

# A585 Windy Harbour to Skippool

TR010035

## 6.9.2 ES Appendix 9.2: Extracts from "A Landscape Strategy for Lancashire"

APFP Regulation 5(2)(a)

Planning Act 2008

Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed  
Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009

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Infrastructure Planning

Planning Act 2008

The Infrastructure Planning  
(Applications: Prescribed Forms and  
Procedure) Regulations 2009

**A585 Windy Harbour to Skippool  
Improvement Scheme**  
Development Consent Order 201[ ]

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**ES APPENDIX 9.2: EXTRACTS FROM "A LANDSCAPE STRATEGY  
FOR LANCASHIRE"**

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<b>Regulation Number:</b>	Regulation 5(2)(a)
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<b>Author:</b>	A585 Windy Harbour to Skippool Improvement Scheme Project Team, Highways England

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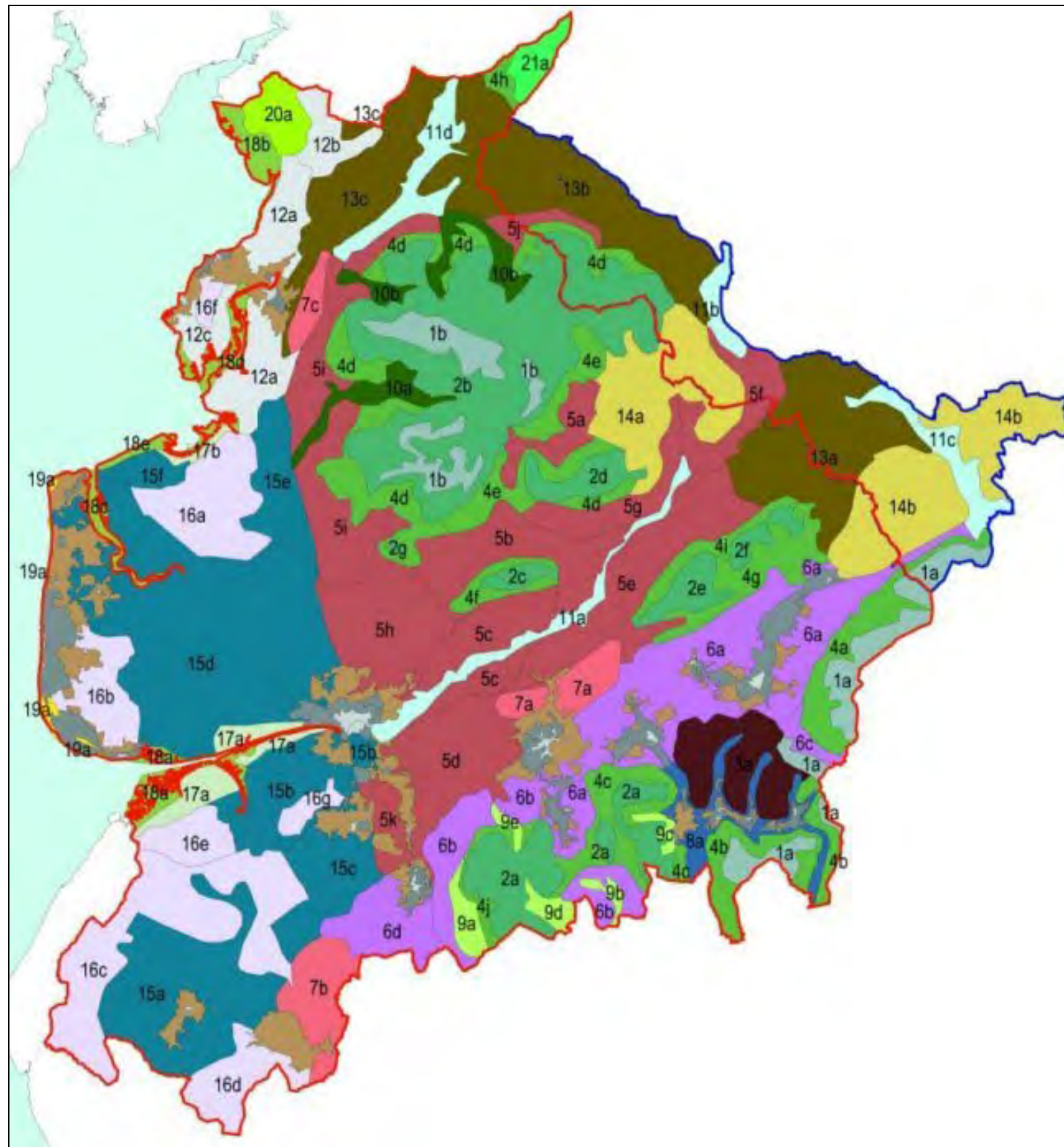
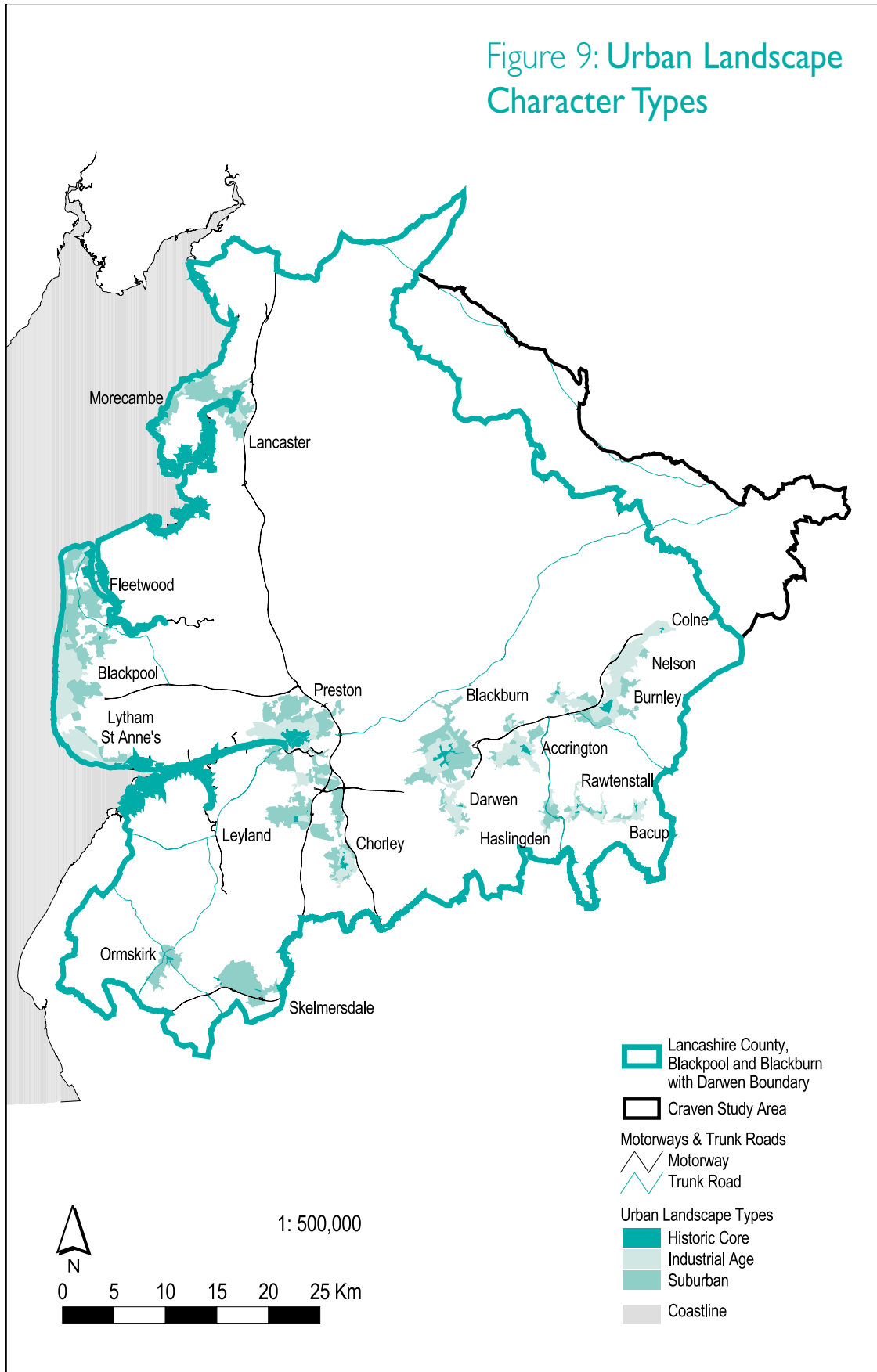


