernisation and development. Towards the coast, ancient peat deposits, which have been drained since the medieval period are typical. These *Mossland* areas are criss-crossed with drainage ditches and straight narrow roads which link modern farms and glasshouses. Beyond this reclaimed farmland, the *Enclosed Coastal Marshes* are defined by man-made earth bunds protecting large square fields dedicated to improved pasture. The estuaries of the Ribble, Lune and Wyre are fringed by *Open Coastal Marsh* and intertidal flats. The fine sward, etched by a maze of creeks and channels, is an attractive and much valued landscape, with a prolific birdlife.

This landscape character assessment provides a detailed review of Lancashire's landscapes. The landscape has been described and classified into landscape units of similar character. There are two types of landscape classification. Particular landform and landcover elements may combine to produce distinctive *landscape character types*. These are landscapes with a range of distinctive but generic characteristics that can recur in different areas, for example a particular type of landuse or historic field pattern. *Landscape character areas* are units of landscape which are geographically specific and have their own individual character or 'sense of place'. Whilst the current strategies relate to the landscape character types, the character areas will prove particularly useful in planning and management and in the generation of policies or actions can be applied at a local level.

The *Landscape Character Assessment* records the specific character of 21 *landscape types* and 81 *landscape character areas*, focusing on familiar local landscape patterns.

The landscape classification is shown in *Figure 8*. There is a more detailed map at 1:50,000 in the back pocket of this report. A glance back

at *Figures 4, 5, 6 and 7* will highlight the relationships between landscape character and the landform, underlying geology, habitat types and the historic development of the landscape. Together the landscape character types and landscape character areas provide a new descriptive map of the study area which draws attention to the contrasts in landscape character which we so often take for granted.

Following this introduction, each of the generic *landscape character types* is described in turn. The physical (geological, geomorphological and ecological) influences and human influences which have shaped the character of the landscape are also noted and the specific *landscape character areas* found in each landscape character type are described.

These landscape descriptions and notes on the evolution of landscape character form the basis for an analysis of landscape sensitivity and vulnerability to change. This, together with strategic recommendations for each landscape type, is found in the *Landscape Strategy* document.

The built environment of the major urban areas in Lancashire has also been characterised into three generic *urban landscape character types*. The historic processes which shaped these urban types and their appearance today are described in detail in the section following the landscape character types. The urban landscape character types are illustrated in *Figure 9*.

Landscape Character Areas

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Moorland Plateaux <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1a. South Pennine Moors 1b. High Bowland Plateaux 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 Wooded Rural Valleys <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10a. Wyre Valley 10b. North Bowland Valleys
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Moorland Hills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2a. West Pennine Moors 2b. Central Bowland Fells 2c. Longridge Fell 2d. Waddington Fell 2e. Pendle Hill 2f. White Moor/Burn Moor 2g. Beacon Fell 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11 Valley Floodplains <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11a. Lower Ribble Valley 11b. Long Preston Reaches 11c. Aire Valley 11d. Lune Valley
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 Enclosed Uplands <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3a. Rossendale Hills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 Low Coastal Drumlins <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12a. Carnforth-Galgate-Cockerham 12b. Warton-Borwick 12c. Heysham-Overton
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 Moorland Fringe <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4a. Trawden Fringe 4b. Rossendale Moorland Fringe 4c. Blackburn Moorland Fringe 4d. Bowland Gritstone Fringes 4e. Bowland Limestone Fringes 4f. Longridge Fell Fringes 4g. South Pendle Fringe 4h. Leck Fell Fringe 4i. North Pendle Fringe 4j. West Pennine Fringes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13 Drumlin Field <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13a. Gargrave Drumlin Field 13b. Bentham-Clapham 13c. Docker-Kellet-Lancaster
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 Undulating Lowland Farmland <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5a. Upper Hodder Valley 5b. Lower Hodder and Loud Valley 5c. Lower Ribble 5d. Salmsbury-Withnell Fold 5e. Lower Ribblesdale (Clitheroe to Gisburn) 5f. Lower Ribblesdale (Gisburn to Hellifield) 5g. South Bowland Fringes 5h. Goosnargh-Whittingham 5i. West Bowland Fringes 5j. North Bowland Fringes 5k. Cuerden-Euxton 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14 Rolling Upland Farmland <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14a. Slaidburn-Giggleswick 14b. Lothersdale and Cringles
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 Industrial Foothills and Valleys <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6a. Calder Valley 6b. West Pennine Foothills 6c. Cliviger Gorge 6d. Adlington-Coppull 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15 Coastal Plain <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15a. Ormskirk-Lathom-Rufford 15b. Longton-Bretherton 15c. Croston-Mawdesley 15d. The Fylde 15e. Forton-Garstang-Catterall 15f. Knott End-Pilling
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 Farmed Ridges <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7a. Mellor Ridge 7b. Upholland Ridge 7c. Langthwaite Ridge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 16 Mosslands <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 16a. North Fylde Mosses 16b. South Fylde Mosses 16c. Martin Mere and South West Mosses 16d. Skelmersdale Mosses 16e. Tarleton Mosses 16f. Heysham Moss 16g. Hoole and Farington Mosses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 Settled Valleys <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8a. Irwell 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 17 Enclosed Coastal Marsh <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 17a. Clifton and Hutton Marsh 17b. Cockerham Coast
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9 Reservoir Valleys <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9a. Rivington 9b. Turton-Jumbles 9c. Haslingden Grane 9d. Belmont 9e. Roddlesworth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18 Open Coastal Marsh <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18a. Ribble Marshes 18b. Hest Bank-Silverdale Marshes 18c. Wyre Marshes 18d. Lune Marshes 18e. Pilling and Cockerham Marshes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 19 Coastal Dunes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 19a. Fylde Coast Dunes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20 Wooded Limestone Hills and Pavements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20a. Arnsdale and Silverdale
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 21 Limestone Fells <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 21a. Leck Fell

