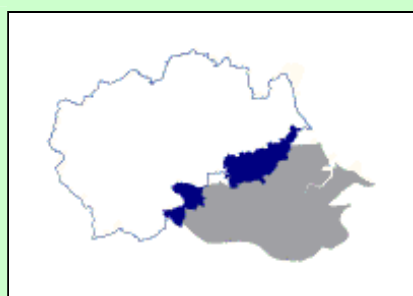


The Tees Lowlands



- The Tees Lowlands
- The Tees Lowlands Countryside Character Area
- County Boundary



Key characteristics

- A broad lowland plain of gently undulating, occasionally flat terrain.
- Carboniferous and Permian limestones and sandstones are masked by thick layers of glacial drift.
- The meandering River Tees flows through the heart of the area on a narrow floodplain between low gravel terraces.
- An open landscape of arable and mixed farmland on clay soils.
- Sub-regular patterns of low clipped hedges, often fragmented by the amalgamation of arable fields, with scattered hedgerow oak and ash
- Low lying 'flats' and 'carrs' with peaty or alluvial soils are drained by ditches and stells.
- Occasional heavily wooded parklands – woodland cover is generally low elsewhere.
- A nucleated settlement pattern of old villages connected by winding lanes and occasional larger towns. Older buildings are typically of sandstone with clay pan-tile roofs.
- Numerous deserted or shrunken medieval villages. Relics of rigg and furrow cultivations.
- A visually open and broad scale landscape with panoramic views to distant hills.
- A predominantly rural landscape with occasional larger settlements, busy roads, railway lines and overhead transmission lines.

Description

The lowlands of the Tees form a broad plain that merges with the gentle dip slope of the Magnesian Limestone escarpment and the low hills of the Pennine fringe in the north. The underlying geology of Permian limestones in the east and Carboniferous sandstones, mudstones and shales in the west is generally masked by deep glacial drift.

The topography is gently rolling or undulating with low lying 'flats' and 'carrs' and areas of more undulating terrain relating to pockets of fluvio-glacial sands and gravels. The River Tees falls very gradually to the North Sea; its meandering course incised between low terraces and flat gravel benches. It is fed by slow moving tributaries like the River Skerne which have been straightened and deepened in places. Water levels in the carrs are maintained by systems of ditches and stells. Soils are heavy drift-derived surface water gleys, with pockets of brown earths on gravels, and earthy peats in poorly drained carrs.

Agricultural land use is mixed but predominantly arable. Field systems are 'sub-regular' in pattern and largely date from the enclosure of open town fields in the 16th and 17th centuries. They have been heavily fragmented by the amalgamation of arable fields in the 20th century. Hedgerows tend to be cut low and regularly trimmed. Tree cover is generally low with scattered hedgerow trees, principally Ash and Oak, though some areas are rich in trees. In the carrs field boundaries are water-filled ditches, often supplemented by fences.

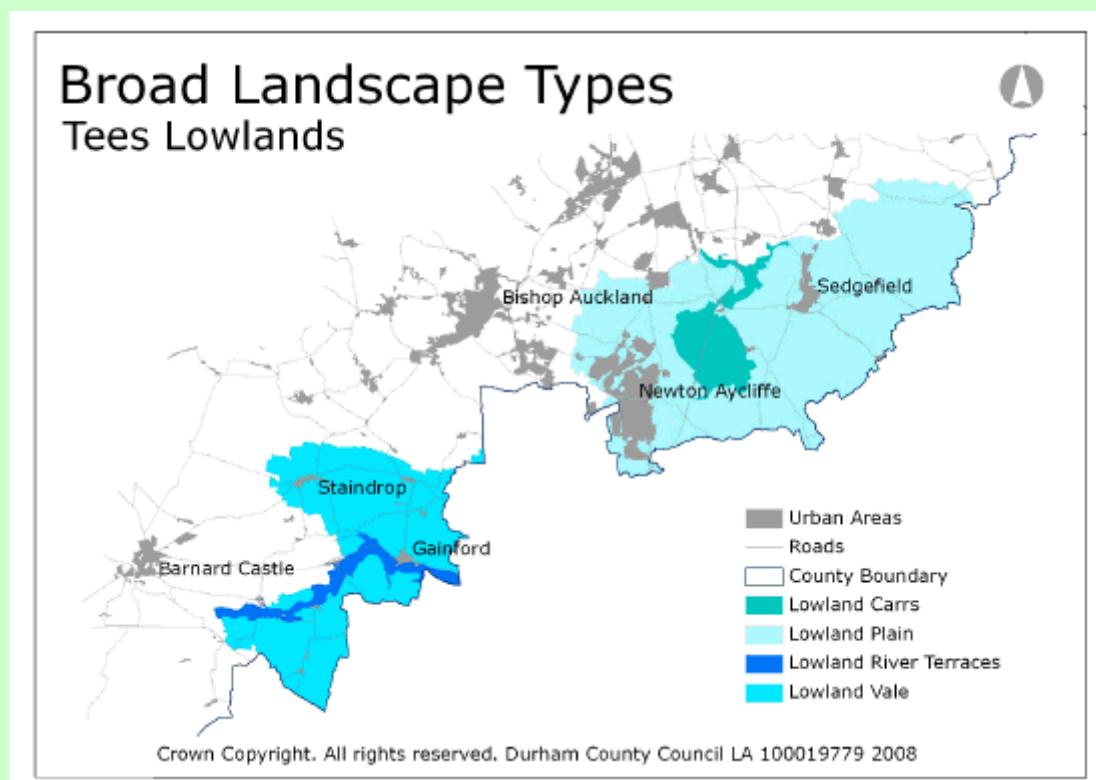
Woodland cover is sparse, being generally restricted to a scattering of small plantations although there are some heavily wooded areas associated with ornamental parklands. There are occasional narrow riverside woods along the Tees.

The settlement pattern is nucleated with small 'green' villages of Saxon or medieval origins connected by winding lanes. There are many deserted medieval villages, or shrunken villages reduced to single farms or farm clusters. The landscape is predominantly rural though with occasional larger settlements including, in Durham, the modern new town of Newton Aycliffe. The plain is crossed by a number of major roads (the A1(M), A66 and A68) and railway lines and by overhead transmission lines.

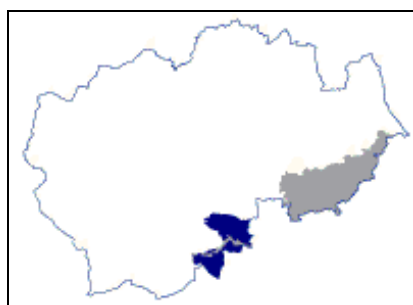
The landscape is generally open and broad in scale. The Cleveland Hills form a strong far horizon in the south and east. In flat or rolling areas views of the landscape tend to be shallow and skyline features such as hedgerow trees and woodlands become important in defining and articulating space.

Broad landscape types

Landscapes of very similar character cover large tracts of the Tees Plain. A broad distinction can be made between the open arable landscapes of the **Lowland Plain** in the east, and the mixed farmland of the **Lowland Vale** with its frequent villages to the west. The flat **Lowland Carrs** of the River Skerne are distinguished by their peaty and alluvial soils, their wet pastures and boundary ditches: the **Lowland River Terraces** of the River Tees by their sand and gravel soils and their association with the meandering River Tees.



Lowland Vale



- Lowland Vale
- The Tees Lowlands
- County Boundary



Key characteristics

- Broad lowland vale.
- Varied Carboniferous and Permian rocks are covered by a thick mantle of drift.
- Gently rolling or undulating topography of glacial moraines, boulder clays and sands and gravels. Occasional flats.
- Seasonally waterlogged loamy clay soils and more free-draining brown earths.
- Mixed, but predominantly arable farmland – a mosaic of improved pasture and arable cropping.
- Semi-regular patterns of old enclosures bounded by thorn hedges.
- Relics of rigg and furrow in older pastures.
- Scattered hedgerow ash, oak and sycamore – abundant in places.
- Sparsely wooded but with some heavily wooded areas of old parkland and estate farmland.
- Nucleated pattern of small green villages connected by narrow, winding, hedged lanes.
- Buildings of local stone with roofs of clay pan tile. Farms of the Raby Estate are painted white.
- The high incidence of hedgerow trees creates a degree of enclosure in places, but the landscape remains fairly broad in scale with views to distant high ground.
- A tranquil settled rural landscape.