Figure 8: Landscape Character Types & Landscape Character Areas

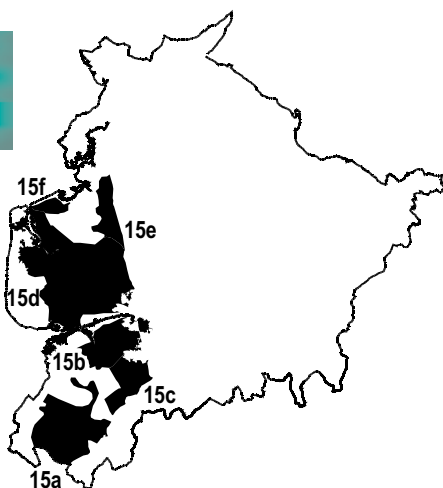
- Lancashire County, Blackpool and Blackburn with Darwen Boundary
  - Craven Study Area
- Landscape Character Types & Areas
- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: #cccccc; margin-right: 5px;"></span> 1 Moorland Plateaux                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1a. South Pennine Moors</li> <li>1b. High Bowland Plateaux</li> </ul> </li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: #4682b4; margin-right: 5px;"></span> 2 Moorland Hills                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2a. West Pennine Moors</li> <li>2b. Central Bowland Fells</li> <li>2c. Longridge Fell</li> <li>2d. Waddington Fell</li> <li>2e. Pendle Hill</li> <li>2f. White Moor/Bum Moor</li> <li>2g. Beacon Fell</li> </ul> </li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: #800000; margin-right: 5px;"></span> 3 Enclosed Uplands                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3a. Rossendale Hills</li> </ul> </li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: #32cd32; margin-right: 5px;"></span> 4 Moorland Fringe                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4a. Trawden Fringe</li> <li>4b. Rossendale Moorland Fringe</li> <li>4c. Blackburn Moorland Fringe</li> <li>4d. Bowland Gristone Fringes</li> <li>4e. Bowland Limestone Fringes</li> <li>4f. Longridge Fell Fringes</li> <li>4g. South Pendle Fringe</li> <li>4h. Leck Fell Fringe</li> <li>4i. North Pendle Fringe</li> <li>4j. West Pennine Fringes</li> </ul> </li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: #c0392b; margin-right: 5px;"></span> 5 Undulating Lowland Farmland                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5a. Upper Hodder Valley</li> <li>5b. Lower Hodder and Loud Valley</li> <li>5c. Lower Ribble</li> <li>5d. Samesbury-Wirrhnell Fold</li> <li>5e. Lower Ribblesdale (Clitheroe to Gisburn)</li> <li>5f. Lower Ribblesdale (Gisburn to Hellfield)</li> <li>5g. South Bowland Fringes</li> <li>5h. Goosnargh-Whittingham</li> <li>5i. West Bowland Fringes</li> <li>5j. North Bowland Fringes</li> <li>5k. Querden-Euxton</li> </ul> </li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: #9b59b6; margin-right: 5px;"></span> 6 Industrial Foothills and Valleys                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6a. Calder Valley</li> <li>6b. West Pennine Foothills</li> <li>6c. Cliviger Gorge</li> <li>6d. Adlington-Coppull</li> </ul> </li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: #e74c3c; margin-right: 5px;"></span> 7 Farmed Ridges                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7a. Mellor Ridge</li> <li>7b. Upholland Ridge</li> <li>7c. Langthwaite Ridge</li> </ul> </li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: #2980b9; margin-right: 5px;"></span> 8 Settled Valleys                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8a. Irwell</li> </ul> </li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: #90ee90; margin-right: 5px;"></span> 9 Reservoir Valleys                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9a. Frinton</li> <li>9b. Turton-Jumbles</li> <li>9c. Haslingden Grane</li> <li>9d. Belmont</li> <li>9e. Raddlesworth</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: #2e8b57; margin-right: 5px;"></span> 10 Wooded Rural Valleys                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10a. Wylre Valley</li> <li>10b. North Bowland Valleys</li> </ul> </li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: #add8e6; margin-right: 5px;"></span> 11 Valley Floodplains                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11a. Lower Ribble Valley</li> <li>11b. Long Preston Reaches</li> <li>11c. Aire Valley</li> <li>11d. Lune Valley</li> </ul> </li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: #d3d3d3; margin-right: 5px;"></span> 12 Low Coastal Drumlins                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12a. Camforth-Galgate-Cockerham</li> <li>12b. Warton-Borwick</li> <li>12c. Heysham-Overton</li> </ul> </li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: #654321; margin-right: 5px;"></span> 13 Drumlin Field                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>13a. Gargrave Drumlin Field</li> <li>13b. Bentham-Clapham</li> <li>13c. Docker-Kellet-Lancaster</li> </ul> </li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: #f1c40f; margin-right: 5px;"></span> 14 Rolling Upland Farmland                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>14a. Slaiburn-Giggleswick</li> <li>14b. Lothersdale and Cringles</li> </ul> </li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: #1f77b4; margin-right: 5px;"></span> 15 Coastal Plain                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>15a. Ormskirk-Lathom-Rufford</li> <li>15b. Longton-Bretherton</li> <li>15c. Croston-Mawdesley</li> <li>15d. The Fylde</li> <li>15e. Forton-Garstang-Catterall</li> <li>15f. Knott End-Pilling</li> </ul> </li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: #e6e6fa; margin-right: 5px;"></span> 16 Mosslands                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>16a. North Fylde Mosses</li> <li>16b. South Fylde Mosses</li> <li>16c. Martin Mere and South West Mosses</li> <li>16d. Skelmersdale Mosses</li> <li>16e. Tarleton Mosses</li> <li>16f. Heysham Moss</li> <li>16g. Hoole and Farington Mosses</li> </ul> </li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: #c8c8c8; margin-right: 5px;"></span> 17 Enclosed Coastal Marsh                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>17a. Clifton and Hutton Marsh</li> <li>17b. Cockerham Coast</li> </ul> </li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: #90ee90; margin-right: 5px;"></span> 18 Open Coastal Marsh                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>18a. Ribble Marshes</li> <li>18b. Hest Bank-Silverdale Marshes</li> <li>18c. Wylre Marshes</li> <li>18d. Lune Marshes</li> <li>18e. Pilling and Cockerham Marshes</li> </ul> </li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: #ffff00; margin-right: 5px;"></span> 19 Coastal Dunes                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>19a. Fylde Coast Dunes</li> </ul> </li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: #90ee90; margin-right: 5px;"></span> 20 Wooded Limestone Hills and Pavements                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>20a. Amside and Silverdale</li> </ul> </li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: #008000; margin-right: 5px;"></span> 21 Limestone Fells                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>21a. Leck Fell</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
|---|--|
- Urban Landscape Types
- Historic Core
  - Industrial Age
  - Suburban
  - Coastline

