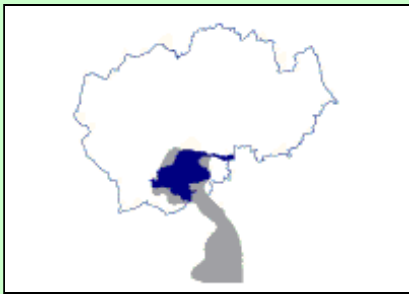


## The Dales Fringe



- The Dales Fringe
- The Pennine Dales Fringe Countryside Character Area
- County Boundary



### Key characteristics

- A broad rolling vale in which the River Tees carves an incised course between the valleys of its tributaries.
- Carboniferous millstone grits and limestones are masked by glacial or alluvial drift and outcrop only rarely in incised denes or steep valley side bluffs.
- Pastoral farming on heavy clay soils in the upland fringes gives way to mixed and arable farming on more fertile brown earths on lower ground.
- Higher pastures in the upland fringes have regular patterns of parliamentary enclosures bounded by hedges and dry stone walls with scattered farms linked by straight enclosure roads.
- The lower farmland of the vale has a smaller scale pattern of irregular hedged or walled fields with frequent ash and oak trees, and a nucleated settlement pattern of old villages connected by winding lanes.
- Buildings are typically of local stone with roofs of stone flag or slate. North of the Tees the farms of the Raby estate are painted white.
- The historic market town of Barnard Castle lies on the Tees in the centre of the vale.
- Ancient oak and ash woods lie in steep sided denes and riverside bluffs along the Tees and its southern tributaries. Conifer plantations are scattered across the upland fringes.
- Historic parklands and wooded estates surround a number of country houses including the landmark Raby Castle
- The valleys of the Tees and Greta are a long established trans-pennine communications corridor and carry the A66 and a number of abandoned railway lines.
- A generally broad scale landscape with panoramic views from higher ground across the vale though locally more intimate in scale in more wooded areas.
- An essentially rural landscape with little urban or industrial development.

## Description

The River Tees carves an incised course in the centre of a broad vale. The northern flanks of the vale are occupied by the shallow valleys of the Langley and Sudburn becks that run parallel with the Tees. To the south the upland plateaux of the Stainmore Gap falls gradually to the River, incised by the steep sided valleys and denes of its southern tributaries.

The Carboniferous millstone grits and limestones that make up the vale are largely masked by thick layers of glacial and alluvial drift and outcrop only occasionally on steeper valley sides. Soils are a mixture of heavy gleys derived from glacial boulder clays and more fertile brown earths on sands and gravels on the vale floor.

The landscape is transitional in character lying between the pastoral landscapes of the dales and the arable lowlands to the east. On higher less fertile ground land use is largely pastoral. Regular patterns of hedges and stone walls date from parliamentary enclosures of upland wastes in the C18th and C19th and are crossed by straight roads connecting scattered farms. Lower lying land has a long history of mixed farming and has a nucleated settlement pattern of small villages of medieval origins connected by narrow winding lanes. Sub-regular patterns of walls and hedges, often rich in hedgerow oak and ash, date from the enclosure of the open fields of these villages in the C17th century.

Buildings are typically built of local stone with roofs of stone flag or welsh slate. North of the Tees the farms and buildings of the Raby estate are painted white. The historic market town of Barnard Castle lies beside the Tees in the centre of the vale. There are numerous parklands, many of which are medieval in origin, surrounding country houses and castles, the most notable of which is Raby Castle on the northern flanks of the vale.

Ancient semi-natural woods of ash and oak are found on steeply sloping sites along the Tees and its tributaries, in ravines and gorges, steep riverside bluffs and narrow linear denes. Scattered conifer plantations are characteristic of the upland fringes.

The vale floor and the Stainmore Gap to the west are long established communications corridors. The A66 follows the trans-pennine course of a Roman military road. There are many abandoned railway lines, some now in use as cycleways. There are occasional small sandstone quarries producing building stone and larger road stone quarries working the Great Limestone close to the A66.

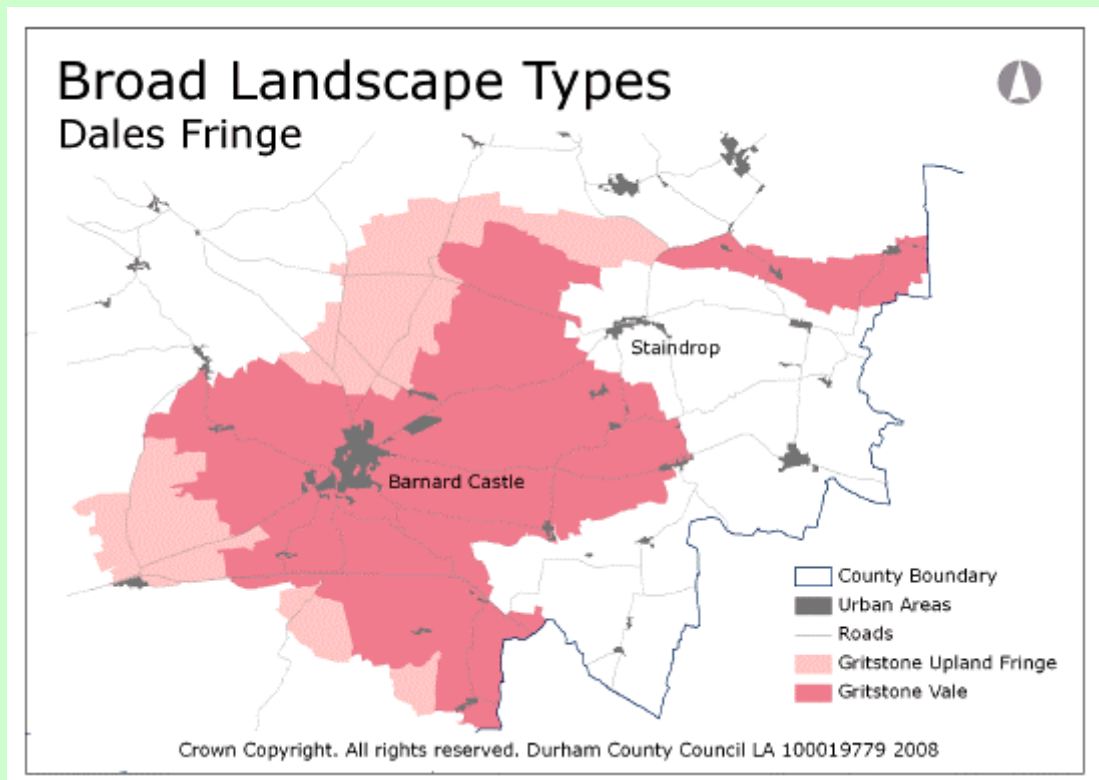
The landscape is generally broad in scale with panoramic views across the vale and west into Teesdale. The high ridges of the Pennine Uplands form the enclosing view line to the south and the high ground of the Tees/Wear watershed to the north. Locally the landscape is more intimate in scale and particularly in the more wooded or tree rich landscapes of the lower vale.

The landscape is essentially rural in character with little urban or industrial development.

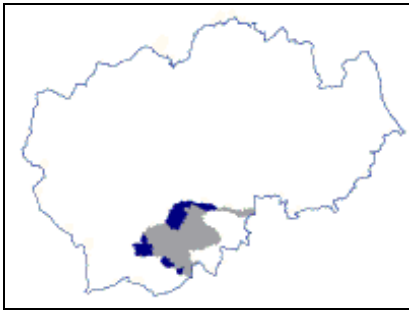
## Broad landscape types

The landscape assessment divides the landscapes of the Dales Fringe into two broad types. On high ridges and plateaux, and merging with the moorland fringes of the North Pennines, the **Upland Fringe** covers pastoral landscapes enclosed in the C18th and C19th with regular patterns of walls and hedges, straight enclosure roads and isolated farms.