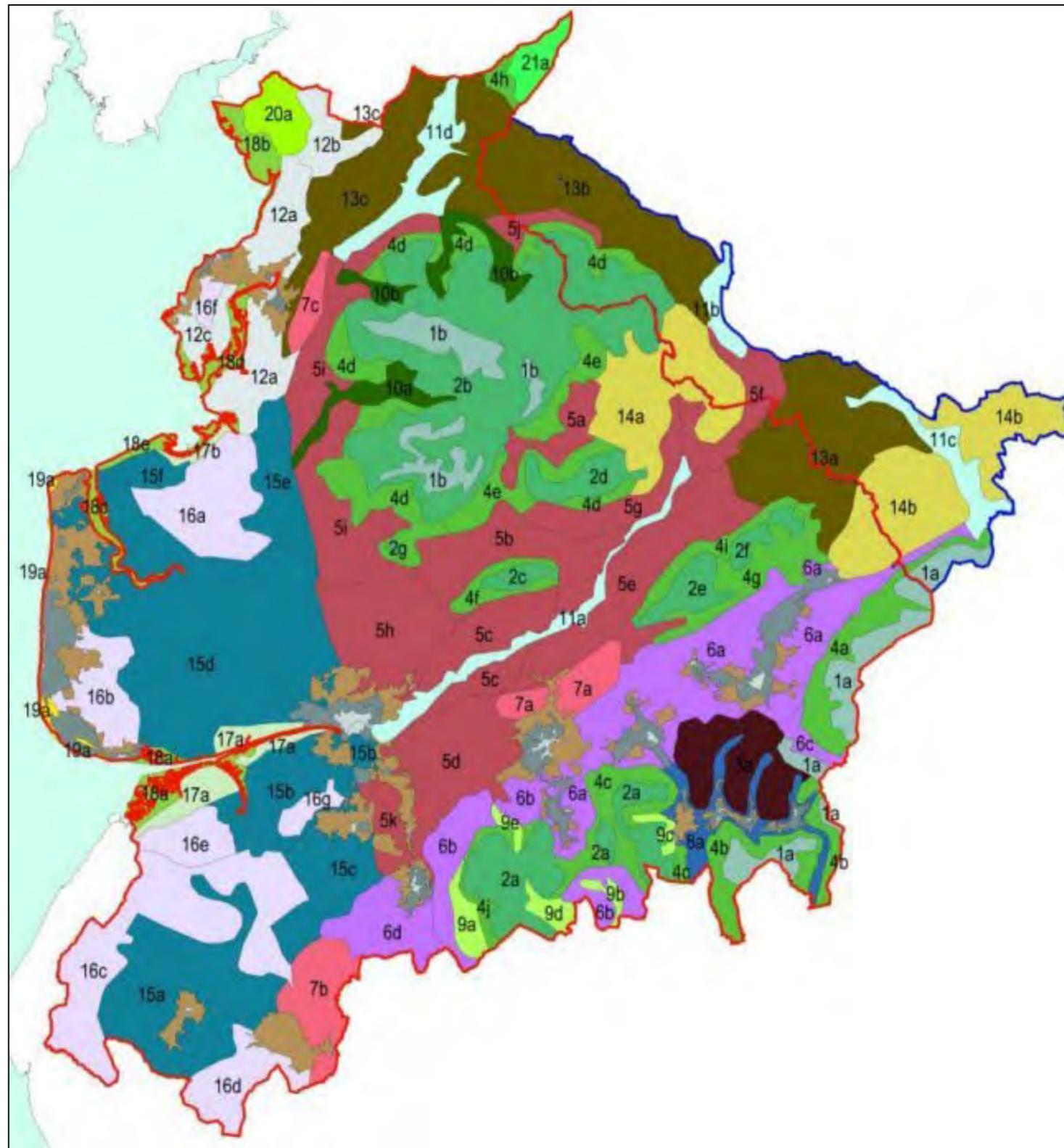
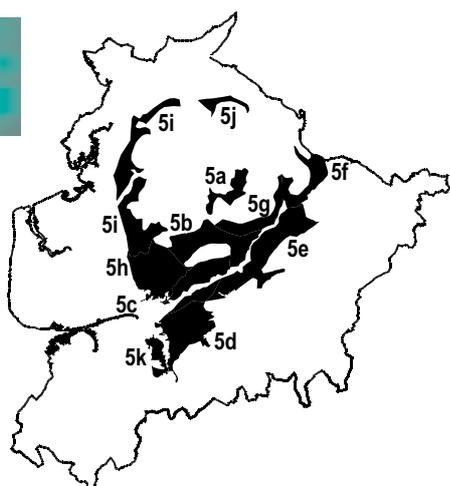


Figure 8: Landscape Character Types & Landscape Character Areas

- | | |
|---|---|
| Lancashire County, Blackpool and Blackburn with Darwen Boundary | 10 Wooded Rural Valleys |
| Craven Study Area | 10a. Wylre Valley |
| | 10b. North Bowland Valleys |
| Landscape Character Types & Areas | |
| 1 Moorland Plateaux | 11 Valley Floodplains |
| 1a. South Pennine Moors | 11a. Lower Ribble Valley |
| 1b. High Bowland Plateaux | 11b. Long Preston Reaches |
| 2 Moorland Hills | 11c. Aire Valley |
| 2a. West Pennine Moors | 11d. Lune Valley |
| 2b. Central Bowland Fells | 12 Low Coastal Drumlins |
| 2c. Longridge Fell | 12a. Camforth-Galgate-Cockerham |
| 2d. Waddington Fell | 12b. Warton-Borwick |
| 2e. Pendle Hill | 12c. Heysham-Overton |
| 2f. White Moor/Bum Moor | 13 Drumlin Field |
| 2g. Beacon Fell | 13a. Gargrave Drumlin Field |
| 3 Enclosed Uplands | 13b. Bentham-Clapham |
| 3a. Rossendale Hills | 13c. Docker-Kellet-Lancaster |
| 4 Moorland Fringe | 14 Rolling Upland Farmland |
| 4a. Trawden Fringe | 14a. Slaibum-Giggleswick |
| 4b. Rossendale Moorland Fringe | 14b. Lothersdale and Cringles |
| 4c. Blackburn Moorland Fringe | 15 Coastal Plain |
| 4d. Bowland Gristone Fringes | 15a. Ormskirk-Lathom-Rufford |
| 4e. Bowland Limestone Fringes | 15b. Longton-Bretherton |
| 4f. Longridge Fell Fringes | 15c. Croston-Mawdesley |
| 4g. South Pendle Fringe | 15d. The Fylde |
| 4h. Leck Fell Fringe | 15e. Forton-Garstang-Catterall |
| 4i. North Pendle Fringe | 15f. Knott End-Pilling |
| 4j. West Pennine Fringes | 16 Mosslands |
| 5 Undulating Lowland Farmland | 16a. North Fylde Mosses |
| 5a. Upper Hodder Valley | 16b. South Fylde Mosses |
| 5b. Lower Hodder and Loud Valley | 16c. Martin Mere and South West Mosses |
| 5c. Lower Ribble | 16d. Skelmersdale Mosses |
| 5d. Sarnesbury-Wirrhnell Fold | 16e. Tarleton Mosses |
| 5e. Lower Ribblesdale (Clitheroe to Gisburn) | 16f. Heysham Moss |
| 5f. Lower Ribblesdale (Gisburn to Hellfield) | 16g. Hoole and Farington Mosses |
| 5g. South Bowland Fringes | 17 Enclosed Coastal Marsh |
| 5h. Goosnargh-Whittingham | 17a. Clifton and Hutton Marsh |
| 5i. West Bowland Fringes | 17b. Cockerham Coast |
| 5j. North Bowland Fringes | 18 Open Coastal Marsh |
| 5k. Querden-Euxton | 18a. Ribble Marshes |
| 6 Industrial Foothills and Valleys | 18b. Hest Bank-Silverdale Marshes |
| 6a. Calder Valley | 18c. Wylre Marshes |
| 6b. West Pennine Foothills | 18d. Lune Marshes |
| 6c. Cliviger Gorge | 18e. Pilling and Cockerham Marshes |
| 6d. Adlington-Coppull | 19 Coastal Dunes |
| 7 Farmed Ridges | 19a. Fylde Coast Dunes |
| 7a. Mellor Ridge | 20 Wooded Limestone Hills and Pavements |
| 7b. Upholland Ridge | 20a. Arnsdale and Silverdale |
| 7c. Langthwaite Ridge | 21 Limestone Fells |
| 8 Settled Valleys | 21a. Leck Fell |
| 8a. Irwell | Urban Landscape Types |
| 9 Reservoir Valleys | Historic Core |
| 9a. Frinton | Industrial Age |
| 9b. Turton-Jumbles | Suburban |
| 9c. Haslingden Grane | Coastline |
| 9d. Belmont | |
| 9e. Raddlesworth | |

