

**A66 Northern Trans-Pennine Project
TR010062**

**3.4 Environmental Statement
Appendix 10.4 Landscape Character
Assessments**

APFP Regulations 5(2)(a)

Planning Act 2008

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

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**3.4 ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT APPENDIX 10.4
LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENTS**

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10.4 Extracts of Published Landscape Character Assessments

10.4.1 National Character Areas (NCAs)

NCA 8 - Cumbria High Fells

Table 1: NCA 8 - Cumbria High Fells

National Character Area 8 Cumbria High Fells	Relevant Scheme Study Areas within area: M6 Junction 40 to Kemplay Bank Relevant Order Limits within the area: None
<p>Relevant aspects of the published description:</p> <p>NCA 8 is located in the western part of the study area for the M6 Junction 40 to Kemplay Bank scheme.</p> <p>The published description of the NCA includes: <i>“The Cumbria High Fells are surrounded by the Solway Basin, West Cumbria Coastal Plain, Eden Valley, Orton Fells and Howgill Fells NCAs and are linked culturally to the South Cumbria Low Fells. Both are within the eroded dome of the Lake District Fells. To the west of the Cumbria High Fells, a narrow coastal plain separates the mountains from the Irish Sea. There are long-distance views to south-west Scotland, the North Pennine and the Yorkshire Dales escarpments, Solway Estuary, Morecambe Bay and Irish Sea, and to North Lancashire, including the Forest of Bowland. Conversely, the mountains form an impressive background in many views, as people look towards the High Fells.”</i></p> <p>Relevant stated key characteristics:</p> <p>Spectacular mountain scenery of open fells and craggy peaks separated by U-shaped valleys with a radiating pattern of rivers and lakes.</p> <p>Varied landform arising from the smooth sided fells of Ordovician Skiddaw Group rocks in the north, the more rugged, sharp peaks of the Borrowdale Volcanic Group, accompanied by granite intrusions in the central area. Complex geology includes Eycott Volcanic Group low-lying scarps in the north, Silurian slates and fissile mudstones to the south east and a fringe of Carboniferous limestone foothills. Extensive mineralisation has supported a mining heritage dating from the medieval period.</p> <p>The most biologically diverse suite of upland habitats in England with internationally important fell habitats, rivers, lakes unimproved grasslands, and native woodland. The extensive mosaic of fell habitats includes montane and upland heath, blanket bog, scree and ledge communities, springs, flushes, tarns, valley mires, juniper scrub, remnant woodland and Arctic Alpine plant communities.</p> <p>Valleys with rivers, lakes and surrounding wetlands, with a scattering of hay meadows, purple moor-grass and other species rich grasslands, in a matrix of improved pastures.</p> <p>Native woodland, often extensive, on valley sides and bottoms, with some large conifer plantations, and scattered trees and scrub on the fells, with a few isolated woods, including in gills. Extensive woodlands in Borrowdale, Ullswater and other valleys, supporting the best oceanic western oak woods in England</p> <p>Field pattern of pastoral hill-farming with small valley in-by fields, rougher intakes/allotments on valley sides and common grazing on the open fells; separated by a network of dry stone walls, with some hedges and trees, including pollards.</p> <p>Cultural heritage linked to the picturesque and the Romantic Movement and significant in the foundation of the conservation movement, with houses, burial places and specific features that inspired ideas, art and poetry.</p> <p>Local stone-built farmsteads, hamlets and villages along the valleys, with the small markets towns of Keswick and Ambleside, which expanded from Victorian times with the growth of tourism.</p>	

National Character Area 8 Cumbria High Fells	Relevant Scheme Study Areas within area: M6 Junction 40 to Kemplay Bank Relevant Order Limits within the area: None
<p>Tourism and recreation with large numbers of visitors attracted by the natural beauty of the area, its wildlife, cultural heritage and access opportunities for walking, climbing, water-based and other activities.</p> <p>Large areas of relative tranquillity.</p>	

NCA 9 - Eden Valley

Table 2: NCA 9 - Eden Valley

National Character Area 9 Eden Valley	Relevant Scheme Study Areas within area: M6 Junction 40 to Kemplay Bank Penrith to Temple Sowerby Temple Sowerby to Appleby Appleby to Brough Relevant Order Limits within the area: M6 Junction 40 to Kemplay Bank Penrith to Temple Sowerby Temple Sowerby to Appleby Appleby to Brough
<p>Relevant aspects of the published description:</p> <p>All schemes west of the Pennines lie within NCA 9.</p> <p>The published description of the NCA includes:</p> <p><i>“The Eden Valley Character Area (NCA) in north-east Cumbria encompasses the broad valleys of the River Eden and its tributaries. The river contracts between wide flood plain areas to the steep, wooded Eden Gorge. It contrasts markedly with the scarp face of the North Pennines to the east, the Orton Fells to the south and the rugged upland fells of the Lake District to the west, and the NCA includes a small part of the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.”</i></p> <p>Relevant stated key characteristics:</p> <p>An undulating valley landscape of sandstones, mudstones and shales covered by a thick layer of glacial till, bordered by and contrasting sharply with surrounding uplands: the prominent Pennine escarpment rises to the east; to the west are the fells of the Lake District and to the south, the Orton Fells.</p> <p>Distinctive features of glacial deposition including eskers, deltas and meltwater channels, drumlins and kettle holes, the last now forming a series of small basin mires of high ecological importance.</p> <p>The fast-flowing River Eden cuts south–north, joined by tributary rivers and gills; north of Penrith, separating the Eden from its tributary the Petteril, lies a range of prominent red sandstone hills, through which the Eden has in places eroded distinctive gorges.</p> <p>Managed estate and farm woodlands characterise the valley floor, with numerous shelterbelts, copses and mature hedgerow trees giving a well-wooded character.</p> <p>Rich, fertile soils in the valley support mixed agriculture including arable cultivation. The poorer soils of the sandstone ridge and the foothills of the Pennine escarpment give rise to rough grassland, heath and plantations.</p> <p>Medium to large rectilinear fields are enclosed by mature hedgerows and hedgerow trees, walls, or, more commonly to the east, wire fences and thin and relict hedges. Limestone walls are a</p>	

<p>National Character Area 9 Eden Valley</p>	<p>Relevant Scheme Study Areas within area: M6 Junction 40 to Kemplay Bank Penrith to Temple Sowerby Temple Sowerby to Appleby Appleby to Brough Relevant Order Limits within the area: M6 Junction 40 to Kemplay Bank Penrith to Temple Sowerby Temple Sowerby to Appleby Appleby to Brough</p>
<p>feature of the Pennines and Orton fringes, while red sandstone walls are a feature of the Penrith Sandstone Ridge.</p> <p>The River Eden and its tributaries support internationally important aquatic habitats and species communities, and important fisheries. Semi-natural native woodlands, including oak/ash/birch hangers and wet woodland, line the river valleys forming good woodland habitat networks. Coastal and flood plain grazing marsh are associated with the river valleys – wetland habitats supporting important numbers of breeding and wintering waders and wildfowl.</p> <p>The higher ground supports patches of heath forming the core of a heathland network, and small but important areas of lowland calcareous grassland, upland hay meadow and lowland meadow, including important species-rich roadside verges on the Orton fringes from Penrith to Kirkby Stephen.</p> <p>Visible archaeological or historic legacy: prehistoric stone circles, Roman forts, medieval castles and parkland are important features of the historic environment.</p> <p>Stone buildings reflect the underlying geology across the NCA: red sandstone is the predominant building material, for example in the area around Penrith, a unifying feature across much of the NCA, used in buildings, walls and gateposts; limestone is used in the east on the Pennine foothills and in Appleby-in-Westmorland near to the Orton Fells.</p> <p>Nucleated and linear stone-built villages are often planned around greens. Outside these villages, settlement is characterised by scattered hamlets and farms. The towns, Penrith and Appleby-in-Westmorland are the area’s traditional market centres.</p> <p>Intricate network of narrow minor roads, with tall hedgerows and walls.</p> <p>Important transport corridor in predominantly upland region: Settle–Carlisle railway line, West Coast Main Line railway, and the M6 motorway and A66 trunk road.</p>	

NCA 10 - North Pennines

Table 3: NCA 10 - North Pennines

<p>National Character Area 10 North Pennines</p>	<p>Relevant Scheme Study Areas within area: Appleby to Brough Bowes Bypass Relevant Order Limits within the area: None</p>
<p>Relevant aspects of the published description:</p> <p>NCA 10 is located in the eastern part of the study area for Appleby to Brough and the western part of the study area for Bowes Bypass.</p> <p>The published description of the NCA includes:</p> <p><i>“The North Pennines National Character Area (NCA), at the northern end of the Pennine ridge, has a distinct identity, with its remote upland moorlands divided by quiet dales. It is characterised</i></p>	