The lower ground of the **Upland Fringe Vale** has a longer history of settlement with a strongly nucleated pattern of small villages connected by winding lanes and surrounded by fields enclosed largely in the C16th and C17th, which had previously been their common town fields or early enclosures from the wastes. Agricultural land use here is a mosaic of pastoral and arable farmland, with a strong pastoral emphasis on higher ground bordering the Upland Fringe.



## Gritstone Upland Fringe



- Upland Fringe
- The Dales Fringe
- County Boundary



### Key characteristics

- Broad ridges and plateaux.
- Gently rounded topography of thinly bedded sandstones, limestones and mudstones overlain by glacial boulder clay.
- Small becks, occasionally in narrow incised valleys.
- Heavy, seasonally waterlogged clay soils.
- Pastoral land use of improved, semi-improved or wet rushy pasture.
- Regular grids of parliamentary enclosures bounded by dry stone walls or hawthorn hedges, often gappy and overgrown. Occasional older field systems.
- Few trees – scattered hedgerow oak and ash.
- Variable woodland cover – generally sparsely wooded but with scattered conifer plantations in places
- Isolated farms connected by straight enclosure roads. Farms of the Raby estate north of the Tees are painted white.
- A visually open landscape, broad in scale though locally defined by minor ridgelines and with occasional panoramic views across the Tees vale.
- A remote and tranquil rural landscape.

### Description

An upland fringe landscape of broad, high ridges and plateaux and shallow valleys. Thinly bedded sandstones, limestones and mudstones ground down by glacial ice sheets are overlain by boulder clays giving rise to gently rolling rounded topography. Thicker, more resistant sandstone beds are marked very occasionally by steeper bluffs. Small becks drain the plateaux and valleys, some lying in shallow incised denes. Soils are heavy, seasonally waterlogged clays with pockets of lighter brown earths.

A pastoral landscape of improved and semi-improved pastures with occasional rougher grazing and wet rushy pasture. Field boundaries are a mixture of dry stone walls and hedgerows. Walls are made of locally quarried sandstones and limestones. Hedges are dominated by hawthorn and are often tall, leggy and grazed through or supplemented by wire fences. Field systems are regular in pattern, dating from the enclosure of moorland wastes in the C18th. Older, pre-enclosure, field systems are found locally but are very similar in character.

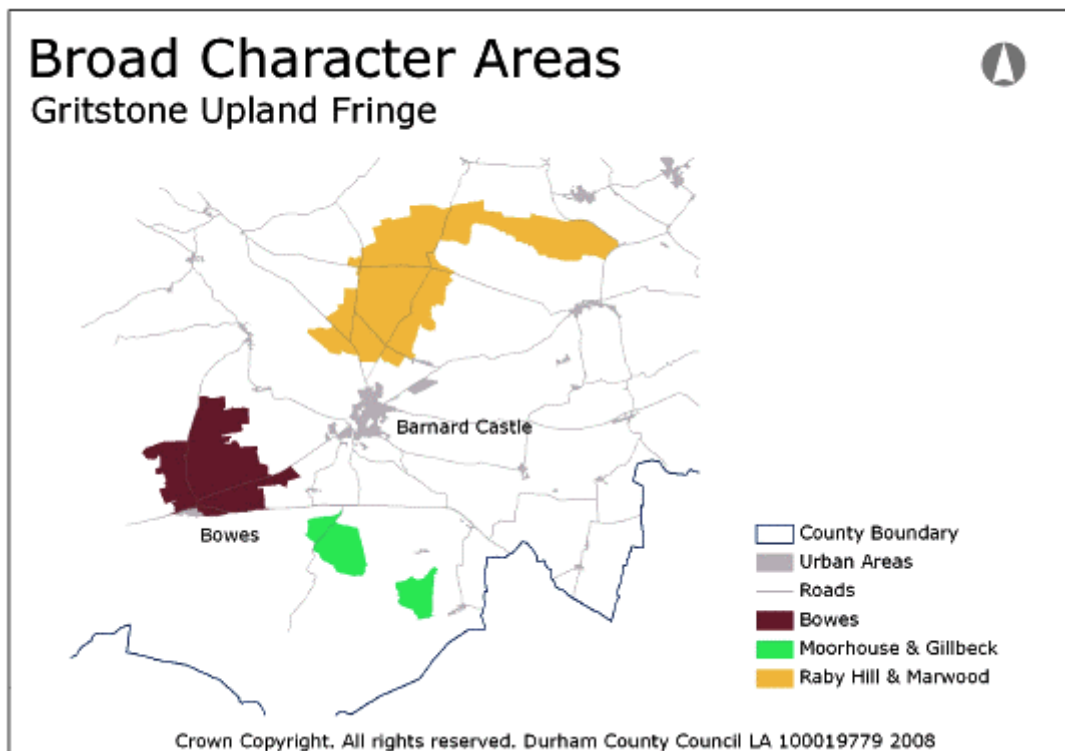
BROAD LANDSCAPE TYPE: **GRITSTONE UPLAND FRINGE**

Tree cover is low, with scattered hedgerow oak and ash, occasional lines of alder along watercourses and tall overgrown hedgerow hawthorn trees. Woodland cover varies – generally the landscape is very open but some areas are relatively well wooded with scattered plantations of pine or larch.

A sparsely settled landscape of isolated farms connected by straight enclosure roads. Buildings are of local stone with roofs of stone flag or welsh slate. Farms and farm buildings of the Raby estate, covering most of the land north of the Tees, are painted white.

The landscape is visually open and broad in scale though locally defined by minor ridgelines. From some vantage points there are panoramic views across the Tees vale and west into Teesdale from higher ground. A remote and tranquil rural landscape.

### Broad Character Areas



The Gritstone Upland Fringe landscape type is represented by three Broad Character Areas.

**Bowes.** An area of high almost flat ground on the edges of the moorland plateau of the Stainmore Gap. An open pastoral landscape of improved pasture and wet, rushy pasture with few trees or woodlands. Regular grids of parliamentary enclosures cover much of the area. In the north across Deepdale, large fields are bounded by dry stone walls. East of Bowes, narrow linear parliamentary enclosures and older curvilinear town field enclosures are bounded by a mixture of leggy, overgrown hedges and stone walls with scattered, locally abundant, ash and Sycamore trees. Isolated farms are scattered across the area.

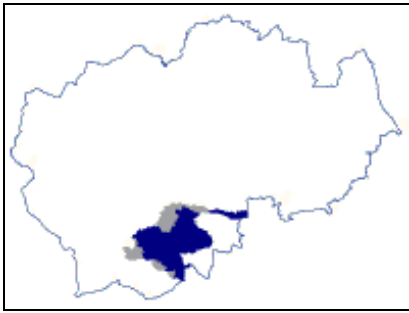
**Moorhouse & Gill Beck.** Areas of high, almost flat ground either side of the River Greta. An open pastoral landscape of improved pasture and wet, rushy pasture with few trees and scattered conifer plantations and shelterbelts. Regular systems of parliamentary enclosures are crossed by straight enclosure roads. Field boundaries are a mixture of stone walls and leggy, overgrown hedges. Isolated farms are scattered across the area.

**Raby Hill, Marwood & Kinnivie.** An area of high ridges & valleys and gently rolling plateaux drained by the Langley and Forthburn becks. A pastoral landscape of improved and semi-improved pasture with scattered

BROAD LANDSCAPE TYPE: **GRITSTONE UPLAND FRINGE**

conifer plantations. Heavily wooded estate farmland lies on the high northern ridge at Raby Hill. Regular grids of parliamentary enclosures are crossed by straight enclosure roads. Field boundaries are largely trimmed hedgerows with scattered oak, ash and sycamore trees. Isolated farms – many of them painted white – are scattered across the area.

