

Extracts from:

Redcar & Cleveland Landscape Character Assessment

Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council (2006)

1.9.1 ESTON HILLS

Description

The Eston Hills are characterised by a complex of prominent steep-sided hills linked by low saddles which form a parallel series of foothills, or outliers, to the main escarpment of the Cleveland Hills, which lie within the North York Moors National Park. Open moorland and wooded hillsides and escarpments contribute to the distinctive character of this area and give it an identity unlike any other part of the Borough. An area of parkland at Wilton is important within the tract.

Extensive and contrasting views are available from many locations; to the south there is the backdrop of the Cleveland Hills. To the north there are views over the urban and industrial developments of Teesside and Redcar.

The Eston Hills Tract consists of three distinct but closely grouped elevated areas: the Eston Hills upland between Dunsdale and Ormesby, the higher land at Upleatham, and that situated between Skelton and Slapewath. Associated with these uplands are 'saddles' of relatively lower land linking them and the slopes that edge them. Also included are the upper reaches of Skelton Beck, known as Tocketts Beck and Waterfall Beck in this tract.

Landscape Assessment

Under the Character Assessment, the landscapes in this tract are classified into Sensitive Landscapes over the landscape units on the higher land, the beck valleys and the parkland, with Restoration Landscapes over the remainder. The uplands have a high strength of character, a product of a dominant landform and a strong woodland pattern. The lower-lying areas are characterised by a more open landscape structure of isolated woods and hedges set within a farmland context.

In the Sensitive Landscapes, changes in character are discouraged and the emphasis is on retention of landscape elements; indeed, changes will take on a visual prominence over much of this area on the more elevated parts. Location and design are of crucial importance. New planting for screening or integration should closely reflect the nature and detail of the existing vegetation.

In the Restoration Landscapes, landscape improvements are a priority, whilst retention of those features that do exist is important to integrate any new development into the

landscape, to act as the basis for new planting, or for the creation of 'new landscape'.

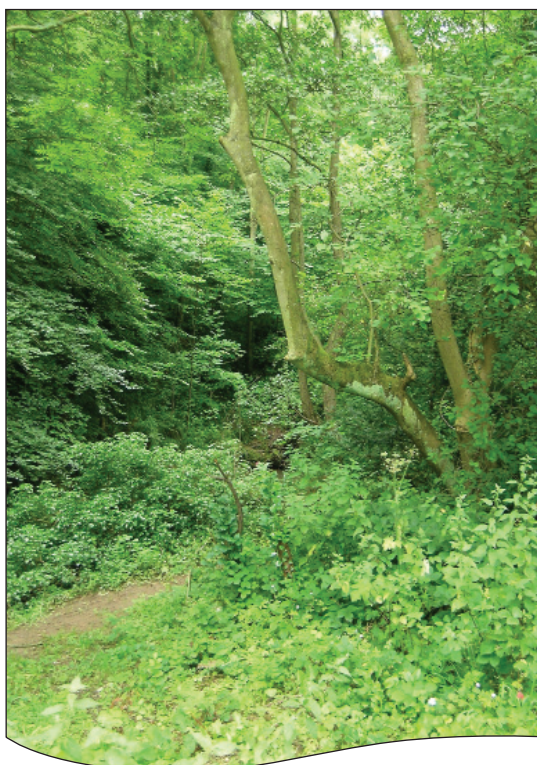
Biodiversity

On the Eston Hills themselves, the moor and much of the non-coniferous woodland over the upland areas and slopes are recognised as important sites for plant communities and are designated as SNCIs, while Lovell Hill Pools, near Wilton Lane, qualify for SSSI status. Woodlands and other habitats provide considerable biodiversity value. In recognition of its archaeological value, the moor, and its edges, are designated as 'Eston Hills Historic Landscape.' On the other uplands, woodlands (designated as SNCIs) cover peripheral slopes rather than the crests.

A number of woods are classified as either Semi natural or Replanted Ancient Woodlands; these are: Park Wood (near Guisborough), part of Wilton Woods, Yearby Wood, the woodland in Skelton Beck valley, part of Errington Wood and the woods to the west of Upleatham.

The upper reaches of Skelton Beck form a branched steep-sided wooded valley through much of this tract, with the woodland designated as SNCI, as is the vegetation and pond at Chaloner Pit near Mount Pleasant

Sites and areas of biodiversity value occur outside these designated sites, with value both in themselves and as wildlife links or potential areas for development of wildlife habitat.



