COUNTY DURHAM

LANDSCAPE GUIDELINES

Broad Landscape Types

Making a difference where you live

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

Adult and Community Services • **Environment** • Children and Young People's Services • Chief Executive's Office • County Treasurer • Corporate Services • Service Direct

Broad Landscape Types

Development and land management guidelines

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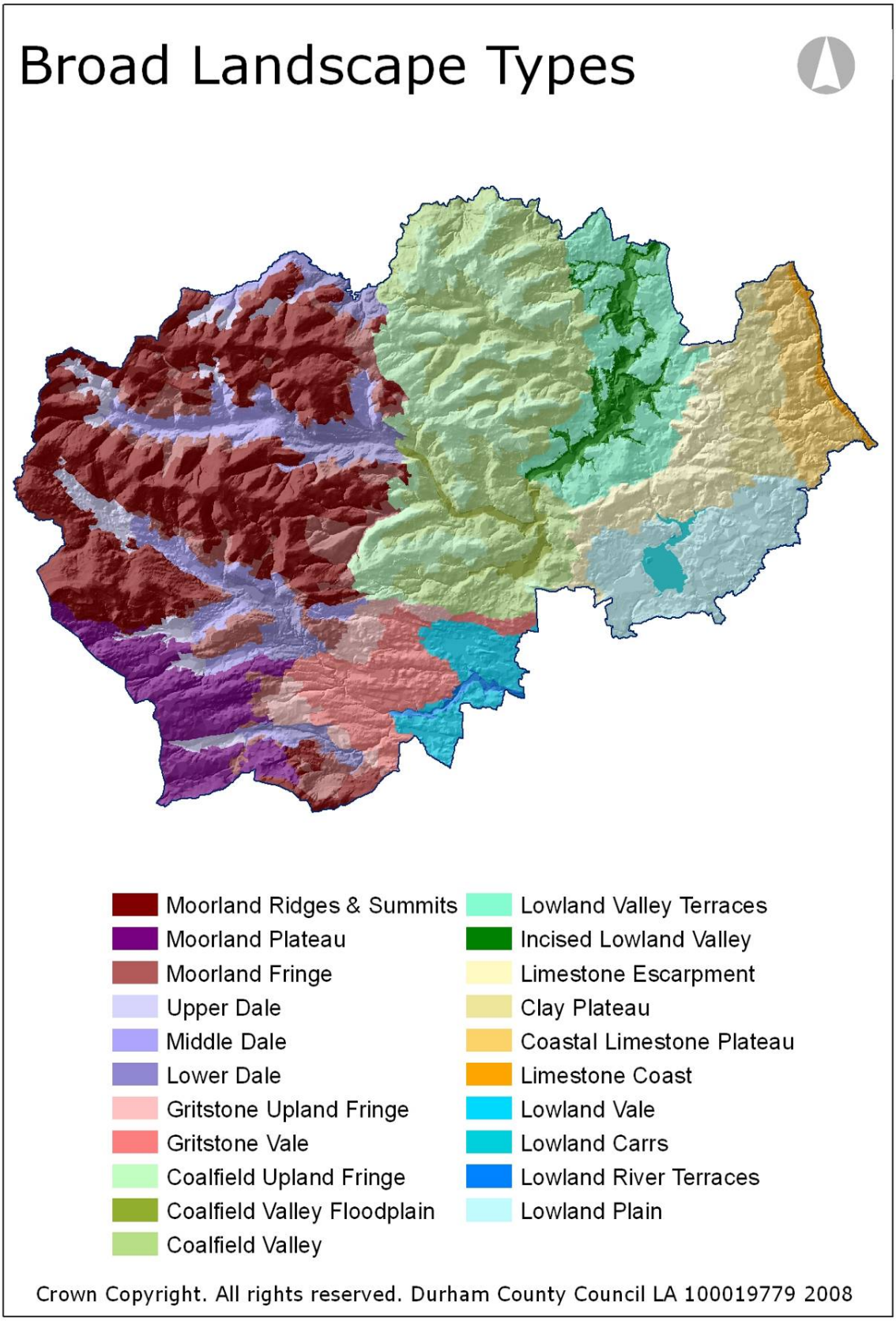


A version of this map showing settlements and roads can be found on Page 43. The information can also be viewed on the Durham Landscape website – www.durham.gov.uk/durhamlandscape which has an online GIS mapping facility.

Moorland Ridges & Summits

Land Management

Natural features, watercourses & wetlands

- Protect natural rock outcrops, screes, stone bands & shake holes by preventing disturbance, stone removal or tipping. Where necessary fence vulnerable features against livestock.
- Protect gills & ravines from livestock to encourage regeneration of semi-natural vegetation including open scrub and woodland.
- Protect moorland flushes and pools – avoid drainage works, supplementary feeding and poaching by stock in their vicinity.
- Conserve blanket bog – avoid drainage works or physical damage and review burning practices and stocking levels.
- Restore damaged bogs and flushes by blocking grips and drains.

Moor & heath

- Manage heather moorland to sustain and enhance its biodiversity by adopting appropriate stocking densities and burning regimes.
- Restore heathland where it has been damaged by overgrazing by reducing stocking levels.
- Manage semi-natural acid and calcareous grasslands to enhance biodiversity by maintaining appropriate stocking levels and controlling the spread of bracken and rush.
- Manage access by encouraging the use of structured and seasonal paths to decrease pressure on fragile substrates and avoid disturbance to breeding birds.

Trees, woodlands & forestry

- Protect and conserve juniper woods – promote natural regeneration by excluding livestock and controlling rabbits. Plant new stands of juniper grown from local seed.
- Promote natural regeneration of semi-natural birch, oak-birch and juniper woodlands along gills and ravines, in valley bottoms and the moorland fringe.

Cultural features

- Protect archaeological features by avoiding overstocking and supplementary feeding on sensitive sites.
- Conserve and restore moorland structures like sheepfolds, bields and bothies.
- Protect and conserve lead mining features – avoid physical damage, removal or infilling, consolidate important structures; sensitively gate open shafts and adits.

Development

Energy, telecommunications & infrastructure

- Avoid the siting of tall structures such as masts, pylons and wind turbines in the Moorland landscape generally - in particular avoid prominent skylines.
- Locate masts or pylons in the moorland fringe close to existing buildings or forest edges.
- New buildings should only be developed in exceptional circumstances - they should be sited to minimise visibility, be built of natural materials, and where possible designed to look like traditional moorland features – bields, bothies or sheepfolds.

Minerals & waste

- Avoid damage to sensitive natural landforms.
- Avoid breaching skylines with extraction areas or storage mounds.
- Restore quarry faces to naturalistic profiles using restoration blasting.
- Restore quarries to semi-natural heathland, grassland, wetland and bare rock habitats using natural regeneration where possible.

Tourism & recreation

- Manage access by encouraging the use of structured and seasonal paths to decrease pressure on fragile substrates and avoid disturbance to breeding birds.

- Facilities and infrastructure for tourism and recreation – paths, car parks, litter bins, signage and interpretation - should be provided only where absolutely necessary, and should be sensitively designed and low key to avoid exerting an urbanising influence on this wild and natural landscape.

Moorland Plateau

Land Management

Natural features, watercourses & wetlands

- Protect natural rock outcrops, screes, stone bands and shake holes by preventing disturbance, infilling or stone removal. Where necessary fence vulnerable features against livestock
- Protect gills & ravines from livestock to encourage regeneration of semi-natural vegetation including scrub and open woodland.
- Protect moorland flushes and pools – avoid drainage works, supplementary feeding and poaching by stock in their vicinity
- Conserve blanket bog – avoid drainage works or physical damage and review burning practices and stocking levels.
- Restore damaged bogs and flushes by blocking grips and drains.

Moor & heath

- Manage heather moorland to sustain and enhance biodiversity by adopting appropriate stocking densities and burning regimes.
- Restore heather moorland where it has been damaged by overgrazing by reducing stocking levels.
- Manage semi-natural acid and calcareous grasslands to enhance biodiversity by maintaining appropriate stocking levels and controlling the spread of bracken and rush.
- Manage access by encouraging the use of structured and seasonal paths to decrease pressure on fragile substrates and avoid disturbance to breeding birds.

Trees & woodlands

- Promote natural regeneration of semi-natural birch, oak-birch and juniper woodlands along gills and ravines and in the moorland fringe.

Cultural features

- Protect archaeological features by avoiding overstocking and supplementary feeding on sensitive sites. Protect cairns, cup and ring marked stones and associated features from damage or removal.
- Conserve and restore moorland structures like sheepfolds, bields and bothies.
- Protect and conserve lead mining features – avoid physical damage, removal or infilling. Consolidate important structures and sensitively gate open shafts and adits taking archaeological advice.

Development

Energy & telecommunications

- Avoid the siting of tall structures such as masts, pylons and wind turbines in the Moorland Plateau landscape.
- Where masts or pylons are needed site them in the moorland fringe close to existing buildings.
- New buildings should only be developed in exceptional circumstances - they should be sited to minimise visibility, be built of natural materials, and where possible designed to look like traditional moorland features –bields, bothies or sheepfolds.

Minerals & waste

- Avoid damage to sensitive natural landforms.
- Avoid breaching skylines with extraction areas or storage mounds.
- Restore quarry faces to naturalistic profiles using restoration blasting.
- Restore quarries to semi-natural heathland, grassland, wetland and bare rock habitats using natural regeneration where possible.

Tourism & recreation

- Manage access by encouraging the use of structured and seasonal paths to decrease pressure on fragile substrates and avoid disturbance to breeding birds.

- Facilities and infrastructure for tourism and recreation – paths, car parks, litter bins, signage and interpretation - should be provided only where absolutely necessary, and should be sensitively designed and low key to avoid exerting an urbanising influence on this wild and natural landscape.

Moorland Fringe

Land Management

Natural features, watercourses & wetlands

- Protect gills & ravines from stock to encourage regeneration of semi-natural vegetation including scrub and open woodland.

Moor & Heath

- Conserve and enhance areas of semi-natural acid grassland and heath to increase their biodiversity by adopting appropriate stocking densities and/or burning regimes.
- Restore moorland intakes and allotments on peaty soils to heather moorland by reducing stocking levels and ditch blocking.

