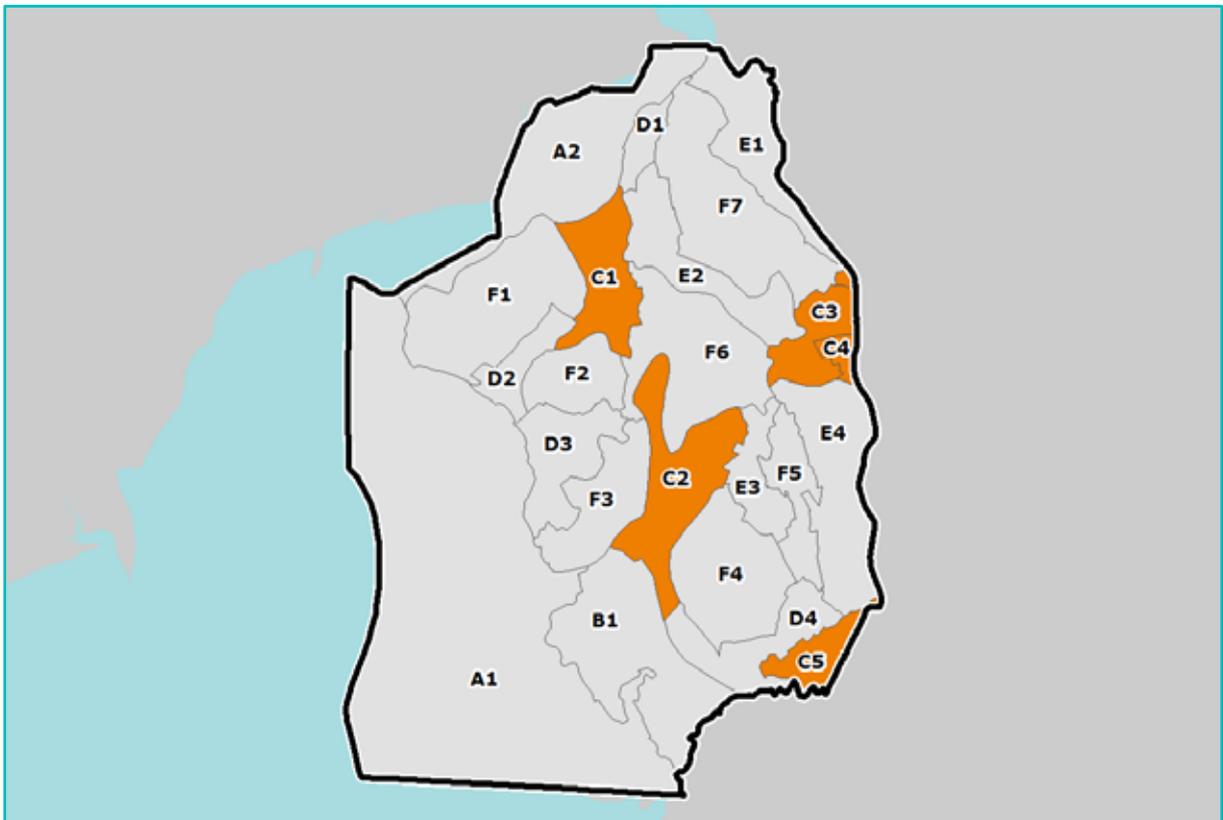


7 Transitional and Lowland Landscapes

Introduction and location

- 7.1 The lowland landscapes of the Arnside & Silverdale AONB comprise a diversity of low mosses and wetland landscapes contrasting with enclosed limestone pastures, and areas of historic parkland. Evidence of a long and historic land use is seen in the field patterns, such as ridge and furrow exposed when the sunlight is low, and the remains of towers, including Arnside Tower, which are local land marks. Features also include the Leighton Moss RSPB Reserve and Gait Barrows National Nature Reserve, where the birds and flora attract many visitors.
- 7.2 The transition and lowland landscape character types include:
- Landscape Character Type C: Lowland Moss
 - Landscape Character Type D: Coastal Limestone Pasture
 - Landscape Character Type E: Inland Pasture and Parkland

Landscape Character Type C: Lowland Moss



Leighton Moss



River Keer looking towards Carnforth

Location and Character Type Description

- 7.3 The Lowland Mosses (LCT C) are widespread and variable within the AONB, depending upon the way in which they have been managed. There are five main areas of moss: LCA C1 Arnsdale and Silverdale Mosses; LCA C2 Leighton Moss and Barrow Scout; LCA C3 Hale and White Mosses; LCA C4 Holme/Burton and Hilderstone Mosses; and, LCA C5 River Keer/Warton Floodplain.
- 7.4 The mosses of Arnsdale and Silverdale are a key attraction, especially Leighton Moss, an RSPB reserve. This type also extends to other areas including the re-wetted Silverdale and Barrow Scout Fields Mosses. Elsewhere they are drained and used for grazing, such as Arnsdale, White and Hale Mosses, the latter areas being a continuation of Holme/Burton and Hilderstone Mosses which lie outside the AONB, and which are more intensively farmed in places. Wetland and drained mosses are included as the same landscape character type, as changes in management can quickly transform one to the other, as has been demonstrated by the re-wetting undertaken in various areas of the AONB. Both drained and undrained types are present across the AONB. The names used reflect their character in 2010. Holme/Burton/Hilderstone Mosses are drained and used for farmland (lying beyond the AONB boundary) but are similarly flat and crossed by water filled ditches.
- 7.5 The mosses are flat, low lying landscapes, in some cases 'poljes', which are karst features - flat plains/depressions between limestone hills, flooded as sea level, and hence the water tables have risen - and which in places have been drained for agriculture. Subsequently areas have been re-wetted, either because demand for agriculture has fallen (e.g. Leighton Moss), or in recent times to recreate wetland habitats for nature conservation (e.g. Silverdale Moss, Barrow Scout Fields). Landcover comprises a mosaic of open water, reeds, wet woodland and damp pasture with drainage ditches. Woodland typically includes a high percentage of alder and goat willow. The drained areas are separated by water filled ditches, hedgerows and some wire fences. They are grazed by livestock or used for hay or silage production. Wetland and woodland habitats are of high biodiversity value and are rich in birdlife. Otter and red deer are present.
- 7.6 The freshwater mosses are transitional with the saltmarshes, and the drained areas of coastal marsh. For example, before the influence of humans, Hazelslack Marsh (saltmarsh), Holmrook (now drained saltmarsh and moss), and Silverdale Moss (freshwater moss) would have been a transitional landscape, with one type gradually blending into the next, and changing with time with post glacial fluctuations of sea level relative to the land. The railway embankment currently provides a clear boundary between the saline and freshwater areas of Hazelslack Marshes and Arnsdale Moss, but it is recognised that this was not always the case, and as sea level rises this balance between land and sea may change again.
- 7.7 Roads, paths and settlement are confined to the higher and dryer land around the margins. The flat, low lying mosaics of open water, reeds, wet woodland and pasture are tranquil landscapes, with a variety of long views available over water and short views contained by tall reeds or woodland. The sound of birds is widespread (bitterns, marsh harrier, water rail) and famed areas such as Leighton Moss draw visitors, to watch the birds and enjoy these semi-natural landscapes, home to otter and deer. Historic features include the distinctive linear patterns of parallel drainage ditches, and chimneys from former pumping stations which used to drain some of the mosses.
- 7.8 The areas are part of the Morecambe Bay Limestones National Character Area and are predominantly classified as Wooded Limestone Hills and Pavements (LCA 20a Arnsdale and Silverdale) in the Lancashire Character Assessment and as Wooded Hills and Pavements (Sub-Type 3b) in the Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance and Toolkit. Part of White Moss and the Warton Floodplain are however classified as being in the Low Coastal Drumlins type (LCT 12) within the Lancashire Character Assessment. There are five examples of this lowland landscape character type in the AONB.

Key characteristics

The key characteristics of the Lowland Moss type within Arnside & Silverdale AONB are:

- flat low-lying areas of moss with reeds along linear ditches, rushy farmland and hedgerows, and areas of wet woodland, and some with mosaics of open water and marsh, providing good habitat for species such as otter and red deer;
- dynamic landscapes which change in colour with the seasons (browns to greens); with weather conditions, and with the time of day, sunsets often being notable;
- the wetland and re-wetted areas of moss and reedbed are particularly rich in birdlife - notably bitterns, marsh harrier and water rail, whose calls are characteristic;
- the mosses have an undeveloped character and setting, with a small number of farms and properties being located on the higher ground, overlooking lower ground;
- often fringed by characteristic deciduous woodland of the limestone hills and pavements;
- variety of long views across open moss or water (where this occurs), and short views enclosed by wet woodland or reeds;
- areas of high amenity value and an attraction for visitors to the area, causing localised concentrations of activity in this otherwise tranquil landscape;
- historic chimneys such as that at Crag Foot remain from the pumps historically used to drain the mosses.

Evaluation

Valued attributes

7.9 Key values of the Lowland Moss Type:

- Diverse landscape of low lying rushy farmland used for pasture, reeds along ditches, with hedges and wet woodland, and some mosses with areas of open water;
- Open views and sunsets over varied landscape;
- Marsh and wetland habitats attract a diversity of wildlife, including birds, otters, red deer;
- Seasonality is visible in changing colours in the landscape, the variable presence or absence of water across low lying areas prone to flooding, and wildlife phenomena; and
- Variety of access opportunities and a visitor facility at Leighton Moss.

Sensitive Features or Characteristics

- The undeveloped and often 'naturalistic' or rural character of the mosses.
- Damp rushy pasture, ditches, hedgerows, and some areas of open water, lying close to sea level, and which could easily be changed by sea level or water table rise, or changes in water quality.
- Rich habitats in less disturbed areas, and wetlands, with a visible presence of birds.
- Long views along low lying mosses and short views into reedbeds.
- Of high amenity value in places, but can be disturbed or altered by the presence of people, traffic or development within surrounding landscapes.
- Dramatic contrast of the flat landscapes with the surrounding hills.
- Appreciated sunsets.

Forces for Change Affecting Landscape Character

- Potential inundation of fresh water mosses, such as Leighton Moss, or saline intrusion into groundwater as sea level rises and percolates into limestone aquifers or breaches existing sea defences.
- Drainage as a consequence of flood alleviation schemes (e.g. the River Keer flood alleviation scheme at Warton flood meadows).
- Drainage of areas of wetland moss, intensification of agriculture across areas which are already drained, demand for different crops, or changes in grazing regimes in response to increasing demands for food or energy crops.
- Pressures for renewable energy development including onshore and offshore wind farms and other large scale development which may change the views from the mosses, particularly extension of developed skylines along open and undeveloped land or sea horizons.
- Pressure for other types of development including that associated with industry, tourism and leisure, and new housing.
- Any associated effects upon the landscape of the mosses due to the development of projects such as a tidal energy scheme, a bridge across the bay, e.g. through changes in the sea level affecting ecosystems.
- Changes in water quality influencing landscape character, for example through presence of higher levels of nutrients which could alter vegetation, or silt which may affect the extent of open water.
- Changes in hedgerow management affecting those areas where hedges are characteristic (the margins and some of the drained mosses) e.g. strimming versus traditional laying, or woodland management to the woodlands which form the settings to these areas.
- Changes to these landscapes as a consequence of the management objectives of conservation bodies such as the RSPB (e.g. at Leighton Moss or Barrow Scout fields).
- Landscape change if existing peat cutting rights on the mosses are used (e.g. by farms in Yealand in response to rising fuel costs).
- The influences upon mosses to the east of Arnside and Silverdale of the north-south transport corridor - A6, railway, M6 and Lancaster Canal, and pressure for infrastructure development such as a high speed train route, or major new electricity grid connections, and all associated ancillary development.
- Expansion of residential and commercial development across the areas outside the AONB including around Carnforth to provide commuter housing areas for Lancaster, industrial estates and retail outlets, affecting areas like Warton floodplain.
- Increased demand for holiday lets and second homes leading to further conversion and domestication of rural buildings.
- The effects of development on the character of the setting of the AONB, the views into the AONB from outside and those looking out of the AONB.
- Sand and gravel extraction (e.g. of the Warton floodplain such as occurred at Pine Lake).
- Increasing visitor pressure affecting tranquillity and biodiversity, for example at Leighton Moss.

Current Landscape Condition

The overall condition of the Lowland Moss Landscape Character Type is considered to be **moderate to good** resulting from the survival of mosaic of open water, reedbed and wet woodland, damp and drained pasture with drainage ditches (often forming distinctive linear patterns), fences and hedgerows. There are however some elements affected by change, particularly hedgerows, some of which have been lost, poorly or inappropriately maintained or, grubbed up and replaced with fencing. Some loss of species rich hay meadows has resulted from intensification of agriculture, drainage and flood alleviation schemes.

Sensitivity and Capacity for Change

The Lowland Moss Landscape Character Type is considered to have very high visual sensitivity overall, as a result of the strong intervisibility with the higher wooded hills of the AONB, seasonal colour variation in the vegetation, the strong sense of openness across the flat low lying land and sunsets across the wetland mosaic. The presence of Leighton Moss, a famous Royal Society for the Protection of Birds Nature Reserve, the site and sound of rare birds, the wetlands of Gait Barrows National Nature Reserve and mosaic of wetland habitats contribute to overall high ecological and landscape character sensitivity.