## Gritstone Vale



- Upland Fringe Vale
- The Dales Fringe
- County Boundary



### Key characteristics

- Broad rolling vale, incised by the narrow denes of rivers and streams
- Gently rounded topography of thinly bedded sandstones, limestones and mudstones overlain by glacial drift.
- Mosaic of heavy, seasonally waterlogged clay soils and more fertile brown earths.
- Mixed farmland of improved pasture and arable cropping.
- Semi-regular, sometimes linear, patterns of old enclosures bounded by thorn hedges, with occasional dry stone walls.
- Abundant hedgerow ash, oak and sycamore.
- Ancient ash and oak woodlands in narrow denes. Scattered coniferous or mixed plantations.
- Areas of old parklands and heavily wooded estate farmland.
- Nucleated settlement pattern of small green villages centered on the historic market town of Barnard Castle. Scattered farms.
- Buildings of local stone with roofs of stone, slate or clay pan tile. Farms of the Raby Estate painted white.
- Narrow winding lanes and some busy modern highways.
- Occasional disused army camps.
- A well timbered landscape creating a high degree of enclosure in places, but with broad scale panoramic views across the vale from higher vantage points.
- A tranquil settled rural landscape.

### Description

A broad rolling vale, made up of the valleys of the river Tees and its tributaries. Rivers and streams are incised in narrow steep sided denes. A thick mantle of glacial drift made up of boulder clays and sands and gravels overlies thinly bedded Carboniferous limestones, sandstones and mudstones. The resulting soils are a mosaic of heavy, seasonally waterlogged clays and more fertile and free draining brown earths.

Agricultural land use reflects the underlying variety of soils with a mixture of improved pasture and arable cropping – mostly of cereals and oil-seed rape. There is a strong pastoral emphasis on higher ground bordering the Upland Fringe. Field boundaries are largely hedgerows, with occasional dry stone walls. Hedges tend to be dominated by hawthorn, with blackthorn and holly common - trimmed in arable areas but often leggy and overgrown in pastoral areas.

Field systems are semi-regular in pattern, most dating from the enclosure of common fields of villages in the C16th and C17th. Some hedges retain the sinuous shapes of arable strips. Relics of medieval cultivation in the form of rigg and furrow, and lynchets – are common in older, less improved, pastures. There are small areas of more regular 'surveyor enclosed' field systems dating from the enclosure of manorial wastes in the C18th.

The landscape is rich in trees with abundant hedgerow ash, oak and sycamore. In places it is well wooded, with ancient ash and oak woodlands in narrow denes along rivers and streams, and scattered coniferous or mixed plantations. The vale contains a number of historic parklands on ancient sites and areas of heavily wooded estate farmland. Set within these are imposing country houses and castles.

The landscape has a long history of settlement and a nucleated pattern of small green villages, most of Saxon or later medieval origins, centered on the historic market town of Barnard Castle. Buildings are of local sandstone with roofs of stone flag, welsh slate, or less frequently clay pan tile, and are set around a central village green. Between the villages lie scattered farms. Those of the Raby Estate, which covers much of the northern vale, are painted white. Villages are connected by a network of narrow hedged lanes.

The vale has long been an important communications corridor and carries a number of busy modern roads, as well as some long abandoned railway lines. There are a number of disused army camps dating from the mid C20th.

A well timbered landscape creating a high degree of enclosure in places, but with broad scale panoramic views across the vale from higher vantage points. A tranquil, settled, rural landscape with a strong sense of cultural continuity.

## Broad Character Areas

The Gritstone Vale landscape type is represented by five Broad Character Areas.

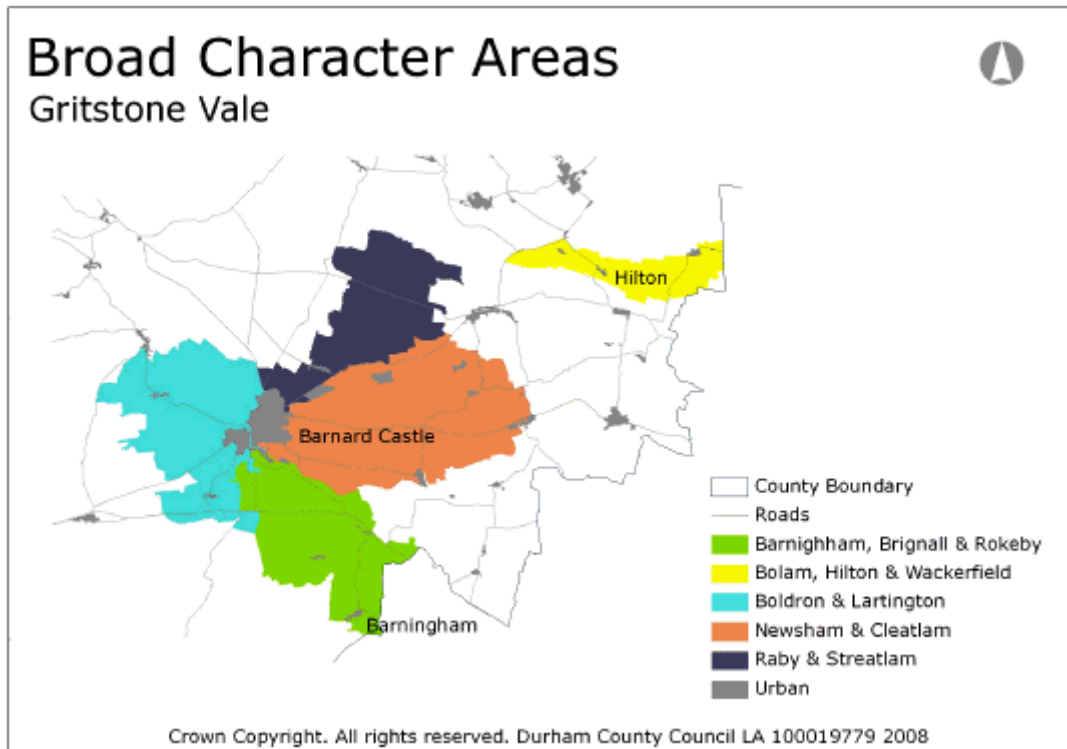
**Barningham, Brignal and Rokeby.** Gently sloping farmland on the southern flanks of the Tees Vale. A patchwork of arable fields and improved pastures is defined by sub-regular patterns of old hedgerows with scattered hedgerow oak, ash and sycamore. There are frequent small plantations of conifers or broadleaves. The River Tees is lined by low wooded bluffs or narrow riparian woods. Its tributaries, including the River Greta, lie in narrow steep-sided denes containing ancient ash and oak woodlands. There are historic parklands along the lower Greta at Rokeby Eastwood Hall, and remains of a medieval abbey at Egglestone. The small villages of Barningham and Brignal lie on the upper vale side.

**Bolam, Hilton & Wackerfield.** Gently sloping farmland on the edges of the Hummerbeck plateau overlooking the Tees Vale. A patchwork of arable and pastoral farmland with sub-regular patterns of clipped hedgerows and dry stone walls with scattered oak, ash and sycamore trees. Small agricultural villages and hamlets are connected by narrow winding lanes. The farms and farm buildings of the Raby Estate are painted white.

**Boldron & Lartington.** Gently sloping farmland falling from the fringes of the moorland plateau to the River Tees. A pastoral landscape of improved and semi-improved pastures bounded by old hedges and walls with scattered, locally abundant, hedgerow trees. The River Tees is lined by steep wooded bluffs; its tributaries, including the Deepdale Beck, lie in narrow steep-sided denes containing ancient ash and oak woodlands. The



small villages of Boldron, Lartington and Cotherstone lie on the upper slopes of the vale. There are historic parklands at Lartington.



**Newsham & Cleatlam.** Gently rolling or undulating farmland in the floor of the vale east of Barnard Castle. A patchwork of arable and pastoral farmland with sub-regular patterns of clipped hedgerows and occasional dry stone walls with frequent oak, ash and sycamore and scattered plantations. Small hamlets and farms are connected by narrow winding lanes. The farms and farm buildings of the Raby Estate are painted white.