Scale approx 1:325,000 at A3 page size

Figure 9: Urban Landscape Character Types



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## COASTAL PLAIN

### Character Areas

- 15a Ormskirk-Lathom-Rufford
- 15b Longton-Bretherton
- 15c Croston-Mawdesley
- 15d The Fylde
- 15e Forton-Garstang-Catterall
- 15f Knott End-Pilling

### Landscape Character

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. Typical view - photo 30 below.



### Physical Influences

Glacial and post-glacial deposits of clays, sands and marine alluvium have completely masked the solid geology of mudstones and sandstones. However, the drift is relatively thin between Scarisbrick and Skelmersdale, exposing a broad band of sandstone. The landscape is therefore strongly influenced by the surface drift which constitutes boulder clay, penetrated by pockets of glacial sand and gravel and deposits of post-glacial blown sand which form distinctive landscape features. The landscape is gently rolling, and, until recently, peat accumulated in low-lying areas within the glacial till to form mosses which have largely been reclaimed for agriculture.

The land is highly productive and has a very low proportion of semi natural vegetation. Wildlife habitats are therefore typically small scale and fragmented. Ancient woodland is rare, although estate plantations offer important refuges for many species of flora and fauna. Carr House Green Common near Inskip is a mosaic of semi natural grasslands and scrub and a Biological Heritage Site. It is a rare survival of a Fylde landscape little changed from the 19th century.

Species-rich meadow or pasture is almost entirely restricted to small areas of secondary colonisation along man made features such as roads and railways although arable weeds such as corn marigold and poppy still persist locally. The nationally rare purple ramping fumitory occurs in a few places. Flooded marl pits which are an integral part of the agricultural landscape together with more occasional brick clay workings and subsidence pools are often rich in species diversity, for example Longton Brick Pits.

In places, low boulder clay banks mark the edge of the coastal plain and represent the boundary with either inland marsh and mere as at Holmeswood near Rufford, or with former coastal marsh before reclamation. These banks often support remnant semi-natural vegetation such as relict ancient woodland, species-rich grassland and scrub.

### Human Influences

Evidence of early inhabitants of the area has been found in areas which were at the fringes of the ice sheets. The best example is at Poulton-le-Fylde, a skeleton of an elk was discovered which displayed evidence of hunting.