For all these reasons, the Lowland Moss Landscape Character Type is considered to have a high level of inherent sensitivity. As a result, overall capacity to accommodate change without compromising the key characteristics of the Lowland Moss Character Type is considered to be very limited, apart from change which reinforces positive attributes such as habitat enhancements.

Guidelines

Table 7.1 Guidelines - Landscape Character Type C: Lowland Moss

Guidelines	
Climate Change	
C1	Monitor and provide a positive approach to adaptation to any changes in species or the balance of species which arise as a consequence of climate change. Continue to advise on suitable species for tree planting, ensuring that these reflect the traditional character of the AONB landscape, and that they are suitable given current trends in changing climates.
C2	Manage and influence the response to possible future demands for increased food and energy crops, and other associated effects of climate change such that the character of the lowland moss landscape is not substantially altered.
C3	Monitor changes in water tables/salinity/water quality to determine any trends or patterns, enabling the development of an appropriate and considered response to climate change induced sea level rise or changes in water table, runoff or siltation. Manage the process of realignment and allow natural processes to act as advocated in the Shoreline Management Plan ⁴⁰ rather than seeking to conserve the status quo, except in certain locations where roads need to be maintained (e.g. B5282).
Natural Features	
C4	Continue to conserve and manage the lowland mosses and raised mires for nature conservation (reflecting their status as SPA/SAC/RAMSAR sites): discourage agricultural intensification (including silage production); discourage drainage of the mosses or raised mires; and, discourage peat extraction.
C5	Conserve the extent of 'natural' lowland mosses and raised mires. Restore drained and intensively farmed areas to wet mosses where appropriate for reasons of landscape and biodiversity and if opportunities arise, through the process of managed realignment.
C6	Ensure mosslands, mires and floodplains remain as open and unenclosed areas and, discourage agricultural intensification and silage production. Encourage the removal of fences, especially in locations such as at the edges or in areas of long established fields where they should be replaced with traditional hedge boundaries. Ensure that where appropriate existing hedgerows are managed by laying.
C7	Undertake re-wetting of parts of Warton floodplain, creating seasonally inundated wet flood meadows. Ensure appropriate restoration of areas affected by sand and gravel extraction, or any areas which may be affected in the future.
Development	
C8	Maintain the high proportion of undeveloped views and skylines which form the setting to the lowland mosses. These include the wooded limestone hills and pavements, and farmland within the AONB, but also the limestone escarpments and drumlin farmland to the north and east, outside the AONB. Reduce the extent of influence of development so that, for example, it affects localised sections of the skyline rather than large sections. Overall development should not become key elements in views from the AONB or have a defining influence on the overall experience of the landscape (i.e. developments should remain occasional features within the views and not result in a significant cumulative impact).

⁴⁰ Halcrow, 2010. *North West England and North Wales Shoreline Management Plan SMP2*. Report prepared by Halcrow Group Ltd for the North West and North Wales Coastal Group [pdf]. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/shoreline-management-plans-smps/shoreline-management-plans-smps> [Accessed 09 July 2014].

Guidelines	
C9	Ensure future development within landscapes forming the setting to the lowland mosses does not significantly affect the overall character and integrity of these landscapes, their key characteristics, cherished views, defining features, and the reasons for designation. Ensure that consideration is given to siting, design and the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures to avoid or reduce adverse effects.
C10	Seek to influence proposed transport/utilities related work in the lowland mosses of the AONB and changes to roads including road lines, signage, barriers, lighting or car parks. Avoid the use of hard engineered details such that they are appropriate to the rural and undeveloped character and avoid suburbanisation of the countryside.
C11	Ensure that projects relating to river catchment, river basin, or flood risk management avoid the use of hard engineered details or urban style solutions which would not be suited to the rural character.
C12	Ensure that development does not result in a net loss of key features and characteristics.
Management Practices	
C13	Explore measures for visitor management, including traffic and parking, to help resolve any issues which may be at odds with the character of lowland mosses (i.e. tranquillity and naturalness).
C14	Produce integrated management plans, helping, for example to ensure that objectives associated with management of Leighton Moss as an RSPB reserve are synchronised and consistent with the overall vision and objectives for AONB landscapes.
Access, Recreation and Appreciation	
C15	Where lowland mosses lie adjacent to the coast, respond to the requirements of acts such as the Countryside and Rights of Way Act ⁴¹ and the Marine and Coastal Access Act ⁴² by promoting the positive development of a long distance coastal access route whilst ensuring any changes or development is in line with the landscape management objectives of the AONB.
C16	Create openings within reed beds to allow public appreciation of views over open water and to maintain the landscape mosaic.
Cultural Features	
C17	Protect and conserve the settings of historic features, buildings and monuments and historic designed landscapes through development management.
C18	Sympathetically restore derelict historic buildings if opportunities arise for funding or new uses for these buildings.
C19	Promote the agreement of appropriate access to and interpretation of historic sites such that they are better understood as features in the landscape. Ensure any development associated with visitor access (such as car parks) is sympathetic to the character of the AONB.
C20	Encourage land owners to restore or maintain historic and traditional features such as walls, hedgerows, historic buildings, limekilns, woodlands, ponds and wells through land management schemes or grant schemes. Maintain or create intact boundaries of laid hedges or stone walls around development to help integrate development visually in the rural landscape, and to use woodland to help screen buildings or structures.

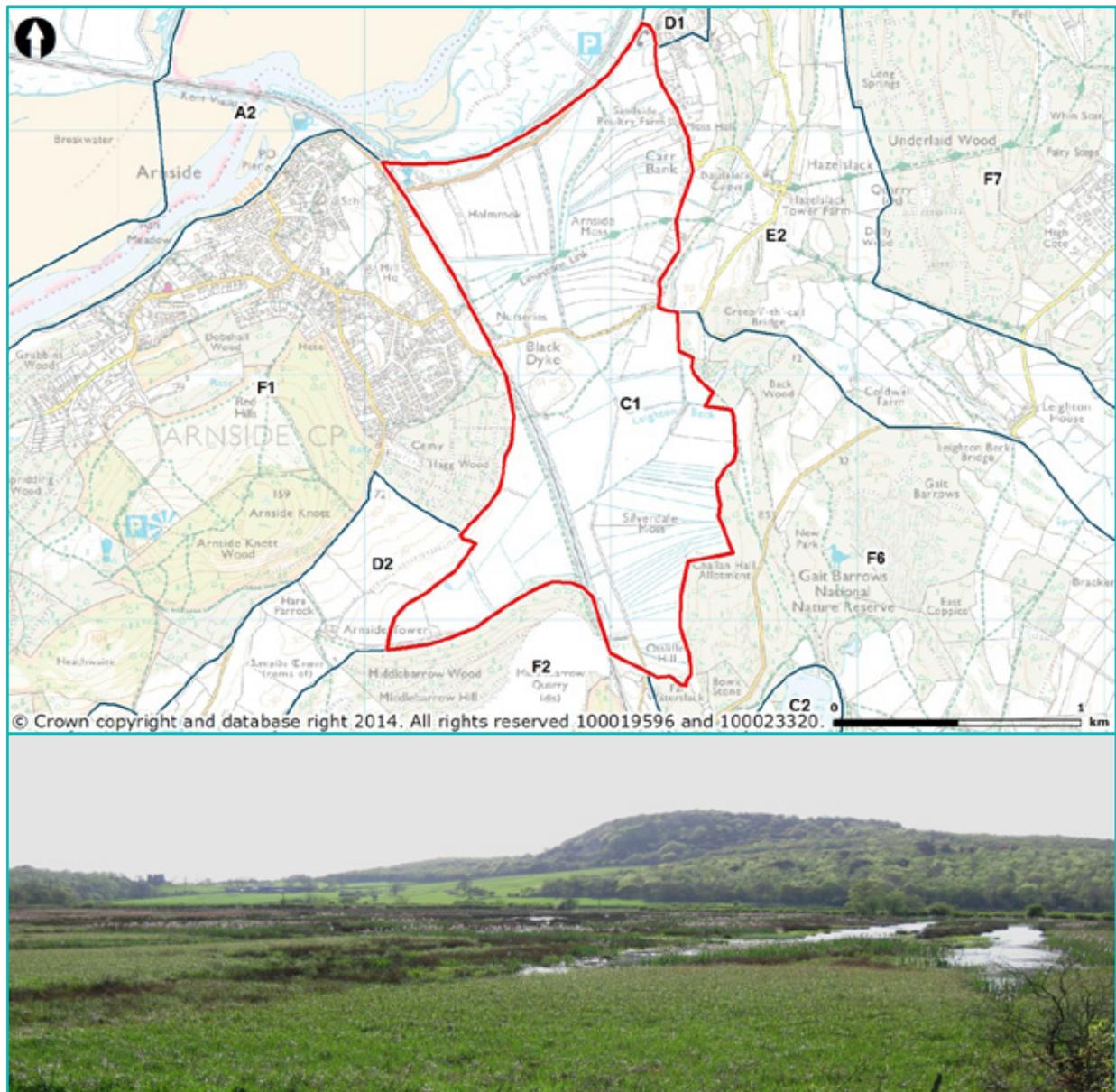
⁴¹ Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

⁴² Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.

Landscape Character Areas

Landscape Character Area: C1 Arnside and Silverdale Mosses

Figure 7.1 C1 Arnside and Silverdale Mosses

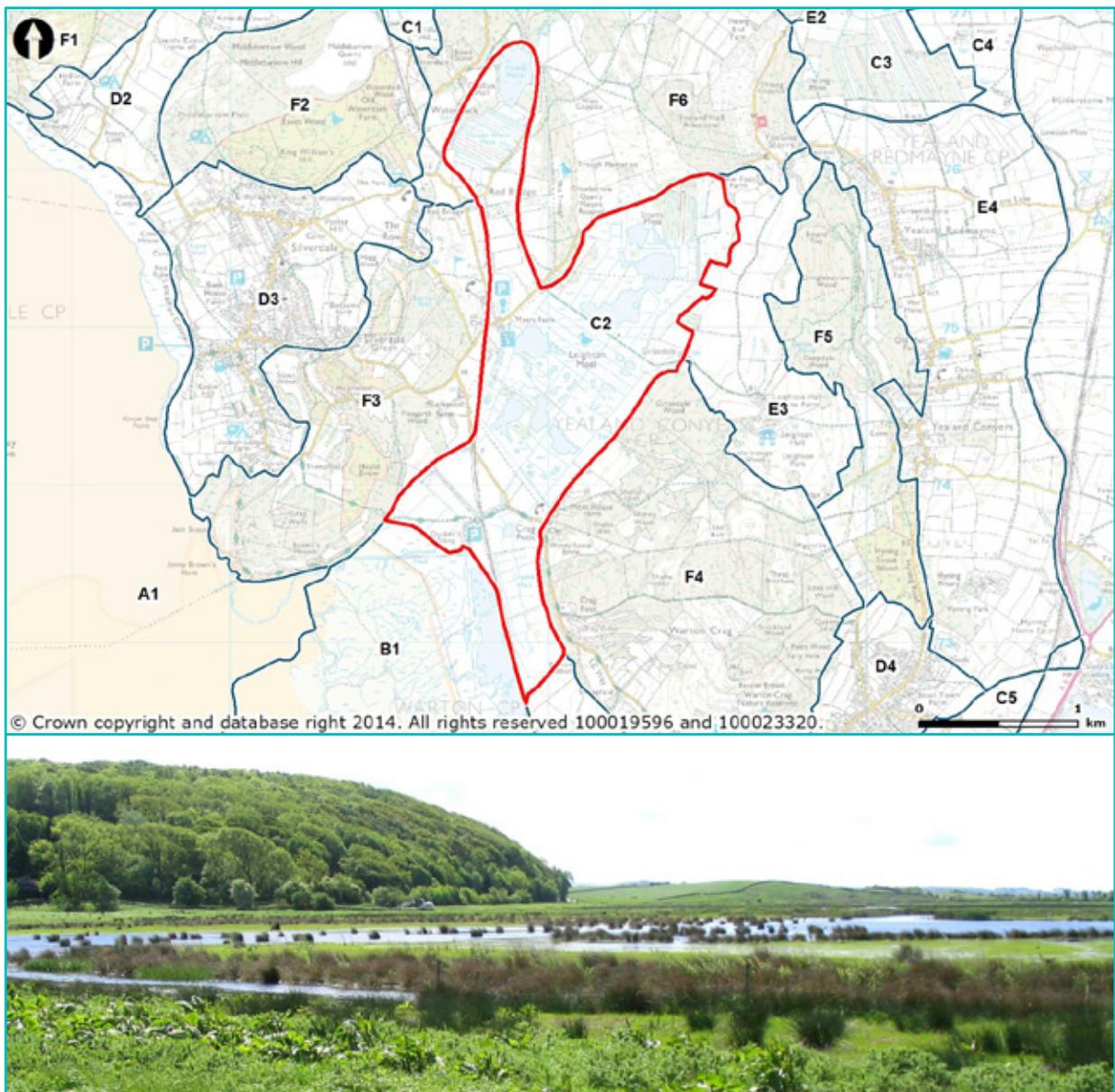


View across Silverdale Moss towards Arnside Knott

Location and Character Area Description

- 7.10 Arnside Moss largely comprises drained mosses, with linear ditches and hedgerows being orientated west to east across Arnside Moss, and north to south near Holmrook (a property), with fields being used for grazing. Some areas are reedy. There are areas of transitional fen between the mossland and the damp pasture of the drained areas. The area is crossed by the Limestone Link footpath. It is bounded to the north by the B5282 and the disused railway branch line, which separates the mosses from Hazelslack Marshes. The area provides a green lowland foil to a backdrop of wooded hills, with the linear village of Carr Bank and Arnside marking the margins.
- 7.11 Silverdale Moss was until recently drained but has been re-wetted and is currently under the management of the RSPB, with objectives including restoring wetland habitats to promote use by bitterns. It comprises a flat lowland area of moss, reedbeds and developing fringes of alder and willow, lying east of the railway. Cows are used to graze the moss as part of the management regime. West of the railway, the wetland is contiguous with flat low lying fields east of Arnside Tower and extending north beyond Black Dyke. Fields to the west are in intensive agricultural use for grazing and grass production. A spring rising in this area drains into Silverdale Moss. Lowland farmland is fringed by deciduous woodland at Middlebarrow Wood and Challan Hall Allotment. Near Black Dyke low limestone ridges with trees punctuate the otherwise flat landscape, the drier rocky ridges being associated with ash and sycamore trees.