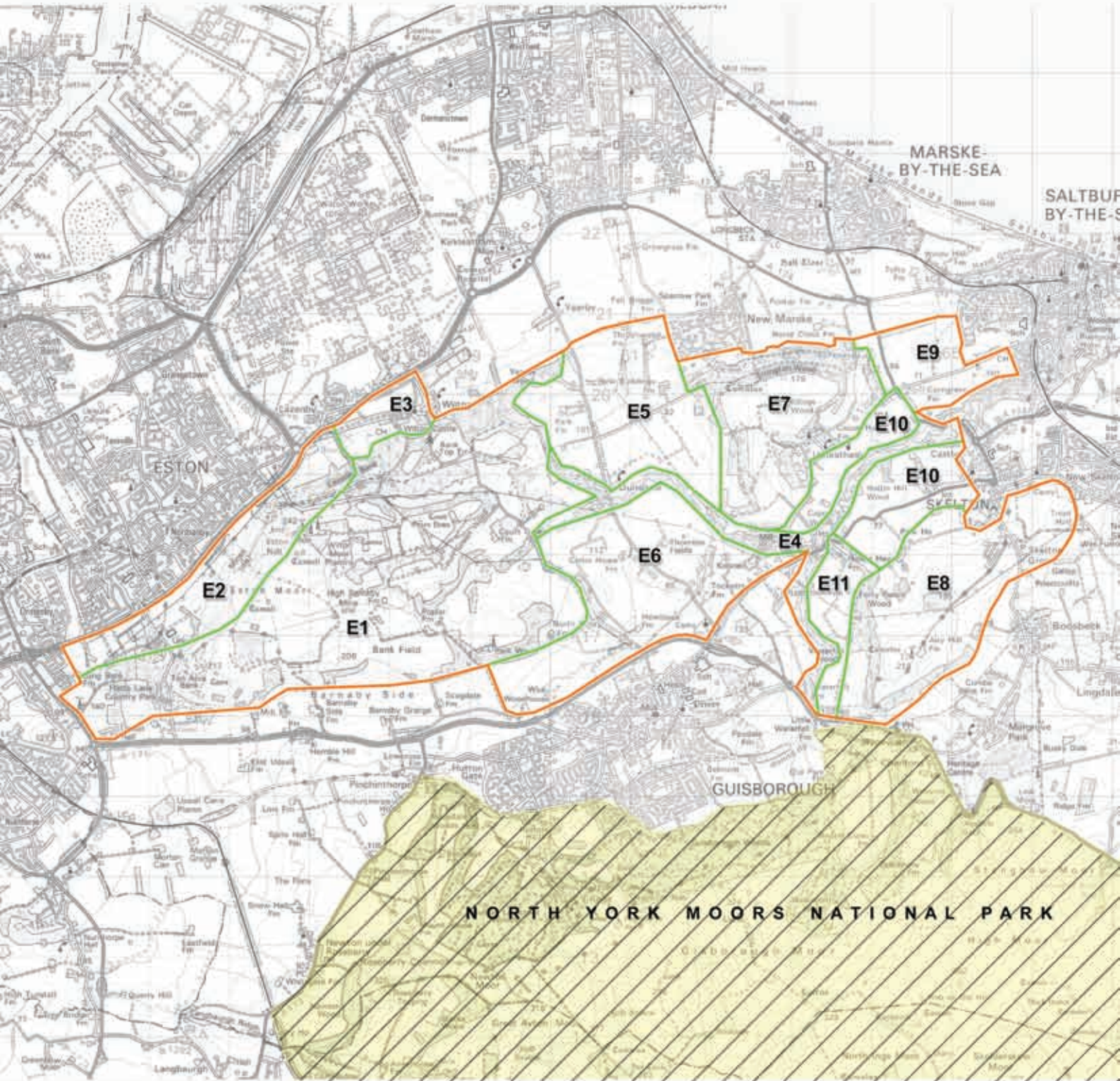
WILTON WOODS

Landscape Character Assessment of Eston Hills Landscape Tract

Landscape Units

E1	Upland	(Eston Hills / Eston Moor)
E2	Escarpment	(Eston Hills)
E3	Parkland	(Wilton)
E4	Wooded valley	(Tocketts Beck etc)
E5	NE slopes	(Eston Hills)
E6	SE slopes	(Eston Hills)
E7	Upland	(Upleatham)
E8	Upland	(Skelton)
E9	Eastern slopes	(Upleatham)
E10	Valley sides	(Upleatham)
E11	Hillfoot farmland	(Skelton)

Redcar and Cleveland Landscape Character Assessment



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ESTON HILLS LANDSCAPE TRACT

E1, E2 ... LANDSCAPE UNITS

1.9.2 REDCAR FLATS

Description

The Redcar Flats are contained by the escarpment of the Eston Hills to the south and the coast to the north. Over the inland part of the tract, the presence of high quality farmland has encouraged intensive arable cultivation and the enlargement of fields. The hedgerow pattern is sparse and there are few landscape features to interrupt the open, gently sloping landscape.

Long views predominate in this landscape, and skyline features take on particular importance. The industry at Wilton Works, and the abrupt urban edges of Redcar, Marske, New Marske, Saltburn and the A174 and railway corridors have a strong local influence on landscape character.

Landscape Assessment

Under the Character Assessment, the coastal zone in this tract is classified as Sensitive Landscape. In this open landscape, largely the product of maritime exposure, any development will be very open to view. Location and design are of major importance, and opportunities should be taken to integrate the development into adjacent urban areas and to screen by planting, with shelter provided where exposure would otherwise hinder or prevent successful establishment.

Other Sensitive Landscape areas in this tract are the parkland at Kirkleatham and the wooded valley at Hazel Grove, where the priority is the retention of existing landscape constituents.

The remainder of this tract, inland of the coast, is classified as Restoration Landscape. Existing features in this denuded landscape are relatively sparse, due to hedgerow decline and loss, and their retention is important to 'place' new development, to act as the basis for additional planting, or for the creation of 'new landscape.' Additional planting may comprise, for example, a hedgerow to continue the line of an existing one, or, in preference, form a hedgerow pattern or network and combine with tree planting to create an enhanced landscape structure.

Biodiversity

The wetland at Coatham is designated as SNCI and much of the coastal dune and inter tidal rock formations are

SNCIs or SSSIs / SPAs

Sites and areas of biodiversity value occur outside these designated sites, with value both in themselves and as wildlife links or potential areas for development of habitat.