Farmland

- Manage semi-improved grasslands to enhance biodiversity by adopting appropriate stocking levels and avoiding further improvements such as drainage, ploughing and reseeding. Limit the use of fertilisers, herbicides and liming.

Trees, woodlands & forestry

- Conserve and restore gill woodlands by fencing and excluding livestock to promote natural regeneration.
- Plant new native oak-birch and juniper woodlands in gills and ravines, valley bottoms and lower slopes.
- Restructure forests and plantations to restore damaged habitats and archaeological sites, increase species diversity, and soften geometric outlines. Consider removal of visually intrusive isolated plantations.
- Conserve and reinforce stands of shelter trees around isolated farmsteads.

Cultural features

- Protect archaeological features by avoiding overstocking or supplementary feeding on sensitive sites.
- Protect and conserve lead mining features – avoid physical damage, removal or infilling; consolidate important structures and sensitively gate open shafts and adits taking archaeological advice.
- Conserve and maintain historic field barns, farm buildings and lime kilns.
- Conserve and enhance old quarries by avoiding tipping and excluding livestock to promote natural regeneration.

Field Boundaries

- Maintain and restore dry stone walls.

Development

Agricultural buildings

- Site new farm buildings close to existing buildings where possible, and reflect their scale, character and materials.
- Reduce the impact of larger modern buildings by careful selection of colour, breaking up mass and planting screening belts of native species. Follow the North Pennines AONB Agricultural Building Design Guide.

Energy, telecommunications & infrastructure

- Avoid the siting of tall structures such as masts, pylons and wind turbines in the Moorland Fringe landscape.
- Where masts, pylons or domestic scale wind turbines are needed, site them close to existing buildings and forest edges. Where possible underground services.
- New buildings should only be developed in exceptional circumstances - they should be closely related where possible to existing buildings and should utilise traditional materials and building styles.

Mineral workings

- Avoid damage to sensitive natural landforms.

- Avoid breaching skylines with extraction areas or storage mounds.
- Restore quarry faces to naturalistic profiles using restoration blasting.
- Restore quarries to semi-natural woodland, grassland, wetland and bare rock habitats using natural regeneration where appropriate.

Tourism & recreation

- Tourism and recreational development should be undertaken in such a way as to avoid any urbanising influence on the landscape. Existing buildings should be re-used where possible. New buildings should reflect the scale, form, materials and vernacular detailing of traditional farm buildings in the area.
- Facilities and infrastructure for tourism and recreation – paths, car parks, litter bins, signage and interpretation - should be provided only where absolutely necessary, and should be sensitively designed and low key to avoid exerting an urbanising influence on this very rural landscape.

Upper Dale

Land Management

Natural features, watercourses & wetlands

- Protect gills & ravines from stock to encourage regeneration of semi-natural vegetation including scrub and open woodland.

Farmland

- Conserve species rich hay meadows – avoid ploughing and reseeding, herbicide and fertiliser applications. Time cutting and grazing regimes to promote flowering and seed setting.
- Restore former meadows by reseeding and/or the use of hay crops from local meadows as a seed source.
- Manage inby pastures and allotment grazings to enhance their biodiversity by adopting appropriate stocking levels and avoiding further improvements such as drainage, ploughing and reseeding. Limit the use of fertilisers, herbicides and liming.

Tree, woodlands & forestry

- Conserve, restore and extend gill woodlands by fencing and excluding livestock to promote natural regeneration.
- Plant new native oak-birch and juniper woodlands in gills and ravines, and around dale floor reservoirs.
- Restructure forests and plantations to restore former semi-natural habitats, increase the proportion of locally native species, and soften geometric outlines.
- Conserve and reinforce stands of shelter trees around isolated farmsteads.

Cultural features

- Protect archaeological features by avoiding overstocking or supplementary feeding on sensitive sites.
- Protect and conserve lead mining features – avoid physical damage, removal, infilling or tree planting. Restore or consolidate important structures and gate open shafts and adits taking archaeological advice.
- Remove trees or plantations from sensitive archaeological sites - including lead mining sites.
- Conserve and maintain historic field barns, farm buildings and lime kilns.
- Conserve and enhance old quarries by avoiding tipping and excluding livestock to promote natural regeneration. Maintain access to geological exposures.

Field Boundaries

- Maintain and restore dry stone walls.

Development

Agricultural buildings

- Site new farm buildings close to existing buildings where possible, and reflect their scale, character and materials.
- Reduce the impact of larger modern buildings by careful selection of colour, breaking up mass and planting screening belts of native species. Follow the North Pennines AONB Agricultural Building Design Guide.

Energy, telecommunications & infrastructure

- Avoid the siting of tall structures such as masts, pylons and wind turbines in the Upper Dale landscape generally.
- Where masts, pylons or domestic scale wind turbines are needed, site them close to existing buildings and forest edges and avoid sensitive skylines. Where possible underground services.
- Ancillary buildings should be designed to reflect the scale and character of traditional agricultural buildings.

Minerals & waste

- Avoid damage to sensitive natural landforms.
- Avoid breaching local skylines with extraction areas or storage mounds.

- Restore quarry faces to naturalistic profiles using restoration blasting.
- Restore quarries to semi-natural woodland, grassland, wetland and bare rock habitats using natural regeneration where appropriate.

Tourism & recreation

- Tourism and recreational development should be undertaken in such a way as to avoid any urbanising influence on the landscape. Existing buildings should be re-used where possible. New buildings should reflect the scale, form, materials and vernacular detailing of traditional farm buildings in the area.
- Facilities and infrastructure for tourism and recreation – paths, car parks, litter bins, signage and interpretation - should be provided only where absolutely necessary, and should be sensitively designed and low key to avoid exerting an urbanising influence on this very rural landscape.

Middle Dale

Land Management

Natural features, watercourses & wetlands

- Protect river banks, gills & ravines from stock to encourage regeneration of semi-natural gill and riparian woodland.

Farmland

- Conserve species rich hay meadows – avoid ploughing and reseeding, herbicide and fertiliser applications. Time cutting and grazing regimes to promote flowering and seed setting.
- Restore former meadows by reseeding and/or the use of hay crops from local meadows as a seed source.
- Manage semi-improved pastures to enhance their biodiversity by adopting appropriate stocking levels and avoiding further improvements such as drainage, ploughing and reseeding. Limit the use of fertilisers and herbicides.

Trees, woodlands & forestry

- Conserve, restore and extend gill and riverside woods by fencing and excluding livestock to promote natural regeneration.
- Plant new native oak-birch, ash and alder woodlands in gills and ravines, along river banks and streamsides, around dale floor reservoirs and on steep daleside bluffs.
- Increase the proportion of locally native species when restocking plantations.
- Conserve and reinforce stands of shelter trees around daleside farms.
- Conserve existing field trees and protect them from livestock where necessary. Plant new field trees (Ash, Oak, Sycamore) where they are characteristic.

Cultural features

- Protect archaeological features by avoiding overstocking or supplementary feeding on sensitive sites.
- Protect and conserve lead mining remains – avoid physical damage, removal, infilling or tree planting. Restore or consolidate important structures and gate open shafts and adits taking archaeological advice.
- Conserve and maintain historic field barns, farm buildings and lime kilns.
- Conserve and enhance old quarries by avoiding tipping and excluding livestock to promote natural regeneration. Maintain access to geological exposures
- Field Boundaries
- Maintain and restore dry stone walls. Restore roadside walls where they are damaged or derelict and reinstate them where they have been removed.

Development

Agricultural buildings

- Site new farm buildings close to existing buildings where possible, and reflect their scale, character and materials.
- Reduce the impact of larger modern buildings by careful selection of colour, breaking up mass and planting screening belts of native species. Follow the North Pennines AONB Agricultural Building Design Guide.

Energy & Infrastructure

- Avoid the siting of tall structures such as masts, pylons and wind turbines in the Middle Dale landscape generally.
- Where masts, pylons or domestic scale wind turbines are needed, site them close to existing buildings or woodland edges and avoid sensitive skylines. Where possible underground services.

Minerals & waste

- Avoid damage to sensitive natural landforms.
- Avoid extraction on prominent daleside slopes, or breaching local skylines with extraction areas or storage mounds.

- Restore quarry faces to naturalistic profiles using restoration blasting.
- Restore quarries to semi-natural woodland, grassland, wetland and bare rock habitats using natural regeneration where appropriate.

Tourism & recreation

- Tourism and recreational development should be undertaken in such a way as to avoid any urbanising influence on the landscape. Existing buildings should be re-used where possible. New buildings should reflect the scale, form, materials and vernacular detailing of traditional farm buildings in the area.
- Facilities and infrastructure for tourism and recreation – paths, car parks, litter bins, signage and interpretation - should be provided only where absolutely necessary, and should be sensitively designed and low key to avoid exerting an urbanising influence on this very rural landscape.

Lower Dale

Land Management

Natural features, watercourses & wetlands

- Protect river banks, gills & ravines from stock to encourage regeneration of semi-natural gill and riparian woodland.

Farmland

- Maintain and enhance semi-improved pastures by adopting appropriate stocking levels and avoiding improvements such as drainage, ploughing and reseeding. Limit the use of fertilisers and herbicides.
- Conserve species rich hay meadows – avoid ploughing and reseeding, herbicide and fertiliser applications. Time cutting and grazing regimes to promote flowering and seed setting.
- Restore former meadows and restore diversity to improved pastures where possible by reseeding or the use of hay crops from local meadows as a seed source.

Trees, woodlands & forestry

- Conserve, restore and extend gill, ravine, and riverside woods by fencing and excluding livestock to promote natural regeneration.
- Restore replanted ancient woodlands by felling and natural regeneration, or restocking with native species of local origins.
- Plant new native oak, ash and alder woodlands in gills and ravines, along river banks and streamsides, and oak-birch (sandstone) or ash (limestone) woodlands on steeper daleside bluffs. Avoid sites of existing nature conservation value.
- Increase the proportion of locally native species when restocking plantations.
- Protect and maintain existing hedgerow and field trees. Plant new hedgerow trees (Ash, Sessile Oak) and field trees (Ash, Sessile Oak, Sycamore) or tag saplings to replace the maturing stock.

Cultural features

- Conserve and maintain traditional field barns and farm buildings.
- Protect and restore or consolidate old lime kilns - taking archaeological advice.
- Protect archaeological features including rigg & furrow, cultivation terraces and lynchets from damaging activities such as cultivation, overstocking, or poaching.
- Conserve and enhance old quarries by avoiding tipping and excluding livestock to promote natural regeneration. Maintain access to geological exposures.

