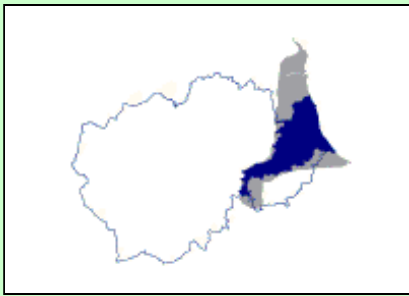


The East Durham Limestone Plateau



- The East Durham Limestone Plateau
- The East Durham Magnesian Limestone Plateau Countryside Character Area
- County Boundary



Key characteristics

- Gently rolling low plateau dipping southwards to the Tees plain and eastward to the coast where it is incised by steep sided denes.
- Soft Permian magnesian limestones are overlain by thick glacial boulder clays.
- A low west-facing escarpment is dissected in the north by minor valleys separated by well-defined spurs.
- Varied coastal topography of low limestone cliffs and clay slopes, sandy bays and rocky headlands, despoiled in places by the tipping of colliery wastes.
- Open largely arable farmland on heavy clay soils with large fields bounded by low clipped hedges and few hedgerow trees.
- Remnants of magnesian limestone grassland on thin calcareous soils on steeper escarpment slopes and drift free ridges. Limestone plant communities in old quarries.
- Woodland cover is low. Ancient ash woods are found in steep sided limestone denes towards the coast and on the escarpment inland.
- Widespread urban development with scattered mining towns and villages becoming more concentrated towards the coast. Large industrial estates fringe the main settlements.
- Strong corridors of infrastructure in the east and west including major roads, the A1 (M) and A19, railway lines and transmission lines.
- Large limestone quarries are prominent on the escarpment. Areas of derelict or recently restored colliery land are found close to towns and villages.
- A landscape heavily influenced by development with a semi-rural or urban fringe character in places.

Description

A low upland plateau of Magnesian Limestone falling eastwards to the sea and southwards to the Tees plain and defined in the west by a prominent escarpment. The soft Permian rocks that underlie the plateau are covered in most places by a thick mantle of glacial drift but outcrop on the escarpment and coast. The escarpment is deeply divided in the north forming a spur and vale landscape, which becomes less sharply defined in the south and merges with the low eastern ridges of the Pennine fringe. The topography of the plateau is gently undulating and is deeply incised in the east by coastal denes. The coastline is one of clay crested limestone cliffs, giving way in the south to low dunes, with a foreshore of sandy beaches and rock outcrops heavily despoiled in the north by tipping of coal wastes.

The heavy clay soils that cover much of the plateau support mixed, predominantly arable, farmland in an open rolling landscape of low hedges with few trees. Field patterns are fairly regular in places but more often fragmented by amalgamation into large arable fields. The shallow calcareous soils of the steeper escarpment slopes have a more pastoral emphasis and contain areas of older, more diverse, magnesian limestone grassland.

Tree cover is sparse and there is little woodland. Ancient semi-natural ash woodlands are found in the coastal denes and occasionally on escarpment spurs and valley sides together with areas of scrub.

Old agricultural villages are scattered thinly across the landscape. Buildings are of local limestone or carboniferous sandstone with roofs of slate or clay pan tile and are often set around a village green. Mining towns and villages are more widespread and increase in density towards the coast. Many were built on the site of older villages and some retain an older core. Most have a centre of 19th century terraced housing of brick or stone and slate surrounded by estates of post-war public housing. Settlement edges are often abrupt or fringed by allotment gardens, pony paddocks or industrial estates. The large new town of Peterlee lies in the south. The landscape is locally dominated by industrial land use and its associated infrastructure including major roads, railways and transmission lines, particularly in the coastal (A19) and central (A1(M)) corridors

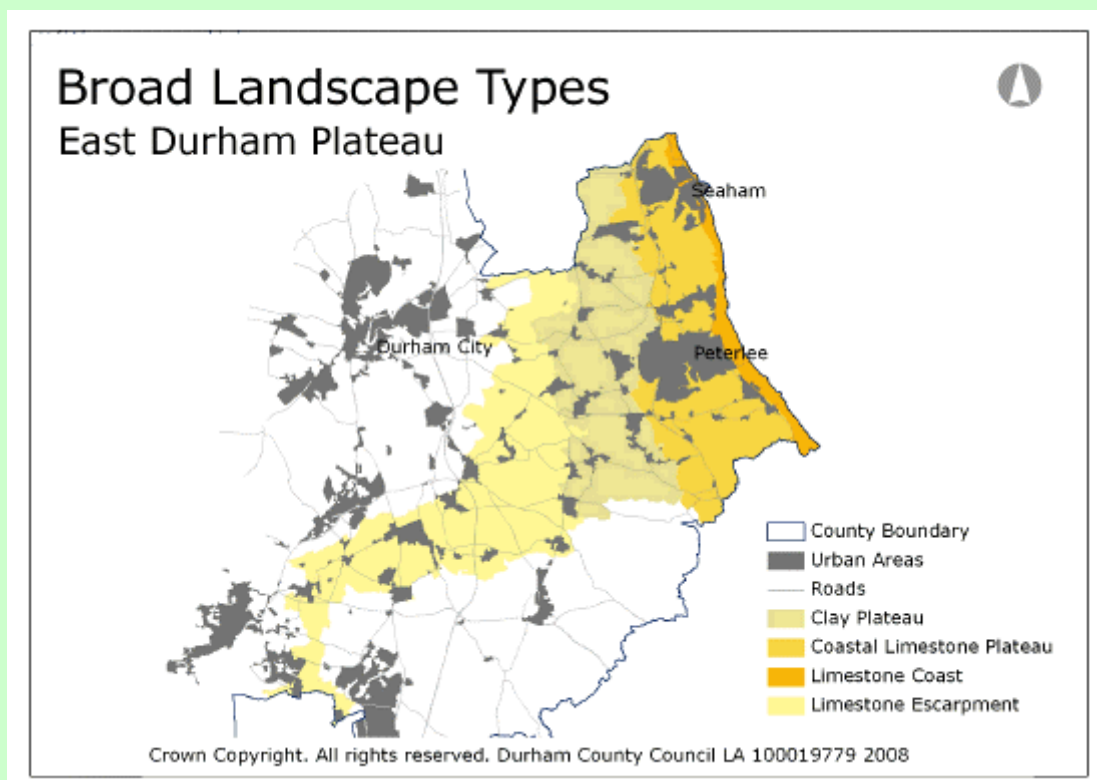
The landscape has been heavily influenced by coal mining both in its settlement pattern and Infrastructure, and in the substantial areas of derelict and recently claimed land in the urban fringe. The escarpment and parts of the plateau have also been affected by the quarrying of limestone. Large active and disused quarries occupy prominent sites on the escarpment. A number of older quarries that have naturally re-vegetated are managed as nature reserves.

The landscape is generally open and broad in scale although the plateau terrain rarely affords long distance views. From the higher ground of the escarpment there are panoramic views across the Wear lowlands to the Pennine fringes beyond, and south across the Tees plain to the Cleveland Hills. The landscape of the plateau has been heavily influenced by urban and industrial development and its scattered mining towns and villages and busy roads give it a semi-rural or urban fringe character in places.

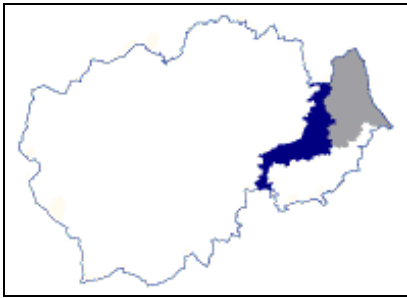
Broad landscape types

The East Durham Plateau can be broadly divided into escarpment and plateau landscapes. In the north, and to a lesser degree in the south where it merges with the eastern ridges of the Pennine fringe, the **Limestone Escarpment** is deeply divided by minor valleys giving rise to distinctive 'spur and vale' topography. In its central section it forms a more singular ridge.

East of the escarpment, on the **Clay Plateau**, the limestone is overlain by thick glacial drift and is rarely expressed at the surface. Towards the coast – roughly east of the A19 - it outcrops more frequently in the low rounded hills and steep-sided coastal denes of the **Coastal Limestone Plateau**. The **Limestone Coast**, with its low cliffs and dunes, is also identified as a separate landscape type, defined inland generally by the coastal railway line



Limestone Escarpment



- Limestone Escarpment
- East Durham Limestone Plateau
- County Boundary



Key characteristics

- A low escarpment, deeply dissected in places to form a series of short valleys between well-defined spurs.
- Occasional steep sided incised valleys and glacial melt-water channels.
- Gently rounded topography of soft magnesian limestones covered in places by glacial drift.
- Thin calcareous soils over limestones with heavier clays on boulder clay and brown earths on glacial sands and gravels.
- Open, predominantly arable farmland, with pasture on steeper slopes.
- Remnants of limestone grassland on the thin soils of scarp slopes, spurs, ridge tops and incised valleys.
- Varied limestone plant communities in abandoned limestone quarries.
- Semi-regular patterns of medium and large-scale fields bounded by low, clipped hawthorn hedges.
- Few trees – thinly scattered hedgerow ash.
- Sparsely wooded – ancient ash woodlands and areas of hawthorn scrub on steep spurs and vale-sides.
- Occasional small 'green' villages on ridge tops and valley floors. Scattered mining towns and villages.
- Large limestone quarries often in prominent locations on ridges and spurs.
- A visually open landscape with panoramic views across the surrounding lowlands.
- Rural in character in places but with a semi-rural or urban fringe quality in settled areas.

Description

A low escarpment, deeply dissected in places to form a series of short valleys between well defined spurs, but forming a simpler low ridge elsewhere. Soft and easily weathered creamy yellow magnesian limestones (dolomites) and sands form gently rounded, convex slopes. They are overlain in places by boulder clays, or locally by glacial sands and gravels that give rise to a more undulating terrain. There are occasional steep-sided glacial melt water channels that cut down into valley floors or breach the escarpment ridge. Valleys are often dry in their upper reaches and there are occasional springs at the base of the scarp. Watercourses are small and

inconspicuous. Soils are diverse, with thin calcareous soils over limestone outcrops, heavier neutral clays on glacial boulder clay and free draining brown earths on sands and gravels.

