The Landscape Character of Derbyshire Dales
PREFACE

Introduction

Derbyshire Dales has a varied and diverse landscape, from the open moors of the Dark Peak to the flat floodplains of the Trent valley. This document identifies and describes the key features and characteristics of the landscape of Derbyshire Dales outside the Peak District National Park. This has been achieved by undertaking a landscape character assessment of the district, a process of dividing the landscape into units of land with common characteristics. There are many characteristics that define the landscape. These can essentially be divided into the physical and natural processes; such as geology, landform and soils and human processes affecting settlement, enclosure patterns and land cover.

This document is a reproduction of those parts of the assessment undertaken by Derbyshire County Council which relate directly to Derbyshire Dales District Council. The original document - “The Landscape Character of Derbyshire” was published in 2004.

The Purpose of the Landscape Assessment

The assessment is meant to guide and promote a number of primary planning aims:

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<th>Aim 1: Landscape Character and Diversity</th>
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<tr>
<td>To maintain and enhance the overall quality and diversity of landscape character across the district, the distinctive sense of place and individual identity of each particular area.</td>
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<th>Aim 2: Managing Change</th>
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<td>To support and complement planning policies by helping to ensure that new development respects and where practicable contributes towards enhancing the local character and sense of place of the landscape.</td>
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<th>Aim 3: Biological Diversity</th>
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<tr>
<td>To support and complement the aims of the Biodiversity Action Plans for Derbyshire Dales, enriching biological diversity throughout the wider countryside and encouraging the sustainable management of the district’s Landscapes.</td>
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The Approach

The assessment recognises the important role that development plays, not only as a component of landscape character but also in contributing to the conservation, enhancement and restoration of character and local distinctiveness. Providing guidance for the design and location of new development in the countryside is, therefore, an important aspect of any landscape character assessment.

It is important to recognise what this document does not do. It does not label areas as attractive or unattractive, high or low quality. All areas have features that contribute to or detract from the overall qualities of an area and this assessment is an objective exercise to identify these features and understand their development.

Urban areas have been excluded. The study does, however, identify the overall contribution they make to settlement patterns and how they influence the landscape immediately surrounding them.

Within Derbyshire Dales a total of 19 Landscape Character Types (LCTs) have been identified within 5 National Landscape Character Areas (LCAs). These are fully described within the document along with planting and landscape management guidelines for each LCT.

The information supports the District Council’s Supplementary Planning Document concerning Landscape Character and Design and will provide the basis for landscape advice and decision making in a wide range of situations including: the formulation of planning policy, development control and countryside management. Additionally the work will inform and assist in the development of countryside strategies and management guidelines.
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Dark Peak
CHARACTER AREA 51

An upland landscape of high moors and settled valleys

Landscape Character Types

- Open Moors
- Enclosed Moorland
- Settled Valley Pastures
- Riverside Meadows

“Should you tire of the valleys and desire to breathe a larger air, the moors are never far distant - moors gloriously open and grand....These are the real moors of heather and bracken which flame with brown and yellow and purple in the autumn.”

p8 JB Firth ‘Highways and Byways in Derbyshire’

Introduction

The Dark Peak extends over a large area of north west Derbyshire although much of it lies within the administrative boundaries of the Peak District National Park. In Derbyshire the Dark Peak extends from Glossop and New Mills in the north and west to the urban fringes of Sheffield in the east and as far south as Matlock. For the purposes of the Derbyshire Landscape Character Assessment the Dark Peak character area also includes the small area of the South West Peak and Manchester Pennine Fringe character areas that lie within Derbyshire.

The expansive moorland of the Peak District is one of the most extensive semi-natural wilderness areas in England. Much of the moorland is traditionally managed for grouse shooting and sheep grazing. Hedgerows and dry stone walls enclose the more sheltered valleys around these upland plateaux to provide pasture for dairy farming with some beef cattle.

The visual and environmental value of this landscape lies in the contrast between the wild moorland and the small-scale domesticated farmland within the in-bye land around the margins. These differences form the basis for the sub-division of the Dark Peak into Landscape Character Types.

Buildings constructed from the local ‘gritstone’ and dry stone walls in the same material reinforce the character and provide a visual link to the underlying geology.

Physical Influences

The Dark Peak is a dramatic upland landscape that owes much of its character to the underlying geology of Millstone Grit sandstone. This hard ‘gritstone’ interspersed with softer shales has given rise to this distinctive landscape of ‘high moors’ dissected by broad valleys and narrow rocky ‘cloughs’. Gritstone outcrops creating rocky tors punctuate these extensive areas of upland plateaux defining the Open Moors. Moorland tops provide long uninterrupted views with vertical cliff faces referred to as ‘edges’ regularly defining the Moorland Fringe. Collectively these rocky outcrops add to the wild and exposed nature of this landscape.
The plateau tops, rising to 636m at Kinder Scout, are heavily dissected by drainage channels. Where run-off has been sufficient to create rivers like the Goyt and Derwent these have eroded through the gritstone to form broad, often steep sided, upland valleys that have provided the focus for settlement and farming highlighted in Settled Valley Pastures. Sometimes scree and exposed rock located within these valleys provide a link to the wild moorland character above the valley sides.

Natural Influences

Semi-natural vegetation is a key characteristic with extensive areas of heather and grass moorland defining the Open Moors and making a significant contribution to Moorland Fringe and Enclosed Moorland.

The lower lying in-bye land associated with Settled Valley Pastures retains traditional hay meadows and unimproved pasture, and steep slopes and sheltered cloughs retain areas of semi-natural broadleaf woodland. Where boundaries are not maintained woodlands are gradually being lost as stock graze on young trees and prevent natural regeneration. In recent years grassland management has been intensified on the lower valley slopes and reduced towards the moorland, making the distinction between moorland and enclosed farmland less distinct, thus creating a gradual transition from one to the other.

All of these land-uses provide valuable habitats for wildlife. Heather moorland is a particularly rare national habitat providing a nesting site and food source for a number of rare birds. Broadleaf woodland remains a key characteristic of Settled Valley Pastures where along with field boundaries, meadows and pastures it constitutes a mosaic of wildlife habitats.

Human Influences

Evidence of human activity on the Dark Peak dates from the mesolithic period when hunter gatherers were attracted to even the highest moors, as indicated by finds of stone tools. The extent of settlement in the Bronze Age is dramatically illustrated by the surviving landscape on the East Moors. Here, because of the lack of agricultural improvement, remains of field systems, settlements and ritual monuments survive from the second millennium BC.

Much of the agricultural landscape seen today has developed over the last millennium. The Domesday Book describes the area as sparsely settled and economically backward. Much of the area was included in the Royal Forest of the Peak, and remained so until the 17th century. Although the Open Moors remain unsettled and free of man-made features, the lower lying margins of the Moorland Fringe and Enclosed Moors are characterised by scattered farmsteads built in the local gritstone. Villages are confined to the valley bottom and lower slopes of the Settled Valley Pastures and often contain industrial terraces that once housed workers from the local textile industry.

The industrial revolution saw the development of large textile mills in the Riverside Meadows and the associated expansion of settlements like New Mills.

Dry stone walls, constructed of the local gritstone are a distinctive feature of the Dark Peak and especially the Enclosed Moorlands. Although walls extend into the valley bottoms the lower slopes tend to be enclosed by hedgerows which together with the small fields create a more enclosed character in contrast to the open expanse of the moors. Where the stone is fissile it has been used for roofing.

Roads and tracks are infrequent throughout. They are generally direct and follow straight lines as they cross the Open Moors and Enclosed Moorland. Some were former Roman roads or historic packhorse routes. Roads, railway lines and even canals are more a feature of Settled Valley Farmlands and Riverside Meadows, taking advantage of the easier gradients and serving the local populations and industrial sites.

The Open Moors have been managed for grouse shooting and sheep grazing since the early 19th century. Periodic burning and regular grazing has ensured the retention of the characteristic land cover that is seen today.

Other Considerations

- Peak District National Park
- Special Landscape Areas
- Peak District BAP
LANDSCAPE TYPE: OPEN MOORS

An upland landscape of rolling highland plateaux of heather moorland with a distinct sense of remoteness and ‘wildness’.

Key Characteristics

- Gently to moderately rolling highland plateau
- Raw peat soils and blanket bog over gritstone
- Unenclosed heather moorland extensively grazed by sheep
- Distinct absence of trees
- Many important archaeological (prehistoric) features
- Open and exposed landscape with expansive views

Geology and Landform

These moorland plateaux and hill summits are strongly influenced by the underlying geology of the Millstone Grit Series. The bedrock, of Namurian age, is hard and difficult to erode, creating broad tracts of upstanding highland, rising to over 600 metres at Kinder Scout. The majority of this landscape extends northwards as a broad, expansive plateau, but around the edges where river valleys have eroded through the gritstone there are outliers of moorland plateaux occurring as occasional summits.

The upstanding nature of this landscape creates a strong sense of elevation and space, with panoramic views over surrounding countryside.

Soils and Land Use

The soils are raw peat and blanket bog which infill the hollows of the underlying geology to create a smooth undulating land surface. The peat develops as a consequence of the cold, wet climate that inhibits microbial activity which decomposes organic matter. With time the organic matter accumulates to create deep peat soils usually between 2-4m thick but sometimes as deep as 6m.

This landscape has low agricultural value being used predominantly for sheep grazing or grouse in an extensive farming system.

Ecology

Much of this landscape is covered by heather moorland comprising Calluna, cross-leaved heath and bilberry. In the wettest areas heather is replaced by cotton-grass and Sphagnum moss.

Where the moorland is grazed some acid communities may establish. Over-grazing can be a problem often characterised by the presence of Nardus stricta grass. This is an important habitat for ground nesting birds.

Tree Cover

This is a treeless landscape owing to the elevation, the wetness of the underlying soils and the generally harsh climate that makes tree growth difficult. This lack of trees creates an open and exposed landscape with expansive views.

Enclosure

It is essentially an unenclosed landscape although on the more isolated moorland summits there may be very occasional dry stone walls dividing the landscape into very broad enclosures.

Transport

A key feature of these landscapes is their remoteness and inaccessibility. There is the very occasional main route crossing these moorland plateaux but for the most part access can only be gained on foot.
Summary

These hill summits and moorland plateaux are formed by hard upstanding Millstone Grit to form the most elevated landscapes in the county. Overlain by deep peat and blanket bog this landscape has little agricultural value being used for extensive sheep grazing or grouse rearing.

It is a landscape characterised by extensive semi-natural vegetation in the form of heather moorland. The climate, soils and grazing ensure that no trees are able to grow, so the landscape retains an open aspect with expansive long distance views.

With little agricultural value this is also an unsettled landscape, although there is evidence of early man’s existence through the presence of standing stones and prehistoric earthworks.

Built Environment

It is an unsettled landscape owing to the hostile climate and low agricultural value of the land. However, there may be evidence of pre-historic man in the presence of standing stones and ancient earthworks.
Planting and Management Guidelines

Open, rolling treeless landscape of heather moorland.

*Excluding the Peak District National Park*

**Primary woodland character:** Open / unwooded

**Primary tree character:** Treeless

**Woodland vision:** Open / unwooded

**Tree vision:** Treeless
**LANDSCAPE TYPE: ENCLOSED MOORLAND**

An open, upland-farming landscape on broad rolling hill summits with patches of remnant moorland. Dry stone walls enclose regular fields and straight roads join occasional isolated farmsteads.

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**Key Characteristics**

- Moderate to steeply sloping gritstone hills
- Peaty, podsolized soils over gritstone
- Gritstone outcrops on hill summits and steeper slopes
- Rough grazing and areas of damp pasture with patches of rushes
- Patches of heather, gorse and bilberry especially where fields are reverting back to moorland
- Medium to large regular fields bounded by dry stone walls
- Unwooded landscape other than occasional amenity trees around farmsteads
- Sparsely scattered gritstone farmsteads some with stone slate roofs
- Open landscape with expansive views

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**Geology and Landform**

The underlying Millstone Grit strongly influences this upland landscape creating a series of gritstone hills. The gritstone is hard and difficult to erode, which creates these gently rolling hill summits or small upland plateaux. Exposed rock outcrops are frequent on the steepest slopes forming in places small gritstone edges. Some lower lying summits are overlain with drift from Palaeozoic sandstones and shales adding further to the subdued nature of the rolling plateaux.

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**Soils and Land Use**

The variable nature of the geology and landform gives rise to a diverse range of soil types, all characterised by their acidic, podsolic nature. At higher elevations the soils are shallow and have a peaty surface horizon. On steeper slopes the soils are well-drained and loamy, whilst over drift and on gentler summits, they are slowly permeable, seasonally waterlogged and fine. All soils remain acidic where they are not limed.

The resultant land use is low quality pasture for stock rearing on wet moorland. Where pasture has been improved or on free draining soils then some dairying occurs although in many areas during the winter there is a high risk of poaching.

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**Ecology**

A landscape with widespread patches of semi-natural vegetation either as heather moorland, with areas of Calluna, cross-leaved heath and bilberry, or acid grassland where Nardus and Molinia grasses are dominant. Where pasture has been improved through liming and fertiliser applications, then habitat value is low or confined to field margins and road verges. There are also patches of gorse and bracken on steeper, free draining slopes.

Where drainage is impeded and soils are slowly permeable then patches of rush pasture with Juncus are locally frequent. At higher elevations and associated with steeper slopes bare rock is common, providing another valuable habitat. This is an important landscape for ground nesting birds.
An open, upland farming landscape on broad rolling hill summits, formed by upstanding sandstone of the Millstone Grit Series. All the soils are free draining, coarse loams but where they are thinnest or under remnant semi-natural vegetation they become impoverished, acidic and humic.

The present land-use is pastoral although until the award of parliamentary enclosure these areas would have been essentially semi-natural. Heather and bilberry would have been prevalent, although the moorland character is evidenced today with sporadic occurrences of gorse and bracken. Where marginal fields have been abandoned these have quickly reverted back to moor and heath with birch scrub.

Individual sandstone farmsteads are scattered and would have followed the parliamentary enclosure of these areas. This late enclosure is characterised by regular and geometric shaped fields bounded by dry-stone walls. The moorland summits are inherently unwooded and trees are scarce other than those planted around farms for shelter and the occasional patch of colonising birch scrub. This creates an open landscape with expansive views.

The majority of roads are straight with fairly wide uniform width verges and would have been established at the time of parliamentary enclosures. The road verges now function as remnant habitats for many of the semi-natural heath land species.
LANDSCAPE TYPE: ENCLOSED MOORLAND

Planting and Management Guidelines

An open, unwooded landscape on broad, rolling hill summits punctuated by occasional small tree groups around farmsteads.

Excluding the Peak District National Park

Primary woodland character: Open / unwooded
Primary tree character: Localised amenity tree groups
Woodland vision: Open / unwooded
Tree vision: Localised amenity tree groups

● Conserve and enhance the tree groups that occur within and around rural settlements and isolated farmsteads.

Note
At Matlock Moor there has been large-scale afforestation of the landscape by the Forestry Commission to create extensive commercial woodland. Today local people value this landscape as a recreational resource for walking, cycling and nature conservation. A defining characteristic of Enclosed Moorland is its open and unwooded character. It would be unrealistic and undesirable to remove these large plantation woodlands. However, their visual and biodiversity value could be enhanced by allowing oak, birch and moorland species to develop around the edges as a link and in keeping with their moorland context.
LANDSCAPE TYPE: ENCLOSED MOORLAND

Woodland Species Mix

# Amenity Trees - appropriate tree species for planting as amenity trees associated with settlement should include locally occurring large woodland species, eg Seesile Oak (*Quercus petraea*), Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*).
LANDSCAPE TYPE: SETTLED VALLEY PASTURES

A settled, pastoral farming landscape on gently sloping lower valley sides, dissected by stream valleys. Dense watercourse trees, scattered boundary trees and tree groups around settlement contribute to a strongly wooded character.

Key Characteristics
- Moderate to steep lower valley slopes dissected by stream valleys
- Poorly draining soils over Carboniferous shale and sandstone
- Pastoral farming with extensive improved pasture
- Localised bracken in some road verges and rushes associated with damp hollows
- Wooded character associated with tree belts along streams and cloughs, scattered hedgerow trees and tree groups around settlement and farmsteads
- Small irregular fields enclosed by mixed species hedgerows and occasional dry stone walls
- Network of winding lanes with irregular verges, sometimes sunken on steeper slopes
- Settled landscape of small nucleated settlements and scattered stone farmsteads with stone slate roofs
- Stone terraces on lower slopes associated with historic mills
- Enclosed landscape with views filtered by trees

Geology and Landform
A landscape strongly influenced by the underlying geology and defined by the steep to gently sloping lower valley sides of broad upland valleys. Where rivers have eroded through the Millstone Grit they have exposed the underlying shale to create these undulating lower valley slopes. Further variation is created by small stream valleys, which dissect the main valley as they drain the surrounding high moors.

Soils and Land Use
The variable nature of the underlying geology ensures there is similar variation in the soils. On the lower less steep slopes, over shale, the soils are slowly permeable, seasonally waterlogged and loamy, over clay. On the steeper slopes over gritstone there are coarser loams over rock, or finer loams over slowly permeable subsoil.

The traditional land use on these soils is stock rearing and dairying with much of the land down to permanent pasture. Grass yield potential is good although there is the risk of poaching on the heavier lower lying soils during wet periods. Some of the steeper, upper slopes over gritstone are less intensively grazed and a coarser more acidic grassland predominates.

Ecology
Much of this landscape is intensively farmed as permanent pasture and improved grassland and leys have little floristic interest. However, there are some very occasional species rich hay meadows. Where drainage is impeded or the soils are slowly permeable, patches of wet grassland with Juncus are frequent. On the upper slopes over gritstone there may be localised patches of acid grassland dominated by Nardus and wavy hair grass. Where the soils are thinner and free draining particularly associated with steep slopes and road verges, heathy plants like bracken, heather and bilberry are locally common.
A network of stream valleys dissecting the main valley sides assist in connecting these patches of habitat in the farmed landscape, which is reinforced by the hedgerow boundaries. These river corridors have dense tree belts and the occasional patch of alder carr. Many of the stream courses have associated ponds and mill ponds that function as important habitats for amphibians. Those that have silted up have now reverted to alder carr.

Several springs and soughs provide wet marshy conditions and lateral water flows, which support isolated patches of species rich marsh.

Tree Cover
Trees are well represented throughout to give the overall effect of a strongly wooded landscape. Dense tree belts, sometimes wide enough to form woodland bands, occur along narrow, tributary stream valleys dissecting the main valley sides. These combine visually with the scattered trees in the hedgerows to filter the views. Small groups of amenity trees are also found associated with settlement and particularly with dispersed farmsteads. Small remnants of ancient woodland persist and these contribute further to the wooded character.

At higher elevations trees are less apparent due in part to the exposure and poorer soils, giving way to a more open moorland landscape. Tree species tend to be broad-leaved and predominantly oak and ash. Sycamore is often associated with transport routes, and alder along the watercourses.

Enclosure
A landscape of small, irregular fields enclosed predominantly by hedgerows, although there are occasional and locally frequent walls especially on higher ground. Hedgerows tend to be a mix of species, including holly, hawthorn, hazel and blackthorn. Their species composition suggests that the fields may have been cleared directly from woodland, and that the woodland trees and shrubs were retained to form the hedgerows.

Transport
There is a dense network of winding lanes, with irregular width verges. Sunken lanes are a feature on sloping ground, though they avoid the very steepest slopes. There are also green lanes, some that run just to isolated farmsteads, together with footpaths linking settlements.

Much of this landscape has been utilised as transport corridors with major roads and railways taking advantage of the gentler lower valley slopes. This is particularly notable where the A6 trunk road and railway runs between Whaley Bridge and Disley.

Built Environment
A well settled landscape containing towns, villages, small groups of cottages, and scattered farmsteads. Most traditional buildings are constructed of the local gritstone with Welsh slate and some surviving stone slate roofs.

Much of the built environment has a distinctive architecture relating to the building tradition of the Manchester area and to its industrial heritage, particularly the textile industry.

Many settlements like Chapel-en-le-Frith, Whaley Bridge and New Mills, have spread out along lower valley slopes and owe their origin to the harnessing of water power and their expansion to the industrial age. Terraces of weavers’ cottages, some with sloping roof lines, and later Victorian terraces are a characteristic feature of the valley sides.

Bluebell woods
Summary

This is an upland landscape associated with the lower slopes of broad upland valleys formed by rivers eroding through the Millstone Grit to expose the shale beneath. Tributary valleys that dissect the main valley sides to create an undulating landform provide further interest.

This is a well settled landscape taking advantage of the natural shelter offered by the lower valley sides, the better agricultural soils and the good communications. There are discrete settlements like Whaley Bridge and Chapel-en-le-Frith, small groups of cottages and industrial terraces, and scattered farmsteads. There is a dense network of lanes connecting the villages with the dispersed farmsteads, with main roads and railway lines hugging the lower slopes immediately off the floodplain.

