



THE COUNTY DURHAM LANDSCAPE

**East Durham Limestone Plateau - Local
Landscape Types**



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

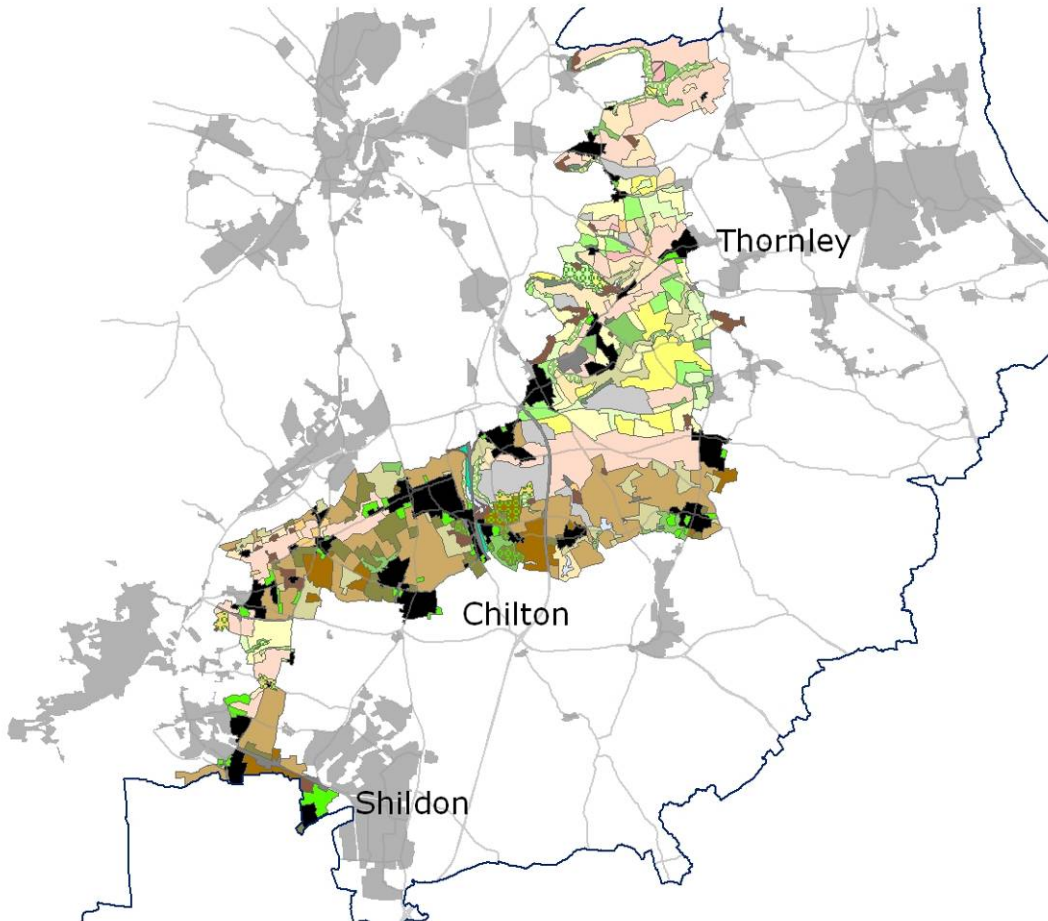
land. Smaller areas of land in industrial or commercial use are generally subsumed within the Urban subtype.