<p>National Character Area 10 North Pennines</p>	<p>Relevant Scheme Study Areas within area: Appleby to Brough Bowes Bypass Relevant Order Limits within the area: None</p>
<p><i>by a sense of remoteness, with few settlements, slow change and cultural continuity. It comprises some of the highest and most exposed moorland summits in England, with several major rivers, including the South Tyne, Wear and Tees, draining out to the north, east and south-east. It is bordered to the west by the Eden valley, to the north by the Tyne valley, to the east by the Durham lowlands and to the south by the Yorkshire Dales. There are dramatic and panoramic views both across the moorlands and outwards, especially towards the west. The area's natural beauty is reflected in the fact that 88 per cent of it has been designated as the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)."</i></p>	
<p>Relevant stated key characteristics:</p> <p>A distinctive upland landscape of upland plateaux divided by broad pastoral dales, each with its own distinctive character, most of it designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).</p> <p>Strong landform of summits capped by Millstone Grit, with underlying alternating limestones, sandstones and shales of the Yoredale Series, creating stepped profiles to the dales.</p> <p>Igneous intrusions of dolerite forming Whin Sill, with striking crag outcrops and waterfalls. A dramatic scarp slope along the western edge, falling to the Eden valley.</p> <p>Much of the area is designated as a UNESCO European and Global Geopark for its many geological sites and features, including minerals.</p> <p>Remote and extensive moorlands of blanket bog, heathland and acidic grassland, managed for sheep and grouse. These moorlands support internationally important habitats, including arctic-alpine flora and populations of waders and raptors.</p> <p>A long tradition of livestock rearing combined with mining has created a landscape of enclosed pastures and meadows within the dales, with strong field patterns defined by drystone walls.</p> <p>Significant grassland habitats, including limestone grasslands, upland hay meadows, and calamarian grasslands on mining spoil, along with extensive acid grasslands.</p> <p>Area of high rainfall, with many fast-flowing streams and several major rivers flowing outwards from the hills, down the wide dales. These provide clean water and create a range of freshwater habitats.</p> <p>A very tranquil landscape, with a sense of remoteness. A low population, little light pollution, a slow rate of change, extensive open moorlands with panoramic views and a unique sense of wildness, all providing an inspirational recreational experience.</p> <p>The use of local sandstone and gritstone, with stone or slate for roofs, gives a strong vernacular character and unity to the villages, farmsteads and field barns.</p> <p>Tree cover is limited to river gorges, gills and stream sides, with copses around dispersed farmsteads. There are fragments of juniper scrub and some large conifer plantations on moorland fringes.</p> <p>A rich cultural history – from prehistoric settlements and defensive bastle houses to more recent industrial activity – with extensive evidence of early lead mining, extraction of other minerals and quarrying.</p>	

NCA 17 - Orton Fells

Table 4: NCA 17 - Orton Fells

National Character Area 17 Orton Fells	Relevant Scheme Study Areas within area: None Relevant Order Limits within the area: M6 Junction 40 to Kemplay Bank and Penrith to Temple Sowerby
<p>Relevant aspects of the published description:</p> <p>NCA 17 is located in the western part of the study area for M6 Junction 40 to Kemplay Bank and southern part of the study area for Penrith to Temple Sowerby</p> <p>The published description of the NCA includes:</p> <p>The Orton Fells National Character Area comprises a limestone plateau with a complex mix of limestone pavements, upland heath, and calcareous and acid grassland. The fells are open, exposed and sweeping, with long-distance panoramic views out to the skylines of the adjacent uplands – the Cumbria High Fells, the Howgills, the Yorkshire Dales and the North Pennines. Nine per cent of the NCA lies within the Lake District National Park.</p> <p>The Asby Complex is an extensive Special Area of Conservation (SAC) designated for its karst features, particularly its long stretches of limestone pavement as well as its mix of acid and alkaline habitats; part of the SAC is also designated as a National Nature Reserve (NNR). Smardale Gill, with its ash woodlands and calcareous grasslands that support outstanding butterfly populations, is likewise designated as an SAC and an NNR. The predominant land use is livestock rearing, with some dairy farms, so that along with the rough grazing there are extensive managed grasslands in pastures and meadows defined by drystone walls on lower-lying land. Some of the best upland hay meadows can be found here, together with wide species-rich verges along the quiet straight roads, making it an exceptional experience to travel through the area. On the higher land there are occasional ash trees, as well as copses sheltering the dispersed farmsteads. Otherwise woodland cover is low, with upland ash woodlands largely restricted to the steep sides of lower valleys, and small shelterbelts including conifers, especially in the north. There are few settlements, making it a very quiet rural area, with the exception of one main north–south transport corridor of motorway, roads and rail in the west. With little development over time, the farmsteads and small villages have a high degree of historical integrity and visual unity, as they are built of local stone. There are also many archaeological features and earthworks, making it a very rich historic environment. There is plenty of scope for quiet recreational use, such as walking, cycling, riding, wildlife watching and angling, and interpretation of the area’s rich geological and heritage assets would increase its interest and enjoyment by residents and visitors alike.</p> <p>Several tributaries of the River Eden rise here and flow down through narrow valleys and, as they flow over both limestone and sandstone, they comprise a range of habitat types that support diverse plant and animal communities, warranting their SAC designation. The River Lune is also of good quality and offers good angling opportunities.</p> <p>With some soils vulnerable to compaction and erosion, some of the main issues to address here are the management of grazing to avoid poaching and trampling of river banks, and managing riparian buffers to capture sediment and nutrient run-off. The storage and application of fertilisers, slurry and manure also need to be carefully handled to avoid compaction and nutrient run-off. Ensuring that the upland heath and other habitats on the fells are in good condition will also assist with improving water quality, reducing soil erosion and reducing downstream flood risk.</p>	

National Character Area 17 Orton Fells	Relevant Scheme Study Areas within area: None Relevant Order Limits within the area: M6 Junction 40 to Kemplay Bank and Penrith to Temple Sowerby
<p>Relevant stated key characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wide, open and sweeping upland landscape with extensive limestone pavements, outcrops, heather moorland and limestone grasslands. • A quiet rural area, with a strong sense of remoteness and long views out to the dramatic landforms of the surrounding upland landscapes. • A pastoral landscape, with sheep and cattle grazing on the open moors, species-rich hay meadows and pastures and improved grasslands on lower-lying land within valleys and on the fringes. • Fields bounded by drystone walls of local limestone which, along with field barns, form very strong patterns and reflect historical settlement and farming. • Largely treeless on the higher land, with isolated windswept ash and rowan, with broadleaved woodlands in narrow gills and copses sheltering the isolated farmsteads and villages. • Small mixed and coniferous woodlands and shelterbelts on lower land, especially to the north-west. • Small historic villages, built with local limestone, often centred on long greens, with strong patterns of long tofts defined by walls, and isolated farmsteads. • Several small rivers with high-quality water rising in the upland and flowing either to the north or south, many of which support internationally significant plant and animal communities. • Long straight drove roads with wide verges, often very rich in flowering species. • A rich legacy of visible archaeological evidence which, combined with a slow pace of development, gives the fells, the settlements and the wider landscape a visible time depth. • Of considerable geological interest, with many extensive karst features and natural outcrops, along with evidence of past and current limestone extraction and quarrying.. 	

NCA 22 - Pennine Dales Fringe

Table 5: NCA 22 - Pennine Dales Fringe

National Character Area 22 Pennine Dales Fringe	Relevant Scheme Study Areas within area: Bowes Bypass Cross Lanes to Rokeby Stephen Bank to Carkin Moor Relevant Order Limits within the area: Bowes Bypass Cross Lanes to Rokeby Stephen Bank to Carkin Moor
<p>Relevant aspects of the published description:</p> <p>NCA 22 covers the study areas and Order Limits of schemes Bowes Bypass, Cross Lanes to Rokeby and Stephen Bank to Carkin Moor. The published description for NCA 22 includes:</p> <p><i>“The Pennine Dales Fringe National Character Area (NCA) lies between the uplands of the Pennines to the west, and the Magnesian Limestone ridge and arable lowlands to the east. Almost 23 per cent of the area falls within the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and almost one per cent in the North Pennines AONB. The land has a varied topography of exposed upland moorland fringes and plateaux dropping to lower foothills, separated by major river valleys and incised by numerous minor tributary valleys. It is underlain by Yoredale rocks in the north (limestone, sandstone and mudstone) and Millstone Grit in the south. It is a transitional</i></p>	

