Local Development Framework

Landscape Supplementary Planning Document

September 2011
Preface

Northumberland National Park Authority guides and controls new development within the National Park, this includes: new buildings, extensions to buildings, minerals and waste development and the use of land and buildings. If planning permission is needed, then an application should be submitted to the Authority. We then decide whether or not to grant planning permission based on our planning policies.

This document sets out important principles relating to new development within the landscape of Northumberland National Park. It provides guidance which is to be used as a manual to inform developers, planners and designers.

The preparation of this Landscape Supplementary Planning Document has been undertaken alongside the emerging Landscape Strategy which aims to provide a broad framework to guide future landscape change for the National Park. The strategy will look at the main forces for change in the landscape and agree a vision for the National Park landscape which will feed into detailed ‘directions for change’ in each of the Landscape Character types.

The Landscape Supplementary Planning Document has been prepared following wide community and other stakeholder engagement both on early issues and then on the draft document. Details of the community engagement which has informed this final document is available on our website www.northumberlandnationalpark.org.uk/landscapespd.

As an adopted Supplementary Planning Document it will be used by the National Park Authority to inform the determination of planning applications.

Further Information

If you have any queries regarding this document you can contact us in the following ways, by:

- Letter to: Planning Team, Northumberland National Park Authority, Eastburn, South Park, Hexham NE46 1BS
- Phone to: 01434 611 522
- Email to: ldf@nnpa.org.uk

Please note: E-mail is not a guaranteed or secure means of communication. If you do not receive a reply within a reasonable time frame, or at least 24 hours before any deadline that may be relevant to the e-mail, then do phone us on 01434 605555 to check that the e-mail has been received and not lost/stopped somewhere along the way.

Alternative formats of this document are available, such as large print, audio or translated – Please contact the Planning Team who will be happy to discuss your needs.
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Background
1. **Introduction**

**Background**

1.1 National Parks are the most beautiful, spectacular and dramatic expanses of countryside in England, Scotland and Wales. National Park designation provides the highest status for the conservation and enhancement of their natural and cultural qualities, including the landscape.

1.2 The distinctive landscape character of Northumberland National Park is one of its special qualities. The importance of giving protection to the area’s wild and inspiring landscape was fundamental to its designation as a National Park. Northumberland National Park is a living, working landscape where the characteristic qualities are the result of human activity and natural forces. The National Park landscape has undergone dramatic changes since its designation in 1956.

1.3 There is recognition that the landscape of the National Park has not and will not always remain the same. The National Park Management Plan which sets out a vision for the National Park to 2014 states ‘its [the Park’s] inspiring and changing landscapes, characterised by open spaces, tranquillity, diverse habitats and rich cultural heritage, will be widely recognised and valued’.

1.4 This Supplementary Planning Document aims to provide guidance to allow an assessment of the potential impact of proposed developments on the landscape of the National Park; it will sit alongside a broader Landscape Strategy which is currently being prepared. The Strategy will set a framework for action to protect and enhance the landscape in the National Park. The Supplementary Planning Document builds on the work of Natural England in assessing landscape character, English Heritage’s Historic Landscape Characterisation work, and it has been informed by the results of other key areas of work primarily the Landscape Character Assessment of the National Park which was completed in 2007¹. The Landscape Supplementary Planning Document makes a key contribution to implementing the European Landscape Convention² in Northumberland National Park by strengthening the protection of the landscape in the National Park through the spatial planning system.

1.5 This document is a material planning consideration in the determination of planning applications. Planning policy requires that Supplementary Planning Documents are consistent with adopted Development Plan Documents prepared by the Authority. They do not make new policy, but interpret and provide guidance on existing policies. This document should be read alongside the adopted Northumberland National Park Authority Core Strategy and Development Policies (2009) and other documents contained within the Local Development Framework.

**Northumberland National Park Vision**

1.6 The role of the National Park Authority is clearly defined in our two statutory purposes which are to:

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• Conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage; and
• Promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the area by the public.

1.7 In pursuing these purposes, the Authority is also required to:
• Seek to foster the economic and social well-being of local communities within the National Park.

1.8 The Authority has a duty to prepare a National Park Management Plan as the framework for the delivery of the National Park statutory purposes and duty and to review the Plan at least every five years. The Management Plan is the single most important document for the National Park, setting out the guiding principles, vision, objectives and outcomes for managing the National Park. The current Management Plan was adopted by the Authority in June 2009.

The Vision for Northumberland National Park

'Northumberland National Park will be a truly welcoming and distinctive place, easily accessible to all.

Its inspiring and changing landscapes, characterised by open spaces, tranquillity, diverse habitats and rich cultural heritage, will be widely recognised and valued.

The living, working landscape will contribute positively to the wellbeing of the thriving and vibrant communities in and around the Park.'

1.9 The vision for the Northumberland National Park is embedded within five strategic aims and 16 associated outcomes to help guide the National Park and its communities towards a sustainable future. Whilst all of the aims and outcomes are applicable to this document, the most relevant is: A distinctive place – to manage, conserve and enhance the distinctive natural and cultural qualities of the National Park. The key objectives related to this outcome seek to:
• Conserve and enhance the sense of place of each of the distinct areas of the National Park in line with the objectives identified for each area;
• Ensure that new development within and on the fringe of the National Park will conserve or enhance the natural and cultural qualities of the National Park.

