Appendix 14.9

Landscape Heritage Adopted SPG, Map 2 Landscape Character Types
map 2: landscape character types
2.158
Conserve the rocky outcrops and limestone knolls characteristic of the landscape
- Site quarries, communication masts and wind turbines away from distinctive rocky knolls or outcrops which are visual landmarks.
- Manage limestone grasslands to meet biodiversity objectives.

2.159
Conserve stands of beech and walled enclosures
- Encourage walling around stands of beech trees to restrict grazing and allow natural regeneration of the next generation of trees.
- Maintain walled enclosures to ensure their survival.

2.160
Conserve the upland built character
- Encourage a built form which respects the grouped nature of buildings on isolated farms.
- Choice of materials is vital in this upland location; new buildings should be constructed of stone (preferably from local quarries).

2.161
Enhance the pattern of forestry
- Encourage the use of Forest Plans to minimise the impact of forest restructuring on the landscape.
- The restructuring of existing plantations should aim to create natural shapes which fit the local topography, an appropriate scale of woodland and an increase in the proportion of broadleaved species.
- Enhance and restore ancient semi-natural woodland.

2.162
Restore limestone quarries to be sympathetic to landscape character
- Quarries present an opportunity for habitat creation and management for wildlife and may provide sites of geological or visual interest.

2.163
Target for the Rolling Upland Farmland
- Increase area of native woodland.

Landscape Type 15:
Coastal Plain

Landscape Character Description
2.164
Generally below 50m, this landscape type is characterised by gently undulating or flat lowland farmland divided by ditches in West Lancashire and by low clipped hedges elsewhere. The Fylde landscape in particular is characterised by a high density of small marl pit field ponds. Many hedgerows have been removed to give very large fields, open road verges and long views. Although woodland cover is generally very low, these views are punctuated by small deciduous secondary woodlands, mostly in the form of shelter belts or estate plantations; they provide a backdrop to views. The history of the area as an arable landscape is reflected in the farm buildings, particularly the highly distinctive red brick barns with brickwork detailing. Settlement is relatively dense in this lowland landscape;
clustered red brick farm buildings, hamlets, rural villages and historic towns are all present. Older farm sites and red brick barns are often surrounded by recent development and the many converted barns now provide characterful homes. There is a dense infrastructure network; meandering roads connect the farms and villages while major roads and motorways provide a fast route across the landscape, linking major towns.

**Key Environmental Features**

2.165

Large, geometric arable fields reflecting the history of enclosure of the land and allowing long views over the landscape. This area has the highest surviving concentration of fields originating from the medieval open field system in Lancashire.

**Colourful arable fields** including poppies and corn marigold are important for their visual and biodiversity value and as a reflection of farming history.

**Marl pit and brick pit ponds** reflect past extraction of clays and provide an important wildlife habitat for aquatic plants, great crested newt and a wide range of aquatic invertebrates, including some rare species.

**Historic brick built farms** including highly distinctive red brick barns with ornate brickwork detailing reflect the culture and history of the working landscape.

**Estate plantations, shelter belts and parkland trees** provide a sense of enclosure, a backdrop to views and shelter for wildlife.

**Pockets of semi-natural woodland along brooks and watercourses** provide valuable shelter and habitats for wildlife (such as flocks of pink-footed geese), as well as recreational potential and links with the historic landscape.

**Meandering rural lanes** respond to the local landform and provide a contrast in experience from the straight lanes of the surrounding Mosslands.

**A potentially rich archaeological record** within the peat or the fringes of the Mosslands may provide clues as to early settlement and land use before drainage and improvement.

Coastal Plain, Burscough
Landscape Strategy and Recommendations for the Coastal Plain

2.166
- Conserve distinctive field patterns and related landscape features and landforms.
- Encourage retention and enhancement of hedgerows and hedgerow trees especially in relation to hedgerows of visual, historic and wildlife importance.
- Initiate programmes of tree planting, particularly on the fringes of settlements and in locations where trees will help to screen infrastructure and other developments.
- Retain alignments of roads and tracks and restrict over-engineered alterations.
- Restrict further future landraising or other waste management developments in areas not previously affected by landfill to avoid damage to field patterns or interruptions to long views over the landscape.

2.167
Conserve remnants of former agricultural habitat mosaics
- Protect and conserve wet and other semi-natural agricultural grasslands.
- Encourage the conservation and restoration of arable field margins with traditional arable weeds.