**Raby & Streatlam.** Gently rolling farmland in the floor of the vale and the lower reaches of the Langley Beck valley north of Barnard Castle. A pastoral landscape of improved pasture with sub-regular patterns of clipped hedgerows and scattered hedgerow oak, ash and sycamore. An open landscape with occasional small plantations. The estate farmland of Raby Park in the north is more heavily wooded. There are historic parklands at Raby and Streatlam. Scattered farms and farm buildings of the Raby Estate are painted white.



## Local Landscape Types

Dene pastures

Disturbed land

Floodplain farmland: pasture

High plateau farmland: open pasture

High plateau farmland: pasture

High plateau farmland: walled pasture

High plateau farmland: wooded pasture

High ridge and valley farmland: open pasture

High ridge and valley farmland: walled pasture

High ridge and valley farmland: wooded estate  
arable

High ridge and valley farmland: wooded estate  
pasture

High ridge and valley farmland: wooded pasture

Infrastructure

Lowland reservoir

Lowland woods

Lowland woods: denes, bluffs & river terraces

Lowland woods: floodplain & riverside

Mineral working

Parkland

Parks and recreation grounds

River: middle reaches

Upland woods

Upland woods: denes & bluffs

Urban

Vale farmland: arable

Vale farmland: pasture

Vale farmland: walled arable

Vale farmland: walled pasture

Vale farmland: wooded arable

Vale farmland: wooded estate arable

Vale farmland: wooded estate pasture

Vale farmland: wooded pasture

## Dene pastures

Incised denes and steeply sloping bluffs of improved or semi-improved pasture or rough grazing. Steeply sloping pastures are often difficult to manage or improve agriculturally and tend to be more diverse than the surrounding farmland. Field boundaries may be hedges, dry stone walls or fences. Hedgerow ash and oak are common. Steeper slopes may support areas of bracken, or scrub of hawthorn or gorse.

### Subtypes

#### **Old Enclosure.**

Areas of early, often piecemeal, enclosure. Field patterns are often irregular or sub-regular and tend to reflect the underlying topography.

#### **Surveyor Enclosed.**

Areas of late, 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century enclosure. Field patterns may be part of regular grids which ignore the underlying topography, but as often the uniform grids of surrounding field systems break down in the complex topography of the denes.

## Disturbed land

A variable type made up largely of abandoned mineral workings and railway lines.

### Subtypes

#### **Old clay pits & gravel workings**

Abandoned clay pits and gravel workings. A variable type but generally comprising ponds or lakes formed from flooded extraction areas surrounded by areas of disturbed ground, rough grassland or secondary woodland. Water bodies tend to be relatively deep and steep-sided with only narrow fringes of marginal vegetation (often reed mace). Secondary woodland and scrub colonising areas of disturbed ground is dominated by pioneer species like birch, alder and goat or grey willow.

#### **Old sandstone quarry.**

Abandoned sandstone quarry. Typical elements include extraction faces, spoil mounds and haul roads, softened by varying degrees of natural regeneration. Some quarries contain small ponds or larger areas of standing water. Quarry faces are horizontally bedded Carboniferous Sandstone varying in colour from buff to grey. Base-poor sandstone wastes and overburdens often support an acid-loving flora and are typically colonised by pioneer tree and shrub species like birch, alder, goat willow, hawthorn, gorse, broom and dog rose.

#### **Old Carboniferous Limestone quarry.**

Abandoned limestone quarry. Typical elements include extraction faces, spoil mounds and haul roads, softened by varying degrees of natural regeneration. Some quarries contain small ponds or larger areas of standing water. Quarry faces are made up of grey, horizontally bedded and vertically jointed Carboniferous Limestones, inter-bedded with harder sandstones and softer shales, and often capped by a crest of clay drift. The base rich limestone wastes and more acidic overburden materials give rise to a varied flora including both calcareous and acidic grasslands, scrub and secondary woodland.

#### **Old railway**

Abandoned railway lines survive as narrow linear features running through other landscapes. Most are made up of alternating cuttings and embankments. Many structures survive along their routes including bridges and viaducts, culverts, tipplers and station platforms. Some associated buildings like station houses and railway cottages have been converted to other uses. Most abandoned lines have been colonised by natural regeneration and support a diverse grassland and woodland flora which reflects the range of naturally occurring or imported materials found in cuttings and embankments. Pioneer or ruderal species are particularly characteristic. Many old railway lines have been adopted as recreational multi-user routes.

### **Floodplain farmland: pasture**

Low lying pastoral farmland on the flat 'haughs' of the river floodplains including both productive improved pasture and poorly drained or seasonally flooded, wet rushy pasture. Pastures may border directly onto the river or be separated from it by narrow riparian woodlands or fenced, often tree-lined, river banks. In places floodplain pastures contain meandering minor watercourses and oxbow lakes, or relics of watermills and associated features. Pastures are generally divided by hedgerows, but in areas subject to regular flooding and more dynamic, shifting watercourses the floodplain may remain open.

#### **Subtypes**

##### **Old Enclosure.**

Areas of early, often piecemeal, enclosure. Field patterns are generally sub-regular and bounded by hedges with occasional hedgerow trees.

##### **Surveyor Enclosed.**

Areas of late, 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century enclosure. The relatively small scale of the floodplains means that the regular patterns typical of this period of enclosure rarely occur. Field boundaries are straight but otherwise the subtype differs little from the Old enclosure subtype.

##### **Reclaimed Land.**

Areas of C20th enclosure following the restoration of mineral workings. Field patterns tend to be regular. Boundaries may be hedges or fences and are lacking in mature hedgerow trees. The landform may have an engineered character.

### **High plateau farmland: open pasture**

Open pastoral farmland of the high upland fringe plateaux. Grasslands are a mixture of improved pasture, semi-improved and wet rushy pasture. Field boundaries are a mixture of hawthorn hedges and dry stone walls. Field patterns are generally disrupted by the decline or removal of boundaries. Hedges are often sparse and overgrown or grazed through and supplemented by wire fences. Hedgerow trees are scarce.

#### **Subtypes**

##### **Old Enclosure**

Areas of early enclosure. Field systems are sub-regular in pattern but this is often disrupted by boundary loss. Hedgerows are generally gappy and hedgerow trees are rare.

##### **Surveyor Enclosed.**

Areas of late, 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century enclosure. Field boundaries are straight and field systems regular although the pattern has often been disrupted by the removal or decline of hedgerows and walls in places. Hedgerows

are generally very gappy and hedgerow trees are rare.

### **High plateau farmland: pasture**

Pastoral farmland of the high upland fringe plateaux. Grasslands are a mixture of improved pasture, some cut as silage or hay meadow, and semi-improved and wet rushy pasture. Field boundaries are a mixture of hawthorn hedges and dry stone walls. Field systems are relatively intact, though hedges are often overgrown and grazed through or supplemented by wire fences.

#### **Subtypes**

##### **Old Enclosure**

Areas of early enclosure. Field systems are sub-regular, typically linear in form, many preserving the alignment of medieval strips. Hedgerow ash, oak and sycamore are locally abundant. Areas of rig and furrow survive in places.

##### **Surveyor Enclosed.**

Areas of late, 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century enclosure. Field boundaries are straight and field systems regular, crossed in places by straight enclosure roads. Hedgerow trees are sparse.

### **High plateau farmland: walled pasture**

Open pastoral farmland of the high upland fringe plateaux. Grasslands are a mixture of improved pasture, semi-improved pasture and wet rushy pasture. Field boundaries are regular grids of dry stone walls dating from late, 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century enclosures, crossed in places by straight enclosure roads. Hedgerow trees are generally absent.

#### **Subtypes**

##### **Surveyor Enclosed.**

The type.

### **High plateau farmland: wooded pasture**

Wooded pastoral farmland of the high upland fringe plateaux. Grasslands are a mixture of improved pasture, semi-improved and wet rushy pasture. Field boundaries are a mixture of hawthorn hedges and dry stone walls. Field systems are regular grids of 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century enclosures and are relatively intact, though hedges are often overgrown and grazed through or supplemented by wire fences. Hedgerow trees are scarce. The wooded character of the landscape comes from a combination of scattered softwood plantations and older woodlands in neighbouring denes and gorges.