Description

A broad lowland vale defined by higher ground to the north and south. Carboniferous and Permian rocks are overlain in most places by a thick mantle of boulder clay, morainic drift and sands and gravels. The topography is gently rolling or gently undulating with occasional flats. Soils are a patchwork of seasonally waterlogged loamy clay soils and more free-draining brown earths. In areas where the drift is absent on Permian magnesian limestones there are small pockets of calcareous brown earths.

Agricultural land use is mixed, with much of the landscape being dominated by arable cropping – primarily of cereals and oil-seed rape – but with a mosaic of pasture and arable in some areas. Field boundaries are hawthorn hedges and are usually cut low. Field patterns are semi-regular, most dating from the enclosure of the common fields of villages in the 1600s. Field systems are heavily fragmented in places by amalgamation into

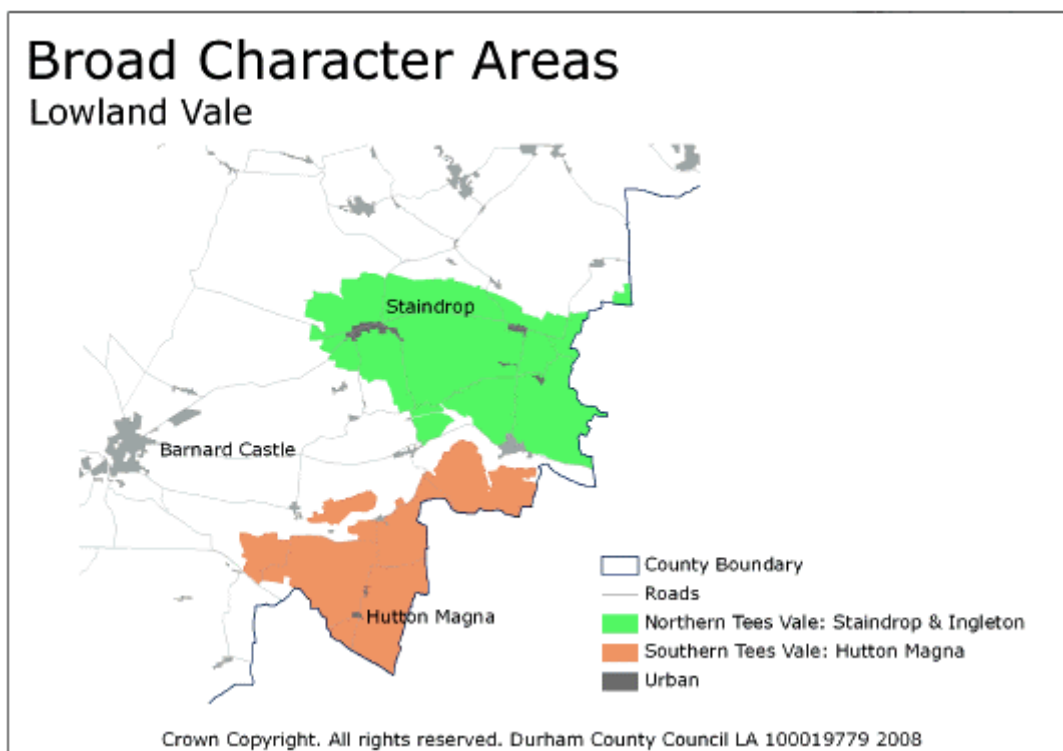
large arable fields. Relics of rigg and furrow are found in older, less improved pastures. There are small areas of more regular 'surveyor enclosed' field systems dating from the enclosure of manorial wastes in the C18th.

Tree cover is variable with scattered hedgerow ash, oak and sycamore typical of arable farms and more abundant hedgerow trees in areas of mixed or pastoral farming. The landscape is generally sparsely wooded with occasional small broadleaved woodlands and a single example of a larger ancient oak wood. There are several heavily wooded areas of old parkland and estate farmland where parkland features such as mature field trees, avenues and park walls are found.

The landscape has a long history of settlement and a nucleated pattern of small green villages, most of Saxon or later medieval origins. Buildings are of local sandstone with roofs of clay pan tile or slate, and are set around a central village green. Between the villages lie scattered farms. Farms and farm buildings of the Raby Estate, which covers much of the northern vale, are painted white. Villages are connected by a network of narrow hedged lanes. There are occasional very small abandoned limestone and sandstone quarries worked in the past for building stone and lime.

A broad scale landscape in which the high ground of the coalfield to the north, and the Yorkshire Dales to the south, form strong middle distance horizons. Locally the high incidence of hedgerow trees creates a degree of enclosure and an intimacy of scale. Hedgerow trees are often important skyline features and help articulate and define space. A settled rural landscape.

Broad Landscape Types



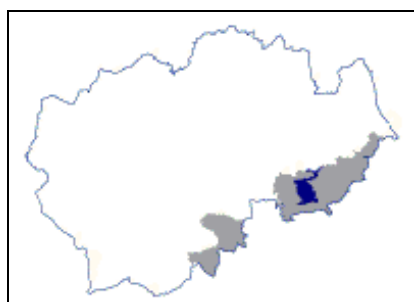
The Lowland Vale landscape type is represented by two Broad Character Areas

The Northern Tees Vale: Staindrop & Ingleton. Rolling, occasionally flat, farmland north of the River Tees. A patchwork of arable fields and improved pastures with old pre-enclosure field systems of clipped hawthorn hedges with scattered, locally abundant, hedgerow trees. There are areas of flat poorly drained carrs along the Langley Beck with areas of wet, rushy pasture and occasional ponds. The landscape is wooded in places with frequent broadleaved plantations. There are heavily wooded parklands and estate farmland at Raby Castle, and

parklands at Selaby Park and Langton Grange. Tree lines follow minor watercourses and ditches. The large green village of Staindrop lies in the west. Smaller villages and scattered, white painted, farms in the east are connected by a network of narrow winding lanes.

The Southern Tees Vale: Hutton Magna. Gently rolling or undulating farmland in the south of the vale. An open, predominantly arable, landscape with old pre-enclosure field systems of clipped hawthorn hedges and scattered hedgerow trees. The area is sparsely wooded, with occasional small broadleaved plantations. Small hamlets and scattered farms are connected by narrow winding lanes.

Lowland Carrs



- Lowland Carrs
- The Tees Lowlands
- County Boundary



Key characteristics

- Flat, low lying and poorly drained carrs.
- Deep glacial clays overlain in places by alluvium and shallow peat.
- Seasonally waterlogged alluvial and brown clay soils with tracts of earthy peats.
- Arable and mixed farmland on higher lying ground. Improved and wet rushy pasture on poorly drained flats.
- Straight watercourses flanked by levees.
- Occasional pumping stations.
- Regular grids of water-filled ditches and wire fences on lower ground.
- Semi-regular field patterns of gappy thorn hedges on drier ground.
- Few trees – occasional willow along watercourses.
- Few woodlands – thinly scattered small broadleaved plantations.
- Occasional farms in the fringes of the carrs and on pockets of higher ground.
- Few roads or footpaths.
- The carrs are crossed by the A1 (M) and the East Coast railway line on raised embankments.
- A visually open landscape defined by the slightly higher ground of the surrounding lowland plain.
- A sparsely settled rural landscape with a strong sense of place.