Figure 7.2 C2 Leighton Moss and Barrow Scout



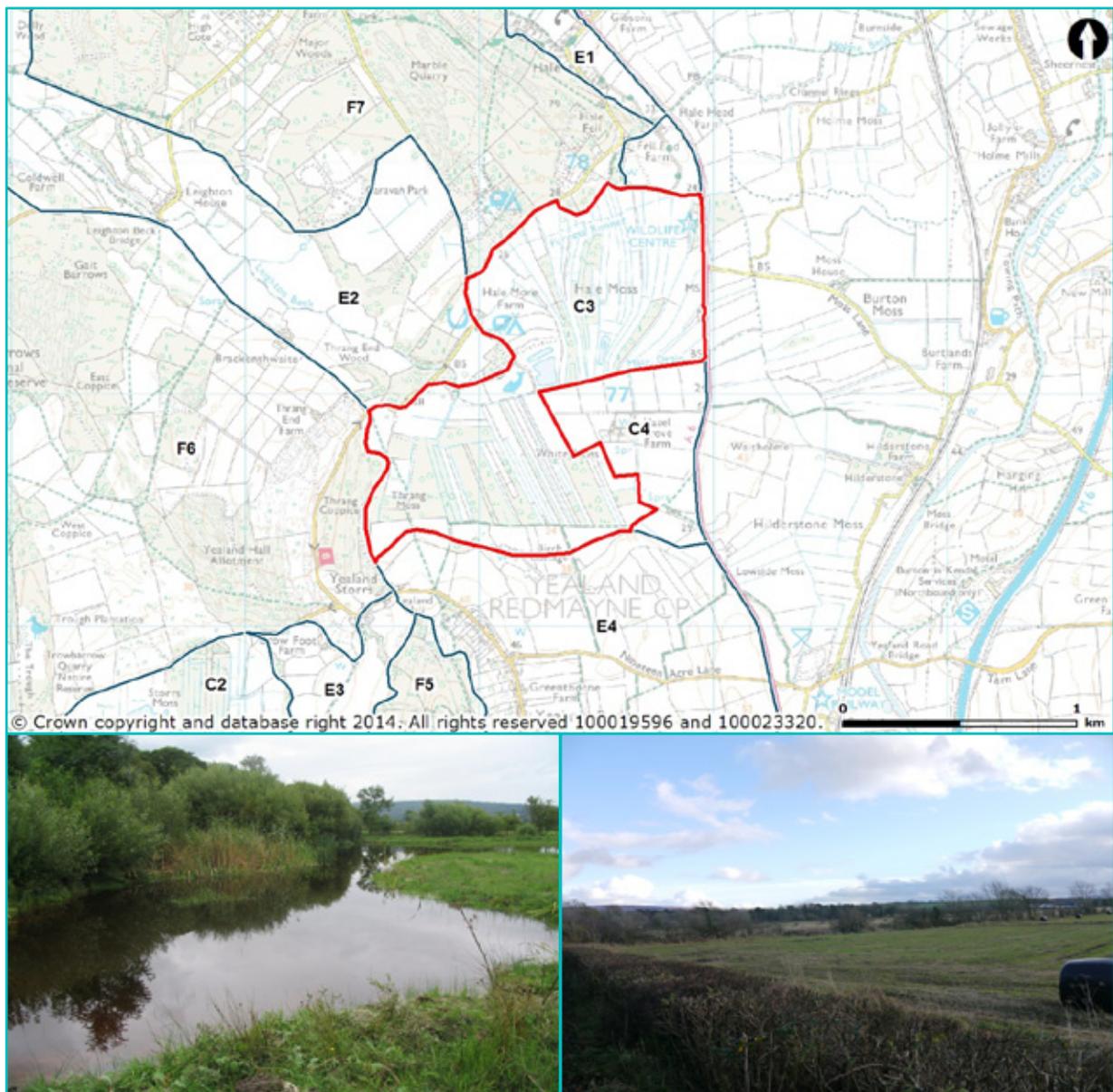
Leighton Moss

Location and Character Area Description

- 7.12 Leighton Moss is one of the most celebrated landscapes of the AONB and is an RSPB Nature Reserve. It comprises a dramatic mosaic of flat open water, reedbeds, alder and willow carr fringed by intensive agricultural use. The landscape contrasts strongly with that of the surrounding wooded hills.
- 7.13 Leighton Moss was re-flooded when pumping was stopped due to fuel rationing during World War Two. It is characterised by a subtle mixture of natural textures and muted colours, which stand out against the brighter greens of the agricultural fringes and which change with the seasons and the light. Sunsets are appreciated across this wetland mosaic. The enclosure of the moss by deciduous woodland adds to its secluded, undeveloped and tranquil character. Linear views are available across open water, along the length of Leighton Moss to woodland and fields beyond, or are short and truncated by wet woodland or reeds.

- 7.14 The area is characterised by the sight and sound of birds, such as bitterns, marsh harrier and water rail. Bird watchers frequent the paths which cross the moss, at times in large numbers, within hides and on the causeway path between the visitor centre and Grisedale. Openings are created through ongoing management, by mowing the reeds. These allow glimpsed views over open water. Traffic on surrounding roads can be apparent during busy times. Drainage ditches, such as those at Storrs Moss, are straight and extend in parallel lines. The area is managed by the RSPB in accordance with Leighton Moss Management Plan. The south west end of Leighton Moss extends to include the re-wetted Barrow Scout fields and Crystal Well to the east of the railway embankment, and west of the steep and wooded former sea cliff near Dog Holes. Wetland continues west from the railway embankment as brackish lagoons and then saltmarshes (Type B). Occasionally saline water penetrates the mosses.
- 7.15 Hawes Water and Hawes Water Moss are considered as being part of the same landscape character area as Leighton Moss, but are separated from it by farmland between Myers Farm and Red Bridge. Hawes Water comprises an open oligotrophic, calcareous marl lake. The adjacent Hawes Water Moss lies about 1km to the north of Leighton Moss. Tall reeds and fringes of alder and willow limit visibility into the area. The wetland is part of Gait Barrows National Nature Reserve and is managed by Natural England for conservation. Hawes Water is overlooked by Challan Hall, a traditional stone built farmstead, around which there are pine trees. The whole area is enclosed by woodland at Trowbarrow and Gait Barrows, lending a natural and undeveloped, hidden character to this secluded landscape.

Figure 7.3 C3 Hale and White Mosses



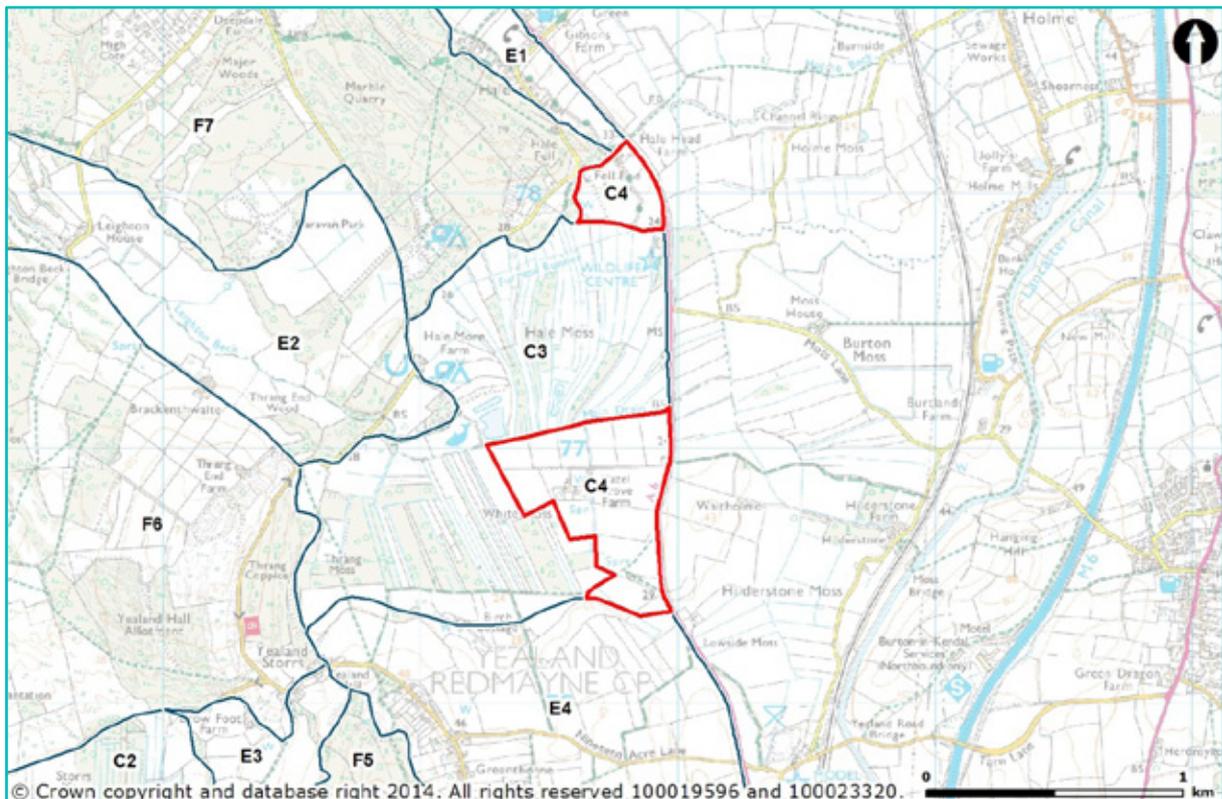
Hale Moss

View south across Hale Moss

Location and Character Area Description

- 7.16 This area comprises the mosslands of Hale Moss, Thrang Moss and White Moss which extend outside the AONB, and are divided into narrow strip fields by reed fringed ditches, fences and overgrown hedgerows or narrow belts of willow and alder. The wet woodland interspersed through the area lends a more enclosed feel than other drained mosses. There is some grazing by sheep and although farming is not intensive across this area, there is potential use of herbicides and pesticides. Hale and White Moss include remnant raised mires. The Hall More Farm camping and caravan site occupies part of this area, as do fishing lakes.
- 7.17 The sinuous field boundaries of Hale Moss illustrate their early origins, as the 'moss rooms' of the neighbouring villages, demonstrating the time-depth of this part of the landscape – in contrast with the more recent, straight land divisions on Thrang Moss.

Figure 7.4 C4 Holme/Burton and Hilderstone Mosses



View across Holme/Burton Moss from Farleton Fell



View across Hilderstone Moss from Farleton Fell

Location and Character Area Description

- 7.18 This area is contiguous with Hale and White Mosses but is more actively and intensively farmed outside the AONB and therefore of a different character, crops such as maize being grown. Fields are divided by gappy hedges and wire fences, and linear reed-lined ditches. Narrow lanes cross the mosses. Fields are used for pasture and for arable crops. The mosses are bounded to the east by drumlin farmland (LCT G Drumlin Farmland), which starts to rise near the railway embankment and Lancaster Canal, and becomes more continuous to the east of the M6. Farmsteads often have large scale modern barns and some of the traditional buildings are in a state of disrepair.