Sustainability Appraisal

1.10 Draft Supplementary Planning Documents prepared within the Local Development Framework are subject to an independent Sustainability Appraisal which considers the social, economic and environmental implications. These documents are assessed against
the standard set of twenty Sustainability Appraisal Objectives that have been adopted for use throughout the Northumberland National Park Local Development Framework process.

1.11 A sustainability appraisal of the draft Landscape Supplementary was undertaken, the detail of which was incorporated into the draft document. It was concluded that the document made a positive contribution to some key sustainability objectives, in particular:

- Objective 2 – to protect the special qualities of the National Park from unsuitable development; and
- Objective 11 – Create, protect and enhance the quality and diversity of the landscape
- Objective 12 – To maintain a landscape rich in biodiversity and geodiversity; and
- SA Objective 15 – To protect and enhance the Park’s cultural heritage and settings and their diversity.

Habitats Regulations - Appropriate Assessment

1.12 In addition to the sustainability appraisal the Authority is required to undertake an Appropriate Assessment of draft Supplementary Planning Documents. The Appropriate Assessment is a mechanism for providing protection of nature conservation sites of European importance. An Appropriate Assessment was undertaken on the Core Strategy policies and this assessment was used as a basis for the assessment of the draft Supplementary Planning Document. The Appropriate Assessment concluded that the Landscape Supplementary Planning Document would have no significant effect on European sites.
2. Northumberland National Park Development Plan

Background
2.1 The Development Plan for the Northumberland National Park is a set of documents, which together guide new development in the National Park. This section provides some background on the different types of documents that form the Development Plan to help understand where the Landscape Supplementary Planning Document sits. Full information on the purpose of each of the documents is available on our website.

2.2 The Northumberland National Park Development Plan contains five types of document:
- The Statement of Community Involvement\(^3\) sets out how the Authority will achieve continuous community involvement in the plan-making process and in development management process.
- Documents which contain policies are known as Development Plan Documents. As they contain policies, they are subject to significant community consultation and testing by an independent inspector. The Authority identified the need to prepare only one Development Plan Document, the Core Strategy\(^4\), which was adopted by the Authority in 2009;
- Documents which expand on policies and provide more detail, are known as Supplementary Planning Documents. These documents are material considerations in the determination of planning applications. They do not require examination by an independent inspector, but are subject to community involvement. This document is a Supplementary Planning Document;
- All Development Plan Documents and Supplementary Planning Documents are subject to a Sustainability Appraisal\(^5\) which tests the environmental, social, and economic effects of policies to ensure sustainability;
- Project management documents – the Local Development Scheme\(^6\) and Annual Monitoring Reports\(^7\). The Local Development Scheme is the timetable for the preparation of documents; it also provides background information on the role and purpose of each document and the resources available to deliver. Annual Monitoring Reports assess the extent to which Development Plan policies are being successfully implemented, monitor the timetable for the preparation of document, and identify areas where new or revised policies may be required.

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\(^3\) [www.northumberlandnationalpark.org.uk/statementofcommunityinvolvement.htm](http://www.northumberlandnationalpark.org.uk/statementofcommunityinvolvement.htm)
\(^4\) [http://www.northumberlandnationalpark.org.uk/corestrategy.htm](http://www.northumberlandnationalpark.org.uk/corestrategy.htm)
\(^5\) [www.northumberlandnationalpark.org.uk/livingin/sustainabilityappraisal.htm](http://www.northumberlandnationalpark.org.uk/livingin/sustainabilityappraisal.htm)
\(^6\) [www.northumberlandnationalpark.org.uk/localdevelopmentscheme.htm](http://www.northumberlandnationalpark.org.uk/localdevelopmentscheme.htm)
\(^7\) [www.northumberlandnationalpark.org.uk/annualmonitoringreports.htm](http://www.northumberlandnationalpark.org.uk/annualmonitoringreports.htm)
Development Plan Policies – The Core Strategy

2.3 The Core Strategy was adopted by the Authority on the 25th of March 2009. It sets out the overall strategy for future development in the National Park and includes detailed policies which are used when assessing planning applications.

2.4 The spatial vision for the National Park in 2021, set out within the Core Strategy, highlights that all development will make a contribution to protecting, sustaining, and enhancing the special qualities of the National Park and that it will be sensitively located and designed so as to make the best use of existing services and facilities, thereby reducing the impact of development on the open countryside.