Description

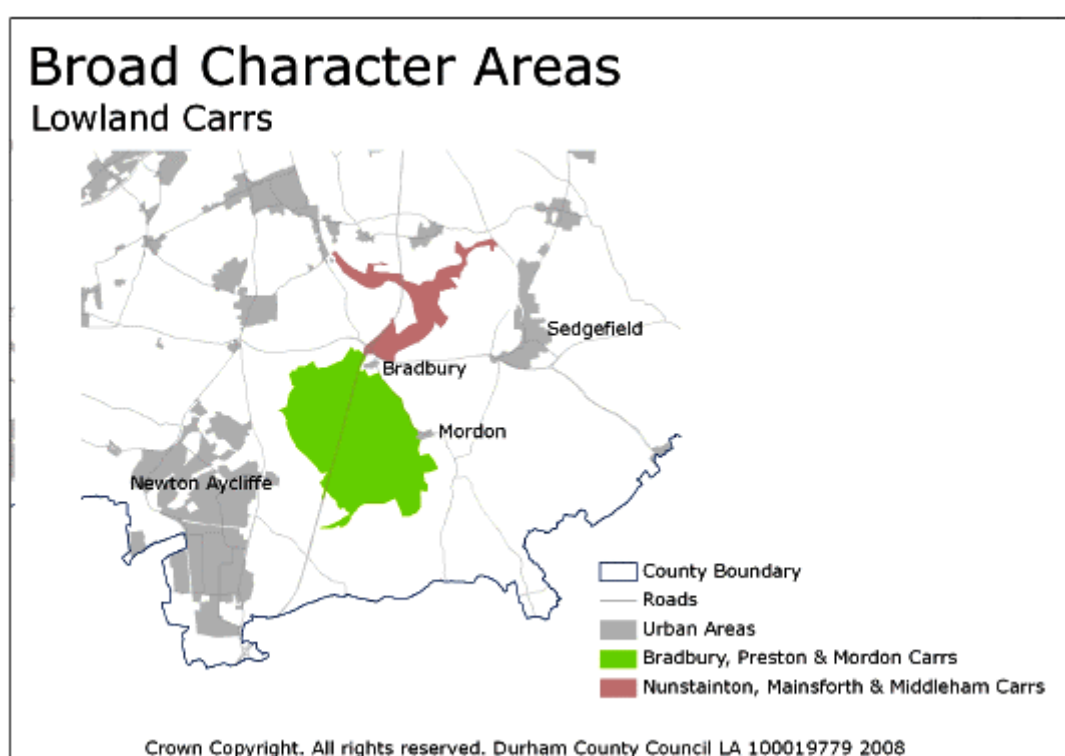
Flat low lying and poorly drained carrs. The underlying Permian rocks are masked by a deep mantle of glacial drift of laminated and boulder clays which is overlain in the flattest areas by alluvium and shallow peat. The main watercourses are artificially straightened and raised above the level of the flats by banks and levees. The flats are drained by a system of ditches and stells from which water is pumped via pumping stations. Soils are seasonally waterlogged alluvial soils and earthy peats on the wetter flats, with heavy brown clay soils on higher ground.

Agricultural land use reflects the drainage of the carrs, with arable and mixed farmland on higher lying ground and improved and wet rushy pastures on the poorly drained flats. Field boundaries are a mixture of water-filled ditches, often supplemented by wire fences, and gappy hawthorn hedges. Ditches are laid out in regular patterns and date from successive periods of drainage improvement from the C18th to the late C20th. Hedgerows are on older alignments, with semi-regular patterns suggesting enclosure in the late medieval or early post-medieval period.

Tree cover is low with thinly scattered hedgerow ash and oak and occasional willows along the watercourses. Small broadleaved plantations are thinly scattered across the area. The landscape is sparsely settled, with isolated farms on islands of higher ground or around the fringes of the carrs. There are few roads or footpaths. The carrs are crossed by the A1(M) and the East Coast railway line on raised embankments.

A visually very open landscape defined by the slightly higher ground of the surrounding lowland plain. A sparsely settled rural landscape with a strong sense of place.

Broad Character Areas

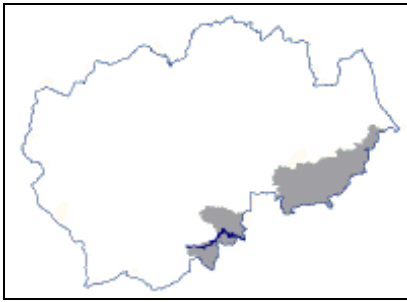


The Lowland Carrs landscape type is represented by two Broad Character Areas

Bradbury, Preston and Mordon Carrs. An extensive area of open, largely flat, carrs east of Newton Aycliffe. The lower lying parts of the carrs are improved or wet grassland with large fields bounded by straight ditches. Slightly higher ground in the carr fringes and at Little Isle and Great Isle are mixed farmland of improved pasture and arable cropping with fragmented sub-regular field patterns, occasional hedges and few trees.

Nunstainton, Mainsforth and Middleham Carrs. Narrow carrs of wet pasture fringed by low undulating farmland. The carrs are drained by the River Skerne and the Mainsforth Stell. There are a number of shallow or seasonal ponds, and small areas of wet woodland in the carr fringe.

Lowland River Terraces



- Lowland River Terraces
- The Tees Lowlands County
- County Boundary



Key characteristics

- Flat, narrow floodplain fringed in places by low, steep-sided bluffs.
- Coarse loamy and sandy soils on alluvial river terrace drift.
- Meandering rivers with alternating riffles and pools.
- Arable cropping on the floodplain.
- Semi-improved pastures on bluffs.
- Low hawthorn hedges with scattered hedgerow oak and ash.
- Fragments of rigg and furrow survive in older pastures.
- Ancient oak woodlands on steeper bluffs.
- Narrow riparian woods or tree lines of alder, oak, ash and willow on river banks.
- Old villages closely associated with the river, often on bridging or fording points.
- Buildings of local stone with roofs of slate or clay pan tile.
- Occasional recreational sites – lidos and caravan parks.
- A visually enclosed landscape of an intimate scale.
- A settled but tranquil rural landscape of high scenic quality and historical depth.

Description

Flat, narrow (200-400m) floodplains merging with the gently rolling topography of the wider vale or fringed by steep-sided bluffs. Rivers are meandering with alternating shallow, quick flowing riffles and broader slow moving reaches. Soils are coarse loamy or sandy brown earths on alluvial river terrace drift.

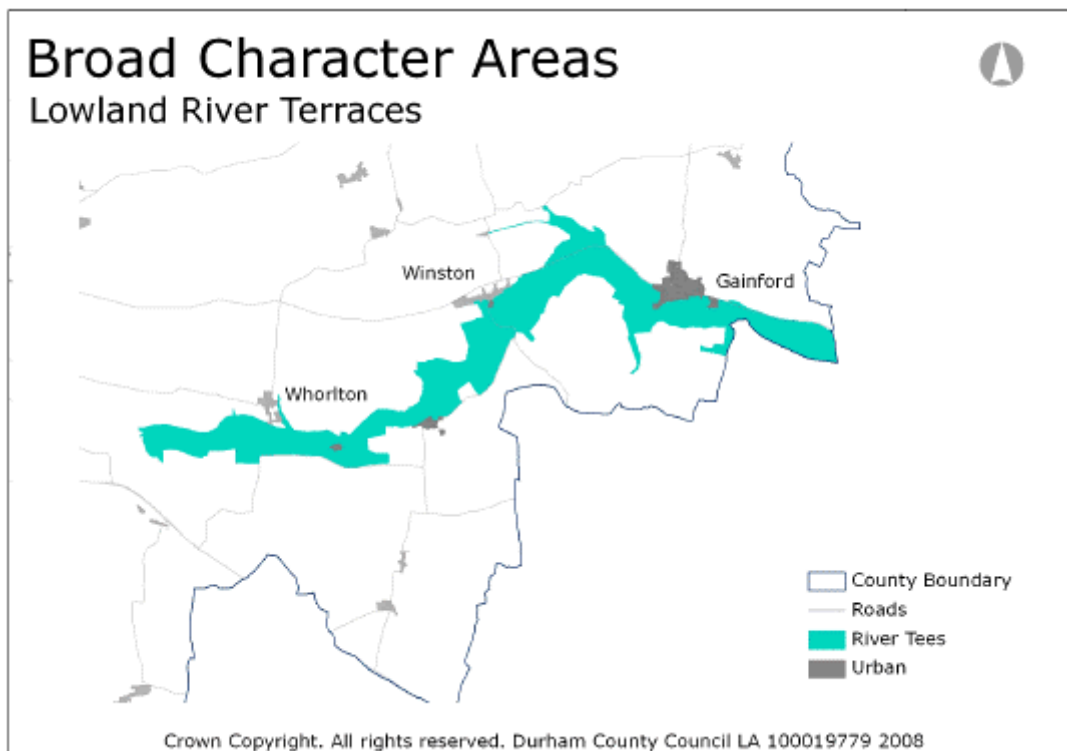
Agricultural land use is mixed, with arable cropping – mostly of cereals – on the flat floodplain haughs and improved and semi-improved pastures on the steeper ground of bluffs and valley sides. Field boundaries are hedgerows with scattered hedgerow oak and ash. Field systems are generally irregular or sub-regular in pattern, dating from the enclosure of common meadows and pastures of the surrounding villages in and around the C17th century. They include many older boundaries and occasional fragments of rigg and furrow in less improved pastures.