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

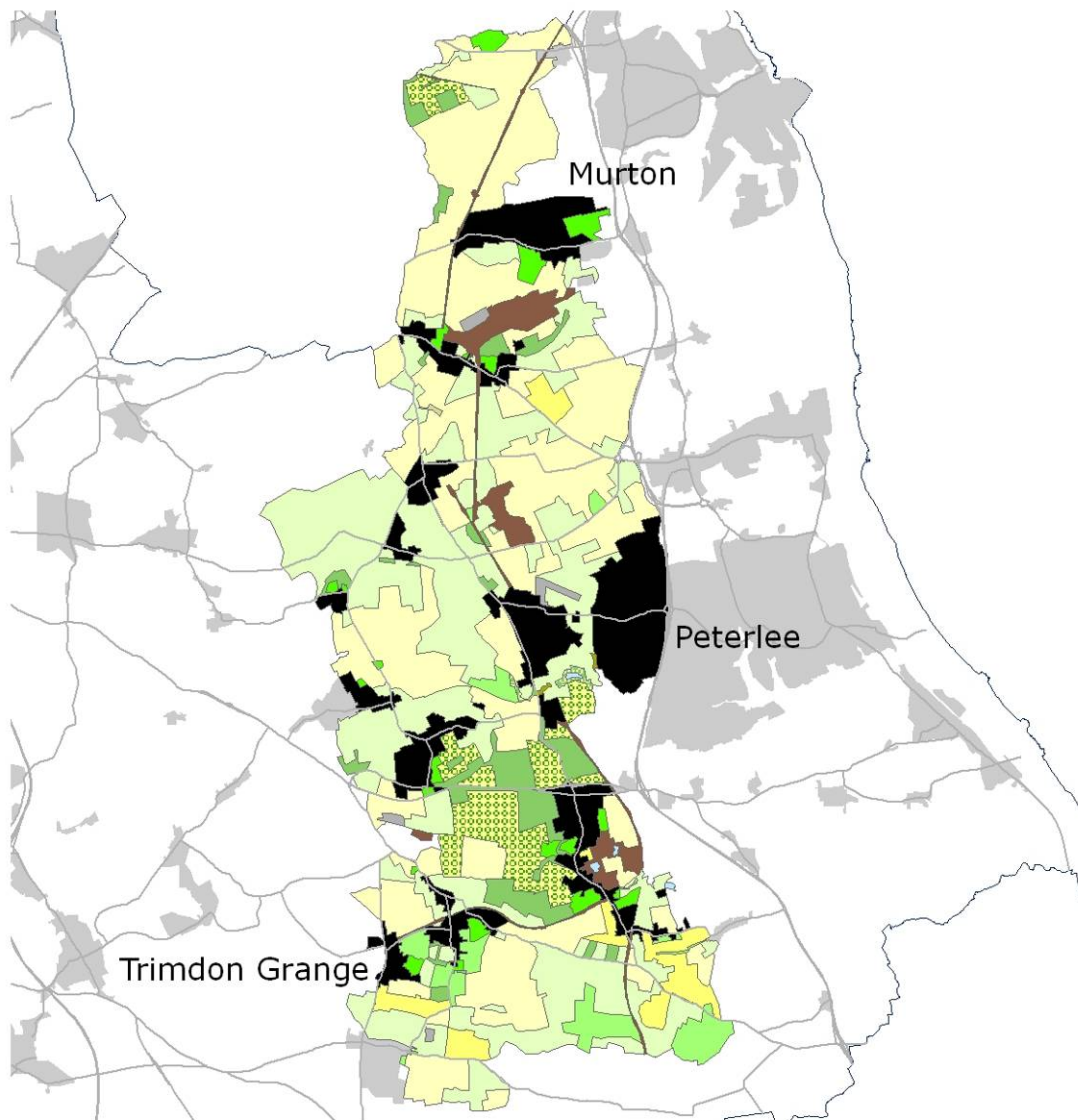


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|---|---|
| County Boundary | Escarpment valley farmland: open pasture |
| Roads | Escarpment valley farmland: pasture |
| Settlements | Escarpment valley farmland: steep pastures |
| Urban | Escarpment valley farmland: wooded arable |
| Infrastructure | 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