2.5 The key Core Strategy policy relevant to this Supplementary Planning Document is Policy 20 - Landscape Quality and Character: other relevant Core Strategy policies are set out in the table below.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy 20</th>
<th>Landscape Quality and Character</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The natural beauty and heritage of the National Park will be conserved and enhanced whilst being responsive to landscape change. All proposals will be assessed in terms of their impact on landscape character and sensitivity as defined in the Landscape Supplementary Planning Document. Development which would adversely affect the quality and character of the landscape will not be permitted.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Other Core Strategy policies relevant to the preparation of this document are: |
| Policy 1 Delivering Sustainable Development | Seeks to conserve and enhance the special qualities of the National Park by applying the principles of sustainable development |
| Policy 2 Climate Change | This policy seeks to increase small scale energy generation, enhance the condition of peat lands, locate new development in areas least at risk from flooding and enable wildlife and habitats to adapt to climate change |
| Policy 3 General Development Principles | This policy applies to all new development in the National Park seeking to ensure that new development protects and enhances local character |
| Policy 4 Major Development | This policy highlights that major development will only take place within the National Park in exceptional circumstances where proven to be in the public interest. It sets out criteria against which to assess major development applications |
| Policy 5 General Location of New Development | Seeks to focus new development within existing settlements and existing buildings in the open countryside |
| Policy 6 The Sequential Approach | Seeks to focus new development on previously developed land within settlements before greenfield sites are developed |
| Policy 18 Cultural Heritage | Seeks to conserve, enhance and promote the cultural heritage of the National Park. It highlights the need to conserve and enhance Hadrian’s Wall World Heritage Site and its setting |
| Policy 19 Tranquillity | Seeks to conserve or enhance the tranquillity of the National Park |
| Policy 21 Farming | Recognises the importance of agriculture in the maintenance and management of the National Park |

Northumberland National Park Local Development Framework – Landscape SPD (2011) 8
Policy 22
Trees, Woodlands and Forests
Seeks to protect and enhance the character and nature conservation value of native trees and semi-natural ancient woodlands. The policy requires the planting of native trees as part of certain developments and supports the development of sensitively located and sustainably managed woodland for sustainable uses.

Policy 23
Minerals
Recognises that mineral extraction can take place within the National Park but only where it would have no significant environmental effects and it is of a scale to meet identified needs for local building stone.

Policy 24
Military Training on the Otterburn Training Area
Seeks to ensure that the intensification of existing military development (both individually and cumulatively) will not negatively impact on the special qualities of the National Park.

Policy 28
Utilities and Infrastructure
The policy supports the development of new projects which serve local communities and businesses, provided it does not negatively impact on landscape quality or character.

National Planning Policy – Planning Policy Statements
2.6 The Landscape Character Assessment process is identified as a key tool used in informing planning policy preparation and decision making. It is firmly embedded in Planning Policy Statements (PPS) and Planning Policy Guidance (PPG), notably PPS7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas, but also PPS1: Delivering Sustainable Development, PPS5: Planning for the Historic Environment, PPS12: Local Development Frameworks, PPS22: Renewable Energy, and PPG17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation.

Other Relevant Documents
2.7 In addition to statutory planning documents other relevant documents that have informed the preparation of this document are:
- the Northumberland National Park Historic Village Atlas;
- the Northumberland National Park Conservation Management Plan for Traditional Boundaries;
- the Defence Estates Integrated Land Management Plan\(^8\) for the Otterburn Ranges which includes the Archaeology and Historic Environment Management Plan;
- Hadrian’s Wall World Heritage Site Management Plan; and

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\(^8\) Emerging Integrated Rural Management Plan
Northumberland National Park Local Development Framework – Landscape SPD (2011)
3. **The Key Characteristics of the National Park Landscape**

3.1 Spread over the hills and valleys at the very top of England, but right in the centre of Britain, the landscape of Northumberland National Park has key distinct characteristics: To the north there are the breathtaking rolling moors and grasslands of the Cheviot Hills, with their ancient hill forts and pure rivers. In the east is the Coquet Valley with the landmark Simonside Hills surrounded by beautiful villages, such as Harbottle and Holystone. To the west are the valleys of the North Tyne and Redesdale, wild, inspiring and once home of the Border Reivers. The landscape supports habitats suitable for rare species such as red squirrel and black grouse. In the south is the imposing ridge of the Whin Sill with Hadrian's Wall, a World Heritage Site, striding along its crest.

3.2 The beauty, variety and scale of the Northumberland National Park landscape, with its wild open spaces and wide horizons, underpin the distinctiveness of Northumberland National Park. This encompasses and combines other qualities - for example the geology, biodiversity and cultural heritage - and is always evolving due to human intervention and natural processes.

3.3 Northumberland National Park boasts a wide range of species and habitats, for example curlew, red squirrel, upland rivers and burns, ancient woodland, upland hay meadows, blanket bog and heather moorland. Extensive areas of the National Park have been designated for their international importance for nature conservation such as Special Areas of Conservation and Ramsar sites. Within the National Park five of the Sites of Special Scientific Interest were designated for their geological importance, from the Cheviot volcanic and glacial features in the north to the Whin Sill intrusion and escarpments in the south.

3.4 One of Northumberland National Park’s unique qualities is without doubt its historical legacy. From Hadrian’s Wall World Heritage Site in the south, to the prehistoric landscapes of the Cheviot Hills in the north, there are evocative reminders of our colourful past which survives largely undamaged by more recent agricultural or industrial activity. The many layers of historical landscapes in the National Park offer a rich opportunity for furthering understanding, appreciation and enjoyment, for example there are 424 Scheduled Monuments, 228 Listed Buildings and over 4000 entries in the National Park’s Historic Environment Record.

3.5 The National Park extends to over 100,000 hectares or 405 square miles and represents 20% of the land area of the county of Northumberland. The National Park is wholly within Northumberland County, but also borders Scotland and Cumbria. The National Park landscape supports human activity. Historically, the rate of development within the National Park has been low, as the National Park boundary excludes the larger settlements of the area. Significant land use change has resulted from the development of military training facilities and forestry.