Environmental remains, such as pollen evidence from the lake muds and peats of the Lancashire mosses, confirm that vegetation cover was extensively altered by the arrival of Neolithic farmers, with deliberate destruction of the forests to make way for farming and settlements. In the mosses of the Fylde and to the south of the Ribble, where conditions are right for the preservation of organic materials, there is evidence that people visited and utilized the landscape from a timber trackway and stone and bronze implements. There is likely to have been settlement on higher ground fringing the mosslands. There is evidence at Pilling of Neolithic and Bronze Age settlement and at Kirkham there is an early Roman fort.

Population increased during the 12th to 13th centuries, along with changes to agricultural systems. There was a rapid extension of pasture to supply wool for the growing English and Continental markets. The regularity of street plans in many settlements of the period suggests the planned rebuilding or extension of some villages as a result of population pressure. Elsewhere settlement remained as isolated hamlets and farmsteads. This traditional settlement pattern is still evident in the landscape today between Parbold and Mawdesley. Older settlements are generally located on higher, free draining deposits and are typically brick built.

However the plain remained largely unpopulated until the early 16th century, when pressures on available land forced further improvements and reclamation of mosslands. This occurred across the landscape and at Ormskirk and Burscough some of the best agricultural land in the country was created. Market gardening became important to the local economy. Improvement also occurred on sandy soils where marl was added to the soil.

The Leeds and Liverpool Canal is a feature and created important links to the cities for



the export of produce and the import of manure and ash for fertilisers. The flat topography and strong prevailing winds have historically provided good conditions for wind power. Wind pumping mills aided the drainage of the landscape and windmills were used for grinding grain. These features still exist and can be found near Martin Mere and Pilling.

Important local industries from the early modern period include the widespread clay extraction for brick making and also the exploitation of salt from the brine wells to the west of Pilling. These have resulted in significant flooded quarries and subsidence pools respectively.

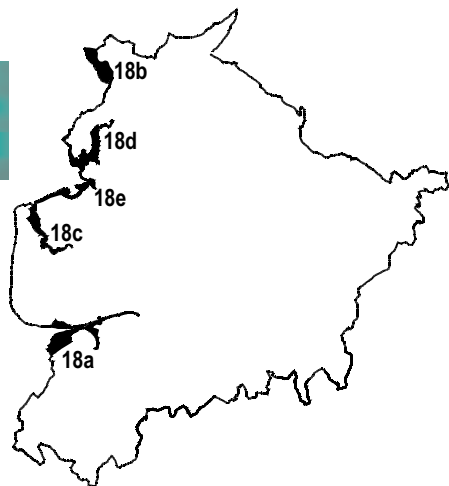
## CHARACTER AREAS - COASTAL PLAIN

The Coastal Plain landscape type occurs in six distinct areas, all within the lowland landscapes of western Lancashire.

Local	Character Areas	Description
I5a	Ormskirk-Lathom-Rufford	<i>The undulating lowland farmland around Ormskirk is characterised by large fields and red brick built farms which reflect the arable agriculture typical of the area. Old red brick barns with diamond shaped detailing on the end walls are particularly characteristic of the area; many can be seen scattered amongst the residential streets of newer settlements. There are a number of designed landscapes associated with large houses, such as Rufford Old and New Halls, Scarisbrick Hall, Lathom Hall, Blythe Hall and Moor Hall, which provides some enclosure to an otherwise open landscape. This area is relatively elevated and there are some long views over the adjacent flat mosslands. The area has good conditions for wind power and wind powered corn mills, now disused or converted to private residences, are a feature of this landscape character area.</i>
I5b	Longton-Bretherton	<i>The Longton landscape character area lies close to the south-western urban fringes of Preston. The proximity to a large urban centre has influenced landscape character. The network of minor lanes is dominated by dense ribbon development and the A 59(T), now a dual carriageway, links the former villages of Hutton, Longton, Walmer Bridge and Much Hoole. Red brick is the dominant built material in these areas. The agricultural landscape is influenced by urban fringe elements such as schools, colleges, nurseries, glass houses, hotels, horse paddocks, communication masts and electricity pylons; the network of hedgerows and hedgerow oaks is gradually being eroded by these uses. The village of Bretherton has remained separate and therefore displays a more traditional character; a former windmill lies on its western edge.</i>
I5c	Croston-Mawdesley	<i>The sandstone which underlies this character area exerts a strong influence over the landscape; it is a gently undulating agricultural landscape with steep sided shallow valleys and hedged fields which support rich pasture or arable crops. The landscape is relatively well wooded, with small farm woods and wooded valleys, for example at Yarrow Valley Park. Field hedges are notable for their hedgerow oaks and high proportion of holly. Country halls, moated farms and designed landscapes provide historic and cultural links. Red brick is used throughout the area; the subdued tones of the older brick houses and farmsteads are well integrated within the landscape. Villages are traditionally clustered, but show signs of rapid expansion with ribbon development. New housing on the outskirts of settlements, which is often built of imported bricks, creates a harsh edge to villages when viewed from the surrounding countryside. Where screen planting is attempted it often incorporates alien plant species, which further urbanises the</i>