Trees are well represented throughout giving the overall impression of a well-wooded landscape. Many of the tributary valleys feeding the main valleys form wooded cloughs, some of ancient origin, and these woodland belts are supplemented by scattered hedgerow trees, amenity tree groups associated with settlement and secondary woodland along roads and railway lines. Many of the woodlands have an irregular outline reflecting the irregular field patterns and winding lanes.

This is a pastoral landscape and many of the fields are down to permanent improved pasture. However with altitude the grazing becomes less intensive and the pasture tends to be unimproved and therefore of greater importance ecologically.
LANDSCAPE TYPE: SETTLED VALLEY PASTURES

Planting and Management Guidelines

A well wooded pastoral landscape of small organic woodlands, occasionally of ancient origin, with densely scattered hedgerow and watercourse trees.

Excluding the Peak District National Park

Primary woodland character: Densely scattered small woodlands
Primary tree character: Densely scattered hedgerow and dense watercourse trees.
Woodland vision: Widespread small-medium woodlands
Tree vision: Densely scattered hedgerow and dense watercourse trees.

Typical woodland size range: 0.5 - 15 ha small-medium
Woodland pattern: Organic

- Small-medium scale woodland planting
- Where opportunities arise the removal of coniferous plantation woodland should be encouraged.
- Conserve and restore all ancient woodland sites and restock with locally occurring native species.
- Promote linked extensions to ancient woodland by natural regeneration and planting.
- Ensure the use of indigenous tree and shrub species, including a proportion of large, long lived species.
- Ensure the management and enhancement of hedgerow trees - through selection and natural regeneration, or by planting.
- Encourage the management of scrub and secondary woodland to link with existing habitats and woodland.
- Enhance the visual and ecological continuity of river corridors by management, natural regeneration and planting of riparian trees.
- Ensure the conservation and management of mature/veteran trees within hedgerows.
# LANDSCAPE TYPE: SETTLED VALLEY PASTURES

## Woodland Species Mix

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Neutral/Base Rich Soils</th>
<th>More Acidic Soils</th>
<th>Waterlogged Conditions on all soil types</th>
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<td><strong>Primary Tree Species 50%</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Betula pendula Silver Birch</td>
<td>Betula pendula Silver Birch</td>
<td>Alnus glutinosa Alder</td>
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<tr>
<td>Betula pubescens Downy Birch</td>
<td>Betula pubescens Downy Birch</td>
<td>Betula pubescens Downy Birch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quercus petraea Sessile Oak</td>
<td>Quercus petraea Sessile Oak</td>
<td>Salix caprea Goat Willow</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quercus robur Pedunculate Oak</td>
<td>Quercus robur Pedunculate Oak</td>
<td>Salix fragilis Crack Willow</td>
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<td>Betula pendula Silver Birch</td>
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<td>Sorbus aucuparia Rowan</td>
<td>Ilex aquifolium Holly</td>
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<td>Malus sylvestris Crab Apple</td>
<td>Populus tremula Aspen</td>
<td>Quercus petraea Sessile Oak</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prunus padus Bird Cherry</td>
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<td>Quercus robur Pedunculate Oak</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sorbus aucuparia Rowan</td>
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<td>Tilia cordata Small Leaved Lime</td>
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<th>Shrubs 10-30%</th>
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<td><strong>Major</strong></td>
<td><strong>Major</strong></td>
<td><strong>Major</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corylus avellana Hazel</td>
<td>Corylus avellana Hazel</td>
<td>Crataegus monogyna Hawthorn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crataegus monogyna Hawthorn</td>
<td></td>
<td>Salix aurita Eared Willow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minor</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lonicera periclymenum Honeysuckle</td>
<td></td>
<td>Salix cinerea Grey Willow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corylus avellana Hazel</td>
<td></td>
<td>Prunus spinosa Blackthorn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crataegus monogyna Hawthorn</td>
<td></td>
<td>Rosa canina Dog Rose</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Open space 0-20%</th>
<th>Open space 0-20%</th>
<th>Open space 0-20%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>+ Watercourse Trees - tree species most appropriate for planting as watercourse trees.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Hedgerow Species Mix

### Suitable hedgerow plants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary 70-75%</th>
<th>Secondary 25-30%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crataegus monogyna Hawthorn</td>
<td>Corylus avellana Hazel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ilex aquifolium Holly</td>
<td>Prunus spinosa Blackthorn</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Suitable hedgerow trees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary 70-75%</th>
<th>Secondary 25-30%</th>
<th>Occasional 0-5%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fraxinus excelsior Ash</td>
<td>Acer campestre Field Maple</td>
<td>Malus sylvestris Crab Apple</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quercus petraea Sessile Oak</td>
<td>Tilia cordata Large Leaved Lime</td>
<td>Prunus padus Bird cherry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quercus robur Pedunculate Oak</td>
<td>Tilia platyphyllos Large Leaved Lime</td>
<td>Sorbus aucuparia Rowan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ulmus glabra Wych elm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* only to be used if occurring locally within the landscape character type
Gentle valley floors contain upland rivers, lined with dense trees. Hedgerows enclose small, sub-regular fields in a pastoral landscape, interrupted by the occasional historic mill.

---

**Key Characteristics**

- Gentle valley floors, with narrow flood plains containing meandering rivers
- Seasonally waterlogged soils over alluvium
- Low intensity permanent pasture
- Localized patches of rushes in damp hollows
- Dense trees along watercourses, comprising of alder and willow
- Scattered boundary trees
- Small, sub-regular fields enclosed by hedgerows and dry stone walls
- Lanes along edges or crossing flood plains with gritstone bridges over the rivers
- Industrial heritage associated with gritstone mills powered by water
- Strong sense of enclosure from adjacent slopes

**Geology and Landform**

The flat base of the valley is upon alluvium, formed when the river floods, slows down and deposits the sediments it carries. At the edge of the valley base, there are gentle slopes. They are underlain by Carboniferous shales and unconsolidated material deposited by weathering and downslope movement of material from the valley sides.

The underlying sediment on the flood plain consists of alluvial mud lying over gravels. The gravel acts as an aquifer, carrying water from the adjoining land into the river and so is permanently waterlogged (Bridges 1966). The flood plain is generally flat in profile, with a gentle gradient downstream. There are hollows in the flood plain reflecting the past course of the river. Along the river margins, there are often noticeable banks called levees. These form due to the deposition of sediment as flood waters wane and return to the river channel.

**Soils and Land Use**

The soils are clayey loams, which are seasonally waterlogged.

**Ecology**

The wet meadows, found in hollows in the flood plain, remain partly flooded for much of the year. They support a marshy vegetation with rushes and are important remnants of a diminishing habitat type. Riparian trees add to the ecological value particularly where there are patches of willow carr.

Further habitat diversity is provided by bands of scrub and secondary woodland that are colonising abandoned pasture.

**Tree Cover**

There are lines of scattered alder and willow along the banks of the river including the occasional patch of willow carr.
Summary

Fast flowing meandering rivers dissect Carboniferous sandstones and shales to form gentle valley floors with narrow flood plains. The soils are heavy clay loams prone to prolonged seasonal waterlogging.

These soils have traditionally supported meadowlands grazed by cattle. Fields tend to be medium sized enclosed by a mix of dry-stone walls and thorn hedgerows. Boundaries tend to be straight although the edge of the flood plain is often sinuous.

Within the flood plain there are occasional mature hedgerow trees, predominantly oak and ash, with scattered trees, usually alder, along the river banks. The river corridor has a strong sense of enclosure created by the steep valley sides and extensive secondary woodland.

Due to the risk of flooding this landscape would have been unsettled, with farmsteads being located on the valley sides. The valleys were transformed during the industrial revolution when industrialists built large mills to harness the power of the water. Some mills with associated weirs and pools remain today, converted to new uses.

Lanes are scarce and tend to cut across the flood plain but there are major roads and railway lines located at the edges, often on embankments.

Enclosure

The valleys are fringed on either side of the main rivers by a band of one or two fields, with fairly straight boundaries. The fields are enclosed by thorn hedgerows and dry stone walls.

Transport

The gentle valley bottoms contrast with the steep slopes of adjacent landscape types and form the obvious route for transport corridors. Lanes are not numerous but, where they occur they tend to run along the edge of the flood plain, raised up on embankments to reduce the risk of flooding. Occasionally roads cross the rivers over gritstone bridges.

Trees line river banks

There are also occasional mature trees along field boundaries. These are principally oak and ash.

The tree cover is greatly intensified by the secondary woodland and scrub associated with abandoned and neglected pasture. Tree cover, together with the valley landform, creates a small scale enclosed landscape.

Built Environment

Historically there would have been little built development on the flood plain. Farmsteads would have occupied the higher ground to the edge of the valley, where the risk of flooding was less. However, scattered throughout this landscape are water-powered gritstone mills and a few later steam-powered mills, often constructed of red brick with prominent chimneys.
LANDSCAPE TYPE: RIVERSIDE MEADOWS

Planting and Management Guidelines

An open floodplain with dense watercourse trees.

**Excluding the Peak District National Park**

Primary woodland character: Unwooded

Primary tree character: Dense watercourse trees

Woodland vision: Occasional small wet woodlands

Tree vision: Dense watercourse trees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Typical woodland size range:</th>
<th>0.5 - 5 ha</th>
<th>small</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Woodland pattern:</td>
<td>Organic/ linear</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Ensure the use of indigenous tree and shrub species, including a proportion of large, long lived species.
- Ensure a balance is maintained between new woodland planting and areas of nature conservation value.
- Enhance the visual and ecological continuity of river corridors by management, natural regeneration and planting of riparian trees.
LANDSCAPE TYPE: RIVERSIDE MEADOWS

Woodland Species Mix
Waterlogged Conditions on all soil types

Primary Tree Species 50%
+ Alnus glutinosa  Alder
+ Betula pubescens  Downy Birch
+ Salix caprea  Goat Willow
+ Salix fragilis  Crack Willow

Secondary Tree Species 20%
Major
Betula pendula  Silver Birch
Tilia cordata  Small Leaved Lime

Minor
Quercus petraea  Sessile Oak
Quercus robur  Pedunculate Oak

Shrubs 10-30%
Major
Crataegus monogyna  Hawthorn
Salix aurita  Eared Willow
Salix cinerea  Grey willow

Minor
Prunus spinosa  Blackthorn
Rosa canina  Dog Rose
Viburnum opulus  Guilder Rose

Open space 0-20%

+ Watercourse Trees - tree species most appropriate for planting as watercourse trees.

Hedgerow Species Mix

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Suitable hedgerow plants</th>
<th>Suitable hedgerow trees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary 85-100%</td>
<td>Primary 70-75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crataegus monogyna  Hawthorn</td>
<td>Fraxinus excelsior  Ash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occasional 0-15%</td>
<td>Quercus petraea  Sessile Oak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corylus avellana  Hazel</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Secondary 25-30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Acer campestre  Field Maple</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
White Peak Character Area 52

A gently rolling upland, limestone plateau punctuated by steep sided dales, scattered villages and isolated farmsteads within a pastoral setting

**Introduction**

The White Peak character area is located in the west of the county, most is within the Peak District National Park. It stretches from Castleton in the north, to Wirksworth in the south. An upland landscape, comprising a limestone plateau and deep limestone dales, it includes the spa towns of Matlock Bath in the east and Buxton in the west. It strongly contrasts with the adjacent gritstone landscape of the Dark Peak to the north and west, whilst the transition to the Peak Fringe in the south is more gradual.

**Physical Influences**

The White Peak is strongly influenced by the weathering and erosion of the underlying carboniferous limestone, formed 350 million years ago by the deposition of calcium carbonate rich skeletal remains upon the seabed. Hydrothermal veins associated with volcanic activity left vast mineral deposits of galena (lead ore), fluorspar, calcite, copper and barytes which run through the bedrock.

The majority of the limestone plateau has deposits of silty, wind-blown drift (brown stoneless silts) over the limestone bedrock. These mask the influence of the limestone at the soil surface giving rise to neutral or acidic soils. These soils are well-drained, dark brown silt-loams farmed as pasture and rough grazing. The soils of the upper plateau tend to have deeper deposits. Here the drift has formed a matrix with the course, resistant silica residues of weathered limestone (Ratchel). The soils formed over Ratchel are naturally coarse, thin peaty soils. These soils support rough grassland or a mosaic of heathland shrubs.

“...it was veined with a network of old stone walls, dividing the fields, and broken here and there with ruins of old lead-mines and works. A sparse stone farm bristled with six naked sharp trees. In the distance was a patch of smoky grey stone, a hamlet......stone fences under the sky, looking for the curves downward that indicated a drop to one of the underneath, hidden dales.”

DH Lawrence ‘The Virgin and the Gypsy’

**Landscape Character Types**

- Plateau Pastures
- Limestone Slopes
- Limestone Dales

The Carboniferous Limestone

Limestone Moorland
Plateau Pastures
Limestone Dales
Limestone Slopes
Glacial meltwaters and large streams dissecting the soft bedrock were responsible for the creation of the *Limestone Dales*. The erosion of the limestone occurred above and below ground with water finding its way into faults and fissures, creating caves and caverns. Over time these would collapse to form steep sided slopes of exposed stone. Some dales still have rivers and streams meandering through them, but others are seasonal or dry at the surface, the water passing through a series of underground cave systems. Today the dry dales maintain a character similar to that of the wet dales.

**Natural Influences**

The White Peak is significant in Britain, as the junction between southern and northern species of plants and animals. Variations in landform, soil and a diverse history of agricultural improvements have produced a broad range of wildlife habitats and associated species, many of which are of national and international importance.

The main habitats on the plateau today are grasslands associated with dairy farming and rough grazing. Unimproved, species rich, hay meadow and pasture are of greater value for wildlife but have declined dramatically due to agricultural intensification. The majority of grassland is improved for grazing and silage or haylage production. Occasional flower rich meadows and calcareous grasslands can be found in the *Plateau Pastures* but are more commonly restricted to the *Limestone Dales* and roadside verges.

Ancient semi-natural woodland is a feature of the *Limestone Dales* but does not generally occur elsewhere within the area. Defined by irregular outlines and a mixture of broad-leaved tree species, predominantly ash, they are associated with the steepest valley sides. Overall tree cover is a strong feature of the dales. The *Plateau Pastures* are not densely wooded; it is an open landscape with expansive views. Small plantations, shelter belts and localised tree groups around settlements, made up of usually sycamore or beech, are a distinctive feature.

Following early forest clearance and the leaching of lime, the naturally alkaline soils became acidic and supported heathland species, which became dominant by the sixteenth century. The remaining heathland is fragmented, mainly occurring on uncultivated land, like road verges and railway embankments.

Wetland habitats are generally confined to the *Limestone Dales*. The rivers of the dales are of high water quality and are therefore valuable to wildlife. The permeable nature of limestone and the upland topography means the plateau has no significant wetland habitat. Dew ponds or ‘meres’, are an exception. They were constructed on the plateau as watering holes for cattle by lining a hole with clay and sand. These ponds are valuable for some aquatic species and amphibians such as freshwater snails and newts, as well as being important landscape features.

**Human Influences**

The White Peak has been a focus of settlement since early prehistoric times and numerous surviving monuments indicate the extent of settlement and use of the landscape. These include Neolithic henge monuments like the Bull Ring at Dove Holes. Bronze Age round barrows survive in numbers on the crests of hills and late prehistoric and Romano-British settlements and field systems like Rainster Rocks, Brassington also survive, as do rare examples of burial mounds of Anglo-Saxon date.
The strip fields around villages, occurring minerals, running in veins through the limestone, have also been exploited. Lead ore has been mined from Roman times to the early 20th century and at times brought significant wealth to the area. Although lead mining is no longer a major industry the evidence of past workings are still present, and are especially associated with the Peak District National Park and Peak District BAP.

Within villages lanes are characteristically narrow and winding, often with variable width verges reflecting the undulating nature of the surrounding landscape. Between the settlements there is a network of straighter, more direct roads. Modern transport links, such as the A6, and railway lines utilise the valleys of the Limestone Dales, as components of routes through the county.

A very good example of the way this landscape has been overlain by successive periods and types of man’s activity may be seen around Rainster Rocks, north west of Brassington. Here the earthwork remains of a Romano-British settlement lie adjacent to extensive medieval ridge and furrow, which in turn are overlain by the remains of lead mining and the field walls of 19th century enclosures.

Other Considerations

- Peak District National Park and Peak District BAP
- Special Landscape Areas

The White Peak is not a densely settled landscape. There are nucleated villages within Plateau Pastures and Limestone Slopes, many originating in Saxon and medieval times, usually connected by straight enclosure roads. The traditional building material is random rubble local limestone with roofs of stone slates brought from the Dark Peak area.

These limestone villages are a key characteristic of the area. Outside the villages, isolated farmsteads occur, again constructed of the local limestone with stone tile or slate roofs. The Limestone Dales remained largely unsettled due to their topographical inaccessibility.

The Limestone Dales are largely unenclosed due to the inaccessible nature of the steeper slopes. Stone walls are occasionally found cutting across the valleys, but many of these are now falling into disrepair.

The limestone has been exploited on a small scale for hundreds of years but large scale quarrying has occurred in more recent times. Modern quarries have had a major visual impact on the landscape, leaving large voids that can be seen for miles across the open plateau. Other naturally occurring minerals, running in veins through the limestone, have also been exploited. Lead ore has been mined from Roman times to the early 20th century and at times brought significant wealth to the area. Although lead mining is no longer a major industry the evidence of past workings are still present, and are especially associated with the Peak District National Park and Peak District BAP.

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These limestone villages are a key characteristic of the area. Outside the villages, isolated farmsteads occur, again constructed of the local limestone with stone tile or slate roofs. The Limestone Dales remained largely unsettled due to their topographical inaccessibility.
LANDSCAPE TYPE: PLATEAU PASTURES

A gently rolling, upland limestone plateau characterised by nucleated limestone villages, dry stone walls, a pastoral land-use and open and expansive views

Key Characteristics
- A gently rolling upland plateau
- Fine, silty brown soils (over silty, loess, Aeolian drift) over Carboniferous Limestone
- Stock rearing on improved pasture
- Limestone outcrops on hill summits and steeper slopes
- Small shelter blocks of plantation woodland and tree groups around villages and farmsteads
- Medium to large regular fields enclosed by dry stone walls with narrow strip fields around settlements
- Straight roads with uniform verges
- Small pits and hummocks in areas of historic lead mining
- Nucleated limestone villages and isolated limestone farmsteads with slate roofs
- Small isolated field barns
- Open landscape with expansive views

Geology and Landform
The underlying Carboniferous Limestone strongly influences this upland landscape creating a broad upland plateau. The limestone bedrock is hard and slowly eroded, giving rise to a moderately rolling landform of numerous minor hill summits with exposed rock. Large areas of limestone were subsequently overlain with a variable thickness of Aeolian drift adding to the subdued nature of this rolling plateau and masking the influence of the limestone on soil and vegetation.

Soils and Land Use
The soils are well drained, fine silty brown earths over a free draining bedrock and Aeolian drift. These are characteristically shallow to moderately deep, being shallowest on the steeper slopes and hillcrests. Deeper soils tend to be associated with deeper accumulations of drift. Any calcareous influence from the underlying geology is counteracted by the high elevation of this plateau, where high annual rainfall is common, leaching occurs and soils are naturally acid.

Pasture, and particularly dairying, is the dominant land use in this landscape. Most of the fields have been ploughed and reseeded to improve the pasture. Some unimproved grassland is still found where the ground is unsuitable for cultivation such as, on the more exposed crests and steeper slopes where soils are thin and often grazed by sheep.

Ecology
Prior to enclosure these landscapes would have been covered with semi-natural neutral grassland, with calcareous grassland and some scrub on the steeper, thinner soils. However, since enclosure much of the ecological value has diminished with remnant habitats now confined to the more marginal hillcrests and slopes where exposed rock is prevalent. Very occasional patches of unimproved pasture may still be encountered in less intensively farmed areas and on the verges of green lanes and trackways. There is little floristic interest in the improved grassland that exists today.
Where vein minerals and particularly lead, outcrop at or near the surface these have been exploited by small scale quarrying. Some of the resultant spoil and disturbed land associated with such workings have created local historic landscape features in the area. These often support very rare vegetation swards with specialist species like leadwort.

**Enclosure**

Dry stone walls constructed from the local limestone enclose medium to large regular fields. The dry stone walls are distinctive being constructed of random sized limestone rubble. Many of the walls are straight, and together with the regular shaped fields, reflect the relatively late enclosure of this landscape from waste and common. One notable road in this landscape is the A515, which runs for a large part on the line of a former Roman road.

Contrasting with the broader plateau there are narrow strip fields around the villages that create a very prominent and distinctive field pattern. The strip fields are indicative of enclosure from open fields, and much of this enclosure may have been piecemeal taking place over a long period of time.

**Built Environment**

A landscape containing nucleated villages like Monyash, Chelmorton and Taddington. The limestone village is a key characteristic. Cottages and farmsteads are constructed from the local Carboniferous Limestone, often random rubble, with stone and Welsh slate roofs.