National Character Area 22 Pennine Dales Fringe	Relevant Scheme Study Areas within area: Bowes Bypass Cross Lanes to Rokeby Stephen Bank to Carkin Moor Relevant Order Limits within the area: Bowes Bypass Cross Lanes to Rokeby Stephen Bank to Carkin Moor
<p><i>landscape between upland and lowland. Drystone walls are common in the west while hedges, often thick and tall with frequent hedgerow trees, are more prevalent at lower elevations in the east. Broad valleys, widening to the east, with their more fertile soils support arable crops, while steeper, higher land in the west supports predominantly livestock farming.”</i></p>	
<p>Relevant Stated Key Characteristics:</p> <p>Side slopes of Pennine Dales uplands, predominantly sloping down to the east, but with locally varied topography formed by several significant river valleys running from west to east, including the Wharfe, Washburn, Nidd, Ure, Swale and the broad vale of the Tees.</p> <p>A transitional landscape between the Pennine uplands to the west and the low-lying fertile landscape of the Vale of York to the east; mainly pastoral in the west, with rough grazing on the moorland edge, merging into mixed farming, with arable on the lighter soils in the east.</p> <p>A well-wooded landscape, with woodland along valleys, many copses and plantations on the side slopes, and hedges with hedgerow trees in the lower-lying arable areas.</p> <p>Several historic parklands, with woodlands and veteran trees.</p> <p>Field boundaries of drystone walls on higher ground and hedges in lower areas.</p> <p>A generally tranquil and rural area, with a distinctly ancient character in some parts, with several small, historic market towns including Kirkby Malzeard, Middleham, Masham, Richmond and Barnard Castle, linked by a network of minor roads.</p> <p>Vernacular buildings predominantly built of Millstone Grit, mingling with Magnesian Limestone in the east, with roofs of stone flags, Welsh slate and some pantiles, creating strong visual unity to rural settlements and farmsteads.</p> <p>Many rivers, including the Tees, Ure, Nidd and Wharfe, forming important landscape features along with their broad, glacially widened valleys. Smaller rivers, such as the Burn, Laver, Kex Beck and the Skell flow through steep-sided valleys following courses cut by glacial meltwaters.</p> <p>Historically rich area with many parklands, abbeys and historic buildings, well visited by adjacent urban populations, as well as medieval and Roman earthworks.</p>	

NCA 23 - Tees Lowlands

Table 6: NCA 23 - Tees Lowlands

National Character Area 23 Tees Lowlands	Relevant Scheme Study Areas within area: Stephen Bank to Carkin Moor Relevant Order Limits within the area: None
<p>Relevant aspects of the published description:</p> <p>NCA 23 is located across the northern part of the study area of Stephen Bank to Carkin Moor. The published description includes:</p> <p><i>“The Tees Lowlands National Character Area (NCA) forms a broad, open plain dominated by the meandering lower reaches of the River Tees and its tributaries, with wide views to distant hills. The large conurbation around the Lower Tees and Teesmouth contrasts with the rural area to the south and west, which is largely agricultural in character. The mosaic of intertidal and wetland habitats within the Tees Estuary are internationally designated as Teesmouth and Cleveland</i></p>	

National Character Area 23 Tees Lowlands	Relevant Scheme Study Areas within area: Stephen Bank to Carkin Moor Relevant Order Limits within the area: None
<p><i>Coast Special Protection Area and Ramsar site, due to their importance for waterfowl. These areas are in close proximity to heavy industry, which has developed due to the estuary's strategic location close to; mineral reserves, a network of main roads, railways and Teesport. Industrial installations form a dramatic skyline when viewed from the surrounding hills. Early successional grasslands and scrub have also emerged on previously developed land; these brownfield sites have significant biodiversity value."</i></p>	
<p>Relevant Stated Key Characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A broad, low-lying and open plain of predominantly arable agricultural land, with low woodland cover and large fields, defined by wide views to distant hills. • A distinctive area of low-lying farmland with remnants of former wetland habitat in the flood plain of the River Skerne to the north-west. • Principal transport corridors, power lines and energy infrastructure are conspicuous elements in the landscape 	

NCA 24 - Vale of Mowbray

Table 7: NCA 24 - Vale of Mowbray

National Character Area 24 Vale of Mowbray	Relevant Scheme Study Areas within area: Stephen Bank to Carkin Moor Relevant Order Limits within the area: None
<p>Relevant aspects of the published description:</p> <p>NCA 24 is located in the eastern part of the study area for Stephen Bank to Carkin Moor. The published description includes:</p> <p><i>"The Vale of Mowbray lies immediately to the north of the Vale of York, occupying the undulating flood plains associated with the rivers Swale, Wiske and Cod Beck. It is framed by the uplands of the Pennines to the west and the North York Moors to the east. The whole National Character Area overlies the Sherwood Sandstone aquifer, the second largest aquifer in England and a major drinking water supply. The orientation of the Vale and its position between the Pennines and North York Moors, have made it a significant transport and communications route between north and south. The route of the A1 today is largely the same as that of the Roman Dere Street, along which Roman settlement and military activity were concentrated. Today the only sizeable towns are the county town of Northallerton and Thirsk, both historic market towns."</i></p>	
<p>Relevant Stated Key Characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A mixed agricultural landscape of arable and grassland: dairying is predominant in the north, with grass leys and fodder crops; and arable to the south of Northallerton, with some pig and poultry rearing throughout the area. • Small and fragmented remnants of semi-natural vegetation, most notably the areas of rough grazed riverine meadows in the north, and small woodlands. • Woodland and tree cover is sparse: small game coverts and parkland landscapes contribute locally to the tree cover, for example along the ridges on the eastern side where plantation woodlands extend into the North York Moors. • Medium-scale fields enclosed by low hedgerows in the north, more open in the south. • Settlement pattern characterised by small villages on higher ground, often linear in form and of medieval origin, with brick-built vernacular cottages and dispersed farmsteads. 	

National Character Area 24 Vale of Mowbray	Relevant Scheme Study Areas within area: Stephen Bank to Carkin Moor Relevant Order Limits within the area: None
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Churches with towers or spires create prominent visual landmarks within the wider landscape. • The Coast to Coast long-distance route passes through the Vale of Mowbray. 	

10.4.2 Cumbria Landscape Character

6 - Intermediate Farmland

Table 8: 6 - Intermediate Farmland

Intermediate Farmland (06)	Relevant Scheme Study Areas within area: M6 Junction 40 to Kemplay Bank Penrith to Temple Sowerby Temple Sowerby to Appleby Relevant Order Limits within the area: M6 Junction 40 to Kemplay Bank Penrith to Temple Sowerby Temple Sowerby to Appleby
<p>Relevant aspects of the published description:</p> <p>The Intermediate Farmland LCT stretches as narrow bands north-west to south east between the Lake District National Park to the south west and the North Pennines AONB to the north east.</p> <p>The published description of the Intermediate Farmland is:</p> <p>This is a large-scale open landscape of intermediate farmland that occupies land between the lowland and the rolling upland areas. A transitional area between the turbid steams of the broader wooded lowlands and the exposed rocky outcrops of a on the whole treeless upland. The land use is predominately grazing land with boundary hedgerows and characteristic dry-stone walls. Both the field boundary walls and scattered farm buildings, constructed with the Cumbrian limestone, are characteristic and fundamental elements that illustrate the connection between the Cumbrian geology and vernacular agricultural infrastructure. This wind swept and kempt transitional landscape reflects the agrarian life, structure and work practises of these agricultural communities.</p>	
<p>Relevant stated key characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transitional farmland between the lowland and upland landscapes. • Extensive areas of improved pasture with some arable farming. • Planned villages with greens displaying topographical and archaeological evidence of their medieval origins. • In parts the landscape is dissected by the deeply incised or open river valleys. • Wooded valleys and ghylls. • Sandstone and limestone vernacular. <p>Sensitive Features: Traditional villages with greens and vernacular stone architecture are sensitive to unsympathetic village expansion. Wooded valleys and ghylls, isolated parkland and hedge bounded fields are sensitive to changes in land management. The intersecting open valleys and deeply incised rivers are sensitive to valley side development.</p>	

8b - Broad Valleys

Table 9: Broad Valleys

Broad Valleys (08b)	Relevant Scheme Study Areas within area: M6 Junction 40 to Kemplay Bank Penrith to Temple Sowerby Temple Sowerby to Appleby Appleby to Brough Relevant Order Limits within the area: Penrith to Temple Sowerby Temple Sowerby to Appleby Appleby to Brough
<p>Relevant aspects of the published description:</p> <p>Broad Valleys LCT stretches as a narrow band from north-west to south east between the bands of Intermittent Farmland LCT between the Lake District National Park to the south west and the North Pennines AONB to the north east.</p> <p>The published description of the Broad Valleys is:</p> <p>These broad valleys with a high point of 175m AOD often coinciding with rivers flowing towards the Lake District National Park and these valleys support the characteristic small agricultural holdings. Hedge and stone walls are the local characteristic boundaries containing a matrix of improved pasture, woodland, scrub and commercial plantations. Over the smaller faster flowing section of rivers there are locally distinctive small stone bridges, these historic bridges have determined the location of many of the traditional villages. These villages built of local sandstone and limestone frequently follow the course of the adjacent river and in turn the small rural roads and old railway lines follow the contours of the river valley. This landscape is generally medium in scale with a lot of variety along the length of the valleys. The narrow enclosed wooded sections can feel remote and wild. In more open parts there is a sense of calm within a working farmland. Close to large towns and roads there is a busier feeling but the rural qualities still dominate. Low level views are often intimate, contained by the valley sides and woodland. More expansive views are possible from the top of some valley sides towards the Lakeland fells and the North Pennines.</p>	
<p>Relevant stated key characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wide and deep valleys with open floodplains. • Rural farmland comprising significant areas of improved pasture. • Pockets of scrub, woodland and coniferous plantations. • Hedges and stone walls form a matrix of field boundaries. • Roads and railway lines often follow the linear valley contours. <p>Sensitive Features: Woodlands, orchards and the matrix of hedges and hedgerow trees and open meandering undeveloped river plains are sensitive to changes in land management. The planned nature of estate parkland and historic deer parks is sensitive to changes in estate management and the expansion of estate buildings. The limestone and sandstone vernacular, traditional scale of villages and their siting that follows the grain of the valleys are sensitive to unsympathetic expansion. Traditional stone bridges and roads that follow the grain of the valleys could be sensitive to flooding events and highway improvements. Undeveloped valley rims and their relationships with adjacent landscapes are sensitive to rim edge development. The remoteness and wildness associated with the rivers, and the sense of calm associated with the more open farmland, are sensitive to changes in land management.</p>	