3.6 The many people who visit and live in the National Park appreciate the stunning and varied landscape. A key characteristic is its openness, with landscapes and horizons free from significant human intrusions and highest levels of tranquillity anywhere in England. With over 1,100 kilometres of public rights of way and long distance walking routes, and 75,000 hectares (75% of the National Park area) of open access land, Northumberland National Park offers significant opportunities for enjoyment and understanding of its special qualities.

3.6 A full description of the National Park landscape is set out within the Landscape Character Appraisal.

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\[9\] Available on our website at: [http://www.northumberlandnationalpark.org.uk/landscapespd.htm](http://www.northumberlandnationalpark.org.uk/landscapespd.htm)
4. Background to Landscape Character Assessment

4.1 Landscape Character is the distinct, recognisable, and consistent pattern of elements that makes one landscape different from another. Variations in geology, soils, landform, land use, vegetation, field boundaries, settlement patterns, and building styles all help give rise to different landscapes, each with its own distinctive character and sense of place. Landscape Character Assessment involves mapping, classifying, and describing these variations in landscape character. It also involves making judgements about the character and condition of the landscape, and analysing forces for change, to help us make informed decisions about how we should manage change in the future.

4.2 In classifying the landscape three types of unit may be identified: National Character Areas, Landscape Character Types and Landscape Character Areas:

- **National Character Areas** – England has been divided into 159 distinct areas with similar landscape character - defined by the Countryside Commission and English Nature in 1998;
- **Landscape Character Types** are landscapes with broadly similar combinations of geology, landform, vegetation, land use, field and settlement patterns. Landscape belonging to a particular type may be found in many different places;
- **Landscape Character Areas** are unique areas which are examples of a particular Landscape Character Type. Landscape Character Areas share the same elements as the Landscape Character Type, but also have their own individual character and identity.

4.3 The Landscape Character Assessment identified the following 12 character types and associated character areas within the National Park:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National Character Areas</th>
<th>Character Type</th>
<th>Character Areas</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cheviots</td>
<td>Upland Burn Valleys</td>
<td>College Valley, Harthope Valley, Breamish Valley, Upper Coquet Valley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rounded Hills</td>
<td>Cheviot Rounded Hills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheviot Fringe</td>
<td>Foothills and Fringe Valleys</td>
<td>Northern Hills, Bowmont Water and Glendale, Ingram Hills and Breamish Valley, Upper Coquetdale (Alwinton)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Border Moors and Forests</td>
<td>Rolling Uplands</td>
<td>Otterburn Plateau, Cottonshope Valley, Kelly's Pike to Callerhues Crag, Shitlington and Ealinghamrigg Commons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Moorland Forestry Mosaic</td>
<td>Kielder, Wark and Redesdale Forest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northumberland National Park Local Development Framework – Landscape SPD (2011)</td>
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<td>---</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Rolling Upland Valleys** | **Redesdale**  
**Otterburn and Elsdon Valley**  
**Bellingham and Woodburn Valleys**  
**Upper North Tyne Valley** |
| **Northumberland Sandstone Hills** | **Outcrop Hills and Escarpment** | **Harbottle Hills**  
**Simonside Hills** |
| **Sandstone Upland Valleys** | **Coquet Valley (Harbottle-Harehaugh)**  
**Grasslees Valley**  
**Coquet Valley (Rothbury)** |
| **Tyne Gap and Hadrian’s Wall** | **Parallel Ridges and Commons** | **Thirlwall Common**  
**Haltwhistle, Melkridge and Ridley Commons**  
**Haughton and Simonburn Commons** |
| **Upland Commons and Farmland** | **Eastern North Tyne Slopes**  
**Grindon Common** |
| **Glacial Trough – Valley Sides** | **Haltwhistle to Bridge End** |
| **Basin Valley and Fringes** | **River Irthing** |

4.4 A map setting showing Landscape Character Areas and Types within the National Park is included at appendix 1.

4.5 The remaining section of the document is divided into National Park landscape character types. Developers should identify which character type the development falls within and refer to the relevant section of the document. Further details on the character of the area is included within the full Landscape Character Appraisal and advice on how new development should respect the local vernacular is provided within the Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document. It should be noted that when reading the guidance this should be considered alongside the relevant Core Strategy policies.
Part 2:

Landscape Character Types within Northumberland National Park
5. **Upland Burn Valleys**: College, Harthope, Breamish and Upper Coquet Valleys

**Key Characteristics:**
- Steeply-incised valleys radiating outwards though rounded hills;
- Fast flowing burns over rock-strewn beds of pink-grey andesite boulders;
- Narrow floodplain or haugh in lower reaches and alder trees typically lining watercourse;
- Scree slopes, rocky outcrops and patches of gorse scrub and bracken on valley sides;
- Areas of in-byre pasture defined by stone walls in places, with open grass moorland on steeper slopes above;
- Isolated farmsteads accessed by unenclosed roads or tracks;
- Extensive prehistoric archaeological sites including: Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age remains - some of the best preserved sites in the county, including cairns and cairnfields, unenclosed and enclosed settlements, prehistoric field systems and hillforts;
- Extensive remains of medieval settlement from deserted and shrunken villages to large areas of ridge and furrow and mill sites;
- Prehistoric sites occur in their greatest numbers in upland enclosed moorland owing to their exceptional levels of survival, accounting for 30% of all sites in this Historic Landscape Character type, 60% of which survive as earthworks;
- Sense of enclosure derived from steep valley topography;
- Local vernacular farm buildings, stone walls and stells built of local stone;
- Important access routes into remote areas of the National Park;
- Tranquil valleys with a strong upland, remote character – derived from the predominantly rural character of the landscape, lack of obvious man-made structures, presence of adjacent open moorland and limited vehicular access.