Agricultural land-use is mixed but predominantly arable, with pasture generally restricted to the steeper slopes. Field boundaries are hedgerows, or, very occasionally, low limestone walls. Hedges are usually clipped low and dominated by hawthorn. Field patterns are semi-regular in pattern and most date from the enclosure of the common town fields of the older escarpment villages in the 1600s. There are remnants of old, flower rich limestone grasslands – with Blue Moor-grass, Sheep's Fescue and herbs such as Wild Thyme and Common rockrose - on the thin soils of scarp slopes, spurs, incised valleys and ridge tops.

Tree and woodland cover is low. The landscape is generally very open with thinly scattered hedgerow ash and sycamore. Ancient ash woods and areas of hawthorn or gorse scrub are found on steeper spurs and valley sides. There are patches of scrub in and around abandoned limestone quarries and colliery land, and a few areas of mature plantations associated with former parklands.

Old agricultural villages are found on ridge tops and valley floors. Buildings are of local limestone or sandstone from the nearby coal measures with roofs of clay pan tile or welsh slate and are typically set around a central village green. Mining villages and small towns are scattered irregularly across the escarpment, some having absorbed older villages. They are made up of buildings from a number of periods including Victorian terraced housing of red brick and slate, estates of the inter-war and post-war public housing and more recent private development. Settlement edges are abrupt or fringed by allotment gardens and pony paddocks,

The magnesian limestone of the escarpment has been worked for building and agricultural lime since the Middle Ages, and more recently for construction aggregates and refractory products. Large active and abandoned quarries are prominent features in the landscape. Many older quarries have naturally re-vegetated and contain very diverse limestone plant communities. Coal mining has also had a substantial influence on the landscape, although much of its legacy has been removed by land reclamation in recent years. Areas of land restored to open agricultural land or coniferous forestry are found around the colliery villages. The escarpment is crossed by the A1 (M), the east coast main line and major overhead transmission lines.

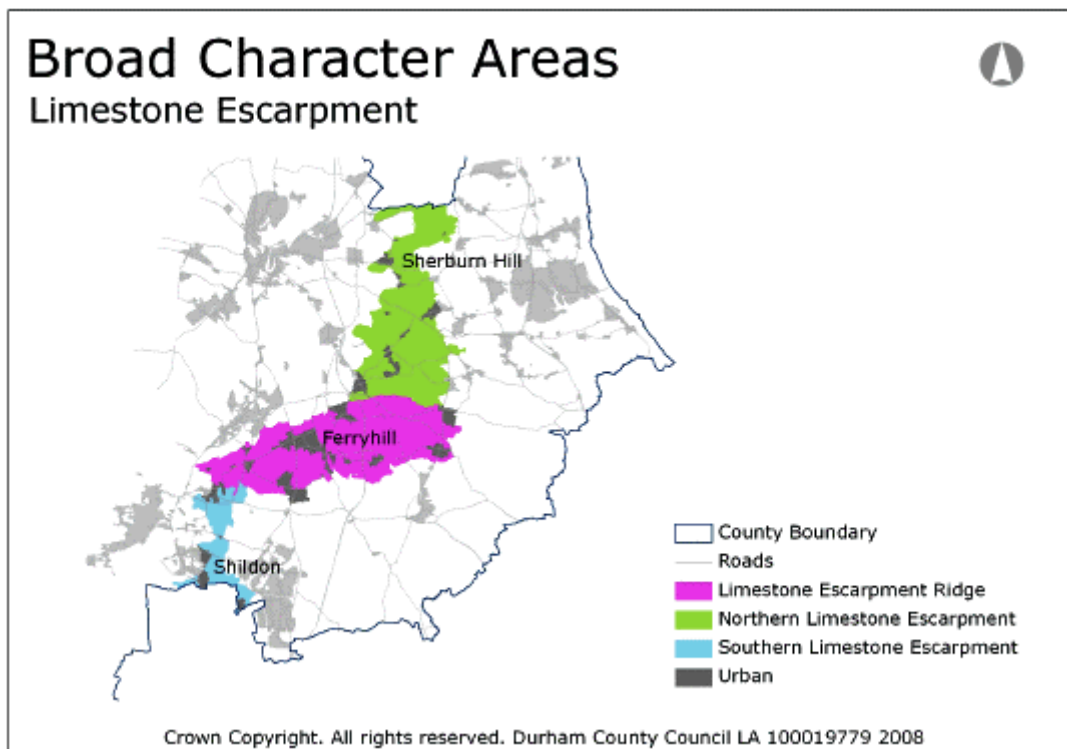
The landscape is visually open and broad in scale with panoramic views out across the Wear Lowlands to the east and the Tees Lowlands to the South. Within the escarpment valleys it is often more enclosed and intimate in scale. In places it has a very rural character, but generally its frequent mining villages, quarries and waste disposal sites, busy roads and overhead services give it a semi-rural or urban fringe quality.

Broad Character areas

The Limestone Escarpment landscape type is represented by three Broad Character Areas.

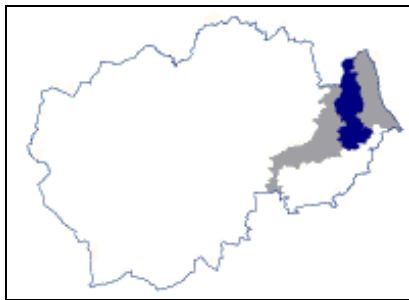
The Limestone Escarpment Ridge. A low escarpment with moderately sloping scarp slopes and more gently undulating dip slopes, divided by the steep-sided gorge of the Ferryhill Gap. A patchwork of arable and improved pasture, predominantly arable in the east, with old pre-enclosure field systems which are locally fragmented. Field boundaries are hedges, usually clipped low, with few hedgerow trees. There are occasional limestone walls, notably in the medieval deer park of Bishop Middleham. An open landscape with little woodland other than the young plantations of reclaimed colliery land, and ancient ash woods which line the gorge. Old green villages and hamlets on the ridgetop (Kirk Merrington, Westerton) and in the fringes of the carrs to the south (Bishop Middleham, Mainsforth) are connected by narrow winding lanes. Larger colliery villages lie on the ridgetop (Ferryhill, Cornforth) and the southern dipslope (Chilton, Fishburn). Large limestone quarries are found on the ridge in the east: the chimney of Thrislington Quarry is a prominent landmark. The ridge is crossed by the A1(M) and busy trunk roads. There are commanding views across the Wear Lowlands from higher ground. To the south the Cleveland Hills form a strong distant horizon.

The Northern Limestone Escarpment. A deeply dissected low escarpment of well defined spurs and valleys running northwards along the edge of the Wear lowlands. A patchwork of arable fields and improved pastures, with areas of limestone grasslands on the steeper slopes of spurs and valley sides. Field systems are generally pre-enclosure with old hedges, clipped low, or tall and overgrown, and few hedgerow trees. Ancient ash woodlands are found occasionally on steep slopes but woodlands are generally sparse. There are areas of hawthorn or gorse scrub on steeper slopes. Valley floors are incised in places by shallow denes, or flat-floored glacial melt water channels containing semi-improved pastures and areas of scrub. Colliery villages are scattered across the escarpment, often on prominent ridgetop or valley side sites (Sherburn Hill, Quarrington Hill, Kelloe). Active and abandoned limestone quarries are a regular feature of the landscape. The large quarry face of Cornforth (Raisby) Quarry is a notable landmark.



The Southern Limestone Escarpment. The limestone outcrops along the edge of the Wear valley in a landscape which is transitional in character between the Limestone Escarpment and the Coalfield Valleys. An open landscape of arable farmland in shallow valleys falling to the Wear or on low gently sloping ridge-tops between the villages of Coundon and Shildon.

CLAY PLATEAU



- Clay Plateau
- East Durham Limestone Plateau
- County Boundary



Key characteristics

- Low plateau of flat, gently rolling or undulating terrain.
- Soft magnesian limestones are covered by a thick mantle of boulder clay.
- Heavy, seasonally waterlogged clay soils.
- Mosaic of improved pasture and arable cropping - mostly cereals and oilseed rape.
- Regular or semi-regular patterns of medium and large-scale fields bounded by low hawthorn hedges.
- Few trees – thinly scattered hedgerow ash, oak and sycamore.
- Sparsely wooded – occasional small broadleaved woods and larger conifer plantations.
- Scattered mining villages connected by a well developed network of busy roads.
- Telecommunications masts and pylons frequently feature on the skyline.
- Areas of derelict colliery land, reclaimed land and old clay pits.
- Abandoned railway lines, many in use as cycleways.
- A visually open landscape, broad in scale, with a semi-rural or urban fringe quality in places.

Description

A low plateau of flat, gently undulating or gently rolling terrain. Soft magnesian limestones (dolomites) are overlain by glacial drift - mostly boulder clays with isolated pockets of sands and gravels – often to a substantial depth. Soils are heavy, seasonally waterlogged brown stony clay soils with pockets of lighter calcareous soils where there is no drift. Pockets of peaty clay soils occur in poorly drained areas.

Agricultural land use is mixed with a mosaic of improved pasture and arable cropping of cereals and oilseed rape. Field boundaries are hawthorn-dominated hedgerows, usually low and trimmed in arable areas but occasionally tall and overgrown around pastures. Field patterns are variable but are generally regular or semi-regular. Some date from the enclosure of the town fields of older villages, or enclosures from the manorial wastes associated with individual farms - often called 'granges' - from the late 1500s. Others date from the enclosure of open wastes from the mid 1700s – usually indicated by the place name 'moor' - and have the characteristic regular grid patterns of land enclosed by surveyors. Field patterns have been heavily disrupted in places by the amalgamation of smaller units into large arable fields.

Tree and woodland cover is low. The landscape is very open with thinly scattered hedgerow oak, ash and sycamore. There are few woodlands other than occasional small broadleaved woods and a number of larger conifer plantations. Areas of scrub and young woodland are found on pockets of derelict colliery land, old railway lines and abandoned grassland.