9b - Rolling Farmland Heath

Table 10: 9b - Rolling Farmland Heath

Rolling Farmland and Heath (9b)	Relevant Scheme Study Areas within area: Temple Sowerby to Appleby Appleby to Brough Relevant Order Limits within the area: None
<p>Relevant aspects of the published description: Rolling Farmland and Heath LCT can be found in the east of the county south of Appleby running alongside the Eden Valley. The published description of the Rolling Farmland and Heath is: The landscape is medium to large scale and open. On higher land there are some wide views of surrounding fell and dale tops and adjacent valleys.</p>	
<p>Relevant Stated Key Characteristics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shallow relief plateau with ridges and hollows. • Rolling farmland. • Occasional rocky outcrops. • Rough pasture with wet flushes and semi heathland. • Coniferous plantations. • Narrow wooded valleys with wetland features. <p>Sensitive features include open ridges along plateau edges and expansive views to the Yorkshire Dales and Lakeland Fells which are sensitive to poorly sited and scaled development, including large scale infrastructure development.</p>	

10 - Sandstone Ridge

Table 11: 10 - Sandstone Ridge

Sandstone Ridge (10)	Relevant Scheme Study Areas within area: M6 Junction 40 to Kemplay Bank Penrith to Temple Sowerby Temple Sowerby to Appleby Relevant Order Limits within the area: Penrith to Temple Sowerby
<p>Relevant aspects of the published description: Sandstone Ridge LCT stretches as a narrow band north to south between the bands of Intermittent Farmland LCT between the Lake District National Park to the south-west and the North Pennines AONB to the north east. The published description of the Sandstone Ridge is: This is a large scale, open landscape with a mixture of open and rough areas with colourful patches of heather and smoother managed pastoral fields. Tree lined roads provide a feeling of enclosure in places. There are large and expansive uninterrupted long distance views over the Petteril valley to the Lake District and the Eden Valley towards the North Pennines. This predominantly north south geological feature is distinctive within the Cumbria landscape with summits of between 100-300m AOD. The lower slopes are dominated by improved farmland with middle and upper parts of the ridge interspersed with large blocks of commercial plantations and deciduous woodlands. The contrast these woodlands provides often softens the more rectilinear form of the coniferous planting.</p>	

Sandstone Ridge (10)	Relevant Scheme Study Areas within area: M6 Junction 40 to Kemplay Bank Penrith to Temple Sowerby Temple Sowerby to Appleby Relevant Order Limits within the area: Penrith to Temple Sowerby
<p>Relevant stated key characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prominent north south ridge. • Improved pasture with a mosaic field pattern. • Coniferous plantation blocks and mixed woodland punctuate farm and heathland. • Significant areas of improved heathland. • Open, expansive long distance views. <p>Sensitive Feature: The summit and ridge top areas of heathland and geometric mosaic of fields and boundaries and woodland shelterbelts are sensitive to changes in land management and large scale infrastructure development. The strong road enclosure from woodlands and hedges is sensitive to improvements to highway safety and access to new development. Discretely sited small scale vernacular settlements are sensitive to unsympathetic expansion.</p>	

11a - Foothills

Table 12: 11a - Foothills

Foothills (11a)	Relevant Scheme Study Areas within area: Temple Sowerby to Appleby Appleby to Brough Relevant Order Limits within the area: Appleby to Brough
<p>Relevant aspects of the published description:</p> <p>Foothills LCT is situated along the North Pennines scarps, and to the south, east and west of the Lake District fells.</p> <p>The published description of the Foothills is:</p> <p>This area is characterised by rolling, hilly or plateau farmland and moorland generally 150-250m AOD adjoining the North Pennines AONB. This is a transitional landscape of small to medium scale enclosed landscapes with open moorland in higher parts. At lower levels the feeling is more intimate due to the topography and woodland cover containing views in some places. On higher land open views to the surrounding fells and sea give an expansive feeling to the area. The landscapes are diverse varying from pasture to woodland to moorland. Easy to access the countryside is attractive and peaceful and is highly valued locally.</p>	
<p>Relevant stated key characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rolling, hilly or plateau farmland and moorland. • Occasional rocky outcrops. • Hills are dissected by numerous streams and minor river valleys. • Areas of improved grassland, unimproved heathland and extensive conifer plantations. • Semi natural woodland in the small valleys. • Large areas of farmland are bounded by stone walls and hedges. • Sensitive features are the strong matrix of stone walls and hedges which provide a framework to pastures. Other features include woodlands and hedgerow trees, rural road which follow the flow of topography. More intimate farms and woodland are sensitive to • large scale infrastructure development. 	

12b - Rolling Fringe

Table 13: 12b - Rolling Fringe

Rolling Fringe (12b)	Relevant Scheme Study Areas within area: M6 Junction 40 to Kemplay Bank Penrith to Temple Sowerby Relevant Order Limits within the area: M6 Junction 40 to Kemplay Bank
<p>Relevant aspects of the published description:</p> <p>Rolling Fringe LCT is situated around the fringe of the Lake District National Park, an area to the south-east of M6 Junction 40.</p> <p>The published description of the Rolling Fringe is:</p> <p>This is a large scale undulating landscape with high points above 150 – 300m AOD and rising to a high point of 380m AOD. This topography is given additional variation with the incidence of small streams and rivers. The lower levels have a traditionally strong farmland structure with well-defined wall and hedge field boundaries. This form changes as the elevation increases to areas of rough pasture with moorland and mosses found at the higher levels, these areas contribute interest and reinforce the wild character of these more isolated uplands. This is largely a simple, open landscape, with a more intimate feel in the valleys, and a contrasting feel of wildness in the moorland areas. The landscape has a pastoral feel with some tranquillity and a sense of peacefulness.</p>	
<p>Relevant Stated Key Characteristics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large-scale undulating topography. • Large Fields of improved pasture. • Stone walls mainly in the east, occasional hedge and fence boundaries. • Very sparse tree cover. • Some large scale conifer plantations. • Small streams and rivers cut through the rolling topography. <p>Sensitive Feature: Walls and hedge mosaics to improved pasture are sensitive to changes in land management. Nucleated and discrete vernacular villages reinforce the farmland character and are sensitive to village expansion. Scarce limestone outcrops, features and grassland provide important interest and biodiversity and are sensitive to changes in land management. Open, uninterrupted views across moorland to a backdrop of hills are sensitive to large prominent infrastructure or other development.</p>	

12c - Limestone Foothills

Table 14: 12c - Limestone Foothills

Limestone Foothills (12c)	Relevant Scheme Study Areas within area: M6 Junction 40 to Kemplay Bank Relevant Order Limits within the area: None
<p>Relevant aspects of the published description:</p> <p>Limestone Foothills LCT is located around Greystoke and the Lake District National Park.</p> <p>The published description of the Limestone Foothills is: This is a large scale, open landscape which becomes smaller and more intimate in the wooded areas and in the southern part. This landscape is tranquil and peaceful, and has a strong relationship with the Lake District fells and national park. The land rises to the adjacent Lakeland fells at an elevation of 220-360m AOD. The rolling undulating topography is occasionally steep and sometimes appears plateau-like.</p>	

Limestone Foothills (12c)	Relevant Scheme Study Areas within area: M6 Junction 40 to Kemplay Bank Relevant Order Limits within the area: None
<p>Relevant stated key characteristics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rolling undulating topography with occasional plateaus. • Limestone pavements, crags and other rock outcrops are rare. • Areas of unimproved and improved pasture. • Stone walls and hedges reinforce the pastoral features. • In the south, small pasture fields with the presence of both disused and active quarries. • Ancient woodland and parkland. • Large forestry plantations. <p>Sensitive features include: The matrix of walls and hedges reinforcing farmland and enclosing rural roads, ecologically sensitive roadside verges and the sense of remoteness are sensitive to change.</p>	

13a - Scraps

Table 15: 13a - Scraps

Scraps (13a)	Relevant Scheme Study Areas within area: Appleby to Brough Relevant Order Limits within the area: None
<p>Relevant aspects of the published description:</p> <p>Scraps LCT is situated along the western edge of the North Pennines, and much of it is located within the North Pennines AONB.</p> <p>The published description of the Scraps is:</p> <p>This landscape has an open, expansive and undeveloped character that gives a sense of remoteness. The open moorland and vast, uninterrupted skies add a sense of wildness.</p>	
<p>Relevant stated key characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Horizontal outcrops of limestone and volcanic rock form distinct features. • Unimproved grassland dominates. • Steep slopes often filled with bracken and scrub. • Ghylls and gullies intersect the scar and moorland. • Improved pasture on lower slopes. • Small fields bounded by stone walls. <p>Sensitive characteristic features include the steep limestone grassland slopes intersected by streams, low lying wooded areas as well as the tranquil character, the remoteness of the area and the sense of wilderness.</p>	