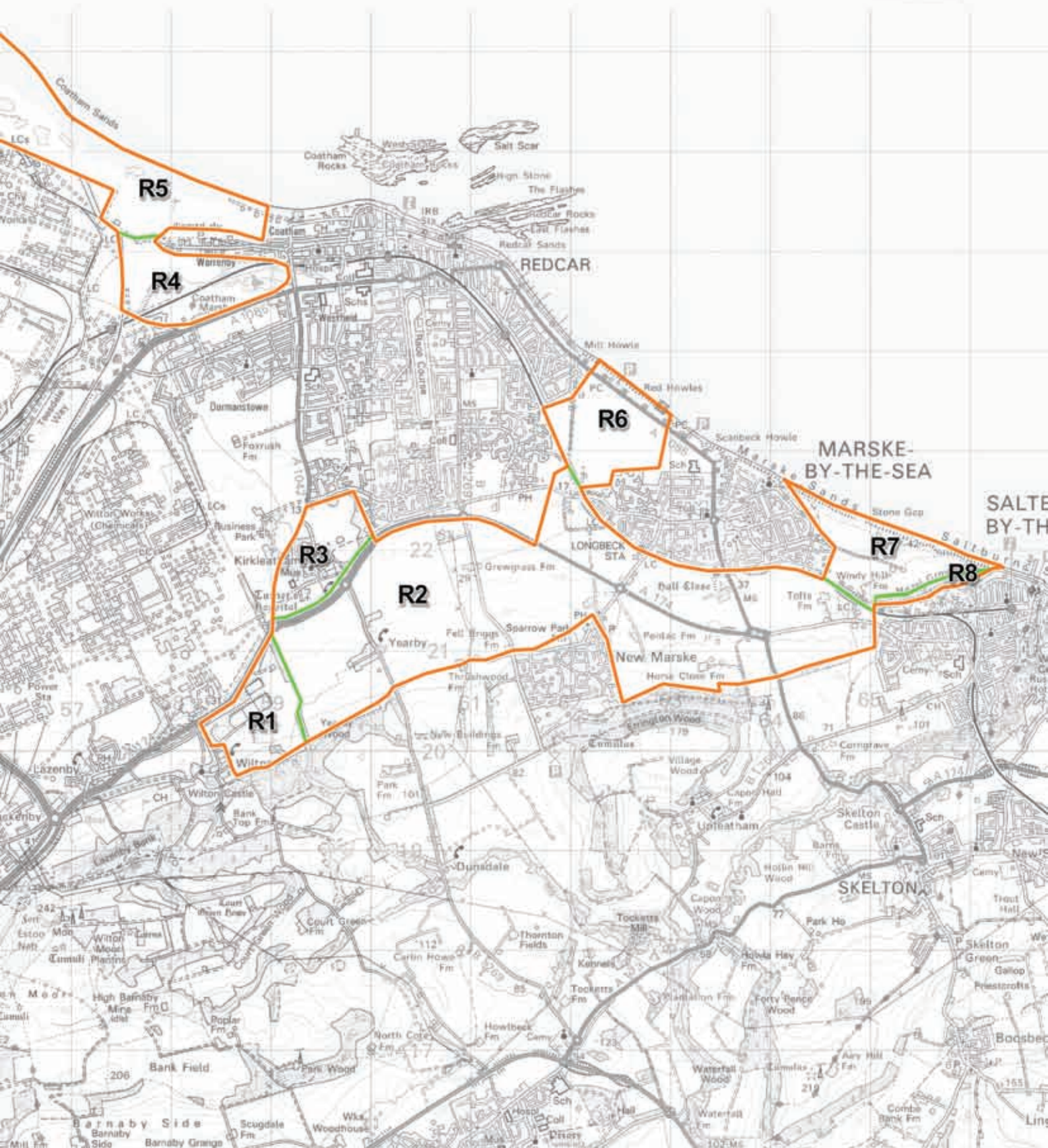


Landscape Character Assessment of Redcar Flats Landscape Tract

Landscape Units

R1	Urbanised farmland	(East of Wilton)
R2	Lowland farmland	(South of Redcar and Marske)
R3	Park and estate land	(Kirkleatham)
R4	Coastal marsh	(Coatham Marsh)
R5	Sandy shoreline	(Coatham Sands)
R6	Coastal farmland	(Redcar to Marske)
R7	Coastal farmland	(Marske to Saltburn)
R8	Incised wooded valley	(Hazel Grove)

Redcar and Cleveland Landscape Character Assessment



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REDCAR FLATS LANDSCAPE TRACT

R1, R2 ... LANDSCAPE UNITS

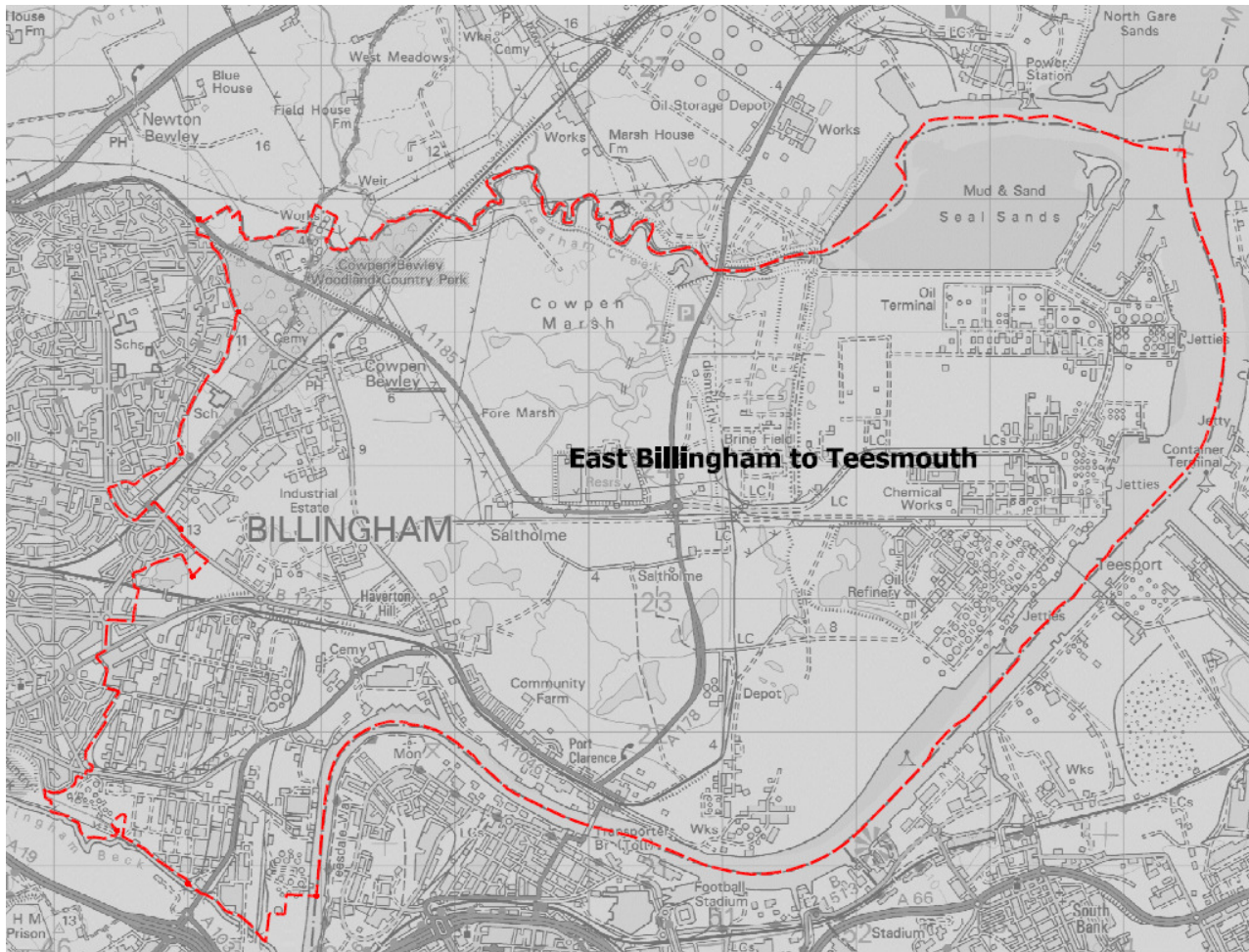
Extracts from:

Stockton-on-Tees Landscape Character Assessment

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (2011)



10.1 East Billingham to Teesmouth



10.1.1 Summary of East Billingham to Teesmouth Character Area

- Industrial landscape fringing Billingham integrated with large areas of open space including wetlands and reclaimed semi improved pasture;
- Farmland is open and flat with minimal landscape features;
- Industry dominates area to the east along the River Tees;
- Open space within industrial areas contain significant wildlife value with a number of ecological designations present including Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI's), Site of Nature



Stockton on Tees Landscape Character Assessment

Conservation Importance (SNCI), Special Protection Area (SPA), Ramsar Site and Teesmouth National Nature Reserve;

- Important 'ridge and furrow' within the field pattern around the settlement of Cowpen Bewley;
- The Stockton to Hartlepool railway line is notable feature within the landscape, dividing the Landscape Character Area between estuarine and non-estuarine/rural fringe influences; and
- Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park provides the only wooded element within this Landscape Character Area.

10.1.2 Landform and Drainage Pattern

The majority of the Landscape Character Area is flat with landform generally lying below 10m AOD. Due to the reclaimed nature of the landscape a number of water courses are threaded through the area with large water bodies associated with the International Nature Reserve and Saltholme RSPB site and a brine reservoir associated with the surrounding industry. Greatham Creek delineates the northern boundary of the Borough of Stockton. The River Tees forms the southern boundary of the area and also the extent of the Borough. A number of important ridge and furrow features are included within the fields around the settlement of Cowpen Bewley.

There are a number of artificial mounds within the flat estuary landscape as a result of past and ongoing landfill processes, an example being north of Cowpen Bewley within the Country Park which now forms a local viewpoint over the surrounding landscape. The second is to the east of the country park, and the third to the east of Port Clarence; both of which are still operational landfill sites.

10.1.3 Land Use

The predominant land use is industry although a large quantity of interspersed open space is given over to ecological habitat with numerous ecological designations occurring throughout the area across wetlands. Some areas of reclaimed farmland are used as semi improved pasture and rough grazing. Seal Sands in the north of the area is an extensive area of mud and sand flats of notable importance both locally and nationally.



10.1.4 Field Boundaries and Trees

There is a distinct lack of significant landscape features within the rural area with large fields bounded by fences and broken hedgerows. There is a lack of hedgerow trees across the area which results in a visually expansive landscape. The industrial area in the east is surrounded by high security fencing which is typical for the type of industrial land use.

The only woodland within the area is that situated at Cowpen Bewley Woodland Country Park which forms a buffer between the edge of Billingham and the industry to the east. Much of this is newly planted woodland and is still establishing.

10.1.5 Settlements

Due to the predominant industrial use of the area only a few settlements exist consisting: Cowpen Bewley, Haverton Hill and Port Clarence. Cowpen Bewley has retained a number of medieval features despite the surrounding industrial land use, particularly its narrow linear plot divisions and ridge and furrow in the surrounding fields. The edge of Billingham is the nearest major conurbation and a number of high rise tower blocks and tall buildings are visually prominent within the area.

10.1.6 Landscape Characteristics

The key landscape characteristics of this area are the ecological wetland habitats, in particular the SSSI's at Seal Sands and Cowpen Marsh. These are unique features within the Borough and provide a substantial amount of ecological benefit to an otherwise industry dominated landscape. Industrial features such as large storage tanks and flares associated with the oil refineries and chemical works within the Tees estuary dominate views towards the east with vertical features outside the industrial areas, comprising transmission towers and overhead power lines.

The River Tees runs along the southern boundary of this area where it exits land at Tees Mouth, just north of Seal Sands.