Field Boundaries

- Protect, restore and maintain existing dry stone walls and hedgerows. Reinstate hedges and walls where they have been replaced by fences.

Development

Agricultural buildings

- Site new farm buildings close to existing buildings where possible, and reflect their scale, character and materials.
- Reduce the impact of larger modern buildings by careful selection of colour, breaking up mass and planting screening belts of native species. Follow the North Pennines AONB Agricultural Building Design Guide.

Housing and economic development

- Protect and conserve the character of villages by ensuring that new development respects their scale, structure and vernacular character.
- Retain open green spaces within villages, and particularly village greens, old gardens and orchards, and tofts or garths.

Energy, telecommunications & infrastructure

- Avoid the siting of tall structures such as masts, pylons and wind turbines in the Lower Dale landscape generally.
- Where masts, pylons or domestic scale wind turbines are needed, site them close to existing buildings or woodland edges and avoid sensitive skylines. Where possible underground services.

Minerals & waste

- Avoid damage to sensitive natural landforms.
- Avoid extraction on prominent daleside slopes, or breaching local skylines with extraction areas or storage mounds.
- Restore quarry faces to naturalistic profiles using restoration blasting.
- Restore quarries to semi-natural woodland, grassland, wetland and bare rock habitats using natural regeneration where appropriate.

Tourism & recreation

- Tourism and recreational development should be undertaken in such a way as to avoid any urbanising influence on the landscape. Existing buildings should be re-used where possible. New buildings should, where possible, reflect the scale, form, materials and vernacular detailing of traditional farm buildings in the area.
- Facilities like chalets and caravan parks should only be developed or extended where there is a high degree of year-round visual containment – either from the topography or robust woodland cover – so that they do not detract from the scenic quality of the area.

Gritstone Upland Fringe

Land Management

Natural features, watercourses & wetlands

- Protect the banks of streams from stock to encourage regeneration of riparian woodland.

Farmland

- Maintain and enhance semi-improved pastures, wet pastures and rough grazing by adopting appropriate stocking levels and avoiding further improvements such as drainage, ploughing and reseeding.

Trees, woodlands & forestry

- Increase the proportion of locally native species – particularly sessile oak and downy birch -when restocking plantations.
- Plant new small, mixed or broadleaved farm woodlands - avoiding sites of existing nature conservation value.
- Plant small woodlands and tree groups to screen larger modern farm buildings.

Cultural features

- Conserve and maintain traditional field barns and farm buildings.
- Protect archaeological features, including carved stones & rigg & furrow, from damaging activities such as cultivation, overstocking, or poaching.

Field boundaries

- Protect, restore and maintain existing dry stone walls and hedgerows. Renovate overgrown gappy hedges by laying or coppicing and gapping up.
- Reinstate hedges and walls where they have been replaced by fences – and particularly in areas of older enclosure, in linear field systems, and along enclosure roads and lanes.
- Protect and maintain existing hedgerow and field trees where they occur. Plant new field boundary trees (ash, oak, sycamore) or tag hedgerow saplings to replace the maturing stock in areas where they are characteristic.

Development

Agricultural buildings

- Site new farm buildings close to existing buildings where possible, and reflect their scale, character and materials.
- Reduce the impact of larger modern buildings by careful selection of colour, breaking up mass and planting screening belts of native species.

Energy, telecommunications & infrastructure

- Site communications masts, pylons or domestic scale wind turbines close to existing buildings or woodland edges, avoiding clean and open skylines. Where possible underground services.
- Avoid ‘urban’ detailing in minor road works.

Minerals & waste

- Avoid damage to sensitive natural landforms.
- Avoid breaching local skylines with extraction areas or storage mounds.
- Restore quarry faces to naturalistic profiles using restoration blasting.
- Restore quarries to semi-natural woodland, grassland, wetland and bare rock habitats using natural regeneration where appropriate.

Gritstone Vale

Land Management

Natural features, watercourses & wetlands

- Protect the banks of rivers and streams from stock to encourage regeneration of riparian woodland.

Farmland

- Maintain and enhance semi-improved pastures by adopting appropriate stocking levels and avoiding improvements such as drainage, ploughing and reseeding.
- Conserve species rich hay meadows – avoid ploughing and reseeding, herbicide and fertiliser applications. Time cutting and grazing regimes to promote flowering and seed setting.
- Restore former meadows and restore diversity to improved pastures where possible by reseeding or the use of hay crops from local meadows as a seed source.
- Establish uncultivated margins along hedgerows, woodland edges and watercourses. Avoid cultivation under the canopy of hedgerow trees.
- Fence river & stream banks against livestock to prevent erosion and allow natural regeneration of river & streamside vegetation.

Trees, woodlands & forestry

- Conserve and extend dene, ravine, and riverside woods.
- Restore replanted ancient woodlands by felling and natural regeneration, or restocking with native species of local origins.
- Plant new native oak, ash or alder woodlands in denes and ravines, along steep riverside bluffs, river banks and streamsides.
- Plant new small and medium sized mixed or broadleaved farm woodlands, respecting field patterns, and avoiding sites of nature conservation or archaeological interest.
- Increase the proportion of locally native species when restocking plantations.
- Protect and maintain existing hedgerow & field trees. Plant new field boundary trees (ash, oak) or tag saplings to replace the maturing stock.

Cultural features

- Protect archaeological features including rigg & furrow from damaging activities such as cultivation, overstocking, or poaching.
- Conserve and maintain traditional farm buildings.
- Conserve and restore parklands, respecting designed elements and veteran trees.
- Conserve and enhance old quarries by avoiding tipping and excluding livestock to promote natural regeneration. Maintain access to geological exposures.

Field Boundaries

- Protect and maintain existing dry stone walls and hedgerows.
- Reinstate hedges and walls where they have been replaced by fences – and particularly in areas of older enclosure.
- Renovate overgrown gappy hedges by laying or coppicing and gapping up.
- Allow trimmed hedges to grow higher and broader. Consider trimming every second or third year rather than annually.

Development

Agricultural buildings

- Site new farm buildings close to existing buildings where possible, and reflect their scale, character and materials.
- Reduce the impact of larger modern buildings by careful selection of colour, breaking up mass and planting screening belts of native species.

Housing and economic development

- Protect and conserve the character of villages by ensuring that new development respects their scale, structure and vernacular character.
- Retain open green spaces within villages, and particularly village greens, old gardens and orchards, and tofts or garths.

Energy, telecommunications & infrastructure

- Site communications masts, pylons or domestic scale wind turbines close to existing buildings or woodland edges. Where possible underground services.
- Avoid 'urban' detailing in minor road works.

Minerals & waste

- Avoid damage to sensitive natural landforms.
- Avoid breaching local skylines with extraction areas or storage mounds.
- Restore quarry faces to naturalistic profiles using restoration blasting.
- Restore quarries to semi-natural woodland, grassland, wetland and bare rock habitats using natural regeneration where appropriate.

Tourism & recreation

- Tourism and recreational development should be undertaken in such a way as to avoid any urbanising influence on the landscape. New buildings should, where possible, reflect the scale, form, materials and vernacular detailing of traditional farm buildings in the area.
- Facilities like chalets and caravan parks should only be developed or extended where there is a high degree of year-round visual containment – either from the topography or robust woodland cover – so that they do not detract from the rural character and scenic quality of the area.
- Golf course development should seek to conserve and reinforce landscape character by retaining mature landscape features and planting new native woodlands and parkland trees. Avoid prominent locations for built elements like buildings, driving ranges and ball-trap fencing. Develop species rich grassland in roughs to increase biodiversity.

Coalfield Upland Fringe

Land Management

Natural features, watercourses & wetlands

- Protect the banks of streams from livestock to prevent erosion and allow natural regeneration of bank-side vegetation.

Moor & heath

- Protect and conserve heaths and fells by adopting appropriate grazing or cutting regimes and controlling motorcycle scrambling, fly tipping & illegal grazing.
- Restore damaged heathland by removing conifer plantations or reducing stocking levels. Create new heathland on suitable sites – particularly those with impoverished, acidic or disturbed soils - using locally sourced heather litter or seed.

Farmland

- Maintain and enhance semi-improved pastures & meadows, wet pastures and rough grazing by adopting appropriate stocking levels or cutting regimes and avoiding improvements such as drainage, ploughing and reseeding. Limit the use of fertilisers and herbicides.
- Restore former meadows and restore diversity to improved pastures where possible by reseeding or the use of hay crops from local meadows as a seed source.

Trees, woodlands & forestry

- Protect and maintain existing hedgerow trees. Plant new field boundary trees (Ash, Sessile Oak, Rowan) – and particularly on restored opencast land - or tag saplings to replace the maturing stock.
- Conserve roadside trees and scrub – and particularly along enclosure roads.
- Plant new native oak or oak-birch woodlands along denes and steep valley side bluffs and alder woods along streamsides.
- Plant new medium or large scale mixed or broadleaved woodlands and particularly on former opencast land and close to settlement edges.
- Increase the proportion of locally native species when restocking plantations.
- Plant small woodlands and tree groups to screen larger modern farm buildings.

Cultural features

- Protect archaeological features by avoiding overstocking or supplementary feeding on sensitive sites.
- Protect and conserve mining-related features such as old drifts, spoil heaps, coke ovens, waggonways and lime kilns. Avoid physical damage, removal or infilling. Consolidate important structures taking archaeological advice.
- Conserve and maintain traditional field barns and farm buildings.

Field boundaries

- Protect, restore and maintain existing dry stone walls and hedgerows. Renovate overgrown and gappy hedges by laying or coppicing and gapping up.
- Reinstate hedges and walls where they have been replaced by fences - particularly in areas of older enclosure, along enclosure roads and lanes, and on reclaimed or restored opencast land.

Development

Agricultural buildings

- Site new farm buildings close to existing buildings where possible, and reflect their scale, character and materials. Reduce the impact of larger modern buildings by careful selection of colour, breaking up mass and planting screening belts of native species.

Energy, telecommunications & infrastructure

- Site communications masts on buildings in urban areas where possible – or close to existing buildings, tree groups or woodland edges in the open countryside. Avoid prominent skylines.