13b - Moorland High Plateau

Table 16: 13b - Moorland High Plateau

Moorland High Plateau (13b)	Relevant Scheme Study Areas within area: Appleby to Brough Relevant Order Limits within the area: None
<p>Relevant aspects of the published description:</p> <p>Moorland High Plateau LCT is located along the western side of the North Pennines and to the east of Kendal.</p>	

Moorland High Plateau (13b)	Relevant Scheme Study Areas within area: Appleby to Brough Relevant Order Limits within the area: None
<p>The published description of the Moorland High Plateau is: This is an extensive area of upland moorlands located on a plateau with many valleys and ghylls. There is a strong sense of remoteness due to the lack of settlements and development. Its sweeping topography provides wide expansive views and uninterrupted skylines providing a sense of wildness.</p>	
<p>Relevant stated key characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fells, summits and moorland plateau. • Incised by deep valleys and ghylls. • Extensive areas of blanket bog. • Acid grassland and dwarf heath shrub provide contrast to bog. • Valley slopes have varied land cover. <p>Sensitive features include the wide expansive uninterrupted views.</p>	

10.4.3 Durham Landscape Character

Barningham, Hope and Scargill Moors (Moorland Ridges & Summits BLT)

Table 17: Barningham, Hope and Scargill Moors (Moorland Ridges & Summits BLT)

Durham BCA Barnighham, Hope and Scargill Moors	Relevant Scheme Study Areas within Area: Bowes Bypass Cross Lanes to Rokeby Relevant Order Limits within the area: None
<p>Relevant aspects of the published description: The BCA is located across the central southern parts of the study area for Bowes Bypass and the south-west part of the study area for Cross Lanes to Rokeby. The published study describes the BCA as: <i>“Moorland slopes to the south of the Greta around the large forestry plantation of The Stang. The high ridge top of Hope moor is clothed in blanket bog or the ‘white moor’ of modified bog. The lower moors of Barnighham Moor and Scargill Low Moor are drier heath with a mosaic of burning patterns. Barnighham moor contains relics of a Bronze Age ritual landscape including a stone circle, cup and ring marked stones and burial mounds.”</i></p>	
<p>Relevant Stated Key Characteristics (as part of the BLT Moorland Ridges and Summits):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broad divided ridges and high flat-topped summits. • A strong horizontal grain to the topography. • Grits and limestones outcrop locally in low grey crags and stone bands. • Hard igneous dolerites outcrop in larger crags and scree slopes. • Rocky, quick flowing becks or burns in steep sided gullies. • Extensive tracts of blanket bog of heather, cotton grass and sphagnum mosses. • Deep peat exposed in eroded hags and peat edges. • Drier slopes clothed in upland heath of heather and bilberry or acid grasslands. • Extensive grazing by hardy hill sheep. • Burning patterns on grouse moors create a patchwork of older and younger heather. • Few man made features other than occasional fences, grouse butts, cairns and sheepfolds. • Unfenced roads marked by snow poles with gates or cattle-grids at the moor wall. 	

Durham BCA Barnighham, Hope and Scargill Moors	Relevant Scheme Study Areas within Area: Bowes Bypass Cross Lanes to Rokeby Relevant Order Limits within the area: None
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relics of lead mining - bell pits, hushes, waste heaps, railways, reservoirs and water leats, smelter flues and chimneys. • Panoramic long distance views out across unbroken moorlands or adjoining dales. • A remote and elemental landscape with a near wilderness quality in places. 	

Boldron and Lartington (Gritstone Vale BLT)

Table 18: Boldron and Lartington (Gritstone Vale BLT)

Durham BCA Boldron and Lartington	Relevant Scheme Study Areas within area: Bowes Bypass Cross Lanes to Rokeby Relevant Order Limits within the area: Cross Lanes to Rokeby
<p>Relevant aspects of the published description:</p> <p>The BCA is located across the eastern part of the study area for Bowes Bypass and covers a small part of the western part of the Order Limits for Cross Lanes to Rokeby. The published description is:</p> <p><i>“Gently sloping farmland falling from the fringes of the moorland plateau to the River Tees. A pastoral landscape of improved and semi-improved pastures bounded by old hedges and walls with scattered, locally abundant, hedgerow trees. The River Tees is lined by steep wooded bluffs; its tributaries, including the Deepdale Beck, lie in narrow steep-sided denes containing ancient ash and oak woodlands. The small villages of Boldron, Lartington and Cotherstone lie on the upper slopes of the vale. There are historic parklands at Lartington.”</i></p>	
<p>Relevant Stated Key Characteristics (as part of the Gritstone Vale):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broad rolling vale, incised by the narrow denes of rivers and streams • Gently rounded topography of thinly bedded sandstones, limestones and mudstones overlain by glacial drift. • Mosaic of heavy, seasonally waterlogged clay soils and more fertile brown earths. • Mixed farmland of improved pasture and arable cropping. • Semi-regular, sometimes linear, patterns of old enclosures bounded by thorn hedges, with occasional dry stone walls. • Abundant hedgerow ash, oak and sycamore. • Ancient ash and oak woodlands in narrow denes. Scattered coniferous or mixed plantations. • Areas of old parklands and heavily wooded estate farmland. • Nucleated settlement pattern of small green villages centred on the historic market town of Barnard Castle. Scattered farms. • Buildings of local stone with roofs of stone, slate or clay pan tile. Farms of the Raby Estate painted white. • Narrow winding lanes and some busy modern highways. • Occasional disused army camps. • A well timbered landscape creating a high degree of enclosure in places, but with broad scale panoramic views across the vale from higher vantage points. • A tranquil settled rural landscape. 	

Bowes (Gritstone Upland Fringe BLT)

Table 19: Bowes (Gritstone Upland Fringe BLT)

Durham BCA Bowes	Relevant Scheme Study Areas within area: Bowes Bypass Cross Lanes to Rokeby Relevant Order Limits within the area: Bowes Bypass
<p>Relevant aspects of the published description:</p> <p>BCA Bowes is a smaller area of land within BLT Gritstone Upland Fringe, covering land to the north and north-east of Bowes. The BCA includes the existing A66. The published study describes the BCA as:</p> <p>“An area of high almost flat ground on the edges of the moorland plateau of the Stainmore Gap. An open pastoral landscape of improved pasture and wet, rushy pasture with few trees or woodlands. Regular grids of parliamentary enclosures cover much of the area. In the north across Deepdale, large fields are bounded by dry stone walls. East of Bowes, narrow linear parliamentary enclosures and older curvilinear town field enclosures are bounded by a mixture of leggy, overgrown hedges and stone walls with scattered, locally abundant, ash and Sycamore trees. Isolated farms are scattered across the area.”</p>	
<p>Relevant Stated Key Characteristics (as part of the Gritstone Upland Fringe):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The published study sets out key characteristics for the BCA. The following are considered to be relevant to the study area: • Broad ridges and plateaux. • Gently rounded topography of thinly bedded sandstones, limestones and mudstones overlain by glacial boulder clay. • Small becks, occasionally in narrow incised valleys. • Heavy, seasonally waterlogged clay soils. • Pastoral land use of improved, semi-improved or wet rushy pasture. • Regular grids of parliamentary enclosures bounded by dry stone walls or hawthorn hedges, often gappy and overgrown. Occasional older field systems. • Few trees - scattered hedgerow oak and ash. • Variable woodland cover - generally sparsely wooded but with scattered conifer plantations in places. • Isolated farms connected by straight enclosure roads. Farms of the Raby estate north of the Tees are painted white. • A visually open landscape, broad in scale though locally defined by minor ridgelines and with occasional panoramic views across the Tees vale. • A remote and tranquil rural landscape. 	

Cotherstone Moor (Moorland Plateau BLT)

Table 20: Cotherstone Moor (Moorland Plateau BLT)

Durham BCA Cotherstone Moor	Relevant Scheme Study Areas within area: Bowes Bypass Relevant Order Limits within the area: None
<p>Relevant aspects of the published description:</p> <p>BCA Cotherstone Moor extends to the north-west of Bowes, covering part of Clint Lane, with the Bowes Bypass study area. The published study describes the BCA as:</p> <p><i>“Extensive tracts of flat or gently rolling blanket bog incised by deep moorland gills. The distinctive low flat-topped summits of Shacklesborough and Goldsborough are notable features</i></p>	

Durham BCA Cotherstone Moor	Relevant Scheme Study Areas within area: Bowes Bypass Relevant Order Limits within the area: None
<p><i>on the open sweeping horizon. The moors of Ravock contain the remains of Bronze Age cairn fields.”</i></p>	
<p>Relevant Stated Key Characteristics (as part of the Moorland plateau):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High moorland plateau. • Gently rolling, almost flat, terrain cut into by steep sided gullies. • Occasional small, low, flat-topped, summits. • Carboniferous rocks masked by deep peat which is exposed in eroded hags and peat edges. • Millstone grits outcrop locally in summits, gullies and stone bands. • Continuous blanket bog of heather, cotton grass and sphagnum mosses. • Extensive grazing by hardy hill sheep. • Burning patterns on grouse moors create a patchwork of older and younger heather. • Few man made features other than occasional fences, grouse butts, cairns and sheepfolds. • A remote and inaccessible landscape with few roads or tracks. • A broad scale landscape with long distance views across open moorland to distant summits. • An exposed, elemental and simple, often bleak, landscape with a near wilderness quality. 	