Local	Character Areas	Description
		<i>attractive rural setting. In addition to its historic rural agricultural land use, the landscape has more recently been influenced by urban fringe activities such as nurseries, schools, camp sites, hotels, equestrian centres, golf courses, traffic and built development, which indicate its proximity to the western edge of Chorley. Urbanising influences such as kerbs and lighting are increasingly evident on major roads.</i>
15d	The Fylde	<i>The gently undulating farmland of the Fylde occurs between Blackpool to the west and Preston and the M6 corridor to the east. It has been formed of boulder clay deposits which lie on soft Triassic sandstones and mudstones and is naturally poorly drained. Field ponds are a particularly characteristic feature of this area and provide important wildlife habitats. The predominant land use is dairy farming on improved pasture and lowland sheep farming with a small amount of arable on the freer draining soils. Red brick nineteenth century two storey farmsteads with slate roofs and red brick barns are dominant built features of this landscape character area; occasional windmills also reflect the historic importance of the area for corn milling. Other features of the area are the brine fields around Stalmine which have been reclaimed by ICI and form a rare and distinctive land use. Field size is large and field boundaries are low clipped hawthorn, although hedgerow loss is extensive. Blocks of woodland are characteristic, frequently planted for shelter and/or shooting and views of the Bowland fells are frequent between the blocks. There are many man-made elements; electricity pylons, communication masts and road traffic are all highly visible in the flat landscape. In addition, views of Blackpool Tower, the Pleasure Beach rides and industry outside Blackpool are visible on a clear day.</i>
15e	Forton-Garstang-Catterall	<i>This area of lowland farmland forms a transition between the fringes of the Bowland Fells and the lowland raised bog of Winmarleigh. A geological fault runs along the eastern boundary of the area and, although the motorway and railway broadly follow this line, the transition between the Millstone Grits to the east and the sandstones to the west is masked by glacial deposits and river alluvial fans which produce a gently undulating landscape. The area is a rural farmed landscape dominated by improved pasture and scattered with historic halls, farms and woodland. A network of lanes link the villages of Cockerham, Forton, Garstang and Catterall, although the A6 provides a fast route along the length of the character area. Garstang and Catterall have seen a particularly large amount of urban development and this area is affected by urban fringe activities such as golf courses, hotels and schools which have eroded the rural character of the landscape. The area forms a sudden edge with the mosslands at Winmarleigh; stone built houses on this higher land overlook the moss.</i>
15f	Knott End-Pilling	<i>The coastal plain around Pilling is an intensely farmed, settled landscape with a post medieval enclosure pattern. There are many hedgerows, some ancient in origin, and trees shelter scattered farmsteads. The farmsteads and villages are linked by a network of raised lanes and stone bridges connect farms to roads. A large amount of infill development at Stake Pool, Pilling and Knott End-on-Sea contributes an array of more modern building styles and materials. Pumped drainage continues to allow the land to support some arable crops.</i>

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## OPEN COASTAL MARSH

### Character Areas

- 18a Ribble Marshes
- 18b Hest Bank-Silverdale Marshes
- 18c Wyre Marshes
- 18d Lune Marshes
- 18e Pilling and Cockerham Marshes

### Landscape Character

Salt marshes 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. Typical view - photo 34 below.



### Physical Influences

Areas of saltmarsh and mudflats, which include areas of sandy shingle occur in the sheltered waters around estuaries and rise almost imperceptibly from the high tide level where they are often marked by low erosion cliffs of boulder clay and at Silverdale, of limestone. Most of the marshes are enclosed by man made sea dykes.

