THE COUNTY DURHAM LANDSCAPE

North Pennines - Local Landscape Types

Durham County Council

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

Crags, scars and stone bands

Crags, scars and stone bands are relatively uncommon in the eastern valleys of the North Pennines and vary in character with the underlying geology.

The Dolerites of the Whin Sill form steep scars that are generally grey in colour with a vertical columnar structure. In places they form tall singular crags (Cronkley Scar, Falcon Clints) with sparsely vegetated blocky scree slopes. Elsewhere the columnar structure of the dolerite gives a stepped profile to lower scars (Holwick Scars) which may be further dissected by hanging gills to give a more undulating sequence of buttresses and grassy gills or cols. These rocks also give rise to spectacular waterfalls which may be massive (High Force) or stepped and columnar (Cauldron Snout).

Carboniferous Sandstones and Limestones outcrop on steeper dale & moorland valley sides in low crags and rocky stone bands. These crags have a horizontally bedded structure, with prominent vertical jointing typical of the limestones. Grey or buff limestones may be found together with darker sandstones and occasionally dark grey shales. The softer sandstones and shales often weather and support vegetation.

Subtypes

Juniper woods

Dale floor farmland: pasture and meadow

Pastoral farmland of the lower dale floor. The dale floor is relatively flat, its fertile brown earths and brown alluvial soils supporting improved and semi-improved pasture and meadow. Much of the meadow is improved and managed for silage but there are some traditionally managed flower-rich meadows. Field boundaries are a mixture of old, pre-inclosure, hedges and walls with frequent hedgerow trees (Ash, Oak, Sycamore). Field patterns are irregular or sub-regular, often following watercourses and river terraces and occasionally following the curved boundaries of medieval strip fields. Rivers and minor tributary streams from daleside gills meander across the dale floor, often marked by narrow riparian woodlands or tree lines (Alder). There are scattered relics of medieval rigg & furrow.

Subtypes

Modern field system

Areas of modern field rationalisation – usually bounded by wire fences.

Old Enclosure.

The type

Dale floor farmland: walled pasture and meadow

Pastoral farmland of the upper dale floor. The dale floor may be flat or gently undulating, its brown earths and stagnogley soils supporting improved and semi-improved pasture and meadow. Some meadow is improved and managed for silage but there are large areas of traditionally managed flower rich hay meadow. On wetter ground pastures are rushy. Field boundaries are predominantly dry stone walls dating from many different periods. Tree cover is generally low, though field boundary trees (Ash, Sycamore) are common in places and particularly in areas of older enclosure. Rivers and minor tributary streams from daleside gills run across the dale floor, often marked by narrow riparian woodlands or tree lines (Alder). Locally there may be relics of lead mining and processing.

Subtypes

Modern field system

Areas of modern field rationalisation – usually bounded by wire fences.

Old Enclosure.

Areas of early, often piecemeal, enclosure. Older fields may be irregular or sub-regular, their alignments strongly influenced by watercourses, river terraces, roads and tracks. The oldest walls are often made from irregular river cobbles or field clearance stones. Field tress are locally common.

Surveyor Enclosed

Areas of late, 18th or 19th century enclosure. Field patterns are regular grids of dry stone walls, usually of fairly thinly bedded quarried stone. Field trees are rare.

Dale Reservoir

Water supply reservoirs in the middle and upper dale. Dale reservoirs are bordered by fringes of pasture or rough grassland, usually demarcated by a continuous boundary wall, or flanked by areas of coniferous forestry. Dams, spillways, pump houses and other buildings, usually built of stone in a formal 'estate' style, are often notable features. Bare draw down zones may be prominent when water levels are low.

Subtypes

Reservoir.

Reservoir water body.

Reservoir fringes.

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

Daleside farmland: pasture and meadow

Pastoral farmland of improved and semi-improved pasture and meadow on the slopes of the lower dale side. Most meadows are improved and cut for silage. Field boundaries are a mixture of old, pre-inclosure, hedges and walls, with locally abundant hedgerow trees (Ash, Oak, Sycamore). Field patterns are generally sub-regular, sometimes following the curved boundaries of medieval strip fields. Hedges are often overgrown and unmanaged, in places reduced to lines of bushes and trees grazed through by livestock. Areas of rigg & furrow, strip lynchets and other cultivation features survive from earlier periods of cultivation on land around villages and older farms.

Subtypes

Old Enclosure.

The type

Surveyor Enclosed

Areas of late, 18th or 19th century enclosure. Field patterns are regular grids of dry stone walls, usually of fairly thinly bedded quarried stone. Field trees are rare.

Daleside farmland: walled pasture and meadow

Pastoral farmland of the upper dale side. Heavy and often poorly drained soils support improved and semi-improved pastures and meadows. Wetter pastures are often rushy. Some meadows are cut for silage; others are managed as traditional meadow. Field boundaries are predominantly dry stone walls dating from many different periods. Small stone field barns are fairly common. Tree cover is sparse, with isolated stands of shelter trees (Ash, Sycamore) around daleside farms, occasional field trees and tree lined watercourses (Alder, Sallow). Relics of lead mining and processing are locally common.

Subtypes

Old Enclosure.

Areas of early, often piecemeal, enclosure. Older fields may be irregular or sub-regular, their alignments often influenced by the local topography The oldest walls are often made from field clearance stones..

Surveyor Enclosed

Areas of late, 18th or 19th century enclosure. Field patterns are regular grids of dry stone walls, usually of fairly thinly bedded quarried stone, and often ignoring the underlying topography.

Daleside farmland: wooded estate pasture

Wooded pastoral estate farmland. Heavy and often poorly drained soils support improved and semi-improved pastures. The overall landscape is deliberately designed with large coniferous or mixed plantations and smaller copses and coverts, often in geometrical shapes. Field boundaries are dry stone walls and fences on higher ground, giving way to hedges on the lower daleside.

Subtypes

Surveyor Enclosed

The type

Daleside farmland: wooded pasture and meadow

Wooded pastoral farmland of the lower dale side. Woodlands are a mixture of ancient Sessile Oak and Ash woods in gorges and ravines and on steep daleside slopes, and plantations of softwoods (Scots Pine, Larch) or hardwoods (Beech, Sycamore). The farmland between is a mixture of improved and semi-improved pasture and meadow, with most meadows being improved and cut for silage. Field boundaries are a mixture of old, pre-inclosure, hedges and walls, with locally abundant hedgerow trees (Ash, Oak, Sycamore). Field patterns are generally sub-regular, sometimes following the curved boundaries of medieval strip fields. Hedges are often overgrown and unmanaged, in places reduced to lines of bushes and trees grazed through by livestock. Areas of rigg & furrow, strip lynchets and other cultivation features survive from earlier periods of cultivation and particularly on land around villages and older farms.