Scale approx 1:325,000 at A3 page size

5



UNDULATING LOWLAND FARMLAND

Character Areas

- 5a Upper Hodder Valley
- 5b Lower Hodder and Loud Valley
- 5c Lower Ribble
- 5d Samlesbury-Withnell Fold
- 5e Lower Ribblesdale (Clitheroe to Gisburn)
- 5f Lower Ribblesdale (Gisburn to Hellifield)
- 5g South Bowland Fringes
- 5h Goosnargh-Whittingham
- 5i West Bowland Fringes
- 5j North Bowland Fringes
- 5k Cuerden-Euxton

Landscape Character

Generally below 150m, the Undulating Lowland Farmland lies between the major valleys and the moorland fringes. The underlying geology is largely masked by heavy boulder clays and hedgerows predominate over stone walls. This lowland landscape is traversed by deeply incised, wooded cloughs and gorges. There are also many mixed farm woodlands, copses and hedgerow trees, creating an impression of a well wooded landscape from ground level and a patchwork of wood and pasture from raised viewpoints on the fells. Some of the most picturesque stone villages of the county occur within this well settled landscape type. The towns of Longridge and Clitheroe also occur within this type, but are not typical of the settlement pattern. The area also has many country houses whose boundary walls and designed landscapes add to the species diversity and visual appeal. There is a high density of farms and scattered cottages outside the clustered settlements, linked by a network of minor roads. Typical view - photo 19 below.



Physical Influences

The Undulating Lowland Farmland forms a transitional zone between the low lying plains of soft glacial deposits and the high fells of Bowland, formed from Millstone Grit. To the west of the Forest of Bowland, running along the line of the M6, a substantial fault separates the soft Triassic rock of the lowlands from the harder Carboniferous rocks of the fells. The Clitheroe Reef Knolls SSSI, located between Worston and Downham, comprise an important geological feature. This is one of several Reef Knolls which support species-rich calcareous grassland.

This landscape type, whether composed of limestone, grit, shale or sandstone, is of gentle topography when compared to the fells and hills. Glacial action has accentuated the differences by further tempering the relief of the low-lying areas by the deposition of glacial drift. Deep drift is conspicuous where hedges predominate over stone walls, as quarrying is only possible where the drift is sufficiently thin.

Many of the woodlands which survive on the steep slopes of the deep cloughs and valley sides are of ancient origin and represent a rich natural resource. They include alder and ash woods on the base-rich soils of the valley floors grading through to lowland oakwoods and upland oak woods on the upper valley sides. Red Scar and Tun Brook Woods, situated east of Preston between Ribbleson and Grimsargh are classified as SSSI's and are important for their extensive examples of ash-wych elm woodland and alder woods. Hedges and hedgerow trees are also important as habitats in an otherwise intensively managed landscape.

Standing bodies of water are important habitats within the area; especially for birds. Rough Hey Wood, located south east of Garstang is designated as a SSSI and contains one of Britain's largest heronries.

Human Influences

The landscape proved more favourable to early settlers than the nearby uplands. At Portfield above Whalley, large earthworks of Iron Age date defend the neck of a steep-sided promontory whose flat top had been utilized since the Neolithic period. The presence of a large aisled barn of probably

18th century date points to an earlier, perhaps medieval, successful farmstead, attesting to the favourable nature of the site.

By the Roman period it is probable that much of this landscape type was already settled fairly densely and the fort established at Ribchester is known to have had some civilian government functions. Whilst Roman remains (besides roads) outside the immediate area of the forts are poorly represented in the record, the presence of Roman Kilns at Quernmore show that they exploited the natural resources of the area.

Medieval population pressures, which saw the utilisation of small areas of the mosslands elsewhere in Lancashire also led to the continuation of small woodland clearances along the Ribble and the Lune. This created a small scale intimate landscape of scattered farms linked by winding roads with irregular fields and patches of surviving woodland on stream and field edges, a landscape which has remained intact to this day.

The majority of enclosure dates from the medieval period and has created a landscape of small fields which are mostly hedged although stone walls are evident where geology lies close to the surface.

Country houses are a feature of the area and are often surrounded by parklands and well managed estates. They are evidence of the developing industrial enterprise and increasing wealth between the 16th and 19th centuries. Architecturally distinctive yeoman and gentry houses are also characteristic of this type and date from the 17th century onwards.

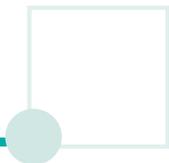
During the 17th century lime was used for land improvement in these lowland fringe areas and many small farm kilns remain in the landscape, along with the larger industrial kilns and quarries of the 19th and 20th century. The mining of Millstone Grit also proved to be important in this landscape type. Where suitable stone was available, querns and millstones could be quarried and manufactured to meet the needs of the population. Remains of 19th century millstone production near Quernmore can still be seen on the flanks of Clougha Pike. Lead and Silver were extracted in Rimington from the 17th century and mined and manufactured in places such as at Quernmore to meet the demands of the rapidly industrialising county.

CHARACTER AREAS - UNDULATING LOWLAND FARMLAND

Undulating Lowland Farmland occurs on the lower fringes of the uplands, below about 150m AOD, across the whole study area.