The saltmarshes are constantly changing. There is accretion by sediments at high tides and river channels continuously cut new courses. The seaward edge is characterised by a system of dendritic creeks and erosion cliff tops and there are a series of terraces within the marshes. Creek migrations and sections of creek can be cut off leaving isolated sections of water known as pans or 'flosches'.

Ecologically the salt marshes and mud flats are internationally important for their vegetation, as roosting and feeding grounds for tens of thousands of wildfowl and wading birds, including geese swans and ducks. Many species come from as far afield as Canada and Greenland. The seaward edges are characterised by pioneer species such as glasswort and seablite, whilst middle reaches are dominated by common salt marsh grass with herbs such as scurvy grass, sea thrift and sea lavender depending whether they are grazed or not. Transitions to fresh water marsh and dry land have been truncated by reclamation, but are marked by other species only slightly tolerant of salt water and occasionally by brackish pools.

A small area of sand dunes is found at Potts Corner south of Heysham and is important as it supports dune vegetation not found elsewhere on this section of coast (Knott End-Silverdale).

Some of the Wyre marshes such as Barnaby's Sands Marsh and Burrows Marsh remain ungrazed and are particularly important for their floral diversity. The open coastal marshes of the Ribble estuary are part of a major protected landscape and constitute one of the largest areas of salt marsh in Great Britain.

### Human Influences

The rich resources of the coastal marshes have been exploited since the earliest times by migratory peoples or societies settling on the drier and more stable areas inland. Hunting wild game, collecting shrimps, cockles and mussels, or grazing animals on the drier landward edges all would have given great rewards.

Grazing rights on the marshes ensure that the saltmarshes have long been an important component of the local economy. The salt - marshes to the south of Silverdale are managed by common grazing of sheep and cattle and in some areas turf cutting has taken place to supply ornamental and bowling green industries. Tracks across the marsh lead to landing jetties, fisheries and historic salt working sites.

## CHARACTER AREAS - OPEN COASTAL MARSH

The Open Coastal Marsh landscape type occurs in five distinct areas around the sheltered waters of the west coast of Lancashire.

Local	Character Areas	Description
18a	Ribble Marshes	<i>An extensive and expanding area of unenclosed coastal marsh occurs in the sheltered estuary of the River Ribble, most of which is protected and managed as a National Nature Reserve. This area is characterised by a fine green sward stretching out to sea. Its amorphous, natural form provides a dramatic contrast to the regular enclosures of the adjacent Hesketh Marsh and the urban form of the Warton Aerodrome. Urban buildings are never far away and provide a backdrop to views. A large number of visiting birds are encouraged by the standing water. Large numbers of waders and wildfowl are attracted to the marshes, adjacent mudflats and estuary.</i>
18b	Hest Bank-Silverdale	<i>These marshes are on a raised platform backed by cliffs of sand and clay from Hest Bank to Carnforth and by the steep limestone cliffs of the Arnside and Silverdale wooded limestone hills further north. The front edge of the platform is eroding significantly at the point where it meets the sea. The marshes are open areas of sea-washed turf, grazed by cattle and sheep, and patterned by narrow rills, winding muddy creeks and brackish pools. Traditional turf cutting activities take place resulting in a patchwork of stripped and naturally regenerating areas on the southern half of the marsh. There are a number of access points to the marsh and it is visited by many people who walk, park and picnic upon the marsh. There is a recent landfill site on the edge of the marsh at Cote Stones, as well as remnant slag heaps from the historic iron workings at Carnforth.</i>
18c	Wyre Marshes	<i>The Wyre Estuary provides a sheltered environment for the development of salt marsh. The proximity of the urban areas of Fleetwood and Cleveleys to the west affects the character of this area both visually and physically, whilst the east bank of the Wyre remains rural in aspect. Distinctive low boulder clay cliffs back the marshes in places and form linear features along the estuary. The area is relatively inaccessible to recreational users, and the salt marsh has been reduced to the west by encroaching industrial development and landfilling at Fleetwood. Unlike other coastal marshes in Lancashire however the lack of grazing gives a colourful sward of sea lavender, sea aster and other herbs in summer.</i>
18d	Lune Marshes	<i>The sheltered mouth of the Lune Estuary supports an extensive saltmarsh which stretches almost into the centre of Lancaster and provides a dramatic contrast to the built environment of the city and its industrial edges. This area includes the important remnant sand dunes at Potts Corner. There are a number of footpaths, nature trails, cycle routes and viewpoints alongside the marsh which ensures that the area is well visited and highly visible. This, and the area's proximity to the centre of Lancaster means the Lune Marshes are under pressure from visitors and from development. This is evident from the reclamation of the marshes immediately downstream of Lancaster.</i>
18e	Pilling and Cockerham Marshes	<i>The intertidal salt marsh and sands of Preesall, Pilling and Cockerham form the southern bank of the Lune Estuary. The open flats are separated from the mainland by recently reinforced sea dykes which define the southern edge of the character area. The more exposed western end, by Knott End on Sea, is characterised by sand flats while the more sheltered eastern end of the character area is more typical of a salt marsh landscape. The sands and salt marshes are of international importance as a refuge for many pink-footed geese in late winter.</i>