**Guidelines for Development:**
- Recreation and tourism infrastructure such as improved road access, passing places, car parks, signage, litter bins and interpretation should be sensitively designed, low key and should not exert a urbanising influence on this landscape type;
- New buildings and conversions should respect the local surroundings in terms of choice of building material and scale of development;
- Military and other built infrastructure that is no longer in use, or signage which is no longer required should be removed where it has a negative impact on the landscape;
- Man-made vertical structures which detract from the valley landform, create visual clutter or interrupt the unfettered rounded skylines which form the distinctive setting to these valleys should be avoided;
- The introduction of new farm buildings should take care not to affect the unity of traditional vernacular and buildings styles which are a cohesive element of this landscape;
- Maintain the pattern of stone wall enclosures as part of the wider landscape character of this area;
- Any lighting should be kept to a minimum and installed effectively to protect dark skies;
- Consideration should be given to the mobile nature of the watercourses and risk of flash flooding.
6. **Rounded Hills: Cheviot**

**Key Characteristics:**
- Cluster of smooth, domed hills forming a distinctive horizon;
- Underlying geology comprising layers of extruded lavas and a central massif of granite;
- Distinctive rocky tors e.g. Great and Little Standrop;
- Extensive rolling plateau of heather and matt-grass moorland creating ‘black moors’ and ‘white moors’;
- Visually simple landscape due to topography and uniform vegetation;
- Little or no tree cover except along shallow burn heads, and in areas where there are blocks of coniferous plantation;
- Numerous relict prehistoric landscapes, Roman roads and forts, medieval field systems, and drove routes;
- Strong sense of wilderness derived from simplicity, openness, little to no settlement and little access except on foot;
- Quarrying of natural stone resources has caused localised scarring of the landscape;
- One of the most tranquil areas within the National Park.

**Guidelines for Development:**
- Ensure that tourism development sensitively utilises the landscape resource and brings socio-economic benefits to local communities;
- Man-made vertical structures which detract from the open and rounded landform, or adversely affect uninterrupted skylines and unbroken panoramic views, should be avoided. Care should be taken to prevent landscape and visual impacts associated with wind farm development, whether in Scotland or England, where it may adversely affect the special qualities and setting of the National Park;
- Conservation of historic sites and structures, which act as local focal points and reinforce local distinctiveness in each of the valleys, is important;
- Military and other built infrastructure that is no longer in use, or signage which is no longer required should be removed where it has a negative impact on the landscape;
- Any lighting should be kept to a minimum and installed effectively to protect dark skies;
- Further mineral extraction within the wider area should avoid adverse impact on the openness of the landscape of the National Park or its setting;
- To avoid visual intrusion on the skyline woodland planting should be associated with burnsides and watercourses and should avoid symmetry of shape;
- Timber extraction operation and extraction routes should be sympathetic to the landscape.

7. **Foothills and Fringe Valleys:** Northern Hills, Bowmont Water and Glendale, Ingram Hills and Breamish Valley, and Upper Coquetdale (Alwinton)

**Key Characteristics:**

- Lower slopes and rounded outlier foothills of the Cheviot Hills and associated river valleys;
- Physical characteristics that reflect the junction between the andesite and the softer Carboniferous rocks;
- Evidence of glacial erosion and deposition;
- Archaeological sites represented include prehistoric burial cairns and hillforts, farms, sheepfolds, bastles, shielings, deserted and shrunken medieval villages, tower houses, battlefields and chapels;
- Lowland pastures divided by hawthorn hedges;
- Small Scots pine plantations, beech woodland, and occasional more extensive conifer shelterbelts on slopes of foothills;
- Clearly-defined valley floors, comprising open floodplain with wet pastures, meadows and meandering river courses;
- Settlements (villages and farmsteads) that tend to be sited at the gentle break in slope between the foothills and the valley floor;
- Long history of sand and gravel extraction within the Breamish Valley;
- The wider character area provides an important landscape setting to the National Park.

**Guidelines for Development:**

- Linear development along roads, which extends urban development into the wider rural countryside and disrupts the nucleated settlement pattern found in this landscape, should be avoided;
- Tourism-related development should avoid locations which are visually prominent particularly when viewed from surrounding higher land and where they extend an urbanising influence into open countryside;

- Man-made vertical structures which detract from the rounded landform of the outlying hills that define the fringe valleys should be avoided, particularly where they would adversely affect views from within the National Park;\(^\text{11}\);
- Consideration should be given to the mobile nature of the watercourses and risk of flash flooding.