10.1.7 Landscape Change and Condition

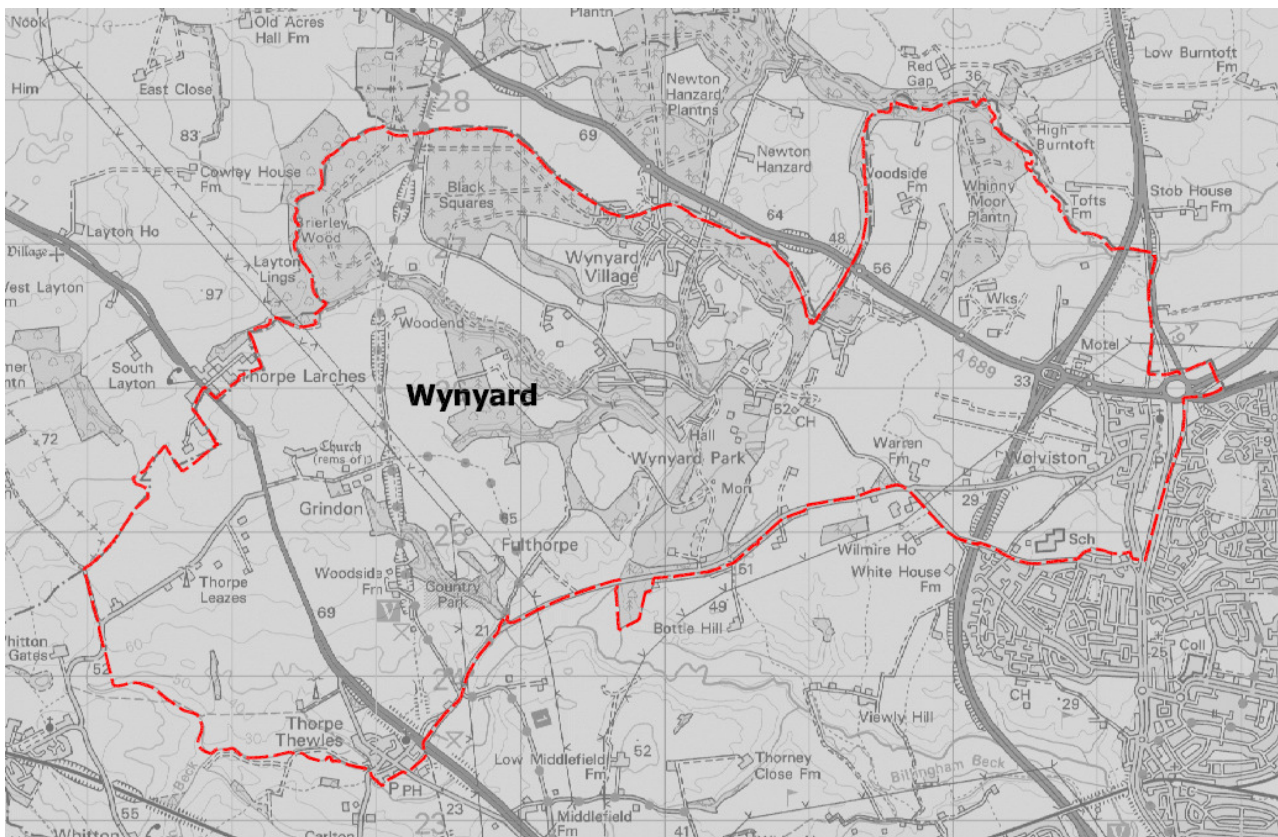
The condition of this landscape varies from that with excellent ecological value and managed as an ecological resource to a landscape devoid of natural features and dominated by industrial structures and

Stockton on Tees Landscape Character Assessment

hardstandings. It is assumed that as industry gradually migrates out of the area the ecological habitat will replace that which is lost, albeit it at a slow rate of change.

Areas of active landfill punctuate the skyline within the area forming areas of temporary degraded landscapes. These are however transitional landscapes that will in time be reclaimed and restored.

10.2 Wynyard



10.2.1 Summary of Wynyard Character Area

- Mixed woodland containing both commercial timber plantations and semi-natural deciduous woodland unique in character to the Borough of Stockton;
- Incised wooded river valleys intersect landform along Brierley Beck;

Extracts from:
Hartlepool Landscape Assessment
Hartlepool Borough Council (2000)

7.2 LANDSCAPE APPRAISAL

Following the assessment of the survey data, it was possible to make broad analyses of the landscape types, highlighting the main issues relating to landscape, visual and amenity value within each. Using the system of site ranking described above, it was additionally possible to assess the issues that were specific to the higher and lower scoring sites within the landscape types.

7.3 COASTAL FRINGE



Photograph no. 41

The Coastal fringe area is of a generally high quality toward the northern and southern ends of the study area, with a marked decline in quality along the coastline adjoining parts of the main urban area.

The defining features of the coastal landscape are the dunes and coastal grassland to the North and South of the Borough, and the maintenance of these areas should be of paramount importance. Furthermore, the presence of the coastal fringe presents an important and valuable natural and visual resource, and its potential in softening the impact of the built up area of Hartlepool upon the coastline should be maximised. In a number of cases, simply clearing the excesses of litter and fly-tipping could make a marked difference to the visual quality and potential of this landscape area.

Positive factors:

- High visual quality of beach and sand dunes to north; largely unspoilt landscape (SSSI/SNCI designated) is vital to creating a sense of 'wilderness', in conjunction with open views out to sea.
- High visual quality of North Gare/Seaton Sands to south; attractive dune landscape coupled with panoramic views out to sea.
- Natural barrier formed by beach area adjoining Seaton Carew town centre; important in softening impact of development along coastline, in addition to defining character of Seaton Carew.

Negative factors:

- Highly intrusive industrial development along North Sands beach area; overwhelming visual damage caused by abandoned plant area and associated local decline, fly tipping, vandalism etc.
- Poor maintenance of coastal strip around West Harbour area; visually bland and becoming degraded.
- Visually intrusive effect of coal deposits along Carr House sands.
- Intrusive impact of Teesside industrial conurbation on southern coastal fringe area.