2.168
Conserve remaining field ponds
- Restrict infilling of ponds and their loss as a result of development (through the development control process).
- Ensure new development retains field ponds and promotes their conservation as landscape features.
- Wherever possible, create new field ponds.
- Develop buffers around field ponds designed to provide terrestrial habitat and visual diversity as well as to minimise the impacts of pollution/eutrophication from agricultural run-off.

2.169
Enhance the distinctive character and landscape setting of rural settlements
- Resist infill ribbon development along open lanes.
- Retain and enhance historic landscape features, including verges, hedgerows and open spaces within settlements.
- Encourage the use of local materials, particularly in older settlements.
- Encourage tree planting using native species (including black poplar of local provenance where appropriate) within and on the fringes of rural settlements to improve views and approaches to the built edge.
- Retain existing field boundaries and use as a framework for new development.
- Avoid introduction or proliferation of suburban building styles, materials and layouts.
- Consider the landscape setting of historic buildings and restrict inappropriate new development in such areas.

2.170
Enhance the river corridor landscapes
- Encourage habitat enhancement e.g. creation of wet fringes, riverside woodlands, pools, ripples and meanders.
Planning for landscape change

- Protect water courses from the impacts of eutrophication by adopting best practices for the application of agricultural fertiliser and pesticides, creating buffer zones and encouraging programmes for nutrient removal.
- Minimise the number of pollution incidents caused by a variety of built developments by developing appropriate arrangements for water catchment and run-off.

2.171 Enhance opportunities for informal recreation
- Improve access to water courses for angling and walking (including disabled access).
- Ensure development proposals protect and enhance on-site features and promote wider access to water courses.

2.172 Enhance landscapes associated with major infrastructure developments such as the M6 and M55 corridors
- Improve drainage arrangements to limit pollution and flood water retention.
- Consider tree planting in areas where it can integrate new development or infrastructure, but take care to avoid mass tree planting in characteristic open landscapes and avoid screening key views.

2.173 Restore, retain, manage and replant hedgerows and hedgerow trees
- Encourage hedgerow laying, replanting and gapping up, giving priority to those hedgerows which contribute to the overall hedgerow pattern and those which provide links between hedgerows and to semi-natural habitats.
- Encourage the use of headlands and field margins to arable fields to reduce damage by agricultural machinery.
- Where possible restore the historic structure and character of designed landscapes by encouraging parkland tree planting, boundary repair and the retention of designed features.

2.174 Restore broadleaved woodlands particularly in the vicinity of watercourses
- Encourage planting in riparian buffer zones wherever this will not conflict with access requirements for flood defence purposes or ecological interests.
- Manage grazing levels and introduce fencing to allow regeneration of existing woodlands.
- Conserve and restore ancient semi-natural woodland.

2.175 Restore completed sand and gravel workings
- Former sand and gravel workings should be restored to a mosaic of wetland habitats including appropriate informal recreation.

2.176 Targets for the Coastal Plain
- Increase area of native woodland.
- No net loss of hedgerows through development.
- Create two ponds for every pond lost through development.
Landscape Type 16: Mosslands

Landscape Character Description
2.177
The Mosslands are an extremely flat, low lying landscape comprised of peat deposits which were formerly an extensive series of lowland raised mires. These are now largely reclaimed and managed for particularly intensive crop production, including market gardening and to a lesser extent dairying. Fields are typically large in size and geometric in shape, defined by straight drainage ditches and post and wire fences. Hawthorn hedges are restricted to the straight, narrow roads which cross the Mosslands and shelter belts, often of poplar or Scots pine are visible on the horizon. There are extremely long views across this open landscape and vertical elements, such as electricity pylons, are particularly visible. Older buildings and small, loose-knit linear villages are sited on low sand and gravel or boulder clay ridges on the edges of the peat. The lack of lighting and kerbs maintains a rural character, although a variety of modern building styles and materials are evident.

Key Environmental Features
2.178
Low lying flat landscape, which provides extensive uninterrupted views for great distances.

Market gardening and arable production are highly productive and provide a pattern of colours and textures year round.

Remnant mosses and fen carr are important semi-natural wetland habitats which provide a glimpse of the landscape before it was drained and exploited for agriculture in the late 18th and 19th Centuries.