Local	Character Areas	Description
5a	Upper Hodder Valley	<i>This is a unique hidden area of settled farmland enclosed by shale and limestone uplands and the grit moorland of the Bowland Fells. It is a lush oasis in the middle of a bleak landscape. The landscape is centred around the upper River Hodder and its tributaries and is well wooded. The underlying geology is largely overlain by boulder clays although the underlying limestone is evident as outcrops known as 'Reef Knolls' as well as in the white stone walls, bridges and limestone built villages, such as Slaidburn. The Reef Knolls are particularly characteristic of this area as are stands of beech which are often visible on hill tops.</i>
5b	Lower Hodder and Loud Valley	<i>This area forms part of the Undulating Lowland Farmland to the south of the Forest of Bowland and includes the deeply incised wooded course of the Hodder below Whitewell and its tributary, the River Loud, as far as its confluence with the Ribble. The underlying bedrock is limestone which is overlain by good soils, providing lush green pastures and good tree growth. The course of the Hodder is particularly well wooded and the pattern of incised minor wooded tributaries is distinctive to this character area. The area is little affected by modern development and the picturesque limestone villages of Chipping and Waddington have retained their vernacular character.</i>
5c	Lower Ribble	<i>The Lower Ribble is an area of lowland gritstone farmland between Longridge Fell to the north and Mellor Ridge to the south. It has a distinctive broad valley landform; the north and south valley sides are separated by a flood plain which contains the meandering course of the River Ribble. There is a particularly distinctive pattern of wooded cloughs which descend the valley sides, their streams emptying into the Ribble. A complex pattern of hedges and woodland form links to these wooded cloughs, giving an overall impression of a well wooded landscape. Although a rural valley, the area is well settled; a dense network of winding country lanes and tracks link the large number of stone farm buildings. Other features of this area are the country houses and designed landscapes, for example Stonyhurst College, Huntingdon Hall and Showley Hall. The Roman settlement of Ribchester is sited at an historic crossing point of the Ribble, a tranquil village in the centre of the valley.</i>
5d	Samlesbury-Withnell Fold	<i>An area between the Ribble Valley to the north and the Industrial Foothills to the south. It is underlain by millstone grit and sandstone, but the landscape is influenced by the mantle of glacial till which covers the surface, producing a gently undulating landscape of large lush green pastures divided by low cut hedgerows and hedgerow trees. Dramatic steep sided wooded valleys wind their way through the landscape carrying the River Darwen and its tributaries. Designed landscapes and parkland associated with Samlesbury Hall, Woodfold Hall, Pleasington Old Hall and Hoghton Tower add to the overall woodland cover in this lowland landscape and Witton Country Park provides a countryside resource on the edge of Blackburn. It is also influenced by infrastructure (major road</i>

Local	Character Areas	Description
		<i>and rail routes), industrial works, the airfield at Samlesbury and built development on the edges of Preston.</i>
5e	Lower Ribblesdale (Clitheroe to Gisburn)	<i>This area forms the southern valley side of the Ribble, between Copster Green and Gisburn, on the lowland fringes of Pendle Hill. It is a particularly well settled area and provides a corridor for communication routes along the Ribble Valley. The A59(T) runs the length of the area, linking the settlements of Copster Green, Whalley, Clitheroe, Chatburn and Gisburn. The railway links the valley to Blackburn and Yorkshire. This communication structure has encouraged built development and industry; the large cement works at Clitheroe is a prominent visual landmark for miles around. This character area is underlain by limestone and has some good examples of limestone reef knolls, particularly around Clitheroe; Clitheroe Castle is located on top of one of these knolls.</i>
5f	Lower Ribblesdale (Clitheroe to Gisburn)	<i>This character area follows the upper reaches of the River Ribble between Bolton-by-Bowland and Long Preston on limestone geology. It occurs on the fringes of the Slaidburn Rolling Upland Farmland between 100 and 150m AOD. It is a highly rural area which is dominated by lush green pastures divided by hedgerows with many hedgerow trees. The mixed plantation woodlands associated with estates of Bolton Hall and Halton Place and the ancient woodlands along the Ribble itself contribute to the wooded character of this landscape character area.</i>
5g	South Bowland Fringes	<i>This character area forms the lowland fringes of Waddington Fell, to the south of the Forest of Bowland. It is a well wooded area whose limestone slopes are particularly notable for their pattern of wooded cloughs - the tributaries which descend the valley side before feeding into the Ribble. The villages of Waddington, West Bradford, Grindleton and Holdon are located at the foot of wooded cloughs. Browsholme Hall has an influence over landscape character; shelter belts and beech hedges are features of the area around Cow Ark.</i>
5h	Goosnargh-Whittingham	<i>The undulating lowland farmland on the north-east fringes of Preston forms a transitional landscape between the upland landscape of the Bowland Fells to the north-east and the agricultural Amounderness Plain to the west. It is an historically interesting area on the fringe of the Forest of Bowland AONB. The landform gently descends from 150m at the moorland fringe of Beacon Fell to the 30m contour (approximately) which defines the edge of the sandstone agricultural plain of the Fylde. However, this is not a clear boundary and the visual transition from one to the other occurs across a broad area between the M6 and main Preston to Lancaster railway line. As a result of this gradual transition it demonstrates characteristics of both the Fylde and the Bowland fringes. It is a pastoral landscape which is relatively open and intensively farmed with much hedgerow loss and few trees or woodlands although hedgerows along the network of lanes are important landscape features. There are often clear views over the plain below. The area is under pressure from built development as a result of its proximity to Preston. Vernacular buildings are of local stone, although a number of incongruous materials are seen throughout the area. The area is rich in evidence for Roman occupation.</i>



Local	Character Areas	Description
5i	West Bowland Fringes	<i>A transitional landscape between the gritstone scarps of the Bowland Fells and the coastal plain of Amounderness. A fault line provides a corridor along which the motorway, road and railway run and provides a transition to the agricultural plain. However, this transition is softened by glacial deposits, for example at Galgate where the lowland farmland merges imperceptibly with the low drumlin fields. However, at Quernmore, there is a dramatic wooded ridge (7c) which forms a definite boundary between the grit lowland fell edges and the adjacent glacial landscape to the west. The transition from fringe to fell is quite striking, particularly to the north-west below Claughton Moor where it occurs over a short distance. The valleys of the Brock, Calder and Wyre are also relatively dramatic, descending from the fells in deeply incised wooded valleys. There are exceptional views of the Amounderness Plain from the hillsides and the scarps of the Bowland fells are never far away.</i>
5j	North Bowland Fringes	<i>The north-facing gritstone slopes, known as the Forest of Mewith, is an area of undulating marginal farmland on the northern edges of the Bowland Fells. It is bordered by a drumlin field to the north which influences the landform of the lowland fringe; the broadly undulating landform contrasts with the steep scarps of west Bowland. This is a rural area which is crossed by a dense network of footpaths and farm tracks; a number of small stone farm holdings are found at the end of these dead-end farm tracks.</i>
5k	Cuerden-Euxton	<i>The rural character of this landscape is largely obscured by built development which has taken place since the late 1970s. Motorways and motorway junctions dominate the northern sector. The principal landscape feature is Cuerden Valley Park, based upon the woodland and valley of the river Lostock. The park is managed for nature conservation and recreational use and is an important local resource. Pockets of farmland and vernacular buildings survive as a reminder of earlier land use and settlement pattern.</i>