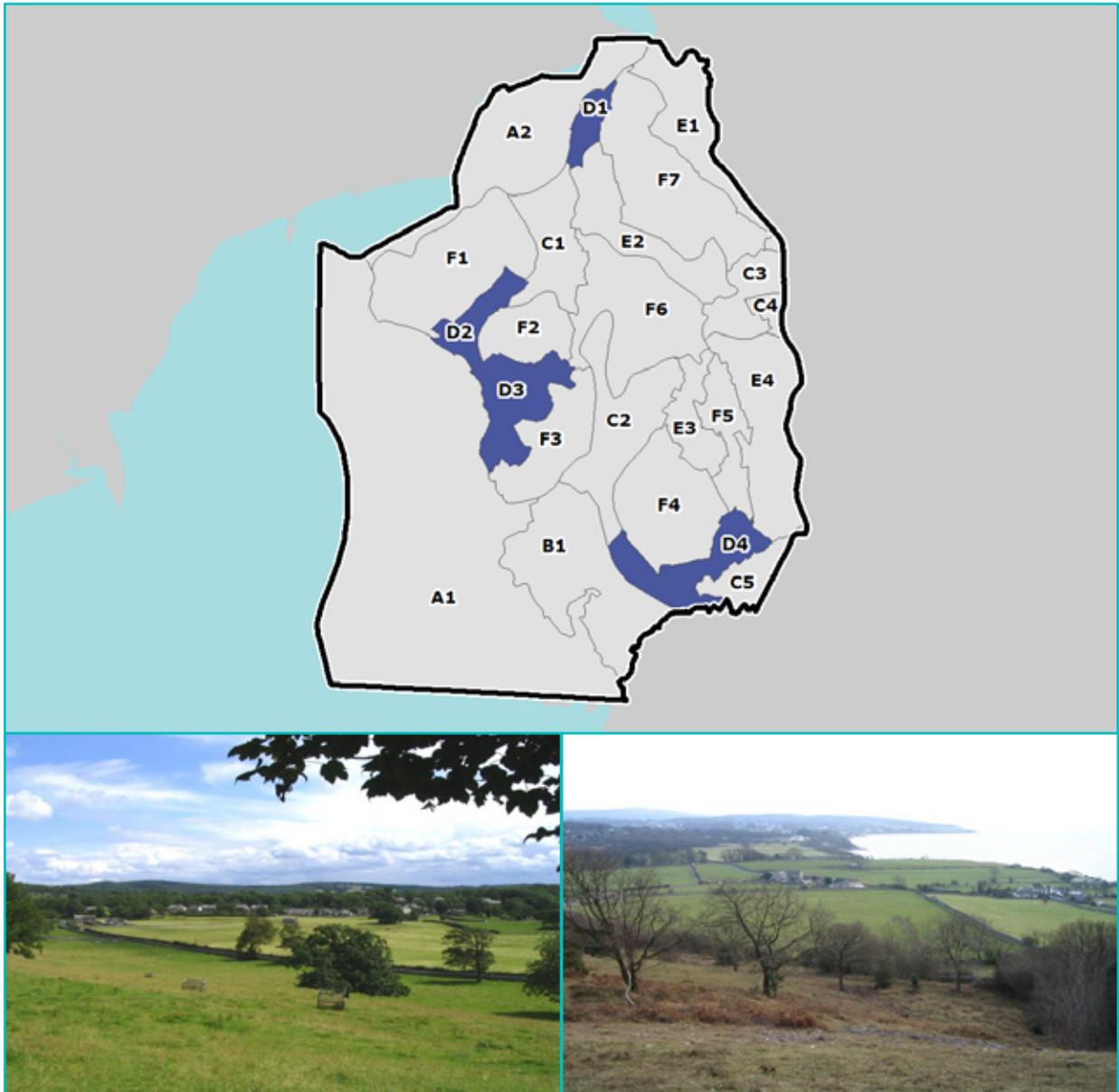
Figure 7.5 C5 River Keer/Warton Floodplain (area within the AONB)



Location and Character Area Description

- 7.19 The Warton Floodplain lies on the southern edge of the AONB and comprises frequently flooded damp dairy pasture below the village of Warton. It is divided by post-and-wire fences, and ditches, without reeds. Road signage, traffic and urban edge development is apparent on the margins of the floodplain. Warton Floodplain is contained by the village of Warton to the north (LCA D4 Warton Coastal Pasture) and Carnforth and coastal drumlins to the south (LCA H1 Carnforth Coastal Drumlins), some of which are occupied by housing. It extends eastwards out of the AONB to areas where sand and gravel has been extracted which has left open water, including Pine Lake. The floodplain is overlooked by Warton Crag and forms part of the setting to this adjacent hill area, as well as being apparent in views from Beacon Breast. A flood alleviation scheme has been implemented along the River Keer. This is a larger scale more open landscape than other character areas of the same type, and it is surrounded by more developed landscapes.

Landscape Character Type D: Coastal Limestone Pasture



View across the Park towards the Row, Silverdale

Far Arnside from Arnside Knott

Location and Character Type Description

- 7.20 There are four examples of this lowland landscape character type in the AONB at Storth, Far Arnside, Silverdale and Warton. These are: LCA D1 Storth Pasture; LCA D2 Far Arnside Coastal Pasture; LCA D3 Silverdale Coastal Pasture; and LCA D4 Warton Coastal Pasture.
- 7.21 The coastal pasture is divided by neat limestone drystone walls and some hedgerows occur along the west coast. Much of the land between the fields is occupied by low density housing areas of settlements. Relict parkland is characteristic of some areas. Examples of coastal limestone pasture are found in association with the villages of Silverdale, Storth and Warton.
- 7.22 Gently rolling traditional limestone pasture is present along the coastal margins of Morecambe Bay and the Kent Estuary. Characteristic well maintained limestone walls divide small fields, with some hedgerows and parkland railings also being found. Low limestone cliffs occur at the coastal edge, notably at Know End Point to the southwest of Silverdale. There is a coastal outlook, from the tree topped low limestone cliffs. The woodland that extends across the cliffs is notable for the trees contorted by the wind and it forms a distinctive feature in views along the coast.
- 7.23 Further inland the pasture is more sheltered, often enclosed by areas of both traditional historic villages and more recent housing. Lanes wind through the farmland and can be busy with traffic at peak times, these areas being popular residential and holiday destinations.

- 7.24 Relict parkland is apparent, with individual trees being a feature in fields. These landscapes have a well settled and historic character, with features such as Arnside Tower being widely recognised. The soft green backdrop of the wooded limestone hills and pavements forms the setting.
- 7.25 The areas are part of the Morecambe Bay Limestones National Character Area and are classified as Wooded Limestone Hills and Pavements (LCA 20a Arnside and Silverdale) in the Lancashire Landscape Character Assessment. The farmland around Storth is included in the Coastal Limestone Type (Sub-Type 3b Wooded Hills and Pavements) of the Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance and Toolkit. In addition, Far Arnside coastal pasture is included within the Coastal Limestone Type.

Key characteristics

The key characteristics of the Coastal Limestone Pasture type within Arnside & Silverdale AONB are:

- 'Improved' limestone pasture enclosed by limestone walls, and sometimes hedgerows, provides a distinctive pattern of small fields, with an intimate character.
- Gently rolling green landscapes are enclosed by woodlands of the limestone hills, the interplay between open areas and woodland, and wind-sculpted trees along the coastal fringe being characteristic.
- Historic villages based around wells are clustered within coastal pasture, with fields separating areas of housing, the more recent development being of a loose and open nature.
- In places, such as The Park near Silverdale, the pasture comprises relict parkland, including field trees and iron railings.
- Glimpses and open views are seen across the bays, intertidal flats and estuary to the west, including from the tops of low limestone cliffs west of Silverdale.
- Development in some areas includes the traditional historic buildings of limestone villages and more recent chalet style bungalows; development associated with holiday centres and caravan parks is evident within this type.
- Winding narrow lanes enclosed by limestone walls form the focus of outlying hamlets (e.g. The Row), with views out over surrounding undulating limestone pasture.

Evaluation

Valued attributes

- 7.26 Key values of the Coastal Limestone Pasture Type:
- Intimate, small scale character of landscape and settlements;
 - Historic villages, buildings and limestone walls;
 - Coastal access and recreation opportunities in surrounding landscape;
 - Close-knit communities; and
 - Localised areas of coastal limestone, cliffs and fossils.

Sensitive Features or Characteristics

- An intimate and domestic character, well cared for and maintained.
- Contrast between the exposed coastal margins and the sheltered fields further inland.
- 'Gardenesque' character in association with villages.
- Views from the tops of low limestone cliffs over the bay, and undeveloped horizons.
- Coastal wind-sculpted woodland.
- Rich historical interest, including traditional village cores.
- Traditional pasture and characteristic drystone walls.
- The soft green backdrop of the wooded limestone hills and pavements.

Forces for Change Affecting Landscape Character

- Climate change, sea level rise, increased storms and coastal erosion and the managed realignment recommendations of the Shoreline Management Plan⁴³.
- The direct and indirect effects of climate change, such as storm damage to trees, changing vegetation/land uses and renewable energy development affecting the landscape character of the AONB, or its setting and outlook.
- Pressures for renewable energy development including onshore and offshore wind farms, tidal energy schemes, electricity grid infrastructure and other large scale development which may change the views from the coastal farmland, particularly extension of developed skylines along open and undeveloped land or sea horizons.
- Pressure for other types of development including that associated with industry, tourism and leisure, and new housing.
- Changes in field boundary and hedgerow management, such as neglect of walls, strimming versus traditional laying; or replacement with fencing.
- Changes in farming practices and land use, with a reduction in the extent of traditional farming, such as expansion of the number of areas of horse paddocks, demand for alternative land uses, alteration to grazing regimes and changing demand for food or energy crops which may influence existing management agreements.
- Pressure to meet local housing and employment development needs through the extension and infill of existing settlements.
- Increased demand for holiday lets and second homes leading to further conversion and domestication of rural buildings.
- Expansion of commercial development across the areas outside the AONB, including industrial estates and retail outlets.
- The effects of development on the character of the setting of the AONB, the views into the AONB from outside and those looking out of the AONB.
- Small scale yet incremental changes resulting from home 'improvements' and extensions, suburbanisation, road upgrading or alterations and new signage, etc.
- Influences such as the Marine and Coastal Access Act⁴⁴ which may require alterations along the coast through the requirement for a long distance coastal access route.
- Pressure for the development and expansion of campsites and caravan parks.
- Pressure on the existing road network from increased traffic and parking needs.

Current Landscape Condition

The overall condition of the Coastal Limestone Pasture Landscape Character Type is considered to be **moderate to good** resulting from the survival of the historic building vernacular, drystone limestone field boundary walls and hedgerows. However there is some evidence of disrepair in the field boundary walls and there are some gappy, overgrown and neglected hedges. There is also evidence of loss or disrepair of parkland features. Some loss of species rich limestone pasture has resulted from the expansion of Warton Village. The brownfield site at Storth has resulted in the loss of some landscape features.

Sensitivity and Capacity for Change

The Coastal Limestone Pasture Landscape Character Type is considered to have high visual sensitivity overall, as a result of the strong intervisibility with Morecambe Bay and higher wooded hills of the AONB, long views across areas of pasture and to distinctive limestone cliffs and pebble beaches. Overall sensitivity of the intimate rolling and enclosed pastoral landscape features is considered to be high. The high ecological sensitivity of this Landscape Character Type is a result of the combinations of hedges, hedgerow and parkland trees, and small areas of woodland and limestone pasture. There is a strong cultural sensitivity resulting from the remnant parkland features, distinctive patterns formed by drystone limestone walls (often demarking medieval land divisions), Arnside Tower, historic villages and pieces of limestone pavement used to form distinctive rockeries, walls, gateposts or features of residential properties.

For all these reasons, the Coastal Limestone Pasture Landscape Character Type is considered to have a high level of inherent sensitivity. As a result, overall capacity to accommodate change without compromising the key characteristics of the Coastal Limestone Pasture Landscape Character Type is considered to be very limited, apart from change which reinforces positive attributes such as habitat enhancements.

⁴³ Halcrow, 2010. *North West England and North Wales Shoreline Management Plan SMP2*. Report prepared by Halcrow Group Ltd for the North West and North Wales Coastal Group [pdf]. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/shoreline-management-plans-smps/shoreline-management-plans-smps> [Accessed 09 July 2014].

⁴⁴ Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.

Guidelines

Table 7.2 Guidelines – Landscape Character Type D: Coastal Limestone Pasture

Guidelines	
Climate Change	
D1	Monitor changes along the coastal pasture to determine any trends or patterns in coastal erosion enabling the development of an appropriate and considered response to the consequences of climate change. Manage the process of realignment and allow natural processes to act as advocated in the Shoreline Management Plan ⁴⁵ where appropriate.
D2	Monitor and provide a positive approach to adaptation to any changes in species or the balance of species which arise as a consequence of climate change. Continue to advise on suitable species for tree planting, ensuring that these reflect the traditional character of the AONB landscape, and that they are suitable given current trends in changing climates.
D3	Manage and influence the response to possible future demands for increased food and energy crops, and other associated effects of climate change, such that the character of the coastal pasture landscape is not substantially altered.
Natural Features	
D4	Ensure the retention of wind sculpted trees along the coastal edge. Plant individual specimen trees within parklands, relict parkland, along avenues, in hedgerows and within tree clumps, copses and woodlands to maintain these features of the landscape.
D5	Promote appropriate garden and native species planting and use of traditional materials for boundary treatments, such that housing and other developed areas blend sympathetically with the AONB coastal limestone pasture landscape.
Development	
D6	Maintain the high proportion of undeveloped views and skylines which form the setting to the coastal pasture. These include the horizons to views over open sea, bay or estuary as seen from the tops of low limestone cliffs, the wooded limestone hills and pavements, and farmland within the AONB, but also the southern fells of the Lake District and the limestone escarpments to the north and the Furness Peninsula outside the AONB. Ensure that the extent of influence of development on skylines affects localised sections rather than large proportions. Overall development should not become a key element in views from the AONB or have a defining influence on the overall experience of the landscape (i.e. developments should remain occasional features within the views and not result in a significant cumulative impact).
D7	Ensure future development within landscapes forming the setting to the coastal pasture do not significantly affect the overall character and integrity of these landscapes, their key characteristics, cherished views, defining features, and the reasons for designation. Ensure that consideration is given to siting, design and the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures to avoid or reduce adverse effects.
D8	Support measures which reduce landscape and visual impacts upon the AONB coastal pasture, such as routing power lines underground, sensitive siting of any communication masts, and appropriate siting, design and implementation of domestic scale renewable energy/ carbon-neutral projects where they do not detract from the character of the area.
D9	Ensure that proposed transport/utilities related work in the coastal limestone pasture of the AONB and changes to roads including road lines, signage, barriers, lighting or car parks are appropriate for the landscape character. Avoid the use of hard engineered details and suburbanisation of the countryside.
D10	Maintain an undeveloped strip between the farmland and the cliff top in order to keep the tree line intact, and to conserve the sense of the undeveloped coast when experienced from the bay or shore.
D11	Ensure all development is in accordance with the landscape objectives of the area. Resist infill development of important open or historic spaces within settlements and green spaces between buildings and hamlets, such as orchards and gardens, which contribute to the character of the area. Ensure new development is appropriate to the landscape character: promote the traditional vernacular, retain a rural character, and enclose with rural native hedgerow or dry limestone wall boundaries (as appropriate to particular areas). Encourage new uses for old or redundant farm buildings.