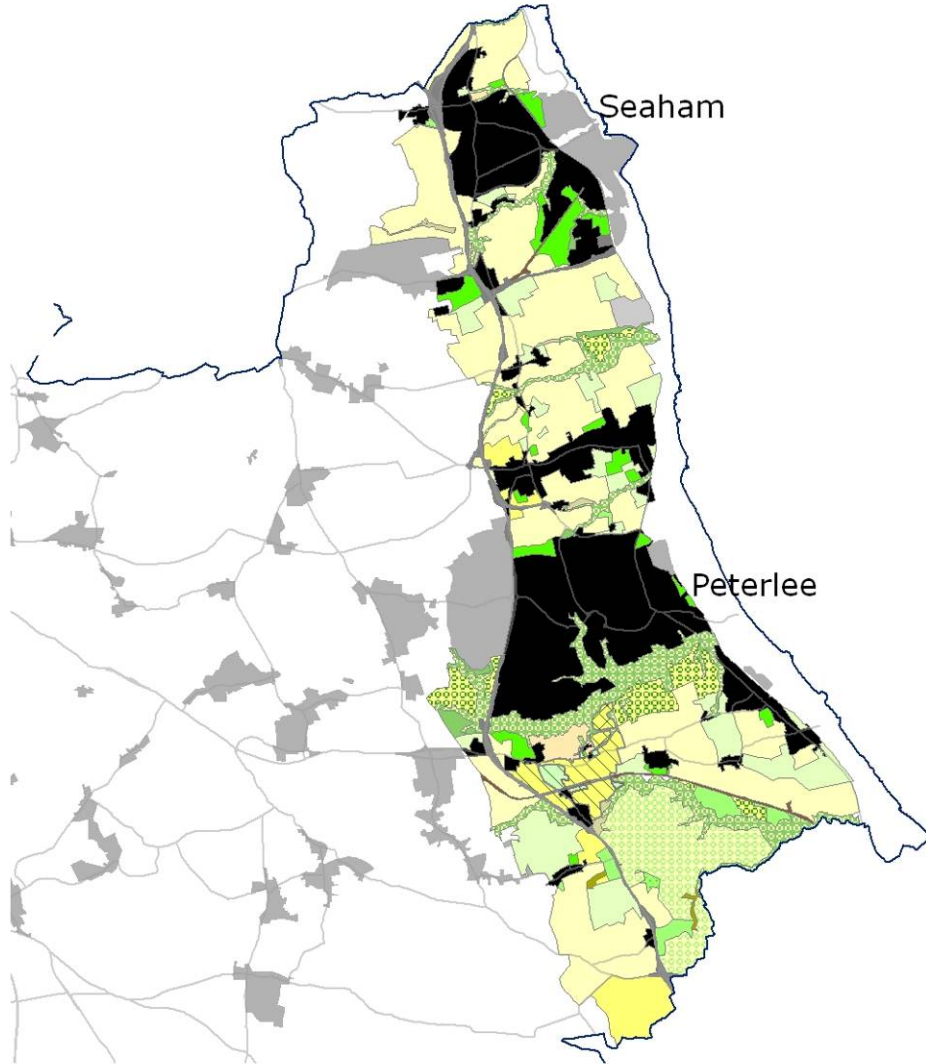


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|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| County Boundary | Lowland woods: denes & bluffs |
| Settlements | Parks & recreation grounds |
| Roads | Plateau farmland: arable |
| Urban | Plateau farmland: open arable |
| Infrastructure | 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