The landscape is well wooded, with ancient oak woodlands on steeper bluffs overlooking the floodplain and narrow riparian woods or tree lines of alder, oak, ash and willow on the river banks.

The floodplain terraces are followed by a chain of old villages that are closely associated with the river, often on bridging or fording points. Villages are of Saxon or later medieval origins with buildings of local stone with roofs of slate or clay pan tile set around a central green. Also associated with the river are occasional recreational sites like lidos and caravan parks. Road and railway bridges from several different periods cross the river.

The landscape is often visually enclosed and intimate in scale, though forming part of the broader vale landscape in many views. It is a settled and tranquil rural landscape of high scenic quality and strong sense of historical depth.

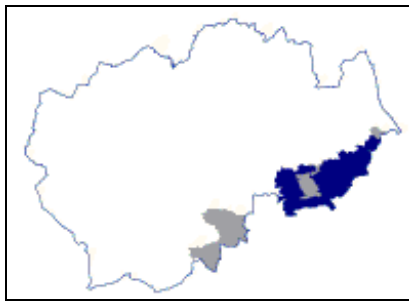
Broad Character Areas



The Lowland River Terraces landscape type is represented by a single Broad Character Area.

The River Tees. The River Tees meanders across a narrow floodplain between low river terrace bluffs of pasture, rough pasture or broadleaved woodland, or flows through narrow wooded denes flanked by low scars. Narrow riparian woodlands line the banks of the river. The floodplain is a mosaic of arable fields and improved or semi-improved pastures, open in places, divided in others by old hedges with scattered hedgerow trees. Fragments of rigg and furrow survive in the less improved pastures. Small green villages, hamlets, halls and building clusters line the river terraces above the floodplain.

Lowland Plain



- Lowland Plain
- The Tees Lowlands County
- County Boundary



Key characteristics

- Open lowland plain.
- Permian rocks are masked by a thick mantle of glacial clays, sands and gravels.
- Gently rolling or undulating topography with areas of flat or hummocky terrain.
- Seasonally waterlogged brown and reddish-brown clay soils with pockets of brown earths and brown sands.
- Mixed but largely arable farmland of cereals and oil-seed rape.
- Semi-regular patterns of old enclosures, often fragmented by amalgamation into large arable fields.
- Low clipped hawthorn hedges.
- Relics of rigg and furrow in older pastures.
- Few trees – thinly scattered hedgerow ash, oak and sycamore.
- Sparsely wooded but with some heavily wooded areas of old parkland and estate farmland.
- Nucleated pattern of small green villages connected by winding lands. Many shrunken or deserted medieval villages. Scattered farms.
- Busy trunk roads and overhead transmission lines in places.
- A visually open and broad scale landscape with long distance views to the Cleveland Hills to the south. Heavily wooded areas create a greater degree of enclosure and a more intimate scale.
- A sparsely settled rural landscape.

Description

An open lowland plain. A thick mantle of glacial drift of boulder clays and sands and gravels masks the underlying Permian rocks. The topography is flat, gently rolling or gently undulating, with areas of more hummocky terrain associated with glacial moraines and pockets of sands and gravels. Watercourses are small and inconspicuous, often straightened to follow field boundaries, and occasionally incised in small shallow denes. Soils are heavy, seasonally waterlogged brown and reddish-brown clays with pockets of stonier brown earths and brown sands.

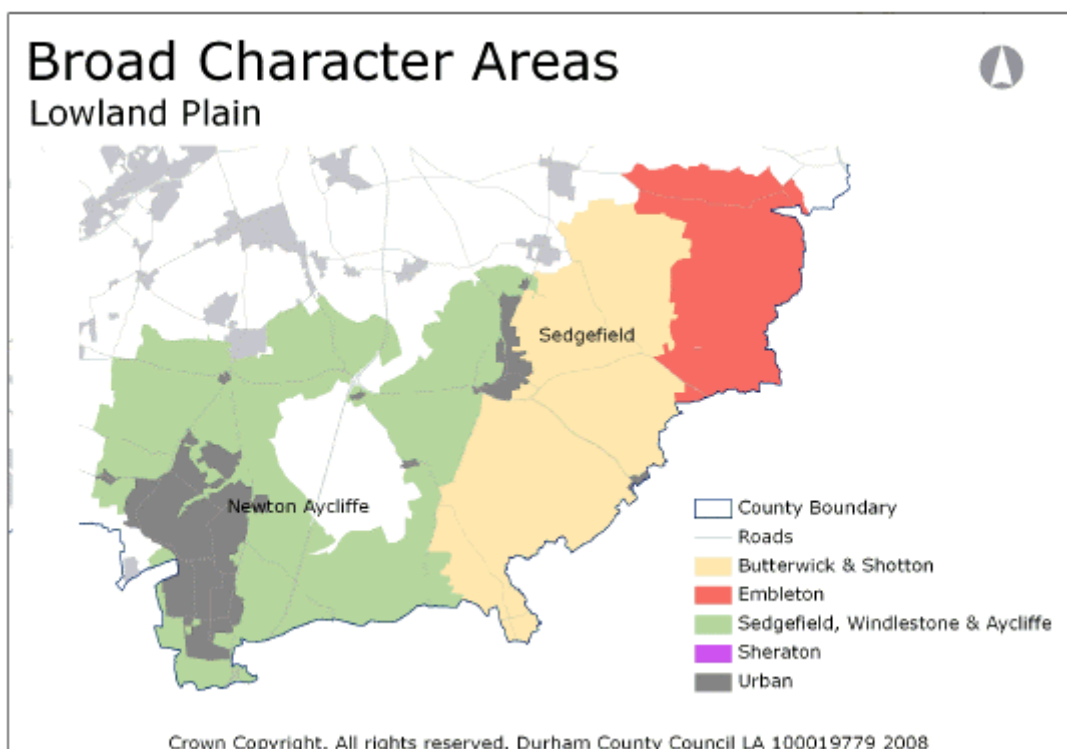
Agricultural land use is mixed but largely arable, dominated by the cultivation of cereals and oil-seed rape. Field boundaries are hawthorn hedges and are usually cut low. Field patterns are semi-regular, most dating from the enclosure of the common fields of older villages in the 1600s. Field systems are heavily fragmented in places by amalgamation into large arable fields.

Tree cover is low, with thinly scattered hedgerow ash, oak and sycamore. The landscape is generally very open and sparsely wooded with occasional small broadleaved plantations. It is locally more heavily wooded in areas of old parkland or wooded estate farmland.

The landscape has a long history of settlement and a nucleated pattern of small green villages, most of Saxon or later medieval origins. Buildings are of Carboniferous sandstone imported from landscapes to the west. Roofs are usually of clay pan tile. The settlement pattern is relatively sparse and there are many shrunken or deserted medieval villages. Isolated farms, often with large agricultural buildings and grain silos, are scattered across the plain. In areas of undulating terrain they often sit in prominent positions on low sand hills. Villages and farms are connected by a network of narrow hedged lanes. The plain is crossed by a number of busier modern highways, and by overhead transmission lines.