⁴⁵ Halcrow, 2010. *North West England and North Wales Shoreline Management Plan SMP2*. Report prepared by Halcrow Group Ltd for the North West and North Wales Coastal Group [pdf]. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/shoreline-management-plans-smpps/shoreline-management-plans-smpps> [Accessed 09 July 2014].

Guidelines	
D12	Ensure all development is visually contained and of an appropriate scale and design. Prevent major or unsympathetic development and introduction of suburban characteristics into the rural landscape.
D13	Support carbon-neutral and domestic scale renewable projects in association with existing development within the coastal pasture and where they do not detract from the character of the area.
D14	Take up and encourage any opportunities for demolition and redevelopment of less sympathetic buildings, promoting the use of more appropriate or discrete styles and materials which would be beneficial to the wider character of the area.
D15	Ensure that development does not result in a net loss of key features and characteristics.
Management Practices	
D16	Work with land owners/land managers/farmers/tenants to promote nature conservation and management which is appropriate to the wider area, and which benefits landscapes, habitats and species. Encourage de-intensification, a reduction in the use of agricultural chemicals and the production of hay instead of silage to increase the presence of wild flowers which at certain times of year are a valued feature of the landscape. Take opportunities for positive habitat creation arising from any reduction in intensity of agriculture, including encouraging the use of small herds for conservation grazing of small sites or those which are hard to manage.
D17	Produce integrated management plans, helping, for example to ensure that objectives associated with management of National Trust land are synchronised and consistent with the overall vision and objectives for AONB coastal limestone pasture landscapes.
D18	Explore measures for visitor management, including traffic and parking, to help resolve any issues which may be at odds with the character of the coastal limestone pasture (i.e. tranquillity and naturalness).
D19	Produce appropriate design guidance for housing and settlement within the AONB coastal limestone pasture including promoting the use of styles and materials to match or complement the local vernacular (e.g. two storey dwellings with limestone walls and slate roofs, with boundaries being native hedges or drystone walls).
Access and Recreation	
D20	Where coastal pasture lies adjacent to the coast, respond to the requirements of acts such as the Countryside and Rights of Way Act ⁴⁶ and the Marine and Coastal Access Act ⁴⁷ by promoting the positive development of a long distance coastal access route whilst ensuring any changes or development is in line with the landscape management objectives of the AONB.
Cultural Features	
D21	Protect and conserve the settings of historic features, buildings and monuments and historic designed landscapes through development management.
D22	Sympathetically restore derelict historic buildings if opportunities arise for funding or new uses of these buildings, for example stone buildings near Hollins Well, Storth.
D23	Promote the agreement of appropriate access to and interpretation of historic sites such that they are better understood as features in the landscape. Ensure any development associated with visitor access (such as car parks) is sympathetic to the character of the AONB.
Guidelines	
D24	Continue to repair and restore limestone walls throughout the area, such as through projects, competitions and suitable grant or stewardship schemes. Promote hedge laying and gap filling of hedgerows on a 5-10 year rotation, making the most of opportunities such as hedge laying competitions to promote awareness and skills, and grants or stewardship schemes to help with funding.
D25	Ensure the restoration and maintenance of historic and traditional features such as walls, hedgerows, historic buildings, limekilns, woodlands, ponds and wells through land management schemes or grant schemes. Encourage the maintenance or creation of intact boundaries of laid hedges or stone walls around development to help integrate development visually in the rural landscape, and to use woodland to help screen buildings or structures.

⁴⁶ Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

⁴⁷ Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009

Landscape Character Areas

Landscape Character Area: D1 Storth Pasture

Figure 7.6 D1 Storth Pasture



Guard Hill, Storth

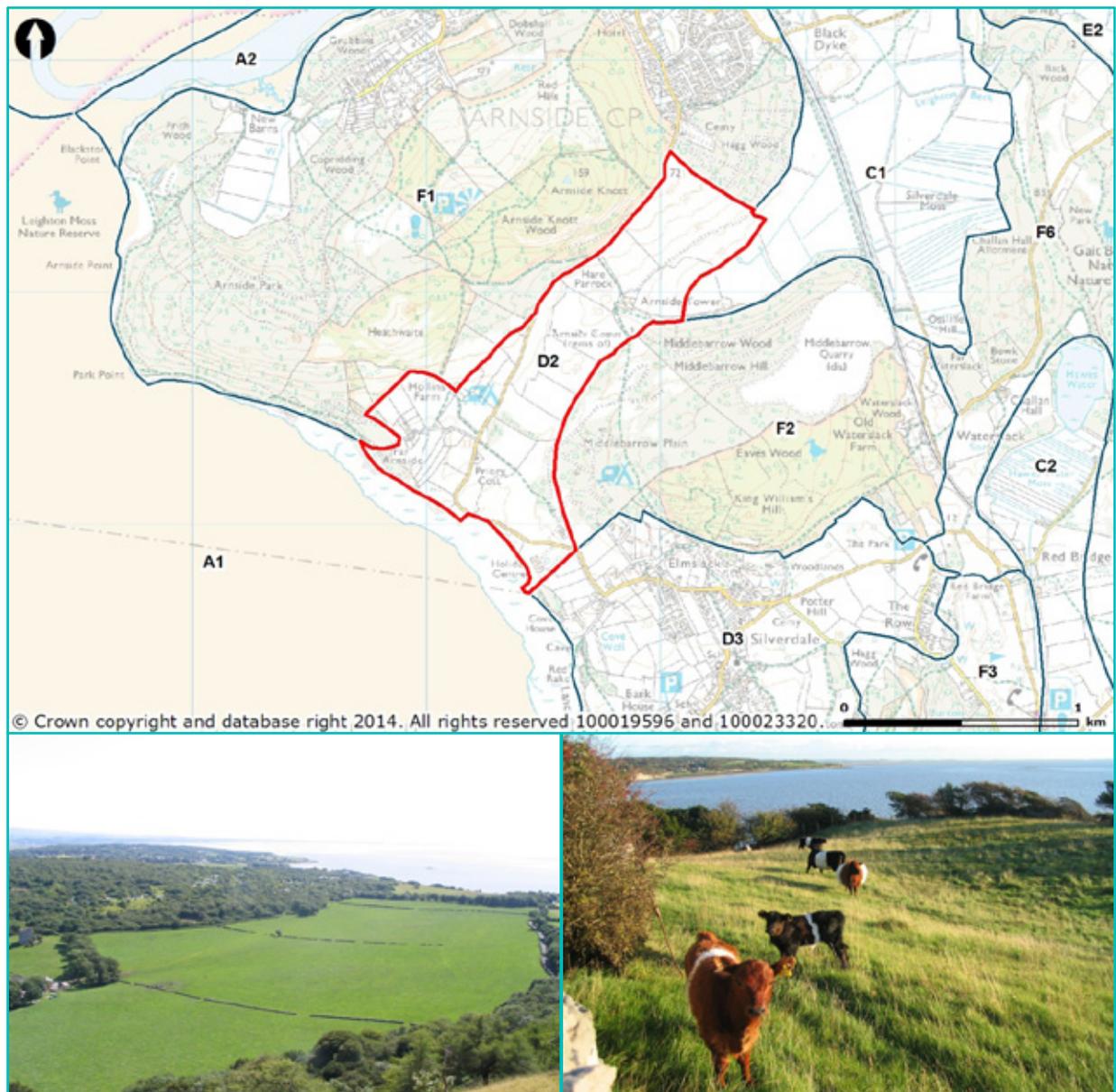


Orchid verge at Sandside

Location and Character Area Description

- 7.27 This is a small character area which is predominantly occupied by the villages of Storth and Sandside, which merge together and include areas associated with the Sandside Quarry. Small areas of farmland, characterised by small-scale fields edged by deciduous woodland, lie between the village and the estuary, and to the east of Sandside. The villages face out across the estuary, following the busy and in places industrialised B5282 road and include more recent as well as historic development. Other areas of housing are tucked away, located along narrow tree-lined lanes, these tunnels of green giving the area a sense of enclosure, enabling glimpsed views.

Figure 7.7 D2 Far Arnside Coastal Pasture



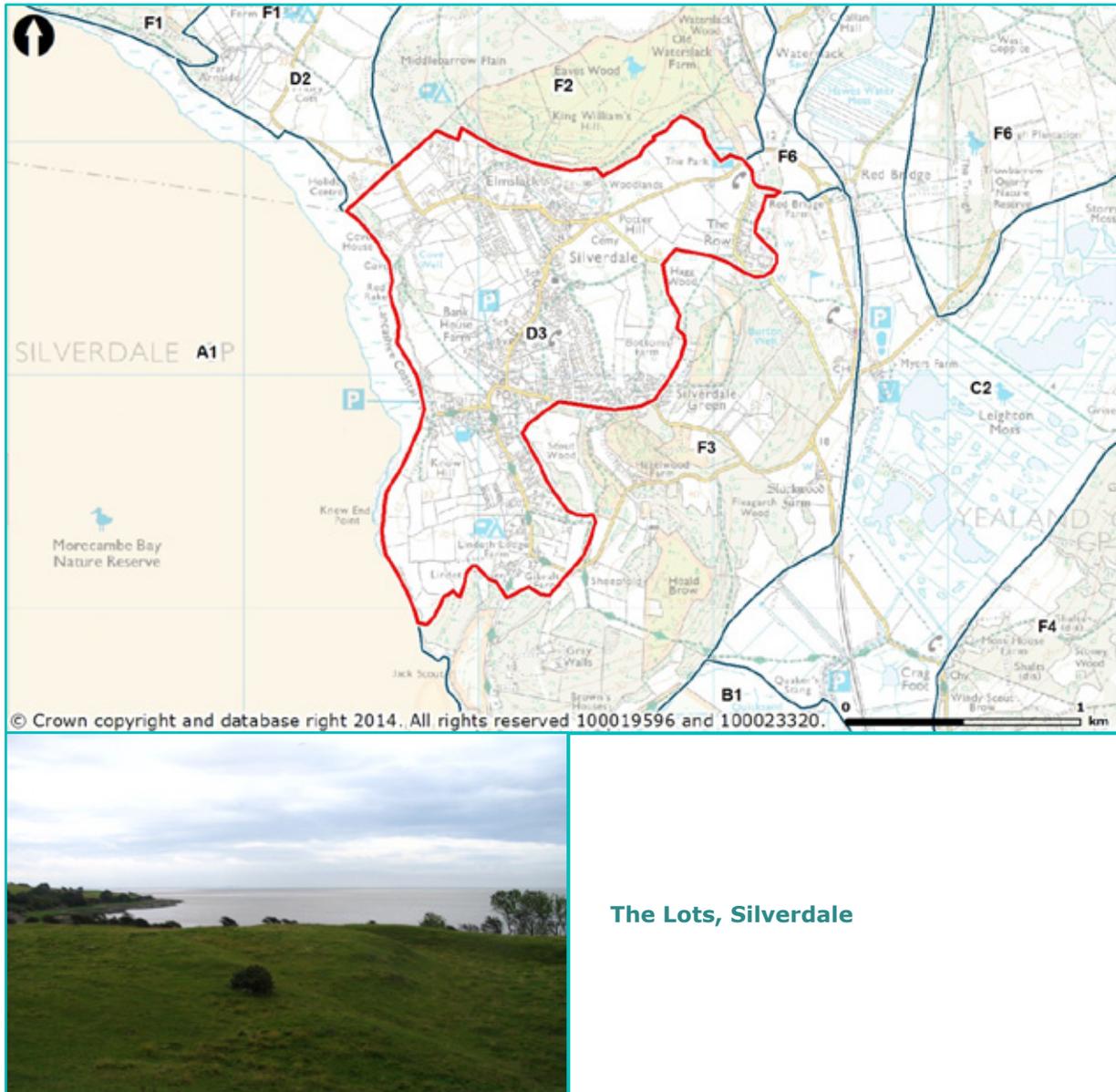
View to the south from Arncliffe Knott

Far Arnside

Location and Character Area Description

7.28 This is a valley of coastal pasture and 'improved' farmland extending from Arncliffe Tower southwest to the coast and enclosed by Middlebarrow Wood to the south and Arncliffe Knott to the north, upon which there is a distinctive scree slope. The area is sparsely settled. The Leeds Children's Charity Holiday Centre and Holgates Silverdale Holiday Park reception are located to the south east of the area, however, the main caravan site is situated within the adjacent LCA F2. The farmland comprises small and medium scale fields divided by drystone limestone walls, some restored during the AONB walling competitions, and hedgerows. The fields slope downwards to Morecambe Bay, enabling long views across it, as well as across areas of pasture around Silverdale. Arncliffe Tower is a key land mark at the inland edge of the area. At the eastern extent, the land slopes from Arncliffe Knott to the flat and open expanse of Silverdale Moss (LCA C1 Arncliffe and Silverdale Mosses). Individual trees and lines of trees along field boundaries west of Arncliffe Tower give an estate character. Caravan parks at Hollins Farm and Holgates (Middlebarrow Plain), located each side of the valley are visible in winter.