Deepdale Moorland Fringe (Moorland Fringe BLT)

Table 21: Deepdale Moorland Fringe (Moorland Fringe BLT)

Durham BCA Deepdale Moorland Fringe	Relevant Scheme Study Areas within Area: Bowes Bypass Relevant Order Limits within the area: None
<p>Relevant aspects of the published description:</p> <p>The BCA is located across the north-west part of the study area for Bowes Bypass. The published description of the BCA is:</p> <p><i>“Open flat or gently rolling pastures and rougher moorland intakes in the eastern edges of the moorland plateau. Large regular enclosures bounded by stones walls and wire fences cover Battle Hill. Smaller and less regular field systems surround older farms at Loups Hill, Stony Keld and Levy Pool, the last surviving heather thatched farm in the North Pennines. There are areas of MOD land at Battle Hill Range and abandoned bunkers at Stony Keld.”</i></p>	
<p>Relevant Stated Key Characteristics (as part of the Moorland Fringe):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upland landscape of improved moorland fringes, intakes and allotments. • Varied topography including valleys and upper dale sides. • Carboniferous rocks bare of drift or covered by boulder clays. • Hard igneous dolerites outcrop locally in low crags. • Shallow, infertile or waterlogged peaty soils. • Wet, rushy pastures, rough grazing and enclosed moorland. • Large regular fields bounded by low stone walls and wire fences. • Isolated farms connected by straight roads. • Scattered conifer plantations and shelterbelts - occasional large tracts of commercial forestry. • Relics of the lead mining industry - mine buildings, waste heaps, smelter flues, reservoirs and hushes. • Visually open and often broad in scale with extensive views across adjacent dales and moors. • A remote and tranquil landscape on the margins of settlement and agriculture 	

Lower Greta (Lower Dale BLT)

Table 22: Lower Greta (Lower Dale BLT)

Durham BCA Lower Greta	Relevant Scheme Study Areas within area: Bowes Bypass Cross Lanes to Rokeby Relevant Order Limits within the area: Bowes Bypass
<p>Relevant aspects of the published description:</p> <p>BCA Lower Greta covers land the valley floor and rising land adjacent to the River Greta, as part of the River Greta valley, extending from the west of Bowes to the east of Scargill. The existing A66 and The Street form part of the northern boundary to the BCA. The published study describes the BCA as:</p> <p><i>“A shallow dale running across the high plateau of the Stainmore Gap. The river Greta meanders across a narrow floodplain in the west before entering a narrow wooded gorge in the east. The wooded limestone scar of Kilmond Wood rises above the dale in the north. A pastoral landscape of improved and semi-improved pastures, sub regular patterns of old hedges and walls, with a linear grain in places, and scattered hedgerow trees. Farms and farm clusters are scattered along the dale.”</i></p>	
<p>Relevant Stated Key Characteristics (as part of the Lower Dale BLT):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The published study sets out key characteristics for the BCA. The following are considered to be relevant to the study area: • Broad valleys with narrow floodplains or gorges on the valley floor. • Winding, rocky fast flowing rivers. • Carboniferous rocks covered by glacial drift, river gravels or alluvium. • Limestones, sandstones and shales outcrop occasionally on the sides of gorges and dale side quarries. • Heavy clay soils with more fertile brown earths and alluvial soils on the dale floor. • Pastoral farmland of improved and semi-improved pastures. • Old field systems with sub regular or linear patterns of hedges and walls. • Relics of rig and furrow, and cultivation terraces. • Frequent hedgerow oak, ash, sycamore and wych elm, tree lined watercourses and overgrown hedgerows • Ancient ash and oak woods in gorges and denes. • Old villages of vernacular sandstone buildings on the dale floor. • Scattered stone farmsteads and field barns. • Limestone quarries are locally prominent on the dale side. • Visually enclosed by woodlands, trees and hedgerows and defined by high moorland ridgelines. 	

Mid Greta Valley (Middle Dale BLT)

Table 23: Mid Greta Valley (Middle Dale BLT)

Durham BCA Mid Greta Valley	Relevant Scheme Study Areas within area: Bowes Bypass Relevant Order Limits within the area: Bowes Bypass
<p>Relevant aspects of the published description:</p> <p>The Mid Greta Valley is the southernmost BCA within the BLT Middle Dale, situated to the west of Bowes and extending southwards across the River Greta, covering the Bowes Bypass study area. The published study describes the Mid Greta Valley as:</p> <p><i>“A shallow dale of walled pastures and meadows between the low moorland plateaux of Ravock and Gilmonby moors. Field systems are generally regular, and isolated farms are strung out along the dale floor. The landscape is visually open with few trees or woodlands and is dominated in places by the busy A66.”</i></p>	
<p>Relevant Stated Key Characteristics (as part of the Middle Dale):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broad upland valleys with moderately sloping, often gently stepped valley sides, incised by narrow steep-sided gills • Carboniferous rocks overlain on lower slopes by boulder clays. Hard igneous dolerites outcrop locally in prominent scars. • Narrow floodplains of alluvium or glacial sands and gravels. • Rocky fast flowing rivers and streams. • Heavy, often waterlogged, clay soils with more fertile brown earths on valley floors. • Improved and semi-improved pastures and flower-rich upland hay meadows. • Strong regular or sub-regular patterns of dry stone walls with occasional ash, oak and sycamore field trees. • Sparsely wooded. Narrow ash and oak-birch woodlands along rivers and streams and dale side gills. • Scattered plantations of pine, larch or spruce. • Small villages, hamlets and farm clusters follow valley floor roads - scattered farms and field barns on the dale side. Buildings of local stone with roofs of stone flag or slate. • Visually open but enclosed by encircling moorland ridgelines. 	

Moorhouse & Gilbeck (Gritstone Upland Fringe BLT)

Table 24: Moorhouse & Gilbeck (Gritstone Upland Fringe BLT)

Durham BCA Moorhouse and Gillbeck	Relevant Scheme Study Areas within area: Bowes Bypass Cross Lanes to Rokeby Relevant Order Limits within the area: Bowes Bypass Cross Lanes to Rokeby
<p>Relevant aspects of the published description:</p> <p>BCA Moorhouse and Gillbeck is located in the south-east part of the study area of Bowes Bypass and the southern part of the study area for Cross Lanes to Rokeby. The published study describes the BCA as:</p> <p><i>“Areas of high, almost flat ground either side of the River Greta. An open pastoral landscape of improved pasture and wet, rushy pasture with few trees and scattered conifer plantations and shelterbelts. Regular systems of parliamentary enclosures are crossed by straight enclosure</i></p>	

Durham BCA Moorhouse and Gillbeck	Relevant Scheme Study Areas within area: Bowes Bypass Cross Lanes to Rokeby Relevant Order Limits within the area: Bowes Bypass Cross Lanes to Rokeby
<p><i>roads. Field boundaries are a mixture of stone walls and leggy, overgrown hedges. Isolated farms are scattered across the area."</i></p>	
<p>Relevant Stated Key Characteristic (as part of the Gritstone Upland Fringe):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The published study sets out key characteristics for the BCA. The following are considered to be relevant to the study area: • Broad ridges and plateaux. • Gently rounded topography of thinly bedded sandstones, limestones and mudstones overlain by glacial boulder clay. • Small becks, occasionally in narrow incised valleys. • Heavy, seasonally waterlogged clay soils. • Pastoral land use of improved, semi-improved or wet rushy pasture. • Regular grids of parliamentary enclosures bounded by dry stone walls or hawthorn hedges, often gappy and overgrown. Occasional older field systems. • Few trees - scattered hedgerow oak and ash. • Variable woodland cover - generally sparsely wooded but with scattered conifer plantations in places. • Isolated farms connected by straight enclosure roads. Farms of the Raby estate north of the Tees are painted white. • A visually open landscape, broad in scale though locally defined by minor ridgelines and with occasional panoramic views across the Tees vale. • A remote and tranquil rural landscape. • The published study sets out key characteristics for the BCA 	

Newsham and Cleatlam (Gritstone Vale BLT)

Table 25: Newsham and Cleatlam (Gritstone Vale BLT)

Durham BCA Newsham and Cleatham	Relevant Scheme Study Areas within Area: Cross Lanes to Rokeby Relevant Order Limits within the area: None
<p>Relevant aspects of the published description:</p> <p>The BCA is located across the north-east part of the study area for Cross Lanes to Rokeby, covering rising land to the north of the River Tees. The published description of the BCA is:</p> <p><i>"Gently rolling or undulating farmland in the floor of the vale east of Barnard Castle. A patchwork of arable and pastoral farmland with sub-regular patterns of clipped hedgerows and occasional dry stone walls with frequent oak, ash and sycamore and scattered plantations. Small hamlets and farms are connected by narrow winding lanes. The farms and farm buildings of the Raby Estate are painted white."</i></p>	
<p>Relevant Stated Key Characteristics (as part of the Gritstone Vale):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broad rolling vale, incised by the narrow denes of rivers and streams. • Gently rounded topography of thinly bedded sandstones, limestones and mudstones overlain by glacial drift. • Mosaic of heavy, seasonally waterlogged clay soils and more fertile brown earths. • Mixed farmland of improved pasture and arable cropping. 	