Subtypes

Old Enclosure.

The type

Surveyor Enclosed

Areas of late, 18th or 19th century enclosure. Field patterns are regular grids of dry stone walls, usually of fairly

thinly bedded quarried stone. Field trees are rare.

Daleside farmland: wooded walled pasture and meadow

Wooded pastoral farmland of the upper dale side and tributary dales. Woodlands are predominantly plantations of softwoods (Scots Pine, Larch and Spruce) with occasional ancient Sessile Oak and Ash woods in ravines and gills. Heavy and often poorly drained soils support improved and semi-improved pastures and meadows. Wetter pastures are often rushy. Some meadows are cut for silage; others are managed as traditional meadow. Field boundaries are predominantly dry stone walls dating from different periods of enclosure. Outside of the woodlands tree cover is sparse, with isolated stands of shelter trees (Ash, Sycamore) around farmsteads, occasional field trees and tree lined watercourses (Alder, Sallow).

Subtypes

Old Enclosure.

Areas of early, often piecemeal, enclosure. Older fields may be irregular or sub-regular, their alignments often influenced by the local topography The oldest walls are often made from field clearance stones..

Surveyor Enclosed

Areas of late, 18th or 19th century enclosure. Field patterns are regular grids of dry stone walls, usually of fairly thinly bedded quarried stone, and often ignoring the underlying topography.

Disturbed land

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

Subtypes

Old Carboniferous Limestone quarry.

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

Old ironstone quarry.

Abandoned Ironstone workings. Opencast pits worked for ironstone rarely have significant extraction faces but occur as areas of disturbed ground with prominent, often fan shaped, spoil heaps supporting acid grassland, usually grazed by stock.

Old lead/spa workings

Abandoned quarries ranging from small quarries worked for building stone and agricultural lime to larger and more recently abandoned quarries worked for aggregates. Typical elements include extraction faces, spoil mounds and haul roads, softened by varying degrees of natural regeneration. Some quarries contain small ponds or larger areas of standing water. Some structures may survive – particularly lime kilns associated with older limestone quarries.

Old railway

Abandoned railway lines survive as narrow linear features running through other landscapes. Most are made up

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

Old sandstone quarry.

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

Old Whinstone quarry.

Abandoned whinstone quarry. Typical elements include extraction faces, spoil mounds and haul roads, softened by varying degrees of natural regeneration. Some quarries contain small ponds or larger areas of standing water. Quarry faces are made up of charcoal grey dolerite with prominent vertical columnar jointing. The mixture of base rich and base poor wastes and overburden materials gives rise to a varied flora including both calcareous and acidic grasslands, with scrub and secondary woodland developing in areas that are not grazed.

Gill pastures

Incised valleys varying from shallow daleside gills to deeper ravines. Land use is predominantly poor quality pasture or rough grazing, often with areas of bracken or scrub, and sometimes merging into open wood pasture. Field patterns vary considerably: some gills aren't fenced from surrounding pastures, others are demarcated by hedges or walls, while others are crossed arbitrarily by parliamentary enclosure boundaries. The gills contain small, fast flowing and rocky becks or burns, usually unfenced from the surrounding land. The larger ravines contain rivers (see River: upper reaches). Relics of lead mining and processing, or quarrying, and industrial or agricultural water mills are common.

Subtypes

Surveyor enclosed.

Enclosures of 18th or 19th century origins. Field patterns are regular grids of dry stone walls, usually of fairly thinly bedded quarried stone, often ignoring the underlying topography.

Old enclosure.

Areas of early, often piecemeal, enclosure. Older fields may be irregular or sub-regular, often following the topography The oldest walls are often made from field clearance stones.

Infrastructure

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

Subtypes

Highway

Only major roads are mapped and only where the scale of development is significant. The Highway subtype

therefore covers larger scale cuttings, embankments and interchanges.

Military

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

Railway

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

Water treatment works

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

Lakes and ponds

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

Subtypes

Flooded quarry.

Flooded limestone or sandstone quarry. Water bodies are typically deep and clear, and edged by vertical cliffs falling sheer into the water. Waters are usually nutrient poor with little emergent vegetation. Smaller features within larger quarries are not mapped separately from the Disturbed Land: Quarry subtypes. They are usually similar in character to this subtype though often with shallower waters with more emergent vegetation.

Upland lakes and tarns

A single example is mapped (Fish Lake) which may be based on a natural pond augmented by silt dams caused by up-stream lead hushing or by an artificially constructed dam. The water body is irregular in shape and fringed by flats of tailings from a nearby barytes mine.

Low moor

Low lying areas of moorland on the dale floor or lower dale side, bordering onto, or surrounded by, enclosed intake pastures. Low moors have many of the characteristics of nearby moorland types but lack their scale.

Subtypes

Grass moor

Vegetation dominated by acid grassland.

Grass moor (enclosed)

Vegetation dominated by acid grassland. The moor is enclosed or subdivided by walls or fences.

Heather moor

Vegetation dominated by shrub-heath.

Heather moor (enclosed)

Vegetation dominated by shrub-heath. The moor is enclosed or subdivided by walls or fences.

Mineral working

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

Subtypes

Carboniferous limestone quarry

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

Sandstone Quarry

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

Whinstone quarry

Medium-sized quarries worked primarily for road stone products. Quarry faces are made up of charcoal grey dolerite with prominent vertical columnar jointing. Crushing and screening plant take up part of the quarry floor. The mixture of base rich and base poor wastes and overburden materials can give rise to a varied flora including both calcareous and acidic grasslands, but this is generally slow to colonise bare areas.

Moorland edge

Steeply sloping moorland edges falling to enclosed moorland-fringe pastures or lower lying moors. Slopes may be singular or dissected by small gills.

Subtype

Grass moor

Vegetation dominated by acid grassland.

Heather moor.

Vegetation dominated by shrub-heath.

Moorland gill

Incised valleys varying from shallow gills and gullies to deeper ravines are a feature of both the broader moorland valleys and the moorland plateau. Vegetation may be similar to the surrounding moorland, but often in the absence of peat on the steeper slopes of the gills it is dominated by acid grassland, or bracken. The steepest slopes may be bare of vegetation where deep peats, soft shales or glacial clays are eroded. The moorland gills contain small, fast flowing, rocky and peat-stained becks or burns, with occasional bankside sallows or rowan where grazing pressure is light.