- Give careful consideration to the siting, layout and design of new wind energy developments having particular regard to cumulative impacts and the relationships of nearby developments in terms of turbine size and type.
- Avoid regular layouts. Break larger developments into discrete clusters to reflect the scale of the local topography. Avoid locating large turbines close to existing rural features such as farmsteads that might emphasise their scale.
- Take account of visual impacts on adjacent landscapes – particularly the finer grained Coalfield Valleys and the wild Moorland Ridges & Summits.

Housing & economic development

- Maintain the separation of villages and the rural character of the countryside between them in planning for new development.
- Screen new development on settlement edges with substantial structure planting of native woodland.
- Avoid prominent ridge top or sloping valley side sites for new development or incorporate substantial internal structure planting.

Minerals & waste

- Avoid damage to sensitive natural landforms.
- Avoid breaching local skylines with extraction areas or storage mounds.
- Restore sites to semi-natural oak and oak-birch woodland, mid-altitude heathland, acid and neutral grassland, wetland, and bare rock habitats using natural regeneration where appropriate.
- Adopt low intervention approaches to the reclamation of former colliery and industrial land where possible to preserve the landscape's industrial heritage and 'brownfield' biodiversity.

Tourism & recreation

- Tourism and recreational development should be undertaken in such a way as to avoid any urbanising influence on the landscape.
- Facilities like chalets and caravan parks should only be developed or extended where there is a high degree of year-round visual containment – either from the topography or robust woodland cover – so that they do not erode the rural character of the area.
- Golf course development should seek to conserve and reinforce landscape character by retaining mature landscape features and planting new native woodlands and parkland trees. Avoid prominent locations for built elements like buildings, driving ranges and ball-trap fencing. Develop species rich grassland or mid-altitude heath in roughs to increase biodiversity.
- Equestrian facilities should be sited close to existing farm buildings where possible, and reflect their scale, character and materials. The impact of larger buildings should be reduced by careful selection of colour, breaking up mass, and planting screening belts of native woodland.

Coalfield Valley Floodplain

Land Management

Natural features, watercourses & wetlands

- Protect, and conserve the natural character of, watercourses and wetlands.
- Restore natural conditions to floodplains where possible as part of integrated flood storage and landscape restoration schemes.
- Fence rivers, streams and wetlands against livestock to prevent erosion and allow regeneration of bank-side vegetation.
- Create reed beds (using Common Reed or Great Reedmace) to condition mine water or sewerage discharges.
- Protect ponds from drainage or infilling. Restore former ponds and create new ponds on suitable sites taking ecological advice.

Trees, woodlands & forestry

- Conserve and extend the broadleaved woodlands of river banks and floodplain bluffs. Progressively remove non-native species like sycamore and beech from modified ancient woodlands. Restock or extend using natural regeneration or planting native species of local origins.
- Plant new native oak woods in denes and ravines and along steep riverside bluffs. Plant new native alder woods on river banks and streamsides and on wet or seasonally flooded haughs.
- Protect and maintain existing tree lines along watercourses, ditches and river terraces.

Farmland

- Maintain and enhance wet pastures by adopting appropriate stocking levels and avoiding improvements such as drainage, ploughing and reseeding. Limit the use of fertilisers and herbicides.
- Restore former wet pastures by reversion from arable or diversification of improved pastures by drain blocking and reseeding with seed or hay crops from local sources.
- Create grassland or woodland buffers between arable fields and watercourses or wetlands.

Cultural features

- Protect and conserve relic features like old water mills, forges, mill races & water leats. Avoid physical damage, demolition or infilling. Consolidate important structures taking archaeological advice.
- Protect old gravel workings and manage to maximise their biodiversity value.

Field boundaries

- Protect, restore and maintain existing hedgerows. Renovate overgrown and gappy hedges by laying or coppicing and gapping up.
- Reinstate hedges where they have been replaced by fences in areas of long established enclosure.

Development

Agricultural buildings

- Site new farm buildings close to existing buildings where possible, and reflect their scale, character and materials.
- Reduce the impact of larger modern buildings by careful selection of colour, breaking up mass and planting screening belts of native species.

Energy, telecommunications & infrastructure

- Screen water treatment works with structure planting of native woodland.

Housing & economic development

- Avoid new development on the floodplain.
- Design any essential development so that it doesn’t compromise the natural hydrology of the floodplain.

Minerals & waste

- Restore floodplain gravel workings to wetland, reed bed, wet woodland and wet grassland habitats.

Tourism & recreation

- Tourism and recreational development should be undertaken in such a way as to avoid any urbanising influence on the landscape.
- New built development on the floodplain should be avoided.
- Golf course development should seek to conserve and reinforce landscape character by retaining mature landscape features and planting new native woodlands and parkland trees. Avoid prominent locations for built elements like driving ranges and ball-trap fencing – having regard to views from adjacent higher ground. Develop species rich grassland in roughs to increase biodiversity and develop new wetland features.

Coalfield Valley

Land Management

Natural features

- Fence river & stream banks against livestock to prevent erosion and allow natural regeneration of riverside vegetation.
- Protect ponds from drainage or infilling. Restore former ponds and create new ponds on suitable sites taking ecological advice.
- Create reed beds (using Common Reed or Great Reedmace) to condition mine water or sewerage discharges.

Farmland

- Maintain and enhance semi-improved pastures and meadows by adopting appropriate stocking levels or cutting regimes and avoiding improvements such as drainage, ploughing and reseeding. Limit the use of fertilisers and herbicides.
- Restore former meadows and restore diversity to improved pastures where possible by reseeding or the use of hay crops from local meadows as a seed source.
- Restore wet pasture and raised bog by blocking drains and raising water levels.
- Establish uncultivated margins along hedgerows, woodland edges and watercourses. Avoid cultivation under the canopy of hedgerow trees.

Trees, woodlands & forestry

- Conserve and extend dene & riverside woods.
- Restore replanted ancient woodlands by felling and natural regeneration, or restocking with native species of local origins.
- Increase the proportion of locally native species when restocking plantations.
- Plant new native oak or oak-birch woodlands along denes, valley floors and steep valley side bluffs, and alder woods along streamsides.
- Plant new small and medium sized mixed or broadleaved woodlands and particularly on former opencast land and close to settlement edges.
- Protect and maintain existing hedgerow trees. Plant new field boundary trees (Ash, Sessile Oak, Common Oak) – and particularly on restored opencast land - or tag saplings to replace the maturing stock.
- Plant small woodlands and tree groups to screen larger modern farm buildings, sewerage works, substations etc.

Cultural features

- Protect archaeological features including rigg & furrow from damaging activities such as cultivation, tree planting or poaching by stock.
- Protect and conserve industrial features such as old drifts, spoil heaps, coke ovens, waggonways, watermills and lime kilns. Avoid physical damage, removal or infilling. Consolidate important structures taking archaeological advice.
- Conserve and restore parklands, respecting designed elements and veteran trees.
- Conserve and maintain traditional field barns and farm buildings.

Field boundaries

- Protect and maintain hedgerows and stone walls.
- Renovate overgrown and gappy hedges by laying or coppicing and gapping up.
- Allow trimmed hedges to grow higher and broader. Consider trimming every second or third year rather than annually.
- Reinstate hedges and walls where they have been replaced by fences - particularly in areas of older enclosure, along enclosure roads and lanes, and on reclaimed or restored opencast land.

Development

Agricultural buildings

- Site new farm buildings close to existing buildings where possible, and reflect their scale, character and materials.
- Reduce the impact of larger modern buildings by careful selection of colour, breaking up mass and planting screening belts of native species.

Housing & economic development

- Maintain the separation of villages and the rural character of the countryside between them in planning for new development.
- Screen new development on settlement edges with substantial structure planting of native woodland. Avoid prominent sloping valley side sites for new development or incorporate substantial internal structure planting.

Energy, telecommunications & infrastructure

- Site communications masts on buildings in urban areas where possible – or close to existing buildings, tree groups or woodland edges in the open countryside. Avoid prominent skylines.
- Avoid 'urban' detailing and street lighting on country roads.

Minerals & waste

- Avoid damage to sensitive natural landforms, mature landscape features and semi-natural habitats in selecting and operating mineral sites.
- Avoid breaching local skylines with extraction areas or storage mounds.
- Restore sites to semi-natural oak and oak-birch woodland, lowland heath, acid and neutral grassland and wetland habitats using natural regeneration where appropriate.
- Adopt low intervention approaches to the reclamation of former colliery and industrial land where possible to preserve the landscape's industrial heritage and 'brownfield' biodiversity.

Tourism & recreation

- Tourism and recreational development should be undertaken in such a way as to avoid any urbanising influence on the landscape.
- Facilities like chalets and caravan parks should only be developed or extended where there is a high degree of year-round visual containment – either from the topography or robust woodland cover – so that they do not erode the rural character of the area.
- Golf course development should seek to conserve and reinforce landscape character by retaining mature landscape features and planting new native woodlands and parkland trees. Avoid prominent locations for built elements like buildings, driving ranges and ball-trap fencing. Develop species rich grassland or lowland heath in roughs to increase biodiversity.
- Equestrian facilities should be sited close to existing farm buildings where possible, and reflect their scale, character and materials. The impact of larger buildings should be reduced by careful selection of colour, breaking up mass, and planting screening belts of native woodland.

Lowland Valley Terraces

Land Management

Natural features, watercourses & wetlands

- Protect natural and artificial ponds from drainage or infilling. Restore former field ponds and create new ponds on suitable sites.

Farmland

- Establish uncultivated margins along hedgerows, woodland edges and watercourses. Avoid cultivation under the canopy of hedgerow trees.
- Maintain and enhance semi-improved pasture and meadow by adopting appropriate stocking levels or cutting regimes and avoiding improvements such as drainage, ploughing and reseeding. Limit the use of fertilisers and herbicides.
- Restore former meadows and restore diversity to improved pastures where possible by reseeding or the use of hay crops from local meadows as a seed source.

Moor & heath

- Protect and conserve lowland heath by adopting appropriate grazing or cutting regimes and controlling motorcycle scrambling, fly tipping & illegal grazing.
- Restore former heathland or create new areas of heathland on suitable sites.