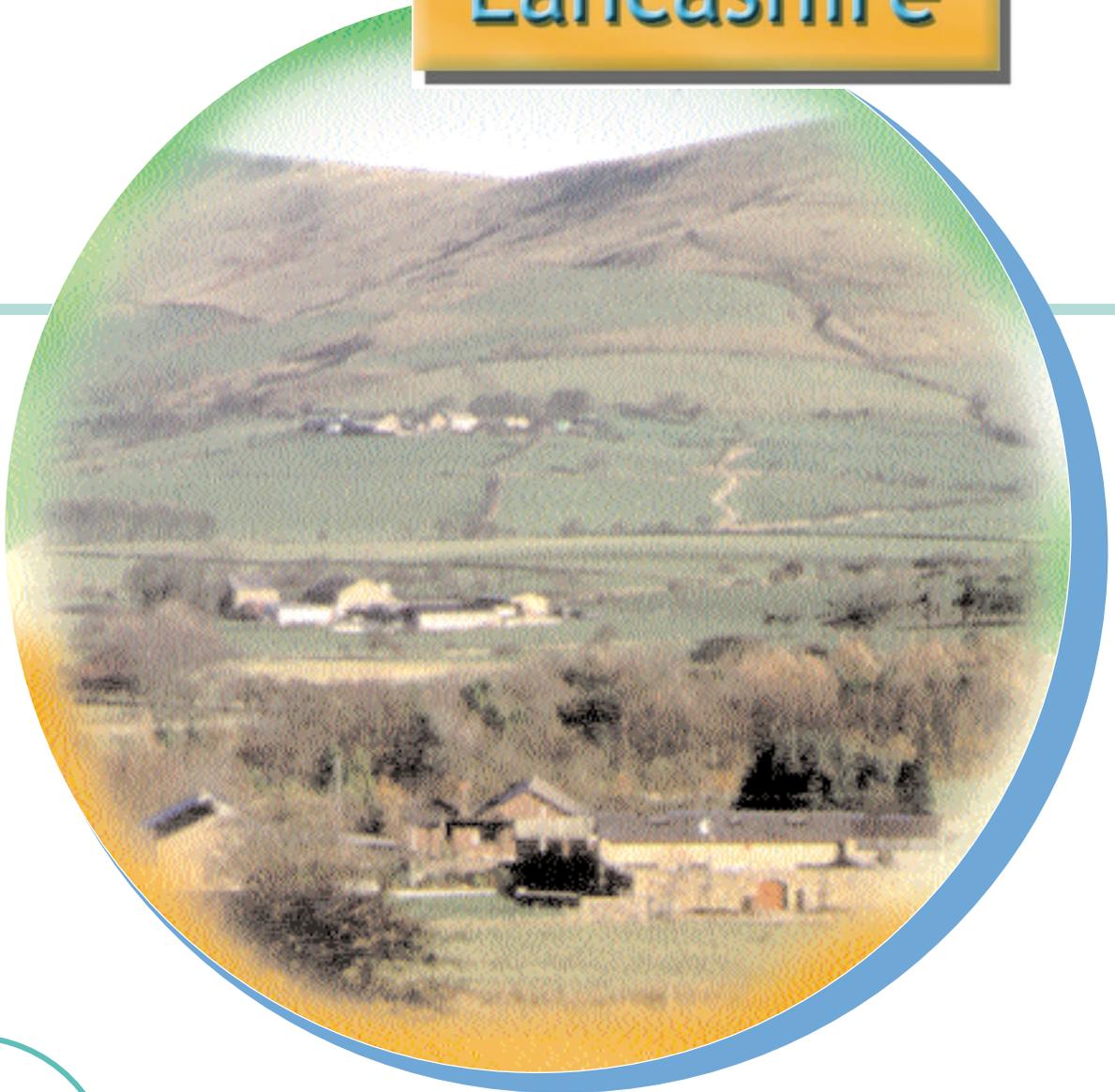
Landscape Statement of Common Ground

Appendix 2

Extracts from: **Landscape Strategy**

(A Landscape Strategy for Lancashire)

A Landscape Strategy for Lancashire



Landscape Strategy

3.

Landscape Strategy

The *strategies* for each landscape character type are based on the landscape characterisation set out in the accompanying *Landscape Character Assessment* report. The landscape characterisation provides a classification of the landscape into landscape units and a baseline description of landscape character. The landscape character types and landscape character areas identified in the study are presented in *Figure 2*.

The landscape character type strategies take the analysis a step further; the descriptions form the basis for an analysis of landscape sensitivity and vulnerability to change, developing key recommendations to guide positive landscape change. Each of the landscape character type strategies includes:

-  *Key environmental features* - Those environmental features which make the most critical contribution to the character of the landscape. The notes identify key environmental features for each landscape character type and record why they are important. These features do not necessarily occur in all the landscape character areas within a particular landscape type.
-  *Local forces for change and their landscape implications* - those forces for change which in the context of existing AONB designations and prevailing planning policies generally, are likely to have most impact on landscape character in each landscape character type.
-  *Strategy* - this section identifies the strategy for each landscape character type, based on the identification of key environmental features and local forces for change. Recommendations to guide landscape change are provided for each strategy.
-  *Potential indicators for monitoring landscape change* - potential indicators are based on key environmental features which are : a) subject to change under existing pressures, and b) which can be developed to give actual indicators which can be measured in some way. Economic pressure for changes are offset by controls (principally the

planning system) and incentives (e.g. Countryside Stewardship). They may inform a broad county-wide programme for monitoring landscape change (and the implementation of the strategy) which is described in Section 4 (and in the supplementary report 'Monitoring Landscape Change').