#### **Subtypes**

##### **Surveyor Enclosed.**

The type.

### **High ridge and valley farmland: open pasture**

Open pastoral farmland of the higher ridges and valley heads of the upland fringes. Grasslands are mostly improved pasture, with pockets of semi-improved or wet, rushy pasture. Field boundaries are typically regular grids of hedges or dry stone walls dating from 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century enclosures, crossed in places by straight enclosure roads. Hedges are often sparse and overgrown or grazed through or supplemented by wire fences.

Hedgerow trees are absent or infrequent.

### Subtypes

#### **Surveyor Enclosed.**

The type. Areas of 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century enclosure. Field boundaries are straight and field systems regular although the pattern has often been disrupted by the removal or decline of field boundaries.

### **High ridge and valley farmland: pasture**

Pastoral farmland of the higher ridges and valley heads of the upland fringes. Grasslands are mostly improved pasture, with pockets of semi-improved or wet, rushy pasture. Field boundaries are typically regular grids of hedges or dry stone walls dating from 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century enclosures, crossed in places by straight enclosure roads. Field systems are relatively intact, though hedgerows are often overgrown and grazed through or supplemented by wire fences. Hedges are largely species-poor and dominated by hawthorn. Older hedges tend to be slightly more diverse and may contain holly planted for winter fodder. Hedgerow oak, ash and sycamore are common.

### Subtypes

#### **Surveyor Enclosed.**

The type. Areas of late, 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century enclosure. Field boundaries are straight and field systems regular grids.

### **High ridge and valley farmland: walled pasture**

Open pastoral farmland of the high ridges and valley heads of the upland fringe. Grasslands are a mixture of improved pasture, semi-improved pasture and wet rushy pasture. Field boundaries are regular grids of dry stone walls dating from late, 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century enclosures, crossed in places by straight enclosure roads. Hedgerow trees are generally absent.

### Subtypes

#### **Surveyor Enclosed.**

The type

### **High ridge and valley farmland: wooded estate arable**

Wooded arable estate farmland of the high ridges and valley heads of the upland fringe. Cultivated fields are bounded by trimmed hedges or border onto ornamental woodlands and copses that define the shapes of fields. Other elements of the estate landscape - designed farmsteads and scattered parkland trees – are found locally. Field boundaries appear to date generally from the 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century, being generally straight, though some older sinuous boundaries are present. Hedgerow trees are generally sparse.

### Subtypes

#### **Surveyor Enclosed.**

The type. Areas of late, 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century enclosure. Field boundaries are straight and field patterns are regular grids of walls. Field and boundary trees are generally absent though the verges of straight enclosure roads may be lined with trees or scrub.

### **High ridge and valley farmland: wooded estate pasture**

Wooded pastoral estate farmland of the high ridges and valley heads of the upland fringe. Pastures are generally improved and fields are bounded by trimmed hedges, or border onto ornamental woodlands and copses. Other elements of the estate landscape - designed farmsteads and scattered parkland trees – are found locally. Field boundaries appear to date generally from the 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century, being generally straight, though some older sinuous boundaries are present. Hedgerow trees are generally sparse.

#### **Subtypes**

##### **Surveyor Enclosed.**

The type. Areas of late, 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century enclosure. Field boundaries are straight and field patterns are regular grids of walls. Field and boundary trees are generally absent though the verges of straight enclosure roads may be lined with trees or scrub.

### **High ridge and valley farmland: wooded pasture**

Wooded pastoral farmland of the high ridges and valley heads of the upland fringe. Grasslands are a mixture of improved pasture, semi-improved pasture and wet rushy pasture. Field boundaries are straight and field patterns are regular grids of hawthorn hedges and dry stone walls. Hedgerow trees are absent or scarce. There are networks of straight enclosure roads and scattered blocky softwood plantations.

#### **Subtypes**

##### **Surveyor Enclosed.**

The type. Areas of late, 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century enclosure. Field boundaries are straight and field patterns are regular grids of walls. Field and boundary trees are generally absent though the verges of straight enclosure roads may be lined with trees or scrub.

#### **Infrastructure**

A variable local type covering a range of different forms of infrastructure.

#### **Subtypes**

##### **Highway**

Only major roads are mapped and only where the scale of development is significant. The Highway subtype therefore covers the larger scale sections of carriageway, major cuttings, embankments and interchanges.

##### **Water treatment works**

Sewerage or water treatment works. Only features in rural or urban fringe situations are mapped; others are subsumed within the Developed: urban type. Treatment works are typically made up of large concrete reservoirs, water tanks, filtration beds, lagoons, and ancillary buildings. Most are surrounded by security fences.

##### **Military facility**

A variable type consisting of military installations such as active, dormant or abandoned ordnance dumps and firing ranges.

#### **Lowland reservoir**

Small water supply reservoirs in the lowlands and upland fringes. Reservoirs may be bordered by fringes of



pasture or rough grassland, or flanked by areas of woodland or forestry. Dams, spillways, pump houses and other buildings, sometimes built of stone in a formal 'estate' style, are often notable features. Bare draw down zones may be prominent when water levels are low.

## Subtype

### **Reservoir.**

Reservoir water body.

## **Lowland woods**

A variable type covering the diverse woodlands of lowland valleys, plains and plateaux.

## Subtypes

### **Ancient woods.**

Ancient semi-natural woodlands. On the base-poor glacial drift that covers much of the lowlands the predominant woodland type is a lowland mixed broadleaved woodland with Common or Sessile Oak the major canopy species (NVC W10). Some Oak-birch woodlands (NVC W16) occur on less fertile sandy soils, and stands of Alder (NVCW5) woodland are found on flushed slopes or wet ground. Some woodlands show signs of having been managed as coppice in the past.

### **Modified ancient woods.**

This subtype includes re-planted ancient woodland sites and ancient woods that have been heavily modified by the introduction of commercial or exotic species, or species not native to the locality.

### **Secondary woods and wood pasture.**

Secondary semi-natural woodlands dominated by pioneer species (Birch, Ash, Sycamore, Hawthorn, Sallows, Gorse) that have colonised areas of disturbed land such as railway embankments and colliery tips, or unmanaged pasture or heath.

### **Old wood pastures.**

Ancient woodlands that have long been managed as wood pasture. A mosaic of open woodland, scrub and neutral grassland containing ancient and veteran trees.

### **Plantation.**

Planted woodlands of very variable character, including hardwood plantations of species such as Beech, Oak and Sycamore often planted as part of parkland or estate landscapes, and plantations dominated by softwoods.

## **Lowland woods: denes, bluffs & river terraces**

Woodlands of incised denes and steeply sloping valley-side or escarpment bluffs. Woodland plant communities are diverse and reflect the range of underlying parent rocks and drift materials that occur – often within a single wood.

## Subtypes

### **Ancient woods.**

Ancient semi-natural woodlands. On the base-poor glacial drift into which many lowland denes are incised the predominant woodland type is a lowland mixed broadleaved woodland, with Common or Sessile Oak the major canopy species (NVC W10). Similar woodlands occur on river terrace gravels and rocky gorges on

carboniferous sandstones and shales. On poorer soils, and particularly in the west, these woodlands may be transitional in character with upland Oak woods (NVC W11). On the more acidic strata of the coal measures they often occur along-side Oak-birch (NVC 16) communities. On the limestone escarpment, and in the coastal dunes where limestones are exposed, lowland Ash woodland communities (NVC W8) are found, with occasional stands of pure Yew (W13) on the thinnest soils. Ash communities transitional in character with upland Ash woods (NVC W9) are found where carboniferous limestones are exposed in the west. Stands of Alder-Ash woodland (NVC W7) and Alder carr (NVC W5) occur on flushed slopes or waterlogged ground. Some woodlands show signs of having been managed as coppice in the past. Woods on the coal measures often contains relics of drift mining – pit-falls, waggonways and small spoil mounds. Some dene woods also contain relics of small scale quarrying activities.