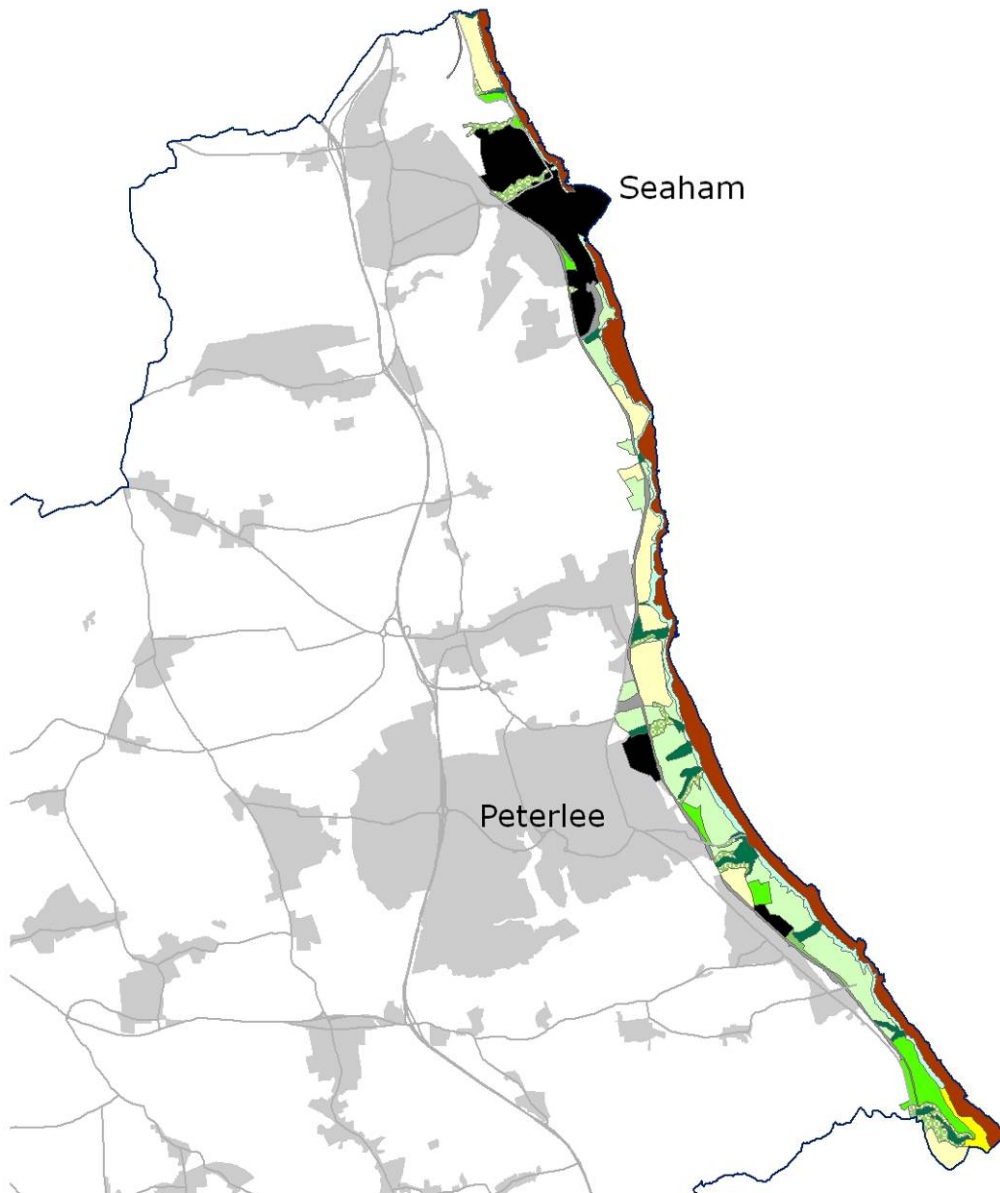


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|---------------------------------------|---|
| County Boundary | Lowland woods: denes & bluffs |
| Settlements | Parkland |
| Roads | Parks & recreation grounds |
| Urban | Plateau farmland: arable |
| Infrastructure | Plateau farmland: open arable |
| 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



- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| County Boundary | Lowland woods: denes & bluffs |
| Settlements | Coastal grassland |
| Roads | Coastal arable |
| Urban | Limestone cliffs & clay slopes |
| Infrastructure | Foreshore |
| Parks & recreation grounds | Sand dunes |
| Coastal gills & denes | |
| Lowland woods | |

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