Landscape Character Areas

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p> 1 Moortland Plateaux
1a. South Pennine Moors
1b. High Bowland Plateaux</p> | <p> 10 Wooded Rural Valleys
10a. Wyre Valley
10b. North Bowland Valleys</p> |
| <p> 2 Moortland Hills
2a. West Pennine Moors
2b. Central Bowland Fells
2c. Longridge Fell
2d. Waddington Fell
2e. Pendle Hill
2f. White Moor/Burn Moor
2g. Beacon Fell</p> | <p> 11 Valley Floodplains
11a. Lower Ribble Valley
11b. Long Preston Reaches
11c. Aire Valley
11d. Lune Valley</p> |
| <p> 3 Enclosed Uplands
3a. Rossendale Hills</p> | <p> 12 Low Coastal Drumlins
12a. Carnforth-Galgate-Cockerham
12b. Warton-Borwick
12c. Heysham-Overton</p> |
| <p> 4 Moortland Fringe
4a. Trawden Fringe
4b. Rossendale Moortland Fringe
4c. Blackburn Moortland Fringe
4d. Bowland Gritstone Fringes
4e. Bowland Limestone Fringes
4f. Longridge Fell Fringes
4g. South Pendle Fringe
4h. Leck Fell Fringe
4i. North Pendle Fringe
4j. West Pennine Fringes</p> | <p> 13 Drumlin Field
13a. Gargrave Drumlin Field
13b. Bentham-Clapham
13c. Docker-Kellat-Lancaster</p> |
| <p> 5 Undulating Lowland Farmland
5a. Upper Hodder Valley
5b. Lower Hodder and Loud Valley
5c. Lower Ribble
5d. Salmsbury-Withnell Fold
5e. Lower Ribblesdale (Clitheroe to Gisburn)
5f. Lower Ribblesdale (Gisburn to Hellifield)
5g. South Bowland Fringes
5h. Goosnargh-Whittingham
5i. West Bowland Fringes
5j. North Bowland Fringes
5k. Cuerden-Euxton</p> | <p> 14 Rolling Upland Farmland
14a. Slaiburn-Giggleswick
14b. Lothersdale and Cringles</p> |
| <p> 6 Industrial Foothills and Valleys
6a. Calder Valley
6b. West Pennine Foothills
6c. Cliviger Gorge
6d. Adlington-Coppull</p> | <p> 15 Coastal Plain
15a. Ormskirk-Lathom-Rufford
15b. Longton-Bretherton
15c. Croston-Mawdesley
15d. The Fylde
15e. Forton-Garstang-Catterall
15f. Knott End-Pilling</p> |
| <p> 7 Farmed Ridges
7a. Mellor Ridge
7b. Upholland Ridge
7c. Langthwaite Ridge</p> | <p> 16 Mosslands
16a. North Fylde Mosses
16b. South Fylde Mosses
16c. Martin Mere and South West Mosses
16d. Skelmersdale Mosses
16e. Tarleton Mosses
16f. Heysham Moss
16g. Hoole and Farington Mosses</p> |
| <p> 8 Settled Valleys
8a. Irwell</p> | <p> 17 Enclosed Coastal Marsh
17a. Clifton and Hutton Marsh
17b. Cockerham Coast</p> |
| <p> 9 Reservoir Valleys
9a. Rivington
9b. Turton-Jumbles
9c. Haslingden Crane
9d. Belmont
9e. Roddlesworth</p> | <p> 18 Open Coastal Marsh
18a. Ribble Marshes
18b. Hest Bank-Silverdale Marshes
18c. Wyre Marshes
18d. Lune Marshes
18e. Pilling and Cockerham Marshes</p> |
| | <p> 19 Coastal Dunes
19a. Fylde Coast Dunes</p> |
| | <p> 20 Wooded Limestone Hills and Pavements
20a. Arnsdale and Silverdale</p> |
| | <p> 21 Limestone Fells
21a. Leck Fell</p> |

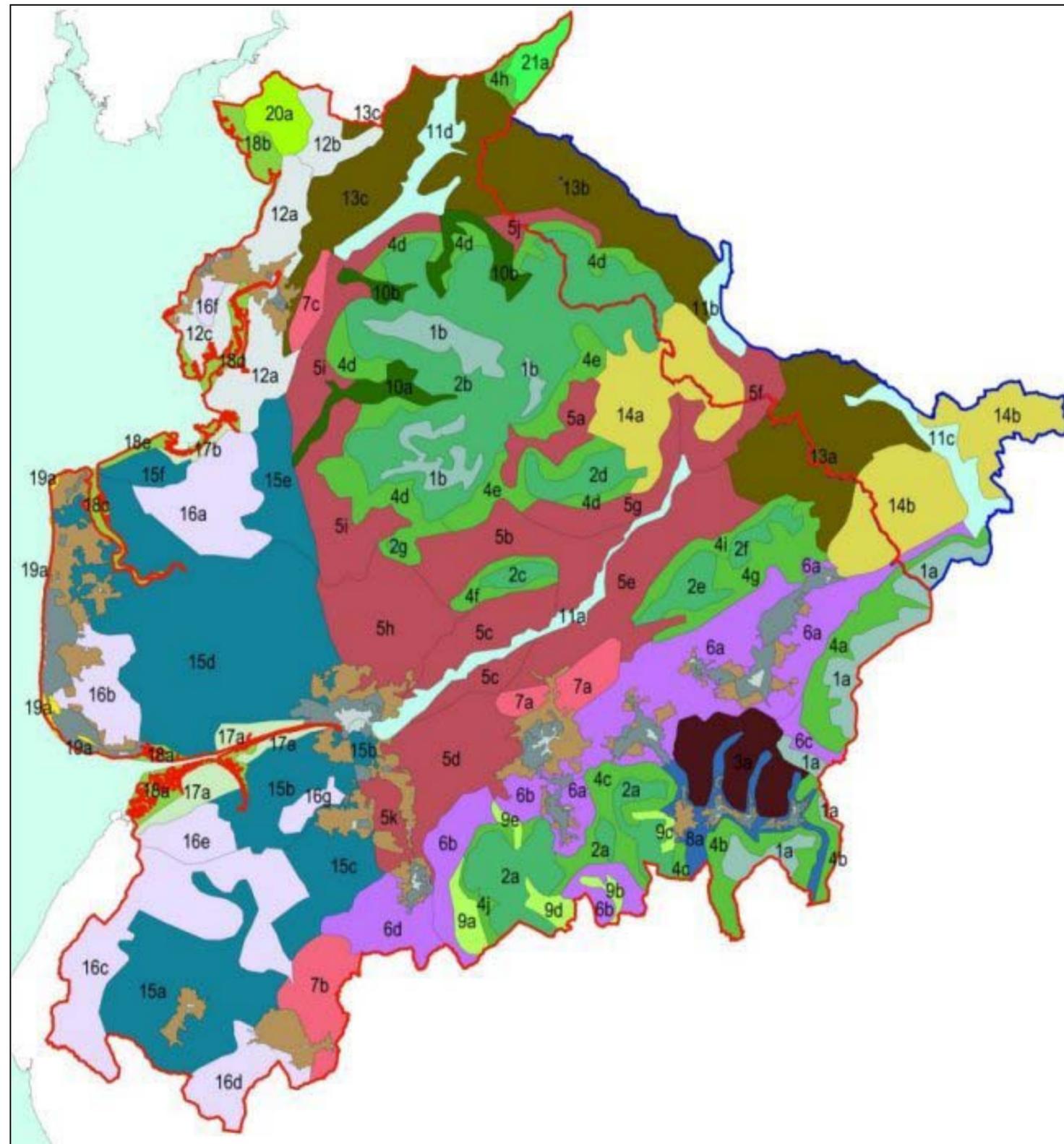


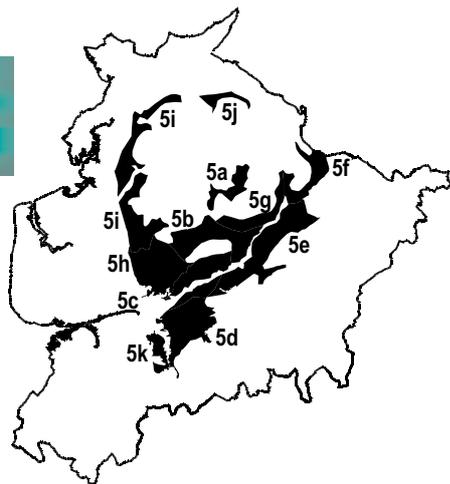
Figure 2: Landscape Character Types & Landscape Character Areas