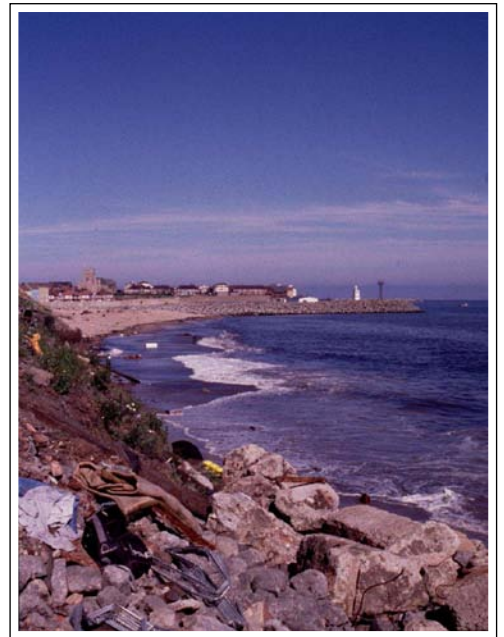
Survey analysis:

Sites within the upper 25% of the Coastal Fringe landscape type are evenly distributed along the coastline, to the north of Hartlepool (SSSI), the rocks at Hartlepool Headland, and at Seaton Sands. These sites score reasonable highly in both visual and amenity categories, although the latter two sites owe their total score more to their high amenity value, in contrast to the very high visual quality of the beach and sand dunes along the northern Borough coastline.

The lower scoring sites are again dispersed along the coastline, with no notable concentrations. Predictably, the sites adjacent to industrial installations (at North Sands and Hartlepool Nuclear Power Station) received low scores, whilst the Harbour area and Headland breakwater also scored badly due to the overwhelming negative influence of the surrounding man-made development on the coastal fringe in these locations.

Enhancement potential:

- Preserve and maintain quality of beaches and sand dune/coastal grassland at northern/southern ends of coastal fringe; Litter problems should be fully addressed and monitored.
- Promote clean-up operations around Steetley Magna works site at North Sands; overwhelming negative impact of privately owned derelict site onto public beach area significantly degrades landscape value.
- Address maintenance issue around West Harbour/North Hartlepool Bay area; clean up beach areas, improve maintenance of promenade and associated features.
- Consider possibility of improving visual impact of sea wall/embankment around West Harbour. The existing view introduces an industrial looking feature into what would otherwise be an interesting and aesthetically pleasing view, in close proximity to a residential development and amenity area.
- Address litter and related public hygiene issue on Seaton Sands



Photograph no. 42

7.3 ESTUARINE



Photograph no. 43

The Estuarine landscape occupies a small but visually unique area of the study area, which suffers due to its proximity to the adjacent oil storage depot, BNFL power plant and Tioxide works. On a broader scale, the visual backdrop created by the Teesside industrial complex has a strong visual influence on the general landscape, an influence that is unfortunately exacerbated by the flat, low-lying nature of the surrounding landscape.

Hartlepool's estuarine sites represent just a small part of the 500ha of inter-tidal land that comprises the Tees Estuary. However, whilst the visual quality of the landscape is immediately compromised by the presence of heavy industry, this landscape type has considerable natural and ecological value. This is reflected in the SSSI and SNCI designations that classify 4 of the 9 estuarine sites, and the internationally important species of wetland wildfowl and seal that inhabit the area.

In spite of this, there are few facilities or amenities to encourage public enjoyment of these resources, with no educational or designated car parking for example.

Whilst it is acknowledged that little can be done to ameliorate the impact of industrial development on this area of Hartlepool, it is considered important to capitalise on the inherent natural value of the landscape by ensuring its continued protection and conservation for future generations.

Positive factors:

- Unique aesthetic value of natural marsh landscapes to Hartlepool; extremely important in terms of nature conservation against highly developed backdrop of Teesside.

Negative factors:

- Generally flat, featureless appearance of landscape set against heavy industrial backdrop creates a visually barren impression, especially in terms of views across the estuary from surrounding areas and transport corridors.
- Overwhelming concentration of electricity pylons in some areas; Visual impact on views out of the estuary towards Hartlepool created by corridors of pylons.

Survey analysis:

The Estuarine landscape type encompasses only a few sites, and so there are correspondingly few in each scoring band. The highest scoring sites were the Estuarine Marshes and inland waterway, which are both designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

The lowest scoring sites within the Estuarine landscape were estuarine farmland, which scored poorly due to their close proximity to industrial development.

Enhancement potential:

- Ensure continued special protection, and conservation, of valuable estuarine marshes
- Supplement the protection of the landscape through the promotion of the estuarine marshes as a visual, ecological, historic and educational resource: improve access and information facilities and car parking.
- Promote general clean-up operation of accumulated debris on sites surrounding marshland.

7.6 RURAL FRINGE

The Rural Fringe encompasses a wide variety of sites, in terms of visual and amenity value, and it is perhaps somewhat impractical to make general comments about this landscape type. However, the majority of Rural Fringe sites are in a generally good or acceptable condition, with only one very low scoring, anomalous site.

The majority of sites within this landscape type are of a rural nature, with a scattering of amenity land uses incorporated amongst these. It is considered likely that amongst the areas identified as Rural Fringe are those that, by the nature of their location, would fall under the most pressure for development.



Photograph no. 48

Positive factors:

- Generally rural fringe sites are of a high visual quality; adverse impact of urban area limited to a small number of sites
- Visual quality of view across rural fringe from built up area of Hartlepool and surrounding villages.

Negative Factors:

- General neglect and littering in some areas

Survey analysis:

The Rural Fringe landscape contains a few notable clusters of high scoring sites, which are set out below.

- Throston Grange
- Summerhill Country Park
- North Hart village
- South & South west Elwick

These sites tend to derive their high scores due to a combination of good visual and amenity ratings. Summerhill, being a country park, has exceptionally high amenity scores due to good accessibility throughout the site. The remaining areas have good footpath access, which permits physical and visual access to the aesthetically pleasing rural landscape.

The lower scoring sites within the rural Fringe can again be seen to form a small number of clusters, which are set out below.