Subtype

Bracken moor.

Vegetation dominated by Bracken, or mosaic of bracken and acid grassland.

Grass moor.

Vegetation dominated by acid grassland.

Heather moor.

Vegetation dominated by shrub-heath, or mosaic of heath and acid grassland

Hush.

Lead mining hushes of similar scale and character to natural gills.

Moorland plateau

Flat or gently rolling moorland predominantly of blanket bog, grading to heather or grass moorland on thinner peats in the drier moorland edges. Man made features are rare and restricted to scattered bields, sheepfolds and grouse buts with the occasional wire fence or dry stone wall in the moorland edges.

Subtypes

Blanket Bog.

Blanket bog on deep peat.

Blanket Bog (enclosed)

Blanket bog on deep peat. The moor is subdivided by fences.

Grass moor.

Vegetation dominated by acid grassland.

Grass moor (enclosed).

Vegetation dominated by acid grassland. The moor is enclosed or subdivided by walls or fences

Heather moor.

Vegetation dominated by shrub-heath, or mosaic of heath and acid grassland.

Heather moor (enclosed).

Vegetation dominated by shrub-heath, or mosaic of heath and acid grassland. The moor is enclosed or subdivided by walls or fences

Moorland plateau summit

Low, well-defined flat-topped summits (Shacklesborough, Goldsborough) standing around 15 to 20 meters above the surrounding moorland plateau. The edges of the summits are defined by low Crags of hard Millstone Grit sandstones and scree or clitter slopes of large boulders.

Subtypes

Grass moor.

Vegetation dominated by acid grassland. The type.

Moorland reservoir

Water supply reservoirs in the high moorland ridges. Moorland reservoirs are generally unfenced from the surrounding moorland with fairly minimal infrastructure. Bare draw down zones may be prominent when water levels are low.

Subtypes

Reservoir.

Reservoir water body.

Reservoir fringes.

Areas of enclosed moorland bordering moorland reservoirs & containing dams, spillways and other infrastructure.

Moorland ridge

High, gently sloping or flat-topped ridges covered predominantly in blanket bog, but grading to heather or grass moorland on thinner peats in the east. Man made features are rare and restricted to scattered cairns, curricks and grouse butts. The ridges are crossed in places by unfenced roads marked by lines of snow poles.

Subtypes

Blanket Bog.

Blanket bog on deep peat.

Grass moor.

Vegetation dominated by acid grassland.

Grass moor (enclosed).

Vegetation dominated by acid grassland. The moor is enclosed or subdivided by walls or fences

Heather moor.

Vegetation dominated by shrub-heath, or mosaic of heath and acid grassland.

Heather moor (enclosed).

Vegetation dominated by shrub-heath, or mosaic of heath and acid grassland. The moor is enclosed or subdivided by walls or fences

Moorland slope

Moderate slopes of heather or grass moorland falling from the higher ridges and summits to the enclosed land of the dales. The slopes may have a stepped profile reflecting alternating sequences of harder and softer sandstones, shales and limestones. Man made features are rare and restricted to scattered grouse butts and occasional lead mining remains. The slopes are crossed in places by unfenced roads marked by lines of snow poles.

Subtypes

Blanket Bog.

Blanket bog on deep peat.

Grass moor.

Vegetation dominated by acid grassland.

Grass moor (enclosed).

Vegetation dominated by acid grassland. The moor is enclosed or subdivided by walls or fences

Heather moor.

Vegetation dominated by shrub-heath, or mosaic of heath and acid grassland.

Heather moor (enclosed).

Vegetation dominated by shrub-heath, or mosaic of heath and acid grassland. The moor is enclosed or subdivided by walls or fences

Moorland summits

High, flat-topped summits of acid grassland and blanket bog, ringed by grey stone bands and clitter slopes, littered with rocks and boulders, and pockmarked with shake-holes. Man made features are very rare and restricted to scattered piles of stone and the occasional sheepfold.

Subtypes

Grass moor.

Vegetation dominated by acid grassland. The type.

Moorland valley

Moderately sloping valleys of heather or grass moorland cutting back into the higher moorland ridges. The valley sides may have a stepped profile reflecting alternating sequences of harder and softer sandstones, shales and limestones. Valley floors are often incised, steep-sided gills. Man made features are rare and restricted to scattered sheepfolds, bields and grouse butts, together with occasional lead mining remains. The valleys are crossed in places by unfenced roads marked by lines of snow poles.

Subtypes

Blanket Bog.

Blanket bog on deep peat.

Grass moor.

Vegetation dominated by acid grassland.

Grass moor (enclosed).

Vegetation dominated by acid grassland. The moor is enclosed or subdivided by walls or fences

Heather moor.

Vegetation dominated by shrub-heath, or mosaic of heath and acid grassland.

Heather moor (enclosed).

Vegetation dominated by shrub-heath, or mosaic of heath and acid grassland. The moor is enclosed or subdivided by walls or fences

Outlying moor

Small areas of heather moorland on low ridges fringing the higher ridges and summits and the plateau, surrounded by enclosed intake pastures. The outlying moors have many of the characteristics of the nearby moorland types but lack their scale.

Subtypes

Heather moor.

Vegetation dominated by shrub-heath, or mosaic of heath and acid grassland.

Heather moor (enclosed).

Vegetation dominated by shrub-heath, or mosaic of heath and acid grassland. The moor is enclosed or subdivided by walls or fences

Parkland

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

Subtypes

Enclosed parkland pasture.

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

Open parkland pasture.

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

Ornamental gardens.

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

Parks & recreation grounds

A varied type incorporating a large range of recreational landscapes.

Subtypes

Caravan sites.

Permanent caravan sites, sometimes with touring pitches. Often located within areas of woodland. Most contain

a permanent infrastructure of roadways and service buildings.

Churchyards, cemeteries & crematoria.

The designed amenity landscapes of churchyards, cemeteries and crematoria.

Country parks.

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

Playing fields & urban green space.

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

River: upper reaches

Fast flowing upland rivers meandering across narrow floodplains or contained within narrow gorges. The river may be fenced-off from surrounding pastures or left unfenced and may be lined with trees or narrow **Riverside woods.**

Subtypes

River.

Rocky, fast flowing watercourses with alternating pools and rifles, often with multiple channels braiding between exposed shingle banks and islands.

River bank.

River banks that are fenced, walled or hedged from surrounding land, supporting rough unmanaged grassland and, in places, sporadic trees of species such as Alder, Birch, Ash, Purple Willow and Grey Willow.