Between villages there are sparsely scattered farmsteads, established at the time of parliamentary enclosure. Again these are traditionally constructed from the local limestone, often random rubble, with slate roofs. Outside the village centre, there are many, small, isolated stone barns located along the boundaries of fields and integrated into the dry stone walls.

Tree cover is more apparent around the villages where there are scattered boundary trees adjacent to some walls and small amenity groups within the settlement and around individual dwellings. The dominant species is ash although sycamore is prevalent often replacing ash trees.

Adjacent to some field boundaries isolated hawthorns have established. Some areas are more wooded than others but the overall effect is that of an open landscape with expansive views.
**Summary**

The Plateau Pastures is a simple yet distinctive pastoral landscape strongly influenced by the underlying geology. The Carboniferous Limestone has given rise to an elevated and for the most part gently rolling upland plateau. This elevation, allied to the general lack of tree cover, allows for long distance and panoramic views.

The soils are inherently thin over the limestone and regularly leached by the high rainfall. As a result the predominant land-use is stock rearing associated with dairying and many of the fields are down to improved permanent pasture.

The cultural patterns of this landscape are strong and very distinctive. The whole of the plateau is divided into regular shaped fields enclosed by dry stone walls. There are discrete limestone villages scattered across the plateau. Very distinctive small and narrow strip fields again enclosed by walls, suggesting the extent of former open fields, surround the villages.

Tree cover is also a distinctive feature although it is rarely visually prominent. It occurs primarily as small plantation blocks and shelter belts sparsely scattered throughout the landscape with localised trees and tree groups associated with villages and isolated farmsteads.

The unifying influence of the limestone as a locally distinctive building material, together with strong pastoral traditions and lack of modern development, ensures that the landscape retains its rural character.
Planting and Management Guidelines

Open, pastoral landscape on a rolling upland plateau punctuated by sparsely scattered, but visually prominent, small plantations with tree groups around farmsteads and settlement.

Excluding the Peak District National Park

Primary woodland character: Thinline scattered small plantations
Primary tree character: Localised amenity tree groups
Woodland vision: Thinline scattered small plantations
Tree vision: Localised amenity tree groups

Conserve and enhance the tree groups that occur within and around rural settlements and isolated farmsteads.

Conserve and enhance the plantations.

Note

Plantation woodlands primarily planted for shelter, comprised mainly of sycamore and sometimes beech, are visually striking features of this landscape character type. Their dense crowns and lack of understorey vegetation often creates silhouetted skyline features contrasting in the wider landscape with the naturalistic upland ash woods of the limestone dales.

As a key landscape characteristic and within the context of the visual appearance of this landscape there is a strong argument to conserve and enhance this distinctive woodland character.

The woodland species mix has been developed to take account of this fact.
**Woodland Species Mix**

**Base Rich Soils**

**Primary Tree Species 85%**
- # Acer pseudoplatanus - Sycamore

**Secondary Tree Species 5-15%**
- # Fagus sylvatica - Beech
- # Fraxinus excelsior - Ash
- Ulmus glabra - Elm

**Shrubs 0-10%**
**Major**
- Corylus avellana - Hazel
- Crataegus monogyna - Hawthorn
- Ligustrum vulgare - Wild Privet

**Minor**
- Cornus sanguinea - Dogwood
- Ilex aquifolium - Holly
- Prunus spinosa - Blackthorn
- Viburnum opulus - Guelder Rose

**Open Space 0-20%**

---

# Amenity Trees - tree species most appropriate for planting as amenity trees associated with settlement, or other locally occurring large woodland species.
**LANDSCAPE TYPE: LIMESTONE SLOPES**

A landscape of small, nucleated limestone villages and dispersed farmsteads nestling within moderate to steeply sloping limestone slopes. Distinctive dry stone walls enclose former open fields and semi-regular fields with a pastoral land use.

---

**Key Characteristics**

- Steep slopes
- Fine, silty brown soils over silty, aeolian drift over Carboniferous Limestone
- Localised bare rock outcrops on steeper slopes
- Stock rearing on permanent pasture
- Small semi-regular and strip fields enclosed by dry stone walls
- Small, isolated field barns
- Villages with limestone and slate roofed farmsteads and cottages
- Small pits and hummocks in areas of historic lead mining

**Geology and Landform**

The underlying geology strongly influences this upland landscape creating a moderate to steeply sloping fringe to the limestone plateau. The Carboniferous Limestone is hard and slowly eroded giving rise to an undulating landform with many minor hill summits and extensive amounts of exposed rock.

**Soils and Land Use**

The soils are fine loamy brown earths over a free draining bedrock and Aeolian drift. These are characteristically shallow to moderately deep, being shallowest on the steeper slopes and hillcrests. Deeper soils tend to be associated with the deeper accumulations of drift.

Pasture, and particularly dairying, is the dominant land use with much of the land being farmed in a low intensity system. The steepness of the slopes, allied to the thin soils and rocky outcrops, seriously restrict opportunities for providing improved pasture.

**Ecology**

Ecological value lies in the extensive area of unimproved grassland typically dominated by common bent and sheep’s fescue. Where pasture has been abandoned, or on the steepest more sheltered slopes, scrub is beginning to colonise. This sometimes occurs with localised patches of gorse and bracken. Other features of interest include exposed rock and scree with their associated flora and fauna. There are also habitats of particular interest in areas of former lead mining.

**Tree Cover**

Tree cover is apparent throughout this landscape with scattered boundary trees, small woodland blocks and extensive patches of scrub colonising abandoned pasture. Most of the woodland is associated with the steeper less cultivable slopes where soils are thinnest and stony.

The overall effect is that the trees provide filtered views through the landscape, although there are long distance views to the slopes beyond as a result of the sloping topography.

**Enclosure**

Dry stone walls constructed from the local limestone enclose small to medium, semi-regular fields. The walls are distinctive being...
constructed of random size limestone rubble. With the abandonment of some pasture many of them have been neglected and are in a poor condition.

**Transport**

There is a dense network of winding lanes with irregular width verges. Most of the lanes connect the small villages and farmsteads, winding themselves through the landscape and avoiding the steepest slopes. There are also a number of green lanes, like the Limestone Way, and footpaths that run between the settlements.

**Built Environment**

This is a settled landscape of nucleated limestone villages and scattered farmsteads and cottages. These are traditionally constructed from the local limestone, often random rubble, with stone or Welsh slate roofs.

Other features in this landscape are the small pits and hummocks found in many fields, associated with the historic lead mining industry. Most of the remains date from the 17th to 19th centuries although some are earlier. Quarrying in general is a prominent feature. Once small in scale, some areas are now dominated by large modern quarries with their associated plant.

Limestone villages nestled into the landscape

Outside the settlements, there are isolated stone barns located along the boundaries of fields and integrated into the dry stone walls, many of which are now derelict.

**Summary**

This is a landscape strongly influenced by the underlying Carboniferous Limestone geology creating a moderate to steeply sloping fringe to the limestone plateau. The hard and resistant rock is slowly eroded giving rise to an undulating landform with minor hill summits and extensive amounts of exposed rock.

The soils are characteristically variable relating to landform, being thinnest on the steepest slopes and hillcrests. The thin soils allied to the steepness of some slopes and the extent of exposed rock ensures that unimproved pasture and rough grazing supports low intensity grazing by livestock.

The landscape is well settled with villages and scattered farmsteads traditionally built in the local limestone with stone slate roofs. Beyond the village and scattered throughout there are small stone field barns often integrated into the dry stone walled boundaries.

Unlike other areas of the limestone plateau tree cover tends to be more apparent occurring as scattered trees or tree groups around settlements but also as small woodland blocks and extensive patches of scrub colonisation. The trees filter views through the landscape but there are open long distance views to slopes beyond.
LANDSCAPE TYPE: LIMESTONE SLOPES

Planting and Management Guidelines

Moderate to steeply sloping pastoral landscape with scattered small plantations, occasional semi-natural woodland and small tree groups around farmsteads and settlement.

Excluding the Peak District National Park

Primary woodland character: Thinly scattered small plantations and semi natural woodland.

Primary tree character: Localised amenity tree groups

Woodland vision: Densely scattered small-medium plantations

Tree vision: Localised amenity tree groups.

Typical woodland size range: 0.5 - 15 ha small-medium

Woodland pattern: Regular/ organic

- Small scale woodland planting
- Promote linked extensions to ancient woodland by natural regeneration and planting.
- Ensure a balance is maintained between new woodland planting and areas of nature conservation value.
- Encourage the management of scrub and secondary woodland to link with existing habitats and woodland.
- Conserve and enhance the tree groups that occur within and around rural settlements and isolated farmsteads.
- Ensure new woodland does not conflict with features (e.g. ridge and furrow) that help to define landscape character.
**LANDSCAPE TYPE: LIMESTONE SLOPES**

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**Woodland Species Mix**
*Calcareous soils*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary Tree Species 50%</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acer campestre</td>
<td>Field Maple</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># Fraxinus excelsior</td>
<td>Ash</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Secondary Tree Species 20%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Major</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malus sylvestris</td>
<td>Crab Apple</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sorbus aucuparia</td>
<td>Rowan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ulmus glabra</td>
<td>Wych Elm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prunus padus</td>
<td>Bird Cherry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxus baccata</td>
<td>Yew</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shrubs 10-30%</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Major</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corylus avellana</td>
<td>Hazel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crataegus monogyna</td>
<td>Hawthorn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minor</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cornus sanguinea</td>
<td>Dogwood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ilex aquifolium</td>
<td>Holly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prunus spinosa</td>
<td>Blackthorn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viburnum opulus</td>
<td>Guelder Rose</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

| Open space 0-20%          |  |

**Amenity Trees** - tree species most appropriate for planting as amenity trees associated with settlement, or other locally occurring large woodland species.
**LANDSCAPE TYPE: LIMESTONE DALES**

Narrow, deeply incised river valleys with steep slopes and extensive amounts of exposed rock. There are blocks of ancient woodland, areas of scrub and rough grassland grazed by sheep.

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**Key Characteristics**

- Very steeply sloping valley sides
- Very shallow loamy soils over Carboniferous Limestone
- Frequent bare rock outcrops and scree slopes
- Areas of scrub dominated by hawthorn
- Blocks of ancient woodland
- Rough grazing by sheep in enclosures bounded by dry stone walls

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**Geology and Landform**

Narrow, steep sided valleys have been cut into the Carboniferous Limestone by the headwaters of minor streams and rivers flowing away from the limestone plateau. The principle rivers forming these dales are the Wye, the Lathkill and the Dove. The result is a series of distinctive limestone dales. In contrast to wet dales many of the smaller dales are dry owing to the fact that water percolates through the bedrock.

The dale sides have frequent outcrops of the grey-white limestone sometimes forming precipitous rock buttresses with scree slopes.

The valley floor is characterised by a narrow, flat floodplain. The rivers are fast flowing with a rocky river bed giving a strong sense of movement.

The steep valley sides with rock outcrops in association with the narrow river corridor create a strong feeling of containment.

**Soils and Land Use**

Very shallow, loamy upland soils lie over the limestone. These soils are thinnest on the steeper rocky slopes and deeper in the valley floor. Dark humose surface horizons predominate; most soils are non-calcareous but calcareous soils also occur.

Narrow strips of alluvial soils are found along the Dove and the Wye associated with the narrow flood plain.

As the slopes are often too steep for improved pasture or afforestation, the land is used mainly for rough grazing by sheep. This semi-natural grassland is of good grazing value.

**Ecology**

The ecology of these dales is an intimate mix of semi-natural habitats, ranging from deciduous woodland dominated by ash, scrub woodland with hawthorn and large tracts of unimproved grassland. The low grazing pressure on these slopes distinguishes them from other limestone landscapes and maintains the floristic diversity of the grasslands. The grasses are characterised by fescues, and many small herbs like common rockrose, wall-pepper and wild thyme can be found on the rockier soils and outcrops.
Summary

The headwaters of minor streams have carved through the Carboniferous Limestone geology to form narrow, deeply incised and steeply sloping valleys. The valley sides are characterised by steep, rocky cliffs and scree slopes, making them inaccessible for most uses other than rough grazing by sheep.

Thin soils and light grazing have ensured that many of the original habitats such as ancient woodland and species rich calcareous grassland have remained in excellent condition and support species of national importance.

Many dales have been utilised as transport corridors, where roads and railways run parallel to the narrow watercourse. Some former railway lines have been converted to long distance footpaths and bridleways.

The steep valley sides and rocky cliffs coupled with the narrow valley sides impart a strong sense of enclosure and visual containment. Where the dales remain free of infrastructure they retain a tranquil and secluded character, although paradoxically this tranquil character attracts heavy recreational use.

Built Environment

Human habitation is not a feature of these limestone dales owing to their topographical inaccessibility. Some man-made activities do impact in the form of modern quarries, lead mining remains and water management systems. Occasional mills built in the local stone to harness water power survive, generally converted to other uses.

Although many dales remain uninhabited there has been extensive urbanisation of the Matlock dale through Matlock Bath and its feeder valleys at Bonsall Brook and Via Gellia. Matlock Bath is a late Georgian and Victorian creation, developed as a popular spa and inland resort. Many of the Regency and Victorian villas and terraces are built in brick finished with stucco rather than the local stone.

Transport

Some of these dales have been utilised as transport corridors with major roads and railways running in the valley bottom or on the valley sides. This is particularly notable in the Wye Valley where the main A6 trunk road and a railway line run up the valley.

Tree Cover

Tree cover is a key feature of these dales although its extent is variable. Some valley sides like those in the Wye valley are extensively wooded with broad tracts of ancient semi-natural woodland. In other valleys woodland cover is more sporadic and is associated with scrub woodland dominated by hawthorn.

Now the railway lines are mainly disused many have become attractive recreational routes. Where dales have been unaffected by transport links they remain relatively unspoilt, accessed only by footpaths and bridleways, often steep in places.

Enclosure

This is essentially an unenclosed landscape although occasional dry stone walls divide the valley. Many of these walls are now neglected and in a poor condition.

The river channel is an important ecological corridor and often retains its natural bank profiles with some occasional marginal aquatic vegetation and riparian trees.

Where broad-leaved woodland prevails it tends to be dominated by ash with hazel although sycamore is now common. There are also some scattered trees along the riverbanks dominated by willow and hawthorn.

Overall the woodland cover coupled with the steep valley sides can create a strong sense of enclosure and visual containment.

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LANDSCAPE TYPE: LIMESTONE DALES

Planting and Management Guidelines

Narrow, deeply incised river valleys with widespread semi-natural woodland, much of ancient origin and scattered watercourse trees.

Excluding the Peak District National Park

Primary woodland character: Widespread large semi-natural broadleaved woodlands.
Primary tree character: Scattered watercourse trees
Woodland vision: Widespread large woodlands
Tree vision: Scattered watercourse trees

- Conserve and restore all ancient woodland sites by natural regeneration or use of locally occurring native species.
- Ensure the use of indigenous tree and shrub species, including a proportion of large, long lived species.
- Ensure a balance is maintained between new woodland planting and areas of nature conservation value.
- Enhance the visual and ecological continuity of river corridors by management, natural regeneration and planting of riparian trees.
### LANDSCAPE TYPE: LIMESTONE DALES

#### Woodland Species Mix

**Calcareaous Soils**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary Tree Species 50%</th>
<th>Waterlogged Conditions on all soil types</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acer campestre Field Maple</td>
<td>Primary Tree Species 50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fraxinus excelsior Ash</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fraxinus excelsior Ash</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>+ Salix fragilis Crack Willow</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Secondary Tree Species 20%</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Major</td>
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<th>Open space 0-20%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>+ Watercourse Trees - tree species most appropriate for planting as watercourse trees.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Waterlogged Conditions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Major</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Betula pubescens Downy Birch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ Salix capreaa Goat Willow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ Salix cinerea Grey Willow</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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DERBYSHIRE PEAK FRINGE AND LOWER DERWENT
CHARACTER AREA 50

An undulating well-wooded, pastoral landscape on rising ground between the Derbyshire Coalfield and the Peak District

Landscape Character Types

- Enclosed Moors and Heaths
- Wooded Slopes and Valleys
- Wooded Farmlands

- Settled Farmlands
- Riverside Meadows

“Little flowery fields of every shape and size, square fields, triangles, fish-shaped fields with odd corners, rhomboids, bounded by green hedgerows and black walls, linked arms and ran up hill and down dale, round the folded hills out of sight into countless valleys beyond where the sun set.”

p16 Alison Uttley ‘The Country Child’

Introduction

The Derbyshire Peak Fringe and Lower Derwent is a Character Area exclusive to Derbyshire, being a transitional landscape between the Derbyshire Coalfield in the east, the Needwood and South Derbyshire Claylands to the south and the Peak District (comprising the Dark and White Peaks) to the north west. For the purposes of the Derbyshire Landscape Character Assessment this area also includes the southern limits of the Yorkshire Southern Pennine Fringe within the county.

The landscape has a typical elevational range of 100m to 300m although the landform, comprising bands of sandstone and mudstone, is distinctly undulating as it rises from east to west forming the foothills to the Peak District.

Central to the character of the area are the river valleys, the Ecclesbourne, the Amber and most notably the Derwent. The Derwent valley extends through the heart of the area from Cromford to Derby taking in the settlements of Belper and Duffield. With steep, wooded valley sides in the north, the floodplain broadens towards Duffield with the Derwent meandering through it. Towards the north of the area smaller fast flowing brooks were dammed to harness water power and the Derwent valley itself became a cradle of the industrial revolution with the development of the new factory system, facilitated by the construction of large water powered textile mills.

This early industrialisation was however largely arrested by competition from Lancashire and Yorkshire and land use has remained predominantly pastoral with mixed stock rearing and rough grazing. Where topography allows there is some mixed...
farming with occasional arable fields. Woodland is well represented throughout with extensive ancient semi-natural woodland occupying steep valley sides and smaller woodlands elsewhere. Species rich hedgerows with hedgerow trees are prevalent in the east although in the most elevated areas towards the Peak District these give way to gritstone walls.

From north to south the area includes a number of small towns such as Wirksworth and Belper, although the settlement pattern is predominantly dispersed with many scattered and isolated farmsteads. In the north the expansion of Chesterfield is slowly introducing urban fringe activities such as ‘horsiculture’ into an otherwise agricultural landscape. A similar pattern is developing in the southern fringe, near Derby.

**Physical Influences**
The underlying geology is the cause of transitional changes in the landscape. Bands of sandstone, mudstone and coal measures in the east give way to a predominance of sandstone and gritstone as the land rises towards the Peak District. Occasional outcrops of Carboniferous limestone also occur within the *Wooded Slopes and Valleys* at Ashover and Crich and add some local diversity. In the south, near Belper, a Millstone Grit scarp called the Chevin and another at Alport Heights are considered to be the last outliers of the Pennine chain, which, in the case of Alport Heights, affords long distance, panoramic views over lower lying landscapes to the south and west.

**Natural Influences**
The predominant land-use is pasture for stock rearing although the quality of the grasslands is variable. Within the *Enclosed Moors and Heaths* soils tend to be poor quality and the land-use, without agricultural improvement, is rough grazing. Much grassland tends to be neutral in character but there is localised calcareous grassland associated with limestone outcrops, and acid grassland and heath associated with steep slopes over sandstone.

Although stone walls are a feature of the *Enclosed Moors and Heaths*, many fields, at lower elevations, are defined by mixed species hedgerows with hedgerow oaks which act as ecological corridors, connecting other habitats.

Ancient semi-natural broadleaf woodland is a prominent characteristic of the *Wooded Slopes and Valleys*. *Wooded Farmlands* occur most notably along the steep valley sides of the Derwent. These woodlands are made up typically of oak, birch and hazel with many ancient woodland indicator species such as bluebell amongst the ground layer.

The present day settlement pattern is variable. Nucleated villages, such as Brassington and Bradbourne, are features of the *Settled Farmlands*, whilst the *Wooded Slopes and Valleys* have a more dispersed settlement pattern with scattered farmsteads and small hamlets nestled into the hillsides. There are urban influences associated with the expansion of Chesterfield into the eastern fringes of the *Wooded Farmlands*. Wirksworth, Duffield and Belper have also expanded in size. Most notable is Belper, with large modern residential areas now extending into the open *Gritstone Heaths and Commons*.

The predominant building material throughout is gritstone with stone or Welsh slate roofs. Where the Peak Fringe abuts the White Peak the traditional buildings combined limestone and gritstone with stone slate or clay tiled roofs. In the southern parts, towards Derby and Ashbourne, red brick is more evident as a building material particularly in the construction of large water-powered textile mills.
Because of the topography and relief of this landscape many settlements, which lie within it, often in valley bottoms, may be observed from an elevated viewpoint, thereby emphasising their significance within the landscape.

Long before the industrial revolution, life was sustained by industrial as well as agricultural activity and evidence of abandoned mines and quarries makes a significant contribution to the area’s character.