- | | |
|---|---|
| Lancashire County, Blackpool and Blackburn with Darwen Boundary | 10 Wooded Rural Valleys |
| Craven Study Area | 10a. Wyre Valley |
| | 10b. North Bowland Valleys |
| Landscape Character Types & Areas | |
| 1 Moorland Plateaux | 11 Valley Floodplains |
| 1a. South Pennine Moors | 11a. Lower Ribble Valley |
| 1b. High Bowland Plateaux | 11b. Long Preston Reaches |
| 2 Moorland Hills | 11c. Aire Valley |
| 2a. West Pennine Moors | 11d. Lune Valley |
| 2b. Central Bowland Fells | 12 Low Coastal Drumlins |
| 2c. Longridge Fell | 12a. Camforth-Galgate-Cockerham |
| 2d. Waddington Fell | 12b. Warton-Barwick |
| 2e. Pendle Hill | 12c. Heysham-Overton |
| 2f. White Moor/Burn Moor | 13 Drumlin Field |
| 2g. Beacon Fell | 13a. Gargrave Drumlin Field |
| 3 Enclosed Uplands | 13b. Bertham-Clapham |
| 3a. Rossendale Hills | 13c. Docker-Kellett-Lancaster |
| 4 Moorland Fringe | 14 Rolling Upland Farmland |
| 4a. Trawden Fringe | 14a. Slaidburn-Giggleswick |
| 4b. Rossendale Moorland Fringe | 14b. Lathersdale and Cringles |
| 4c. Blackburn Moorland Fringe | 15 Coastal Plain |
| 4d. Bowland Giltstone Fringes | 15a. Ormskirk-Lathom-Rufford |
| 4e. Bowland Limestone Fringes | 15b. Longton-Bretherton |
| 4f. Longridge Fell Fringes | 15c. Croston-Mawdesley |
| 4g. South Pendle Fringe | 15d. The Fylde |
| 4h. Leck Fell Fringe | 15e. Forton-Garstang-Catterall |
| 4i. North Pendle Fringe | 15f. Knott End-Pilling |
| 4j. West Pennine Fringes | 16 Mosslands |
| 5 Undulating Lowland Farmland | 16a. North Fylde Mosses |
| 5a. Upper Huddersley Valley | 16b. South Fylde Mosses |
| 5b. Lower Huddersley and Loud Valley | 16c. Martin Mere and South West Mosses |
| 5c. Lower Ribble | 16d. Skelmersdale Mosses |
| 5d. Samlesbury-Withnell Fold | 16e. Tarleton Mosses |
| 5e. Lower Ribblesdale (Clitheroe to Gisburn) | 16f. Heysham Moss |
| 5f. Lower Ribblesdale (Gisburn to Hellfield) | 16g. Hoole and Farington Mosses |
| 5g. South Bowland Fringes | 17 Enclosed Coastal Marsh |
| 5h. Goosnargh-Whittingham | 17a. Clifton and Hutton Marsh |
| 5i. West Bowland Fringes | 17b. Cockerham Coast |
| 5j. North Bowland Fringes | 18 Open Coastal Marsh |
| 5k. Querden-Euxton | 18a. Ribble Marshes |
| 6 Industrial Foothills and Valleys | 18b. Hest Bank-Silverdale Marshes |
| 6a. Calder Valley | 18c. Wyre Marshes |
| 6b. West Pennine Foothills | 18d. Lune Marshes |
| 6c. Cliviger Gorge | 18e. Pilling and Cockerham Marshes |
| 6d. Aclington-Coppull | 19 Coastal Dunes |
| 7 Farmed Ridges | 19a. Fylde Coast Dunes |
| 7a. Mellor Ridge | 20 Wooded Limestone Hills and Pavements |
| 7b. Upholland Ridge | 20a. Amside and Silverdale |
| 7c. Langthwaite Ridge | 21 Limestone Fells |
| 8 Settled Valleys | 21a. Leck Fell |
| 8a. Irwell | Urban Landscape Types |
| 9 Reservoir Valleys | Historic Core |
| 9a. Rivington | Industrial Age |
| 9b. Turton-Jumbles | Suburban |
| 9c. Haslingden Grane | Coastline |
| 9d. Belmont | |
| 9e. Raddlesworth | |

Key and Full List of Landscape Character Areas on page 26.

Scale approx 1:325,000 at A3 page size

5



UNDULATING LOW- LAND FARMLAND

Character Areas

- 5a Upper Hodder Valley
- 5b Lower Hodder and Loud Valley
- 5c Lower Ribble
- 5d Samlesbury-Withnell Fold
- 5e Lower Ribblesdale (Clitheroe to Gisburn)
- 5f Lower Ribblesdale (Gisburn to Hellifield)
- 5g South Bowland Fringes
- 5h Goosnargh-Whittingham
- 5i West Bowland Fringes
- 5j North Bowland Fringes
- 5k Cuerden – Euxton

Key Environmental Features

- Wooded river corridors and gorges** provide a sense of enclosure, sheltered habitats and distinctive patterns on the valley sides. Many are also historic sites for early water-powered industry.
- Hedgerows and hedgerow trees** define the field pattern in contrast with the moorland fringe farmland, where stone walls dominate over hedgerows. They also provide sheltered habitats which are

important wildlife links between the wooded cloughs and outlying woodlands.

- Small mixed woodlands** provide important habitats and cover for wildlife and contribute to the overall appearance of a 'wooded' farmland. They reflect an important phase in landscape evolution when 19th century estate woods and shelterbelts were developed for game shooting.
- Historic villages, stone bridges and stone walls** reflect the local geology; many villages are clustered at river crossing points and there is a dispersed pattern of farms and cottages on the rural roads along the valley sides.
- Limestone outcrops and knolls** (in some of the character areas) provide a sharp contrast to the gentler rolling formations of the grazing land and provide shelter for sheep. They are also important for biodiversity.
- Roman remains and roads** reflect the importance of the area during Roman occupation - the routes of Roman roads are visible in sections of existing roads and tracks.
- Historic drove roads** support woodland, scrub and tall herb strips.
- Country houses, and estates** are important in terms of architecture and landscape design - they indicate the county's growing wealth in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Local Forces for Change and their Landscape Implications

- The expansion of farm woodlands through the Elwood Initiative** could be a positive force for change, linking wooded river corridors and increasing the number of small scale mixed farm woodlands.
- A decline in mature hedgerow and parkland trees** which are a valuable ecological resource and important hedgerow boundary markers. The presence of many trees provides the impression of a well managed, healthy landscape. There is little evidence of regeneration in hedgerows or of new planting to replace existing ageing or declining trees.