Steep daleside bluff: pasture

Steeply sloping bluffs following the outcrop of harder sandstone or limestone beds in the daleside. As they are difficult to manage or improve agriculturally these bluffs often support semi-improved pasture or rough grazing, sometimes invaded by bracken or hawthorn scrub. They area typically defined by a wall at the break in slope at the top and foot of the slope, and occasionally subdivided in a piecemeal fashion by later boundaries. Often associated with spring lines and small quarries.

Subtypes

Old enclosure.

The type.

Top land, allotments and intakes: open pasture.

Open pasture and wet rush pasture in the moorland fringes. Fields are typically medium or large in scale and bounded by dry stone walls or wire fences. Most are regular in pattern, originating in 18th or 19th Century intakes from the moor. Tree cover is low and restricted to the occasional roadside or streamside rowan or sallow, wind-sculpted sycamore shelter trees around farmsteads, and isolated conifer shelterbelts. This type is transitional with Top land, allotments & intakes: open rough grazing from which it is distinguished only by the degree of improvement in the sward.

Subtypes

Old Enclosure.

Early intakes from the moor. Field patterns are often irregular and influenced by the local topography. Boundary walls may be made from irregular field clearance stones, or rebuilt in later periods using quarried stone.

Surveyor Enclosed.

Field patterns are regular grids of dry stone walls – usually built from thinly bedded quarried stone - or wire fences.

Top land, allotments and intakes: wooded pasture.

Open pasture and wet rush pasture in the moorland fringes. Fields are typically medium or large in scale and bounded by dry stone walls or wire fences. Most are regular in pattern, originating in 18th or 19th Century intakes from the moor. There are frequent blocky conifer plantations and shelterbelts but otherwise tree cover is low and restricted to the occasional roadside or streamside rowan or sallow and wind-sculpted sycamore shelter trees around isolated farmsteads. This type is transitional with Top land, allotments & intakes: wooded rough grazing from which it is distinguished only by the degree of improvement in the sward.

Subtypes

Old Enclosure.

Early intakes from the moor. Field patterns are often irregular and influenced by the local topography. Boundary walls may be made from irregular field clearance stones, or rebuilt in later periods using quarried stone.

Surveyor Enclosed.

Field patterns are regular grids of dry stone walls – usually built from thinly bedded quarried stone - or wire fences.

Top land, allotments and intakes: open rough grazing.

Enclosed moorland, rough grazing and wet rush pastures in the moorland fringes. Fields are typically large and bounded by dry stone walls or wire fences. Most are regular in pattern, originating in 18th or 19th Century intakes from the moor. Tree cover is low and restricted to the occasional roadside or streamside rowan or sallow, wind sculpted sycamore shelter trees around farmsteads, and isolated conifer shelterbelts. This type is intermediate between Top land, allotments & intakes: open pasture and the moorland subtype Grass moor (enclosed) - from which it is distinguished by the degree of improvement in the sward.

Subtypes

Old Enclosure.

Early intakes from the moor. Field patterns are often irregular and influenced by the local topography. Boundary walls may be made from irregular field clearance stones, or rebuilt in later periods using quarried stone.

Surveyor Enclosed.

Field patterns are regular grids of dry stone walls – usually built from thinly bedded quarried stone - or wire fences.

Top land, allotments and intakes: wooded rough grazing.

Enclosed moorland, rough grazing and wet rushy pastures in the moorland fringes. Large regular fields - late

C18th or C19th intakes from the moor - are bounded by low dry stone walls or wire fences. There are frequent blocky conifer plantations and shelterbelts but otherwise tree cover is low and restricted to the occasional roadside or streamside rowan or sallow and wind sculpted sycamore shelter trees around isolated farmsteads. This type is intermediate between Top land, allotments & intakes: wooded pasture and the moorland subtype Grass moor (enclosed) - from which it is distinguished by the degree of improvement in the sward.

Subtypes

Old Enclosure.

Early intakes from the moor. Field patterns are often irregular and influenced by the local topography. Boundary walls may be made from irregular field clearance stones, or rebuilt in later periods using quarried stone.

Surveyor Enclosed.

The type. Field patterns are regular grids of dry stone walls or wire fences, usually ignoring the underlying topography.

Upland woods

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

Subtypes

Ancient woods.

Ancient semi-natural woodlands. The base-poor glacial drift of the dales and the drift-free carboniferous sandstones and shales of the upland fringes and moorland fringes support Oak (NVC W11) and Oak-birch (NVCW17) woodlands. Ash woodland communities (NVC W9) occur on limestone outcrops and Alder-Ash (NVC W7) on flushed slopes.

Modified ancient woods.

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

Old wood pasture.

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

Plantation.

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

Secondary woods and wood pasture.

Secondary semi-natural woodlands dominated by pioneer species. Birch is often dominant in woodlands colonising unmanaged heath. A broader range of species (Birch, Ash, Sycamore, Hawthorn, Sallows, Gorse)

occurs in woodlands on disturbed land such as old quarries, lead workings and railway embankments.

Upland woods: forest

Large scale Forestry Commission plantations (Hamsterley Forest, The Stang) in the moorland fringes. Relatively uniform tracts of conifers with regular grids of rides and tracks. Sitka Spruce is the dominant species, with areas of Scots Pine, Larch and other softwoods.

Subtypes

Modified ancient woods.

Replanted ancient woodland sites and ancient woods heavily modified by the introduction of commercial or exotic species, or species not native to the locality.

Plantation.

The type.

Upland woods: gills and gorges

Incised wooded valleys varying from shallow daleside gills to deeper gorges and ravines. On the generally thinly bedded carboniferous rocks of the dales the valleys typically cut down through a succession of different rocks, creating varied ground conditions and supporting a range of native woodland types. Ancient woodlands survive in some valleys, elsewhere they have been replanted with commercial species. The gills contain small, fast flowing and rocky becks or burns and the larger ravines contain rivers (see River: upper reaches). Relics of lead mining and processing, or quarrying, and industrial or agricultural water mills are locally common.

Subtypes

Ancient woods & wood pastures.

Ancient semi-natural woodlands. Woodland communities include Upland Oak-birch woods (NVC W17) on acidic soils and Upland Oak woods (NVC W11) on better soils, with Upland Ash woods (NVC W9) on limestone outcrops and base rich soils, and Alder-ash (NVC W7) woods on flushed slopes and valley floors. Some woods are grazed as wood pasture. Some show signs of having been managed as coppice in the past.

Modified ancient woods.

Replanted ancient woodland sites and ancient woods heavily modified by the introduction of commercial or exotic species, or species not native to the locality.