#### **Modified ancient woods.**

This subtype includes re-planted ancient woodland sites and ancient woods that have been heavily modified by the introduction of commercial or exotic species, or species not native to the locality.

#### **Secondary woods and wood pastures.**

Secondary semi-natural woodlands dominated by pioneer species (Birch, Ash, Sycamore, Hawthorn, Sallows, Gorse) that have colonised areas of disturbed land such as railway embankments and colliery tips, or unmanaged pasture or heath.

#### **Old wood pastures.**

Ancient woodlands that have long been managed as wood pasture. A mosaic of open woodland, scrub and neutral grassland containing ancient and veteran trees.

#### **Plantation.**

Planted woodlands of very variable character, including hardwood plantations of species such as Beech, Oak and Sycamore often planted as part of parkland or estate landscapes, and plantations dominated by softwoods – some planted historically for pit-wood, others under taxation incentives in the late C20th or as part of the reclamation of derelict land and opencast coal workings

### **Lowland woods: floodplain & riverside**

Narrow corridors of woodland on riverbanks and river terraces, usually semi-natural in character and made up of native species, particularly Oak, Ash, Alder, Aspen, Birch and Willows. Many are ancient woods; others are secondary semi-natural woods that have followed the shifting course of the river.

#### **Subtypes**

##### **Ancient woods.**

Ancient semi-natural woodlands. The predominant woodland type on drier ground is a lowland mixed broadleaved woodland with Common or Sessile Oak the major canopy species (NVC W10), with Alder-Ash (NVC W7) and Alder (NVC W6, W5) woodlands on wetter ground and wash lands.

##### **Secondary woods & wood pastures**

Secondary semi-natural woodlands, often containing similar species to ancient woods, but which have naturally colonised the shifting riverbank environment and are therefore dominated more by pioneers like Alder, Aspen, Birches and Willows.

#### **Subtypes**

### **Plantation.**

A variable subtype of planted woodlands including old broadleaved plantations, softwood plantations, poplar plantations and more recent new native woodlands on river floodplains and carrs.

### **Mineral working**

A diverse type made up of active or dormant mineral workings ranging from hard-rock quarries to opencast coal sites, gravel pits and clay workings. Typical common elements include extraction voids and faces, soil mounds, overburden and waste heaps, haul roads, buildings and processing plant.

### **Subtypes**

#### **Carboniferous limestone quarry**

Large quarries worked primarily for road stone products. Quarry faces are made up of grey, horizontally bedded and vertically jointed Carboniferous Limestones, inter-bedded with harder sandstones and softer shales, and often capped by a crest of clay drift. Crushing, screening and coating plant occupy parts of the quarry floor. The base rich limestone wastes and acidic overburden materials give rise to a varied flora including both calcareous and acidic grasslands, and scrub and secondary woodland which may colonise undisturbed areas.

#### **Sandstone Quarry**

Small or medium-sized quarries worked primarily for building stone. Quarry faces are horizontally bedded Carboniferous Sandstone varying in colour from buff to grey. Industrial buildings for stone cutting and processing may occupy parts of the quarry floor, or be absent in the case of smaller 'snatch' quarries. Base-poor sandstone wastes and overburdens often support an acid-loving flora which may colonise undisturbed areas.

### **Parkland**

The designed landscapes of ornamental parks typically include formal gardens together with larger areas of open pastoral parkland. Veteran native and exotic trees are scattered across the park or arranged in formal avenues. Clumps of trees, copses and larger woodlands are deployed for their aesthetic effect. Other ornamental features – lakes, ponds, cascades and follies may be present. Buildings – gatehouses, lodges and farms – are typically designed in a formal style to compliment the main house. The park may be visually open, often with boundary ha-has to maintain an open character, or enclosed by boundary fences or hedges and particularly in areas away from the parkland core. The park as a whole is often bounded by a high mortared stone wall.

### **Subtypes**

#### **Open parkland pasture.**

Open pastoral parkland. grasslands may be improved or semi-improved and often contain relics of the medieval landscape including rig and furrow and building platforms. Veteran parkland trees – both native and exotic - are scattered across the parkland, sometimes in great numbers. Other parkland relics – avenues, ornamental water bodies, small copses, ha-has etc may be present.

#### **Ornamental gardens.**

Ornamental gardens are very diverse but often include walled vegetable gardens, bordered walks and formal parterres.

## **Parks & Recreation Grounds**

A varied type incorporating a large range of recreational landscapes.

### Subtypes

#### **Caravan sites.**

Permanent caravan sites, sometimes with touring pitches. Often located within areas of woodland. Most contain a permanent infrastructure of roadways and service buildings.

#### **Churchyards, cemeteries & crematoria.**

The designed amenity landscapes of churchyards, cemeteries and crematoria.

#### **Golf courses.**

Extensive areas of amenity grassland with bunkers, greens, fairways, roughs and ponds with individual trees, tree groups and copses in varying degrees of maturity. Some contain elements surviving from the previous landscape – veteran trees, hedgerows and woodlands, or fragments of heath.

#### **Playing fields & urban green space.**

Open spaces of amenity grassland including sports pitches and areas of informal public open space.

## **River: middle reaches**

The middle reaches of major rivers meandering across narrow floodplains or running through incised denes or larger gorges. Where they cross floodplains the river banks are fenced from the adjacent farmland which is occasionally protected by low artificial levees. The river banks are often lined with narrow **Riverside woods**.

### Subtypes

#### **River.**

Rapidly flowing watercourses with alternating pools and riffles, shingle banks and occasional islands.

#### **River bank.**

River banks fenced from adjacent pasture, or left unfenced from adjacent arable, support rough unmanaged grassland with native riverside species like Butterbur and, in places, introduced species like Himalayan Balsam, Giant Hogweed and Japanese Knotweed. Bank side trees - Crack Willow, White Willow, Purple Willow, Alder – are common. River banks may be engineered in places, occasionally with low flood-protection levees.

## **Upland woods**

A variable type covering many of the diverse woodlands of the upland dales and upland fringes.

### Subtypes

#### **Plantation.**

Planted woodlands of very variable character, including small plantations of species like Scot's Pine, Larch, Beech and Sycamore, often planted for shelter, and larger plantations usually dominated by conifers such as Scots Pine, Larch, Norway Spruce and Sitka Spruce.

## **Upland woods: denes & bluffs**

Woodlands of incised denes and steeply sloping valley-side bluffs in the upland fringes.

## Subtypes

### **Ancient woods.**

Ancient semi-natural woodlands. The base-poor glacial drift and drift-free carboniferous sandstones and shales of the upland fringes support Oak (NVC W11) and Oak-birch (NVCW17) woodlands. Stands of Alder-Ash woodland (NVC W7) and Alder carr (NVC W5) occur on flushed slopes or waterlogged ground.

### **Old wood pasture.**

Ancient woodlands grazed as wood pasture, usually taking the form of a mosaic of open woodland, scrub and grassland containing ancient and veteran trees. Canopy species usually reflect those of the native woodland type although their ground flora is likely to have been heavily modified by grazing. Many woodlands in the uplands are intermittently grazed or stocked in the winter. The distinction between the two here is made on the basis of the canopy structure, with only very open woodlands that are regularly grazed being defined as Old wood pasture.

### **Plantation, grazed**

Heavily grazed plantation woodlands which have some of the characteristics of older wood pastures – a mosaic of woodland and pasture or a more open canopy of scattered mature trees.

### **Secondary woods and wood pastures.**

Secondary semi-natural woodlands usually dominated by pioneer species (Birch, Ash, Sycamore, Hawthorn, Sallows, Gorse) that have colonised areas of steep and unmanaged or lightly grazed pasture.

## **Urban**

A variable type which covers a broad range of urban development - housing, industry, retail and commerce, community facilities and public open space. The landscape character assessment does not identify variations in character within the urban landscape at any level of detail but does identify a small number of basic subtypes.