A visually open and broad scale landscape in which the Cleveland Hills form a distant horizon to the south. Despite the low tree cover, hedgerow trees are often important skyline features and help articulate and define space. In heavily wooded areas there is a greater degree of enclosure and a more intimate scale. A sparsely settled rural landscape.

Broad Character Areas



The Lowland Plain landscape type is represented by four Broad Character Areas

Butterwick & Shotton. Open flat or gently undulating arable farmland east of Sedgefield. A landscape of large arable fields with a fragmented boundary network of clipped hedges and few trees. Small pockets of pasture have more intact old field systems, scattered hedgerow ash and oak and occasional fragments of rigg and furrow. Tree lines follow small watercourses and ditches. Scattered farms and hamlets or farm clusters are connected by

narrow lanes. Woodland cover is very low, with thinly scattered small broadleaved plantations. The area is crossed by the busy A177 and A689 and by major transmission lines.

Embleton. Gently rolling or flat wooded farmland. A patchwork of improved pasture and arable fields bounded by a fragmented network of old hedges, clipped low in places; tall and overgrown in others. There are few hedgerow trees. Broadleaved woodlands lie in incised steep sided denes of the branching Amerston Beck, and mixed plantations are scattered across the area. The Hurworth Burn Reservoir lies on the River Skerne in the north. Isolated farms are connected by narrow winding lanes and farm tracks. The area is crossed by the Castle Eden walkway on a disused railway line.

Sedgefield, Windlestone & Aycliffe. Gently undulating or rolling farmland in the fringes of the lowland carrs. A patchwork of arable and improved pasture, but predominantly arable, with old pre-enclosure field systems which are locally fragmented. Field boundaries are hedges, usually clipped low, with scattered hedgerow trees. Tree lines follow small watercourses and ditches. Small broadleaved plantations are scattered across the area. There are more heavily wooded areas associated with parklands at estate farmland at Hardwick and Windlestone. The large new town of Newton Aycliffe lies in the west and the large village of Sedgefield in the east. Smaller villages and scattered farms are connected by narrow lanes. The area is crossed by the busy A167 and A689. There are occasional small limestone quarries and old sand pits.

Local Landscape Types

Carr farmland: open arable

Carr farmland: open pasture

Dene pastures

Disturbed land

Floodplain farmland: arable

Floodplain farmland: pasture

Infrastructure

Lakes & ponds

Lowland reservoirs

Lowland woods

Lowland woods: denes & bluffs

Lowland woods: floodplain & riverside woods

Mineral working

Nurseries & market gardens

Parkland

Parks and recreation grounds

Plain farmland: arable

Plain farmland: open arable

Plain farmland: open pasture

Plain farmland: pasture

Plain farmland: wooded arable

Plain farmland: wooded estate arable

Plain farmland: wooded estate pasture

Plain farmland: wooded pasture

River: middle reaches

Urban

Vale floor farmland: arable

Vale floor farmland: open arable

Vale floor farmland: open pasture

Vale floor farmland: pasture

Vale floor farmland: wooded estate arable

Vale floor farmland: wooded estate pasture

Carr farmland: open arable

Open flat arable farmland on the rich alluvial gleys and earthy peats of the lowland carrs. Crops are predominantly wheat and oil-seed rape. The land may be subject to seasonal flooding. Fields are typically large and field patterns generally fragmented by C20th amalgamations. Boundaries are a mixture of water-filled ditches and hedges. Hedgerow and boundary trees are absent or scarce. The land is drained by ditches, 'drains' or 'stells' which feed into engineered watercourses, sometimes flowing above field level and protected by levees.

Subtypes

Old Enclosure.

Areas of early enclosure. Field patterns are generally sub-regular but usually heavily fragmented by field amalgamations so that their pattern is no longer legible

Surveyor Enclosed.

Areas of late, 18th or 19th century enclosure. Field boundaries are straight. Overall field patterns are often heavily fragmented by field amalgamations.

Carr farmland: open pasture

Open flat pastoral farmland on the poorly drained alluvial gleys and earthy peats of the lowland carrs. Pastures are a mixture of improved and wet rushy pasture. Fields vary in size, being large in the more extensive carrs but with some smaller pastures elsewhere. Boundaries are a mixture of water-filled ditches and hedges. Hedges tend to be thin, gappy and overgrown with few hedgerow trees, and field patterns are often heavily fragmented. The land is drained by ditches, 'drains' or 'stells' which feed into engineered watercourses, sometimes flowing above field level and protected by levees. Sporadic tree lines and patches of scrub follow the main drains as well as raised features like road and railway embankments. The dry meandering courses of old rivers and streams occur locally as do seasonal and permanent ponds.

Subtypes

Old Enclosure.

Areas of early enclosure. Field patterns are generally sub-regular. Ditches are often 'relatively straight' rather than 'ruler straight'.

Surveyor Enclosed.

Areas of late, 18th or 19th century enclosure. Field boundaries and ditches are 'ruler straight'.

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 and tend to be more diverse than the surrounding farmland. Tree cover is very variable. Hedgerow oak and ash are locally 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 may be irregular or sub-regular and tend to reflect the underlying topography. Boundaries are typically hedgerows. In places relics of ridge and furrow or cultivation

terraces may be found.

Floodplain farmland: arable

Low lying arable farmland on the fertile alluvial soils of the flat 'haughs' of the river floodplains. Fields tend to be large and bounded by hedges or fences, and may be subject to seasonal flooding or protected by artificial levees.

Subtypes

Old Enclosure.

Areas of early, often piecemeal, enclosure. Field patterns are generally sub-regular and bounded by hedges with occasional hedgerow trees. Smaller fields have often been amalgamated to create large irregular parcels.

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.

The type.

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 larger scale cuttings, embankments and interchanges.

Railway

Only major railways are mapped and only where the scale of development is significant. The Railway subtype therefore covers larger scale cuttings, embankments and sidings.

Water treatment works

Sewerage or water treatment works. Only features in rural or urban fringe situations are mapped; others are subsumed within the Develop: 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.

Lakes and ponds

A variable type covering a range of natural and man made water bodies.

Subtypes

Flooded clay pits & gravel workings.

The water bodies of abandoned or restored clay pits, sand and gravel working. Abandoned features tend to have an irregular form with steep bank sides and fairly deep water, surrounded by areas of semi-natural vegetation,

rank grassland, secondary woodland and scrub made up of species such as willows, alder and downy birch. Restored water bodies have a more designed form with shallower margins.

Lowland lakes & ponds

Natural lakes or ponds. These are typically shallow features with irregular margins set in open pastures. Those mapped appear to have arisen from subsidence or water table rebound on the coal measures and the magnesian limestone, or from impeded field drainage. They may be fringed with marginal emergent vegetation (common reed, Reedmace) or be grazed to the water's edge. Submerged fences and other field boundaries may occur in the more recently developed features. Only larger water bodies are mapped. Smaller ponds are subsumed within the larger tracts in which they occur.

Ornamental lake

Ornamental lakes of parklands and recreation grounds. Only larger features are mapped. Many similar features may be found within the Parkland and Parks and Recreation grounds local types. They typically have a designed but 'naturalistic' shape and may be planted with ornamental or native species depending on their context.

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.

Subtypes

Reservoir.

Reservoir water body.

Reservoir fringes.

Areas of pasture, rough grazing or unmanaged grassland bordering the reservoirs & containing dams, spillways and other infrastructure.

Lowland woods

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

Subtypes

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.

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 denes 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.

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.

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.

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 washlands.

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.

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.

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

Permian limestone quarry

Large quarries worked primarily for road stone, chemical and refractory products. Quarry faces are of soft creamy yellow magnesian limestones. Crushing, screening and coating plant occupy parts of the quarry floor. Lime-rich quarry wastes, overburdens and lime heaps support a very diverse calcareous grassland flora including many stress tolerant species like orchids, and secondary woodlands of ash, elder, hawthorn, goat willow, grey willow and wild rose species which may colonise undisturbed areas.

Nurseries and Market gardens

Commercial nurseries, garden centres and market gardens, typically including extensive areas of greenhouses, car parking and storage areas. Some include areas of intensive horticulture, growing trees, herbaceous plants or fruit bushes.