Trees, woodlands & forestry

- Plant new small and medium sized broadleaved woodlands (oak on clay, oak-birch on sands & gravels) and particularly on former opencast land and close to settlement edges.
- Increase the proportion of locally native species when restocking plantations. Plant small woodlands and tree groups to screen larger modern farm buildings, sewerage works, substations etc.
- Protect and maintain existing hedgerow trees. Plant new field boundary trees (Ash, Common Oak) – and particularly on restored opencast land - or tag saplings to replace the maturing stock.

Cultural features

- Protect archaeological features including rigg & furrow from damaging activities such as cultivation, tree planting or poaching by stock.
- Protect and conserve industrial features such as old drifts, spoil heaps & waggonways. Avoid physical damage, removal or infilling. Consolidate important structures taking archaeological advice.
- Conserve and restore parklands, respecting designed elements and veteran trees.
- Conserve and maintain traditional field barns and farm buildings.

Field boundaries

- Protect and maintain hedgerows. Renovate overgrown and gappy hedges by laying or coppicing and gapping up.
- Allow trimmed hedges to grow higher and broader. Consider trimming every second or third year rather than annually.
- Reinstate hedges where they have been replaced by fences - particularly in areas of older enclosure and on reclaimed or restored opencast land.

Development

Agricultural buildings

- Site new farm buildings close to existing buildings where possible, and reflect their scale, character and materials.
- Reduce the impact of larger modern buildings by careful selection of colour, breaking up mass and planting screening belts of native species.

Housing & economic development

- Maintain the separation of villages and the rural character of the countryside between them in planning for new development.

- Screen new development on settlement edges with substantial structure planting of native woodland.
- Maintain important views of Durham Cathedral & Castle World Heritage Site

Energy, telecommunications & infrastructure

- Site communications masts on buildings in urban areas where possible – or close to existing buildings, tree groups or woodland edges in the open countryside.
- Avoid 'urban' detailing and street lighting on country roads.
- Avoid impacts on the setting of Durham Cathedral & Castle World Heritage Site.

Minerals & waste

- Avoid damage to sensitive natural landforms, mature landscape features and semi-natural habitats in selecting and operating mineral sites.
- Avoid breaching local skylines with extraction areas or storage mounds.
- Restore sites to semi-natural oak and oak-birch woodland, lowland heath, acid and neutral grassland and wetland habitats using natural regeneration where appropriate.
- Adopt low intervention approaches to the reclamation of former colliery and industrial land where possible to preserve the landscape's industrial heritage and 'brownfield' biodiversity.

Tourism & recreation

- Tourism and recreational development should be undertaken in such a way as to avoid any urbanising influence on the landscape.
- Facilities like chalets and caravan parks should only be developed or extended where there is a high degree of year-round visual containment – either from the topography or robust woodland cover – so that they do not erode the rural character of the area.
- Golf course development should seek to conserve and reinforce landscape character by retaining mature landscape features and planting new native woodlands and parkland trees. Avoid prominent locations for built elements like buildings, driving ranges and ball-trap fencing. Develop species rich grassland or lowland heath in roughs to increase biodiversity.
- Equestrian facilities should be sited close to existing farm buildings where possible, and reflect their scale, character and materials. The impact of larger buildings should be reduced by careful selection of colour, breaking up mass, and planting screening belts of native woodland.

Incised Lowland Valley

Land Management

Natural Features, watercourses & wetlands

- Protect and restore the natural character of watercourses and wetlands.
- Restore natural conditions to floodplains where possible as part of integrated flood storage and landscape restoration schemes.
- Fence rivers, streams and wetlands against livestock to prevent erosion and allow regeneration of bank-side vegetation.
- Create reed beds (using Common Reed or Great Reedmace) to condition mine water or sewerage discharges.
- Protect ponds from drainage or infilling. Restore former ponds and create new ponds on suitable sites.

Trees, woodlands & forestry

- Protect and conserve the broadleaved woodlands of denes and gorges, river banks and floodplain bluffs.
- Remove non-native species like softwoods, sycamore and beech from replanted or modified ancient woodlands and restock using natural regeneration or planting native species of local origins. Adopt longer term restructuring plans for modified ancient woods in historic parklands, respecting designed elements and veteran trees.
- Plant new native oak and oak-birch woods in denes and ravines and along steep riverside bluffs and valley sides. Plant new native alder woods on river banks and streamsides and on wet or seasonally flooded haughs.
- Protect and maintain existing hedgerow trees. Plant new hedgerow trees (Ash, Common Oak) – and particularly on restored opencast land - or tag saplings to replace the maturing stock.
- Protect and conserve the veteran trees of parklands. Protect against physical damage, browsing and ground compaction by livestock.

Farmland

- Establish uncultivated margins along hedgerows, woodland edges and watercourses.
- Avoid cultivation under the canopy of hedgerow & field trees.
- Maintain and enhance semi-improved or wet pastures and meadows by adopting appropriate stocking levels or cutting regimes. Avoid improvements such as drainage, ploughing and reseeding. Limit the use of fertilisers and herbicides.
- Restore diversity or wetness to improved pastures where possible - and particularly those of the floodplain and steeper bluffs - by reseeding or ditch blocking.

Cultural features

- Protect archaeological features including rigg & furrow from damaging activities such as cultivation, tree planting or poaching by stock.
- Protect and conserve industrial features such as old drifts & spoil heaps, waggonways, bridges & viaducts.
- Conserve and maintain historic parklands and landmark buildings, respecting designed elements and veteran trees.

Field boundaries

- Protect and maintain hedgerows. Renovate overgrown and gappy hedges by laying or coppicing and gapping up.
- Allow trimmed hedges to grow higher and broader. Consider trimming every second or third year rather than annually.
- Reinstate hedges where they have been replaced by fences - particularly in areas of older enclosure and on reclaimed or restored opencast land.

Development

Agricultural buildings

- Site new farm buildings close to existing buildings where possible, and reflect their scale, character and materials. Avoid steeply sloping sites.
- Reduce the impact of larger modern buildings by careful selection of colour, breaking up mass and planting screening belts of native species.

Housing & economic development

- Maintain the rural character of the incised lowland valleys by protecting rural areas from significant new built development.
- Screen any new development with substantial structure planting of native woodland.
- Avoid development on the floodplain. Design any essential development so that it doesn't compromise the natural hydrology of the floodplain.
- Maintain important views of Durham Cathedral & Castle World Heritage Site

Energy, telecommunications & infrastructure

- Site communications masts on buildings in urban areas where possible – or close to existing buildings, tree groups or woodland edges in the open countryside. Avoid prominent local skylines and particularly the edges of denes and bluffs.
- Avoid impacts on the setting of Durham Cathedral & Castle World Heritage Site.
- Avoid 'urban' detailing and street lighting on country roads.

Minerals & waste

- Avoid damage to sensitive natural landforms, mature landscape features and semi-natural habitats in selecting and operating mineral sites.
- Adopt low intervention approaches to the reclamation of former colliery and industrial land where possible to preserve the landscape's industrial heritage and 'brownfield' biodiversity.
- Restore mineral workings to native oak and oak-birch woodland, lowland heath, acid and neutral grassland and wetland habitats.

Tourism & recreation

- Tourism and recreational development should be undertaken in such a way as to avoid any urbanising influence on the landscape.
- Facilities like chalets and caravan parks should only be developed or extended where there is a high degree of year-round visual containment – either from the topography or robust woodland cover – so that they do not erode the rural character and scenic quality of the area.
- Golf course development should seek to conserve and reinforce landscape character by retaining mature landscape features and planting new native woodlands and parkland trees. Avoid prominent locations for built elements like buildings, driving ranges and ball-trap fencing. Develop species rich grassland or lowland heath in roughs to increase biodiversity.
- Equestrian facilities should be sited close to existing farm buildings where possible, and reflect their scale, character and materials. The impact of larger buildings should be reduced by careful selection of colour, breaking up mass, and planting screening belts of native woodland.

Limestone Escarpment

Land Management

Natural features, watercourses & wetlands

- Protect natural and artificial ponds from drainage or infilling. Restore former field ponds and create new ponds on suitable sites.

Farmland

- Protect and conserve magnesian limestone grasslands. Adopt grazing or cutting regimes which maximise their biodiversity & prevent encroachment by scrub. Avoid improvements such as drainage, ploughing and reseeding and limit the use of fertilisers and herbicides.
- Restore former limestone grasslands and create new species rich limestone and neutral grasslands on suitable sites, and particularly where they buffer, extend or link existing grasslands. Use seed or hay crops from local sources.
- Protect and conserve limestone plant communities in abandoned quarries, road verges and waste ground.
- Establish uncultivated margins along hedgerows, woodland edges and watercourses. Avoid cultivation under the canopy of hedgerow trees.

Trees, woodlands & forestry

- Protect, conserve and extend existing ancient woodlands.
- Restore modified or replanted ancient woodlands by progressively removing non-native species. Restock or extend using natural regeneration or planting native species of local origins.
- Plant new small and medium sized broadleaved woodlands (ash on limestone, oak on boulder clay) and particularly on steeper slopes, in denes and dry valleys, and around settlement edges.
- Progressively restructure softwood plantations – particularly those of reclaimed land - to create new native ash and oak woodlands.
- Plant small woodlands and tree groups to screen larger modern farm buildings.
- Protect and maintain existing hedgerow trees. Plant new field boundary trees (Ash, Common Oak) – and particularly on restored opencast land - or tag saplings to replace the maturing stock.

Cultural features

- Protect archaeological features including rigg & furrow from damaging activities such as cultivation, tree planting or poaching by stock.
- Conserve and maintain parkland relics, respecting designed elements and veteran trees.
- Conserve and maintain traditional field barns and farm buildings.

Field boundaries

- Protect and maintain hedgerows. Renovate overgrown and gappy hedges by laying or coppicing and gapping up.
- Allow trimmed hedges to grow higher and broader. Consider trimming every second or third year rather than annually.
- Reinstate hedges where they have been replaced by fences - particularly on steeper spur and vale sides.

Development

Agricultural buildings

- Site new farm buildings close to existing buildings where possible, and reflect their scale, character and materials. Avoid steeply sloping sites. Reduce the impact of larger modern buildings by careful selection of colour, breaking up mass and planting screening belts of native species.

Energy, telecommunications & infrastructure

- Site communications masts on buildings in urban areas where possible – or close to existing buildings, tree groups or woodland edges in the open countryside.