## Subtypes

### **Industrial and retail estates**

Industrial and retail estates typically have a planned layout, often with significant areas of structure planting and amenity planting. Buildings are generally large in scale and industrial in character. There may be significant areas of open operation land or vacant land awaiting development. Smaller areas of land in industrial or commercial use are generally subsumed within the Urban subtype.

### **Industrial land**

Land in industrial use. A variable type but generally containing large industrial buildings and areas of operational land. Smaller areas of land in industrial or commercial use are generally subsumed within the Urban subtype.

### **Military Camp**

Military camps are usually self-contained urban developments in rural situations. They have a planned structure of roads, housing, community facilities, operational buildings, amenity planting and open green space.

### **Urban**

The type. Urban land including built development, gardens and public open spaces together with areas of recreational land (unless separately identified as **Parks & recreation grounds** local landscape type) and

industrial/ commercial land (unless separately identified as **Industrial land** or **Industrial and retail estates** subtype).

### **Vale farmland: arable**

Rolling arable farmland on the fertile brown earth soils of the upper Tees Vale. Field systems are sub-regular enclosures of early post-medieval origins that remain largely intact. Field boundaries are clipped hedges, usually dominated by hawthorn but often more species-rich. Hedgerow Ash, Oak and Sycamore trees are common and locally abundant.

#### **Subtypes**

##### **Old Enclosure.**

The type.

##### **Surveyor Enclosed.**

Small tracts of late, 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century enclosure. Field boundaries are straight and field patterns are regular grids. Hedgerow trees are sparse.

### **Vale farmland: pasture**

Rolling pastoral farmland of the upper Tees Vale. Pastures are mostly improved but with pockets of semi-improved pasture or meadow and wet, rushy pasture. Field systems are a mixture of early post-medieval enclosures and parliamentary enclosures in regular or sub-regular patterns and are generally relatively intact. Field boundaries are a mixture of hedges and dry stone walls. Hedges may be trimmed or tall and overgrown. Hedgerow oak, ash and sycamore are common, and locally abundant.

#### **Subtypes**

##### **Old Enclosure.**

Areas of early enclosure, much of it being enclosure of the town fields of the vale's many small villages. Field systems are generally sub-regular in pattern, occasionally preserving the curving linear shape of arable strips. Areas of medieval or later rigg and furrow occur locally. Hedges may be hawthorn dominated but often contain a wider range of species. Holly is present in many hedges and Hazel in the oldest hedges such as those on township boundaries.

##### **Surveyor Enclosed.**

Areas of late, 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century enclosure. Field boundaries are straight and field systems are regular grids.

### **Vale farmland: walled arable**

Rolling arable farmland on the fertile brown earth soils of the upper Tees Vale. Field systems are dry stone walls or a mixture of walls and hedges in relatively regular patterns with the occasional field boundary tree.

#### **Subtypes**

##### **Old Enclosure.**

The type.

##### **Surveyor Enclosed.**

Small tracts of late, 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century enclosure. Field boundaries are straight and field patterns are regular

grids. Hedgerow trees are sparse.

### **Vale farmland: walled pasture**

Rolling pastoral farmland of the upper Tees Vale. Pastures are mostly improved but with pockets of semi-improved pasture or meadow and wet, rushy pasture. Field systems are a mixture of early post-medieval enclosures and parliamentary enclosures in regular or sub-regular patterns and are generally relatively intact. Field boundaries are dry stone walls. Hedgerow trees are absent or thinly scattered.

#### **Subtypes**

##### **Old Enclosure.**

Areas of early enclosure, much of it being enclosure of the town fields of the vale's many small villages. Field systems are generally sub-regular in pattern, occasionally preserving the curving linear shape of arable strips. Areas of medieval or later rigg and furrow occur locally.

##### **Surveyor Enclosed.**

Areas of late, 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century enclosure. Field boundaries are straight and field systems are regular grids.

### **Vale farmland: wooded arable**

Rolling wooded arable farmland of the upper Tees Vale. Fields are bounded by trimmed hedges or border onto woodlands. The landscape gets its wooded feel from the dene and riverside woods the farmland borders onto, or from scattered copses, coverts and shelterbelts of planned estates.

#### **Subtypes**

##### **Old Enclosure.**

Areas of early enclosure, much of it being enclosure of the town fields of the vale's many small villages. Field patterns are generally sub-regular. Field boundaries are hedgerows, usually dominated by hawthorn but often containing species such as holly, hazel and blackthorn. There are scattered, locally abundant, hedgerow oak and ash.

##### **Surveyor Enclosed.**

Areas of late, 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century enclosure. Field boundaries are straight and field patterns are regular. Hedges are usually dominated by hawthorn. There are scattered hedgerow oak, ash and sycamore.

### **Vale farmland: wooded estate arable**

Rolling wooded arable estate farmland of the upper Tees Vale. Fields are bounded by trimmed hedges or estate fencing, or border onto woodlands. Small copses, coverts and shelterbelts are common along with other elements of the estate landscape: designed farmsteads, lodges, gatehouses, mortared stone walls and entrance gates.

#### **Subtypes**

##### **Old Enclosure.**

Areas of early enclosure. Field patterns are generally sub-regular. Field boundaries are hedgerows, usually dominated by hawthorn but often containing species such as holly, hazel and blackthorn. There are scattered, locally abundant, hedgerow oak and ash.

##### **Surveyor Enclosed.**

Areas of late, 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century enclosure. Field boundaries are straight and field patterns are regular. Hedges are usually dominated by hawthorn. There are scattered hedgerow oak, ash and sycamore.

### **Vale farmland: wooded estate pasture**

Rolling wooded pastoral estate farmland of the upper Tees Vale. Fields are bounded by trimmed hedges or estate fencing, or border onto woodlands. Small copses, spinneys and shelterbelts are common along with other elements of the estate landscape: designed farmsteads, lodges, gatehouses, mortared stone walls and entrance gates. Areas of older rig and furrow may survive in less improved pastures.

#### **Subtypes**

##### **Old Enclosure.**

Areas of early enclosure. Field patterns are generally sub-regular. Field boundaries are hedgerows, usually dominated by hawthorn but often containing species such as holly, hazel and blackthorn. There are scattered, locally abundant, hedgerow oak and ash. Locally there may be scattered field or parkland trees.

##### **Surveyor Enclosed.**

Areas of late, 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century enclosure. Field boundaries are straight and field patterns are regular. Hedges are usually dominated by hawthorn. There are scattered hedgerow oak, ash and sycamore.

### **Vale farmland: wooded pasture**

Rolling wooded pastoral farmland of the upper Tees Vale. Fields are bounded by a mixture of hedges, often tall and overgrown, and dry stone walls. The landscape gets its wooded feel from the dene and riverside woods the farmland borders onto, or from scattered copses, coverts and shelterbelts of planned estates. Areas of older rig and furrow may survive in less improved pastures.

#### **Subtypes**

##### **Old Enclosure.**

Areas of early enclosure, much of it being enclosure of the town fields of the vale's many small villages. Field patterns are generally sub-regular, often preserving the curved linear shape of medieval strips. Hedgerows are usually dominated by hawthorn but often contain species such as holly, hazel and blackthorn. There are scattered, locally abundant, hedgerow oak and ash. Mature field or parkland trees occur locally.