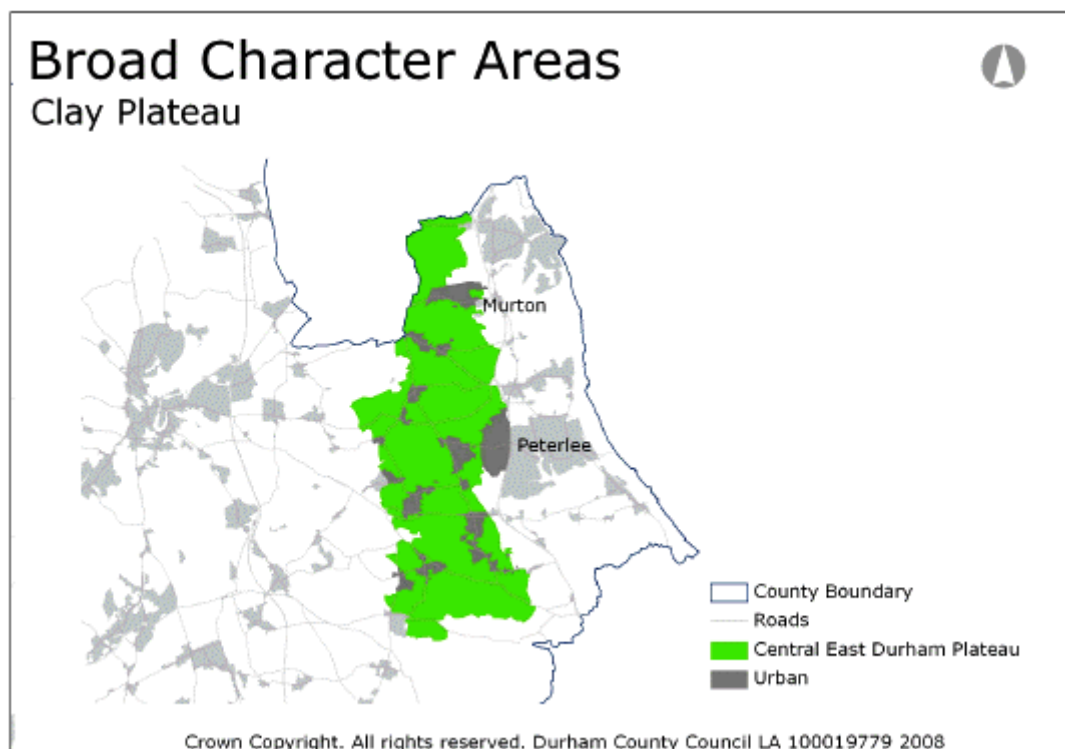
Historically a sparsely settled landscape of scattered villages and extensive wastes on the heavy and poorly drained soils of the central plateau. Some older villages and farms survive. Most are of local limestone, or more durable Carboniferous sandstones imported from the west of the county, with roofs of red clay pan tile. Mining villages are scattered across the plateau, some having absorbed older villages. They are made up of buildings from a number of periods including Victorian terraced housing of red brick and slate, estates of the inter-war and post-war public housing and more recent private development. Settlement edges are abrupt or fringed by allotment gardens and pony paddocks. Villages are connected by a relatively dense network of busy roads, and old railway lines - many now in use as recreational cycleways.

Coal mining has had a substantial influence on the landscape. Much of its legacy has been removed by land reclamation in recent years, but some areas of dereliction remain. Areas of land restored to agriculture or forestry are found around the colliery villages. Many villages also had small brickworks associated with them and old flooded clay pits are common. Telecommunications masts and the pylons of overhead transmission lines feature frequently on the skyline.

The landscape is visually very open and broad in scale, and has a semi-rural or urban fringe quality in most places coming from its dense settlement pattern, busy roads, overhead services and areas of derelict land.

Broad Character Areas

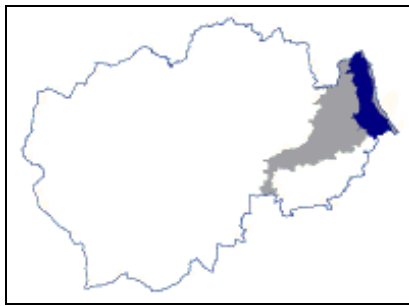
The Clay plateau landscape type is represented by a single Broad Character Area.



The Central East Durham Plateau. The plateau runs from the county boundary north of Murton to the Tees Plain south of Station Town and Trimdon Colliery, defined in the east by the A19. An open landscape of gently rolling, in places almost flat, farmland; a patchwork of arable cropping and improved pasture. Old pre-enclosure

hedges or those of the later enclosures of the 'moors' are low and trimmed or tall and overgrown and there are few hedgerow trees. The landscape around Wingate and Wheatley hill is heavily wooded with large mixed plantations, but elsewhere there are few woodlands. Colliery villages are scattered across the plateau connected by minor roads. Overhead power lines are regular features of the skyline. The area is crossed by a number of disused railway lines including the Haswell to Hart walkway.

Coastal Limestone Plateau



- Coastal Limestone Plateau
- East Durham Limestone Plateau
- County Boundary



Key characteristics

- Low coastal plateau of rolling terrain, incised by narrow steep-sided denes.
- Gently rounded topography of soft magnesian and shell limestones covered in places by glacial drift of boulder clay, sands and gravels.
- Heavy, seasonally waterlogged clay soils and lighter brown earths.
- Predominantly arable farmland of cereals and oilseed rape.
- Semi-regular patterns of medium and large-scale fields bounded by low hawthorn hedges.
- An open landscape exposed to the sea with few trees or woodlands.
- Ancient ash woods in sheltered denes.
- Large mining towns and villages connected by a well-developed network of busy roads.
- Scattered older agricultural 'green' villages connected by narrow winding lanes.
- Occasional areas of parkland and estate farmland rich in hedgerow trees.
- A visually open landscape, broad in scale but with spaces defined by the rolling terrain.
- The sea is often visible forming the eastern horizon.
- A semi-rural or urban fringe quality in places.

Description

A low coastal plateau of gently rolling terrain, incised by narrow steep sided denes. Soft magnesian limestones (dolomites) and shell or reef limestones are overlain generally by glacial drift of boulder clays and sands and gravels. Soils are heavy, seasonally waterlogged brown stony clay soils with pockets of lighter calcareous soils where there is no drift, and fertile brown earths over deposits of sands and gravels.

Agricultural land use is largely arable and dominated by cereals and oilseed rape. Field boundaries are low, clipped, hawthorn hedges. Field patterns are semi-regular, and most date from the enclosure of the town fields of older villages in the 1600s. Field patterns have been heavily disrupted in places by the amalgamation of smaller units into very large arable fields.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER
THE EAST DURHAM LIMESTONE PLATEAU
BROAD LANDSCAPE TYPE **COASTAL LIMESTONE PLATEAU**

Tree cover is generally very low with only isolated hedgerow ash or sycamore. There are, however, localised areas of parkland and estate farmland that is rich in hedgerow and field trees. The landscape is generally very open and exposed to the strong, salt laden winds and sea frets of the North Sea. Woodlands are almost entirely restricted to the sheltered denes that contain ancient woodlands of ash, oak, wych elm and yew.

Historically a settled landscape with a nucleated pattern of small agricultural villages of early medieval origins. A number of these survive and most have buildings of local limestone, or more durable sandstone imported from the west of the county, and roofs of red clay pan tile. Buildings are typically set around a central green. Old villages and scattered farms are connected by narrow winding roads and lanes.

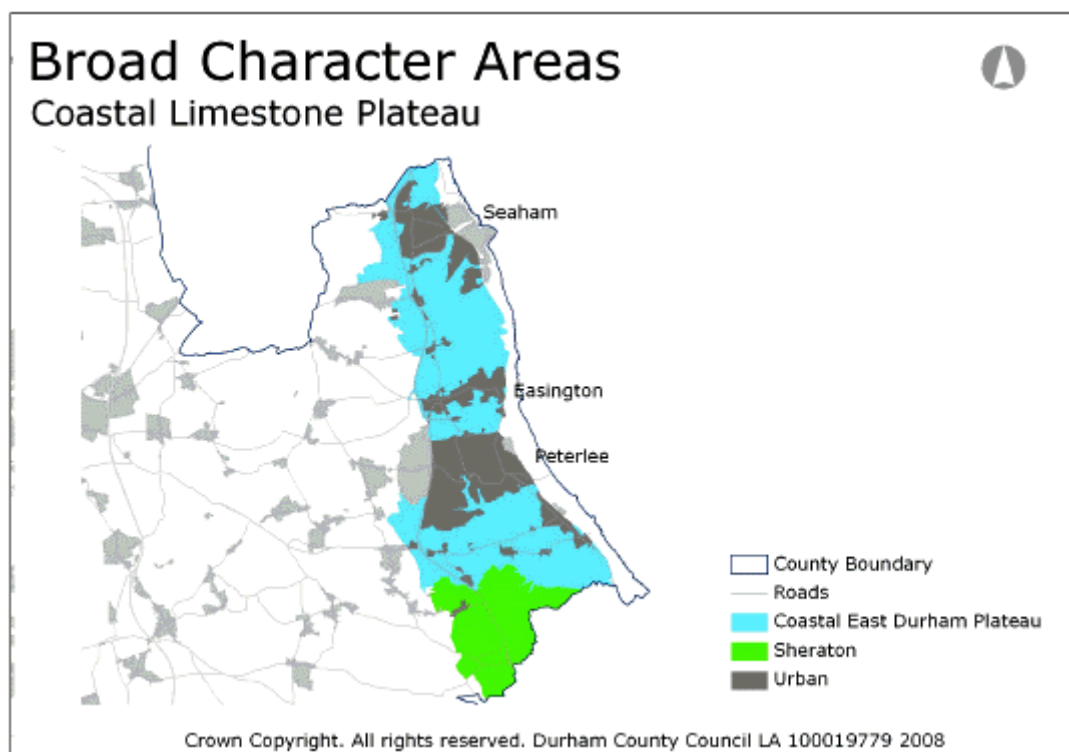
The new town of Peterlee and large mining villages developed around major coastal collieries occupy a substantial part of the coastal plateau. They are made up of buildings from a number of periods including Victorian terraced housing of red brick and slate, estates of the inter-war and post-war public housing and more recent private development. Settlement edges are abrupt or fringed by allotment gardens and pony paddocks or large industrial estates.