- Avoid the siting of tall structures such as communication masts, pylons and wind turbines on prominent local skylines and particularly escarpment spurs and those areas forming a backdrop in important views of Durham Cathedral.
- Give careful consideration to the siting, layout and design of new wind energy developments having particular regard to cumulative impacts, the relationships of nearby developments in terms of turbine size and type, and impacts on the setting of the Durham Cathedral and Castle World Heritage Site.
- Avoid 'urban' detailing and street lighting on country roads.

Housing & economic development

- Maintain the separation of towns and villages and the rural character of the countryside between them in planning for new development.
- Screen any new development on settlement edges with substantial structure planting of native ash woodland. Avoid prominent sloping sites for new development or incorporate substantial internal structure planting.
- Avoid ridgeline development on the escarpment and particularly in those areas forming a backdrop in important views of Durham Cathedral.

Minerals and waste

- Avoid damage to sensitive natural landforms, mature landscape features and semi-natural habitats in selecting and operating mineral sites.
- Restore quarry faces to naturalistic profiles using restoration blasting.
- Restore quarries & landfill sites to native ash woodland, limestone grassland, wetland and bare rock habitats. Retain areas of disturbed ground, cliff faces, scree slopes and quarry wastes to maximise botanical diversity.
- Minimise visual impacts in the working of quarries through careful site design and the use of on and off-site structure planting, road and path side hedges.
- Adopt low intervention approaches to the reclamation of former colliery and industrial land where possible to preserve the landscape's industrial heritage and 'brownfield' biodiversity.

Tourism & recreation

- Tourism and recreational development should be undertaken in such a way as to avoid any urbanising influence on the landscape.
- Golf course development should seek to conserve and reinforce landscape character by retaining mature landscape features and planting new native woodlands and parkland trees. Avoid prominent locations for built elements like buildings, driving ranges and ball-trap fencing. Develop species limestone or neutral grassland in roughs to increase biodiversity.
- Equestrian facilities should be sited close to existing farm buildings where possible, and reflect their scale, character and materials. The impact of larger buildings should be reduced by careful selection of colour, breaking up mass, and planting screening belts of native woodland.

Clay Plateau

Land Management

Natural features, watercourses & wetlands

- Protect natural and artificial ponds from drainage or infilling. Maintain uncultivated buffers to ponds in arable areas and avoid their isolation in large fields – maintain or create connecting features such as rough grassland, woodland or hedgerows.

Farmland

- Conserve and maintain wet grasslands on poorly drained clays. Restore areas of former wetland and wet grassland by blocking ditches and drains and reverting, where appropriate, from arable to pasture.
- Maintain and enhance semi-improved pasture and meadow by adopting appropriate stocking levels or cutting regimes. Avoid improvements such as drainage, ploughing and reseeding, and limit the use of fertilisers and herbicides.
- Restore diversity to improved grasslands – and particularly in areas close to sites of nature conservation interest - by reseeding or using hay crops from local meadows.
- Establish uncultivated margins along hedgerows, woodland edges, wetlands and watercourses. Avoid cultivation under the canopy of hedgerow trees.

Trees, woodlands & forestry

- Plant new medium or large scale broadleaved woodlands (oak woods on clay, ash woods on localised limestone outcrops).
- Plant new community woodlands close to settlements and structural woodland planting to define urban edges and screen industrial estates. Plant small woodlands and tree groups to screen larger modern farm buildings.
- Increase the proportion of locally native species when restocking plantations.
- Protect and maintain existing hedgerow trees where they occur. Avoid close cultivation, physical damage or spray drift in arable areas.
- Plant new field boundary trees (Ash, Common Oak) or tag saplings to replace the maturing stock and particularly in areas of older enclosure.

Cultural features

- Protect archaeological features including rigg & furrow from damaging activities such as cultivation, tree planting or poaching by stock.

Field boundaries

- Protect and maintain hedgerows. Renovate overgrown and gappy hedges by laying or coppicing and gapping up.
- Allow trimmed hedges to grow higher and broader. Consider trimming every second or third year rather than annually.
- Reinstate hedges where they have been replaced by fences - particularly in areas of older enclosure.

Development

Agricultural buildings

- Site new farm buildings close to existing buildings where possible, and reflect their scale, character and materials. Avoid prominent locations like low hills and knolls. Reduce the impact of larger modern buildings by careful selection of colour, breaking up mass and planting screening belts of native species.

Energy, telecommunications & infrastructure

- Site communications masts on buildings in urban areas where possible – or close to existing buildings, tree groups or woodland edges in the open countryside.
- Give careful consideration to the siting, layout and design of new wind energy developments having particular regard to cumulative impacts and the relationships of nearby developments in terms of turbine size and type.

- Avoid locating large turbines close to existing rural features such as farmsteads that might emphasise their scale, or on, or close, to discrete landforms like low hills and knolls as this will diminish their perceived scale.
- Take account of visual impacts on adjacent landscapes – particularly the finer grained Limestone Escarpment - and areas forming the backdrop in important views of Durham Cathedral
- Avoid 'urban' detailing and street lighting on country roads.

Housing & economic development

- Maintain the separation of towns and villages and the rural character of the countryside between them in planning for new development. Screen any new development with substantial structure planting of native oak or ash woodland.

Minerals and waste

- Avoid damage to sensitive natural landforms, mature landscape features and semi-natural habitats in selecting and operating mineral sites.
- Restore quarry faces to naturalistic profiles using restoration blasting.
- Restore quarries & landfill sites to native ash woodland, calcareous or neutral grassland, wetland and bare rock habitats. Retain areas of disturbed ground, cliff faces, scree slopes and quarry wastes to maximise botanical diversity.
- Minimise visual impacts in the working of quarries through careful site design and the use of on and off-site structure planting, road and path side hedges.
- Adopt low intervention approaches to the reclamation of former colliery and industrial land where possible to preserve the landscape's industrial heritage and 'brownfield' biodiversity.

Tourism & recreation

- Tourism and recreational development should be undertaken in such a way as to avoid any urbanising influence on the landscape.
- Golf course development should seek to conserve and reinforce landscape character by retaining mature landscape features and planting new native woodlands and parkland trees. Avoid prominent locations for built elements like buildings, driving ranges and ball-trap fencing. Develop limestone or neutral grassland in roughs to increase biodiversity.
- Equestrian facilities should be sited close to existing farm buildings where possible, and reflect their scale, character and materials. The impact of larger buildings should be reduced by careful selection of colour, breaking up mass, and planting screening belts of native woodland.

Coastal Limestone Plateau

Land Management

Natural features, watercourses & wetlands

- Conserve and restore field and farmyard watering ponds. Remove silt and rank vegetation after taking specialist ecological advice. Create permanent grassland buffers in arable fields. Limit stock access to part of the pond perimeter in pasture.

Farmland

- Restore former limestone grasslands on localised limestone outcrops by reversion from arable or by diversifying improved pastures. Use seed or hay crops from local sources.
- Conserve and enhance existing semi-improved neutral grasslands. Adopt appropriate stocking levels or cutting regimes to maximise their biodiversity and avoid improvements such as drainage or reseeding. Limit the use of fertilisers and herbicides.
- Create new species rich grasslands on suitable sites, and particularly where they buffer, extend or link existing semi-natural habitats – and particularly ancient woods and old pastures.
- Protect and conserve semi-natural plant communities in abandoned quarries, road verges and waste ground.
- Establish uncultivated margins along hedgerows, woodland edges, ponds and watercourses. Avoid cultivation under the canopy of hedgerow trees.
- Enhance the biodiversity of golf courses and recreation grounds by increasing the extent of rough grassland, relaxing mowing regimes and reducing the use of fertilisers and herbicides.

Trees, woodlands & forestry

- Protect and conserve ancient dene woodlands.
- Progressively remove non-native species like softwoods, sycamore and beech from replanted or modified ancient woods and restock using natural regeneration or planting native species of local origins.
- Plant new native ash (limestone outcrops) and oak (boulder clay) woods in denes and sheltered valleys to buffer and extend existing woodlands.
- Plant new community woodlands on settlement edges in sheltered locations.
- Protect and maintain hedgerow trees in sheltered areas where they occur. Avoid close cultivation, physical damage or spray drift.
- Plant new hedgerow trees (Ash, Common Oak) in sheltered areas and particularly in areas of timbered estate farmland - or tag saplings - to replace the maturing stock.

Field boundaries

- Protect and maintain hedgerows. Renovate gappy hedges by laying or coppicing and gapping up.
- Allow trimmed hedges to grow higher and broader. Consider trimming every second or third year rather than annually.
- Reinstate hedges where they have been replaced by fences. In areas bordering the coast consider removal of fences to create more open grasslands.
- Reinstate hedges where the hedgerow network has been fragmented by the amalgamation of arable fields and particularly where field sizes are very large or where new hedges would connect other habitats

Cultural features

- Protect archaeological features including rigg & furrow from damaging activities such as cultivation or poaching by stock.

Development

Agricultural buildings

- Site new farm buildings close to existing buildings where possible, and reflect their scale, character and materials. Avoid prominent locations like low hills and knolls. Reduce the impact of larger modern buildings by careful selection of colour, breaking up mass and planting screening belts of native species.

Energy, telecommunications & infrastructure

- Site communications masts on buildings in urban areas where possible – or close to existing buildings, tree groups or woodland edges in the open countryside.
- Give careful consideration to the siting, layout and design of new wind energy developments having particular regard to cumulative impacts and the relationships of nearby developments in terms of turbine size and type.
- Avoid locating large turbines close to existing rural features such as farmsteads that might emphasise their scale.
- Avoid locating large turbines on or close to discrete landforms like low hills and knolls as this will diminish their perceived scale.
- Take account of visual impacts on adjacent landscapes – particularly the Heritage Coast.
- Avoid 'urban' detailing and street lighting on country roads.

Housing & economic development

- Maintain the separation of towns and villages and the rural character of the countryside between them in planning for new development.
- Screen any new development with substantial structure planting of native oak or ash woodland or coastal scrub.