Durham BCA Newsham and Cleatham	Relevant Scheme Study Areas within Area: Cross Lanes to Rokeby Relevant Order Limits within the area: None
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semi-regular, sometimes linear, patterns of old enclosures bounded by thorn hedges, with occasional dry stone walls. • Abundant hedgerow ash, oak and sycamore. • Ancient ash and oak woodlands in narrow denes. Scattered coniferous or mixed plantations. • Areas of old parklands and heavily wooded estate farmland. • Nucleated settlement pattern of small green villages centered on the historic market town of Barnard Castle. Scattered farms. • Buildings of local stone with roofs of stone, slate or clay pan tile. Farms of the Raby Estate painted white. • Narrow winding lanes and some busy modern highways. • Occasional disused army camps. • A well timbered landscape creating a high degree of enclosure in places, but with broad scale panoramic views across the vale from higher vantage points. • A tranquil settled rural landscape. 	

River Tees

Table 26: River Tees

Durham BCA River Tees	Relevant Scheme Study Areas within Area: Cross Lanes to Rokeby Relevant Order Limits within the area: None
<p>Relevant aspects of the published description:</p> <p>In respect of Cross Lanes to Rokeby, the BCA is located across the eastern part of the study area for Cross Lanes to Rokeby. The published description of the BCA is:</p> <p><i>“The River Tees meanders across a narrow floodplain between low river terrace bluffs of pasture, rough pasture or broadleaved woodland, or flows through narrow wooded denes flanked by low scars. Narrow riparian woodlands line the banks of the river. The floodplain is a mosaic of arable fields and improved or semi-improved pastures, open in places, divided in others by old hedges with scattered hedgerow trees. Fragments of rigg and furrow survive in the less improved pastures. Small green villages, hamlets, halls and building clusters line the river terraces above the floodplain.”</i></p> <p>Relevant Stated Key Characteristics (as part of the Lowland River Terraces):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flat, narrow floodplain fringed in places by low, steep-sided bluffs. • Coarse loamy and sandy soils on alluvial river terrace drift. • Meandering rivers with alternating riffles and pools. • Arable cropping on the floodplain. • Semi-improved pastures on bluffs. • Low hawthorn hedges with scattered hedgerow oak and ash. • Fragments of rigg and furrow survive in older pastures. • Ancient oak woodlands on steeper bluffs. • Narrow riparian woods or tree lines of alder, oak, ash and willow on river banks. • Old villages closely associated with the river, often on bridging or fording points. • Buildings of local stone with roofs of slate or clay pan tile. • Occasional recreational sites - lidos and caravan parks. 	

Durham BCA River Tees	Relevant Scheme Study Areas within Area: Cross Lanes to Rokeby Relevant Order Limits within the area: None
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A visually enclosed landscape of an intimate scale. • A settled but tranquil rural landscape of high scenic quality and historical depth. 	

Scargill & Barningham Fringes (Moorland Fringe BLT)

Table 27: Scargill & Barningham Fringes (Moorland Fringe BLT)

Durham BCA Scargill and Barningham Fringes	Relevant Scheme Study Areas within Area: Bowes Bypass Cross Lanes to Rokeby Relevant Order Limits within the area: None
<p>Relevant aspects of the published description:</p> <p>The BCA is located across the southern parts of the study area for schemes Bowes Bypass and Cross Lanes to Rokeby. The published description of the BCA is:</p> <p><i>“The Stang forest lies on steep slopes overlooking the Greta Valley, falling to flat or gently undulating wet pastures and larger enclosures of rough grazing fringing Barningham and Scargill Low Moors. Small conifer plantations are scattered across the area. Tree lines follow the sinuous Scargill and Gregory becks. There are a small number of isolated farm.”</i></p>	
<p>Relevant Stated Key Characteristics (as part of Moorland Fringe):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upland landscape of improved moorland fringes, intakes and allotments. • Varied topography including valleys and upper dale sides. • Carboniferous rocks bare of drift or covered by boulder clays. • Hard igneous dolerites outcrop locally in low crags. • Shallow, infertile or waterlogged peaty soils. • Wet, rushy pastures, rough grazing and enclosed moorland. • Large regular fields bounded by low stone walls and wire fences. • Isolated farms connected by straight roads. • Scattered conifer plantations and shelterbelts - occasional large tracts of commercial forestry. • Relics of the lead mining industry - mine buildings, waste heaps, smelter flues, reservoirs and hushes. • Visually open and often broad in scale with extensive views across adjacent dales and moors. • A remote and tranquil landscape on the margins of settlement and agriculture. 	

Sleightholme & Greta Fringes (Moorland Plateau BLT)

Table 28: Sleightholme & Greta Fringes (Moorland Plateau BLT)

Durham BCA Sleightholme and Greta Fringes	Relevant Scheme Study Areas within Area: Bowes Bypass Relevant Order Limits within the area: None
<p>Relevant aspects of the published description:</p> <p>The BCA is located across the south-western parts of the study area for Bowes Bypass. The published description of the BCA is:</p> <p><i>“Open pasture and rough moorland intakes in the edges of the Moorland Plateau of Stainmore Forest fringing the valleys of the Greta and the Sleightholme Beck. The beck is incised in a</i></p>	

Durham BCA Sleightholme and Greta Fringes	Relevant Scheme Study Areas within Area: Bowes Bypass Relevant Order Limits within the area: None
<i>narrow steep side gill surrounded by irregular walled pastures and larger irregular moorland intake.”</i>	
<p>Relevant Stated Key Characteristics (as part of Moorland Fringe):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upland landscape of improved moorland fringes, intakes and allotments. • Varied topography including valleys and upper dale sides. • Carboniferous rocks bare of drift or covered by boulder clays. • Hard igneous dolerites outcrop locally in low crags. • Shallow, infertile or waterlogged peaty soils. • Wet, rushy pastures, rough grazing and enclosed moorland. • Large regular fields bounded by low stone walls and wire fences. • Isolated farms connected by straight roads. • Scattered conifer plantations and shelterbelts - occasional large tracts of commercial forestry. • Relics of the lead mining industry - mine buildings, waste heaps, smelter flues, reservoirs and hushes. • Visually open and often broad in scale with extensive views across adjacent dales and moors. • A remote and tranquil landscape on the margins of settlement and agriculture. 	

Southern Tees Vale: Hutton Magna (Lowland Vale BLT)

Table 29: Southern Tees Vale: Hutton Magna (Lowland Vale BLT)

Durham BCA Southern Tees Vale: Hutton Magna	Relevant Scheme Study Areas within area: Cross Lanes to Rokeby Stephen Bank to Carkin Moor Relevant Order Limits within the area: Stephen Bank to Carkin Moor
<p>Relevant aspects of the published description:</p> <p>In relation to Cross Lanes to Rokeby, the BCA is located across the south-east part of the study area.</p> <p>In relation to Stephen Bank to Carkin Moor, the BCA is located across the north-west part of the study area and covers part of the Order Limits to the north of the existing A66, between Stephen Bank and land to the west of West Layton.</p> <p>The published description of the BCA is:</p> <p><i>“Gently rolling or undulating farmland in the south of the vale. An open, predominantly arable, landscape with old pre-enclosure field systems of clipped hawthorn hedges and scattered hedgerow trees. The area is sparsely wooded, with occasional small broadleaved plantations. Small hamlets and scattered farms are connected by narrow winding lane.”</i></p>	
<p>Relevant Stated Key Characteristics (as part of the Lowland Vale):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broad lowland vale. • Occasional flats. • Mixed, but predominantly arable farmland - a mosaic of improved pasture and arable cropping. • Semi-regular patterns of old enclosures bounded by thorn hedges. • Relics of rig and furrow in older pastures. 	

Durham BCA Southern Tees Vale: Hutton Magna	Relevant Scheme Study Areas within area: Cross Lanes to Rokeby Stephen Bank to Carkin Moor Relevant Order Limits within the area: Stephen Bank to Carkin Moor
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scattered hedgerow ash, oak and sycamore - abundant in places. • Sparsely wooded but with some heavily wooded areas of old parkland and estate farmland. • Nucleated pattern of small green villages connected by narrow, winding, hedged lanes. • The high incidence of hedgerow trees creates a degree of enclosure in places, but the landscape remains fairly broad in scale with views to distant high ground. • A tranquil settled rural landscape. 	