Coal mining has had a substantial influence on the landscape, its main legacy being in the settlement pattern. Extensive areas of colliery land are currently being reclaimed to housing and industry. The coastal plateau is an important communications corridor and is crossed by the busy A19 trunk road and the coastal railway line.

The landscape is visually open and broad in scale, with spaces defined by the rolling topography. The sea is often visible, forming a strong distant horizon to the east. A densely settled landscape with a semi-rural or urban fringe quality in many places, but with a strongly rural character in some areas.

Broad Character Areas

The Coastal Limestone Plateau landscape type is represented by two Broad Character Areas.

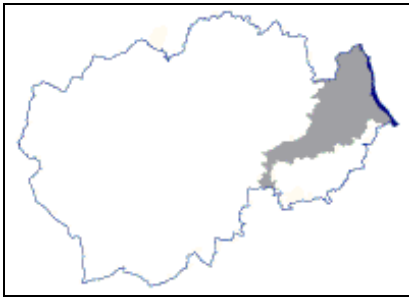


The Coastal East Durham Plateau. A rolling plateau incised in places by narrow denes. A densely settled landscape dominated by the towns of Peterlee, Seaham and Easington Colliery. Between the settlements lie

open arable farmlands with low hedges and few trees. The denes are heavily wooded and contain ancient ash woods and mixed plantations; woodlands are largely absent elsewhere. South of Peterlee the estate farmland of Castle Eden is rich in hedgerow trees. The busy A19 trunk road runs along the boundary of the character area in the west.

Sheraton. An undulating coastal plain, transitional in character between the Coastal Limestone Plateau and the Lowland Plain to the south, and extending outside of the county to the south and east. The terrain is for the most part gently undulating, though strongly undulating in places, forming discrete low hills. A predominantly arable landscape with old pre-enclosure hedgerow networks, locally heavily fragmented, and few hedgerow trees. The area is crossed by the busy A19 in prominent cuttings and embankments. There are occasional small broadleaved woodlands on prominent hill-tops and large ancient woodlands in incised denes. The deserted medieval village of Sheraton with associated areas of rig and furrow pasture lies beside the A19.

Limestone Coast



- Limestone Coast
- East Durham Limestone Plateau
- County Boundary



Key characteristics

- Varied coast of shallow bays and headlands.
- Cliffs of pale magnesian limestone with crests of boulder clay, occasional caves and stacks.
- Sand or shingle beaches and rock platforms - despoiled in places by colliery wastes.
- Shallow dunes cut down into the cliff-top boulder clay. Larger dunes breach the limestone cliffs.
- Gently rolling cliff-top farmland of open arable fields or rough coastal grassland.
- Varied grassland flora – red fescue, sea plantain, and bloody cranesbill.
- Patches of wind-shaped blackthorn scrub with occasional hazel and juniper on clay slopes and cliff top dunes.
- Ancient woodlands of ash, oak, wych elm and yew in deeper sheltered dene-mouths.
- Localised sand dunes with marram grass, sea couch and red fescue.
- Generally undeveloped other than the port and sea front of Seaham and localised caravan parks and recreation facilities.
- Bordered inland by the coastal railway line or the edges and allotment gardens of mining settlements.
- Areas of recently reclaimed colliery land.
- A visually open landscape with extensive views out across the North Sea.
- A natural coastline damaged in places by colliery workings and with an urban fringe quality in places.

Description

A varied coastline of shallow bays and headlands. Much of the coastline is made up of cliffs, 20 to 30 metres in height, of pale, creamy yellow Permian limestones crested by steep slopes of boulder clay, with occasional caves and stacks. The limestones exposed in the cliffs vary in character and include soft dolomites, thinly bedded or “brecciated” by the collapse of underlying strata, oolitic and concretionary limestones, and fossil-rich reef limestones.

The foreshore is made up of beaches of sand and shingle or cobbles with occasional wave-cut rock platforms. Beaches are despoiled in places by the past tipping of colliery wastes, now being gradually eroded by the sea.

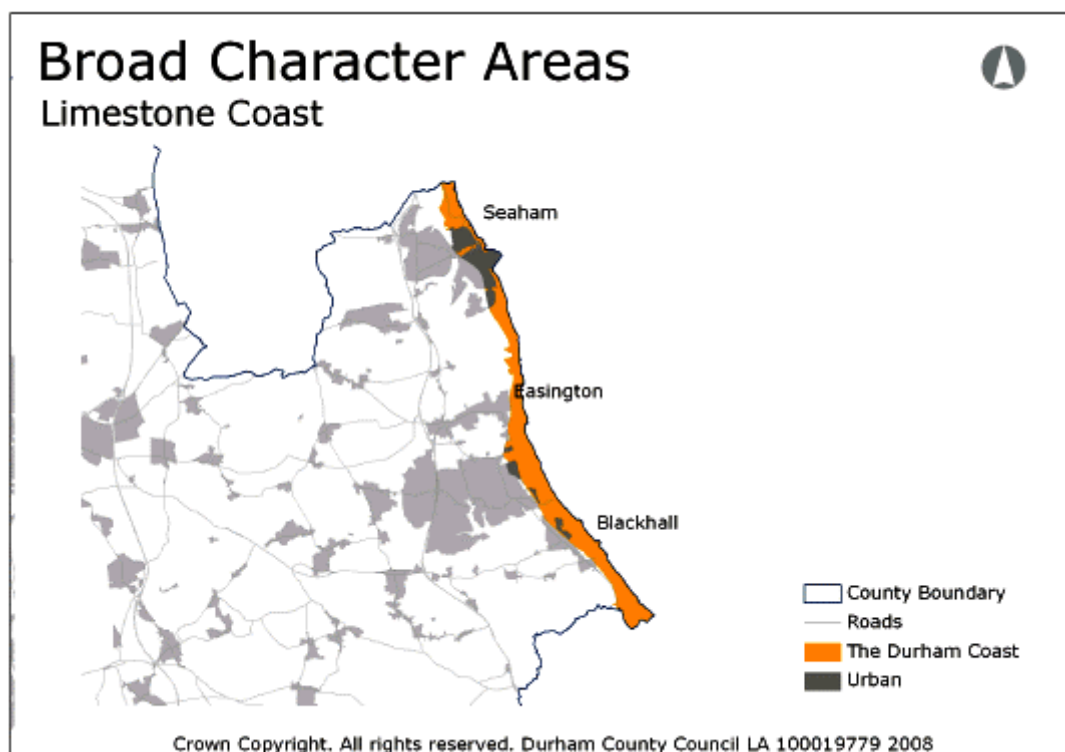
Shallow denes cut down into the cliff-top boulder clay and the mouths of larger inland denes breach the limestone cliffs. In the south, low sand dunes bound by marram grass and sea couch mark the transition with the lower lying coastal plain.

Above the cliffs lie relatively flat or gently rolling open arable fields and rough coastal grasslands. These grasslands, and those on the clay slopes, have a varied flora of red fescue, sea plantain and bloody cranesbill. Patches of wind-shaped blackthorn scrub with occasional stunted hazel and juniper are found on clay slopes and cliff top denes. Ancient woodlands of ash, oak, wych elm and yew lie in the deeper and more sheltered dene-mouths.

The coastline has no natural anchorages and is relatively undeveloped. There is a single working port at Seaham, which also has a developed sea front, and there are caravan sites in the south at Crimdon. It is bordered inland by the coastal railway line and by the edges of mining settlement. Allotment gardens and industrial estates spill onto the coast in places. There are areas of recently reclaimed colliery land, restored to open grassland.

The landscape is exposed and visually open with extensive panoramic views out across the North Sea, and dramatic scenic views along the coastline. It has natural and elemental qualities, coming from its geology, its semi-natural vegetation and the influences of the sea, but has a despoiled or urban fringe quality in places.

Broad Character Areas



The Limestone Coast landscape type is represented by a single Broad Character Area: **The Durham Coast**.

Local Landscape Types

Carr farmland: open pasture

Coastal arable

Coastal gills & denes

Coastal grassland

Coastal plain farmland: pasture

Coastal plain farmland: wooded arable

Dene pastures

Dene pastures (limestone)

Disturbed land

Escarpment ridges & spurs: arable

Escarpment ridges & spurs: open arable

Escarpment ridges & spurs: open pasture

Escarpment ridges & spurs: pasture

Escarpment ridges & spurs: wooded estate arable

Escarpment ridges & spurs: wooded pasture

Escarpment valley farmland: arable

Escarpment valley farmland: open arable

Escarpment valley farmland: open pasture

Escarpment valley farmland: pasture

Escarpment valley farmland: steep pasture

Escarpment valley farmland: wooded arable

Escarpment valley farmland: wooded estate pasture

Escarpment valley farmland: wooded pasture

Foreshore

Infrastructure

Lakes and ponds

Limestone cliffs & clay slopes

Lowland woods

Lowland woods: denes & bluffs

Mineral working

Parkland

Parks and recreation grounds

Plateau farmland: arable

Plateau farmland: open arable

Plateau farmland: open pasture

Plateau farmland: pasture

Plateau farmland: timbered estate arable

Plateau farmland: timbered estate pasture

Plateau farmland: wooded arable

Plateau farmland: wooded estate arable

Sand dunes

Scarp and dipslope farmland: arable

Scarp and dipslope farmland: open arable

Scarp and dipslope farmland: open pasture

Scarp and dipslope farmland: pasture

Scarp and dipslope farmland: wooded arable

Scarp and dipslope farmland: wooded pasture

Urban

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 and 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 more 'wandering' than 'ruler straight', although they may have been straightened over time with mechanisation.