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

Enclosed parkland pasture.

Enclosed ornamental farmland currently under pasture. Field systems may date from earlier enclosures or may be contemporary with the layout of the park. The parkland character often survives largely in the woodland pattern although field or avenue trees may also be present.

Open parkland arable.

Open parkland currently in arable use. Few parkland features other than the larger woodland pattern and occasional isolated trees usually survive

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

Allotment gardens.

Allotment gardens vary in character but are typically laid out in regular plots which may be open or surrounded by individual fences. Some allotments contain many buildings & structures – sheds, greenhouses, poultry houses, frames etc – often made out of reclaimed materials.

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.

Race course

Race courses typically include a race track and associated building complex and car parking

Plain farmland: arable

Gently rolling or gently undulating arable farmland on the heavy clay soils of the Tees plain. Field boundaries are largely pre-inclosure hedges, usually dominated by hawthorn and trimmed fairly low, with scattered (locally abundant) hedgerow ash, oak and sycamore. Field patterns are sub-regular, often preserving the curving alignment of medieval strip fields, and are locally disrupted by field amalgamations.

Subtypes

Old Enclosure.

The type.

Surveyor Enclosed.

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

Plain farmland: open arable

Open, gently rolling or gently undulating arable farmland on the heavy clay soils of the Tees plain. Field boundaries are largely pre-inclosure hedges, usually dominated by hawthorn and trimmed fairly low. Field sizes are large and the sub-regular patterns of former field systems are heavily disrupted by field amalgamations. Hedgerow trees are absent or infrequent.

Subtypes

Old Enclosure.

The type.

Plain farmland: open pasture

Open, gently rolling or gently undulating farmland of improved and semi-improved pasture on the heavy clay soils of the Tees plain. Fields are often large and bounded by low clipped thorn hedges or wire fences. Hedgerow trees are absent or infrequent. Older pastures often preserve relics of medieval rigg and furrow and deserted or shrunken medieval villages.

Subtypes

Old Enclosure.

The type.

Reclaimed land

Small areas of reclaimed landfill. Open, poor quality pasture lacking mature landscape features.

Plain farmland: pasture

Open, gently rolling or gently undulating farmland of improved and semi-improved pasture on the heavy clay soils of the Tees plain. Fields boundaries are hawthorn hedges, clipped in places and tall and overgrown in others, with scattered, locally abundant, hedgerow oak, ash and sycamore. Field patterns are sub-regular, often preserving the curving alignment of medieval strip fields. Older pastures often preserve relics of medieval rigg and furrow and deserted or shrunken medieval villages. Small field ponds are common.

Subtypes

Old Enclosure.

The type.

Plain farmland: wooded arable

Gently rolling or gently undulating wooded arable farmland on the heavy clay soils of the Tees plain. Field boundaries are largely pre-inclosure hedges, usually dominated by hawthorn and trimmed fairly low, with scattered (locally abundant) hedgerow ash, oak and sycamore. Field patterns are sub-regular, often preserving the curving alignment of medieval strip fields, but heavily disrupted by field amalgamations in places.

Subtypes

Old Enclosure.

The type.

Surveyor Enclosed.

Small tracts of late 19th century enclosure. Field boundaries are generally straight.

Plain farmland: wooded estate arable

Undulating wooded arable farmland. Field boundaries are pre-inclosure hedges, usually dominated by hawthorn and trimmed fairly low, with scattered (locally abundant) hedgerow ash, oak and sycamore. Field patterns are sub-regular, occasionally preserving the curving alignment of medieval strip fields, but more often disrupted by field amalgamations. 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.

The type.

Plain farmland: wooded estate pasture

Undulating wooded pastoral farmland. Fields of improved and semi-improved pasture are bounded by low, clipped thorn hedges or wire fences with scattered hedgerow oak, ash and sycamore. Field patterns are sub-regular. 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. Older pastures often preserve relics of medieval rigg and furrow. Field ponds are common in poorly drained hollows.

Subtypes

Old Enclosure.

The type.

Plain farmland: wooded pasture

Wooded, gently rolling or gently undulating farmland of improved and semi-improved pasture on the heavy clay soils of the Tees plain. Fields are often large and bounded by low, clipped, often gappy thorn hedges or wire fences with scattered, locally abundant hedgerow oak, ash and sycamore. Field patterns are sub-regular, occasionally preserving the curving alignment of medieval strip fields. Older pastures may preserve relics of medieval rigg and furrow and deserted or shrunken medieval villages. Small field ponds are common.

Subtypes

Old Enclosure.

The type.

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, and Alder – are common. River banks may be engineered in places, occasionally with low flood-protection levees.

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.

Institutions

A variable subtype including schools, hospitals, colleges and other institutions in rural situations. Large individual buildings or building complexes set in areas of open green space and amenity planting.

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 and retail estates subtype).

Vale floor farmland: arable

Gently rolling or gently undulating arable farmland on the fertile brown earths and heavy clay soils of the Tees Vale. Field boundaries are pre-inclosure hedges, usually dominated by hawthorn and regularly trimmed, with abundant hedgerow ash, oak and sycamore. Field patterns are sub-regular, preserving in places the curving alignment of medieval strip fields.

Subtypes

Old Enclosure.

The type.

Vale floor farmland: open arable

Gently rolling or gently undulating arable farmland on the fertile brown earths and heavy clay soils of the Tees Vale. Field boundaries are pre-inclosure hedges, usually dominated by hawthorn and regularly trimmed. Field patterns are generally sub-regular, often with large fields or field patterns disrupted by hedgerow removal. There are few trees.

Subtypes

Old Enclosure.

The type.

Surveyor enclosed.

Areas of C19th and C20th field rationalisation with straight hedgerows in fairly regular patterns though traversed by winding lanes and with the occasional older hedges.

Vale floor farmland: open pasture

Rolling pastoral farmland on the fertile brown earths and heavy clay soils of the Tees Vale. Pastures are mostly improved but with isolated pockets of semi-improved pasture or meadow. Field systems are a mixture of early post-medieval enclosures and later rationalisations, and boundary networks are often fragmented. Field boundaries are hedges, usually dominated by hawthorn though often containing other species (holly, blackthorn). Hedges are generally trimmed, though sometimes tall and overgrown. There are thinly scattered hedgerow ash, oak and sycamore.

Subtypes

Old Enclosure.

The type.

Surveyor enclosed.

Areas of C19th and C20th rationalisation.

Vale floor farmland: pasture

Rolling pastoral farmland on the fertile brown earths and heavy clay soils of the Tees Vale. Pastures are mostly improved but with pockets of semi-improved pasture or meadow. Field systems are early post-medieval enclosures, 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. 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. Hedges are regularly trimmed, though occasionally tall and overgrown. Hedgerow oak, ash and sycamore are common, and locally abundant. Relics of the medieval landscape – deserted villages, rigg and furrow, old mill races etc. occur locally.

Subtypes

Old Enclosure.

The type

Surveyor Enclosed.

Areas of late, 18th or 19th century enclosure, or later rationalisations. Field boundaries are straight and field systems are regular grids.

Vale floor farmland: wooded estate arable

Gently undulating wooded arable farmland. The landscape is largely unenclosed with fields defined by crop margins and tracks or woodland edges, with occasional old hedges. Woodlands include medium to large scale mixed plantations, generally with curving boundaries, and smaller copses and coverts.

Subtypes

Old Enclosure.