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8. **Rolling Uplands**: Otterburn Plateau, Cottonshope Valley, Kelly’s Pike to Callerhues Crag, Shitlington and Ealinghamrigg Commons

**Key Characteristics:**
- Broad, open, large-scale, rolling moorland plateau;
- Simple, smooth flowing landform, often featureless with high degree of uniformity;
- Extensive areas of semi-natural vegetation including matrix of heather, matt-grass moorland, raised bogs or mires and patches of bracken;
- Archaeological sites of all periods are found in this area, but most date to the prehistoric and post-medieval/20th century periods. These relate to farming (farmsteads, field systems, sheepfolds and shielings) and industry (coal workings, lime kilns and quarries);
- Sparse settlement including isolated farmsteads and Victorian hunting lodges;
- Drained by a network of burns that have eroded deep but not visually prominent ravines;
- Sparse tree cover – occasional coniferous shelterbelts and clumps, with limited areas of semi-natural woodland along burns;
- Uniformity of land cover broken in places by in-bye pastures associated with farmsteads;
- Military training use over a significant part of the area;
- One of the most tranquil areas within the National Park.

**Guidelines for Development:**
- New development should not be visually prominent and should not detract from the landscape quality of the area;
- Encourage the sensitive management of areas used for military training and avoid or minimise any widening of existing tracks and roads or erection of new buildings and signage;
- Any new development of the Otterburn camp accommodation and facilities should be focused within or immediately adjacent to the existing camp area to seek to ensure development is not visually prominent over significant distances;
- Military and other built infrastructure that is no longer in use, or signage which is no longer required should be removed where it has a negative impact on the landscape;
- Any development of communications masts or other tall structures on the open exposed ridgelines of this landscape should be avoided as it could lead to visual clutter and loss of tranquillity as this landscape is highly sensitive visually due to its open character;
- Domestic scale wind turbines should be closely related to existing farmsteads and should not be out of scale or detract from adjacent built structures, landscape features or skylines;
- Any lighting should be kept to a minimum and installed effectively to protect dark skies;
- To avoid visual intrusion on the skyline woodland planting should be associated with burnsides and watercourses and should avoid symmetry of shape;
9. **Moorland Forestry Mosaic:** Kielder, Wark and Redesdale Forests

**Key Characteristics:**
- Simple, expansive upland landscape, generally over 250m AOD;
- Gently rolling topography incised by burns that are often concealed by plantations;
- Mosaic of large-scale coniferous plantations, open grass and heather moorlands and mires, with limited areas of in-bye pasture;
- Enclosed landscape with limited outward views;
- A dynamic landscape with significant areas of ongoing felling and restocking;
- Some broadleaved woodlands and woodland edges that soften the plantation character;
- Of those archaeological remains which survive, including those left in unplanted areas, include Roman remains such as native settlements and farmsteads, such as Sidwood and extensive post medieval remains from bastles, shielings and abandoned farmsteads to sheepfolds and boundary stones;
- A generally uninhabited landscape, with only occasional farmsteads and forestry settlements;
- Reservoirs that create expansive views across open water, in contrast to the enclosed character of surrounding woodlands;
- Cop Crag sandstone quarry;
- One of the most tranquil areas within the National Park.

**Guidelines for Development:**
- Where tourism and recreational development is required, care should be taken to avoid exerting a urbanising influence on the landscape and development should generally remain low-key;
- New buildings should respect local building materials and styles;
- Any lighting should be kept to a minimum and installed effectively to protect dark skies;
- Wind farm development proposals (either in Scotland or England) should avoid adverse impact on this expansive upland landscape and the setting of the National Park.  


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10. **Rolling Upland Valleys**: Redesdale, Otterburn and Elsdon Valley, Bellingham and Woodburn Valleys, and Upper North Tyne Valley

**Key Characteristics:**
- Broad valleys with gently convex valley sides;
- Tributary burns, often well-wooded, carving incised valleys into the hillsides;
- Clearly defined floodplain and mixed farmland on valley floors;
- Consistent pattern of textured rough pastures divided by stone walls on valley sides, with open moorland above;
- Meandering rivers, sometimes marked by alders, but not generally a prominent landscape feature;
- Steep, wooded bluffs flanking edges of the floodplain;
- Shelterbelts and clumps of pine or mixed woodland on lower slopes and occasionally on valley floors;
- Historic sandstone villages and dispersed farmsteads on lower slopes;
- The different types of archaeological remains cover all periods and include post medieval domestic and agricultural buildings (bastles, farmhouses) and industrial sites (coal workings, shafts, quarries and lime kilns);
- The wider area is an important part of the setting to the National Park – the valleys act as corridors and gateways to the National Park.

**Guidelines for Development:**
- New built development should avoid creeping up the valley sides and should not form abrupt edges. It should be constructed of appropriate materials - particularly roofs;
- The approach routes, key views and gateways to settlements should be protected from inappropriate development;
- Recreational development on the edges of settlements should not extend urbanising influences or uncharacteristic vegetation patterns into open countryside;
- Man-made vertical structures which detract from the valley landform, create visual clutter or adversely affect the unfettered skylines which form the distinctive setting to these valleys should be avoided and any such existing structures removed where possible;
- Maintain the pattern of stone wall enclosures as part of the wider landscape character of this area;
- Any lighting should be kept to a minimum and installed effectively to protect dark skies.