Industries have included small scale coal mining within the Wooded Farmlands, lead and iron mining, glass making, and limestone and gritstone quarrying within the Wooded Slopes and Valleys and Enclosed Moorland. Modern day quarry activity is particularly evident around Wirksworth, Crich and Ashover.

At Cromford and Belper the mill masters also built houses, shops, schools, churches, chapels and farms to sustain the local workforce and their families. This ‘cultural landscape’ is now recognised as a World Heritage Site. Collectively the mills, other associated buildings and the landscape of the Derwent Valley now form the basis of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.

* A more detailed description of the cultural landscape of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site may be found in The World Heritage Site Management Plan.

Other Considerations

- Special Landscape Areas
- Lowland Derbyshire BAP
- Peak District BAP
- Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site
**Geology and Landform**

These hill summits are underlain by rocks of Namurian age of the Millstone Grit Series. The bedrock of the summits around Cromford Moor is hard sandstone. The high ground at Crich Stand is upon an inlier of grey Dinantian Limestone. The limestone has been folded upwards and the overlying sandstone has been eroded, leaving deposits of head beside the limestone.

Where erosion has cut through the sandstone the bedrock is softer, grey, marine mudstone and there are localised deposits of head. The lower ground associated with the shale forms gentle valleys on the summits.

**Soils and Land Use**

Soils have a coarse loamy texture and are free draining due to the underlying permeable sandstone. The thinnest best drained soils can become very acid, particularly under semi natural vegetation. Over the mudstone, the drainage is poorer and the soils can be seasonally waterlogged.

Pasture is the dominant land use in this landscape. Most of the fields have been ploughed and reseeded, and are grazed by cattle and sheep. The soils tend to become quite acid and require frequent liming to prevent the development of an organic surface mat and subsequent reversion to moorland (Bridges 1966).

**Ecology**

Prior to enclosure, these landscapes would have been covered in heathy acid grassland. There would have been widespread gorse, bracken, heather and bilberry. Patches of these species persist in remnants. Particularly significant is the patch of gorse, bracken and broom at Alport Heights. Bracken and gorse are found along roadside verges. There is little floristic interest in the improved grassland that exists today. A small area of this landscape type at Crich occurs over an outlier of carboniferous limestone and as a result has calcareous grassland associations.

**Tree Cover**

The moorland summits are inherently very sparsely wooded. The traditional land management by stock rearing has prevented the regeneration of trees. There are occasional trees in field

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**Key Characteristics**

- Rolling highland summits
- Thin soils over hard sandstone bedrock
- Pastoral farming, sheep and dairy cattle
- Widespread bracken, localised gorse and patches of remnant moorland habitat
- Sparsely scattered trees beside farmsteads and along some field boundaries
- Regular pattern of fields, bounded by dry-stone walls
- Regular lanes with uniform width verges
- Sparsely scattered sandstone farmsteads with stone slate roofs

An open, farming landscape on broad rolling hill summits with patches of remnant moorland. Dry-stone walls enclose regular fields and straight roads join occasional sandstone farmsteads.
These hill summits and moorland fringes are formed by upstanding sandstone of the Millstone Grit Series with a small outcrop of Dinantian Limestone at Crich. All the soils are free draining, coarse loams but where they are thinnest or under remnant semi-natural vegetation they become impoverished and acidic.

The present land-use is pastoral although before enclosure these areas would have been essentially semi-natural. Heather and bilberry would have been prevalent in the more northern areas with gorse, broom and bracken dominating at Alport Heights. Where marginal fields have been abandoned these have quickly reverted back to moor and heath with birch scrub.

Individual sandstone farmsteads are scattered and would have followed the parliamentary enclosure of these areas. Late enclosure is supported by the regular and geometric shaped fields bounded by dry-stone walls. These moorland summits are inherently unwooded and trees are scarce, other than occasional boundary trees and those planted around farms for shelter. This creates an open landscape with expansive views.

The majority of roads are straight with fairly wide, uniform-width verges and would have been established or re-aligned at the time of parliamentary enclosures. The upland area around Alport Heights has winding lanes with irregular verges and is possibly an area of earlier enclosure. The road verges now function as remnant habitats for many of the semi-natural heath land species.

Near Shottle and Crich, the roads curve around ownership boundaries. These curving lanes have irregular width verges and are enclosed by a mixture of hedgerows and dry-stone walls, again suggestive of a period of earlier enclosure.

**Summary**

These hill summits and moorland fringes are formed by upstanding sandstone of the Millstone Grit Series with a small outcrop of Dinantian Limestone at Crich. All the soils are free draining, coarse loams but where they are thinnest or under remnant semi-natural vegetation they become impoverished and acidic.

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**LANDSCAPE TYPE: ENCLOSED MOORS AND HEATHS**

**Planting and Management Guidelines**

An open, unwooded landscape on broad, rolling hill summits punctuated by occasional small plantations and tree groups around farmsteads.

**Primary woodland character:** Open / unwooded  
**Primary tree character:** Localised amenity tree groups  
**Woodland vision:** Open / unwooded  
**Tree vision:** Localised amenity tree groups

- Conserve and enhance the tree groups that occur within and around rural settlements and isolated farmsteads.
Woodland Species Mix

# Amenity Trees - appropriate tree species for planting as amenity trees associated with settlement should include locally occurring large woodland species, eg Sessile Oak (*Quercus petraea*), Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*).
Key Characteristics

- Upland, undulating ground rising up to moorland
- Slopes are moderate to steep, and steepen along stream valleys
- Poorly draining soils over bands of mudstone and harder sandstone
- Permanent pasture for sheep and dairy cattle
- Widespread bracken and localised gorse, found particularly on the thinner soils of steeper slopes
- Densely scattered small to medium ancient woodlands and some secondary woodland, mostly on steeper slopes and along streams
- Densely scattered hedgerow trees
- Irregular field pattern bounded by mixed species hedgerows
- Dry-stone walls are also widespread, usually defining a more regular field pattern
- Network of winding lanes, often sunken on steeper slopes, with rocky banks
- Dispersed sandstone farmsteads with stone slate roofs with localised clusters

Geology and Landform

The underlying bedrock is sandstone and mudstone of the lower coal measures and the Millstone Grit. The upstanding, higher ground is underlain with sandstone, while the valleys are cut into the softer mudstone. There are localised seams of coal, which have been exploited by mining. For much of the area, the beds dip towards the East from the high moors.

Soils and Land Use

Soils are variable, reflecting the range of underlying geology and steepness of slope. Over the sandstone bands and on steeper slopes there are coarse loamy, well-drained soils. Seasonally waterlogged gley soils are found over the mudstone bands or on the lower lying slopes. All of the soils are agriculturally poor and consequently the dominant land use is permanent grassland for pasture or hay. There are occasional arable fields on the better drained soils over sandstone.

Ecology

The network of watercourses, often linked with woodland bands, provide the key wildlife habitat in this landscape character type. This network links isolated patches of habitat in the farmed landscape, reinforced by the hedgerows. On the thin, well-drained soils over sandstone there are patches of heathy acid grassland with bracken, gorse and occasionally heather. Bracken is widespread along field boundaries and on road verges.

Tree Cover

Patches of semi natural woodland, many of ancient origin, are widespread. They are particularly associated with the agriculturally poor soils on steep slopes and the heavy soils at the base of valleys. The woodlands, especially ancient woodlands, tend to be small to medium in size, with an irregular outline. On acid soils the woodland is generally upland oakwood.
Derbyshire Peak Fringe and Lower Derwent Character Area 50

Irregular field pattern suggesting direct clearance from woodland.

Summary

It is the intimate mix of the lower coal measures and Millstone grit, which has given rise to this undulating, rising landscape. As a result the soils are highly variable from thin impoverished soils over the upstanding sandstone, to heavy gleyed soils in the damp hollows and small valleys. Between these extremes there will be localised variation related to geology and relief.

All the soils are agriculturally poor so this is a landscape traditionally associated with woodland. Indeed much of the early settlement and clearance would have been by woodland assarting. This is reflected in the widespread dispersal of individual farmsteads and the large number of small, irregular fields with mixed species hedgerows.

The resulting landscape is a mix of pastoral farming with small, irregular woodlands, many of ancient origin, on the steeper uncultivable slopes. These woodlands along with hedgerow trees give the landscape a distinctly wooded character. Hedgerow trees are predominantly oak with some ash which, along with the mixed species hedgerows, may be indicative of a previously more extensive ancient wooded landscape.

Country lanes are sinuous, often sunken, winding their way through the landscape avoiding steeper slopes. The road network is dense, again reflecting the moderate to high density dispersal of farmsteads.

Irregular field pattern suggesting direct clearance from woodland.
LANDSCAPE TYPE: WOODED SLOPES AND VALLEYS

Planting and Management Guidelines

A rising, undulating landscape with many semi-natural woodlands, some of ancient origin, along steep slopes and valley sides with densely scattered hedgerow and watercourse trees.

Primary woodland character: Densely scattered small-medium woodlands.

Primary tree character: Densely scattered hedgerow and dense watercourse trees.

Woodland vision: Widespread small-medium woodlands

Tree vision: Densely scattered hedgerow and dense watercourse trees.

Typical woodland size range: 0.5 - 15 ha small-medium

Woodland pattern: Organic

- Small-medium scale woodland planting
- Conserve and restore all ancient woodland sites and restock with locally occurring native species.
- Promote linked extensions to ancient woodland by natural regeneration and planting.
- Ensure the use of indigenous tree and shrub species, including a proportion of large, long lived species.
- Re-establish and enhance physical links between existing isolated woodland and hedgerows.
- Ensure the management and enhancement of hedgerow trees through selection and natural regeneration, or by planting.
- Encourage the management of scrub and secondary woodland to link with existing habitats and woodland.
- Enhance the visual and ecological continuity of river corridors by management, natural regeneration and planting of riparian trees.
- Where opportunities arise the removal of coniferous plantation woodland should be encouraged.
- Ensure the conservation and management of mature/veteran trees within hedgerows.
**Hedgerow Species Mix**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Suitable hedgerow plants</th>
<th>Suitable hedgerow trees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Primary 70-75%</strong></td>
<td>Primary 95-100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Crataegus monogyna</em></td>
<td><em>Ash</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Hawthorn</em></td>
<td><em>Sessile Oak</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Secondary 25-30%</strong></td>
<td><em>Quercus robur</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Acer campestre</em></td>
<td><em>Pedunculate Oak</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Field Maple</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Corylus avellana</em></td>
<td><em>Hazel</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Hazel</em></td>
<td><em>Crab Apple</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Ilex aquifolium</em></td>
<td><em>Gean</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Field Maple</em></td>
<td><em>Bird Cherry</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Occasional 0-5%</em></td>
<td><em>Sorbus aucuparia</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Lonicera periclymenum</em></td>
<td><em>Rowan</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Honeysuckle</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Viburnum opulus</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Honeysuckle</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Woodland Species Mix**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Neutral/Slightly Acid Soils</th>
<th>More Acidic Soils</th>
<th>Waterlogged Conditions on all soil types</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Primary Tree Species 50%</strong></td>
<td><strong>Primary Tree Species 50%</strong></td>
<td><strong>Primary Tree Species 50%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Betula pendula</em></td>
<td><em>Betula pendula</em></td>
<td><em>Alnus glutinosa</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Silver Birch</em></td>
<td><em>Downy Birch</em></td>
<td><em>Alder</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Betula pubescens</em></td>
<td><em>Downy Birch</em></td>
<td><em>Goat Willow</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Sessile Oak</em></td>
<td><em>Sessile Oak</em></td>
<td><em>Crack Willow</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Quercus petraea</em></td>
<td><em>Quercus robur</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Pedunculate Oak</em></td>
<td><em>Pedunculate Oak</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Secondary Tree Species 20%</strong></td>
<td><strong>Secondary Tree Species 20%</strong></td>
<td><strong>Secondary Tree Species 20%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Fraxinus excelsior</em></td>
<td><em>Ilex aquifolium</em></td>
<td><em>Betula pendula</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Ash</em></td>
<td><em>Holly</em></td>
<td><em>Silver Birch</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Malus sylvestris</em></td>
<td><em>Populus tremula</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Crab Apple</em></td>
<td><em>Aspen</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Prunus avium</em></td>
<td><em>Gean</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Bird Cherry</em></td>
<td><em>Sorbus aucuparia</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Sorbus aucuparia</em></td>
<td><em>Rowan</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Shrubs 10-30%</strong></td>
<td><strong>Shrubs 10-30%</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Corylus avellana</em></td>
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<td><em>Crataegus monogyna</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Hazel</em></td>
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<td><em>Hawthorn</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Crataegus monogyna</em></td>
<td><em>Crataegus monogyna</em></td>
<td><em>Salix aurita</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Hawthorn</em></td>
<td><em>Hawthorn</em></td>
<td><em>Eared Willow</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Lonicera periclymenum</em></td>
<td><em>Viburnum opulus</em></td>
<td><em>Salix cinerea</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Honeysuckle</em></td>
<td><em>Guelder Rose</em></td>
<td><em>Grey Willow</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Viburnum opulus</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td><em>Salix aurita</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Hawthorn</em></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Salix cinerea</em></td>
<td><em>Grey Willow</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Minor</em></td>
<td><em>Prunus spinosa</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Quercus petraea</em></td>
<td><em>Rosa canina</em></td>
<td><em>Blackthorn</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Rowan</em></td>
<td><em>Viburnum opulus</em></td>
<td><em>Dog Rose</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Viburnum opulus</em></td>
<td></td>
<td><em>Guelder Rose</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Open space 0-20%**

- **Watercourse trees** - tree species most appropriate for planting as watercourse trees.
LANDSCAPE TYPE: WOODED FARMLANDS

This is a mixed farming landscape on undulating ground. Woodlands, hedgerow and streamline trees contribute to a strongly wooded character.

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**Key Characteristics**

- Undulating, intermediate landform, with gentle slopes
- Poorly draining soils over mudstone with localised sandstone and coal seams
- Localised bracken on thinner soils over sandstone
- Scattered ancient woodlands
- Scattered hedgerow trees locally dense in places
- Dense tree cover along streams
- Areas of irregular fields bounded by mixed species hedgerows
- Small to medium fields, enclosed by hedgerows
- Curving lanes with irregular verges
- Scattered sandstone farmsteads and occasional hamlets

**Geology and Landform**

The underlying bedrock is dominated by mudstone of the Lower Coal Measures. Within the mudstone, there are bands of sandstone, forming the higher ground, and seams of coal which have been exploited by mining. There is a subdued undulating landform, with few steep slopes.

**Soils and Land Use**

Seasonally waterlogged, gley soils are found over the mudstone bands. Over the localised sandstone bands there are free draining, thinner soils. The heavy soils over the mudstone are difficult to work and would traditionally have supported permanent grassland for grazing and hay. Arable crops would have been largely confined to the lighter soils on the sandstone.

**Ecology**

A network of watercourses, often linked with woodland bands, provides the key wildlife habitat in this type. This network, reinforced by hedgerows, links isolated patches of habitat in the farmed landscape. On the thin, well-drained soils over sandstone, there are patches of heathy acid grassland with bracken, gorse and occasionally heather.

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Bracken is widespread along field boundaries and on road verges.

**Tree Cover**

Patches of semi natural woodland, some of ancient origin, are widespread, ranging in size from small remnants to large blocks such as Hardwick Wood near Wingerworth. Historic map evidence suggests that woodland was even more widespread in the nineteenth century. The irregular streamside flora in woodland.
### Summary

In this transitional landscape, where the Lower Coal Measures give way to the Millstone Grit Series, the landform is gently rolling, relating to the contrasting bands of mudstone and sandstone. The mudstone dominates and is overlain by seasonally waterlogged soils, with thinner free draining soils over sandstone. The result is a landscape of permanent pasture and woodland on the heavy soils, with occasional arable fields on the lighter soils. In more recent times there has been an expansion in arable farming.

Woodland and hedgerow trees are prevalent creating a well-wooded landscape. Woodlands of varying size have irregular shaped boundaries, as do many fields, suggesting these fields originated from woodland clearance. Mixed species hedgerows, with oak trees, also reflect a previously more extensive ancient wooded landscape.

The dispersed nature of individual farmsteads further suggest clearance by woodland assarting. Some small nucleations do occur and are associated with small areas of former open fields. The country lanes are winding, relating to the undulating topography and form a dense network connecting the isolated farmsteads.
Planting and Management Guidelines

A well wooded landscape of small, organic woodlands, some of ancient origin, with densely scattered hedgerow and watercourse trees.

**Primary woodland character:** Densely scattered small-medium woodlands.

**Primary tree character:** Densely scattered hedgerow and dense watercourse trees.

**Woodland vision:** Widespread small-medium woodlands

**Tree vision:** Densely scattered hedgerow and dense watercourse trees.

### Typical woodland size range:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size Range</th>
<th>0.5 - 20 ha</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Woodland pattern:** Organic

- Small-medium scale woodland planting
- Conserve and restore all ancient woodland sites and restock with locally occurring native species.
- Promote linked extensions to ancient woodland by natural regeneration and planting.
- Ensure the use of indigenous tree and shrub species, including a proportion of large, long lived species.
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- Ensure the conservation and management of mature/veteran trees within hedgerows.
### Woodland Species Mix

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Landscape Type</th>
<th>Neutral/Slightly Acid Soils</th>
<th>More Acidic Soils</th>
<th>Waterlogged Conditions on all soil types</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Primary Tree Species 50%</strong></td>
<td><em>Betula pendula</em> Silver Birch</td>
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<td><em>Betula pendula</em> Silver Birch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Secondary Tree Species 20%</strong></td>
<td><em>Fraxinus excelsior</em> Ash</td>
<td><em>Fraxinus excelsior</em> Ash</td>
<td><em>Fraxinus excelsior</em> Ash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Major</strong></td>
<td><em>Quercus petraea</em> Sessile Oak</td>
<td><em>Quercus petraea</em> Sessile Oak</td>
<td><em>Alnus glutinosa</em> Alder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Minor</strong></td>
<td><em>Prunus avium</em> Gean</td>
<td><em>Quercus robur</em> Pedunculate Oak</td>
<td><em>Betula pubescens</em> Downy Birch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Sorbus aucuparia</em> Rowan</td>
<td></td>
<td>+ <em>Salix caprea</em> Goat Willow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Shrubs 10-30%</strong></td>
<td><em>Corylus avellana</em> Hazel</td>
<td><em>Sorbus aucuparia</em> Rowan</td>
<td>+ <em>Salix fragilis</em> Crack Willow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Major</strong></td>
<td><em>Crataegus monogyna</em> Hawthorn</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Minor</strong></td>
<td><em>Lonicera periclymenum</em> Honeysuckle</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Open space 0-20%</strong></td>
<td><em>Crataegus monogyna</em> Hawthorn</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Hedgerow Species Mix

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Suitable hedgerow plants</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Primary 70-75%</strong></td>
<td><em>Fraxinus excelsior</em> Ash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Crataegus monogyna</em></td>
<td><em>Quercus petraea</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Secondary 25-30%</strong></td>
<td><em>Quercus robur</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Acer campestre</em></td>
<td><em>Occasional 0-5%</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Corylus avellana</em></td>
<td><em>Malus sylvestris</em></td>
</tr>
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<td><em>Prunus avium</em></td>
</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Lonicera periclymenum</em></td>
<td><em>Rosa canina</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Viburnum opulus</em></td>
<td><em>Viburnum opulus</em> Guelder Rose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Viburnum opulus</em> Guelder Rose</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* only to be used if occurring locally within the landscape character type.
A gently undulating to rolling pastoral landscape over mixed sandstone, mudstone, limestone and drift geologies, characterised by densely scattered hedgerow trees and lines of trees along watercourses. Limestone villages and sparsely scattered farmsteads give the impression of a well settled landscape.

### Key Characteristics

- Gently undulating to rolling upland landscape
- Seasonally waterlogged soils over mixed Carboniferous and Permo-Triassic geology and glacial till
- Dairy farming on permanent pasture and grass leys
- Scattered hedgerow trees, predominantly ash, that provide filtered views
- Dense lines of trees along watercourses
- Small to medium sized semi-regular and strip fields enclosed by hedgerows and occasional dry stone walls
- Widespread ridge and furrow
- Dense network of winding lanes with irregular width verges
- Discrete villages with buildings of limestone and Staffordshire blue tiles or Welsh slate roofs and scattered outlying farmsteads all creating the sense of a well-settled landscape

### Geology and Landform

This is a landscape with a mixed geology, reflecting the transition from the upland limestone in the north to the softer Mesozoic rocks further south. As a result there are outcrops of Carboniferous limestone and limestone shales around Hognaston Winn. By contrast, the geology just north of Ashbourne is a mix of Permo-Triassic sandstones and mudstones. Significant areas of glacial till, capping the underlying hard geology, further diversify the surface geology.

For the most part the resultant landform is gently undulating to rolling, with distinct elevated plateaux where the glacial till and limestone prevail.

### Soils and Land Use

The range of soils reflects the diversity of the underlying geology but for the most part the soils are fine loams and silts over clayey, slowly permeable subsoils. As a result many are seasonally waterlogged, making them difficult to cultivate and prone to poaching by livestock.