Coastal arable

Open, exposed, gently sloping arable farmland above the cliffs and clay slopes of the coast. Fields are large and featureless with few internal boundaries, defined by the sinuous edge of the coast on the seaward side and by roads or railway lines on the landward side. Cropping is restricted to cereals or oilseed rape. There are no trees.

Subtypes

Old Enclosure.

Areas of early enclosure. Field patterns are sub-regular, with low, often gappy, hawthorn hedges.

Open coastal arable

The type.

Coastal gills & denes

Narrow, steep-sided coastal valleys including shallow 'hanging' gills incised into the drift above the limestone cliffs, and deeper, flat-floored denes which breach the cliffs. The more sheltered areas contain woodlands (see Lowland woods: denes & bluffs) – typically ancient ash woodlands (NVC W8) - which give way to open mixed scrub of hawthorn, gorse, blackthorn, privet, hazel and willow in more exposed seaward areas. Trees and woodlands are heavily influenced by exposure and salt spray: exposed trees and bushes are sculpted by the wind and dead trees are common in the canopy. The scrub in turn gives way on more exposed slopes to open rough grassland or a mosaic of grassland, bracken and scrub, merging with the very similar clay slopes which top the limestone cliffs. Watercourses in the gills are generally dry for much of the year. In the deeper and broader dene-mouths, small streams meander across flat, open rough grasslands on the dene floor.

Subtypes

Gill & dene-side grasslands

Steep slopes of unmanaged maritime grassland on steep dene sides which merges with the clay slopes of the coastal cliffs – sometimes with thinly scattered scrub of blackthorn, privet, burnet rose and creeping willow with the occasional juniper.

Dene floor grasslands.

Rough unmanaged maritime grassland on the dene floor. In places this has been improved as amenity grassland as part of recreational facilities.

Coastal grassland

Open, exposed, gently sloping grasslands above the cliffs and clay slopes of the coast. Fields are large and featureless with few internal boundaries, defined by the sinuous edge of the coast on the seaward side and by roads or railway lines on the landward side. There are no trees other than small areas of immature reclamation planting and occasional patches of gorse scrub. Small pockets of species-rich maritime grassland and heath occur locally. Most of the grassland is recent arable reversion and is species poor, rank and unmanaged. Surfaced footpaths, cycleways, small car parks, seating and interpretation facilities occur along the coastal edge.

Subtypes

Old Enclosure.

Areas where evidence of old enclosures survive. Field patterns are sub-regular. Boundaries are gappy thorn hedges or wire fences. Fragments of rig & furrow are discernible in places.

Open maritime grassland.

The type.

Restored maritime grassland.

Rough and relatively species-poor unmanaged grassland including both land in reversion from arable and restored colliery land.

Coastal plain farmland: pasture

Gently undulating pastoral farmland on the fertile brown earths of the Hart Coastal Plain. Only small areas of pasture – usually associated with farmsteads - survive in this predominantly arable landscape. Pastures are improved or semi-improved and often contain relics of medieval rig and furrow. Boundaries are pre-inclosure hedgerows, typically clipped low and dominated by hawthorn with few hedgerow trees.

Subtypes

Old enclosure.

The type.

Coastal plain farmland: wooded arable

Gently undulating arable farmland on the fertile brown earths of the Hart Coastal Plain. Field boundaries, where they survive, are pre-inclosure hedges but most have been removed in field rationalisations to leave large irregular fields defined only by crop margins or tracks. The landscape is open and broad in scale but defined and locally enclosed by the continuous linear woodland edges of large incised denes and scattered small broadleaved copses. There are few hedgerow or field trees.

Subtypes

Old enclosure.

The type.

Denes 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.

Dene pastures: limestone

Incised valleys and narrow, flat-floored, glacial melt-water channels of the limestone escarpment and coastal plateau. Soils are may be stagnogleys on boulder clays, brown earths on glacial gravels, calcareous brown earths on limestone outcrops, or a mosaic of all three. Pastures are generally less improved than in the surrounding landscapes, containing pockets of species rich calcareous or neutral grassland. Field boundaries are pre-inclosure hedges, more rarely limestone walls, in sub-regular patterns with scattered, locally abundant hedgerow oak, ash and sycamore. Steeper pastures often contain areas of hawthorn or gorse scrub. There may be relics of medieval features: deserted settlements and rig & furrow.

Subtypes

Old Enclosure.

The type.

Reclaimed land.

Reclaimed colliery land of improved pasture and wire fences

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 reedmace). Secondary woodland and scrub colonising areas of disturbed ground is dominated by pioneer species like birch, alder and goat or grey willow.

Old colliery workings

Abandoned colliery workings. A variable type but often including areas of bare colliery wastes, rough grassland and scrub or secondary woodland. Structures like coal tipplers, coke ovens, waggonways and derelict buildings survive in places. Acidic colliery spoils often support diverse acid grasslands or heath and secondary woodland or scrub of birch, alder, aspen, hawthorn, gorse and goat willow.

Old Permian 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 of soft creamy yellow Permian Limestones. Lime-rich quarry wastes, overburdens and lime heaps support a very diverse calcareous grassland flora including many stress tolerant species like orchids, and secondary woodland of ash, elder. Hawthorn, goat willow, grey willow and wild rose species.

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.

Escarpment ridges and spurs: arable

Arable farmland on the high divided ridges of the escarpment. Soils are a mixture of stony calcareous brown earths on limestone outcrops and heavier stagnogleys on clay drift. Field boundaries are largely pre-inclosure hedges in sub-regular patterns, usually dominated by hawthorn and trimmed fairly low. Hedgerow trees are sparse.

Subtypes

Old Enclosure.

The type.

Escarpment ridges and spurs: open arable

Open arable farmland on the high divided ridges of the escarpment. Soils are a mixture of stony calcareous brown earths on limestone outcrops and heavier stagnogleys on clay drift. Field boundaries are largely pre-inclosure hedges, usually dominated by hawthorn and trimmed fairly low. Fields are often large, and the sub-regular patterns of former field systems are in most places heavily disrupted by field rationalisations. Hedgerow trees are absent or infrequent.

Subtypes

Old Enclosure.

The type.

Surveyor Enclosed.

Areas of piecemeal 18th or 19th century enclosure. Field boundaries are straight.

Escarpment ridges and spurs: open pasture

Open pastoral farmland on the high divided ridges of the escarpment. Soils are a mixture of stony calcareous brown earths on limestone outcrops and heavier stagnogleys on clay drift. Pastures are mostly improved, with pockets of semi-improved pasture including some limestone grasslands. Field boundaries are largely pre-inclosure hedges in relatively regular or sub regular patterns. Hedges are usually dominated by hawthorn and are often tall, overgrown and supplemented by wire fences. Hedgerow trees are scarce. There may be patches of scrub on less improved pastures, or areas of relic rig and furrow.

Subtypes

Old Enclosure.

The type.

Modern field system.

Areas of C20th rationalisation, often enclosed by fences.

Reclaimed land.

Areas of reclaimed colliery or limestone workings with young hedges or fences and no mature trees.

Escarpment ridges and spurs: pasture

Pastoral farmland on the high divided ridges of the escarpment. Soils are a mixture of stony calcareous brown earths on limestone outcrops and heavier stagnogleys on clay drift. Pastures are mostly improved, with pockets of semi-improved pasture including some limestone grasslands. Field boundaries are largely pre-inclosure hedges in relatively regular or sub regular patterns. Hedges are usually dominated by hawthorn. Hedgerow trees are typically scarce though locally abundant. There may be patches of scrub on less improved pastures, or areas of relic rig and furrow.

Subtypes

Old Enclosure.

The type.

Escarpment ridges and spurs: wooded estate arable

Wooded arable farmland on the high divided ridges of the escarpment. Soils are stagnogleys on clay drift. Field boundaries are largely pre-inclosure hedges, usually dominated by hawthorn and trimmed fairly low. Fields are often large, and the sub-regular patterns of former field systems are in most places heavily disrupted by field rationalisations. Hedgerow trees are absent or infrequent.

Subtypes

Old Enclosure.

The type.

Escarpment ridges and spurs: wooded pasture

Wooded pastoral farmland on the high divided ridges of the escarpment. Soils are shallow calcareous brown earths over limestone outcrops. Pastures are generally improved but with some areas of semi-improved limestone grassland. Field boundaries are largely pre-inclosure hedges in relatively regular or sub regular patterns. Hedges are usually dominated by hawthorn and are often tall, overgrown and supplemented by wire fences. Hedgerow trees are common. There may be patches of scrub or broadleaved woodland and areas of medieval earthworks and rigg & furrow.

Subtypes

Old Enclosure.

The type.

Escarpment valley farmland: arable

Arable farmland on the escarpment valleys. Soils are predominantly heavy surface water gleys developed from underlying boulder clays but there are areas of calcareous brown earths on drift-free patches of limestone. Field

boundaries are largely pre-inclosure hedges, usually dominated by hawthorn and trimmed fairly low. Field patterns are sub regular. Hedgerow trees are absent or infrequent.

Subtypes

Old Enclosure.

The type.

Escarpment valley farmland: open arable

Open arable farmland on the escarpment valleys. Soils are predominantly heavy surface water gleys developed from underlying boulder clays but there are areas of calcareous brown earths on drift-free patches of limestone. Field boundaries are largely pre-inclosure hedges, usually dominated by hawthorn and trimmed fairly low. Fields are often large, and the sub-regular patterns of former field systems are in most places heavily disrupted by field rationalisations. Hedgerow trees are absent or infrequent.

Subtypes

Old Enclosure.

The type.

Escarpment valley farmland: open pasture

Open pastoral farmland on the escarpment valleys. Soils are predominantly heavy surface water gleys developed from underlying boulder clays but there are areas of calcareous brown earths on drift-free patches of limestone. Field boundaries are largely pre-inclosure hedges in sub regular patterns disrupted by field amalgamations. Hedges are usually dominated by hawthorn and are often tall, overgrown and supplemented by wire fences. Hedgerow trees are scarce. Pastures are generally improved and grazed by cattle, sheep or horses, or cut for silage. There are isolated patches of semi-improved pasture – often associated with relic rig and furrow – and scattered scrub in places.