Old wood pasture.

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

Plantation.

Typically softwood plantations of Larch, Scots Pine or other softwood species, often with Beech or Sycamore.

Secondary woods & wood pastures.

Secondary semi-natural woodlands largely of Birch and Oak-birch (NVCW17/W11) communities that have colonised areas of unmanaged pasture or moorland. Some woods are grazed as wood pasture, or are regenerating under light or intermittent grazing.

Upland woods: juniper

Open low woodland or scrub dominated by Juniper, often in a mosaic with other moorland vegetation. Generally a fragmented habitat but occurring at a landscape scale in Upper Teesdale on low moorland slopes and whinstone crags falling to the River Tees.

Upland woods: riverside

Narrow corridors of woodland on river banks and river terraces, usually semi-natural in character and made up of native species, particularly Alder, Ash, Oak, Birch and willow. Some are ancient woods, but most have been modified in some degree by grazing or by the dynamic conditions and shifting course of the upland river. Riverside woods are sometimes defined away from the river by a stone wall, or a hedge, but are occasionally grazed through to the water's edge. Relics of water mills or lead processing may occasionally be found.

Subtypes

Ancient woods & wood pastures.

Ancient semi-natural woodlands. Typical woodland communities are Upland Oak woodland (NVC W11) on acidic soils and Upland Ash woodland (NVC W9) on limestone outcrops and base rich soils with Alder-ash (NVC W7) woodland particularly common.

Plantation.

Typically softwood plantations of Larch, Scots Pine or other softwood species, often with Beech or Sycamore.

Secondary woods & wood pastures.

Secondary semi-natural woodlands often of similar species to ancient woods, but which have naturally colonised the shifting upland river bank.

Urban

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

Subtypes

Industrial land

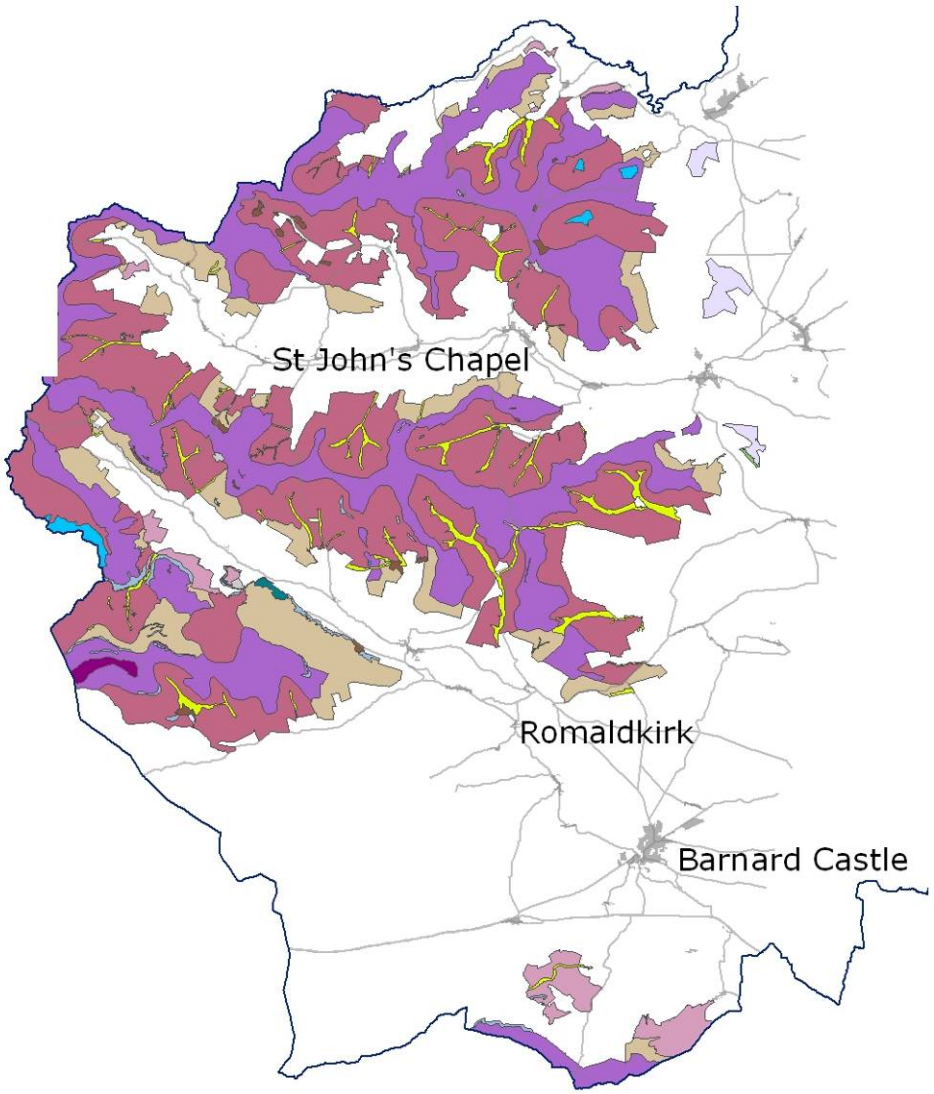
Land in industrial use. A variable type but generally containing large industrial buildings and areas of operational land. Smaller areas of land in industrial or commercial use are generally subsumed within the Urban subtype.