Over the limestone the soils are shallow, free draining loams becoming more calcareous where the soils are thinnest or slopes are locally steep. Where sandstone predominates soils are often free draining brown earths.

The generally heavy nature of these soils ensures that pasture predominates with dairying and stock rearing on improved permanent pasture and grass leys.

### Ecology

Much of this landscape is intensively farmed as improved permanent pasture with grass leys. As a result much of this agricultural landscape is of little ecological value. However, there are isolated patches of unimproved grassland and hay meadow associated with steeper slopes, which provide local floristic interest. Where limestone outcrops, around Hognaston Winn, there is localised calcareous grassland.

Terrestrial corridors are important with many well-managed...
Medieval strip fields associated with the nearby village of Brassington

These still have evidence of medieval ridge and furrow. They are some of the best examples in the county.

Medieval ridge and furrow

The majority of fields are enclosed by hedgerows, which tend to be predominantly hawthorn, although along lanes and historic boundaries hedges are more mixed, with species like holly and hazel. Dry stone walls, constructed in limestone, are dominant in some areas, as for example at Hognaston Winn. Where walls occur then the landscape appears more open and the field pattern is more evident.

Transport

There is a dense network of winding lanes throughout this landscape often with irregular width verges. The exception to this is on the limestone at Hognaston Winn where there is very little access. There are many footpaths and green lanes connecting the small settlements and scattered farmsteads.

Built Environment

This is a well settled but sparsely populated landscape, comprised of villages originating in the medieval period and scattered farmsteads. Villages tend to be small like Bradbourne, Carsington and Hognaston. Between the villages there are scattered farmsteads. Where this landscape abuts the limestone, small field barns become a feature of the landscape. Because of the topography and relief many buildings within it are observed from an elevated viewpoint, emphasising their significance in the landscape.

The predominant building materials are carboniferous limestone with Staffordshire blue tiles or Welsh slate for roofing. Towards Ashbourne red brick becomes more evident and predominates as the main building material.

Tissington has its own particular character being an estate village set within parkland and accessed via a formal gateway.

Most of the villages have grown little although modern infill development has modified their original loose knit character. With the intensification of farming practices there is an increasing demand for large modern barns, which are often poorly designed and sited.

There are localised effects of lead mining around Carsington and Brassington.

The greatest visual impact on this landscape type has resulted from the creation of the large reservoir at Carsington, with its associated visitor buildings. There is also a quarry with a processing plant at Ballidon that has a localised impact on this landscape.

Several examples of strip fields enclosed from former open fields survive, most notably around Brassington and Bradbourne.

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Several examples of strip fields enclosed from former open fields survive, most notably around Brassington and Bradbourne.
Summary

This is a landscape of fairly diverse geological composition with Palaeozoic, Mesozoic and drift materials giving rise to a gently undulating to rolling upland landscape. Although there is some local variation in soil, relating to the variations in both geology and landform, they tend to be free draining fine loams over clay subsoils that are prone to short-lived seasonal waterlogging.

Primarily this is a cultural landscape shaped by its settlement pattern and land-use. A key feature is its settled character. The area demonstrates human activity from the prehistoric period with evidence of settlement since the Roman period. Many of the villages are certainly early medieval in origin. Although not densely populated there is a general scattering of small villages and farmsteads throughout, constructed in the local vernacular style of local limestone with Welsh slate or Staffordshire blue clay tile roofs.

The settled nature of this landscape type has ensured that the landscape has been well utilised for agriculture and the predominant land-use is pastoral associated with dairying. Much of the permanent pasture is now improved. This pastoral landscape is defined by small semi-regular and strip fields enclosed by hedges and occasional dry stone walls. These narrow strip fields have been enclosed from former medieval open field systems and today historic ridge and furrow is a widespread and visually prominent feature of this landscape type.

Trees are well represented, associated with scattered hedgerow trees and dense lines of watercourse trees. Woodlands are not a characteristic feature although they occur locally as small estate woodlands around Tissington. Trees help to define the small to medium scale by filtering views through the landscape. Over limestone or where the glacial till creates upstanding plateaux, trees are more sparsely scattered and there is a distinct sense of elevation with views over lower lying land.

There are localised impacts of quarrying at Ballidon and lead mining remains are a significant feature around Brassington and Carsington.
LANDSCAPE TYPE: SETTLED FARMLANDS

Planting and Management Guidelines

A gently undulating pastoral landscape of very few woodlands but densely scattered hedgerow and watercourse trees.

Primary woodland character: Unwooded
Primary tree character: Densely scattered hedgerow and dense watercourse trees
Woodland vision: Occasional small woodlands
Tree vision: Densely scattered hedgerow and dense watercourse trees

Typical woodland size range: 0.5 - 5 ha small
Woodland pattern: Organic or regular

- Ensure the use of indigenous tree and shrub species, including a proportion of large, long lived species.
- Ensure the management and enhancement of hedgerow trees-through selection and natural regeneration, or by planting.
- Enhance the visual and ecological continuity of river corridors by management, natural regeneration and planting of riparian trees.
- Ensure the conservation and management of mature/veteran trees within hedgerows.
- Ensure new woodland does not conflict with features (e.g. ridge and furrow) that help to define landscape character.
### Woodland Species Mix

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</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Betula pubescens</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Ilex aquifolium</td>
<td>Ilex aquifolium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Minor</strong></td>
<td><strong>Minor</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malus sylvestris</td>
<td>Quercus petraea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Populus tremula</td>
<td>Quercus robur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prunus avium</td>
<td>Tilia cordata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sorbus aucuparia</td>
<td><strong>Shrubs 10-30%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Open space 0-20%</strong></td>
<td><strong>Open space 0-20%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*only to be used if occurring locally within the landscape character type*

### Hedgerow Species Mix

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Suitable hedgerow plants</th>
<th>Suitable hedgerow trees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Primary 70-75%</strong></td>
<td><strong>Primary 70-75%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crataegus monogyna</td>
<td>Ash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Secondary 25-30%</strong></td>
<td><strong>Secondary 25-30%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corylus avellana</td>
<td>Quercus petraea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ilex aquifolium</td>
<td>Quercus robur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Occasional 0-5%</strong></td>
<td><strong>Occasional 0-5%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lonicera periclymenum</td>
<td>Malus sylvestris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viburnum opulus</td>
<td>Prunus avium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Open space 0-20%</strong></td>
<td><strong>Open space 0-20%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*only to be used if occurring locally within the landscape character type*
LANDSCAPE TYPE: RIVERSIDE MEADOWS

Broad, flat flood plains, hold meandering rivers, with scattered trees along the river bank. Scattered boundary trees and transport routes punctuate the pastoral landscape.

Key Characteristics

- Flat, broad flood plains containing meandering rivers
- Seasonally waterlogged soils over alluvium
- Low intensity permanent pasture
- Localised patches of rushes in damp hollows
- Scattered, locally dense trees along watercourses, widespread alder and localised willow
- Scattered trees along field boundaries
- Regular shaped fields, bounded by hawthorn hedges
- Lanes along edges or crossing flood plains with gritstone bridges over the rivers
- Active and disused railway lines with secondary woodland along embankments
- Historic textile mills

Geology and Landform

This landscape lies on the flood plains of the Derwent and Ecclesbourne Rivers. These flood plains are fairly broad and contain meandering rivers. The underlying sediment consists of alluvial mud lying over gravels deposited by the rivers in times of flood. The gravel acts as an aquifer, carrying water from the adjoining land into the river and so is permanently waterlogged (Bridges 1966). In places there are natural raised banks to the rivers, called levees. These are formed by the deposition of sediment by floodwaters as they wane.

Soils and Land Use

The soils are clayey loams that are seasonally waterlogged. Some areas are more permanently waterlogged and some wet hollows retain floodwater long after the majority of the floods have subsided. Some fields around Allestree and Duffield contain ridge and furrow, providing evidence of arable cultivation in the medieval period.

However, the heavy soils and risk of flooding make the flood plain difficult to work for arable cropping. Subsequent changes in the organisation of agriculture shifted cropping to the better drained soils away from the flood plain, leaving permanent grassland as the dominant land use.

Ecology

The River Derwent is a fairly wide and deep river along this section, with relatively clean water. The River Ecclesbourne is narrower and has largely unpolluted water, making it very valuable as a freshwater habitat. The wet meadows, found in hollows in the flood plain, remain partly flooded for much of the year. They support marsh vegetation with rushes and are important remnants of a diminishing habitat type.

Further habitat diversity is provided by bands of scrub and secondary woodland that fringe the transport corridors. The stretch of surviving Cromford...
-crush grinding corn, with its associated weir and mill pool. Farmsteads occupied the higher ground to the edge of the valleys, where the risk of flooding was less. There are occasional farmsteads on the slightly higher, better drained areas within the flood plain. Mills and farmsteads were predominantly built of local gritstone with Welsh or occasionally Cumbrian slate roofs.

Richard Arkwright and Jedediah Strutt transformed the role of these river valleys following the building in 1771 of the world’s first successful water-powered cotton spinning mill in Cromford. When their business partnership folded, Arkwright stayed in Cromford while Strutt developed new mills at Belper and Milford. In addition to the mills, houses, shops, inns, schools, churches, chapels and farms were built to sustain the mill workers. These, together with the historic transportation infrastructure and watercourses, constitute the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site. At Milford the mill workers cottages follow the contours snaking along the valley sides above the mills. There are several distinctive farmsteads built by the Strutts in the area.

- There are also scattered mature trees, principally oak and ash, along field boundaries. Ornamental parkland trees such as specimen oak, ash and horse chestnut extend into this landscape around Duffield. There are pollarded willows in the Ecclesbourne valley.

The tree cover is greatly intensified by the secondary woodland that occurs beside road and rail links and along the Cromford Canal. This woodland is often dominated by sycamore, which limits its interest as a habitat. Increased woodland here occurs as a consequence of the development of the Derwent Valley as a transport corridor and is not part of its inherent character.

- Thorn hedgerows enclose medium sized fields. Many of the boundaries are straight, although some are more curving, indicating earlier enclosure. There are occasional dry-stone walls in the Derwent Valley. A sinuous hedge or wall often defines the edge of the flood plain.

- Lanes in this landscape tend to run along the edge of the flood plain, raised upon embankments to reduce the risk of flooding. Occasionally roads cross the river upon gritstone bridges. The main Derby to Matlock road, follows the route of former turnpike roads. It runs along the Derwent Valley for most of its course and is bounded by gritstone walls.

There is a dense network of direct public footpaths crossing the flood plains, connecting the scattered farmsteads along the edges of the valleys. The railways were built in the mid 19th century and followed the flat flood plains, on causeways, through gritstone tunnels and over stone and iron bridges. The railway line in the Ecclesbourne valley is now disused.

The Cromford Canal, which originally ran from Cromford to Langley Mill, opened in 1794. It formed an important transport route for the early industry that developed in the Derwent Valley, although it fell into disuse with the advent of the railways and now stops abruptly, at Ambergate.

The rail line in the Ecclesbourne valley is now disused. The Cromford Canal, which originally ran from Cromford to Langley Mill, opened in 1794. It formed an important transport route for the early industry that developed in the Derwent Valley, although it fell into disuse with the advent of the railways and now stops abruptly, at Ambergate.

There are many mature trees, mainly oak and ash, along field boundaries. Ornamental parkland trees such as specimen oak, ash and horse chestnut extend into this landscape around Duffield. There are pollarded willows in the Ecclesbourne valley.

The tree cover is greatly intensified by the secondary woodland that occurs beside road and rail links and along the Cromford Canal. This woodland is often dominated by sycamore, which limits its interest as a habitat. Increased woodland here occurs as a consequence of the development of the Derwent Valley as a transport corridor and is not part of its inherent character.

Enclosure
Thorn hedgerows enclose medium sized fields. Many of the boundaries are straight, although some are more curving, indicating earlier enclosure. There are occasional dry-stone walls in the Derwent Valley. A sinuous hedge or wall often defines the edge of the flood plain.

Transport
Lanes in this landscape tend to run along the edge of the flood plain, raised upon embankments to reduce the risk of flooding. Occasionally roads cross the river upon gritstone bridges. The main Derby to Matlock road, follows the route of former turnpike roads. It runs along the Derwent Valley for most of its course and is bounded by gritstone walls.

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Summary
The lower reaches of the Derwent and Ecclesbourne rivers flow through broad flood plains. The meandering rivers have deposited alluvial materials during times of flood, the resultant soils being heavy, clay loams prone to prolonged seasonal waterlogging.

These soils have traditionally supported meadowlands grazed by cattle. However there is evidence of ridge and furrow suggesting that in medieval times some crops may have been grown on a small scale. Fields tend to be medium sized and enclosed by thorn hedgerows. These boundaries are often straight but some are curved, possibly reflecting some of these earlier medieval strips.

The flood plain is open although there are mature hedgerow trees, predominantly oak and ash, with scattered groups, usually alder, along the riverbanks.

Due to the risk of flooding this landscape would have been unsettled although some modern housing estates now extend into the flood plain. Lanes are scarce and tend to cut across the flood plains. Major roads and railway lines, constructed on embankments, are located at its edges.
Planting and Management Guidelines

An open floodplain with dense watercourse trees.

Primary woodland character: Unwooded

Primary tree character: Thinly scattered hedgerow and dense watercourse trees.

Woodland vision: Occasional small wet woodlands

Tree vision: Thinly scattered hedgerow and dense watercourse trees.

Typical woodland size range: 0.5 - 5ha small

Woodland pattern: Organic/ linear

- Ensure the use of indigenous tree and shrub species, including a proportion of large, long lived species.
- Ensure a balance is maintained between new woodland planting and areas of nature conservation value.
- Enhance the visual and ecological continuity of river corridors by management, natural regeneration and planting of riparian trees.
**Woodland Species Mix**

*Waterlogged Conditions on all soil types*

**Primary Tree Species 50%**
- *Alnus glutinosa* Alder
- *Betula pubescens* Downy Birch
- *Salix caprea* Goat Willow
- *Salix fragilis* Crack Willow

**Secondary Tree species 20%**
- **Major**
  - *Betula pendula* Silver Birch
  - *Fraxinus excelsior* Ash
  - *Quercus petraea* Sessile Oak
  - *Quercus robur* Pedunculate Oak
- **Minor**
  - *Tilia cordata* Small Leaved Lime

**Shrubs 10-30%**
- **Major**
  - *Crataegus monogyna* Hawthorn
  - *Salix aurita* Eared Willow
  - *Salix cinerea* Grey Willow
- **Minor**
  - *Malus sylvestris* Crab Apple
  - *Prunus avium* Gean
  - *Prunus padus* Bird Cherry
  - *Sorbus aucuparia* Rowan

**Open space 0-20%**

*Watercourse trees* - tree species most appropriate for planting as watercourse trees.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Suitable Hedgerow Plants</th>
<th>Suitable Hedgerow Trees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Primary 85-100%</strong></td>
<td><strong>Primary 95-100%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Crataegus monogyna</em></td>
<td><em>Fraxinus excelsior</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Corylus avellana</em></td>
<td><em>Quercus petraea</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Corylus avellana</em></td>
<td><em>Quercus robur</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Occasional 0-15%</strong></td>
<td><strong>Occasional 0-5%</strong>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Crataegus monogyna</em></td>
<td><em>Malus sylvestris</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Corylus avellana</em></td>
<td><em>Prunus avium</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Prunus padus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Sorbus aucuparia</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Crataegus monogyna</em></td>
<td><em>Crab Apple</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Corylus avellana</em></td>
<td><em>Gean</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Bird Cherry</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Rowan</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* only to be used if occurring locally within the landscape character type
NEEDWOOD AND SOUTH DERBYSHIRE CLAYLANDS
CHARACTER AREA 68
A settled, pastoral landscape on gently rolling lowlands.

Introduction
Located in the south west of the county, the Needwood and South Derbyshire Claylands comprise two distinct areas separated by the River Dove, which also forms the administrative boundary between Derbyshire and Staffordshire. The distinctive wooded landscape of Needwood lies exclusively within Staffordshire.

The remainder of this Character Area within Derbyshire, is rolling lowland over glacial till and Mercia Mudstones that were amenable to early settlement and farming. In contrast to the Needwood area there is less woodland and more settlement with small villages and scattered farmsteads and cottages. Ridge and furrow and the earthworks of deserted villages suggest the area was once more densely settled.

Land-use is typically dairy farming with some arable, set within a framework of hedgerows and hedgerow trees. Woodlands are few but locally occurring parkland, such as that at Kedleston Hall makes a significant contribution to the overall character of the area.

Small red brick villages and estate farms are distinctive features, and although some settlements west of Derby have expanded through post-war development, the landscape retains a deeply rural character.

Natural Influences
The predominant land-use is pasture, mainly for dairy farming, with some arable cropping where topography allows, particularly in Settled Plateau Pastures. Within Derbyshire, unlike the Needwood area, woodland is not a prominent characteristic, although there is a strong sense of enclosure pertaining to the patchwork of fields enclosed by hedgerows with hedgerow trees. Although much of the pasture has now been improved there are still remnants of unimproved pasture and meadows. Some older hedgerows are species rich.

Where the underlying geology is defined by sandstone in Sandstone Slopes and Heaths, locally occurring heathland with gorse and heather is still to be found, though mostly confined to the steepest slopes or road verges.

Historic parks, like Kedleston, make a locally significant contribution to the ecological value of Estate Farmlands through the presence of veteran parkland trees and the presence of plantation woodland.

Physical Influences
Within Derbyshire this character area is defined by an underlying geology of Mercia Mudstones, with Sherwood sandstone to the north overlain in the north and west by a thin covering of glacial drift. Differential erosion by numerous narrow streams, draining from the Peak Fringe, has created a gently undulating to rolling landform with the glacial drift defining the more upstanding Settled Plateau Farmlands.

The wide valley and Riverside Meadows of the River Dove, which also separates the area from Needwood, define the western and southern limits of this area within the county.

Landscape Character Types
- Settled Plateau Farmlands
- Settled Farmlands
- Sandstone Slopes and Heaths
- Estate Farmlands
- Riverside Meadows

“...and where at every turn he came upon some fine old country-seat nestled in the valley or crowning the slopes, some homestead with its long length of barn and its cluster of golden ricks, some grey steeple looking out from a pretty confusion of trees.....And directly below them the eye rested on a more advanced line of hanging woods, divided by bright patches of pasture or furrowed crops...”

p16 George Eliot ‘Adam Bede’
Other Considerations

• Special Landscape Areas
• The Lowland Derbyshire BAP

Winding country lane

Human Influences

Evidence of early activity is generally rare. However, Iron Age and Roman settlement has recently come to light suggesting the area was more extensively settled in the pre-medieval period than previously believed.

The agricultural quality of the land would always have attracted settlers and the present pattern of settlement was established in the Anglo-Saxon period, as indicated by the place name evidence and the number of villages already present by the time of Domesday Book.

Following the Norman Conquest extensive tracts of land were set aside for royal hunting forests. Duffield Frith is a good example extending over a large area and encompassing a number of deer parks including those at Mansell and Ravensdale Park near Muggington. Park pale (bank and ditch enclosure boundary), earthen bank gateways, deer courses and other historic landscape features survive to give these former park landscapes a distinctive character. They also incorporate remaining fragments of heathland, particularly within Sandstone Slopes and Heaths at the northern extremity of the area.

In the Settled Farmland the density of settlement in the middle ages was greater than it is today, as indicated by the surviving earthworks of deserted and shrunken villages such as Hungry Bentley and Muggington and the surviving ridge and furrow of the former open fields. Settlement also spread onto commons and heaths in the late and post Medieval period most notably at Hulland Ward with its typical wayside cottages and straight roads.

Enclosure of the landscape began early and areas were already enclosed by the early 17th century. The winding and often sunken country lanes bounded by plump mixed species hedgerows are in part a product of the long history of enclosure and add to the rural character and sense of antiquity of this landscape. In contrast within the former heathland associated with Settled Plateau Farmlands and Sandstone Slopes and Heaths roads are often straight and direct with uniform verges.

Later, country house parks were developed at Osmaston, Sudbury and most notably at Kedleston. Kedleston Hall, set within the Estate Farmlands landscape, remains today as one of the finest examples of a Georgian setpiece, the hall and park both being designed by Robert Adam.

The predominant building material within the villages is red brick and, with the exception of villages like Brailsford, they have remained relatively small and loose knit in character. More important buildings, like churches and the manor house may be constructed in the local sandstone. Some very occasional examples survive of half timbered Elizabethan buildings most notably Somersal Hall.

Winding country lanes bounded by plump mixed species hedgerows help define the rural character of the area and provide a sense of enclosure particularly where the lanes have become sunken within the minor valley sides. On areas of former common and heathland associated with Settled Plateau Farmlands and Sandstone Slopes and Heaths roads are often straight and direct with uniform width verges.