Subtype

Old Enclosure.

The type.

Reclaimed land.

Areas of reclaimed colliery or limestone workings with young hedges or wire fences and no mature trees.

Escarpment valley farmland: pasture

Pastoral farmland on the escarpment valleys. Soils are predominantly heavy surface water gleys developed from underlying boulder clays but there are areas of calcareous brown earths on drift-free patches of limestone. Field boundaries are largely pre-inclosure hedges in sub regular patterns. Hedges are usually dominated by hawthorn and are often tall and overgrown. Hedgerow trees are typically scarce though may be locally more abundant. Pastures are generally improved and grazed by cattle, sheep or horses, or cut for silage. There are isolated patches of semi-improved pasture – often associated with relic rig and furrow.

Subtype

Old Enclosure.

The type.

Reclaimed land.

Areas of reclaimed colliery or limestone workings with young hedges or wire fences and no mature trees.

Escarpment valley farmland: steep pasture

Steeply sloping pasture land on the flanks of the escarpment spurs. Thin calcareous brown earths over outcropping limestones support unimproved or semi-improved limestone grasslands. Field boundaries, where they exist, are pre-inclosure hedges though patterns are heavily fragmented. Some pastures contain substantial areas of scrub – often dominated by hawthorn or gorse. There are patches of relic rig and furrow, often on the lower slopes.

Subtype

Old Enclosure.

The type.

Escarpment valley farmland: wooded arable

Wooded arable farmland on the floor of escarpment valleys. Soils are heavy surface water gleys developed from underlying boulder clays. Field boundaries are pre-inclosure hedges in sub-regular patterns, dominated by hawthorn and trimmed fairly low. Hedgerow trees are absent or infrequent. The wooded character of this local type is derived from woodlands on adjacent escarpment slopes.

Subtypes

Old Enclosure.

The type.

Escarpment valley farmland: wooded estate pasture

Wooded pastoral farmland of the escarpment valley floor. Soils are heavy surface water gleys developed from underlying boulder clays. Field boundaries are trimmed hedges with scattered hedgerow and avenue trees. Improved pastures are enclosed by planned estate woodlands of mixed conifer and broadleaved species on steep valley sides. Farmsteads and cottages are of a planned estate style.

Subtype

Surveyor enclosed.

The type.

Escarpment valley farmland: wooded pasture

Wooded pastoral farmland of the escarpment valley floor. Soils are heavy surface water gleys developed from underlying boulder clays. Field boundaries are largely pre-inclosure hedges in sub regular patterns, disrupted in places by the loss of hedgerows. Hedges are usually dominated by hawthorn and may be clipped or tall and overgrown. There are scattered hedgerow oak, ash and sycamore. Pastures are improved and grazed or cut for silage. The valley floor is visually enclosed by broadleaved woodlands on steep valley sides.

Subtype

Old Enclosure.

The type.

Foreshore

Foreshore of alternating bays and headlands with sand or sand and shingle beaches, modified in places by the tipping of colliery wastes, and wave-cut rock platforms.

Subtype

Rock platforms

Natural rocky foreshore of eroding wave-cut limestones.

Sea defences.

Artificial sea defences of loose-tipped angular boulders.

Beaches

Natural sand or mixed sand and shingle beaches.

Modified beaches.

Beaches that have been heavily modified by the tipping of colliery waste. Such beaches are typically surcharged above natural levels by a mixture of colliery waste and marine sands and gravels, and occasionally support sporadic vegetation including woody scrub. These beaches are currently eroding rapidly and returning to natural conditions.

Infrastructure

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

Subtypes

Airfield

Small scale airfields, generally very open in character, with runways, hangers and ancillary buildings.

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.

Landfill

Active landfill or other waste management facilities. Most feature voids – usually left from prior mineral extraction – currently being in-filled. Tipping activities and litter trap fencing may be prominent.

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.

Substation

Electricity substation. Usually associated with large numbers of overhead transmission lines. Only larger complexes are mapped.

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

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.

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.

Limestone cliffs and clay slopes

Low (20 to 30m) cliffs of pale, creamy yellow magnesian limestones with occasional caves and stacks crested by steep slopes of boulder clay. The limestones exposed in the cliffs vary in character and include soft dolomites, thinly bedded or "brecciated" by the collapse of underlying strata, oolitic and concretionary limestones, and fossil-rich reef limestones. The clay slopes have a varied flora of red fescue, sea plantain, thrift, common scurvy grass and bloody crane's-bill, with patches of wind-shaped blackthorn scrub, and the occasional stunted hazel and juniper.

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.

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.

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.

Lowland woods: denes & bluffs

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.

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.

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.

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.

Golf course.

Older parkland developed as a golf course. Parkland features survive along side familiar elements of the modern golf course – bunkers, greens, fairways, roughs and ponds – as well as new tree planting usually of a 'parkland' character.

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.

Country parks.

Formal recreational facilities in the countryside usually with areas of amenity grassland, car parks and other facilities.

Playing fields & urban green space.

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

Race courses & race tracks

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

Plateau farmland: arable

Open, flat or rolling arable farmland on the heavy clays and brown earths of the limestone plateau. Field boundaries are low hawthorn hedges. Hedgerow trees are sparse, though locally more abundant. Cereals and oil-seed rape are the dominant crops.

Subtypes

Old Enclosure.

Areas of early enclosure (of common town fields) with sub-regular field patterns and winding lanes.

Surveyor Enclosed.

Tracts of late 18th or 19th century enclosure (of former wastes) often distinguished by the place name 'moor'. Field boundaries are straight and field patterns regular.

Plateau farmland: open arable

Open, flat or rolling arable farmland on the heavy clays and brown earths of the limestone plateau. Field boundaries are low hawthorn hedges with few hedgerow trees. Field sizes are large and field patterns are often heavily disrupted by field amalgamations. Cereals and oil-seed rape are the dominant crops.

Subtypes

Modern field system.

Areas of C20th rationalisation, often enclosed by fences.

Old Enclosure.

Areas of early enclosure (of common town fields) with sub-regular field patterns and winding lanes. In areas

where the majority of hedgerows have been removed it may be difficult to distinguish this from the other subtypes.

Surveyor Enclosed.

Tracts of late 18th or 19th century enclosure (of former wastes) often distinguished by the place name 'moor'. Field boundaries are straight and field patterns regular where they haven't been affected by boundary removal.

Plateau farmland: open pasture

Open, flat or rolling pastoral farmland on the heavy clays and brown earths of the limestone plateau. Field boundaries are hawthorn hedges – which may be cut low or left tall and overgrown - or wire fences. Hedgerow trees are absent or infrequent. Grasslands are generally improved pasture though with some isolated pockets of semi-improved pasture which may contain relics of medieval rigg and furrow and deserted or shrunken medieval villages.

Subtypes

Modern field system.

Areas of C20th rationalisation, often enclosed by fences.

Old Enclosure.

Areas of early enclosure (of common town fields) with sub-regular field patterns and winding lanes. In areas where the majority of hedgerows have been removed it may be difficult to distinguish this from the other subtypes.

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.

Surveyor Enclosed.

Tracts of late 18th or 19th century enclosure (of former wastes) often distinguished by the place name 'moor'. Field boundaries are straight and field patterns regular where they haven't been affected by boundary removal.

Plateau farmland: pasture

Enclosed, flat or rolling pastoral farmland on the heavy clays and brown earths of the limestone plateau. Field boundaries are hawthorn hedges – often tall and overgrown – with scattered, locally abundant hedgerow oak, ash and sycamore. Field patterns are sub-regular. Grasslands are generally improved pasture though with some isolated pockets of semi-improved pasture which may contain relics of medieval rigg and furrow and deserted or shrunken medieval villages. Small field ponds are common.

Subtypes

Old Enclosure.

The type.

Plateau farmland: timbered estate arable

Gently undulating arable farmland. Field patterns are sub-regular and relatively intact. Field boundaries are pre-enclosure hedges, usually dominated by hawthorn with abundant hedgerow ash, oak, beech and sycamore. Hedges vary in their management and condition, and are reduced in places to lines of hedgerow trees.

Subtypes

Old Enclosure.

The type.

Plateau farmland: timbered estate pasture

Gently undulating pastoral farmland. Field patterns are sub-regular and relatively intact. Field boundaries are pre-inclosure hedges, usually dominated by hawthorn with abundant hedgerow ash, oak, beech and sycamore. Pastures are largely improved, with pockets of semi-improved pasture often associated with areas of relic rig and furrow.

Subtypes

Old Enclosure.

The type.

Plateau farmland: wooded arable

Gently rolling or gently undulating wooded arable farmland on the heavy clays and brown earths of the limestone plateau. Field boundaries are low hawthorn hedges with few hedgerow trees, or woodland edges. Field sizes are large and field patterns are often heavily disrupted by field amalgamations. Cereals and oil-seed rape are the dominant crops. Similar to the 'open arable' type but influenced visually by adjacent woodlands – including large dene woods and blocky plantations.

Subtypes

Old Enclosure.

Areas of early enclosure (of common town fields) with sub-regular field patterns and winding lanes. In areas where the majority of hedgerows have been removed it may be difficult to distinguish this from the other subtypes.

Surveyor Enclosed.

Tracts of late 18th or 19th century enclosure (of former wastes) often distinguished by the place name 'moor'. Field boundaries are straight and field patterns regular where they haven't been affected by boundary removal.

Plateau farmland: wooded estate arable

Undulating wooded arable farmland on glacial sands and gravels. Fields are defined by the edges of adjacent dene woodlands or linear shelterbelts and copses. Cereals and oil-seed rape are the dominant crops.

Subtypes

Old Enclosure.

The type.

Sand dunes

Low hummocky sand dunes dominated by Marram Grass with areas of more diverse maritime grassland in dune slacks. The dunes are crossed by numerous worn and eroding tracks.

Scarp and dipslope farmland: arable

Sloping or rolling arable farmland on the mixed clays, gravels and limestones of the escarpment. Arable crops are principally cereals and oil-seed rape. Field boundaries are pre-inclosure hedges, usually dominated by

hawthorn and regularly trimmed with scattered, locally abundant, hedgerow oak and ash. Field patterns are sub-regular and relatively intact.