Urban

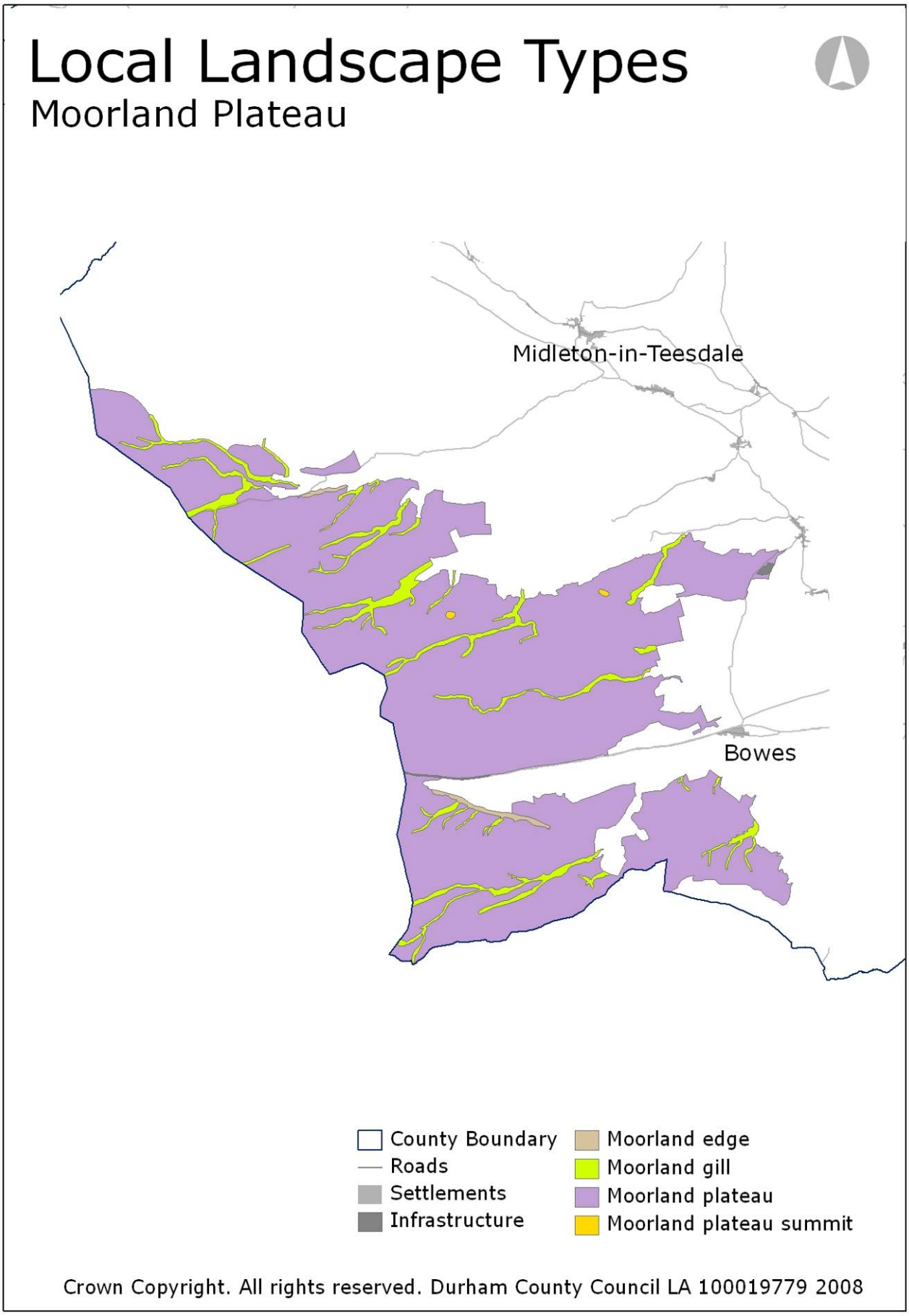
The type. Urban land including built development, gardens and public open spaces together with areas of recreational land (unless separately identified as Parks & recreation grounds local landscape type) and industrial/ commercial land (unless separately identified as Industrial land or Industrial and retail estates subtype).

Local Landscape Types

Moorland Ridges & Summits



- County Boundary
- Roads
- Settlements
- Disturbed land
- Mineral working
- Crags, scars & stone bands
- Lakes & ponds
- Low moor
- Moorland gill
- Moorland reservoir
- Moorland ridge
- Moorland slope
- Moorland summit
- Moorland valley
- Outlying moor
- River: upper reaches
- Top land, allotments & intakes: open pasture
- Upland woods
- Upland woods: gills & gorges
- Upland woods: juniper


Local Landscape Types
Moorland Plateau
Midleton-in-Teesdale
Bowes
County Boundary
Roads
Settlements
Infrastructure
Moorland edge
Moorland gill
Moorland plateau
Moorland plateau summit
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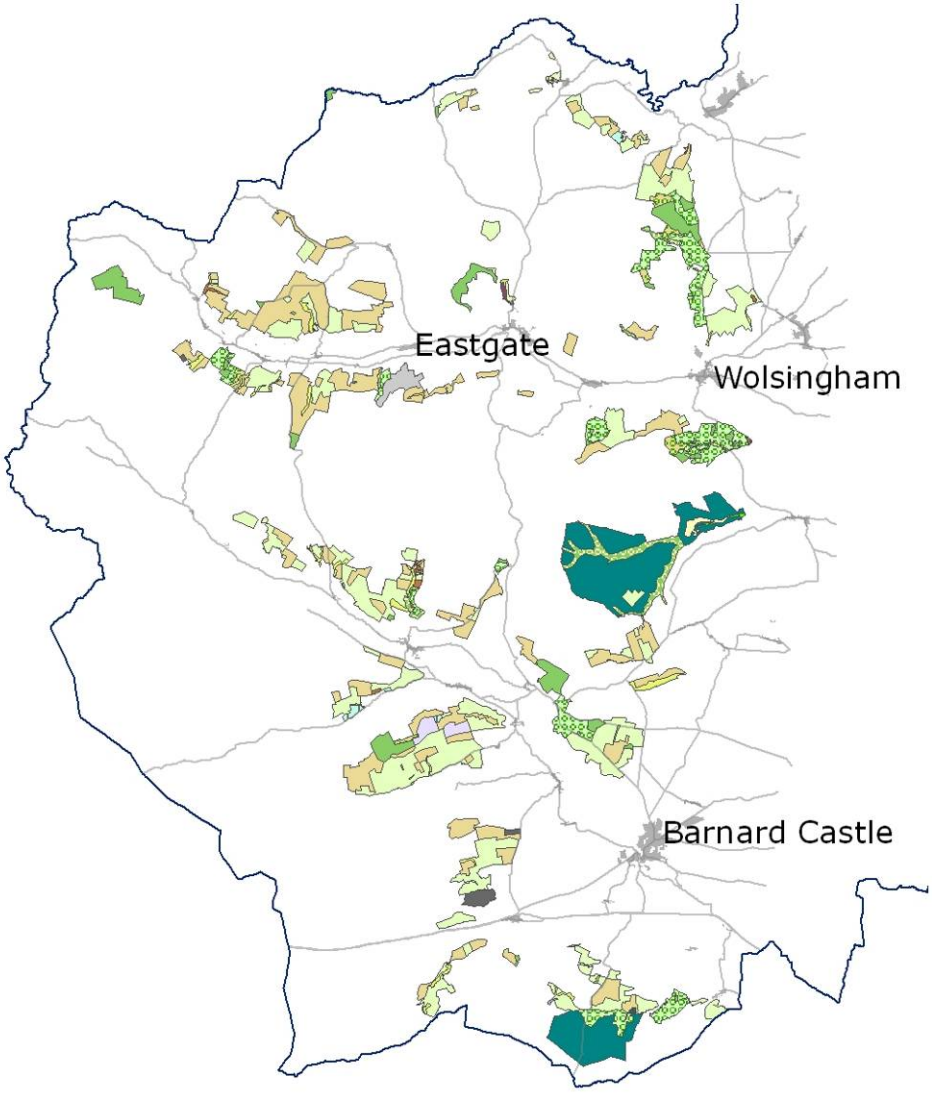
Local Landscape Types