- **Continuing quarrying for limestone** is altering the landform locally but restoration presents opportunities for the creation for the creation of distinctive limestone habitats (area 5e).
- **Increasing pressures for residential development** on the edges of settlements, such as Ribchester, influences the landscape setting and approach to these small rural settlements. Many new developments use imported inappropriate materials such as red brick, which can be intrusive in this rural setting.
- **Barn conversions** and new developments centred around existing farm buildings may alter the scale and character of rural settlement and affect the intrinsic historic interest of the farms. Design guidance may ensure reasonable minimum standards of architectural design, but it is more difficult to control the overall appearance of gardens, fencing, access roads, driveways and power lines. There is a risk that this form of suburbanisation will have a detrimental impact on areas with a deeply rural character.

- **Pressure for amalgamation or expansion of beef/dairy farms** may result in the erosion of the characteristic pattern of fields, hedges and woods and introduction of large scale sheds and visually intrusive materials. Such large buildings may be intrusive in this rural setting and metal-roofed barns may be extremely prominent in views from surrounding upland areas. The storage of silage may also have a significant visual impact.
- **Intensive agricultural management** involving chemical fertiliser and herbicide applications, affects herb-rich hay meadows (for example around Slaidburn, area 5a) , unimproved neutral pastures (for example along the Hodder, area 5b) and nutrient status of the rivers.
- **Water abstractions** for urban areas may reduce water levels in rivers such as the Hodder and Ribble. This would influence species diversity and fisheries.
- **Pressure for visitor facilities** including a proliferation of signs, car park provision and rural restaurants, may result in suburbanisation of the landscape.

Landscape Strategy for Undulating Lowland Farmland

Strategy	Recommendations
Retain the characteristic pattern of river corridor and valley side woodlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● encourage the natural regeneration of river corridor woodlands by excluding grazing where this does not conflict with other biodiversity interest ● initiate a programme for the gradual removal of conifer species where appropriate and their replacement with locally native broadleaves ● conserve ancient semi-natural woodlands
Conserve the distinctive rural hedgerow network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● encourage continued hedgerow management, re-planting gaps and planting of a new generation of hedgerow saplings to conserve the hedgerow network
Conserve the lowland herb-rich haymeadows and unimproved neutral grasslands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● avoid agricultural improvements and application of artificial fertilisers which decrease species diversity of these grasslands ● conserve species-rich grass verges and increase species diversity by management where appropriate ● encourage conservation management techniques, grazing and cutting regimes, which promote unimproved grassland ● avoid road widening, improvement works, cable and pipeline laying which would affect species rich grass verges



Strategy	Recommendations
<p><u>Conserve the limestone reef knolls typical of the Ribble Valley</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● encourage traditional management and conservation of limestone grassland on reef knolls ● enhance existing quarries by developing species-rich grassland as part of planning conditions and by undertaking a range of other habitat creation measures ● perpetuate groups of trees which visually mark individual reef knolls so as to minimise any adverse effects on limestone flora
<p><u>Conserve rural built features such as stone bridges, historic villages and stone walls</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● avoid road improvements which would affect the setting or structure of stone bridges or walls ● encourage the use of the appropriate local limestone or gritstone to ensure new buildings and materials reflect the local architecture of the area ● avoid using inappropriate or alien materials such as red brick and concrete tiles in historic villages
<p><u>Conserve the Roman history and industrial archaeology of the area</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● conserve Roman Roads, ensuring road improvements do not obscure their continued visual presence in the landscape ● conserve settings of historical and archaeological features, for example the fort and Roman settlement at Ribchester ● conserve local features such as small farm lime kilns which signify the past use of limestone as a soil conditioner
<p><u>Conserve country houses and parkland as features of the landscape</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● conserve the settings to country houses, encouraging continued management of grounds as parkland - including planting of parkland trees ● ensure entrances are not affected by road alterations or built development ● avoid loss of integrity by division into multiple ownership or loss to agriculture ● retain traditional parkland features such as railings, kissing gates and veteran trees
<p><u>Conserve the distinctive settings to rural settlements</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ensure new development on the edges of villages reflects the characteristic clustered form; development should be sited to retain views to landscape features and landmarks, such as church towers on the approaches to villages. ● avoid ribbon development which would disrupt the characteristic clustered form of settlements and the rural character of local roads ● maintain stone walls, which are often located on the outskirts of villages such as Slaidburn, respecting local differences in style and construction ● encourage tree planting as an integral part of new development, creating links with existing farm woodlands and the network of hedgerows
<p><u>Enhance the wooded character of the lowland landscape</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● promote the planting of new woodland to link existing woods and hedgerows, aiming for a continuous network of trees, hedgerows and woods where this does not conflict with other habitats of biodiversity significance ● encourage planting of small farm woodlands which are a feature of the lowland agricultural landscape and provide `stepping stones' for wildlife between larger woodlands ● promote the restoration where appropriate of semi-natural habitats to increase the resource and to develop linkage and corridors for wildlife

Strategy

Recommendations

Restore and maintain historic rural buildings

- encourage use of species which are typical of the area such as lowland oak woods, alder in wetter places and ash woodland where the soils are moist and/or base-rich
- new built development based around the restoration of farm buildings should pay attention to the siting, scale and design of traditional rural buildings, retaining the compact form and using local materials
- building conversions and change of use, such as conversion of barns to residential dwellings, should have regard to scale and local materials
- encourage the treatment of boundaries and surroundings to conversions to be in keeping with their rural setting

Potential Local Indicators for Monitoring Landscape Change in Undulating Lowland Farmland

Potential Indicators	Pressure for change	Preferred direction of change
<u>Mixed farm woodland</u>	Increase as a result of the Elwood initiative, or decrease because of neglect/mismanagement	Increase
<u>Hedgerow network</u>	Decrease because of ongoing neglect or removal due to agricultural intensification or the amalgamation of farm units	Increase
<u>Historic villages, stone buildings and walls</u>	Increase in conversions of traditional farm buildings to residential uses, but risk that landscape setting is lost	Sensitive conversion
<u>Designed estate landscapes</u>	Decrease in area and quality of designed estate landscapes due to a combination of changes in land ownership and neglect.	Maintain