- North west fringe of Hartlepool (caravan park surrounds)
- East of Greatham
- South of Dalton Piercy
- North east Elwick
- Newton Bewley

Owing to the fact that many of these sites are in use as farmland, the factors that push them into lower scoring bands tend to be similar to those responsible for low scores in the undulating farmland landscape type. Views of industry or associated development such as cable and pylon networks, the removal of hedgerows and poor maintenance of footpaths all contribute to low scores in the Rural Fringe. A factor of particular note is the level of abuse of rural fringe sites deriving from their proximity to the urban area. Extremes of tipping and other anti-social factors was limited to a handful of sites, and was not a characteristic feature in the Hartlepool Rural Fringe as defined in this assessment.

Extracts from:

**Seascape Character Assessment for the North East Inshore and Offshore
marine plan areas**

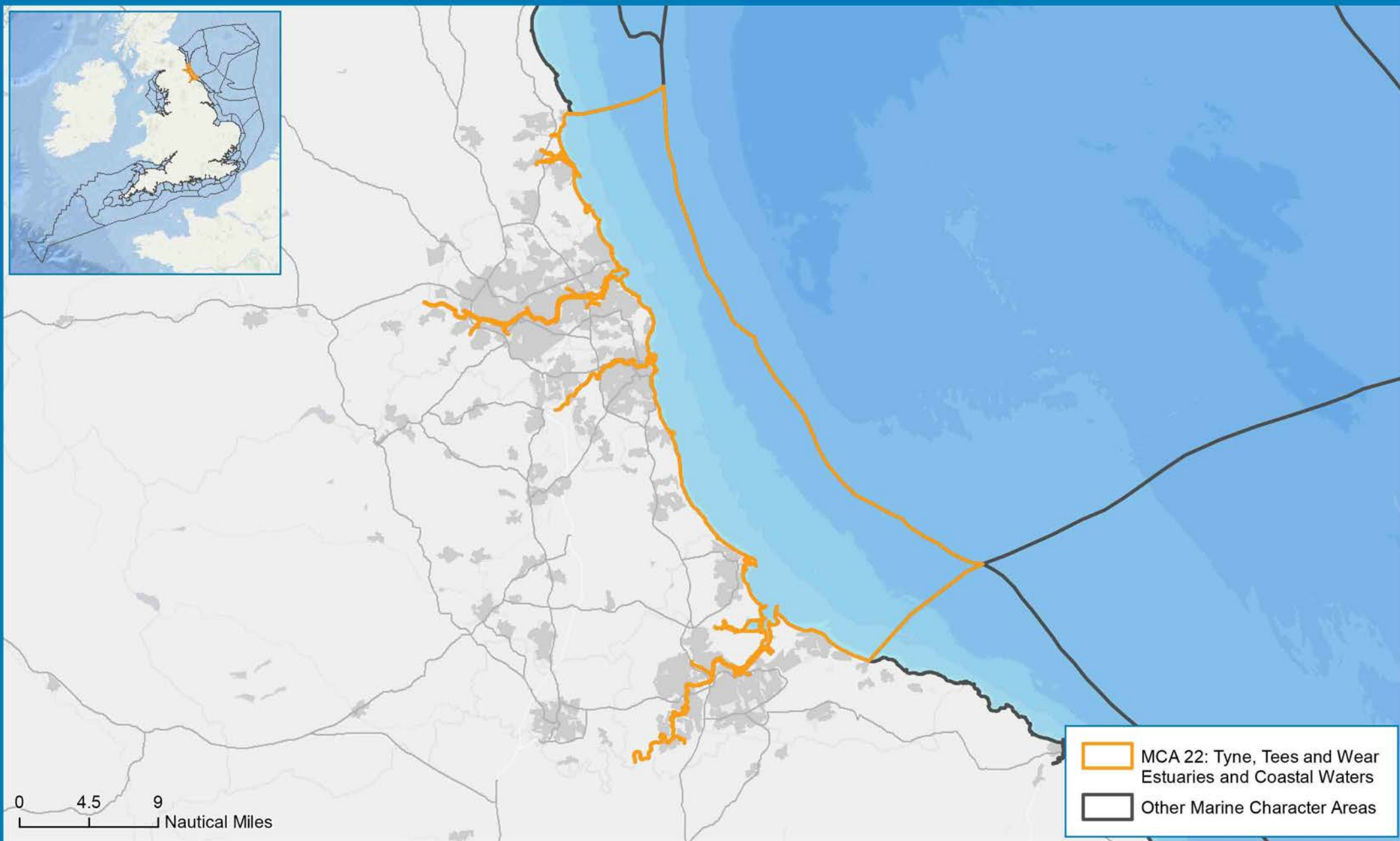
Marine Management Organisation (2018)



Marine
Management
Organisation

Figure 8 - MCA 22, Tyne, Tees and Wear Estuaries and Coastal Waters

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3.4.1 Profile for MCA 22: Tyne, Tees and Wear Estuaries and Coastal Waters

Location and boundaries

MCA 22 extends from Saltburn-by-the-Sea to Newbiggin Point, taking in the built up coast of the northeast and including the estuaries of the Tyne, Tees and Wear rivers. Its seaward boundary with MCA 25: Farne Deep follows the 50m bathymetric contour, approximately 10-15km offshore. This offshore boundary broadly corresponds to the extent of inshore fishing, modern coastal shipping and historic wrecks.

The southern boundary with MCA 21: North Yorkshire Coastal Waters is linked to the landscape character change onshore, which marks the change from the rural upland North York Moors to the largely settled lowlands of the Tees valley. The northern boundary with MCA 23: Rural Northumberland and Coastal Waters is linked again to the change from largely settled to more open rural Northumberland coast, at the promontory to the north of Blyth, Newbiggin Point. The onshore character of the landscape along this coast is therefore very different from the onshore character of the stretches of coast to north or south.