Field patterns which are distinctive and preserve the historic patterns of mossland reclamation.

Drainage ditches form an important network of semi-natural wetland habitats especially in West Lancashire.

Rural roads and tracks, which are unlit and provide clear views of the night sky in the area. Many are raised on embankments with ditches, culverts and bridges.

Farms and isolated houses at end of dead-end tracks on low sand and gravel or boulder clay ridges; loose-knit, linear settlements are strung out along embanked roads.

Potentially rich archaeological sites, which are gradually revealed as the remaining traces of peat are desiccated and blown away. The peat contains evidence of early settlement on the fringes of the Mosslands, which were exploited for reeds/rushes, grazing and fuel.

Landscape Strategy and Recommendations for the Mosslands
2.179
Conserve the distinctive character and landscape structure of the Mosslands

- Limit development in the Mosslands, particularly that which obscures views of the flat open landscape.
- Conserve woodland blocks, particularly those associated with historic landscapes.
Maintain large geometric field patterns and avoid the amalgamation of fields.

- Counteract the impact of abrupt built edges (on low ridges) with wooded planting as buffers.
- Avoid new lighting in the landscape.
- Limit the extent of mineral and peat extraction with restoration to wetland habitats.

2.180

Conserve historic settlement patterns and building styles

- Conserve the wider landscape setting of older houses and historic halls.
- Avoid ribbon and other development which would detract from the characteristic rural settlement pattern.
- Avoid the use of incongruous building materials and building styles.
- Encourage small-scale planting in association with new development to help integrate it within the landscape, while framing the characteristic long views.

2.181

Conserve important habitats

- Conserve relict areas of mossland supporting vegetation of nature conservation value.
- Conserve the hunting grounds and nesting sites of barn owls.
- Retain roosting sites and feeding grounds, especially long grass and water habitats for bats. Special care should be taken in the conversion or renovation of farm buildings.
- Avoid the formation of habitat links between grey and red squirrel populations and manage existing woodlands to encourage red squirrels.
- Encourage management of arable field margins as refuges for scarce weed species and food sources for seed eating birds.
- Conserve the important network of drainage ditches and bank-side habitats and woodlands as semi-natural habitats.
- Encourage practices which preserve winter feeding grounds for geese and swans.
- Monitor levels of water abstraction to retain key wetland habitats.
- Monitor water quality, particularly downstream of major industry.

2.182

Enhance the character and wildlife value of watercourses and their environs

- Encourage the retention and improvement of riparian habitats, particularly in areas where water courses are intensively managed.
- Restrict surface water run-off from new developments.
Explore options for introducing meanders, ox-bows, reed beds and other areas of open water and riparian buffer zones to maximise habitat value and minimise the impacts of water borne pollutants.

2.183
Enhance the character and landscape setting of settlements

- Careful siting, design and the use of local materials is essential in this open, flat landscape where most development is likely to be prominent.
- Encourage natural regeneration and discourage the use of non-native species in hedges and on the edges of settlements.
- Limit tree planting to areas where there is established tree cover.
- Site vertical structures where the screening effects of existing shelter belts and buildings minimises their impact on long distance views.

2.184
Restore the relict mosslands

- Raise local water tables and seal the margins of the remaining relict mosslands by blocking existing drainage channels.

2.185
Target for the Mosslands

- Create two ponds for every pond lost through development.

Landscape Type 17: Enclosed Coastal Marsh

Landscape Character Description
2.186
The Enclosed Coastal Marshes are flat, expansive tracts of coastal land which have been recently reclaimed by drainage. The land is divided into large square fields surrounded by drainage ditches and post and wire fences or low clipped thorn hedgerows. Improved pasture predominates and is used for cattle or sheep grazing, although arable crops grow in well drained areas. The ordered enclosed marsh is sharply demarcated from the open coastal marshlands by sea dykes where gorse and other scrub is often conspicuous. Trees are generally very scarce, allowing long views across the landscape to distant factories, hills, farm buildings, pylons and tree silhouettes on the horizon. Settlement is modern and restricted to dispersed red brick farmsteads. There is a major landfill site at Clifton, with ongoing phased restoration. Agricultural improvement has tended to reduce the ecological value of these areas, although the ditches and some of the former saltmarsh creeks provide important wetland habitats and the enclosed marsh provides a feeding ground for geese, swans and other ever-wintering birds. Where agriculture is less intensive areas of wetland support a rich wildlife.
Enhance opportunities for informal recreation

- Encourage the development of connecting footpaths and cycleways which link the Estuary to settlements inland and complete the remaining sections of the Lancashire Coastal Way.
- Provide interpretation facilities.
- Deflect visitors from the more sensitive wetland habitats.