Stainmore (Moorland Plateau BLT)

Table 30: Stainmore (Moorland Plateau BLT)

Durham BCA Stainmore	Relevant Scheme Study Areas within Area: Bowes Bypass Relevant Order Limits within the area: None
<p>Relevant aspects of the published description: BCA Stainmore is located across the south-west part of the study area for Bowes Bypass, covering the rising land to the south of the River Greta. The published study describes the area as:</p> <p><i>“Extensive tracts of almost flat blanket bog incised by deep moorland gills. The low but pronounced moorland edge of White Brow overlooks the River Greta on Bowes Moor. The higher moorland ridge of Arkengarthdale Moor forms a strong horizon to the south.”</i></p>	
<p>Relevant Stated Key Characteristics (as part of the Moorland Plateau):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High moorland plateau. • Gently rolling, almost flat, terrain cut into by steep sided gullies. • Occasional small, low, flat-topped, summits. • Carboniferous rocks masked by deep peat which is exposed in eroded hags and peat edges. • Millstone grits outcrop locally in summits, gullies and stone bands. • Continuous blanket bog of heather, cotton grass and sphagnum mosses. • Extensive grazing by hardy hill sheep. • Burning patterns on grouse moors create a patchwork of older and younger heather. • Few man made features other than occasional fences, grouse butts, cairns and sheepfolds. • A remote and inaccessible landscape with few roads or tracks. • A broad scale landscape with long distance views across open moorland to distant summits. • An exposed, elemental and simple, often bleak, landscape with a near wilderness quality. 	

10.4.4 North Yorkshire Landscape Character

13: Moors Fringe

Table 31: 13: Moors Fringe

North Yorkshire LCA Upland Moors Fringe	Relevant Scheme Study Areas within Area: Stephen Bank to Carkin Moor Relevant Order Limits within the area: Stephen Bank to Carkin Moor
Relevant aspects of the published description: This forms majority of the study area.	
Relevant stated key characteristics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broad ridges and shallow valley heads. • Gently sloping landscape which forms a transition between higher moors and fells to the west and the lower magnesian limestone ridge to the east; • Predominantly rural landscape with an associated relatively strong sense of tranquillity; • A patchwork of arable and pastoral fields which are delineated by stone walls and hedgerow field boundaries; • Dispersed settlement pattern of small villages and large farmsteads linked by a network of minor roads; • A mosaic of habitats including moorland and acid grassland support a large number of wading bird species; • Settlements generally display buildings which are predominantly constructed from local stone, resulting in strong visual unity; • Historic parklands and wooded estates enclosing a number of country houses are scattered throughout the landscape; • Reservoirs are key landscape features in places. 	

27: Vale Farmland with Dispersed Settlements

Table 32: 27: Vale Farmland with Dispersed Settlements

North Yorkshire LCA Upland Vale Farmland with Dispersed Settlements	Relevant Scheme Study Areas within Area: None Relevant Order Limits within the area: Stephen Bank to Carkin Moor
Relevant aspects of the published description: This forms part of the northern extent of the Study Area	
Relevant stated key characteristics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally low lying, gently rolling landscape which contain several small river corridors; • Distant sense of enclosure in views east and west provided by the backdrop of the North York Moors and Yorkshire Dales; • A medium to large-scale agricultural landscape which is delineated by a network of mature hedgerows, often containing hedgerow trees; • Dispersed settlement pattern of farmsteads, small hamlets and villages; • Extensive use of local clays for brick making and pantiles for roofing; • The A1 (M) transport corridor runs north south across the landscape and exerts a human influence. 	

10.4.5 North Pennines AONB Landscape Character

Upland Fringe Foothills

Table 33: Upland Fringe Foothills

North Pennines AONB LCA Upland Fringe Foothills	Relevant Scheme Study Areas within Area: Appleby to Brough Relevant Order Limits within the area: Appleby to Brough
<p>Relevant aspects of the published description: This forms part of the north-eastern study area for Appleby to Brough.</p>	
<p>Relevant stated key characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broad ridges and shallow valley heads. • Gently rounded topography of drift-free, thinly bedded sandstones, mudstones, shales and coals. • Occasional steep bluffs and incised denes. • Heavy, seasonally waterlogged clay soils with pockets of peaty soils supporting heathland vegetation. • Pastoral land use of improved or semi-improved pasture with some arable cropping on drier ridges. • Regular grids of Parliamentary enclosures bounded by dry stone walls or overgrown hawthorn hedges. • Few trees — scattered hedgerow oak, ash, rowan or birch. • Sparsely wooded; scattered conifer plantations and shelterbelts. • Isolated farms connected by straight enclosure roads. • A visually open landscape with commanding views across adjacent valleys to distant ridges. 	

Moor and Scarp

Table 34: Moor and Scarp

North Pennines AONB LCA Moor and Scarp	Relevant Scheme Study Areas within Area: Appleby to Brough Bowes Bypass Relevant Order Limits within the area: None
<p>Relevant aspects of the published description: This forms part of the western study area for schemes Appleby to Brough and Bowes Bypass. This area is within the study area for Appleby to Brough, to the north of Brough and beyond the Order Limits. The area is characterised as an upland landscape of improved moorland fringes, intakes and allotments, between the open moors and the settled dales.</p>	
<p>Relevant stated key characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dramatic landforms. • A sweep of unimproved rough grazing contrasting with the lower landscape of the foothills and pikes. • Exposures of bands of Carboniferous limestone and sandstone. • A lack of enclosure. • Largely treeless. • Long views outwards to the Eden Valley and the Lake District and Howgill Fells. 	

Moor and Fringe

Table 35: Moor and Fringe

North Pennines AONB LCA Moor and Fringe	Relevant Scheme Study Areas within Area: Appleby to Brough Relevant Order Limits within the area: None
<p>Relevant aspects of the published description: This area is within the study area for Appleby to Brough, to the east of Brough and beyond the Order Limits. The area is characterised as an upland landscape of improved moorland fringes, intakes and allotments, between the open moors and the settled dales.</p>	
<p>Relevant stated key characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Varied topography including valleys and upper dale sides. • The contrasting hardness of layers of limestone, sandstones and shales give the hillsides a stepped appearance. • The Whin Sill outcrops locally in low crags. • Shallow, infertile or waterlogged peaty soils. • A pastoral landscape of wet, rushy pastures, rough grazing and enclosed moorland. • Large regular fields of Parliamentary enclosures bounded by low stone walls and wire fences. • Varying degrees of improvement and grazing creates a patchwork of muted and brighter greens. • Isolated farms built of stone with roofs of stone flag or slate, connected by straight roads from the enclosure period. The farms and field barns of the Raby Estate in Teesdale are painted white. • The landscape is generally open with few trees or woodlands. • There are occasional clumps of sycamore planted as shelter trees around exposed farms, and scattered conifer plantations and shelterbelts with occasional large tracts of commercial forestry on the fringes of the AONB. • Relics of the leadmining industry are common – mine buildings, waste heaps, smelter flues, reservoirs and hushes. • Visually open and often broad in scale with extensive views across adjacent dales and moors. • A remote and tranquil landscape on the margins of settlement and agriculture, sometimes with a slightly neglected quality. 	

10.4.6 Richmondshire Landscape Character

D Narrow Valley LLCT

Table 36: D Narrow Valley LLCT

Richmondshire LCA Narrow Valley	Relevant Scheme Study Areas within Area: Stephen Bank to Carkin Moor Relevant Order Limits within the area: Stephen Bank to Carkin Moor
<p>Relevant aspects of the published description: This forms part of the north-eastern study area for Stephen Bank to Carkin Moor.</p>	
<p>Relevant stated key characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broad ridges and shallow valley heads. 	

Richmondshire LCA Narrow Valley	Relevant Scheme Study Areas within Area: Stephen Bank to Carkin Moor Relevant Order Limits within the area: Stephen Bank to Carkin Moor
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relatively flat valley floors with gently rising sides to the higher ground of the Moors Fringes • Fast flowing watercourses (becks) especially after heavy rainfall on the upland moors • The becks flow generally north-west to south-east joining the River Swale to the northwest of Brompton-on-Swale • The watercourses are often tree lined • Generally open landscape with little tree cover away from the course of the river • Arable farming is the predominant land use within the LLCT • This is a predominantly rural landscape with a relatively strong sense of tranquillity throughout; • Numerous ponds and wetlands along the valley floor of the LLCT 	

B - Moors Fringe LLCT

Table 37: B - Moors Fringe LLCT

Richmondshire LCA Moors Fringe	Relevant Scheme Study Areas within Area: Stephen Bank to Carkin Moor Relevant Order Limits within the area: Stephen Bank to Carkin Moor
<p>Relevant aspects of the published description: This forms part of the north-eastern study area for Stephen Bank to Carkin Moor.</p>	
<p>Relevant stated key characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broad ridges and shallow valley heads. • Gently sloping landscape which forms a transition between higher moors and fells to the west and the vale landscape to the east • Predominantly rural landscape with an associated relatively strong sense of tranquillity • The LLCT is dissected by several significant river valleys running from west to east, including the Swale and Ure • A patchwork of arable and pastoral fields which are delineated by stone walls and hedgerow field boundaries • A mosaic of landscapes including moorland and acid grassland with variety of woodland cover, particularly associated with the valleys, many copses and plantations on the side slopes, and hedges and trees in the lower-lying arable areas • Dispersed settlement pattern of small villages and large farmsteads linked by a network of minor roads • Settlements generally display buildings which are predominantly constructed from local stone, resulting in strong visual unity • Historic parklands and wooded estates enclosing a number of country houses are scattered throughout the landscape 	