Minerals and waste

- Avoid damage to sensitive natural landforms, mature landscape features and semi-natural habitats in selecting and operating mineral sites.
- Restore quarry faces to naturalistic profiles using restoration blasting.
- Restore quarries & landfill sites to native ash woodland, calcareous or neutral grassland, wetland and bare rock habitats. Retain areas of disturbed ground, cliff faces, scree slopes and quarry wastes to maximise botanical diversity.
- Minimise visual impacts in the working of quarries through careful site design and the use of on and off-site structure planting, road and path side hedges.
- Adopt low intervention approaches to the reclamation of former colliery and industrial land where possible to preserve the landscape's industrial heritage and 'brownfield' biodiversity.

Tourism & recreation

- Tourism and recreational development should be undertaken in such a way as to avoid any urbanising influence on the landscape.
- Golf course development should seek to conserve and reinforce landscape character by retaining mature landscape features and planting new native woodlands and parkland trees. Avoid prominent locations for built elements like buildings, driving ranges and ball-trap fencing. Develop limestone or neutral grassland in roughs to increase biodiversity.
- Equestrian facilities should be sited close to existing farm buildings where possible, and reflect their scale, character and materials. The impact of larger buildings should be reduced by careful selection of colour, breaking up mass, and planting screening belts of native woodland. Limestone Coast.

Limestone Coast

Land Management

Natural features, watercourses & wetlands

- Allow natural processes to shape the coast, avoiding the use of sea defences unless absolutely necessary.
- Monitor the natural erosion of colliery wastes from beaches – removing any hazardous or unsightly materials exposed.
- Manage access to the foreshore and in particular prevent vehicular access.

Farmland

- Conserve and manage coastal grasslands to maintain and enhance their diversity. Adopt appropriate stocking levels or cutting regimes to maximise flowering and seed setting. Avoid improvements such as drainage or reseeding and the use of fertilisers and herbicides.
- Revert cliff-top arable to species-rich grassland. Use seed or hay crops from local sources.
- Avoid permanent fencing – maintain visual openness.
- Allow areas of open scrub to develop in coastal grasslands – and particularly in and around shallow cliff-top denes - to create visual and ecological diversity and a more 'natural' character.
- Control erosion of dune grasslands by restricting or guiding public access and reinforcing well used routes with natural materials.

Trees, woodlands & forestry

- Protect and conserve broadleaved woodlands and scrub in coastal denes and the sides of dene-mouths. Progressively remove non-native species and restock using natural regeneration or planting native species of local origins.
- Plant new native ash (limestone outcrops) and oak (boulder clay) woods and scrub (Hazel, Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Juniper) in sheltered denes, avoiding areas of nature conservation interest.
- Plant areas of coastal scrub to screen roads and railway lines, settlement edges, allotment gardens and industrial land.

Development

Agricultural buildings

- Where possible site new farm buildings away from the coastal strip on the adjacent Coastal Limestone Plateau.
- Reduce the impact of larger modern buildings by careful selection of colour, breaking up mass and planting screening belts of native coastal scrub.

Energy, telecommunications & infrastructure

- Avoid locating tall structures like masts and turbines on the coastal strip – where possible site them on the adjacent Coastal Limestone Plateau, either in urban areas or close to existing buildings, tree groups or woodland edges.

Housing & economic development

- Keep the undeveloped coastline free from further development. Ensure that any essential facilities are carefully sited and designed to minimise their impact.

- Screen any essential new development with substantial structure planting of native coastal scrub.

Tourism & recreation

- Tourism and recreational development should be undertaken in such a way as to avoid an urbanising influence on the increasingly natural landscape of the coast.
- In designing new facilities including footpath, car parks, seating areas and signage use natural materials such as local limestone. Adopt a low key and vernacular design idiom and avoid urban or municipal characteristics.

Lowland Vale

Land Management

Natural features, watercourses & wetlands

- Fence river & stream banks against livestock to prevent erosion and allow natural regeneration of bank-side vegetation.
- Protect and conserve ponds and wet grasslands in low lying carrs. Restore wetness to former carr land where possible by raising water levels in ditches.

Farmland

- Establish uncultivated margins along hedgerows, woodland edges and watercourses. Avoid cultivation under the canopy of hedgerow trees.
- Maintain and enhance semi-improved pastures and meadows by adopting appropriate stocking levels or cutting regimes and avoiding improvements such as drainage, ploughing and reseeding. Limit the use of fertilisers and herbicides.
- Restore former meadows and restore diversity to improved pastures where possible by reseeding or the use of hay crops from local meadows as a seed source.

Trees, woodlands & forestry

- Conserve and restore ancient woodlands.
- Protect and maintain existing hedgerow trees. Avoid close cultivation in arable fields.
- Plant new hedgerow trees (Ash, Oak) or tag saplings to replace the maturing stock.
- Plant new small and medium sized broadleaved (oak) woodlands, respecting field patterns, and avoiding sites of nature conservation or archaeological interest.
- Increase the proportion of locally native species when restocking plantations.

Field Boundaries

- Protect and maintain existing hedgerows.
- Restore old field patterns by reinstating hedges where they have been replaced by fences or removed in enlarging arable fields.
- Renovate overgrown or gappy hedges by laying or coppicing and gapping up.
- Allow trimmed hedges to grow higher and broader. Consider trimming every second or third year rather than annually.

Cultural features

- Protect archaeological features including rigg & furrow from damaging activities such as cultivation, overstocking, or poaching.
- Conserve and maintain traditional farm buildings.
- Conserve and restore parklands, respecting designed elements and veteran trees.

Development

Agricultural buildings

- Site new farm buildings close to existing buildings where possible, and reflect their scale, character and materials.
- Reduce the impact of larger modern buildings by careful selection of colour, breaking up mass and planting screening belts of native species.

Housing & economic development

- Maintain the separation of villages and the rural character of the countryside between them in planning for new development.
- Screen new development on settlement edges with substantial structure planting of native oak woodland.
- Protect and conserve the character of villages and towns by ensuring that new development respects their scale, structure and vernacular character.

- Retain open green spaces within villages, and particularly village greens, old gardens and orchards, and tofts or garths.

Energy, telecommunications & infrastructure

- Site communications masts on buildings in urban areas where possible – or close to existing buildings, tree groups or woodland edges in the open countryside.
- Avoid ‘urban’ detailing and street lighting on country roads.

Minerals & waste

- Avoid damage to sensitive natural landforms, mature landscape features and semi-natural habitats in selecting and operating mineral sites.
- Avoid breaching local skylines with extraction areas or storage mounds.
- Restore sites to semi-natural oak woodland, neutral grassland and wetland habitats using natural regeneration where appropriate.

Tourism & recreation

- Tourism and recreational development should be undertaken in such a way as to avoid any urbanising influence on the landscape. New buildings should, where possible, reflect the scale, form, materials and vernacular detailing of traditional farm buildings in the area.
- Facilities like chalets and caravan parks should only be developed or extended where there is a high degree of year-round visual containment – either from the topography or robust woodland cover – so that they do not detract from the rural character and scenic quality of the area.
- Golf course development should seek to conserve and reinforce landscape character by retaining mature landscape features and planting new native woodlands and parkland trees. Avoid prominent locations for built elements like buildings, driving ranges and ball-trap fencing. Develop species rich grassland in roughs to increase biodiversity.
- Equestrian facilities should be sited close to existing farm buildings where possible, and reflect their scale, character and materials. The impact of larger buildings should be reduced by careful selection of colour, breaking up mass, and planting screening belts of native woodland.

Lowland Carrs

Land Management

Natural features, watercourses & wetlands

- Restore natural hydrological conditions to the carrs where possible as part of integrated flood storage and landscape restoration schemes.
- Restore the natural meandering course of the River Skerne.
- Protect and conserve natural ponds and flashes.
- Manage drainage ditches to conserve their wildlife value by maintaining high water levels, creating stepped profiles and leaving sections or banks undisturbed during maintenance works.

Farmland

- Conserve and enhance wet pastures by maintaining or raising water levels, allowing seasonal flooding, adopting appropriate stocking levels and avoiding improvements such as drainage, ploughing and reseeding. Limit the use of fertilisers and herbicides.
- Restore former wet pastures by reversion from arable to pasture and raising water levels.
- Establish permanent uncultivated grassland margins along hedgerows, ditches and watercourses.

Trees, woodlands & forestry

- Maintain the openness of the carr landscape generally.
- Plant individual trees (Crack Willow, Black Poplar) and tree lines along ditches and watercourses.
- Plant new native alder woods - and particularly in the edges of the carrs or in areas modified by road and railway lines.

Field Boundaries

- Protect and maintain existing hedgerows in the carrs fringe.
- Renovate overgrown or gappy hedges by laying or coppicing and gapping up. Allow trimmed hedges to grow higher and broader. Consider trimming every second or third year rather than annually.
- Restore old field patterns in the carrs fringe by reinstating hedges.
- Conserve hedgerow trees in the carrs fringe – avoid close cultivation in arable fields. Plant new hedgerow trees (Ash) in areas where they are characteristic.

Cultural features

- Protect archaeological features including rigg & furrow from damaging activities such as cultivation, overstocking, or poaching.

Development

Agricultural buildings

- Avoid siting new farm buildings on the flat land of the carrs. Where possible site them on adjacent areas of higher ground, close to existing farmsteads, reflecting their scale, character and materials.
- Reduce the impact of larger modern buildings by careful selection of colour, breaking up mass and planting screening belts of native species.

Housing & economic development

- Maintain the undeveloped character of the carrs by avoiding new development.
- Screen any essential new development with substantial structure planting of native oak (dry ground) or alder (wet ground) woodland.

Energy, telecommunications & infrastructure

- Avoid siting communications masts in the open landscape of the carrs – where possible site them in adjacent urban areas or close to existing buildings, tree groups or woodland edges in the Lowland Plain landscapes fringing the carrs.
- Avoid siting wind energy development on the open carrs – consider alternative locations in the carr fringes.

Lowland River Terraces

Land Management

Natural Features, watercourses & wetlands

- Protect and restore the natural character of watercourses and wetlands.
- Restore natural conditions to floodplains where possible as part of integrated flood storage and landscape restoration schemes.
- Fence rivers, streams and wetlands against livestock to prevent erosion and allow regeneration of bank-side vegetation.
- Protect ponds from drainage or infilling. Restore former ponds and create new ponds on suitable sites.