Restore wetland habitats and species

- Promote the restoration of marshes from reclaimed land where possible to enhance wildlife value.
- Encourage planting of native black poplar from locally provenanced cuttings.

Target for the Enclosed Coastal Marsh

- Create two ponds for every pond lost through development.

Warton Sands, south of Silverdale

Landscape Type 18: Open Coastal Marsh

Landscape Character Description

Saltmarshes and intertidal flats occur around the sheltered waters of the west coast of Lancashire and extend to the low water mark. The Open Coastal Marshes are flat, expansive coastal areas formed on marine alluvium. They are separated from the Enclosed Coastal Marshes and coastal farmland by man-made sea dykes and in places by boulder clay and limestone cliffs. The simplicity of the landscape pattern is visually appealing: usually the fine sward surface is closely grazed and is etched by a maze of creeks and channels which gives texture to the flat, expansive landscape. The marshes are open, except for occasional patches of scrub just beyond the high water mark, whilst the few marshes which are ungrazed are a riot of colour in high summer. There is a striking absence of settlement or man-made features. This sense of remoteness is a dramatic contrast to the surrounding man-made landscapes. Another notable feature is the prolific bird life which brings movement to the landscape and provides a changing scene.

Key Environmental Features

Valuable saltmarsh habitats which provide relatively undisturbed habitats for numerous wetland flora and fauna. The remaining ungrazed marshes (restricted to the Wyre Estuary) are particularly attractive and valuable in ecological terms. The saltmarshes of Morecambe Bay are some of the most important examples of this habitat in Britain.
Maze of creeks, channels, gutters, drainage ditches and brackish pools which etch a distinctive pattern in the surface of the marsh and which are important semi-natural habitats.

Coastal clay cliffs adjoining the open marsh support a rich assemblage of wild flowers.

Historic roads/tracks and bridges allowing access to the sea, which indicates the progressive drainage and settlement of the area, and evidence of important coastal industries, such as the brine wells to the west of Pilling.

Relict land uses including ruined sea walls, lines of stakes marking successive retreats of sea defences, landing jetties, salt evaporation pans, fisheries, ferry points, dry docks and quays.

Expansive sandbanks, mudflats and shallow waters provide habitats for a range of worms, crustaceans and shellfish, as well as an ideal spawning and nursery area for fish and even basking sharks.

Bird life brings movement – the area is important as a feeding ground for geese, swans, ducks and waders and the saltmarshes are a vital link for migrating birds.

Landscape Strategy and Recommendations for the Open Coastal Marsh

2.195

Conserve valuable wildlife habitats

- Monitor and control levels of grazing on the Morecambe Bay saltmarshes.
- Monitor and control discharges from local water courses to ensure the risk of contamination and eutrophication is minimised.

- Avoid further reclamation by landfilling, landraising and other activities.
- Avoid further enclosures of saltmarsh and ecologically insensitive flood defence works.
- Conserve the plant communities on coastal clay cliffs.
- Manage ditches and drainage channels to maximise wildlife benefits and maintain an appropriate balance between freshwater and saltwater.

2.196

Conserve the expansive landscape and tranquility of the Open Coastal Marsh

- Keep built development and infrastructure to an absolute minimum.
- Any built structure should be constructed to minimise visual impact in views across the marsh.

2.197

Enhance coastal defences

- Manage the use of coastal defences for informal recreation which is compatible with wildlife conservation interest.
- Wherever possible, consider ‘soft’ engineering options which will maximise benefits to wildlife habitats.

2.198

Enhance opportunities for informal recreation

- Improve interpretation facilities in relation to wildlife, natural and historic features, including the history of successive reclamation and coastal defences.
Ensure boardwalks and signed trails provide access to circular routes while avoiding the risk of erosion.

Deflect visitor pressure from the more sensitive nature conservation sites.

Site car parks away from sensitive coastal marsh habitats.

2.199
Target for the Open Coastal Marsh

None applicable.