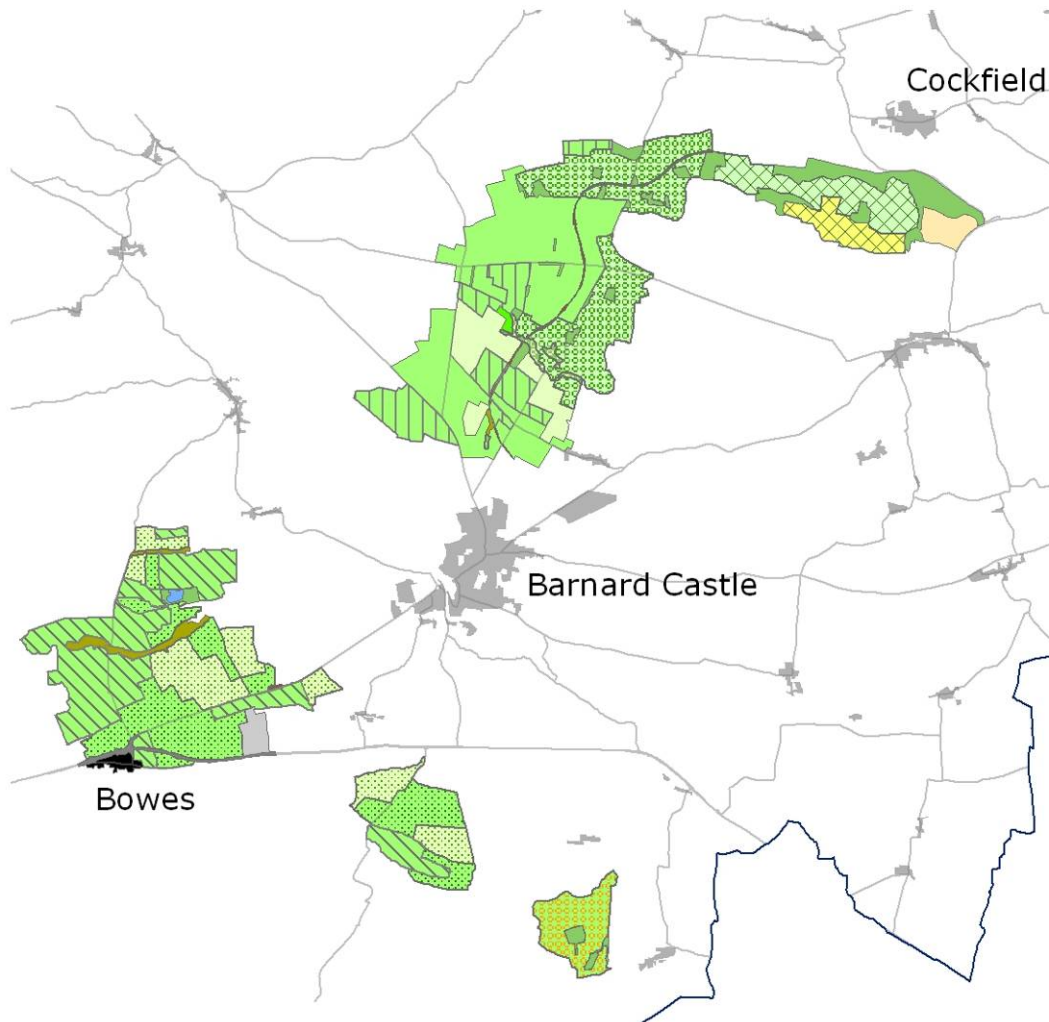
##### **Surveyor Enclosed.**

Areas of late, 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century enclosure. Field boundaries are straight and field patterns are regular. Hedgerow trees are generally absent or scarce.



# Local Landscape Types

## Gritstone Upland Fringe

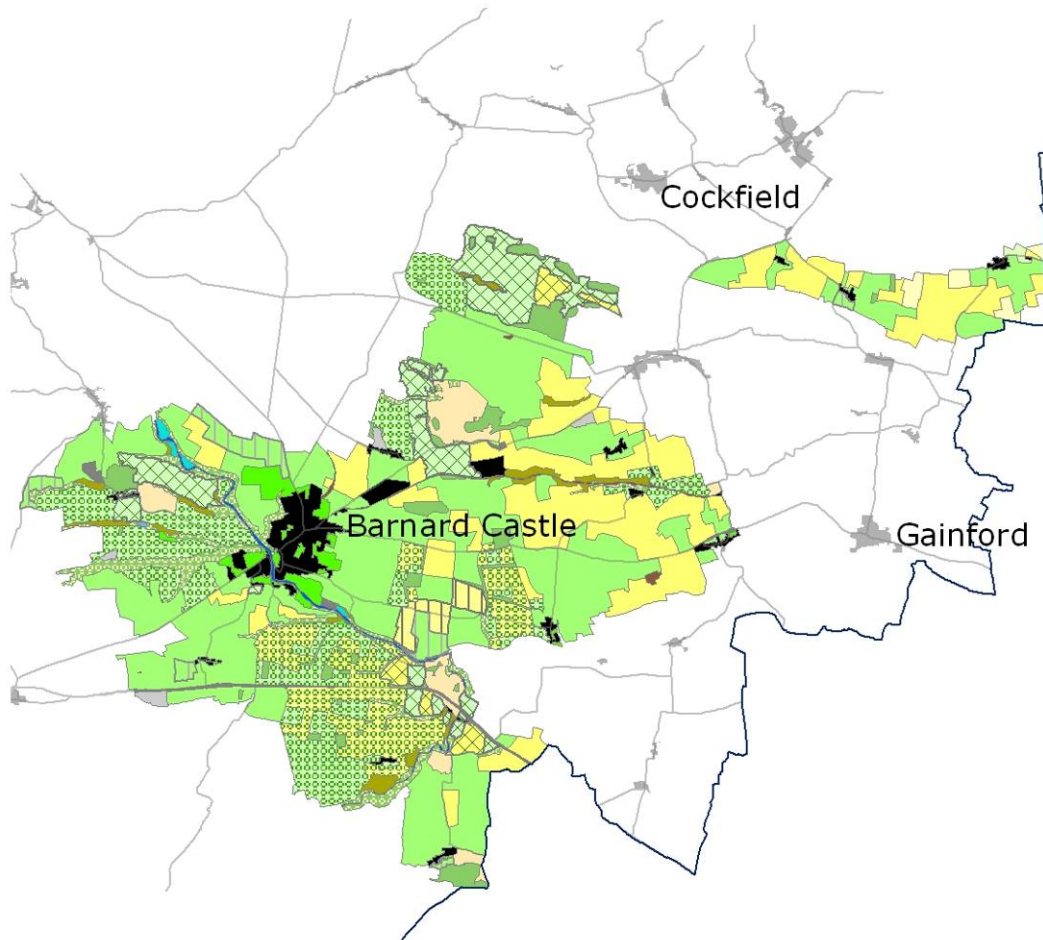


- |                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| County Boundary                       | High ridge & valley farmland: open pasture          |
| Roads                                 | High ridge & valley farmland: pasture               |
| Settlements                           | High ridge & valley farmland: walled pasture        |
| Urban                                 | High ridge & valley farmland: wooded estate arable  |
| Infrastructure                        | High ridge & valley farmland: wooded estate pasture |
| Disturbed land                        | High ridge & valley farmland: wooded pasture        |
| Mineral working                       | Lowland reservoir                                   |
| Dene pastures                         | Parkland  |
| High plateau farmland: open pasture   | Parks & recreation grounds                          |
| High plateau farmland: pasture        | Upland woods  |
| High plateau farmland: walled pasture | Upland woods: denes & bluffs                        |
| High plateau farmland: wooded pasture |   |

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# Local Landscape Types

## Gritstone Vale



- |                               |                                      |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| County Boundary               | Parks & recreation grounds           |
| roads dales fringe            | River: middle reaches                |
| settlements                   | Vale farmland: arable                |
| Urban                         | Vale farmland: open arable           |
| Infrastructure                | Vale farmland: open pasture          |
| Disturbed land                | Vale farmland: pasture               |
| Mineral working               | Vale farmland: walled arable         |
| Dene pastures                 | Vale farmland: walled pasture        |
| Floodplain farmland: pasture  | Vale farmland: wooded arable         |
| Lowland reservoir             | Vale farmland: wooded estate arable  |
| Lowland woods                 | Vale farmland: wooded estate pasture |
| Lowland woods: denes & bluffs | Vale farmland: wooded pasture        |
| Parkland                      |                                      |

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