Winding country lane
LANDSCAPE TYPE: SETTLED PLATEAU FARMLANDS

A medium scale predominantly pastoral landscape found on gently rolling upland plateaux over glacial till. There is a distinct sense of elevation characterised by extensive views over lower ground filtered by scattered boundary trees and small woodlands. Hedgerows enclose small and medium sized fields.

Key Characteristics
- A gently rolling upland plateau extending onto ridge tops
- Slowly permeable, seasonally waterlogged soils over glacial till
- Pastoral farming with some cropping
- Marl pits forming small ponds
- Densely scattered boundary trees and occasional small woodland blocks
- Small to medium fields surrounded by hedgerows
- Parkland estates
- Areas of former common land with clusters of red brick/clay tile cottages
- Scattered red brick and blue clay tile roofed farmsteads and estate farms

Geology and Landform
This plateau landscape is strongly influenced by the underlying geology with reddish till (glacial drift) overlaying Palaeozoic and Mesozoic sandstone and shales for the most part. This occurs as a series of “fingers” or narrow ridges extending southwards from the higher plateau between the gentle valleys of the Spinneyford Brook, Wyaston Brook and Cubley Brook.

Soils and Land Use
The soils found consistently throughout this landscape are slowly permeable, seasonally waterlogged fine loam over clayey soils. The gentle relief associated with this landscape type ensures that there is little run-off, so the slowly permeable soils are waterlogged for long periods in the winter and are then inaccessible to stock and machinery.

This is moderately good mixed farmland although dairying and improved grassland and leys dominate. Autumn sown crops of wheat, barley and oil-seed rape are found throughout this type but principally in the Bradley and Shirley / Brailsford areas in the east.

Ecology
Much of this landscape type is intensively farmed as permanent pasture or for cereals. The improved grassland and cultivated fields have little ecological interest. Where drainage is impeded patches of wet grassland with rushes occur. Small fragments of degraded rush communities are found in damp patches and hollows.

Terrestrial corridors in the form of hedgerows and small blocks of broad-leaved woodland persist but these are declining due to agricultural intensification and field amalgamation, most noticeably in the Shirley Common/ Brailsford areas.

Where the underlying sandstone is closer to the surface there are significant patches of bracken in hedgerows and along road verges. The network of lanes around Bradley is particularly rich in bracken.

The many marl pits support valuable base-rich wetland communities. Older pastures,
A landscape shaped by its underlying geology of glacial drift over sandstone and shale, creating a landform of narrow, upland plateaux. Long distance views are limited by trees that are found scattered throughout most hedgerows. However, with incisions of lower lying land there is a distinct sense of elevation.

Soils over glacial till are heavy and seasonally waterlogged, lending themselves to good quality pastures for dairy farming but the gently rolling landform ensures that the land-use is more mixed, with autumn sown crops like barley and wheat.

The settlement pattern is a key feature. Although not densely populated there is a general scattering of farmsteads with the occasional small village, like Bradley, Yaveley and Wyaston with their origins in the medieval period or earlier. The traditional buildings are typically built in brick with Staffordshire blue clay tile roofs.

Summary

A landscape shaped by its underlying geology of glacial drift over sandstone and shale, creating a landform of narrow, upland plateaux. Long distance views are limited by trees that are found scattered throughout most hedgerows. However, with incisions of lower lying land there is a distinct sense of elevation.

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Planting and Management Guidelines

A gently undulating pastoral landscape of very little woodland but densely scattered hedgerow trees.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary woodland character</td>
<td>Thinly scattered small plantations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary tree character</td>
<td>Densely scattered hedgerow trees.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodland vision</td>
<td>Thinly scattered small plantations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tree vision</td>
<td>Densely scattered hedgerow trees.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Typical woodland size range: 0.5 - 5 ha small
- Woodland pattern: Regular plantations

- Ensure the use of indigenous tree and shrub species, including a proportion of large, long lived species.
- Ensure the management and enhancement of hedgerow trees - through selection and natural regeneration, or by planting.
- Ensure the conservation and management of mature/veteran trees within hedgerows.
- Ensure new woodland does not conflict with features (e.g. ridge and furrow) that help to define landscape character.
**Woodland Species Mix**

**Neutral/more acidic soils**

**Primary Tree Species 50%**
- *Acer campestre* Field Maple
- *Fraxinus excelsior* Ash
- *Quercus robur* Pedunculate Oak

**Secondary Tree Species 20%**

**Major**
- *Betula pendula* Silver Birch
- *Malus sylvestris* Crab Apple

**Minor**
- *Populus tremula* Aspen
- *Prunus avium* Gean
- *Prunus padus* Bird Cherry
- *Salix cinerea* Grey Willow
- *Sorbus aucuparia* Rowan
- *Taxus baccata* Yew

**Shrubs 10-30%**

**Major**
- *Cornus sanguinea* Dogwood
- *Lonicera periclymenum* Honeysuckle
- *Prunus spinosa* Blackthorn
- *Rhamnus cathartica* Purging Buckthorn
- *Rosa canina* Dog Rose
- *Viburnum opulus* Guelder Rose

**Open Space 0-20%**

**Suitable hedgerow plants**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><em>Crataegus monogyna</em></th>
<th>Hawthorn</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Secondary 25-30%**

- *Acer campestre* Field Maple
- *Corylus avellana* Hazel
- *Illex aquifolium* Holly
- *Prunus spinosa* Blackthorn

**Occasional 0-5%**

- *Cornus sanguinea* Dogwood
- *Lonicera periclymenum* Honeysuckle
- *Rhamnus cathartica* Purging Buckthorn
- *Rosa canina* Dog Rose
- *Viburnum opulus* Guelder Rose

**Suitable hedgerow trees**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><em>Fraxinus excelsior</em></th>
<th>Ash</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Quercus robur</em></td>
<td>Pedunculate Oak</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Secondary 25-30%**

- *Acer campestre* Field Maple

**Occasional 0-5%**

- *Sorbus aucuparia* Rowan
- *Malus sylvestris* Crab Apple
- *Prunus avium* Gean
- *Prunus padus* Bird Cherry

* only to be used if occurring locally within the landscape character type
LANDSCAPE TYPE: SETTLED FARMLANDS

This is a broadly undulating to gently rolling, lowland, and dairy farming landscape over Permo-Triassic sandstones and mudstones. Tree cover is defined by scattered hedgerow trees, lines of trees along watercourses and the occasional small woodland or copse. There are clusters of red brick farmsteads and cottages along a dense network of country lanes creating a well settled landscape.

**Key Characteristics**

- Gently undulating to rolling lowland dissected by minor stream valleys with localised steep slopes
- Seasonally waterlogged soils over Permo-Triassic mudstone, siltstone and sandstone
- Dairy farming on permanent pasture with localised arable cropping
- Small woodland blocks and copses associated with steeper slopes
- Scattered oak and ash trees along hedgerows
- Dense lines of trees along streams
- Small to medium size semi-regular and strip fields enclosed by hedgerows
- Extensive ridge and furrow
- Network of winding lanes often sunken on steeper slopes
- Small clusters of red brick and blue clay tile farms and cottages

**Geology and Landform**

The underlying geology of Permo-Triassic mudstone, siltstone and sandstone and occasional Carboniferous sandstone creates a broadly undulating to gently rolling lowland landscape. Where sandstone defines the eastern flank of the Dove Valley the ground rises steeply to form a distinct escarpment before gradually falling away to the east, forming a series of incised valleys. The landform becomes ever more gentle and subdued towards the Trent Valley in the south.

**Soils and Land Use**

As with much of the lowland Midlands, the soils are consistently reddish, fine loamy or silty over clay, with slowly permeable subsoils. The slow permeability of the subsoils makes them susceptible to short periods of waterlogging making them difficult to cultivate and prone to poaching by livestock. Where the slopes are locally steep over sandstone the soils are coarse loams and silts, and free draining.

The land-use is predominantly dairying and stock rearing on improved permanent pasture and leys. There is some arable farming where the local topography and soil conditions dictate, particularly around Shirley, Brailsford and Somersal Herbert. Indeed this is amongst some of the finest agricultural land found in the county being officially classified Grade 2.

**Ecology**

Much of this landscape is intensively farmed either as improved permanent pasture or arable cropping. As a result much is of little ecological value. However there are isolated patches of unimproved grassland and hay meadow, associated with small family farms and steeper slopes, which provide local floristic interest.

Terrestrial corridors are important with many well-managed, mixed species hedgerows. Hedgerow trees, predominantly oak and ash, add ecological interest.
Needwood and South Derbyshire Claylands Character Area 68

**Fossilised strip fields associated with the nearby village of Hollington**

Well managed mixed species hedgerow

These terrestrial corridors are supplemented by a network of watercourses, fringed by dense lines of riparian trees. There are patches of rush pasture associated with the stream corridors, most notably at Mercaston Marsh, a designated SSSI.

On the steeper slopes in the west there is more woodland, some of which is of ancient origin. Parkland, such as that at Snelston, provides additional ecological benefit with its many mature specimen trees and occasional small game coverts. The value of small plantation woodlands is often limited by the presence of coniferous species.

On the steepest slopes over sandstone there are heathy associations, with bracken occasionally found in the hedgerows and road verges.

**Tree Cover**

The fertile soils and intensive agriculture associated with this landscape type ensure that woodland is poorly represented. Exceptions to this rule are interlocking woodlands like Eaton Wood and Bradley Wood, that follow the steeper slopes of the Dove and Henmore Valleys, creating a distinct wooded edge. Both woodlands are rare examples in this area of ancient semi-natural woodland with oak and ash.

Despite the lack of woodland, tree cover is well represented throughout, due to the densely scattered hedgerow and watercourse trees. Collectively these trees filter views through the landscape and at lower elevations north of the Trent Valley they create a strong sense of enclosure with more restricted views.

Transport

There is a dense network of winding lanes throughout this landscape, often with irregular width verges. In some areas the network is so dense and intricate there are a choice of routes available between settlements.

The well treed character is further supplemented by localised parkland with its mature specimen trees and small mixed species game coverts. At Longford Park there are several small plantations and game coverts.

Adjacent to the Dove Valley many routes run parallel to the river corridor, taking advantage of the natural gradients, whilst in the south lanes travel due north from the Trent Valley. The line of the former Ashbourne to Uttoxeter railway can clearly be seen following the edge of the floodplain to the River Dove and marking the western limits of this landscape type.

A former Roman road connecting Derby (Derventio) to Rocester is followed by the modern Long Lane, though this deviates from the original route at Alkmonton to follow an easier gradient.

There are many footpaths and green lanes connecting the small settlements and scattered farmsteads.

**Built Environment**

This is a well settled but sparsely populated landscape containing small villages, isolated groups of roadside cottages and scattered farmsteads. Villages tend to be small like Somersal Herbert and Marston Montgomery and some loose knit, such as Roston and Norbury on the eastern flanks of the Dove. Many of the villages have their origins in the medieval period. Some have shrunken in size since the middle ages and are characterised by the earthworks of former crofts and tofts, such as at Thurvaston. Others have disappeared altogether and remain only as earthworks, sometimes with single farms such as Hungry Bentley.

Between villages there are scattered farms and cottages. The predominant building material is a warm red brick with Staffordshire blue clay tiles. Some local reddish sandstone is also used, usually for more important buildings like the parish church and manor houses. A few timber framed buildings survive although

Enclosure

This is a landscape of predominantly small to medium sized semi-regular fields enclosed by hedgerows, although the field size and pattern varies locally, reflecting the diverse history of enclosure. This cultural pattern remains essentially intact although there has been some field amalgamation in areas of arable farming.

Several examples of strip fields enclosed from former open fields survive, most notably in Hollington and Boylestone parishes, where fields display evidence of medieval ridge and furrow.
Like much of the Midlands lowlands the landform and topography is shaped by the underlying sequence of Permo-Triassic mudstones, siltstones and sandstones. The differential weathering of this geology gives rise to gently rolling landscape within incised valleys, locally undulating where the sandstone is most prevalent. Although there is some local variation in soils, relating to the variations in both geology and landform, they tend to be free draining fine loams over clay subsoils that are prone to short-lived seasonal waterlogging.

A key feature of this landscape is its settled character. Although not densely populated there is a general scattering of small villages, laneside cottages and farmsteads throughout, constructed in the local vernacular style of red brick with Staffordshire blue clay tile roofs, and a few older, timber framed buildings.

The area’s settled nature reflects its long history of exploitation for agriculture. The predominant land-use is pastoral associated with dairying. Much of the permanent pasture is now improved and some fields have been set aside for fodder crops. Increasingly there is a trend for more arable farming particularly where gradients and drainage allow.

Trees are well represented, associated with scattered hedgerow and dense lines of watercourse trees. Woodlands occur infrequently, mostly associated with the steeper slopes of the Dove Valley or localised parkland, in the form of small plantations and game coverts. The trees help to define the small to medium scale by filtering views through the landscape. At lower elevations towards the Trent Valley, tree cover can give a strong sense of enclosure particularly on views to the north.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature of the Area</th>
<th>Settlement Character</th>
<th>Development Impact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Snelston, estate village of former Stanton Hall</td>
<td>Loose knit character</td>
<td>Modern suburban development has been largely restricted to outskirts of Ashbourne and Clifton.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Due to intensive farming regime and large size of farms, modern farm buildings dominate. Some traditional farm buildings converted to residential use. Growing quantity of sub-urban housing.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Summary**

Like much of the Midlands lowlands the landform and topography is shaped by the underlying sequence of Permo-Triassic mudstones, siltstones and sandstones. The differential weathering of this geology gives rise to gently rolling landscape within incised valleys, locally undulating where the sandstone is most prevalent. Although there is some local variation in soils, relating to the variations in both geology and landform, they tend to be free draining fine loams over clay subsoils that are prone to short-lived seasonal waterlogging.

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Planting and Management Guidelines

A gently undulating pastoral landscape of very few woodlands but densely scattered hedgerow and watercourse trees.

**Primary woodland character:** Occasional small woodlands

**Primary tree character:** Densely scattered hedgerow and dense watercourse trees.

**Woodland vision:** Occasional small woodlands

**Tree vision:** Densely scattered hedgerow and dense watercourse trees.

**Typical woodland size range:** 0.5 - 5 ha small

**Woodland pattern:** Organic / linear

- Ensure the use of indigenous tree and shrub species, including a proportion of large, long lived species.
- Ensure the management and enhancement of hedgerow trees-through selection and natural regeneration, or by planting.
- Enhance the visual and ecological continuity of river corridors by management, natural regeneration and planting of riparian trees.
- Ensure the conservation and management of mature/veteran trees within hedgerows.
- Ensure new woodland does not conflict with features (e.g. ridge and furrow) that help to define landscape character.
### Woodland Species Mix

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Neutral/slightly acidic soils</th>
<th>Waterlogged conditions on all soil types</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Primary Tree Species 50%</strong></td>
<td><strong>Primary Tree Species 50%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acer campestre</td>
<td>Fraxinus excelsior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fraxinus excelsior</td>
<td>Quercus robur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quercus robur</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Secondary Tree Species 20%</strong></td>
<td><strong>Secondary Tree Species 20%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major</td>
<td>Major</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Betula pendula</td>
<td>Betula pubescens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malus sylvestris</td>
<td>Quercus petraea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minor</td>
<td>Salix caprea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Populus tremula</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prunus avium</td>
<td>Ilex aquifolium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prunus padus</td>
<td>Salix triandra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salix cinerea</td>
<td>Salix viminalis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sorbus aucuparia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxus baccata</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Shrubs 10-30%</strong></td>
<td><strong>Shrubs 10-30%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major</td>
<td>Major</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corylus avellana</td>
<td>Crataegus monogyna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crataegus monogyna</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minor</td>
<td>Minor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cornus sanguinea</td>
<td>Ilex aquifolium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lonicera periclymenum</td>
<td>Salix purpurea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prunus spinosa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhamnus cathartica</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rosa canina</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viburnum opulus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Open Space 0-20%</strong></td>
<td><strong>Open space 0-20%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

+ Watercourse Trees - tree species most appropriate for planting as watercourse trees.

### Hedgerow Species Mix

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Suitable hedgerow plants</th>
<th>Suitable hedgerow trees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Primary 70-75%</strong></td>
<td><strong>Primary 70-75%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crataegus monogyna</td>
<td>Fraxinus excelsior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Quercus robur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Secondary 25-30%</strong></td>
<td><strong>Secondary 25-30%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acer campestre</td>
<td>Field Maple</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corylus avellana</td>
<td>Hazel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ilex aquifolium</td>
<td>Holly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prunus spinosa</td>
<td>Blackthorn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Occasional 0-5%</strong></td>
<td><strong>Occasional 0-5%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cornus sanguinea</td>
<td>Dogwood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lonicera periclymenum</td>
<td>Honeysuckle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhamnus cathartica</td>
<td>Purging Buckthorn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rosa canina</td>
<td>Dog Rose</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* only to be used if occurring locally within the landscape character type.
LANDSCAPE TYPE: SANDSTONE SLOPES AND HEATHS

A landscape of moderate to steep sandstone slopes with prominent rounded undulations and hillocks forming the upper slopes. Predominantly a pastoral landscape, there are small woodlands and scattered hedgerow trees.

**Key Characteristics**
- Prominent landform of moderate to steeply sloping sandstone valleys and slopes with rounded undulations along the slopes
- Well drained sandy soils
- A pastoral land-use on steeper slopes with mixed farming on gentler gradients
- Heathy associations with patches of gorse on steeper slopes and bracken along some hedgerows and road verges
- Tree cover defined by scattered hedgerow trees, predominantly ash, and patches of woodland
- Small to medium sized regular and sub-regular fields with mixed species hedgerows
- Sparsely settled landscape with the very occasional red brick and clay tile farmsteads and roadside cottages

**Geology and Landform**
This is a landscape associated with moderate to steeply sloping valleys and slopes created by an underlying geology of Permian-Triassic sandstone. Differential erosion along the slopes, particularly those facing west, has created a series of visually prominent, rounded undulations and hillocks.

**Soils and Land Use**
The sandstone bedrock gives rise to a reddish, coarse, sandy loam of variable depth, depending upon the steepness of slope. These soils are well drained and well-managed soils readily absorb winter rainfall even on the steepest slopes.

The relatively steep slopes and impoverished nature of the soils ensures that pasture predominates. However where the slopes are moderately steep or gentle the agriculture is more mixed with some arable cropping. Water retention is poor and areas under arable production need regular irrigation during the summer months. Topsoil can dry out very quickly and in cropping areas can be prone to wind erosion. Where steep slopes have been cultivated then these are especially susceptible to erosion.

Another habitat type of this landscape is woodland which features as small patches throughout but is rarely a prominent visual feature. It tends to occur on the steeper, upper slopes where land is less cultivable.

Ecological corridors are variable depending to some extent upon the enclosure patterns and land-use. In areas of smaller, irregular fields the hedgerows are commonly mixed species with holly, hazel and blackthorn. In areas of mixed farming and larger fields the hedgerow network is more...
Summary

The underlying geology of Permo-Triassic sandstone strongly influences both the physical and cultural characteristics of this landscape. The harder more resistant sandstone weathers away more slowly to form this undulating landform of steep valley sides and slopes. Differential erosion of the slopes themselves has created visually prominent rounded undulations and hillocks, most obvious on the west facing slopes.

Trees are well represented throughout, mainly as scattered hedgerow trees and the occasional small woodland. Views through the landscape are often restricted by both vegetation and landform, although there are views out across lower lying landscapes, particularly where this landscape occurs as a discrete slope.

The land-use is variable, depending upon the steepness of the slopes. It predominates as pasture with some mixed farming and arable on the gentler slopes. Where the pasture remains less intensive there are extensive areas of acid grassland. These support localised patches of gorse where the pasture is further neglected. This heathy association, as a result of the free draining soils, is further evidenced by the amount of bracken that can be seen in road verges, hedgerows and woodland margins.

As a result of the low agricultural potential of this landscape, primarily due to landform, there is very little settlement throughout this landscape type. Some of the more remote slopes are unsettled whilst others have sparsely scattered farmsteads and estate cottages, built in the local red brick with Staffordshire blue clay tile roofs. Sandstone having been reserved mainly for churches and larger estate houses. In areas of remnant parkland larger estate farms and cottages are evident. In areas of former common there are small groups of wayside cottages.

The main environmental impacts on this landscape are large scale sand and gravel quarrying, a concrete products factory and modern farm buildings, including large chicken sheds.

There are remains of medieval deer parks, notably Mansell Park and Ravensdale Park, associated with a once extensive hunting forest; Duffield Frith, established shortly after the Norman Conquest. Today there remain many fragmentary features including park pale, old routeways, and former fishponds.
Planting and Management Guidelines

Moderate to steeply undulating pastoral landscape with thinly scattered plantations and hedgerow trees.

- **Primary woodland character:** Thinly scattered small broadleaved plantations.
- **Primary tree character:** Thinly scattered hedgerow trees.
- **Woodland vision:** Thinly scattered small broadleaved plantations.
- **Tree vision:** Thinly scattered hedgerow trees.