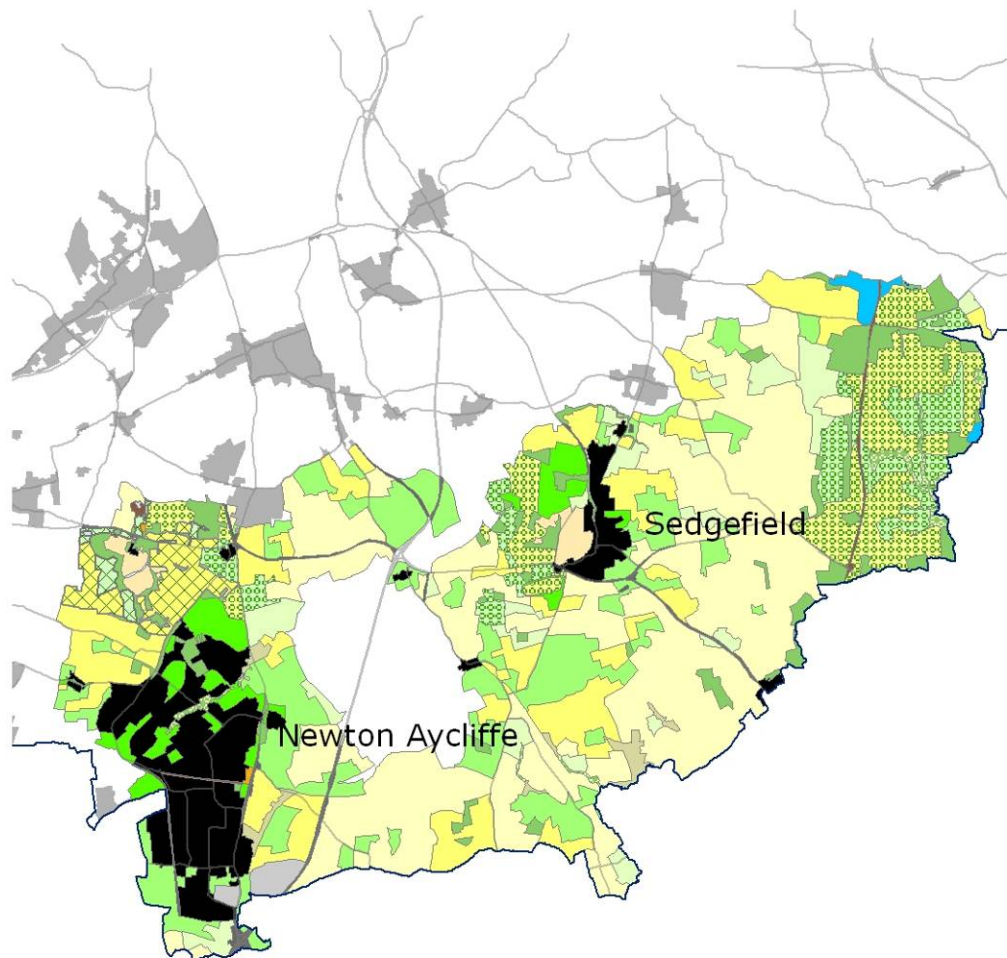
The type

Piecemeal enclosure

Areas of C19th and C20th rationalisation.

Local Landscape Types

Lowland Plain

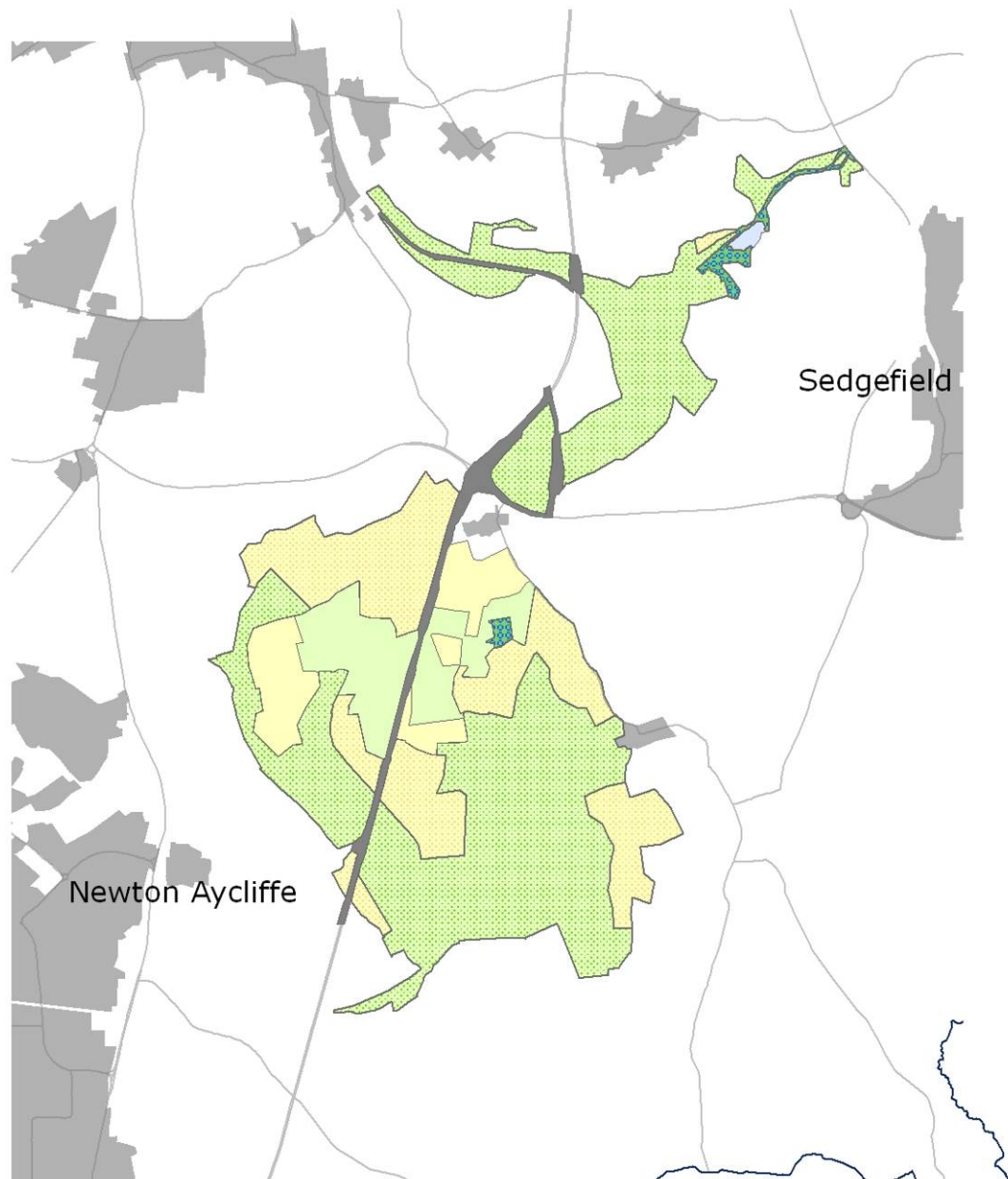


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|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| County Boundary | Lowland woods: floodplain & riverside |
| Settlements | Nurseries & market gardens |
| Roads | Parkland |
| Urban | Parks & recreation grounds |
| Infrastructure | Plain farmland: arable |
| Disturbed land | Plain farmland: open arable |
| Mineral working | Plain farmland: open pasture |
| Dene pastures | Plain farmland: pasture |
| Lakes & ponds | Plain farmland: wooded arable |
| Lowland reservoir | Plain farmland: wooded estate arable |
| Lowland woods | Plain farmland: wooded estate pasture |
| Lowland woods: denes & bluffs | Plain farmland: wooded pasture |