**Landscape Type 19: Coastal Dunes**

**Landscape Character Description**

2.200

The Coastal Dunes occur between the sea and farmland or urban land which lies inland. The landform varies from the natural form of the hummocky dunes at St. Annes to more modified areas, some of which have been levelled and are now managed as amenity grassland. The dunes are located in open and exposed sites with sea views and dominant skylines. They comprise small remnants of a once extensive system in a narrow discontinuous band sandwiched between the built coastal development and the sea wall or promenade. Their extent is determined and substantially reduced by the surrounding Victorian streets, car parks, tourist accommodation and golf courses. The vegetation is dominated by semi-natural grassland which is sometimes grazed. Access is by a winding, undulating network of minor paths or from the seafront promenades. Modern buildings and car parks, set within the dunes, are often linked to tourism development and are incongruous elements against the wild scenery.

**Key Environmental Features**

2.201

Hummocky landform provides sheltered hollows and microclimatic zones within its core.

Windswept grassland and bare sand which conveys a sense of exposure to coastal elements and allows unobscured views out to sea.

Valuable habitats, including dune slacks, dune heath, shingle and sandy shingle, all of which are recognised as a priority for conservation in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.

Potential archaeological sites in areas where evidence of human activity is buried beneath shifting dunes – and in the inter-tidal area.

St. Annes Dunes are a remnant of a largely natural landscape type, rare in terms of the limited extent of human modification.

*Sand dunes at Lytham St Annes*
Urban Landscape Types

Historic Core

Urban Landscape Character

2.226

Today the Historic Core is typically a relatively small, characterful area at the heart of Lancashire's larger settlements. An historic church and market place are often sited at the central convergence point of the principal radial routes. Most Historic Core has a denser urban fabric than other parts of the town, with tall red brick or stone buildings and angular streets. There is a general lack of open space and vegetation, although market squares do survive in some towns. In some cases the historic core appears as an isolated island within later development. This may result from the demolition and re-planning of town centres, or from the fusion of isolated small towns by expansion of one or both settlements. Often the Historic Core is only visibly represented by the street pattern and property boundaries. Apart from churches and castles the earliest visible fabric are rare 16th and 17th Century buildings, but typically the oldest buildings of the historic core are 18th or 19th Century.

Overall the most enduring feature of the Historic Core is the organic, winding arrangement of streets and alleys and the distinctive character of historic public buildings.

Industrial Age (1800-1930)

Urban Landscape Character

2.227

The planned development typical of Victorian and Edwardian residential areas is characterised by a unity of architectural character, with small red brick or stone built terraces in working class districts and larger brick or stone semi-detached villas in broad, tree-lined streets in areas dominated by middle class residents. The street pattern is rectilinear, on a regular grid. Prominent stone public buildings, built by wealthy patrons, large public parks, promenades and urban squares are landmarks in central districts. This period left a legacy of attractive urban areas, with a formal character.

2.228

Within this urban landscape type, squares, parks and to a certain degree, urban cemeteries, contribute significantly to the quality of life enjoyed by residents and workers. Many sites retain elements of their original design and planting; for some, however, neglect, vandalism and inadequate management has created a rather utilitarian appearance.

Preston Flag Market

Back yards, Colne
Suburban (1930 onwards)
Urban Landscape Character

2.229
This urban landscape type includes a wide variety of architectural styles and layouts. The majority of urban areas are characterised by a spacious pattern of street, low buildings, garages and gardens, although there are also examples of high-rise tower block estates, with communal amenity grassland and extensive parking.

2.230
Early suburban housing (1930 to 40) is typically semi-detached, built of brick and arranged in crescents and wide streets with large front and rear gardens. This type of older suburban housing often forms ribbon development along principal urban routes, with access to more recent housing estates behind. 1950s to 1960s estates tend to have predominantly straight streets with some cul-de-sacs and with gardens and garages. Since the 1970s, housing development has been concentrated in relatively dense estates with cul-de-sac layouts, curved streets, small gardens and garages and are often a mixture of many different styles, frequently pastiches of old styles.

2.231
The use of many different materials, usually not of local origin and standardised architectural detailing of particular styles has resulted in a loss of regional identity; the same house designs recur across the whole country. Further guidance on maintaining urban character is provided in Section 4 (4.26 to 4.27)