Subtypes

Old Enclosure.

The type.

Reclaimed land.

Areas of reclaimed former opencast workings in which the older field systems have been retained largely intact.

Scarp and dipslope farmland: open arable

Sloping or rolling arable farmland on the mixed clays, gravels and limestones of the escarpment. Arable crops are principally cereals and oil-seed rape. Field boundaries are pre-inclosure hedges, usually dominated by hawthorn and regularly trimmed. Hedgerow trees are absent or infrequent. Field patterns are fairly regular or sub-regular but generally heavily disrupted by field amalgamations.

Subtypes

Old Enclosure.

The type.

Reclaimed land.

Areas of reclaimed colliery land

Scarp and dipslope farmland: open pasture

Sloping or rolling pastoral farmland on the mixed clays, gravels and limestones of the escarpment. Pastures are generally improved, though with some pockets of older and more species rich grassland, often associated with areas of relic rig and furrow. Field boundaries are pre-inclosure hedges, usually dominated by hawthorn and either regularly trimmed or tall, overgrown and gappy. There are thinly scattered hedgerow oak, ash and sycamore. Field patterns are fairly regular or sub-regular, but heavily disrupted by hedgerow removal and decline.

Subtypes

Modern field system.

Areas of C20th rationalisation, often enclosed by fences, with no mature trees.

Old Enclosure.

The type.

Reclaimed land.

Areas of reclaimed colliery land, often divided by wire fences or young hedgerows, with no mature trees.

Scarp and dipslope farmland: pasture

Sloping or rolling pastoral farmland on the mixed clays, gravels and limestones of the escarpment. Pastures are generally improved, though with some pockets of older and more species rich grassland, often associated with areas of relic rig and furrow. Field boundaries are pre-inclosure hedges, usually dominated by hawthorn and either regularly trimmed or tall, overgrown and gappy. There are scattered hedgerow oak, ash and sycamore. Field patterns are fairly regular or sub-regular and relatively intact.

Subtypes

Old Enclosure.

The type.

Reclaimed land.

Areas of reclaimed colliery or quarry land where some older field boundaries survive.

Scarp and dipslope farmland: wooded arable

Rolling arable farmland on glacial sands and gravels at the base of the escarpment dipslope. Arable crops are principally cereals and oil-seed rape. Field boundaries are pre-inclosure hedges, usually dominated by hawthorn and regularly trimmed. Hedgerow trees are absent or infrequent, though more abundant in the past. Field patterns are sub-regular, disrupted in some degree by field amalgamations. There are scattered small broadleaved plantations.

Subtypes

Old Enclosure.

The type.

Scarp and dipslope farmland: wooded pasture

Rolling pastoral farmland on glacial sands and gravels at the base of the escarpment dipslope. Pastures are generally improved, though with some pockets of older and more species rich grassland, associated with areas of relic rig and furrow. Field boundaries are a mixture of pre-inclosure hedges and straighter young hedges planted as part of the reclamation of colliery land. Hedgerow trees are largely absent but occur locally in older field systems. Many fields are defined by the geometric shapes of large mixed plantations planted on reclaimed ground.

Subtypes

Old Enclosure.

The type.

Reclaimed land.

Areas of reclaimed colliery land.

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.

Industrial land

Land in industrial use. A variable type but generally containing large industrial buildings and areas of operational

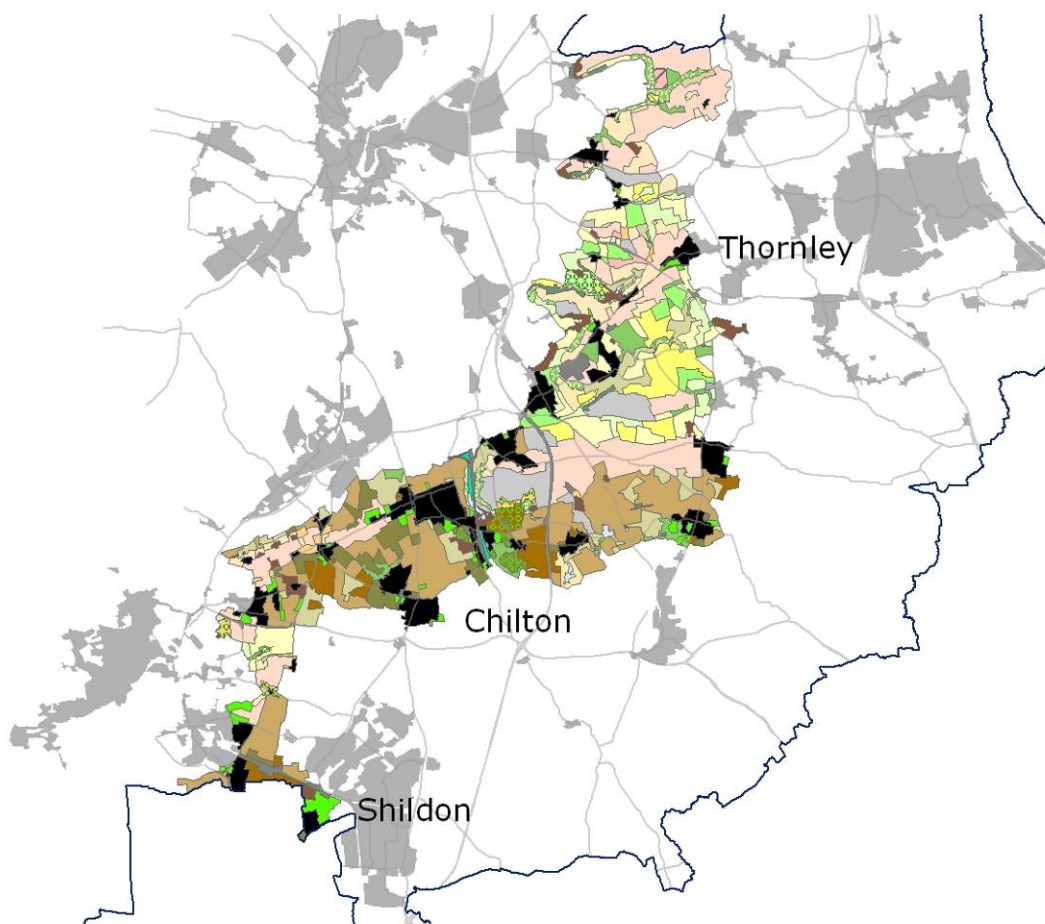
land. Smaller areas of land in industrial or commercial use are generally subsumed within the Urban subtype.

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).