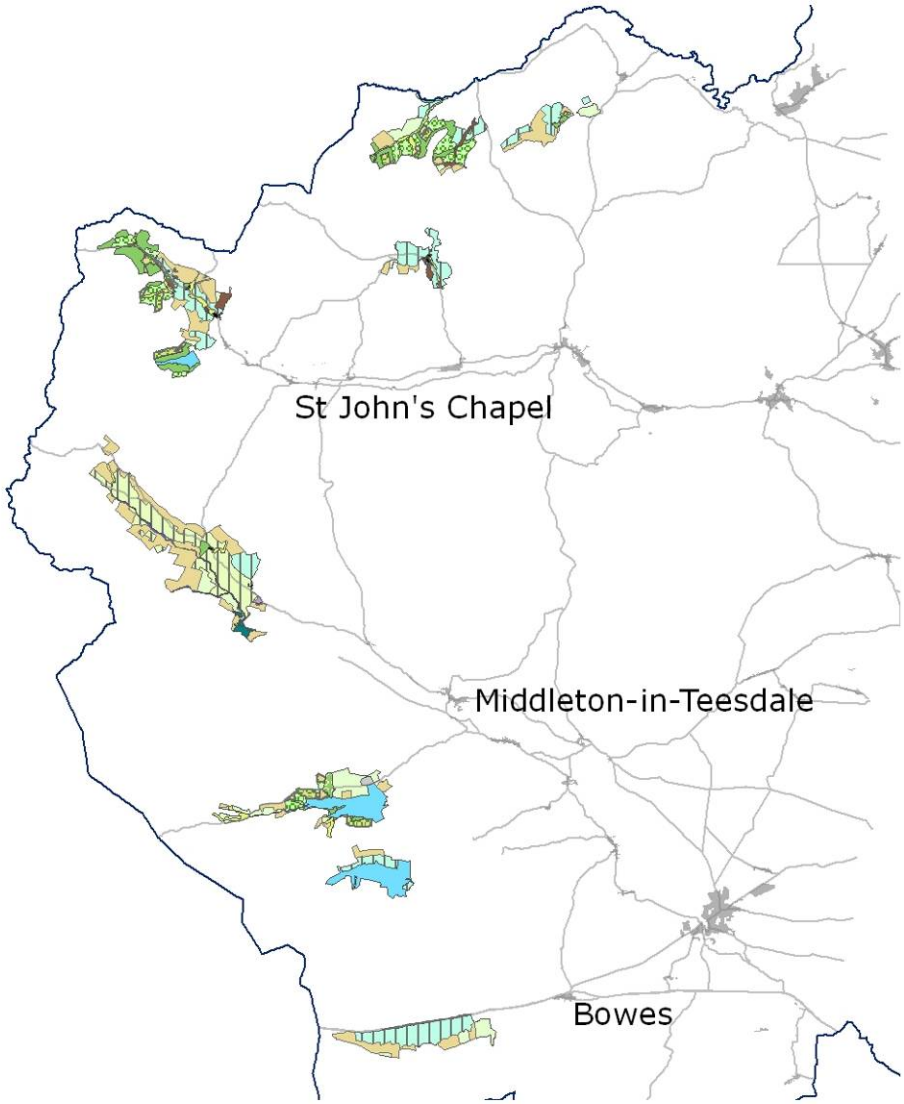
Moorland Fringe



- County Boundary
- Roads
- Settlements
- Infrastructure
- Disturbed land
- Mineral working
- Crags, scars & stone bands
- Dale floor farmland: pasture & meadow
- Daleside farmland: pasture & meadow
- Daleside farmland: walled pasture & meadow
- Gill pastures
- Lakes & ponds
- Low moor
- Outlying moor
- Parks & recreation grounds
- Steep daleside bluff: pasture
- Top land allotments & intakes: wooded pasture
- Top land, allotments & intakes: open pasture
- Top land, allotments & intakes: open rough grazing
- Top land, allotments & intakes: wooded rough grazing
- Upland woods
- Upland woods: forest
- Upland woods: gills & gorges