- **Typical woodland size range:** 0.5 - 10 ha small
- **Woodland pattern:** Regular plantations

- Ensure the use of indigenous tree and shrub species, including a proportion of large, long-lived species.
- Ensure a balance is maintained between new woodland planting and areas of nature conservation value.
Hedgerow Species Mix

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Suitable hedgerow plants</th>
<th>Suitable hedgerow trees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Primary 70-75%</strong></td>
<td><strong>Secondary 25-30%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crataegus monogyna</td>
<td>Field Maple</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cornus sanguinea</td>
<td>Hazel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lonicera periclymenum</td>
<td>Holly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prunus spinosa</td>
<td>Blackthorn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Occasional 0-5%</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cornus sanguinea</td>
<td>Dogwood</td>
</tr>
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<td>Lonicera periclymenum</td>
<td>Honeysuckle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rhamnus cathartica</td>
<td>Purging Buckthorn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rosa canina</td>
<td>Dog Rose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viburnum opulus</td>
<td>Guilder Rose</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* only to be used if occurring locally within the landscape character type
LANDSCAPE TYPE: ESTATE FARMLANDS

This is a broad, gently rolling lowland mixed farming landscape with estates. Woodland is well represented throughout with small estate woodlands, dense watercourse trees, scattered hedgerow trees and localised parkland trees. There are occasional red brick villages and scattered estate farmsteads and country houses.

Key Characteristics

- Gently rolling lowland dissected by minor river valleys
- Seasonally waterlogged fine loamy soils over Permo-Triassic mudstones, siltstones and sandstones
- Mixed farming with intensive arable cropping and improved permanent pasture
- Prominent estate woodlands with broadleaf and coniferous species
- Scattered oak and ash trees along hedgerows
- Dense lines of trees along streams
- Small to medium size semi-regular and regular fields enclosed by hedgerows
- Small villages constructed of red brick with clay tiled roofs
- Scattered red brick estate farmsteads and the occasional country house

Geology and Landform

The undulating geology comprises of alternating bands of Permo-Triassic mudstones, siltstones and sandstones. The differential weathering and erosion of the bedrock has given rise to a gently rolling topography where the harder sandstone forms the shallow ridges and hills. Where sandstone is more prevalent in the bedrock the landform becomes more undulating with steeper slopes.

Soils and Land Use

The underlying geology supports a deep, fine loamy soil with some slight local variation based on the precise nature of the bedrock. The subsoils are slowly permeable so these soils are prone to some seasonal waterlogging. However, any waterlogging is usually only for short periods.

The landform and soils collectively form land of above average quality for agriculture and as a result the land-use within this landscape type is mixed farming, with intensive arable cropping and improved permanent pasture. Pasture is most prevalent on the slightly heavier soils over mudstone and on the locally steeper slopes.

Ecology

Ecologically this landscape type is poor as a result of intensive farming practices. The arable crops and improved permanent pastures and leys are of little ecological value. Remnant unimproved grassland is now confined to the road margins and the occasional field margin in pastoral areas.

Terrestrial corridors are strong with many good hedgerows and lines of trees along watercourses. The value of some hedgerows has been much reduced by poor management, with many hedgerows over-flailed and becoming gappy.

Numerous small woodland blocks interlink, forming a more complex network of habitats.
supplementing the terrestrial corridors. The value of these woodland blocks is diminished by virtue of their more ornamental nature and composition of coniferous and non-native species.

Wet pasture and patches of marsh with *Juncus* are a feature of some of the minor stream valleys. Mercaston Marsh is an important wetland meadow site and is a designated SSSI. It exhibits a range of habitats which would once have been much more widespread in other stream valleys that dissect this landscape.

Bracken is occasionally present in road verges being indicative of a heathier habitat. This is most notable where the soils are freer draining, over sandstone or on steeper slopes.

**Tree Cover**

Trees and especially woodlands are well represented in this landscape type and play an important role in emphasising its estate character. Scattered, mature boundary trees, usually a mix of oak and ash, are found along most hedgerows. The wooded character is reinforced by dense lines of trees along watercourses, typically alder and willow but also the occasional oak or ash. In and around the small villages amenity trees are prominent, as are the parkland trees where they occur.

Woodlands tend to occur as small estate plantations, tree belts and small coverts, formerly managed by estates for game rearing. As a result much of the estate woodlands are predominantly broadleaf species and have regular shaped outlines. Locally around Kedleston Park the landscape appears to be more wooded due in part to the existence of some much larger adjacent woodlands.

Together the trees combine to restrict or filter views through the landscape. Where hedgerow trees are less obvious woodland blocks may assist in framing longer views to landscapes beyond.

**Enclosure**

This is a landscape of small to medium size fields, which are predominantly sub-regular in shape but display much local variation in pattern as a result of the area’s diverse history of enclosure. The intensification in arable farming in recent years has led to the loss of many field boundaries with numerous small fields amalgamated into larger units.

Around villages the fields tend to be smaller and semi-regular in shape, reflecting the enclosure of land from former open fields. Where these boundaries remain in good condition the reverse ‘S’ of former selion strips can still be seen. In these areas of earlier enclosure many of the hedgerows contain a good variety of species including holly, hazel, blackthorn and hawthorn.

Where land was enclosed from former parkland the field pattern has a larger scale and regular outline and as a result have less diverse hedgerows with hawthorn as the main species.

Today the estate influence is still evident. Many of the hedgerows are formally managed and regularly flail cut into a box or trapezoid outline.

**Transport**

There is a dense network of winding lanes that reflect the irregular outline of the semi-regular fields or follow the easier gradients. These lanes with irregular width verges connect the small villages and scattered estate farmsteads.

There are many footpaths and green lanes which also connect the settlements. Many of these are historic routeways and are often bound by hedgerows with a diverse species composition.

**Built Environment**

This is a sparsely populated landscape. At Kedleston this is the result of the removal of the village, as part of the creation of the landscaped park. Villages, like Weston Underwood and Mercaston, tend to be small and nucleated, often being located away from modern through routes. Most of these settlements have grown relatively little, although modern infill development is beginning to modify their original loose knit character.

Between the villages there are sparsely scattered large estate farmsteads, built in the local red brick with Staffordshire blue clay tile roofs.

A key feature of this landscape and quintessential to its character is the Kedleston Estate. Kedleston Hall is a Grade 1 listed building and a superb example of a Georgian country house. The house, its pleasure gardens and garden buildings stand within an outstanding landscaped park, all designed by Robert Adam. The pleasure gardens and park are also registered Grade 1.
Like much of the midlands lowlands the landform and topography is shaped by the underlying sequence of Permo-Triassic mudstones, siltstones and sandstones. The differential weathering of this geology gives rise to a gently rolling landscape, locally undulating where the sandstone is most prevalent. Although there is some local variation in soils, relating to the variations in both geology and landform, they tend to be free draining fine loams that are prone to short-lived seasonal waterlogging.

However, it is not the physical factors that are most influencing the character of this landscape but its cultural associations with large estates and parks. These include both existing parks like that at Kedleston and former parks such as Meynell Langley.

Woodland is a dominant feature, affecting the character of the landscape and influencing the views through it and from it to adjacent landscapes. The estate influences are clearly evident, with many of the woodlands being mixed species plantations, managed as game coverts or for commercial timber. The woodlands are generally small in size and have regular outlines. The wooded character of this landscape is further emphasised by dense lines of watercourse trees and scattered hedgerow trees.

The landscape is perceived as medium scale due to the small to medium size fields between the trees and woodlands. The fields display a variety of patterns, reflecting the diverse nature of enclosure and more recent effects of agricultural intensification. Many of the hedgerows are well managed, and indeed over-managed, by flail cutting.

At the heart of this landscape lies Kedleston Hall, one of the finest country houses in England, standing in an idealised ‘classical’ parkland landscape.
Planting and Management Guidelines

A gently rolling mixed farming landscape with densely scattered small estate plantations, hedgerow trees and watercourse trees.

**Primary woodland character:** Densely scattered small mainly broadleaved plantations.

**Primary tree character:** Densely scattered hedgerow and dense watercourse trees.

**Woodland vision:** Densely scattered small mainly broadleaved plantations.

**Tree vision:** Densely scattered hedgerow and dense watercourse trees.

**Typical woodland size range:** 0.5 - 10ha small

**Woodland pattern:** Regular plantations

- Small-medium scale woodland planting
- Promote linked extensions to ancient woodland by natural regeneration and planting.
- Re-establish and enhance physical links between existing isolated woodland and hedgerows.
- Enhance the visual and ecological continuity of river corridors by management, natural regeneration and planting of riparian trees.
### Woodland Species Mix

#### Neutral/slightly acidic soils

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary Tree Species 50%</th>
<th>Secondary Tree Species 20%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Primary</strong></td>
<td><strong>Secondary</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acer campestre</td>
<td>Field Maple</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fraxinus excelsior</td>
<td>Hazel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quercus robur</td>
<td>Holly</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Major</strong></th>
<th><strong>Minor</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Betula pendula</td>
<td>Silver Birch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malus sylvestris</td>
<td>Crab Apple</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prunus avium</td>
<td>Gean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prunus padus</td>
<td>Bird Cherry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salix cinerea</td>
<td>Grey Willow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sorbus aucuparia</td>
<td>Rowan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Shrubs 10-30%</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Major</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corylus avellana</td>
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#### Waterlogged conditions on all soil types

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary Tree Species 50%</th>
<th>Secondary Tree Species 20%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Primary</strong></td>
<td><strong>Secondary</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alnus glutinosa</td>
<td>Alder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salix fragilis</td>
<td>Crack Willow</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Major</strong></th>
<th><strong>Minor</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Betula pubescens</td>
<td>Downy Birch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salix caprea</td>
<td>Goat Willow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Populus tremula</td>
<td>Aspen</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Shrubs 10-30%</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Major</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crataegus monogyna</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Minor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prunus spinosa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhamnus cathartica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salix purpurea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salix triandra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salix viminallis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Open Space 0-20%

#### + Watercourse Trees - tree species most appropriate for planting as watercourse trees.

### Hedgerow Species Mix

#### Suitable hedgerow plants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary 70-75%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crataegus monogyna</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Secondary 25-30%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acer campestre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corylus avellana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lonicera periclymenum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prunus spinosa</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occasional 0-5%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cornus sanguinea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lonicera periclymenum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhamnus cathartica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rosa canina</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Suitable hedgerow trees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary 70-75%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fraxinus excelsior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quercus robur</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Secondary 25-30%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acer campestre</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occasional 0-5%*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Malus sylvestris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prunus avium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prunus padus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sorbus aucuparia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* only to be used if occurring locally within the landscape character type.
LANDSCAPE TYPE: RIVERSIDE MEADOWS

Flat flood plains, containing meandering rivers and streams with dense trees along riverbanks. A pastoral landscape of generally large hedged fields with trees scattered along boundaries.

Key Characteristics
- Flat floodplains containing meandering rivers and streams
- Seasonally waterlogged soils over alluvium
- Permanent pasture
- Localised patches of rushes in damp hollows
- Scattered locally dense trees along watercourses; widespread alder and localised willow
- Scattered trees along boundaries
- Regular shaped fields bounded by hawthorn hedges
- Lanes alongside or crossing the floodplain
- Active and disused railway lines with secondary woodland along embankments

Geology and Landform
The underlying sediment of these flat floodplains consists of alluvial mud lying over gravels, deposited by the rivers in times of flood. The gravel acts as an aquifer carrying water from the adjoining land into the rivers and so is permanently waterlogged. In places there are natural raised banks to the rivers known as levees. These are formed as a result of the deposition of sediment by waning floodwaters. The upper floodplain brooks are narrow, such as Sutton and Markeaton Brook. The floodplain broadens out down the lower part of the Dove.

Soils and Land Use
The soils are seasonally waterlogged clayey loams. Some areas are more permanently waterlogged and some hollows retain floodwater long after the majority of floods have subsided. The predominant land use is pastoral.

The flood plain makes good quality fattening pastures. The wet, fine textured soils and risk of flooding make the land difficult to work for arable cropping, although some arable fields can be found in the lower Dove Valley as a result of recent drainage improvements and flood protection measures.

Ecology
The Sutton Brook and its tributaries are narrow with unpolluted water making it very valuable as a freshwater habitat. The river Dove is fairly wide and deep with relatively clean water. All these watercourses are important wildlife habitats, as are their banks and margins. Some old oxbow lakes such as Old Marston SSSI are diverse habitats of value as part of the river corridor.

The remaining unimproved pasture occurs in concentrations along the Dove, north of Doveridge. Pasture with a high water table and where the soil is permanently wet is important ecologically for its species-rich flora, ground beetles and birds such as curlew and snipe. However such habitats are becoming increasingly rare, as former pastures have often been converted to arable following drainage improvements.
Summary

This flat river meadow landscape is characterised by a narrow alluvium floodplain in the upper river and brook valleys, which broaden out in the lower Dove. The upper river and brook areas are more treed and as they are also narrower have filtered views and are more intimate. Views become more open as the tree cover becomes more scattered along the lower stretches of the rivers and where there are less hedgerow trees and the floodplain widens.

Medium to large sized pastoral fields of sub-regular shape are enclosed by hedgerows, many of which are gappy and neglected.

Although largely unsettled, transport routes (road and railway) dominate the landscape in the lower Dove.

Historical ridge and furrow add local distinctiveness to the river meadows.

Changes to river meadows by the introduction of drainage schemes to produce improved pasture and arable farmland are threatening the river meadow pastoral landscape.

Pastoral grazing on the floodplain

Further habitat diversity is provided by bands of scrub and secondary woodland that fringe transport corridors.

Improved drainage, conversion to arable and localised culverting is leading to a significant loss of meadowland.

Tree Cover

There are dense lines of trees along riverbanks, mainly alder but with occasional willows. Some trees have been removed from the riverbanks as part of flood protection works and there is die back in other places.

There are also mature trees scattered along field boundaries, chiefly oak, ash and willow.

Both watercourse and boundary trees are noticeably denser in the more intimate landscape of the Sutton Brook valley, giving a more wooded aspect.

Enclosure

Fields are medium to large sized and of sub-regular shape; the larger fields being found in the lower river valleys. Many of the boundaries are comprised of tall and gappy thorn hedgerows.

Transport

The lanes and major roads tend to run along the edge of the floodplain, raised on embankments that minimise the risk of flooding. Occasionally roads cross the valleys on bridges over the rivers.

The railways follow the floor of the floodplain along the Dove, often on raised embankments.

Built Environment

Historically there would have been little built development on the floodplain, excepting the occasional water mill for grinding corn. There are occasional farmsteads on the higher, better drained parts of the floodplain. Because of their unsuitability for built development some floodplain areas have been made over to recreational use. Sections of the river and meadowland are lost entirely in places where they have been culverted or drained.

Improved drainage, conversion to arable and localised culverting is leading to a significant loss of meadowland.

Further habitat diversity is provided by bands of scrub and secondary woodland that fringe transport corridors.
LANDSCAPE TYPE: RIVERSIDE MEADOWS

Planting and Management Guidelines

An open floodplain with dense watercourse trees.

Primary woodland character: Unwooded
Primary tree character: Dense watercourse trees
Woodland vision: Occasional small wet woodlands
Tree vision: Dense watercourse trees

Typical woodland size range: 0.5 - 5 ha
Woodland pattern: Organic / linear

- Ensure the use of indigenous tree and shrub species, including a proportion of large, long lived species.
- Ensure a balance is maintained between new woodland planting and areas of nature conservation value.
- Enhance the visual and ecological continuity of river corridors by management, natural regeneration and planting of riparian trees.
- Encourage the continuing practice of pollarding to maintain the traditional riparian character of the landscape.
**Hedgerow Species Mix**

**Primary 85-100%**
- *Crataegus monogyna* Hawthorn

**Occasional 0-15%**
- *Acer campestre* Field Maple
- *Prunus spinosa* Blackthorn

**Suitable hedgerow plants**

**Primary 70-75%**
- *Fraxinus excelsior* Ash
- *Quercus robur* Pedunculate Oak
- *Salix fragilis* Crack Willow

**Secondary 25-30%**
- *Acer campestre* Field Maple

**Occasional 0-5%**
- *Malus sylvestris* Crab Apple
- *Prunus avium* Gean
- *Prunus padus* Bird Cherry
- *Sorbus aucuparia* Rowan

* only to be used if occurring locally within the landscape character type

**Suitable hedgerow trees**

---

+ **Watercourse Trees** - tree species most appropriate for planting as watercourse trees.

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**Woodland Species Mix**

**Waterlogged conditions on all soil types**

**Primary Tree Species 50%**
- *Alnus glutinosa* Alder
- *Salix fragilis* Crack Willow

**Secondary Tree Species 20%**

- **Major**
  - *Betula pubescens* Downy Birch
  - *Salix caprea* Goat Willow

- **Minor**
  - *Illex aquifolium* Holly
  - *Populus tremula* Aspen

**Shrubs 10-30%**

- **Major**
  - *Crataegus monogyna* Hawthorn

- **Minor**
  - *Prunus spinosa* Blackthorn
  - *Rhamnus cathartica* Purging Buckthorn
  - *Salix purpurata* Purple Willow
  - *Salix triandra* Almond Willow
  - *Salix viminalis* Osier

**Open space 0-20%**

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**LANDSCAPE TYPE: RIVERSIDE MEADOWS**
**Introduction**

The Trent Valley Washlands constitute a distinct, broad, linear band which follows the middle reaches of the slow flowing River Trent, forming a crescent from Burton on Trent in the west to Long Eaton in the east. It also includes the lower reaches of the river Dove and Derwent.

To the north the valley rises up to the South Derbyshire Claylands and the Derbyshire Coalfield, whilst the south is bounded by the Melbourne Parklands and Mease/Sence Lowlands.

This is a somewhat fragmented landscape of pastoral and arable land, intermixed with urban development, transport routes and localised mineral extraction. The rivers regularly flood over the adjacent land creating a temporary but very different scene.

The broad, meandering rivers are unobtrusive and often only revealed by lines of willows and poplars. In the Riverside Meadows permanent pasture is occasionally defined by small, hedged fields with scattered hedgerow trees, but more frequently by medium to large hedged fields with sparsely scattered trees. On the raised river terraces of the Lowland Village Farmlands pasture gives way to mixed farming with larger more regular sized fields. Within these arable areas hedgerows are low and tightly trimmed and hedgerow trees are few. Woodlands are few throughout the area although occasionally the full growth of riparian trees and shrubs give the impression of woodland cover.

Large power stations dominate the scene with their massive cooling towers. Some are being “decommissioned” and will soon be demolished.

Sand and gravel extraction and subsequent restoration has created localised areas of open water. Major roads like the A50, south of Derby, and the A52 from Derby to Nottingham further dissect the area.

**Landscape Character Types**

- **Lowland Village Farmlands**
- **Riverside Meadows**

“We therefore continue our course along the arched causeway glancing on either side at the fertile meadows which receive old Trent’s annual bounty, in the shape of fattening floods, and which amply return the favour by supporting herds of splendid cattle upon his water-worn banks.....”

page 248 ‘Guide to Derbyshire’, Bemrose

**Physical Influences**

The area is defined by an underlying geology of Mercia Mudstones overlain with a variety of fluvio-glacial, periglacial and river deposits of mostly sand and gravel, to form terraces flanking the rivers.

The gravel terraces of the Lowland Village Farmlands form coarse, sandy loam whilst the Riverside Meadows are predominantly a heavy clay loam. Locally distinct to the Midlands and occurring only in a few areas south of Derby, at Stenson Fields and Sinfin Moor, the Wet Pasture Meadows are characterised by grey, calcareous clays affected by ground water and occasional flooding.

These variations in soils and levels have determined the nature of agricultural practices and settlement patterns. Mixed farming and the villages of the Lowland Village Farmlands are located on the slightly higher levels which are freer draining and less prone to flooding, whilst the unsettled pastoral areas form the Riverside Meadows of the
Natural Influences
Agriculture remains the predominant land-use with improved pasture and arable on the slightly higher river terraces of the Lowland Village Farmlands. Pasture is the main land-use adjacent to the river on the Riverside Meadows.

Areas of traditional semi-natural habitats such as wet grasslands and marsh, small fields with species rich grasslands, ponds and ditches, and wet woodlands have all been marginalised or isolated by modern farming practice and the deepening and canalisation of the river Trent, which has drained adjacent land. In some areas there has been considerable loss of hedgerows through removal to enlarge fields for arable crops or through neglect.

The rivers themselves and their tributaries are recognised as valuable wildlife corridors both for terrestrial animals and migratory birds. Mineral extraction has created additional open water areas, marshes and wet woodland, some of which have become important wildlife habitats.

Human Influences
The Trent Valley has been a focus of human activity since early prehistory. The gravel terraces with their light soils attracted settlement from the Neolithic period onwards and from as early as the Iron Age there is evidence for the establishment of boundaries within the landscape. The evidence for these settlements and field systems is now generally only visible on aerial photographs although some upstanding monuments do survive, such as the prehistoric barrows at Swarkestone Lowes and Round Hill in Twyford and Stenson Parish.