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11. **Outcrop Hills and Escarpment**: Harbottle Hills and Simonside Hills

**Key Characteristics:**
- Flat-topped elongated ridges and rounded sandstone hills;
- Distinctive steep scarp faces forming notable stepped, often dark, skyline silhouettes;
- Open plateau and gentle dip slopes clothed in heather moorland, acidic grassland mosaic, coniferous forestry and peat bog/mires;
- Steeper slopes clothed in bracken, heather and broadleaved woodland with craggy outcrops;
- Wet pastures and semi-improved pastures on lower slopes;
- Rich muted colours and textures;
- Little or no habitation but significant archaeological remains of the prehistoric, medieval and post medieval periods survive, particularly on the Fell Sandstones, including cup and ring marked outcrop and earthfast rocks and the medieval deer park (Newtown Park). Prehistoric remains also occur on the Harbottle Hills, including numerous burial cairns and the remains of post medieval industry including an extensive millstone quarry;
- Waterbodies including natural loughs;
- Remoteness and tranquillity as a result of the upland character, limited accessibility and sparse population;
- Military training use over a significant part of the area;
- Important landscape for recreation and tourism on account of its scenic quality, range of habitats and important archaeological sites.

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**Guidelines for Development:**
- Development associated with recreation provision should be sensitively designed and located to avoid the urbanisation of the area and should respect the surrounding landscape context;
- Man-made vertical structures should be avoided in this landscape where they would markedly detract from the distinctive notched skyline of the sandstone outcrops. This ridge is particularly sensitive to any skyline structures because of its importance in views, especially those from National Park land to the north and east\(^\text{14}\);
- Military and other built infrastructure that is no longer in use, or signage which is no longer required should be removed where it has a negative impact on the landscape;
- Within the wider character area there is a need to consider the impact of development on the views\(^\text{13}\) of Simonside as an iconic feature of historic significance.

12. **Sandstone Upland Valleys**: Coquet Valley (Harbottle-Harehaugh), Grasslees Valley, and Coquet Valley (Rothbury)

**Key Characteristics:**
- Sinuous shallow valleys and narrower, incised tributaries set within the sandstone uplands;
- Valleys enclosed by distinctive, gently convex sandstone hills with acidic vegetation;
- Strong topographic, vegetation and land use patterns;
- Meandering rivers that are hidden within the landscape, but lined with alders;
- Steep bluffs clothed in pine and other conifers flanking the valley floor;
- Shelterbelts and clumps of Scots pine and mixed woodland on lower slopes and valley floor;
- Sandstone-built historic villages on lower slopes;
- Rich archaeology including rig and furrow, motte and bailey and fortified bastle houses – the heart of reiving country;
- High degree of tranquillity away from major roads and settlements.

**Guidelines for Development:**
- Recreational development on the edges of settlements should not extend urbanising influences or uncharacteristic vegetation patterns into open countryside;
- Man-made vertical structures which detract from the valley landform, create visual clutter or adversely affect the unfettered skylines which form the distinctive setting to these valleys should be resisted;
- Within the wider character area further extensive extraction of sand and gravel outside the National Park at Caiston should take into consideration the impact of such development on views\(^\text{15}\) from the National Park.

\[^{15}\text{Guidance on identifying important views is available from SNH http://www.snh.gov.uk/publications-data-and-research/publications}\]

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13. **Parallel Ridges and Commons**: Thirlwall Common, Haltwhistle/ Melkridge/ Ridley Commons, and Haughton/ Simonburn Commons

**Key Characteristics:**
- Repeating pattern of elevated ridges and shallow troughs with strong east-west alignment: cuesta landscape;
- Dramatic outcrops of igneous rock forming pronounced north-facing scarps and south-facing dip slopes;
- Open moorland with mat and purple moor grass, peat bog, improved pastures and commons and loughs;
- Medium to large-scale enclosure pattern defined by stone walls and post and wire fencing;
- Archaeological sites of all periods are known from this character type, including prehistoric standing stones and stone circles, Iron Age and Romano-British Settlements, extensive Roman remains associated with the Roman frontier, medieval tower houses, post medieval limekilns and the remains of extensive mining and quarrying;
- Limited habitation of dispersed farmsteads nestling into landform and surrounded by shelter planting;
- Limited tree cover of small broadleaved copses and blocks of coniferous plantation.
- Significant area of the National Park for outdoor recreation, particularly walking;
- Outstanding long distance views northwards over areas of wild moorland and southwards to the North Pennines.

**Guidelines for Development:**
- Any development should be as low-key as possible, conserving the wild character of the setting of Hadrian’s Wall - care should be taken to avoid development that may alter or urbanise the landscape character;
- New buildings and conversions should respect the local surroundings in terms of choice of building material and scale of development;
- New development should not be visually prominent and should not detract from the scenic quality of the area;
- Any improvements made to the Military Road to address safety of junctions and reduce speeding must have minimum visual impact on the open moorland character of the surrounding landscape and the World Heritage Site;
- Any lighting should be kept to a minimum and installed effectively to protect dark skies;
- Man-made vertical structures which detract from the open expansive character of this landscape and the setting of the World Heritage Site would be inappropriate and damaging;
- Care should be taken to avoid cumulative influences and the clottering of the skyline particularly in the long distance views\(^\text{16}\) that are so characteristic in the vicinity of Hadrian’s Wall;
- Development of new farm buildings should take care not to compromise the pattern and scale of farmsteads across this landscape;
- Maintain the pattern of stone wall enclosures as part of the wider landscape character of this area.