Figure 7.8 D3 Silverdale Coastal Pasture

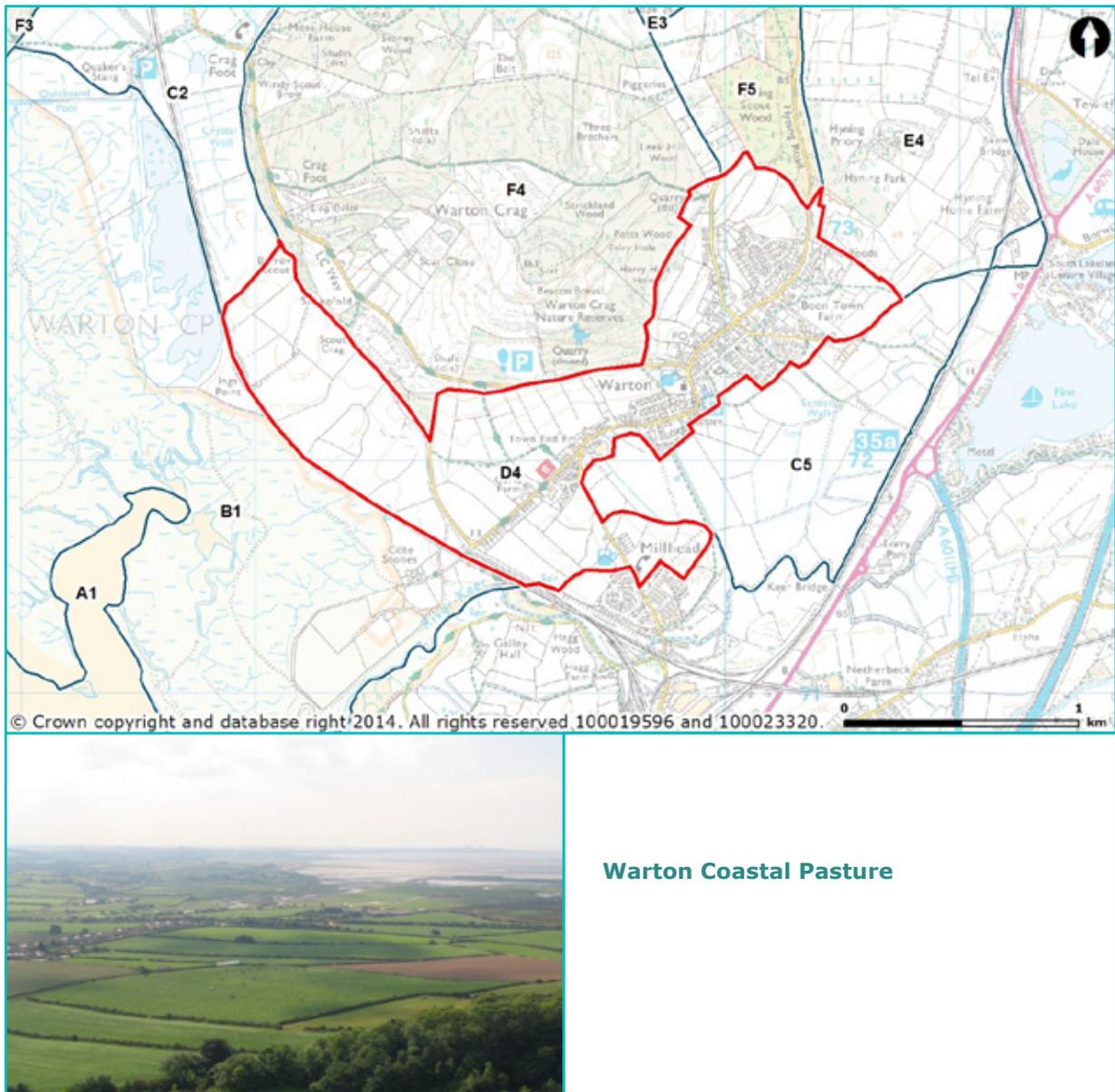


The Lots, Silverdale

Location and Character Area Description

- 7.29 An area of fields and some relict parkland surround and form a setting to the communities of Silverdale and nearby hamlets like The Row. Fields to the east have a sheltered character. The western edges of the coastal pasture enable panoramic views from the tops of the low limestone cliffs over pebble beaches out across Warton Sands and Morecambe Bay. Traditional limestone pasture north east of Silverdale lies at the heart of the AONB. Relict parkland to the north east of Silverdale is bounded by railings and characterised by field trees.
- 7.30 Settlement is separated by open farmland with field trees with small scale drystone walled fields, and holly hedges. In places horse paddocks have been created. The area includes clusters of historic stone and slate buildings, housing of varying age and dispersed clusters and rows of buildings in nearby historic hamlets, such as those in The Row. 'Spite Walls', built along boundaries between houses to prevent views from adjacent properties, are found in several locations in Silverdale, the most spectacular being that between 21 and 23 Stankelt Road in Silverdale. Housing includes commuter housing, holiday, retirement and sheltered homes. Many of the houses date from the 1950s -1980s and comprise white rendered chalet style bungalows which contrast strongly with the two storey traditional and historic limestone houses with slate roofs. Ornamental garden planting, driveways and boundary treatments contrast with the native vegetation and rural character of the farmland. The use of pieces of limestone pavement as rockeries, walls, gateposts or features is typical. Damson and other fruit trees are often seen in association with the older houses and farmsteads.
- 7.31 The Lancashire Coastal Way passes along the coast and in places the former route over the saltmarshes has been eroded away. Lindeth Tower is located to the south, near Gibraltar Farm campsite.

Figure 7.9 D4 Warton Coastal Pasture

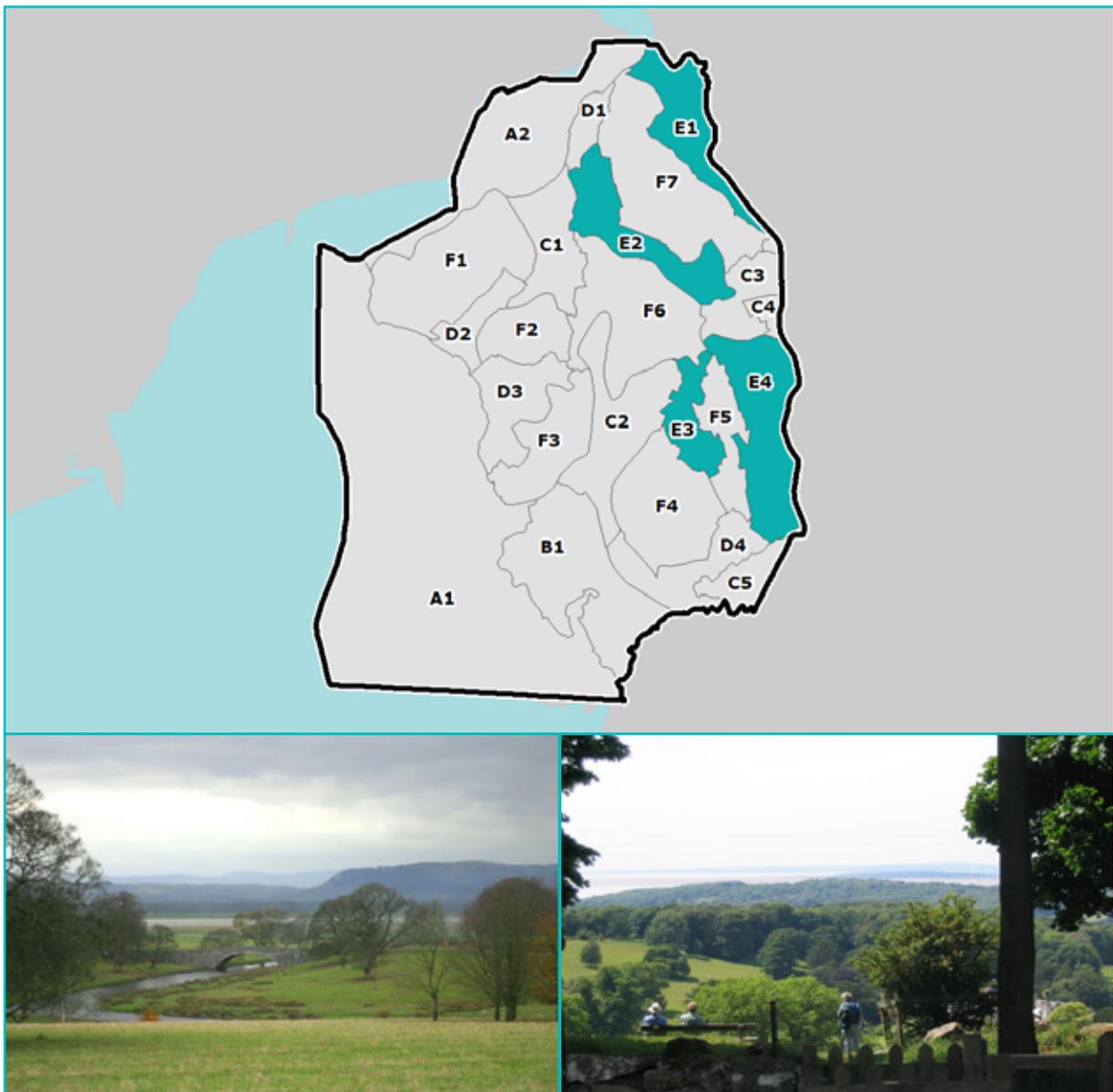


Location and Character Area Description

- 7.32 Warton coastal pasture extends west and north to include rolling pasture above Warton Marshes, which is separated by limestone walls into a medium scale field pattern, and used for grazing. The backdrop of wind-sculpted woodland rising above Scout Crag is a distinctive feature of the area. The fields are bounded by the railway and the road to Silverdale.
- 7.33 The settlement of Warton is a typical limestone village nestled on the foot of the hills below Warton Crag, and overlooking Warton Floodplain below. It has a southerly aspect and is one of the oldest settlements in the AONB. The Warton Conservation Area at the centre of the village comprises rows of 17th and 19th century terraces, farmhouses and barns based on medieval land divisions⁴⁸. Beyond the historic core, modern development and housing has extended the village onto the floodplain and to the north east, occupying former limestone pasture. Warton Crag forms a prominent wooded hill to the northwest of the village and is important to the setting. The village also has historical associations with quarrying.

⁴⁸ Lancaster City Council, 2009. *Warton Conservation Area Appraisal* [pdf]. Available at: <http://www.lancaster.gov.uk/GetAsset.aspx?id=fAA2ADUAMwAxAHwAfABUAHIAdQBIAHwAfAAwAHwA0> [Accessed 08 July 2014].

Landscape Character Type E: Inland Pasture and Parkland



Dallam Park



**View from Summerhouse Hill,
Yealand Conyers**

Location and Character Type Description

- 7.34 There are four examples of this lowland landscape character type in the AONB. Farmed pastoral landscapes are present across limestone areas, with the lower fringes of the AONB being characterised by the parklands of Dallam and Hynning (LCA E1 Dallam Park and Beetham). The type includes Leighton Park in the centre of the AONB (LCA E3 Leighton Park), and the medieval villages and strip field around the Yealands and Hale (LCA E4 Yealand Hill Fringe). Further inland pasture is present along Leighton Beck (LCA E2 Leighton Beck Valley).
- 7.35 The landscape character type is characterised by the gently rolling traditional pasture that extends across the limestone pavement and boulder clay further inland. Characteristic well maintained limestone walls and neat hedges divide small often low lying and damp fields, which are used for grazing. Both large and smaller parklands are present, often with visible underlying medieval and post-medieval ridge-and-furrow field systems. Parkland avenues and trees, and railings are features, as are grand 18-19th century houses. The inland farmland is well enclosed with a secluded character and limited views outwards, although from the eastern edge of the AONB views are afforded out across drumlin farmland to limestone scars. The soft green backdrop of the wooded limestone hills and pavements forms the setting. Lanes wind through the farmland and are generally less busy than the roads nearer the coast. They connect scattered farmsteads and historic villages, including the distinctive linear villages of the Yealands with their characteristic medieval strip fields.

- 7.36 The areas are part of the Morecambe Bay Limestones National Character Area and are partly classified as Wooded Limestone Hills and Pavements (LCA 20a Arnside and Silverdale), and partly as Low Coastal Drumlins (LCA 12b Warton-Borwick) in the Lancashire Landscape Character Assessment. The farmland to the north of the AONB is included in the Coastal Limestone LCT (Sub-Type 3b Wooded Hills and Pavements) of the Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance and Toolkit.