Local Landscape Types

Limestone Escarpment

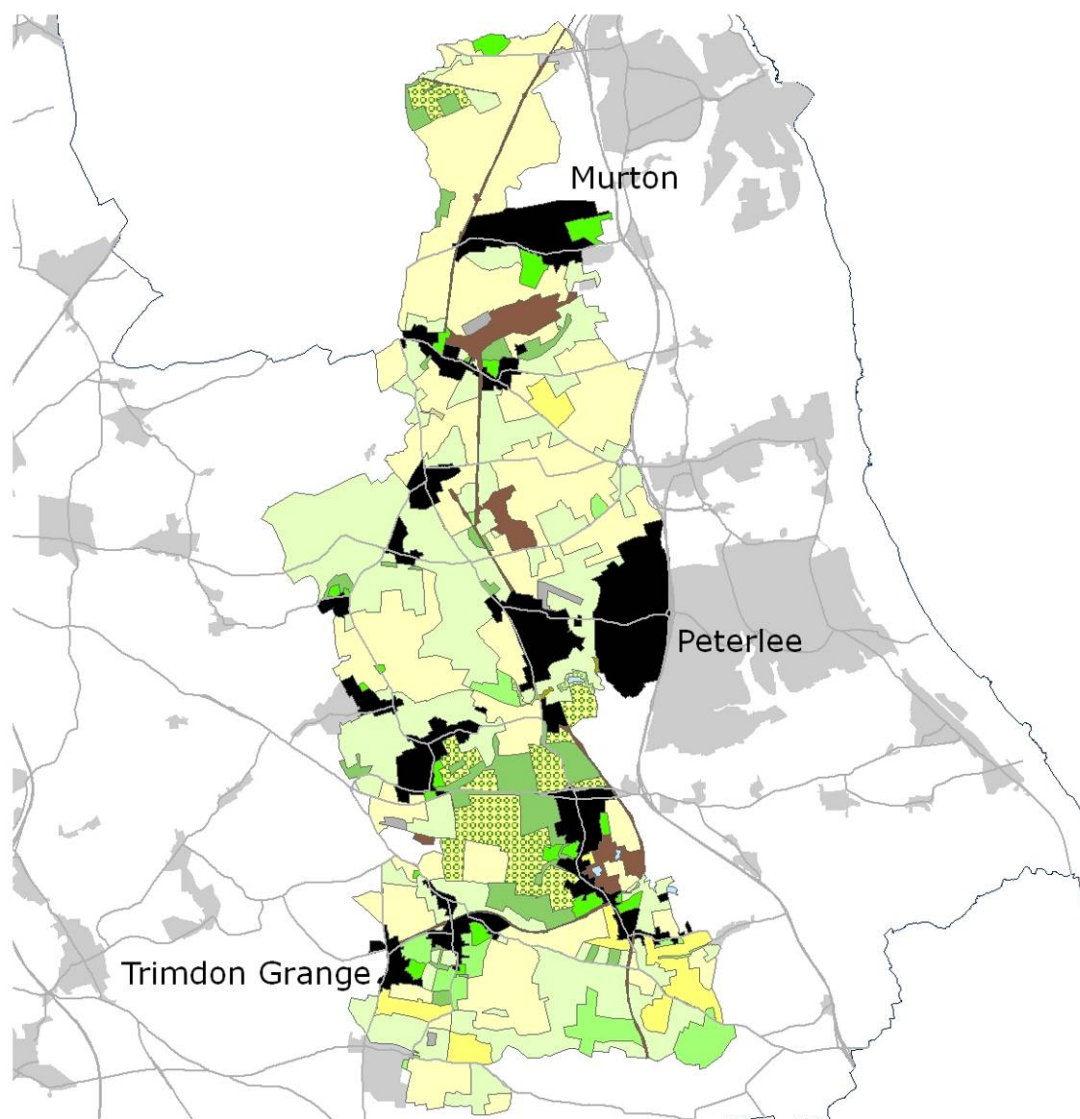


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|---|---|
| County Boundary | Escarpment valley farmland: open pasture |
| Roads | Escarpment valley farmland: pasture |
| Settlements | Escarpment valley farmland: steep pastures |
| Urban | Escarpment valley farmland: wooded arable |
| Infrastructure | Escarpment valley farmland: wooded estate pasture |
| Disturbed land | Escarpment valley farmland: wooded pasture |
| Mineral working | Lakes & ponds |
| Carr farmland: open pasture | Lowland woods |
| Dene pastures: limestone | Lowland woods: denes & bluffs |
| Escarpment ridges & spurs: arable | Parkland |
| Escarpment ridges & spurs: open arable | Parks & recreation grounds |
| Escarpment ridges & spurs: open pasture | Scarp & dipslope farmland: arable |
| Escarpment ridges & spurs: pasture | Scarp & dipslope farmland: open arable |
| Escarpment ridges & spurs: wooded estate arable | Scarp & dipslope farmland: open pasture |
| Escarpment ridges & spurs: wooded pasture | Scarp & dipslope farmland: pasture |
| Escarpment valley farmland: arable | Scarp & dipslope farmland: wooded arable |
| Escarpment valley farmland: open arable | Scarp & dipslope farmland: wooded pasture |

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Local Landscape Types

Clay Plateau

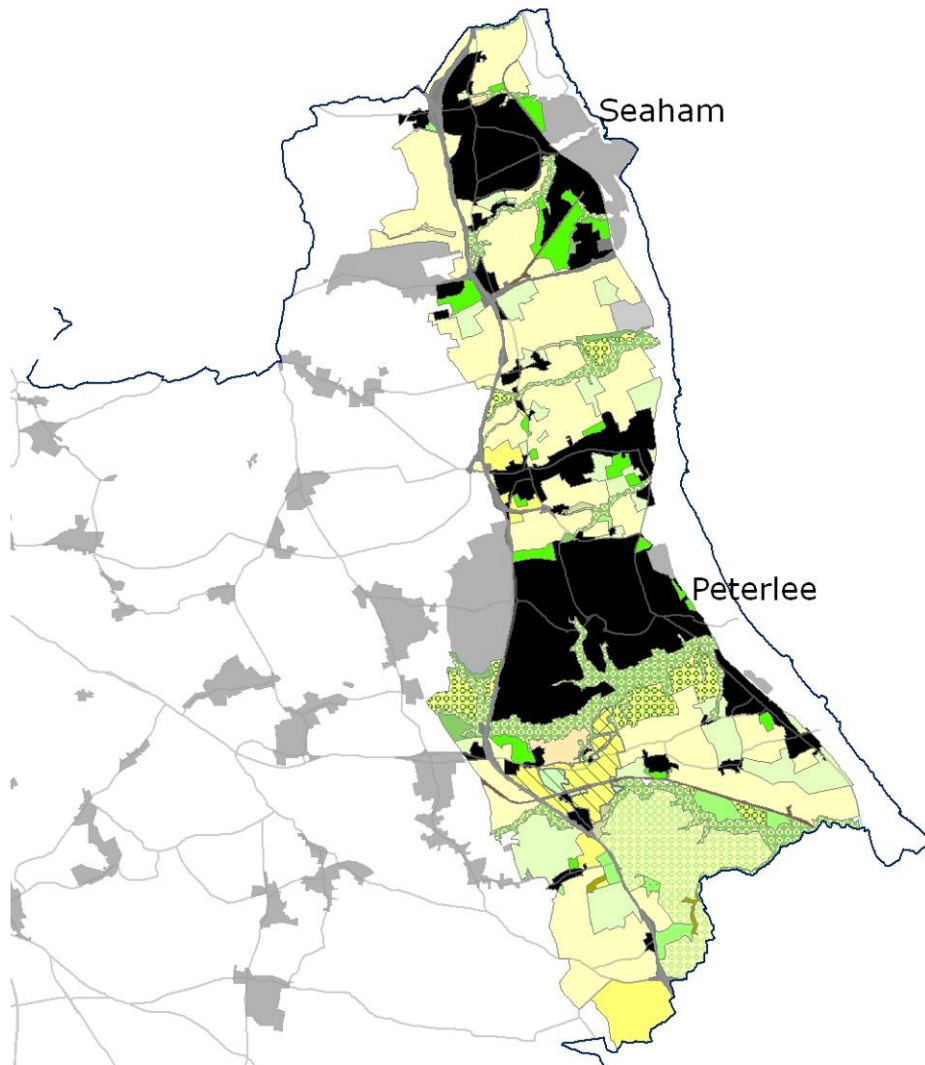


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|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| County Boundary | Lowland woods: denes & bluffs |
| Settlements | Parks & recreation grounds |
| Roads | Plateau farmland: arable |
| Urban | Plateau farmland: open arable |
| Infrastructure | Plateau farmland: open pasture |
| Disturbed land | Plateau farmland: pasture |
| Dene pastures | Plateau farmland: wooded arable |
| Dene pastures: limestone | Plateau farmland: wooded pasture |
| Lakes & ponds | |
| Lowland woods | |

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Local Landscape Types

Coastal Limestone Plateau

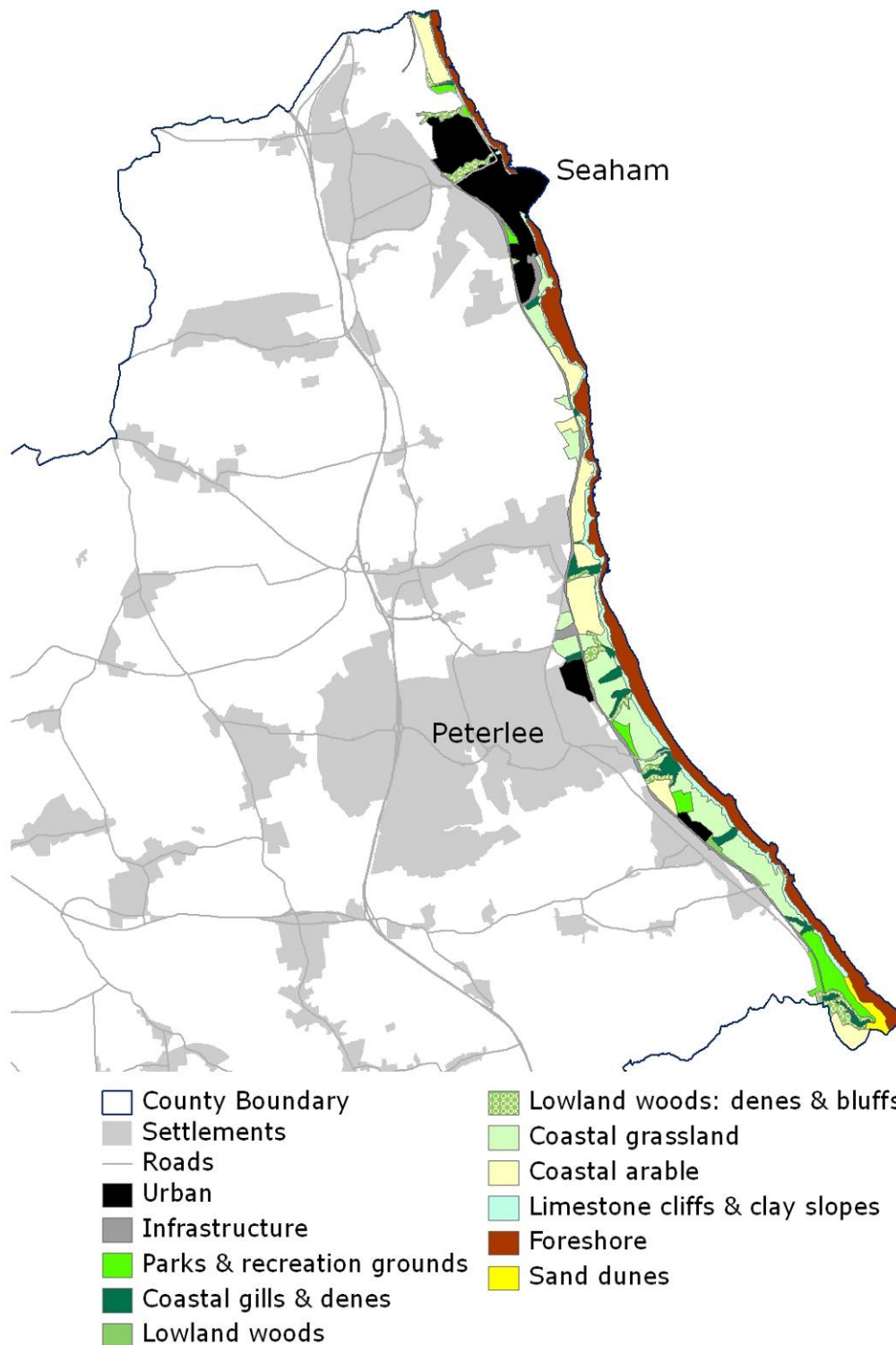


- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| County Boundary | Lowland woods: denes & bluffs |
| Settlements | Parkland |
| Roads | Parks & recreation grounds |
| Urban | Plateau farmland: arable |
| Infrastructure | Plateau farmland: open arable |
| Disturbed land | Plateau farmland: open pasture |
| Mineral working | Plateau farmland: pasture |
| Coastal plain farmland: pasture | Plateau farmland: timbered estate arable |
| Coastal plain farmland: wooded arable | Plateau farmland: timbered estate pasture |
| Dene pastures | Plateau farmland: wooded arable |
| Dene pastures: limestone | Plateau farmland: wooded estate arable |
| Lowland woods | |

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Local Landscape Types

Limestone Coast



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