As is often the case, the pattern of settlement and enclosure visible today was established in the Anglo-Saxon Period, as place names such as Aston and Weston-on-Trent or Swarkestone indicate. Enclosure of the medieval open fields and commons by parliamentary enclosure and private agreement had begun by the eighteenth century. The enclosures are generally quite large and regular and many have been enlarged in recent decades. Some areas of ridge and furrow survive but much has been lost due to intensive arable farming on the gravel terraces in particular.

The villages of the Lowland Village Farmlands are compact and nuleate although settlements like Hilton, Breaston and Draycott have expanded rapidly in the 20th century to sprawl across the valley. The traditional building materials of the historic settlements are red brick with Staffordshire blue clay tile roofs. High status buildings are constructed from imported sandstones.

With the developing use of water power, mills were constructed on the more accessible tributaries in the floodplain. However, the risk of flooding restricted settlement on the Riverside Meadows. When water power was replaced by coal, the proximity of the Derbyshire Coalfield and an improving transport network in the 18th and 19th centuries, led to the growth of the textile and engineering industries.

In the 20th century plentiful supplies of nearby coal, as well as easy access by rail, led to the construction of large coal-fired power stations. The Trent valley continues to accommodate important transport routes with road, rail and canals threading through its length. Modern roads like the A50 and A52 have a major impact on the landscape as they cross the area from east to west, often dissecting historic lanes across the floodplain.

Other Considerations
• Lowland Derbyshire BAP
• On Trent Initiative
• Trent Valley Supplementary Planning Guidance (draft)
LANDSCAPE TYPE: LOWLAND VILLAGE FARMLANDS

This is a large scale, open, gently rolling lowland landscape associated with the lower slopes and terraces of broad floodplains. A mixed farming landscape defined by medium to large regular fields with thorn hedges, punctuated by villages.

Key Characteristics

- Gently rolling, almost flat lowland with river terraces
- Low slopes and summits give a sense of elevation over a broad floodplain
- Mixed farming with arable cropping and improved pasture
- Thinly scattered hedgerow trees including some willow pollards
- Scattered, locally dense, watercourse trees
- Medium to large regular fields with thorn hedgerows
- Discrete red brick villages with farms and cottages
- Large red brick outlying farms

Geology and Landform

The underlying geology comprises alternating bands of Permo-Triassic red mudstones and siltstones. Within the Trent Valley the bedrock has been overlain with a variety of fluvioglacial drifts, river terrace deposits and alluvium. The traditional land-use is mixed farming with arable crops and improved pasture, reflecting the variation in the underlying soils. Grassland is now restricted to the areas of heaviest soils and smaller field parcels associated with the villages. The presence of fluvioglacial and river gravels has led to localised quarrying.

Soils and Land Use

The soils are variable, relating to the underlying geology and drift material. Soils developed from the fluvial drift and river terrace deposits are deep and permeable. They are variably affected by ground water which supports short-term grassland and cereals. Other soil types are slowly permeable, seasonally waterlogged, reddish fine loamy clayey and clayey soils derived from Permo-Triassic mudstone and alluvium. These support winter cereals, short-term grassland, dairy and stock rearing. Fields respond well to underdrainage but the less permeable soils can suffer from cattle poaching and a limited autumn season for sowing crops.

Ecology

With a long tradition of mixed farming with intensive cropping, this landscape is ecologically poor. Terrestrial corridors, in the form of hedgerows, streams and ditches persist but these are becoming poorer owing to neglect, drainage schemes and further agricultural intensification.

Canals and standing open water provide additional habitat opportunities for wetland flora and fauna, such as those found at the Hilton Gravel Pits SSSI. Further gravel extraction is providing opportunities for increasing wetland habitats but there are constraints due to issues such as the proximity to East Midlands Airport, flood flows and availability of suitable fill.
Between the villages there are sparsely scattered farmsteads, again built in red brick. Adjacent to former commons there are small collections of wayside cottages. The combination of proximity to Derby and Nottingham, and location on good transport corridors have lead to the rapid expansion of many villages, particularly noticeable at Hatton, Hilton, Borrowash and Breaston. Today the urban fringes are characterised by large modern housing estates.

Villages are compact, with cottages and farms built in the local vernacular style of red brick with Staffordshire blue clay tile roofs.

Transport
Country lanes are few and most are organic in character with irregular width verges. These lanes connect the villages and scattered farmsteads and connect with crossing points in the Trent Valley. There are also lanes running parallel to the floodplain taking advantage of the slight elevation to avoid the risk of flooding.

The importance of this landscape as a transport corridor is still evident, with the expansion and construction of new roads like the A50 and A52, both forming important east-west connections. These are busy routes and form a prominent visual intrusion in the landscape. Modern roads have also impacted on the character of the traditional lanes, many of which have been widened to pass over new roads or been truncated by them.

The Trent and Mersey Canal was once a major industrial transport route. It now caters mainly for recreational water traffic crossing the area from south-east of Egginton eastwards to Swarkestone.

Enclosure
The enclosure pattern is an important characteristic in defining the scale of this landscape type. Hedgerows, predominantly hawthorn, enclose medium to large semi-regular and regular fields. In areas of former common, as at Etwell Common and around Hilton, the regular field pattern is particularly prominent. In areas of earliest enclosure, immediately surrounding settlements, hedgerows tend to be more mixed in composition and fields tend to be smaller and more sub-regular. Some of these smaller fields have patches of ridge and furrow indicative of earlier medieval field systems. Many hedgerows are now poorly managed being over-flailed and becoming gappy. Some hedgerows have been lost to agricultural intensification.

Built Environment
Settlements are generally nucleated and some are much extended. Early settlement in the floodplain was constrained by both flooding of the valley bottoms and by heavy clays. As a result settlements are located on the gentle slopes and gravel river terraces, immediately off the floodplain, where drainage is better. In fact the gravel terraces were settled and utilised from early prehistoric times particularly from the neolithic onwards.

Tree cover
Tree cover is variable throughout this landscape character type, although it is rarely visually prominent. Sparsely scattered hedgerow trees are locally prominent where the fields are smaller, particularly in association with villages. Hedgerow trees are generally a mix of oak and ash with some willow. Many of the willows have been pollarded and form visually distinctive features. There are scattered, locally dense trees along watercourses; predominantly alder with some willow. There are localised parkland trees and avenues around Elvaston Park, and small amenity tree groups are found adjacent to scattered farmsteads. In areas of former common, tree cover is very sparse.

Woodland is largely absent from this landscape, or occurs as small, sparsely scattered blocks. There are some small estate woodlands in the proximity of Elvaston.

Transport
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Villages are compact, with cottages and farms built in the local vernacular style of red brick with Staffordshire blue clay tile roofs.

Aston-on-Trent
Between the villages there are sparsely scattered farmsteads, again built in red brick. Adjacent to former commons there are small collections of wayside cottages.

The combination of proximity to Derby and Nottingham, and location on good transport corridors have lead to the rapid expansion of many villages, particularly noticeable at Hatton, Hilton, Borrowash and Breaston. Today the urban fringes are characterised by large modern housing estates.

Other major impacts in this landscape relate to the construction of large power stations like that at Willington with their extensive plant, pylons and overhead power lines. There have also been major changes to landscape character as a result of large scale mineral extraction.

A significant feature within this landscape is Elvaston Castle with its formal grounds and estate plantations.
LANDSCAPE TYPE: LOWLAND VILLAGE FARMLANDS

Summary

The soft rocks of Permo-Triassic mudstones and siltstones with drift deposits have weathered away to form a very subdued, gently rolling lowland landscape that has strongly influenced the cultural patterns of the landscape. Soils reflect the geological variation, with heavy seasonally waterlogged soils over mudstone and lower lying areas, and with more permeable soils over localised drift and river terrace deposits. The resultant land-use is typically mixed, with cropping on the flatter, more cultivable, soils and improved pasture in damper areas.

A key feature of this landscape is its nucleated settlement pattern. Villages like Hatton and Weston-on-Trent are located on relatively high spots or better drained land immediately off the floodplain, in order to reduce the risk of flooding. The enclosure pattern reflects a diverse history. Immediately adjacent to the villages, fields are medium size, semi-regular, with areas of ridge and furrow reflecting the enclosure of medieval open fields. The hedges that enclose these fields are species rich. Beyond the villages there is a more regular pattern of fields suggesting a period of later enclosure and typically the hedgerows are single species hawthorn. The more regular fields are most obvious in areas of former common like Etwall Common and Egginton Common.

Villages are traditionally compact with cottages and farmsteads built in the local material of red brick with Staffordshire blue clay tile roofs. Some of these settlements like Hilton, Breaston and Borrowash have undergone rapid expansion during the 20th Century with the construction of new housing estates to serve the city of Derby.

Much of the original character of this landscape has been seriously impacted upon by modern large scale development. Large power stations dominate views across the landscape as do the many pylons carrying the resultant electricity. The gentle topography above the floodplain has always been attractive for road construction and modern roads like the A50 and A52 pass through this landscape. The underlying mineral deposits have resulted in localised gravel extraction and the restoration of these sites has created areas of immature agricultural land, also more recently, large water bodies.
**LANDSCAPE TYPE: LOWLAND VILLAGE FARMLANDS**

### Planting and Management Guidelines

Open, mixed farming landscape with thinly scattered plantations and hedgerow trees.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary woodland character:</th>
<th>Thinly scattered small plantations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary tree character:</td>
<td>Thinly scattered hedgerow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodland vision:</td>
<td>Thinly scattered small plantations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tree vision:</td>
<td>Thinly scattered hedgerow</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Typical woodland size range:** 0.5 - 10ha small
- **Woodland pattern:** Regular plantations

- Ensure the use of indigenous tree and shrub species, including a proportion of large, long lived species.
- Conserve and enhance the tree groups that occur within and around rural settlements and isolated farmsteads.
- Encourage the continuing practice of pollarding to maintain the traditional riparian character of the landscape.
- Ensure new woodland does not conflict with features (e.g. ridge and furrow) that help to define landscape character.
### Woodland Species Mix

**Primary Tree Species 50%**
- Fraxinus excelsior (Ash)
- Quercus robur (Pedunculate Oak)

**Secondary Tree Species 20%**
**Major**
- Acer campestre (Field Maple)
- Ilex aquifolium (Holly)

**Minor**
- Malus sylvestris (Crab Apple)
- Populus tremula (Aspen)
- Sorbus aucuparia (Rowan)
- Tilia cordata (Small Leaved Lime)

**Shrubs 10-30%**
**Major**
- Corylus avellana (Hazel)
- Crataegus monogyna (Hawthorn)

**Minor**
- Prunus spinosa (Blackthorn)
- Rhamnus cathartica (Purging Buckthorn)
- Salix cinerea (Grey Willow)

**Open space 0-20%**

**Waterlogged Conditions on all soil types**

**Primary Tree Species 50%**
- Alnus glutinosa (Alder)
- Salix fragilis (Crack Willow)

**Secondary Tree Species 20%**
**Major**
- Betula pubescens (Downy Birch)
- Fraxinus excelsior (Ash)

**Minor**
- *Populus nigra ssp. betulifolia* (Black Poplar)
- Quercus robur (Pedunculate Oak)
- Salix caprea (Goat Willow)

**Shrubs 10-30%**
**Major**
- Salix cinerea (Grey Willow)
- Sambucus nigra (Elder)

**Minor**
- Crataegus monogyna (Hawthorn)
- Frangula alnus (Alder Buckthorn)
- Salix viminalis (Osier)
- Viburnum opulus (Guelder Rose)

**Open space 0-20%**

* **Watercourse Trees** - tree species most appropriate for planting as watercourse trees.

* Plant only native Black Poplar (sub species betulifolia). Contact Derbyshire Wildlife Trust for more information.

### Hedgerow Species Mix

**Primary 70-75%**
- Crataegus monogyna (Hawthorn)

**Secondary 25-30%**
- Acer campestre (Field Maple)
- Corylus avellana (Hazel)
- Ilex aquifolium (Holly)
- Prunus spinosa (Blackthorn)

**Occasional 0-5%**
- Rhamnus cathartica (Purging Buckthorn)

**Primary 95-100%**
- Fraxinus excelsior (Ash)
- Quercus robur (Pedunculate Oak)

**Secondary 25-30%**
- Acer campestre (Field Maple)
- Tilia cordata (Small Leaved Lime)

**Occasional 0-5%**
- Malus sylvestris (Crab Apple)
- Populus tremula (Aspen)
- Sorbus aucuparia (Rowan)

* only to be used if occurring locally within the landscape character type
**LANDSCAPE TYPE: RIVERSIDE MEADOWS**

Broad flat floodplains, containing meandering rivers and streams with scattered trees along riverbanks. A pastoral landscape of generally large hedged fields with trees scattered along boundaries.

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**Key Characteristics**

- Flat floodplains containing meandering rivers and streams
- Seasonally waterlogged soils over alluvium
- Intensive permanent pasture
- Localised patches of rushes in damp hollows
- Dense watercourse trees, mainly alder with some localised willow
- Scattered trees along hedgerows and ditches
- Regular shaped fields bounded by hawthorn hedges
- Lanes alongside or crossing floodplain
- Generally uninhabited with sparsely scattered, isolated farmsteads

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**Geology and Landform**

The underlying geology of these flat floodplains consists of alluvial mud lying over gravels deposited by the rivers in times of flood. The gravel acts as an aquifer carrying water from the adjoining land into the rivers and so is permanently waterlogged. In places there are natural raised banks to the rivers known as levees. These are formed by the deposition of sediment by waning floodwaters.

The floodplain broadens out in these lower reaches of the rivers, to form the broad flat floodplain of the lower Dove, Derwent and River Trent.

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**Soils and Land Use**

The soils are seasonally waterlogged clayey loams. Some areas are more permanently waterlogged and some hollows retain floodwater long after the majority of floods have subsided. The predominant land use is pasture.

The flood plain makes good pasture and good quality fattening pastures. The wet, fine textured soils and risk of flooding make the land difficult to work for arable cropping, although some arable fields can be found in the valley as a result of recent drainage improvements and flood protection measures.

Gravel extraction is providing opportunities for increasing wetland habitats but there are constraints due to the proximity to East Midlands Airport, flood flows and availability of suitable fill.

**Ecology**

The lower Dove, Derwent and River Trent are important fresh water habitats. The open water provides important wildlife habitats, as do their banks and margins. Important ecological sites include the Old River Dove SSSI at Marston-on-Dove and Lockington Marshes SSSI.

Localised patches of unimproved pasture occur along the Dove, Derwent and Trent. Pastures with a high water table, where the soil is permanently wet, are important ecologically for their species-rich flora, ground beetles and birds, such as curlew and snipe. However these habitats are becoming increasingly rare, as former pastures have often been converted to arable following drainage improvements.
improved drainage and conversion to arable, is leading to a significant loss of meadowlands.

**Tree Cover**
There are scattered lines of trees along the riverbanks, mainly alder but with occasional willows. Many trees have been removed from the riverbanks as part of flood protection works and there is dieback in other places. There are also mature trees, chiefly oak, ash and willow, scattered along field boundaries. Pollarded willows form distinct localised features in the landscape. Scattered trees in association with the flat topography filter views through the landscape.

**Enclosure**
The enclosure pattern is a key feature defining the scale of this landscape type. Fields are medium to large in size, being sub-regular or regular in shape. Fields are enclosed by hedgerows, predominantly hawthorn, which tend to be tall, limiting or filtering views through the landscape. Many of these hedges are becoming gappy due to poor management.

**Transport**
By virtue of its generally uninhabited nature there are few lanes crossing this landscape. Where lanes occur they are narrow with irregular verges, often direct, tending to cross the floodplain or run along its edge where the risk of flooding is lessened.

The A514 crosses the broad valley of the Trent on the medieval sandstone Swarkestone Causeway, a scheduled ancient monument and one of the largest such structures in the country.

The Trent and Mersey Canal crosses the Dove on a viaduct north of Burton-on-Trent, leaving the Riverside Meadows for the Lowland Village Farmlands. It follows the edge of the floodplain along the northern side of the Trent, from Swarkestone to Trent Lock in the east. Once an important transport route for early industry, its use dramatically declined with the advent of the railways. It now carries predominantly leisure craft.

**Built Environment**
Historically there was little built development on the floodplain, excepting the occasional water mill for grinding corn. There are occasional red brick farmsteads on the higher, better drained parts of the floodplain.

The underlying mineral deposits have resulted in extensive gravel extraction in the lower Dove and Trent floodplains. The restoration of gravel pits is changing from agricultural afteruses, to open water, resulting from the lack of suitable fill material. In some sections of the Trent active gravel extraction and open water strongly influences the landscape character.

Large power stations, located within the Lowland Village Farmlands landscape character type, dominate views and the A52, A50, A38 and M1 also visually intrude into this landscape.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This is a distinct landscape associated with the lower reaches of the rivers Dove, Derwent and Trent. Broad flat floodplains, with underlying alluvial deposits, have strongly influenced the cultural patterns that are evident today. The floodplain is often clearly defined by rising land on either side, whilst in the Trent Valley the landscape appears much broader because of gently rising valley sides.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The alluvium gives rise to clayey, seasonally waterlogged, soils. This is a landscape traditionally associated with pasture. Historically much of it would have remained unenclosed, as extensive fattening pastures for summer grazing. Pockets of free draining soil over areas of gravel or on slightly higher land would historically have been cultivated for crops and this is evidenced by the presence of localised ridge and furrow.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pasture is still the prevailing land-use although with improvements to drainage there is an increasing move towards arable farming. Fields are medium to large in size and assist in defining the scale of the landscape. In areas of earlier piecemeal enclosure fields are sub-regular in shape. However, the majority of fields display a regular outline, typical of fields enclosed as part of the Parliamentary Enclosure Acts. The majority of these fields have single species hawthorn hedgerows.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tree cover is not a prominent feature, although there are areas where trees are locally frequent and views through the landscape become filtered. Scattered trees, predominantly alder, fringe many of the rivers together with some willow, and there are sparsely scattered hedgerow trees. Hedgerow trees tend to be oak and ash with some willow. Where willows are still pollarded, they are a distinctive local feature. Long distance views tend to be restricted by the surrounding landform.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historically this is an uninhabited landscape, due to the risk of flooding, and there are very few traditional buildings other than a few water mills. Roads and lanes are generally few in number and where they occur they tend to be straight and direct, either crossing the floodplains or running along the edge. The historic sandstone causeway at Swarkestone is a prominent local feature.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recent impacts mostly relate to the extraction of sand and gravel, which often leaves large holes filled with water. There are impacts beyond this landscape type, mostly associated with modern roads, power stations and urban expansion.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LANDSCAPE TYPE: RIVERSIDE MEADOWS

Planting and Management Guidelines

A broad, open floodplain with scattered hedgerow and watercourse trees.

**Primary woodland character:** Unwooded

**Primary tree character:** Thinline scattered hedgerow trees and dense watercourse trees.

**Woodland vision:** Occasional wet woodlands.

**Tree vision:** Thinline scattered hedgerow trees and dense watercourse trees.

**Typical woodland size range:** 0.5 - 5 ha small

**Woodland pattern:** Organic / linear

- Ensure the use of indigenous tree and shrub species, including a proportion of large, long lived species.
- Ensure a balance is maintained between new woodland planting and areas of nature conservation value.
- Enhance the visual and ecological continuity of river corridors by management, natural regeneration and planting of riparian trees.
- Encourage the continuing practice of pollarding to maintain the traditional riparian character of the landscape.
### Woodland Species Mix

**Waterlogged Conditions on all soil types**

#### Primary Tree Species 50%
- *Alnus glutinosa* Alder
- *Salix fragilis* Crack Willow

#### Secondary Tree Species 20%
- **Major**
  - *Betula pubescens* Downy Birch
  - *Fraxinus excelsior* Ash
- **Minor**
  - *Populus nigra* ssp. *betulifolia* Black Poplar
  - *Quercus robur* Pedunculate Oak
  - *Salix caprea* Goat Willow

#### Shrubs 10-30%
- **Major**
  - *Salix cinerea* Grey Willow
  - *Sambucus nigra* Elder
- **Minor**
  - *Crataegus monogyna* Hawthorn
  - *Frangula alnus* Alder Buckthorn
  - *Rhamnus cathartica* Purging Buckthorn
  - *Salix viminalis* Osier
  - *Viburnum opulus* Guelder Rose

#### Open space 0-20%

*+ Watercourse trees* - tree species most appropriate for planting as watercourse trees.

* Plant only native Black Poplar (sub species betulifolia). Contact Derbyshire Wildlife Trust for more information.

### Hedgerow Species Mix

#### Suitable hedgerow plants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary 85-90%</th>
<th>Suitable hedgerow plants</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Crataegus monogyna</em></td>
<td>Hawthorn</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Secondary 10-15%</th>
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<tr>
<td><em>Acer campestre</em></td>
<td>Field Maple</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Corylus avellana</em></td>
<td>Hazel</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Prunus spinosa</em></td>
<td>Blackthorn</td>
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#### Suitable hedgerow trees

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<td><em>Salix fragilis</em></td>
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