Local Landscape Types

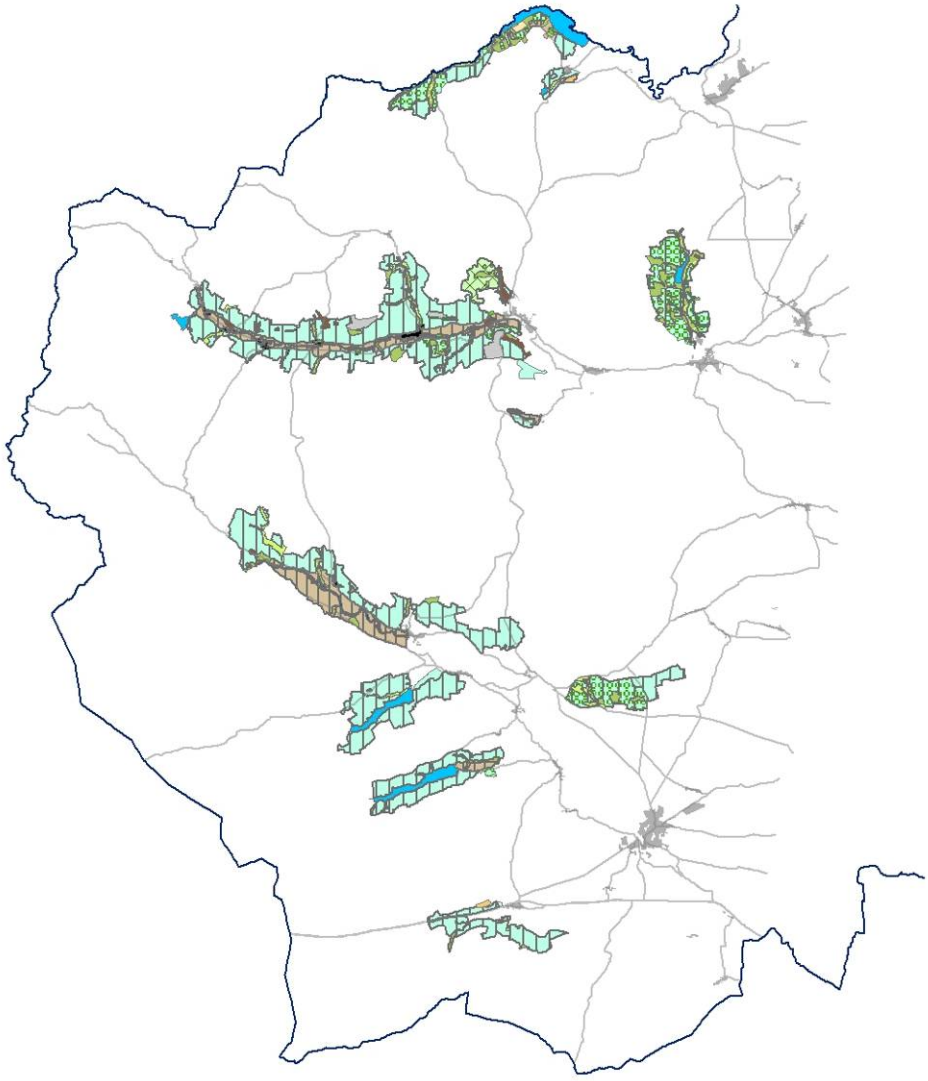
Upper Dale



- County Boundary
- Settlements
- Roads
- Urban
- Infrastructure
- Disturbed land
- Mineral working
- Crags, scars & stone bands
- Dale floor farmland: walled pasture & meadow
- Dale reservoir
- Daleside farmland: pasture & meadow
- Daleside farmland: walled pasture & meadow
- Gill pastures
- Lakes & ponds
- Low moor
- River: upper reaches
- Top land allotments & intakes: wooded pasture
- Top land, allotments & intakes: open pasture
- Top land, allotments & intakes: open rough grazing
- Top land, allotments & intakes: wooded rough grazing
- Upland woods
- Upland woods: gills & gorges
- Upland woods: juniper

Local Landscape Types

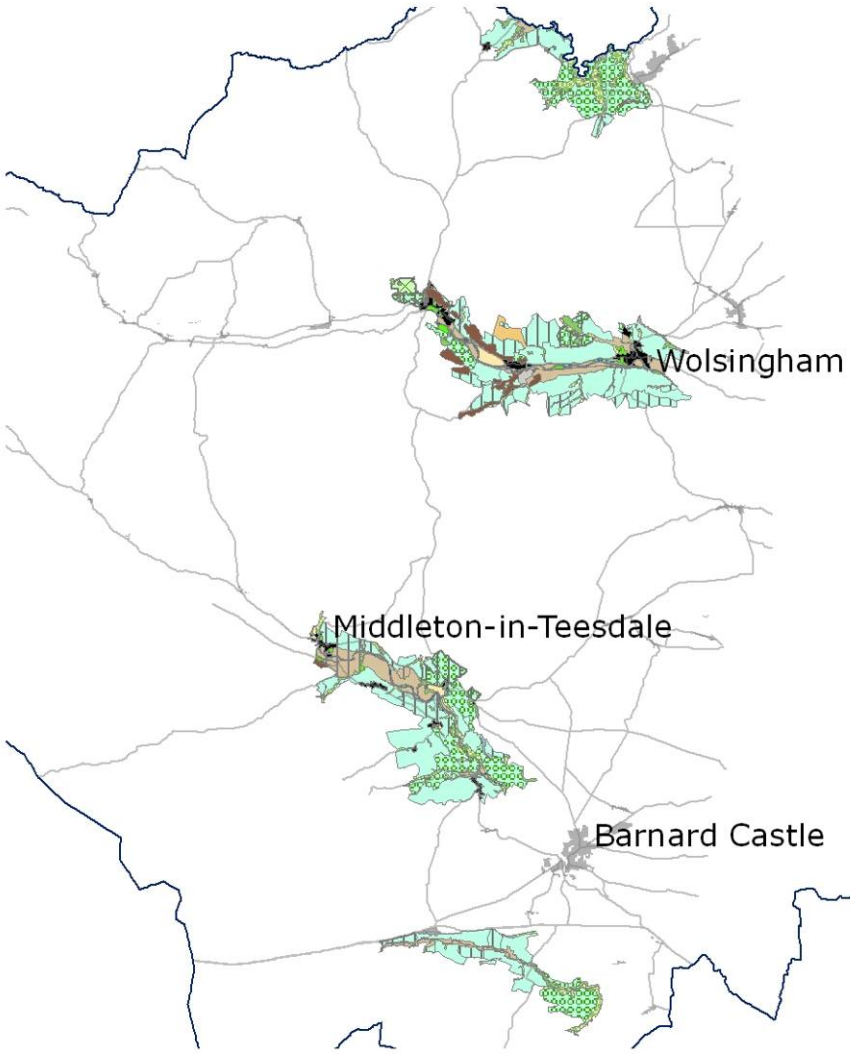
Middle Dale



- County Boundary
- Settlements
- Roads
- Urban
- Disturbed land
- Infrastructure
- Mineral working
- Dale floor farmland: pasture & meadow
- Dale floor farmland: walled pasture & meadow
- Dale reservoir
- Daleside farmland: pasture & meadow
- Daleside farmland: walled pasture & meadow
- Daleside farmland: wooded estate pasture
- Daleside farmland: wooded pasture & meadow
- Daleside farmland: wooded walled pasture & meadow
- Gill pastures
- Lakes & ponds
- Parkland
- Parks & recreation grounds
- River: upper reaches
- Steep daleside bluff: pasture
- Top land, allotments & intakes: open pasture
- Top land, allotments & intakes: open rough grazing
- Upland woods
- Upland woods: gills & gorges
- Upland woods: riverside

Local Landscape Types

Lower Dale



- County Boundary
- Settlements
- Roads
- Urban
- Infrastructure
- Disturbed land
- Mineral working
- Crags, scars & stone bands
- Dale floor farmland: pasture & meadow
- Dale floor farmland: walled pasture & meadow
- Dale reservoir
- Daleside farmland: pasture & meadow
- Daleside farmland: walled pasture & meadow
- Daleside farmland: wooded estate pasture
- Daleside farmland: wooded pasture & meadow
- Daleside farmland: wooded walled pasture & meadow
- Gill pastures
- Parkland
- Parks & recreation grounds
- River: upper reaches
- Steep daleside bluff: pasture
- Top land, allotments & intakes: open pasture
- Upland woods
- Upland woods: gills & gorges
- Upland woods: riverside