Trees, woodlands & forestry

- Protect and conserve the broadleaved woodlands of steep riverside bluffs, incised denes and river banks.
- Extend existing woodlands through natural regeneration or planting with native species of local origins - oak woods on bluffs and river terraces, alder on river banks and streamsides and on wet or seasonally flooded haughs.
- Protect and maintain existing hedgerow trees and tree lines. Plant new hedgerow trees (Ash, Common Oak) or tag saplings to replace the maturing stock. Plant new tree lines – (Alder, Crack Willow) on river, ditch and streamsides.

Farmland

- Establish uncultivated margins along hedgerows, woodland edges and watercourses.
- Avoid cultivation under the canopy of hedgerow & field trees.
- Maintain and enhance semi-improved or wet pastures and meadows by adopting appropriate stocking levels or cutting regimes. Avoid improvements such as drainage, ploughing and reseeding. Limit the use of fertilisers and herbicides.
- Restore diversity or wetness to improved pastures where possible - and particularly those of the floodplain and steeper bluffs.

Field boundaries

- Protect and maintain hedgerows. Renovate overgrown and gappy hedges by laying or coppicing and gapping up.
- Allow trimmed hedges to grow higher and broader. Consider trimming every second or third year rather than annually.
- Reinstate hedges where they have been replaced by fences.

Cultural features,

- Protect archaeological features including rigg & furrow from damaging activities such as cultivation, tree planting or poaching by stock.

Development

Agricultural buildings

- Site new farm buildings close to existing buildings where possible, and reflect their scale, character and materials. Avoid steeply sloping sites.
- Reduce the impact of larger modern buildings by careful selection of colour, breaking up mass and planting screening belts of native species.

Housing & economic development

- Maintain the rural character of the landscape generally by protecting it from significant new built development.
- Protect and conserve the character of villages by ensuring that new development respects their scale, structure and vernacular character.
- Retain open green spaces within villages, and particularly village greens, old gardens and orchards, and tofts or garths.
- Design any essential development so that it doesn’t compromise the natural hydrology of the floodplain.

Energy, telecommunications & infrastructure

- Site communications masts on buildings in urban areas where possible – or close to existing buildings, tree groups or woodland edges in the open countryside. Avoid prominent local skylines and particularly the edges of river terraces
- Avoid ‘urban’ detailing and street lighting on country roads.

Tourism & recreation

- Tourism and recreational development should be undertaken in such a way as to avoid any urbanising influence on the landscape. New buildings should, where possible, reflect the scale, form, materials and vernacular detailing of traditional farm buildings in the area.
- Facilities like chalets and caravan parks should only be developed or extended where there is a high degree of year-round visual containment – either from the topography or robust woodland cover – so that they do not detract from the rural character and scenic quality of the area.

Lowland Plain

Land Management

Natural features, watercourses & wetlands

- Conserve and restore natural and artificial field ponds. Remove silt and rank vegetation after taking specialist ecological advice or create new ponds nearby. Create permanent grassland buffers around ponds in arable fields. Limit stock access to part of the pond perimeter in pasture.

Farmland

- Establish uncultivated margins along hedgerows, woodland edges, ditches and watercourses. Avoid cultivation under the canopy of hedgerow trees.
- Maintain and enhance semi-improved pastures and meadows by adopting appropriate stocking levels or cutting regimes and avoiding improvements such as drainage, ploughing and reseeding. Limit the use of fertilisers and herbicides.
- Restore former meadows and restore diversity to improved pastures where possible by reseeding or the use of hay crops from local meadows as a seed source.

Trees, woodlands & forestry

- Protect and maintain existing hedgerow trees. Avoid close cultivation in arable fields.
- Plant new hedgerow trees (Ash, Oak) or tag saplings to replace the maturing stock.
- Plant new medium sized broadleaved (oak) woodlands, respecting field patterns, and avoiding sites of nature conservation or archaeological interest.
- Increase the proportion of locally native species when restocking plantations.

Field Boundaries

- Protect archaeological features including rigg & furrow from damaging activities such as cultivation, overstocking, or poaching.
- Conserve and maintain traditional farm buildings.
- Conserve and restore parklands, respecting designed elements and veteran trees.

Cultural features

- Protect and maintain existing hedgerows.
- Restore old field patterns by reinstating hedges where they have been replaced by fences or removed in enlarging arable fields.
- Allow trimmed hedges to grow higher and broader. Consider trimming every second or third year rather than annually.

Development

Agricultural buildings

- Site new farm buildings close to existing buildings where possible, and reflect their scale, character and materials.
- Reduce the impact of larger modern buildings by careful selection of colour, breaking up mass and planting screening belts of native species. Avoid prominent sites such as low hills or knolls.

Housing & economic development

- Maintain the separation of villages and the rural character of the countryside between them in planning for new development.
- Screen new development on settlement edges with substantial structure planting of native oak woodland.
- Protect and conserve the character of villages and towns by ensuring that new development respects their scale, structure and vernacular character.
- Retain open green spaces within villages, and particularly village greens, old gardens and orchards, and tofts or garths.

Energy, telecommunications & infrastructure

- Site communications masts on buildings in urban areas where possible – or close to existing buildings, tree groups or woodland edges in the open countryside.
- Give careful consideration to the siting, layout and design of new wind energy developments having particular regard to cumulative impacts and the relationships of nearby developments in terms of turbine size and type.
- Avoid locating large turbines close to existing rural features such as farmsteads that might emphasise their scale.
- Avoid locating large turbines on or close to discrete landforms like low hills and knolls as this will diminish their perceived scale.
- Avoid 'urban' detailing and street lighting on country roads.

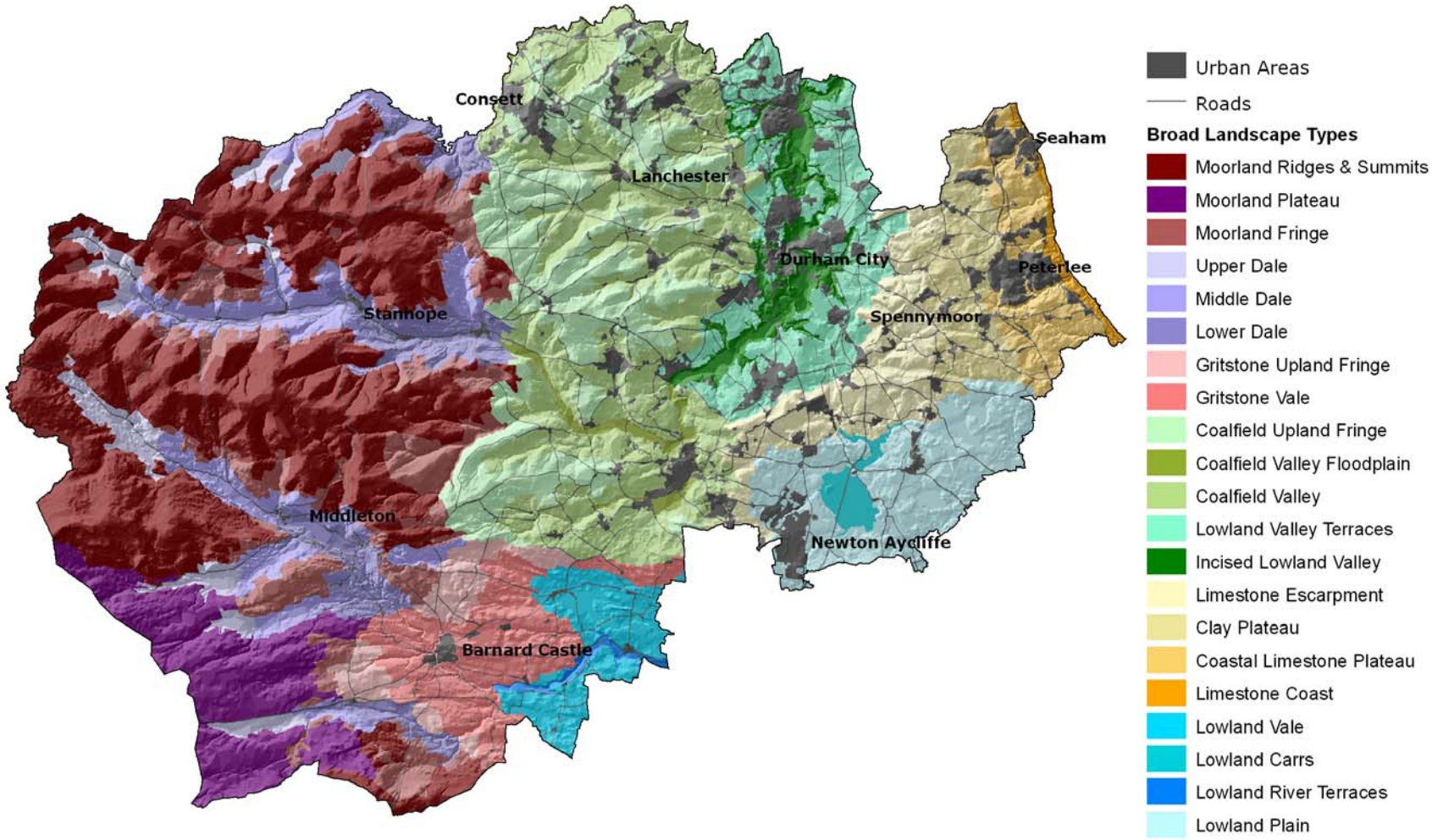
Minerals & waste

- Avoid damage to sensitive natural landforms, mature landscape features and semi-natural habitats in selecting and operating mineral sites.
- Avoid breaching local skylines with extraction areas or storage mounds.
- Restore sites to semi-natural oak woodland, neutral grassland and wetland habitats using natural regeneration where appropriate.

Tourism & recreation

- Tourism and recreational development should be undertaken in such a way as to avoid any urbanising influence on the landscape.
- Facilities like chalets and caravan parks should only be developed or extended where there is a high degree of year-round visual containment – either from the topography or robust woodland cover – so that they do not detract from the rural character and scenic quality of the area.
- Golf course development should seek to conserve and reinforce landscape character by retaining mature landscape features and planting new native woodlands and parkland trees. Avoid prominent locations for built elements like buildings, driving ranges and ball-trap fencing. Develop species rich neutral grassland in roughs to increase biodiversity.
- Equestrian facilities should be sited close to existing farm buildings where possible, and reflect their scale, character and materials. The impact of larger buildings should be reduced by careful selection of colour, breaking up mass, and planting screening belts of native woodland.

Broad Landscape Types



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