Overall character

This MCA takes in the busiest coastal waters off the northeast coast of England, including shipping lanes to the two main ports, Port of Tyne and Teesport, as well as recreational boating areas. It is characterised by proximity to and views of an extensively developed lowland coast, and associated estuaries, rivers and shelving coastal waters. It is brightly lit at night, particularly as a result to the large industrial area at Middlesbrough. Lighthouses include Souter Point and St Mary's, although there are many other lights along this coast. It is relatively industrialised, with a rich heritage of mining, ship building and fishing, and many sections where sea defences or harbour walls provide coastal protection. Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site follows the river Tyne through Newcastle, meeting the east coast at Wallsend. Between settlements are stretches of sandy shore, either straight or forming slight bays between rocky outcrops. Harbours are defended by walls, breakwaters and piers, particularly at Tees Mouth, Hartlepool, Seaham, Sunderland, Tynemouth and Blyth. Ecologically diverse with internationally and national important habitats and rare species – several areas designated.

Adjacent National Character Areas (NCAs)

The adjacent coastline includes the following NCAs as defined by Natural England:

- 13: South East Northumberland Coastal Plain (from Amble to Whitley Bay)
- 14: Tyne and Wear Lowlands (from Whitley Bay to South Shields)
- 15: Durham Magnesian Limestone Plateau (from South Shields to Hartlepool)

- 23: Tees Lowlands (from Hartlepool to Saltburn-by-the-Sea)

Adjacent and inter-visible nationally designated and defined landscapes

The adjacent coastline does not include any land designated as AONB or National Park. Three short stretches of the Durham Heritage Coast lie between Crimdon Park to Blackhall; from Howden Point to Nose's Point; and from Seaham Hall to Salterfen Rocks.

3.4.2 Key characteristics of MCA 22: Tyne, Tees and Wear Estuaries and Coastal Waters

- Shelving coastal waters off the extensively developed coast of the Tyne, Tees and Wear lowlands encompassing Tynemouth, South Shields, Sunderland, Seaham, Hartlepool and Redcar, deepening to approximately 30-50 metres offshore. Encompassing the estuaries and tidal rivers inland.
- Contrasting areas of undeveloped exposed coastline of sweeping sandy beaches, punctuated by estuaries and rocky outcrops that form slight headlands between South Shields and Hartlepool.
- Mixed rocky inshore seabed of mudstone, sandstone and limestone, with bands of coal further north and areas of intertidal prehistoric peat beds at Seaton Carew and Redcar.
- Seafloor covered by mixed deposits of sand, mud or gravel sediments. Mud characterises the areas offshore around the Tyne, Wear and up to Newbiggin-by-the-Sea.
- Diverse ecological habitats and important populations of rare species including seabed habitats supporting corals, sea squirts, anemones and bryozoans (designated Coquet to St Mary's MCZ). Rocky foreshore and sandy beach that regularly supports internationally important numbers of purple sandpiper, ruddy turnstone and little tern (Northumbria Coast Ramsar site and Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA).
- Kittiwake nesting on Tyne Bridge, Newcastle/Gateshead quayside, are the furthest inland colony in the world. The MCA is also home to common and grey seals and cetaceans.
- Complex mosaic grassland habitats, unique to the British Isles, designated as Durham Coast SAC being the only example of vegetated sea cliffs on Magnesian limestone exposures in the UK.
- A number of lighthouses provide markers for navigation. The National Trust's Souter Lighthouse is a popular visitor and educational attraction, and landmark in the wider seascape.
- Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site meets the coast at Wallsend. The east coast was a major sea route, and the Tyne an important military supply base during the Roman occupation.
- Religious links to Lindisfarne (MCA 23) and Whitby Abbey (MCA 21) through the 7th Century Anglo-Saxon monastery of Wearmouth-Jarrow Abbey, all connected by waterborne routes.
- A long association with the post-medieval coal trade, where coal was transported by sea to the south. Evidence of 19th Century Ironstone mining at Huntcliff mine, Warsett Hill (Scheduled Monument).
- Historic wrecks in large numbers from all periods document the area's legacy of maritime trade, well established trading ports, and as a result of German attacks during the WWI and WWII.
- Offshore, the East Coast War Channels were vital for transporting coal and other goods from the Tyne to the Thames and France, during WWI and WWII. Additional protection was provided from Heugh Gun Battery

(Scheduled Monument) located on the Headland at Hartlepool and the 'disappearing gun' at Trow Point. The coast includes a range of important military heritage sites.

- The major ports of Tyne, Teesport and Blyth accommodate a variety of vessels, including ferries from the Port of Tyne. These shipping hubs combined with traffic from the smaller harbours and ports (Seaham, South Shields and Sunderland) generate large volumes of sea traffic and busy waters. Significant cultural and industrial heritage associated with ports and harbours represented in built character.
- Global influence of shipbuilding in the area, focused around Sunderland, Teesside, Hartlepool and Tyneside dating from the late 13th Century. Shipbuilding now largely replaced by vessel and marine structure decommissioning and the offshore wind industries.
- Large fishing fleets based at the region's major commercial fishing and shellfish ports at North Shields, with other landings at smaller ports such as Hartlepool and Blyth.
- Recovering Durham coast, formally degraded by colliery waste: the 'black beaches' and landfill at Easington and Horden are now popular recreational areas, and form part

of the undeveloped Durham Heritage Coast and a valuable buffer between industrial development associated with the estuaries to the north and south.

- Good coastal access along much of the coast providing increasing opportunities for recreation and tourism, including fishing from the now clean former industrial beaches and walking along stretches of the England Coast Path.
- Expansive views across the North Sea, particularly from the 'Leas' in South Tyneside, where vast horizons are frequently marked by cargo ships, tankers and fishing vessels, or the moving turbines of the Teeside and Blyth (Demonstrator) Offshore Wind Farms.
- Viewed from the sea, the coastline is perceived as a well-lit developed lowland, densely populated with several large coastal conurbations, including Sunderland, South Shields, and Tynemouth. The southern part of the MCA is intensely lit by the extensive industrial facilities at Middlesbrough.
- The exposure of the coast with general absence of sheltering headlands results in a wild and unforgiving seascape when storms sweep in from the North Sea.