14. **Upland Commons and Farmland**: Eastern North Tyne Slopes and Grindon Common

**Key Characteristics:**
- Broad open ridges and plateau areas; Intermediate, transitional area between open moorland and forestry and adjoining valley landscapes;
- Dissected by series of burns often in deep sided cleughs on a volcanic outcrop;
- Strong medium to large-scale geometric pattern created by stone wall and hedgerow enclosures;
- Some improved pastures on lower slopes, giving way to unimproved rougher pastures on higher land; all pastures mainly wet; Broadleaved trees on lower slopes and in burn ravines;
- Small to medium-sized coniferous plantations creating 'blocky' character in places;
- Archaeological sites within this character type include mostly post medieval and industrial sites;
- Sparsely settled, with isolated farms marked by shelter woodland and connected by straight enclosure roads;
- Expansive long distance views.

**Guidelines for Development:**
- Farm building conversions and diversification may offer opportunities to restore the vernacular built fabric of the area;
- New farm buildings should take care not to compromise the pattern and scale of farmsteads across this landscape;
- Particular care should be taken to avoid cumulative influences and the cluttering of the skyline, although carefully-sited domestic scale wind energy development may be accommodated where the landscape offers a degree of containment;
- Maintain the pattern of stone wall enclosures as part of the wider landscape character of this area.
15. **Glacial Trough – Valley Sides: Haltwhistle to Bridge End**

**Key Characteristics:**
- Valley sides of glacial trough between North Pennines and Northumberland uplands;
- Mixed scale field pattern defined by hedges, post and wire fencing and stone walls on upper slopes;
- Mainly pasture land with ancient semi-natural woodland associated with natural springs and incised tributary valleys;
- Characteristic waterfalls along tributary burns, particularly on north-facing slopes;
- Historic houses and Roman settlement with significant areas of rig and furrow;
- Narrow lanes running up and down valley sides;
- Well-settled and sheltered enclosed landscape.

**Guidelines for Development:**
- New built development should avoid creeping up the valley sides and should not be visually prominent nor detract from the scenic quality of the area;
- Maintain the pattern of stone wall enclosures as part of the wider landscape character of this area;
- Access should be in keeping with existing current provision;
- Particular care should be taken with respect to archaeology and in particular the potential for Roman finds.
16. **Basin Valley and Fringes: Irthing Valley**

**Key Characteristics:**
- Transitional landscape on the watershed between North Tyne valley to the east and Carlisle Basin to the west;
- Narrow, deep valley and gorge carved by the River Irthing;
- Predominance of pasture, scrub and rough grazing;
- Semi-natural woodland along river and tributary burns, and mature trees associated with settlement;
- Field pattern defined by stone walls and hedgerows;
- Significant historic sites reflecting area’s importance as a defensive frontier over the centuries.

**Guidelines for Development:**
- New buildings and conversions should respect the local surroundings in terms of choice of building material and scale of development;
- New development should not be visually prominent and should not detract from the scenic quality of the area;
- Maintain the pattern of field boundaries as part of the wider landscape character of this area;
- Access should be in keeping with existing current provision;
- Woodland planting should be associated with burnsides and watercourses.
### Appendix 2 – Glossary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acidic grassland</td>
<td>Acid grasslands develop on soils derived from acidic substrates such as sandstone or granite, acidic clays, or sand and gravel deposits. Acid grasslands often occur as mosaics with heathland.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AOB</td>
<td>Above Ordnance Datum – used by ordnance survey as the basis for deriving altitudes on maps – usually the mean sea level is used</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burn</td>
<td>A small river</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cairns</td>
<td>A mound of rough stones built as a memorial or landmark, typically on a hilltop or skyline.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carboniferous rocks</td>
<td>Carboniferous rocks were formed between 363 and 325 million years ago, they are a limestone rock deposited during the Dinantian epoch of the Carboniferous period.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleugh</td>
<td>A ravine or valley usually with water running down the centre.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuesta/ Escarpment</td>
<td>A ridge with a gentle slope on one side and a cliff on the other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drove routes</td>
<td>Drove routes were used to take animals on the hoof to market, these are ancient long distance routes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haugh</td>
<td>A low-lying meadow in a river valley.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-bye</td>
<td>Is land which is used mainly for arable and grassland production and which is not hill and rough grazings, typically enclosed by a stone wall, fence or hedge boundary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lough</td>
<td>A natural basin in the landscape which has is filled with water from natural sources.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reiver</td>
<td>Reivers were raiders along the Anglo–Scottish border from the late 13th century to the beginning of the 17th century. Their ranks consisted of both Scottish and English families, and they raided the entire border country without regard to their victims' nationality.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rocky tors</td>
<td>A high rock or pile of rocks on the top of a hill.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scree slopes</td>
<td>Loose rock debris covering a slope or at the base of a steep incline or cliff.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wooded bluffs</td>
<td>A steep wooded bank.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>