Key characteristics

The key characteristics of the Inland Pasture and Parkland type within Arnside & Silverdale AONB are:

- Areas of sheltered pasture and parkland extending across boulder clay and limestone, which lie inland from the coast, each area reflecting the management regimes of the past and present owners.
- Tranquil and peaceful areas of farmland with a much lush, damp and enclosed character than the coastal farmland, and with a backdrop of wooded hills.
- Field boundaries vary between neat native hedgerows and limestone walls.
- Pasture with occasional limestone outcrops, and in places of a knobby character reflecting the shape of the underlying limestone, for example near Hazelslack.
- Historic features and farms built from limestone such as Hazelslack Tower Farm, Leighton House and Brackenthwaite rise above the fields, nucleated onto higher ground, and providing distinctive features in an otherwise undeveloped landscape.
- Parkland is characteristic within this type, especially Dallam Park, where classic 18th century open parkland with a country house and parkland trees is enclosed by a park railing, and grazed by fallow deer. The River Bela and Milnthorpe Bridge form a focus to this landscape.
- Within parkland the remains of former field patterns and of ridge and furrow are visible in low-angled sunlight.
- Strip fields, running perpendicular to medieval linear villages, and dropping down towards drumlin farmland beyond are characteristic around the eastern villages of the Yealands and Hale.

Evaluation

Valued attributes

- 7.37 Key values of the Inland Pasture and Parkland type:
- Historic settlements and land uses, with characteristic villages, estate homes, parklands and medieval field systems;
 - Pastoral atmosphere; and,
 - Well preserved historic villages, estates and towers including Dallam Park, Beetham, Leighton and the Yealands.

Sensitive Features or Characteristics

- A mosaic of farmed rural landscapes and historic settlements, with characteristic limestone villages, estate homes and parklands.
- The secluded, pastoral character, with a sense of being removed from the busier areas of the AONB.
- The historic feel of traditional villages and farmland give a sense of stepping back in time.
- The characteristic medieval strip fields extending from the villages.
- The presence of old field boundaries and ridge and furrow in the parkland demonstrating the layered and evolving history of the AONB.
- The sheltered, lush and verdant feel with an undeveloped backdrop of native woodland.
- The contrast between the farmland and the mosses, wooded hills and the more exposed coastal fringe.

Forces for Change Affecting Landscape Character

- The direct and indirect effects of climate change, such as storm damage to trees, changing vegetation/land uses and renewable energy development affecting the landscape character of the AONB, or its setting and outlook.
- Changes in field boundary and hedgerow management, such as neglect of walls, strimming versus traditional laying; or replacement with fencing.
- Changes in land use for example through increased or reduced demands for food and energy crops, and change of farmland to alternative uses in response to visitor demands.
- Pressures for renewable energy development including onshore wind farms and other large scale development which may change the views from the farmland, particularly extension of developed skylines along open and undeveloped horizons.
- Pressure for other types of development including that associated with industry, tourism and leisure, and new housing.
- The influences upon farmland to the east of Arnside and Silverdale of the north-south transport corridor - A6, railway, M6 and Lancaster Canal, and pressure for infrastructure development such as a high speed train route, or major new electricity grid connections, and all associated ancillary development.
- Expansion of residential and commercial development across the areas outside the AONB including around Milnthorpe to provide new housing, industrial estates and retail outlets, primarily affecting areas to the east and south of the AONB.
- The effects of development and changes in land use from rural to those of a more urban or suburban character, including of a piecemeal nature, on the character of the AONB, as well as the views into the AONB from outside and those looking out of the AONB.
- Pressure for the development and expansion of campsites and caravan parks, which may affect the character of the area if inappropriately designed without regard to the surrounding landscape and historical settings.
- Increased demand for holiday lets and second homes leading to further conversion and domestication of rural buildings.
- Farm diversification and development of new businesses such as letting land for wind turbines or horse paddocks leading to changes in the character of the landscape.
- Housing development and infill of open areas within intact historic villages (e.g. in Yealand), and localised barn conversions for example for residential use or holiday homes.

Current Landscape Condition

The overall condition of the Inland Pasture and Parkland Landscape Character Type is considered to be **good** resulting from the survival and intactness of the historic building vernacular, parkland, medieval strip field patterns, drystone limestone field boundary walls and hedgerows. There is some evidence of disrepair in the field boundary walls and there are some gappy, overgrown and neglected hedges. There is also limited evidence of disrepair of parkland features especially boundary railings.

Sensitivity and Capacity for Change

The Inland Pasture and Parkland Landscape Character Type is considered to have moderate to high visual sensitivity overall, as a result of the visibility of the historic features and good intervisibility with the wooded hills of the AONB and upland areas to the east of the AONB. There is a strong intimate rural character derived from the tranquil pastoral/parkland landscape set against a backdrop of wooded hills. The high ecological sensitivity of this Landscape Character Type results from the combinations of hedges, hedgerow and parkland trees, small areas of woodland and limestone pasture. In addition, the landscape displays a mature structure of hedgerows, hedgerow trees, woodland and parkland features. There is a strong cultural sensitivity resulting from the historic features, halls, villages, farms, orchards and historic designed parkland landscapes.

For all these reasons, the Inland Pasture and Parkland Landscape Character Type is considered to have a high level of inherent sensitivity. As a result, overall capacity to accommodate change without compromising the key characteristics of the Inland Pasture and Parkland Landscape Character Type is considered to be very limited, apart from change which reinforces positive attributes such as habitat enhancements. There may be limited capacity for small scale development along the A6 corridor.

Guidelines

Table 7.3 Guidelines – Landscape Character Type E: Inland Pasture and Parkland

Guidelines	
Climate Change	
E1	Monitor and provide a positive approach to adaptation to any changes in species or the balance of species which arise as a consequence of climate change. Continue to advise on suitable species for tree planting, ensuring that these reflect the traditional character of the AONB landscape, and that they are suitable given current trends in changing climates.
E2	Monitor changes in water tables and flooding, enabling the development of an appropriate and considered response to the consequences of climate change.
E3	Manage the response to possible future demands for increased food and energy crops, and other associated effects of climate change such that the character of the landscape is not substantially altered.
Natural Features	
E4	Plant individual specimen trees within parklands, relict parkland, along avenues, in hedgerows and within tree clumps, copses and woodlands.
E5	Promote appropriate garden and native species planting and use of traditional materials for boundary treatments, such that housing and other developed areas blend sympathetically with the AONB inland pasture and parkland landscape.
E6	Maximise opportunities for positive habitat creation arising from any reduction in intensity of agriculture, including encouraging the use of small herds of cattle for conservation grazing of small sites or those which are hard to manage.
Development	
E7	Maintain undeveloped views and skylines which form the setting to the pasture and parkland. These include the horizons to views of the wooded limestone hills and pavements, lowland mosses and farmland within the AONB, but also the drumlin farmland, the southern fells of the Lake District and the limestone escarpments to the north and east outside the AONB. Reduce the extent of influence of development so that it affects localised sections of the skyline rather than large proportions. Development should not become a key element in views from the AONB or have a defining influence on the overall experience of the landscape (i.e. developments should remain occasional features within the views and not result in a significant cumulative impact).
E8	Ensure that future development within and in landscapes forming the setting to the pasture and parkland does not significantly affect the overall character and integrity of these landscapes, their key characteristics, cherished views, defining features, and the reasons for designation are not significantly affected. Ensure that consideration is given to siting, design and the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures to avoid or reduce adverse effects.
E9	Support measures which reduce landscape and visual impacts upon the AONB inland pasture and parkland, such as where appropriate, routing power lines underground, sensitive siting of any communication masts, and appropriate siting, design and implementation of domestic scale renewable energy/carbon-neutral projects where they do not detract from the character of the area.
E10	Ensure that proposed transport/utilities related work in the inland pasture and parkland of the AONB and changes to roads including road lines, signage, barriers, lighting or car parks are appropriate for the landscape character. Avoid the use of hard engineered details and suburbanisation of the countryside.
E11	Ensure all development is in accordance with the landscape objectives of the area. Resist infill development of important open or historic spaces within settlements. Minimise development of greenfield sites within settlements and green spaces between buildings and hamlets, such as orchards and gardens, which contribute to the character of the area. Ensure new development is appropriate to the landscape character: promote the traditional vernacular, retain a rural character, and enclose with rural native hedgerow or dry limestone wall boundaries (as appropriate to particular areas). Encourage new uses for old or redundant farm buildings.
E12	Ensure all development is visually contained and of an appropriate scale and design. Prevent major or unsympathetic development and introduction of suburban characteristics into the rural landscape.

Guidelines	
E13	Support carbon-neutral and domestic scale renewable projects in association with existing development within the inland pasture and parkland and where they do not detract from the character of the area.
E14	Take up and encourage any opportunities for demolition and redevelopment of less sympathetic buildings within the AONB pasture and parkland, promoting the use of more appropriate or discrete styles and materials which would be beneficial to the wider character of the area.
E15	Ensure that development does not result in a net loss of key features and characteristics.
Management Practices	
E16	Work with land owners/land managers/farmers/tenants to promote nature conservation and management which is appropriate to the wider area, and which benefits landscapes, habitats and species. Encourage de-intensification, a reduction in the use of agricultural chemicals and the production of hay instead of silage to increase the presence of wild flowers which at certain times of year are a valued feature of the landscape.
E17	Produce integrated management plans, helping, for example to ensure that objectives associated with management of areas which are wildlife sites are synchronised and consistent with the vision and objectives for AONB pasture and parkland landscapes.
E18	Explore measures for visitor management, including traffic and parking, to help resolve any issues which may be at odds with the character of the pasture and parkland (i.e. tranquillity and naturalness).
E19	Produce appropriate design guidance for housing and settlement within the AONB pasture and parkland including promoting the use of styles and materials to match or complement the local vernacular (e.g. two storey dwellings with limestone walls and slate roofs, with boundaries being native hedges or drystone walls).
E20	Encourage land owners not to plough so as to retain former ridge and furrow where this feature exists (such as Dallam Park).
Cultural Features	
E21	Protect and conserve the settings of historic features, buildings and monuments and historic designed landscapes through development management.
E22	Sympathetically restore derelict historic buildings if opportunities arise for funding or new uses for these buildings.
E23	Promote the agreement of appropriate access to and interpretation of historic sites such that they are better understood as features in the landscape. Ensure any development associated with visitor access (such as car parks) is sympathetic to the character of the AONB.
E24	Repair and restore limestone walls throughout the area, such as through projects, competitions and suitable grant or stewardship schemes. Promote hedge laying and gap filling of hedgerows on a 5-10 year rotation, making the most of opportunities such as hedge laying competitions to promote awareness and skills, and grants or stewardship schemes to help with funding.
E25	Encourage land owners to restore or maintain historic and traditional features such as walls, hedgerows, historic buildings, limekilns, woodlands, ponds and wells through land management schemes or grant schemes. Encourage the maintenance or creation of intact boundaries of laid hedges or stone walls around development to help integrate development visually in the rural landscape, and to use woodland to help screen buildings or structures.