mixture of commercial enterprise, paternalism, civic pride and philanthropy. The naturalistic elements of their designs provided clean green spaces for the deprived urban populations. Geometric elements offered an opportunity for leisurely promenading and for civic display and refinement.

Planned industrial housing usually took place on land on the fringes of existing built up areas and in areas where earlier poor quality housing had been demolished. Public parks and municipal stone buildings were located towards the centre of the towns and would have required the demolition of earlier buildings. On the edges of the towns, away from the factories and workers' areas, the middle classes built themselves large family houses, arranged on airy, tree lined streets in suburbs. Suburban villas, quite often had large gardens, where the growing fashion for collecting exotic plants could be indulged. In the rapidly expanding tourist towns, a combination of terraces and higher quality housing was designed to accommodate workers, holiday makers, commuters and those retiring to the coast. Such development usually took place on farmland as these settlements grew outwards from their historic centres.

## 4.3

### Suburban (1930 onwards)

#### 4.3.1

##### Urban Landscape Character

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.

Early suburban housing (1930-40) 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 60s 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.



Photo 41. Suburbs, south Lancaster.

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.

### 4.3.2

#### Evolution

Lancashire's urban centres have experienced profound changes from the inter war period onwards. At the time of the First World War, many older industrial centres had reached their peak populations, although the combined impacts of suburbanisation and economic decline resulted in depopulation. This process was accelerated by deliberate decentralisation, a fundamental planning strategy between 1945 and 1975.

In urban areas local authorities had inherited, by modern standards, a legacy of sub-standard 19th century housing and Lancashire's local authorities were keen to clear the slums and to develop estates on the urban fringes. Suburbanisation during the 1930s and 40s created large areas of private and council housing in estates on the fringes of the towns.

After 1945 national house building programmes and the introduction of industrialised building methods were the catalyst for widespread inner-city redevelopment and the relocation of whole communities to the edges of towns. The new estates, which included a substantial element of high rise building, were sited on the edges of towns or in redeveloped urban centres. By the end of the 1960's this type of housing was already proving unpopular and incidents of slum clearance declined, to be replaced by rehabilitation and housing improvements.

The creation of overspill communities and new towns involved social engineering and planning on an enormous scale. The most celebrated example is that of Skelmersdale which was intended to take 70,000 people from Liverpool and regenerate a small mining town with severe unemployment problems. Although the town has proved a success the social and economic difficulties it has faced has limited the population to just over fifty five thousand. Another designation, the Central Lancashire New Town (1974), originally planned to link Preston, Leyland and Chorley

into a city of half a million people. Although substantial industrial and housing areas were created, the result has been a series of expanded villages and new estates very closely linked by suburban ribbon development.

Many urban centres were transformed during this period by the combined effects of post war planning and commercial ambition. It is a common misconception that the clearance of urban centre buildings was the result of war time bombing. The undistinguished designs, which were often built of concrete during the 1960s and 70s, are conspicuous in many Lancashire towns. Such redevelopment was undertaken with little regard for the fine examples of 18th and 19th century architecture it was replacing, however some pioneering modern developments did take place, such as Preston Bus Station.

The 1980's saw an increasing appreciation of urban heritage and a new theme of urban planning has seen the use of traditional urban forms, sympathetic materials and reuse of old buildings. A notable example of this is the successful conversion of St. Marks church in Preston to flats.

The recent boom in house building is resulting in further expansion of the urban areas with the provision of new housing estates on the fringes of the towns and the development of brownfield sites in the inner urban areas.

A significant element of the urban and suburban scene are fragments of 'encapsulated' countryside and other areas of informal open land, including land formerly developed but now re-vegetated either naturally or by design. These provide important wildlife habitats (unaffected by intensive agriculture) and recreational space for local residents. Their value may be enhanced when such areas form green corridors allowing movement of wildlife between urban areas and the surrounding countryside.