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Local Landscape Types

Lowland Carrs

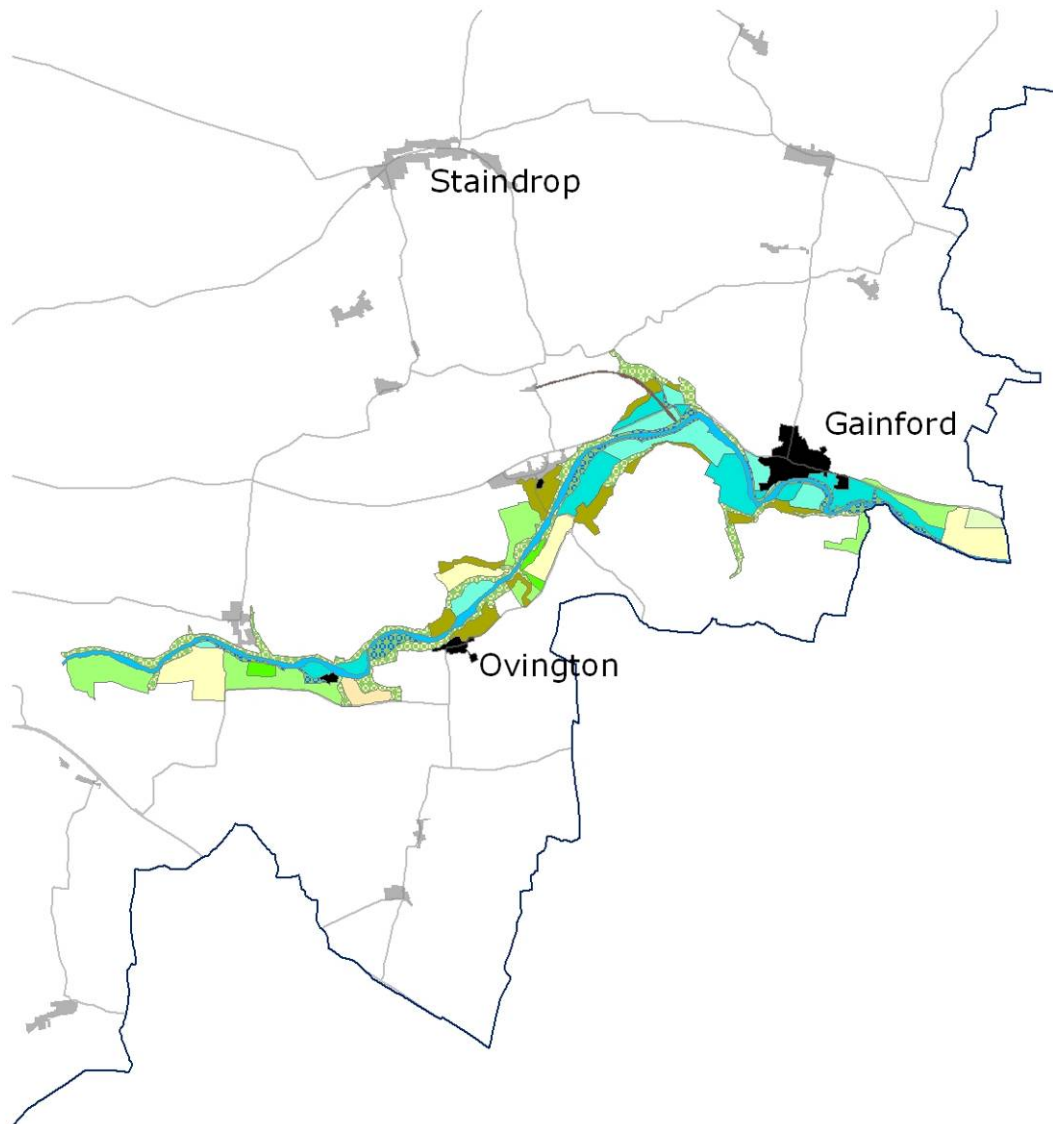


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|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| County Boundary | Carr farmland: open pasture |
| Settlements | Lakes & ponds |
| Roads | Lowland woods: floodplain & riverside |
| Infrastructure | Plain farmland: open arable |
| Carr farmland: open arable | Plain farmland: open pasture |

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Local Landscape Types

Lowland River Terraces

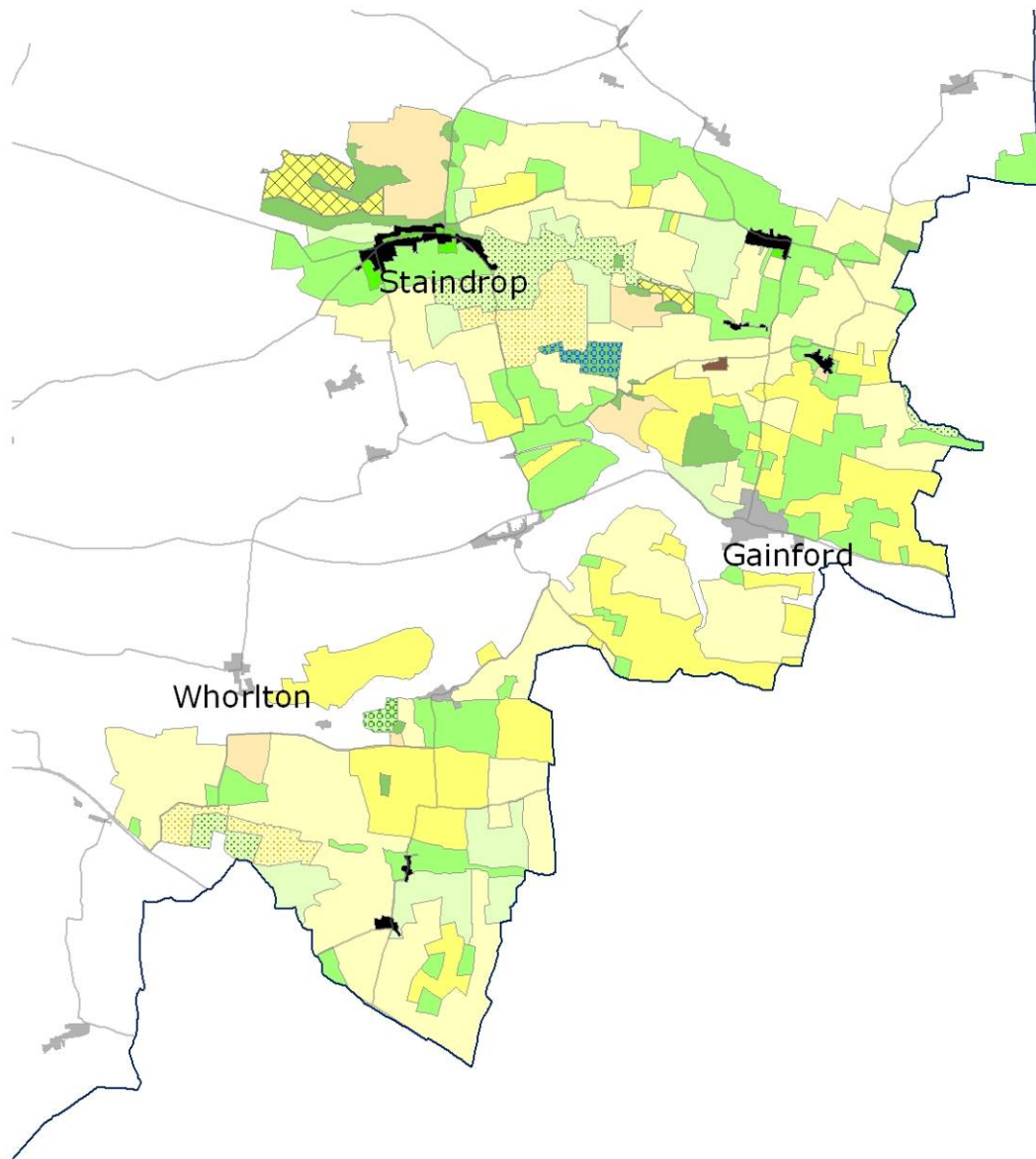


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|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| County Boundary | Lowland woods: denes & bluffs |
| Roads | Lowland woods: floodplain & riverside |
| Settlements | Parkland |
| Urban | Parks & recreation grounds |
| Disturbed land | River: middle reaches |
| Dene pastures | Vale floor farmland: open arable |
| Floodplain farmland: arable | Vale floor farmland: open pasture |
| Floodplain farmland: pasture | Vale floor farmland: pasture |

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Local Landscape Types

Lowland Vale



- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| County Boundary | Parks & recreation grounds |
| Roads | Urban |
| Carr farmland: open arable | Vale floor farmland: arable |
| Carr farmland: open pasture | Vale floor farmland: open arable |
| Disturbed land | Vale floor farmland: open pasture |
| Lowland woods | Vale floor farmland: pasture |
| Lowland woods: floodplain & riverside | Vale floor farmland: wooded estate arable |
| Parkland | Vale floor farmland: wooded pasture |
| | Settlements |

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