Landscape Character Areas

Landscape Character Area: E1 Dallam Park and Beetham

Figure 7.10 E1 Dallam Park and Beetham



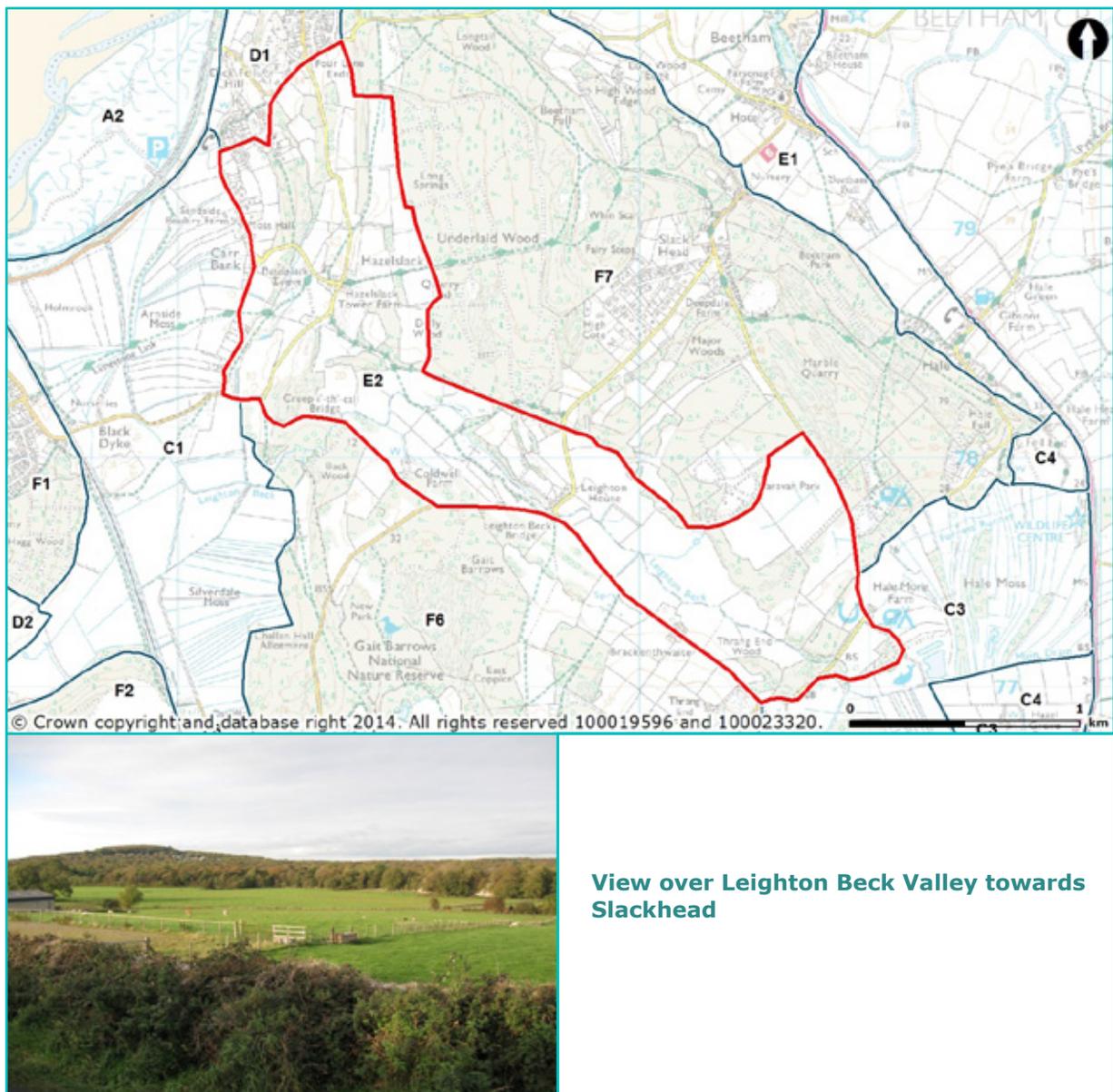
Dallam Park

Beetham Hall

Location and Character Area Description

- 7.38 Dallam Park comprises classic 18th century open parkland, with parkland trees and clumps set within rolling pasture, within which the former field boundaries and patterns such as ridge and furrow can be seen when the light is low. The area is enclosed with a park railing, and is centred upon the hall at Dallam Tower, the wide and meandering River Bela, and the stone arches of Milnthorpe Bridge being focal features. Fallow deer graze the park. Parkland trees and avenues of beech are characteristic features. The area extends to include pasture divided by trimmed hedges and a distinctive hollow containing a pond and wet woodland south of Haverbrack.
- 7.39 The area includes the small limestone village of Beetham (a Conservation Area), located near the River Bela, and the more modern village of Hale, which is located at the foot of Hale Fell.

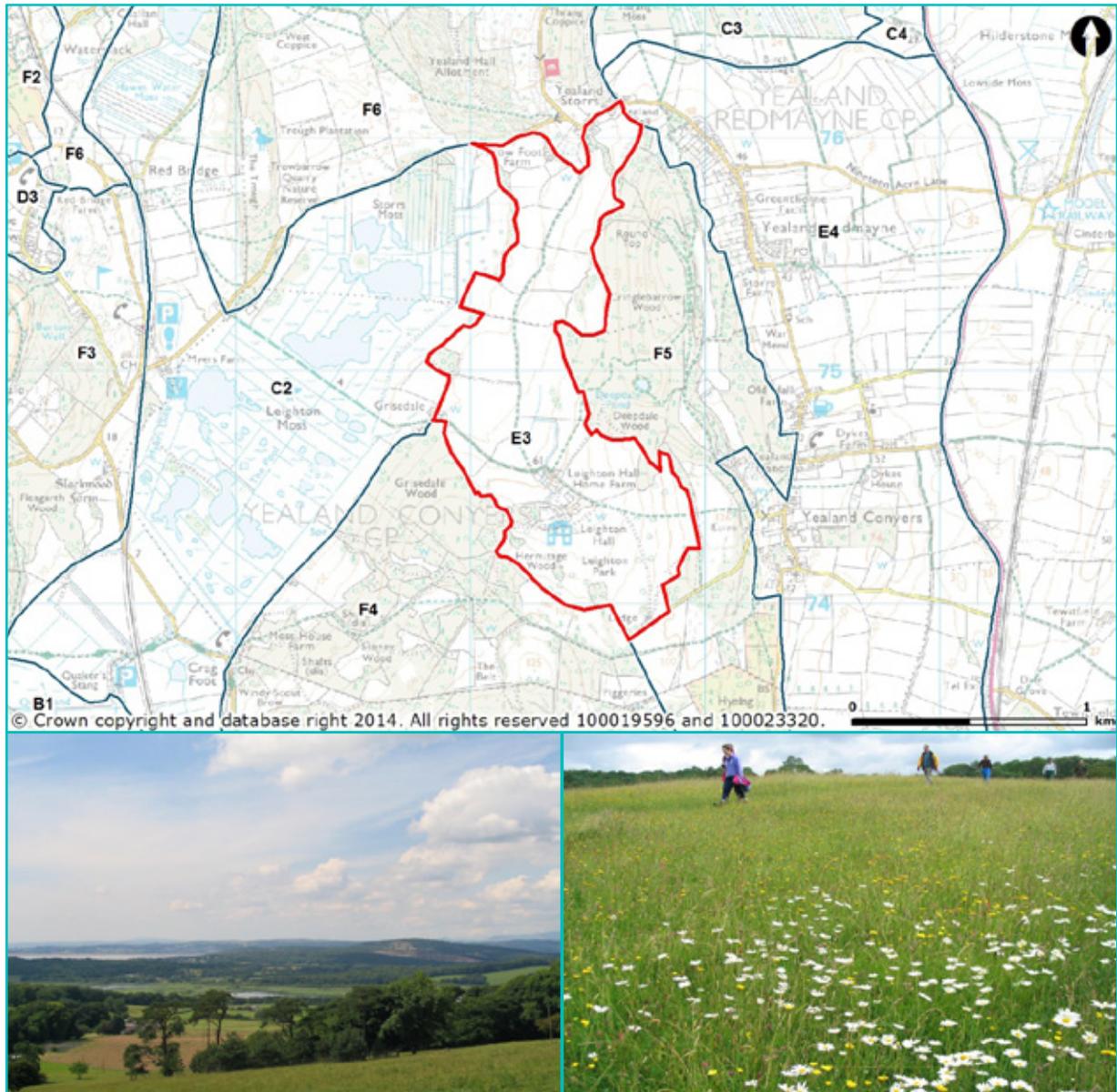
Figure 7.11 E2 Leighton Beck Valley



Location and Character Area Description

- 7.40 A corridor of inland pasture extends along Leighton Beck, and includes wooded areas around Beetham Caravan Park (to the east of this area) and wood pasture around Hazelslack. Fields are bounded by hedgerows, occasional limestone walls, and in places low outcrops of limestone, upon which walls have been built. The fields are predominantly used for grazing and are medium scale and irregular in outline. A distinctive feature is the hedges which separate the farmland from the deciduous woodland beyond. Gait Barrows and Underlaid Wood form a wooded setting to the valley. Leighton House occupies a commanding position on a knoll of higher ground within this landscape.
- 7.41 The area is tranquil and rural and is less visited than other parts of the AONB. Further north, farmland around Hazelslack Tower Farm is knobbly in character with exposures of limestone, and woodland around fields, and a 'wood pasture' character. To the south of Beetham Caravan Park (the park itself is located in LCA F7 Fairy Steps/Whin Scar), the landscape character is similar but the fields set within woodland are more rushy and in places not actively grazed, giving the area a backwater character. The caravan parks (located in an adjacent character area) are generally well screened by woodland in summer and more visible in winter.

Figure 7.12 E3 Leighton Park



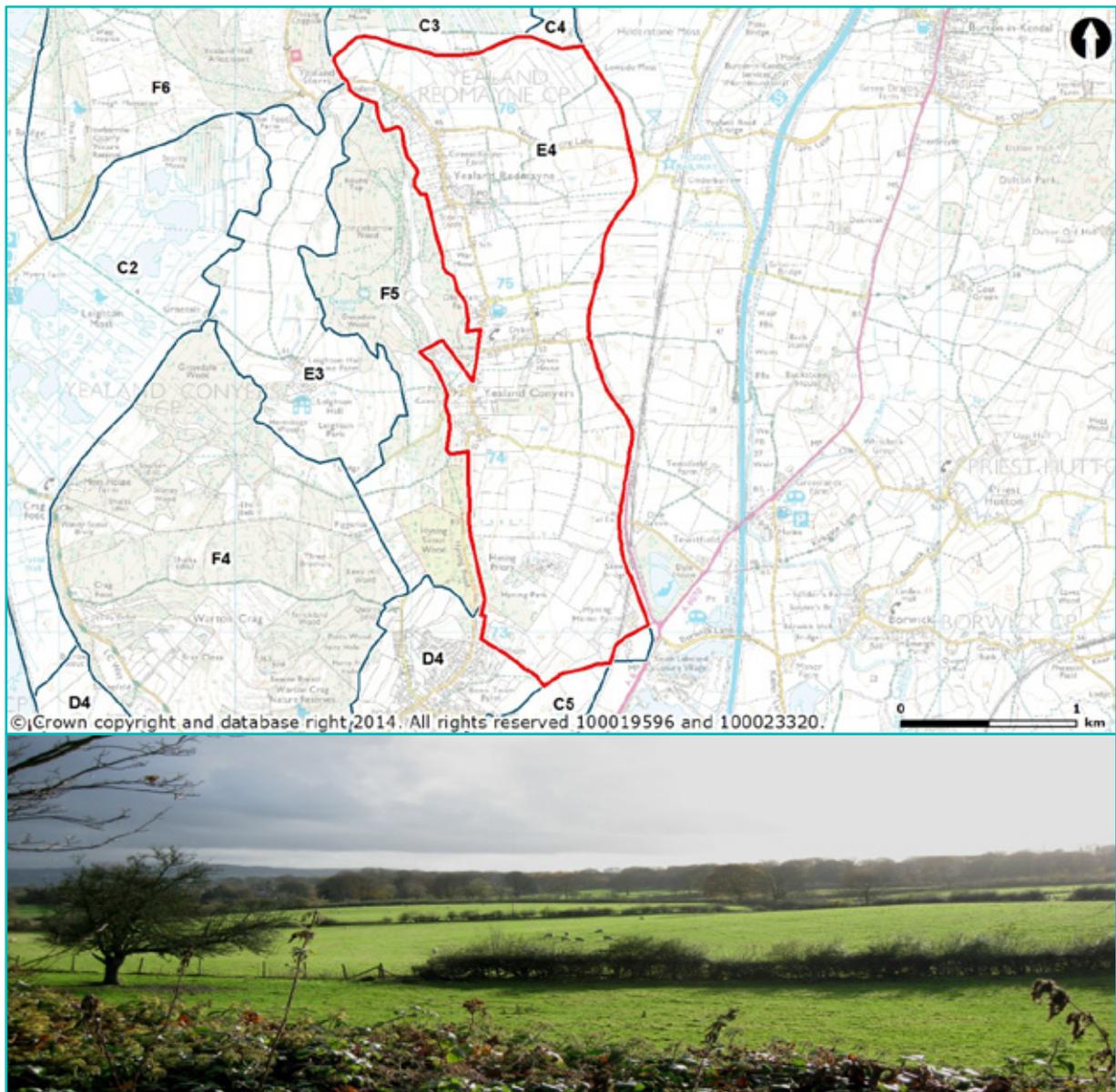
View from Summerhouse Hill with Leighton Park in the foreground

Leighton Park

Location and Character Area Description

7.42 Leighton Park comprises classic 18th century open parkland, with trees set in a landscape from which former field boundaries have been removed. It is located in a bowl between Warton Crag and Cringlebarrow Wood. The parkland, delineated by park railings, is the setting to Leighton Hall, and is periodically used for events and shows. Beyond the parkland, woodland encloses the bowl, with a tree belt to the east being a distinctive feature on the ridgeline. The area also extends to the hillside below Cringlebarrow Wood which is divided by low strimmed hedges and drystone walls into medium sized irregular fields. This pasture overlooks Leighton Moss, and drains into it.

Figure 7.13 E4 Yealand Hill Fringe



View from Yealand Conyers across to Hyning Park

Location and Character Area Description

- 7.43 Located to the east of the wooded hills of Warton Crag and Round Top, this area comprises farmland that forms a transition from the hills of the AONB to the drumlin farmland further inland (LCT G Drumlin Farmland). The fields, bound on the higher slopes by stone walls, and lower down by trimmed native hedgerows (generally east of Yealand Road), reflect the medieval strip farming pattern, and are especially intact around Yealand Redmayne. Where these medieval fields are seen, they are of a small scale, long and narrow, and rise above, and drop below the villages, running perpendicular to the contours, and to the linear villages which extend along them. They are used for grazing and improved pasture/silage. The villages of Yealand Conyers and Redmayne (designated as a Conservation Area) within this area also retain an historic character, mainly comprising a tight knit linear row of two storey limestone buildings, either side of narrow lanes.
- 7.44 Hyning Scout Wood and Cringlebarrow Wood provide a green backdrop when seen from the east. Some development and traffic along the A6 is seen when looking outwards to the east. Beyond this, views outwards include the higher areas of limestone escarpments at Hutton Roof and Farleton Fell, and distant views to the Yorkshire Dales beyond. Hyning Priory and Park, a parkland dating back to the 19th Century, comprises a small area of parkland with distinctive trees, and an active monastery to the south of the area.